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Introduction to Algorithms  
(VE477)

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**Homework #6**

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## Q1.

1. Denote that  $L = l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n$  and  $R = r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$ ,  $i, j \leq n$ . As the matrix  $A$  is defined as

$$a_{i,j} = \begin{cases} X_{i,j}, & (l_i, r_j) \in E, \\ 0, & (l_i, r_j) \notin E \end{cases}$$

and the expression of determinant is

$$\text{Det}(A) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} (-1)^{\text{sgn}(\pi)} \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i,\pi(i)},$$

where  $S_n$  is the set of all permutations on  $[n]$  and  $\text{sgn}(\pi)$  is the sign of the permutation  $\pi$ .

There is a one to one correspondence between a permutation  $\pi \in S$  and a possibly exists perfect matching  $\{(l_1, r_{\pi(1)}), (l_2, r_{\pi(2)}), \dots, (l_n, r_{\pi(n)})\}$ . As for not perfect matching case,  $\prod_{i=1}^n a_{i,\pi(i)}$  will be zero. Then we could denote the set of perfect matchings in  $G$  as  $P$ , and the determinant could be rewritten as

$$\text{Det}(A) = \sum_{\pi \in P} (-1)^{\text{sgn}(\pi)} \prod_{i=1}^n X_{i,\pi(i)}$$

**If  $G$  has no perfect matching**, then the set  $P = \emptyset$ . Therefore, the determinant is identically zero.

**If the determinant is identically zero**, this only happens when the summation of all the term is zero, which is same as  $P = \emptyset$  and no perfect matching exist.

So  $\text{Det}(A)$  is identically zero if and only if  $G$  as no perfect matching.

2. Then to detect whether a perfect matching exist is same as if a multivariate polynomial of degree at most  $n$  is equivalent to 0. At most  $n!$  terms will be in the  $\text{Det}(A)$ .

Assign random weight for each edge  $e \in E$  such that  $w_{ij} \in \{1, 2, \dots, 2m\}$ , where  $m = |E|$ , by the isolating lemma, the minimum weight perfect matching in  $G$  will be unique with probability at least  $1/2$ . Set each  $X_{i,j} = 2^{w_{ij}}$ . Let  $A_{ij}$  be the matrix obtained from  $A$  by removing the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row and  $j^{\text{th}}$  column.

Suppose there is a perfect matching  $P$  has a unique minimum weight  $W$ . Then with two lemma

- $\text{Det}(A) \neq 0$  and the highest power of 2 that divides  $\text{Det}(A)$  is  $2^W$ .
- Edge  $(i, j)$  belongs to  $P$  if and only if  $\text{Det}(A_{ij})/2^{W-w_{ij}}$  is odd.

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**Algorithm 1:** randomized algorithm to find a perfect matching
 

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**Input** : graph  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $V = L \cup R$ ,  $L \cap R = \emptyset$ 
**Output:** whether exists a perfect matching

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1 Choose  $n^2$  integers from  $w_{ij} \in \{1, 2, \dots, 2m\}$  randomly
2 Compute  $\text{Det}(A)$  by Gaussian elimination
3 Compute  $\text{adj}(A)$  and recover each  $\text{Det}(B_{ij})$ 
4 for each edge  $e \in E$  do
5   | if  $\text{Det}(A_{ij})/2^{W-w_{ij}}$  is odd then
6   |   | add the edge to  $M$ 
7   | end if
8 end for
```

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3. Time complexity  $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ . If we run the algorithm for  $k$  times and output *noperfectmatching* if and only if all says no, then the error probability is  $2^{-k}$ .
4. *The deterministic polynomial time algorithm* is to reduce this problem to the max-flow problem as discussed in the lecture. It is not useful for parallel algorithms.

Then this algorithm still viewed as useful, as the error probability could be reduced to a rather low level.

*Reference : [web.stanford.edu/class/msande319/MatchingSpring19/lecture01.pdf](http://web.stanford.edu/class/msande319/MatchingSpring19/lecture01.pdf)*

## Q2.

The basic idea is to hold two pointers, one *fast* and one *slow*.

1. Find the middle one, when even number  $n$  of nodes, will return  $(n/2 + 1)$ -th node (assume the first one as index 1).

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**Algorithm 2:** Find the middle node
 

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**Input** : the *head* of a singly linked list

**Output:** the middle node of the list

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1  $slow \leftarrow head$ 
2  $fast \leftarrow head$ 
3 while  $fast$  is not None do
4   |  $fast \leftarrow fast.next$ 
5   | if  $fast$  is None then
6   |   | return  $slow$ 
7   | end if
8   |  $fast \leftarrow fast.next$ 
9   |  $slow \leftarrow slow.next$ 
10 end while
11 return  $slow$ 
```

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2. Detect whether a list contains a cycle.

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**Algorithm 3:** Detect cycle

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**Input** : the *head* of a singly linked list

**Output:** whether exists a cycle

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1 slow ← head
2 fast ← head
3 while fast and slow not None do
4   if fast.next is None then
5     | return False
6   end if
7   fast ← fast.next.next
8   slow ← slow.next
9   if fast == slow then
10    | return True
11  end if
12 end while
13 return False

```

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With the linked list of  $n$  nodes, the time complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(n)$ .

### Q3.

1. At least  $n$  boxes, for each time obtain a coupon not appeared before.
2. From the definition of  $X$  and  $X_j$ ,  $X = X_1 + \dots + X_j + \dots + X_n$ . The probability of collecting coupon  $j$  given that already obtain  $j - 1$  coupon is  $P_j = \frac{n - (j - 1)}{n}$ . Therefore,  $X_j$  is a geometric distribution with expectation

$$E[X_j] = \frac{1}{P_j} = \frac{n}{n - j + 1}$$

3. To prove  $E[X] = \Theta(n \log n)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[X] &= E[X_1] + E[X_1] + \dots + E[X_j] + \dots + E[X_n] \\
 &= \frac{n}{n} + \frac{n}{n-1} + \dots + \frac{n}{n-j+1} + \dots + \frac{n}{1} \\
 &= n \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \approx n \int_1^n \frac{1}{x} dx \\
 &= n \log n
 \end{aligned}$$

4. Find that for any  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ ,  $E[X_j] > E[X_i]$ . So more coupons have already get, more coupons need to buy for collecting a new kind of coupon.