

# INF421, Lecture 6

## Trees

Leo Liberti

LIX, École Polytechnique, France

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## Lecture summary

- Introduction and reminders
- Definitions and properties
- Listing chemical trees
- Trees in psychology and languages
- Depth-First Search (DFS)
- Spanning trees

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## Course

- **Objective:** to teach you some data structures and associated algorithms
- **Evaluation:** TP noté en salle info le 16 septembre, Contrôle à la fin.  
Note:  $\max(CC, \frac{3}{4}CC + \frac{1}{4}TP)$
- **Organization:** fri 26/8, 2/9, 9/9, 16/9, 23/9, 30/9, 7/10, 14/10, 21/10, amphi 1030-12 (Arago), TD 1330-1530, 1545-1745 (SI31,32,33,34)
- **Books:**
  1. Ph. Baptiste & L. Maranget, *Programmation et Algorithmique*, Ecole Polytechnique (Polycopié), 2006
  2. G. Dowek, *Les principes des langages de programmation*, Editions de l'X, 2008
  3. D. Knuth, *The Art of Computer Programming*, Addison-Wesley, 1997
  4. K. Mehlhorn & P. Sanders, *Algorithms and Data Structures*, Springer, 2008
- **Website:** [www.enseignement.polytechnique.fr/informatique/INF421](http://www.enseignement.polytechnique.fr/informatique/INF421)
- **Contact:** [liberti@lix.polytechnique.fr](mailto:liberti@lix.polytechnique.fr) (e-mail subject: INF421)

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## The minimal knowledge

- A tree is a connected relation without cycles
- A tree on  $n$  nodes has  $n - 1$  branches
- There are  $n^{n-2}$  labelled trees
- The same molecular formula can correspond to different bond trees (isomers)
- The analysis of sentences yields grammatical trees
- The Graph Scanning algorithm, DFS and BFS
- The cheapest kind of distribution network is a spanning tree

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# Introduction and reminders

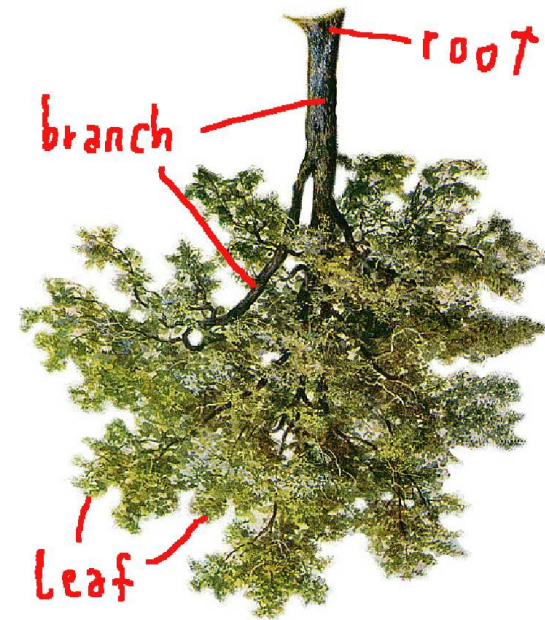
# Trees



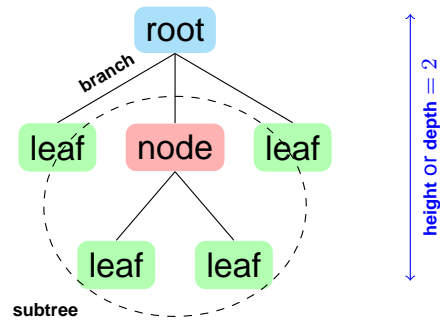
# How we draw them



# Nomenclature



# Graphical representation



height/depth = length (#branches) of longest walk [root  $\rightarrow$  leaf]

# Recall from INF311

- Binary trees
- Their implementations
- How to explore them in prefix, infix, postfix order
- How to store mathematical expressions in trees

# Some applications of trees

- Chemistry (molecular composition and structure)
- Psychology (natural language)
- Distribution networks of minimum cost
- Computer science
  - model for recursion (Lecture 3)
  - data structures for sorting and searching (Lecture 7)

