

Currying and Graph Algorithms

September 25, 2001

Review: Curried Functions

- Given the definition

```
scaleBy(Y) = (X) => Y*X;
```

we have

```
map(scaleBy(5), [1,2,3]) ==> [5,10,15]  
scaleby(4)(7) => 28
```

- We could have defined

```
scale(Y, L) = map(scaleBy(Y), L);
```

Review: Curried Functions

```
scaleBy(Y) = (X) => Y*X;  
mapster(F) = (L) => map(F, L);
```

```
map(even, [1,2,3,4]) ==> [0,1,0,1]  
((L) => map(even,L))([1,2,3,4]) ==> [0,1,0,1]  
(mapster(even))([1,2,3,4]) ==> [0,1,0,1]  
  
((X) => 4*X)(7) ==> 28  
(scaleby(4))(7) ==> 28  
map(scaleBy(5), [1,2,3]) ==> [5,10,15]
```

A Useful Example

- An **association list** is a representation of a function (with a finite domain):

```
[["Jan", 31], ["Feb", 28], ["Mar", 31], ["Apr", 30]]
```

- But we cannot simply **apply** this list as a function; we have to use `assoc` instead:

```
assoc("Feb", ... list above ...) ==> ["Feb", 28]
```

Making Fun of Association Lists

- We want a function

`makeFun(Alist)`

that converts an association list `Alist` to an ordinary function that can be applied, e.g.,

```
f = makeFun([[ "Jan", 31 ], [ "Feb", 28 ], [ "Mar", 31 ]]);  
f("Feb") ==> 28
```

Defining makeFun

- How to define `makeFun`?

Composing Functions

- The composition of two functions,

$f: T \rightarrow U$

$g: S \rightarrow T$

is the function, call it h for now, such that

$h: S \rightarrow U$

and for every x in S , $h(x) = f(g(x))$

- The composition is sometimes written using an operator \circ :

$f \circ g$

Composing Functions

- If anonymous functions are supported, we don't need the "call it h " aspect:

$\text{compose}(f, g) = (x) \Rightarrow f(g(x))$

or, equivalently,


$\text{compose}(f, g)(x) = f(g(x))$

Why compose?

- Composing can make code more efficient in some cases

```
map(f, map(g, L)) ==
```

Generating Curried Functions

- Define
$$\text{curry}(f)(X)(Y) = f(X, Y)$$
- If f is a two-argument function then $\text{curry}(f)$ is a curried version of this function.
 - Computes the same result as the given f , but $\text{curry}(f)$ expects its argument to be given in separate applications rather than simultaneously.
 - $\text{curry}(f)(X)$ is like “ $f(X, \cdot)$ ” in engineering or mathematics books.
- Example: $\text{scale}(K, L) = \text{map}(\text{curry}(\cdot)(K), L)$;
the 2-argument multiply function 

Searching a Graph

- Suppose we want to find whether there is a node with a certain property P reachable from a node in a graph.
- Rather than assume a specific representation such as an arc-list, we'll use **abstraction**:
- Assume we have a function `targets` such that
$$\text{targets}(\text{Graph}, \text{Node})$$
is the list of targets of the node.

Finding a Node in a Graph

- Want to define
$$\text{findNode}(\text{Graph}, \text{Node}, P)$$
where `Node` is the starting node, P is a predicate on nodes.)
- Return value:
 - If a node is found, return a list containing just that node.
 - If no such node is found, return the empty list.

Simplifying the Problem

```
findNode(Graph, Node, P) =>
  P(Node) ? [Node];

findNode(Graph, Node, P) =>
  findFromList(Graph,
               targets(Graph, Node),
               P);
```

Starting From a List of Nodes

```
findFromList(Graph, [], P) => [];

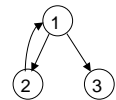
findFromList(Graph, [Target|Targets], P) =>
  Found = findNode(Graph, Target, P),
  (Found != []) ?
    Found :
    findFromList(Graph, Targets, P);
```

Mutual Recursion

- The relationship between `findNode` and `findFromList` is that of **mutual recursion**.
 - `findNode` delegates work to `findFromList`
 - `findFromList` delegates work to `findNode`
- This approach seems natural in this problem.

