

# Computing Large Matchings Fast

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# Overview

## 1 Introduction

- Definitions and known results
- Warm-up: simple algorithms for maxdeg- $k$  graphs

## 2 Graphs with maxdeg 3

- 3-regular graphs
- Graphs with maxdeg 3

## 3 The missing algorithm and maximum matchings

- 3-connected planar graphs
- Graphs with bounded-degree block trees



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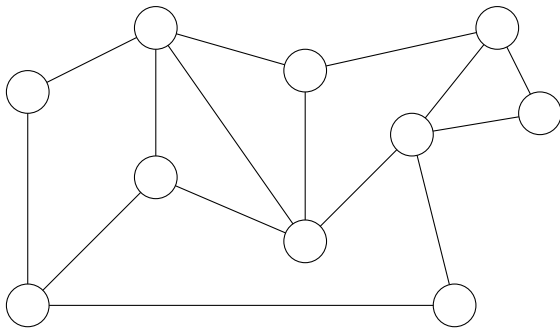
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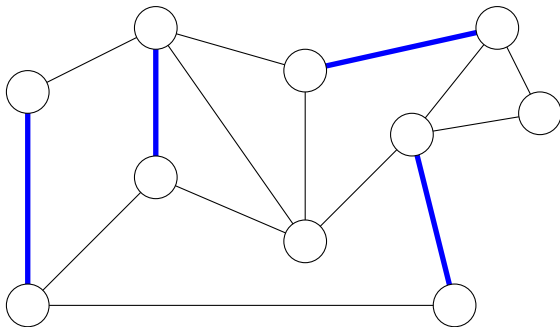
# Matching



Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ ...



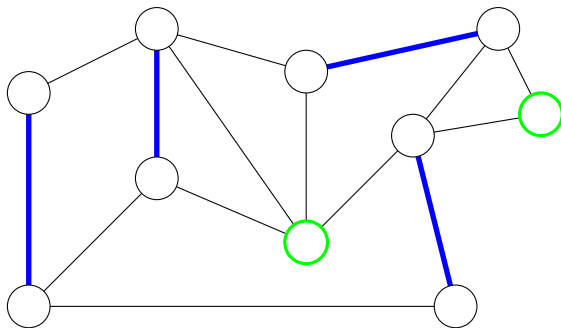
# Matching



Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ ...  
...a *matching* is a set  $M$  of independent edges.

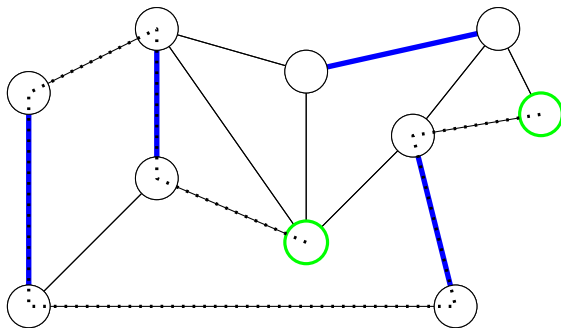


# Matching



A *free vertex* is a vertex that is not incident to an edge of  $M$ .

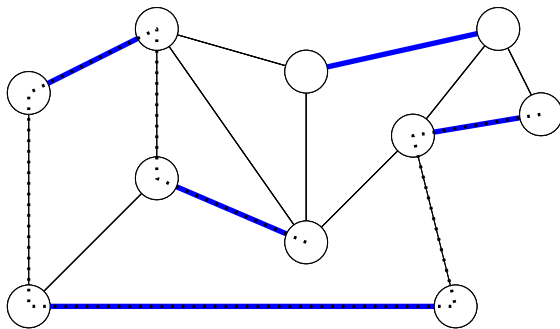
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An *augmenting path* is a path that alternates between matching and non-matching edges, and starts and ends at different free vertices.



