

# Properties of Graphical-Algebraic

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**Abstract – Graphical algebras are both a natural and powerful way to depict intricate dependency structures in multivariate random variables. They come in two flavours, directed or undirected, that are not mutually exclusive. However, some conditional independence structures can only be encoded in one or the other formalism. Among graphical algebras, Gaussian Graphical algebras (often referred to as GGM) are of particular interest because of their ease to be manipulated and interpreted.**

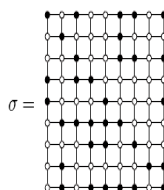
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## INTRODUCTION

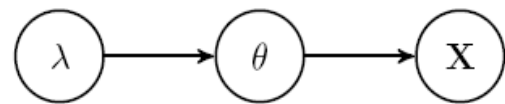
A graphical algebra is a probabilistic model whose conditional (in)dependence structure between random variables is given by a graph. This framework has received a fair amount of attention recently, but the ideas can be traced back as far as the beginning of the XXth century with Gibbs. Indeed, one of the scientific areas that popularised graphical algebras is statistical physics. As an example, let us consider a simple model, named after the physicist Ernst Ising, that can be used to describe a large system of magnetic dipoles (or spins). Spins can be in one of the two states  $\pm 1$ . They are spread on a graph (commonly a lattice) and can only interact with their neighbours. If  $\sigma = (\sigma_1; \sigma_2; \dots)$  is a state of the system giving assignments for all spins, the energy of  $\sigma$  and the associated Gibbsian distribution are respectively given by:

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma) := -J \sum_{i \sim j} \sigma_i \sigma_j - H \sum_i \sigma_i;$$

$$p(\sigma) := \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-\mathcal{H}(\sigma)).$$



The graphical aspect of this model is rather obvious, since the definition of  $\mathcal{H}$  depends on the neighbourhood of each spin. This is an example of undirected graphical algebra. Such models are also called Markov random fields. Graphical algebras also naturally arise for instance when designing hierarchical models with sequentially drawn variables. Let us consider a classical Bayesian framework where observations  $X$  are drawn according to a distribution with parameters  $\theta$ , and where  $\theta$  is itself drawn from a distribution with (hyper)parameters  $\lambda$ . This model can be depicted by a directed graph.



Here we have an example of directed graphical model. The idea is that the graph indicates a way to factorise the joint probability distribution of all variables as a product of conditional probability distributions. For this factorisation to be possible, the graph cannot have any directed cycle. It has to be a directed acyclic graph (DAG). These models are often referred to as Bayesian networks or belief networks. Other classical examples include Markov chains and hidden Markov models (HMM).

## GRAPHICAL-ALGEBRAIC PROPERTIES

There are plenty of geometric conditions on a directed graph  $E$  which guarantee that  $L(E)$  has a particular algebraic structure. For example, we will show that if  $E$  is finite and acyclic, then  $L(E)$  is a direct sum of matrix rings, and the dimension of each summand can be predicted. Other properties we can characterize "graphically" include: simplicity, primitivity, primality, and pure infiniteness, each of which will be introduced in their respective sections. Most theorems studied in this section will be of the form " $E$  has graphical property (X)  $\iff L(E)$  has algebraic property (Y)."

Many of these properties also hold for  $C^*$ -algebras. One point of distinction is that prime  $\implies$  primitive" for separable  $C^*$ -algebras, but not  $Lpa$ 's. Another highlight of this section is the dichotomy of simple  $Lpa$ 's: if  $L(E)$  is simple, then it is either locally matricial or purely infinite. An analogous dichotomy holds for graph  $C^*$ -algebras.

