

# Extended Essay

## Computer Science

**Topic: Comparing greedy (Dijkstra's algorithm) and dynamic (Bellman Ford's algorithm) algorithms for solving shortest path optimization problem given a graph with positive edges**

**Research Question:** How does the efficiency of Dijkstra algorithm compare to that of Bellman-Ford's, for shortest path optimization in terms of execution time as the number of nodes in a graph changes?

Word Count: 3997 words

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the current digital world, technology is often used to solve problems of many types. Problems can have many solutions, but optimization problems focus on searching for the best solution out of many possible solutions.<sup>1</sup> There are a multitude of real-life applications to solving optimization problems, for example it is used in GPS systems like google maps, network routing and recommendations on social networks. One way technology solves optimization problems is by using algorithms. Common methods used to formulate these algorithms are based on the greedy method and the dynamic programming method. The greedy method works by taking the most optimum next move, without inspecting its future outcomes. This means it can sometimes produce substandard solutions, but as it is based on a straightforward concept, it is easy to implement and generally takes less time to execute. Dynamic programming is based on finding and executing every possible solution and choosing the best one. This means it usually requires more memory and time to execute than the greedy method as it may perform more calculations than the greedy method, but its solution is typically confirmed.<sup>2</sup> When I was exposed to both these concepts, I wanted to test them on graph theory as it has numerous real-world applications. It is used in building communication networks, road networks and more. The most used greedy algorithm to solve graph theory related problems is the Dijkstra's algorithm and the most used dynamic algorithm to solve graph theory related problems is the Bellman Ford algorithm. My exploration will be concentrated on comparing both Bellman Ford algorithm and Dijkstra's algorithm by

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<sup>1</sup> Black, Paul, "optimization problem", xlinux, January 6, 2021, <https://xlinux.nist.gov/dads/HTML/optimization.html>

<sup>2</sup> Coderucks, "Dynamic Programming Vs Greedy Algorithm", coderucks, January 24, 2021, <https://codecrucks.com/dynamic-programming-vs-greedy-algorithm/>

identifying how a change in the number of nodes affects the execution time of both algorithms. In addition, when used in the real world, the algorithms are rarely used with negative edge weights. Furthermore, both algorithms have the possibility of giving an incorrect answer when used with negative edge weights. For the above reasons, the exploration will only focus on positive edge weights and how increasing the nodes in a graph with positive edge weights will affect the time complexity of both Dijkstra's and Bellman Ford's algorithm.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: <sup>3</sup>

### 2.1 - Graphs

A graph is a type of data structure that stores information in the form of nodes and edges. <sup>4</sup> Edges show how each of the nodes are related (i.e. they connect 2 nodes and may have a value), and nodes can contain data. Graph 'G' can be represented as follows (Refer to Figure 1):

$$G : (V, E)$$

G is the name of the graph. The set of vertices is shown by V and set of edges is shown by E. <sup>5</sup>

Graphs can either be directed or undirected, and weighted or unweighted. Directed graphs are graphs in which the edge points to a particular direction. This means that when we traverse between two nodes, we can only move in one direction but not the opposite. Undirected graphs are graphs where we can traverse in both directions. <sup>6</sup> Weighted graphs are graphs whose edges have specific values (also known

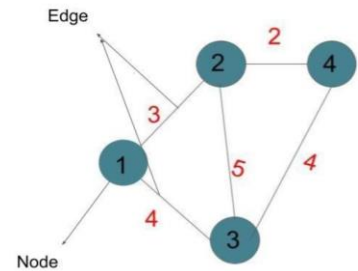


Figure 1: Edges and Nodes

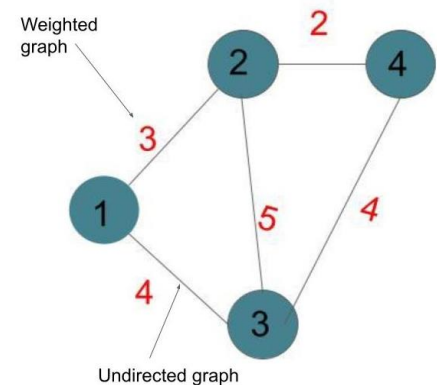


Figure 2: Undirected and Weighted graph

<sup>3</sup> Samah W.G. AbuSalim et al 2020 IOP Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng. 917 012077

<sup>4</sup> Bhatta, Ranjit, "Graph Data Structure", programiz, May 6 2022, <https://www.programiz.com/dsa/graph>

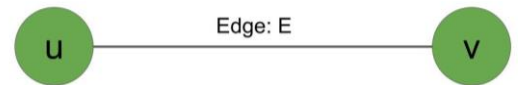
<sup>5</sup> Sun, Timothy, "Graphs", Columbia, May 6 2022, <http://www.columbia.edu/~cs2035/courses/ieor6614.S11/graph.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Little, Jack, "Directed and Undirected Graphs", mathworks/MATLAB, May 7 2022, <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/math/directed-and-undirected-graphs.html>

as weights) and unweighted graphs are graphs whose edges do not have values.<sup>7</sup> Shortest path optimization problems apply to only weighted graphs as they calculate the distance between two nodes based on the “weights” of the edges. In the following exploration I will be using only undirected (Notice that the arrows do not point in a specific direction in Figure 2) and weighted graphs (notice the numbers on the edges in Figure 2).

To represent a single edge of a graph, we use the following:

$$E : (u, v)$$



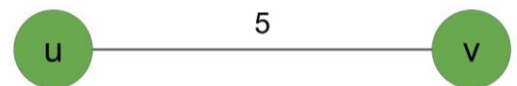
$u$  is the first vertex and  $v$  is the second vertex,  $E$  is

the edge connecting both the first and the second edge. **Figure 3:** Edge Representation

Note that in my exploration,  $(u,v)$  equals  $(v,u)$  for all edges as in an undirected graph, when you traverse in any direction, the weight remains the same.<sup>8</sup> Weighted edges can be represented as follows:

$$E : (u, v) = w \text{ OR } w(u, v)$$

“ $E : (u,v)$ ” represents an edge, and  $w$  represents the weight of that edge, in the case of figure 4,  $w(u,v) = 5$ .



The concept of a source node is very important in shortest **Figure 4:** Representation of weighted graphs

path optimization problems. A source node is the starting node, or the node we want to calculate the distance from. For example, in Figure 4, if we would like to find the distance from  $u$  to  $v$ ,  $u$  is the source node as we start taking the distance from  $u$ . Additionally in Figure 1, if we would like to find the distance from 1 to 4, 1 would be the source node.

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<sup>7</sup> McQuain, “Data Structures And Algorithms”, VirginiaTech, May 7 2022, <https://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs3114/Fall10/Notes/T22.WeightedGraphs.pdf>

Similarly, another important concept is the destination node. It's the node we want to calculate the shortest path to. If we take the same example, 4 would be the destination node.

Now that we have seen how a graph can be represented on paper, how can we represent it on screen? There are multiple methods for representing a graph on a screen, but the one I will be using is the adjacency matrix. It uses a 2D array of size  $V \times V$  ( $V$  being the number of vertices in the graph).<sup>9</sup> Given a 2D array named 'A':

$$A[i][j] = w$$

*Edge from vertex  $i$  to vertex  $j$  is equal to weight  $w$*

In this equation,  $i$  represents the first vertex, and  $j$  represents the second vertex, if an edge exists between them, we get a weight 'w' as the outcome, which corresponds to the weight of the edge connect vertex  $i$  and vertex  $j$  (Note, for undirected graph  $A[i][j] = A[j][i]$ ).

## 2.2 - Relaxation

The relaxation technique is used in both Dijkstra's algorithm and Bellman Ford's algorithm, so it may be useful to explain what relaxation is. Though relaxation on its own cannot produce solutions, it is often implemented in various algorithms in different ways to help find solutions.

Relaxation works on updating estimates of the shortest path to each node. In both algorithms, the first step is to initialise the "estimates" of all nodes as infinity except the

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<sup>9</sup> Wormald, Nicholas, "Graphs", University of Western Australia, May 22, 2022, <https://users.monash.edu/~lloyd/tildeAlgDS/Graph/#:~:text=The%20adjacency%20matrix%20of%20a,infinity%22%2C%20indicates%20this%20fact.&text=Adjacency%20Matrix%20of%20Weighted%20Directed%20Graph.&text=Adjacency%20Matrix%20of%20Weighted%20Undirected%20Graph>.

source node. Now we can introduce the relaxation statement and explain it using an example.

