# Tree Search Techniques <br> By Sarah Bailey 

## What to Expect?

- What is a tree?
- Types of trees:
- Spanning tree
- Rooted tree
- Binary tree
- Searching techniques
- Depth First Search
- Breath First Search
- Min. and Max. Spanning trees


## What is a Tree?

- Connected Graph
- No cycles
- Contains: $N$ vertices and $n-1$ edges
- Not a tree if:
- Remove an edge from a graph
- Add an edge to a graph



## Types of Trees

## -Spanning Trees

-Rooted Trees
-Binary Trees

## Spanning Tree

- Includes all vertices in graph $G$
- Include all edges that do not create cycles
- Edges = n-1
- Searches: minimum and maximum search


## Rooted Tree

- Directed graph
- Two conditions:
- Ignoring directions of graph results in a tree
- Unique vertex R with in degree(0)
- Components
- Root, Internal Vertices,
 Terminal Vertices, Parents, Children, Ancestors, Descendants


## Binary Tree

- Rooted Tree
- Root
- Parent nodes
- Maximum of two children
- Child nodes
- Right or left child



## Searching a Tree

- Begin at the Root
- Explore following nodes
- End at desired node



## Depth-First Search Algorithm

- Goal: Find a spanning tree on a graph $G$
- Designate starting point
- Visit all acceptable neighboring nodes (No cycles!)
- Backtrack if necessary
, End at last node.
- Keep track of the order in which nodes are visited


GRAPH G

## Breadth-First Search Algorithm

- Goal: Find spanning tree
- Similar to DFS, but shorter.
- Designate starting node
- Visit each appropriate adjacent node (without creating cycles!)
- End at the $n$th node with created spanning tree
- Keep track of visited nodes (L) and length (k)


## Breadth-First Search



## Other Spanning Tree Searches

- Minimum Spanning Tree:
- Goal: Create a spanning tree with minimum path value
- Start at a designated root
- Select the adjacent node with smallest edge value
- Continue until all nodes are visited
- Keep running total of the selected edge values
- Maximum Spanning Tree:
- Goal: Create a spanning tree with maximum path value


## Example of Minimum Spanning Tree



$$
\begin{aligned}
& L=\{f, b, a, e, d, c\} \\
& T=1+2+3+2+4=12
\end{aligned}
$$

## Binary Tree Search Techniques

- Preorder Traversal ("Polish Notation")
- Start at Root
- Root....Left....Right
- Inorder Traversal
- Start at Root
- Left....Root....Right
- Postorder Traversal ("Reversed Polish Notation")
- Start at Root
- Left....Right....Root


## Preorder Traversal



Root - Left - Right

## Inorder Traversal



Left - Root - Right

## Postorder Traversal



Left - Right - Root

## Summary

- Definition of a tree
- Types of trees
- Spanning
- Rooted
- Binary
- Types of searches
- Depth-first search
- Breath-first search
- Min. and Max. spanning trees
- Preorder, Inorder, Postorder traversal


## References

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