Part II - Graph Theory

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0 Introduction

07 Oct 2022, Lecture 1

Notation. We write $[n]$ for $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$. For a set X and $k \in \mathbb{N}$, define $X^{(k)} = \{S \subset X \mid |S| = k\}$, i.e. the set of all subsets of size k.

1 Fundamentals

Definition 1.1. A **graph** is an object $G = (V, E)$ where V is a set and $E \subseteq V^{(2)}$.

V is the set of vertices, and E is the set of edges.

$V(G)$ will denote V, $E(G)$ will denote E, and we define $|G| = |V(G)|$ (sometimes called the order) and $e(G) = |E(G)|$ (sometimes called the size).

Example 1.1. The **complete graph** on n vertices is denoted K_n. This is the graph where $V(K_n) = [n]$ and $E(K_n) = [n]^{(2)}$.

Remark. We assume the following:

- We don't order edges;
- We don't allow loops (an edge joining a vertex to itself);
- We don't allow multiple edges;
- Most of the time, $V(G)$ will be finite (we will explicitly say when it's not).

Example 1.2. The **empty graph** on n vertices, denoted $\overline{K_n}$, has $V(\overline{K_n}) = [n]$ and $E(\overline{K_n}) = \emptyset$.

Example 1.3. The path of length n, denoted P_n, is a path: it has $V(P_n) = [n+1]$ and $E(P_n) = \{\{i, i+1\} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

Example 1.4. The cycle of length n, denoted C_n, has $V(C_n) = [n]$ and $E(C_n) = \{\{i, i+1\} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-1\} \cup \{\{1, n\}\}$.

Let G be a graph and $x \in V(G)$. The **neighborhood** of x is $N(x) = \{y \mid xy \in E(G)\}$, i.e. all the vertices connected to x. If $y \in N(x)$, we write $x \sim y$ and say y is a **neighbor** of x or that y is **adjacent** to x.

The **degree** of x is $\deg(x) = |N(x)|$.

Just as a formality, we define graph isomorphism: let G, H be graphs. A graph isomorphism is a bijection $\phi : V(G) \to V(H)$ such that it maps edges to edges, i.e. $uv \in E(G) \iff \phi(u)\phi(v) \in E(H)$.

Definition 1.2 (Subgraph)**.** We say H is a **subgraph** of G if $V(H) \subseteq V(G)$ and $E(H) \subseteq E(G)$.

Two subgraph types that are important enough to have their own notation:

- If G is a graph, and $xy \in E(G)$, define $G - xy$ to be the graph $(V(G), E(G) \setminus \{xy\})$.
- For $x, y \in V(G)$, define $G + xy$ to be the graph $(V(G), E(G) \cup \{xy\})$.

Definition 1.3 (Path)**.** Let G be a graph, $x, y \in V(G)$. A $x - y$ **path in** G is a sequence $x_1, \ldots, x_k$ where $x_1 = x,\ x_k = y$ and $x_i x_{i+1} \in E(G)\ \forall 1 \le i \le k-1$ and all the x_i are distinct.

Definition 1.4. A graph is **connected** if $\forall x \neq y \in V(G)$, there exists an $x - y$ path in G.

Remark. A little annoyingly, if P is a $x - y$ path and P' is a $y - z$ path, then the concatenation PP' may not be a path (since the vertices of the new path might not be unique).

So let an $x - y$ **walk** in a graph G be a sequence $x_1, \ldots, x_k$ where $x_1 = x$, $x_k = y$ and $x_i x_{i+1} \in E(G)\ \forall 1 \le i \le k-1$. Then a concatenation of walks is again a walk.

Proposition 1.1. If W is an xy walk, then W contains a xy path.

Proof. Let $W' \subseteq W$ be a minimal xy walk. We claim this is a path. If not, then some vertex x_i must be visited at least twice, say $W' = x_1 x_2 \ldots x_i \ldots x_i x_l \ldots x_k$. Then take $W'' = x_1 x_2 \ldots x_i x_l \ldots x_k$. This contradicts the minimality of W', so we're done. □

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Remark. We may define a **distance** on $V(G)$: for $x, y \in V(G)$, let $d(x, y)$ be the length of the shortest xy path. If G is connected, then this distance defines a metric on $V(G)$.

1.1 Trees

Definition 1.5. A graph G is **acyclic** if it does not contain a cycle as a subgraph.

Definition 1.6. A graph G is a **tree** if it is acyclic and connected.

