Remembering the edit distance example we saw in class last time, we formaluted the processing of the recursion as a table:

	ε	D	R	Ε	A	D
ε						
D						
Ε						
Ε						
D						

Is there an easier way to get the minimum alignment without having to calculate all the values in the cell?

ECE-374-B: Lecture 14 - Graph search

Instructor: Nickvash Kani

October 16, 2025

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

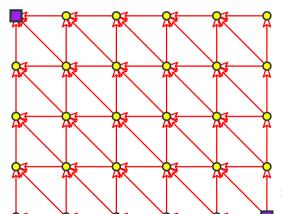
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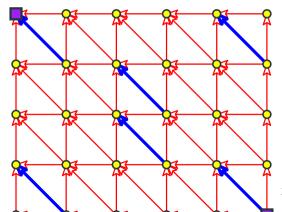
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	ε	D	R	Ε	Α	D
ε						
D						
Ε						
Ε						
D						



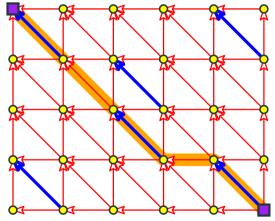
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ε						
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D						



Remembering the edit distance example we saw in class last time, we formaluted the processing of the recursion as a table:

	ε	D	R	Ε	Α	D
ε						
D						
Ε						
Ε						
D						



Graph Basics

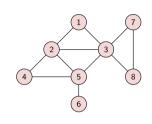
Why Graphs?

- Graphs help model networks which are ubiquitous: transportation networks (rail, roads, airways), social networks (interpersonal relationships), information networks (web page links), and many problems that don't even look like graph problems.
- Fundamental objects in Computer Science, Optimization, Combinatorics
- · Many important and useful optimization problems are graph problems
- · Graph theory: elegant, fun and deep mathematics

Graph

An undirected (simple) graph G = (V, E) is a 2-tuple:

- V is a set of vertices (also referred to as nodes/points)
- E is a set of edges where each edge $e \in E$ is a set of the form $\{u, v\}$ with $u, v \in V$ and $u \neq v$.



Example

In figure, G = (V, E) where $V = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ and

$$E = \{\{1,2\},\{1,3\},\{2,3\},\{2,4\},\{2,5\},\{3,5\},\{3,7\},\{3,8\},\{4,5\},\{5,6\},\{7,8\}\}.$$

Example: Modeling Problems as Search

State Space Search

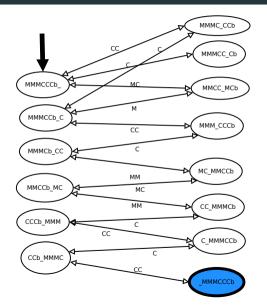
Many search problems can be modeled as search on a graph. The trick is figuring out what the vertices and edges are.

Missionaries and Cannibals

- · Three missionaries, three cannibals, one boat, one river
- · Boat carries two people, must have at least one person
- Must all get across
- · At no time can cannibals outnumber missionaries

How is this a graph search problem? What are the vertices? What are the edges?

Cannibals and Missionaries: Is the language empty?



Problems goes back to 800 CE Versions with brothers and sisters. Jealous Husbands. Lions and buffalo

All bad names to a simple problem...

Problems on DFAs and NFAs sometimes are just problems on graphs

- M: DFA/NFA is L(M) empty?
- M: DFA is $L(M) = \Sigma^*$?
- M: DFA, and a string w. Does M accepts w?
- N: NFA, and a string w. Does N accepts w?

Graph notation and representation

Notation and Convention

Notation

An edge in an undirected graphs is an <u>unordered</u> pair of nodes and hence it is a set. Conventionally we use uv for $\{u, v\}$ when it is clear from the context that the graph is undirected.

- u and v are the end points of an edge $\{u, v\}$
- Multi-graphs allow
 - · <u>loops</u> which are edges with the same node appearing as both end points
 - · <u>multi-edges</u>: different edges between same pairs of nodes
- In this class we will assume that a graph is a simple graph unless explicitly stated otherwise.

