

Trees

Definition and Properties

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Example



G_1

G_1 is a tree.



G_2

G_2 is not a tree since it contains a cycle.



G_3

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Property

Let $T = (V, E)$ be a tree.

1. If $|V| \geq 2$, there is a unique path connecting any two distinct vertices in T .
2. If $|V| \geq 2$, the graph obtained from T by removing any edge has two components, each of which is a tree.
3. $|V| = |E| + 1$.

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Proof

1. Let a, b be two distinct vertices in T .
Since T is connected, there is at least one path in T connecting a and b .
If there were more, then from two such paths some of the edges would form a cycle, contradicting the condition that T has no cycles.



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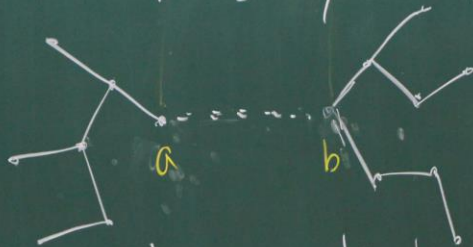
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2. Let $\{a, b\}$ be any edge in T and $T' = (V, E')$ be the graph obtained from T after edge $\{a, b\}$ is removed, where $E' = E - \{\{a, b\}\}$.
Then if T' is connected, there are at least two paths in T connecting a and b , contradicting Property 1. Hence T' is disconnected and the vertices in T' can be partitioned into two

subsets: (1) vertex a and those vertices that can be reached from a by a path in T' ;
 (2) vertex b and those vertices that can be reached from b by a path in T' .



Thus T' has two components, both of which are trees because a cycle in either component would also be in T .

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The proof is by induction on $|V|$.

If $|V|=1$, then $|E|=0=|V|-1$.

Assume that this is true for all trees with k or fewer vertices, where $k \geq 1$.

Now consider a tree $T=(V, E)$ where $|V|=k+1$.

Suppose an edge is removed from T .

Assume that this results in two trees, each with k or fewer vertices, where $k \geq 1$.

Now consider a tree $T=(V, E)$ where $|V|=k+1$.

Suppose an edge is removed from T .

From property 2, we then obtain two trees

$T_1=(V_1, E_1)$ and $T_2=(V_2, E_2)$ with

$|V_1|+|V_2|=|V|=k+1$ and $|E_1|+|E_2|=|E|-1$.

Since $|V_1| \geq 1$ and $|V_2| \geq 1$, $|V_1| \leq k$ and $|V_2| \leq k$.

The induction hypothesis applied to T_1 and T_2 gives

$|V_1|=|E_1|+1$ and $|V_2|=|E_2|+1$.

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Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} |V| &= |V_1| + |V_2| = |E_1| + 1 + |E_2| + 1 \\ &= |E| - 1 + 2 = |E| + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, this property is true by induction. $\square$

Theorem

The following statements are equivalent for an undirected simple graph $T = (V, E)$.

- (a) T is a tree.
- (b) T contains no cycles, and $|V| = |E| + 1$.
- (c) T is connected, and $|V| = |E| + 1$.
- (d) T contains no cycles, and if $a, b \in V$ with $\{a, b\} \notin E$, then the graph obtained by adding edge $\{a, b\}$ to T has precisely one cycle.

Proof (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b)

If T is a tree, then T contains no cycles, and from the previous property, $|V| = |E| + 1$.

(b) $\Rightarrow$ (c)

Let T have r components and $T_i = (V_i, E_i)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$ be the components of T , where $|V_1| + |V_2| + \dots + |V_r| = |V|$ and $|E_1| + |E_2| + \dots + |E_r| = |E|$.

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ore, $r = 1$ and T is connected.



Then each T_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, r$, is a tree because T is connected and contains no cycles (as T contains no cycles). Hence from the previous property

$$|V_i| = |E_i| + 1, \text{ for } i=1, 2, \dots, r.$$

$$\text{Consequently, } |V| = |V_1| + |V_2| + \dots + |V_r| = |E_1| + 1 + |E_2| + 1 + \dots + |E_r| + 1 \\ = |E| + r = |E| + 1.$$

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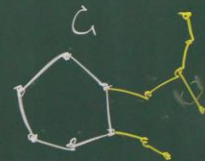
(c) $\Rightarrow$ (d)

Suppose T has a cycle C with t vertices and t edges.

Since T is connected, the remaining vertices of T can each be connected to a vertex in C by a path in T .

Each such connection requires at least one new edge. Consequently, in T , $|E| \geq |V|$

contradicting $|V| = |E| + 1$. So T has no cycles.



