

MATH 566: Lecture 4 (09/03/2026)

Today: * More definitions
* Network representations

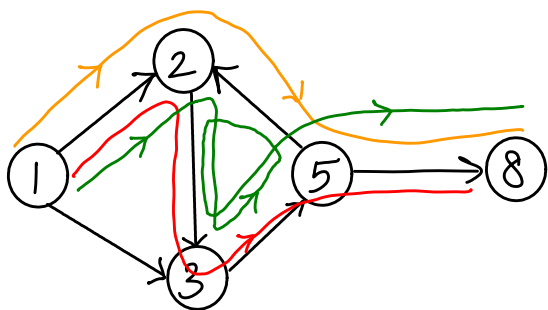
Definitions (contd..)

A **walk** in $G=(N,A)$ is a subgraph of G made of a sequence of nodes and arcs $i_1 - a_1 - i_2 - a_2 - \dots - a_{r-1} - i_r$ with $a_k = (i_k, i_{k+1})$ or $a_k = (i_{k+1}, i_k)$ for $1 \leq k \leq r-1$.

Thus, a walk need not necessarily be directed.

A **directed walk** is the oriented version of a walk with $a_k = (i_k, i_{k+1})$ for $\forall k$.

Here are some examples.



1-2-5-8 is a walk

1-2-3-5-8 is a directed walk

1-2-3-5-2-3-5-8 is also a directed walk, as arcs can be repeated in walks. Some books define a "trail" as a walk that has no repeated arcs (nodes may be repeated).

We assume there are no duplicate arcs: .
→ we will see soon how to handle such cases using network transformations

Notice that nodes could be repeated in a walk.

A **path** is a walk without repetition of nodes, and a **directed path** is a directed walk without repetition of nodes.

e.g., 1-2-5-8 is a path, 1-2-3-5-8 is a directed path.

(4.2)

An arc (i, j) in a path is a **forward arc** if i is visited before j and is a **backward arc** if j is visited before i .

For instance, in 1-2-5-8, $(1, 2)$ and $(5, 8)$ are forward arcs, while $(5, 2)$ is a backward arc.

A directed path has no backward arcs.

Convention: A path with backward arcs called a **non-directed path**; an **undirected path** will be a path in an undirected graph.

If (i, j) is in a directed path, i is the **predecessor** of j , and we denote it by $\text{pred}(j) = i$.

For the directed path 1-2-3-5-8, we set

We will use $\text{pred}(\cdot)$ indices as the standard data structure to represent paths - we will use a pred vector of length n .

$$\text{pred}(8) = 5$$

$$\text{pred}(5) = 3$$

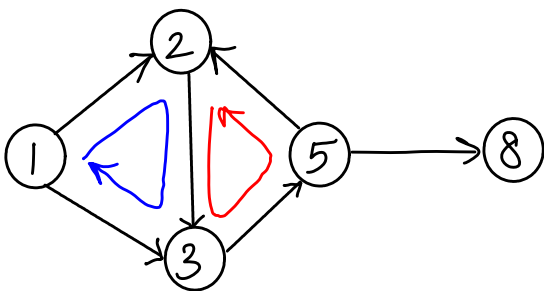
$$\text{pred}(3) = 2$$

$$\text{pred}(2) = 1$$

$$\text{pred}(1) = 0 \rightarrow \text{marks the start of the directed path}$$

A **cycle** is a path $i_1 - i_2 - \dots - i_n$ with arc (i_n, i_1) or (i_1, i_n) , denoted as $i_1 - i_2 - \dots - i_n - i_1$.

A **directed cycle** is a directed path $i_1 - i_2 - \dots - i_n$ with arc (i_n, i_1)



1-2-3-1 is a cycle

2-3-5-2 is a directed cycle.

