

$$w(G-x) = n$$

$$n > m.$$

$$w(G-x) > m = |X|.$$

$$(i.e) w(G-x) > |X|.$$

This is a contradiction to (1).

$\therefore G$  is non-hamiltonian.

$\therefore G$  is non-hamiltonian.

### UNIT-III

### Matchings.

Definitions :

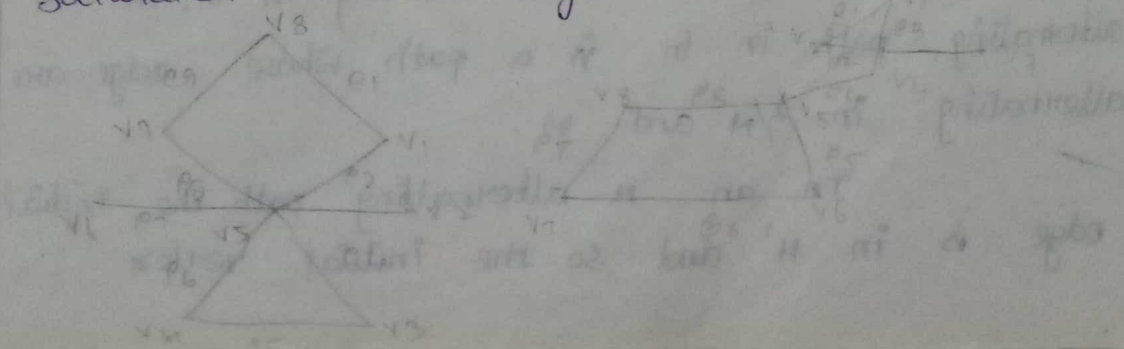
Let  $G$  be a graph with edge set  $E$ . A subset  $M$  of  $E$  is called a matching in  $G$ . If its elements are links and no two elements (edges) of  $M$  are adjacent in  $G$ .

The two ends of the edge in  $M$  are said to be matched under  $M$ . Thus two vertices of a graph  $G$  are matched under  $M$ . If the edge joining the vertices is a member of the matching  $M$ .

The number of edges in  $M$  is called the matching  $m$ .

$M$ -Saturated :

A vertex  $v$  of  $G$  is said to be  $M$  saturated if some edge of  $M$  is incident on  $v$ .



For the graph  $G$ ,

$$M = \{e_1, e_3, e_4\}$$

$v_5, v_6, v_4, v_3, v_1$  are  $M$ -saturated.

$v_2$  and  $v$  are  $M$ -unsaturated.

**$M$ -unsaturated:**

A vertex  $v$  of  $G$  is said to be  $M$ -unsaturated if no edge of  $M$  is incident on  $v$ .

**perfect matching:**

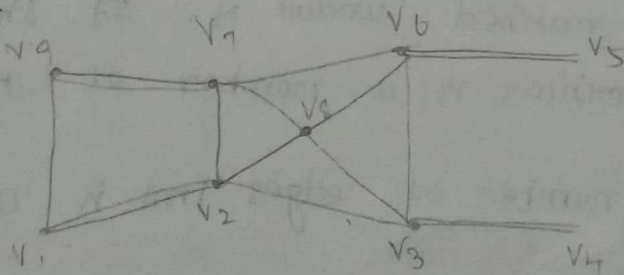
Let  $M$  be a matching in a graph  $G$ . If every vertex of  $G$  is  $M$ -saturated then the matching  $M$  is called perfect matching.

**Maximum matching:**

A matching  $M$  of a graph  $G$  is called maximum matching if there is no other matching  $M'$  of  $G$  with the property.

$$|M'| > |M|$$

EX:



Graph B.

**$M$ -alternating path:**

Let  $M$  be a matching in  $G$ . An  $M$ -alternating path in  $G$  is a path whose edges are alternating in  $E/M$  and  $M$ .

In an  $M$ -alternating path the initial edge is in  $M'$  and so the initial vertex

of the path is  $M$ -saturated.

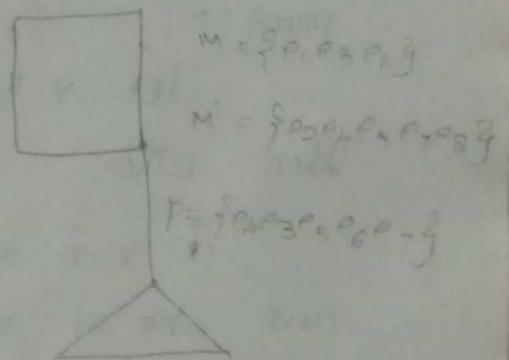
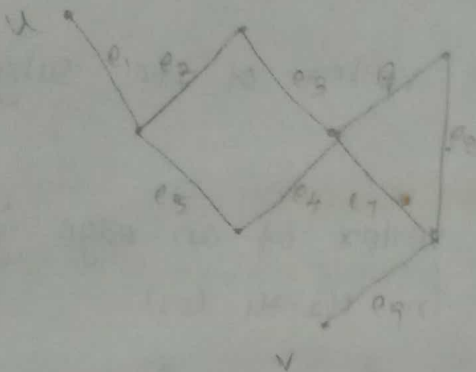
For ex:

Graph(a) the path  $v_5, v_8, v_9, v_7, v_6$  is an alternating path.

