



Directed Graphs & Topo Sort

- Raghav Goel

Goal

To understand

- Directed Graphs & Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)
- Cycle Detection
- Topological Sorting

Pre requisites →

- Basics of graphs

- DFS

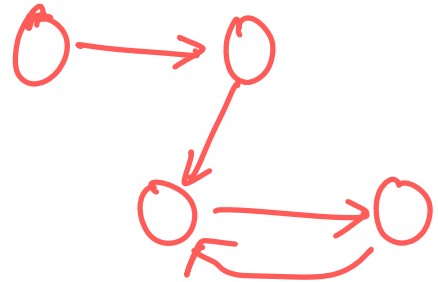
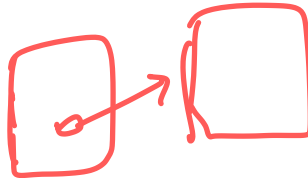
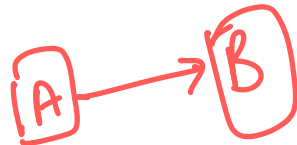
- BFS





Directed Graphs

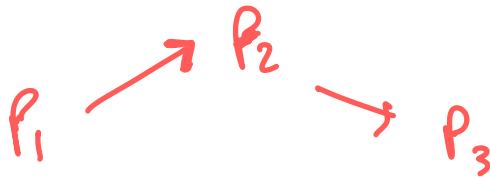
- A directed graph (digraph) is a set of vertices connected by directed edges. Each edge has a direction, meaning it goes from one vertex to another.
- Examples:
 - Web Links (A web page linking to another).
 - Social Media (Followers on Twitter/X).



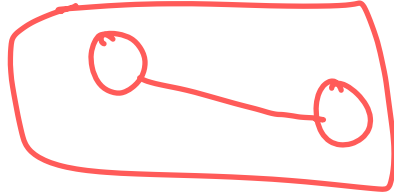


Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)

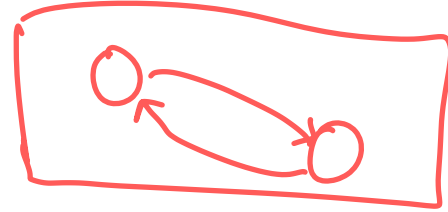
- A Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) is a directed graph with no cycles.
- You can never return to the same node once you follow a path.
- Allows Topological Sorting (A linear ordering of nodes).
- Applications:
 - Task Scheduling (e.g., CPU scheduling, project management)



Undirected Graphs



Directed Graphs

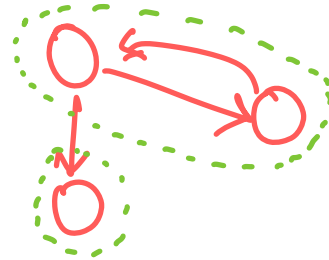


DFS

components



from node = 1 to n
dfs(node)



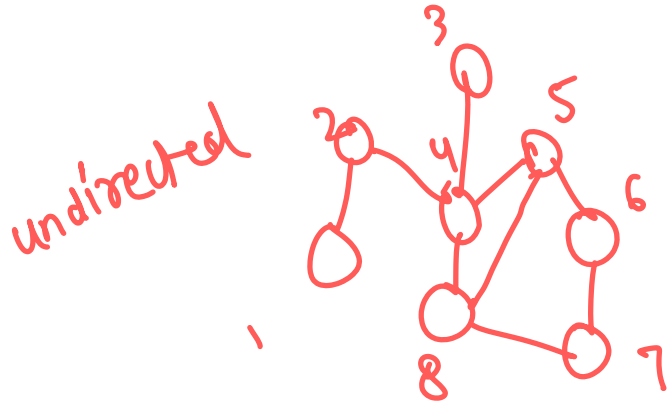
strongly
connected
components



Cycle Detection in Directed Graphs

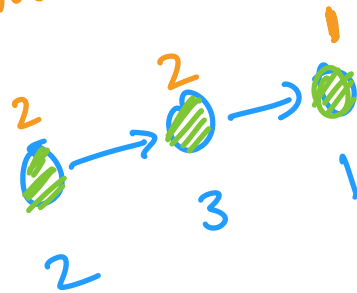
- Maintain two arrays:
 - visited → To track visited nodes.
 - inStack → To track nodes in the current DFS call.
- For each unvisited node, perform DFS.
- If a node is already in the recursion stack, a cycle is detected.
- If DFS completes without detecting a cycle, the graph is DAG.
- Time Complexity: $O(V + E)$

