



# Kernel Bounds for Structural Parameterizations of Pathwidth

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Joint work with  
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# What is pathwidth?



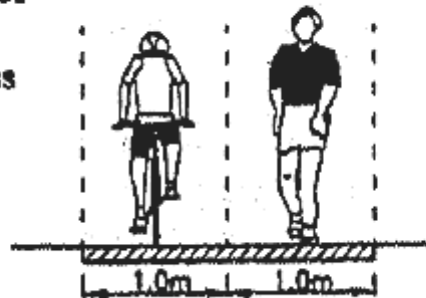
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## Predominant Path Purpose

- Typical circumstances of use

## Commuting and Local Access

- Constrained conditions
- 'Tidal flow'
- Low use



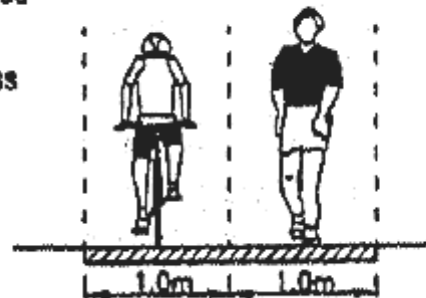
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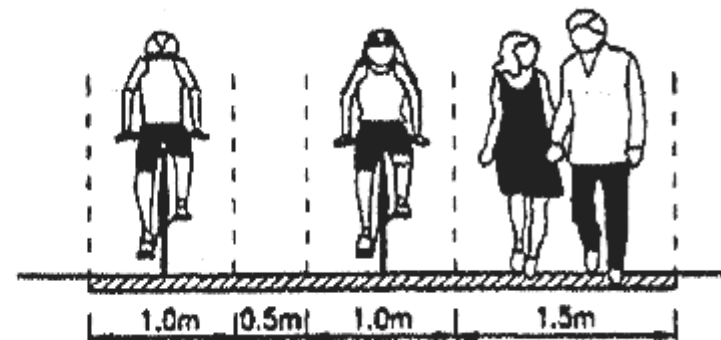
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  - (vertex separation number, node search number, partial k-tree, etc ...)
- Play crucial roles in Robertson & Seymour’s proof of the Graph Minor Theorem



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- When comparing pathwidth to treewidth:
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  - Dynamic programming algorithms for path decompositions are simpler and use less memory
- Important to find **low-width** path and tree decompositions **efficiently**



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- Computing pathwidth or treewidth of a graph is NP-complete
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- Runtime  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  for every fixed  $k$





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- We want to give a guarantee on the size of the output
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- Cannot guarantee output is smaller than input (else  $P=NP$ )
- So given a graph  $G$  of “difficulty”  $k$ , shrink  $G$  to  $\text{poly}(k)$ 
  - Afterwards we can shrink no more



# Setting realistic goals

- Cannot preprocess  $G$  to size  $\text{poly}(\text{pw}(G))$  without changing the pathwidth
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- Can we shrink to size polynomial in the larger measure?
  - For example: size of a minimum vertex cover
  - (Vertex set that covers all edges)





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- No prior work on preprocessing for pathwidth
- This work: reduction rules, analysis & lower bounds

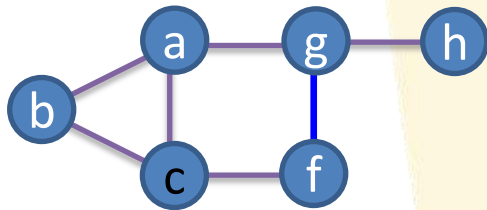


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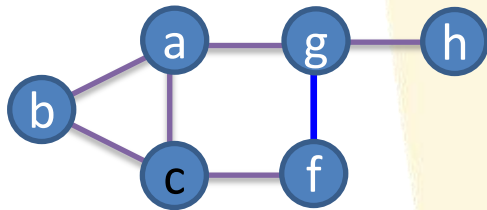


