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# Towers and Cycle Covers for Max-Balanced Graphs

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## Abstract

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph. We say that  $G$  is *max-balanced* if for every cut  $W$ , the maximum weight over arcs leaving  $W$  equals the maximum weight over arcs entering  $W$ . A subgraph  $H$  of  $G$  is *max-sufficient* if for every cut  $W$ , the maximum weight over arcs of  $G$  leaving  $W$  is attained at some arc of  $H$ . A *tower*  $T = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  is a sequence of arc-sets of  $G$  where  $C_{i+1}$  is a cycle all of whose weights are maximal in the graph formed by contracting the sets  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_i$  to a point. We show that  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  contains a tower. A *cycle cover* for  $G$  is a collection of cycles  $D = \{D_\alpha \mid \alpha \in A\}$  such that arc  $a$  is the minimum weight arc of  $D_\alpha$ . We use the tower construction to show that the existence of a cycle cover characterizes max-balanced graphs. We show that the graph  $H$  of a tower is max-sufficient, thereby showing that a max-balanced graph contains a max-sufficient subgraph with at most  $2(|V| - 1)$  arcs. Further, we use the tower construction to show that  $H$  has a cycle cover with at most  $|V|$  cycles.

## 1 Introduction

In this paper we study max-balanced weighted directed graphs, which were introduced in [4] and [5]. We define three concepts for such graphs  $G$ , namely a max-sufficient subgraph for  $G$ , a tower for  $G$ , and a cycle cover for  $G$ . We study connections between these concepts, and we prove characterizations of max-balanced graphs associated with them. A summary of our results is found in the abstract above, and we give further details in this introduction after some definitions and an explanation of the relation of our results to previous work. Further results on max-balanced graphs are contained in [3].

Let  $(V, A)$  be a (directed) graph with vertex set  $V$  and arc set  $A$ . For  $a \in A$ , we will use the notation  $a \sim (u, v)$  to denote the arc  $a$  from vertex  $u$  to vertex  $v$ , and refer to the vertices  $u$  and  $v$  as the *endpoints* of  $a$ . Note, that a graph  $(V, A)$  may contain parallel arcs (i.e., two arcs  $a$  and  $a'$  of the form  $a \sim (u, v)$  and  $a' \sim (u, v)$ ). We will assume, however, that  $(V, A)$  does not contain loops (i.e., an arc  $a$  of the form  $a \sim (v, v)$ ).

A *weight function* for  $(V, A)$  is a real-valued function  $g$  defined on the arcs  $A$ . We will use the notation  $g_a$  to denote the *weight* of  $a$ . A *weighted graph* is a triple  $G = (V, A, g)$  where  $(V, A)$  is a graph, and  $g$  is weight function for  $(V, A)$ . A *cut* for  $G$  is a *nontrivial* subset  $W$  of  $V$  (i.e.,  $\emptyset \subset W \subset V$ ). We will use the symbols  $\subset$  and

Note that  $p_n \notin (2^{k-1} p_1^k, \dots$   
 before  $a(i-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{q-1}$ .

$x^i$  decomposes into cycles of  $(-1)$  and  $a(i-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{q-1}$  for now that  $i = q-2$  or  $i = (q-3)/2$ . We can select some particular  $a$ .

$\neq (q-1)/2$  implies that  $i-1 \equiv -1 \pmod{q-1}$ . But  $2 = \text{ord}(i) \pmod{q-1}$  since  $2^2 \nmid i-1$ . Also,  $\forall 1 \leq n \leq r$  implies that

$\leq r$ .  
 $\forall n \mid i+1$  and  $p_n \mid i+1$  for all  $1 \leq n$  that is,  $(q-1)/2 \mid i+1$ . We will see that  $(q-1)/2 \mid i+1$  but  $q-1 \nmid i+1$  for  $t$  an odd integer. Since  $t$  is equivalent:

maximal permutations with uniform merantium, Proceedings of the Combinatorics, Graph Theory and

of number theory: Including an finite fields, Bogden & Quigley, Springer, New York, 1977  
 Finite Fields, Addison-Wesley,

max-balanced if and only if it contains a tower. A tower is built up from arcs sets  $T = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  where  $C_{i+1}$  is a cycle in the graph formed by contracting the cycles  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_i$  to a point. We show that the subgraph

$$H = C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_r,$$

which we call the *graph of  $T$* , is max-sufficient for  $G$ . We show further that  $r < |V|$  and that  $H$  contains at most  $2(|V| - 1)$  arcs.

In Section 4, we define a *cycle cover for  $G$  associated with a subgraph  $H$*  and in Theorem 6 we apply the tower construction to generate a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with the graph  $H$  of the tower. Further, we show in Corollary 7 that  $H$  has a cycle cover containing fewer than  $|V|$  cycles. Finally, in Corollary 8 we show that a weighted graph is max-balanced if and only if it has a cycle cover. This result is an analogue of a cycle decomposition for a circulation in a graph.

In this paper, we use the framework for max-balanced graphs described in [4]. In particular, we use the definition of contraction from [4] (rather than [3] or [5]). The definition used here is natural for describing our tower construction since it allows us to identify the arcs of a contracted graph with arcs in the original graph. The results of [3] and [5] apply (with trivial modifications) to the setting of this paper. Similarly, the results in this paper apply to the setting of [3] and [5]. We consider only strongly connected graphs, although all of our results extend with minor modifications to graphs that are the disjoint union of strongly connected graphs.

