CSCI 241

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Graph Traversals: Depth-First Search (Recursively)

Goals

Be able to execute and implement depthfirst search to search or traverse a graph.

Graph Algorithms

You can take entire graduate-level courses on graph algorithms. In this class:

- Search/traversal: search for a particular node or traverse all nodes (this video; Lab 6)
 - Breadth-first
 - Depth-first
- Shortest Paths (A4)
- (as time allows) Spanning trees, topological sort

Look, a graph!



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Given a graph and one of its nodes *u*, (example: node 1)



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"Visit" each node reachable from u

(1, 0, 2, 3, 5)



Problem: multiple ways to get to the same node.

How do we visit all nodes efficiently, without doing extra work?

Key Idea: keep track of where we've been.

boolean visited[];

- visited[u] is true iff Node u has been visited
- Visiting u means setting visited[u] = true;
- v is **explorable** from u if there is a path (u, ..., v)) in which all nodes along the path are unvisited.



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If all nodes are unvisited,

Nodes **explorable** from 1: {1, 0, 2, 3, 5}.

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Nodes **explorable** from 1: {1, 0, 2, 3, 5}.

Nodes **explorable** from 4: {4, 5, 6, 2, 3}

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Green nodes 🔿: visited. Blue nodes: Ounvisited.

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Nodes **explorable** from 1: {1, 0, 5}.

Nodes **explorable** from 4: {} none!

/** Visit all nodes that are explorable from u.
 * Precondition: u is unvisited. */
public static void dfs(int u) {

}



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Example:

Let u = 1

The nodes explorable

End: from 1 are 1, 0, 2, 3, 5



Start:

}



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dfs(1) The nodes explorable from 1 are 1, 0, 2, 3, 5

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Nodes still to be visited: 0, 2, 3, 5

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 * Precondition: u is unvisited. */
public static void dfs(int u) {
 visited[u] = true;
 for all edges (u, v) leaving u: Example:
 if v is unvisited, dfs(v); Let u = 1
}



Nodes still to be visited: 0, 2, 3, 5 Do a DFS on all neighbors of u! Suppose we loop over neighbors in numerical order.



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6

Suppose we loop over neighbors in numerical order.



Do a DFS on all neighbors of u! Suppose we loop over neighbors in numerical order.



1 2 3 dfs(0) dfs(2) dfs(3) dfs(5) 6 visited: Do a DFS on all neighbors of u! Suppose we loop over neighbors in numerical order.

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Usually, you want to do things in addition to just "visiting" each node, such as:

- Print the node or something about it.
- Check if it's the node you were searching for and terminate if so.