# Isostatic Structures: Using Richard Rado's Matroid Matchings

Henry Crapo, Les Moutons matheux, La Vacquerie Joint work with Tiong Seng Tay, Nat. Univ. Singapore, and Emanuela Ughi, Univ. Perugia

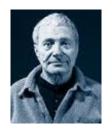
Workshop on Rigidity, Fields Institute, 11-14 October, 2011

## Outline

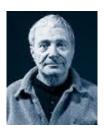
- Main Points
- 2 Basics and Context
- Semi-simplicial Maps
- 4 Shelling
- Freely Shellable Maps
- 6 Partitions of the Vertex Set
- Finale

I would like to dedicate this talk to two persons, both of whom are architects and engineers.

To Janos Baracs,



To Janos Baracs,



instigator and cofounder of
the research group *Topologie Structurale*,
who learned projective geometry
from his high school math teacher in Budapest,
and who introduced Ivo Rosenberg and myself to
three dimensional space and rigidity
during a workshop for members of the
Centre de recherches mathématiques
in January 1973, over 38 years ago

#### ... posing, among other problems:

- to characterize generically 3-isostatic graphs
- to predict special positions of non-rigidity for generically 3-isostatic graphs,
- to specify the correct placements of cross-braces in grid frameworks.
- to analyze the rigidity of tensegrity frameworks.
- to analyze the relation between stresses and lifting of plane polyedral frameworks.
- to develop a theory of periodic filling of space by copies of one or more associated zonohedra.

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founder and leading member of the association Architects and Engineers for 911 Truth, who has brought a new level of intelligent and systematic inquiry, a new level of organization and energetic public engagement, to the quest for an independent inquiry into the state crimes of 11/9/2001 and into this decade of their rain of miserable consequences.

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Everything you ever wanted to know about the 9/11 conspiracy theory in under 5 minutes.

http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article29110.htm

(surely the central rigidity problem of our era)

With special thanks to Walter Whiteley and Bob Connelly,
Ileana Streinu and Tibor Jordán,
who have so energetically
kept this beautiful subject alive and well,
expanding its horizons,
training the researchers of this new generation,
and making it possible for us to be together today.

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- (3) We offer a strengthened conjecture:

  Conjecture: A graph is generically *d*-isostatic if and only if it has a *freely-shellable* semi-simplicial map to the *d*-simplex.

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  Conjecture: A graph is generically *d*-isostatic if and only if it has a *freely-shellable* semi-simplicial map to the *d*-simplex.
- (4) We investigate further restrictions of the class of maps to maps that are fewer in number and easier to construct: maps whose vertex packets are *broken paths*.

A graph G(V, E) is generically d-isostatic if and only if it is edge-minimal among graphs that are rigid in some (and therefore in almost every) position in real Euclidean or projective space of dimension d.

We shall deal only with generic behavior of graphs as structures, so we will speak simply of "d-isostatic" graphs, dropping the adjective "generic".

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# d-Isostatic Graphs

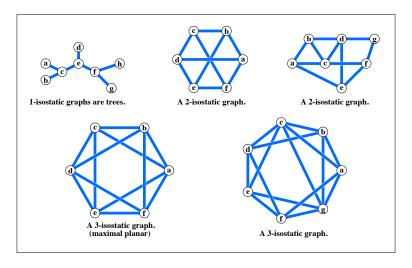


Figure: d-Isostatic graphs, for d = 1, 2, 3.

A semi-simplicial map  $f: G(V, E) \rightarrow K_{d+1}$ ,

where

$$K_{d+1} = K(I,J)$$

and

$$I = \{1, 2, \dots\}, \quad J = \{12, 13, \dots\},$$

consists of a pair of maps

$$f_0: V \rightarrow I, f_1: E \rightarrow J,$$

that preserve incidence.

That is, an edge e = ab whose vertices a and b have distinct values  $f_0(a) = i$ ,  $f_0(b) = j$  in I must be sent by  $f_1$  to  $ij \in J$ .

We call such an edge e = ab an ij-bridge.

```
An edge e=ab whose end vertices go to the same vertex, say f_0(a)=i=f_0(b), must be sent to an edge ij of K incident to i.
```

We call such an edge e = ab a loop at i toward j.

The subset  $f_0^{-1}(i)$ , for any vertex  $i \in I$ , we call the  $i^{th}$  vertex packet of f, denoted  $V_i$ .

