



# Graphs: Cycles

Tecniche di Programmazione – A.A. 2020/2021

# Summary

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- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Algorithms



# Definitions

Graphs: Cycles

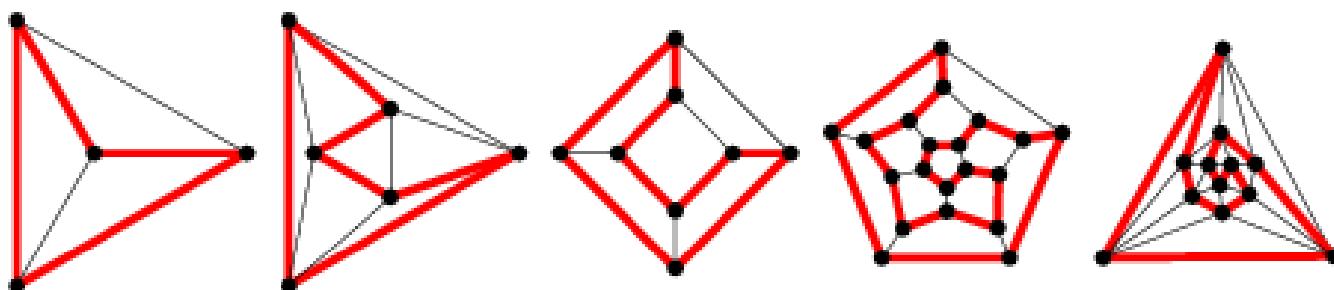
# Cycle

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- ▶ A **cycle** of a graph, sometimes also called a **circuit**, is a subset of the edge set of that forms a path such that the first node of the path corresponds to the last.

# Hamiltonian cycle

- ▶ A cycle that uses each graph vertex of a graph exactly once is called a Hamiltonian cycle.



# Hamiltonian path

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- ▶ A Hamiltonian path, also called a Hamilton path, is a path between two vertices of a graph that visits each vertex exactly once.
- ▶ N.B. does not need to return to the starting point

# Eulerian Path and Cycle

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- ▶ An **Eulerian path**, also called an Euler chain, Euler trail, Euler walk, or "Eulerian" version of any of these variants, is a walk on the graph edges of a graph which **uses each graph edge** in the original graph **exactly once**.
- ▶ An **Eulerian cycle**, also called an Eulerian circuit, Euler circuit, Eulerian tour, or Euler tour, is a trail which starts and ends at the **same** graph vertex.

# Theorem

- ▶ A connected graph has an Eulerian **cycle** if and only if it **all vertices have even degree**.
- ▶ A connected graph has an Eulerian **path** if and only if it has **at most two graph vertices of odd degree**.
- ▶ ...easy to check!

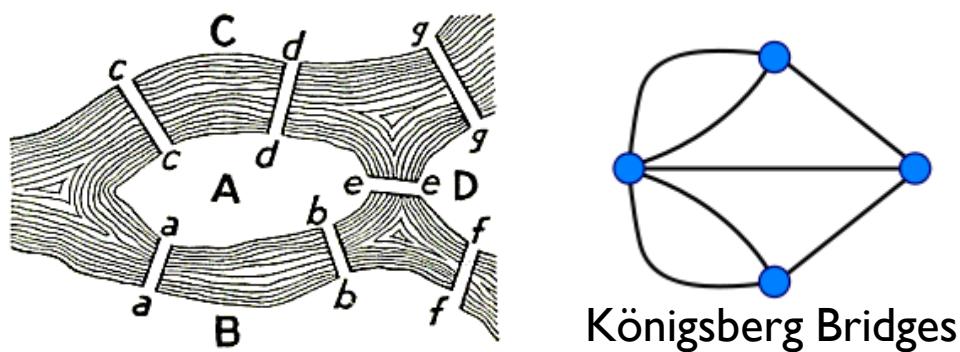


FIGURE 98. *Geographic Map:  
The Königsberg Bridges.*

# Weighted vs. Unweighted

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- ▶ Classical versions defined on Unweighted graphs
- ▶ Unweighted:
  - ▶ Does such a cycle exist?
  - ▶ If yes, find at least one
    - ▶ Optionally, find all of them
- ▶ Weighted
  - ▶ Does such a cycle exist?
    - ▶ Often, the graph is complete ☺
  - ▶ If yes, find at least one
  - ▶ If yes, find **the best one** (with **minimum weight**)



