

# Distributed Computation on Graphs: Shortest Path Algorithms

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We use the paradigm of diffusing computation, introduced by Dijkstra and Scholten, to solve a class of graph problems. We present a detailed solution to the problem of computing shortest paths from a single vertex to all other vertices, in the presence of negative cycles.

**CR Categories and Subject Descriptors:** C.2.4 [Computer-Communication Networks]: Distributed Systems; D.1.3 [Programming Techniques]: Concurrent Programming; F.2.2 [Analysis of Algorithms and Problem Complexity]: Nonnumerical Algorithms and Problems; G.2.2 [Discrete Mathematics]: Graph Theory

**General Terms:** Algorithm, Theory

**Additional Key Words and Phrases:** distributed computation, shortest path, negative cycle, depth first search, diffusing computation

## 1. Introduction

This paper presents distributed algorithms based on the work of Dijkstra and Scholten [1], for solving graph problems using networks of communicating processes. The solution to one particular graph problem, that of finding shortest paths from a single vertex to all other vertices in a weighted, directed graph, in the presence of negative cycles, is discussed in detail. We then show how this solution may be applied to other graph problems including depth-first search in an undirected graph.

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\* Former editor of Programming Techniques and Data Structures, of which Ellis Horowitz is the current editor.

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Our model of computation is a network of processes in which processes communicate only by sending and receiving messages; the model is presented in detail in Sec. 2. We describe the classical shortest path problem [2] and the necessary terminology from graph theory in Sec. 3. The distributed algorithm is given in Sec. 4 and its proof in Sec. 5. Applications to other graph problems are discussed in Sec. 6.

## 2. Model of a Network of Communicating Processes

A process is a sequential program which can communicate with other processes by sending/receiving messages. Two processes  $P$  and  $Q$  are said to be neighbors if they can communicate directly with one another without having messages go through intermediate processes. We assume that communication channels are bidirectional: if  $P$  can send messages to  $Q$  then  $Q$  can send messages to  $P$ . A process knows the identities of its neighbors; otherwise it is ignorant of the identities of all other processes and of the general structure of the network.

We assume a very simple protocol for message communication; this protocol is equivalent to the one used by Dijkstra and Scholten [1]. Every process has an input buffer of unbounded length. If process  $P$  sends a message to a neighbor process  $Q$ , then the message gets appended at the end of the input buffer of  $Q$  after a finite, arbitrary delay. We assume that (1) messages are not lost or altered during transmission, (2) messages sent from  $P$  to  $Q$  arrive at  $Q$ 's input buffer in the order sent, and (3) two messages arriving simultaneously at an input buffer are ordered arbitrarily and appended to the buffer. A process receives a message by removing one from its input buffer.

The assumption of unbounded length buffers is for ease of exposition. We show, in Sec. 6, that for our problem the input buffer length of process  $Q$  can be bounded by the number of neighbors of  $Q$ .

## 3. The Shortest Path Problem

$G = (V, E)$  is a directed graph in which  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $E$  is the set of edges. Edge  $(v_i, v_j)$  has an associated length  $w_{ij}$ . If edge  $(v_i, v_j)$  exists then  $v_j$  is said to be a successor of  $v_i$  and  $v_i$  is said to be a predecessor of  $v_j$ . It is required to determine lengths of the shortest paths from a special vertex  $v_1$  in  $V$  to all other vertices in  $V$ .<sup>1</sup> Since some  $w_{ij}$  may be negative, a cycle of negative total length (called a negative cycle) may exist in the graph. If a negative cycle is reachable from  $v_1$  then all vertices reachable from that negative cycle will have a shortest path length of  $-\infty$ . The distance of a vertex  $v_i$  is the length of the shortest path from  $v_1$  to  $v_i$  and is denoted by  $L_i$ .

<sup>1</sup> We assume familiarity with graph theoretic terms such as path, shortest path, etc.

# Distributed Computation On Graphs Shortest Path Algorithms

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Borjigin**

## **Distributed Computation On Graphs Shortest Path Algorithms:**

Distributed Computation On Graphs Shortest Path Algorithms: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels enthraling the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have captivated audiences this year. Distributed Computation On Graphs Shortest Path Algorithms : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can succeed. Distributed Computation On Graphs Shortest Path Algorithms : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This intriguing historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens crafts a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These popular novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and suspenseful novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

<https://matrix.jamesarcher.co/About/detail/default.aspx/digital%20detox%20lifestyle%20advanced%20strategies.pdf>

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