

3-6 Decompositions of Graphs

(DFS, DAG, Toposort, Cycle, SCC)

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Robert Tarjan



John Hopcroft

“For fundamental achievements
in the design and analysis of algorithms and data structures.”

— Turing Award, 1986

DEPTH-FIRST SEARCH AND LINEAR GRAPH ALGORITHMS*

ROBERT TARJAN†

Abstract. The value of depth-first search or “backtracking” as a technique for solving problems is illustrated by two examples. An improved version of an algorithm for finding the strongly connected components of a directed graph and an algorithm for finding the biconnected components of an undirect graph are presented. The space and time requirements of both algorithms are bounded by $k_1V + k_2E + k_3$ for some constants k_1, k_2 , and k_3 , where V is the number of vertices and E is the number of edges of the graph being examined.

Key words. Algorithm, backtracking, biconnectivity, connectivity, depth-first, graph, search, spanning tree, strong-connectivity.

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“DFS is a powerful technique with many applications.”

The Hammer of DFS



Power of DFS:

Graph Traversal \implies Graph Decomposition


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Graph Traversal \implies Graph Decomposition

Structure! Structure! Structure!


Graph *structure* induced by DFS:

states of 

types of 

Graph *structure* induced by DFS:

states of 

types of 

life time of :

$v : d[v], f[v]$

$d[v]$: BICOMP

$f[v]$: TOPOSORT, SCC

Definition (Classification of Edges)

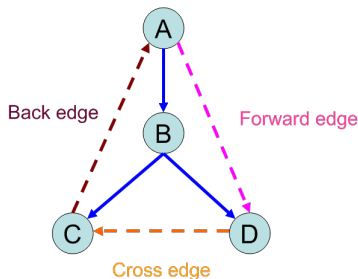
We can define four edge edges in terms of the depth-first forest G_π produced by a DFS on G :

Tree edge: edge in G_π

Back edge: \rightarrow ancestor

Forward edge: \rightarrow descendant (nontree edge)

Cross edge: $\rightarrow (\neg \text{ancestor}) \wedge (\neg \text{descendant})$



DFS on Undirected Graphs (Problem 22.3-6)

Classifying an edge (u, v) as a tree edge or a back edge according to whether (u, v) or (v, u) is encountered first during the depth-first search is equivalent to classifying it according to the ordering of the four types in the classification scheme.

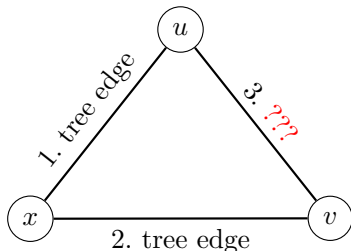
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Theorem (Theorem 22.10)

In a depth-first search of an undirected graph G , every edge of G is either a tree edge or a back edge.

Proof.

Let (u, v) be an arbitrary edge of G , and suppose without loss of generality that $u.d < v.d$. Then the search must discover and finish v before it finishes u (while u is gray), since v is on u 's adjacency list.

If the first time that the search explores edge (u, v) , it is in the direction from u to v , then v is undiscovered (white) until that time, for otherwise the search would have explored this edge already in the direction from v to u . Thus, (u, v) becomes a tree edge.

If the search explores (u, v) first in the direction from v to u , then (u, v) is a back edge, since u is still gray at the time the edge is first explored. □

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“First Types”	<i>vs.</i>	“First Time”
tree edge	\iff	tree edge
back edge	\iff	back edge

“First Types” \Leftarrow “First Time”

