UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Algorithms Research Group

On Sparsification for Computing Treewidth

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Outline

Treewidth

Sparsification

Results

- Sparsification lower bound for TREEWIDTH
- Quadratic-vertex kernel upper bound for TREEWIDTH [VC]

Conclusion



• Measure of how "tree-like" a graph is



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 - Decompose a graph into a tree decomposition of small width to reveal its internal structure



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- NP-complete [Arnborg et al.'87]



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 No nontrivial polynomial-time sparsification for *d*-CNF-SAT



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- Main idea:
 - quickly compute G' which is "simpler" than G,
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- Main idea:
 - quickly compute G' which is "simpler" than G,
 - such that minimum-width decomposition of G' easily leads to minimum-width decomposition of G
- Possible ways to make G' provably simpler than G:
 - Upper bound on the density of G'
 - Upper bound on the vertex count of G', in terms of structural measures of G



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- It is a kernelization (or kernel) if Q = Q'

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- Based on the parameterization by vertex count:
 - *n*-Treewidth
 - **Input:** $n \in \mathbb{N}$, an n-vertex graph G, an integer k
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- Most relaxed form of polynomial-time sparsification:
 - generalized kernel for *n*-TREEWIDTH of size $O(n^{2-\epsilon})$ for $\epsilon > 0$



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Theorem. *n*-TREEWIDTH does not have a generalized kernel of bitsize $O(n^{2-\epsilon})$, for any $\epsilon > 0$, unless NP \subseteq coNP/poly

- Proof using **cross-composition of bounded cost**
 - Introduced in the journal version of the paper on cross-composition [Bodlaender, J, Kratsch '12]
 - Easier front-end to the complementary witness lemma of Dell & van Melkebeek [STOC'10]



Corollary [Bodlaender et al.'12].

If there is a polynomial-time algorithm that:

- composes the OR of t² similar size-s instances of an NP-hard problem,
- into an instance (G^*, n^*, k^*) of *n*-TREEWIDTH with $n^* \in O(t \cdot s^{O(1)})$, then *n*-TREEWIDTH does not have a generalized kernel of bitsize $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, unless NP \subseteq coNP/poly



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Algorithms Research Group

Proof Strategy

• Convenient source problem


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 - COBIPARTITE GRAPH ELIMINATION
 - "Given a restricted type of cobipartite graph, does it have treewidth at most k?"
 - Based on Arnborg et al.'s NP-completeness proof for TREEWIDTH



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 - 10 pages of proof to make it work



Corollary 1. For every $\varepsilon > 0$ and every parameter Π that does not exceed the vertex count, TREEWIDTH [Π] does not have a kernel of bitsize $O(k^{2-\varepsilon})$, unless NP \subseteq coNP/poly



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Corollary 2. *n*-PATHWIDTH does not have a generalized kernel of bitsize $O(n^{2-\epsilon})$, for any $\epsilon > 0$, unless NP \subseteq coNP/poly

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 Input: A graph G, vertex cover X of G, and an integer k
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- We improve this to $|X|^2$ vertices



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 - Vertex set whose elimination has a predictable effect on treewidth



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- Let $\Delta(T) := \max_{v \in T} \deg(v)$




Treewidth-Invariant Sets

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Lemma. If T is a treewidth-invariant set in G, then $TW(G) = max{TW(\hat{G}_T), \Delta(T)}$



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- Remaining issue: how to find treewidth-invariant sets?
 - Seems hard in general
 - NP-complete to test if a given set is treewidth-invariant!



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- A subset A' ⊆ A is saturated by q-stars into B' if we can assign to each v ∈ A' a set of q private neighbors from B'





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q-Expansion Lemma [Fomin et al.@STACS'11] Let m be the size of a maximum matching H. If $|B| > m \cdot q$, then there is a nonempty set $T \subseteq B$ such that $N_H(T)$ is saturated by q-stars into T. It can be found in polynomial time.



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Theorem. TREEWIDTH [VC] has a kernel with $|X|^2$ vertices that can be encoded in $O(|X|^3)$ bits

Conclusion

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Open problems

1. Are there graphs whose edge-count is superquadratic in their vertex cover number, which do not have treewidth-invariant sets?

2. Which problems admit nontrivial polynomial-time sparsification?

3. Does TREEWIDTH [VC] have a kernel of bitsize $O(|X|^2)$?

4. Does PATHWIDTH [VC] have a kernel with $O(|X|^2)$ vertices?



Thank you!



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 - Append a new bag with $N_G(v) \cup \{v\}$, of size $\leq \Delta(T) + 1$
 - Update independently for each $v \in T$

