

- For a minimization problem, an α -approx algo A takes any instance I of the problem and returns a solution S s.t

$$\text{cost}(S) \leq \alpha \cdot \text{opt}(I)$$

\nwarrow opt-cost
 ie, cost of opt soln
 for instance I

Note: $\alpha \geq 1$, and closer it's to 1, the better is quality of the algorithm

- For a maximization problem, we have a similar defn except

$$\text{cost}(S) \geq \frac{\text{opt}(I)}{\alpha}$$

Again $\alpha \geq 1$.

Sometimes one says a p -approx with $p \leq 1$ for max. problems — in that case one means

$$\text{cost}(S) \geq p \cdot \text{opt}(I)$$

Examples

① Travelling Problem (TSP)

Input: n points on a metric space (X, d)

$(\forall u, v, w \in X,$
 $d(u, w) \leq d(u, v) + d(v, w)$

Output: A tour / ordering of vertices in X
 $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n) \leftarrow$ permutation.

Objective: Minimize

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} d(\sigma_i, \sigma_{i+1}) + d(\sigma_n, \sigma_1)$$

$n-1$ 1 1

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a(v_i, v_{i+1}) + d(v_n, v_1)$$

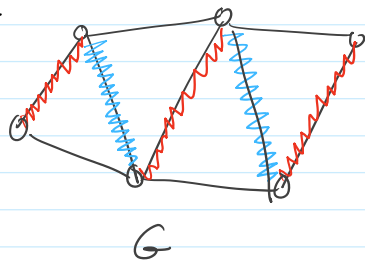
NP-hard

② Matching

Input: Undirected graph $G = (V, E)$

Output: $M \subseteq E$ st $\deg_M(v) \leq 1$
 degree in $G(v, M)$

Example:



Both the red edges and the blue edges are valid matchings.

Objective: Maximize $|M|$.

in P

Algorithm for Matching Problem

- Initially $M = \emptyset$, empty set.
- Consider edges of G in any order.
- While considering edge (u, v)
 if $\deg_M(u) = \deg_M(v) = 0$,
 then $M = M + (u, v)$

Simple algorithm, fast, how good is it?

Claim: The above algorithm is a 2-approx algo.

Proof:- Fix a graph G and let M^* be the maximum matching. Let M be the matching returned by the above algorithm.

We wish to show $|M| \geq \frac{1}{2} |M^*|$

In order to do so, we define a many-to-1 map $\phi: M^* \rightarrow M$ s.t.

$\forall e \in M$, there are at most two edges $e_1, e_2 \in M^*$ with

$$\phi(e_1) = e \text{ \& \& } \phi(e_2) = e$$

This will prove $|M| \geq \frac{1}{2} |M^*|$

For all $(u,v) \in M^* \cap M$, $\phi(u,v) = (u,v)$

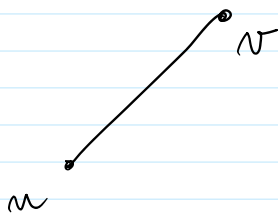
For all $(u,v) \in M^* \setminus M$,

since we haven't picked it M

$\Rightarrow \exists (v,w)$ or (u,x) or both in M .

Arbitrarily map $\phi(u,v)$ to one of them.

Pick an edge $(u,v) \in M$,



If $e \in M^*$ has $\phi(e) = (u,v)$

then $e \sim (u,v)$, i.e., e and (u,v) must share a common end point

then $e \sim (u,v)$, i.e., e and (u,v) must share a common endpoint.

No two $e, f \in M^*$ can share the same ept. $\therefore M^*$ is a matching.

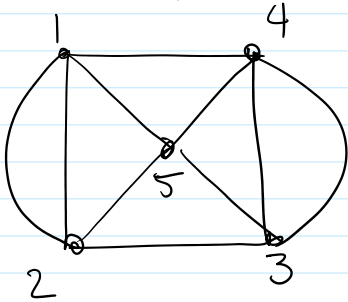
Since (u,v) has only two epts, at most 2 edges in M^* map to (u,v)



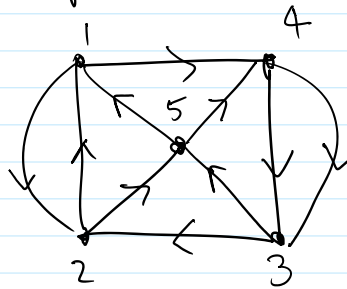
Algorithms for TSP

Preliminaries

Eulerian Tour: A walk in G is an Eulerian walk if every edge is visited exactly once. It's called an Eulerian tour if start and end points are same



has an
Eul. tour



$5 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 5$

Thm: G has an Eulerian tour iff G is connected & $\deg(v)$ is even for all v .

* Such graphs are called Eulerian.

∴ Checking if there is a tour visiting every edge of a G (exactly once) is easy.

Eulerian tours vs metric TSP

Given a metric (X, d) , let G be the complete graph with $wt(u, v) = d(u, v)$.

Let F be any Eulerian subgraph of G .

