

# Algorithms in Bioinformatics

## Graph Algorithms

(partially based  
on Langmead  
notes)



## Recap

- HW still coming
- Today: graphs

# Graphs (again)

Used to model everything!

$$G = (V, E) \quad |V|=n, |E|=m$$

$V$ : vertices  $= \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

$E$ : edges (directed or undirected)

$$= \left\{ \underbrace{\{(v_i, v_j), \dots\}}_{(v_i, v_j)} \right\} \quad v_i \xrightarrow{\text{---}} v_j$$

Useful fact: degree-sum formula

undirected:



$$\sum_v d(v) = 2|E|^m$$

degree, # of edges adjacent to  $v$

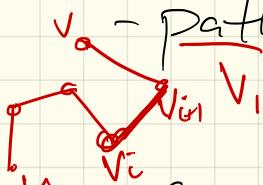
If directed:

$$\sum_v \text{indegree}(v) = \sum_v \text{outdegree}(v)$$

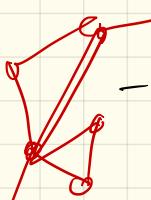
$$= |E|$$

## Dfn's:

- Connected : For every pair  $u, v$  of vertices, there is  $u-v$  path
- connected components: maximal connected subgraphs

 - Path: sequence of vertices  $v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_k$  such that  $\{v_i, v_{i+1}\} \in E$  (no repeats)

- Cycle: "path" where  $v_1 = v_k$

 - walk: allows repeats of edges or vertices

- Simple (vs. multi graph)



- circuit: cycle, but allows repetition of vertices

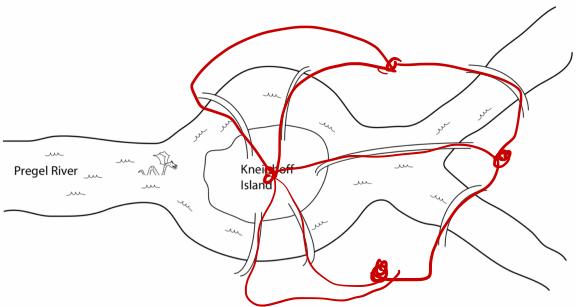
# First problem: Königsberg bridges

## Bridge Obsession Problem:

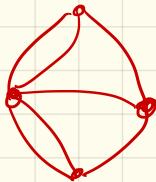
Find a tour through a city (located on  $n$  islands connected by  $m$  bridges) that starts on one of the islands, visits every bridge exactly once, and returns to the originating island.

**Input:** A map of the city with  $n$  islands and  $m$  bridges.

**Output:** A tour through the city that visits every bridge exactly once and returns to the starting island.



Graph



This becomes:

Circuit

## Eulerian Cycle Problem:

Find a ~~circuit~~ in a graph that visits every edge exactly once.

~~Circuit~~

**Input:** A graph  $G$ .

**Output:** A ~~circuit~~ in  $G$  that visits every edge exactly once.

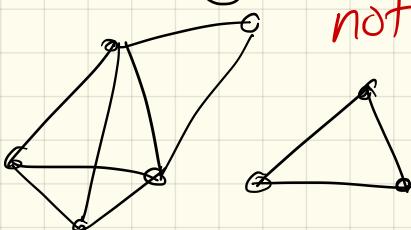
How to Solve?

## Breaking it down:

What is a necessary condition?

↳ all vertices must have even degree,

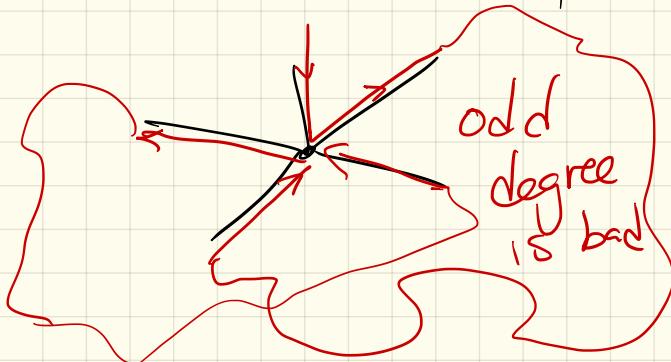
Obvious one: Can we tour this graph?



not connected!!

