

FEDOR V. FOMIN

## Part I. Introduction to treewidth

SCHOOL ON  
PARAMETERIZED  
ALGORITHMS AND  
COMPLEXITY



17-22 August 2014

Będlewo, Poland



*Why treewidth?*

*Very general idea in science: large  
structures can be understood by breaking  
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*In Computer Science: divide and conquer;  
dynamic programming*

*In Graph Algorithms: Exploiting small  
separators*

*Why treewidth?*

*Very convenient to  
decompose a graph  
via small separations*

*+*

*Obstacles for  
decompositions*

*=*

*Powerful tool*



Plan

Trees and  
separators

Path and tree  
decompositions

Dynamic  
programming

Courcelle's  
Theorem

Computing  
treewidth

Applications on  
planar graphs

Irrelevant vertex  
technique

Beyond treewidth

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# The Party Problem

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**Maximize:** The total fun factor of the invited people.

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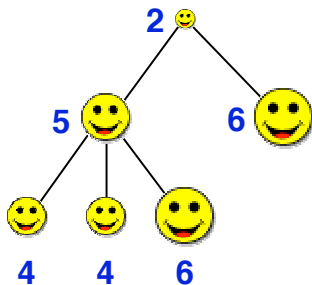
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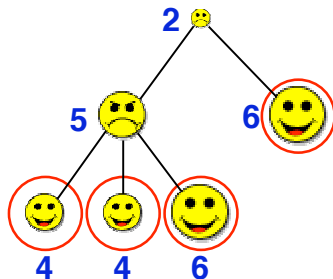
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# Solving the Party Problem

**Dynamic programming paradigm:** We solve a large number of subproblems that depend on each other. The answer is a single subproblem.

$T_v$ : the subtree rooted at  $v$ .

$A[v]$ : max. weight of an independent set in  $T_v$

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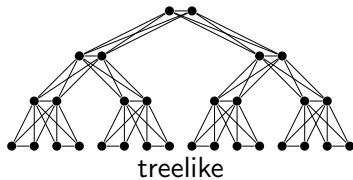
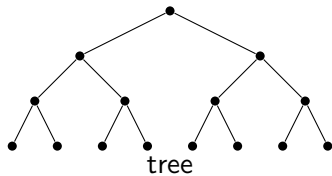
**Method:**

Assume  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  are the children of  $v$ . Use the recurrence relations

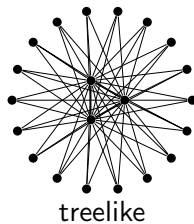
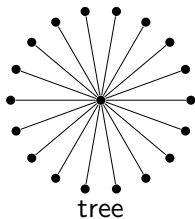
$$\begin{aligned} B[v] &= \sum_{i=1}^k A[v_i] \\ A[v] &= \max\{B[v], w(v) + \sum_{i=1}^k B[v_i]\} \end{aligned}$$

The values  $A[v]$  and  $B[v]$  can be calculated in a bottom-up order (the leaves are trivial).

## What is a tree-like graph?

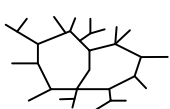


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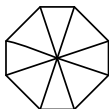


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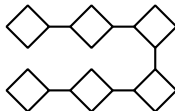
- ① Number of cycles is bounded.



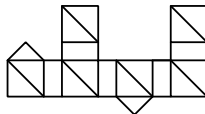
good



bad

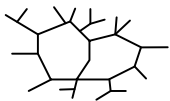


bad

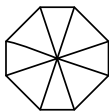


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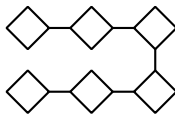
- ② Removing a bounded number of vertices makes it acyclic.



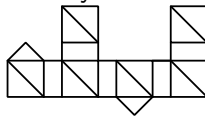
good



good

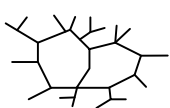


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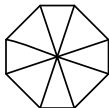


bad

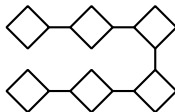
- ③ Bounded-size parts connected in a tree-like way.



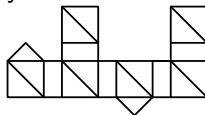
bad



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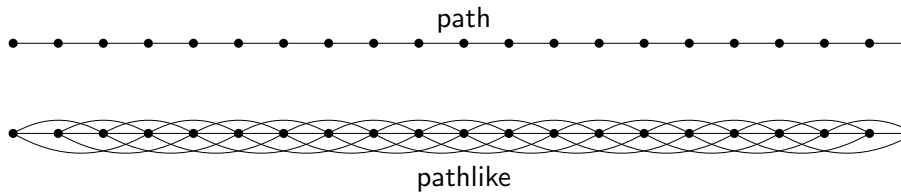
good



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Less ambitious question: What is a path-like graph?



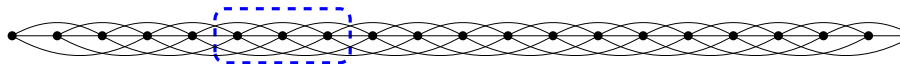
# Introduction

Crucial property of pathlike treelike graphs: separators.



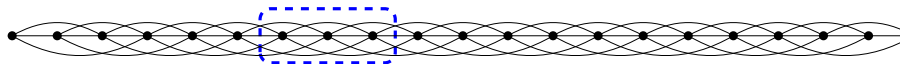
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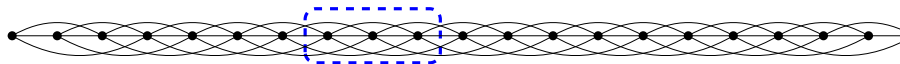
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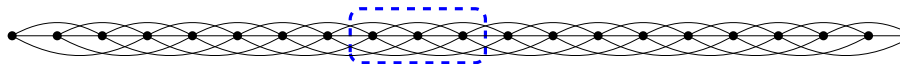
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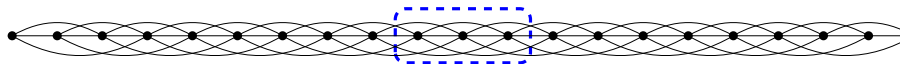
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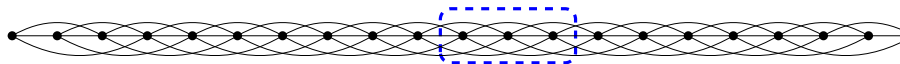
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A sequence of operations must **always** satisfy  $|X| \leq k$ .

