

# Lecture 14: Single-Source Shortest Paths

Michael Dinitz

October 14, 2021

601.433/633 Introduction to Algorithms

# Introduction

Setup:

- ▶ Directed graph  $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$
- ▶ Length  $\ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  on each edge  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbf{E}$  (equivalent:  $\ell : \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )
- ▶ Length of path  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $\ell(\mathbf{P}) = \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbf{P}} \ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$
- ▶  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} \text{ paths } \mathbf{P}} \ell(\mathbf{P})$

# Introduction

Setup:

- ▶ Directed graph  $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$
- ▶ Length  $\ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  on each edge  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbf{E}$  (equivalent:  $\ell : \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )
- ▶ Length of path  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $\ell(\mathbf{P}) = \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbf{P}} \ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$
- ▶  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} \text{ paths } \mathbf{P}} \ell(\mathbf{P})$

Today: source  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}$ , want to compute shortest path from  $\mathbf{v}$  to every  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}$

- ▶  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u})$  for all  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}$
- ▶ Representation: “shortest path tree” out of  $\mathbf{v}$ .
- ▶ Often only care about distances – can reconstruct tree from distances.

# Bellman-Ford

# Dynamic Programming Approach

Subproblems:

- ▶ **OPT(u, i)**: shortest path from **v** to **u** that uses at most **i** hops (edges)
- ▶ If no such path, set to “infinitely long” fake path.
- ▶ For simplicity, create loop (edge to and from the same node) at every node, length **0**

# Dynamic Programming Approach

Subproblems:

- ▶ **OPT(u, i)**: shortest path from **v** to **u** that uses at most **i** hops (edges)
- ▶ If no such path, set to “infinitely long” fake path.
- ▶ For simplicity, create loop (edge to and from the same node) at every node, length **0**

## Theorem (Optimal Substructure)

$$\ell(\text{OPT}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{k})) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} & \text{if } \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0} \\ \infty & \text{if } \mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0} \\ & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Dynamic Programming Approach

Subproblems:

- ▶ **OPT(u, i)**: shortest path from **v** to **u** that uses at most **i** hops (edges)
- ▶ If no such path, set to “infinitely long” fake path.
- ▶ For simplicity, create loop (edge to and from the same node) at every node, length **0**

## Theorem (Optimal Substructure)

$$\ell(\text{OPT}(u, k)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u = v, k = 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } u \neq v, k = 0 \\ \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k-1)) + \ell(w, u)) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Proof of Optimal Substructure

$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0}$ : ✓. So let  $\mathbf{k} \geq \mathbf{1}$ .



# Proof of Optimal Substructure

$k = 0$ :  $\checkmark$ . So let  $k \geq 1$ .

$\leq$ : Let  $x = \arg \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k-1)) + \ell(w, u))$

$\implies \text{OPT}(x, k-1) \circ (x, u)$  is a  $v \rightarrow u$  path with at most  $k$  edges, length  $\ell(\text{OPT}(x, k-1)) + \ell(x, u)$

$\implies \text{OPT}(u, k) \leq \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k-1)) + \ell(w, u))$

# Proof of Optimal Substructure

$k = 0$ :  $\checkmark$ . So let  $k \geq 1$ .

$\leq$ : Let  $x = \arg \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k-1)) + \ell(w, u))$

$\implies \text{OPT}(x, k-1) \circ (x, u)$  is a  $v \rightarrow u$  path with at most  $k$  edges, length  $\ell(\text{OPT}(x, k-1)) + \ell(x, u)$

$\implies \text{OPT}(u, k) \leq \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k-1)) + \ell(w, u))$

$\geq$ : Let  $z$  be node before  $u$  in  $\text{OPT}(u, k)$ , and let  $P'$  be the first  $k-1$  edges of  $\text{OPT}(u, k)$ .  
Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OPT}(u, k) &= \ell(P') + \ell(z, u) \geq \ell(\text{OPT}(z, k-1)) + \ell(z, u) \\ &\geq \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k-1)) + \ell(w, u)) \end{aligned}$$

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Obvious dynamic program!

