Introduction to Algorithms: 6.006 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Recitation 10

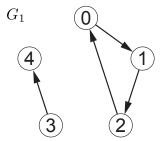
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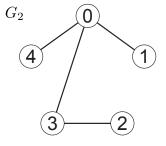
Graphs

A graph G=(V,E) is a mathematical object comprising a set of **vertices** V (also called nodes) and a set of **edges** E, where each edge in E is a two-element subset of vertices from V. A vertex and edge are **incident** or **adjacent** if the edge contains the vertex. Let u and v be vertices. An edge is **directed** if its subset pair is **ordered**, e.g., (u,v), and **undirected** if its subset pair is **unordered**, e.g., $\{u,v\}$ or alternatively both (u,v) and (v,u). A directed edge e=(u,v) extends from vertex u (e's **tail**) to vertex v (e's **head**), with e an **incoming** edge of v and an **outgoing** edge of v. In an undirected graph, every edge is incoming and outgoing. The **in-degree** and **out-degree** of a vertex v denotes the number of incoming and outgoing edges connected to v respectively. Unless otherwise specified, when we talk about degree, we generally mean out-degree.

As their name suggest, graphs are often depicted **graph**ically, with vertices drawn as points, and edges drawn as lines connecting the points. If an edge is directed, its corresponding line typically includes an indication of the direction of the edge, for example via an arrowhead near the edge's head. Below are examples of a directed graph G_1 and an undirected graph G_2 .

$$G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$$
 $V_1 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ $E_1 = \{(0, 1), (1, 2), (2, 0), (3, 4)\}$
 $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$ $V_2 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ $E_2 = \{\{0, 1\}, \{0, 3\}, \{0, 4\}, \{2, 3\}\}$





A **path**¹ in a graph is a sequence of vertices (v_0, \ldots, v_k) such that for every ordered pair of vertices (v_i, v_{i+1}) , there exists an outgoing edge in the graph from v_i to v_{i+1} . The **length** of a path is the number of edges in the path, or one less than the number of vertices. A graph is **connected** if a path exists between any pair of vertices. if A graph is called **strongly connected** if there is a path from every node to every other node in the graph. Note that every connected undirected graph is also strongly connected because every undirected edge incident to a vertex is also outgoing. Of the two connected components of directed graph G_1 , only one of them is strongly connected.

¹These are "walks" in 6.042. A "path" in 6.042 does not repeat vertices, which we would call a **simple path**.

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Graph Representations

There are many ways to represent a graph in code. The most common way is to store a Set data structure Adj mapping each vertex u to another data structure $\operatorname{Adj}(u)$ storing the **adjacencies** of v, i.e., the set of vertices that are accessible from v via a single outgoing edge. This inner data structure is called an **adjacency list**. Note that we don't store the edge pairs explicitly; we store only the out-going neighbor vertices for each vertex. When vertices are uniquely labeled from 0 to |V|-1, it is common to store the top-level Set Adj within a direct access array of length |V|, where array slot i points to the adjacency list of the vertex labeled i. Otherwise, if the vertices are not labeled in this way, it is also common to use a hash table to map each $u \in V$ to $\operatorname{Adj}(u)$. Then, it is common to store each adjacency list $\operatorname{Adj}(u)$ as a simple unordered array of the outgoing adjacencies. For example, the following are adjacency list representations of G_1 and G_2 , using a direct access array for the top-level Set and an array for each adjacency list.

```
A1 = [[1], A2 = [[1, 4, 3], # 0 [2], [0], [3], # 2 [4], [0, 2], # 3 [1]
```

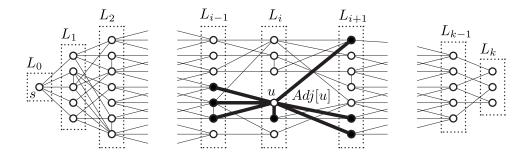
Using an array for an adjacency list is a perfectly good data structures if all you need to do is loop over the edges incident to a vertex (which will be the case for all algorithms we will discuss in this class, so will be our default implementation). Each edge appears in any adjacency list at most twice, so the size of an adjacency list representation implemented using arrays is $\Theta(|V|+|E|)$. A drawback of this representation is that determining whether your graph contains a given edge (u,v) might require $\Omega(|V|)$ time to step through the array representing the adjacency list of u or v. We can overcome this obstacle by storing adjacency lists using hash tables instead of regular unsorted arrays, which will support edge checking in expected O(1) time, still using only $\Theta(|V|+|E|)$ space. However, we won't need this operation for our algorithms, so we will assume the simpler unsorted-array-based adjacency list representation. Below are representations of G_1 and G_2 that use a hash table for both the outer Adj Set and the inner adjacency lists Adj(u), using Python dictionaries:

```
S1 = \{0: \{1\}, S2 = \{0: \{1, 3, 4\}, \# 0\}
1: \{2\}, 1: \{0\}, \# 1
2: \{0\}, 2: \{3\}, \# 2
3: \{4\}\}
4: \{0\}\}
```

