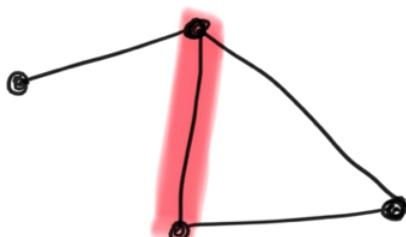


## Max matching - Blossoms (theory)

Ref: CS105 - winter05 (CS Dartmouth).

Matching in a graph  $G$  is a subset  $M \subseteq \text{Edges } E$  so that  $e \cap e' = \emptyset$  for  $e \neq e'$  in  $M$ .

maximal matching : Matching  $M$  maximal if  $M \neq M'$  for any other matching  $M'$



(can't add more edges)

maximal matching

maximum matching : Matching  $M$  so that  $|M| \geq |M'|$  & matchings  $M'$

maximum matching  $\Rightarrow$  maximal matching



not maximum



maximal

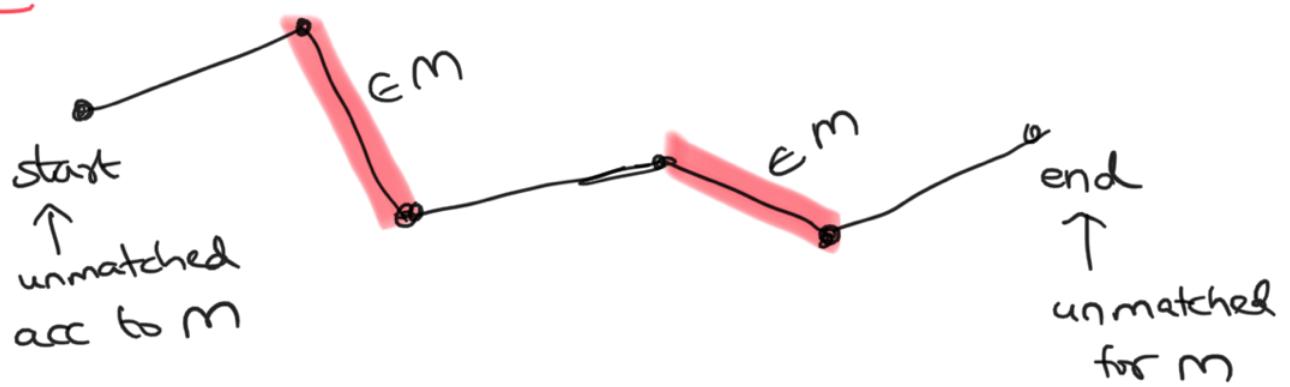


maximum matching

maximal match  $\leftarrow$  greedy. keep adding edges  
that still keep it a match

How to find maximum matching?

- \* Given matching  $M$ , vertex  $v \in V$  is called matched if  $v \in e$  for some  $e \in M$
- \* Augmenting path : path in  $G$  so that for  $M$



and alternate edges to path  $e \in M$ .

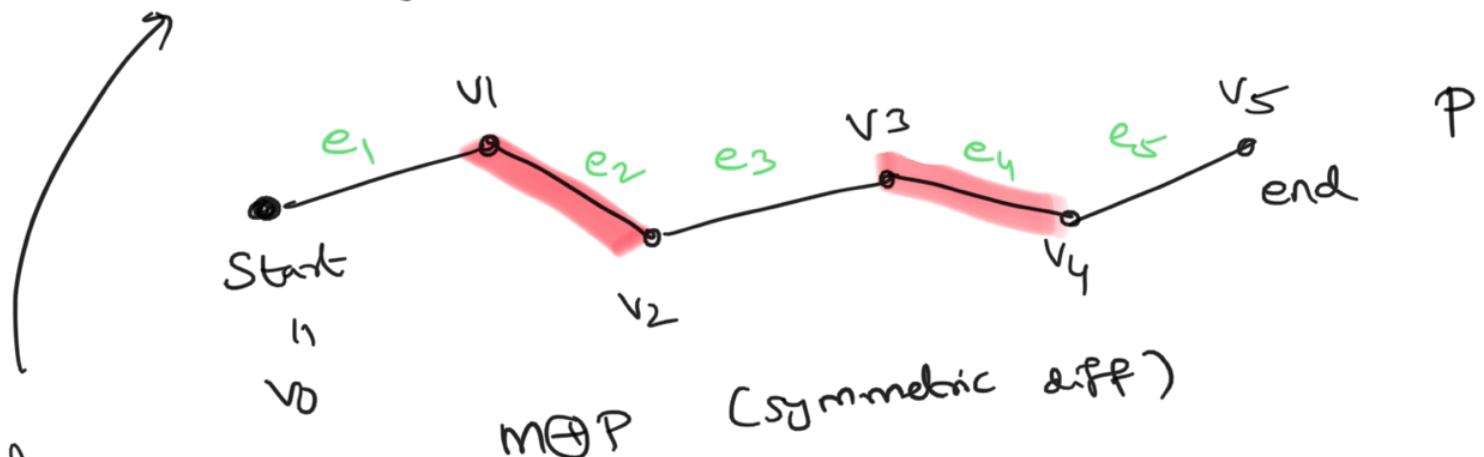
Berge's lemma let  $M$  be a matching.

