

Two Excerpts

(The following excerpts are taken from pages 340 and 418 in the text.)

A. Read each of the following excerpts carefully:

Excerpt One

William Rowan Hamilton (1805–1865) was born and died in Dublin, Ireland. His uncle taught him Latin, Greek, and Hebrew by the time he was 5 years old; later he became fluent in more than 10 languages. He taught himself algebra when he was 13. When he was 21 years old and still an undergraduate, he was appointed professor of astronomy and he remained a professor at Trinity College, Dublin, for the rest of his life. During a difficult time in his life he turned to writing poetry. This activity led him to become a friend of the poet William Wordsworth.

Excerpt Two

To find all possible maximal paths in a digraph, do the following:

Step 1: Locate all the sinks that are not isolated vertices.

Step 2: Locate all the sources that are not isolated vertices.

Step 3: For each source, follow the arcs until you reach a sink.

Step 4: If there is more than one arc at any vertex along the path formed in step 3, start again at the same source and choose different arcs.

Repeat until all possibilities for that source have been exhausted.

B. Which of these excerpts was easier to understand? Most importantly, what made the other one harder to understand? What is needed to improve your understanding? Be as specific as you can, and jot down your thoughts below.