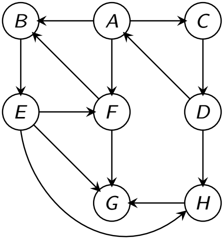
DFS in Directed Graphs, Strong Connected Components, and DAGs

Lecture 2

January 20, 2011

Strong Connected Components (SCCs)



Algorithmic Problem

Find all SCCs of a given directed graph.

Previous lecture: saw an $\mathbf{O(n \cdot (n+m))}$ time algorithm.
This lecture: $\mathbf{O(n+m)}$ time algorithm.

Graph of SCCs

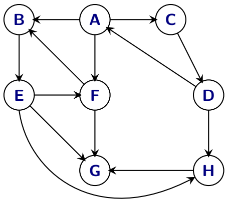


Figure: Graph **G**

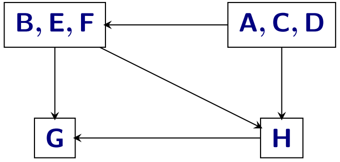


Figure: Graph of s **G**

Meta-graph of SCCs

Let $S_1, S_2, \ldots S_k$ be the SCCs of G. The graph of SCCs is G^{SCC}

- Vertices are $S_1, S_2, \ldots S_k$
- There is an edge (S_i, S_j) if there is some $u \in S_i$ and $v \in S_j$ such that (u, v) is an edge in G.

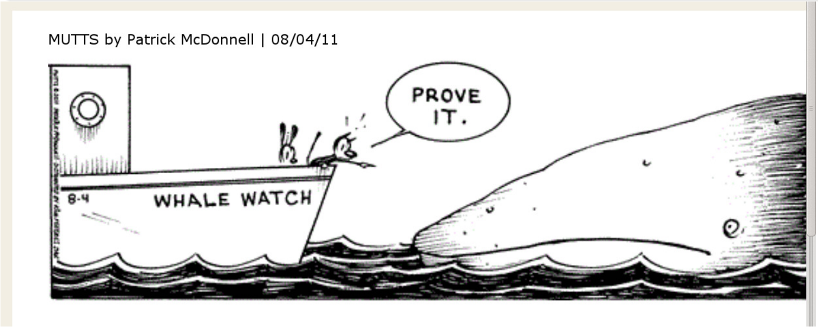
Reversal and SCCs

Proposition

For any graph $\mathbf{G}$*, the graph of* SCCs *of* $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{rev}}$ *is the same as the reversal of* $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$*.*

Proof.

Exercise. □



SCCs and DAGs

Proposition

For any graph $\mathbf{G}$, *the graph* $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$ *has no directed cycle.*

Proof.

If $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$ has a cycle $\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{S}_k$ then $\mathbf{S}_1 \cup \mathbf{S}_2 \cup \cdots \cup \mathbf{S}_k$ is an SCC in $\mathbf{G}$. Formal details: exercise. □

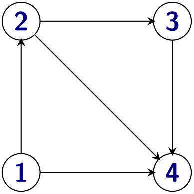
Part I

Directed Acyclic Graphs

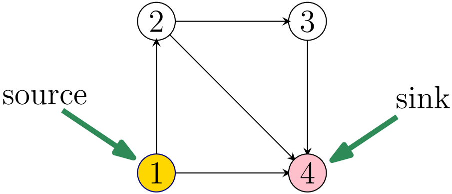
Directed Acyclic Graphs

Definition

A directed graph **G** is a **directed acyclic graph** (DAG) if there is no directed cycle in **G**.



Sources and Sinks



Definition

- A vertex **u** is a **source** if it has no in-coming edges.
- A vertex **u** is a **sink** if it has no out-going edges.

Simple DAG Properties

- Every DAG $\mathbf{G}$ has at least one source and at least one sink.
- If $\mathbf{G}$ is a DAG if and only if $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{rev}}$ is a DAG.
- $\mathbf{G}$ is a DAG if and only each node is in its own strong connected component.

Formal proofs: exercise.

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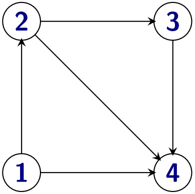
Formal proofs: exercise.

Topological Ordering/Sorting



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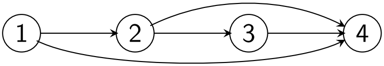


Figure: Topological Ordering of **G**

Definition

A **topological ordering**/**topological sorting** of $\mathbf{G = (V, E)}$ is an ordering $<$ on $\mathbf{V}$ such that if $\mathbf{(u, v)} \in \mathbf{E}$ then $\mathbf{u} < \mathbf{v}$.

