

# Notes on Graph Theory

Maris Ozols

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## 0.1 Berge's Lemma

**Lemma** (Berge, 1957). *A matching  $M$  in a graph  $G$  is a maximum matching if and only if  $G$  has no  $M$ -augmenting path.*

*Proof.* Let us prove the contrapositive:  $G$  has a matching larger than  $M$  if and only if  $G$  has an  $M$ -augmenting path. Clearly, an  $M$ -augmenting path  $P$  of  $G$  can be used to produce a matching  $M'$  that is larger than  $M$  — just take  $M'$  to be the symmetric difference of  $P$  and  $M$  ( $M'$  contains exactly those edges of  $G$  that appear in exactly one of  $P$  and  $M$ ). Hence, the backward direction follows.

For the forward direction, let  $M'$  be a matching in  $G$  larger than  $M$ . Consider  $D$ , the symmetric difference of  $M$  and  $M'$ . Observe that  $D$  consists of paths and even cycles (each vertex of  $D$  has degree at most 2 and edges belonging to some path or cycle must alternate between  $M$  and  $M'$ ). Since  $M'$  is larger than  $M$ ,  $D$  contains a component that has more edges from  $M'$  than  $M$ . Such a component is a path in  $G$  that starts and ends with an edge from  $M'$ , so it is an  $M$ -augmenting path.  $\square$

## 0.2 König's Theorem

**Theorem** (König, 1931). *The maximum cardinality of a matching in a bipartite graph  $G$  is equal to the minimum cardinality of a vertex cover of its edges.*

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$$|C| \geq |M|$$

- **Trivial:** One needs at least  $|M|$  vertices to cover all edges of  $M$ .

$$|C| \leq |M|$$

- **Choose cover:** For every edge in  $M$  choose its end in  $B$  if some alternating path ends there, and its end in  $A$  otherwise.
- **Pick edge:** Pick  $ab \in E$ . If  $ab \in M$ , we are done, so assume  $ab \notin M$ . Since  $M$  is maximal, it cannot be that both  $a$  and  $b$  are unmatched.
- **Alternating path that ends in  $b$ :**
  - **Easy case:** If  $a$  is unmatched, then  $b$  is matched and  $ab$  is an alternating path that ends in  $B$ , so  $b \in C$ .
  - **Hard case:** If  $b$  is unmatched, then  $a$  is matched to some  $b'$ . If  $a \notin C$ , then  $b' \in C$  and some alternating path  $P$  ends in  $b'$ . If  $b \in P$ , let  $P' = Pb$ , otherwise  $P' = Pb'ab$ .  $M$  is maximal, so  $P'$  is not an augmenting path, so  $b$  must be matched and hence  $b \in C$ , since  $P'$  ends at  $b$ .

### 0.3 Hall's Theorem

**Theorem** (Hall, 1935). *A bipartite graph  $G$  contains a matching of  $A$  if and only if  $|N(S)| \geq |S|$  for all  $S \subseteq A$ .*

---

$\Rightarrow$

- **Trivial:** If  $A$  is matched then every  $S \subseteq A$  has at least  $|S|$  neighbours.

$\Leftarrow$

- **Induction on  $|A|$ :** Apply induction on  $|A|$ . Base case  $|A| = 1$  is trivial.
- **Many neighbours:** Assume  $|N(S)| \geq |S| + 1$  for every  $S \neq \emptyset$ . By induction hypothesis  $G - e$  has a matching  $M$ , where  $e \in E$  can be chosen arbitrarily. Then  $M \cup \{e\}$  is a matching of  $A$ .
- **Few neighbours:** Assume  $|N(S)| = |S|$  for some  $S \notin \{\emptyset, A\}$ .
  - **Cut in two pieces:** Consider graphs  $G_S$  and  $G_{A \setminus S}$  induced by  $S \cup N(S)$  and  $(A \setminus S) \cup (B \setminus N(S))$ , respectively.
  - **Check marriage condition:** It holds for both graphs:
    - \* We kept all neighbours of  $S$ , so  $|N_{G_S}(S)| = |N_G(S)|$ .
    - \* If  $|N_{G_{A \setminus S}}(S')| < |S'|$  for some  $S' \subseteq A \setminus S$ , then  $|N_G(S \cup S')| = |N_G(S)| + |N_{G_{A \setminus S}}(S')| < |S| + |S'|$ , a contradiction.
  - **Put matchings together:** By induction hypothesis  $G_S$  and  $G_{A \setminus S}$  contain matchings for  $S$  and  $A \setminus S$ , respectively. Putting these together gives a matching of  $A$  in  $G$ .

