# GraphBLAS: A linear algebraic approach for high-performance graph algorithms 

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## WHAT MAKES GRAPH PROCESSING DIFFICULT?

## connectedness the "curse of connectedness"

## computer

 architecturescontemporary computer architectures are good at processing linear and hierarchical data structures, such as Lists, Stacks, or Trees

## caching and parallelization

 a massive amount of random data access is required, CPU has frequent cache misses, and implementing parallelism is difficult
B. Shao, Y. Li, H. Wang, H. Xia (Microsoft Research),

Trinity Graph Engine and its Applications,
IEEE Data Engineering Bulleting 2017

## Graph processing in linear algebra

## ADJACENCY MATRIX

$\mathbf{A}_{i j}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if }\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right) \in E \\ 0 & \text { if }\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right) \notin E\end{cases}$


| A (1) (2) (3) 44) 5 (6) 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (1) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| (4) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (5) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| (6) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (7) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

## ADJACENCY MATRIX

$$
\mathbf{A}_{i j}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if }\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right) \in E \\ 0 & \text { if }\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right) \notin E\end{cases}
$$

Most cells are zero: sparse matrix

target

|  |  | (1) | (2) | (3) | 4 | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (1) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | (2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
|  | (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
|  | (4) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | (5) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
|  | (6) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| source |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

## ADJACENCY MATRIX

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\mathbf{A}_{i j}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if }\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right) \in E \\ 0 & \text { if }\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right) \notin E\end{cases}
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## GRAPH TRAVERSAL WITH MATRIX MULTIPLICATION

 Use vector/matrix operations to express graph algorithms:

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 Use vector/matrix operations to express graph algorithms:

## BOOKS ON LINEAR ALGEBRA FOR GRAPH PROCESSING

- 1974: Aho-Hopcroft-Ullman book
- The Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms
- 1990: Cormen-Leiserson-Rivest book
- Introduction to Algorithms
- 2011: GALLA book (ed. Kepner and Gilbert)
- Graph Algorithms in the Language of Linear Algebra

A lot of literature but few practical implementations and particularly few easy-to-use libraries.

## THE GRAPHBLAS STANDARD

Goal: separate the concerns of the hardware/library/application designers.

- 1979: BLAS
- 2001: Sparse BLAS
- 2013: GraphBLAS

Basic Linear Algebra Subprograms (dense)
an extension to BLAS (insufficient for graphs, little uptake)
standard building blocks for graph algorithms in LA


## Semiring-based graph computations

## MATRIX MULTIPLICATION

Definition:
$\mathbf{C}=\mathbf{A B}$
$\mathbf{C}(i, j)=\sum_{k} \mathbf{A}(i, k) \cdot \mathbf{B}(k, j)$

Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{C}(2,3)= & \mathbf{A}(2,1) \cdot \mathbf{B}(1,3)+ \\
& \mathbf{A}(2,2) \cdot \mathbf{B}(2,3) \\
= & 2 \cdot 5+3 \cdot 4=22
\end{aligned}
$$

## MATRIX MULTIPLICATION ON SEMIRINGS

- Using the conventional semiring

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{C} & =\mathbf{A B} \\
\mathbf{C}(i, j) & =\sum_{k} \mathbf{A}(i, k) \cdot \mathbf{B}(k, j)
\end{aligned}
$$

- Use arbitrary semirings that override the $\oplus$ addition and $\otimes$ multiplication operators. Generalized formula (simplified)

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{C} & =\mathbf{A} \oplus \cdot \otimes \mathbf{B} \\
\mathbf{C}(i, j) & =\underset{k}{\oplus} \mathbf{A}(i, k) \otimes \mathbf{B}(k, j)
\end{aligned}
$$

## GRAPHBLAS SEMIRINGS

The $\langle D, \oplus, \otimes, 0\rangle$ algebraic structure is a GraphBLAS semiring if

- $\langle D, \oplus, 0\rangle$ is a commutative monoid over domain $D$ with an addition operator $\oplus$ and identity 0 , where $\forall a, b, c \in D$ :
- Commutative $a \oplus b=b \oplus a$
- Associative $\quad(a \oplus b) \oplus c=a \oplus(b \oplus c)$
- Identity

$$
a \oplus 0=a
$$

- The multiplication operator is a closed binary operator $\otimes: D \times D \rightarrow D$.