### Ideal structure

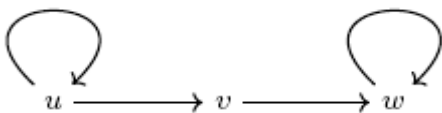
Let  $L(E)$  be a Leavitt path algebra. Recall that an ideal  $I$  of  $L(E)$  is graded if  $I = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} I_n$ , where  $L(E)_n$  denote the homogeneous components of  $L(E)$ . In this

section we will derive a bijection between the graded ideals of  $L(E)$  and certain subsets of  $E_0$ , called hereditary saturated sets. In case  $E$  satisfies "Condition (K)", it turns out all ideals are graded, thus entailing a necessary-and-sufficient graphical condition for simplicity of an Lpa. As a consequence of all this, we will be able to prove that the Jacobson radical of  $L(E)$  is zero, i.e. all Lpa's are semiprimitive. For  $C^*$ -algebras, the aforementioned bijection is between hereditary saturated sets and gauge-invariant ideals of  $C^*(E)$  | ideals which are invariant under the gaugeaction. The remark about Condition (K) still holds for  $C^*$ -algebras. Since all  $C^*$ -algebras are semiprimitive, the corresponding property for Lpa's is more notable. All the proofs for  $C^*$ -algebras are the same as in the Lpa case, mutatis mutandis, the only differences being the application of the gauge-invariant uniqueness theorem versus the graded uniqueness theorem. Thus we only establish the results for Hereditary saturated sets. Let  $E$  be a directed graph. We define two terminologies: a set  $H \subseteq E_0$  is

- hereditary if: whenever  $e \in E_1$  and  $s(e) \in H$ , then  $r(e) \in H$ .
- saturated if: whenever  $v \in E_0$  is a nonsink such that  $r(e) \in H$  for all  $e \in s^{-1}(v)$ , we must have  $v \in H$ .

Hereditry can be interpreted as saying that once you are in  $H$ , you cannot get out. Saturation is the converse: if you only emit edges leading into  $H$ , then you must have been in  $H$  to begin with. So a hereditary saturated set can be thought of as being trapped in an exclusive zombie night club | if all your friends are in, the bouncers will let you in too; however, once you're in you will never escape.

Example. Consider the following graph:

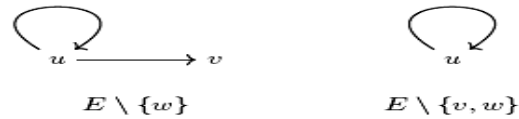


The set  $\{v, w\}$  is hereditary and saturated; note that  $u$  has an outneighbor in  $\{v, w\}$ , but not all outneighbors are in  $\{v, w\}$ , so the saturation condition does not fail at  $u$ . The set  $\{u\}$  is saturated but not hereditary, the set  $\{w\}$  is hereditary but not saturated, and the set  $\{u, w\}$  is neither hereditary nor saturated. Punchline: "hereditary" and "saturated" are mutually exclusive conditions. Hereditary sets are important because they generate subgraphs (see 1.2.4): if  $H$  is hereditary, we define a subgraph  $E \setminus H$ , called the complementary subgraph, by deleting  $H$  and all edges leading into it.

$$E \setminus H := E_0 \setminus H, r^{-1}(E_0 \setminus H), r, s$$

Since any edge of  $E \setminus H$  must end outside  $H$ , it must also start outside  $H$  by heredity. So  $E \setminus H$  is indeed a subgraph in the sense of 1.2.4.

Example. In the graph of the previous example, we have the following subgraphs obtained by removing the sets  $\{w\}$  and  $\{v, w\}$ .



3.1.2 Ideals  $\rightarrow$  hereditary saturated sets. Now we will begin to correspond ideals to hereditary saturated sets of vertices. For an ideal  $I$  of  $L(E)$ , consider the set  $I \cap E_0 = \{v \in E_0 : v \in I\}$ .

Proposition. Let  $I$  be an ideal. Then  $I \cap E_0$  is hereditary and saturated.