Proposition 1.2. The following are equivalent:

1. G is a tree;
2. G is minimally connected ($\forall xy \in E(G)$, $G - xy$ is not connected);
3. G is maximally acyclic ($\forall xy \notin E(G)$, $G + xy$ contains a cycle).

Proof. (a) $\implies$ (b): A tree is connected. Assume for contradiction that $\exists xy \in E(G)$ such that $G - xy$ is connected. Let P be a xy path in $G - xy$. But then P defines a cycle in G, contradiction.

(b) $\implies$ (a): Minimally connected implies connected. For acyclicness, assume for contradiction that G contains a cycle C. Let $xy \in E(C)$. We claim that $G - xy$ is connected. Choose $u \neq v \in V(G - xy)$. Let P be a uv path in G. If P does not contain xy, we're done. If P does contain xy, then take paths $u \to x$; $x \to y$ along our cycle without using xy; $y \to v$. The concatenation of these gives a uv walk, which contains a uv path. Hence $G - xy$ is connected, contradiction.

(a) $\implies$ (c): A tree is acyclic. Let $xy \notin E(G), x \neq y$. Let P be a xy path. Then P defines a cycle in $G + xy$.

(c) $\implies$ (a): We have acyclicity. If G is not connected, $\exists x \neq y \in V(G)$ with no xy path. Then $G + xy$ is acyclic. $\square$

Definition 1.7. If T is a tree and $v \in V(T)$ with $\deg(v) = 1$, we call v a **leaf**.

Definition 1.8. Let G be a graph and $X \subseteq V(G)$. Then

$$G[X] = (X, E(G) \cap \{(u, v) \mid u, v \in X\}).$$

We call this **the graph induced on** X.

Definition 1.9. If $x \in V(G)$, define $G - x = G[V(G) \setminus \{x\}]$.

Proposition 1.3. Let T be a tree, $|T| \geq 2$. Then T has a leaf.

Proof. Let $P = x_1 \dots x_k$ be the a longest possible path in T. Note $N(x_k) \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}\}$. If $x_i \sim x_k$ for some $1 \leq i \leq k - 2$, there is a cycle in T, contradiction. Thus $N(x_k) = \{x_{k-1}\} \implies X_k$ is a leaf. $\square$

Remark. We can show that any T has two leaves, but we can't do any better (consider a path).

Remark. We could have also proved this by taking a non-backtracking walk in G (i.e. go out of a different edge then you came in on). Either we return (hence have a cycle) or get stuck (hence have a leaf).

Proposition 1.4. Let T be a tree on $n \geq 1$ vertices. Then $e(G) = n - 1$.

Proof. By induction. $n = 1$ is trivial. Assume the claim holds for n. Take a tree T with $n + 1$ vertices. Let $x \in V(T)$ be a leaf. Then $T - x$ is connected and acyclic, therefore a tree, thus $e(T - x) = n - 1$. But $e(G) = e(G - x) + 1$ and $|V(G)| = |V(G - x)| + 1$, hence we're done. $\square$

Definition 1.10. Let G be a connected graph. Then a subgraph T of G is a **spanning tree** if T is a tree on $V(G)$.

Proposition 1.5. Every connected graph contains a spanning tree.

Proof. Start with the graph G, then throw away edges of $E(G)$ one by one subject to keeping the graph connected. At some point, the removal of any further edge will disconnect the graph, at which point we have a minimal connected subgraph of G, which by Prop. 1.2 is a tree. $\square$

1.2 Bipartite graphs

Definition 1.11. Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph. G is **bipartite** if there exists a partition $V = A \cup B$ such that $E(G) \subseteq \{uv \mid u \in A, v \in B\}$.

Definition 1.12. The **complete bipartite graph** $K_{n,m}$ is the graph with vertex set $A \cup B$, $A = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}, B = \{y_1, \ldots, y_m\}$ and edge set $E(K_{n,m}) = \{x_i y_j \mid x_i \in A, y_j \in B\}$.

Remark. There obviously exist non-bipartite graphs: odd cycles are not bipartite.

Definition 1.13. A **circuit** is a sequence $x_1, x_2, \ldots x_l x_{l+1}$, where $x_i x_{i+1} \in E(G)$ and $x_{l+1} = x_1$. The length of this circuit is l. We say a circuit is **odd** if its length is odd.

Proposition 1.6. Let C be an odd circuit in a graph G. Then C contains an odd cycle.

