

# Design and Analysis of Algorithms: Course Notes

Prepared by

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Note that since  $\phi > 1$  this is sufficient to guarantee a  $O(\log n)$  bound on the depth and the number of children of a node.

## 4.2 Decrease-Key operation

Mark strategy:

- when a node is cut off from its parent, tick one mark to its parent,
- when a node gets 2 marks, cut the edge to its parent and tick its parent as well,
- when a node becomes a root, erase all marks attached to that node,
- every time a node is cut, give \$1 to that node as a new root and \$2 to its parent.

Example: How does mark strategy work?

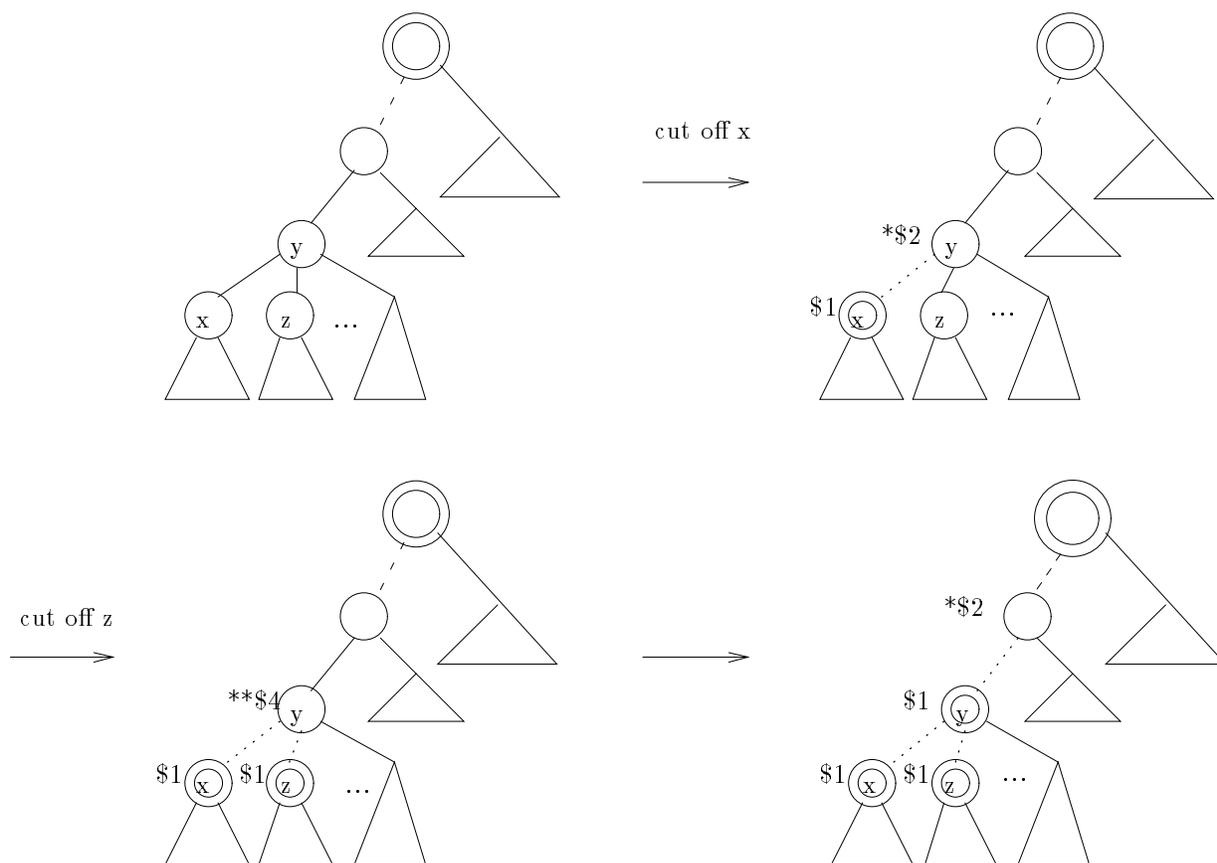


Figure 4: Marking Strategy









































Notes by Michael Tan

## 9 Matchings

In this lecture we will examine the problem of finding a maximum matching. We will do this by examining the particular case of finding a maximum matching in a bipartite graph.

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **matching**  $M$  is a subset of the edges such that no two edges in  $M$  share an endpoint. The problem is similar to finding an independent set of edges. In the maximum matching problem we wish to maximize  $|M|$ .

A **bipartite** graph  $G = (U, V, E)$  has  $E \subseteq U \times V$ .

Aside: We can test if a given graph is bipartite in  $O(E)$  time. Here is how: Do BFS on the graph. Let every vertex discovered on an even level be in set  $U$ , and every vertex discovered on an odd level be in set  $V$ . As BFS runs, make sure that no “even” vertex has an edge to another “even” vertex, and that no “odd” vertex has an edge to another “odd” vertex.

With respect to a given matching, a **matched edge** is an edge included in the matching. A **free edge** is an edge which does not appear in the matching. Likewise, a **matched vertex** is a vertex which is an endpoint of a matched edge. A **free vertex** is a vertex that is not the endpoint of any matched edge.

We can think of the matching problem in the following terms. Given a list of boys and girls, and a list of all marriage compatible pairs (a pair is a boy and a girl), a matching is some subset of the compatibility list in which each boy or girl gets at most one partner. In these terms,  $E = \{ \text{all marriage compatible pairs} \}$ ,  $U = \{ \text{the boys} \}$ ,  $V = \{ \text{the girls} \}$ , and  $M = \{ \text{some potential pairing preventing polygamy} \}$ .

A **perfect matching** is one in which all vertices are matched. In bipartite graphs, we must have  $|V| = |U|$  in order for a perfect matching to possibly exist. When a bipartite graph has a perfect matching in it, the following theorem holds:

### 9.1 Hall’s Theorem

**Theorem 9.1 (Hall’s Theorem)** *Given a bipartite graph  $G = (U, V, E)$  where  $|U| = |V|$ ,  $\forall S \subseteq U, |N(S)| \geq |S|$  (where  $N(S)$  is the set of vertices which are neighbors of  $S$ ) iff  $G$  has a perfect matching.*

*Proof:*

( $\leftarrow$ ) In a perfect matching, all elements of  $S$  will have at least a total of  $|S|$  neighbors since every element will have a partner. ( $\rightarrow$ ) We give this proof after the presentation of the













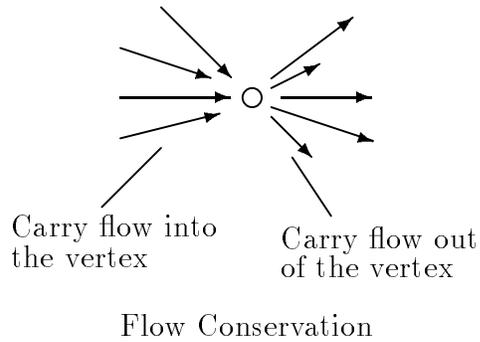












2. **(Flow Conservation)**  $\sum_{v \in V} f(u, v) = 0$  for all  $u \in V - \{s, t\}$ .  
(Incoming flow)  $\sum_{v \in V} f(v, u) =$  (Outgoing flow)  $\sum_{v \in V} f(u, v)$
3. **(Capacity Constraint)**  $f(u, v) \leq c(u, v)$

Maximum flow is the maximum value  $|f|$  given by

$$|f| = \sum_{v \in V} f(s, v) = \sum_{v \in V} f(v, t).$$

**Definition 13.1 (Cut)** An  $(s, t)$  cut is a partitioning of  $V$  into two sets  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ ,  $A \cup B = V$  and  $s \in A, t \in B$ .

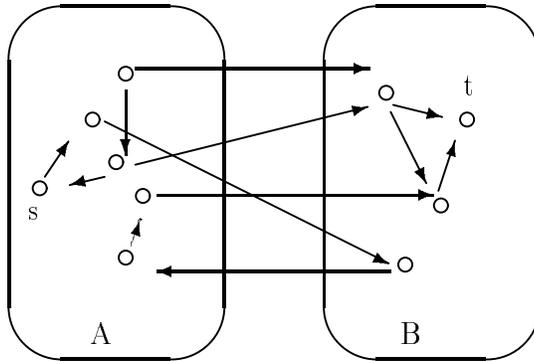


Figure 12: An  $(s, t)$  Cut

**Definition 13.2 (Capacity Of A Cut)** The capacity  $C(A, B)$  is given by

$$C(A, B) = \sum_{a \in A, b \in B} c(a, b).$$

By the capacity constraint we have that  $|f| = \sum_{v \in V} f(s, v) \leq C(A, B)$  for any  $(s, t)$  cut  $(A, B)$ . Then, the capacity of the minimum capacity cut is an upper bound on the value of the maximum flow.

**Definition 13.3 (Residual Graph)**  $G_f^D$  is defined with respect to some flow function  $f$ ,  $G_f = (V, E_f, s, t, c')$  where  $c'(u, v) = c(u, v) - f(u, v)$ . Delete edges for which  $c'(u, v) = 0$ .

As an example, if there is an edge in  $G$  from  $u$  to  $v$  with capacity 15 and flow 6, then in  $G_f$  there is an edge from  $u$  to  $v$  with capacity 9 (which means, I can still push 9 more units of liquid) and an edge from  $v$  to  $u$  with capacity 6 (which means, I can cancel all or part of the 6 units of liquid I'm currently pushing)<sup>1</sup>.  $E_f$  contains all the edges  $e$  such that  $c'(e) > 0$ .