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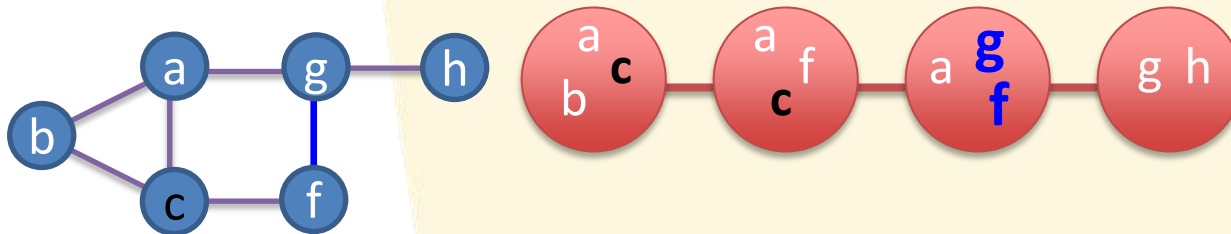
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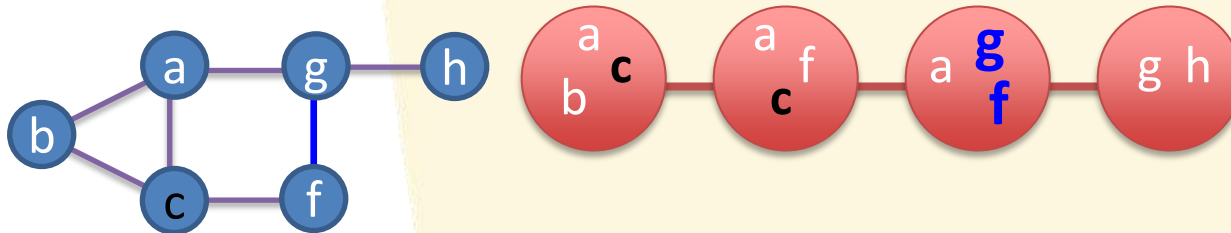
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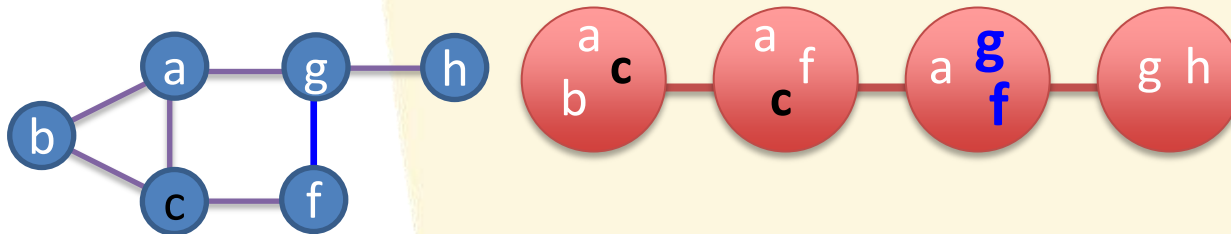
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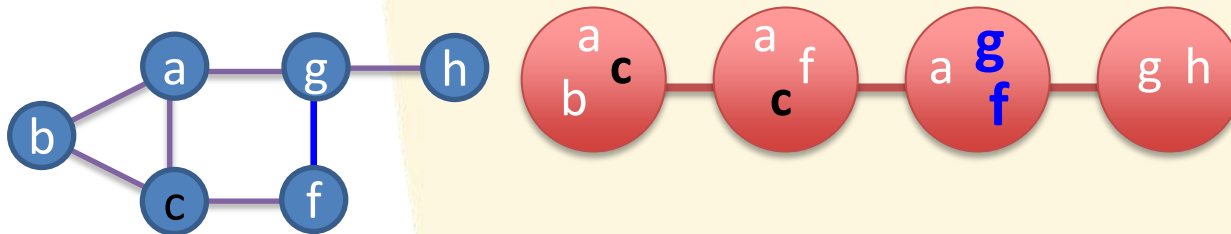
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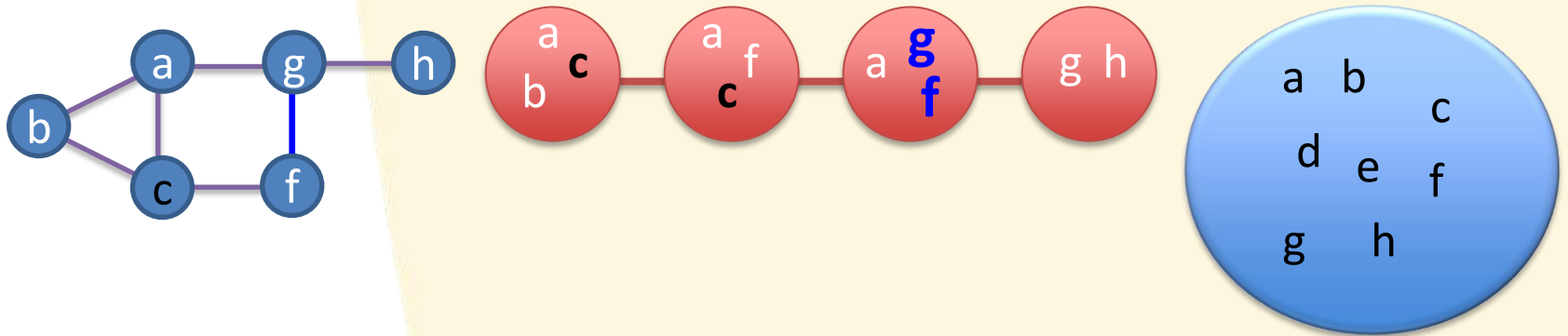
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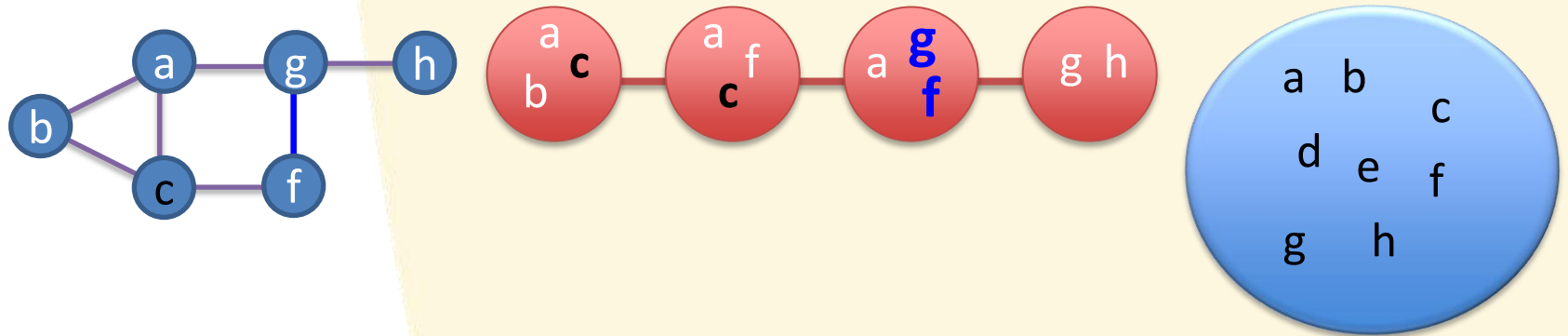


