

# Math 182 Lecture 14

## §8.2 Breadth-first search (BFS)

Given graph  $G = (V, E)$   
given  $s \in V$  called the source.

BFS will search all vertices  
which are "reachable" from  $s$ ,  
( $v$  reachable from  $s$  if  $\exists$  path  
 $s \rightarrow v$ )

BFS will do:

- (1) computes shortest-path distance  
from  $s$  to all other vertices.
- (2) creates a breadth-first tree which  
contains shortest-length paths from  
 $s$  to other vertices on the tree.  
This tree contains all reachable vertices  
from  $s$ .

In BFS, vertices will have a color:

- White  $\rightarrow$  means vertex not yet discovered
- Gray  $\rightarrow$  vertex discovered, in the frontier
- Black  $\rightarrow$  vertex discovered, already had  
neighbors processed.

distance

$v.d$  = best known path-distance from  $s$ .

predecessor:

$v.\pi$  = vertex from which we discovered  $v$ .

BFS( $G, s$ )

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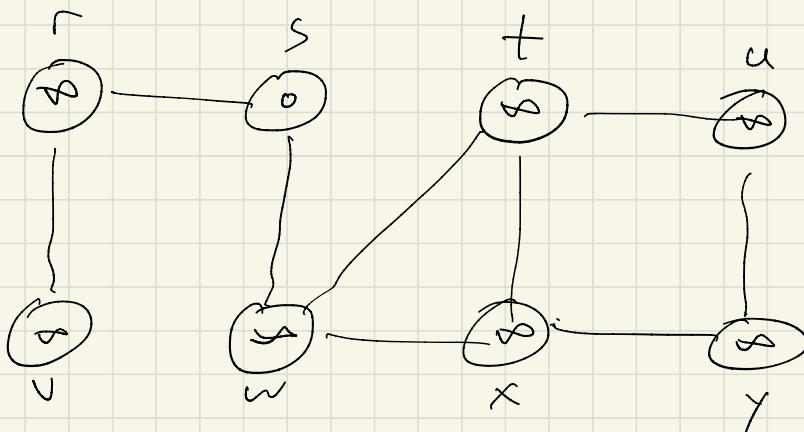
1   for each vertex  $u \in V, V \setminus \{s\}$ 
2        $u.\text{color} = \text{WHITE}$ 
3        $u.d = \infty$ 
4        $u.\pi = \text{NIL}$ 
5    $s.\text{color} = \text{GRAY}$            | initializes  $s$ 
6    $s.d = 0$ 
7    $s.\pi = \text{NIL}$ 
8    $Q = \emptyset$  ← creates queue  $Q$ 
9   ENQUEUE( $Q, s$ ) ← put  $s$  in  $Q$ .
10  while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
11       $u = \text{DEQUEUE}(Q)$ 
12      for each  $v \in G.\text{Adj}[u]$ 
13          if  $v.\text{color} == \text{WHITE}$ 
14               $v.\text{color} = \text{GRAY}$ 
15               $v.d = u.d + 1$ 
16               $v.\pi = u$ 
17              ENQUEUE( $Q, v$ ) ←
18       $u.\text{color} = \text{BLACK}$  ← down w/  $u$ .  
of queue
    
