

# Lower Bounds for Shortest Paths and Matchings

**Krzysztof Onak**  
CMU

Joint work with **Venkat Guruswami**

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Solving classic graph problems requires

$n^{1+\Omega(1)}$  **space** with  $O(1)$  passes

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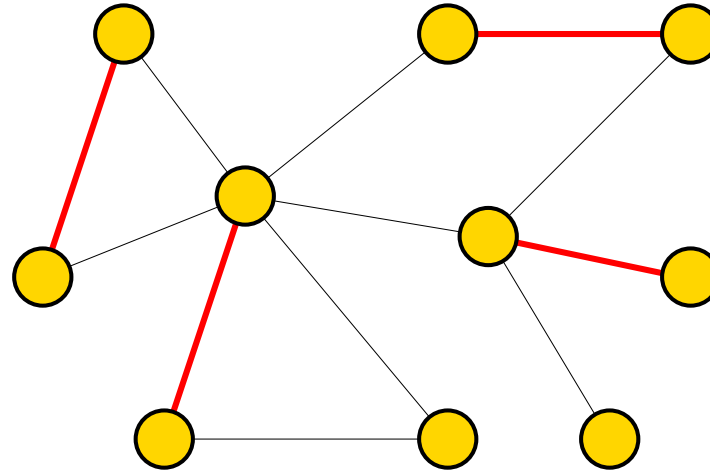
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Solving classic graph problems requires

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# Matchings

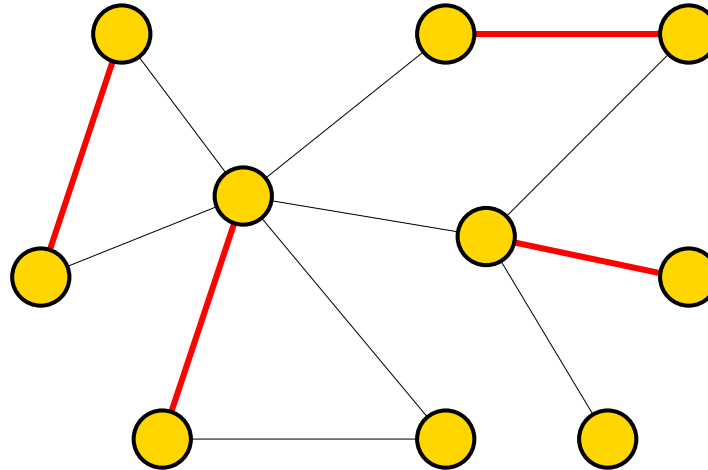
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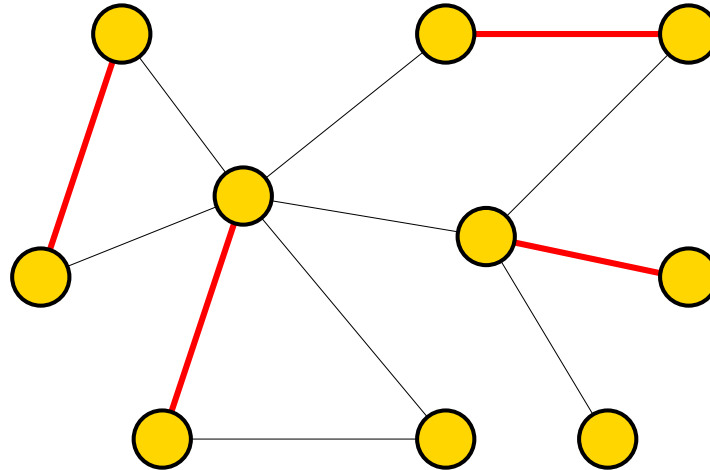


What is known:

- $1 - \epsilon$  approximation in  $\tilde{O}(n)$  space and  $f(\epsilon)$  passes [McGregor 2005] [Eggert, Kliemann, Munstermann, Srivastav 2012] [Ahn, Guha 2011]

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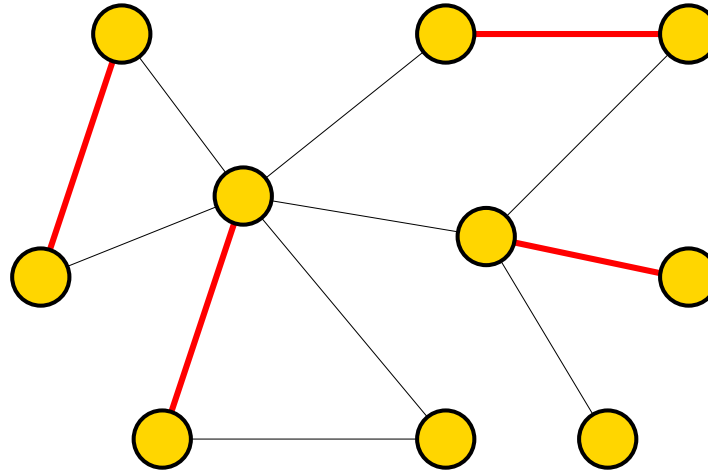


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- $n^{1+\Omega(1/\log \log n)}$  lower bound for  $(1 - e^{-1} + \delta)$ -approximation in one pass [Goel, Kapralov, Khanna 2012] [Kapralov 2012]

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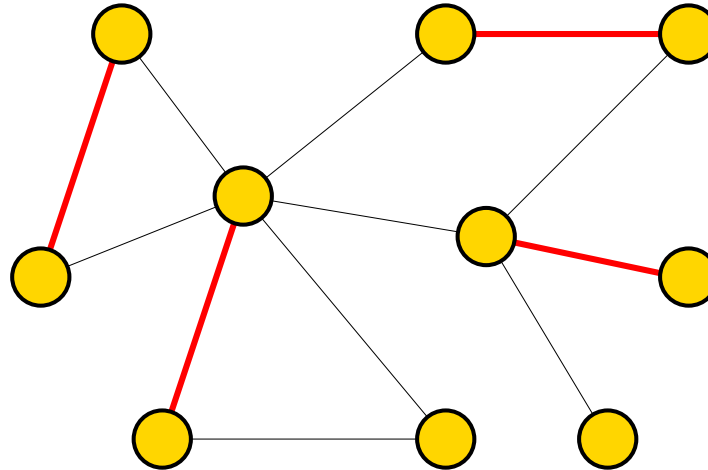


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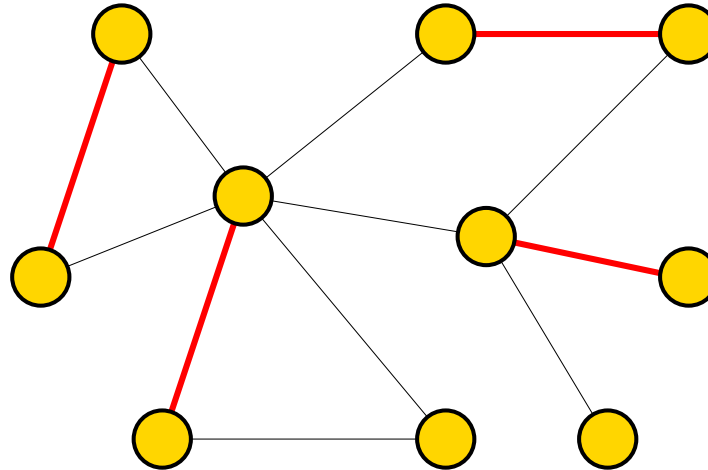


What is known:

- **Great open question:** Can obtain  $1/2 + \Omega(1)$  approximation in one pass with  $\tilde{O}(n)$  space?
  - Two passes are enough  
[Konrad, Magniez, Mathieu 2011]
  - Possible for random ordering  
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# Matchings

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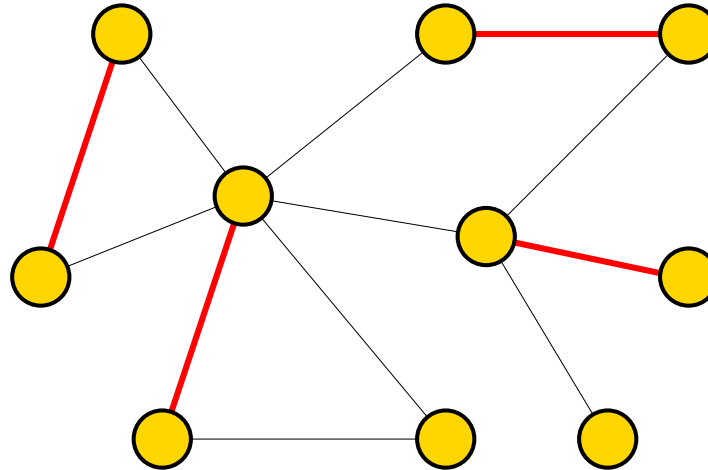


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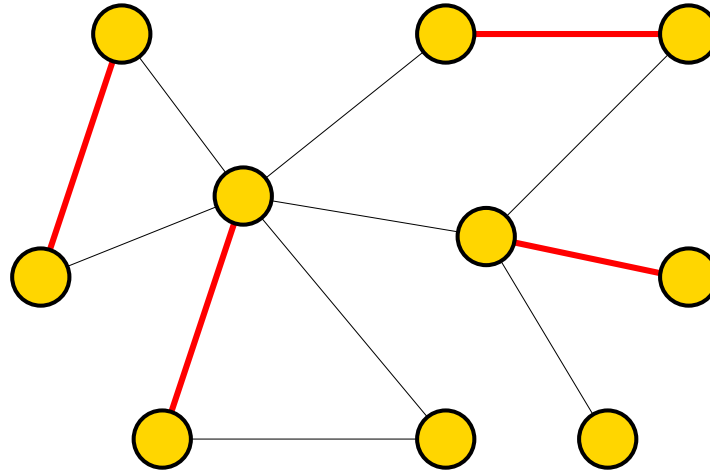