$M$  maximum  $\Leftrightarrow$  no augmenting path for  $M$

Pf

$\Rightarrow$  Let  $m$  be maximum. Suppose  $\exists$

augmenting path for  $m$



# of

edges in path

not in  $m \geq$

# of edges in

path is  $m$

(actually exactly

1 more)

$M \oplus P$

(symmetric diff)

$$\rightarrow m - \{e_2, e_4\}$$

$$\cup \{e_1, e_3, e_5\} = m$$

is also a matching.

$$|m'| > |m| \rightarrow \leftarrow$$

$\Leftarrow$

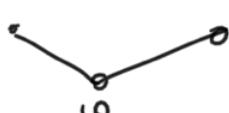
If no augmenting path, show  $m$  max.

Let  $m'$  be a maximum matching

$$\text{show } |m| = |m'|$$

$\rightarrow m \oplus m' = \{ \text{collection of edges in } m \setminus m' \cup (m' \setminus m) \}$

$\rightarrow$  Look at subgraph induced by edges  $m \oplus m'$



$$\hookrightarrow \deg_H(v) \leq 2 \quad \begin{array}{l} (\text{1 from } m, \\ \text{1 from } m', \text{ atmost}) \end{array}$$

FACT: any graph with all  $\deg \leq 2$

→ disjoint paths / cycles.



(Look at connected component and prove fact there  
---)

Granted FACT, any path / cycle

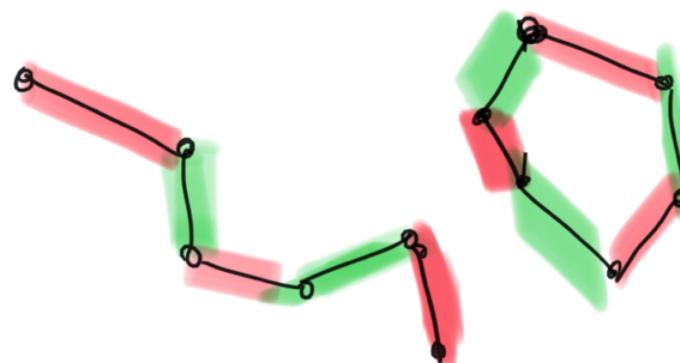
must have

alternate edges

from

$m, m'$

↑  
as both matchings

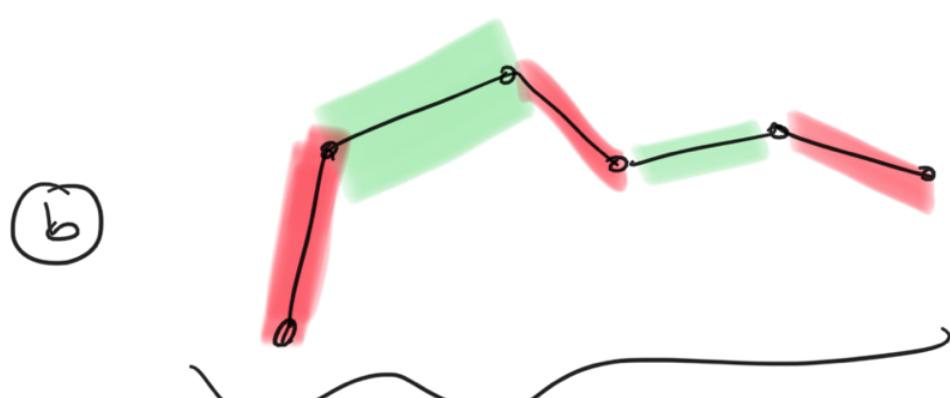
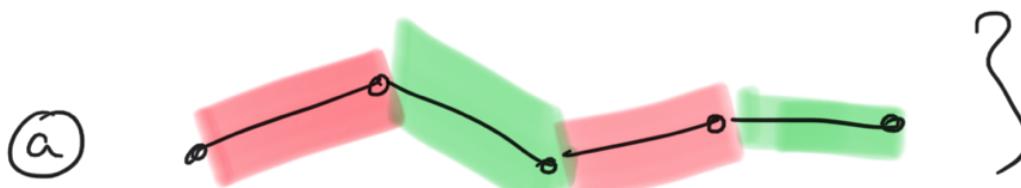


further any cycle has to be even length

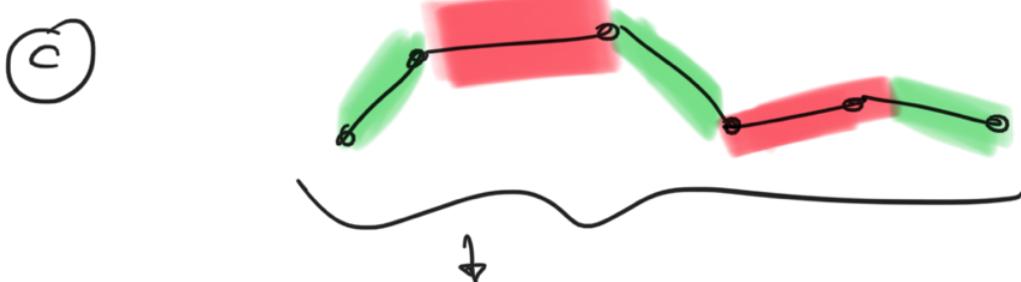


so equal #  $\wedge$  edges from  $m, m'$

what about paths?



augmenting path for  $m'$   
→ as  $m'$  maximum



augmenting path for  $m$   
→ hypothesis

$$\text{so } |m| = |m'|$$

matching algorithm

$$m = \emptyset$$

Find an augmenting path for  $m$

$$m = m \oplus P$$

↓  
If no more  
augmenting paths,  
stop.

