7.1 Introduction to graph theory: basic concepts-Reading

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Cornell Notes	**Topic:** 7.1 Introduction to graph theory: basic concepts	Course: BSc Computer Science Class: Discrete Mathematics-Lecture Date: December 11, 2019

Essential Question:

What is a graph and how it is represented with edges, vertices, loops and paths?

Questions/Cues:

- What is a graph?
- What is a simple graph?
- What is a multi-graph?
- What is a loop/pseudo-graph?
- What does it mean when a graph is undirected?
- What is a directed graph?
- What is a simple directed graph?
- What is a mixed graph?
- What is adjacency in an undirected graph?
- What is an neighborhood of a vertex?
- What is the degree of a vertex in an undirected graph?
- What does it mean when it is said that a vertex is isolated or pendant?
- What is the handshaking theorem in terms of an undirected graph?
- What is adjacency in a directed graph?
- What is the in/out-degree of a vertex in a directed graph?
- What are some classes of simple graphs?
- What is a path and/or circuit in a undirected graph?
- What is a walk, closed walk or trail in a undirected graph?
- What is a path in a directed graph?
- What is connectedness in terms of an undirected graph?
- What is a connected component of a graph in terms of an undirected graph?
- What is a Euler path/circuit?
- What are the conditions for Euler circuits and paths?
- What is Hamilton path/circuit?
- What are the conditions for Hamilton circuits and paths?
- What are Dirac's and Ore's theorems in terms of Hamiltonian circuits?

Notes

A *graph* $G = (V, E)$ consists of V, a nonempty set of *vertices* (or *nodes*) and E, a set of *edges*. Each edge has either one or two vertices associated with it, called its *endpoints*. An edge is said to *connect* its endpoints.

A graph in which each edge connects two different vertices and where no two edges connect the same pair of vertices is called a **simple graph**. Note that in a simple graph, each edge is associated to an unordered pair of vertices, and no other edge is associated to this same edge. Consequently, when there is an edge of a simple graph associated to $\{u, v\}$, we can also say, without possible confusion, that $\{u, v\}$ is an edge of the graph.

Graphs that may have **multiple edges** connecting the same vertices are called **multigraphs**.

edges that connect a vertex to itself. Such edges are called **loops**, and sometimes we may even have more than one loop at a vertex. Graphs that may include loops, and possibly multiple edges connecting the same pair of vertices or a vertex to itself, are sometimes called **pseudographs**.

So far the graphs we have introduced are **undirected graphs**. Their edges are also said to be **undirected**.

A *directed graph* (or *digraph*) (V, E) consists of a nonempty set of vertices V and a set of *directed edges* (or *arcs*) E. Each directed edge is associated with an ordered pair of vertices. The directed edge associated with the ordered pair (u, v) is said to *start* at u and *end* at v.

When a directed graph has no loops and has no multiple directed edges, it is called a **simple directed graph**.

A graph with both directed and undirected edges is called a **mixed graph**.

TABLE 1 **Graph Terminology.**

Type	*Edges*	*Multiple Edges Allowed?*	*Loops Allowed?*
Simple graph	Undirected	No	No
Multigraph	Undirected	Yes	No
Pseudograph	Undirected	Yes	Yes
Simple directed graph	Directed	No	No
Directed multigraph	Directed	Yes	Yes
Mixed graph	Directed and undirected	Yes	Yes

Although the terminology used to describe graphs may vary, three key questions can help us understand the structure of a graph:

- Are the edges of the graph undirected or directed (or both)?
- If the graph is undirected, are multiple edges present that connect the same pair of vertices? If the graph is directed, are multiple directed edges present?
- Are loops present?

Two vertices u and v in an undirected graph G are called *adjacent* (or *neighbors*) in G if u and v are endpoints of an edge e of G. Such an edge e is called *incident with* the vertices u and v and e is said to *connect* u and v.

The set of all neighbors of a vertex v of $G = (V, E)$, denoted by $N(v)$, is called the *neighborhood* of v. If A is a subset of V, we denote by $N(A)$ the set of all vertices in G that are adjacent to at least one vertex in A. So, $N(A) = \bigcup_{v \in A} N(v)$.

The *degree of a vertex in an undirected graph* is the number of edges incident with it, except that a loop at a vertex contributes twice to the degree of that vertex. The degree of the vertex v is denoted by $\deg(v)$.

EXAMPLE 1 What are the degrees and what are the neighborhoods of the vertices in the graphs G and H displayed in Figure 1?

