

Eulerian circuits

Note The first paper of Graph Theory deals with the existence of Eulerian circuits (eulerian circuits).

Walk: A sequence of vertices in G $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$ such that $x_i x_{i+1}$ is an edge of G where $i=1, 2, \dots, n-1$.

Trail: A walk without repeating edges

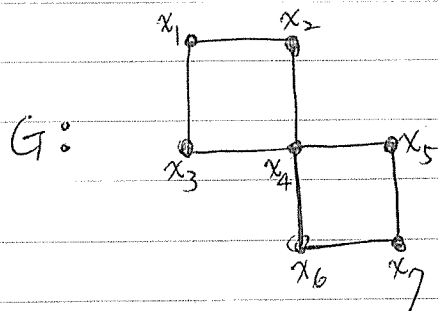
Circuit: A closed trail, i.e., the first vertex is also the last vertex.

Cycle: A circuit without repeating vertices. $(C_n) \Rightarrow \|C_n\| = n$.

Path: A trail (open) without repeating vertices. $(P_n) \Rightarrow \|P_n\| = n-1$.

Definition An eulerian circuit of a graph G (multi-graph)

is a circuit of G which contains all edges of G .



$\langle x_1, x_2, x_4, x_5, x_7, x_6, x_4, x_3, x_1 \rangle$

$= \langle x_1, x_2, x_4, x_5, x_7, x_6, x_4, x_3 \rangle$ is an eulerian circuit

of G .

Theorem (Euler, 1736 (1741))

A graph G contains an eulerian circuit if and only if G is connected and every vertex is of even degree.

(Remark: The graph considered by Euler is a multi-graph.)

Proof. (Many versions) (\Rightarrow) is easy to see, we prove (\Leftarrow) .

1st proof: Let $T = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle$ be the longest trail in G starting from x_1 and ending at x_k . Since each vertex is an even vertex,

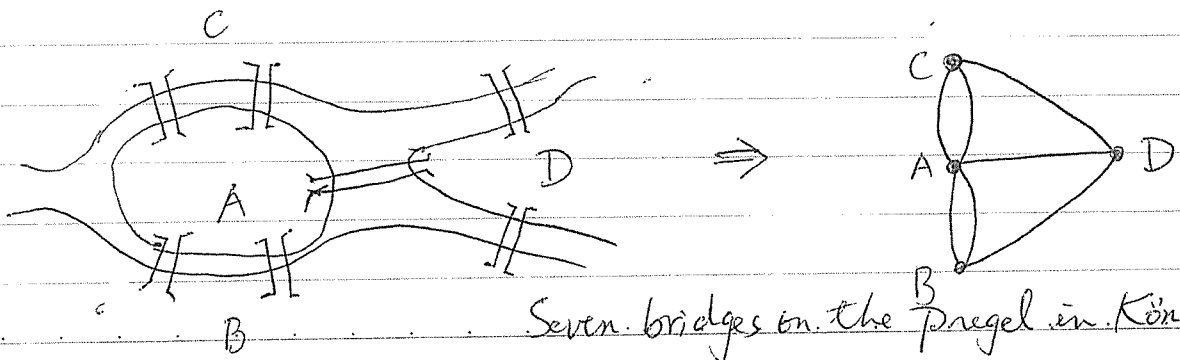
$x_1 = x_k$. Let E' be the set of edges of this trail. If $\|E'\| = \|G\|$,

then the trail is an eulerian circuit. Assume that $E'' = E(G) \setminus E' \neq \emptyset$.

