



## Pre-lecture brain teaser

Given a directed graph ( $G$ ), propose an algorithm that finds a vertex that is contained within the source SCC of the meta-graph of  $G$ .

# ECE-374-B: Lecture 16 - Shortest Paths

## [BFS, Dijkstra]

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## Pre-lecture brain teaser

Given a directed graph ( $G$ ), propose an algorithm that finds a vertex that is contained within the source SCC of the meta-graph of  $G$ .

# Breadth First Search

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# Breadth First Search (**BFS**)

## Overview

- (A) **BFS** is obtained from **BasicSearch** by processing edges using a queue data structure.
- (B) It processes the vertices in the graph in the order of their shortest distance from the vertex  $s$  (the start vertex).

## As such...

- **DFS** good for exploring graph structure
- **BFS** good for exploring distances

# Queue Data Structure

## Queues

A queue is a list of elements which supports the operations:

- **enqueue**: Adds an element to the end of the list
- **dequeue**: Removes an element from the front of the list

Elements are extracted in first-in first-out (FIFO) order, i.e., elements are picked in the order in which they were inserted.

# BFS Algorithm

Given (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  and node  $s \in V$

**BFS**( $s$ )

Mark all vertices as unvisited

Initialize search tree  $T$  to be empty

Mark vertex  $s$  as visited

set  $Q$  to be the empty queue

**enqueue**( $Q, s$ )

**while**  $Q$  is nonempty **do**

$u =$  **dequeue**( $Q$ )

**for** each vertex  $v \in \text{Adj}(u)$

**if**  $v$  is not visited **then**

            add edge  $(u, v)$  to  $T$

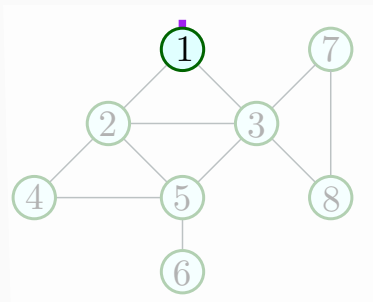
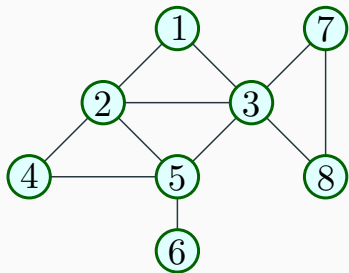
            Mark  $v$  as visited and **enqueue**( $v$ )

**Proposition**

**BFS**( $s$ ) runs in  $O(n + m)$  time.

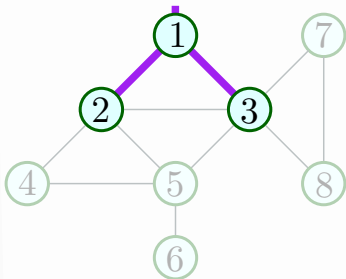
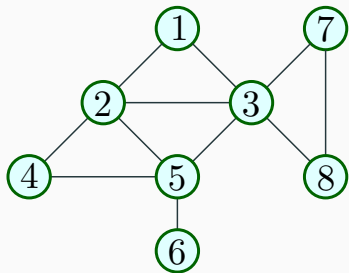


## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

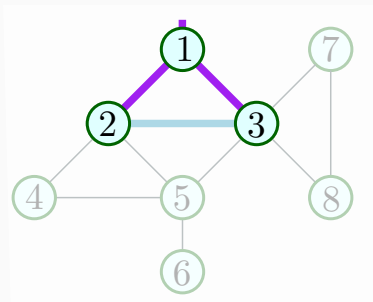
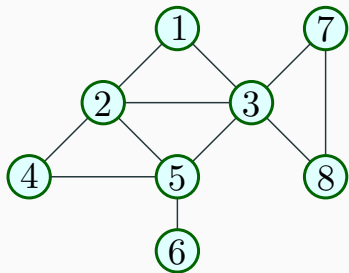
## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

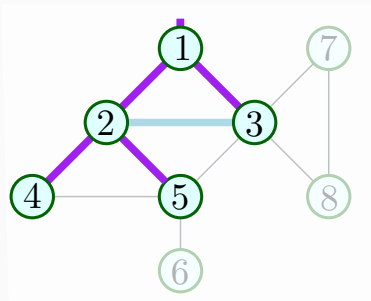
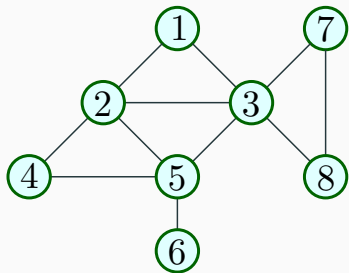
## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

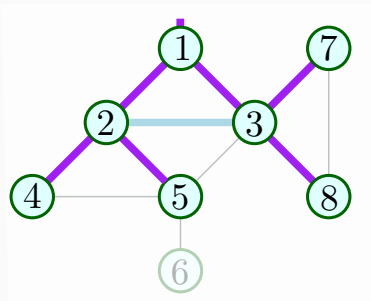
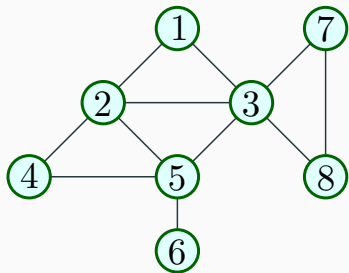
T2. [2,3]

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



- T1. [1]
- T2. [2,3]
- T3. [3,4,5]

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



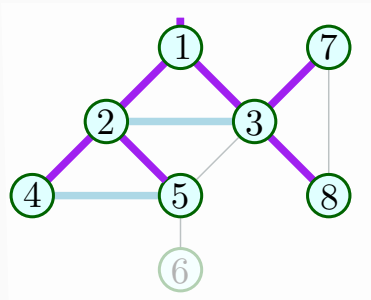
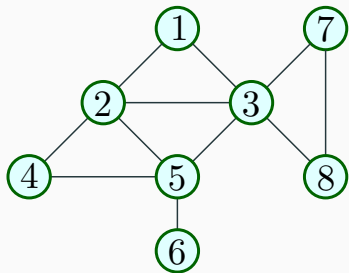
T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



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T1. [1]

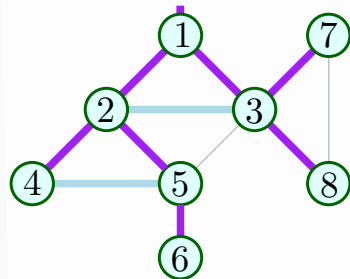
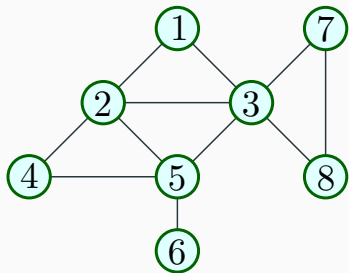
T2. [2,3]

