

The Matching Problem in General Graphs is in QUASI-NC

Jakub Tarnawski

joint work with Ola Svensson



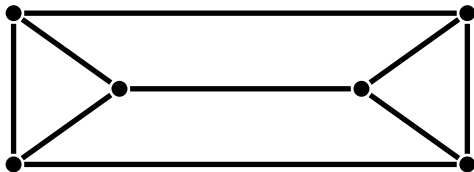
ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE



October 16, 2017

Perfect matching problem

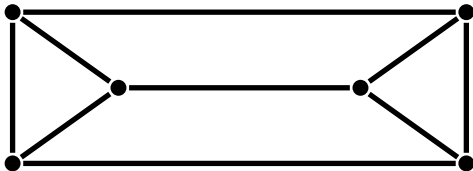
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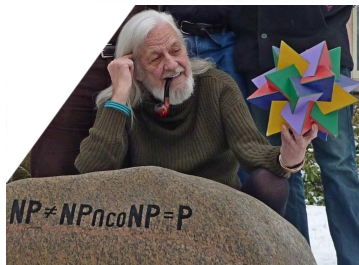


Perfect matching problem

Benchmark problem in computer science

Algorithms:

- ▶ bipartite: Jacobi [XIX century, weighted!]
- ▶ general: Edmonds [1965]
- ▶ since then, tons of research and still active
- ▶ many models of computation: monotone circuits, extended formulations, parallel, distributed, streaming/sublinear, ...

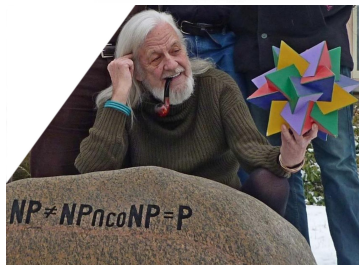


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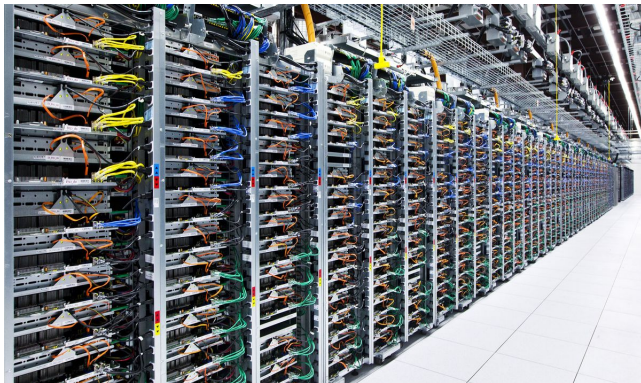
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Parallel complexity

Class \mathcal{NC} : problems that parallelize completely

$\text{poly } n$ processors



$\text{poly log } n$ time

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Main open question: is matching in \mathcal{NC} ?

Parallel complexity

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it's in **RANDOMIZED** \mathcal{NC}

$\text{poly log } n$ time

Main open question: is matching in \mathcal{NC} ?

Parallel complexity

- ▶ Matching is in **RANDOMIZED NC** [Lovász 1979]:
has **randomized** algorithm that uses:
 - ▶ polynomially many processors
 - ▶ polylog time
- ▶ Search version is in **RANDOMIZED NC**:
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Can we derandomize all efficient computation?

Can we derandomize one of these algorithms?



Is matching in \mathcal{NC} ?

Yes, for restricted graph classes:

- ▶ bipartite regular [Lev, Pippenger, Valiant 1981]
- ▶ bipartite convex [Dekel, Sahni 1984]
- ▶ incomparability graphs [Kozen, Vazirani, Vazirani 1985]
- ▶ bipartite graphs with small number of perfect matchings [Grigoriev, Karpinski 1987]
- ▶ claw-free [Chrobak, Naor, Novick 1989]
- ▶ $K_{3,3}$ -free (decision version) [Vazirani 1989]
- ▶ planar bipartite [Miller, Naor 1989]
- ▶ dense [Dahlhaus, Hajnal, Karpinski 1993]
- ▶ strongly chordal [Dahlhaus, Karpinski 1998]
- ▶ P_4 -tidy [Parfenoff 1998]
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Is matching in \mathcal{NC} ?

