

# Lower bounds based on ETH

## Part 2

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August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

# Previous lecture

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- **Corollary:** For a number of problems, exact and parameterized algorithms cannot achieve subexponential time.
- **Corollary:** No  $f(k) \cdot n^{o(k)}$  algorithm for CLIQUE under ETH, for any computable  $f$ .

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  - Also methodology for proving W[1]-hardness of planar problems.

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- We focus on (a), but lower bounds for (b) are also possible.
- **Goal:** construct a methodology for showing that  $\mathcal{O}^*(2^{\mathcal{O}(k \log k)})$  cannot be improved.

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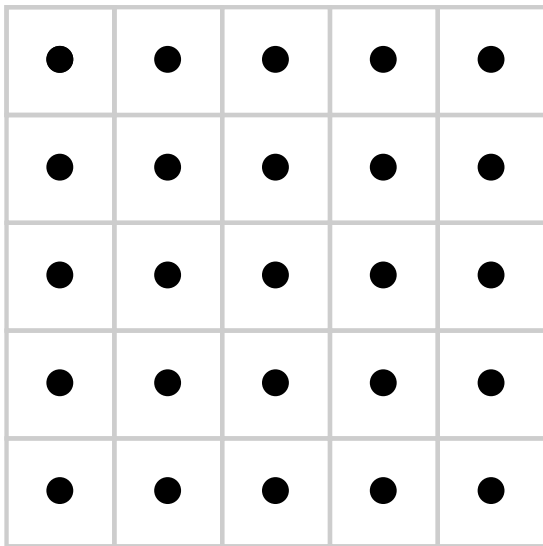
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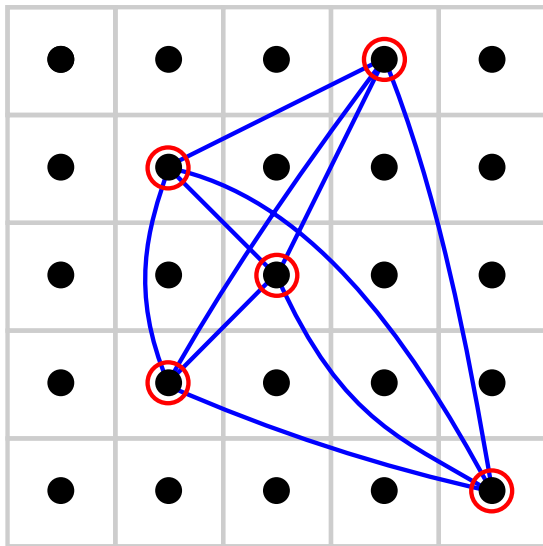
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- $[k] = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .

# On a picture



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- Hence, we should imitate the lower bound for CLIQUE from the previous lecture.
- **Now:**  $k \times k$ -CLIQUE does not admit an  $\mathcal{O}^*(2^{o(k \log k)})$  algorithm unless ETH fails.

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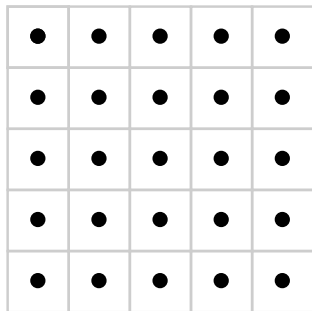
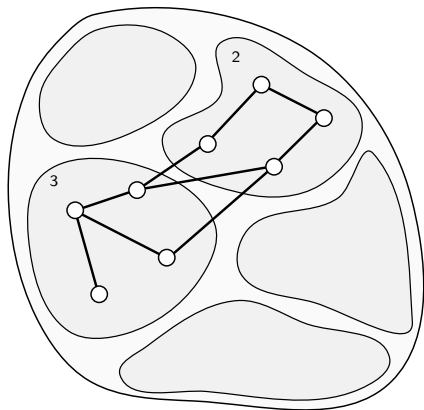
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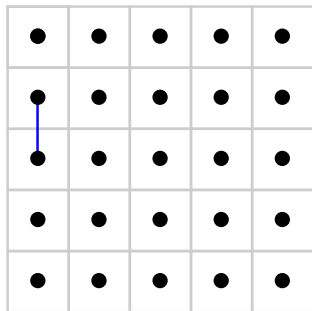
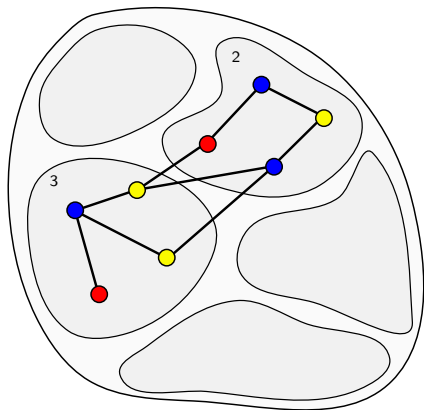
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- Finally, fill the rows with isolated vertices up to size  $k$ .