$M$ -augmenting path:

An  $M$ -augmenting path in  $G$  is an  $M$ -alternating path whose origin and terminus are  $M$ -unsaturated.

Ex:



For the graph  $G$ , consider the matching

$$M = \{e_2, e_7\}$$

$$M' = E/M = \{e_1, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_8, e_9\}$$

The  $u$ - $v$  path  $p: e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8, e_9$  has the terminal edges  $e_1, e_9 \in M$  and so the final and initial vertices of the path  $p$  are  $M$ -unsaturated.

Note:

The alternating path any two vertices in a graph need not be unique.

Result:

Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be two matchings in a simple graph  $G$ . Let  $H$  be a subgraph of  $G$  induced by the set of edges  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .

$\Rightarrow (M_1 - M_2) \cup (M_2 - M_1)$  is by the symmetric difference of the two matchings.

Then each connected component of  $H$  is of one of the following two types.

A cycle of even length whose edges are alternatively in  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .

A path whose edges are alternately in  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and whose end vertices are unsaturated in one of the two matchings.

Proof:

Let  $v$  be any vertex of the subgraph  $H$ . Then either

(i)  $v$  is an end vertex of an edge in  $M_1 - M_2$  and also of an edge in  $M_2 - M_1$  (or)

In either case, since  $M_1$  is a matching, there is at most one edge in  $M_1$  with  $v$  as one of its end points and similarly there is at most one edge in  $M_2$  with  $v$  as one of its end point.

(ii)  $v$  is an end vertex of an edge in one of  $M_1 - M_2$  and  $M_2 - M_1$ , but not both.

Thus in case (i),  $v$  has degree 2 in  $H$ , while in case (ii)  $v$  has degree 1 in  $H$ .

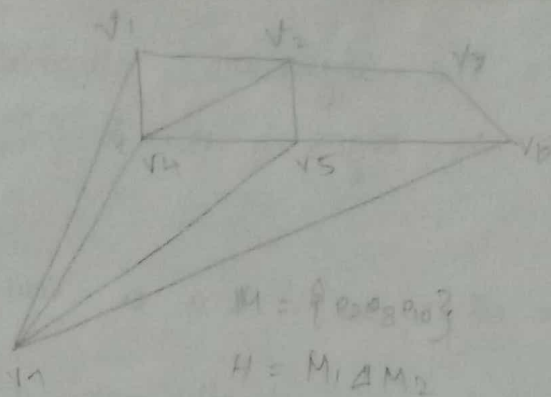
Hence every vertex of  $H$  has either degree 1 or degree 2.

Ex:

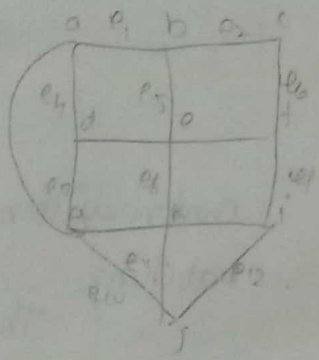
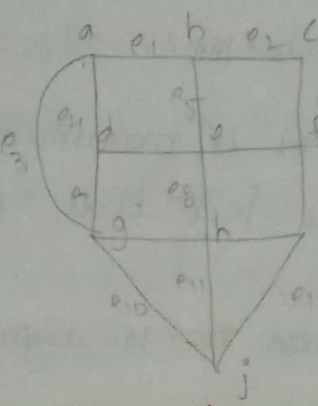
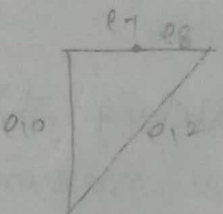
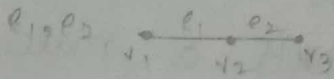
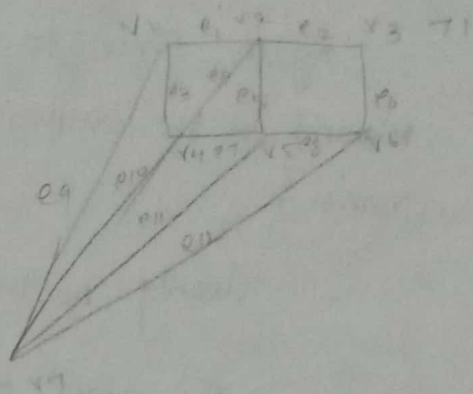
Consider the graph  $G$ . Let  $M_1$  be the matching  $\{e_2, e_8, e_{16}\}$  and take  $M_2$  to be the matchings  $\{e_1, e_7, e_{13}\}$

