

Algorithms & Complexity, Spring '26

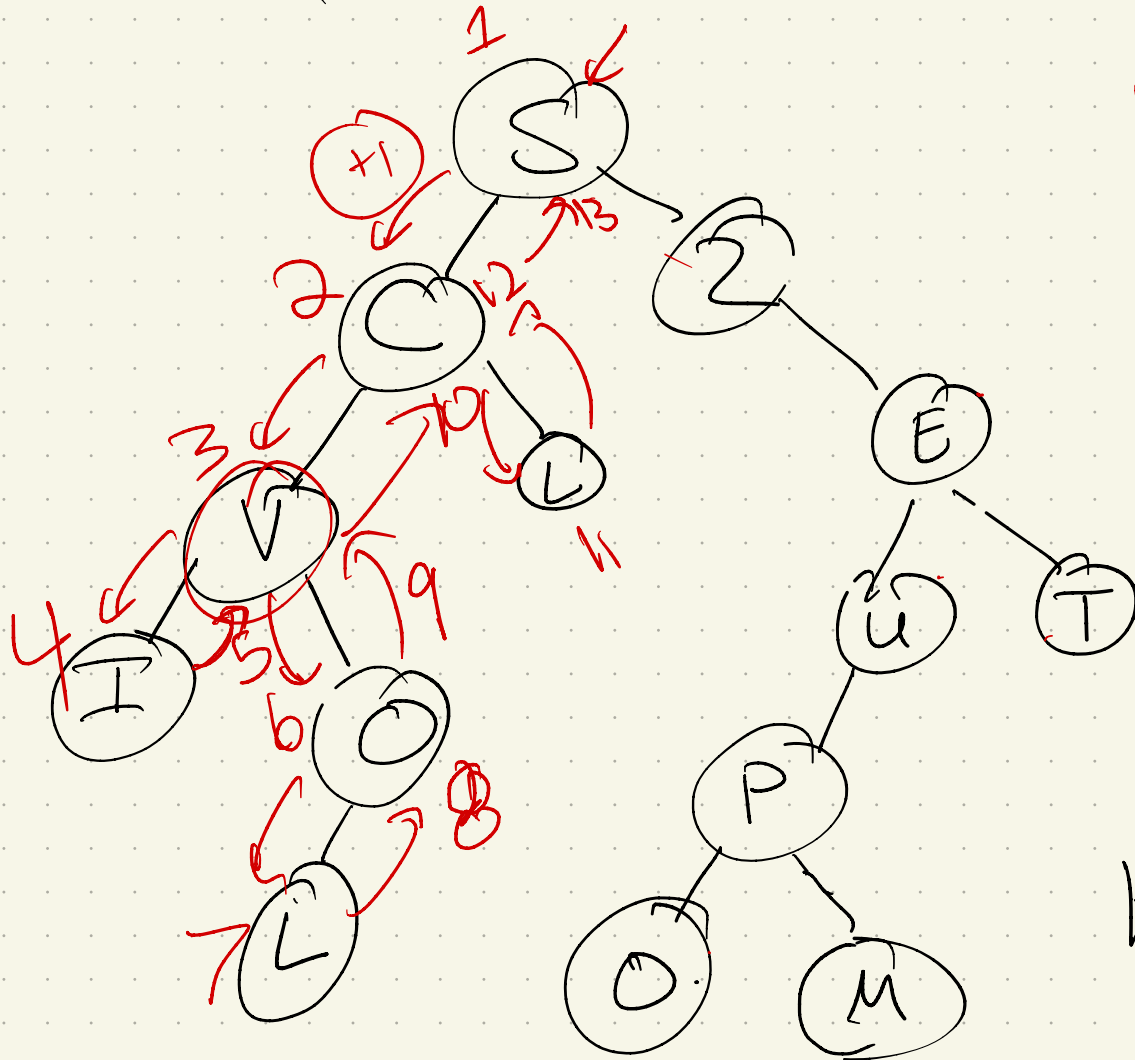
Directed
graphs



Recap

- Some midterm caveats:
 - No drops included yet
 - Midterm curve \rightarrow not quite final but would be my curve if I had to set now.
- HW this week: NP-Completeness, plus some graphs
 - \hookrightarrow see skipped Ch. 5 of text for review, or last Thursday's lecture

Searching & directed graphs:
Recall: post order traversal



Print: all children,
 & then node

I L O V ...

His "clock":
 add 1 for every
 edge traversal

In a larger directed graph, this "life span" represents

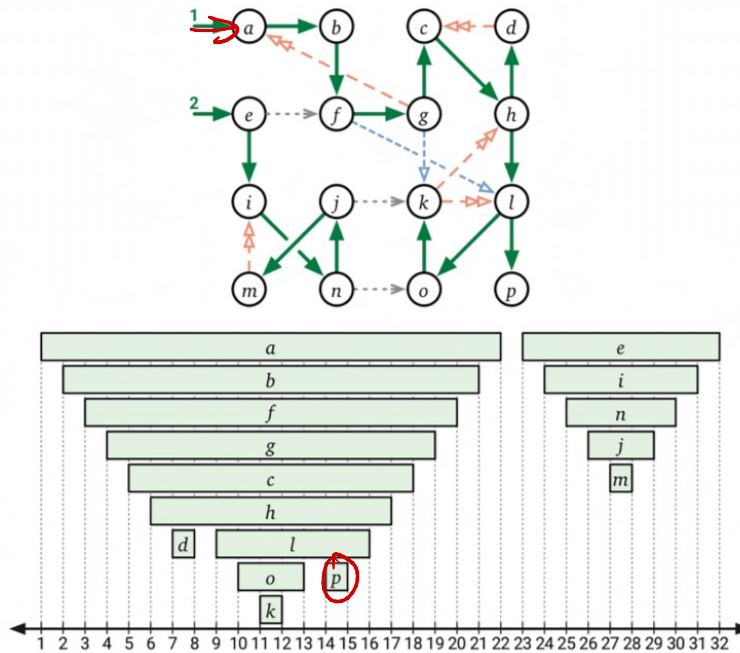


Figure 6.4. A depth-first forest of a directed graph, and the corresponding active intervals of its vertices, defining the preordering $abfgchdlokpeijnm$ and the postordering $dkoplhcgfbamjni$. Forest edges are solid; dashed edges are explained in Figure 6.5.

