Betweenness Centrality – Incremental and Faster *

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Abstract. We consider the incremental computation of the betweenness centrality (BC) of all vertices in a graph \( G = (V, E) \), directed or undirected, with positive real edge-weights. The current widely used algorithm is the Brandes algorithm that runs in \( O(mn + n^2 \log n) \) time, where \( n = |V| \) and \( m = |E| \).

We present an incremental algorithm that updates the BC score of all vertices in \( G \) when a new edge is added to \( G \), or the weight of an existing edge is reduced. Our incremental algorithm runs in \( O(m'n + n^2) \) time, where \( m' \) is bounded by \( m^* = |E^*| \), and \( E^* \) is the set of edges that lie on a shortest path in \( G \). We achieve the same bound for the more general incremental update of a vertex \( v \), where the edge update can be performed on any subset of edges incident to \( v \).

Our incremental algorithm is the first algorithm that is asymptotically faster on sparse graphs than recomputing with the Brandes algorithm on dense graphs since \( m^* \) is often close to linear in \( n \).

Our incremental algorithm is very simple, and we give an efficient cache-oblivious implementation that incurs \( O(scan(n^2) + n \cdot sort(m')) \) cache misses, where \( scan \) and \( sort \) are well-known measures for efficient caching. We also give a static BC algorithm that runs in time \( O(m^* n + n^2 \log n) \), which is faster than the Brandes algorithm on any graph with \( m = \omega(n \log n) \) and \( m^* = o(m) \).

1 Introduction

Betweenness centrality (BC) is a widely-used measure in the analysis of large complex networks. The BC of a node \( v \) in a network is the fraction of all shortest paths in the network that go through \( v \), and this measure is often used as an index that determines the relative importance of \( v \) in the network. Some applications of BC include analyzing social interaction networks [12], identifying lethality in biological networks [21], and identifying key actors in terrorist networks [13].

Given the changing nature of the networks under consideration, it is desirable to have algorithms that compute BC faster than computing it from scratch after every change. Our main contribution is the first incremental algorithm for computing BC after an incremental update on an edge or on a vertex that is provably faster on sparse graphs than the widely used static algorithm by Brandes [3]. By an incremental update on an edge \((u, v)\) we mean a decrease in the weight of an existing edge \((u, v)\), or the addition of a new edge \((u, v)\) with finite weight if \((u, v)\) is not present in the graph; in an incremental vertex update, updates can occur on any subset of edges incident to \( v \), including the addition of new edges.

Let \( G = (V, E) \) be a graph with positive real edge weights. Let \( n = |V| \) and \( m = |E| \). To state our result we need the following definitions. For a vertex \( x \in V \), let \( m'_x \) denote the number of edges that lie on shortest paths through \( x \). Let \( \bar{m}^* \) denote the average over all \( m'_x \), i.e., \( \bar{m}^* = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in V} m'_x \). Finally, let \( m^* \) denote the total number of edges that lie on shortest paths in \( G \). For our incremental bound, we consider the maximum of each of these terms in the two graphs before and after the update. Here is our main result.

**Theorem 1.** After an incremental update on a vertex \( v \) in a directed or undirected graph with positive edge weights, the betweenness centrality of all vertices can be recomputed in \( O(m' \cdot n + n^2) \) time, where \( m' = \bar{m}^* + m^*_v \).

Our method is to efficiently maintain the single source shortest paths (SSSP) directed acyclic graph (DAG) rooted at each source \( s \in V \), and therefore ensure that after every change we only examine the

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edges that lie on shortest path DAGs. Since \( m^*_v \leq m^* \) for all \( v \in V \), and \( m^* \leq m \), the worst case time for our incremental algorithm is bounded by \( O(mn + n^2) \), which is a log \( n \) factor improvement over Brandes’ algorithm on sparse graphs. Moreover, our bound in terms of \( \tilde{m}^* \) and \( m^*_v \) results in much better bounds for many dense graphs. For example, as noted in [10], it is known [69,15] that \( m^* = O(n \log n) \) with high probability in a complete graph where edge weights are chosen from a large class of probability distributions, including the uniform distribution on the range \( \{1, \ldots, n^2\} \), and our algorithm is much faster than [3] on these graphs.

Our algorithm is very simple, especially for the edge update case, and we present an efficient cache-oblivious version that incurs \( O(sort(n^2) + n \cdot sort(m')) \) cache misses. Here, for a cache of size \( M \) that can hold \( B \) blocks, \( scan(r) = r/B \) and \( sort(r) = (r/B) \cdot \log_M r \) with a tall cache \( (M \geq B^2) \). Both \( scan \) and \( sort \) are measures of good caching performance (even though \( sort(r) \) performs \( r \log r \) operations, the base of \( M \) in the log makes \( sort(r) \) preferable to, say \( r \) cache misses). In contrast, the Brandes algorithm calls Dijkstra’s algorithm, which is affected by unstructured accesses to adjacency lists that lead to large caching costs (see, e.g., [18]).

In our incremental algorithm, we assume that the BC score for all vertices has been computed and the SSSP DAG rooted at every vertex is available. This can be achieved by running Brandes’ algorithm. We present an alternate algorithm based on the Hidden Paths algorithm in Karger et al. [10], which computes APSP in \( O(m^*n + n^2 \log n) \) time. This leads to a static BC algorithm with the same time bound as the Hidden Paths algorithm, which is faster than Brandes’ when \( m^* = o(m) \) and \( m = \omega(n \log n) \). We also note that substituting Pettie’s \( O(mn + n^2 \log n) \) all-pairs shortest paths (APSP) algorithm for directed graphs or the \( O(mn \cdot \log \alpha(m,n)) \) APSP algorithm for undirected graphs (where \( \alpha \) is an inverse-Ackermann function) in place of Dijkstra’s algorithm leads to static BC algorithms with the same time complexity as the corresponding APSP algorithm, and both improve on Brandes. Our incremental algorithm has better bounds than any of these APSP algorithms on sparse graphs, and is no worse (and likely better) on dense graphs.

