

Algorithms - Spring '25

Directed  
graphs

# Recap

- Some left black sweatshirt  
in my office
- Oral grading
- Exam next

# Chapter 6:

All about directed graphs!

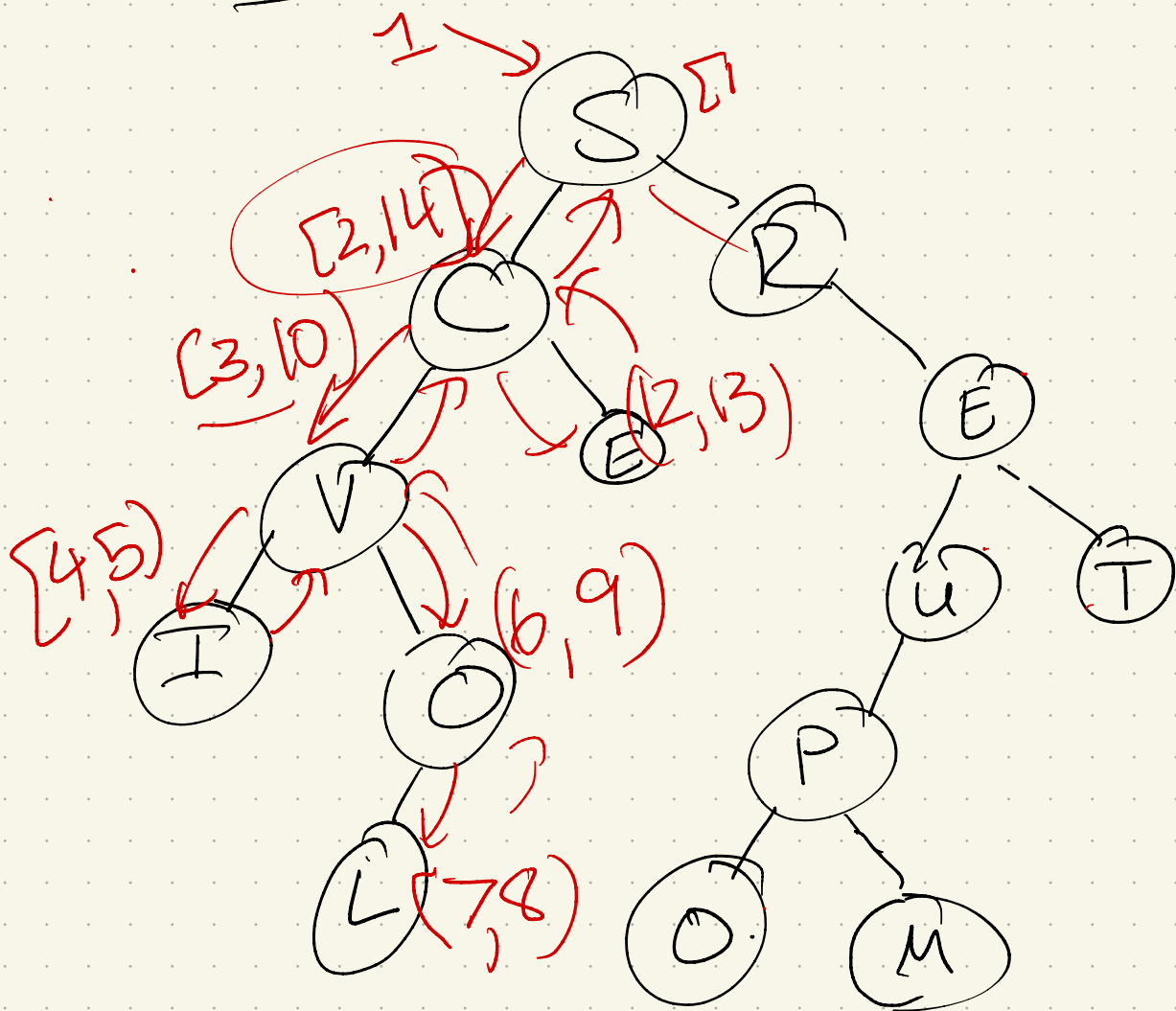
First, though, some things to recall: graph traversals.

- Pre-order: visit  $v$   
visit children
- Post-order: visit all children  
visit  $v$



We can use these  
on more general graphs!

Searching & directed graphs:  
Recall: post order traversal



- imagine a "clock" incrementing each time an edge is traversed:

# General graphs:

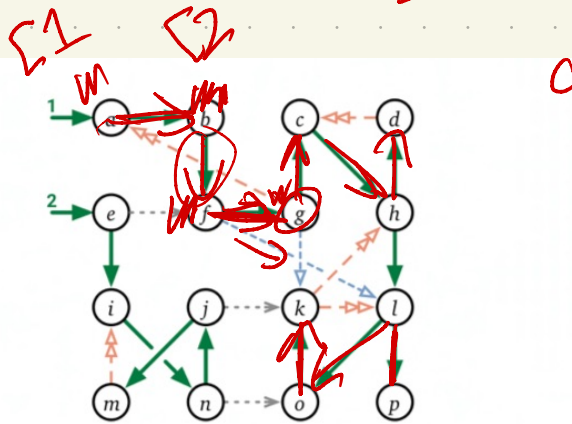
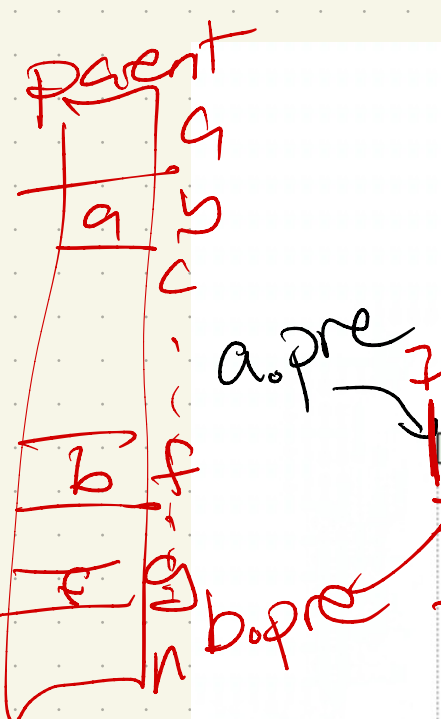
DFS(a) = DFS(b) DFS(a)

