

# ADVANCED MEASURES

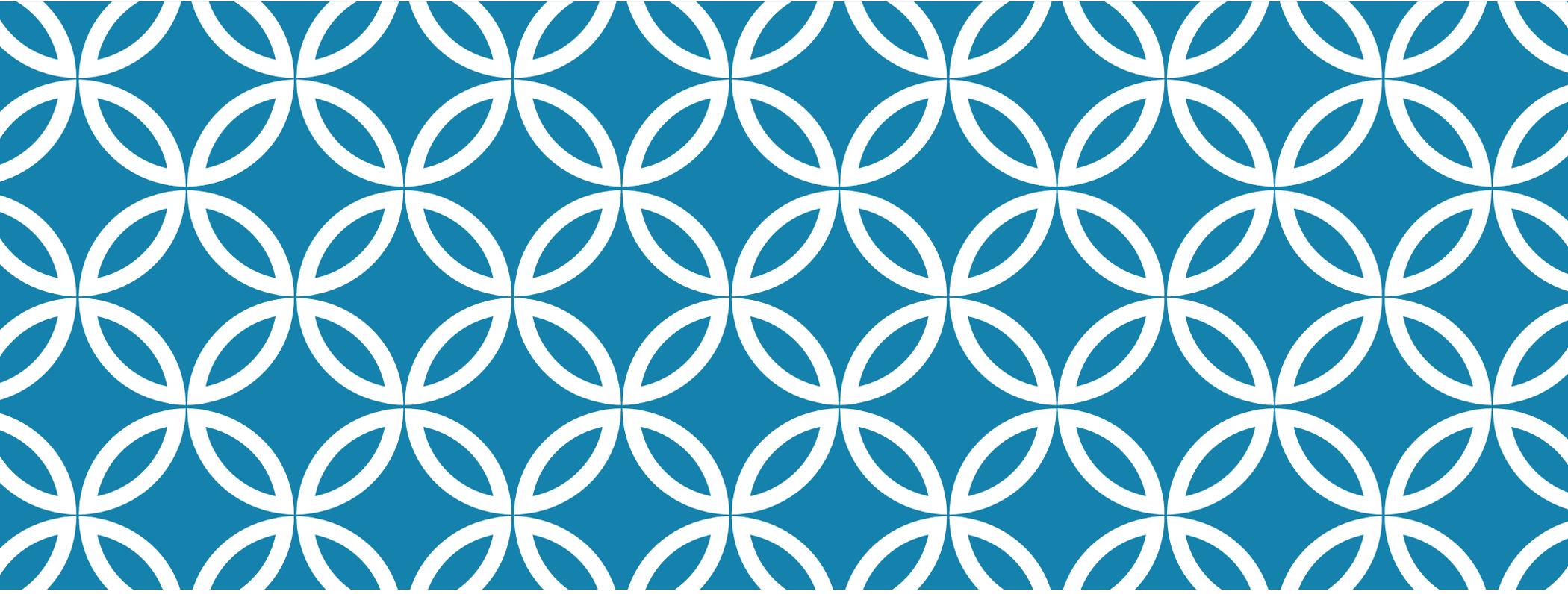
Hadas Shachnai

Recent Advances in Parameterized Complexity

Tel Aviv, December 4, 2017

# OUTLINE

- Above Guarantee Parameterization
- Greedy Localization
- Using Matroid Theory in the Design of Parameterized Algorithms



**ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION** |



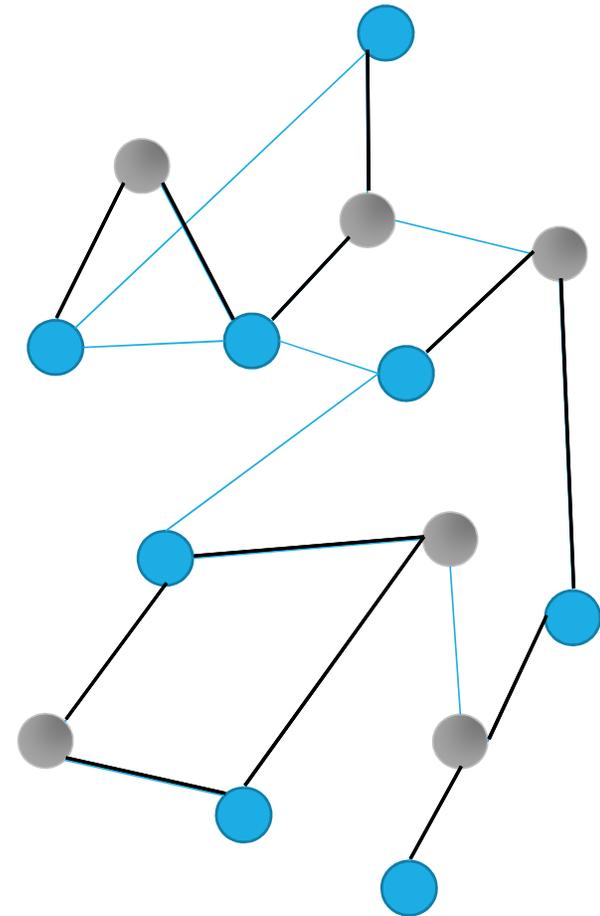
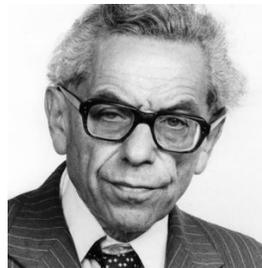


# MAX CUT

$$G = (V, E)$$

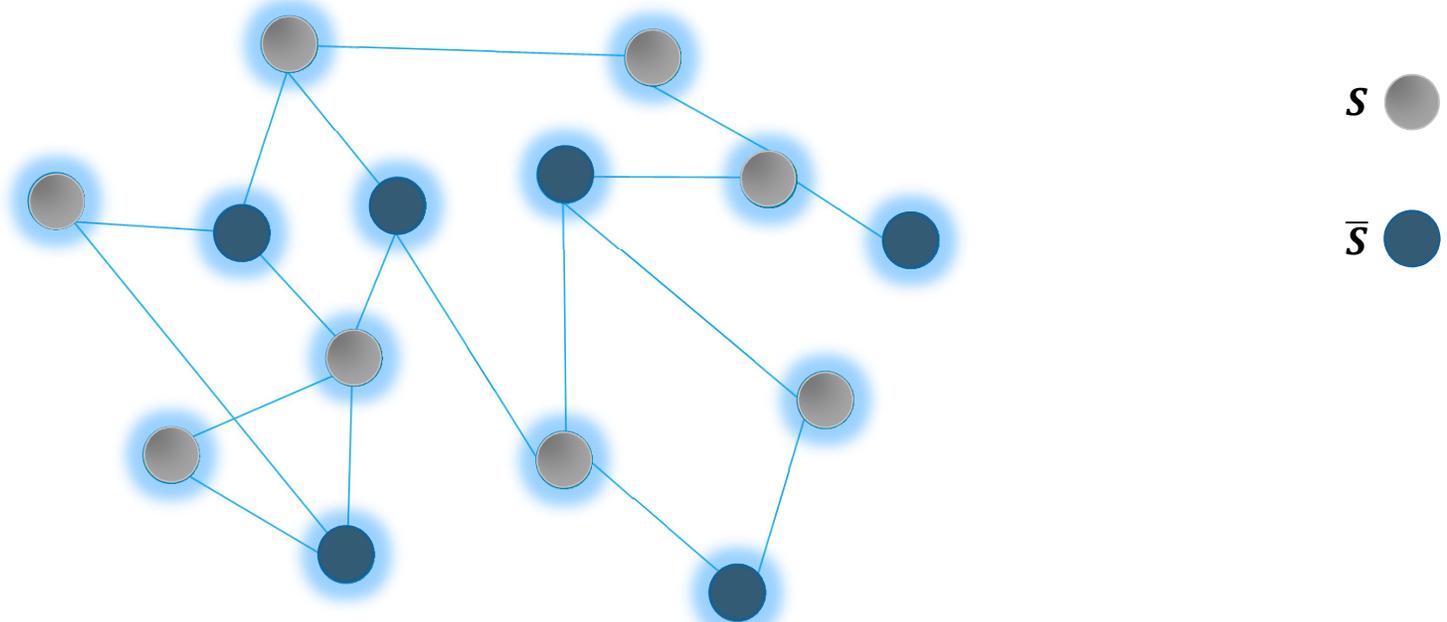
Find a subset  $S \subseteq V$  such that  $|E(S, \bar{S})|$  is maximized.