Fenner, Gurjar and Thierauf [2015] showed:

- ▶ **Bipartite** matching is in **QUASI- \mathcal{NC}**
($n^{\text{poly log } n}$ processors, $\text{poly log } n$ time, deterministic)



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- ▶ Approach fails for non-bipartite graphs

Our result

We show: **general** matching is in **QUASI-NC**:

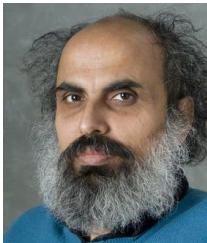
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- 1 Isolating weight functions
[Mulmuley, Vazirani, Vazirani 1987]
- 2 Bipartite case
[Fenner, Gurjar, Thierauf 2015]
- 3 Difficulties of general case
& our approach

1. Isolating weight functions

[Mulmuley, Vazirani, Vazirani 1987]



How to solve unweighted problem?

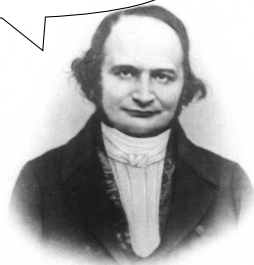
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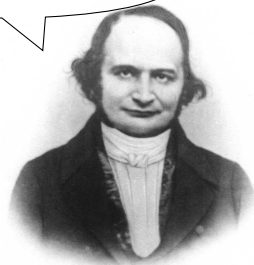
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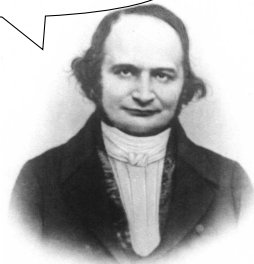
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How to solve unweighted problem?

MAKE LIFE HARDER

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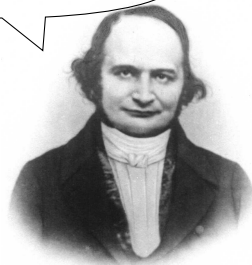
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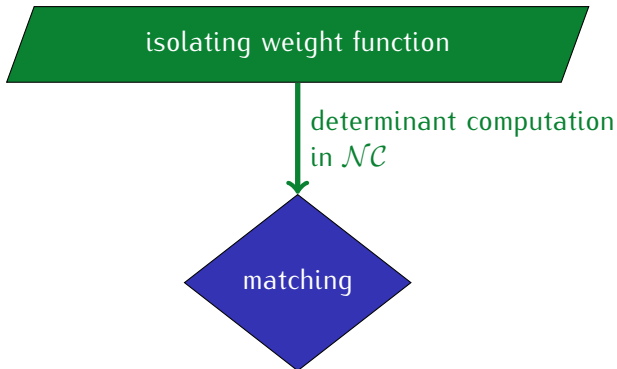


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But **we** choose the weight function – do it smartly!

Weight function $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ is **isolating**
if there is a **unique** min-weight perfect matching



random sampling

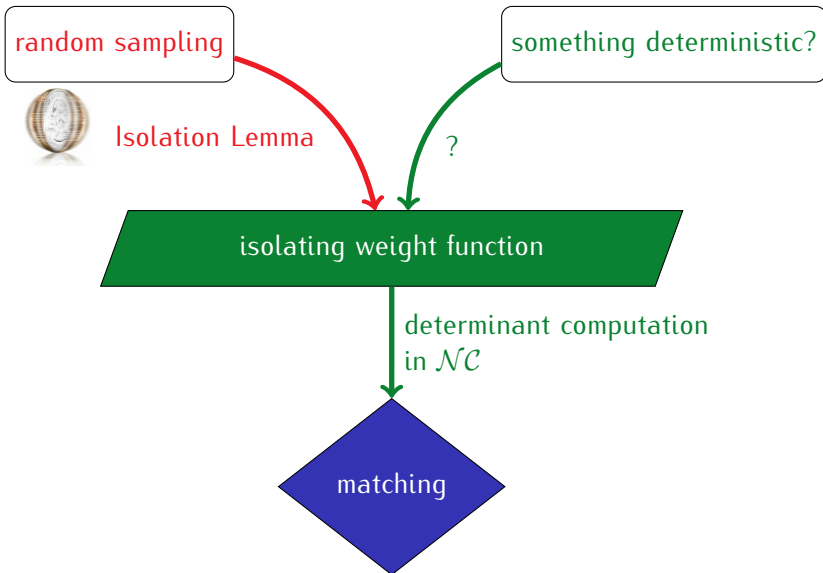


Isolation Lemma

isolating weight function

determinant computation
in \mathcal{NC}

matching



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Isolation Lemma [MVV 1987]

