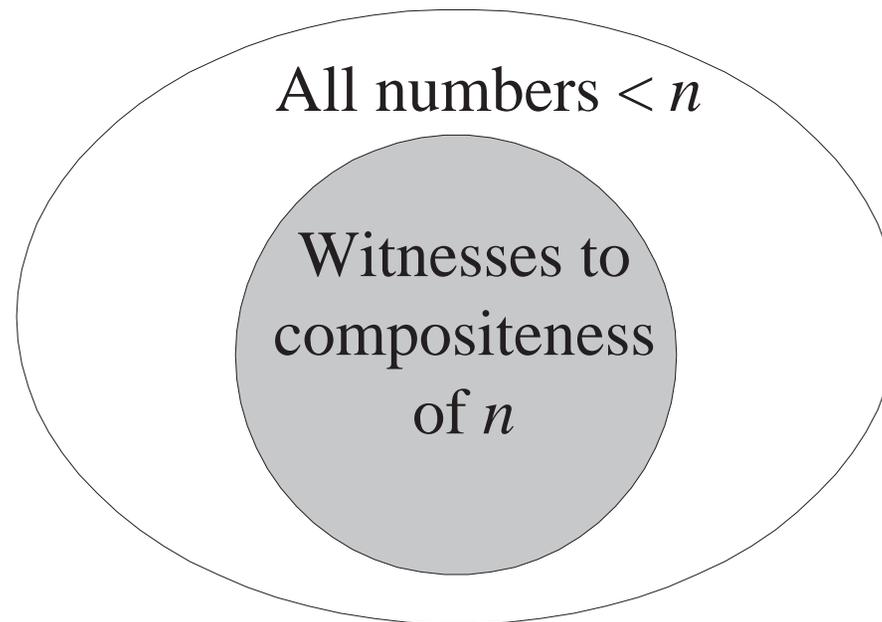


## The Density Attack for PRIMES



## The Density Attack for PRIMES

- 1: Pick  $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  randomly;
- 2: **if**  $k \mid n$  and  $k \neq 1$  and  $k \neq n$  **then**
- 3:     **return** “ $n$  is composite”;
- 4: **else**
- 5:     **return** “ $n$  is (probably) a prime”;
- 6: **end if**

## The Density Attack for PRIMES (continued)

- It works, but does it work well?
- The ratio of numbers  $\leq n$  relatively prime to  $n$  (the white ring) is

$$\frac{\phi(n)}{n}.$$

- When  $n = pq$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct primes,

$$\frac{\phi(n)}{n} = \frac{pq - p - q + 1}{pq} > 1 - \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}.$$

## The Density Attack for PRIMES (concluded)

- So the ratio of numbers  $\leq n$  *not* relatively prime to  $n$  (the grey area) is  $< (1/q) + (1/p)$ .
  - The “density attack” has probability about  $2/\sqrt{n}$  of factoring  $n = pq$  when  $p \sim q = O(\sqrt{n})$ .
  - The “density attack” to factor  $n = pq$  hence takes  $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$  steps on average when  $p \sim q = O(\sqrt{n})$ .
  - This running time is exponential:  $\Omega(2^{0.5 \log_2 n})$ .

## The Chinese Remainder Theorem

- Let  $n = n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$ , where  $n_i$  are pairwise relatively prime.
- For any integers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k$ , the set of simultaneous equations

$$x = a_1 \pmod{n_1},$$

$$x = a_2 \pmod{n_2},$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x = a_k \pmod{n_k},$$

has a unique solution modulo  $n$  for the unknown  $x$ .

## Fermat's "Little" Theorem<sup>a</sup>

**Lemma 56** For all  $0 < a < p$ ,  $a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$ .

- Recall  $\Phi(p) = \{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$ .
- Consider  $a\Phi(p) = \{am \pmod{p} : m \in \Phi(p)\}$ .
- $a\Phi(p) = \Phi(p)$ .
  - $a\Phi(p) \subseteq \Phi(p)$  as a remainder must be between 1 and  $p-1$ .
  - Suppose  $am \equiv am' \pmod{p}$  for  $m > m'$ , where  $m, m' \in \Phi(p)$ .
  - That means  $a(m - m') = 0 \pmod{p}$ , and  $p$  divides  $a$  or  $m - m'$ , which is impossible.

---

<sup>a</sup>Pierre de Fermat (1601–1665).