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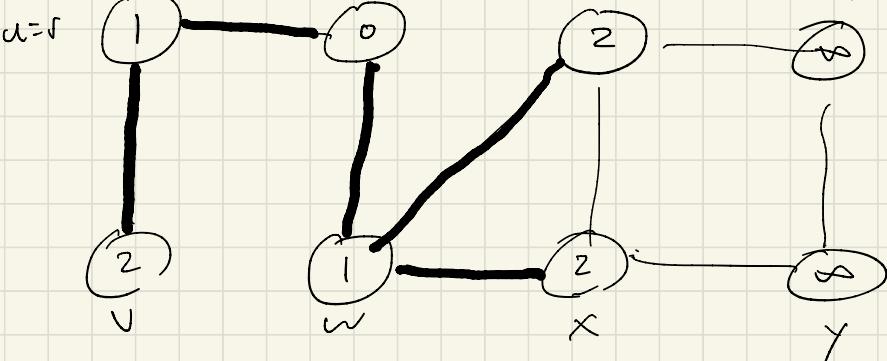
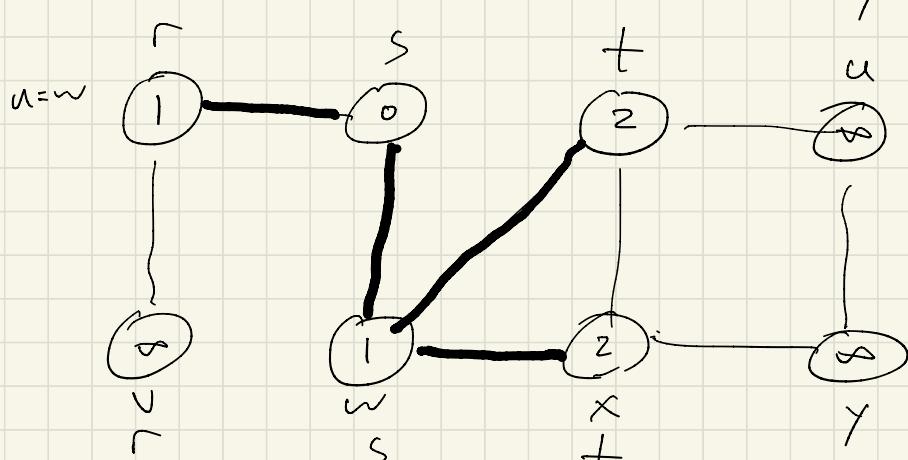
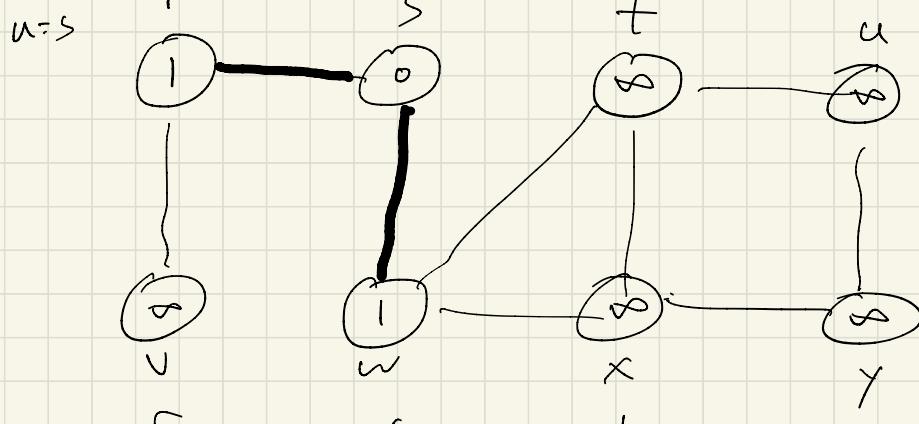
initialize  
 $u \in V \setminus \{s\}$   
 $u.\text{color} = \text{white}$   
 $u.d = \infty$   
 $u.\pi = \text{nil}$