Any graph  $G$  with  $m = |E|$  edges has a cut of size  $\frac{m}{2}$  (Erdős, 1965).



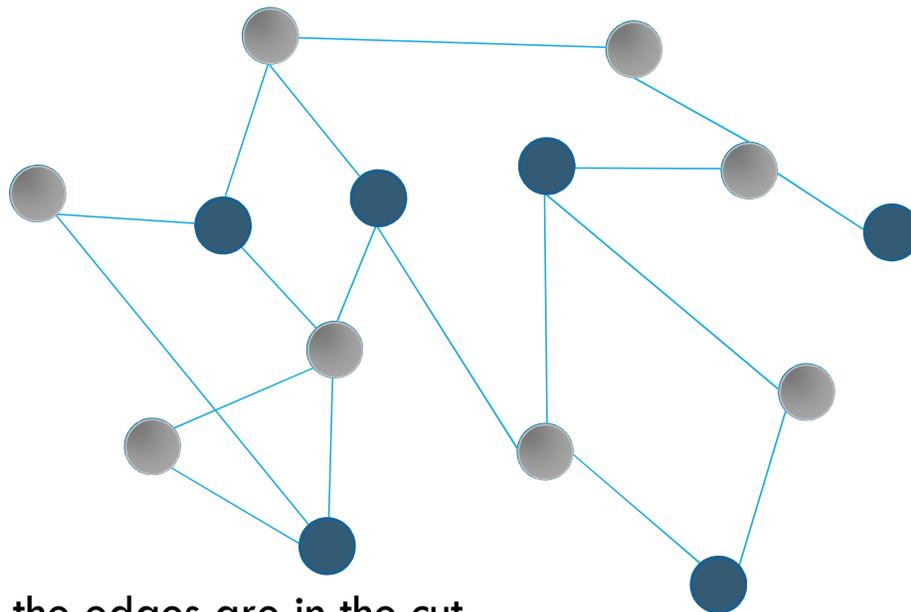
# LOWER BOUND ON MAX CUT SIZE

Order the vertices arbitrarily. In iteration  $i$ , the  $i$ -th vertex makes a greedy decision,  $1 \leq i \leq n$



# LOWER BOUND ON MAX CUT SIZE

Order the vertices arbitrarily. In iteration  $i$ , the  $i$ -th vertex makes a greedy decision,  $1 \leq i \leq n$



At least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the edges are in the cut



# MAX CUT: “STANDARD” PARAMETERIZATION

Max Cut (MC)

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G$  and a positive integer  $k$*

*Parameter:  $k$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have a cut of size at least  $k$ ?*

- MC has an  $O^*(1.2418^k)$  FPT algorithm.
- But, we have a **guaranteed cut size** of  $\lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil$ .

If  $k \leq \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil$  the answer is always “Yes”, and for large values of  $k$  - the FPT algorithm may not be efficient.



# MAX CUT: “STANDARD” PARAMETERIZATION

Max Cut (MC)

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G$  and a positive integer  $k$*

*Parameter:  $k$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have a cut of size at least  $k$ ?*

- Refine the question: How much larger than the guaranteed value is the maximum value?



# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

Above Guarantee Max Cut (AGMC)

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G=(V,E)$ ,  $|E|=m$ , and a positive integer  $k$*

*Parameter:  $k$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have a cut of size at least  $k + \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil$  ?*

- Assume w.l.o.g that  $G$  has no isolated vertices and no self loops.
- Use a tighter guarantee (Edwards-Erdős): Every connected graph  $G=(V, E)$  where  $|V|=n$  and  $|E|=m$  with no self loops has a cut of size at least  $\frac{m}{2} + \frac{n-1}{4}$ .



Any graph  $G$  with  $c$  connected components has a cut of size  $\frac{m}{2} + \frac{n-c}{4}$

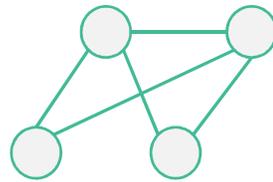
# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

FPT Algorithm for AGMC

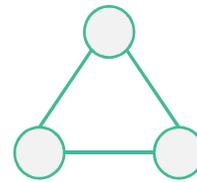
1. Find the connected components  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_c$  of  $G$ .  
If  $k \leq \frac{n-c}{4}$  output Yes and stop.
2. For  $i=1, \dots, c$  find the max cut size,  $s_i$ , in  $G_i$ .
3. If  $\sum_{i=1}^c s_i \geq \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil + k$  then output Yes; else, output No.

# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

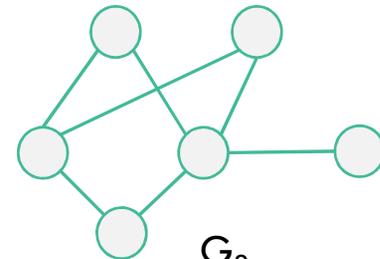
Example:  $k=3$ .  
 $c=3, n=13, m=14$ ,  
 $k > \frac{n-c}{4}$



$G_1$



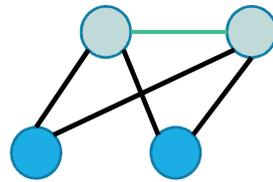
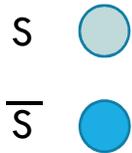
$G_2$



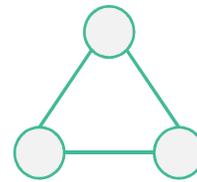
$G_3$

# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

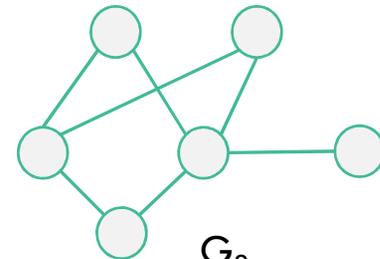
Example:  $k=3$ .  
 $c=3, n=13, m=14$ ,  
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$G_1$   
 $S_1=4$



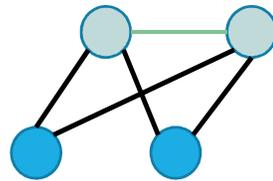
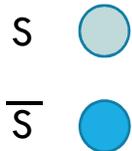
$G_2$



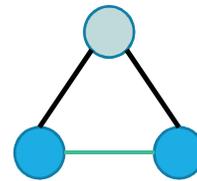
$G_3$

# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

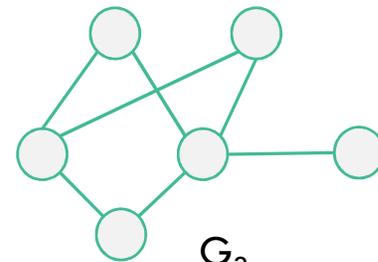
Example:  $k=3$ .  
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 $k > \frac{n-c}{4}$