Now:

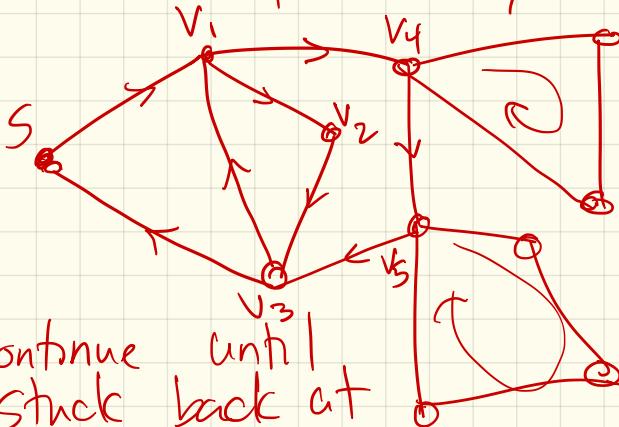
Think about a single vertex - how would a tour proceed?



Is this sufficient?

Yes: Consider a graph  
w/ all even degrees,  
+ build an Euler tour:

Start at a vertex +  
walk — pick any edge



Continue until  
stuck back at

s

$s - v_1 - v_2 - v_3 - v_1 - v_4 - v_5 - v_3 - s$

because it's  
part of a  
sub-circuit

# Algorithm :

```
# circuit is a global array
    find_euler_circuit
        circuitpos = 0
        find_circuit(node 1)

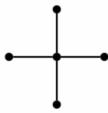
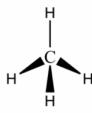
# nextnode and visited is a local array
# the path will be found in reverse order
    find_circuit(node i)

    if node i has no neighbors then
        circuit(circuitpos) = node i
        circuitpos = circuitpos + 1
    else
        while (node i has neighbors)
            pick a random neighbor node j of node i
            delete edges (node j, node i)
            find_circuit (node j)
            circuit(circuitpos) = node i
            circuitpos = circuitpos + 1
```

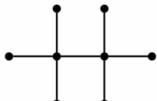
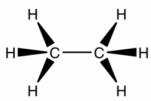
Runtime:  $\underline{O(m+n)}$

while ( $V$  has pos degree)  
visit edges

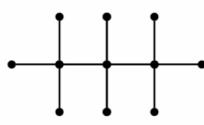
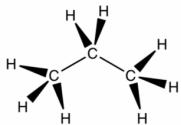
Next problem: Cayley, studying hydrocarbons



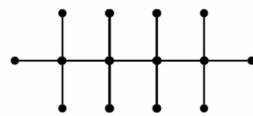
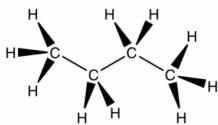
Methane



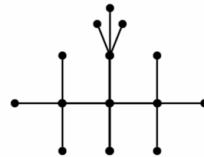
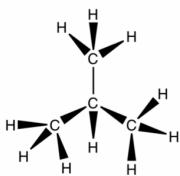
Ethane



Propane



Butane



Isobutane

Examples of trees:

Finally, Hamilton created a game:

Visit every vertex in a graph exactly once

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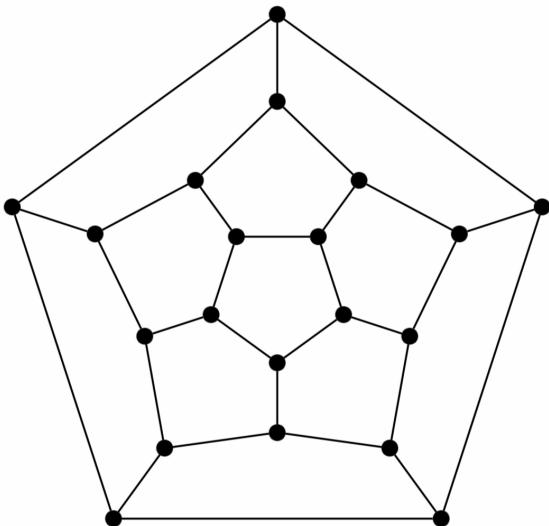
**Hamiltonian Cycle Problem:**

*Find a cycle in a graph that visits every vertex exactly once.*

**Input:** A graph  $G$ .

**Output:** A cycle in  $G$  that visits every vertex exactly once (if such a cycle exists).

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Note: This one is hard.