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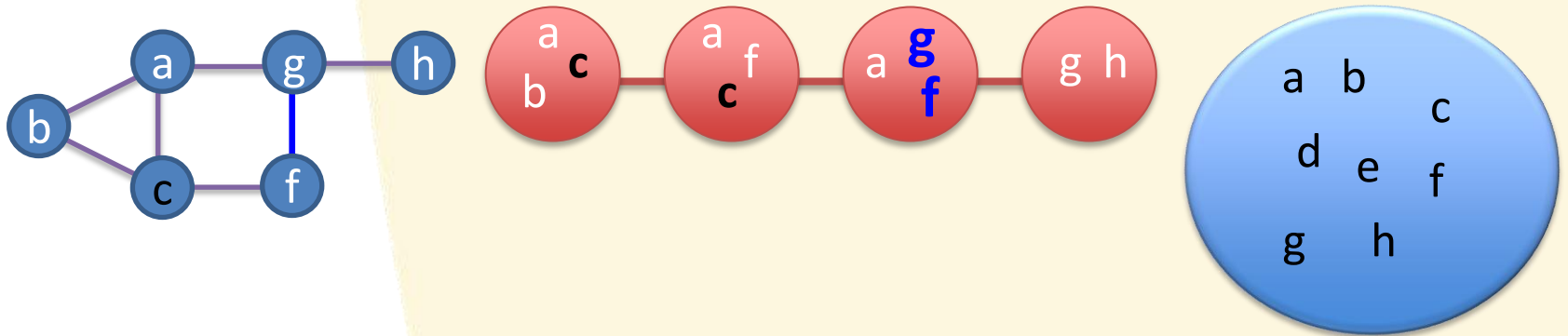
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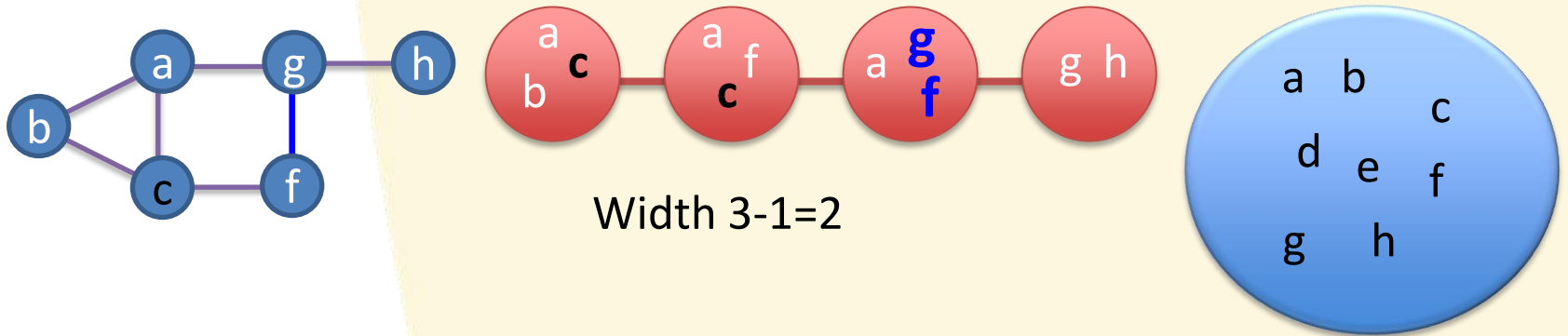
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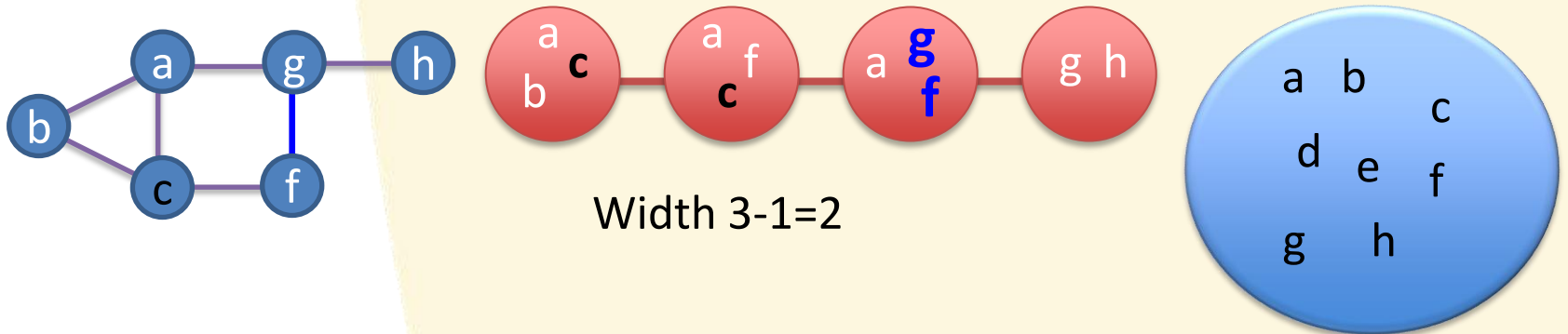
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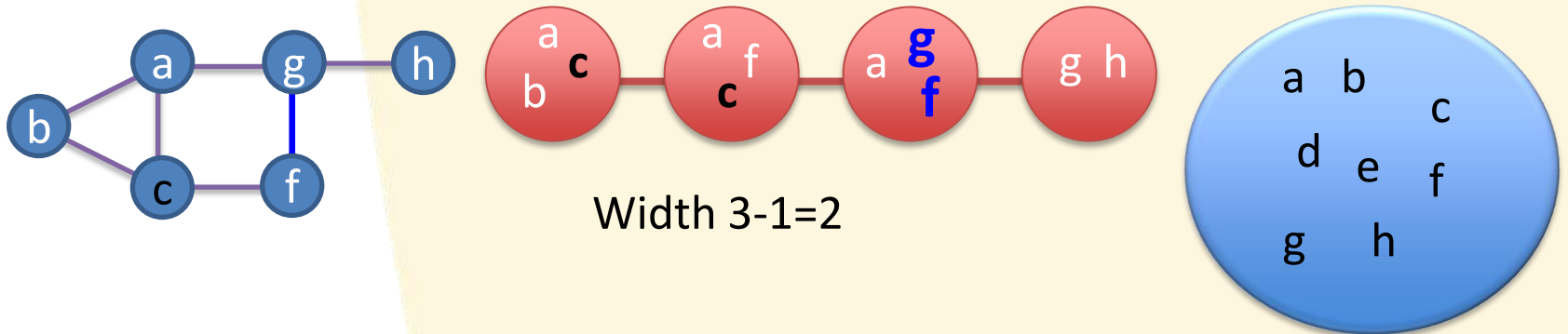
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- The *pathwidth* of a graph  $G$  is the minimum width of a path decomposition of  $G$



