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## Distance of Nearest Cell having 1

**Problem Statement:** Given a binary grid of  $N \times M$ . Find the distance of the nearest 1 in the grid for each cell.

The distance is calculated as  $|i1 - i2| + |j1 - j2|$ , where  $i1, j1$  are the row number and column number of the current cell, and  $i2, j2$  are the row number and column number of the nearest cell having value 1.

### Examples:

#### Example 1:

#### Input:

Search

Search

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1	0	1
1	1	0
1	0	0

**Output:**

0	1	0
0	0	1
0	1	2

**Explanation:**

0's at (0,1), (1,2), (2,1) and (2,2) are at a distance of 1, 1, 1 and 2 from 1's at (0,0), (0,2), (2,0) and (1,1) respectively.

**Example 2:****Input:****Output:**[Count Subarray](#)[sum Equals K](#)[Binary Tree](#)[Representation in](#)[Java](#)[Accolite Digital](#)[Amazon](#) [Arcesium](#)[arrays](#) [Bank of America](#)[Barclays BFS Binary](#)[Search Binary Search](#)[Tree Commvault CPP DE](#)[Shaw DFS](#) **DSA****Self Paced**[google HackerEarth Hashing](#)[infosys inorder Interview](#)[Experience Java Juspay](#)[Kreeti Technologies Morgan](#)[Stanley Newfold Digital](#)[Oracle post order recursion](#)[Samsung SDE Core Sheet](#)**SDE Sheet**[Searching set-bits sorting](#)**Strivers****A2ZDSA****Course** [sub-array](#)[subarray Swiggy](#)[takeuforward TCS TCS](#)[CODEVITA TCS Ninja](#)

## Solution

***Disclaimer.** Don't jump directly to the solution, try it out yourself first.*

### Intuition:

Breadth First Search, BFS, is a traversal technique where we visit the nodes level-wise, i.e., it visits the same level nodes simultaneously, and then moves to the next level.

The intuition is that BFS will take a step from cells containing 1 and will reach out to all zeros that are at a distance of one.

Apparently, we can say that the nearest 1 to the 0s is at a distance of one. Again if we take another step, we will reach the next set of zeros, for these zeros 1 is at a distance of two. If we continue the same, till we can go, we can reach all the 0's possible.

We will choose the BFS algorithm as it moves step by step and we want all of them to traverse in a single step together so that we can have a minimum count with us.

## Approach:

### Initial configuration:

- **Queue:** Define a queue and insert the pair of starting nodes' coordinates along with the steps ( $\langle \text{coordinates}, \text{step} \rangle$ ). For example,  $((2, 1), 2)$  means cell  $(2, 1)$  is the source node and the nearest 1 can be found at a distance of 2 from the node.
- **Visited array:** an array initialized to 0 indicating unvisited nodes.
- **Distance matrix:** stores the distance of the nearest cell having 1 for every particular cell.

The algorithm steps are as follows:

- Push the pair of starting points and its steps ( $\langle \text{coordinates}, \text{step} \rangle$ ) in the queue, and mark the cell as visited.
- Start the BFS traversal, pop out an element from the queue every time, and travel to all its unvisited neighbors having 0.
- For every neighboring unvisited 0, we can mark the distance to be +1 of the current node distance and store it in the distance 2D array, and at the same time insert  $\langle \{\text{row}, \text{col}\}, \text{steps}+1 \rangle$  into the queue.
- Repeat the steps until the queue becomes empty and then return the distance matrix where we have stored the steps.

Consider the following illustration to understand how BFS traverses the cells and calculates the distance of the nearest 1 in the grid.

### **How do set boundaries for 4 directions?**

The 4 neighbors will have the following indexes:

Now, either we can apply 4 conditions or follow the following method.

From the above image, it is clear that the delta change in the row is -1, +0, +1, +0.

Similarly, the delta change in the column is 0, +1, +0, -1. So we can apply the same logic to find the neighbors of a particular pixel (<row, column>).