T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

T5. [5,7,8]

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

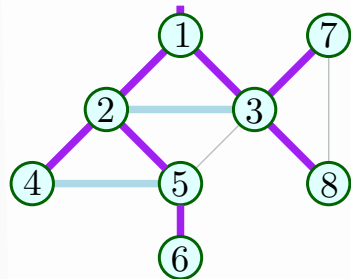
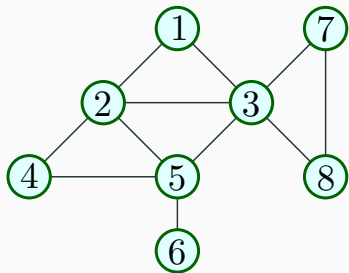
T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

T5. [5,7,8]

T6. [7,8,6]

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

T5. [5,7,8]

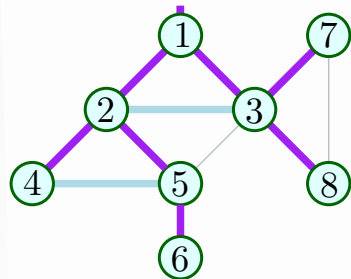
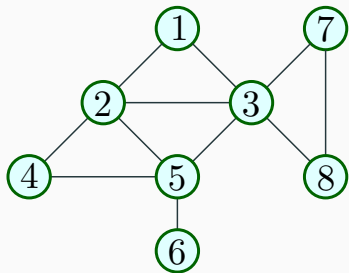
T6. [7,8,6]

T7. [8,6]





## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

T5. [5,7,8]

T6. [7,8,6]

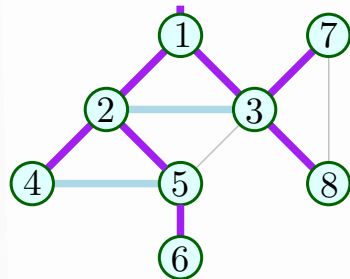
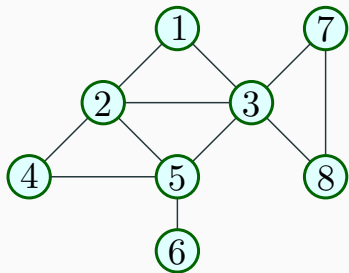
T7. [8,6]

T8. [6]

T9. []

**BFS** tree is the set of purple edges.

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

T5. [5,7,8]

T6. [7,8,6]

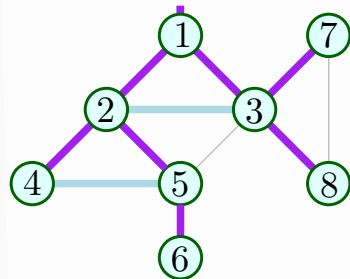
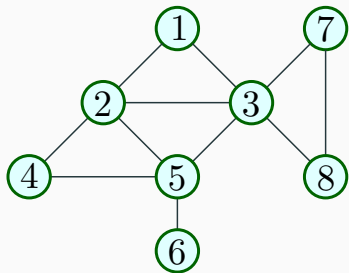
T7. [8,6]

T8. [6]

T9. []

**BFS** tree is the set of purple edges.

## BFS: An Example in Undirected Graphs



T1. [1]

T2. [2,3]

T3. [3,4,5]

T4. [4,5,7,8]

T5. [5,7,8]

T6. [7,8,6]

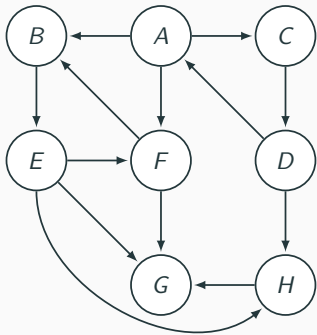
T7. [8,6]

T8. [6]

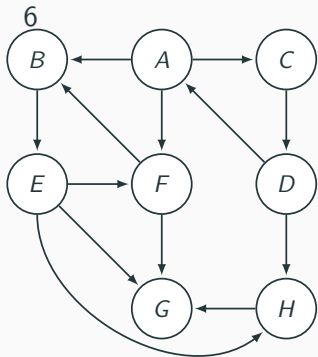
T9. []

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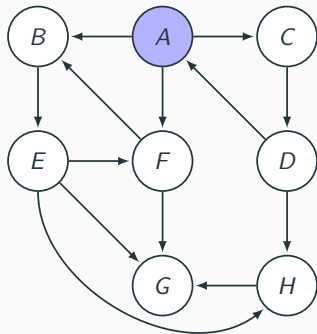
## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



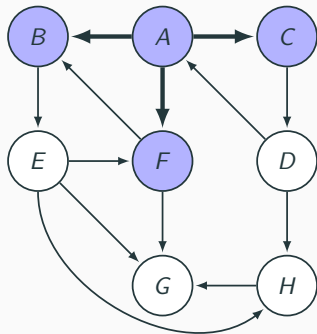
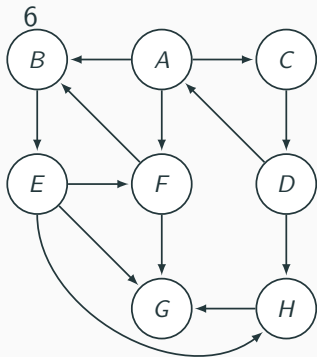
## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



T1. [A]



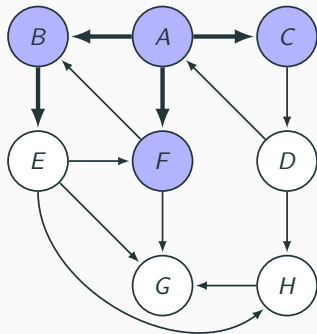
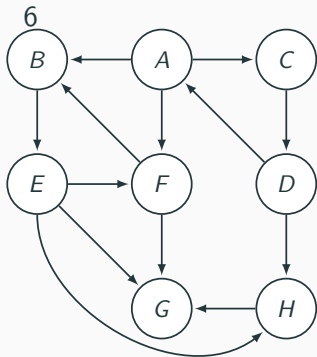
## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



T1. [A]

T2. [B,C,F]

## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs

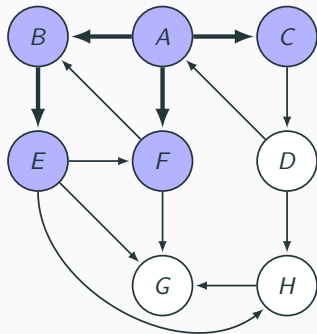
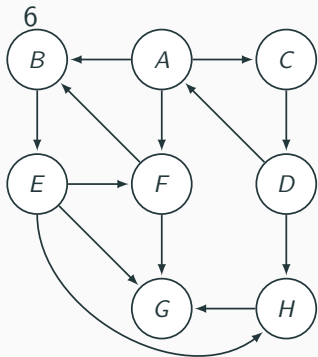