$G_1$   
 $S_1=4$



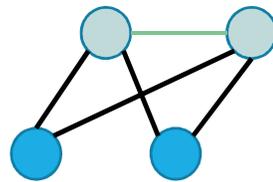
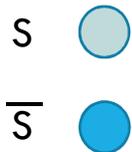
$G_2$   
 $S_2=2$



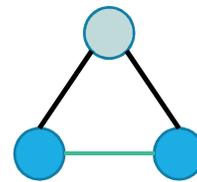
$G_3$

# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

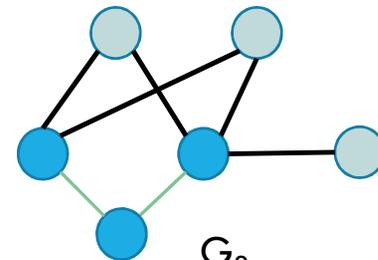
Example:  $k=3$ .  
 $c=3, n=13, m=14$ ,  
 $k > \frac{n-c}{4}$



$G_1$   
 $S_1=4$



$G_2$   
 $S_2=2$



$G_3$   
 $S_3=5$

$$\sum_{i=1}^c S_i = 11, \quad \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil + k = 10$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^c S_i \geq \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil + k \quad \rightarrow \text{YES}$$

# MAX CUT: ABOVE GUARANTEE PARAMETERIZATION

## FPT Algorithm for AGMC

1. Find the connected components  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_c$  of  $G$ . If  $k \leq \frac{n-c}{4}$  output Yes and stop.
2. For  $i=1, \dots, c$  find the max cut size,  $s_i$ , in  $G_i$ .
3. If  $\sum_{i=1}^c s_i \geq \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil + k$  then output Yes, else output No.

- Running time is  $O(n^3 + m \cdot 2^{4k})$

**Note:** In Step. 2 it holds that  $n-c < 4k$ . It follows that, for all

$$1 \leq i \leq c, n_i \leq n - (c-1) \leq 4k.$$

- If  $k=O(\log mn)$ , running time is polynomial in  $m$  and  $n$ .

# ABOVE GUARANTEE VERTEX COVER

Let  $\mu(G)$  be the size of a maximum matching in  $G$ .

Above Guarantee Vertex Cover (AGVC)

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G=(V,E)$ , and a positive integers  $k, \mu(G)$ .*

*Parameter:  $k - \mu(G)$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have a vertex cover of size at most  $k$ ?*

- An  $O^*(4^{k-\mu(G)})$  algorithm follows from a reduction to Node Multiway Cut [Cygan et al., 2011]
- Better running time can be obtained by considering the linear programming (LP) formulation.

# ABOVE GUARANTEE VERTEX COVER

## ILP for Vertex Cover

*Instance:* A graph  $G=(V,E)$ , and a positive integer  $k$

*Feasible Solution:* A function  $x:V \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  satisfying  $x(u)+x(v) \geq 1$  for any edge  $(u,v) \in E$

*Goal:* Minimize  $w(x) = \sum_{u \in V} x(u)$  over all feasible solutions  $x$ .

- In the LP relaxation  $x(v) \geq 0$  for all  $v \in V$ .
- Let  $vc^*(G)$  be the minimum value for the LP.

## Vertex Cover Above LP

*Instance:* An undirected graph  $G$ , and positive integers  $k, \lceil vc^*(G) \rceil$

*Parameter:*  $k - \lceil vc^*(G) \rceil$

*Question:* Does  $G$  have a vertex cover of size at most  $k$ ?

# ABOVE GUARANTEE VERTEX COVER

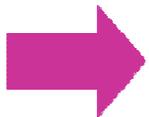
## Vertex Cover Above LP

*Instance:* An undirected graph  $G$ , and positive integers  $k, \lceil vc^*(G) \rceil$

*Parameter:*  $k - \lceil vc^*(G) \rceil$

*Question:* Does  $G$  have a vertex cover of size at most  $k$ ?

- VC above LP can be solved in  $O^*(2.6181^{k-vc^*(G)})$  [Narayanaswamy et al., 2012]
- By weak duality for linear programs,  $vc^*(G) \geq \mu(G)$ ; thus,  $k - vc^*(G) \leq k - \mu(G)$ .



Any algorithm for VC Above LP is also an algorithm for AGVC.

# THE ZOO AROUND AGVC



- Faster algorithms for AGVC yield faster algorithms for many other problems:
  - ✓ Almost 2-SAT
  - ✓ Odd Cycle Transversal
  - ✓ Edge Bipartization
  - ✓ Split Vertex Deletion
  - ✓ ...

# THE ZOO AROUND AGVC: EXAMPLE



Odd Cycle Transversal (OCT)

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G$  and a positive integer  $k$*

*Parameter:  $k$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have an odd cycle transversal of size at most  $k$ ?*

**Theorem:** Odd Cycle Transversal can be solved in time  $O^*(4^k)$

**Proof:** Given the input graph  $G$ , construct the graph  $\tilde{G}$ .

▪ Let  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$  be two copies of  $G$ . Then,

$V(\tilde{G}) = V_1 \cup V_2$  and  $E(\tilde{G}) = E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \{u_1u_2 : u \in V(G)\}$

▪ Let  $M = \{u_1u_2 : u \in V(G)\}$  be a perfect matching in  $\tilde{G}$ , where  $|M| = n$ .

# THE ZOO AROUND AGVC: EXAMPLE



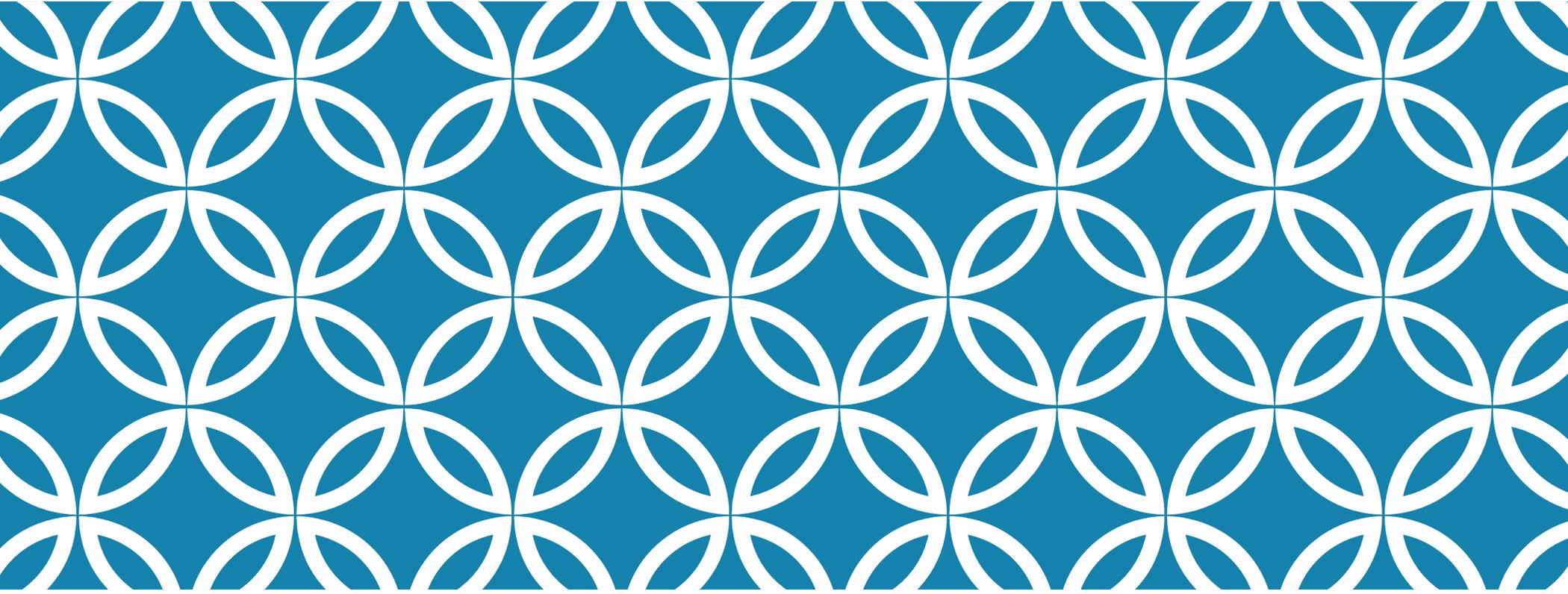
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- Let  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$  be two copies of  $G$ . Then,  $V(\tilde{G}) = V_1 \cup V_2$  and  $E(\tilde{G}) = E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \{u_1u_2 : u \in V(G)\}$
- By the construction,  $\mu(\tilde{G}) = n$ .