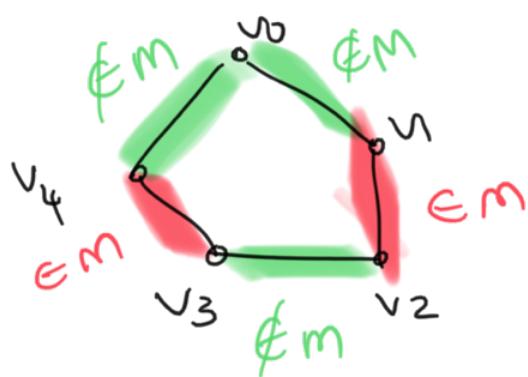
$$M = M \oplus P \Rightarrow |M| + = 1.$$

If  $G$  has  $|V|$  vertices,  $M$  can have at most  $|V|/2$  edges so can add augmenting paths at most  $|V|/2$  times ...

How to find augmenting paths?

Odd alternating cycle

(Blossom)



$v_0 \notin M$

also.

$v_0 - v_1 - \dots - v_{2k}$  with

$v_0 \notin M$

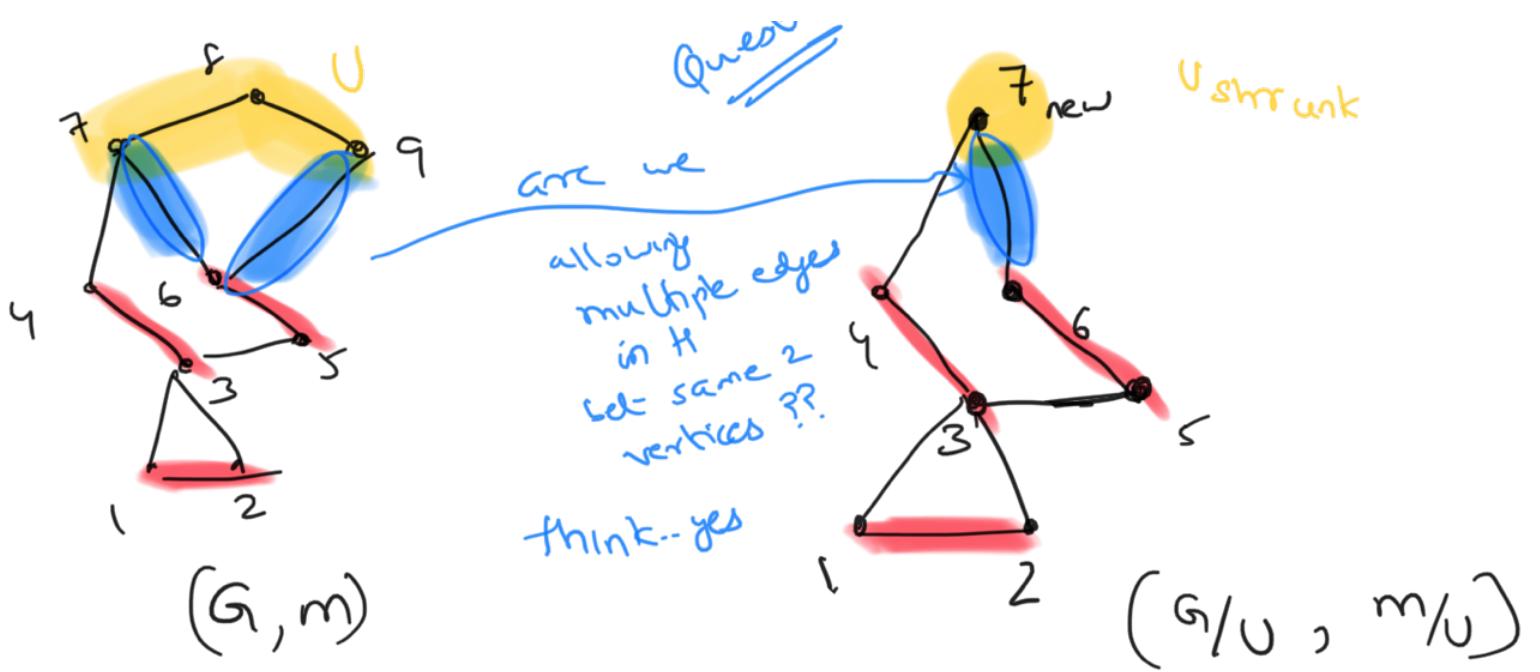
$v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, \dots \in M$

$v_0 v_1, \dots, v_{2k} v_0 \notin M$

Graph  $G$ ,  $U \leftarrow$  set of all unmatched vertices  
 $M$  matching

$G/U : V \rightarrow$  squeeze into 1 vertex

new



### Observation

augmenting path  
in  $(G, m)$

starting and ending

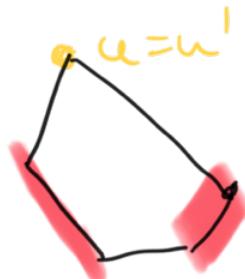
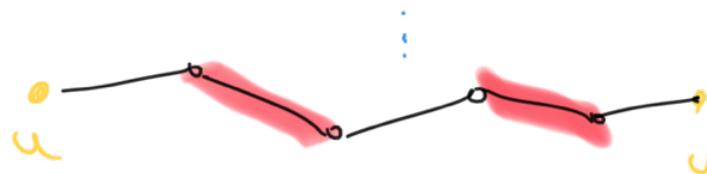


