Part V

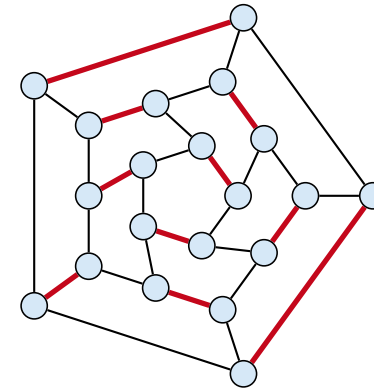**Matchings**

Matching

- Input: undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.
- $M \subseteq E$ is a matching if each node appears in at most one edge in M.
- Maximum Matching: find a matching of maximum cardinality

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18 Bipartite Matching via Flows

Which flow algorithm to use?

- Generic augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(m \operatorname{val}(f^*)) = \mathcal{O}(mn)$.
- Capacity scaling: $\mathcal{O}(m^2 \log C) = \mathcal{O}(m^2)$.
- Shortest augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(mn^2)$.

For unit capacity simple graphs shortest augmenting path can be implemented in time $\mathcal{O}(m\sqrt{n})$.

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19 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

Definitions.

- Given a matching M in a graph G, a vertex that is not incident to any edge of M is called a free vertex w. r. .t. M.
- For a matching M a path P in G is called an alternating path if edges in M alternate with edges not in M.
- An alternating path is called an augmenting path for matching M if it ends at distinct free vertices.

Theorem 1
A matching M is a maximum matching if and only if there is no augmenting path w. r. t. M.