

<https://Ivan-Sergeyev.github.io/Matroid-Decomposition-Theorem-Verification>  
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# Matroid Decomposition Theorem Verification

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## 0.1 Basic Definitions

### 0.1.1 Matroid Structure

**Definition 1** (matroid). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 2** (isomorphism). Two matroids are isomorphic if they become equal upon a suitable relabeling of the elements.

**Definition 3** (loop). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 4** (coloop). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 5** (parallel elements). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 6** (series elements). todo: todo: add definition

### 0.1.2 Matroid Classes

**Definition 7** (binary matroid). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 8** (regular matroid). def:  $\text{binary\_matroid}$ , def:  $\text{tu\_matrix}$  *Abinary matroid is regular if some binary*

**Definition 9** (graphic matroid). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 10** (cographic matroid). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 11** (planar matroid). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 12** (dual matroid). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 13** (self-dual matroid). todo: todo: add definition

### 0.1.3 Specific Matroids (Constructions)

**Definition 14** (wheel). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 15** ( $W_3$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 16** ( $W_4$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 17** ( $R_{10}$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 18** ( $R_{12}$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 19** ( $F_7$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 20** ( $F_7^*$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 21** ( $M(K_{3,3})$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 22** ( $M(K_{3,3})^*$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 23** ( $M(K_5)$ ). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 24** ( $M(K_5)^*$ ). todo: todo: add definition

### 0.1.4 Connectivity and Separation

**Definition 25** ( $k$ -separation). See text after Proposition 3.3.18.

**Definition 26** ( $k$ -connectivity). See text after Proposition 3.3.18.

### 0.1.5 Reductions

**Definition 27** (deletion). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 28** (contraction). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 29** (minor). todo: todo: add definition

### 0.1.6 Extensions

**Definition 30** (1-element addition). todo: add name, label, uses, text

**Definition 31** (1-element expansion). todo: add name, label, uses, text

**Definition 32** (1-element extension). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 33** (2-element extension). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 34** (3-element extension). todo: todo: add definition

### 0.1.7 Sums

**Definition 35** (1-sum). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 36** (2-sum). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 37** (3-sum). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 38** ( $\Delta$ -sum). todo: todo: add definition

**Definition 39** ( $Y$ -sum). todo: todo: add definition

### 0.1.8 Total Unimodularity

**Definition 40** (TU matrix). A real matrix  $A$  is totally unimodular if every square submatrix  $D$  of  $A$  has  $\det_{\mathbb{R}} D = 0$  or  $\pm 1$ .

### 0.1.9 Auxiliary Results

**Theorem 41** (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 42** ( $\Delta Y$  exchange). todo: add

**Definition 43** (gap). todo: add

## 0.2 Chapter 2 from Truemper

**Lemma 44** (2.3.14). *Let  $A$  be a matrix over a field  $\mathcal{F}$ , with  $\mathcal{F}$ -rank  $A = k$ . If both a row submatrix and a column submatrix of  $A$  have  $\mathcal{F}$ -rank equal to  $k$ , then they intersect in a submatrix of  $A$  with the same  $\mathcal{F}$ -rank. In particular, any  $k$   $\mathcal{F}$ -independent rows of  $A$  and any  $k$   $\mathcal{F}$ -independent columns of  $A$  intersect in a  $k \times k$   $\mathcal{F}$ -nonsingular submatrix of  $A$ .*

*Proof sketch.* Result of linear algebra. Uses the submodularity of the  $\mathcal{F}$ -rank function.  $\square$

## 0.3 Chapter 3 from Truemper

### 0.3.1 Chapter 3.2

**Theorem 45** (3.2.25.a). *def:graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : ksepLetMbethegraphicmatroidofaconnectedgraphG.Assume  $M$  is a  $k$ -separation of  $M$  with minimal  $k \geq 1$ . Define  $G_1$  (resp.  $G_2$ ) from  $G$  by removing the edges of  $E_2$  (resp.  $E_1$ ) from  $G$ . Let  $R_1, \dots, R_g$  be the connected components of  $G_1$ , and  $S_1, \dots, S_h$  be those of  $G_2$ .*

*If  $k = 1$ , then the  $R_i$  and  $S_j$  are connected in tree fashion.*

*Proof sketch.* Count edges and nodes.  $\square$

**Theorem 46** (3.2.25.b). *thm:3.2.25.a Same setting as Theorem 3.2.25.a. If  $k = 2$ , then the  $R_i$  and  $S_j$  are connected in cycle fashion.*

*Proof sketch.* Count edges and nodes.  $\square$

**Definition 47** (switching operation from section 3). A swap of identification of nodes between two subgraphs induced by a 2-separation of a graph. See description and illustration on page 45.