$$M_1 \cup M_2 = \{e_2, e_8, e_{16}\} \cup \{e_1, e_7, e_{13}\}$$

$$= \{e_1, e_2, e_7, e_8, e_{13}, e_{16}\}$$



$M = \{e_1, e_3, e_6\}$   
 $H = M_1 \Delta M_2$



**Theorem: [Berge's theorem]**

v.v. Imp  
u.o. Proof:

A matching  $M$  in  $G$  is a maximum matching iff  $G$  contains no  $M$ -augmenting path.

Let  $M$  be a maximum matching in  $G$ .

We have to prove that  $G$  contains no  $M$ -augmenting path.

Suppose that  $G$  contains an  $M$ -augmenting path

$P$ .  
clearly  $P$  has an even number of vertices or an odd number of edges, which are alternatively from  $E/M$  and  $M$ .

Let  $P: v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{2m}, v_{2m+1}$ .

$\therefore P$  is an  $M$ -augmenting path the end vertices  $v_0$  and  $v_{2m+1}$  are  $M$ -unsaturated.

So the edges  $v_0v_1, v_{2m}v_{2m+1} \in M'$

Thus are  $2m+1$  edges in the path  $P$ . Since the first and the last are from  $M'$ , there are  $m+1$  edges define  $M' \subseteq E$  by  $M$ .

$M' = (M / \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{2m-1}, v_{2m}\}) \cup \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{2m}, v_{2m+1}\}$

$|M| = m$  and  $|M'| = m+1$ , so  $|M'| > |M|$

Again since in  $p$  the edges are alternatively from  $M'$  and  $M$  the sequence of edges in  $M'$  is  $\{v_0v_1, v_2v_3, \dots, v_{2m}, v_{2m+1}\}$ .

Clearly no two edges of  $M'$  have a common vertex.

$\therefore$  The edges of  $M'$  are mutually non-adjacent and so  $M'$  is itself a matching.

~~And~~  $|M'| = |M| + 1$ .  $|M'| = |M| + 1$

$\therefore M$  is not a maximum matching, which is a contradiction to the fact that  $M$  is a maximum matching.

Thus  $G$  has no  $M$ -augmenting path.

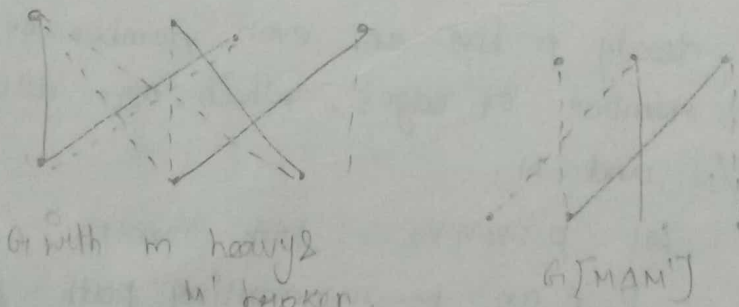
Conversely,

Suppose that  $M$  is not a maximum matching, and let  $M'$  be a maximum matching in  $G$ .

Then  $|M'| > |M| \rightarrow \text{O.K.}$

consider the subgraph  $H = G[M \Delta M']$ .

When  $M \Delta M'$  denoted the symmetric difference of  $M$  and  $M'$ .



$H = (M - M') \cup (M' - M)$

Since each vertex of  $H$  is incident with at least one edge with  $M$  or  $M'$  and at most two edges of one with  $M$  and another with  $M'$ . each vertex of  $H$  has degree either one or two.

must be a path component of odd length, and it must start and end with edges from  $M'$

Therefore the components of  $H$  are cycles or paths in which the edges alternate between  $M$  and  $M'$ . As  $M'$  containing more edges than  $M$ , there are more paths than cycles. Therefore end vertices are saturated in  $M'$ . Therefore a graph with a set of vertices is denoted by  $(X, Y)$ . vertex  $(x, y)$ . proof:  $(x, y)$ . Saturated under that cannot

*we observe that each vertex of  $H$  has degree 1 or 2. For if a vertex can be incident at most on an edge*

The components of  $H$  are cycles or paths of even length or paths of odd length. As  $M'$  contains more edges than  $M$ , there

Thus each component of  $H$  is either an even cycle with edges alternatively in  $M$  and  $M'$  or else <sup>odd</sup> on path with edges alternatively in  $M$  and  $M'$ .