## Code:

---

### C++ Code

```
#include<bits/stdc++.h>
using namespace std;

class Solution
{
public:
//Function to find the distance
vector<vector<int>>nearest(vector<vector<int>>grid)
{
    int n = grid.size();
    int m = grid[0].size();
    // visited and distance matrix
    vector<vector<int>> vis(n, vector<int>(m, 0));
    vector<vector<int>> dist(n, vector<int>(m, 0));
    // <coordinates, steps>
    queue<pair<pair<int,int>, int>> q;
    // traverse the matrix
    for(int i = 0; i<n; i++) {
        for(int j = 0; j<m; j++) {
            // start BFS if cell is 1
            if(grid[i][j] == 1) {
                q.push({{i,j}, 0});
                vis[i][j] = 1;
            }
            else {
                // mark unvisited
                vis[i][j] = 0;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

    }

    int delrow[] = {-1, 0, +1, 0}
    int delcol[] = {0, +1, 0, -1}

    // traverse till queue becom
    while(!q.empty()) {
        int row = q.front().firs
        int col = q.front().firs
        int steps = q.front().se
        q.pop();
        dist[row][col] = steps;
        // for all 4 neighbours
        for(int i = 0;i<4;i++) {
            int nrow = row + del
            int ncol = col + del
            // check for valid u
            if(nrow >= 0 && nrow
            && vis[nrow][ncol] =
                vis[nrow][ncol] :
                q.push({nrow, n
            }
        }
    }
    // return distance matrix
    return dist;
}
};

```

```

int main(){
    vector<vector<int>>>grid{
        {0,1,1,0},
        {1,1,0,0},
        {0,0,1,1}
    };

    Solution obj;
    vector<vector<int>>> ans = obj.ne

    for(auto i: ans){
        for(auto j: i)
            cout << j << " ";
        cout << "\n";
    }
}

```

```
        return 0;
    }
}
```

### Output:

```
1 0 0 1
0 0 1 1
1 1 0 0
```

**Time Complexity:**  $O(N \times M + N \times M \times 4) \sim O(N \times M)$

For the worst case, the BFS function will be called for  $(N \times M)$  nodes, and for every node, we are traversing for 4 neighbors, so it will take  $O(N \times M \times 4)$  time.

**Space Complexity:**  $O(N \times M) + O(N \times M) + O(N \times M) \sim O(N \times M)$

$O(N \times M)$  for the visited array, distance matrix, and queue space takes up  $N \times M$  locations at max.

### Java Code

```
import java.util.*;

class Solution
{
    //Function to find distance of n
    public int[][] nearest(int[][] g
    {
        int n = grid.length;
        int m = grid[0].length;
        // visited and distance matr
        int vis[][] = new int[n][m];
        int dist[][] = new int[n][m]
        // <coordinates, steps>
        Queue<Node> q = new LinkedLi
```



```

// traverse the matrix
for(int i = 0;i<n;i++) {
    for(int j = 0;j<m;j++) {
        // start BFS if cell con
        if(grid[i][j] == 1)
            q.add(new Node(i
            vis[i][j] = 1;
        }
        else {
            // mark unvisited
            vis[i][j] = 0;
        }
    }
}

int delrow[] = {-1, 0, +1, 0
int delcol[] = {0, +1, 0, -1

// n x m x 4
// traverse till queue becom
while(!q.isEmpty()) {
    int row = q.peek().first
    int col = q.peek().secon
    int steps = q.peek().thi
    q.remove();
    dist[row][col] = steps;
    // for all 4 neighbours
    for(int i = 0;i<4;i++) {
        int nrow = row + del
        int ncol = col + del
        // check for valid u
        if(nrow >= 0 && nrow
        && vis[nrow][ncol] =
            vis[nrow][nc
            q.add(new Node(n
        }
    }
}

// return distance matrix
return dist;
}

public static void main(String[

```

```

    {
        int[][] grid = {
            {0,1,1,0},
            {1,1,0,0},
            {0,0,1,1}
        };

        Solution obj = new Solution(
            int[][] ans = obj.nearest(gr
            for(int i = 0; i < ans.length
                for(int j = 0; j < ans[i
                    System.out.print(ans
                }
                System.out.println();
            }
        }
    }

    class Node {
        int first;
        int second;
        int third;
        Node(int _first, int _second, in
            this.first = _first;
            this.second = _second;
            this.third = _third;
        }
    }
}

```

**Output:**

```

1 0 0 1
0 0 1 1
1 1 0 0

```

**Time Complexity:**  $O(N \times M + N \times M \times 4) \sim O(N \times M)$

For the worst case, the BFS function will be called for  $(N \times M)$  nodes, and for every node, we are traversing for 4 neighbors, so it will take  $O(N \times M \times 4)$  time.

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Special thanks to [Vanshika Singh Gour](#) for contributing to this article on takeUforward. If you also wish to share your knowledge with the takeUforward fam, [please check out this article](#). If you want to suggest any improvement/correction in this article please mail us at [write4tuf@gmail.com](mailto:write4tuf@gmail.com)

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