**Lemma:**  $G$  has OCT of size at most  $k \iff \tilde{G}$  has a VC of size at most  $k+n$ .

➔ Solve AGVC on  $\tilde{G}$  with parameter  $k+n-\mu(\tilde{G})=k$ , in time  $O^*(4^k)$ . If Yes, use the Lemma to obtain an OCT of size at most  $k$  in  $G$ . Otherwise (by the Lemma),  $G$  has no OCT of size at most  $k$ . ■



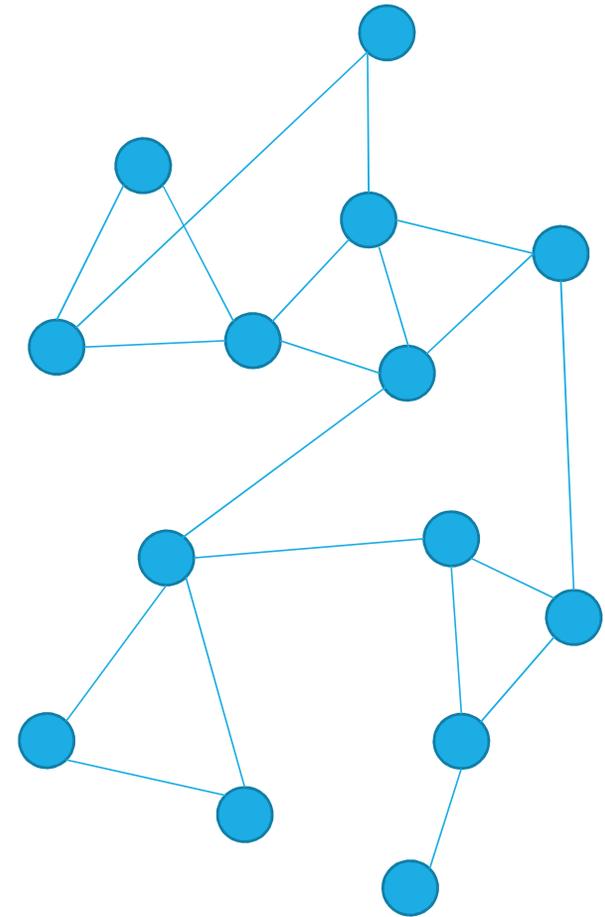
## GREEDY LOCALIZATION



# TRIANGLE PACKING

$G = (V, E)$

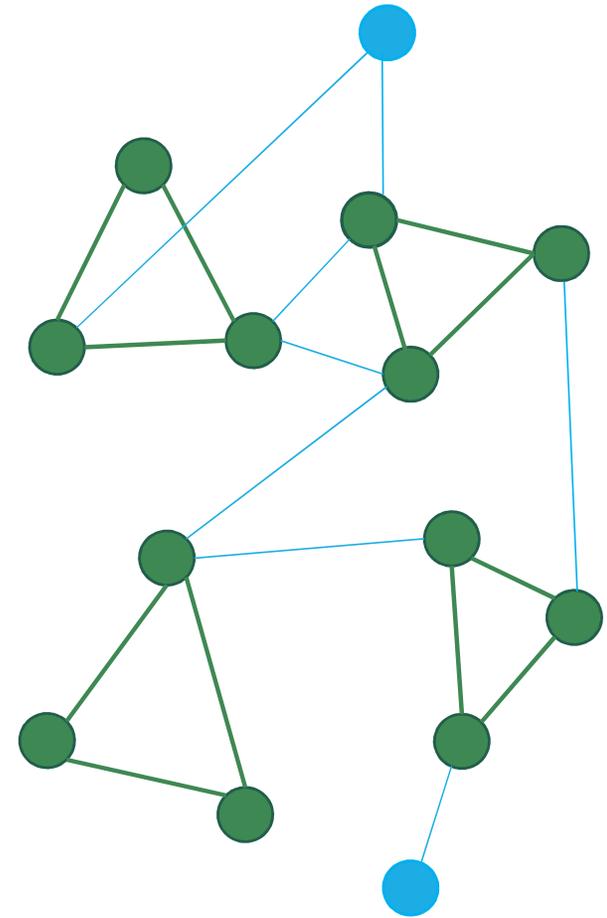
Find a maximum size set of vertex disjoint triangles.



# TRIANGLE PACKING

$G = (V, E)$

Find a maximum size set of vertex disjoint triangles.



# PARAMETERIZING TRIANGLE PACKING

## k-Packing of Triangles

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G$*

*Parameter: A positive integer  $k$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have  $k$  disjoint copies of  $K_3$ ?*

- Use branching to recursively search for a solution.
- Can we enhance the branching?



Start off with a Greedy step!

# K-PACKING OF TRIANGLES: GREEDY LOCALIZATION

k-Packing of Triangles

*Instance:* An undirected graph  $G$

*Parameter:* A positive integer  $k$

*Question:* Does  $G$  have  $k$  disjoint copies of  $K_3$ ?

**Step 1:** Find a maximal set  $A$  of vertex-disjoint triangles in  $G$

**Observation:** If there exists a solution for the problem, SOL (containing  $r \geq k$  disjoint triangles), any triangle in SOL intersects a triangle in  $A$  (otherwise  $A$  is not maximal).

 Guess the intersection of  $A$  and SOL



# K-PACKING OF TRIANGLES: GREEDY LOCALIZATION

## k-Packing of Triangles

*Instance: An undirected graph  $G$*

*Parameter: A positive integer  $k$*

*Question: Does  $G$  have  $k$  vertex disjoint triangles?*

**Step 1:** Find a maximal set  $A$  of vertex-disjoint triangles in  $G$

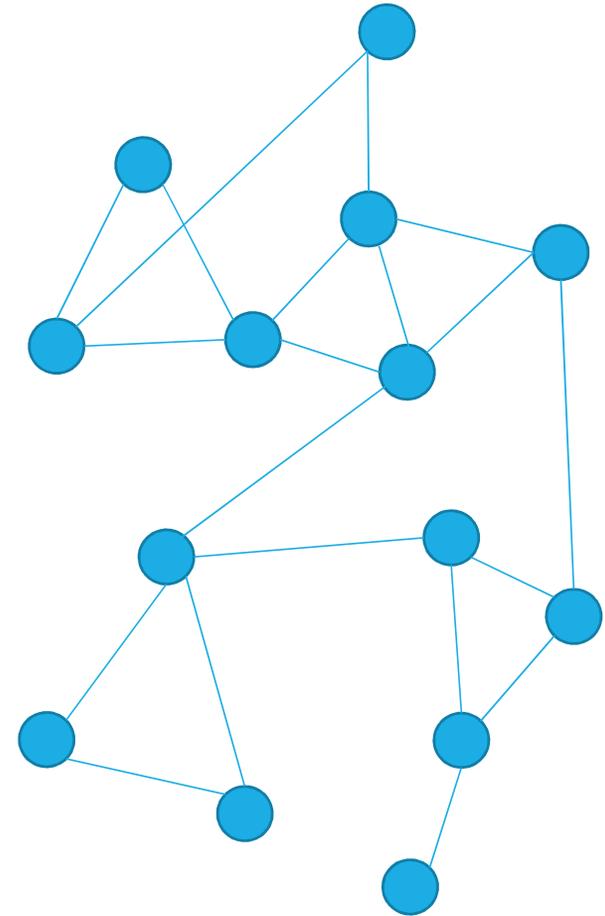
**Step 2:** If  $|A| \geq k$  return Yes and stop; else, let  $G_A$  be the subgraph induced by  $A$ .