Since G is connected, $V(E'') \cap V(T) \neq \emptyset$. Let x_i be a common vertex

and $x_i, x_k \in E'$. Now, we have a longer trail starting from x_k ,

$\langle x_k, x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_i, x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle$, a contraction. Hence $E'' = \emptyset$ and T is an eulerian circuit. \square



Seven bridges on the Pregel in Königsberg

nd proof. (The main idea of Euler) By induction on $\|G\|$. DATE

Since each vertex of G is even, $\delta(G) \geq 2$, G contains a cycle. Let C be a circuit in G with the maximal number of edges.
If $\|C\| = \|G\|$, then C is an eulerian circuit of G . On the other hand,

$E(G) \setminus E(C) \neq \emptyset$, i.e., C is not an eulerian circuit of G . As G is connected,

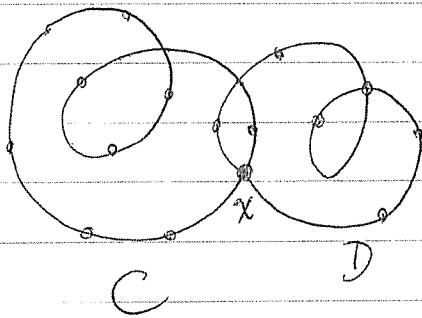
C contains a vertex x in a non-trivial component H of $G - E(C)$.

By induction H has an eulerian circuit D . Since $E(C) \cap E(D) = \emptyset$

and $V(C) \cap V(D) \ni \{x\}$, we obtain a larger circuit of G by

concatenating these two circuits. $\rightarrow \leftarrow$ Hence C is an eulerian

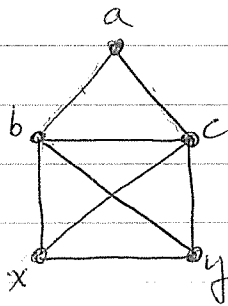
circuit of G . ▣



Remark At the time of "Euler", mathematical induction is not known yet.

Different proofs ... ?

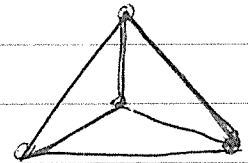
Corollary A connected graph has an eulerian trail from a vertex x to a vertex $y \neq x$ if and only if x and y are the only odd vertices.
(一筆畫)



Eulerian Trail : $\langle x, b, a, c, x, y, b, c, y \rangle$

Corollary If a connected graph G has $2m$ odd vertices, then the edges of G can be partitioned into m trails such that each trail has an even number of edges except possibly one.
($m \geq 1$)

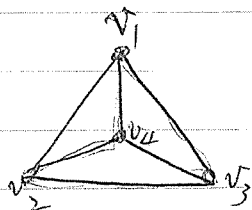
(No easy to prove! Especially the second part.)



Digraph version (To be continued!)

Proof of the first part.

Let the $2m$ odd vertices of G be $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{2m-1}, x_{2m}\}$ and $V(G) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$. Clearly $p \geq m$. Now, consider the graph \tilde{G} with $V(\tilde{G}) = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$ and $E(\tilde{G}) = E(G) \cup \{x_0 x_i \mid i=1, 2, \dots, 2m\}$. Then, \tilde{G} is a connected even graph and thus \tilde{G} has an eulerian circuit. Since the circuit passes x_0 exactly $2m$ times if we start at a vertex which is not x_0 , $\tilde{G} - x_0$ is decomposed into m trails which concludes the proof of the first part.

An example of 2nd part

$\langle v_1, v_4, v_2, v_3 \rangle$ and $\langle v_2, v_1, v_3, v_4 \rangle$
are two trails (Both have length 3)

↓

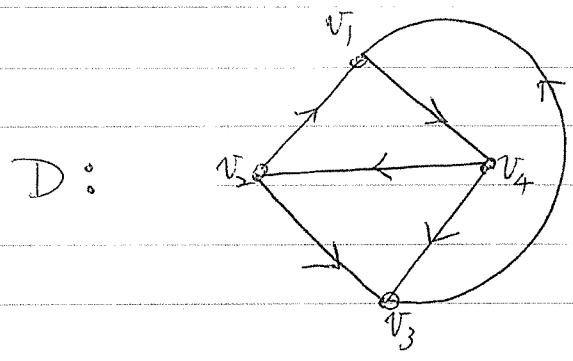
$\langle v_1, v_4, v_2, v_1, v_3 \rangle$ and $\langle v_4, v_3, v_2 \rangle$

are two even trails

Digraph (Directed Graph)

Definition A digraph $D = (V, A)$ is an ordered pair such that V is the set of vertices and A is a set of ordered pairs in (V, V) (arcs) or V^2 . $|A|$ is defined as the size of D (the number of arcs).

e.g.