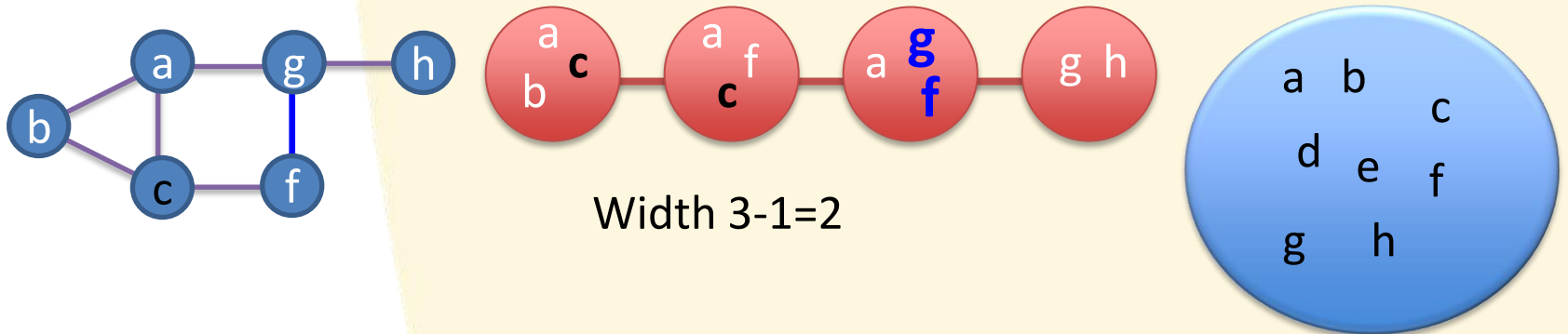
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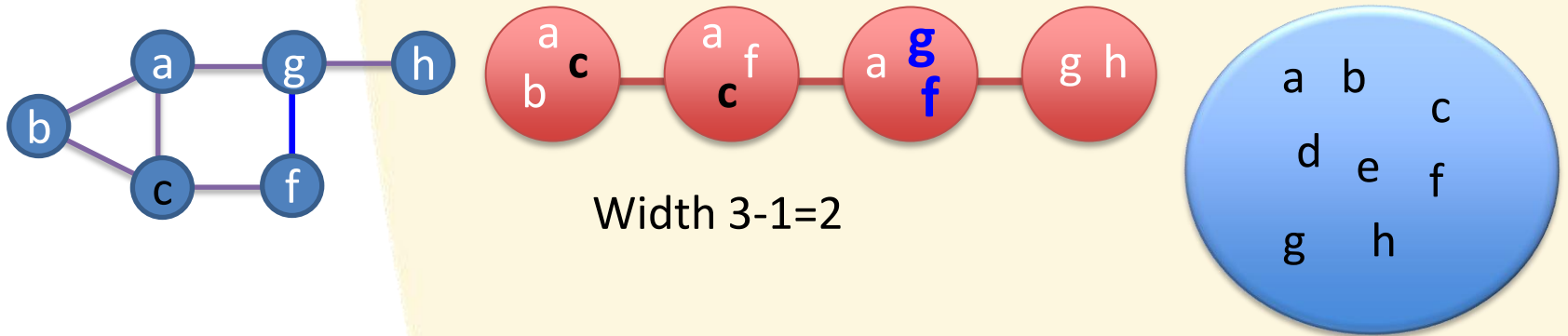
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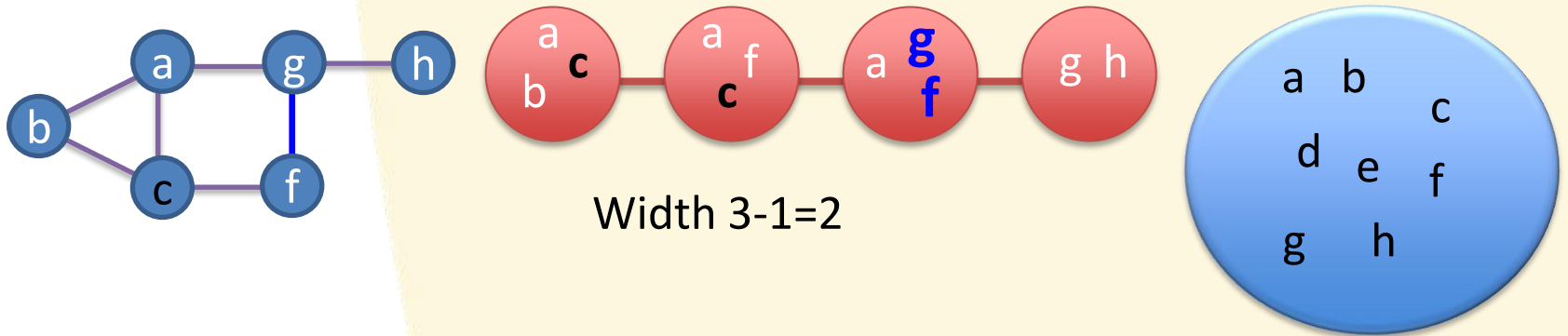
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- Trees have treewidth 1, but may have pathwidth  $\Theta(\log n)$



# Problem setting

- Decision problem associated to pathwidth
  - **Instance:** Graph  $G$ , integer  $k$ .
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  - $(G \text{ has pathwidth } \leq k) \text{ iff } (G' \text{ has pathwidth } \leq k)$
- Easy to lift decompositions of  $G'$  to  $G$
- In practical settings:
  - Guess  $k$ , or work with upper- and lower bounds



# Common neighbors



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## Treewidth Edge Improvement Rule

