

Maximum Cardinality Matching

Christine Rizkallah

March 17, 2025

Abstract

A *matching* in a graph G is a subset M of the edges of G such that no two share an endpoint. A matching has maximum cardinality if its cardinality is at least as large as that of any other matching. An *odd-set cover* OSC of a graph G is a labeling of the nodes of G with integers such that every edge of G is either incident to a node labeled 1 or connects two nodes labeled with the same number $i \geq 2$.

Theorem 1 (Edmonds [2]). Let M be a matching in a graph G and let OSC be an odd-set cover of G . For any $i \geq 0$, let n_i be the number of nodes labeled i . If

$$|M| = n_1 + \sum_{i \geq 2} \lfloor n_i/2 \rfloor$$

then M is a maximum cardinality matching.

We provide an Isabelle proof of Edmonds theorem. For an explanation of the proof see [1].

Contents

1	Definitions	2
2	Lemmas	2
2.1	$ M \leq n_1$	3
2.2	$ M_i \leq \lfloor n_i/2 \rfloor$	6
2.3	$ M \leq \sum M_i $	6
3	Final Theorem	9
	<code>theory Matching</code>	
	<code>imports Main</code>	
	<code>begin</code>	
	<code>type-synonym label = nat</code>	

1 Definitions

definition *finite-graph* :: 'v set => ('v * 'v) set => bool **where**
finite-graph V E = (finite V ∧ finite E ∧
 (∀ e ∈ E. fst e ∈ V ∧ snd e ∈ V ∧ fst e ≈ snd e))

definition *degree* :: ('v * 'v) set => 'v => nat **where**
degree E v = card {e ∈ E. fst e = v ∨ snd e = v}

definition *edge-as-set* :: ('v * 'v) => 'v set **where**
edge-as-set e = {fst e, snd e}

definition *N* :: 'v set => ('v => label) => nat => nat **where**
N V L i = card {v ∈ V. L v = i}

definition *weight*:: label set => (label => nat) => nat **where**
weight LV f = f 1 + (∑ i∈LV. (f i) div 2)

definition *OSC* :: ('v => label) => ('v * 'v) set => bool **where**
OSC L E = (∀ e ∈ E. L (fst e) = 1 ∨ L (snd e) = 1 ∨
 L (fst e) = L (snd e) ∧ L (fst e) > 1)

definition *disjoint-edges* :: ('v * 'v) => ('v * 'v) => bool **where**
disjoint-edges e1 e2 = (fst e1 ≠ fst e2 ∧ fst e1 ≠ snd e2 ∧
 snd e1 ≠ fst e2 ∧ snd e1 ≠ snd e2)

definition *matching* :: 'v set => ('v * 'v) set => ('v * 'v) set => bool **where**
matching V E M = (M ⊆ E ∧ finite-graph V E ∧
 (∀ e1 ∈ M. ∀ e2 ∈ M. e1 ≠ e2 → disjoint-edges e1 e2))

definition *matching-i* :: nat => 'v set => ('v * 'v) set => ('v * 'v) set =>
 ('v => label) => ('v * 'v) set **where**
matching-i i V E M L = {e ∈ M. i=1 ∧ (L (fst e) = i ∨ L (snd e) = i)
 ∨ i>1 ∧ L (fst e) = i ∧ L (snd e) = i}

definition *V-i*:: nat => 'v set => ('v * 'v) set => ('v * 'v) set =>
 ('v => label) => 'v set **where**
V-i i V E M L = ∪ (edge-as-set ' matching-i i V E M L)

definition *endpoint-inV* :: 'v set => ('v * 'v) => 'v **where**
endpoint-inV V e = (if fst e ∈ V then fst e else snd e)

definition *relevant-endpoint* :: ('v => label) => 'v set =>
 ('v * 'v) => 'v **where**
relevant-endpoint L V e = (if L (fst e) = 1 then fst e else snd e)

2 Lemmas

lemma *definition-of-range*:

endpoint-inV V1 ‘ *matching-i 1 V E M L* =
 $\{ v. \exists e \in \text{matching-i } 1 \text{ V E M L. endpoint-inV V1 } e = v \}$ **by** *auto*

lemma *matching-i-edges-as-sets*:

edge-as-set ‘ *matching-i i V E M L* =
 $\{ e1. \exists (u, v) \in \text{matching-i } i \text{ V E M L. edge-as-set } (u, v) = e1 \}$ **by** *auto*

lemma *matching-disjointness*:

assumes *matching V E M*
assumes $e1 \in M$
assumes $e2 \in M$
assumes $e1 \neq e2$
shows $\text{edge-as-set } e1 \cap \text{edge-as-set } e2 = \{\}$
using *assms*
by (*auto simp add: edge-as-set-def disjoint-edges-def matching-def*)

lemma *expand-set-containment*:

assumes *matching V E M*
assumes $e \in M$
shows $e \in E$
using *assms*
by (*auto simp add: matching-def*)

theorem *injectivity*:

assumes *is-osc: OSC L E*
assumes *is-m: matching V E M*
assumes *e1-in-M1: e1* $\in \text{matching-i } 1 \text{ V E M L}$
and *e2-in-M1: e2* $\in \text{matching-i } 1 \text{ V E M L}$
assumes *diff: (e1* $\neq e2)$
shows $\text{endpoint-inV } \{v \in V. L v = 1\} e1 \neq \text{endpoint-inV } \{v \in V. L v = 1\}$
 $e2$

proof –

from *e1-in-M1* **have** $e1 \in M$ **by** (*auto simp add: matching-i-def*)

moreover

from *e2-in-M1* **have** $e2 \in M$ **by** (*auto simp add: matching-i-def*)

ultimately

have *disjoint-edge-sets: edge-as-set e1* $\cap \text{edge-as-set } e2 = \{\}$

using *diff is-m matching-disjointness* **by** *fast*

then show *?thesis* **by** (*auto simp add: edge-as-set-def endpoint-inV-def*)

qed

2.1 $|M1| \leq n1$

lemma *card-M1-le-NVL1*:

assumes *matching V E M*

assumes *OSC L E*

shows $\text{card } (\text{matching-i } 1 \text{ V E M L}) \leq (NVL1)$

proof –

let $?f = \text{endpoint-inV } \{v \in V. L v = 1\}$

```

let ?A = matching-i 1 V E M L
let ?B = {v ∈ V. L v = 1}
have inj-on ?f ?A using assms injectivity
  unfolding inj-on-def by blast
moreover have ?f ' ?A ⊆ ?B
proof -
  {
    fix e assume e ∈ matching-i 1 V E M L
    then have endpoint-inV {v ∈ V. L v = 1} e ∈ {v ∈ V. L v = 1}
      using assms
      by (auto simp add: endpoint-inV-def matching-def
        matching-i-def OSC-def finite-graph-def definition-of-range)
  }
  then show ?thesis using assms definition-of-range by blast
qed
moreover have finite ?B using assms
  by (simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def)
ultimately show ?thesis unfolding N-def by (rule card-inj-on-le)
qed

```

```

lemma edge-as-set-inj-on-Mi:
  assumes matching V E M
  shows inj-on edge-as-set (matching-i i V E M L)
  using assms
  unfolding inj-on-def edge-as-set-def matching-def
    disjoint-edges-def matching-i-def
  by blast

```

```

lemma card-Mi-eq-card-edge-as-set-Mi:
  assumes matching V E M
  shows card (matching-i i V E M L) = card (edge-as-set' matching-i i V E M L)
  (is card ?Mi = card (?f ' -))
proof -
  from assms have bij-betw ?f ?Mi (?f ' ?Mi)
    by (simp add: bij-betw-def matching-i-edges-as-sets edge-as-set-inj-on-Mi)
  then show ?thesis by (rule bij-betw-same-card)
qed

```

```

lemma card-edge-as-set-Mi-twice-card-partitions:
  assumes OSC L E ∧ matching V E M ∧ i > 1
  shows 2 * card (edge-as-set' matching-i i V E M L)
  = card (V-i i V E M L) (is 2 * card ?C = card ?Vi)
proof -
  from assms have 1: finite (⋃ ?C)
    by (auto simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def
      matching-i-def edge-as-set-def finite-subset)
  show ?thesis unfolding V-i-def
  proof (rule card-partition)
    show finite ?C using 1 by (rule finite-UnionD)

```

```

next
  show finite ( $\bigcup ?C$ ) using 1 .
next
  fix c assume  $c \in ?C$  then show  $\text{card } c = 2$ 
  proof (rule imageE)
    fix x
    assume 2:  $c = \text{edge-as-set } x$  and 3:  $x \in \text{matching-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L$ 
    with assms have  $x \in E$ 
    unfolding matching-i-def matching-def by blast
    then have  $\text{fst } x \neq \text{snd } x$  using assms 3
    by (auto simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def)
    with 2 show ?thesis by (auto simp add: edge-as-set-def)
  qed
next
  fix x1 x2
  assume 4:  $x1 \in ?C$  and 5:  $x2 \in ?C$  and 6:  $x1 \neq x2$ 
  {
    fix e1 e2
    assume 7:  $x1 = \text{edge-as-set } e1 \ e1 \in \text{matching-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L$ 
       $x2 = \text{edge-as-set } e2 \ e2 \in \text{matching-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L$ 
    from assms have matching V E M by simp
    moreover
    from 7 assms have  $e1 \in M$  and  $e2 \in M$ 
    by (simp-all add: matching-i-def)
    moreover from 6 7 have  $e1 \neq e2$  by blast
    ultimately have  $x1 \cap x2 = \{\}$  unfolding 7
    by (rule matching-disjointness)
  }
  with 4 5 show  $x1 \cap x2 = \{\}$  by clarsimp
  qed
qed

