Chapter 7
Randomization

Algorithm Theory
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Types of Randomized Algorithms

Las Vegas Algorithm:

- always a correct solution
- running time is a random variable

- **Example:** randomized quicksort, contention resolution

Monte Carlo Algorithm:

- probabilistic correctness guarantee (**m**ostly **c**orrect)
- fixed (deterministic) running time

- **Example:** primality test

Minimum Cut

Reminder: Given a graph $G = (V, E)$, a cut is a partition (A, B) of V such that $V = A \cup B$, $A \cap B = \emptyset$, $A, B \neq \emptyset$

Size of the cut (A, B): # of edges crossing the cut

- For weighted graphs, total edge weight crossing the cut

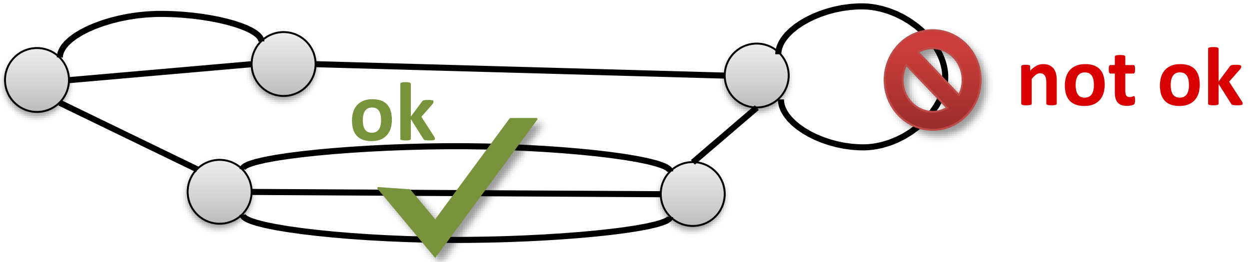
Goal: Find a cut of minimal size (i.e., of size $\lambda(G)$)

Maximum-flow based algorithm:

- Fix s, compute min s-t-cut for all $t \neq s$
- $O\big(m \cdot \lambda(G)\big) = O(mn)$ per s-t cut
- Gives an $O\big(mn\lambda(G)\big) = O(mn^2)$-algorithm

Edge Contractions

- In the following, we consider multi-graphs that can have multiple edges (but no self-loops)



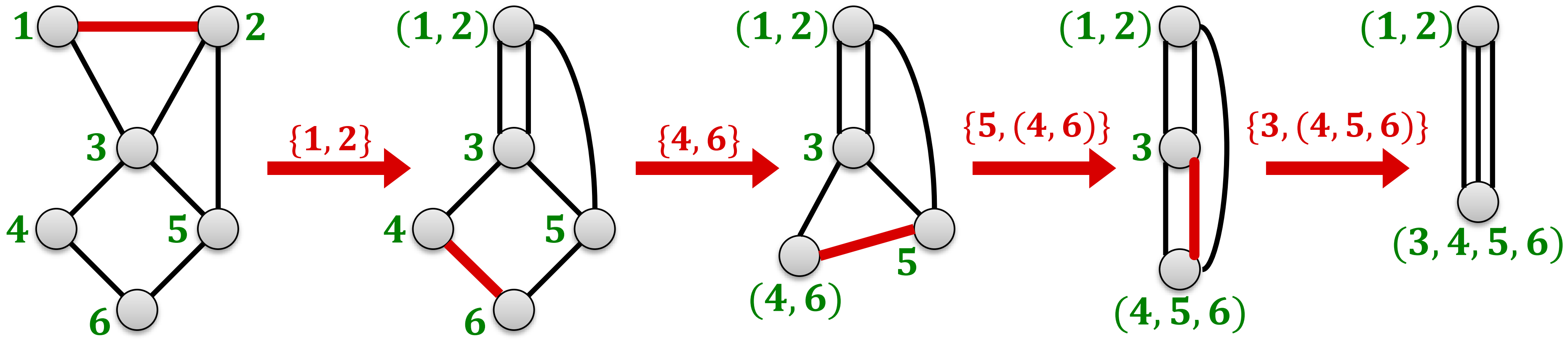
Contracting edge $\{u, v\}$:

- Replace nodes u, v by new node w
- For all edges $\{u, x\}$ and $\{v, x\}$, add an edge $\{w, x\}$
- Remove self-loops created at node w

Properties of Edge Contractions

Nodes:

- After contracting $\{u, v\}$, the new node represents u and v
- After a series of contractions, each node represents a subset of the original nodes



Cuts:

- Assume in the contracted graph, w represents nodes $S_w \subset V$
- The edges of a node w in a contracted graph are in a one-to-one correspondence with the edges crossing the cut $(S_w, V \setminus S_w)$

Randomized Contraction Algorithm

Algorithm:

```
while there are $> 2$ nodes do
    contract a uniformly random edge
return cut induced by the last two remaining nodes
```

(cut defined by the original node sets represented by the last 2 nodes)

Theorem: The random contraction algorithm returns a minimum cut with probability at least $1/O(n^2)$.

- We will show this next.

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

- There are $n - 2$ contractions, each can be done in time $O(n)$.
- We will see this later.

Contractions and Cuts

Lemma: If two original nodes $u, v \in V$ are merged into the same node of the contracted graph, there is a path connecting u and v in the original graph s.t. all edges on the path are contracted.

Proof:

- Contracting an edge $\{x, y\}$ merges the node sets represented by x and y and does not change any of the other node sets.

- The claim the follows by induction on the number of edge contractions.

Contractions and Cuts

Lemma: During the contraction algorithm, the edge connectivity (i.e., the size of the min. cut) cannot get smaller.

Proof:

- All cuts in a (partially) contracted graph correspond to cuts of the same size in the original graph G as follows:
  - For a node u of the contracted graph, let S_u be the set of original nodes that have been merged into u (the nodes that u represents)
  - Consider a cut (A, B) of the contracted graph
  - (A', B') with

    $$A' := \bigcup_{u \in A} S_u, \qquad B' := \bigcup_{v \in B} S_v$$

    is a cut of G.
  - The edges crossing cut (A, B) are in one-to-one correspondence with the edges crossing cut (A', B').

Contraction and Cuts

Lemma: The contraction algorithm outputs a cut (A, B) of the input graph G if and only if it never contracts an edge crossing (A, B).

Proof:

1. If an edge crossing (A, B) is contracted, a pair of nodes $u \in A$, $v \in V$ is merged into the same node and the algorithm outputs a cut different from (A, B).

2. If no edge of (A, B) is contracted, no two nodes $u \in A$, $v \in B$ end up in the same contracted node because every path connecting u and v in G contains some edge crossing (A, B)

   In the end there are only 2 sets → output is (A, B)

Getting The Min Cut

Theorem: The probability that the algorithm outputs a minimum cut is at least $2/n(n-1)$.

To prove the theorem, we need the following claim:

Claim: If the minimum cut size of a multigraph G (no self-loops) is k, G has at least $kn/2$ edges.

Proof:

- Min cut has size $k \Longrightarrow$ all nodes have degree $\geq k$
  - A node v of degree $< k$ gives a cut $(\{v\}, V \setminus \{v\})$ of size $< k$
- Number of edges $m = {}^{1}/_{2} \cdot \sum_v \deg(v)$

Getting The Min Cut

Theorem: The probability that the algorithm outputs a minimum cut is at least $2/n(n-1)$.

Proof:

- Consider a fixed min cut (A,B), assume (A,B) has size k
- The algorithm outputs (A,B) iff none of the k edges crossing (A,B) gets contracted.
- Before contraction i, there are $n+1-i$ nodes
→ and thus $\geq (n+1-i)k/2$ edges
- If no edge crossing (A,B) is contracted before, the probability to contract an edge crossing (A,B) in step i is at most

$$\frac{k}{\frac{(n+1-i)k}{2}} = \frac{2}{n+1-i}.$$

Getting The Min Cut

Theorem: The probability that the algorithm outputs a minimum cut is at least $2/n(n-1)$.

Proof:

- If no edge crossing (A, B) is contracted before, the probability to contract an edge crossing (A, B) in step i is at most ${}^{2}/_{n+1-i}$.
- Event $\mathcal{E}_i$: edge contracted in step i is **not** crossing (A, B)

Getting The Min Cut

Theorem: The probability that the algorithm outputs a minimum cut is at least $2/n(n-1)$.