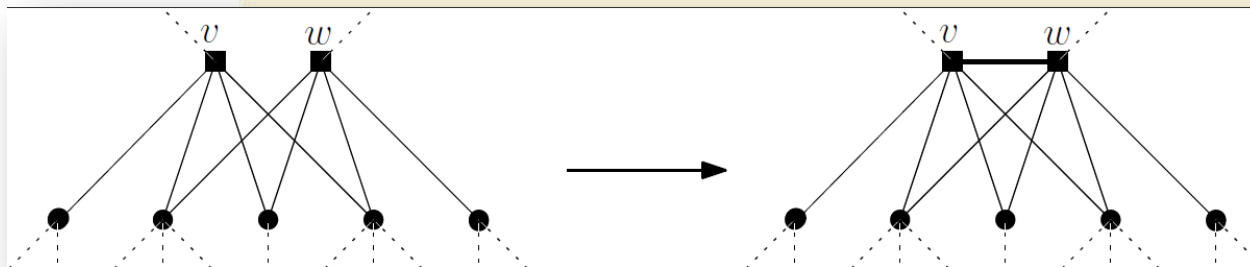
If  $v$  and  $w$  have  $\geq k+1$  common neighbors in  $G$ , then adding edge  $\{v,w\}$  does not change whether  $\text{tw}(G) \leq k$



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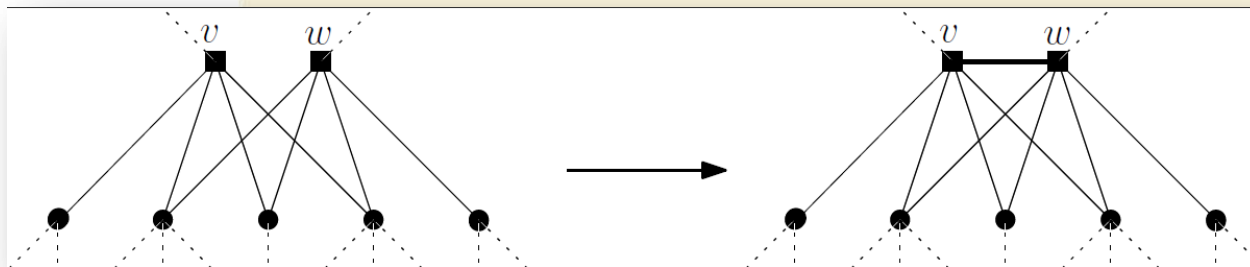


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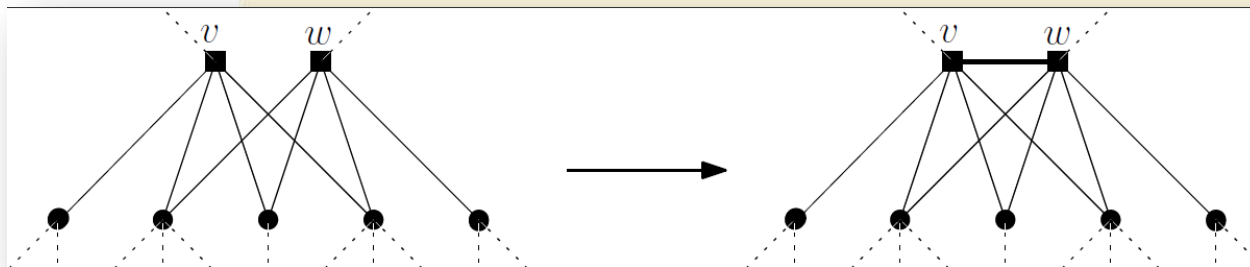


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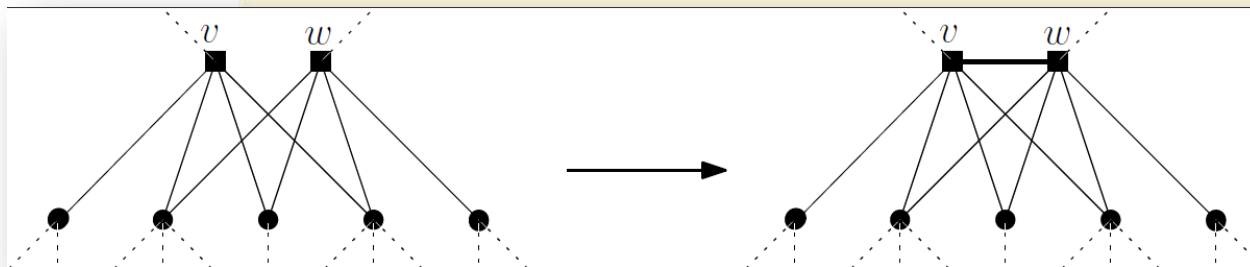


