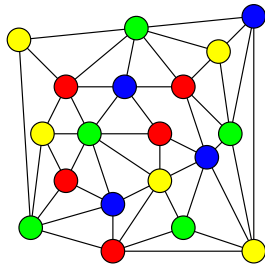


Lesson 19: Think Graphically



Graph theory, applications of graphs, graph problems

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Motivation

- Many different problems can be described in terms of graphs
- This often reveals the true nature of the problem
- It unifies many apparently different problems
- As much is known about graph problems it often provides a pointer to the solution

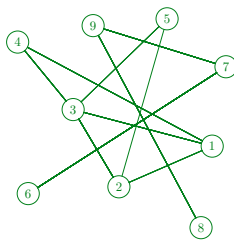
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Connected and Unconnected Graphs

- A graph is **connected** if you can get from one node to any other along a series of edges
- Otherwise it is **disconnected**



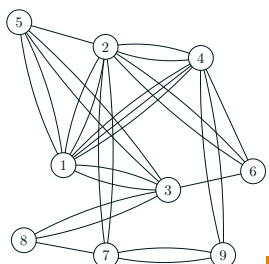
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Multigraphs

- If the collection of edges is a *multiset* then we obtain a **multigraph** where more than one edge is allowed between pairs of vertices

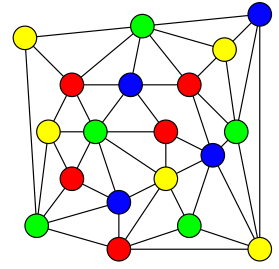


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1. **Graph Theory**
2. Applications of Graphs
 - Geometric applications
 - Relational applications
3. Implementing Graphs
4. Graph Problems



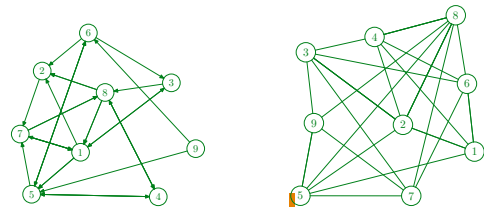
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Definition of a Graph

- A graph, G , can be described by
 - ★ A set of vertices or nodes $\mathcal{V} = \{1, 2, 3 \dots n\}$
 - ★ A set of edges $\mathcal{E} = \{(i, j) | \text{vertex } i \text{ is connected to vertex } j\}$
- The edges may be
 - ★ **directed**—sometimes called a **digraph**
 - ★ **undirected**



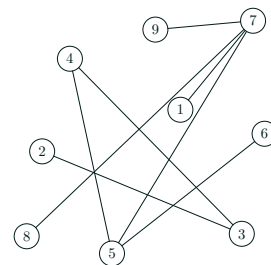
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Trees

- A tree is a connected graphs with no cycles
- A tree will have $n - 1$ edges



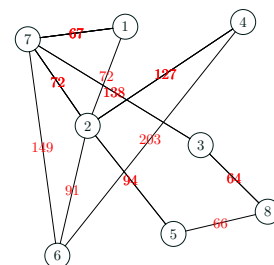
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Weighted Graphs

- If we assign a number to an edge we obtain a **weighted graph**



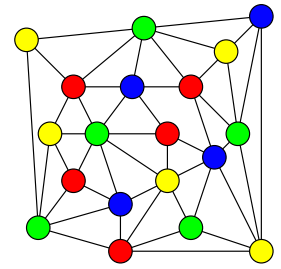
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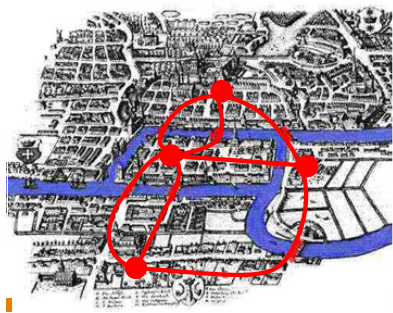
- Sometimes we add more information to the graph
- E.g. attributes to the nodes or edges
- Graphs with many attributes are often referred to as **networks**

1. Graph Theory
2. **Applications of Graphs**
 - Geometric applications
 - Relational applications
3. Implementing Graphs
4. Graph Problems



Bridges of Königsberg

Is there a tour around Königsberg going over every bridge once?



