# Greedy Algorithms, Matroids, and Parallel Complextiy 

Joint work with Sumanta Ghosh and Roshan Raj

NISER Bhubaneswar
July 28, 2023

## Outline

- Introduction to matroids and connection with greedy algorithms
- Search vs. decision: parallel complexity
- Matroid intersection: deterministic parallel search to decision reduction


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- Search vs. decision: parallel complexity
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Takeaways:

- Isolation Lemma
- Succinct representation of all MSTs
- Succinct representation of all maximum weight perfect matchings


## Maximum weight spanning tree

## Kruskal's Algorithm

- Sort the edges in decreasing order of weights.
- Keep selecting edges which do not create a cycle (maintain a forest).


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## Matroids in Computer Science

- Combinatorial optimization
- Game theory
- Online algorithms
- Algebraic problems


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Figure: Graphic Matroid $\cap$ Partition Matroid

- At most 1 incoming edge at each vertex.


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Examples:

- Rainbow spanning tree
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- r-Arborescences in a directed graph
- Finding two disjoint spanning trees (Homework)


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- Is Search as easy as Decision?


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- [Karp, Upfal, Wigderson 1985] studied this question, motivated by the parallel complexity status of matching and matroid intersection.


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Some exciting progress recently.


## Search to weighted-decision

Search to weighted-decision deterministic parallel reduction

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- Works for an arbitrary family of sets.
- Derandomizing Isolation Lemma remains an open question.


## Search to weighted-decision: Deterministic Reduction

## Main technical result

- Given two matroids,
- construct a weight assignment such that there is only one max weight common base (rainbow spanning tree)
- using $O\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$ rounds of weighted-decision queries.


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- Crucially use a succinct representation of the set of max weight common bases.


## Succinct representation of all MSTs

- First question: How do we succinctly represent all maximum weight bases of a Matroid?
- How do we succinctly represent all maximum weight spanning trees in a graph?


## Succinct representation of all MSTs



Figure: Graph G

## Succinct representation of all MSTs



Figure: Graph $G$


Figure: Graph $G_{40}$

## Succinct representation of all MSTs



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MSTs in $G=\left\{\right.$ largest forests in $\left.G_{40}\right\} \times\left\{\right.$ largest forests in $\left.G_{30}\right\} \times$ \{largest forests in $G_{20}$ \}

## Succinct representation of all MSTs

Observation: Every MST takes

- 1 edge from $G_{40}$
- 3 edges from $G_{30}$
- and 1 edge from $G_{20}$.


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$\left\{\max\right.$ weight bases in $M_{1}$ w.r.t. $w_{1}$ \}
$\cap$
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## Weight-splitting for Bipartite Perfect Matching



Three perfect matchings

Figure: Weight-splitting

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Thm: All maximum weight perfect matchings can be obtained this way.

## Ideas

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- Consider two max weight common bases and their symmetric difference.


Consider two max weight common bases.

Figure: A cycle in two common bases


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## Efficiency:

- When there are no cycles of length $\leq 2^{i}$, the number of cycles of length $\leq 2^{i+1}$ is polynomial.


## Questions

- Derandomize the Isolation Lemma even for Bipartite Matching.


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- Search to decision reduction (in parallel) for bipartite matching.


## Questions

- Derandomize the Isolation Lemma even for Bipartite Matching.
- Search to decision reduction (in parallel) for bipartite matching.
- Search to weighted-decision: for what all optimization problems?

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