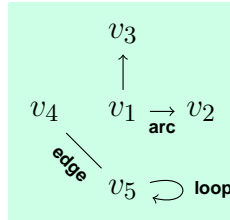
# Definitions and properties

# Relations

- A relation  $A$  on a set  $V$  is a subset of  $V \times V$

$$V = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$$

$$A = \{(v_1, v_3), (v_1, v_2), (v_4, v_5), (v_5, v_4), (v_5, v_5)\}$$



- Arc:** an element of  $A$ ; **loop:** a pair  $(v, v)$
- Edge:**  $e = \{(u, v), (v, u)\}$  (denote by  $e = \{u, v\}$ )  
( $u, v$  are incident to  $e$ , and  $u, v$  are adjacent)

- Symmetric relation:** if  $(u, v) \in A$ , then  $(v, u) \in A$
- Reflexive relation:**  $(v, v) \in A$  for all  $v \in V$
- Irreflexive or simple relation:**  $(v, v) \notin A$  for all  $v \in V$
- Transitive relation:** if  $(u, v), (v, w) \in A$  then  $(u, w) \in A$

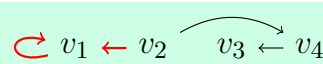
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# Walks and paths

- Let  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$  with  $k > 1$ ;  $P = \{(v_{i_j}, v_{i_{j+1}}) \mid j < k\}$  is a **walk**  $v_1 \rightarrow v_k$

$$(i_1, i_2, i_3) = (2, 1, 1)$$

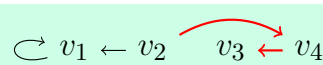
$$P = \{(v_2, v_1), (v_1, v_1)\}$$



simple

$$(i_1, i_2, i_3) = (2, 4, 3)$$

$$P = \{(v_2, v_4), (v_4, v_3)\}$$



- $G = (V, A)$  a digraph,  $G^{-1}$  obtained by reversing all arcs in  $A$   
Thm.

If  $W$  is a walk in  $G$ ,  $W^{-1}$  is a walk in  $G^{-1}$

- A relation  $P$  is a **path**  $u \rightarrow v$  if there is a walk  $W \subseteq P$  from  $u$  to  $v$  such that  $P = W \cup W^{-1}$

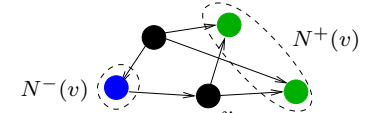
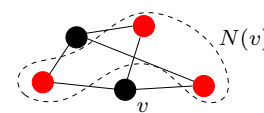
graphical representation of a path: • — • — •

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# Graphs and digraphs

- A relation  $A$  on  $V$  is also called a **digraph**  $G = (V, A)$
- A symmetric relation  $E$  on  $V$  is also called a **graph**  $G = (V, E)$
- Digraphs have arcs  $(u, v)$ , graphs have edges  $\{u, v\}$
- A digraph/graph is **simple** if it has no loops
- In a graph context, nodes are also called **vertices**
- Notation:** given  $v \in V$ ,

- if  $E$  is symmetric  $N(v) = \{u \in V \mid \{u, v\} \in E\}$  is the **star** of  $v$



- if  $A$  is not symmetric  $N^+(v) = \{u \in V \mid (v, u) \in A\}$  = **outgoing star**

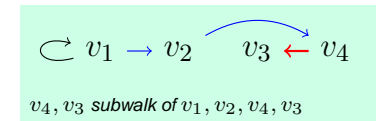
and  $N^-(v) = \{u \in V \mid (u, v) \in A\}$  = **incoming star** of  $v$

- Also  $\delta(v) = \{\{u, v\} \mid u \in N(v)\}$ ,  $\delta^+(v) = \{(v, u) \mid u \in N^+(v)\}$
- and  $\delta^-(v) = \{(u, v) \mid u \in N^-(v)\}$  defined equivalently

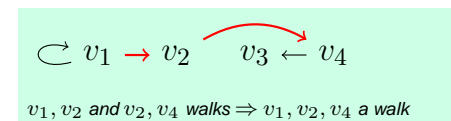
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# Properties of walks and paths