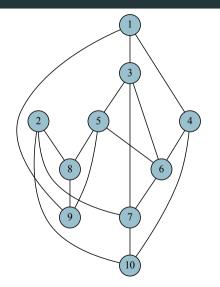
Graph Representation I

Adjacency Matrix

Represent G = (V, E) with n vertices and m edges using a $n \times n$ adjacency matrix A where

- A[i,j] = A[j,i] = 1 if $\{i,j\} \in E$ and A[i,j] = A[j,i] = 0 if $\{i,j\} \notin E$.
- Advantage: can check if $\{i,j\} \in E$ in O(1) time
- · Disadvantage: needs $\Omega(n^2)$ space even when $m \ll n^2$

Graph adjacency matrix example [10 vertices]



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
6	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
7	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
8	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
9	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
10	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

Graph Representation II

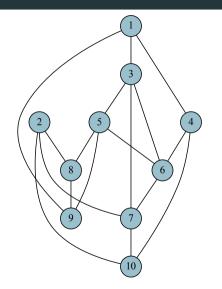
Adjacency Lists

Represent G = (V, E) with n vertices and m edges using adjacency lists:

- For each $u \in V$, $Adj(u) = \{v \mid \{u, v\} \in E\}$, that is neighbors of u. Sometimes Adj(u) is the list of edges incident to u.
- Advantage: space is O(m+n)
- Disadvantage: cannot "easily" determine in O(1) time whether $\{i,j\} \in E$
 - By sorting each list, one can achieve $O(\log n)$ time
 - By hashing "appropriately", one can achieve O(1) time

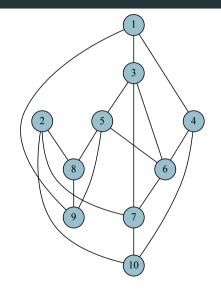
Note: In this class we will assume that by default, graphs are represented using plain vanilla (unsorted) adjacency lists.

Graph adjacency list example [10 vertices]



vertex	adjacency list
1	3, 4, 9
2	7, 8, 10
3	1, 5, 6, 7
4	1, 6, 10
5	3, 6, 8, 9
6	3, 4, 5, 7
7	2, 3, 6, 10
8	2, 5, 9
9	1, 5, 8
10	2, 4, 7

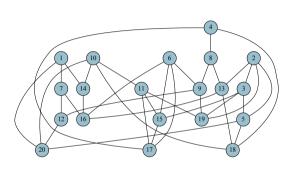
Graph adjacency matrix+list example [10 vertices]



vertex	adjacency list
1	3, 4, 9
2	7, 8, 10
3	1, 5, 6, 7
4	1, 6, 10
5	3, 6, 8, 9
6	3, 4, 5, 7
7	2, 3, 6, 10
- 8	2, 5, 9
9	1, 5, 8
10	2, 4, 7

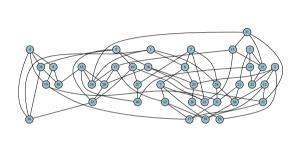
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
6	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
7	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
8	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
9	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
10	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

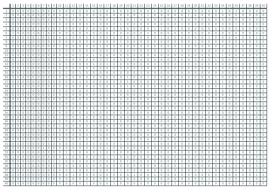
Graph adjacency matrix example [20 vertices]



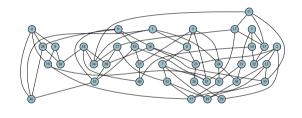
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Graph adjacency matrix example [40 vertices]





Graph adjacency list example [40 vertices]

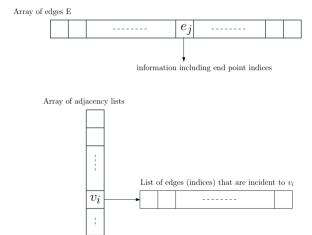


vertex	adjacency list
_ 1	6, 24, 34, 36
2	12, 22, 23, 29
3	14, 15, 21
4	8, 19, 28, 36
5	6, 24, 25, 27 1, 5, 7, 23
- 6	
7	
- 8	4, 19, 30
9	10, 16, 28, 35
10	9, 25, 27, 35
11	
12	2, 33, 37, 38
14	3, 22, 40
15	
16	
	13, 20, 32, 34
18	20, 30, 34, 40
19	4, 8, 31, 37
20	16, 17, 18, 35
21	3, 31, 38
22	2, 14, 15 2, 6, 16, 26
	2, 6, 16, 26
24	1, 5, 31, 38
	5, 7, 10, 13
26	5, 10, 40
28	
28	4, 9, 30, 36
30	8, 18, 28
31	19, 21, 24, 37
32	7, 17, 37, 39
33	11, 12, 16, 39
34	
35	
36	9, 10, 20, 36
37	12, 19, 31, 32
38	12, 19, 31, 32
39	7. 32. 33. 38
40	14, 18, 27
10	