## 0.4 Tutte's Theorem

**Theorem** (Tutte, 1947). *A graph  $G$  has a 1-factor if and only if  $q(G - S) \leq |S|$  for all  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , where  $q(H)$  is the number of odd order components of  $H$ .*

---

$\Rightarrow$

- **Trivial:** If  $G$  has a 1-factor, then Tutte's condition is satisfied.

$\Leftarrow$

- **Consider an edge-maximal counterexample  $G$ :** Let  $G$  be a counterexample ( $G$  satisfies Tutte's condition, but has no 1-factor). Addition of edges preserves Tutte's property, so it suffices to consider an edge-maximal counterexample  $G$  (adding any edge yields a 1-factor).
- **$G$  has no bad set:** We call  $S \subseteq V$  *bad* if  $\forall s \in S, \forall v \in V : sv \in E$  and all components of  $G - S$  are complete. If  $S$  is a bad set in a graph with no 1-factor, then  $S$  or  $\emptyset$  violates Tutte's condition. Thus,  $G$  has no bad set.
- **Choose  $S'$ :** Let  $S' = \{v \in V : v \text{ is adjacent to all other vertices}\}$ . Since  $S'$  is not bad,  $G - S'$  has a component  $A$  with non-adjacent vertices  $a, a'$ .
- **Define  $a, b, c, d$ :** Let  $a, b, c \in A$  be the first 3 vertices on the shortest  $a - a'$  path within  $A$  ( $ab, bc \in E$  but  $ac \notin E$ ). Moreover, since  $b \notin S'$ , there exists  $d \in V$  such that  $bd \notin E$ .
- **Even cycles containing  $ac$  and  $bd$ :**  $G$  is edge-maximal without 1-factor, so let  $M_{ac}$  and  $M_{bd}$  be 1-factors of  $G + ac$  and  $G + bd$ , respectively.  $M_{ac} \oplus M_{bd}$  consists of disjoint even cycles, so let  $C_{ac}$  and  $C_{bd}$  be the cycles containing  $ac$  and  $bd$ , respectively.
- **Contradiction by constructing a 1-factor:**
  - If  $ac \notin C_{bd}$  then  $M_{bd} \oplus C_{bd}$  is a 1-factor of  $G$ .
  - If  $ac \in C_{bd}$  then  $M_{bd} \oplus \gamma$  is a 1-factor of  $G$ , where  $\gamma = bd \dots$  is the shortest cycle whose vertices are all in  $C_{bd}$  and the last edge being either  $ab$  or  $cb$ . In particular,  $ac \notin E(\gamma)$ .

## 0.5 Menger's Theorem

**Theorem** (Menger, 1927). *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph and  $A, B \subseteq V$ . Then the minimum number of vertices separating  $A$  from  $B$  in  $G$  is equal to the maximum number of disjoint  $A - B$  paths in  $G$ .*

“min separator”  $\geq$  “max # of paths”

- **Trivial:** To separate  $A$  from  $B$  one must cut every  $A - B$  path .

