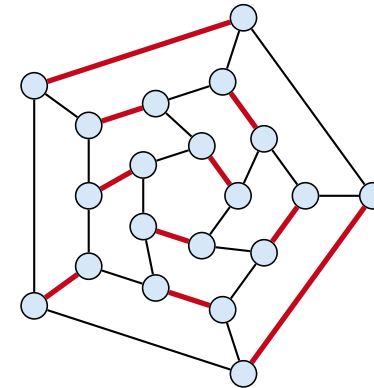


Part V

Matchings

Matching

- ▶ Input: undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.
- ▶ $M \subseteq E$ is a **matching** if each node appears in at most one edge in M .
- ▶ Maximum Matching: find a matching of maximum cardinality



16 Bipartite Matching via Flows

Which flow algorithm to use?

- ▶ Generic augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot \text{val}(f^*)) = \mathcal{O}(mn)$.
- ▶ Capacity scaling: $\mathcal{O}(m^2 \log C) = \mathcal{O}(m^2)$.
- ▶ Shortest augmenting path: $\mathcal{O}(mn^2)$.

For **unit capacity simple graphs** shortest augmenting path can be implemented in time $\mathcal{O}(m\sqrt{n})$.

17 Augmenting Paths for Matchings

Definitions.

- ▶ Given a matching M in a graph G , a vertex that is not incident to any edge of M is called a **free vertex** w. r. t. M .
- ▶ For a matching M a path P in G is called an **alternating path** if edges in M alternate with edges not in M .
- ▶ An alternating path is called an **augmenting path** for matching M if it ends at distinct free vertices.

Theorem 1

A matching M is a maximum matching if and only if there is no augmenting path w. r. t. M .