Chapter 6
Graph Algorithms

Algorithm Theory
WS 2018/19

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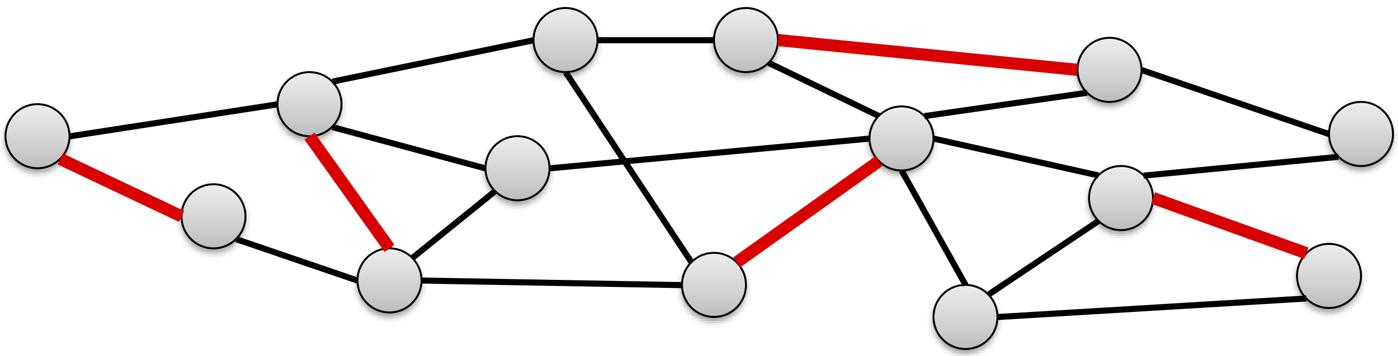
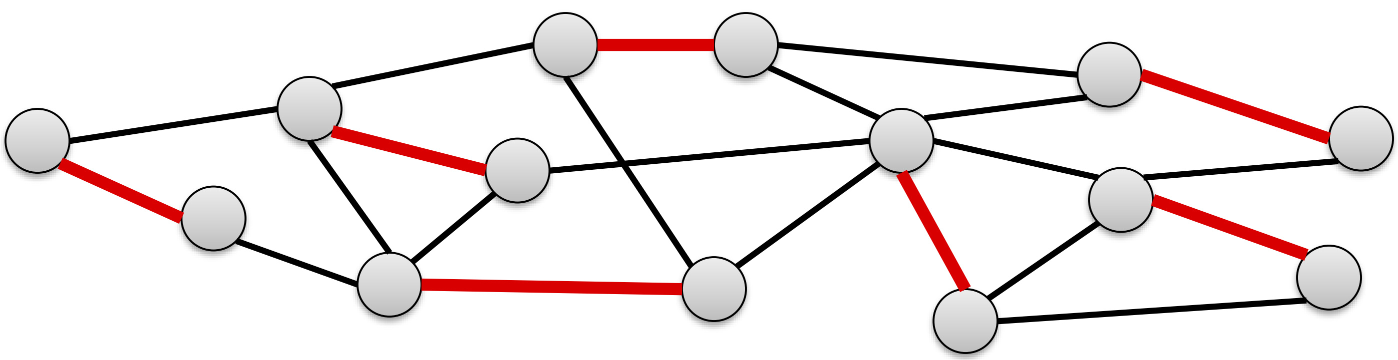
Matching

Matching: Set of pairwise non-incident edges



Maximal Matching: A matching s.t. no more edges can be added

Maximum Matching: A matching of maximum possible size



Perfect Matching: Matching of size $^{n}/_{2}$ (every node is matched)

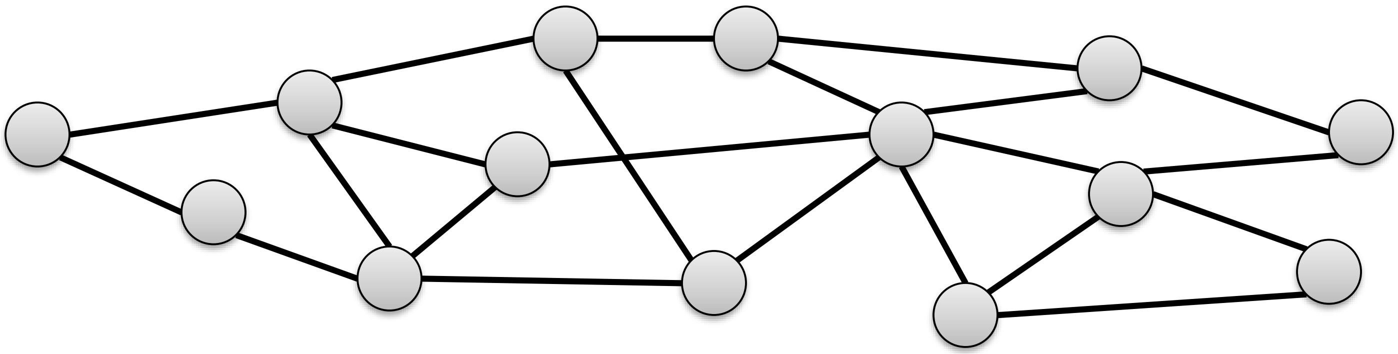
What About General Graphs

- Can we efficiently compute a maximum matching if G is not bipartite?

