

Effective Programming Practices for Economists

Background

A Primer on Graphs

Janoś Gabler and Hans-Martin von Gaudecker

Graph definition

A graph G is a pair (N, E) of sets, where N are nodes and E are edges:

$$G = (N, E)$$

Edges are

- sets of two nodes (undirected graphs)
- pairs of nodes (directed graphs)

Chain (undirected)

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E = & \{ \\ & \{x_0, x_1\}, \\ & \{x_1, x_2\}, \\ & \{x_2, x_3\} \\ \} \end{aligned}$$



Chain (undirected)

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E = & \{ \\ & \{x_1, x_0\}, \\ & \{x_1, x_2\}, \\ & \{x_2, x_3\} \\ \} \end{aligned}$$



Chain (directed)

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3\}$$

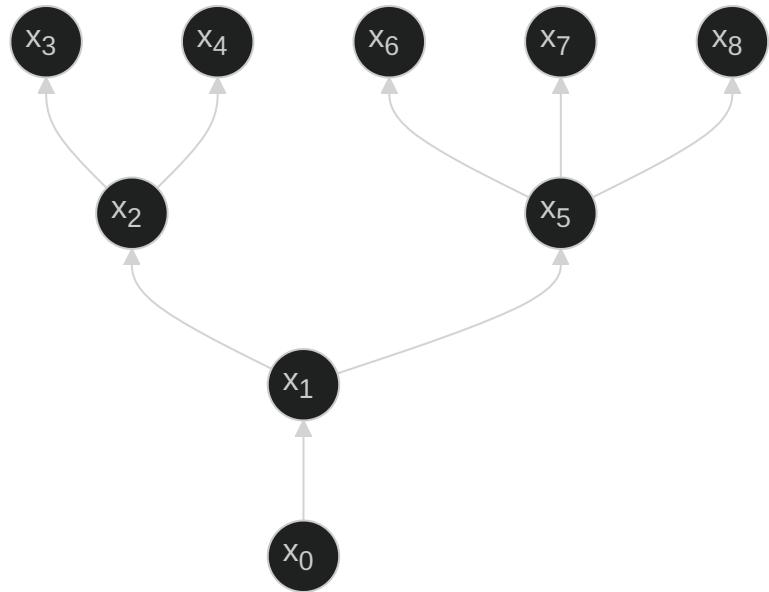
$$\begin{aligned} E = & \{ \\ & (x_0, x_1), \\ & (x_1, x_2), \\ & (x_2, x_3) \end{aligned} \quad \}$$



Tree (undirected)

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_8\}$$

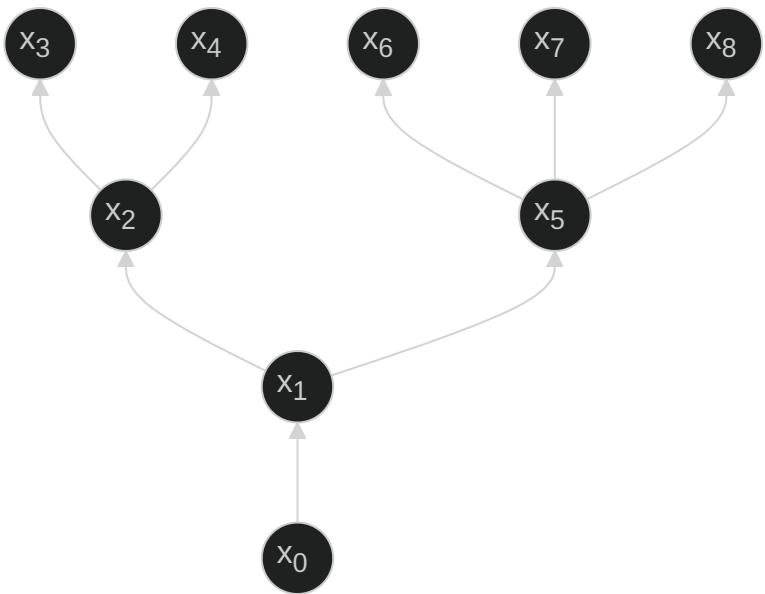
$$E = \{$$
$$\begin{aligned} & \{x_0, x_1\}, \{x_1, x_2\}, \{x_2, x_3\}, \\ & \{x_2, x_4\}, \{x_1, x_5\}, \{x_5, x_6\}, \\ & \{x_5, x_7\}, \{x_5, x_8\} \end{aligned}\}$$