**Step 3:** If  $|V(G_A)| < k$  return No and stop; else, guess a subset  $S$  of  $k$  vertices in  $V(G_A)$ .  
Each vertex in  $v_i \in S$  is a 'partial triangle'  $O_i$  in a solution SOL for  $G$ .

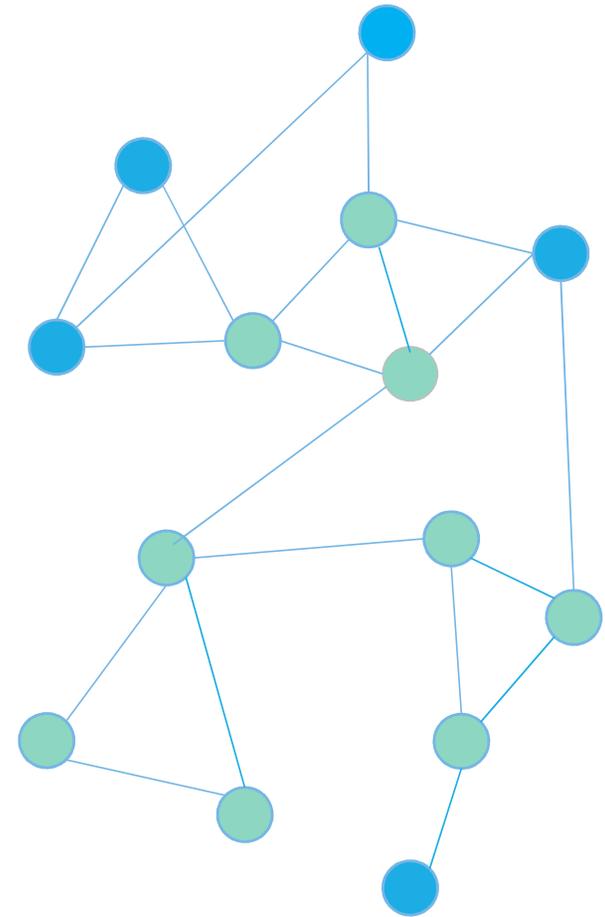
**Step 4:** Guess the extension of all partial triangles to the full ones.

# K-PACKING OF TRIANGLES: GREEDY LOCALIZATION

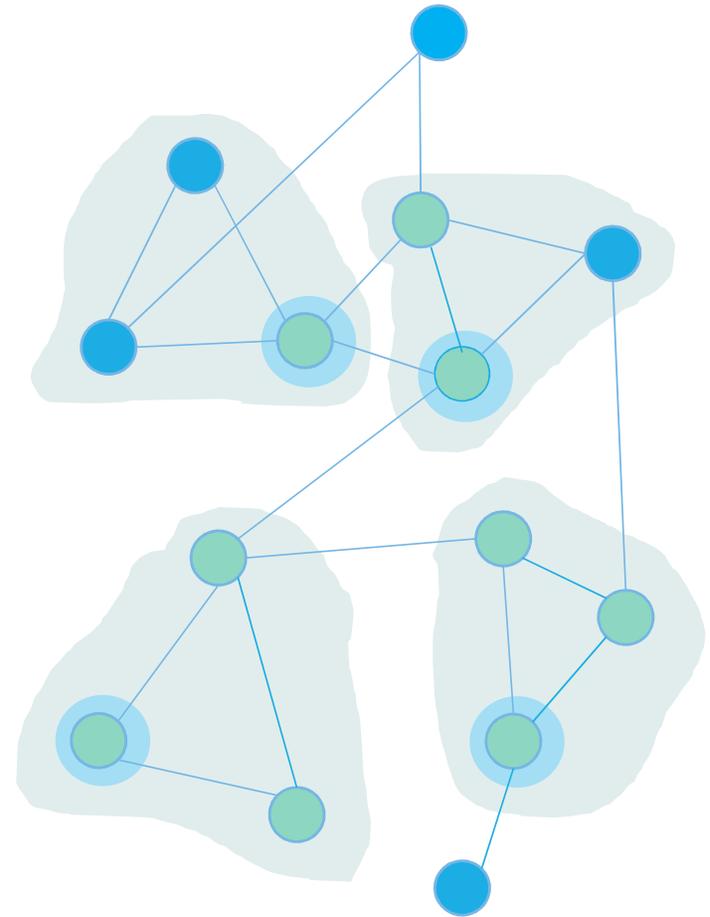
Example:  $k=4$



# K-PACKING OF TRIANGLES: GREEDY LOCALIZATION



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# K-PACKING OF TRIANGLES: GREEDY LOCALIZATION

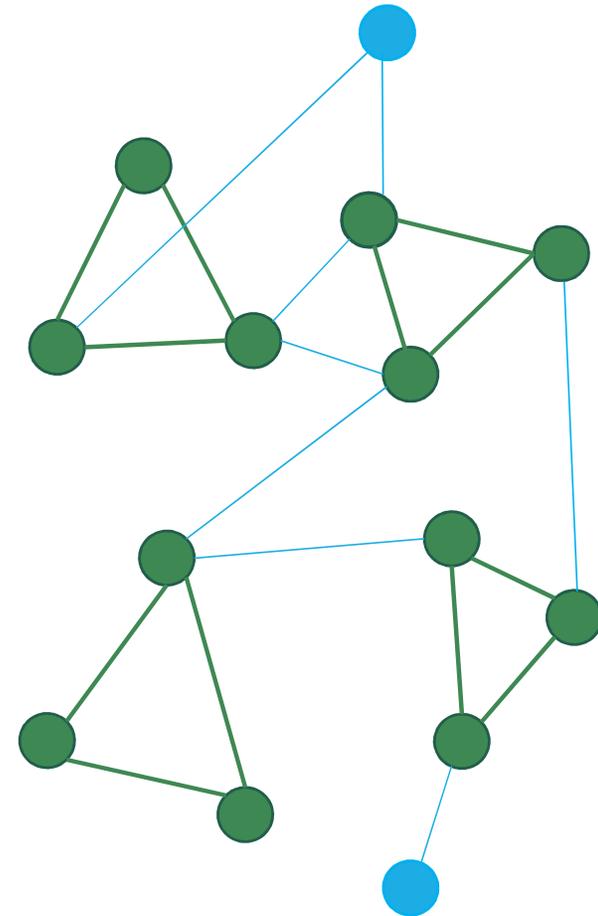
Running time:

- Guessing  $S$  requires  $2^{O(k)}$  steps (since  $|V(G_A)| \leq 3(k-1)$ )
- Guessing the vertices that complete the partial triangles requires  $k^{O(k)}$  steps.