Proof. Let $x_1 x_2 \ldots x_i x_{i+1} \ldots x_i x_k \ldots x_l x_1$ be an odd circuit. Consider the circuits $C_1 = x_1 \ldots x_i x_k \ldots x_l x_1$ and $C_2 = x_i x_{i+1} \ldots x_{k-2} x_i$. Then one of C_1, C_2 has odd length and is strictly shorter, so we're done by induction. $\square$

Theorem 1.7. Let G be a graph. Then

$$G \text{ is bipartite} \iff G \text{ does not contain an odd cycle.}$$

Proof. ($\implies$): If G contains an odd cycle, then as odd cycles are not bipartite, G cannot be bipartite.

($\impliedby$): We may assume that G is connected. Let us fix $x_0 \in V(G)$. Let

$$V_0 = \{x \in V(G) \mid d(x, x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod 2\}$$
$$V_1 = \{x \in V(G) \mid d(x, x_0) \equiv 1 \pmod 2\}.$$

We claim this is a bipartition of G. Assume for contradiction that $\exists u, v \in V_0$ s.t. $uv \in E(G)$. But there is an even ux_0 path and and an even vx_0 path, thus putting these three paths together gives an odd circuit in G. By Prop 1.6, G contains an odd cycle, contradiction. (Analogous proof for V_1). $\square$

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1.3 Planar graphs

Definition 1.14. A **planar graph** is a graph that can be drawn in the plane with no edge crossings.

Example 1.5. K_4 is planar. A path P_n is planar.

Definition 1.15. A **plane graph** is one such drawing of a graph in the plane without edge crossings.

Note that this is important, since we can draw K_4 in a way that it does have edges crossing.

Example 1.6. $K_{2,3}$ is planar. $K_{3,3}$ is not planar. K_5 is not planar (we don't prove this right now).

Question. What graphs are planar? Is there a (simple) method to decide if a graph is planar?

Definition 1.16. Let G be a plane graph. Consider $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus G$. This is broken into finitely many regions. These are called the **faces** of the plane graph.

Definition 1.17. The **boundary** of a face F is the collection of vertices and edges on the topological boundary.

Remark. The boundary of a face need not be a cycle. It need also not be connected. In fact, the boundary need not contain a cycle at all (consider a tree).

Remark. We also note that two different drawings of a graph in the plane can be fundamentally different.

Theorem 1.8 (Euler)**.** Let G be a connected plane graph with n vertices, m edges and f faces. Then $n - m + f = 2$.

Proof. We induct on m. $m = 1$ is clear. If G is acyclic, then G is a tree, so $m = n - 1$, $f = 1$ and we're done.

So assume G contains a cycle and let e be an edge on this cycle. Delete e. Then n stays fixed, m decreases by 1, and f decreases by 1, so by induction, $n - (m - 1) + (f - 1) = 2$ and we're done. □

Remark. We really do need the graph to be connected, consider t triangles in the plane as a counterexample.

Corollary 1.9. Let G be a planar graph, $|G| \geq 3$. Then $e(G) \leq 3|G| - 6$.

Proof. Draw G in the plane. We may assume that G is connected. Let F be a face, let $\deg(F)$ = the number of edges in G that touch F. Note $\deg(F) \geq 3$. Now note that since every edge touches at most two faces, we get

$$3f \leq \sum_{F \text{ a face}} \deg(F) \leq 2e(G) \implies f \leq \frac{2}{3}e(G).$$

Put this into Euler's formula to get

$$n - \frac{1}{3}e(G) \geq n - e(G) + f = 2 \implies 3(n-2) \geq e(G).$$

□

Remarks. (i): This is a statement about planar graphs only.

(ii): This is quite restrictive. K_n has $\binom{n}{2} \approx n^2/2$ edges, while our above corollary says the number of edges of a planar graph is linear in n.

Corollary 1.10. K_5 is not planar.

Proof. We have $e(K_5) = 10, n = 5$, so $10e(G) \not\leq 3|G| - 6 = 9$, so we're done by the above corollary. □

But $K_{3,3}$ does not fail this test. So we need to improve our argument:

Corollary 1.11. Let G be a planar graph, $|G| \geq 4$ and G has no cycles of length 3. Then $e(G) \leq 2|G| - 4$.

Proof. Repeat the proof of Corollary 1.9, but use $\deg(F) \geq 4$ for every face. □

Now we can see that $K_{3,3}$ is not planar. $K_{3,3}$ has no cycle of length 3 by definition, $n = 6$, $e(G) = 9$, so $9 = e(G) \not\leq 2 \cdot (6-2) = 8$. 14 Oct 2022, Lecture 4

Definition 1.18. A **subdivision** of a graph G is a subgraph where we replace some of the edges of G with disjoint paths.