## Weighted graphs:

We've actually talked about these in the last few chapters.

Each edge gets a weight:

Last chapter or 2, we hunted for longest paths.

Can also reverse this:

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### **Shortest Path Problem:**

Given a weighted graph and two vertices, find the shortest distance between them.

**Input:** A weighted graph,  $G = (V, E, w)$ , and two distinguished vertices  $s$  and  $t$ .

**Output:** The shortest path between  $s$  and  $t$  in graph  $G$ .

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On to some biology:

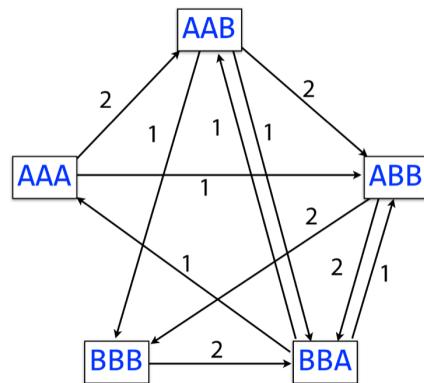
Back to assembly!

Last time (3 weeks ago) we did the greedy graph algorithm.

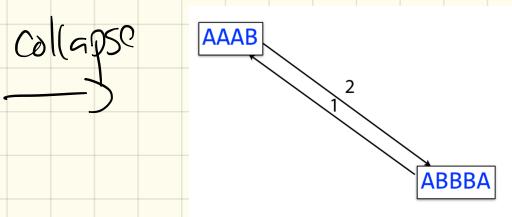
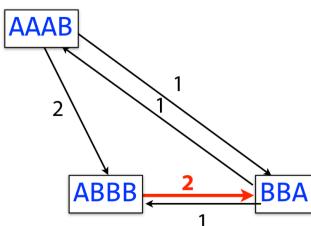
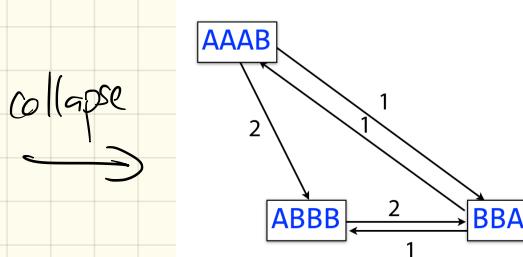
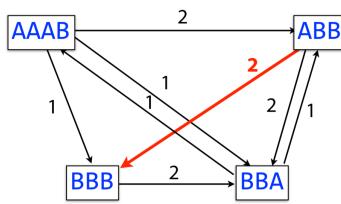
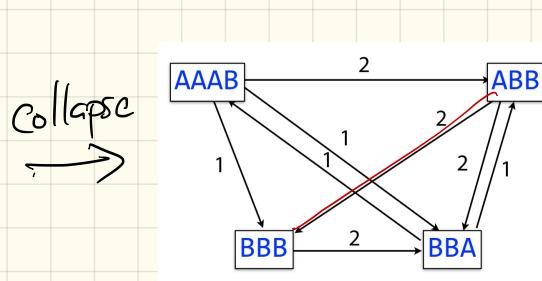
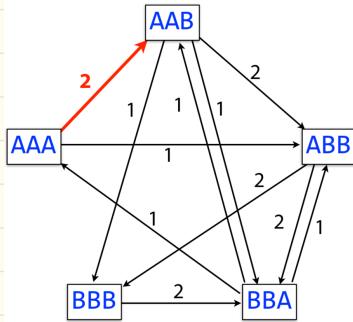
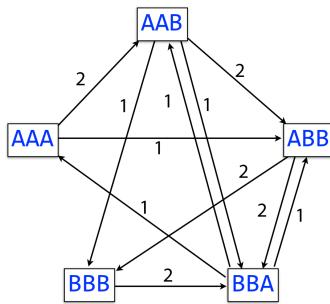
Greedy-SCS: in each round, merge pair of strings with maximal overlap. Stop when there's 1 string left.  $l$  = minimum overlap.