“min separator”  $\leq$  “max # of paths”

- **Induction on  $|E|$ :** Apply induction on  $|E|$ . Let  $k$  be the size of a minimal  $A - B$  separator. If  $E = \emptyset$  then  $|A \cap B| = k$  and there are  $k$  trivial paths.
- **Find a separator containing an edge:**  $|E| \geq 1$ , so  $G$  has an edge  $e = xy$ . First find an  $A - B$  separator containing adjacent vertices.
  - **Contract  $e$ :** If  $G$  contains less than  $k$  disjoint  $A - B$  paths, then so does  $G/e$ . Let  $v_e$  be the vertex obtained by contracting  $e$ .
  - **Find a smaller separator:** Let  $Y$  be a smallest  $A - B$  separator in  $G/e$ . It must be the case that  $|Y|$  is either  $k - 1$  or  $k$ :
    - \* A minimal  $A - B$  separator in  $G$  is also an  $A - B$  separator in  $G/e$ , so  $|Y| \leq k$ .
    - \* If  $|Y| \leq k - 2$  then  $G$  has an  $A - B$  separator of size  $k - 2$  (if  $v_e \notin Y$ ) or  $k - 1$  (if  $v_e \in Y$ ), a contradiction.
  - If  $|Y| = k$ , by induction hypothesis there exist  $k$  disjoint  $A - B$  paths and we are done. Thus,  $|Y| = k - 1$ . Also,  $v_e \in Y$  since otherwise  $Y$  would be an  $A - B$  separator in  $G$  of size less than  $k$ .
  - **Extend the separator:**  $X = (Y \setminus \{v_e\}) \cup \{x, y\}$  is an  $A - B$  separator in  $G$  of size  $k$ , containing edge  $e = xy$ .
- **Remove the edge and apply induction hypothesis:** To apply the induction hypothesis, consider  $G - e$ . Use  $X$  as one of the sets  $A, B$ .
  - **$A - X$  paths:** Every  $A - X$  separator in  $G - e$  is also an  $A - B$  separator in  $G$  and hence contains at least  $k$  vertices. By induction hypothesis there are  $k$  disjoint  $A - X$  paths in  $G - e$
  - **$X - B$  paths:** Similarly.
  - **Combine paths:**  $X$  separates  $A$  and  $B$  in  $G$ , so these two paths systems do not meet outside of  $X$  and thus can be combined into  $k$  disjoint  $A - B$  paths.

## 0.6 Kuratowski's Theorem

**Theorem** (Kuratowski, 1930; Wagner, 1937). *The following assertions are equivalent:*

1.  $G$  is planar;
2.  $G$  contains neither  $K_5$  nor  $K_{3,3}$  as a minor;
3.  $G$  contains neither  $K_5$  nor  $K_{3,3}$  as a topological minor.

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Kuratowski's theorem follows from these lemmas:

- **Lemma** ( $2 \Leftrightarrow 3$ ). *A graph contains  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  as a minor if and only if it contains  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  as a topological minor.*
- **Lemma** (3-connected case). *Every 3-connected graph without a  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  minor is planar.*
- **Lemma**. *If  $|G| \geq 4$  and  $G$  is edge-maximal without  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  as topological minors, then  $G$  is 3-connected.*

**Lemma** ( $2 \Leftrightarrow 3$ ). *A graph contains  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  as a minor if and only if it contains  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  as a topological minor.*

---

$\Leftarrow$

- **Trivial:** Every topological minor is also a minor.

$\Rightarrow$

- **Trivial for  $K_{3,3}$ :** Every minor with maximum degree at most 3 is also a topological minor.
- **Remaining part:** It suffices to show that every graph  $G$  with a  $K_5$  minor contains  $K_5$  as a topological minor or  $K_{3,3}$  as a minor.