DAGs and Topological Sort

Lemma

A directed graph G *can be topologically ordered iff it is a* DAG*.*

Proof.

$\Longrightarrow$: Suppose G is not a DAG and has a topological ordering $\prec$. G has a cycle $C = u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_k, u_1$.
Then $u_1 \prec u_2 \prec \ldots \prec u_k \prec u_1$!
That is... $u_1 \prec u_1$.
A contradiction (to $\prec$ being an order).
Not possible to topologically order the vertices. □

DAGs and Topological Sort

Lemma

A directed graph $\mathbf{G}$ can be topologically ordered iff it is a DAG*.*

Continued.

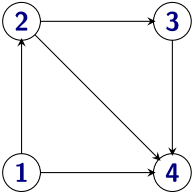
$\Leftarrow$: Consider the following algorithm:

- Pick a source $\mathbf{u}$, output it.
- Remove $\mathbf{u}$ and all edges out of $\mathbf{u}$.
- Repeat until graph is empty.
- Exercise: prove this gives an ordering.

$\square$

Exercise: show above algorithm can be implemented in $\mathbf{O(m+n)}$ time.

Topological Sort: An Example



Output: 1 2 3 4

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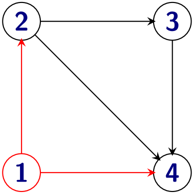

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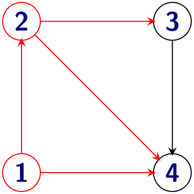

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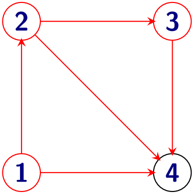

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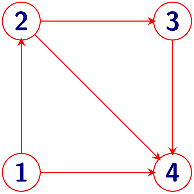

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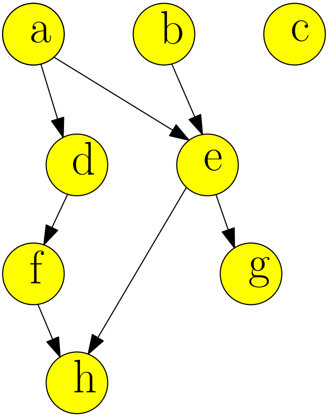
Topological Sort: Another Example



DAGs and Topological Sort

Note: A DAG **G** may have many different topological sorts.

Question: What is a DAG with the most number of distinct topological sorts for a given number **n** of vertices?

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Using DFS...

... to check for Acylicity and compute Topological Ordering

Question

Given **G**, is it a DAG? If it is, generate a topological sort.

DFS based algorithm:

- Compute **DFS(G)**
- If there is a back edge then **G** is not a DAG.
- Otherwise output nodes in decreasing post-visit order.

Correctness relies on the following:

Proposition

G is a DAG iff there is no back-edge in DFS(G).

Proposition

If G is a DAG and $\mathrm{post}(\mathbf{v}) > \mathrm{post}(\mathbf{u})$, then $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ is not in G.

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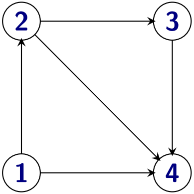

Back edge and Cycles

Proposition

$\mathbf{G}$ has a cycle iff there is a back-edge in $\mathbf{DFS}(\mathbf{G})$.

Proof.

If: $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ is a back edge implies there is a cycle $\mathbf{C}$ consisting of the path from $\mathbf{v}$ to $\mathbf{u}$ in $\mathbf{DFS}$ search tree and the edge $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$.

Only if: Suppose there is a cycle $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{v}_1 \to \mathbf{v}_2 \to \ldots \to \mathbf{v}_k \to \mathbf{v}_1$.
Let $\mathbf{v}_i$ be first node in $\mathbf{C}$ visited in $\mathbf{DFS}$.
All other nodes in $\mathbf{C}$ are descendents of $\mathbf{v}_i$ since they are reachable from $\mathbf{v}_i$.
Therefore, $(\mathbf{v}_{i-1}, \mathbf{v}_i)$ (or $(\mathbf{v}_k, \mathbf{v}_1)$ if $i = 1$) is a back edge. □

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DAGs and Partial Orders

Definition

A **partially ordered set** is a set $\mathbf{S}$ along with a binary relation $\preceq$ such that $\preceq$ is

1. **reflexive** ($\mathbf{a} \preceq \mathbf{a}$ for all $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{V}$),
2. **anti-symmetric** ($\mathbf{a} \preceq \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{a} \neq \mathbf{b}$ implies $\mathbf{b} \not\preceq \mathbf{a}$), and
3. **transitive** ($\mathbf{a} \preceq \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{b} \preceq \mathbf{c}$ implies $\mathbf{a} \preceq \mathbf{c}$).

