

Checking for cycles in a Graph

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Expected running time: $O(m+n)$

Algorithm Design

- DFS can be used to explore to tree, with some additional book keeping - we maintain the parents of every node when its explored, the parent of the starting node would be NULL
- Say we are starting from a vertex s , and exploring all the adjacent vertices leading from s
- When the adjacent vertex is not seen before, we proceed with recursive DFS
- If the adjacent vertex is seen before, and the adjacent vertex has no parent child relationship with the starting point of the DFS in the current iteration, then there is a cycle
- We break the loop there and backtrack the graph from the starting point of the current iteration, until we reach the adjacent vertex and print the same

Pseudo code

$G=(V,E)$

Visited=[]

Parent=[]

Stack=[]

v=For all nodes in V:

 If v is not Visited:

 If Stack is empty:

 Stack=dfs(graph,v,stack)

 If Stack is not empty:

 Stack=dfs(graph,last entry in stack, stack \ last entry)

Dfs(graph,start,stack):

 If stack is empty:

 Visited[start]=True

 Parent[start]=None

 Stack=stack+start

 For all v such that (start,v) in V:

 If v is visited and parent(start) != v and parent(v)!= start:

 Print('cycle detected')

 Cycle=[]

 Head = v

 Tail=start

 Cycle=[]+[Head,Tail]

 While parent[Tail]!=Head:

 Tail=Parent[Tail]

 Cycle=Cycle+[Tail]

 Exit recursion

 If v is not visited:

 Visited[v]=True

 Parent[Vertex]=Start

 Stack=dfs(graph,vertex,stack)

 Break

 Return(stack)

Note: This logic would work for both directed graph and also undirected graph, provided both way undirected connections are represented in the linked list. Eg: if there is an edge between node 3 and 4, 3 should be present in the linked list pertaining to node 4 and vice versa