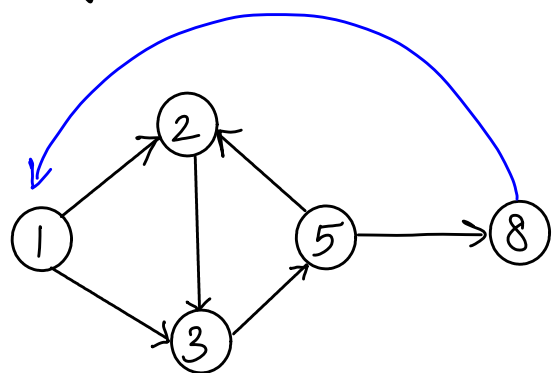
Many problems are more complicated when the network has directed cycles.

An **acyclic graph** is a graph with no directed cycles. So, non-directed cycles are permitted here. We get a tree if we avoid those cycles as well, assuming the graph is connected. (4-3)

Connectivity

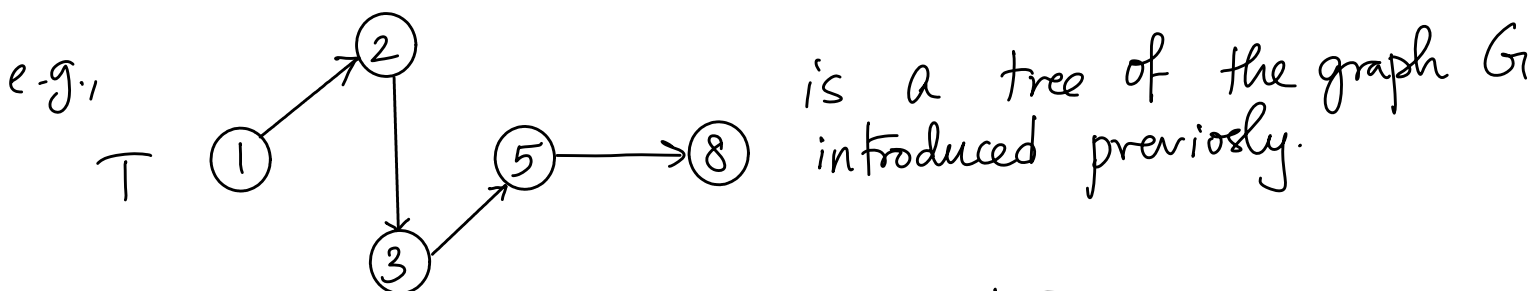
Nodes i and j are **connected** if there is a path from i to j . The (entire) graph is connected if every pair of vertices is connected. Else it is **disconnected**.

A graph is **strongly connected** if there is a directed path from every node i to every node j .



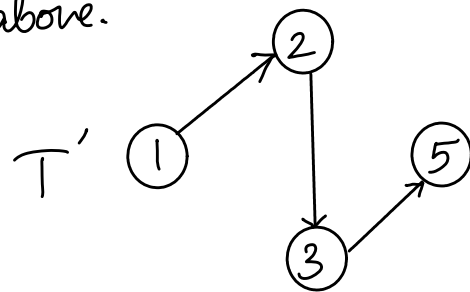
G is connected but not strongly connected. Adding $(8, 1)$ makes it strongly connected, for instance.

A **tree** is a connected graph with no cycles. So, we avoid both directed and non-directed cycles in a tree.

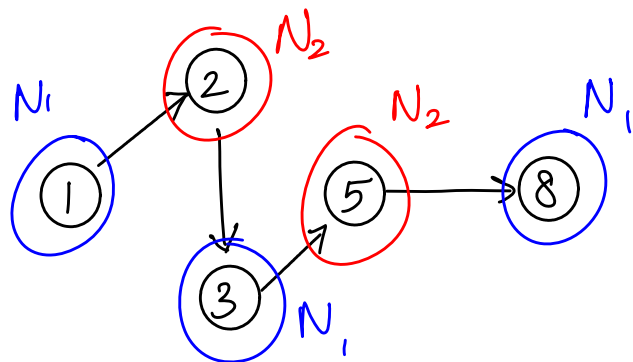


A tree T is a **spanning tree** of graph G if T is a spanning subgraph of G . For instance, T shown above.

But T' here is not a spanning tree of G .