- How good is a maximal matching?
  - A matching that cannot be extended…

- **Vertex Cover:** set $S \subseteq V$ of nodes such that

$$\forall \{u,v\} \in E, \qquad \{u,v\} \cap S \neq \emptyset.$$



- A vertex cover covers all edges by incident nodes

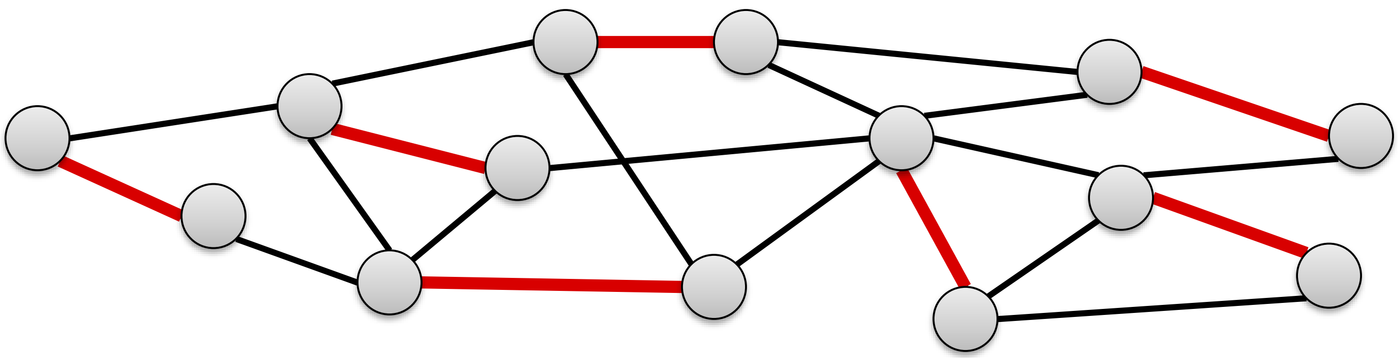
Vertex Cover vs Matching

Consider a matching M and a vertex cover S

Claim: $|M| \leq |S|$

Proof:

- At least one node of every edge $\{u, v\} \in M$ is in S
- Needs to be a different node for different edges from M



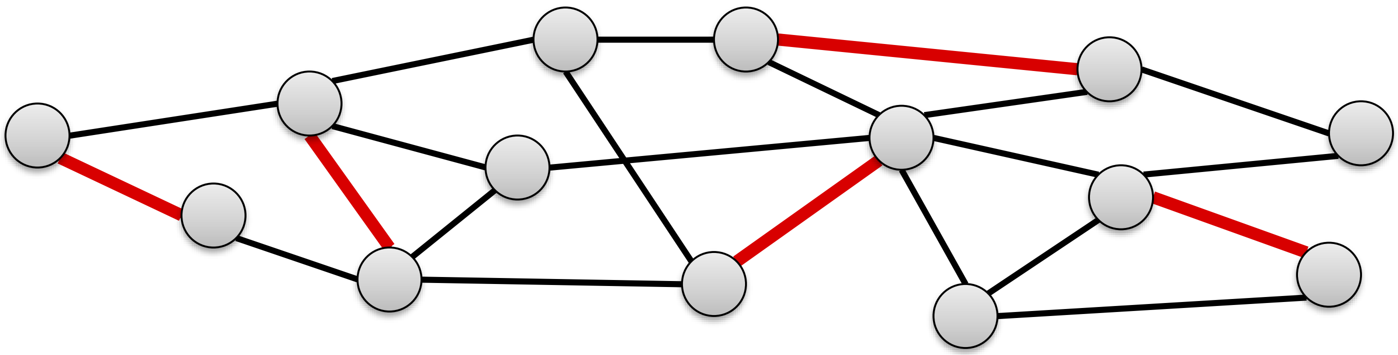
Vertex Cover vs Matching

Consider a matching M and a vertex cover S

Claim: If M is maximal and S is minimum, $|S| \leq 2|M|$

Proof:

- M is maximal: for every edge $\{u, v\} \in E$, either u or v (or both) are matched



- Every edge $e \in E$ is "covered" by at least one matching edge
- Thus, the set of the nodes of all matching edges gives a vertex cover S of size $|S| = 2|M|$.

Maximal Matching Approximation

Theorem: For any maximal matching M and any maximum matching M^*, it holds that

$$|M| \geq \frac{|M^*|}{2}.$$

Proof:

- Let S^* be a minimum vertex cover:

$$|M^*| \leq |S^*| \leq 2|M|$$

Theorem: The set of all matched nodes of a maximal matching M is a vertex cover S of size at most twice the size of a min. vertex cover.