# Matching

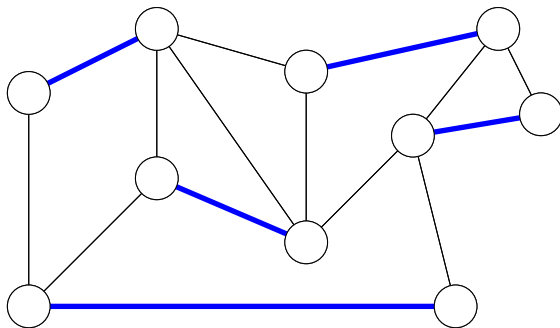


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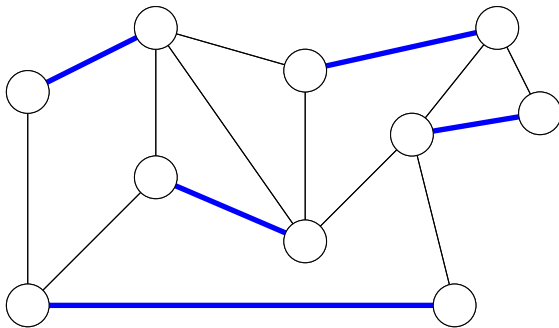


# Matching



A *maximum matching* is a matching of maximum cardinality.

# Matching



## Theorem (Berge)

*A matching is maximum  $\Leftrightarrow$  there is no augmenting path.*



## Known results

Let  $G = (V, E)$  and  $n = |V|$ ,  $m = |E|$ .

- Maximum matchings take  $O(\sqrt{n} \cdot m)$  time. [Micali, Vazirani '80]
- If  $m = \Theta(n)$ :  $O(n^{1.5})$  running time, e.g., graphs with constant maxdeg or planar graphs.



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- Algorithms based on fast matrix multiplication:

dense graphs:	$O(n^{2.38})$ time	[Mucha, Sankowski '04]
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- LEDA and Boost:  $O(nm\alpha(n, m))$  time,  
based on repeatedly finding augmenting paths. [Tarjan '83]



## Known results

Results on the *existence* of matchings in certain graph classes.

[Biedl, Demaine, Duncan, Fleischer, Kobourov, '04]

Graph	Bound 1	Bound 2
3-connected, planar	$\frac{n+4}{3}$	$\frac{2n+4-\ell_4}{4}$
maxdeg 3	$\frac{n-1}{3}$	$\frac{3n-n_2-2\ell_2}{6}$
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There are linear-time reductions:

[Biedl SODA'01]

- max. matchings in planar graphs  $\rightarrow$  in **triangulated planar graphs**
- max. matchings in general graphs  $\rightarrow$  in **3-regular graphs**



## Our results

We present algorithms that

- are relatively simple,
- run in  $O(n \text{ polylog } n)$  time,
- implement all (but one) of the bounds of Biedl et al. and thus
- give good guarantees on the size of the computed matchings.





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## Maximum matchings in trees

Strategy PICKLEAFEDGES:

As long as the graph has a leaf (i.e., a vertex of degree 1)

- Pick an arbitrary leaf  $u$  and match it to its parent  $v$ .
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This computes a maximum matching in a tree.



# Maximum matchings in trees

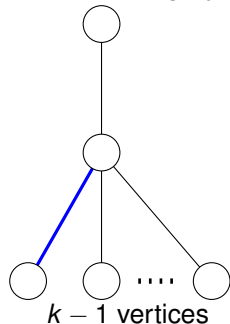
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# Maximum matchings in trees

What is known about  $|M|$ ?

Bound maxdeg by  $k$ :



$$|M| \geq \frac{m}{k} = \frac{n-1}{k}$$



# From trees to graphs

## Theorem

*A tree with maxdeg  $k$  has a matching of size at least  $(n - 1)/k$ .  
Such a matching can be computed in linear time.*



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*Proof:* A spanning tree with maxdeg 3 exists  
and can be computed in  $O(n)$  time.

