
Algorithms II, CS 502

Single-Source Shortest Paths

Ugur Dogrusoz

Computer Eng Dept, Bilkent Univ

Single-source shortest paths

- Given a road map of some locations on which the distance between each pair of adjacent intersections is marked, how can one determine the **shortest route** from one location to (an)other(s)?
- Enumerating all the routes from a source to a destination results in examination of an enormous number of possibilities.
 - Besides, when going from Ankara to Istanbul, passing through Izmir is an obviously bad choice.

Single-source shortest paths

- In a shortest-path problem, we are given a weighted directed graph $G=(V,E)$ with a weight function w , mapping edges to real valued weights:

$$w : E \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$$

Single-source shortest paths (SP)

- The weight $w(p)$ of a path $p = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k \rangle$ is the sum of its constituent edges:

$$w(p) = \sum_{i=0}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$$

- The shortest path weight from u to v is defined as:

$$\delta(u, v) = \begin{cases} \min(w(p) : u \xrightarrow{p} v) & \text{if there is a path from } u \text{ to } v \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- A shortest path from u to v is defined as any path p with weight:

$$w(p) = \delta(u, v)$$

Shortest paths, variants

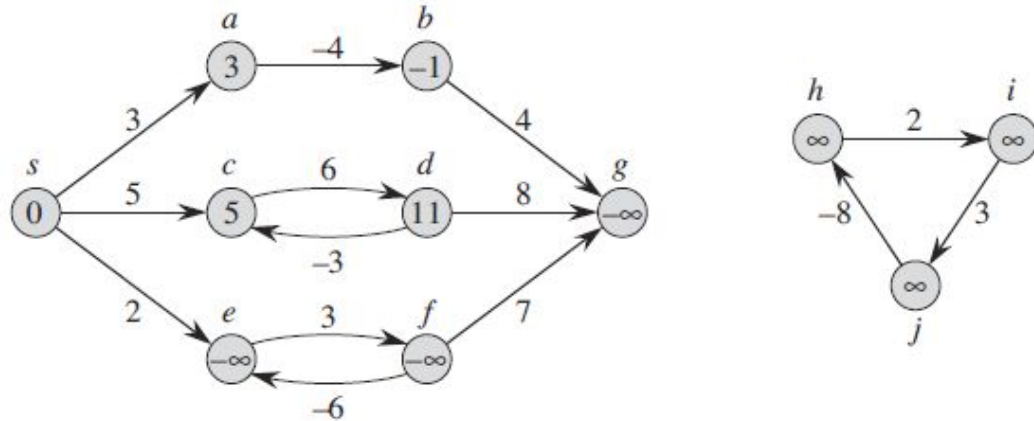
- Single-destination shortest-paths problem
 - Find a shortest path to a given destination vertex t from each vertex v (same as single-source)
- Single-pair shortest-path problem
 - Find a shortest path from u to v for given vertices u and v (same as single-source *asymptotically*)
- All-pairs shortest-paths problem
 - Find a shortest path from u to v for every pair of vertices u and v (running single-source algorithm repeatedly is slower)

Shortest paths, optimal substructure

- **Lemma 24.1 (Subpaths of shortest paths are shortest paths)** Given a weighted, directed graph $G=(V,E)$ with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, let $p=\langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ be a shortest path from vertex v_0 to vertex v_k and, for any i and j such that $0 \leq i \leq j \leq k$, let $p_{ij}=\langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j \rangle$ be the sub-path of p from vertex v_i to vertex v_j . Then, p_{ij} is a shortest path from v_i to v_j .

Shortest paths, negative-weight edges

- Negative weights OK but not negative cycles
 - Some algorithms handle negative weights
 - Others don't



Shortest paths, cycles, length

- A shortest path never has to include a cycle
 - Negative cycle makes shortest path undefined
 - Positive cycles are never on shortest path
 - Zero-weight cycles can be removed
- Thus shortest paths are simple paths
 - Length of a shortest path is at most $|V|-1$

Shortest paths, weight vs actual path

- Maintain a **predecessor** $v.\pi$ for each vertex v to record shortest path
- Predecessor subgraph $G_\pi = (V_\pi, E_\pi)$ will have correct values at the **end** of calculation
 - In fact, a shortest path **tree**
 - Shortest paths and shortest path trees are not necessarily unique

Shortest paths, relaxation

- Use the technique of **relaxation**
- For each vertex v , maintain an attribute $v.d$
 - an upper bound on the weight of a shortest path from source s to v ; a shortest path **estimate**
- Process of relaxing an edge (u,v) consists of
 - testing whether we can improve the shortest path to v found so far by going through u and, if so, updating $v.d$.