- Lemma 13.4**
- 1.  $f'$  is a flow in  $G_f$  iff  $f + f'$  is a flow in  $G$ .
  - 2.  $f'$  is a maximum flow in  $G_f$  iff  $f + f'$  is a maximum flow in  $G$ .
  - 3.  $|f + f'| = |f| + |f'|$ .
  - 4. If  $f$  is a flow in  $G$ , and  $f^*$  is the maximum flow in  $G$ , then  $f^* - f$  is the maximum flow in  $G_f$ .

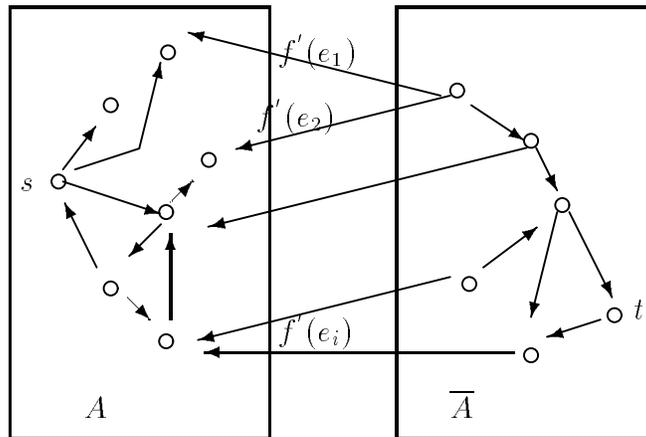


Figure 13: The Residual Graph  $G_f$

**Theorem 13.5 (Max flow - Min cut Theorem)** The following three statements are equivalent:

- 1.  $f$  is a maximum flow.
- 2. There exists an  $(s, t)$  cut  $(A, B)$  with  $C(A, B) = |f|$ .
- 3. There are no augmenting paths in  $G_f$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>Since there was no edge from  $v$  to  $u$  in  $G$ , then its capacity was 0 and the flow on it was -6. Then, the capacity of this edge in  $G_f$  is  $0 - (-6) = 6$ .



















Notes by Samir Khuller.

## 16 Pre-flow Push Method

Please read Chapter 27.4 (pp. 605 – 614) from [CLR]. The book explains the pre-flow push method very well.

There will be no lecture on Mar 11. We will have an Examination instead.





Figure 17: Application of the separator property.

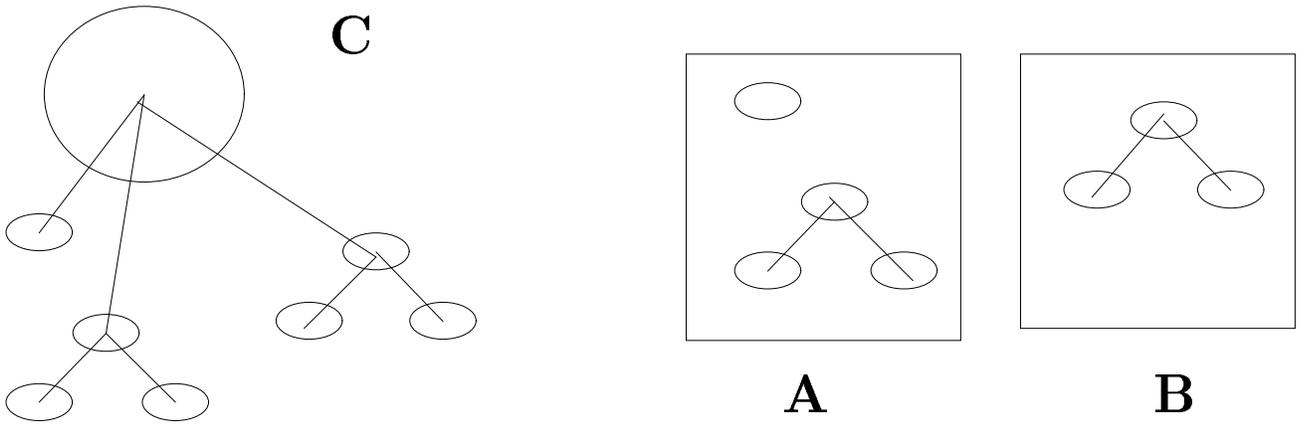


Figure 18: Multiple graphs in A.

## 17.2 Smallest Non-Planar Graphs

**Theorem 17.2** *The smallest non-planar graphs are  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$ .*

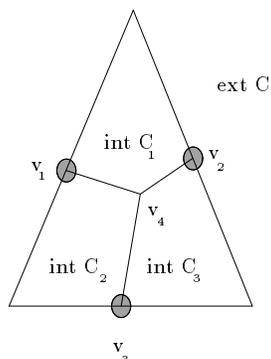


Figure 19: Embedding of  $K_5$

*Proof:*

We will show that  $K_5$  is non-planar. The proof is by contradiction. Let  $G$  be a planar graph corresponding to  $K_5$ . Let the vertices be called by  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4$ , and  $v_5$ . Since  $G$  is complete, any two of the vertices are joined by an edge. Assume, without the loss of generality, that after inserting vertex  $v_4$ , the graph looks like Fig. 19. Now  $v_5$  must lie in one of the four regions  $extC, intC_1, intC_2$ , and  $intC_3$ . If  $v_5 \in extC$  then the edge  $(v_4v_5)$  must cross  $C$  at some point. This contradicts the assumption that  $G$  is a planar graph. Cases where  $v_5 \in intC_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ , can be treated similarly. Nonplanarity of  $K_{3,3}$  can be proven the same way. (A simple proof of non-planarity of  $K_5$  follows by Euler's formula as was observed by Marsha Chechik.)  $\square$

Note: Both  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  are embeddable on a surface with genus 1 (a doughnut).

**Definition:** *Subdivision* of a graph  $G$  is obtained by adding nodes of degree two on edges of  $G$ .

$G$  contains  $H$  as a *homeomorph* if we can obtain a subdivision of  $H$  by deleting vertices and edges from  $G$ .

## 17.3 Bridges

**Definition:** Consider a cycle  $C$  in  $G$ . Edges  $e$  and  $e'$  are said to be in the same bridge if there is a path joining them that does not use any vertex in  $C$ .

By this definition, edges form equivalence classes that are called bridges. A trivial bridge is a singleton edge.

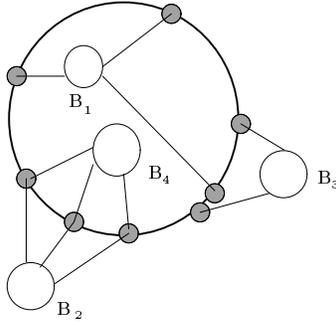


Figure 20: Bridges relative to the cycle  $C$ .

**Definition:** A common vertex between the cycle  $C$  and one of the bridges with respect to  $C$ , is called *a vertex of attachment*.

**Definition:** Two bridges *avoid* each other with respect to the cycle if all vertices of attachment are on the same segment. In Fig. 20,  $B_2$  avoids  $B_1$  and  $B_3$  does not avoid  $B_1$ . Bridges that avoid each other can be embedded on the same side of the cycle. Obviously, bridges with two attachment points are embeddable within each other, so they avoid each other. Bridges with three attachment points which coincide (3-equivalent), do not avoid each other (like bridges  $B_2$  and  $B_4$  in Fig. 20). Therefore, two bridges either

1. Avoid each other
2. Overlap (don't avoid each other).
  - Skew: A vertex of attachment of one bridge lies on a segment between vertices of attachment of the other bridge (see Fig. 21).
  - 3-equivalent (like  $B_2$  and  $B_4$  in Fig. 20)

It can be shown that other cases reduce to the above cases. For example, a 4-equivalent graph (see Fig.22) can be classified as a skew, with vertices  $u$  and  $v$  belonging to one bridge, and vertices  $u'$  and  $v'$  belonging to the other.

## 17.4 Kuratowski's Theorem

Consider non-planar graphs that do not contain  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  as a homeomorph. Of all such graphs, pick the one with the least number of edges. We now prove that such a graph must always contain a Kuratowski homeomorph (i.e., a  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$ ). Note that such a graph is minimally non-planar.

The following theorem is claimed without proof.

**Theorem 17.3** *Such a graph  $G$  is 3-connected.*

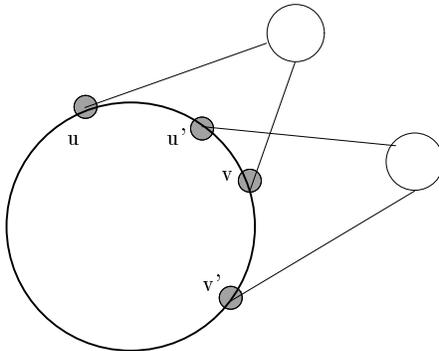


Figure 21: Two bridges that are skew.

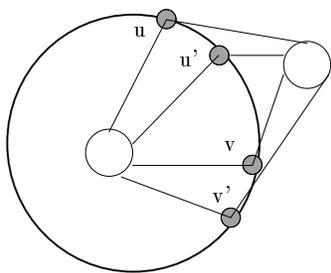


Figure 22: Two bridges with 4 attachment points.



1. See Fig. 23(a). This graph contains a homeomorph of  $K_5$ . Notice that every vertices are connected with an edge.
2. See Fig. 23(b). This graph contains a homeomorph of  $K_{3,3}$ . To see that, let  $A = \{u, x, w\}$  and  $B = \{v, y, z\}$ . Then, there is an edge between every  $v_1 \in A$  and  $v_2 \in B$ .

The other cases are similar and will not be considered here. □

**Definition:** Graph  $G$  contains  $H$  as a *minor* if there exists a set of edges which can be thrown away or contracted, to obtain  $H$ .