**Lemma 48** (3.2.48). *def:M<sub>K33dual</sub>, def : M<sub>K5dual</sub> The matroids  $M(K_5)$  and  $M(K_{3,3})$  are not graphic.*

*Proof sketch.* A short proof is given on page 51. A longer, but more general proof uses the graphicness testing subroutine described on page 47.  $\square$

### 0.3.2 Chapter 3.3

**Lemma 49** (3.3.12). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : minor Let  $M$  be a binary matroid with a minor  $\overline{M}$ , and let  $\overline{B}$  be a representation matrix of  $\overline{M}$ . Then  $M$  has a representation matrix  $B$  that displays  $\overline{M}$  via  $\overline{B}$  and thus makes the minor  $\overline{M}$  visible.*

*Proof sketch.* def:minor Follows by the definition of minor via pivots and row/column deletions.  $\square$

**Proposition 50** (3.3.17). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid Partitioned version of matrix  $B$  representing binary matroid  $M$ . (san*

**Proposition 51** (3.3.18). *def:ksep, prop : 3.3.17 If for some  $k \geq 1$ ,  $|X_1 \cup Y_1|, |X_2 \cup Y_2| \geq k$ ,  $\text{GF}(2)$ -rank  $D^1 + \text{GF}(2)$ -rank  $D^2 \leq k - 1$ , then  $(X_1 \cup Y_1, X_2 \cup Y_2)$  is called a (Tutte)  $k$ -separation of  $B$  and  $M$ . This separation is exact if the rank condition holds with equality. Both  $B$  and  $M$  are called (Tutte)  $k$ -separable if they have a  $k$ -separation. For  $k \geq 2$ ,  $B$  and  $M$  are (Tutte)  $k$ -connected if they have no  $\ell$ -separation for  $1 \leq \ell < k$ . When  $M$  is 2-connected, we also say that  $M$  is connected.*

**Lemma 52** (3.3.19). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid Let  $M$  be a binary matroid with a representation matrix  $B$ . Then  $M$  is connected iff  $B$  is connected.*

*Proof sketch.* prop:3.3.17, prop:3.3.18 Check using (3.3.17) and (3.3.18) that  $B$  is connected iff it is 2-connected. Thus  $M$  is 2-connected, and hence connected, iff  $B$  is connected.  $\square$

**Lemma 53** (3.3.20). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : kconn, prop : 3.3.17 The following statements are equivalent for a binary matroid  $M$  is 3-connected.*

*$B$  is connected, has no parallel or unit vector rows and columns, and has no partition as in (3.3.17) with  $\text{GF}(2)$ -rank  $D^1 = 1$ ,  $D^2 = 0$ , and  $|X_1 \cup Y_1|, |X_2 \cup Y_2| \geq 3$ .*

*Same as (ii), but  $|X_1 \cup Y_1|, |X_2 \cup Y_2| \geq 5$ .*

*Proof sketch.* def:kconn, prop : 3.3.17

(i) is equivalent to (ii) by the definition of 3-connectivity.

(iii) trivially implies (ii). (Typo in the book?)

Assuming (ii), if the length of  $B^1$  is 3 or 4, then  $B$  has a zero column or row, or parallel or unit vector rows or columns, which is excluded by the first part of (ii). Thus it suffices to require  $|X_1 \cup Y_1| \geq 5$  and by duality  $|X_2 \cup Y_2| \geq 5$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 54** (census from Section 3.3). *def:kconn, def : binary<sub>m</sub>atroid A complete census of 3-connected binary matroids with 8 elements.*

*Proof sketch.* def:wheel, def:F7, def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid Verified by case enumeration.  $\square$

## 0.4 Chapter 4 from Truemper

**Proposition 55** (4.4.5). *def:Delta<sub>Y</sub>exchange  $\Delta Y$  exchange, case 1.*

**Proposition 56** (4.4.6). *def:Delta<sub>Y</sub>exchange  $\Delta Y$  exchange, case 2.*

## 0.5 Chapter 5 from Truemper

**Lemma 57** (5.2.4). *def:k\_conn, def:minor, def:1\_lem\_ext Let  $N$  be a connected minor of a connected binary matroid  $M$ . Then  $M$  has a connected minor  $N'$  that is a 1-element extension of  $N$  by  $z$ .*

*Proof sketch.* lem:3.3.12

- By Lemma 3.3.12,  $M$  has a representation matrix that displays  $N$  via a submatrix.
- Case distinction between  $z$  being represented by a nonzero or a zero vector.
- Nonzero case: immediately get submatrix representing  $N'$ .
- Zero case: take a shortest path in the matrix, perform pivots, in one subcase use duality.

□

**Proposition 58** (5.2.8). *def:wheel Representation matrices for small wheels (from  $M(W_1)$  to  $M(W_4)$ ).*

**Proposition 59** (5.2.9). *def:wheel Representation matrix for  $M(W_n)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ .*

**Lemma 60** (5.2.10). *def:binary\_matroid, def:minor, def:wheel Let  $M$  be a binary matroid with a binary representation. Then  $M$  has a connected minor  $N$  that is a wheel.*

*Proof sketch.* prop:5.2.8, prop:5.2.9

- $BG(B)$  is bipartite and has at least one cycle, so there is a cycle  $C$  without chords with at least 4 edges.
- Up to indices, the submatrix corresponding to  $C$  is either the matrix for  $M(W_2)$  from (5.2.8) or the matrix for some  $M(W_k)$ ,  $k \geq 3$  from (5.2.9).
- In the latter case, use path shortening pivots on 1s to convert the submatrix to the former case.