how long a vertex is on the stack

Notation: $[v_{\text{pre}} \ v_{\text{post}}]$

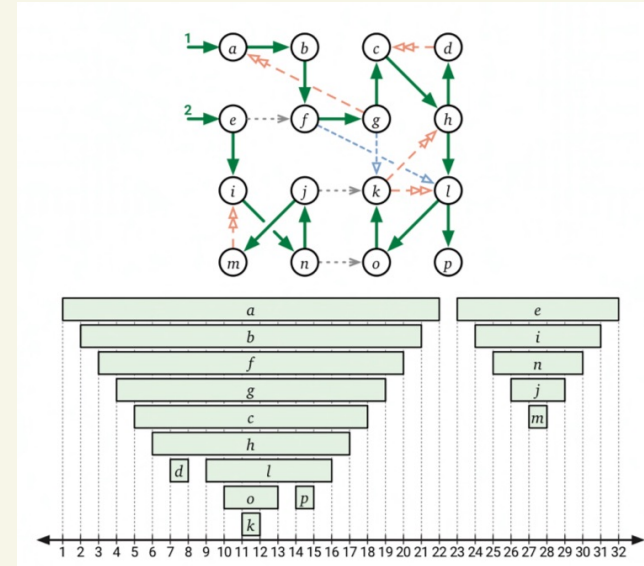
↖ First push on stack

↗ last removal

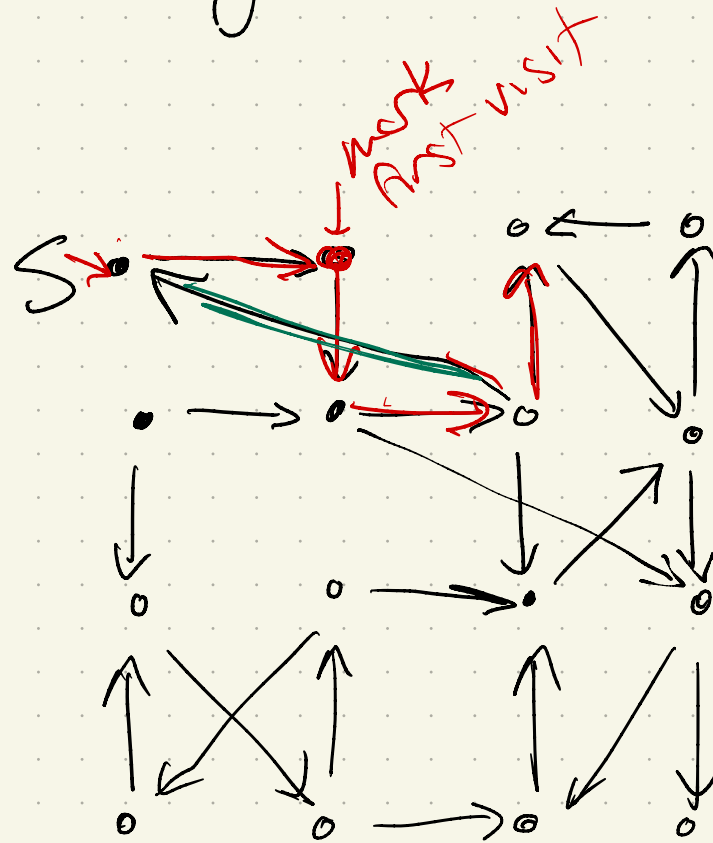
Why not BFS?

- Dfs:
- tree edge
 - forward edge
 - back edge
 - cross edge

→ Clock reference:



Picture:



Stack

Code: Still just DFS!

runtime $O(V+E)$

DFSALL(G):

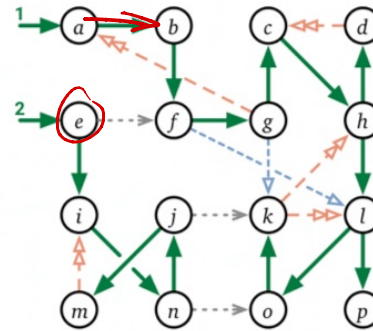
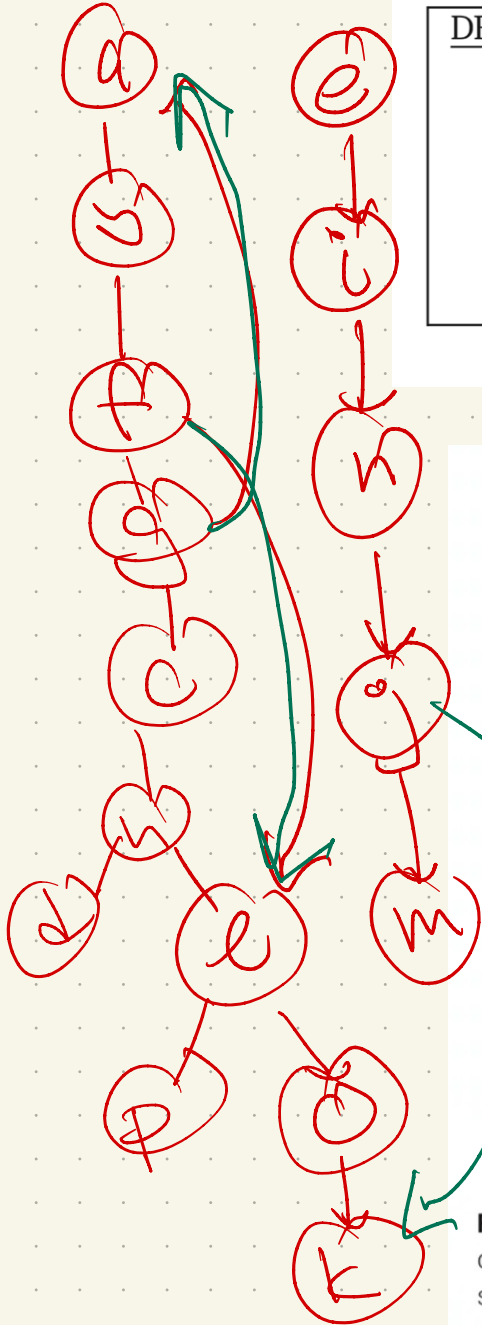
```

clock ← 0
for all vertices v
  unmark v
for all vertices v
  if v is unmarked
    clock ← DFS(v, clock)
  
