

# Elimination distance to bounded degree on planar graphs

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MFCS, August 24-28, 2020

# Outline

How trivial can a graph be?

Elimination distance

Definition and observations

Algorithm

Tools used

Proof's sketch

Conclusion & Futur works

## Trivial graphs classes?

Graph problems: Hamilton path, FO / MSO model checking,  
graph isomorphism,...

Graph classes: edgeless graphs, planar graphs, trees,...

**Some hard problems are simple for some graph classes.**

## Running example

Graph isomorphism problem & Graphs with bounded degree

E.M. Luks (1982): XP algorithm for graph isomorphism  
(*parametrized by the degree  $d$* )

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Input : Graphs  $G, H$ .

Goal : Are  $G$  and  $H$  isomorphic?

Running time :  $O(|G|^{f(d)})$

Parametrized by  $d$ : the degree of  $G$  and  $H$ .

## With a small twist

Two graphs with only one node of degree  $> d$ .

The algorithm can be adapted.

Step 1: Color the neighborhood of the high degree vertex.

Step 2: Remove the high degree vertex.

Step 3: Use the previous algorithm.

## Deletion distance

J. Guo, F. Hüffner, R. Niedermeier (2004): Distance from Triviality.

$G$  at *deletion distance*  $k$  from  $\mathcal{C}$     iff     $G - \{a_1, \dots, a_k\} \in \mathcal{C}$

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$G$  at deletion distance  $k$  from  $\mathcal{C}$  iff  $G - \{a_1, \dots, a_k\} \in \mathcal{C}$

J. Bulian, A. Dawar (2016): FPT algorithm for graph isomorphism  
(parametrized by deletion distance to degree  $d$ )

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Input : Graphs  $G, H$ , integer  $d$ .

Goal : Are  $G$  and  $H$  isomorphic?

Running time :  $O(f(k, d) \cdot |G|^{g(d)})$

Parametrized by  $k$ : the deletion distance (of  $G$ ) to degree  $d$ .

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$k$  is computable in time  $O(f(k, d) \cdot |G|)$ .

# Elimination distance

J. Bulian, A. Dawar (2016): Elimination distance to  $\mathcal{C}$ .

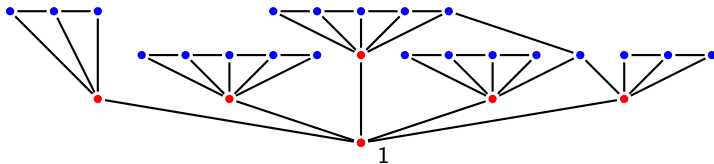
$$\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}}(G) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } G \in \mathcal{C}, \\ 1 + \min \{\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}}(G - v) \mid v \in V(G)\} & \text{if } G \text{ is connected,} \\ \max \{\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}}(H) \mid H \text{ component of } G\} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



# Example

$\mathcal{C}_d$ : all graphs of degree at most  $d$ .

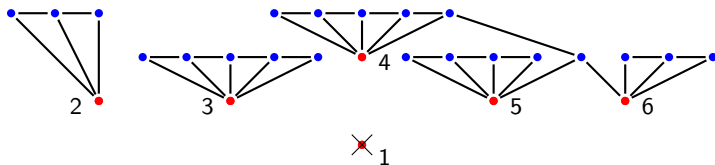
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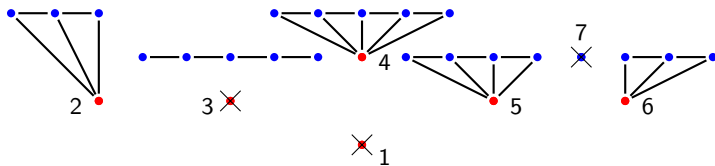


Round 1) : [1]

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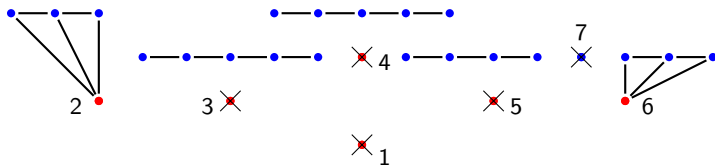
Round 1) : [1]

Round 2) : [3,7]

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Round 1) : [1]

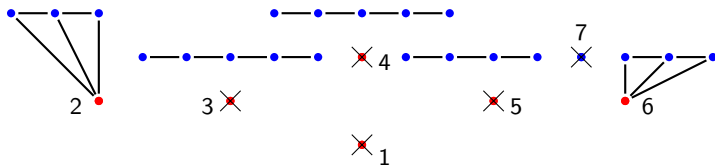
Round 2) : [3,7]

Round 3) : [4,5]

# Example

$\mathcal{C}_d$ : all graphs of degree at most  $d$ .

$$\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}_3}(G) = ??$$



Round 1) : [1]

Round 1) : [7]

Round 2) : [3,7]

Round 2) : [1]

...

