

Computer Science 385 Design and Analysis of Algorithms Siena College Spring 2025

In-class Graph Data Structures Intro

A wide variety of information can be represented as a collection of entities and some sort of relationship between some or all pairs of those entities. This kind of data is often represented by the mathematical construct known as a *graph*, which, in the realm of computing, is often represented by a graph data structure.

Definition:

A simple example:



Here, the letters represent

and numbers are

The numbers here mean that this is a



• Two vertices are *adjacent* if

Examples:

• A path is

Example:

• A simple path

Example:

• A simple path is a *cycle* if

Example:

- A graph that contains no cycles is called
- Two vertices u and v are *connected* if
- The *degree* of a vertex is

Examples:

Let's add some arrows to our sample graph.



• The graph is now

•

The original was

• here, we have an *out-degree* and *in-degree* for each vertex

There are two principal ways that a graph is usually represented:

- 1. an *adjacency matrix*, or
- 2. adjacency lists.

As a running example, we will consider an undirected graph where the vertices represent the states in the northeastern U.S.: NY, VT, NH, ME, MA, CT, and RI. An edge exists between two states if they share a common border, and we assign edge weights to represent the length of their border.

Adjacency matrix representation of NE graph

Adjacency list representation of NE graph