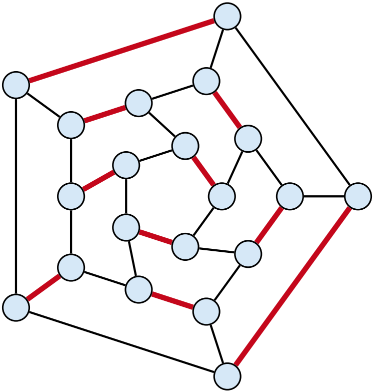
Part V

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



16 Bipartite Matching via Flows

Which flow algorithm to use?

- Generic augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(m\,\mathrm{val}(f^*)) = \mathcal{O}(mn)$.
- 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 $\mathcal{O}(m\sqrt{n})$.

17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

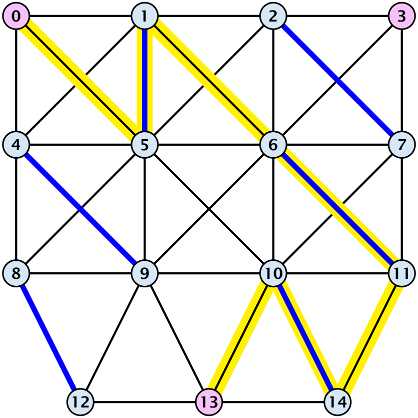
Definitions.

- 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.

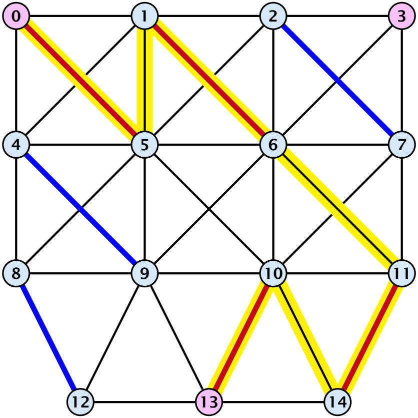
Theorem 1

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

Augmenting Paths in Action



Augmenting Paths in Action



17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

Proof.

- ⇒ If M is maximum there is no augmenting path P, because we could switch matching and non-matching edges along P. This gives matching $M' = M \oplus P$ with larger cardinality.
- ⇐ Suppose there is a matching M' with larger cardinality. Consider the graph H with edge-set $M' \oplus M$ (i.e., only edges that are in either M or M' but not in both).

  Each vertex can be incident to at most two edges (one from M and one from M'). Hence, the connected components are alternating cycles or alternating path.

  As $|M'| > |M|$ there is one connected component that is a path P for which both endpoints are incident to edges from M'. P is an alternating path.

17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

Algorithmic idea:

As long as you find an augmenting path augment your matching using this path. When you arrive at a matching for which no augmenting path exists you have a maximum matching.

Theorem 2

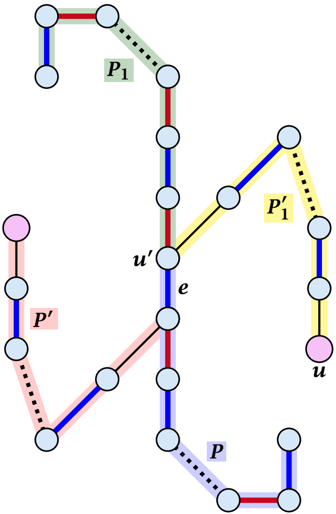
Let G be a graph, M a matching in G, and let u be a free vertex w.r.t. M. Further let P denote an augmenting path w.r.t. M and let $M' = M \oplus P$ denote the matching resulting from augmenting M with P. If there was no augmenting path starting at u in M then there is no augmenting path starting at u in M'.

The above theorem allows for an easier implementation of an augmenting path algorithm. Once we checked for augmenting paths starting from u we don't have to check for such paths in future rounds.