## 2 The Operation of Contraction

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph, and let  $\Pi$  be a partition of  $V$ . We define the *contraction of  $G$  with respect to  $\Pi$* , written  $G/\Pi$ , to be the weighted graph  $(\Pi, A', g')$  such that there exists an embedding  $\phi: A' \mapsto A$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) If  $\phi(a') = a$ , where  $a' \sim (I, J) \in A'$  and  $a \sim (u, v) \in A$ , then  $u \in I$  and  $v \in J$ ;
- (ii) If  $a' \in A'$ , then  $g_{a'} = g_{\phi(a')}$ .

Contraction with respect to a partition  $\Pi$  can be described intuitively as follows: Given an element  $W$  of  $\Pi$ , add a new vertex  $v_W$  to the graph  $G - W$  (i.e., the graph formed by deleting  $W$  and all arcs entering or leaving  $W$ ) and join to  $v_W$  an arc  $a' \sim (u, v_W)$  for each arc  $a \sim (u, v) \in A$  with  $v \in W$  and an arc  $a' \sim (v_W, u)$  for each arc  $a \sim (v, u)$  with  $v \in W$ . (See Fig 1.) Set the weight of each arc of the resulting graph to the weight of the corresponding arc of  $G$ . We will refer to this operation as *contracting the set  $W$  to a point*. The graph  $G/\Pi$  is formed by contracting each element of  $\Pi$  to a point.

Let  $I$  and  $J$  be distinct elements of the partition  $\Pi$ . Note that the contracted graph  $G/\Pi$  contains an arc with endpoints  $I$  and  $J$  for each arc  $a \sim (u, v)$  for which  $u \in I$  and  $v \in J$ . In our definition of contraction, we do *not* identify resulting parallel arcs, and therefore  $G/\Pi$  will, in general, contain parallel arcs. For the tower construction described in this paper, this is the natural definition of contraction since

it allows us to identify the arcs of  $G/\Pi$  with  $\phi$ .

In summary an arc  $a'$  in  $G/\Pi$  corresponds to the original graph  $G$ . Since we identify the arcs of  $G/\Pi$ . It is natural and intuitive to think of arcs of  $G/\Pi$  which are not deleted by the contraction. A cycle  $C$  of  $G/\Pi$  with the set of arcs  $\phi(C)$  is a cycle of  $G$ . It is easy to see that a cycle cover of  $G/\Pi$  is a cycle cover of  $G$  between elements of  $\Pi$ . See Fig 1.

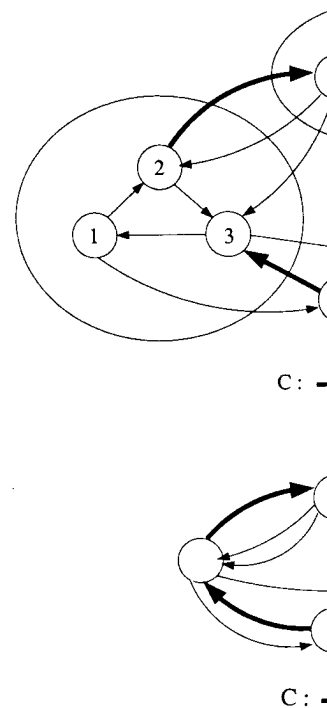


Figure 1:  $G/\Pi$ , where  $\Pi = \{ \dots \}$ .

We will use the next two lemmas to prove

**Lemma 1** *Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph.  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G/\Pi$  is max-balanced.*

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be max-balanced, and let  $\Pi$  be a partition of  $V$ . We will show that  $G/\Pi$  is max-balanced by

$$W = \{v \in V \mid v \in \dots\}$$

Since  $G$  is max-balanced at  $W$ , it follows that  $G/\Pi$  is max-balanced at  $W'$ . The cycle cover of  $G/\Pi$  is a cycle cover of  $G$ . ■

partition of  $V$ . ■  
 Since  $G$  is max-balanced at  $W$ , it follows directly from the definition of contraction that  $G/\Pi$  is max-balanced at  $W$ . The converse follows by letting  $\Pi$  be the discrete

