

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.

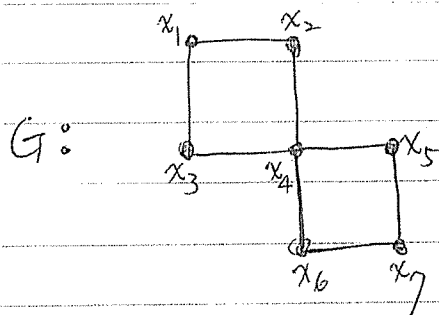
Circuit : A closed trail, i.e., the first vertex is also the last vertex.

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  $G$ .



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

$= (x_1, x_2, x_4, x_5, x_7, x_6, x_4, x_3)$  is an eulerian circuit

of  $G$ .

(\*) A graph is connected if for any two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  there exists a walk (path) from  $x$  to  $y$ . (可 $\times$ 用 path 取代?)

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 ( $\Leftarrow$ ).

1<sup>st</sup> proof: (Best) 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,

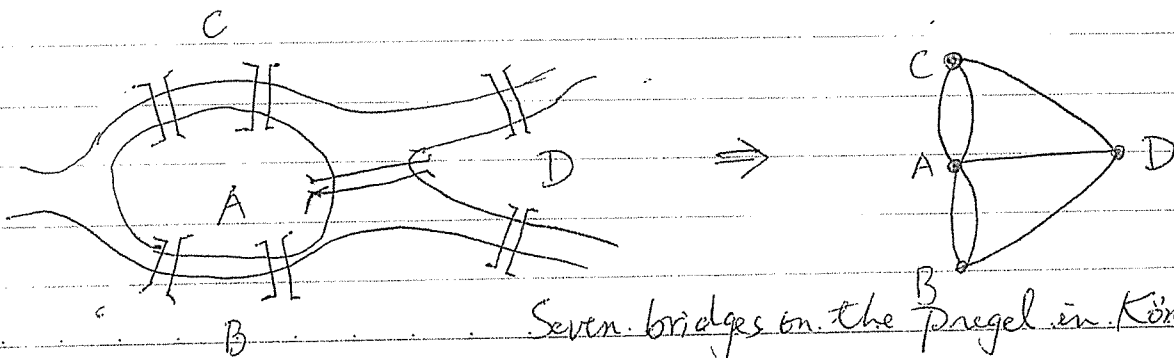
$x_1 = x_k$ . Let  $E'$  be the set of edges of this trail. If  $\|E'\| = \|G\|$ ,

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  $x_k$ ,

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



Seven bridges on the Pregel in Königsberg

<sup>nd</sup> 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,

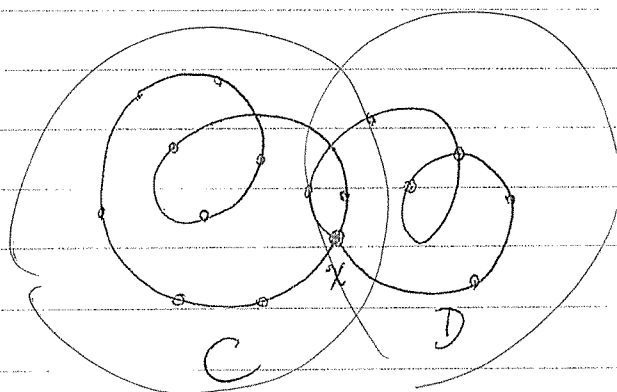
$C$  contains a vertex  $x$  in a non-trivial component  $H$  of  $G - E(C)$ .

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

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

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

circuit of  $G$ . ▣



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

Different proofs ... ?

Lemma

In a graph  $G$ , if  $\delta(G)$  (minimum degree)  $\geq 2$ , then  $G$  contains a cycle of length at least  $\delta(G)+1$ .

Proof. Let  $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_l \rangle$  be a path of maximum distance from  $x_1$ . Then,  $N_G(x_1) \subseteq \{x_2, x_3, \dots, x_l\}$ . Let  $x_t$  be the vertex with largest index. Clearly,  $t \geq \delta(G)+1$ . This concludes the proof.

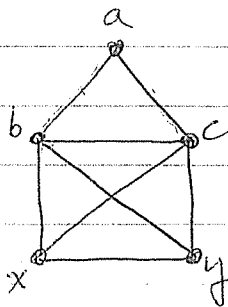
(\*) We also conclude that  $l \geq \delta(G)+1$ , hence  $G$  contains a path of length at least  $\delta(G)$ .

3rd proof of Eulerian circuit theorem

By induction of  $\|G\|$ . It is true if  $\|G\|=2$ . Assume that the assertion is true for  $G'$  with  $\|G'\| < \|G\|$  and  $G'$  satisfies the sufficient conditions,  $G$  is connected and every vertex is of even degree. Since  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ ,  $G$  contains a cycle  $Z$ . Then,

$G-Z$  is either an empty graph or a graph of smaller size, such that each component of  $G-Z$  satisfies the S.C., Now, by induction and the idea of Euler, we have the  $\uparrow$  proof. (put them together!)  $\square$

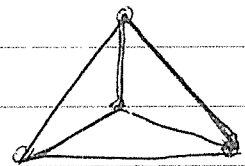
Corollary A connected graph has an eulerian trail from a vertex  $x$  to a vertex  $y \neq x$  if and only if  $x$  and  $y$  are the only odd vertices.



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.