in  $U$



odd alternating  
cycle in  
 $(G/U, m/U)$

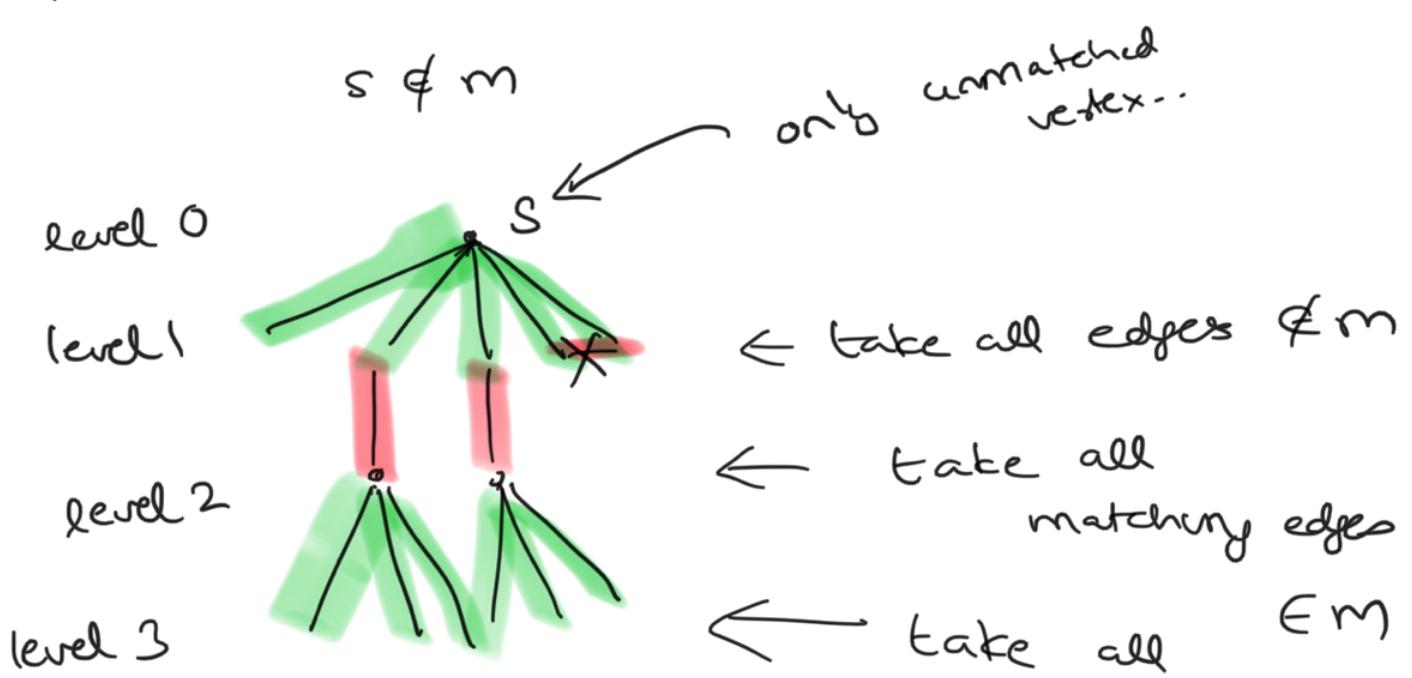
note that any such  
path looks like



### Alternating breadth first tree

$(H, m)$

$H = G/U$



un matching edges ( $\neq m$ )

!

level  $i$  vertices :  $U_i$

### Alternating BFS Tree

①  $U_0 = \{s\}$       Level [ $s$ ] = 0

forall  $v \in V - U_0$ , level [ $v$ ] =  $\infty$

$$E_T = \emptyset \quad (\text{tree edges})$$

$i = 1$

② while ( $U_{i-1} \neq \emptyset$ )

$$U_i = \emptyset$$

for each  $v \in U_{i-1}$ :

for each  $w$  adj to  $v$

$i$  odd

$i$  even

if level [ $w$ ] =  $\infty$   
and  $v-w \notin m$ ,

if level [ $w$ ] =  $\infty$   
and  $v-w \in m$

$$U_i \cup \{w\} = U_i$$

$$U_i \cup \{w\} = U_i$$

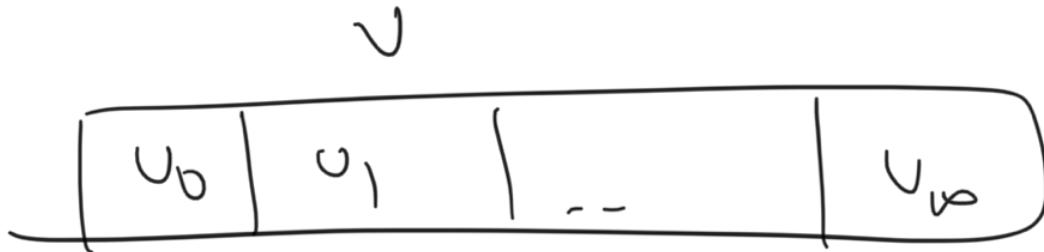
$$\text{level}[w] = i$$

$$\text{level}[w] = i$$

$$E_T = E_T \cup \{v-w\}$$

$$E_T = E_T \cup \{v-w\}$$

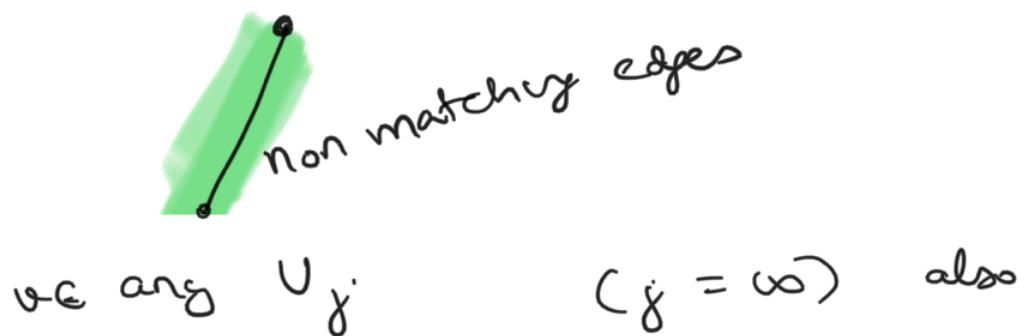
$U_\infty = \text{not reachable} \dots = V - U_0 - U_1 - \dots$



edges not in Alternating breadth first tree

Type E<sub>00</sub> : edges between 2  $U_\infty$  vertices.