# Algorithms

Graphs: Cycles

# Eulerian cycles: Hierholzer's algorithm (1)

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- ▶ Choose **any** starting vertex  $v$ , and **follow a trail** of edges from that vertex until returning to  $v$ .
- ▶ It is **not** possible to get stuck at any vertex other than  $v$ , because the even degree of all vertices ensures that, when the trail enters another vertex  $w$  there must be an unused edge leaving  $w$ .
- ▶ The tour formed in this way is a **closed tour**, but may **not** cover all the vertices and edges of the initial graph.

## Eulerian cycles: Hierholzer's algorithm (2)

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- ▶ As long as there exists a vertex  $v$  that belongs to the current tour but that has adjacent edges not part of the tour, **start another trail** from  $v$ , following **unused** edges until returning to  $v$ , **and join** the tour formed in this way to the previous tour.

# Finding Eulerian circuits

## Hierholzer's Algorithm

Given: an Eulerian graph  $G$

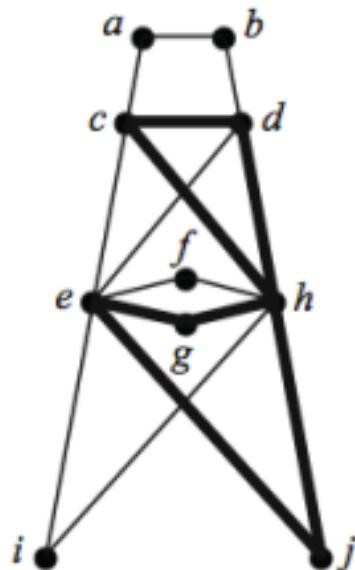
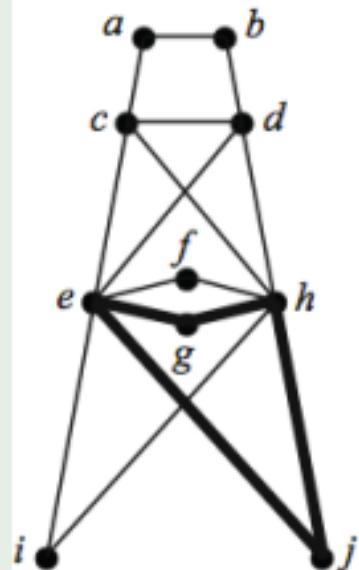
Find an Eulerian circuit of  $G$ .

- ① Identify a circuit in  $G$  and call it  $R_1$ . Mark the edges of  $R_1$ . Let  $i = 1$ .
- ② If  $R_i$  contains all edges of  $G$ , then stop (since  $R_i$  is an Eulerian circuit).
- ③ If  $R_i$  does not contain all edges of  $G$ , then let  $v_i$  be a node on  $R_i$  that is incident with an unmarked edge,  $e_i$ .
- ④ Build a circuit,  $Q_i$ , starting at node  $v_i$  and using edge  $e_i$ . Mark the edges of  $Q_i$ .
- ⑤ Create a new circuit,  $R_{i+1}$ , by patching the circuit  $Q_i$  into  $R_i$  at  $v_i$ .
- ⑥ Increment  $i$  by 1, and go to step (2).

# Finding Eulerian circuits

## Hierholzer's Algorithm

### Example



$R_1: e, g, h, j, e$

$Q_1: h, d, c, h$

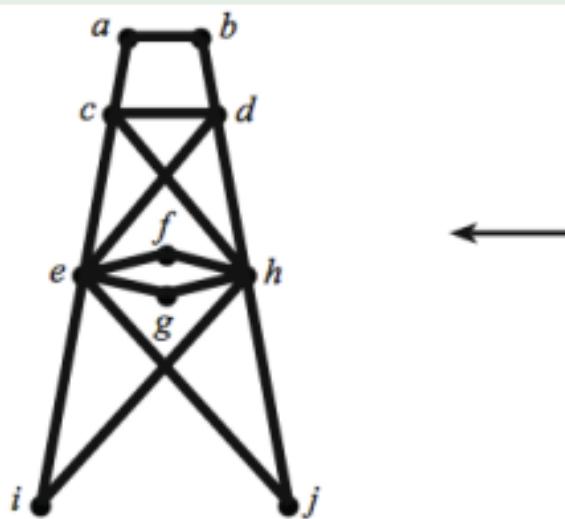
$R_2: e, g, \mathbf{h}, d, c, \mathbf{h}, j, e$