**DFSALL(G):**

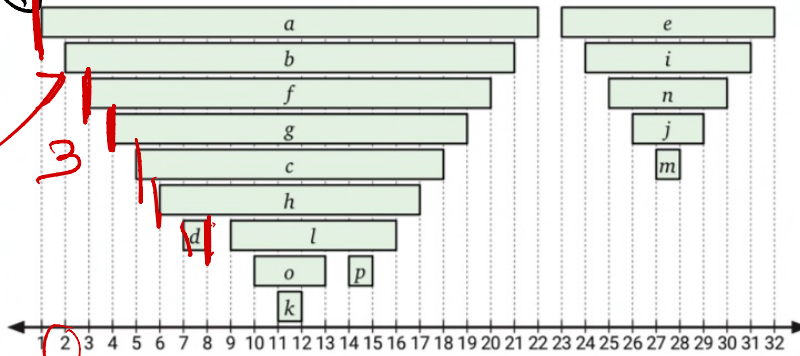
clock ← 0  
 for all vertices v  
   unmark v  
 for all vertices v  
   if v is unmarked  
     clock ← DFS(v, clock)

**DFS(v, clock):**

mark v  
 clock ← clock + 1; v.pre ← clock  
 for each edge v → w  
   if w is unmarked  
     w.parent ← v  
     clock ← DFS(w, clock)  
 clock ← clock + 1; v.post ← clock  
 return clock



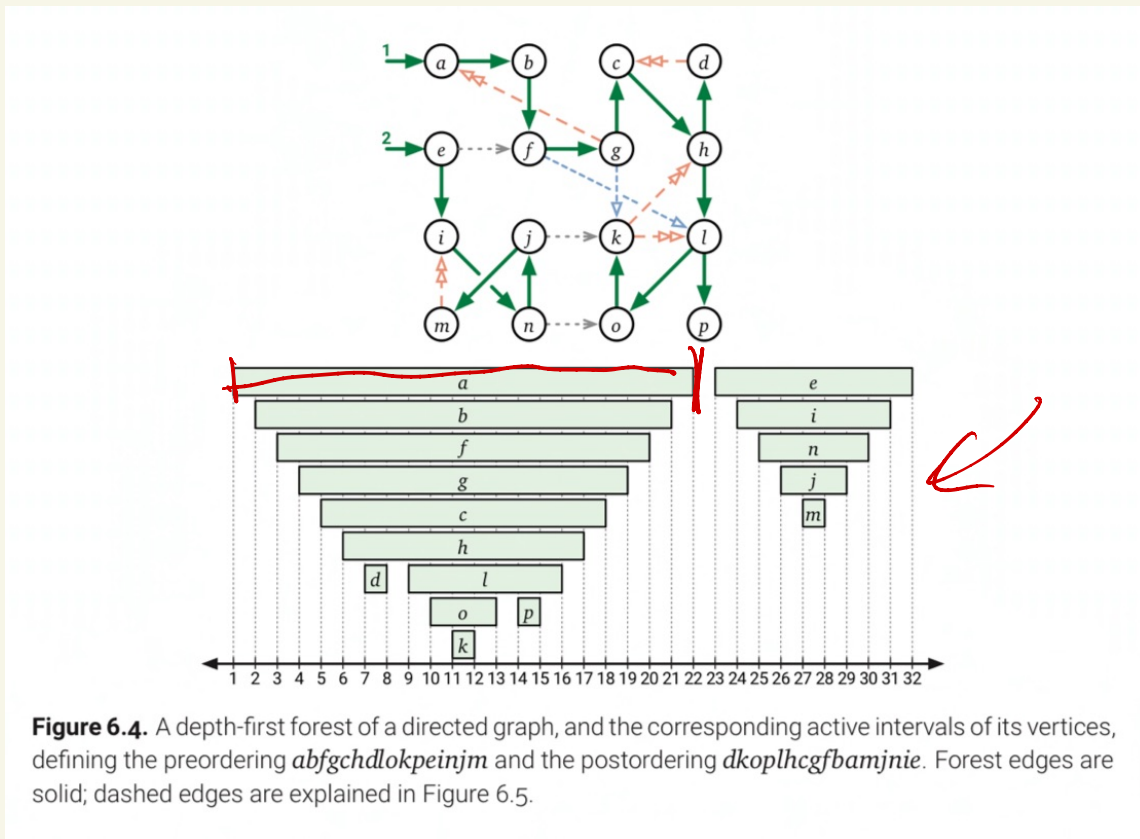
a to be b's parent in tree



**Figure 6.4.** A depth-first forest of a directed graph, and the corresponding active intervals of its vertices, defining the preorder *abfgchdlkpeinjm* and the postorder *dkoplhcgfbamjni*. Forest edges are solid; dashed edges are explained in Figure 6.5.

