# Matrix spaces and graphs 

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With Yinan Li, Youming Qiao, Avi Wigderson, \& Chuanqi Zhang

## Outline

- Matrix spaces and why we care about them
- Graphs and matrix spaces of restricted support
- Properties of matrix spaces and properties of graphs
- Singularity
- Nilpotency
- Isomorphism
- Inhertied correspondences: Deep connections between linear algebra and graph theory


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Theorem (Kabanets-Impagliazzo 2004)
An efficient deterministic algorithm implies that "VP $\neq V N P$ ".


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Example: $\boldsymbol{P}=$ singularity. Determining whether every every $M \in \boldsymbol{S}$ is singular is the problem from the previous slide.

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Theorem (Tutte 1947, Edmonds 1967, Lovász 1979) $H$ has a perfect matching iff there is some invertible $M \in \mathbf{S}_{H}$.

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If every $M \in \mathbf{S} \subseteq \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ is singular, then $\operatorname{dim} \boldsymbol{S} \leq n^{2}-n$.

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## Fact

If a bipartite graph $G$ on $n+n$ vertices has no perfect matching, then $e(G) \leq n^{2}-n$.


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A combinatorial "explanation" of an algebraic property!

## Basic and inherited correspondences

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We adapt de Seguins Pazzis's proof of Gerstenhaber's theorem.

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Fact: There is no inherited correspondence extending (a) $\Longleftrightarrow$ (b).

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- Graphs help us understand matrix spaces (e.g. generalizations of Dieudonné and Gerstenhaber's theorems).
- For certain properties, matrix spaces are surprisingly rigid:
- The lattice of subspaces of $\boldsymbol{S}_{G}$ is "not much richer" than the lattice of subgraphs of $G$.
- The action of $G L_{n}(\mathbb{F})$ is "not much richer" than that of $S_{n}$.


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Theorem (Atkinson 1980)
If $|\mathbb{F}|>n$, the inherited correspondence holds for $G=\overleftrightarrow{K_{n}}$ :
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This generalizes both Dieudonné and Gerstenhaber's theorems.

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- Why is the structure of $S_{G}$ not much richer than that of $G$ ?
- A characterization may give a unified proof of Dieudonné and Gerstenhaber's theorems.
- A characterization may resolve the conjecture on the previous slide, generalizing Atkinson's theorem.


## Thank you!