If each $w(e)$ picked randomly from $\{1, 2, \dots, n^3\}$,
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- ▶ holds more generally,
for any set family in place of matchings!
- ▶ many applications in complexity theory

Derandomize the Isolation Lemma

- ▶ **Challenge:**
get an isolating weight function
deterministically in \mathcal{NC}
- ▶ We prove:
can construct $n^{O(\log^2 n)}$ weight functions in $\text{QUASI-}\mathcal{NC}$
such that one of them is isolating
- ▶ We do it without looking at the graph
- ▶ Implies: **matching is in $\text{QUASI-}\mathcal{NC}$**

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2. Bipartite case

[Fenner, Gurjar, Thierauf 2015]

Goal: how to construct $n^{O(\log n)}$ weight functions such that one of them is isolating?

Isolating matchings

What if w is **not** isolating?

- ▶ there are perfect matchings M , M' with $w(M) = w(M')$ minimum



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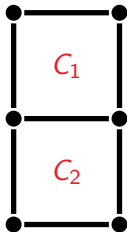
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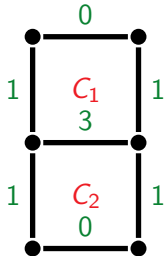
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Not so easy, but we can cope with all 4-cycles.

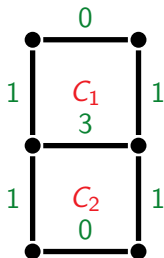
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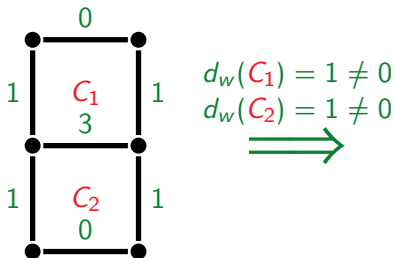
$$d_w(C_1) = 1 \neq 0$$

$$d_w(C_2) = 1 \neq 0$$

Removing cycles

Active subgraph:

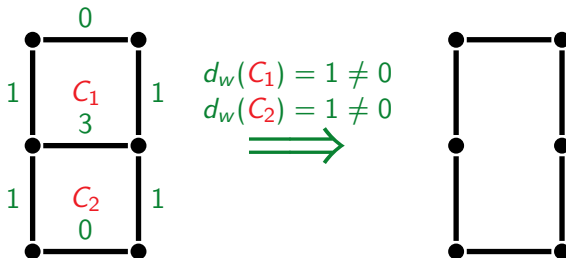
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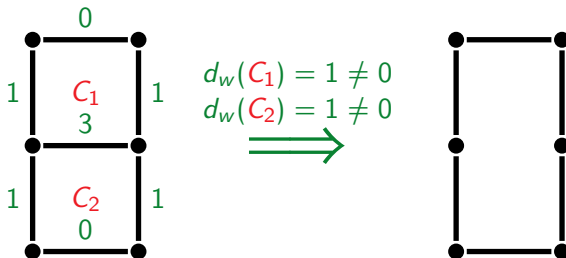
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Bipartite key property

Once we assign a cycle $\neq 0$ discrepancy,
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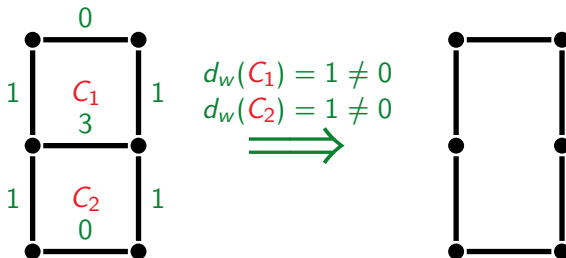
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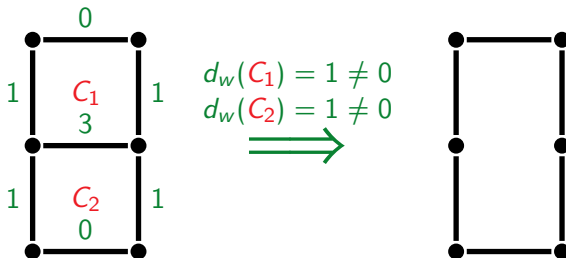
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By assigning $\neq 0$ discrepancy to 4-cycles, we can remove them.
Then continue restricted to the smaller active subgraph!