clock: ~~0~~  
 v = a  
 a is unmarked; = 0  
 DFS(a, clock)  
 DFS(b, 1)  
 DFS(f, 2)

Result:



So: in DFS, this "life span" represents how long a vertex is on the stack.  
(we saw recursive, not stack)

Notation:

$[v_{pre}, v_{post}]$

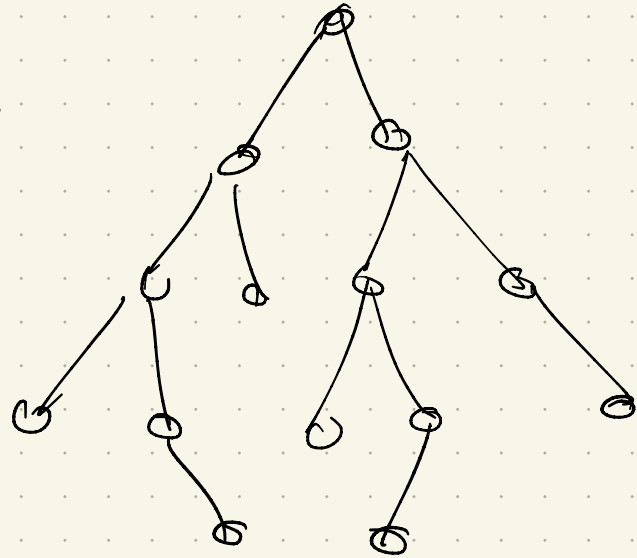
pre order visit time

post order visit time

Note: In general graphs,  
post order traversal is  
not unique!

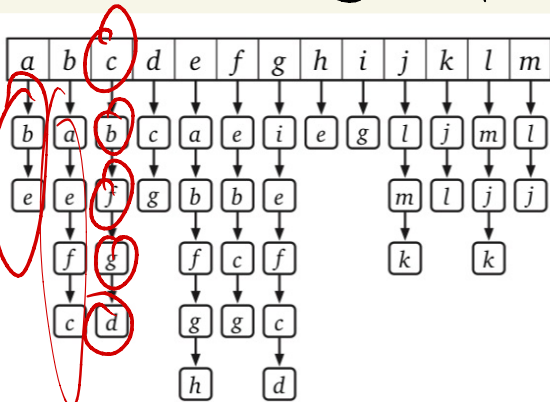
It was in BSTs:

left,  
right,  
self



In graphs:

Just use adj. list order



```

DFSALL(G):
  clock ← 0
  for all vertices v
    unmark v
  for all vertices v
    if v is unmarked
      clock ← DFS(v, clock)
  
```

```

DFS(v, clock):
  mark v
  clock ← clock + 1; v.pre ← clock
  for each edge v → w
    if w is unmarked
      w.parent ← v
      clock ← DFS(w, clock)
  clock ← clock + 1; v.post ← clock
  return clock
  
