

Introduction to Graph Algorithms  
COMP4500/7500  
Advanced Algorithms & Data Structures

# Overview

- What have we done so far and why?
- Introduction to graphs
- Representing graphs
- Breadth-first search
- Depth-first search

# What have we done and why?

Goal: **To be able to efficiently solve complex problems**

First: we need to be able to **analyse the efficiency of algorithms**.

- There are different measures of efficiency, e.g. time, space.
- How efficient an algorithm is depends on its *input size* and *input value*.
- We can describe the *best*, *average* or *worst case* as a function of input size.
- Functions can be described and compared using *asymptotic notation*.
  - $\Theta$ : asymptotic tight bounds
  - $O$ : asymptotic upper bounds
  - $\Omega$ : asymptotic lower bounds

# Quick question

Which asymptotic notation (e.g.  $O$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $\Theta$ ) do we use to describe

- worst case time complexity?
- best case time complexity?
- average case time complexity?

# What have we done and why?

Non-trivial algorithms use loops and/or recursion

- Loops can be analysed using *summations*

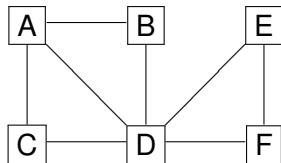
$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^n i^2$$

- Recursive programs can be analysed using *recurrences*

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$$

Use mathematical/logical reasoning to convert these into a statement in terms of asymptotic notation:  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

# Graphs



Made up of

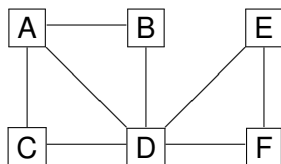
- Vertices

A, B, C, D, E, F

- Edges

(A,B), (A,D), (A,C), (B,D), (C,D), (E, D), (E, F), (D, F)

# Graphs

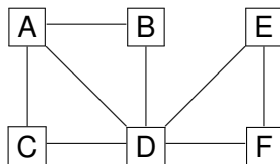


Could be used to represent

- Geographical information (Vertices = cities, Edges = roads)
- Networks (Vertices = computers, Edges = cables)
- Brains (Vertices = neurons, Edges = synapses)
- Programs (Vertices = statements, Edges = control flow)

# Graphs: Key property: **directed** or **undirected**

Undirected:

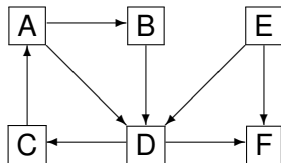


- Cannot have self-loops.
- If  $(u, v) \in E(G)$ ,  $v$  is **adjacent** to  $u$  in  $G$  (symmetric).
- Edge  $(u, v) \in E(G)$  is **incident on** vertices  $v$  and  $u$
- The **degree** of a vertex  $v$  is the number of edges incident upon it.



# Graphs: Key property: **directed** or **undirected**

Directed:



- Can have self-loops.
- If  $(u, v) \in E(G)$ ,  $v$  is **adjacent** to  $u$  in  $G$  (asymmetric).
- Edge  $(u, v) \in E(G)$  is **incident from** (leaves) vertex  $u$  and **incident on** (enters) vertices  $v$ .
- The **out-degree** of a vertex  $v$  is the number of edges leaving it.
- The **in-degree** of a vertex  $v$  is the number of edges entering it.
- The **degree** of a vertex is the sum of its in-degree and out-degree.

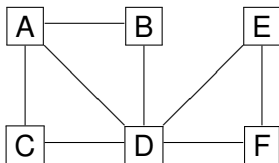
# Quick question

What (exactly) is the maximum number of edges in an:

- directed graph with  $n$  vertices?  $n^2$
- undirected graph with  $n$  vertices?  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = n(n-1)/2$

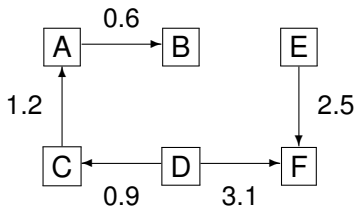
# Graphs: Key property: **weighted** or **unweighted**

Unweighted:



# Graphs: Key property: **weighted** or **unweighted**

Weighted:



# Graphs: terminology

For a graph  $G = (V, E)$ :

- A **path** of length  $k$  from a vertex  $v_0$  to a vertex  $v_k$  is a sequence  $\langle v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k \rangle$  of vertices such that  $(v_{i-1}, v_i) \in E$  for  $i \in 1, 2, \dots, k$ .
- $u$  is **reachable** from  $v$  if there is a path from  $v$  to  $u$ .
- A path is **simple** if all vertices in the path are distinct.
- A path forms a **cycle** if  $v_0 = v_k$  and  $k > 1$ .
- A cycle is **simple** if  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  are distinct and all of its edges are distinct.
- A graph with no simple cycles is **acyclic**.