T1. [A]

T2. [B,C,F]

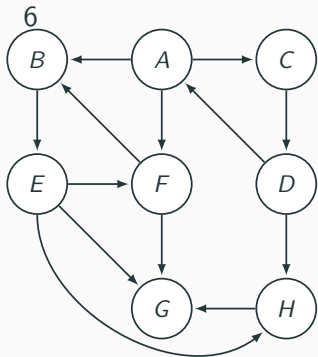


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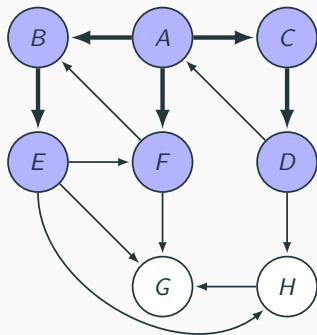


- T1. [A]
- T2. [B,C,F]
- T3. [C,F,E]

## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs

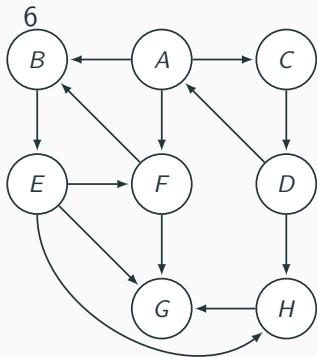


- T1. [A]
- T2. [B,C,F]
- T3. [C,F,E]

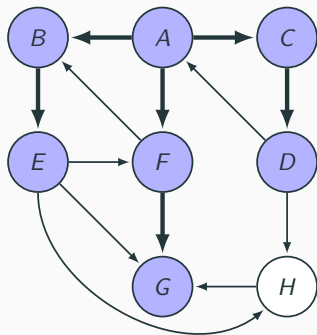


- T4. [F,E,D]

## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs

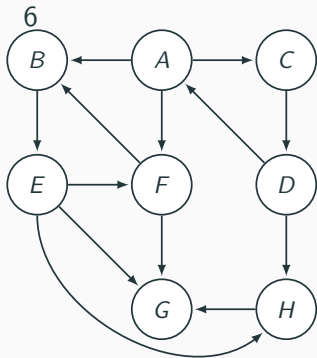


- T1. [A]
- T2. [B,C,F]
- T3. [C,F,E]



- T4. [F,E,D]
- T5. [E,D,G]

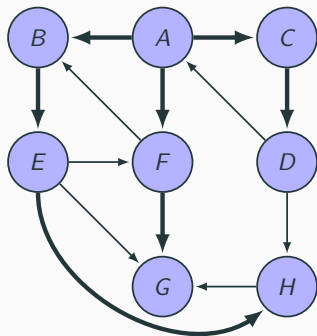
## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



T1. [A]

T2. [B,C,F]

T3. [C,F,E]

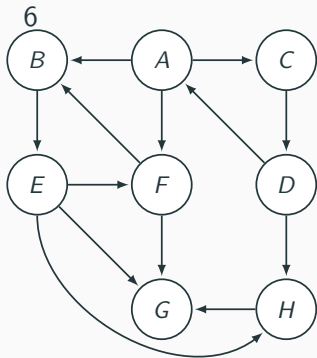


T4. [F,E,D]

T5. [E,D,G]

T6. [D,G,H]

## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



T1. [A]

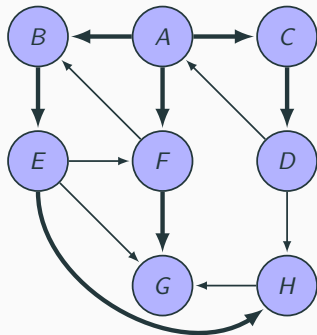
T2. [B,C,F]

T3. [C,F,E]

T4. [F,E,D]

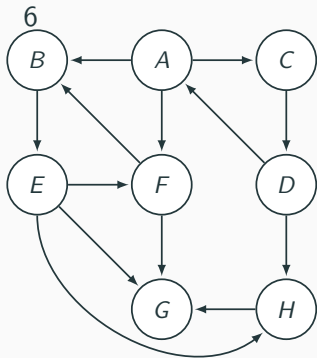
T5. [E,D,G]

T6. [D,G,H]



T7. [G,H]

## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



T1. [A]

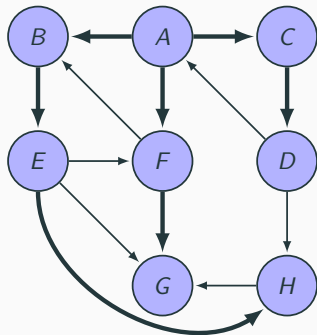
T2. [B,C,F]

T3. [C,F,E]

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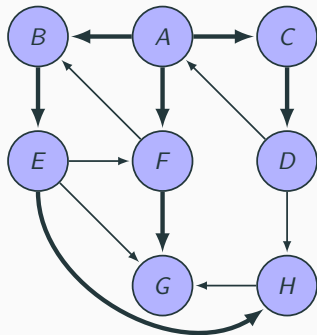
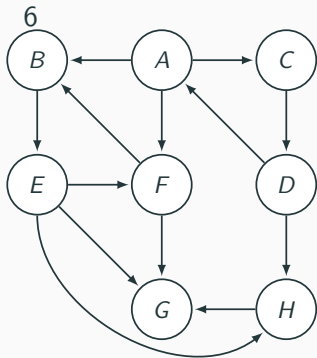
T6. [D,G,H]



T7. [G,H]

T8. [H]

## BFS: An Example in Directed Graphs



T1. [A]

T2. [B,C,F]

T3. [C,F,E]

T4. [F,E,D]

T5. [E,D,G]

T6. [D,G,H]

T7. [G,H]

T8. [H]

T9. []

## **BFS with distances and layers**

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## BFS with distances

**BFS**( $s$ )

Mark all vertices as unvisited; for each  $v$  set  $\text{dist}(v) = \infty$

Initialize search tree  $T$  to be empty

Mark vertex  $s$  as visited and set  $\text{dist}(s) = 0$

set  $Q$  to be the empty queue

**enqueue**( $s$ )

**while**  $Q$  is nonempty **do**

$u =$  **dequeue**( $Q$ )

**for** each vertex  $v \in \text{Adj}(u)$  **do**

**if**  $v$  is not visited **do**

            add edge  $(u, v)$  to  $T$

            Mark  $v$  as visited, **enqueue**( $v$ )

            and set  $\text{dist}(v) = \text{dist}(u) + 1$

## Properties of **BFS**: Undirected Graphs

### Theorem

The following properties hold upon termination of **BFS**( $s$ )

- (A) Search tree contains exactly the set of vertices in the connected component of  $s$ .
- (B) If  $\text{dist}(u) < \text{dist}(v)$  then  $u$  is visited before  $v$ .
- (C) For every vertex  $u$ ,  $\text{dist}(u)$  is the length of a shortest path (in terms of number of edges) from  $s$  to  $u$ .
- (D) If  $u, v$  are in connected component of  $s$  and  $e = \{u, v\}$  is an edge of  $G$ , then  $|\text{dist}(u) - \text{dist}(v)| \leq 1$ .

