Introduction to Graphs

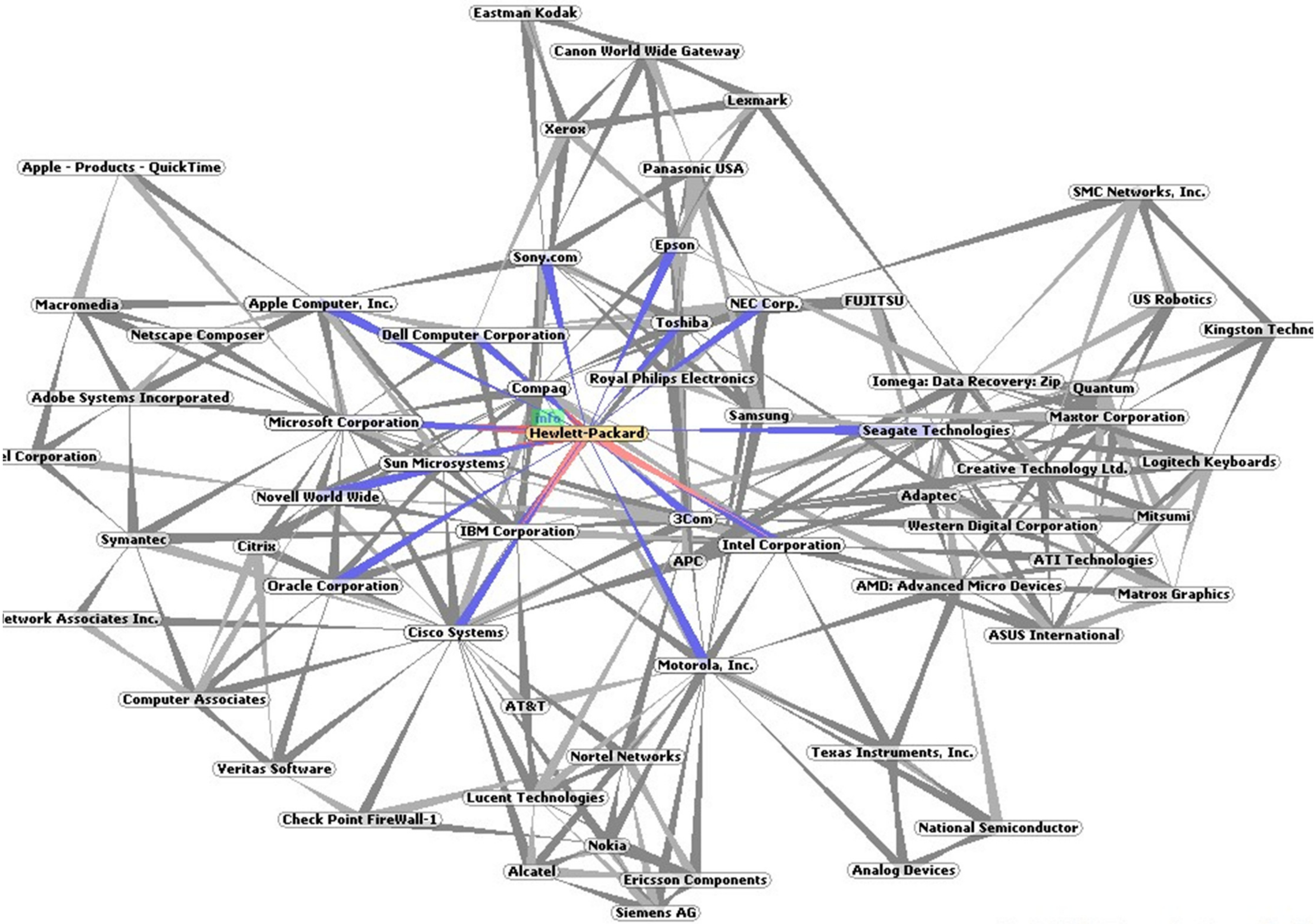
15-121

Introduction to Data Structures

Ananda Gunawardena

Graphs are everywhere

An Airline route Map



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Finding the Shortest Path
Lots of applications

Many real world problems can be modeled using graphs

- **Airline Route Map**
  - What is the fastest way to get from Pittsburgh to St Louis?
  - What is the cheapest way to get from Pittsburgh to St Louis?