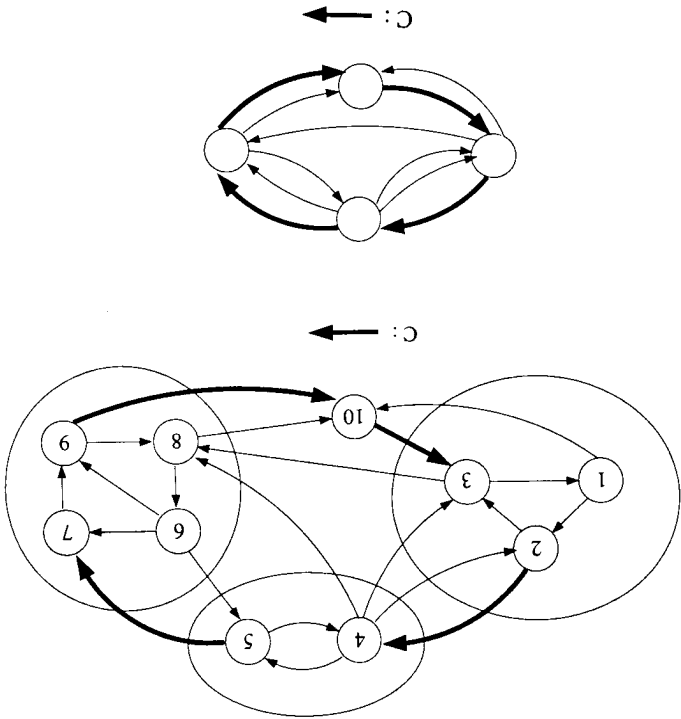
$$W = \{v \in V \mid v \in I \text{ for some } I \in W'\}.$$

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be max-balanced, and let  $W'$  be a cut for  $G/\Pi$ . Define  $W$  (a cut for  $G$ ) by

**Lemma 1** Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph. Then  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G/\Pi$  is max-balanced for every partition  $\Pi$  of  $V$ .

We will use the next two lemmas to prove some of our results.

Figure 1:  $G/\Pi$ , where  $\Pi = \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}, \{6, 7, 8, 9\}, \{10\}\}$



it allows us to identify the arcs of  $G/\Pi$  with arcs of the graph  $G$  (under the mapping  $\phi$ ).  
 In summary an arc  $a'$  in  $G/\Pi$  corresponds in a natural way to a unique arc  $a$  of the original graph  $G$ . Since we identify the arcs  $a$  and  $a'$ , we will refer to  $a$  as an arc of  $G/\Pi$ . It is natural and intuitive to think of the arcs of  $G/\Pi$  as those arcs of  $G$  which are not deleted by the contraction operation. In particular, we will identify a cycle  $C$  of  $G/\Pi$  with the set of arcs  $\phi(C)$  of  $G$  and thus refer to the set  $C \subset A$  as a cycle of  $G/\Pi$ . It is easy to see that a cycle of  $G/\Pi$  is a disjoint union of paths in  $G$  between elements of  $\Pi$ . See Fig. 1.

can be described intuitively as follows:  
 to the graph  $G - W$  (i.e., the graph or leaving  $W$ ) and join to  $vw$  an arc  $v \in W$  and an arc  $a' \sim (vw, u)$  for each  $u \in W$  and an arc  $a' \sim (vw, u)$  for each of  $G$ . We will refer to this operation  $G/\Pi$  is formed by contracting each partition  $\Pi$ . Note that the contracted and  $J$  for each arc  $a \sim (u, v)$  for which contraction, we do not identify resulting arcs, contain parallel arcs. For the tower natural definition of contraction since

$a \sim (u, v) \in A$ , then  $u \in I$  and

weighted graph, and let  $\Pi$  be a partition respect to  $\Pi$ , written  $G/\Pi$ , to be the  $A' \mapsto A$  satisfying

### contraction

connected graphs.  
 extend with minor modifications to [3] and [5]. We consider only strongly arcs in the original graph. The results our tower construction since it allows us from [4] (rather than [3] or [5]). The max-balanced graphs described in [4]. In a graph.  
 generate a cycle cover for  $G$  associated show in Corollary 7 that  $H$  has a cycle in Corollary 8 we show that a weighted cycle cover. This result is an analogue

for  $G$ . We show further that  $r < |V|$   
 $\dots \cup C_r$   
 at the subgraph  
 the graph formed by contracting the tower. A tower is built up from arcs sets

**Lemma 2** Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be max-balanced, and let  $b \in A$  with  $g_b = \max(G)$ . Then  $b$  is contained in a cycle  $C$  for  $G$  such that  $g_a = \max(G)$  for all  $a \in C$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $g_b = \max(G)$ ,  $b \sim (u, v)$ . It suffices to show that there exists a path  $P$  from  $v$  to  $u$  all of whose arcs have weight  $\max(G)$ . Let  $W$  be the set of vertices  $w$  such that there exists such a path from  $v$  to  $w$ . If  $u \notin W$ , then since  $b \sim (u, v) \in \delta^-(W)$  it follows directly from the definition of  $W$  that

$$\delta^+(W) < \max(G) = \delta^-(W),$$

which violates the definition of max-balanced graphs. Therefore  $u \in W$  and  $b \sim (u, v)$  must lie on a cycle all of whose arcs have weight  $\max(G)$ . ■

### 3 Towers for $G$

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a weighted graph. We wish to define a construction that we will call a *tower* for  $G$ . We give an algorithm for computing a tower and show that  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  contains a tower.

Let  $\mathcal{T} = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a sequence of subsets of  $A$ . Let  $H_0 = (V, \emptyset)$ , and define the subgraphs

$$H_{i+1} = H_i \cup C_{i+1} \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, r-1. \quad (4)$$

For  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , let  $\Pi_i$  be the partition of  $V$  induced by the strong components of  $H_i$ . Then the sequence  $\mathcal{T}$  is called a *tower* for  $G$  if

- (i)  $C_{i+1}$  is a cycle of the contracted graph  $G/\Pi_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r-1$ ,
- (ii)  $g_a = \max(G/\Pi_i)$  for  $a \in C_{i+1}$  and  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r-1$ , and
- (iii)  $|\Pi_r| = 1$ .

