

# Foundations of Computer Science

ECE NTUA

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Section: Graph and Network Algorithms

*Slides:*

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*Acknowledgements: part of the slides comes from Stavros Nikolopoulos (University of Ioannina)*



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National Technical University of Athens

# Shortest Paths problem

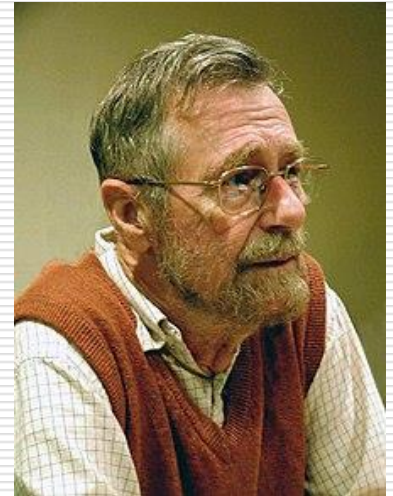
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- ❑ In a weighted graph, we search for the **shortest paths** from a starting node  $s$  to all others
- ❑ Weights are non-negative numbers (e.g. distances)
- ❑ Applications: shorter / cheaper / faster journeys and many more.
- ❑ **Algorithmic ideas:**
  - ❑ What if all weights are the same? (e.g. = 1)
  - ❑ Modify BFS for integer weights?

# Dijkstra Algorithm (concept)

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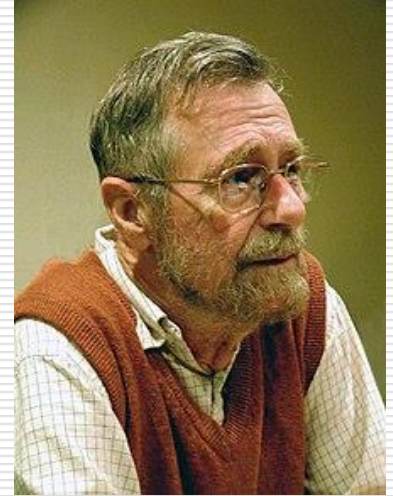
- **Dijkstra (intuition)**
  - Starting from the origin node  $s$  we can easily find the node  $u$  that is closest to  $s$
  - The second nearest (to  $s$ ) will be a neighbour of  $s$  or  $u$  (why?)



# Dijkstra Algorithm (concept)

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- ❑ **Dijkstra (implementation)**
  - ❑ We keep temporary distance labels from  $s$
  - ❑ For node  $u$  with minimum distance label, the path of least weight has been found!
  - ❑ Label of  $u$  becomes permanent
  - ❑ Update labels of  $u$ 's neighbours
  - ❑ Repeat the above 3 steps on the neighbours of the permanent nodes



# Dijkstra Algorithm

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$S := \{s\}; D(s) := 0 ; P(s) := \text{NIL}$

**for each**  $v: (s,v) \in E$  **do**  $D(v) := \text{cost}(s,v); P(v) := s$

**for each**  $v: (s,v) \notin E$  **do**  $D(v) := \infty; P(v) := \text{NIL}$

**repeat**  $n$  times

    select  $u$  from  $V \setminus S$  with minimum  $D(u)$

$S := S \cup \{u\}$

**for all**  $v$  in  $V \setminus S: (u,v) \in E$  **do**

**if**  $D(u) + \text{cost}(u,v) < D(v)$  **then**

$D(v) := D(u) + \text{cost}(u,v)$

$P(v) := u$

**Complexity**

**$O(|V|^2)$ :**

for every

repeat

**$O(|V|)$**  to

find

minimum,

**$O(|V|)$**  to

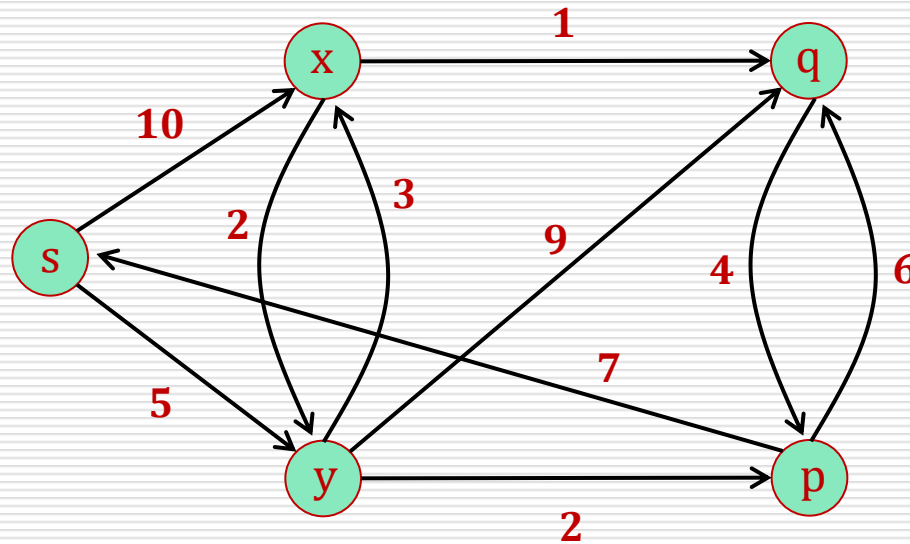
update

distances



# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

Initialize (G,s)



$d(s)=0$

$d(x)=\infty$

$d(y)=\infty$

$d(p)=\infty$

$d(q)=\infty$

$prev(s)=NIL$

$prev(x)=NIL$

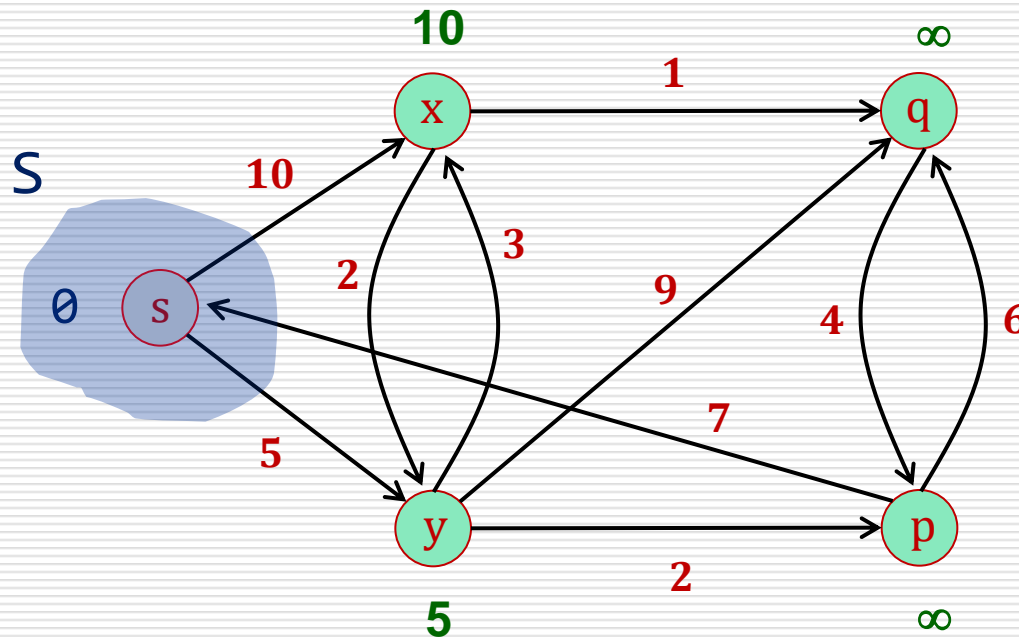
$prev(y)=NIL$

$prev(p)=NIL$

$prev(q)=NIL$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{y, x, q, p\}$$



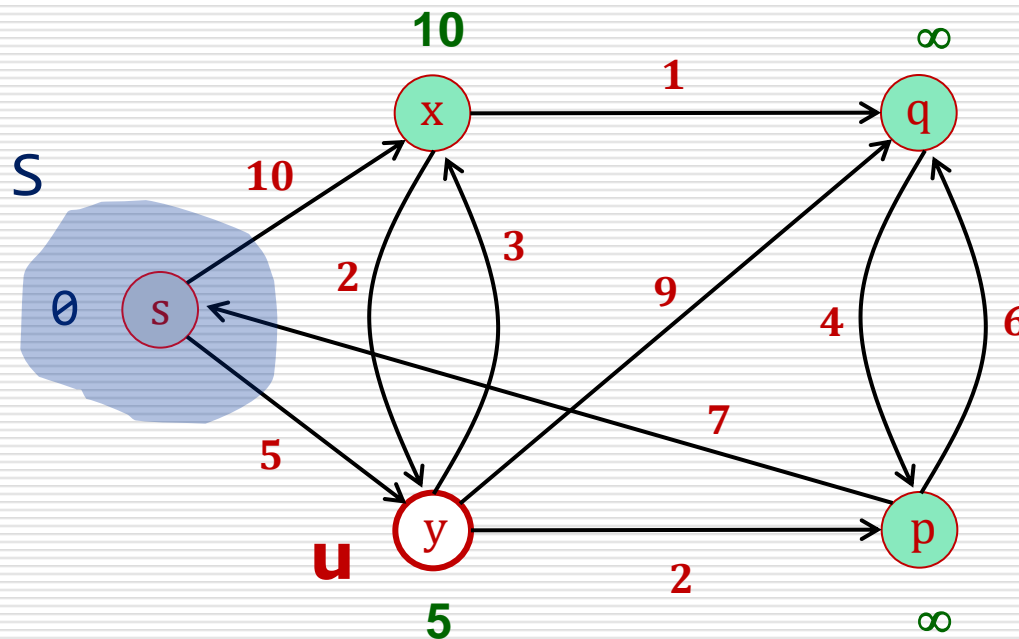
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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=10$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=\infty$	$d(q)=\infty$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=s$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(q)=\text{NIL}$



# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{y, x, q, p\}$$



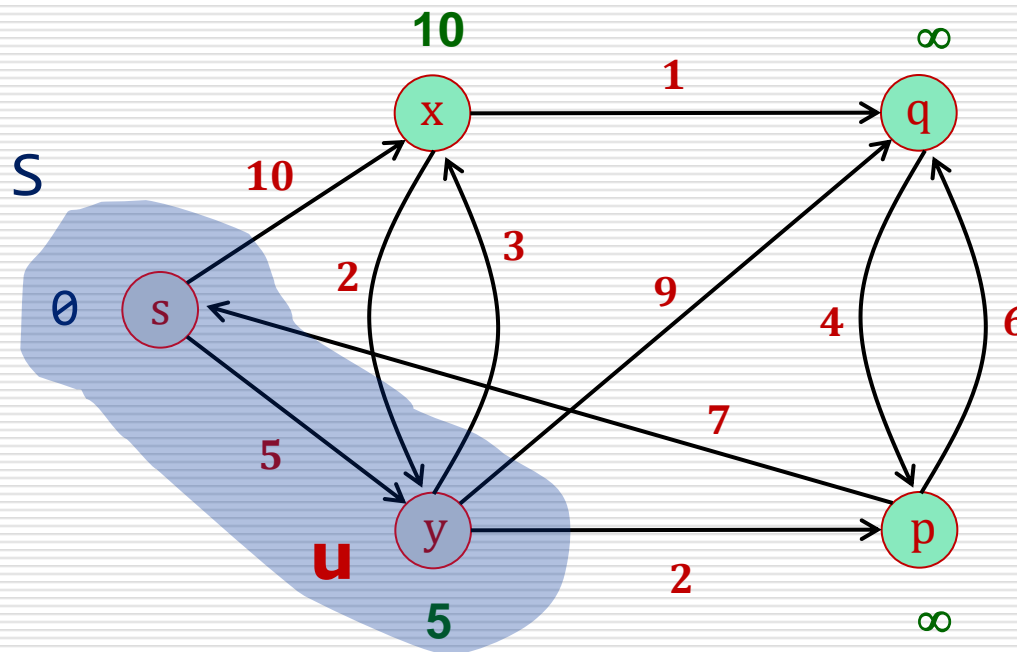
$$u \leftarrow \min_{D(u)}(V \setminus S)$$
$$S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\}$$

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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=10$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=\infty$	$d(q)=\infty$
$prev(s)=NIL$	$prev(x)=s$	$prev(y)=s$	$prev(p)=NIL$	$prev(q)=NIL$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{x, q, p\}$$

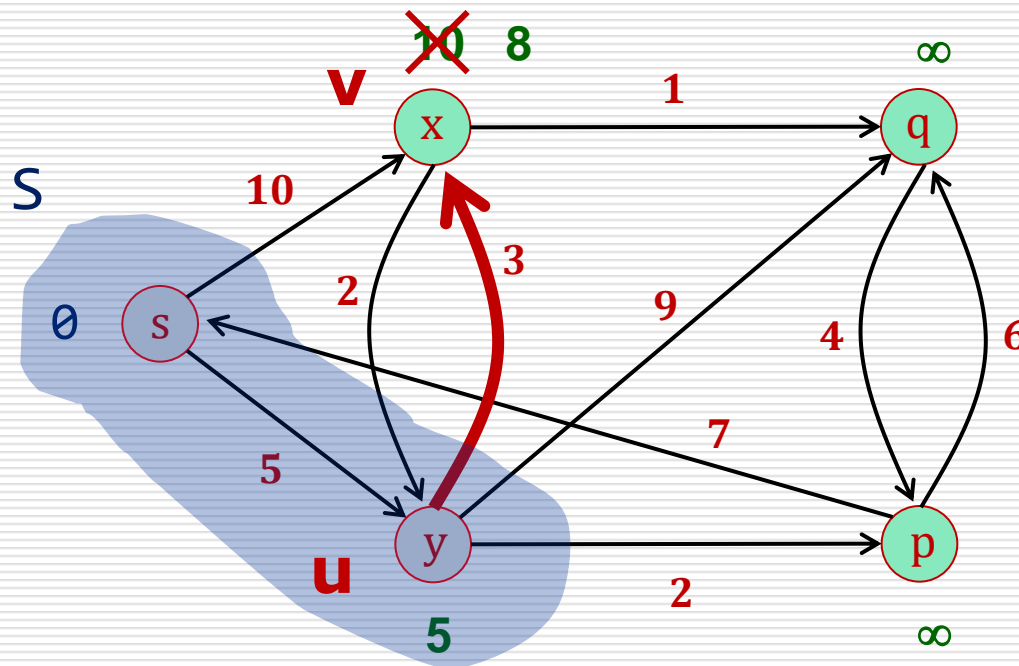


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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=10$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=\infty$	$d(q)=\infty$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=s$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(q)=\text{NIL}$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

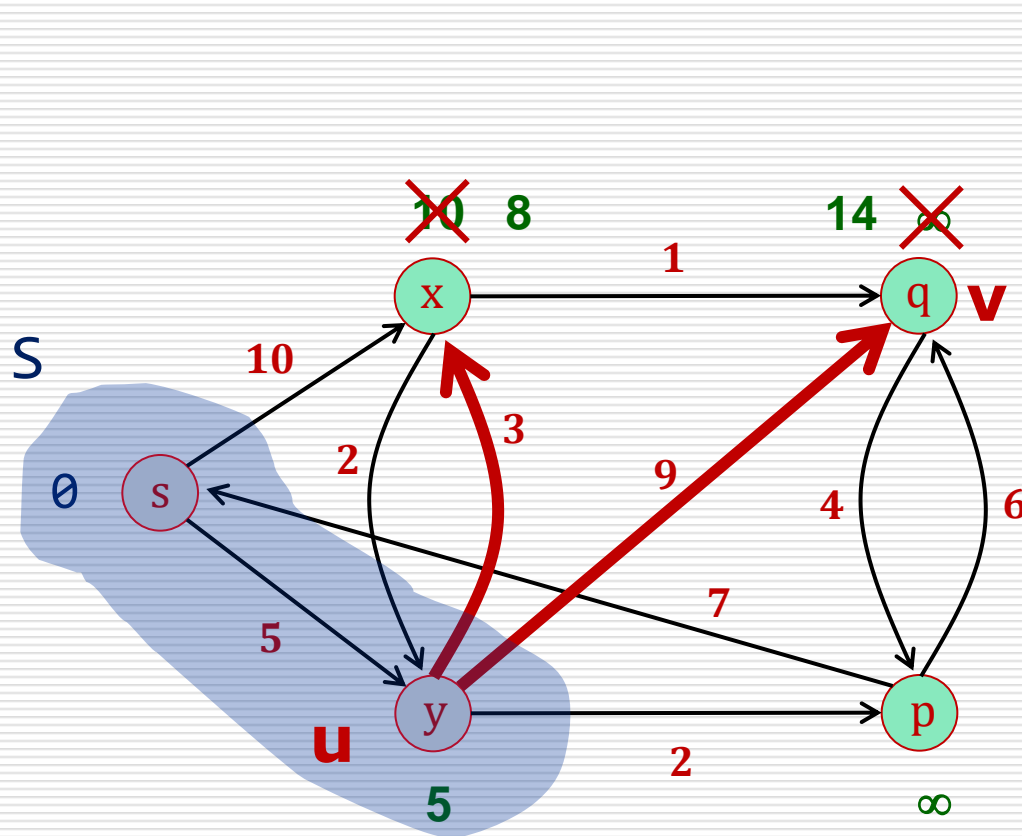
$$V \setminus S = \{x, q, p\}$$



$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=\infty$	$d(q)=\infty$
$prev(s)=NIL$	$prev(x)=y$	$prev(y)=s$	$prev(p)=NIL$	$prev(q)=NIL$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{x, q, p\}$$

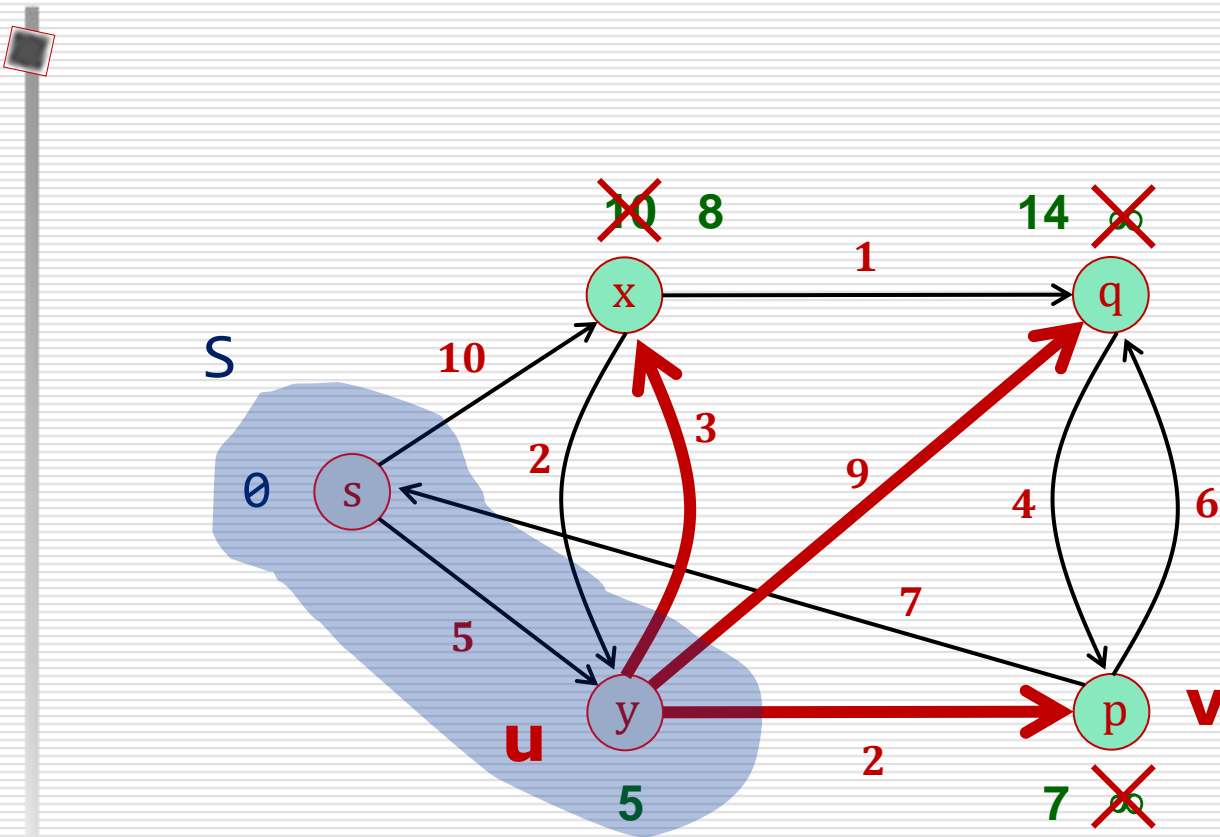


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$d(s) = 0$	$d(x) = 8$	$d(y) = 5$	$d(p) = \infty$	$d(q) = 14$
$\text{prev}(s) = \text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x) = y$	$\text{prev}(y) = s$	$\text{prev}(p) = \text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(q) = y$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{p, x, q\}$$



