

## Shortest Paths: Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Here's a version of the Bellman-Ford algorithm that runs in time  $\Theta(nm)$ :

```
1 BellmanFord(G=(V,E), s in V)
2   W[n][n]: new array
3   set W[0][s]=0, set W[0][j]=infty for j not s
4   for i = 1 to n
5     for each j in V
6       set W[i][j] = W[i-1][j]
7     for each edge (u,j) in E
8       newPath = c(u,j) + W[i-1][u]
9       if newPath < W[i][j]
10        set W[i][j] = (newPath,u)
11  return W[n-1]
```

In both this and our original version of the algorithm, we consider all possible ways to reach node  $j$  in at most  $i$  steps, and record the best option.

In our original version, we accomplish this by going through all nodes  $j$  one at a time, considering all of the edges into node  $j$  at the same time (in the min, or the innermost for loop in the original version).

In this updated version, we accomplish this by initially recording our solution for  $i - 1$  edges as the best solution (so far) for  $i$  edges. We then go through all *edges* in the graph one at a time, where if edge  $(u, j)$  yields a better path than the best so far we've recorded on iteration  $i$  for node  $j$ , we update. The end result is the same: by the end of iteration  $i$ , we've considered, for each node  $j$ , each edge that leads into  $j$ . We're just doing this in a different order that lets us take better advantage of the structure of an adjacency list.