Graphs

Data Structures and Algorithms for Computational Linguistics III (ISCL-BA-07)

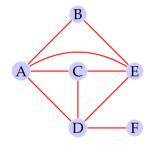
Çağrı Çöltekin ccoltekin@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de

University of Tübingen Seminar für Sprachwissenschaft

Winter Semester 2025/26

Introduction

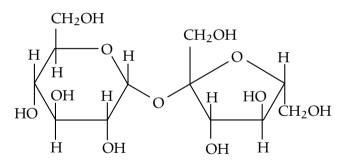
- A graph is collection of vertices (nodes) connected pairwise by edges (arcs).
- A graph is a useful abstraction with many applications
- Most problems on graphs are challenging



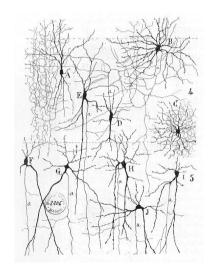
- City maps
- Chemical formulas
- Neural networks
- Artificial neural networks
- Electronic circuits
- Computer networks
- Infectious diseases
- Probability distributions
- Word semantics



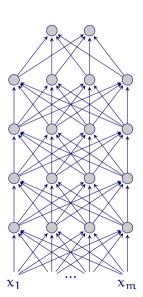
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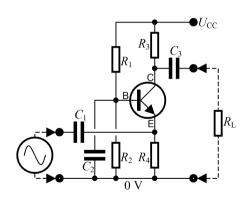
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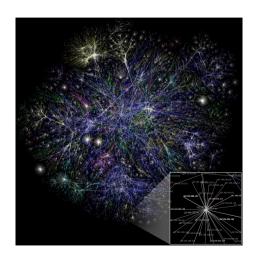
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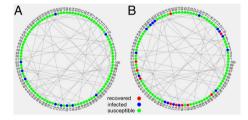
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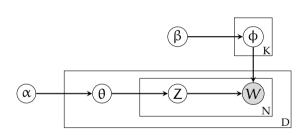
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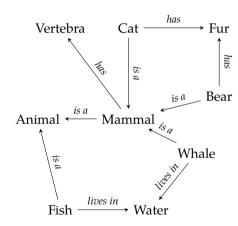
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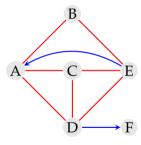
Example applications

many more...

- Food web
- Course dependencies
- Social media
- Scheduling
- Games
- Academic networks
- Inheritance relations in object-oriented programming
- Flow charts
- Financial transactions
- World's languages
- PageRank algorithm
- ...

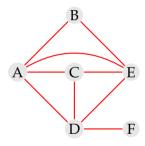
Definition

- A (simple) *graph* G is a pair (V, E) where
 - V is a set of *nodes* (or vertices),
 - E ⊆ {{x,y} | $x,y \in V$ and $x \neq y$ } is a set of ordered or unordered pairs of nodes, *edges*
- A graph represent a set of objects (nodes) and the relations between them (edges)
- Edges in a graph can be either directed, or undirected
 - directed edges (also called arcs) are
 2-tuples, or *ordered pairs* (order is important)
 - undirected edges are unordered pairs, or pair sets (order is not important)



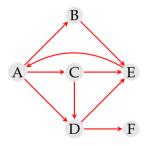
Types of graphs

- An *undirected graph* is a graph with only undirected edges
 - Transportation (e.g., railway) networks
- A *directed graph* (digraph) is a graph with only directed edges
- A mixed graph contains both directed and undirected edges



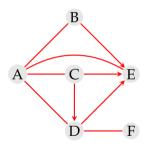
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 - a city map

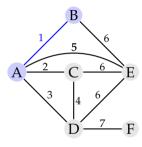


5 / 19

More graphs types

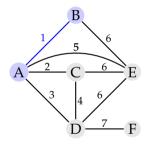
- A graph is *simple* if there is only a single edge between two nodes (our earlier definition)
- If the edges of a graph has associated weights, it is called a weighted graph
- A *complete graph* contains edges from each node to every other node
- A *bipartite graph* has two disjoint sets of nodes, where edges are always across the sets
- A graph is called a *multi-graph* if there are multiple edges (with the same direction) between a pair of nodes
- A graph is called a *hyper-graph* if a single edge can link more than two nodes

- Two nodes joined by an edge are called the *endpoints* of the edge
- An edge is called *incident* to a node if the node is one of its endpoints. Two nodes are *adjacent* (or they are neighbors) if they are incident to the same edge
- The *degree* (or valency) of a node is the number of its incident edges
- In a digraph *indegree* of a node is the number of incoming edges, and *outdegree* of a node is the number of outgoing edges



