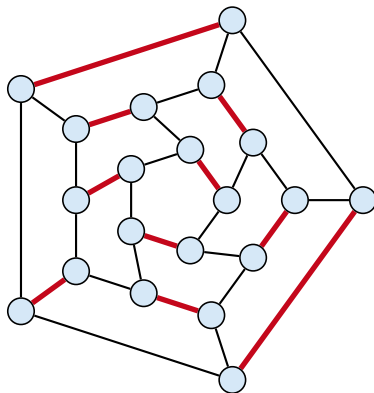


Part V

Matchings

Matching

- ▶ Input: undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.
- ▶ $M \subseteq E$ is a **matching** if each node appears in at most one edge in M .
- ▶ Maximum Matching: find a matching of maximum cardinality



16 Bipartite Matching via Flows

Which flow algorithm to use?

- ▶ Generic augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(m \text{val}(f^*)) = \mathcal{O}(mn)$.
- ▶ Capacity scaling: $\mathcal{O}(m^2 \log C) = \mathcal{O}(m^2)$.
- ▶ Shortest augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(mn^2)$.

For **unit capacity simple graphs** shortest augmenting path can be implemented in time $\mathcal{O}(m\sqrt{n})$.

17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

Definitions.

- ▶ Given a matching M in a graph G , a vertex that is not incident to any edge of M is called a **free vertex** w. r. .t. M .
- ▶ For a matching M a path P in G is called an **alternating path** if edges in M alternate with edges not in M .
- ▶ An alternating path is called an **augmenting path** for matching M if it ends at distinct free vertices.

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A matching M is a maximum matching if and only if there is no augmenting path w. r. t. M .

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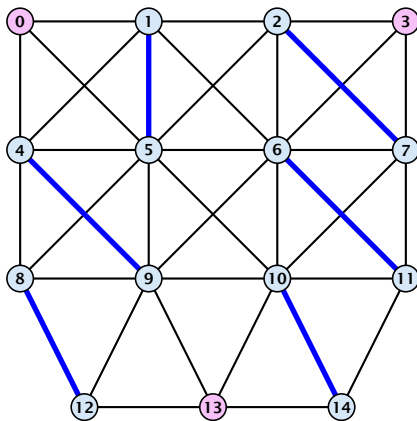
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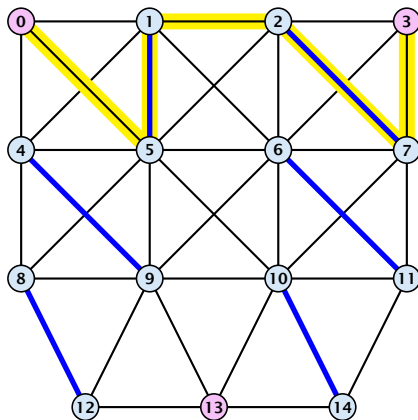
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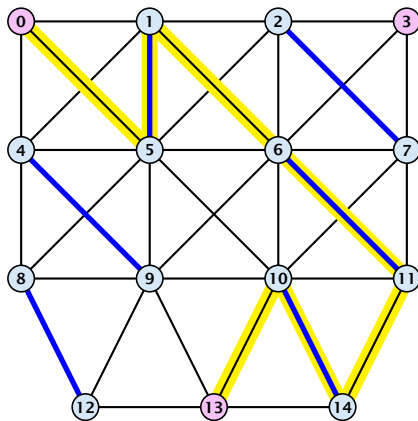
Augmenting Paths in Action



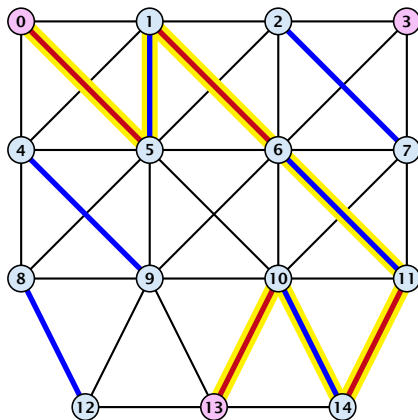
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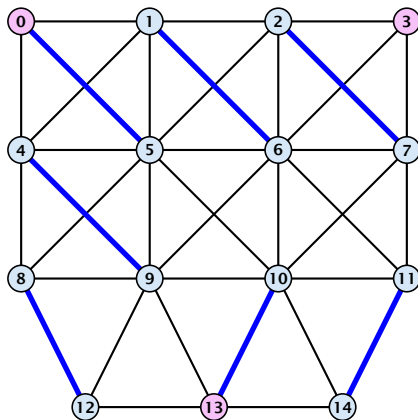
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17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

Proof.

⇒ If M is maximum there is no augmenting path P , because we could switch matching and non-matching edges along P . This gives matching $M' = M \oplus P$ with larger cardinality.

⇐ Suppose there is a matching M' with larger cardinality. Consider the graph H with edge-set $M' \oplus M$ (i.e., only edges that are in either M or M' but not in both).

Each vertex can be incident to at most two edges (one from M and one from M'). Hence, the connected components are alternating cycles or alternating path.

As $|M'| > |M|$ there is one connected component that is a path P for which both endpoints are incident to edges from M' . P is an augmenting path.

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Algorithmic idea:

As long as you find an augmenting path augment your matching using this path. When you arrive at a matching for which no augmenting path exists you have a maximum matching.

Theorem 2

Let G be a graph, M a matching in G , and let u be a free vertex w.r.t. M . Further let P denote an augmenting path w.r.t. M and let $M' = M \oplus P$ denote the matching resulting from augmenting M with P . If there was no augmenting path starting at u in M then there is no augmenting path starting at u in M' .

The above theorem allows for an easier implementation of an augmenting path algorithm. Once we checked for augmenting paths starting from u we don't have to check for such paths in future rounds.

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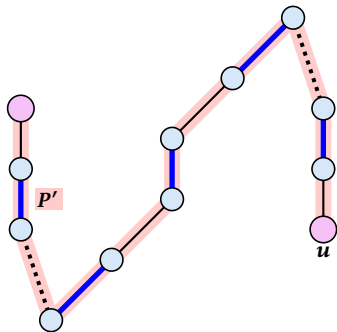
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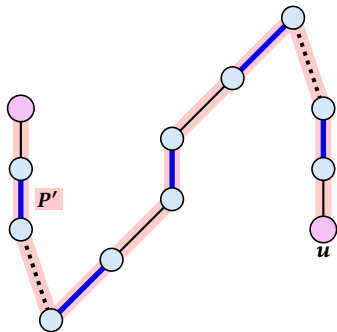
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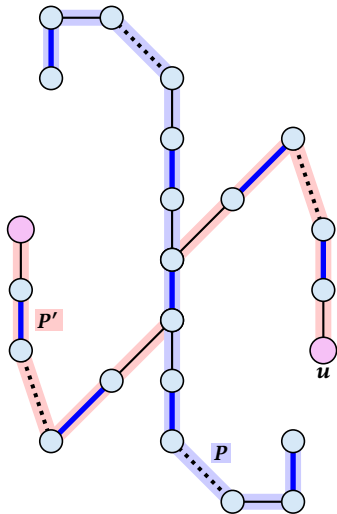
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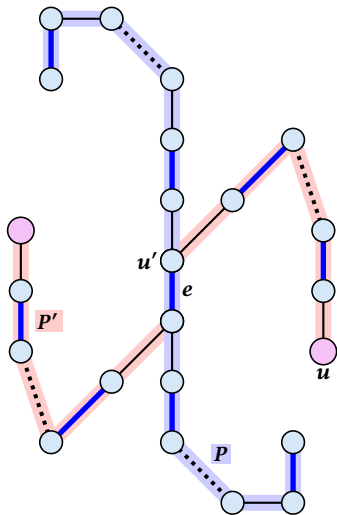
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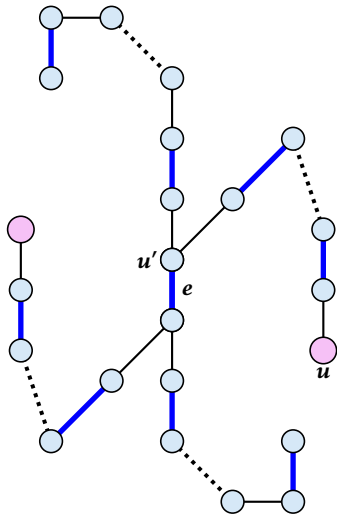
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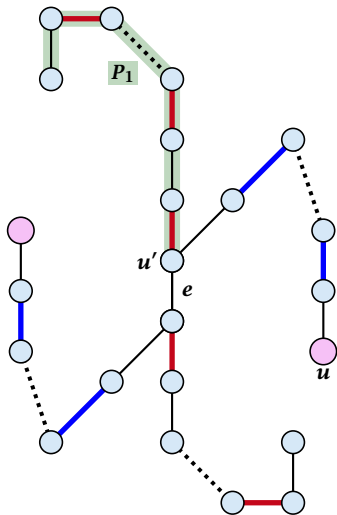
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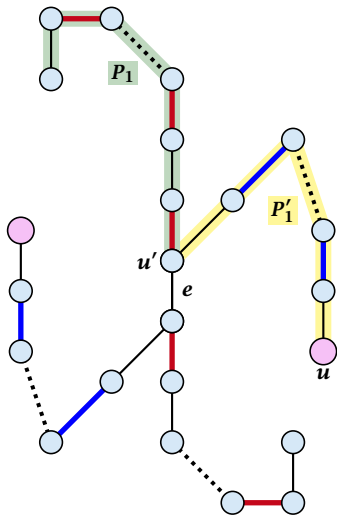
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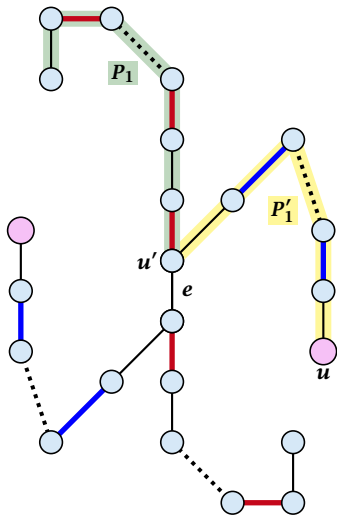
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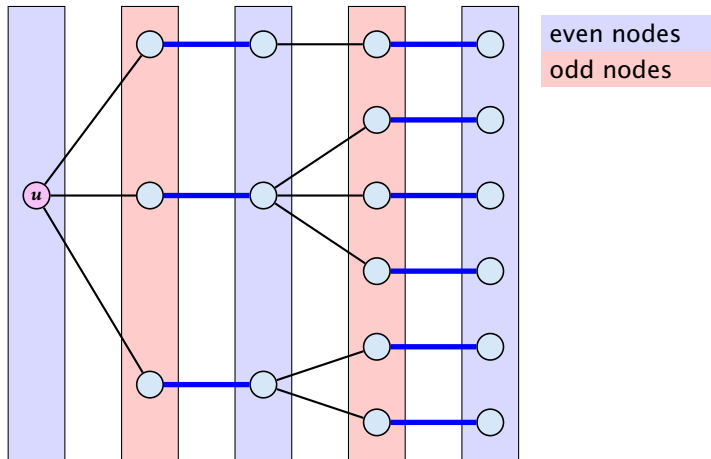
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- ▶ $P_1 \circ P'_1$ is augmenting path in M (\cancel{f}).



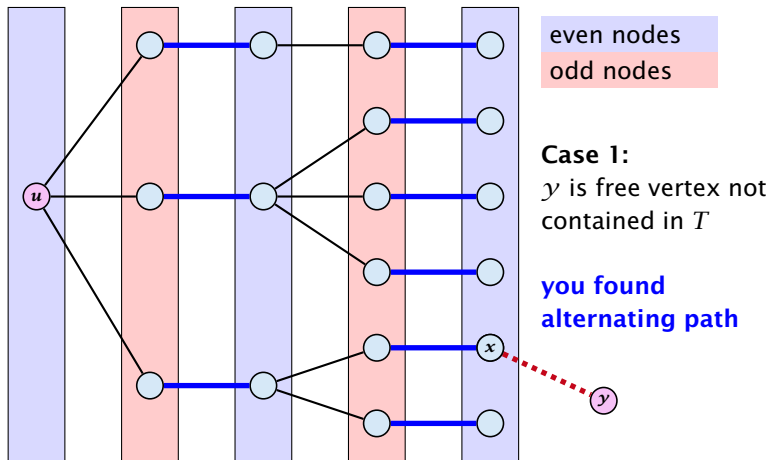
How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.



