

## 一般グラフの極大マッチングを列挙するアルゴリズム

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抄録: グラフのマッチングとは, グラフの枝部分集合で, その集合の枝がたがいに隣接しないものをいう. 集合の意味で極大なマッチングを極大マッチングという. 本稿では, 与えられたグラフ  $G = (V, E)$  の極大マッチングを列挙するアルゴリズムを提案する. 極大マッチングは, 極大安定集合を列挙するアルゴリズムを用いて列挙できるが, その場合の計算時間は, 極大マッチング1つあたり  $O(|V||E|^2)$  となる. 本稿で提案するアルゴリズムは, 極大マッチング1つあたり  $O(\Delta)$  となり, 大幅な高速化が行われた. ここで  $\Delta$  は  $G$  の頂点の最大次数である.

キーワード: 列挙, 列挙木, 列挙アルゴリズム, 極大マッチング

## An Algorithm for Enumerating All Maximal Matchings of a Graph

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**Abstract:** For a graph, a *matching* is an edge set such that no two edges of it are adjacent to each other. A maximal matching is an matching included in no other matching. In this paper, we propose an algorithm for enumerating all maximal matchings of a given non-bipartite graph  $G = (V, E)$ . Maximal matchings can be enumerated by an algorithm for enumerating maximal stable sets, however it takes  $O(|V||E|^2)$  time per maximal matching. The algorithm in this paper runs in  $O(\Delta)$  time per maximal matching, quite fast compared with the previous algorithm. Here  $\Delta$  denotes the maximum degree of  $G$ .

**Keywords:** enumeration, enumeration tree, listing, maximal matching

## 1 Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a non-bipartite undirected graph with vertex set  $V$  and edge set  $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$ . We assume that there is neither isolated vertices nor parallel edges.  $\Delta$  denotes the degree of a vertex of the maximum degree in  $G$ . A *matching*  $M$  of the graph  $G$  is an edge set such that no two edges in  $M$  share their endpoints. For a matching  $M$  of  $G = (V, E)$ , let  $\hat{E}(G, M)$  denote the edges of  $E \setminus M$  adjacent to no edge of  $M$ . Note that  $\hat{E}(G, M) = E$  if  $M = \emptyset$ . We call a matching which is contained in no other matching a *maximal matching*.  $M$  is a maximal matching of  $G$  if and only if  $\hat{E}(G, M) = \emptyset$ . This paper considers the problem of enumerating all maximal matchings in  $G$ .

A matching in a graph  $G$  is equivalent to a stable set in the line graph of  $G$ . The line graph of  $G$  is  $(E, \tilde{E})$  such that  $(e, e') \in E \times E$  is included in  $\tilde{E}$  if and only if  $e$  and  $e'$  are adjacent in  $G$ . The problem of enumerating maximal matchings is reducible to the problem of enumerating stable sets of the line graph, hence we can enumerate maximal matchings by using the algorithm of Tsukiyama et al. [5]. Since the line graph of  $G$  has  $|E|$  vertices and  $O(|V||E|)$  edges, their algorithm takes  $O(|V||E|^2N)$  time and  $O(|V||E|)$  space where  $N$  denotes the number of

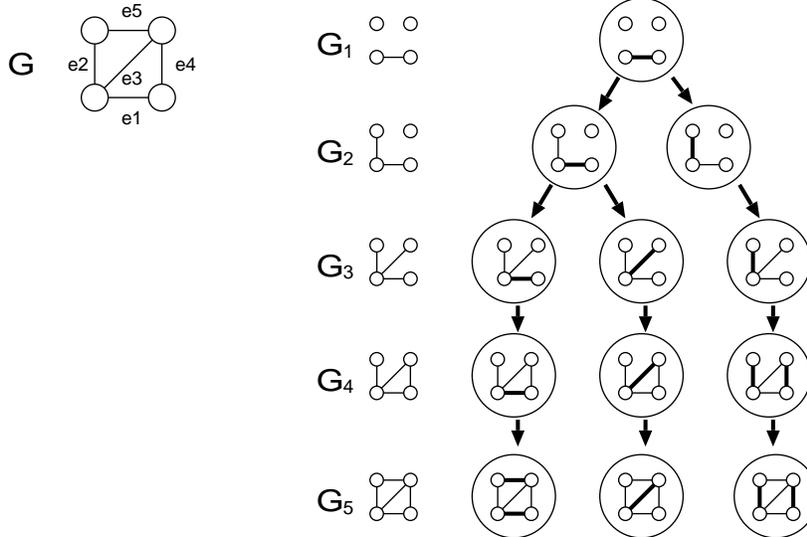


Figure 1: An instance of enumeration tree.

maximal matchings in  $G$ . The computation time is probably too slow to be practical. In 1988, D. S. Johnson, M. Yannakakis, and C. H. Papadimitriou [2] proposed another algorithm for enumerating maximal stable sets, however their algorithm has the same time complexity as Tsukiyama et al's.