We shall include in the definition of *simplicial map* one crucial additional property:

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( $\mathcal{P}_0$ ) Edge independence: The inverse image  $f_1^{-1}(ij)$ , denoted  $T_{ij}$ , of any edge ij of K is a tree spanning the union  $V_i \cup V_j$  of its two related vertex packets.

#### (the combined statement:)

A semi-simplicial map  $f: G(V,E) \to K_{d+1}(I,J)$ , consists of a pair of maps  $f_0: V \to I$ ,  $f_1: E \to J$ , that preserve incidence, and ...

( $\mathcal{P}_0$ ) Edge independence: The inverse image  $f_1^{-1}(ij)$ , denoted  $T_{ij}$ , of any edge ij of K is a tree spanning the union  $V_i \cup V_j$  of its two related vertex packets.

Semi-simplicial maps have very satisfactory visual representations, using *colors* taken from a standard edge-coloring of  $K_{d+1}$  to specify the images of each edge.

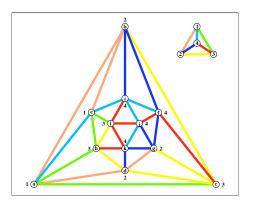


Figure: A *d*-isostatic graph, with semi-simplicial map.

The tree-decomposition is then easily comprehended.

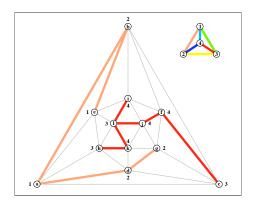


Figure: The trees  $T_{12}$  and  $T_{34}$ .

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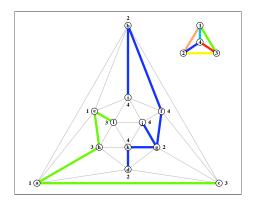


Figure: The trees  $T_{13}$  and  $T_{24}$ .

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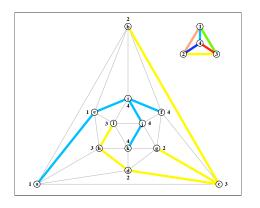


Figure: The trees  $T_{14}$  and  $T_{24}$ .

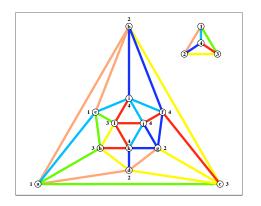


Figure: All together now!.

# Path Connectivity

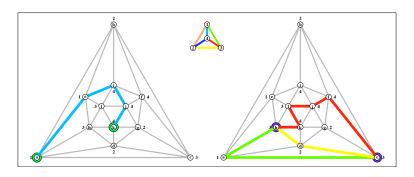


Figure: Paths between vertices having distinct/identical images.

If a and b have distinct images i, j under  $f_0$ , then a and b are connected along a unique path in the tree  $T_{ij}$ .

## Path Connectivity

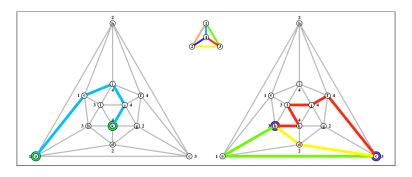


Figure: Paths between vertices having distinct/identical images.

If a and b have the same image i under  $f_0$ , then they are connected along unique paths in each of the d trees  $T_{ij}$ , for  $j \neq i$ .

## Shelling

A vertex packet can be shelled if there is a sequence of monochromatic cuts that reduces it to a subgraph with no edges.

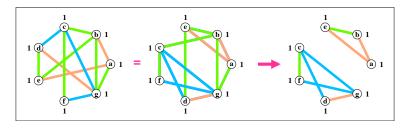


Figure: A sequence of monochromatic cuts.

#### Special Placement

In the special position given by a semi-simplicial map, any external equilibrium test load applied at two vertices a, b is uniquely resolvable.

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In the special position given by a semi-simplicial map, any external equilibrium test load applied at two vertices a, b is uniquely resolvable.

If  $f(a) \neq f(b)$ , the external load is resolved (and uniquely so) along the path between a and b in the tree  $T_{ij}$ , all those edges being *collinear* along the line  $i \vee j$ .

#### Special Placement

In the special position given by a semi-simplicial map, any external equilibrium test load applied at two vertices a, b is uniquely resolvable.

