

# Graph Traversal

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- Problems on Graphs
- Graph Traversal
- Depth-first Search
- Depth-first Traversal Example
- DFS Cost Analysis
- Path Finding
- Breadth-first Search

## ❖ Graph Traversal

Many of the above problems can be solved by

- <sup>对边</sup> systematic exploration of a graph, via the edges

Algorithms for this typically require us to remember

- what vertices we have already visited
- the path we followed while visiting them

Since many graph search algorithms are recursive

- above information needs to be stored globally
- and updated by individual calls to the recursive function

Systematic exploration like this is called **traversal** or **search**.

遍历

## ❖ ... Graph Traversal

Consider two related problems on graphs ...

- is there a path between two given vertices (*src*, *dest*)?
- what is the sequence of vertices from *src* to *dest*?

源头  
目的地

An approach to solving this problem:

- examine vertices adjacent to *src*
- if any of them is *dest*, then done
- otherwise try vertices two edges from *src*
- repeat looking further and further from *src*

The above summarises one form of graph traversal.

## ❖ ... Graph Traversal

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There are two strategies for graph traversal/search ...

### Depth-first search (DFS)

- favours following **path** rather than neighbours
- can be implemented **recursively** or **iteratively** (via stack)
- full traversal produces a **depth-first spanning tree**

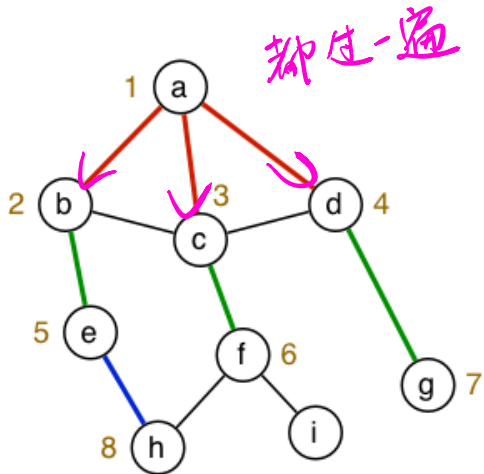
### Breadth-first search (BFS)

- favours **neighbours** rather than path following
- can be implemented **iteratively** (via queue)
- full traversal produces a **breadth-first spanning tree**

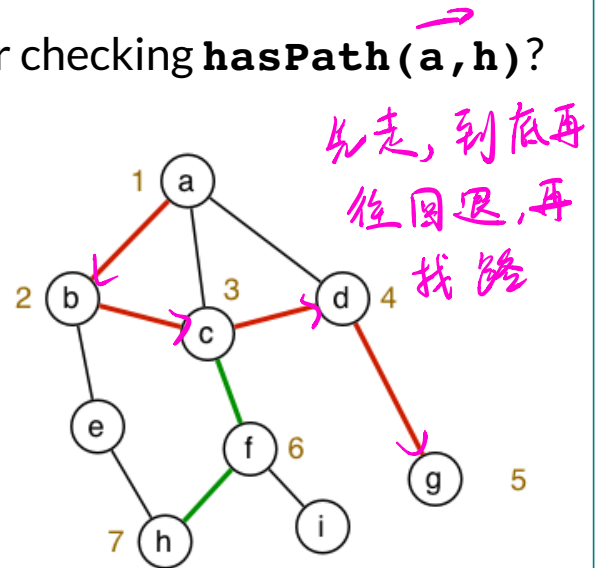
The method on the previous slide is effectively breadth-first traversal.

## ❖ ... Graph Traversal

Comparison of BFS/DFS search for checking **hasPath(a, h)**?



Breadth-first Search



Depth-first Search

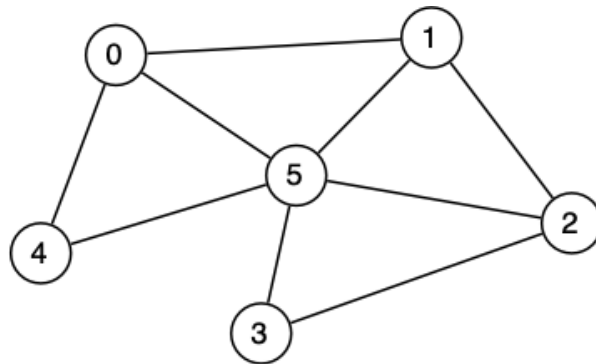
Both approaches ignore some edges by remembering previously visited vertices.