Note: The Kuratowski's theorem can be extended to showing that every non-planar graph contains  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  minors.

Notes by Michael Tan and Samir Khuller.

## 18 Graph Minor Theorem and other CS Collectibles

In this lecture, we discuss graph minors and their connections to polynomial time computability.

**Definition 18.1 (minor)** *We say that  $H$  is a **minor** of  $G$  ( $H \leq G$ ) if  $H$  can be obtained from  $G$  by edge removal, vertex removal and edge contraction.*

**Definition 18.2 (closed under minor)** *Given a class of graphs  $\mathcal{C}$ , and graphs  $G$  and  $H$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$  is closed under taking minors if  $G \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $H \leq G$  implies  $H \in \mathcal{C}$ .*

An example of a class of graphs that is closed under taking minors is the class of planar graphs. (If  $G$  is planar, and  $H$  is a minor of  $G$  then  $H$  is also a planar graph.)

**Theorem 18.3 (Graph Minor Theorem Corollary)** [Robertson–Seymour] *If  $\mathcal{C}$  is any class of graphs closed under taking minors, then there exists a finite obstruction set  $H_1, \dots, H_l$  such that  $G \in \mathcal{C} \leftrightarrow (\forall i)[H_i \not\leq G]$ .*

The proof of this theorem is highly non-trivial and is omitted.

**Example:** For genus 1 (planar graphs), the finite obstruction set is  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$ .  $G$  is planar if and only if  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  are not minors of  $G$ . Intuitively, the “forbidden” minors (in this case,  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$ ) are the minimal graphs that are not in the family  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Theorem 18.4** *Testing  $H \leq G$ , for a fixed  $H$ , can be done in time  $O(n^3)$ , if  $n$  is the number of vertices in  $G$ .*

Notice that the running time does not indicate the dependence on the size of  $H$ . In fact, the dependence on  $H$  is huge! There is an embarrassingly large constant that is hidden in the big- $O$  notation. This algorithm is far from practical for even very small sizes of  $H$ .

**Some results of the above statements:**

1. If  $\mathcal{C} = \{\text{all planar graphs}\}$ , we can test  $G \in \mathcal{C}$  in  $O(n^3)$  time. (To do this, test if  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  are minors of  $G$ . Each test takes  $O(n^3)$  time.)
2. If  $\mathcal{C} = \{\text{all graphs in genus } k\}$  (fixed  $k$ ), we can test if  $(G \in \mathcal{C})$  in  $O(n^3)$  time. (To do this, test if  $H_i \leq G$  ( $i = 1..L$ ) for all graphs of  $\mathcal{C}$ 's obstruction set. The time to do this is  $O(L * n^3) = O(n^3)$ , since  $L$  is a constant for each fixed  $k$ .)
3. We can solve Vertex Cover for fixed  $k$  in POLYNOMIAL time. (The set of all graphs with (vertex cover size)  $\leq k$ , is closed under taking minors. Therefore, it has a finite obstruction set. We can test a given graph  $G$  as we did in 2.)

## 18.1 Towards an algorithm for testing planarity in genus $k$

We can use a trustworthy oracle for SAT to find a satisfying assignment for a SAT instance (set a variable, quiz the oracle, set another variable, quiz the oracle, ....). The solution will be guaranteed. With an untrustworthy oracle, we may use the previous method to find a satisfying assignment, but the assignment is not guaranteed to be correct. However, this is something that we can test for in the end. We use this principle in the algorithm below.

The following theorem is left to the reader to verify (see homework).

**Theorem 18.5** *Given a graph  $G$  and an oracle that determines planarity on a surface with genus  $k$ , we can determine if  $G$  is planar in genus  $k$  and find such a planar embedding in polynomial time.*

We will now use this theorem, together with the graph minor theorem to obtain an algorithm for testing if a graph can be embedded in a surface of genus  $k$  (fixed  $k$ ).

**ALGORITHM for testing planarity in genus  $k$  and giving the embedding:**  
(uses an untrustworthy “Planarity in  $k$ ” Oracle)

The oracle uses a “current” list  $H$  of forbidden minors to determine if a given graph is planar or non-planar. The main point is that if the oracle is working with an incomplete list of forbidden minors, and lies about the planarity of a graph then in the process of obtaining a planar embedding we will determine that the oracle lied. However, some point of time we will have obtained the correct list of forbidden minors (even though we will not know that), the oracle does not lie thereafter. Since there is only a finite forbidden list, this will happen after constant time.

1. Input( $G$ )
2. For  $i := 1$  to  $\infty$ 
  - 2.1 - generate all graphs  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_i$ .
  - 2.2 - for every graph  $f$  in  $F_1..F_i$ 
    - Check if  $f$  is planar (in  $k$ ) (using brute force to try all possible embeddings of  $f$ )
    - if  $f$  is not planar, put  $f$  in set  $H$  [We are constructing the finite obstruction set]
  - 2.3 - test if  $(H_1 \leq G), (H_2 \leq G), \dots, (H_i \leq G)$
  - 2.4 - if any  $H \leq G$ , then RETURN( $G$  IS NOT PLANAR)
  - 2.5 - else
    - 2.5.1 - try to make some embedding of  $G$  (We do this using  $H$ , which gives us an untrustworthy oracle to determine if a graph is planar in  $k$ . There exists an algorithm (see homework) which can determine a planar embedding using this PLANARITY oracle.)
    - 2.5.2 - if we can, RETURN (the planar embedding,  $G$  IS PLANAR);
      - else keep looping ( $H$  must not be complete yet)

Running time:

The number of iterations is bounded by a constant number (independent of  $G$ ) since at the point when the **finite** obstruction set is completely built, statement 2.4 or 2.5.2 MUST succeed.

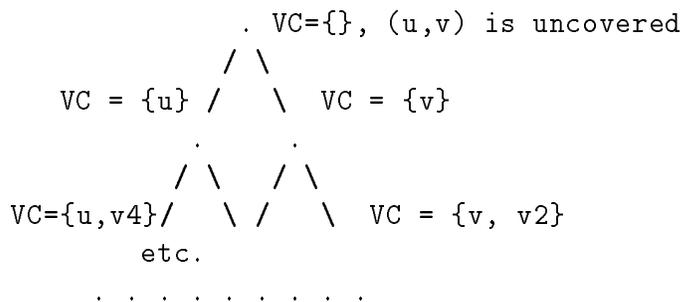
## 18.2 Applications:

Since we know VC for fixed  $k$  is in  $P$ , a good polynomial algorithm may exist. Below are several algorithms :

Algorithm 1 [Fellows]:

build a tree as follows:

- find edge  $(u,v)$  which is uncovered
- on left branch, insert  $u$  into VC, on right branch insert  $v$  into VC
- descend, recurse



Build tree up to height  $k$ . There will be  $O(2^k)$  leaves. If there exists a vertex cover of size  $\leq k$ , then it will be in one of these leaves. Total time is  $O(n * 2^k) = O(n)$ .

A second simpler algorithm is as follows: any vertex that has degree  $> k$  must be in the VERTEX COVER (since if it is not, all its neighbours have to be in any cover). We can thus include all such nodes in the cover (add them one at a time). We are now left with a graph in which each vertex has degree  $\leq k$ . In this graph we know that there can be at most a constant number of edges (since a vertex cover of constant size can cover a constant number of edges in this graph). The problem is now easy to solve.



5-colorable by induction hypothesis. This time, though, putting the deleted vertex back in the graph is more complicated than in 6-colorability case. Let us denote the vertex that we are trying to put back in the graph by  $v$ . If  $v$  has  $\leq 4$  neighbours, putting it back is easy since one color is left unused and we just assign  $v$  this color. Suppose  $v$  has 5 neighbours (since  $v$  was the minimum-degree vertex in a planar graph, its degree is  $\leq 5$ ) and all of them have different colors (if any two of  $v$ 's neighbours have the same color, there is one free color and we can assign  $v$  this color). To put  $v$  back in  $G$  we have to change colors somehow (see Fig. 24). How do we change colors? Let us concentrate on the subgraph of nodes of colors 2 and 4. Suppose colors 2 and 4 belong to different connected components. Then flip colors 2 and 4 in the component that vertex 4 belongs to, i.e., change color of all 4-colored nodes to color 2 and nodes with color 2 to color 4. Since colors 2 and 4 are in the different connected components, we can do this without violating the coloring (in the resulting graph, all the adjacent nodes will still have different colors). But now we have a free color - namely, color 4 - that we can use for  $v$ .

What if colors 2 and 4 are in the same component? In this case, there is a path  $P$  of alternating colors (as shown on Fig. 24).