- Let  $W$  be a walk given by the node sequence  $v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_k}$
- Every contiguous subsequence of  $v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_k}$  is also a walk



- If  $W_1$  is a walk  $u \rightarrow v$  and  $W_2$  is a walk  $v \rightarrow w$ , then the sequence  $W = W_1 \cup W_2$  is a walk  $u \rightarrow w$

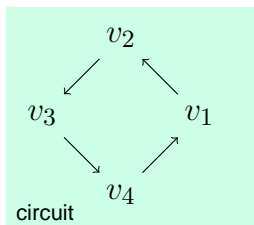


- The same holds for paths

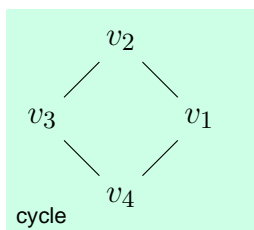
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# Circuits and cycles

- If a walk has  $i_1 = i_k$ : **circuit**

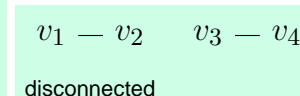
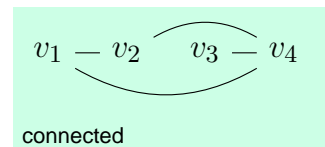


- If a path with at least 3 nodes has  $i_1 = i_k$ : **cycle**

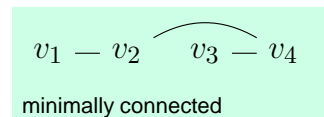


# Connectedness

- Let  $A$  be a symmetric relation
- If for all  $u, v \in V$  there is a path  $u \rightarrow v$  in  $A$ , then  $A$  is **connected**, otherwise **disconnected**



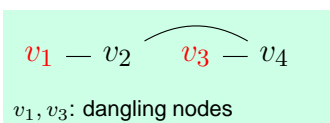
- If  $A$  is not symmetric, equivalent notion is **strong connectivity** (replace “path” with “walk”)
- Let  $e$  be an edge in  $A$ , if  $A \setminus \{e\}$  is disconnected,  $A$  is **minimally connected**



# Mathematical definition of a tree

**Tree:** a minimally connected relation  $T$  on a set  $V$

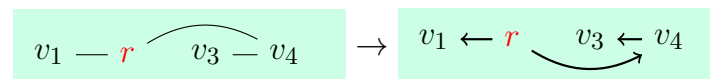
- If one node is specified as the **root**, then the tree is **rooted**
- Every node which only appears as part of a single edge is called a **dangling node**



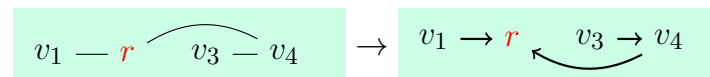
- A **dangling node** which is not the root is called a **leaf**
- Edges of a rooted tree are also called **branches**

# Orientations

- The **outward orientation** of a tree  $T$  with root  $r \in V$  is a relation  $U$  such that:
  - for every edge  $\{(u, v), (v, u)\}$  of  $T$ ,  $U$  contains only one of the arcs
  - for every leaf node  $\ell$  of  $T$ ,  $U$  has a path  $r \rightarrow \ell$



- The **inward orientation** is such that for every leaf node  $\ell$  of  $T$ ,  $U$  has a path  $\ell \rightarrow r$



# A tree has no cycles

## Lemma

A cycle is not minimally connected

## Proof

*Cycle*: a path  $C = W \cup W^{-1}$  where  $W$  is a walk  $(v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_k})$  with  $i_1 = i_k$  and  $k \geq 3$

Every contiguous subsequence of  $W$  is a (sub)walk of  $W$

Consider any subwalk  $W_1 = (v_{i_j}, \dots, v_{i_h})$  of  $W$  with  $j < h$

Both  $(v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_j})$  and  $(v_{i_h}, \dots, v_{i_k})$  are contiguous subseq. of  $W$ , hence walks in  $W$

Their union  $W_0 = (v_{i_h}, v_{i_{h+1}}, \dots, v_{i_k} = v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_j})$  is also a walk in  $W$

