# Approximate Single-Source Shortest Paths: Distributed and Dynamic Algorithms 

## Sebastian Krinninger

Max Planck Institute for Informatics
joint works with


Ruben
Becker


Monika
Henzinger


Andreas
Karrenbauer


Christoph
Lenzen


Danupon Nanongkai



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$(1+\epsilon)$-approximate single-source shortest paths (SSSP)

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This talk: constant $\epsilon$, positive integer edge weights polynomial in $n$

## Hop Reduction

## Well Known: Spanners

## Definition

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Fact: Every graph has a $k$-spanner of size $n^{1+1 / k}$ [Folklore]
Application: Running time $T(m, n) \Rightarrow T\left(n^{1+1 / k}, n\right)$

## Less Known: Hop Sets

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An $(h, \epsilon)$-hop set is a set of weighted edges $F$ such that, for all pairs of nodes $u$ and $v$, in the 'shortcut graph' $G \cup F$ there is a path from $u$ to $v$ with at most $h$ edges of weight at most $(1+\epsilon) \operatorname{dist}(u, v)$.

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Fact: Every graph has a $\left(\log ^{O(1)} n, \epsilon\right)$-hop set of size $m^{1+o(1)}$ [Cohen '94]

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## Application?

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- Bellman-Ford: SSSP in time $O(m n)$ Actually: SSSP up to $h$ hops in time $O(m h)$ With $\left(n^{o(1)}, \epsilon\right)$ hop set: $(1+\epsilon)$-approximate SSSP in time $O\left(m^{1+o(1)}\right)$ Approach used before in parallel setting [Cohen '94]


## Simple Hop Set Based on Balls (following [Thorup/Zwick '06])

$V=A_{0} \supseteq A_{1} \supseteq \cdots \supseteq A_{k}=\emptyset$ where node of
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For every node $u$ of priority $i$ :
$\operatorname{Ball}(u)=\left\{v \in V \mid \operatorname{dist}(u, v)<\operatorname{dist}\left(u, A_{i+1}\right)\right\}$

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- $(u, v) \in F$ iff $v \in \operatorname{Ball}(u)$
- $w(u, v)=\operatorname{dist}_{G}(u, v)$


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priority \# nodes

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $n^{1-1 / k}$ |
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$\operatorname{Ball}(u)=\left\{v \in V \mid \operatorname{dist}(u, v)<\operatorname{dist}\left(u, A_{i+1}\right)\right\}$
Expected size: $n^{(i+1) / k}$
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## Parameter Choice

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k=\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\sqrt{\log 4 / \epsilon}}
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\left(\frac{4}{\epsilon}\right)^{k}=n^{1 / k}
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Case 1: $\operatorname{dist}\left(u_{0}, v\right) \leq n^{1 / 2+1 / k} / \epsilon$

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& \leq n^{1 / 2} n^{1 / k} \\
k & =\sqrt{\log n /} \sqrt{\log 4 / \epsilon}
\end{aligned}
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$$
\text { decreasing distance to } v
$$

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Weight } \leq(1+\epsilon) \operatorname{dist}\left(u_{0}, v\right) \\
& \# \text { Edges } \leq \frac{k \cdot \operatorname{dist}(u, v)}{n^{1 / 2}} \leq \frac{k \cdot n}{n^{1 / 2}}=k n^{1 / 2}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Chicken-Egg Problem?

(1) Goal: Faster SSSP via hop set
(2) Compute hop set by computing balls
(3) Computing balls at least as hard as SSSP
$\Rightarrow$ Back at problem we wanted to solve initially?

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No! ( $n^{1 / 2+o(1)}, \epsilon$ )-hop set only requires balls up to $n^{1 / 2+o(1)}$ hops

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## Iterative computation

In each iteration number of hops is reduced by a factor of $n^{1 / k}$

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Compute balls with $k$ priorities in $H_{i}$ up to $n^{2 / k}$ hops

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Omitted detail: weighted graphs, use rounding technique

## Distributed Algorithm

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SSSP in CONGEST model: synchronous rounds, message size $O(\log n)$
Running time = number of rounds

- Exact: $O(n)$ (Bellman-Ford)
- ( $1+\epsilon$ )-approximation:
- $\Omega\left(n^{1 / 2} / \log n+\right.$ Diam [Das Sarma et al. '11]
- $O\left(\epsilon^{-1} \log \epsilon^{-1}\right): O\left(n^{1 / 2+\epsilon}+\right.$ Diam $)$ (randomized) [Lenzen, Patt-Shamir '13]
- $1+\epsilon: O\left(n^{1 / 2}\right.$ Diam $^{1 / 4}+$ Diam) (randomized) [Nanongkai '14]
- $1+\epsilon: O\left(n^{1 / 2+o(1)}+\right.$ Diam $\left.^{1+o(1)}\right)$ (deterministic) (New)


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Derandomization of "hitting paths" argument at cost of approximation
(2) Compute hop set and approximate SSSP on overlay network Deterministic hop set using greedy hitting set heuristic

## Overlay Network



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Sample $N=\widetilde{O}\left(n^{1 / 2}\right)$ centers ( + source $s$ )
$\Rightarrow$ Every shortest path with $\geq n^{1 / 2}$ edges contains center whp

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## Derandomization of Overlay Network

Randomization: Hit every shortest path with $\geq \sqrt{n}$ edges


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Randomization: Hit every shortest path with $\geq \sqrt{n}$ edges


Deterministic relaxation: Almost hit every path $\geq \sqrt{n}$ edges


## Computing Hop Set on Overlay Network

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Computing balls: $\widetilde{O}\left(n^{1 / k} \cdot \operatorname{Diam}+\sum_{v}|\operatorname{Ball}(v)|\right)=\widetilde{O}\left(n^{1 / k} \cdot \operatorname{Diam}+N^{1+1 / k}\right)$

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$\Rightarrow$ Hop Set and approximate SSSP: $O\left(n^{1 / 2+o(1)}+\operatorname{Diam}^{1+o(1)}\right)$

## Dynamic Algorithm

## Decremental Approximate Shortest Path Problem

$G$ undergoing deletions:


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- Deletions-only problem, but edges might be added to hop set Monotone ES-tree framework [Henzinger/K/Nanongkai '13]

New Approach

## New Distributed Algorithm

Theorem ([Becker/Karrenbauer/K/Lenzen arXiv'16])
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Find the cheapest route for sending units of a single good from sources to sinks along the edges of a graph as specified by demands on nodes.

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SSSP: source has demand $-(n-1)$, other nodes have demand 1

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Shortest transshipment as linear program:

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We approximate $\|\cdot\|_{\infty}$ by soft-max:

$$
\operatorname{lse}_{\beta}(x):=\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left(\sum_{i \in[d]}\left(e^{\beta x_{i}}+e^{-\beta x_{i}}\right)\right)
$$

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Algorithm at a glance:
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(1) Compute spanner on overlay network and solving transshipment on overlay spanner
Spanner has stretch $O(\log n)$ and size $\widetilde{O}(n)$
(5) Overall: Polylog iterations, each solving $O(\log n)$-approximate transshipment on graph of $\widetilde{O}(n)$ edges

## Conclusion

## Main contributions:

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- Combinatorial and algebraic tools


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## Open problems:

- Parallel: improve Cohen's $m^{1+o(1)}$ work with polylog depth?
- Better hop set? $n^{o(1)} \rightarrow \log ^{O(1)} n$
- Deterministic dynamic SSSP algorithm

Vision: Dynamic algorithms as data structures inside other algorithms

- Is $O(n)$ rounds for exact distributed SSSP optimal?