Relaxation states (Note that  $d$  represents distance which corresponds to the current estimate on the node) - <sup>10</sup>

$$\text{if } d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$$

$$\text{then } d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v)$$

The statement says that if the distance of vertex  $v$  is greater than the distance of vertex  $u$  + the weight of the edge  $u$  to  $v$ , then the distance of  $v$  is equal to the distance of  $u$  + the weight of the edge  $u$  to  $v$ . Let's use an example to better understand this. Suppose we have a graph as in figure 5, with  $u$  as the source

vertex. The source vertex always has a distance estimate of 0 since we start from the source (Estimates are shown above the node typically). This

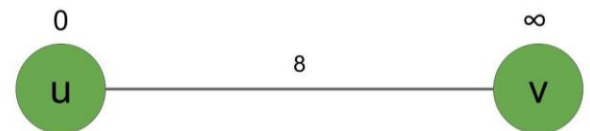


Figure 5: Relaxation example

is because we do not need to traverse through any

edges to reach the source. Vertex  $v$ 's estimate is updated to infinity. To find the shortest path to  $v$  based on the relaxation technique, if the distance of  $v$  ( $\infty$ ) is greater than the distance of  $u$  (0) + the  $w(u, v)$  (8), ( $\infty$  is greater than  $0 + 8 = 8$ , so the next statement is executed), the distance of  $v$  is updated to  $d[u] + w(u, v)$  which is equal to 8.

In the end,  $v$ 's estimate of infinity is updated to 8, which is the new estimate of the shortest path. Note that if the distance of  $v$  was instead smaller than the distance of  $u + w(u, v)$ , the estimate on the node would remain the same.

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<sup>10</sup> Jaiswal, Sonoo, "Relaxation", javaTpoint, May 23 2022, <https://www.javatpoint.com/relaxation#:~:text=The%20single%20%2D%20source%20shortest%20paths,equivalent%20the%20shortest%20%2D%20path%20weight.>



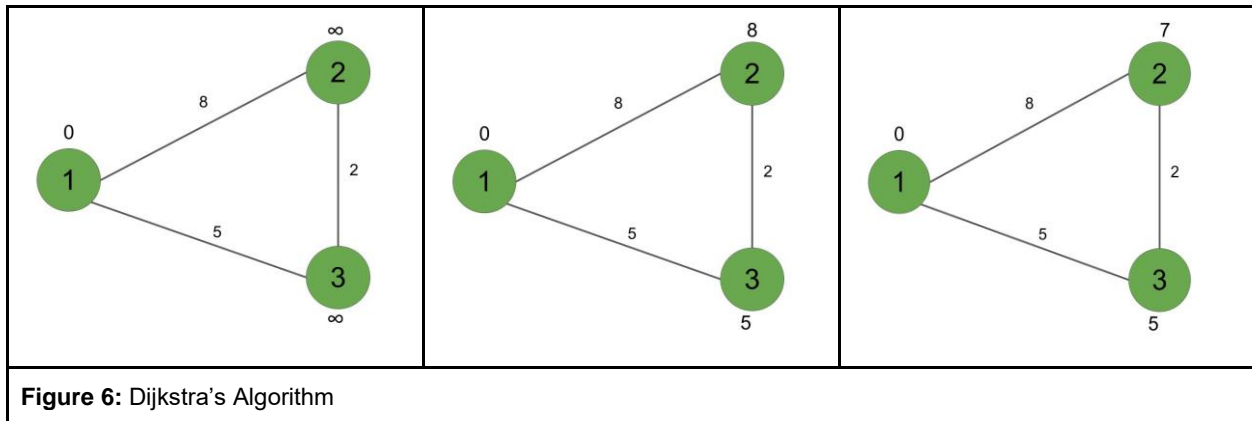
## 2.3 - Dijkstra's Algorithm

Dijkstra's algorithm was created according to the greedy programming technique. This means the best condition is chosen at each step, without considering its future consequences.<sup>11</sup> Let's understand this algorithm on a small graph. In figure 6, we will try to find the distance between vertex 1 and vertex 2. We observe that vertex 1 is the source vertex as its distance is estimated to 0. The other two vertices' estimates are updated to infinity. Now we must update the estimates according to the direct edge paths from 1. 1 has a direct edge to vertex 2 and vertex 3. This means we must relax (use relaxation technique) the nodes from 1 to 2 and 1 to 3. This updates the estimate of 2 to 8 and 3 to 5. Once the estimates are updated, this means vertex 1 is fully "explored" (this is because we have updated estimates according to all direct edges of vertex 1), and hence according to Dijkstra's algorithm 0 is 1s shortest path. In the next step according to Dijkstra's algorithm, we must take the next node with the lowest estimate. In this case, 3 has the lowest estimate, so we start from 3. Since 1s estimate is already verified, we don't have to relax 1, but we have to relax vertex 2 as its estimate is not verified. Upon relaxing vertex 2, its estimate is updated to 7. Now since all the edges from 3 have been discovered, 3 is now "explored" and its shortest path is 5. Since only one node is left (when only one node is left, it is automatically explored), the graph automatically becomes explored, which means the shortest path from 1 to 2 according to Dijkstra's algorithm is 7.

Graph 1	Graph 2	Graph 3
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<sup>11</sup> Jain, Sandeep, "Dijkstra's Shortest Path Algorithm", GeeksForGeeks, May 25 2022, <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/dijkstras-shortest-path-algorithm-greedy-algo-7/>



The same rules can be applied on a larger graph with more vertices and edges. We would just have to relax the vertices more.

## 2.4 - Bellman Ford's Algorithm

Bellman Ford's algorithm was created according to the dynamic programming technique. Bellman Ford's algorithm says that you must find all solutions and choose the best solution. We can find all the solutions by relaxing all the edges multiple times.<sup>12</sup> We must relax all the edges  $V-1$  times, where  $V$  is the number of vertices. This will ensure all solutions are found. Let's test this example on the graph in figure 7. Note that 1 is taken as the source vertex and 2 is the vertex to reach.

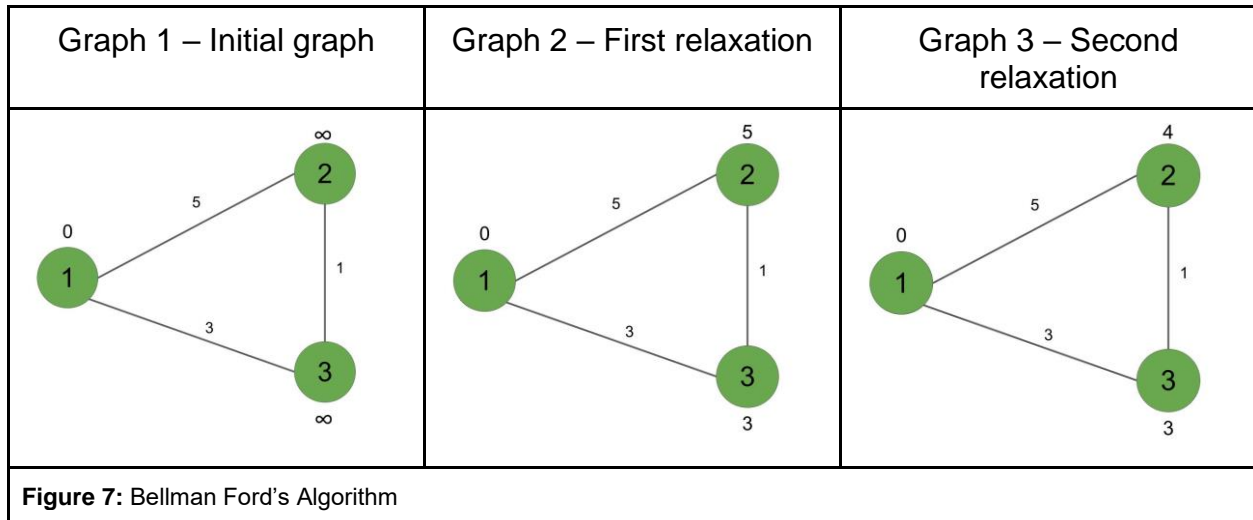
First let's make a list of all the edges in the graph -

$$(1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 3), (3, 2), (1, 3), (3, 1)$$

Now we must relax all these edges  $3-1 = 2$  times (as there are 3 vertices). When we relax  $(1, 2)$  we get the weight on 2 as 5, when we relax  $(2, 1)$  the weight of 1 remains the same, when we relax  $(2, 3)$  the weight of 3 changes to 6, when we relax  $(3, 2)$  the weight of 2 remains the same, when we relax  $(1, 3)$  the weight of 3 changes to 3, and when we relax

<sup>12</sup> Bhatta, Ranjit, "Bellman Ford's Algorithm", Programiz, July 9 2022, <https://www.programiz.com/dsa/bellman-ford-algorithm>

(3, 1) the weight of 1 remains the same. Now we have completed relaxing all the nodes once, we must repeat this process for one last time since there are 3 vertices. The outcomes are shown in figure 8.



