

# 10 Eigenvalue inequalities; graph laplacians

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Prop 16.14/16.26 (Poincare separation thm) (applications to quantum mechanics)

Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  symmetric (or Hermitian) matrix, let  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $1 \leq r \leq n$ , and let  $(u_1, \dots, u_r)$  be  $r$  orthonormal vectors.

Let  $B = (u_i^T A u_j)$  (an  $r \times r$  matrix),

let  $\lambda_1(A) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n(A)$  be eigenvalues of  $A$

$\lambda_1(B) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_r(B)$  be eigenvalues of  $B$

Then  $\lambda_k(A) \leq \lambda_k(B) \leq \lambda_{k+n-r}(A)$ ,  $k=1, \dots, r$ .

proof. Immediate corollary of prev Prop. letting  $R = (u_1, \dots, u_r)$ . □

(eigenvalue interlacing)

We also have an immediate corollary of interlacing eigenvalues of matrix minors:

Let  $P_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n-1}$  be defined by  $\mathbb{I}_{n \times n} [1:n; 1:n-1]$ , the identity minus the last col.

Then  $P_1^T P_1 = \mathbb{I}$  and  $B = P_1^T A P_1$  is  $A [1:n-1; 1:n-1]$ .

Then we get a genuine interlacing

$$\lambda_1 \leq \mu_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \mu_2 \leq \dots \leq \mu_{n-2} \leq \lambda_{n-1} \leq \mu_{n-1} \leq \lambda_n.$$

We get of course similar results for  $B = A [1:r; 1:r]$ ,

$$\lambda_k \leq \mu_k \leq \lambda_{k+n-r}, \quad k=1, \dots, r.$$

(Cauchy interlacing theorem)

Thm 16.13/16.27 (Courant-Fischer) Let  $A$  be a symmetric  $n \times n$

matrix with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$ . If  $\mathcal{V}_k$  denotes the set of subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of dim  $k$ , then

$$\lambda_k = \max_{W \in \mathcal{V}_k} \min_{x \in W, x \neq 0} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} \quad \text{--- (min-max thm)}$$

$$\lambda_k = \max_{W \in \mathcal{V}_{n-k+1}} \min_{x \in W, x \neq 0} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} \quad (\text{min-max thm})$$

$$\lambda_k = \min_{W \in \mathcal{V}_k} \max_{x \in W, x \neq 0} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x}$$

proof. The proofs for both equations are similar, so we'll just prove the second.

Let  $(u_1, \dots, u_n)$  be an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ .

Let  $V_k = \text{span}\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$ , so  $\dim(V_k) = k$ .

By Rayleigh-Ritz,

$$\lambda_k = \max_{x \neq 0, x \in V_k} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} \geq \min_{W \in \mathcal{V}_k} \max_{x \neq 0, x \in W} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x}, \text{ proving the easy direction.}$$

Lemma: For any  $W \in \mathcal{V}_k$ ,  $\dim(W \cap V_{k-1}^\perp) \geq 1$ .

proof.  $\dim(V_{k-1}) = k-1$ , so  $\dim(V_{k-1}^\perp) = n - k + 1$

But recall that

$$\dim(A) + \dim(B) = \dim(A \cap B) + \dim(A+B), \text{ for } A, B \text{ subspaces of } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Thus,

$$\dim(W) + \dim(V_{k-1}^\perp) = \dim(W \cap V_{k-1}^\perp) + \dim(W + V_{k-1}^\perp)$$

$$\Rightarrow k + n - k + 1 \leq \dim(W \cap V_{k-1}^\perp) + n \quad \rightarrow \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\Rightarrow \dim(W \cap V_{k-1}^\perp) \geq 1. \quad \square$$

Thus,  $\exists v \in W \cap V_{k-1}^\perp$  s.t.  $v \neq 0$ .

