

Lecture IV - Matching

¹ Department of Mathematics and Systems Analysis,
Systems Analysis Laboratory, Aalto University, Finland

January 8, 2024



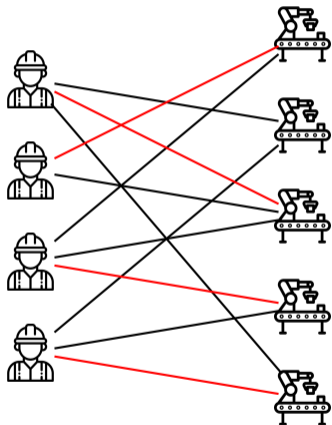
Aalto University

Previously on..

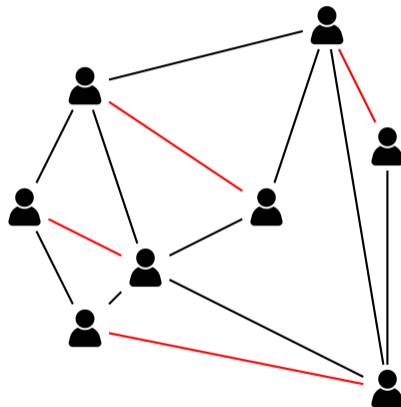
- Shortest Path: Dijkstra;
- Minimum Spanning Tree: Prim and Kruskal

PREVIOUSLY ON...

Motivation



assigning jobs to workers



finding pairs for homework assignment

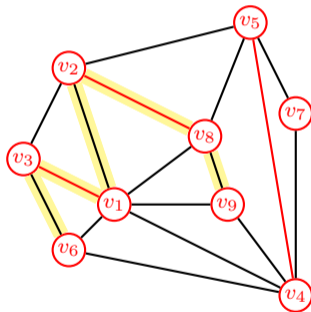
$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{e \in E} x_e \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e \leq 1, \quad v \in V \\ & x_e \in \{0, 1\}, \quad e \in E \end{aligned}$$

- incident edges of $v \in V$:

$$\delta(v) = \{e \in E : e = \{v, w\}\}$$

M -augmenting paths

- $G = (V, E)$ undirected graph, $M \subseteq E$ matching
- $v \in V$ is *covered* by M if $v \in e$ for some $e \in M$
- $v \in V$ is *exposed* by M if $v \notin e$ for all $e \in M$
- M -*alternating path* P : edges $E(P)$ are alternately in M and not in M (or not in M and in M)
- M -*augmenting path* P : M -alternating path with first and last vertex exposed
- M -augmenting paths have odd number of edges



Berge's Theorem

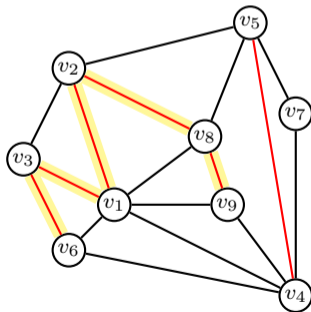
Theorem (Petersen (1891), Berge (1957))

Let G be a graph with some matching M . Then M is maximum if and only if there is no M -augmenting path.

Proof idea \Rightarrow :

By contraposition: Let $P = (v_0, e_1, \dots, e_k, v_k)$ be an M -augmenting path.

- by definition: v_0, v_k exposed
- $\Rightarrow |E(P) \setminus M| = |E(P) \cap M| + 1$
- $\Rightarrow M' = (M \setminus E(P)) \cup (E(P) \setminus M)$ is matching with $|M'| = |M| + 1$
- $\Rightarrow M$ not maximum



Lemma

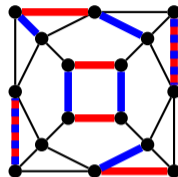
Lemma

Let G be a graph with two matchings M, M' . Let $G' = (V, E' = M \Delta M')$, with symmetric difference

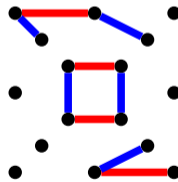
$$M \Delta M' = (M \cup M') \setminus (M \cap M').$$

Then the connected components of G' are

- isolated vertices
- cycles C with $|E(C)| \in 2\mathbb{N}$ where edges in C are alternately in M and M'
- paths $P = (v_0, e_1, \dots, e_k, v_k)$ where edges are alternately in M and M'



graph G



graph G'

Berge's Theorem

Proof idea:

M, M' matchings:

$$|\{e \in M : v \in e\}| \leq 1, v \in V$$

$$|\{e \in M' : v \in e\}| \leq 1, v \in V$$

$$\Rightarrow |\{e \in E' : v \in e\}| \leq 2, v \in V$$

If $g_{G'}(v) = |\{e \in E' : v \in e\}| = 2$:

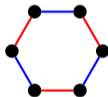
$\exists! e \in M : v \in e$ and $\exists! e \in M' : v \in e$.

