# Lecture 16: Graphs Shortest Paths

CSE 332: Data Structures & Parallelism

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Summer 2025

#### Announcements

- EX06 due today
- EX07 due next Monday, EX08 released today
- Exam 2 information posted here:
  - https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse332/25su/exams/final.html
  - · Note: it will be hard to accommodate makeups; only four days to grade
  - If you can't make proposed makeup dates (e.g., sickness/emergency), some options:
  - Option 1: Exam 1 is worth 40% instead of 20% of overall grade
  - Option 2: Take the final exam in the next CSE 332 offering

Exam 1 grades, stats, solutions posted regrades requests open 8/Z; closed 8/6.

#### Today

- Graph Terminologies
  - Paths vs Cycles
  - Connected vs Unconnected
  - Sparse vs dense
- Graph Datastructures
  - Adjacency Matrix
  - Adjacency List
- Graph Traversals
  - DFS (Iterative + Recursive)
  - BFS
- Graph Shortest Paths
  - Dijkstra's

#### Today

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  - DFS (Iterative + Recursive)
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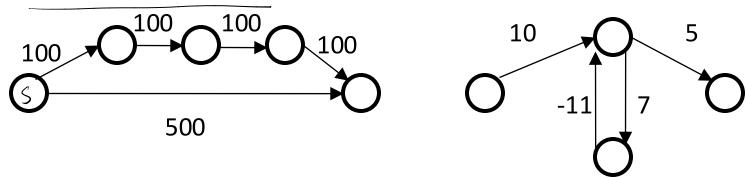
- Graph Traversals
  - DFS (Iterative + Recursive)
  - BFS
- Graph Shortest Paths
  - Dijkstra's

#### Shortest Path: Applications

- Google Maps
- Network routing
- Driving directions
- Cheap flight tickets
- Critical paths in project management (see textbook)
- etc.

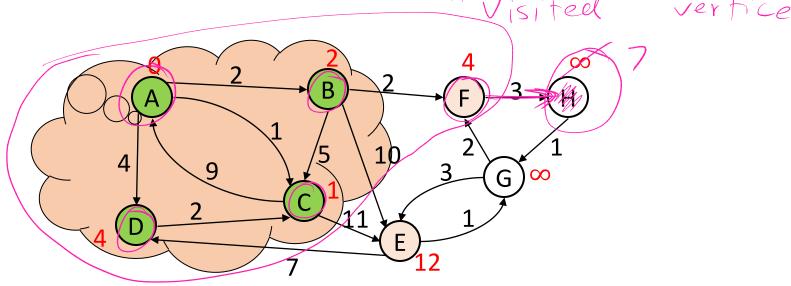
#### Shortest Path: Weighted Graphs

New Problem: What is the shortest path from src to specific nodes in a weighted graph?



- Why BFS won't work: Shortest path may not have the fewest edges
  - Annoying when this happens with costs of flights
- We will assume there are no negative weights
  - Problem is ill-defined if there are negative-cost cycles
  - Some algorithms are wrong (e.g, Dijkstra's Algorithm) if edges can be negative

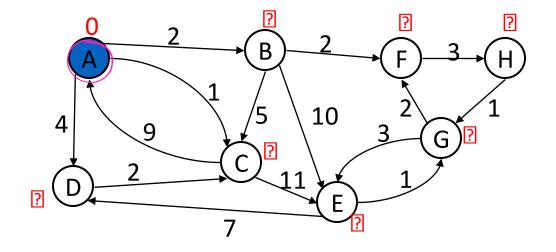
# Shortest Path: Dijkstra's Algorithm



- Initially, start node (A) has cost 0 and marked "visited"
- At each step:
  - Pick cheapest visited vertex v not in the cloud
  - Add ∨ to the "cloud" of known vertices
  - Visit and update distances for nodes with edges from  $\, {f v} \,$
- That's it! (Have to prove it produces correct answers)

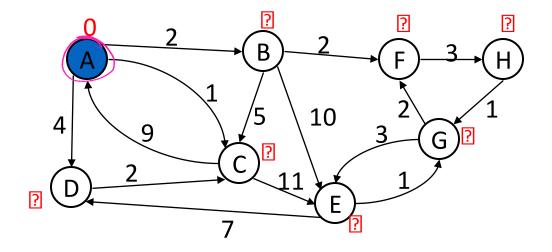
#### Dijkstra's: The Algorithm

```
Dijkstras (Graph G, Node src):
 src.cost = 0 // all other costs uninitialized / implicitly "infinity"
  mark src as visited
  while (there are unknown nodes in G)
      v = unknown, visited node with lowest cost
     mark v as known
      for each edge (v, u) with weight w in G:
            potentialBest = v.cost + w // cost of potential best path
                                           to u (through v)
            if (u is not visited):
                  \u.cost = potentialBest
                  /u.pred = v
                  mark u as visited
            else if (potentialBest < u.cost):
                  u.cost = potentialBest
                  u.pred = v
```