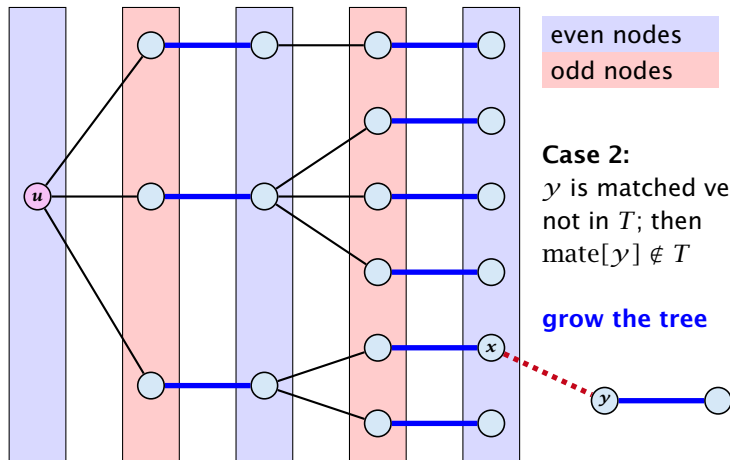
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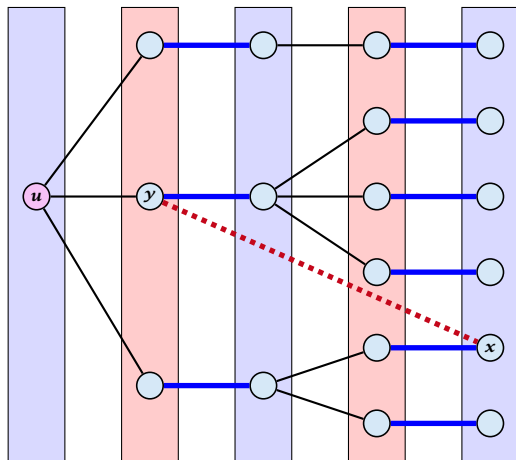
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How to find an augmenting path?

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even nodes

odd nodes

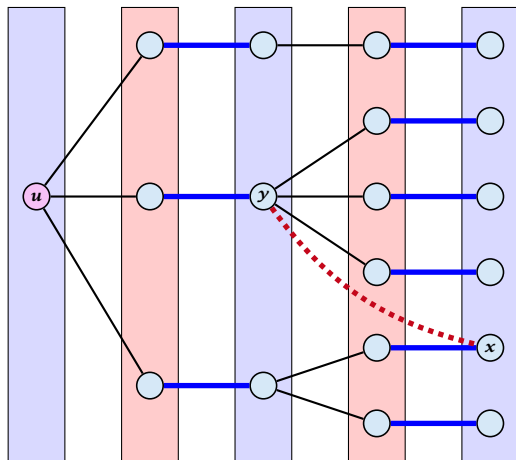
Case 3:

y is already contained
in T as an odd vertex

ignore successor y

How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.



even nodes

odd nodes

Case 4:

y is already contained
in T as an even vertex

can't ignore y

does not happen in
bipartite graphs

Algorithm 24 BiMatch($G, match$)

```
1: for  $x \in V$  do  $mate[x] \leftarrow 0$ ;  
2:  $r \leftarrow 0$ ;  $free \leftarrow n$ ;  
3: while  $free \geq 1$  and  $r < n$  do  
4:    $r \leftarrow r + 1$   
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graph $G = (S \cup S', E)$

$S = \{1, \dots, n\}$

$S' = \{1', \dots, n'\}$

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start with an
empty matching

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free: number of
unmatched nodes in
 S

r: root of current tree

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as long as there are
unmatched nodes and
we did not yet try to
grow from all nodes we
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r is the new node that we grow from.

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If r is free start tree construction

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Initialize an empty tree.
Note that only nodes i'
have parent pointers.

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Q is a queue (BFS!!!).

aug is a Boolean that stores whether we already found an augmenting path.

Algorithm 24 BiMatch($G, match$)

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as long as we did not augment and there are still unexamined leaves continue...

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17:             $parent[y] \leftarrow x$ ;  
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```

take next unexamined
leaf

Algorithm 24 BiMatch($G, match$)

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```

if x has unmatched neighbour we found an augmenting path (note that $y \neq r$ because we are in a bipartite graph)

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do an augmentation...

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setting $aug = true$
ensures that the tree
construction will not
continue

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reduce number of free
nodes

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if y is not in the tree yet

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...put it into the tree

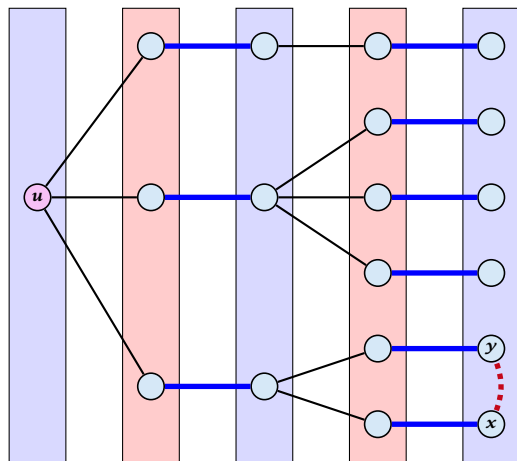
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add its buddy to the set
of unexamined leaves

How to find an augmenting path?

Construct an alternating tree.



even nodes

odd nodes

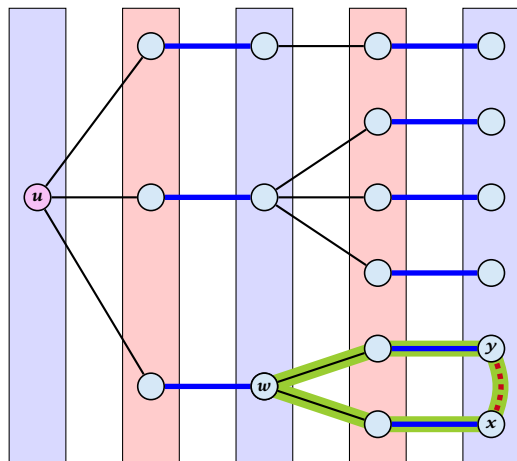
Case 4:

y is already contained
in T as an even vertex

can't ignore y

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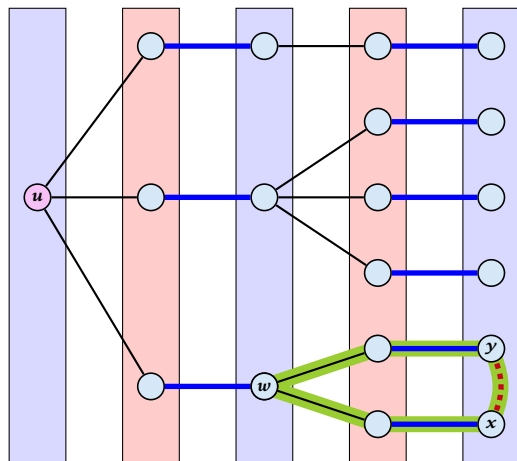
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The cycle $w \leftrightarrow y - x \leftrightarrow w$
is called a **blossom**.

w is called the **base** of the
blossom (even node!!!).

The path $u-w$ is called the
stem of the blossom.

Flowers and Blossoms

Definition 3

A **flower** in a graph $G = (V, E)$ w.r.t. a matching M and a (free) root node r , is a subgraph with two components:

- ▶ A **stem** is an even length alternating path that starts at the root node r and terminates at some node w . We permit the possibility that $r = w$ (empty stem).
- ▶ A **blossom** is an odd length alternating cycle that starts and terminates at the terminal node w of a stem and has no other node in common with the stem. w is called the **base** of the blossom.

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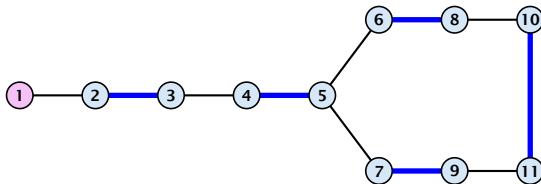
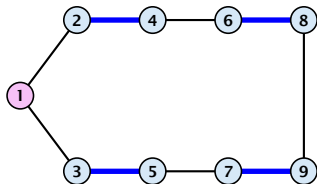
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Flowers and Blossoms



Flowers and Blossoms

Properties:

1. A stem spans $2\ell + 1$ nodes and contains ℓ matched edges for some integer $\ell \geq 0$.
2. A blossom spans $2k + 1$ nodes and contains k matched edges for some integer $k \geq 1$. The matched edges match all nodes of the blossom except the base.
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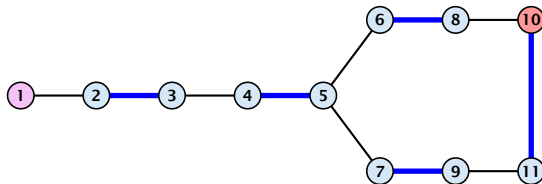
Properties:

4. Every node x in the blossom (except its base) is reachable from the root (or from the base of the blossom) through two distinct alternating paths; one with even and one with odd length.
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Flowers and Blossoms



Shrinking Blossoms

When during the alternating tree construction we discover a blossom B we replace the graph G by $G' = G/B$, which is obtained from G by contracting the blossom B .

- ▶ Delete all vertices in B (and its incident edges) from G .
- ▶ Add a new (pseudo-)vertex b . The new vertex b is connected to all vertices in $V \setminus B$ that had at least one edge to a vertex from B .

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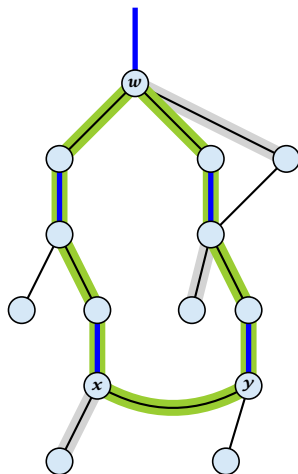
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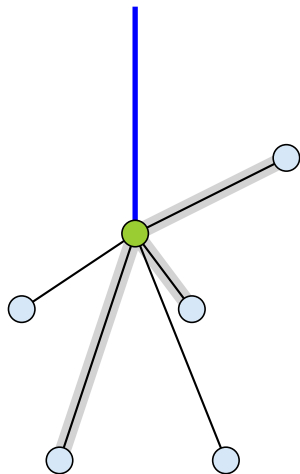
Shrinking Blossoms

- ▶ Edges of T that connect a node u not in B to a node in B become tree edges in T' connecting u to b .
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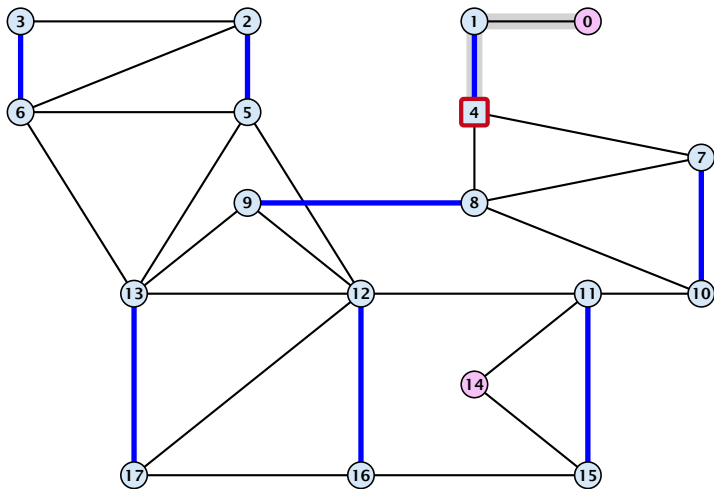


Shrinking Blossoms

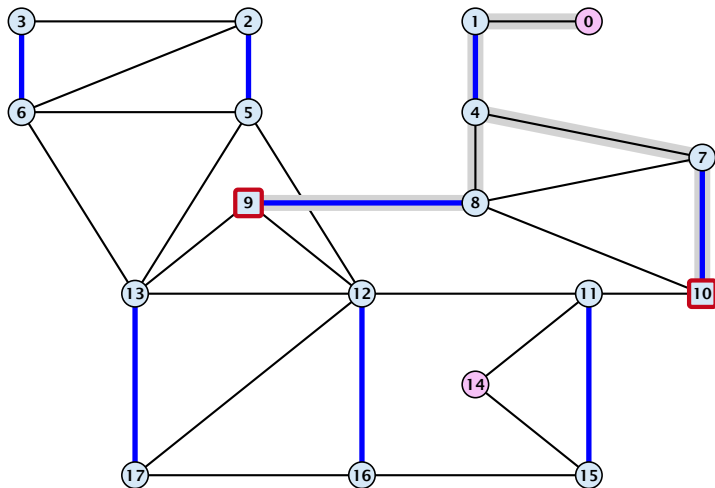
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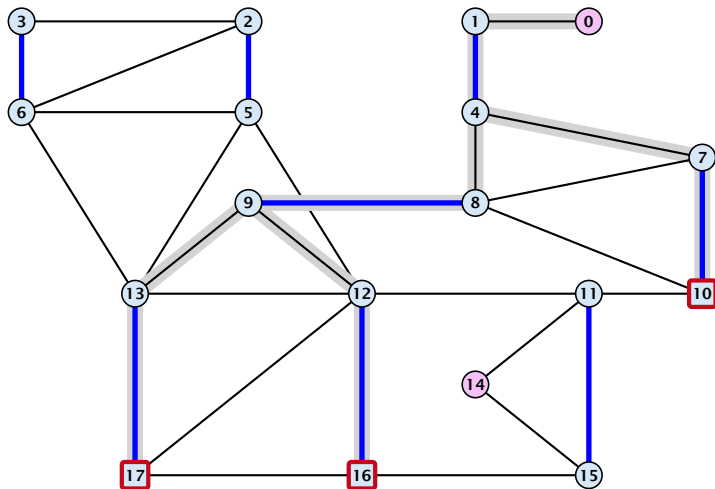
Example: Blossom Algorithm



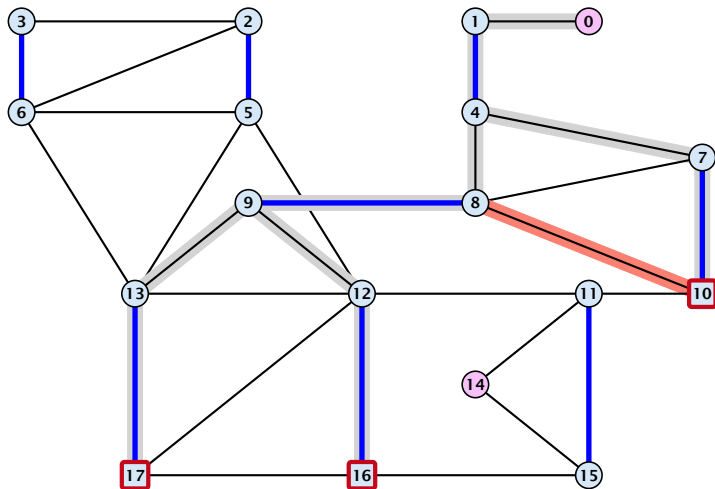
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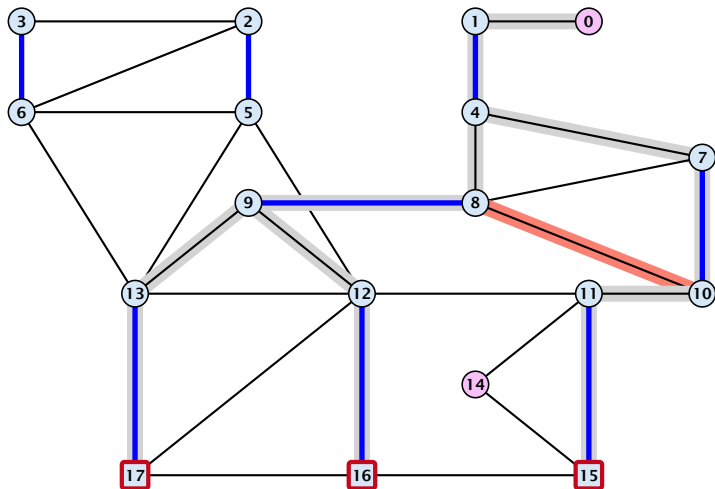
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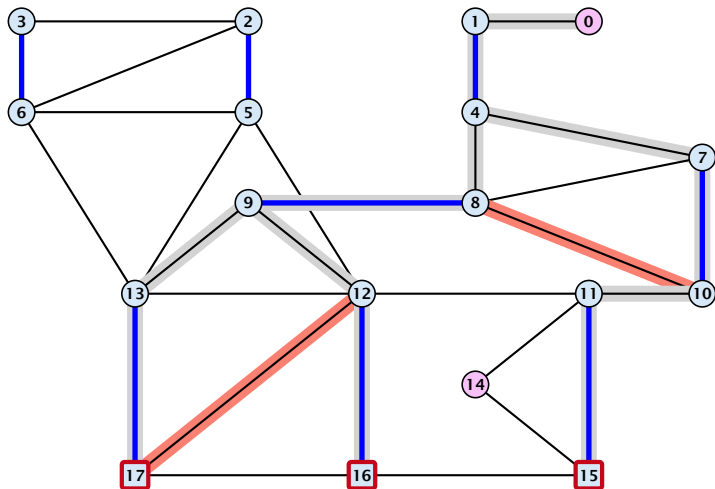
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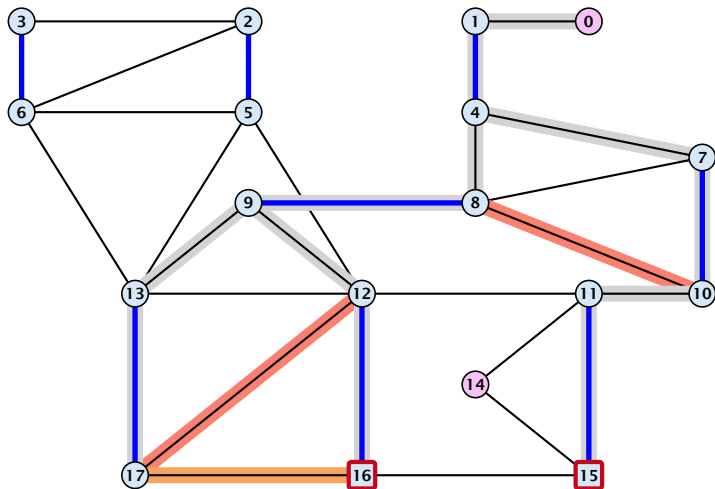
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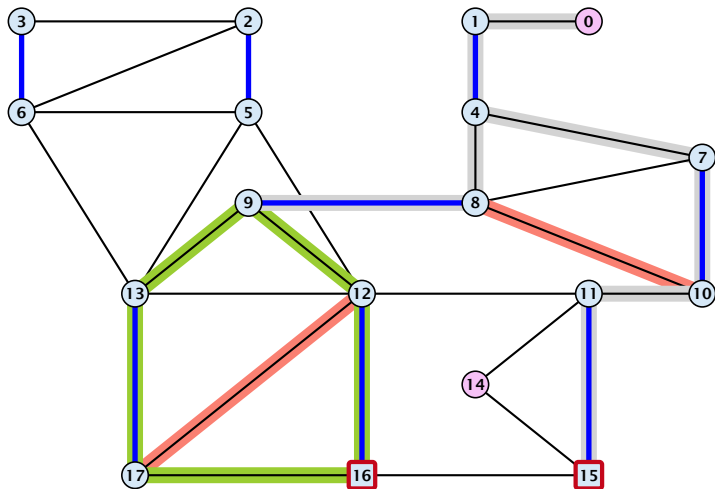
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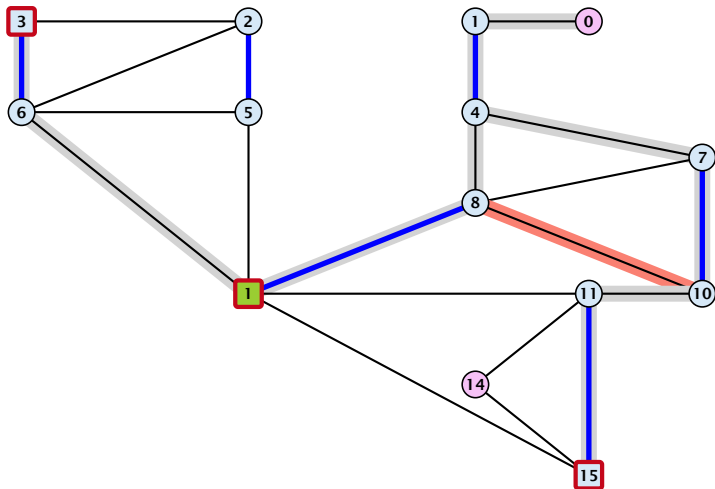
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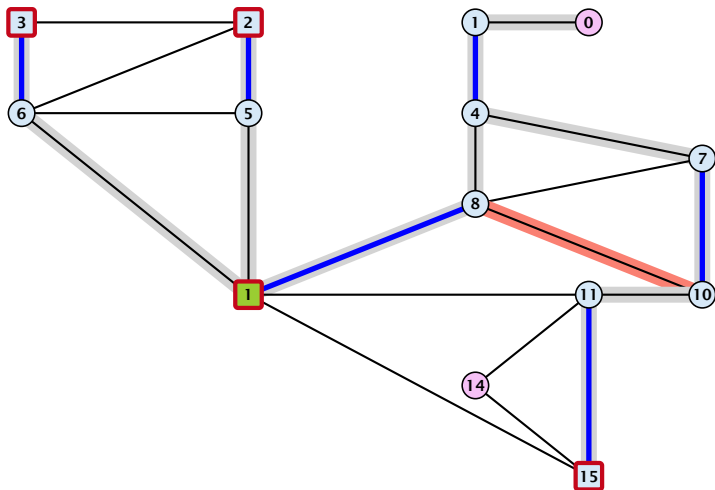
