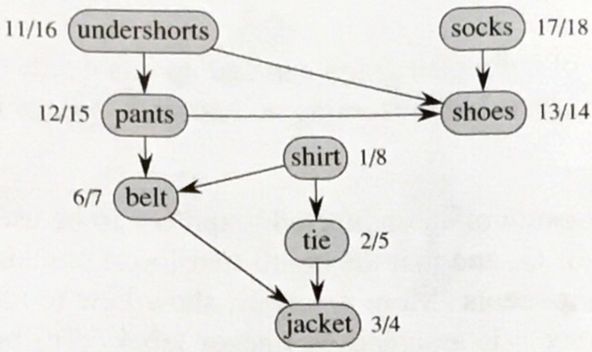
(a)



(b)

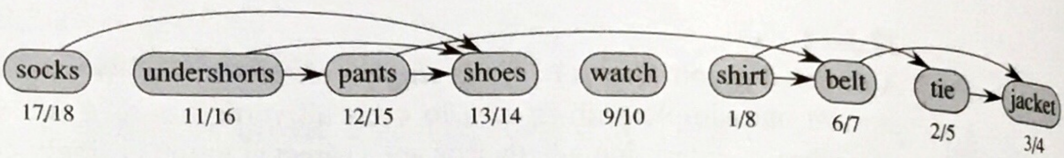


Figure 22.7 **(a)** Professor Bumstead topologically sorts his clothing when getting dressed. Each directed edge (u, v) means that garment u must be put on before garment v. The discovery and finishing times from a depth-first search are shown next to each vertex. **(b)** The same graph shown topologically sorted. Its vertices are arranged from left to right in order of decreasing finishing time. Note that all directed edges go from left to right.

TOPOLOGICAL-SORT(G)
1 call DFS(G) to compute finishing times $f[v]$ for each vertex v
2 as each vertex is finished, insert it onto the front of a linked list
3 **return** the linked list of vertices but still draw the graph, in the order determined by #3

Figure 22.7(b) shows how the topologically sorted vertices appear in reverse order of their finishing times.

We can perform a topological sort in time $\Theta(V + E)$, since depth-first search takes $\Theta(V + E)$ time and it takes $O(1)$ time to insert each of the $|V|$ vertices onto the front of the linked list.

We prove the correctness of this algorithm using the following key lemma characterizing directed acyclic graphs.

Lemma 22.11

A directed graph G is acyclic if and only if a depth-first search of G yields no back edges.

Proof $\Rightarrow$: Suppose that there is a back edge (u, v). Then, vertex v is an ancestor of vertex u in the depth-first forest. There is thus a path from v to u in G, and the back edge (u, v) completes a cycle.

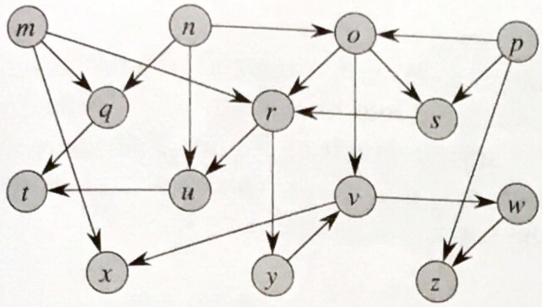


Figure 22.8 A dag for topological sorting.

$\Leftarrow$: Suppose that G contains a cycle c. We show that a depth-first search of G yields a back edge. Let v be the first vertex to be discovered in c, and let (u, v) be the preceding edge in c. At time $d[v]$, the vertices of c form a path of white vertices from v to u. By the white-path theorem, vertex u becomes a descendant of v in the depth-first forest. Therefore, (u, v) is a back edge. ■

Theorem 22.12
TOPOLOGICAL-SORT(G) produces a topological sort of a directed acyclic graph G.

Proof Suppose that DFS is run on a given dag $G = (V, E)$ to determine finishing times for its vertices. It suffices to show that for any pair of distinct vertices $u, v \in V$, if there is an edge in G from u to v, then $f[v] < f[u]$. Consider any edge (u, v) explored by DFS(G). When this edge is explored, v cannot be gray, since then v would be an ancestor of u and (u, v) would be a back edge, contradicting Lemma 22.11. Therefore, v must be either white or black. If v is white, it becomes a descendant of u, and so $f[v] < f[u]$. If v is black, it has already been finished, so that $f[v]$ has already been set. Because we are still exploring from u, we have yet to assign a timestamp to $f[u]$, and so once we do, we will have $f[v] < f[u]$ as well. Thus, for any edge (u, v) in the dag, we have $f[v] < f[u]$, proving the theorem. ■

Exercises

22.4-1
Show the ordering of vertices produced by TOPOLOGICAL-SORT when it is run on the dag of Figure 22.8, under the assumption of Exercise 22.3-2.