**Lemma** (3-connected case). *Every 3-connected graph without a  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  minor is planar.*

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- **Induction on  $|V|$ :** Apply induction on  $V$ . If  $|V| = 4$  then  $G = K_4$ , which is planar.
- **Contract edge  $xy$ :**  $G$  has an edge  $xy$  such that  $G/xy$  is again 3-connected. Moreover,  $G/xy$  has no  $K_5$  and no  $K_{3,3}$  minor. By induction hypothesis  $G/xy$  admits a plane drawing  $\tilde{G}$ .
- **A partial drawing:** Let  $f$  be the face of  $\tilde{G} - v_{xy}$  containing  $v_{xy}$ . The boundary  $C$  of  $f$  is a cycle, since  $\tilde{G} - v_{xy}$  is 2-connected. Let  $X = N_G(x) \setminus \{y\}$  and  $Y = N_G(y) \setminus \{x\}$ . Let  $\tilde{G}_X = \tilde{G} - \{v_{xy}v : v \in Y \setminus X\}$  be the drawing  $\tilde{G}$  with only those neighbours of  $v_{xy}$  left that are in  $X$ .  $\tilde{G}_X$  may be viewed as a drawing of  $G - y$  in which  $x$  is represented by  $v_{xy}$ . We want to add  $y$  back to  $\tilde{G}_X$ .
- **Arcs:** Fix a direction of the cycle  $C$  and enumerate the vertices of  $X \cap C$  as  $x_0, \dots, x_{k-1}$ . Also, let  $\mathcal{P} = \{x_i \dots x_{i+1} : i \in \mathbb{Z}_k\}$  be the set of paths connecting  $x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$  along  $C$  for all  $i$ .
- **Arc containing  $Y$ :** Let us show that  $Y \subseteq V(P)$  for some  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ . Assume not. Since  $G$  is 3-connected,  $x$  and  $y$  each have at least two neighbours in  $C$ . By assumption, there exist distinct  $P', P'' \in \mathcal{P}$  and distinct  $y', y'' \in Y$ , such that  $y' \in P', y'' \in P''$ , and  $y', y'' \notin P' \cap P''$ . We get a contradiction with planarity of  $G$  as follows:
  - If  $Y \not\subseteq X$  then  $y'$  can be assumed to be an inner vertex of  $P'$ , so the endpoints  $x'$  and  $x''$  of  $P'$  separate  $y'$  from  $y''$  in  $C$ . These four vertices together with  $x$  and  $y$  form a subgraph that is topologically equivalent to  $K_{3,3}$  (the two stable sets are  $\{x, y', y''\}$  and  $\{y, x', x''\}$ ).
  - If  $Y \subseteq X$  then  $y', y'' \in Y \cap X$  and we consider two cases:
    - \* If  $|Y \cap X| = 2$ , then  $y'$  and  $y''$  must be separated by two neighbours of  $x$  and we obtain  $K_{3,3}$  as before.
    - \* Otherwise, let  $y''' \in (Y \cap X) \setminus \{y', y''\}$ . Then  $x$  and  $y$  have three common neighbours on  $C$  and these together with  $x$  and  $y$  form a subgraph that is topologically equivalent to  $K_5$ .
- **Add back vertex  $y$ :** As  $Y \subseteq V(P)$  where  $P = x_i \dots x_{i+1}$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_k$ , the drawing  $\tilde{G}_X$  can be extended to a plane drawing of  $G$  by putting  $y$  in the face  $f_i \subseteq f$  of the cycle  $xx_iPx_{i+1}x$ .



**Lemma.** *If  $|G| \geq 4$  and  $G$  is edge-maximal without  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  as topological minors, then  $G$  is 3-connected.*

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**Lemma.** *Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a set of 3-connected graphs. Let  $G$  be a graph with  $\kappa(G) \leq 2$ , and let  $G_1, G_2$  be proper induced subgraphs of  $G$  such that  $G = G_1 \cup G_2$  and  $|G_1 \cap G_2| = \kappa(G)$ . If  $G$  is edge-maximal without a topological minor in  $\mathcal{X}$ , then so are  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , and  $G_1 \cap G_2 = K_2$ .*

- **asdf:** Every vertex  $v \in S = V(G_1 \cap G_2)$  has a neighbour in every component of  $G_i - S$  for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ , otherwise  $S$  would separate  $G$ , contradicting  $|S| = \kappa(G)$ . By maximality of  $G$ , every edge  $e$  added to  $G$  lies in a subgraph topologically equivalent to some  $X \in \mathcal{X}$ .