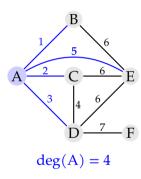
A and B are endpoints of edge 1

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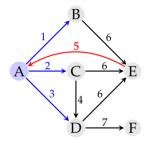


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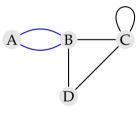


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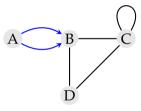


$$indeg(A) = 1, outdeg(A) = 3$$

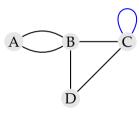
- Two edges are *parallel* if their both endpoints are the same
- For a directed graph parallel edges are ones with the same direction
- A self-loop is an edge from a node to itself
- A *path* is an sequence of alternating edges and nodes
- A *cycle* is a path that starts and ends at the same node
- A path or a cycle is a *simple* if every node on the path is visited only once



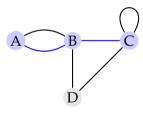
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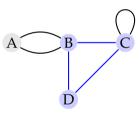
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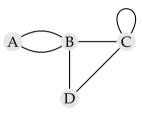
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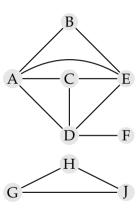
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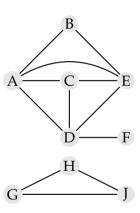
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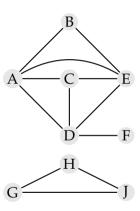
- A node X is reachable from another (Y) if there is a (directed) path from Y to X
- A graph is *connected* if all nodes are reachable from each other
- A directed graph is strongly connected if all nodes are reachable from each other
- A subgraph a graph formed by a subset of nodes and edges of a graph
- If a graph is not connected, the maximally connected subgraphs are called the connected components



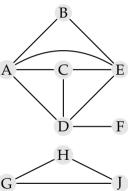
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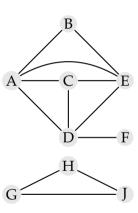
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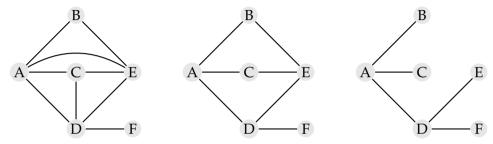


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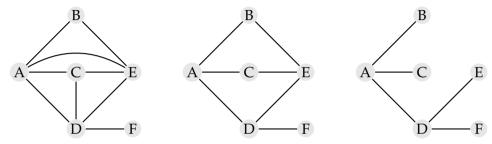


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- A *spanning subgraph* of a graph is a subgraph that includes all nodes of the graph
- A *tree* is a connected graph without cycles
- A spanning tree is a spanning subgraph which is a tree
- A *forest* is a disconnected acyclic graph



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Some properties

sum of degrees

For an undirected graph with m edges and set of nodes V

$$\sum_{\nu \in V} deg(\nu) = 2m$$

- All edges are counted twice for each node they are incident to
- The total contribution of each node is twice its degree
- For a directed graph with m edges and set of nodes V

$$\sum_{\nu \in V} indeg(\nu) = \sum_{\nu \in V} outdeg(\nu) = m$$

Some properties

relation between the number of edges and nodes

For a simple undirected graph with n nodes and m edges

$$m\leqslant \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

- If the graph is simple
 - there are no parallel edges
 - there are no self loops
 - the maximum degree of a node is n-1
- Putting this together with the previous property

$$2m \leqslant n(n-1) \Rightarrow m \leqslant \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

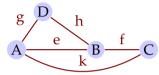
• For a directed graph with n nodes and m edges

$$m \leq n(n-1)$$

The graph ADT

- A graph is a collection of nodes and edges
- Basic operations include

```
add_node(v) add a new node
remove_node(v) remove an existing node
adjacent(u,v) return true if the nodes are adjacent (for a digraph true only if
there is a directed link from u to v)
neighbors(v) enumerate the neighbors of the node (for a digraph we list the
nodes reachable through outgoing edges by default)
remove_edge(u,v) remove an existing edge
add_edge(u,v) add a new edge
nodes() enumerate the nodes in the graph
edges() enumerate the edges in the graph
```



$$e = (A,B)$$

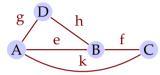
$$f = (B,C)$$

$$g = (A,D)$$

$$h = (D,B)$$

$$k = (A,C)$$

- We keep a simple a simple list of edges (and possibly nodes)
- Simple structure, complexity of some operations (n nodes, m edges):