$d(s)=0$   
 $prev(s)=NIL$

$d(x)=8$   
 $prev(x)=y$

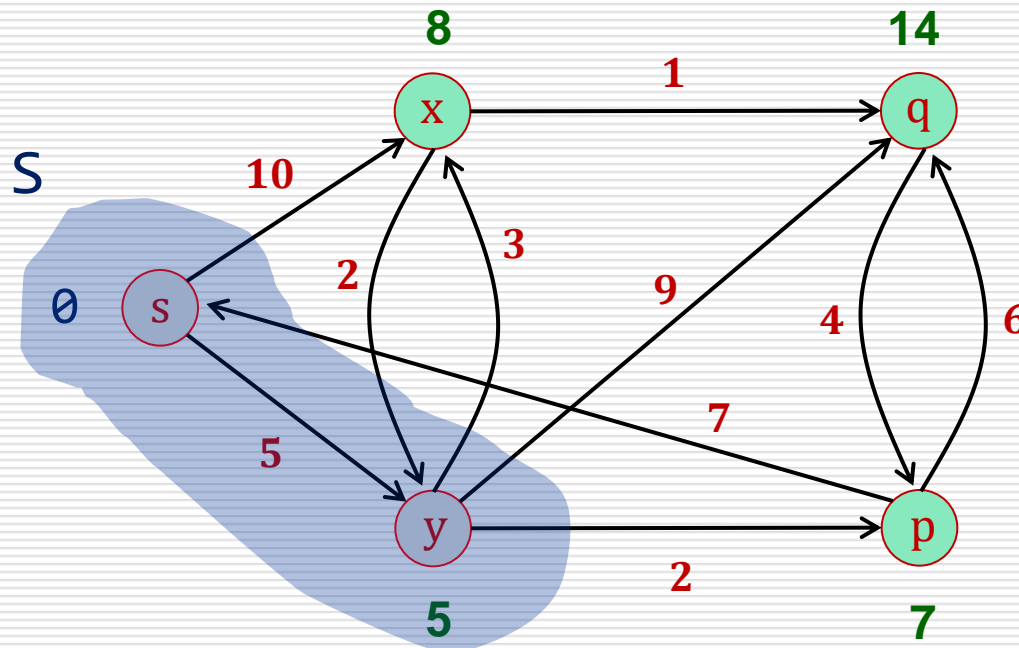
$d(y)=5$   
 $prev(y)=s$

$d(p)=7$   
 $prev(p)=y$

$d(q)=13$   
 $prev(q)=y$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{p, x, q\}$$

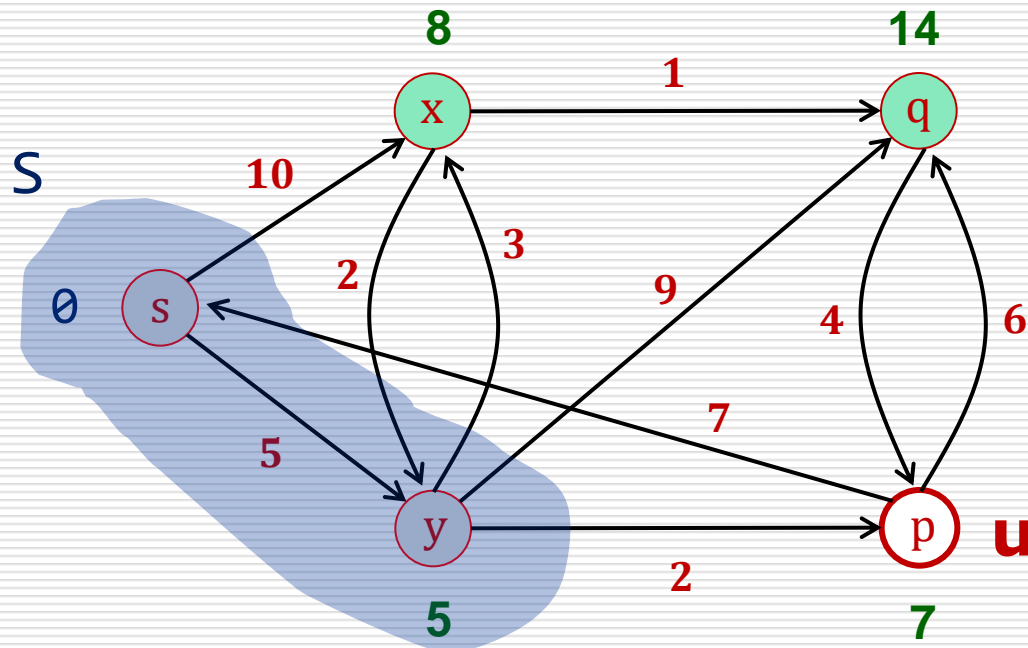


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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=13$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=y$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=y$	$\text{prev}(q)=y$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{p, x, q\}$$



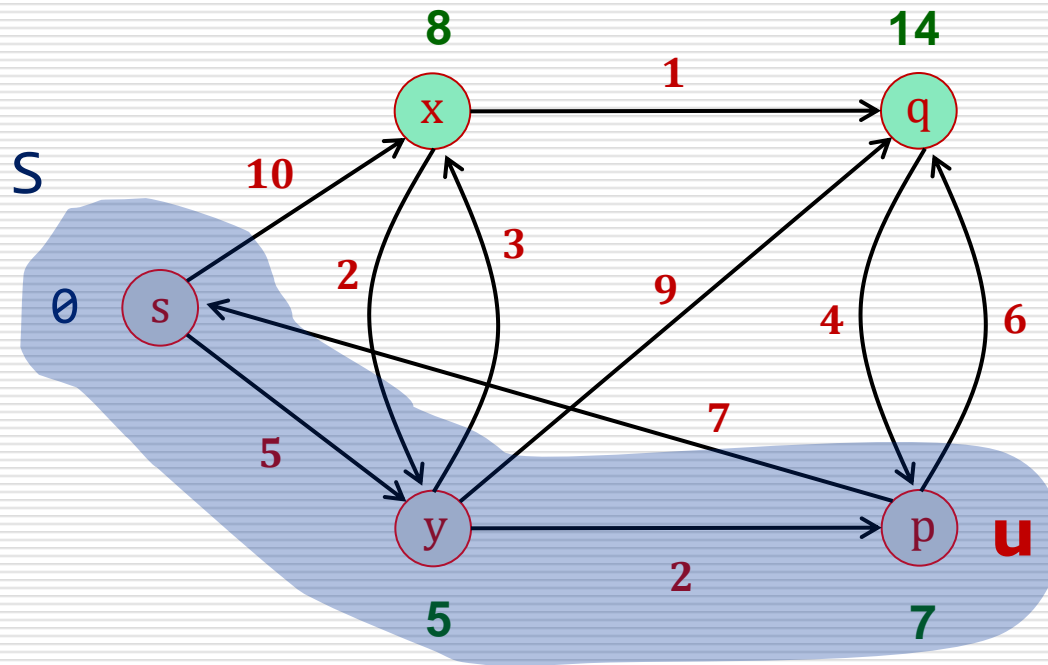
$$u \leftarrow \min_{D(u)}(V \setminus S)$$
$$S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\}$$

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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=13$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=y$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=y$	$\text{prev}(q)=y$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{x, q\}$$



$d(s)=0$   
 $prev(s)=NIL$

$d(x)=8$   
 $prev(x)=y$

$d(y)=5$   
 $prev(y)=s$

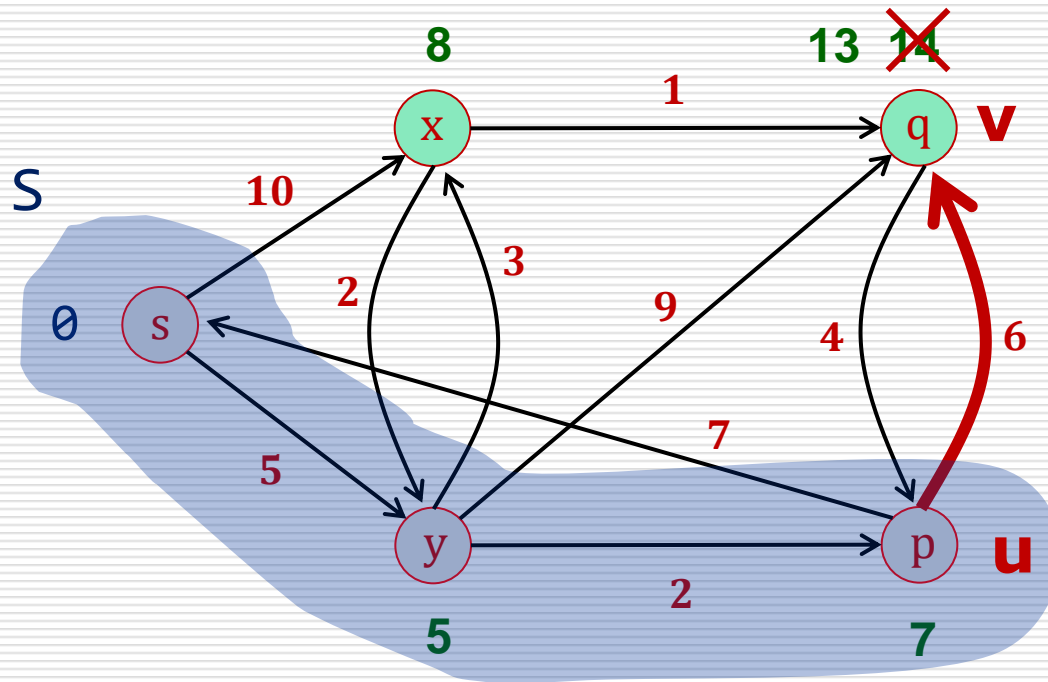
$d(p)=7$   
 $prev(p)=y$

$d(q)=13$   
 $prev(q)=y$



# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

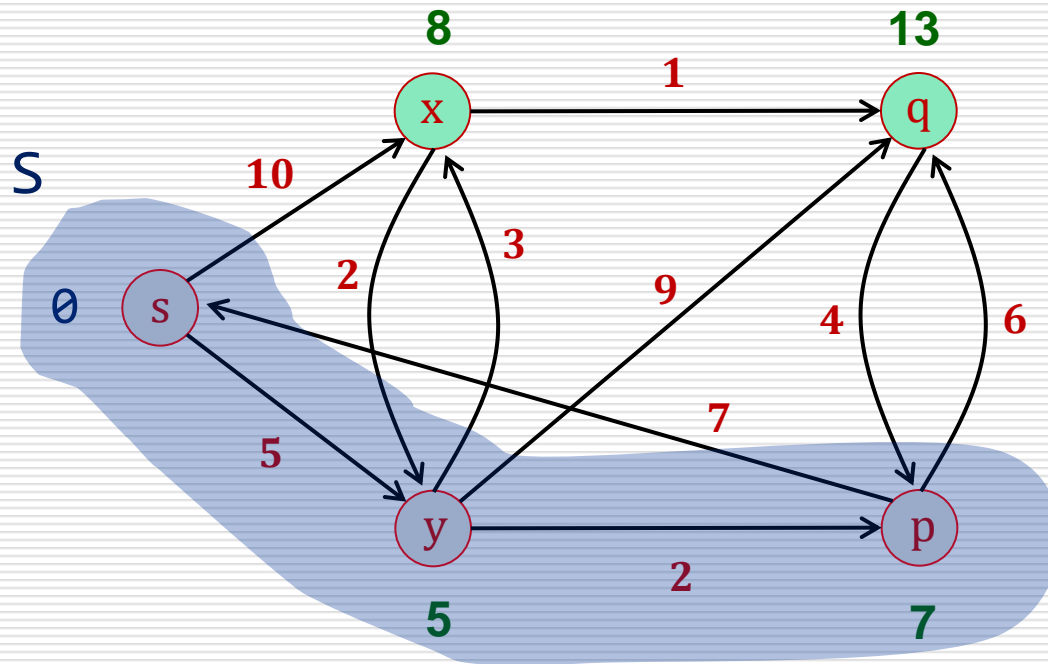
$$V \setminus S = \{x, q\}$$



$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=13$
$prev(s)=NIL$	$prev(x)=y$	$prev(y)=s$	$prev(p)=y$	$prev(q)=p$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{x, q\}$$



$d(s)=0$   
 $prev(s)=NIL$

$d(x)=8$   
 $prev(x)=y$

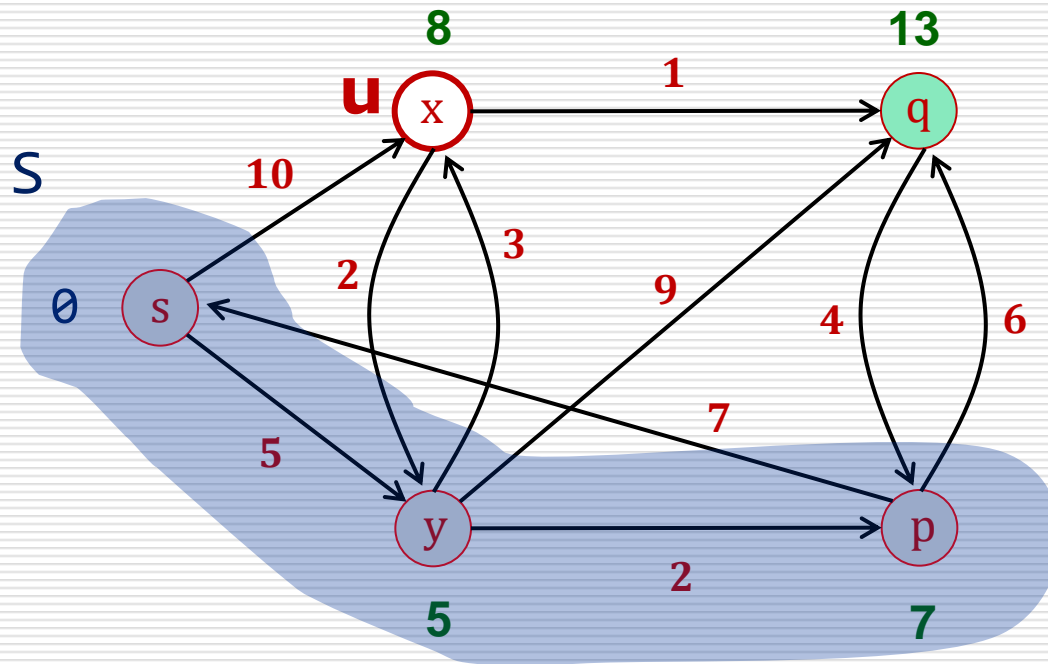
$d(y)=5$   
 $prev(y)=s$

$d(p)=7$   
 $prev(p)=y$

$d(q)=13$   
 $prev(q)=p$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{x, q\}$$



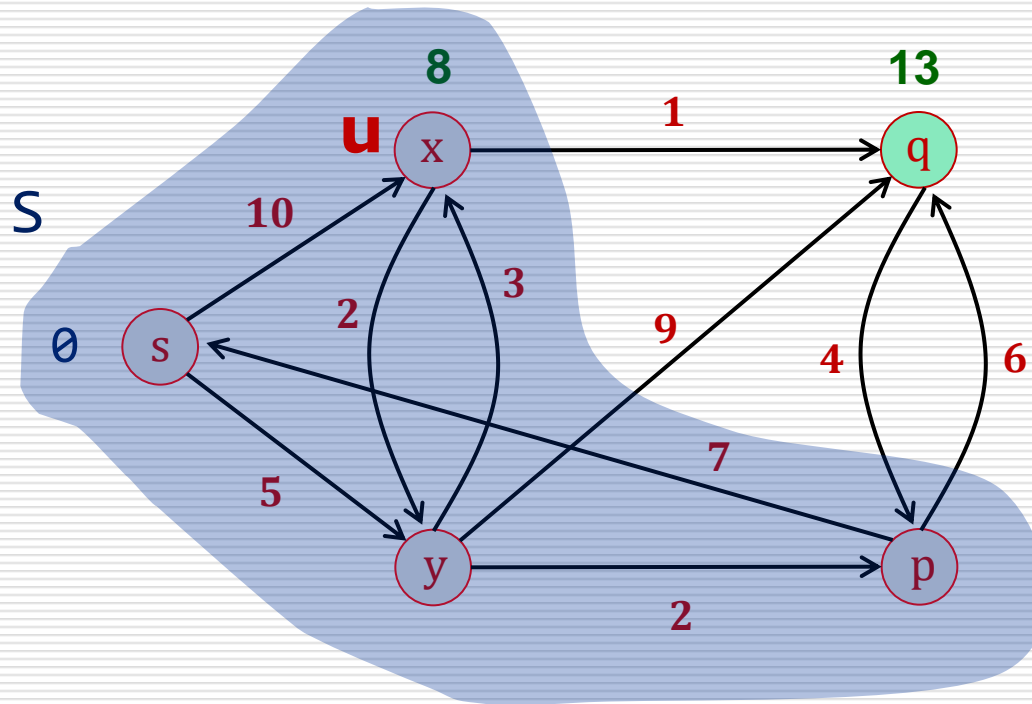
$$u \leftarrow \min_{D(u)}(V \setminus S)$$
$$S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\}$$

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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=13$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=y$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=y$	$\text{prev}(q)=p$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{q\}$$

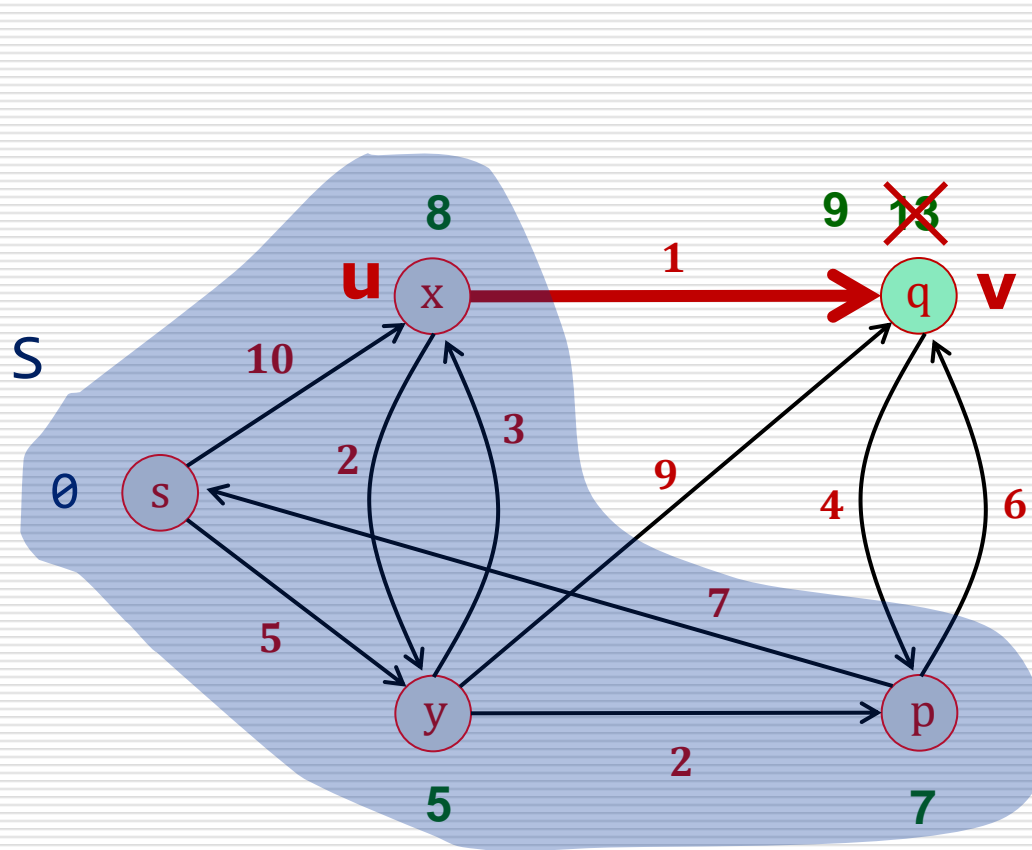


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$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=13$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=y$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=y$	$\text{prev}(q)=p$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{q\}$$



