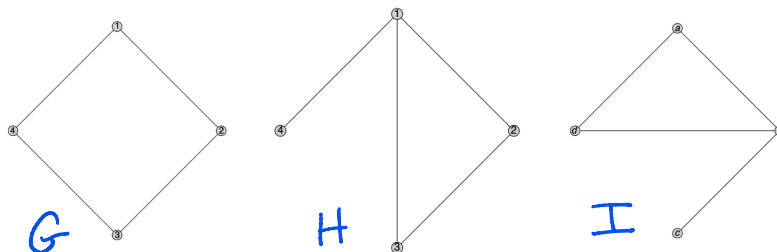


Lecture 6: Graph Isomorphism

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Grimaldi 11.2

Which of the following graphs are the "same" ?



G is a cycle. H and I are not cycles.
H and I both have a triangle and one extra edge.
Ignoring vertex labels and how we draw H and I,
H and I are the same graphs.

Definition (isomorphic graphs)

Let $G = (V_1, E_1)$ and $H = (V_2, E_2)$ be two graphs. Then G is **isomorphic** to H (has the same structure as) if there is a bijection $f : V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ such that

$$\{u, v\} \in E_1 \iff \{f(u), f(v)\} \in E_2.$$

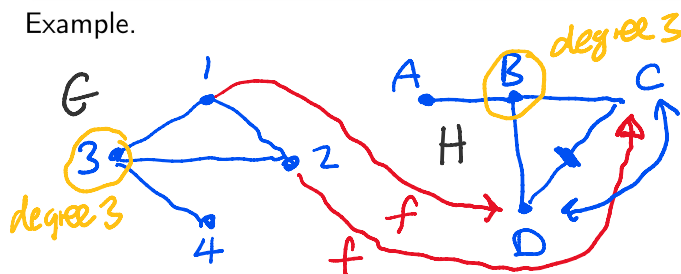
$$\Rightarrow |V_1| = |V_2|$$

$$\Rightarrow |E_1| = |E_2|$$

The function f is called an **isomorphism**.

iso = same
morphic = structure

Example.



Vertexes 4 and A have degree 1.
Vertexes 3 and B have degree 3.
There are two isomorphisms.

Check $\{1, 2\}$

$$\{f(1), f(2)\} = \{D, C\} \in H \checkmark$$

$$f(1) = D$$

$$f(2) = C$$

$$f(3) = B$$

$$f(4) = A$$

$$f(1) = C$$

$$f(2) = D$$

$$f(3) = B$$

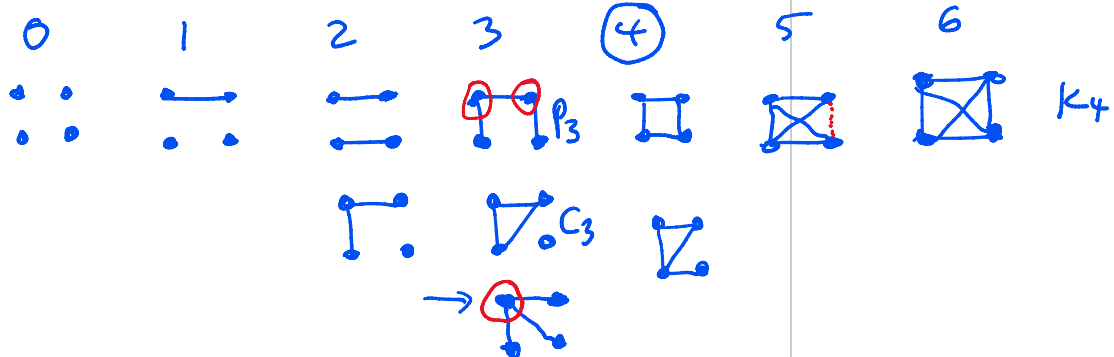
$$f(4) = A$$

Example. Draw all non-isomorphic graphs with $|V| = 3$ and $|V| = 4$.

$|V| = 3$.



$|V| = 4$



Exercise. Draw all non-isomorphic graphs with 5 vertices and ~~5~~ edges.

4

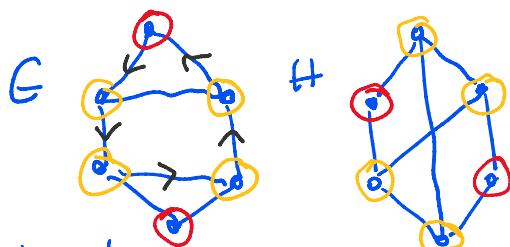
6 graphs.

How can we test if two graphs G and H are isomorphic?

$n!$

They must have the same properties.

- (1) The same # of vertices and edges.
- (2) The same vertex degrees
- (3) The same # cycles of a given size.



vertices = 6
edges = 8

degrees 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3.

G has cycles of length 3, 3.
 H has no cycles of length 3.

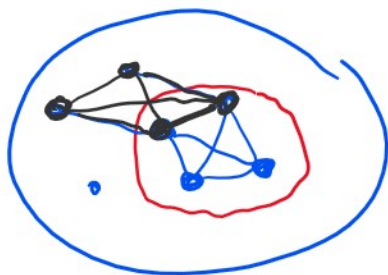
G has two copies of C_5
 H has none.