Since  $W^{-1} \subseteq C$ , the walk  $W_2 = W_0^{-1}$  is also in  $C$

Since  $C$  is symmetric, the paths  $P_1, P_2$  induced by  $W_1, W_2$  are both in  $C$

Notice  $P_1, P_2$  are two paths  $v_{i_j} \rightarrow v_{i_h}$  that have no common edges

Notice also that  $P_1 \cup P_2 = C$

Taking away an edge from  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  does not disconnect  $C$

$C$  is not minimally connected

## Thm.

A tree has no cycles

# A tree has $|V| - 1$ edges

## Thm.

A tree  $T$  on a set  $V$  has  $|V| - 1$  edges

## Proof

Let  $m(T)$  be the number of edges in  $T$

Show  $m(T) = |V| - 1$  by induction on  $|V|$

If  $|V| = 2$ , a minimally connected relation requires one edge

*Induction hypothesis*: Suppose  $m(T) = |V| - 2$  for all trees  $T$  on  $|V| - 1$  nodes

Let  $T$  be any tree on  $V$

Any tree must have at least one leaf node  $\ell$  (why?)

Because  $\ell$  is a leaf, it is incident to only one edge  $e$

Consider the tree  $T' = T \setminus \{e\}$  on  $V' = V \setminus \{\ell\}$

Because  $|V'| = |V| - 1$ ,  $m(T') = |V| - 2$  by the induction hypothesis

Thus,  $T$  has exactly  $m(T) = m(T \cup \{e\}) = m(T') + 1 = |V| - 1$  edges

# The converse

## Thm.

If  $T$  is a symmetric relation on  $V$  with no cycles and  $m(T) = |V| - 1$ , then  $T$  is a tree

## Proof

By induction on  $|V|$ , aim to show  $T$  is a tree

Recall:  $\forall v \in V$ ,  $\delta(v)$  is the set of edges incident to  $v$

Since  $T$  has no cycles, there must be at least one node  $\ell$  with  $|\delta(\ell)| = 1$  (why?)

Let  $V' = V \setminus \{\ell\}$  and  $T' = T \setminus \{e\}$ , where  $\{e\} = \delta(\ell)$

Since  $T$  has no cycles,  $T'$  has no cycles either (why?)

Since  $|T'| = |T| - 1$  and  $|V'| = |V| - 1$ , we have  $|T'| = |V'| - 1$

By the induction hypothesis,  $|T'|$  is a tree

Hence  $T$  is minimally connected

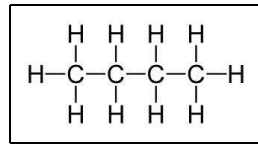
Since  $e$  is the only edge in  $T$  incident to  $\ell$ ,  $T = T' \cup \{e\}$  is also minimally connected

Hence  $T$  is a tree

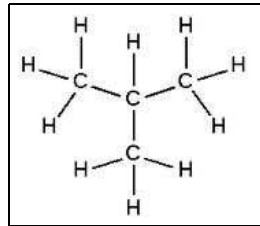
# Chemical trees

# Molecular descriptions

- Until the mid-XIX century, people thought molecules were completely defined by their atomic formula
- E.g. paraffins are  $C_kH_{2k+2}$
- Then people started to notice that different bond relations gave rise to substances with different properties: **isomers**



butane



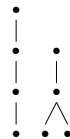
isobutane

# Listing isomers

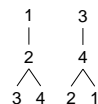
- Carbons have valence 4 (they can be incident to 4 edges)
- Hydrogens have valence 1 (they can be incident to 1 edge)
- Paraffins are known to have tree-like bond relations
- Finding paraffin isomers in the mid-XIX century:
  - list all trees on  $n = 3k + 2$  nodes
  - remove those whose valences does not match the paraffin chemical formula
- How do we list all trees? How many are there?

# Listing labelled trees

- Two possible interpretations
- These two are different (*unlabelled trees*):



- These two are different (*labelled trees*):

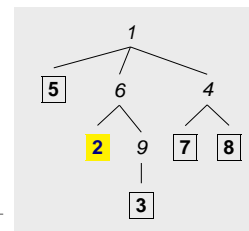


- Counting/listing labelled trees easier than unlabelled ones
- There are more labelled than unlabelled trees (why?)