$M[u, 0] = \infty$  for all  $u \in V, u \neq v$

$M[v, 0] = 0$

for( $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$ ) {

  for( $u \in V$ ) {

$M[u, k] = \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (M[w, k - 1] + \ell(w, u))$

  }

}

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Obvious dynamic program!

$M[u, 0] = \infty$  for all  $u \in V, u \neq v$

$M[v, 0] = 0$

for( $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$ ) {

  for( $u \in V$ ) {

$M[u, k] = \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (M[w, k - 1] + \ell(w, u))$

  }

}

**Running Time:**

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Obvious dynamic program!

$M[u, 0] = \infty$  for all  $u \in V, u \neq v$

$M[v, 0] = 0$

for( $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$ ) {

  for( $u \in V$ ) {

$M[u, k] = \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (M[w, k - 1] + \ell(w, u))$

  }

}

**Running Time:**

- ▶ Obvious:  $O(n^3)$

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Obvious dynamic program!

$M[u, 0] = \infty$  for all  $u \in V, u \neq v$

$M[v, 0] = 0$

for( $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$ ) {

  for( $u \in V$ ) {

$M[u, k] = \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (M[w, k - 1] + \ell(w, u))$

  }

}

**Running Time:**

- ▶ Obvious:  $O(n^3)$
- ▶ Smarter:  $O(mn)$

## Bellman-Ford: Correctness

### Theorem

After algorithm completes,  $\mathbf{M}[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{k}] = \ell(\mathbf{OPT}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{k}))$  for all  $\mathbf{k} \leq \mathbf{n} - 1$  and  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}$ .

## Bellman-Ford: Correctness

### Theorem

After algorithm completes,  $\mathbf{M}[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{k}] = \ell(\mathbf{OPT}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{k}))$  for all  $\mathbf{k} \leq \mathbf{n} - 1$  and  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}$ .

### Proof.

Induction on  $\mathbf{k}$ . Obviously true for  $\mathbf{k} = 0$ .



# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## Theorem

After algorithm completes,  $M[u, k] = \ell(\text{OPT}(u, k))$  for all  $k \leq n - 1$  and  $u \in V$ .

## Proof.

Induction on  $k$ . Obviously true for  $k = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M[u, k] &= \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (M[w, k - 1]) + \ell(w, u) && \text{(algorithm)} \\ &= \min_{w:(w,u) \in E} (\ell(\text{OPT}(w, k - 1)) + \ell(w, u)) && \text{(induction)} \\ &= \ell(\text{OPT}(u, k)) && \text{(optimal substructure)} \end{aligned}$$



## Negative Weights and Cycle

Suppose weights are negative. Does the problem make sense?

# Negative Weights and Cycle

Suppose weights are negative. Does the problem make sense?

- ▶ Negative-weight cycle: not really!

## Negative Weights and Cycle

Suppose weights are negative. Does the problem make sense?

- ▶ Negative-weight cycle: not really! Go around cycle forever, make distances arbitrarily negative

# Negative Weights and Cycle

Suppose weights are negative. Does the problem make sense?

- ▶ Negative-weight cycle: not really! Go around cycle forever, make distances arbitrarily negative
- ▶ No negative-weight cycle: everything we did before is fine!

# Negative Weights and Cycle

Suppose weights are negative. Does the problem make sense?

- ▶ Negative-weight cycle: not really! Go around cycle forever, make distances arbitrarily negative
- ▶ No negative-weight cycle: everything we did before is fine!

Detecting negative-weight cycle:

## Negative Weights and Cycle

Suppose weights are negative. Does the problem make sense?

- ▶ Negative-weight cycle: not really! Go around cycle forever, make distances arbitrarily negative
- ▶ No negative-weight cycle: everything we did before is fine!

Detecting negative-weight cycle: One more round of Bellman-Ford!

