

Bipartite Maximum Cardinality Matching

ALGORITHM MATCHING [$G = (S, T; E)$, M , n]

This algorithm determines a maximum cardinality matching M in a bipartite graph (G)

by augmenting a given matching in G .

INPUT: Bipartite graph $G = (S, T; E)$ with vertices $1, \dots, n$, matching M in (G) (for instance, $M = \emptyset$)

OUTPUT: Maximum cardinality matching M in G

1. If there is no exposed vertex in S then

OUTPUT M . Stop

[M is of maximum cardinality in G .]

Else label all exposed vertices in S with 0.

2. For each i in S and edge (i, j) not in M , label j with i , unless already labeled

3. For each nonexposed j in T , label i with j , where i is the other end of the unique edge (i, j) in M .

4. Backtrack the alternating paths P ending on an exposed vertex in T by using the labels on the vertices.

5. If no P in Step 4 is augmenting then

OUTPUT M . Stop

[M is of maximum cardinality in G .]

Else augment M by using an augmenting path P .

Go to Step 1.

End MATCHING

EXAMPLE 1 Maximum cardinality matching

Is the matching M_y in Fig. 474a of maximum cardinality? If not, augment it until maximum cardinality is reached.

Solution. We apply the algorithm.

1. Label 1 and 4 with 0.

2. Label 7 with 1. Label 5, 6, 8 with 3.

3. Label 2 with 6, and 3 with 7.

[All vertices are now labeled as shown in Fig. 474a.]

4. $P_y: 1 - 7 - 3 - 5$. [By backtracking, P_y is augmenting.]

$P_g: 1 - 7 - 3 - 8$. [P_g is augmenting.]

5. Augment M_y by using P_y , dropping $(3, 7)$ from M_y and including $(1, 7)$ and $(3, 5)$. Remove all labels

Go to Step 1.

Figure 474b shows the resulting matching $M_g = \{(1, 7), (2, 6), (3, 5)\}$.

1. Label 4 with 0.

2. Label 7 with 2. Label 6 and 8 with 3.

3. Label 1 with 7, and 2 with 6, and 3 with 5.

4. $P_g: 5 - 3 - 8$. [P_g is alternating but not augmenting.]

5. Stop. Mg is of maximum cardinality (namely, 3).