# Graphs: terminology

An undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  is:

- **connected** if every vertex is reachable from all other vertices.
- a **forest** if it has acyclic.
- a **tree** if it is a forest with only one connected component.

# Quick question

(For an undirected graph:)

What are the **minimum** and **maximum** number of edges in a:

- **tree** with  $n$  vertices?      $(n-1, n-1)$
- **forest** with  $n$  vertices?      $(0, n-1)$
- **connected** graph with  $n$  vertices?      $(n-1, n(n-1)/2)$

# Graphs: terminology

An directed graph  $G = (V, E)$  is:

- **strongly connected** if there every two vertices are reachable from each other.



# Graphs: terminology

- Graph  $G' = (V', E')$  is a **sub-graph** of  $G = (V, E)$  when  $V' \subseteq V$  and  $E' \subseteq E$ .
- Additionally,  $G'$  is a **spanning sub-graph** of  $G$  if  $V' = V$  also holds.
- The sub-graph of  $G = (V, E)$  that is **induced by  $V'$**  is the graph  $G' = (V', E')$  where  $E' = \{(u, v) \in E : u \in V' \wedge v \in V'\}$ .

# Graphs

Information about graphs we may need:

- Shortest *path* from vertex  $v$  to vertex  $u$
- Shortest path from vertex  $v$  to every other vertex
- Does the graph contain cycles?
- Is it connected?
- Find a minimum spanning tree?
- Shortest tour of all vertices(?)

Graphs will be used to explore different programming styles throughout the course.

# Types of graphs

- Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)
- Connected graph
- Trees are special types of graphs
- Lists/vectors are also simple graphs

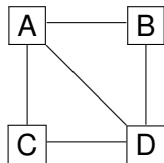
# Graph representations

There are two main approaches to representing graphs:

- Adjacency list
- Adjacency matrix

(Representing the set of vertices and edges directly is usually too inefficient.)

# Graph representations: adjacency list (undirected)



| Node | Connections |
|------|-------------|
| A    | B, D, C     |
| B    | A, D        |
| C    | A, D        |
| D    | A, B, C     |

For undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  with  $V$  vertices and  $E$  edges what is the worst-case:

- **space complexity?**

$$\Theta(V + \sum_{v \in G.V} \text{degree}(v)) = \Theta(V + 2E) \in \Theta(V + E)$$

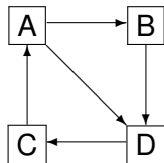
- **time complexity of *isAdjacentTo*( $u, v$ )?**

$$\Theta(V)$$

- **time complexity to list all adjacent vertex pairs?**

$$\Theta(V + \sum_{v \in G.V} \text{degree}(v)) = \Theta(V + 2E) \in \Theta(V + E)$$

# Graph representations: adjacency list (directed)



| Node | Connections |
|------|-------------|
| A    | B, D        |
| B    |             |
| C    | A           |
| D    | C           |

For directed graph  $G = (V, E)$  with  $V$  vertices and  $E$  edges what is the worst-case:

- **space complexity?**

$$\Theta(V + \sum_{v \in G.V} \text{outDegree}(v)) = \Theta(V + E)$$

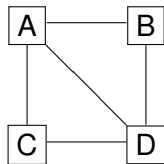
- **time complexity of *isAdjacentTo*( $u, v$ )?**

$$\Theta(V)$$

- **time complexity to list all adjacent vertex pairs?**

$$\Theta(V + \sum_{v \in G.V} \text{outDegree}(v)) = \Theta(V + E)$$

# Graph representations: adjacency matrix (undirected)

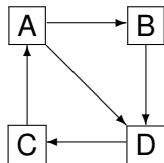


|   | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| B | ✓ | - | - | ✓ |
| C | ✓ | - | - | ✓ |
| D | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | - |

For undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  with  $V$  vertices and  $E$  edges what is the worst-case:

- **space complexity?**  
 $\Theta(V^2)$
- **time complexity of *isAdjacentTo*( $u, v$ )?**  
 $\Theta(1)$
- **time complexity to list all adjacent vertex pairs?**  
 $\Theta(V^2)$

# Graph representations: adjacency matrix (directed)



|   | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | - | ✓ | - | ✓ |
| B | - | - | - | ✓ |
| C | ✓ | - | - | - |
| D | - | - | ✓ | - |

For undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  with **V** vertices and **E** edges what is the worst-case:

- **space complexity?**  
 $\Theta(V^2)$
- **time complexity of *isAdjacentTo*( $u, v$ )?**  
 $\Theta(1)$
- **time complexity to list all adjacent vertex pairs?**  
 $\Theta(V^2)$



# Comparison of graph representations

The **adjacency list** representation is often the most efficient if the graph is **sparse**: few edges relative to the number of vertices.

