

Correctness of Dijkstra's algorithm:

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Claim: for every vertex v :

* at the moment when $d(v)$ is minimum in Q , we have

$$d(v) = \delta(s, v).$$

* from that moment, $d(v)$ does not change any more.

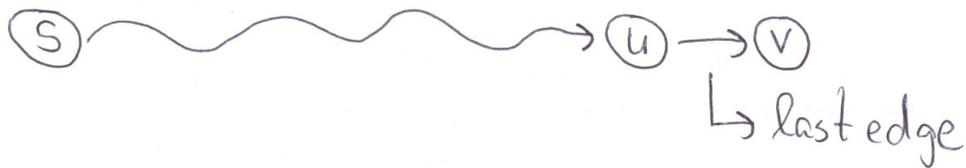
① At any moment: $\delta(s, v) \leq d(v)$ for every vertex.

Proof: as on page 93. \square

② Assume at some moment, $d(v)$ becomes equal to $\delta(s, v)$. Then, during the rest of the algorithm, $d(v)$ does not change.

Proof: as on page 93. \square

③ Let $v \neq s$. Consider the shortest path from s to v . (103)



Consider the iteration in which u is chosen as the vertex in Q whose d -value is minimum.

If $d(u) = \delta(s, u)$ at the beginning of this iteration, then $d(v) = \delta(s, v)$ at the end of this iteration.

Proof: As on page 94: At the end of this iteration,

$$\begin{aligned} d(v) &\leq d(u) + wt(u, v) && // \text{from algorithm} \\ &= \delta(s, u) + wt(u, v) && // \text{from assumption} \\ &= \delta(s, v) && // \text{property of shortest paths} \\ &\leq d(v) && // \text{from ①} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore d(v) = \delta(s, v).$$

□

④ The minimum d -value in \mathcal{Q} never decreases.

Proof: Consider an iteration of the while-loop, and let $u \in \mathcal{Q}$ be such that $d(u)$ is minimum.

Before the for-loop: $d(u) \leq d(v)$ for all $v \in \mathcal{Q}$.

During the for-loop, some values $d(v)$ may change.

If $d(v)$ is changed, its new value is

$$d(v) = d(u) + \text{wt}(u, v) > d(u).$$

\therefore At the end of the for-loop: $d(u) \leq d(v)$ for all $v \in \mathcal{Q}$.

\therefore In the next iteration of the while-loop:

all d -values in $\underbrace{\mathcal{Q} \setminus \{u\}}_{\text{this is the new set } \mathcal{Q}}$ are $\geq d(u)$

this is the new set \mathcal{Q}

\therefore minimum d -value in \mathcal{Q}^{new} is $\geq d(u)$.

□

Proof of the claim on page 102:

(105)

First observe: in each iteration of the while-loop, the set Q gets smaller.

\therefore for each vertex v , at some moment, $d(v)$ is minimum over all vertices in Q .

For $v = s$: the claim is true.

Consider a vertex v with $v \neq s$. Consider the shortest path P from s to v :



Observe: for each i with $1 \leq i \leq k$: the path

$s \rightarrow u_1 \rightarrow u_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow u_i$ is the shortest path from s to u_i .

Consider the first iteration of the while-loop:

(106)

Vertex s is chosen.

At that moment: $d(s) = 0 = \delta(s, s)$.

From ③: at the end of the iteration in which s is chosen as the vertex in Q with minimum d -value: $d(u_1) = \delta(s, u_1)$.

From ②: $d(u_1)$ does not change afterwards.

Observe: u_1 is still in Q at the end of the iteration in which s is chosen.

\therefore At the beginning of the iteration in which u_1 is chosen: $d(u_1) = \delta(s, u_1)$.

From ③: At the end of the iteration in which u_1 is chosen: $d(u_2) = \delta(s, u_2)$.

From ②: $d(u_2)$ does not change afterwards.

Observe: $d(u_2) = \delta(s, u_2) = \delta(s, u_1) + wt(u_1, u_2)$
 $> \delta(s, u_1) = d(u_1)$

From ④: At the end of the iteration in which u_1 is chosen: u_2 is still in Q .

∴ At the beginning of the iteration in which u_2 is ⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ chosen: $d(u_2) = \delta(s, u_2)$.

From ③: At the end of the iteration in which u_2 is chosen: $d(u_3) = \delta(s, u_3)$.

From ②: $d(u_3)$ does not change afterwards.

Observe: $d(u_3) = \delta(s, u_3) = \delta(s, u_2) + wt(u_2, u_3)$
 $> \delta(s, u_2) = d(u_2)$

From ④: at the end of the iteration in which u_2 is chosen: u_3 is still in \mathcal{Q} .

⋮

At the beginning of the iteration in which u_k is chosen:

$$d(u_k) = \delta(s, u_k).$$

From ③: At the end of the iteration in which u_k is chosen: $d(v) = \delta(s, v)$.

From ②: $d(v)$ does not change afterwards.

Observe: $d(v) = \delta(s, v) = \delta(s, u_k) + wt(u_k, v)$

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$$> \delta(s, u_k) = d(u_k)$$

From ④: at the end of the iteration in which u_k is chosen: v is still in Q .

\therefore ~~the reason~~ At the beginning of the iteration in which v is chosen: $d(v) = \delta(s, v)$.

From ②: $d(v)$ does not change afterwards.

□