

Friday is Halloween.  
Why did I receive a

Christmas card on  
Halloween?

# SHORTEST PATHS

# Readings?

2

- Read chapter 28

# Shortest Paths in Graphs

3

Problem of finding shortest (min-cost) path in a graph occurs often

- ▣ Find shortest route between Ithaca and West Lafayette, IN
- ▣ Result depends on notion of cost
  - Least mileage... or least time... or cheapest
  - Perhaps, expends the least power in the butterfly while flying fastest
  - Many “costs” can be represented as edge weights

Every time you use googlemaps to find directions you are using a shortest-path algorithm

## Dijkstra's shortest-path algorithm

Edsger Dijkstra, in an interview in 2010 (*CACM*):

*... the algorithm for the shortest path, which I designed in about 20 minutes. One morning I was shopping in Amsterdam with my young fiance, and tired, we sat down on the cafe terrace to drink a cup of coffee, and I was just thinking about whether I could do this, and I then designed the algorithm for the shortest path. As I said, it was a 20-minute invention. [Took place in 1956]*

Dijkstra, E.W. A note on two problems in Connexion with graphs. *Numerische Mathematik* 1, 269–271 (1959).

Visit <http://www.dijkstrascry.com> for all sorts of information on Dijkstra and his contributions. As a historical record, this is a gold mine.

## Dijkstra's shortest-path algorithm

Dijkstra describes the algorithm in English:

- When he designed it in 1956, most people were programming in assembly language!
- Only *one* high-level language: Fortran, developed by John Backus at IBM and not quite finished.

No theory of order-of-execution time —topic yet to be developed. In paper, Dijkstra says, “my solution is preferred to another one ... “the amount of work to be done seems considerably less.”

Dijkstra, E.W. A note on two problems in Connexion with graphs. *Numerische Mathematik* 1, 269–271 (1959).

## 1968 NATO Conference on Software Engineering, Garmisch, Germany



Term “software engineering” coined for this conference

## 1968 NATO Conference on Software Engineering, Garmisch, Germany



Marktobendorf  
Summer School,  
Germany, 1998

(Each year, ~100  
PhD students  
from around the  
world would  
get two weeks  
of lectures by  
CS faculty.





## Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm

The  $n$  ( $> 0$ ) nodes of a graph numbered  $0..n-1$ .

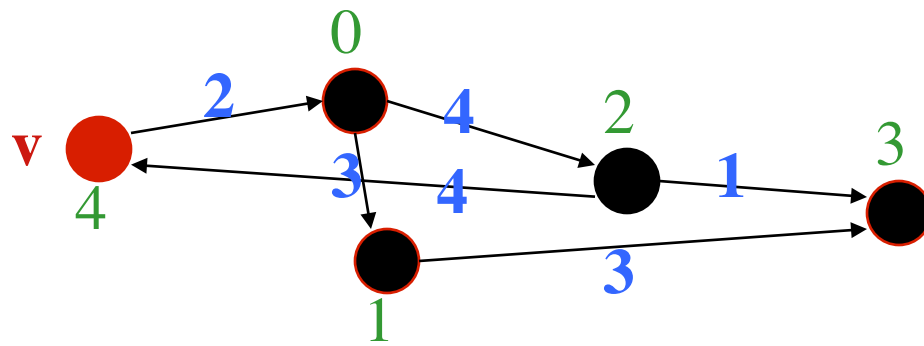
Each edge has a positive weight.

$\text{weight}(v1, v2)$  is the weight of the edge from node  $v1$  to  $v2$ .

Some node  $v$  be selected as the *start* node.

Calculate length of shortest path from  $v$  to each node.

Use an array  $L[0..n-1]$ : for **each** node  $w$ , store in  $L[w]$  the length of the shortest path from  $v$  to  $w$ .



$$L[0] = 2$$

$$L[1] = 5$$

$$L[2] = 6$$

$$L[3] = 7$$

$$L[4] = 0$$

## Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm

Develop algorithm, not just present it.

Need to show you the state of affairs —the relation among all variables— just before each node  $i$  is given its final value  $L[i]$ .

This relation among the variables is an *invariant*, because it is always true.

