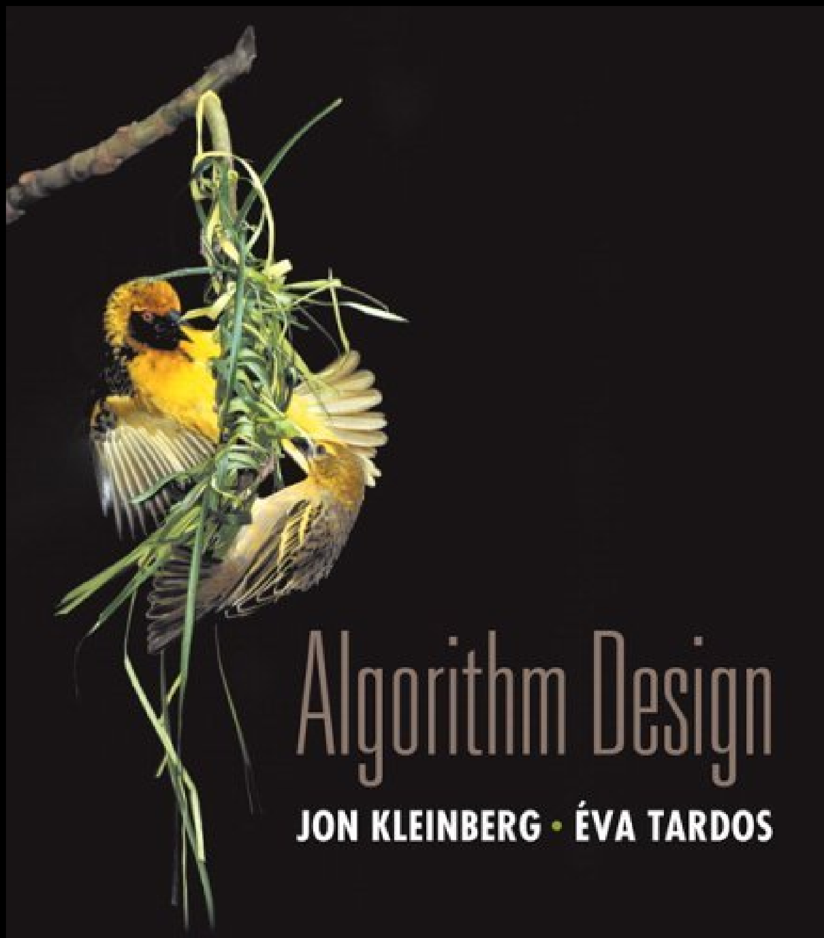


Chapter 6

Dynamic Programming

Slides by Kevin Wayne.

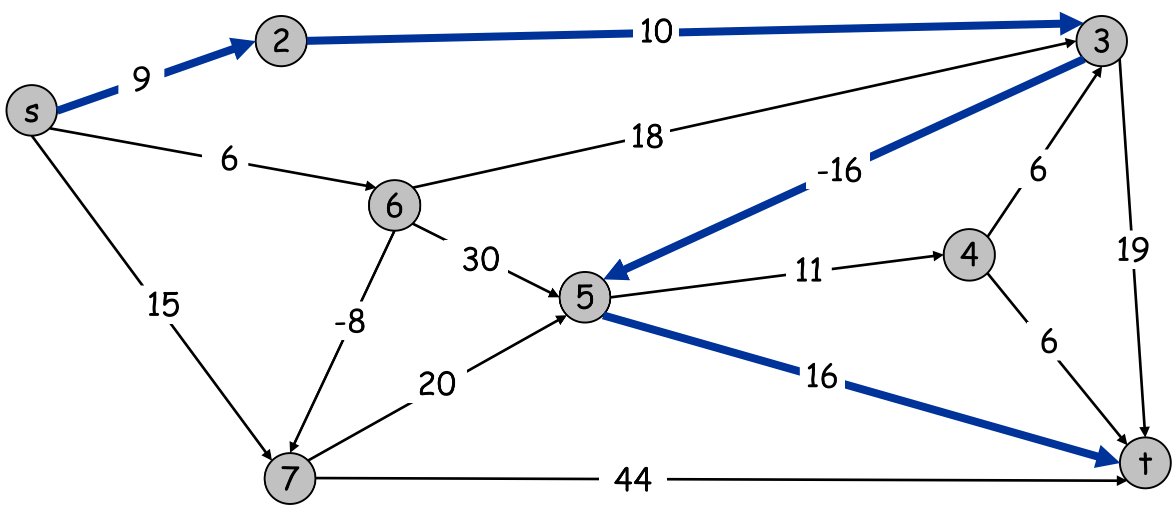
6.8 Shortest Paths

Shortest Paths

Shortest path problem. Given a directed graph $G = (V, E)$, with edge weights c_{vw}, find shortest path from node s to node t.