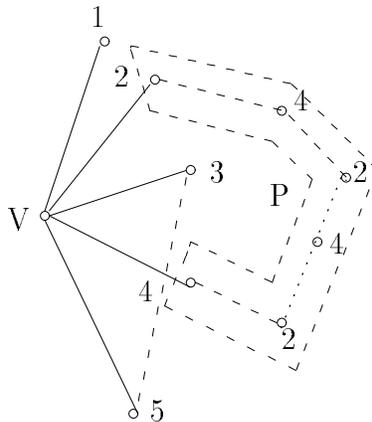


Figure 24: Graph with alternating colors path

Note that node 3 is now “trapped” - any path from node 3 to node 5 crosses  $P$ . If we now consider a subgraph consisting of 3-colored and 5-colored nodes, nodes 3 and 5 cannot be in the same connected component - it would violate planarity of  $G$ . So we can flip colors 3 and 5 (as we did for 2 and 4) and get one free color that could be used for  $v$ ; this concludes the proof of 5-colorability of planar graphs.  $\square$



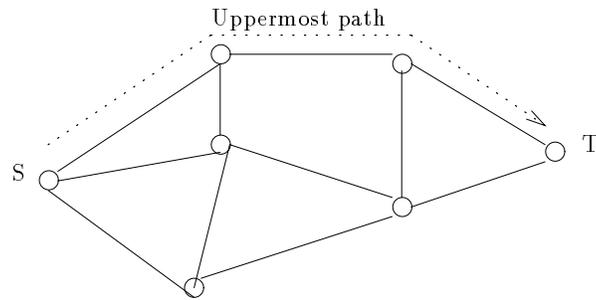


Figure 26: Uppermost path

for min-capacity edge finding. To reflect the decreasing residual capacities, keep a counter that shows by how much we decrease keys of edges in the heap. For example, if counter for a particular heap is -1, it means that the key of every edge in the heap is to be decreased by 1, i.e. an edge with key 5 should be interpreted as having key 4. When adding an edge with key 5 to this heap, the key should be increased to 6.

**Hassin's algorithm**

Given a graph  $G$ , construct a dual graph  $G^D$  and add to it two new nodes  $s^*$  and  $t^*$ , both on the infinite face (see Fig. 27).

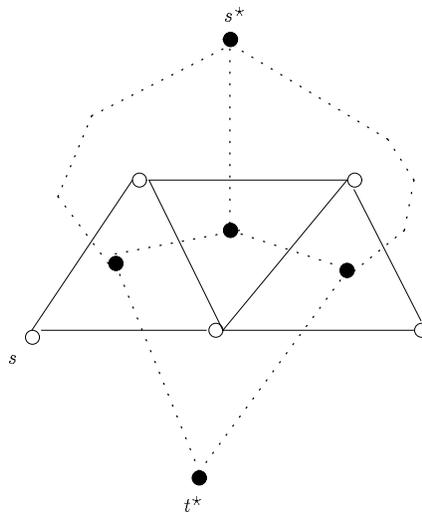


Figure 27:  $G^{D^*}$

Node  $s^*$  is added at the top of  $G^D$  and every node in  $G^D$  corresponding to an edge on the top of  $G$  is connected to  $s^*$ . Node  $t^*$  is similarly placed and connected at the bottom of



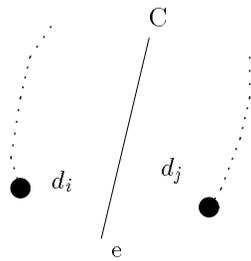


Figure 29:

Then, we can decrease  $d_i$  (which is the cost of the shortest path to this node from  $s^*$ ) by following the shortest path to  $v_j$  and then going from  $d_j$  to  $d_i$  across  $e$ . In this case, the label for  $v_i = d_j + C < d_i$ . This contradicts the fact that the original  $d_i$  was already the cost of the shortest path, and therefore no such edge  $e$  exists.

To show that for every node in  $G$  the amount of flow entering it is equal to the amount of flow leaving it (except for source and target), let us do the following. We will go around in some (say, counterclockwise) direction and add together flows through all the edges adjacent to the vertex (see Figure 30). Note that, for edge  $e_i$ ,  $d_i - d_{i+1}$  gives us negative value if  $e_i$

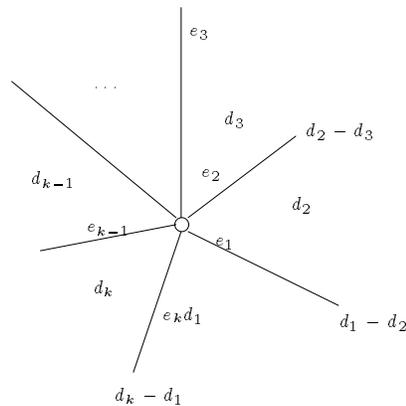


Figure 30:

is incoming (i.e.  $d_i < d_{i+1}$ ) and positive value if  $e_i$  is outgoing. By adding together all such pairs  $d_i - d_{i+1}$ , we get  $d_1 - d_2 + d_2 - d_3 + \dots + d_{k-1} - d_k + d_k - d_1 = 0$ , from which it follows that flow entering the node is equal to the amount of flow leaving it.



For example, assume you have two robots, and there are three possible places where a service is requested: vertices  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ . Let your robots be in the vertices  $A$  and  $B$ . The adversary will request service for vertex  $C$ . If you move the robot at vertex  $B$  (hence your servers will be at vertices  $A$  and  $C$ ), the next request will come from  $B$ . If you now move your robot at vertex  $C$  (hence you have robots at  $A$  and  $B$ ), the next request will come from  $C$  and so on. In this scheme you would do  $k$  moves for a sequence of  $k$  requests but after finishing your job the adversary will say: “you fool, if you had moved the robot at  $A$  in the beginning, then you would have servers at vertices  $B$  and  $C$  and you wouldn’t have to do anything else for the rest of the sequence”.

We can actually show that for *any* on-line algorithm, there is an adversary that can force the on-line algorithm to spend at least twice as much as the offline algorithm. Consider any on-line algorithm  $A$ . The adversary generates a sequence of requests  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$  such that each request is made to a vertex where there is no robot (thus the on-line algorithm pays a cost of  $n$ ). It is easy to see that the offline algorithm can do a “lookahead” and move the server that is not requested in the immediate future. Thus for every two requests, it can make sure it does not need to pay for more than one move. This can actually be extended to a *lower bound* of  $k$  for the  $k$ -Server problem. In other words, any on-line algorithm can be forced to pay a cost that is  $k$  times the cost of the off-line algorithm (that knows the future).

## 21.2 K-servers on a straight line

Suppose you again have  $k$  servers on a line. The naive approach is to move the closest server to the request. But what does our adversary do? It will make a request near the initial position of one server (which moves), and then requests the original position of the server. So our server would be running back and forth to the same two points although the adversary will move another server in the first request, and for all future requests it would not have to make a move.

**On-line strategy:** We move the closest server to the request but we also move the server on the other side of the request, towards the location of the request by the same amount. If the request is to the left (right) of the leftmost (rightmost) server, then only one server moves.

We will analyse the algorithm as a game. There are two copies of the server’s. One copy (the  $s_i$  servers) are the servers of the online algorithm, the other copy is the adversary’s servers ( $a_i$ ). In each move, the adversary generates a request, moves a server to service the request and then asks the on-line algorithm to service the request.

We prove that this algorithm does well by using a potential function, where

- $\Phi(t - 1)$  is potential before the  $t^{th}$  request,
- $\Phi'(t)$  is potential after adversary’s  $t^{th}$  service but before your  $t^{th}$  service,
- $\Phi(t)$  is the potential after your  $t^{th}$  service.



Notes by Samir Khuller.

## 22 NP-Completeness

We will assume that everyone knows that SAT is NP-complete. The proof of Cook's theorem was given in CMSC 650, which most of you have taken before. The other students may read it from [CLR] or the book by Garey and Johnson.

The reductions we will study today are:

1. SAT to CLIQUE.
2. CLIQUE to MULTIPROCESSOR SCHEDULING.
3. SAT to DISJOINT CONNECTING PATHS.

The first reduction is taken from Chapter 36.5 [CLR] pp. 946–949.

The second reduction goes as follows.

**MULTIPROCESSOR SCHEDULING:** Given a DAG representing precedence constraints, and a set of jobs  $J$  all of unit length. Is there a schedule that will schedule all the jobs on  $M$  parallel machines (all of the same speed) in  $T$  time units ?

Essentially, we can execute upto  $M$  jobs in each time unit, and we have to maintain all the precedence constraints and finish all the jobs by time  $T$ .

**Reduction:** Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and an integer  $k$  we wish to produce a set of jobs  $J$ , a DAG as well as parameters  $M, T$  such that there will be a way to schedule the jobs if and only if  $G$  contains a clique on  $k$  vertices.

Let  $n, m$  be the number of vertices and edges in  $G$  respectively.

We are going to have a set of jobs  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n, e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  corresponding to each vertex/edge. We put an edge from  $v_i$  to  $e_j$  (in the DAG) if  $e_j$  is incident on  $v_i$  in  $G$ . Hence all the vertices have to be scheduled before the edges they are incident to. We are going to set  $T = 3$ .

Intuitively, we want the  $k$  vertices that form the clique to be put in time slot 1. This makes  $C(k, 2)$  edges available for time slot 2 along with the remaining  $n - k$  vertices. The remaining edges  $m - C(k, 2)$  go in slot 3. To ensure that no more than  $k$  vertices are picked in the first slot, we add more jobs. There will be jobs in 3 sets that are added, namely  $B, C, D$ . We make each job in  $B$  a prerequisite for each job in  $C$ , and each job in  $C$  a prerequisite for each job in  $D$ . Thus all the  $B$  jobs have to go in time 1, the  $C$  jobs in time 2, and the  $D$  jobs in time 3.