Now we have found the shortest path to vertex 2 from vertex 1, which according to Bellman Ford's algorithm is 4. The same steps would have to be followed even for a larger graph.

### 2.5 – Number Of Edges

As the number of nodes increases, there are more edges that could be created in a given graph. When each node is connected to every other node in a graph system, it is known as a complete graph. Complete graph has the maximum number of edges for a graph with a given number of nodes. For my exploration, I will not be using complete graphs, but the maximum number of edges that could be created for a given number of nodes is important. It can be calculated with the formula (where n is the number of nodes) – <sup>13</sup>

$$\text{Max number of edges that could be created} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

<sup>13</sup> Pandey, Avinash, "Complete Graph", d3gt, July 15 2022, <https://d3gt.com/unit.html?complete-graph>

### 3. METHODOLOGY:

#### 3.1 - Variables

**Independent Variable – *Number of Nodes*** - To find the faster algorithm of the two, number of nodes is taken as the independent variable as in a graph, changing the number of nodes has a high effect on execution time. Number of nodes is also taken such that there is a varying change in the increase in the number of nodes. This allows us to examine the effect of differing rates of change in the number of nodes for both algorithms.

**Dependent Variable - *Execution Time*** - Execution time was measured using the function “.nanoTime()” in Java. Each data set was run multiple times (10 times) in 2 different IDEs to reduce errors related to inefficiencies in IDE. The first execution was deleted from each IDE execution as the time taken for the Java virtual machine to boot may make the program slower. The time is started exactly once the array is inputted into the method. The methods for each algorithm were written to ensure maximum efficiency. Unnecessary data copies were avoided, and string buffer was used rather than multiple “system.out“ to ensure computation is focused only on the execution of the algorithms. The time taken by both algorithms was outputted only once towards the end.

**Control Variable - *CPU and RAM Usage*** - The same device was used for executing all algorithms. All applications other than the necessary applications and the IDE were kept closed to ensure maximum usage of CPU and RAM. Both IDEs were used evenly along with several executions. This ensures that fluctuations in use of system resources are eliminated along with IDE related overheads.

#### 3.2 – Matrices (2D Arrays) Used

To represent the graphs in a 2D Array, a program was created to generate a matrix such that the graph created is unweighted. Additionally, since using a complete graph would favour Dijkstra's algorithm (as more nodes means much more relaxation for Bellman Ford's algorithm), the program was given a 50% probability to make an edge at any possible node to node connection. Lastly, care was taken to ensure that the graphs were not disconnected (a graph in which there is no connection between any two nodes), if the graph generated was disconnected, a recursive algorithm was created to generate another graph until a connected graph was created. Lastly, the source and destination node were randomized, but were ensured that they were not the same node.

### 3.3 – Experimental Procedure

Nodes from the following values were taken –

<b>Number of Nodes</b>	<b>Maximum Number Of Edges Possible</b>
10	45
13	78
16	120
19	171
22	231
25	300
30	435
35	595
40	780
45	990
50	1,225

60	1,770
80	3,160
100	4,950
200	19,900
300	44,850
400	79,800
500	124,750
600	179,700
800	319,600
1000	499,500

**Table 1: Number of Nodes and Maximum Number Of Edges**

Each number of nodes was generated 22 different connected graphs. The 22 graphs were spread equally among 2 different IDE's and executed with both Dijkstra's and Bellman Ford's algorithm. The first two executions in each IDE were not considered. The execution times outputted by each algorithm were noted.

#### 4. HYPOTHESIS:

As the number of nodes increases, the time of execution for the Bellman Ford algorithm increases at a faster rate than Dijkstra's algorithm. The time taken by the Bellman Ford algorithm will be larger than Dijkstra's algorithm for all data sets, but Bellman Ford's algorithm will have more stable results.

## 5. THE EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

### 5.1 - Dijkstra's Algorithm

#### 5.1.1 – Tabular Data

The table below shows the processed results of running Dijkstra's algorithm on a varying number of nodes.

<b>Number Of Nodes</b>	<b>Average Time Taken (seconds)</b>	<b>Relative Standard Deviation (Percentage)</b>
10	19,253	44.93411
13	22,678	36.6638
16	34,852	65.8444
19	35,505	66.01341
22	40,615	33.42257
25	51,357	40.27035
30	52,510	51.47192
35	89,021	30.52561
40	99,694	63.56813
45	115,526	67.61167
50	138,226	69.71442
60	147,016	77.00876
80	141,515	67.17754
100	227,001	83.56837
150	271,200	52.41632
200	341,438	211.8987

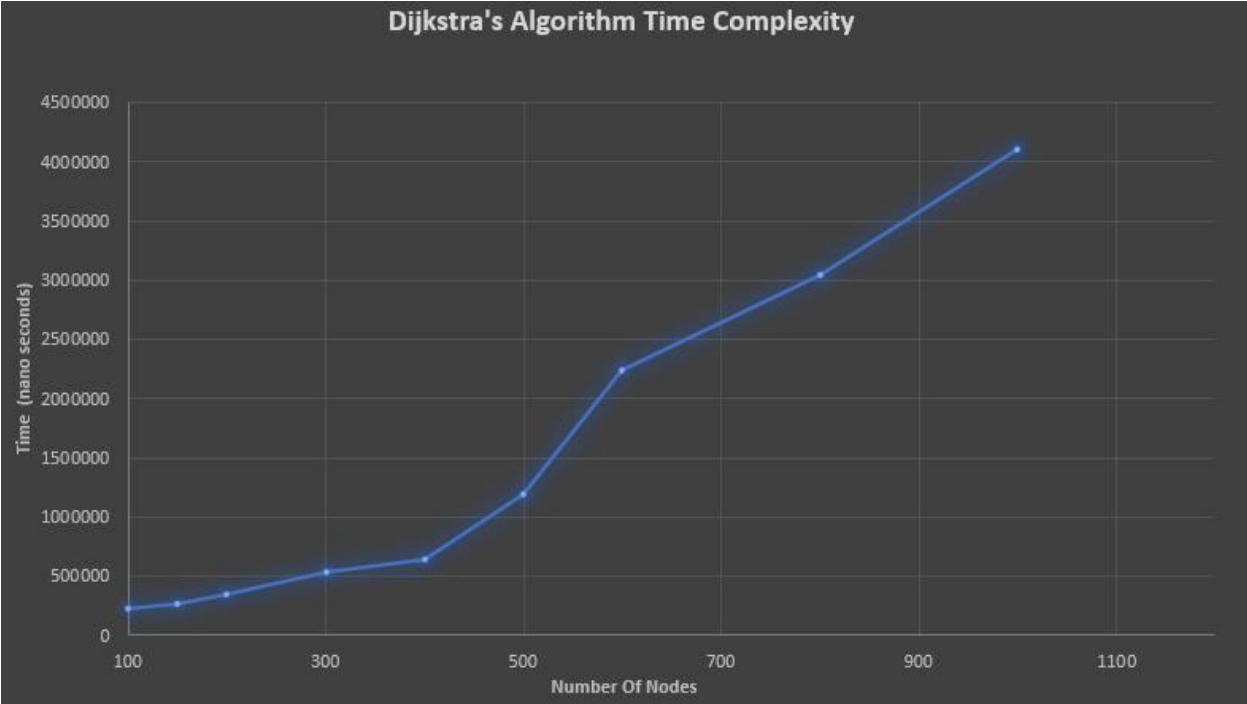


300	529,384	43.94714
400	642,989	54.44302
500	1,189,500	196.0965
600	2,243,100	64.78164
800	3,049,115	149.4159
1000	4,107,673	76.89447