This is less strict than the standard mathematical definition which requires that $\otimes$ is a monoid and distributes over $\oplus$.

## COMMON SEMIRINGS

| semiring | domain | $\oplus$ | $\otimes$ | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| integer arithmetic | $a \in \mathbb{N}$ | + | $\cdot$ | 0 |
| real arithmetic | $a \in \mathbb{R}$ | + | $\cdot$ | 0 |
| lor-land | $a \in\{\mathrm{~F}, \mathrm{~T}\}$ | V | $\wedge$ | F |
| Galois field | $a \in\{0,1\}$ | xor | $\wedge$ | 0 |
| power set | $a \subset \mathbb{Z}$ | U | $\cap$ | $\emptyset$ |

Notation: $\mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{B}$ is a matrix multiplication using addition $\oplus$ and multiplication $\otimes$, e.g. A v.^ $\mathbf{B}$. The default is $\mathbf{A}+. \cdot \mathbf{B}$

## MATRIX MULTIPLICATION SEMANTICS

| semiring | domain | $\oplus$ | $\otimes$ | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| integer arithmetic | $a \in \mathbb{N}$ | + | $\cdot$ | 0 |

Semantics: number of paths


$\mathbf{v}$| (1) (2) | 3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |


| 4 |  |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | (5) |




## MATRIX MULTIPLICATION SEMANTICS

| semiring | domain | $\oplus$ | $\otimes$ | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| lor-land | $a \in\{\mathrm{~F}, \mathrm{~T}\}$ | $\vee$ | $\wedge$ | F |

Semantics: reachability

$\mathbf{v} \underset{\text { Identity element: } F}{\text { FIF }}$


## MATRIX MULTIPLICATION SEMANTICS

| semiring | domain | $\oplus$ | $\otimes$ | 0 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| min-plus | $a \in \mathbb{R} \cup\{\infty\}$ | $\min$ | + | $\infty$ |

Semantics: shortest path

$0.5+0.4=0.9$



| $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{A} \\ & \mathbb{( 1 )} \mid \end{aligned}$ | (1) | (2) | 3 | (4) | (5) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| (2) |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |
| (3) |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| 4 | . 2 |  | . 4 |  |  |  |  |
| . 1 (5) |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ |  |  | . 5 |  |  |  |  |
| (7) |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | . 7 |  | . 9 |  |  |  |  |

## Graph algorithms in GraphBLAS

## Single-source shortest path

## SSSP - SINGLE-SOURCE SHORTEST PATHS

- Problem:
- From a given start node $s$, find the shortest paths to every other (reachable) node in the graph
- Bellman-Ford algorithm:
- Relaxes all edges in each step
- Guaranteed to find the shortest paths using at most $n-1$ steps
- Observation:
- The relaxation step can be captured using a VM multiplication


## SSSP - ALGEBRAIC BELLMAN-FORD

We use the min-plus semiring with identity $\infty$.


## SSSP - ALGEBRAIC BELLMAN-FORD



## SSSP - ALGEBRAIC BELLMAN-FORD



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## SSSP - ALGEBRAIC BELLMAN-FORD



## SSSP - ALGEBRAIC BELLMAN-FORD



## SSSP - ALGEBRAIC BELLMAN-FORD ALGO.

Input: adjacency matrix A, source node $s$, \#nodes $n$

$$
\mathbf{A}_{i j}=\left\{\begin{array}{cl}
0 & \text { if } i=j \\
w\left(e_{i j}\right) & \text { if } e_{i j} \in E \\
\infty & \text { if } e_{i j} \notin E
\end{array}\right.
$$

Output: distance vector $\mathbf{d} \in(\mathbb{R} \cup\{\infty\})^{n}$

1. $\mathbf{d}=[\infty \infty \ldots \infty]$
2. $\mathbf{d}(s)=0$
3. for $k=1$ to $n-1 \quad$ *terminate earlier if we reach a fixed point
4. $\mathbf{d}=\mathbf{d}$ min. $+\mathbf{A}$

Optimization: switch between $\mathbf{d} \min .+\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{A}^{\top} \min .+\mathbf{d}$ (push/pull).