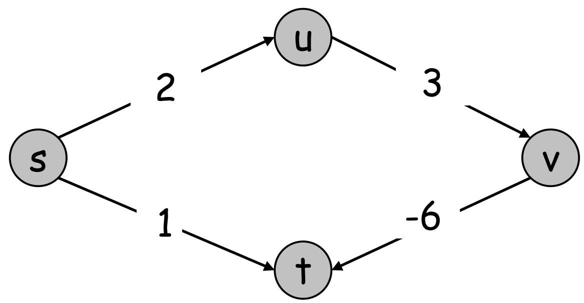
allow negative weights

Ex. Nodes represent agents in a financial setting and c_{vw} is cost of transaction in which we buy from agent v and sell immediately to w.

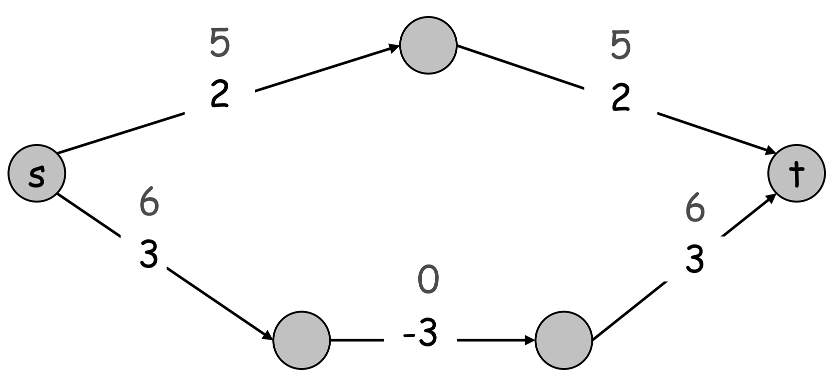


Shortest Paths: Failed Attempts

Dijkstra. Can fail if negative edge costs.

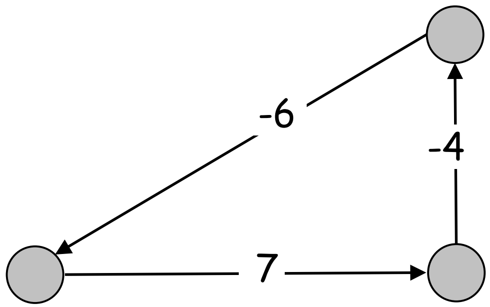


Re-weighting. Adding a constant to every edge weight can fail.

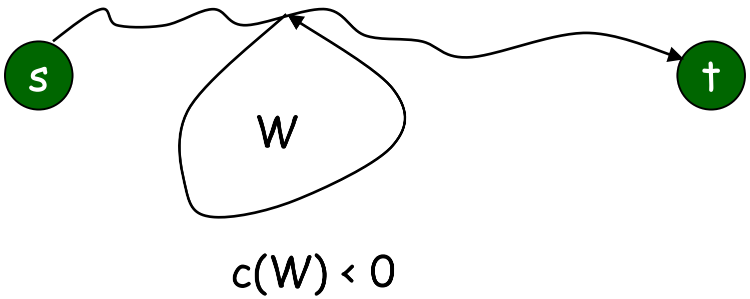


Shortest Paths: Negative Cost Cycles

Negative cost cycle.



Observation. If some path from s to t contains a negative cost cycle, there does not exist a shortest s-t path; otherwise, there exists one that is simple.



Shortest Paths: Dynamic Programming

Def. OPT(i, v) = length of shortest v-t path P using at most i edges.

- Case 1: P uses at most i-1 edges.
  - OPT(i, v) = OPT(i-1, v)

- Case 2: P uses exactly i edges.
  - if (v, w) is first edge, then OPT uses (v, w), and then selects best w-t path using at most i-1 edges

$$OPT(i,v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \min\left\{ OPT(i-1, v), \min_{(v,w)\in E} \{ OPT(i-1, w) + c_{vw} \} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Remark. By previous observation, if no negative cycles, then OPT(n-1, v) = length of shortest v-t path.