$d(s)=0$   
 $prev(s)=NIL$

$d(x)=8$   
 $prev(x)=y$

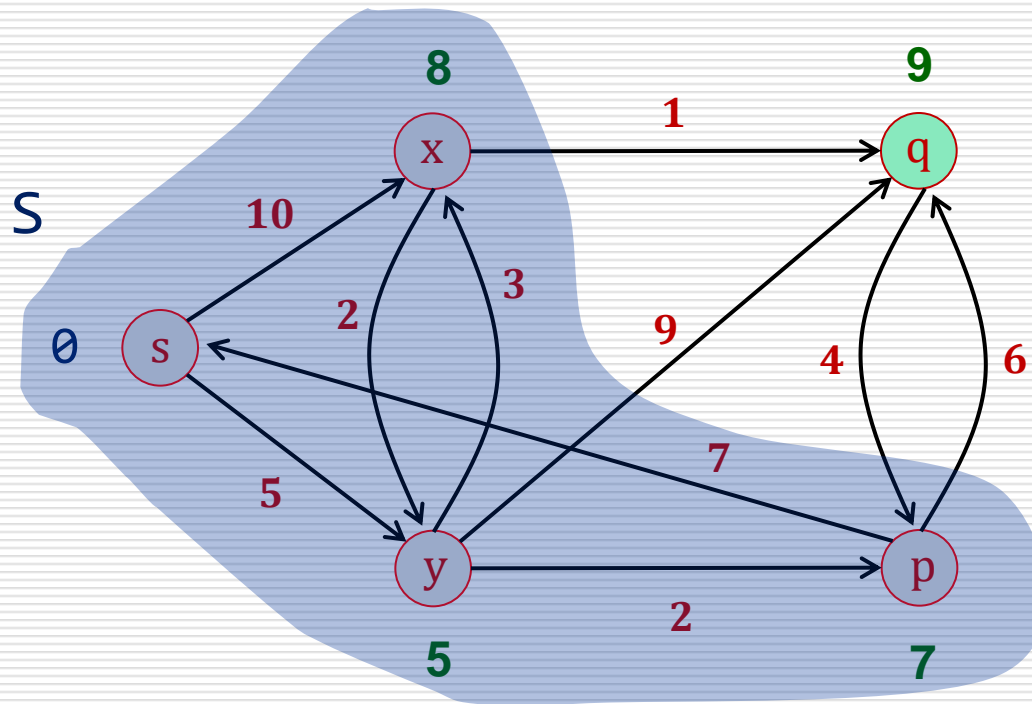
$d(y)=5$   
 $prev(y)=s$

$d(p)=7$   
 $prev(p)=y$

$d(q)=9$   
 $prev(q)=x$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{q\}$$



$d(s)=0$   
 $prev(s)=NIL$

$d(x)=8$   
 $prev(x)=y$

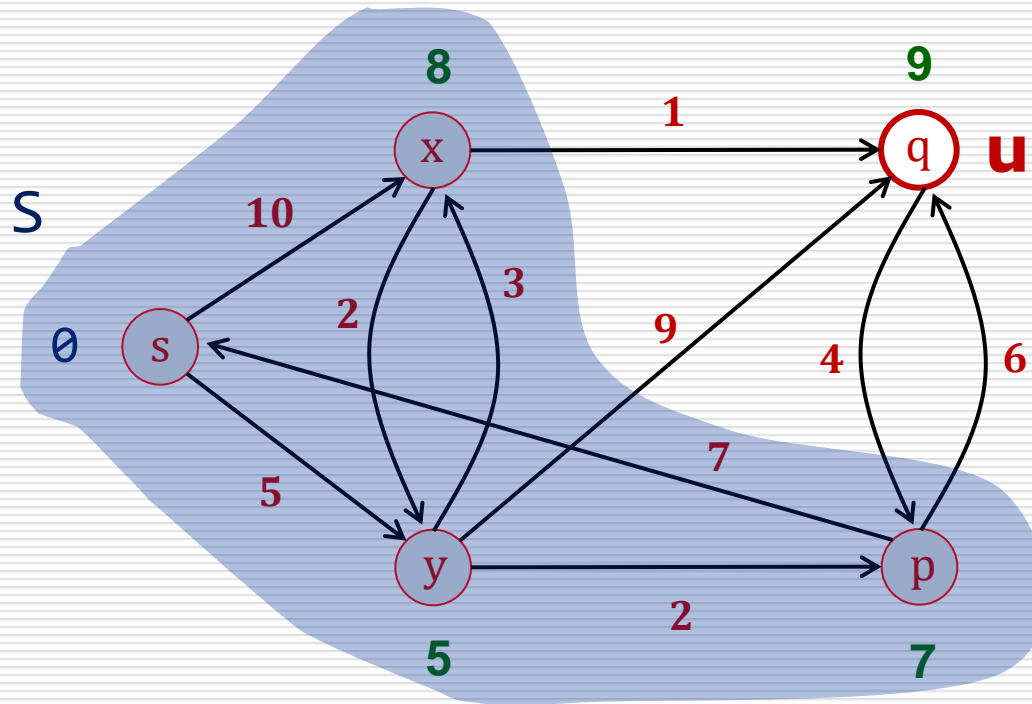
$d(y)=5$   
 $prev(y)=s$

$d(p)=7$   
 $prev(p)=y$

$d(q)=9$   
 $prev(q)=x$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{q\}$$



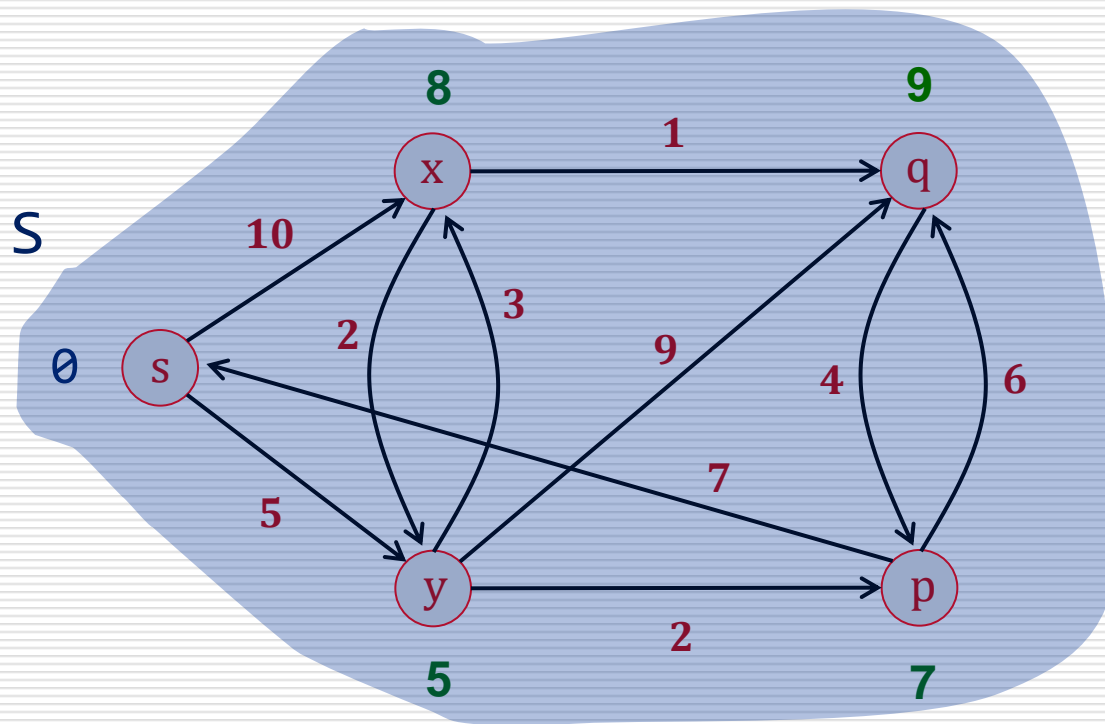
$$u \leftarrow \min_{D(u)}(V \setminus S)$$
$$S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\}$$

---

$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=9$
$\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$	$\text{prev}(x)=y$	$\text{prev}(y)=s$	$\text{prev}(p)=y$	$\text{prev}(q)=x$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

$$V \setminus S = \{ \}$$



$d(s)=0$   
 $\text{prev}(s)=\text{NIL}$

$d(x)=8$   
 $\text{prev}(x)=y$

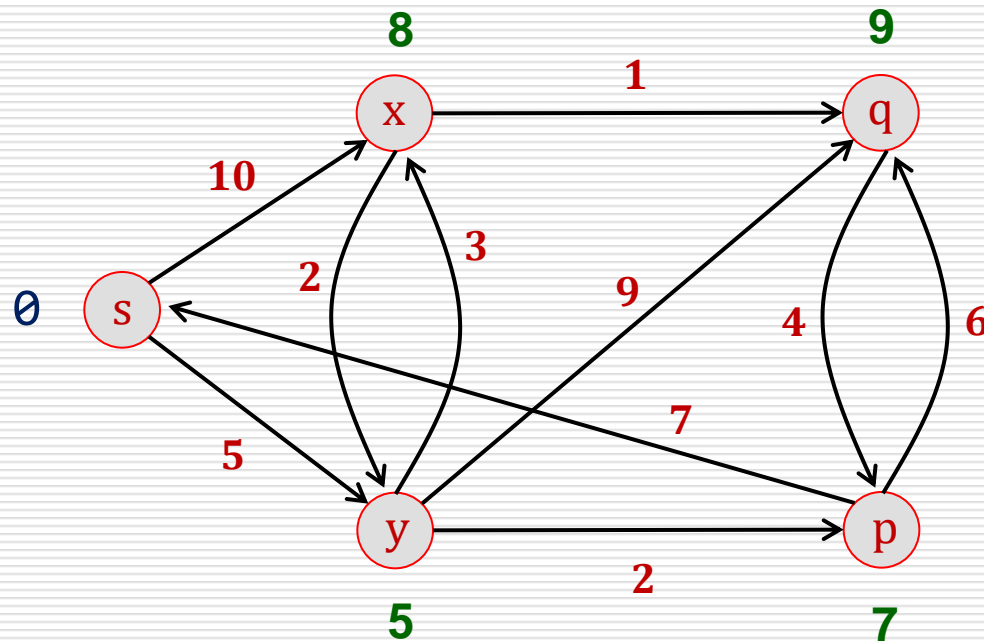
$d(y)=5$   
 $\text{prev}(y)=s$

$d(p)=7$   
 $\text{prev}(p)=y$

$d(q)=9$   
 $\text{prev}(q)=x$



# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



$d(s)=0$   
 $prev(s)=NIL$

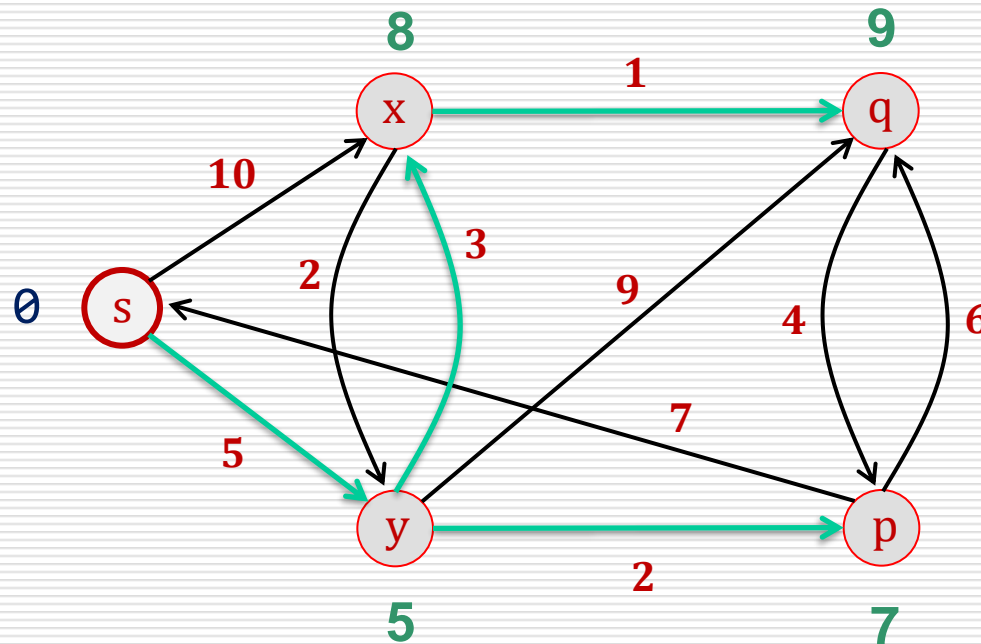
$d(x)=8$   
 $prev(x)=y$

$d(y)=5$   
 $prev(y)=s$

$d(p)=7$   
 $prev(p)=y$

$d(q)=9$   
 $prev(q)=x$

# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



Output

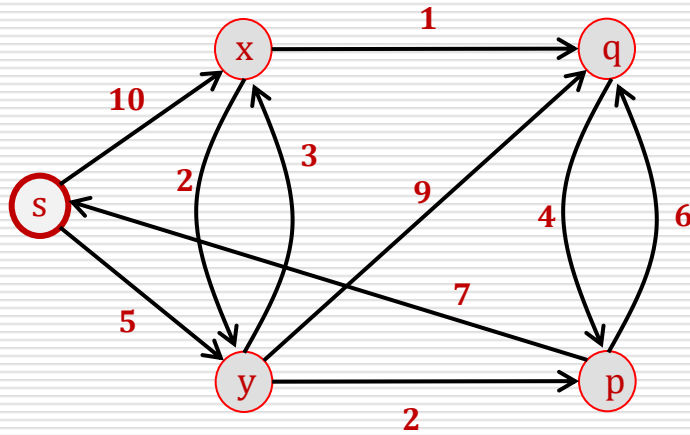
Shortest Paths cost

Previous nodes at shortest paths =>

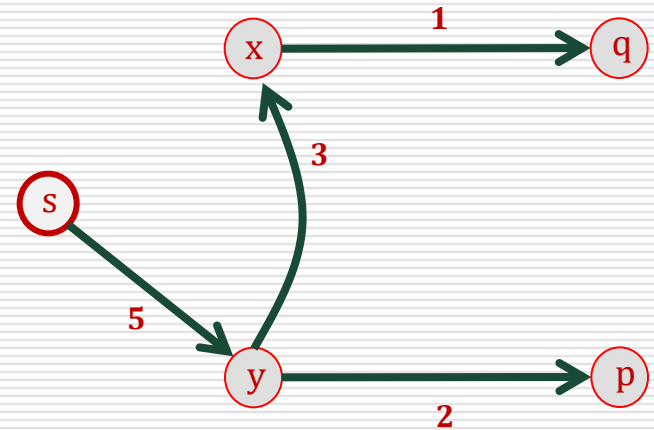
Shortest Path Tree

$d(s)=0$	$d(x)=8$	$d(y)=5$	$d(p)=7$	$d(q)=9$
$prev(s)=NIL$	$prev(x)=y$	$prev(y)=s$	$prev(p)=y$	$prev(q)=x$

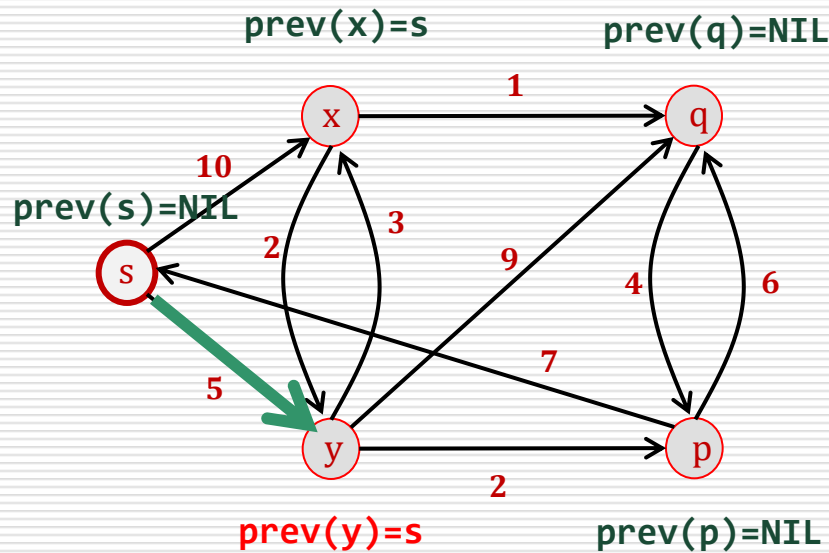
# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



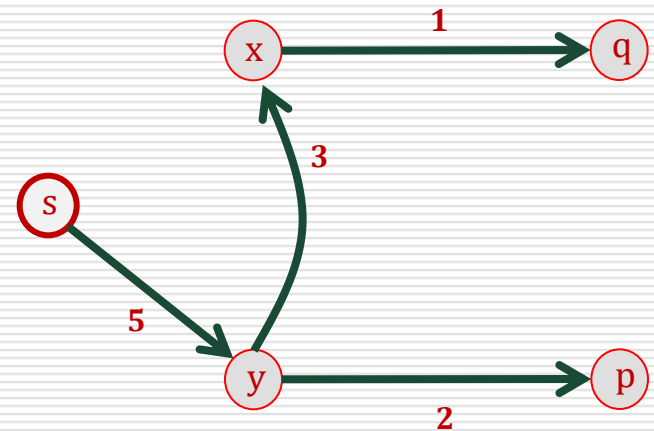
Shortest Path Tree



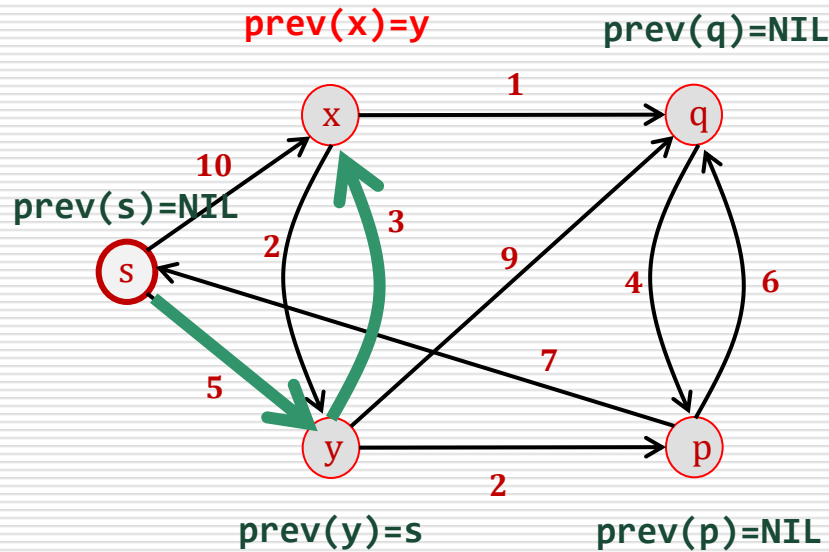
# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



