

Discrete Mathematics: Lecture 22

Part IV. Graph Theory

nonseparable, vertex connectivity, k -connected, cut edge, edge cut, edge connectivity,
Edge connectivity, Paths and Isomorphism, Counting Paths, Euler Paths and Circuits

Xuming He

Associate Professor

School of Information Science and Technology
ShanghaiTech University

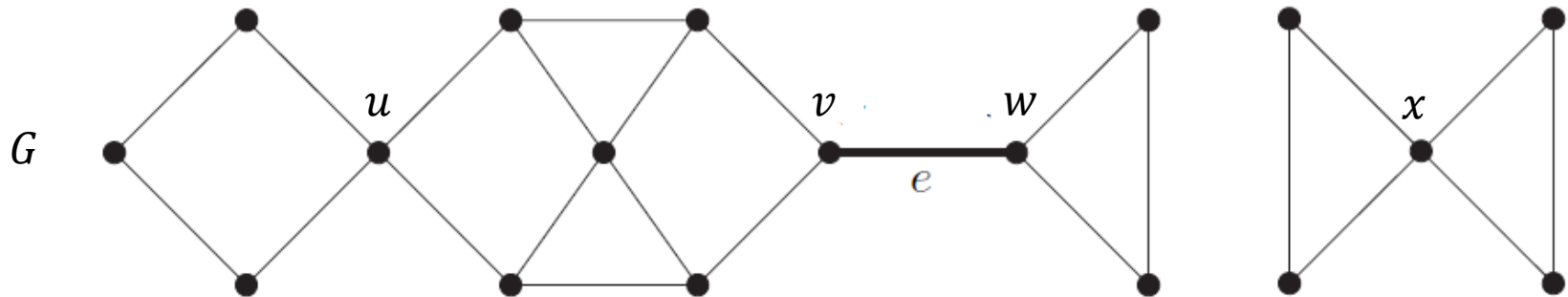
Spring Semester, 2025

Notes by Prof. Liangfeng Zhang

Review: Connected Component

DEFINITION: A **connected component**_{连通分支} of a graph $G = (V, E)$ is a connected subgraph of G that is not a proper subgraph of a connected subgraph of G . //i.e., maximal_{极大} connected subgraph

- $v \in V$ is a **cut vertex**_{割点} if $G - v$ has more connected components than G
- $e \in E$ is a **cut edge**_{割边}, **bridge**_桥 if $G - e$ has more connected components than G



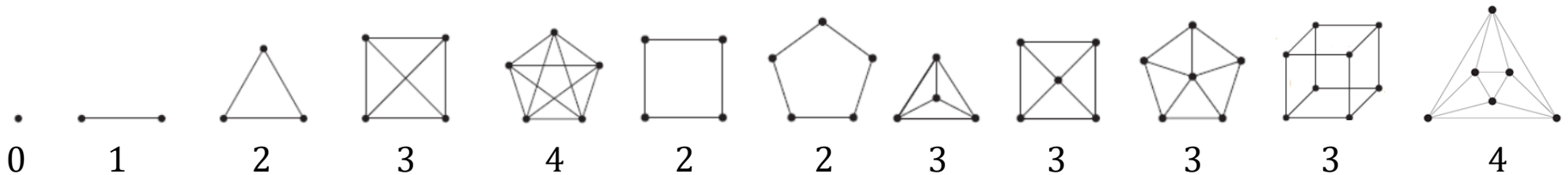
- There are 2 connected components in the graph G
- cut vertices: u, v, w, x
- cut edge: e

Vertex Connectivity

DEFINITION: A connected undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ is said to be **nonseparable**_{不可分的} if G has no **cut vertex**.

DEFINITION: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected simple graph.

- **vertex cut**_{点割集}: A subset $V' \subseteq V$ such that $G - V'$ is disconnected
- **vertex connectivity**_{点连通度} $\kappa(G)$: the minimum number of vertices whose removal disconnect G or results in K_1 ; equivalently,
 - if G is disconnected, $\kappa(G) = 0$; //additional definition
 - if $G = K_n$, $\kappa(G) = n - 1$ // K_n has no vertex cut
 - else, $\kappa(G)$ is the minimum size of a vertex cut of G



These graphs are all nonseparable

Vertex Connectivity

THEOREM: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph of order n . Then

- $0 \leq \kappa(G) \leq n - 1$
 - Removing $n - 1$ vertices gives K_1
 - $\kappa(G) \leq n - 1$
- $\kappa(G) = 0$ iff G is disconnected or $G = K_1$
 - trivial
- $\kappa(G) = n - 1$ iff $G = K_n (n \geq 2)$
 - If: obvious
 - Only if:
 - $n = 2: \kappa(G) = 1 \Rightarrow G = K_2$
 - $n \geq 3$: Prove by contradiction. Suppose that $G \neq K_n$.
 - There exist distinct $u, v \in V$ such that $u \neq v$ and $\{u, v\} \notin E$
 - Let $X = V - \{u, v\}$. Then $G - X$ is disconnected.
 - $\kappa(G) \leq |X| = n - 2 < n - 1$.

Vertex Connectivity

DEFINITION: A simple graph $G = (V, E)$ is called **k -connected** _{k 点连通的} (**k -vertex-connected**) _{k 点连通的} if $\kappa(G) \geq k$.

