


Matching


Algorithms and Networks



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This lecture

- Matching: problem statement and applications
- Bipartite matching
- Matching in arbitrary undirected graphs: Edmonds algorithm
- Perfect matchings in regular bipartite graphs
 - Schrijvers algorithm
 - Edge coloring and classroom scheduling application
- Diversion: generalized tic-tac-toe

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Problem and applications



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Matching

- Set of edges $M \subseteq E$ such that **no vertex** is endpoint of more than one edge.
- **Maximal** matching
 - No $e \notin E$ with $M \cup \{e\}$ also a matching
- **Maximum** matching
 - Matching with $|M|$ as large as possible
- **Perfect** matching
 - $|M| = n/2$: **each vertex** endpoint of edge in M .

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Cost versions

- Each edge has cost; look for perfect matching with minimum cost
- Also polynomial time solvable, but harder

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Problems

- Given graph G , find
 - Maximal matching: easy (greedy algorithm)
 - Maximum matching
 - Polynomial time; not easy.
 - Important easier case: bipartite graphs
 - Perfect matching
 - Special case of maximum matching
 - A theorem for regular bipartite graphs and Schrijver's algorithm

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Applications

- Personnel assignment
 - Tasks and competences
- Classroom assignment
- Scheduling
- Opponents selection for sport competitions

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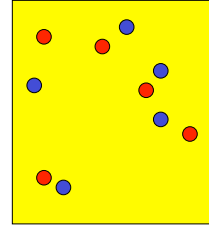


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Application: matching moving objects

- Moving objects, seen at two successive time moments
- Which object came from where?



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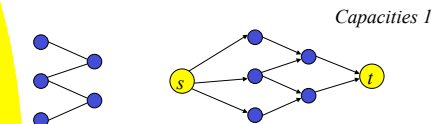
Bipartite matching



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Bipartite graphs: using maximum flow algorithms

- Finding maximum matching in bipartite graphs:
 - Model as flow problem, and solve it: make sure algorithm finds integral flow.



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Technique works for variants too

- Minimum cost perfect matching in bipartite graphs
 - Model as mincost flow problem
- **b-matchings** in bipartite graphs
 - Function $b: V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
 - Look for set of edges M , with each v endpoint of exactly $b(v)$ edges in M .

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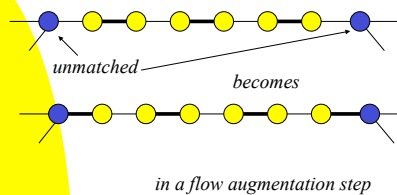


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Steps by Ford-Fulkerson on the bipartite graph

- **M-augmenting path:**



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Edmonds algorithm:
matching in (possibly non-bipartite)
undirected graphs




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A theorem that also works when the graph is not bipartite


Theorem. Let M be a matching in graph G . M is a maximum matching, if and only if there is no M -augmenting path.

- If there is an M -augmenting path, then M is not a maximum matching.
- Suppose M is not a maximum matching. Let N be a larger matching. Look at $N \oplus M = (N \cup M) - (N \cap M)$.
 - Every node in $N \oplus M$ has degree 0, 1, 2: collection of paths and cycles. All cycles alternatingly have edge from N and from M .
 - There must be a path in $N \oplus M$ with more edges from N than from M : this is an augmenting path.


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Algorithm of Edmonds

- Finds maximum matching in a graph in polynomial time


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Jack Edmonds



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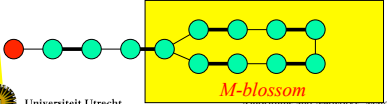
Jack Edmonds




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Definitions

- **M -alternating walk:**
 - (Possibly not simple) path with edges alternating in M , and not M .
- **M -flower**
 - M -alternating walk that starts in an unmatched vertex, and ends as:



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Finding an M-augmenting path or an M-flower – I

- Let X be the set of unmatched vertices.
- Let Y be the set of vertices with an edge not in M to a vertex in X .
- Build digraph $D = (V, A)$ with
 - $A = \{(u, v) \mid \text{there is an } x \text{ with } \{u, x\} \in E-M \text{ and } \{x, v\} \in M\}$.
- Find a shortest walk P from a vertex in X to a vertex in Y of length at least 1. (BFS in D .)
- Take P' : P , followed by an edge to X .
- P' is M-alternating walk between two unmatched vertices.

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Finding M-augmenting path or M-flower – II

Two cases:

- P' is a simple path: it is an M-augmenting path
- P' is not simple. Look to start of P' until the first time a vertex is visited for the second time.
 - This is an M-flower:
 - Cycle-part of walk cannot be of even size, as it then can be removed and we have a shorter walk in D .

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Algorithmic idea

- Start with some matching M , and find either M-augmenting path or M-blossom.
- If we find an M-augmenting path:
 - Augment M , and obtain matching of one larger size; repeat.
- If we find an M-blossom, we *shrink* it, and obtain an equivalent smaller problem; recurs.