**Table 2: Dijkstra's Algorithm**

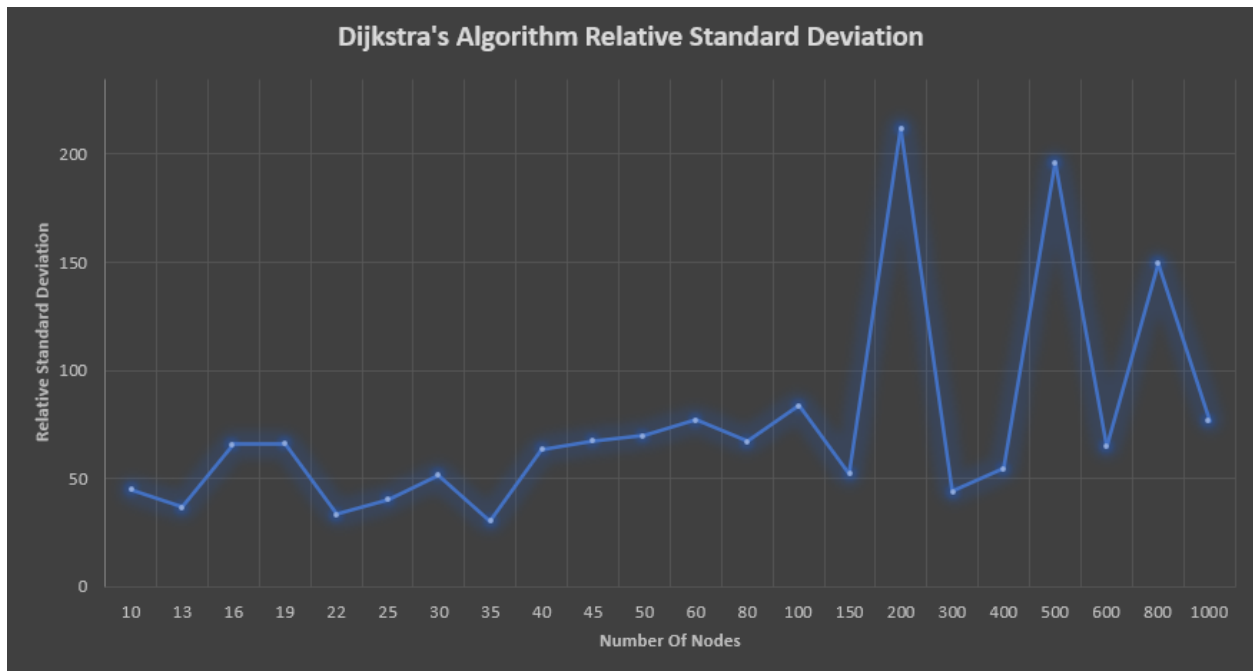
5.1.2 – Graphical Data

The following graph shows the number of nodes against time taken for Dijkstra's algorithm to complete finding the shortest path. Note that the graphs start from 100 nodes as including the other values would result in data points being too close to each other (as their values are small compared to the large scale).



**Graph 1: Dijkstra's Algorithm Time Complexity**

The following graph displays the relative standard deviation of each of the number of nodes, when executing Dijkstra's algorithm.



Graph 2: Dijkstra's Algorithm Relative Standard Deviation

### 5.1.3 – Data Analysis

We observe that as the number of nodes increases, the time taken by the algorithm also increases. This is likely because the algorithm now must traverse more nodes than before and relax more edges than before. We also observe that the relative standard deviation value is high. This is because the number of edges were randomized. Hence the possible combinations to reach the destination from the source may fluctuate greatly. Additionally, since the algorithm works by choosing the best possible “next solution”, the number of times this must be done can vary greatly depending on the number of nodes. This may bring a broad range of execution times, which means that this algorithm takes an uneven amount of time when calculating the distance between 2 nodes.

## 5.2 – Bellman Ford's Algorithm

### 5.2.1 – Tabular Data

The table below shows the processed results of running the Bellman Ford's algorithm on a varying number of nodes.

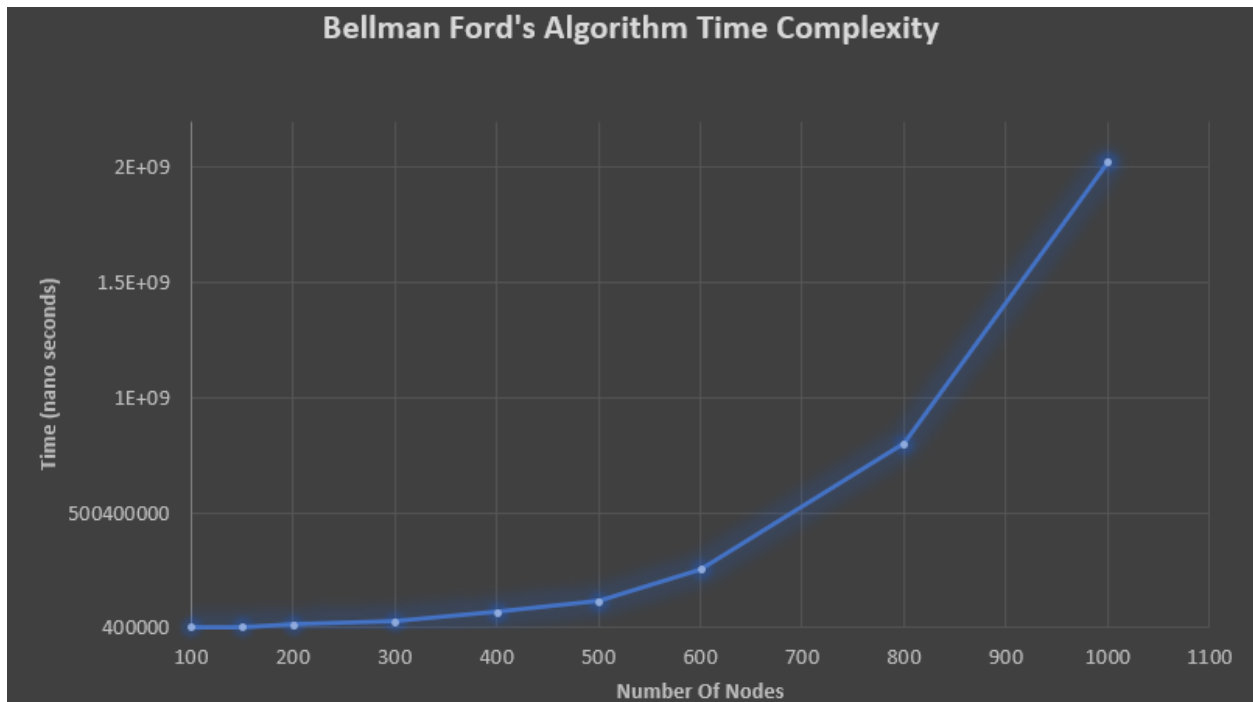
<b>Number Of Nodes</b>	<b>Average Time Taken (seconds)</b>	<b>Relative Standard Deviation</b>
10	35,800	20.99313
13	62,742	23.5367
16	103,693	32.55637
19	141,573	47.94875
22	156,831	47.44195
25	173,728	69.93443
30	241,873	64.25956
35	259,147	89.29785
40	287,510	71.53663
45	298,305	18.93875
50	476,047	37.08386
60	584,622	37.56087
80	3,451,197	227.7628
100	4,010,942	130.2899
150	5,238,189	184.4197
200	12,858,721	48.7599
300	29,544,352	44.11812

400	67,634,368	11.73972
500	117,937,500	11.1074
600	256,789,463	8.223952
800	799,591,105	11.59528
1000	2,024,936,721	12.65869

**Table 3: Bellman Ford's Algorithm**

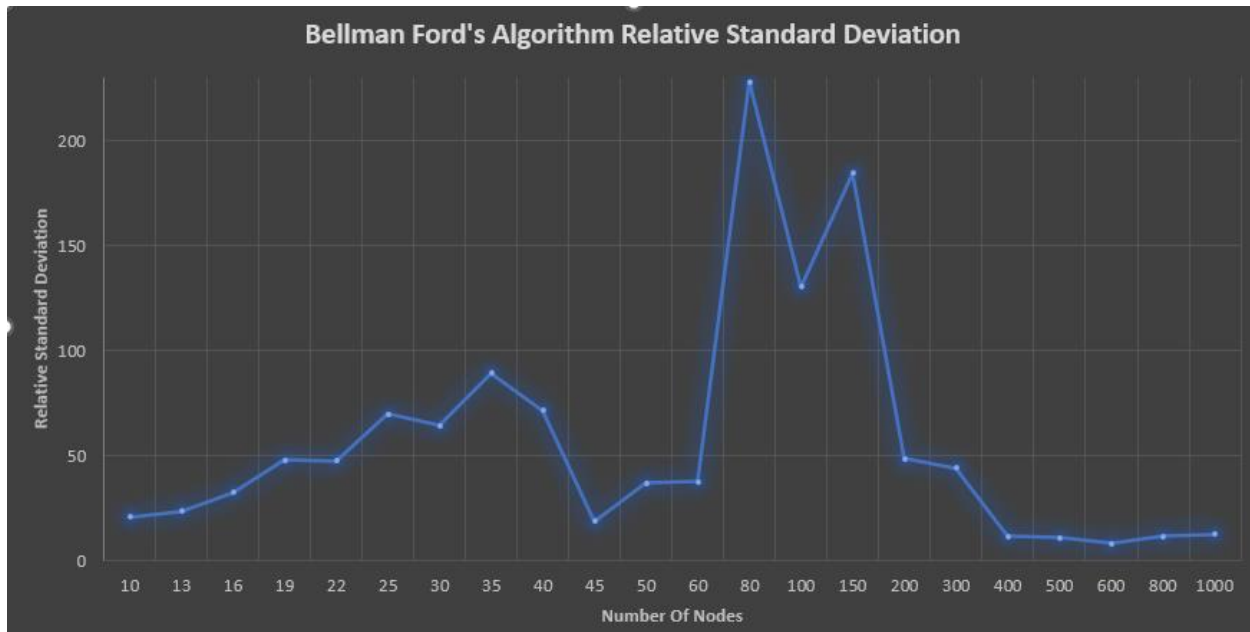
### 5.2.2 – Graphical Data

The following graph shows the number of nodes against time taken for Bellman Ford's algorithm to complete finding the shortest path. The graph starts from the value of 100 nodes for the same reason as Dijkstra's algorithm.



