

We have a ground set  $S$  of  $n$  elements. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a family of subsets,  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^S$  (power set)  $\mathcal{I}$ : are those subsets - that are "feasible". We have a weight function  $w: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

For a subset  $P \subset S$

$$w(P) = \sum_{x \in P} w(x)$$

Objective: Find the largest weight subset from  $\mathcal{I}$ .

All (maximization) optimization problems can be formulated in this framework

For example: Knapsack problem

$$S: \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

$\mathcal{J}$  : all subsets of objects such that their weight is  $\leq B$

$$\underline{P \in \mathcal{J}} \quad \sum_{x_i \in P} v_i x_i \leq B$$

Maximize :  $\sum w(x)$

$$w(x_i) = w_i$$

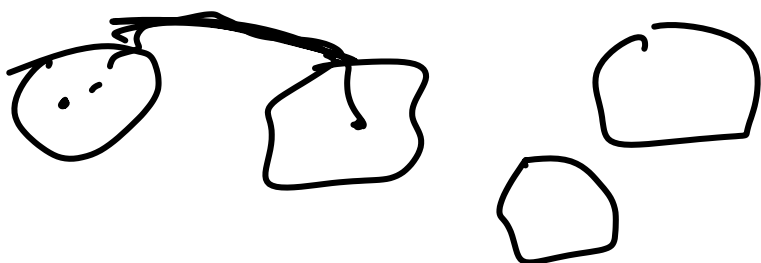
Minimum Spanning Tree  
(Maximum) (Forest)  $G = (V, E)$   
weight func  $w$

$S$  : set of edge  $E$

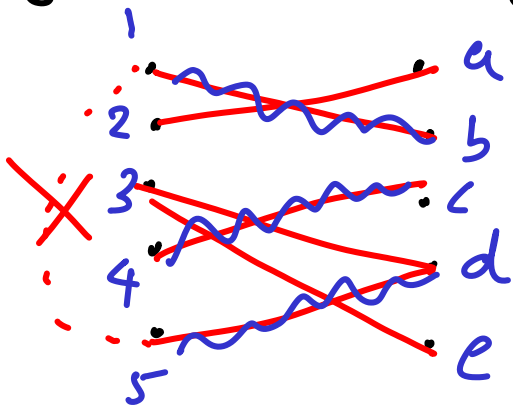
$\mathcal{J}$  : all subsets of edges that do not have an induced cycle, i.e. all forests

Objective fn : Find the max weight forest.

Obs If the graph  $G = (V, E)$  is connected then the soln is a tree (connected)



# Eg. Matching in Graphs (bipartite)



Find a subset of edges such that no vertex has two edges incident

## Maximum Cardinality matching (MCM)

Find a matching with max # edges

## Maximum Weight Matching (MWM)

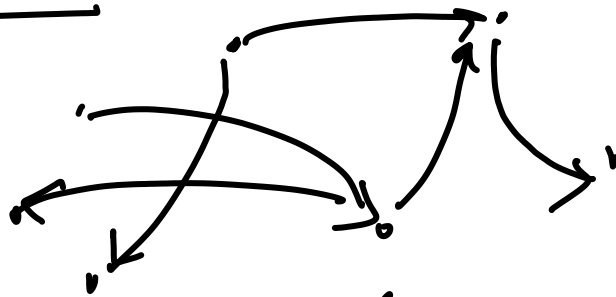
Each edge has a weight and we pick the matching with max weight

$S$ :  $E$   $\mathcal{J}$ : subset of edges without common end-points

Obj function of MWM: pick the max wt subset from  $\mathcal{J}$

## Half matching:

Pick a subset of edges so that no vertex has more than one incoming edge



# Generic greedy algorithm

$S$ : ground set of elements  $e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_m$

$\mathcal{I}$ : family of "independent" subsets

$w$ : weight function  $w: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

Objective: find a subset  $P \subset S, P \in \mathcal{I}$   
 $w(P)$  is maxm.

Initialize  $T = \emptyset$

Order the elements in decreasing  
sequence of weights (assume  $O(m \log m)$   
 $w_1, w_2, \dots$  is ordered)

for  $i = 1$  to  $m$  do

$\sum_i T(i)$  [ if  $T \cup \{e_i\} \in \mathcal{I}$  then  
 $T \leftarrow T \cup \{e_i\}$  ]

Output  $T$

When is  $T$  the optimal soln?

Greedy succeeds for a problem if  
it solves all instances.

Subset system  $M: (S, \mathcal{I})$

$M$  is a subset system if

$$\forall P \in \mathcal{I}, Q \subset P \quad Q \in \mathcal{I}$$

$M$  is a matroid if

generic greedy solves the optimization problem for any weight function.

The following are equivalent

①  $M = (S, \mathcal{I})$  is a matroid

② Exchange property: For all

$$P, Q \in \mathcal{I}, |P| > |Q|$$

$$\exists e \in P - Q \quad \text{s.t.} \quad Q \cup \{e\} \in \mathcal{I}$$

(3) Let  $A \subseteq S$

Then all 'maximal' subsets of  $A$  have the same cardinality