```

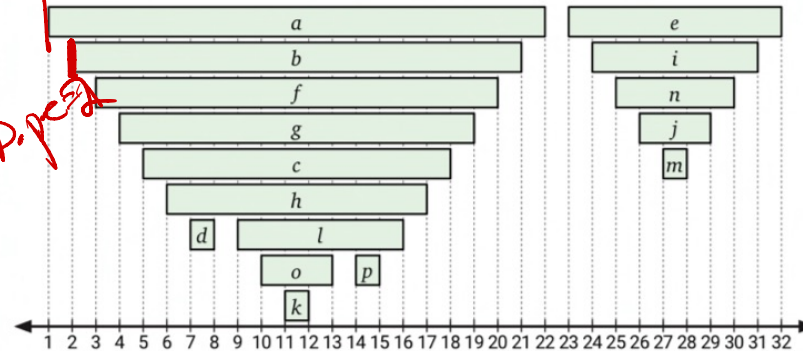
DFS(v, clock):

```

mark v
clock ← clock + 1; v.pre ← clock
for each edge v → w
  if w is unmarked
    w.parent ← v
    clock ← DFS(w, clock)
clock ← clock + 1; v.post ← clock
return clock
  
```



$a.pre = 1$
 $a.post = 2$



edges of G not in DFS tree

Figure 6.4. A depth-first forest of a directed graph, and the corresponding active intervals of its vertices, defining the preordering $abfgchdlokpeinjm$ and the postordering $dkoplhcgfbamjni$. Forest edges are solid; dashed edges are explained in Figure 6.5.

Finding cycles

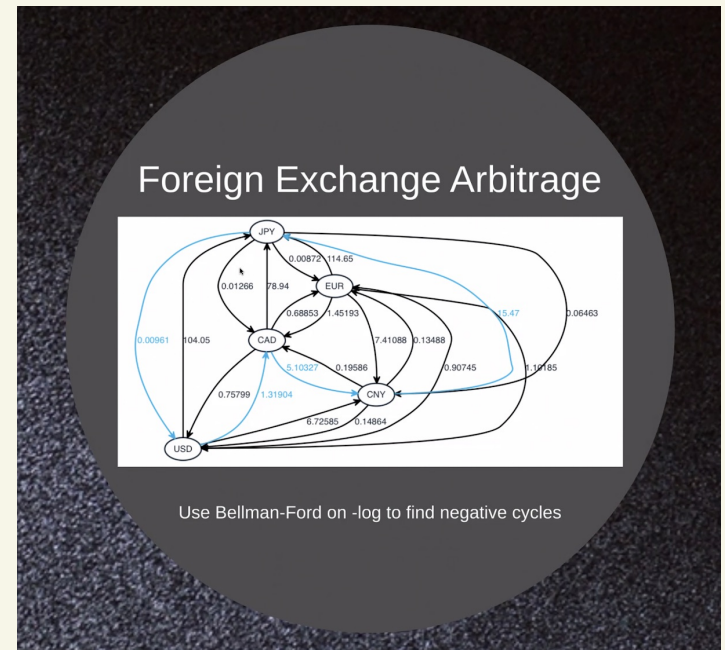
In general, cycles tend to be important.

Sometimes bad:

- topological ordering in a DAG
- checking dependencies
- longer run time
↳ see Dyn. Pro

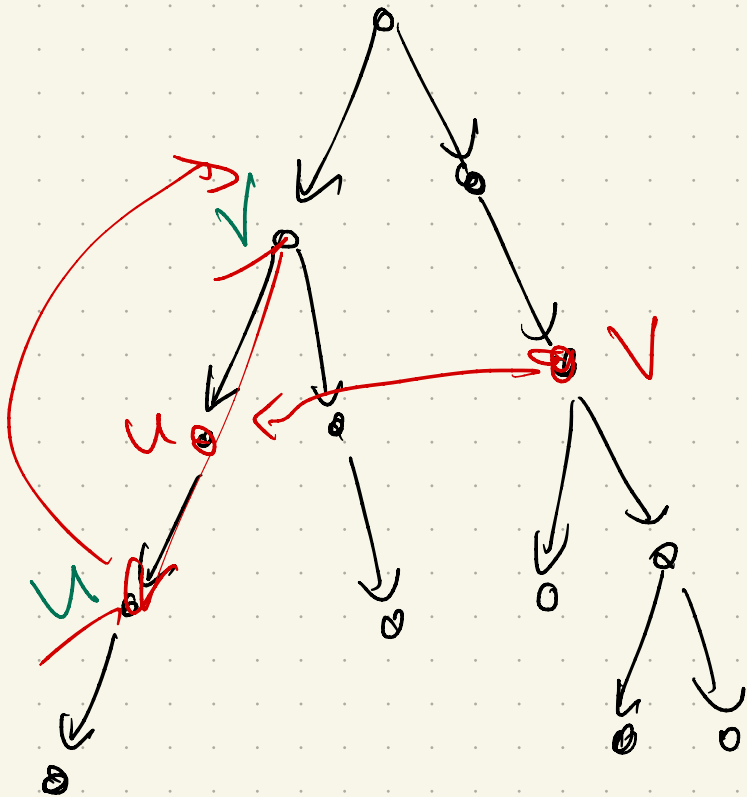
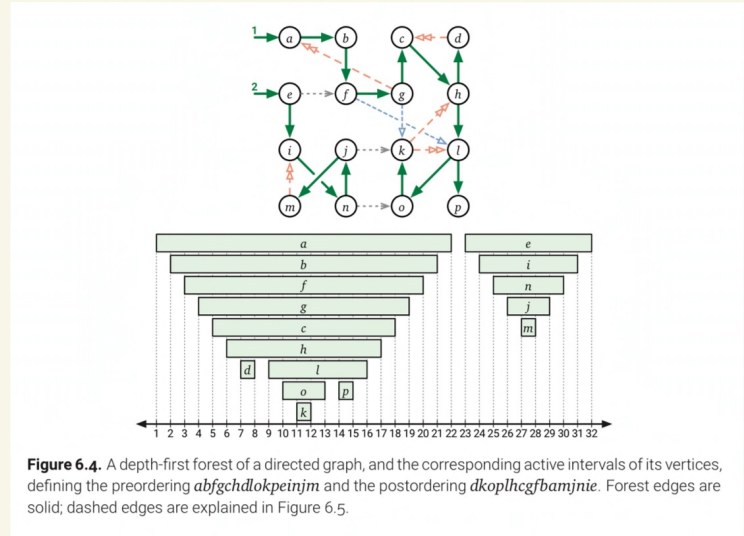
Sometimes good:

- arbitrage in finance



Suppose $u \rightarrow v$, $u.post < v.post$:
 u was removed from "active"
 stack before v .