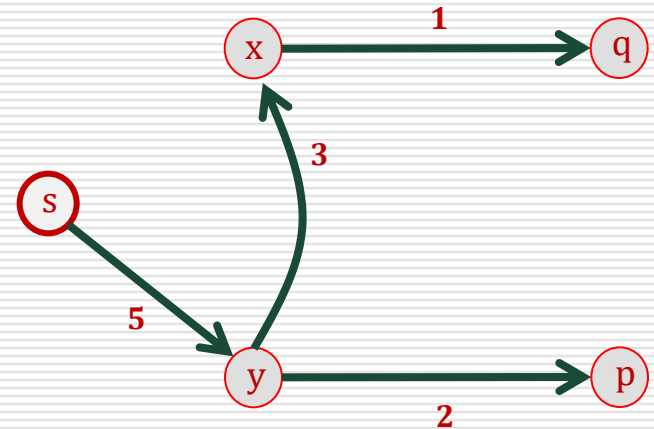
## Shortest Path Tree Construction



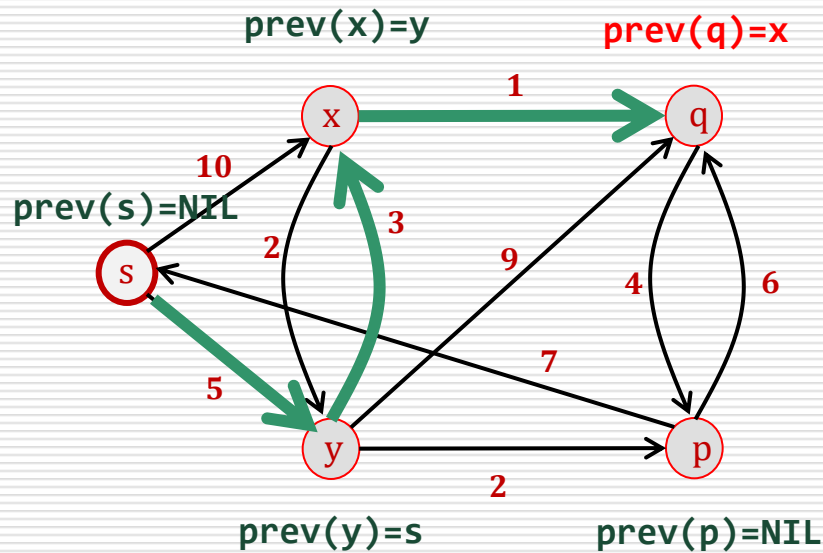
# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



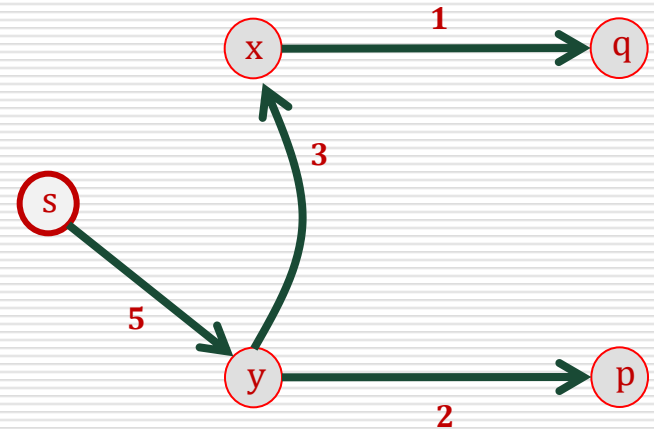
## Shortest Path Tree Construction



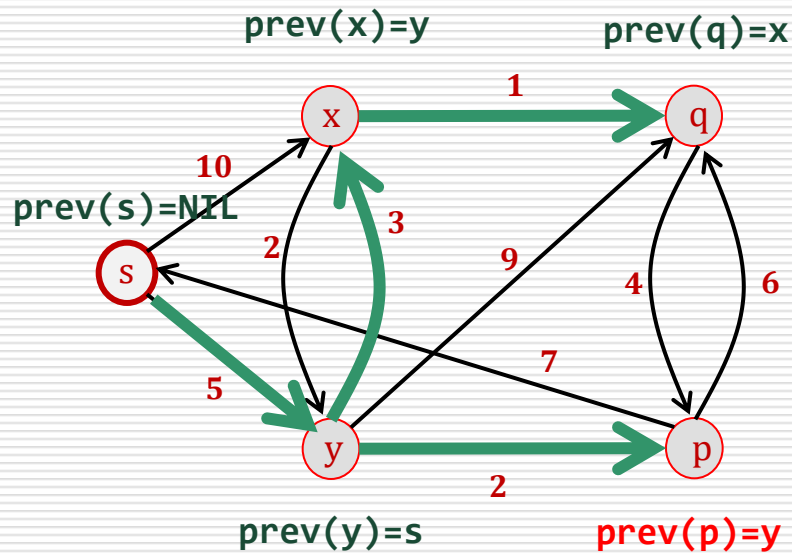
# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



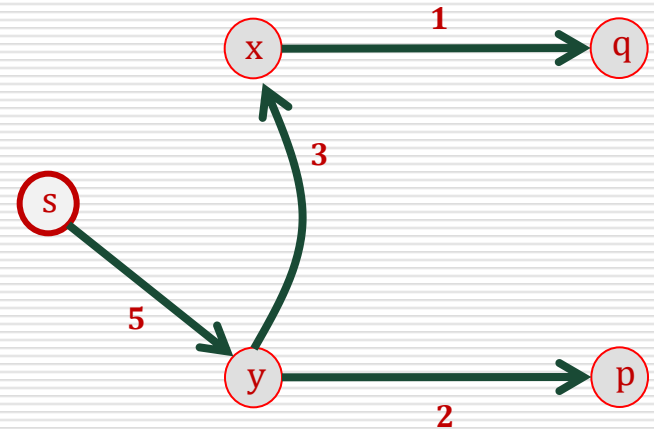
## Shortest Path Tree Construction



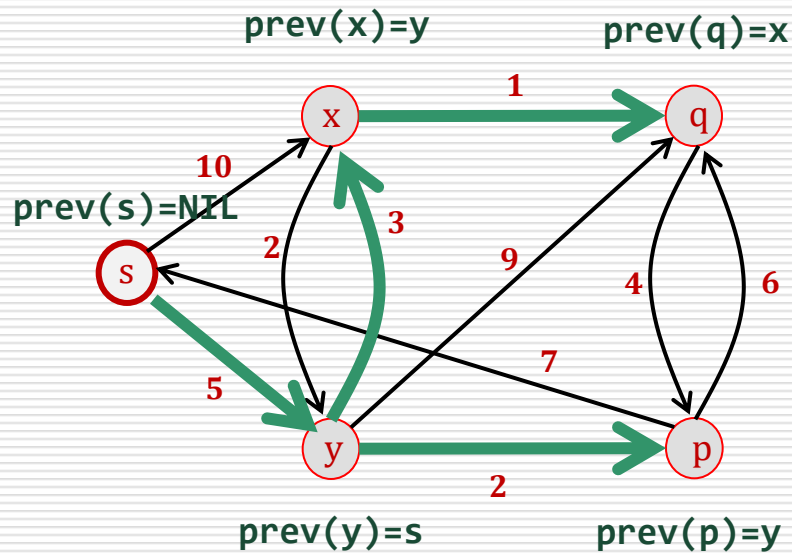
# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example



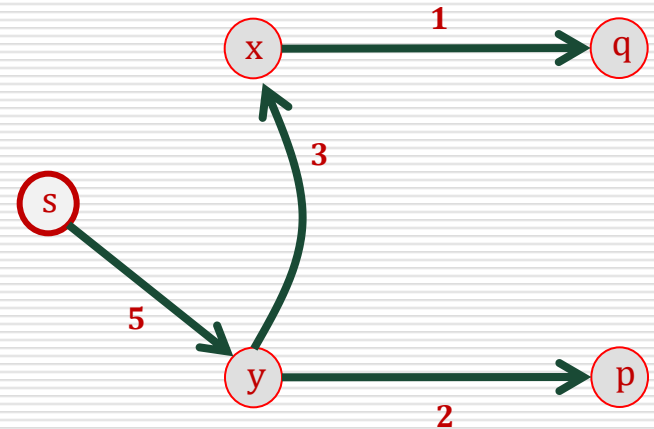
## Shortest Path Tree Construction



# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

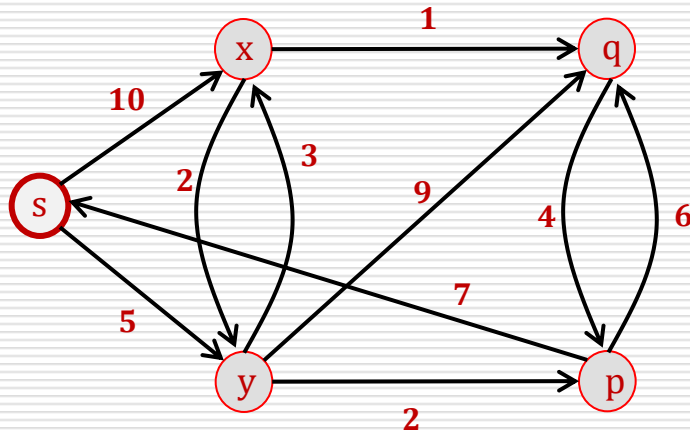


## Shortest Path Tree Construction

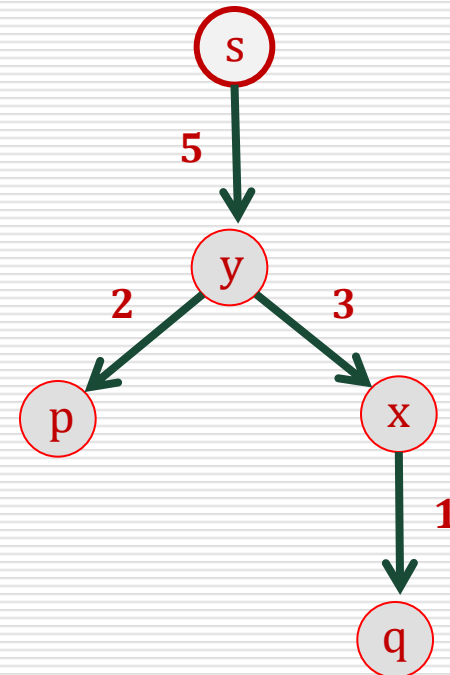




# Dijkstra: 2<sup>nd</sup> example

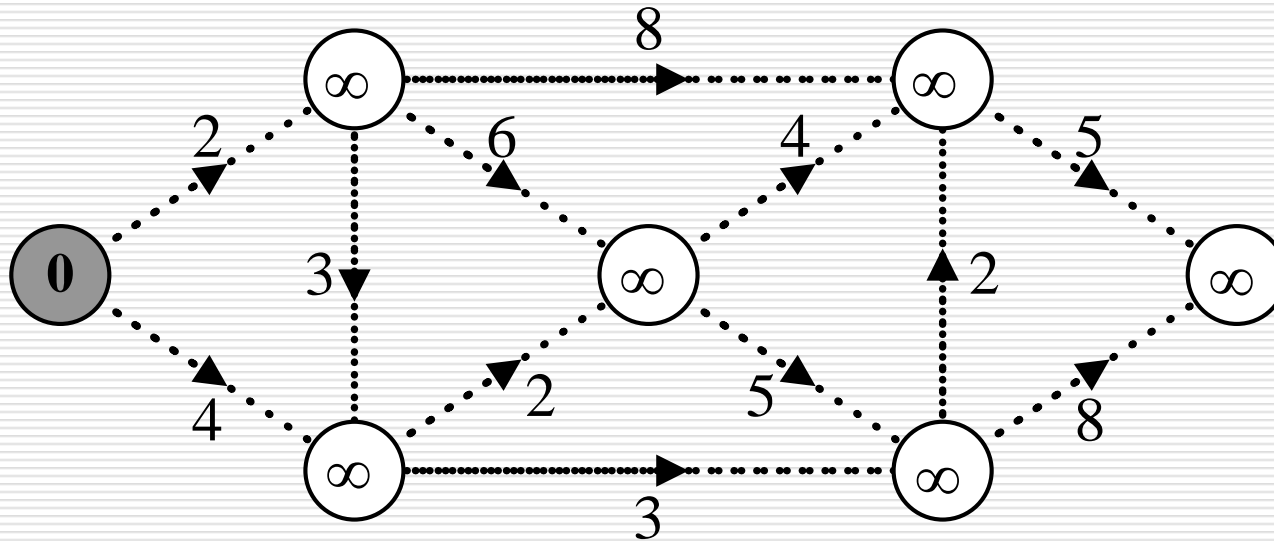


Shortest Path Tree  
Construction



# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

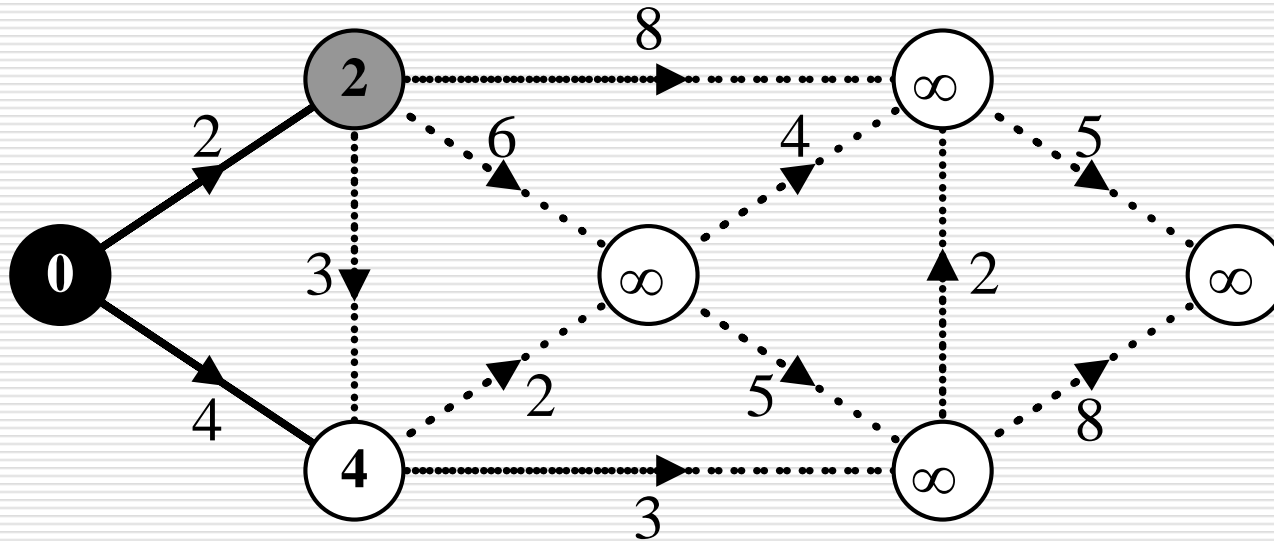
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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D).

# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

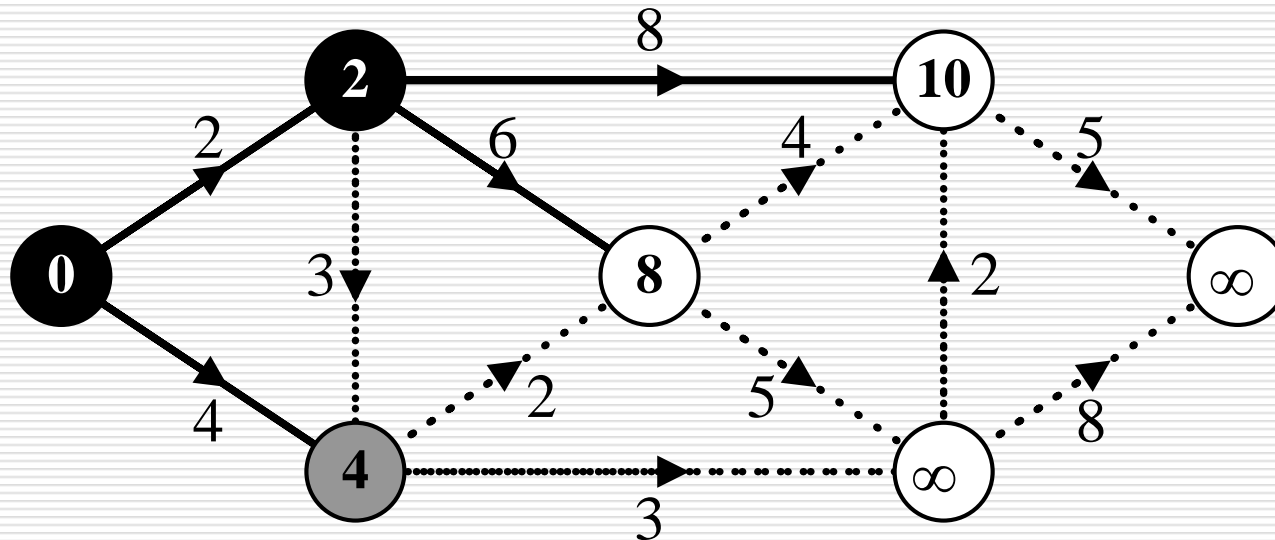
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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).

# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

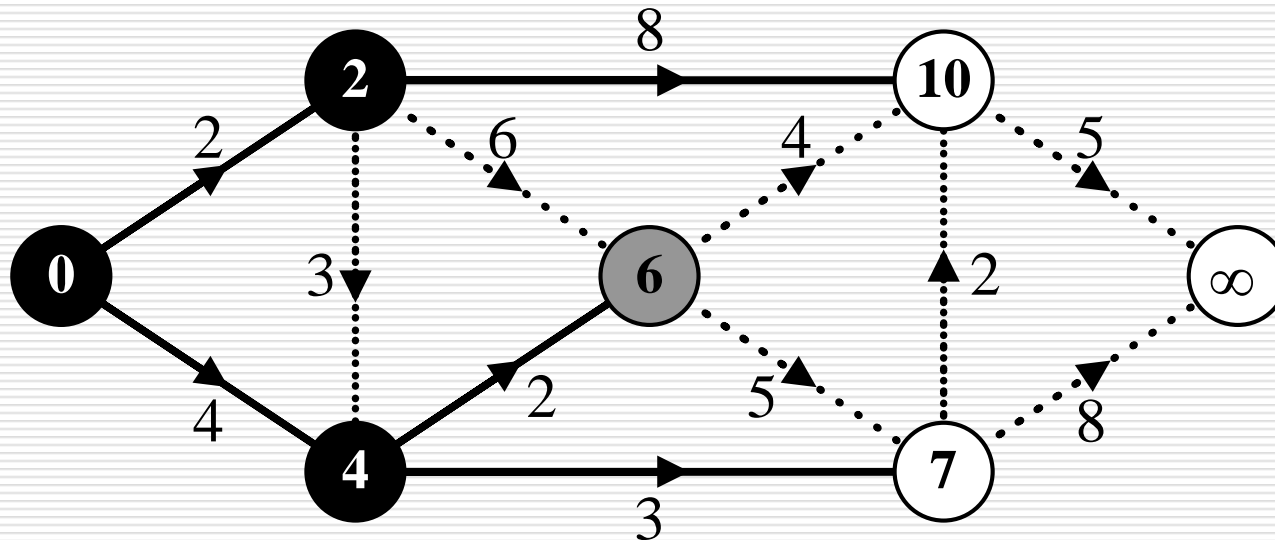
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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).

# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

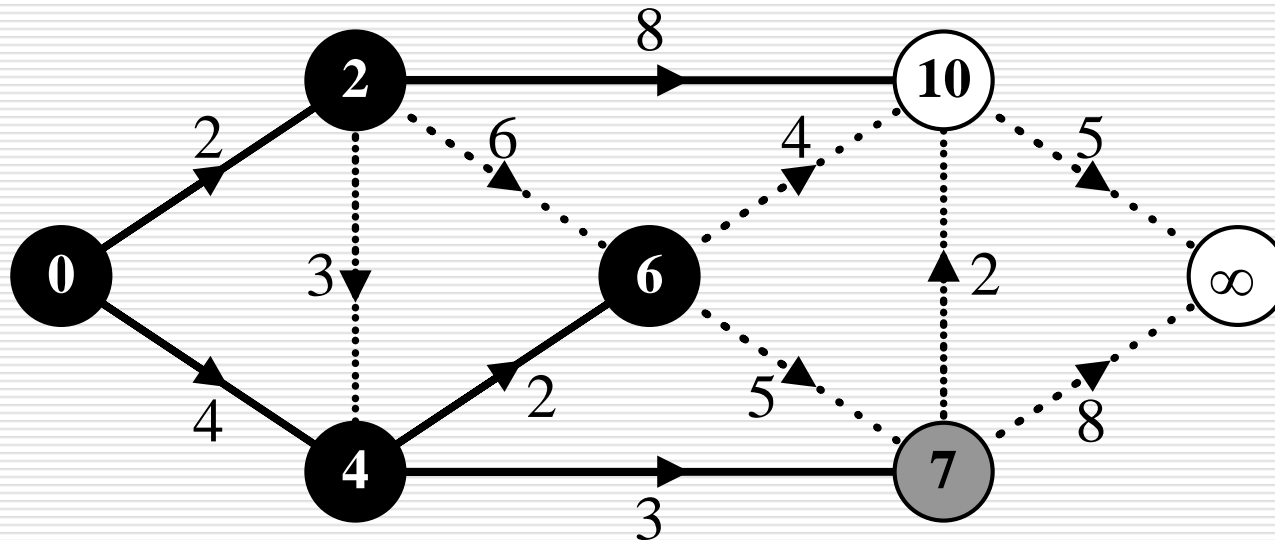
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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).

# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

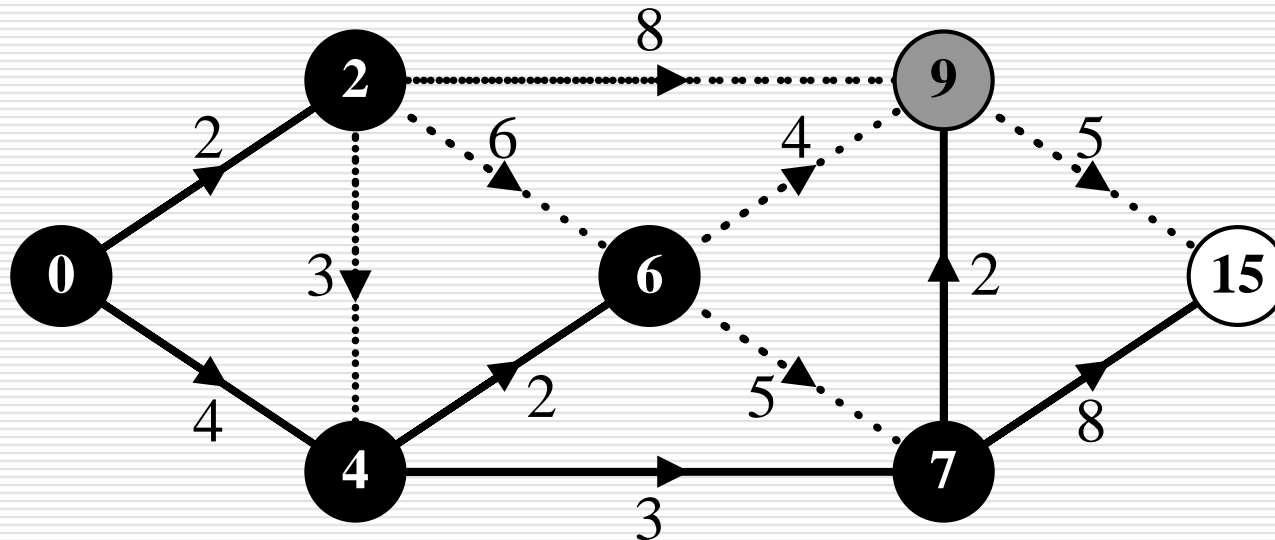
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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).

# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

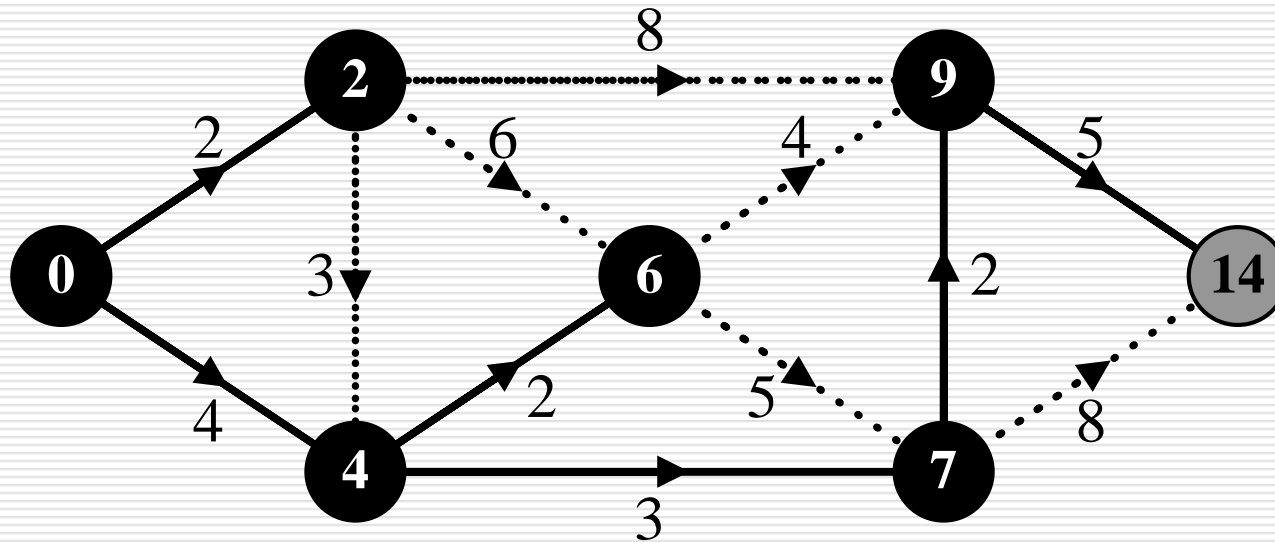
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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).

# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

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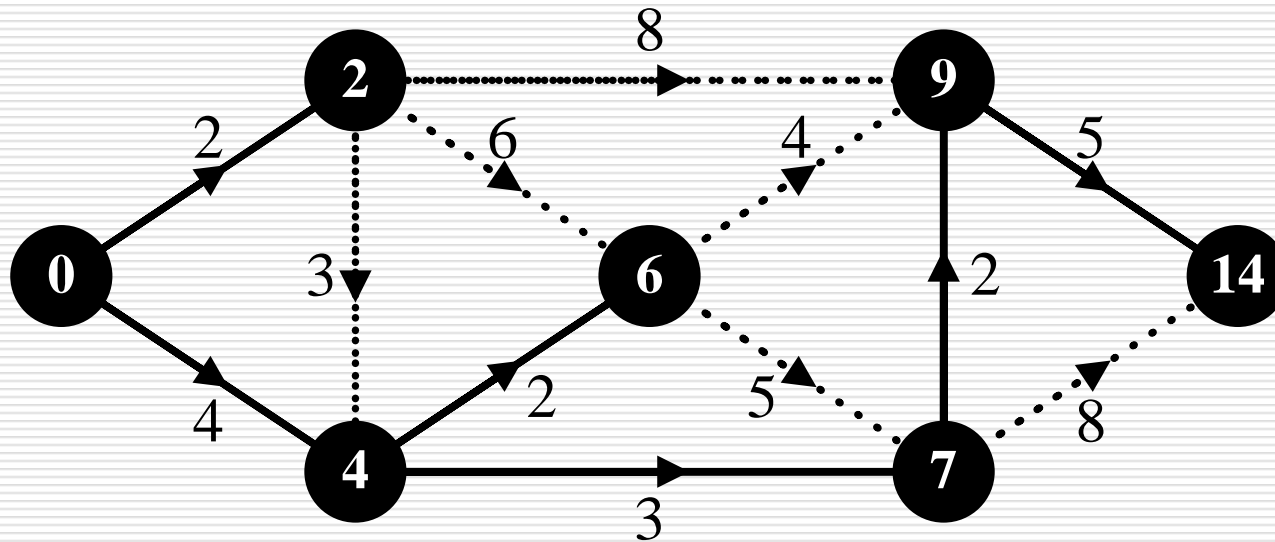


The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).



# Dijkstra: 3<sup>rd</sup> example

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The node labels show the minimum distance from the original node so far (table D), the continuous edges indicate which is the corresponding previous node (table P).

# Dijkstra Complexity

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- Similarities with BFS algorithm?
  - Slower than BFS (priority queue vs simple queue)
  - It requires  $n = |V|$  insert operations in the queue, and  $m = |E|$  update operations:
    - $|V|$  insert / extract-min
    - $|E|$  update
  - Implementing a queue with a matrix  $\Rightarrow O(|V|^2)$
  - Implementing a queue with a binary heap  $\Rightarrow O(|E| \log |V|)$
  - Implementing a queue with Fibonacci heap  $\Rightarrow O(|E| + |V| \log |V|)$
-

# Dijkstra - Correctness

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- The algorithm gradually builds a **shortest paths tree**. The tree is initialized with the initial node  $s$ .
- At each iteration, the node  $w$  with the **minimum temporary label** (current distance) **from node  $s$**  is selected.
- The proof is based on two invariant loop conditions.

# Dijkstra - Correctness

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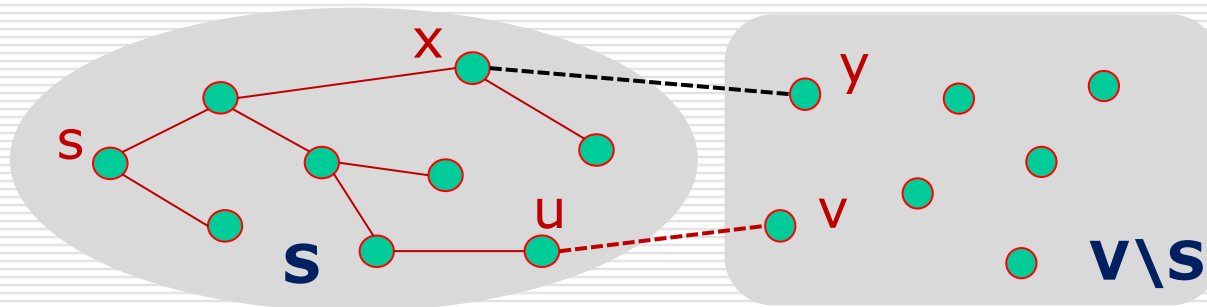
- **1st loop invariant:** after each iteration of the outer loop, the label  $D(u)$  of each node  $u$  of  $S$  is equal to the cost of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$ , and the label  $D(v)$  of each node  $v$  of  $V \setminus S$  is equal to the cost of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ , among all paths that pass only through nodes of the set  $S$ .
  - **2nd loop invariant:** after each iteration of the outer loop, for node  $w$  in  $V \setminus S$  with *minimum* (between nodes of  $V \setminus S$ ) label  $D(w)$ , this is equal to the cost of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $w$ .
  - Proof: by induction.
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# Dijkstra - Correctness

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**Lemma:** 1<sup>st</sup> invariant  $\Rightarrow$  2<sup>nd</sup> invariant

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph with non-negative weights,  $s \in V$ , and  $(S, V \setminus S)$  a partition of  $V$  s.t.  $s \in S$  and  $\forall u \in S$  the label of  $u$  equals the minimum distance  $D(s, u)$ .



Let  $v \in V \setminus S$  the node with the minimum label in  $V \setminus S$ . Then there exists an edge  $(u, v)$  that **minimizes** the quantity

$$D(s, u) + c(u, v)$$

between all edges  $(x, y)$  with  $x \in S$  and  $y \in V \setminus S$ . W.T.S.

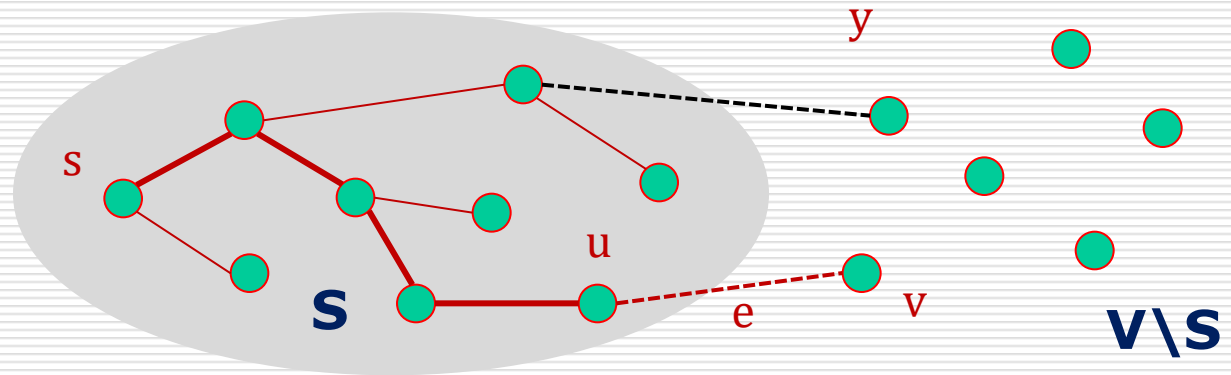
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**P = (s, ..., u, v)** is s.p. from  $s$  to  $v$ .

# Dijkstra - Correctness

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## Proof



Let  $e = (u, v)$  and let  $(s, \dots, u)$  be the shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$ .

For the path  $P = (s, \dots, u, v)$  from  $s$  to  $v$  we have :

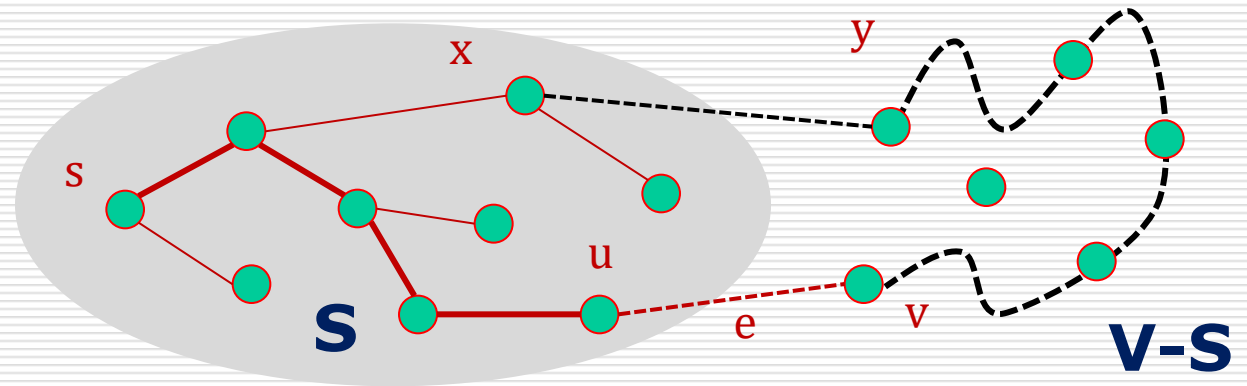
$$c(P) = D(s,u) + c(u,v) \quad (1)$$

---

# Dijkstra - Correctness

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## Proof



Let  $Q = (s, \dots, x, y, \dots, v)$  a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ ,  
and

let  $y$  the first node of path  $Q : y \in V \setminus S$

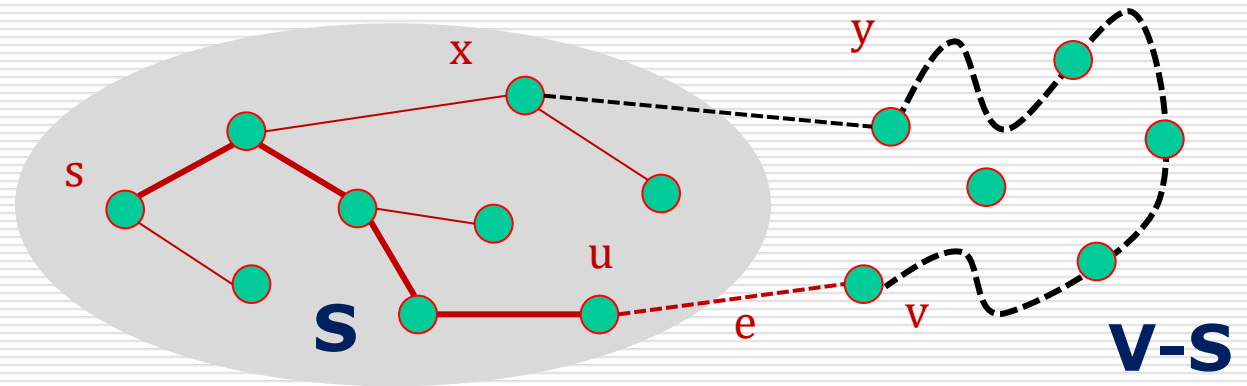
We will demonstrate that  $c(P) \leq c(Q)$

---

# Dijkstra - Correctness

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## Proof



From (1) and by choosing the edge  $e = (u, v)$ , we obtain:

$$c(\mathbf{P}) = D(s, u) + c(u, v) \leq D(s, x) + c(x, y) \leq c(\mathbf{Q})$$

*Exercise: complete the proof.*

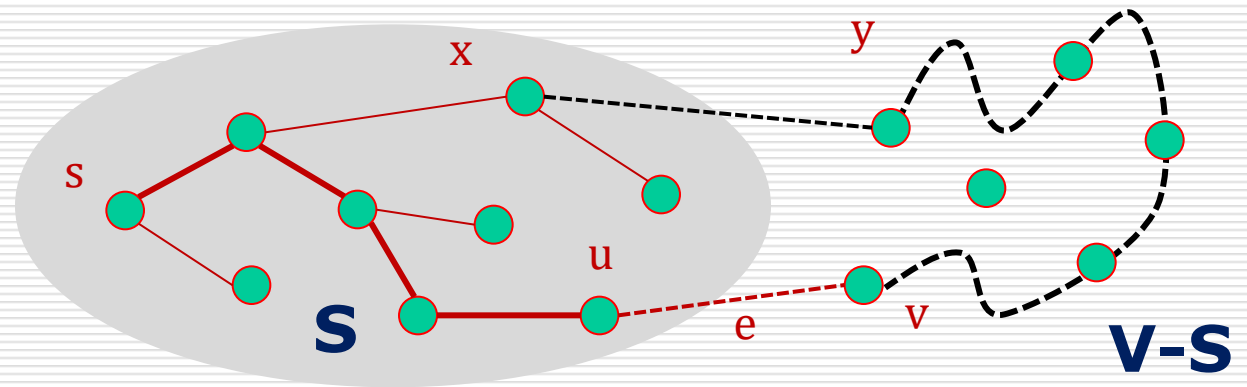
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# Dijkstra - Correctness