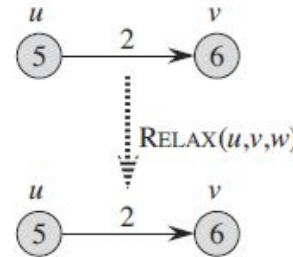
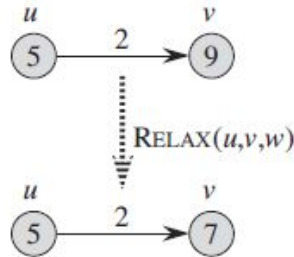
Shortest paths, relaxation

INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G, s)

- 1 for each vertex $v \in G.V$
- 2 $v.d = \infty$
- 3 $v.\pi = \text{NIL}$
- 4 $s.d = 0$

RELAX(u, v, w)

- 1 if $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$
- 2 $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$
- 3 $v.\pi = u$



Shortest paths properties

Triangle inequality (Lemma 24.10)

For any edge $(u, v) \in E$, we have $\delta(s, v) \leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v)$.

Upper-bound property (Lemma 24.11)

We always have $v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$ for all vertices $v \in V$, and once $v.d$ achieves the value $\delta(s, v)$, it never changes.

No-path property (Corollary 24.12)

If there is no path from s to v , then we always have $v.d = \delta(s, v) = \infty$.

Convergence property (Lemma 24.14)

If $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$ is a shortest path in G for some $u, v \in V$, and if $u.d = \delta(s, u)$ at any time prior to relaxing edge (u, v) , then $v.d = \delta(s, v)$ at all times afterward.

Path-relaxation property (Lemma 24.15)

If $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ is a shortest path from $s = v_0$ to v_k , and we relax the edges of p in the order $(v_0, v_1), (v_1, v_2), \dots, (v_{k-1}, v_k)$, then $v_k.d = \delta(s, v_k)$. This property holds regardless of any other relaxation steps that occur, even if they are intermixed with relaxations of the edges of p .

Predecessor-subgraph property (Lemma 24.17)

Once $v.d = \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$, the predecessor subgraph is a shortest-paths tree rooted at s .

Shortest paths, algorithms

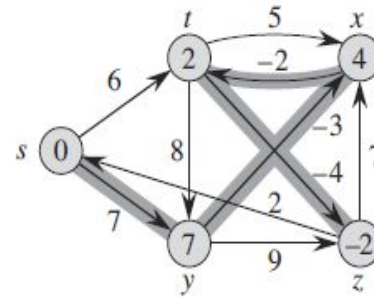
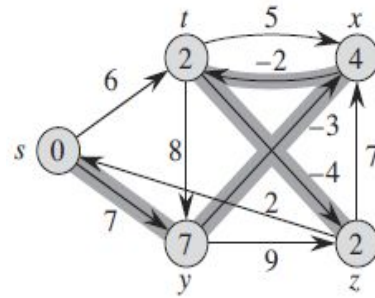
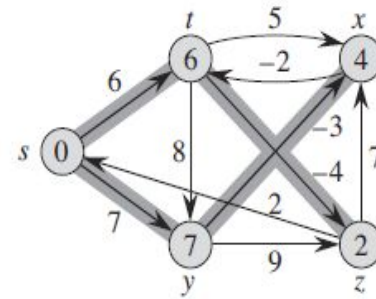
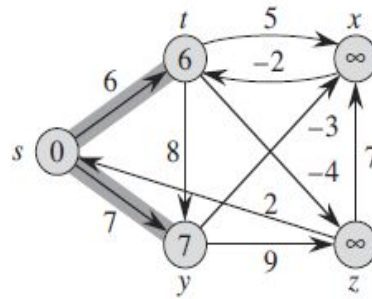
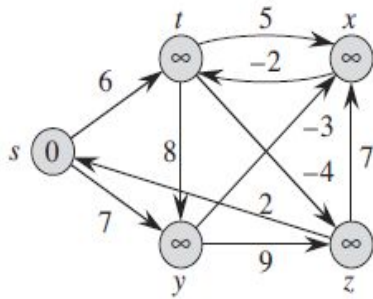
- The algorithms described from here on differ in
 - how many times they relax each edge and
 - the order in which they relax edges.
- Dijkstra's algorithm and the shortest-paths algorithm for directed acyclic graphs relax each edge exactly once.
- The Bellman-Ford algorithm relaxes each edge $|V|-1$ times.