1.1 Related work

The notion of betweenness centrality was formalized by Freeman [5] who also defined other measures such as closeness centrality. Approximation algorithms and parallel algorithms for BC have been considered in [2,7,16] respectively. Lee et al. [13] present a framework called QUBE (Quick Update of Betweenness centrality) which allows edges to be inserted and deleted from the graph, and recently, Singh et al. [23] build on the work of Lee et al. [14] to allow nodes to be added and deleted. Another recent work by Kas et al. [11] deals with the problem of incremental BC and their algorithm is based on the dynamic all pairs shortest paths algorithm by Ramalingam and Reps [22]. All the above mentioned papers give encouraging experimental results, but there are no performance guarantees.

Closest to our work is the incremental algorithm by Green et al. [8] for a single edge insertion in unweighted graphs, which maintains a breadth-first search (BFS) tree rooted at every source \( s \) and identifies vertices for which the distance (BFS level) from \( s \) has changed. However, unlike our algorithm, they do not maintain the BFS DAG and hence need to run a BFS for all vertices whose distances have changed. Thus, in the worst case, their algorithm takes \( \Theta(mn + n^2) \) time for compute the BC of all vertices in an unweighted graph. In contrast, our algorithm, which takes time \( O(m' \cdot n + n^2) \) even in the weighted case and even for a vertex update, improves on the algorithm in [8] for unweighted graphs when \( m' = o(m) \).

Organization: Section 2 presents the notation we use, and discusses Brandes’ algorithm. Section 3 presents our basic BC algorithm for an incremental edge update, and this algorithm is extended to a vertex update in Section 4. Finally, in Section 5 and Section 6 we give brief sketches of our cache-efficient and static algorithms.
2 Preliminaries and background

We first consider directed graphs. Let \( G = (V, E) \) denote a directed graph with positive real edge weights, given by \( w : E \to \mathbb{R}^+ \). Let \( \pi_{st} \) denote a path from \( s \) to \( t \) in \( G \). Define \( w(\pi_{st}) = \sum_{e \in \pi_{st}} w(e) \) as the weight of the path \( \pi_{st} \). We use \( d(s, t) \) to denote the weight of a shortest path from \( s \) to \( t \) in \( G \), also called its distance.

The following notation was developed by Brandes [3]. For a source \( s \) and a vertex \( v \), let \( P_s(v) \) denote the predecessors of \( v \) on shortest paths from \( s \), i.e.,

\[
P_s(v) = \{ u \in V : (u, v) \in E \text{ and } d(s, v) = d(s, u) + w(u, v) \}\]

Further, let \( \sigma_{st} \) denote the number of shortest paths from \( s \) to \( t \) in \( G \) (with \( \sigma_{ss} = 1 \)). Finally, let \( \sigma_{st}(v) \) denote the number of shortest paths from \( s \) to \( t \) in \( G \) that pass through \( v \). It follows from the definition that,

\[
\sigma_{st}(v) = \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } d(s, t) < d(s, v) + d(v, t) \\
\sigma_{sv} \cdot \sigma_{vt} & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

The dependency of the pair \( s, t \) on an intermediate vertex \( v \) is defined in [3] as the pair dependency \( \delta_{st}(v) = \frac{\sigma_{st}(v)}{\sigma_{st}} \).

For \( v \in V \), the betweenness centrality \( BC(v) \) is defined by Freeman [5] as:

\[
BC(v) = \sum_{s \neq v, t \neq v} \frac{\sigma_{st}(v)}{\sigma_{st}} = \sum_{s \neq v, t \neq v} \delta_{st}(v)
\]

The following two-step procedure computes \( BC \) for all \( v \in V \):

1. For every pair \( s, t \in V \), compute \( \sigma_{st} \).
2. For every vertex \( v \in V \), and for every \( s, t \) pair, compute \( \sigma_{st}(v) \) (Equation 2), and then compute \( BC(v) \) (Equation 3).

Step 1 above can be achieved by \( n \) executions of Dijkstra’s single source shortest paths algorithm. Therefore Step 1 takes time \( O(mn + n^2 \log n) \) time, if we use a priority queue with \( O(1) \) amortized cost for the decrease-key operation. For every vertex \( v \), Step 2 takes \( O(n^2) \) time, since there are \( O(n^2) \) pair dependencies. This gives a \( \Theta(n^3) \) time algorithm to compute \( BC \) for all vertices. Thus, the bottleneck of the above algorithm is the second step which explicitly sums up the pair dependencies for every vertex. To obtain a faster algorithm for sparse graphs, Brandes [3] defined the dependency of a vertex \( s \) on a vertex \( v \) as:

\[
\delta_{s\bullet}(v) = \sum_{t \in V \setminus \{s, v\}} \delta_{st}(v).
\]

Brandes [3] also made the useful observation that the partial sums satisfy a recursive relation. In particular, the dependency of a source \( s \) on a vertex \( v \in V \) can be written as:

\[
\delta_{s\bullet}(v) = \sum_{w : v \in P_s(w)} \frac{\sigma_{sw}}{\sigma_{sw}} \cdot (1 + \delta_{s\bullet}(w))
\]

(See [3] for a proof of Equation 4) The above equation gives an efficient algorithm for computing \( BC \) described in the next section.

