



## GRAPHS

### Why

We want to visualize relations.

### Definition

A *graph* is a set and a relation on the set. The graph is *undirected* if the relation is symmetric; otherwise the graph is *directed*.

A *vertex* of the graph is an element of the set. The set is called the *vertex set*. An *edge* of the graph is an element of the relation. The relation is called the *edge set*.

If the graph is directed, we call the first element of an edge the *parent* of the second element. We call the second element of an edge the *child* of the first element. So we can discuss the set of parents or set of children of a particular vertex (these sets may be empty).

A graph is *complete* if it has all possible edges.

### Notation

We denote the vertex set by  $V$ , a mnemonic for vertex. We denote the edge set by  $E$ , a mnemonic for edge. We denote a graph by  $(V, E)$ . If the vertex set is assumed, or if every vertex appears in  $E$  we can unambiguously refer to the graph by  $E$ .

## Visualization

We visualize a graph by drawing a point for each vertex. If the pair of two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  is an edge we draw a line segment whose endpoints are the points corresponding to the vertices.

## Paths

A path in a graph is a sequence of vertices with the property that consecutive vertices are related. A path *cycles* if a vertex appears more than once. A path is *finite* if the sequence is finite. A *loop* is a finite path that cycles once. A finite path from vertex  $u$  to vertex  $v$  is a path starting with  $u$  and ending with  $v$ . The *length* of a finite path is the length of the sequence.

## Properties

A graph is *connected* if there is a path between every pair of vertices. A graph is *acyclic* if none of its paths cycle.

