CSE332: Data Abstractions

Lecture 16: Topological Sort / Graph Traversals

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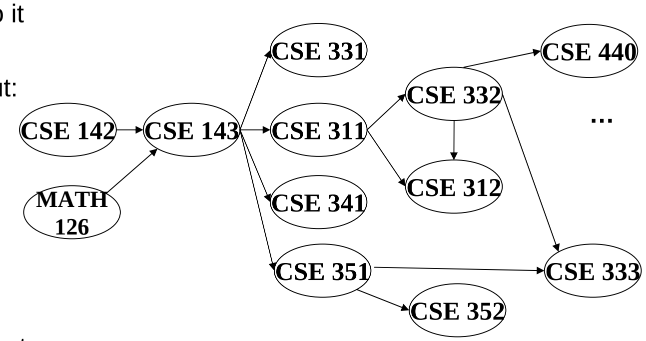
Topological Sort

Problem: Given a DAG **`G=(V,E)`**, output all the vertices in order such that if no vertex appears before any other vertex that has an edge to it

Example input:



Example output:

142, 126, 143, 311, 331, 332, 312, 341, 351, 333, 440, 352

Questions and comments

- Why do we perform topological sorts only on DAGs?
  - Because a cycle means there is no correct answer
- Is there always a unique answer?
  - No, there can be 1 or more answers; depends on the graph
- What DAGs have exactly 1 answer?
  - Lists
- Terminology: A DAG represents a partial order and a topological sort produces a total order that is consistent with it

Uses

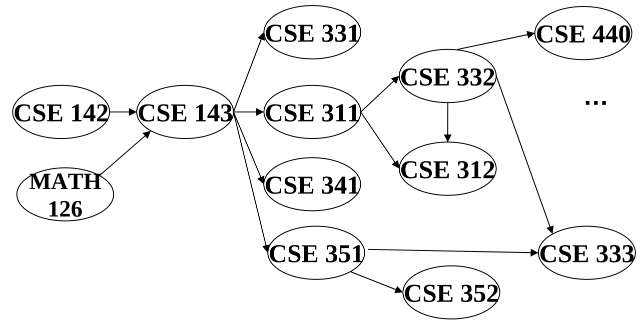
- Figuring out how to finish your degree
- Computing the order in which to recompute cells in a spreadsheet
- Determining the order to compile files using a Makefile
- …

A first algorithm for topological sort

1. Label each vertex with its in-degree
   - Labeling also called marking
   - Think "write in a field in the vertex", though you could also do this with a data structure (e.g., array) on the side
2. While there are vertices not yet output:
   a) Choose a vertex **v** with labeled with in-degree of 0
   b) Output **v** and remove it from the graph
   c) For each vertex **u** adjacent to **v** (i.e. **u** such that (**v**,**u**) in **E**), decrement the in-degree of **u**

Example

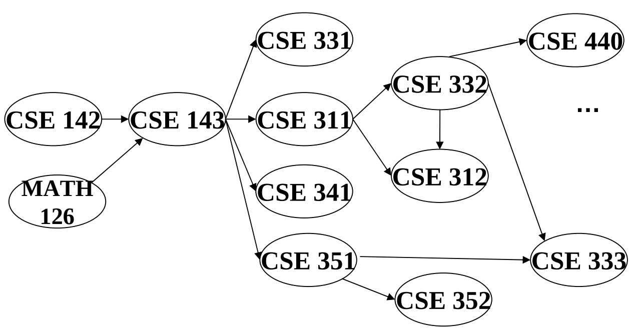
Output:



Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?												
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1

Example

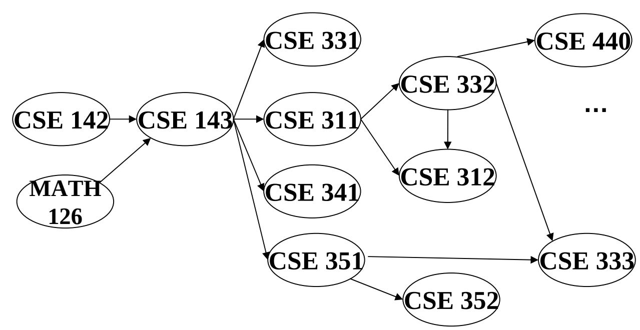
Output: 126



Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x											
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1									

