Matroid Decomposition Theorem Verification

Ivan Sergeev Martin Dvorak

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0.1 Basic Definitions

0.1.1 Matroid Structure

Definition 1 (matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 2 (isomorphism).

todo: add definition

0.1.2 Matroid Classes

Definition 3 (binary matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 4 (regular matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 5 (graphic matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 6 (cographic matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 7 (planar matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 8 (dual matroid).

todo: add definition

Definition 9 (self-dual matroid).

todo: add definition

0.1.3 Specific Matroids (Constructions)

Wheels

Definition 10 (wheel).

todo: add definition

Definition 11 (W_3).

todo: add definition

Definition 12 (W_4).

todo: add definition

R_{10}

Definition 13 (R_{10})**.**

todo: add definition

R_{12}

Definition 14 (R_{12})**.**

todo: add definition

Fano matroid

Definition 15 (F_7)**.**

todo: add definition

$K_{3,3}$

Definition 16 ($M(K_{3,3})$)**.**

todo: add definition

Definition 17 ($M(K_{3,3})^*$)**.**

todo: add definition

K_5

Definition 18 ($M(K_5)$)**.**

todo: add definition

Definition 19 ($M(K_5)^*$)**.**

todo: add definition

0.1.4 Connectivity and Separation

Definition 20 (k-connectivity)**.**

todo: add definition

Definition 21 (k-separation)**.**

todo: add definition

0.1.5 Reductions

Definition 22 (deletion)**.**

todo: add definition

Definition 23 (contraction)**.**

todo: add definition

Definition 24 (minor)**.**

todo: add definition

0.1.6 Extensions

Definition 25 (1-element extension).

todo: add definition

Definition 26 (2-element extension).

todo: add definition

0.1.7 Sums

Definition 27 (1-sum).

todo: add definition

Definition 28 (2-sum).

todo: add definition

Definition 29 (3-sum).

todo: add definition

Definition 30 (Δ-sum).

todo: add definition

Definition 31 (Y-sum).

todo: add definition

0.1.8 Total Unimodularity

Definition 32 (TU matrix).

todo: add definition

0.1.9 Auxiliary Results

Theorem 33 (Menger's theorem). *A connected graph G is vertex k-connected if and only if every two nodes are connected by k internally node-disjoint paths. Equivalent is the following statement. G is vertex k-connected if and only if any $m \leq k$ nodes are joined to any $n \leq k$ nodes by k internally node-disjoint paths. One may demand that the m nodes are disjoint from the n nodes, but need not do so. Also, the k paths can be so chosen that each of the specified nodes is an endpoint of at least one of the paths.*

Definition 34 (ΔY exchange).

add

Theorem 35 (census from Secion 3.3).

add

0.2 Chapter 3 from Truemper

Lemma 36 (3.2.48)**.**

add name, label, uses, text

Lemma 37 (3.3.12)**.**

add name, label, uses, text

0.3 Chapter 5 from Truemper

Corollary 38.

add name, label, uses, text

0.4 Chapter 6 from Truemper

Lemma 39 (6.2.6)**.**

add name, label, uses, text

Proposition 40 (6.3.12)**.**

add

Proposition 41 (6.3.21)**.**

add

Proposition 42 (6.3.22)**.**

add

Proposition 43 (6.3.23)**.**

add

Corollary 44 (6.3.24)**.** *Let $\mathcal{M}$ be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism and under taking minors. Suppose N given by B^N of (6.3.12) is in $\mathcal{M}$, but the 1- and 2-element extensions of N given by (6.3.21), (6.3.22), (6.3.23), and by the accompanying conditions are not in $\mathcal{M}$. Assume matroid $M \in \mathcal{M}$ has an N minor. Then any k-separation of any such minor that corresponds to $(X_1 \cup Y_1, X_2 \cup Y_2)$ of N under one of the isomorphisms induces a k-separation of M.*

Theorem 45 (6.4.1)**.**

add

0.5 Chapter 7 from Truemper

0.5.1 Chapter 7.2

Definition 46 (splitter)**.** Let $\mathcal{M}$ be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism and under taking minors. Let N be a 3-connected minor of $\mathcal{M}$ on at least 6 elements. If every $M \in \mathcal{M}$ with a proper N minor has a 2-separation, then N is called a splitter of $\mathcal{M}$.