THEOREM: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph of order n . Then

- G is 1-connected iff G is connected and $G \neq K_1$.
 - **Only if:** G disconnected or $G = K_1 \Rightarrow \kappa(G) = 0$
 - **If:** $G \neq K_1 \Rightarrow n \geq 2$; G is connected \Rightarrow removing 0 vertex cannot disconnect G or give $K_1 \Rightarrow \kappa(G) \geq 1$
- G is 2-connected iff G is nonseparable and $n \geq 3$.
 - **Only if:** $n \leq 2 \Rightarrow \kappa(G) \leq 1$; G not nonseparable $\Rightarrow G$ has cut vertex $\Rightarrow \kappa(G) \leq 1$.
 - **If:** $n \geq 3 \Rightarrow$ removing ≤ 1 vertex cannot result in K_1 ; G nonseparable \Rightarrow removing ≤ 1 vertex cannot disconnect G ; Hence. $\kappa(G) \geq 2$.
- G is k -connected iff G is j -connected for all $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$
 - **Only if:** $\kappa(G) \geq k \Rightarrow \kappa(G) \geq j$ for all $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\} \Rightarrow G$ is j connected
 - **If:** G is obviously k -connected

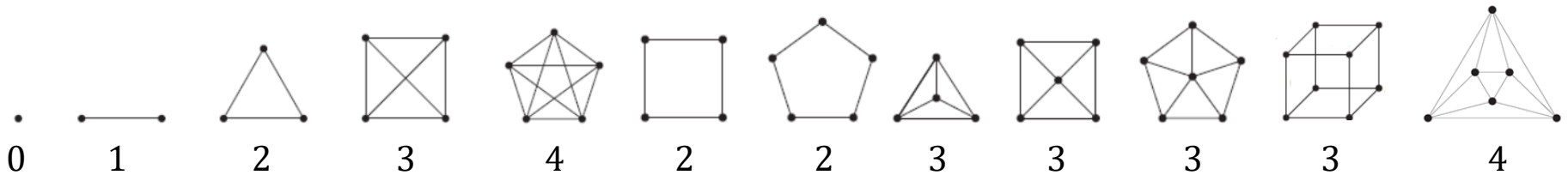
Edge Connectivity

DEFINITION: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected simple graph. $E' \subseteq E$ is an **edge cut**_{边割集} of G if $G - E'$ is disconnected.

DEFINITION: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph.

The **edge connectivity**_{边连通度} ($\lambda(G)$) of G is defined as below:

- G disconnected: $\lambda(G) = 0$
- G connected:
 - $|V| = 1$: $\lambda(G) = 0$
 - $|V| > 1$: $\lambda(G)$ is the minimum size of edge cuts of G .



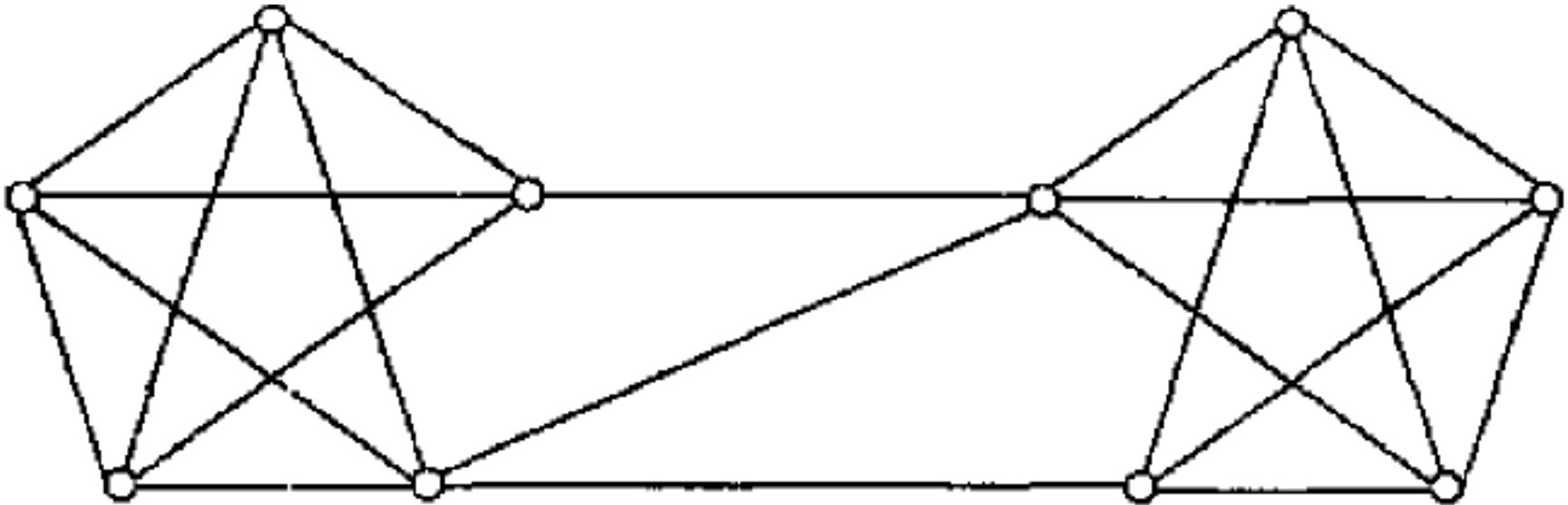
Edge Connectivity

THEOREM: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph of order n . Then

