DS 320 Algorithms for Data Science	**Lecture #5 Worksheet**
Spring 2026	Prof. Kira Goldner and Jeffrey Considine

Application of DFS: Topological Sort

Definition 1. A *topological ordering* on the vertices is a total ordering assigning them numbers $1, \ldots, n$ such that only edges $(i, j) \in E$ where $i < j$ in the ordering.

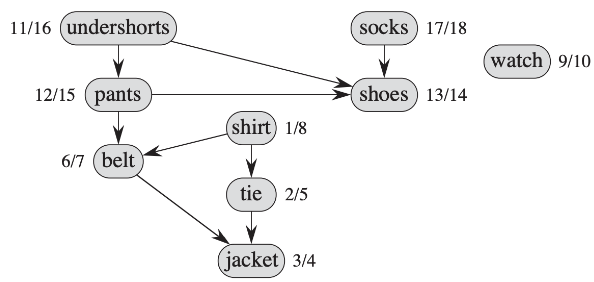

Figure 1: Top sort example graph from CLRS.

Theorem 1. *G has a topological order $\iff$ G is a DAG.*

Topological Sort Algorithm:

Theorem 2. *If the tasks are scheduled by decreasing postorder number, then all precedence constraints are satisfied.*

Breadth-First Search

Algorithm 1 BFS(G, s)

Input: Graph $G = (V, E)$ and starting vertex s.
initialize: (1) array *dist* of length n, (2) queue q, (3) linked list L of sets, (4) tree $T = (\{s\}, \emptyset)$
dist[s] $= 0$
$L[0] = \{s\}$
enqueue s to q
mark s as discovered and all other v as undiscovered
while size(q) > 0 **do**
  $v =$ dequeue(q)
  for $(v, w) \in E$ **do**
    if w is undiscovered **then**
      enqueue w in q
      mark w as discovered
      dist(w) $=$ dist(v) $+ 1$
      add w to $L[dist(w)]$
      add (v, w) to T
    end if
  end for
end while
return T, L

What happens when we run BFS(G, 1) where G is the graph below?

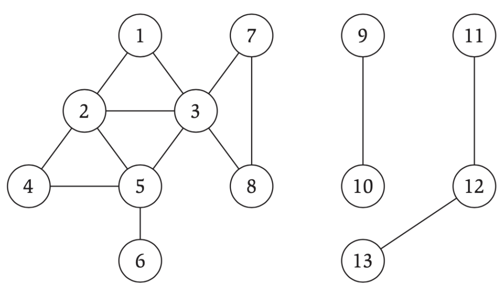

Figure 2: Example graph G. From Kleinberg Tardos.

What is BFS doing? BFS labels each vertex with the distance from s, or the number of edges in the shortest path from s to the vertex. (**Exercise:** Prove this!)

Runtime:

Claim 1. Let T be a breadth-first search tree, let x and y be nodes in T belonging to layers L_i and L_j respectively, and let (x, y) be an edge of G. Then i and j differ by at most 1.

Proof.