## Properties of **BFS**: Directed Graphs

### Theorem

The following properties hold upon termination of **BFS**( $s$ ):

- (A) The search tree contains exactly the set of vertices reachable from  $s$
- (B) If  $\text{dist}(u) < \text{dist}(v)$  then  $u$  is visited before  $v$
- (C) For every vertex  $u$ ,  $\text{dist}(u)$  is indeed the length of shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$
- (D) If  $u$  is reachable from  $s$  and  $e = (u, v)$  is an edge of  $G$ , then  $\text{dist}(v) - \text{dist}(u) \leq 1$ . *Not necessarily the case that*  
 $\text{dist}(u) - \text{dist}(v) \leq 1$ .

## BFS with Layers

**BFS**Layers( $s$ ):

Mark all vertices as unvisited and initialize  $T$  to be empty

Mark  $s$  as visited and set  $L_0 = \{s\}$

$i = 0$

**while**  $L_i$  is not empty **do**

    initialize  $L_{i+1}$  to be an empty list

**for** each  $u$  in  $L_i$  **do**

**for** each edge  $(u, v) \in \text{Adj}(u)$  **do**

**if**  $v$  is not visited

                mark  $v$  as visited

                add  $(u, v)$  to tree  $T$

                add  $v$  to  $L_{i+1}$

$i = i + 1$

## BFS with Layers

**BFS**Layers( $s$ ):

Mark all vertices as unvisited and initialize  $T$  to be empty

Mark  $s$  as visited and set  $L_0 = \{s\}$

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**while**  $L_i$  is not empty **do**

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**for** each  $u$  in  $L_i$  **do**

**for** each edge  $(u, v) \in \text{Adj}(u)$  **do**

            if  $v$  is not visited

                mark  $v$  as visited

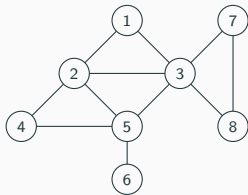
                add  $(u, v)$  to tree  $T$

                add  $v$  to  $L_{i+1}$

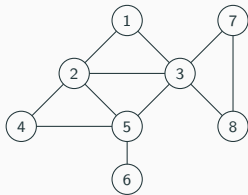
$i = i + 1$

Running time:  $O(n + m)$

## Example



## Example



**Layer 0:** 1

**Layer 1:** 2, 3

**Layer 2:** 4, 5, 7, 8

**Layer 3:** 6

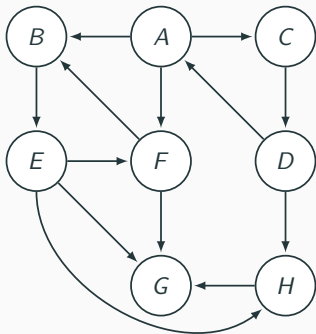
### Proposition

The following properties hold on termination of **BFS**Layers( $s$ ).

- **BFS**Layers( $s$ ) outputs a **BFS** tree
- $L_i$  is the set of vertices at distance exactly  $i$  from  $s$
- If  $G$  is undirected, each edge  $e = \{u, v\}$  is one of three types:
  - tree edge between two consecutive layers
  - non-tree forward/backward edge between two consecutive layers
  - non-tree cross-edge with both  $u, v$  in same layer
  - $\implies$  Every edge in the graph is either between two vertices that are either (i) in the same layer, or (ii) in two consecutive layers.



## Example



**Layer 0:** *A*

**Layer 1:** *B, F, C*

**Layer 2:** *E, G, D*

**Layer 3:** *H*

### Proposition

The following properties hold on termination of **BFS**Layers( $s$ ), if  $G$  is directed.

For each edge  $e = (u, v)$  is one of four types:

- a tree edge between consecutive layers,  $u \in L_i, v \in L_{i+1}$  for some  $i \geq 0$
- a non-tree forward edge between consecutive layers
- a non-tree backward edge
- a cross-edge with both  $u, v$  in same layer

# Shortest Paths and Dijkstra's Algorithm

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# Problem definition

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# Shortest Path Problems

## Shortest Path Problems

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths (or costs). For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.
- Find shortest paths for all pairs of nodes.

# Shortest Path Problems

## Shortest Path Problems

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths (or costs). For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
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- Find shortest paths for all pairs of nodes.

Many applications!

# Single-Source Shortest Paths: Non-Negative Edge Lengths

- Single-Source Shortest Path Problems
  - **Input:** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with **non-negative** edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.
  - Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
  - Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.

# Single-Source Shortest Paths: Non-Negative Edge Lengths

- Single-Source Shortest Path Problems
  - **Input:** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with **non-negative** edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.
  - Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
  - Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.
- Restrict attention to directed graphs
- Undirected graph problem can be reduced to directed graph problem - how?



# Single-Source Shortest Paths: Non-Negative Edge Lengths

- Single-Source Shortest Path Problems
  - **Input:** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with **non-negative** edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.
  - Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
  - Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.
- Restrict attention to directed graphs
- Undirected graph problem can be reduced to directed graph problem - how?
  - Given undirected graph  $G$ , create a new directed graph  $G'$  by replacing each edge  $\{u, v\}$  in  $G$  by  $(u, v)$  and  $(v, u)$  in  $G'$ .
  - set  $\ell(u, v) = \ell(v, u) = \ell(\{u, v\})$
  - Exercise: show reduction works. **Relies on non-negativity!**

## **Shortest path in the weighted case using BFS**

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## Single-Source Shortest Paths via **BFS**

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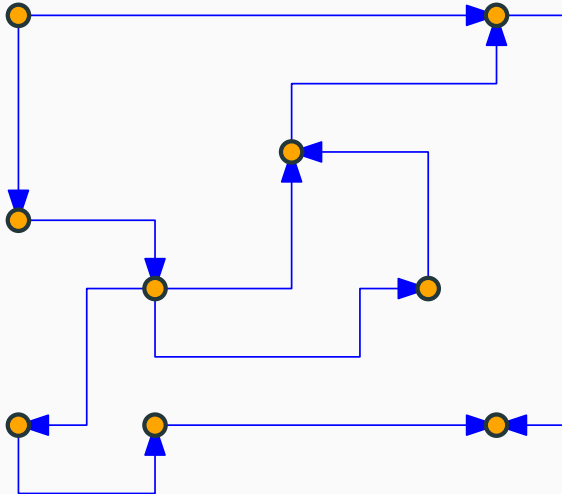
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Can we use **BFS**?