```

```

lemma card-Mi-twice-card-Vi:
  assumes  $OSC \ L \ E \wedge \text{matching } V \ E \ M \wedge i > 1$ 
  shows  $2 * \text{card} (\text{matching-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L) = \text{card} (V\text{-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L)$ 
  proof –
    from assms have finite ( $V\text{-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L$ )
    by (auto simp add: edge-as-set-def finite-subset
      matching-def finite-graph-def V-i-def matching-i-def )
    with assms show ?thesis
    by (simp add: card-Mi-eq-card-edge-as-set-Mi
      card-edge-as-set-Mi-twice-card-partitions V-i-def)
  qed

```

```

lemma card-Mi-le-floor-div-2-Vi:
  assumes  $OSC \ L \ E \wedge \text{matching } V \ E \ M \wedge i > 1$ 
  shows  $\text{card} (\text{matching-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L) \leq (\text{card} (V\text{-}i \ i \ V \ E \ M \ L)) \text{ div } 2$ 
  using card-Mi-twice-card-Vi[OF assms]
  by arith

```

lemma *card-Vi-le-NVLi*:
assumes $i > 1 \wedge \text{matching } V E M$
shows $\text{card } (V\text{-}i \ i \ V E M L) \leq N V L i$
unfolding *N-def*
proof (*rule card-mono*)
show $\text{finite } \{v \in V. L v = i\}$ **using** *assms*
by (*simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def*)
next
let $?A = \text{edge-as-set } ' \text{matching-}i \ i \ V E M L$
let $?C = \{v \in V. L v = i\}$
show $V\text{-}i \ i \ V E M L \subseteq ?C$ **using** *assms* **unfolding** *V-i-def*
proof (*intro Union-least*)
fix X **assume** $X \in ?A$
with *assms* **have** $\exists x \in \text{matching-}i \ i \ V E M L. \text{edge-as-set } x = X$
by (*simp add: matching-i-edges-as-sets*)
with *assms* **show** $X \subseteq ?C$
unfolding *finite-graph-def matching-def*
matching-i-def edge-as-set-def **by** *blast*
qed
qed

2.2 $|Mi| \leq \lfloor ni/2 \rfloor$

lemma *card-Mi-le-floor-div-2-NVLi*:
assumes $OSC L E \wedge \text{matching } V E M \wedge i > 1$
shows $\text{card } (\text{matching-}i \ i \ V E M L) \leq (N V L i) \text{ div } 2$
proof –
from *assms* **have** $\text{card } (V\text{-}i \ i \ V E M L) \leq (N V L i)$
by (*simp add: card-Vi-le-NVLi*)
then **have** $\text{card } (V\text{-}i \ i \ V E M L) \text{ div } 2 \leq (N V L i) \text{ div } 2$
by *simp*
moreover from *assms* **have**
 $\text{card } (\text{matching-}i \ i \ V E M L) \leq \text{card } (V\text{-}i \ i \ V E M L) \text{ div } 2$
by (*intro card-Mi-le-floor-div-2-Vi*)
ultimately show *?thesis* **by** *auto*
qed

