



Utrecht  
University

**TU/e** EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY

25 April, 2025

# *Introducing formalization of mathematics with Tutte's theorem*

**Pim Otte**  
PhD Candidate

# Outline

Introduction

Motivation

Concepts

Tutte's theorem

Demo

Conclusion

# Outline

Introduction

Motivation

Concepts

Tutte's theorem

Demo

Conclusion

# About me

- Pim Otte
- PhD candidate at Utrecht University & Technical University of Eindhoven
- Topic “Type Theory for Education”
- Webpage: <https://pim.otte.dev>

# Topic

- Formalization of mathematics: What and Why?
- Demo: Formalizing Tutte's theorem

# Outline

Introduction

**Motivation**

Concepts

Tutte's theorem

Demo

Conclusion

# Formalization

- What: Encoding mathematics in a formal system

# Formalization

- What: Encoding mathematics in a formal system
- Why: To teach mathematics to computers



# Formalization

- What: Encoding mathematics in a formal system
- Why: To teach mathematics to computers
- Why: To create proof assistants (Interactive Theorem Provers)

# Why do we want proof assistants?

- Verification

# Why do we want proof assistants?

- Verification
- To build tools to help mathematicians

# Why do we want proof assistants?

- Verification
- To build tools to help mathematicians
- To scale mathematical collaboration

# Verification

- Computer assisted proofs: The four colour theorem [G<sup>+</sup>08]

# Verification

- Computer assisted proofs: The four colour theorem [G<sup>+</sup>08]
- Mathematical doubt: The Liquid Tensor Experiment [Buz22] [Com21]

# Tools for mathematicians

- Proof *assistant*

# Tools for mathematicians

- Proof *assistant*
  - Interactive theorem proving



# Tools for mathematicians

- Proof *assistant*
  - Interactive theorem proving
  - Theorem search

# Tools for mathematicians

- Proof *assistant*
  - Interactive theorem proving
  - Theorem search
  - Automated theorem proving

# Tools for mathematicians

- Proof *assistant*
  - Interactive theorem proving
  - Theorem search
  - Automated theorem proving
- Teaching tools

# Scaling mathematical collaboration

- What's the biggest mathematical collaboration in the room?

# Scaling mathematical collaboration

- What's the biggest mathematical collaboration in the room?
- Liquid Tensor Experiment (29 contributors)

# Scaling mathematical collaboration

- What's the biggest mathematical collaboration in the room?
- Liquid Tensor Experiment (29 contributors)
- Busy Beaver 5 (28 contributors)

# Scaling mathematical collaboration

- What's the biggest mathematical collaboration in the room?
- Liquid Tensor Experiment (29 contributors)
- Busy Beaver 5 (28 contributors)
- Fermat's Last Theorem (ongoing) (44 contributors)

# Scaling mathematical collaboration

- What's the biggest mathematical collaboration in the room?
- Liquid Tensor Experiment (29 contributors)
- Busy Beaver 5 (28 contributors)
- Fermat's Last Theorem (ongoing) (44 contributors)
- Equational Theories (56 contributors)



# Scaling mathematical collaboration

- What's the biggest mathematical collaboration in the room?
- Liquid Tensor Experiment (29 contributors)
- Busy Beaver 5 (28 contributors)
- Fermat's Last Theorem (ongoing) (44 contributors)
- Equational Theories (56 contributors)
- Mathlib (413 contributors)

# Bonus: Interaction with Generative AI

- Problem: Generative AI is hit or miss

# Bonus: Interaction with Generative AI

- Problem: Generative AI is hit or miss
- A formal (intermediate) language allows verification

# Bonus: Interaction with Generative AI

- Problem: Generative AI is hit or miss
- A formal (intermediate) language allows verification
- Positive feedback loop (during training and at runtime)

# Bonus: Interaction with Generative AI

- Problem: Generative AI is hit or miss
- A formal (intermediate) language allows verification
- Positive feedback loop (during training and at runtime)
- Examples: AlphaProof [AA24], Deepseek Prover [XGS<sup>+</sup>24]

# Outline

Introduction

Motivation

**Concepts**

Tutte's theorem

Demo

Conclusion

# Curry-Howard correspondence

- Core idea: Encode mathematical statements as types in a programming language

# Curry-Howard correspondence

- Core idea: Encode mathematical statements as types in a programming language
- With  $A, B$  propositions,  $A$  implies  $B$ :  $A \implies B$



# Curry-Howard correspondence

- Core idea: Encode mathematical statements as types in a programming language
- With  $A, B$  propositions,  $A$  implies  $B$ :  $A \implies B$
- A function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  turns a real number into an integer

# Curry-Howard correspondence

- Core idea: Encode mathematical statements as types in a programming language
- With  $A, B$  propositions,  $A$  implies  $B$ :  $A \implies B$
- A function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  turns a real number into an integer
- A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  turns a proof of  $A$  into a proof of  $B$ .