Example

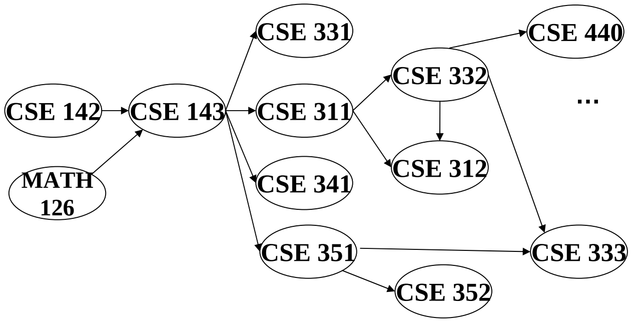
Output: 126
142



Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x										
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1									
			0									

Example

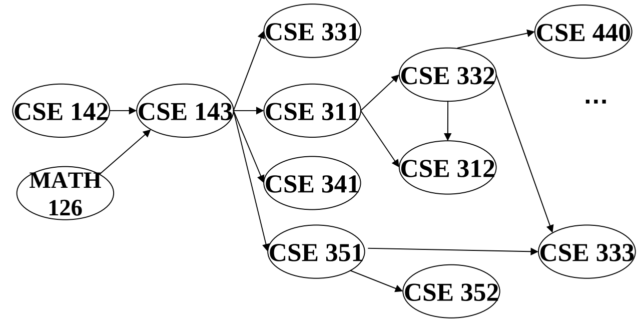
Output: 126
142
143



Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x									
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0		0			0	0		
			0									

Example

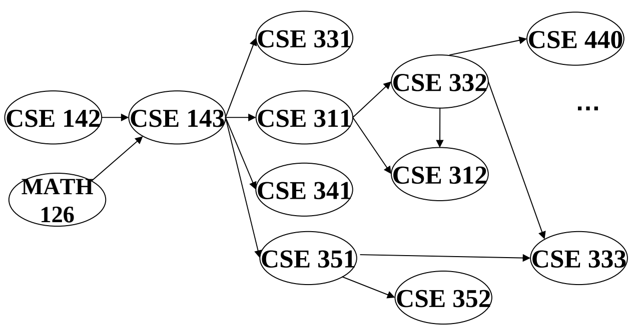
Output: 126
142
143
311



Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x								
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0		0	0		
			0									

Example

Output: 126
142
143
311
331



Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x		x						
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0		0	0		
			0									

Example

Output: 126
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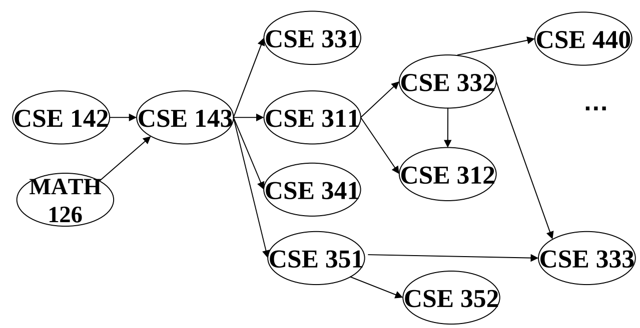

Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x		x	x					
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		0
			0		0							

Example

Output: 126
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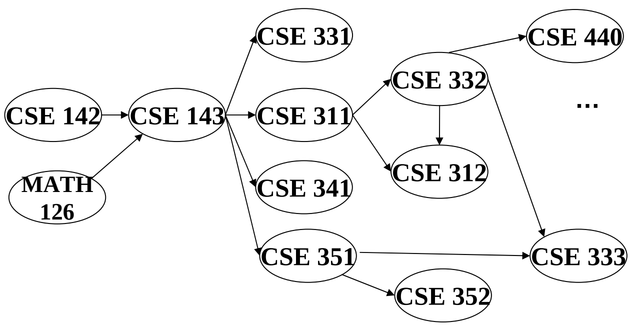

Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		0
			0		0							

Example

Output: 126
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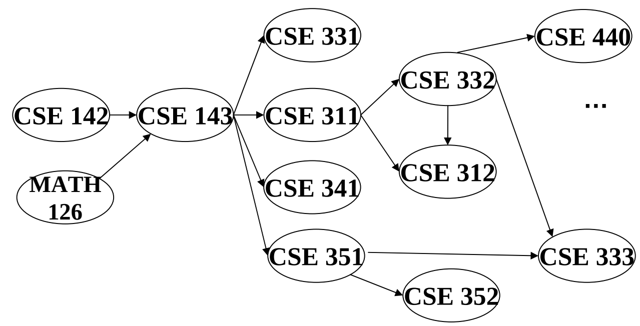

Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		0
			0		0							

Example

Output: 126
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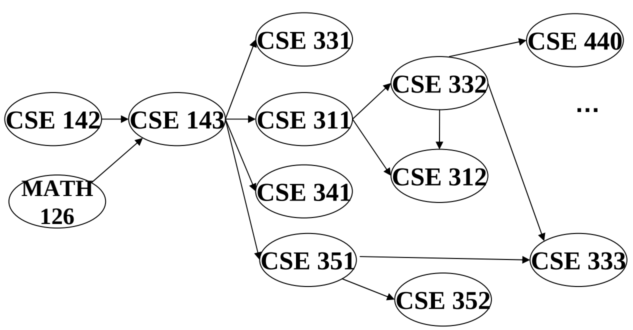

Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
			0		0			0				

Example

Output: 126
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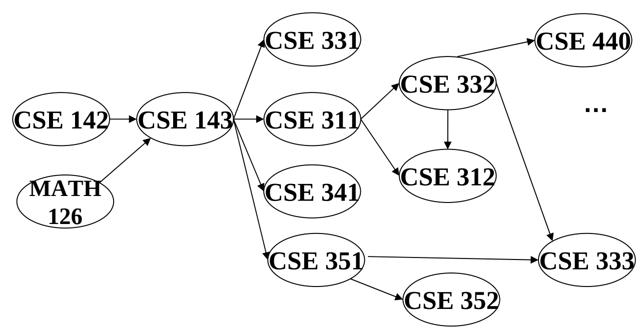


Node:	126	142	143	311	312	331	332	333	341	351	352	440
Removed?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
In-degree:	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
			1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
			0		0			0				

Running time?

```
labelEachVertexWithItsInDegree();
for(ctr=0; ctr < numVertices; ctr++){
  v = findNewVertexOfDegreeZero();
  put v next in output
  for each w adjacent to v
    w.indegree--;
}
```


Running time?

```
labelEachVertexWithItsInDegree();
for(ctr=0; ctr < numVertices; ctr++){
  v = findNewVertexOfDegreeZero();
  put v next in output
  for each w adjacent to v
    w.indegree--;
}
```

- What is the worst-case running time?
  - Initialization $O(|V|)$
  - Sum of all find-new-vertex $O(|V|^2)$ (because each $O(|V|)$)
  - Sum of all decrements $O(|E|)$ (assuming adjacency list)
  - So total is $O(|V|^2)$ – not good for a sparse graph!

Doing better

The trick is to avoid searching for a zero-degree node every time!

- Keep the "pending" zero-degree nodes in a list, stack, queue, box, table, or something
- Order we process them affects output but not correctness or efficiency provided add/remove are both $O(1)$

Using a queue:

1. Label each vertex with its in-degree, enqueue 0-degree nodes
2. While queue is not empty
   a) **v** = dequeue()
   b) Output **v** and remove it from the graph
   c) For each vertex **u** adjacent to **v** (i.e. **u** such that (**v**,**u**) in **E**), decrement the in-degree of **u**, if new degree is 0, enqueue it

Running time?

```
labelAllAndEnqueueZeros();
for(ctr=0; ctr < numVertices; ctr++){
  v = dequeue();
  put v next in output
  for each w adjacent to v {
    w.indegree--;
    if(w.indegree==0) enqueue(v);
  }
}
```

Running time?

```
labelAllAndEnqueueZeros();
for(ctr=0; ctr < numVertices; ctr++){
  v = dequeue();
  put v next in output
  for each w adjacent to v {
    w.indegree--;
    if(w.indegree==0) enqueue(v);
  }
}
```

- What is the worst-case running time?
  - Initialization: $O(|V|)$
  - Sum of all enqueues and dequeues: $O(|V|)$
  - Sum of all decrements: $O(|E|)$ (assuming adjacency list)
  - So total is $O(|E| + |V|)$ – much better for sparse graph!

