



Rainbow Matchings of Size $\delta(G)$ in Properly Edge-Colored Graphs

Jennifer Diemunsch, Michael Ferrara,
Allan Lo, Casey Moffatt, Florian Pfender,
Paul S. Wenger

University of Colorado Denver

OCTOBER 30, 2012

Rainbow Subgraph

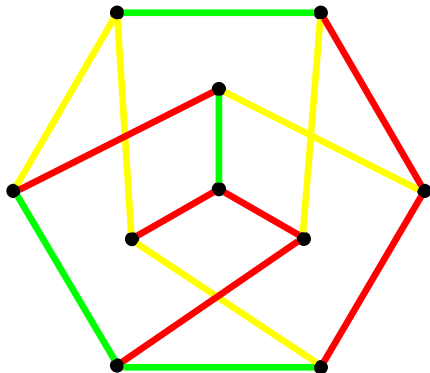
Definition

*A subgraph H of an edge-colored graph G is **rainbow** provided that every edge of H has a distinct color.*

Rainbow Subgraph

Definition

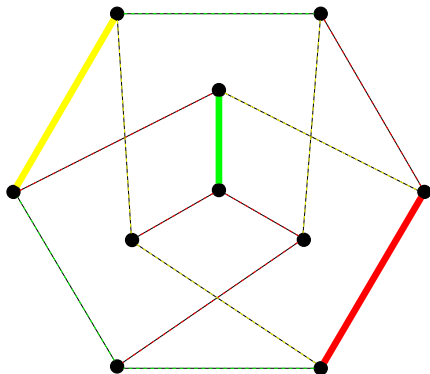
A subgraph H of an edge-colored graph G is **rainbow** provided that every edge of H has a distinct color.



Rainbow Subgraph

Definition

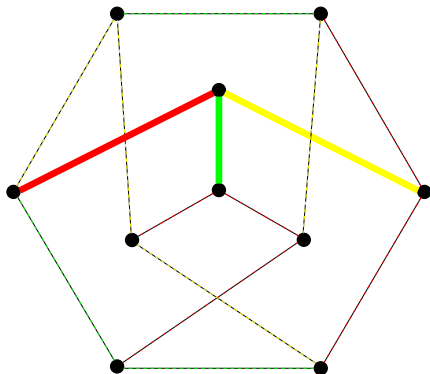
A subgraph H of an edge-colored graph G is **rainbow** provided that every edge of H has a distinct color.



Rainbow Subgraph

Definition

A subgraph H of an edge-colored graph G is **rainbow** provided that every edge of H has a distinct color.



Motivation

Question

Given a graph H , what conditions guarantee an edge-colored graph G contains a rainbow H ?

Motivation

Question

Given a graph H , what conditions guarantee an edge-colored graph G contains a rainbow H ?

Question

What conditions guarantee an edge-colored graph G contains a rainbow matching (of given size)?

Color Degree of v

Definition

The number of edges of distinct colors incident to a vertex v is the **color degree** of the vertex, $\hat{d}(v)$,

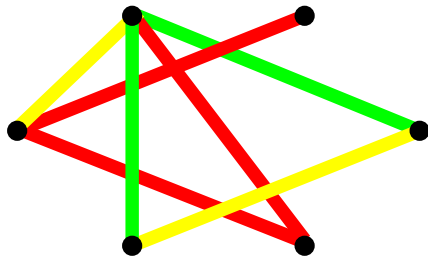
$$\hat{\delta}(G) = \min\{\hat{d}(v) : v \in V(G)\}.$$

Color Degree of v

Definition

The number of edges of distinct colors incident to a vertex v is the **color degree** of the vertex, $\hat{d}(v)$,

$$\hat{\delta}(G) = \min\{\hat{d}(v) : v \in V(G)\}.$$

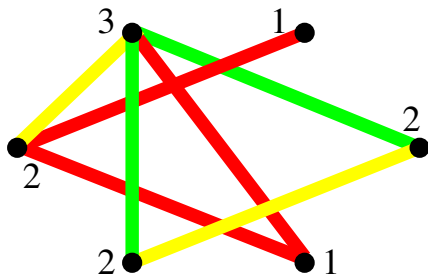


Color Degree of v

Definition

The number of edges of distinct colors incident to a vertex v is the **color degree** of the vertex, $\hat{d}(v)$,

$$\hat{\delta}(G) = \min\{\hat{d}(v) : v \in V(G)\}.$$

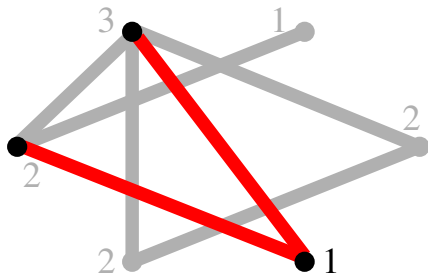


Color Degree of v

Definition

The number of edges of distinct colors incident to a vertex v is the **color degree** of the vertex, $\hat{d}(v)$,