## The Proof (concluded)

- Multiply all the numbers in  $\Phi(p)$  to yield  $(p - 1)!$ .
- Multiply all the numbers in  $a\Phi(p)$  to yield  $a^{p-1}(p - 1)!$ .
- As  $a\Phi(p) = \Phi(p)$ , we have

$$a^{p-1}(p - 1)! \equiv (p - 1)! \pmod{p}.$$

- Finally,  $a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$  because  $p \nmid (p - 1)!$ .

## The Fermat-Euler Theorem<sup>a</sup>

**Corollary 57** For all  $a \in \Phi(n)$ ,  $a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ .

- The proof is similar to that of Lemma 56 (p. 473).
- Consider  $a\Phi(n) = \{am \pmod{n} : m \in \Phi(n)\}$ .
- $a\Phi(n) = \Phi(n)$ .
  - $a\Phi(n) \subseteq \Phi(n)$  as a remainder must be between 0 and  $n - 1$  and relatively prime to  $n$ .
  - Suppose  $am \equiv am' \pmod{n}$  for  $m' < m < n$ , where  $m, m' \in \Phi(n)$ .
  - That means  $a(m - m') \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ , and  $n$  divides  $a$  or  $m - m'$ , which is impossible.

---

<sup>a</sup>Proof by Mr. Wei-Cheng Cheng (R93922108, D95922011) on November 24, 2004.

## The Proof (concluded)<sup>a</sup>

- Multiply all the numbers in  $\Phi(n)$  to yield  $\prod_{m \in \Phi(n)} m$ .
- Multiply all the numbers in  $a\Phi(n)$  to yield  $a^{\phi(n)} \prod_{m \in \Phi(n)} m$ .
- As  $a\Phi(n) = \Phi(n)$ ,

$$\prod_{m \in \Phi(n)} m \equiv a^{\phi(n)} \left( \prod_{m \in \Phi(n)} m \right) \pmod{n}.$$

- Finally,  $a^{\phi(n)} = 1 \pmod{n}$  because  $n \nmid \prod_{m \in \Phi(n)} m$ .

---

<sup>a</sup>Some typographical errors corrected by Mr. Jung-Ying Chen (D95723006) on November 18, 2008.

## An Example

- As  $12 = 2^2 \times 3$ ,

$$\phi(12) = 12 \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) = 4.$$

- In fact,  $\Phi(12) = \{1, 5, 7, 11\}$ .
- For example,

$$5^4 = 625 = 1 \pmod{12}.$$

## Exponents

- The **exponent** of  $m \in \Phi(p)$  is the least  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that

$$m^k \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

- Every residue  $s \in \Phi(p)$  has an exponent.
  - $1, s, s^2, s^3, \dots$  eventually repeats itself modulo  $p$ , say  $s^i \equiv s^j \pmod{p}$ , which means  $s^{j-i} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .
- If the exponent of  $m$  is  $k$  and  $m^\ell \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , then  $k \mid \ell$ .
  - Otherwise,  $\ell = qk + a$  for  $0 < a < k$ , and  $m^\ell \equiv m^{qk+a} \equiv m^a \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , a contradiction.

**Lemma 58** *Any nonzero polynomial of degree  $k$  has at most  $k$  distinct roots modulo  $p$ .*

## Exponents and Primitive Roots

- From Fermat's "little" theorem, all exponents divide  $p - 1$ .
- A primitive root of  $p$  is thus a number with exponent  $p - 1$ .
- Let  $R(k)$  denote the total number of residues in  $\Phi(p) = \{1, 2, \dots, p - 1\}$  that have exponent  $k$ .
- We already knew that  $R(k) = 0$  for  $k \nmid (p - 1)$ .
- So

$$\sum_{k|(p-1)} R(k) = p - 1$$

as every number has an exponent.

## Size of $R(k)$

- Any  $a \in \Phi(p)$  of exponent  $k$  satisfies

$$x^k = 1 \pmod{p}.$$

- Hence there are at most  $k$  residues of exponent  $k$ , i.e.,  $R(k) \leq k$ , by Lemma 58 (p. 478).
- Let  $s$  be a residue of exponent  $k$ .
- $1, s, s^2, \dots, s^{k-1}$  are distinct modulo  $p$ .
  - Otherwise,  $s^i \equiv s^j \pmod{p}$  with  $i < j$ .
  - Then  $s^{j-i} = 1 \pmod{p}$  with  $j - i < k$ , a contradiction.
- As all these  $k$  distinct numbers satisfy  $x^k = 1 \pmod{p}$ , they comprise *all* the solutions of  $x^k = 1 \pmod{p}$ .