Think DFS tree:



Detect cycles:

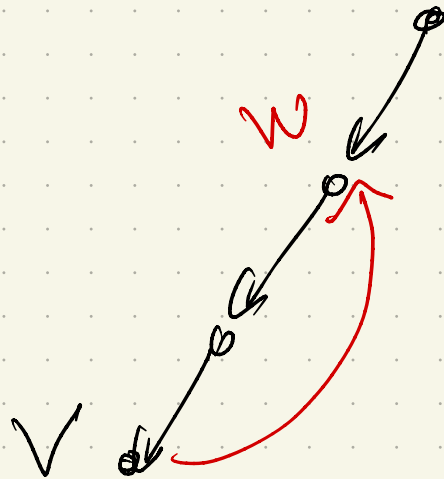
The code: Recursive DFS modification

```
IsACYCLIC(G):  
for all vertices  $v$   
   $v.status \leftarrow \text{NEW}$   
for all vertices  $v$   
  if  $v.status = \text{NEW}$   
    if  $\text{IsACYCLICDFS}(v) = \text{FALSE}$   
      return FALSE  
return TRUE
```

```
IsACYCLICDFS( $v$ ):  
 $v.status \leftarrow \text{ACTIVE}$   
for each edge  $v \rightarrow w$   
  if  $w.status = \text{ACTIVE}$   
    return FALSE  
  else if  $w.status = \text{NEW}$   
    if  $\text{IsACYCLICDFS}(w) = \text{FALSE}$   
      return FALSE  
 $v.status \leftarrow \text{FINISHED}$   
return TRUE
```

have directed cycle

Figure 6.7. A linear-time algorithm to determine if a graph is acyclic.



Runtime?
 $O(V+E)$

Topological ordering: Why?

Track dependencies:

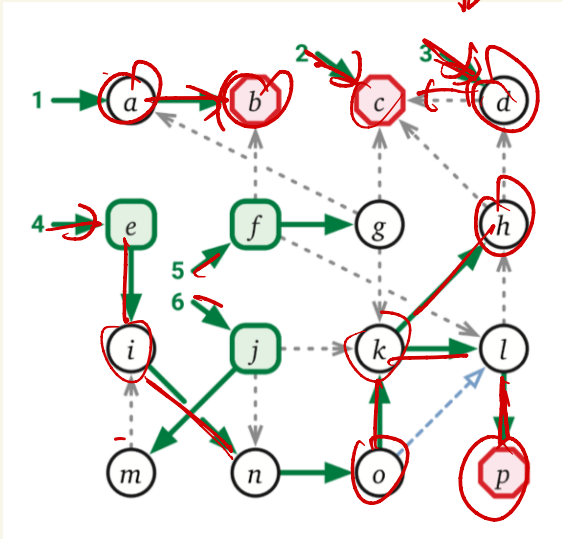
- class prereqs ✓
- compilers & #includes ✓
- ordering evaluations of cells in a spreadsheet ✓
- data analysis pipelines ✓

...

Often, in all these settings, the goal is to find a processing order that orders dependencies

An example:

DFS tree



Post-ordering:

visit children
↳ then mark self



Here: $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d \rightarrow p \rightarrow l \rightarrow h \rightarrow k \rightarrow o \dots$

Note: this puts a vertex "after" anything it can reach!

So, to get a topological ordering:

doing post-order print of DFS tree, then reversing

The code:

TOPOLOGICALSORT(G):

```

for all vertices  $v$ 
     $v.status \leftarrow NEW$ 
 $clock \leftarrow V$ 
for all vertices  $v$ 
    if  $v.status = NEW$ 
         $clock \leftarrow TOPSORTDFS(v, clock)$ 
return  $S[1..V]$ 

```

TOPSORTDFS($v, clock$):

```

 $v.status \leftarrow ACTIVE$ 
for each edge  $v \rightarrow w$ 
    if  $w.status = NEW$ 
         $clock \leftarrow TOPSORTDFS(w, clock)$ 
    else if  $w.status = ACTIVE$ 
        fail gracefully
 $v.status \leftarrow FINISHED$ 
 $S[clock] \leftarrow v$ 
 $clock \leftarrow clock - 1$ 
return  $clock$ 