A Concrete Representation

- Assume vertices are numbered arbitrarily as $\{1, 2, ..., n\}$.
- Edges are numbered arbitrarily as $\{1, 2, ..., m\}$.
- Edges stored in an array/list of size m. E[j] is j^{th} edge with info on end points which are integers in range 1 to n.
- Array Adj of size n for adjacency lists. Adj[i] points to adjacency list of vertex
 i. Adj[i] is a list of edge indices in range 1 to m.

A Concrete Representation



A Concrete Representation: Advantages

- Edges are explicitly represented/numbered. Scanning/processing all edges easy to do.
- · Representation easily supports multigraphs including self-loops.
- Explicit numbering of vertices and edges allows use of arrays: *O*(1)-time operations are easy to understand.
- · Can also implement via pointer based lists for certain dynamic graph settings.

Connectivity I

Connectivity

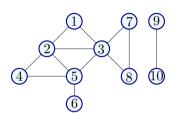
Given a graph G = (V, E):

- <u>path</u>: sequence of <u>distinct</u> vertices v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k such that $v_i v_{i+1} \in E$ for $1 \le i \le k-1$. The length of the path is k-1 (the number of edges in the path) and the path is from v_1 to v_k . Note: a single vertex u is a path of length 0.
- <u>cycle</u>: sequence of <u>distinct</u> vertices v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k such that $\{v_i, v_{i+1}\} \in E$ for $1 \le i \le k-1$ and $\{v_1, v_k\} \in E$. Single vertex not a cycle according to this definition.
 - <u>Caveat:</u> Some times people use the term cycle to also allow vertices to be repeated; we will use the term <u>tour</u>.
- A vertex u is <u>connected</u> to v if there is a path from u to v.
- The <u>connected component</u> of u, con(u), is the set of all vertices connected to u. Is $u \in con(u)$?

Connectivity II

Define a relation C on $V \times V$ as uCv if u is connected to v

- In undirected graphs, connectivity is a reflexive, symmetric, and transitive relation.
 Connected components are the equivalence classes.
- Graph is <u>connected</u> if there is only one connected component.



Connectivity Problems

Algorithmic Problems

- Given graph G and nodes u and v, is u connected to v?
- Given G and node u, find all nodes that are connected to u.
- Find all connected components of *G*.

Connectivity Problems

Algorithmic Problems

- Given graph G and nodes u and v, is u connected to v?
- Given G and node u, find all nodes that are connected to u.
- Find all connected components of G.

Can be accomplished in O(m+n) time using **BFS** or **DFS**. **BFS** and **DFS** are refinements of a basic search procedure which is good to understand on its own.

graph search

Computing connected components

in undirected graphs using basic

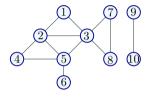
Basic Graph Search in Undirected Graphs

```
Given G = (V, E) and vertex u \in V. Let n = |V|.
```

```
Explore(G.u):
     Visited[1...n] \leftarrow FALSE
     // ToExplore, S: Lists
     Add u to ToExplore and to S
     Visited[u] \leftarrow TRUE
     while (ToExplore is non-empty) do
          Remove node x from ToExplore
          for each edge xy in Adj(x) do
               if (Visited[v] = FALSE)
                    Visited[v] \leftarrow TRUE
                    Add v to ToExplore
                    Add v to S
     Output S
```