# Generating sequence

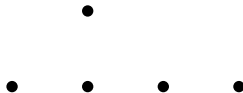
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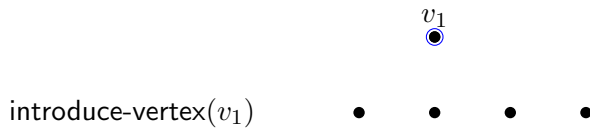
introduce-vertex( $v_1$ )





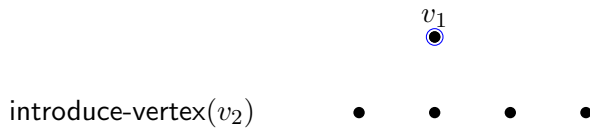
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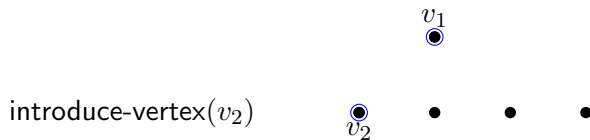
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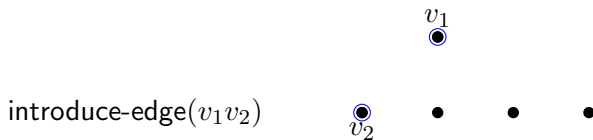
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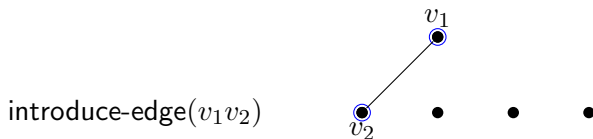
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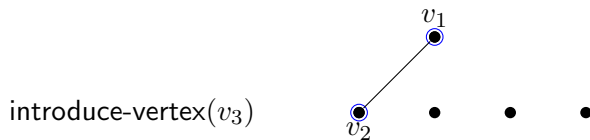
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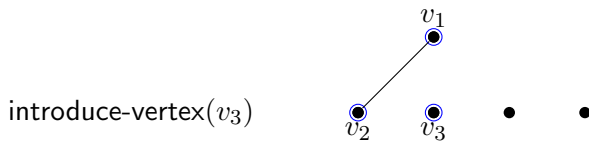
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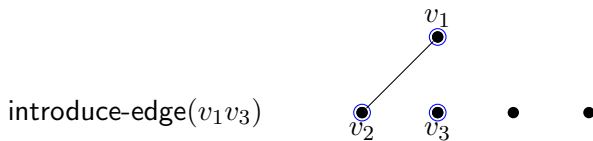
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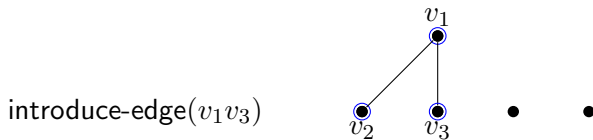
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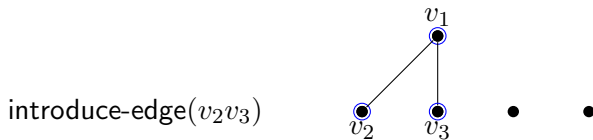
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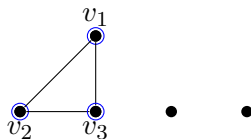
Example:



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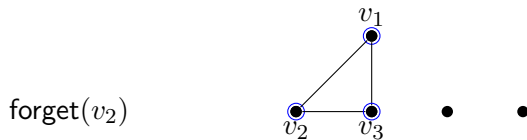
Example:

introduce-edge( $v_2v_3$ )



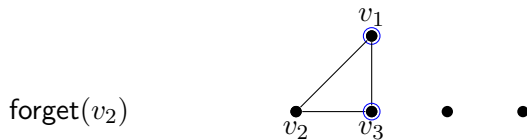
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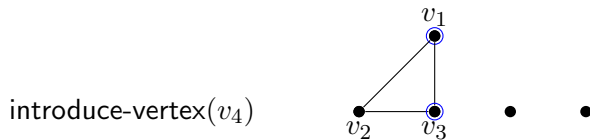
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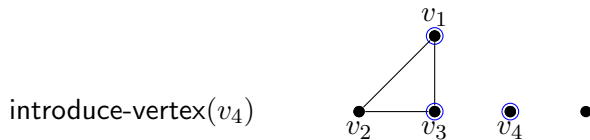
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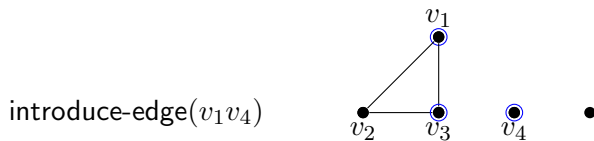
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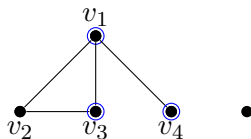




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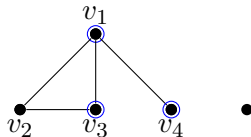
introduce-edge( $v_1v_4$ )



## Generating sequence

Example:

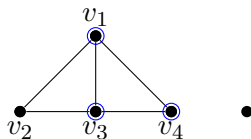
introduce-edge( $v_3v_4$ )



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Example:

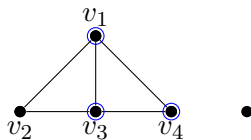
introduce-edge( $v_3v_4$ )