```

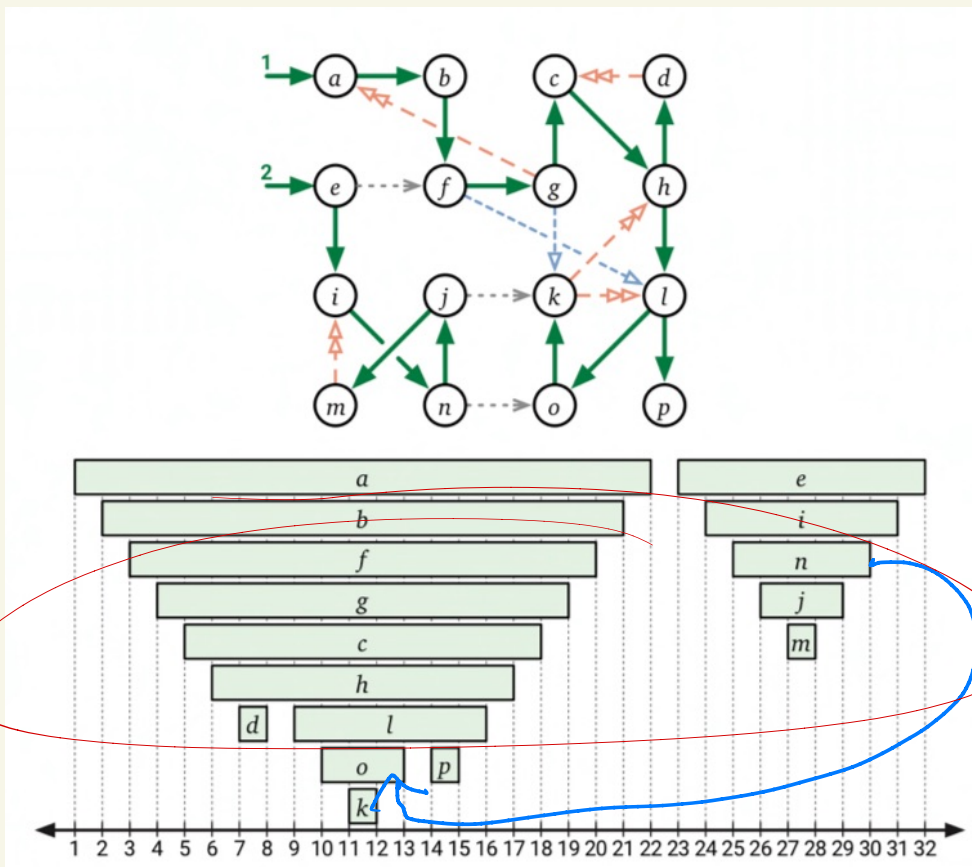
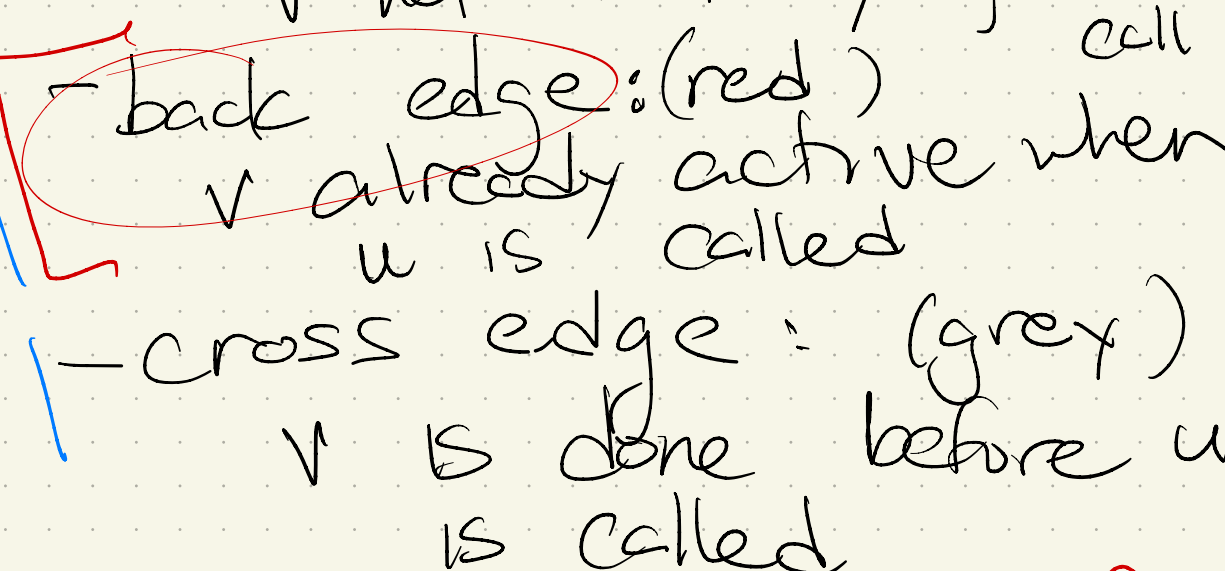
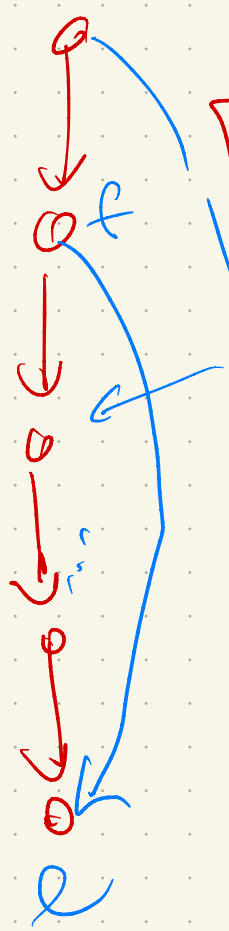
Dfn : - tree edge : (green)  
 $u \rightarrow v$

DFS(u) calls DFS(v) if  $v$  not visited before

- forward edge : (blue)  
 $v$ 's interval contained in  $u$ 's,  
 $v$  not visited yet,  $u$  doesn't call  $v$

- back edge : (red)  
 $v$  already active when  $u$  is called

- cross edge : (grey)  
 $v$  is done before  $u$  is called





# Finding cycles

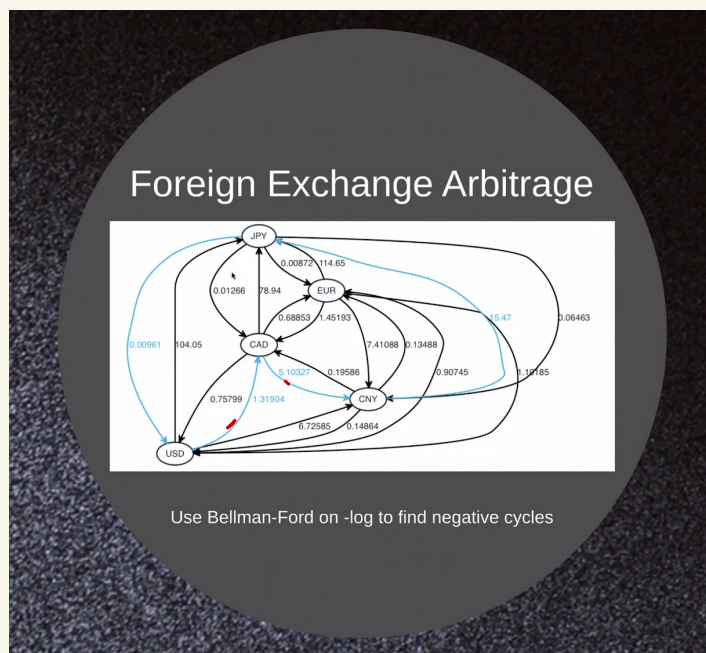
In general, cycles tend to be important.

