Graph representations
COMS20010 (Algorithms II)

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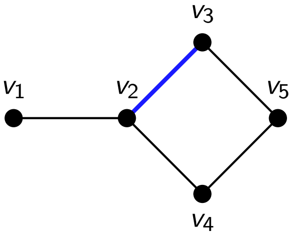
Adjacency matrices

I haven't talked at all about running times of graph algorithms...
because a lot depends on how the input graphs are stored.

One popular way to store a graph $G = (V, E)$ is an **adjacency matrix**:

$$V =: \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n\}, \qquad A_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if there is an edge from } v_i \text{ to } v_j, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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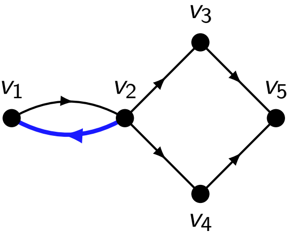

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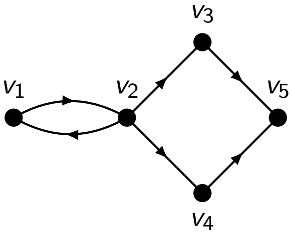

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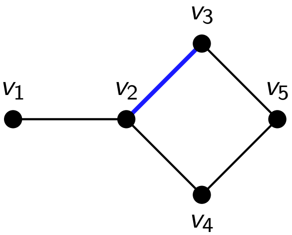
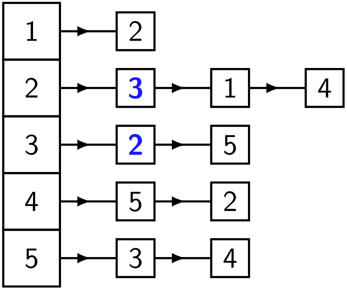
Storing the matrix as a 2D array takes **$\Theta(|V|^2)$ space**.
An **adjacency query** ("Is $(u, v) \in E$?") takes **$\Theta(1)$ time**.
A **neighbourhood query** ("What is $N^+(u)$?") takes **$\Theta(|V|)$ time**.

Adjacency lists

Another way is **adjacency list format**.

Here we store an array of $|V|$ linked lists $L_1, \ldots, L_n$, where L_i contains the list of vertices v_j with $(v_i, v_j) \in E$ (in some order):





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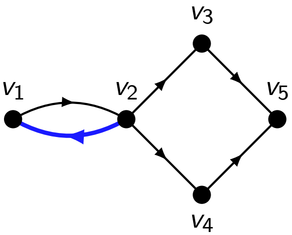

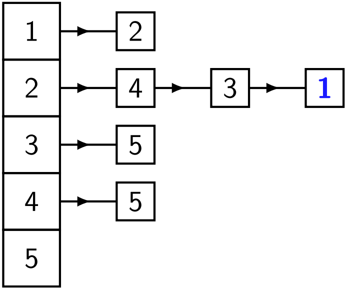

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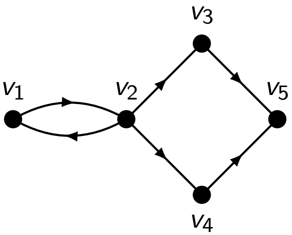
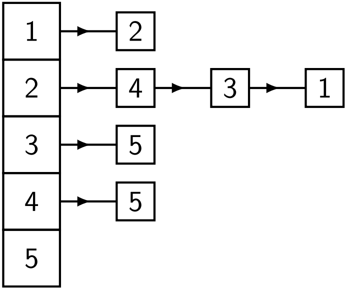




Storing the array of lists takes $\boldsymbol{\Theta(|V| + |E|)}$ **space**.
An **adjacency query** ("Is $(u, v) \in E$?") takes $\boldsymbol{\Theta(d^+(u))}$ **time**.
A **neighbourhood query** ("What is $N^+(u)$?") takes $\boldsymbol{\Theta(d^+(u))}$ **time**.

Matrices or lists?

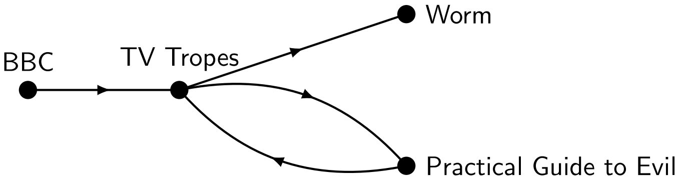
Advantages of matrices	**Advantages of lists**
Fast adjacency queries for all graphs	Fast degree queries for sparse graphs
Can sometimes use linear algebra for fast algorithms (see problem sheet)	Low space requirement for sparse graphs
	Can drop adjacency queries to $O(1)$ **expected** time with hash tables (c.f. Advanced Algorithms next year!)

In practice, we normally use adjacency lists with hash tables over adjacency matrices or vanilla adjacency lists... **unless** we aren't actually storing the graph at all!

Implicit graphs

A key ingredient of Google's search algorithm is **PageRank**: a rough indicator of the "importance" of a given site on the Internet, computed by looking at incoming and outgoing links.

Calculating PageRank is a **graph problem**:



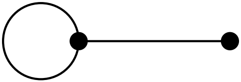
Google **really** doesn't want to have to store the graph.

But they can easily list neighbours of a site v in $O(d(v))$ time...
so they can have *the same interface* that adjacency lists would provide, but without actually storing anything!

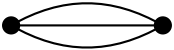
Situations like this, where the graph is only stored implicitly, are why we really care about the adjacency list and matrix models.

Loops and multiple edges

Sometimes it's useful to consider graphs with:



Loops connecting vertices to themselves;



Multiple edges between one pair of vertices.

These are called **multigraphs**.

Results and algorithms for graphs usually carry over to multigraphs unchanged, but they often make things harder to visualise and write.

And loops and multiple edges are rarely necessary.

So in this course we will only consider standard (a.k.a. **simple**) graphs, without loops or multiple edges.