By Rayleigh-Ritz,

$$\lambda_k = \min_{x \neq 0, x \in V_k^\perp} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} \leq \frac{v^T A v}{v^T v} \leq \max_{x \in W, x \neq 0} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x}, \quad \forall W \in \mathcal{V}_k.$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_k \leq \min_{W \in \mathcal{V}_k} \max_{x \in W} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x}. \quad \square$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_k \leq \min_{W \in \mathcal{W}_k} \max_{\substack{x \in W \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x}$$



Courant-Fischer is useful for proving results about perturbations of eigenvalues

Prop. 16.15/16.28 Given symmetric  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $B = A + \Delta A$ , if

$\alpha_1 \leq \dots \leq \alpha_n$  are eigenvalues of  $A$

$\beta_1 \leq \dots \leq \beta_n$  are eigenvalues of  $B$ ,

then

$$|\alpha_k - \beta_k| \leq \rho(\Delta A) \leq \|\Delta A\|_2$$

Proof. We use Courant-Fischer applied to  $B$ .

$$\beta_k = \min_{W \in \mathcal{W}_k} \max_{\substack{x \in W \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T B x}{x^T x}$$

$$\leq \max_{\substack{x \in V_k \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T B x}{x^T x} = \max_{\substack{x \in V_k \\ x \neq 0}} \left( \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} + \frac{x^T \Delta A x}{x^T x} \right)$$

$$\leq \max_{x \in V_k} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} + \max_{x \in V_k} \frac{x^T \Delta A x}{x^T x}$$

$$= \alpha_k + \max_{x \in V_k} \frac{x^T \Delta A x}{x^T x}$$

$$\leq \alpha_k + \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{x^T \Delta A x}{x^T x}$$

$$\leq \alpha_k + \rho(\Delta A)$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_k \leq \alpha_k + \rho(\Delta A)$$

Swapping  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $\alpha_k \leq \beta_k + \rho(\Delta A)$

$$\Rightarrow |\alpha_k - \beta_k| \leq \rho(\Delta A) \leq \|\Delta A\|_2, \quad k=1, \dots, n$$



Can get other similar results, like Weyl's inequalities.

Prop. 16.6/16.29 (Weyl) Given two symmetric (or Hermitian)  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , the following inequalities hold. For all  $i, j, k$  with  $1 \leq i, j, k \leq n$ :

(1) If  $i+j = k+1$ , then  $\lambda_i(A) + \lambda_j(B) \leq \lambda_k(A+B)$

(2) If  $i+j = k+n$ , then  $\lambda_k(A+B) \leq \lambda_i(A) + \lambda_j(B)$ .

proof. Note that if we let  $A \leftarrow -A$  and  $B \leftarrow -B$ , then (2)  $\rightarrow$  (1).

By Courant-Fischer,  $\exists$  subspace  $H$  with  $\dim(H) = n - k + 1$  s.t.

$$\lambda_k(A+B) = \min_{\substack{x \in H \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T(A+B)x}{x^T x}$$

Similarly,  $\exists$  subspaces  $F$  and  $G$ ,  $\dim(F) = i$ ,  $\dim(G) = j$  s.t.

$$\lambda_i(A) = \max_{\substack{x \in F \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x}, \quad \lambda_j(B) = \max_{\substack{x \in G \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T B x}{x^T x}$$

Lemma:  $\dim(F \cap G \cap H) \geq 1$ .

proof. Use Grassman relation twice. (like in prev. lemma) ◻

$\Rightarrow \exists$  unit vector  $z \in F \cap G \cap H$ , so

$$\lambda_k(A+B) \leq z^T(A+B)z, \quad \lambda_i(A) \geq z^T A z, \quad \lambda_j(B) \geq z^T B z.$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_k(A+B) \leq \lambda_i(A) + \lambda_j(B). \quad \text{◻}$$

Corollaries:  $\lambda_1(A) + \lambda_k(B) \leq \lambda_k(A+B)$

$$\lambda_k(A+B) \leq \lambda_k(A) + \lambda_n(B)$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1(A) + \lambda_k(B) \leq \lambda_k(A+B) \leq \lambda_k(A) + \lambda_n(B)$$

This implies the monotonicity theorem for symmetric (and Hermitian) matrices.

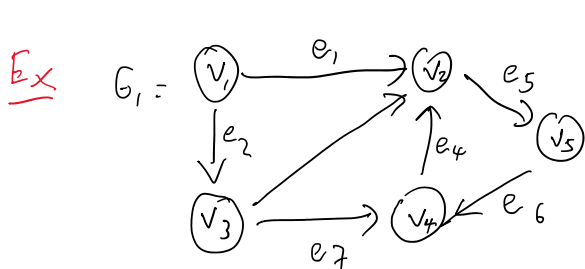
$A \preceq B$  and  $B$  is symmetric and  $B$  is symmetric and  $B$  is symmetric. then

Symmetric (and Hermitian) matrices.