Example: For numbers in the plane define $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \preceq (\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}')$ iff $\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{x}'$ and $\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{y}'$.

Observation: A *finite* partially ordered set is equivalent to a DAG. (No equal elements.)

Observation: A topological sort of a DAG corresponds to a complete (or total) ordering of the underlying partial order.

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Part II

Linear time algorithm for finding all strong connected components of a directed graph

Finding all SCCs of a Directed Graph

Problem

Given a directed graph $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$, output *all* its strong connected components.

Straightforward algorithm:

```
For each vertex u ∈ V do
    find SCC(G, u) the strong component containing u as follows:
        Obtain rch(G, u) using DFS(G, u)
        Obtain rch(G^rev, u) using DFS(G^rev, u)
        Output SCC(G, u) = rch(G, u) ∩ rch(G^rev, u)
```

Running time: $O(n(n + m))$

Is there an $O(n + m)$ time algorithm?

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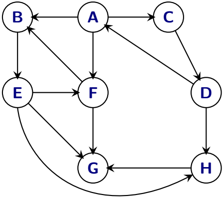
Structure of a Directed Graph



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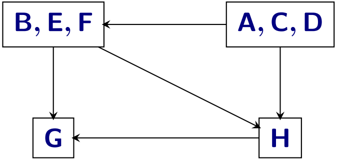

Figure: Graph of SCCs $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$

Proposition

For a directed graph **G**, *its meta-graph* $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$ *is a* DAG.

Linear-time Algorithm for SCCs: Ideas

Exploit structure of meta-graph.

Algorithm

- Let $\mathbf{u}$ be a vertex in a sink SCC of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$
- Do **DFS**$(\mathbf{u})$ to compute $\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u})$
- Remove $\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u})$ and repeat

Justification

- **DFS**$(\mathbf{u})$ only visits vertices (and edges) in $\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u})$
- **DFS**$(\mathbf{u})$ takes time proportional to size of $\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u})$
- Therefore, total time $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{n}+\mathbf{m})$!

Big Challenge(s)

How do we find a vertex in the sink SCC of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$?

Can we obtain an *implicit* topological sort of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$ without computing $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$?

Answer: **DFS(G)** gives some information!

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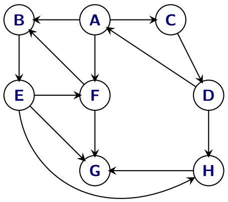
Post-visit times of SCCs

Definition

Given G and a SCC S of G, define $\mathrm{post}(S) = \max_{u \in S} \mathrm{post}(u)$ where post numbers are with respect to some $DFS(G)$.

An Example



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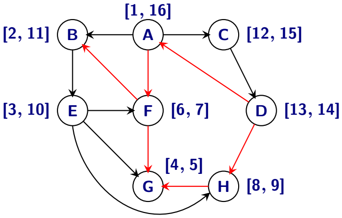

Figure: Graph with pre-post times for **DFS**(**A**); black edges in tree

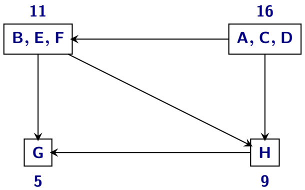

Figure: $\mathbf{G}^{\mathbf{SCC}}$ with post times

G^{SCC} and post-visit times

Proposition

If S *and* S' *are* SCC*s in* G *and* (S, S') *is an edge in* G^{SCC} *then* $\mathrm{post}(S) > \mathrm{post}(S')$.

Proof.

Let u be first vertex in $S \cup S'$ that is visited.

- If $u \in S$ then all of S' will be explored before $\mathbf{DFS}(u)$ completes.
- If $u \in S'$ then all of S' will be explored before any of S.

□

A False Statement: If S and S' are SCCs in G and (S, S') is an edge in G^{SCC} then for *every* $u \in S$ and $u' \in S'$, $\mathrm{post}(u) > \mathrm{post}(u')$.

G^{SCC} and post-visit times

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Topological ordering of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$

Corollary

Ordering SCC*s in decreasing order of* $\mathrm{post}(\mathbf{S})$ *gives a topological ordering of* $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$

Recall: for a DAG, ordering nodes in decreasing post-visit order gives a topological sort.