# Curry-Howard correspondence

- Core idea: Encode mathematical statements as types in a programming language
- With  $A, B$  propositions,  $A$  implies  $B$ :  $A \implies B$
- A function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  turns a real number into an integer
- A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  turns a proof of  $A$  into a proof of  $B$ .
- Similarly: for  $P : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{Prop}$ ,  $\forall x : \mathbb{R}, P(x)$  corresponds to a function that provides a proof of  $P(x)$  on an input  $x$ .

# Curry-Howard correspondence

```
theorem example1 {A : Prop} : A → A := fun (a : A) => a
```

```
theorem example2 {P : ℕ → Prop} :  
  (∀ (n : ℕ), P n) → P 37 := fun Pforall => Pforall 37
```

# Tactics Demo

# Tactics Demo

```
import Mathlib
```

```
theorem rearranging (x y z : ℝ) :  
  (5*x + y) * z + (3*z)*y = 5*x*z + 4*y*z := by  
  ring
```

```
theorem integer_inequalities (n m : ℤ)  
  (h : n < 5 * m) (h2 : 5 + n > -m) : m > -1 := by  
  omega
```

```
theorem linear_inequalities (a b : ℝ) (h : 5*a + b < 10) (h2  
  : 9*a - 5*b > -20) : b < 6 := by  
  linarith
```

# Outline

Introduction

Motivation

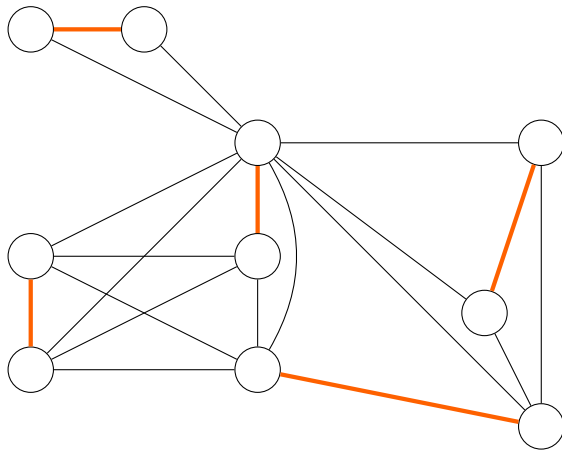
Concepts

**Tutte's theorem**

Demo

Conclusion

# Perfect Matching





# Perfect Matching

Definition (Perfect matching).

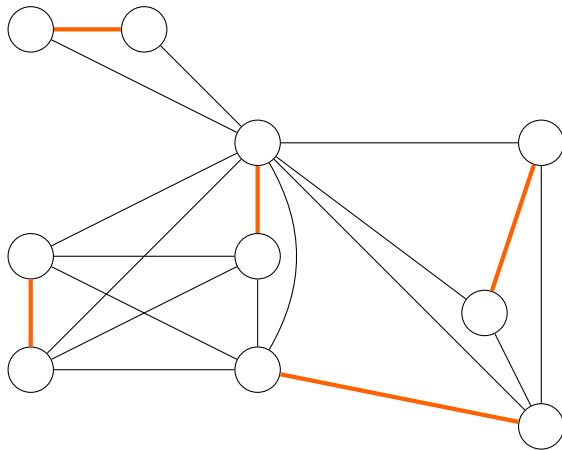
*A perfect matching of  $G$  is a subgraph  $M$ , such that every vertex in  $G$  is connected in  $M$  to exactly one other vertex.*

# Tutte's theorem

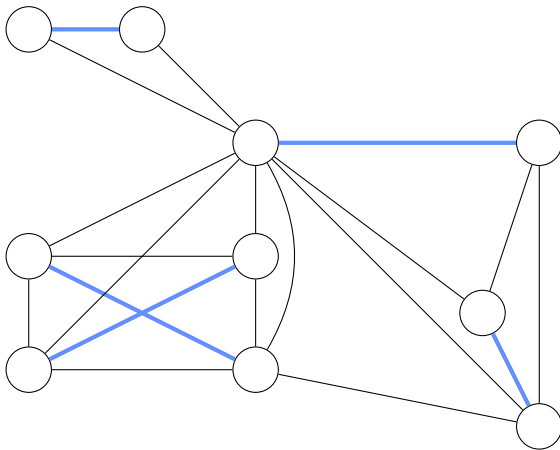
Theorem (Tutte, 1947).

*A graph  $G$  has a perfect matching if and only if for any subset  $U \subseteq V$  the graph  $G - U$  has at most  $|U|$  components of odd size.*