Sometimes bad:

- topological ordering in a DAG (see next slides)

→ - longer run time  
↳ see Dyn. Pro. ~~4~~

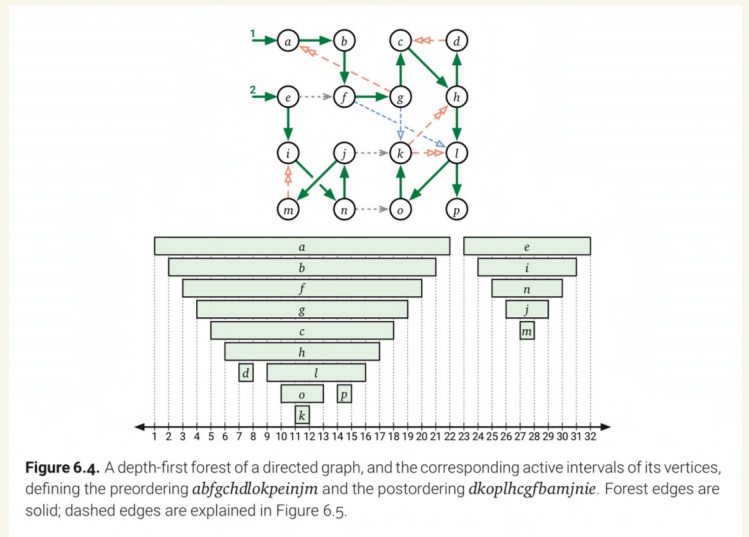
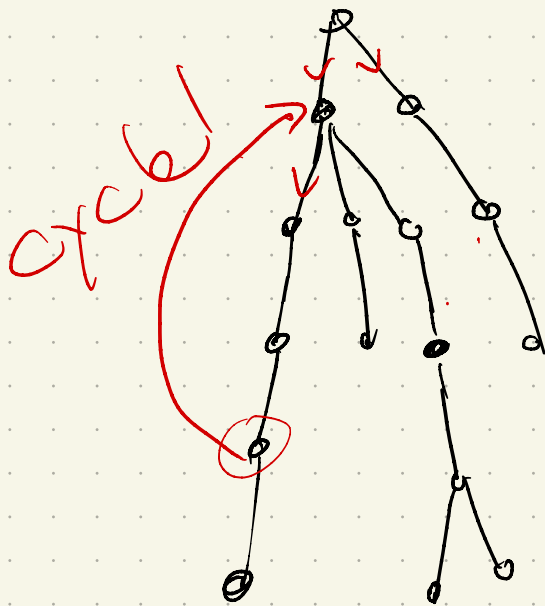
Sometimes good:



(taken from a talk I saw, by a person who works in high frequency trading)

Suppose  $u \rightarrow v$ ,  $u.post < v.post$ :  
 $u$  was removed from "active" stack before  $v$ .

(and not a cross edge)  
 Where can  $u$  be?



We can use this!  
 To detect cycles,  $\rightarrow$  order  
 (if not present).

# Topological ordering: Why?

Track dependencies:

- class prereqs
- compilers & #includes
- ordering evaluations of cells in a spreadsheet
- data analysis pipelines

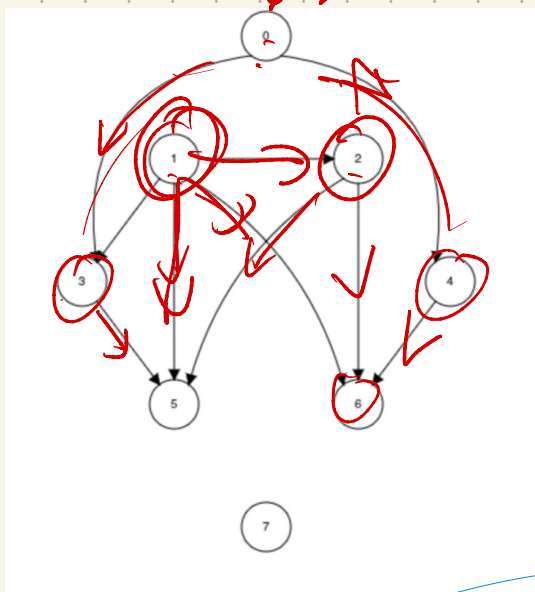
...

Often, in all these settings, the goal is to find a processing order that works.

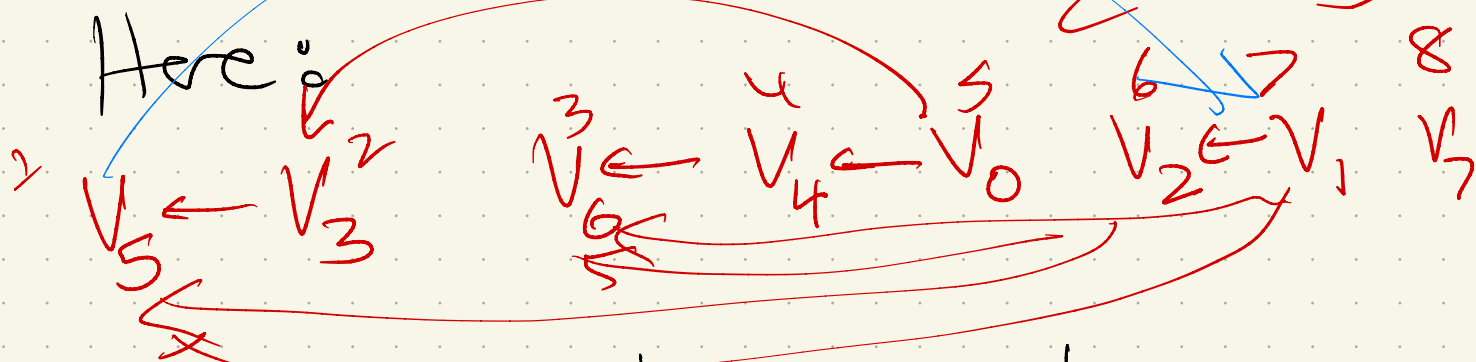
↳ lays out dependencies so precursor is evaluated first!