Algorithm in action ( $l = 1$ ):

Input strings  
AAA AAB ABB BBB BBA



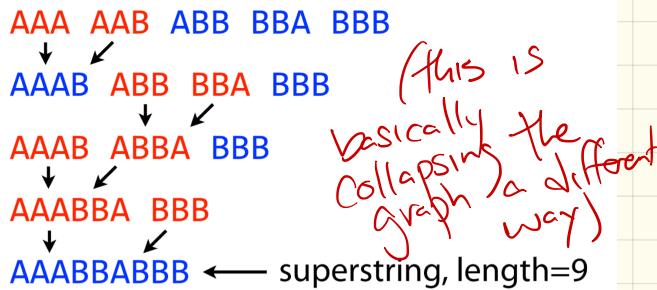
In action:



final:

AAABBBBA ← superstring, length=7

Problem: Greed (usually)  
doesn't win!



$AAABBBA$  ← superstring, length=7

## Approximation

However, this does give a  
 $\approx 2.5$ -approximation

length of greedy  $\leq$   
 $\approx 2.5$  (length of OPT)

# In particular, known issue

Greedy-SCS assembling all substrings of length 6 from:

a\_long\_long\_long\_time.  $l=3$ .

6 characters

ng\_lon\_long\_a\_long\_long\_long\_time long\_lo long\_t g\_long\_g\_time ng\_time  
ng\_time ng\_lon\_long\_a\_long\_long\_long\_time long\_lo long\_t g\_long  
ng\_time g\_long\_ng\_lon\_a\_long\_long\_long\_time ong\_time ong\_lo long\_t  
ng\_time long\_time g\_long\_ng\_lon\_a\_long\_long\_long\_time ong\_lo  
ng\_time ong\_lo long\_time g\_long\_a\_long\_long\_long\_time ong\_lo  
ong\_lo long\_time g\_long\_a\_long\_long\_long\_time ong\_lo  
long\_lo long\_time g\_long\_a\_long  
long\_lo g\_long\_time a\_long  
a\_long\_long\_time

↑  
Foiled by repeat!

## To fix: longer reads!

length 8

long\_lon ng\_long\_long\_lo g\_long\_ong\_long\_g\_long\_long\_time a\_long\_l\_long\_time long\_time  
long\_time long\_lon ng\_long\_long\_lo g\_long\_t ong\_long g\_long\_l a\_long\_l\_long\_time  
long\_time long\_lon ng\_long\_long\_lo g\_long\_t ong\_long g\_long\_l a\_long\_l  
long\_time a\_long\_lo long\_lo ng\_long\_g\_long\_t ong\_long g\_long\_l  
long\_time ong\_long\_a\_long\_lo long\_lo g\_long\_t g\_long\_l  
g\_long\_time ong\_long\_a\_long\_lo long\_lo g\_long\_l  
g\_long\_time ong\_long\_l a\_long\_lo  
g\_long\_time a\_long\_long\_l  
a\_long\_long\_long\_time  
a\_long\_long\_long\_time

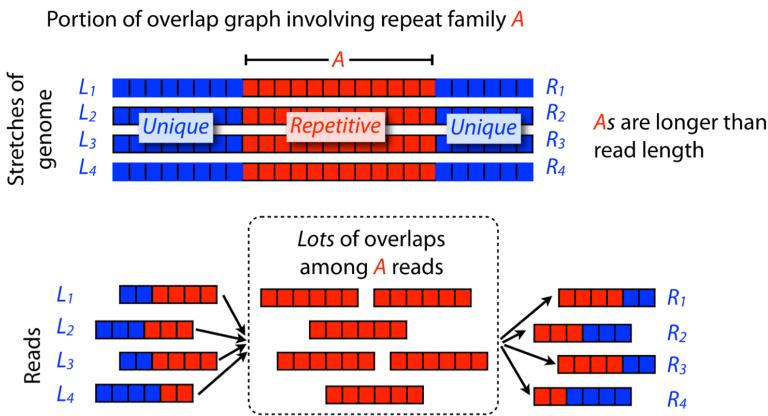
Repeats

These often fail assembly -  
certainly SCS, b/c of "shortest"