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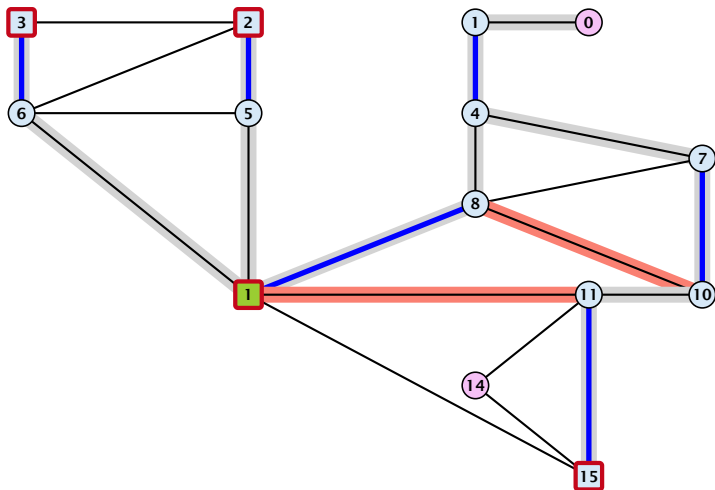
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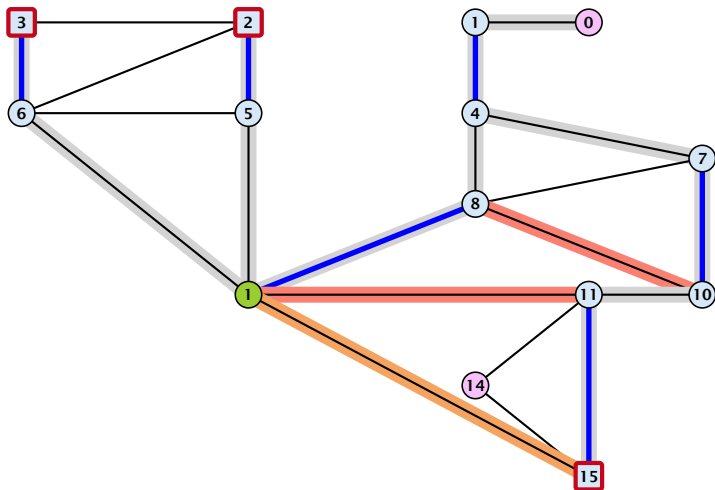
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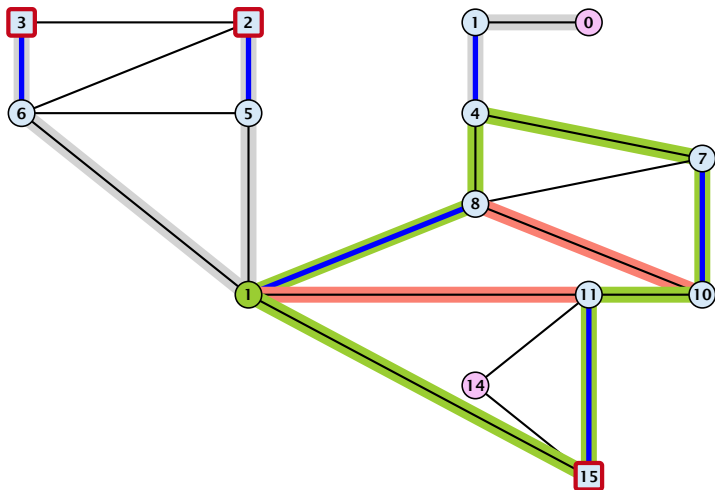
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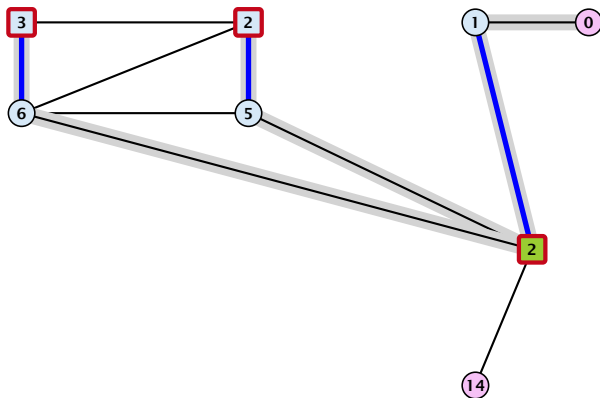
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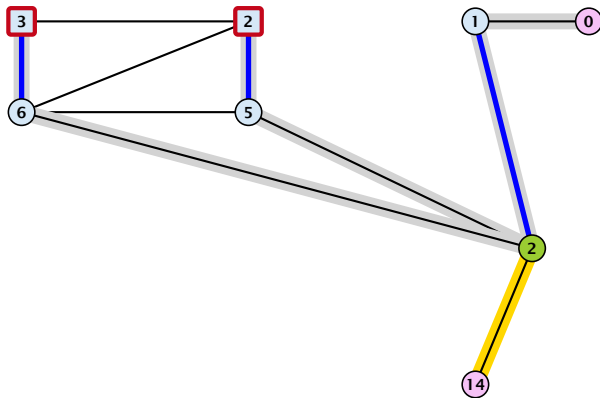
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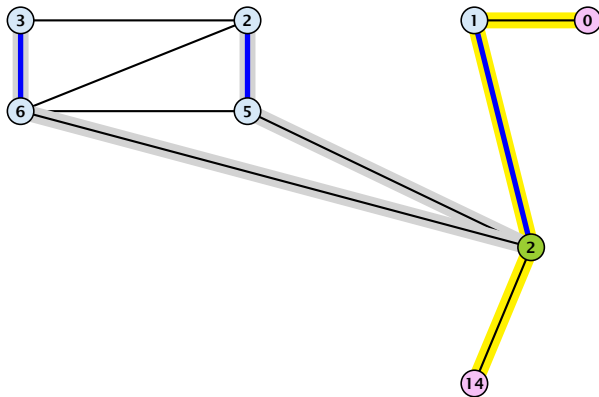
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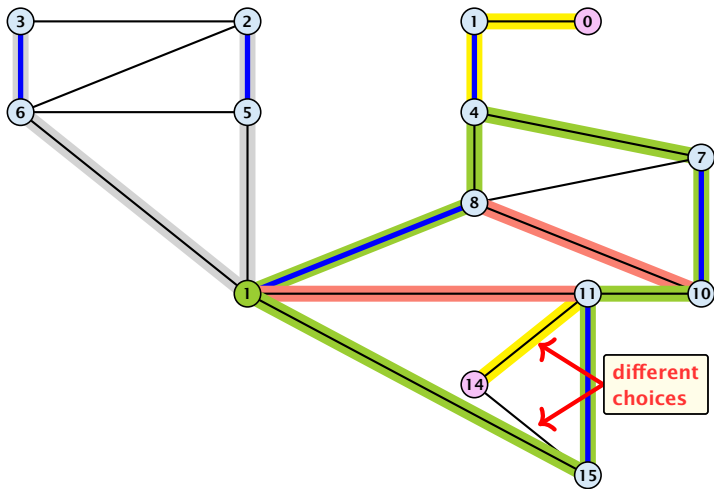
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Correctness

Assume that in G we have a flower w.r.t. matching M . Let r be the root, B the blossom, and w the base. Let graph $G' = G/B$ with pseudonode b . Let M' be the matching in the contracted graph.

Lemma 4

If G' contains an augmenting path P' starting at r (or the pseudo-node containing r) w.r.t. the matching M' then G contains an augmenting path starting at r w.r.t. matching M .

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Proof.

If P' does not contain b it is also an augmenting path in G .

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Case 1: non-empty stem

- ▶ Next suppose that the stem is non-empty.

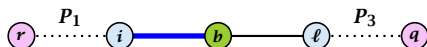
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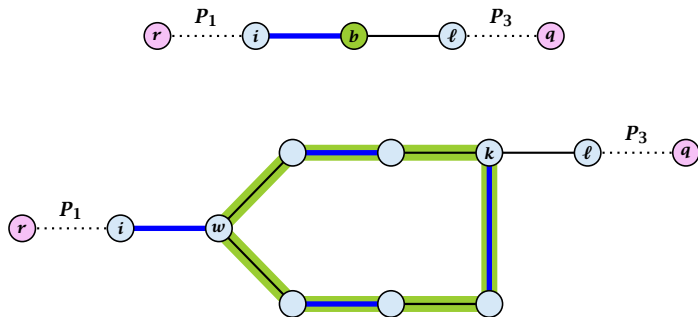
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Correctness

- ▶ After the expansion ℓ must be incident to some node in the blossom. Let this node be k .
- ▶ If $k \neq w$ there is an alternating path P_2 from w to k that ends in a matching edge.
- ▶ $P_1 \circ (i, w) \circ P_2 \circ (k, \ell) \circ P_3$ is an alternating path.
- ▶ If $k = w$ then $P_1 \circ (i, w) \circ (w, \ell) \circ P_3$ is an alternating path.

Correctness

Proof.

Case 2: empty stem

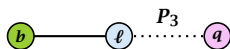
- ▶ If the stem is empty then after expanding the blossom,
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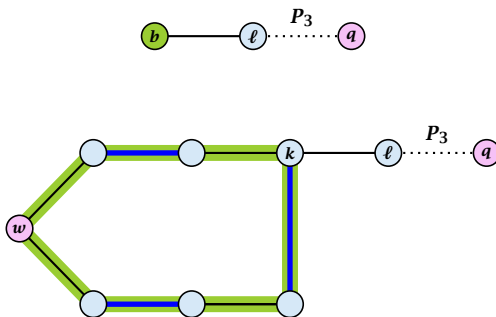


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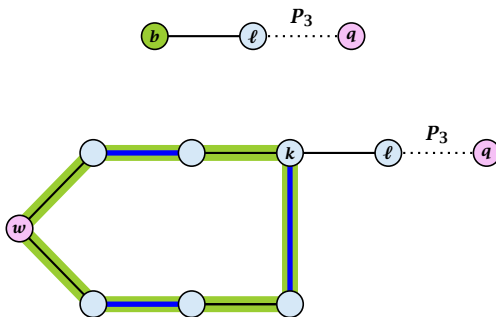


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Proof.

Case 2: empty stem

- ▶ If the stem is empty then after expanding the blossom, $w = r$.



- ▶ The path $r \circ P_2 \circ (k, l) \circ P_3$ is an alternating path.

Lemma 5

If G contains an augmenting path P from r to q w.r.t. matching M then G' contains an augmenting path from r (or the pseudo-node containing r) to q w.r.t. M' .

Correctness

Proof.

- ▶ If P does not contain a node from B there is nothing to prove.
- ▶ We can assume that r and q are the only free nodes in G .

Case 1: empty stem

Let i be the last node on the path P that is part of the blossom.

P is of the form $P_1 \circ (i, j) \circ P_2$, for some node j and (i, j) is unmatched.

$(b, j) \circ P_2$ is an augmenting path in the contracted network.

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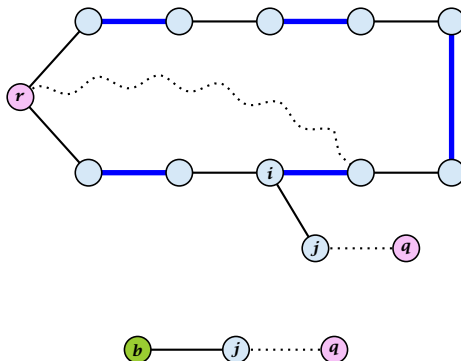
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Correctness

Illustration for Case 1:



Correctness

Case 2: non-empty stem

Let P_3 be alternating path from r to w ; this exists because r and w are root and base of a blossom. Define $M_+ = M \oplus P_3$.

In M_+ , r is matched and w is unmatched.

G must contain an augmenting path w.r.t. matching M_+ , since M and M_+ have same cardinality.

This path must go between w and q as these are the only unmatched vertices w.r.t. M_+ .

For M'_+ the blossom has an empty stem. Case 1 applies.

G' has an augmenting path w.r.t. M'_+ . It must also have an augmenting path w.r.t. M' , as both matchings have the same cardinality.

This path must go between r and q .

Correctness

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This path must go between r and q .

Algorithm 25 $\text{search}(r, \text{found})$

- 1: set $\bar{A}(i) \leftarrow A(i)$ for all nodes i
- 2: $\text{found} \leftarrow \text{false}$
- 3: unlabel all nodes;
- 4: give an even label to r and initialize $\text{list} \leftarrow \{r\}$
- 5: **while** $\text{list} \neq \emptyset$ **do**
- 6: delete a node i from list
- 7: $\text{examine}(i, \text{found})$
- 8: **if** $\text{found} = \text{true}$ **then return**

Search for an augmenting path
starting at r .

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$A(i)$ contains neighbours of node i .

We create a copy $\bar{A}(i)$ so that we later
can shrink blossoms.

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found is just a Boolean that allows
to abort the search process...

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In the beginning no node is in the tree.

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8: **if** $\text{found} = \text{true}$ **then return**

Put the root in the tree.

list could also be a set or a stack.

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7: $\text{examine}(i, \text{found})$

8: **if** $\text{found} = \text{true}$ **then return**

As long as there are nodes with
unexamined neighbours...

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- 6: delete a node i from list
- 7: **examine** (i, found)
- 8: **if** $\text{found} = \text{true}$ **then return**

...examine the next one

Algorithm 25 $\text{search}(r, \text{found})$

- 1: set $\bar{A}(i) \leftarrow A(i)$ for all nodes i
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- 4: give an even label to r and initialize $\text{list} \leftarrow \{r\}$
- 5: **while** $\text{list} \neq \emptyset$ **do**
- 6: delete a node i from list
- 7: examine(i, found)
- 8: **if** $\text{found} = \text{true}$ **then return**

If you found augmenting path
abort and start from next root.

Algorithm 26 examine($i, found$)