**Graph 3: Bellman Ford's Algorithm Time Complexity**

The following graph displays the relative standard deviation of each of the number of nodes, when executing Bellman Ford's Algorithm.



**Graph 4: Bellman Ford's Algorithm Relative Standard Deviation**

### 5.2.3 – Data Analysis

As the number of nodes increases, the time taken by the algorithm also increases. This happens because when the number of nodes increases, the number of edges that could be created also increases. This leads to a higher number of edges being created as the graph generator has a 50% probability to create an edge for every given connection. This means the algorithm has to relax more edges when the number of nodes increases, and hence longer time taken as the number of nodes increases. Though it takes long time to execute the algorithm, the deviation of values is low as the algorithm always relaxes all nodes of the graph. This means that though the number of edges is randomized, the algorithm already tries out all possible combinations. So even a change in the number of edges does not drastically increase the number of edges that need to be relaxed. Also note that for a given number of nodes, the number of times the edges must be relaxed remains the same as the number of vertices remains the same. This could lead to a lower deviation value.

### 5.3 – Comparative Analysis

#### 5.3.1 – Tabular Data

The table below shows the results of running the Dijkstra’s algorithm and Bellman Ford’s algorithm on a varying number of nodes.

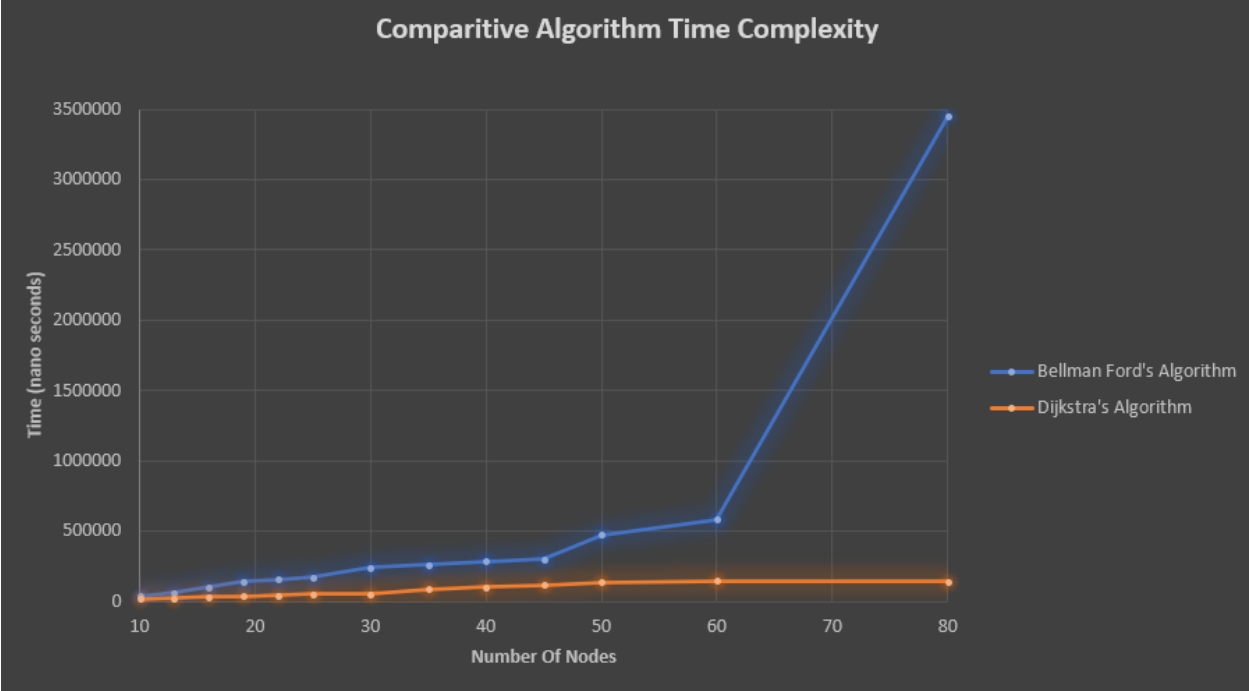
Dijkstra’s Algorithm			Bellman Ford’s Algorithm		
Number Of Nodes	Average Time Taken (seconds)	Relative Standard Deviation	Number Of Nodes	Average Time Taken (seconds)	Relative Standard Deviation
10	19,253	44.93411	10	35,800	20.99313
13	22,678	36.6638	13	62,742	23.5367
16	34,852	65.8444	16	103,693	32.55637
19	35,505	66.01341	19	141,573	47.94875
22	40,615	33.42257	22	156,831	47.44195
25	51,357	40.27035	25	173,728	69.93443
30	52,510	51.47192	30	241,873	64.25956
35	89,021	30.52561	35	259,147	89.29785
40	99,694	63.56813	40	287,510	71.53663
45	115,526	67.61167	45	298,305	18.93875
50	138,226	69.71442	50	476,047	37.08386
60	147,016	77.00876	60	584,622	37.56087
80	141,515	67.17754	80	3,451,197	227.7628
100	227,001	83.56837	100	4,010,942	130.2899
150	271,200	52.41632	150	5,238,189	184.4197

200	341,438	211.8987	200	12,858,721	48.7599
300	529,384	43.94714	300	29,544,352	44.11812
400	642,989	54.44302	400	67,634,368	11.73972
500	1,189,500	196.0965	500	117,937,500	11.1074
600	2,243,100	64.78164	600	256,789,463	8.223952
800	3,049,115	149.4159	800	799,591,105	11.59528
1000	4,107,673	76.89447	1000	2,024,936,721	12.65869

Table 4: Comparative Data

### 5.3.2 – Graphical Data

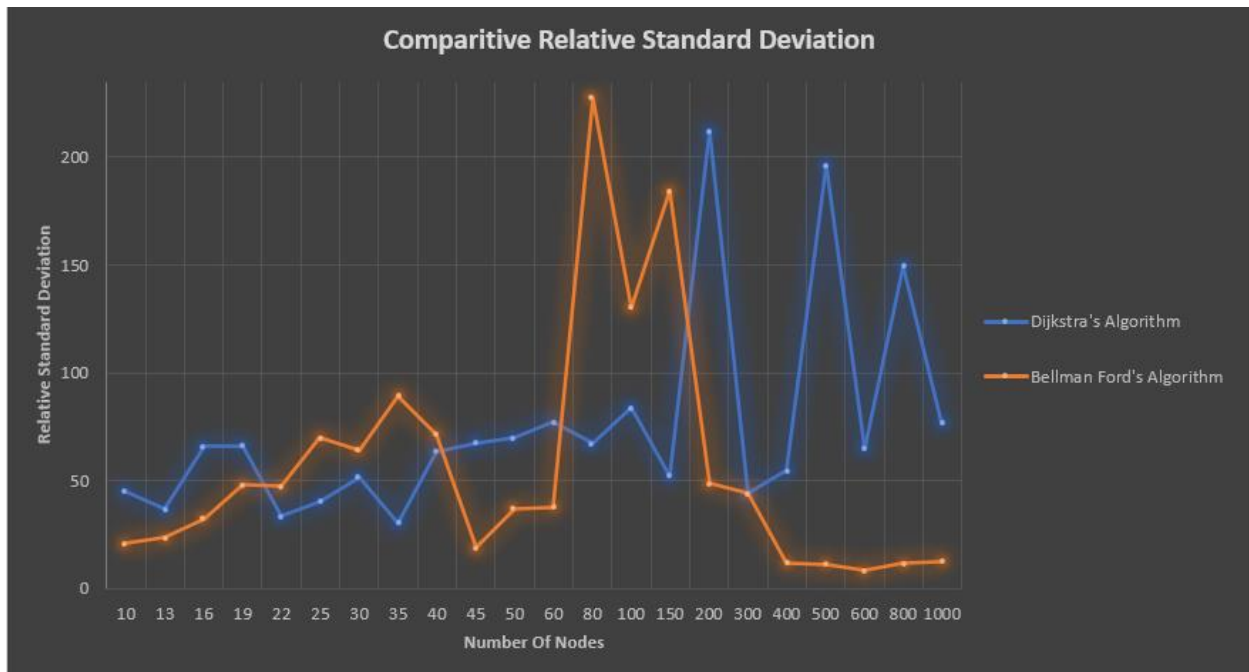
The following graph compares the number of nodes against time taken for Dijkstra's algorithm and Bellman ford's algorithm to complete finding the shortest path.