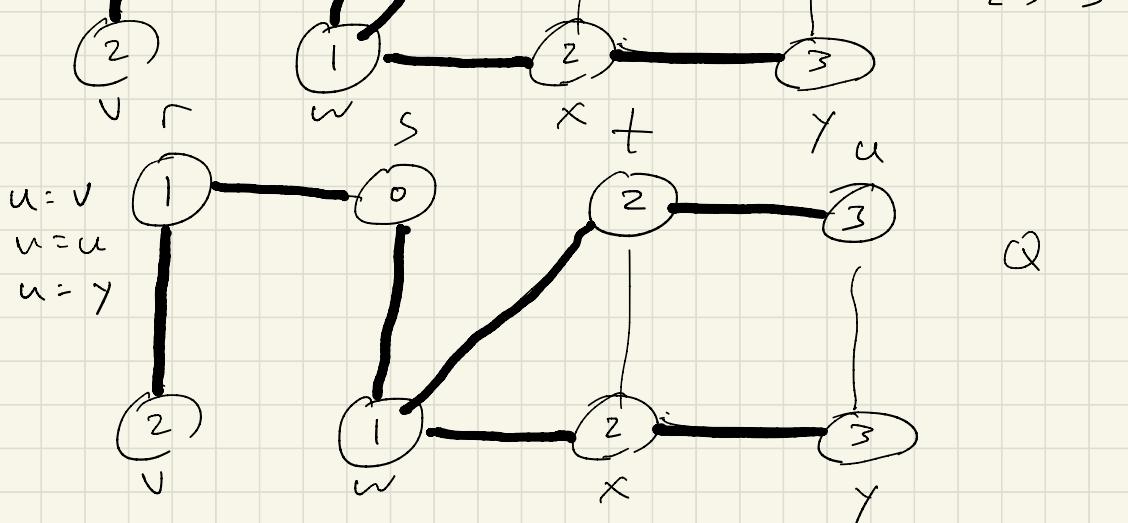
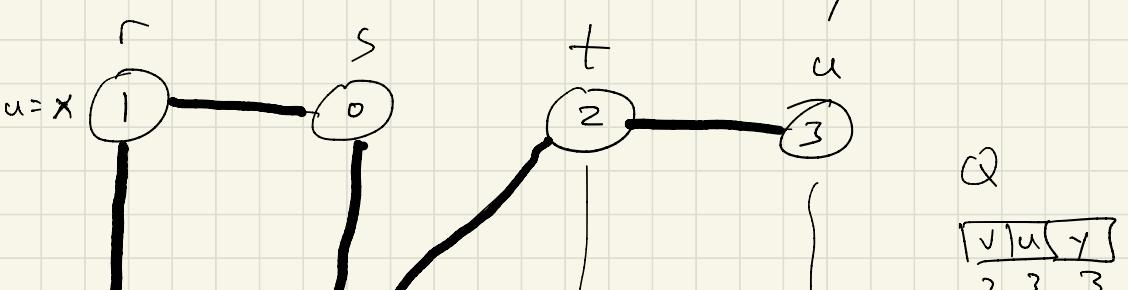
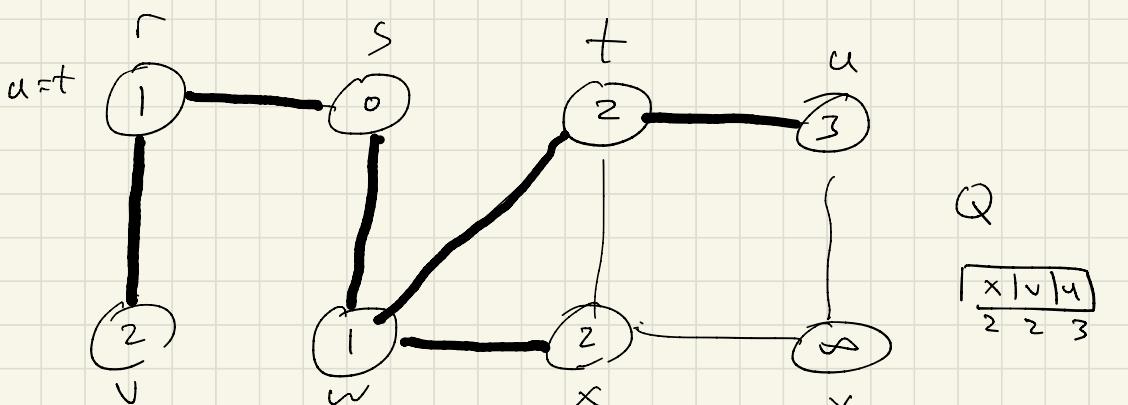
if neighbor  $v$  is  
undiscovered (white)  
Then discover it  
and define color,  
distance and  $\pi$

put  $v$  in back  
of queue

↓ source







## Running-time analysis

lines 1-9 initialization  $\Theta(V)$

while loop runs  $\Theta(V)$  times,  
for loop runs  $\Theta(E)$  times

Overall BFS  $\Theta(V+E)$ .

