

Today's Lecture

- Algorithm generalities / complexity
- Directed graphs, WDAGs

Genomes are big but computers are fast!

- Typical laptop clock speed: ~ 1 Ghz
 - Potentially billions of CPU instructions / sec
- Important practical consideration in dealing with genome-scale data sets: compared to CPU operations,
 - *non-cache memory accesses* are very slow (100s of cycles)
 - *disk accesses* are even slower (1000s of cycles)
 - for both, random (non-sequential) accesses are much slower than sequential accesses

Algorithms – Some General Remarks

- The most widely used algorithms are the oldest
 - e.g. sorting lists, traversing trees, dynamic programming.
- The challenge in CMB is usually *not* finding *new* algorithms, but rather
- finding *biologically appropriate applications* of old ones.
- Often prefer
 - suboptimal but easy-to-program algorithm over more optimal one
 - or space-efficient algorithm over time-efficient one.
 - *Probabilities* are important in
 - interpreting results
 - guiding search

The most powerful analyses generally involve probabilistic models, rather than deterministic ones.

Algorithmic Complexity

- Basic questions about an algorithm:
 - how long does it take to run?
 - how much space (RAM or disk space) does it require?
- Would like precise function $f(N)$, e.g.

$$f(N) = .05 N^3 + 50.7 N^2 + 6.03 N$$

for

- running time in secs, or
- space in kbytes,

as function of the size N of input data set.

- But
 - tedious to derive &
 - depends on (often uninteresting – though important!) hardware & software implementation details.

Algorithmic Complexity (cont'd)

- Instead, more customary to give “the” *asymptotic complexity*, i.e. expression $g(N)$ such that

$$C_1g(N) < f(N) < C_2g(N)$$

for some constants C_1 and C_2 , and N large enough.

- This is written $O(g(N))$, where notation $O()$ means “up to an unspecified multiplicative constant”.
 - e.g. for the $f(N)$ above, the dominating term for large N is $.05 N^3$, so
 - can take $g(N) = N^3$
 - asymptotic complexity = $O(N^3)$.

Algorithmic Complexity (cont'd)

- Can be misleading, since
 - for small N a different term may dominate
 - (e.g. 2^d term in above example much more important for $N < 1000$)
 - size of constant may be quite important
 - (big difference between .05 and 5,000,000!)
 - e.g. BLAST and Smith-Waterman both $O(N^2)$, but size of constant enormously different
- *but* very useful as rough guide to performance.

Algorithmic Complexity (cont'd)

- Cache misses (non-cache memory accesses) and disk accesses often dominate running time, yet are 'invisible' to complexity analysis (because affect constant factor only)

Algorithmic Complexity (cont'd)

- Another limitation to complexity analysis:
 - time or space requirement may depend on specific characteristics of input data.
- Usually give “worst case” complexity
 - applies to the worst data set of a given size,

but

 - in biological situations the *average biologically occurring case* is
 - more relevant
 - often much easier than worst case (which may never arise in practice), or even “average case” in some idealized sense.

Algorithmic Complexity (cont'd)

- Proof that a problem is *NP-hard*
 - (has complexity very likely greater than any polynomial function of N and therefore effectively unsolvable for large N)

can be useful in guiding search for more efficient algorithms

but can also be misleading, since

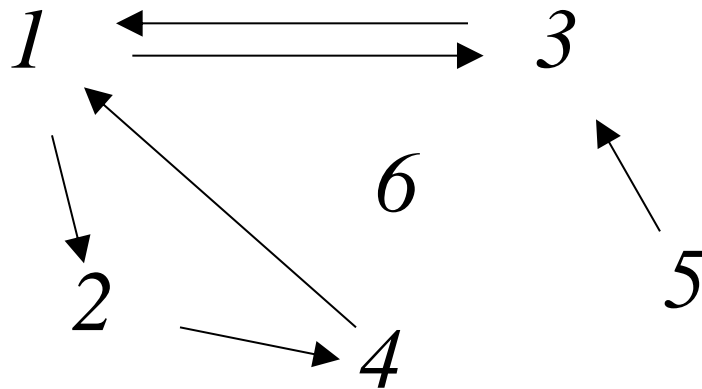
- we need *some* solution anyway, for data sets occurring in practice
- average *biologically relevant* case may be quite manageable

Directed Graphs

- A *directed graph* is a pair (V, E) where
 - V is a finite set of *vertices*, or *nodes*.
 - E is a set of ordered pairs (called *edges*) of vertices in V .
- An edge (v_i, v_j) is said to *leave* v_i and to *enter* v_j .
 - (v_i and v_j are vertices)
- *in-degree* of a vertex = # edges entering it;
- *out-degree* = # edges leaving it.

