MATH 322 – Graph Theory Fall Term 2021

Notes for Lecture 16

Tuesday, November 2

The travelling salesman problem

Let G_0 be a weighted connected graph whose vertices represent different cities that a salesman wants to visit, which are connected by, say, roads and highways, or by train routes, or by airline routes, represented by the edges of the graph (with each edge weight capturing the cost or distance of travel from one city - endvertex to the other city - endvertex joined by the corresponding edge).

Question 1. What is the most cost-efficient (or time-efficient) way for the salesman to visit all the cities and finally return to the city which he is supposed to start from?

Question 2. Is there a way for the salesman to visit all the cities but not pass by any city more than once (except perhaps in the case that he returns to the city where he starts from at the end of his trip)?

An efficient scenic route...

The city of Königsberg, Prussia was set on the Pregel River, and included two large islands that were connected to each other and the mainland by seven bridges.



Image from Wikipedia: Map of the city in Leonhard Euler's time showing the actual layout of the seven bridges, and highlighting the river Pregel and the bridges.

People spent time trying to discover a way in which they could cross each bridge exactly once before returning to the point / place in the city that they started from.

Paths, cycles, trails and circuits in graphs

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

• walks A walk of length k in G is a sequence of (not necessarily distinct) vertices $v_{i_0}, v_{i_1}, v_{i_2}, \ldots, v_{i_k}$ from V, such that $v_i v_{i+1} \in E(G)$ for every $i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, k-1$. The vertices v_{i_0} and v_{i_k} are called the *endvertices* of the walk, and we sometimes say that this is a $v_{i_0} - v_{i_k}$ walk.

Recall that, since G here is a graph (and thus, according to the definitions in this course, it does not contain multiple edges), we can completely describe the walk by simply writing the vertices it passes through, one next to the other, in the correct order: $v_{i_0} v_{i_1} v_{i_2} \cdots v_{i_k}$.

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- paths A path in G is simply a walk in which all the vertices are distinct.
- cycles A cycle is a 'closed path', that is, a walk in which all vertices are distinct except for the terminal vertex which coincides with the initial vertex.
- trails If all the edges in a walk are distinct (but not necessarily all the vertices), we call this walk a trail.
- circuits A circuit is a 'closed trail', that is, a walk in which all edges are distinct, and also the endvertices coincide.

Let H=(V,E) be a multigraph in H, and suppose that $V=\{v_1,v_2,\ldots,v_n\}$, while $E=\{e_1,e_2,\ldots,e_m\}$ (the latter set may include <u>different</u> edges which have <u>the same</u> pair of endvertices (and thus form groups of multiple edges), as well as loops; it's even possible that we have 'parallel' loops, that is, distinct loops which are attached to the same vertex, as e.g. we did in an example last time, or as in a HW4 example).

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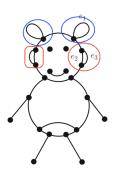
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Reminder: Degree of a vertex in a multigraph

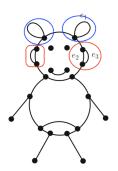


'Alternative' Definition

In a multigraph G, we define the degree of a vertex v_0 of G to be the number of edges which are incident to v_0 .

By convention, if v_0 has loops attached to it, then each such loop contributes 2 to the degree of v_0 .

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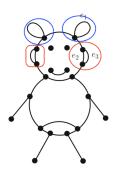
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With this definition, the Handshaking Lemma, as well as its first Corollary, that we saw earlier in the term, continue to hold in a multigraph.

Handshaking Lemma

Let G be a finite multigraph, with vertex set V and size e(G). Then $\sum_{v_i \in V} \deg(v_i) = 2e(G)$.

If $V_{
m odd}$ is the subset of the vertices in G which have odd degree, then $V_{
m odd}$ must have even cardinality.

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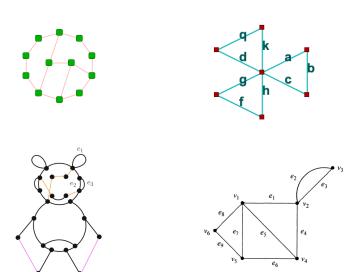
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G is called <u>Eulerian</u> if we can find (at least) one Euler circuit in G.

Examples and non-examples



bottom row from the Balakrishnan-Ranganathan book (1st image modified)

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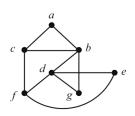
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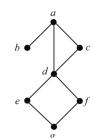
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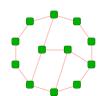
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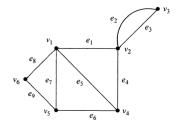
The name is in honour of the mathematician William Hamilton who introduced the idea of looking for Hamilton cycles in graphs (with the first graph he considered being (the 'frame' of) the solid dodecahedron) as a new board game!