Theorem 47 (7.2.1.a splitter for nonwheels)**.** *Let $\mathcal{M}$ be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism and under taking minors. Let N be a 3-connected minor of $\mathcal{M}$ on at least 6 elements. If N is not a wheel, then N is a splitter of $\mathcal{M}$ iff $\mathcal{M}$ does not contain a 3-connected 1-element extension of N.*

Proof sketch.

- If N is a splitter of $\mathcal{M}$, then clearly $\mathcal{M}$ does not contain a 3-connected 1-element extension of N.
- Prove the converse by contradiction. To this end, suppose that $\mathcal{M}$ does not contain a 3-connected 1-element extension of N and that N is not a splitter of $\mathcal{M}$.
- Thus, $\mathcal{M}$ contains a 3-connected matroid M with a proper N minor and no 2-separation.
- Since $\mathcal{M}$ is closed under isomorphism, we may assume N itself to be that N minor.
- By Theorem 6.4.1 (applied to M and N), M has a 3-connected minor N' that is a 3-connected 1- or 2-element extension of an N minor.
- The 1-extension case has been ruled out.
- In the 2-element extension case, N' is derived from the N minor by one addition and one expansion. Again, since $\mathcal{M}$ is closed under isomorphism and minor taking, we may take N itself to be that N minor. Thus, N' is derived from N by one addition and one expansion.
- Let C be a binary matrix representing N' and displaying N. By investigating the structure of C, one can show that N' contains a 3-connected 1-element extension of an N minor, which has been ruled out.

□

Theorem 48 (7.2.1.b splitter for wheels)**.** *Let $\mathcal{M}$ be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism and under taking minors. Let N be a 3-connected minor of $\mathcal{M}$ on at least 6 elements. If N is a wheel, then N is a splitter of $\mathcal{M}$ iff $\mathcal{M}$ does not contain a 3-connected 1-element extension of N and does not contain the next larger wheel.*

Proof sketch. Similar to proof of Theorem 7.2.1.a. The analysis of the matrix C can be done in one go for both cases. □

Corollary 49 (7.2.10.a)**.** *Theorem 7.2.1.a specialized to graphs.*

Proof sketch. Consider the corresponding graphic matroids, apply splitter theorem, extensions in graphic matroids correspond to extensions in graphs. □

Corollary 50 (7.2.10.b)**.** *Theorem 7.2.1.b specialized to graphs.*

Proof sketch. Consider the corresponding graphic matroids, apply splitter theorem, extensions in graphic matroids correspond to extensions in graphs. □

Theorem 51 (7.2.11.a)**.** *K_5 is a splitter of the graphs without $K_{3,3}$ minors.*

Proof sketch. Up to isomorphism, there is just one 3-connected 1-edge extension of K_5. To obtain it, one partitions one vertex of K_5 into two vertices of degree 2 and connects the two vertices by a new edge. The resulting graph has a $K_{3,3}$ minor. Thus, the theorem follows fromCorollary 7.2.10.a. □

Theorem 52 (7.2.11.b)**.** *W_3 is a splitter of the graphs without W_4 minors.*

Proof sketch. There is no 3-connected 1-edge extension of W_3, so the theorem follows from Corollary 7.2.10.b. □

0.5.2 Chapter 7.3

Theorem 53 (7.3.1.a)**.** *Let M be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected proper minor N on at least 6 elements. Assume N is not a wheel. Then for some $t \geq 1$, there is a sequence $M_0, \ldots, M_t = M$ of nested 3-connected minors where M_0 is isomorphic to N and where the gap is 1.*

Proof sketch.