17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

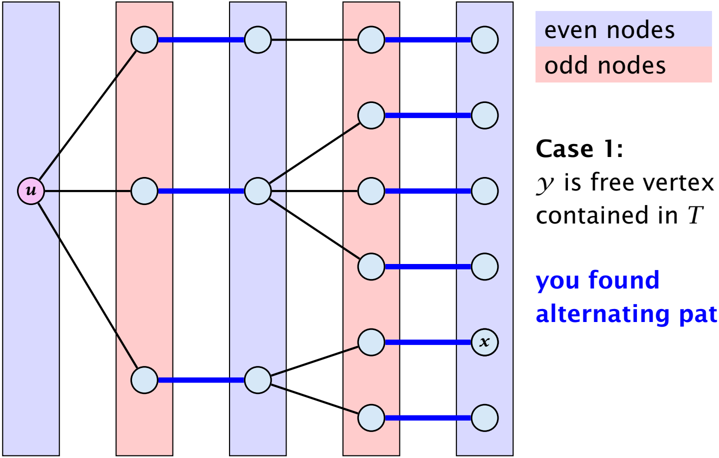
Proof

- Assume there is an augmenting path P' w.r.t. M' starting at u.
- If P' and P are node-disjoint, P' is also augmenting path w.r.t. M (↯).
- Let u' be the first node on P' that is in P, and let e be the matching edge from M' incident to u'.
- u' splits P into two parts one of which does not contain e. Call this part P_1. Denote the sub-path of P' from u to u' with P_1'.
- $P_1 \circ P_1'$ is augmenting path in M (↯).



How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.

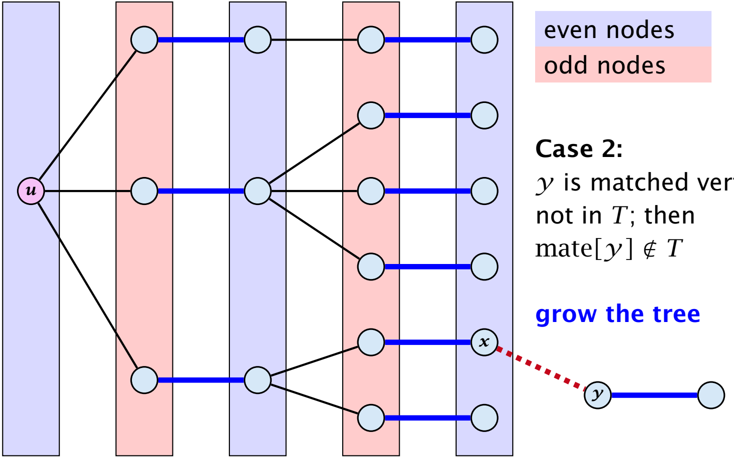


Case 1:
y is free vertex not contained in T

you found alternating path

How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.

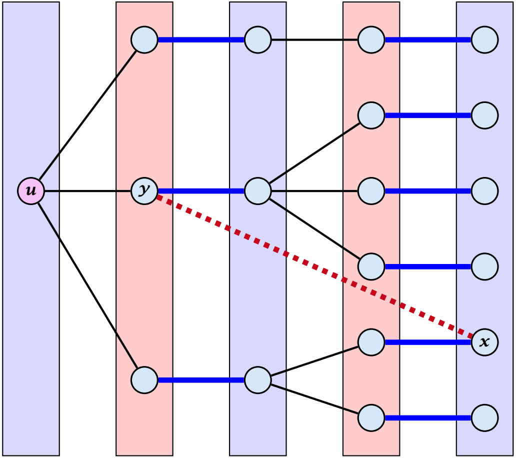


Case 2:
y is matched vertex not in T; then $\text{mate}[y] \notin T$

grow the tree

How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.



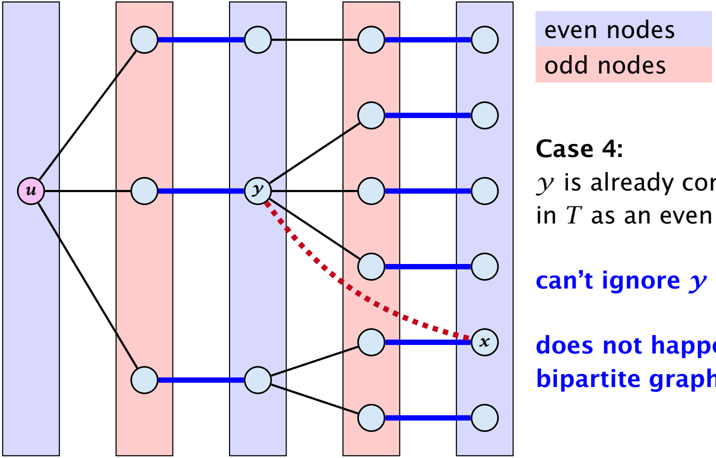
even nodes
odd nodes

Case 3:
y is already contained in T as an odd vertex

ignore successor y

How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.