## 0.7 Five Colour Theorem

**Theorem** (Five Colour Theorem). *Every planar graph is 5-colourable.*

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- **Induction on  $|V|$ :** Apply induction on  $|V|$ . Basis case  $|V| < 5$  is trivial.
- **Find a vertex of degree  $\leq 5$ :**
  - **Prove inequality:** Prove that  $E \leq 3V - 6$  using the following:
    - \* **Euler's formula:**  $F - E + V = 2$ .
    - \* **Count edges:**  $3F \leq 2E$ , since each face has at least 3 edges.
  - **Contradiction:** If  $\forall v \in V : \deg v \geq 6$  then  $2E = \sum_{v \in V} \deg v \geq 6V$ . Both inequalities together give  $6V - 12 \geq 2E \geq 6V$ , a contradiction.
- **Degree  $< 5$ :** By induction hypothesis  $G - v$  admits a 5-colouring. Since  $\deg v \leq 4$ , the remaining colour can be used for  $v$ .
- **Degree = 5:**
  - **Pick non-adjacent neighbours:** Let  $a, b$  be any two non-adjacent neighbours of  $v$  (if  $N(v) = K_5$  then  $G$  is not planar, a contradiction).
  - **Find a colouring with  $c(a) = c(b)$ :** Consider  $G' = (G - v + ab)/ab$ .  $G'$  is planar, so by induction hypothesis it is 5-colourable. This yields a 5-colouring of  $G$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  get the same colour. Only 4 colours are used for the neighbours of  $v$ , so one colour is left for  $v$ .

## 0.8 Brooks' Theorem

**Theorem** (Brooks, 1941). *A connected graph  $G$  that is neither complete nor an odd cycle has  $\chi(G) \leq \Delta(G)$ .*

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- **Induction on  $|V|$ :** Apply induction on  $|V|$ .
- **Trivial for small  $\Delta$ :** If  $\Delta(G) \leq 2$  then in fact  $\Delta(G) = 2$  and  $G$  is a path of length at least 2 or an even cycle, so  $\chi(G) = \Delta(G) = 2$ . From now on assume that  $\Delta(G) \geq 3$ . In particular,  $|V| \geq 4$ . Let  $\Delta = \Delta(G)$ .
- **$\Delta$ -colouring for  $G - v$ :** Let  $v$  be any fixed vertex of  $G$  and  $H = G - v$ . To show that  $\chi(H) \leq \Delta$ , for each component  $H'$  of  $H$  consider two cases.
  - **Generic case:** If  $H'$  is not complete or an odd cycle, then by induction hypothesis  $\chi(H') \leq \Delta(H') \leq \Delta$ .
  - **Complete graph or an odd cycle:** If  $H'$  is complete or an odd cycle, then all its vertices have maximum degree and at least one is adjacent to  $v$ . Hence,  $\chi(H') = \Delta(H') + 1 \leq \Delta$ .
- **Assume the opposite:** Assume  $\chi(G) > \Delta(G)$ . This assumption imposes a certain structure on  $G$  leading to a contradiction.
  1. **Neighbours of  $v$  form a “rainbow”:** Since  $\chi(H) \leq \Delta < \chi(G)$ , every  $\Delta$ -colouring of  $H$  uses all  $\Delta$  colours on  $N(v)$ . In particular,  $\deg(v) = \Delta$ . Let  $N(v) = \{v_1, \dots, v_\Delta\}$  with  $c(v_i) = i$ .
  2. **2-coloured components:** Vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  lie in a common component  $C_{ij}$  of the subgraph induced by all vertices of colours  $i \neq j$ . Otherwise we could interchange the colours in one of the components, contradicting property 1.
  3. **Every component is a path:**  $\deg_G(v_k) \leq \Delta$  so  $\deg_H(v_k) \leq \Delta - 1$  and the neighbours of  $v_k$  have pairwise different colours. Otherwise we could recolour  $v_k$  contrary to property 1. Thus, the only neighbour of  $v_i$  in  $C_{ij}$  is on a  $v_i - v_j$  path  $P$  in  $C_{ij}$ , and similarly for  $v_j$ . If  $C_{ij} \neq P$  then some inner vertex of  $P$  has 3 neighbours in  $H$  of the same colour. Let  $u$  be the first such vertex on  $P$ . Since at most  $\Delta - 2$  colours are used on its neighbours, we can recolour  $u$ , contradicting property 2. Thus  $C_{ij} = P$ .
  4. **All paths are internally disjoint:** If  $v_j \neq u \in C_{ij} \cap C_{jk}$ , then according to property 3 two neighbours of  $u$  are coloured  $i$  and two are coloured  $k$ . We may recolour  $u$  so that  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  lie in different components, contradicting property 2. Hence, all paths  $C_{ij}$  are internally vertex-disjoint.
- **A contradiction:** The structure imposed on  $G$  is not possible.
  - **Non-adjacent neighbours:** If all  $\Delta$  neighbours of  $v$  are adjacent, then  $G = K_{\Delta+1}$ , a contradiction. Assume  $v_1 v_2 \notin E$ .
  - **First vertex on  $C_{12}$ :** Let  $v_1 u$  be the first edge on the path  $C_{12}$  ( $u \neq v_2$  and  $c(u) = 2$ ). After interchanging colours 1 and 3 on the path  $C_{13}$ ,  $u$  is adjacent to a vertex with colour 3, so it also lies on  $C_{23}$ , a contradiction.