Bellman-Ford algorithm

- Solves general case (negative weights are ok)
- Returns FALSE if no solution exists (i.e. negative cycle)
- Runs in $O(V E)$ time

```
BELLMAN-FORD( $G, w, s$ )
1 INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )
2 for  $i = 1$  to  $|G.V| - 1$ 
3   for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$ 
4     RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
5 for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$ 
6   if  $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$ 
7     return FALSE
8 return TRUE
```

Bellman-Ford algorithm



Bellman-Ford algorithm

- **Lemma 24.2** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with source s and weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, and assume that G contains no negative-weight cycles that are reachable from s . Then, after the $|V|-1$ iterations of the for loop of lines 2–4 of Bellman-Ford, we have $v.d=\delta(s,v)$ for all vertices v that are reachable from s .

Bellman-Ford algorithm

- **Proof** Consider any vertex v reachable from s , and let $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$, where $v_0 = s$ and $v_k = v$, be any shortest path from s to v . Since $|p| = k \leq |V| - 1$, each of the $|V| - 1$ iterations of the for loop of lines 2–4 relaxes all $|E|$ edges. Among the edges relaxed in the i^{th} iteration, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, is (v_{i-1}, v_i) . By the path-relaxation property, therefore, $v.d = v_k.d = \delta(s, v_k) = \delta(s, v)$.

Bellman-Ford algorithm

- **Corollary 24.3** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with source vertex s and weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, and assume that G contains no negative-weight cycles that are reachable from s . Then, for each vertex $v\in V$, there is a path from s to v if and only if Bellman-Ford terminates with $v.d < \infty$ when it is run on G .

Bellman-Ford algorithm

- **Theorem 24.4 (Correctness)** Let Bellman-Ford be run on a weighted, directed graph $G=(V,E)$ with source s and weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$. If G contains no negative-weight cycles that are reachable from s , then the algorithm returns **TRUE**, we have $v.d=\delta(s,v)$ for all vertices $v\in V$, and the predecessor subgraph G_π is a shortest-paths tree rooted at s . If G does contain a negative-weight cycle reachable from s , then the algorithm returns **FALSE**.

Bellman-Ford algorithm

■ Proof

□ $v.d = \delta(s, v)$ for all v :

- if v is reachable from s , true by Lemma 24.2
- if v is not reachable from s , true by no-path property

Bellman-Ford algorithm

■ Proof cntd

- G_π is a shortest-paths tree rooted at s : true by the predecessor-subgraph property

Bellman-Ford algorithm

■ Proof cntd

- **G contains no negative cycles:** we know $v.d = \delta(s, v)$ whether v is reachable from s or not and the predecessor subgraph property implies G_π is a shortest paths tree. The algorithm returns true since at termination for each edge (u, v) , we have $v.d = \delta(s, v) \leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) = u.d + w(u, v)$, so none of the tests in line 6 causes the algorithm to return FALSE.

Bellman-Ford algorithm

■ Proof cntd

- **G contains a negative cycle $c = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ with $v_0 = v_k$:** Assume it returns TRUE. Thus, $v_i.d \leq v_{i-1}.d + w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$ for $i=1, 2, \dots, k$ (line 6). Summing the inequalities around cycle c and the fact that $v_i.d$ is finite (Cor. 24.3) gives us the following contradiction to our assumption:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^k v_i.d &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k (v_{i-1}.d + w(v_{i-1}, v_i)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k v_{i-1}.d + \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \\ &\Rightarrow 0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \text{ since } v_0 = v_k \end{aligned}$$