So...

DFS(G) gives some information on topological ordering of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$!

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Finding Sources

Proposition

The vertex $\mathbf{u}$ *with the highest post visit time belongs to a source* SCC *in* $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$

Proof.

- $\mathbf{post}(\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u})) = \mathbf{post}(\mathbf{u})$
- Thus, $\mathbf{post}(\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u}))$ is highest and will be output first in topological ordering of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$.

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Finding Sinks

Proposition

The vertex $\mathbf{u}$ *with highest post visit time in* $\mathbf{DFS}(\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{rev}})$ *belongs to a sink SCC of* $\mathbf{G}$.

Proof.

- $\mathbf{u}$ belongs to source SCC of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{rev}}$
- Since graph of SCCs of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{rev}}$ is the reverse of $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$, $\mathrm{SCC}(\mathbf{u})$ is sink SCC of $\mathbf{G}$. □

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Linear Time Algorithm

...for computing the strong connected components in G

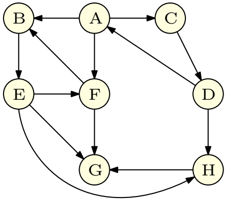
```
Do DFS(G^rev) and sort vertices in decreasing post order.
Mark all nodes as unvisited
for each u in the computed order do
    if u is not visited then
        DFS(u)
        Let S_u be the nodes reached by u
        Output S_u as a strong connected component
        Remove S_u from G
```

Analysis

Running time is $O(n + m)$. (Exercise)

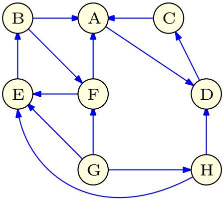
Linear Time Algorithm: An Example - Initial steps

Graph **G**:

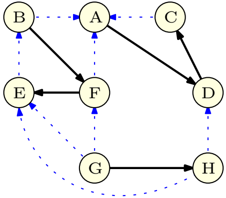


⟹

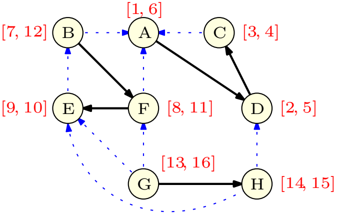
Reverse graph $\mathbf{G}^{\mathbf{rev}}$:



⟹ **DFS** of reverse graph:



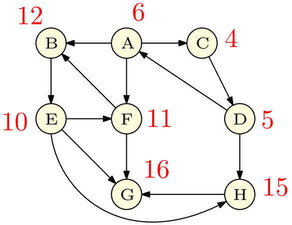
⟹ Pre/Post **DFS** numbering of reverse graph:



Linear Time Algorithm: An Example

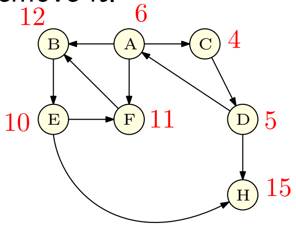
Removing connected components: 1

Original graph **G** with rev post numbers:



$\Longrightarrow$

Do **DFS** from vertex **G** remove it.

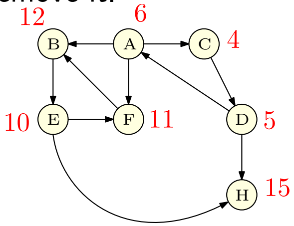


SCC computed:
{G}

Linear Time Algorithm: An Example

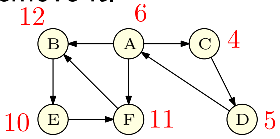
Removing connected components: 2

Do **DFS** from vertex **G** remove it.



$\Longrightarrow$

Do **DFS** from vertex **H**, remove it.



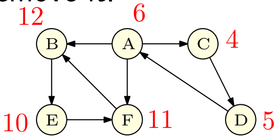
SCC computed:
$\{G\}$

SCC computed:
$\{G\}, \{H\}$

Linear Time Algorithm: An Example

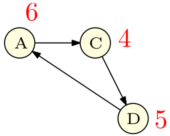
Removing connected components: 3

Do **DFS** from vertex **H**, remove it.



$\Longrightarrow$

Do **DFS** from vertex **F**
Remove visited vertices:
{F, B, E}.



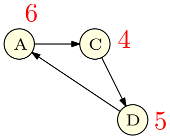
SCC computed:
{G}, {H}

SCC computed:
{G}, {H}, {F, B, E}

Linear Time Algorithm: An Example

Removing connected components: 4

Do **DFS** from vertex **F**
Remove visited vertices:
{F, B, E}.