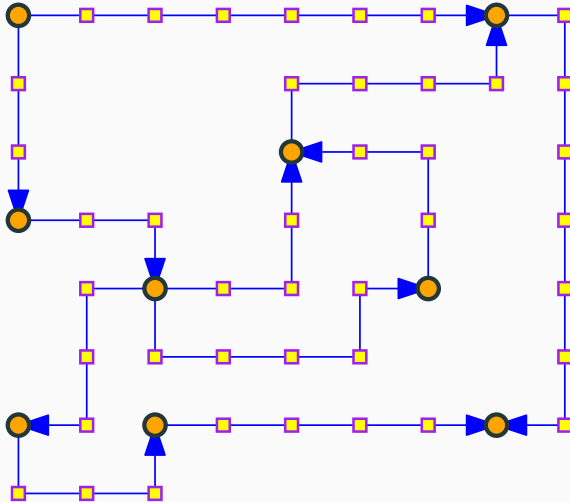
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- **Special case:** Suppose  $\ell(e)$  is an integer for all  $e$ ?  
Can we use **BFS**? Reduce to unit edge-length problem by placing  $\ell(e) - 1$  dummy nodes on  $e$ .

## Example of edge refinement

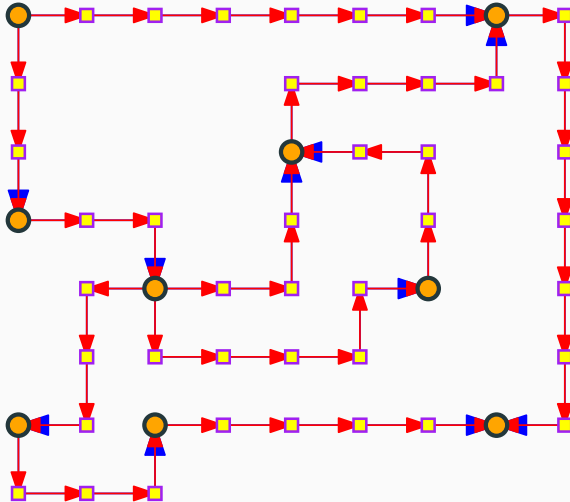


## Example of edge refinement





# Example of edge refinement



## Shortest path using BFS

Let  $L = \max_e \ell(e)$ . New graph has  $O(mL)$  edges and  $O(mL + n)$  nodes. **BFS** takes  $O(mL + n)$  time. Not efficient if  $L$  is large.

# On the hereditary nature of shortest paths

---

## You can not shortcut a shortest path

### Lemma

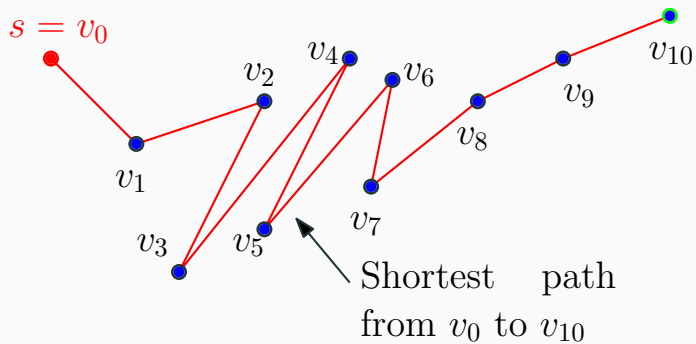
*G: directed graph with non-negative edge lengths.*

*dist(s, v): shortest path length from s to v.*

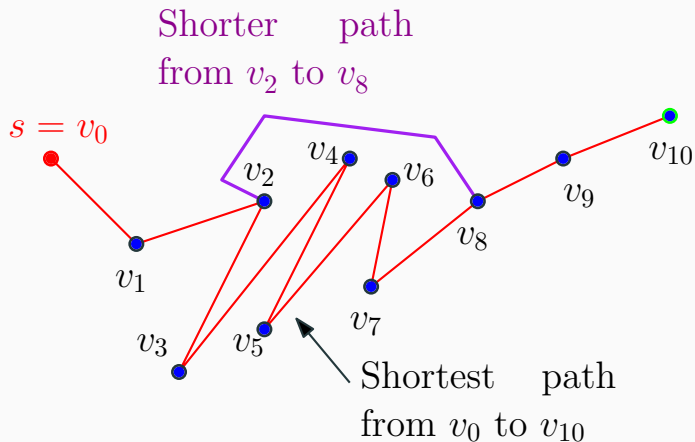
*If  $p = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$  shortest path from s to  $v_k$  then for any  $0 \leq i < j \leq k$ :*

*$v_i \rightarrow v_{i+1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_j$  is shortest path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$*

## A proof by picture

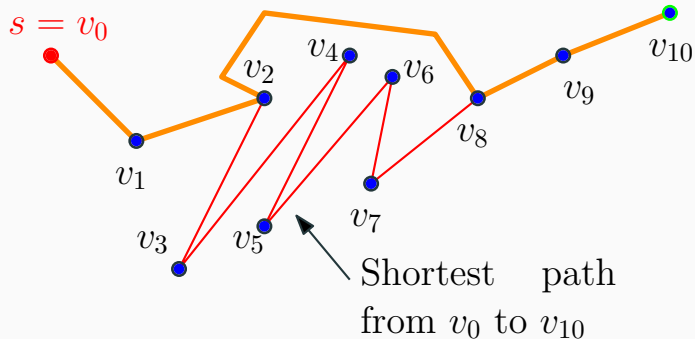


## A proof by picture



## A proof by picture

A shorter path  
from  $v_0$  to  $v_{10}$ .  
A contradiction.



## What we really need...

### Corollary

*G: directed graph with non-negative edge lengths.*

*dist(s, v): shortest path length from s to v.*

*If  $p = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$  shortest path from s to  $v_k$  then for any  $0 \leq i \leq k$ :*

- *$s = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_i$  is shortest path from s to  $v_i$*
- *$\text{dist}(s, v_i) \leq \text{dist}(s, v_k)$ . Relies on non-neg edge lengths.*