Cycle Detection in Directed Graph



DFS

$vis[2] = 2$, $vis[3] = 2$



$1 \rightarrow 1$
 $2 \rightarrow 2, 3, 1$

$vis[i] = \text{true/false}$
 $vis[i] \rightarrow 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

DFS $O(V+E)$
 $O(V)$

CP Algorithms

whether the node is visited in the same dfs traversal or not

~~int vis[]~~

bool

vis[]

vis[i] \rightarrow true / false

bool

instack[]

dfs(i) {
 instack[i] \rightarrow true

} instack[i] \rightarrow false
}



Implementation of Cycle Detection

dfs

```
bool checkCycle(int node) {  
    visited[node] = inStack[node] = true;  
    for (int child : adj[node]) {  
        if (inStack[child]) return true;  
        if (!visited[child] && checkCycle(child)) return true;  
    }  
    inStack[node] = false;  
    return false;  
}
```

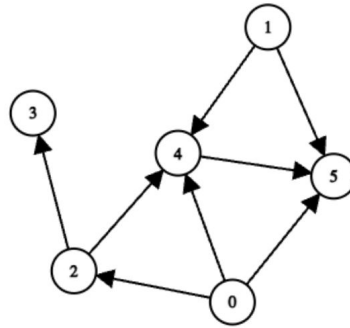
TC $\rightarrow O(V+E)$

SC $\rightarrow O(V)$



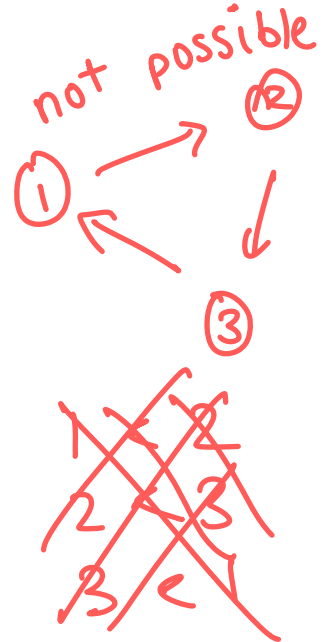
Topological Sorting/Ordering

- A linear ordering of vertices such that for every directed edge $u \rightarrow v$, u appears before v in the ordering.
- Only possible for Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs).
- Every DAG has at least one valid topological order.



0 \rightarrow 2
0 \rightarrow 4
0 \rightarrow 5
1 \rightarrow 4
1 \rightarrow 5
2 \rightarrow 3
2 \rightarrow 4
4 \rightarrow 5

