Graph Theory 1MA170: Course information

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7 September 2023

This file is intended to contain all the practical information you may need about the course – when is the exam, what is the assignment, when are the lectures, and so on.[2]

[2] If you notice some information is missing, please do tell me and I will add it.

The course literature for this course is Reinhard Diestel's *Graph Theory* [3,4] and "notes from the lecturer". The course will of course be closer to the notes than to the book, but the book should still be a useful reference or alternative perspective – though I do not guarantee that everything the lecture notes cover will be in the book. Since the course has a new lecturer this year[5], "notes" could really refer both to the old notes and the new ones.

[3] Reinhard Diestel. *Graph theory: 5th edition*. Springer-Verlag, February 2017

[4] Which is available in a free pdf format from the university library: https://tinyurl.com/UUGraphTheoryBook

[5] The previous one defended his PhD and is no longer at Uppsala.

The previous year's lecture notes are already available on the course page – the lecture notes from which I actually lecture will be made available as I create them, but they should generally be fairly close to what was done in the previous year.[6]

[6] In terms of subjects covered, they should be essentially equivalent. However, some examples might turn into exercises, and vice-versa, and notation will be slightly different between them.

Lecture plan

There will be a total of twenty scheduled sessions, of which probably sixteen will be lectures, and the rest will be exercise sessions. The exercise sessions are important – we will use them to introduce new concepts, and I *will* assume in the lectures that you have been at the exercise sessions as well.[7] As stated in the hand-in assignment section, attendance in two of the exercise sessions is mandatory for that assignment.

[7] Of course, we all sometimes have to miss a lecture or exercise session. Attendance is, outside of the group project, voluntary. However, just as you would read the lecture notes to catch up on a missed lecture, you should attempt the exercises to catch up on a missed exercise session!

The exact planning of the content of the lectures is still subject to change, in that some content may be reordered and some may be moved into exercises. The set of things covered is not going to differ much from the tentative plan given below, however.

The exam

The ordinary exam for the course is on the fifth of January 2024 – remember to register at least twelve days in advance, i.e. by Christmas Eve[8], in order to get to write it. Studying for an exam and then not getting to write it is pretty dispiriting.[9] The exam corresponds to 2hp out of the total of 5hp that the course consists of.

[8] Some people get presents for Christmas, you get to register for an exam!

[9] This may or may not have happened to me once or twice during my undergrad and master's...

There will be reexams for the course on dates I will specify in this document as soon as I know them.

The hand-in assignment

The course has a *mandatory* hand-in assignment, which corresponds to three out of the total of five hp of the course.

The assignment will be done in groups of four or five, and each group can pick between two tasks, either

1. picking one of the lectures in the course, improving the lecture notes on it and writing up solutions to its attached exercises[10], or
2. reading a research paper in graph theory or network science and writing a short (no more than five pages) summary of what problem the paper addresses and the methods they use.

You will be required to show up at one of the exercise sessions before you hand in your assignment to work on it, and to show up at an exercise session after you hand it in in order to talk about your work with me.[11] The deadline for the assignment is two weeks before the final exercise session, if you pick the paper, and two weeks after the lecture if you choose to work on one of the lectures.[12]

If you have a reasonable reason, we can extend your group's deadline *if you request this extension before the deadline*. Extension requests after you have already exceeded the deadline are much more difficult to grant.

References

Reinhard Diestel. *Graph theory: 5th edition*. Springer-Verlag, February 2017.

[10] The way to do this is to edit the LaTeX source of the lecture notes – come talk to me after a lecture for practical instructions on how to do this. It is much easier to just do it in reality than try to write a step-by-step guide here.

[11] Partially, this is of course in order to prevent you from using ChatGPT or similar to cheat on the assignment. That is, however, not the main reason – the main reason is to be able to help you with your work on it, and to be able to give better feedback on it afterwards. In-person feedback is a hundred times better than written feedback, and the goal of an assignment should be primarily that you learn from doing it – the need for assessment is secondary.

[12] If you pick a lecture very near the start or the end of the course we may have to adjust the deadlines slightly to fit within the course and with the exercise session requirement – come talk to me about it if you need an adjustment of the deadline.

L#	Time & Date	Content
1	10:15, Nov 1	E1: Introduction – what is graph theory?
2	10:15, Nov 2	L2: Eulerianity, simple graphs and subgraphs
3	08:15, Nov 3	L3: Common graph families, trees, and Cayley's theorem
4	08:15, Nov 6	L4: Spectral graph theory and the matrix-tree theorem
5	10:15, Nov 7	E5: MSTs, flows, Hamilton cycles and independent sets
6	15:15, Nov 13	L6: Weights, distances, and minimum spanning trees
7	10:15, Nov 15	L7: The max-flow min-cut and marriage theorems
8	13:15, Nov 16	L8: Vertex covers, Hamilton cycles, independent sets
9	10:15, Nov 20	E9: Connectivity, planarity, colourings
10	15:15, Nov 22	L10: Connectivity
11	10:15, Nov 23	L11: Planarity
12	10:15, Nov 27	L12: Vertex colourings
13	15:15, Nov 29	E13: The probabilistic method, edge-colourings, and the Rado graph
14	15:15, Dec 4	L14: The probabilistic method and the Erdős-Rényi random graph
15	10:15, Dec 6	E15: Extremal graph theory and Szemerédi's regularity lemma
16	08:15, Dec 7	L16: Edge-colourings and Ramsey theory
17	10:15, Dec 11	L17: The Rado graph
18	15:15, Dec 12	L18: Extremal graphs and Szemerédi's regularity lemma
19	10:15, Dec 18	L19: ???
20	10:15, Dec 20	E20: Group assignments