□

**Lemma 61** (5.2.11). *def:binary\_matroid, def:k\_conn, def:k\_sep, def:M\_W3, def:minor Let  $M$  be a connected binary matroid with at least 4 elements. Then  $M$  has a 2-separation or an  $M(W_3)$  minor.*

*Proof sketch.* lem:5.2.10 Use Lemma 5.2.10 and apply path shortening technique. □

**Corollary 62** (5.2.15). *def:k\_conn, def:binary\_matroid, def:M\_W3, def:minor Every 3-connected binary matroid has a 2-separation or an  $M(W_3)$  minor.*

*Proof sketch.* lem:5.2.11 By Lemma 5.2.11,  $M$  has a 2-separation or an  $M(W_3)$  minor.  $M$  is 3-connected, so the former case is impossible. □

## 0.6 Chapter 6 from Truemper

### 0.6.1 Chapter 6.2

Goal of the chapter: separation algorithm for deciding if there exists a separation of a matroid induced by a separation of its minor.

**Proposition 63** (6.2.1). *def:ksep, def : minor, def : binarymatroidPartitionedversionofmatrix  $B^N$  representing a minor  $N$  of a binary matroid  $M$ , where  $N$  has an exact  $k$ -separation for some  $k \geq 1$ .*

**Proposition 64** (6.2.3). *prop:6.2.1 Matrix  $B$  for  $M$  displaying partitioned  $B^N$*

**Proposition 65** (6.2.5). *prop:6.2.1, prop:6.2.3 Matrix  $B$  for  $M$  with partitioned  $B^N$ , row  $x \in X_3$ , and column  $y \in Y_3$ .*

**Lemma 66** (6.2.6). *def:binarymatroid, def : kconn, def : 1elemext, def : 2elemext, def : 3elemext, def : loop, def : coloop, def : parallelelems, def : serieselems Let  $N$  be a 3-connected binary matroid on*

*Proof sketch.* lem:3.3.20

- Let  $C$  be a binary representation matrix of  $M$  that displays a binary representation matrix  $B$  for  $N$ .
- By assumption,  $B$  is 3-connected.
- $C$  is connected, as otherwise by case analysis  $C$  contains a zero vector or unit vector, so  $M$  has a loop, coloop, parallel elements, or series elements, a contradiction.
- If  $C$  is not 3-connected, then by Lemma 3.3.20 there is a 2-separation of  $C$  with at least 5 rows/columns on each side. Then  $B$  has a 2-separation with at least 2 rows/columns on each side, a contradiction.
- Thus,  $C$  is 3-connected, so  $M$  is 3-connected.

□

### 0.6.2 Chapter 6.3

**Definition 67** (6.3.2). *def:ksep, def : binarymatroid, def : minor, def : isomorphism Miscalled minimal if itsa*  
 $M$  has an  $N$  minor.

$M$  has no  $k$ -separation induced by the exact  $k$ -separation  $(F_1, F_2)$  of  $N$ .

The matroid  $M$  is minimal with respect to the above conditions.

**Definition 68** (6.3.3). *def:ksep, def : binarymatroid, def : minor, def : isomorphism Miscalled minimal under*  
 $M$  has at least one  $N$  minor.



Some  $k$ -separation of at least one such minor corresponding to the exact  $k$ -separation  $(F_1, F_2)$  of  $N$  under one of the isomorphisms fails to induce a  $k$ -separation of  $M$ .

The matroid  $M$  is minimal with respect to the above conditions.

**Proposition 69** (6.3.11). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.2.5 Matrix  $B$  for  $M$  with partitioned  $B^N$ , row  $x \in X_3$ , and column  $y \in Y_3$ .*

**Proposition 70** (6.3.12). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.2.1,prop:6.2.5 Partitioned version of  $B^N$ :  $B^N = \text{diag}(A^1, A^2)$ .*

**Definition 71** (separation algorithm). Polynomial-time recursive procedure to search for an induced partition. Described on pages 132–133 and again on pages 137–138.

**Proposition 72** (6.3.13). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.11,def:separation\_algorithmSpecialcasewhereBofaminimalMcont*  
This proposition gives properties of row subvectors of row  $x$  by step 1 of the separation algorithm.

**Proposition 73** (6.3.14). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.11,def:separation\_algorithmSpecialcasewhereBofaminimalMcont*  
This proposition gives properties of column subvectors of column  $y$  by step 1 of the separation algorithm.