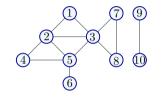
Example

```
Explore(G,u):
     Visited[1..n] \leftarrow FALSE
     // ToExplore, S: Lists
     Add u to ToExplore and to S
     Visited[u] \leftarrow TRUE
     while (ToExplore is non-empty) do
          Remove node x from ToExplore
          for each edge xy in Adj(x) do
              if (Visited[y] = FALSE)
                    Visited[v] \leftarrow TRUE
                    Add y to ToExplore
                    Add v to S
     Output S
```



Example

```
Explore(G,u):
     Visited[1..n] \leftarrow FALSE
     // ToExplore, S: Lists
     Add u to ToExplore and to S
     Visited[u] \leftarrow TRUE
     while (ToExplore is non-empty) do
          Remove node x from ToExplore
          for each edge xy in Adj(x) do
              if (Visited[y] = FALSE)
                    Visited[v] \leftarrow TRUE
                    Add y to ToExplore
                    Add v to S
     Output S
```



Running Time:

Search Tree

One can create a natural search tree *T* rooted at *u* during search.

```
Explore(G, u):
    array Visited[1..n]
    Initialize: Visited[i] \leftarrow FALSE \text{ for } i = 1, ..., n
    List: ToExplore, S
    Add u to ToExplore and to S, Visited[u] \leftarrow TRUE
    Make tree T with root as u
    while (ToExplore is non-empty) do
          Remove node x from ToExplore
         for each edge (x,y) in Adj(x) do
               if (Visited[y] = FALSE)
                    Visited[v] \leftarrow TRUE
                    Add y to ToExplore
                    Add y to S
                    Add v to T with x as its parent
    Output S
```

Finding all connected components

Modify Basic Search to find all connected components of a given graph G in O(m+n) time.

Directed Graphs and Directed

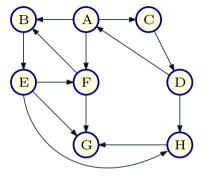
Connectivity

Directed Graphs

Definition

A directed graph G = (V, E) consists of:

- set of vertices/nodes V and
- a set of edges/arcs $E \subseteq V \times V$.



An edge is an <u>ordered</u> pair of vertices. (u, v) different from (v, u).

Examples of Directed Graphs

In many situations relationship between vertices is asymmetric:

- · Road networks with one-way streets.
- Web-link graph: vertices are web-pages and there is an edge from page p to page p' if p has a link to p'. Web graphs used by Google with PageRank algorithm to rank pages.
- Dependency graphs in variety of applications: link from x to y if y depends on x. Make files for compiling programs.
- Program Analysis: functions/procedures are vertices and there is an edge from x to y if x calls y.

Directed Graph Representation

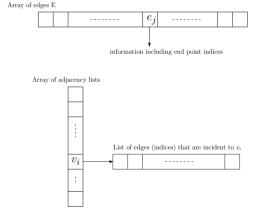
Graph G = (V, E) with n vertices and m edges:

- Adjacency Matrix: $n \times n$ asymmetric matrix A. A[u, v] = 1 if $(u, v) \in E$ and A[u, v] = 0 if $(u, v) \notin E$. A[u, v] is not same as A[v, u].
- Adjacency Lists: for each node u, Out(u) (also referred to as Adj(u)) and In(u) store out-going edges and in-coming edges from u.

Default representation is adjacency lists.

A Concrete Representation for Directed Graphs

Concrete representation discussed previously for undirected graphs easily extends to directed graphs.



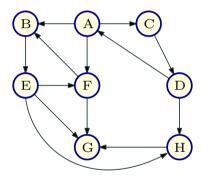
Directed Connectivity

Given a graph G = (V, E):

- A <u>(directed) path</u> is a sequence of <u>distinct</u> vertices v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k such that $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E$ for $1 \le i \le k-1$. The length of the path is k-1 and the path is from v_1 to v_k .
 - By convention, a single node u is a path of length 0.
- A <u>cycle</u> is a sequence of <u>distinct</u> vertices v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k such that $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E$ for $1 \le i \le k-1$ and $(v_k, v_1) \in E$.
 - By convention, a single node u is not a cycle.
- A vertex u can <u>reach</u> v if there is a path from u to v. Alternatively v can be reached from u
- Let $\operatorname{rch}(u)$ be the set of all vertices reachable from u.