Topological Ordering: 0 2 3 1 4 5

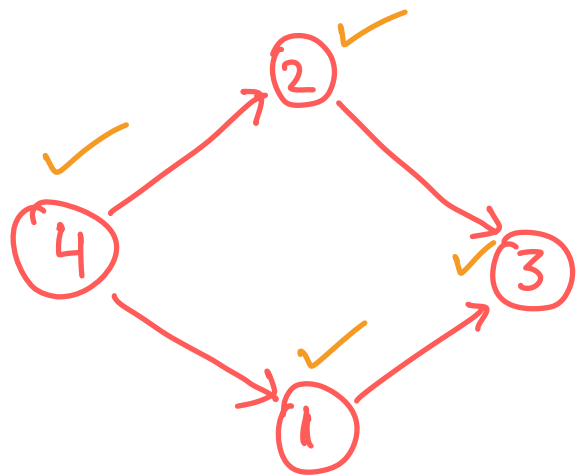


Task : Find any valid topological ordering

①. DFS

②. BFS

DFS

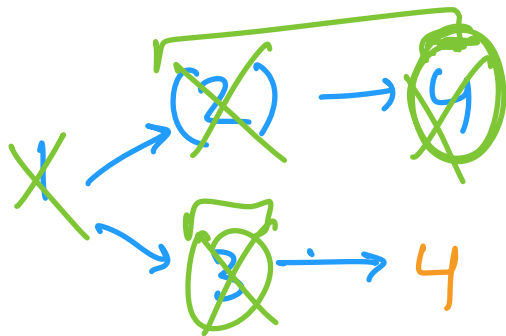
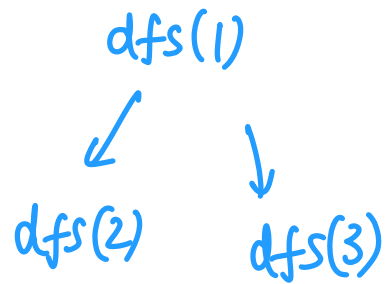
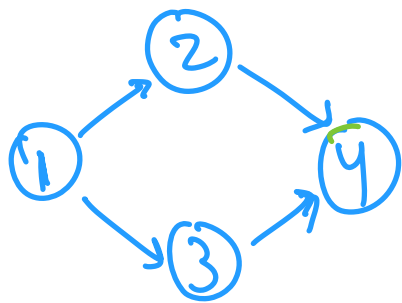


1 → 1, 3
2 → 2, 3
3 → 3
4 → 4 → 1, 2

dfs(1)
dfs(2)
dfs(3)
dfs(4)

Topo ordering → 4 2 1 3

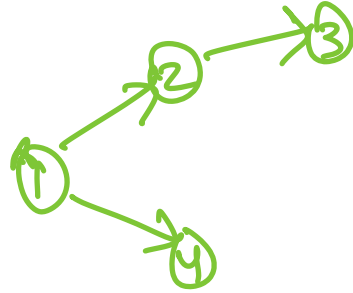
→ dfs(4) dfs(3) dfs(2) dfs(1)



dfs(4) → 1 3 2 4

←

Theoretical



$$u=1$$

$$v=3$$

timein

time_out

tin

tout

$$tout[u] > tout[v]$$

u should

come

before v

Simpler visualization

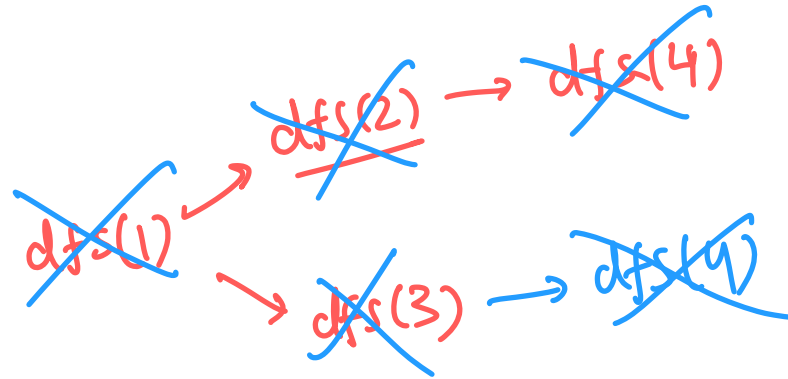
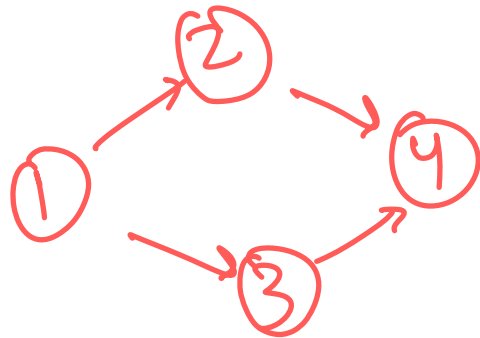
u

dfs(u) →
→

Topo →

u - - - - -

1 3 2 4





Topo Sort using DFS

```
void dfs(int node) {  
    visited[node] = true;  
    for (int u : adj[node]) {  
        if (!visited[u]) dfs(u);  
    }  
    ans.push_back(node);  
}
```

```
void topological_sort() {  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i) {  
        if (!visited[i]) dfs(i);  
    }  
    reverse(ans.begin(), ans.end());  
}
```