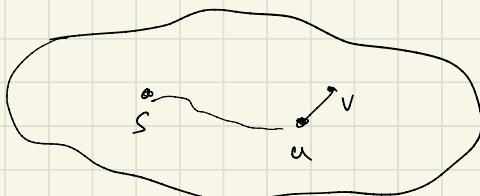
## Shortest paths Defs

Given  $G = (V, E)$   $s \in V$  source

define shortest-path distance

$\delta(s, v)$  from  $s$  to  $v$  to be minimum  
# of edges in some path from  $s$  to  $v$ ,  
or  $\delta(s, v) = \infty$  if no path exists.

Call path from  $s$  to  $v$  a shortest path  
if length of path =  $\delta(s, v)$ .



**Lemma 8.2.1.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a directed or undirected graph, and let  $s \in V$  be an arbitrary vertex. Then, for any edge  $(u, v) \in E$ ,

$$\delta(s, v) \leq \delta(s, u) + 1.$$

Proof: Suppose  $\delta(s, v) = \infty$ , so  $v$  not reachable from  $s$ , so  $u$  not reachable, so  $\delta(s, u) = \infty$ . Otherwise,  $s$  to  $v$ ,  $v$  reachable.

Take any path of shortest length  $\delta(s, u)$  from  $s$  to  $u$ . Then this path +  $(u, v)$  is path from  $s$  to  $v$  of length  $\delta(s, u) + 1$ .

Thus  $\delta(s, v) \leq \delta(s, u) + 1$   $\square$

**Lemma 8.2.2.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a directed or undirected graph, and suppose that BFS is run on  $G$  from a given source vertex  $s \in V$ . Then upon termination, for each vertex  $v \in V$ , the value  $v.d$  computed by BFS satisfies  $v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$ .

Proof: (Loop invariant) Each time line 10 is run,  $\forall v \in V, v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$ .

(Initialization) First time line 10 is run,  $\forall v \in V \setminus \{s\}, v.d = \infty \geq \delta(s, v)$  and  $v.s = 0 = \delta(s, s)$ .

(Maintenance) Suppose line 10 just ran,  $Q \neq \emptyset$  and loop invariant is true. Suppose  $u$  is dequeued in line 11, and we look at  $v \in G.\text{Adj}[u]$ . and  $v$  is white. Then we set

$$v.d = u.d + 1 \quad \text{but}$$

$$v.d = u.d + 1 \quad \text{by loop inv.}$$

$$\geq \delta(s, u) + 1 \quad \text{by prev. lemma.}$$

(Termination) Since loop invariant is true at end, desired inequalities are true upon termination.  $\blacksquare$

Can be at most two d-values in queue Q:

**Lemma 8.2.3.** Suppose that during the execution of BFS on a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , the queue  $Q$  contains the vertices  $\langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r \rangle$ , where  $v_1$  is the head of  $Q$  and  $v_r$  is the tail. Then,  $v_r.d \leq v_1.d + 1$  and  $v_i.d \leq v_{i+1}.d$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r - 1$ .

Proof: We will prove this by induction on # of queue operations.

Initially queue just contains  $s$ , so true.

(Dequeue) Sps lemma currently true and dequeue  $v_1$ . Then  $v_2$  new head (or  $Q = \emptyset$ , in which case automatically true)

$$v_r.d + 1 \leq v_1.d + 1 \leq v_2.d + 1 \text{ by assumption.}$$

(Enqueue) Sps we just enqueue vertex  $v_1$ , so  $v_{r+1} = v$ .  $v$  is enqueue because of a recently dequeued vertex  $u$ . By inductive assumption,  $u.d \leq v_1.d$ .

$$\text{Thus } v_{r+1}.d = v.d = u.d + 1 \leq v_1.d + 1.$$

Inductive assumption also implies  $v.r.d \leq u.d + 1$  so  $v_r.d \leq u.d + 1 = v.d = v_{r+1}.d$ .