```

Figure 6.9. Explicit topological sort

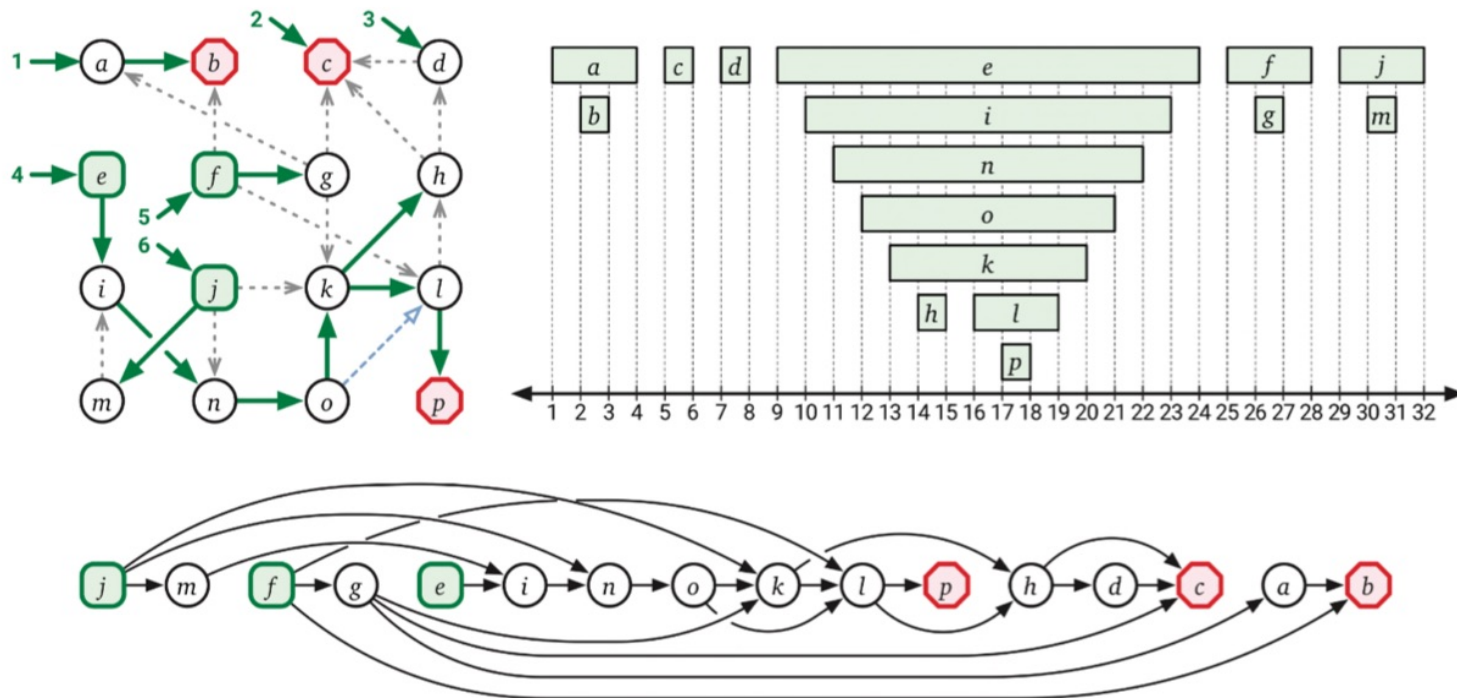


Figure 6.8. Reversed postordering of the dag from Figure 6.6.

Memoization + DP

Nice connection!

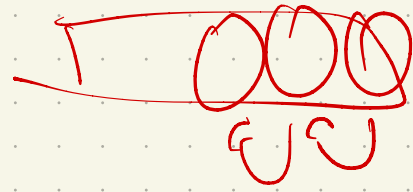
If the graph is a DAG, can do dynamic programming on it.

Why? Think of the recurrences:

$$T(v) = \max_{\substack{\text{predecessors} \\ \text{or successors } u \\ \text{of } v}} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} T(u) \\ \text{lookup +} \\ \text{calculation} \end{array} \right\}$$

When do we get stuck?

↳ when cyclic dependencies

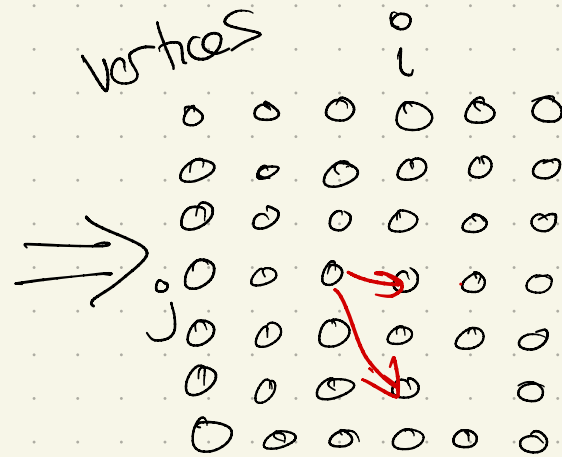
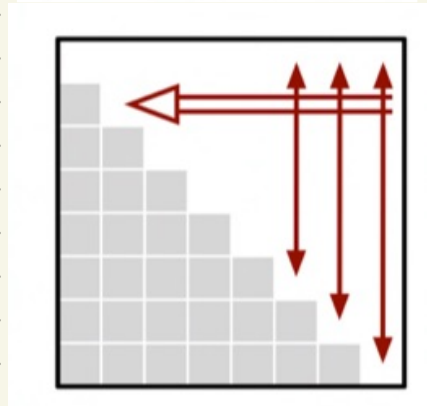
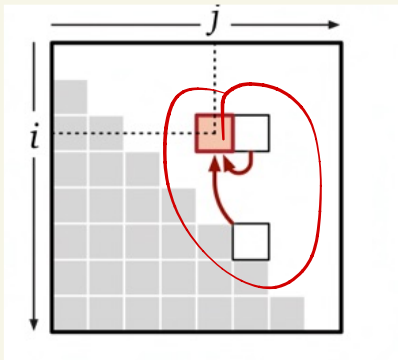


In principle, every DP we saw is working on a dependency graph of subproblems!

Recall: Longest Inc Subsequence

$$LISbigger(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j > n \\ LISbigger(i, j+1) & \text{if } A[i] \geq A[j] \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} LISbigger(i, j+1) \\ 1 + LISbigger(j, j+1) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$n \times n$

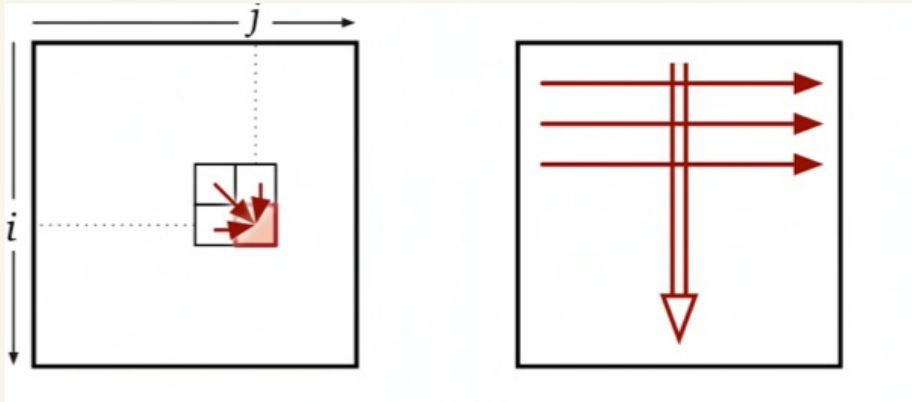


edges:

$(i, j) \rightarrow (j, j+1)$
 $(i, j) \rightarrow (i, j+1)$

Edit distance:
 actually (sort of) showed the graph!

$$\text{Edit}(i, j) = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } j = 0 \\ j & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Edit}(i, j-1) + 1 \\ \text{Edit}(i-1, j) + 1 \\ \text{Edit}(i-1, j-1) + [A[i] \neq B[j]] \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



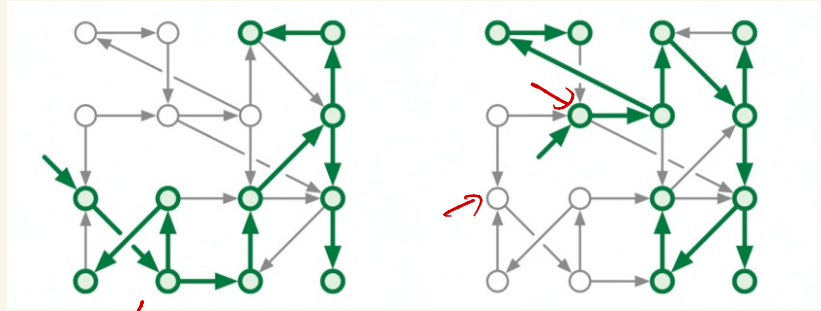
	A L G O R I T H M									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
L	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	6
R	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	5	6
U	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	6
I	6	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5
S	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5
T	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	4	5
I	9	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	5	5
C	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	7	6	6

Topological
 ordering

Strong connectivity

In an undirected graph, if $u \rightsquigarrow v$, then $v \rightsquigarrow u$.