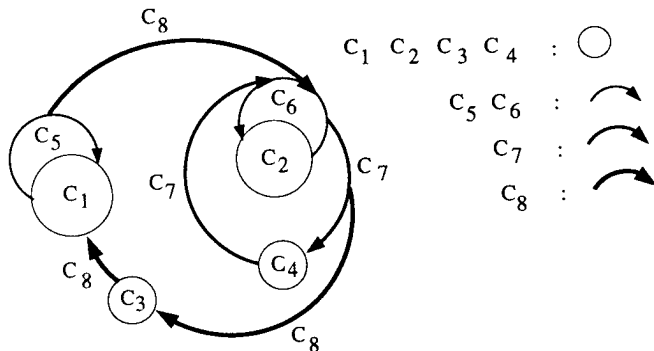


Figure 2: A Tower for  $G$

Note that since each subgraph  $H_i$  is spanning, condition (iii) is equivalent to requiring that  $H_r$  is strongly connected. Note that the arc sets  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  are pairwise disjoint since the arcs of  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_i$  are deleted when  $H_i$  is contracted to form

$G/\Pi_i$ . We will call the subgraph

$$H_r = C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_r$$

the *graph of the tower*  $\mathcal{T}$ . See Fig. 2 for

**Theorem 3** Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a max-balanced graph, and let  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ , and the following are true:

- (i)  $H$  is max-sufficient for  $G$ ;
- (ii)  $G$  is max-balanced;
- (iii)  $r \leq |V| - 1$ ;
- (iv)  $|E| \leq 2(|V| - 1)$ .

**Proof.** (i) and (ii): Let  $\mathcal{T} = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ . Let  $j$  be the largest integer such that  $C_j$  is a non-trivial element partition  $\{W, V \setminus W\}$ . Note that  $C_j$  is a cycle in the discrete and the indiscrete partition

$$W' = \{I \in \mathcal{I}(V) \mid I \cap W = \emptyset\}$$

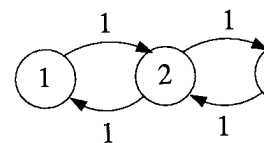


Figure 3:  $r = |V| - 1$

It follows from the definition of  $j$  that  $C_j$  is a cycle in  $G/\Pi_j$ . Since the endpoints of arcs of the partition  $\Pi_j$ , it follows that  $\delta^+(C_j) = \delta^-(C_j)$  and  $g_a = \max(G/\Pi_j)$  for each  $a \in C_j$ , it follows that

$$\max_{a \in \delta^+(W'; G)} g_a = \max_{a \in \delta^-(W'; G)} g_a$$

and furthermore both maxima in (6) are  $\max(G)$ . This proves that  $H$  is max-sufficient for  $G$ , and (ii) follows.

(iii): Since each cycle in a tower must be a cycle in  $G/\Pi_i$  (which contains no loops), we must have  $r \leq |V| - 1$ .

(iv): Since the vertices of  $C_{i+1}$  (which are disjoint from  $C_1, \dots, C_i$ ) must have

$$|\Pi_i| = |\Pi_{i+1}| + |C_{i+1}| - 1$$

Since  $|\Pi_0| = |V|$  and  $|\Pi_r| = 1$ , we have

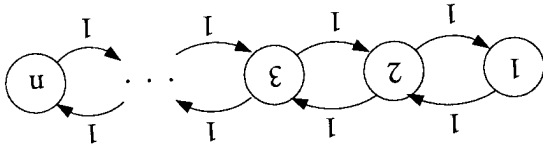
Since  $|\Pi_0| = |V|$  and  $|\Pi_r| = 1$ , we have  
 $|\Pi_i| = |\Pi_{i+1}| + |C_{i+1}| - 1$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r-1$ .

must have  
 (iv): Since the vertices of  $C_{i+1}$  (which are distinct) are identified to form  $\Pi_{i+1}$ , we length at most  $r \leq |V| - 1$   
 (iii): Since each cycle in a tower must have length at least 2 (recall,  $G$  and hence  $G/\Pi_i$  contains no loops), we must have  $|\Pi_{i+1}| > |\Pi_i|$ , and therefore a tower can have and furthermore both maxima in (6) must be attained at some arc of  $C_{j+1}$ . This proves that  $H$  is max-sufficient for  $G$ , and that  $G$  is max-balanced.

$$(6) \quad \max_{a \in \delta^+(W;G)} g_a = \max_{a \in \delta^-(W;G)} g_a = \max(G/\Pi_j)$$

It follows from the definition of  $j$  that  $C_{j+1}$  must intersect both  $\delta^+(W;G/\Pi_j)$  and  $\delta^-(W;G/\Pi_j)$ . Since the endpoints of each arc of  $\delta^+(W;G)$  lie in distinct elements of the partition  $\Pi_j$ , it follows that  $\delta^+(W;G)$  and  $\delta^+(W;G/\Pi_j)$  coincide. Because  $g_a = \max(G/\Pi_j)$  for each  $a \in C_{j+1}$ , it follows from the definition of contraction that

