

Exercise 12

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We prove the double implication.

\Rightarrow

Let us denote by A the adjacency matrix.

First suppose that G contains a cycle of length three, without loss of generality, we can suppose that the three vertices of the cycle are numbered by 1, 2 and 3.

Hence, $(1, 2) \in E(G)$, and we deduce that the $(1, 2)$ entry of the adjacency matrix is different from 0.

Now consider the $(1, 2)$ entry of A^2 , applying the formula for matrix multiplication yields

$$(A^2)_{1,2} = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{1,i} A_{i,2}$$

Note that if $i = 3$, by definition $A_{1,3} A_{3,1} = 1$, and, since all other terms of the sum are nonnegative, $(A^2)_{1,2} \geq 1$.

\Leftarrow

Now suppose that G is a graph such that $A_{i,j} \neq 0$ and $(A^2)_{i,j} \neq 0$.

This implies that the vertices i and j are adjacent.

Furthermore, this implies that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{i,k} A_{k,j} \neq 0$$

This implies that there exists $l \in [n]$ such that $A_{i,l} = A_{l,j} = 1$, and hence $(i, j), (i, l), (l, j) \in E(G)$, which means G contains a triangle.

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We will proceed by induction on the number n of vertices of T which are not leafs.

If $n = 1$, let v be the vertex of degree different to 1 and l_1, \dots, l_k the set of all leafs.

Since $f(l_i) = g(l_i) \forall i \in [k]$ and since f and G are bijections on the set of vertices, we immediatly deduce that $f(v) = g(v)$.

Suppose the result shown for n , we will now show it for $n + 1$.