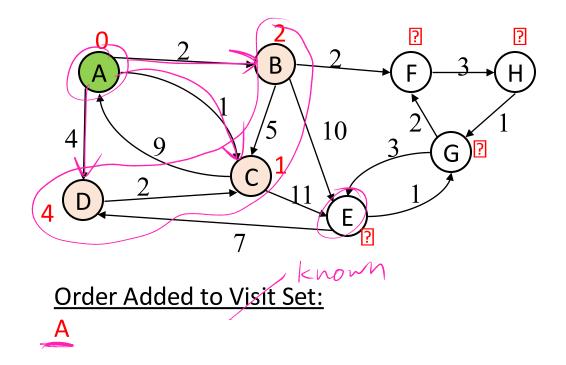
Order Added to Visit Set:

vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α			
В			
С			
D			
Е			
F			
G			
Н			

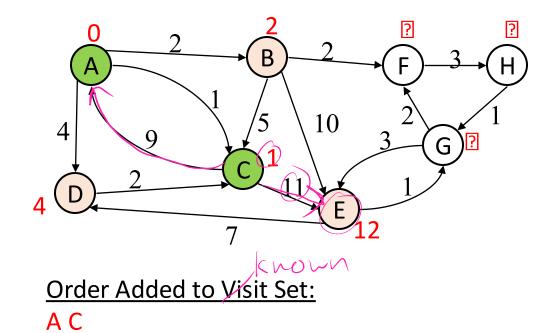


Order Added to Visit Set:

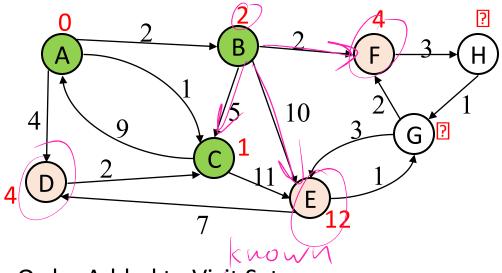
vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α		0	
В		0	
С		$\sim$	
D		∞	
Е		∞	
F		∞	
G		∞ /	
Н		~ /	



vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	~
В		2	A
С		1	A
D		4	A
Е		8	
F		8	
G		8	
Н		8	_



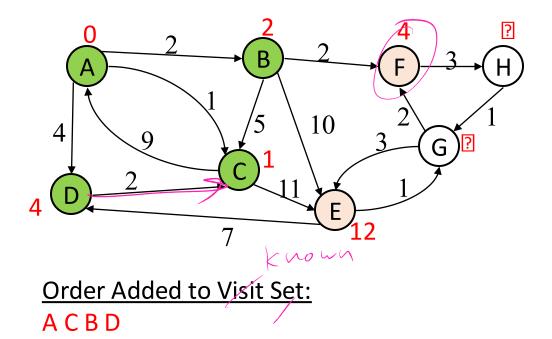
vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В		2	Α
С	Yes	1	Α
D		4	Α
E		_12_	С
F		∞	
G		∞	
Н		8	



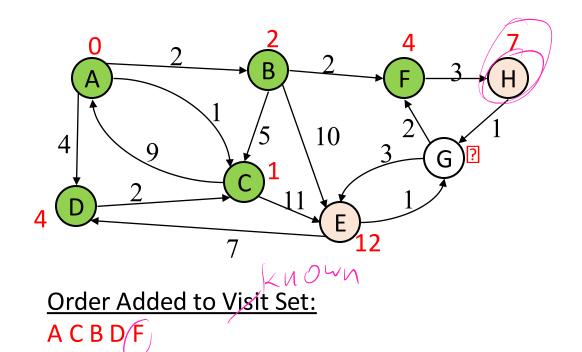
Order Added to Visit Set:

ACB

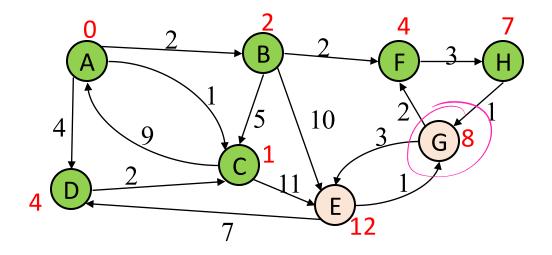
vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В	Yes	2	Α
С	Yes	1	Α
D		4	Α
Е		12	С
F		4	В
G		8	
Н		8	



vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В	Yes	2	Α
С	Yes	1	Α
D	Yes	4	Α
E		12	С
F		4	В
G		8	
Н		8	



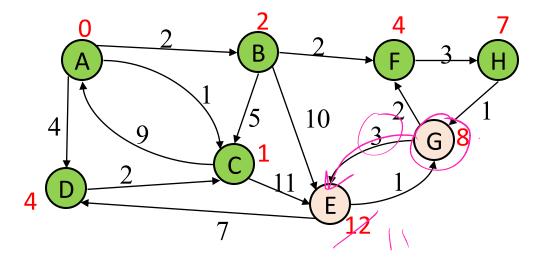
vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В	Yes	2	Α
С	Yes	1	Α
D	Yes	4	Α
Е		12	С
F	Yes	4	В
G		8	
Н		7	F



