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**MEHDI AAGHABALI**, The University of Edinburgh

*Upper bounds on the number of perfect matchings and directed 2-factors in graphs with given number of vertices and edges*

We give an upper bound on the number of perfect matchings in simple graphs with a given number of vertices and edges. We apply this result to give an upper bound on the number of 2-factors in a directed complete bipartite balanced graph on  $2n$  vertices. The upper bound is sharp for even  $n$ . For odd  $n$  we state a conjecture on a sharp upper bound