

UNDIRECTED GRAPHS

Why

We want to visualize symmetric relations.

Definition

An undirected graph is a pair (V, E) in which V is a finite nonempty set and E is a subset of unordered pairs of elements in V. We call the elements of V the vertices of the graph and the elements of E the edges. We call (V, E) an undirected graph on V.

Two vertices are *adjacent* if their pair is in the edge set. We say that the corresponding edge is *incident* to those vertices. The *adjacency set* of a vertex is the set of vertices adjacent to it. The *degree* of a vertex is the number of vertices adjacent to it; in other words, the size of its adjacency set. A graph is *complete* if each pair of two distinct vertices is adjacent.

The *complement* of (V, E) is the graph (V, F) where F is the complement of E in the set of pairs from V.

Other terminology

Some authors call the adjacency set the neighborhood of the vertex. They call the union of the adjacency set of the vertex $v \in V$ with the singleton $\{v\}$ the closed neighborhood of v.

Notation

Let V be a nonempty set. Let $E \subset \{\{v, w\} \mid v, w \in V\}$. Then the pair (V, E) is an undirected graph. We regularly say "Let G = (V, E)" be a graph, in which the relevant properties of V and E are implicit.

The notation $\{v, w\} \in E$ for an edge between vertices $v, w \in V$ reminds us that the edges are unordered pairs of distinct vertices. We denote the adjacency set of v by adj(v) and the degree of v by deg(v).

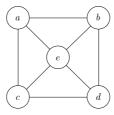


Figure 1: Undirected graph.

Example

For example, let a,b,c,d,e be objects and consider an undirected graph (V,E) defind by $V=\{a,b,c,d,e\}$ and

$$E = \{\{a,b\}, \{a,c\}, \{a,e\}, \{b,d\}, \{b,e\}, \{c,d\}, \{c,e\}, \{d,e\}\}.$$

In visualizations of undirected graphs, the vertices are frequently represented as circles or rectangles in the plane and edges are shown as lines connecting the vertices.