**Lemma 74** (6.3.15). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.11,def:separation\_algorithmTreatsthecasewhereBhasatleasttwoadditio*

*Proof sketch.* prop:6.3.13,prop:6.3.14 Argue about the structure of the matrix, applying steps 1 and 2 of the separation algorithm.  $\square$

**Lemma 75** (6.3.16). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.11,lem:6.3.15,def:separation\_algorithmExpandscase(i)ofLemma6.3.15*

*Proof sketch.* Further arguments about the structure of the matrix.  $\square$

**Lemma 76** (6.3.17). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.11,lem:6.3.15,def:separation\_algorithmExpandscase(ii)ofLemma6.3.15*

*Proof sketch.* Further arguments about the structure of the matrix.  $\square$

**Theorem 77** (6.3.18). *def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.11 Structural description of representation matrix (6.3.11) of a minimal  $M$ . Contains cases (a), (b), and (c) with sub-cases (c.1) and (c.2).*

*Proof sketch.* def:6.3.2,prop:6.3.13,prop:6.3.14,lem:6.3.15,lem:6.3.16,lem:6.3.17

- (6.3.13) and (6.3.14) establish (a) and (b).
- Lemmas 6.3.15, 6.3.16, and 6.3.17 prove (c.1) and (c.2).

$\square$

**Lemma 78** (6.3.19). *def:6.3.3,thm:6.3.18 Additional structural statements for cases (c.1) and (c.2) of Theorem 6.3.18.*

*Proof sketch.* thm:6.3.18,lem:6.3.15 Reason about representation matrices using Theorem 6.3.18, Lemma 6.3.15, minimality, isomorphisms, pivots, and so on.  $\square$

**Proposition 79** (6.3.21). *def:6.3.3 Matrix  $B$  for  $M$  minimal under isomorphism, case (a).*

**Proposition 80** (6.3.22). *def:6.3.3 Matrix  $B$  for  $M$  minimal under isomorphism, case (b).*

**Proposition 81** (6.3.23). *def:6.3.3 Matrix  $\bar{B}$  for minor  $\bar{M}$  of  $M$  minimal under isomorphism.*

**Theorem 82** (6.3.20). *def:6.3.3,prop:6.3.21,prop:6.3.22,prop:6.3.23 Let  $M$  be minimal under isomorphism. Then one of 3 cases holds for matrix representation of  $M$ .*

*Proof sketch.* thm:6.3.18,lem:6.3.19 Follows directly from Theorem 6.3.18 and Lemma 6.3.19.  $\square$

**Corollary 83** (6.3.24). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : isomorphism, def : minor, def : 1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt, def : 2<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt, prop : 6.3.12, prop : 6.3.21, prop : 6.3.22, prop : 6.3.23, def : k<sub>s</sub>ep Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism and undertaking 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  $M$ .*

*Proof sketch.* thm:6.3.20

- Let  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  satisfying the assumptions. Since  $\mathcal{M}$  is closed under isomorphism, suppose that  $N$  itself is a minor of  $M$ .
- Suppose the  $k$ -separation of  $N$  does not induce one in  $M$ . Then  $M$  or a minor of  $M$  containing  $N$  is minimal under isomorphism.
- By Theorem 6.3.20,  $M$  has a minor represented by (6.3.21), (6.3.22), or (6.3.23). This minor is in  $\mathcal{M}$ , as  $\mathcal{M}$  is closed under taking minors, but this contradicts our assumptions.

$\square$

### 0.6.3 Chapter 6.4

**Theorem 84** (6.4.1). *def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : minor, def : 1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt, def : 2<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt Let  $M$  be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected proper minor  $N$ . Suppose  $N$  has at least 6 elements.*

*Proof sketch.* lem:5.2.4,lem:6.2.6,thm:6.3.20

- Let  $z \in M \setminus N$ . By Lemma 5.2.4, there is a connected minor  $N'$  that is a 1-element extension of  $N$  by  $z$ . Our theorem holds iff it holds for duals, so by duality, assume that the extension is an addition.
- Reason about a matrix representation of  $N$  and  $N'$  to get a 2-separation of  $N'$ . Since  $M$  is 3-connected, this 2-separation does not induce one in  $M$ . Let  $M'$  be a minor of  $M$  that proves this fact and is minimal under isomorphism. Additionally,  $M'$  has an  $N'$  minor, so we change the element labels in  $M'$  so that  $N'$  is a minor of  $M'$ .
- Apply Theorem 6.3.20 and perform case analysis, reaching either a contradiction or a desired extension.

□

## 0.7 Chapter 7 from Truemper

### 0.7.1 Chapter 7.2

**Definition 85** (splitter). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : minor, def : isomorphism, def :*

*k<sub>c</sub>onn* Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism and undertaking minors. Let  $N$  be a 3-connected  $\in \mathcal{M}$  with a proper  $N$  minor has a 2-separation, then  $N$  is called a splitter of  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Theorem 86** (7.2.1.a splitter for nonwheels). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : minor, def : isomorphism, def : k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : wheel, def : splitter* Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism

*Proof sketch.* thm:6.4.1, def:splitter, def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : 1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>ext</sub>, def : minor, def : k<sub>s</sub>ep

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 87** (7.2.1.b splitter for wheels). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : minor, def : isomorphism, def : k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : wheel, def : splitter* Let  $M$  be a class of binary matroids closed under isomorphism

*Proof sketch.* thm:6.4.1, def:splitter, def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : 1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt, def : minor, def : k<sub>s</sub>ep 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 88** (7.2.10.a). *thm:7.2.1.a* Theorem 7.2.1.a specialized to graphs.

