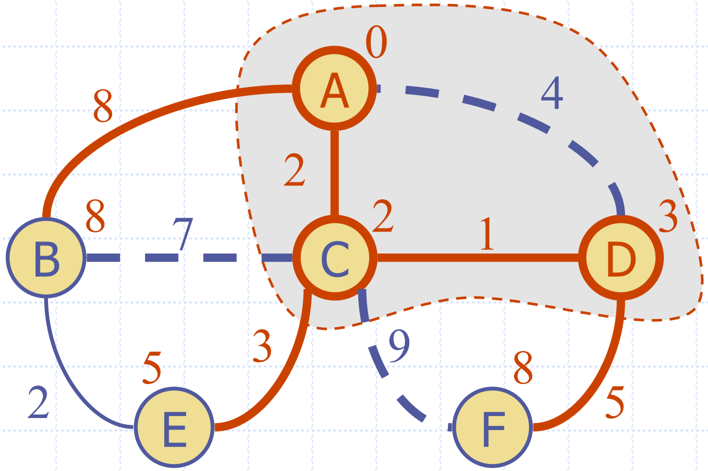
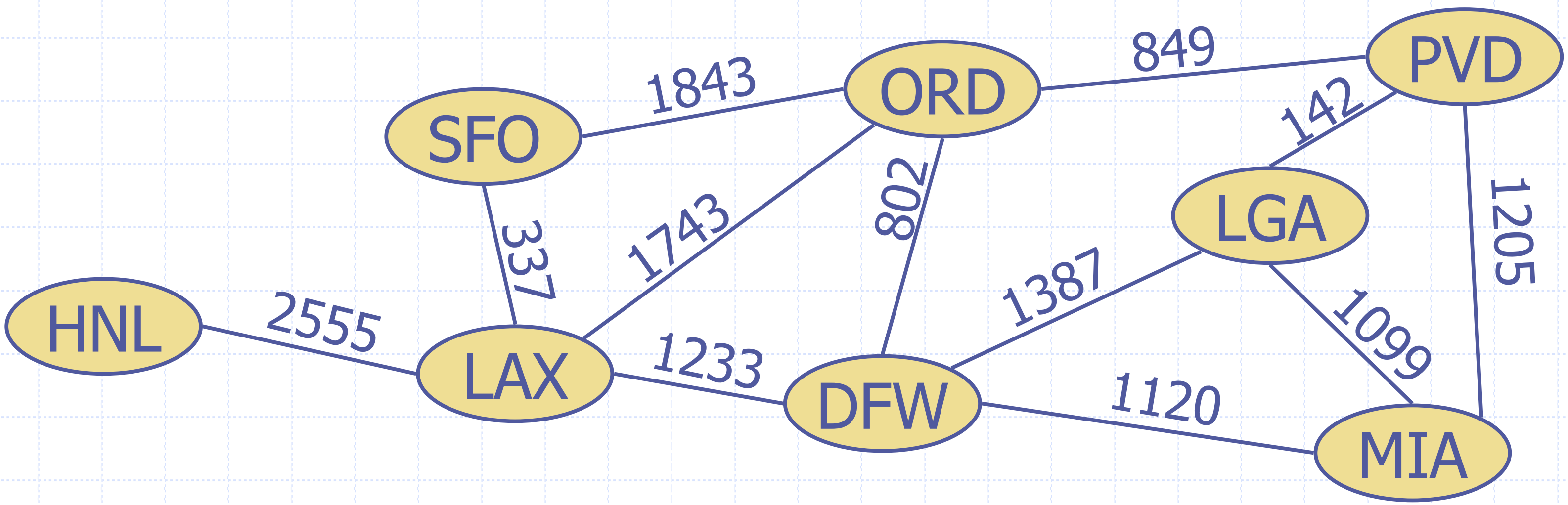
Shortest Paths