- $0 \leq \lambda(G) \leq n - 1$
 - $n = 1$: $G = K_1$ and $\lambda(G) = 0$
 - $n > 1$: $\deg(u) \leq n - 1$ for every $u \in V$
 - By removing $\{\{u, x\} : \{u, x\} \in E\}$, we can disconnect G .
 - Hence, $\lambda(G) \leq n - 1$.
- $\lambda(G) = 0$ iff G is disconnected or $G = K_1$
 - Only if: $n > 1$ and G connected $\Rightarrow \lambda(G) \geq 1$;
 - If: definition
- $\lambda(G) = n - 1$ iff $G = K_n$ ($n \geq 2$)
 - Only if: if $G \neq K_n$, then $\deg(u) < n - 1$ for some $u \in V$.
 - Remove $\{\{u, x\} : \{u, x\} \in E\}$. Then G is disconnected. $\lambda(G) < n - 1$
 - If: $\lambda(K_n) \geq \kappa(K_n) = n - 1$. (see the next theorem)

Connectivity

THEOREM: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph. Then $\kappa(G) \leq \lambda(G) \leq \delta(G)$, where $\delta(G) = \min_{v \in V} \deg(v)$ is the least degree of G 's vertices.



- $\kappa(G) = 2$
- $\lambda(G) = 3$
- $\delta(G) = 4$

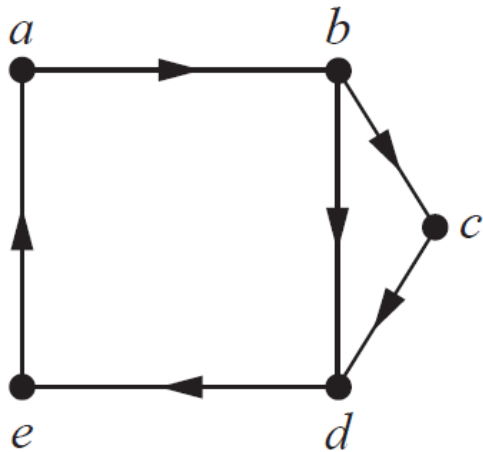
https://cp-algorithms.com/graph/edge_vertex_connectivity.html

<http://www.math.caltech.edu/~2014-15/2term/ma006b/05%20connectivity%201.pdf>

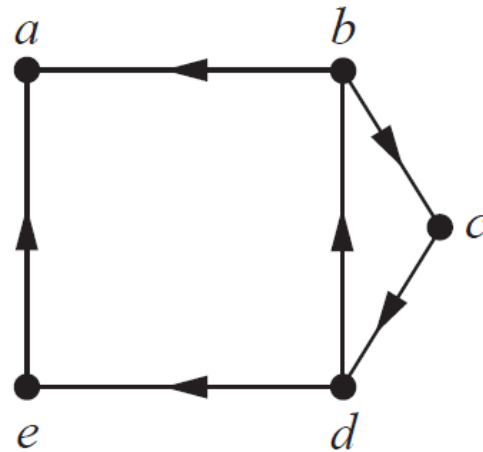
Connected Directed Graphs

DEFINITION: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a directed graph. G is said to be **strongly connected** if there is a path from u to v and a path from v to u for all $u, v \in V$ ($u \neq v$).

- **weakly connected:** the graph is connected if we remove the directions of all direct edges.



Strongly connected

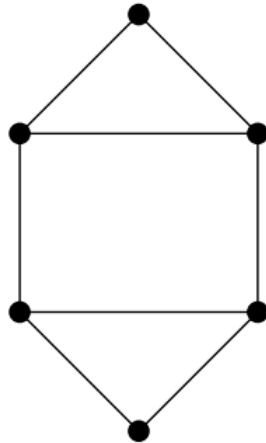


Weakly connected

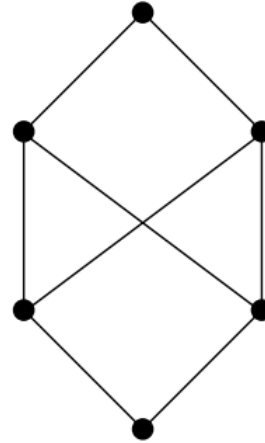
Paths and Isomorphism

Theorem

The existence of a simple circuit of length k , $k \geq 3$ is an isomorphism invariant for simple graphs.



G_1



G_2

6 vertices, 8 edges

Degree sequence: 3, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2

Paths and Isomorphism

Theorem

The existence of a simple circuit of length k , $k \geq 3$ is an isomorphism invariant for simple graphs.

Proof: Let $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$ and $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$ be isomorphic graphs: there is a bijective function $f : V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ respecting adjacency conditions.

Assume G_1 has a simple circuit of length k : $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_k = u_0$, with $u_i \in V_1$ for $0 \leq i \leq k$. Let's denote $v_i = f(u_i)$, for $0 \leq i \leq k$.

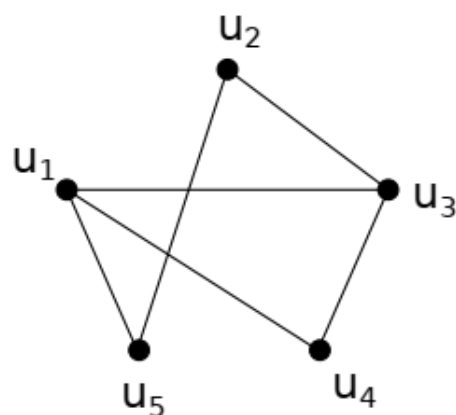
$(u_i, u_{i+1}) \in E_1 \Rightarrow (f(u_i), f(u_{i+1})) = (v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E_2$, for $0 \leq i \leq k - 1$.