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## Proof



From (1) and by choosing the edge  $e = (u, v)$ , we obtain:

$$c(\mathbf{P}) = D(s, u) + c(u, v) \leq D(s, x) + c(x, y) \leq c(\mathbf{Q})$$

*Exercise: complete the proof.*

*What about negative weights?*

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# Dijkstra - Correctness

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- Correctness applies **only** to graphs **without negative weights**
- *Counterexample?*

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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$\text{dist}(s) := 0$  ;  $p(s) := \text{NIL}$

**for each**  $v \neq s$  **do**  $\text{dist}(v) := \infty$ ;  $p(v) := \text{NIL}$

**repeat**  $n-1$  times

**for each** edge  $e = (u,v)$  **do**

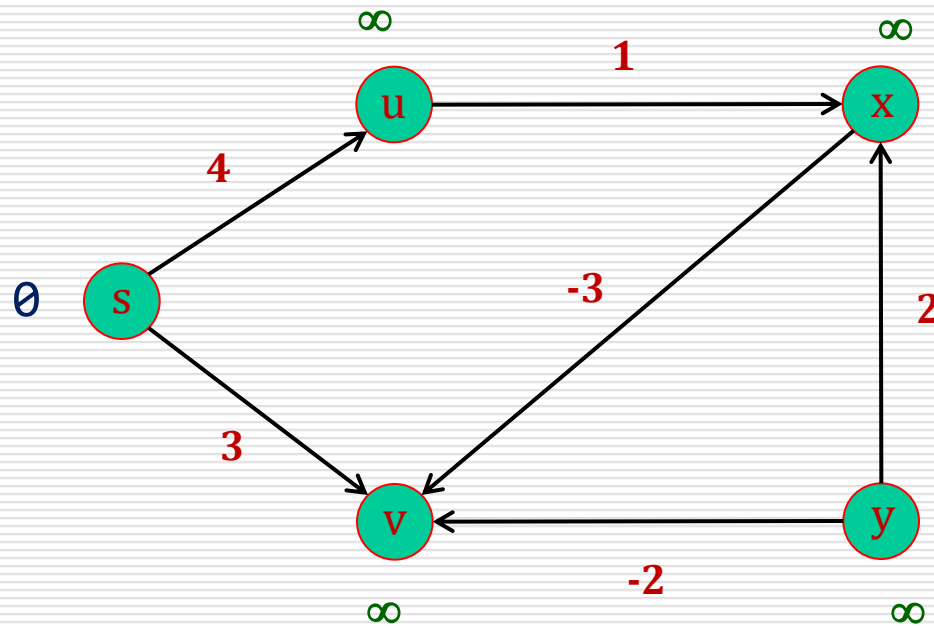
**if**  $\text{dist}(u) + \text{cost}(u,v) < \text{dist}(v)$  **then**

$\text{dist}(v) := \text{dist}(u) + \text{cost}(u,v)$

$p(v) := u$

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## Examples



$$n = 5$$

$$m = 6$$

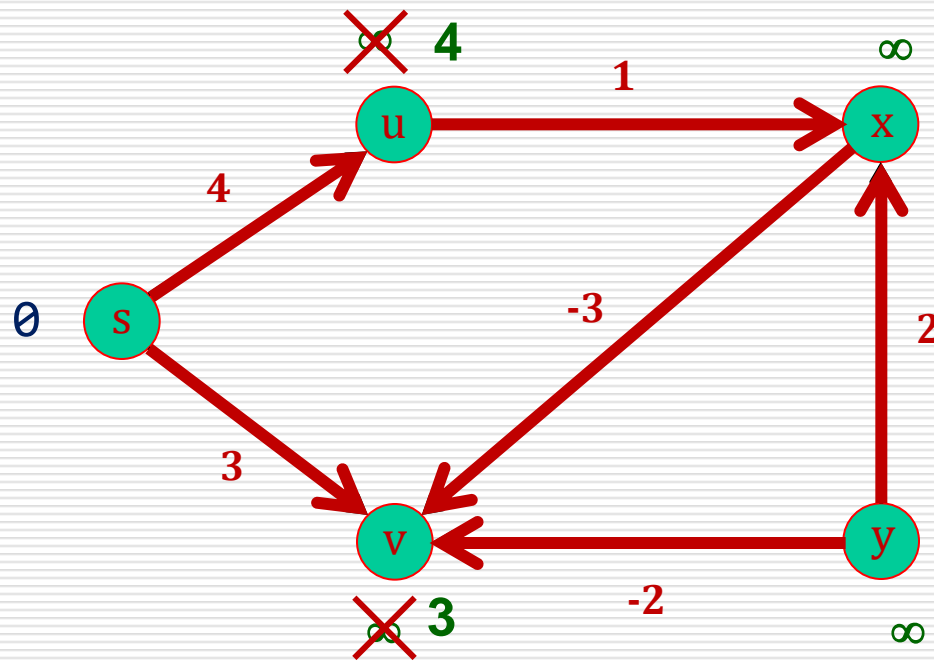
Update  
6 edges  
4 times

$$V = \{s, u, v, x, y\}$$

$$E = \{(y, x), (u, x), (y, v), (s, u), (x, v), (s, v)\}$$

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## Example 1



$n = 5$

$m = 6$

Update  
6 edges  
4 times

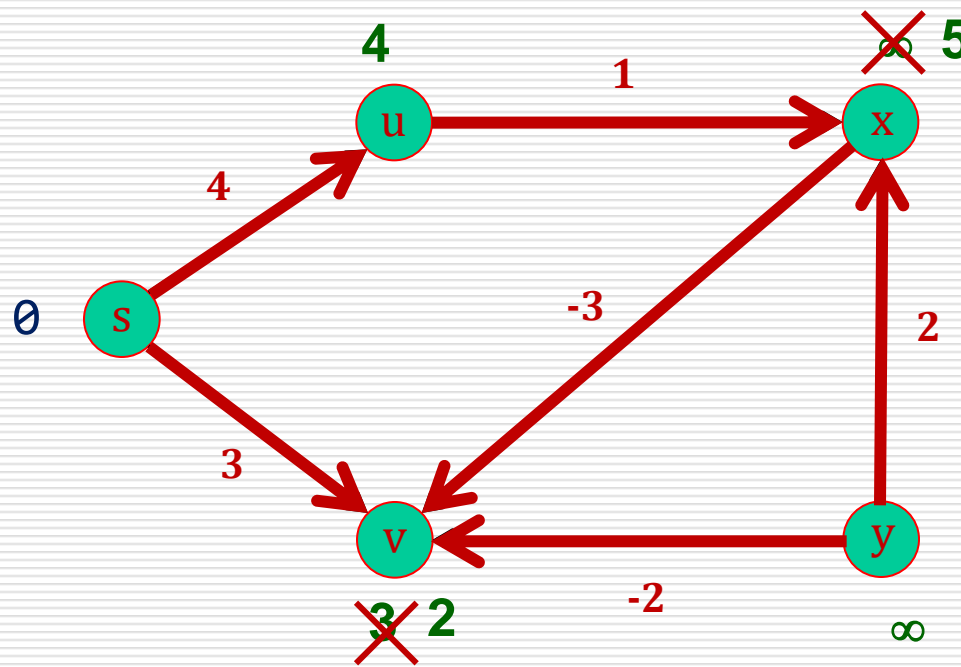
**1<sup>st</sup>** Iteration

S1:  $(y,x)$ ,  $(u,x)$ ,  $(y,v)$ ,  $(s,u)$ ,  $(x,v)$ ,  $(s,v)$



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## Example 1



$n = 5$

$m = 6$

Update  
6 edges  
4 times

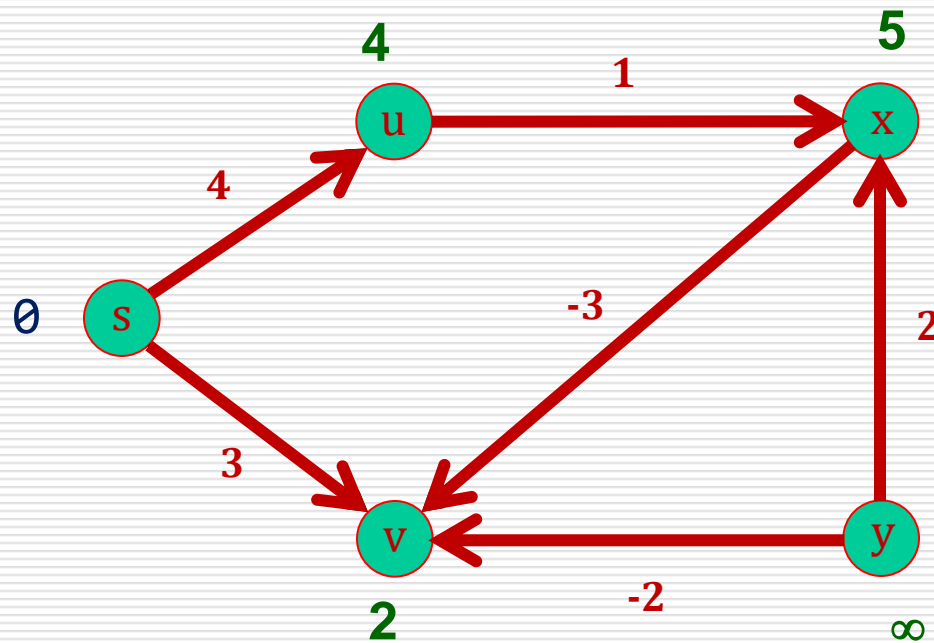
2<sup>nd</sup> Iteration

S1: (y,x), (u,x), (y,v), (s,u), (x,v), (s,v)



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## Example 1



$n = 5$

$m = 6$

Update  
6 edges  
4 times

3<sup>rd</sup> Iteration

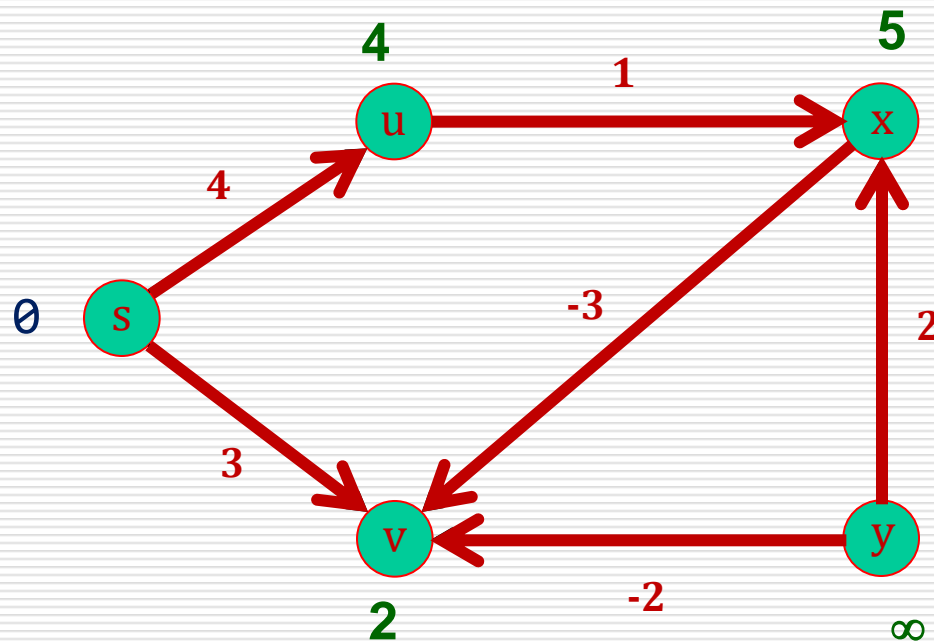
No change  
why?

S1: (y,x), (u,x), (y,v), (s,u), (x,v), (s,v)



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## Example 1



$n = 5$

$m = 6$

Update  
6 edges  
4 times

4<sup>th</sup> Iteration

No change

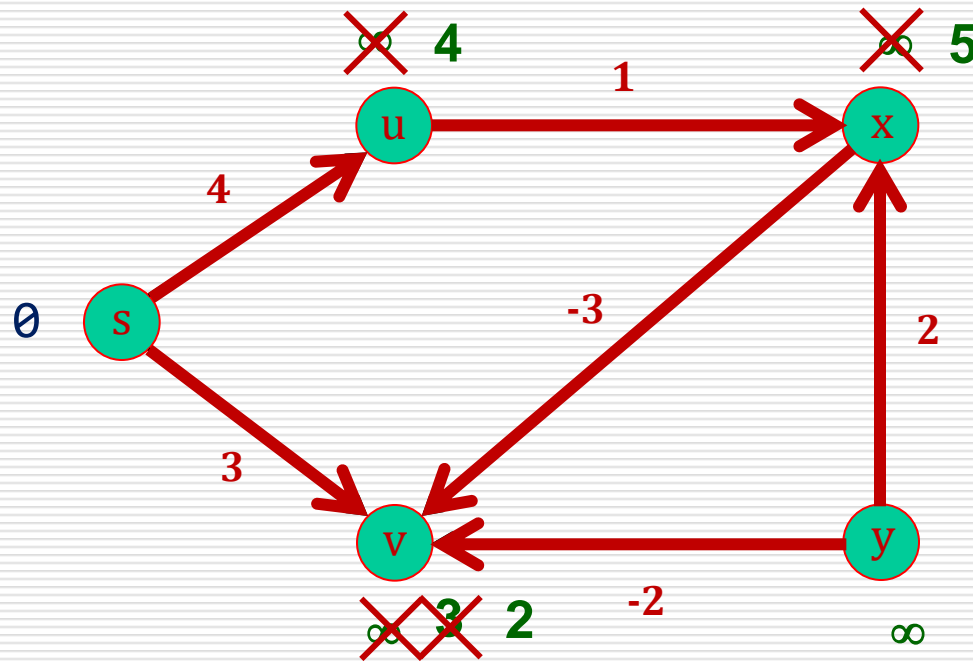
S1: (y,x), (u,x), (y,v), (s,u), (x,v), (s,v)





# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Example 2 (different ordering of edges!)



$n = 5$   
 $m = 6$

Update  
6 edges  
4 times

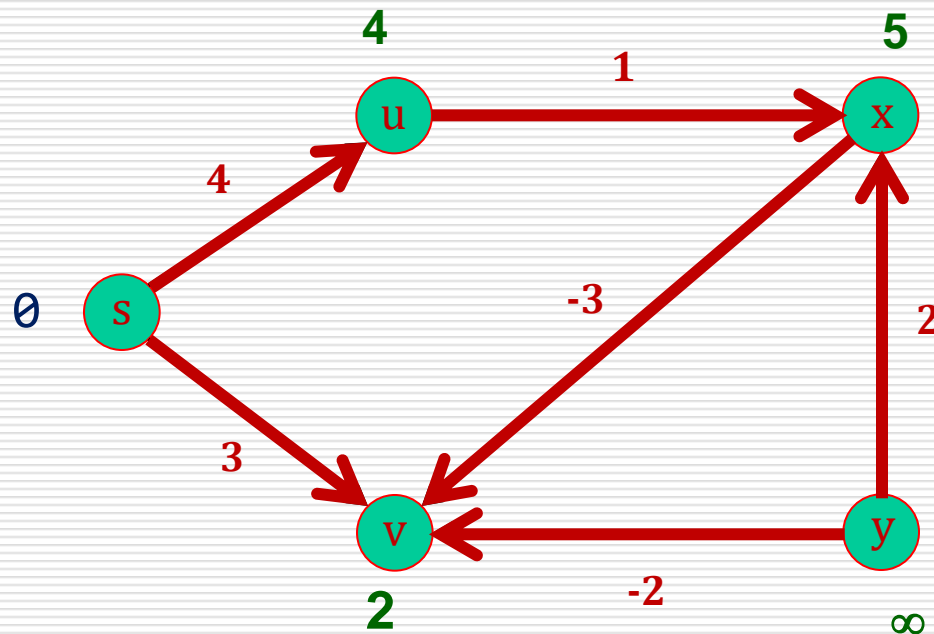
1<sup>st</sup> Iteration

S2:  $(s,u)$ ,  $(u,x)$ ,  $(y,x)$ ,  $(s,v)$ ,  $(x,v)$ ,  $(y,v)$

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Example 2 (different ordering of edges!)



$n = 5$   
 $m = 6$

Update  
6 edges  
4 times

2<sup>nd</sup> Iteration

No change  
why?

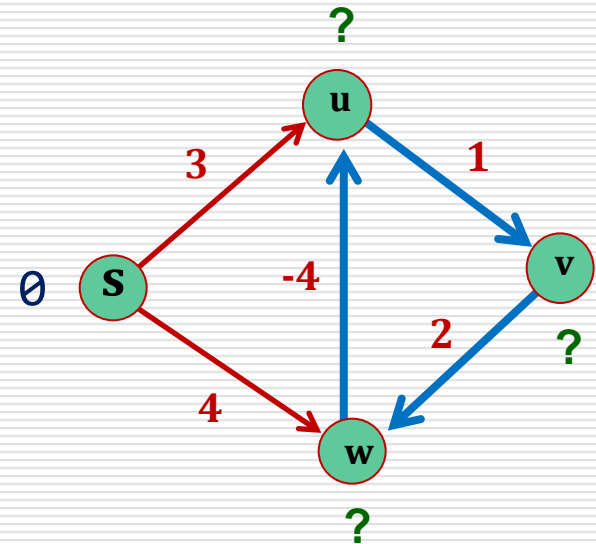
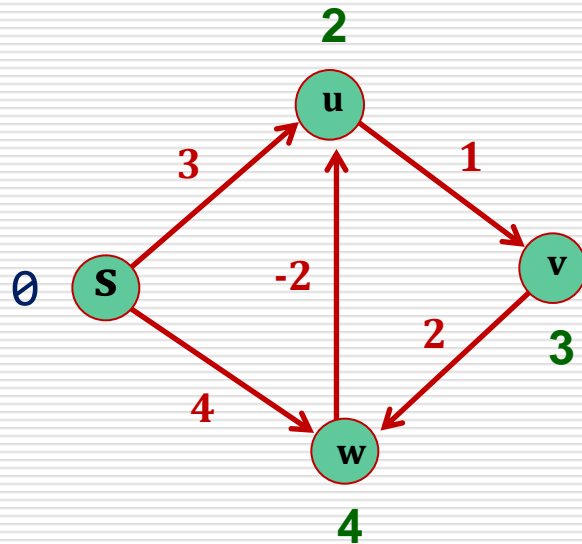
S2: (s,u), (u,x), (y,x), (s,v), (x,v), (y,v)



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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## ● Negative Cycles



If there is a negative cycle, it makes no sense to search for shortest paths!!!

