

# Discrete Structures (CSCI 246)

## Homework 9

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### Purpose & Goals

The following problems provide practice relating to:

- graph definitions,
- direct proofs and disproofs by counterexample, and
- the problem solving process.

### Submission Requirements

- **Type or clearly hand-write your solutions** into a pdf format so that they are legible and professional. Submit your pdf to Gradescope. **Illegible, non-pdf, or emailed solutions will not be graded.**
- Each problem should start on a new page of the document. When you submit to Gradescope, associate each page of your submission with the correct problem number. Please post in Discord if you are having any trouble using Gradescope.
- Try to model your formatting off of the proofs from lecture and/or the textbook.
- Submit to Gradescope early and often so that last-minute technical problems don't cause you any issues. Only the latest submission is kept. Per the syllabus, assignments submitted within 24 hours of the due date will receive a 25% penalty and assignments submitted within 48 hours will receive a 50% penalty. After that, no points are possible.

### Academic Integrity

- You may work with your peers, but **you must construct your solutions in your own words on your own.**
- Do not search the web for solutions or hints, post the problem set, or otherwise violate the course collaboration policy or the MSU student code of conduct.
- Violations (regardless of intent) will be reported to the Dean of Students, per the MSU student code of conduct, and you will receive a 0 on the assignment.

### Tips

- Answer each problem to the best of your ability. Partial credit is your friend!
- Read the hints for where to find relevant examples for each problem.
- Refer to the [problem solving and homework tips guide](#).
- It is not a badge of honor to say that you spent 5 hours on a single problem or 15 hours on a single assignment. Use your time wisely and get help (see "How to Get Help" below).

### How to Get Help

When you are stuck and need a little or big push, **please ask for help!**

- Timebox your effort for each problem so that you don't spend your life on the problem sets. (See the problem solving tips guide for how to do this effectively.)
- Post in Discord. If you're following the timebox guide, you can post the exact statement that you produced after spending 20 minutes being stuck.
- Come to office hours or visit the CS Student Success Center.

Problem 1 (12 points)

- (a) (6 points) In the lecture on special graphs, we proved that if a graph contains a triangle, then it is not bipartite.
  - (i) (1 point) What is the converse of this statement?
  - (ii) (1 point) Is the converse true or false?
  - (iii) (4 points) Prove your answer to (ii).
- (b) (6 points) In the lecture on paths, cycles, and trees, we learned the definition of the *distance* between two nodes is the length of the shortest path between them. The *diameter* of a graph is the length of the longest path between any two nodes in a graph.
  - (a) What is the largest diameter that a connected graph with  $n$  nodes can have? 2 points for giving the correct answer; 1 point for a correct explanation.
  - (b) What is the smallest diameter that a connected graph with  $n$  nodes can have? 2 points for giving the correct answer; 1 point for a correct explanation.

Problem 2 (13 points)

In lecture we showed that every undirected acyclic graph has either a vertex of degree 0 or degree 1. Prove the following directed version of this claim:

Every directed acyclic graph  $G = (V, E)$  has a vertex  $v$  such that  $\text{outdeg}(v) = 0$ .

*Hint:* model your proof after the proof of the undirected claim. You may also want to try out some examples: try to draw a directed acyclic graph that *doesn't* have a vertex of outdegree 0 and convince yourself that it cannot be done before attempting the proof.

**Grading Notes.** While a detailed rubric cannot be provided in advance as it gives away the solution details, the following is a general idea of how points are distributed for this problem. We give partial credit where we can.

- (11) **Correctness.** If your proof is not correct, this is where you'll get docked.
- (2) **Communication.** We need to see a mix of notation and intuition. If you skip too many steps at once, or we cannot follow your proof, or if your proof is overly wordy or confusing, this is where you'll get docked.