## 0.9 Hajós' Theorem

**Theorem** (Hajós, 1961). *Let  $G$  be a graph and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $\chi(G) \geq k$  if and only if  $G$  has a  $k$ -constructible subgraph.*

**Definition.** The class of  $k$ -constructible graphs is defined recursively as follows:

1.  $K_k$  is  $k$ -constructible.
2. If  $G$  is  $k$ -constructible and  $xy \notin E(G)$  then so is  $(G + xy)/xy$ .
3. If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are  $k$ -constructible and  $G_1 \cap G_2 = \{x\}$ ,  $xy_1 \in E(G_1)$ , and  $xy_2 \in E(G_2)$ , then  $H = (G_1 \cup G_2) - xy_1 - xy_2 + y_1y_2$  is also  $k$ -constructible.

⇐

- **Trivial:** All  $k$ -constructible graphs are at least  $k$ -chromatic.
  1.  $\chi(K_k) = k$ .
  2. If  $(G + xy)/xy$  has a colouring with fewer than  $k$  colours, then so does  $G$ , a contradiction.
  3. In any colouring of  $H$  vertices  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  receive different colours, so one of them, say  $y_1$ , will be coloured differently from  $x$ . Thus, if  $H$  can be coloured with fewer than  $k$  colours, then so can  $G_1$ , a contradiction.