---

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

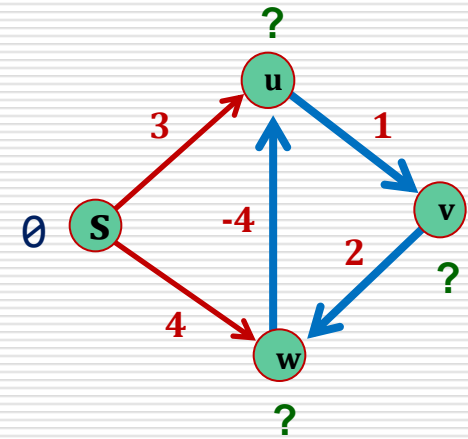
## Negative cycle detection

Bellman-Ford-detection( $G, w, s$ )

1. initialize( $G, s$ )
2. repeat  $n-1$  times:  
for all edges  $(u, v) \in E$ :  
Update( $u, v, c$ )

3. for all edges  $(u, v) \in E$ :  
if  $d(v) > d(u) + c(u, v)$  then  
return FALSE

4. return  $d(\cdot)$



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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- **Correctness:** by the end of  $k$ -th iteration, the shortest paths consisting of at most  $k$  edges have been correctly computed (**exercise: prove it**).
- **Complexity:  $O(|V||E|)$**

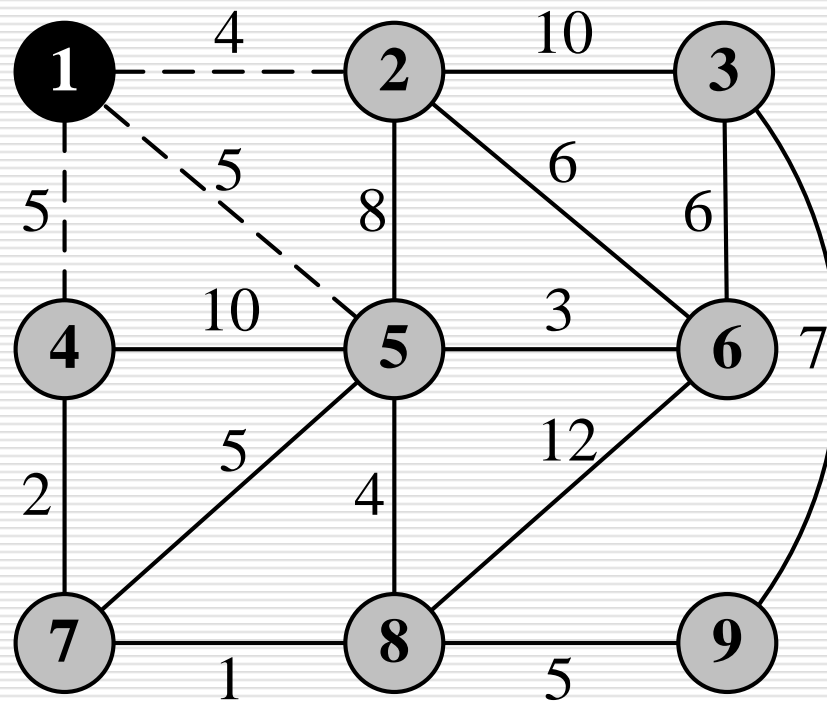
# Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)

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- **Criterion - Prim:** At each step, we select the edge with the minimum cost such that the new subgraph remains a tree (starting from any node)
- **Criterion - Kruskal:** At each step, we select the edge with the minimum cost such that the new subgraph remains cycle-free.

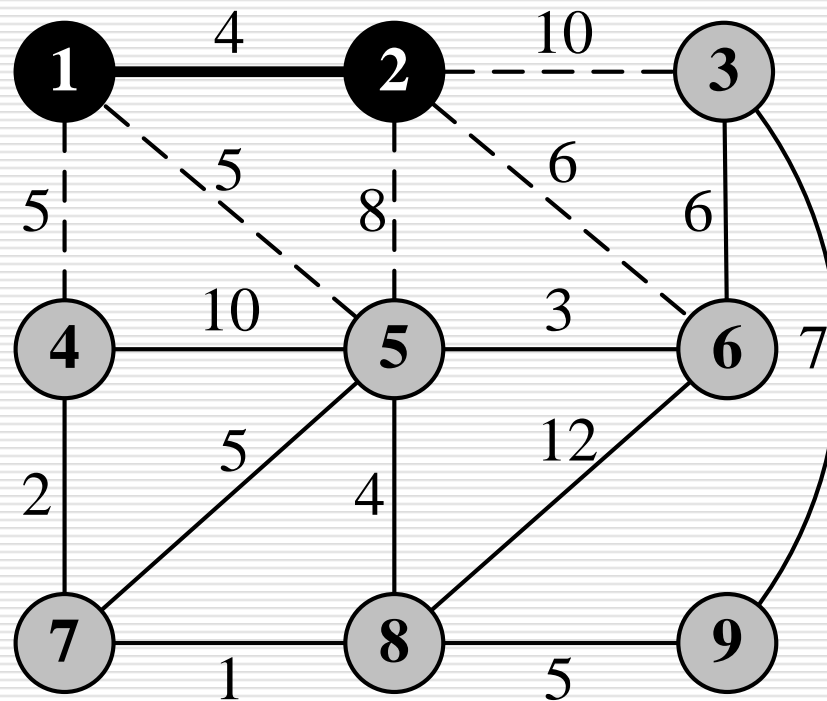
# Prim Algorithm: example

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# Prim Algorithm: example

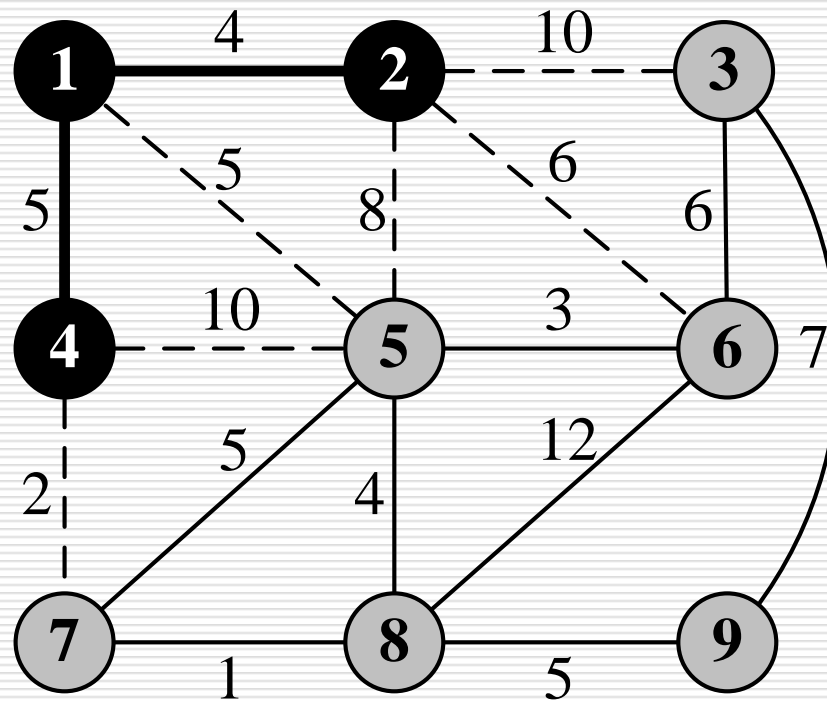
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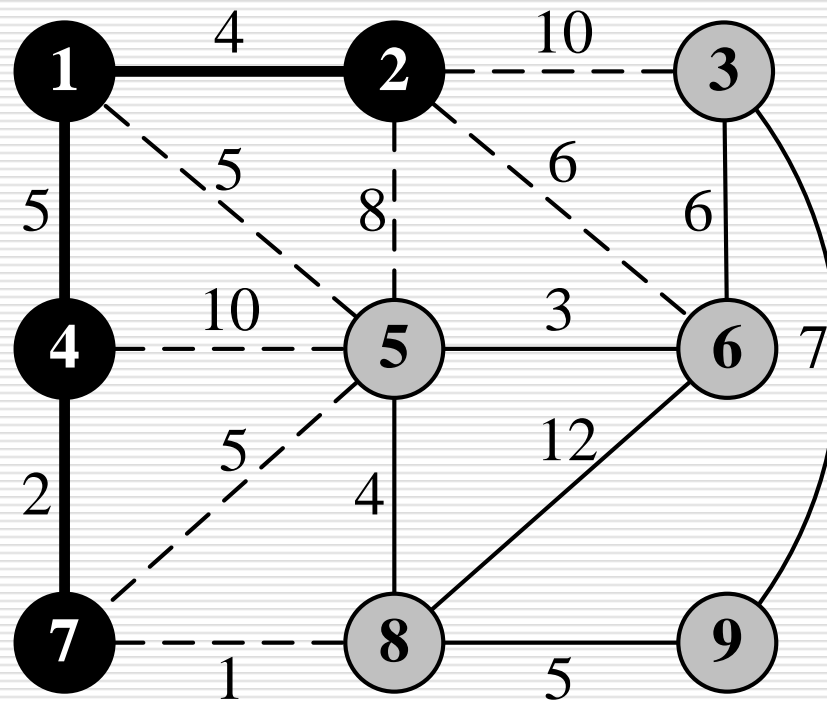
# Prim Algorithm: example

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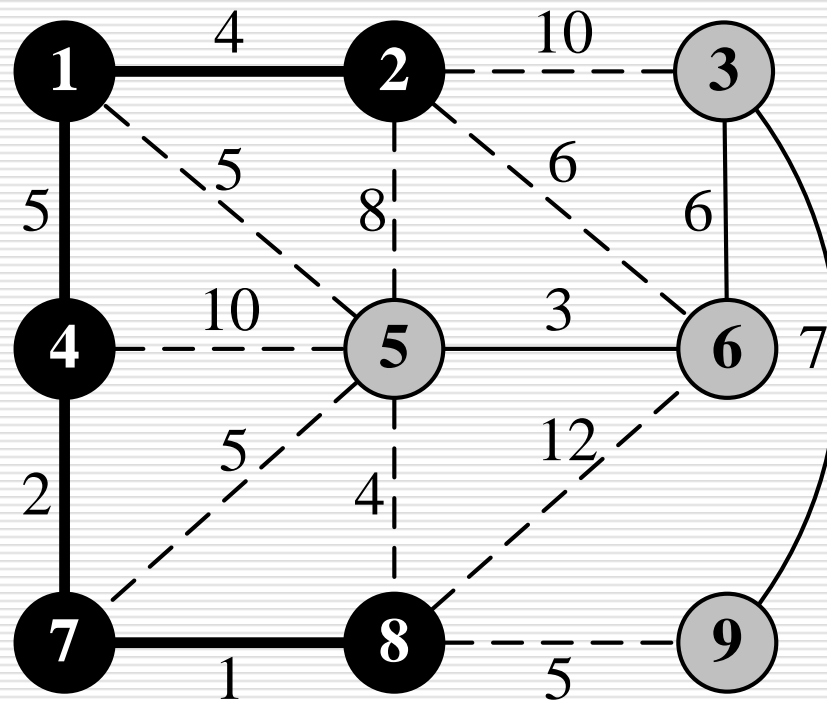
# Prim Algorithm: example

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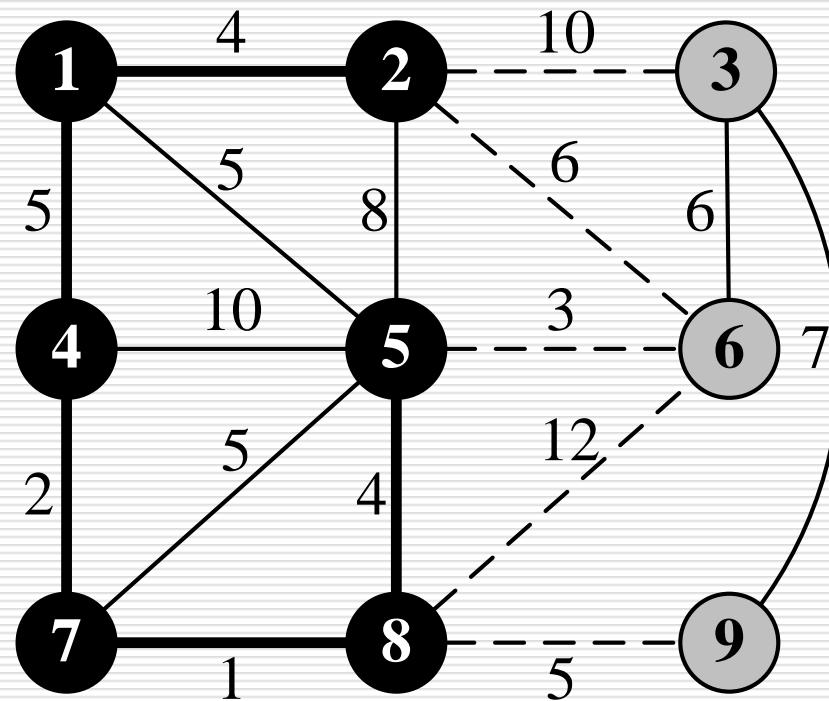
# Prim Algorithm: example

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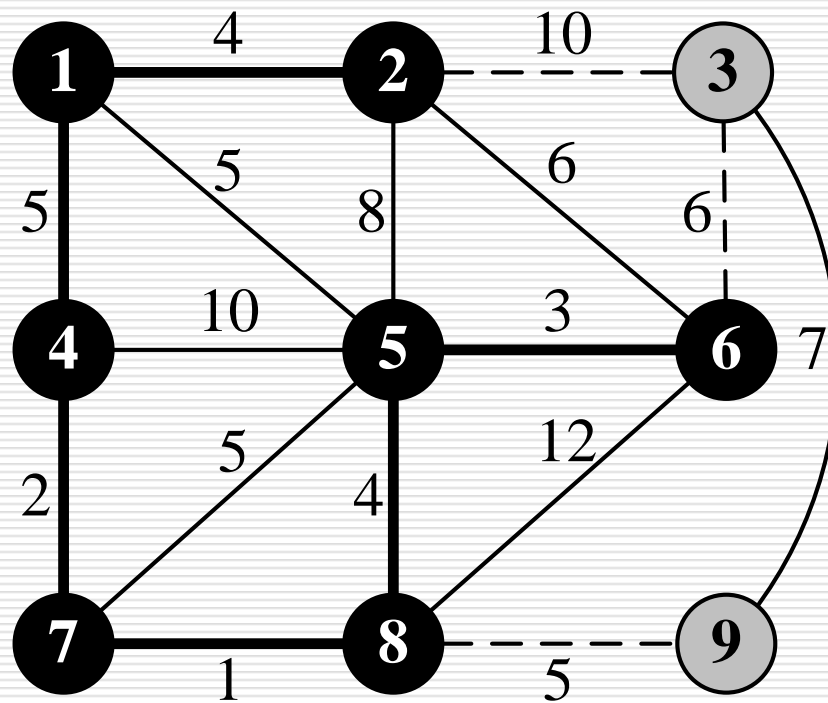
# Prim Algorithm: example

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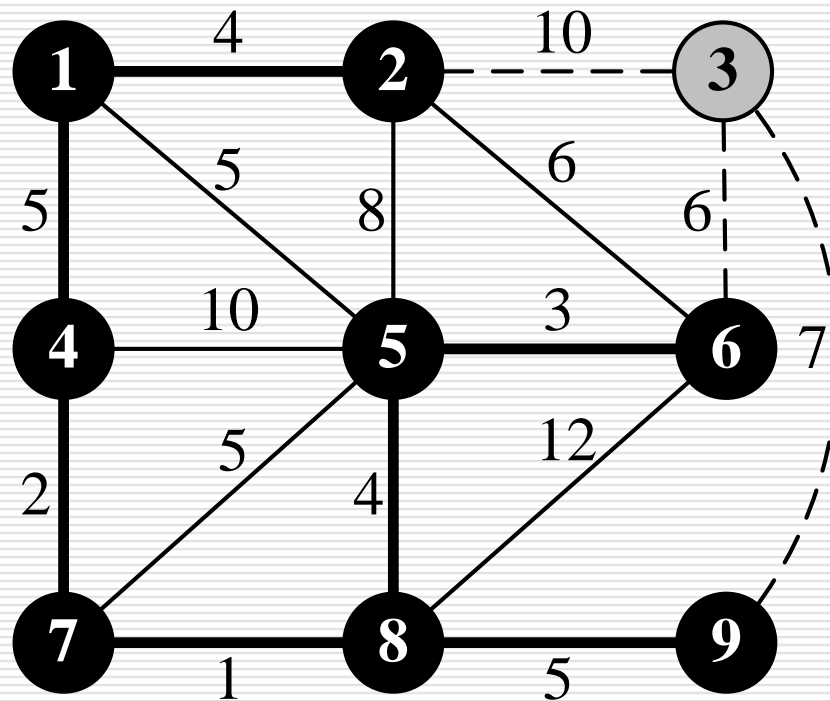
# Prim Algorithm: example

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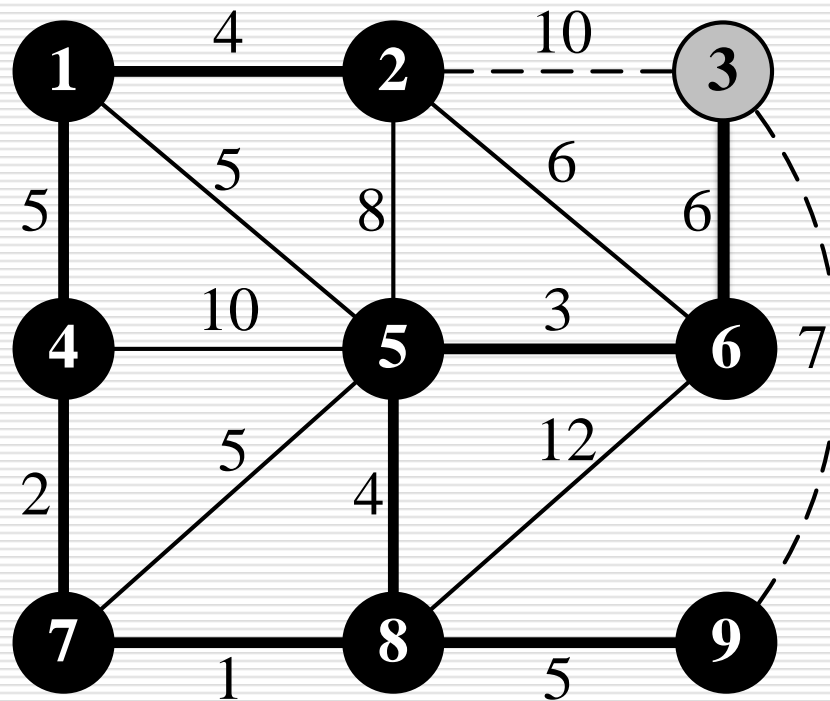
# Prim Algorithm: example

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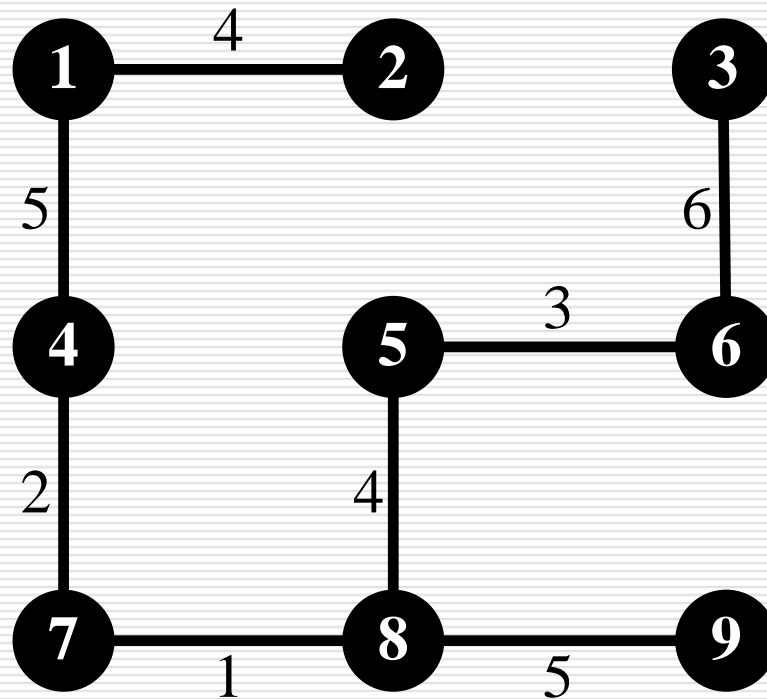
# Prim Algorithm: example