[Barnette '66]

[Czumaj, Strothmann '97]



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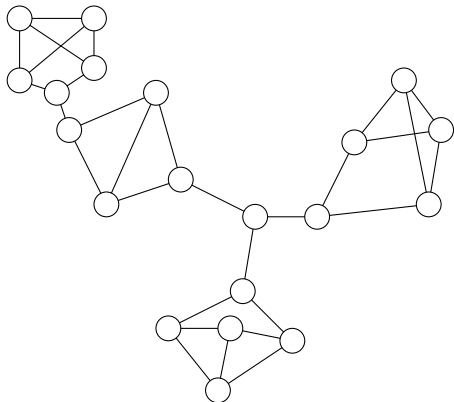


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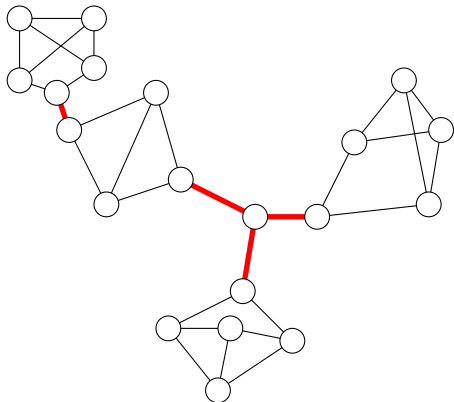
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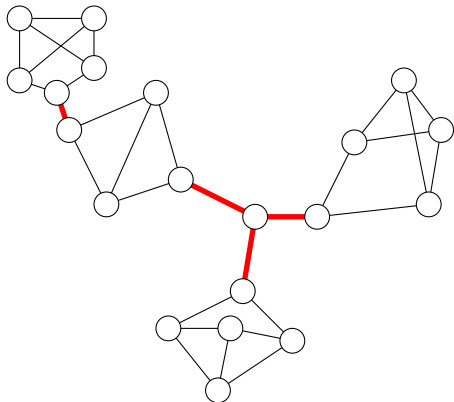


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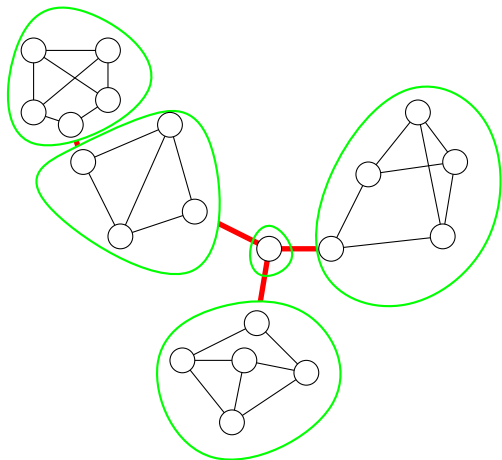




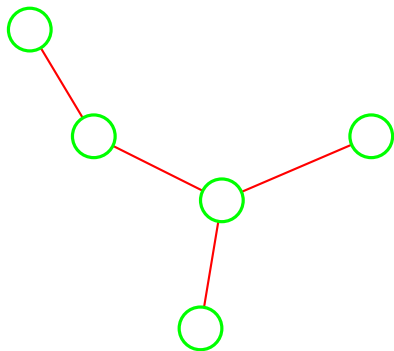
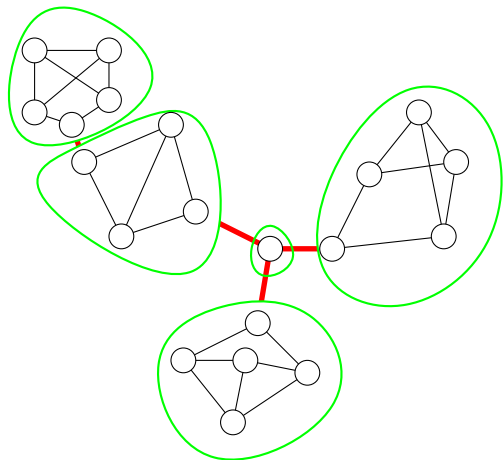
## 2-block tree



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$$l_2 = 3$$



## 3-regular graphs whose 2-block tree is a path

### Theorem (Petersen, 1891)

*Every 3-regular graph whose 2-block tree is a path has a perfect matching.*



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### Theorem (Biedl, Bose, Demaine, Lubiw, '01)

*Such a matching can be computed in  $O(n \log^4 n)$  time.*



## Arbitrary 3-regular graphs

Biedl et al.: Every 3-regular graph whose 2-block tree has  $\ell_2$  leaves has a matching of size at least  $(3n - 2\ell_2)/6$  ...

