Graph Traversal

CPSC 327: Data Structures and Algorithms . Spring 2025

One of the basic things you can do with any collection is traversal - i.e. visit everything in the collection exactly once.

- for graphs, this is vertices and edges
- need a systematic method to ensure
 - correctness don't leave anything out
 - efficiency don't waste time visiting the same things over and over

Breadth-First Search		
bfs(G,s) G is the graph, s is the starting vertex		
for each vertex u in V-{s} do		
<pre>state[u] = "undiscovered"</pre>		
prev[u] = null		
<pre>state[s] = "discovered"</pre>		
prev[s] = null		
Q.enqueue(s)	Q is the queue of discovered vertices	
while Q is not empty do		
u = Q.dequeue()		
process vertex u (early)	"process" is application-specific	
for each edge (u,v) in G.incidentEdges(u) do		
<pre>if state[v] = "undiscovered" then</pre>		
process edge (u,v)		
<pre>state[v] = "discovere</pre>	ed"	
prev[v] = u	this is a generalized form of the	
Q.enqueue(v)	early (before visiting incident	
<pre>state[u] = "processed"</pre>	edges) and late (after visiting	
process vertex u (late)	incluent edges) operations	

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Building blocks and observations -

- Graph ADT provides operations for getting edges incident on a vertex, and end vertices of an edge
 - from a vertex you can find edges, and from an edge you can find the vertex at the other end
- there may be more than one vertex adjacent to another
 - can't just trace through the graph using a single finger to point at where you are (loop)
 - the possibility of cycles means it is necessary to know what has been visited already
 - → need a container to hold *discovered* vertices

Using a queue for the container leads to breadth-first search.



	U	
	adjacency list	adjacency matrix
numVertices(), numEdges()	O(1)	O(1)
vertices(), edges()	O(1) per element	O(1) per element
aVertex()	O(1)	O(1)
degree(v)	O(1)	O(1)
adjacentVertices(v)	O(1) per element	O(n) – to scan row/column of array
incidentEdges(v)	O(1) per element	O(n) – to scan row/column of array
endVertices(e)	O(1)	O(1)
opposite(v,e)	O(1)	O(1)
areAdjacent(v,w)	O(min(deg(v,w))) – search list for vertex with smaller degree	O(1)
insertEdge(v,w,o)	O(1)	O(1)
insertVertex(o)	O(1)	$O(n)$ – to initialize row/col of array $O(n^2)$ – if array needs to grow
removeVertex(v)	O(deg(v)) – to remove each incident edge	O(1) – with clever bookkeeping (and wasted space) $O(n^2)$ – shifting in array
removeEdge(e)	O(1)	O(1)
Space CPSC 327: Data Structures and Algorith	O(n+m)	O(n ²)