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Breadth-First Search

Given a graph, a common query is to find the vertices reachable by a path from a queried vertex s. A **breadth-first search** (BFS) from s discovers the **level sets** of s: level L_i is the set of vertices reachable from s via a **shortest** path of length i (not reachable via a path of shorter length). Breadth-first search discovers levels in increasing order starting with i=0, where $L_0=\{s\}$ since the only vertex reachable from s via a path of length i=0 is s itself. Then any vertex reachable from s via a shortest path of length i+1 must have an incoming edge from a vertex whose shortest path from s has length s, so it is contained in level s. So to compute level s, include every vertex with an incoming edge from a vertex in s, that has not already been assigned a level. By computing each level from the preceding level, a growing frontier of vertices will be explored according to their shortest path length from s.



Below is Python code implementing breadth-first search for a graph represented using indexlabeled adjacency lists, returning a parent label for each vertex in the direction of a shortest path back to s. Parent labels (**pointers**) together determine a **BFS tree** from vertex s, containing some shortest path from s to every other vertex in the graph.

```
def bfs(Adj, s):
                                          # Adj: adjacency list, s: starting vertex
                                          # O(V) (use hash if unlabeled)
   parent = [None for v in Adj]
   parent[s] = s
                                          # 0(1) root
   level = [[s]]
                                          # O(1) initialize levels
   while 0 < len(level[-1]):
                                          # O(?) last level contains vertices
                                          # O(1) amortized, make new level
       level.append([])
       for u in level[-2]:
                                          # O(?) loop over last full level
            for v in Adj[u]:
                                          # O(Adj[u]) loop over neighbors
               if parent[v] is None:
                                          # O(1) parent not yet assigned
                   parent[v] = u
                                          # O(1) assign parent from level[-2]
                    level[-1].append(v)
                                          # O(1) amortized, add to border
    return parent
```

How fast is breadth-first search? In particular, how many times can the inner loop on lines 9–11 be executed? A vertex is added to any level at most once in line 11, so the loop in line 7 processes each vertex v at most once. The loop in line 8 cycles through all $\deg(v)$ outgoing edges from vertex v. Thus the inner loop is repeated at most $O(\sum_{v \in V} \deg(v)) = O(|E|)$ times. Because the parent array returned has length |V|, breadth-first search runs in O(|V| + |E|) time.

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Exercise: For graphs G_1 and G_2 , conducting a breadth-first search from vertex v_0 yields the parent labels and level sets below.

```
P1 = [0,
          L1 = [[0],
                        P2 = [0,
                                 L2 = [[0],
     Ο,
           [1],
                            0,
                                       [1,3,4],
                                                # 1
     1,
                [2],
                             3,
                                       [2],
                                                # 2
                             Ο,
                                                # 3
                                       []]
     None,
                []]
     None]
                             0]
```

We can use parent labels returned by a breadth-first search to construct a shortest path from a vertex s to vertex t, following parent pointers from t backward through the graph to s. Below is Python code to compute the shortest path from s to t which also runs in worst-case O(|V| + |E|) time.

```
def unweighted_shortest_path(Adj, s, t):
      parent = bfs(Adj, s)
                                            # O(V + E) BFS tree from s
      if parent[t] is None:
                                            # O(1) t reachable from s?
         return None
                                            # O(1) no path
      i = t
                                            # O(1) label of current vertex
      path = [t]
                                            # O(1) initialize path
6
     while i != s:
                                            # O(V) walk back to s
         i = parent[i]
                                            # O(1) move to parent
8
          path.append(i)
                                            # O(1) amortized add to path
      return path[::-1]
                                            # O(V) return reversed path
```

Exercise: Given an unweighted graph G = (V, E), find a shortest path from s to t having an **odd** number of edges.

Exercise: Chandler is planning a trip from New York City to Yemen and has to plan his flight route. He has a list of all airports, denoted A, and a list of all directed flights, denoted F, from one airport to another. Since he likes to travel, Chandler wants to plan a route that hits 5 airports total (including where he starts and his destination) so he can experience other destinations along the way. Help Chandler come up with a route from New York, denoted a_s , to Yemen, denoted a_t , or return None if it doesn't exist.