Order Added to Visit Set:

ACBDFH

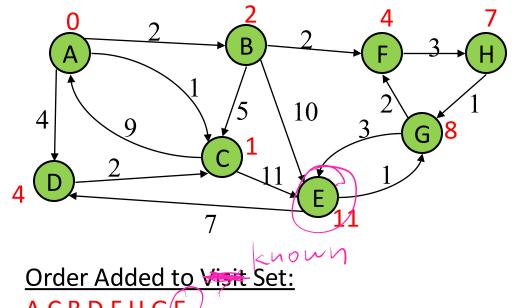
vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В	Yes	2	Α
С	Yes	1	Α
D	Yes	4	Α
Е		12	С
F	Yes	4	В
G		8	Н
Н	Yes	7	F



Order Added to Visit Set:

ACBDFHG

vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В	Yes	2	Α
С	Yes	1	Α
D	Yes	4	Α
Е		<del>12</del> (11)	<del>C</del> G
F	Yes	4	В
G	Yes	8	Н
Н	Yes	7	F



ACBDFHGE

	A)89F->	$\prod$	$\rightarrow$	G	$\rightarrow$	5
--	---------	---------	---------------	---	---------------	---

vertex	known?	cost	pred
Α	Yes	0	
В	Yes	2	A
С	Yes	1	Α
D	Yes	4	A
E	Yes	<del>12</del> 11 /	€ G
F	Yes	4	В
G	Yes	8	Н
Н	Yes	7	F

#### Dijkstra's: A Greedy Algorithm

- Dijkstra's algorithm
  - For single-source shortest paths in a weighted graph (directed or undirected)
     with no negative-weight edges

- An example of a greedy algorithm:
  - At each step, irrevocably does what seems best at that step
    - A locally optimal step, not necessarily globally optimal
  - Once a vertex is known, it is not revisited
    - Turns out to be globally optimal



known

Dijkstra's: Correctness Better path to

v? No!

The Visitor Cloud

Next shortest path from

inside the visited cloud

#### 1. Greedy Approach

Prioritizes nodes closer to the starting point

#### 2. Optimality of Selected Nodes

• When Dijkstra's visits a node, it has seen all possible paths to that node based on the visited nodes. Since it picks the smallest current cost, it is optimal.

#### 3. Convergence

• Dijkstra's explores every nodes, so it never accidently picks e.g., the 2nd best path

Source

#### Dijkstra's: Unoptimal Efficiency

```
Dijkstras (Graph G, Node src):
  src.cost = 0 // all other costs implicitly "infinity"
  mark src as visited
  while (there are unknown nodes in G)
       v = unknown, visited node with lowest cost O(|V|)
       mark v as known
       for each edge (v, u) with weight w in G:
               potentialBest = v.cost + w // cost of potential best path
                                          to u (through v)
              if (u is not visited):
                      u.cost = potentialBest
                      u.pred = v
                      mark u as visited
               else if (potentialBest < u.cost):</pre>
                      u.cost = potentialBest
                      u.pred = v
```

### Dijkstra's: Optimal Efficiency

```
Dijkstras (Graph G, Node src):
   src.cost = 0 // all other costs implicitly "infinity"
   mark src as visited
                     1/ visited
   heap = {src}
   while (heap is not empty)
        v = heap.deleteMin()
        mark v as known
        for each edge (v, u) with weight w in G:
                 potentialBest = v.cost + w // cost of potential best path
                                              to u (through v)
                 if (u is not visited):
                          u.cost = potentialBest
                          u.pred = v
                                                                                               \mathcal{O}(|E|\log(|V|))
                          mark u as visited
                          heap.insert(u)
                 else if (potentialBest < u.cost):</pre>
                          u.cost = potentialBest
                          u.pred = v
                          heap.changePriority(u/ potentialBest)
                                                                             \mathcal{O}(|V|\log|V| + |E|\log|V|)
```

## Recap of heap operations

#### Heap: Other operations

```
• decreaseKey(idx, \Delta) or increaseKey(idx, \Delta)

1. arr[idx] -= \Delta or arr[idx] += \Delta

2. percolateUp() or percolateDown()

Worst Case \Theta(\log n)
```

- delete(idx)
  - 1. decreaseKey(idx,  $\infty$ )
  - 2. deleteMin()

Worst Case  $\Theta(\log n)$ 

### Heap: Note on decrease/increaseKey

• MORE COMMONLY CALLED change Priority (key, prio)



- 1. Uses a map to go from key -> idx
- 2. arr[idx] = prio
- 3. percolateUp() or percolateDown()

(Same as decrease/increaseKey)



# Any Questions?