$Q_2: d, b, a, c, e, d$

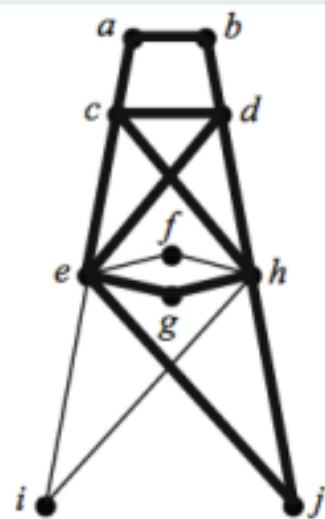
# Finding Eulerian circuits

## Hierholzer's Algorithm

### Example (continued)



$R_4$ : e, g, h, f, e, i, h, d, b, a,  
c, e, d, c, h, j, e



$R_3$ : e, g, h, d, b, a, c, e, d, c, h, j, e  
 $Q_3$ : h, f, e, i, h

# Eulerian Circuits in JGraphT

org.jgrapht.alg.cycle

The screenshot shows the Javadoc interface for the `HierholzerEulerianCycle` class. The left sidebar lists various JGraphT packages and classes. The main content area has tabs for OVERVIEW, PACKAGE, CLASS (which is selected), USE, TREE, DEPRECATED, INDEX, and HELP. Below these are links for PREV CLASS, NEXT CLASS, FRAMES, and NO FRAMES. Summary navigation includes NESTED, FIELD, CONSTR, and METHOD, with DETAIL: FIELD, CONSTR, and METHOD below them. The class `HierholzerEulerianCycle<V,E>` is described as extending `java.lang.Object` and implementing `EulerianCycleAlgorithm<V,E>`. It has type parameters `V` (graph vertex type) and `E` (graph edge type). It also implements `EulerianCycleAlgorithm<V,E>`. The code snippet shows the class definition:

```
public class HierholzerEulerianCycle<V,E>
extends Object
implements EulerianCycleAlgorithm<V,E>
```

An implementation of Hierholzer's algorithm for finding an Eulerian cycle in Eulerian graphs. The algorithm works with directed and undirected graphs which may contain loops and/or multiple (parallel) edges. The running time is linear, i.e.  $O(|E|)$  where  $|E|$  is the cardinality of the edge set of the graph.

See the Wikipedia article for details and references about Eulerian cycles and a short description of Hierholzer's algorithm for the construction of an Eulerian cycle. The original presentation of the algorithm dates back to 1873 and the following paper: Carl Hierholzer: Über die Möglichkeit, einen Linienzug ohne Wiederholung und ohne Unterbrechung zu umfahren. Mathematische Annalen 6(1), 30–32, 1873.