Correctness

- The previous solution will work if the graph is acyclic.
 - If not acyclic, it may work in some cases, and loop infinitely in others.
- So it doesn't *really* work.
- How can we fix this?



Handling the Cyclic Case

- If our graph is **finite**, infinite looping can only occur when the **same node** recurs on a path.
- By **keeping track of the nodes on the path from the starting point**, we can check whether a node recurs.

findNode revised

```
findNode(Graph, Node, P) =>
  findNode(Graph, Node, P, []);

findNode(Graph, Node, P, Seen) =>
  P(Node) ? [Node];

findNode(Graph, Node, P, Seen) =>
  member(Node, Seen) ? [];

findNode(Graph, Node, P, Seen) =>
  findFromList(Graph,
    targets(Graph, Node),
    P, [Node|Seen]);
```

findFromList revised

```
findFromList(Graph, [], P, Seen) => [ ];

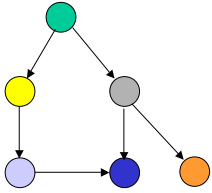
findFromList(Graph, [Target|Targets], P, Seen) =>
  Found = findNode(Graph, Target, P, Seen),
  (Found != []) ?
    Found :
    findFromList(Graph, Targets, P,
      [Target | Seen]);
```

- We include Target in the list above so that we never do a recursive findNode from a node more than once.
- However, we may still search from the same node more than once. Why? Is this preventable?

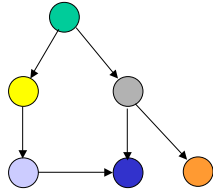
Varieties of Search

- The version of find presented previously is called **depth-first** search.
- The other prevalent form of find is **breadth-first** search.

Search Orders



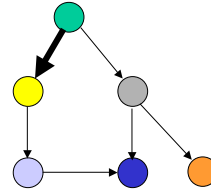
depth-first:



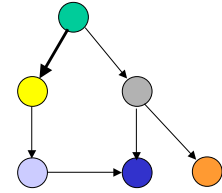
breadth-first:



Search Orders



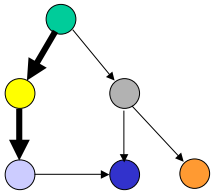
depth-first:



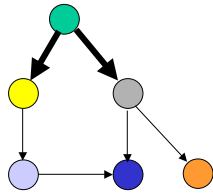
breadth-first:



Search Orders



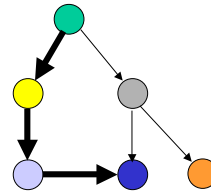
depth-first:



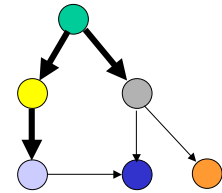
breadth-first:



Search Orders



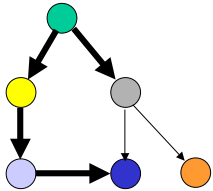
depth-first:



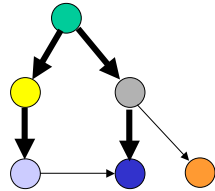
breadth-first:



Search Orders



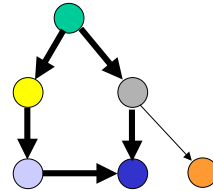
depth-first:



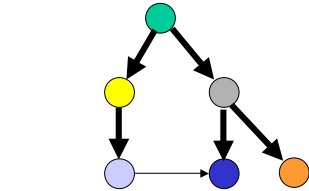
breadth-first:



Search Orders



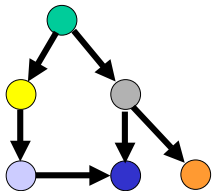
depth-first:



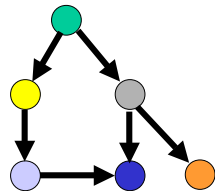
breadth-first:



Search Orders



depth-first:



breadth-first:



Comparative Strengths

- Breadth-first has the advantage of finding the *shortest* path to a node with the desired property.
- Depth-first is easier to implement and is more space-efficient.