So v_0, \dots, v_k is a path of length k in G_2 .

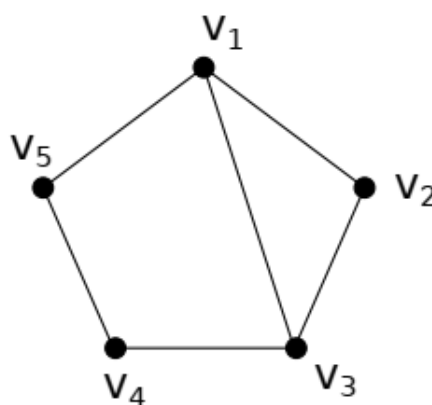
It is a circuit because $v_k = f(u_k) = f(u_0) = v_0$.

It is simple: if not, at least one edge is traversed more than once, so it would mean that there exist $0 \leq i \neq j \leq k - 1$ such that

$(v_i, v_{i+1}) = (v_j, v_{j+1})$. But this implies $(u_i, u_{i+1}) = (u_j, u_{j+1})$ by bijectivity of f . This is impossible because u_0, u_1, \dots, u_k is simple.



G



H

5 vertices, 6 edges

Degree sequence: 3, 3, 2, 2, 2

1 simple circuit of length 3,

1 simple circuit of length 4,

1 simple circuit of length 5.

Isomorphic graphs ?

If there is an iso $f : V_G \rightarrow V_H$, the simple circuit of length 5

u_1, u_4, u_3, u_2, u_5 must be sent to the simple circuit of length 5 in H, respecting the degrees of vertices.

Check that $f(u_1) = v_1, f(u_4) = v_2, f(u_3) = v_3, f(u_2) = v_4, f(u_5) = v_5$ is an isomorphism by writing adjacency matrices.

Counting Paths Between Vertices

Theorem

Let G be a graph with adjacency matrix A with respect to the ordering of vertices v_1, \dots, v_n . The number of different paths of length $r \geq 1$ from v_i to v_j equals the (i, j) entry of the matrix A^r .

Proof: By induction

- $r = 1$: the number of paths of length 1 from v_i to v_j is equal to the (i, j) entry of A by definition of A , as it corresponds to the number of edges from v_i to v_j .

- Assume the (i, j) entry of the matrix A^r is the number of different paths of length r from v_i to v_j .

We can write $A^{r+1} = A^r A$

Let's denote $A^r = (b_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$, and $A = (a_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$. The (i, j) entry of A^{r+1} is given by:

$$\sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik} a_{kj} = b_{i1} a_{1j} + b_{i2} a_{2j} + \cdots + b_{in} a_{nj} \quad (1)$$

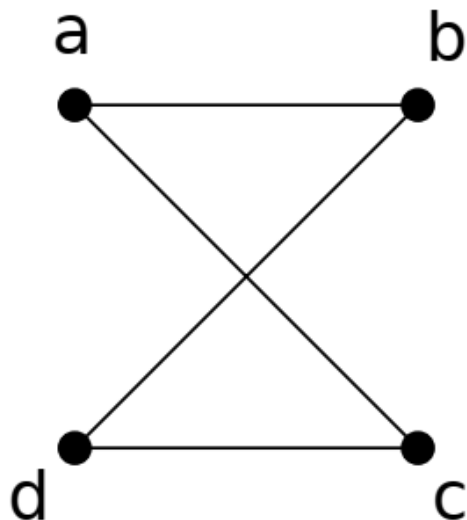
By hypothesis: b_{ik} equals the number of paths of length r from v_i to v_k .

"Path of length $r + 1$ from v_i to v_j = path of length r from v_i to any vertex v_k + an edge from v_k to v_j ."

This is equal to the sum (1).

Example

How many paths of length four are there from a to d in the simple graph G



with ordering of vertices (a, b, c, d, e) :

$$A_G = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_G^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