# Generating sequence

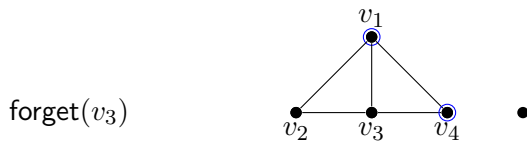
Example:

$\text{forget}(v_3)$



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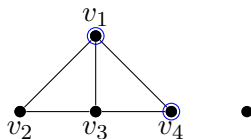
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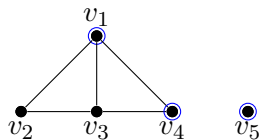
introduce-vertex( $v_5$ )



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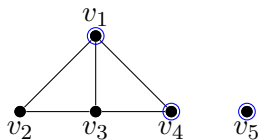
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# Generating sequence

Example:

introduce-edge( $v_4v_5$ )

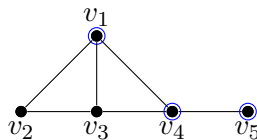




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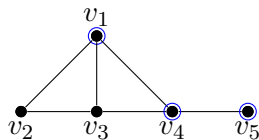
introduce-edge( $v_4v_5$ )



# Generating sequence

Example:

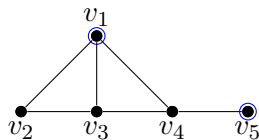
forget( $v_4$ )



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Example:

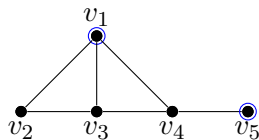
forget( $v_4$ )



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Example:

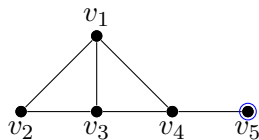
forget( $v_1$ )



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Example:

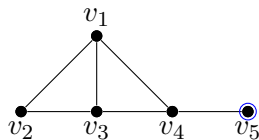
forget( $v_1$ )



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Example:

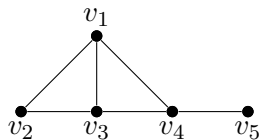
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# Generating sequence

Example:

forget( $v_5$ )



## Pathwidth definition (first attempt)

- ▶ Since a path can be generated with  $k$  equal to



## Pathwidth definition (first attempt)

- ▶ Since a path can be generated with  $k$  equal to 2
- ▶ Call the **pathwidth** of a graph  $G$  the minimum  $k + 1$  such that  $G$  can be generated

# Running example

## INDEPENDENT SET

**Input:** A graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$ .

**Question:** Is there a subset  $S$  of  $V(G)$  of size  $k$  such that there are no edges between vertices in  $S$ ?

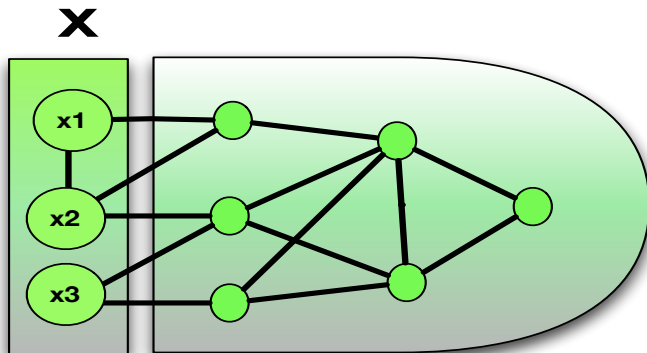
Or find the size of a maximum independent set of  $G$ .

# Idea

- ▶ Follow a generating sequence the graph was constructed
- ▶ Exploit the fact that the set of special vertices  $X$  is small to compute MIS.

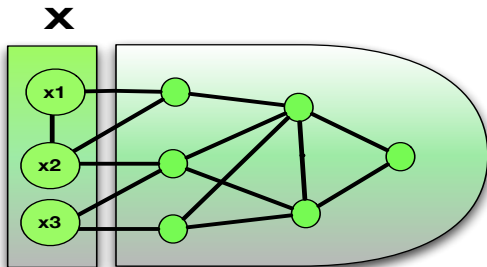
## $t$ -boundaried graphs

A  $k$ -boundaried graph is a graph with  $n$  vertices and at most  $k$  special vertices  $X \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ .  $X$  is called the **boundary** of  $G$ . Special vertices are  $\partial(V_j)$ .



## Dynamic table: Generalization of Party Argument

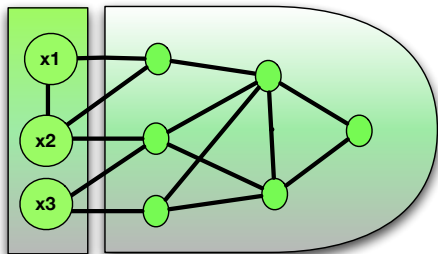
For every subset  $S$  of the boundary  $X$ ,  $T[S]$  is the size of the largest independent set  $I$  such that  $I \cap X = S$ , or  $-\infty$  if no such



## Dynamic table

The size of the largest independent set  $I$  such that  $I \cap X = S$ , or  $-\infty$  if no such set exists.

**X**

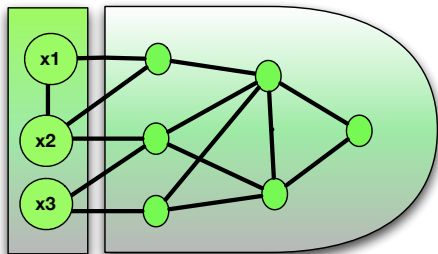


$T[\emptyset]$	
$T[x_1]$	
$T[x_2]$	
$T[x_3]$	
$T[x_1, x_2]$	
$T[x_1, x_3]$	
$T[x_2, x_3]$	
$T[x_1, x_2, x_3]$	

## Dynamic table

The size of the largest independent set  $I$  such that  $I \cap X = S$ , or  $-\infty$  if no such set exists.