**Note:** Given the 'correct'  $k$  vertices in  $S$ , if a partial triangle  $O_i$  cannot be completed, we need to 'guess' a vertex among those that were added to  $O_1, \dots, O_{i-1}$ , and add this vertex to  $O_i$ . There are  $O(k)$  such vertices.

We need to 'guess' such a vertex, to be added to a partial triangle, at most  $3k$  times, since the total number of vertices in the solution is  $3k$ .

- Overall running time  $O^*(k^{O(k)}) = O^*(2^{O(k \log k)})$



## GREEDY LOCALIZATION – GENERAL TECHNIQUE

- Let  $\Pi$  be a parameterized problem satisfying the following.

**Property 1:**  $\Pi$  can be formulated as a problem of finding  $k$ -pairwise disjoint objects in an input instance  $G$ , where an object is a subset of elements in the ground set  $V$  of  $G$ , whose size depends only on  $k$ .

**Property 2:** For any  $R \subseteq V$  and  $X \subseteq V$ , we can decide in FPT time if there exists

$S \subseteq V \setminus X$ , such that  $R \cup S$  is an object ( $S$  is an **extension** of the **partial object**  $R$  to a **full object**  $R \cup S$  avoiding  $X$ ).

**Notation:** For a set of (partial) objects  $B = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k\}$ , let  $V_B$  be the collection of ground elements contained in  $B$ .

# GREEDY LOCALIZATION – GENERAL TECHNIQUE

Meta-algorithm Greedy Localization

Input: Instance  $G$  with ground set  $V$ , an integer  $k$ .

Output: Yes if  $G$  has  $k$  non-overlapping objects, otherwise No.

1. Compute an inclusion maximal non-overlapping set of objects  $A$ .
2. If  $A$  contains at least  $k$  objects then return Yes and stop.
3. If  $|V_A| < k$ , return No and stop.
4. Guess  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq V_A$ , and let  $O_i$  be a partial object on  $v_i$ .  
Branching( $O = \{O_1, O_2 \dots, O_k\}$ )

- The subroutine Branching accepts as input a set of  $k$  objects  $O = \{O_1, O_2 \dots, O_k\}$  and returns Yes if  $O$  can be extended to a set of full objects; else returns No.

# GREEDY LOCALIZATION – GENERAL TECHNIQUE

**Theorem:** If a parameterized problem  $\Pi$  satisfies Properties 1 and 2 then Greedy Localization is an FPT algorithm for  $\Pi$ .

**Proof:** For correctness, the key observation is that if  $\exists$  a solution for  $\Pi$ ,  $SOL = \{SOL_1, \dots, SOL_r\}$ , where  $r \geq k$ , then any object  $SOL_i$  intersects an object  $A_j \in A$  (otherwise  $A$  is not maximal).

- We can guess  $k$  ground elements in  $V_A$ , each belongs to a distinct object in  $SOL$ .
- The subroutine Branching will find for each one element partial object  $O_j$  an extension to an element  $SOL_i$ .

# GREEDY LOCALIZATION – GENERAL TECHNIQUE

**Theorem:** If a parameterized problem  $\Pi$  satisfies Properties 1 and 2 then Greedy Localization is an FPT algorithm for  $\Pi$ .

**Proof:** For running time, the initial guess of  $k$  elements requires  $\binom{|V_A|}{k}$ , which is a function of  $k$ .

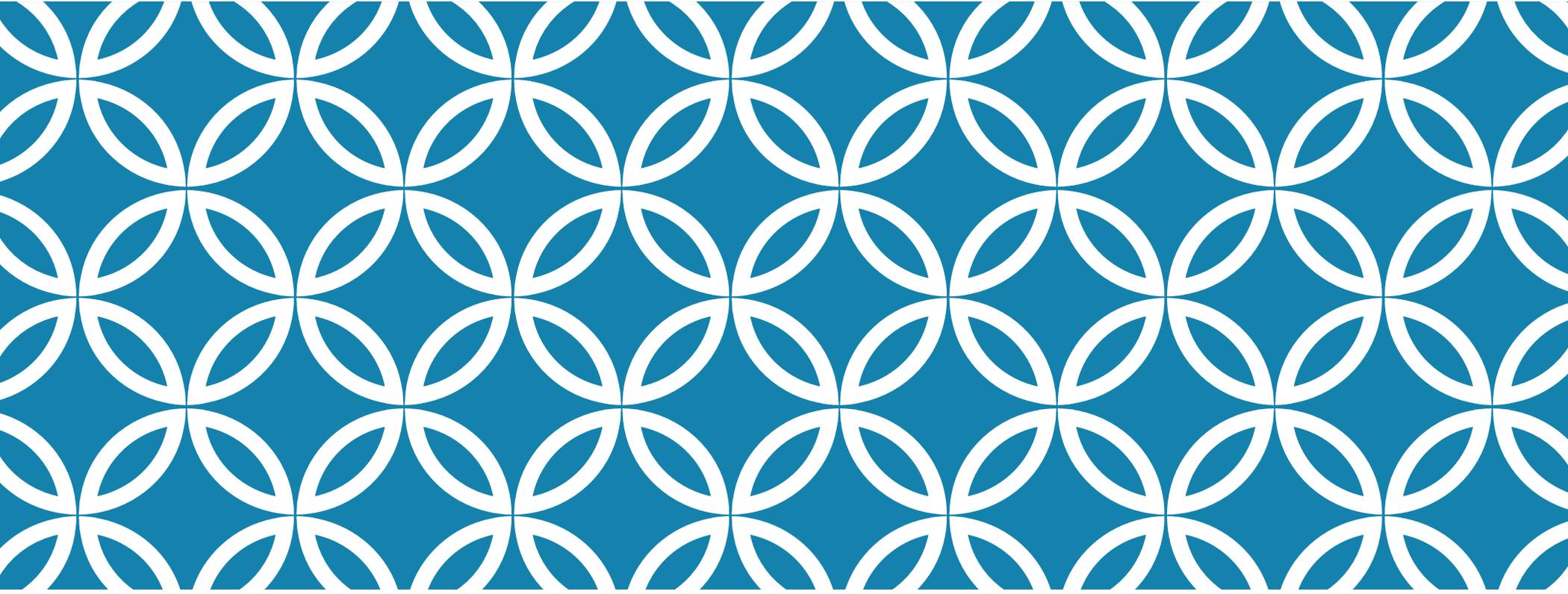
- Guessing the extension of each element to an object in SOL can be done in FPT time, by Property 2, and since object sizes are bounded by a function of  $k$ .

Overall, we have FPT time.



# GREEDY LOCALIZATION: SOME EXAMPLES

- The Technique was first used by [Chen et al., 2004] and [Jia et al., 2004] . The term was coined by [Dehne et al., 2004].
- Applied to solve:
  - ✓ k-Packing of k-Cycles
  - ✓ k-Set Packing
  - ✓ k-Dimensional Matching
  - ✓ Multi-layer Cluster Editing
  - ✓ Cochromatic Number
  - ✓ Disjoint Rectangle Stabbing
  - ✓ ...



# MATROID THEORY AND FPT ALGORITHMS



# MATROIDS: INTRODUCTION

Let  $U$  be a finite universe. A matroid  $\mathcal{M}$  is a pair  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  satisfying:

1.  $\mathcal{F}$  is a collection of subsets of  $U$  (called **independent** sets).
2. **Hereditary**:  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $A \subseteq B$  imply  $A \in \mathcal{F}$ .
3. **Exchange property**: if  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $|A| < |B|$ , then  $\exists x \in B \setminus A$  such that  $A \cup \{x\} \in \mathcal{F}$ .