Graph 5: Comparative Algorithm Time Complexity

Note that the above graph only contains values from nodes 10 to 80 due to the large scale and large differences in execution time of both algorithms.

The following graph compares the number of nodes against the relative standard deviation for both the graphs.



Graph 6: Comparative Relative Standard Deviation

### 5.3.3 – Analysis

We see that for all number of nodes, Dijkstra's algorithm executes faster than Bellman Ford's. This is likely because Dijkstra's algorithm, being based on the greedy approach does not need to try all possible combinations in the graph. Bellman Ford's algorithm on the other hand is based on the dynamic approach and must try all possible combinations in the graph. Additionally, Dijkstra's algorithm will have to relax the nodes a lesser number of times compared to Bellman Ford's algorithm; hence it can be executed faster. The same is reflected in the graph. When looking at the relative standard deviation, we



observe that Dijkstra's algorithm on average has a higher relative standard deviation. This is because Bellman Ford's algorithm always relaxes all edges when searching for the shortest path between two nodes in a graph. Hence in all cases, all edges of the graph are relaxed in Bellman Ford's algorithm. In the case of Dijkstra's algorithm, it only relaxes edges that need to be relaxed to obtain the shortest path for the given source and the destination. So, if there are many combinations to reach the destination, then the time taken will be higher, but if not, it will be lesser. This means that though Dijkstra's algorithm is faster compared to Bellman Ford's, Dijkstra's algorithm may give drastically different execution times for different types of graphs. Lastly, we see that Bellman Ford's algorithm slows down much faster than Dijkstra's algorithm. This is seen through the larger slope of the graph (especially prominent from nodes 60 to 80).

## 6. EVALUATION OF HYPOTHESIS

The hypothesis stands true as it can clearly be seen that Dijkstra's algorithm is faster for all number of nodes. Additionally, by analysing the slope of the graphs, we see that Bellman Ford's algorithm gets slower at a faster rate than Dijkstra's algorithm. We also observe that due to the lower relative standard deviation of Bellman Ford's algorithm, it has a much more stable execution time.

## 7. EVALUATION

### **Strengths -**

- Methods for both algorithms were written to ensure that computation is focused on the algorithms.
- Inclusion of both mean and relative standard deviation analysis allows us to effectively compare both algorithms mathematically.
- Exploration has considered control variables and ensures that the results remain unaffected by system resources and IDEs.
- Can verify if the shortest path execution is correct by comparing the results of both algorithms for each execution.
- Automated undirected graph creating system ensures that there is no human error related to graph creation. Ensuring that the graph is connected makes sure that both algorithms execute without errors.
- Use of multiple graphs for same number of nodes ensures that the algorithms are tested in multiple environments, hence enhancing the diversity of data. Data input is free from human bias.
- Inputs of both algorithms were in the same data structure. This ensures that the effect of data structures in both algorithms remains consistent.

### **Limitations –**

- Number of edges has not been considered.
- The exploration does not consider negative edge weights.
- Space complexity of the algorithms is not considered in this exploration.

## **Future Scope –**

Improvements to my original exploration can be made by considering the number of edge weights along with the execution times of the graphs, rather than only the number of nodes. Furthermore, the probability of creating an edge, could be changed to see the effect of edges on time complexity of both algorithms. Negative edge weights have not been considered in this exploration. Though there aren't many uses for negative edge weights, it would be interesting to consider how both algorithms perform when inputted negative edge weights. Another interesting consideration would be to use Dial's implementation of Dijkstra's algorithm on smaller edge weights and see how this affects the time complexity and execution time of Dijkstra's algorithm. Additionally, we could compare the efficiency of different dynamic and heuristic approaches used to solve the travelling salesmen problem. Lastly, we could also compare how AI driven algorithms, such as the A\* algorithm, compares to both the greedy and dynamic approach.

## 8. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the effects of changing the number of vertices is considered for both Dijkstra's and Bellman Ford's algorithm in terms of execution time. They were analysed and compared based on mathematical observations. Additionally, logical explanations were made to explain the results from the experiment.

From the results, we see that the greedy programming technique (Dijkstra's algorithm), is much faster than the dynamic programming technique (Bellman Ford's algorithm), for any number of nodes.

Though the speed of Dijkstra's algorithm is faster than that of Bellman Ford's, we observe that there is a large deviation in the values of Dijkstra's algorithm. This may mean that the speed of the algorithm comes at the cost of higher inefficiencies when tested with graphs of different types. Bellman Ford's algorithm on the other hand has a lower deviation on average and this means that it can deal with many types of graphs in a consistent manner.

Since the edge weights are randomly picked, the effects of edge weights on both the algorithms cannot be confirmed, but as the number of nodes consistently increases, it can be confirmed that as the number of nodes increases, this increases the chance of creating an edge, both of which slow down both algorithms. Dijkstra's algorithm's time complexity is not affected as much as that of Bellman Ford's algorithm when the number of nodes increases. This may also be a defining factor when deciding which algorithm to use.

I hope this paper will prove useful to people by providing interesting perspectives on both algorithms. I hope it helps people who work on, and plan to implement solutions for the shortest path optimization problem.

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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Code Used For Data Collection

#### A1: Bellman Ford's Algorithm

```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.Scanner;

// Class the computes the shortest distance using Bellman Ford
class ShortestPathBF {

    int[][] m_edges;
    StringBuilder m_outBuf;
    int m_numNodes;
    int m_numEdges;

    ShortestPathBF(int[][] edges, int num_nodes) {
        m_edges = edges;
        m_outBuf = new StringBuilder();
        m_numEdges = edges.length;
        m_numNodes = num_nodes;
    }

    void findShortestPath (int src)
    {

        // Reset the output buffer to print text
        m_outBuf.setLength(0);
        long start = System.nanoTime();

        // Initialize distance of all vertices as INFINITE except for source
        // which is zero

        int dist[] = new int[m_numNodes];

        for (int i = 0; i < m_numNodes; i++)
            dist[i] = Integer.MAX_VALUE;

        dist[src] = 0;

        // Relax all edges numNodes-1 times.
        for (int count=1; count < m_numNodes; count++) {
```



```

    for (int e = 0; e < m_numEdges; e++) {

        int from = m_edges[e][0];
        int to = m_edges[e][1];
        int d = m_edges[e][2];

        // If the from node in the edge is at INFINITY distance, skip
        if(dist[from] == Integer.MAX_VALUE) continue;

        // If the distance to node can be relaxed, relax it
        if ( dist[from]+d < dist[to] ) dist[to] = dist[from] + d;
    }
}

// If we are still able to relax the edges, this might mean there are
// negative cycles in the graph

for (int e = 0; e < m_numEdges; e++) {

    int from = m_edges[e][0];
    int to = m_edges[e][1];
    int d = m_edges[e][2];

    // If the from node in the edge is at INFINITY distance, skip
    if(dist[from] == Integer.MAX_VALUE) continue;
    if (dist[from] + d < dist[to])
        m_outBuf.append("Graph contains negative"
            +" weight cycle\n");
}

m_outBuf.append("Vertex Distance from Source " + src + " is:\n");
m_outBuf.append("Execution time [BF] : " + String.valueOf(System.nanoTime()-
start) + " nano seconds\n");

// for (int i = 0; i < m_numNodes; i++)
//     m_outBuf.append(src + " --> " + i + " is " + dist[i] + "\n");
Commented Code

System.out.println(m_outBuf);
}

public static void main(String[] args)

```

```

{
    // Enter the graph same way that we are entering for Dijkstra and lets build
    edgers ourselves

    int graph[][] = new int[][] { { 0, 4, 0, 5, 0, 1, 0, 8, 0 },
                                    { 4, 0, 8, 0, 6, 0, 10, 11, 328 },
                                    { 0, 8, 0, 7, 0, 4, 0, 0, 2 },
                                    { 192, 0, 7, 0, 9, 14, 0, 6, 0 },
                                    { 0, 22, 0, 9, 0, 10, 0, 3, 0 },
                                    { 0, 1, 4, 14, 10, 0, 2, 0, 0 },
                                    { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 1, 6 },
                                    { 8, 11, 0, 8, 0, 0, 1, 0, 7 },
                                    { 0, 0, 2, 0, 5, 7, 6, 7, 0 } };

    // No. of edges is equivalent to no. of non-zero elements in the matrix
    int num_nodes = graph.length;
    int num_edges = 0;

    for (int i = 0; i < num_nodes; i++) {
        for (int j=0; j < graph[0].length; j++) {
            if (graph[i][j] != 0) num_edges++;
        }
    }

    // Lets build edges from the graph.
    int edges[][] = new int[num_edges][3];

    int e = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < num_nodes; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < graph[0].length; j++) {

            if (graph[i][j] != 0) {
                edges[e][0] = i;           // from node
                edges[e][1] = j;           // to node
                edges[e][2] = graph[i][j]; // distance
                e++;
            }
        }
    }

    ShortestPathBF spb = new ShortestPathBF(edges, num_nodes);

    Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
    String s;

```

```

s = sc.nextLine();
spb.findShortestPath(8);
s = sc.nextLine();
spb.findShortestPath(8);
s = sc.nextLine();
spb.findShortestPath(8);
s = sc.nextLine();
spb.findShortestPath(8);
s = sc.nextLine();
spb.findShortestPath(8);

// Every edge has three values (u, v, w) where
// the edge is from vertex u to v. And weight
// of the edge is w.
// int graph[][] = { { 0, 1, -1 }, { 0, 2, 4 },
//                   { 1, 2, 3 }, { 1, 3, 2 },
//                   { 1, 4, 2 cd }, { 3, 2, 5 },
//                   { 3, 1, 1 }, { 4, 3, -3 } };

// BellmanFord(graph, V, E, 0);

}
}

```

Code modified from geeks for geeks.