## Size of $R(k)$ (continued)

- But do all of them have exponent  $k$  (i.e.,  $R(k) = k$ )?
- And if not (i.e.,  $R(k) < k$ ), how many of them do?
- Pick  $s^\ell$ , where  $\ell < k$ .
- Suppose  $\ell \notin \Phi(k)$  with  $\gcd(\ell, k) = d > 1$ .

- Then

$$(s^\ell)^{k/d} = (s^k)^{\ell/d} = 1 \pmod{p}.$$

- Therefore,  $s^\ell$  has exponent at most  $k/d < k$ .
- So  $s^\ell$  has exponent  $k$  *only if*  $\ell \in \Phi(k)$ .
- We conclude that

$$R(k) \leq \phi(k).$$

## Size of $R(k)$ (concluded)

- Because all  $p - 1$  residues have an exponent,

$$p - 1 = \sum_{k|(p-1)} R(k) \leq \sum_{k|(p-1)} \phi(k) = p - 1$$

by Lemma 55 (p. 465).

- Hence

$$R(k) = \begin{cases} \phi(k) & \text{when } k|(p-1) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- In particular,  $R(p - 1) = \phi(p - 1) > 0$ , and  $p$  has at least one primitive root.
- This proves one direction of Theorem 50 (p. 451).

## A Few Calculations

- Let  $p = 13$ .
- From p. 475, we know  $\phi(p - 1) = 4$ .
- Hence  $R(12) = 4$ .
- Indeed, there are 4 primitive roots of  $p$ .
- As

$$\Phi(p - 1) = \{1, 5, 7, 11\},$$

the primitive roots are

$$g^1, g^5, g^7, g^{11},$$

where  $g$  is any primitive root.

## The Other Direction of Theorem 50 (p. 451)

- We show  $p$  is a prime if there is a number  $r$  such that
  1.  $r^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$ , and
  2.  $r^{(p-1)/q} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  for all prime divisors  $q$  of  $p - 1$ .
- Suppose  $p$  is not a prime.
- We proceed to show that no primitive roots exist.
- Suppose  $r^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$  (note  $\gcd(r, p) = 1$ ).
- We will show that the 2nd condition must be violated.

## The Proof (continued)

- So we proceed to show  $r^{(p-1)/q} = 1 \pmod p$  for some prime divisor  $q$  of  $p - 1$ .
- $r^{\phi(p)} = 1 \pmod p$  by the Fermat-Euler theorem (p. 475).
- Because  $p$  is not a prime,  $\phi(p) < p - 1$ .
- Let  $k$  be the smallest integer such that  $r^k = 1 \pmod p$ .
- With the 1st condition, it is easy to show that  $k \mid (p - 1)$  (similar to p. 478).
- Note that  $k \mid \phi(p)$  (p. 478).
- As  $k \leq \phi(p)$ ,  $k < p - 1$ .

## The Proof (concluded)

- Let  $q$  be a prime divisor of  $(p - 1)/k > 1$ .
- Then  $k|(p - 1)/q$ .
- By the definition of  $k$ ,

$$r^{(p-1)/q} = 1 \pmod{p}.$$

- But this violates the 2nd condition.

## Function Problems

- Decision problems are yes/no problems (SAT, TSP (D), etc.).
- **Function problems** require a solution (a satisfying truth assignment, a best TSP tour, etc.).
- Optimization problems are clearly function problems.
- What is the relation between function and decision problems?
- Which one is harder?

## Function Problems Cannot Be Easier than Decision Problems

- If we know how to generate a solution, we can solve the corresponding decision problem.
  - If you can find a satisfying truth assignment efficiently, then SAT is in P.
  - If you can find the best TSP tour efficiently, then TSP (D) is in P.
- But decision problems can be as hard as the corresponding function problems.

## FSAT

- FSAT is this function problem:
  - Let  $\phi(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  be a boolean expression.
  - If  $\phi$  is satisfiable, then return a satisfying truth assignment.
  - Otherwise, return “no.”
- We next show that if  $\text{SAT} \in \text{P}$ , then FSAT has a polynomial-time algorithm.
- SAT is a subroutine (black box) that returns “yes” or “no” on the satisfiability of the input.