*Proof sketch.* thm:7.2.1.a Consider the corresponding graphic matroids, apply splitter theorem, extensions in graphic matroids correspond to extensions in graphs. □

**Corollary 89** (7.2.10.b). *thm:7.2.1.b* Theorem 7.2.1.b specialized to graphs.

*Proof sketch.* thm:7.2.1.b Consider the corresponding graphic matroids, apply splitter theorem, extensions in graphic matroids correspond to extensions in graphs. □

**Theorem 90** (7.2.11.a). *def:M<sub>K5</sub>, def : M<sub>K33</sub>, def : splitter, def : minor, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid*  $K_5$  is a splitter of the graphs without  $K_{3,3}$  minors.

*Proof sketch.* cor:7.2.10.a, def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : 1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt Upto isomorphism, there is just one 3-connected 1-edge extension. 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 from Corollary 7.2.10.a. □

**Theorem 91** (7.2.11.b). *def:M<sub>W3</sub>, def : M<sub>W4</sub>, def : splitter, def : minor, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid*  $W_3$  is a splitter of the graphs without  $W_4$  minors.

*Proof sketch.* cor:7.2.10.b, def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : 1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt There is no 3-connected 1-edge extension of  $W_3$ , so the theorem follows from Corollary 7.2.10.b. □

## 0.7.2 Chapter 7.3

**Theorem 92** (7.3.1.a). *def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : minor, def : wheel, def : isomorphism, def : gap* Let  $M$  be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected proper minor  $N$  and  $\text{gap}(M) \geq 1$ , there is a sequence  $M_0, \dots, M_t = M$  of nested 3-connected minors where  $M_0$  is isomorphic to  $N$  and where the gap is 1.

*Proof sketch.* thm:7.2.1.a

- Inductively for  $i \geq 0$  assume the existence of a sequence  $M_0, \dots, M_i$  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-connected  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ , 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  $M_0, \dots, M_i$  so that they constitute a sequence of nested minors of  $M_{i+1}$ . This sequence satisfies the induction hypothesis.
- By induction, the claimed sequence exists for  $M$ .

□

**Theorem 93** (7.3.1.b). *def:konn, def : binarymatroid, def : minor, def : wheel, def : isomorphism, def : gap* Let  $M$  be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected proper minor  $N$ . If  $\text{gap}(M, N) \geq 1$ , there is a sequence  $M_0, \dots, M_t = M$  of nested 3-connected minors where:

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

*Proof sketch.* thm:7.2.1.b 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 94** (7.2.1 from 7.3.1). *thm:7.3.1.a, thm:7.3.1.b, thm:7.2.1.a, thm:7.2.1.b* Theorem 7.3.1 implies Theorem 7.2.1.

*Proof sketch.* thm:7.3.1.a, thm:7.3.1.b, thm:7.2.1.a, thm:7.2.1.b

- 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  $M_0, \dots, M_t = M$  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 95** (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  $G_0, \dots, G_t = G$  where  $G_0$  is isomorphic to  $H$ , and where each  $G_{i+1}$  has exactly one edge beyond those of  $G_i$ .*

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

**Corollary 96** (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  $G_0, \dots, G_t = G$  where:*

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

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

**Theorem 97** (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  $G \setminus z$  is 3-connected.*

*Proof sketch.* cor:5.2.15, cor:7.3.2.b

- 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  $G_0, \dots, G_t = G$  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  $G \setminus z$  for some edge  $z$ .

□

**Theorem 98** (7.3.3 for binary matroids). *thm:7.3.1.a,thm:7.3.1.b* Theorem 7.3.3 can be rewritten for binary matroids instead of graphs.

*Proof sketch.* *thm:7.3.1.a,thm:7.3.1.b* Similar to the proof of Theorem 7.3.3, but use Theorem 7.3.1 instead of Corollary 7.3.2. □

**Proposition 99** (7.3.4.observation). *thm:7.3.1.a,thm:7.3.1.b,lem:3.3.12,lem:6.2.6* Observation in text on pages 160–161.

**Theorem 100** (7.3.4). *def:k\_conn,def : binary\_matroid,def : minor,def : 1\_elem\_expansion,def : 1\_elem\_addition,def : 1\_elem\_expansion* Let  $M$  be a 3-connected binary matroid with a 3-connected minor  $M_0$  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.* *thm:7.3.1.a,thm:7.3.1.b,prop:7.3.4.obs*

- 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 101** (7.3.5). *thm:7.3.4* Specializes Theorem 7.3.4 to graphs.

### 0.7.3 Chapter 7.4

**Theorem 102** (7.4.1 planarity characterization). *def:planar\_matroid,def :  $M_{K_{3,3}}$ ,def :  $M_{K_5}$*  A graph is planar if and only if it has no  $K_{3,3}$  or  $K_5$  minors.