Shortest Paths: Implementation

```
Shortest-Path(G, t) {
   foreach node v ∈ V
      M[0, v] ← ∞
   M[0, t] ← 0

   for i = 1 to n-1
      foreach node v ∈ V
         M[i, v] ← M[i-1, v]
      foreach edge (v, w) ∈ E
         M[i, v] ← min { M[i, v], M[i-1, w] + c_vw }
}
```

Analysis. $\Theta(mn)$ time, $\Theta(n^2)$ space.

Finding the shortest paths. Maintain a "successor" for each table entry.

Shortest Paths: Practical Improvements

Practical improvements.

- Maintain only one array M[v] = shortest v-t path that we have found so far.
- No need to check edges of the form (v, w) unless M[w] changed in previous iteration.

Theorem. Throughout the algorithm, M[v] is length of some v-t path, and after i rounds of updates, the value M[v] is no larger than the length of shortest v-t path using $\leq$ i edges.

Overall impact.

- Memory: O(m + n).
- Running time: O(mn) worst case, but substantially faster in practice.

Bellman-Ford: Efficient Implementation

```
Push-Based-Shortest-Path(G, s, t) {
   foreach node v ∈ V {
      M[v] ← ∞
      successor[v] ← φ
   }

   M[t] = 0
   for i = 1 to n-1 {
      foreach node w ∈ V {
      if (M[w] has been updated in previous iteration) {
         foreach node v such that (v, w) ∈ E {
            if (M[v] > M[w] + c_vw) {
               M[v] ← M[w] + c_vw
               successor[v] ← w
            }
         }
      }
      If no M[w] value changed in iteration i, stop.
   }
}
```

6.10 Negative Cycles in a Graph

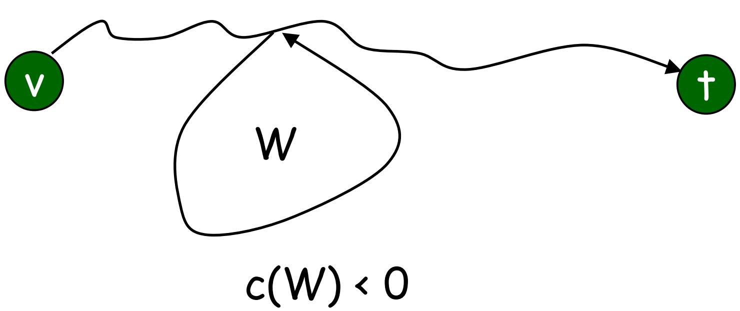
Detecting Negative Cycles

Lemma. If OPT(n,v) = OPT(n-1,v) for all v, then no negative cycles.
Pf. Bellman-Ford algorithm.

Lemma. If OPT(n,v) < OPT(n-1,v) for some node v, then (any) shortest path from v to t contains a cycle W. Moreover W has negative cost.

Pf. (by contradiction)

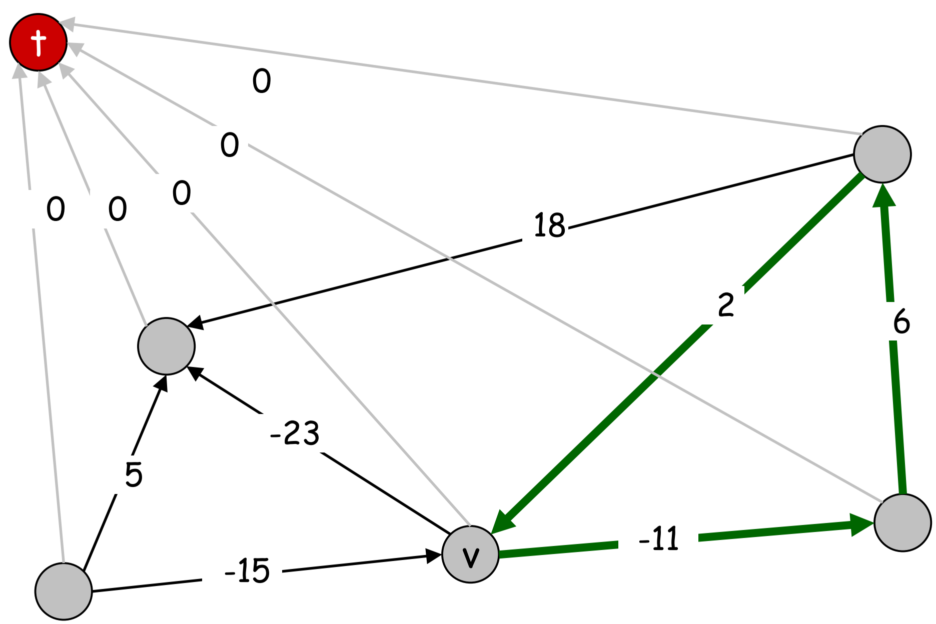
- Since OPT(n,v) < OPT(n-1,v), we know P has exactly n edges.
- By pigeonhole principle, P must contain a directed cycle W.
- Deleting W yields a v-t path with < n edges ⇒ W has negative cost.