# Relaxations

Common primitive in shortest path algorithms

- ▶ Reinterpret Bellman-Ford via relaxations
- ▶ Use relaxations for Dijkstra's algorithm



# Relaxations

Common primitive in shortest path algorithms

- ▶ Reinterpret Bellman-Ford via relaxations
- ▶ Use relaxations for Dijkstra's algorithm

$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$ : upper bound on  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u})$

- ▶ Initially:  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \infty$  for all  $\mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{v}$

# Relaxations

Common primitive in shortest path algorithms

- ▶ Reinterpret Bellman-Ford via relaxations
- ▶ Use relaxations for Dijkstra's algorithm

$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$ : upper bound on  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u})$

- ▶ Initially:  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \infty$  for all  $\mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{v}$

Intuition for  $\text{relax}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ : can we improve  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{y})$  by going through  $\mathbf{x}$ ?

# Relaxations

Common primitive in shortest path algorithms

- ▶ Reinterpret Bellman-Ford via relaxations
- ▶ Use relaxations for Dijkstra's algorithm

$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$ : upper bound on  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u})$

- ▶ Initially:  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \infty$  for all  $\mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{v}$

Intuition for  $\text{relax}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ : can we improve  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{y})$  by going through  $\mathbf{x}$ ?

```
relax(x, y) {  
    if( $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{y}) > \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{x}) + \ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ ) {  
         $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{y}) = \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{x}) + \ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$   
        y.parent = x  
    }  
}
```

# Bellman-Ford as Relaxations

```
for(i = 1 to n) {  
  foreach(u  $\in$  V) {  
    foreach(edge (x, u)) {  
      relax(x, u)  
    }  
  }  
}
```