- Inductively for $i \geq 0$ assume the existence of a sequence $M_0, \ldots, M_i$ of 3-connected minors where M_0 is isomorphic to N, M_i is not a wheel, and the gap is 1.
- If $M_i = M$, we are done, so assume that M_i is a proper minor of M.
- Use the contrapositive of the splitter Theorem 7.2.1.a to find a larger sequence.
  - Let $\mathcal{M}$ be the collection of all matroids isomorphic to a (not necessarily proper) minor of M.
  - Since M_i is a 3-connected proper minor of the 3-conected $M \in \mathcal{M}$, it cannot be a splitter of $\mathcal{M}$. By Theorem 7.2.1.a, $\mathcal{M}$ contains a matroid M_{i+1} that is a 3-connected 1-element extension of a matroid isomorphic to M_i.
  - Since every 1-element reduction of a wheel with at least 6 elements is 2-separable, M_{i+1} is not a wheel, as otherwise M_i is 2-separable, which is a contradiction.
- If necessary, relabel $M_0, \ldots, M_i$ so that they consistute a sequence of nested minors of M_{i+1}. This sequence satisfies the induction hypothesis.
- By induction, the claimed sequence exists for M.

□

Theorem 54 (7.3.1.b)**.** *Let M be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected proper minor N on at least 6 elements. Assume N is a wheel. Then for some $t \geq 1$, there is a sequence $M_0, \ldots, M_t = M$ of nested 3-connected minors where:*

- *M_0 is isomorphic to N,*
- *for some $0 \leq s \leq t$ the subsequence $M_0, \ldots, M_s$ consists of wheels and has gap 2,*
- *the subsequence $M_s, \ldots, M_t$ has gap 1.*

Proof sketch. Same as the proof of Theorem 7.3.1.a, but uses Theorem 7.2.1.b instead of 7.2.1.a to extend the sequence of minors. □

Proposition 55 (7.2.1 from 7.3.1)**.** *Theorem 7.3.1 implies Theorem 7.2.1.*

Proof sketch.

- Let $\mathcal{M}$ and N be as specified in Theorem 7.2.1. Suppose N is not a wheel.

- Prove the nontrivial "if" part by contradiction: let M be a 3-connected matroid of $\mathcal{M}$ with N as a proper minor.
- By Theorem 7.3.1, there is a sequence $M_0, \ldots, M_t = M$ of nested 3-connected minors where M_0 is isomorphic to N and where the gap is 1.
- Since $\mathcal{M}$ is closed under isomorphism, we may assume that M is chosen such that $M_0 = N$.
- Then $M_1 \in \mathcal{M}$ is a 3-connected 1-element extension of N, which contradicts the assumed absence of such extensions.
- If N is a wheel, the proof is analogous.

□

Corollary 56 (7.3.2.a)**.** *Let G be a 3-connected graph with a 3-connected proper minor H with at least 6 edges. Assume H is not a wheel. Then for some $t \geq 1$, there is a sequence of nested 3-connected minors $G_0, \ldots, G_t = G$ where G_0 is isomorphic to H, and where each G_{i+1} has exactly one edge beyond those of G_i.*

Proof sketch. Translate Theorem 7.3.1.a directly into graph language. □

Corollary 57 (7.3.2.b)**.** *Let G be a 3-connected graph with a 3-connected proper minor H with at least 6 edges. Assume H is a wheel. Then for some $t \geq 1$, there is a sequence of nested 3-connected minors $G_0, \ldots, G_t = G$ where:*

- *G_0 is isomorphic to H,*
- *for some $0 \leq s \leq t$ the subsequence $G_0, \ldots, G_t$ consists of wheels where each G_{i+1} has exactly one additional spoke beyond those of G_i,*
- *in the subsequence $G_s, \ldots, G_t$ each G_{i+1} has exactly one edge beyond those of G_i.*

Proof sketch. Translate Theorem 7.3.1.b directly into graph language. □

Theorem 58 (7.3.3, wheel theorem)**.** *Let G be a 3-connected graph on at least 6 edges. If G is not a wheel, then G has some edge z such that at least one of the minors G/z and G
z is 3-connected.*

Proof sketch.

