

Problem: Find the shortest path between two nodes in a graph.

Constraints

- Is the graph directed?
 - Yes
- Is the graph weighted?
 - No
- Can we assume we already have Graph and Node classes?
 - Yes
- Are the inputs two Nodes?
 - Yes
- Is the output a list of Node keys that make up the shortest path?
 - Yes
- If there is no path, should we return None?
 - Yes
- Can we assume this is a connected graph?
 - Yes
- Can we assume the inputs are valid?
 - Yes
- Can we assume this fits memory?
 - Yes

Test Cases

Input:

- `add_edge(source, destination, weight)`
- `graph.add_edge(0, 1)`
- `graph.add_edge(0, 4)`
- `graph.add_edge(0, 5)`
- `graph.add_edge(1, 3)`
- `graph.add_edge(1, 4)`
- `graph.add_edge(2, 1)`
- `graph.add_edge(3, 2)`

`graph.add_edge(3, 4)`

Result:

- `search_path(start=0, end=2) -> [0, 1, 3, 2]`
- `search_path(start=0, end=0) -> [0]`
- `search_path(start=4, end=5) -> None`

Algorithm

To determine the shortest path in an unweighted graph, we can use breadth-first search keeping track of the previous nodes ids for each node. Previous nodes ids can be a dictionary of key: current node id and value: previous node id.

- If the start node is the end node, return True
- Add the start node to the queue and mark it as visited
 - Update the previous node ids, the previous node id of the start node is None
- While the queue is not empty
 - Dequeue a node and visit it
 - If the node is the end node, return the previous nodes
 - Set the previous node to the current node
 - Iterate through each adjacent node
 - If the node has not been visited, add it to the queue and mark it as visited
 - Update the previous node ids
- Return None

Walk the previous node ids backwards to get the path.

Complexity:

- Time: $O(V + E)$, where V = number of vertices and E = number of edges
- Space: $O(V + E)$