Need longer reads

↳ catches the repeat

But: algorithms that don't  
pay attention to repeats  
will always collapse them



Even if we avoid collapsing copies of A, we can't know which paths  
in correspond to which paths out

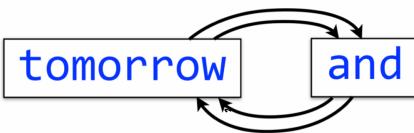
Problem:

Human genome is 50%  
repetition!

# This time: De Bruijn Graph Assembly

Idea: build a different graph

"tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow"



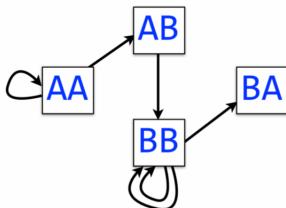
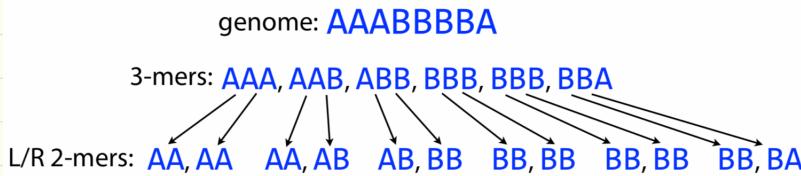
Vertices: "words" (or length  $k$  substrings)

Edges:  $u \rightarrow v$  edge for each time  $u$  then  $v$  appears in input

Note:

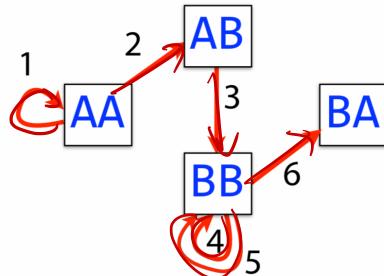
- Definitely a multigraph!
- Directed, unweighted

# A better example!



One edge per  $k$ -mer  
One node per distinct  $k-1$ -mer

Key:



AAABBBBA



Note: Path,  
not a circuit

AAABBBBA

# De Bruijn Graphs: How to build?

## General procedure:

Assume "perfect sequencing": each genome  $k$ -mer is sequenced exactly once with no errors

Pick a substring length  $k$ : 5

Start with an input string: a\_long\_long\_long\_time

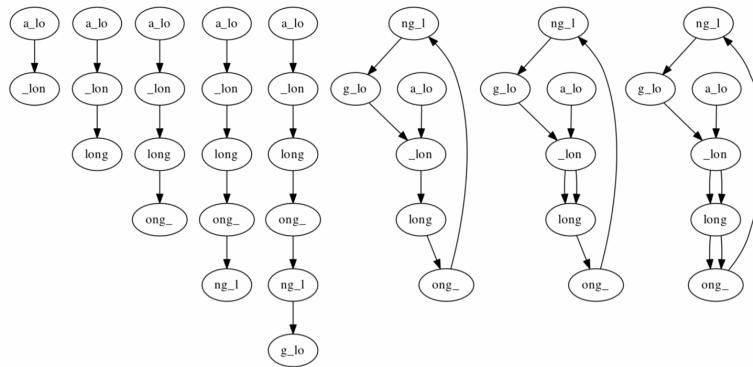
Take each  $k$  mer and split  
into left and right  $k-1$  mers