## A2: Dijkstra's Algorithm

```

import java.io.*;
import java.util.Scanner;

// Class that computes shortest path using Dijkstra's algorithm
class ShortestPathDijkstra {

    int[][] m_graph;
    StringBuilder m_outBuf;

    ShortestPathDijkstra(int[][] graph) {
        m_graph = graph;
        m_outBuf = new StringBuilder();
    }

    // Find the next minDstance node thats not yet processed

```

```

int minDistance(int dist[], Boolean isProcessed[])
{
    // Initialize min value
    int min_dist = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
    int min_index = -1;

    for (int v = 0; v < dist.length; v++) {
        if (!isProcessed[v] && dist[v] <= min_dist) {
            min_dist = dist[v];
            min_index = v;
        }
    }

    return min_index;
}

// A utility function to print the constructed distance array
void printComputation(int src, int dst, int dist[], int n,
    Boolean isProcessed[], boolean allNodesProcessed)
{
    m_outBuf.append("Vertex Distance from Source "+ src + " is:\n" );

    for (int i = 0; i < dist.length; i++) {

        String isMinFound = " ";
        if (isProcessed[i]) isMinFound = "*";

        if ( !allNodesProcessed && (i == dst)) {
            m_outBuf.append(src + " --> " + i + isMinFound + " is " + dist[i] + " <==
***\n");
        } else {
            m_outBuf.append(src + " --> " + i + isMinFound + " is " + dist[i] +
"\n");
        }
    }
}

// Function that implements Dijkstra's single source shortest path
void findShortestPath (int src, int dst)
{
    m_outBuf.setLength(0);
    long start = System.nanoTime();

    int num_nodes = m_graph.length;

```

```

    int dist[] = new int[num_nodes]; // shortest computed distance from src
to i as of now
    Boolean isNodeProcessed[] = new Boolean[num_nodes];

    // Initialize all distances from src as INFINITE (MAX_VALUE) and
isNodeProcessed[] as false
    for (int i = 0; i < num_nodes; i++) {
        dist[i] = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        isNodeProcessed[i] = false;
    }

    // Distance of source vertex from itself is always 0
    dist[src] = 0;

    // Find shortest path for all vertices
    for (int count = 0; count < num_nodes-1; count++) {

        // Pick the minimum distance vertex from src thats not processed yet
        int min_dist = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        int minNode = -1;

        for (int v = 0; v < dist.length; v++) {
            if (isNodeProcessed[v]) continue;
            if (dist[v] <= min_dist) {
                min_dist = dist[v];
                minNode = v;
            }
        }

        // If minNode is destination we are done..

        if (minNode == dst) {

            // We found the min staince to destination node
            m_outBuf.append("Yay !! we found the shortest path from " + src + " to "
+ dst + ": " + dist[dst] + "\n");
            m_outBuf.append("Execution time: " + String.valueOf(System.nanoTime()-
start) + " nano seconds\n");
        }

        // Mark the picked node as processed
        isNodeProcessed[minNode] = true;

        // Update dist of adjacent nodes from src
        for (int v = 0; v < num_nodes; v++) {

```

```

        // Update dist[v] only if is not in isNodeProcessed, there is an
        // edge from minNode to v, and total weight of path from src to
        // v through minNode is smaller than current value of dist[v]

        if (isNodeProcessed[v]) continue;
        if (dist[minNode] == Integer.MAX_VALUE) continue;
        if (m_graph[minNode][v] == 0) continue;

        if (dist[minNode] + m_graph[minNode][v] < dist[v])
            dist[v] = dist[minNode] + m_graph[minNode][v];
    }

}

m_outBuf.append("Execution time [Dijkstra] : " +
String.valueOf(System.nanoTime()-start) + " nano seconds\n");
// for (int i = 0; i < dist.length; i++)
//     m_outBuf.append(src + " --> " + i + " is " + dist[i] +
"\n"); // commented code
System.out.println(m_outBuf);
}

public static void main(String[] args)
{
    // Graph with N nodes is represented in NxN array for simplicity
    int graph[][] = new int[][] { { 0, 4, 0, 5, 0, 1, 0, 8, 0 },
        { 4, 0, 8, 0, 6, 0, 10, 11, 328 },
        { 0, 8, 0, 7, 0, 4, 0, 0, 2 },
        { 192, 0, 7, 0, 9, 14, 0, 6, 0 },
        { 0, 22, 0, 9, 0, 10, 0, 3, 0 },
        { 0, 1, 4, 14, 10, 0, 2, 0, 0 },
        { 0, 0, 0, 0,10, 2, 0, 1, 6 },
        { 8, 11, 0, 8, 0, 0, 1, 0, 7 },
        { 0, 0, 2, 0, 5, 7, 6, 7, 0 } };

    ShortestPathDijkstra spd = new ShortestPathDijkstra(graph);

    Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
    String s;

    s = sc.nextLine();
        spd.findShortestPath(8, 1);
    s = sc.nextLine();

```

```

    spd.findShortestPath(8, 1);
    s = sc.nextLine();
    spd.findShortestPath(8, 1);
    s = sc.nextLine();
        spd.findShortestPath(8, 1);
    s = sc.nextLine();
    spd.findShortestPath(8, 1);

}
}

```

### A3: Graph Generator Algorithm

```

import java.io.*;
import java.util.Arrays;
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.util.Random;
import ShortestPathBF;
import ShortestPathDijkstra;

class Graphgenerator {

public static int[][] graphG(int N) //N is the number of vertices
{
    int temp;
    int[][] Graph = new int[N][N];
    Random number = new Random();
    for(int i =0; i < N; i++){
        for(int j = 0; j < N; j++){
            Graph[i][j] = -1;
        }
    }
    for(int i = 0; i < N; i++){
        for(int j = 0; j < N; j++){
            if(i == j){
                Graph[i][j] = 0;
                continue;
            }
            else if(Graph[i][j] != -1)
            {
                continue;
            }
            if(number.nextInt(2) == 0){

```

```

        Graph[i][j] = 0;
        Graph[j][i] = 0;
        continue;
    }
    else{
        if(Graph[i][j] == -1 && Graph[j][i] == -1){
            temp = 1+number.nextInt(999);
            Graph[i][j] = temp;
            Graph[j][i] = temp;
        }
    }
}
}
return Graph;
}

public static void main(String[] args){
    Random number = new Random();
    int size = 20;
    int S = 1+number.nextInt(size); // calculates the source
    int D = 1+number.nextInt(size); // calculates the destination
    int[][] X = graphG(size);
    // for (int i = 0; i < X.length; i++) { //this equals to the row in our
matrix.
    //     for (int j = 0; j < X[i].length; j++) { //this equals to the
column in each row.
    //         System.out.print(X[i][j] + " ");
    //     }
    //     System.out.println(); //change line on console as row comes to end
in the matrix.
    // }
    ShortestPathDijkstra y = new ShortestPathDijkstra(X);
    int num_nodes = X.length;
    int num_edges = 0;

    for (int i = 0; i < num_nodes; i++) {
        for (int j=0; j < num_nodes; j++) {
            if (X[i][j] != 0) num_edges++;
        }
    }

    // Lets build edges from the graph.
    int edges[][] = new int[num_edges][3];

    int e = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < num_nodes; i++) {

```



```

for (int j = 0; j < num_nodes; j++) {

if (X[i][j] != 0) {
    edges[e][0] = i;           // from node
    edges[e][1] = j;           // to node
    edges[e][2] = X[i][j];    // distance
    e++;
}
}
}

ShortestPathBF spb = new ShortestPathBF(edges, num_nodes);
for(int i=0; i<21; i++){      // computes 20 trials per execution
    S = 1+number.nextInt(size); // calculates the source
    D = 1+number.nextInt(size); // calculates the destination
    X = graphG(size);
    y.findShortestPath(S, D);
    spb.findShortestPath(S);
}
}
}
}

```

Code modified from geeks for geeks.