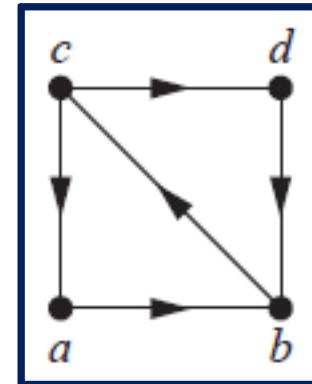
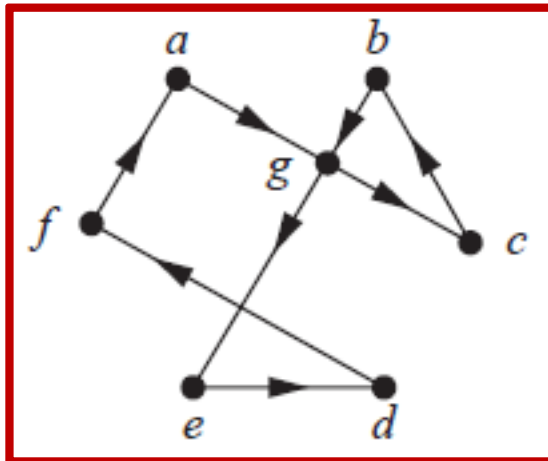
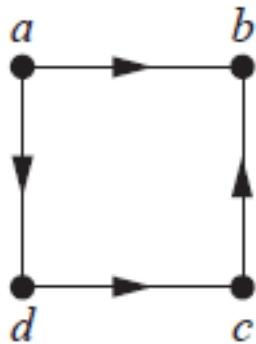
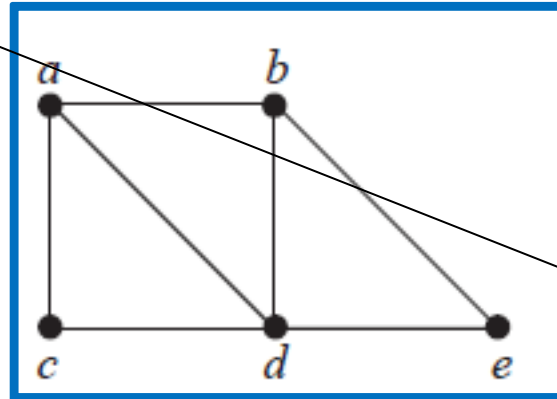
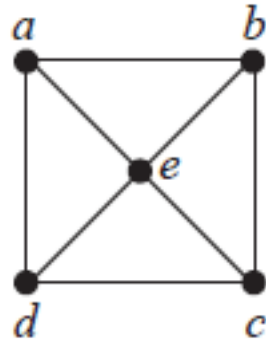
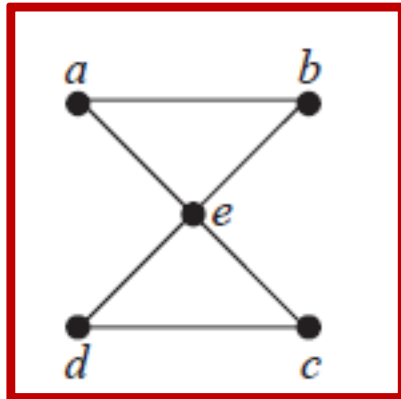
$$A_G^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 & 4 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_G^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 8 & 0 & 0 & 8 \\ 0 & 8 & 8 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 & 8 & 0 \\ 8 & 0 & 0 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

Euler Paths and Circuits

DEFINITION: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph.

- **Euler Path**_{欧拉路径}: a **simple path** that traverses every edge of G .
- **Euler Circuit**_{欧拉回路}: a **simple circuit** that traverses every edge of G .



Remark: When G has multiple edges, these edges will be given different names and considered as different. This is implicit in the textbook.

Euler Circuits

THEOREM: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a **connected multigraph** of order ≥ 2 .

Then G has an Euler circuit iff $2 \mid \deg(x)$ for every $x \in V$.

- \Rightarrow : Let $P: \{x_0, x_1\}, \dots, \{x_{i-1}, x_i\}, \dots, \{x_{n-1}, x_n\}$ be an Euler circuit, $x_0 = x_n$
 - Every occurrence of x_i in P contributes 2 to $\deg(x_i)$
 - Every vertex x_i has an even degree
- \Leftarrow : Let $P: \{x_0, x_1\}, \dots, \{x_{n-1}, x_n\}$ be a longest simple path in G .
 - Let $H = G[P]$, the subgraph of G induced by all edges in P
 - If $x_n \neq x_0$, then $\deg_H(x_n)$ is odd and so P cannot be longest.
 - $x_n = x_0$, P is a simple circuit, and $2 \mid \deg_H(x_i)$ for all i .
 - If $\exists i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ such that $\deg_H(x_i) < \deg_G(x_i)$,
 - then $\exists y \in V$ such that $\{x_i, y\} \notin P$
 - $y, x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n, x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i$ is longer than P
 - Hence, $\deg_H(x_i) = \deg_G(x_i)$ for all $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$.
 - $V = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}\}$ and $H = G$.
 - P is an Euler circuit.

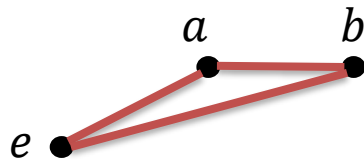
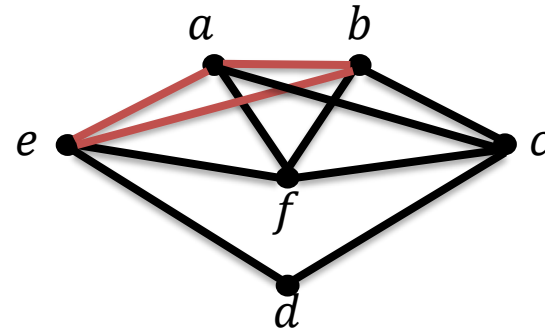
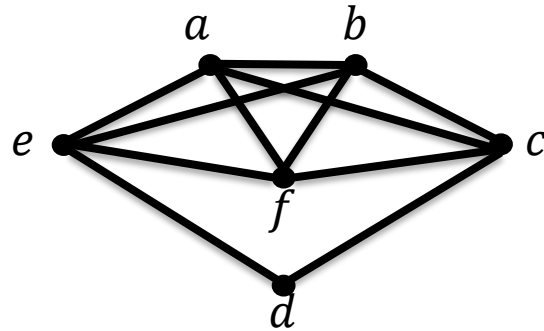
Remark: H contains all vertices of G .
Otherwise, P can be extended.