$$\hat{\delta}(G) = \min\{\hat{d}(v) : v \in V(G)\}.$$

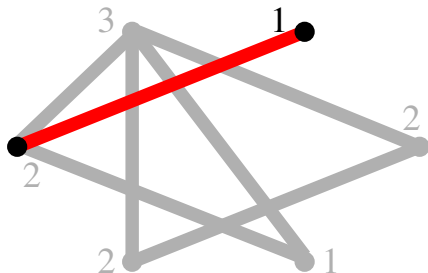


Color Degree of v

Definition

The number of edges of distinct colors incident to a vertex v is the **color degree** of the vertex, $\hat{d}(v)$,

$$\hat{\delta}(G) = \min\{\hat{d}(v) : v \in V(G)\}.$$



Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b

Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin squares are equivalent to properly edge-colored complete bipartite graphs:

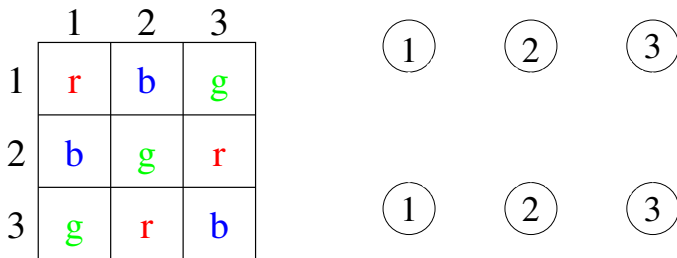
	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b

Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin squares are equivalent to properly edge-colored complete bipartite graphs:



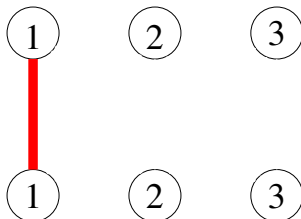
Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin squares are equivalent to properly edge-colored complete bipartite graphs:

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



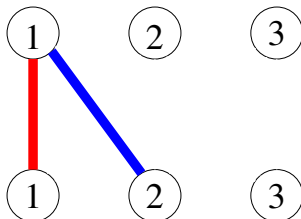
Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin squares are equivalent to properly edge-colored complete bipartite graphs:

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



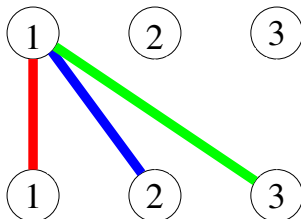
Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin squares are equivalent to properly edge-colored complete bipartite graphs:

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



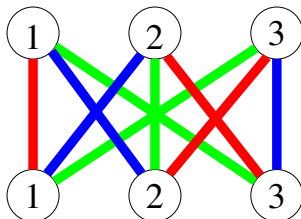
Latin Squares

Definition

A **Latin square** of order n is an n by n matrix in which each row and each column has entries from a set of exactly n distinct elements.

Latin squares are equivalent to properly edge-colored complete bipartite graphs:

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



Transversal

Definition

A **transversal** in a Latin square of order n is a selection of n entries covering every row once, every column once, and every symbol once.

Transversal

Definition

A **transversal** in a Latin square of order n is a selection of n entries covering every row once, every column once, and every symbol once.

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b

Transversal

Definition

A **transversal** in a Latin square of order n is a selection of n entries covering every row once, every column once, and every symbol once.

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b

Ryser's Conjecture

Conjecture (Ryser, 1967)

Every Latin square of odd order has a transversal.

Ryser's Conjecture

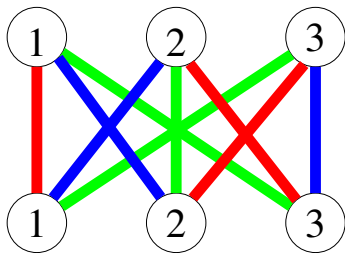
Conjecture (Ryser, 1967)

Every Latin square of odd order has a transversal.

g	r	b	y
r	g	y	b
y	b	g	r
b	y	r	g

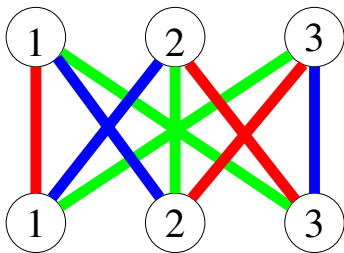
Transversal Equivalent in $K_{n,n}$

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



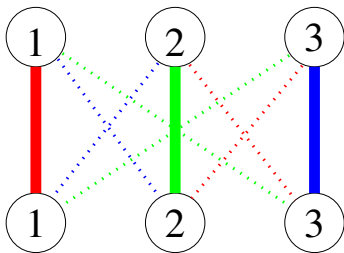
Transversal Equivalent in $K_{n,n}$

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



Transversal Equivalent in $K_{n,n}$

	1	2	3
1	r	b	g
2	b	g	r
3	g	r	b



Transversals are rainbow perfect matchings in $K_{n,n}$!

