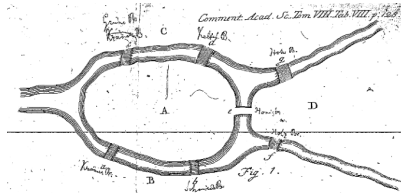


The Origins of Graph Theory

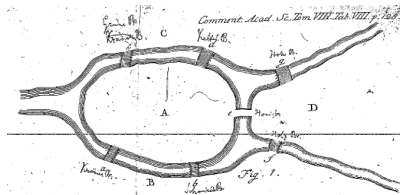
City of Königsberg in 1736



Question. Is it possible to start somewhere, cross all seven bridges exactly once, and return to where you started?

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We can model this with a graph:

Equiv. Question. Can we draw this graph without lifting our pencil?

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Definition. The **degree** of a vertex A is the number of edges incident with A ; loops count twice!

Eulerian Circuits

Definitions.

An **Eulerian circuit** C in G is a **circuit** containing every edge of G .

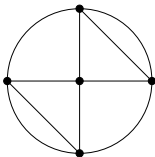
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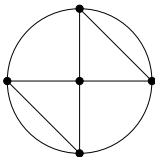


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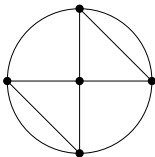
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The Königsberg
bridge problem



Is there an Eulerian circuit in
the corresponding pseudograph?

Characterization of Graphs with Eulerian Circuits

There is a simple way to determine if a graph has an Eulerian circuit.

Theorems 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. Let G be a pseudograph that is connected* *except possibly for isolated vertices*.

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(\impliedby) **Hierholzer, 1873.** This is harder; we need the following lemma.

Proof of Lemma 3.1.3

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When the trail arrives at a vertex B , what can we say about the number of edges incident to B **not yet traversed** by the trail?

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The trail must eventually return to A , giving us a circuit.

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Then H is a pseudograph where _____.

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Otherwise, it doesn't; we will aim to contradict the maximality of C :

Create H from G by deleting the edges of C and isolated vertices.

Then H is a pseudograph with no isolated vertices.

C and H must share a vertex v whose degree is ≥ 2 .

Write C as $C = \dots e_1 A v B e_2 \dots$.

Find a circuit D in H (why?)

Write D as $D = \dots f_1 v f_2 \dots$. No edges of D repeat nor are they in C .

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Other related theorems

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Consequence. When drawing a picture without lifting your pencil, start and end at the vertices of odd degree!