Proof. For heredity, suppose  $e$  is an edge with  $s(e) \in I$ .  $r(e) = e * e = e * s(e) \in I$  so  $I \cap E_0$  is hereditary. For saturation, suppose  $v$  is a nonsink such that  $r(e) \in I$  whenever  $s(e) = v$ . We must check  $v \in I$ . Indeed, by (CK2) we have

$$v = \sum_{s(e)=v} e e^* = \sum_{s(e)=v} e r(e) e^* \in I$$

This is row finite since  $E$  is, so we can form the Leavitt path algebra  $L(E \setminus I)$  over the same field. As we will now show, there is a nice CK  $E \setminus I$ -family in the quotient Algebra  $L(E)/I$ .

Corollary. The map  $L(E \setminus I) \rightarrow L(E)/I$  given by  $e \mapsto e + I$  and  $v \mapsto v + I$  induces a surjective algebra homomorphism. Consequently,  $L(E \setminus I) \cong L(E)/I$  if one of the following conditions holds:

- $E \setminus I$  satisfies Condition (L); or
- $I$  is graded.

We'll see later that (i) implies (ii).

Proof. Let  $x \mapsto \bar{x}$  denote passage to the quotient  $L(E)/I$ ; first we check that  $\{\bar{e} \mid e \in E \setminus I\}$  satisfy the CK relations. (CK1) is automatic:  $\bar{e} \bar{e}^* = r(e)$  since the preimages satisfy (CK1) in  $L(E)$ . For (CK2), note that if  $v$  is a nonsink in  $E \setminus I$  then it is a nonsink in  $E$ , so (CK2) in  $E$  implies

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v} &= \sum_{\substack{e \in E_1 \\ s(e)=v}} \bar{e} \bar{e}^* && \text{by (CK2) in } E \\ &= \sum_{\substack{r(e) \notin I \\ s(e)=v}} \bar{e} \bar{e}^* + \sum_{\substack{r(e) \in I \\ s(e)=v}} \bar{e} \bar{e}^* \\ &= \sum_{\substack{r(e) \notin I \\ s(e)=v}} \bar{e} \bar{e}^* && \text{since } r(e) \in I \implies e e^* = e r(e) e^* \in I \\ &= \sum_{\substack{e \in (E \setminus I)_1 \\ s(e)=v}} \bar{e} \bar{e}^* \end{aligned}$$

which is (CK2) in  $EI$ . Therefore  $fege2EI$ ,  $fvgv2EI$  satisfy the CK relations, and so by the universal property of  $L(EI)$  there is an algebra homomorphism  $\iota: L(EI) \rightarrow L(E)=I$  sending  $e \mapsto e$  and  $v \mapsto v$ . This is surjective since this CK  $EI$ -family clearly generates  $L(E)=I$ .

Note that if  $v \in EI$ , then  $v \in H$  and so  $v \neq 0$ . Thus if  $EI$  has Condition (L) then  $\iota$  is an isomorphism by the Cuntz-Krieger Uniqueness Theorem; if  $I$  is graded then  $\iota$  is a graded homomorphism, hence injective by the Graded Uniqueness Theorem. As required. So  $I \cap E0$  is saturated.

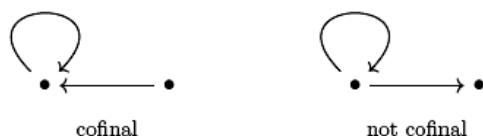
Hereditary saturated sets  $\mathcal{H}$  ideals. Now we complete the correspondence between hereditary saturated sets and ideals. If  $H \subseteq E0$  is a hereditary saturated set, we correspond it to an ideal  $I$  of  $L(E)$  in the naive way, which turns out to work: simply let  $I$  be the ideal generated by  $H$ .

$$I := \langle v : v \in H \rangle.$$

Since this is generated by homogeneous elements, in fact  $I$  is a graded ideal. It turns out that this is the unique graded ideal with  $I \setminus E0 = H$ .