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# Simplicial Vertices



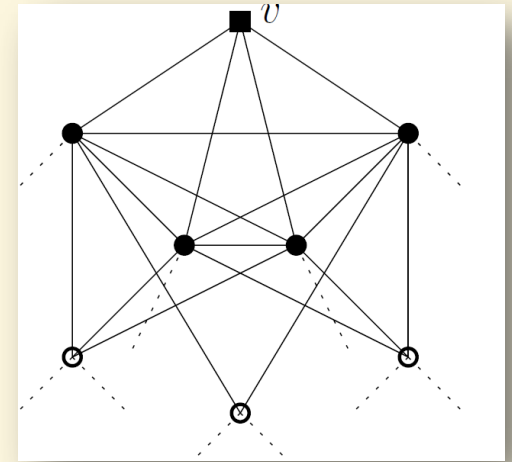
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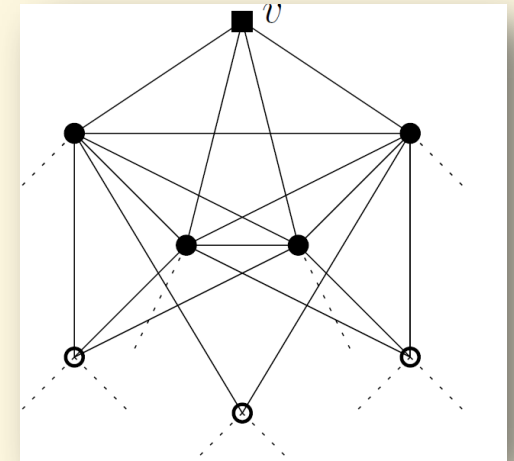
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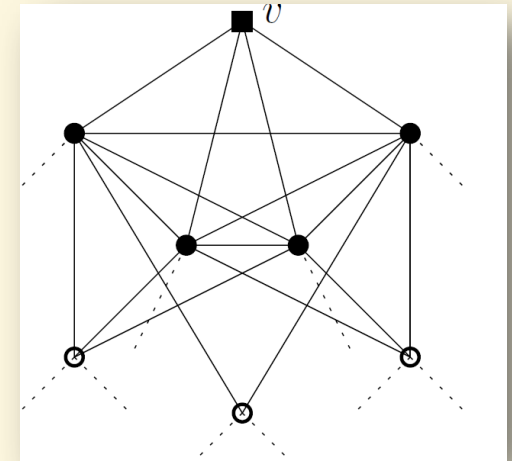
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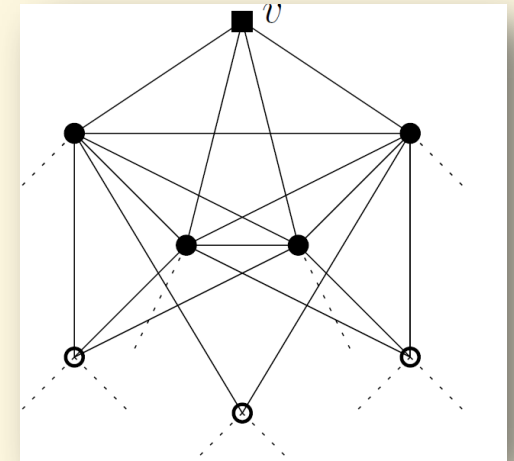
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Closed neighborhood of  $v$   
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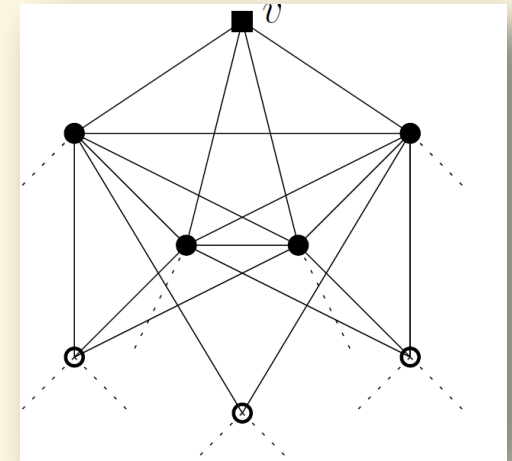
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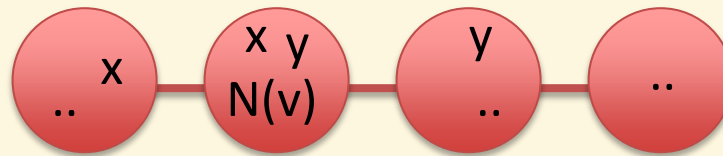
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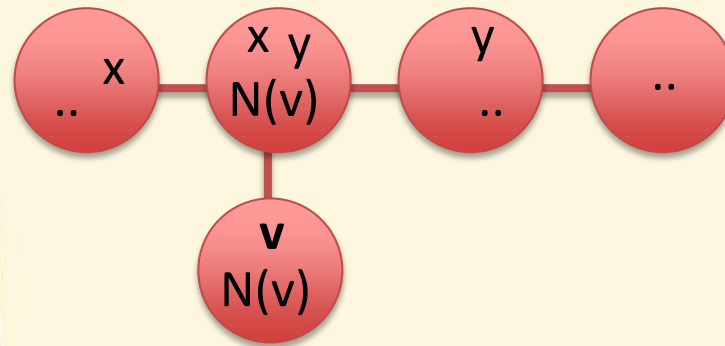
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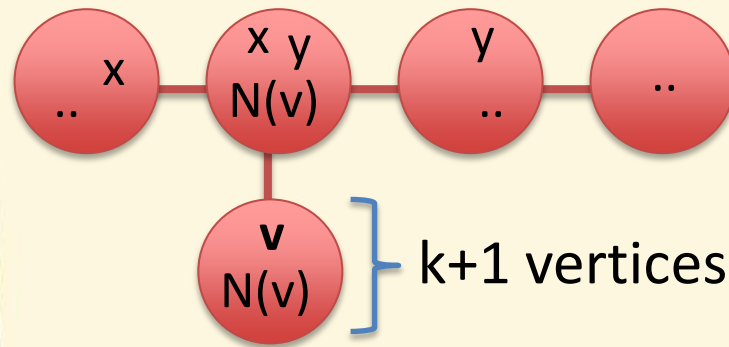
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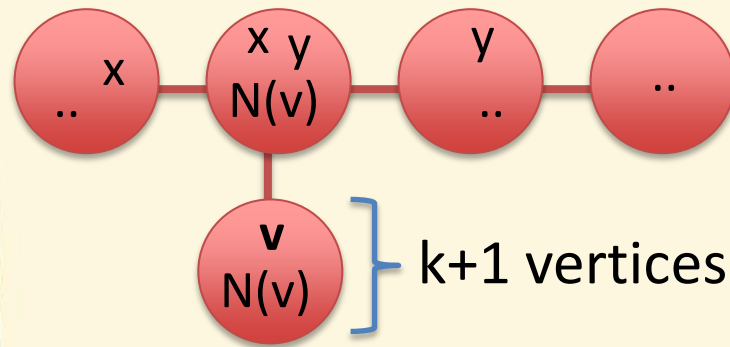
Let  $v$  be a simplicial vertex in  $G$

- If  $\deg(v) \geq k+1$  then  $\text{tw}(G) > k$
- If  $\deg(v) \leq k$  then deleting  $v$  is safe for treewidth  $k$