Conjecture (Ryser, 1967)

For n odd, every proper edge-coloring of $K_{n,n}$ contains a rainbow matching of size n .

Conjecture (Ryser, 1967)

For n odd, every proper edge-coloring of $K_{n,n}$ contains a rainbow matching of size n .

Theorem (Hatami, Shor, 2008)

Every proper edge-coloring of $K_{n,n}$ contains a rainbow matching of size $n - O(\log^2 n)$.

Theorem (Wang, 2011)

For a properly edge-colored graph G with $|V(G)| \geq 8\delta(G)/5$, G has a rainbow matching of size at least $\lfloor 3\delta(G)/5 \rfloor$.

Theorem (Wang, 2011)

For a properly edge-colored graph G with $|V(G)| \geq 8\delta(G)/5$, G has a rainbow matching of size at least $\lfloor 3\delta(G)/5 \rfloor$.

Theorem (Wang, 2011)

For a properly edge-colored, triangle-free graph G with $|V(G)| \geq 8\delta(G)/5$, then G contains a rainbow matching of size at least $\lfloor 2\delta(G)/3 \rfloor$.

Theorem (Wang, 2011)

For a properly edge-colored graph G with $|V(G)| \geq 8\delta(G)/5$, G has a rainbow matching of size at least $\lfloor 3\delta(G)/5 \rfloor$.

Theorem (Wang, 2011)

*For a properly edge-colored, **triangle-free** graph G with $|V(G)| \geq 8\delta(G)/5$, then G contains a rainbow matching of size at least $\lfloor 2\delta(G)/3 \rfloor$.*

Main Problem

Question (Wang, 2011)

Is there a function f such that a properly edge-colored graph G with minimum degree δ and order at least $f(\delta)$ must contain a rainbow matching of size δ ?

Main Problem

Question (Wang, 2011)

Is there a function f such that a properly edge-colored graph G with minimum degree δ and order at least $f(\delta)$ must contain a rainbow matching of size δ ?

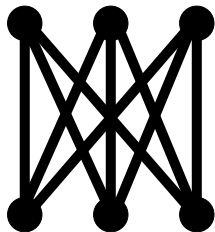
$f(\delta) > 2\delta$ since there are even Latin squares without transversals.

$$|M| \leq \delta$$

There is no function that will guarantee a rainbow matching of size $\delta + 1$.

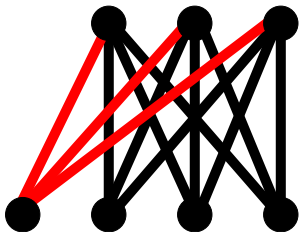
$$|M| \leq \delta$$

There is no function that will guarantee a rainbow matching of size $\delta + 1$.



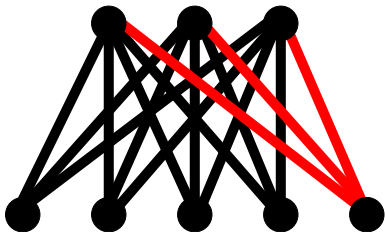
$$|M| \leq \delta$$

There is no function that will guarantee a rainbow matching of size $\delta + 1$.



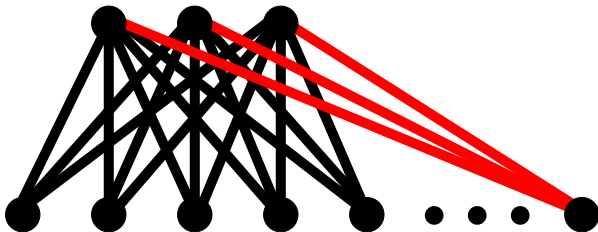
$$|M| \leq \delta$$

There is no function that will guarantee a rainbow matching of size $\delta + 1$.



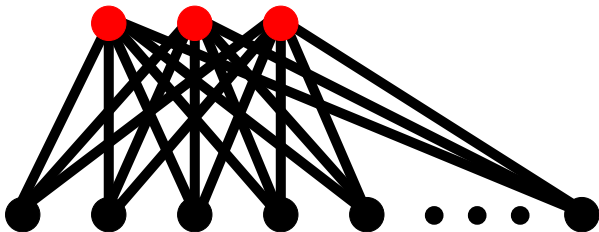
$$|M| \leq \delta$$

There is no function that will guarantee a rainbow matching of size $\delta + 1$.



$$|M| \leq \delta$$

There is no function that will guarantee a rainbow matching of size $\delta + 1$.



Bound on largest color class

Lemma

If G has a color class with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

Bound on largest color class

Lemma

If G has a color class with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

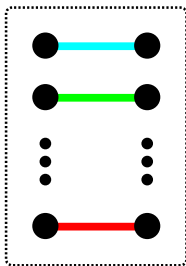
If not, remove the edges of the color class C with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges.

