Matroids And their Graphs

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1 Base characterisation of a matroid

Theorem 1.1. *Let $\mathscr{B}$ be a set of subsets of a finite set E. Then $\mathscr{B}$ is the collection of bases of a matroid on E if and only if $\mathscr{B}$ satisfies the following conditions:*
(B1) $\mathscr{B}$ is non-empty.
(B2) If B_1 and B_2 are member of $\mathscr{B}$ and $x \in B_1 \setminus B_2$, then there is an element y of $B_1 \setminus B_2$ such that $(B_1 \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{y\} \in \mathscr{B}$.

Definition 1.1. A base is a maximally independent subset of $\mathscr{I}$.
A seen previously all maximally independent sets in a matroid have the same cardinality.

Proof:
$(\implies)$ Let $B_1, B_2 \in \mathscr{B}, B_1 \neq B_2$
$|B_1| = |B_2|$ so I3 does not directly apply here.
Let $x \in B_1 \setminus B_2 \implies x \in B_1, x \notin B_2$
$|B_1| = |B_1 \setminus \{x\}| + 1 \implies B_1 \setminus \{x\} \in \mathscr{I}$ but not in $\mathscr{B}$
$|B_2| = |B_1 \setminus \{x\}| + 1$ so now we can use I3
Now $\exists y \in B_2 \setminus B_1$ such that $(B_1 \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{y\} \in \mathscr{I}$
$|(B_1 \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{y\}| = |B_1 \setminus \{x\}| + 1 = |B_1| = ... = |B_r|$ as all maximal elements of $\mathscr{I}$ have the same cardinality $\implies (B_1 \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{y\}$ is maximal in $\mathscr{I}$
$\implies (B_1 \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{y\} \in \mathscr{B}$ $\square$