All other inequalities remain true by ind. assumption.  $\blacksquare$

As a consequence:

**Corollary 8.2.4.** Suppose that vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  are enqueued during the execution of BFS, and that  $v_i$  is enqueued before  $v_j$ . Then  $v_i.d \leq v_j.d$  at the time that  $v_j$  is enqueued.

(Also uses observation that d-value never reassigned after first getting finite value)

**Theorem 8.2.5** (Correctness of breadth-first search). Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a directed or undirected graph, and suppose that BFS is run on  $G$  from a given single source vertex  $s \in V$ . Then, during its execution, BFS discovers every vertex  $v \in V$  that is reachable from the source  $s$ , and upon termination,  $v.d = \delta(s, v)$  for all  $v \in V$ . Moreover, for any vertex  $v \neq s$  that is reachable from  $s$ , one of the shortest paths from  $s$  to  $v$  is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $\pi_v$  followed by the edge  $(v, \pi_v)$ .

$\pi_v$

Proof: Assume towards contradiction

There is  $v$  s.t.  $v.d \neq \delta(s, v)$ , so  $v.d > \delta(s, v)$ .  
Let  $v$  be a counterexample w/ minimal  $\delta(s, v)$ .

Then  $v$  must be reachable from  $s$ . So  
a immediately precedes  $v$  on some shortest  
path from  $s$ . Then  $\delta(s, u) < \delta(s, v)$  so

$u.d = \delta(s, u)$ . Thus

$$(T) \quad v.d > \delta(s, v) = \delta(s, u) + 1 = u.d + 1.$$

Consider point at which  $v$  was dequeued.  
Bases: (v white) Then  $u.d + 1 = v.d$  contradicting (T)  
(v black) So  $v.d \leq u.d$ , by prev. cor  
contradicting (T).

(v gray) Then  $v$  was painted gray by  
a vertex  $w$  dequeued before  $u$ . Then  
 $v.d = w.d + 1 \leq u.d + 1$ , also a contradiction.  $\square$

## Breadth-first trees

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  w/ source  $s$ , define predecessor subgraph of  $G$

$$G_\pi = (V_\pi, E_\pi) \text{ w/}$$

$$V_\pi = \{v \in V : v.\pi \neq \text{NIL}\} - \{s\}$$

$$E_\pi = \{(v.\pi, v) : v \in V_\pi, v \neq s\}.$$

We say  $G_\pi$  is a breadth-first tree  
if  $V_\pi$  consists of all vertices reachable  
from  $s$  and for all  $v \in V_\pi$ ,  $G_\pi$  contains  
a unique simple path from  $s$  to  $v$  that  
is also a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  in  $G$ .

Edges of  $E_\pi$  called tree edges.

Note: breadth-first tree is a tree bcs it is connected and  $|E_\pi| = |V_\pi| - 1$ .

**Lemma 8.2.6.** When applied to a directed or undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ , procedure BFS constructs  $\pi$  so that the predecessor subgraph  $G_\pi = (V_\pi, E_\pi)$  is a breadth-first tree.

Proof: Line 1b of BFS sets  $v.\pi = u$  iff  $(u, v) \in E$  and  $\delta(s, v) < \infty$ . So  $V_\pi$  consists of all vertices reachable from  $s$ . Since  $G_\pi$  is a tree, it contains unique simple path from  $s$  to each vertex in  $V_\pi$ . By prev. Thm, this is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ .  $\blacksquare$

Assume  $\text{BFS}(G, s)$  already run.

PRINT-PATH( $G, s, v$ )

- 1   **if**  $v == s$
- 2       print  $s$
- 3   **Elseif**  $v.\pi == \text{NIL}$
- 4       print "no path from"  $s$  "to"  $v$  "exists"
- 5   **else** PRINT-PATH( $G, s, v.\pi$ )
- 6       print  $v$