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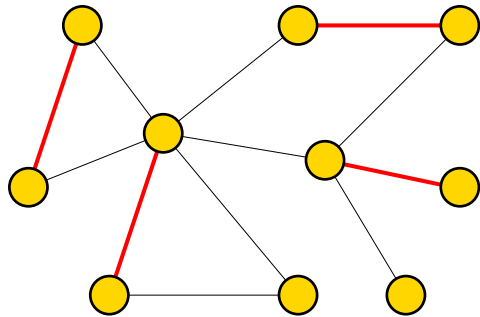


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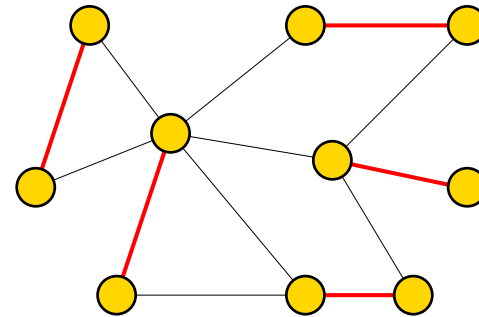
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- $\Omega(n)$  lower bounds relatively easy
- **No  $\omega(n \log n)$  lower bound known even for computing an exact matching in multiple passes**

# Maximum Matching

Problem: Is there a perfect matching?



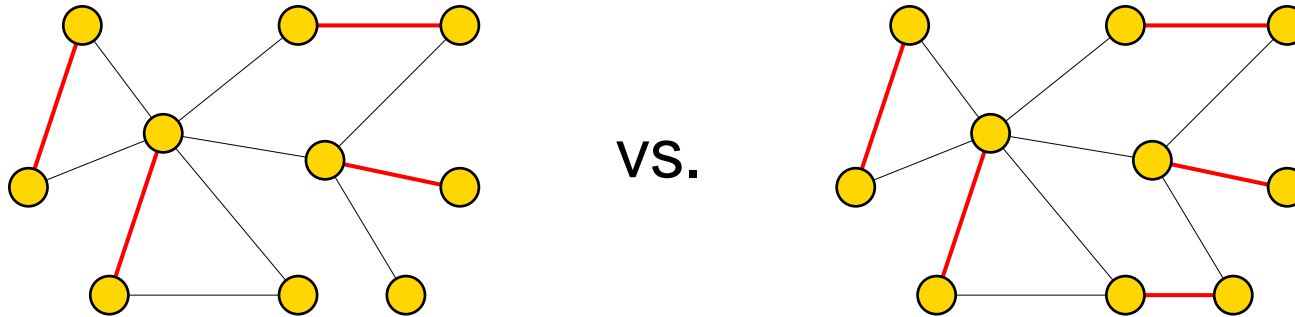
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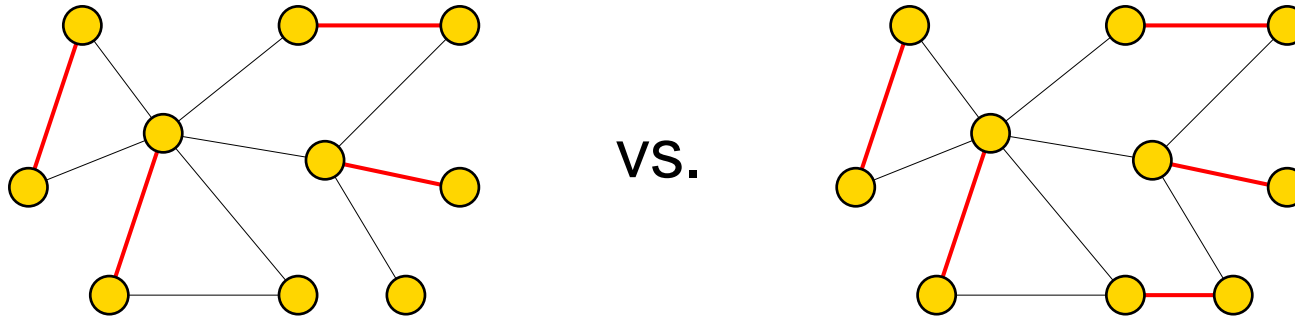


Our Result:

$\sim n^{1+\Omega(1/p)}$  space required for  $p$  passes

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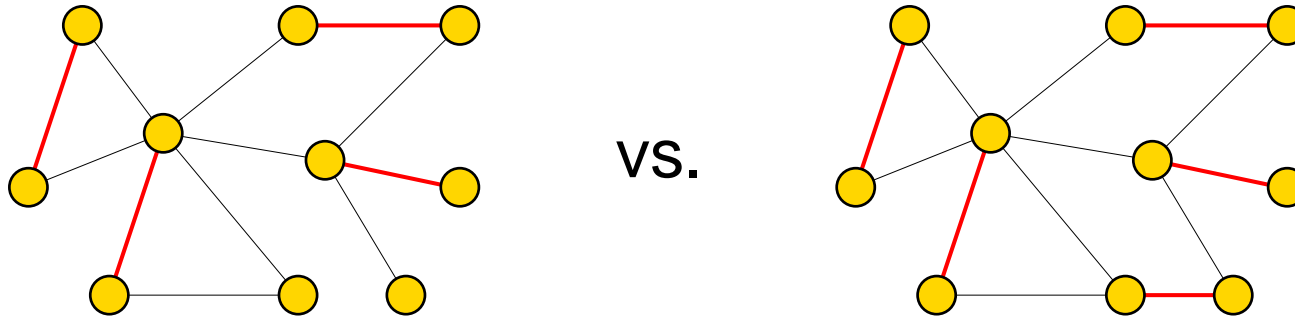
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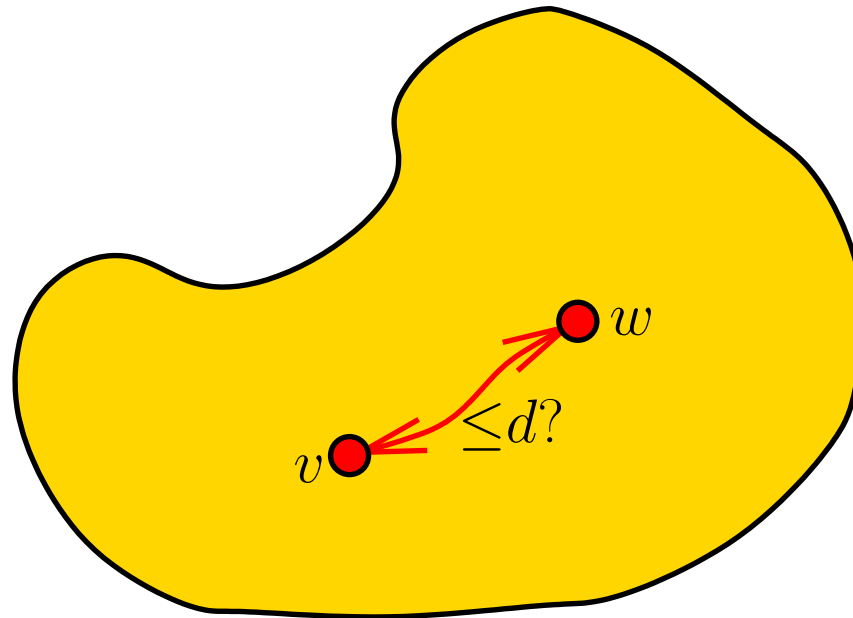
Implies lower bounds for:

- What is the size of maximum matching?
- Find maximum matching

# Shortest Path(s)

Problem:

Are two vertices  $v$  and  $w$  at distance  $2(p + 1)$ ?



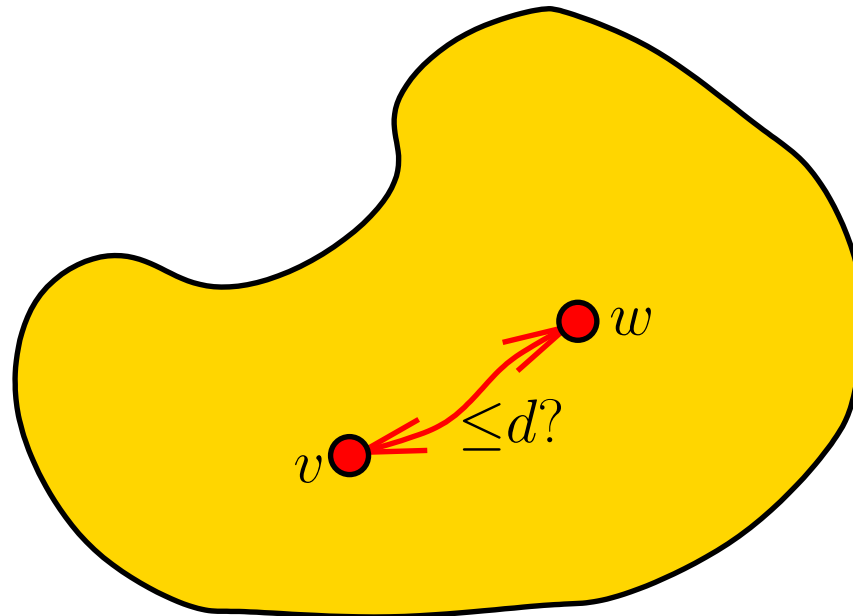
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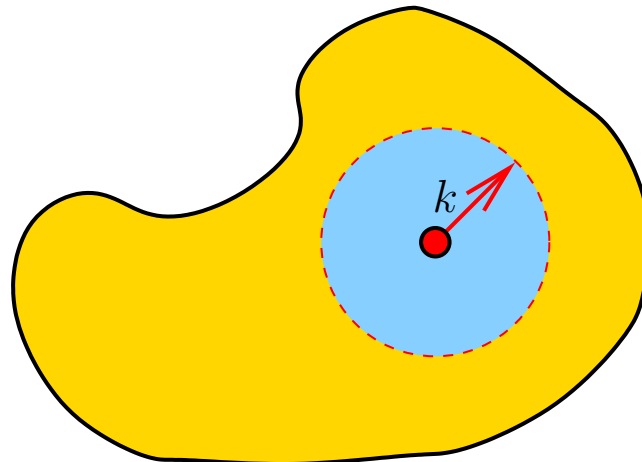
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- Computing the first  $k = O(1)$  layers of BFS tree in  $< k/2$  passes requires  $\Omega(n^{1+1/k} / (\log n)^{1/k})$  space