## ❖ ... Graph Traversal

A **spanning tree** of a graph

- includes all vertices, using a subset of edges, without cycles

Consider the following graph:

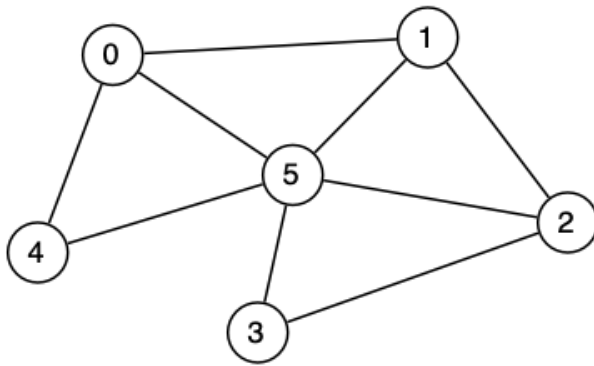


Consider how DFS and BFS could produce its spanning tree

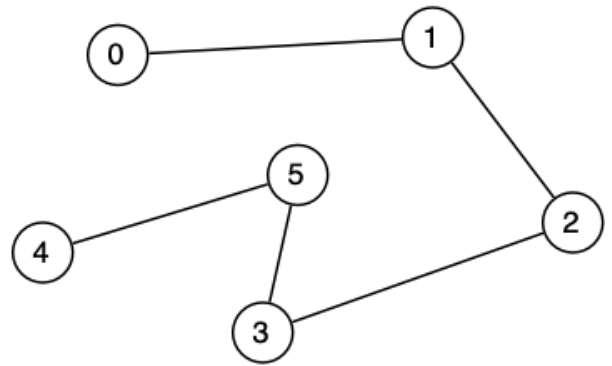
## ❖ ... Graph Traversal

Spanning tree resulting from DFS ...

Original graph



Spanning tree



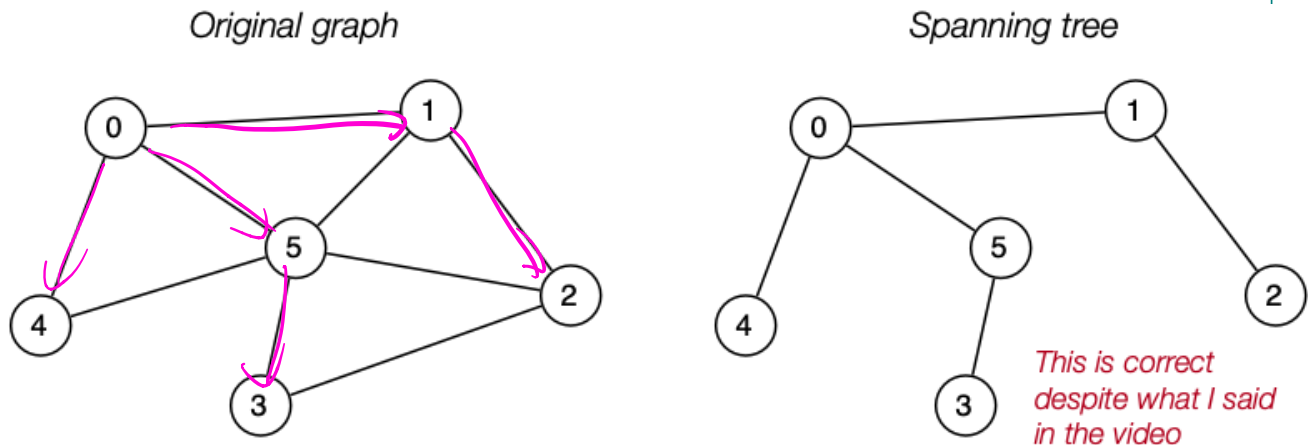
DFS Traversal: 0 -> 1 -> 2 -> 3 -> 5 -> 4

从小到大

Note: choose neighbours in ascending order

## ❖ ... Graph Traversal

Spanning tree resulting from BFS ...



**BFS Traversal:** 0 -> 1,4,5; 1 -> 2; 5 -> 3

Note: choose neighbours in ascending order



## ❖ Depth-first Search

Depth-first search can be described recursively as

```

visited = {}
depthFirst(G,v):
|   visited = visited U {v}
|   for all (v,w) ∈ edges(G) do
|       if w ∉ visited then
|           depthFirst(G,w)
|       end if
|   end for

```

*Handwritten notes:*

- array* (next to `visited = {}`)
- v first* (next to `depthFirst(G,v):`)
- Graph* (next to `edges(G)`)
- w is a neighbour of v.* (next to the loop)

The recursion induces **backtracking**

## ❖ ... Depth-first Search

### Recursive DFS path checking

```
visited = {}  
  
hasPath(G,src,dest):  
    Input graph G, vertices src,dest  
    Output true if there is a path from src to dest,  
           false otherwise  
  
    return dfsPathCheck(G,src,dest)
```

