

Introduction to Graphs

A **Graph** is a collection of **nodes** (vertices) and **edges** that connect pairs of nodes. Graphs are used in computer science for modeling relationships such as social networks, road maps, and the internet.

Basic Terminology

- Vertex (V): A node in the graph.
- Edge (E): A connection between two vertices.
- Undirected Graph: Edges have no direction.
- Directed Graph (Digraph): Edges have a direction.
- Weighted Graph: Each edge has a weight (cost, distance, etc.).
- Unweighted Graph: Edges only represent connections, no weights.

Undirected Unweighted Graph

(0) ---- (1)
| |
| |
(2) ---- (3)

Directed Unweighted Graph

(0) → (1) → (2)
↑ |
■-----■

Weighted Graph (Undirected)

(0) ---5--- (1)
| |
2| |3
| |
(2) ---4--- (3)

Graph Representations

1. Adjacency Matrix

- 2D array (or vector of vectors).
- Good for dense graphs.
- Edge lookup: $O(1)$.
- Uses $O(V^2)$ memory.

2. Adjacency List

- Each vertex stores a list of neighbors.
- Good for sparse graphs.
- Space-efficient $O(V+E)$.
- Edge lookup: $O(\text{degree of vertex})$.

Next Steps

- Implement adjacency matrix and adjacency list.
- Add support for weighted and directed graphs.
- Explore graph algorithms:
 - BFS (Breadth-First Search)
 - DFS (Depth-First Search)
 - Dijkstra's Algorithm
- Minimum Spanning Tree (Prim/Kruskal)