# Prüfer sequences

Mapping trees on  $V$  to sequences in  $V^{|V|-2}$

- For a tree  $T$  let  $L(T)$  be the set of leaf nodes of  $T$ 
  - for  $k \in \{1, \dots, |V| - 2\}$  do
  - $v = \min L(T)$ ;
  - let  $e$  be the only edge incident to  $v$ ;
  - let  $t_k \neq v$  be the other node incident to  $e$ ;
  - $T \leftarrow T \setminus \{v\}$ ;
  - end for
  - return  $t = (t_1, \dots, t_{|V|-2})$



First iteration

$L(T) = \{5, 2, 3, 7, 8\}$ ,  $v = 2$ ,  $t = (6)$

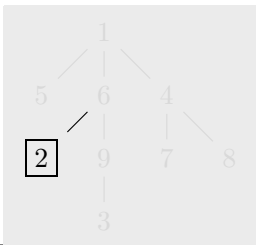
Prüfer sequence of example:  $(6, 9, 1, 4, 4, 1, 6)$



# Back to the trees

## Mapping $V^{|V|-2}$ to trees

1. Given a Prüfer sequence  $p$  on  $V$ , e.g.  $(6, 9, 1, 4, 4, 1, 6)$
2. Find smallest index  $\ell$  in  $V \setminus p$ , e.g. 2
3. Add  $\{\ell, t_1\}$  to  $T$ , e.g.  $\{2, 6\}$
4. Remove  $t_1$  from  $t$ , e.g.  $t = (9, 1, 4, 4, 1, 6)$
5. Remove  $\ell$  from  $V$ , e.g.  $V \setminus t = \{3, 5, 7, 8\}$
6. Repeat from Step 2 until  $t = \emptyset$
7. At this point  $|V \setminus t| = 2$  (it is an edge): add it



First iteration

$V \setminus t = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 8\}$ ,  $\ell = 2$ ,  
 $p = (6, 9, 1, 4, 4, 1, 6)$ , edge  $\{2, 6\}$

# Bijection

Thm.

There is a bijection between trees on  $V$  and sequences in  $V^{|V|-2}$

Proof

Essentially follows by two algorithms above

Left to prove: no cycles occur when constructing the tree from the sequence

Then result will follow by the “converse theorem” on slide 22 (why?)

Claim: no cycles, proceed by contradiction

Notice the mapping trees  $\rightarrow$  sequences always deletes leaf nodes

By definition, a cycle must have  $\geq 3$  nodes, and none of these can be a leaf

So the resulting sequence has at most  $|V| - 3$  nodes, contradiction (why?)

Thm.

[Cayley 1889] Let  $|V| = n$ . There are  $n^{n-2}$  labelled trees on  $V$

Proof

By previous theorem, the number of labelled trees is the same as the number of sequences in  $V^{|V|-2}$  (this proof is by Prüfer, 1918)

## Psychology and natural language

## A remark

- Most people find arrays, lists, maps, queues and stacks “easier” than trees
- Thesis 1: the graphical representation  
 People are used to read sequence-like rather than tree-like text
- Thesis 2: iterative vs. recursive
  - Sequences are models of iteration and trees models of recursion
  - Most people think iteratively rather than recursively (?)
- Thesis 3: trees require decisions
  - Every node has  $\leq 1$  next node in a sequence  
 tree nodes might have more than one subnodes
  - $\Rightarrow$  Scanning a sequence: no decisions to take
  - $\Rightarrow$  Exploring a tree: which subnode to process next?



# Languages and grammars

- Remember *nouns, adjectives, transitive verbs* from school?
- Analyzing sentences means to identify and name their grammatical components
- We can analyze such components recursively:

```

sentence  →  names verb
names     →  name names
name      →  noun
           ||  article noun
           ||  adjectives noun
           ||  article adjectives noun
adjectives →  adjective adjectives
verb      →  ...
  
