#### **Graphs – Depth First Search**





#### **Graph Search Algorithms**





#### Outcomes

#### > By understanding this lecture, you should be able to:

- □ Label a graph according to the order in which vertices are discovered, explored from and finished in a depth-first search.
- Classify edges of the depth-first search as tree edges, back edges, forward edges and cross edges
- Implement depth-first search
- Demonstrate simple applications of depth-first search



## Outline

- DFS Algorithm
- DFS Example
- DFS Applications



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# Depth First Search (DFS)

#### Idea:

- Continue searching "deeper" into the graph, until we get stuck.
- □ If all the edges leaving *v* have been explored we "backtrack" to the vertex from which *v* was discovered.
- □ Analogous to Euler tour for trees
- Used to help solve many graph problems, including
  - $\Box$  Identifying nodes that are reachable from a specific node v
  - Detecting cycles
  - Extracting strongly connected components
  - Topological sorts



## **Depth-First Search**

- The DFS algorithm is similar to a classic strategy for exploring a maze
  - We mark each intersection, corner and dead end (vertex) visited
  - We mark each corridor (edge) traversed
  - We keep track of the path back to the entrance (start vertex) by means of a rope (recursion stack)





## **Depth-First Search**

**Input:** Graph G = (V, E) (directed or undirected)

- > Explore *every* edge, starting from different vertices if necessary.
- > As soon as vertex discovered, explore from it.
- Keep track of progress by colouring vertices:
  - □ Black: undiscovered vertices
  - □ Red: discovered, but not finished (still exploring from it)
  - Gray: finished (Discovered everything reachable from it).



# DFS Example on Undirected Graph



# Example (cont.)



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# **DFS Algorithm Pattern**

DFS(G) Precondition: G is a graph Postcondition: all vertices in G have been visited for each vertex  $u \in V[G]$ color[u] = BLACK //initialize vertex for each vertex  $u \in V[G]$ if color[u] = BLACK //as yet unexplored DFS-Visit(*u*)



# **DFS Algorithm Pattern**

DFS-Visit (u) Precondition: vertex u is undiscovered Postcondition: all vertices reachable from u have been processed  $colour[u] \leftarrow RED$ for each  $v \in Adj[u]$  //explore edge (u,v)if color[v] = BLACKDFS-Visit(v)  $colour[u] \leftarrow GRAY$ 



## **Properties of DFS**

#### Property 1

*DFS-Visit*(*u*) visits all the vertices and edges in the connected component of *u* 

#### Property 2

The discovery edges labeled by *DFS-Visit(u)* form a spanning tree of the connected component of *u* 





# **DFS Algorithm Pattern**

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# **DFS Algorithm Pattern**

DFS-Visit (*u*) Precondition: vertex *u* is undiscovered Postcondition: all vertices reachable from *u* have been processed  $colour[u] \leftarrow RED$ for each  $v \in \operatorname{Adj}[u]$  //explore edge (u, v)total work  $= \sum_{v \in V} |Adj[v]| = \theta(E)$ if color[v] = BLACKDFS-Visit(*v*)  $colour[u] \leftarrow GRAY$ Thus running time =  $\theta(V + E)$ 

(assuming adjacency list structure)

## Variants of Depth-First Search

- In addition to, or instead of labeling vertices with colours, they can be labeled with **discovery** and **finishing** times.
- 'Time' is an integer that is incremented whenever a vertex changes state
   from unexplored to discovered
  - □ from **discovered** to **finished**
- These discovery and finishing times can then be used to solve other graph problems (e.g., computing strongly-connected components)

**Input:** Graph G = (V, E) (directed or undirected)

Output: 2 timestamps on each vertex: d[v] = discovery time. f[v] = finishing time.  $1 \le d[v] < f[v] \le 2 |V|$ 



# DFS Algorithm with Discovery and Finish Times

Precondition: G is a graph

Postcondition: all vertices in G have been visited

for each vertex  $u \in V[G]$ 

color[u] = BLACK //initialize vertex

time  $\leftarrow 0$ 

for each vertex  $u \in V[G]$ 

if color[u] = BLACK //as yet unexplored

DFS-Visit(*u*)





# DFS Algorithm with Discovery and Finish Times

DFS-Visit (*u*)

Precondition: vertex u is undiscovered

Postcondition: all vertices reachable from u have been processed

```
colour[u] \leftarrow RED
time \leftarrow time + 1
d[u] ← time
for each v \in \operatorname{Adj}[u] //explore edge (u, v)
         if color[v] = BLACK
                   DFS-Visit(v)
colour[u] \leftarrow GRAY
time \leftarrow time + 1
f[u] \leftarrow time
 EECS 2011
```



## **Other Variants of Depth-First Search**

#### The DFS Pattern can also be used to

- Compute a forest of spanning trees (one for each call to DFSvisit) encoded in a predecessor list π[u]
- Label edges in the graph according to their role in the search
  - Discovery tree edges, traversed to an undiscovered vertex
  - Forward edges, traversed to a descendent vertex on the current spanning tree
  - Back edges, traversed to an ancestor vertex on the current spanning tree
  - Cross edges, traversed to a vertex that has already been discovered, but is not an ancestor or a descendent



#### End of Lecture

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## **Classification of Edges in DFS**

- **1. Tree edges** are edges in the depth-first forest  $G_{\pi}$ . Edge (u, v) is a tree edge if v was first discovered by exploring edge (u, v).
- 2. Back edges are those edges (*u*, *v*) connecting a vertex *u* to an ancestor *v* in a depth-first tree.
- **3.** Forward edges are non-tree edges (*u*, *v*) connecting a vertex *u* to a descendant *v* in a depth-first tree.
- **4. Cross edges** are all other edges. They can go between vertices in the same depth-first tree, as long as one vertex is not an ancestor of the other.