Proof:

- $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{i+1}|\mathcal{E}_1 \cap \cdots \cap \mathcal{E}_i) \geq 1 - {}^2/_{n-i} = \frac{n-i-2}{n-i}$
- No edge crossing (A, B) contracted: event $\mathcal{E} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{n-2} \mathcal{E}_i$

Randomized Min Cut Algorithm

Theorem: If the contraction algorithm is repeated $O(n^2 \log n)$ times, one of the $O(n^2 \log n)$ instances returns a min. cut w.h.p.

Proof:

- Probability to not get a minimum cut in $c \cdot \binom{n}{2} \cdot \ln n$ iterations:

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}}\right)^{c \cdot \binom{n}{2} \cdot \ln n} < e^{-c \ln n} = \frac{1}{n^c}$$

Corollary: The contraction algorithm allows to compute a minimum cut in $O(n^4 \log n)$ time w.h.p.

- It remains to show that each instance can be implemented in $O(n^2)$ time.

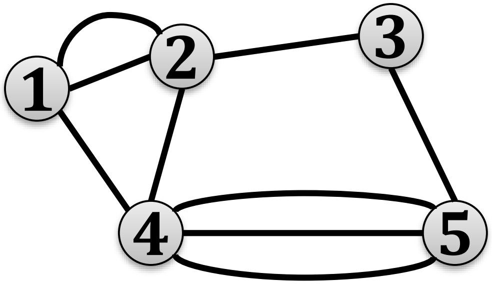
Implementing Edge Contractions

Edge Contraction:

- Given: multigraph with n nodes
  - assume that set of nodes is $\{1, \dots, n\}$
- Goal: contract edge $\{u, v\}$

Data Structure

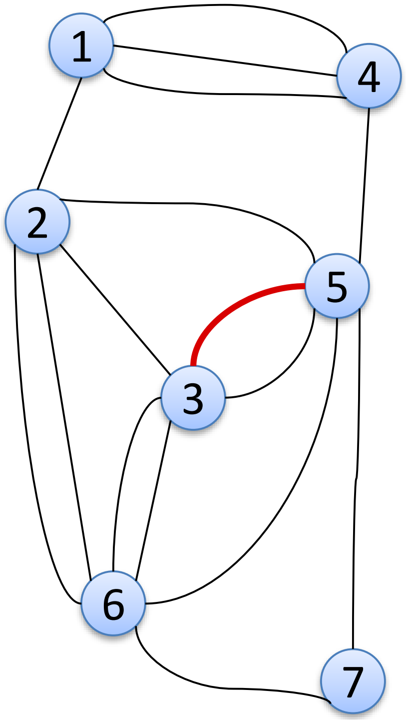
- We can use either adjacency lists or an adjacency matrix
- Entry in row i and column j: #edges between nodes i and j
- Example:



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Contracting An Edge

Example: Contract one of the edges between 3 and 5

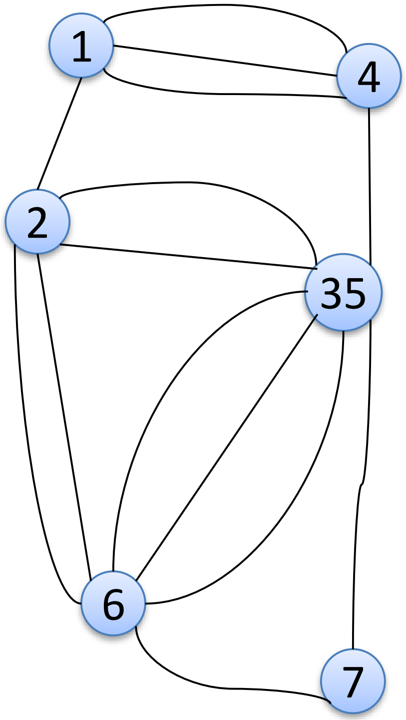


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
3	0	1	0	0	2	2	0
4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
5	0	1	2	1	0	1	1
6	0	2	2	0	1	0	1
7	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