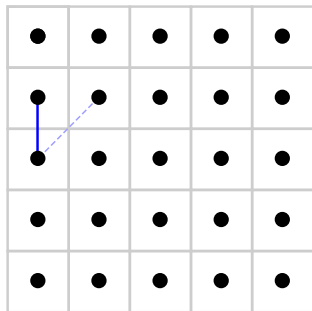
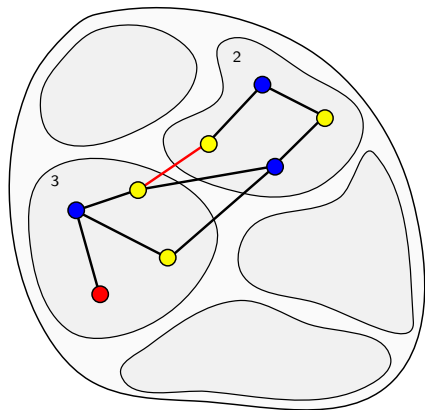
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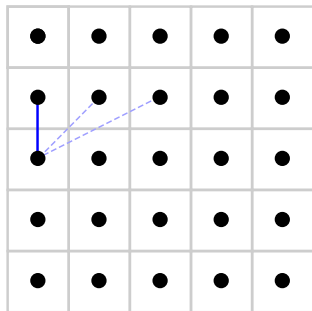
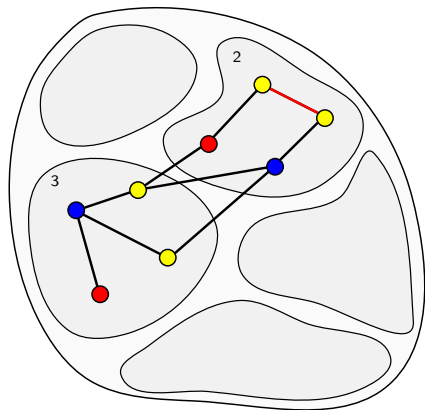


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- Since  $k = \mathcal{O}(N/\log N)$ , an  $\mathcal{O}^*(2^{\mathcal{O}(k \log k)})$  algorithm for  $k \times k$ -CLIQUE implies a  $2^{\mathcal{O}(\frac{N}{\log N} \cdot \log N)} = 2^{\mathcal{O}(N)}$  algorithm for 3-COLORING.

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- And we are done.



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- We would like to get the same lower bound also for this problem.

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- Apply algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- Probability that a solution becomes a permutation is  $\frac{k!}{k^k} \approx e^{-k}$ .

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- **Note:** This can be derandomized, so hardness holds under deterministic ETH as well.

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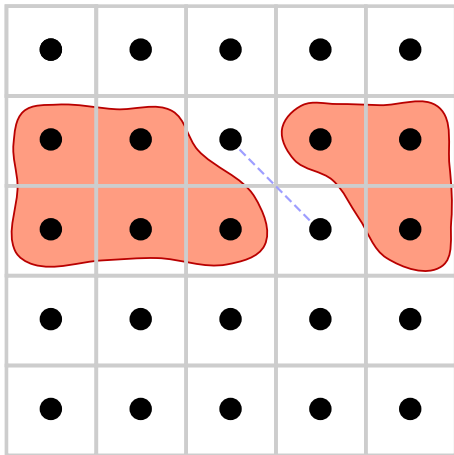
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- Same works for PERM  $k \times k$ -HITTING SET and PERM  $k \times k$ -CLIQUE.

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- Same holds for PERMUTATION....

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- Reduction from **PERM  $k \times k$ -HITTING SET WTS** that gives an instance with  $L = k$ ,  $d = k - 1$  and  $|\Sigma| = k + 1$ .

# Reduction


























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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |

# Reduction

|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
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$$\Sigma = [k] \cup \{\star\}$$


























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Create strings:

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Create strings:

11111


























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33333

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- **Ex:** What breaks if we start from  $k \times k$ -HITTING SET WTS?