```
1: for all  $j \in \bar{A}(i)$  do  
2:   if  $j$  is even then contract( $i, j$ ) and return  
3:   if  $j$  is unmatched then  
4:      $q \leftarrow j$ ;  
5:     pred( $q$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;  
6:      $found \leftarrow \text{true}$ ;  
7:     return  
8:   if  $j$  is matched and unlabeled then  
9:     pred( $j$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;  
10:    pred(mate( $j$ ))  $\leftarrow j$ ;  
11:    add mate( $j$ ) to  $list$ 
```

Examine the neighbours of a node i

Algorithm 26 examine(i , $found$)

```
1: for all  $j \in \bar{A}(i)$  do  
2:   if  $j$  is even then contract( $i$ ,  $j$ ) and return  
3:   if  $j$  is unmatched then  
4:      $q \leftarrow j$ ;  
5:     pred( $q$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;  
6:      $found \leftarrow \text{true}$ ;  
7:     return  
8:   if  $j$  is matched and unlabeled then  
9:     pred( $j$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;  
10:    pred(mate( $j$ ))  $\leftarrow j$ ;  
11:    add mate( $j$ ) to  $list$ 
```

For all neighbours j do...

Algorithm 26 examine($i, found$)

```
1: for all  $j \in \bar{A}(i)$  do
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3:   if  $j$  is unmatched then
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5:     pred( $q$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;
6:      $found \leftarrow \text{true}$ ;
7:     return
8:   if  $j$  is matched and unlabeled then
9:     pred( $j$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;
10:    pred(mate( $j$ ))  $\leftarrow j$ ;
11:    add mate( $j$ ) to  $list$ 
```

You have found a blossom...

Algorithm 26 examine($i, found$)

```
1: for all  $j \in \bar{A}(i)$  do  
2:   if  $j$  is even then contract( $i, j$ ) and return  
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7:     return  
8:   if  $j$  is matched and unlabeled then  
9:     pred( $j$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;  
10:    pred(mate( $j$ ))  $\leftarrow j$ ;  
11:    add mate( $j$ ) to  $list$ 
```

You have found a free node which gives you an augmenting path.

Algorithm 26 examine($i, found$)

```
1: for all  $j \in \bar{A}(i)$  do  
2:   if  $j$  is even then contract( $i, j$ ) and return  
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6:      $found \leftarrow \text{true}$ ;  
7:     return  
8:   if  $j$  is matched and unlabeled then  
9:     pred( $j$ )  $\leftarrow i$ ;  
10:    pred(mate( $j$ ))  $\leftarrow j$ ;  
11:    add mate( $j$ ) to  $list$ 
```

If you find a matched node that is not
in the tree you grow...

Algorithm 26 $\text{examine}(i, \text{found})$

```
1: for all  $j \in \bar{A}(i)$  do  
2:   if  $j$  is even then  $\text{contract}(i, j)$  and return  
3:   if  $j$  is unmatched then  
4:      $q \leftarrow j$ ;  
5:      $\text{pred}(q) \leftarrow i$ ;  
6:      $\text{found} \leftarrow \text{true}$ ;  
7:     return  
8:   if  $j$  is matched and unlabeled then  
9:      $\text{pred}(j) \leftarrow i$ ;  
10:     $\text{pred}(\text{mate}(j)) \leftarrow j$ ;  
11:    add  $\text{mate}(j)$  to  $\text{list}$ 
```

$\text{mate}(j)$ is a new node from
which you can grow further.

Algorithm 27 $\text{contract}(i, j)$

- 1: trace pred-indices of i and j to identify a blossom B
- 2: create new node b and set $\bar{A}(b) \leftarrow \cup_{x \in B} \bar{A}(x)$
- 3: label b even and add to *list*
- 4: update $\bar{A}(j) \leftarrow \bar{A}(j) \cup \{b\}$ for each $j \in \bar{A}(b)$
- 5: form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
- 6: delete nodes in B from the graph

Contract blossom identified by
nodes i and j

