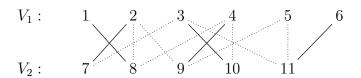
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Quick links 1a 1b 1c 2a 2b 2c 3a 3b

1. A matching in a graph G is a subset  $E_M \subseteq E(G)$  of edges such that each vertex touches at most one of the edges in  $E_M$ . Recall that a bipartite graph is a graph G on two sets of vertices,  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , such that every edge has one endpoint in  $V_1$  and one endpoint in  $V_2$ . We sometimes write  $G = (V_1, V_2; E)$  for this situation. For example:



The edges in the above example consist of all the lines, whether solid or dotted; the solid lines form a matching.

The bipartite maximum matching problem is to find a matching in a given bipartite graph G, which has the maximum number of edges among all matchings in G.

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(a) (6 pts total) Prove that a maximum matching in a bipartite graph  $G = (V_1, V_2; E)$  has size at most min $\{|V_1|, |V_2|\}$ .

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(b) (8 pts total) Show how you can use an algorithm for max-flow to solve bipartite maximum matching on undirected simple bipartite graphs. That is, give an algorithm which, given an undirected simple bipartite graph  $G = (V_1, V_2; E)$ , (1) constructs a directed, weighted graph G' (which need not be bipartite) with weights  $w : E(G') \to \mathbb{R}$  as well as two vertices  $s, t \in V(G')$ , (2) solves max-flow for (G', w), s, t, and (3) uses the solution for max-flow to find the maximum matching in G. Your algorithm may use any max-flow algorithm as a subroutine.

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(c) (7 pts total) Show the weighted graph constructed by your algorithm on the example bipartite graph above.

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2. In the review session for his Deep Wizarding class, Dumbledore reminds everyone that the logical definition of NP requires that the number of *bits* in the witness w is polynomial in the number of bits of the input n. That is, |w| = poly(n). With a smile, he says that in beginner wizarding, witnesses are usually only logarithmic in size, i.e.,  $|w| = O(\log n)$ .

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(a) (7 pts total) Because you are a model student, Dumbledore asks you to prove, in front of the whole class, that any such property is in the complexity class P.

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(b) (6 pts total) Well done, Dumbledore says. Now, explain why the logical definition of NP implies that any problem in NP can be solved by an exponential-time algorithm.

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(c) (6 pts total) Dumbledore then asks the class: "So, is NP a good formalization of the notion of problems that can be solved by brute force? Discuss." Give arguments for both possible answers.

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- 3. (20 pts) Recall that the MergeSort algorithm is a sorting algorithm that takes  $\Theta(n \log n)$  time and  $\Theta(n)$  space. In this problem, you will implement and instrument MergeSort, then perform a numerical experiment that verifies this asymptotic analysis. There are two functions and one experiment to do this.
  - (i) MergeSort(A,n) takes as input an unordered array A, of length n, and returns both an in-place sorted version of A and a count t of the number of atomic operations performed by MergeSort.
  - (ii) randomArray(n) takes as input an integer n and returns an array A such that for each  $0 \le i < n$ , A[i] is a uniformly random integer between 1 and n. (It is okay if A is a random permutation of the first n positive integers.)

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(a) (10 pts total) From scratch, implement the functions MergeSort and randomArray. You may not use any library functions that make their implementation trivial. You may use a library function that implements a pseudorandom number generator in order to implement randomArray.

Submit a paragraph that explains how you instrumented MergeSort, i.e., explain which operations you counted and why these are the correct ones to count.

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(b) (10 pts total) For each of  $n=\{2^4,2^5,\ldots,2^{26},2^{27}\}$ , run MergeSort (randomArray(n),n) fives times and record the tuple  $(n,\langle t\rangle)$ , where  $\langle t\rangle$  is the average number of operations your function counted over the five repetitions. Use whatever software you like to make a line plot of these 24 data points; overlay on your data a function of the form  $T(n)=A\,n\log n$ , where you choose the constant A so that the function is close to your data.

Hint 1: To increase the aesthetics, use a log-log plot.

Hint 2: Make sure that your MergeSort implementation uses only two arrays of length n to do its work. (For instance, don't do recursion with pass-by-value.)