Directed Connectivity II

Asymmetricity: D can reach B but B cannot reach D



Questions:

- Is there a notion of connected components?
- · How do we understand connectivity in directed graphs?

Strong connected components

Definition

Given a directed graph G, u is strongly connected to v if u can reach v and v can reach u. In other words $v \in \operatorname{rch}(u)$ and $u \in \operatorname{rch}(v)$.

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Given a directed graph G, u is strongly connected to v if u can reach v and v can reach u. In other words $v \in \operatorname{rch}(u)$ and $u \in \operatorname{rch}(v)$.

Define relation C where uCv if u is (strongly) connected to v.

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Proposition

C is an equivalence relation, that is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.

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Define relation C where uCv if u is (strongly) connected to v.

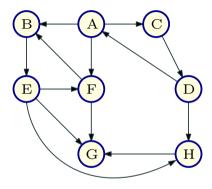
Proposition

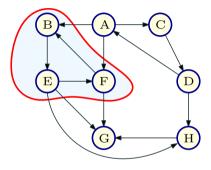
C is an equivalence relation, that is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.

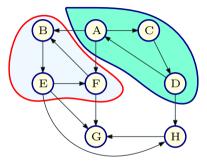
Equivalence classes of C: strong connected components of G.

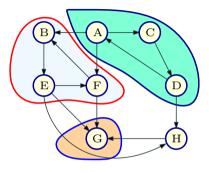
They partition the vertices of G.

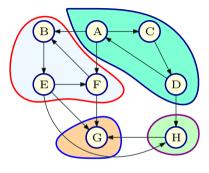
SCC(u): strongly connected component containing u.











Directed Graph Connectivity Problems

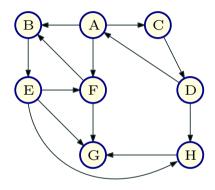
- Given G and nodes u and v, can u reach v?
- Given G and u, compute $\operatorname{rch}(u)$.
- Given G and u, compute all v that can reach u, that is all v such that $u \in \operatorname{rch}(v)$.
- Find the strongly connected component containing node u, that is SCC(u).
- · Is G strongly connected (a single strong component)?
- \cdot Compute <u>all</u> strongly connected components of G.

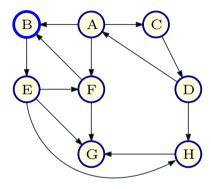
Graph exploration in directed graphs

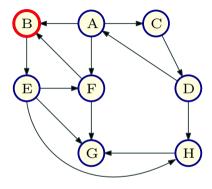
Basic Graph Search in Directed Graphs

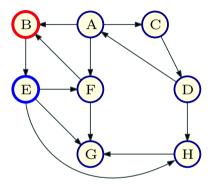
Given G = (V, E) a directed graph and vertex $u \in V$. Let n = |V|.

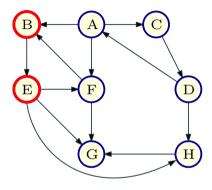
```
Explore(G.u):
    arrav Visited[1..n]
    Initialize: Set Visited[i] \leftarrow FALSE for 1 < i < n
    List: ToExplore, S
    Add u to ToExplore and to S, Visited[u] \leftarrow TRUE
    Make tree T with root as \mu
    while (ToExplore is non-empty) do
         Remove node x from ToExplore
         for each edge (x,y) in Adj(x) do
              if (Visited[v] = FALSE)
                   Visited[v] \leftarrow TRUE
                   Add v to ToExplore
                   Add v to S
                   Add v to T with edge (x,v)
    Output S
```

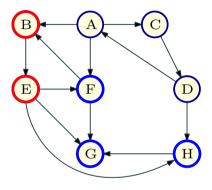


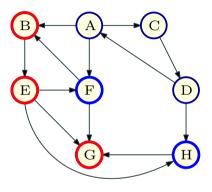


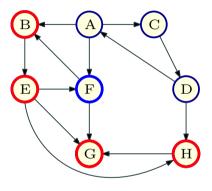


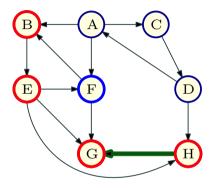


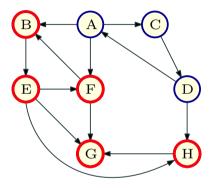


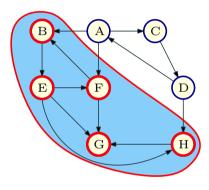












Properties of Basic Search

Proposition Explore(G, u) terminates with $S = \operatorname{rch}(u)$.