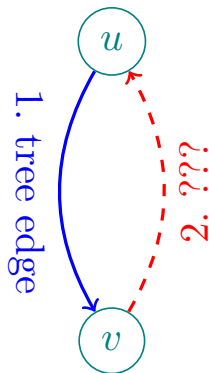
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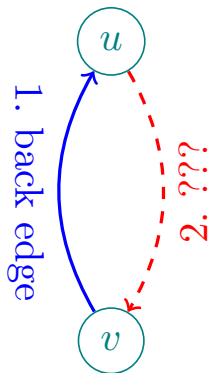
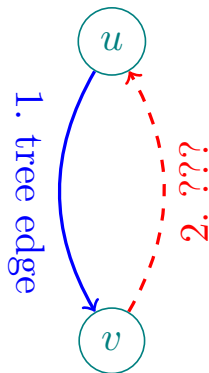
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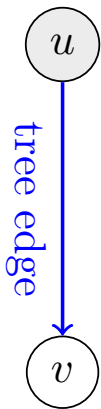
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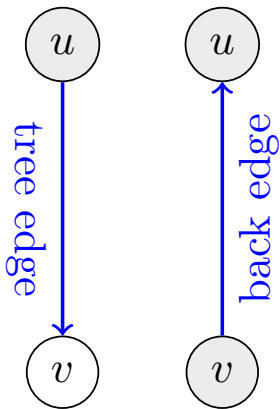


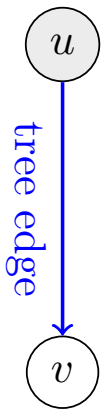
“First Types” \Rightarrow “First Time”

tree edge \Rightarrow tree edge

back edge \Rightarrow back edge







Edge Types and Lifetime of Vertices in DFS

$$\forall u \rightarrow v :$$

- ▶ tree/forward edge: $[u \text{ (red)} [v \text{ (blue)}]v]u \text{ (red)}$
- ▶ back edge: $[v \text{ (blue)} [u \text{ (red)}]u]v \text{ (blue)}$
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$$f[v] < d[u] \iff \text{edge}$$

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$$\nexists \text{ cycle} \implies \boxed{u \rightarrow v \iff f[v] < f[u]}$$

On digraphs:

\nexists back edge \iff DAG $\iff \exists$ topo. ordering

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Sort vertices in *decreasing* order of their *finish* times.

Kahn's TOPOSORT algorithm (1962; Problem 22.4-5)

- ▶ **Queue** Q for source vertices ($\text{in}[v] = 0$)
- ▶ **Repeat:** DEQUEUE($\exists u \in Q$), output u
delete u and $u \rightarrow v$ from Q ,
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Lemma (Correctness of Kahn's TOPOSORT)

Every DAG has at least one source (and at least one sink vertex).

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Lemma (Correctness of Kahn's TOPOSORT)

Every DAG has at least one source (and at least one sink vertex).

Q : What if G is *not* a DAG?

Cycle detection (Problem 5.8 – 1)

	Digraph	Undirected graph
DFS		
BFS		

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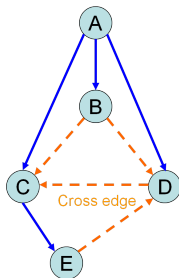
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Whether an undirected graph G contains a cycle?

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tree: $|E| = |V| - 1 \implies$ check $|E| \geq |V|$

Theorem (Digraph as DAG)

Every digraph is a dag of its SCCs.

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Two tiered structure of digraphs:

digraph \equiv a dag of SCCs

SCC: equivalence class over reachability

digraph \equiv a dag of SCCs

Kosaraju's SCC algorithm, 1978

*“SCCs can be topo-sorted
in **decreasing** order of their highest **finish** time.”*

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The vertice with the **highest** finish time is in a **source** SCC.

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$$\forall u, v \in V : u \rightsquigarrow v \vee v \rightsquigarrow u$$

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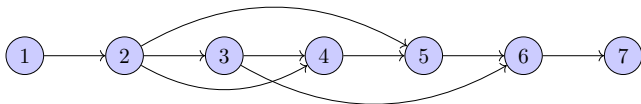
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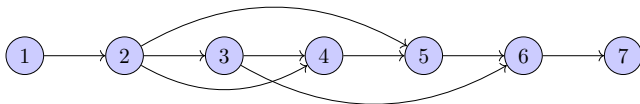
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DAG: Semiconnected $\iff \exists!$ topo. ordering

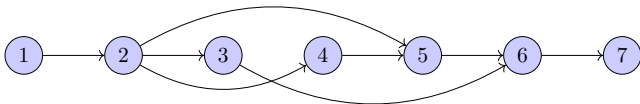
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Tarjan's TOPOSORT + Check edges (v_i, v_{i+1})

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