Berge's Theorem

- isolated vertices $v \rightsquigarrow g_{G'}(v) = 0$



- cycles C with $|E(C)| \in 2\mathbb{N} \rightsquigarrow g_{G'}(v) = 2$



- paths $P = (v_0, e_1, \dots, e_k, v_k) \rightsquigarrow g_{G'}(v_0) = 0 = g_{G'}(v_k) = 1, g_{G'}(v_i) = 2, 1 \leq i \leq k - 1$



Berge's Theorem

Theorem (Petersen (1891), Berge (1957))

Let G be a graph with some matching M . Then M is maximum if and only if there is no M -augmenting path.

Proof idea \Leftarrow :

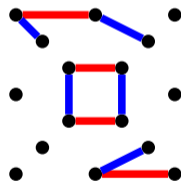
By contraposition: Let M' be a matching with $|M'| > |M|$. Construct G' .

$$|M'| > |M| \Rightarrow |E' \cap M'| > |E' \cap M|$$

$$\Rightarrow \exists P = (v_0, e_1, \dots, e_k, v_k) \text{ with } e_1 \in M', e_k \in M \text{ graph } G'$$

$$\Rightarrow v_0, v_k \text{ exposed by } M$$

$$\Rightarrow P \text{ } M\text{-augmenting path}$$



graph G'

Algorithm: MAXIMUM MATCHING

Input: undirected graph $G = (V, E)$

Output: maximum matching M

- 1 set $M = \emptyset$
 - 2 **while** *there exists M -augmenting path in G* **do**
 - 3 choose M -augmenting path P
 - 4 set $M = (M \setminus E(P)) \cup (E(P) \setminus M)$
 - 5 **return** M
-

- at most $\frac{|V|}{2}$ iterations
- not obvious how to find an M -augmenting path
- for bipartite graphs: find s - t -path in auxiliary graph
- for general graphs: Edmond's blossom algorithm
 - complex algorithm
 - polynomial runtime

How to find M -alternating paths

- bipartite graph $G = (V, E)$ with
 - $V = A \cup B, A \cap B = \emptyset$
 - $E \subseteq \{\{a, b\}: a \in A, b \in B\}$
- for matching M construct auxiliary directed graph $G' = (V', E')$ with

$$V' = V \cup \{s, t\}, \quad s, t \notin V$$

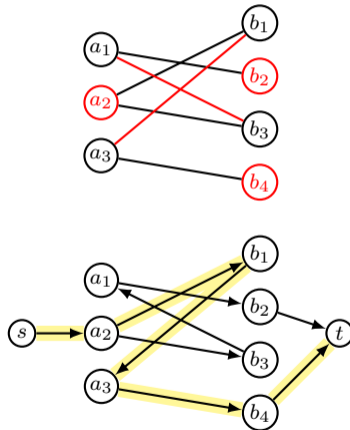
$$E' = \{(b, a) : \{a, b\} \in M, a \in A, b \in B\}$$

$$\cup \{(a, b) : \{a, b\} \in E \setminus M, a \in A, b \in B\}$$

$$\cup \{(s, a) : a \text{ exposed}, a \in A\}$$

$$\cup \{(b, t) : b \text{ exposed}, b \in B\}$$

- $\exists M$ -augmenting path in G if and only if $\exists s$ - t -path in G'



Algorithm: MAXIMUM MATCHING BI-
PARTITE GRAPHS

Input: undirected bipartite graph
 $G = (V, E)$

Output: maximum matching M

- 1 set $M = \emptyset$
 - 2 construct G'
 - 3 **while** *there exists s - t -path in G'* **do**
 - 4 choose s - t -path P
 - 5 set $M = (M \setminus E(P)) \cup (E(P) \setminus M)$
 - 6 update G'
 - 7 **return** M
-

- $n = |V|, m = |E|$, no isolated nodes in G
 - construction of G' :
 $O(n + m)$
 - at most $\frac{n}{2}$ iterations
 - finding P : $O(m)$
 - updating M : $O(n)$
 - updating G' : $O(n)$
- \Rightarrow total runtime $O(nm)$

Connection to MaxFlow

- solve maximum matching as maximum flow problem
- construct auxiliary directed graph $G'' = (V'', E'')$ with

$$V'' = V \cup \{s, t\}, \quad s, t \notin V$$

$$E'' = \{(a, b) : \{a, b\} \in E, a \in A, b \in B\} \\ \cup \{(s, a) : a \in A\} \\ \cup \{(b, t) : b \in B\}$$

and capacity $u(e) = 1$ for all $e \in E''$

- G'' has maximal flow with value k if and only if G has maximum matching of cardinality k