- By Corollary 5.2.15, G has a W_3 minor.
- Let H be a largest wheel minor of G. Since G is not a wheel, H is a proper minor of G.
- Apply Corollary 7.3.2.b to G and H to get a sequence of nested 3-connected minors $G_0, \ldots, G_t = G$ where G_0 is isomorphic to H.
- Since H is the largest wheel minor and G is not a wheel, Corollary 7.3.2.b shows that $s = 0$ and $t \geq 1$.
- Additionally, from corollary we know that $G = G_t$ has exactly one extra edge compared to G_{t-1}. In other words, $G_{t-1} = G/z$ or G
z for some edge z.

□

Theorem 59 (7.3.3 for binary matroids)**.** *Theorem 7.3.3 can be rewritten for binary matroids instead of graphs. The proof then relies on Theorem 7.3.1 instead of Corollary 7.3.2.*

Proposition 60 (7.3.4.observation)**.** *Oservation in text on pages 160–161.*

Theorem 61 (7.3.4)**.** *Let M be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected proper minor N on at least 6 elements. If M does not contain a 3-connected 1-element expansion (resp. addition) of any N minor, then M has a sequence of nested 3-connected minors $M_0, \ldots, M_t = M$ where M_0 is an N minor of M and where each M_{i+1} is obtained from M_i by expansions (resp. additions) involving some series (resp. parallel) elements, possibly none, followed by a 1-element addition (resp. expansion).*

Proof sketch.

- The case in parenthesis is dual to the normally stated one. Thus, only consider expansions below.
- Apply construction from observation before Theorem 7.3.4 to the sequence of minors from Theorem 7.3.1 to get the desired sequence.

□

Corollary 62 (7.3.5)**.** *Specializes Theorem 7.3.4 to graphs.*

0.5.3 Chapter 7.4

Theorem 63 (7.4.1 planarity characterization)**.** *A graph is planar if and only if it has no $K_{3,3}$ or K_5 minors.*

Proof sketch.

- "Only if": planarity is preserved by taking minors, and by Lemma 3.2.48 both $K_{3,3}$ and K_5 are not planar.
- Let G be a connected nonplanar graph with all proper minors planar. Goal: show that G is isomorphic to $K_{3,3}$ or K_5.
-

□

Theorem 64 (Kuratowski)**.** *A graph is planar if and only if it has no subdivision of $K_{3,3}$ or K_5.*

Proof. Note: Theorem 7.4.1 is equivalent to Kuratowski's theorem: a $K_{3,3}$ minor induces a subdivision of $K_{3,3}$ and a K_5 minor also leads to a subdivision of K_5 or $K_{3,3}$ (the latter in the case when an expansion step splits a vertex of degree 4 into two vertices of degree 3 after the new edge is inserted). □

0.6 Chapter 8 from Truemper

Proposition 65 (8.2.1).

add

Proposition 66 (8.2.3).

add

Proposition 67 (8.2.4).

add

Proposition 68 (8.3.10).

add

Proposition 69 (8.3.11).

add

Proposition 70 (8.5.3).

add

Lemma 71 (8.2.2).

add

Lemma 72 (8.2.6).

add

Lemma 73 (8.2.7).

add

Lemma 74 (8.3.12).

add

0.7 Chapter 10 from Truemper

Proposition 75 (10.2.4).

expand

Derivation of a graph with T nodes for F_7.

Proposition 76 (10.2.6).

expand

Derivation of a graph with T nodes for $M(K_{3,3})^*$.

Proposition 77 (10.2.8).

expand

Derivation of a graph with T nodes for R_{10}.

Proposition 78 (10.2.9)**.**

expand

Derivation of a graph with T nodes for R_{12}.

Theorem 79 (10.2.11 only if)**.** *If a regular matroid is planar, then it has no $M(K_5)$, $M(K_5)^*$, $M(K_{3,3})$, or $M(K_{3,3})^*$ minors.*

Proof sketch.

- Planarity is preserved under taking minors.
- The listed matroids are not planar.