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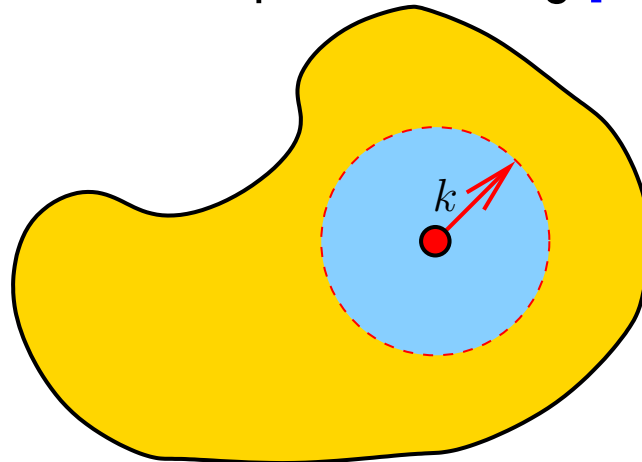
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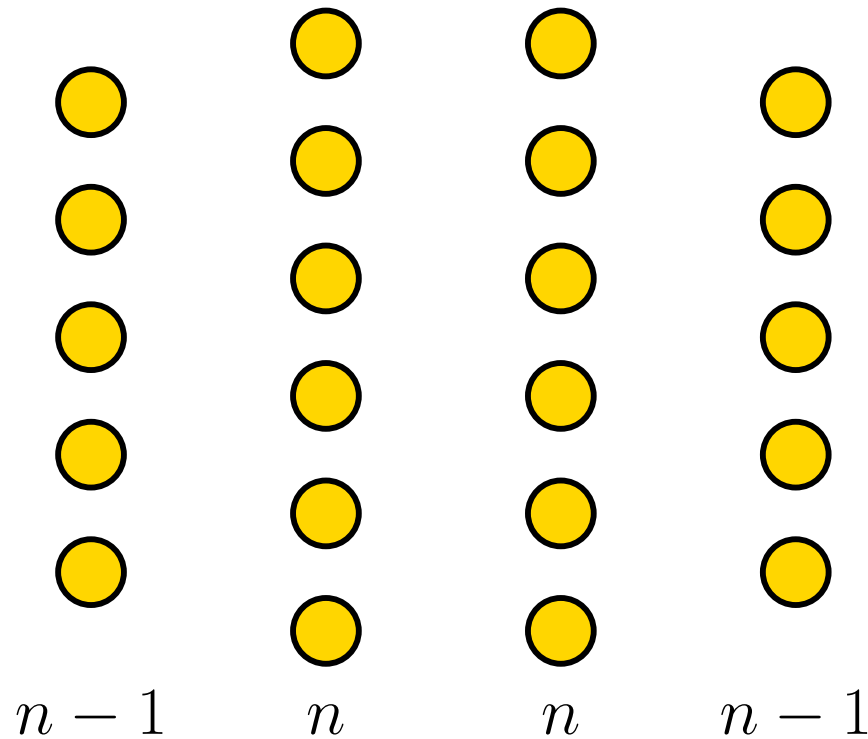
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- $(2t + 1)$ -spanner construction in  $O(tn^{1+1/t} \log^2 n)$  space and one pass
- $t$ -approximation of distance between two nodes in one pass requires  $\Omega(n^{1+1/t})$  space

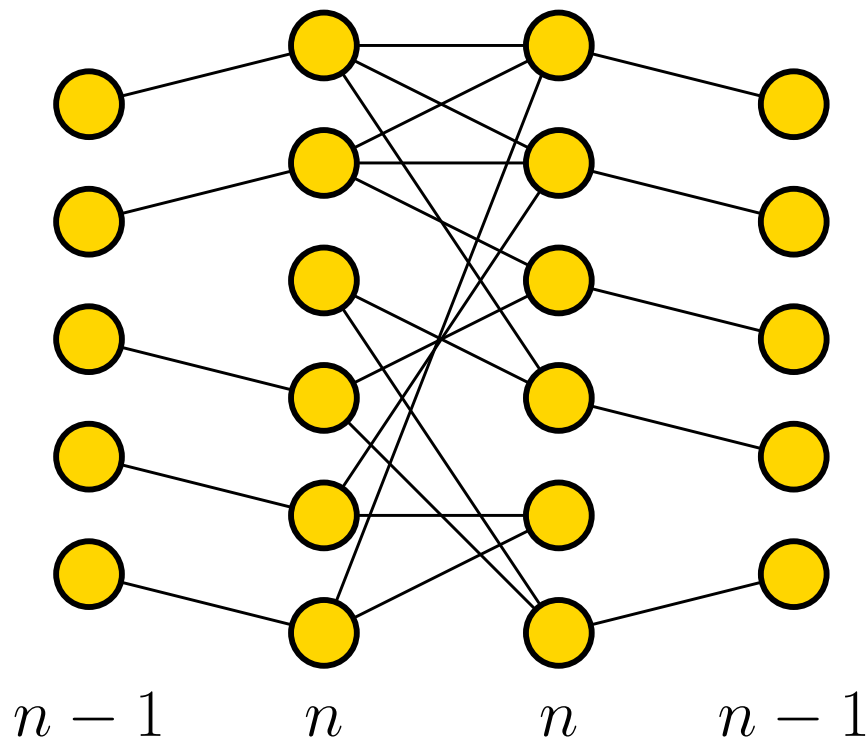
Warmup:  
One-Pass Lower Bound  
[Feigenbaum et al. 2004]