# A simple example

Start at 0



Post-ordering:  
visit children  
↳ then mark self



Note: this puts a vertex  
"after" anything it can reach!  
So, to get a post-ordering:  
reverse it!

Why does it work?  
(b/c DFS)

Top sort DFS: making it more precise

```

TOPOLOGICALSORT(G):
  for all vertices  $v$ 
     $v.status \leftarrow \text{NEW}$ 
   $clock \leftarrow V$ 
  for all vertices  $v$ 
    if  $v.status = \text{NEW}$ 
       $clock \leftarrow \text{TOPSORTDFS}(v, clock)$ 
  return  $S[1..V]$ 
  
```

```

TOPSORTDFS( $v, clock$ ):
   $v.status \leftarrow \text{ACTIVE}$ 
  for each edge  $v \rightarrow w$ 
    if  $w.status = \text{NEW}$ 
       $clock \leftarrow \text{TOPSORTDFS}(w, clock)$ 
    else if  $w.status = \text{ACTIVE}$ 
      fail gracefully
   $v.status \leftarrow \text{FINISHED}$ 
   $S[clock] \leftarrow v$ 
   $clock \leftarrow clock - 1$ 
  return  $clock$ 
  
```

Figure 6.9. Explicit topological sort

Unpacking his figure:

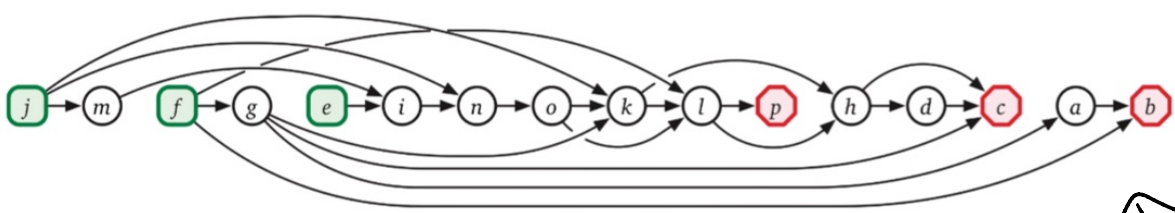
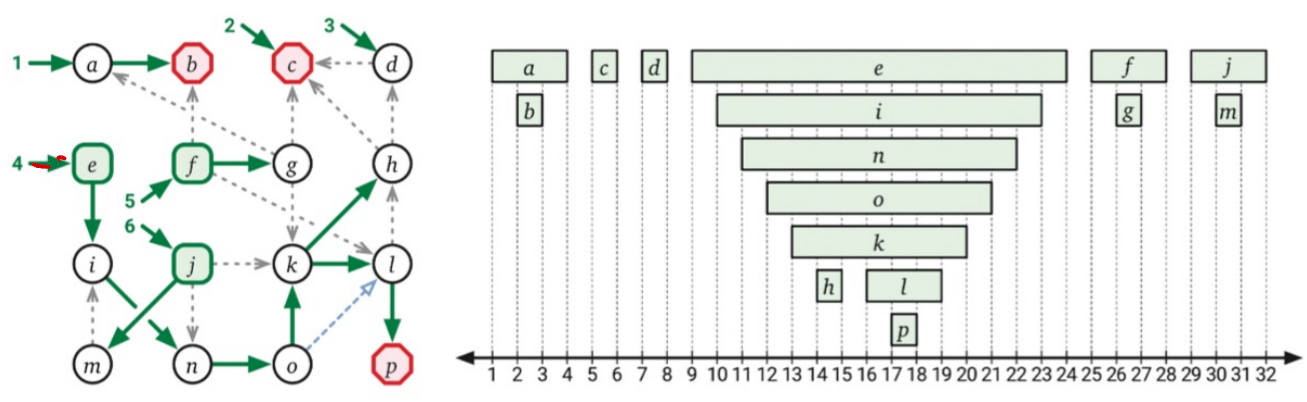


Figure 6.8. Reversed postordering of the dag from Figure 6.6.

Same  
↑

↖  
New

# Memoization + DP

Nice connection!

If the graph is a DAG,  
can do dynamic programming  
on it.

Why?

Think of the recurrences:

$$T(v) = \max_{\substack{\text{predecessors} \\ \text{or successors } u \\ \text{of } v}} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} T(u) \\ \text{lookup +} \\ \text{calculation} \end{array} \right\}$$

When will the algorithm  
get stuck?

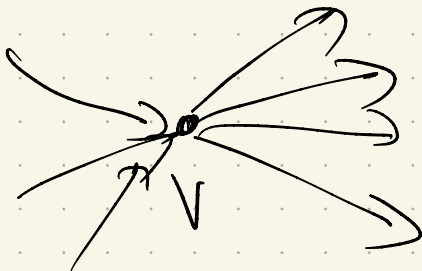
Example: longest path in  
a DAG.

Usually  $\rightarrow$  very hard.

Think backtracking for a  
moment, & fix a "target"  
vertex  $t$ .

Let  $LLP(v) =$  longest path  
from  $v$  to  $t$

$= \max$  {



Using this recursion:

↳ "memoize" the value LLP:

Add a field to the vertex  
+ store it.