Round 3) : [4,5]

Round 3) : [3,4,5]

## Bounded tree depth

Elimination distance is inspired from tree depth:

$$\text{td}(G) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } G \text{ is edgeless,} \\ 1 + \min \{ \text{td}(G - v) \mid v \in V(G) \} & \text{if } G \text{ is connected,} \\ \max \{ \text{td}(H) \mid H \text{ component of } G \} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Tree depth  $k$  = Elimination distance  $k$  to the edgeless graph.

# Graph isomorphism & Graphs with bounded degree

J. Bulian, A. Dawar (2016): FPT algorithm for graph isomorphism  
(*parametrized by elimination distance to degree  $d$* )

---

Input : Graphs  $G, H$ , integer  $d$ .

Goal : Are  $G$  and  $H$  isomorphic?

Running time :  $O(f(k, d) \cdot |G|^{g(d)})$

Parametrized by  $k$  : the elimination distance (of  $G$ ) to degree  $d$ .

## Questions

### When is $\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}}(G)$ easily computable ?

Restriction on  $\mathcal{C}$  : Edgeless graphs, Graph with bounded degree,...

Restriction on  $G$  : Parametrized by the tree width,

Parametrized by the size of an excluded minor,

Restricted to planar graph, ...



## Our result

A. Lindermayr, S. Siebertz, A. Vigny:

Elimination distance to degree  $d$  is FPT over  $K_5$ -minor-free graphs.

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Input : Graph  $G$ , integers  $k, d$ .

Goal : Is  $G$  at elimination distance  $k$  to degree  $d$ ?

Restriction :  $G$  exclude  $K_5$  as a minor.

Running time :  $O(f(k, d) \cdot |G|^c)$

# Tools

We use:

- Simple combinatoric
- MSO expressibility
- Courcelle's Theorem
- Grid Theorem
- Irrelevant vertex technique

## Expressible in MSO

“ $\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}_d}(G) = k$ ” :

$$\forall H_1 \preceq G, \exists a_1$$

$$\forall H_2 \preceq (H_1 - a_1), \exists a_2$$

$$\forall H_3 \preceq (H_2 - \{a_1, a_2\}), \exists a_3$$

⋮

$$\forall H \preceq (H_k - \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}), \deg(H) \leq d$$

If  $\mathcal{C}$  is MSO definable, then “ $\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}}(G) = k$ ” is also MSO definable.

# Courcelle's Theorem

B. Courcelle (1990):

Model checking of MSO formulas is FPT for bounded tree width graphs.

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Input : Graph  $G$ , formula  $\phi$ .

Goal : Does  $G \models \phi$ ?

Running time :  $O(f(|\phi|, k) \cdot |G|)$ .

Parametrized by  $k$ : the tree width of  $G$ .

## Grid Theorem

N. Robertson, P. D. Seymour (1986):

Every graph has either a “small enough” tree width,  
or a “big enough” grid-minor.

---

Input : Graph  $G$ , integer  $k$ .

Output : Either a tree decomposition of width  $O(g(k))$

Or a  $k \times k$  grid minor

Running time :  $O(f(k) \cdot |G|^c)$ .

## Proof in a special case

Special case: Graph with degree  $k + d$ .

In the full proof:

- $k + d < \deg(a)$
- $d < \deg(a) \leq k + d$
- $\deg(a) \leq d$

Here:

- $d < \deg(a) \leq k + d$  (red nodes)
- $\deg(a) \leq d$  (blue nodes)

## A little bit of combinatorics

How many red nodes can there be?

1 round of elimination  $\rightarrow k + d$  connected components.

$k$  rounds of elimination  $\rightarrow$  affect  $(k + d)^{2(k+d)}$  nodes.

There are at most  $r = (k + d)^{2(k+d)}$  nodes of degree  $> d$ .

More than  $r$  red nodes  $\rightarrow$  we have  $\text{ed}_{\leq d}(G) > k$ .

Otherwise we continue.

## Using the grid theorem

We have two cases:

→ Tree decomposition of width  $g(r)$ .

Courcelle's Theorem :  $O(f(\phi, g(r)) \cdot |G|)$

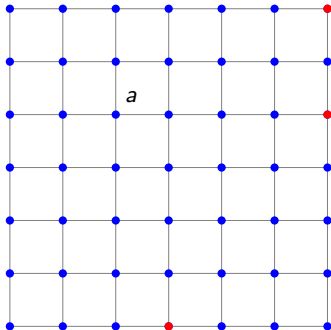
$O(f(k, d) \cdot |G|)$

→ Grid minor of size  $r \times r$ .