# Construction for Perfect Matching

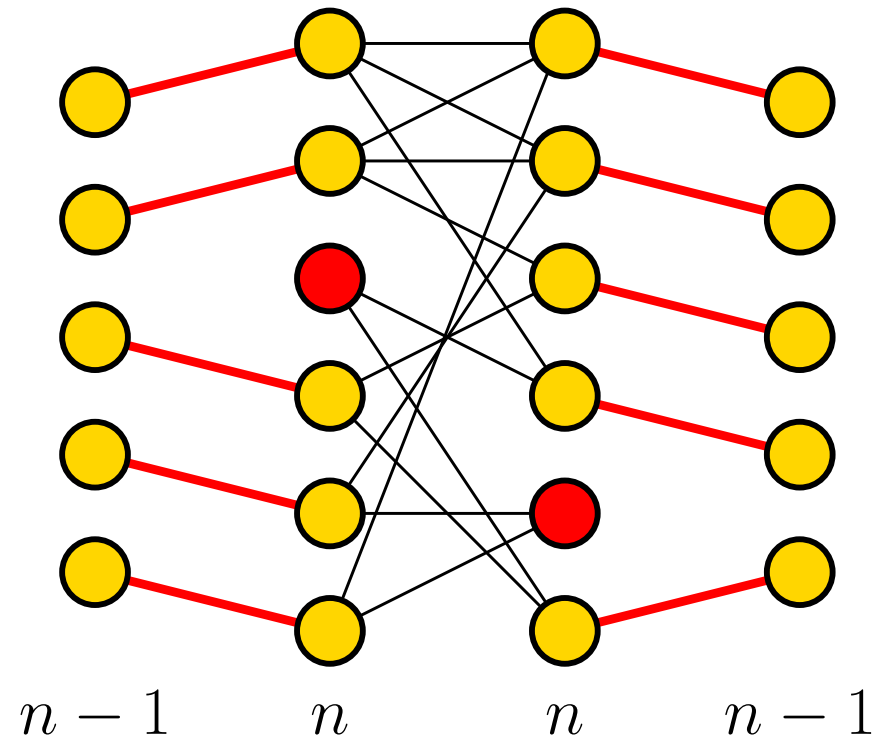




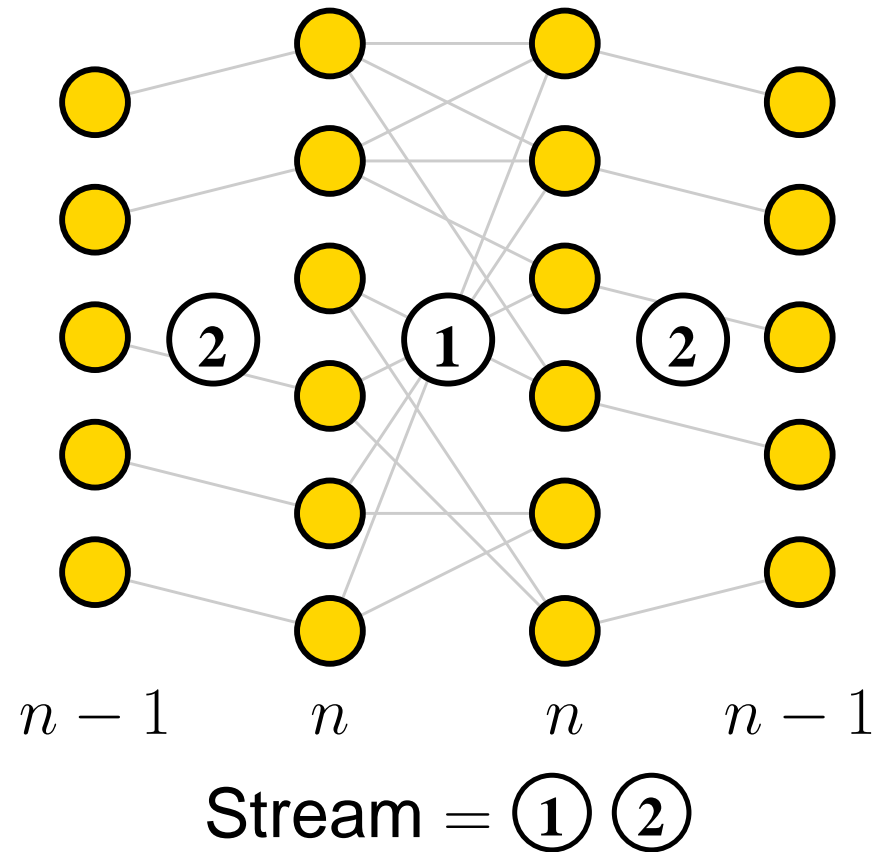
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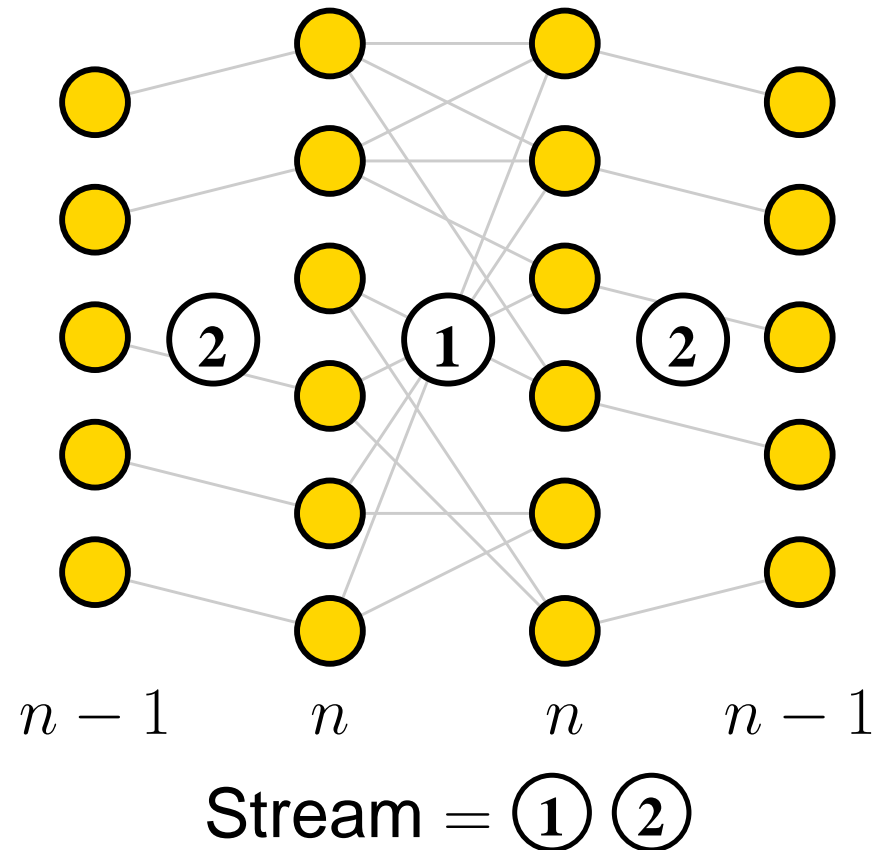
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Lower bound of  $\Omega(n^2)$  via indexing

Alice  
 $A[1 \dots n^2]$

$\Rightarrow$

Bob  
 $x$

Bob's task: output  $A[x]$

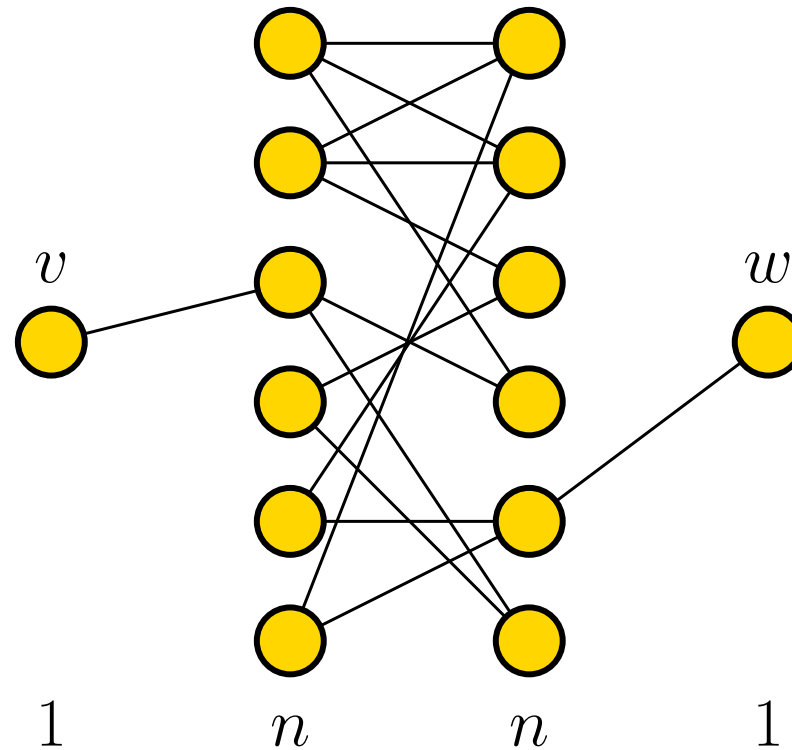


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Approximation better than  $5/3$  requires  $\Omega(n^2)$  space

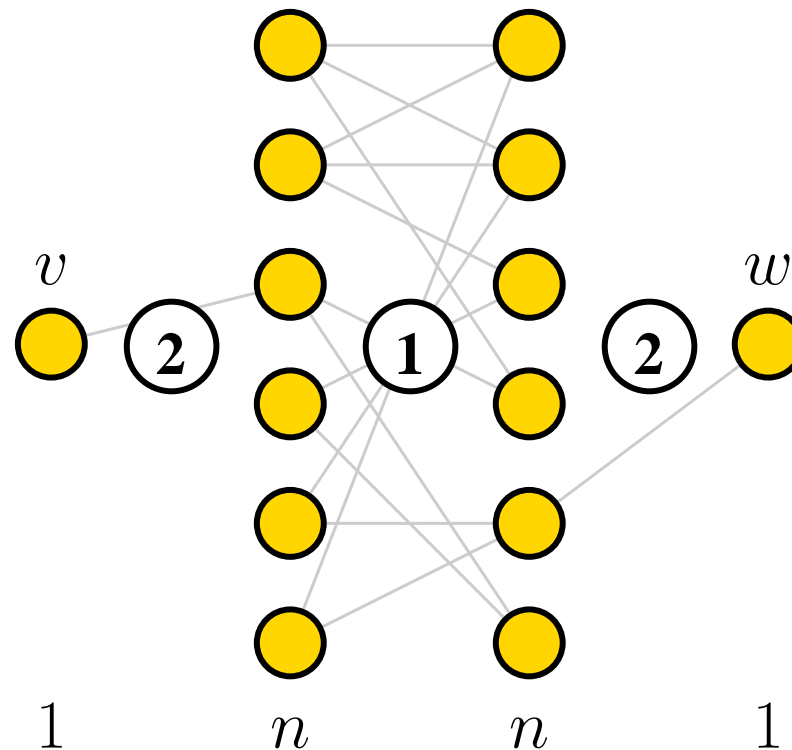
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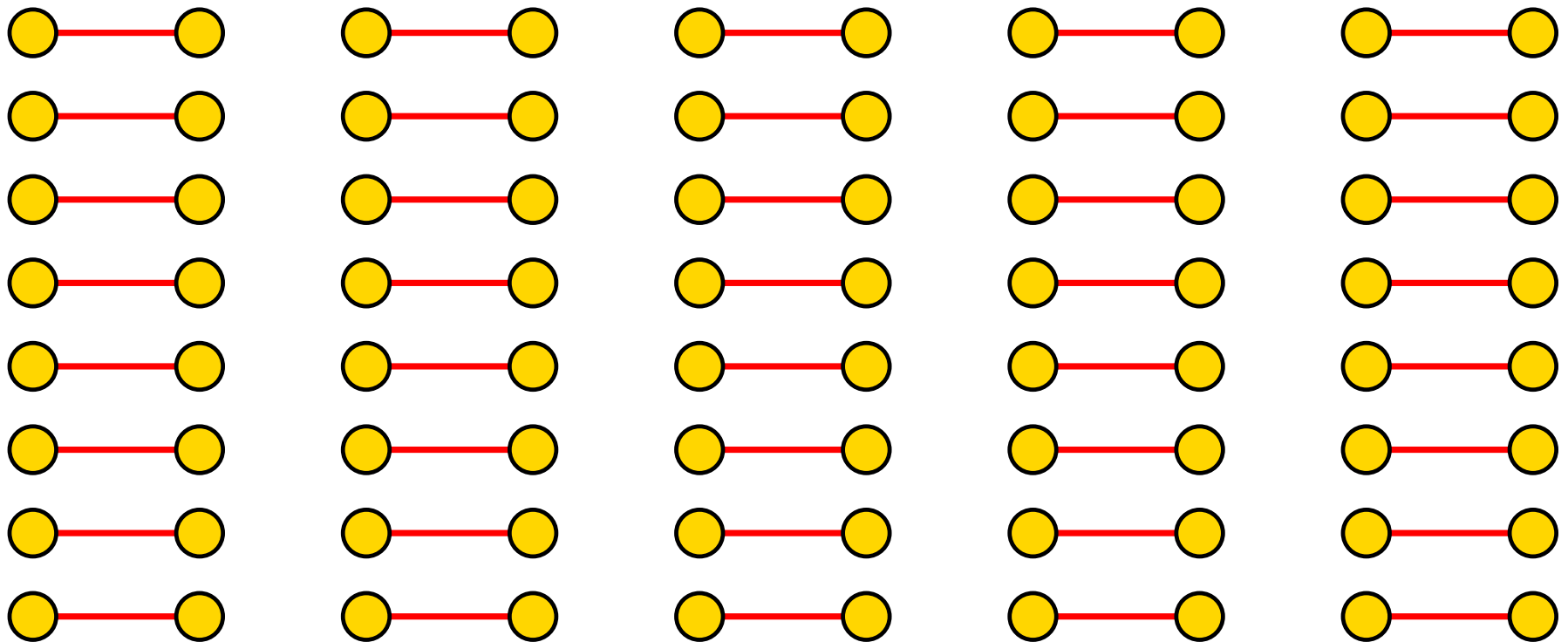


