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LARSON—MATH 556—CLASSROOM WORKSHEET 02  
The Assignment Problem & Matchings.

Concepts & Notation

- *assignment problem, graph  $G$ , points  $V(G)$ , lines  $E(G)$ , adjacent, incident.*

Review

A **graph**  $G$  consists of a set of **points**  $V(G)$  and **lines**  $E(G)$  which are pairs  $\{v, w\} \subseteq V(G)$  or, simply,  $vw$ . If  $vw$  is a line, point  $v$  is said to be **adjacent** to point  $w$ , while  $v$  is **incident** to line  $vw$ .

Problems

A **bipartite graph** is a graph  $G$  where the points  $V(G)$  can be partitioned into two sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that every edge has one endpoint in  $A$  and the other in  $B$ . In the assignment problem, the corresponding graph is bipartite: let  $A$  be the set of employees and  $B$  be the set of jobs.

1. To define a graph on a set of points, it is enough to define an *adjacency relation* which specifies which vertices are adjacent.  $V(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . Let  $a$  be adjacent to  $b$  in  $G$  if and only if  $a + b$  is even. Is  $G$  bipartite?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Let  $A$  be any set and  $B$  be the set of subsets of  $A$ . Let  $V(G) = A \cup B$ , and let  $a \in A$  be adjacent to  $b \in B$  if and only if  $a \in b$ . Let  $A = \{a_1, a_2\}$ . Find  $B$  and then draw  $G$ . Is  $G$  bipartite?

3. Let  $A$  be any set and  $B$  be the set of subsets of  $A$ . Let  $V(G) = A \cup B$ , and let  $a \in A$  be adjacent to  $b \in B$  if and only if  $a \in b$ . Let  $A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$ . Find  $B$  and then draw  $G$ . Is  $G$  bipartite?

### Basic Definitions & the 4 fundamental invariants in Chp. 1

A **bipartite graph** is a graph  $G = (A, B)$  with bipartition  $V(G) = A \cup B$  where every line has one endpoint in  $A$  and the other in  $B$ .

A **complete bipartite graph** is a graph  $G = (A, B)$  with bipartition  $V(G) = A \cup B$  where there is a line between every point in  $A$  and point in  $B$ .  $K_{m,n}$  denotes the complete bipartite graph with  $|A| = n$  and  $|B| = m$ .

4. Draw the complete bipartite graph  $K_{3,3}$ .
5. Draw the complete bipartite graph  $K_{3,4}$ .

A **star** is the complete bipartite graph  $K_{1,n}$ . ( $K_{1,n}$  is the  $n$ -star, or star on  $n + 1$  points).

6. Draw the star  $K_{1,3}$ .
7. Draw the 2-star and the 6-star.

A **matching** in a graph is a set of lines where no pair of lines is incident to the same point. A matching is **maximum** if there is no matching with larger cardinality. The cardinality of a maximum matching in graph  $G$  is the **matching number**  $\nu(G)$ .

8. Find a maximum matching for  $K_{3,4}$ . Then find  $\nu$ . Can you find a matching which is *maximal* (can't be extended) but is not *maximum*?

A **line cover** in a graph is a set of lines which are incident to all the points in the graph. A line cover is *minimum* if there is no line cover with small cardinality. The cardinality of a minimum line cover in graph  $G$  is the *line covering number*  $\rho(G)$ .

9. Find a minimum line cover for  $K_{3,4}$ . Then find  $\rho$ . Can you find a line cover which is *minimal* (can't be reduced) but is not *minimum*?

An *independent set* in a graph is a set of points no pair of which are adjacent. An independent set is **maximum** if there is no independent set with larger cardinality. The cardinality of a maximum independent set in graph  $G$  is the *independence number*  $\alpha(G)$ .

10. Find a maximum independent set for  $K_{3,4}$ . Then find  $\alpha$ . Can you find an independent set which is *maximal* (can't be extended) but is not *maximum*?

A **point cover** is a set of points which are incident to all the lines in the graph. A point cover is *minimum* if there is no point cover with smaller cardinality. The cardinality of a minimum matching in graph  $G$  is the **point covering number**  $\tau(G)$ .

11. Find a minimum point cover for  $K_{3,4}$ . Then find  $\tau$ . Can you find a point cover which is *minimal* (can't be reduced) but is not *minimum*?

### The Proof of Lemma 1.02

12. What relationship do you notice about  $\rho$ ,  $\nu$  and  $|V(G)|$  in  $K_{3,4}$ ? Draw another graph and see if this relationship holds. Can you draw a graph where it doesn't hold?

If  $G$  is a graph and  $H$  is also a graph the points and lines of which are also points and lines of  $G$ , then  $H$  is a **subgraph** of  $G$ . If  $H$  is a subgraph of  $G$ , and if every line joining two points of  $H$  which lies in  $G$  also lies in  $H$  then  $H$  is an **induced** subgraph of  $G$ . If  $X$  is a set of points in  $G$  then the **subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $X$** ,  $G[X]$ , is the induced subgraph of  $G$  having point set  $X$ .

13. Find a subgraph of  $K_{3,4}$  which is not an induced subgraph of  $K_{3,4}$ . What can you say about any induced subgraph of  $K_{3,4}$ ?