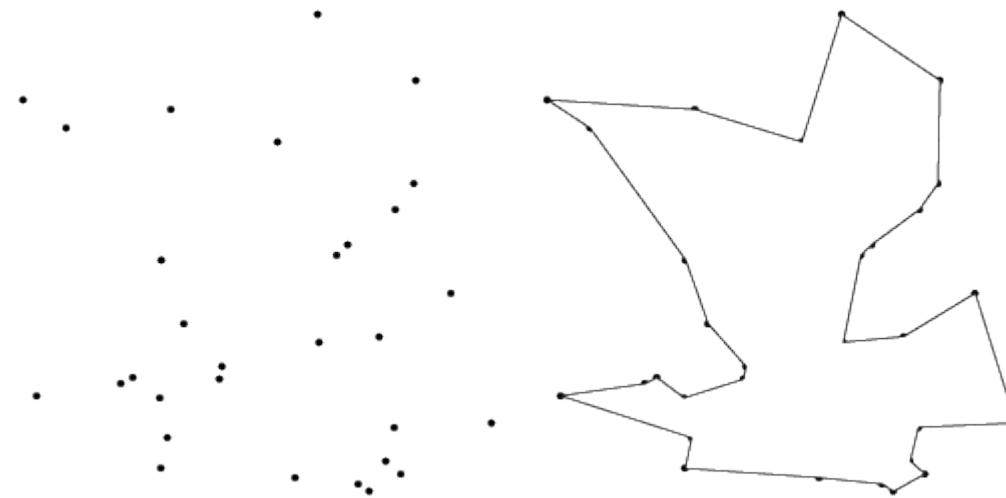
Author: Dimitrios Michail

**Constructor Summary**

**Constructors**

# Hamiltonian Cycles

- ▶ There are theorems to identify **whether** a graph is Hamiltonian (i.e., whether it contains at least one Hamiltonian Cycle)
- ▶ **Finding** such a cycle has **no** known efficient solution, in the general case
- ▶ Example: the **Traveling Salesman Problem** (TSP)



# The Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP)

Weighted or  
unweighted

Given a collection of cities connected by roads

Find the shortest route that visits each city exactly once.

## About TSP

- Most notorious NP-complete problem.
- Typically, it is solved with a backtracking algorithm:
  - The best tour found to date is saved.
  - The search backtracks unless the partial solution is cheaper than the cost of the best tour.

# Hamiltonian Cycles in JGraphT

<https://jgrapht.org/javadoc/org/jgrapht/alg/interfaces/HamiltonianCycleAlgorithm.html>

org.jgrapht.alg.interfaces

The screenshot shows the Javadoc interface for the `HamiltonianCycleAlgorithm<V,E>`. The interface is defined as a public class that implements the `HamiltonianCycleAlgorithm<V,E>` interface. It is described as an algorithm solving the Hamiltonian cycle problem. A Hamiltonian cycle is defined as a graph cycle that visits each node exactly once. The interface is implemented by several classes, including `ChristofidesThreeHalvesApproxMetricTSP`, `HeldKarpTSP`, `PalmerHamiltonianCycle`, `TwoApproxMetricTSP`, and `TwoOptHeuristicTSP`. The implementation is attributed to Alexandru Valeanu.

## All Known Implementing Classes:

`ChristofidesThreeHalvesApproxMetricTSP`, `GreedyHeuristicTSP`,  
`HamiltonianCycleAlgorithmBase`, `HeldKarpTSP`, `NearestInsertionHeuristicTSP`,  
`NearestNeighborHeuristicTSP`, `PalmerHamiltonianCycle`, `RandomTourTSP`,  
`TwoApproxMetricTSP`, `TwoOptHeuristicTSP`

# Limitations...

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- ▶ No exact solution (Approximate algorithms)
  - ▶ Class TwoApproxMetricTSP<V,E>
  - ▶ Class ChristofidesThreeHalvesApproxMetricTSP<V,E>
  - ▶ Class TwoOptHeuristicTSP<V,E>
- ▶ Or complete under extra conditions
  - ▶ Class PalmerHamiltonianCycle<V,E>
- ▶ Or complete but  $O(2^N)$ 
  - ▶ Class HeldKarpTSP<V,E>

# The Metric Traveling Salesman Problem

An approximation algorithm

ASSUMPTION:  $G$  is a metric graph.

- ① Compute a minimum weight spanning tree  $T$  for  $G$ .
- ② Perform a depth-first traversal of  $T$  starting from any node, and order the nodes of  $G$  as they were discovered in this traversal.  
⇒ a tour that is at most twice the optimal tour in  $G$ .

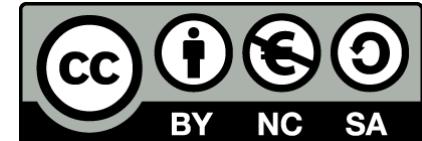
**Class TwoApproxMetricTSP<V,E>**

# Resources

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- ▶ <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/>
- ▶ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler\\_cycle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler_cycle)
- ▶ Mircea MARIN, Graph Theory and Combinatorics,  
Lectures 9 and 10, <http://web.info.uvt.ro/~mmarin/>

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