### Recognizing Graph Search Trees

#### Nevena Pivač

joint work with Jesse Beisegel<sup>1</sup>, Carolin Denkert<sup>1</sup>, Ekkehard Köhler<sup>1</sup> Matjaž Krnc<sup>2</sup>, Robert Scheffler<sup>1</sup>, Martin Strehler<sup>1</sup>

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A rule which determines how we choose the next visited vertex defines a graph search method.



Every graph search method produces some ordering of vertices  $\sigma$ .

### Generic search

Graph search: a method of visiting all vertices in a graph that starts in a vertex and explores the graph by visiting a vertex in the neighborhood of already visited vertices.

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If no such rule exists  $\rightarrow$  generic search. Observe: every search method is also a generic search.



initialize queue  $Q = \{s\}$ iteratively take top vertex v from Qadd all non-queue neighbors of v to end of Q

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#### Idea of DFS:

initialize queue  $Q = \{s\}$ among vertices in N(s) visit one that has a neighbor in Q visited as-later-as-possible initialize stack S = N(s)iteratively take top vertex v from Sadd all non-queue neighbors of v to beginning of S

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$$Q = [a, b, e, c, f, g, d]$$

Another closely related structure produced as outcome of the search: the search tree.



$$Q = [a, b, e, c, f, g, d]$$

We connect a vertex with some previously visited neighbor. Which one?

- the tree obtained by a BFS contains the shortest paths from the root *r* to all other vertices in the graphs
- the trees generated by DFS can be used for fast planarity testing of graphs
- using trees we can fing Hamiltonian path in a co-comparability graph
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There seems to be some hidden structural properties.

Question: whether a given tree can be a search tree of a particular search?

When visiting vertex v, we connect it with one already visited neighbor of v.

BFS: we connect it with neighbor of v that appeared **first** in the BFS order. DFS: we connect it with neighbor of v that was visited **last** before v. When visiting vertex v, we connect it with one already visited neighbor of v.

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# Example of a search tree

Is T an BFS tree of G?




For BFS and DFS it is clear how to connect a vertex with some previously visited neighbor. In general, it is not clear, so we have a freedom to choose

- first visited neighbor
- last visited neighbor
- any other visited neighbor

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Given a search method on the graph G that produces an ordering  $\sigma$ , we consider two types of search trees

- *F*-search tree: we construct a search tree so that we add edges connecting a current vertex with a **first** visited vertex.
- *L*-search tree: we construct a search tree so that we add edges connecting a current vertex with a **last** visited vertex.



type  ${\mathcal F}$ 

 $\mathsf{type}\ \mathcal{L}$ 



#### $\mathcal{F}$ -Tree ( $\mathcal{L}$ -Tree) Recognition Problem



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The problem is defined on graphs. So lets talk about graphs.

- A tree is a graph without induced cycles.
- The first point of a tree is its root.
- Given a graph G = (V, E) and a tree T, we say that T is a spanning tree of G if V(T) = V and  $E(T) \subseteq E$ .
- A graph G is a split graph: vertices of G can be partitioned into sets C and I, with C being a clique and I an independent set.
- A graph G isweakly chordal: G and  $\overline{G}$  have no induced cycles of length greater than 4.