Not true in directed case:



So 2 notions:

$u \rightsquigarrow v$ are!

weak connectivity:

graph is connected: underlying undirected
or $u \rightsquigarrow v$
or $v \rightsquigarrow u$
a path

Strong connectivity:

$u \rightsquigarrow v$ and $v \rightsquigarrow u$
via directed paths

Can actually order the strongly connected pieces of a graph:

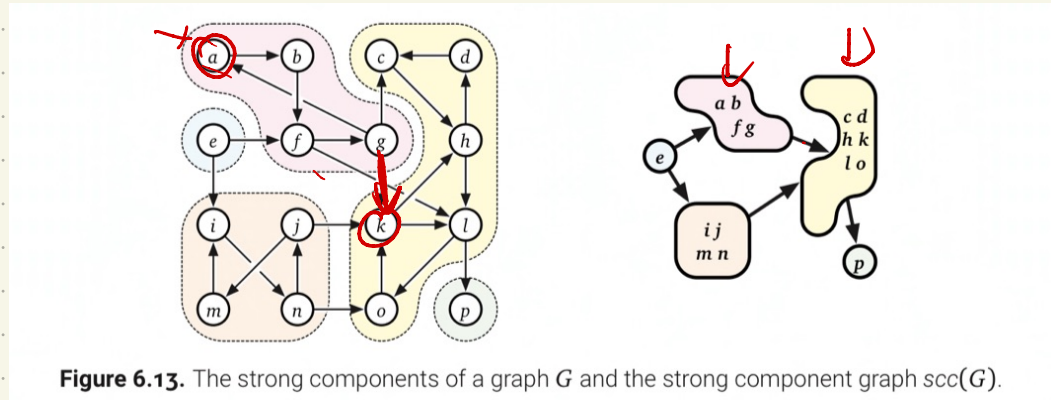
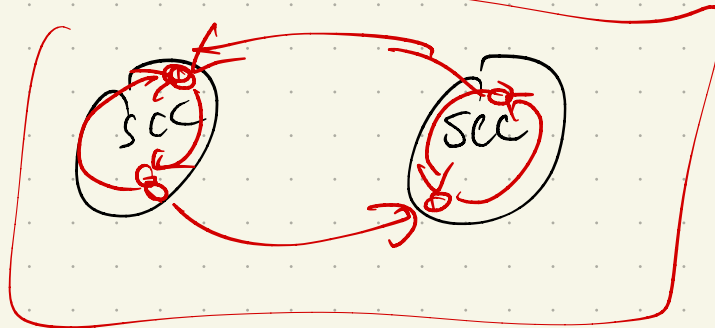


Figure 6.13. The strong components of a graph G and the strong component graph $scc(G)$.

How?

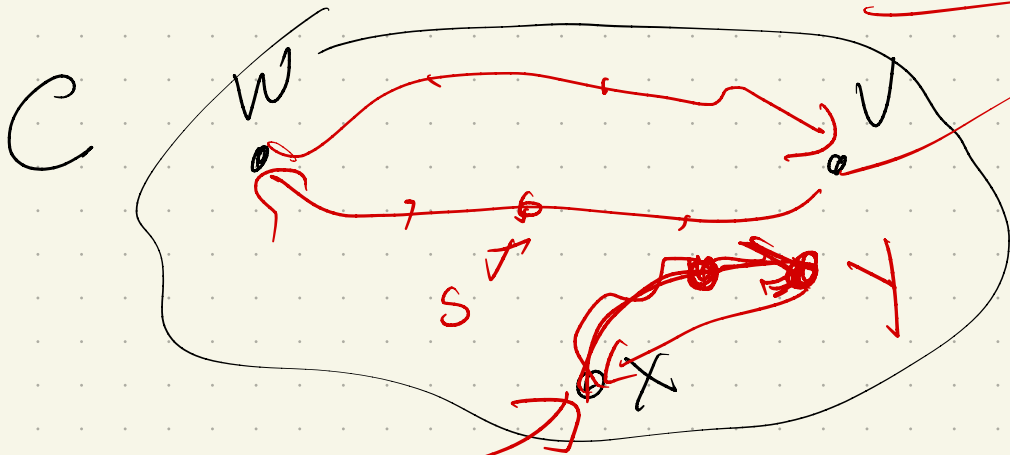
- Well, two components either aren't connected, or only have 1-way edges. Why?



More formally:

Every strongly cc has exactly one vertex with no parent in the component.

Proof: Consider $u \neq w$ in SCC C :



Let x be first vertex in clock-order in C .

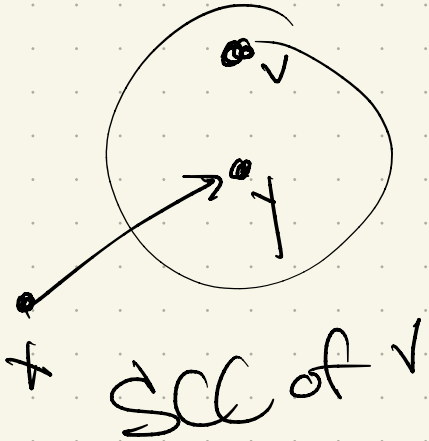
$x_{pre} \leftarrow \begin{matrix} w.pre \\ v.pre \dots \end{matrix}$ - Where?
in another component only

and any other vertex is reachable from x , so its parent also is.

Koranga & Sherin:

Do DFS \rightarrow fix post-ordering.