In 1736 Euler published a paper answering this question and founding graph theory

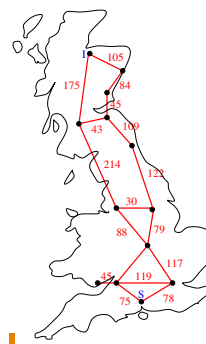
Other Applications

- We could take the weights to represent the time taken to travel between nodes
- In a computer network the weights might represent the bandwidth
- In a representation of a transport system the weights might represent the carrying capacity of the traffic on a road
- Graphs can be used to represent other kinds of relationships
- E.g. We could create a digraph of links between web pages

A Real World Problem

- A food company used different colour bags for each of its products
- To save money they reduced the stock of bags to 25
- They wanted to know what items to put in what bags so that as few customers as possible would have items with the same colour bags
- This can again be reduced to a graph colouring problem
 - ★ Each node represents an item
 - ★ The edges were weighted by the number of customers that took both items
 - ★ The aim was to colour the nodes with 25 colours to minimise the weights where the edges shared the same colour

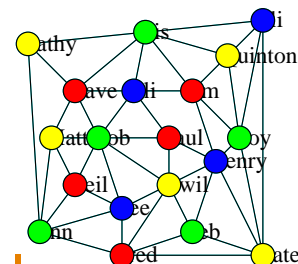
Representing Distances



- Consider some graph
- With weights representing the distance between nodes
- What is the shortest distance between *S* and *I*?

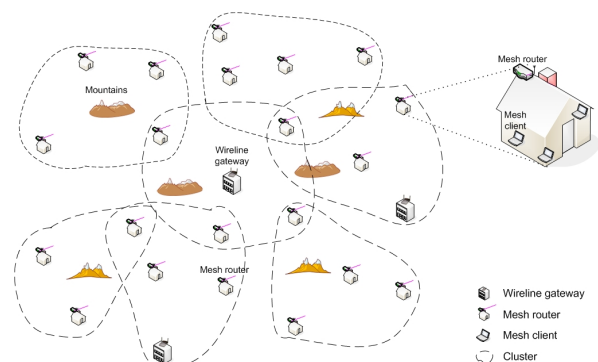
Christmas Card Problem

- I have four types of Christmas cards
- Some of my friends know each other

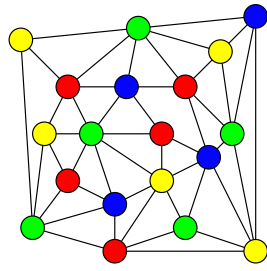


- I don't want to send friends that know each other the same card

Frequency Assignment Problem



1. Graph Theory
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4. Graph Problems



Adjacency Matrices

- One representation of a graph $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ is in term of an $n \times n$ **adjacency matrix** \mathbf{A} with elements

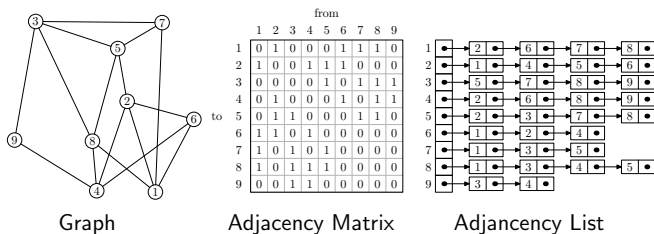
$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in \mathcal{E} \\ 0 & \text{if } (i, j) \notin \mathcal{E} \end{cases}$$

where $n = |\mathcal{V}|$

- For undirected graphs \mathbf{A} is a symmetric matrix, i.e. $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$
- For weighted graphs we often store the **connectivity matrix** or **cost-adjacency matrix**, \mathbf{C} , where

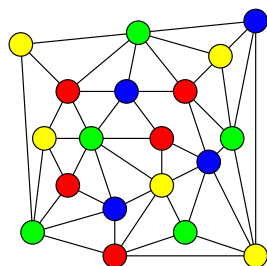
$$C_{ij} = \begin{cases} w_{ij} & \text{if } (i, j) \in \mathcal{E} \\ 0 & \text{if } (i, j) \notin \mathcal{E} \end{cases}$$

Representing Undirected Graphs



Outline

1. Graph Theory
2. Applications of Graphs
 - Geometric applications
 - Relational applications
3. Implementing Graphs
4. Graph Problems

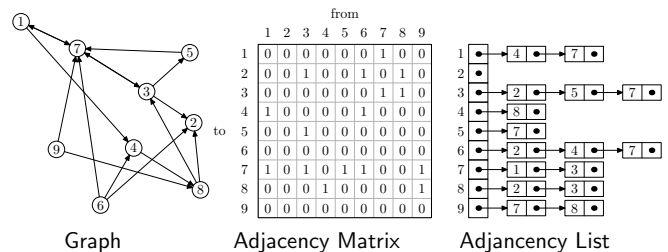


- There is no single way to represent graphs
- The best representation depends on the graph
- Some books describe a *Graph ADT*—graphs are too varied for this to be very useful
- An important issue in representing a graph is how to store the edge information