By (i)  $H$  contains more edges of  $M'$  than of  $M$  and therefore some path component  $p$  of  $H$  must start and end with edges of  $M'$ .

Thus origin and terminus of  $p$  being  $M'$  saturated in  $H$ . So they are  $M$ -unsaturated in  $G$ .

Thus  $p$  is an  $M$ -augmenting path in  $G$ .

Hence the theorem.

### Matchings and covering in bipartite graphs:

Definition: Neighbour set

Let  $S$  be any subset of the vertex set of a graph  $G$ . Then the neighbour set of  $S$  in  $G$  is the set of all vertices adjacent to vertices in  $S$ . The set is denoted by  $N_G(S)$ .

Theorem: [Hall's theorem]

Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with bipartition  $(X, Y)$ . Then  $G$  contains a matching that saturates every vertex in  $X$  iff  $|N(S)| \geq |S| \quad \forall S \subseteq X$

Proof:

Given that  $G$  is a bipartite graph with bipartition  $(X, Y)$

Suppose that  $G$  contains a matching  $M$  that saturates every vertex of  $X$ . Let  $S$  be a subset of  $X$ .

Since the vertices in  $S$  are matched under  $M$  with distinct vertices in  $Y$ , we find that the vertices in the Neighbour set  $N(S)$ , cannot be less than the number of vertices in  $S$ .

$$|N(S)| \geq |S| \quad \forall S \subseteq X$$

Conversely,

Suppose that  $G$  is a bipartite graph satisfying  $|N(S)| \geq |S|$  for every subset  $S$  of  $X$ .

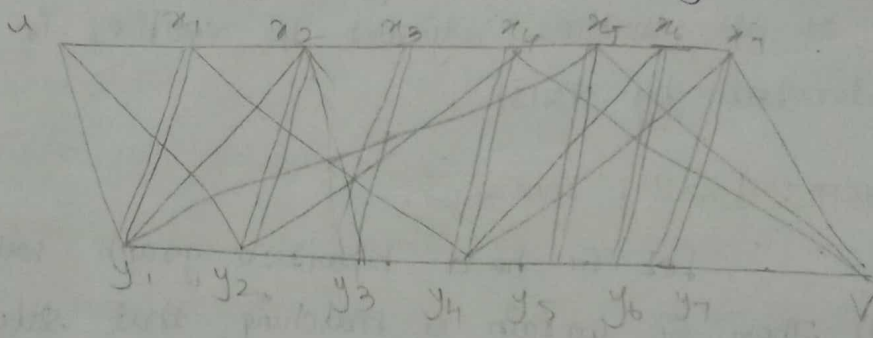
We have to prove that there is a matching which saturates every vertex of  $X$ .

Suppose that  $G$  contains no matching saturating all the vertices of  $X$ .

Let  $M^*$  be a maximum <sup>matching</sup> in  $G$ .

By our assumption  $M^*$  does not saturate all the vertices in  $X$ .

Let  $u$  be an  $M^*$  unsaturated vertex, in  $X$  and let  $Z$  denote the set of all vertices which are connected to  $u$  by an  $M^*$  alternating path.



Since  $M^*$  is a maximum matching by Berge's Theorem,  $G$  contains no  $M^*$ -augmenting path.

So the above  $M^*$ -alternating path is not an  $M^*$ -augmenting path. So both end vertices of the path cannot be  $M^*$ -unsaturated.

By our assumption, the initial vertex  $u$  is  $M^*$ -unsaturated.

$\therefore u$  is the only end vertex of the ~~path~~ path which <sup>is  $M^*$ -unsaturated</sup> ~~is in  $X$  and  $Z$  in the set of vertices which is  $M^*$ -unsaturated.~~

$\therefore S$  is the set of vertices in the pair which are in  $X$  and  $T$  is the set of vertices in the pair which are in  $Y$ .



Take  $S = Z \cap X$ ,  $T = Z \cap Y$  is the path which are  
 in  $\gamma$ .  
 clearly, the vertices in  $S \setminus S_2$  are matched under  
 $M^*$  with the vertices in  $T$ .

$$\therefore |T| = |S| - 1.$$

But every vertex in  $N(S)$  is connected to  
 by an  $M^*$  alternating path.

$$\text{So } N(S) = T.$$

$$\text{Thus } |N(S)| = |T| = |S| - 1$$

$$\therefore |N(S)| < |S|.$$

This is contradiction to our assumption.

Here if  $|N(S)| \geq |S|$  there is a matching  
 which saturate every vertex of  $X$ .

Hence the theorem.

Corollary:

If  $G$  is  $k$ -regular bipartite graph with  $k > 0$ ,  
 then  $G$  has a perfect matching.