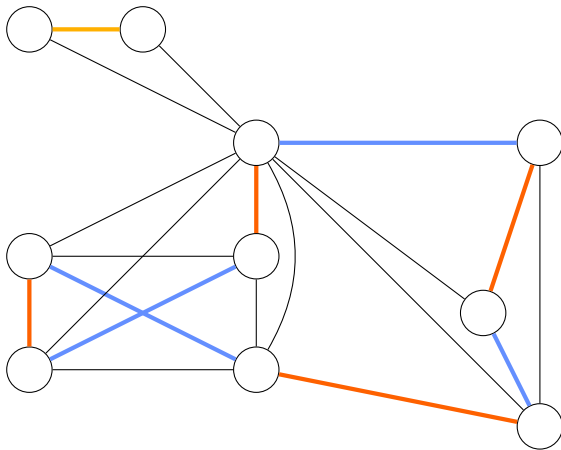
# Alternating cycles



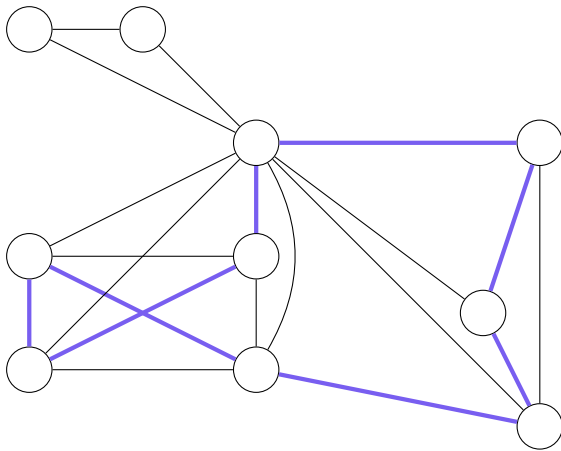
# Alternating cycles



# Alternating cycles



# Alternating cycles



# Alternating graph

Definition (Alternating).

*A graph  $G$  is alternating with respect to some other graph  $G'$  if exactly every other edge in  $G$  is in  $G'$ .*

# Symmetric difference

Definition (Symmetric difference).

*The symmetric difference of  $G$  and  $G'$  (denoted by  $G\Delta G'$ ) is the graph consisting of edges that are in exactly one of  $G$  and  $G'$ .*



# Symmetric difference of perfect matchings is alternating

Lemma.

*Let  $M, M'$  be perfect matchings of a graph  $G$ , then the symmetric difference  $M \Delta M'$  is alternating with respect to  $M$ .*

# Symmetric difference of perfect matchings is alternating

Lemma.

*Let  $M, M'$  be perfect matchings of a graph  $G$ , then the symmetric difference  $M \Delta M'$  is alternating with respect to  $M$ .*

*Proof.*

It suffices to show that for any vertex  $v$  in  $M \Delta M'$  and two edges including  $v$ , exactly one of these edges is in  $M$ . By definition of  $M \Delta M'$ , both of these edges must be in  $M$  or  $M'$ . Since  $M$  and  $M'$  are perfect matchings, each edge must be in exactly one of the two. So in particular, exactly one of these edges is in  $M$ .  $\square$

# Outline

Introduction

Motivation

Concepts

Tutte's theorem

**Demo**

Conclusion

# Demo

# Demo

lemma

```
Subgraph.IsPerfectMatching.isAlternating_symmDiff_left
  {M' : Subgraph G'} (hM : M.IsPerfectMatching)
  (hM' : M'.IsPerfectMatching) :
  (M.spanningCoe  $\triangle$  M'.spanningCoe).IsAlternating
M.spanningCoe := by
sorry
```

# Outline

Introduction

Motivation

Concepts

Tutte's theorem

Demo

Conclusion

# Conclusion

- Teaching computers mathematics: verification, tools and collaboration

# Conclusion

- Teaching computers mathematics: verification, tools and collaboration
- How to get started?
  - Lean, Rocq, Isabelle, Agda



# Conclusion

- Teaching computers mathematics: verification, tools and collaboration
- How to get started?
  - Lean, Rocq, Isabelle, Agda
  - Natural number game: <https://adam.math.hhu.de/>






# Conclusion

- Teaching computers mathematics: verification, tools and collaboration
- How to get started?
  - Lean, Rocq, Isabelle, Agda
  - Natural number game: <https://adam.math.hhu.de/>
  - Do/join/supervise a project

# Conclusion

- Teaching computers mathematics: verification, tools and collaboration
- How to get started?
  - Lean, Rocq, Isabelle, Agda
  - Natural number game: <https://adam.math.hhu.de/>
  - Do/join/supervise a project
  - Utrecht Summer School

# References

-  AlphaProof and AlphaGeometry, *Ai achieves silver-medal standard solving international mathematical olympiad problems*, 2024.
-  Kevin Buzzard, *Beyond the liquid tensor experiment*, 2022.
-  Johan Commelin, *Liquid tensor experiment*, *Nieuw Archief voor Wiskunde* **22** (2021), no. 4, 231–234.
-  Georges Gonthier et al., *Formal proof-the four-color theorem*, *Notices of the AMS* **55** (2008), no. 11, 1382–1393.
-  Huajian Xin, Daya Guo, Zhihong Shao, Zhizhou Ren, Qihao Zhu, Bo Liu, Chong Ruan, Wenda Li, and Xiaodan Liang, *Deepseek-prover: Advancing theorem proving in llms through large-scale synthetic data*, 2024.



Utrecht  
University

Sharing science,  
*shaping tomorrow*

Thanks to Yaël Dillies, Bhavik Mehta, Kyle Miller and other mathlib reviewers.

---

TU/e LINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY



pim.otte.dev



Utrecht  
University

Sharing science,  
*shaping tomorrow*

Thanks to Yaël Dillies, Bhavik Mehta, Kyle Miller and other mathlib reviewers.

---

TU/e  
EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY

TU/e  
EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY



pim.otte.dev