Stream = (1) (2)

# Hard Instance for Multiple Passes

# Construction for Perfect Matching

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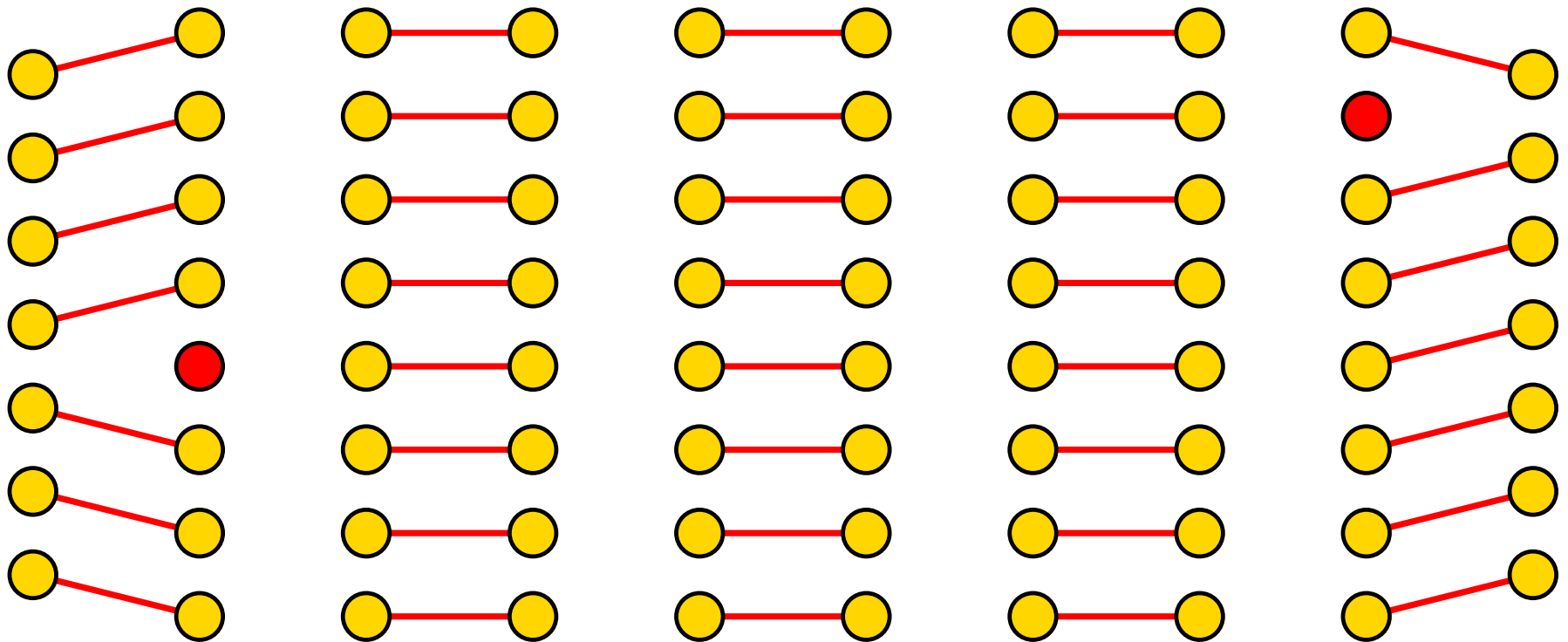


$\Theta(1)$  columns

Each column  $\Theta(n)$  rows

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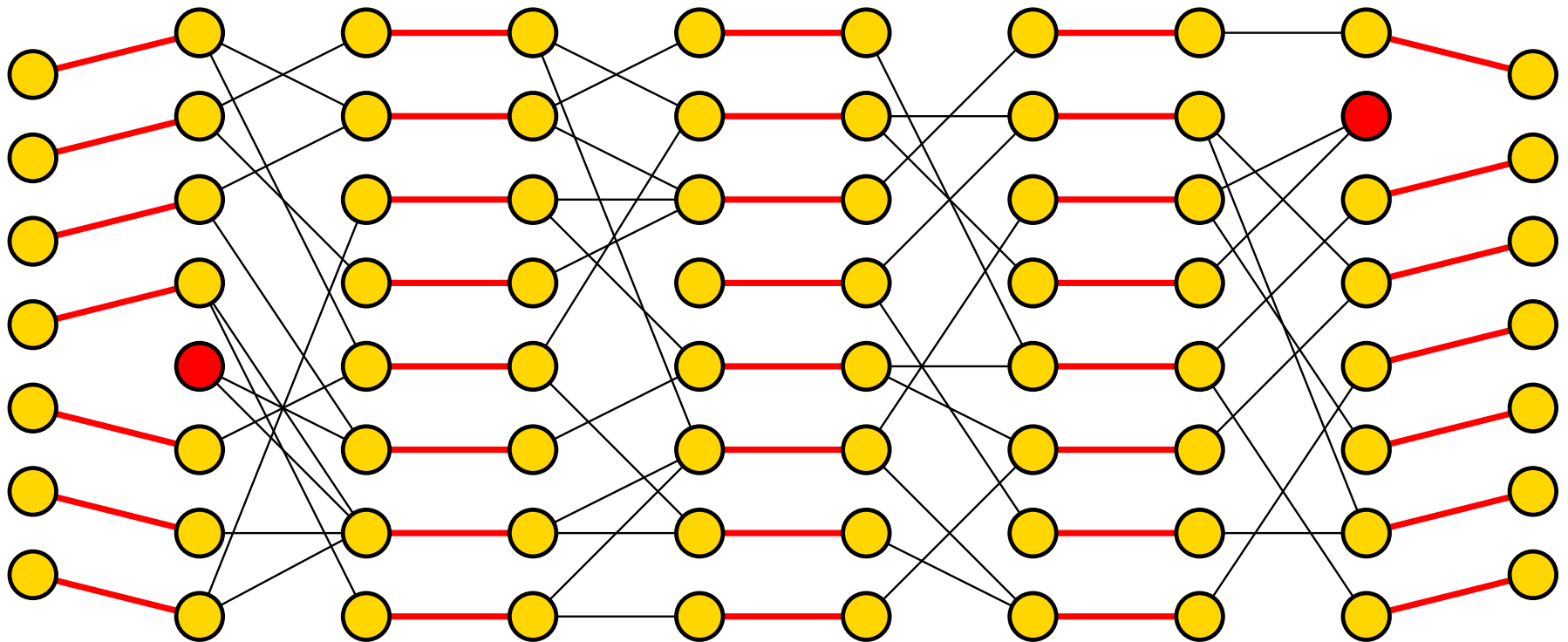