```

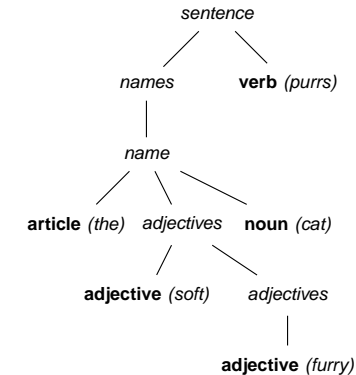
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# Parse trees

The soft, furry cat purrs

```

sentence  →  names verb
names     →  name names
name      →  noun
           ||  article noun
           ||  adjectives noun
           ||  article adjectives noun
adjectives →  adjective adjectives
verb      →  ...
  
```



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# Formal and natural languages

- If there's more than one parse tree to a given sentence, the grammar is **ambiguous**
- If the different parse trees for a sentence lead to different meanings, the language itself is ambiguous
- Non-ambiguous languages are also called **formal** (e.g. *formal logic, C/C++, Java, ...*)
- Ambiguous languages are also called **natural** (e.g. *common mathematical language, English, French, ...*)
- Richard Montague (1930-1971) tried to supply grammar-like mechanisms that were able to disambiguate some subsets of English

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# Tree exploration

- Breadth-First Search (BFS — seen in Lecture 2)  
*find the way out of a maze in the smallest number of steps*
- Depth-First Search (DFS — seen in *polycopié* of INF311)  
*find the way out of a maze*
- DFS: recursive call to `dfs(node v)`:
  - optionally perform an action on *v*;
  - for** all subnodes *u* of *v* **do**
  - `dfs(u)`;
  - end for**
  - optionally perform an action on *v*;
- DFS is `dfs(root)`

**Thesis [XX century]:** our brain treats sentences like mazes, and inherently uses DFS to find the way out (i.e., parse them)

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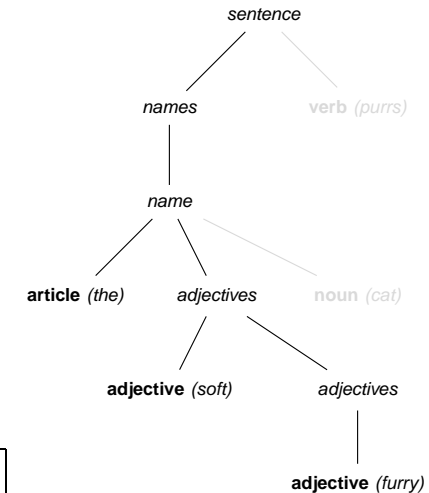
## How much memory?

- How much do we need to remember during DFS?
- Notice that the recursive code makes no explicit use of memory
- From Lecture 3, remember recursion is implemented using **stacks**
- What is the maximum size of the stack in exploring a tree by DFS?
- Let's see the DFS once again, and keep track of stack size

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## DFS on parse trees: memory



max=5 **5**

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## Memory and depth

Need as much memory as the tree depth

Recall: depth = longest path from root to a leaf

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## Miracles of the human mind

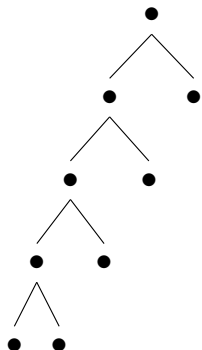
- However, consider this:

**We (humans) process input in a given order**

- Reading:** left→right | right→left | top→bottom
- Question:** are there bottom→top languages?
- Western languages: left→right**
- ⇒ **DFS: no need to use stack at rightmost branch!**
- If we know we're on rightmost path and we process subnodes in left→right order, then rightmost=last
- No "climbing back up the tree" at rightmost path
- [Yngve, 1960]: *western language trees develop in depth on the right; depth on the left is limited to a constant*

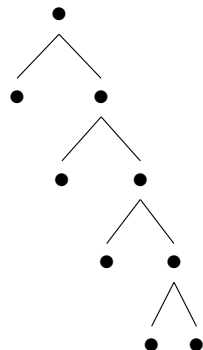
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# Regressive and progressive trees