Construction

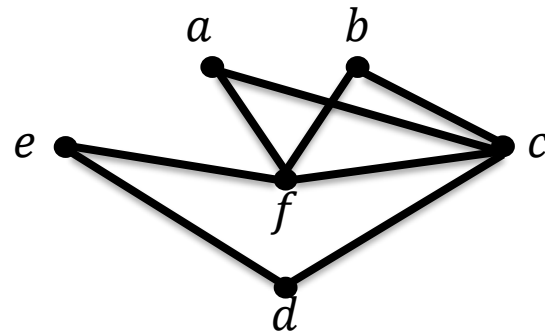
ALGORITHM (Hierholzer):

- **Input:** $G = (V, E)$, a connected multigraph, $2 \mid \deg(x), \forall x \in V$
- **Output:** an Euler circuit
 - **circuit:** = a circuit in G
 - $H := G - \text{circuit} - \text{isolated vertices}$
 - while H has edges do
 - **subcircuit:** = a circuit in H that intersects **circuit**
 - $H := H - \text{subcircuit} - \text{isolated vertices}$
 - **circuit:** = **circuit** \cup **subcircuit**
 - return **circuit**

Example

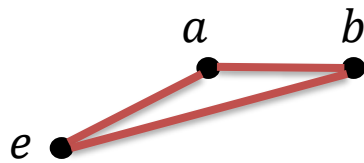
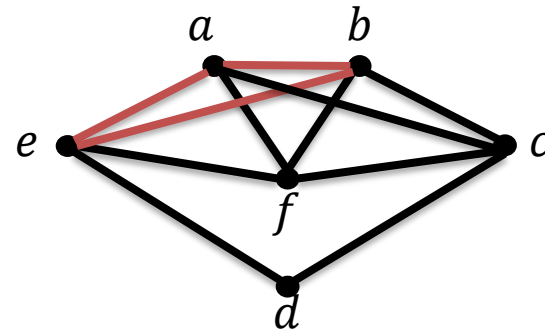
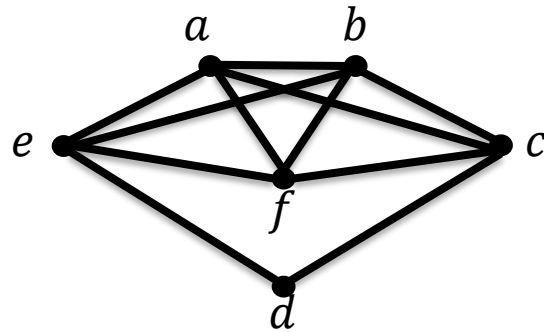


circuit = a, b, e, a

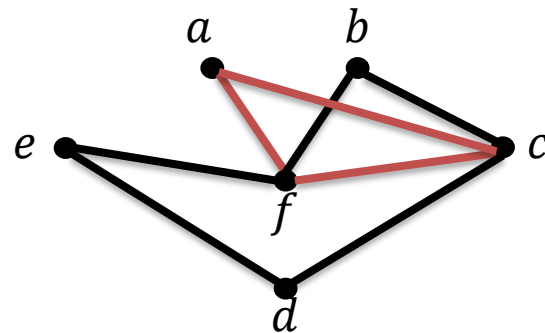


H

Example



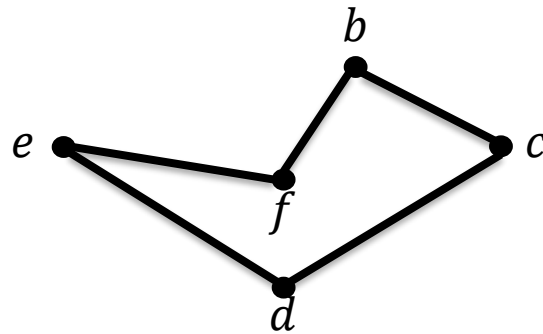
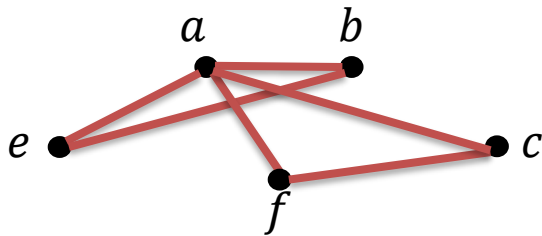
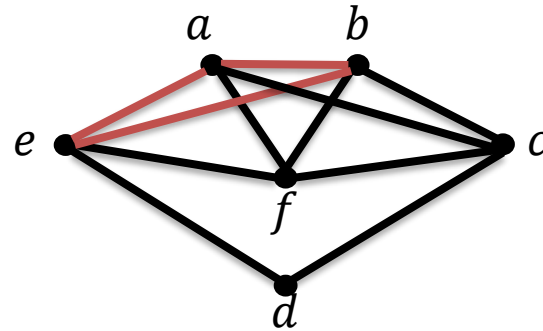
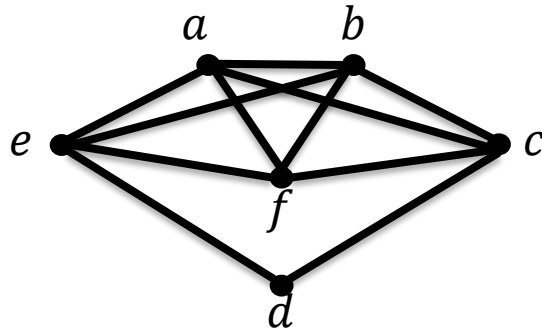
circuit = a, b, e, a