## Graph algorithms in GraphBLAS

Node-wise triangle count

## NODE-WISE TRIANGLE COUNT

Triangle - Def 1: a set of three mutually adjacent nodes.


Def 2: a three-length closed path. Usages:

- Global clustering coefficient
- Local clustering coefficient
- Finding communities


GraphChallenge.org: Raising the Bar on Graph Analytic Performance, HPEC 2018

TC: NAÏVE APPROACH
$\mathbf{t r i}=\operatorname{diag}^{-1}(\mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{A})$
$\mathbf{A}$ (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) 77 $\mathbf{A}$ (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)



| 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 12 |
| 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 6 |

## TC: OPTIMIZATION

 Observation: Matrix $\mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{A} \oplus \cdot \otimes \mathbf{A}$ is no longer sparse. Optimization: Use element-wise multiplication $\otimes$ to close wedges into triangles:$$
\mathbf{T R I}=\mathbf{A} \oplus \cdot \otimes \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{A}
$$

Then, perform a row-wise summation to get the number of triangles in each row:

$$
\mathbf{t r i}=\left[\oplus_{j} \mathbf{T R I}(:, j)\right]
$$

## TC: ELEMENT-WISE MULTIPLICATION



## TC: ELEMENT-WISE MULTIPLICATION



Masking limits where the operation is computed. Here, we use A as a mask for $\mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{A}$.

$$
\mathbf{T R I}\langle\mathbf{A}\rangle=\mathbf{A} \oplus \cdot \otimes \mathbf{A}
$$

$$
\operatorname{tri}=\left[\oplus_{j} \mathbf{T R I}(:, j)\right]
$$

tri

| (1) | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (2) | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
| $(3)$ |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
| $(4)$ | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| $(5)$ |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| $(6)$ |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| $(7)$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |


|  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 |  |  | 2 | 1 |  | 2 |
|  |  |  | 2 |  | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 2 |  |  | 1 | 2 |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 |
|  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |  |  |

[^0]TC: ALGORITHM
Input: adjacency matrix A
Output: vector tri
Workspace: matrix TRI

1. $\mathbf{T R I}\langle\mathbf{A}\rangle=\mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{A}$
2. $\boldsymbol{t r i}=\left[\oplus_{j} \mathbf{T R I}(:, j)\right]$
compute the triangle count matrix
compute the triangle count vector

Optimization: use $\mathbf{L}$, the lower triangular part of $\mathbf{A}$ to avoid duplicates. $\mathbf{T R I}\langle\mathbf{A}\rangle=\mathbf{A} \oplus . \otimes \mathbf{L}$

Worst-case optimal joins: There are deep theoretical connections between masked matrix multiplication and relational joins. It has been proven in 2013 that for the triangle query, binary joins always provide suboptimal runtime, which gave rise to new research on the family of worst-case optimal multi-way joins algorithms.

## Graph algorithms in GraphBLAS

## Other algorithms

## GRAPH ALGORITHMS IN GRAPHBLAS

Notation: $n=|V|, m=|E|$. The complexity cells contain asymptotic bounds. Takeaway: The majority of common graph algorithms can be expressed efficiently in LA.

| problem category | algorithm | canonical <br> complexity $\Theta$ | LA-based <br> complexity $\Theta$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| breadth-first search |  | $m$ | $m$ |
| single-source shortest paths | Dijkstra | $m+n \log n$ | $n^{2}$ |
|  | Bellman-Ford | $m n$ | $m n$ |
| all-pairs shortest paths | Floyd-Warshall | $n^{3}$ | $n^{3}$ |
| minimum spanning tree | Prim | $m+n \log n$ | $n^{2}$ |
|  | Borůvka | $m \log n$ | $m \log n$ |
| maximum flow | Edmonds-Karp | $m^{2} n$ | $m^{2} n$ |
| maximal independent set | greedy | $m+n \log n$ | $m n+n^{2}$ |
|  | Luby | $m+n \log n$ | $m \log n$ |

$\square$
$=$ $\bar{\square}$

Based on the table in J. Kepner:
Analytic Theory of Power Law Graphs,
SIAM Workshop for HPC on Large Graphs, 2008


See also L. Dhulipala, G.E. Blelloch, J. Shun: Theoretically Efficient Parallel Graph Algorithms Can Be Fast and Scalable, SPAA 2018