2.1 Brandes’ algorithm

We present a high level overview of Brandes’ algorithm (this high-level algorithm is given in Appendix A). The algorithm begins by initializing the BC score for every vertex to 0. Next, for every \( s \in V \), it executes Dijkstra’s SSSP algorithm. During this step, for every \( t \in V \), it computes \( \sigma_{st} \), the number of shortest paths from \( s \) to \( t \), and \( P_s(t) \), the set of predecessors of \( t \) on shortest paths from \( s \). Additionally, the algorithm stores the vertices \( v \in V \) in a stack \( S \) in order of non-increasing value of \( d(s, v) \). Finally, to compute the BC score, the algorithm accumulates the dependency of \( s \). We now elaborate on this final step, which is given
Proof. Since edge weights are positive, the edge \((u, v)\) is decreased. The next lemma shows that after the weight of \((u, v)\) is decreased we can efficiently obtain the updated values \(d'(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st}\) for any \(s, t \in V\).

**Lemma 2.** Let the weight of edge \((u, v)\) be decreased to \(w'(u, v)\), and for a any given pair of vertices \(s, t\), let \(D(s, t) = d(s, u) + w'(u, v) + d(v, t)\). Then,

1. If \(d(s, t) < D(s, t)\), then \(d'(s, t) = d(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st} = \sigma_{st}\).
2. If \(d(s, t) = D(s, t)\), then \(d'(s, t) = d(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st} = \sigma_{st} + (\sigma_{su} \cdot \sigma_{vt})\).
3. If \(d(s, t) > D(s, t)\), then \(d'(s, t) = D(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st} = \sigma_{su} \cdot \sigma_{vt}\).

Proof. Case 1 holds because the shortest path distance from \(s\) to \(t\) remains unchanged and no new shortest path is created in this case. In case 2, the shortest path distance from \(s\) to \(t\) remains unchanged, but there are \(\sigma_{su} \cdot \sigma_{vt}\) new shortest paths from \(s\) to \(t\) created via edge \((u, v)\). In case 3, the shortest path distance from \(s\) to \(t\) decreases and all new shortest paths pass through \((u, v)\). \(\square\)

By Lemma 2, the updated values \(d'(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st}\) can be computed in constant time for each pair \(s, t\.

Once we have the updated values \(d'(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st}\), we need the updated predecessors \(P'_s(t)\) for every \(s, t\) pair for the betweenness centrality algorithm. In order to obtain these updated predecessors efficiently, we maintain the SSSP DAG rooted at every source \(s \in V\). The next section gives a very simple algorithm to maintain an SSSP DAG after an incremental edge update.

### 3.1 Updating an SSSP DAG

Let \(\text{DAG}(s)\), \(\text{DAG}'(s)\) denote the single source shortest path DAG rooted at \(s\) in \(G\) and \(G'\) respectively. Recall that since the update is a decrease in the edge weight of \((u, v)\), we know that \(\text{DAG}'(v) = \text{DAG}(v)\). For an \(s, t\) pair we define a \(\text{flag}(s, t)\) to capture the change in distance/number of shortest paths from \(s\) to \(t\) after the decrease in the weight of the edge \((u, v)\) as follows.

\[
\text{flag}(s, t) = \begin{cases} 
\text{NUM-changed} & \text{if } d'(s, t) = d(s, t) \text{ and } \sigma'_{st} > \sigma_{st} \\
\text{WT-changed} & \text{if } d'(s, t) < d(s, t) \\
\text{UN-changed} & \text{if } d'(s, t) = d(s, t) \text{ and } \sigma'_{st} = \sigma_{st}
\end{cases}
\]

(5)

By Lemma 2 \(\text{flag}(s, t)\) can be computed in constant time for each pair \(s, t\). On input \(s\) and the updated edge \((u, v)\), Algorithm 2 (Update-DAG) constructs a set of edges \(H\) using these \(\text{flag}\) values, together with \(\text{DAG}(s)\) and \(\text{DAG}(v)\). We will show that \(H\) contains exactly the edges in \(\text{DAG}'(s)\). We begin by initializing \(H\) to empty (Step 1). We then consider each edge \((a, b)\) in \(\text{DAG}(s)\) (in Steps 2–4) and in \(\text{DAG}(v)\) (in Steps 5–7) and depending on the value of \(\text{flag}(s, b)\) decide whether to include it in the set \(H\). Finally, we check if the updated edge \((u, v)\) will be inserted in \(H\) (in Steps 8–9). It is clear from the algorithm that the time taken is linear in the size of \(\text{DAG}(s)\) and \(\text{DAG}(v)\) which is bounded by \(O(m_s + m_v)\).

\begin{algorithm}
\textbf{Algorithm 2} Update-DAG(s, (u, v))
\begin{algorithmic}[1]
\State \textbf{Input:} \text{DAG}(s), \text{DAG}(v), and \text{flag}(s, t), \forall t \in V
\State \textbf{Output:} An edge set \(H\) after weight of edge \((u, v)\) has been decreased
\State 1: \(H \leftarrow \emptyset\)
\State 2: \textbf{for} each edge \((a, b)\) in \text{DAG}(s) and \((a, b) \neq (u, v)\) \textbf{do}
\State 3: \hspace{1em} \textbf{if} \text{flag}(s, b) = \text{UN-changed} \text{ or } \text{flag}(s, b) = \text{NUM-changed} \textbf{then}
\State 4: \hspace{2em} \(H \leftarrow H \cup \{(a, b)\}\)
\State 5: \hspace{1em} \textbf{for} each edge \((a, b)\) in \text{DAG}(v) \textbf{do}
\State 6: \hspace{2em} \textbf{if} \text{flag}(s, b) = \text{UN-changed} \text{ or } \text{flag}(s, b) = \text{WT-changed} \textbf{then}
\State 7: \hspace{3em} \(H \leftarrow H \cup \{(a, b)\}\)
\State 8: \hspace{2em} \textbf{if} \text{flag}(s, v) = \text{NUM-changed} \text{ or } \text{flag}(s, v) = \text{WT-changed} \textbf{then}
\State 9: \hspace{3em} \(H \leftarrow H \cup \{(u, v)\}\)
\end{algorithmic}
\end{algorithm}

\textbf{Lemma 3.} Let \(H\) be the set of edges output by Algorithm 2\textbf{.} An edge \((a, b) \in H\) if and only if \((a, b) \in \text{DAG}'(s)\).
Proof. Since the update is an incremental update on edge \((u, v)\), we note that for any \(b\), a shortest path \(\pi'_{sb}\) from \(s\) to \(b\) in \(G'\) can be of two types:

(i) \(\pi'_{sb}\) is a shortest path in \(G\). Therefore every edge on such a path is present in \(\text{DAG}(s)\) and each such edge is added to \(H\) in Steps 2–4 of Algorithm 2.

