

Network Science Library in Typescript
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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Technical Aspects

JavaScript (JS) is a multi-paradigm programming language. It is the most-used language in the web. ECMAScript (ES) is standardized specification of JS. ES is updated almost every year, and brings many different functionalities to the language, some of which are used in the library. The latest version of ES is ES2021, and is already implemented in most modern browsers.

Typescript is a strongly typed programming language that builds on JavaScript. The library is made specifically for dealing with a special kind of mathematical object with very well defined properties. Thus, TS's type functionality serves it very well.

This library is created following the one I had originally coded for the Spring 2020 Network Science class. That original library (Net20) had many flaws and inefficiencies which are addressed with this library in part due to TS.

1.2 Basic Graph Theory

Graph theory is a field of mathematics that studies graphs. A graph, or network, essentially consists of two sets:

1. V , a set of vertices (also called nodes), and
2. E , a set of edges (also called links)

Thus, a graph G can be represented as $G = (V, E)$ such that:

$$E \subseteq \{\{x, y\} | x, y \in V, x \neq y\} \forall a, b \in E, a \neq b$$

The library only deals with directed or undirected simple graphs with no self-loops. In other words, a graph cannot have more than one edge between any two vertices, and it also cannot connect a vertex to itself. The library considers all networks to be weighted on a technical level. When created, all edges and vertices have their weight set to one. An unweighted network is thus just a network with all weights set to the default of one.

Chapter 2

Types and Interfaces

These type definitions are the foundation of the library. They are stored inside 'enums.ts'. The `base_id` type is used throughout in the library. It signifies that the identification variable for a vertex can be either a string of characters or a number.

```
export type base_id = string | number;
```

An ID of 'vertex_a' is as valid as an ID of 42, for instance. The args interfaces are used by function inputs. For example, when creating an edge, the library will be expecting an object with the format of `EdgeArgs`.

```
export interface VertexArgs {
  id: base_id;
  weight?: number;
}

export interface EdgeArgs {
  from: base_id;
  to: base_id;
  id?: base_id;
  weight?: number;
  do_force?: boolean;
}

export interface NetworkArgs {
  is_directed?: boolean;
  is_multigraph?: boolean;
  edge_limit?: number;
  vertex_limit?: number;
}
```

The question-mark indicates a property is optional. It is possible to create

a network without any parameters. Weights are optional parameters, and (as previously mentioned) set to one by default.

The following is an example of code that creates a network 'net', then adds the vertices '1' and 'b' and an edge between them:

```
const net = new Network()

net.addVertex({ id: 1 })
net.addVertex({ id: 'b' })

net.addEdge(1, 'b')
```

The networks are by default undirected. A directed network has to be explicitly declared:

```
const is_directed = true
const directed_net = new Network({ is_directed })
```

'ParsedCSV' and 'ERROR' are types used internally by the library to load CSV files and manage error messages, respectively:

```
export type ParsedCSV = string[] [] ;

export const ERROR = {
  UNDEFINED_VALUES: "Undefined values being given as arguments!",
  EDGE_LIMIT: "Can't add new edge. Limit of Edges exceeded",
  VERTEX_LIMIT: "Can't add new vertex. Limit of Vertices exceeded",
  EXISTING_EDGE: "Trying to add an edge with already existing ID",
  EXISTING_VERTEX: "Trying to add a vertex with already existing ID",
  INEXISTENT_VERTEX: "Vertex doesn't exist",
  NOT_MULTIGRAPH:
    "Trying to add multiple edges between two vertices. Graph is not a multigraph!",
  UNDEFINED_ID: "Tried to use undefined id as input",
};
```

2.1 Vertex and Edge Classes

The vertex class receives an object with the interface of 'VertexArgs'. The weight is optional and, if not given, set to one.

```
import { base_id, VertexArgs } from "../enums.ts";

export class Vertex {
  readonly id: base_id;
  weight: number;
```

```

/**
 * Vertex constructor
 * @param {VertexArgs} args
 */
constructor(args: VertexArgs) {
    this.id = args.id;
    this.weight = args.weight ?? 1;
}

```

The '??' operator is a "Nullish coalescing operator" introduced in ES2021. If 'args.weight' is undefined, the instruction on the right is chosen. This operator is used instead of the ternary 'a ? b : c' operator because if 'args.weight=0', it would still select 'args.weight', whereas the ternary operator would consider '0' a Falsy value.

A Falsy value is something with the same Boolean value as false. '0', for example, although a number, it is still considered false in Typescript. In other languages, such as Ruby, '0' actually has a Truthy value, meaning that if you feed it into a logical operation, it considers it to be true.

