### Matrix spaces and graphs

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## 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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#### Problem

Let  $M_1, ..., M_d$  be  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Does there exist some linear combination  $M = c_1 M_1 + \cdots + c_d M_d$  that is invertible?

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Theorem (Kabanets-Impagliazzo 2004)

An efficient deterministic algorithm implies that "VP  $\neq$  VNP".

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

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This yields a randomized algorithm for bipartite perfect matching.

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### Matrix spaces with restricted support

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$$H = \bigvee_{i \to \infty} S_{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ c & 0 & d \\ e & f & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x & y \\ -x & 0 & z \\ -y & -z & 0 \end{pmatrix} \subseteq S_{H}$$
The matching invertible  $M$  is a containst only singular  $M$ .

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#### Fact

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



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 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{S}_{H} \text{ is singular} & H \text{ is PM-free} \\ \text{(i.e. every } M \in \mathbf{S}_{H} \text{ is singular}) & \longleftrightarrow & \text{(i.e. has no perfect matching)} \\ \text{If } \mathbf{S} \subseteq \mathbf{S}_{K_{n,n}} \text{ is singular, then} & \text{If } H \subseteq K_{n,n} \text{ is PM-free, then} \\ \dim \mathbf{S} \leq n^{2} - n. & e(H) \leq n^{2} - n. \end{array}$ 

Max. dim **S** for singular  $\mathbf{S} \subseteq \mathbf{S}_{K_{n,n}} = \text{Max. } \mathbf{e}(H)$  for PM-free  $H \subseteq K_{n,n}$ 

Is a version of Dieudonné's theorem true for G besides  $K_{n,n}$ ?

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A combinatorial "explanation" of an algebraic property!

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

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There are two natural notions of isomorphism for **S**,  $T \subseteq \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ .

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For digraphs G, H, the following are equivalent:

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- Generalizes the action of  $S_n \times S_n$ , permuting the vertices of bipartite graphs.

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The group  $GL_n(\mathbb{F}) \times GL_n(\mathbb{F})$  acts on  $\mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$  by the **left-right action**.

- Corresponds to two independent changes of basis in  $\mathbb{F}^n$ .
- This action is natural when we identify  $\mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$  with  $\mathbb{F}^n \otimes \mathbb{F}^n$ , and when we want to distinguish the domain and codomain.
- Certain properties are invariant under this action, e.g. rank.
- Generalizes the action of  $S_n \times S_n$ , permuting the vertices of bipartite graphs.

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- Certain additional properties are invariant, e.g. nilpotency.
- Generalizes the action of  $S_n$ , permuting the vertices of directed graphs.

# Summary

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#### Singularity

Nilpotency

Isomoprhism
• There are many connections (basic correspondences) between graphs and matrix spaces.

$$S_H$$
 satisfies  $P$   $\iff$   $H$  satisfies  $Q$ 

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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 **S**<sub>G</sub> is "not much richer" than the lattice of subgraphs of G.
  - The action of  $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$  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  $G = \overleftarrow{K_n}$ :

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This generalizes both Dieudonné and Gerstenhaber's theorems.

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**Develop this theory further!** 

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#### Develop this theory further!

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  - 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!

troduction

#### Singularity

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Isomoprhism