Bound on largest color class

Lemma

If G has a color class with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

If not, remove the edges of the color class C with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges.



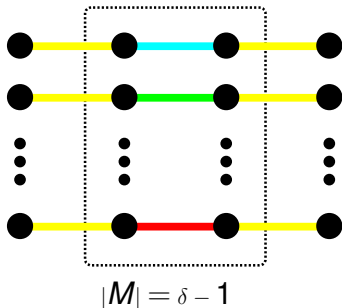
$$|M| = \delta - 1$$

Bound on largest color class

Lemma

If G has a color class with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

If not, remove the edges of the color class C with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges.

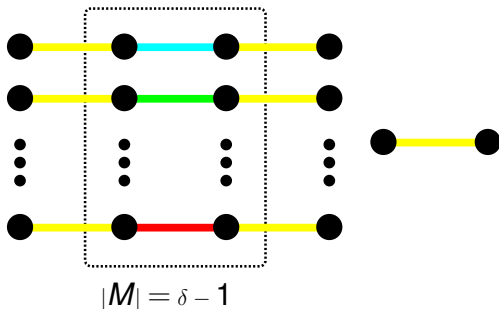


Bound on largest color class

Lemma

If G has a color class with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

If not, remove the edges of the color class C with at least $2\delta - 1$ edges.



Bound on max degree

Lemma

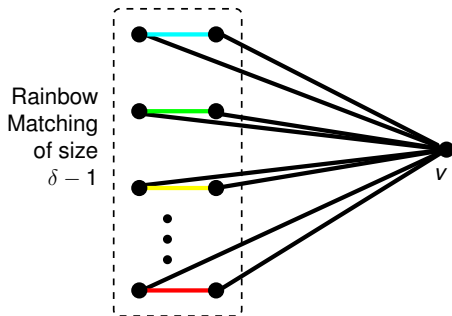
If G has maximum degree greater than $3\delta - 3$, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

Bound on max degree

Lemma

If G has maximum degree greater than $3\delta - 3$, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

Suppose $d(v) > 3\delta - 3$.

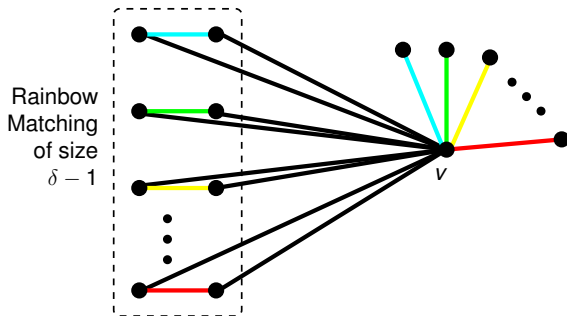


Bound on max degree

Lemma

If G has maximum degree greater than $3\delta - 3$, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

Suppose $d(v) > 3\delta - 3$.

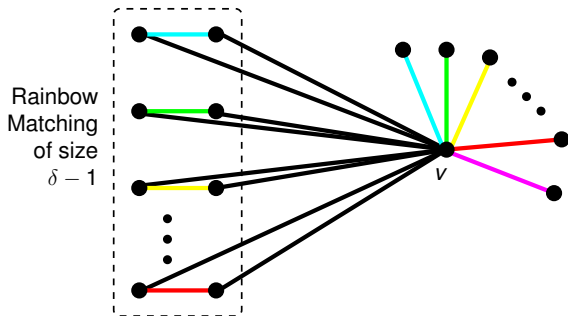


Bound on max degree

Lemma

If G has maximum degree greater than $3\delta - 3$, then G has a rainbow matching of size δ .

Suppose $d(v) > 3\delta - 3$.



$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Claim

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Claim

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Choose any edge e in the remaining graph to add to the rainbow matching.

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Claim

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Choose any edge e in the remaining graph to add to the rainbow matching.

- Remove all other edges of the same color ($< 2\delta$ deletions).

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Claim

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Choose any edge e in the remaining graph to add to the rainbow matching.

- Remove all other edges of the same color ($< 2\delta$ deletions).
- Remove all edges incident to e ($< 6\delta$ deletions).

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Claim

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Choose any edge e in the remaining graph to add to the rainbow matching.

- Remove all other edges of the same color ($< 2\delta$ deletions).
- Remove all edges incident to e ($< 6\delta$ deletions).

In total, we delete at most 8δ edges in each iteration.

$$|V(G)| \geq 16\delta \Rightarrow |E(G)| \geq \frac{16\delta^2}{2} = 8\delta^2$$

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Claim

$$f(\delta) \leq 16\delta$$

Choose any edge e in the remaining graph to add to the rainbow matching.

- Remove all other edges of the same color ($< 2\delta$ deletions).
- Remove all edges incident to e ($< 6\delta$ deletions).