### Theorem

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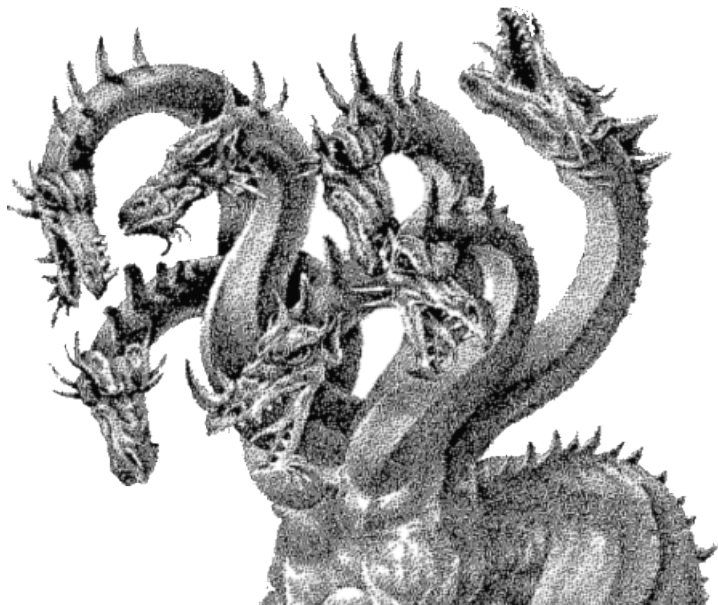
matching size  $(3n - 2\ell_2)/6$ :

$\Rightarrow (3n - 2\ell_2)/3 = n - 2\ell_2/3$  matched vertices

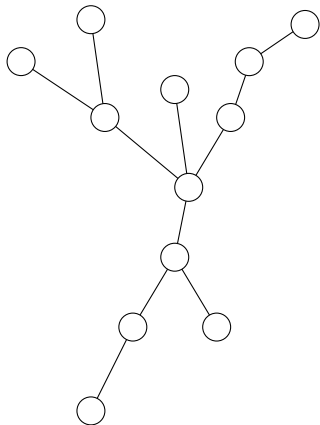
$\Rightarrow 2$  free vertices for every 3 leaves of the 2-block tree



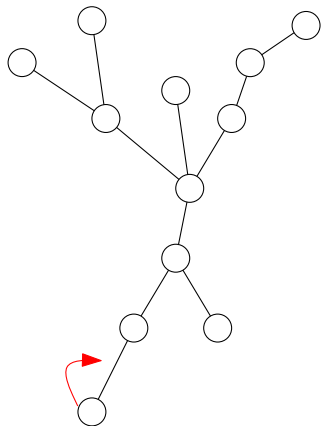


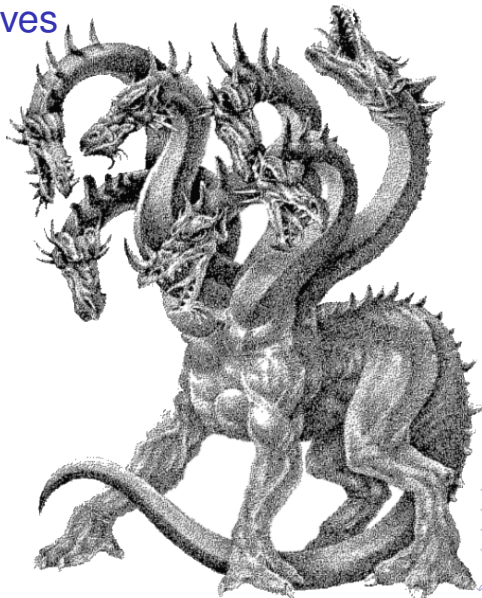
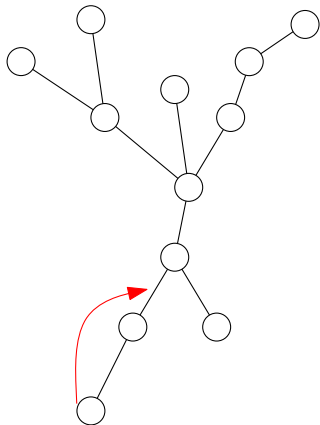