Graph Traversals

Next problem: For an arbitrary graph and a starting node **v**, find all nodes *reachable* (i.e., there exists a path) from **v**

- Possibly "do something" for each node (an iterator!)

Related:

- Is an undirected graph connected?
- Is a directed graph weakly / strongly connected?
  - For strongly, need a cycle back to starting node

Basic idea:

- Keep following nodes
- But "mark" nodes after visiting them, so the traversal terminates and processes each reachable node exactly once

Abstract idea

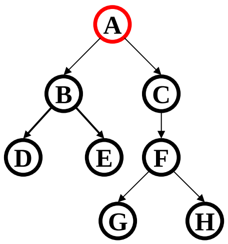
```
traverseGraph(Node start) {
   Set pending = emptySet();
   pending.add(start)
   mark start as visited
   while(pending is not empty) {
     next = pending.remove()
     for each node u adjacent to next
        if(u is not marked) {
          mark u
          pending.add(u)
        }
   }
}
```


Running time and options

- Assuming add and remove are $O(1)$, entire traversal is $O(|E|)$
- The order we traverse depends entirely on add and remove
  - Popular choice: a stack "depth-first graph search" "DFS"
  - Popular choice: a queue "breadth-first graph search" "BFS"
- DFS and BFS are "big ideas" in computer science
  - Depth: recursively explore one part before going back to the other parts not yet explored
  - Breadth: Explore areas closer to the start node first

Example: trees

- A tree is a graph and DFS and BFS are particularly easy to “see”

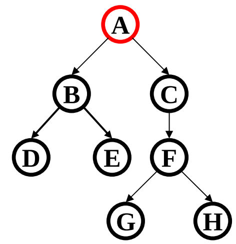



```
DFS(Node start) {
  mark and process start
  for each node u adjacent to start
    if u is not marked
      DFS(u)
}
```

- A, B, D, E, C, F, G, H
- Exactly what we called a “pre-order traversal” for trees
  - The marking is because we support arbitrary graphs and we want to process each node exactly once

Example: trees

- A tree is a graph and DFS and BFS are particularly easy to “see”

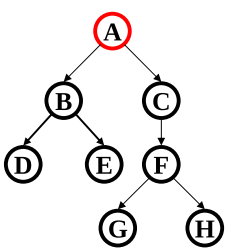



```
DFS2(Node start) {
  initialize stack s to hold start
  mark start as visited
  while(s is not empty) {
    next = s.pop()
    for each node u adjacent to next
     if(u is not marked)
       mark u and push onto s
  }
}
```

- A, C, F, H, G, B, E, D
- A different but perfectly fine traversal

Example: trees

- A tree is a graph and DFS and BFS are particularly easy to “see”




```
BFS(Node start) {
  initialize queue q to hold start
  mark start as visited
  while(q is not empty) {
    next = q.dequeue()
    for each node u adjacent to next
     if(u is not marked)
       mark u and enqueue onto q
  }
}
```

- A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H
- A “level-order” traversal

Comparison

- Breadth-first always finds shortest paths – “optimal solutions”
  - Better for “what is the shortest path from **x** to **y**”
- But depth-first can use less space in finding a path
  - If *longest path* in the graph is **p** and highest out-degree is **d** then DFS stack never has more than **d*p** elements
  - But a queue for BFS may hold *O*(|V|) nodes
- A third approach:
  - *Iterative deepening (IDFS)*: Try DFS but don’t allow recursion more than **K** levels deep. If that fails, increment **K** and start the entire search over
  - Like BFS, finds shortest paths. Like DFS, less space.

Saving the path

- Our graph traversals can answer the reachability question:
  - "Is there a path from node x to node y?"
- But what if we want to actually output the path?
  - Like getting driving directions rather than just knowing it's possible to get there!
- Easy:
  - Instead of just "marking" a node, store the previous node along the path (when processing **`u`** causes us to add **`v`** to the search, set **`v.path`** field to be **`u`**)
  - When you reach the goal, follow **`path`** fields back to where you started (and then reverse the answer)
  - If just wanted path *length*, could put the integer distance at each node instead

Example using BFS

What is a path from Seattle to Tyler
- Remember marked nodes are not re-enqueued
- Not shortest paths may not be unique