## An Algorithm for FSAT Using SAT

```
1:  $t := \epsilon$ ; {Truth assignment.}
2: if  $\phi \in \text{SAT}$  then
3:   for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  do
4:     if  $\phi[x_i = \text{true}] \in \text{SAT}$  then
5:        $t := t \cup \{x_i = \text{true}\}$ ;
6:        $\phi := \phi[x_i = \text{true}]$ ;
7:     else
8:        $t := t \cup \{x_i = \text{false}\}$ ;
9:        $\phi := \phi[x_i = \text{false}]$ ;
10:    end if
11:  end for
12:  return  $t$ ;
13: else
14:  return “no”;
15: end if
```

## Analysis

- If SAT can be solved in polynomial time, so can FSAT.
  - There are  $\leq n + 1$  calls to the algorithm for SAT.<sup>a</sup>
  - Boolean expressions shorter than  $\phi$  are used in each call to the algorithm for SAT.
- Hence SAT and FSAT are equally hard (or easy).
- Note that this reduction from FSAT to SAT is not a Karp reduction (recall p. 265).
- Instead, it calls SAT multiple times as a subroutine and moves on SAT's outputs.

---

<sup>a</sup>Contributed by Ms. Eva Ou (R93922132) on November 24, 2004.

## TSP and TSP (D) Revisited

- We are given  $n$  cities  $1, 2, \dots, n$  and integer distances  $d_{ij} = d_{ji}$  between any two cities  $i$  and  $j$ .
- TSP (D) asks if there is a tour with a total distance at most  $B$ .
- TSP asks for a tour with the shortest total distance.
  - The shortest total distance is at most  $\sum_{i,j} d_{ij}$ .
    - \* Recall that the input string contains  $d_{11}, \dots, d_{nn}$ .
    - \* Thus the shortest total distance is less than  $2^{|x|}$  in magnitude, where  $x$  is the input (why?).
- We next show that if TSP (D)  $\in$  P, then TSP has a polynomial-time algorithm.

## An Algorithm for TSP Using TSP (D)

- 1: Perform a binary search over interval  $[0, 2^{\lceil x \rceil}]$  by calling TSP (D) to obtain the shortest distance,  $C$ ;
- 2: **for**  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  **do**
- 3:     Call TSP (D) with  $B = C$  and  $d_{ij} = C + 1$ ;
- 4:     **if** “no” **then**
- 5:         Restore  $d_{ij}$  to old value; {Edge  $[i, j]$  is critical.}
- 6:     **end if**
- 7: **end for**
- 8: **return** the tour with edges whose  $d_{ij} \leq C$ ;

## Analysis

- An edge that is not on *any* optimal tour will be eliminated, with its  $d_{ij}$  set to  $C + 1$ .
- In fact, an edge which is not on *all* remaining optimal tours will also be eliminated.
- So the algorithm ends with  $n$  edges which are not eliminated (why?).
- This is true even if there are multiple optimal tours!<sup>a</sup>

---

<sup>a</sup>Thanks to a lively class discussion on November 12, 2013.

## Analysis (concluded)

- There are  $O(|x| + n^2)$  calls to the algorithm for TSP (D).
- Each call has an input length of  $O(|x|)$ .
- So if TSP (D) can be solved in polynomial time, so can TSP.
- Hence TSP (D) and TSP are equally hard (or easy).

# *Randomized Computation*

I know that half my advertising works,  
I just don't know which half.  
— John Wanamaker

I know that half my advertising is  
a waste of money,  
I just don't know which half!  
— McGraw-Hill ad.

## Randomized Algorithms<sup>a</sup>

- Randomized algorithms flip unbiased coins.
- There are important problems for which there are no known efficient *deterministic* algorithms but for which very efficient randomized algorithms exist.
  - Extraction of square roots, for instance.
- There are problems where randomization is *necessary*.
  - Secure protocols.
- Randomized version can be more efficient.
  - Parallel algorithm for maximal independent set.<sup>b</sup>

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<sup>a</sup>Rabin (1976); Solovay and Strassen (1977).

<sup>b</sup>“Maximal” (a local maximum) not “maximum” (a global maximum).