Solution: In G, $\deg(a) = 2$, $\deg(b) = \deg(c) = \deg(f) = 4$, $\deg(d) = 1$, $\deg(e) = 3$, and $\deg(g) = 0$. The neighborhoods of these vertices are $N(a) = \{b, f\}$, $N(b) = \{a, c, e, f\}$, $N(c) = \{b, d, e, f\}$, $N(d) = \{c\}$, $N(e) = \{b, c, f\}$, $N(f) = \{a, b, c, e\}$, and $N(g) = \emptyset$. In H, $\deg(a) = 4$, $\deg(b) = \deg(e) = 6$, $\deg(c) = 1$, and $\deg(d) = 5$. The neighborhoods of these vertices are $N(a) = \{b, d, e\}$, $N(b) = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$, $N(c) = \{b\}$, $N(d) = \{a, b, e\}$, and $N(e) = \{a, b, d\}$. ◀

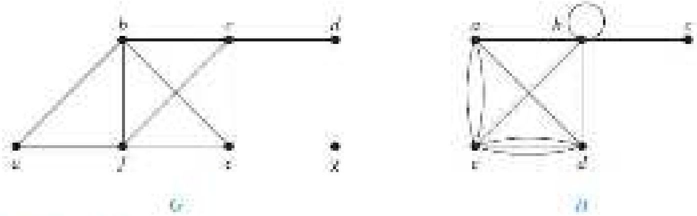

FIGURE 1 **The Undirected Graphs G and H.**

A vertex of degree zero is called **isolated**. It follows that an isolated vertex is not adjacent to any vertex. Vertex g in graph G in Example 1 is isolated. A vertex is **pendant** if and only if it has degree one. Consequently, a pendant vertex is adjacent to exactly one other vertex. Vertex d in graph G in Example 1 is pendant.

THE HANDSHAKING THEOREM Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected graph with m edges. Then

$$2m = \sum_{v \in V} \deg(v).$$

(Note that this applies even if multiple edges and loops are present.)

EXAMPLE 3 How many edges are there in a graph with 10 vertices each of degree six?

Solution: Because the sum of the degrees of the vertices is $6 \cdot 10 = 60$, it follows that $2m = 60$ where m is the number of edges. Therefore, $m = 30$. ◀

Theorem 1 shows that the sum of the degrees of the vertices of an undirected graph is even. This simple fact has many consequences, one of which is given as Theorem 2.

An undirected graph has an even number of vertices of odd degree.

When (u, v) is an edge of the graph G with directed edges, u is said to be *adjacent to* v and v is said to be *adjacent from* u. The vertex u is called the *initial vertex* of (u, v), and v is called the *terminal* or *end vertex* of (u, v). The initial vertex and terminal vertex of a loop are the same.

In a graph with directed edges the *in-degree of a vertex* v, denoted by $\deg^-(v)$, is the number of edges with v as their terminal vertex. The *out-degree of* v, denoted by $\deg^+(v)$, is the number of edges with v as their initial vertex. (Note that a loop at a vertex contributes 1 to both the in-degree and the out-degree of this vertex.)

EXAMPLE 4 Find the in-degree and out-degree of each vertex in the graph G with directed edges shown in Figure 2.

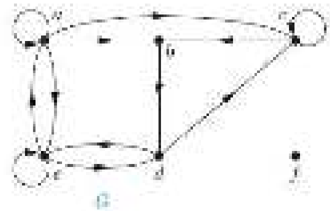

FIGURE 2 **The Directed Graph G.**

Solution: The in-degrees in G are $\deg^-(a) = 2$, $\deg^-(b) = 2$, $\deg^-(c) = 3$, $\deg^-(d) = 2$, $\deg^-(e) = 3$, and $\deg^-(f) = 0$. The out-degrees are $\deg^+(a) = 4$, $\deg^+(b) = 1$, $\deg^+(c) = 2$, $\deg^+(d) = 2$, $\deg^+(e) = 3$, and $\deg^+(f) = 0$. ◀

Because each edge has an initial vertex and a terminal vertex, the sum of the in-degrees and the sum of the out-degrees of all vertices in a graph with directed edges are the same. Both of these sums are the number of edges in the graph. This result is stated as Theorem 3.