Helly property for trees ensures that there is a bag containing  $N(v)$



# Simplicial Vertices



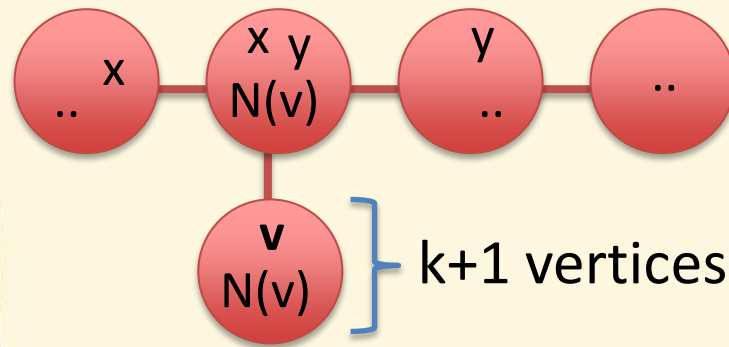
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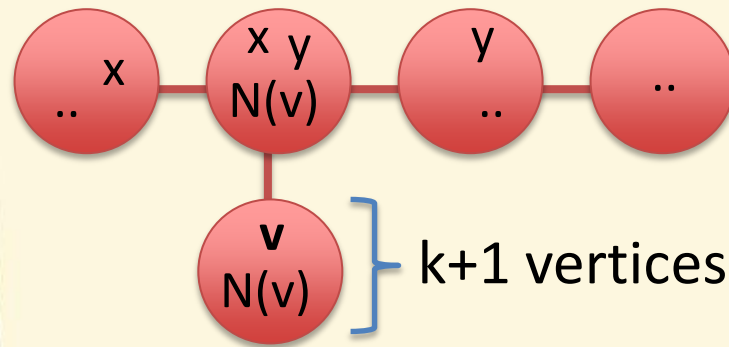
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Repeated application  
would eat up a tree

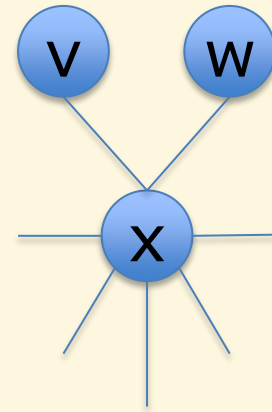


# Degree-one vertices

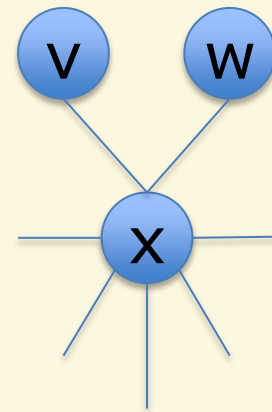




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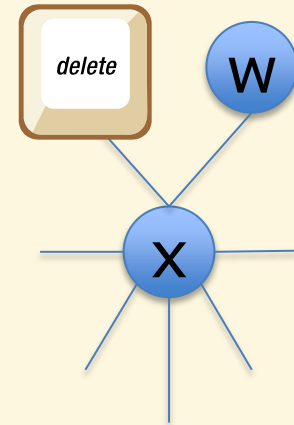


## Pathwidth Degree-1 Vertex Rule

If vertex  $v$  is only adjacent to  $x$ , and there is another degree-1 vertex  $w$  adjacent to  $x$ , then deleting  $v$  is safe for pathwidth  $k$



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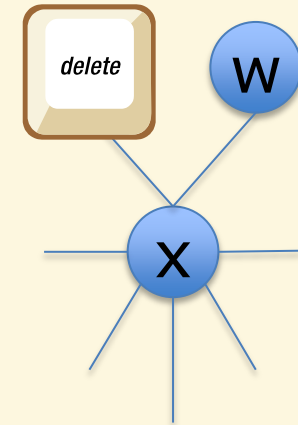
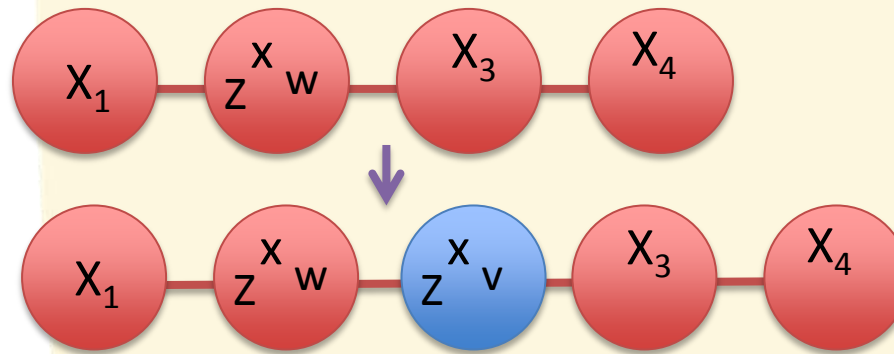


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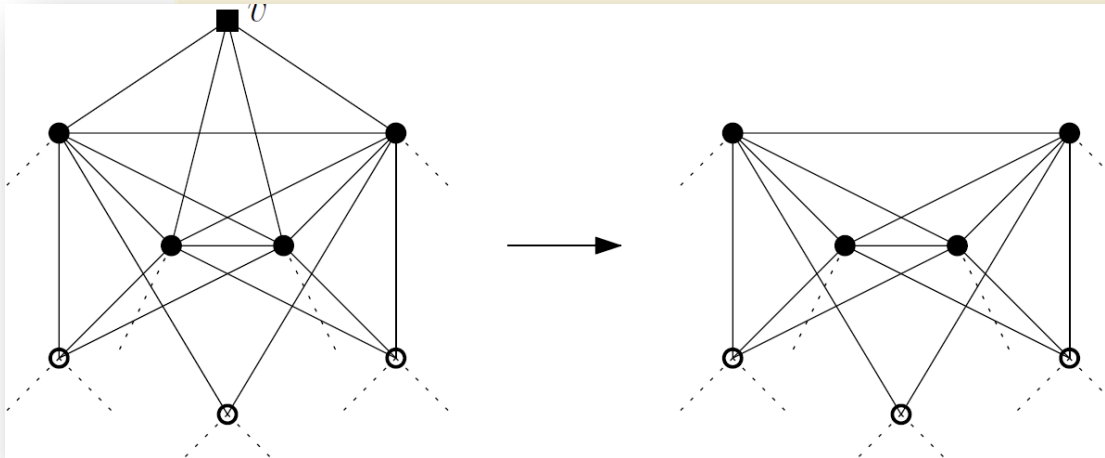
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## Pathwidth Simplicial Vertex Rule