If  $A$  is symmetric, and  $B$  is symm. pos. semidef., then  
 $\lambda_k(A) \leq \lambda_k(A+B)$ .

## Graphs and graph laplacians

Def 18.1 A directed graph is a pair  $G=(V, E)$ , where  $V=\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  is a set of nodes/vertices,  $E \subseteq V \times V$  is a set of ordered pairs  $(u, v)$ , with  $u \neq v$ , called edges. Given any edge  $e=(u, v)$ , let  $s(e)=u$  be the source of  $e$  and  $t(e)=v$  be the target of  $E$ .



Ex  $D(G_1) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & & & & 0 \\ & 4 & & & \\ & & 3 & & \\ 0 & & & 3 & \\ & & & & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Def. 18.2 For every node  $v \in V$ , the degree  $d(v)$  is the number of edges leaving or entering  $v$ :

$$d(v) = |\{u \in V \mid (v, u) \in E \text{ or } (u, v) \in E\}|$$

Notation:  $d(v_i) = d_i$ .

The degree matrix  $D(G) = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_m)$

Def. 18.3 Given a directed graph  $G=(V, E)$ , a path from  $u$  to  $v$  ( $u, v \in V$ ) is a sequence of nodes  $(v_0, \dots, v_k)$  s.t.  $u=v_0$ ,  $v=v_k$  and  $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E \quad \forall 0 \leq i \leq k-1$ .  $k$  is the length of the path.

A path is closed if  $u=v$ .  $G$  is strongly connected if

$\forall u \neq v \in V$ , there is a path  $u \rightarrow v$  and a path  $v \rightarrow u$ .

If  $\exists$  paths  $u \rightarrow v$  and  $v \rightarrow u$ , then  $u$  and  $v$  are related.

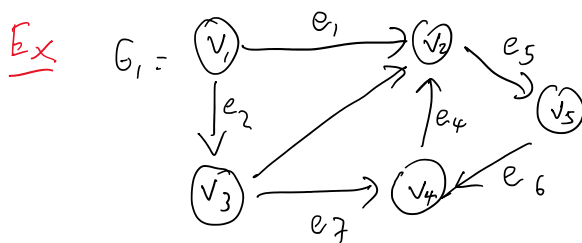
$r$  is the strongly connected component containing  $v$

If  $\exists$  paths  $u \rightarrow v$  and  $v \rightarrow u$ , then  $u$  and  $v$  are *related*.

For any  $v \in V$ , the *strongly connected component* containing  $v$  is the set of all nodes related to  $v$ .

Def. 18.4 Given a directed graph  $G=(V, E)$ ,  $V=\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ ,  $E=\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ , the incidence matrix  $B(G)$  of  $G$  is the  $m \times n$  matrix whose entries

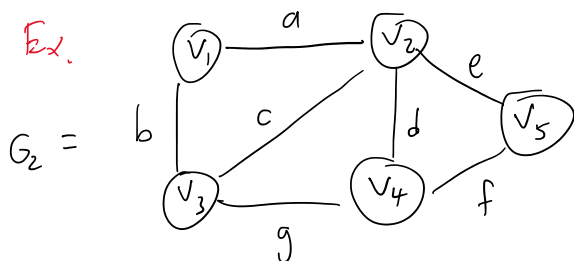
$$b_{ij} = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } s(e_j) = v_i \\ -1 & \text{if } t(e_j) = v_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\text{sometimes just say } B = B(G))$$



$$B(G_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We can interpret  $B: \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^V$  as the boundary map taking edges to vertices (connections to the boundary operator of simplicial complexes and algebraic topology).

Def. 18.5 A graph (or undirected graph) is a pair  $G=(V, E)$ , where  $V=\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  is a set of nodes/vertices and  $E$  is a set of two-element subsets of  $V$  called edges.



$$D(G_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & & & \\ & 4 & & & \\ & & 3 & & \\ & & & 3 & \\ & & & & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Def. 18.6 The degree  $d(v) = |\{u \in V \mid \{u, v\} \in E\}|$ .

Def. 18.7 Given a (undirected) graph  $G=(V, E)$ , for any two nodes  $u, v \in V$ , a path from  $u \rightarrow v$  is a sequence of nodes  $(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k)$  s.t.