⇒

- **Assume the opposite:** The case  $k < 3$  is trivial, so assume  $\chi(G) \geq k \geq 3$ , but  $G$  has no  $k$ -constructible subgraph.
- **Edge-maximal counterexample:** If necessary, add some edges to make  $G$  edge-maximal with the property that none of its subgraphs is  $k$ -constructible.
- **Non-adjacency is not an equivalence relation:**  $G$  cannot be maximal  $r$ -partite, otherwise  $G$  admits an  $r$ -colouring (colour each stable set with a different colour), hence  $r \geq \chi(G) \geq k$  and  $G$  contains a  $k$ -constructible subgraph  $K_k$ . Thus, there are vertices  $x, y_1, y_2$  such that  $y_1x, xy_2 \notin E(G)$  but  $y_1y_2 \in E(G)$ . Since  $G$  is edge-maximal without a  $k$ -constructible subgraph, edge  $xy_i$  lies in a  $k$ -constructible subgraph  $H_i \subseteq G + xy_i$  for each  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .
- **Glue:** Let  $H'_2$  be an isomorphic copy of  $H_2$  such that  $H'_2 \cap G = (H_2 - H_1) + x$  together with an isomorphism  $\varphi : H_2 \rightarrow H'_2 : v \mapsto v'$  that fixes  $H_2 \cap H'_2$  pointwise. Then  $H_1 \cap H'_2 = \{x\}$ , so  $H = (H_1 \cup H'_2) - xy_1 - xy'_2 + y_1y'_2$  is  $k$ -constructible by step 3.
- **Identify:** To transform  $H$  into a subgraph of  $G$ , one by one identify each vertex  $v' \in H'_2 - G$  with its copy  $v'$ . Since  $vv'$  is never an edge of  $H$ , this corresponds to the operation in step 2. Eventually, we obtain a  $k$ -constructible subgraph  $(H_1 \cup H_2) - xy_1 - xy_2 + y_1y_2 \subseteq G$ .

## 0.10 Vizing's Theorem

**Theorem** (Vizing, 1964). *Every graph  $G$  satisfies  $\Delta(G) \leq \chi'(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$ .*

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- **First inequality:** Clearly, one needs at least  $\Delta$  colours to colour the edges of  $G$ , so  $\chi'(G) \geq \Delta$ . It remains to show that  $G$  admits a  $(\Delta + 1)$ -edge-colouring (from now on, simply “a colouring”).
- **Induction on  $|E|$ :** Apply induction on  $|E|$ . Basis case  $E = \emptyset$  is trivial.
- **Every vertex misses a colour:** By induction hypothesis  $G - e$  admits a colouring for every  $e \in E$ . Edges at a given vertex  $v$  use at most  $\deg(v) \leq \Delta$  colours, so some colour  $\beta \in [\Delta + 1]$  is missing at  $v$ .
- **Define  $\alpha/\beta$ -path:** For any  $\alpha \neq \beta$  there is a unique maximal walk starting at  $v$  with edge colours alternating between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . This walk must be a path, for any internal vertex  $u$  with  $\deg(u) \geq 3$  would be adjacent to two edges of the same colour.
- **Assume the opposite:** Suppose  $G$  has no colouring (that is,  $\chi'(G) > \Delta(G) + 1$ ).
  - **End of the  $\alpha/\beta$ -path:** Let  $xy \in E$  and consider any colouring of  $G - xy$ . If colour  $\alpha$  is missing at  $x$  and  $\beta$  is missing at  $y$ , then the  $\alpha/\beta$ -path from  $y$  ends in  $x$ . Otherwise interchange  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  on this path, so now  $xy$  has colour  $\alpha$ . This gives a colouring of  $G$ , a contradiction.
  - **First “page”:** Pick  $xy_0 \in E$ . By induction,  $G_0 = G - xy_0$  has a colouring  $c_0$ . Let  $\alpha$  be the colour missing at  $x$  in  $c_0$ .
  - **Construct a maximal “book”:** If  $y_0$  has colour  $\beta_0$  missing in  $c_0$  and  $x$  has a neighbour  $y$  with  $c_0(xy) = \beta_0$ , let  $y_1 = y$ . In general, if  $\beta_i$  is missing for  $y_i$ , let  $y_{i+1}$  be such that  $c_0(xy_{i+1}) = \beta_i$ . Let  $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_k$  be a maximal such sequence of distinct neighbours of  $x$ .
  - **“Flip pages”:** For each graph  $G_i = G - xy_i$  define colouring  $c_i$  to be identical to  $c_0$ , except  $c_i(xy_j) = c_0(xy_{j+1})$  if  $j < i$ . In each of the graphs  $G_i$  vertex  $x$  is adjacent to exactly  $k$  vertices from the set  $\{y_0, \dots, y_k\}$ . Moreover, the corresponding edges use all  $k$  colours from  $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ .
  - **$\beta$ -edge at  $x$ :** Colour  $\beta = \beta_k$  is missing at  $y_k$  in all  $c_i$  (in particular, in  $c_k$ ). However, it is not missing at  $x$  in  $c_k$ , otherwise we could colour  $xy_k$  with  $\beta$  and extend  $c_k$ . Hence,  $x$  has a  $\beta$ -edge (in each  $c_i$ ). By maximality of  $k$ , it must be  $xy_l$  for some  $l$ . In particular, for  $c_0$  it is  $xy_l$  with  $0 < l < k$  ( $l \neq 0$  since  $xy_0 \notin G_0$ ,  $l \neq k$  since  $y_k$  misses  $\beta$ ), but for  $c_k$  this is  $xy_{l-1}$ , since  $c_0(xy_l) = c_k(xy_{l-1})$ .
- **A contradiction:**
  - **Path  $P$ :** Let  $P$  be the  $\alpha/\beta$ -path from  $y_k$  in  $G_k$  (with respect to  $c_k$ ). As  $\alpha$  is missing at  $x$ ,  $P$  ends at  $x$  with the  $\beta$ -edge  $xy_{l-1}$ .
  - **Path  $P'$ :** In  $c_0, \dots, c_{l-1}$  colour  $\beta$  is missing at  $y_{l-1}$ . Let  $P'$  be the  $\alpha/\beta$ -path from  $y_{l-1}$  in  $G_{l-1}$  (with respect to  $c_{l-1}$ ).  $P'$  must start with  $y_{l-1}P y_k$  and end in  $x$ . However,  $y_k$  has no  $\beta$ -edge, a contradiction.