2.3 $|M| \leq \sum |Mi|$

lemma *card-M-le-sum-card-Mi*:
assumes $\text{matching } V E M$ **and** $OSC L E$
shows $\text{card } M \leq (\sum i \in L \cdot V. \text{card } (\text{matching-}i \ i \ V E M L))$
(is card - \leq ?CardMi)
proof –
let $?UnMi = \bigcup x \in L \cdot V. \text{matching-}i \ x \ V E M L$
from *assms* **have** $1: \text{finite } ?UnMi$
by (*auto simp add: matching-def*
finite-graph-def matching-i-def finite-subset)
{

```

fix e assume e-inM: e ∈ M
let ?v = relevant-endpoint L V e
have 1: e ∈ matching-i (L ?v) V E M L using assms e-inM
proof cases
  assume L (fst e) = 1
  thus ?thesis using assms e-inM
  by (simp add: relevant-endpoint-def matching-i-def)
next
  assume a: L (fst e) ≠ 1
  have L (fst e) = 1 ∨ L (snd e) = 1
    ∨ (L (fst e) = L (snd e) ∧ L (fst e) > 1)
  using assms e-inM unfolding OSC-def
  by (blast intro: expand-set-containment)
  thus ?thesis using assms e-inM a
  by (auto simp add: relevant-endpoint-def matching-i-def)
qed
have 2: ?v ∈ V using assms e-inM
  by (auto simp add: matching-def
    relevant-endpoint-def matching-i-def finite-graph-def)
then have ∃ v ∈ V. e ∈ matching-i (L v) V E M L using assms 1 2
  by (intro bexI)
}
with assms have M ⊆ ?UnMi by (auto)
with assms and 1 have card M ≤ card ?UnMi by (intro card-mono)
moreover from assms have card ?UnMi = ?CardMi
proof (intro card-UN-disjoint)
  show finite (L'V) using assms
  by (simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def)
next
  show ∀ i ∈ L'V. finite (matching-i i V E M L) using assms
  unfolding matching-def finite-graph-def matching-i-def
  by (blast intro: finite-subset)
next
  show ∀ i ∈ L'V. ∀ j ∈ L'V. i ≠ j →
    matching-i i V E M L ∩ matching-i j V E M L = {} using assms
  by (auto simp add: matching-i-def)
qed
ultimately show ?thesis by simp
qed

theorem card-M-le-weight-NVLi:
  assumes matching V E M and OSC L E
  shows card M ≤ weight {i ∈ L'V. i > 1} (N V L) (is - ≤ ?W)
proof -
  let ?M01 = ∑ i | i ∈ L'V ∧ (i=1 ∨ i=0). card (matching-i i V E M L)
  let ?Mgr1 = ∑ i | i ∈ L'V ∧ 1 < i. card (matching-i i V E M L)
  let ?Mi = ∑ i ∈ L'V. card (matching-i i V E M L)
  have card M ≤ ?Mi using assms by (rule card-M-le-sum-card-Mi)
  moreover

```

```

have ?Mi ≤ ?W
proof -
  let ?A = {i ∈ L ' V. i = 1 ∨ i = 0}
  let ?B = {i ∈ L ' V. 1 < i}
  let ?g = λ i. card (matching-i i V E M L)
  let ?set01 = {i. i : L ' V & (i = 1 | i = 0)}
  have a: L ' V = ?A ∪ ?B using assms by auto
  have finite V using assms
    by (simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def)
  have b: sum ?g (?A ∪ ?B) = sum ?g ?A + sum ?g ?B
    using assms ⟨finite V⟩ by (auto intro: sum.union-disjoint)
  have 1: ?Mi = ?M01 + ?Mgr1 using assms a b
    by (simp add: matching-def finite-graph-def)
  moreover
  have 0: card (matching-i 0 V E M L) = 0 using assms
    by (simp add: matching-i-def)
  have 2: ?M01 ≤ N V L 1
  proof cases
    assume a: 1 ∈ L ' V
    have ?M01 = card (matching-i 1 V E M L)
    proof cases
      assume b: 0 ∈ L ' V
      with a assms have ?set01 = {0, 1} by blast
      thus ?thesis using assms 0 by simp
    next
      assume b: 0 ∉ L ' V
      with a have ?set01 = {1} by (auto simp del: One-nat-def)
      thus ?thesis by simp
    qed
    thus ?thesis using assms a
      by (simp del: One-nat-def, intro card-M1-le-NVL1)
  next
  assume a: 1 ∉ L ' V
  show ?thesis
  proof cases
    assume b: 0 ∈ L ' V
    with a assms have ?set01 = {0} by (auto simp del: One-nat-def)
    thus ?thesis using assms 0 by auto
  next
    assume b: 0 ∉ L ' V
    with a have ?set01 = {} by (auto simp del: One-nat-def)
    then have ?M01 = (∑ i ∈ {}. card (matching-i i V E M L)) by auto
    thus ?thesis by simp
  qed
  qed
  moreover
  have 3: ?Mgr1 ≤ (∑ i | i ∈ L ' V ∧ 1 < i. N V L i div 2) using assms
    by (intro sum-mono card-Mi-le-floor-div-2-NVLi, simp)
ultimately

```



```

  show ?thesis using 1 2 3 assms by (simp add: weight-def)
qed
ultimately show ?thesis by simp
qed

```

3 Final Theorem

The following theorem is due to Edmond [2]:

```

theorem maximum-cardinality-matching:
  assumes matching V E M and OSC L E
  and card M = weight {i ∈ L ‘ V. i > 1} (N V L)
  and matching V E M'
  shows card M' ≤ card M
  using assms card-M-le-weight-NVLi
  by simp

```

The widely used algorithmic library LEDA has a certifying algorithm for maximum cardinality matching. This Isabelle proof is part of the work done to verify the checker of this certifying algorithm. For more information see [1].

end

References

- [1] E. Alkassar, S. Böhme, K. Mehlhorn, and C. Rizkallah. Verification of certifying computations. In *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Computer Aided Verification (CAV2011)*, Cliff Lodge, Snowbird, Utah, USA, 2011. To Appear.
- [2] J. Edmonds. Maximum matching and a polyhedron with 0,1 - vertices. *Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards*, 69B:125–130, 1965.