*Proof sketch.* *lem:3.2.48,cor:5.2.15,cor:7.3.5*

- "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  $K_5$ .
- Prove that  $G$  cannot be 1- or 2-separable. Thus  $G$  is 3-connected.
- By Corollary 5.2.15,  $G$  has a  $W_3$  minor, say  $H$ . Note: no  $H$  minor of  $G$  can be extended to a minor of  $G$  by addition of an edge that connects two nonadjacent nodes.
- Then by Corollary 7.3.5.b, there exists a sequence  $G_0, \dots, G_t = G$  of 3-connected minors where  $G_0$  is an  $H$  minor and  $G_{i+1}$  is constructed from  $G_i$  following very specific steps.

- By minimality,  $G_{t-1}$  is planar and  $G$  is not. Argue about a planar drawing of  $G_{t-1}$  and how  $G$  can be derived from it. Show that this must result in a subdivision of  $K_{3,3}$  or  $K_5$ .

□

**Theorem 103** (Kuratowski). *def:planar<sub>m</sub>atroid, def :  $M_{K_{3,3}}$ , def :  $M_{K_5}$  A graph is planar if and only if it has no  $M_{K_{3,3}}$  or  $M_{K_5}$  minor.*

*Proof.* thm:7.4.1 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). □

## 0.8 Chapter 8 from Truemper

### 0.8.1 Chapter 8.2

This chapter is about deducing and manipulating 1- and 2-sum decompositions and compositions.

**Proposition 104** (8.2.1). *def:k<sub>s</sub>epMatrix of 1-separation.*

**Lemma 105** (8.2.2). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : 1<sub>sum</sub>, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : planar<sub>m</sub>atroid Let  $M$  be a binary matroid. Assume  $M$  to be a 1-sum of two matroids  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .*

- If  $M$  is graphic, then there exist graphs  $G, G_1, G_2$  for  $M, M_1, M_2$ , respectively, such that identification of a node of  $G_1$  with one of  $G_2$  creates  $G$ .
- If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are graphic (resp. planar), then  $M$  is graphic (resp. planar).

*Proof sketch.* thm:3.2.25.a Elementary application of Theorem 3.2.25.a. □

**Proposition 106** (8.2.3). *def:k<sub>s</sub>epMatrix of exact 2-separation.*

**Proposition 107** (8.2.4). *prop:8.2.3 Matrices  $B^1$  and  $B^2$  of 2-sum.*

**Lemma 108** (8.2.6). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : k<sub>s</sub>ep, def : k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : 2<sub>sum</sub> Any 2-separation of a connected binary matroid  $M$  into  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ . Conversely, any 2-sum of two connected binary matroids  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  is a connected binary matroid  $M$ .*

*Proof sketch.* prop:8.2.3, prop:8.2.4, lem:3.3.19

- Definitions imply everything except connectedness.
- It is easy to check that connectedness of (8.2.3) implies connectedness of (8.2.4) and vice versa.



- By Lemma 3.3.19, connectedness of representation matrices is equivalent to connectedness of the corresponding matroids.

□

**Lemma 109** (8.2.7). *def:binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : 2<sub>s</sub>um, prop : 8.2.3, prop : 8.2.4, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : planar<sub>m</sub>atroid* Let  $M$  be a connected binary matroid that is a 2-sum of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ , as given via  $B$ ,  $B_1$ , and  $B_2$  of (8.2.3) and (8.2.4).

- If  $M$  is graphic, then there exist 2-connected graphs  $G$ ,  $G_1$ , and  $G_2$  for  $M$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$ , respectively, with the following feature. The graph  $G$  is produced when one identifies the edge  $x$  of  $G_1$  with the edge  $y$  of  $G_2$ , and when subsequently the edge so created is deleted.
- If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are graphic (resp. planar), then  $M$  is graphic (resp. planar).

*Proof sketch.* def:k<sub>s</sub>ep, thm : 3.2.25.b, lem : 8.2.6, prop : 8.2.3, prop : 8.2.4, switchingopsec3

Ingredients: look at a 2-separation and the corresponding subgraphs, use Theorem 3.2.25.b, use the switching operation of Section 3.2, use Lemma 8.2.6 and representations (8.2.3) and (8.2.4).

Use the construction from the drawing, check that fundamental circuits match, conclude that  $M$  is graphic. For planar graphs, the edge identification can be done in a planar way.

□

## 0.8.2 Chapter 8.3

**Proposition 110** (8.3.1). *def:k<sub>s</sub>epMatrixBwithexactk-separation.*

**Proposition 111** (8.3.2). *prop:8.3.1, def:3<sub>s</sub>umPartitionofBdisplayingk-sum.*

**Proposition 112** (8.3.9). *prop:8.3.2, def:3<sub>s</sub>umThe(well-chosen)matrix $\bar{B}$  representing the connecting minor  $\bar{M}$  of a 3-sum.*

**Proposition 113** (8.3.10). *prop:8.3.2, prop:8.3.9, def:3<sub>s</sub>umThe matrix  $B$  representing a 3-sum (after reasoning)*

**Proposition 114** (8.3.11). *def:3<sub>s</sub>umRepresentation matrices  $B^1$  and  $B^2$  of the components  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  of a 3-sum (after reasoning).*

**Lemma 115** (8.3.12). *def:k<sub>c</sub>onn, def : k<sub>s</sub>ep, def : binary<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : 3<sub>s</sub>um* Let  $M$  be a 3-connected binary matroid of  $M$  with  $|E_1|, |E_2| \geq 4$  produces a 3-sum, and vice versa.