## “Four Most Important Randomized Algorithms”<sup>a</sup>

1. Primality testing.<sup>b</sup>
2. Graph connectivity using random walks.<sup>c</sup>
3. Polynomial identity testing.<sup>d</sup>
4. Algorithms for approximate counting.<sup>e</sup>

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<sup>a</sup>Trevisan (2006).

<sup>b</sup>Rabin (1976); Solovay and Strassen (1977).

<sup>c</sup>Aleliunas, Karp, Lipton, Lovász, and Rackoff (1979).

<sup>d</sup>Schwartz (1980); Zippel (1979).

<sup>e</sup>Sinclair and Jerrum (1989).

## Bipartite Perfect Matching

- We are given a **bipartite graph**  $G = (U, V, E)$ .
  - $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ .
  - $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ .
  - $E \subseteq U \times V$ .

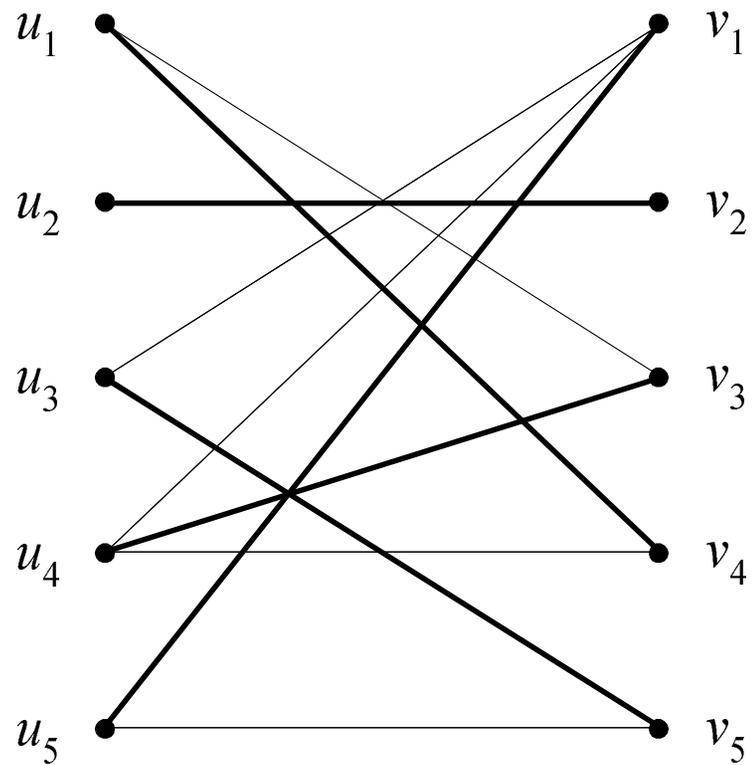
- We are asked if there is a **perfect matching**.
  - A permutation  $\pi$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that

$$(u_i, v_{\pi(i)}) \in E$$

for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

- A perfect matching contains  $n$  edges.

## A Perfect Matching in a Bipartite Graph



## Symbolic Determinants

- We are given a bipartite graph  $G$ .
- Construct the  $n \times n$  matrix  $A^G$  whose  $(i, j)$ th entry  $A_{ij}^G$  is a symbolic variable  $x_{ij}$  if  $(u_i, v_j) \in E$  and 0 otherwise:

$$A_{ij}^G = \begin{cases} x_{ij}, & \text{if } (u_i, v_j) \in E, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Symbolic Determinants (continued)

- The matrix for the bipartite graph  $G$  on p. 501 is<sup>a</sup>

$$A^G = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & x_{13} & x_{14} & 0 \\ 0 & x_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{31} & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_{35} \\ x_{41} & 0 & x_{43} & x_{44} & 0 \\ x_{51} & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_{55} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

---

<sup>a</sup>The idea is similar to the Tanner graph in coding theory by Tanner (1981).

## Symbolic Determinants (concluded)

- The **determinant** of  $A^G$  is

$$\det(A^G) = \sum_{\pi} \operatorname{sgn}(\pi) \prod_{i=1}^n A_{i,\pi(i)}^G. \quad (8)$$

- $\pi$  ranges over all permutations of  $n$  elements.
  - $\operatorname{sgn}(\pi)$  is 1 if  $\pi$  is the product of an even number of transpositions and  $-1$  otherwise.
  - Equivalently,  $\operatorname{sgn}(\pi) = 1$  if the number of  $(i, j)$ s such that  $i < j$  and  $\pi(i) > \pi(j)$  is even.<sup>a</sup>
- $\det(A^G)$  contains  $n!$  terms, many of which may be 0s.