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

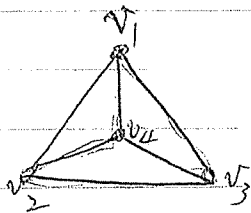


Digraph version (To be continued!)

### 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)



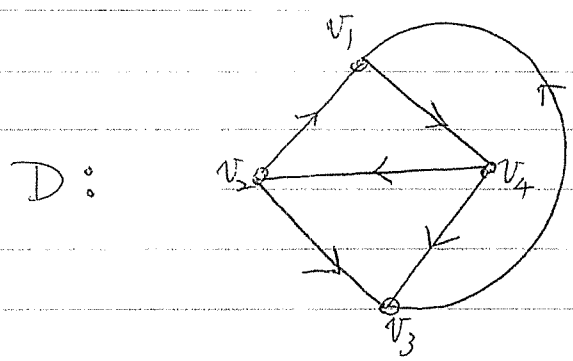
$\langle v_1, v_4, v_2, v_1, v_3 \rangle$  and  $\langle v_4, v_3, v_2 \rangle$

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  $(V, V)$  or  $V^2$ .  $|A|$  is defined as the size of  $D$  (the number of arcs).

e.g.



$$\begin{aligned} \deg_D^+(v_1) &= 1, \quad \deg_D^-(v_1) = 2 \\ \deg_D^+(v_2) &= 2, \quad \cdot \\ \deg_D^+(v_3) &= 1, \quad \cdot \\ \deg_D^+(v_4) &= 2, \quad \cdot \end{aligned}$$

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

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

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

$\uparrow$  out-neighbor                       $\uparrow$  in-neighbor

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

$\uparrow$  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  $D$ .

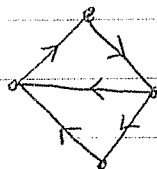
Definition (Connected digraphs)

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.

↓  
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,  $s(D)$  be the number of eulerian circuits, and  $t_i(D)$  be the number of spanning trees oriented from  $v_i$ . Then  $s(D) = t_i(D) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^n (\deg^+(v_j) - 1)!$  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.

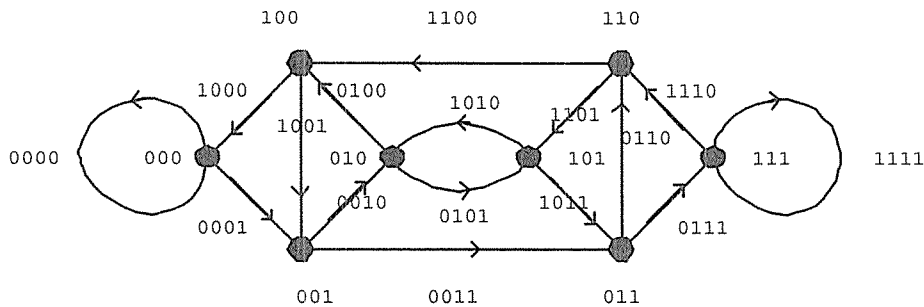


圖 5:  $D_{2,4}$

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

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
 000 & \xrightarrow{0000} & 000 & \xrightarrow{0001} & 001 & \xrightarrow{0010} & 010 & \xrightarrow{0100} & 100 & \xrightarrow{1001} & 001 & \xrightarrow{0011} & 011 \\
 \xrightarrow{0110} & 110 & \xrightarrow{1101} & 101 & \xrightarrow{1010} & 010 & \xrightarrow{0101} & 101 & \xrightarrow{1011} & 011 & \xrightarrow{0111} & 111 \\
 \xrightarrow{1111} & 111 & \xrightarrow{1110} & 110 & \xrightarrow{1100} & 100 & \xrightarrow{1000} & (000)
 \end{array}$$

$(2,4)$ -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。

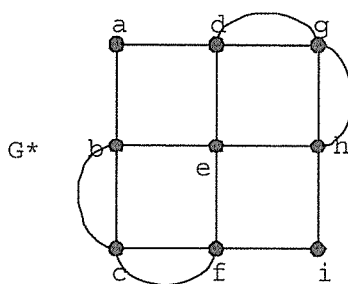


圖 7：最佳郵差路線

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。■

其它方面上有不少應用，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"。

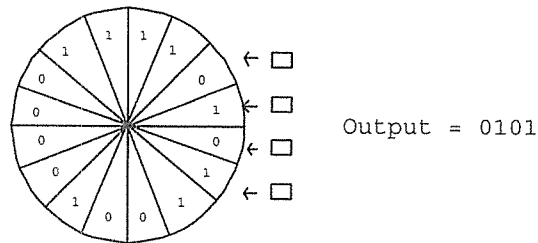


圖 6：旋轉鼓

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)

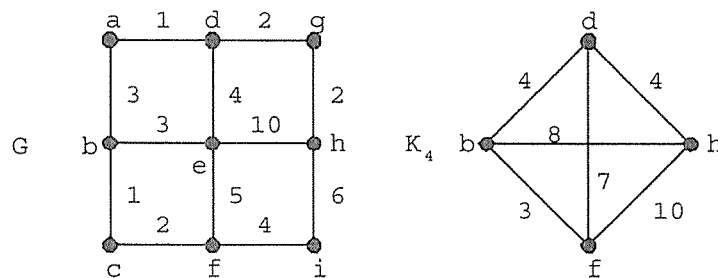
任給一個圖  $G$  所謂郵差路線是指在  $G$  中的一個封閉步行 (Closed Walk)，它通過  $G$  中的每一個邊至少一次。

**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。