If f(a) = f(b) = i, the external load can be uniquely represented as a sum of d+1 equilibrium loads applied to a, b, one in each of the (independent) directions  $i \vee j$  at i.

These individual loads are then uniquely resolvable along the paths from a to b in the trees  $T_{ij}$ 

#### **Theorem**

A graph G is generically d-isostatic graph if it has a shellable semi-simplicial map to the d-simplex.

#### Maps on Dependent Graphs

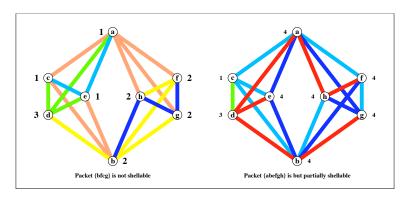


Figure: Non-shellable maps on a 3-dependent graph.

#### Converse, d = 2

For d = 2: Any non-shellable map has an obstacle to shelling in the form of a set of 3 or more vertices co-spanned by sub-trees of two trees.

This is a dependent subgraph.

#### Converse, d = 2

#### Theorem:

A graph G is generically 2-isostatic graph

if and only if

it has a shellable semi-simplicial map to the triangle,

if and only if

all semi-simplicial maps to the triangle are shellable.

This is far from being the case in dimension 3.

A 3-isostatic graph may have many non-shellable maps to the tetrahedron.

Existence of a non-shellable map establishes only that there is a subset Q of some vertex packet i that is spanned by sub-trees of any pair of the three trees  $T_{ii}$  for  $j \neq i$ .

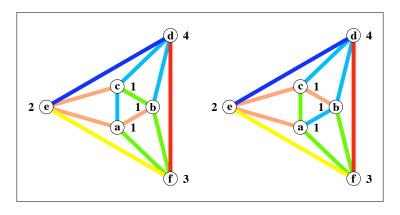


Figure: The packet  $V_1$  contains an obstacle to shelling.

These are the only two edge maps with this vertex map.

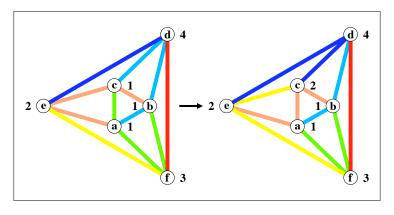


Figure: A change of one vertex image produces a shellable map.

This vertex map has a unique compatible edge map.

Perhaps the best way to deal with obstacles to shelling will be to look for maps in which obstacles cannot occur,

that is, those for which the vertex packets induce *independent* subgraphs, that is, cycle-free subgraphs, or forests.

These maps are *freely shellable*:

Simply proceed edge by edge, each single edge being a monochromatic cut!

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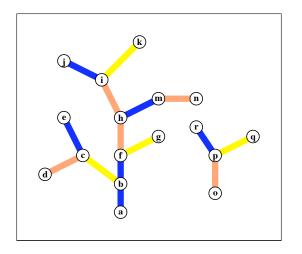


Figure: A forest as induced subgraph of packet  $V_2$ .

#### Conjecture:

A graph G is generically 3-isostatic if and only if it has a semi-simplicial map to the tetrahedron in which all vertex packets induce subgraphs that are independent (ie: forests) as subgraphs of G.

There are four interesting classes of such maps: those in which the vertex packets induce:

- $\mathcal{F}$  forests
- T trees
- B broken paths
- $\mathcal{P}$  paths

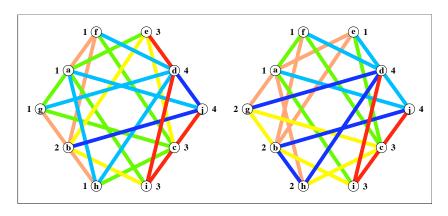


Figure: Vertex packets are trees (I), paths (r).

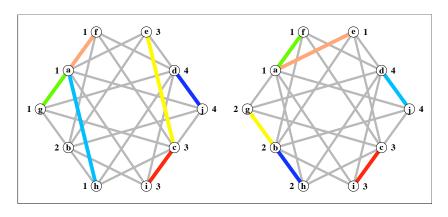


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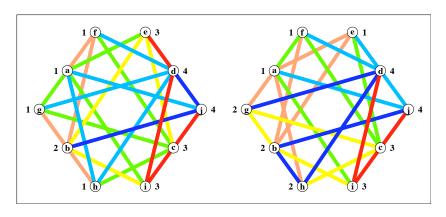


Figure: These drawings may seem complicated, but are easily analyzed.