The **adjacency matrix** representation is often most efficient if the graph is **dense**: many edges relative to the number of vertices.

# Graph traversal algorithms

- Breadth-first search
- Depth-first search

# Breadth-First Search (BFS)

For an **unweighted graph**  $G$ :

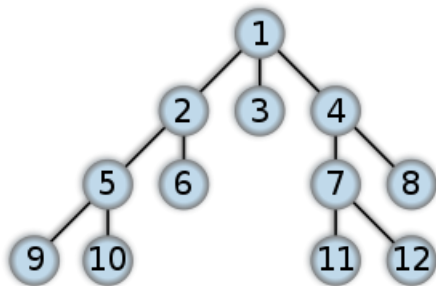
- The **length of a path** is the number of edges in that path.  
E.g. the length of  $\langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$  is 2.
- The **distance** from vertex  $u$  to  $v$  is the length of the shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G$ .

**Breadth-first search (BFS):**

- Takes as input a unweighted graph  $G = (V, E)$  and a designated *start vertex*  $v \in G.V$ .
- Traverses vertices in  $G$  in order of their **distance** from a  $v$ .
- Finds **shortest paths** from  $v$  to every other vertex in  $G$ .

# Breadth-First Search (BFS)

E.g. a possible traversal order of a tree:



# Breadth-First Search (BFS): How do we implement it?

What do we know?

- 1 Start vertex  $v$  is at a distance 0 from itself.
- 2 The vertices adjacent to  $v$ , other than those at distance 0, are at distance 1.
- 3 The vertices adjacent to  $v$ 's adjacent vertices, other than those at distance 0 or 1, are at distance 2.
- 4 etc.

# Breadth-First Search (BFS): How do we implement it?

We will use a **queue** data structure:

- Vertices are:
  - *enqueued* in order of their distance from the start vertex,
  - *dequeued* in order of their distance from the start vertex.
- The first element added to the queue is the start vertex.
- When a vertex is dequeued, its adjacent vertices that have *not yet been reached* are enqueued.

How do we keep track of which vertices have *been reached*?

# Breadth-First Search (BFS): How do we implement it?

Colours are used distinguish vertices at different stages within the algorithm:

- **White:** not reached yet  
(i.e. never enqueued – a shortest path not yet found)
- **Grey:** reached but all adjacent vertices not reached yet  
(i.e. enqueued but not dequeued – a shortest path found)
- **Black:** reached and completed  
(i.e. enqueued and dequeued – a shortest path found)

# BFS pseudo-code

**Finding a path:** keep track of the predecessor of each vertex

BFS( $G, v$ )

```
1  for  $u$  in  $G.V - \{v\}$ 
2       $u.distance = \infty$  ;  $u.colour = white$  ;  $u.parent = NULL$ 
3   $v.distance = 0$  ;  $v.colour = grey$  ;  $v.parent = NULL$ 
4   $Q.initialise()$ 
5   $Q.enqueue(v)$ 
6  while not  $Q.isEmpty()$ 
7       $current = Q.dequeue()$ 
8      for  $u$  in  $G.adjacent[current]$ 
9          if  $u.colour == white$ 
10              $u.distance = current.distance + 1$ 
11              $u.colour = grey$  ;  $u.parent = current$ 
12              $Q.enqueue(u)$ 
13      $current.colour := black$ 
```



# BFS: worst-case time complexity?

BFS( $G, v$ )

```

1  for  $u$  in  $G.V - \{v\}$ 
2       $u.distance = \infty$  ;  $u.colour = white$ 
3   $v.distance = 0$  ;  $v.colour = grey$ 
4   $Q.initialise()$  ;  $Q.enqueue(v)$ 
5  while not  $Q.isEmpty()$ 
6       $current = Q.dequeue()$ 
7      for  $u$  in  $G.adjacent[current]$ 
8          if  $u.colour == white$ 
9               $u.distance = current.distance + 1$ 
10              $u.colour = grey$ 
11              $Q.enqueue(u)$ 
12      $current.colour := black$ 
    
```

$$\Theta(V) + \Theta(1) + (\sum_{v \in G.V} \Theta(1) + outDegree(v) \times \Theta(1)) = \Theta(V + E)$$

# Depth-first Search (DFS)

Doesn't necessarily find shortest-paths.