Requires wrapper around recursive function

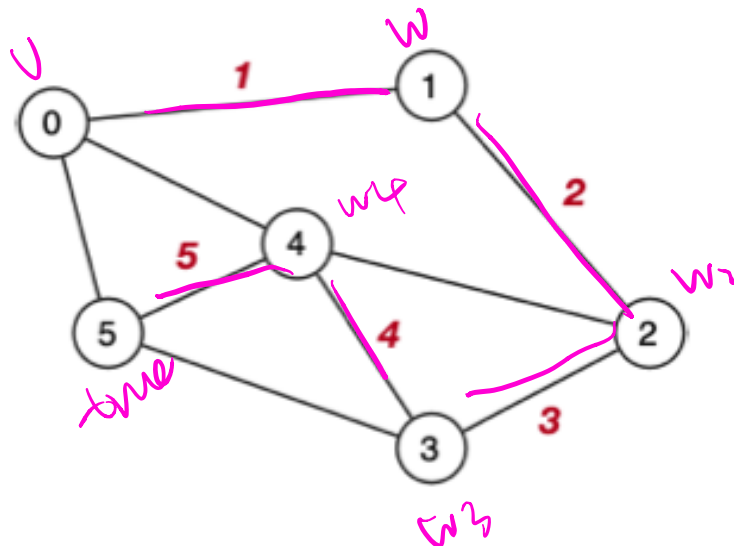
**dfsPathCheck()**

## ❖ ... Depth-first Search

Recursive function for path checking

```
dfsPathCheck(G,v,dest):  
    visited = visited ∪ {v} v first  
    for all (v,w) ∈ edges(G) do  
        if w=dest then v to dest // found edge to dest  
            return true  
        else if w ∉ visited then  
            if dfsPathCheck(G,w,dest) then  
                return true // found path via w to dest  
            end if  
        end if  
    end for  
    return false // no path from v to dest
```

Tracing the execution of `dfsPathCheck(G,0,5)` on:



Reminder: we consider neighbours in ascending order

Clearly does not find the shortest path

## ❖ DFS Cost Analysis

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Cost analysis:

- each vertex visited at most once  $\Rightarrow$  cost =  $O(V)$
- visit all edges incident on visited vertices  $\Rightarrow$  cost =  $O(E)$ 
  - assuming an adjacency list representation

Time complexity of DFS:  $O(V+E)$  (adjacency list representation)

## ❖ Path Finding

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Knowing whether a path exists can be useful

Knowing what the path is, is even more useful

Strategy:

- record the previously visited node as we search
- so that we can then trace path (backwards) through graph

Requires a global array (not a set):

- **visited[v]** contains vertex **w** from which we reached **v**

## ❖ ... Path Finding

Function to find path  $\text{src} \rightarrow \text{dest}$  and print it

```
visited[] // store previously visited node
           // for each vertex 0..nV-1

findPath(G,src,dest):
    Input graph G, vertices src,dest

    for all vertices v∈G do
        visited[v]=-1
    end for
    visited[src]=src // starting node of the path
    if dfsPathCheck(G,src,dest) then
        // show path in dest..src order
        v=dest
        while v≠src do
            print v "-"
            v=visited[v]
        end while
        print src
    end if
```

*print the path*

## ❖ ... Path Finding

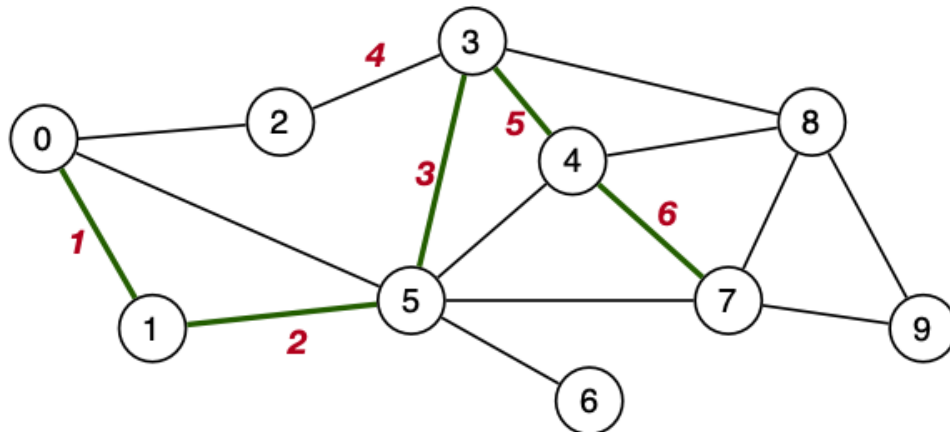
Recursive function to build path in **visited[]**

```
dfsPathCheck(G,v,dest):  
  for all (v,w) ∈ edges(G) do  
    if visited[w] = -1 then  
      visited[w] = v  
      if w = dest then // found edge from v to dest  
        return true  
      else if dfsPathCheck(G,w,dest) then  
        return true // found path via w to dest  
      end if  
    end if  
  end for  
  return false // no path from v to dest
```

