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- ▶ The distance between sets  $U$  and  $W$  of vertices of  $G$ , written  $d(U, W)$ , is the length of a shortest  $uw$ -path where  $u \in U$  and  $w \in W$ , or infinity if no such path exists.

# Induction for Trees

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In an acyclic graph, the ends of a maximal non-trivial path have degree one. Let  $v$  be a leaf of a tree  $T$  and let  $T' = T - v$ . Then  $T'$  is acyclic.



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But  $P$  cannot contain  $v$  as  $d_T(v) = 1$ , and so it also lies in  $T'$ . □

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- (C)  $G$  is acyclic and has size  $n - 1$ ; and*
- (D) For every two vertices  $u$  and  $v$ , the graph  $G$  contains exactly one  $uv$ -path.*

### Theorem 2.4

*If  $T$  and  $T'$  are two spanning trees of a connected graph  $G$  and  $e \in E(T) \setminus E(T')$ , then there is an edge  $e' \in E(T') \setminus E(T)$  such that  $T \setminus e \cup e'$  is a spanning tree of  $G$ .*

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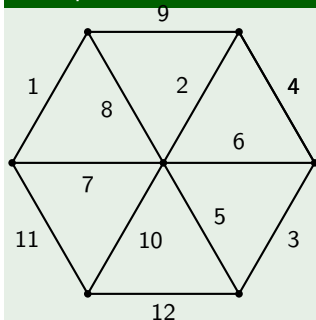
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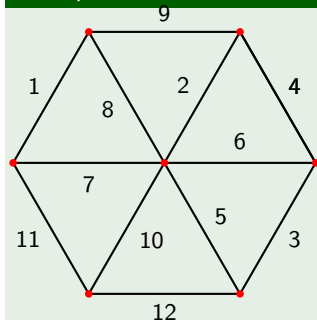
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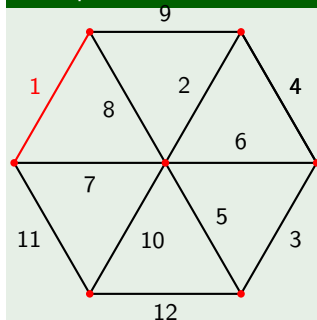
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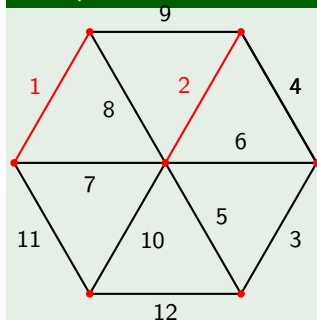
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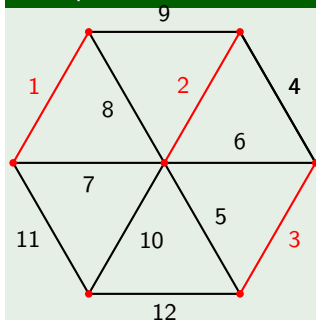
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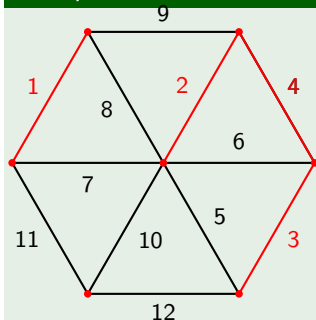
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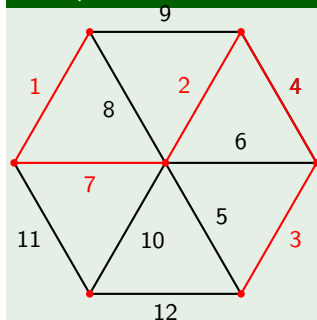
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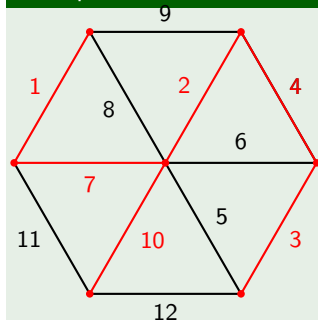
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## Theorem 2.8 (Cayley's Formula)

