

# CSE 421

## Introduction to Algorithms

### Depth First Search and Strongly Connected Components

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## Undirected Depth-First Search

- It's not just for trees

```

DFS(v)
back edge { if v marked then return;
tree      { mark v; #v := ++count;
edge      { for all edges (v,w) do DFS(w);

Main()
count := 0;
for all unmarked v do DFS(v);
  
```

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## Undirected Depth-First Search

- Key Properties:
  - No "cross-edges"; only tree- or back-edges
  - Before returning, DFS(v) visits all vertices reachable from v via paths through previously unvisited vertices

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## Directed Depth First Search

- Algorithm: Unchanged
- Key Properties:
  - Edge (v,w) is:
 

As before	Tree-edge	if w unvisited
	Back-edge	if w visited, #w < #v, on stack
New	Cross-edge	if w visited, #w < #v, not on stack
	Forward-edge	if w visited, #w > #v

Note: Cross edges *only* go "Right" to "Left"

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## An Application:

G has a cycle  $\Leftrightarrow$  DFS finds a back edge

$\Leftarrow$  Clear.

$\Rightarrow$  Why can't we have something like this?:

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## Lemma 1

Before returning, dfs(v) visits

- all unvisited vertices reachable from v
- only unvisited vertices reachable from v

All become descendants of v in the tree.

Proof:

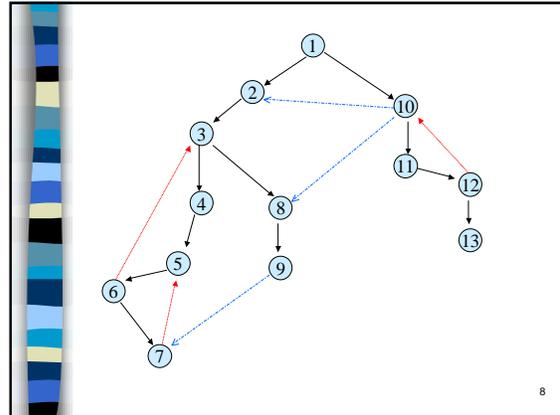
- dfs follows all direct out-edges
- call dfs recursively at each
- by induction on path length, visits all

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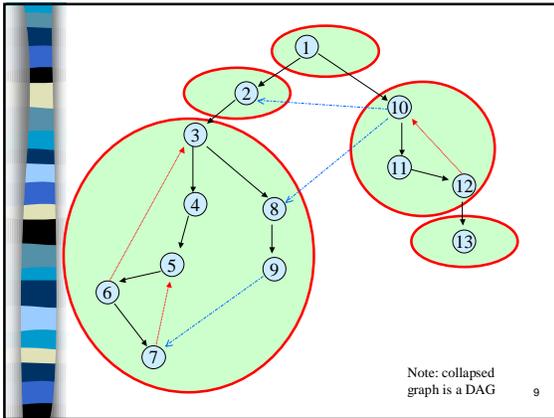
## Strongly Connected Components

- **Defn:** G is *strongly connected* if for all  $u, v$  there is a (directed) path from  $u$  to  $v$  and from  $v$  to  $u$ .  
[Equivalently:  
there is a cycle through  $u$  and  $v$ .]
- **Defn:** a *strongly connected component* of G is a maximal strongly connected subgraph.

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## Uses for SCC's

- Optimizing compilers need to find loops, which are SCC's in the program flow graph.
- Nontrivial SCC's in call-graph are sets of mutually recursive procedures
- If  $(u, v)$  means process  $u$  is waiting for process  $v$ , SCC's show deadlocks.

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## Two Simple SCC Algorithms

- $u, v$  in same SCC iff there are paths  $u \rightarrow v$  &  $v \rightarrow u$
- Transitive closure:  $O(n^3)$
- DFS from every  $u, v$ :  $O(ne) = O(n^3)$

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## Goal:

- Find all Strongly Connected Components in linear time, i.e., time  $O(n+e)$

(Tarjan, 1972)

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## Definition

The *root* of an SCC is the first vertex in it visited by DFS.

Equivalently, the root is the vertex in the SCC with the smallest number.

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## Lemma 2

All members of an SCC are descendants of its root.

**Proof:**

- all members are reachable from all others
- so, all are reachable from its root
- all are unvisited when root is visited
- so, all are descendants of its root (Lemma 1)

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## Subgoal

- Can we identify some root?
- How about the root of the first SCC completely explored by DFS?
- Key idea: **no exit from first SCC**  
(first SCC is leftmost "leaf" in collapsed DAG)

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## Definition

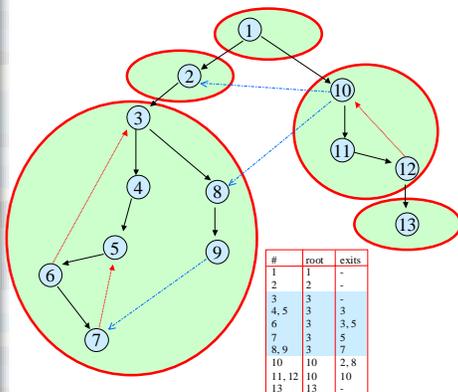


x is an *exit* from v (from v's subtree) if

- x is not a descendant of v, but
- x is the head of a (cross- or back-) edge from a descendant of v (including v itself)

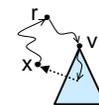
**NOTE:**  $\#x < \#v$

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## Lemma 3



If v is not a root, then v has an exit.