Case 4:
y is already contained in T as an even vertex

can't ignore y

does not happen in bipartite graphs

The lecture slides contain a step by step

Algorithm 24 BiMatch($G, match$)

```
for x ∈ V do mate[x] ← 0;
r ← 0; free ← n;
while free ≥ 1 and r < n do
    r ← r + 1
    if mate[r] = 0 then
        for i = 1 to n do parent[i'] ← 0
        Q ← ∅; Q.append(r); aug ← false;
        while aug = false and Q ≠ ∅ do
            x ← Q.dequeue();
            for y ∈ A_x do
                if mate[y] = 0 then
                    augm(mate, parent, y);
                    aug ← true;
                    free ← free − 1;
                else
                    if parent[y] = 0 then
                        parent[y] ← x;
                        Q.enqueue(mate[y]);
```

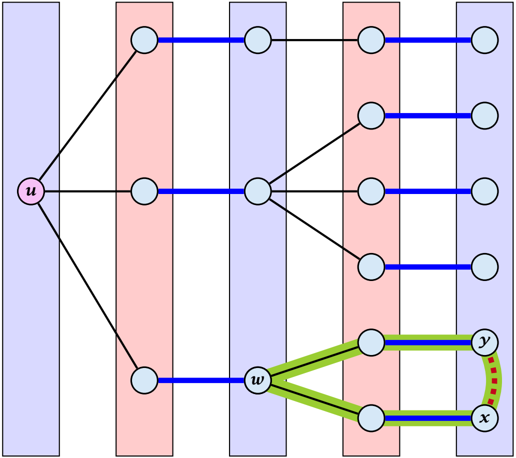
graph $G = (S \cup S', E)$

$S = \{1, \ldots, n\}$

$S' = \{1', \ldots, n'\}$

How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.



even nodes

odd nodes

Case 4:
y is already contained in T as an even vertex

can't ignore y

The cycle $w \leftrightarrow y - x \leftrightarrow w$ is called a blossom.
w is called the base of the blossom (even node!!!).
The path u-w is called the stem of the blossom.

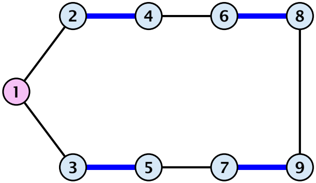
Flowers and Blossoms

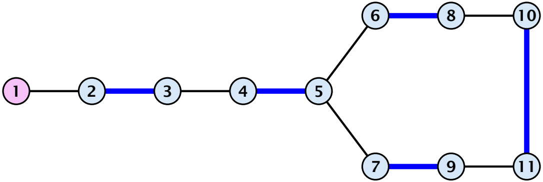
Definition 3

A flower in a graph $G = (V, E)$ w.r.t. a matching M and a (free) root node r, is a subgraph with two components:

- A stem is an even length alternating path that starts at the root node r and terminates at some node w. We permit the possibility that $r = w$ (empty stem).
- A blossom is an odd length alternating cycle that starts and terminates at the terminal node w of a stem and has no other node in common with the stem. w is called the base of the blossom.

Flowers and Blossoms





Flowers and Blossoms

Properties:

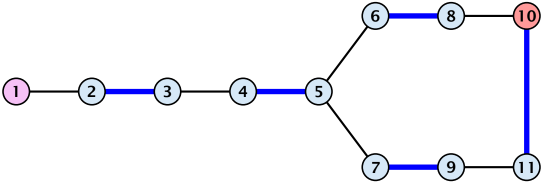
1. A stem spans $2\ell + 1$ nodes and contains ℓ matched edges for some integer $\ell \geq 0$.
2. A blossom spans $2k + 1$ nodes and contains k matched edges for some integer $k \geq 1$. The matched edges match all nodes of the blossom except the base.
3. The base of a blossom is an even node (if the stem is part of an alternating tree starting at r).

Flowers and Blossoms

Properties:

4. Every node x in the blossom (except its base) is reachable from the root (or from the base of the blossom) through two distinct alternating paths; one with even and one with odd length.
5. The even alternating path to x terminates with a matched edge and the odd path with an unmatched edge.

Flowers and Blossoms



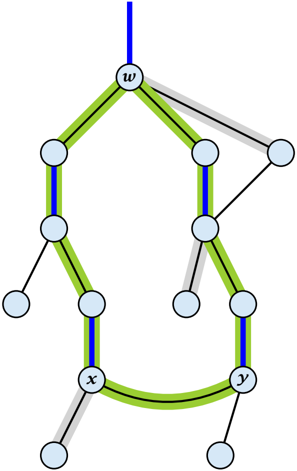
Shrinking Blossoms

When during the alternating tree construction we discover a blossom B we replace the graph G by $G' = G/B$, which is obtained from G by contracting the blossom B.