(Initially, = )

Get Longest( $v$ ) :

if  $v = t$  :

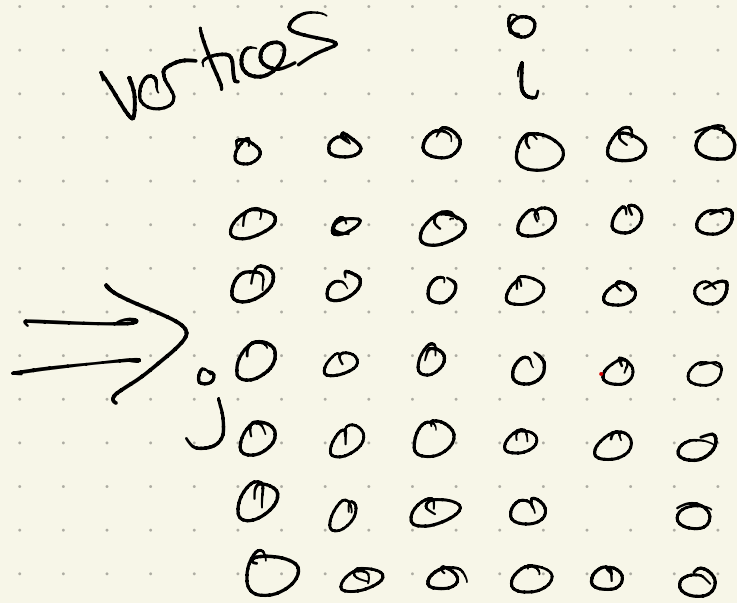
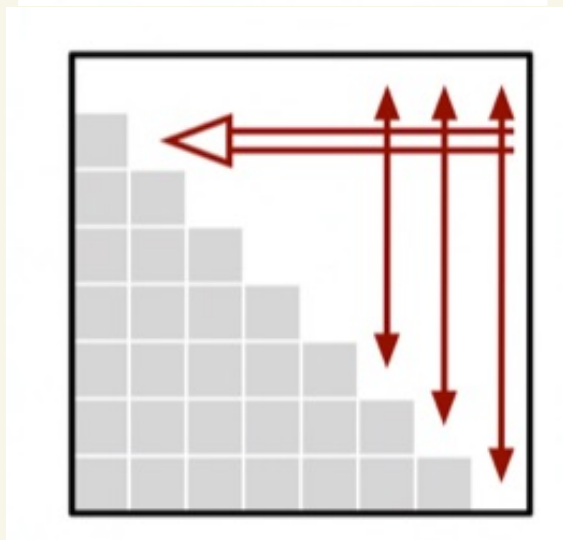
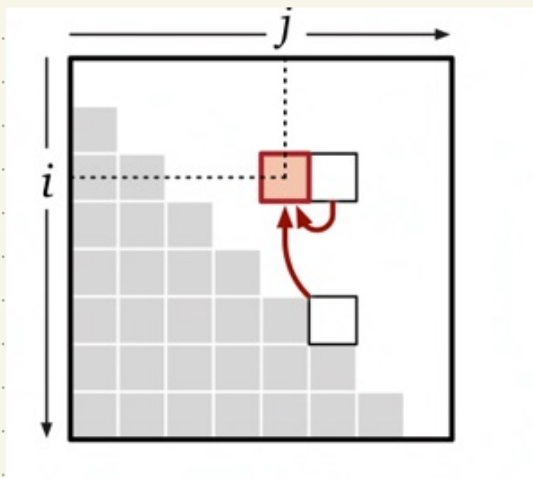
otherwise :



In principle, every DP we saw is working on a dependency graph of subproblems!

Recall: Longest Inc Subsequence

$$LISbigger(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j > n \\ LISbigger(i, j+1) & \text{if } A[i] \geq A[j] \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} LISbigger(i, j+1) \\ 1 + LISbigger(j, j+1) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



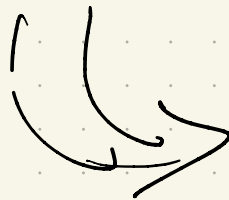
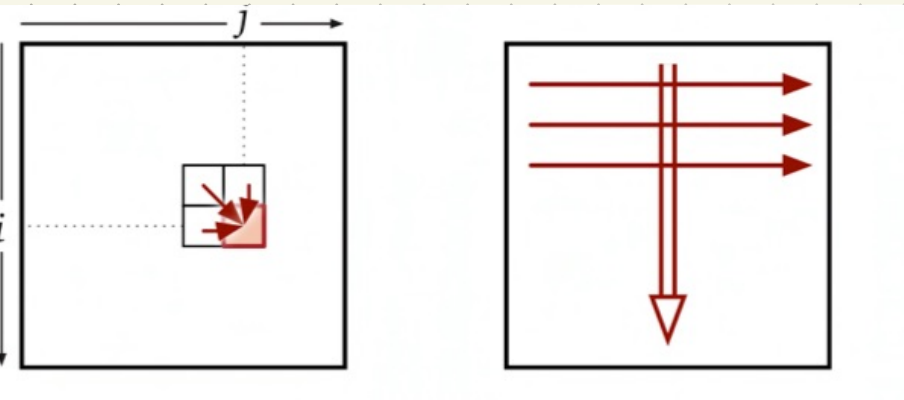
edges:

$(i, j) \rightarrow (i, j+1)$

$(i, j) \rightarrow (j, j+1)$

Edit distance:  
 he actually (sort of)  
 showed the graph!