In total, we delete at most 8δ edges in each iteration.

$$|V(G)| \geq 16\delta \Rightarrow |E(G)| \geq \frac{16\delta^2}{2} = 8\delta^2$$

Thus there are enough edges for δ iterations.

Our Results

Theorem (D., Ferrara, Lo, Moffatt, Pfender, Wenger, 2012+)

If G is a properly edge-colored graph with minimum degree $\delta = \delta(G)$ satisfying $|V(G)| \geq \frac{98}{23}\delta$, then G contains a rainbow matching of size $\delta(G)$.

Extremal Proof ($|V(G)| \geq 98\delta/23$)

- Let G be a properly edge-colored graph with $|V(G)| \geq \frac{98}{23}\delta$.

Extremal Proof ($|V(G)| \geq 98\delta/23$)

- Let G be a properly edge-colored graph with $|V(G)| \geq \frac{98}{23}\delta$.
- Let G be a minimum counterexample, δ minimized.

Extremal Proof ($|V(G)| \geq 98\delta/23$)

- Let G be a properly edge-colored graph with $|V(G)| \geq \frac{98}{23}\delta$.
- Let G be a minimum counterexample, δ minimized.
- We can also assume that $|E(G)|$ is minimized, by preprocessing.

Proof Sketch: Pivots

Consider a maximal rainbow matching M in G .

Proof Sketch: Pivots

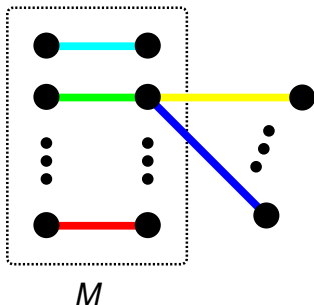
Consider a maximal rainbow matching M in G .

We know some edges of M are flexible, and can pivot over a shared endpoint.

Proof Sketch: Pivots

Consider a maximal rainbow matching M in G .

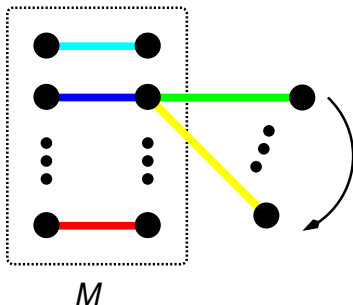
We know some edges of M are flexible, and can pivot over a shared endpoint.



Proof Sketch: Pivots

Consider a maximal rainbow matching M in G .

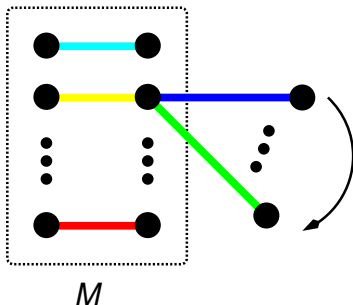
We know some edges of M are flexible, and can pivot over a shared endpoint.



Proof Sketch: Pivots

Consider a maximal rainbow matching M in G .

We know some edges of M are flexible, and can pivot over a shared endpoint.



Levels of Flexibility

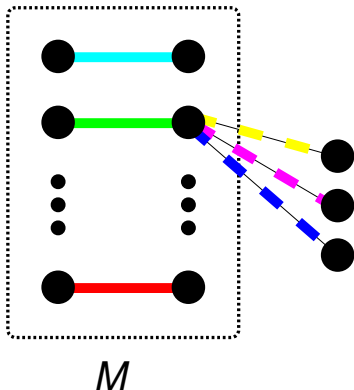
- **Flexible Edges** are edges in M whose pivot vertices see 'enough' edges with colors not used in the matching.

Levels of Flexibility

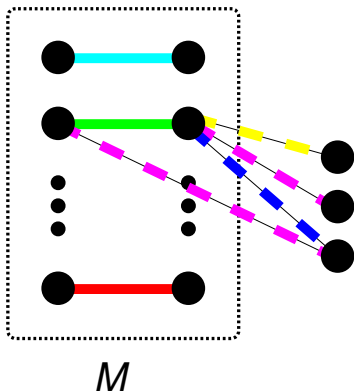
- **Flexible Edges** are edges in M whose pivot vertices see 'enough' edges with colors not used in the matching.
- **Conditionally Flexible Edges** are edges in M whose pivot vertices see 'enough' edges with either unused colors or colors on flexible edges.

Assuming M is maximal, we know we cannot extend the matching.

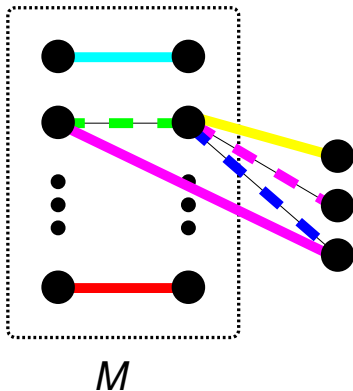
Assuming M is maximal, we know we cannot extend the matching.