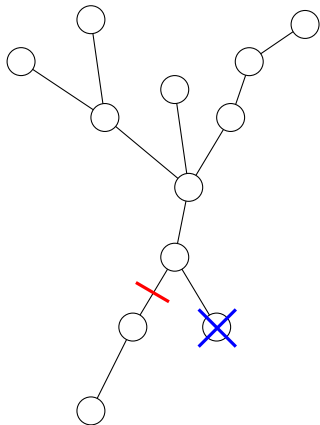
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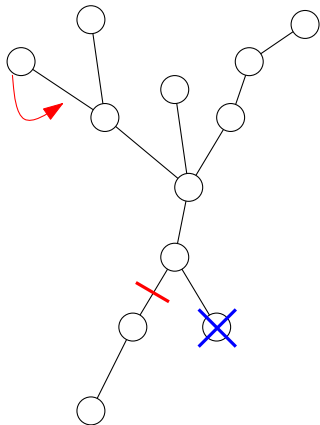


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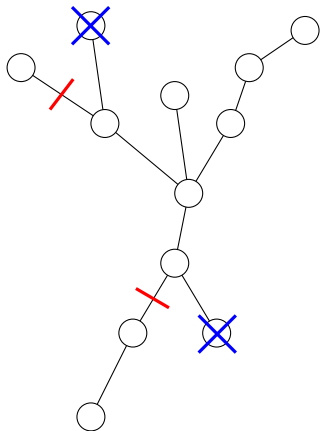


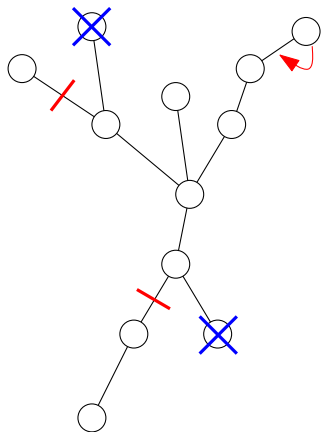
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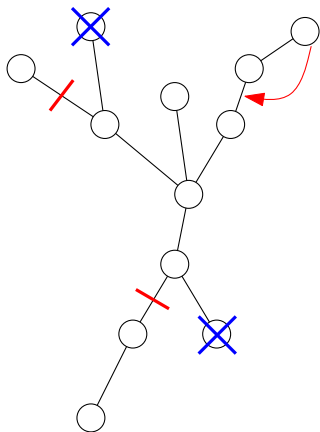
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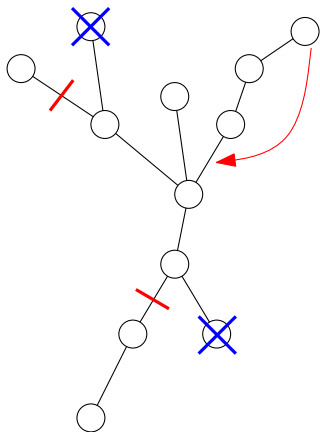


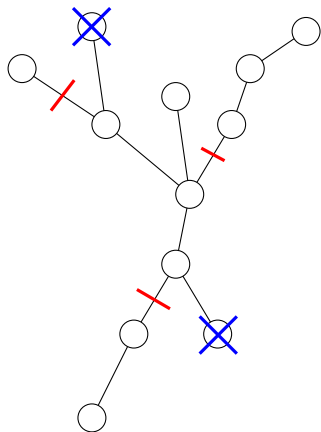
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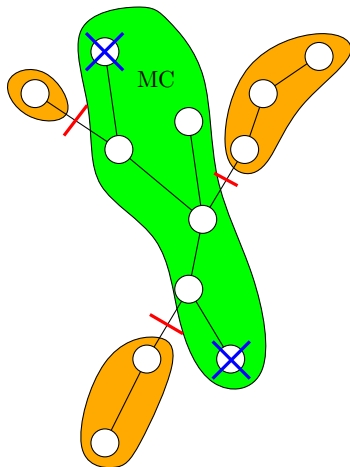