Figure 3:  $r = |V| - 1$  and  $|E| = 2(|V| - 1)$



$$(5) \quad W' = \{I \in \Pi_j \mid I \subseteq W\}$$

the discrete and the indiscrete partitions of  $V$ . Now define the cut  $W'$  for  $G/\Pi_j$  by element partition  $\{W, V \setminus W\}$ . Note that  $0 \leq j < r$  since  $\Pi_0$  and  $\Pi_r$  are, respectively, cut for  $G$ . Let  $j$  be the largest integer such that the partition  $\Pi_j$  is finer than the two

**Proof.** (i) and (ii): Let  $\mathcal{T} = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ , and let  $W$  be any (iii)  $r \leq |V| - 1$ ;  
 (iv)  $|E| \leq 2(|V| - 1)$ .  
 (ii)  $G$  is max-balanced;  
 (i)  $H$  is max-sufficient for  $G$ ;

following are true:  
**Theorem 3** Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph. Let  $\mathcal{T} = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ , and let  $H = (V, E)$  be the graph of  $\mathcal{T}$ . Then the

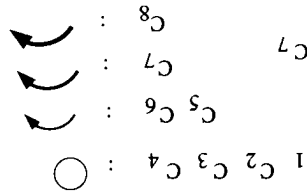
the graph of the tower  $\mathcal{T}$ . See Fig. 2 for an example of a tower for  $G$ .

$$H_r = C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_r$$

$G/\Pi_i$ . We will call the subgraph

deleted when  $H_i$  is contracted to form the arc sets  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  are pairwise condition (iii) is equivalent to requiring

tower for  $G$



$0, 1, \dots, r-1$ , and

$G/\Pi_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r-1$ ,

or  $G$  if

$V$  induced by the strong components of

$$(4) \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, r-1.$$

of subsets of  $A$ . Let  $H_0 = (V, \emptyset)$ , and

wish to define a construction that we will

graphs. Therefore  $u \in W$  and  $b \sim (u, v)$

$$g) = \delta^-(W),$$

the definition of  $W$  that with from  $v$  to  $w$ . If  $u \notin W$ , then since weight  $\max(G)$ . Let  $W$  be the set of

It suffices to show that there exists a that  $g_a = \max(G)$  for all  $a \in C$ .

and let  $b \in A$  with  $g_b = \max(G)$ .

$$|E| = \sum_{i=1}^r |C_i| = |V| - 1 + r \leq 2(|V| - 1).$$

This completes the proof. ■

The max-balanced graph given in Fig. 3 shows that the bounds in parts (iii) and (iv) of Theorem 3 are, in general, the best possible.

It follows from Part (ii) of Theorem 3 that the existence of a tower is a sufficient condition for a weighted graph to be max-balanced. This condition is also necessary, and the following algorithm shows how to compute a tower for a given max-balanced graph.

### The Tower Algorithm

**Input:** A strongly connected max-balanced graph  $G = (V, A, g)$ .

**Output:** A tower  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  for  $G$ .

**Step 0:** Set  $H_0 = (V, \emptyset)$  and  $i = 0$ .

**Step 1:** If  $H_i$  is strongly connected, set  $r = i$ , return the sequence  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$ , and **STOP**.

**Step 2:** Let  $\Pi_i$  be the partition of  $V$  induced by the strong components of  $H_i$ , and let  $C_{i+1}$  be a cycle of  $G/\Pi_i$  satisfying

$$g_a = \max(G/\Pi_i) \quad \text{for } a \in C_{i+1}. \quad (7)$$

**Step 3:** Let  $H_{i+1} = H_i \cup C_{i+1}$ ; set  $i = i + 1$  and return to Step (1).

It follows from Lemma 1 that the graph  $G/\Pi_i$  in Step 2 is max-balanced, and therefore by Lemma 2 it contains a cycle  $C_{i+1}$  satisfying (7). It follows directly from Steps 1 and 2 that the output satisfies conditions (ii) and (iii) in the definition of a tower. Since  $|\Pi_{i+1}| < |\Pi_i|$ , for all  $i$  in Step 3, we have the following result:

**Theorem 4** *Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted max-balanced graph. Then the tower algorithm terminates in at most  $|V| - 1$  iterations with a tower  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  for  $G$ .*

As a consequence of Theorems 3 and 4, we have the following characterization of max-balanced graphs.

**Theorem 5** *Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph. Then  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  contains a tower.*

## 4 Cycle Covers for $G$

In this section, we define the notion of a cycle cover for  $G$ . We show that  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  has a cycle cover (see [3] for an alternative proof of this

result) and use a tower for  $G$  to construct a cycle cover for max-balanced graphs a result that is a generalization of a result of Ford [3] on circulation in a graph.