(ii) \(\pi'_{sb}\) is not a shortest path in \(G\). However, since \(\pi'_{sb}\) is a shortest path in \(G'\), therefore \(\pi'_{sb}\) is of the form \(s \rightarrow u \rightarrow v \rightarrow b\). Since shortest paths from \(s\) to \(u\) in \(G\) and \(G'\) are unchanged (by Lemma 1), the edges in the sub-path \(s \rightarrow u\) are present in \(\text{DAG}(s)\) and they are added to \(H\) in Steps 2–4 of Algorithm 2. Finally, since shortest paths from \(v\) to any \(b\) in \(G\) and \(G'\) remain unchanged, the edges in the sub-path \(v \rightarrow b\) are present in \(\text{DAG}(v)\) and therefore are added to \(H\) in Steps 5–7 of Algorithm 2.

3.2 Updating betweenness centrality scores

In this section we present Algorithm 3 (Incremental-BC), which updates the BC scores for all vertices after an incremental edge update. The algorithm takes as input the graph \(G = (V, E)\) and the updated edge \((u, v)\), together with the current values of \(d(s, t)\) and \(\sigma_{st}\) for all \(s, t \in V\), and the current shortest path dag \(\text{DAG}(s)\), for every \(s \in V\). We begin by initializing the BC score to 0 for every vertex (Step 1). For every pair \(s, t\), we compute the updated \(d'(s, t)\) and \(\sigma_{st}'\) using Lemma 2 (Step 2). Next, in Step 4 we compute \(\text{DAG}'(s)\) for every source \(s \in V\), using Algorithm 2. Note that this gives us the updated predecessor values \(P'(t)\) for every \(s, t \in V\). We perform a topological sort of \(\text{DAG}'(s)\) to obtain an ordering of \(v \in V\) and store the ordered vertices in a stack \(S\). Finally, using \(S\), the \(\sigma_{st}'\), and the \(P'(t)\), we run Brandes’ accumulation of dependencies (Algorithm 1) to compute the updated BC scores.

**Algorithm 3** Incremental-BC \((G = (V, E))\)

**Input:** updated edge \((u, v)\) with new weight \(w'(u, v)\),

\[d(s, t)\] and \(\sigma_{st}, \forall s, t \in V; \quad \text{DAG}(s), \forall s \in V\)

**Output:** \(BC'(v), \forall v \in V\)

\[d'(s, t)\] and \(\sigma_{st}', \forall s, t \in V; \quad \text{DAG}'(s), \forall s \in V\)

1: for every \(v \in V\) do \(BC'(v) \leftarrow 0\)
2: for every \(s, t \in V\) do compute \(d'(s, t), \sigma_{st}', \text{flag}(s, t)\) \hspace{1cm} // use Lemma 2
3: for every \(s \in V\) do
4: \(\text{Update-DAG}(s, (u, v))\) \hspace{1cm} // use Algorithm 2
5: \(\text{stack } S \leftarrow \text{vertices in } V\) in a reverse topological order in \(\text{DAG}'(s)\)
6: \(\text{Accumulate-dependency}(s, S)\) \hspace{1cm} // use Algorithm 1

The correctness of our algorithm follows from the correctness of maintaining \(d(\cdot), \sigma(\cdot)\), and the updated DAGs. We now bound the time complexity of our algorithm. In Step 2 of Algorithm 3 we spend constant time to compute the updated \(d'(s, t)\) and \(\sigma_{st}'\) values for an \(s, t\) pair, hence \(O(n^2)\) time for all pairs. In Step 4 we obtain \(\text{DAG}'(s)\) for each \(s \in V\) using Algorithm 2 which takes time \(O(m_s^* + m_v^*)\) for source \(s\). This amounts to a total of \(O(m_s^* n + \sum_{s \in V} m_s^*) = O((\bar{m}^* + m_s^*)n)\). Finally, Steps 5 and 6 take time linear in the size of the updated DAG. Thus the time complexity of our Incremental-BC algorithm for an edge update is bounded by \(O((\bar{m}^* + m_s^*)n + n^2)\). This establishes Theorem 1 for directed graphs for an update on a single edge.

We remark that both Update-DAG and Increment-BC use very simple data structures: arrays, lists, and stacks. Thus our algorithms are very simple to implement, and should have small constant factors in their running time.

**Undirected graphs:** Consider an undirected positive edge weighted graph \(G = (V, E)\). To obtain an incremental algorithm for \(G\), we first construct the corresponding directed graph \(G_D = (V, E_D)\) from \(G\) by replacing every edge \(\{a, b\} \in E\) by two directed edges \((a, b)\) and \((b, a)\), both with the weight of the undirected edge \(\{a, b\}\). Since edge weights are positive, no shortest path can contain a cycle, hence the SSSP sub-graph
rooted at \( s \) in \( G \) is the same as the SSSP DAG rooted at \( s \) in \( G_D \). Our incremental algorithm for \( G \) for an edge update on \( \{u, v\} \) is now simple: we apply two incremental edge updates on \( G_D \), one on \( \{u, v\} \) and another on \( \{v, u\} \). Since the number of edges in \( G_D \) is only twice the number of edges in \( G \), all other parameters also increase by only a constant factor. This establishes Theorem 1 for edge updates in undirected graphs.