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There are  $n^{n-2}$  sequences of length  $n - 2$  with entries from  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . We will establish a bijection between such sequences and trees on the vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . □

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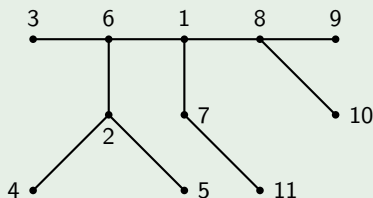
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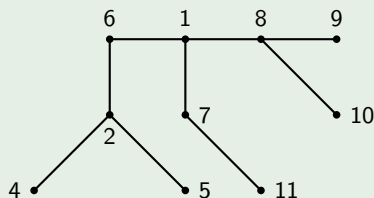


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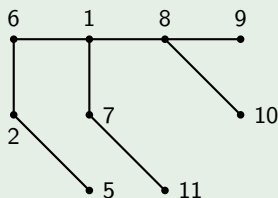
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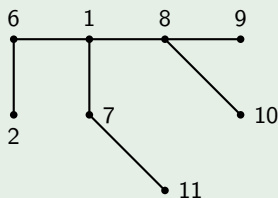
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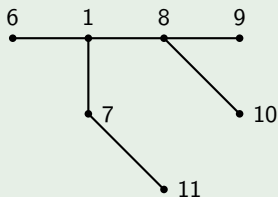
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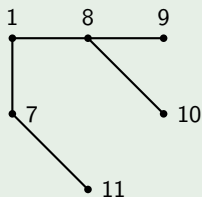
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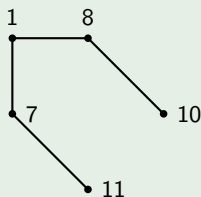
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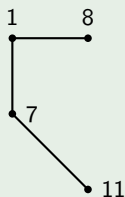
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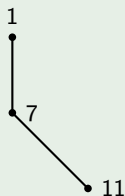
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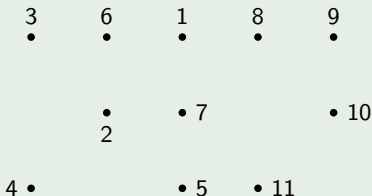
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### Example 2.10

Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished:



## Trees from Sequences

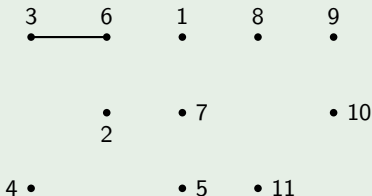
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### Example 2.10

Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished: 3



## Trees from Sequences

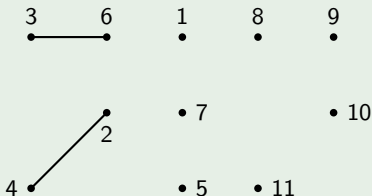
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### Example 2.10

Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished: 3, 4



## Trees from Sequences

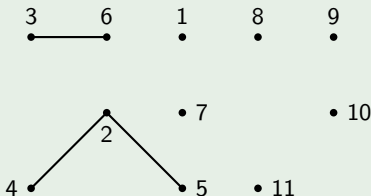
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### Example 2.10

Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished: 3, 4, 5



## Trees from Sequences

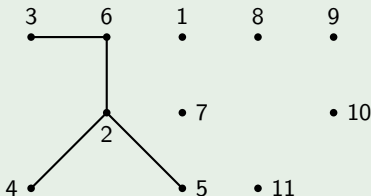
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### Example 2.10

Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished: 3, 4, 5, 2



# Trees from Sequences

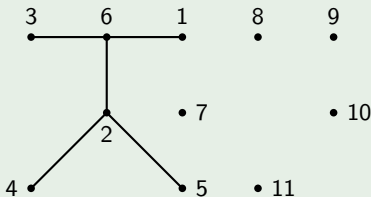
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Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished: 3, 4, 5, 2, 6