Assuming M is maximal, we know we cannot extend the matching.



Assuming M is maximal, we know we cannot extend the matching.



Bounding, Counting, and Algebra

By counting the conditionally flexible edges, we can bound δn .

Bounding, Counting, and Algebra

By counting the conditionally flexible edges, we can bound δn .

$$\begin{aligned} \delta n - 2\delta(\delta - 1) + \delta r - (a - 1)(2\delta - 2 - 2r - s) + \max\{a - r - 2, 0\}t \\ \leq (3\delta - 8 - r + s)r + 6(\delta - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Bounding, Counting, and Algebra

By counting the conditionally flexible edges, we can bound δn .

$$\begin{aligned} \delta n - 2\delta(\delta - 1) + \delta r - (a - 1)(2\delta - 2 - 2r - s) + \max\{a - r - 2, 0\}t \\ \leq (3\delta - 8 - r + s)r + 6(\delta - 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta n \leq$$

$$(2\delta - 8 - r + s)r + 2(\delta + 3) + (a - 1)(2\delta - 2 - 2r - s) - \max\{a - r - 2, 0\}t.$$

Bounding, Counting, and Algebra

By counting the conditionally flexible edges, we can bound δn .

$$\begin{aligned} \delta n - 2\delta(\delta - 1) + \delta r - (a - 1)(2\delta - 2 - 2r - s) + \max\{a - r - 2, 0\}t \\ \leq (3\delta - 8 - r + s)r + 6(\delta - 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta n \leq$$

$$(2\delta - 8 - r + s)r + 2(\delta + 3) + (a - 1)(2\delta - 2 - 2r - s) - \max\{a - r - 2, 0\}t.$$

Under the assumption that M is maximal, $n < \frac{98}{23}\delta$, a contradiction.

Alternate $f(\delta)$, shown Algorithmically

Theorem (D., Ferrara, Lo, Moffatt, Pfender, Wenger, 2012+)

If G is a properly edge-colored graph with minimum degree δ satisfying

$$|V(G)| > \frac{13}{2}\delta - \frac{23}{2} + \frac{41}{8\delta},$$

then G has a rainbow matching of size δ , and there is an

$$O(\delta(G)|V(G)|^2)\text{-time}$$

algorithm that produces a rainbow matching of size δ in G .

Algorithm Overview

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.

Algorithm Overview

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.
2. Choose e in C with the smallest degree sum of its endpoints.

Algorithm Overview

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.
2. Choose e in C with the smallest degree sum of its endpoints.
3. Add e to the rainbow matching, and delete edges that cannot be added to the rainbow matching:

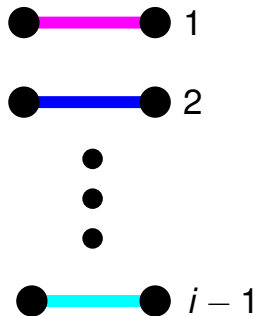
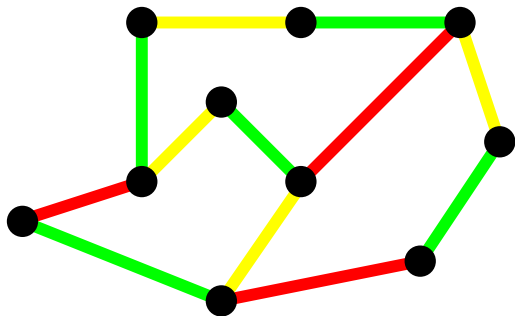
Algorithm Overview

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.
2. Choose e in C with the smallest degree sum of its endpoints.
3. Add e to the rainbow matching, and delete edges that cannot be added to the rainbow matching:
 - Edges in the color class C .
 - Edges incident to e .

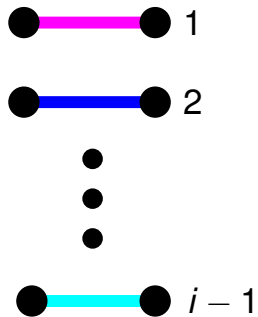
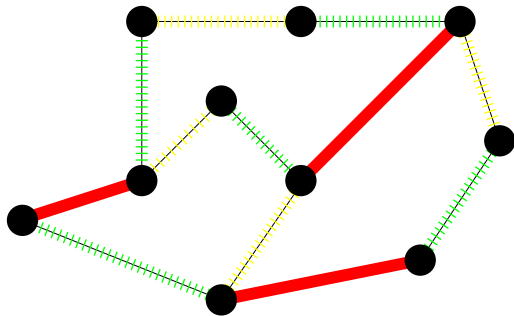
Algorithm Overview

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.
2. Choose e in C with the smallest degree sum of its endpoints.
3. Add e to the rainbow matching, and delete edges that cannot be added to the rainbow matching:
 - Edges in the color class C .
 - Edges incident to e .
4. Stop when no edges remain in G .