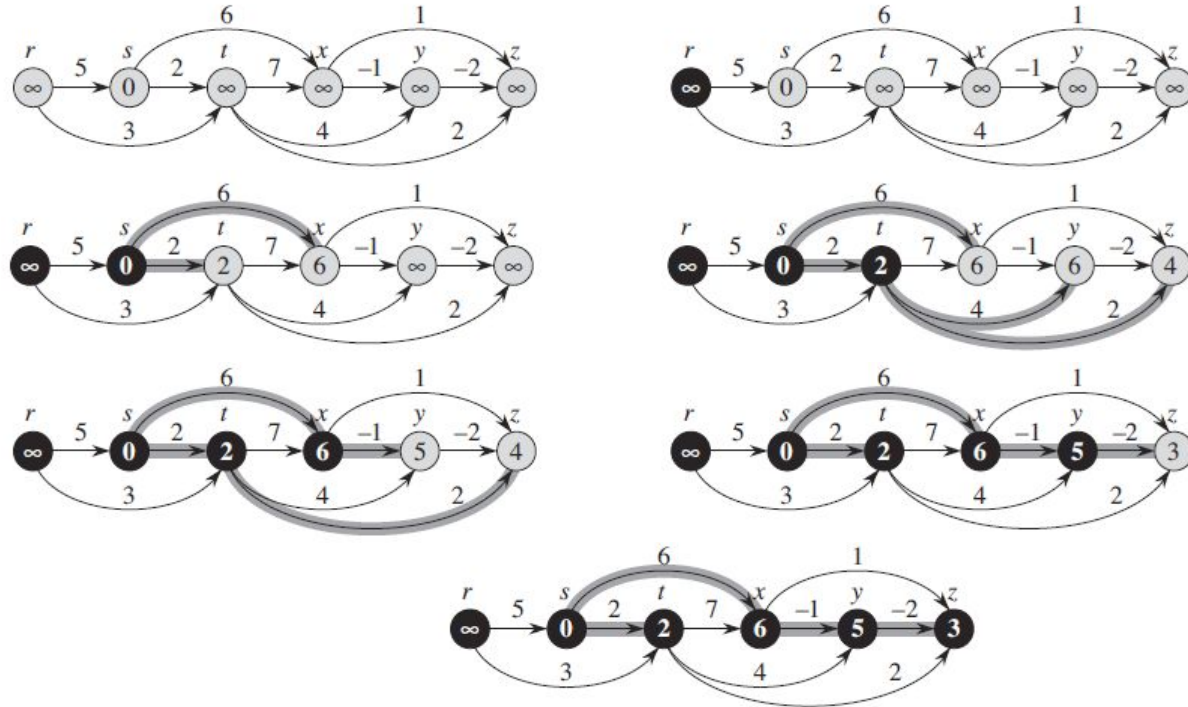
Single-source SP in dags

- Relax edges of a weighted dag $G=(V,E)$ according to a topological sort of its vertices in $O(V+E)$ time.

DAG-SHORTEST-PATHS (G, w, s)

```
1  topologically sort the vertices of  $G$ 
2  INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE ( $G, s$ )
3  for each vertex  $u$ , taken in topologically sorted order
4      for each vertex  $v \in G.Adj[u]$ 
5          RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
```


Single-source SP in dags



Single-source SP in dags

- **Theorem 24.5** If a weighted, directed graph $G=(V,E)$ has source vertex s and no cycles, then at the termination of the Dag-Shortest-Paths procedure, $v.d=\delta(s,v)$ for all vertices $v \in V$, and the predecessor subgraph G is a shortest-paths tree.

Single-source SP in dags

■ Proof

- **If v is not reachable from s :** $v.d = \delta(s, v) = \infty$ by the no-path property
- **If v is reachable from s :** let $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ be a shortest path from s to v , where $v_0 = s$ and $v_k = v$. Since we process edges in topologically sorted order, we relax edges in the order: (v_0, v_1) , (v_1, v_2) , \dots , (v_{k-1}, v_k) . The path relaxation property implies that $v_i.d = \delta(s, v_i)$ at termination for $i = 0, 1, \dots, k$. By the predecessor subgraph property, G_π is a shortest path tree.

Single-source SP in dags, critical paths

- Critical (longest) paths in PERT charts is an application
 - negate edge weights and run Dag-Shortest-Paths, or
 - modify Dag-Shortest-Paths:
 - replace ∞ with $-\infty$,
 - replace $>$ with $<$ in line 2 of Relax