- **Electric Circuits**
  - Circuit elements - transistors, resistors, capacitors
  - is everything connected together?
    - Depends on interconnections (wires)
  - If this circuit is built will it work?
    - Depends on wires and objects they connect.

Graph Definitions

- Graph
  - A set of vertices(nodes) $V = \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n\}$
  - A set of edges(arcs) that connects the vertices $E=\{e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_m\}$
  - Each edge e_i is a pair (v, w) where v, w in V
  - |V| = number of vertices (cardinality)
  - |E| = number of edges
- Graphs can be
  - directed (order (v,w) matters)
  - Undirected (order of (v,w) doesn't matter)
- Edges can be
  - weighted (cost associated with the edge)
  - eg: Neural Network, airline route map(vanguard airlines)

Graph Representations

Graph Representation

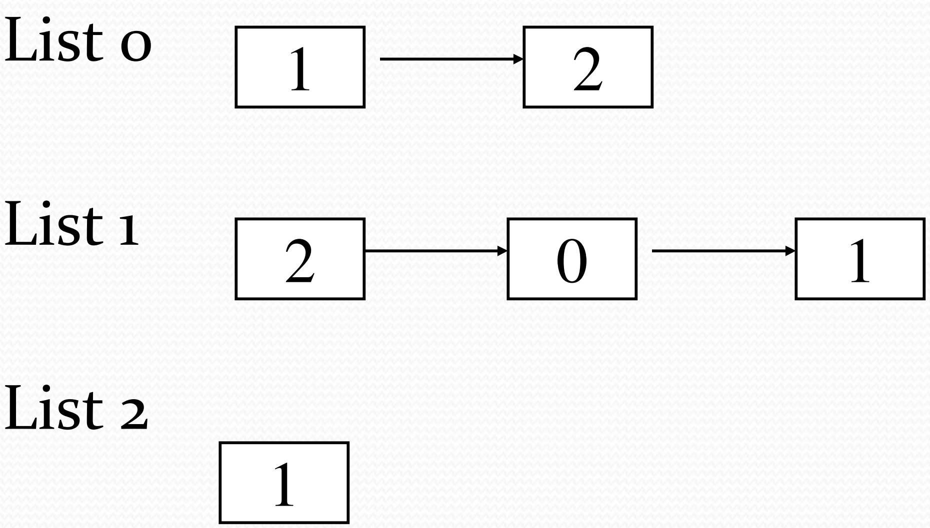
- How do we represent a graph internally?
- Two ways
  - adjacency matrix
  - Adjacency list
- Adjacency Matrix
  - Use matrix entries to represent edges in the graph
- Adjacency List
  - Use an array of lists to represent edges in the graph (we will discuss this later)

Adjacency Matrix

- Adjacency Matrix
  - For each edge (v,w) in E, set A[v][w] = edge_cost
  - Non existent edges with logical infinity
- Cost of implementation
  - $O(|V|^2)$ time for initialization
  - $O(|V|^2)$ space
    - ok for dense graphs
    - unacceptable for sparse graphs

Adjacency List

- Adjacency List
  - Ideal solution for sparse graphs
  - For each vertex keep a list of all adjacent vertices
  - Adjacent vertices are the vertices that are connected to the vertex directly by an edge.
  - Example



Adjacency List

- The number of list nodes equals to number of edges
  - O(|E|) space
- Space is also required to store the lists
  - O(|V|) for |V| lists
- Note that the number of edges is at least round(|V|/2)
  - assuming each vertex is in some edge
  - Therefore disregard any O(|V|) term when O(|E|) is present
- Adjacency list can be constructed in linear time (wrt to edges)

Breadth First Traversal

- Algorithm
  - Start from any node in the graph
  - Traverse to its neighbors (nodes that are directly connected to it) using some heuristic
  - Next traverse the neighbors of the neighbors etc.. Until some limit is reach or all the nodes in the graph are visited
  - Use a queue to perform the breadth first traversal

Depth First Traversal

- Algorithm
  - Start from any node in the graph
  - Traverse deeper and deeper until dead end
  - Back track and traverse other nodes that are not visited
  - Use a stack to perform the depth first traversal

Next: Graph Algorithms