Proof:

- Let S^* be a minimum vertex cover

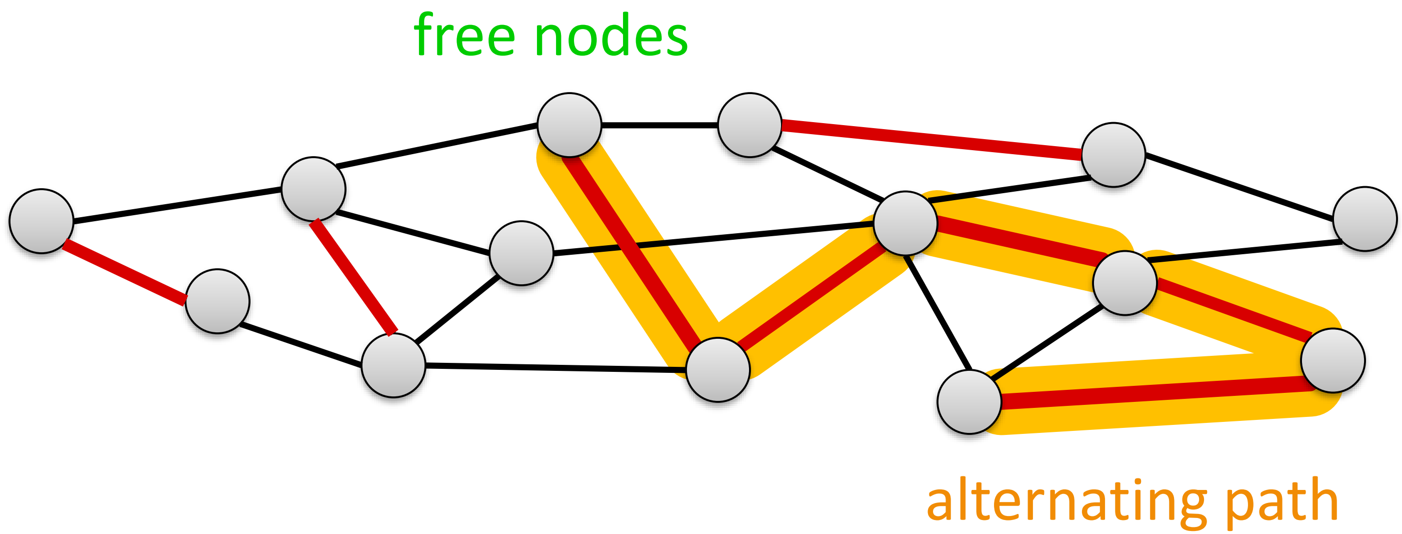
$$|S| = 2|M| \leq 2|S^*|$$

Augmenting Paths

Consider a matching M of a graph $G = (V, E)$:

- A node $v \in V$ is called **free** iff it is not matched

Augmenting Path: A (odd-length) path that starts and ends at a free node and visits edges in $E \setminus M$ and edges in M alternatingly.



- Matching M can be improved using an augmenting path by switching the role of each edge along the path

Augmenting Paths

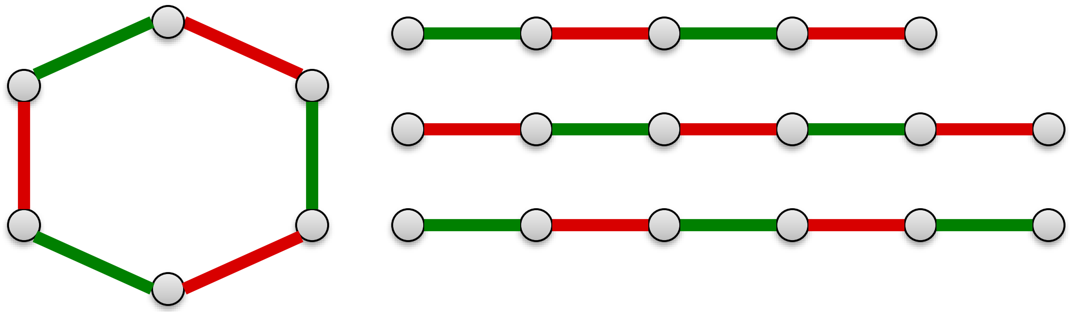
Theorem: A matching M of $G = (V, E)$ is maximum if and only if there is no augmenting path.

Proof:

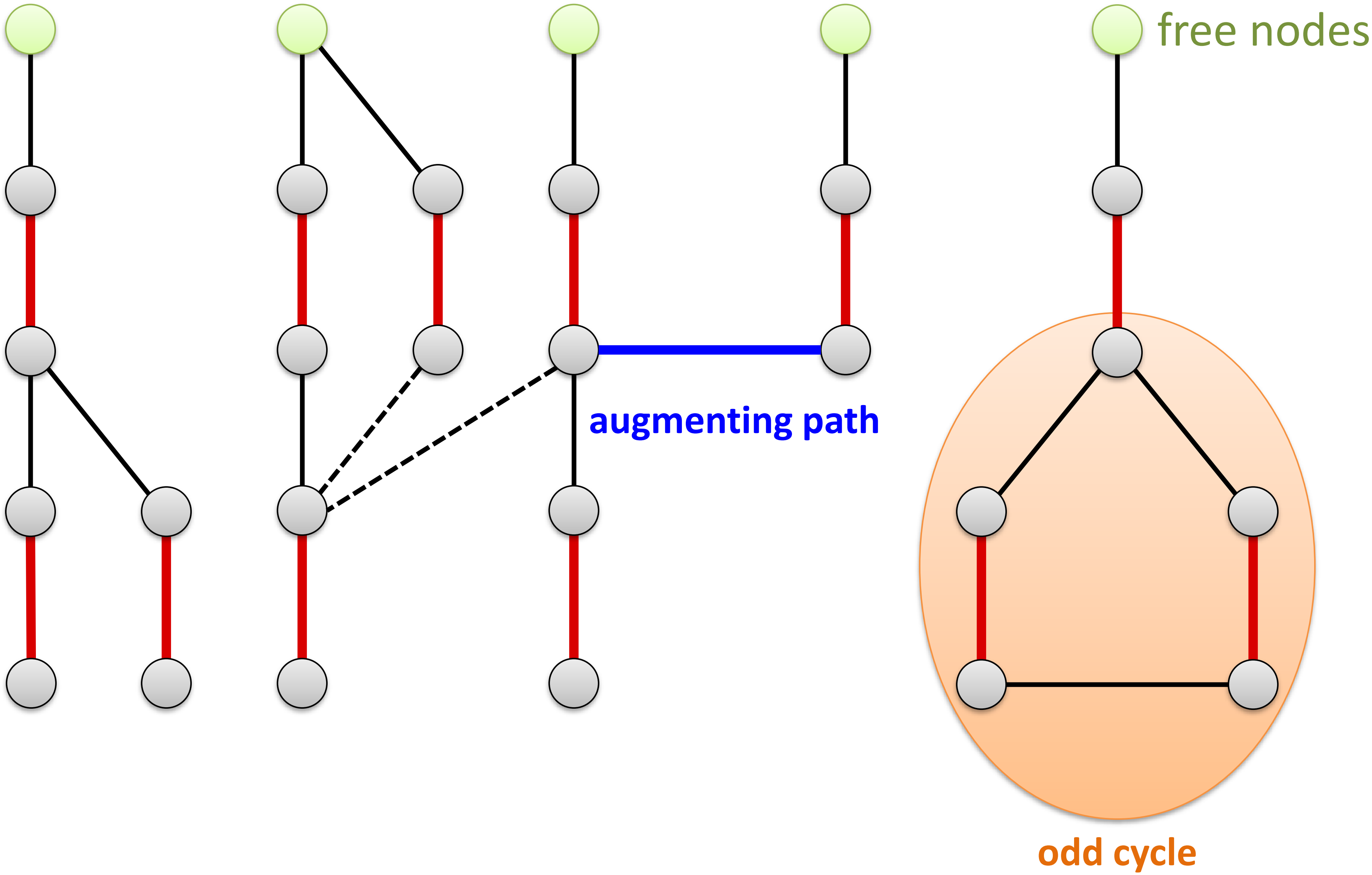
- Consider non-max. matching M and max. matching M^* and define

$$F := M \setminus M^*, \qquad F^* := M^* \setminus M$$

- Note that $F \cap F^* = \emptyset$ and $|F| < |F^*|$
- Each node $v \in V$ is incident to at most one edge in both F and F^*
- $F \cup F^*$ induces even cycles and paths