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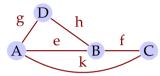
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```
add_edge(v) O(1)
remove_edge(v)
```



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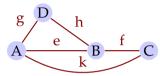
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remove_node(v)
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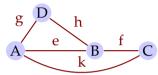
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```
add_edge(v) O(1)
remove_edge(v) O(m)
remove_node(v) O(m)
adjacent(u,v)
```



$$e = (A,B)$$

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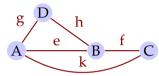
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```
add_edge(v) O(1)
remove_edge(v) O(m)
remove_node(v) O(m)
adjacent(u,v) O(m)
neighbors(v)
```



$$e = (A,B)$$

$$f = (B,C)$$

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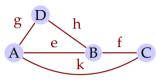
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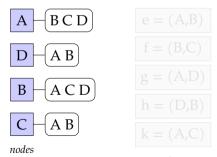
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add_edge(v) O(1)
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$$remove_edge(v) O(m)$$

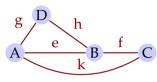
$$remove_node(v) O(m)$$

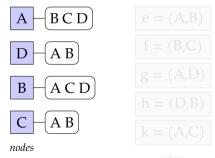
adjacent(u,v)
$$O(m)$$
 neighbors(v) $O(m)$





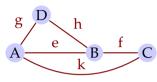
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- Complexity of some operations (assuming an array-based implementation):

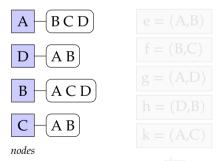




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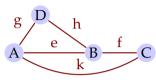
```
\begin{array}{ccc} \text{add\_node(v)} & O(1) \\ \text{remove\_node(v)} \end{array}
```

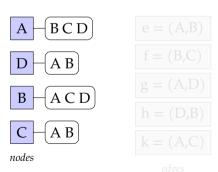




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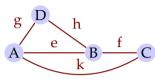
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remove node(v) O(m)
 adjacent(u,v)
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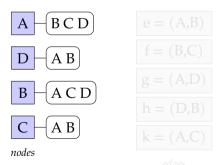




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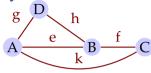
```
\begin{array}{ll} \text{add\_node(v)} & O(1) \\ \text{remove\_node(v)} & O(m) \\ \text{adjacent(u,v)} & O(n+\min(deg(u),deg(v))) \\ \text{neighbors(v)} \end{array}
```





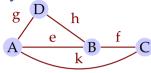
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```
\begin{array}{ll} & \text{add\_node(v)} & O(1) \\ \text{remove\_node(v)} & O(m) \\ & \text{adjacent(u,v)} & O(n+min(deg(u),deg(v))) \\ & \text{neighbors(v)} & O(n+deg(v)) \end{array}
```



	A	В	С	D
A		e	k	g
В			f	h
С				
D				

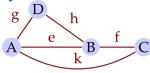
- We keep a $n \times n$ matrix
- Complexity of some operations: add node(v)



	A	В	С	D
A		e	k	g
В			f	h
С				
D				

- We keep a $n \times n$ matrix
- Complexity of some operations:

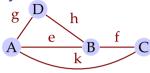
```
add_node(v) O(n)
remove_node(v)
```



	A	В	С	D
A		e	k	g
В			f	h
С				
D				

- We keep a $n \times n$ matrix
- Complexity of some operations:

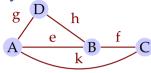
```
add node(v) O(n)
remove_node(v) O(n)
 adjacent(u,v)
```



	A	В	С	D
A		e	k	g
В			f	h
С				
D				

- We keep a $n \times n$ matrix
- Complexity of some operations:

add node(v) O(n)remove node(v) O(n)adjacent(u,v) O(1)neighbors(v)



	A	В	С	D
A		e	k	g
В			f	h
С				
D				

- We keep a $n \times n$ matrix
- Complexity of some operations:

add node(v) O(n)remove node(v) O(n)

adjacent(u,v) O(1)

neighbors(v) O(n)

Interesting problems on graphs

- Is there a (directed) path between two nodes?
- What is the shortest path between two nodes?
- Is there a cycle in the graph?
- Is there a cycle that uses each edge exactly once? (Eulerian path)
- Is there a cycle that uses each node exactly once? (Hamiltonian path)
- Are all nodes of the graph connected?
- Is there a node that breaks the connectivity if removed?
- Is the graph planar: can it be drawn without crossing edges?
- Are two graphs isomorphic (have the same structure)?
- What is the importance of a web page, based on the links pointing to it?

Summary

- Graphs are data structures with many applications
- Reading on graphs: Goodrich, Tamassia, and Goldwasser (2013, chapter 14),

Next:

- Graph traversals
- Reading: Goodrich, Tamassia, and Goldwasser (2013, chapter 14)

Acknowledgments, credits, references

• The map on slide 2 is from OpenStreetMap, The other images are from Wikipedia, except the infectious disease graph which comes from Thurner et al. (2020).

Goodrich, Michael T., Roberto Tamassia, and Michael H. Goldwasser (2013). Data Structures and Algorithms in Python. John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated. ISBN: 9781118476734.

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