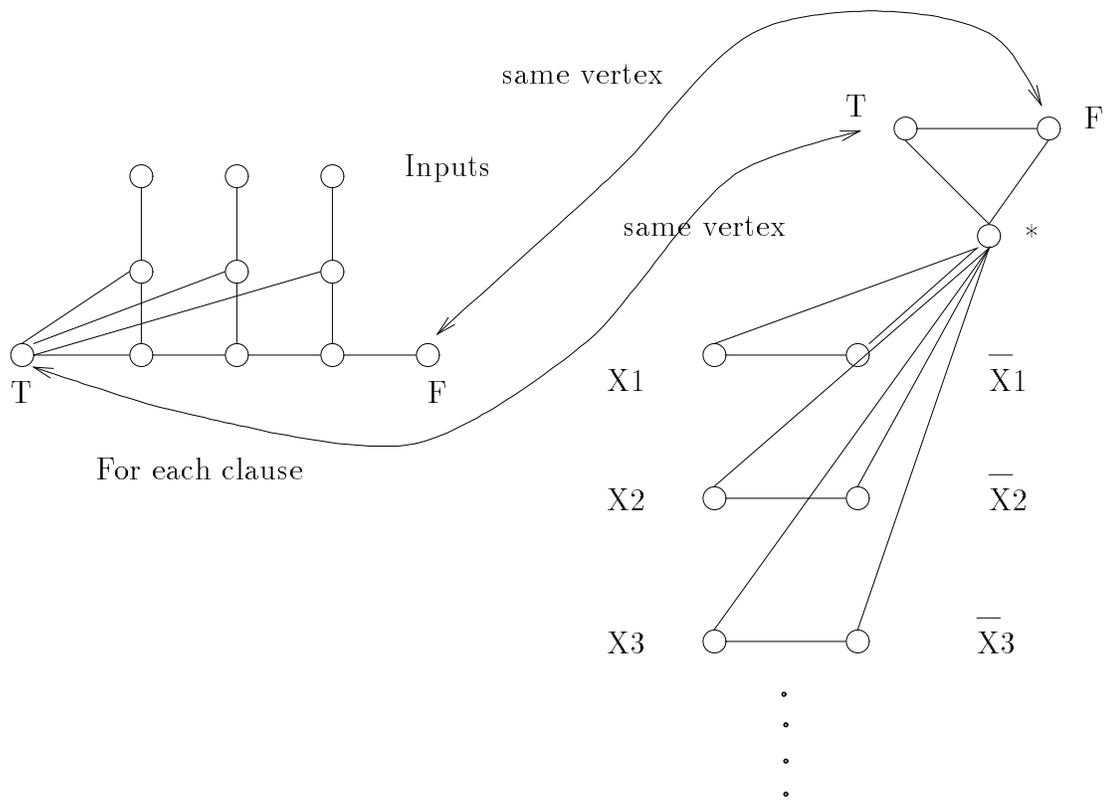
The sizes of the sets  $B, C, D$  are chosen as follows:

$$|B| + k = |C| + (n - k) + C(k, 2) = |D| + (m - C(k, 2)).$$









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Figure 32: Gadget for OR gate

Notes by Samir Khuller.

## 24 Approximation Algorithms

Please read Chapter 37 (pp. 964–974) from [CLR] for Vertex Cover (unweighted) and Traveling Salesman Problem.

Notes by Samir Khuller.

## **25 Approximation Algorithms**

Please read Chapter 37 (pp. 974–978) from [CLR] for Set Cover algorithm. Weighted Vertex Cover will be covered in the next lecture.



13.  $W(v) \leftarrow 0$ ;
14. end;
15. return  $C$

In this algorithm, each time a vertex is placed in the cover, each of its neighbors has its weight reduced by an amount equal to the ratio of the selected vertex's *current* weight and degree. The edge cost  $EC(e)$  reflects the cost of covering the edge  $e$ .

The algorithm assigns costs to the edges in a manner which guarantees that each vertex in the cover partitions its weight amongst the incident edges, and each edge gets assigned the same weight from both its end-points. Thus, the weight of the cover being produced is at most twice the net cost of the edges. Under any such choice of the edge cost function, it can be easily seen that an optimal cover must have weight at least as large as the total of the edge costs.

Observing that, at all times during the execution of the algorithm, the following invariants hold :

$$\forall e \in E :: EC(e) \geq 0$$

since the only modification to the edge costs is the addition of a positive value.

$$\forall v \in V :: W(v) \geq 0$$

The current weight of a vertex is reduced only when its neighbor is selected. Since the selected vertex has a smaller weight to degree ratio, then the result of subtraction must be non-negative (make sure that you understand why this is the case).

$$\forall v \in V :: w(v) = W(v) + \sum_{u \in N(v)} EC(u, v)$$

where  $N(v)$  denotes the set of neighbors of  $v$  in the *original* graph

The algorithm terminates with the facts that,

$$\forall v \in C, w(v) = \sum_{u \in N(v)} EC(u, v) \quad (1)$$

$$\forall v \notin C, w(v) \geq \sum_{u \in N(v)} EC(u, v) \quad (2)$$

Eq.(1) holds since  $\forall v \in C, W(v) = 0$ .

Eq.(2) holds due to INV2 and INV3.

From the above facts, we can derive the following lemmata to relate the weight of MGA's output to the book-keeping variables of edge costs.

**Lemma 26.1**

$$w(C) \leq 2 \sum_{e \in E} EC(e)$$

*Proof:*

Observe that by eq.(1)

$$w(C) = \sum_{v \in C} w(v) = \sum_{v \in C} \sum_{u \in N(v)} EC(u, v)$$

Since each edge in  $E$  is counted at most twice in the last expression, we have

$$w(C) \leq 2 \sum_{e \in E} EC(e)$$

□

The next step is to relate the edge costs to the value of the optimal solution.

**Lemma 26.2**

$$\sum_{e \in E} EC(e) \leq c^* = w(C^*)$$

where

$$w(C^*) = \sum_{v \in C^*} w(v)$$

*Proof:*

Observe that

$$\sum_{e \in E} EC(e) \leq \sum_{v \in C^*} \sum_{u \in N(v)} EC(u, v) \leq \sum_{v \in C^*} w(v)$$

As  $C^*$  is a VC, the second expression must count each edge at least once. From eq.(1), we now have the desired result. □

Putting together these two lemmata, we then have

$$w(C) \leq 2 \sum_{e \in E} EC(e) \leq 2w(C^*),$$

that is, the weight of  $C$  is at most twice optimal.

Algorithm MGA runs in time  $O(m \log n)$  and has  $R_{MGA} = 2$  which is the best possible bound.

**Packing Functions** A packing function  $p$  is defined as follows:

$$p : E \rightarrow R^+$$

such that

$$\sum_{u \in N(v)} p(u, v) \leq w(v)$$

Note that zero packing is a valid packing by setting packing value of every edge to be zero.

Example (see Fig. 33)

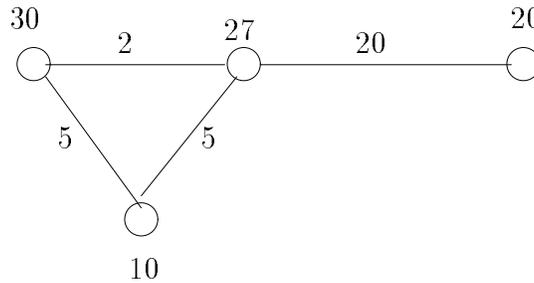


Figure 33:

$$\sum_{e \in E} p(e) = P = 32$$

Observing that

$$P \leq c^*$$

By considering

$$w(C^*) = \sum_{v \in C^*} w(v) \geq \sum_{v \in C^*} \sum_{u \in N(v)} p(u, v) \geq P$$

This is true because some edges may be counted twice in the third expression.

We claim that :

$$\text{cost}(\text{algo}) \leq 2P \leq 2c^*$$

Since  $EC(u, v)$  is a valid packing, following the previous proof and substituting  $EC(u, v)$  by  $p(u, v)$ , then we will get the desired result.

**Maximal packing** : packing which cannot increase  $p(e)$  for any  $e$ .

Example (see Fig. 34)

If we pick full capacity nodes in maximal packing; that is, a node  $v$  is in the VC if  $\sum_{u \in N(v)} p(u, v) = w(v)$ , and results in

$$P \leq c^* \leq 2P.$$

This set of vertices forms a cover since for each edge at least one endpoint has its constraint met with equality.

**Why "Packing" ?**

Packing is the dual problem to Vertex Cover problem in Linear Programming.

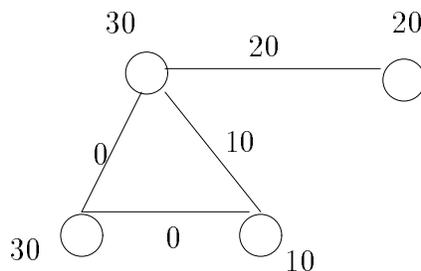


Figure 34:

### Vertex Cover Problem in LP

Define function  $X(v) = 0, 1$  if  $v \notin VC$  and  $v \in VC$  respectively.

We want to minimize  $\sum_{v \in V} x(v)w(v)$  such that  $x(u) + x(v) \geq 1$  for all edges  $(u, v)$ .

Clearly, this is an Integer Linear Program (solving these is NP-hard). We can relax the integer constraints and make a regular Linear Program from it. For minimization problems, the relaxed Linear Program solution is no more than the solution to the Integer Linear Program; that is  $c_{ILP}^* \geq c_{LP}^*$ , and  $c_{LP}^*$  in turn will be lower bounded by any solution of its DUAL LP, in which here we want to maximize  $\sum_{e \in E} p(e)$  such that  $\forall v \in V \sum_{u \in N(v)} p(u, v) \leq w(v)$ .