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Get all nodes of the blossom.

Time: $\mathcal{O}(m)$

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Identify all neighbours of b .

Time: $\mathcal{O}(m)$ (how?)

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b will be an even node, and it has unexamined neighbours.

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Every node that was adjacent to a node
in B is now adjacent to b

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Only for making a blossom expansion easier.

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- 5: form a circular double linked list of nodes in B
- 6: delete nodes in B from the graph

Only delete links from nodes not in B to B .
When expanding the blossom again we can
recreate these links in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$.

Analysis

- ▶ A contraction operation can be performed in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$. Note, that any graph created will have at most m edges.
- ▶ The time between two contraction-operation is basically a BFS/DFS on a graph. Hence takes time $\mathcal{O}(m)$.
- ▶ There are at most n contractions as each contraction reduces the number of vertices.
- ▶ The expansion can trivially be done in the same time as needed for all contractions.
- ▶ An augmentation requires time $\mathcal{O}(n)$. There are at most n of them.
- ▶ In total the running time is at most

$$n \cdot (\mathcal{O}(mn) + \mathcal{O}(n)) = \mathcal{O}(mn^2) .$$

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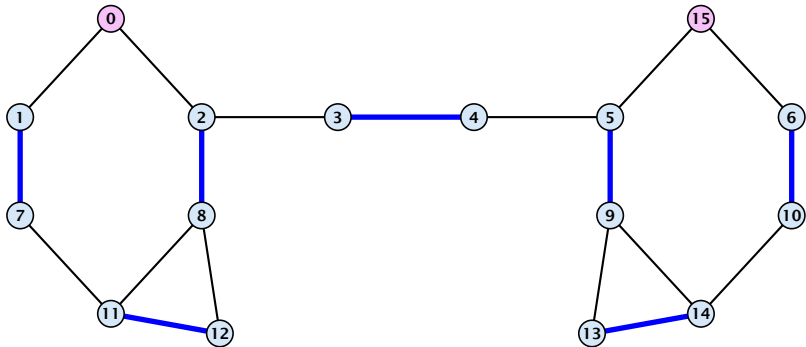
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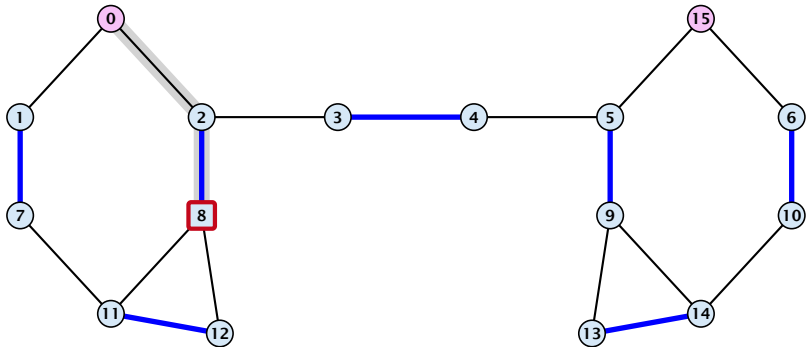
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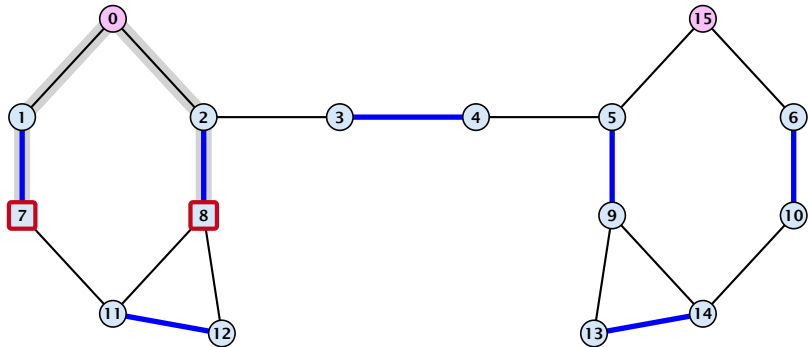
Example: Blossom Algorithm



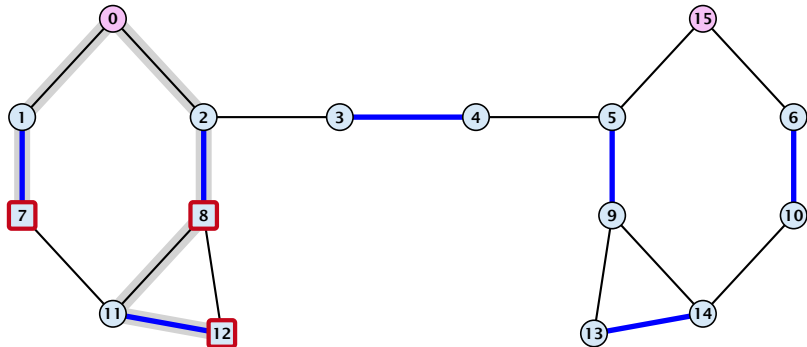
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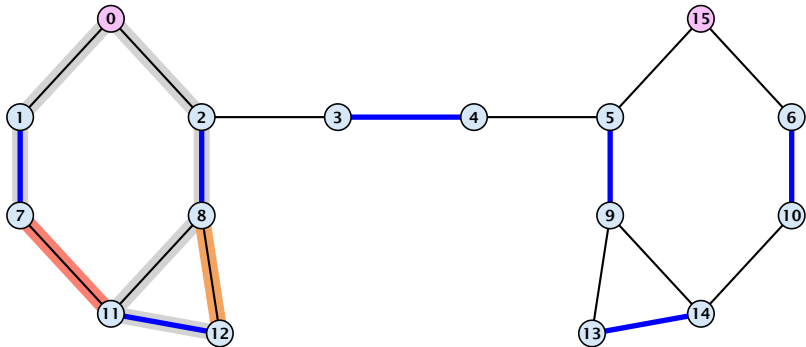
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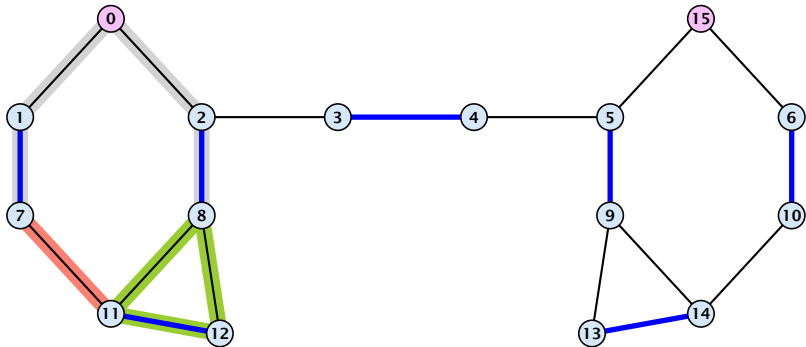
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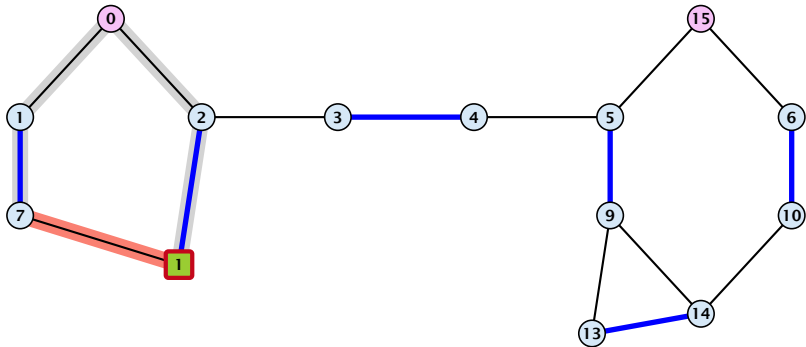
Example: Blossom Algorithm



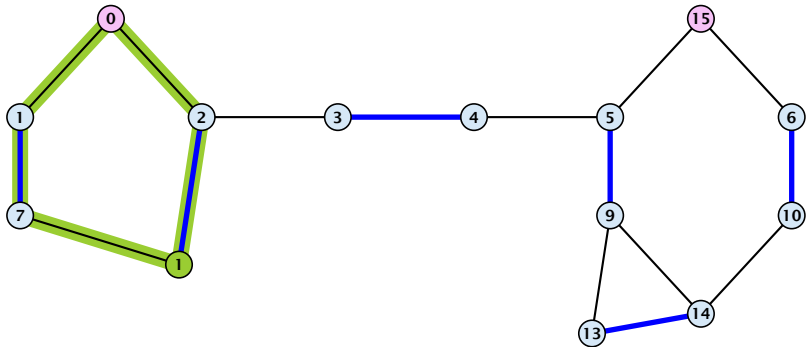
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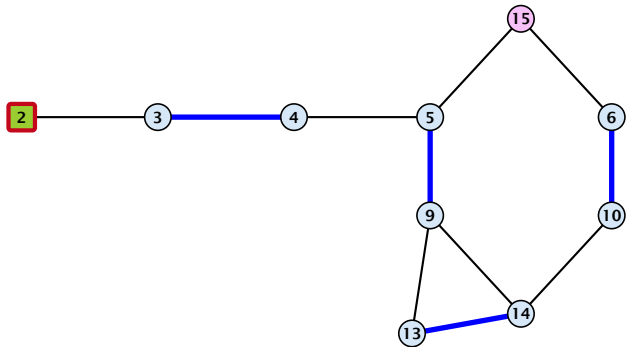
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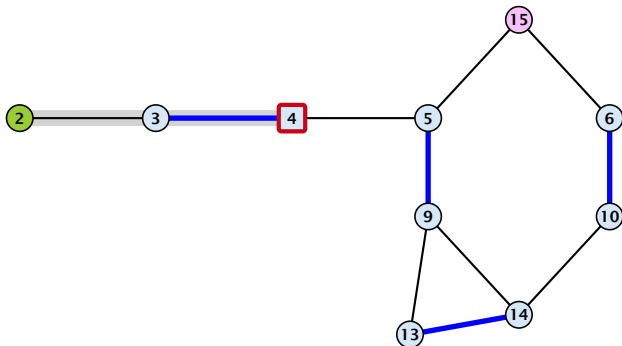
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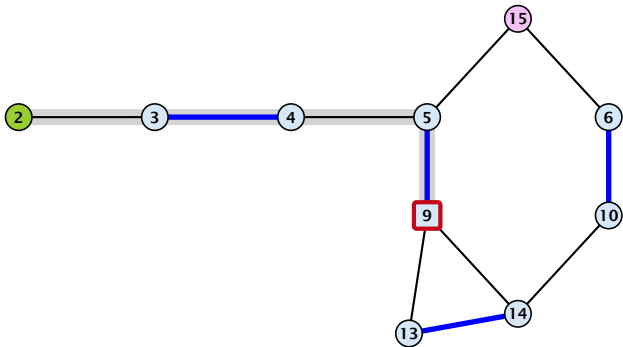
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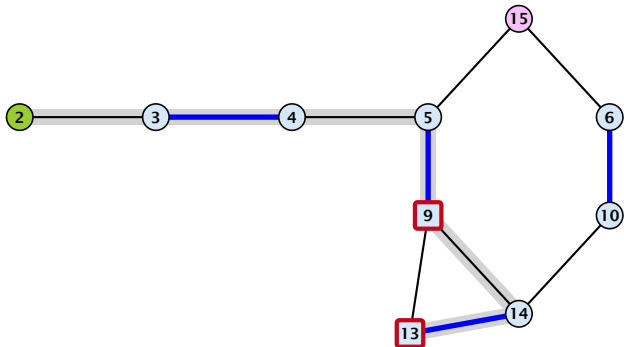
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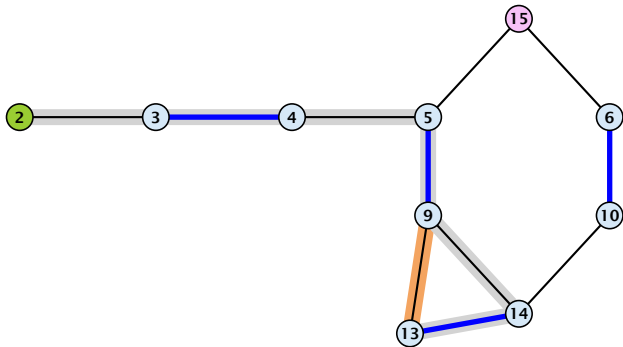
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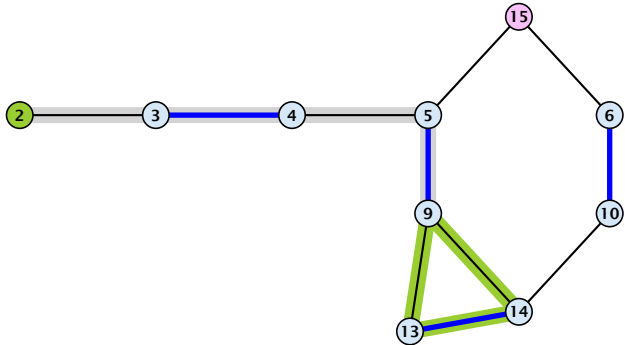
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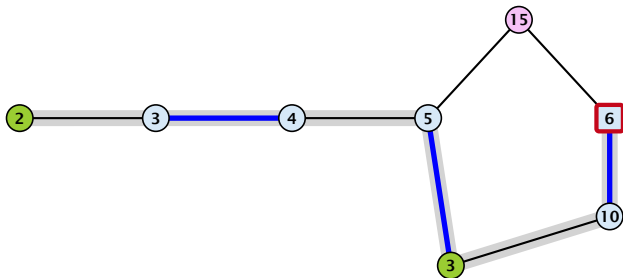
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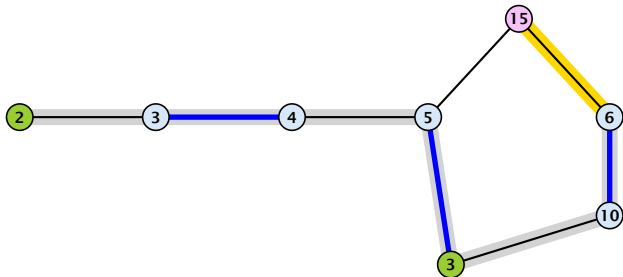
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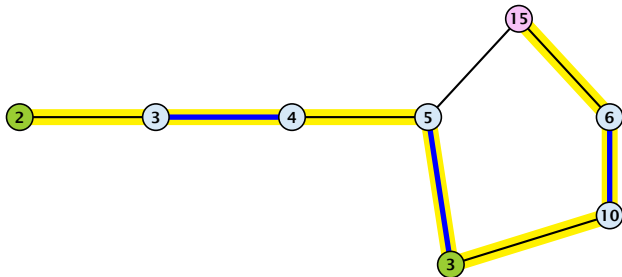
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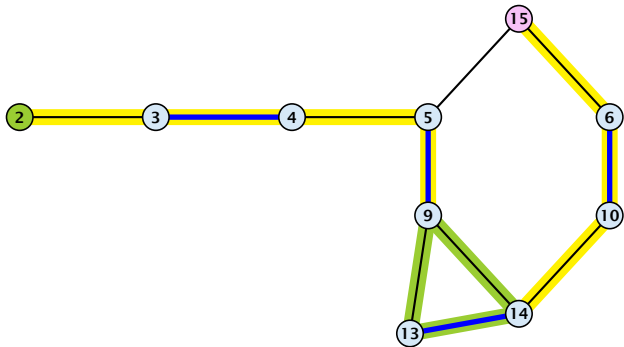
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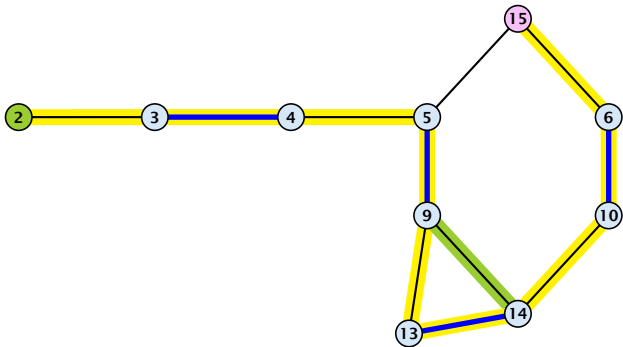
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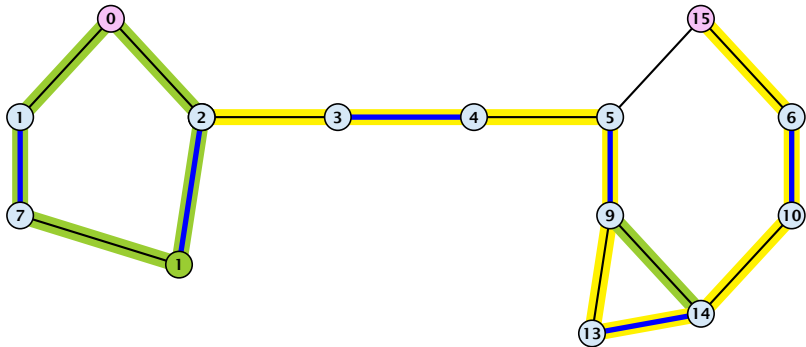
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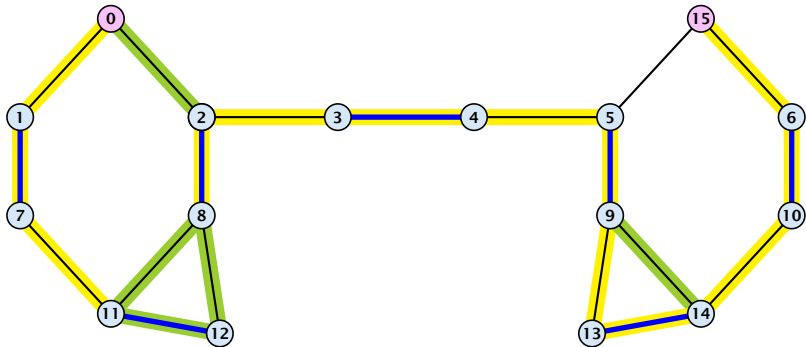
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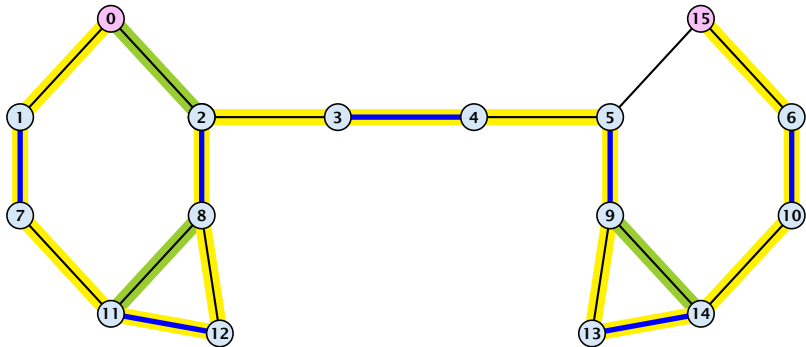
Example: Blossom Algorithm



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Example: Blossom Algorithm



A Fast Matching Algorithm

Algorithm 28 Bimatch-Hopcroft-Karp(G)