Proof Sketch.

- Once *Visited*[*i*] is set to *TRUE* it never changes. Hence a node is added only once to *ToExplore*. Thus algorithm terminates in at most *n* iterations of while loop.
- By induction on iterations, can show $v \in S \Rightarrow v \in \operatorname{rch}(u)$
- Since each node $v \in S$ was in *ToExplore* and was explored, no edges in G leave S. Hence no node in V S is in rch(u). Caveat: In directed graphs edges can enter S.
- Thus $S = \operatorname{rch}(u)$ at termination.

Directed Graph Connectivity Problems

- Given G and nodes u and v, can u reach v?
- Given G and u, compute $\operatorname{rch}(u)$.
- Given G and u, compute all v that can reach u, that is all v such that $u \in \operatorname{rch}(v)$.
- Find the strongly connected component containing node u, that is SCC(u).
- · Is G strongly connected (a single strong component)?
- \cdot Compute <u>all</u> strongly connected components of *G*.

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First five problems can be solved in O(n + m) time by via Basic Search (or BFS/DFS). The last one can also be done in linear time but requires a rather clever DFS based algorithm (next lecture).

Algorithms via Basic Search

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Use Explore(G, u) to compute rch(u) in O(n + m) time.

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Definition (Reverse graph.) Given G = (V, E), G^{reV} is the graph with edge directions reversed $G^{rev} = (V, E')$ where $E' = \{(v, x) \mid (x, v) \in E\}$

Compute $\operatorname{rch}(u)$ in G^{rev} !

• Running time: O(n+m) to obtain G^{rev} from G and O(n+m) time to compute rch(u) via Basic Search. If both Out(v) and In(v) are available at each v then no need to explicitly compute G^{rev} . Can do Explore(G, u) in G^{rev} implicitly.

 $SCC(G, u) = \{v \mid u \text{ is strongly connected to } v\}$

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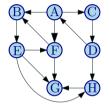
$$SCC(G, u) = \operatorname{rch}(G, u) \cap \operatorname{rch}(G^{rev}, u)$$

Hence, SCC(G, u) can be computed with Explore(G, u) and $Explore(G^{rev}, u)$. Total O(n + m) time.

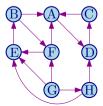
Why can $\operatorname{rch}(G, u) \cap \operatorname{rch}(G^{rev}, u)$ be done in O(n) time?

SCC I

Graph G and its reverse graph Grev

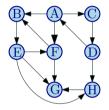


Graph G

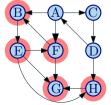


SCC II

Graph G a vertex F and its reachable set (G, F)

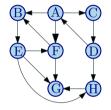


Graph G

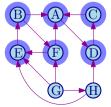


SCC III

Graph G a vertex F and the set of vertices that can reach it in $G:rch(G^{rev}, F)$

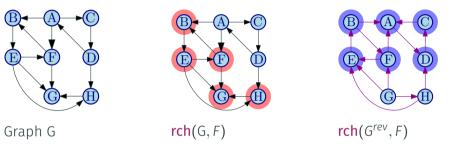


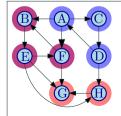
Graph G



SCC IV: ...

Graph G a vertex F and its strong connected component in G: SCC(G, F)





$$SCC(G, F) = \operatorname{rch}(G, F) \cap \operatorname{rch}(G^{rev}, F)$$

• Is G strongly connected?

• Is G strongly connected?

Pick arbitrary vertex u. Check if SCC(G, u) = V.

• Find $\underline{\text{all}}$ strongly connected components of G.

• Find <u>all</u> strongly connected components of *G*.

While G is not empty do
Pick arbitrary node ufind S = SCC(G, u)Remove S from G

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Running time: O(n(n+m)).

Question: Can we do it in O(n + m) time?

Find out next time.....