Matchings have some “good” properties that stable sets do not have, hence many matching problems can be solved more easily than stable set problems. For example, we can find a maximum matching of a graph in polynomial time, but the maximum stable set problem is known to belong to the class of NP-hard problems. Therefore, there naturally seem to exist possibilities of making a fast algorithm for enumerating maximal matchings, if not for stable sets. In this paper, we use such “good” properties, and improve on the algorithm of Tsukiyama et al. by adapting them to maximal matchings.

Our improvements also are composed of two areas. The first is that we use several techniques to speed up iterations. In this way, we reduce the time complexity from  $O(|V||E|^2N)$  to  $O(|E|N)$ . The second is that we introduce a preprocessing of the input to the algorithm to decrease the number of iterations and amortized time complexity. By detailed analysis, we reduce the time complexity to  $O(\Delta N)$ . Our improvements also result in optimal memory complexity.

## 2 Reverse Search Algorithm for Maximal Matchings

In this section, we describe the framework of our algorithm obtained by modifying the algorithm of Tsukiyama et al. We also show our techniques to reduce the computation time of an iteration.

For constructing enumeration algorithms, we have a scheme called *reverse search* [1]. The algorithm of Tsukiyama et al. can be considered as a type of reverse search, and our algorithm is thereby based on reverse search. Reverse search is a scheme for enumerating all elements of a set. It utilizes a parent-child relationship among elements of the set, which has to satisfy the following two conditions:

- (1) any element except one element has its unique parent
- (2) no element is a proper ancestor of itself.

The graph expression of this relationship, composed of vertices corresponding to its elements

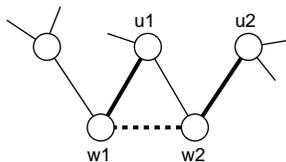


Figure 2: Generating a type-2 child: bold edges are edges of  $M$ . We obtain a matching  $M'$  by adding  $(w_1, w_2)$  to  $M$  and removing  $(w_1, u_1)$  and  $(w_2, u_2)$ . If  $(w_1, u_1)$  has a larger index than  $e_1$  or  $e_2$ , then  $M'$  is a type-2 child of  $M$ . If there is an edge  $(u_1, u_2)$ , then  $M$  is not maximal.

and edges connecting children to their parents, forms a tree under these conditions. The tree is called an *enumeration tree*. Reverse search traverses all vertices of the tree in a depth first search manner, and outputs all elements in the order in which they are visited. A feature of reverse search is that its memory complexity does not depend on the number of output. Reverse search does not store the whole enumeration tree in the memory. It holds the vertex currently being traversed, and to move to the child of the vertex, uses an algorithm for finding all the children of the vertex.

Let us look at the operation of reverse search for maximal matchings arising from the method of Tsukiyama et al. Let  $G_i = (V, E_i)$  where  $E_i = \{e_1, \dots, e_i\}$ . A maximal matching  $M$  of a subgraph  $G_i$  is called an  *$i$ -maximal matching*, and is denoted by  $(M, i)$ . Our parent-child relationship in the following is defined among all the  $i$ -maximal matchings. The 1-maximal matching, which is the unique maximal matching of  $G_1$ , has no parent in our relationship. The parent of an  $i$ -maximal matching  $(M, i)$ ,  $i \neq 1$ , denoted by  $p(M, i)$ , is defined by the  $(i - 1)$ -maximal matching obtained by the following procedure.