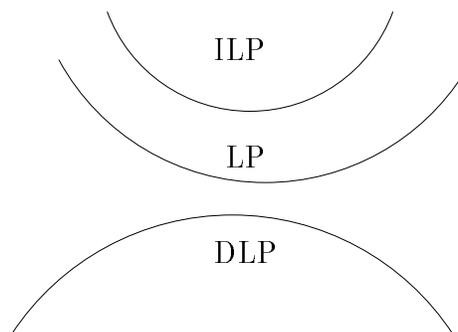


Figure 35:

If we can prove that  $cost(algo) \leq kc_{DLP}$  then we get

$$cost(algo) \leq kc_{DLP}^* \leq kc_{LP}^* \leq kc_{ILP}^*.$$

So the entire difficulty is in proving the first inequality. The rest follow automatically. In the Vertex Cover Problem, we prove this by showing that the cost of our solution is no more than twice a packing (which is a feasible dual solution).

Notes by Marga Alisjahbana.

## 27 Steiner Tree Problem

We are given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ , with edge weights  $w : E \rightarrow R+$  and a special subset  $S \subseteq V$ . A Steiner tree is a tree that spans all vertices in  $S$ , and is allowed to use the vertices in  $V - S$  (called steiner vertices) at will. The problem of finding a minimum weight Steiner tree has been shown to be  $NP$ -complete. We will present a fast algorithm for finding a Steiner tree in an undirected graph that has an approximation factor of  $2(1 - \frac{1}{|S|})$ , where  $|S|$  is the cardinality of  $S$ .

### 27.1 Approximation Algorithm

**Algorithm :**

1. Construct a new graph  $H = (S, E_S)$ , which is a complete graph. The edges of  $H$  have weight  $w(i, j) =$  minimal weight path from  $i$  to  $j$  in the original graph  $G$ .
2. Find a minimum spanning tree  $MST_H$  in  $H$ .
3. Construct a subgraph  $G_S$  of  $G$  by replacing each edge in  $MST_H$  by its corresponding shortest path in  $G$ .
4. Find a minimal spanning tree  $MST_S$  of  $G_S$ .
5. Construct a Steiner tree  $T_H$  from  $MST_S$  by deleting edges in  $MST_S$  if necessary so that all leaves are in  $S$  (these are redundant edges, and can be created in the previous step).

Running time :

1. step 1 :  $O(|S||V|^2)$
2. step 2 :  $O(|S|^2)$
3. step 3 :  $O(|V|)$
4. step 4 :  $O(|V|^2)$
5. step 5 :  $O(|V|)$

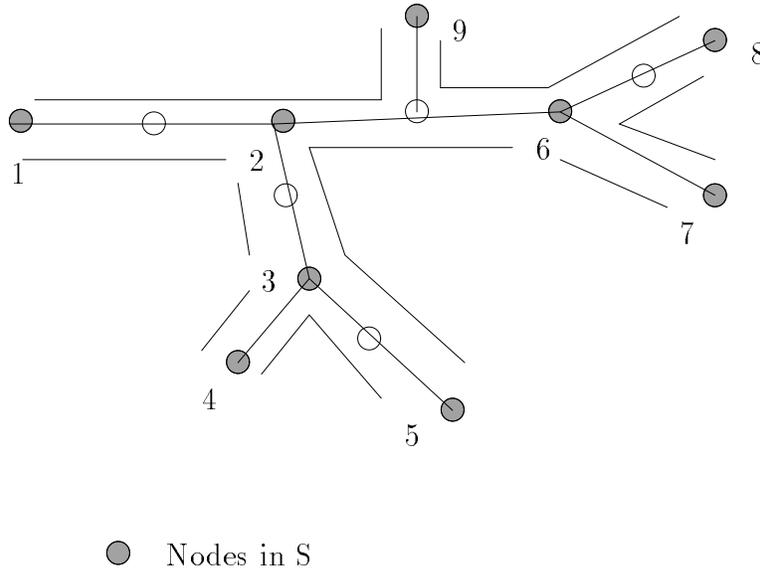


Figure 36: Optimal Steiner Tree

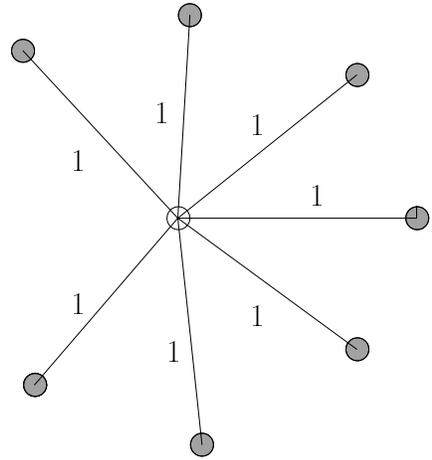
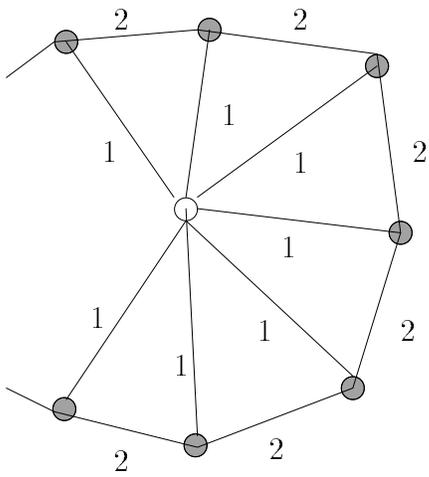
So worst case time complexity is  $O(|S||V|^2)$ .

We will show that this algorithm produces a solution that is at most twice the optimal. More formally:  $\text{weight}(\text{our solution}) \leq \text{weight}(MST_H) \leq 2 \times \text{weight}(\text{optimal solution})$

To prove this, consider the optimal solution, i.e., the minimal Steiner tree  $T_{opt}$ .

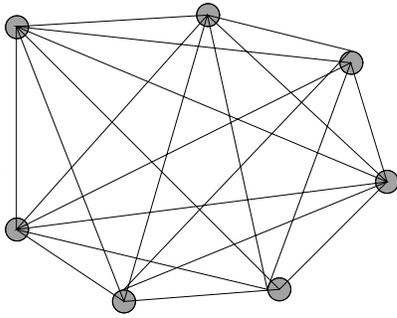
Do a DFS on  $T_{opt}$  and number the points in  $S$  in order of the DFS. (Give each vertex a number the first time it is encountered.) Traverse the tree in same order of the DFS then return to starting vertex. Each edge will be traversed exactly twice, so weight of all edges traversed is  $2 \times \text{weight}(T_{opt})$ . Let  $d(i, i+1)$  be the length of the edges traversed during the DFS in going from vertex  $i$  to  $i+1$ . (Thus there is a path  $P(i, i+1)$  from  $i$  to  $i+1$  of length  $d(i, i+1)$ .) Also notice that the sum of the lengths of all such paths  $\sum_{i=1}^{|S|} d(i, i+1) = 2 \cdot MST_S$ . (Assume that vertex  $|S| + 1$  is vertex 1.)

We will show that  $H$  contains a spanning tree of weight  $\leq 2 \times w(T_{opt})$ . This shows that the weight of a minimal spanning tree in  $H$  is no more than  $2 \times w(T_{opt})$ . Our Steiner tree solution is upperbounded in cost by the weight of this tree. If we follow the points in  $S$ , in graph  $H$ , in the same order of their above DFS numbering, we see that the weight of an edge between points  $i$  and  $i+1$ , in  $H$ , cannot be more than the length of the path between the points in  $MST_S$  during the DFS traversal (i.e.,  $d(i, i+1)$ ). So using this path we can obtain a spanning tree in  $H$  (which is actually a Hamilton Path in  $H$ ) with weight  $\leq 2 \cdot w(T_{opt})$ . Figure 37 shows that the worst case performance of 2 is achievable by this algorithm.

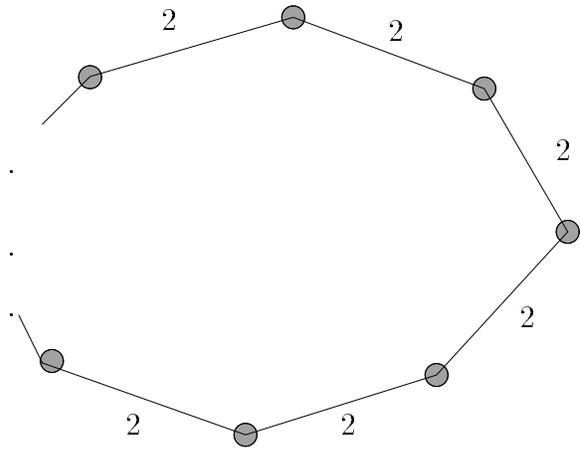


Optimal Steiner tree

● Vertices in  $S$



Graph H  
Each edge has weight 2



MST in H

Figure 37: Worst Case ratio is achieved here

## 27.2 Steiner Tree is NP-complete

We now prove that the Steiner Tree problem is NP-complete, by a reduction from 3-SAT to Steiner Tree problem

Construct a graph from an instance of 3-SAT as follows:

Build a gadget for each variable consisting of 4 vertices and 4 edges, each edge has weight 1, and every clause is represented by a node.

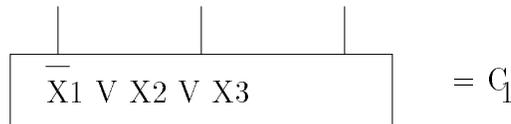
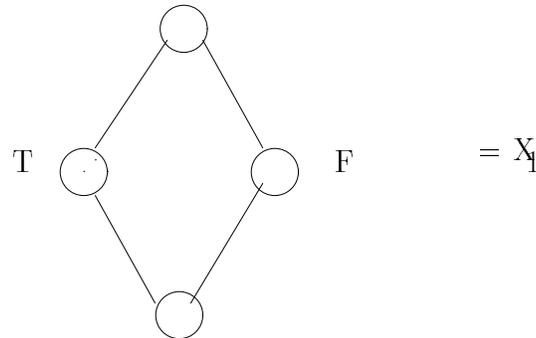


Figure 38: Gadget for a variable

If a literal in a clause is negated then attach clause gadget to  $F$  of corresponding variable in graph, else attach to  $T$ . Do this for all literals in all clauses and give weight  $M$  (where  $M \geq 3n$ ) to each edge. Finally add a root vertex on top that is connected to every variable gadget's upper vertex. The points in  $S$  are defined as: the root vertex, the top and bottom vertices of each variable, and all clause vertices.

