

# Discrete Math 37110 - Class 15 (2016-11-15)

Instructor: László Babai  
Notes taken by Jacob Burroughs

Partially revised by instructor 11/16 3:35pm. Errors still possible. HW statements have been revised; the first problem in the earlier posting was misstated. Compare exercises with LN and Lin Alg. text and your own notes. Report errors in HW statements to instructor.

## 15.1 Planar graphs, plane graphs, Kuratowski's Theorem

**DO 15.1.** The only way to get a one-sided face is through a self-loop. One can get a 2-sided face from a single edge ( $n = 2$ ) or two parallel edges.

**DO 15.2.** If  $n \geq 3$  for a connected plane graph, there are no 1 or 2 sized faces. (Here we are talking about a graph, not a multigraph. To emphasize this, we could add the adjective “simple” — so a “simple graph” just means a graph.)

**HW 15.3** (revised). Draw a connected plane multigraph which has a pair of parallel edges but no loops, no bridges, and no 2-sided face. Use as few edges as you can. (Recall: a bridge is an edge whose removal makes the graph disconnected. By removing the edge we mean removing the edge from the list of edges; but we keep its endpoints as vertices.) **(5 points)**

**Theorem 15.4.** *If  $G$  is a planar graph where  $n \geq 3$ , then  $m \leq 3n - 6$*

*Proof.* Let  $f_k$  be the number of  $k$ -sided faces. The sum of the number of sides of each face  $\sum_u \text{deg}(u) = \sum_k k f_k = 2m$ . Since  $n \geq 3$ ,  $f_1 = f_2 = 0$ . Then  $2m = \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} k f_k \geq 3 \sum_k f_k = 3f$ . Therefore  $2m \geq 3f$ . Applying Euler's formula ( $n - m + f = 2$ ):  $2m \geq 3(2 - n + m)$ , or equivalently,  $m \leq 3n - 6$   $\square$

**DO 15.5.** If  $G$  is a triangle-free planar graph where  $n \geq 3$ , then  $m \leq 2n - 4$

**Definition 15.6.** The *girth* is the length of the shortest cycle.

**DO 15.7.** The maximum girth of a connected planar graph where every vertex has degree  $\geq 3$

A subdivision of  $K_5$  is a topological  $K_5$ , and is also non-planar.

The *Kuratowski* graphs are topological  $K_5$  and topological  $K_{3,3}$

**Theorem 15.8** (Kuratowski's Theorem).  *$G$  is planar if and only if  $G$  does not contain a Kuratowski graph.*

**HW 15.9.** Find a Kuratowski subgraph in the Petersen graph. Hand in a drawing in which you highlight those vertices of the Kuratowski subgraph which come from the original  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$ , and highlight the paths connecting them in the Kuratowski subgraph. **(5 points)**

**CH 15.10.** a. If  $G \not\supset C_4$  then  $m = O(n^{3/2})$

b. This bound is tight

## 15.2 Linear independence, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, subspaces

**DO 15.11.** Review matrix multiplication.

**Notation 15.12.** If  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$

$$A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n} \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$$

$$Av = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } w_i = a_i \cdot v \text{ where } a_i \text{ is the } i\text{th row of } A \text{ and the dot denotes the}$$

standard dot product: for vectors  $u, v$  we write  $u \cdot v = \sum u_i v_i$ .

**Definition 15.13.**  $v$  is an *eigenvector* of  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$  if

(a)  $v \neq 0$

(b)  $Av = \lambda v$

**Definition 15.14.**  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  if  $(\exists v \neq 0)(Av = \lambda v)$

**Example 15.15.** For the identity matrix  $I$ , since  $Iv = v$ , all  $v \neq 0$  are eigenvectors with eigenvalue 1. The spectrum, which is the set of eigenvalues is  $\{1\}$

**DO 15.16.** On  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & \dots & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , prove that 1 is an eigenvalue and only 1 is an eigenvalue.

(The asterisks indicate arbitrary numbers.)

**Example 15.17.** On the all-zero matrix,  $v \neq 0$  are eigenvectors with eigenvalue 0. The spectrum is  $\{0\}$

**Definition 15.18.**  $A$  is a *scalar matrix* if  $A = \lambda I$

**DO 15.19.** If  $\forall v \neq 0$  is an eigenvector of  $A$ , then  $A$  is a scalar matrix

**HW 15.20.** Prove: if  $v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are eigenvectors of  $A$  to distinct eigenvalues, then  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  are linearly independent. **(8 points)**

**Definition 15.21.** Linear independence of vectors:  $\alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_k v_k = 0$  if and only if  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_k = 0$  (that is, the only linear combination of  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  that is 0 is the trivial linearly combination)

To prove linear independence: suppose  $\sum \alpha_i v_i = 0$  and show that  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_k = 0$

**HW 15.22.** Let  $a_i, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{R}$  be distinct real numbers. Define  $f(t) = \prod(t - a_i)$  and  $g_j(t) = \frac{f(t)}{t - a_j} = \prod_{i, i \neq j}(t - a_i)$ . (Note that the  $g_j$  are polynomials.) Prove that  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  are linearly independent. (7 points)

**HW 15.23** (Due Tuesday 2016-11-22). Let  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  denote the space of infinite sequences  $\underline{a} = (a_0, a_1, \dots)$ . (Notation:  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ .) In other words,  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is the space of functions  $\underline{a} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , identifying such a function with a sequence. Let  $S : \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  denote the **left shift operator**, i.e.,  $S\underline{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots)$ . Find the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of this operator. (7 points)

Our informal definition of a **vectors space** at this point is a set  $V$  on which linear combinations are defined, satisfying the usual rules. In particular, we assume that  $\alpha v = 0$  if and only if  $\alpha = 0$  or  $v = 0$ . The elements of  $V$  are “vectors” and the real numbers are “scalars.”

For any set  $\Omega$ , the notation  $\mathbb{R}^{\Omega}$  denotes the set of  $\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  functions:  $\mathbb{R}^{\Omega} = \{f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$ . We define linear combinations of such functions pointwise, i.e., by setting  $(\sum \alpha_i f_i)(z) = \sum \alpha_i f_i(z)$ . This makes  $\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a vector space where the “vectors” are the  $\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  functions.

**Example 15.24.** Random variables on a probability space form a vector space.

**Definition 15.25.**  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ , denoted  $W \leq V$  if  $W \subseteq V$  and  $W$  is closed under linear combinations.

**DO 15.26.** If  $W \leq V$  then  $0 \in W$ . In particular,  $\emptyset$  is not a subspace.

**DO 15.27.** Characterize all subspaces of  $G_3$ , our 3D geometry with a point designated as the origin.

**DO 15.28.** The intersection of any number of subspaces is a subspace. This is true even if we intersect infinitely many subspaces.

**Theorem 15.29.** *There exists a unique smallest subspace containing  $S \subseteq V$*

**DO 15.30.**  $\text{Span}(S)$  is the set of all linear combinations of all finite subsets of  $S$ .

**HW 15.31** (Due 2016-11-22). As before,  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  denotes the set of infinite sequences  $\underline{a} = \{(a_1, a_2, \dots)\}$ .

Let  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  be the set of “Fibonacci-type sequences,” i.e., those sequences that satisfy the recurrence  $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$  (for  $n \geq 2$ ). Observe that  $F$  is closed under the left shift operator  $S$ . (You don’t need to prove this.) (a) Show that  $F$  is a subspace:  $F \leq \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . (b) Find the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of  $S$  in  $F$ . (3+7 points)

**DO 15.32.** IMPORTANT! Study the relevant chapters of the instructor’s online “Discover Linear Algebra” text.