Examples and non-examples









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Proposition 1

Let G be a connected graph (or multigraph).

Then G has an Euler trail, but not an Euler circuit **if and only if** exactly two vertices of G have odd degree (and all other vertices have even degree).

Theorem 2

Let G = (V, E) be a (non-trivial) connected graph (or multigraph).

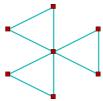
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Example. In the graph below we can write the edge set as the disjoint union of three cycles:

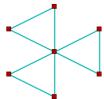


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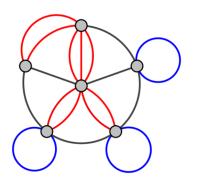
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Immediate Corollary

Every Eulerian graph G is bridgeless (that is, it satisfies $\lambda(G) \ge 2$).

Applying Theorem 2 to multigraphs?



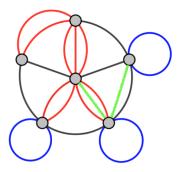


Image from Wikipedia

Question. Can you decompose the edge set of any of these multigraphs into disjoint cycles?

Applying Theorems 1 and 2 to examples

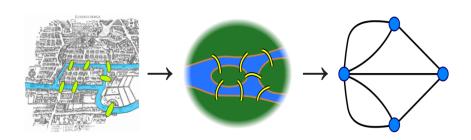
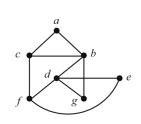
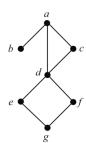


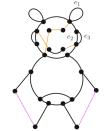
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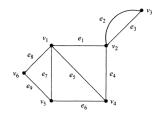
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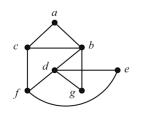


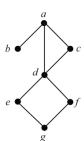




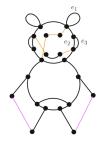
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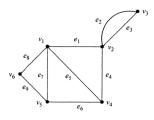






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Justification. Suppose that G is Eulerian. Suppose also that the size of G is m, and that

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is an Euler circuit of G (that is, u_{i_s} , $0 \le s \le m$, are vertices of G, not necessarily distinct, with the last vertex being equal to the first vertex as written above, while e_{j_t} , $1 \le t \le m$, are all the m edges of G, clearly each one appearing only once).

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$$u_{i_0} \stackrel{e_{j_1}}{e_{j_1}} u_{i_1} \stackrel{e_{j_2}}{e_{j_2}} u_{i_2} \cdots u_{i_{m-2}} \stackrel{e_{j_{m-1}}}{e_{j_{m-1}}} u_{i_{m-1}} \stackrel{e_{j_m}}{e_{j_m}} u_{i_m} = u_{i_0}$$

is an Euler circuit of G (that is, u_{i_s} , $0 \le s \le m$, are vertices of G, not necessarily distinct, with the last vertex being equal to the first vertex as written above, while e_{j_t} , $1 \le t \le m$, are all the m edges of G, clearly each one appearing only once).

We note now that, for each t < m, the edges e_{j_t} and $e_{j_{t+1}}$ are adjacent since they have a common endvertex, the vertex u_{i_t} . Thus, e_{j_t} and $e_{j_{t+1}}$, as vertices of L(G) now, will be neighbouring vertices.

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In other words, the walk in L(G) given by

$$e_{j_1} e_{j_2} \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot e_{j_{m-1}} e_{j_m}$$

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Moreover, we observe that e_{j_m} and e_{j_1} are neighbouring too in L(G) since they have a common endvertex, the vertex $u_{i_m} = u_{i_0}$ of G. We conclude that

$$e_{i_1} e_{i_2} \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot e_{i_{m-1}} e_{i_m} e_{i_1}$$

is a Hamilton cycle of L(G), and thus L(G) is a Hamiltonian graph.

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Answer. We recall that

$$\deg_{L(G)}(e_{j_t}) = (\deg_G(u_1) - 1) + (\deg_G(u_2) - 1) = \deg_G(u_1) + \deg_G(u_2) - 2.$$

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• Since e_{jt} was an arbitrary vertex of L(G), we conclude that every vertex of L(G) has even degree. But then, by Theorem 1, we see that L(G) is Eulerian too.