- A **basis** is a maximum size independent set.
- By the exchange property, all bases of a matroid  $(U, \mathcal{F})$  have the same size (called the **rank** of the matroid).

Example:

$$U = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \emptyset\}.$$

$\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  is a matroid

# WEIGHTED MATROIDS

- A matroid  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  is weighted if there is a weight function  $w: U \rightarrow R^+$ .
- For a subset  $S \subseteq U$  let  $w(S) = \sum_{u \in S} w(u)$
- The **Matroid optimization problem**: Find a basis  $S$  of minimum total weight

## Matroid-Greedy Algorithm

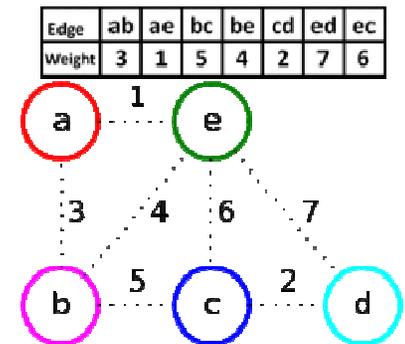
1.  $S \leftarrow \emptyset$
2. Sort the elements in  $U$  in non-decreasing order by weights, so that  $w(u_1) \leq \dots \leq w(u_n)$
3. For  $i=1$  to  $n$  do  
    if  $S \cup \{u_i\} \in \mathcal{F}$  then  $S \leftarrow S \cup \{u_i\}$
4. Output  $S$

# MATROID OPTIMIZATION PROBLEM: EXAMPLE

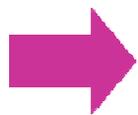
- Given a connected graph  $G=(V, E)$  with  $w: E \rightarrow R^+$ , find a **minimum spanning tree (MST)** for  $G$ .

## MST-Kruskal

- $T \leftarrow \emptyset$
- Sort the edges in  $E$  in non-decreasing order by weights, so that  $w(e_1) \leq \dots \leq w(e_m)$
- For  $i=1$  to  $m$  do  
if  $T \cup \{e_i\}$  does not contain a cycle then  $T \leftarrow T \cup \{e_i\}$
- Output  $T$



- Let  $U=E$  and  $\mathcal{F}=\{ E' \mid (V, E') \text{ is a forest} \}$ , then  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  is a graphic matroid.



Kruskal's Algorithm is an application of Matroid-Greedy on  $\mathcal{M}$ !

# THE MATROID PARITY PROBLEM

Matroid parity

*Instance:* A matroid  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$ ,  $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \binom{U}{2}$  a collection of pairs of elements in  $U$ .

*Parameter:* A positive integer  $k$

*Question:* Is there a subset  $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}$  of at least  $k$  disjoint pairs, whose union is an independent set in  $\mathcal{M}$ ?

**Theorem:** Matroid Parity admits polynomial-time algorithm.

# FEEDBACK VERTEX SET IN SUBCUBIC GRAPHS

## FVS in Subcubic Graph

*Instance:* A graph  $G=(V,E)$  of maximum degree  $\Delta \leq 3$

*Parameter:* A positive integer  $k$

*Question:* Is there a subset  $S \subseteq V$  of at most  $k$  vertices, such that  $G-S$  is acyclic?

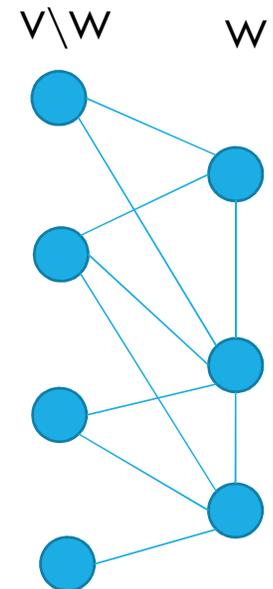
Consider first a variant of FVS.

## Special Disjoint FVS

*Instance:* A graph  $G=(V,E)$  and  $W \subseteq V$  such that  $G-W$  is independent, and each vertex in  $V \setminus W$  has degree at most 3.

*Parameter:* A positive integer  $k$

*Question:* Is there a subset  $S \subseteq V \setminus W$  of at most  $k$  vertices, such that  $G-S$  is acyclic?



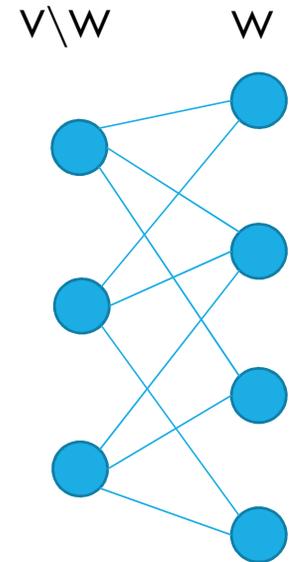
# FVS IN SUBCUBIC GRAPHS (CONT.)

**Lemma:** Special Disjoint FVS has a polynomial-time algorithm.

**Proof (Sketch):** Given an input graph of Special Disjoint FVS, use exhaustively reduction rules to obtain an instance that is a bipartite graph,  $G=(V\setminus W, W, E)$ , and every vertex in  $V\setminus W$  has degree exactly 3.

➡ Use a reduction to the Matroid Parity problem.

- Let  $H=(W, E_H)$  be a clique with vertex set  $W$ , and  $\mathcal{M}_H$  the graphic matroid of  $H$ .



# REDUCTION TO MATROID PARITY

- $\mathcal{M}_H = (E_H, \mathcal{F})$ , where  $\mathcal{F} = \{E' \subseteq E_H \mid H(W, E') \text{ is acyclic}\}$

## Matroid parity Instance

- Define a (multi-)set  $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \binom{E_H}{2}$ , containing pairs of edges in  $H$ : for each vertex  $u \in V \setminus W$ , with neighbors  $x, y$  and  $z$ , add the pair  $\{xy, yz\}$  to  $\mathcal{P}$ .
  - Let  $|V| = n$  and  $t$  the parameter for the Special Disjoint FVS input. Set  $k = n - |W| - t$ .
- 
- Show that  $G$  has a feedback vertex set  $S \subseteq V \setminus W$  of size at most  $t \iff$  there is a subset  $\mathcal{Z} \subseteq \mathcal{P}$  of  $k$  disjoint pairs, such that  $\cup_{X \in \mathcal{Z}} X$  is independent in  $\mathcal{M}_H$ .

# REDUCTION TO MATROID PARITY (CONT.)

- Define a bijection between subsets of  $V \setminus W$  and subsets of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

For a set  $X \subseteq V \setminus W$ , define  $\mathcal{Z}_X = \{P_u \mid u \in X\}$

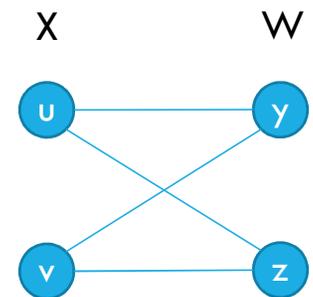
(This is a bijection since  $\mathcal{P}$  is a multi-set.)

**Claim:** For any  $X \subseteq V \setminus W$ , the graph  $G[W \cup X]$  is acyclic

$\Leftrightarrow \bigcup_{P_u \in \mathcal{Z}_X} P_u$  is independent in  $\mathcal{M}_H$ , and the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  are disjoint.

(i)  $\Rightarrow$

(a) Suppose there are two pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  that contain the same edge  $yz$  in  $H$ . Then  $u, y, v, z$  is a cycle in  $G[W \cup X]$ .



## REDUCTION TO MATROID PARITY (CONT.)

**Claim:** For any  $X \subseteq V \setminus W$ , the graph  $G[W \cup X]$  is acyclic  
 $\Leftrightarrow \bigcup_{P_u \in \mathcal{Z}_X} P_u$  is independent in  $\mathcal{M}_H$ , and the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  are disjoint.