Find an irrelevant vertex.



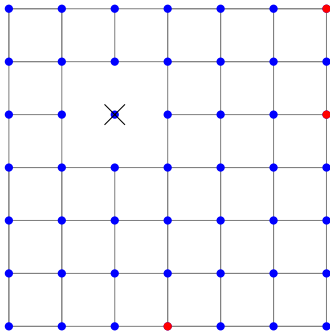
## Large grid minor?



If  $G$  has a large grid minor,  
we can find an irrelevant vertex.

Vertex  $a$  is solution irrelevant:  
 $\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}_d}(G) \leq k \Leftrightarrow \text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}_d}(G - \{a\}) \leq k$

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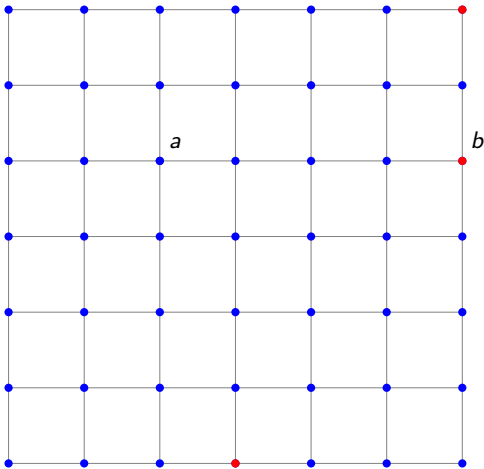


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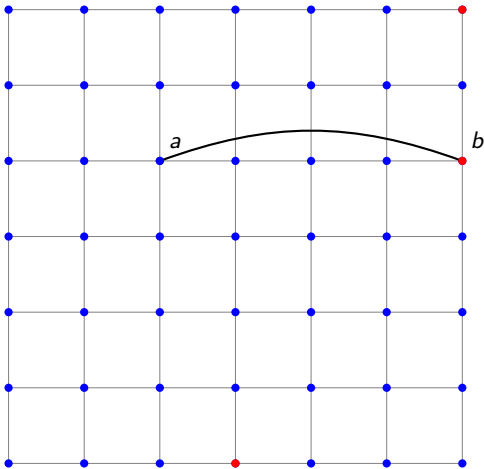
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In our case a vertex  
is irrelevant if it is “far enough”  
from nodes with high degree.

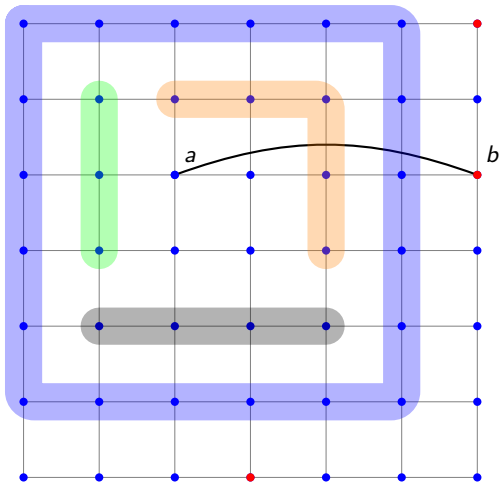
# Excluding $K_5$



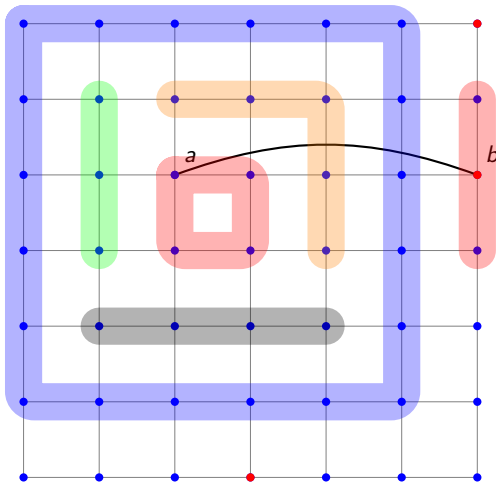
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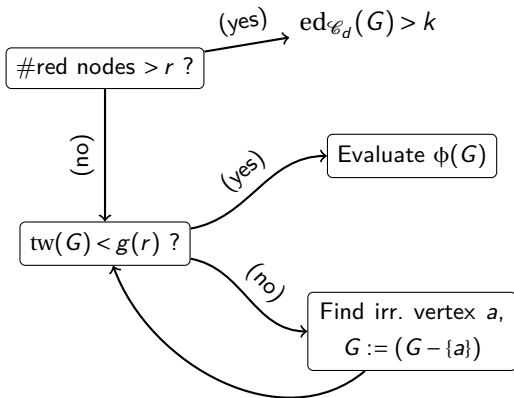
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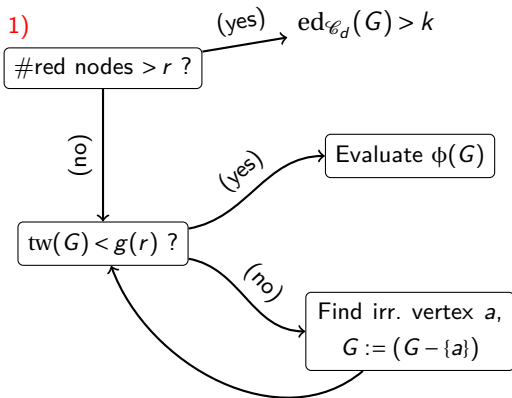