Proof:

Let  $G$  be a  $k$ -regular bipartite graph with  
 bipartition  $(X, Y)$ .

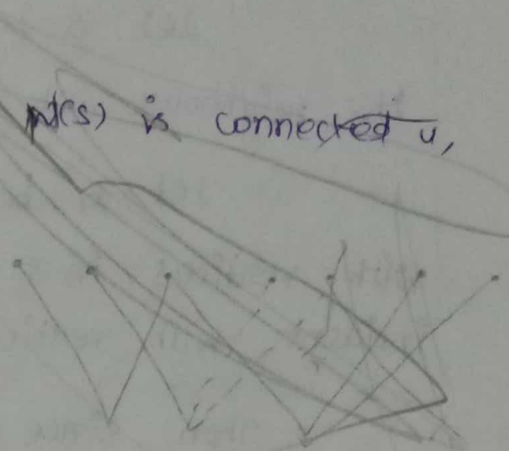
Since the graph  $G$  is  $k$ -regular every vertex  
 is of degree  $k$ . Therefore the number of edges  
 incident on the vertices of  $X$  is  $k|X|$ .

Similarly the number of edges on the  
 vertices of  $Y$  is  $k|Y|$ .

$\therefore G$  is a bipartite graph with bipartition  $(X, Y)$   
 each edge  $G$  has one end vertex in  $X$  and  
 the other in  $Y$ .

$$\therefore k|X| = |E| = k|Y|.$$

$$\therefore |X| = |Y| \quad \therefore k > 0.$$



In order to prove that  $G$  has a perfect matching it is enough to prove that  $G$  has a matching  $M$  which saturates every vertex of  $X$ .

Let  $S$  be a subset of  $X$  and  $N(S)$  be the neighbour set of  $S$  in  $G$ .

Let  $E_1$  be the set of edges incident with vertices in  $S$  and  $E_2$  be the set of edges incident with vertices in  $N(S)$ .

Then since  $N(S)$  is the set of vertices which are joined by edges to  $S$ .

We have,  $|E_1| \leq |E_2|$ .

Thus,  $|E_1| \leq |E_2|$

$$k|S| \leq k|N(S)|$$

$$|S| \leq |N(S)|$$

$$|N(S)| \geq |S|.$$

$\therefore$  The Hall's theorem there is a matching  $M$  which saturates every vertex of  $X$ .

Again, since  $|X| = |Y|$  every vertex of  $Y$  is also  $M$  saturated.

Thus, the matching  $M$  is a perfect matching in  $G$ .

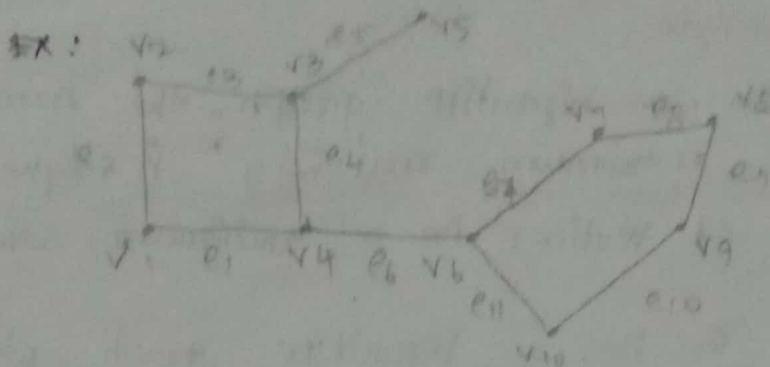
Hence the corollary.

Conversely,  
\* Covering:

A covering of a graph  $G$  is a subset  $K$  of the vertex set of  $G$  such that every edge of  $G$  has at least one end ~~in~~ vertex in  $K$ .

## Minimum covering:

A covering  $K$  of a graph  $G$  is a minimum covering if there is no covering  $K'$  with the property  $|K'| < |K|$ .



## Lemma:

Let  $M$  be a matching and  $K$  be a covering such that  $|M| = |K|$ , then  $M$  is a maximum matching and  $K$  is a minimum covering.

Proof:

Given that  $M$  is a matching and  $K$  is a covering and  $|M| = |K|$ .

We have to p.t  $M$  is a maximum matching and  $K$  is minimum covering.

Suppose let  $M^*$  be a maximum matching

$$\therefore |M| \leq |M^*|$$

and let  $K$  be a minimum covering

$$|K| \leq |K'|$$

For any graph  $G$ ,

$$|M^*| \leq |K|$$

$$|M| \leq |M^*| \leq |K| \leq |K|$$

$|M| = |K|$  it follows that,

$$|M| = |M^*| = |K| = |K|$$

Since  $|M| = |M^*|$ ,  $M$  is a maximum matching.