SCC computed:
{G}, {H}, {F, B, E}

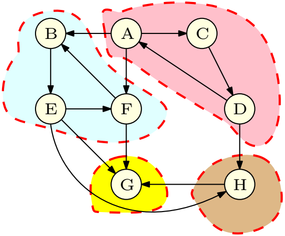
$\Longrightarrow$

Do **DFS** from vertex **A**
Remove visited vertices:
{A, C, D}.

SCC computed:
{G}, {H}, {F, B, E}, {A, C, D}

Linear Time Algorithm: An Example

Final result



SCC computed:

{G}, {H}, {F, B, E}, {A, C, D}

Which is the correct answer!

Obtaining the meta-graph from strong connected components

Exercise: Given all the strong connected components of a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ show that the meta-graph G^{SCC} can be obtained in $O(m + n)$ time.

Correctness: more details

- let $S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_k$ be strong components in G
- Strong components of G^{rev} and G are same and meta-graph of G is reverse of meta-graph of G^{rev}.
- consider $\mathbf{DFS}(G^{rev})$ and let $u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_k$ be such that $\mathrm{post}(u_i) = \mathrm{post}(S_i) = \max_{v \in S_i} \mathrm{post}(v)$.
- Assume without loss of generality that $\mathbf{post}(u_k) > \mathbf{post}(u_{k-1}) \geq \ldots \geq \mathbf{post}(u_1)$ (renumber otherwise). Then $S_k, S_{k-1}, \ldots, S_1$ is a topological sort of meta-graph of G^{rev} and hence $S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_k$ is a topological sort of the meta-graph of G.
- u_k has highest post number and $\mathbf{DFS}(u_k)$ will explore all of S_k which is a sink component in G.
- After S_k is removed u_{k-1} has highest post number and $\mathbf{DFS}(u_{k-1})$ will explore all of S_{k-1} which is a sink component in remaining graph $G - S_k$. Formal proof by induction.

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Part III

An Application to `make`

`make` Utility [Feldman]

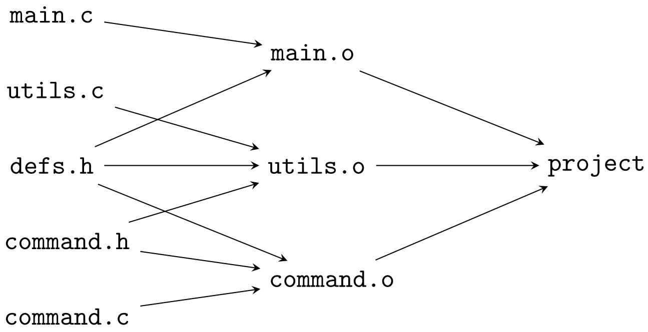
- Unix utility for automatically building large software applications
- A makefile specifies
  - Object files to be created,
  - Source/object files to be used in creation, and
  - How to create them

An Example makefile

```
project:  main.o utils.o command.o
    cc -o project main.o utils.o command.o

main.o:  main.c defs.h
    cc -c main.c
utils.o:  utils.c defs.h command.h
    cc -c utils.c
command.o:  command.c defs.h command.h
    cc -c command.c
```

makefile as a Digraph



Computational Problems for `make`

- Is the `makefile` reasonable?
- If it is reasonable, in what order should the object files be created?
- If it is not reasonable, provide helpful debugging information.
- If some file is modified, find the fewest compilations needed to make application consistent.

Algorithms for `make`

- Is the `makefile` reasonable? Is **G** a DAG?
- If it is reasonable, in what order should the object files be created? Find a topological sort of a DAG.
- If it is not reasonable, provide helpful debugging information. Output a cycle. More generally, output all strong connected components.
- If some file is modified, find the fewest compilations needed to make application consistent.
  - Find all vertices reachable (using **DFS**/**BFS**) from modified files in directed graph, and recompile them in proper order. Verify that one can find the files to recompile and the ordering in linear time.

Take away Points

- Given a directed graph **G**, its SCCs and the associated acyclic meta-graph $\mathbf{G}^{\mathrm{SCC}}$ give a structural decomposition of **G** that should be kept in mind.
- There is a **DFS** based linear time algorithm to compute all the SCCs and the meta-graph. Properties of **DFS** crucial for the algorithm.
- DAGs arise in many application and topological sort is a key property in algorithm design. Linear time algorithms to compute a topological sort (there can be many possible orderings so not unique).

Notes

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