G is NOT isomorphic to H .

An "efficient" graph isomorphism algorithm is not known.

Example. For $n \geq t$, how many subgraphs of K_n are isomorphic to K_t ?

K_n
 K_7



K_t $t=4$



Each selection of $t=4$ vertices from K_n induces a subgraph of K_n which is isomorphic to (a copy of) K_t .

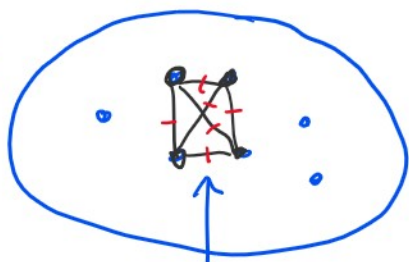
Answer $\binom{n}{t}$

Example. Let K_4^- be K_4 less one edge.

How many subgraphs of K_n are isomorphic to K_4^- ?



K_n



①

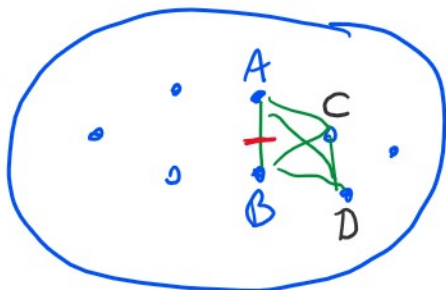
Pick any 4 vertices in K_n .
Delete any edge to get K_4^- .

choose 4 vertices

remove 1 edge.

$$\binom{n}{4} \cdot 6$$

K_n



②

Choose A, B in K_n .

Choose C, D in K_n .

Delete edge $\{A, B\}$ to get K_4^- .

$\binom{n}{2}$.

$\binom{n-2}{2}$

choose 2 vertices

choose 2 more

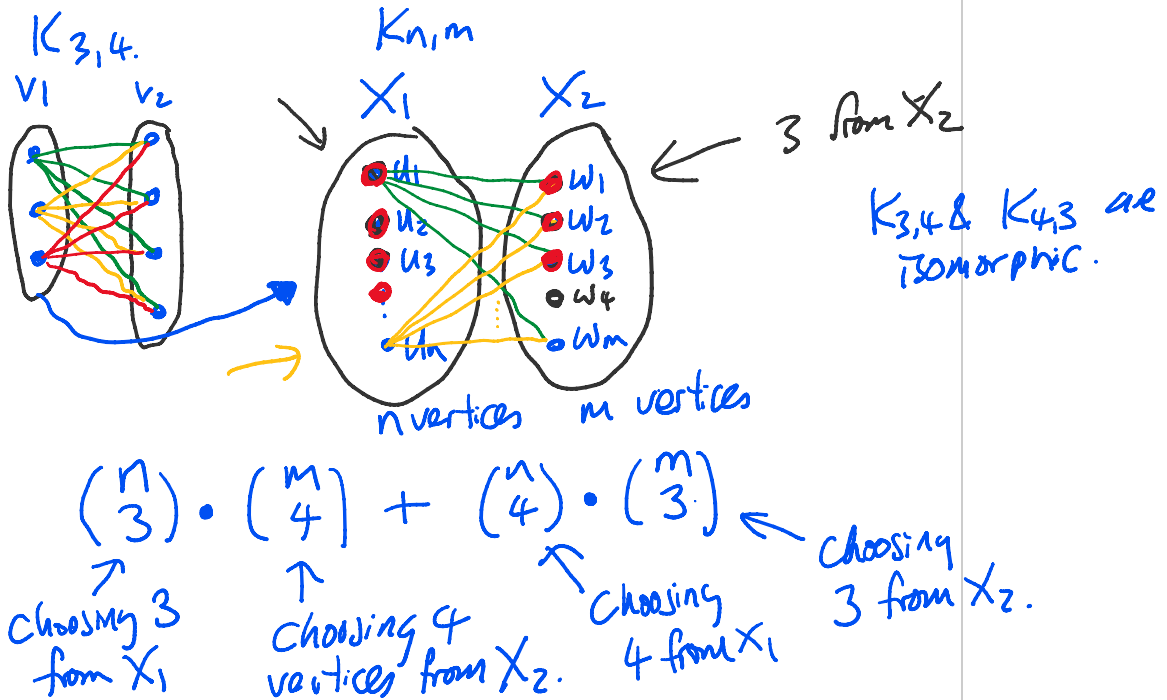
delete A, B .

$$\binom{n}{2} \binom{n-2}{2} \cdot 1$$

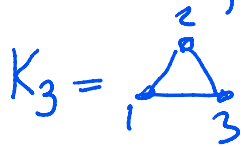
This gives

Exercise. How many subgraphs of $K_{n,m}$ are isomorphic to $K_{3,4}$?

$n \geq 3$ $m \geq 4$.



How many subgraphs does K_3 have?



8 subgraphs with 3 vertices

isomorphic

are isomorphic

6 with 2 vertices

3 with 1 vertex