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be max-balanced, and let  $H = (V, A)$  be a subgraph of  $G$ . For  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , let  $H_i$  be defined inductively as follows:  $H_0 = H$  and  $H_i$  is determined by the strong components of  $H_{i-1}$

$$\lambda_i = \max(G/\Pi_{i-1})$$

It follows directly from the definition of  $\lambda_i$  that

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_r$$

Each set  $C_i$  (since it is a cycle of  $G/\Pi_{i-1}$ ) contains exactly one arc from each of the strong components of  $H_{i-1}$ . Thus each cycle  $C_i$  traverses arcs in  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_{i-1}$ . It follows that  $C_i$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_i &\leq g_a \quad \text{for } a \in C_i \\ g_a &= \lambda_i \quad \text{for } a \in C_i \end{aligned}$$

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a weighted graph and let  $H = (V, A)$  be a subgraph of  $G$ . A cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$  is a collection of distinct cycles of  $G$  such that for each  $b \in A$

- (i)  $b \in D_b$ ,
- (ii)  $D_b \setminus \{b\}$  is contained in  $H$ , and
- (iii)  $g_b \leq g_a$  for  $a \in D_b$ .

If  $H$  equals  $G$ , then we will refer to  $\mathcal{D}$  as a cycle cover for  $G$ .

We make three observations on the relationship between a tower and a cycle cover.

1. Equivalently, we may define a cycle cover  $(D_1, D_2, \dots, D_s)$  for  $G$  such that for all  $a \in A$ 

$$g_a = \max_{b \in D_b} g_b$$
2. If  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$ , then  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$ .
3. Let  $\mathcal{T} = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{C'_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, r\}$  be a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$  above. Since  $C'_i$  is contained in  $C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_{i-1}$ , it follows that  $g_a = \max_{\{i \mid a \in C'_i\}} \lambda_i$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G'$ .

**Theorem 6** *Let  $G$  be a max-balanced graph. Then there exists a cycle cover for  $G$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $H = (V, E)$  be the graph of  $G$ .

**Proof.** Let  $H = (V, E)$  be the graph of the tower  $T$ . We will define a collection of

**Theorem 6** Let  $G$  be a max-balanced graph, and let  $T = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ . Then there exists a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with the graph of  $T$ .

3. Let  $T = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ , and let  $G' = C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_r$  be the graph of  $T$ . Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{C'_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, r\}$  be the extended cycles constructed above. Since  $C'_i$  is contained in  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_r$ , it follows directly from (10) that  $g_a = \max_{\{i \in C'_i\}} \lambda_i$ . Therefore, it follows from Observation 1 that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G'$ .

2. If  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G$ , associated with  $H'$  and  $H \subseteq H' \subseteq G$ , then  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H'$ .

1. Equivalently, we may define a cycle cover for  $G = (V, A, g)$  as a sequence of cycles  $(D_1, D_2, \dots, D_s)$  for  $G$  such that there exist numbers  $(\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_s)$  so that for all  $a \in A$

We make three observations on the relation between towers and cycle covers. If  $H$  equals  $G$ , then we will refer to  $\mathcal{D}$  as a cycle cover for  $G$ .

$$(iii) \quad g_b \leq g_a \text{ for } a \in D_b.$$

$$(ii) \quad D_b \setminus \{b\} \text{ is contained in } H, \text{ and}$$

$$(i) \quad b \in D_b,$$

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a weighted graph, and let  $H$  be a subgraph for  $G$ . A cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$  is a collection  $\mathcal{D} = \{D_a \mid a \in A\}$  of (not necessarily distinct) cycles of  $G$  such that for each  $b \in A$

$$(10) \quad \lambda_i \leq g_a \text{ for } a \in C'_i \text{ and } \lambda_i = g_a \text{ for } a \in C_i.$$

Each set  $C'_i$  (since it is a cycle of  $G/\Pi_{i-1}$ ) is a disjoint union of paths in  $G$  between the strong components of  $H_{i-1}$ . Thus each  $C'_i$  can be extended to a cycle  $C'_i$  of  $G$  by traversing arcs in  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_{i-1}$ . It follows from (9) that the resulting cycle  $C'_i$  satisfies

$$(9) \quad \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_r.$$

It follows directly from the definition of  $C'_i$  that

$$(8) \quad \lambda_i = \max(G/\Pi_{i-1}) = g_a \text{ for all } a \in C'_i.$$

Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be max-balanced, and let  $T = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$  be a tower for  $G$ . For  $i = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , let  $H_i$  be defined by (4) and let  $\Pi_i$  be the partition of  $V$  determined by the strong components of  $H_i$ . Define  $\lambda_i$  by

for max-balanced graphs a result that is an analogue of a cycle decomposition for a result) and use a tower for  $G$  to construct a cycle cover. As a consequence, we derive

$$+ r \leq 2(|V| - 1).$$

shows that the bounds in parts (iii) and at the existence of a tower is a sufficient

anced. This condition is also necessary, compute a tower for a given max-balanced

return the sequence  $(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r)$ ,

by the strong components of  $H_i$ , and

$$(7) \quad \text{for } a \in C_{i+1}.$$

and return to Step (1).

$G/\Pi_i$  in Step 2 is max-balanced, and satisfying (7). It follows directly from (ii) and (iii) in the definition of a tower we have the following result:

connected weighted max-balanced graph. most  $|V| - 1$  iterations with a tower

have the following characterization of

connected weighted graph. Then  $G$  is

cover for  $G$ . We show that  $G$  is max-balanced for an alternative proof of this



cycles  $\mathcal{D} = \{D_b \mid b \in A\}$  for  $G$  (not all distinct) and show that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$ . First, let  $b \in E$  be an arc of  $\mathcal{T}$  contained in cycle  $C_j$ . It follows from Observation 3 that  $D_b = C'_j$  (where  $C'_j$  is the extension of  $C_j$  described above) satisfies the required conditions.

