

Johnson's Algorithm for All-Pairs Shortest Paths

- Input is Graph $G = (V, E)$ with arbitrary edge weights c .
- Assume strongly connected.
- Assume no negative cycle.
- Algorithm
 - Run single source shortest paths from one arbitrary node s . (Bellman Ford)
 - Use results of previous step to “reweight edges” so that all edges have non-negative weights
 - Run single source shortest paths from the other $n - 1$ vertices. (Dijkstra)
- Running Time is $O(nm + n(m + n \log n)) = O(nm + n^2 \log n)$, better than $O(n^3)$ for non-dense graphs.

How to Reweight

- Let $p(v)$ be some prices that we put on vertices.
- Consider **reduced cost** of edge vw , $c_p(vw) = c(vw) - p(v) + p(w)$.
- For a P , what is the relationship between $c(P)$ and $c_p(P)$?
- For a cycle X , what is the relationship between $c(X)$ and $c_p(X)$?

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Path $P = v_1v_2 \dots v_k$

$$\begin{aligned}c_p(P) &= c_p(v_1v_2) + c_p(v_2v_3) + \dots + c_p(v_{k-1}v_k) \\ &= c(v_1v_2) - p(v_1) + p(v_2) + c(v_2v_3) - p(v_2) + p(v_3) + \dots + c(v_{k-1}v_k) - p(v_{k-1}) + p(v_k) \\ &= c(P) - p(v_1) + p(v_k)\end{aligned}$$

- The length of each path from v_1 to v_k is increased by the same amount, $p(v_k) - p(v_1)$.
- Therefore, the shortest path is still the shortest path
- For a cycle $p(v_1) = p(v_k)$, so the distance does not change at all.

Reweighting for Shortest Paths

- We will set $p(v)$ to the negative of the shortest path length $d(v)$ from s to v .
- We now have that $c_p(vw) = c(vw) - p(v) + p(w) = c(vw) + d(v) - d(w)$.
- But we know that, by the optimality condition for shortest paths:

$$d(w) \leq d(v) + c(vw) \Rightarrow c(vw) + d(v) - d(w) \geq 0 \Rightarrow c_p(vw) \geq 0$$

- So we now have non-negative edge weights, still no negative cycles, and can use Dijkstra's algorithm.