{3,5}							

Contracting An Edge

Example: Contract one of the edges between 3 and 5

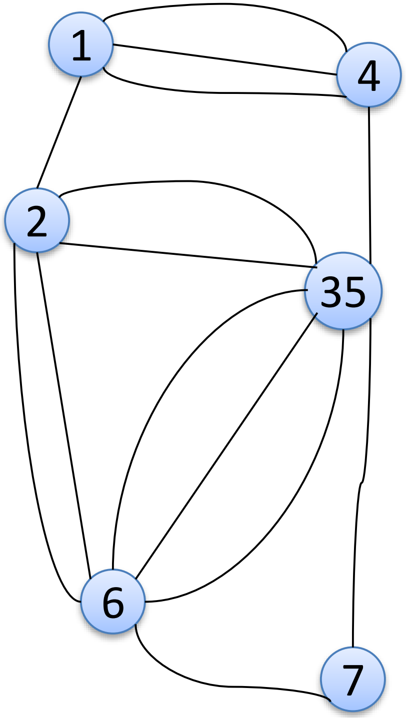


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
3	0	1	0	0	2	2	0
4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
5	0	1	2	1	0	1	1
6	0	2	2	0	1	0	1
7	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

{3,5}	0	2	🟥	1	🟥	3	1

Contracting An Edge

Example: Contract one of the edges between 3 and 5



	1	2	35	4		6	7
1	0	1	0	3		0	0
2	1	0	2	0		2	0
35	0	2	0	1		3	1
4	3	0	1	0		0	0
6	0	2	3	0		0	1
7	0	0	1	0		1	0

{3,5}	0	2	🟥	1	🟥	3	1

Contracting an Edge

Claim: Given the adjacency matrix of an n-node multigraph and an edge $\{u, v\}$, one can contract the edge $\{u, v\}$ in time $O(n)$.

- Row/column of combined node $\{u, v\}$ is sum of rows/columns of u and v
- Row/column of u can be replaced by new row/column of combined node $\{u, v\}$
- Swap row/column of v with last row/column in order to have the new $(n-1)$-node multigraph as a contiguous $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ submatrix

Finding a Random Edge

- We need to contract a uniformly random edge
- How to find a uniformly random edge in a multigraph?
  - Finding a random non-zero entry (with the right probability) in an adjacency matrix costs $O(n^2)$.

Idea for more efficient algorithm:

- First choose a random node u
  - with probability proportional to the degree (#edges) of u
- Pick a random edge of u
  - only need to look at one row → time $O(n)$

Choose a Random Node

Edge Sampling:

1. Choose a node $u \in V$ with probability
$$\frac{\deg(u)}{\sum_{v\in V}\deg(v)} = \frac{\deg(u)}{2m}$$
2. Choose a uniformly random edge of u

Choose a Random Node

- We need to choose a random node u with probability $\frac{\deg(u)}{2m}$
- Keep track of the number of edges m and maintain an array with the degrees of all the nodes
    - Can be done with essentially no extra cost when doing edge contractions

Choose a random node:

```
degsum = 0;
for all nodes $u \in V$:
    with probability $\frac{\deg(u)}{2m-\text{degsum}}$:
        pick node $u$; terminate
    else
        degsum += $\deg(u)$
```

Randomized Min Cut Algorithm

Theorem: If the contraction algorithm is repeated $O(n^2 \log n)$ times, one of the $O(n^2 \log n)$ instances returns a min. cut w.h.p.

Corollary: The contraction algorithm allows to compute a minimum cut in $O(n^4 \log n)$ time w.h.p.

- One instance consists of $n - 2$ edge contractions
- Each edge contraction can be carried out in time $O(n)$
  - Actually: $O(\text{current \#nodes})$
- Time per instance of the contraction algorithm: $O(n^2)$

Can We Do Better?

- Time $O(n^4 \log n)$ is not very spectacular, a simple max flow based implementation has time $O(n^4)$.