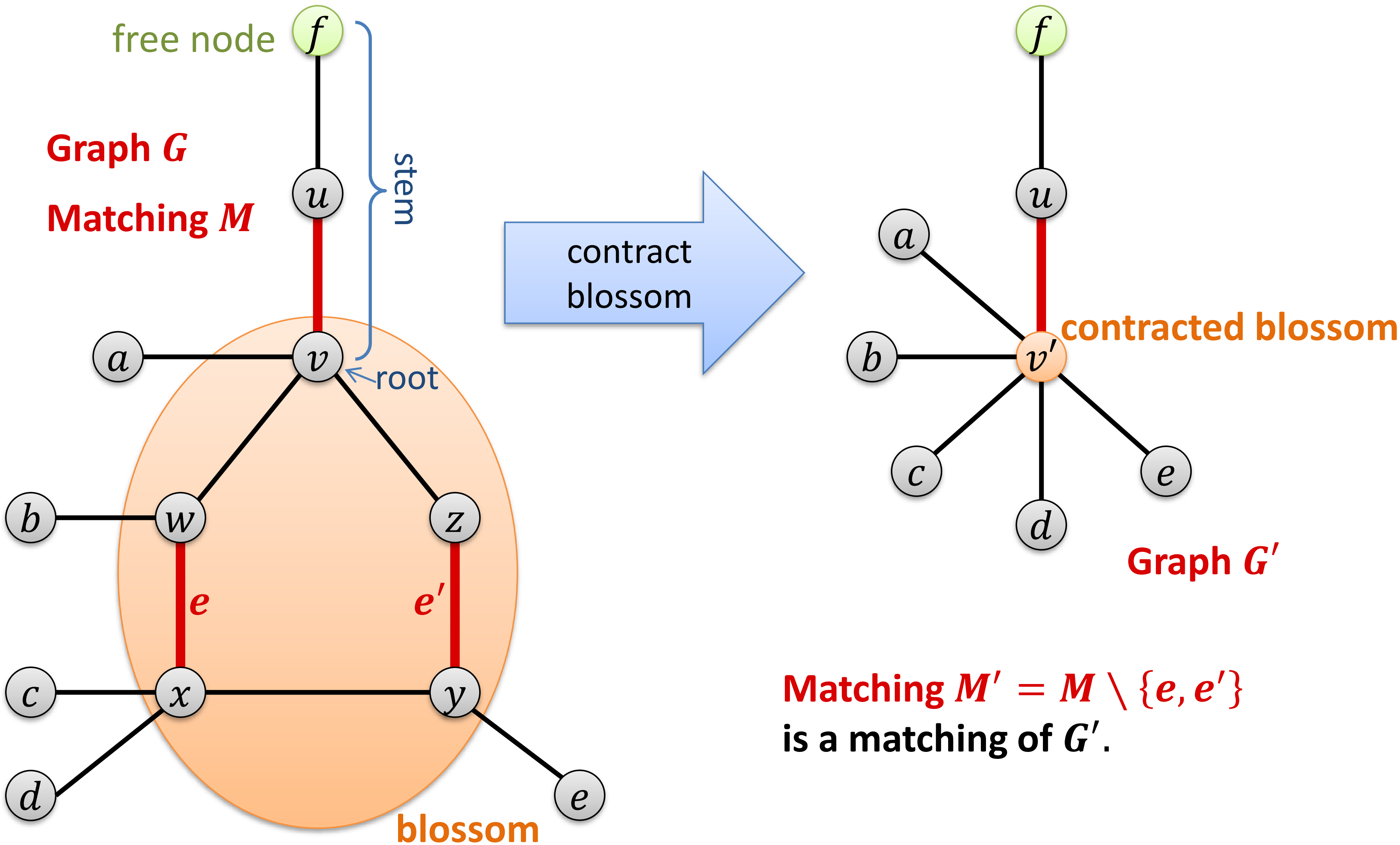


Finding Augmenting Paths



Blossoms

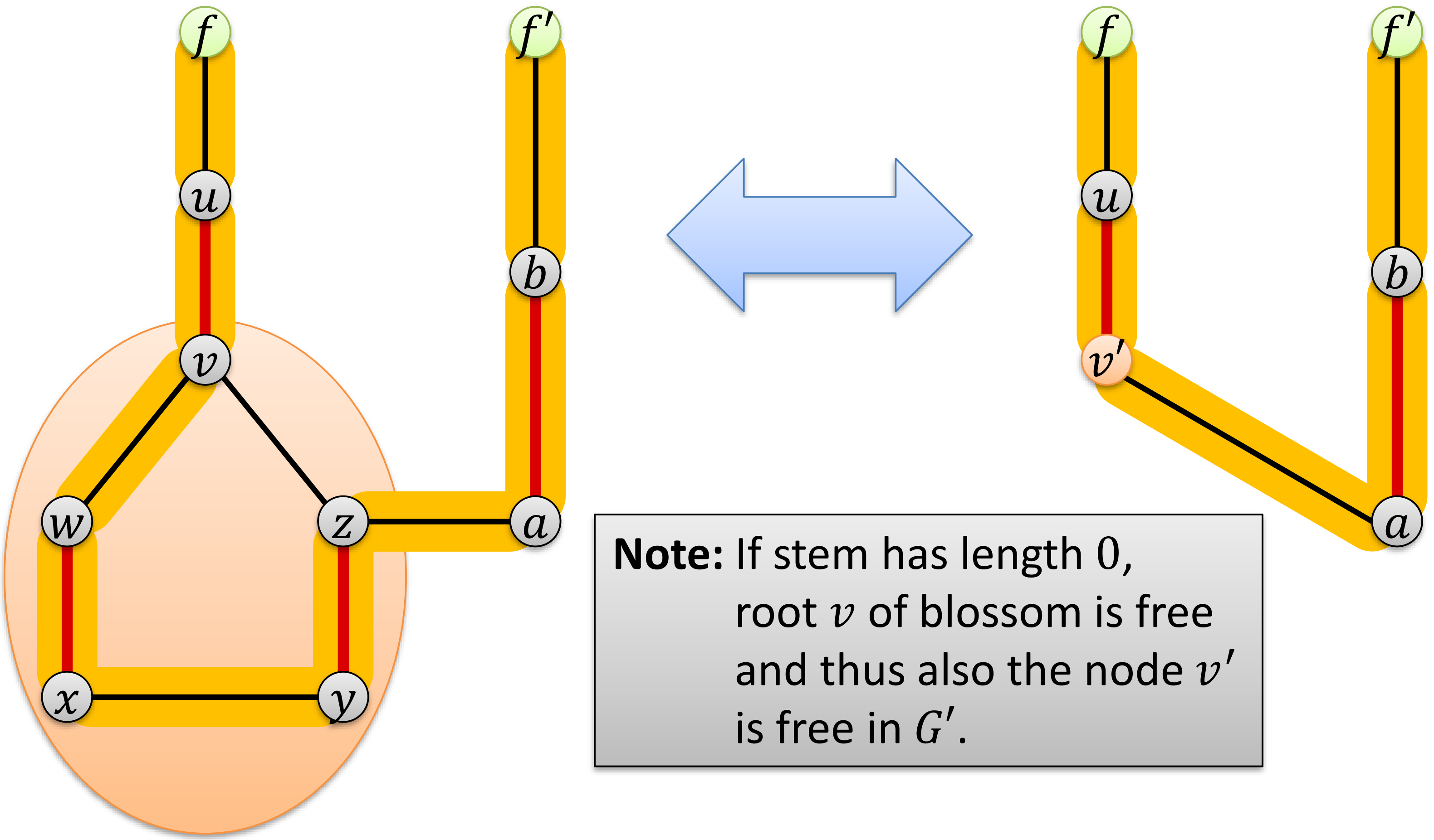
- If we find an odd cycle…



Matching $M' = M \setminus \{e, e'\}$
is a matching of G'.