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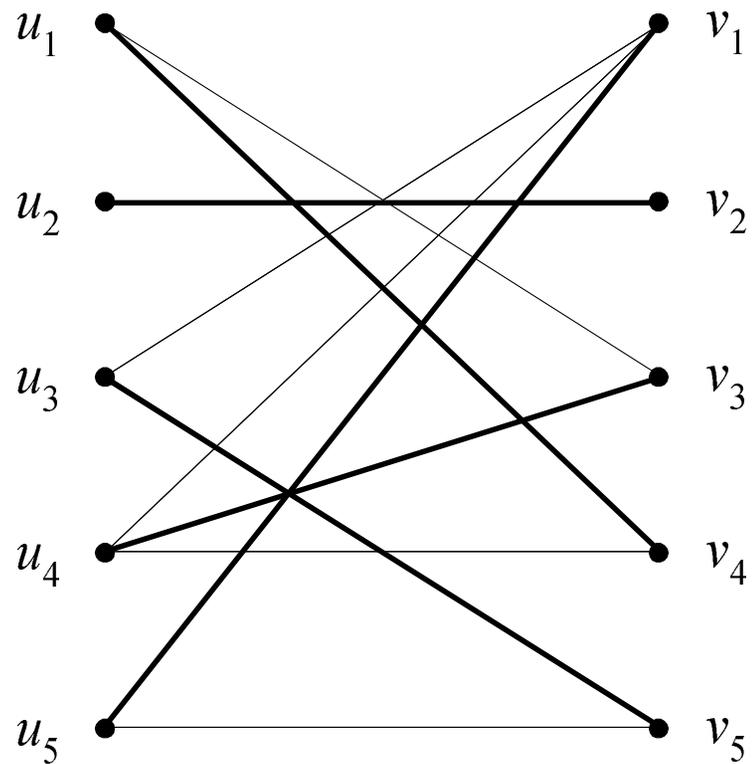
<sup>a</sup>Contributed by Mr. Hwan-Jeu Yu (D95922028) on May 1, 2008.

## Determinant and Bipartite Perfect Matching

- In  $\sum_{\pi} \text{sgn}(\pi) \prod_{i=1}^n A_{i,\pi(i)}^G$ , note the following:
  - Each summand corresponds to a possible perfect matching  $\pi$ .
  - All of the nonzero summands  $\prod_{i=1}^n A_{i,\pi(i)}^G$  are distinct monomials and *will not cancel*.
- $\det(A^G)$  is essentially an exhaustive enumeration.

**Proposition 59 (Edmonds (1967))**  *$G$  has a perfect matching if and only if  $\det(A^G)$  is not identically zero.*

## Perfect Matching and Determinant (p. 501)



## Perfect Matching and Determinant (concluded)

- The matrix is (p. 503)

$$A^G = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & x_{13} & \boxed{x_{14}} & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{x_{22}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{31} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{x_{35}} \\ x_{41} & 0 & \boxed{x_{43}} & x_{44} & 0 \\ \boxed{x_{51}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_{55} \end{bmatrix} .$$

- $\det(A^G) = -x_{14}x_{22}x_{35}x_{43}x_{51} + x_{13}x_{22}x_{35}x_{44}x_{51} + x_{14}x_{22}x_{31}x_{43}x_{55} - x_{13}x_{22}x_{31}x_{44}x_{55}$ .
- Each nonzero term denotes a perfect matching, and vice versa.

## How To Test If a Polynomial Is Identically Zero?

- $\det(A^G)$  is a polynomial in  $n^2$  variables.
- There are exponentially many terms in  $\det(A^G)$ .
- Expanding the determinant polynomial is not feasible.
  - Too many terms.
- If  $\det(A^G) \equiv 0$ , then it remains zero if we substitute *arbitrary* integers for the variables  $x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}$ .
- When  $\det(A^G) \not\equiv 0$ , what is the likelihood of obtaining a zero?

## Number of Roots of a Polynomial

**Lemma 60 (Schwartz (1980))** *Let  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \not\equiv 0$  be a polynomial in  $m$  variables each of degree at most  $d$ . Let  $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Then the number of  $m$ -tuples*

$$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in \{0, 1, \dots, M - 1\}^m$$

*such that  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) = 0$  is*

$$\leq mdM^{m-1}.$$

- By induction on  $m$  (consult the textbook).

