

## An algorithm for solving the edge-disjoint path problem on tournament graphs

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## 1 Introduction

Given a connected graph  $G = (V, E)$  and  $K$  pairs of vertices  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, K$ , the edge-disjoint path problem asks to construct  $K$  pairwise edge-disjoint paths connecting each pair  $(x_i, y_i)$  from source  $x_i$  to sink  $y_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, K$ , where paths  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_l$ ,  $l \geq 2$ , are edge-disjoint. A tournament graph (tournament for short) is a directed graph such that there is precisely one edge between each pair of vertices. On tournaments, J. Bang-Jensen showed a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths and an  $O(n^4)$  time algorithm for examining the existence of such paths where  $n$  is the number of vertices [1]. In this paper, we propose an  $O(n^2)$  time algorithm for examining the existence of edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths and for constructing them, if they exist, using the property of tournaments.

## 2 Definition

A digraph  $D$  consists of a pair  $V(D), A(D)$  where  $V(D)$  is a finite set of vertices and  $A(D)$  is a set of ordered pairs  $(u, v)$  of vertices, called edges. If an edge  $(u, v)$  exists in  $A(D)$ , we say that  $u$  dominates  $v$ . The number of vertices  $y \in U \subseteq V(D)$  dominated by  $x$  is denoted by  $d_U^+(x)$ . We call  $d_{V(D)}^+(x)$  the out-degree of  $x$  and simply is denoted by  $d^+(x)$ . Similarly, the number of vertices  $y \in U \subseteq V(D)$  dominating  $x$  is denoted by  $d_U^-(x)$  and  $d_{V(D)}^-(x)$  ( $d^-(x)$  for short) is called the in-degree of  $x$ . A component  $D'$  of a digraph is a maximal subgraph such that for any two vertices  $x, y$  of  $D'$ ,  $D'$  contains an  $(x, y)$ -path and  $(y, x)$ -path. A digraph  $D$  is strong if it has only one component.

## 3 Algorithm

We first describe a property of tournament.

[Property 1] When tournament  $T$  is not strong, it is divided into some components and we can label these components  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_l$  such that each vertex of  $T_j$  dominates all vertices of  $T_i$  if  $i < j$ . □

We say that  $T_1$  ( respectively,  $T_l$  ) is the initial component ( respectively, the terminal component ) of  $T$ .

By Property 1, for each degree  $d^+(v)$ , if  $v_i \in V(T_i)$ ,  $v_j \in V(T_j)$ ,  $i < j$ , is satisfied, then  $d^+(v_i) < d^+(v_j)$  holds. Moreover, the following lemma is deduced.

[Lemma 1] If  $d^+(v_i) = d^+(v_j)$  is satisfied, then  $v_i, v_j$  belong to the same component.

J. Bang-Jensen gave the necessary and sufficient condition of the existence of two edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths in tournament  $T$ .

[Definition 1] [1] Let  $T$  be a strong tournament and let  $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2$  be four different vertices in  $T$ . The 5-tuple  $(T, x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)$  is said to be of Type 1a. There exists a proper subset  $S_1 \subset V(T)$  such that  $y_1, y_2 \in S_1$ ,  $x_1, x_2 \in S_2 = T - S_1$  and there is exactly one edge from  $S_2$  to  $S_1$  in  $T$ .

Type 1b. It is not of Type 1a and there exists a partition  $S_1, S_2, S_3$  of  $V(T)$  into disjoint non empty subsets with the following conditions.  $y_i \in S_1$ ,  $x_i, y_{3-i} \in S_2$ ,  $x_{3-i} \in S_3$ , for  $i = 1$  or  $2$ : Vertices in  $S_1$  dominate all the vertices in  $S_2$  which again dominate all the vertices in  $S_3$ : There exists exactly one edge from  $S_3$  to  $S_1$  and it goes from the terminal component in  $T[S_3]$  to the initial component in  $T[S_1]$ .

Type 2r. For some  $r \geq 1$ , there exists a partition  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{2r+2}$  of  $V(T)$  into disjoint non empty subsets with the following conditions.  $y_i \in S_1$ ,  $y_{3-i} \in S_2$ ,  $x_{3-i} \in S_{2r+1}$ ,  $x_i \in S_{2r+2}$  for  $i = 1$  or  $2$ : All the edges between  $S_i$  and  $S_j$  where  $i < j$  go from  $S_i$  to  $S_j$  with the following exceptions: There exists precisely one edge from  $S_j$  to  $S_{j-2}$ ,  $j = 3, \dots, 2r + 2$ , and it goes from the terminal component in  $T[S_j]$  to the initial component in  $T[S_{j-2}]$ .

Type 2r+1. For some  $r \geq 1$ , there exists a partition  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{2r+3}$  of  $V(T)$  into disjoint non empty subsets with the following conditions.  $y_i \in S_1$ ,  $y_{3-i} \in S_2$ ,  $x_i \in S_{2r+2}$ ,  $x_{3-i} \in S_{2r+3}$  for  $i = 1$  or  $2$ : All the edges between  $S_i$  and  $S_j$  where  $i < j$  go from  $S_i$  to  $S_j$  with the following exceptions: There exists precisely one edge from  $S_j$  to  $S_{j-2}$ ,  $j = 3, \dots, 2r + 3$ , and it goes from the terminal component in  $T[S_j]$  to the initial component in  $T[S_{j-2}]$ . □

[Lemma 2 ][1] Let  $T$  be a tournament and let  $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2$  be different vertices such that  $T$  contains an  $(x_i, y_i)$ -path  $i = 1, 2$ . Then  $T$  has edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths unless  $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2$  all belong to the same component  $T_j$  of  $T$  and  $(T, x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)$  is of one of the types 1a, 1b, 2r or 2r+1 for some  $r \geq 1$ , in Definition 1, in which case  $T$  does not have these paths.  $\square$

Based on the property and these lemmas, we get the following procedure for examining whether edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths exist or not.