We begin with a few observations:

1. Suppose that H = (V, E) is a multigraph, and consider a walk

$$v_{i_0} \overset{}{e_{j_1}} v_{i_1} \overset{}{e_{j_2}} v_{i_2} \overset{}{e_{j_3}} v_{i_3} \cdots v_{i_8} \overset{}{e_{j_9}} v_{i_9} \overset{}{e_{j_{10}}} v_{i_{10}} \cdots v_{i_{k-1}} \overset{}{e_{j_k}} v_{i_k}$$

in H. Let's say e.g. that e_{j_2} and e_{j_q} here are loops of H.

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in H. Let's say e.g. that e_{j_2} and e_{j_9} here are loops of H. Then we can safely 'delete' them and get a new, shorter walk in H which passes by the same vertices: note that

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is again a walk in H (in this case, of length k-2), given that we must have had $v_{i_1}=v_{i_2}$ from the beginning (because e_{j_2} was a loop) and similarly we had $v_{i_8}=v_{i_9}$.

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Obviously we can generalise this to any walk in H which contains some loops, and to 'deleting' any number of these loops from the given walk.

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Obviously we can generalise this to any walk in H which contains some loops, and to 'deleting' any number of these loops from the given walk.

2. If $u_{i_0} \in i_1 u_{i_1} \in i_2 u_{i_2} \in i_3 u_{i_3} \cdots u_{i_8} \in i_5 u_{i_9} \in i_{10} u_{i_{10}} \cdots u_{i_{k-1}} \in i_k u_{i_k} = u_{i_0}$ is a closed walk in a (multi)graph G, then we can rewrite this walk so that it starts at any vertex we want out of the ones contained in the walk (and of course so that it ends at that same vertex).

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Obviously we can generalise this to any walk in H which contains some loops, and to 'deleting' any number of these loops from the given walk.

If \$u_{i_0} \, \tilde{e}_{i_1} \, u_{i_1} \, \tilde{e}_{i_2} \, u_{i_2} \, \tilde{e}_{i_3} \, u_{i_9} \, \tilde{e}_{i_{10}} \, u_{i_{10}} \cdots \cdots \, u_{i_{k-1}} \, \tilde{e}_{j_k} \, u_{i_k} = u_{i_0} \\
is a closed walk in a (multi)graph \$G\$, then we can rewrite this walk so that it starts at any vertex we want out of the ones contained in the walk (and of course so that it ends at that same vertex).

E.g. if we would prefer to start our walk at vertex u_{i_9} , then we would be able to do so and get a new closed walk which traverses the same edges as before: in this case, this could be the walk

$$u_{i_0} \stackrel{e}{e_{j_{10}}} u_{i_{10}} \cdots u_{i_{k-1}} \stackrel{e}{e_{j_k}} u_{i_k} (= u_{i_0}) \stackrel{e}{e_{j_1}} u_{i_1} \stackrel{e}{e_{j_2}} u_{i_2} \stackrel{e}{e_{j_3}} u_{i_3} \cdots u_{i_8} \stackrel{e}{e_{j_9}} u_{i_9}.$$

3. Let G be a (multi)graph, and let

$$\mathrm{CI}_0: u_{i_0} \ \widetilde{e}_{j_1} \ u_{i_1} \ \widetilde{e}_{j_2} \ u_{i_2} \ \widetilde{e}_{j_3} \ u_{i_3} \cdots \ u_{i_8} \ \widetilde{e}_{j_0} \ u_{i_9} \ \widetilde{e}_{j_{10}} \ u_{i_{10}} \cdots \ u_{i_{k-1}} \ \widetilde{e}_{j_k} \ u_{i_k} = u_{i_0}$$

be a circuit of G (that is, now we assume that all the edges $\widetilde{e}_{j_1},\widetilde{e}_{j_2},\ldots,\widetilde{e}_{j_k}$ are distinct).

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Then, if we view this circuit as a subgraph of G (or in other words, if we consider the subgraph of G which contains all the vertices and all the edges appearing in CI_0), then every vertex in CI_0 will have even degree within this subgraph.

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Indeed, if one of the edges appearing is a loop, say edge \widetilde{e}_{j_2} , then we must have that $u_{i_1}=u_{i_2}$ (and thus \widetilde{e}_{j_2} can only affect the degree of vertex $u_{i_1}(=u_{i_2})$).

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It remains to observe that, in the shortened version of CI_0 , every time a vertex u_{i_s} appears (or reappears), it is incident with two different edges which are NOT loops, so each of these edges would contribute exactly 1 to the degree of u_{i_s} (within CI_0);

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