## Bellman-Ford as Relaxations

```
for(i = 1 to n) {  
    foreach(u  $\in$  V) {  
        foreach(edge (x, u)) {  
            relax(x, u)  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Not precisely the same: freezing/parallelism

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

# High Level

Intuition: “greedy starting at  $\mathbf{v}$ ”

- ▶ BFS but with edge lengths: use priority queue (heap) instead of queue!

Pros: faster than Bellman-Ford (super fast with appropriate data structures)

Cons: Doesn't work with negative edge weights.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

$$\mathbf{T} = \emptyset$$

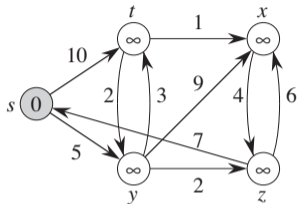
$$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{v}) = 0$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \infty \text{ for all } \mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{v}$$

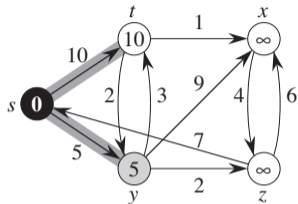
```
while(not all nodes in  $\mathbf{T}$ ) {  
    let  $\mathbf{u}$  be node not in  $\mathbf{T}$  with minimum  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$   
    Add  $\mathbf{u}$  to  $\mathbf{T}$   
    foreach edge  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x})$  with  $\mathbf{x} \notin \mathbf{T}$  {  
        relax( $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}$ )  
    }  
}
```



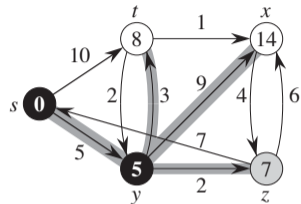
# Dijkstra Example



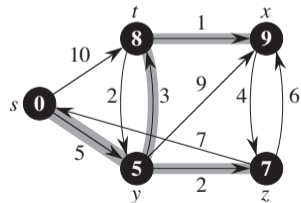
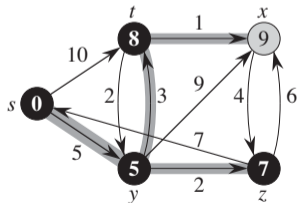
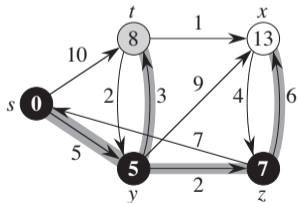
(a)



(b)



(c)



# Dijkstra Correctness

## Theorem

*Throughout the algorithm:*

1.  $\mathbf{T}$  is a shortest-path tree from  $\mathbf{v}$  to the nodes in  $\mathbf{T}$ , and
2.  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u})$  for every  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{T}$ .

# Dijkstra Correctness

## Theorem

*Throughout the algorithm:*

1.  $\mathbf{T}$  is a shortest-path tree from  $\mathbf{v}$  to the nodes in  $\mathbf{T}$ , and
2.  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u})$  for every  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{T}$ .

**Proof.** Induction on  $|\mathbf{T}|$  (iterations of algorithm)

# Dijkstra Correctness

## Theorem

*Throughout the algorithm:*

1.  $\mathbf{T}$  is a shortest-path tree from  $\mathbf{v}$  to the nodes in  $\mathbf{T}$ , and
2.  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u})$  for every  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{T}$ .

**Proof.** Induction on  $|\mathbf{T}|$  (iterations of algorithm)

**Base Case:** After first iteration (when  $|\mathbf{T}| = 1$ ), added  $\mathbf{v}$  to  $\mathbf{T}$  with  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{v}) = 0 \checkmark$

## Correctness: Inductive Step (Sketch)

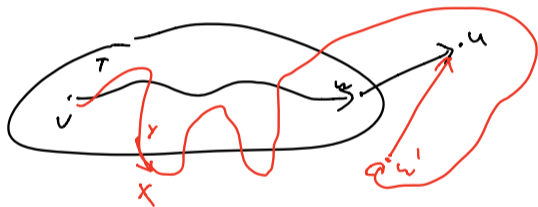
Consider iteration when  $\mathbf{u}$  added to  $\mathbf{T}$ , let  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u}.\text{parent}$

$$\implies \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) \text{ (induction)}$$

## Correctness: Inductive Step (Sketch)

Consider iteration when  $\mathbf{u}$  added to  $\mathbf{T}$ , let  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u.parent}$

$$\implies \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) \text{ (induction)}$$

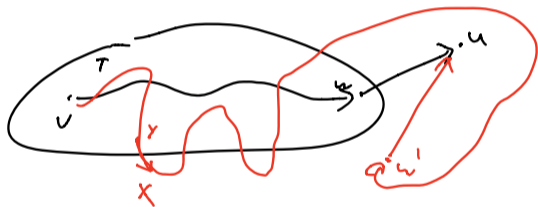


- ▶ Red path  $\mathbf{P}$  actual shortest path, black path found by Dijkstra
- ▶  $\mathbf{w}'$  predecessor of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{P}$ . Can't be in  $\mathbf{T}$ .
  - ▶ If it was, would have  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}') = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}')$  by induction, would have relaxed  $(\mathbf{w}', \mathbf{u})$ , so would have  $\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{u.parent}$
- ▶  $\mathbf{x}$  first node of  $\mathbf{P}$  outside  $\mathbf{T}$ , previous node  $\mathbf{y}$

## Correctness: Inductive Step (Sketch)

Consider iteration when  $\mathbf{u}$  added to  $\mathbf{T}$ , let  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u}.\text{parent}$

$$\implies \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) \text{ (induction)}$$



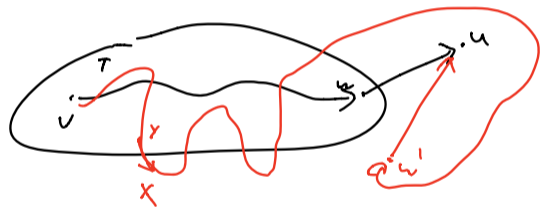
- ▶ Red path  $\mathbf{P}$  actual shortest path, black path found by Dijkstra
- ▶  $\mathbf{w}'$  predecessor of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{P}$ . Can't be in  $\mathbf{T}$ .
  - ▶ If it was, would have  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}') = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}')$  by induction, would have relaxed  $(\mathbf{w}', \mathbf{u})$ , so would have  $\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{u}.\text{parent}$