**Regressive tree**

In left→right node order, requires as much stack as the depth (4 in this case)



**Progressive tree**

In left→right node order, only requires a stack of constant size (1 in this case)

# The “7” brain

- [Miller 1956] On average, the human memory can recall seven random words without effort
- ⇒ In western languages, it employs progressive trees with maximum “left depth” of 7
- This is why the “progressive sentence”:  
*l’élève retardataire n’apprend que la moitié des choses qu’on lui enseigne*  
 sounds much more natural than the “regressive” one:  
*on enseigne des choses dont la moitié seulement est apprise par le retardataire élève*

# Brain and languages

- Anglosaxon languages are regressive on adjectives and appositions (often before the noun)
- Latin-derived languages decrease this tendency
- Classical latin is very difficult to understand: one has the impression that there is no fixed order!  
*Inde toro pater Aeneas sic orsus ab alto*  
 → *Thereafter seat father Eneas thus standing from a high*  
 → *Thereafter father Eneas, thus standing from a high seat*
- Perhaps this is why classical latin is a dead language: it required too much “brain stack” to process sentences

# Depth-First Search

# (Di)Graph scanning

- DFS above explores nodes of a tree starting from the root, visit each (connected) node only once
- Generalization:** scan the nodes of a digraph (or the vertices of a graph) starting from a node  $s$

**Require:**  $G = (V, A)$ ,  $s \in V$ ,  $R = \{s\}$ ,  $Q = \{s\}$

```

1: while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
2:   choose  $v \in Q$  //  $v$  is scanned
3:    $Q \leftarrow Q \setminus \{v\}$ 
4:   for  $w \in N^+(v) \setminus R$  do
5:      $R \leftarrow R \cup \{w\}$ 
6:      $Q \leftarrow Q \cup \{w\}$ 
7:   end for
8: end while
  
```

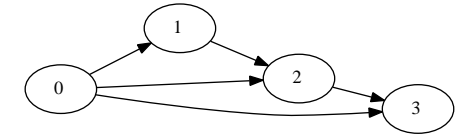
# Storing a graph

- Seen in Lecture 1: use the *jagged array* representation (also called **adjacency list**)

$$N^+(0) = (1, 2, 3)$$

$$N^+(1) = (2)$$

$$N^+(2) = (3)$$



- Seen in Lecture 2: use the *list of arcs* representation

$$L = ((0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3), (1, 2), (2, 3))$$

Different efficiency on different algorithms

# The algorithm is correct

Thm.

If there is an oriented path  $P$  from  $s$  to  $z \in V$ , then DIGRAPH SCANNING scans  $z$

Proof

- Suppose not, then  $\exists (x, y) \in P$  with  $x \in R$  and  $y \notin R$  (for otherwise, by induction on the path length,  $z \in R$  by Step 5 and hence in  $Q$  by Step 6)
- By Step 6  $x$  was added to  $Q$
- The algorithm does not stop before eliminating  $x$  from  $Q$  in Step 3 at some iteration
- This happens only if  $\delta^+(x) \subseteq R$  by Steps 4-5
- Hence  $y \notin \delta^+(x)$ , which implies  $(x, y) \notin P$ , which yields a contradiction

# The algorithm takes $O(n + m)$

Thm.

If the digraph is encoded as adjacency lists, DIGRAPH SCANNING takes CPU time proportional  $O(n + m)$  in the worst case

Proof

- Each node is considered only once:**
  - Whenever a node  $x$  is eliminated from  $Q$ , it was previously inserted by Step 6, which means that it was also added to  $R$  by Step 5
  - By Step 4,  $x$  is never re-added to  $Q$
- Each arc  $(x, y)$  is considered only once:**
  - When  $x = v$  in Step 2 then  $y \in \delta^+(x)$ , so either  $y = w$  in Step 4 or it must be verified that  $y \in R$
  - In both cases, the relation  $(x, y)$  was considered once

# The choice of $v \in Q$

- In Step 2, the choice of  $v \in Q$  determines the order in which the nodes are scanned
- Can alter this using different data structures for implementing the set  $Q$
- Two data structures are commonly used:

## 1. Stacks

DEPTH-FIRST SEARCH (DFS): this corresponds to the order being Last-In, First-Out (LIFO)

## 2. Queues

BREADTH-FIRST SEARCH: this corresponds to the order being First-In, First-Out (FIFO)

If you failed to understand BFS in Lecture 2, here's another chance!