**X**

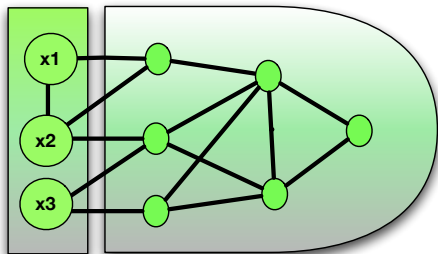


$T[\emptyset]$	4
$T[x_1]$	
$T[x_2]$	
$T[x_3]$	
$T[x_1, x_2]$	
$T[x_1, x_3]$	
$T[x_2, x_3]$	
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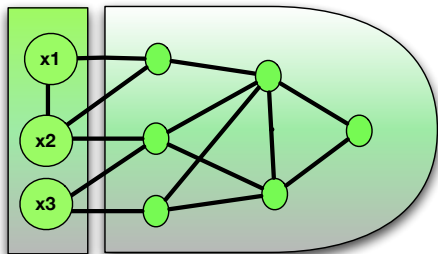
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$T[x_2, x_3]$	
$T[x_1, x_2, x_3]$	$-\infty$



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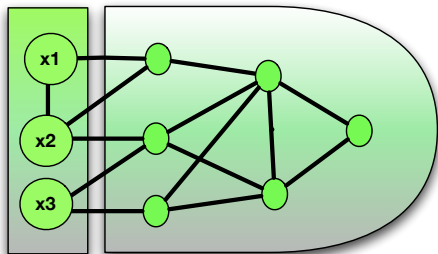


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$T[x_1, x_2]$	
$T[x_1, x_3]$	
$T[x_2, x_3]$	3
$T[x_1, x_2, x_3]$	$-\infty$

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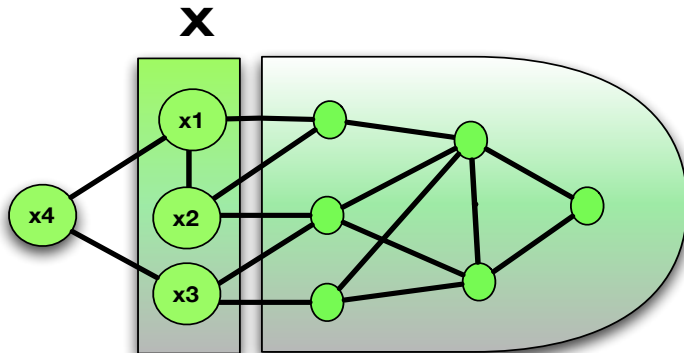
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$T[x_1, x_3]$	3
$T[x_2, x_3]$	3
$T[x_1, x_2, x_3]$	$-\infty$

## Introduce

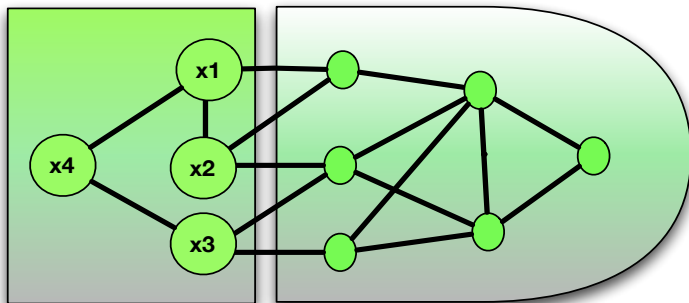
Add a vertex  $x_i \notin X$  to  $X$ . The vertex  $x_i$  can have arbitrary neighbours in  $X$  but no other neighbours.



## Introduce

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**X**



## Introduce: Updating table $T$

Suppose  $x_i$  (here  $x_4$ ) was introduced into  $X$ , with closed neighbourhood  $N[x_i]$ . We update the table  $T$ .

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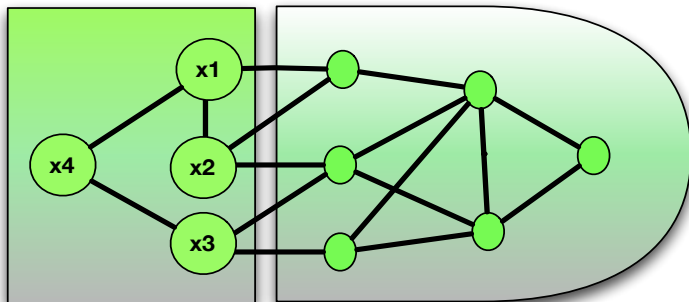
$$T[S] = \begin{cases} T[S] & \text{if } x_i \notin S, \\ -\infty & \text{if } x_i \in S \text{ and } S \cap N(x_i) \neq \emptyset, \\ 1 + T[S \setminus x_i] & \text{if } x_i \in S \text{ and } S \cap N(x_i) = \emptyset. \end{cases}$$

Update time:  $2^k \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$  [There are tricks to turn it into  $2^k \cdot k^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ ]

## Forget operation

Pick a vertex  $x_i \in X$  and forget that it is special (it loses the name  $x_i$  and becomes “nameless”).

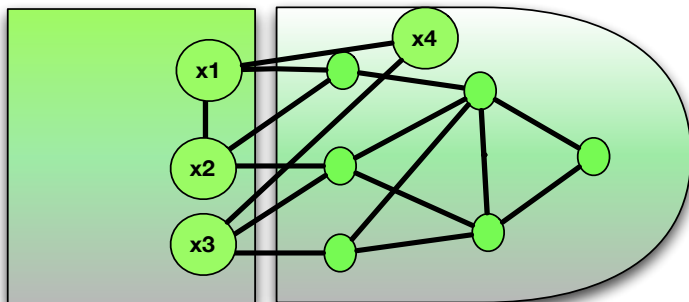
**X**



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**X**

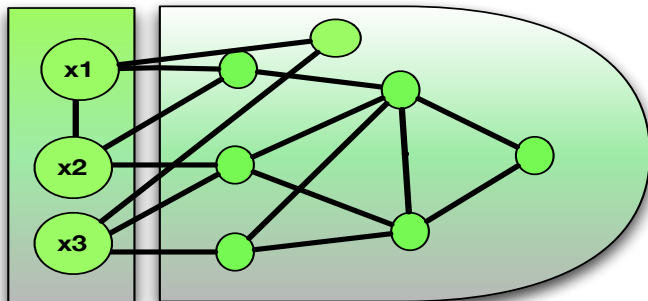




## Forget operation

Pick a vertex  $x_i \in X$  and forget that it is special (it loses the name  $x_i$  and becomes “nameless”).