Let v be last vertex



Claim: v must be a source

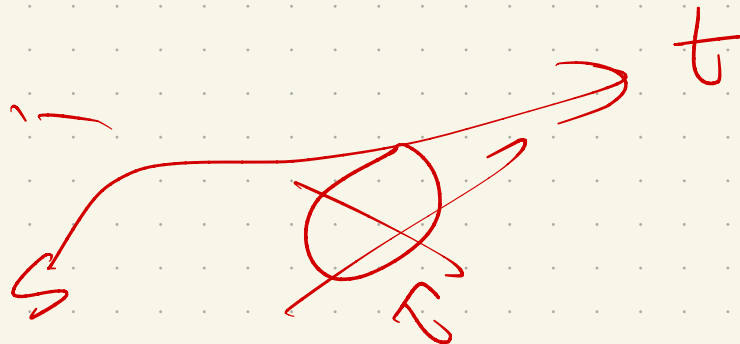
Suppose not: then some edge $x \rightarrow y$ into it exists.

But: we did DFS, v hit x earlier!

Next time: Shortest paths

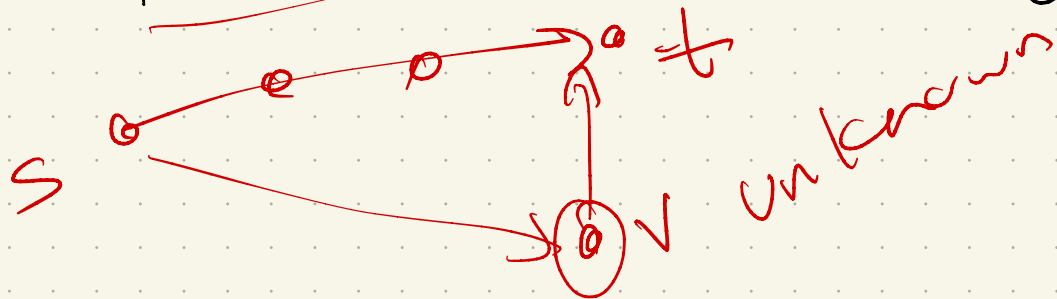
Goal: given $s, t \in V$, compute the shortest path from s to t .

Motivation: roads, routing, ...



To solve this, we need to solve a more general problem:
find shortest paths from s to every vertex.

Why?



Computing a SSSP.

(Ford 1956 + Dantzig 1957)

Each vertex will store 2 values.

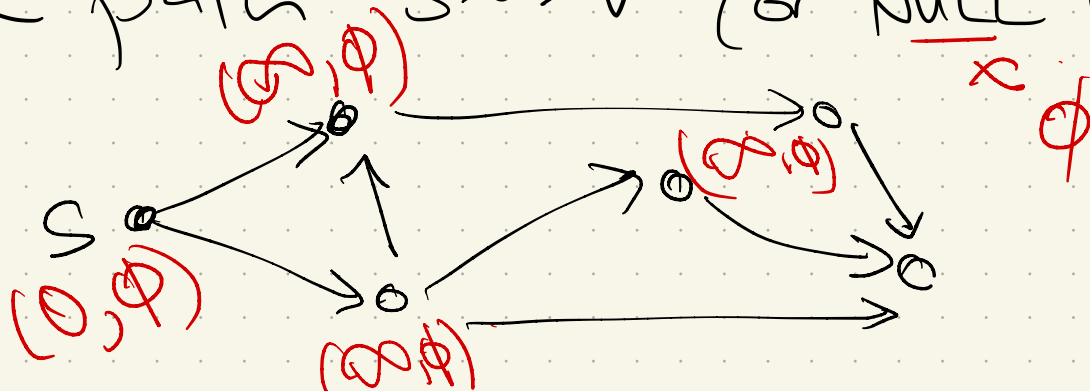
(Think of these as tentative shortest paths.)

- $\text{dist}(v)$ is length of tentative shortest path $s \rightsquigarrow v$

(or ∞ if don't have an option yet)

- $\text{pred}(v)$ is the predecessor of v on that tentative path $s \rightsquigarrow v$ (or NULL if none)

Initially:

