

Since C_i has n_i vertices, according to the previous result:

$$\text{rank}(D_{C_i}) = n_i - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank}(D) &= \text{rank}(D_{C_1}) + \text{rank}(D_{C_2}) + \dots + \text{rank}(D_{C_k}) \\ &= (n_1 - 1) + (n_2 - 1) + \dots + (n_k - 1) \\ &= (n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_k) - k \\ &= n - k. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

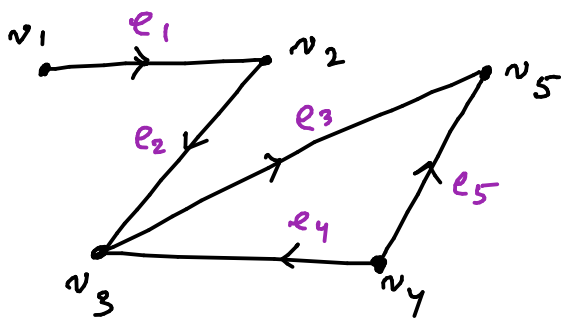
The dimension of $\mathcal{N}(D) = k$.

→ Signed Path Vector (\mathbf{x})

Given a directed graph G_d , a signed path vector (\mathbf{x}) corresponding to a path in G_d , which has following entries:

$$\mathbf{x} = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_m]^T \quad m: \text{Number of edges in } G_d.$$

$$x_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if the edge } e_i \text{ traverse} \\ & \text{positively (in the direction of path)} \\ -1, & \text{if } e_i \text{ traverse -ively (in the} \\ & \text{reverse direct? of path)} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



• let us consider a path from v_1 to v_4 with edges e_1, e_2 & e_4 .

$$z = [1 \ 1 \ 0 \ -1 \ 0]^T$$

$v_1 \rightarrow v_4$ with edges e_1, e_2, e_3 & e_5 .

$$z = [1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ -1]^T$$

→ Result: Given a directed path with distinct initial & final vertices, described by a signed path vector 'z', in the digraph G_d , the vector $y = D(G_d)z$ has the following entries

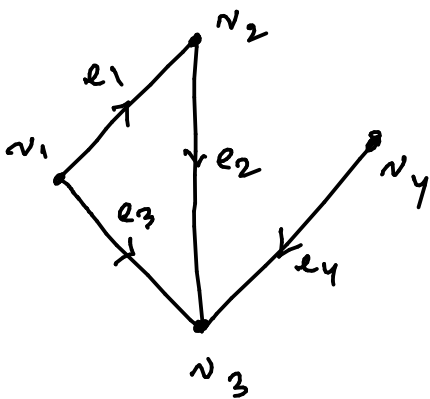
$$y_i = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if the vertex } v_i \text{ is the initial vertex of the path} \\ 1, & \text{if the vertex } v_i \text{ is the final vertex of the path} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

↑ incidence matrix of G_d

$$y = D(G_d) z$$

$$= D(G_d) \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} z_1 & & & \\ & z_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & z_m \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{diag}(z)} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbb{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{D \cdot \text{diag}(z)}$$



$$D = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{diag}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & 0 & \\ & & 0 & \\ & & & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Consider a directed path from v_1 to v_4 with edges e_1, e_2, e_4

$$z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

It is a kind of incidence matrix, corresponding to the directed path we have considered.

- In the matrix $D(G_d) \text{diag}(z)$, the columns of $D(G_d)$ will appear with appropriate scaling done by the elements of z .
- The edge that does not appear in a directed path, the corresponding column of $D \cdot \text{diag}(z)$ is '0'.

$$D(G_2)z = \underbrace{D(G_2) \cdot \text{diag}(z) \cdot \mathbb{1}}_{D_z}$$

the addition of all elements in a row of $D(G_2) \cdot \text{diag}(z)$.

$$\underbrace{D(G_2) \cdot \text{diag}(z)}_{D_z}$$

- If vertex v_i is the initial vertex of the path, then i th row of D_z has only one non-zero element: -1 .

Then the i th row addition = -1

- If vertex v_i is the final vertex of the path, then i th row of D_z has only one non-zero element: 1 .

⇓

The addition of the i th row = 1

- If the vertex v_i , which appears in between the initial & final vertices of the directed path, then i th row of D_z has two non-zero elements: $\underline{1}$, $\underline{-1}$
Since one edge enters at v_i & one edge leaves from v_i

⇓

then the addition of i th row = 0

$$y = D_z \cdot \mathbb{1} \quad (\text{row addition of } D_z)$$

\Downarrow

y_i has entries either 1, -1 or 0. \square

- If α we have a directed path with same initial & final vertices (cycle) then at every vertex v_i , there will be one edge which enters, and one edge, which leaves.

\Downarrow

At every row of D_z , there will be two non-zero elements (according to the previous proof) : 1 & -1.

\Downarrow

$$D_z \cdot \mathbb{1} = 0$$

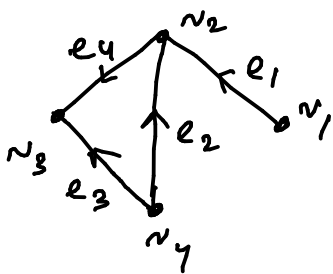
\Rightarrow Every element of $y = D(\alpha)z$ is zero.

\Downarrow

$$D(\alpha)z = 0$$

\Downarrow

$$z \in \mathcal{N}(D(\alpha))$$



cycle consists of
edges e_2, e_4, e_3

↓ corresponds

$$z = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D(G_4) = \begin{bmatrix} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 & e_4 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \text{diag}(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow D_z = \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ -v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D_z \cdot \mathbb{1} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow D(G_4)z = 0 \Rightarrow z$ is in the null space of $D(G_4)$.

- Hence, the vector z that corresponds to a cycle, belongs to the null space of $D(G_4)$.
- Cycle Space: The null space of incidence matrix $D(G_4)$ of a digraph G_4 is called "cycle space" of G_4 .
- Result: Given a directed graph G_4 with incidence matrix $D(G_4)$, the null space of $D(G_4)$ is spanned by all linearly independent signed path vectors z , which correspond to the cycles of G_4 .