H

subcircuit = a, c, f, a

Example

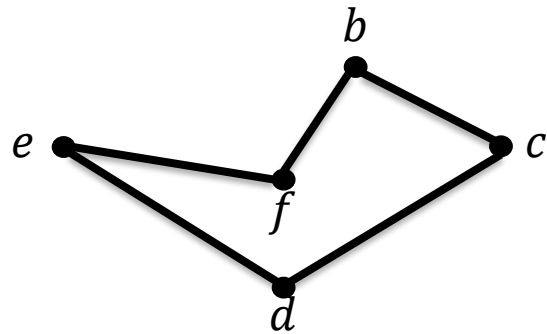
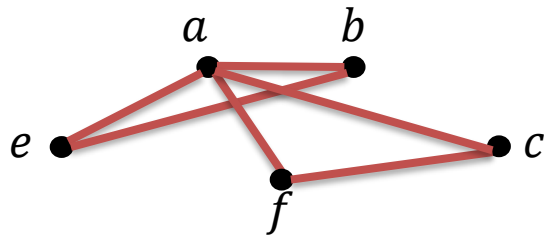
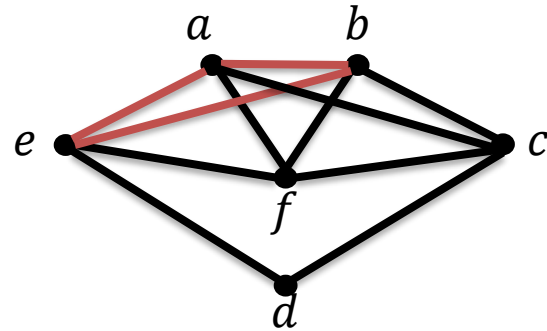
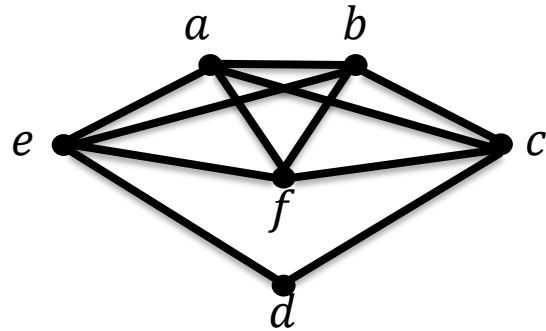


circuit = a, b, e, a

subcircuit = a, c, f, a

H

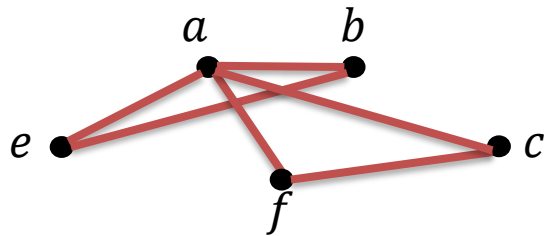
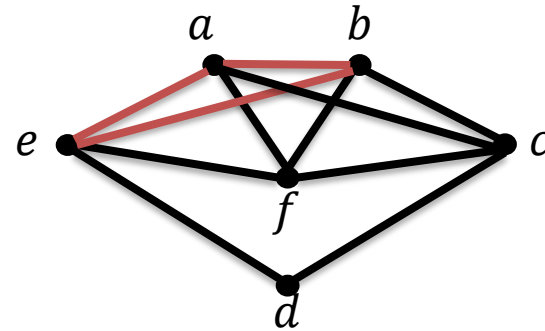
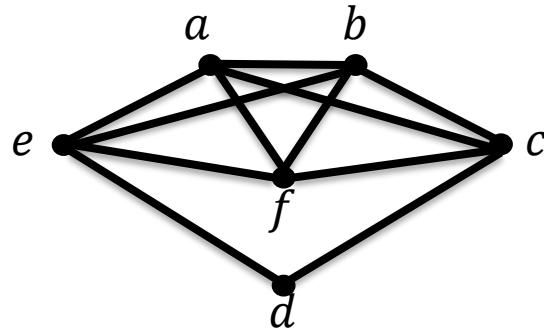
Example