Observation. A subdivision of a **non-planar** graph is non-planar.

Observation. If G contains a $K_{3,3}$ or K_5 subdivision as a subgraph, then G is non-planar.

Theorem 1.12 (Kuratowski's theorem)**.** G is planar $\iff$ G does not contain a subdivided $K_{3,3}$ or K_5.

We do not prove this, but the proof is actually not too hard.

2 Connectivity & matching

2.1 Matching in bipartite graphs

Let $G = (X \sqcup Y, E)$ be bipartite with bipartition X, Y.

Definition 2.1. A **matching from** X **to** Y is a set of edges $\{xy_x \mid x \in X, y_x \in Y\}$ and $x \to y_x$ is an injection.

Question. When does a bipartite graph have a X to Y matching?

We can first think about examples where we do not have a matching. For example, we clearly have no matching if $|X| > |Y|$.

Definition 2.2. Let G be a graph, $A \subseteq V(G)$. Define $N_G(A) = \bigcup_{x \in A} N(x)$.

Then we clearly also don't have a matching if we have $A \subset X$ such that $|N(A)| < |A|$. But this is actually the only obstruction:

Theorem 2.1 (Hall's Marriage Theorem)**.** Let G be a bipartite graph $G = (X \sqcup Y, E)$. Then

$$G \text{ has a matching from } X \text{ to } Y \iff \forall A \subseteq X,\ |N(A)| \geq A.$$

The right-hand side is called Hall's criterion.

Proof. ($\Longrightarrow$) is the easy direction.

Now let M be a matching and let $A \subseteq X$. Then if $\{y_1, \ldots, y_{|A|}\}$ are matched to A, we show $|N(A)| \geq |\{y_1, \ldots, y_{|A|}\}| \geq |A|$.

($\Longleftarrow$): Apply induction on $|X|$. If $|X| = 1$, we're done. For the induction step, consider the following question: is there $\emptyset \neq A \subsetneq X$ such that $|N(A)| = |A|$?

If the answer is no, then $\forall A \subsetneq X$ we have $|N(A)| \geq |A| + 1$. Let $xy \in E(G)$ and let $G' = G[X \setminus \{x\} \cup Y \setminus \{y\}]$. We now check Hall's criterion for G'. If $B \subseteq X \setminus \{x\}$, then $|N_{G'}(B)| \geq |N_G(B)| - 1 \geq |B|$, so done by induction.

If the answer is yes, then let $G_1 = G[A \cup N(A)]$ and $G_2 = G[X \setminus A \cup Y \setminus N(A)]$.

Claim 1: G_1 satisfies Hall's criterion. Let $B \subseteq A$, then

$$|N_{G_1}(B)| = |N_G(B)| \geq B.$$

Claim 2: G_2 satisfies Hall's criterion. Let $B \subset X \setminus A$. Consider $N_G(A \cup B)$. One the one hand, $|N_G(A \cup B)| \geq |A| + |B|$. On the other hand, $|N_G(A)| + |N_{G_2}(B)| = |N_G(A \cup B)|$. As $|N(A)| = |A|$, we get $|N_{G_2}(B)| \geq |B|$.

From claims 1 and 2 we can apply induction in G_1, G_2 to get a matching in these graphs, and then put them together to get a matching in G. $\square$

Definition 2.3. A matching of deficiency of d from X to Y is a matching from X' to Y where $X' \subseteq X$, $|X| - d = |X'|$.

Theorem 2.2 (Defect Hall's Theorem)**.**

$$G \text{ contains a matching of deficiency } d \iff \forall A \subseteq X,\ |N(A)| \geq |A| - d.$$

Proof. ($\Longrightarrow$) : easy.

($\Longleftarrow$) : Add d phantom vertices to Y, which we join to all vertices in X, so we now satisfy Hall's condition. Apply Hall to get a matching, and then remove the d vertices we added, which removes at most d elements of X. □

Definition 2.4. Let G be a graph. The **minimum degree** in G is $\delta(G) = \min_{x \in V(G)} d(x)$, and the **maximal degree** in G is $\Delta(G) = \max_{x \in V(G)} d(x)$.

Definition 2.5. A graph is **regular** if $\delta(G) = \Delta(G)$.