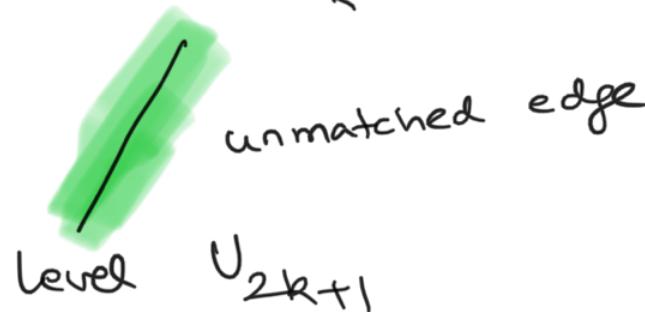
Type A : Level  $U_{2k+1}$



Type B : Level  $U_{2k+1}$  ————— Level  $U_{2k+1}$   
matching

Level  $U_{2k}$  ————— Level  $U_{2k}$   
unmatching

Type C : Level  $U_{2k}$



Note

if  $\exists v \in U_\infty$  with



$\Rightarrow u \in U_\infty$

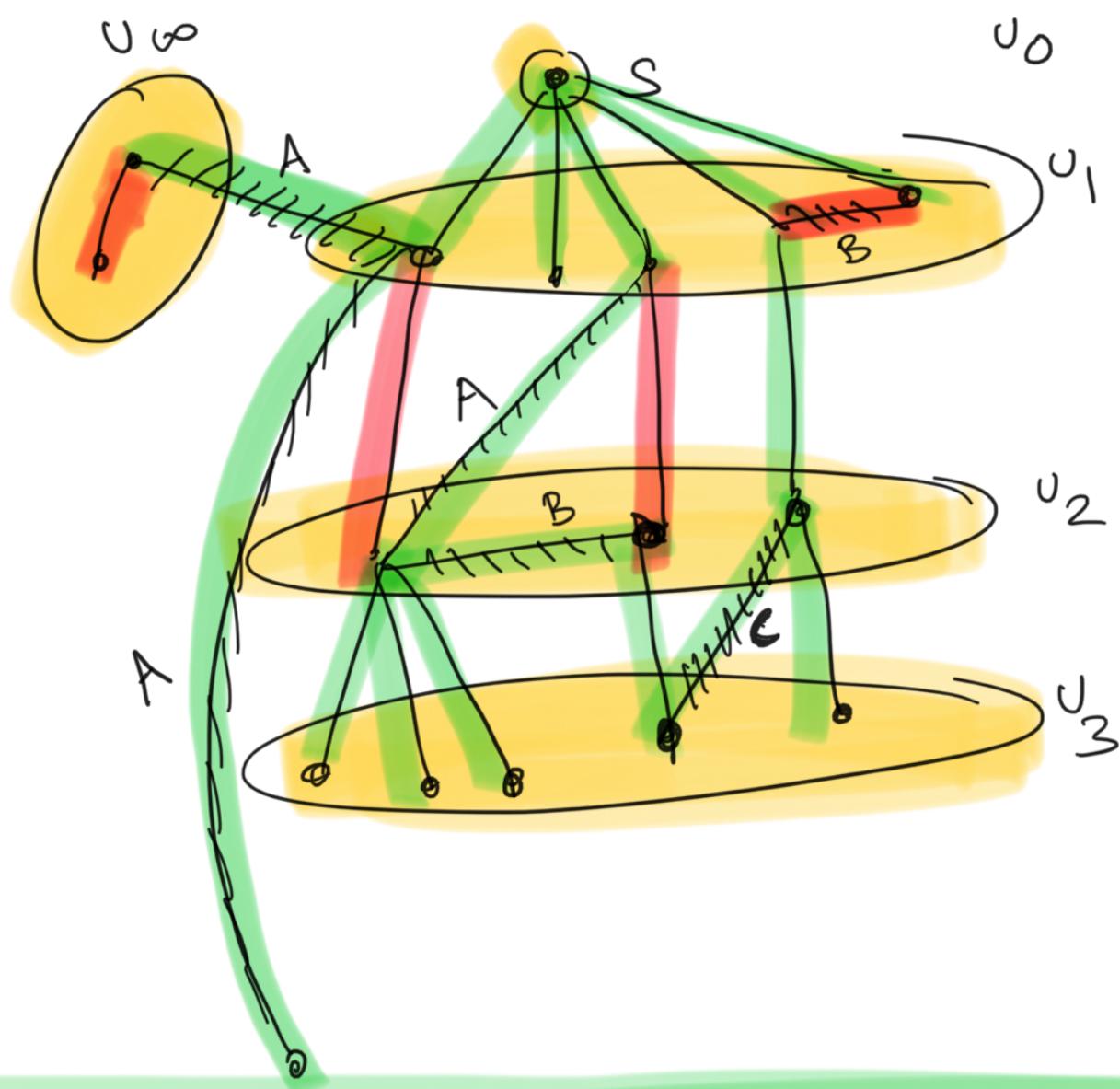
PF: Suppose  $u \notin U_\infty \Rightarrow u \leftarrow \text{odd / even level}$

