

**An Euler tour of a strongly connected, directed graph  $G=(V,E)$  is a cycle that traverses each edge of  $G$  exactly once, although it may visit a vertex more than once. Show that  $G$  has an Euler tour if and only if  $\text{indegree}(v)=\text{outdegree}(v)$  for each vertex  $v \in V$ .**

*Proof:*

**Necessity** Let  $G(V,E)$  be a strongly connected directed graph. Thus  $G$  contains a cycle  $C$ . Let this cycle start and end at the vertex  $u \in V$ . Since each visit to an intermediate vertex  $v$  of  $C$  contributes 1 to  $\text{indegree}(v)$  and 1 to  $\text{outdegree}(v)$  and since  $C$  traverses each edge exactly once,  $\text{indegree}(v)=\text{outdegree}(v)$  holds true for every such vertex. Each intermediate visit to the initial vertex  $u$  contributes 1 to both  $\text{indegree}(u)$  and  $\text{outdegree}(u)$ , and also the initial and final edges of  $C$  contribute 1 to  $\text{indegree}(u)$  and  $\text{outdegree}(u)$  respectively. So,  $\text{indegree}(u)=\text{outdegree}(u)$  holds true for  $u$  as well. Thus, if  $G$  has an Euler tour,  $\text{indegree}(v)=\text{outdegree}(v)$  for each vertex  $v \in V$ .

**Sufficiency** Let  $G_n$  be a strongly connected directed graph with  $n$  vertices, for which  $\text{indegree}(v)=\text{outdegree}(v)$  for each vertex  $v \in V$ .

**Base case:**  $G_2$  has a Euler tour. Let the vertices be  $u$  and  $v$ . As we have a graph of two vertices with  $\text{indegree}(u)=\text{outdegree}(u)$  and  $\text{indegree}(v)=\text{outdegree}(v)$ , we can travel from  $u$  to  $v$  and then back to  $u$   $k$  times, resulting in an Euler tour.

**Hypothesis:** Let's assume that there exists an Euler tour in any arbitrary graph  $G_n$ .

**Inductive step:** We have to prove that  $G_{n+1}$  has an Euler tour. Every vertex in  $G_{n+1}$  has equal indegree and outdegree. So, for any vertex  $v$ , we can arbitrarily pair up all of  $v$ 's in edges and out edges. Now we can remove vertex  $v$  from  $G_{n+1}$  and for every pair of edges  $(u,v)$  and  $(v,w)$  we add an edge  $(u,w)$  in  $G_n$ . In this way, in-degree and out-degree of  $u$  and  $w$  remains the same. Thus, there is an Euler tour in  $G_n$ .

(Inductive Hypothesis). Let the Eulerian cycle be  $C=x_0, x_1, \dots, u, w, \dots, x_0$

Now we add the vertex  $v$  back to  $G_n$  and traverse edge  $(u,v)$  and then  $(v,w)$  in the place of  $(u,w)$  in  $C$ . The resulting path  $P=x_0, x_1, \dots, u, v, w, \dots, x_0$  is also an Eulerian cycle in  $G_{n+1}$ . Thus,  $G_{n+1}$  has an Euler tour. Thus  $G$  has an Euler tour if  $\text{indegree}(v)=\text{outdegree}(v)$  for each vertex  $v \in V$ .