We will show that the graph above contains a Steiner tree of weight  $mM + 3n$  if and only if the 3-SAT problem is satisfied.

If 3-SAT is satisfiable then there exists a Steiner tree of weight  $mM + 3n$ . We obtain the Steiner tree as follows:

- Take all edges connecting to the topmost root vertex,  $n$  edges of weight 1.
- Choose the  $T$  or  $F$  node of a variable that makes that variable "1" (e.g. if  $x = 1$  then

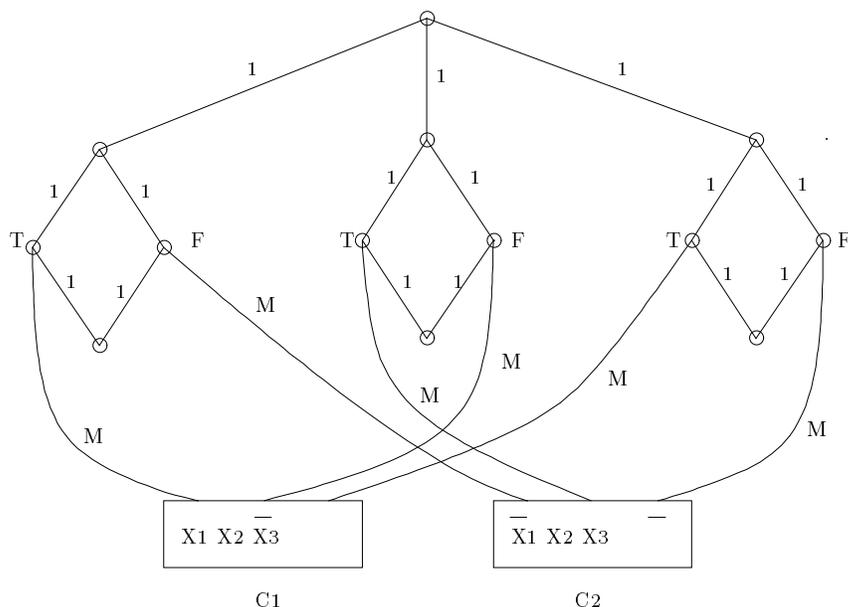


Figure 39: Reduction from 3-SAT.

take  $T$ , else take  $F$ ). Now take the path via that node to connect top and bottom nodes of a variable, this gives  $2n$  edges of weight 1.

- If 3-SAT is satisfied then each clause has (at least) 1 literal that is "1", and thus connects to the  $T$  or  $F$  node chosen in (2) of the corresponding variable. Take this connecting edge in each clause; we thus have  $m$  edges of weight  $M$ , giving a total weight of  $mM$ . So, altogether weight of the Steiner tree is  $mM + 3n$ .

If there exists a Steiner tree of weight  $mM + 3n$  then 3-SAT is satisfiable. To prove this we note that the Steiner tree must have the following properties:

- It must contain the  $n$  edges connecting to the root vertex. There are no other edges connected nodes corresponding to different variables.
- It must contain one edge from each clause node, giving a weight of  $mM$ . Since  $M$  is big, we cannot afford to pick two edges of weight  $M$  from a single clause. If it contains more than one edge from a clause (e.g. 2 edges from one clause) the weight would be  $mM + M > mM + 3n$ . Thus we must have exactly one edge from each clause in the Steiner tree.
- For each variable must have 2 more edges via the  $T$  or the  $F$  node.

Now say we set the variables to true according to whether their  $T$  or  $F$  node is in the Steiner tree (if  $T$  then  $x = 1$ , if  $F$  then  $x = 1$ .) We see that in order to have a Steiner tree of size

$mM + 3n$ , all clause nodes must have an edge connected to one of the variables (i.e. to the  $T$  or  $F$  node of that variable that is in the Steiner tree), and thus a literal that is assigned a "1", making 3-SAT satisfied.

Notes by Chung-Yeung Lee

## 28 Bin Packing

**Problem Statement:** Given  $n$  items  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$ , where each  $s_i$  is a rational number,  $0 < s_i \leq 1$ , our goal is to minimize the number of bins of size 1 such that all the items can be packed into them.

Remarks:

1. It is known that the problem is NP-Hard.
2. A Simple Greedy Approach (First-Fit) can yield an approximate algorithm which gives  $First - Fit(I) \leq 2OPT(I)$ .

### 28.1 First-Fit

The strategy for First-Fit is that when packing an item, we shall put it into the lowest number bin that it will fit in. We start a new bin only when the item cannot fit into any exiting non-empty bins. We shall give a simple analysis that shows that  $First - Fit(I) \leq 2OPT(I)$ . In Fact, we have

**Theorem 28.1**  $First - Fit(I) \leq 1.7OPT(I) + C$  and the ratio is best possible (by First-Fit).

The proof is complicated and therefore omitted here. Instead we shall prove that  $First - Fit(I) \leq 2OPT(I)$ .

*Proof:*

The main observation is that at most 1 bin is less than half of its capacity. Therefore, if  $c_i$  denotes the contents in bin  $i$  and  $k$  is the no of bins used, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^k c_i \geq k/2.$$

Hence,

$$OPT(I) \geq \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \geq k/2.$$

Therefore  $2OPT(I) \geq k = First - Fit(I)$ . □

## 28.2 First-Fit Decreasing

A variant of First-fit is the First-Fit Decreasing heuristics. Here, we first sort all the items in decreasing order of size and then apply the First-Fit algorithm.

**Theorem 28.2** (1973)  $FFD(I) \leq 11/9 OPT(I)$ .

Remarks:

1. The known proof is very long and therefore is omitted.
2. The following instance shows that first fit decreasing is better than first fit. Consider the case where we have
  - $6m$  pieces of A, each of size  $1/7 + \epsilon$ .
  - $6m$  pieces of B, each of size  $1/3 + \epsilon$ .
  - $6m$  pieces of C, each of size  $1/2 + \epsilon$ .

First Fit will require  $10m$  bins while First fit Decreasing requires  $6m$  bins only. Note that the ratio is  $5/3$ . This also shows that First-Fit does as badly as a factor of  $5/3$ . (There are other examples to show that actually it does as badly as 1.7.)

## 28.3 Approximate Schemes for bin-packing problems

In the 1980's, two approximate schemes were proposed. They are

1. (Vega and Lueker, 1981)  $\forall \epsilon > 0$ , there exists an Algorithm  $A_\epsilon$  such that

$$A_\epsilon(I) \leq (1 + \epsilon)OPT(I) + 1$$

, where  $A_\epsilon$  runs in time polynomial in  $n$  but exponential in  $1/\epsilon$ . ( $n$ =total no. of items)

2. (Karmarkar and Karp)  $\forall \epsilon > 0$ , there exists an Algorithm  $A_\epsilon$  such that

$$A_\epsilon(I) \leq OPT(I) + O(\lg^2(OPT(I)))$$

, where  $A_\epsilon$  runs in time polynomial in  $n$  and  $1/\epsilon$ . ( $n$ =total no. of items.) They also guarantee that  $A_\epsilon(I) \leq (1 + \epsilon)OPT(I) + 1$ .

3. It is conjectured that the term  $O(\lg^2(OPT(I)))$  can be improved to a constant.

We shall now discuss the proof of the first result. Roughly speaking, it relies on two ideas:

- Small items does not create a problem.
- Grouping together items of similar sizes can simplify the problem.

### 28.3.1 Restricted Bin Packing

We consider the following restricted version of bin packing problem (RBP). We require that

1. Each item has size  $\geq \delta$ .
2. The size of the items takes only one of the  $m$  distinct values  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m$ . That is we have  $n_i$  items of size  $v_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ), with  $\sum_{i=1}^m n_i = n$ .

For constant  $\delta$  and  $m$ , the above can be solved in polynomial time (actually in  $O(n + f(m, \delta))$ ). Our overall strategy is therefore to reduce BP to RBP (by throwing away items of size  $< \delta$  and grouping items carefully), solve it optimally and use  $RBP(\delta, m)$  to compute a solution to the original BP.