**The basic algorithm: Find the  $i^{th}$   
closest vertex**

---

## A Basic Strategy

Explore vertices in increasing order of distance from  $s$ :  
(For simplicity assume that nodes are at different distances from  $s$  and that no edge has zero length)

```
Initialize for each node  $v$ ,  $\text{dist}(s, v) = \infty$ 
Initialize  $X = \{s\}$ ,
for  $i = 2$  to  $|V|$  do
    (* Invariant:  $X$  contains the  $i - 1$  closest nodes to  $s$  *)
    Among nodes in  $V - X$ , find the node  $v$  that is the
         $i^{\text{th}}$  closest to  $s$ 
    Update  $\text{dist}(s, v)$ 
     $X = X \cup \{v\}$ 
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How can we implement the step in the for loop?

## Finding the $i^{\text{th}}$ closest node

- $X$  contains the  $i - 1$  closest nodes to  $s$
- Want to find the  $i^{\text{th}}$  closest node from  $V - X$ .

What do we know about the  $i^{\text{th}}$  closest node?

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### **Claim**

*Let  $P$  be a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  where  $v$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  closest node. Then, all intermediate nodes in  $P$  belong to  $X$ .*

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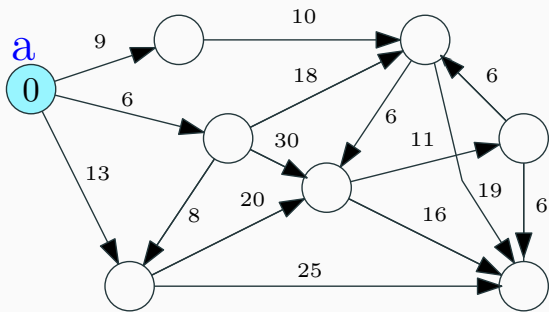
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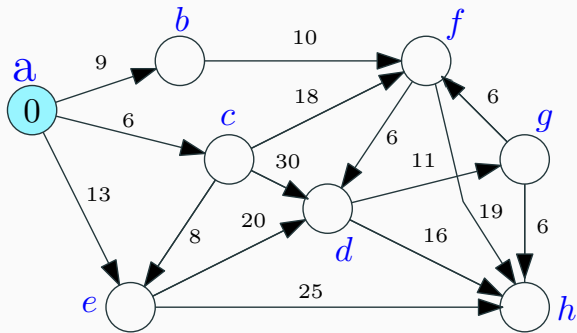
### Proof.

If  $P$  had an intermediate node  $u$  not in  $X$  then  $u$  will be closer to  $s$  than  $v$ . Implies  $v$  is not the  $i^{\text{th}}$  closest node to  $s$  - recall that  $X$  already has the  $i - 1$  closest nodes. □

## Finding the $i^{\text{th}}$ closest node repeatedly

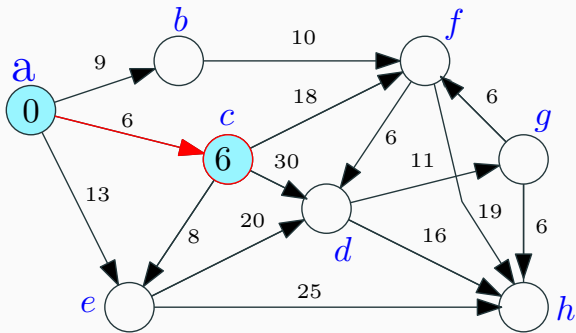


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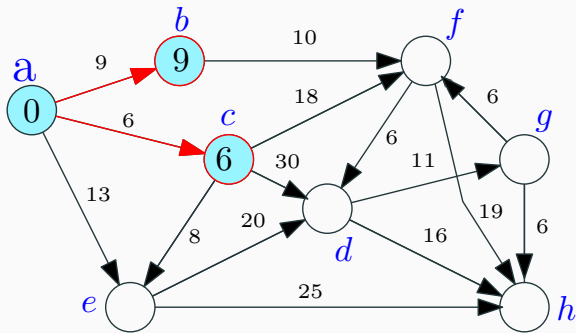




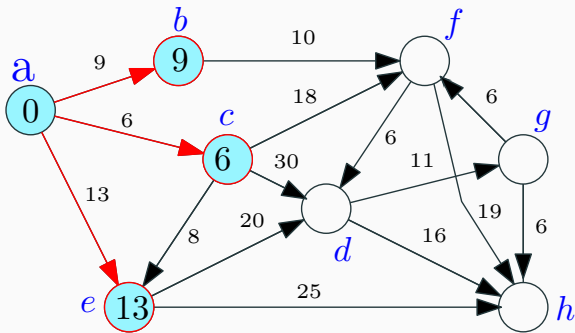
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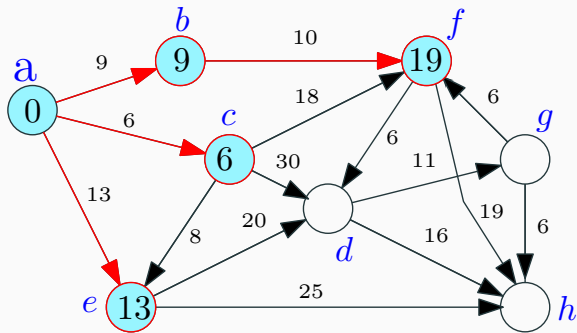
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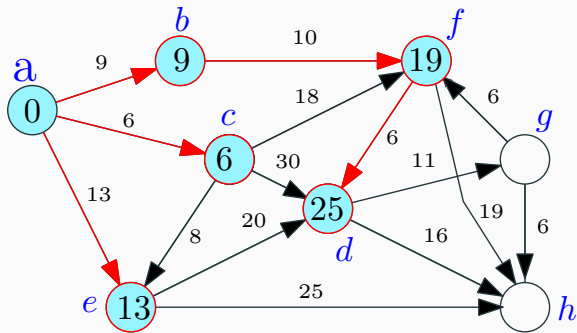
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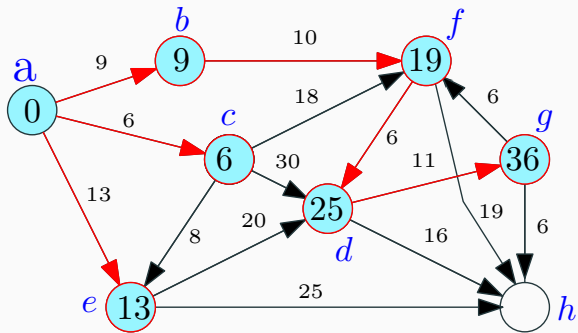
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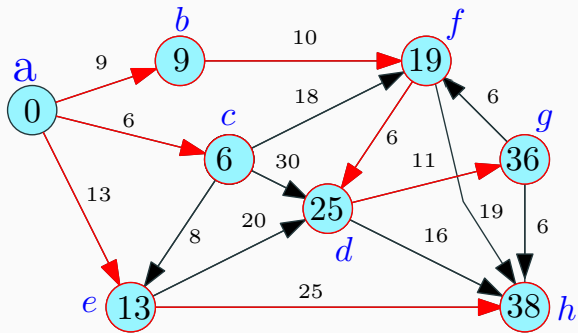
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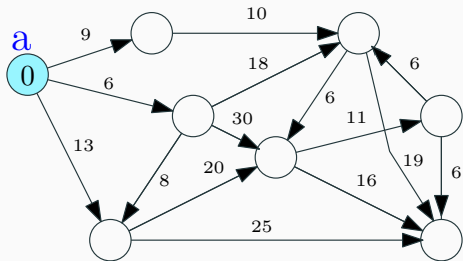
## Finding the $i^{\text{th}}$ closest node repeatedly



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## Finding the $i^{\text{th}}$ closest node



### Corollary

*The  $i^{\text{th}}$  closest node is adjacent to  $X$ .*



# Algorithm

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Initialize for each node  $v$ :  $\text{dist}(s, v) = \infty$   
Initialize  $X = \emptyset$ ,  $d'(s, s) = 0$   
for  $i = 1$  to  $|V|$  do  
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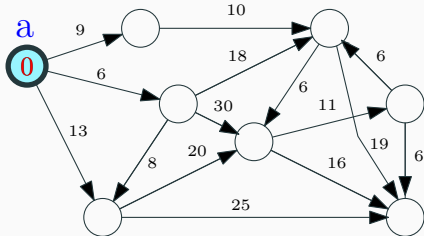
Running time:  $O(n \cdot (n + m))$  time.

- $n$  outer iterations. In each iteration,  $d'(s, u)$  for each  $u$  by scanning all edges out of nodes in  $X$ ;  $O(m + n)$  time/iteration.

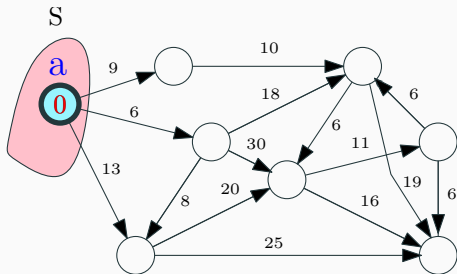
# Dijkstra's algorithm

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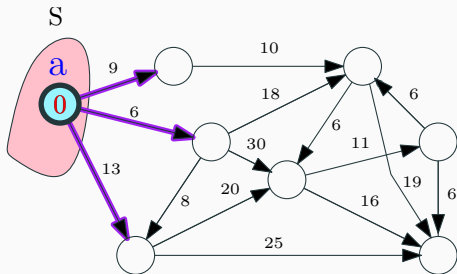
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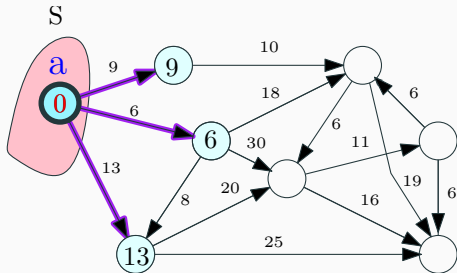