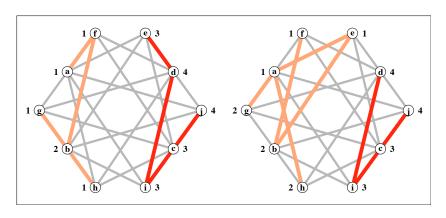


Figure: Trees  $T_{12}$ ,  $T_{34}$ .

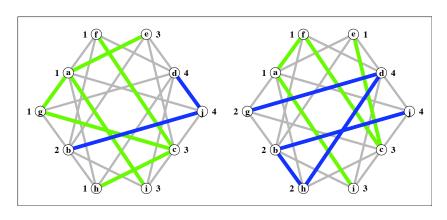


Figure: Trees  $T_{13}$ ,  $T_{24}$ .

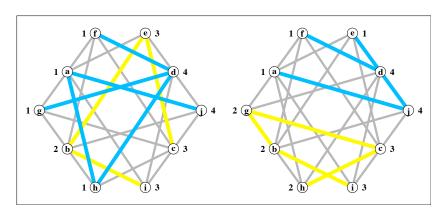


Figure: Trees  $T_{14}$ ,  $T_{23}$ .

#### The vertex set can not always be partitioned into paths.

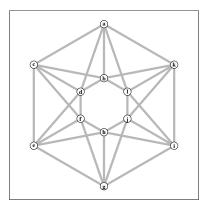
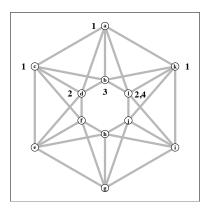


Figure: A hinged ring of tetrahedra.

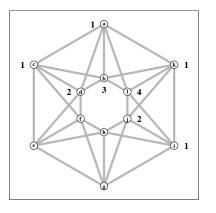
3-isostatic graphs do not necessarily have maps to  $K_4$  in which induced graphs on vertex packets are paths.

#### The vertex set can not always be partitioned into paths.



There must be a path of length  $\geq 3$ , not within a single tetrahedron. The vertex b is isolated with its image 3. There must be a path of length  $\geq 4$ .

#### The vertex set can not always be partitioned into paths.



I must be 4, otherwise there is no 2-path from d to I.

Then values 3 and 4 are isolated at b and I,

So only 1 and 2 are available for tetrahedron efgh.

## Freely shellable semi-simplicial maps

In practice, freely-shellable maps seem to abound, and seem much easier to find "by hand" than more general maps for which you must check shellability.

## Freely shellable semi-simplicial maps

What is more, freely-shellable maps have relatively few loops that need to be assigned.

## Partitions that Produce Freely Shellable Maps

To prove a graph G(V, E) is isostatic, it suffices to exhibit a partition  $\pi$  of the vertex set V having three properties  $\mathcal{P}_i$  (see below).

The main criterion  $\mathcal{P}_3$  is Richard Rado's matroid basis matching condition.

## Partitions that Produce Freely Shellable Maps

Theorem: Rado's Basis Matching Theorem Given any relation R from a set Xto a set S of elements of a matroid M(S), then there is matching in R from Xto a basis for the matroid M(S)if and only if the cardinality  $|X| = \operatorname{rank} \rho(S)$  of the matroid M, and, for every subset  $A \subset X$ , the cardinality  $|A| \leq \rho(A)$ , the rank of its image R(A) in M(S).

## Bibliography on Matroid Matching

Richard Rado, A Theorem on Independence Relations, Quarterly J. of mathematics, Oxford **13** (1942), 83-89.

## Bibliography on Matroid Matching

Joseph P. S. Kung, Gian-Carlo Rota, Catherine H. Yan, *Combinatorics: The Rota Way*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

## Bibliography on Matroid Matching

Kazuo Murota,
Matrices and Matroids for Systems Analysis
Springer Verlag,
Algorithms and Combinatorics 20 (2000), (revised 2010).

# Bibliography on Matroid Matching

And an article which led us to the possibility of insisting that vertex packets induce paths:

Roger K. S. Poh, On the Linear Vertex-Arboricity of a Planar Graph Journal of Graph Theory, **14 No. 1** (1990), 73-75.