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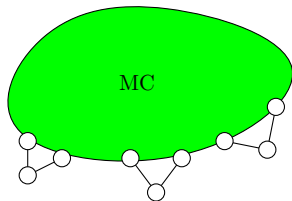
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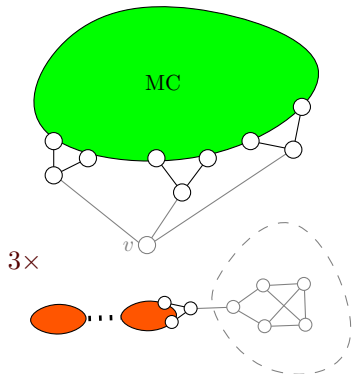
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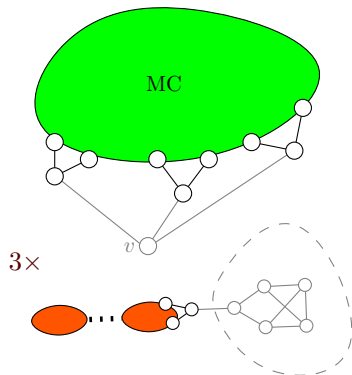
3x



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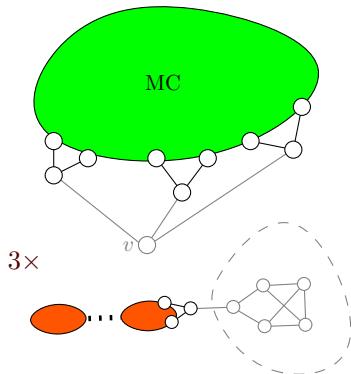


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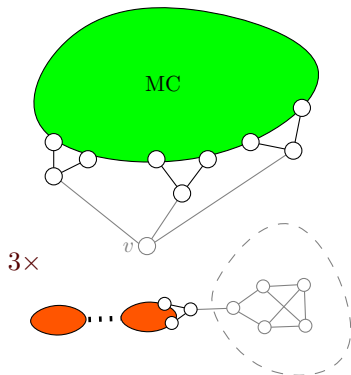
$$l_2(MC) = l_2(G) - 3.$$

$$\# \text{freevertices}_G =$$





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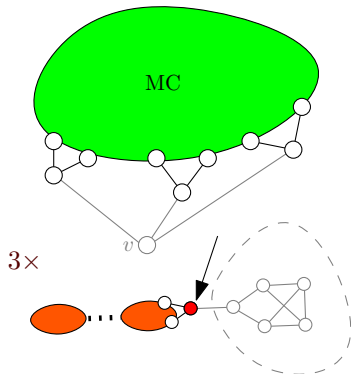
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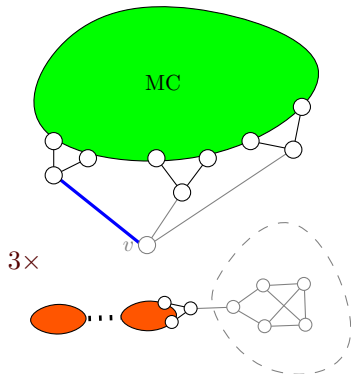
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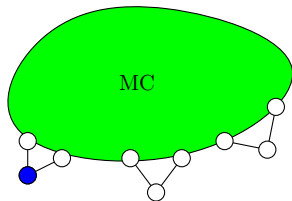
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3×