Bipartite graph $G = (N, A)$ is **bipartite** if we can partition the node set N into subsets N_1 and N_2 such that $N = N_1 \cup N_2$ and each $(i, j) \in A$ has either $i \in N_1, j \in N_2$ or $i \in N_2, j \in N_1$. *disjoint union*

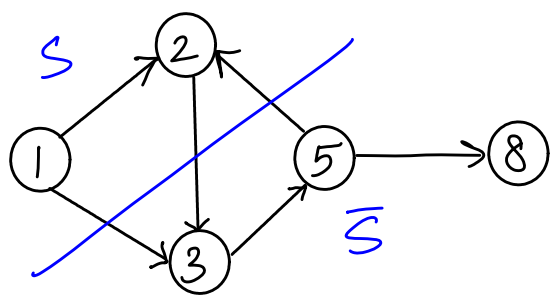


Note: A bipartite graph need not always be "drawn" in an obvious bipartite fashion, e.g., as in the case of transportation problems.

In fact, one could prove that every tree is a bipartite graph — think about it!

A **cut** is a partition of the node set N into two parts S and $\bar{S}$. *"S-bar" or "S-complement".*

Each cut defines a set of arcs $(i, j) \in A$ with $\underbrace{i \in S, j \in \bar{S}}_{\text{forward arcs}}$ or $\underbrace{i \in \bar{S}, j \in S}_{\text{backward arcs}}$.



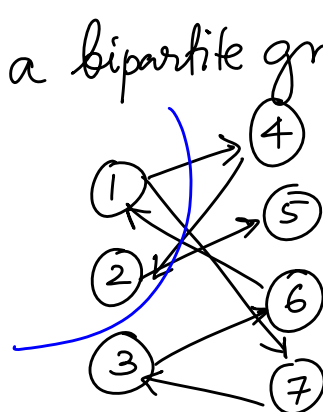
$$S = \{1, 2\}, \bar{S} = \{3, 5, 8\}$$

$(1, 3), (2, 3)$: forward arcs

$(5, 2)$: backward arc

Notice that we could talk about cuts for a bipartite graph in the same way as in a general graph.

We will talk more about cuts when we introduce max flow in detail.



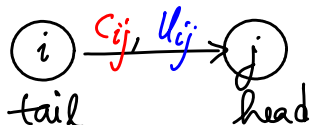
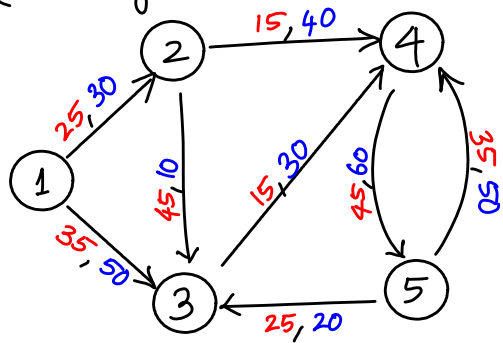
Network Representations

We need to represent $G = (N, A)$, along with data, i.e., $b(i)$, l_{ij} , u_{ij} , c_{ij} , etc. The ultimate goal is to be able to access and use all this info efficiently in algorithms. We consider several options for representing networks now.

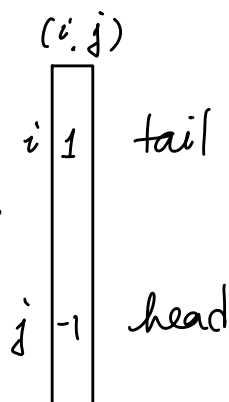
Node-arc incidence matrix N

N is an $n \times m$ matrix with one row for each node, and one column for each arc, with entries in $\{-1, 0, 1\}$. The column of N corresponding to arc (i, j) is shown to the right. We also illustrate N for an example network.

(AMO Fig 2.14 modified)



unspecified entries are zeros here



$$N = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} & & & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & & & \\ -1 & & & 1 & & & & \\ & -1 & -1 & & & & & \\ & & & -1 & -1 & 1 & & -1 \\ & & & & & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

lexicographic or dictionary ordering of arcs. This will be the default way in which we order arcs

unspecified entries are zeros.