Def. 18.7 Given a (undirected) graph  $G=(V, E)$ , for any two nodes  $u, v \in V$ , a **path** from  $u \rightarrow v$  is a sequence of nodes  $(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k)$  s.t.  $u=v_0, v_k=v$  and  $\{v_i, v_{i+1}\} \in E$  for  $0 \leq i \leq k-1$ .  $k$  is the **length**. A path is **closed** if  $u=v$ .  $G$  is **connected** if  $\forall u \neq v, \exists$  a path  $u \rightarrow v$ . **Connected components** are equivalence classes of **related** nodes, where nodes are related if there is a path b/t them.

Def 18.8 The incidence matrix  $B=B(G) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is

$$b_{ij} = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } e_j = \{v_i, v_k\} \text{ for some } k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

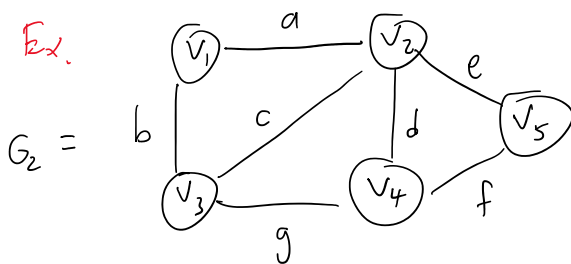
Def. 18.9 If  $G=(V, E)$  is a directed or an undirected graph, if there is an edge  $(u, v)$  in the directed case or  $\{u, v\}$  in the undirected case, then  $v$  is **adjacent** to  $u$ , denoted  $u \sim v$ .

Note:  $\sim$  is symmetric if  $G$  is undirected, but not in general if  $G$  is directed.

Def. 18.10 Given a directed or undirected graph  $G=(V, E)$ , with  $V=\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ , the **adjacency matrix**  $A=A(G)$  is the symmetric matrix with

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u \sim v \text{ or } v \sim u \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Ex.



$$A(G_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can view  $A: \mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^V$  s.t.  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^m, (Ax)_i = \sum_{j \sim i} x_j$ .

This is a **diffusion operator**, as the value of  $Ax$  at  $v_i$  is the

sum of the values of  $x$  at nodes  $v_j$  adjacent to  $v_i$ .

This gives a geometric interpretation of eigenvalues of  $A$ , because

if  $Ax = \lambda x$ , then  $\lambda x_i = \sum_{j \sim i} x_j$ , so the sum of the values of  $x$  at nodes adjacent to  $i$  must be equal to  $\lambda$  times the value at  $v_i$ .

Def. 18.1 Given any undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ , an **orientation** of  $G$  is a function  $\sigma : E \rightarrow V \times V$  assigning a source and target for each edge in  $E$ . i.e.  $\forall \{u, v\} \in E$ , either  $\sigma(\{u, v\}) = (u, v)$  or  $\sigma(\{u, v\}) = (v, u)$ . The **oriented graph**  $G^\sigma$  is the directed graph  $G^\sigma = (V, E^\sigma)$ ,  $E^\sigma = \sigma(E)$ .

Prop. 18.1 Let  $G = (V, E)$  be an undirected graph with  $|V| = m$ ,  $|E| = n$ , and  $c$  connected components.  $\forall$  orientation  $\sigma$  of  $G$ , if  $B$  is the incidence matrix of  $G^\sigma$ , then  $c = \dim(\text{Ker}(B^T))$ , and  $\text{rank}(B) = m - c$ . Furthermore,  $\text{Ker}(B^T)$  has a basis consisting of indicator vectors of the connected components of  $G$ ; i.e. vectors  $(z_1, \dots, z_m)$  s.t.  $z_j = 1$  iff  $v_j$  is in the  $i$ th component  $K_i$  of  $G$  and  $z_j = 0$  otherwise.

proof. Let  $z \in \text{Ker } B^T$ , so  $B^T z = 0 \Leftrightarrow z^T B = 0$ .

$\forall$  edge  $\{v_i, v_j\}$  of  $G$ , the corresponding col of  $B$  has 0 entries except for  $\pm 1$  at positions  $i$  and  $j$ .

$$\Rightarrow z_i = z_j.$$

Thus, if  $i \sim j$ ,  $z_i = z_j$ , so  $z$  has constant value on each connected component of  $G$ .

