CS 526: Final project documentation

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# Synopsis

This document contains details on how to execute the final project, pseudocode of the algorithms and details on data structures used.

# How to execute the code

The main module that interacts with the user is the class named GraphHelper, executing the class will prompt the user for input and show the shortest distance based on both the algorithms, example :

Enter your start node letter : J

User enters node J as the start node

Algorithm 1:

Sequence of all nodes: J->K->Z

Shortest path: J->K->Z

Shortest path length: 310

Algorithm 2:

Sequence of all nodes: J->I->L->Z

Shortest path: J->I->L->Z

Shortest path length: 278

In case of an incorrect input the code will keep prompting the user for correct input

**Pseudocode**

I am using an iterative approach to traverse the nodes and use a stack to keep track of the traversal. I additionally also maintain a list of visited nodes to print at the end, this list will contain nodes we had to back track from also.

**Traversal logic**

* Loop until the current node is not equal to the end node (i.e. Z)
* Inside the loop mark current node as visited
* Push current node to stack
* Add current node to list of visited nodes
* Loop through all edges of the current node
* For each edge, get distance calculated for each edge based on algorithm specified (1 or 2), details of algorithm are provided below
* We compare this distance from previous step with a distance variable which initialized in the outer loop as Integer.MAX and if its less that this variable we reassign the value to this and mark the node as next node
* This process is continued for all the edges of the current node
* If there are any next nodes to visit we do that and the outer loop continues until we reach the end node (Z)
* In case there are no child nodes in a node we visited, then we back track by popping the current node and taking the next node in the stack as the current node this will cause the algorithm to explore another branch of the tree

**Algorithm 1**

For each edge, get its connected node letter and for that node letter get its direct distance from the direct distance map, this is the distance for algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 2**

For each edge, get its connected node letter from the direct distance map as well as the edge weight and add these, this determines the distance for algorithm 2.