

I collaborated with: went to TA sessions

Question

Chapter 10, Problem 3. Hint: There is a Hamiltonian path from v_1 to v_n if and only if, for some v_i there is an edge from v_i to v_n (final edge) and a Hamiltonian path (in $G - v_n$) from v_1 to v_i . This suggests dynamic programming: if we had a table $H[S, 1, j]$ to tell us if there is a Hamiltonian path from v_1 to v_j using only the vertices of S , we'd be set!

Solution

Consider a triplet (H, i, j) where $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ and S is a subset of V . Let $H[S, i, j]$ tell us if there is a Hamiltonian path from v_i to v_j using only the vertices of S . Our base case is when $i = j$, and there is a path from a vertex to itself. Given a larger subset we can spend $O(n)$ to check if there is a path using those vertices and using the answer to smaller problems. There are 2^n subsets, so our runtime is $O(2^n * p(n))$.

Proof. $H[S, i, j]$ is true if and only if for some v_k there is an edge from v_k to v_j (final edge) and a Hamiltonian path (in $G - \{v_j\}$) from v_i to v_k . Thus, we set $H[S, i, j]$ to be true if and only if $(v_k, v_j) \in E$ and $H[S - \{v_j\}, i, k]$ is also true. \square