□

Theorem 80 (10.2.11 if)**.** *If a regular matroid has no $M(K_5)$, $M(K_5)^*$, $M(K_{3,3})$, or $M(K_{3,3})^*$ minors, then it is planar.*

Proof sketch.

- Let M be minimally nonplanar with respect to taking minors, i.e., regular nonplanar, but with all proper minors planar.
- Goal: show that M is isomorphic to one of the listed matroids.
- By Theorem 7.4.1, M is not graphic or cographic.
- By Lemmas 8.2.2, 8.2.6, and 8.2.7, if M has a 1- or 2-separation, then M is a 1- or 2-sum. But then the components of the sum are planar, so M is also planar. Therefore, M is 3-connected.
- By the census of Section 3.3, every 3-connected ≤ 8-element matroid is planar, so $|M| \geq 9$.
- By the binary matroid version of the wheel Theorem 7.3.3, there exists an element z such that M
  z or M/z is 3-connected. Dualizing does not afect the assumptions, so we may assume that M
  z is 3-connected.
- Let G be a planar graph representing M
  z. Extend G to a representation of M as follows:
  - If G is a wheel, invoke (10.2.6) or (10.2.4). The latter contracdicts regularity of M, the former shows what we need.
  - If G is not a wheel, use Theorem 7.3.3 and Menger's theorem. Use a path argument and edge contraction to reduce to (10.2.6) and conclude the proof.

□

Lemma 81 (10.3.1)**.** *$M(K_5)$ is a splitter of the regular matroids with no $M(K_{3,3})$ minors.*

Proof.

- By Theorem 7.2.1.a, we only need to show that every 3-connected regular 1-element extension of $M(K_5)$ has an $M(K_{3,3})$ minor.
- Then case analysis. (The book sketches one way of checking.)

□

Lemma 82 (10.3.6)**.** *Every 3-connected binary 1-element expansion of $M(K_{3,3})$ is nonregular.*

Proof sketch. By case analysis via graphs plus T sets. □

Theorem 83 (10.3.11)**.** *Let M be a 3-connected regular matroid with an $M(K_{3,3})$ minor. Assume that M is not graphic and not cographic, but that each proper minor of M is graphic or cographic. Then M is isomorphic to R_{10} or R_{12}.*

Proof. This proof is extremely long and technical. It involves case distinctions and graph constructions. □

Theorem 84 (10.4.1 only if)**.** *If 3-connected regular matroid is graphic or cographic, then it has no R_{10} or R_{12} minors.*

Proof sketch. Representations (10.2.8) and (10.2.9) for R_{10} and R_{12} show that these are nongraphic and isomorphic to their duals, hence also noncographic, so we are done. □

Theorem 85 (10.4.1 if)**.** *If a 3-connected regular matroid has no R_{10} or R_{12} minors, then it is graphic or cographic.*

Proof sketch.

- Let M be 3-connected, regular, nongraphic, and noncographic matroid.
- Thus M is not planar, so by Theorem 10.2.11 it has a minor isomorphic to $M(K_5)$, $M(K_5)^*$, $M(K_{3,3})$, or $M(K_{3,3})^*$.
- By Lemma 10.3.1, $M(K_5)$ is a splitter for the regular matroids with no $M(K_{3,3})$ minors.
- These results imply that M has a minor isomorphic to $M(K_{3,3})$, or $M(K_{3,3})^*$, or M is isomorphic to $M(K_5)$ or $M(K_5)^*$.
- The latter is a contradiction, so M or M^* has an $M(K_{3,3})$ minor.
- Theorem 10.3.11 implies that M or M^* has R_{10} or R_{12} as a minor.
- Since R_{10} and R_{12} are self-dual, M has R_{10} or R_{12} as a minor.

□

Note: Truemper's proof of **??** and **??** relies on representing matroids via graphs plus T sets. An alternative proof, which utilizes the notion of graph signings, can be found in J. Geelen, B. Gerards - Regular matroid decomposition via signed graphs. Although the proof appears shorter than Truemper's, it heavily relies certain relatively advanced graph-theoretic results.