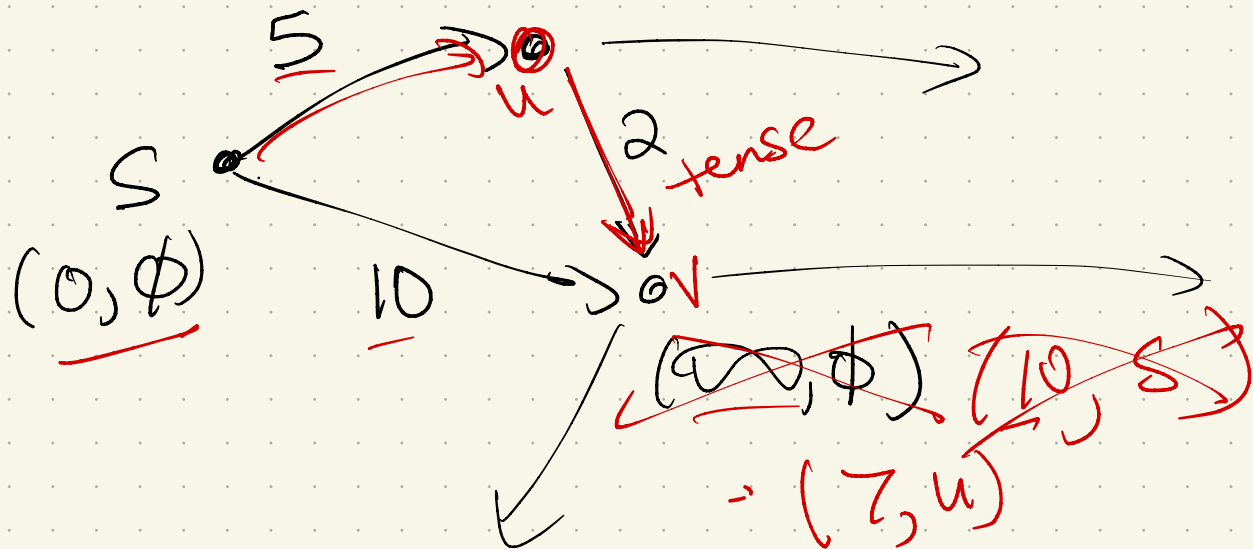


We say an edge \vec{uv} is tense if

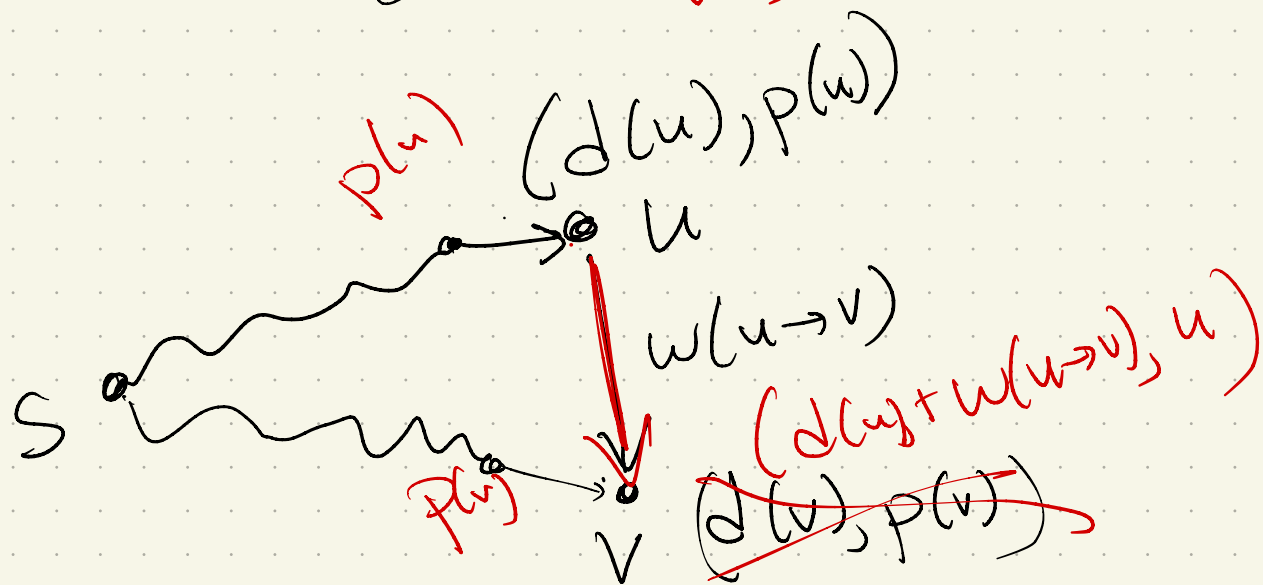
$$\underline{\text{dist}(u)} + \underline{w(u \rightarrow v)} < \underline{\text{dist}(v)}$$

~~(∞, ϕ)~~ $(\underline{5}, \underline{8})$

Initially:



Here:



In general:

Key idea of all algorithms:

Find tense edges & relax them:

RELAX($u \rightarrow v$):

$dist(v) \leftarrow dist(u) + w(u \rightarrow v)$

$pred(v) \leftarrow u$

Then:

INITSSSP(s):

$dist(s) \leftarrow 0$

$pred(s) \leftarrow \text{NULL}$

for all vertices $v \neq s$

$dist(v) \leftarrow \infty$

$pred(v) \leftarrow \text{NULL}$

GENERICSSSP(s):

INITSSSP(s)

put s in the bag

while the bag is not empty

take u from the bag

for all edges $u \rightarrow v$

if $u \rightarrow v$ is tense

RELAX($u \rightarrow v$)

put v in the bag

Claim: At any point in time, $\text{dist}(v)$ is either ∞ or the length of some $s \rightarrow v$ walk.

Proof: Induction on while loop iterations.

Base case: loop iteration 1

at beginning, s has $\text{dist} = 0$ +

all others = ∞

at end, s has $\text{dist} = 0$ still,

+ all neighbors u now have

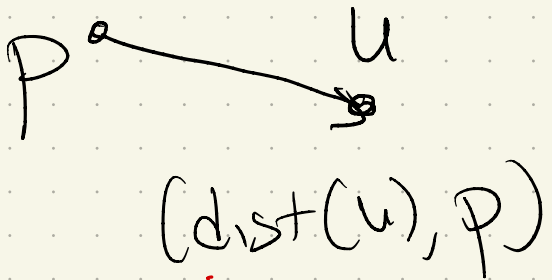
$\text{dist}(u) = w(s \rightarrow u)$, which is a length 1 walk. (Others are ∞)

Ind hyp:

In iteration $k-1$, the claim is true

Ind Step:

In iteration k : At beginning, we take out some vertex u .



By IH, $\text{dist}(u)$ is the weight of some $s \rightsquigarrow u$ walk.

At end, all nbrs v of u are either unchanged (or so by IH are still either ∞ or length of $s \rightsquigarrow v$ walk)

or $u \rightarrow v$ was tense, \rightarrow

$$\text{now } \text{dist}(v) = \text{dist}(u) + w(u \rightarrow v).$$

Since $\text{dist}(u)$ is a $s \rightsquigarrow u$ walk,

then $\text{dist}(v)$ is weight of the

walk $(s \rightsquigarrow u) + (u \rightarrow v)$, which

is a walk with one more edge

at end.

(All other vertices are unchanged,
so by IH are still ∞ or a $s \rightsquigarrow v$
walk.) \square

So why all the shortest path algorithms?

How best to relax?

Also \rightarrow negative edges are bad.

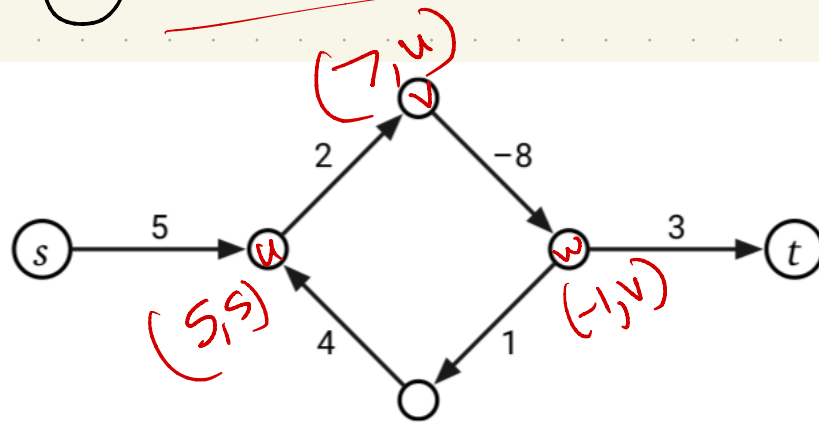


Figure 8.3. There is no shortest walk from s to t .