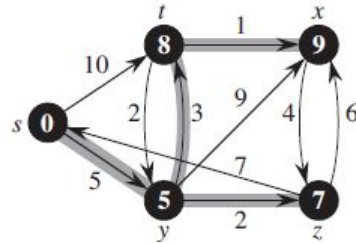
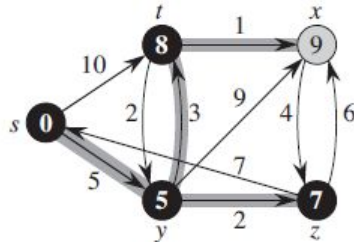
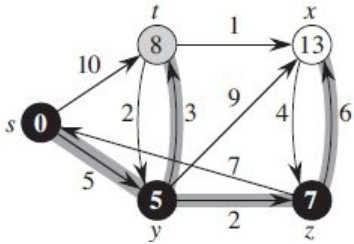
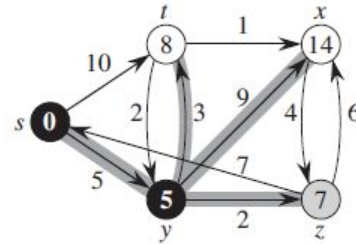
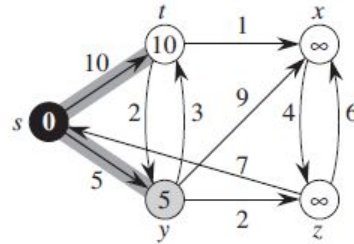
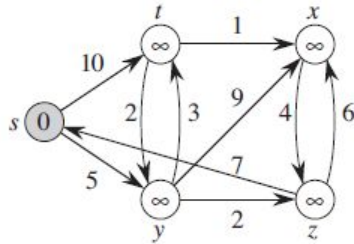
Dijkstra's algorithm

- Solves **single-source** shortest-paths problem on a weighted, directed graph with **nonnegative edge weights**
- A **greedy** algorithm that maintains a set of vertices whose final shortest-path weights from source s have already been determined
 - Selects vertex $u \in V-S$ with minimum shortest-path estimate, adds u to S , and relaxes all edges leaving u

Dijkstra's algorithm

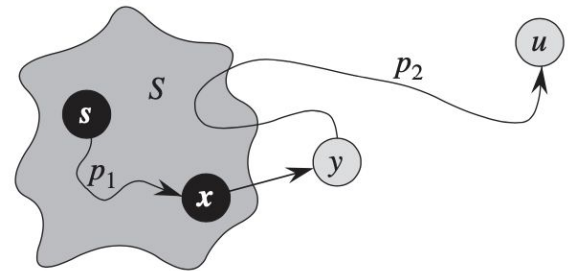
```
DIJKSTRA( $G, w, s$ )
1  INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )
2   $S = \emptyset$ 
3   $Q = G.V$ 
4  while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
5       $u = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
6       $S = S \cup \{u\}$ 
7      for each vertex  $v \in G.Adj[u]$ 
8          RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
```

Dijkstra's algorithm



Dijkstra's algorithm

- **Theorem 24.6 (Correctness of Dijkstra's algorithm)**
Dijkstra's algorithm, run on a weighted, directed graph $G=(V,E)$ with nonnegative weight function w and source s , terminates with $u.d = \delta(s,u)$ for all vertices $u \in V$.
- **Proof** Use the following loop invariant:
 - At the start of each iteration of the while loop of $v.d = \delta(s,v)$ for each vertex $v \in S$
 - Show $u.d = \delta(s,u)$ at the time when u is added to set S



Dijkstra's algorithm

- **Corollary 24.7** If we run Dijkstra's algorithm on a weighted, directed graph $G=(V,E)$ with nonnegative weight function w and source s , then at termination, the predecessor subgraph G_{π} is a shortest-paths tree rooted at s .
- **Proof** Immediate from Theorem 24.6 and the predecessor-subgraph property.

Dijkstra's algorithm, analysis

- Store $v.d$ in v^{th} entry of an array
 - Insert and Decrease-Key in $O(1)$, Extract-Min in $O(V)$ time, results in $O(V^2 + E) = O(V^2)$ time
- Use a binary min-heap
 - $O((V + E) \lg V) = O(E \lg V)$ [assuming all vertices reachable]
 - Better than array implementation if $E = o(V^2 / \lg V)$.
- Use a Fibonacci heap
 - $O(V \lg V + E)$

Dijkstra's algorithm

■ Resembles

- BFS in that set S corresponds to set of black vertices in a BFS; just as vertices in S have their final shortest-path weights, so do black vertices in a breadth-first search have their correct breadth-first distances,
- Prim's algorithm in that both algorithms use a min-priority queue to find the “lightest” vertex outside a given set, add this vertex into the set, and adjust weights of remaining vertices outside the set accordingly.

Basics, the triangle inequality

- **Lemma 24.10 (*Triangle inequality*)** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, and source vertex s . Then, for all edges $(u,v) \in E$, we have $\delta(s,v)\leq\delta(s,u)+w(u,v)$.