- (P1) **If**  $e_i \notin M$  **then output**  $(M, i - 1)$  ; **stop**
- (P2)  $M' := M \setminus \{e_i\}$
- (P3) **If**  $\hat{E}(G_{i-1}, M') = \emptyset$  **then output**  $(M', i - 1)$  ; **stop**
- (OP4)  $M' := M \cup \{ \text{the edge with the minimum index among } \hat{E}(G_{i-1}, M') \}$ , and **Go to** (OP3)

From this algorithm,  $p(M, i)$  is defined uniquely, and no  $i$ -maximal matching is its proper ancestor. Hence, we obtain an enumeration tree the vertices of which correspond to all the  $i$ -maximal matchings. The leaves of the tree correspond to all the maximal matchings in  $G$  ( see Figure 1 ).

Next we explain how to find all children of an  $(i - 1)$ -maximal matching  $(M, i - 1)$ . The method is based on the following lemma. Let  $E(M, i)$  be the set of edges of  $M$  that are adjacent to  $e_i$ .

**Lemma 1**  $(M', i)$  is a child of  $(M, i - 1)$  if and only if one of the following conditions hold.

- (a)  $E(M, i) \neq \emptyset$ , and  $M' = M$
- (b)  $E(M, i) = \emptyset$ , and  $M' = M \cup \{e_i\}$
- (c)  $E(M, i) \neq \emptyset$ ,  $p(M', i) = (M, i - 1)$ , and  $M' = M \cup \{e_i\} \setminus E(M, i)$ .

*Proof:* We first state the “if” part. In each case of (a), (b) and (c),  $M'$  is an  $i$ -maximal matching. If (a) holds, then  $e_i$  is adjacent to an edge of  $M'$ . Hence,  $p(M', i) = (M, i - 1)$ . If (b) holds, then  $e_i$  is included in  $M'$ . Since  $M' \setminus \{e_i\}$  is an  $(i - 1)$ -maximal matching,  $p(M', i) = (M, i - 1)$ . If (c) holds, then obviously  $p(M', i) = (M, i - 1)$ .

We next state the “only if” part. Suppose that  $(M', i)$  is a child of  $(M, i - 1)$ . If  $M'$  does not include  $e_i$ , then  $M = M'$  and  $E(M, i) \neq \emptyset$ . Hence, (a) holds. If  $M'$  includes  $e_i$  and  $M' \setminus \{e_i\}$  is an  $(i - 1)$ -maximal matching, then  $M = M \setminus \{e_i\}$ , and  $E(M, i) = \emptyset$ . Hence, (b) holds.

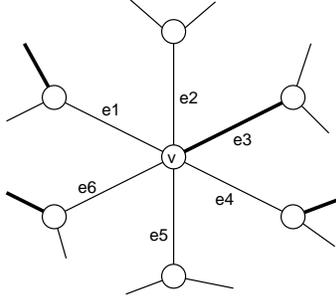


Figure 3: An instance of  $A(v, M, i)$  and  $l(v, M, i)$ : The bold edges are edges of  $M$ . In this case,  $A(v, M, i) = \{e_2, e_5\}$  and  $l(v, M, i) = 1$ .

If  $M'$  includes  $e_i$  and  $M' \setminus \{e_i\}$  is not an  $(i - 1)$ -maximal matching, then  $E(M, i) \neq \emptyset$ , and  $M' = M \cup \{e_i\} \setminus E(M, i)$ . Hence, (c) holds.

Therefore, the lemma holds. ■

We illustrate the case of (c) of the lemma in Figure 2. From the proof of the lemma, we can see that any  $i$ -maximal matching has a child satisfying (a) if  $E(M, i) \neq \emptyset$ , and a child satisfying (b) if  $E(M, i) = \emptyset$ . Moreover, any  $i$ -maximal matching has at most one child satisfying (c). We call a child satisfying (a) or (b) a *type-1 child*, and a child satisfying (c) *type-2 child*. From this, we can see that there are no fewer  $i$ -maximal matchings than there are  $(i - 1)$ -maximal matchings.

A type-1 child  $(M', i)$  of  $(M, i - 1)$  is obtained from  $(M, i - 1)$  in  $O(1)$  time by adding  $e_i$  if  $e_i$  is adjacent to no edge of  $M$ . To find type 2 children, we introduce the following variables and state several lemmas. For an  $i$ -maximal matching  $(M, i)$  and a vertex  $v$ , let  $A(v, M, i)$  be the set of edges  $(v, u) \in E_i$  such that  $u$  is incident to no edge of  $M$ . If  $v$  is incident to an edge  $e_j$  of  $M$ , we define  $l(v, M, i)$  by the number of edges  $e_l$  of  $A(v, M, i)$  with  $l < j$ . Let  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  denote the endpoints of  $e_i$ . An instance of  $A(v, M, i)$  and  $l(v, M, i)$  is illustrated in Figure 3.