- ▶  $\mathbf{x}$  first node of  $\mathbf{P}$  outside  $\mathbf{T}$ , previous node  $\mathbf{y}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{x}) \leq \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{y}) + \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{y}) + \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) < \ell(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u}) \leq \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$$

## Correctness: Inductive Step (Sketch)

Consider iteration when  $\mathbf{u}$  added to  $\mathbf{T}$ , let  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u}.\text{parent}$

$$\implies \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u}) = \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}) + \ell(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) \text{ (induction)}$$



- ▶ Red path  $\mathbf{P}$  actual shortest path, black path found by Dijkstra
- ▶  $\mathbf{w}'$  predecessor of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{P}$ . Can't be in  $\mathbf{T}$ .
  - ▶ If it was, would have  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{w}') = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{w}')$  by induction, would have relaxed  $(\mathbf{w}', \mathbf{u})$ , so would have  $\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{u}.\text{parent}$
- ▶  $\mathbf{x}$  first node of  $\mathbf{P}$  outside  $\mathbf{T}$ , previous node  $\mathbf{y}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{x}) \leq \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{y}) + \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{y}) + \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) < \ell(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u}) \leq \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$$

Contradiction! Algorithm would have chosen  $\mathbf{x}$  next, not  $\mathbf{u}$ .



# Running Time

Algorithm needs to:

- ▶ Select node with minimum  $\hat{d}$  value  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease a  $\hat{d}$  value at most once per relaxation  $\implies \leq m$  times.

# Running Time

Algorithm needs to:

- ▶ Select node with minimum  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$  value  $\mathbf{n}$  times
- ▶ Decrease a  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$  value at most once per relaxation  $\implies \leq \mathbf{m}$  times.

Nothing fancy, keep  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{u})$  in adjacency list: selecting min  $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$  value takes  $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{n})$  time  
 $\implies \mathbf{O}(\mathbf{n}^2 + \mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{O}(\mathbf{n}^2)$  total.

# Running Time

Algorithm needs to:

- ▶ Select node with minimum  $\hat{d}$  value  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease a  $\hat{d}$  value at most once per relaxation  $\implies \leq m$  times.

Nothing fancy, keep  $\hat{d}(u)$  in adjacency list: selecting min  $\hat{d}$  value takes  $O(n)$  time  
 $\implies O(n^2 + m) = O(n^2)$  total.

Keep  $\hat{d}$  values in a heap!

- ▶ Insert  $n$  times
- ▶ Extract-Min  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease-Key  $m$  times

# Running Time

Algorithm needs to:

- ▶ Select node with minimum  $\hat{d}$  value  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease a  $\hat{d}$  value at most once per relaxation  $\implies \leq m$  times.

Nothing fancy, keep  $\hat{d}(u)$  in adjacency list: selecting min  $\hat{d}$  value takes  $O(n)$  time  
 $\implies O(n^2 + m) = O(n^2)$  total.

Keep  $\hat{d}$  values in a heap!

- ▶ Insert  $n$  times
- ▶ Extract-Min  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease-Key  $m$  times

Binary heap:  $O(\log n)$  per operation (amortized)  
 $\implies O((m + n) \log n)$  running time.

# Running Time

Algorithm needs to:

- ▶ Select node with minimum  $\hat{d}$  value  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease a  $\hat{d}$  value at most once per relaxation  $\implies \leq m$  times.

Nothing fancy, keep  $\hat{d}(u)$  in adjacency list: selecting min  $\hat{d}$  value takes  $O(n)$  time  
 $\implies O(n^2 + m) = O(n^2)$  total.

Keep  $\hat{d}$  values in a heap!

- ▶ Insert  $n$  times
- ▶ Extract-Min  $n$  times
- ▶ Decrease-Key  $m$  times

Binary heap:  $O(\log n)$  per operation (amortized)  
 $\implies O((m + n) \log n)$  running time.

Fibonacci Heap:

- ▶ Insert, Decrease-Key  $O(1)$  amortized
- ▶ Extract-Min  $O(\log n)$  amortized

$\implies O(m + n \log n)$  running time