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- Methodology similar to what Daniel will talk about during the lecture on SETH.

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- **Now:** a framework for proving such results.
- **Recall:** under ETH, CLIQUE does not have an  $f(k) \cdot n^{o(k)}$  algorithm for any computable  $f$ .

# GRID TILING

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**Input:** Integers  $k, n$  and sets  $S_{i,j} \subseteq [n] \times [n]$   
for  $(i, j) \in [k] \times [k]$ .

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# On a picture

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| $S_{1,1} :$<br>$(1, 1)$<br>$(3, 1)$<br>$(2, 4)$ | $S_{1,2} :$<br>$(5, 1)$<br>$(1, 4)$<br>$(5, 3)$ | $S_{1,3} :$<br>$(1, 1)$<br>$(2, 4)$<br>$(3, 3)$ |
| $S_{2,1} :$<br>$(2, 2)$<br>$(1, 4)$             | $S_{2,2} :$<br>$(3, 1)$<br>$(1, 2)$             | $S_{2,3} :$<br>$(2, 2)$<br>$(2, 3)$             |
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- Hence, choosing vertices on the rows/columns models choosing a  $k$ -clique in  $G$ .

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- Actually we need 4 rows/columns for synchronization, so each cell is replaced with 16 cells. Quite some details, see the book.

# Application 1: $d$ -SCATTERED SET

## $d$ -SCATTERED SET

**Input:** Graph  $G$ , integers  $k$  and  $d$

**Question:** Does there exist a set of  $k$  vertices in  $G$  that are pairwise at distance at least  $d$  from each other?

# On $d$ -SCATTERED SET

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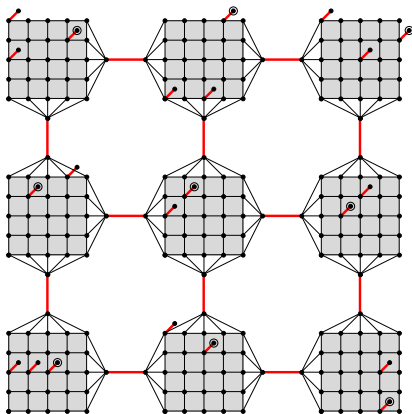
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# Reduction for PLANAR $d$ -SCATTERED SET

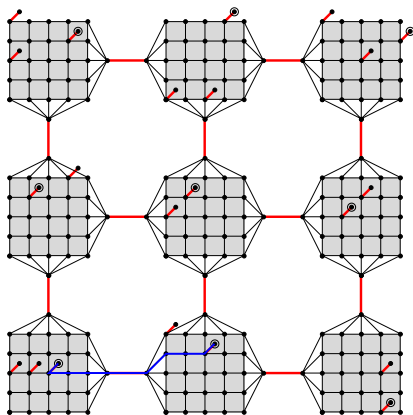
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# Reduction for PLANAR $d$ -SCATTERED SET



$$M = 10 \cdot n^{10}$$

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- This graph is planar and hence has treewidth  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{k})$ .
- Plays well with the lower bound: the grid has asymptotically the worst possible treewidth.



# Application 2: UNIT DISK INDEPENDENT SET

## UNIT DISK INDEPENDENT SET

- Input:** A set of open disks of diameter 1 on the plane,  
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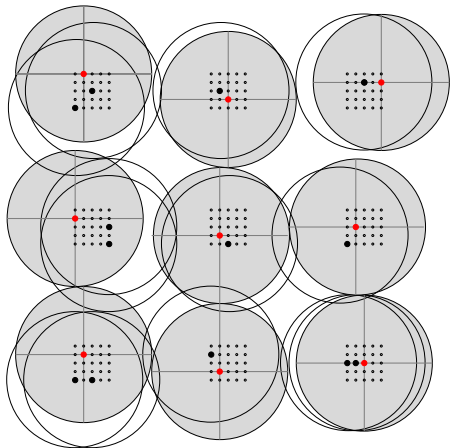
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- Hence the choice of disks models the GRID TILING WITH  $\leq$  instance.
- As we ask for  $k^2$  disks, the lower bound follows.

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  - many others that we did not mention.
- **Optimality program:** understand the precise complexity of the problem by providing matching upper and lower bounds.

# Exercises

Exercises 14.5–14.9, 14.13