**Lemma 2** *Suppose that  $|E(M, i - 1)| = 1$ , and  $E(M, i - 1) = \{(u_1, w_1)\}$  for a vertex  $u_1$ . Then,  $(M, i - 1)$  has a type-2 child if and only if the following conditions (1-a) and (1-b) hold.*

(1-a)  $A(u_1, M, i - 1) = \emptyset$ .

(1-b)  $l(w_1, M, i - 1) = 0$ , and  $(u_1, w_2)$  has a larger index than  $(u_1, w_1)$  if  $(u_1, w_2) \in E_i$ .

*Proof:* Suppose that  $(M', i)$  is a type-2 child of  $(M, i - 1)$ . Then  $M' = M \setminus \{(u_1, w_1)\} \cup \{e_i\}$ , and  $u_1$  is incident to no edge of  $M'$ . Hence, any vertex adjacent to  $u_1$  is incident to an edge of  $M'$ . Since  $w_1$  is incident to  $(u_1, w_1)$ , (1-a) holds. From this, it follows that  $\hat{E}(G_i, M' \setminus \{e_i\})$  is composed of edges in  $A(w_1, M, i - 1)$ , and includes  $(u_1, w_2)$  if  $(u_1, w_2) \in E_i$ . Hence, (1-b) holds.

Let  $M' = M \setminus \{(u_1, w_1)\} \cup \{e_i\}$ . Suppose that (1-a) and (1-b) both hold. From (1-a),  $\hat{E}(G_i, M \setminus \{(u_1, w_1)\})$  is composed of edges in  $A(w_1, M, i - 1) \cup \{(u_1, w_2)\}$ . Hence,  $\hat{E}(G_i, M') = \emptyset$ ,  $M'$  is an  $i$ -maximal matching, and  $p(M', i)$  includes exactly one edge  $e'$  that is not included in  $M'$ . From (1-b),  $e' = (u_1, w_1)$ . Hence,  $p(M', i) = (M, i - 1)$ . ■

**Lemma 3** *Suppose that  $|E(M, i - 1)| = 2$ , and  $E(M, i - 1) = \{(u_1, w_1), (u_2, w_2)\}$  where  $(u_1, w_1)$  has a smaller index than  $(u_2, w_2)$ . Then,  $(M, i - 1)$  has a type-2 child if and only if the following conditions, (2-a), (2-b), and (2-c), hold.*

(2-a)  $A(u_j, M, i - 1) = \emptyset$  for each  $j$ , and  $(u_1, u_2) \notin E_{i-1}$ .

(2-b)  $l(w_1, M, i - 1) = 0$  and any of  $(w_2, u_1)$  and  $(w_1, u_2)$  has a larger index than  $(w_1, u_1)$ .

(2-c)  $l(w_2, M, i - 1) = 0$ . ■

It can be proved in the same way as the proof of Lemma 2, hence we omit the proof. Refer the figure 3.

By using these lemmas, we can find all the children of an  $i$ -maximal matching. The following algorithm is our reverse search algorithm using this method for finding the children. By executing `ENUM_MAXIMAL_MATCHING` ( $\{e_1\}, 1$ ), we can enumerate all maximal matchings in  $G$ .

```

ALGORITHM ENUM_MAXIMAL_MATCHING ( $M, i$ )
(EM1) If  $i = n$  then output  $M$  and return // bottom of the recursion
      // Construct type 1 child
(EM2) If  $e_{i+1}$  is adjacent to an edge of  $M$  then  $M' := M$  else  $M' := M \cup \{e_{i+1}\}$ 
(EM3) Compute  $A(v, M', i + 1)$  and  $l(v, M', i + 1)$  // update  $A$  and  $l$ 
(EM4) Call ENUM_MAXIMAL_MATCHING ( $M', i + 1$ ) // recursive call for type 1 child
      // (EM5) to (EM10) check the existence of the type 2 child
(EM5) If  $e_{i+1}$  is adjacent to no edge of  $M$  then go to (EM13)
(EM6) For each  $(v, w_j) \in E(M, i + 1)$ 
      if  $A(v, M, i) \neq \emptyset$  or  $l(v, M, i) > 0$  then go to (EM13)
(EM7) If  $|E(M, i + 1)| = 2$  then do
(EM8)  If  $(u_1, u_2) \in E_i$  then go to (EM13)
(EM9)  For each  $e_j \in \{(u_1, w_2), (u_2, w_1)\}$ 
      If  $j <$  any index of any edge in  $E(M, i + 1)$  then go to (EM13)
(EM10) End If of (EM7)
(EM11)  $M' := M \cup \{e_{i+1}\} \setminus E(M, i + 1)$  // Construct type 2 child
(EM12) Compute  $A(v, M', i + 1)$  and  $l(v, M', i + 1)$  // update  $A$  and  $l$ 
(EM13) Call ENUM_MAXIMAL_MATCHING ( $M', i + 1$ ) // recursive call for type 2 child