Bonus: Whitney's characterization of planar graphs (Corollary 10.2.13).

0.8 Chapter 11 from Truemper

0.8.1 Chapter 11.2

The goal of this chapter is to prove the "simple" direction of the regular matroid decomposition theorem.

todo: move ingredients to respective sections, add them as "uses" clauses

Ingredients from Section 9.2:

- A matrix is TU if all its subdeterminants are 0, ± 1.
- A binary matroid is regular if it has a signing that is TU.
- By Lemma 9.2.6 and Corollary 9.2.7, this signing is unique up to scaling by ± 1 factors.
- The signing can be accomplished by signing one arbitrarily selected row or column at a time.

Ingredients from minimal violation matrices:

- Definition: a minimal violation matrix of total unimodularity (minimal violation matrix, MVM) is a $\{0, \pm 1\}$ matrix that is not TU, but all its submatrices are TU.
- MVMs are square and have determinant not equal to $0, \pm 1$.
- In particular, a 2×2 violation matrix has four ± 1's.
- Cosider a MVM of order ≥ 3. Perform a pivot in it, then delete the pivot row and column. Then the resulting matrix is also MVM ("by a simple cofactor argument").

Lemma 86 (11.2.1)**.** *Any* 1- *or* 2-*sum of two regular matroids is also regular.*

Proof sketch.

- 1-sum case: $M_1 \oplus_1 M_2$ is represented by a matrix $B = \operatorname{diag}(A_1, A_2)$ where A_1 and A_2 represent M_1 and M_2. Use the same signings for A_1 and A_2 in B to prove that B is TU and hence the 1-sum is regular.
- 2-sum case: Slightly more complicated signing process. Similarly, reuse signings from M_1 and M_2, define signing on remaining nonzero elements via a concrete formula, then prove that the resulting matrix is TU.

□

Lemma 87 (11.2.7)**.**

todo: add lemma

Corollary 88 (11.2.8)**.** ΔY *exchanges maintain regularity.*

Proof. Follows by Lemma 11.2.7. □

Lemma 89 (11.2.9)**.** *Any* 3-*sum of two regular matroids is also regular.*

Proof sketch. Yet more complicated, but similar. Uses the result that "ΔY exchanges maintain regularity" (Corollary 11.2.8 of Lemma 11.2.7). The rest of the arguments are similar to the 2-sum case: prove that submatrices are TU, then prove that the whole matrix is TU. □

Theorem 90 (11.2.10)**.** *Any* 1-, 2-, *or* 3-*sum of two regular matroids is regular.*

Proof sketch. Combine Lemmas 11.2.1 and 11.2.9. □

Corollary 91 (11.2.12)**.** *Any* Δ-*sum or* Y-*sum of two regular matroids is also regular.*

Proof sketch. Follows from definitions of Δ-sums and Y-sum, together with Theorem 11.2.10 and Corollary 11.2.8. □

0.8.2 Chapter 11.3

Proposition 92 (11.3.3)**.**

add prop

Proposition 93 (11.3.5)**.**

add prop

Proposition 94 (11.3.11)**.**

add prop

The goal of the chapter is to prove the "hard" direction of the regular matroid decomposition theorem.

Theorem 95 (11.3.2)**.** R_{10} *is a splitter of the class of regular matroids.*

In short: up to isomorphism, the only 3-*connected regular matroid with* R_{10} *minor is* R_{10}.

Proof sketch.

- Splitter theorem case (a)
- R_{10} is self-dual, so it suffices to consider 1-element additions.
- Represent R_{10} by (11.3.3)
- Up to isomorphism, there are only 3 distinct 3-connected 1-element extensions.
- Case 1 (graphic): contract a certain edge, the resulting graph contains a subdivision of (11.3.5), which represents F_7. Thus, this extension is nonregular.
- Cases 2, 3 (nongraphic): reduce instances to (11.3.5), same conclusion.