### Procedure Check\_Existence

begin

(Step 1) Check whether  $T$  has an  $(x_i, y_i)$ -path for  $i = 1$  and 2, not necessary edge-disjoint. If not then  $T$  does not have edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths and the procedure stops.

(Step 2)

$d_{\max}^+(v) \leftarrow \max\{d^+(w) \mid (v, w) \in E(T)\}$ .

$\mathcal{V}_{\max}^+[i] \leftarrow w$ .

(Step 3) Set the degree  $d_{\max}^+(v_i)$  of  $v_i$  into array  $\mathcal{D}^+[i], i = 1, \dots, n$ , and sort  $\mathcal{D}^+[i]$  in the order of ascending degree. Calculate the value of  $\mathcal{T}[i], \mathcal{S}[i]$  and  $\mathcal{Dif}[i]$ .

$\mathcal{T}[0] \leftarrow 0$ .

for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

begin

$\mathcal{T}[i] \leftarrow \mathcal{T}[i-1] + \mathcal{D}^+[i]$ .

$\mathcal{S}[i] \leftarrow \binom{i}{2}$ .

$\mathcal{Dif}[i] \leftarrow \mathcal{T}[i] - \mathcal{S}[i]$ .

end

(Step 4) Check whether  $x_1, y_1, x_2$  and  $y_2$  all belong to the same component  $T_j$  of  $T$ . If not then  $T$  has edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths and the procedure stops.

(Step 5) Let  $T = T_j$  (namely, throw away the rest of  $T$ ).

(Step 6) Assume that  $d^+(x_i) \leq d^+(x_{3-i})$ .

( In the following steps, we examine whether  $T$  is divided into some component or not by exchanging the direction of an edge  $(v, w)$ . )

In the order of ascending degree, check Condition 1 below and get a vertex  $v$  satisfying the condition first. If there is no vertex satisfying Condition 1, edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths exist and stops.

Condition 1 : at least one of  $\mathcal{Dif}[1], \dots, \mathcal{Dif}[I_{\max}(d_{\max}^+(v)) - 1]$  has 1 and its index is not less than  $I_{\min}(d^+(x_i))$ .

On  $\mathcal{Dif}[I_{\max}(v)], \dots, \mathcal{Dif}[I_{\max}(d_{\max}^+(v)) - 1]$ , find index  $i$  such that  $\mathcal{Dif}[i] = 1$ . Assume here that an  $(v, w)$  is selected and  $\mathcal{Dif}[i] = \mathcal{Dif}[j] = \dots = \mathcal{Dif}[k] = 1, i < j < \dots < k$  hold. By exchanging the direction of the edge  $(v, w)$ ,  $T$  is not strong and an induced subgraph  $D[\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i\}]$  is a component  $T_1$ ,

$D[\{v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j\}]$  is  $T_2, \dots, D[\{v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n\}]$  is  $T_l$ . (Step 7) Find a component including  $x_i$ . We here assume that  $x_i \in V(T_k)$ .

(Case I) When  $x_{3-i}$  also exists in  $T_k$ .

(I.I) If either  $y_i$  or  $y_{3-i}$  belongs to  $T_1, \dots, T_k$ , edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths exist in  $T$  and the procedure stops.

(I.II) If both  $y_i$  and  $y_{3-i}$  exist in  $T_{k+1}, \dots, T_l$ , edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths do not exist in  $T$  and the procedure stops.

(Case II) When  $x_{3-i}$  exists in  $T_j, k < j$ .

(II.I) If  $y_{3-i}$  exists in  $V(T_j)$ , edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths exist in  $T$  and the procedure stops.

(II.II) If  $y_{3-i}$  exists in  $V(T_{j'})$ ,  $j' < j$ , edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths exist in  $T$  and the procedure stops.

(II.III) If  $y_{3-i}$  exists in  $V(T_{j'})$ ,  $j' > j$ , edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths do not exist in  $T$  and the procedure stops.

(Case III) When  $x_{3-i}, y_i$  and  $y_{3-i}$  all belong to  $T_l$ .

Let  $T = T_l$  and  $x_i = w$ , namely, remove vertices and edges which do not belong to  $T_l$  from  $T$ . Actually, it is sufficient for the procedure to changes the value of arrays  $\mathcal{D}^+, \mathcal{Dif}, d_{\max}^+, \mathcal{V}^+$ .

Go to Step 6.

end.  $\square$

[Lemma 3 ] On tournament, Procedure Check\_Existence can examine whether edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths exist or not.  $\square$

[Theorem 1 ] Procedure Check\_Existence can examine the existence of edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths in  $O(n^2)$  time.  $\square$

We obtain the following result though we do not write details because of the lack of space.

[Theorem 2 ] Procedure Find\_Path can find edge-disjoint  $(x_1, y_1)$ -,  $(x_2, y_2)$ -paths in  $O(n^2)$  time.  $\square$

### References

- [1] J. Bang-Jensen: "Edge-Disjoint In- and Out-Branchings in Tournaments and Related Path Problems", *Journal Combinatorial Theory, Series B*, 51, pp.1-23. 1991.