#### A Matroid Union

Given a partition of the vertex set of *G*, define bridges and loops, and for each *ij* construct the matroid minor: restrict to the induced subgraph on the union of the two packets, and contract by its bridges.

Then take the matroid union over all pairs ij

### A Matroid Union

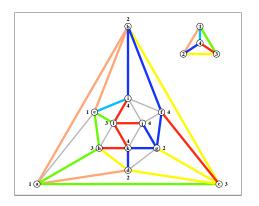


Figure: The bridges of a map on the icosahedron.

### A Matroid Union

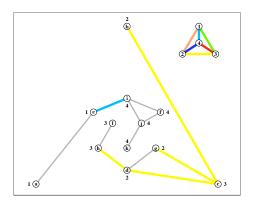


Figure: Restrictions to packet unions  $V_1 \cup V_4$  and  $V_2 \cup V_3$ .

Theorem: A partition  $\pi$  of the vertex set of a graph G(V,E) is the inverse image partition of a freely-shellable semi-simplicial map  $f:G\to K_{d+1}$  if and only if the partition  $\pi$  has the following three properties  $\mathcal{P}_i$ 

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( $\mathcal{P}_1$ ) The induced subgraph  $G_i$  on any part  $\pi_i$  of  $\pi$  is independent (circuit-free).

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- $(\mathcal{P}_1)$  The induced subgraph  $G_i$  on any part  $\pi_i$  of  $\pi$  is independent (circuit-free).
- $(\mathcal{P}_2)$  For any pair ij, the bridge subgraph  $G(V_i \cup V_j, B_{ij})$  is independent.

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- $(\mathcal{P}_2)$  For any pair ij, the bridge subgraph  $G(V_i \cup V_j, B_{ij})$  is independent.
- $(\mathcal{P}_3)$  The relation  $\mathcal{R}$  between the set of loops of G and the set of elements of the matroid union M satisfies the Rado condition for basis matching:  $|L| = \rho(M)$  and

$$\forall A \subseteq E, |A| \leq \rho(\mathcal{R}(A)).$$

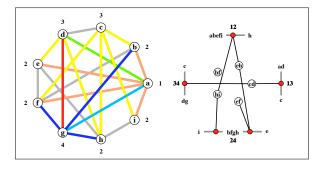


Figure: Partition (a)(befhi)(cd)(g) does not satisfy the Rado condition.

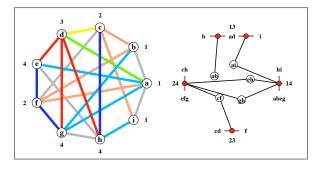


Figure: Partition (a)(befhi)(cd)(g) has 2 compatible loop maps.

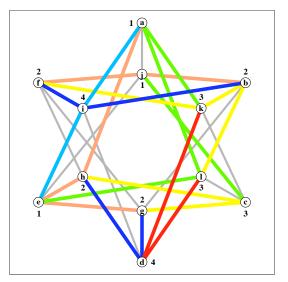


Figure: A non-Rado partition for  $K_{6,6}$  less 6 edges. (edge di!)

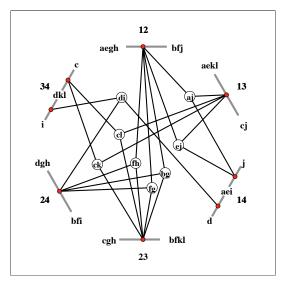


Figure: The Rado relation  $\mathcal{R}$  for that partition.

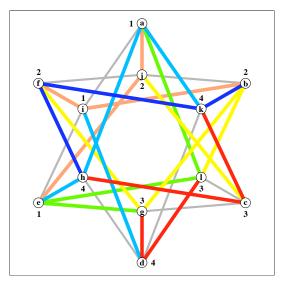


Figure: A partition with 32 compatible loop maps.

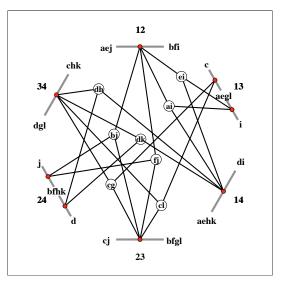


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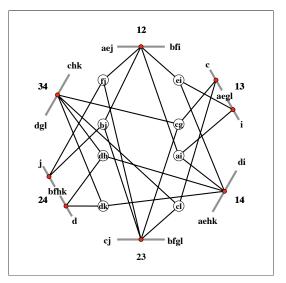


Figure: The symmetry of  $\mathcal{R}$  is perhaps more visible here.