## Appendix B: Raw Data Collection

### B1: Dijkstra's Algorithm

(Small font was used as the numbers were extremely large)

IDE 1: Visual Studio Code (version 1.70)										
Number of Nodes	Execution Time (nanoseconds)									
	10	13300	10900	20300	13700	14600	21900	45700	18300	33400
13	26300	30300	15900	40400	22100	25000	11800	29900	16000	14000
16	13300	25800	28100	40700	28600	36200	53000	20500	9900	32300

19	27400	12400	39100	28000	14000	56700	20100	49500	50600	21400
22	23000	10000	36600	34100	31300	40100	34400	43100	39500	41200
25	72800	31700	47600	17200	80700	40400	17700	90400	50800	50400
30	23600	60700	18300	108600	46400	26600	61100	45600	16600	79800
35	92500	118200	24500	84400	89000	103400	71100	102000	84900	124100
40	154000	112900	95200	90900	49600	86100	79700	120000	105800	135100
45	120100	134300	101400	26400	141300	49200	108700	349700	81400	61600
50	61500	159600	181800	74300	99100	191900	23100	168300	43700	124200
60	295400	88600	207700	51800	203100	144600	135900	37900	180300	24700
80	326000	69700	296400	295600	203100	144600	135900	37900	180300	24700
100	428200	815700	68230	231400	128900	502100	145800	186200	157100	125100
150	309400	184200	360600	136600	187800	360900	177100	22700	666000	326300
200	2740300	2267700	821900	418300	263300	409600	359800	226500	148700	169300
300	357500	771700	479600	129900	295200	497500	108800	378900	561600	85000
400	979700	621700	517900	1207300	1460400	756400	540000	269000	718400	123600
500	1037600	20747900	1346900	16157500	2175900	1350400	339000	929600	609900	1496400
600	2195000	595500	1959400	645600	364900	261700	528000	606600	575900	1631800
800	4508000	3068500	28925900	3544900	2338900	3354000	4619200	436100	3446600	1145500
1000	5900500	2180000	8844500	238500	107100	758500	4600300	4491700	872900	1422700

IDE 2: Eclipse (version 2022-06 R)

<b>Number of Nodes</b>	<b>Execution Time (nanoseconds)</b>									
10	16900	14400	24000	24200	24000	8400	14900	14000	33400	14500
13	15400	16000	32000	14500	19600	22000	17600	23400	16000	38100
16	32600	41400	31900	57700	24300	27200	16500	34400	25100	115300
19	22400	31900	10600	38800	29900	33400	54000	24400	19200	113200
22	40200	56900	67400	54400	42800	28400	60300	42900	34000	41200
25	40400	42200	31500	72000	36200	60200	50000	63700	64000	66300
30	75800	42300	28100	93700	61500	68400	89100	42500	61000	23800
35	114100	75100	97300	111300	46900	81500	132100	88000	52800	112300
40	134200	36800	114600	79900	74200	322100	49800	36400	44500	106600
45	61400	38500	142300	265400	107000	149900	67700	100400	51500	98200
50	123200	184300	463800	111600	91900	104800	126300	51600	68700	67900
60	183800	189600	136000	66000	26900	63300	45400	49700	17100	61000
80	29700	123500	82200	37500	98900	127700	63300	80600	88000	270900
100	125400	74500	423800	128200	198800	37000	159900	188400	123900	189800
150	326100	432300	329900	229300	144000	232400	144000	232400	403700	273200
200	169300	152800	410800	139300	148900	593900	59400	203200	321700	204900
300	98000	563500	316600	54500	230000	43400	433000	764100	402800	97700
400	103300	44600	621900	767400	564700	149700	680000	689900	758500	745700
500	1381400	991400	871400	656700	405100	1365200	266500	1236900	458300	1576300
600	1432100	2453000	2298300	2031000	1195800	2012900	355500	514300	1488300	889000

800	1325500	2906500	2773100	374800	851800	2382500	3858400	3383100	2621600	3506400
1000	1122700	3946100	5256400	5044700	177200	4927600	1434900	1434600	2252200	3142800

## B2: Bellman Ford's Algorithm

(Small font was used as the numbers were extremely large)

IDE 1: Visual Studio Code (version 1.70)										
Number of Nodes	Execution Time (nanoseconds)									
	10	36000	28000	34500	24500	36200	41500	59200	35000	38800
13	61000	72900	49900	53700	41200	100600	57700	50100	66600	44300
16	120700	67400	65400	65600	108700	81500	129300	103600	92500	98900
19	112900	118100	118900	111800	117200	149200	107500	152300	172200	107400
22	182400	168000	166900	191500	187200	272900	282700	174800	259700	203500
25	273700	259500	256700	265400	239700	307300	331800	149800	107000	80800
30	435000	439100	571800	181000	120300	94600	462000	571300	513200	442400
35	664400	772100	170600	133600	157900	195000	135100	107700	138000	281400
40	931000	293600	162000	132700	177200	250800	180900	222200	155900	163500
45	380300	231400	262700	263900	263000	347200	395000	287000	274900	351700
50	357200	764400	498600	335500	315000	300500	355000	562500	679800	440900
60	804000	580600	745900	527600	643800	700300	763100	1421400	840700	955600
80	1080700	1900100	1874300	1362000	2083700	1629400	1193000	9016100	1232800	2188200

100	2075300	18699700	205560	3466700	2162600	3514300	1832800	821000	1709700	954200
150	309400	184200	360600	136600	187800	360900	177100	22700	666000	326300
200	31286200	27689900	17495000	11618100	13454500	9718800	11399200	12216900	13003000	10270000
300	76050500	30492800	53020900	22648300	26189200	24503500	22737600	25030800	24816600	26033500
400	54824300	62584800	84945200	73603700	72374000	65990400	67882200	64014800	64716100	61557400
500	157741700	102236200	108568000	102379200	113677200	106203800	111136600	104532400	111603800	115837200
600	236330600	239946000	241099000	241107000	241315800	249153400	249259500	231633100	233536700	262235900
800	572574300	570297400	806017300	828918500	814160900	864612600	818976500	809288200	819130600	823684500
1000	1840821500	2838474700	2515692700	2268271100	1956530700	1915711400	1947348600	1906181400	1896393600	1922388500

IDE 2: Eclipse (version 2022-06 R)										
Number of Nodes	Execution Time (nanoseconds)									
	10	27900	31200	27400	43000	35100	34900	34600	40800	38800
13	67000	77300	75800	62100	67600	63100	70700	71600	38900	61300
16	153400	202100	92500	117200	72400	78700	117200	118600	89600	121400
19	112300	165100	185500	105900	145100	207900	131300	155600	403700	102200
22	62300	78300	126300	61100	49100	45200	101600	166700	199600	52900
25	49100	125700	59500	66800	95850	40800	56800	60000	461300	62400
30	500400	203600	174500	146500	107500	171200	124100	99300	104900	401200

35	162400	340600	113000	170200	100800	148600	109900	177600	838200	165100
40	240500	227800	240700	165600	262500	209700	131600	203400	244000	239300
45	249900	284100	232700	356400	314600	358500	328600	298300	187600	231400
50	489000	561100	288900	490300	982400	434000	409900	420100	359800	464200
60	651400	746800	296500	610600	311900	346600	217100	521400	259300	633100
80	1883900	1416800	997800	1008100	1162000	1654500	2302300	1193800	41028400	1723800
100	1553100	1474900	1432600	9363900	786000	1634700	9363900	884400	3637400	1413500
150	2969100	2506300	3168800	3450700	2391500	3450700	2391500	4386300	3504800	3265100
200	8961800	8151900	9349800	9249000	9947000	10659900	8064300	9800100	11180900	9761200
300	25461000	25302700	26437700	24688400	23781000	26202100	24708600	28178500	25059000	25461000
400	64722200	60846700	60580300	65921000	64425800	60608100	79263300	76501200	79691500	63829100
500	114777700	120778200	118889700	123494500	115506100	130383800	127762200	129367800	125936400	124811700
600	265795900	264480800	258685000	262127700	295681900	314958600	257980400	265480400	268192100	243710900
800	868981300	884850200	971469400	784434800	777151700	775221300	800073700	822220800	780167000	881256100
1000	1897219200	1993033400	1899000400	2153442600	1924845600	1891192500	1920363900	1894614200	1892271700	1782781500