However, we will see that the contraction algorithm is nevertheless very interesting because:

1. The algorithm can be improved to be significantly faster than the max flow solution.

1. It allows to obtain strong statements about the distribution of cuts in graphs.

Better Randomized Algorithm

Recall:

- Consider a fixed min cut (A, B), assume (A, B) has size k
- The algorithm outputs (A, B) iff none of the k edges crossing (A, B) gets contracted.
- Throughout the algorithm, the edge connectivity is at least k and therefore each node has degree $\geq k$
- Before contraction i, there are $n + 1 - i$ nodes and thus at least $(n + 1 - i)k/2$ edges
- If no edge crossing (A, B) is contracted before, the probability to contract an edge crossing (A, B) in step i is at most

$$\frac{k}{\frac{(n+1-i)k}{2}} = \frac{2}{n+1-i}.$$

Improving the Contraction Algorithm

- For a specific min cut (A, B), if (A, B) survives the first i contractions,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{edge crossing } (A, B) \text{ in contraction } i+1) \leq \frac{2}{n-i}.$$

- **Observation:** The probability only gets large for large i

- **Idea:** The early steps are much safer than the late steps.

  Maybe we can repeat the late steps more often than the early ones.

Safe Contraction Phase

Lemma: A given min cut (A, B) of an n-node graph G survives the first $n - \left\lceil {}^{n}/_{\sqrt{2}} + 1 \right\rceil$ contractions, with probability $> {}^{1}/_{2}$.

Proof:

- Event $\mathcal{E}_i$: cut (A, B) survives contraction i
- Probability that (A, B) survives the first $n - t$ contractions:

Better Randomized Algorithm

Let's simplify a bit:

- Pretend that $n/\sqrt{2}$ is an integer (for all n we will need it).
- Assume that a given min cut survives the first $n - {}^{n}/_{\sqrt{2}}$ contractions with probability $\geq {}^{1}/_{2}$.

$\mathbf{contract}(\boldsymbol{G}, \boldsymbol{t})$:

- Starting with n-node graph G, perform $n - t$ edge contractions such that the new graph has t nodes.

$\mathbf{mincut}(\boldsymbol{G})$:

```
1.  $X_1 := \mathrm{mincut}\big(\mathrm{contract}(G, n/\sqrt{2})\big);$
2.  $X_2 := \mathrm{mincut}\big(\mathrm{contract}(G, n/\sqrt{2})\big);$
3.  return $\min\{X_1, X_2\};$
```

Success Probability

$\mathbf{mincut}(\boldsymbol{G})$:

```
1.  $X_1 := \mathrm{mincut}\left(\mathrm{contract}\left(G, n/\sqrt{2}\right)\right)$;
2.  $X_2 := \mathrm{mincut}\left(\mathrm{contract}\left(G, n/\sqrt{2}\right)\right)$;
3.  return $\min\{X_1, X_2\}$;
```

$\boldsymbol{P(n)}$: probability that the above algorithm returns a min cut when applied to a graph with n nodes.

- Probability that X_1 is a min cut $\geq$

Recursion:

Success Probability

Theorem: The recursive randomized min cut algorithm returns a minimum cut with probability at least $1/\log_2 n$.

Proof (by induction on n):

$$P(n) = P\left(\frac{n}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - \frac{1}{4} \cdot P\left(\frac{n}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2, \qquad P(2) = 1$$

Running Time

```
1. $X_1 \coloneqq \mathrm{mincut}\left(\mathrm{contract}\left(G, n/\sqrt{2}\right)\right)$;
2. $X_2 \coloneqq \mathrm{mincut}\left(\mathrm{contract}\left(G, n/\sqrt{2}\right)\right)$;
3. **return** $\min\{X_1, X_2\}$;
```

Recursion:

- $T(n)$: time to apply algorithm to n-node graphs
- Recursive calls: $2T\left({}^{n}/_{\sqrt{2}}\right)$
- Number of contractions to get to ${}^{n}/_{\sqrt{2}}$ nodes: $O(n)$

$$T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + O(n^2), \qquad T(2) = O(1)$$

Running Time

Theorem: The running time of the recursive, randomized min cut algorithm is $O(n^2 \log n)$.

Proof:

- Can be shown in the usual way, by induction on n

Remark:

- The running time is only by an $O(\log n)$-factor slower than the basic contraction algorithm.
- The success probability is exponentially better!