- Delete all vertices in B (and its incident edges) from G.
- Add a new (pseudo-)vertex b. The new vertex b is connected to all vertices in $V \setminus B$ that had at least one edge to a vertex from B.

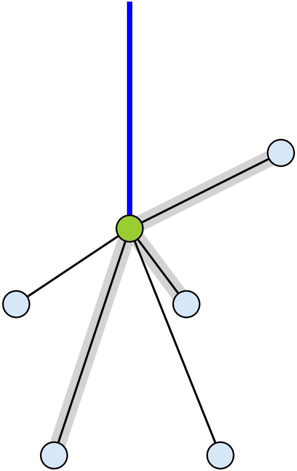
Shrinking Blossoms

- Edges of T that connect a node u not in B to a node in B become tree edges in T' connecting u to b.
- Matching edges (there is at most one) that connect a node u not in B to a node in B become matching edges in M'.
- Nodes that are connected in G to at least one node in B become connected to b in G'.



Shrinking Blossoms

- Edges of T that connect a node u not in B to a node in B become tree edges in T' connecting u to b.
- Matching edges (there is at most one) that connect a node u not in B to a node in B become matching edges in M'.
- Nodes that are connected in G to at least one node in B become connected to b in G'.



Example: Blossom Algorithm

Animation of Blossom Shrinking algorithm is only available in the lecture version of the slides.

Correctness

Assume that in G we have a flower w.r.t. matching M. Let r be the root, B the blossom, and w the base. Let graph $G' = G/B$ with pseudonode b. Let M' be the matching in the contracted graph.

Lemma 4
If G' contains an augmenting path P' starting at r (or the pseudo-node containing r) w.r.t. the matching M' then G contains an augmenting path starting at r w.r.t. matching M.

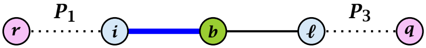
Correctness

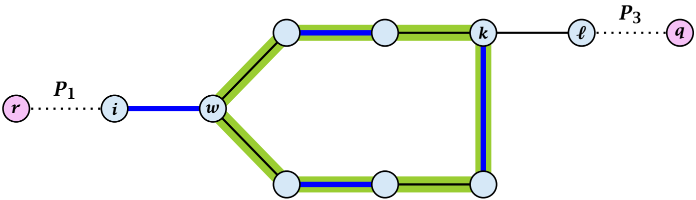
Proof.

If P' does not contain b it is also an augmenting path in G.

Case 1: non-empty stem

- Next suppose that the stem is non-empty.





Correctness

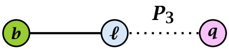
- After the expansion ℓ must be incident to some node in the blossom. Let this node be k.
- If $k \neq w$ there is an alternating path P_2 from w to k that ends in a matching edge.
- $P_1 \circ (i, w) \circ P_2 \circ (k, \ell) \circ P_3$ is an alternating path.
- If $k = w$ then $P_1 \circ (i, w) \circ (w, \ell) \circ P_3$ is an alternating path.

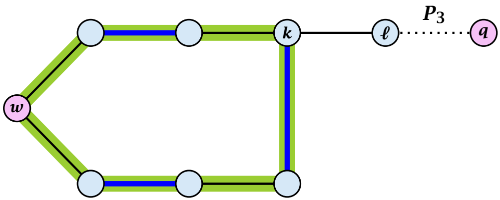
Correctness

Proof.

Case 2: empty stem

- If the stem is empty then after expanding the blossom, $w = r$.





- The path $r \circ P_2 \circ (k, \ell) \circ P_3$ is an alternating path.

Correctness

Lemma 5

If G contains an augmenting path P from r to q w.r.t. matching M then G' contains an augmenting path from r (or the pseudo-node containing r) to q w.r.t. M'.

Correctness

Proof.

- If P does not contain a node from B there is nothing to prove.
- We can assume that r and q are the only free nodes in G.

Case 1: empty stem

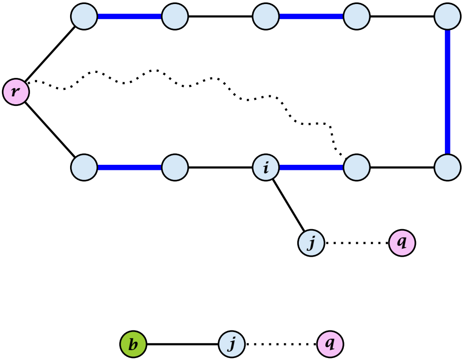
Let i be the last node on the path P that is part of the blossom.