Basics, upper-bound property

- **Lemma 24.11 (*Upper-bound property*)** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$. Let $s \in V$ be the source vertex, and let the graph be initialized by `Initialize-Single-Source(G,s)`. Then, $v.d \geq \delta(s,v)$ for all $v \in V$, and this invariant is maintained over any sequence of relaxation steps on the edges of G . Moreover, once $v.d$ achieves its lower bound $\delta(s,v)$, it never changes.
- **Proof** Prove the invariant $v.d \geq \delta(s,v)$ for all vertices $v \in V$ by induction on the number of relaxation steps

Basics, no-path property

- **Corollary 24.12 (No-path property)** Suppose that in a weighted, directed graph $G=(V,E)$ with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, no path connects a source vertex $s \in V$ to a given vertex $v \in V$. Then, after the graph is initialized by `Initialize-Single-Source(G,s)`, we have $v.d=\delta(s,v)=\infty$, and this equality is maintained as an invariant over any sequence of relaxation steps on the edges of G .
- **Proof** By the upper-bound property, we always have $\infty=\delta(s,v)\leq v.d$, and thus $v.d=\infty=\delta(s,v)$.

Basics

- **Lemma 24.13** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, and let $(u,v) \in E$. Then, immediately after relaxing edge (u,v) by executing $\text{Relax}(u,v,w)$, we have $v.d \leq u.d + w(u,v)$.
- **Proof** If, just prior to relaxing edge (u,v) , we have $v.d > u.d + w(u,v)$, then $v.d = u.d + w(u,v)$ afterward. If, instead, $v.d \leq u.d + w(u,v)$ just before the relaxation, then neither $u.d$ nor $v.d$ changes, and so $v.d \leq u.d + w(u,v)$ afterward.

Basics, convergence property

- **Lemma 24.14 (Convergence property)** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, let $s \in V$ be a source vertex, and let $s \rightarrow u \rightarrow v$ be a shortest path in G for some vertices $u,v \in V$. Suppose that G is initialized by `Initialize-Single-Source(G,s)`, and then a sequence of relaxation steps that includes the call `RELAX(u,v,w)` is executed on the edges of G . If $u.d = \delta(s,u)$ at any time prior to the call, then $v.d = \delta(s,v)$ at all times after the call.

Basics, convergence property

- **Proof** By the upper-bound property, if $u.d = \delta(s,u)$ at some point prior to relaxing edge (u,v) , then this equality holds thereafter. In particular, after relaxing edge (u,v) , we have
 - $v.d \leq u.d + w(u,v)$ (by Lemma 24.13)
 - $= \delta(s,u) + w(u,v)$
 - $= \delta(s,v)$ (by Lemma 24.1) .

By the upper-bound property, $v.d \geq \delta(s,v)$, from which we conclude that $v.d = \delta(s,v)$, and this equality is maintained thereafter.

Basics, path relaxation property

- **Lemma 24.15 (Path-relaxation property)** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, and let $s\in V$ be a source vertex. Consider any shortest path $p=\langle v_0,v_1,\dots,v_k\rangle$ from $s=v_0$ to v_k . If G is initialized by Initialize-Single-Source(G,s) and then a sequence of relaxation steps occurs that includes, in order, relaxing the edges $(v_0,v_1),(v_1,v_2),\dots,(v_{k-1},v_k)$, then $v_k.d=\delta(s,v_k)$ after these relaxations and at all times afterward. This property holds no matter what other edge relaxations occur, including relaxations that are intermixed with relaxations of the edges of p .

Basics, path relaxation property

- **Proof** by induction that after the i^{th} edge of path p is relaxed, we have $v_i.d = \delta(s, v_i)$. For the basis, $i=0$, and we have from the initialization that $v_0.d = s.d = 0 = \delta(s, s)$. By the upper-bound property, the value of $s.d$ never changes after initialization.

For the inductive step, we assume that $v_{i-1}.d = \delta(s, v_{i-1})$, and we examine what happens when we relax edge (v_{i-1}, v_i) . By the convergence property, after relaxing this edge, we have $v_i.d = \delta(s, v_i)$, and this equality is maintained at all times thereafter.

Basics, pred-subgraph property

- **Lemma 24.17 (*Predecessor-subgraph property*)** Let $G=(V,E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w:E\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$, let $s \in V$ be a source vertex, and assume that G contains no negative-weight cycles that are reachable from s . Let us call `INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G,s)` and then execute any sequence of relaxation steps on edges of G that produces $v.d=\delta(v,s)$ for all $v \in V$. Then, the predecessor subgraph G_π is a shortest-paths tree rooted at s .