4 Incremental vertex update

Here we now give details of each step of our algorithm starting with the graph \( G \). Broadly, our vertex update on \( v \) in \( G \) is readily adapted to obtain DAGs rooted at \( v \) from \( G \). That is, \( (a, b) \in E_R \) iff \( (b, a) \in E \). Thus, for every \( s \in V \), we also maintain DAG\(_R\)(\( s \)), the SSSP DAG rooted at \( s \) in \( G_R \).

In this step we show how to compute in \( G' \) the distance and number of shortest paths to \( v \) from any \( s \). We make the following definitions: For \( (u_j, v) \in E_i(v) \), let \( D_j(s, t) = d(s, u_j) + w'(u_j, v) \). Since the updates on edges in \( E_i(v) \) are incremental, it follows that

\[
d'(s, v) = \min \{d(s, v), \min_{j: (u_j, v) \in E_i(v)} D_j(s, v)\}\]

Further, if \( d'(s, u) = d(s, u) \), we define

\[
\bar{\sigma}'_{sv} = |\{\pi'_{sv} : \pi'_{sv} \text{ is a shortest path in } G' \text{ and } \pi'_{sv} \text{ uses } e \in E_i(v)\}|
\]

We also need to compute \( \bar{\sigma}'_{sv} \), the number of shortest paths from \( s \) to \( v \) in \( G' \). It is straightforward to compute \( d'(s, v), \sigma'_{sv} \), and \( \bar{\sigma}'_{sv} \) in \( O(|E_i(v)|) \) time. Algorithm 4 gives the details of this step.

(B) **Compute** \( d'(s, t) \) and \( \sigma'(s, t) \) **for all** \( s, t \): Assuming that we have computed \( d'(s, v), \sigma'_{sv}, \) and \( \bar{\sigma}'_{sv} \), we show that the values \( d'(s, t) \) and \( \sigma'(s, t) \) can be computed efficiently. We state Lemma 4 which captures this computation. This lemma is similar to Lemma 2 in the edge update case.

**Lemma 4.** Let \( E_i(v) \) denote the set of edges incoming to \( v \) which have been updated. Let \( G' \) denote the graph obtained by applying update in \( E_i(v) \) to \( G \). For any \( s \in V \) and \( t \in V \setminus \{v\} \), let \( D(s, t) = d'(s, v) + d(v, t) \).

(a) If \( d(s, t) < D(s, t) \), then \( d'(s, t) = d(s, t) \) and \( \sigma'(s, t) = \sigma_{st} \).

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Algorithm 4 Compute-Dist-to-\(v\) \((s, E_i(v))\)

**Input:** \(E_i(v)\) with updated weights \(w'\)

\[d(s, t)\text{ and }\sigma_{st}, \forall \ s, t \in V\]

**Output:** \(d'(s, v), \sigma'_{sv}, \hat{\sigma}_{sv}\)

1: \(\sigma'_{sv} \leftarrow 0\), \(\sigma''_{sv} \leftarrow \sigma_{sv}\), \(\text{currdist} \leftarrow d(s, v)\)
2: for each edge \((u_i, v) \in E_i(v)\) do
3: \(\text{if currdist} = d(s, u_i) + w'(u_i, v)\) then
4: \(\sigma'_{sv} \leftarrow \sigma''_{sv} + \sigma_{su_i}\)
5: \(\sigma''_{sv} \leftarrow \sigma''_{sv} + \sigma_{su_i}\)
6: else if \(\text{currdist} > d(s, u_i) + w'(u_i, v)\) then
7: \(\text{currdist} \leftarrow d(s, u_i) + w'(u_i, v)\)
8: \(\sigma'_{sv} \leftarrow \sigma_{su_i}\)
9: \(d'(s, v) \leftarrow \text{currdist}\)

(b) If \(d(s, t) = D(s, t)\) and \(d(s, v) = d'(s, v)\), then \(d'(s, t) = d(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st} = \sigma_{st} + \hat{\sigma}_{sv} \cdot \sigma_{vt}\).
(c) If \(d(s, t) = D(s, t)\) and \(d(s, v) > d'(s, v)\), then \(d'(s, t) = d(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st} = \sigma_{st} + \hat{\sigma}_{sv} \cdot \sigma_{vt}\).
(d) If \(d(s, t) > D(s, t)\), then \(d'(s, t) = D(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'_{st} = \sigma''_{sv} \cdot \sigma_{vt}\).

(C) **Compute DAG'\(s\)** for every \(s\): Assuming that we have computed \(d'(s, t)\) and \(\sigma'(s, t)\) for all \(s, t \in V\), we now show how to obtain the updated DAGs. Note that we can readily compute the value \(\text{flag}(s, t)\) for every \(s, t\), using the updated distances and number of shortest paths. The algorithm to compute DAG'\(s\) for any \(s \in V\) is similar to Algorithm 2 in the edge update case. The only modification to Algorithm 2 we need is in Steps 8–9 where we consider a single edge \((u, v)\) – instead in this case we consider every edge in \(E_i(v)\).

(D) **Compute DAG'_R\(s\)** for every \(s\): We now need to update DAG'_R\(s\), for every \(s\), for which we use Algorithm 5. This algorithm requires for every \(t \in V\), a set \(R_t\) which is defined as follows:

\[R_t = \{(a, t) \mid (t, a) \in \text{DAG}'(t)\ \text{and} \ \omega'(t, a) + d'(a, v) = d'(t, v)\}\]

(8)

The set \(R_t\) is the set of (reversed) outgoing edges from \(t\) in DAG'\(t\) that lie on a shortest path from \(t\) to \(v\) in \(G'\).