# On the search for the right search



### Idea of LexBFS:

iteratively select vertex with lexicogr. largest label; selected vertex appends number *i* to label of neighbors

```
foreach v \in V do label(v) = \emptyset;
label(s) = \{0\}; n = |V|
for i \leftarrow n to 1 do
v \leftarrow unnumbered vertex with lexic. largest label l(v);
\sigma(n-i) \leftarrow v;
foreach unnumb. neighbor w of v do
| append i to l(w)
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end
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- continue until all vertices are numbered.

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assign the label \emptyset to all vertices;
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foreach i \leftarrow 1 to n do
pick an unnumbered vertex v with
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### Theorem (Korach and Ostfeld, 1989)

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Theorem (Manber, 1990)

The BFS-tree recognition problem is solvable in linear time.

Tree results	$\mathcal{F}\text{-}BFS$	$\mathcal{F} ext{-LBFS}$	$\mathcal{L}\text{-}DFS$	$\mathcal{L} ext{-LDFS}$	$\mathcal{F} ext{-MCS}$	$\mathcal{F} ext{-MNS}$
All Graphs	L	NPC	L	Р	NPC	NPC
Weakly Chordal	L	NPC	L	Р	NPC	NPC
Chordal	L	?	L	Р	?	?
Split	L	L	L	Р	L	L

• Hagerup and Nowak, 1985; Korach and Ostfeld, 1989

• Manber, 1990

### Lemma (Tarjan, 1972)

Let G = (V, E) be a graph and let T be an  $\mathcal{L}$ -tree of G generated by DFS. For each  $uv \in E$  it holds that either  $uv \in E(T)$  or, without loss of generality u is an ancestor of v in T.

A consequence of result by Korach and Ostfeld:

#### Lemma

Let G = (V, E) be a graph with spanning tree T. Let  $G_i$  be an induced subgraph of G with a spanning tree  $T_i$  which is the restriction of T to  $G_i$ . If T is an  $\mathcal{L}$ -tree of LDFS on  $G_i$ , then  $T_i$  is an  $\mathcal{L}$ -tree of LDFS on  $G_i$ . In particular, if T is rooted in r, and  $r \in T(V_i)$ , then  $T_i$  is also rooted in r.

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Result: a polynomial algorithm for LDFS.

Since this is DFS-like search  $\rightarrow \mathcal{L}\text{-tree}.$ 

Observe: the recognition of last visited vertex in LDFS is hard!

#### Theorem

The *L*-tree recognition problem for LDFS can be solved in polynomial time.

#### Idea:

- we check for every vertex  $v \in G$  whether there is LBFS starting at v that produces T
- start LBFS at vertex r
- after visiting u, choose a vertex v with lex.largest label s.t.  $uv \in E(T)$
- prepend a number of *u* to label of its neigbbors



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- now we choose *d*,
- now we should choose c, but  $dc \notin E(T) \Rightarrow$  contradiction!

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Theorem

The *F*-tree recognition problem for LDFS is NP-complete for weakly chordal graphs.

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Theorem

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### Proof.

Polynomial reduction from 3-SAT. Assume  $\mathcal{I} = (x_1, \dots, x_n, C_1, \dots, C_m)$  is an instance of 3-SAT.





#### Proposition

 $\mathcal{I}$  admits a satisfying assignment if and only if  $T(\mathcal{I})$  is an  $\mathcal{F}$ -tree of LBFS on  $G(\mathcal{I})$ .

### Proposition

For all  $\mathcal{I}$ , the graph  $G(\mathcal{I})$  is weakly chordal.





 $\Rightarrow$  If we have a satisfying assignment  $\mathcal{A},$  we do the search as follows

- visit r, and then p
- $\bullet$  visit literals from  ${\cal A}$
- visit q, and then the remaining of X
- visit *u* and then visit the clause vertices *c<sub>i</sub>*
- visit  $a_i$  and then  $t_i$



Assume now that  ${\mathcal I}$  has no satisfying assignment. Observe:

- LBFS must start in r
- we must choose p (otherwise  $pu \notin E(T)$ )
- if we choose q:  $a_i$  visited before  $c_i \rightarrow t_i a_i \in E(T)$ , so we visit something in X,
- $\bullet\,$  visit some literal, then q, and then the negation of literal, so we visit some assignment before q
- since not satisfiable, one  $a_i$  visited before  $c_i \Rightarrow T$  is not a corresponding tree.

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Theorem

The *F*-tree recognition problem for MNS and MCS is NP-complete for weakly chordal graphs.

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# Split graphs

In general:  $\mathcal{F}\text{-}\mathsf{trees}$  for BFS, MNS, MCS are not the same.

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A tree T is an  $\mathcal{F}$ -tree of BFS on a split graph G if and only if it is an  $\mathcal{F}$ -tree of MNS (MCS, LBFS, LDFS).

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