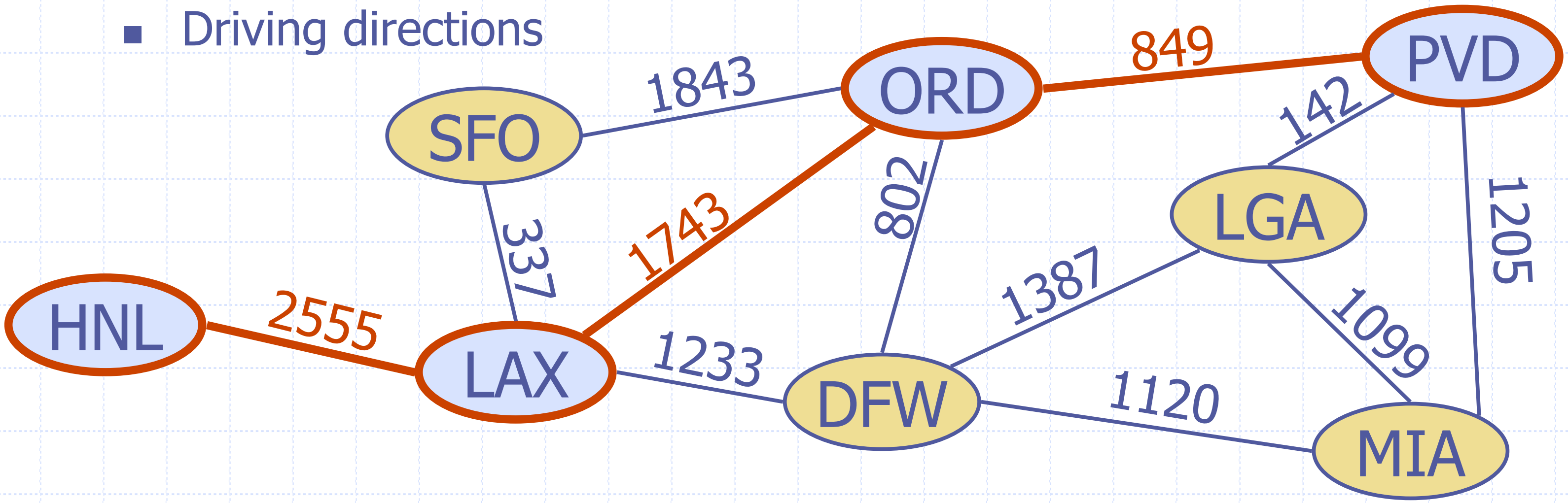
Weighted Graphs (§ 12.5)

- In a weighted graph, each edge has an associated numerical value, called the weight of the edge
- Edge weights may represent, distances, costs, etc.
- Example:
  - In a flight route graph, the weight of an edge represents the distance in miles between the endpoint airports



Shortest Paths (§ 12.6)

- Given a weighted graph and two vertices ***u*** and ***v***, we want to find a path of minimum total weight between ***u*** and ***v***.
  - Length of a path is the sum of the weights of its edges.
- Example:
  - Shortest path between Providence and Honolulu
- Applications
  - Internet packet routing
  - Flight reservations
  - Driving directions



Shortest Path Properties

Property 1:

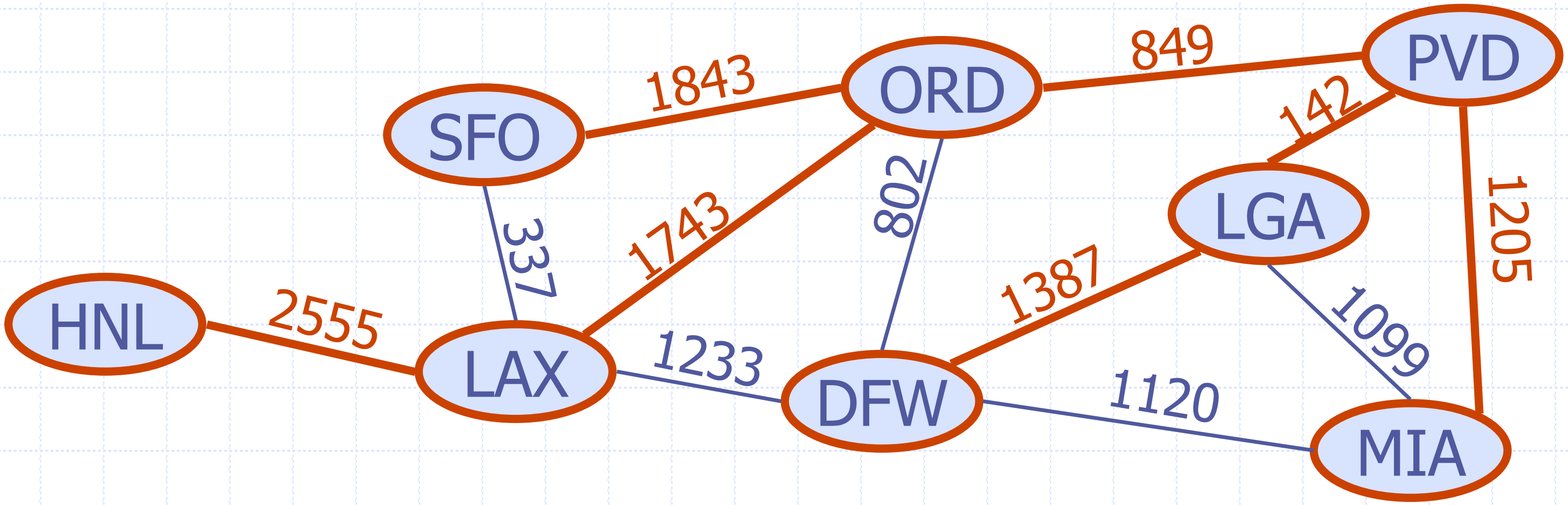
A subpath of a shortest path is itself a shortest path