$\deg_D^+(v_1) = 1, \deg_D^-(v_1) = 2$
 $\deg_D^+(v_2) = 2, \deg_D^-(v_2) = 1$
 $\deg_D^+(v_3) = 1, \deg_D^-(v_3) = 2$
 $\deg_D^+(v_4) = 2, \deg_D^-(v_4) = 1$

$$V(D) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$$

$$A(D) = \{(v_1, v_4), (v_2, v_1), (v_2, v_3), (v_3, v_1), (v_4, v_2), (v_4, v_3)\}$$

$$N_D^+(v) = \{u \in V \mid (v, u) \in A\}, \quad N_D^-(v) = \{u \in V \mid (u, v) \in A\}$$

\uparrow out-neighbor \uparrow in-neighbor

$$\deg^+(v) = |N_D^+(v)|, \quad \deg^-(v) = |N_D^-(v)|$$

\uparrow out-degree of v \uparrow in-degree of v

Theorem Let $D = (V, A)$ be a digraph. Then

$$\sum_{v \in V(D)} \deg_D^+(v) = \sum_{v \in V(D)} \deg_D^-(v) = |A|.$$

Remark Walks, trails, circuits, cycles and paths in digraph D are defined according to the directions, i.e., in a walk $\langle v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots \rangle$ $(v_1, v_2), (v_2, v_3)$ are arcs in D . For clearness, we shall say a directed path in D instead of just a path in D .

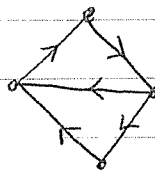
Definition (Connected digraphs)

A digraph D is connected if for any two distinct vertices x and y in $V(D)$, there exists a directed path from x to y (or) from y to x . If we replace "or" by "and", then the digraph is strongly connected.

(or) from
↓
weakly
connected



weakly connected



strongly connected

Directed eulerian circuits

Theorem A digraph D has an eulerian (directed) circuit if and only if D is strongly connected and for each vertex $v \in V(D)$, $\deg^+(v) = \deg^-(v)$.

Proof. Similarly we can apply the idea used in graphs. ■

In fact, we can count the number of distinct directed eulerian circuits in an eulerian digraph. (A digraph with eulerian circuits is called an eulerian digraph.)

Theorem (BEST Theorem) ($V(D) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$).

Let D be an eulerian digraph, $\mathcal{S}(D)$ be the number of eulerian circuits, and $t_i(D)$ be the number of spanning trees oriented from v_i . Then $\mathcal{S}(D) = t_i(D) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^n (\deg^+(v_j) - 1)!$ for every i , $1 \leq i \leq n$. (Note that $t_1(D) = t_2(D) = \dots = t_n(D)$.)

(The theorem was proved by de Bruijn, van Aardenne-Ehrenfest, Smith and Tutte.) We skip the details.

Remark

Counting the number of distinct eulerian circuits in an eulerian graph (not directed) is a very difficult problem. (Can you do it?)

There are many applications of "eulerian circuits", please refer to lecture notes "Chapter 2". For convenience, I attach them following this page.