*Proof.* prop:8.3.1, prop:8.3.10, lem:2.3.14, prop:8.3.9

- The converse easily follows from (8.3.10), which directly produces a desired 3-separation.
- Take a 3-separation. Since  $M$  is 3-connected, it must be exact. Consider the representation matrix (8.3.11). Reason about that matrix.

- Analyse shortest paths in a bipartite graph based on the matrix.
- Apply path shortening technique from Chapter 5 to reduce a shortest path by pivots to one with exactly two arcs.
- Reason about the corresponding entries and about the effects of the pivots on the matrix.
- Apply Lemma 2.3.14. Eventually get an instance of (8.3.10) with (8.3.9). Thus,  $M$  is a 3-sum.

□

### 0.8.3 Chapter 8.5

**Proposition 116** (8.5.3). *prop:8.3.10,prop:8.3.11,prop:4.4.5 Matrix  $B^{2\Delta}$  for  $M_{2\Delta}$ .*

## 0.9 Chapter 9 from Truemper

**Proposition 117** (9.2.14). *def:R12 Matrix  $B^{12}$  of regular matroid  $R_{12}$ .*

## 0.10 Chapter 10 from Truemper

**Proposition 118** (10.2.4). *def:F7 Derivation of a graph with  $T$  nodes for  $F_7$ .*

**Proposition 119** (10.2.6). *def:M<sub>K33dual</sub> Derivation of a graph with  $T$  nodes for  $M(K_{3,3})^*$ .*

**Proposition 120** (10.2.8). *def:R10 Derivation of a graph with  $T$  nodes for  $R_{10}$ .*

**Proposition 121** (10.2.9). *def:R12 Derivation of a graph with  $T$  nodes for  $R_{12}$ .*

**Theorem 122** (10.2.11 only if). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def: planar<sub>m</sub>atroid, def:  $M_{K5}$ , def:  $M_{K5dual}$ , def:  $M_{K33}$ , def:  $M_{K33dual}$ , def: minorIfaregularmatroidisplanar, then it has no  $M(K_5)^*$ ,  $M(K_{3,3})$ , or  $M(K_{3,3})^*$  minors.*

*Proof sketch.* • Planarity is preserved under taking minors.

- The listed matroids are not planar.

□

**Theorem 123** (10.2.11 if). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def: planar<sub>m</sub>atroid, def:  $M_{K5}$ , def:  $M_{K5dual}$ , def:  $M_{K33}$ , def:  $M_{K33dual}$ , def: minorIfaregularmatroidhasno $M(K_5)^*$ ,  $M(K_{3,3})$ , or  $M(K_{3,3})^*$  minors, then it is planar.*

*Proof sketch.* thm:7.4.1,lem:8.2.2,lem:8.2.6,lem:8.2.7,census sec 3.3,thm:7.3.3,prop:10.2.4,prop:10.2.6,thm:Meng

- 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  $\leq 8$ -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  $M \setminus z$  or  $M/z$  is 3-connected. Dualizing does not affect the assumptions, so we may assume that  $M \setminus z$  is 3-connected.
- Let  $G$  be a planar graph representing  $M \setminus z$ . Extend  $G$  to a representation of  $M$  as follows:
  - If  $G$  is a wheel, invoke (10.2.6) or (10.2.4). The latter contradicts 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 124** (10.3.1). *def:  $M_{K_5}$ , def : splitter, def : regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def :  $M_{K_{3,3}}$ , def : minor  $M(K_5)$  is a splitter of the regular matroids with no  $M(K_{3,3})$  minors.*

*Proof.* thm:7.2.1.a, def:  $k_{conn}$ , def :  $1_{elem_{ext}}$

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 125** (10.3.6). *def:  $k_{conn}$ , def :  $1_{elem_{ext}}$ , def :  $M_{K_{3,3}}$ , def : regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : binary<sub>m</sub>atroid Every 3-connected binary 1-element expansion of  $M(K_{3,3})$  is non-regular.*

*Proof sketch.* By case analysis via graphs plus  $T$  sets.

□

**Theorem 126** (10.3.11). *def:  $k_{conn}$ , def : regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def :  $M_{K_{3,3}}$ , def : minor, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : cographic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : isomorphism, def :  $R_{10}$ , def :  $R_{12}$  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.* lem:10.3.6,thm:7.3.4,thm:Menger This proof is extremely long and technical. It involves case distinctions and graph constructions.  $\square$

**Theorem 127** (10.4.1 only if). *def:k\_conn, def : regular\_matroid, def : graphic\_matroid, def : cographic\_matroid, def : R10, def : R12, def : minorIf 3-connected regular matroid is graphic or cographic, then or R12 minors.*

*Proof sketch.* prop:10.2.8,prop:10.2.9 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.  $\square$

**Theorem 128** (10.4.1 if). *def:k\_conn, def : regular\_matroid, def : graphic\_matroid, def : cographic\_matroid, def : R10, def : R12, def : minorIf a 3-connected regular matroid has no  $R_{10}$  or  $R_{12}$  minors, then it is graphic or cographic.*

*Proof sketch.* thm:10.2.11.if,lem:10.3.1,thm:10.3.11

- 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.