long\_  
long ong\_

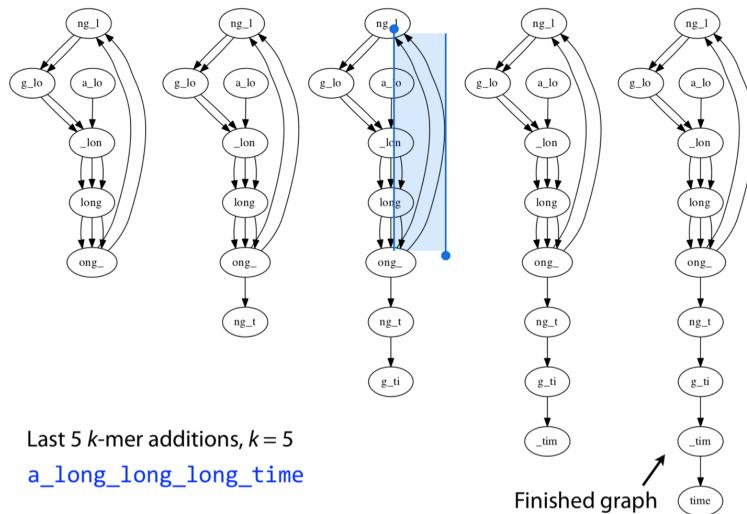
Add  $k-1$  mers as nodes to de Bruijn graph  
(if not already there), add edge from left  $k-1$   
mer to right  $k-1$  mer

(Obvious problem: )

An example:



First 8  $k$ -mer additions,  $k = 5$   
a\_long\_long\_long\_time



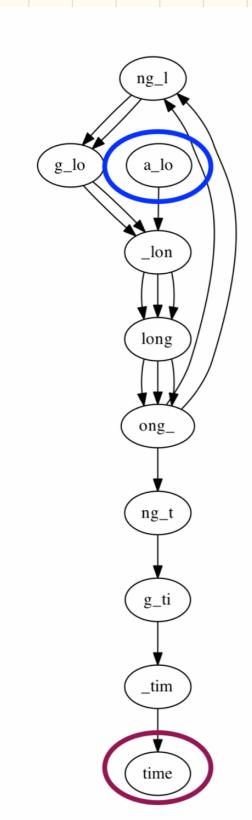
Question: Why is this  
Eulerian?

Think about how  
we built it:

each time a  
vertex was  
added (other  
than 1<sup>st</sup> & last),  
had in edge &  
out edge

2 odd degree  
edges

Start at one,  
& must get  
stuck at other



# Algorithm: (Python)

```
class DeBruijnGraph:  
    """ A de Bruijn multigraph built from a collection of strings.  
        User supplies strings and k-mer length k. Nodes of the de  
        Bruijn graph are k-1-mers and edges join a left k-1-mer to a  
        right k-1-mer. """  
  
    @staticmethod  
    def chop(st, k):  
        """ Chop a string up into k mers of given length """  
        for i in xrange(0, len(st)-(k-1)): yield st[i:i+k]  
  
    class Node:  
        """ Node in a de Bruijn graph, representing a k-1 mer """  
        def __init__(self, km1mer):  
            self.km1mer = km1mer  
  
        def __hash__(self):  
            return hash(self.km1mer)  
  
    def __init__(self, strIter, k):  
        """ Build de Bruijn multigraph given strings and k-mer length k """  
        self.G = {} # multimap from nodes to neighbors  
        self.nodes = {} # maps k-1-mers to Node objects  
        self.k = k  
        for st in strIter:  
            for kmer in self.chop(st, k):  
                km1L, km1R = kmer[:-1], kmer[1:]  
                nodeL, nodeR = None, None  
                if km1L in self.nodes:  
                    nodeL = self.nodes[km1L]  
                else:  
                    nodeL = self.nodes[km1L] = self.Node(km1L)  
                if km1R in self.nodes:  
                    nodeR = self.nodes[km1R]  
                else:  
                    nodeR = self.nodes[km1R] = self.Node(km1R)  
                self.G.setdefault(nodeL, []).append(nodeR)
```

Chop string into k-mers

For each k-mer, find left and right k-1-mers

Create corresponding nodes (if necessary) and add edge

# Problems

① Perfect sequencing

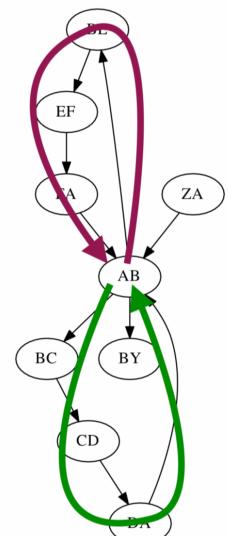
Never  
(next slide)

② Repeats can still cause issues!

