

Definition 3.12

- ▶ A **vertex cover** of G is a set S of vertices such that every edge of G is incident with at least one element of S .
- ▶ The vertices in S **cover** the edges of G .

Theorem 3.13 (König-Egerváry 1931)

If G is a bipartite graph, then the maximum size of a matching in G equals the minimum size of a vertex cover in G .

Easy Direction.

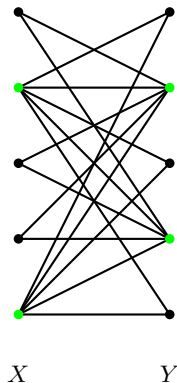
Since distinct vertices must be used to cover the edges of a matching, we have $|U| \geq |M|$ whenever U is a vertex cover and M is a matching. \square

Proof of König-Egerváry Theorem, Continued

Given a minimum vertex cover U , we construct a matching of size $|U|$.

Proof of König-Egerváry Theorem, Continued

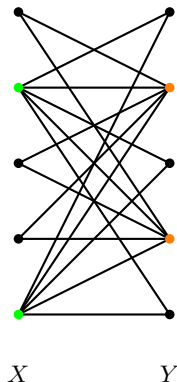
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U

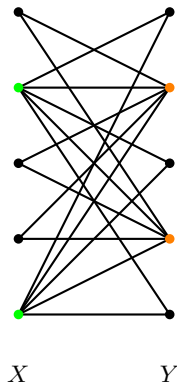
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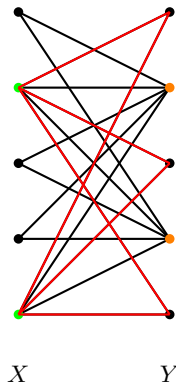
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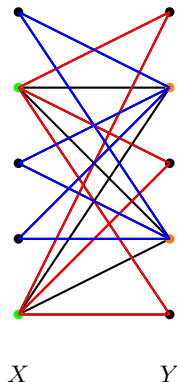
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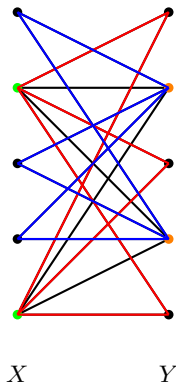
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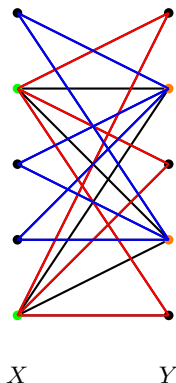
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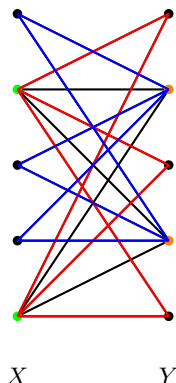
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Proof of König-Egerváry Theorem, Continued

Given a minimum vertex cover U , we construct a matching of size $|U|$. Suppose G has bipartition $\{X, Y\}$. Let $R = U \cap X$ and $T = U \cap Y$. Let H and H' be the subgraphs of G induced by $R \cup (Y - T)$ and $T \cup (X - R)$, respectively. We use 3.6 to show H has a matching saturating R , and H' has a matching saturating T . Suppose $S \subseteq R$ and consider $N_H(S) \subseteq Y - T$. If $|N_H(S)| < |S|$, then we can substitute $N_H(S)$ for S in U to obtain a smaller vertex cover, which is impossible. Hence H satisfies the Hall's condition and so has a matching of size $|R|$. Likewise, H' has a matching of size $|T|$.



Proof of König-Egerváry Theorem, Continued

Given a minimum vertex cover U , we construct a matching of size $|U|$. Suppose G has bipartition $\{X, Y\}$. Let $R = U \cap X$ and $T = U \cap Y$. Let H and H' be the subgraphs of G induced by $R \cup (Y - T)$ and $T \cup (X - R)$, respectively. We use 3.6 to show H has a matching saturating R , and H' has a matching saturating T . Suppose $S \subseteq R$ and consider $N_H(S) \subseteq Y - T$. If $|N_H(S)| < |S|$, then we can substitute $N_H(S)$ for S in U to obtain a smaller vertex cover, which is impossible. Hence H satisfies the Hall's condition and so has a matching of size $|R|$. Likewise, H' has a matching of size $|T|$. The union of these two matchings is a matching of G of size $|U|$.