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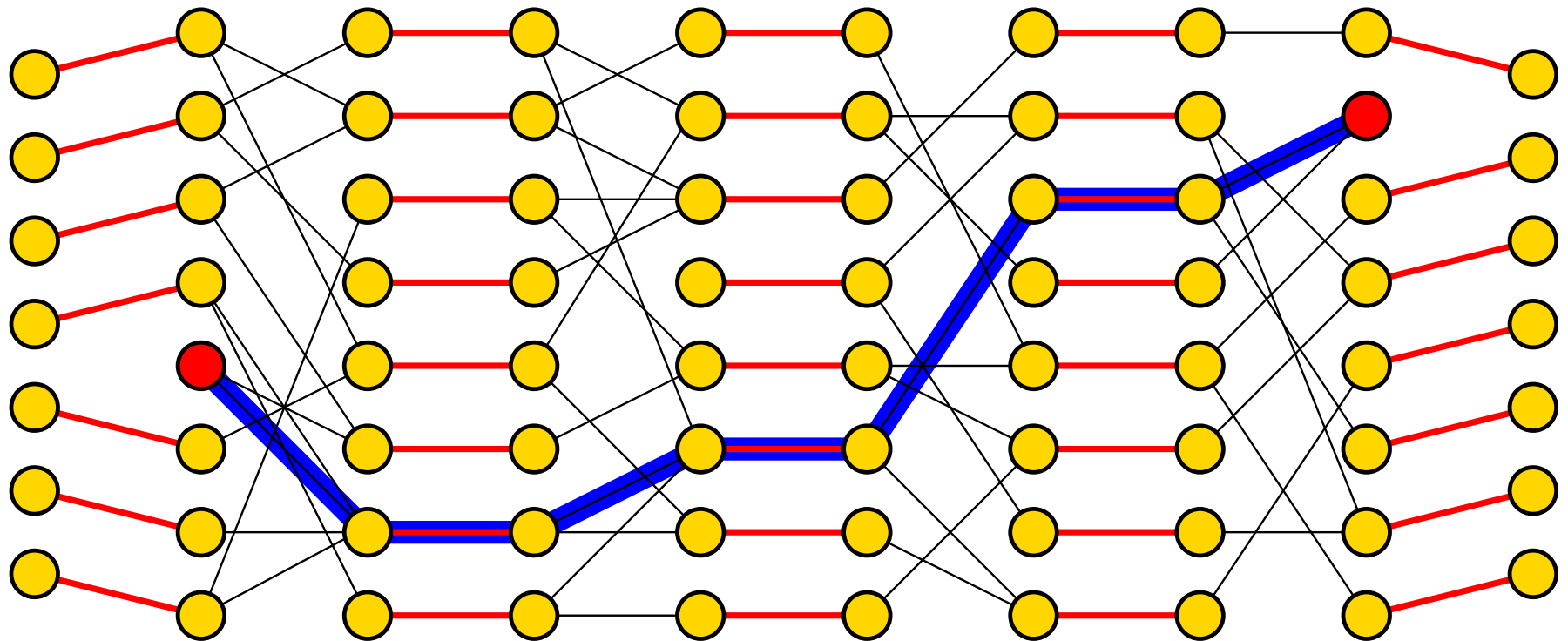


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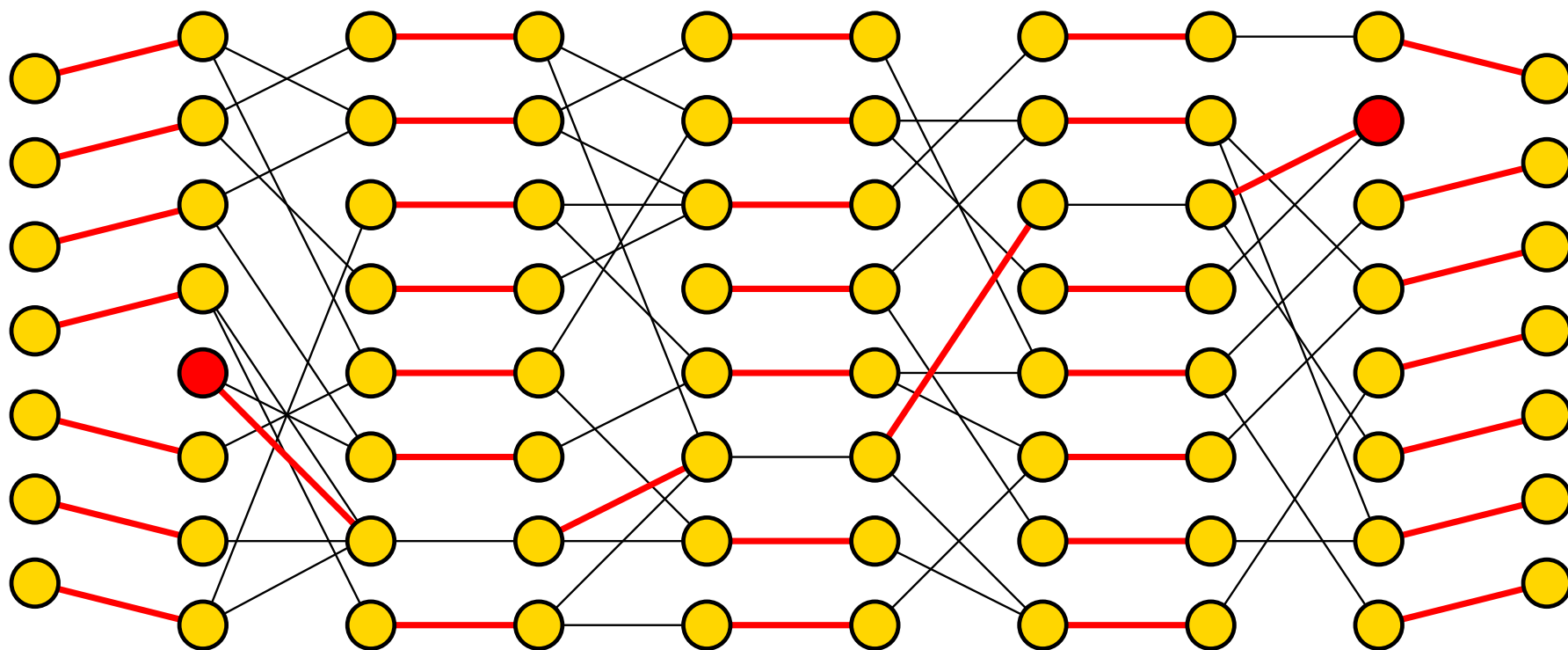
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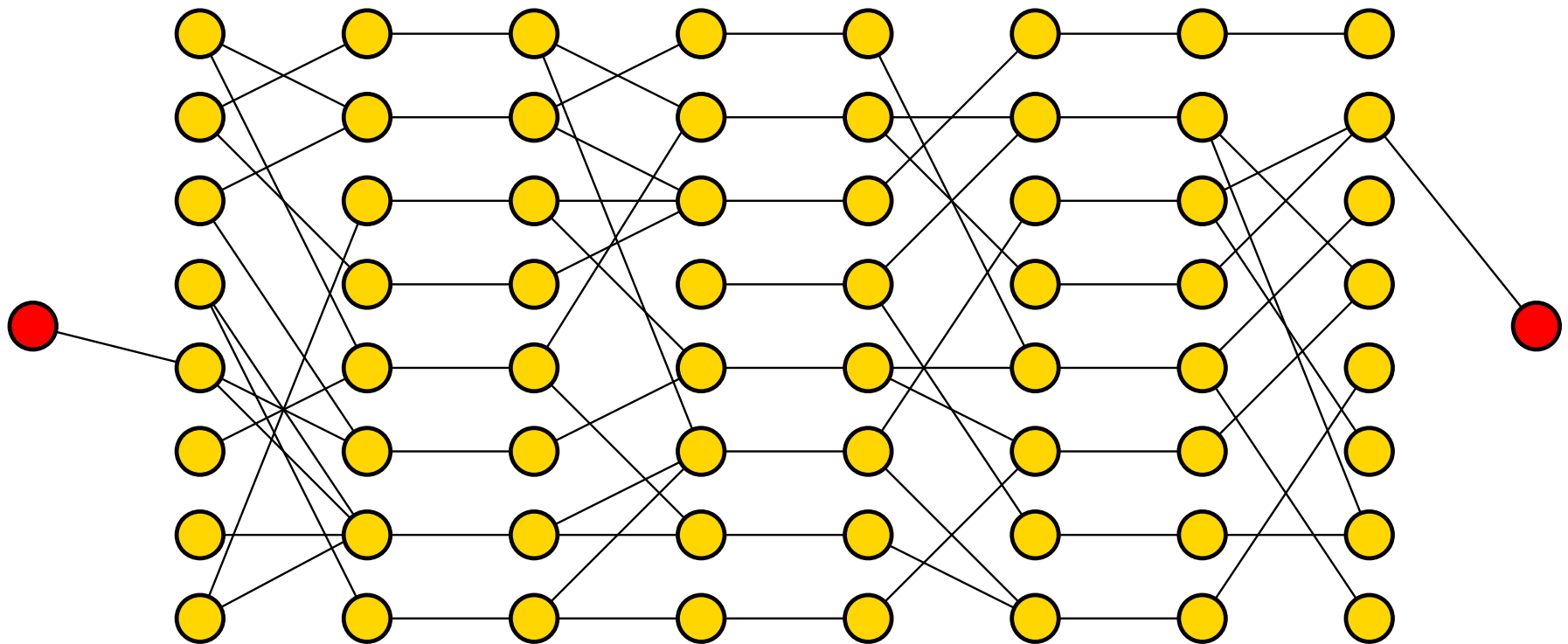


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Is there a path of length 9 between red nodes?