### Simplicity.

Now it is because  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$   $r(ei) = s(ei+1)$  fails Condition (L) as a Leavitt path algebra. We can give graphical conditions characterizing when an Lpa is simple but we have to introduce some graph-theoretic terminology. First, an infinite path in a directed graph  $E$  is a sequence of edges  $\mu = e_1e_2e_3 \dots$  such  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$  for all  $i$ ; we denote by  $E1$  the set of infinite paths in  $E$ . We say  $E$  is cofinal if, for all  $R = e k[x, x^{-1}] \subseteq E1$ , all sinks  $w \in E0$  and all vertices  $v \in E0$ , there are paths  $\mu = 1e_2e_3 \dots$  and  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$ . Succinctly, this means any vertex in  $E$  can reach any infinite path and any sink; in particular every vertex can reach every cycle  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$  because  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$  is an  $\mu = e_1e_2e_3 \dots$  nite path clear that  $E$  has no nontrivial hereditary saturated sets if and only if  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$  is graded-simple, i.e. has no nontrivial graded ideals. For example  $R = k[x, x^{-1}]$  is graded-simple, which can be seen either directly or from its structure as a Leavitt path algebra. But it is not simple, because e.g.  $(1-x)R$  is a proper nonzero ideal; we will see that this is



If  $E$  is finite, the only infinite paths are ones containing cycles | so in this case, cofinality is equivalent to

saying that any vertex can reach any cycle and any sink. Clearly, then, a cofinal graph has at most one sink: if it has two sinks, they can't reach other. The following fact reveals the importance of cofinality: essentially  $E$  is cofinal if and only if  $L(E)$  is graded-simple.

### Prime and primitive ideals

The section is structured as follows: first we investigate prime and primitive Lpa's, then prime and primitive  $C^*$ -algebras. For each, we can find graphical conditions to determine which graded ideals are prime and/or primitive. We will see that  $Cfi(E)$  is prime if and only if it is primitive, if and only if  $L(E)$  is primitive | but it is possible for  $L(E)$  to be prime while  $Cfi(E)$  is not. This will be our first example of an Lpa property which does not perfectly reflect  $C^*$ -algebras.

### Prime rings.

Let  $R$  be a ring. An ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is prime if, whenever  $I, J$  are ideals with  $IJ \subseteq P$ , either  $I \subseteq P$  or  $J \subseteq P$ . It is equivalent to require that for all  $x, y \in R$ ,  $xRy \subseteq P$  implies  $x \in P$  or  $y \in P$  (see Proposition 10.2 in [15]).  $R$  is a prime ring if  $f0g$  is a prime ideal; that is, if  $x, y \in R$  and  $xry = 0$  for all  $r \in R$ , then either  $x = 0$  or  $y = 0$ . If  $R$  is commutative and unital, this reduces to the condition that  $R$  has no zero divisors, i.e.  $R$  is an integral domain. For noncommutative rings it is sufficient but not necessary that  $R$  has no zero divisors, e.g.  $M_n(C)$  is a prime ring with many zero divisors. We now investigate prime Leavitt path algebras. Proposition. Let  $L(E)$  be a Leavitt path algebra. Then  $L(E)$  is a prime ring if and only if  $E$  is downward directed: that is, for all vertices  $v, w \in E0$ , there exists  $x \in E0$  such that  $v \neq x$  and  $w \neq x$ . Recall that " $v \neq w$ " just means that there is a path  $\mu$  from  $v$  to  $w$ , i.e.  $s(\mu) = v$  and  $r(\mu) = w$ .

Let  $R$  be a ring. If  $M$  is a right  $R$ -module, its kernel (or annihilator) is the two-sided ideal  $\ker M := \{r \in R : Mr = 0\}$ . A proper ideal  $P$  of  $R$  is (right) primitive if  $P = \ker M$  for some nonzero, simple right  $R$ -module  $M$ . If  $f0g$  is a primitive ideal we say that  $R$  is a (right) primitive ring; equivalently,  $R$  admits a faithful simple right  $R$ -module. Thus an ideal  $P$  is primitive if and only if  $R/P$  is a primitive ring. We note that in commutative rings, the only primitive rings are fields, and the primitive ideals are the maximal ideals. Here is a standard fact.

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