Tree (directed, "arborescence")

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_8\}$$

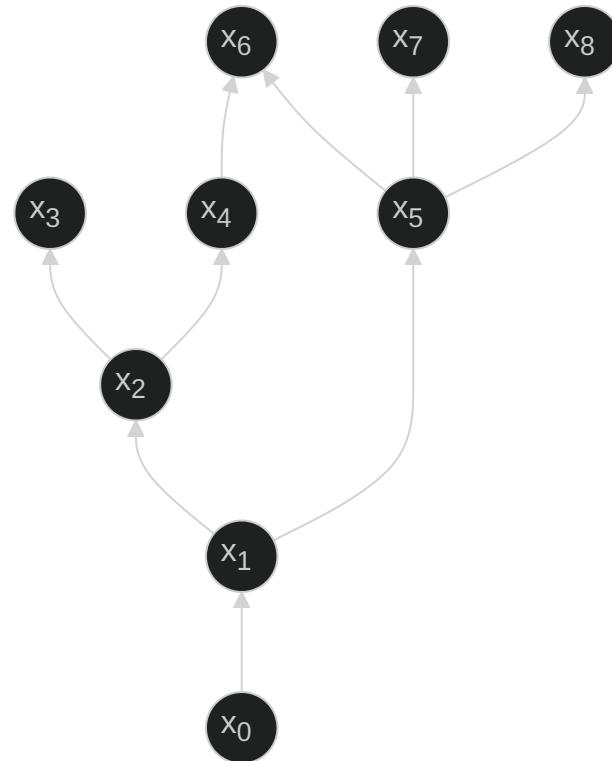
$$\begin{aligned} E = & \{ \\ & (x_0, x_1), (x_1, x_2), (x_2, x_3), \\ & (x_2, x_4), (x_1, x_5), (x_5, x_6), \\ & (x_5, x_7), (x_5, x_8) \} \end{aligned}$$



Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_8\}$$

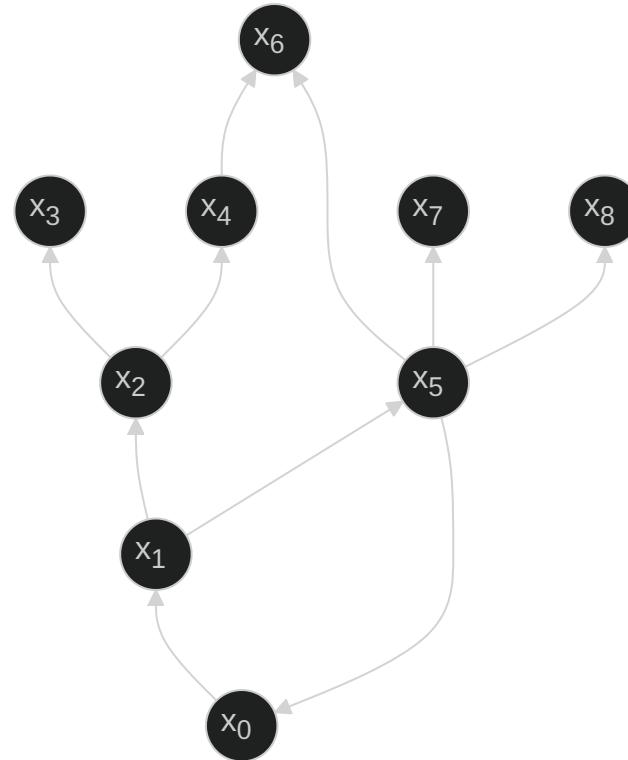
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$$\}$$



Directed Acyclic Graph

$$N = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_8\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E = & \{ \\ & (x_0, x_1), (x_1, x_2), (x_2, x_3), \\ & (x_2, x_4), (x_1, x_5), (x_5, x_6), \\ & (x_5, x_7), (x_5, x_8), (x_4, x_6), \\ & (x_5, x_0) \} \end{aligned}$$



Graph Use Cases

- The file system
- Git
- Reproducible research
- Causal theory
- Behavioural economics
- ...