Claim ∴ There is a tour of cost $\leq wt(F)$

$$wt(F) = \sum_{e \in F} wt(e)$$

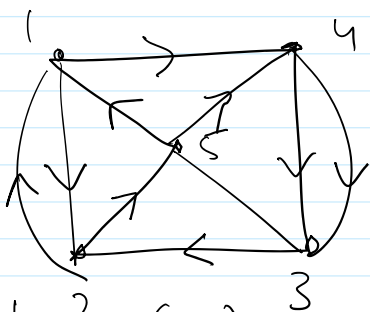
Pf ∴ Let W be the Eulerian tour of F .

$\sigma \equiv \text{Shortcut}(W)$

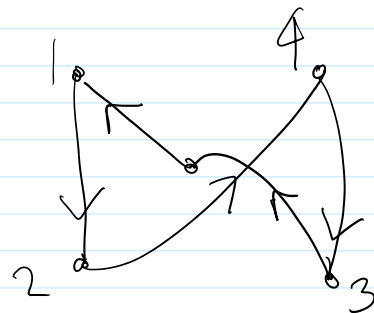
↓
whenever a vertex is repeated we just skip it.

eg: in the example above W is

$5 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 5$



skipped



$\text{Shortcut}(W) \equiv 5 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 5$

$\text{cost}(\sigma) \leq \text{cost}(W) \quad \therefore \text{of } \Delta\text{-ineq.}$

eg: $\rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow$ is shortcut to

$\rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow$
but $d(2,4) \leq d(2,5) + d(5,4)$

This is where metric prop is crucially used



\therefore Finding "small" tours in (X,d) boils down to finding "small cost" Eulerian subgraphs of G .

Algo 1

- ① T be the MST of G
- ② $2T$ be the graph in X obtained by taking two parallel copies of each edge of T .
- ③ W be the Eulerian tour of $2T$
- ④ Return $\text{Shortcut}(W)$

Thm :- Algo 1 is a 2-approx algo for TSP.

Pf :

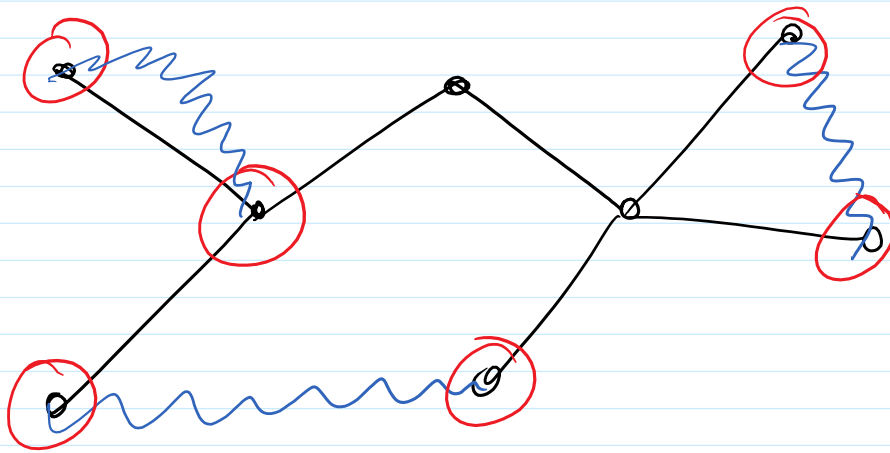
* $2T$ is Eulerian by defⁿ.

* $\text{cost}(2T) \leq 2 \text{cost}(T) \leq 2 \text{OPT}$

↑
since the opt
tour contains a sp. tree



In the previous algorithm, we ensured that every degree is even by taking two copies of every edge in T . But we can do something better.



Suppose T is the mst. The "problematic" vertices are the odd-degree vertices.

Obs: # of odd-degree nodes in any tree is even.

Idea: "Pair these nodes up."

How? In the cheapest possible way.

By adding a minimum wt perfect matching.

Algorithm 2

- ① Find T : mst of G
- ② O be the set of odd-degree vertices in T
- ③ M be the min wt perfect matching connecting O in G
- ④ $T \cup M$ is an Eulerian graph.
 W : Eulerian tour in $T \cup M$
 Return : Shortcut (W)

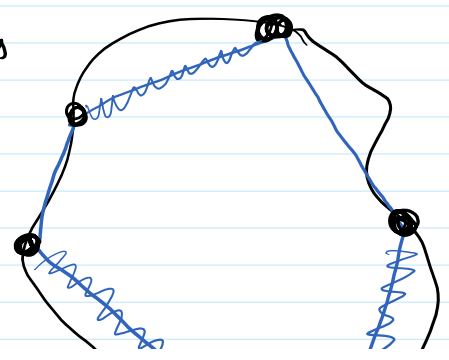
Thm: The above algo is $\frac{3}{2}$ -approximate.

Pf: Suffices to show $w(M) \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \text{OPT}$
 since $w(T) \leq \text{OPT}$.

Again look at the opt. tour and consider the O -vertices in this tour.

Note:

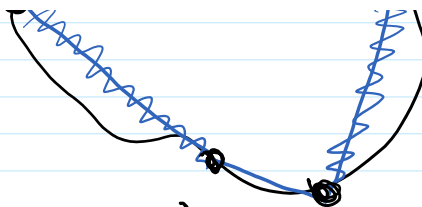
→ " . . . | | | "



Note:

$OPT \geq$ "total blue length"

$\geq 2 \cdot (\text{min wt matching})$



Since the blue lines partition into two matchings.