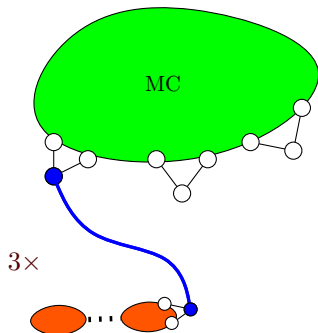


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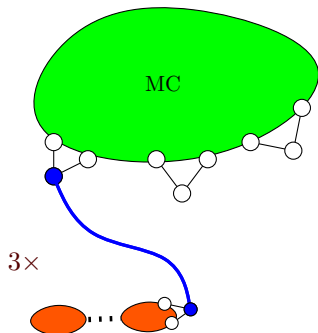
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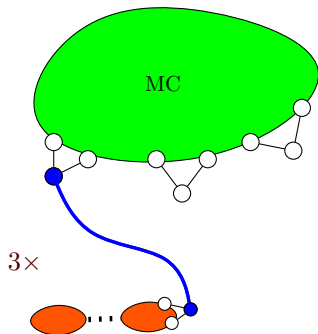
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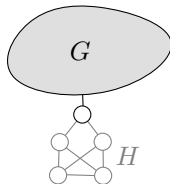
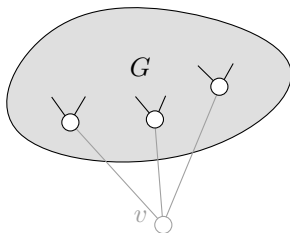
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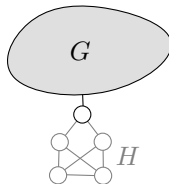
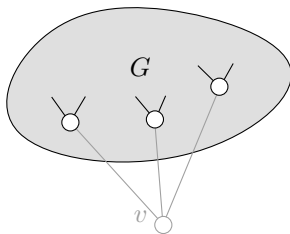
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... apply previous algorithm, and remove dummies.

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# Overview

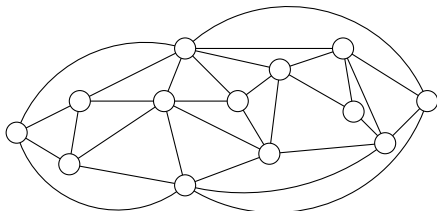
Graph	Bound 1	Bound 2
3-connected + planar	$\frac{n+4}{3}$ ✓	$\frac{2n+4-\ell_4}{4}$
max-deg 3	$\frac{n-1}{3}$ ✓	$\frac{3n-n_2-2\ell_2}{6}$ ✓
3-regular	$\frac{4n-1}{9}$ ✓	$\frac{3n-2\ell_2}{6}$ ✓

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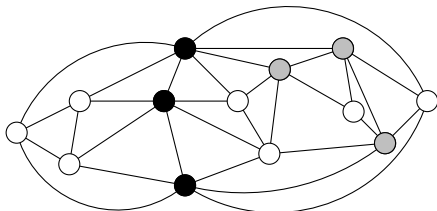
- 1 Introduction
  - Definitions and known results
  - Warm-up: simple algorithms for maxdeg- $k$  graphs
- 2 Graphs with maxdeg 3
  - 3-regular graphs
  - Graphs with maxdeg 3
- 3 The missing algorithm and maximum matchings
  - 3-connected planar graphs
  - Graphs with bounded-degree block trees



# Separating triplets and the 4-block tree

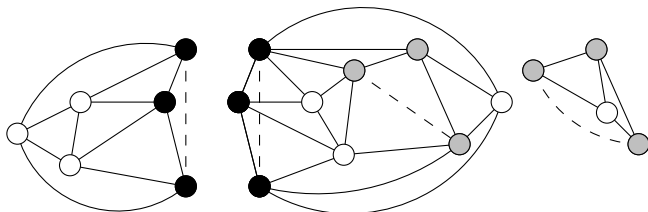


# Separating triplets and the 4-block tree

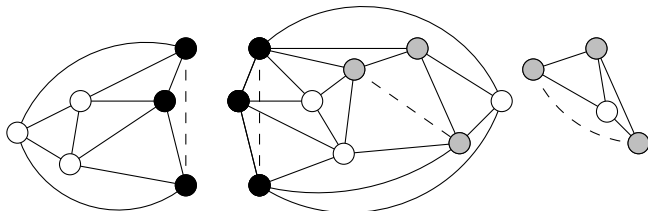




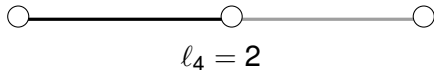
# Separating triplets and the 4-block tree



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4-block tree:



