



## Why

We want to visualize relations.

## Definition

A *directed graph* (or *digraph*, *graph*) is a pair  $(V, E)$  in which  $V$  is a nonempty set and  $E$  is a subset of  $V \times V$ . In other words,  $E$  is a relation on  $V$ . We call the elements of  $V$  *vertices* and the elements of  $E$  *edges* (or *arcs*).

## Example

For example, define  $V$  and  $E$  by

$$V = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \quad \text{and} \quad E = \{(1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 4), (3, 4)\}$$

It is worth drawing this graph.

## Edge and vertex terminology

Let  $(v, w) \in E$ . We say that  $(v, w)$  is an edge *from*  $v$  *to*  $w$ , and that it is an *outgoing edge* of  $v$  and an *incoming edge* of  $w$ . We call  $v$  a *parent* of  $w$  and we call  $w$  a *child* of  $v$ . We say that the edge  $(v, w)$  is *incident* to  $v$  and  $w$ .

The *child set* of a vertex is the set of its child vertices and similarly for the *parent set*; we refer to these sets as the *children* and *parents* of the vertex, respectively. The *indegree* of a vertex is number parents it has and the *outdegree* is the number of children it has.

The *parents*, *children*, and *neighbors* of a set  $A$  of vertices each defined to be the set of vertices which *are not* in the set but *are* the parents, children or neighbors of some vertex in the set defined.

A vertex is a *source* vertex if it only has outgoing edges (i.e., is the child of no vertex its parent set is empty) and a vertex is a *sink* if it only has incoming edges (i.e., is the parent of no vertex).

A directed graph is *complete* if every vertex is both a child and parent of every other vertex.

### Notation

We denote by  $\text{pa} : V \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(V)$  and  $\text{ch} : V \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(V)$  the functions associating to each vertex its set of parents and set of children, respectively. As usual, we denote the parents of vertex  $v$  by  $\text{pa}_v$  and the children by  $\text{ch}_v$ .

### Self-loops

If  $x$  is a vertex, and  $(x, x)$  is an edge, we call such an edge a *self-loop* (or just *loop*). Many authorities exclude self-loops in their definition of directed graphs, but we allow them. To make the distinction, we call a graph with no *loops simple* (a *simple graph*).