P is of the form $P_1 \circ (i, j) \circ P_2$, for some node j and (i, j) is unmatched.

$(b, j) \circ P_2$ is an augmenting path in the contracted network.

Correctness

Illustration for Case 1:



Correctness

Case 2: non-empty stem

Let P_3 be alternating path from r to w; this exists because r and w are root and base of a blossom. Define $M_+ = M \oplus P_3$.

In M_+, r is matched and w is unmatched.

G must contain an augmenting path w.r.t. matching M_+, since M and M_+ have same cardinality.

This path must go between w and q as these are the only unmatched vertices w.r.t. M_+.

For M'_+ the blossom has an empty stem. Case 1 applies.

G' has an augmenting path w.r.t. M'_+. It must also have an augmenting path w.r.t. M', as both matchings have the same cardinality.

This path must go between r and q.

The lecture slides contain a step by step explanation.

Algorithm 25 search(r, *found*)

set $\bar{A}(i) \leftarrow A(i)$ for all nodes i
found $\leftarrow$ false
unlabel all nodes;
give an even label to r and initialize *list* $\leftarrow \{r\}$
while *list* $\neq \emptyset$ **do**
    delete a node i from *list*
    examine(i, *found*)
    if *found* $=$ true **then return**

Search for an augmenting path starting at r.

The lecture slides contain a step by step explanation.

Algorithm 26 examine(i, $found$)

for all $j \in \bar{A}(i)$ **do**
    if j is even **then** contract(i, j) and **return**
    if j is unmatched **then**
        $q \leftarrow j$;
        $\text{pred}(q) \leftarrow i$;
        $found \leftarrow \text{true}$;
        return
    if j is matched and unlabeled **then**
        $\text{pred}(j) \leftarrow i$;
        $\text{pred}(\text{mate}(j)) \leftarrow j$;
        add $\text{mate}(j)$ to $list$

Examine the neighbours of a node i

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
label b even and add to *list*
update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
delete nodes in B from the graph

Contract blossom identified by nodes i and j

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

1: trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
2: create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
3: label b even and add to *list*
4: update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
5: form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
6: delete nodes in B from the graph

Get all nodes of the blossom.

Time: $\mathcal{O}(m)$

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
label b even and add to *list*
update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
delete nodes in B from the graph

Identify all neighbours of b.

Time: $\mathcal{O}(m)$ (how?)

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

1: trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
2: create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
3: label b even and add to *list*
4: update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
5: form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
6: delete nodes in B from the graph

b will be an even node, and it has unexamined neighbours.

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

1: trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
2: create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
3: label b even and add to *list*
4: update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
5: form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
6: delete nodes in B from the graph

Every node that was adjacent to a node in B is now adjacent to b

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
label b even and add to *list*
update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
delete nodes in B from the graph

Only for making a blossom expansion easier.

Algorithm 27 contract(i, j)

trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
label b even and add to *list*
update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
delete nodes in B from the graph

Only delete links from nodes not in B to B.

When expanding the blossom again we can recreate these links in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$.

Analysis

- A contraction operation can be performed in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$. Note, that any graph created will have at most m edges.
- The time between two contraction-operation is basically a BFS/DFS on a graph. Hence takes time $\mathcal{O}(m)$.
- There are at most n contractions as each contraction reduces the number of vertices.
- The expansion can trivially be done in the same time as needed for all contractions.
- An augmentation requires time $\mathcal{O}(n)$. There are at most n of them.
- In total the running time is at most

$$n \cdot (\mathcal{O}(mn) + \mathcal{O}(n)) = \mathcal{O}(mn^2) \ .$$

Example: Blossom Algorithm

Animation of Blossom Shrinking algorithm is only available in the lecture version of the slides.

A Fast Matching Algorithm

Algorithm 28 Bimatch-Hopcroft-Karp(G)

$M \leftarrow \emptyset$
repeat
    let $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$ be maximal set of
    vertex-disjoint, shortest augmenting path w.r.t. M.
    $M \leftarrow M \oplus (P_1 \cup \dots \cup P_k)$
until $\mathcal{P} = \emptyset$
return M

We call one iteration of the repeat-loop a phase of the algorithm.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 6

Given a matching M and a maximal matching M^* there exist $|M^*| - |M|$ vertex-disjoint augmenting path w.r.t. M.