2. De Bruijn 數列及郵差問題

這一節，我們將討論兩個尤拉圖概念的應用。

定義 2.1. (de Bruijn Sequence)

一個循環數列 $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{2^n})$ 稱爲是 $(2, n)$ - de Bruijn 數列如果下列兩個條件滿足：

- (1) $a_i \in \{0, 1\}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2^n$; 且
- (2) $(a_j, a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{j+n-1})$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, 2^n, (\text{mod } 2^n)$, 爲相異的 2^n 個 n 維向量。

例1. $n = 1, 2, 3, 5$; $(2, n)$ -de Bruijn 數列分別爲 (括號, 逗號省略)

01, 0110, 01110100, 0000100110101111。

對於所有的 n 要建構一個 $(2, n)$ - de Bruijn 數列並不困難, 以下是荷蘭數學家 N. de Bruijn 用來尋找這種數列的有向圖。

定義 2.2. $((2, n)$ -de Bruijn 有向圖, $D_{2,n}$)

$D_{2,n}$ 爲一加權有向圖, 它滿足下列兩條件:

- (1) $V(D_{2,n}) = (Z_2)^{n-1}$ 及
- (2) $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1})$ 連到 $(a_2, a_3, \dots, a_{n-1}, a_n)$ 並且在這個弧上給予加權 (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) 。

例2.

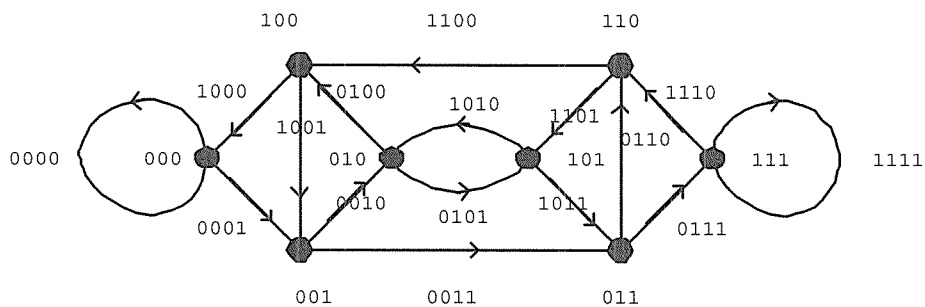


圖 5: $D_{2,4}$

由定義, 我們可以證明 $D_{2,n}$ 爲一有向的尤拉圖。

引理 2.3. $(2, n)$ -de Bruijn 有向圖為尤拉圖。

證明.

因為 $D_{2,n}$ 為強連通圖而且每一點的內度與外度均為 2, 故得證。 ■

引理 2.4. 在 $(2, n)$ -de Bruijn 有向圖上的加權全部不一樣。

證明.

由定義可得。 ■

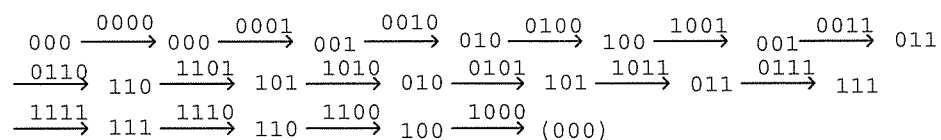
定理 2.5. 對於所有的 n , $(2, n)$ -de Bruijn 數列存在。

證明.

首先, 由引理 2.3, 一個 $(2, n)$ -de Bruijn 有向圖存在, 所以存在一個尤拉迴路; 現在, 令此迴路經過的邊為 e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{2^n} ; 同時對於所有的 i 令 $l(e_i) = a_i$ 為 e_i 邊上加權的最左邊那個數字, 於是我們得一個數列 $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{2^n})$, 這個數列就是一個 $(2, n)$ -de Bruijn 數列。(作業6) ■

以下的例子也許有助於了解上述的證明。

在 $D_{2,4}$ 中的尤拉迴路可以是



$(2,4)$ -de Bruijn 數列為 0000100110101111, 而它所產生的 16 個不同之向量依次為 16 個加權向量。

De Bruijn 數列最出名的應用是在旋轉鼓 (Rotating Drum)。它可以利用連續的位置來判斷不同的輸入 (機械原理), 如下圖所示。

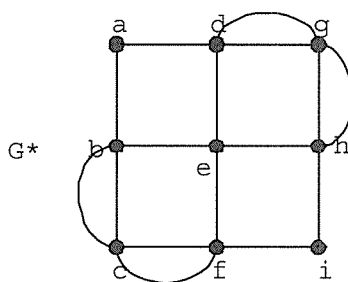


圖 7：最佳郵差路線

演算法 (Edmonds 及 Johnson) (摘要)