**X**



Forget: Updating table  $T$

Forgetting  $x_i$  (here  $x_4$ ).

$$T[S] = \max \left\{ T[S], T[S \cup x_i] \right\}$$

Update time:  $2^k k^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$

## Two questions:

Two important questions are not answered so far

- ▶ How to find a good generating sequence?

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In what follow we provide answers to both questions. The answer to the questions will be given by making use of *tree decompositions* and *treewidth*.

# Path and tree decompositions

Trees and Sep

Dynamic programming

Courcenes  
Theorem

Computing treewidth

Applications on  
planar graphs

Irrelevant vertex  
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Beyond treewidth

## Pathwidth (canonical definition)

A *path decomposition* of graph  $G$  is a sequence of *bags*

$X_i \subseteq V(G)$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ ,

$$(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r)$$

such that

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$$(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r)$$

such that

(P1)  $\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq r} X_i = V(G).$

(P2) For every  $vw \in E(G)$ , there exists  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  such that bag  $X_i$  contains both  $v$  and  $w$ .

(P3) For every  $v \in V(G)$ , let  $i$  be the minimum and  $j$  be the maximum indices of the bags containing  $v$ . Then for every  $k$ ,  $i \leq k \leq j$ , we have  $v \in X_k$ . In other words, the indices of the bags containing  $v$  form an interval.

The *width* of a path decomposition  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r)$  is  $\max_{1 \leq i \leq r} |X_i| - 1$ . The *pathwidth* of a graph  $G$  is the minimum width of a path decomposition of  $G$ .



# Example

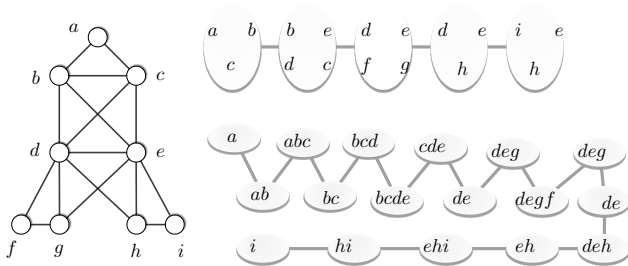


Figure : A graph and its path-decompositions.

# Nice Decompositions

It is more convenient to work with nice decompositions.

A path decomposition  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r)$  of a graph  $G$  is *nice* if

- ▶  $|X_1| = |X_r| = 1$ , and
- ▶ for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, r-1\}$  there is a vertex  $v$  of  $G$  such that either  $X_{i+1} = X_i \cup \{v\}$ , or  $X_{i+1} = X_i \setminus \{v\}$ .

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Thus bags of a nice path decomposition are of the two types. Bags of the first type are of the form  $X_{i+1} = X_i \cup \{v\}$  and are *introduce nodes*. Bags of the form  $X_{i+1} = X_i \setminus \{v\}$  are *forget nodes*.

# An Example

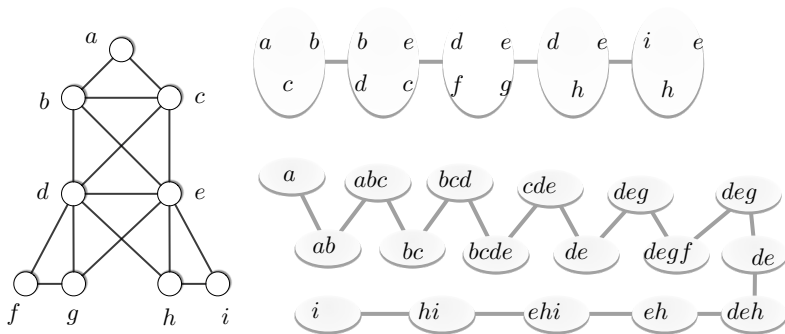
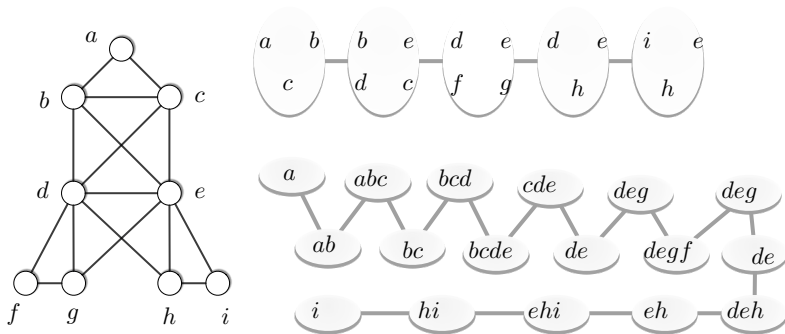


Figure : A graph, its path and nice path decompositions.

# An Example



**Figure :** A graph, its path and nice path decompositions.

**Exercise:** Construct an algorithm that for a given path decomposition of width  $k$  constructs a nice path decomposition of width  $k$  in time  $\mathcal{O}(k^2n)$ .

## Equivalence of definitions

## What about separators?

### Lemma

*Let  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r)$  be a path decomposition. Then for every  $j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$ ,  $\partial(X_1 \cup X_2 \cdots \cup X_j) \subseteq X_j \cap X_{j+1}$ . In other words,  $X_j \cap X_{j+1}$  separates  $X_1 \cup X_2 \cdots \cup X_j$  from the other vertices of  $G$ .*

Proof.



## DP on graphs of small pathwidth

- ▶ The  $\text{pathwidth}(\text{pw}(G))$  of  $G$  is the minimum boundary size needed to construct  $G$  from the empty graph using **introduce** and **forget** operations... -1
- ▶ Have seen: **MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET** can be solved in  $2^k k^{\mathcal{O}(1)} n$  time if a path decomposition of width  $k$  is given as input.