THEOREM 3 Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph with directed edges. Then

$$\sum_{v \in V} \deg^-(v) = \sum_{v \in V} \deg^+(v) = |E|.$$

EXAMPLE 5 **Complete Graphs** A **complete graph on n vertices**, denoted by K_n, is a simple graph that contains exactly one edge between each pair of distinct vertices. The graphs K_n, for $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$, are displayed in Figure 3. A simple graph for which there is at least one pair of distinct vertex not connected by an edge is called **noncomplete**. ◀

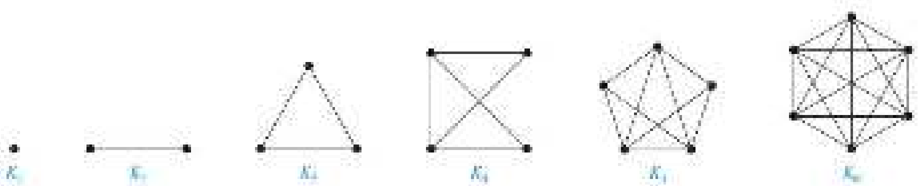

FIGURE 3 **The Graphs K_n for $1 \le n \le 6$.**

EXAMPLE 6 **Cycles** A **cycle** C_n, $n \ge 3$, consists of n vertices $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n$ and edges $\{v_1, v_2\}$, $\{v_2, v_3\}, \ldots, \{v_{n-1}, v_n\}$, and $\{v_n, v_1\}$. The cycles C_3, C_4, C_5, and C_6 are displayed in Figure 4. ◀

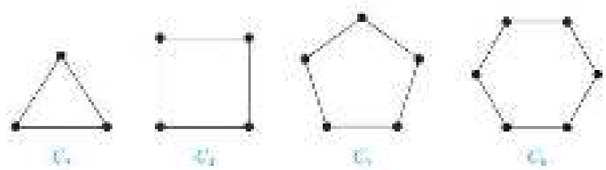

FIGURE 4 **The Cycles C_3, C_4, C_5, and C_6.**

EXAMPLE 7 **Wheels** We obtain a **wheel** W_n when we add an additional vertex to a cycle C_n, for $n \ge 3$, and connect this new vertex to each of the n vertices in C_n, by new edges. The wheels W_3, W_4, W_5, and W_6 are displayed in Figure 5. ◀

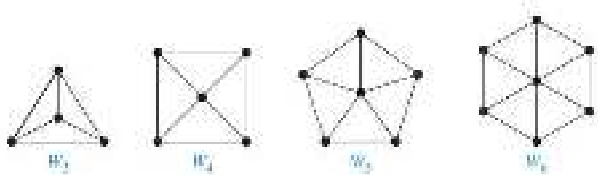

FIGURE 5 **The Wheels W_3, W_4, W_5, and W_6.**

Paths

Informally, a **path** is a sequence of edges that begins at a vertex of a graph and travels from vertex to vertex along edges of the graph. As the path travels along its edges, it visits the vertices along this path, that is, the endpoints of these edges.

Let n be a nonnegative integer and G an undirected graph. A *path* of *length* n from u to v in G is a sequence of n edges $e_1, \ldots, e_n$ of G for which there exists a sequence $x_0 = u, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, x_n = v$ of vertices such that e_i has, for $i = 1, \ldots, n$, the endpoints x_{i-1} and x_i. When the graph is simple, we denote this path by its vertex sequence $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$ (because listing these vertices uniquely determines the path). The path is a *circuit* if it begins and ends at the same vertex, that is, if $u = v$, and has length greater than zero. The path or circuit is said to *pass through* the vertices $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n-1}$ or *traverse* the edges $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$. A path or circuit is *simple* if it does not contain the same edge more than once.

Remark: There is considerable variation of terminology concerning the concepts defined in Definition 1. For instance, in some books, the term **walk** is used instead of *path*, where a walk is defined to be an alternating sequence of vertices and edges of a graph, $v_0, e_1, v_1, e_2, \ldots, v_{n-1}, e_n, v_n$, where v_{i-1} and v_i are the endpoints of e_i for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. When this terminology is used, **closed walk** is used instead of *circuit* to indicate a walk that begins and ends at the same vertex, and **trail** is used to denote a walk that has no repeated edge (replacing the term *simple path*). When this terminology is used, the terminology **path** is often used for a trail with no repeated vertices, conflicting with the terminology in Definition 1.