Adjacency Lists

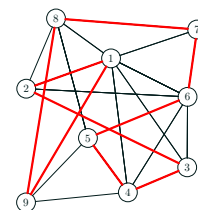
- For **dense** graphs where the number of edges is $\Theta(n^2)$ the adjacency matrix is often a useful representation
- But in **sparse** graphs where the number of edges is $\Theta(n)$ the adjacency matrix has a very large number of zeros
- A more efficient representation is in terms of the adjacency list where the set of outgoing edges is stored for each node
- In some applications it is useful to store both the adjacency matrix and the adjacency list

Representing Digraphs



Hamilton Cycle

- The Euler path problem is to find a path through a multigraph that passes through every edge once—easy to solve
- The Hamilton cycle problem is to find a cycle that goes through each vertex exactly once



- There is no known efficient algorithm to solve this

Shortest Path and TSP

- The shortest path problem is to find a path between two nodes
- There is an efficient algorithm—see next lecture
- In the travelling salesperson problem the task is to find the shortest tour (Hamilton cycle)—we usually assume there is an edge between every pair of nodes
- There is no known efficient algorithm to solve all TSPs

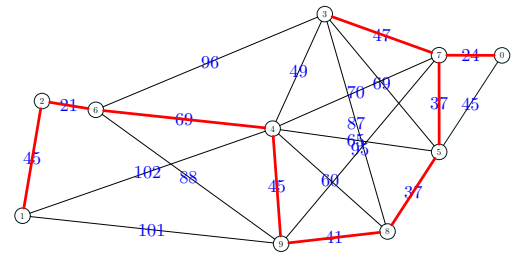
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Minimum Spanning Tree

- Suppose we want to construct pylons connecting a number of cities using the least amount of cable



- We will study an efficient algorithm to solve this in the next but one lecture

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Graph Partitioning

- The simplest version of this problem is to cut a graph into two equal halves so that you minimise the number of edges you cut
- If the edges are weighted then you want to minimise the sum of edges that are cut
- If the vertices are weighted you want to balance the sum of vertex weights in the two partitions
- An example of this problem is in dividing up a problem to run on a parallel computer
 - ★ Nodes are subtasks (weights on nodes are run times)
 - ★ Edge weights indicate communication cost
- There is no known efficient algorithm to solve this

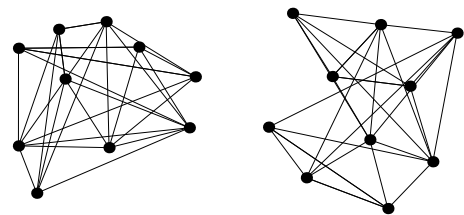
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Graph Isomorphism

- Do two graphs have the same structure?



- There is no known efficient algorithm to solve this problem
- Theoretically it is interesting because it is not NP-complete

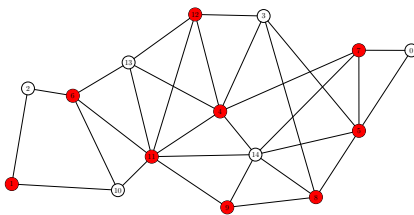
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Vertex Cover

- How many guards do you need to cover all the corridors in a museum



- There is no known efficient algorithm to solve this

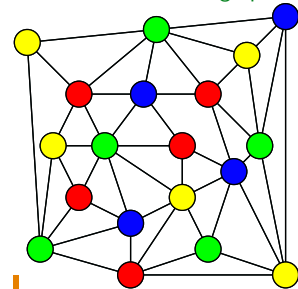
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Graph Colouring

- How many colours do I need to colour a graph with no conflicts



- There is no known efficient algorithm to solve this

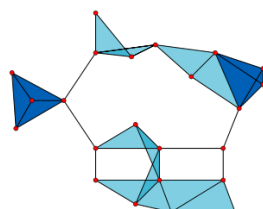
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Other Graph Problems

- These are only a sample of the many famous graph problems
- Others include
 - ★ Max-clique (hard)
 - ★ Maximal independent set (hard)
 - ★ Maximal flow problem (easy)
 - ★ Max-cut (hard)



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Lessons

- Graphs are an important method for abstracting problems
- They appear in a huge number of disparate fields
- There are many problems for which efficient algorithms are known
- There are many problems which are believed to be hard—i.e. there aren't any efficient algorithms
- Even for hard problems there are good algorithms for finding approximated solutions

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