Again since  $|K| = |K|$ ,  $K$  is a minimum covering

Thus if  $|M| = |K|$ , then  $M$  is a maximum matching and  $K$  is a minimum covering.

Hence the theorem.

### ④ KÖNIG'S Theorem:

In a bipartite graph, the number of edges in a maximum matching is equal to the number of vertices in a minimum covering.

proof:

Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with bipartition  $(X, Y)$ .

Let  $M^*$  be a maximum matching in  $G$ .

Let  $U$  be the set of  $M^*$  unsaturated vertices in  $X$ .

Let  $Z$  be the set of vertices ~~is~~ connected by an  $M^*$  alternating paths, vertices of  $U$  take  $S = Z \cap X$ , &  $T = Z \cap Y$ .

Consider any vertex  $u \in U$  we observe that the vertices in  $S - \{u\}$  subset matched under  $M^*$  with the vertices of  $T$ .

$$\therefore |T| = |S| - 1$$

But every vertex in  $T$  is connected to  $u$  by an  $M^*$  alternating path and so  $N(S) = T$ .

$$\text{Let us define } \bar{K} = (X/S) \cup T \cdot (X-S) \cup T$$

Every edge of a  $G$  must have at least one of its ends in  $\bar{K}$ . Clearly  $\bar{K}$  is a covering of  $G$ ,

for otherwise, there will be an edge with one end vertex in  $S$  and the other end vertex in  $Y/T$ .

This is a contradiction as  $N(S) = T$ .

If  $\chi(G) = k$ , then  $G$  is said to be  $k$  edge chromatic.

Lemma:

Let  $G$  be a connected graph that is not an odd cycle then  $G$  has a 2-edge coloring in which both represented at each vertex of degree at least two.

Proof:

Assume that  $G$  is non-trivial. The given connected graph  $G$  is either Eulerian (or) non-Eulerian.

Case i):

Suppose  $G$  is Eulerian.

a) Suppose  $G$  is a cycle. Since  $G$  is given to be not an odd cycle. Clearly  $G$  must be an even cycle.

Therefore, there are an even number of edges which can be alternatively assigned the colours 1 & 2.

$\therefore G$  is 2-edge colourable.

So, the theorem is true in this case.

b) Suppose  $G$  is not an even cycle.

$\therefore G$  is Eulerian, every vertex is of even degree. Again  $G$  has a vertex  $v_0$  of degree at least four.

Let  $v_0 v_1 \dots v_{k-1} v_0$  be an Euler tour of  $G$ .

Let  $E_1 = \{e_i; i \text{ is odd}\} \&$

$E_2 = \{e_i; i \text{ is even}\}$

Now, the edges of the graph can be coloured with two colours 1 & 2, such that the edges in  $E_1$  receive colour 1 and the edge in  $E_2$  receive colour 2.

Thus  $(E_1, E_2)$  is a 2-edge colouring of  $G$ .

Every vertex has edge of the form  $e_{2k+1}$  and  $e_{2k}$ .

So the colours 1 and 2 are represented at each vertex of the graph.

So, the theorem is true in this case also.

Case ii):

Suppose  $G$  is a non-Eulerian.

Since  $G$  is a non-Eulerian there are some odd degree vertices and the number of odd degree vertices is even.

clearly,  $G^*$  is Eulerian.

$\therefore$  As before the edge set of  $G^*$  can be partitioned into  $E_1^*$  and  $E_2^*$  such that  $(E_1^*, E_2^*)$  is a 2-edge colouring of  $G^*$  in which both colours are represented at each vertex.

[Construct a new graph  $G^*$  by adding a new vertex  $v_0$  and joining it to each vertex of odd degree in  $G$ .]

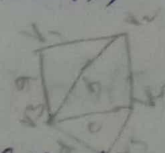
Now,  $E \cap E_1^*$  and  $E \cap E_2^*$  form a partition of the edge set  $E$  of the given graph  $G$ .

$\therefore (E \cap E_1^*, E \cap E_2^*)$  is a 2-edge colouring of  $G$  having the required property.

Hence the theorem.

## Improvement of a colouring:

Consider the  $x$ -edge colouring  $f$  of  $G$ .  
Then the number of distinct colours, represented at  $v$  is denoted by  $c(v)$ .



Ex:

In  $G$ ,  $a, b, c, d$  are the distinct colours represent at  $v$  then  $c(v) = 4$ .

In the edge colouring is proper then all the edges incident on  $v$  get different colours and so the number of colours represented at  $v$  is same as the number of edges incident on  $v$ .

$$c(v) = d(v)$$

Let  $f$  be an edge colouring of a graph  $G$  so that  $c(v)$  is the number of colours represented at  $v$ . Find the sum  $\sum c(v)$  of the colours represented at all the vertices of  $G$ .