$\square$

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).

## 0.11 Chapter 11 from Truemper

### 0.11.1 Chapter 11.2

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

Ingredients from Section 9.2:

- A matrix is TU if all its subdeterminants are 0,  $\pm 1$ .
- 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  $\pm 1$  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  $2 \times 2$  violation matrix has four  $\pm 1$ 's.
- Consider a MVM of order  $\geq 3$ . 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 129** (11.2.1). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : 1<sub>sum</sub>, def : 2<sub>sum</sub> Any 1-or 2-sum of two regular matroids is also regular.*

*Proof sketch.* prop:8.2.1, prop:8.2.3, prop:8.2.4

- 1-sum case:  $M_1 \oplus_1 M_2$  is represented by a matrix  $B = \text{diag}(A_1, A_2)$  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 130** (11.2.7). *prop:8.3.10, prop:8.3.11, prop:8.5.3  $M_2$  of (8.3.10) and (8.3.11) is regular iff  $M_{2\Delta}$  of (8.5.3) ( $M_2$  converted by a  $\Delta Y$  exchange) is regular.*

*Proof sketch.* Utilize signings, minimal violation matrices, intersections (inside matrices), column dependence, pivot, duality. □

**Corollary 131** (11.2.8). *def:Delta<sub>Y</sub>exchange, def : regular<sub>m</sub>atroid  $\Delta Y$  exchanges maintain regularity.*

*Proof.* lem:11.2.7 Follows by Lemma 11.2.7. □

**Lemma 132** (11.2.9). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : 3<sub>sum</sub> Any 3-sum of two regular matroids is also regular.*

*Proof sketch.* lem:11.2.7,cor:11.2.8 Yet more complicated, but similar. Uses the result that “ $\Delta Y$  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.  $\square$

**Theorem 133** (11.2.10). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : 1<sub>s</sub>um, def : 2<sub>s</sub>um, def : 3<sub>s</sub>um Any 1–, 2–, or 3–sum of two regular matroids is regular.*

*Proof sketch.* lem:11.2.1,lem:11.2.9 Combine Lemmas 11.2.1 and 11.2.9.  $\square$

**Corollary 134** (11.2.12). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : Delta<sub>s</sub>um, def : Y<sub>s</sub>um Any  $\Delta$ -sum or  $Y$ -sum of two regular matroids is also regular.*

*Proof sketch.* def:Delta<sub>s</sub>um, def : Y<sub>s</sub>um, thm : 11.2.10, cor : 11.2.8 Follows from definition of  $\Delta$ -sums and  $Y$ -sum, together with Theorem 11.2.10 and Corollary 11.2.8.  $\square$

### 0.11.2 Chapter 11.3

**Proposition 135** (11.3.3). *prop:10.2.8 Graph plus  $T$  set representing  $R_{10}$*

**Proposition 136** (11.3.5). *prop:10.2.4 Graph plus  $T$  set representing  $F_7$ .*

**Proposition 137** (11.3.11). *prop:9.2.14 The binary representation matrix  $B^{12}$  for  $R_{12}$ .*

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

**Theorem 138** (11.3.2). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : R10, def : splitter  $R_{10}$  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.* thm:7.2.1.a,prop:11.3.3,def:isomorphism,def:1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>ext</sub>,prop : 11.3.5, def :  $F_7$ , def : contraction

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.

$\square$

**Theorem 139** (11.3.10). *cor:6.3.24, def:R12 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 140** (11.3.12). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : R12, def : minor, def : k<sub>sep</sub>, prop : 11.3.11, def : isomorphism* 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.* def:1<sub>e</sub>lem<sub>e</sub>xt, prop : 10.2.9, thm : 11.3.10

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)), simplified by preparatory calculations.

□

**Theorem 141** (11.3.14 regular matroid decomposition, easy direction). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : cographic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : isomorphism, def : R10, def : 1<sub>s</sub>sum, def : 2<sub>s</sub>sum, def : 3<sub>s</sub>sum* 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.* thm:11.2.10 Follows from theorem 11.2.10.

□

**Theorem 142** (11.3.14 regular matroid decomposition, hard direction). *def:regular<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : graphic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : cographic<sub>m</sub>atroid, def : isomorphism, def : R10, def : R12, def : 1<sub>s</sub>sum, def : 2<sub>s</sub>sum, def : 3<sub>s</sub>sum, def : k<sub>conn</sub>, def : k<sub>sep</sub>, prop : 11.3.11* 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.* thm:10.4.1.if, thm:11.3.2, thm:11.3.12, lem:8.3.12

- 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.

□

### 0.11.3 Extensions of Regular Matroid Decomposition

- Theorem 11.3.14 remains valid when 3-sums are replaced by  $\Delta$ - 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.)

### 0.11.4 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 weights  $w_e$  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).