Isolating in stages

Crucial idea:

- ▶ Can find w_1 such that 4-cycles are assigned $\neq 0$ discrepancy

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Actually, not sure how to find in \mathcal{NC} some w_i that is good...

But always some w_i of a special form is good.

Try all combinations $(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{\log n})$ **obliviously!**

There are $n^{O(\log n)}$ many.

3. Difficulties of general case & our approach

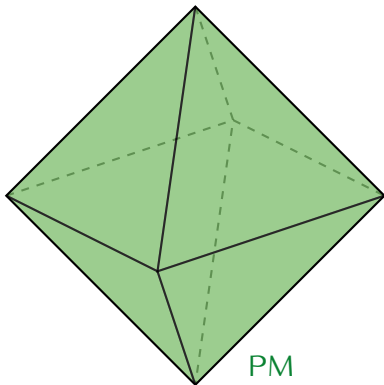
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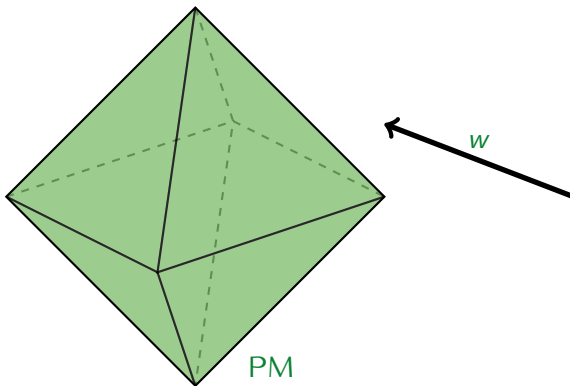
Polyhedral perspective

- ▶ **PM**: perfect matching polytope
(convex hull of all perfect matchings)



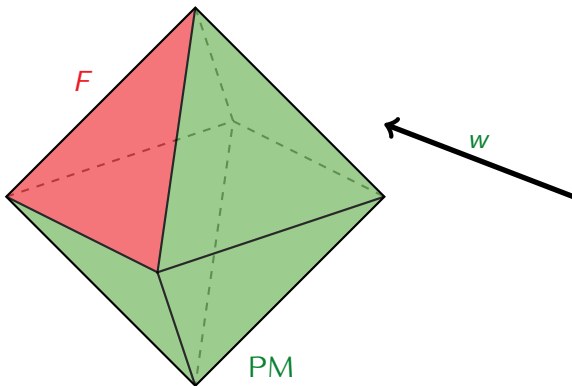
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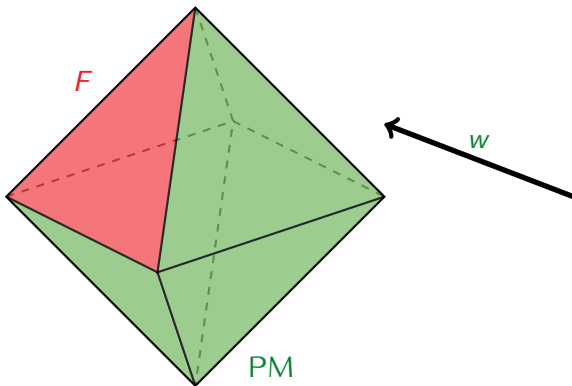
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 - ▶ **F** is a face of **PM**



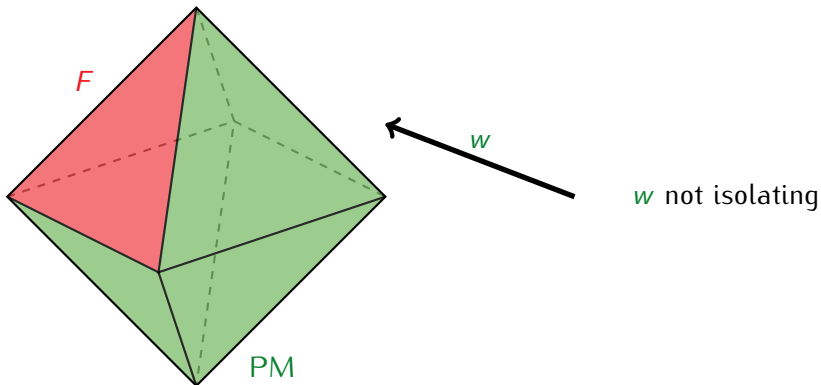
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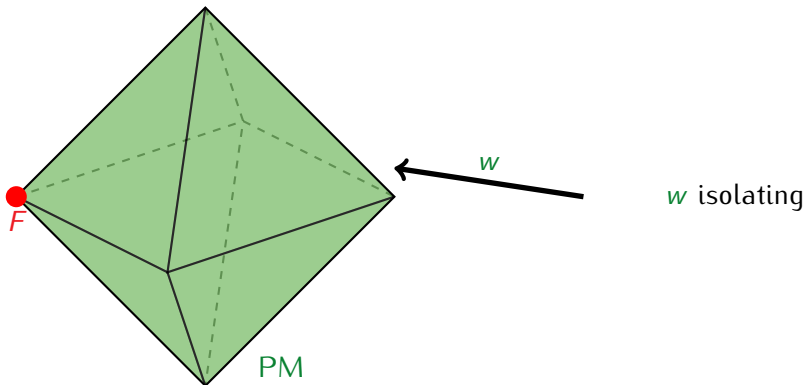
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LP formulation