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Shrinking M-blossoms

- Let B be a set of vertices in G .
- G/B is the graph, obtained from G by contracting B to a single vertex.
 - M/B : those edges in M that are not entirely on B .

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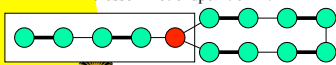


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Theorem

- **Theorem:** Let B be an M-blossom. Then M is a maximum size matching in G , if and only if M/B is a maximum size matching in G/B .
 - Suppose M/B is not max matching in G/B . Let P be M/B -augmenting path in G/B .
 - P does not traverse the vertex representing B : P also M-augmenting path in G : M not max matching in G .
 - P traverses B : case analysis helps to construct M-augmenting path in G .
 - Suppose M not max matching in G . Change M , such that vertex on M -blossom not endpoint of M .

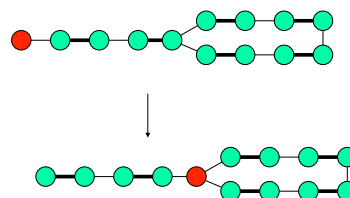


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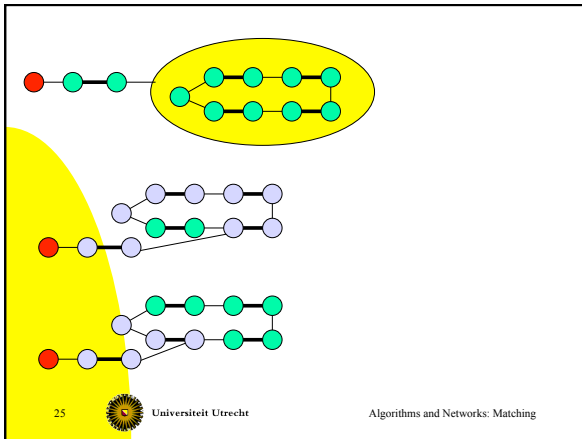


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Proof (continued)

- Take M-augmenting path P in G.
- If P does not intersect B then P also M/B-augmenting path, M/B not maximum matching.
- Otherwise, assume P does not start in B, otherwise reverse P.
 - Now, use start of P to get M/B augmenting path.

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Subroutine

- *Given:* Graph G, matching M
- *Question:* Find M-augmenting path if it exists.
 - Let X be the vertices not endpoint of edge in M.
 - Build D, and test if there is an M-alternating walk P from X to X of positive length. (Using Y, etc.)
 - If no such walk exists: M is maximum matching.
 - If P is a path: output P.
 - If P is not a path:
 - Find M-blossom B on P.
 - Shrink B, and recurse on G/B and M/B.
 - If G/B has no M/B augmenting path, then M is maximum matching.
 - Otherwise, expand M/B-augmenting path to an M-augmenting path.

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Edmonds algorithm

- A maximum matching can be found in $O(n^2m)$ time.
 - Start with empty (or any) matching, and repeat improving it with M-augmenting paths until this stops.
 - $O(n)$ iterations. Recursion depth is $O(n)$; work per recursive call $O(m)$.
- A perfect matching in a graph can be found in $O(n^2m)$ time, if it exists.

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Improvements

- Better analysis and data structures gives $O(n^3)$ algorithm.
- Faster is possible: $O(n^{1/2} m)$ time.
- Minimum cost matchings with more complicated structural ideas.

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Matching in regular bipartite graphs

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Regular bipartite graphs

- Regular = all vertices have the same degree
- Say d is the degree of all vertices
- Theorem (proof follows): each regular bipartite graph has a perfect matching
- Schrijver's algorithm: finds such a perfect matching quickly
- Coming: a nice application for scheduling classrooms and lessons

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A simple non-constructive proof of a well known theorem

Theorem. Each regular bipartite graph has a perfect matching.

Proof:

- Construct flow model of G . Set flow of edges from s , or to t to 1, and other edges flow to $1/d$.
- This flow has value $n/2$, which is optimal.
- Ford-Fulkerson will find flow of value $n/2$; which corresponds to perfect matching.

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Perfect matchings in regular bipartite graphs

- Schrijver's algorithm to find one:
 - Each edge e has a weight $w(e)$.
 - Initially all weights are 1.
 - Let G_w denote the graph formed by the edges of positive weight.
 - While G_w has a circuit
 - Take such a circuit C (which must have even length).
 - Split C into two matchings M and N , with $w(M) \geq w(N)$.
 - Increase the weight of each edge in M by 1.
 - Decrease the weight of each edge in N by 1.

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On the algorithm

- Let each vertex have degree d .
- Invariant: the sum of the weights of the incident edges of a vertex is d .
- At termination: no circuit in G_w , and by the invariant, it follows G_w must be a perfect matching.