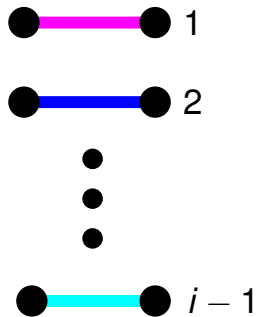
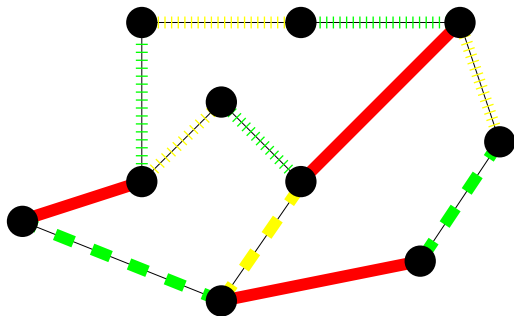
Choose smallest color class



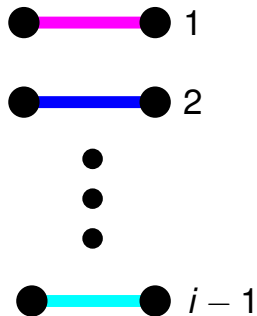
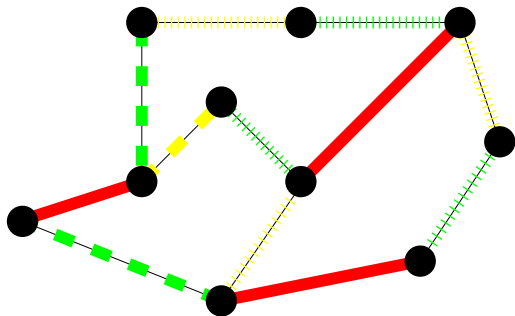
Choose smallest color class



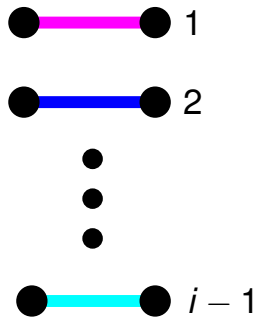
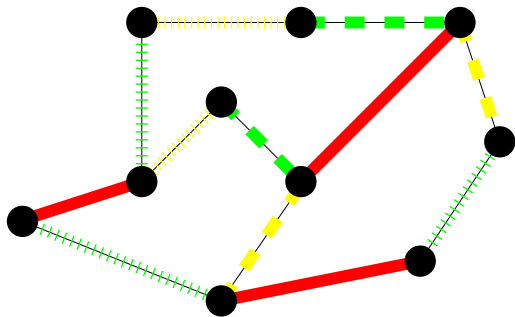
Choose edge with smallest degree sum



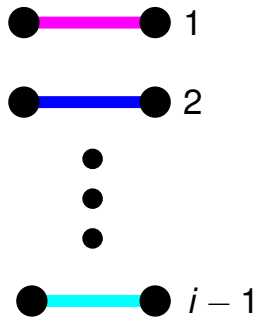
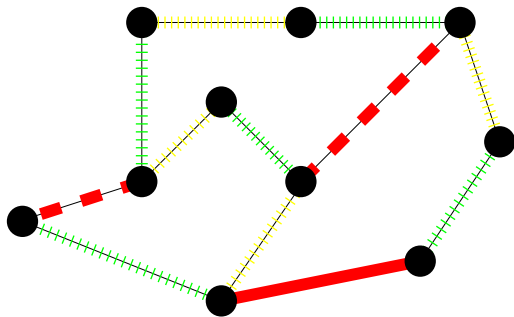
Choose edge with smallest degree sum



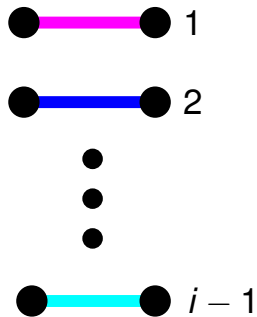
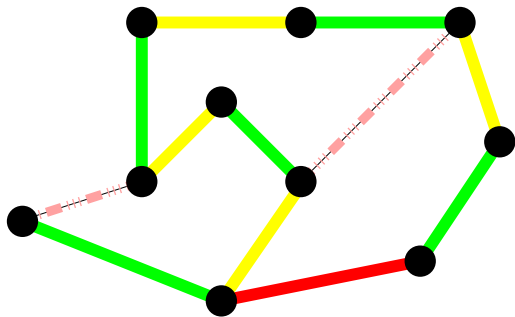
Choose edge with smallest degree sum