If  $u = \text{odd level} \Rightarrow v \in U_{2k+1}$

If  $u: \text{even level} \Rightarrow v \in U_{2k-1}$

(note  $s \in \{U_0\} \leftarrow \text{unmatched}\}$ )

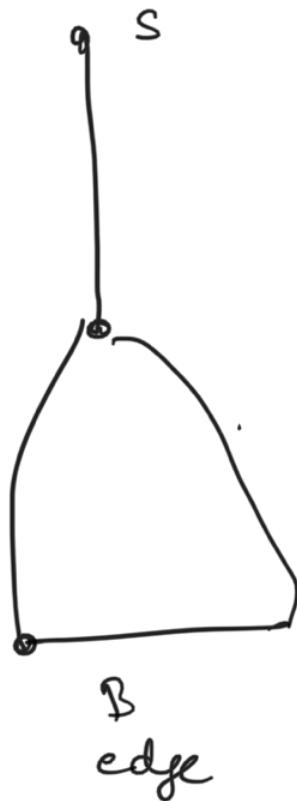
So Alternating Breadth First Tree looks like



FACT

In  $H = (G/U, m/U)$ , every alternating cycle must pass through at least 1 type B edge

Granting this



alternating path + cycle ..

use tree edges  
and go up..

Type B can be identified in algo itself.

$$v \in U_{i-1}$$

$$w \in \text{Adj}(v)$$

If level  $w = i - 1 \Rightarrow v - w$  Type B

augmenting path

$$\cap (G, m, U)$$

↑  
unmatched vertices

v.s

alternating odd  
cycle in

$$(H = G/U, m_U, \{s\})$$

$$\phi'(C_1)$$

←

$$C_1$$

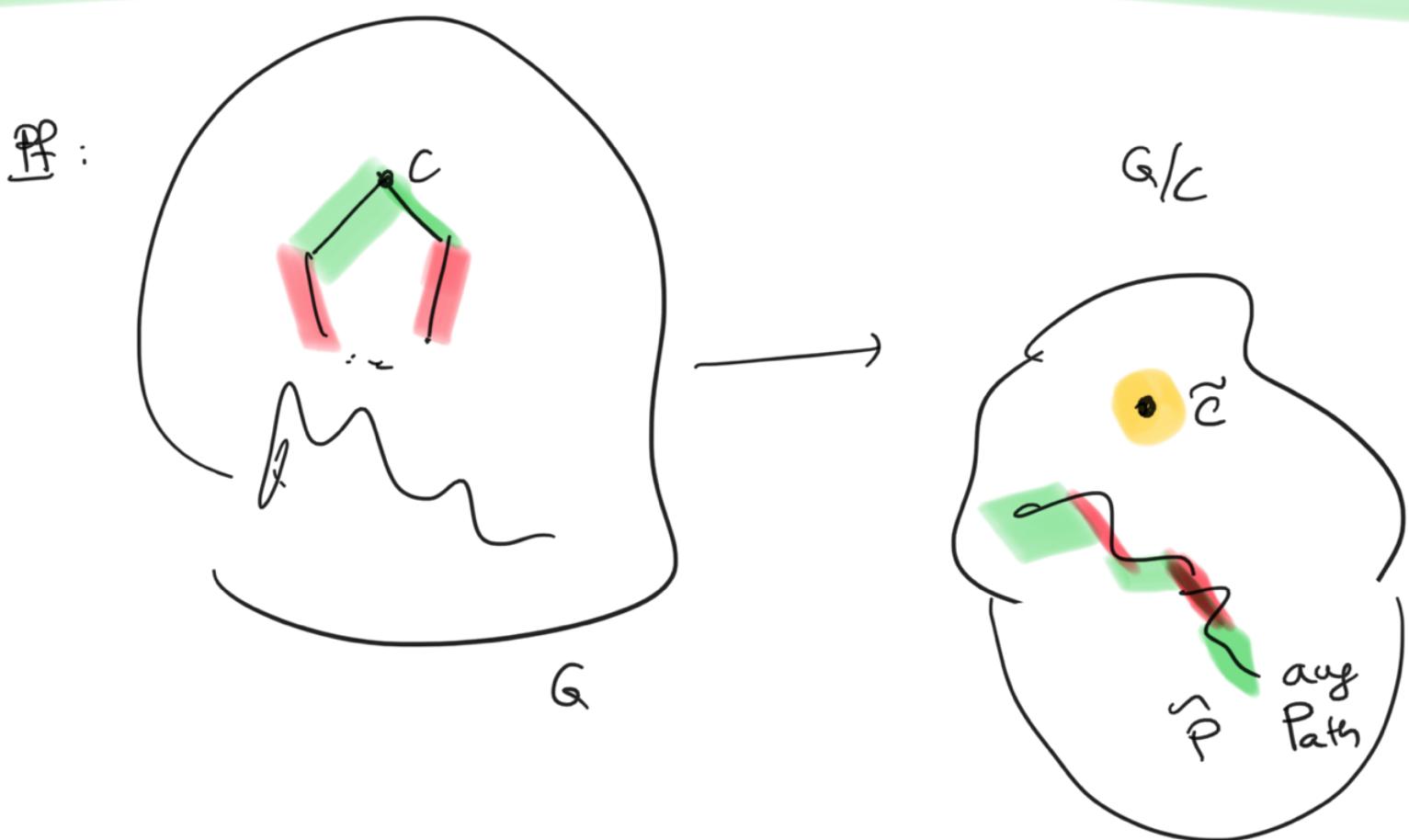
augmenting

alternating odd

aug  
path  
in  $(G, m)$

cycle  
in  $(G, m)$

Thm If  $C$  = alternating odd cycle in  $G$ ,  
then  $G$  has an augmenting path  
 $\Leftrightarrow G/C$  has an augmenting path