## Tractable problems on graphs of pathwidth $p$

Independent Set	$O(2^p pn)$
Dominating Set	$O(3^p pn)$
$q$ -Coloring	$O(q^p pn)$
Max Cut	$O(2^p pn)$
Odd Cycle Transversal	$O(3^p pn)$
Hamiltonian Cycle	$O(p^p pn)$
Partition into Triangles	$O(2^p pn)$

# Tightness

We will see later that up to SETH these bounds are tight

Independent Set	$\mathcal{O}(2^k kn)$
Dominating Set	$\mathcal{O}(3^k kn)$
$q$ -Coloring	$\mathcal{O}(q^k kn)$
Max Cut	$\mathcal{O}(2^k kn)$
Odd Cycle Transversal	$\mathcal{O}(3^k kn)$
Partition into Triangles	$\mathcal{O}(2^k kn)$

# Pathwidth

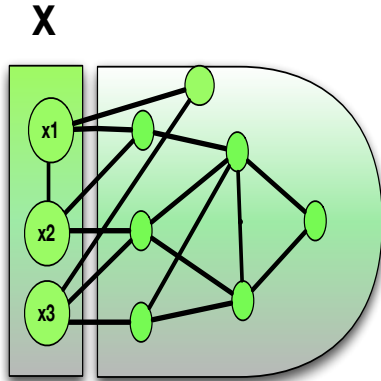
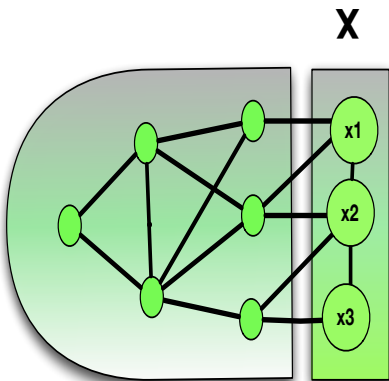
- ▶ Introduced in the 80's as a part of Robertson and Seymour's Graph Minors project.
- ▶ (Bodlaender and Kloks 96) Graphs of pathwidth  $k$  can be recognized in  $f(k)n$  time — FPT algorithm.

## Another Operation: Join Operation

Given two  $t$ -boundaried graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , the join operation glues them together at the boundaries.

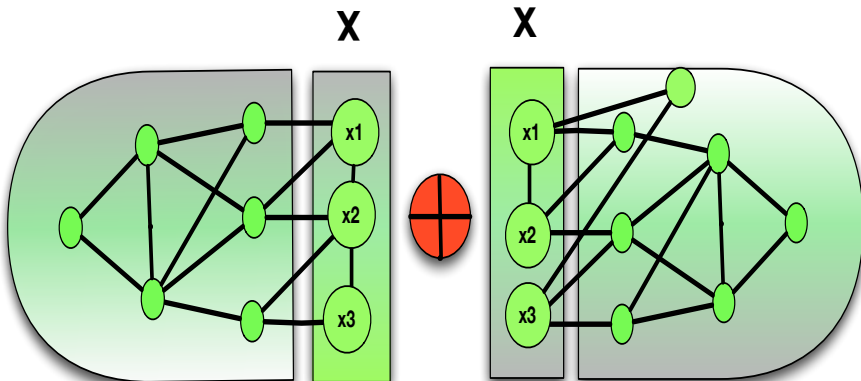
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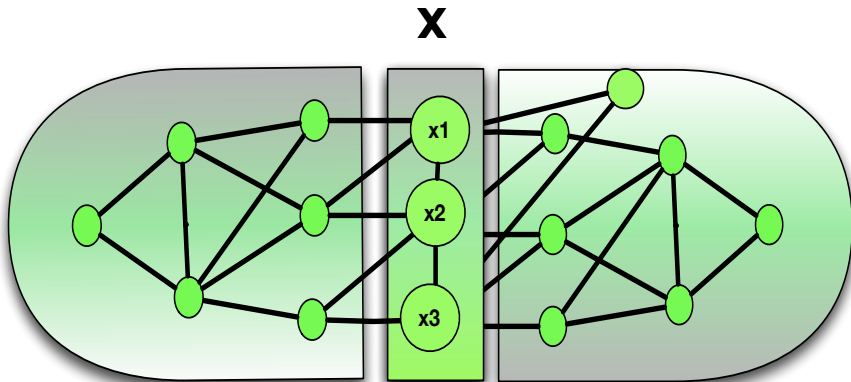
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## Joining $G_1$ and $G_2$ : Updating the Table $T$ for MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET

Have a table  $T_1$  for  $G_1$  and  $T_2$  for  $G_2$ , want to compute the table  $T$  for their join.

$$T[S] = T_1[S] + T_2[S] - |S|$$

Update time:  $\mathcal{O}(2^k)$



# Treewidth

- ▶ The  $\text{treewidth}(\text{tw}(G))$  of  $G$  is the minimum boundary size needed to construct  $G$  from the empty graph using **introduce**, **forget** and **join** operations... -1
- ▶ Have seen: **INDEPENDENT SET** can be solved in  $2^k k^{\mathcal{O}(1)} n$  time if a construction of  $G$  with  $k$  labels is given as input.

## Tree Decomposition: canonical definition

A *tree decomposition* of a graph  $G$  is a pair  $\mathcal{T} = (T, \chi)$ , where  $T$  is a tree and mapping  $\chi$  assigns to every node  $t$  of  $T$  a vertex subset  $X_t$  (called a bag) such that

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(T1)  $\bigcup_{t \in V(T)} X_t = V(G)$ .

(T2) For every  $vw \in E(G)$ , there exists a node  $t$  of  $T$  such that bag  $\chi(t) = X_t$  contains both  $v$  and  $w$ .

(T3) For every  $v \in V(G)$ , the set  $\chi^{-1}(v)$ , i.e. the set of nodes  $T_v = \{t \in V(T) \mid v \in X_t\}$  forms a connected subgraph (subtree) of  $T$ .