```

**Lemma 4** *The time complexity of `ENUM_MAXIMAL_MATCHING` is  $O(|E|N)$  and the space complexity of it is  $O(|V| + |E|)$ .*

*Proof:* The memory complexity is obviously  $O(|V| + |E|)$ .

As we saw, an iteration takes  $O(1)$  time except for updating  $A$  and  $l$ . Let  $F \Delta F'$  denote the symmetric difference between two sets  $F$  and  $F'$ . For an edge set  $F$ ,  $V(F)$  denotes the vertices incident to an edge of  $F$ . For any matching  $M$  and its child  $M'$ ,  $|M \Delta M'|$  is constant. If a vertex  $v$  satisfies  $A(v, M, i) \neq A(v, M', i + 1)$  or  $l(v, M, i) \neq l(v, M', i + 1)$ , then  $v$  is in  $V(M \Delta M')$  or adjacent to a vertex of  $V(M \Delta M')$ . The update of  $A(v, M, i)$  and  $l(v, M, i)$  can be done in  $O(d(v))$  time if  $v \in V(M \Delta M')$ , and in  $O(1)$  time otherwise. The number of vertices adjacent to vertices of  $V(M \Delta M')$  is  $O(\Delta)$ . Since the number of type-2 children generated over all iterations is  $N - 1$ , the total computation time to update of  $A$  and  $l$  for the recursive calls of type 2 children is  $O(\Delta N)$ .

Next we bound the total updating time for type 1 children. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the set of  $(M, i)$  of the enumeration tree such that  $(M, i)$  is a type-2 child of  $p(M, i)$ . Consider a graph obtained from the enumeration tree by deleting edges  $((M, i), p(M, i))$  for each  $(M, i) \in \mathcal{C}$ . The graph is composed of paths. We call each of these paths *type-1 child paths*, and use  $\mathcal{P}$  to denote the set of all the type-1 child paths. An isolated vertex is also considered to be a type-1 child path. An example of generation of  $\mathcal{P}$  is shown in Figure 4. For a path  $P$  in the enumeration tree, let  $T(P)$  be the total computation to update for type 1 children in the iterations corresponding to the vertices of  $P$ .

Suppose that  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  is composed of maximal matchings  $(M_k, k), \dots, (M_n, n)$ . From the above,

$$T(P) = O\left(\sum_{i=k}^{n-1} \sum_{v \in V(M_i \Delta M_{i+1})} d(v)\right)$$

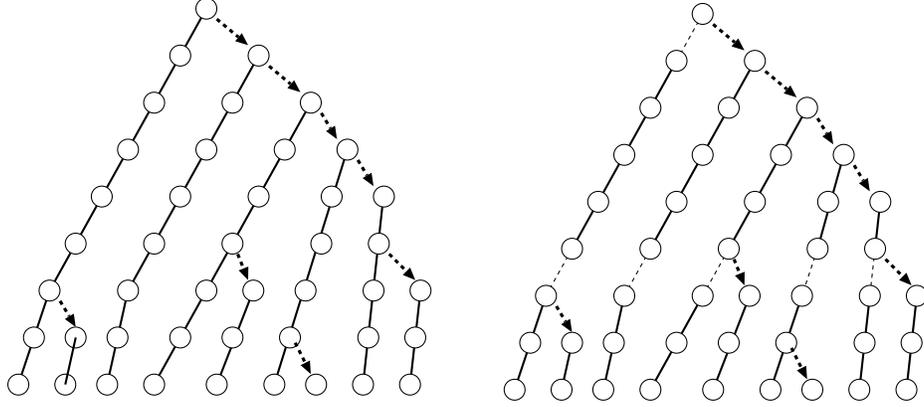


Figure 4: Partitioning the enumeration tree: the left side is partitioned into type-1 paths, and the right side is partitioned to paths of  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= O\left(2 \sum_{v \in V(M_n \setminus M_k)} d(v)\right) \\
 &= O(|E|)
 \end{aligned}$$