If  $v$  is simplicial with  $2 \leq \deg(v) \leq k$ , and  
 $\forall \{x, y\} \text{ in } N(v), \exists \text{ simplicial } v_{xy} \notin N[v]$  seeing  $x$  and  $y$ ,  
then deleting  $v$  is safe for pathwidth  $k$



# Effects of the reduction rules

- If  $G$  has a vertex cover  $X$  of size  $\ell$ , and you work relative to the structure of  $X$ :
  - Easy counting arguments prove  $O(\ell^3)$  vertices
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## Polynomial kernels (sizes in # vertices)

- $O(\ell^3)$  when  $\ell$  is the vertex cover number
- $O(c\ell^3 + c^2\ell^2)$  when  $\ell$  is the size of a vertex set whose removal gives components of at most  $c$  vertices each
- $O(\ell^4)$  when  $\ell$  is the size of a vertex set whose removal results in disjoint stars





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  - Deleting the small set yields a clique

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# Details of the construction ...

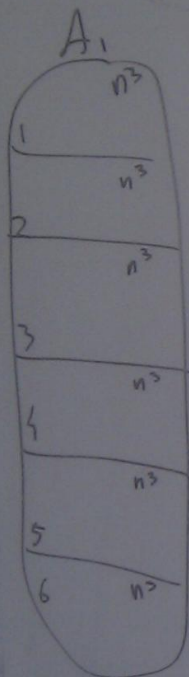




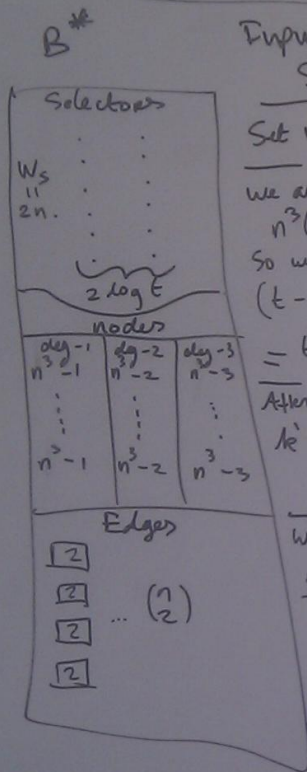
Cutwidth  $c$  decomposes into  $TW$  by clique deletion.

known: cutwidth is NP-complete on planar max. deg  $\leq 3$  graphs.

Poly eq.: all input graphs have same degree sequence (characterized by  $n^4$ ) and ask for same  $k$ . Sort vertices by degree. Assume  $n \geq 3$ .



$$A_1 = n \cdot n^3 = n^4$$



Input instance on deg  $\leq 3$  graph has cutwidth  $\leq |E| \leq \frac{3n}{2}$ .  
So  $1 \leq k \leq \frac{3n}{2}$ .

Set  $w_s := 2n$ .

We ask for low small subinstance  $(V; U \subseteq B^*)$ :  
 $n^3(n+1) + k - 1$ .

So we ask in the big instance for:

$$(t-1)n^4 + n^3(n+1) + k - 1 + 2n \log t$$

$$= tn^4 + n^3 + k - 1 + 2n \log t.$$

After solving instance we can eliminate the rest, provided that  
 $k \geq (t-1)n^4 - 1 + 2n(2 \log t) + 2\binom{n}{2} + n(n^3 - 1)$   
 $= tn^4 - 1 + 4n \log t + 2\binom{n}{2} - n$ .

We need:

$$tn^4 + n^3 + k - 1 + 2n \log t \geq tn^4 - 1 + 4n \log t + 2\binom{n}{2} - n$$

$$n^3 + k - 1 \geq 2n \log t + 2\binom{n}{2} - n - 1$$

$$n^3 + k \geq 2n \log t + 2\binom{n}{2} - n$$

Should work if  $n \geq 2 \log t$ :

$$\text{then } 2n \log t + 2\binom{n}{2} - n \leq 2n^2 + 2\binom{n}{2} - n \leq 2n^2 + \frac{2n(n-1)}{2} - n$$

$$\leq 2n^2 + n^2 = 3n^2. \text{ So: } n^3 \geq 3n^2 \Leftrightarrow n \geq 3.$$

$$n^2 > c(n+1)^k$$

$$c(n+1)^k \leq c(2n)^k$$

$$\leq c \cdot 2^k \cdot n^k$$

$$n^2 > c \cdot 2^k \cdot n^k$$

$$\Leftrightarrow n^{2-k} > c \cdot 2^k$$

$$\Leftrightarrow n = (c \cdot 2^k)^{\frac{1}{2-k}}$$

2y neu tweemacht.  $f(n+1) = n^2$ .  
 $f(n) = n$ .  $f(n+1) = 2^{\lceil \log \log(n+1) \rceil}$

Laat zien:  $\lceil \log \log(n+1) \rceil = \lceil \log \log n \rceil + 1$ .

We weten:  $\log \log(n+1) > \log \log n$ , en  $\log \log(n) \% 1 = 0$ .

ons  $\lceil \log \log(n+1) \rceil \geq \log \log n + 1$ .



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- Analysis proves effect of the rules with respect to several parameters
- Pathwidth and treewidth do not admit polynomial kernels by deletion distance to a clique



# Future directions

Experimental evaluation of the reduction rules

Lower bounds on kernel sizes

- Kernel with  $O(k^{3-\varepsilon})$  bits for parameterization by vertex cover?

Pathwidth parameterized by feedback vertex set

- Polynomial kernel for treewidth by FVS
- Trees have constant treewidth but potentially large pathwidth



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**THANK YOU!**