Proof:

- Similar to the proof that a matching is optimal iff it does not contain an augmenting path.
- Consider the graph $G = (V, M \oplus M^*)$, and mark edges in this graph blue if they are in M and red if they are in M^*.
- The connected components of G are cycles and paths.
- The graph contains $k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} |M^*| - |M|$ more red edges than blue edges.
- Hence, there are at least k components that form a path starting and ending with a red edge. These are augmenting paths w.r.t. M.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

- Let $P_1, \dots, P_k$ be a maximal collection of vertex-disjoint, shortest augmenting paths w.r.t. M (let $\ell = |P_i|$).
- $M' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M \oplus (P_1 \cup \cdots \cup P_k) = M \oplus P_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus P_k$.
- Let P be an augmenting path in M'.

Lemma 7

The set $A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M \oplus (M' \oplus P) = (P_1 \cup \cdots \cup P_k) \oplus P$ *contains at least* $(k+1)\ell$ *edges.*

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Proof.

- The set describes exactly the symmetric difference between matchings M and $M' \oplus P$.
- Hence, the set contains at least $k+1$ vertex-disjoint augmenting paths w.r.t. M as $|M'| = |M| + k + 1$.
- Each of these paths is of length at least ℓ.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 8
P is of length at least $\ell + 1$. This shows that the length of a shortest augmenting path increases between two phases of the Hopcroft-Karp algorithm.

Proof.

- If P does not intersect any of the $P_1, \ldots, P_k$, this follows from the maximality of the set $\{P_1, \ldots, P_k\}$.
- Otherwise, at least one edge from P coincides with an edge from paths $\{P_1, \ldots, P_k\}$.
- This edge is not contained in A.
- Hence, $|A| \leq k\ell + |P| - 1$.
- The lower bound on $|A|$ gives $(k+1)\ell \leq |A| \leq k\ell + |P| - 1$, and hence $|P| \geq \ell + 1$.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

If the shortest augmenting path w.r.t. a matching M has ℓ edges then the cardinality of the maximum matching is of size at most $|M| + \frac{|V|}{\ell+1}$.

Proof.
The symmetric difference between M and M^* contains $|M^*| - |M|$ vertex-disjoint augmenting paths. Each of these paths contains at least $\ell + 1$ vertices. Hence, there can be at most $\frac{|V|}{\ell+1}$ of them.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 9

The Hopcroft-Karp algorithm requires at most $2\sqrt{|V|}$ phases.

Proof.

- After iteration $\lfloor\sqrt{|V|}\rfloor$ the length of a shortest augmenting path must be at least $\lfloor\sqrt{|V|}\rfloor + 1 \geq \sqrt{|V|}$.
- Hence, there can be at most $|V|/(\sqrt{|V|}+1) \leq \sqrt{|V|}$ additional augmentations.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 10
One phase of the Hopcroft-Karp algorithm can be implemented in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$.

construct a “level graph” G':

- construct Level 0 that includes all free vertices on left side L
- construct Level 1 containing all neighbors of Level 0
- construct Level 2 containing matching neighbors of Level 1
- construct Level 3 containing all neighbors of Level 2
- ...
- stop when a level (apart from Level 0) contains a free vertex

can be done in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$ by a modified BFS

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

- a shortest augmenting path must go from Level 0 to the last layer constructed
- it can only use edges between layers
- construct a maxim**al** set of vertex disjoint augmenting path connecting the layers
- for this, go forward until you either reach a free vertex or you reach a "dead end" v
- if you reach a free vertex delete the augmenting path and all incident edges from the graph
- if you reach a dead end backtrack and delete v together with its incident edges

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

See lecture versions of the slides.

Analysis: Shortest Augmenting Path for Flows

cost for searches during a phase is $\mathcal{O}(mn)$

- a search (successful or unsuccessful) takes time $\mathcal{O}(n)$
- a search deletes at least one edge from the level graph

there are at most n phases

Time: $\mathcal{O}(mn^2)$.

Analysis for Unit-capacity Simple Networks

cost for searches during a phase is $\mathcal{O}(m)$

- an edge/vertex is traversed at most twice

need at most $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$ phases

- after $\sqrt{n}$ phases there is a cut of size at most $\sqrt{n}$ in the residual graph
- hence at most $\sqrt{n}$ additional augmentations required

Time: $\mathcal{O}(m\sqrt{n})$.