Consider an edge \(e = (a, b)\) in the updated DAG'_R\(s\). If \(e\) is in DAG'_R\(s\), it is added to DAG'_R\(s\) by Steps 2–4. If \(e\) lies on a new shortest path present only in \(G'_R\), its reverse must also lie on a shortest path that goes through \(v\) in \(G'\), and it will be added to DAG'_R\(s\) by the \(R_b\) during Steps 5–6. \(R_b\) could also contain edges on old shortest paths through \(v\) already processed in Steps 2–4, but even in that case each edge is added to DAG'_R\(s\) at most twice by Algorithm 5.) Note that we do not need to process edges \((u_j, v)\) in \(E_i\) separately (as with edge \((u, v)\) in Algorithm 2), because these edges will be present in the relevant \(R_{u_j}\). The correctness of Algorithm 5 follows from Lemma 5. This lemma similar to Lemma 3 and its proof is in the Appendix.

**Lemma 5.** An edge \((a, b) \in X\) if and only if \((a, b) \in \text{DAG}'_R(s)\) after the incremental update of the set \(E_i(v)\).

At this point, after having Steps (A)–(D) above executed, we have processed the updates in \(E_i(v)\) and obtained the modified distances \(d'(\cdot)\), modified counts \(\sigma'_i\), and DAG'\(i\) for every \(s\). In addition, we have obtained the modified reverse DAG for every \(s\). To process the updates in \(E_o(v)\), we work with \(G'_R\). Since we are processing incoming edges in \(G'_R\), our earlier steps apply unchanged, and we obtain modified values for \(d''(\cdot), \sigma''(\cdot)\), and DAG''_R\(s\) for every \(s\). Finally, using Algorithm 5 we obtain the DAG''_R\(s\) for every \(s\). This completes our vertex update and to compute the updated BC values, we apply Brandes’ accumulation technique (Algorithm 1).
Complexity: Computing \(d'(s,v), \delta_{sv}, \) and \(\delta'_sv\) requires time \(O(|E_i(v)|) = O(n)\) for each \(s\), and hence \(O(n^2)\) time for all sources. Applying Lemma 4 to all pairs of vertices takes time \(O(n^2)\). For any \(s\), the complexity of modified Algorithm 2 becomes \(O(m^* + m_s^* + n)\) which leads to a total of \(O(m' \cdot n + n^2)\).

Creating a set \(R_s\) requires at most \(O(E^* \cap \{\text{outgoing edges of } t\})\), so the overall complexity for all the sets is \(O(m^*)\). Finally, we bound the complexity of Algorithm 5; the algorithm adds \((a,b)\) in a reverse DAG edge set \(X\) at most twice. Since \(\sum_{s \in V} |E(DAG'(s))| = \sum_{s \in V} |E(DAG'_R(s))|\), at most \(O(m^* n)\) edges can be inserted into all the sets \(X\) when Algorithm 5 is executed over all sources. Finally, since applying the updates in \(E_o(v)\) requires a symmetric procedure starting from the reverse DAGs, the final complexity bound of \(O(m' \cdot n + n^2)\) follows.

5 Cache-oblivious Implementation

Our incremental algorithms have efficient cache-oblivious implementations. We describe here an efficient cache-oblivious implementation of Algorithm 3 (Incremental-BC). As noted in Section 1, our incremental algorithms have efficient cache-oblivious implementations. We describe here an efficient cache-efficient bounds for a computation of size \(r\).

Let \(V = \{1, \ldots, n\}\). Further, assume that for an \(s, t\) pair, we have the values \(d(s,t), \sigma(s,t), \text{flag}(s,t)\) stored in an array \(A[1..n^2]\) ordered by the first component \(s\) and then by the second component \(t\) (i.e., stored as an \(n \times n\) row major matrix).

To perform Step 2 of Algorithm 3 using a scan, we extract the subarray \(A_{v\bullet}\) containing the entries with \(\sigma\) as the first component, and the subarray \(A_{\bullet u}\) containing the entries with \(\sigma\) as the second component. We scan these three arrays \(A, A_{\bullet u},\) and \(A_{u\bullet}\) to compute the updated values \(d', \sigma',\) and \(\text{flag}\) for each pair \(s, t\) in the order they appear in \(A\). These are stored in \(A'[1..n^2]\). Overall, Step 2 incurs \(O(\text{scan}(n^2))\) cache misses.

We execute the for loop in Step 3 in increasing order of \(s \in V\), and hence we will access successive segments of \(A'\).

For Step 4, we sort the edges \((a, b)\) in \(\text{DAG}(v)\) and in \(\text{DAG}(s)\) in nondecreasing order of \(b\). Across all \(s \in V\) this can be performed in \(n \cdot \text{sort}(m^*)\) cache misses. Then, Algorithm 2 can be executed in \(\text{scan}(n^2) + n \cdot \text{scan}(m^*)\) cache misses across all sources since we only need \(\text{flag}(s,b)\) when we examine edge \((a,b)\) in \(\text{DAG}(s)\).

Instead of the reverse topologically sorted order for the stack \(S\) in Step 5 we use nonincreasing order of \(d'(s,t), t \in V\) (as in the Brandes static algorithm). This is computed in \(\text{sort}(m^*)\) cache misses for source \(s\) and \(n \cdot \text{sort}(m^*)\) across all sources.

In the final step, Step 6, we execute Algorithm 1. As input to this algorithm, for a given \(s\), we need to generate for every \(w \in V\), the predecessor list \(P_s(w)\). For this, for every \(v \in P_s(w)\), we store the value \(d'(s,v)\). This computation is done by sorting the edges \((a,b) \in \text{DAG}(s)\) by the first component \(s\). This sorted list will be a subsequence of the row for \(s\) in \(A'[1..n^2]\), and \(d'(s,v)\) can be copied to each edge \((v,w)\) in \(\text{scan}(m^*)\) cache misses. The \(P_s(v)\) lists are then generated with another sort, and each entry in the predecessor list will contain the associated \(d'\) value. Over all sources \(s\), this computation takes \(O(\text{scan}(n^2) + n \cdot \text{sort}(m^*))\) cache misses.