Edmonds [1965]

PM described as set of $x \in \mathbb{R}^E$ such that:

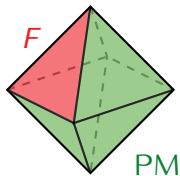
▶ $x_e \geq 0$ for every edge e

▶ $x(\delta(v)) = 1$ for every vertex v

($\delta(S)$ = edges crossing S)



▶ $x(\delta(S)) \geq 1$ for every odd set S of vertices



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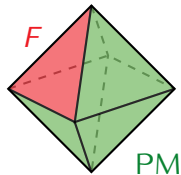
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So every face F is given as:

$$F = \{x \in \text{PM} : x_e = 0 \text{ for some edges } e, \\ x(\delta(S)) = 1 \text{ for some odd sets } S\}$$



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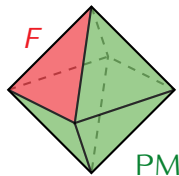
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(F given by the active subgraph)

- ▶ Now, faces are exponentially harder
- ▶ Need $2^{\Omega(n)}$ inequalities [Rothvoss 2013]



Edmonds [1965]

PM described as set of $x \in \mathbb{R}^E$ such that:

- ▶ $x_e \geq 0$ for every edge e
- ▶ $x(\delta(v)) = 1$ for every vertex v
- ▶ $x(\delta(S)) \geq 1$ for every odd set S of vertices

($\delta(S)$ = edges crossing S)



Bipartite key property fails!



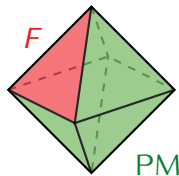
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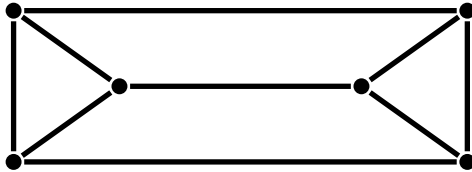
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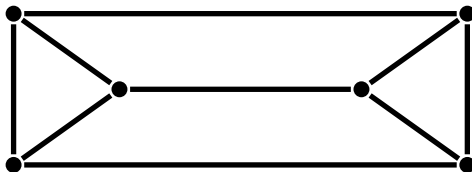
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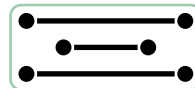
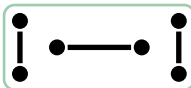
How bipartite key property fails



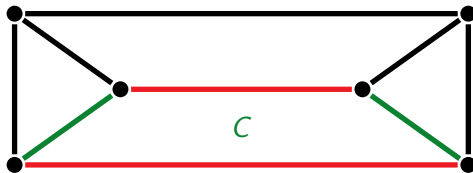
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PM: convex hull of all four matchings:

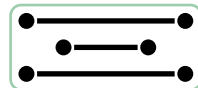
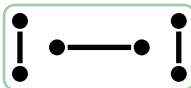
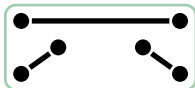


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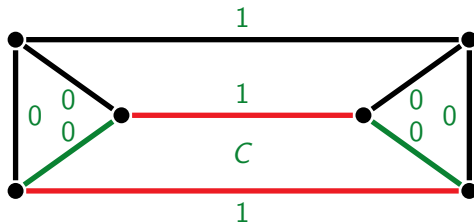


want:
 $d_w(C) \neq 0$

PM: convex hull of all four matchings:



How bipartite key property fails

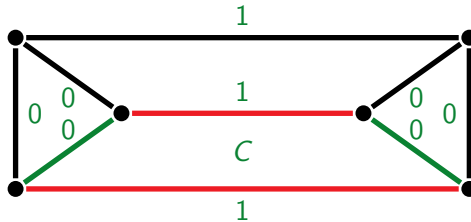


$$d_w(C) = 2 \neq 0$$

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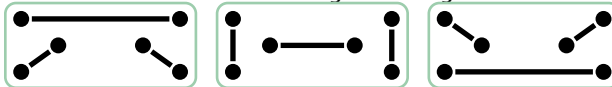


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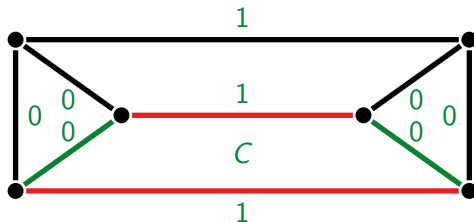
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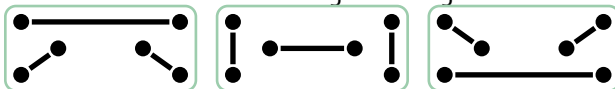


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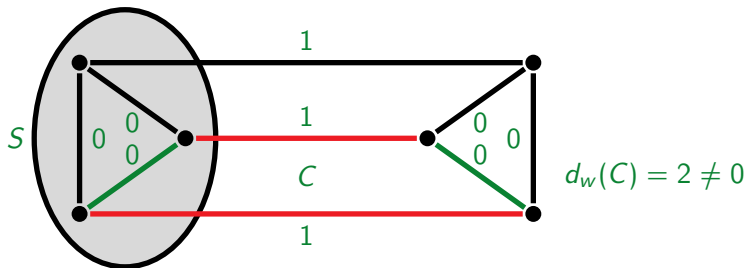


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$F \subsetneq PM$ but still has all edges... 🤔

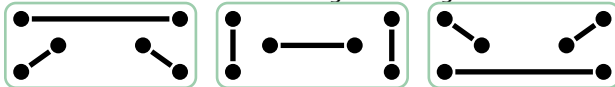
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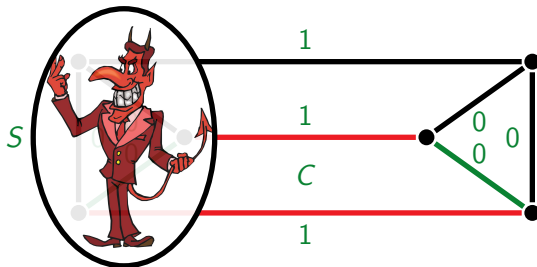
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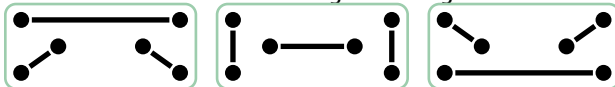


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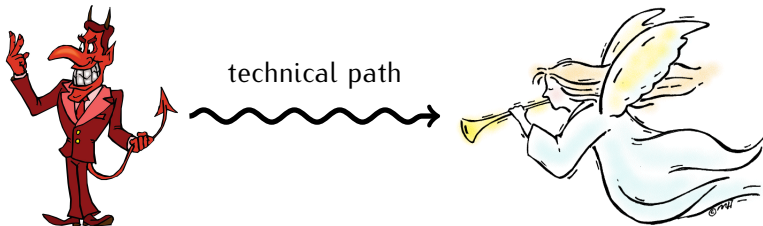
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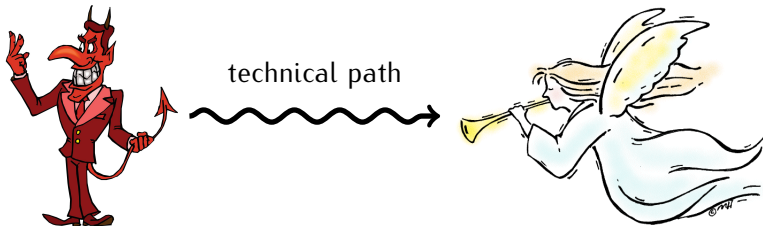
How we cope



How we cope



How we cope



Main ingredients:

- ▶ Laminar family of tight cut constraints
- ▶ Tight cut constraints decompose the instance
⇒ divide-and-conquer approach