Detecting Negative Cycles

Theorem. Can detect negative cost cycle in $O(mn)$ time.

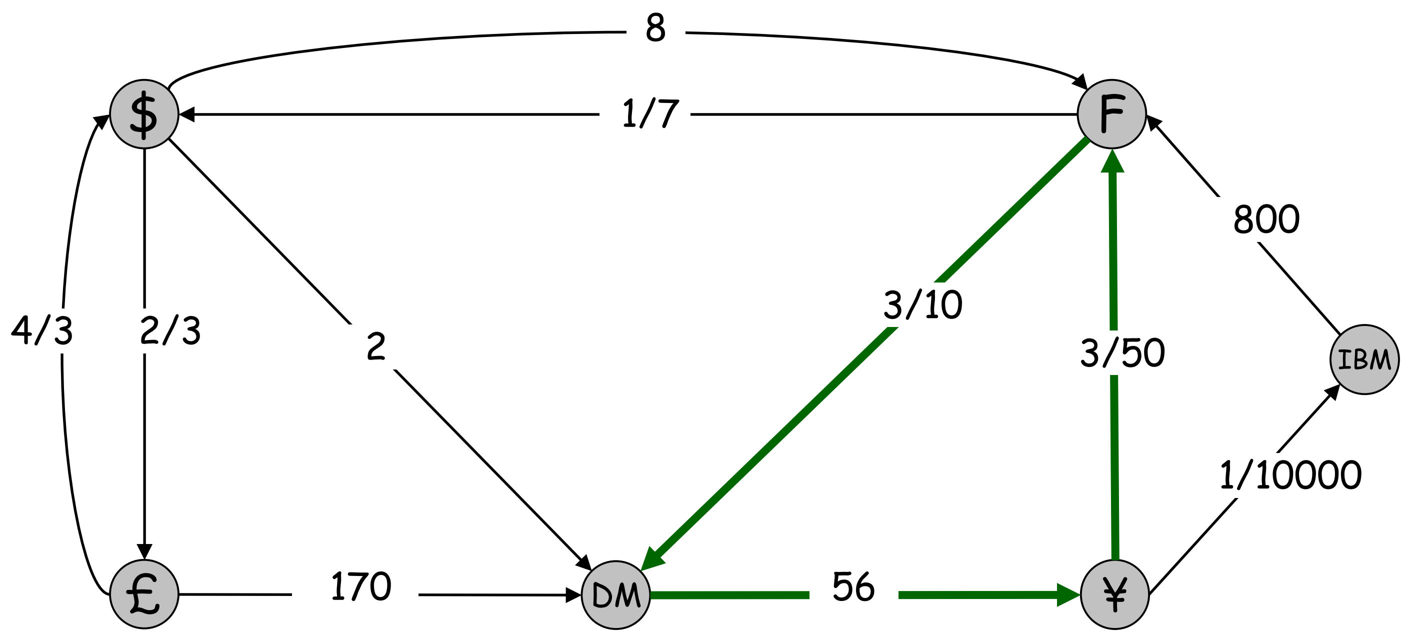
- Add new node t and connect all nodes to t with 0-cost edge.
- Check if $OPT(n, v) = OPT(n-1, v)$ for all nodes v.
  - if yes, then no negative cycles
  - if no, then extract cycle from shortest path from v to t



Detecting Negative Cycles: Application

Currency conversion. Given n currencies and exchange rates between pairs of currencies, is there an arbitrage opportunity?

Remark. Fastest algorithm very valuable!



Detecting Negative Cycles: Summary

Bellman-Ford. O(mn) time, O(m + n) space.

- Run Bellman-Ford for n iterations (instead of n-1).
- Upon termination, Bellman-Ford successor variables trace a negative cycle if one exists.
- See p. 304 for improved version and early termination rule.