$\rightarrow \dots, \dots, c, \dots, z_i \neq 0$  iff  $v_j \in K_i$  (i-th connected component)



on each connected component or  $c$ .

$$\Rightarrow z = \lambda_1 z^1 + \dots + \lambda_c z^c, \text{ where } z_j^i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{iff } v_j \in K_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\text{ith connected component})$$

$\Rightarrow \dim(\text{Ker } B^T) = c$  and  $\text{Ker } B^T$  has a basis of indicator vectors

But  $m = \dim(\text{Ker}(B^T)) + \text{rank}(B^T)$ , so  $\text{rank}(B^T) = m - c$ .

$$\Rightarrow \text{rank}(B) = m - c.$$



Aside:  $B^T \mathbf{1} = \vec{0}$  always, so  $\text{Ker } B^T \neq \{0\}$ .

Def. 18.13 A weighted graph is a pair  $G = (V, W)$ , where  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  is a set of nodes/vertices and  $W$  is a symmetric matrix called the weight matrix s.t.  $w_{ij} \geq 0$  and  $w_{ii} = 0$ . A set  $\{v_i, v_j\}$  is an edge iff  $w_{ij} > 0$ . The underlying graph of  $G$  is  $(V, E)$ ,  $E = \{\{v_i, v_j\} \mid w_{ij} > 0\}$ .

Generalization of undirected graphs with  $d(v_i) = \sum_{j=1}^m w_{ij}$  degree.

Note  $W \mathbf{1} = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ \vdots \\ d_m \end{pmatrix}$ .

Prop. 18.2 Given any undirected graph  $G$ ,  $\forall$  orientation  $\sigma$  of  $G$ , if  $A$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G^\sigma$  and  $D$  is the diagonal degree matrix,

then  $L = B^\sigma (B^\sigma)^T = D - A$ .

proof. Let  $B^\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} b_1^\sigma \\ \vdots \\ b_m^\sigma \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $b_j^\sigma$  is the  $j$ th row of  $B^\sigma$ .

Then  $(B^\sigma (B^\sigma)^\top)_{ij} = \langle b_i^\sigma, b_j^\sigma \rangle$ .

Note  $\langle b_i^\sigma, b_i^\sigma \rangle = d(v_i)$  because we get  $\langle b_i^\sigma, b_i^\sigma \rangle_k = \sum (b_{ik}^\sigma)^2$ .

And if  $i \neq j$ ,  $\langle b_i^\sigma, b_j^\sigma \rangle \neq 0$  iff  $\exists$  an edge  $e_k = (v_i, v_j)$  or  $e_k = (v_j, v_i)$ .

because if  $b_{ik}^\sigma = 1$ , then  $b_{jk}^\sigma = -1$  or  $0$

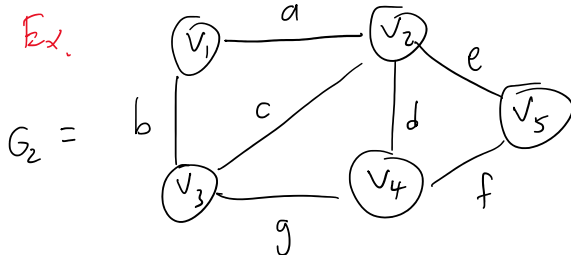
Note that there can only be 1 such undirected edge, so if

$\langle b_i^\sigma, b_j^\sigma \rangle \neq 0$ , then  $\langle b_i^\sigma, b_j^\sigma \rangle = -1$ .

Thus,  $L = B^\sigma (B^\sigma)^\top = D - A$ . □

Clearly,  $L$  is positive semidefinite as  $L = B^\sigma (B^\sigma)^\top$ ,  
and thus the eigenvalues of  $L$  are  $\geq 0$ .

Def. 18.15 The matrix  $L = B^\sigma (B^\sigma)^\top = D - A$  is called the  
(unnormalized) graph Laplacian of the graph  $G^\sigma$  and  
 $L = D - A$  is the (unnormalized) graph Laplacian of  $G$ .



$$A(G_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Def. 18.16 Given a weighted graph  $G=(V, W)$ , the unnormalized graph Laplacian  $L=L(G)=D(G)-W$ , where  $D(G)$  is the diagonal degree matrix.

There are analogues of incidence matrices and the various other properties to weighted graphs as well.