The edge class has 'from' and 'to' properties that hold the ID of a vertex in a network, and a weight that behaves in the same way as the vertex class. The IDs of the vertices in an edge are private, meaning they cannot be read or overwritten. When an edge is added to a network, only its weight can change. Changing its vertices would fundamentally change what the edge is and is thus not allowed. The vertices can be accessed and read through the 'vertices' getter, which returns the edge's 'from' and 'to' properties:

```

import { base_id, EdgeArgs } from "../enums.ts";

export class Edge {
    private to: base_id;
    private from: base_id;
    weight: number;

    /**
     * Create an edge between 'from' and 'to'.
     *
     * Weight is set to 1 by default (i.e. unweighted).
     * @param {EdgeArgs} args
     */
    constructor(args: EdgeArgs) {
        this.from = args.from;
        this.to = args.to;
        this.weight = args.weight ?? 1;
    }
}

```

```

/**
 * Returns an object with the two vertices in the edge.
 * @returns {{ from:base_id, to:base_id }}
 */
get vertices(): { from: base_id; to: base_id } {
    return { from: this.from, to: this.to };
}
}

```

2.2 Network Constructor

The network class has 4 'readonly' properties. The edges and vertices are stored in Maps that use 'base_id' as their keys and the values store the actual vertex or edge instance. The two other 'readonly' are Booleans that store fundamental graph properties: the directionality and complexity of the network.

The 'private' properties have to do with hidden functionality and performance limitations. There are limits to the number of edges and vertices a network can have, and they can only be set in the creation of a network.

```

class Network {
    readonly edges: Map<base_id, Edge>;
    readonly vertices: Map<base_id, Vertex>;

    readonly is_directed: boolean;
    readonly is_multigraph: boolean;

    private edge_limit: number;
    private vertex_limit: number;
    private free_eid: number;
    private free_vid: number;

    /**
     * @param {NetworkArgs} [args={}]
     */
    constructor(args: NetworkArgs = {}) {
        this.edges = new Map();
        this.vertices = new Map();
        this.is_directed = args.is_directed ?? false;
        this.edge_limit = args.edge_limit ?? 500;
        this.vertex_limit = args.vertex_limit ?? 500;
        this.free_eid = 0;
        this.free_vid = 0;
        this.is_multigraph = false;
    }
}

```

```
}  
}
```

The 'free_eid' and 'free_vid' properties will be further explained later. A network with a larger number of maximum edges and vertices could be created as such:

```
const edge_limit = 10_000  
const vertex_limit = 10_000  
  
const net = new Network({ edge_limit, vertex_limit })
```


Chapter 3

Network Values

There are several network properties that, instead of being stored in a variable, have getters to them. These either have to be calculated on the fly or don't really serve an internal purpose that would justify storing them inside a variable property.

Getters have the basic format:

```
get getter_name(): PropertyType {  
    return property;  
}
```

And, different from functions, can be accessed without the brackets:

```
net.getter_name
```

3.1 Functional Getters

These getters exist mostly to provide functionality to the network class. For example, the args getter returns the properties of the network necessary to make a copy of it:

```
get args(): NetworkArgs {  
    return {  
        is_directed: this.is_directed,  
        is_multigraph: this.is_multigraph,  
        edge_limit: this.edge_limit,  
        vertex_limit: this.vertex_limit,  
    };  
}
```

The list getters return a list with the values inside the vertices and edges Maps. This is particularly useful for efficiency as it makes it possible to use standard Array functions.

```
get vertex_list(): Vertex[] {
  return [...this.vertices.values()];
}

get edge_list(): Edge[] {
  return [...this.edges.values()];
}
```

The '...' destructuring operator was also introduced in ES2021. It takes the iterable return of the 'values()' function and destructures it into its individual elements. The elements are then put inside an array, which is returned by the getter.

3.2 Calculations

These getters involve calculations that make use of the network's vertices and edges. That is why they are not permanently stored inside a property, seeing as they could change any time a new edge or vertex is added to the graph.

The calculations are also not turned into their own functions because they do not require more complex algorithms.

3.2.1 Weight

```
get weight(): number {
  return this.vertex_list
    .map((vertex) => vertex.weight)
    .reduce((prev, curr) => prev + curr);
}
```

Say $w(x)$ is the weight of the vertex x in the network $G = (V, E)$. A network's weight is given by:

$$\sum w(x), \forall x \in G$$

The getter uses the 'Array.prototype.map' and 'Array.prototype.reduce' functions. It first maps the 'vertex_list' into a list with just the weights of the vertex, and then reduces it by summing all of the new list's values.

3.2.2 Maximum Number of Edges

The highest number of edges M_E a graph with $|V|$ vertices can have is:

$$M_E = \frac{|V| * (|V| - 1)}{2}$$

```
get max_edges(): number {  
    return (this.vertices.size * (this.vertices.size - 1)) / 2;  
}
```

3.2.3 Density

A graph's density D is defined by:

$$D = \frac{|E|}{M_E}$$

The number of edges a graph has, divided by the maximum number of edges it could have with the number of nodes it currently has.

```
get density(): number {  
    return this.edges.size / this.max_edges;  
}
```

Chapter 4

Testing Process

For testing, the file 'tester.ts' is used.

```
deno run --allow-write --allow-read tester.ts
```

4.1 Test Output

changing from forEach to some cut the time in half essentially