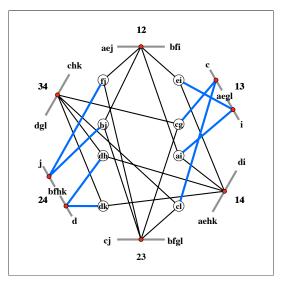


Figure: Four independent binary choices, ....

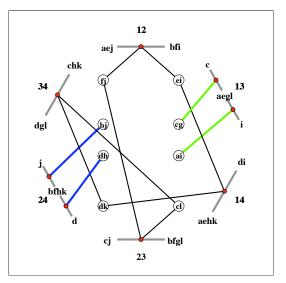


Figure: After four independent binary choices, a cycle remains.

It remains to prove that any 3-isostatic graph has a freely-shellable semi-simplicial map to the simplex  $K_4$ .

This has always been the hard part of the problem!

What is likely to happen?

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Either:

There will be a relatively simple proof, I would guess during the next few months, ...

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Or Jackson and Jordán will hit us with another magnificent counterexample, like the biplane (an example on the complete graph  $K_{56}$ ) that hit the three towers.

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Followed by a rapid retreat from an untenable position!

Which properties of isostatic graphs might permit us to prove the conjecture?

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We lean toward an analogue in d=3 of Tay's proof for d=2.

We use the  $(3v-6)\times 6v$  projective rigidity matrix R, and the  $(3v+6)\times 6v$  matrix S whose rows span the orthogonal complementary subspace.

By Hodge star complementation, the determinants of full-size minors of R are equal to the determinants of the complementary full-size minors of S up to a sign  $\pm 1$  of the bipartition of the column set, and up to a fixed polynomial quantity Q, called the pure condition or resolving bracket, which is non-zero exactly when the graph is isostatic.

The column matroids of R and of S are dual to one another, and are independent of the graph G in question!

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 $(Q \neq 0 \text{ exactly when the rows of } R \text{ form a basis for}$ the space of external equilibrium loads on the set V of vertices of G, regarded as a single rigid body.)

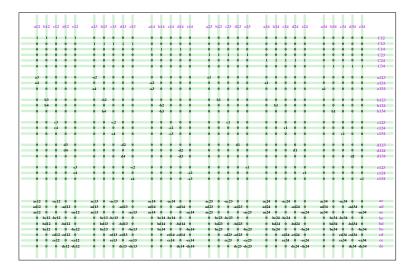


Figure: Columns grouped by trees  $T_{ij}$ .

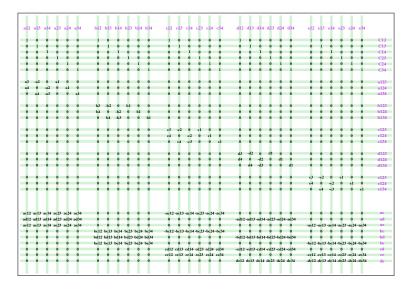


Figure: Columns grouped by vertices v.

Any set of columns in R labeled by a single vertex, say by a and by a circuit in  $K_4$ , such as 12, 23, 34, 14, are dependent.

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Any set of columns in R labeled by a edge of  $K_4$ , say by 12 and by all vertices a, are dependent.

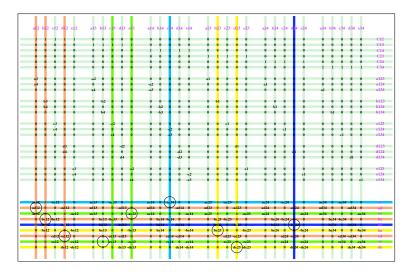


Figure: From a non-zero diagonal to a (rooted) freely shellable map.

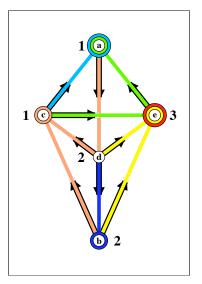


Figure: The corresponding rooting of a freely shellable map.

# An analogue of Henneberg reduction?

Is it possible to reduce any isostatic graph to an isostatic graph on one fewer vertex, by a procedure that, when repeated, leads, step-by-step, to a map?

#### Grazie

Thank you for your attention.

This paper should be up on the arXiv soon:

Isostatic Structures: Using Richard Rado's Independent Matchings