Property 2:

There is a tree of shortest paths from a start vertex to all the other vertices

Example:

Tree of shortest paths from Providence



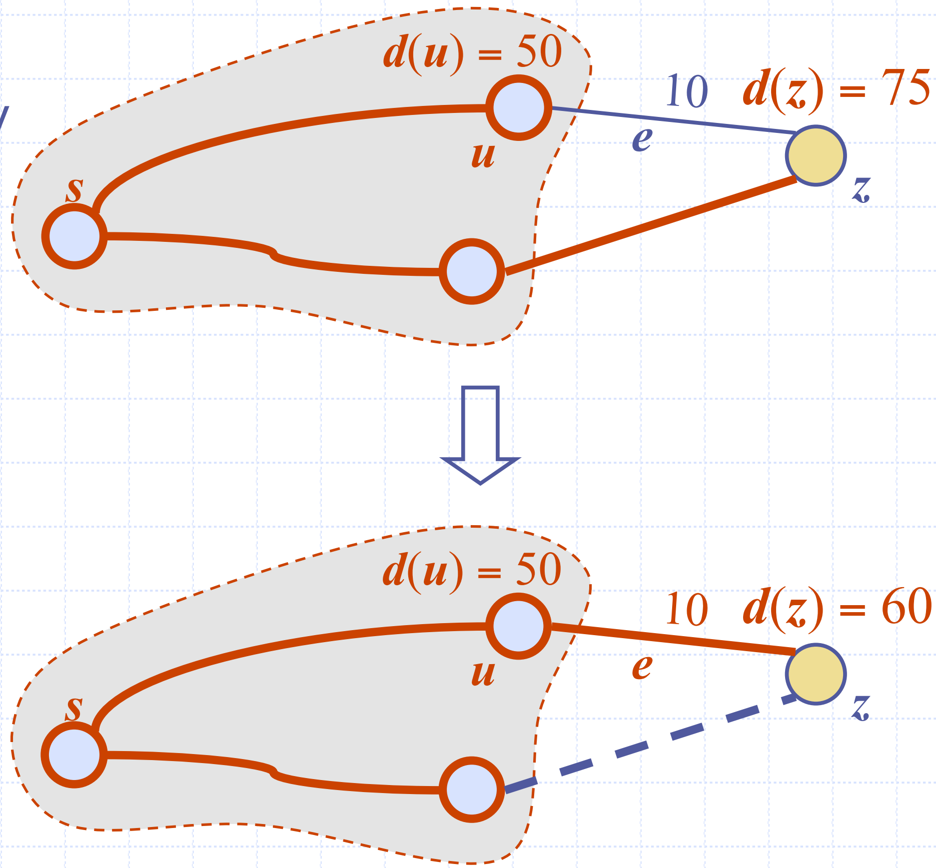
Dijkstra's Algorithm (§ 12.6.1)

- The distance of a vertex v from a vertex s is the length of a shortest path between s and v
- Dijkstra's algorithm computes the distances of all the vertices from a given start vertex s
- Assumptions:
  - the graph is connected
  - the edges are undirected
  - the edge weights are nonnegative
- We grow a "**cloud**" of vertices, beginning with s and eventually covering all the vertices
- We store with each vertex v a label $d(v)$ representing the distance of v from s in the subgraph consisting of the cloud and its adjacent vertices
- At each step
  - We add to the cloud the vertex u outside the cloud with the smallest distance label, $d(u)$
  - We update the labels of the vertices adjacent to u