Contracting Blossoms

Lemma: Graph G has an augmenting path w.r.t. matching M iff G' has an augmenting path w.r.t. matching M'



Note: If stem has length 0, root v of blossom is free and thus also the node v' is free in G'.

Also: The matching M can be computed efficiently from M'.

Edmond's Blossom Algorithm

Algorithm Sketch:

1. Build a tree for each free node
2. Starting from an explored node u at even distance from a free node f in the tree of f, explore some unexplored edge $\{u, v\}$:

    1. If v is an unexplored node, v is matched to some neighbor w:
       add w to the tree (w is now explored)

    2. If v is explored and in the same tree:
       at odd distance from root → ignore and move on
       at even distance from root → **blossom found**

    3. If v is explored and in another tree
       at odd distance from root → ignore and move on
       at even distance from root → **augmenting path found**

Running Time

Finding a Blossom: Repeat on smaller graph

Finding an Augmenting Path: Improve matching

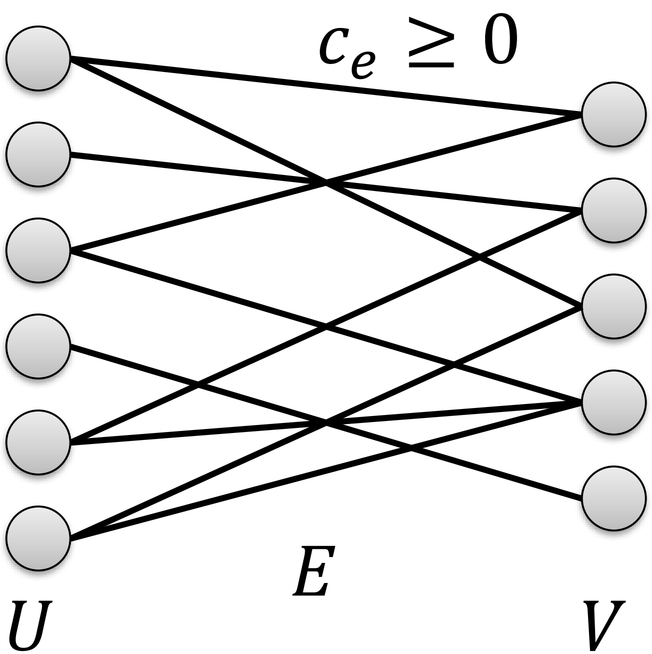
Theorem: The algorithm can be implemented in time $O(mn^2)$.

Maximum Weight Bipartite Matching

- Let's again go back to bipartite graphs...

Given: Bipartite graph $G = (U \dot\cup V, E)$ with edge weights $c_e \geq 0$

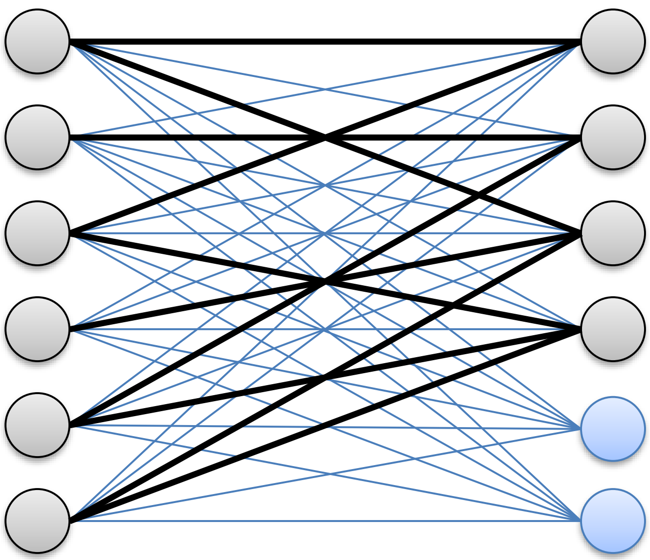
Goal: Find a matching M of maximum total weight



Minimum Weight Perfect Matching

Claim: Max weight bipartite matching is equivalent to finding a minimum weight perfect matching in a complete bipartite graph.