**Proof:**

- let r be root of v's SCC
- r is a proper ancestor of v (Lemma 2)
- let x be the first vertex that is not a descendant of v on a path  $v \rightarrow r$ .
- x is an exit

**Cor:** If v has no exit, then v is a root.

**NB:** converse not true; some roots do have exits

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### Lemma 4

If  $r$  is the first root from which dfs returns, then  $r$  has no exit

Proof:

- Suppose  $x$  is an exit
- let  $z$  be root of  $x$ 's SCC
- $r$  not reachable from  $z$ , else in same SCC
- $\#z \leq \#x$  ( $z$  ancestor of  $x$ ; Lemma 2)
- $\#x < \#r$  ( $x$  is an exit from  $r$ )
- $\#z < \#r$ , no  $z \rightarrow r$  path, so return from  $z$  first
- Contradiction

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### How to Find Exits (in 1<sup>st</sup> component)

- All exits  $x$  from  $v$  have  $\#x < \#v$
- Suffices to find any of them, e.g. min  $\#$
- Defn:  
 $LOW(v) = \min(\{ \#x \mid x \text{ an exit from } v \} \cup \{ \#v \})$
- Calculate inductively:  
 $LOW(v) = \min$  of:
  - $\#v$
  - $\{ LOW(w) \mid w \text{ a child of } v \}$
  - $\{ \#x \mid (v,x) \text{ is a back- or cross-edge} \}$
- 1<sup>st</sup> root :  $LOW(v)=v$

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#	root	exits	LOW
1	1	-	-
2	2	-	-
3	3	-	3
4,5	3	3	3
6	3	3,5	3
7	3	5	5
8,9	3	7	7
10	10	2,8	-
11,12	10	10	-
13	13	-	-

1<sup>st</sup> root:  
LOW(v)=v

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### Finding Other Components

- Key idea: No exit from
  - 1<sup>st</sup> SCC
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> SCC, except maybe to 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> SCC, except maybe to 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - ...

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### Lemma 3'

If  $v$  is not a root, then  $v$  has an exit

Proof:

- let  $r$  be root of  $v$ 's SCC
- $r$  is a proper ancestor of  $v$  (Lemma 2)
- let  $x$  be the first vertex that is not a descendant of  $v$  on a path  $v \rightarrow r$ .
- $x$  is an exit

Cor: If  $v$  has no exit, then  $v$  is a root.

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### Lemma 4'

If  $r$  is the first root from which dfs returns, then  $r$  has no exit

Proof:

- Suppose  $x$  is an exit
- let  $z$  be root of  $x$ 's SCC
- $r$  not reachable from  $z$ , else in same SCC
- $\#z \leq \#x$  ( $z$  ancestor of  $x$ ; Lemma 2)
- $\#x < \#r$  ( $x$  is an exit from  $r$ )
- $\#z < \#r$ , no  $z \rightarrow r$  path, so return from  $z$  first
- Contradiction

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### How to Find Exits (in $k^{\text{th}}$ component)

- All exits  $x$  from  $v$  have  $\#x < \#v$
- Suffices to find any of them, e.g.  $\min \#$
- Defn:  
 $LOW(v) = \min(\{ \#x \mid x \text{ an exit from } v \} \cup \{ \#v \})$
- Calculate inductively:  
 $LOW(v) = \min$  of:
  - $\#v$
  - $\{ LOW(w) \mid w \text{ a child of } v \}$
  - $\{ \#x \mid (v,x) \text{ is a back- or cross-edge} \}$

and  $x$  not in first  $(k-1)$  components

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### SCC Algorithm

$\#v = \text{DFS number}$   
 $v.\text{low} = LOW(v)$   
 $v.\text{scc} = \text{component \#}$

```

SCC(v)
#v = vertex_number++; v.low = #v; push(v)
for all edges (v,w)
  if #w == 0 then
    SCC(w); v.low = min(v.low, w.low) // tree edge
  else if #w < #v && w.scc == 0 then
    v.low = min(v.low, #w) // cross- or back-edge
if #v == v.low then // v is root of new scc
  scc#++;
  repeat
    w = pop(); w.scc = scc#; // mark SCC members
  until w==v
  
```

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#	root	exits	LOW
1	1	-	1
2	2	-	2
3	3	-	3
4,5	3	3	3
6	3	3,5	3
7	3	5	5
8,9	3	7	7
10	10	2,8	10
11,12	10	10	10
13	13	-	13

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### Complexity

- Look at every edge once
- Look at every vertex (except via in-edge) at most once
- Time =  $O(n+e)$

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### Example

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