



Trees

1 Why

Tree branches split and do not recombine. We formalize this property in the language of graphs.

2 Definition

A *tree* is a connected acyclic graph.

2.1 Notation

Let (V, E) be a tree. When the vertex set is clear from context, we use T , a mnemonic for "tree," to denote the edge set.

3 Properties

Proposition 1. *In any tree, there is only one path between any two vertices.*

Proof. Suppose to the contrary that there were two paths from vertex u to vertex v , then by combining these paths we obtain

a cycle. But the tree has no cycles, so there must not be two paths between any two vertices. \square