Simple (ish) example of how:

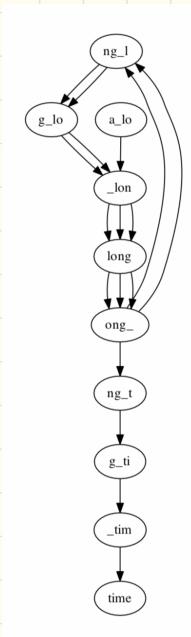
ZA → AB → BE → EF → FA → AB → BC → CD → DA → AB → BY

ZA → AB → BC → CD → DA → AB → BE → EF → FA → AB → BY

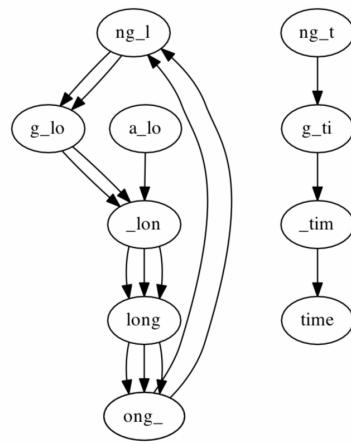


More issues (ie ① is a big deal!)

Graph for:  
a-long-long-time,  
 $k=5$ :

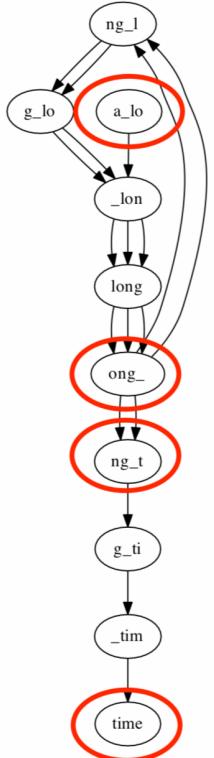


Same, but  
missing ong-t:



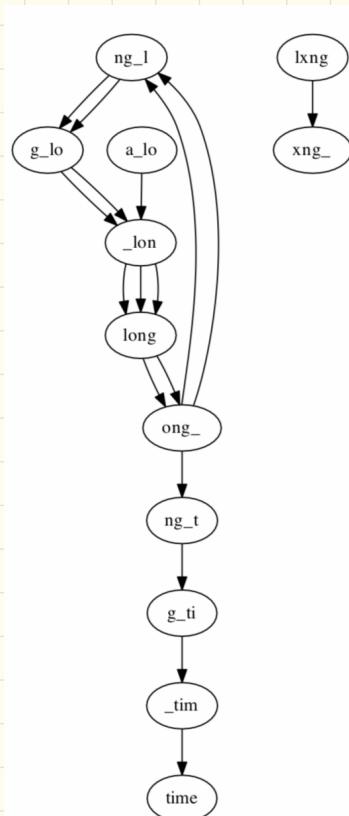
Issue:  
not connected

Same, but  
has extra  
copy of  
ong-t



Issue: ~~not~~ enters

Same, but  
error:  
long → lxng



Issue: not connected

## Final Conclusions

Casting assembly as Eulerian walk is appealing, but not practical

Uneven coverage, sequencing errors, etc make graph non-Eulerian

Even if graph were Eulerian, repeats yield many possible walks

Kingsford, Carl, Michael C. Schatz, and Mihai Pop. "Assembly complexity of prokaryotic genomes using short reads." *BMC bioinformatics* 11.1 (2010): 21.

*De Bruijn Superwalk Problem* (DBSP) seeks a walk over the De Bruijn graph, where walk contains each read as a *subwalk*

Proven NP-hard!

Medvedev, Paul, et al. "Computability of models for sequence assembly." *Algorithms in Bioinformatics*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2007. 289-301.