Let n be a nonnegative integer and G a directed graph. A *path* of length n from u to v in G is a sequence of edges $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ of G such that e_1 is associated with (x_0, x_1), e_2 is associated with (x_1, x_2), and so on, with e_n associated with (x_{n-1}, x_n), where $x_0 = u$ and $x_n = v$. When there are no multiple edges in the directed graph, this path is denoted by its vertex sequence $x_0, x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$. A path of length greater than zero that begins and ends at the same vertex is called a *circuit* or *cycle*. A path or circuit is called *simple* if it does not contain the same edge more than once.

Remark: Terminology other than that given in Definition 2 is often used for the concepts defined there. In particular, the alternative terminology that uses *walk*, *closed walk*, *trail*, and *path* (described in the remarks following Definition 1) may be used for directed graphs.

An undirected graph is called *connected* if there is a path between every pair of distinct vertices of the graph. An undirected graph that is not *connected* is called *disconnected*. We say that we *disconnect* a graph when we remove vertices or edges, or both, to produce a disconnected subgraph.

There is a simple path between every pair of distinct vertices of a connected undirected graph.

CONNECTED COMPONENTS A **connected component** of a graph G is a connected subgraph of G that is not a proper subgraph of another connected subgraph of G. That is, a connected component of a graph G is a maximal connected subgraph of G. A graph G that is not connected has two or more connected components that are disjoint and have G as their union.

An *Euler circuit* in a graph G is a simple circuit containing every edge of G. An *Euler path* in G is a simple path containing every edge of G.

NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT CONDITIONS FOR EULER CIRCUITS AND PATHS

There are simple criteria for determining whether a multigraph has an Euler circuit or an Euler path. Euler discovered them when he solved the famous Königsberg bridge problem. We will assume that all graphs discussed in this section have a finite number of vertices and edges.

What can we say if a connected multigraph has an Euler circuit? What we can show is that every vertex must have even degree. To do this, first note that an Euler circuit begins with a vertex a and continues with an edge incident with a, say $\{a, b\}$. The edge $\{a, b\}$ contributes one to $\deg(a)$. Each time the circuit passes through a vertex it contributes two to the vertex's degree, because the circuit enters via an edge incident with this vertex and leaves via another such edge. Finally, the circuit terminates where it started, contributing one to $\deg(a)$. Therefore, $\deg(a)$ must be even, because the circuit contributes one when it begins, one when it ends, and two every time it passes through a (if it ever does). A vertex other than a has even degree because the circuit contributes two to its degree each time it passes through the vertex. We conclude that if a connected graph has an Euler circuit, then every vertex must have even degree.

Is this necessary condition for the existence of an Euler circuit also sufficient? That is, must an Euler circuit exist in a connected multigraph if all vertices have even degree? This question can be settled affirmatively with a construction.

A connected multigraph with at least two vertices has an Euler circuit if and only if each of its vertices has even degree.

A connected multigraph has an Euler path but not an Euler circuit if and only if it has exactly two vertices of odd degree.

EXAMPLE 4 Which graphs shown in Figure 7 have an Euler path?

Solution: G_1 contains exactly two vertices of odd degree, namely, b and d. Hence, it has an Euler path that must have b and d as its endpoints. One such Euler path is d, a, b, c, d, b. Similarly, G_2 has exactly two vertices of odd degree, namely, b and d. So it has an Euler path that must have b and d as endpoints. One such Euler path is $b, a, g, f, e, d, c, g, b, c, f, d$. G_3 has no Euler path because it has six vertices of odd degree. ◀

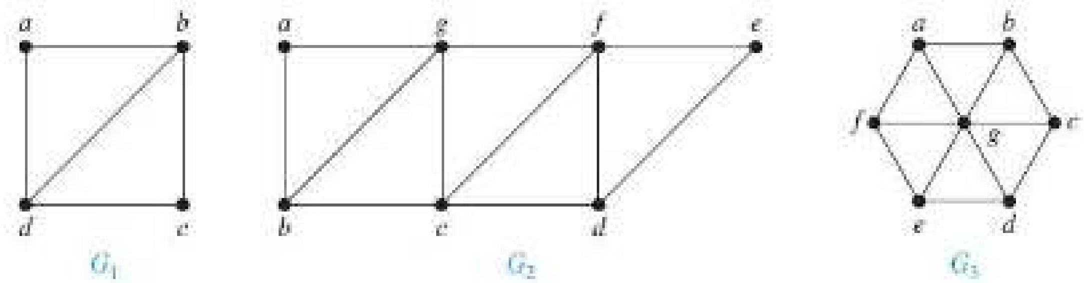

FIGURE 7 Three Undirected Graphs.

