

DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM

- Dijkstra's Algorithm solves the **single-source shortest-paths problem**.
- For a given vertex called the **source** in a weighted connected graph, find shortest paths to all its other vertices.
- The single-source shortest-paths problem asks for a family of paths, each leading from the source to a different vertex in the graph, though some paths may, of course, have **edges in common**.
- The most widely used **applications** are transportation planning and packet routing in communication networks including the Internet.
- It also includes **finding shortest paths** in social networks, speech recognition, document formatting, robotics, compilers, and airline crew scheduling.
- In the world of **entertainment**, one can mention pathfinding in video games and finding best solutions to puzzles using their state-space graphs.
- Dijkstra's algorithm is the best-known algorithm for the single-source shortest-paths problem.

ALGORITHM *Dijkstra(G,s)*

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//Dijkstra's algorithm for single-source shortest paths
//Input: A weighted connected graph  $G = (V, E)$  with nonnegative weights and its
vertex  $s$ 
//Output: The length  $d_v$  of a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  and its penultimate vertex  $p_v$  for
every
//      vertex  $v$  in  $V$ 
Initialize( $Q$ ) //initialize priority queue to empty

for every vertex  $v$  in  $V$ 
     $d_v \leftarrow \infty; p_v \leftarrow \text{null}$ 
    Insert( $Q, v, d_v$ ) //initialize vertex priority in the priority queue

 $D_s \leftarrow 0$ ; Decrease( $Q, s, d_s$ ) //update priority
of  $s$  with  $d_s$   $V_T \leftarrow \Phi$ 

for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $|V| - 1$  do
     $u^* \leftarrow \text{DeleteMin}(Q)$  //delete the minimum priority element
     $V_T \leftarrow V_T \cup \{u^*\}$ 
    for every vertex  $u$  in  $V - V_T$  that is
        adjacent to  $u^*$  do if  $d_{u^*} + w(u^*, u) <$ 
             $d_u$ 

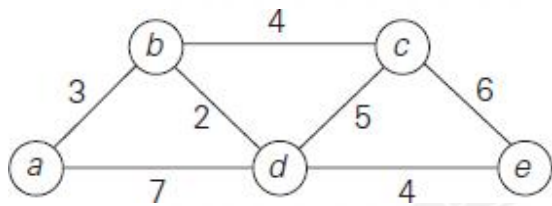
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$$d_u \leftarrow d_{u^*} + w(u^*, u);$$

$$p_u \leftarrow u^* \text{ Decrease}(Q,$$

$$u, d_u)$$

The time efficiency of Dijkstra's algorithm depends on the data structures used for implementing the priority queue and for representing an input graph itself. It is in $O(|V|^2)$ for graphs represented by their weight matrix and the priority queue implemented as an unordered array. For graphs represented by their adjacency lists and the priority queue implemented as a min-heap, it is in $O(|E| \log |V|)$.



Tree vertices	Remaining vertices	Illustration
a(-, 0)	b(a, 3) c(-, ∞) d(a, 7) e(-, ∞)	
b(a, 3)	c(b, 3 + 4) d(b, 3 + 2) e(-, ∞)	
d(b, 5)	c(b, 7) e(d, 5 + 4)	
c(b, 7)	e(d, 9)	
e(d, 9)		

FIGURE 3.16 Application of Dijkstra's algorithm. The next closest vertex is shown in bold

The shortest paths (identified by following nonnumeric labels backward from a destination vertex in the left column to the source) and their lengths (given by numeric labels of the tree vertices) are as follows:

From a to b : a – b of length 3

From a to d : a – b – d of length 5

From a to c : a – b – c of length 7

From a to e : a – b – d – e of length 9