## Density Attack

- The density of roots in the domain is at most

$$\frac{mdM^{m-1}}{M^m} = \frac{md}{M}. \quad (9)$$

- So suppose  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \not\equiv 0$ .
- Then a random

$$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in \{0, 1, \dots, M - 1\}^m$$

has a probability of  $\leq md/M$  of being a root of  $p$ .

- Note that  $M$  is under our control!
  - One can raise  $M$  to lower the error probability, e.g.

## Density Attack (concluded)

Here is a sampling algorithm to test if  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \not\equiv 0$ .

- 1: Choose  $i_1, \dots, i_m$  from  $\{0, 1, \dots, M - 1\}$  randomly;
- 2: **if**  $p(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m) \neq 0$  **then**
- 3:     **return** “ $p$  is not identically zero”;
- 4: **else**
- 5:     **return** “ $p$  is (probably) identically zero”;
- 6: **end if**

## Analysis

- If  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \equiv 0$ , the algorithm will always be correct as  $p(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m) = 0$ .
- Suppose  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \not\equiv 0$ .
  - The algorithm will answer incorrectly with probability at most  $md/M$  by Eq. (9) on p. 510.
- We next return to the original problem of bipartite perfect matching.

## A Randomized Bipartite Perfect Matching Algorithm<sup>a</sup>

- 1: Choose  $n^2$  integers  $i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn}$  from  $\{0, 1, \dots, 2n^2 - 1\}$  randomly; {So  $M = 2n^2$ .}
- 2: Calculate  $\det(A^G(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn}))$  by Gaussian elimination;
- 3: **if**  $\det(A^G(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn})) \neq 0$  **then**
- 4:     **return** “ $G$  has a perfect matching”;
- 5: **else**
- 6:     **return** “ $G$  has no perfect matchings”;
- 7: **end if**

---

<sup>a</sup>Lovász (1979). According to Paul Erdős, Lovász wrote his first significant paper “at the ripe old age of 17.”

## Analysis

- If  $G$  has no perfect matchings, the algorithm will always be correct as  $\det(A^G(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn})) = 0$ .
- Suppose  $G$  has a perfect matching.
  - The algorithm will answer incorrectly with probability at most  $md/M = 0.5$  with  $m = n^2$ ,  $d = 1$  and  $M = 2n^2$  in Eq. (9) on p. 510.
- Run the algorithm *independently*  $k$  times.
- Output “ $G$  has no perfect matchings” if and only if *all* say “no perfect matchings.”
- The error probability is now reduced to at most  $2^{-k}$ .

## Lószló Lovász (1948–)



## Remarks<sup>a</sup>

- Note that we are calculating

$\text{prob}[\text{algorithm answers "no"} \mid G \text{ has no perfect matchings}]$ ,  
 $\text{prob}[\text{algorithm answers "yes"} \mid G \text{ has a perfect matching}]$ .

- We are *not* calculating<sup>b</sup>

$\text{prob}[G \text{ has no perfect matchings} \mid \text{algorithm answers "no"}]$ ,  
 $\text{prob}[G \text{ has a perfect matching} \mid \text{algorithm answers "yes"}]$ .

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<sup>a</sup>Thanks to a lively class discussion on May 1, 2008.

<sup>b</sup>*Numerical Recipes in C* (1988), “[As] we already remarked, statistics is *not* a branch of mathematics!”

But How Large Can  $\det(A^G(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn}))$  Be?

- It is at most

$$n! (2n^2)^n .$$

- Stirling's formula says  $n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} (n/e)^n$ .
- Hence

$$\log_2 \det(A^G(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn})) = O(n \log_2 n)$$

bits are sufficient for representing the determinant.

- We skip the details about how to make sure that all *intermediate* results are of polynomial sizes.

## An Intriguing Question<sup>a</sup>

- Is there an  $(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn})$  that will always give correct answers for the algorithm on p. 513?
- A theorem on p. 612 shows that such an  $(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn})$  exists!
  - Whether it can be found efficiently is another matter.
- Once  $(i_{11}, \dots, i_{nn})$  is available, the algorithm can be made deterministic.

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<sup>a</sup>Thanks to a lively class discussion on November 24, 2004.