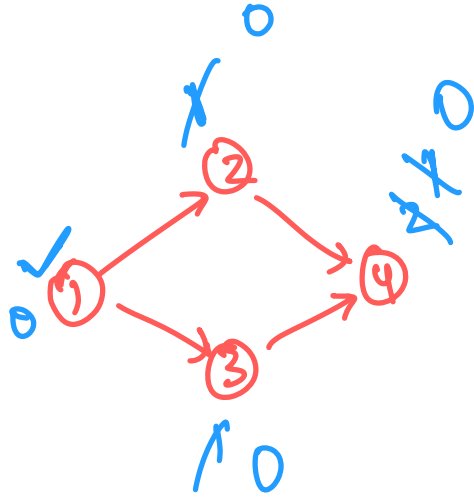
Handwritten annotations for time complexity:

- A bracket spanning the `for` loop and the `reverse` call is annotated with $O(n)$.
- The `reverse` call is annotated with $O(n)$.
- The overall time complexity is indicated as $TC \rightarrow O(n)$.

Overall TC
 $\rightarrow O(n)$

SC $\rightarrow O(n)$

BFS



there must exist
atleast one node
with indegree = 0

1 2 3 4

in[]



Topo Sort using BFS (Kahn's Algorithm)

```
vector<int> kahns_algorithm(vector<vector<int>> &adj) {  
    int n = adj.size();  
    vector<int> indegree(n, 0);  
    for (int u = 0; u < n; u++)  
        for (int v : adj[u]) indegree[v]++;  
    queue<int> q;  
    for (int u = 0; u < n; u++)  
        if (indegree[u] == 0) q.push(u);  
    vector<int> topo;  
    while (!q.empty()) {  
        int u = q.front();  
        q.pop();  
        topo.push_back(u);  
        for (int v : adj[u]) {  
            indegree[v]--;  
            if (indegree[v] == 0) q.push(v);  
        }  
    }  
    return topo;  
}
```

TC $\rightarrow O(V+E)$

SC $\rightarrow O(V)$



Applications of Topo Sort

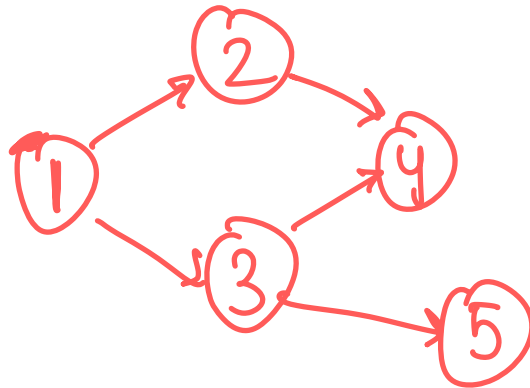
- To check if a Directed Graph is a DAG or not.
- Task Scheduling
- Compilation Order in Programming
- Resolving Dependencies (e.g., Package Installation)

if Kahn's algo gives
empty vector
then graph is
not a DAG

Problem



Given a DAG, find the Lexicographically Smallest Topological Sorting / Ordering

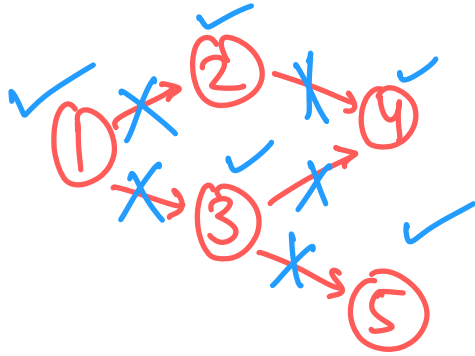


1, 2, 3, 4, 5

1 3 5 2 4

1 3 2 5 4

Kahn's Algo \rightarrow 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ^{priority} queue \rightarrow ~~1~~ ~~2~~ ~~3~~ ~~4~~ ~~5~~



Answer \rightarrow use priority queue instead of queue