```
1:  $M \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2: repeat
3:   let  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  be maximal set of
4:   vertex-disjoint, shortest augmenting path w.r.t.  $M$ .
5:    $M \leftarrow M \oplus (P_1 \cup \dots \cup P_k)$ 
6: until  $\mathcal{P} = \emptyset$ 
7: return  $M$ 
```

We call one iteration of the repeat-loop a **phase** of the algorithm.

Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 6

Given a matching M and a maximal matching M^* there exist $|M^*| - |M|$ *vertex-disjoint* augmenting path w.r.t. M .

Proof:

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Proof:

- ▶ Similar to the proof that a matching is optimal iff it does not contain an augmenting path.
- ▶ Consider the graph $G = (V, M \oplus M^*)$, and mark edges in this graph blue if they are in M and red if they are in M^* .
- ▶ The connected components of G are cycles and paths.
- ▶ The graph contains $k \leq |M^*| - |M|$ more red edges than blue edges.
- ▶ Hence, there are at least k components that form a path starting and ending with a red edge. These are augmenting paths w.r.t. M .

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Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

- ▶ Let P_1, \dots, P_k be a maximal collection of vertex-disjoint, shortest augmenting paths w.r.t. M (let $\ell = |P_i|$).
- ▶ $M' \cong M \oplus (P_1 \cup \dots \cup P_k) = M \oplus P_1 \oplus \dots \oplus P_k$.
- ▶ Let P be an augmenting path in M' .

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The set $A \cong M \oplus (M' \oplus P) = (P_1 \cup \dots \cup P_k) \oplus P$ contains at least $(k+1)\ell$ edges.

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Proof.

- ▶ The set describes exactly the symmetric difference between matchings M and $M' \oplus P$.
- ▶ Hence, the set contains at least $k + 1$ vertex-disjoint augmenting paths w.r.t. M as $|M'| = |M| + k + 1$.
- ▶ Each of these paths is of length at least ℓ .

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- ▶ Otherwise, at least one edge from P coincides with an edge from paths $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$.
- ▶ This edge is not contained in A .
- ▶ Hence, $|A| \leq k\ell + |P| - 1$.
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Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

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Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 9

The Hopcroft-Karp algorithm requires at most $2\sqrt{|V|}$ phases.

Proof.

- ▶ After iteration $\lfloor \sqrt{|V|} \rfloor$ the length of a shortest augmenting path must be at least $\lfloor \sqrt{|V|} \rfloor + 1 \geq \sqrt{|V|}$.
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Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

Lemma 10

One phase of the Hopcroft-Karp algorithm can be implemented in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$.

construct a “level graph” G' :

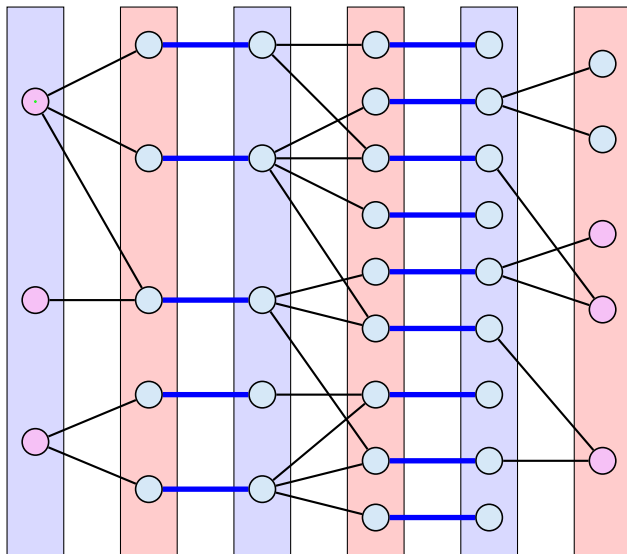
- ▶ construct Level 0 that includes all free vertices on left side L
- ▶ construct Level 1 containing all neighbors of Level 0
- ▶ construct Level 2 containing **matching** neighbors of Level 1