Laminarity

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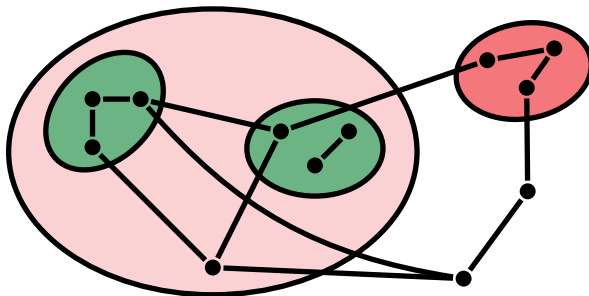
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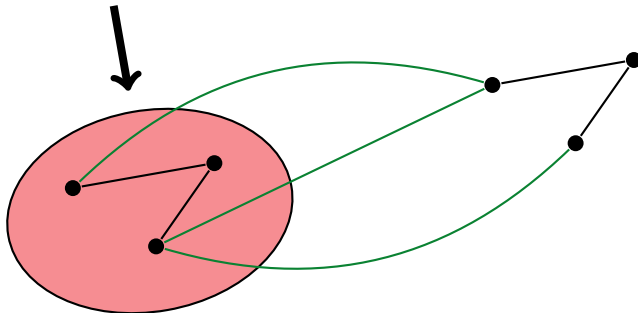
Great news: “some” can be chosen to be a laminar family!

(at most $n/2$ constraints instead of exponentially many to describe a face)



Tight odd cuts are not all bad

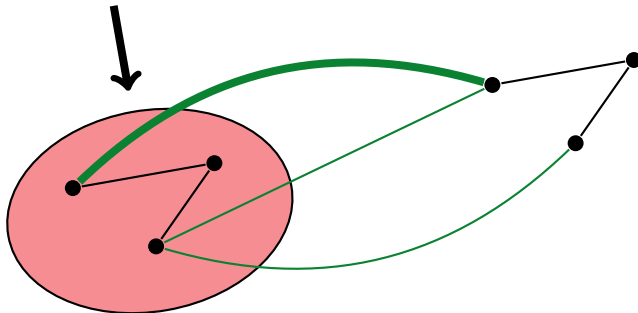
exactly one edge crossing



► once we fix a **boundary edge**...

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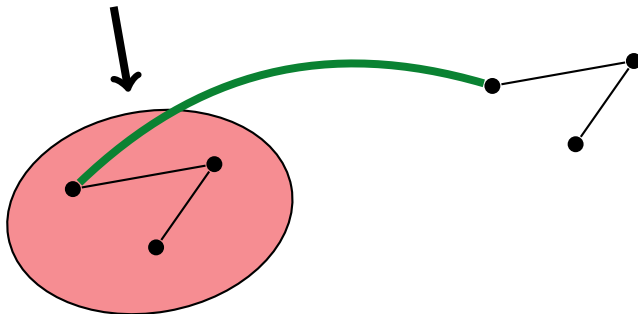
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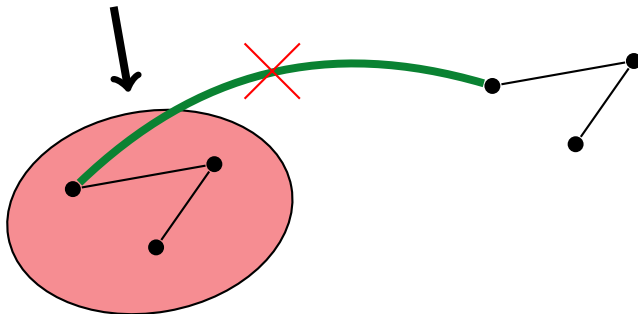
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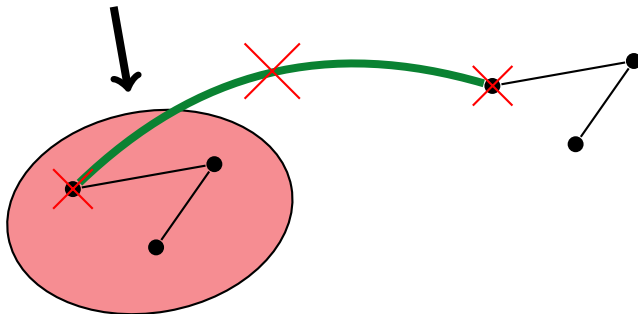
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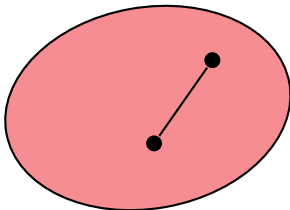
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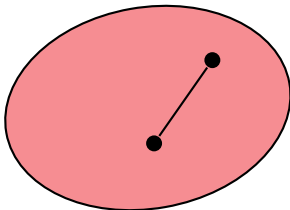
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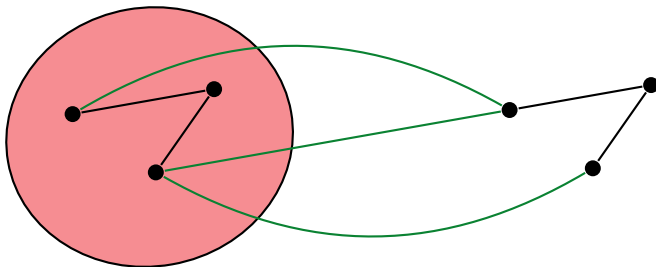