Because each node  $i$  (except the first) is given its final value  $L[i]$  during an iteration of a loop, the *invariant* is called a *loop invariant*.

$$L[0] = 2$$

$$L[1] = 5$$

$$L[2] = 6$$

$$L[3] = 7$$

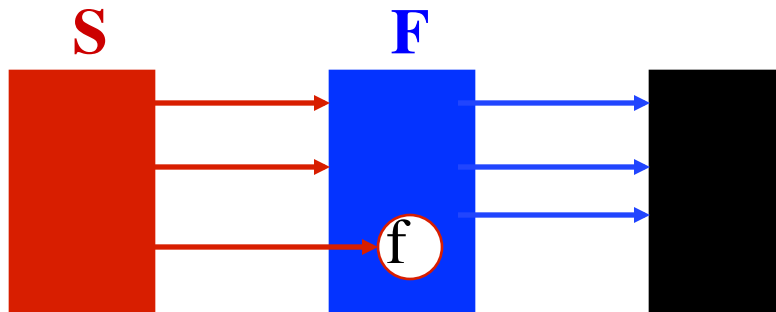
$$L[4] = 0$$

Settled

Frontier

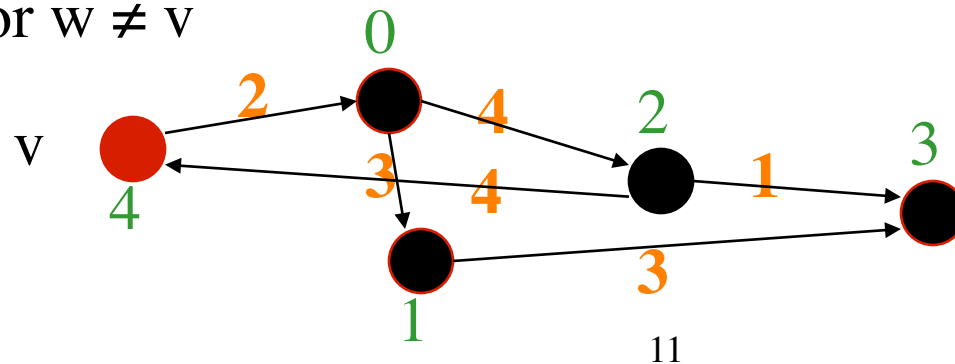
Far off

The loop invariant

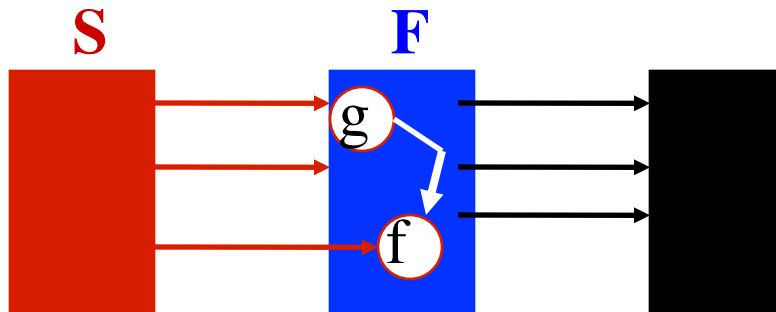


(edges leaving the black set and edges from the blue to the red set are not shown)

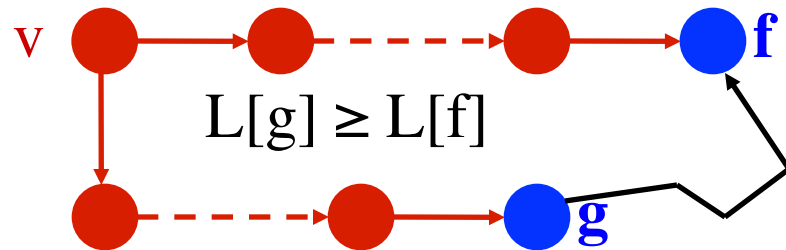
1. For a Settled node  $s$ ,  $L[s]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow s$  path.
2. All edges leaving  $S$  go to  $F$ .
3. For a Frontier node  $f$ ,  $L[f]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow f$  path using only red nodes (except for  $f$ )
4. For a Far-off node  $b$ ,  $L[b] = \infty$
5.  $L[v] = 0$ ,  $L[w] > 0$  for  $w \neq v$