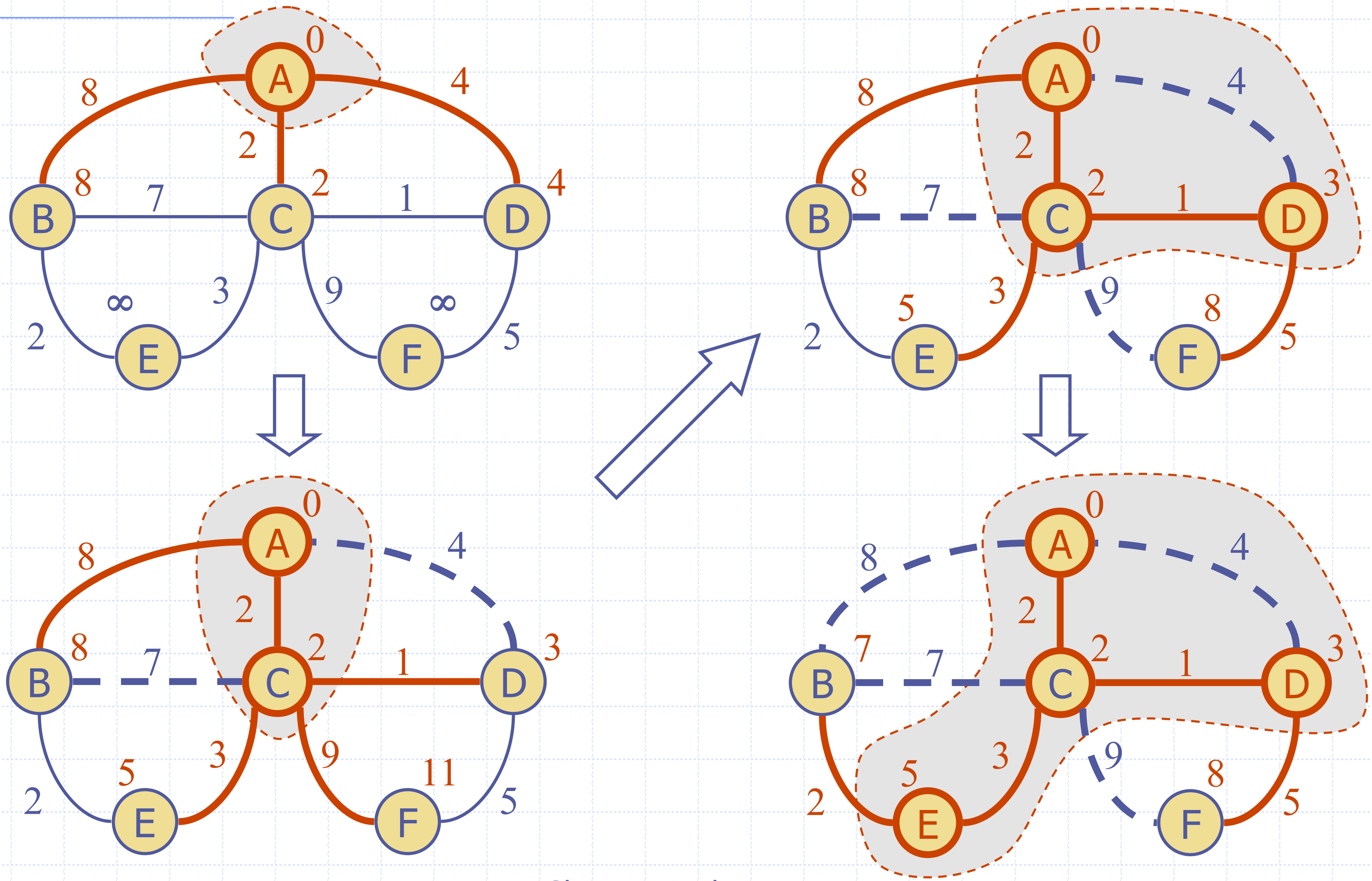
Edge Relaxation

- Consider an edge $e = (u,z)$ such that
  - u is the vertex most recently added to the cloud
  - z is not in the cloud
- The relaxation of edge e updates distance $d(z)$ as follows:

$$d(z) \leftarrow \min\{d(z), d(u) + weight(e)\}$$



Example



Example (cont.)