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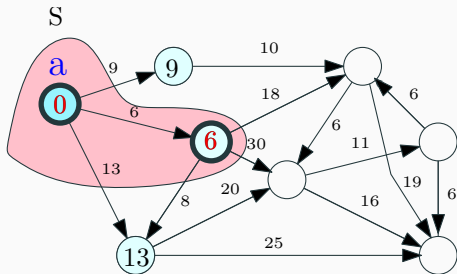




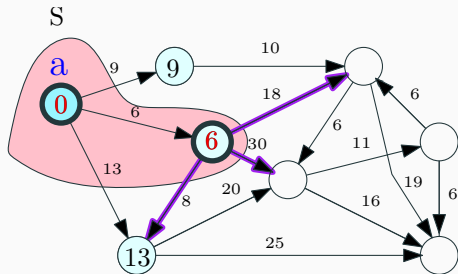
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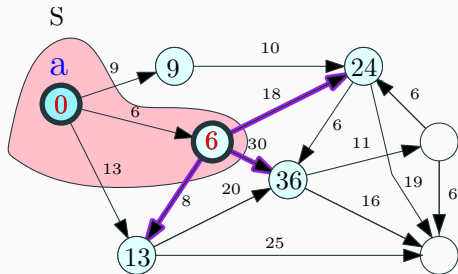
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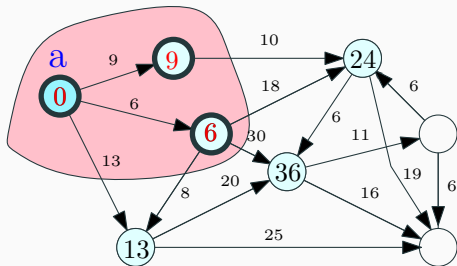
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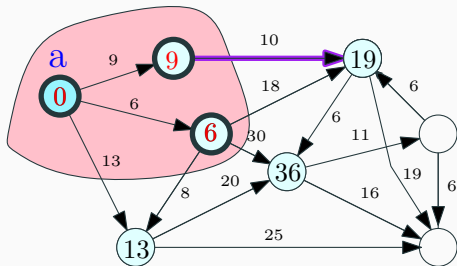
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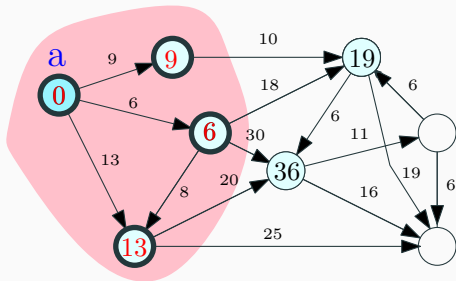
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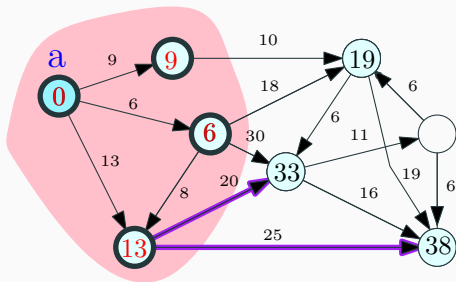
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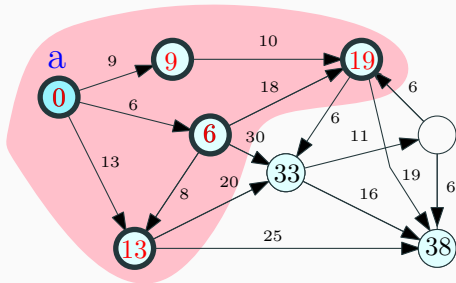


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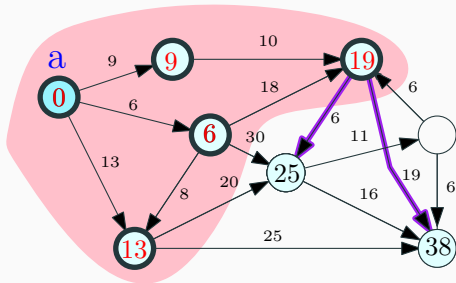




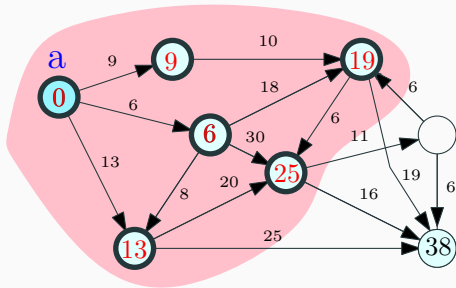
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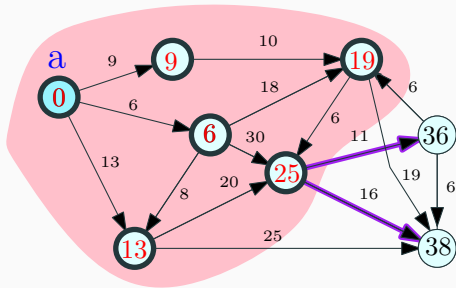
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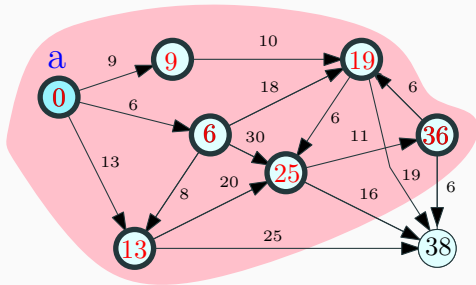
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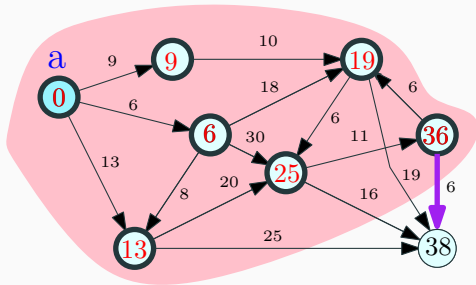
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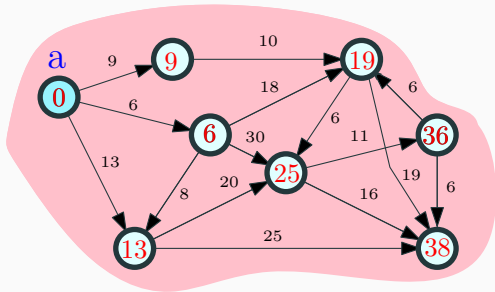
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## Improved Algorithm

- Main work is to compute the  $d'(s, u)$  values in each iteration
- $d'(s, u)$  changes from iteration  $i$  to  $i + 1$  only because of the node  $v$  that is added to  $X$  in iteration  $i$ .



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Running time:

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```

Running time:  $O(m + n^2)$  time.

- $n$  outer iterations and in each iteration following steps
- updating  $d'(s, u)$  after  $v$  is added takes  $O(\text{deg}(v))$  time so total work is  $O(m)$  since a node enters  $X$  only once
- Finding  $v$  from  $d'(s, u)$  values is  $O(n)$  time

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

- eliminate  $d'(s, u)$  and let  $\text{dist}(s, u)$  maintain it
- update  $\text{dist}$  values after adding  $v$  by scanning edges out of  $v$

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Priority Queues to maintain  $\text{dist}$  values for faster running time

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```

Priority Queues to maintain  $\text{dist}$  values for faster running time

- Using heaps and standard priority queues:  $O((m + n) \log n)$
- Using Fibonacci heaps:  $O(m + n \log n)$ .

## Dijkstra using priority queues

---

# Priority Queues

Data structure to store a set  $S$  of  $n$  elements where each element  $v \in S$  has an associated real/integer key  $k(v)$  such that the following operations:

- **makePQ**: create an empty queue.
- **findMin**: find the minimum key in  $S$ .
- **extractMin**: Remove  $v \in S$  with smallest key and return it.
- **insert**( $v, k(v)$ ): Add new element  $v$  with key  $k(v)$  to  $S$ .
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# Priority Queues

Data structure to store a set  $S$  of  $n$  elements where each element  $v \in S$  has an associated real/integer key  $k(v)$  such that the following operations:

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All operations can be performed in  $O(\log n)$  time.

**decreaseKey** is implemented via **delete** and **insert**.



## Dijkstra's Algorithm using Priority Queues