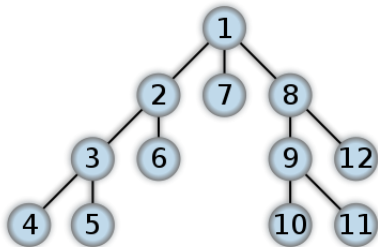
Often used as a subroutine within other algorithms.

A recursive algorithm that visits a vertex  $v$  by:

- choosing a unvisited vertex  $u$  adjacent to  $v$
- visiting  $u$  and all of its unvisited reachable vertices,
- before backtracking to  $v$  and continuing until  $v$  has no more unvisited adjacent vertices.

# Depth-first Search (DFS)

E.g. a possible traversal order of a tree:



# DFS pseudo-code

DFS( $G$ )

```
1  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
2       $u.color = white$ 
3  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
4      if  $u.colour == white$  then DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
```

DFS-VISIT( $G, v$ )

```
1   $v.colour = grey$ 
2  for  $u$  in adjacent[ $v$ ]
3      if  $u.colour == white$ 
4          DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
5   $v.colour = black$ 
```

# DFS pseudo-code: recording predecessor subgraph

DFS( $G$ )

```
1  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
2       $u.color = white$  ;  $u.parent = NULL$ 
3  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
4      if  $u.colour == white$  then DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
```

DFS-VISIT( $G, v$ )

```
1   $v.colour = grey$ 
2  for  $u$  in adjacent[ $v$ ]
3      if  $u.colour == white$ 
4           $u.parent = v$ 
5          DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
6   $v.colour = black$ 
```

# DFS: worst case time complexity?

DFS( $G$ )

```

1  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
2       $u.color = white$ 
3  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
4      if  $u.colour == white$  then DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
    
```

DFS-VISIT( $G, v$ )

```

1   $v.colour = grey$ 
2  for  $u$  in adjacent[ $v$ ]
3      if  $u.colour == white$ 
4          DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
5   $v.colour = black$ 
    
```

$$\Theta(V) + (\sum_{v \in G.V} \Theta(1) + outDegree(v) \times \Theta(1)) = \Theta(V + E)$$

# DFS pseudo-code: with timestamps

DFS( $G$ )

```

1  time = 0
2  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
3       $u.color$  = white
4  for  $u$  in  $G.V$ 
5      if  $u.colour == white$  then DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
    
```

DFS-VISIT( $G, v$ )

```

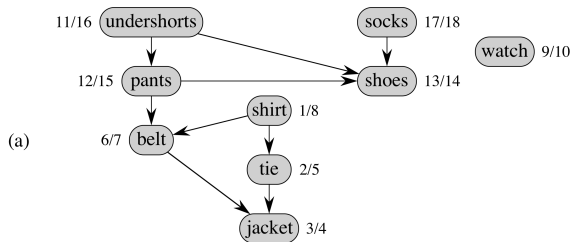
1  time = time + 1 ; u.discovered = time
2   $v.colour$  = grey
3  for  $u$  in adjacent[ $v$ ]
4      if  $u.colour == white$ 
5          DFS-VISIT( $G, u$ )
6   $v.colour$  = black
7  time = time + 1 ; u.finished = time
    
```

# Topological sort

- A **directed acyclic graph (DAG)** is a directed graph with no cycles.
- The directed edges in a DAG can be thought of as **dependencies** between vertices.
- A **topological sort** of a directed acyclic graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a linear ordering of  $V$  such that:
  - if  $(u, v) \in E$ ,  
then  $u$  comes before  $v$  in the topological ordering.



# Topological sort



# Topological sort

TOPOLOGICAL-SORT( $G$ )

- 1 initialise an empty linked-list of vertices
- 2 call DFS( $G$ )
- 3 as each vertex is finished, insert it onto the front of a linked list
- 4 **return** the list of vertices

i.e. returns vertices in descending order of their DFS finish time.

# Recap

- Graphs are a commonly occurring structure in difficult problems
- Can be
  - directed, undirected
  - cyclic, acyclic
  - weighted, unweighted
- Often represented as an adjacency list or adjacency matrix
- Breadth-first search is used for finding shortest-paths
- Depth-first search is used for probing the structure of the graph (e.g., topological sort)