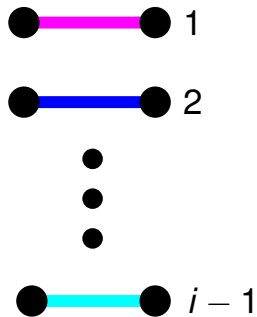
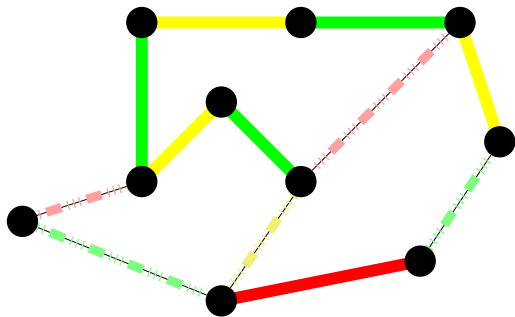
Choose edge with smallest degree sum



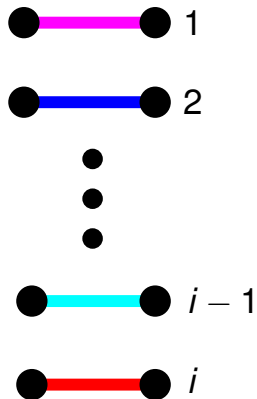
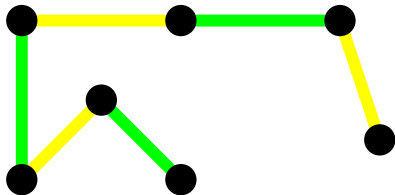
Delete appropriate edges



Delete appropriate edges



Add edge to the matching



Runtime: $O(\delta(G)|V(G)|^2)$

0. Preprocess.

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.
2. Choose e in C with the smallest degree sum of its endpoints.
3. Add e to the rainbow matching, and delete edges that cannot be added to the rainbow matching.

Runtime: $O(\delta(G)|V(G)|^2)$

0. Preprocess.

1. At step i , choose the smallest color class, C , in the remaining graph.
2. Choose e in C with the smallest degree sum of its endpoints.
3. Add e to the rainbow matching, and delete edges that cannot be added to the rainbow matching.

There are at most δ steps, thus $O(\delta|V(G)|^2)$.

Complexity Problem

Theorem (Le, Pfender, in preparation)

Given an edge-colored graph G and integer k , determining if G contains a rainbow matching of size k is NP-complete

Complexity Problem

Theorem (Le, Pfender, in preparation)

Given an edge-colored graph G and integer k , determining if G contains a rainbow matching of size k is NP-complete even if G is one of the following:

Complexity Problem

Theorem (Le, Pfender, in preparation)

Given an edge-colored graph G and integer k , determining if G contains a rainbow matching of size k is NP-complete even if G is one of the following:

1. *A complete graph*

Complexity Problem

Theorem (Le, Pfender, in preparation)

Given an edge-colored graph G and integer k , determining if G contains a rainbow matching of size k is NP-complete even if G is one of the following:

- 1. A complete graph*
- 2. A properly edge-colored path*

Complexity Problem

Theorem (Le, Pfender, in preparation)

Given an edge-colored graph G and integer k , determining if G contains a rainbow matching of size k is NP-complete even if G is one of the following:

- 1. A complete graph*
- 2. A properly edge-colored path*
- 3. A properly edge-colored P_8 -free tree in which **every color is used at most twice***

Complexity Problem

Theorem (Le, Pfender, in preparation)

Given an edge-colored graph G and integer k , determining if G contains a rainbow matching of size k is NP-complete even if G is one of the following:

- 1. A complete graph*
- 2. A properly edge-colored path*
- 3. A properly edge-colored P_8 -free tree in which **every color is used at most twice***
- 4. A properly edge-colored P_5 -free linear forest in which every color is used at most twice*

Conclusion

- Ryser's conjecture makes properly edge-colored bipartite graphs of particular interest.

Conclusion

- Ryser's conjecture makes properly edge-colored bipartite graphs of particular interest.
- Bipartite graphs are triangle-free, so we hope to make improvements for triangle-free graphs.

Conclusion

- Ryser's conjecture makes properly edge-colored bipartite graphs of particular interest.
- Bipartite graphs are triangle-free, so we hope to make improvements for triangle-free graphs.
- For (not necessarily properly) edge-colored graphs, Kostochka, Pfender, and Yancey have shown that $|V(G)| \geq 4.25\hat{\delta}^2(G)$ assures a rainbow matching of size $\hat{\delta}(G)$.

Conclusion

- Ryser's conjecture makes properly edge-colored bipartite graphs of particular interest.
- Bipartite graphs are triangle-free, so we hope to make improvements for triangle-free graphs.
- For (not necessarily properly) edge-colored graphs, Kostochka, Pfender, and Yancey have shown that $|V(G)| \geq 4.25\hat{\delta}^2(G)$ assures a rainbow matching of size $\hat{\delta}(G)$.
- Thank you!