NPTEL MOOC,JAN-FEB 2015
Week 3, Module 5

DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

Applications of BFS and DFS

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Graphs, formally

G = (V,E)

- Set of vertices V
- Set of edges E
  - E is a subset of pairs (v,v'): $E \subseteq V \times V$
  - Undirected graph: (v,v') and (v',v) are the same edge
  - Directed graph:
    - (v,v') is an edge from v to v'
    - Does not guarantee that (v',v) is also an edge

Exploring graph structure

- Breadth first search
  - Level by level exploration
- Depth first search
  - Explore each vertex as soon as it is visited
  - DFS numbering
- What can we find out about a graph using BFS/ DFS?

Connectivity

Connected graph

Disconnected graph

Connectivity

Connected graph

Disconnected graph

Connected components

Identifying connected components

- Vertices {1,2,…,N}
- Start BFS or DFS from 1
  - All nodes marked Visited form a connected component
  - Pick first unvisited node, say j, and run BFS or DFS from j
  - Repeat till all nodes are visited
- Update BFS/DFS to label each visited node with component number

Connected components

- Add a counter `comp` to number components
- Increment counter each time a fresh BFS/DFS starts
- Label each visited node `j` with `component[j] = comp`

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Cycles

Acyclic graph

Graph with cycles

BFS tree

- Edges explored by BFS form a tree
  - Acyclic graph = connected, with n-1 edges

BFS tree

- Edges explored by BFS form a tree
  - Acyclic graph = connected, with n-1 edges
- Any non-tree edge generates a cycle

DFS tree

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DFS tree

NPTEL

DFS tree

pre

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

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DFS tree

- Any non-tree edge generates a cycle

Directed cycles

NPTEL

Directed cycles

NPTEL

Directed cycles

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NPTEL

Directed cycles

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Directed cycles

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Directed cycles

Directed cycles

NPTEL

Directed cycles

Tree edge

Forward edge

Directed cycles

Directed cycles

Tree edge

Forward edge

Back edge

Directed cycles

Tree edge

Forward edge

Back edge

Directed cycles

Tree edge

Forward edge

Back edge

Cross edge

Directed cycles

Tree edge

Forward edge

Back edge

Cross edge

Directed cycles

- A directed graph has a cycle if and only if DFS reveals a back edge
- Can classify edges using pre and post numbers
  - Tree/Forward edge (u,v) :
    Interval [pre(u),post(u)] contains [(pre(v),post(v)]
  - Backward edge (u,v):
    Interval [pre(v),post(v)] contains [(pre(u),post(u)]
  - Cross edge (u,v):
    Intervals [(pre(u),post(u)] and [(pre(v),post(v)] disjoint

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Directed acyclic graphs

- Directed graphs without cycles are useful for modelling dependencies
  - Courses with prerequisites
  - Edge (Algebra,Calculus) indicates that Algebra is a prerequisite for Calculus
- Will look at Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs) soon

Connectivity in directed graphs

- Need to take directions into account
- Nodes i and j are strongly connected if there is a path from i to j and a path from j to i
- Directed graph can be decomposed into strongly connected components (SCCs)
  - All pairs of nodes in an SCC are strongly connected

Computing SCCs

- DFS numbering (pre and post) can be used to compute SCCs

[Dasgupta, Papadimitriou,Vazirani]

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Other properties

- A number of other structural properties can be inferred from DFS numbering
- Articulation points (vertices)
  - Removing such a vertex disconnects the graph
- Bridges (edges)
  - Removing such an edge disconnects the graph

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