A simple path in a graph G that passes through every vertex exactly once is called a *Hamilton path*, and a simple circuit in a graph G that passes through every vertex exactly once is called a *Hamilton circuit*. That is, the simple path $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, x_n$ in the graph $G = (V, E)$ is a Hamilton path if $V = \{x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, x_n\}$ and $x_i \neq x_j$ for $0 \leq i < j \leq n$, and the simple circuit $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, x_n, x_0$ (with $n > 0$) is a Hamilton circuit if $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, x_n$ is a Hamilton path.

EXAMPLE 5 Which of the simple graphs in Figure 10 have a Hamilton circuit or, if not, a Hamilton path?

Extra Examples

Solution: G_1 has a Hamilton circuit: a, b, c, d, e, a. There is no Hamilton circuit in G_2 (this can be seen by noting that any circuit containing every vertex must contain the edge $\{a, b\}$ twice), but G_2 does have a Hamilton path, namely, a, b, c, d. G_3 has neither a Hamilton circuit nor a Hamilton path, because any path containing all vertices must contain one of the edges $\{a, b\}$, $\{e, f\}$, and $\{c, d\}$ more than once. ◀

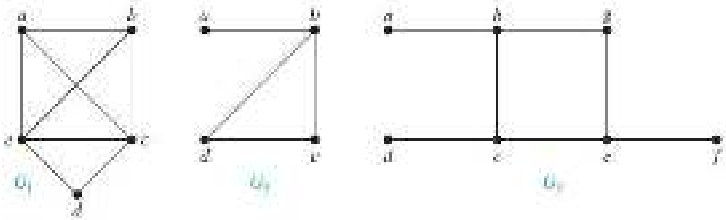

FIGURE 10 Three Simple Graphs.

CONDITIONS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF HAMILTON CIRCUITS Is there a simple way to determine whether a graph has a Hamilton circuit or path? At first, it might seem that there should be an easy way to determine this, because there is a simple way to answer the similar question of whether a graph has an Euler circuit. Surprisingly, there are no known simple necessary and sufficient criteria for the existence of Hamilton circuits. However, many theorems are known that give sufficient conditions for the existence of Hamilton circuits. Also, certain properties can be used to show that a graph has no Hamilton circuit. For instance, a graph with a vertex of degree one cannot have a Hamilton circuit, because in a Hamilton circuit, each vertex is incident with two edges in the circuit. Moreover, if a vertex in the graph has degree two, then both edges that are incident with this vertex must be part of any Hamilton circuit. Also, note that when a Hamilton circuit is being constructed and this circuit has passed through a vertex, then all remaining edges incident with this vertex, other than the two used in the circuit, can be removed from consideration. Furthermore, a Hamilton circuit cannot contain a smaller circuit within it.

EXAMPLE 6 Show that neither graph displayed in Figure 11 has a Hamilton circuit.

Solution: There is no Hamilton circuit in G because G has a vertex of degree one, namely, e. Now consider H. Because the degrees of the vertices a, b, d, and e are all two, every edge incident with these vertices must be part of any Hamilton circuit. It is now easy to see that no Hamilton circuit can exist in H, for any Hamilton circuit would have to contain four edges incident with c, which is impossible. ◀

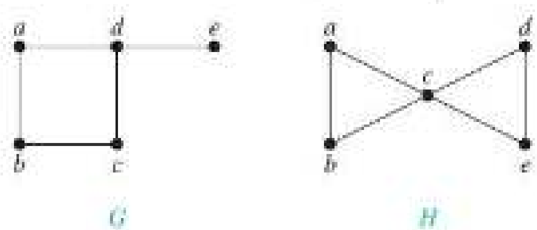

FIGURE 11 Two Graphs That Do Not Have a Hamilton Circuit.

DIRAC'S THEOREM If G is a simple graph with n vertices with $n \geq 3$ such that the degree of every vertex in G is at least $n/2$, then G has a Hamilton circuit.

ORE'S THEOREM If G is a simple graph with n vertices with $n \geq 3$ such that $\deg(u) + \deg(v) \geq n$ for every pair of nonadjacent vertices u and v in G, then G has a Hamilton circuit.

Summary

In this week, we learned what graph is, how it is defined by its edges, vertices & direction. Alongside this, we explored the different configuration of vertices & edges that result in a path, circuit, cycle and etc. Also we looked at the meaning of a degree sequences and how to count the degree of each vertex with in/out degree for vertices. Finally, we examined special graphs like simple and complete graphs.