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Time to find circuits

- Finding circuits:
 - Keep a path P with edges of weight between 1 and $d-1$
 - Let v be last vertex on P .
 - v must have edge not on P with weight between 1 and $d-1$, say $\{v,x\}$.
 - If x on P : we have a circuit.
 - Apply step on circuit.
 - Remove circuit from P , and work with smaller path.
 - Otherwise, add $\{v,x\}$ to P , and repeat
- $O(|C|)$ per circuit, plus $O(n+m)$ additional overhead.

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Time analysis

- Look at the sum over all edges of $w(e)^2$.
- Each improvement over a cycle C increases this sum by at least $|C|$.
- Initially m , never larger than nd^2 .
- So, total time $O(nd^2) = O(dm)$.

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Sum of squares increases by $|C|$

$$\sum_{e \in M} (w(e)+1)^2 + \sum_{e \in N} (w(e)-1)^2 =$$

$$\sum_{e \in M} (w(e))^2 + \sum_{e \in N} (w(e))^2 + 2 \sum_{e \in M} w(e) - 2 \sum_{e \in N} w(e) + |M \cup N| \geq$$

$$\sum_{e \in M} (w(e))^2 + \sum_{e \in N} (w(e))^2 + |M \cup N|$$

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An application of matching in regular bipartite graphs:
Edge coloring and classroom schedules



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Edge coloring and classroom schedules

- Teachers
- Class
- Some teachers should teach some classes but:
 - No teacher more than one class at a time
 - No class more than one lesson at the time
 - How many hours needed???

	Jansen	Petersen	Klaassen
1b	X		
2a			X
2b		X	

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	Jansen	Petersen	Klaassen
1b	X	1-2	2-3
2a	1-2	2-3	X
2b	2-3	X	1-2

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Edge coloring model

- Take bipartite graph with vertices for teachers and for classes
- Look for a coloring of the edges such that no vertex has two incident edges with the same color.
- What is the minimum number of colors needed?
 - Lower bound: maximum degree. (Interpretation!)
 - We can attain the lower bound with help of matchings!!

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A theorem

- Let G be a bipartite graph with maximum degree d . Then G has an edge coloring with d colors.
 - Step 1: Make G regular by adding vertices and edges.
 - Step 2: Repeatedly find a matching and remove it.

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Making G regular

- Suppose G has vertex sets V_1 and V_2 with edges only between V_1 and V_2 . (Usually called: *color classes*).
- If $|V_1| > |V_2|$ then add $|V_1| - |V_2|$ isolated vertices to V_2 .
- If $|V_2| > |V_1|$ then add $|V_2| - |V_1|$ isolated vertices to V_1 .
- While not every vertex in $V_1 \cup V_2$ has degree d :
 - Find a vertex v in V_1 of degree less than d ← *Must exist*
 - Find a vertex w in V_2 of degree less than d ← *Must exist*
 - Add the edge $\{v, w\}$ to the graph.

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Edge coloring a regular graph

- Say G' is regular of degree d .
- For $i = 1$ to d do
 - Find a perfect matching M in G' .
 - Give all edges in M color i .
 - Remove all edges in M from G' . (Note that G' stays regular!)

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Final step

- Take the edge coloring c of G' . Color G in the same way: G is subgraph of G' .
- Time: carrying out d times a perfect matching algorithm in a regular graph:
 - $O(nd^3)$ if we use Schrijver's algorithm.
 - Can be done faster by other algorithms.

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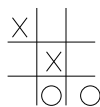
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Diversion: multidimensional tic-tac-toe

Trivial drawing strategies in multidimensional tic-tac-toe

- Tic-tac-toe
- Generalizations
 - More dimensions
 - Larger board size
- Who has a winning strategy?
 - Either first player has winning strategy, or second player has drawing strategy



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Trivial drawing strategy

- If lines are long enough: pairing of squares such that each line has a pair
- If player 1 plays in a pair, then player 2 plays to other square in pair

v	i	a	a	f
j	b	h	u	b
c	i		g	c
d	u	h	d	f
j	e	e	g	v

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Trivial drawing strategies and generalized matchings

- Bipartite graph: line-vertices and square-vertices; edge when square is part of line
- Look for set of edges M , such that:
 - Each line-vertex is incident to two edges in M
 - Each square-vertex is incident to at most one edge in M
- There exists such a set of edges M , if and only if there is a trivial drawing strategy (of the described type).

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Consequences

- Testing if trivial drawing strategy exists and finding one if so can be done efficiently (flow algorithm).
- n by n by ... by n tic-tac-toe (d -dimensional) has a trivial drawing strategy if n is at least 3^{d-1}
 - A square belongs to at most 3^{d-1} lines.
 - So, if n is at least 3^{d-1} then line-square graph has an edge coloring with n colors.
 - Let M be the set of edges with colors 1 and 2.

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Conclusions



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Conclusion

- Many applications of matching! Often bipartite...
- Algorithms for finding matchings:
 - Bipartite: flow models
 - Bipartite, regular: Schrijver
 - General: with M -augmenting paths and blossom-shrinking
- Minimum cost matching can also be solved in polynomial time: more complex algorithm
 - Min cost matching on bipartite graphs is solved using min cost flow

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