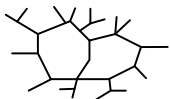
The *width* of tree decomposition  $\mathcal{T} = (T, \chi)$  equals  $\max_{t \in V(T)} |X_t| - 1$ , i.e the maximum size of its bag minus one. The *treewidth* of a graph  $G$  is the minimum width of a tree decomposition of  $G$ .

# Treewidth Applications

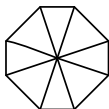
- ▶ Graph Minors
- ▶ Parameterized Algorithms
- ▶ Exact Algorithms
- ▶ Approximation Schemes
- ▶ Kernelization
- ▶ Databases
- ▶ CSP's
- ▶ Bayesian Networks
- ▶ AI
- ▶ ...

## Exercise: What are the widths of these graphs?

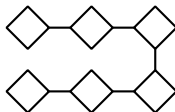
- ① Number of cycles is bounded.



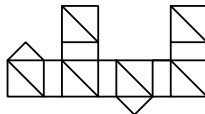
good



bad

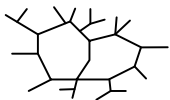


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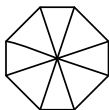


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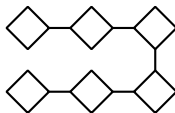
- ② Removing a bounded number of vertices makes it acyclic.



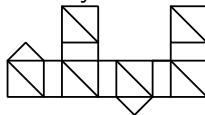
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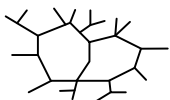


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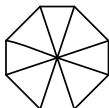


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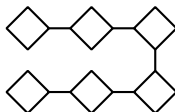
- ③ Bounded-size parts connected in a tree-like way.



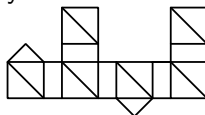
bad



bad



good



good

# Treewidth

- ▶ Discovered and rediscovered many times: Halin 1976, Bertelé and Brioschi, 1972
- ▶ In the 80's as a part of Robertson and Seymour's Graph Minors project.
- ▶ Arnborg and Proskurowski: algorithms

## Separation Property

For every pair of adjacent nodes of the path of a path decomposition, the intersection of the corresponding bags is a separator.