## ❖ ... Path Finding

The **visited[]** array after **dfsPathCheck(G, 0, 7)** succeeds

*visited[0] = 0*



visited	0	0	3	5	3	1	5	4	-1	-1
	[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]

*prev of 5 is 1*

*7-4-3-5-1-0*



*v = visited[v]*

*v = visited[7] = 4*

*v[4] = 3*

*v[3] = 5*

*⋮*



## ❖ ... Path Finding

DFS can also be described non-recursively (via a [stack](#)):

```

visited[] // store previously visited node
           // for each vertex 0..nV-1

findPathDFS(G,src,dest):
    Input graph G, vertices src,dest

    for all vertices v∈G do
        visited[v]=-1
    end for
    found=false - 开始是 false
    visited[src]=src
    push src onto new stack S
    while not found ^ S is not empty do
        pop v from S
        if v=dest then
            found=true
        else
            for each (v,w)∈edges(G) with visited[w]=-1 do
                visited[w]=v
                push w onto S
            end for
        end if
    end while
    if found then
        display path in dest..src order
    end if

```

Uses standard stack operations ... Time complexity is still  $O(V+E)$

## ❖ Breadth-first Search

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Basic approach to breadth-first search (BFS):

- visit and mark **current vertex**
- **visit all neighbours** of current vertex
- then **consider neighbours of neighbours**

Notes:

- tricky to describe recursively
- but a minor variation on non-recursive **DFS search works**  
⇒ switch the *stack* for a **queue**

## ❖ ... Breadth-first Search

BFS path finding algorithm:

```

visited[] // store previously visited node
           // for each vertex 0..nV-1

findPathBFS(G,src,dest):
    Input graph G, vertices src,dest

    for all vertices v∈G do
        visited[v]=-1
    end for
    found=false
    visited[src]=src
    enqueue src into queue Q
    while not found ∧ Q is not empty do
        dequeue v from Q
        if v=dest then
            found=true
        else
            for each (v,w) ∈ edges(G) with visited[w]=-1 do
                visited[w]=v
                enqueue w into Q
            end for
        end if
    end while
    if found then
        display path in dest..src order
    end if

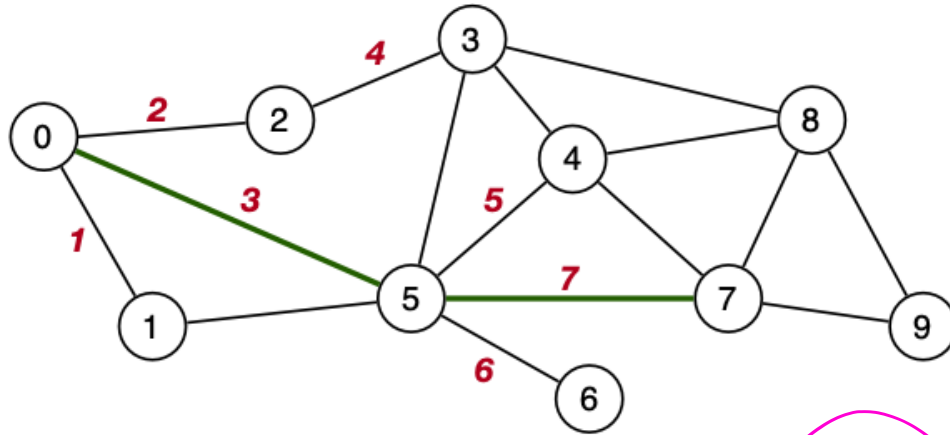
```

*neighbour*

Uses standard queue operations (enqueue, dequeue, check if empty)

## ❖ ... Breadth-first Search

The **visited[]** array after **findPathBFS(G, 0, 7)** succeeds



visited	0	0	0	2	5	0	5	5	-1	-1
	[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]

never go  
初始 -1

## ❖ ... Breadth-first Search

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Time complexity of BFS:  $O(V+E)$  (same as DFS)

BFS finds a "shortest" path

- based on minimum # edges between *src* and *dest*.
- stops with first-found path, if there are multiple ones

In many applications, edges are weighted and we want path

- based on minimum sum-of-weights along path *src*.. *dest*

We discuss weighted/directed graphs later.