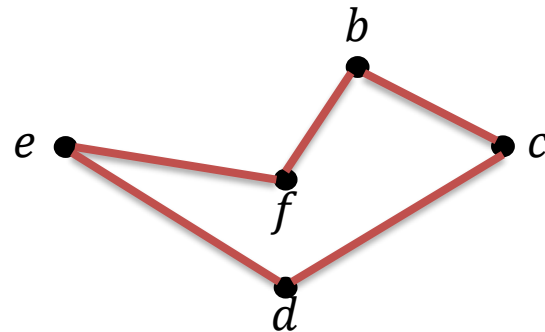
circuit = a, b, e, a, c, f, a

H

Example



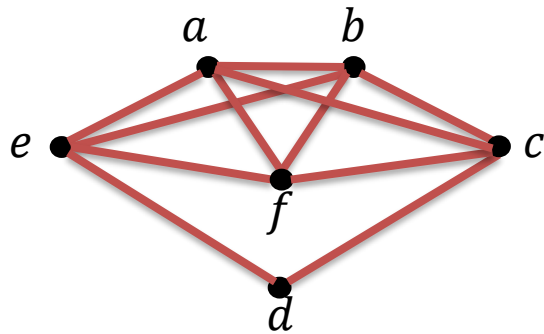
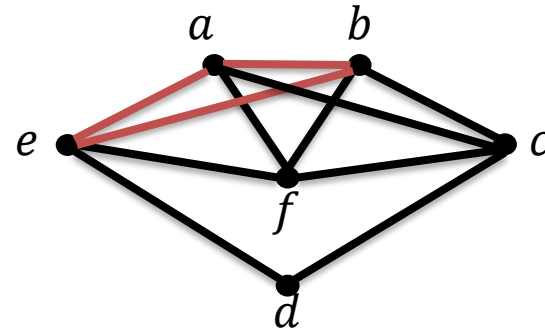
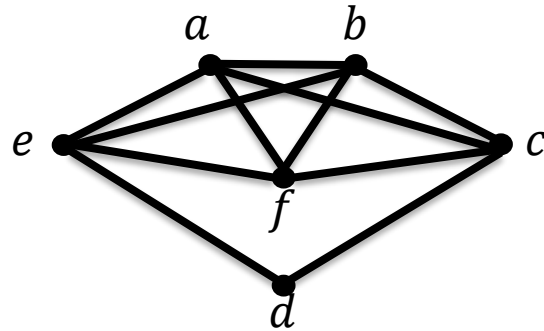
circuit = a, b, e, a, c, f, a



H

subcircuit = c, d, e, f, b, c

Example

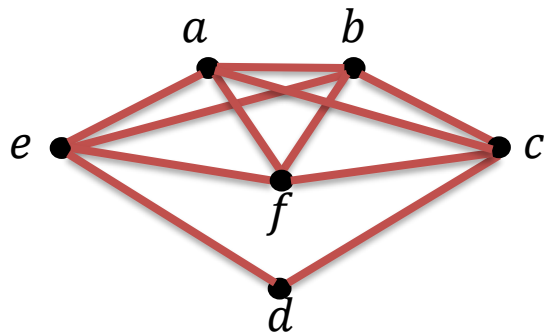
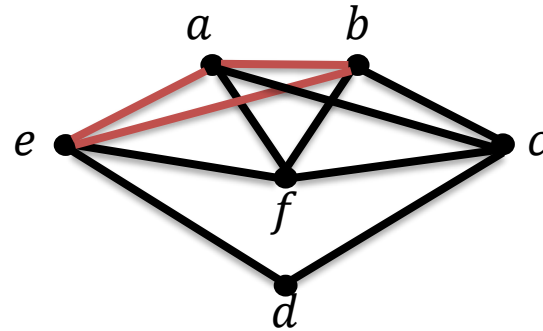
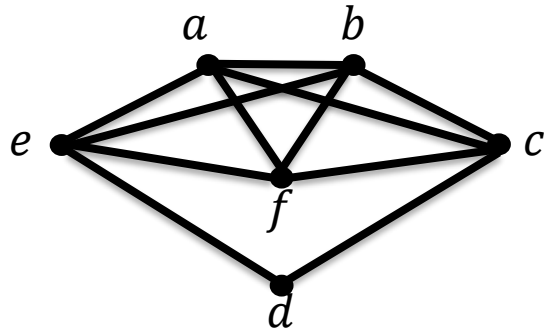


circuit = a, b, e, a, c, f, a

H

subcircuit = c, d, e, f, b, c

Example



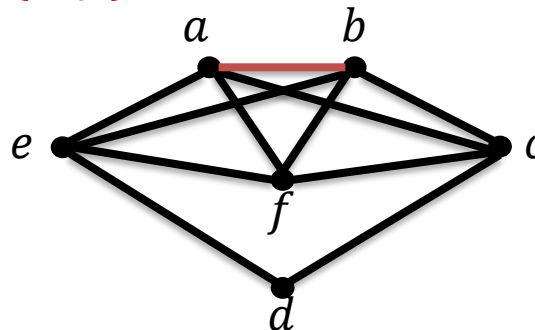
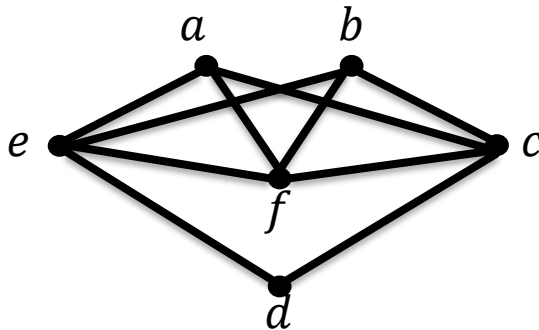
circuit = $a, b, e, a, c, d, e, f, b, c, f, a$

Euler Paths

THEOREM: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected multigraph of order ≥ 2 . Then G has an Euler path (not Euler circuit) iff G has exactly 2 vertices of odd degree.

ALGORITHM:

- **Input:** $G = (V, E)$, a connected multigraph, $x, y \in V$ have odd degrees
- **Output:** an Euler path
 - $H := G + \{x, y\}$
 - find an Euler circuit using Hierholzer's algorithm
 - remove the edge $\{x, y\}$ from the circuit



$a, c, d, e, f, b, a, e, b, c, f, a$
 $a, c, d, e, f, \textcolor{red}{b}, \textcolor{red}{a}, e, b, c, f, a$
 $\textcolor{red}{a}, e, b, c, f, a, c, d, e, f, \textcolor{red}{b}$