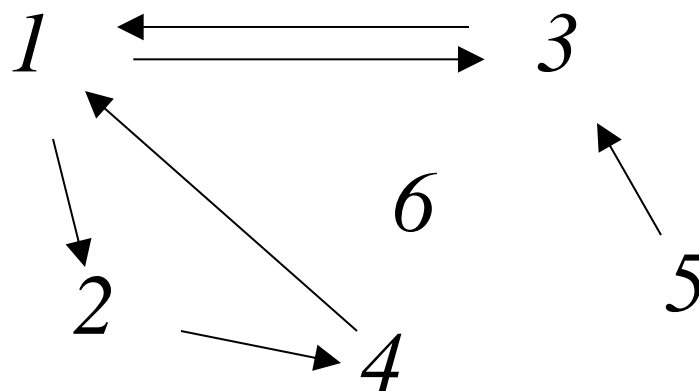
Example:

- $V = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$,
- $E = \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 4), (4, 1), (5, 3), (3, 1)\}$
- Vertex 3 has in-degree 2 and out-degree 1.



Paths and Cycles

- A *path* of *length* k in G from u to u' (vertices) is
 - a sequence P of vertices (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k) such that
 - $v_0 = u$,
 - $v_k = u'$, and
 - (v_{i-1}, v_i) is an edge for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$.
- A path can have length 0.
- We write $|P| = k$.
- A *cycle* is a path of length ≥ 1 from a vertex to itself.
- In example at right,
 - $(1, 2, 4)$ is a path,
 - $(1, 3, 5)$ is not, and
 - $(1, 2, 4, 1)$ and $(1, 3, 1)$ are cycles.



Paths and Cycles (cont'd)

- Can join
 - any path (u, \dots, v) from u to v , to
 - any path (v, \dots, w) from v to wto get a path (u, \dots, v, \dots, w) from u to w .

DAGs

- A *directed acyclic graph* (DAG) is a directed graph with no cycles.
- In a DAG, for distinct nodes v_i and v_j , we say
 - v_i is a *parent* of v_j , and v_j is a *child* of v_i , if
 - there is an edge (v_i, v_j)
 - v_i is an *ancestor* of v_j , and v_j is a *descendant* of v_i , if
 - there is a path from v_i to v_j
- In a DAG the length of a path cannot exceed $|V| - 1$,
 - (where $|V|$ = total # vertices in graph)because
 - in a path of length $\geq |V|$,
 - at least one vertex v would have to appear twice in the path;
 - but then there would be a path from v to v , i.e. a cycle.