Settled Frontier Far off



Theorem about the invariant



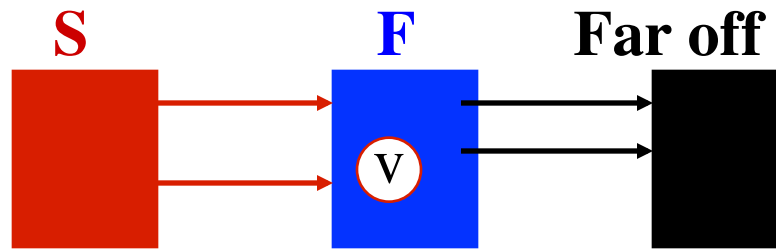
1. For a Settled node  $s$ ,  $L[s]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow r$  path.
2. All edges leaving  $S$  go to  $F$ .
3. For a Frontier node  $f$ ,  $L[f]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow f$  path using only Settled nodes (except for  $f$ ).
4. For a Far-off node  $b$ ,  $L[b] = \infty$ . 5.  $L[v] = 0$ ,  $L[w] > 0$  for  $w \neq v$

**Theorem.** For a node  $f$  in  $F$  with minimum  $L$  value (over nodes in  $F$ ),  $L[f]$  is the length of the shortest path from  $v$  to  $f$ .

Case 1:  $v$  is in  $S$ .

Case 2:  $v$  is in  $F$ . Note that  $L[v]$  is 0; it has minimum  $L$  value

## The algorithm



For all  $w$ ,  $L[w] = \infty$ ;  $L[v] = 0$ ;  
 $F = \{ v \}$ ;  $S = \{ \}$ ;

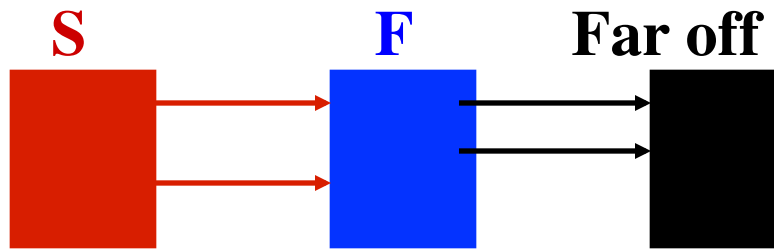
1. For  $s$ ,  $L[s]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow s$  path.
2. Edges leaving  $S$  go to  $F$ .
3. For  $f$ ,  $L[f]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow f$  path using red nodes (except for  $f$ ).
4. For  $b$  in Far off,  $L[b] = \infty$
5.  $L[v] = 0$ ,  $L[w] > 0$  for  $w \neq v$

**Theorem:** For a node  $f$  in  $F$  with min  $L$  value,  $L[f]$  is shortest path length

### Loopy question 1:

How does the loop start? What is done to truthify the invariant?

## The algorithm



1. For  $s$ ,  $L[s]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow s$  path.
2. Edges leaving  $S$  go to  $F$ .
3. For  $f$ ,  $L[f]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow f$  path using red nodes (except for  $f$ ).
4. For  $b$  in Far off,  $L[b] = \infty$
5.  $L[v] = 0$ ,  $L[w] > 0$  for  $w \neq v$

**Theorem:** For a node  $f$  in  $F$  with min  $L$  value,  $L[f]$  is shortest path length

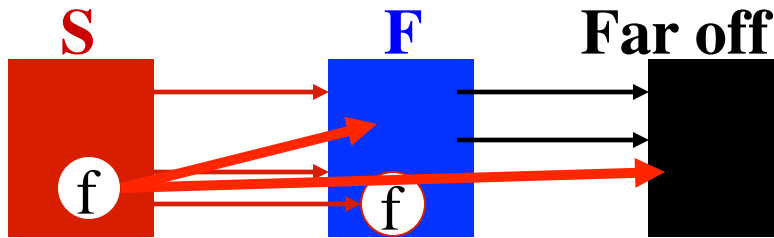
```
For all  $w$ ,  $L[w] = \infty$ ;  $L[v] = 0$ ;  
 $F = \{ v \}$ ;  $S = \{ \}$ ;  
while  $F \neq \{ \}$  {
```

```
}
```

### Loopy question 2:

When does loop stop? When is array  $L$  completely calculated?

