Graphs – Implementation Tips



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These slides, the course material, and course web site are based on work by Douglas W. Harder

Graphs – Implementation Tips

Standard reminder to set phones to silent/vibrate mode, please!



- Today's lesson:
 - Finish off the topic of Graphs with some tips on the various techniques to implement them
 - Should be helpful for your lab work this week!
 - Look into the C++ Standard Library vector class
 - Generic array class that handles memory management "behind the scenes"
 - Take a quick look a list class, also from the Standard Library.

Graphs – Implementation Tips

 We'll be using my own introductory tutorial on C++ vectors:

http://www.mochima.com/tutorials/vectors.html

- Copyright / academic integrity statement:
 - The code samples are only for illustration purposes.
 - You are NOT ALLOWED to directly copy fragments of code into your lab project.
 - You are of course allowed to use the ideas; but directly copying from these slides to your project would constitute an academic offence.

- We recall our two typical implementation strategies — adjacency lists and adjacency matrix
- We briefly discussed this when talking about topological sort.

- With adjacency lists, vertices are associated with a number between 0 and |V|-1, or between 1 and |V|, disregarding element 0.
- An array of adjacencies is defined each element of the array is a list (either a dynamic array or a linked list) of the vertices adjacent to the vertex corresponding to that subscript.

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• Ajacency list — example:

 $V = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ $E = \{(1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (5, 3), (6, 3), (6, 5)\}$



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• Ajacency list — example:

 $V = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ $E = \{(1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (5, 3), (6, 3), (6, 5)\}$ Representation:





Graphs – Implementation Tips

• Ajacency list — example:

 $V = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ $E = \{(1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (3, 4), (5, 3), (6, 3), (6, 5)\}$ Could also be a "jagged array" (an array of arrays):







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• The former could be implemented as a vector of lists:

```
std::vector< std::list<int> >
```

Graphs – Implementation Tips

• The former could be implemented as a vector of lists:

std::vector< std::list<int> >

 Notice a little "paper cut" feature in C++ (fixed in the new C++11 standard), the space between the two > > at the end is not optional!! (if you omit it, the compiler would parse the >> as the bitshift operator, and would result in a syntax error!)

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The latter is similar — a vector of vectors:
 std::vector< std::vector<int> >

Graphs – Implementation Tips

 Adding edges works similarly with both vector of vectors and vector of lists — the following example inserts edge (*u*,*v*):

```
vector< vector<int> > adjacencies(n+1);
    // ...
```

adjacencies[u].push_back (v);

(the sample assumes a using std::vector; directive, or using namespace std; — the latter generally not recommended on a header file)

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- This trick works for unweighted graphs, since we only need to denote the presence of an edge.
 - The fact that the value is in the "row" array means that that vertex is adjacent to the vertex corresponding to the subscript of the given row.
- If we need to indicate a weight (e.g., a **double** value), we could use an additional trick.

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 Create a simple class Edge that has two data members — target vertex, and weight:

```
class Edge
{
    int d vertex;
    double d weight;
public:
    Edge (int vertex, double weight)
       d vertex(vertex), d weight(weight)
    {}
    int vertex() const { return d vertex; }
    double weight() const { return d weight };
};
```

Graphs – Implementation Tips

 With this, you would declare a vector of vectors of Edges:

vector< vector<Edge> > adjacencies;

• Adding edges is similar — the following example inserts edge (*u*,*v*) with weight *w*:

vector< vector<int> > adjacencies(n+1);
 // ...

adjacencies[u].push_back (Edge(v,w));

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 As an example, if we wanted to compute the weight of the graph (the sum of the weights of all edges):

```
for (vector< vector<Edge> >::size_type v = 1;
    v < adjacencies.size();
    ++v)
{
    for (vector<Edge>::size_type e = 0;
        e < adjacencies[v].size();
        ++e)
    {
        sum += adjacencies[v][e].weight();
    }
}
```