AMO uses $\bar{c}$, $\bar{u}$, etc to denote these vectors

$$\bar{c} = [25 \ 35 \ 45 \ 15 \ 15 \ 45 \ 25 \ 35]$$

$$\bar{u} = [30 \ 50 \ 10 \ 40 \ 30 \ 60 \ 20 \ 50]$$

$\bar{b} \rightarrow$ a 5-vector of supply/demand values.

My notation: lower case letters with a bar are used to denote vectors, e.g., $\bar{x}$, $\bar{c}$, $\bar{u}$, $\bar{b}$, etc.

Properties of N

- * each column has one +1 and one -1, in the rows corresponding to the tail and head node, respectively.
- * $\left. \begin{array}{l} \# \text{ +1's in row } i = \text{outdegree}(i) \\ \# \text{ -1's in row } i = \text{indegree}(i) \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \# \text{ nonzeros in} \\ \text{row } i = \text{degree}(i). \end{array}$
- * The total # of nonzeros is $2m$, i.e., N is a very sparse matrix.

At the same time, N is a convenient representation of the network structure especially for proving various properties related to the network. For instance, the linear optimization model for min-cost flow can be written in matrix-vector form using this matrix.

Matrix version of the min-cost flow problem

Recall the linear optimization model for the min-cost flow problem:

Notation: $\bar{x}, \bar{c}, \bar{l}, \bar{u}$, are vectors representing $x_{ij}, c_{ij}, l_{ij}, u_{ij}$.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \min \sum_{(i,j) \in A} c_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{(i,j) \in A} x_{ij} - \sum_{(j,i) \in A} x_{ji} = b(i) \quad \forall i \in N \\ l_{ij} \leq x_{ij} \leq u_{ij} \quad \forall (i,j) \in A \end{array} \right\} \bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{12} \\ \vdots \\ x_{ij} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \bar{c}^T \bar{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & N \bar{x} = \bar{b} \\ & \bar{l} \leq \bar{x} \leq \bar{u} \end{array}$$

$\bar{c}^T$ → transpose
 $\bar{b}$ → vector of $b(i)$'s

vectors are columns by default, hence the transpose here.

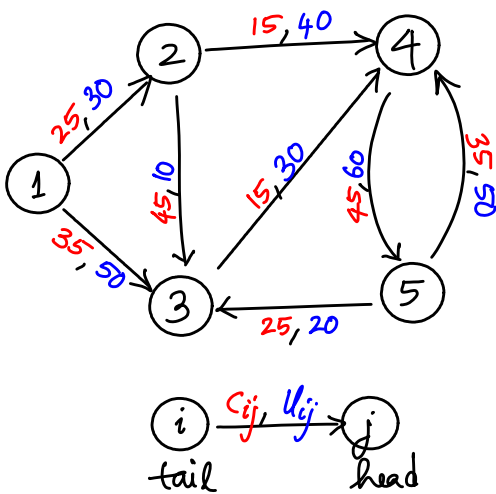
We now introduce another matrix representing the network.

Node-Node adjacency matrix $\mathcal{H}$

This is an $n \times n$ matrix $\mathcal{H} = [h_{ij}]$, with

$$h_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i,j) \in A \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$\rightarrow$ row of the tail node i and column of head node j .



$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Properties of the node-node incidence matrix $\mathcal{H}$

- * each arc is represented by a 1 in $\mathcal{H}$.
 - * the # 1's in row i = outdegree(i)
the # 1's in column j = indegree(j)
 - * $\mathcal{H}$ has n^2 elements, m of which are nonzero.
- So, $\mathcal{H}$ is an efficient data structure when $m \gg n$. "much greater than"

We store l_{ij} , u_{ij} , and c_{ij} as separate $n \times n$ matrices L , U , and C .

Unless the network is really dense, i.e., has lots of arcs connecting the given nodes, $\mathcal{H}$ could have a lots of zeros (and so will L , U , and C). Hence we look for even more efficient data structures.

It must be mentioned that there are standard ways of handling sparse matrices, e.g., the sparse package in Matlab/Python. But we would ideally like to avoid the overhead associated with such operations by using more efficient representations to start with.

We will talk about efficient ways of representing such lists in general, and (out)are lists in particular, in the next lecture.