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How can I detect cycles in undirected graph using BFS?

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8 Answers



Jayant Sharma, thedark on codeforces

Answered Aug 2, 2016



You need maintain an array `par[i]` = parent of node `i`, now start bfs from node 1 and go on level wise. If a condition occurs when we are exploring neighbours of a node `u` and it is visited node but is not parent of `u`, then this is certainly a edge leading cycle.

You can see the code for reference: [Ubuntu Pastebin](#)

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...



Sravya Vissamsetty, God is REAL, unless explicitly declared INTEGER.

Answered Jul 6, 2016



BFS means a breadth first traversal. It means that you have to visit all the surrounding nodes of a particular node which are unvisited till then and then move on to the next node. continue the process till all the nodes are visited once.

Algorithm:

- **Rule 1** – Visit adjacent unvisited vertex. Mark it visited. Display it. Insert it in a queue.
- **Rule 2** – If no adjacent vertex found, remove the first vertex from queue.
- **Rule 3** – Repeat Rule 1 and Rule 2 until queue is empty.

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Edits

If not and no adjacent vertex present, add to code

```
if(!visited(vertex)) bfs(vertex);
```

something like this, so that for the next vertex the same procedure continues.

for coding part of bfs go through this link: [Breadth First Traversal for a Graph - GeeksforGeeks](#)

If the adjacent node of current vertex has already been visited, then there is a loop

hope this answers helps you.

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Shivam Shivam, studied at DAV Public School (2015)

Answered Jun 8, 2017



We'll use degree of each node. If degree of the node while adding to queue is greater than the current element whose neighbours are explored, there ought to be a cycle.

While(q is not empty)

Current = deque();

For all neighboring element X of current

{

If $\text{deg}(X) > \text{deg}(\text{current})$

Cycle detected

}

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If you need to describe the cycle and not just detect its existence, you need to store the paths as you traverse the graph, which is why DFS might be more convenient.

Just perform BFS while keeping a list of previous nodes at each node visited, or else constructing a tree from the starting node. If I visit a node that has already been marked by BFS, I found a cycle; trace back along the path to describe it.

Remember that either will only work on the connected subgraph of the node you started at, not necessary find cycles on the whole graph.

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Thomas Cormen, The C in CLRS.

Because the graph is undirected, you also have to check that you're not visiting the no...



Weitao Li

Answered Dec 23, 2017



In bfs you have a visited list, so when you reading neighbors of current node and find there is a neighbor node which was visited before that means you found a loop. Think about this: the reason you reaching current node is because there is a path from root(first node you inserted into queue) to current node, and the reason this neighbor is visited is because there is a path from root to that node, now you found there is an edge between current node and neighbor which means you found a loop. However this does not apply to directed graph.

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Hao Liu, Software Engineer at Backstop Solutions Group (2015-present)

Answered Jul 3, 2017



```
private boolean isCyclicUtil(int v, boolean visited[], Map<Integer, Integer>
mapParentByChild) {
```

```
    LinkedList<Integer> queue = new LinkedList<Integer>();
```

```
    visited[v] = true;
```

```
    queue.add(v);
```

```
    while (!queue.isEmpty()) {
```

```
        v = queue.poll();
```

```
        Iterator<Integer> i = adj[v].listIterator();
```

```
        while (i.hasNext()) {
```

```
            int n = i.next();
```

```
            if (!visited[n]) {
```

```

queue.offer(n);

mapParentByChild.put(n, v);
}

else {

Integer parent = mapParentByChild.get(v);

if (!parent.equals(n)) {

Set<Integer> setParents = new HashSet<Integer>();

setParents.add(n);

Integer child = n;

while (mapParentByChild.get(child) != null) {

setParents.add(mapParentByChild.get(child));

child = mapParentByChild.get(child);

}

while (parent != null) {

if (setParents.contains(parent)) {

return true;

}

parent = mapParentByChild.get(parent);

}

}

}

}

return false;

}

```

2.9k Views



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Vance Faber, Problem solver (2012-present)

Answered Jul 3



I have this idea. Use BFS to find a spanning tree keeping track of every edge not on the tree in a list. Each of those edges forms a cycle called a tree cycle and can

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