## API and implementations

## GRAPHBLAS C API

- "A crucial piece of the GraphBLAS effort is to translate the mathematical specification to an API that
- is faithful to the mathematics as much as possible, and
- enables efficient implementations on modern hardware."

mxm(Matrix *C, Matrix M, BinaryOp accum, Semiring op, Matrix A, Matrix B, Descriptor desc)
$\square$ A. Buluç et al.: Design of the GraphBLAS C API, GABB@IPDPS 2017


## SUITESPARSE:GRAPHBLAS

- Authored by Prof. Tim Davis at Texas A\&M University, based on his SuiteSparse library (used in MATLAB).
- Additional extension operations for efficiency.
- Sophisticated load balancer for multi-threaded execution.
- CPU-based, single machine implementation.
- Powers the RedisGraph graph database.
$\square$ R. Lipman, T.A. Davis: Graph Algebra - Graph operations in the language of linear algebra, RedisConf 2018
$\square$ R. Lipman: RedisGraph internals, RedisConf 2019
T.A. Davis: Algorithm 1000: SuiteSparse:GraphBLAS: graph algorithms in the language of sparse linear algebra, ACM TOMS, 2019

T.A. Davis: SuiteSparse:GraphBLAS: graph algorithms via sparse matrix operations on semirings, Sparse Days 2017


## PYTHON WRAPPERS

Two libraries, both offer:

- Concise GraphBLAS operations
- Wrapping SuiteSparse:GrB
- Jupyter support

Difference: pygraphblas is more Pythonic, grblas strives to stay close to the C API.

```
def sssp(A, s):
    d = Vector.from_type(A.type, A.nrows)
    d[s] = 0
```

```
with min_plus_int64, Accum(min_int64):
    for _ in range(A.nrows):
        dn = Vector.dup(d)
        d @= A
        if dn == d:
        break
    return dn
```

( michelp/pygraphblas
def tricount(A):
return A.mxm(A, mask=A).reduce_vector()

## Benchmark results

## SUITESPARSE:GRAPHBLAS / LDBC GRAPHALYTICS


graph500-26 33M nodes, 1.1B edges





Ubuntu Server, 512 GB RAM,

- cit • datagen-fb • dota • kgs • wiki

Results from late 2019, new version is even faster

## THE GAP BENCHMARK SUITE

- Part of the Berkeley Graph Algorithm Platform project
- Algorithms:
- BFS, SSSP, PageRank, connected components
- betweenness centrality, triangle count
- Very efficient baseline implementation in C++
- Comparing executions of implementations that were carefully optimized and fine-tuned by research groups
- Ongoing benchmark effort, paper to be submitted in Q2
$\square$

Further reading and summary

## RESOURCES

©
List of GraphBLAS-related books, papers, presentations, posters, and software szarnyasg/graphblas-pointers

- Library of GraphBLAS algorithms

GraphBLAS/LAGraph
Extended version of this talk: 200+ slides

- Theoretical foundations
- BFS variants, PageRank
- clustering coefficient, $k$-truss and triangle count variants
- Community detection using label propagation
- Luby's maximal independent set algorithm
- computing connected components on an overlay graph
- connections to relational algebra


## SUMMARY

- Linear algebra is a powerful abstraction
- Good expressive power
- Concise formulation of most graph algorithms
- Very good performance
- Still lots of ongoing research
- Trade-offs:
- Learning curve (theory and GraphBLAS API)
- Some algorithms are difficult to formulate in linear algebra
- Only a few GraphBLAS implementations (yet)
- Overall: a very promising programming model for graph algorithms suited to the age of heterogeneous hardware


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Tim Davis and Tim Mattson for helpful discussions, members of GraphBLAS mailing list for their detailed feedback.
- The LDBC Graphalytics task force for creating the benchmark and assisting in the measurements.
- Master's students at BME for developing GraphBLAS-based algorithms: Bálint Hegyi, Márton Elekes, Petra Várhegyi, Lehel Boér


[^0]:    $\xrightarrow{\left[\oplus_{j} \cdots\right]}\left[\begin{array}{l}4 \\ 8 \\ \hline 2 \\ \hline \frac{2}{6} \\ \hline\end{array}\right.$