1. 令 S 為 G 中奇點所成的集合。
2. 利用 S 的點建構一個加權完全圖 $K_{|S|}$ ， ab 邊上的加權為由 a 到 b 的最短距離 (加權路徑)。
3. 在 $K_{|S|}$ 中選出 $\frac{|S|}{2}$ 個獨立邊，使得它們的加權總和為最小。
4. 對應於 3 中的獨立邊，將所經過的邊 (最短路徑) 全部加上相同加權的邊。
5. 由 4 所得到的圖之尤拉迴路即為所求。

證明.

3 的找法是多項式時間，所以這個演算法也是，詳細證明在此省略。■

其它方面有不少應用，例如在掃街路線的安排，要怎樣行駛才最省經費；在 RNA 的重組方面如何利用片斷資訊來得到完整的 RNA；以及在資訊傳遞方面如何編碼才更有效率地把資料表現出來，都可以利用有向的尤拉圖來達到目的；由於篇幅有限在此省略，請自行參考由 Gross 及 Yellen 所寫的書 "Graph Theory and its Application"。

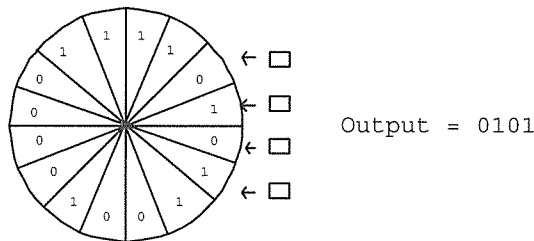


圖 6：旋轉鼓

另一個出名的應用是由華裔數學家管梅谷 (Meigu Guan) 所提出來, 後來 J. Edmonds 稱它為中國郵差問題。

定義 2.6. (郵差路線, Postman Tour)

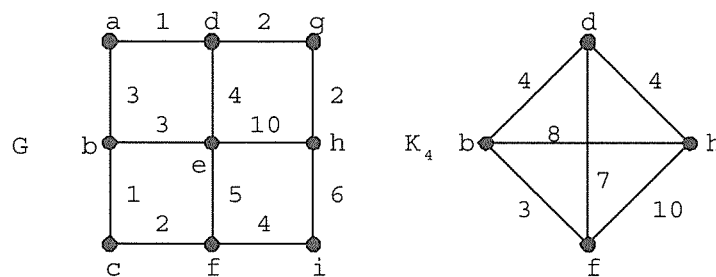
任給一個圖 G 所謂郵差路線是指在 G 中的一個封閉步行 (Closed Walk), 它通過 G 中的每一個邊至少一次。

定義 2.7. (最佳的郵差路線, Optimal Postman Tour)

在一個加權圖中, 一個郵差路線所經過的邊加權總和為最小時, 我們稱這路線為最佳郵差路線。

這個問題看來十分複雜。因為所考慮的圖千萬化, 然而, 在提出這個問題 (尋找最佳郵差路線) 之後不到十年, 即由 Edmonds 和 Johnson 所解決, 他們提供了一個多項式時間 (Polynomial-time) 的演算法來找出最佳路線。

在沒有介紹演算法之前, 我們先看一個例子。在 G 中有 4 個奇點, 現在利用這 4 點建構一個加權的 K_4 , 在邊上的加權為兩點在 G 中的最短距離 (加權)。接著在 K_4 中找到不相鄰的兩邊 (配對) 使得



它們的加權和最小, 此例中的 bf 即 dh , 最後再將原圖 G 改為 G^* , 如圖7, G^* 的尤拉迴路即為所求。