# **Classification of Edges in DFS**

- **1. Tree edges**: Edge (u, v) is a **tree edge** if v was **black** when (u, v) traversed. Note that d[v] > d[u].
- Back edges: (u, v) is a back edge if v was red when (u, v) traversed. Note that d[v] < d[u].</li>
- **3.** Forward edges: (*u*, *v*) is a forward edge if v was gray when (*u*, *v*) traversed and d[v] > d[u].
- 4. Cross edges (u,v) is a cross edge if v was gray when (u, v) traversed and d[v] < d[u].</p>

Classifying edges can help to identify properties of the graph, e.g., a graph is acyclic iff DFS yields no back edges.





#### DFS on Undirected Graphs

- In a depth-first search of an *undirected* graph, every edge is either a tree edge or a back edge.
- > Why?



#### DFS on Undirected Graphs

- Suppose that (u,v) is a forward edge or a cross edge in a DFS of an undirected graph.
- (u,v) is a forward edge or a cross edge when v is already Finished (grey) when accessed from u.
- This means that all vertices reachable from v have been explored.
- Since we are currently handling **u**, **u** must be **red**.
- Clearly v is reachable from u.
- Since the graph is undirected, u must also be reachable from v.
- Thus u must already have been Finished: u must be grey.
- Contradiction!





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# **DFS Application 1: Path Finding**

- > The DFS pattern can be used to find a path between two given vertices u and z, if one exists
- > We use a stack to keep track of the current path
- > If the destination vertex z is encountered, we return the path as the contents of the stack

```
DFS-Path (u,z,stack)
Precondition: u and z are vertices in a graph, stack contains current path
Postcondition: returns true if path from u to z exists, stack contains path
       colour[u] \leftarrow RED
       push u onto stack
       if u = z
               return TRUE
       for each v \in \operatorname{Adi}[u] //explore edge (u,v)
               if color[v] = BLACK
                      if DFS-Path(v,z,stack)
                              return TRUE
       colour[u] \leftarrow GRAY
       pop u from stack
       return FALSE
```



## **DFS Application 2: Cycle Finding**

- > The DFS pattern can be used to determine whether a graph is acyclic.
- If a back edge is encountered, we return true.

```
DFS-Cycle (u)
Precondition: u is a vertex in a graph G
Postcondition: returns true if there is a cycle reachable from u.
        colour[u] \leftarrow RED
        for each v \in \operatorname{Adi}[u] //explore edge (u,v)
                if color[v] = RED //back edge
                        return true
                else if color[v] = BLACK
                        if DFS-Cycle(v)
                               return true
        colour[u] \leftarrow GRAY
        return false
```


# Why must DFS on a graph with a cycle generate a back edge?

- Suppose that vertex s is in a connected component S that contains a cycle C.
- Since all vertices in S are reachable from s, they will all be visited by a DFS from s.
- Let v be the first vertex in C reached by a DFS from s.
- There are two vertices u and w adjacent to v on the cycle C.
- $\succ$  wlog, suppose *u* is explored first.
- Since w is reachable from u, w will eventually be discovered.
- When exploring w's adjacency list, the back-edge (w, v) will be discovered.



- In most post-secondary programs, courses have prerequisites.
- For example, you cannot take EECS 3101 until you have passed EECS 2011.
- How can we represent such a system of dependencies?
- > A natural choice is a **directed graph**.
  - Each vertex represents a course
  - □ Each directed edge represents a prerequisite
    - A directed edge from Course U to Course V means that Course U must be taken before Course V.





- We also want to be able to find the information for a particular course quickly.
- The course number provides a convenient key that can be used to organize course records in a sorted map, implemented as a binary search tree (cf. A3Q1).
- Thus it makes sense to represent courses using both a sorted map (for efficient access) and a directed graph (to represent dependencies).
- By storing a reference to the directed graph vertex for a course in the sorted map, we can efficiently access course dependencies.





It is important that the course prerequisite graph be a directed acyclic graph (DAG). Why?





- In this question, you are provided with a basic implementation of a system to represent courses and dependencies.
- Methods for adding courses and getting prerequisites are provided.
- You need only write the method for adding a prerequisite.
- This method will use a depth-first-search algorithm (also provided) that can be used to prevent the addition of prerequisites that introduce cycles.



# A4Q2: Implementation using net.datastructures



# A4Q2: Implementation using net.datastructures

- We use the AdjacencyMapGraph class to represent the directed graph.
- This implementation uses ProbeHashMap, a linear probe hash table, to represent the incoming and outgoing edges for each vertex.





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