Having generated the predecessor lists, we need to execute Algorithm 1 for each source \(s\). The cache-oblivious implementation of Algorithm 1 is somewhat different from the earlier pseudocode. We use an optional cache-oblivious max-priority queue \(Z\) [1], that is initially empty. Each element in \(Z\) has an ordered pair \((d'(s,v), v)\) as its key value, and also has auxiliary data as described below. Consider the execution of Step 4 in Algorithm 1 for vertices \(v \in P_s(w)\). Instead of computing the contribution of \(w\) to \(\delta_{sv}(v)\) for each \(v \in P_s(w)\) when \(w\) is processed, we insert an element into \(Z\) with key value \((d'(s,v), v)\) and auxiliary data \((w, \sigma_{sv}, \delta_{sv}(w))\). With this scheme, entries will be extracted from \(Z\) in nonincreasing values of \(d'(s,v)\), and all entries for a given \(v\) will be extracted consecutively. We compute \(\delta_{sv}(v)\) as these extractions occur from \(Z\). Note that the stack \(S\) is needed only to identify the sinks in \(\text{DAG}(s)\) (which will have no entry in \(Z\)). So, we can dispense with \(S\), and instead initially insert an element with key value \((d'(s,t), t)\) and NIL auxiliary data for each sink \(t\) in \(\text{DAG}(s)\). Using [1], Step 6 takes \(\text{sort}(m^*)\) cache misses for source \(s\), hence over all sources, Step 6 takes \(O(n \cdot \text{sort}(m^*))\).
Thus, the overall cache-oblivious incremental algorithm for betweenness centrality incurs $O(scan(n^2) + n \cdot sort(m'))$ cache misses, where $m' = m^* + m^*_r$. This is a significant improvement over any algorithm that computes shortest paths, as is the case with the static Brandes algorithm, since all of the known algorithms for shortest paths face the bottleneck of unstructured accesses to adjacency lists (see, e.g., [18]).

6 Static betweenness centrality

In this section we present static algorithms that compute betweenness centrality faster than the Brandes algorithm. We first consider an algorithm that is based on the Hidden Paths algorithm by Karger et al. [10] together with Brandes’ accumulation technique. The Hidden Path algorithm runs Dijkstra’s SSSP in parallel from each vertex. It identifies all pairs shortest paths while only examining the edges in $E^*$, the set of edges that actually lie on some shortest path. A similar algorithm with the same running time of $O(m^* n + n^2 \log n)$ was developed independently by McGeoch [17]; here $m^* = |E^*|$. 

Our Static-BC algorithm is presented as Algorithm 6. In Step 1 we run the Hidden Paths algorithm to compute $E^*$ as well as the shortest path distances for every pair of vertices. This is the step with the dominant cost, while in Steps 2-8 the complexity is strictly related to the size of $E^*$. In Steps 2-4, we identify the edges in each shortest path DAG and in each $P_s(v)$: for every edge $(u, v) \in E^*$, if $d(s, u) + w(u, v) = d(s, v)$, then we add the edge $(u, v)$ to $DAG(s)$ and the vertex $u$ to $P_s(v)$. The overall time spent for constructing the DAGs and the predecessor lists is bounded by $O(m^* n)$. Step 6 counts the number of shortest paths from $s$ to $v$ for all $v \in V$, by traversing $DAG(s)$ according to the topological order of its vertices, maintained in the double-ended queue $Q$ (created in Step 6) used as a queue. We accumulate the path counts for a vertex $v$ according to the formula $\sigma_{sv} = \sum_{(u,v) \in DAG(s)} \sigma_{su}$. This takes time linear in the size of $DAG(s)$. Therefore, across all sources, we spend time which is bounded by $O(n^2 + \sum_{s \in V} m^*_s) = O(m^* n + n^2)$. Finally in Step 8, using $Q$ as a stack (reverse topological order), we call Accumulate-dependency$(s, Q)$ (Algorithm 1) to accumulate dependencies. Thus the overall running time of this static BC algorithm is $O(m^* n + n^2 \log n)$. The correctness of the algorithm follows from the correctness of the Hidden Paths algorithm and the Brandes’ accumulation technique.

Algorithm 6 Static-BC$(G = (V, E))$

1: Using the Hidden Paths algorithm, compute $E^*$, and $d(s, t)$ for every $s, t \in V$
2: for each node $s \in V$ do
3: \hspace{0.5cm} for each $(u, v) \in E^*$ do
4: \hspace{1cm} if $d(s, u) + w(u, v) = d(s, v)$ then add $(u, v)$ to $DAG(s)$ and $u$ to $P_s(v)$
5: \hspace{0.5cm} for each $DAG(s)$ do
6: \hspace{1cm} compute a dequeue $Q$ containing the nodes of $DAG(s)$ in topological order
7: \hspace{1cm} for all $v \in V$, compute $\sigma_{sv} = \sum_{(u,v) \in DAG(s)} \sigma_{su}$ by accumulating path counts on vertices extracted from $Q$ in queue order (topological order)
8: Accumulate-dependency$(s, Q)$, using $Q$ in stack order //use Algorithm 1