- ▶ construct Level 3 containing all neighbors of Level 2
- ▶ ...
- ▶ stop when a level (apart from Level 0) contains a free vertex

can be done in time $\mathcal{O}(m)$ by a modified BFS

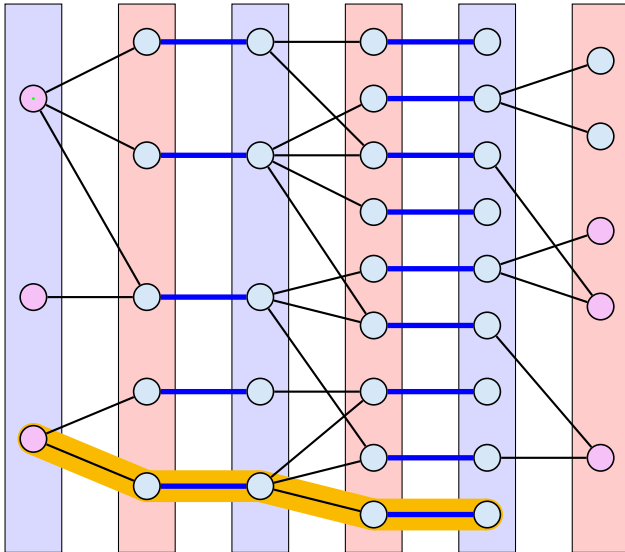
Analysis Hopcroft-Karp

- ▶ a shortest augmenting path **must** go from Level 0 to the last layer constructed
- ▶ it can only use edges between layers
- ▶ construct a maximal set of vertex disjoint augmenting path connecting the layers
- ▶ for this, go forward until you either reach a free vertex or you reach a “dead end” v
- ▶ if you reach a free vertex delete the augmenting path and all incident edges from the graph
- ▶ if you reach a dead end backtrack and delete v together with its incident edges

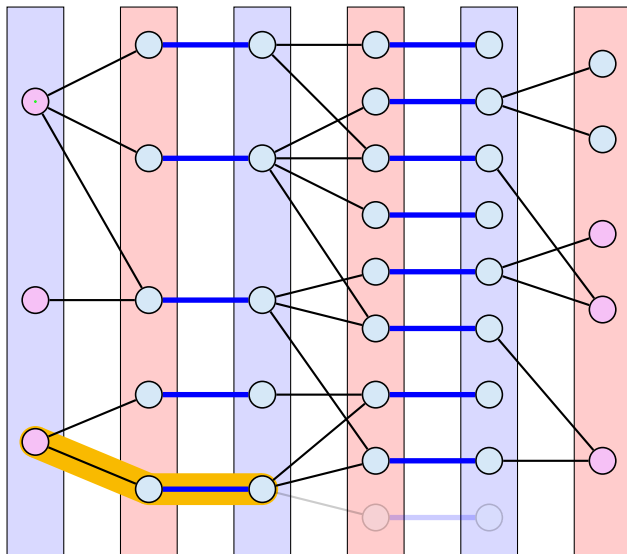
Analysis Hopcroft-Karp



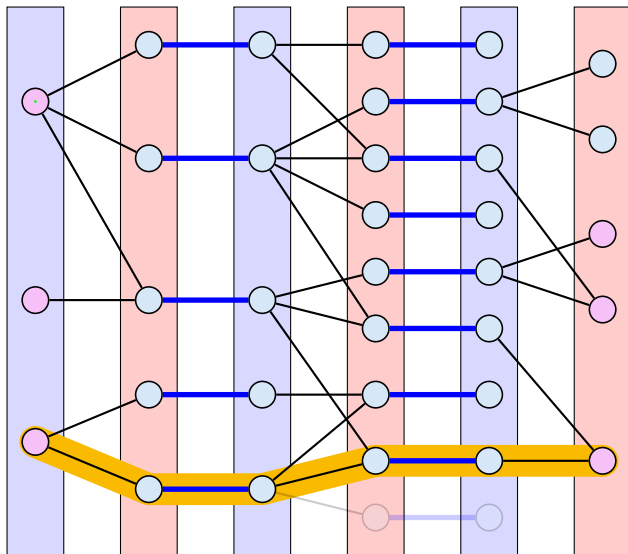
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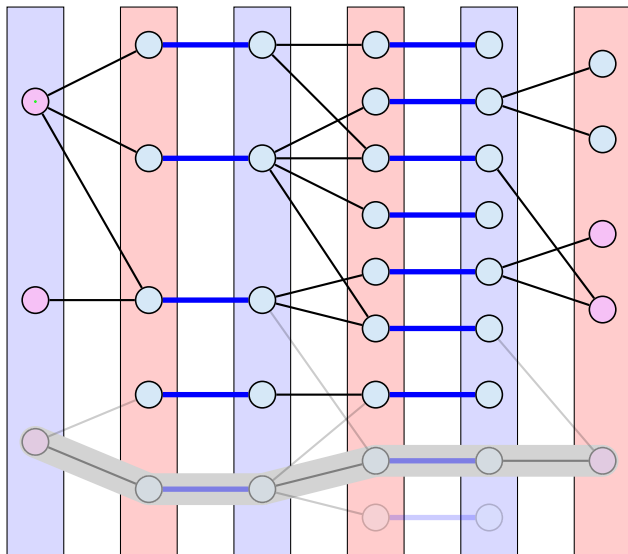
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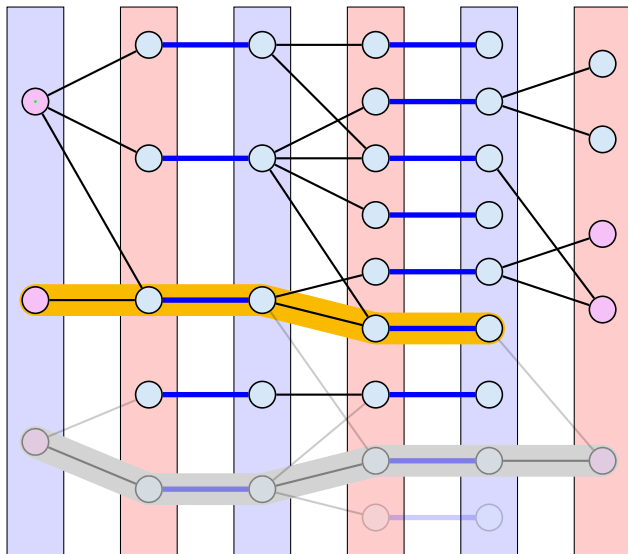
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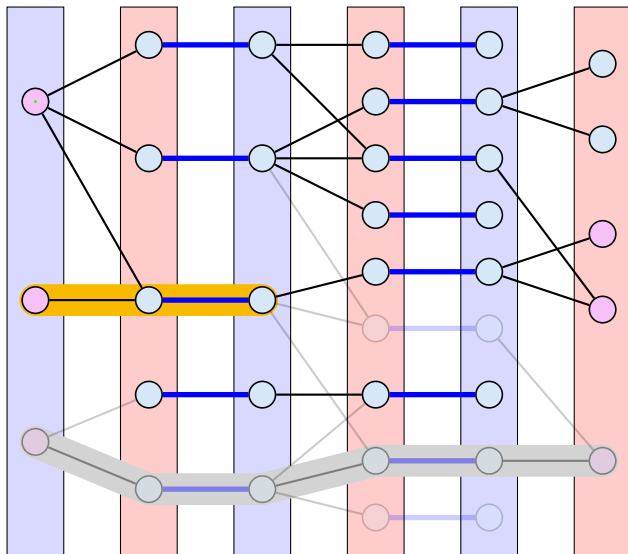
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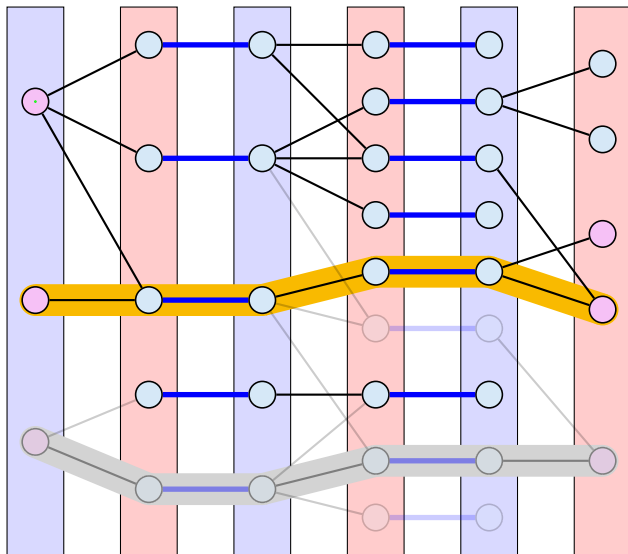
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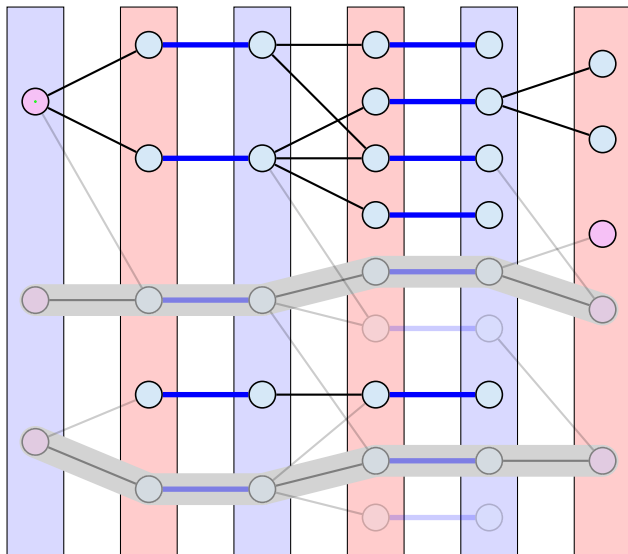
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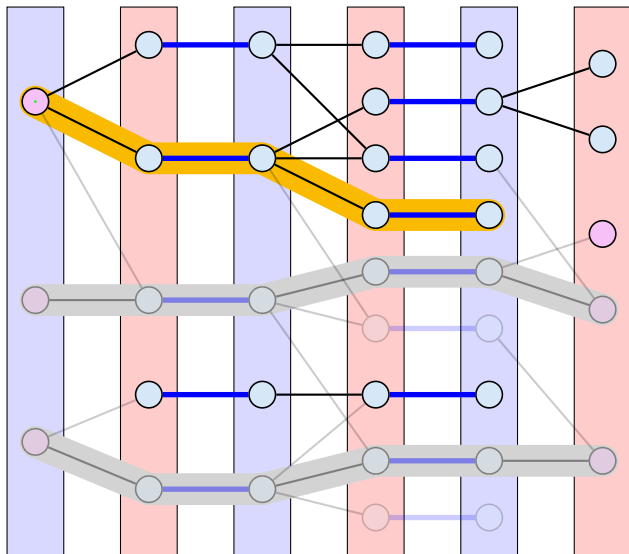
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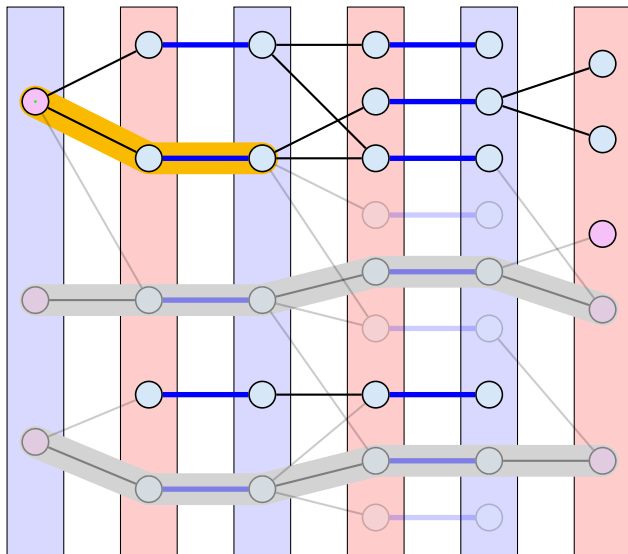
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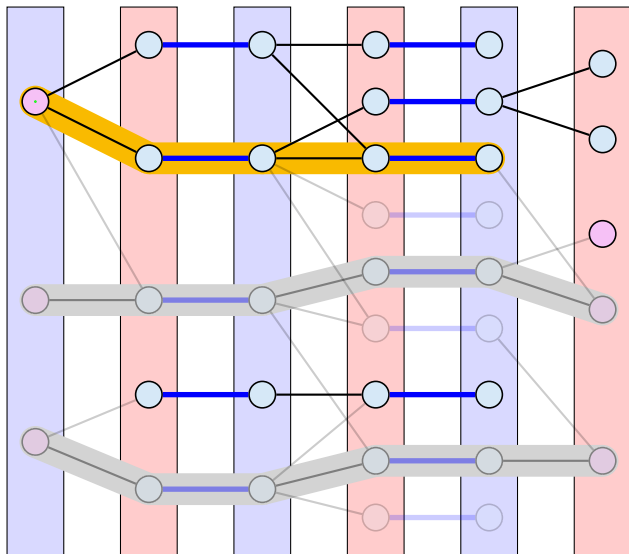
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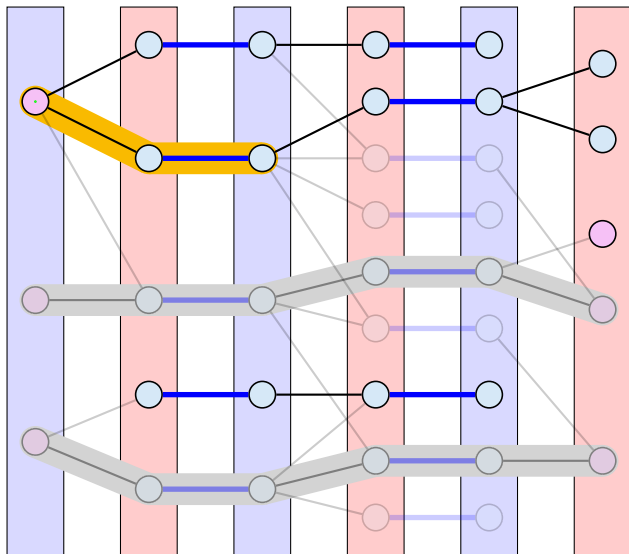
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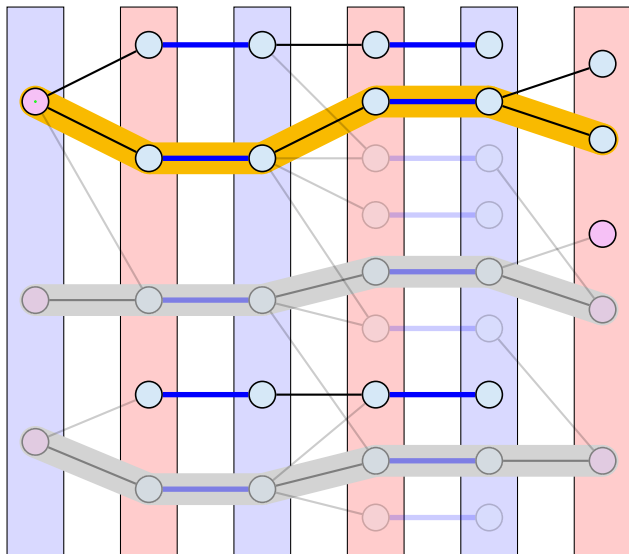
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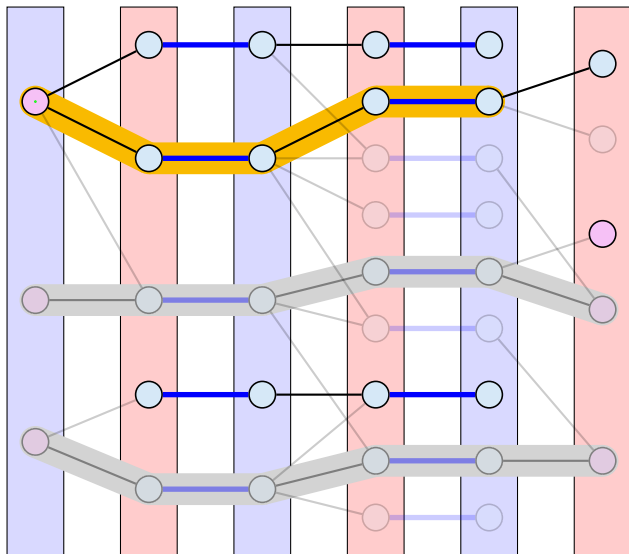
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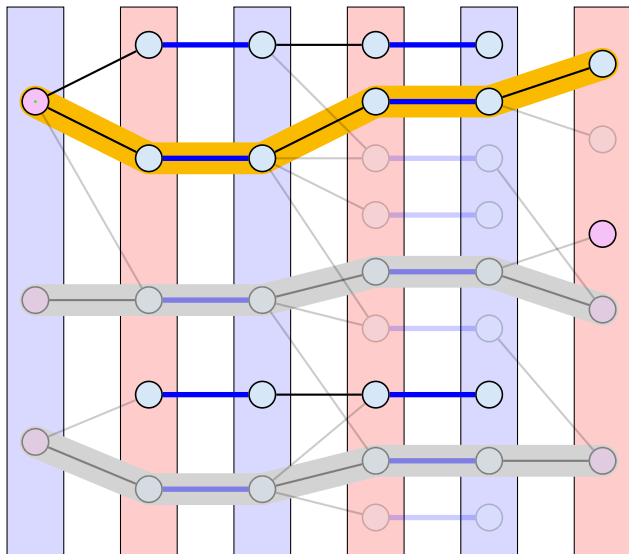
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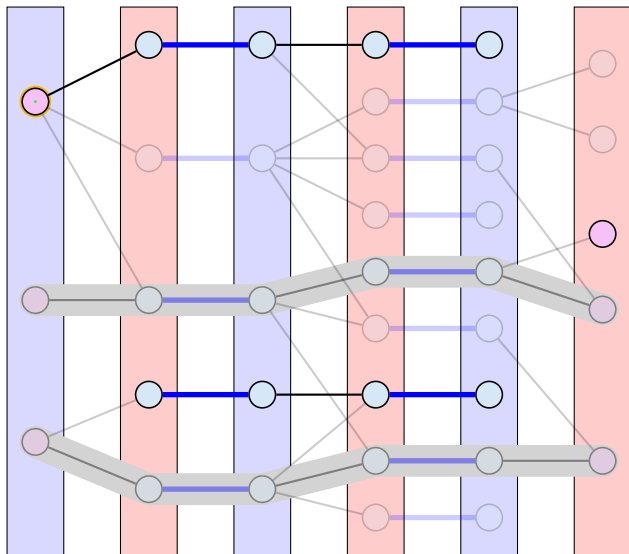
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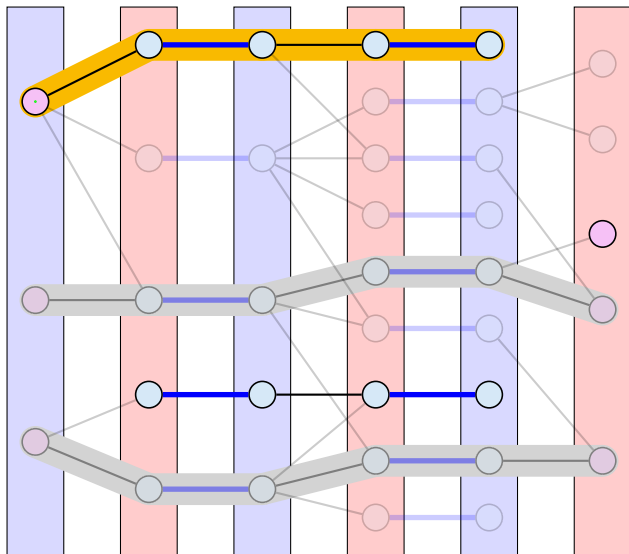
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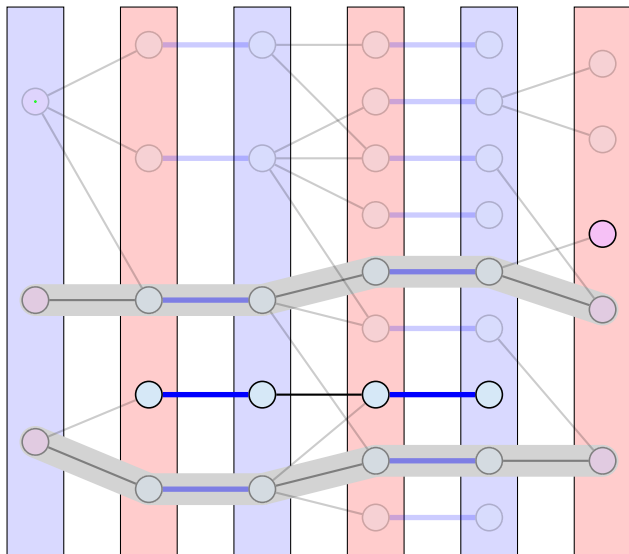
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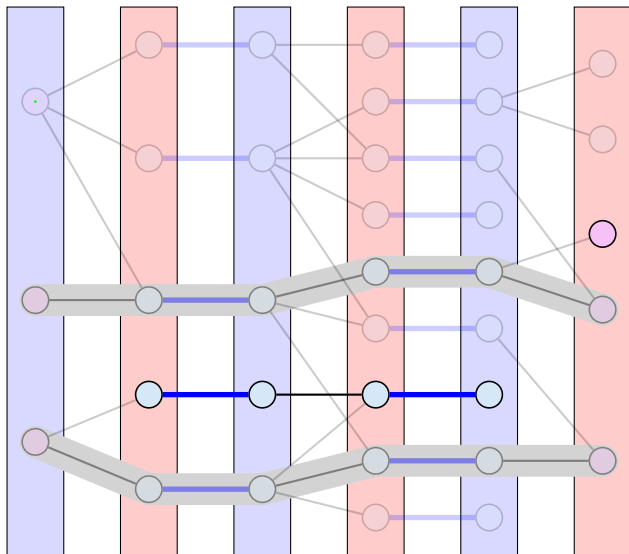
Analysis Hopcroft-Karp



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Analysis Hopcroft-Karp



Analysis: Shortest Augmenting Path for Flows

cost for searches during a phase is $\mathcal{O}(mn)$

- ▶ a search (successful or unsuccessful) takes time $\mathcal{O}(n)$
- ▶ a search deletes at least one edge from the level graph

there are at most n phases

Time: $\mathcal{O}(mn^2)$.

Analysis for Unit-capacity Simple Networks

cost for searches during a phase is $\mathcal{O}(m)$

- ▶ an edge/vertex is traversed at most twice

need at most $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$ phases

- ▶ after \sqrt{n} phases there is a cut of size at most \sqrt{n} in the residual graph
- ▶ hence at most \sqrt{n} additional augmentations required

Time: $\mathcal{O}(m\sqrt{n})$.