Then each T_λ , $\lambda=1,2,\dots,r$, is a tree because T is connected and contains no cycles (as T contains no cycles). Hence from the previous property $|V_\lambda| = |E_\lambda| + 1$, for $\lambda=1,2,\dots,r$.
 Consequently, $|V| = |V_1| + |V_2| + \dots + |V_r| = |E_1| + 1 + |E_2| + 1 + \dots + |E_r| + 1$
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 Therefore, $r=1$ and T is connected.

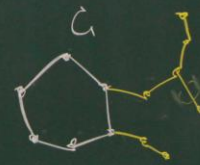
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As T is also connected, T is a tree.

Let T' be the graph obtained by adding edge $\{a,b\}$ to T . Since $\{a,b\} \notin E$, there is a unique path P of length at least 2 in T that connects a and b .

In T' , $P \cup \{\{a,b\}\}$ is a cycle. If T' contains a second cycle C' , then C' must contain edge $\{a,b\}$.

This second cycle $C' = P' \cup \{\{a,b\}\}$ where



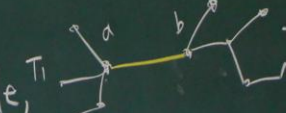
P' is a path connecting a and b in T and $P' \neq P$.
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thus contradicting the condition of (d). Consequently, T is connected. Since T also contains no cycles, T is a tree.

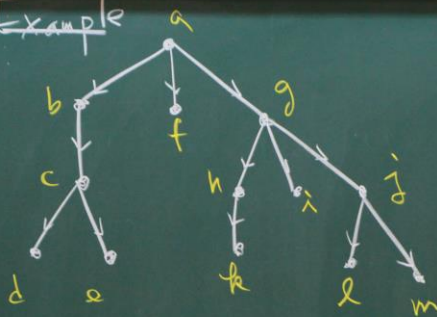
Rooted Trees

Def A directed graph is called a directed tree if the undirected graph associated with it is a tree. A directed tree is a rooted tree if a unique vertex is designated as the root and every edge is directed away from the root.

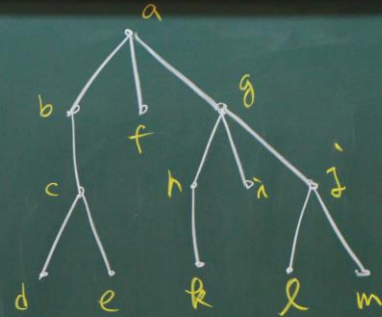
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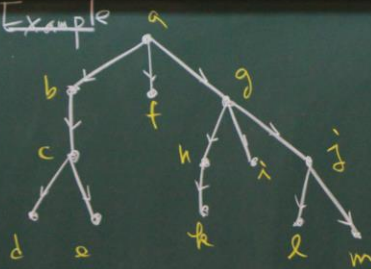
a rooted tree



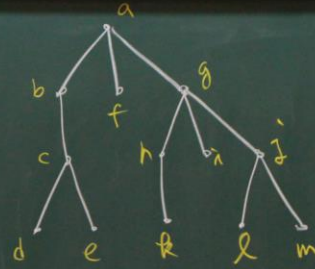
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Example



a rooted tree



a is the root.

b is the parent of c.

c is a child of b

h, i, j are siblings.

The ancestors of e are c, b, a.

The descendants of b are c, d, e.

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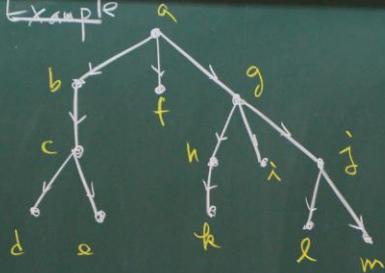
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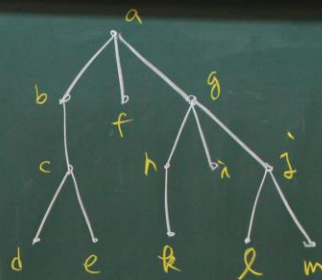
level

0

1

2

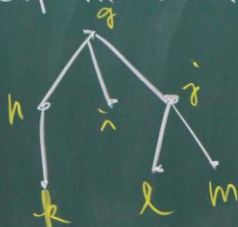
3



↑
height

↓

Vertices d, e, f, k, l, m are leaves.
Vertices a, b, c, g, h, j are internal vertices.
(A leaf in a rooted tree is a vertex with no children.)



the subtree at g

This rooted tree has height 3.

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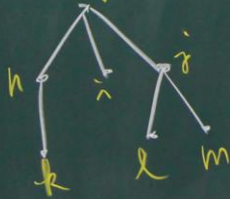
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