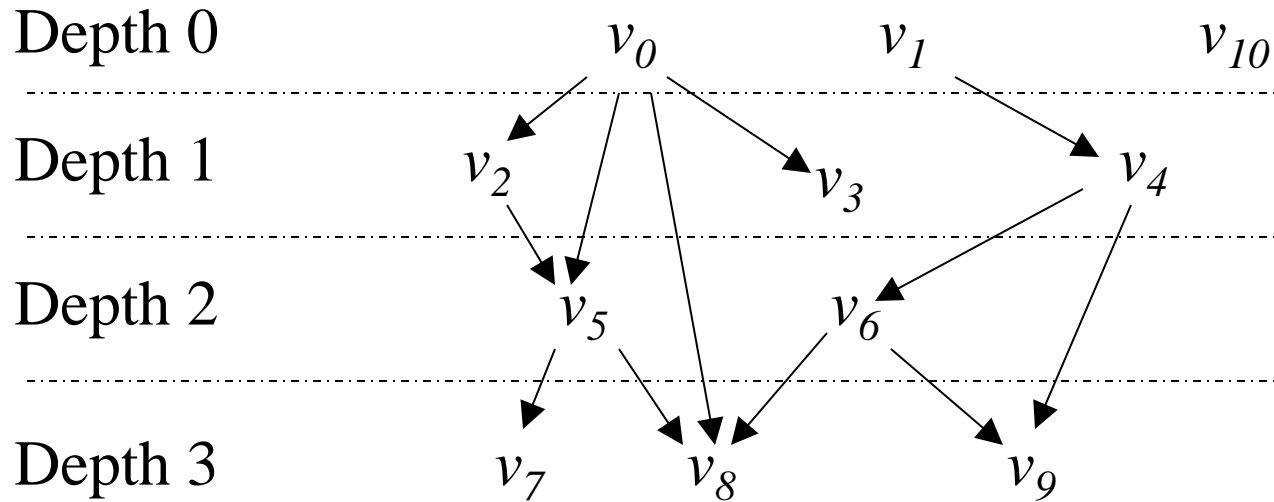
Structure of DAGs

- Define the *depth* of a node v in V as:
 - the length of the longest path ending at v ;by above, the depth is well-defined and $\leq |V| - 1$.
- *Every descendant w of a node v has higher depth than v* : If
 - (u, \dots, v) is path of length $n = \text{depth}(v)$ ending at v ,
and
 - (v, \dots, w) is path from v to w ,then (u, \dots, v, \dots, w) is a path of length $> n$ ending at w , so $\text{depth}(w) > n$.

Structure of DAGs (cont'd)

- *Every node v of positive depth has a parent of depth exactly one less:*
 - Let (u, \dots, v', v) be path of length $n = \text{depth}(v)$ ending at v .
 - Then v' is a parent of v .
 - Since (u, \dots, v') has length $n - 1$, $\text{depth}(v') \geq n - 1$.
 - Since also $\text{depth}(v') < n$ (because v is a descendant of v'), $\text{depth}(v')$ is exactly $n - 1$.
- *The nodes on any path are of increasing depth.*

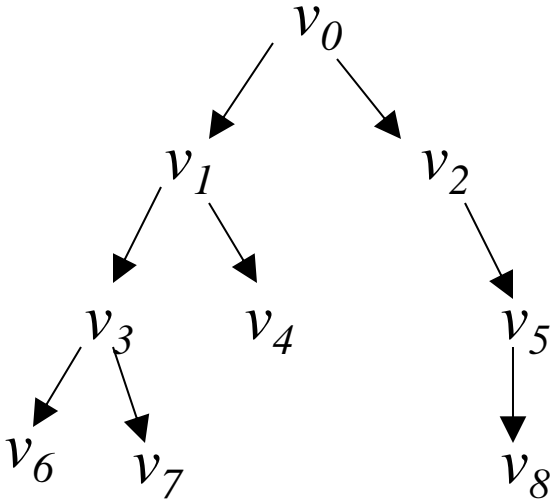
Structure of DAGs (cont'd)



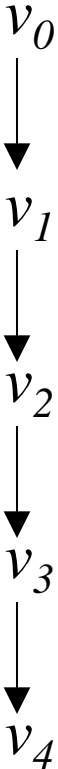
Important special cases:

- A (*rooted*) *tree* is a DAG which
 - has unique depth 0 node (the *root*), *and*
 - every other node has in-degree 1
 - (i.e. has a unique parent, of depth one less than that of the node).
- A *binary tree* is a tree in which
 - every node has out-degree at most 2.
- A *linked list* is a tree in which
 - every node has out-degree at most 1
 - or equivalently, a DAG in which \exists at most one node of each depth

binary tree



linked list



Remarks on Depth Structure

- For *dynamic programming* algorithm
 - we need an order v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n for the vertices
 - (not a path!)
 - in which parents appear before children.
 - From the above, *depth order*
 - (in which depth 0 nodes are listed first, then depth 1 nodes, etc.)
 - is such an order.
 - In general there are many other such orders.
- We haven't given constructive procedure for finding the depths of all vertices.
 - For an arbitrary DAG, can be done in $O(|V| + |E|)$ time;
 - we omit algorithm, since for DAGs related to sequence analysis, the depth structure is obvious.