# Matchings in Graphs

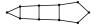
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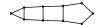
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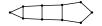
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Thought Exercise: What is the result of overlapping two matchings?

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Example. maximal vs. maximal path in a graph:

Example. maximum vs. maximal clique in a graph:

# Application: Scheduling

Suppose you are working in a group trying to complete all the problems on the homework. Depending on everyone's preferences, you would like to assign each member one problem to do.

Person A likes problems 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Person B likes problems 1, 2, and 4.

Person C likes problems 3, 4, and 5.

Person D likes problems 2 and 3.

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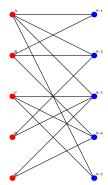
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Create a graph that models the situation.



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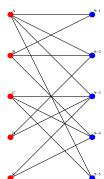
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#### Question.

What is a maximum matching for this graph?

We will use an algorithm to answer this question.



# Algorithms

Definition. An algorithm is a set of rules followed to solve a problem.

In general, an algorithm has the steps:

- 1. Organize the input.
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To verify the **correctness** of an algorithm:

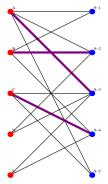
- 1. Verify that the algorithm terminates. (often invoking finiteness)
- 2. Verify that the result satisfies the desired conditions.

# Motivating The Hungarian Algorithm

Let us work through the basic idea behind the algorithm.

We start with an initial matching; we might as well make it maximal.

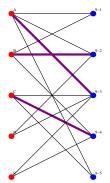
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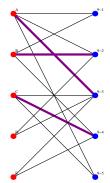


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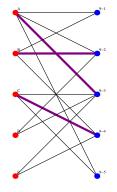
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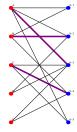
Example.  $D \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow B \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow C$  is an M-alternating path.

**Definition**. An **M-augmenting path** is an **M-alternating path** that begins AND ends at unmatched vertices.

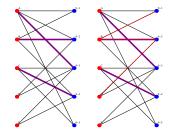


It is augmenting because we can improve M by toggling the edges between those in M and those not in M.

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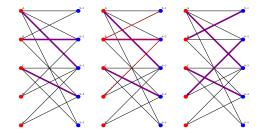


### Motivating The Hungarian Algorithm



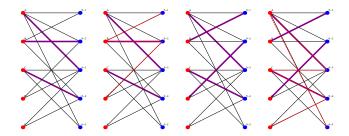
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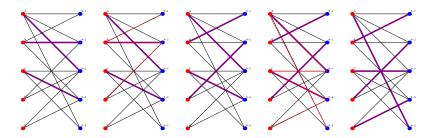
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The matching M'' is maximal. (Why?)

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Return to Step 2.

# Applying the Hungarian Algorithm

Here is something that might happen during an application of the Hungarian algorithm:

Example. There is no M-augmenting path starting at B in the graph to the right.

We would mark B ineligible and move on to the next eligible, unmatched red vertex in the graph (E).

#### **Proof of Correctness**

Claim. The Hungarian Algorithm gives a maximum matching.

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This path is an M-augmenting path, contradicting the definition of M.