**Theorem 28.3** *Let  $J$  be the instance of RBP obtained from throwing away the items of size less than  $\delta$  from instance  $I$ . If  $J$  requires  $\beta$  bins then  $I$  needs only  $\max(\beta, (1+2\delta)OPT(I)+1)$  bins.*

*Proof:*

We observe that from the solution of  $J$ , we can add the items of size less than  $\delta$  to the bins until the empty space is less than  $\delta$ . Let  $S$  be the total size of the items, then we may assume the no. of items with size  $< \delta$  is large enough (otherwise  $I$  needs only  $\beta$  bins) so that we use  $\beta'$  bins.

$$S \geq (1 - \delta)(\beta' - 1)$$

$$\beta' \leq 1 + \frac{S}{1 - \delta}$$

$$\beta' \leq 1 + \frac{OPT(I)}{1 - \delta}$$

$$\beta' \leq 1 + (1 + 2\delta)OPT(I)$$

as  $(1 - \delta)^{-1} \leq 1 + 2\delta$  for small  $\delta$ . □

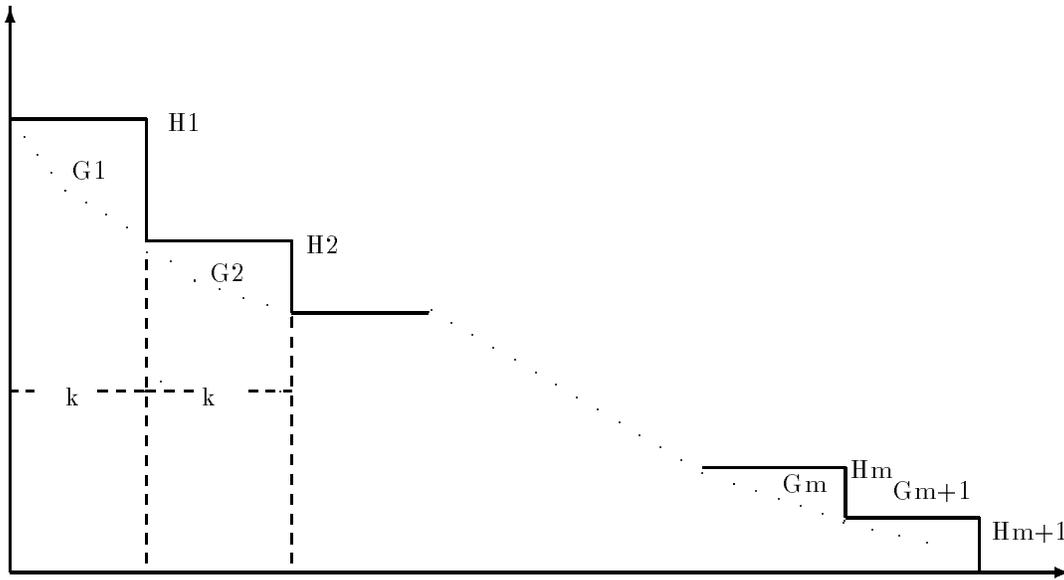
Next, we shall introduce the grouping scheme for RBP. Consider the items are sorted in descending order. Let  $n'$  be the total number of items. Define  $G_1$ =the group of the largest  $k$  items,  $G_2$ =the group that contains the next  $k$  items, and so on. We choose

$$k = \lfloor \frac{\epsilon^2 n'}{2} \rfloor.$$

Then, we have  $m+1$  groups  $G_1, \dots, G_{m+1}$ , where

$$m = \lfloor \frac{n'}{k} \rfloor.$$

Further, we consider groups  $H_i =$  group obtained from  $G_i$  by setting all items sizes in  $G_i$  equal to the largest one in  $G_i$ . Note that



Grouping Scheme for RBP

Figure 40: Grouping scheme

- size of any item in  $H_i \geq$  size of any items in  $G_i \forall i$ .
- size of any item in  $G_i \geq$  size of any items in  $H_{i+1} \forall i$ .

The following diagram illustrates the ideas:

We then define  $J_{\text{low}}$  be the instance consisting of items in  $H_2, \dots, H_{m+1}$  and  $J_{\text{high}}$  be the instance consists of items in  $G_1, H_2, \dots, H_{m+1}$ . Our goal is to show

$$\text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}}) \leq \text{OPT}(J) \leq \text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}}) + k,$$

The first inequality is trivial, since from  $\text{OPT}(J)$  we can always get a solution for  $J_{\text{low}}$ . We shall continue to prove the other inequality next time.

Notes by Gisli R. Hjaltason.

At the end of last lecture, we present the inequality

$$\text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}}) \leq \text{OPT}(J) \leq \text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}}) + k,$$

for the instances  $J$  and  $J_{\text{low}}$  of RBP, with grouping factor  $k$ . It remains to prove the latter inequality. Remember that using the  $\text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}})$  solution we can pack all the items in  $G_2, \dots, G_{m+1}$  (since we over allocated space for these by converting them to  $H_i$ . In particular, group  $G_1$ , the group left out in  $J_{\text{low}}$ , contains  $k$  items, so that no more than  $k$  extra bins are needed to accommodate those items.

Since  $(J_{\text{low}})$  is an instance of a Restricted Bin Packing Problem we can solve it optimally, and then add the items in  $G_1$  in at most  $k$  extra bins. Directly from this inequality, and using the definition of  $k$ , we have

$$\text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}}) + k \leq \text{OPT}(J) + k \leq \text{OPT}(J) + \frac{\epsilon^2 n'}{2}.$$

Choosing  $\delta = \epsilon/2$ , we get that

$$\text{OPT}(J) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n s_i \geq n' \frac{\epsilon}{2},$$

so we have

$$\text{OPT}(J) + \frac{\epsilon^2 n'}{2} \leq \text{OPT}(J) + \epsilon \text{OPT}(J) = (1 + \epsilon) \text{OPT}(J).$$

By applying theorem 28.3, using  $\beta = (1 + \epsilon) \text{OPT}(J)$  and the fact that  $2\delta = \epsilon$ , we know that the number of bins needed for the items of  $I$  is at most

$$\max\{(1 + \epsilon) \text{OPT}(J), (1 + \epsilon) \text{OPT}(I) + 1\} \leq (1 + \epsilon) \text{OPT}(I) + 1.$$

To summarize, we have:

**Theorem 28.4** *Let  $I$  be an instance of  $BP(n)$ , and let  $J_{\text{low}}$  be the instance of  $RBP(m, \delta)$ , where  $\delta = \epsilon/2$  and  $m = \lfloor \frac{n}{k} \rfloor$ , obtained from  $I$  by grouping items in decreasing order of their values into groups of  $k = \lfloor \frac{\epsilon^2 n}{2} \rfloor$  items, discarding the first group. The following inequality relates the optimal solutions of the two instances:*

$$\text{OPT}(J_{\text{low}}) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \text{OPT}(I) + 1.$$

Now we will turn to the problem of finding an optimal solution to RBP. Recall that an instance of  $\text{RBP}(\delta, m)$  has items of sizes  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m$ , with  $1 \geq v_1 \geq v_2 \geq \dots \geq v_m \geq \delta$ , where  $n_i$  items have size  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Summing up the  $n_i$ 's gives the total number of items,  $n$ . A bin is completely described by a vector  $(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m)$ , where  $T_i$  is the number of items of size  $v_i$  in the bin. How many different different bin types are there? From the bin size restriction of 1 and the fact that  $v_i \geq \delta$  we get

$$1 \geq \sum_i T_i v_i \geq \sum_i T_i \delta = \delta \sum_i T_i \Rightarrow \sum_i T_i \leq \frac{1}{\delta}.$$

As  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  is a constant, we see that the number of bin types is constant, say  $p$ .

Let  $T^{(1)}, T^{(2)}, \dots, T^{(p)}$  be an enumeration of the  $p$  different bin types. A solution to the RBP can now be stated as having  $x_i$  bins of type  $T^{(i)}$ . The problem of finding the optimal solution can be posed as an integer linear programming problem:

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^p p x_i,$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} \forall j = 1, \dots, m, \sum_{i=1}^p x_i T_j^{(i)} &= n_j; \\ \forall i = 1, \dots, p, x_i &\geq 0, x_i \text{ integer}. \end{aligned}$$

This is a constant size problem, since both  $p$  and  $m$  are constants, independent of  $n$ , so it can be solved in time independent of  $n$ . This result is captured in the following theorem, where  $f(\delta, m)$  is a constant that depends only on  $\delta$  and  $m$ .

**Theorem 28.5** *An instance of  $\text{RBP}(\delta, m)$  can be solved in time  $O(n, f(\delta, m))$ .*

An approximation scheme for BP may be based on this method. An algorithm  $A_\epsilon$  for solving an instance  $I$  of BP would procede as follows:

- Step 1: Get an instance  $J$  of  $\text{RBP}(\delta, n')$  by getting rid of all elements in  $I$  smaller than  $\delta = \epsilon/2$ .
- Step 2: Obtain  $J_{\text{low}}$  from  $J$ , using the parameters  $k$  and  $m$  established in theorem 28.4.
- Step 3: Find an optimal packing for  $J_{\text{low}}$  by solving the corresponding integer linear programming problem.
- Step 4: Pack the  $k$  items in  $G_1$  using at most  $k$  bins.
- Step 5: Pack the remaining items of  $J$  as the corresponding (larger) items of  $J_{\text{low}}$  were packed in step 3.
- Step 6: Pack the small items in  $I \setminus J$  using First-Fit.

This algorithm finds a packing for  $I$  using at most  $(1 + \epsilon)\text{OPT}(I) + 1$  buckets, which is the bound established in theorem 28.4. All steps are at most linear in  $n$ , except step 2, which is  $O(n \log n)$ , as it basically amounts to sorting  $J$ . The fact that step 3 is linear in  $n$  was established in the previous algorithm, but note that while  $f(\delta, m)$  is independent of  $n$ , it is exponential in  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  and  $m$  and thus  $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$ . Therefore, this approximation scheme is polynomial but not fully polynomial.

Karmarkar and Karp came up with an algorithm for  $\text{RBP}(\delta, m)$  that is polynomial in  $\frac{1}{\delta}$  and  $m$  as well as  $n$ . Instead of using integer linear programming, they relaxed the condition of the  $x_i$ 's being integers, which results in a regular linear programming problem. The optimal solution to the linear programming problem may assign fractional values to the  $x_i$ 's, but it was shown that by appropriate rounding of the values, a solution close to optimal for the RBP is obtained. Since polynomial algorithms (for example, the ellipsoid algorithm) exist for linear programming, the approximation scheme for BP based on this result is fully polynomial.