Let  $f$  be another colouring and find the sum of  $\sum c'(v)$  of the colours represented at the vertices of  $G$ .

If  $\sum c'(v) > \sum c(v)$  then the colouring  $b$  is said to be an improvement of the colouring of  $b$ .

An edge colouring  $b$  is said to be an optimal edge colouring if there is no improvement on  $b$ .

Clearly, a proper edge colouring is an optimal edge colouring.

Lemma:

Let  $b = (E_1 E_2 \dots E_k)$  be an optimal  $k$  edges colouring of  $G$ , if there is a vertex  $u$  in  $G$  and colours  $i, j$  such that  $i$  is not represented at  $u$  &  $j$  is represented at least twice at  $u$ , then the component of  $G$  ( $E_i \cup E_j$ ) that contains  $u$  is an odd cycle.

Proof:

Let  $b = \{E_1 E_2 \dots E_k\}$  be an optimal  $k$  edge colouring of  $G$ .

Let  $u$  be a vertex of  $G$  such that the colour  $i$  is not represented at  $u$  and the colour  $j$  is represented at least twice at  $u$ .

$E_i$  is the set of edges of  $G$  getting the colour  $i$  and  $E_j$  is the set of edges of  $G$  getting the colour  $j$ .

$H$  is given to be the component  $E_i \cup E_j$  of  $G$ .

$$(i.e) H = G [E_i \cup E_j]$$

We have to p.t  $H$  is an odd cycle containing  $u$ .

Suppose that  $H$  is not an odd cycle,

then by known lemma,

" $H$  has a 2-edge colouring in which both colours are represented at each vertex of degree at least two in  $H$ !"

we can then recolour the edges of  $H$  with the colours  $i, j$  this way, we obtain a new  $k$ -edge colouring.

$$b' = (E_1' E_2' \dots E_k') \text{ of } G$$

Denote by  $c(u)$  the number of distinct colours at  $u$  in the colouring  $b'$  then we have,

$$c'(u) = c(u) + 1.$$



Since now both the colours  $i, j$  are represented at  $u$  in  $c'$  and also  $c'(u) \geq c(u)$  for  $\forall u \rightarrow v$ .

$$\therefore \sum_{v \in V} c'(u) > \sum_{v \in V} c(v).$$

This shows that the colouring  $c'$  is an improvement of the colouring " $c$ " of the graph  $G$ .

This is a contradiction as the following  $c$  is an optimal edge colouring of  $G$ .

So, our assumption that it is not an odd cycle is wrong.

Hence it must be an odd cycle.

**Theorem 4.8:**

If  $G$  is a bipartite, then  $\chi = \Delta$ .

proof:

Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with  $\chi > \Delta$ .

Let  $b = \{E_1, \dots, E_\Delta\}$  be an optimal  $\Delta$  edge colouring of  $G$ . Then there must exist two adjacent ends of  $G$  which receive the same colour in  $b$  for otherwise  $b$  will be a proper edge colouring of  $G$ .

So, there exists a vertex  $u$  such that, the number of colour represented at  $u$  is less than the number of edges incident on it,

$$\therefore c(u) < d(u).$$

Clearly,  $u$  satisfies the hypothesis that if there are two colours  $i, j$  in which  $i$  is not represented at  $u$  &  $j$  is represented twice at  $u$ .

$\therefore G$  contains an odd cycle. [By known theorem]

This is contradiction as  $G$  is a bipartite graph.

Again for any vertex  $v$  in  $H$  of degree greater than or equal to 2, the two colours  $i$  and  $j$  are represented at  $v$  in  $c$  while at most two colours  $i$  and  $j$  are represented at  $v$  in  $c'$ .  $c'(v) > c(v)$  &  $c'(v) > \sum_{v \in V} c(v)$ .

So our assumption  ~~$\psi > \Delta$~~  is wrong.

$\therefore \psi \leq \Delta$  that  $\chi' \leq \Delta$

Again for any graph  $G'$

$\psi \geq \Delta, \therefore \psi = \Delta, \chi' = \Delta$

**VIZING'S theorem:**

If  $G$  is simple, then either  $\psi = \Delta$  (or)  $\psi = \Delta + 1$ .

proof:

Let  $G$  be a simple graph and we know that  $\chi' \geq \Delta$

We need only to S.T  $\psi \leq \Delta + 1$ .

Suppose  $\psi > \Delta + 1$ .

Let  $\phi = (E_1, E_2, \dots, E_{\Delta+1})$  be an optimal  $(\Delta+1)$  degree edge colouring of  $G$ , and let  $u$  be vertex such that  $d(u) < \Delta + 1$ .

Then there exists colours  $i_0$  and  $i_1 \ni i_0$  is not represented as  $u$  and  $i_1$  is represented atleast twice at  $u$ .