Next, let  $b$  be an arc not contained in  $H$ , and let  $\Pi_i, i = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , be the partitions determined by  $H_i$  defined in (4). It is intuitively obvious that the graph  $G/\Pi_i$  is formed by sequentially contracting the cycles  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_i$  (see [4] for a careful proof of this). The arcs of  $G/\Pi_{i-1}$  that are deleted by contracting  $C_i$  to a point are precisely those arcs with both endpoints in  $C_i$ . Let  $j$  be the integer such that  $b$  is deleted when  $C_j$  is contracted to a point. It follows that  $b$  has both endpoints in the extended cycle  $C'_j$ . Thus we can form  $D_b$  by concatenating  $b$  and the path in  $C'_j$  between the endpoints of  $b$  in the direction of  $b$ . This proves that  $D_b \setminus \{b\}$  is contained in  $H$ .

Since  $b$  is an arc of  $G/\Pi_{j-1}$  it follows that  $g_b \leq \lambda_j$ . Further, since  $D_b$  is contained in  $C'_j$ , it follows directly from (10) that  $g_b \leq g_a$  for  $a \in D_b$ . This proves that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for  $G$  associated with  $H$ . ■

We remark that there is an analogy between the graph  $H$  of a tower for a max-balanced graph and a spanning tree for an undirected graph in the sense that every arc  $b$  not in  $H$  is contained in a cycle all of whose arcs except  $b$  are contained in  $H$ .

We have the following corollary of Theorem 3.

**Corollary 7** *Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected max-balanced graph. Then there exists a max-sufficient subgraph  $H$  for  $G$  that has a cycle cover containing fewer than  $|V|$  cycles.*

**Proof.** Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a tower for  $G$ , and let  $H$  be the graph of  $\mathcal{T}$ . It follows from Theorem 3 that  $H$  is max-sufficient for  $G$ , and by Observation 3 the set  $\mathcal{D} = \{C'_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, r\}$  is a cycle cover for  $H$ . Furthermore,  $r < |V|$  by part (iii) of Theorem 3. ■

As a consequence of Theorems 3 and 6 we have the following characterization of max-balanced graphs.

**Corollary 8** *Let  $G = (V, A, g)$  be a strongly connected weighted graph. Then  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  has a cycle cover.*

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be max-balanced. Then by Theorem 3,  $G$  has a tower  $\mathcal{T}$ . It follows from Theorem 6 that  $G$  has a cycle cover associated with the graph of  $\mathcal{T}$ , which by Observation 2 is a cycle cover for  $G$  (associated with  $G$ ).

Conversely, let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a cycle cover for  $G$ , and let  $W$  be a cut for  $G$ . Then for each  $b \in \delta^+(W)$  there exists a cycle  $D \in \mathcal{D}$  such that  $g_b \leq g_a$  for  $a \in D$ . Since  $D$  must also intersect  $\delta^-(W)$  there exists some arc  $c \in \delta^-(W)$  such that  $g_b \leq g_c$ . Thus we have shown that

$$\max_{a \in \delta^+(W)} g_a \leq \max_{a \in \delta^-(W)} g_a. \quad (12)$$

A similar argument shows that the reverse inequality in (12) is also satisfied. This proves that  $G$  is max-balanced. ■

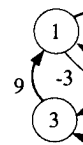


Figure 4: A Max-balanced graph

Corollary 8 is an analogue of a cycle cover theorem. Specifically, it is easy to prove that a weighted graph  $(V, A)$  if and only if there exist cycles  $C_1, \dots, C_s$  such that

$$g_a = \sum_{\{i \mid a \in C_i\}} \mu_i$$

Given a circulation  $g$  it is easy to construct a cycle for  $(V, A)$  such that  $g_a > 0$  for  $a \in C$ . Repeating this process for each weight  $g_a, a \in D_1$  and repeating this process for each weight  $g_a, a \in D_2$  and repeating this process in this fashion, we can easily construct a cycle cover for  $(V, A)$ . The tower algorithm is, in a sense, an algorithm for constructing circulations.

## 5 Examples

We conclude the paper by providing examples of max-balanced graphs. Theorem 5 that  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  has a tower. A max-balanced graph has the structure of a tower to a max-balanced graph. Every max-balanced graph contains a cycle cover. Every max-balanced weighted graph  $G$  contains such a cycle cover. See Fig. 4.

More complicated examples can be constructed by repeating this construction. See Fig. 5.