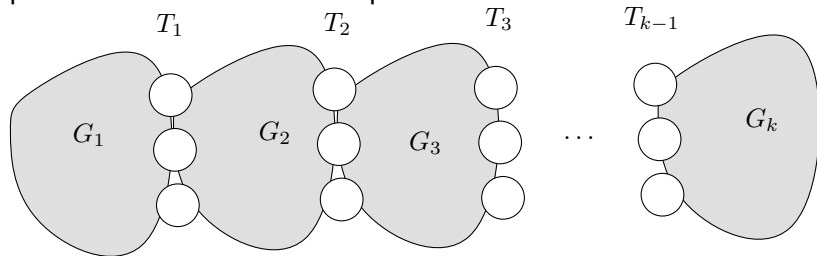
## Algorithm: same story as before?

Cut off leaves and compute perfect matchings in 3-connected planar graphs whose 4-block tree is a path.



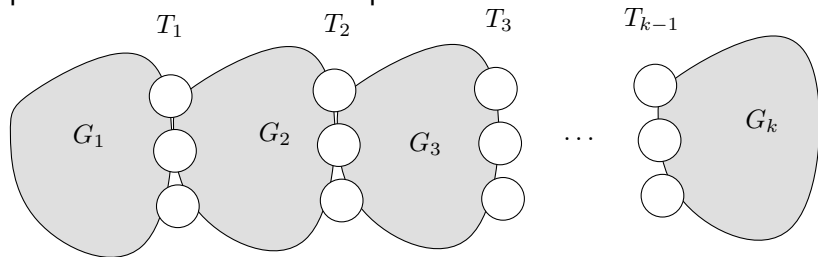
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## Algorithm: same story as before?

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- Hamiltonian cycles take  $O(n)$  time in 4-connected planar graphs.

[Chiba, Nishizeki '89]

- Compute matchings in 4-blocks and combine by DP.



## From 4-block paths to 4-block trees

### Lemma

*Let  $G$  be a 3-connected planar graph whose 4-block tree is a path. A (nearly) perfect matching in  $G$  can be computed in  $O(n)$  time.*



## From 4-block paths to 4-block trees

### Lemma

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### Sizes of matchings

in 3-connected planar graph whose 4-block tree has  $\ell_4$  leaves:

Biedl et al.:  $\frac{2n+4-\ell_4}{4}$  existence

Our algorithm:  $\frac{2n+4-6\ell_4}{4}$  in  $O(n\alpha(n))$  time.

Triangulation:  $\frac{2n+4-2\ell_4}{4}$  in  $O(n)$  time.



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## Bounded-degree block trees

### Theorem

*Let  $G$  be a 3-connected planar graph with bounded-deg. 4-block tree. Maximum matching takes  $O(n^\alpha(n))$  time.*

*Proof:*

- Compute local matchings in 4-blocks.
- Count number of free vertices for every configuration.
- Use DP to find a maximum matching.



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### Theorem

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Can we do better??

There are linear-time reductions:

[Biedl SODA'01]

- max. matchings in planar graphs  $\rightarrow$  in **triangulated planar graphs**
- max. matchings in general graphs  $\rightarrow$  in **3-regular graphs**



# Conclusion and open questions

graph class	bound on matching size		runtime $O(\cdot)$
	type-1	type-2	
3-regular	$(4n - 1)/9$	$(3n - 2l_2)/6$	$n \log^4 n$
maxdeg-3	$(n - 1)/3$	$(3n - n_2 - 2l_2)/6$	$n \mid n \log^4 n$
3-connected, planar, $n \geq 10$	$(n + 4)/3$	$(2n + 4 - 6l_4)/4$	$n \mid n \alpha(n)$
3-regular planar	$(3n - 6l_2)/6$		$n$
triangulated, planar	$(2n + 4 - 2l_4)/4$		$n$
maxdeg- $k$	$(n - 1)/k$		$n$
3-reg., bnd.-deg 2-bt	maximum		$n \log^4 n$
3-reg., planar, bnd.-deg 2-bt	maximum		$n$
3-conn., planar, bnd.-deg 4-bt	maximum		$n \alpha(n)$

- Improve **running time** in the planar case!
- Remove **6!**