since any pair of  $M_i$  and  $M_{i+1}$  satisfy  $M_i \subseteq M_{i+1}$ . Since any internal vertex has a type-1 child, one of the endpoints of any  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  must be a leaf, hence  $|\mathcal{P}| = N$ . Therefore, the time complexity of this algorithm is  $O(|E|N)$ . ■

### 3 Reduce the Time Complexity

In the previous section, we bound the time complexity by  $O(|E|N)$  since any type-1 child path can have a length up to  $|E|$ . If the mean length of type-1 child paths is smaller than  $\Theta(|E|)$ , then we can reduce the time complexity. The lengths of type-1 child paths change with the indices of the edges changes. So, by finding a good ordering of edges, we may obtain a smaller time complexity. Consider an enumeration tree. If any type-1 child path  $P$  includes a number of vertices having type-2 children that is proportional to the length of  $P$ , then the computation time per type-1 child path can be reduced. Conversely, if several type-1 child paths have subpaths composed of matchings that have no type-2 child, then we may not be able to produce no ‘god’ analysis. Thus, we introduce an ordering of edges in consideration of these conditions.

Let us look at the following algorithm for generating desired indices of edges. The algorithm takes  $G$  as its input, then assigns indices by using a partition  $B_1, \dots, B_k$  of  $E$  which are generated in the computation of the algorithm.

**Algorithm** PUT\_INDICES ( $G = (V, E)$ )

(PI1)  $b, b' :=$  edges adjacent to each other

(PI2) **If** no such pair exists **then**  $i := 1$  ;  $B_1 := E$  ;  $K_0 := 0$

(PI3) **Else**  $S := \{b, b', \text{ and all edges adjacent to } b \text{ or } b'\}$

(PI4)  $E := E \setminus S$  ;  $i :=$  PUT\_INDICES ( $G$ ) ;  $E := E \cup S$

(PI5)  $b_i := b$  ;  $b'_i := b'$  ;  $B_i := S$

(PI6) **End if**

(PI7)  $K_i := K_{i-1} + |B_i|$

(PI8) Assign unique indices ranging from  $K_{i-1} + 1$  to  $K_i$  to all edges of  $B_i$

(PI9) **Return**  $i$

Each  $K_i$  satisfies  $K_i = \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} |B_j|$ , hence the edges are assigned unique indices. The indices satisfy the property that the index of any edge  $e \in B_i$  is smaller than that of any edge  $e'$  of  $B_j$  if  $i < j$ . For any  $i$ , we have  $|B_i| < 3\Delta$  and  $b_i$  and  $b'_i$  are adjacent to no edge of  $B_j$ , for any  $j < i$ . Since any edge of  $G$  is deleted only once by the algorithm, this algorithm takes  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time and  $O(|V| + |E|)$  memory.

Consider a partition of a type-1 child path obtained by removing edges  $((M, K_j+1), p(M, K_j+1))$  for all possible  $K'_j$ 's. Let  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$  be the set of all subpaths obtained by partitioning each type-1 child path. An example of the generation of  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$  is shown in Figure 4. For a path  $P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}}$ , let the head of  $P$  be the vertex of  $P$  which is an ancestor of all the other vertices of  $P$ . Since  $B_1$  is a matching, any  $G_i$  that has  $i \leq K_1$  has only one maximal matching. Hence, only a path  $P_0$  satisfies the property that the head  $(M, i)$  of  $P_0$  satisfies  $i < K_2$  among all paths in  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$ . When the indices assigned by the algorithm are used,  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$  satisfies the following properties.