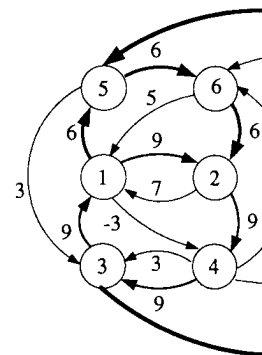


Figure 5: A Max-balanced graph

( $\mathcal{D}$ ) and show that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a cycle cover for arc of  $\mathcal{T}$  contained in cycle  $C_j$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{D}$  is the extension of  $C_j$  described above)

$H$ , and let  $\Pi_i, i = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , be the

It is intuitively obvious that the graph

the cycles  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r$  (see [4] for a

points in  $C_i$ . Let  $j$  be the integer such

that are deleted by contracting  $C_j$  to a

point. It follows that  $b$  has both endpoints

$D_b$  by concatenating  $b$  and the path in  $C_j'$

of  $b$ . This proves that  $D_b \setminus \{b\}$  is contained

$g_a \leq \lambda_j$ . Further, since  $D_b$  is contained

for  $a \in D_b$ . This proves that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a

between the graph  $H$  of a tower for a max-

undirected graph in the sense that every

whose arcs except  $b$  are contained in  $H$ .

em 3.

ly connected max-balanced graph. Then

$G$  that has a cycle cover containing fewer

$H$  be the graph of  $\mathcal{T}$ . It follows from

and by Observation 3 the set  $\mathcal{D} =$

Furthermore,  $r < |V|$  by part (iii) of

we have the following characterization of

ly connected weighted graph. Then  $G$  is

ver.

Theorem 3,  $G$  has a tower  $\mathcal{T}$ . It follows

associated with the graph of  $\mathcal{T}$ , which by

and let  $W$  be a cut for  $G$ . Then for each

that  $g_b \leq g_a$  for  $a \in D$ . Since  $D$  must

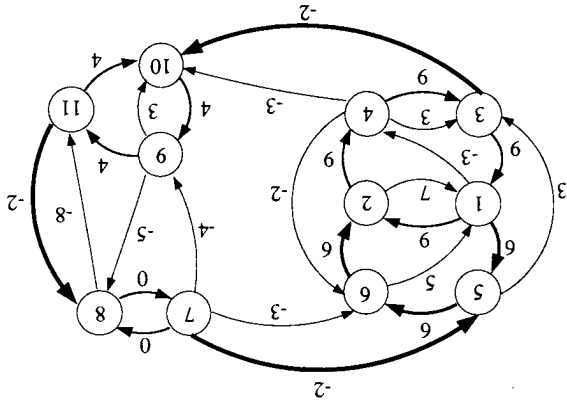
$\in \delta^-(W)$  such that  $g_b \leq g_a$ . Thus we

$\max_{a \in \delta^-(W)} g_a$ .

(12)

inequality in (12) is also satisfied. This

Figure 5: A Max-Balanced Graph



We conclude the paper by providing examples of max-balanced graphs. We proved in Theorem 5 that  $G$  is max-balanced if and only if  $G$  contains a tower. Thus every max-balanced has the structure of a tower together with appropriately weighted chords. Every max-balanced graph contains a cycle all of whose weights are maximal. If a weighted graph  $G$  contains such a cycle that is also Hamiltonian, then  $G$  is max-balanced. See Fig. 4.

More complicated examples can be built by contracting the maximal cycle to a point and repeating this construction. See Fig. (5).

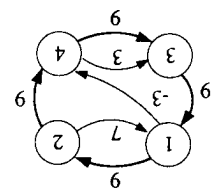
### 5 Examples

Given a circulation  $g$  it is easy to construct such a cycle decomposition: Let  $D_1$  be a cycle for  $(V, A)$  such that  $g_a > 0$  for  $a \in D_1$ . Let  $\mu = \max\{g_a \mid a \in D_1\}$ , and subtract  $\mu$  from each weight  $g_a$ ,  $a \in D_1$  and repeat this operation on the resulting circulation. Continuing in this fashion, we can easily construct the desired cycle decomposition. The tower algorithm is, in a sense, an analogue of this algorithm for decomposing circulations.

$$g_a = \sum_{\{i \in D_i\}} \mu_i \quad \text{for } a \in A.$$

Corollary 8 is an analogue of a cycle decomposition for a circulation in a graph. Specifically, it is easy to prove that a weight function  $g$  is a circulation for a graph  $(V, A)$  if and only if there exist cycles  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_s$  and positive numbers  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_s$  such that

Figure 4: A Max-Balanced Graph



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ON THE NUMBER OF INFO  
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### ABSTRACT

In this paper we use exponential information symbols of binary Goppa polynomial, is separable and does not

### INTRODUCTION

Goppa codes were introduced in this paper we will prove the following theorem

**THEOREM 1.** The binary Goppa code  $\Gamma(L, G)$  with no roots in  $\mathbb{F}$  has number of information symbols  $2^m > (2 \deg G - 2)^2$ .

In the proof of this theorem we are restricted to characteristic 2. This is based on a theorem of Bombieri-Weil. This

**THEOREM 2.** Let  $\mathbb{F} = \text{GF}(2^m)$ . Let  $R(x)$  and  $f(x)$  be polynomials in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$  and  $\deg f < \deg R$ .

Then we have that: 
$$\sum_{p \in P(\mathbb{F})} (-1)^{\text{Tr}(pf(p))}$$

where  $P(\mathbb{F})$  is the projective line over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

### SECTION 1.

Let  $\Gamma(L, G)$  denote the Goppa code with  $\deg G = t$ . Suppose further that  $G$  divides  $x^n - 1$  in  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ ,  $n = 2^m$ . Then, the parity-check matrix is