

The Hardness Boundary for Neighborhood Diversity

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- **The topic:** The hardness boundary of neighborhood diversity
- **Taxonomy:** Graph structural parameters $\subseteq$ Parameterized complexity $\subseteq$ Computational complexity

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 - Do we really encounter the worst case instances in real life?

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 - Perhaps our instances have some structure that we could exploit (bounded degree, planarity, . . .)

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- **An archetype result:**

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 - An $O(2^k n)$ algorithm for VERTEX COVER

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 - Courcelle's Theorem (MSO model checking in $O(f(k)n)$)

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- **An archetype result:**
 - An $O(2^k n)$ algorithm for VERTEX COVER
 - Courcelle's Theorem (MSO model checking in $O(f(k)n)$)
 - **Generally: we look for an algorithm running in $O(f(k)n^c)$, demonstrating that the problem is *Fixed Parameter Tractable* (FPT).**

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$$\blacksquare \quad u \sim v \equiv (N(u) \setminus \{v\}) = (N(v) \setminus \{u\})$$

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- $u \sim v \equiv (N(u) \setminus \{v\}) = (N(v) \setminus \{u\})$

- Equivalence classes are *bags* or *types*

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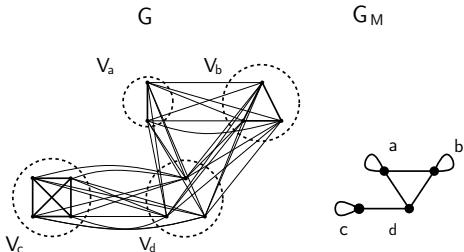
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- $u \sim v \equiv (N(u) \setminus \{v\}) = (N(v) \setminus \{u\})$
- Equivalence classes are *bags* or *types*
- The bags are either cliques or independent sets; between them are either no edges or all possible edges (a complete bipartite graph)

Neighborhood diversity

- $u \sim v \equiv (N(u) \setminus \{v\}) = (N(v) \setminus \{u\})$
- Equivalence classes are *bags* or *types*
- The bags are either cliques or independent sets; between them are either no edges or all possible edges (a complete bipartite graph)
- Thus we can form a *type graph*:



The motivation for this parameter

- The most famous structural parameter: **treewidth**

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 - Algorithms (typically) work by dynamic programming on the tree-decomposition

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 - Many problems are FPT w.r.t. treewidth (COLORING, INDEPENDENT SET, HAMILTONIAN CYCLE, ...)
 - A generalization of these results is the metaalgorithmical Courcelle's Theorem (every MSO_2 definable property is decidable on graphs with $tw \leq k$ in time $O(f(k)n)$)

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 - **A problem:** the $f(k)$ above is an exponential tower and this cannot be improved (unless $P=NP$) [Frick, Grohe '04]

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- Other parameters:

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 - **A problem:** the $f(k)$ above is an exponential tower and this cannot be improved (unless $P=NP$) [Frick, Grohe '04]
- Other parameters:
 - The vertex cover size

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- Other parameters:
 - The vertex cover size
 - **Cliquewidth**

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Faster MSO model checking?

- **Question:** Is there a parameter, that allows MSO_1 model checking in time $O(f(k)n)$ for $f(k)$ a tower of constant height?

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- **Question:** Is there a parameter, that allows MSO_1 model checking in time $O(f(k)n)$ for $f(k)$ a tower of constant height?
- **Yes!** [Lampis '11] On *neighborhood diversity* this is possible ($O(2^{2^k} n)$).

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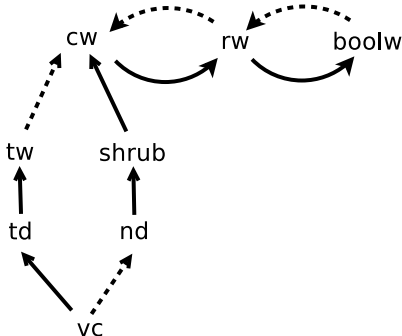
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- **ND's relationships to other parameters:**



What piques our interest. . .

- ND is incomparable with TW, yet many problems hard for TW are easy for ND:

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- ND is incomparable with TW, yet many problems hard for TW are easy for ND:
 - CAPACITATED DOMINATING SET / CAPACITATED VERTEX COVER

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 - **EQUITABLE COLORING**

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 - ACHROMATIC NUMBER

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 - ACHROMATIC NUMBER
 - $L(p,q)$ -LABELING

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- The information contained in an ND bounded graph is very small: $O(k^2 \log(n))$ – could *this little* information create a *big* solution space?

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 - LIST COLORING (already hard for VC)

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- The information contained in an ND bounded graph is very small: $O(k^2 \log(n))$ – could *this little* information create a *big* solution space?
- The only hard problems for ND we know of have **some extra information** besides the graph on the input:
 - LIST COLORING (already hard for VC)
 - CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT (every instance can be reduced to a clique)

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Problem	Treewidth	Neighborhood diversity
PRECOLORING EXTENSION	$W[1]$ -hard	FPT [Ganian12]
$L(P,Q)$ -LABELING	NP-c for $TW \geq 2$	FPT [FialaGKK13]
LIST COLORING	$W[1]$ -hard	$W[1]$ -hard
CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT	NP-c for $TW \geq 3$	NP-h

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Problem	Treewidth	Neighborhood diversity
EQUITABLE COLORING	W[1]-hard	FPT [*]
ACHROMATIC NUMBER	NP-c on trees	FPT [*]
CDS	W[1]-hard	FPT [*]
CVC	W[1]-hard	FPT [*]
p -VERTEX-DISJOINT PATHS	W[1]-hard	FPT [Ganian12]
p -EDGE-DISJOINT PATHS	NP-c for $TW \geq 2$	Open
Locally constrained homomorphism	W[1]-hard	Open
EDGE BIPARTIZATION	FPT	Open

Questions

- Michael Lampis conjectures that **all** problems whose input is only the graph (plus possibly some constant) are FPT w.r.t. ND

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- If so, how does one prove that?

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 - If so, how does one prove that?
 - If not, we need to find a problem that is hard ($W[1]$ -hard) for ND

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 - If so, how does one prove that?
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- A related question: since all positive results for ND were accomplished using FPT Integer Linear Programming [Lenstra '83], is there a way to generalize this paradigm (think Courcelle's Theorem)?
 - We could exploit even stronger results than Lenstra's: every Convex Integer Programming problem is FPT w.r.t. the dimension (the number of variables). [Khachiyan, Porkolab '00]

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 - We could exploit even stronger results than Lenstra's: every Convex Integer Programming problem is FPT w.r.t. the dimension (the number of variables). [Khachiyan, Porkolab '00]
- What about *shrub-depth*?

Conclusion

Thank you for your attention!

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