(i)  $\Rightarrow$

(b) Suppose the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  are disjoint, but  $\bigcup_{P_u \in \mathcal{Z}_X} P_u$  is not independent in  $\mathcal{M}_H$ . Then there is a cycle in  $H$ :  $C = c_1 c_2 \cdots c_l$

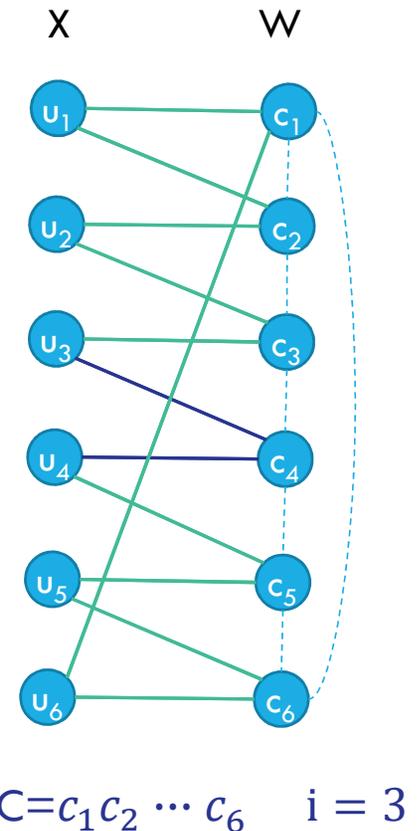
- For each  $0 \leq i < l$ , let  $u_i$  be the vertex in  $X$  such that the pair corresponding to  $u_i$  contains the edge  $c_i c_{i+1}$ .
- Since the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  are disjoint,  $u_i$  is uniquely defined and adjacent to both  $c_i$  and  $c_{i+1}$ . The vertex  $u_l$  is adjacent to  $c_l$  and  $c_1$ .

# REDUCTION TO MATROID PARITY (CONT.)

**Claim:** For any  $X \subseteq V \setminus W$ , the graph  $G[W \cup X]$  is acyclic  $\Leftrightarrow \cup_{P_u \in \mathcal{Z}_X} P_u$  is independent in  $\mathcal{M}_H$ , and the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  are disjoint.

(i)  $\Rightarrow$

(b) The vertices  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_l$  are not necessarily distinct, but cannot be all equal (C is a simple cycle on at least three edges, while any  $u_i$  corresponds to two edges). Hence, there is  $i$  such that  $u_i \neq u_{i+1}$ .



## REDUCTION TO MATROID PARITY (CONT.)

**Claim:** For any  $X \subseteq V \setminus W$ , the graph  $G[W \cup X]$  is acyclic  $\Leftrightarrow \cup_{P_u \in \mathcal{Z}_X} P_u$  is independent in  $\mathcal{M}_H$ , and the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_X$  are disjoint.

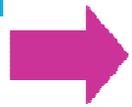
(ii)  $\Leftarrow$

Suppose that  $G[W \cup X]$  contains a cycle  $C$ . Let  $E_C = \cup_{P_u \in \mathcal{Z}_C} P_u$ .

- If the pairs in  $\mathcal{Z}_C$  are not disjoint we are done; else it can be shown that the subgraph induced by  $E_C$  contains a cycle. ■

**Observation:** If there is an FVS  $S \subseteq V \setminus W$  of size at most  $t$ , then  $X = V \setminus (W \cup S)$  is of size at least  $n - |W| - t = k$  such that  $G[W \cup X]$  is acyclic, and vice versa.

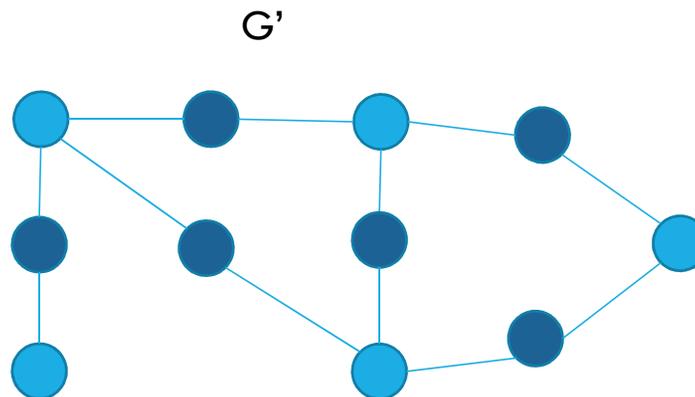
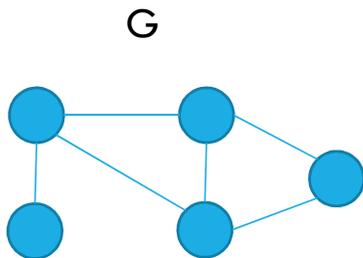
# FVS IN SUBCUBIC GRAPHS (CONT.)



Use a polynomial time algorithm for Matroid Parity to solve Special Disjoint FVS.

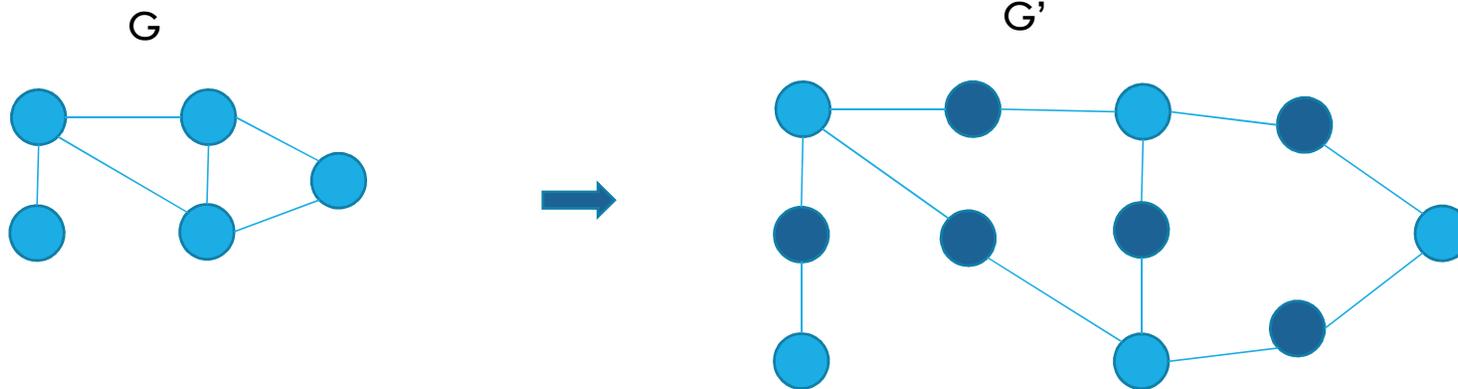
**Theorem:** FVS admits a polynomial-time algorithm on subcubic graphs.

**Proof:**



# FVS IN SUBCUBIC GRAPHS (CONT.)

**Theorem:** FVS admits a polynomial-time algorithm on subcubic graphs.



- Let  $W$  be the set of new vertices.
- A subset  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is FVS of  $G \iff S$  is FVS of  $G'$

 Run the polynomial time algorithm on the Special Disjoint FVS instance  $(G', W)$  ■

# USE OF MATROIDS IN FPT ALGORITHMS

- Odd Cycle Transversal
- Long Directed Cycle
- Longest Path
- Almost 2-SAT
- Parameterized  $\ell$ -Matroid Intersection
- Multiway Cut with a bounded number of terminals
- Many more...