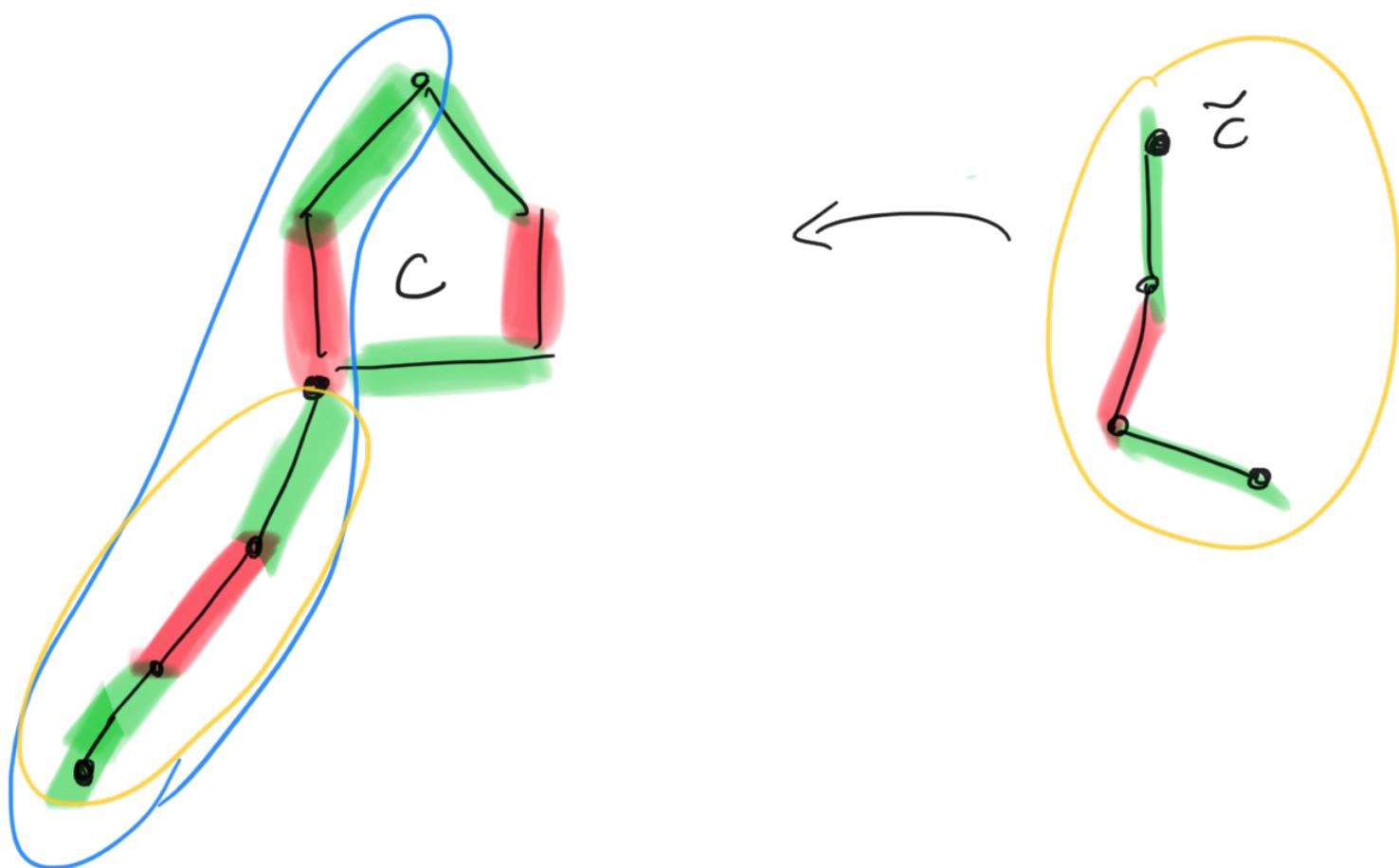
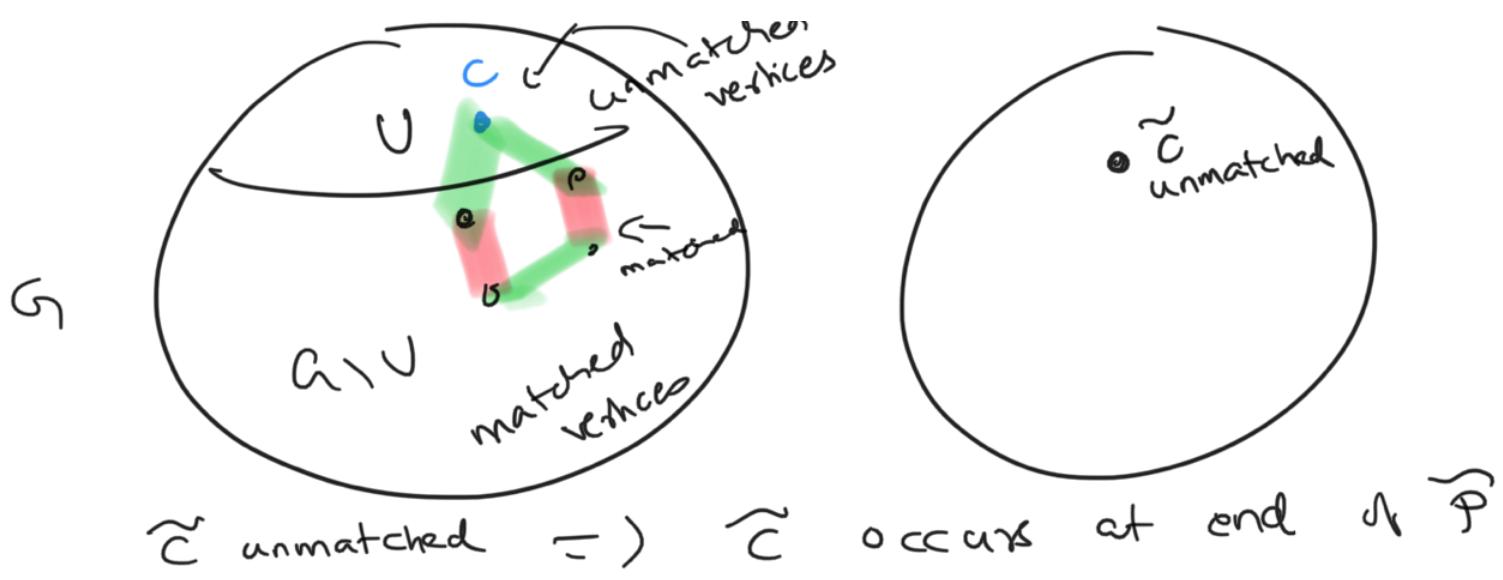