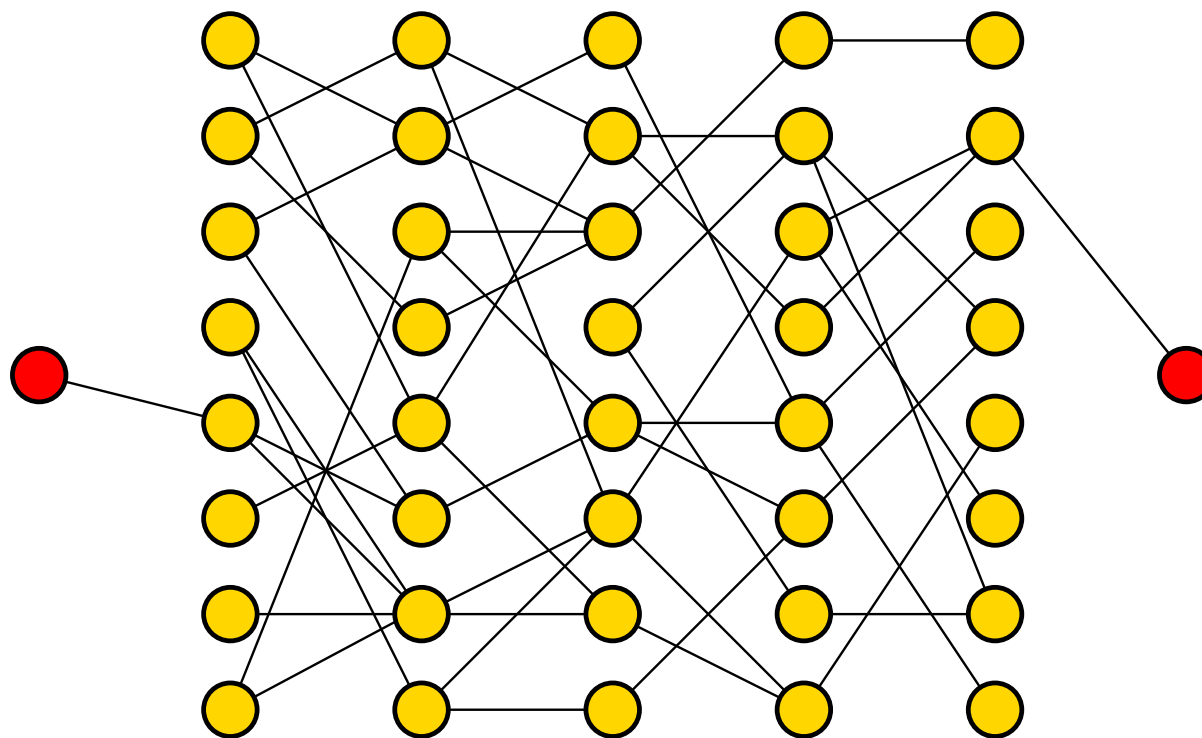


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# Construction for Perfect Matching

Is there a path of length 6 between red nodes?

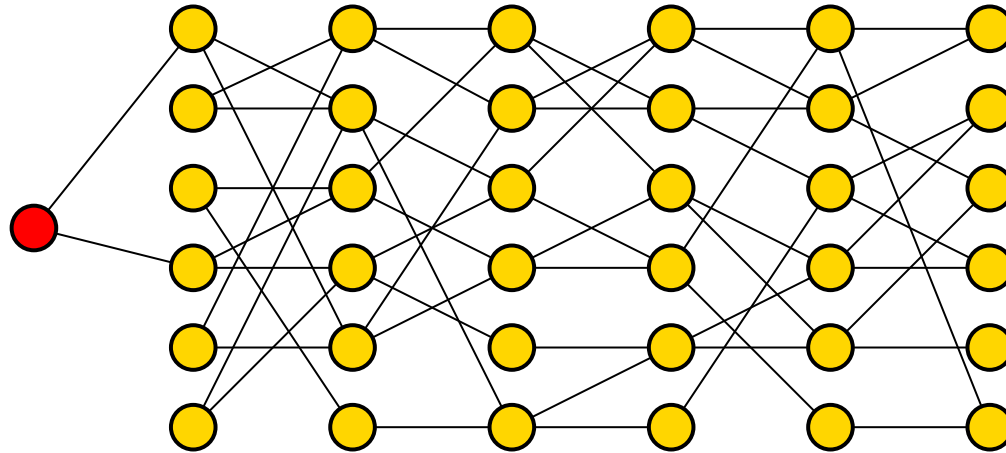


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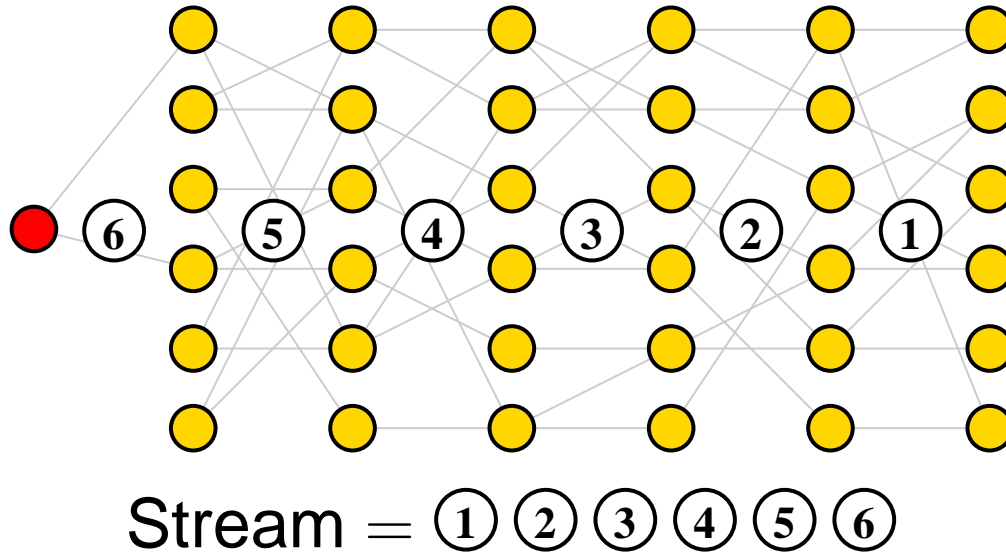
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With multiplayer pointer chasing from [Guha, McGregor 2007]:



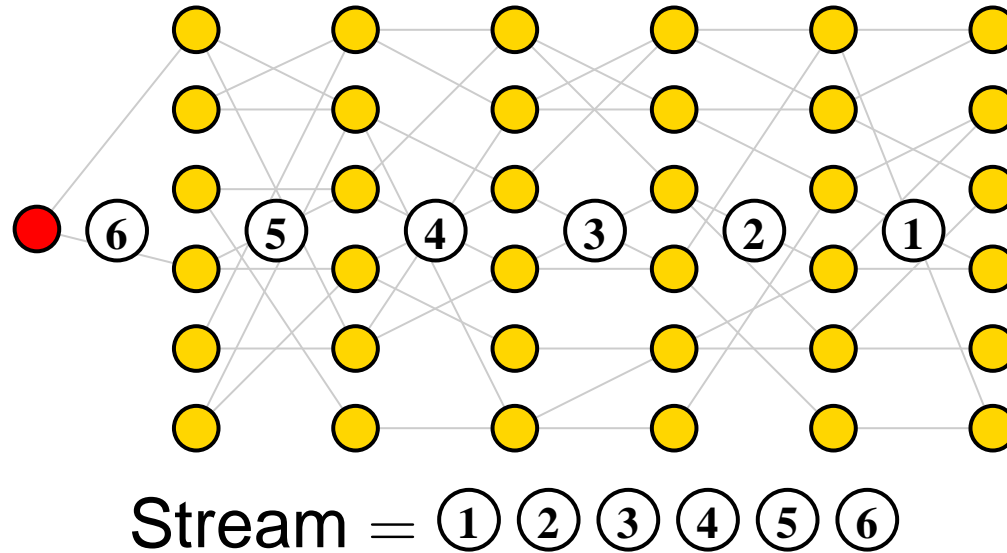
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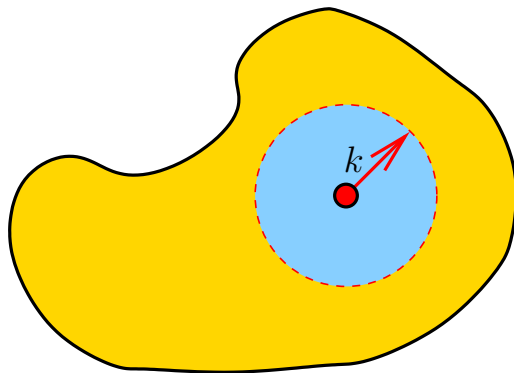


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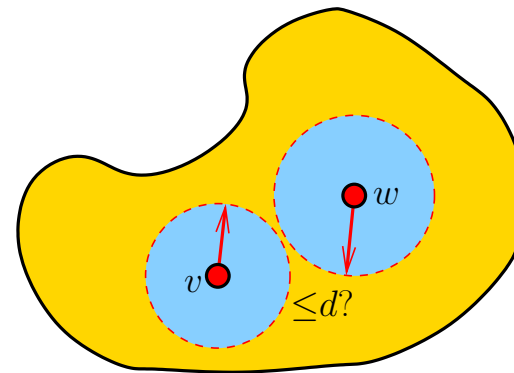
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Our problem: Fewer passes suffice