```
 $Q \leftarrow \text{makePQ}()$   
 $\text{insert}(Q, (s, 0))$   
for each node  $u \neq s$  do  
     $\text{insert}(Q, (u, \infty))$   
 $X \leftarrow \emptyset$   
for  $i = 1$  to  $|V|$  do  
     $(v, \text{dist}(s, v)) = \text{extractMin}(Q)$   
     $X = X \cup \{v\}$   
    for each  $u$  in  $\text{Adj}(v)$  do  
         $\text{decreaseKey}(Q, (u, \min(\text{dist}(s, u), \text{dist}(s, v) + \ell(v, u))))$ .
```

Priority Queue operations:

- $O(n)$  **insert** operations
- $O(n)$  **extractMin** operations
- $O(m)$  **decreaseKey** operations

# Implementing Priority Queues via Heaps

## Using Heaps

Store elements in a heap based on the key value

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Dijkstra's algorithm can be implemented in  $O((n + m) \log n)$  time.

## Fibonacci Heaps

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- Dijkstra's algorithm can be implemented in  $O(n \log n + m)$  time. If  $m = \Omega(n \log n)$ , running time is linear in input size.
- Data structures are complicated to analyze/implement. Recent work has obtained data structures that are easier to analyze and implement, and perform well in practice. Rank-Pairing Heaps, .....
- Boost library implements both Fibonacci heaps and rank-pairing heaps.

## Shortest path trees and variants

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## Shortest Path Tree

Dijkstra's alg. finds the shortest path distances from  $s$  to  $V$ .

**Question:** How do we find the paths themselves?

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```
Q = makePQ()
insert(Q, (s,0))
prev(s) ← null
for each node  $u \neq s$  do
    insert(Q, (u,  $\infty$ ))
    prev(u) ← null

X =  $\emptyset$ 
for  $i = 1$  to  $|V|$  do
    ( $v, \text{dist}(s, v)$ ) = extractMin(Q)
    X = X  $\cup$  { $v$ }
    for each  $u$  in Adj( $v$ ) do
        if ( $\text{dist}(s, v) + \ell(v, u) < \text{dist}(s, u)$ ) then
            decreaseKey(Q, ( $u, \text{dist}(s, v) + \ell(v, u)$ ))
            prev(u) =  $v$ 
```

# Shortest Path Tree

## Lemma

*The edge set  $(u, \text{prev}(u))$  is the reverse of a shortest path tree rooted at  $s$ . For each  $u$ , the reverse of the path from  $u$  to  $s$  in the tree is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$ .*

## Proof Sketch.

- The edge set  $\{(u, \text{prev}(u)) \mid u \in V\}$  induces a directed in-tree rooted at  $s$  (Why?)
- Use induction on  $|X|$  to argue that the tree is a shortest path tree for nodes in  $V$ .



## Shortest paths to $s$

Dijkstra's alg. gives shortest paths from  $s$  to all nodes in  $V$ .

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How do we find shortest paths from all of  $V$  to  $s$ ?

- In undirected graphs shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$  is a shortest path from  $u$  to  $s$  so there is no need to distinguish.
- In directed graphs, use Dijkstra's algorithm in  $G^{rev}$ !