

Breadth First search (BFS) (5)

(1)

- Fundamental algorithm used to explore nodes and edges of a graph. Runs with $O(V+E)$.
- BFS is particularly useful for one job: finding shortest path on unweighted graphs.
- A BFS starts at some arbitrary node on the graph and explores the neighbour nodes first, before moving to the next level neighbours.
- implementing using queue.
- enqueue → add to queue
- dequeue → remove from queue.

Global variable

n = number of nodes in the graph.

g = adjacency list representing unweighted graph.

s = start node, e = end node, and $0 \leq e, s < n$

function $bfs(s, e)$:

Do a bfs starting at node s .

$prev = solve(s)$

Return reconstructed path from $s \rightarrow e$

return $reconstructPath(s, e, prev)$.

function solve(s):

(2)

q = queue data structure.

q.enqueue(s)

visited = [false, false, ..., false] # size n

visited[s] = true

prev = [null, null, ..., null] # size n.

while (!q.isEmpty()):

node = q.dequeue()

neighbours = g.get(node)

for (next : neighbours):

if (!visited[next]):

q.enqueue(next)

visited[next] = true

prev[next] = node

return prev.

(2)
function reconstructPath(s, e, prev):

Reconstruct path going backwards from e.

path = []

for (at = e; at != null; at = prev[at])

path.add(at)

path.reverse()

If s and e are connected return the path.

if path[0] == s:

return path.

return [].