## Trees from Sequences

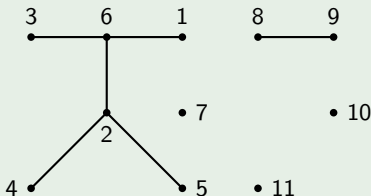
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Sequence: 6, 2, 2, 6, 1, 8, 8, 1, 7

Finished: 3, 4, 5, 2, 6, 9





## Trees from Sequences

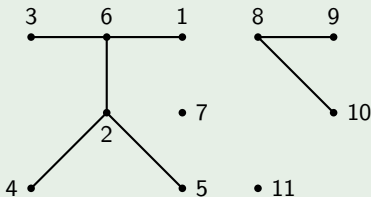
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Finished: 3, 4, 5, 2, 6, 9, 10



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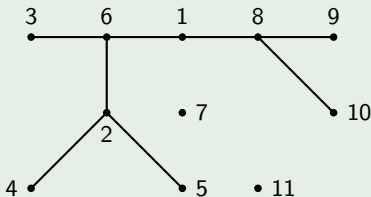
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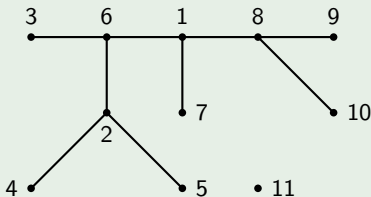
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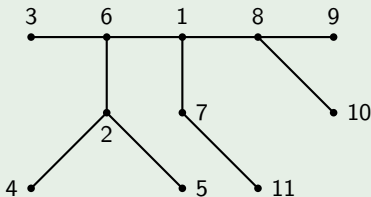
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# Counting Trees with Prescribed Degrees

## Corollary 2.11

*The number of trees with vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  in which vertices  $1, 2, \dots, n$  have respective degrees  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$  is*

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## Proof.

When we delete vertex  $x$  from  $T$  when constructing the Prüfer sequence, all neighbors of  $x$  except for one have already been deleted. We record  $x$  in the sequence once for each deleted neighbor and  $x$  does not appear in the sequence again. Hence  $x$  appears in the sequence  $d(x) - 1$  times.

Therefore we count the trees by counting sequences of length  $n - 2$  having  $d_i - 1$  copies of  $i$ , for each  $i$ . If we distinguish between various copies of  $i$ , then there are  $(n - 2)!$  such sequences. Since we really cannot distinguish between the copies, we have over-counted by a factor of  $(d_i - 1)!$  for each  $i$ .  $\square$

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## Note 2.13

*The order of operations of deleting and contracting to get a minor of a graph is irrelevant.*

# Counting Spanning Trees

## Theorem 2.14

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# Counting Spanning Trees

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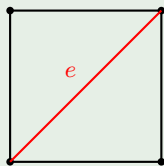
*Let  $\tau(G)$  denote the number of distinct spanning trees of a (labeled) graph  $G$ . If  $e$  is a non-loop edge of  $G$ , then  $\tau(G) = \tau(G \setminus e) + \tau(G/e)$ .*

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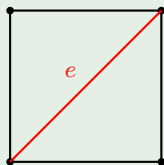
$G$

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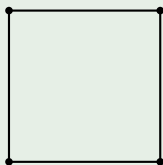
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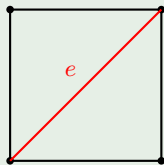
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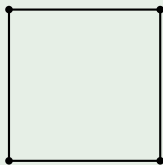
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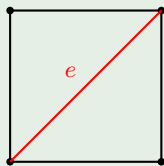


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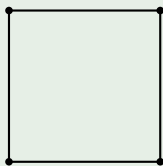
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$G/e$

$$\tau(G) = \tau(G \setminus e) + \tau(G/e) = 4 + 4 = 8$$

## Proof of Spanning Tree Formula

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Using the deletion-contraction formula for calculating the number of spanning trees is inefficient. A much more efficient method is to construct a special matrix, called the **Laplacian** of the graph, and to compute its determinant.