

# Introduction to graph algorithms

Graph  $G = (V, E)$

$V =$  Set of vertices = # vertices

$E =$  Set of edges = # edges

$$E \leq \binom{V}{2} \quad (\text{undirected})$$

$$\leq V(V-1) \quad (\text{directed})$$

Basic Question: Reachability

Given  $s, t$  find all reachable vertices  
(maybe: & return path)

Visited =  $\{ \}$

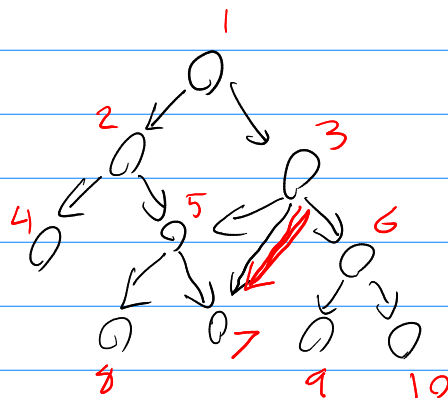
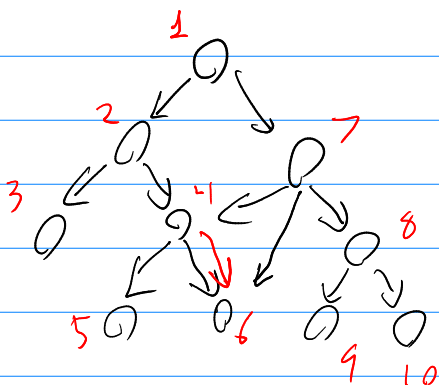
def DFS( $v$ ):

if  $v$  in visited: return

visited.add( $v$ )

for  $w$  in  $v$ .adj:

DFS( $w$ )



def BFS(s, t): DFS  
by

Q = queue([s])

visited =  $\{\}$

while Q:

v = Q.pop\_front()

if v in visited: continue

visited.add(v)

for w in v.adj:

Q.push\_back(w)

pop\_back

(and loop  
in reverse order  
to match DFS)  
but both are  
depth first)

BFS: queue

DFS: stack

min. Spanning tree: heap / priority queue (Prim's Algorithm)  
shortest paths: priority queue on different weights (Dijkstra's Alg)

claim: whatever the pop() used,  
the whatever first search visits t  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  path.

add Parent pointers to alg:

def BFS( $s, t$ ):

Q = queue([ $(s, \text{None})$ ])

Parent =  $\{ \}$

while Q:

$v, p = Q.$  pop front ()

        if  $v$  in Parent : continue

        Parent [ $v$ ] =  $p$

        for  $w$  in  $v.$  adj:

            Q . push\_back (( $w, v$ ))

Claim: Parent [ $v$ ] exists at end  $\Leftrightarrow$  a.u.a.  $v$  "visited"  
 $v$  reachable from  $s$ ,  
and if so,  $v \rightarrow \text{Parent}[v] \rightarrow \dots$  ends at  $s$ .

Pf (  $v$  reachable  $\Rightarrow$  Parent [ $v$ ] exists )  
 $v$  reachable  $\Rightarrow \exists$  path  $s = u_1 \rightarrow u_2 \rightarrow u_3 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow u_{k+1} = v$   
from  $s$  to  $v$ .

We prove the claim  $\forall$  vertices at distance  $k$  from  $s$ , by induction on  $k$

Base case:  $k = 0$ .

Here,  $v = s$ . The algorithm sets

Parent [ $s$ ] = None, which exists.

Inductive step. Suppose true for  $k-1$ .

Then  $\forall v$  of distance  $k$ ,

$\exists$  path  $s = u_1 \rightarrow u_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow u_k \rightarrow u_{k+1} = v$

&  $u_k$  has distance  $k-1 \Rightarrow$  by inductive hypothesis it was visited.

When  $u_k$  was visited, since  $(u_k, v) \in E$ ,

$(v, u_k)$  was placed in  $Q$ .

$\Rightarrow (v, u_k)$  eventually removed from  $Q$

$\Rightarrow v$  visited at some point

$\Rightarrow \text{parent}[v]$  set

$\Rightarrow$  inductive step true

$\Rightarrow$  claim holds  $\forall k \geq 0$ , as desired.

Pf ( $v \rightarrow \text{parent}[v] \rightarrow \dots$  ends at  $S$   
 $\forall v$  "visited")

We prove this by induction on the # vertices visited.

Base case (1st vertex visited):  $v = s$ ,  $\text{parent}[s] = \text{None}$ ,  $\checkmark$ .

Inductive step: If  $v$  is the  $k^{\text{th}}$  vertex visited,  
for  $k > 1$ ,  $u = \text{parent}(v)$  was visited earlier,

so by the inductive hypothesis

$u \rightarrow \text{parent}(u) \rightarrow \text{parent}(\text{parent}(u)) \rightarrow \dots$

ends at  $S$ .

$\Rightarrow v \rightarrow \text{parent}(v) \rightarrow \dots$  ends at  $S$ .

$\Rightarrow$  inductive step  $\Rightarrow$  induction holds  $\forall k \geq 0$  claim.

Pf ( $v$  unreachable  $\Rightarrow$   $\text{parent}(v)$  does not exist at end)

The previous proves the contrapositive:

If  $\text{parent}(v)$  exists at end

$\Rightarrow v \rightarrow \text{parent}(v) \rightarrow \dots$  ends at  $S$

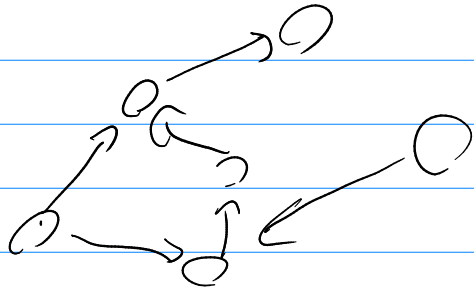
each of those is a reverse edge in  $E$

$\Rightarrow \exists S \rightsquigarrow v$  path

$\Rightarrow v$  reachable.

# Exercises

1) Road network:



weights = max height  
of trucks taking road  
(= min height of bridge)

Q: tallest truck that  
can go  $S \rightarrow t$ ?

Q2: can go between any pair  
of locations?

2) Floodfill: MS Paint