## The algorithm



1. **For s**,  $L[s]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow s$  path.
2. **Edges leaving S go to F.**
3. **For f**,  $L[f]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow f$  path using red nodes (except for f).
4. **For b**,  $L[b] = \infty$
5.  $L[v] = 0$ ,  $L[w] > 0$  for  $w \neq v$

**Theorem:** For a node **f** in **F** with min L value,  $L[f]$  is shortest path length

For all  $w$ ,  $L[w] = \infty$ ;  $L[v] = 0$ ;

$F = \{ v \}$ ;  $S = \{ \}$ ;

**while**  $F \neq \{ \}$  {

$f =$  node in  $F$  with min L value;

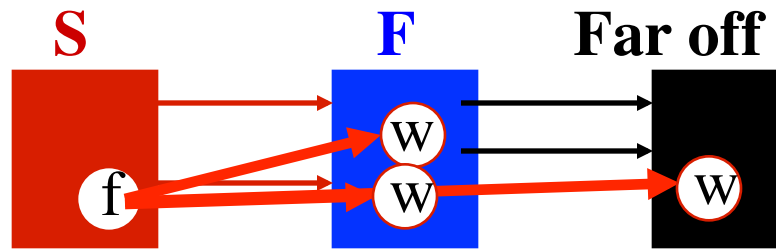
Remove  $f$  from  $F$ , add it to  $S$ ;

}

### Loopy question 3:

How is progress toward termination accomplished?

## The algorithm



1. For  $s$ ,  $L[s]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow s$  path.
2. Edges leaving  $S$  go to  $F$ .
3. For  $f$ ,  $L[f]$  is length of shortest  $v \rightarrow f$  path using red nodes (except for  $f$ ).
4. For  $b$ ,  $L[b] = \infty$
5.  $L[v] = 0$ ,  $L[w] > 0$  for  $w \neq v$

**Theorem:** For a node  $f$  in  $F$  with min  $L$  value,  $L[f]$  is shortest path length

For all  $w$ ,  $L[w] = \infty$ ;  $L[v] = 0$ ;  
 $F = \{v\}$ ;  $S = \{\}$ ;

```
while  $F \neq \{\}$  {  
     $f =$  node in  $F$  with min  $L$  value;  
    Remove  $f$  from  $F$ , add it to  $S$ ;  
    for each edge  $(f,w)$  {  
        if  $(L[w] \text{ is } \infty)$  add  $w$  to  $F$ ;  
        if  $(L[f] + \text{weight}(f,w) < L[w])$   
             $L[w] = L[f] + \text{weight}(f,w)$ ;  
    }  
}
```

**Algorithm is finished**

## Loopy question 4:

How is the invariant maintained?



## About implementation



For all  $w$ ,  $L[w] = \infty$ ;  $L[v] = 0$ ;

$F = \{v\}$ ;  ~~$S = \{\}$~~ ;

**while**  $F \neq \{\}$  {

$f =$  node in  $F$  with min  $L$  value;

    Remove  $f$  from  $F$ , add it to  $S$ ;

**for each edge**  $(f,w)$  {

~~**if**  $(L[w]$  is  $\infty$ ) add  $w$  to  $F$ ;~~

~~**if**  $(L[f] + \text{weight}(f,w) < L[w])$~~

~~$L[w] = L[f] + \text{weight}(f,w)$ ;~~

    }

}

1. No need to implement **S**.
2. Implement **F** as a min-heap.
3. Instead of  $\infty$ , use  
    Integer.MAX\_VALUE.

**if**  $(L[w] == \text{Integer.MAX\_VAL})$  {  
     $L[w] = L[f] + \text{weight}(f,w)$ ;  
    add  $w$  to  $F$ ;  
} **else**  $L[w] = \text{Math.min}(L[w],$   
     $L[f] + \text{weight}(f,w))$ ;

## Execution time



n nodes, reachable from v.  $e \geq n-1$  edges

$$n-1 \leq e \leq n*n$$

```
For all w, L[w]=  $\infty$ ; L[v]= 0;           O(n)
F= { v };                                 O(1)
while F  $\neq$  {} {                          O(n)
    f= node in F with min L value;         O(n)
    Remove f from F;                       O(n log n)
    for each edge (f,w) {                  O(n + e)
        if (L[w] == Integer.MAX_VAL) {    O(e)
            L[w]= L[f] + weight(f,w);     O(n-1)
            add w to F;                     O(n log n)
        }
        else L[w]=                          O((e-(n-1)) log n)
            Math.min(L[w], L[f] + weight(f,w));
    }
}
```

### outer loop:

n iterations.

Condition

evaluated

n+1 times.

### inner loop:

e iterations.

Condition

evaluated

n + e times.

**Complete graph:  $O(n^2 \log n)$ . Sparse graph:  $O(n \log n)$**