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# Prim Algorithm: example

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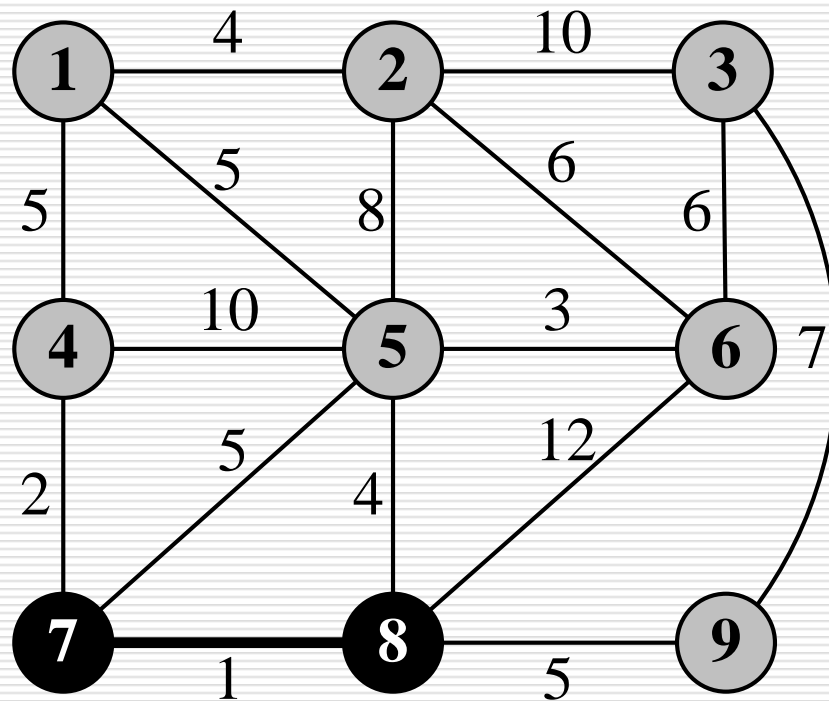
# Prim Algorithm

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- An initial node, say  $s$ , is selected. Initialization:  
`dist(s) := 0; for each  $v \neq s$  do dist(v) :=  $\infty$`
- Iteratively, the node  $w$  with the **minimum distance from the tree constructed so far** is selected and added to the tree. The distances of  $w$ 's neighbors from the tree are updated based on the cost of the edges  $(w, u_i)$ :  
  
`if cost(w,  $u_i$ ) < d( $u_i$ ) then  
d( $u_i$ ) := cost(w,  $u_i$ )`
- A lot of similarities with Dijkstra (differences?)
- Complexity:  $O(|V|^2)$ ,  $O(|E|\log|V|)$ ,  $O(|E|+|V|\log|V|)$

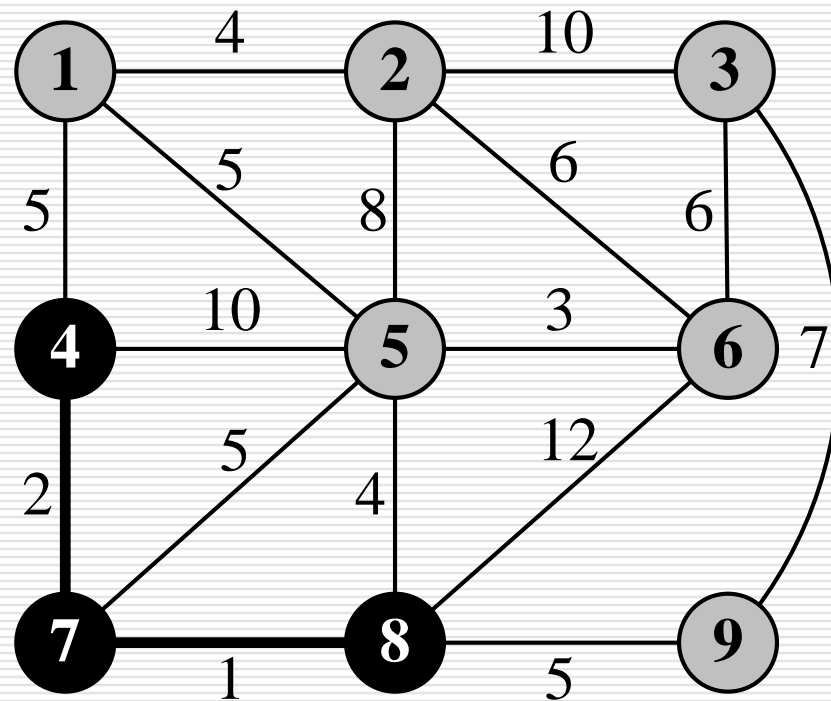
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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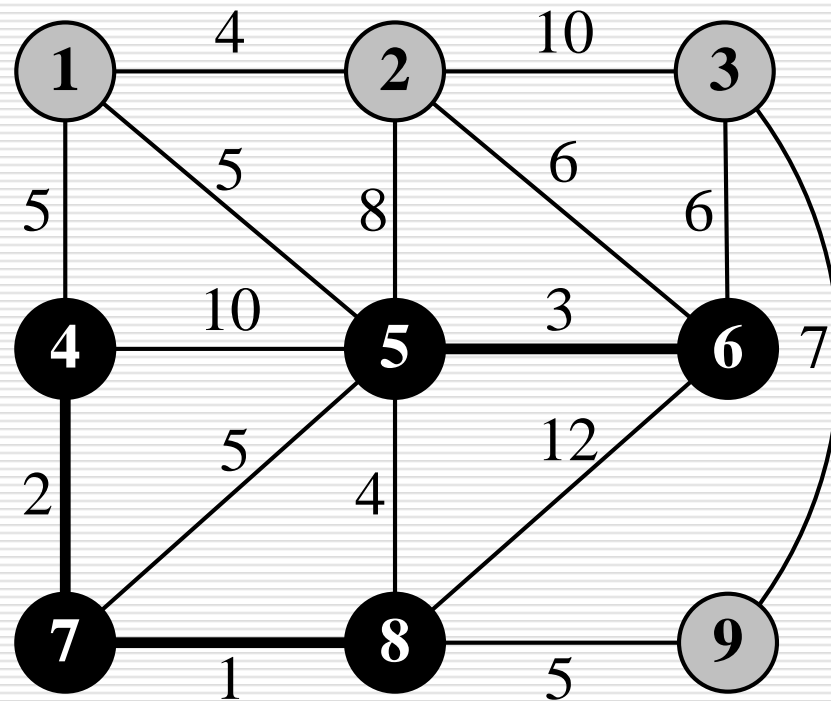
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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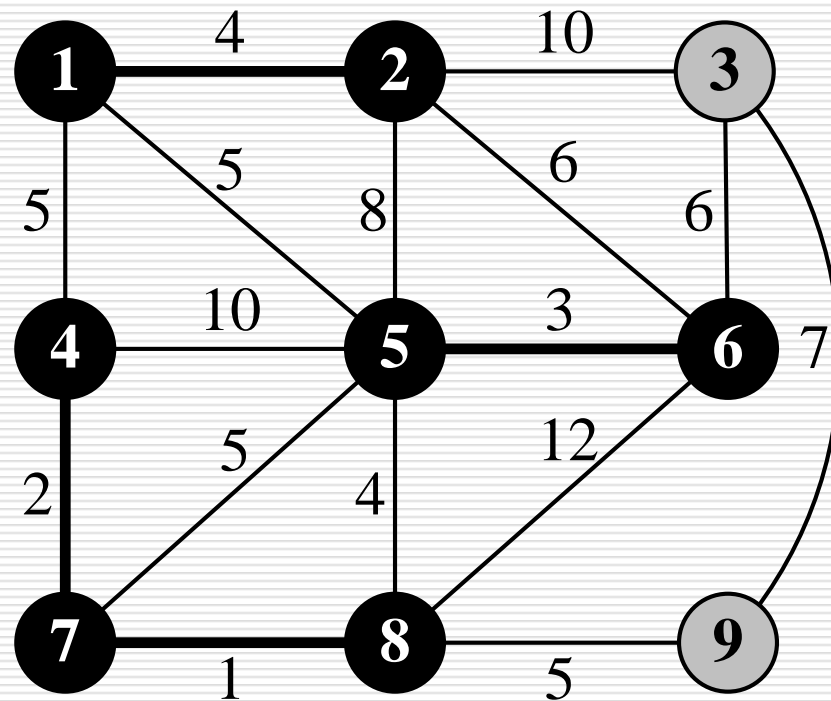
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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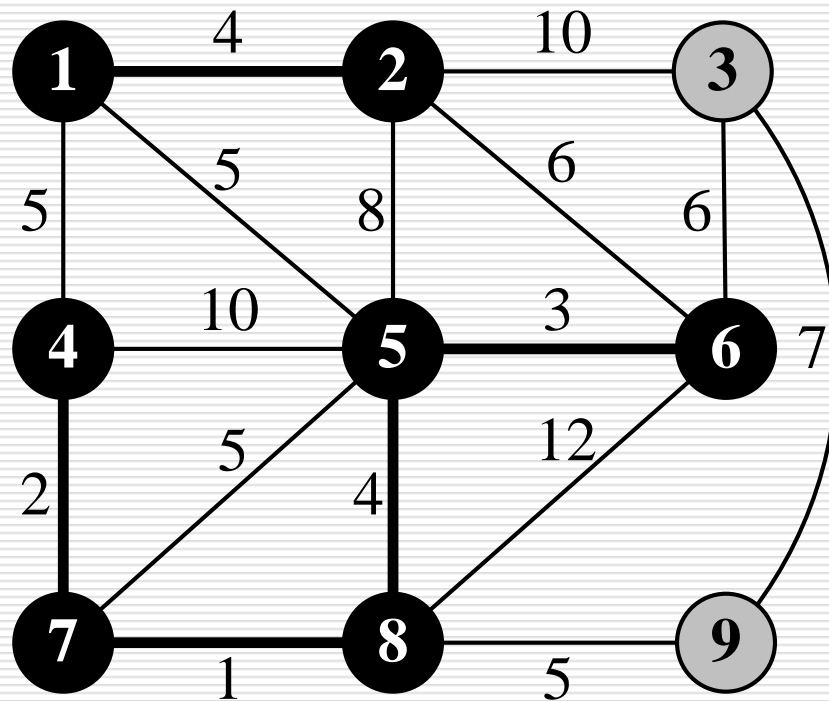
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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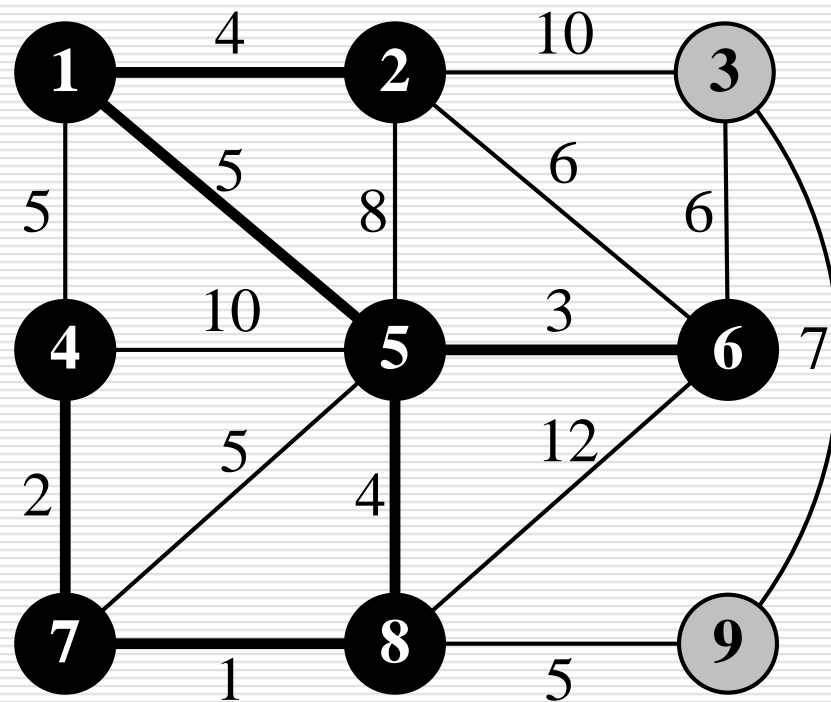
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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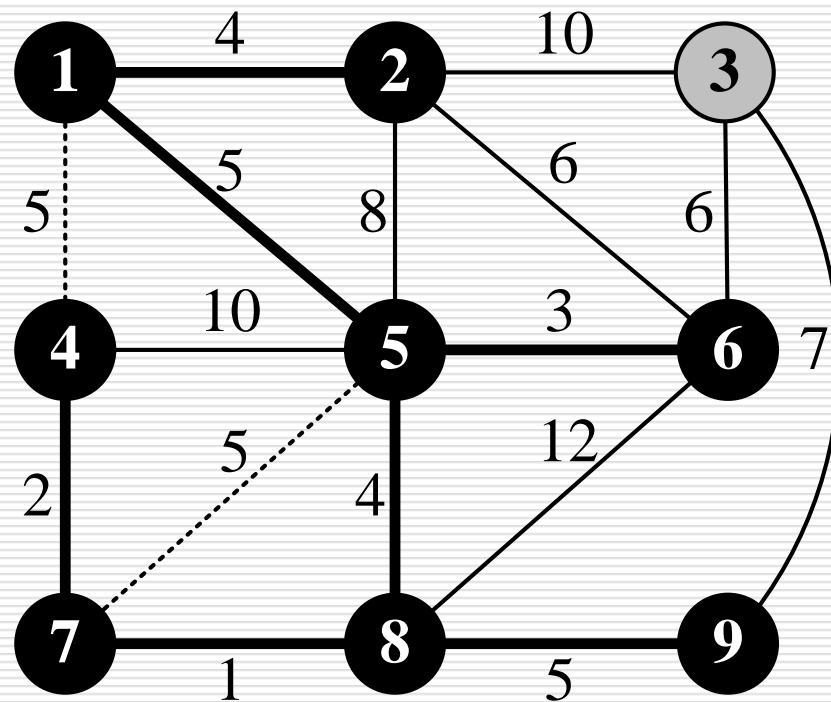
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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# Kruskal Algorithm: example

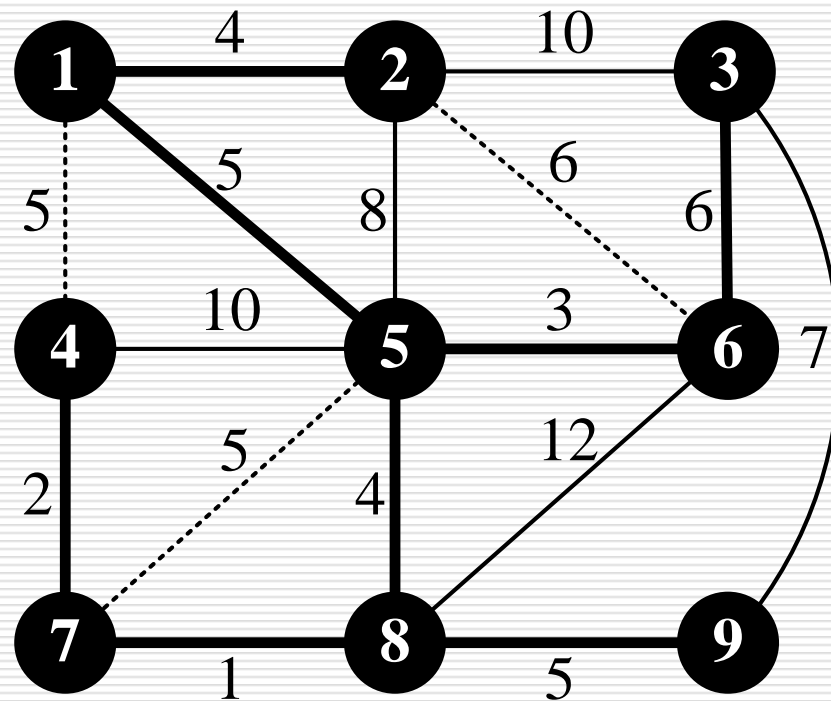
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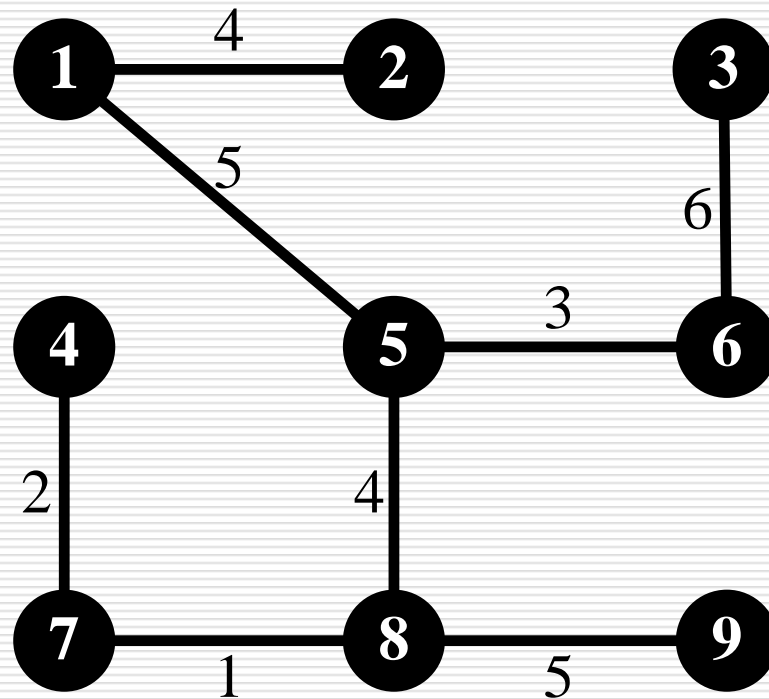
# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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# Kruskal Algorithm: example

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# Kruskal Algorithm

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- The edges are sorted in ascending order of cost. At each step, the edge with the minimum cost is selected. If it does not form a cycle in the forest constructed so far, it is added to the forest; otherwise, it is discarded.
- For efficient implementation, the existence of a cycle is checked using set operations (UNION-FIND), which requires only the use of Union by Size/Rank.
- Complexity:  $O(|E|\log|V|)$

# Common idea: Prim-Kruskal

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- ❑ Let initial graph  $G=(V, E)$
- ❑ starting with the graph  $G'=(V, \emptyset)$  which contains all the vertices of  $G$  but no edges,
- ❑ iteratively connecting **any** complementary subsets of vertices  $S$  and  $V \setminus S$  that currently have no edge between them, using the **lightest possible edge** from  $E$ .
- ❑ We eventually obtain a minimum spanning tree

# Why the idea works?

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**Theorem.** A set of edges  $A$ , which is *promising* (i.e., a subset of a Minimum Spanning Tree), remains promising if we add the lightest edge  $e=(u,v)$  that connects a connected component  $V_i$  of the current subgraph (defined by the vertices  $V$  and the edges in  $A$ ) to the rest of the graph  $V \setminus V_i$ .

*Proof.* We consider an MST  $T$  that is a superset of  $A$  (*always exists?*). Suppose that  $e$  does not belong to  $T$ . Then the path  $p$  in  $T$  connecting  $u$  and  $v$  contains an edge  $e'$  that crosses the cut  $(V_i, V \setminus V_i)$ . It holds that

$\text{cost}(e) \leq \text{cost}(e')$ , therefore:

replacing( $e$ ,  $e'$ )  $\Rightarrow \exists$  MST  $T'$  that contains  $e$

# Bonus: Boruvka Algorithm

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- It operates in rounds. Initially, each vertex is its own component.
- In each round, *every* connected component is joined to one of the other components using the **lightest possible edge**. A method for resolving ties is required.

**Complexity:**  $O(|E| \log|V|)$  (in each round, the number of components is halved).

It is well-suited for **parallel** or **distributed** implementation.

# Key Techniques

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- **Greedy algorithms**: Gradually "build" the solution from smaller to larger subproblems. At each stage, an **irrevocable** choice is made, providing the optimal solution for the corresponding subproblem.  
**Dijkstra, Prim, Kruskal, Boruvka**
- **Dynamic programming**: Gradually "build" the solution by combining optimal solutions of smaller subproblems to derive the optimal solution for larger problems (**principle of optimal substructure**).  
**Bellman-Ford**
- Comparison with "**Divide and Conquer**": In Divide and Conquer, subproblems are *independent*, while in Dynamic Programming and Greedy Algorithms, subproblems *overlap* and share solutions.