Algorithm 6 can be expected to run faster than Brandes’ on many graphs since $m^*$ is often much smaller than $m$. However, its worst-case running time is asymptotically the same as Brandes’. We observe that if we replace the Hidden Paths algorithm in Step 1 of Algorithm 6 with any other APSP algorithm that identifies a set of edges $E' \supseteq E^*$, we can use $E'$ in place of $E$ in Step 3, and obtain a correct static BC algorithm that runs in time $O(m' n + n^2 + T')$, where $m' = |E'|$ and $T'$ is the running time of the APSP algorithm used in Step 1. In particular, if we use one of the faster APSP algorithms for positive real-weighted graphs (Pettie [19] for directed graphs or [20] for undirected graphs) in Step 1, we can obtain asymptotically faster BC algorithms than Brandes’ by using $E' = E$. With Pettie’s algorithm [19], we obtain an $O(mn + n^2 \log \log n)$ time algorithm for static betweenness centrality in directed graphs, and with the algorithm of Pettie and Ramachandran [20], we obtain a static betweenness centrality algorithm for undirected graphs that runs in $O(mn \cdot \log \alpha(m, n))$, where $\alpha$ is an inverse-Ackermann function.
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A Brandes’ algorithm

For completeness we present the Brandes algorithm here.
Algorithm 7 Betweenness-centrality($G = (V, E)$) (from [3])

1: for every $v \in V$ do $BC(v) \leftarrow 0$
2: for every $s \in V$ do
3: \hspace{1em} run Dijkstra’s SSSP from $s$ and compute $\sigma_{st}$ and $P_s(t), \forall t \in V \setminus \{s\}$
4: \hspace{1em} store the explored nodes in a stack $S$ in non-increasing distance from $s$
5: \hspace{1em} accumulate dependency of $s$ on all $t \in V \setminus s$ using Algorithm 4

B Proof of Lemma 5

Suppose $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R'(s)$. This implies that there is at least one shortest path from $s$ to $b$ in $G'_R$ that uses the edge $(a, b)$. And similarly a shortest path from $b$ to $s$ that uses the edge $(b, a)$ in $G'$. To show that $(a, b) \in X$ we consider the possible values for $\text{flag}(b, s)$:

1. If $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{UN-changed}$ then the set of shortest paths from $b$ to $s$ in $G$ and $G'$ are the same, so there is a shortest path from $b$ to $s$ that uses the edge $(b, a)$ in $G$. Further, since $\text{DAG}_R(s)$ is correctly kept, the edge $(a, b)$ is added to $X$ from Step 4.

2. If $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{WT-changed}$ then every shortest path from $b$ to $s$ in $G'$ goes through the updated vertex $v$. This implies that any shortest path $\pi'_{bs} \in G'$ of the form $\pi'_{bs} = b \rightsquigarrow v \rightsquigarrow s$. Similarly every shortest path from $s$ to $b$ in $G'_R$ goes through $v$ and, since $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R'(s)$, at least one shortest path in $G'_R$ is of the form $s \rightsquigarrow v \rightsquigarrow a \rightsquigarrow b$. Therefore a shortest path of the form $b \rightarrow a \rightsquigarrow v \rightsquigarrow s$ is in $G'$, and the edge $(b, a)$ must be one of the outgoing edges of $b$ in $\text{DAG}'(b)$ that lies on a shortest path from $b$ to $v$ in $G'$. So $(a, b) \in R_b$. Thus the edge $(a, b)$ is added to $X$ by Step 7.

3. If $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{NUM-changed}$ then, there exist at least one path from $b$ to $s$ in $G'$ that goes through $v$, and additionally there can be shortest paths from $b$ to $s$ in $G'$ that do not go through $v$. Since $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R'(s)$, the edge $(b, a)$ lies on one or both types of paths. Suppose $(b, a) \in \pi_{bs}$, which does not use $v$. Then the path $\pi_{bs}$ is a shortest path in $G$ and hence $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R(s)$. In this case, $(a, b)$ is added to $X$ by Step 4. If $(a, b) \in \pi'_{bs}$ which contains $v$, then since $\pi'_{bs}$ uses the vertex $v$, we know that $\pi'_{bs} = b \rightsquigarrow v \rightsquigarrow s$. Hence, similar to the case (2) above, we conclude that $(a, b) \in R_b$. Therefore the edge $(a, b)$ is added to $X$ by Step 7.

Suppose edge $(a, b) \in X$. To show that $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R'(s)$ we consider the different steps in Algorithm 5 where $(a, b)$ can be added to $X$:

1. The edge $(a, b)$ is added to $X$ by Step 4. This implies that the edge $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R(s)$. Thus, there exists a shortest path in $G_R$ of the form $s \rightsquigarrow a \rightsquigarrow b$. Therefore, there exists a shortest path in $G$ from $b$ to $s$, say $\pi_{bs} = b \rightarrow a \rightsquigarrow s$. Note that we execute Step 4 when $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{UN-changed}$ or $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{NUM-changed}$. For either value of the flag every shortest path from $b$ to $s$ in $G$ is also shortest path in $G'$. Therefore, the path $\pi'_{sb} = s \rightsquigarrow a \rightsquigarrow b$ is a shortest path in $G'_R$ and hence the edge $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R'(s)$.

2. The edge $(a, b)$ is added to $X$ by Step 7. Thus, $(a, b) \in R_b$. This implies that the edge $(b, a)$ is on a shortest path in $G'$ from $b$ to $v$. Moreover, we add $(a, b)$ in Step 7 when $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{NUM-changed}$ or $\text{flag}(b, s) = \text{WT-changed}$. Therefore, there exists at least one shortest path from $b$ to $s$ in $G'$ that goes through $v$. Since the edge $(b, a)$ is on a shortest path from $b$ to $v$ in $G'$, the edge $(b, a)$ lies on at least one shortest path from $b$ to $s$ in $G'$. Therefore, $(a, b)$ lies on at least one shortest path from $s$ to $b$ in $G'_R$, and this establishes that $(a, b) \in \text{DAG}_R'(s)$.

This completes the proof of the lemma.