# Shortest Paths: Dijkstra's Algorithm



## SSSP: Context

- Finding the shortest path from a source to goal, or source to every node
- Google/Apple maps

#### Recall: Breadth-First Search

• Finds **a** path of fewest edges from a source to every reachable node in the graph



#### Recall: Breadth-First Search

• Finds **a** path of fewest edges from a source to every reachable node in the graph



## Introduce: Weighted Graphs

• Each edge has a **weight**, or **cost**, associated with it



## Introduce: Weighted Graphs

• Edge weight could represent a time cost, financial cost, or a relation between two nodes



## Problem: Breadth-First Search on Weighted Graphs

• BFS is not designed to consider edge weights!



## Solution: Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Explore nodes in a greedy, shortest-path-first manner
- Key feature: explore (dequeue/pop) the closest node not yet explored.

### **Pseudocode:** With Inefficiencies

• Overview of pseudocode

```
Dijkstra(Graph, source):
 1
 2
        create vertex list 0
 3
 4
 5
        for each vertex v in Graph:
            v.dist = INFINITY //dist represents distance from source
 6
 7
            v.parent = null
 8
            add v to Q
10
        source.dist = 0
11
12
       while Q is not empty:
13
            u = vertex in 0 with smallest "dist"
14
15
            remove u from Q
16
            for each neighbor v of u:
                                                // only v that are still in Q
17
                alt = u.dist + weight(u, v)
18
19
                if alt < v.dist:
                    v.dist = alt
20
21
                    v.parent = u
22
23
        // return depends on the application
```

### Pseudocode: Addressing Inefficiencies

• Use your Data Structures...

```
function Dijkstra(Graph, source):
 2
 3
        create vertex set 0
 4
 5
        source.dist = 0
        for each vertex v in Graph:
 6
 7
            v.dist = INFINITY
 8
            v.prev = null
10
            Q.addWithPriority(v, v.dist)
11
12
        while Q is not empty:
13
14
            u = Q.extractMin() // O(log(n))
15
16
17
            for each neighbor v of u:
                                                // only v that are still in Q
                alt = u.dist + weight(u, v)
18
19
                if alt < v.dist:
                    v.dist = alt
20
21
                    v.parent = u
22
                    Q.decreasePriority(v, v.dist) //O(log(n)) if we can find it quickly
23
24
        // return depends on the application
```

## Recall: PriorityQueue (Min-Heap Implementation)

- add(Object key, int priority)^ O(log(n))
- extractMin() O(log(n))
- decreaseKey(Object key, int newPriority)^ O(log(n))\*



## Conditions for Dijkstra's

- No negative cycles; a negative cycle will **always** be a problem
- In fact, no negative edges; a negative edge will **sometimes** be a problem
- GYHD: come up with a graph that has no negative cycles, has a negative edge, where Dijkstra's algorithm would not find the shortest path from a source to a destination

## Counterexample



## If Time: Java implementation

- compareTo(Node other) VS. compare(Node a, Node b)
- Cats
- Time complexity and ease of implementation

# Finally

- Thank you!
- PLEASE take survey on teaching feedback will send to you shortly