□

Theorem 96 (11.3.10)**.** *In short: Restatement of* **??** *for* R_{12}. *Replacements:* $\mathcal{M}$ *is the class of regular matroids,* N *is* R_{12}, *(6.3.12) is (11.3.6), (6.3.21-23) are (11.3.7-9).*

Theorem 97 (11.3.12)**.** *Let* M *be a regular matroid with* R_{12} *minor. Then any* 3-*separation of that minor corresponding to the* 3-*separation* $(X_1 \cup Y_1, X_2 \cup Y_2)$ *of* R_{12} *(see (11.3.11) – matrix* B^{12} *for* R_{12} *defining the* 3-*separation) under one of the isomorphisms induces a* 3-*separation of* M.

In short: every regular matroid with R_{12} *minor is a* 3-*sum of two proper minors.*

Proof sketch.

- Preparation: calculate all 3-connected regular 1-element additions of R_{12}. This involves somewhat tedious case checking. (Representation of R_{12} in (10.2.9) helps a lot.) By the symmetry of B^{12} and thus by duality, this effectively gives all 3-connected 1-element extensions as well.
- Verify conditions of theorem 11.3.10 (which implies the result).
- (11.3.7) and (11.3.9) are ruled out immediately from preparatory calculations.
- The rest is case checking ((c.1) and (c.2)), simpified by preparatory calculations.

□

Theorem 98 (11.3.14 regular matroid decomposition, easy direction)**.** *Every binary matroid produced from graphic, cographic, and matroids isomorphic to R_{10} by repeated* 1-*,* 2-*, and* 3-*sum compositions is regular.*

Proof sketch. Follows from theorem 11.2.10. □

Theorem 99 (11.3.14 regular matroid decomposition, hard direction)**.** *Every regular matroid M can be decomposed into graphic and cographic matroids and matroids isomorphic to R_{10} by repeated* 1-*,* 2-*, and* 3- *sum decompositions. Specifically: If M is a regular* 3*-connected matroid that is not graphic and not cographic, then M is isomorphic to R_{10} or has an R_{12} minor. In the latter case, any* 3*-separation of that minor corresponding to the 3-separation $(X_1 \cup Y_1, X_2 \cup Y_2)$ of R_{12} ((11.3.11)) under one of the isomorphisms induces a* 3*-separation of M.*

Proof sketch.

- Let M be a regular matroid. Assume M is not graphic and not cographic.
- If M is 1-separable, then it is a 1-sum. If M is 2-separable, then it is a 2-sum. Thus assume M is 3-connected.
- By theorem 10.4.1, M has an R_{10} or an R_{12} minor.
- R_{10} case: by theorem 11.3.2, M is isomorphic to R_{10}.
- R_{12} case: by theorem 11.3.12, M has an induced by 3-separation, so by lemma 8.3.12, M is a 3-sum.

□

0.8.3 Extensions of Regular Matroid Decomposition

- Theorem 11.3.14 remains valid when 3-sums are replaced by Δ- and Y-sums (Theorem 11.3.16).
- Theorem 11.3.14 (and 11.3.16) can also be proved for matroids with no F_7 minors or with no F_7^* minors. (Uses Lemma 11.3.19: F_7 (F_7^*) is a splitter of the binary matroids with no F_7^* (F_7) minors.)

0.8.4 Applications of Regular Matroid Decomposition

- Efficient algorithm:for.testing.if a binary matroid is regular (Section 11.4).
- Efficient algorithm:for.deciding.if a real matrix is TU (Section 11.4).
- Constructing TU matrices (Theorem 11.5.9). (Translate 3-sum version of theorem 11.3.16 into matrix language.)
- Constructing $0, 1$ TU matrices (Theorem 11.5.13).
- Characterization of the cycle polytope (theorem 11.5.17). (Problem: let M be a connected binary matroid with ground set E and element weighs w_e for all $e \in E$. Find a disjoint union C of circuits of M such that $\sum_{e \in C} w_e$ is maximized.)
- Number of nonzeros in TU matrices (Theorem 11.5.18).
- Triples in circuits (Theorem 11.5.18).
- Odd cycles (Theorem 11.5.20).