1. Turn into maximum weight perfect matching
   - add dummy nodes to get two equal-sized sides
   - add edges of weight 0 to make graph complete bipartite
2. Replace weights: $c'_e \coloneqq \max_f\{c_f\} - c_e$



As an Integer Linear Program

- We can formulate the problem as an integer linear program

Var. x_{uv} for every edge $(u, v) \in U \times V$ to encode matching M:

$$x_{uv} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \{u, v\} \in M \\ 0, & \text{if } \{u, v\} \notin M \end{cases}$$

Minimum Weight Perfect Matching

Linear Programming (LP) Relaxation

Linear Program (LP)

- Continuous optimization problem on multiple variables with a linear objective function and a set of linear side constraints

LP Relaxation of Minimum Weight Perfect Matching

- Weight c_{uv} & variable x_{uv} for ever edge $(u, v) \in U \times V$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\min & \sum_{(u,v)\in U\times V} c_{uv} \cdot x_{uv} \\
\text{s.t.} & \\
& \forall u \in U: \ \sum_{v\in V} x_{uv} = 1, \\
& \forall v \in V: \ \sum_{u\in U} x_{uv} = 1 \\
& \forall u \in U, \forall v \in V: \ x_{uv} \geq 0
\end{aligned}
$$

Dual Problem

- Every linear program has a dual linear program
  - The dual of a minimization problem is a maximization problem
  - Strong duality: primal LP and dual LP have the same objective value

In the case of the minimum weight perfect matching problem

- Assign a variable $a_u \geq 0$ to each node $u \in U$
  and a variable $b_v \geq 0$ to each node $v \in V$
- **Condition:** for every edge $(\boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{v}) \in \boldsymbol{U} \times \boldsymbol{V}$**:** $\boldsymbol{a_u + b_v \leq c_{uv}}$
- Given perfect matching M:

$$\sum_{(u,v)\in M} c_{uv} \geq \sum_{u\in U} a_u + \sum_{v\in V} b_v$$

Dual Linear Program

- Variables $a_u \geq 0$ for $u \in U$ and $b_v \geq 0$ for $v \in V$

$$\max \sum_{u \in U} a_u + \sum_{v \in V} b_v$$

$$s.t.$$

$$\forall u \in U, \forall v \in V: \ \ a_u + b_v \leq c_{uv}$$

- For every perfect matching M:

$$\sum_{(u,v) \in M} c_{uv} \geq \sum_{u \in U} a_u + \sum_{v \in V} b_v$$

Complementary Slackness

- A perfect matching M is optimal if

$$\sum_{(u,v)\in M} c_{uv} = \sum_{u\in U} a_u + \sum_{v\in V} b_v$$

- In that case, for every $(u, v) \in M$

$$\boldsymbol{w_{uv}} \coloneqq c_{uv} - a_u - b_v = 0$$

  - In this case, M is also an optimal solution to the LP relaxation of the problem
  - Every optimal LP solution can be characterized by such a property, which is then generally referred to as complementary slackness

- **Goal:** Find a dual solution a_u, b_v and a perfect matching such that the complementary slackness condition is satisfied!
  - i.e., for every matching edge (u, v), we want $w_{uv} = 0$
  - We then know that the matching is optimal!

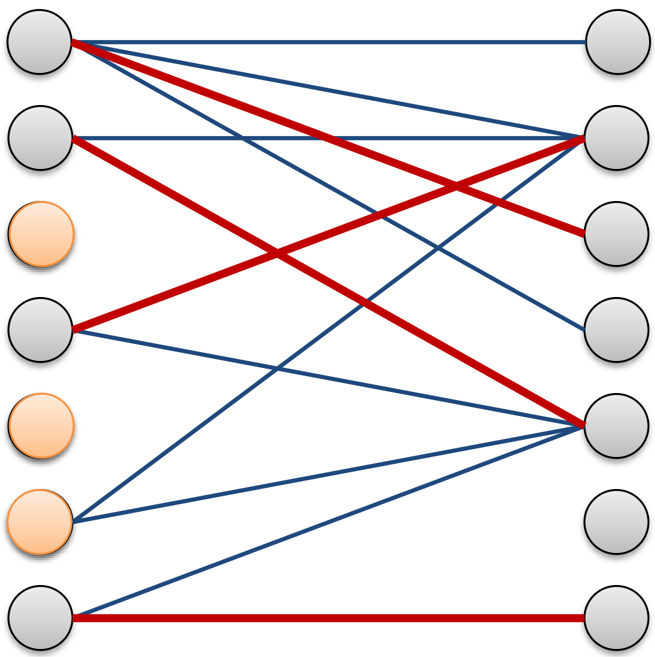
Algorithm Overview

- Start with any feasible dual solution a_u, b_v
  - i.e., solution satisfies that for all (u, v): $c_{uv} \geq a_u + b_v$
- Let E_0 be the edges for which $w_{uv} = 0$
  - Recall that $w_{uv} = c_{uv} - a_u - b_v$
- Compute maximum cardinality matching M of E_0
- All edges (u, v) of M satisfy $w_{uv} = 0$
  - Complementary slackness if satisfied
  - If M is a perfect matching, we are done
- If M is not a perfect matching, dual solution can be improved

Marked Nodes

Define set of marked nodes L:

- Set of nodes which can be reached on alternating paths on edges in E_0 starting from unmatched nodes in U



edges E_0 with $w_{uv} = 0$

optimal matching M

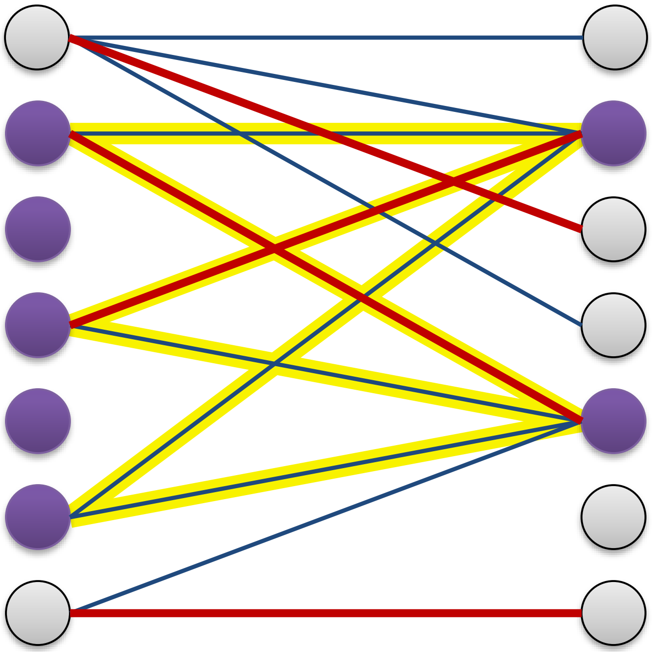
L_0: unmatched nodes in U

L: all nodes that can be reached on alternating paths starting from L_0

Marked Nodes

Define set of marked nodes L:

- Set of nodes which can be reached on alternating paths on edges in E_0 starting from unmatched nodes in U



edges E_0 with $w_{uv} = 0$

optimal matching M

L_0: unmatched nodes in U

L: all nodes that can be reached on alternating paths starting from L_0

Marked Nodes – Vertex Cover

Lemma:

a) There are no E_0-edges between $U \cap L$ and $V \setminus L$

b) The set $(U \setminus L) \cup (V \cap L)$ is a vertex cover of size $|M|$ of the graph induced by E_0

Improved Dual Solution

Recall: all edges (u, v) between $U \cap L$ and $V \setminus L$ have $w_{uv} > 0$

New dual solution:

$$\delta := \min_{u \in U \cap L,\, v \in V \setminus \mathrm{L}} \{w_{uv}\}$$

$$a'_u := \begin{cases} a_u, & \text{if } u \in U \setminus \mathrm{L} \\ a_u + \delta, & \text{if } u \in U \cap L \end{cases}$$

$$b'_v := \begin{cases} b_v, & \text{if } v \in V \setminus \mathrm{L} \\ a_v - \delta, & \text{if } v \in V \cap L \end{cases}$$

Claim: New dual solution is feasible (all w_{uv} remain ≥ 0)

Improved Dual Solution

Lemma: Obj. value of the dual solution grows by $\delta\left(\frac{n}{2} - |M|\right)$.

Proof:

$$\delta \coloneqq \min_{u \in U \cap L,\, v \in V \setminus \mathrm{L}} \{w_{uv}\}, \qquad a'_u \coloneqq \begin{cases} a_u, & \text{if } u \in U \setminus \mathrm{L} \\ a_u + \delta, & \text{if } u \in U \cap L \end{cases}, \qquad b'_v \coloneqq \begin{cases} b_v, & \text{if } v \in V \setminus \mathrm{L} \\ a_v - \delta, & \text{if } v \in V \cap L \end{cases}$$

Termination

Some terminology

- Old dual solution: $a_u, \quad b_v, \quad w_{uv} := c_{uv} - a_u - b_v$
- New dual solution: $a'_u, \quad b'_v, \quad w'_{uv} := c_{uv} - a'_u - b'_v$
- $E_0 := \{(u,v) : w_{uv} = 0\}, \quad E'_0 := \{(u,v) : w'_{uv} = 0\}$
- M, M' : max. cardinality matchings of graphs ind. By $E_0,\ E'_0$

Claim: $|\boldsymbol{M'}| \geq |\boldsymbol{M}|$ and if $|M'| = |M|$, we can assume that $M = M'$.

Termination

Lemma: The algorithm terminates in at most $O(n^2)$ iterations.

Proof:

- Each iteration: $M' > M$ or $M' = M$ and $|V \cap L'| > |V \cap L|$

Min. Weight Perfect Matching: Summary

Theorem: A minimum weight perfect matching can be computed in time $O(n^4)$.

- First dual solution: e.g., $a_u = 0,\ b_v = \min_{u \in U} c_{uv}$
- Compute set E_0: $O(n^2)$
- Compute max. cardinality matching of graph induced by E_0
  - First iteration: $O(n^2) \cdot O(n) = O(n^3)$
  - Other iterations: $O(n^2) \cdot O(1 + |M'| - |M|)$

Matching Algorithms

We have seen:

- $O(mn)$ time alg. to compute a max. matching in *bipartite graphs*
- $O(mn^2)$ time alg. to compute a max. matching in *general graphs*

Better algorithms:

- Best known running time (bipartite and general gr.): $O(m\sqrt{n})$

Weighted matching:

- Edges have weight, find a matching of **maximum total weight**
- *Bipartite graphs*: polynomial-time primal-dual algorithm
- *General graphs*: can also be solved in polynomial time
  (Edmond's algorithms is used as blackbox)