**Property 1** For any  $P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}}$ ,  $T(P) = O(\Delta)$ .

*Proof:* Suppose that  $P$  is composed of maximal matchings  $\{(M_p, p), (M_{p+1}, p+1), \dots, (M_q, q)\}$ . If  $P = P_0$ , then the maximum degree of any  $G_i$ ,  $p \leq i \leq q$  is one, hence  $T(P) = O(p-q+1) = O(\Delta)$ . Consider the case  $P \neq P_0$ . Since all edges of  $B_i$  are adjacent to  $b_i$  or  $b'_i$ ,  $M_q \setminus M_p$  includes at most three edges. Hence, from the proof of Lemma 4, the condition can be seen to hold. ■

**Property 2** For any vertex  $(M, K_i)$ ,  $1 < K_i < n$ , at least two  $K_{i+1}$ -maximal matchings are descendants of  $(M, K_i)$ .

*Proof:* Since  $K_i > 1$ , both  $b_i$  and  $b'_i$  are defined. Since  $b_i$  and  $b'_i$  are incident to no edge of  $B_j$  for any  $j < i$ , there are two  $K_{i+1}$ -maximal matchings  $(M'_1, K_{i+1}), M \cup \{b_i\} \subseteq M'_1$  and  $(M'_2, K_{i+1}), M \cup \{b'_i\} \subseteq M'_2$ . To obtain the parent of any  $(M', j)$ , no edge with an index smaller than  $j$  is deleted. Hence, for each  $(M'_j, K_{i+1})$ , the ancestor  $(\hat{M}, K_i)$  of  $(M'_j, K_{i+1})$ , which is a  $K_i$ -maximal matching, includes all edges of  $M$ . Since  $M$  is a  $K_i$ -maximal matching,  $M = \hat{M}$ . ■

**Property 3**  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$  includes at most  $2N$  paths.

*Proof:* We describe a function  $f : \hat{\mathcal{P}} \setminus \{P_0\} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that for any  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , at most two paths  $P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}} \setminus \{P_0\}$  satisfy  $f(P) = c$ . Note that  $|\mathcal{C}| = N - 1$ . For any  $P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}} \setminus \{P_0\}$ , if the head  $c$  of  $P$  is an element of  $\mathcal{C}$ , then we define  $f(P) = c$ . If not, from Property 2, at least one vertex of  $P$  has a type-2 child  $c'$ . Hence, we define  $f(P) = c'$ . From this,  $f$  is defined on all paths in  $\hat{\mathcal{P}} \setminus \{P_0\}$ , and at most two paths  $P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}} \setminus \{P_0\}$  satisfy  $f(P) = c$  for any  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ . Thus, we have  $|\hat{\mathcal{P}}| \leq 2N$ . ■

From these properties, we can bound the time complexity of the algorithm.

**Theorem 1** All maximal matchings of a non-bipartite graph  $G = (V, E)$  can be enumerated in  $O(|E| + |V| + \Delta N)$  time within  $O(|E| + |V|)$  memory space where  $N$  is the number of maximal matchings in  $G$ , and  $\Delta$  is the degree of the maximum degree vertex of  $G$ .

*Proof:* From the above properties, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}}} T(P) &= \sum_{P \in \hat{\mathcal{P}}} O(\Delta) \\ &= |\hat{\mathcal{P}}| O(\Delta) \\ &= O(\Delta N). \end{aligned}$$

The time to output is  $O(|V|)$ . This can be decreased by using *compact output method* [3, 4], which outputs object by the symmetric difference between the object and the object output just before. Since the symmetric difference between a parent and its child is constant size, the total computation time for outputting is reduced to the order of the number of the iteration. Hence, the time complexity of the algorithm is  $O(\Delta N)$ . ■

## 4 Conclusion

We have considered the problem of enumerating all maximal matchings of a given non-bipartite graph  $G = (V, E)$ . We have constructed a simple algorithm by improving the algorithm of Tsukiyama et al., and proved that the time complexity of the algorithm is bounded by  $O(\Delta N)$  by assigning indices to the edges in our way. The space complexity of the algorithm is  $O(|E|)$ , the same as that of the algorithm of Tsukiyama et al. Here  $N$  denotes the number of maximal matchings in the graph, and  $\Delta$  denotes the maximum degree of  $G$ . The second area where we have made improvements is not based on modification of the algorithm, which can be considered interesting from the viewpoint of algorithm engineering. However, the problem of decreasing the time complexity of stable set enumeration is still open. Further research may achieve solid results in this area.

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