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Divide & conquer

Simplest case of laminar family: only one tight odd set

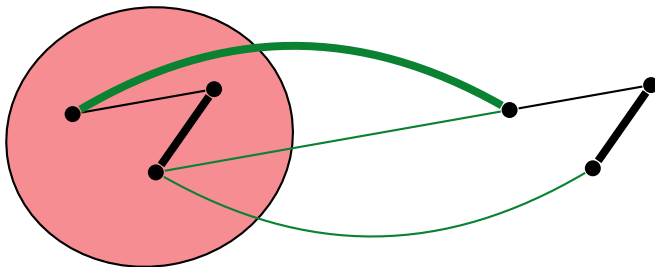
Between friends: cycles that do not cross tight odd sets behave like in the bipartite case and can thus be removed



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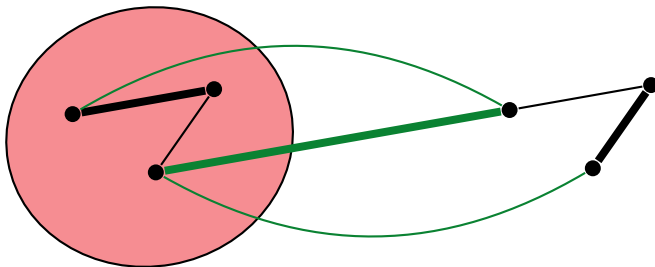


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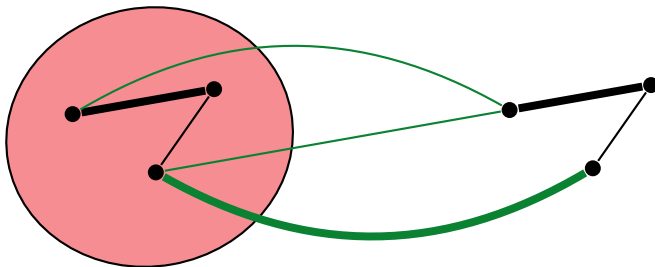


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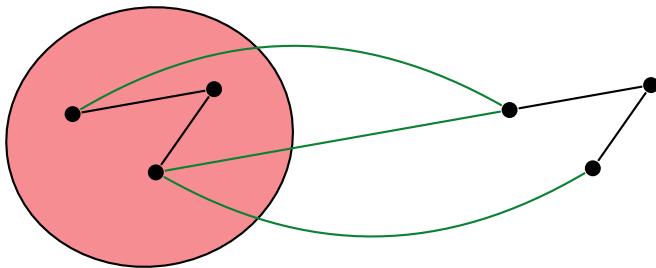


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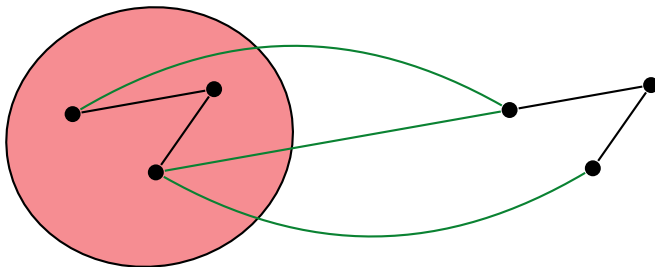


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- ▶ easy to isolate

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Details: see paper or talk to me :)



Future work

- ▶ go down to \mathcal{NC}
 - ▶ even for bipartite graphs
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Thank you!