$$\text{Edit}(i, j) = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } j = 0 \\ j & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Edit}(i, j-1) + 1 \\ \text{Edit}(i-1, j) + 1 \\ \text{Edit}(i-1, j-1) + [A[i] \neq B[j]] \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

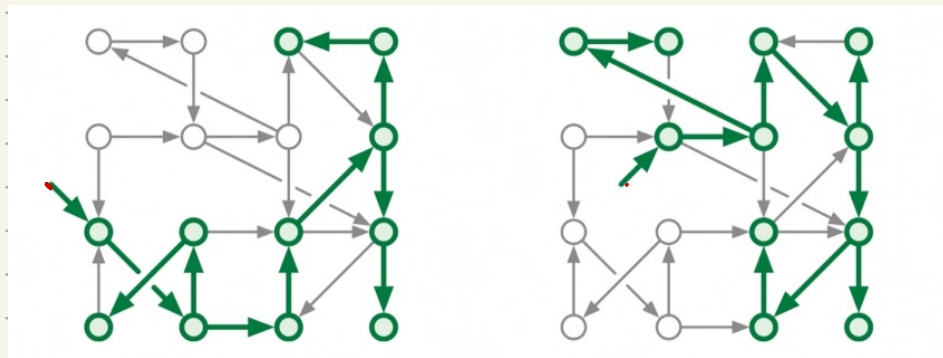


	A L G O R I T H M									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
L	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	6
R	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	5	6
U	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	6
I	6	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	6
S	7	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	6
T	8	7	6	6	6	6	5	4	5	6
I	9	8	7	7	7	7	6	5	5	6
C	10	9	8	8	8	8	7	6	6	6

# Strong connectivity

In an undirected graph,  
if  $u \rightsquigarrow v$ , then  $v \rightsquigarrow u$ .

Not true in directed case!



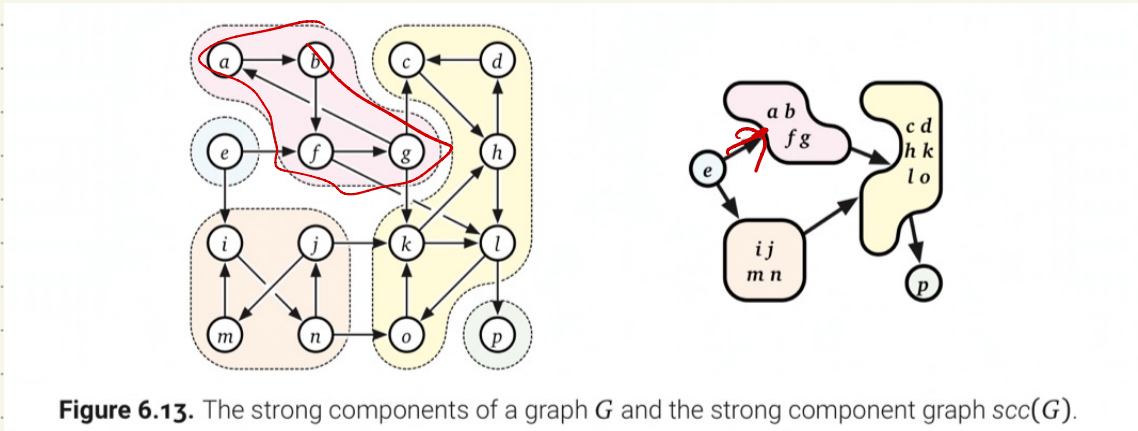
So 2 notions:

weak connectivity:

Strong connectivity:

related: SCCs

Can we actually order the strongly connected pieces of a graph:



How?

- Well, each component either isn't connected, or only has 1-way edges. Why?

scc

scc

Possible to compute SCCs  
in  $O(V+E)$  time.

Sorry - did not assign  
this one!

But feel free to read  
anyway. 😊

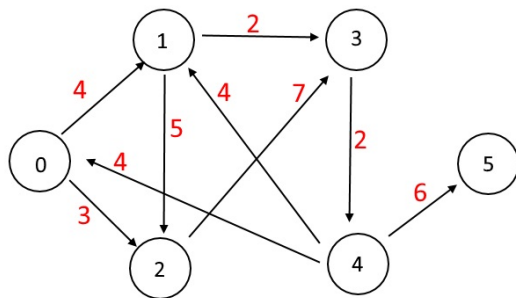
Next module:

Minimum Spanning  
trees

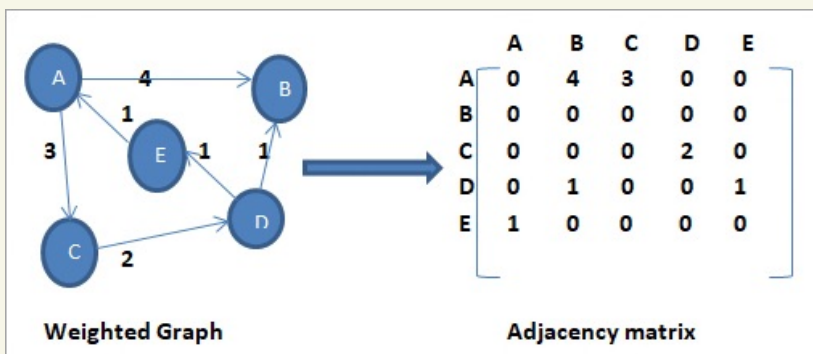
→ shortest paths.

Both are on weighted  
graphs - so  $G = (V, E)$ ,  
plus  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (or  $\mathbb{R}^+$ )

picture:



Weighted Graph



Weighted Graph

Adjacency matrix