Let  $u, v_1$  have colours  $i_1$  as in the figure

Since,  $d(v_1) < \Delta + 1$ .

Some colour  $i_2$  is not represented at  $v_1$ , now  $i_2$  must be represented at  $u$ .

Since otherwise by re-colouring at  $(u, v_1)$  with  $i_2$  we would obtain an improvement on  $\phi$ .

Thus some edge  $uv_2$  has colour  $i_2$ .

Again since  $d(v_2) < \Delta + 1$  some colour  $i_3$  is not represented at  $v_2$  & it must be represented at  $u$ .

Since otherwise, by recoloring  $uv_1$  with  $i_2$  and  $uv_2$  with  $i_3$  we could obtain an improved  $(\Delta+1)$  edge colouring.

Thus some edge  $uv_3$  has colour  $i_3$  containing this procedure we construct a sequence  $v_1, v_2, \dots$  of vertices and a sequence  $i_1, i_2, \dots$  of colour such that  $i_j$ .

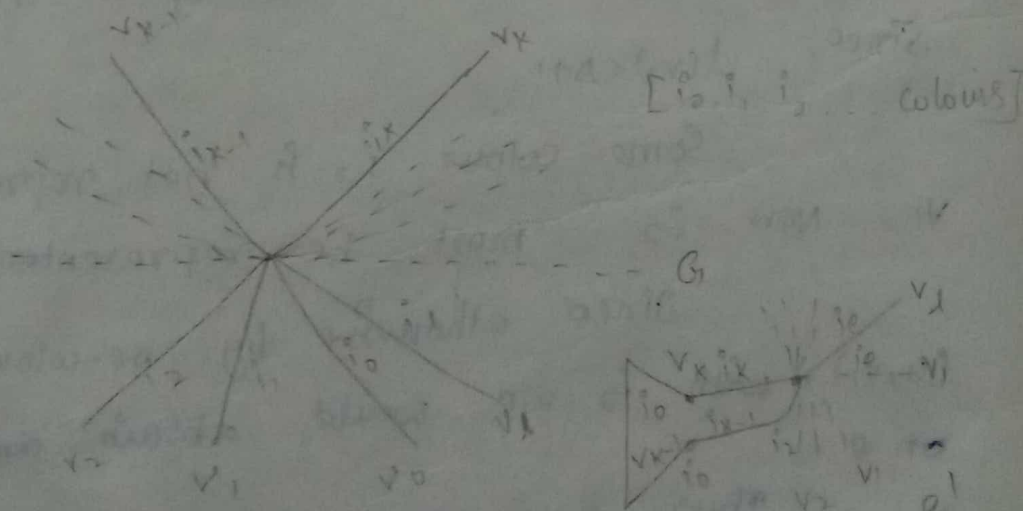
- (i)  $uv_j$  has colour  $i_j$  and,
- (ii)  $i_{j+1}$  is not represented at  $v_j$ .

Since the degree of  $u$  is finite there exists  $G$  the smallest integer  $k$  such that for some  $x < k$ .

(iii)  $i_{\Delta+1}^e = i_x$ .

The situation is repeated in the above figure we now recolor  $G$  as follows.

for  $i \leq j \leq k-1$  recolors  $uv_j$  with colour  $i_{j+1}$  yielding a new  $(\Delta+1)$  edge colouring  $\phi' = (\{E_1' \dots E_{\Delta+1}'\})$



Clearly  $c(v) \geq c(v) \forall v \in V$  and therefore  $\phi'$  is also an optimal  $(\Delta+1)$  edge colouring of  $G$ .

By known theorem, the component  $H = G \setminus \{E_{i_0} \cup E_{i_k}\}$  that contains  $u$  is an odd cycle.

Now, in addition recolor  $uv_j$  with colour  $i_{j+1}$  for  $k \leq j \leq d-1$  and colour  $uv_2$  by  $i_k$  to obtain a  $(\Delta+1)$ -edge coloring

$$b'' \quad c''(G) = [E_1'', E_2'', \dots, E_{\Delta+1}'']$$

H

As above  $c''(v) \geq c(v) \forall v \in V$

and the component  $H'$  of  $G \setminus (E_{i_1}'' \cup E_{i_k}'')$  that contains  $u$  is an odd cycle.

But since  $v_k$  has degree two in  $H'$ .

$v_k$  clearly  $v_k$  has degree one in  $H''$ .

which is a contradiction.

$$x' \psi' \leq \Delta + 1.$$

Then we have  $\Delta \leq \psi' \leq \Delta + 1.$

Hence, if  $G$  is simple, then either  $\psi = \Delta$  (or)

$$\psi = \Delta + 1.$$