# Overall picture / The irrelevant vertex technique



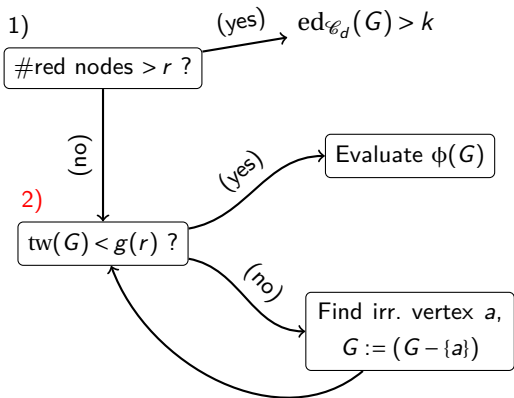
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## 1) Simple combinatorics





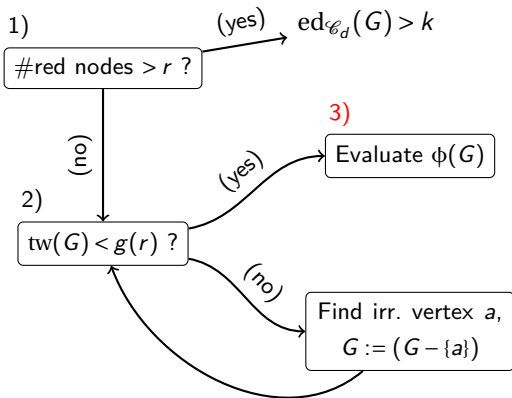
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1) Simple combinatorics

2) Grid Theorem

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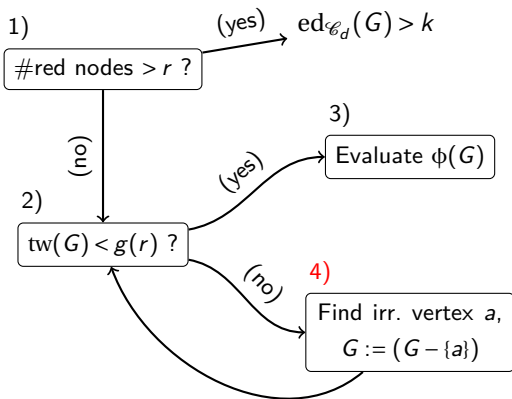


1) Simple combinatorics

2) Grid Theorem

3) Courcelle's Theorem

# Overall picture / The irrelevant vertex technique



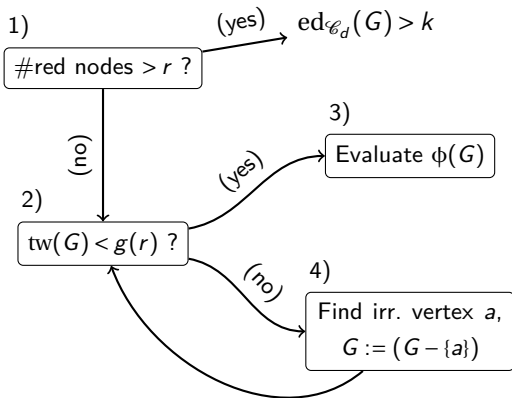
1) Simple combinatorics

2) Grid Theorem

3) Courcelle's Theorem

4) Find and remove  $\{a\}$

# Overall picture / The irrelevant vertex technique



1) Simple combinatorics

2) Grid Theorem

3) Courcelle's Theorem

4) Find and remove  $\{a\}$

Total:  $O(f(k, d) \cdot |G|^c)$

## Future work

### Open problem 1

FPT algorithm for “ $\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}_d}(G) = k$ ” for any graph  $G$ .

### Open problem 2

FPT algorithm for “ $\text{ed}_{\mathcal{C}_d}(G) = k$ ” for any graph  $G$  of degree  $k + d$ .

### Conjecture

Algorithm for open problem 2)  $\rightarrow$  algorithm for open problem 1).

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Algorithm for open problem 2)  $\rightarrow$  algorithm for open problem 1).

Thank you!