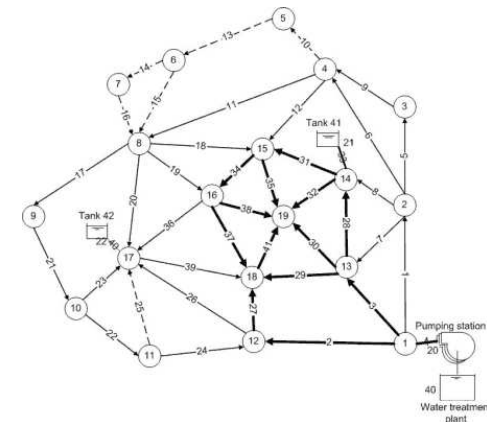
# Spanning trees

# Distribution networks

- A **network** is a connected relation on a set  $V$  of entities that models a distribution process
- E.g.  $V$ : production sites, customer sites
- Two sites are related if there is an exchange of material between them
- Two production sites are related if there is an exchange of raw material
- Other pairs of sites are related if there is an exchange of finished material
- Main cost of distribution: *transportation*
- How do you guarantee that each site has access to the material?

# Electricity/water distribution

- Raw and finished material is the same
- Blurred distinction between production and customer sites
- Cable/duct reaches customer  $\gamma_1$ , it is then extended to customer  $\gamma_2$  ( $\gamma_1$  is both production and customer)
- The main cost is laying the cables/ducts



# Spanning trees

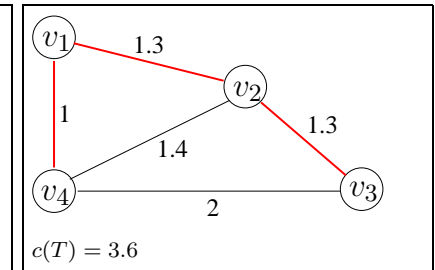
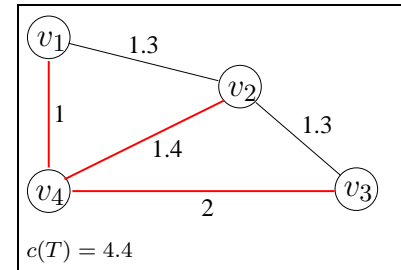
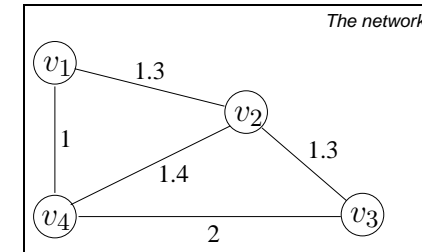
- Cost is optimized if material can be distributed to all sites using as few cables/duct as possible
- A tree on  $U \subseteq V$  is **spanning** if  $U = V$
- If each edge  $e$  in the network has cost  $c_e$ , the cost of  $T$  is

$$c(T) = \sum_{e \in T} c_e$$

Find a spanning tree of minimum cost

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# Example



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# Kruskal's algorithm: a sketch

- Two classical algorithms: Kruskal's and Prim's
- Implementation in INF431: requires union-find data structure
- Let  $E$  be the set of edges in the network
  - 1:  $T = \emptyset$
  - 2: **while**  $|T| < |V| - 1$  **do**
  - 3: find the edge  $e$  of minimum cost in the network  $E$ ;
  - 4: **if**  $T \cup \{e\}$  has no cycle **then**
  - 5:  $T \leftarrow T \cup \{e\}$ ;
  - 6:  $E \leftarrow E \setminus \{e\}$ ;
  - 7: **end if**
  - 8: **end while**
- At the end,  $T$  has  $|V| - 1$  edges and has no cycle: it is a tree by the "converse theorem" (slide 22)

Try and prove that Kruskal's algorithm terminates

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# End of Lecture 6

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