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Note: Throughout this analysis, the variable *n* will always refer to the number of nodes/vertices in the graph and the variable *m* will always refer to the number of edges in the graph.

Project 5 Analysis

1. The asymptotic performance of my implementation of the topological sort algorithm is O(*n* + *m*), where *n* is the number of nodes in the graph and *m* is the number of edges. In my implementation, the source nodes (i.e. nodes with in-degree of 0) are identified when the graph is read in from the file. Therefore, determining the source nodes will not contribute to the algorithm’s performance/running time.

Assuming that the source vertices have previously been identified and stored in a list, my implementation performs a BFS-esque traversal of the graph. When sources nodes are removed from the graph and added to the topological ordering, only that source node’s children (i.e. the vertices pointed toward by the source) are checked if they have become “relative” source vertices.

By only checking a source node’s children for new sources and only processing these new sources, each node is accessed and processed exactly once. This traversal of every node exactly once while creating the topological ordering produces an O(*n*) asymptotic performance.

In addition, the number of nodes traversed by looking at all of a source vertex’s children for all relative source nodes is equal to *m*. Proving that every edge is traversed exactly once is slightly non-trivial:

All source nodes only contain out-bound edges

When a source is removed from the graph, each out-edge to a child is removed

Right before a source is deleted, each out-edge is followed to its children

Therefore, all the out-edges of a deleted source node are traversed exactly once

All of nodes of the graph are eventually removed as “relative” source nodes

Therefore, the out-edges of all of the nodes are traversed exactly once

The total of all out-edges in the graph is *m*

Therefore, the total number of node access that occur by checking a source’s children for new sources vertices runs asymptotically in O(*m*) time.

Furthermore, because the O(*n*) traversal to create the topological ordering is not directly related to the O(*m*) traversal used to check a source vertex’s children, the performance of these two processes is summed instead of multiplied. Therefore, the overall asymptotic performance of the algorithm is O(*n* + *m*).

1. The asymptotic performance of my implementation of the longest path algorithm runs in O(*n* + *m*) time. My algorithm uses a topological ordering and the following analysis will assume that one has already been computed. If the ordering hasn’t been created, my algorithm makes one by calling the function described above in question 1. The creating of the topological ordering would incur an additional O(*n* + *m*) amount of computation, but does not alter the overall asymptotic performance of the algorithm.

My implementation works by traversing the nodes in topological order to relax the distances between nodes. This traversal of all *n* vertices runs in O(*n*) time asymptotically and, as I will prove below, the relaxation of all edges runs in O(*m*) time.

The key to the function of this longest path algorithm is the relaxation of the distances that measure how long it takes to reach an arbitrary node *v*. Because the edges are not weighted, these distances measure the maximum number of nodes traversed to reach node *v* from any of the source nodes. These distances are stored in an array where an array index corresponds to the node’s id.

When an arbitrary node *v* is reached in the topological order, each child of *v* is accessed to determine if the path to *v* is longer than any other path that has reached each child vertex so far. Thereby, all of the outbound edges of node *v* are traversed. In the same manner, all of the out-edges of each node in the digraph is traversed. Because all of the nodes only relax their out-edges once, O(*m*) node traversals and comparisons occur. Therefore, the relaxation of node distances asymptotically runs in O(*m*) time.

Because these two processes are computed independently, the overall performance is the sum the performance of the two tasks. Therefore, the asymptotic running time for the whole algorithm is O(*n* + *m*).

1. The asymptotic running time for my implementation of the minimum production span scheduler algorithm is O(*n* + *m*). Because my algorithm uses longest path values for vertices, the rest of the analysis of the question assumes that the longest path distances have already been computed. If the longest path values needed to be computed, O(*n* + *m*) extra computation would occur, but this would not change the asymptotic performance of the algorithm.

My implementation is similar to BFS in regards to graph traversal. All the nodes of each step are traversed before moving down to the next step, and nodes can only appear in one step for the entire schedule. Thereby, all *n* vertices are traversed exactly once when creating the schedule. Therefore, the asymptotic running time to build the schedule is O(*n*).

Also, similar to what I have stated in earlier questions, when a vertex is added to the schedule, all of that vertex’s outbound edges are followed exactly once. Thereby, all the edges in the graph are traversed exactly once while building the schedule. Therefore, the asymptotic running time to traverse all of the edges is O(*m*).

Therefore, because traversing all *n* elements to build the schedule is not directly computationally related to traversing all of the *m* edges, the performance of these processes should be summed. Therefore, the overall asymptotic performance of the entire algorithm is O(*n* + *m*).

1. The asymptotic performance for my span K stations schedule algorithm implementation is O(*n* + *m*). Similar to the questions above, my implementation of this algorithm uses a topological ordering, and the analysis below assumes the ordering has already been computed. Also, as proven above, having to compute the topological sort would not change the asymptotic performance of the algorithm.

First, my implementation traverses all *n* nodes in topological order. This traversal asymptotically runs in O(*n*) time.

While the algorithm runs, a process similar to edge relaxation occurs. For example, take an arbitrary vertex *v* that has just been reached in the topological ordering. To determine which step to which *v* belongs, start looking at the largest step a parent of *v* was placed plus 1. Then, my implementation selects the first step without all the stations used.

Then all of *v*’s children largest parent step values are relaxed. Similar to the longest path algorithm, the largest parent step value for each child is updated to reflect the largest value seen at that point.

Through this form of edge relaxation, all *m* outbound edges for all nodes in the digraph are traversed, just the same as the longest paths algorithm. Therefore, the asymptotic performance of relaxing all the edges is O(*m*).

However, there is one fault in the algorithm. Because we are not allowed to alter the Schedule class, my implementation cannot create a Schedule object with a correct production span until after all of the time values for all *n* nodes have been computed. Therefore, an additional O(*n*) traversal of the vertices is required to physically build the Schedule object and transfer the necessary information. However, because there is already a task that runs proportionally to O(*n*), this extra traversal doesn’t asymptotically change the performance.

Therefore, the performance of the entire algorithm is O(*n* + *m*).