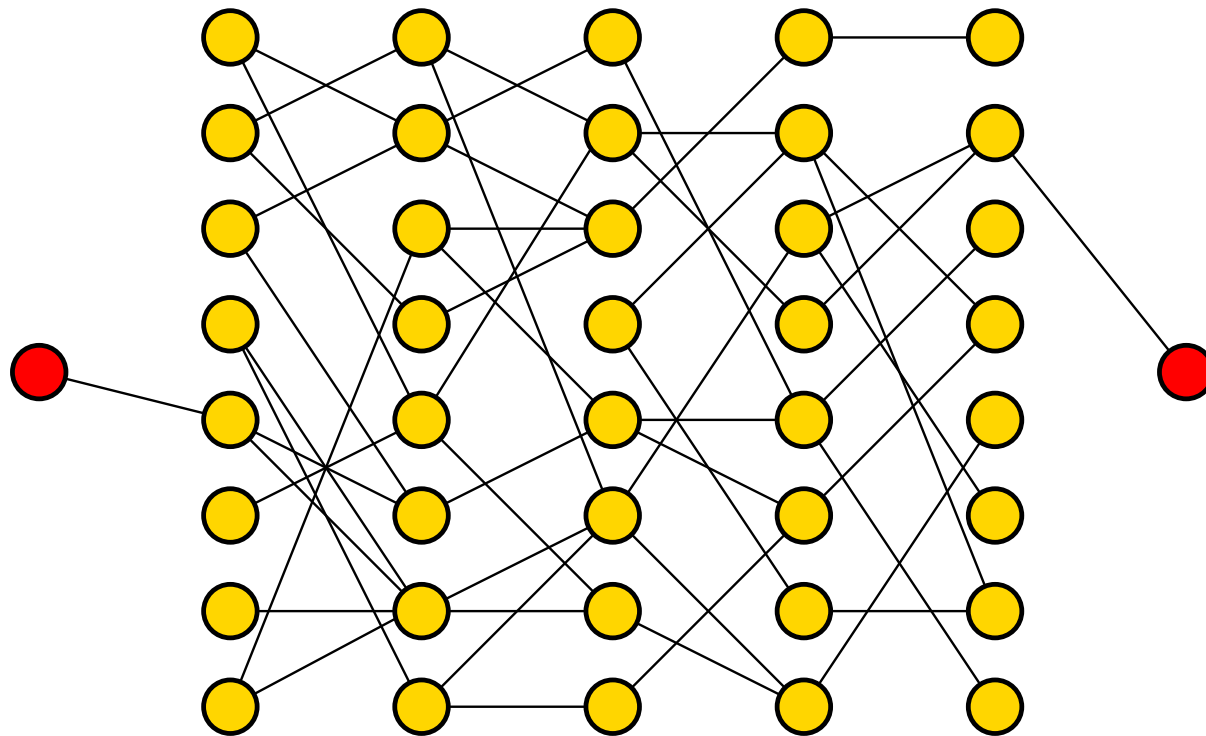
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Here

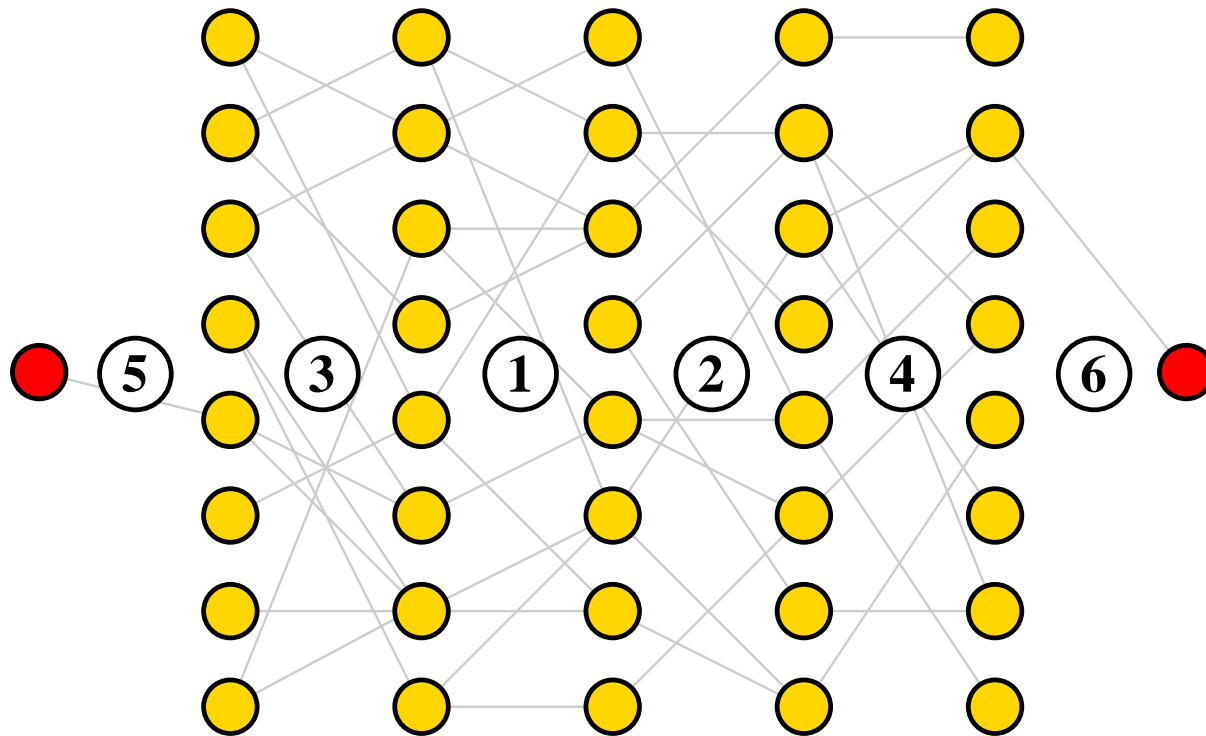
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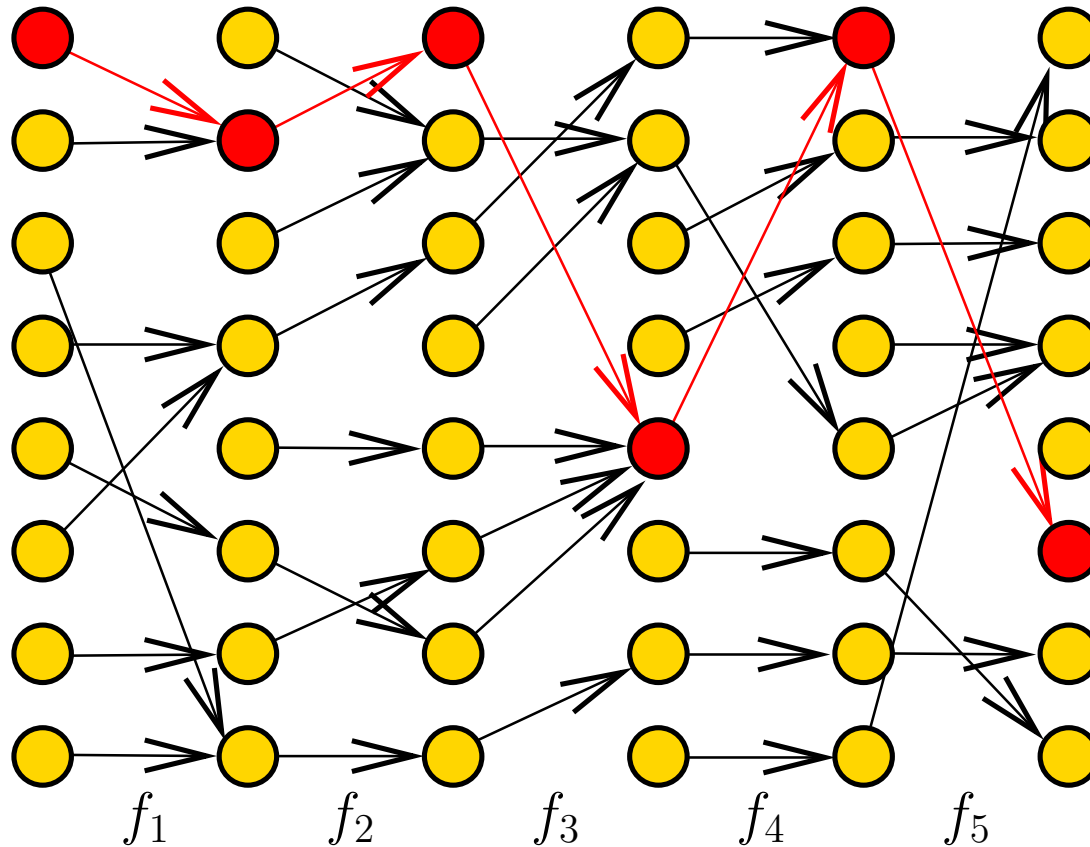
Quick note on our protocols:

- Randomized
- Private randomness
- Public communication

# Important Problem: Pointer Chasing

Definition:

- **Input:**  $k$  functions  $f_i : [n] \rightarrow [n]$
- **Goal:** Compute  $f_k(f_{k-1}(\dots f_2(f_1(1)) \dots))$



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Two-player version:

- What players have:

**Alice**  
 $f_2, f_4, f_6, \dots$

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- Alice speaks first

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- **Nisan, Wigderson (1993):**

Computing in **less than  $k = \Theta(1)$  messages**  
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Their Problem:

Compute  $p$  levels of BFS tree from  $v$

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- Apply direct sum theorem of Jain, Radhakrishnan, Sen (2003): Solving  $k$  instances requires  $k$  times more communication
- If can compute BFS of graph of degree  $k = n^{\Theta(1/p)}$ , then can solve  $k$  instances of pointer chasing

# Complexity Measures

Functions of the input size:

● **Information Cost:**  $\text{ICost}_\mu(\Pi) = I(X : \Pi(X))$

where

- $X$  = input selected from  $\mu$
- $\Pi(X)$  transcript of  $\Pi$  on  $X$

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● **Communication Complexity:**  $\text{CC}_\delta(P) = \inf_{\Pi} \max_X |\Pi(X)|$

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- infimum is taken over protocols  $\Pi$  that solve problem  $P$  on every input with probability  $1 - \delta$

**Easy to prove:**  $\text{CC}_\delta(P) \geq \text{IC}_{\mu,\delta}(P)$

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3.  $CC_{1/20}(\text{BFS tree intersection}) \gtrsim CC_{1/10}(\bigvee_{i=1}^k \text{BBB})$   
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  - Obtain lower bound for **communication complexity** on random input

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  - $\Theta(2p)$  additional communication to notice  $\Theta(\log n)$ -to-1 mapping  $\Rightarrow$  output “YES”

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Problems “Is there a perfect matching?”  
and “Are  $v$  and  $w$  at distance  $2p$ ?”  
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# Questions?