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 If we're representing a directed graph, we notice that this representation provides a very efficient (constant time) way to determine the out-degree of a vertex — for example, the out-degree of vertex v is given by:

```
adjacencies[v].size()
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Graphs – Implementation Tips

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```

• (BTW... Why only for directed graphs?)

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 Removing an edge is also simple (plus/minus complications with first locating the edge). To remove elements from a vector (inefficient, but simple in terms of syntax):

http://www.mochima.com/tutorials/vectors.html#insert_remove

- If you want to use a linked list (std::list) for the list of edges, removing is more efficient, but the code as a whole gets slightly more complicated — see my STL tutorial for details: http://www.mochima.com/tutorials/STL.html
- The code to remove edge (*u*,*v*) goes more or less like:

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- Additionally, they have the advantage of more efficient access for things like operations on each of the adjacent vertices to a given vertices (such as Prim's and Dijkstra's algorithms)
 - We just need to iterate over the elements of the linked list or array of edges (the "row")

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- Additionally, they have the advantage of more efficient access for things like operations on each of the adjacent vertices to a given vertices (such as Prim's and Dijkstra's algorithms)
 - We just need to iterate over the elements of the linked list or array of edges (the "row")
 - So this is also an advantage only when we have few edges.

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 Adjacency lists are not particularly efficient, for example, to test whether a vertex is adjacent to another vertex — the sample below checks whether vertex v is adjacent to vertex u:

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• With a linked list, the loop would go more or less like:

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• Let's take a look at the implementation using the Adjacency matrix approach...

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 Two-dimensional dynamic arrays in C++ can be conveniently implemented as an array of arrays (that is, a vector of vectors).

- Two-dimensional dynamic arrays in C++ can be conveniently implemented as an array of arrays (that is, a vector of vectors).
- The main difference is that we want to have the allocated full-size for all rows right from the start.
 - So, in the constructor we would do something like:

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```
Graph::Graph (int n)
    : adjacencies(n+1)
{
    for (vector<···>::size_type i = 1; i <= n; ++i)
        {
            adjacencies[i].resize(n+1);
        }
}</pre>
```

See http://www.mochima.com/tutorials/vectors.html#resize for more details.

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 The data type of adjacencies in this case would be vector< vector<bool> > if an unweighted graph (we just store true in adjacencies[u][v] to indicate that there is an edge from u to v), or vector< vector<double> > if weighted.

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 - In this sense, the implementation for a weighted graph is a little bit simpler (really, just a liiitle bit)



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 So, what types of operations are efficient with an adjacency matrix?

- So, what types of operations are efficient with an adjacency matrix?
 - Checking if two given vertices are adjacent is quite trivial — example to check if vertex v is adjacent to vertex u:

```
bool Graph::adjacent (int u, int v) const
{
    return adjacencies[u][v];
}
```

Graphs – Implementation Tips

 That was for an unweighted graph (adjacencies stores bool values). For a weighted graph, assuming non-negative weights:

```
bool Graph::adjacent (int u, int v) const
{
    return adjacencies[u][v] >= 0;
}
```

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Things that require going over each adjacent vertex tend to be less efficient:

```
for (vector<double>::size_type i = 1;
    i < adjacencies[u].size();
    ++i)
{
    if (adjacencies[u][v] >= 0)
    {
       // do whatever is required
    }
}
```

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- With either approach (adjacency list or adjacency matrix), one important advantage is that a big portion of the memory management is taken care of for you — classes vector and list encapsulate all the memory management aspects.
 - Their constructor, destructor, copy-constructor, and assignment operators handle all the details.

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- But this is really no different than coding it yourself by properly breaking down the design into pieces:
 - If you create your linked list class, you'd provide a constructor, destructor, copy-constructor, etc.
 - So, if you use that linked list as a data member in your class Graph, you wouldn't need to provide a destructor for Graph (since the data member encapsulates all the functionality required).

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Summary

- During today's class, we:
 - Finished off the topic of graphs.
 - Discussed some implementation details and tips.
 - Looked into standard library facilities vector and list
 - Vector useful for both adjacency lists and adjacency matrix
 - List requires iterators for accessing elements.