$G/C$  augmenting path  $\Rightarrow$   $G$  augmenting path

ⓐ If  $\hat{C} \notin \hat{P}$ ,  $\hat{P}$ 's image in  $G$  is augmenting path for  $G$ .

ⓑ if  $\hat{C} \in \hat{P}$ ,

$G/C$



$G$  augmenting path  $\Rightarrow G/C$  augmenting path

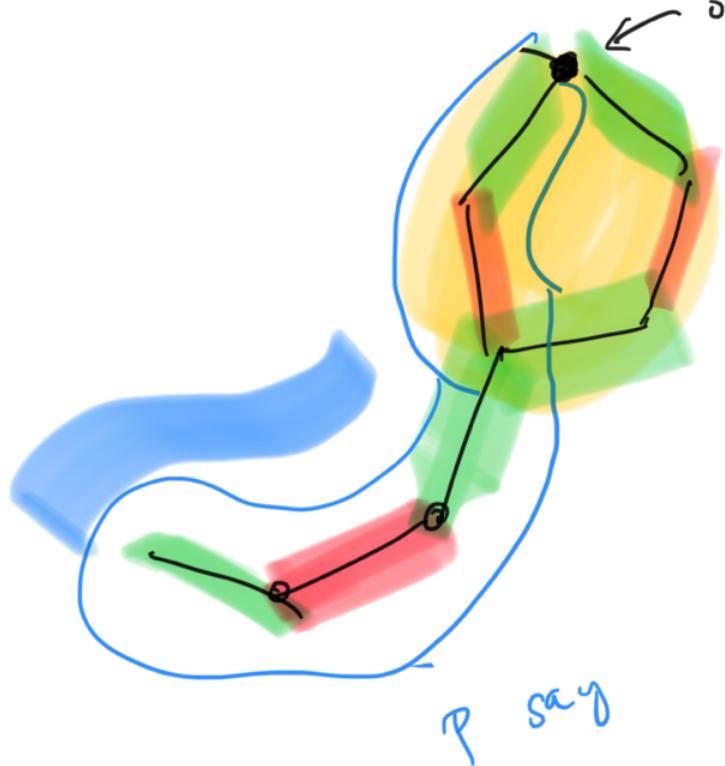
pf

$P$  aug. path in  $G$

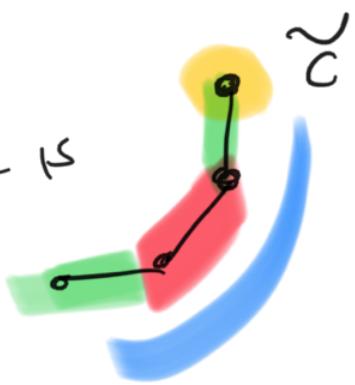
If  $P$  doesn't intersect  $C$ ,  $\phi(\tilde{P}) =$  aug path in  $G/C$

If  $P$  intersects  $C$ ,

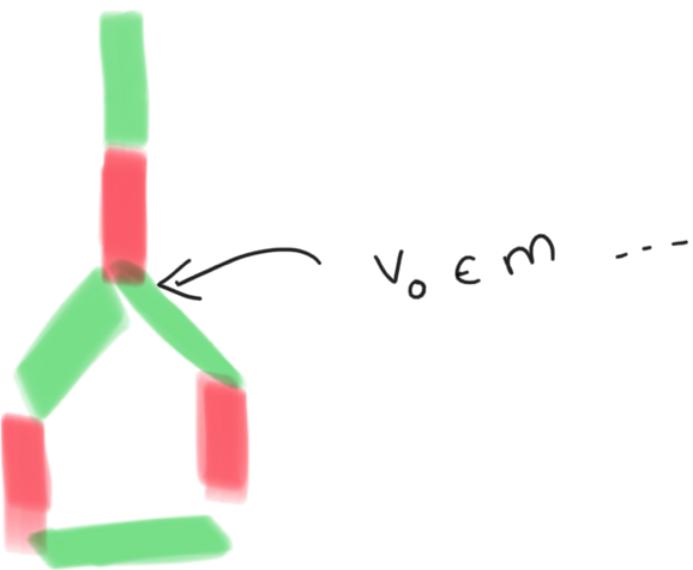
one end pt  $A$   
 $P$  must be this



→ image is



( Discussion ignores blossoms with stems... )



can contract this also--

Explained in algorithm written up in

next pdf