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Treewidth also has similar properties—every bag is a separator.



```
graph LR; DP[Dynamic programming] --- T[Trees and separators]; DP --- P[Path and tree decomposition]; DP --- C[Courcelle's Theorem]; DP --- W[Computing treewidth]; DP --- A[Applications on planar graphs]; DP --- B[Beyond treewidth]; DP --- I[Irrelevant vertex technique];
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*Irrelevant vertex  
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*Beyond treewidth*

## Reminder: Solving the Party Problem on trees

$T_v$ : the subtree rooted at  $v$ .

$A[v]$ : max. weight of an independent set in  $T_v$

$B[v]$ : max. weight of an independent set in  $T_v$  **that does not contain  $v$**

**Goal:** determine  $A[r]$  for the root  $r$ .

**Method:**

Assume  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  are the children of  $v$ . Use the recurrence relations

$$\begin{aligned} B[v] &= \sum_{i=1}^k A[v_i] \\ A[v] &= \max\{B[v], w(v) + \sum_{i=1}^k B[v_i]\} \end{aligned}$$

The values  $A[v]$  and  $B[v]$  can be calculated in a bottom-up order (the leaves are trivial).

# WEIGHTED MAX INDEPENDENT SET

## and tree decompositions

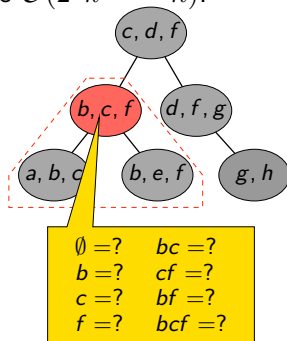
**Fact:** Given a tree decomposition of width  $k$ , WEIGHTED MAX INDEPENDENT SET can be solved in time  $\mathcal{O}(2^k k^{\mathcal{O}(1)} \cdot n)$ .

$X_t$ : vertices appearing in node  $t$ .

$V_t$ : vertices appearing in the subtree rooted at  $t$ .

Generalizing our solution for trees:

Instead of computing two values  $A[v]$ ,  $B[v]$  for each **vertex** of the graph, we compute  $2^{|X_t|} \leq 2^{k+1}$  values for each bag  $X_t$ .

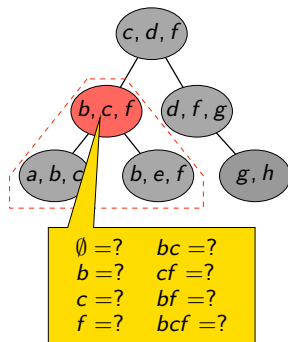


# WEIGHTED MAX INDEPENDENT SET and tree decompositions

$X_t$ : vertices appearing in node  $t$ .

$V_t$ : vertices appearing in the subtree rooted at  $t$ .

$c[t, S]$ : the maximum weight of an independent set  $I \subseteq V_t$  with  $I \cap X_t = S$ .

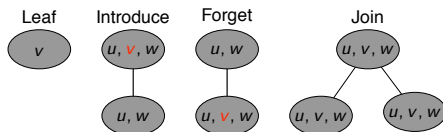


How to determine  $c[t, S]$  if all the values are known for the children of  $t$ ?

# Nice tree decompositions

**Definition:** A rooted tree decomposition is **nice** if every node  $t$  is one of the following 4 types:

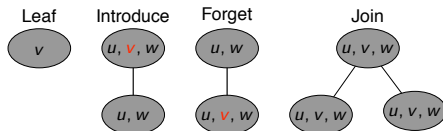
- ▶ **Leaf:** no children,  $|X_t| = 1$
- ▶ **Introduce:** one child  $q$ ,  $X_t = X_q \cup \{v\}$  for some vertex  $v$
- ▶ **Forget:** one child  $q$ ,  $X_t = X_q \setminus \{v\}$  for some vertex  $v$
- ▶ **Join:** two children  $t_1, t_2$  with  $X_t = X_{t_1} = X_{t_2}$



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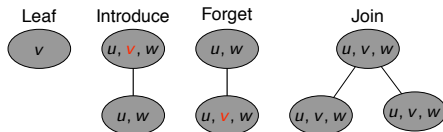
**Fact:** A tree decomposition of width  $k$  and  $n$  nodes can be turned into a nice tree decomposition of width  $k$  and  $O(kn)$  nodes in time  $O(k^2n)$ .

# WEIGHTED MAX INDEPENDENT SET

## and nice tree decompositions

- ▶ **Leaf:** no children,  $|X_t| = 1$   
Trivial!
- ▶ **Introduce:** one child  $q$ ,  $X_t = X_q \cup \{v\}$  for some vertex  $v$

$$c[t, S] = \begin{cases} c[q, S] & \text{if } v \notin S, \\ c[q, S \setminus \{v\}] + w(v) & \text{if } v \in S \text{ but } v \text{ has no neighbor in } S, \\ -\infty & \text{if } S \text{ contains } v \text{ and its neighbor.} \end{cases}$$



# WEIGHTED MAX INDEPENDENT SET

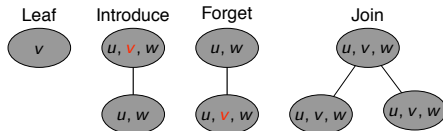
## and nice tree decompositions

- **Forget:** one child  $y$ ,  $X_t = X_q \setminus \{v\}$  for some vertex  $v$

$$c[t, S] = \max\{c[q, S], c[q, S \cup \{v\}]\}$$

- **Join:** two children  $t_1, t_2$  with  $X_t = X_{t_1} = X_{t_2}$

$$c[t, S] = c[t_1, S] + c[t_2, S] - w(S)$$





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There are at most  $2^{k+1} \cdot n$  subproblems  $c[t, S]$  and each subproblem can be solved in  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  time (assuming the children are already solved). There is a trick [exercise] to reduce it to  $\mathcal{O}(k)$ .  $\Rightarrow$  Running time is  $\mathcal{O}(2^k \cdot k^{\mathcal{O}(1)} n)$ .

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But join operation is expensive. It is possible to improve to  $3^k k^{\mathcal{O}(1)} n$  by making use of subset convolution (later...)

# Steiner tree

We are given an undirected graph  $G$  and a set of vertices  $K \subseteq V(G)$ , called *terminals*. The goal is to find a subtree  $H$  of  $G$  of the minimum possible size (that is, with the minimum possible number of edges) that connects all the terminals.

**Fact:** Given a tree decomposition of width  $k$ , STEINER TREE can be solved in time  $k^{\mathcal{O}(k)} \cdot n$ .

## Treewidth DP for Steiner tree

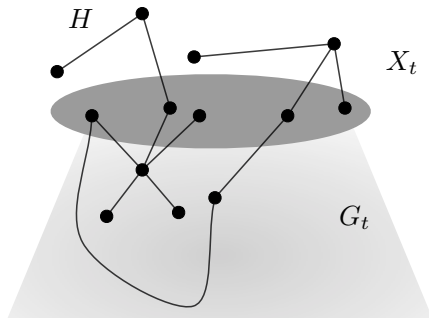


Figure : Steiner tree  $H$  intersecting bag  $X_t$  and graph  $G_t$ .

# Treewidth DP for Steiner tree

**Idea:** Construct forest  $F$  in  $G_t$  such that

Every terminal from  $K \cap V_t$  should belong to some connected component of  $F$ .

Encode this information by keeping, for each subset  $X \subseteq X_t$  and each partition  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $X$ , the minimum size of a forest  $F$  in  $G_t$  such that

- (a)  $K \cap V_t \subseteq V(F)$ , i.e.,  $F$  spans all terminals from  $V_t$ ,
- (b)  $V(F) \cap X_t = X$ , and
- (c) the intersections of  $X_t$  with vertex sets of connected components of  $F$  form exactly the partition  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $X$ .

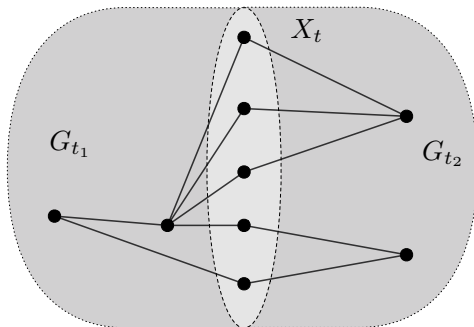
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- ▶ When we introduce a new vertex or join partial solution (at join nodes), the connected components of partial solutions could merge and thus we need to keep track of the updated partition into connected components.



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- ▶ When we introduce a new vertex or join partial solution (at join nodes), the connected components of partial solutions could merge and thus we need to keep track of the updated partition into connected components.
- ▶ How to avoid cycles in join operations?



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- ▶ We will see how single-exponential  $2^{\mathcal{O}(k)}$  on treewidth can be obtained later.

# Treewidth DP

## Conclusion

The main challenge for most of the problems is to understand what information to store at nodes of the tree decomposition. Obtaining formulas for forget, introduce and join nodes can be a tedious task, but is usually straightforward once a precise definition of a state is established.

# Fact

Independent Set, Dominating Set,  $q$ -Coloring, Max-Cut, Odd Cycle Transversal, Hamiltonian Cycle, Partition into Triangles, Feedback Vertex Set, Vertex Disjoint Cycle Packing and million other problems are FPT parameterized by the treewidth.

## Meta-theorem for treewidth DP

While arguments for each of the problems are different, there are a lot of things in common...

Coming soon...

Trees and separators

Path and tree  
decomposition

Dynamic  
programming

Courcelle's  
Theorem

Co



Applications on  
planar graphs

Irrelevant vertex  
technique

Beyond treewidth