## 0.11 Turán's Theorem

**Theorem** (Turán, 1941). *Let  $n$  and  $r > 1$  be integers. If  $G$  is a  $K_r$ -free graph with  $n$  vertices and the largest possible number of edges, then  $G = T_{r-1}(n)$ , a Turán graph.*

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- **Induction on  $n$ :** Apply induction on  $n$ . Basis case  $n \leq r - 1$  is trivial, since  $K_n = T_{r-1}(n)$ . Thus, assume  $n \geq r$  and let  $t_{r-1}(n) = \|T_{r-1}(n)\|$ .
- **Complete subgraph of size  $r - 1$ :** Adding any edge to  $G$  creates  $K_r$ , thus  $K = K_{r-1} \subset G$ .
- **Upper bound on  $\|G\|$ :** By induction hypothesis,  $\|G - K\| \leq t_{r-1}(n - r + 1)$ . Also, each vertex of  $G - K$  has at most  $r - 2$  neighbours in  $K$ , otherwise adding back  $K$  would yield a  $K_r$ . Hence,

$$\|G\| \leq t_{r-1}(n - r + 1) + (n - r + 1)(r - 2) + \binom{r - 1}{2} = t_{r-1}(n), \quad (1)$$

where the last equality follows by inspection of  $T_{r-1}(n)$ . In fact,  $\|G\| = t_{r-1}(n)$ , since  $T_{r-1}(n)$  is  $K_r$ -free and  $G$  is edge-maximal  $K_r$ -free.

- **Independent sets:** Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{r-1}$  be the vertices of  $K$  and let  $V_i = \{v \in V : vx_i \notin E\}$ . Since the inequality (1) is tight, every vertex of  $G - K$  has exactly  $r - 2$  neighbours in  $K$ . Thus,  $vx_i \notin E$  if and only if  $\forall j \neq i : vx_j \in E$ . Each  $V_i$  is independent since  $K_r \not\subset G$ . Moreover, they partition  $V$ . Hence,  $G$  is  $(r - 1)$ -partite.
- **Maximality:** Turán graph  $T_{r-1}(n)$  is the unique  $(r - 1)$ -partite graph with  $n$  vertices and the maximum number of edges, since all partition sets differ in size by at most 1. Hence,  $G = T_{r-1}(n)$  by the assumed extremality of  $G$ .