A Parameterized Perspective on Uniquely Restricted Matchings

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The corresponding matchings are called $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$ -matchings.

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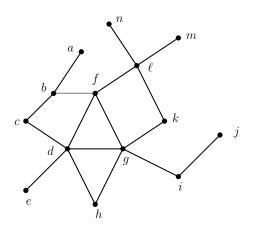
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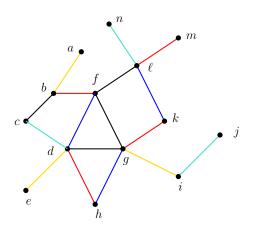
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 → uniquely restricted matching (URM).

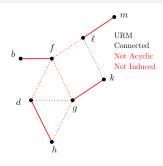
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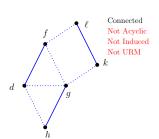


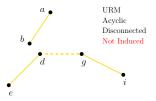
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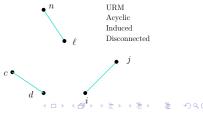


Example









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bipartite, split	NP-hard	[Golumbic, Hirst, Lewenstein. 2001]
threshold, cacti, block	linear-time solvable	
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In this article we study the parameterized complexity of the UNIQUELY RESTRICTED MATCHING problem.

Parameterized complexity in a nutshell

Idea Measure the complexity of an algorithm in terms of the input size and an additional parameter.

This theory started in the late 80's, by Downey and Fellows:





Today, it is a well-established and very active area.

Parameterized problems

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W[1]-hardness: strong evidence of not being FPT.

Kernelization

Idea polynomial-time preprocessing.

A kernel for a parameterized problem A is an algorithm such that:

Instance (x, k) of A polynomial time Instance (x', k') of A

- **1** (x, k) is a YES-instance of $A \Leftrightarrow (x', k')$ is a YES-instance of A.
- $|x'| + k' \le g(k)$ for some computable function $g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$.

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Theorem (Bodlaender, Downey, Fellows, Hermelin. 2009)

Deciding whether a graph has a PATH with $\geq k$ vertices is FPT but does not admit a polynomial kernel, unless NP \subseteq coNP/poly.

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Major goal in parameterized complexity:

Which FPT problems admit polynomial kernels?

NO!

Param. comp. of Uniquely Restricted Matching

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Our goal: deeper analysis of the parameterized complexity of $\overline{\mathrm{URM}}$.

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This is an easy consequence of the following lemma:

Lemma

Let H be a graph and G = L(H) be the line graph of H. Then, G has a URM of size ℓ if and only if H contains ℓ edge-disjoint paths W_1, \ldots, W_ℓ , each with 2 edges, such that $\bigcup_{i \in [\ell]} W_i$ is a forest, and no two distinct paths W_i and W_j (for $i \neq j$) together form a $K_{1,4}$.

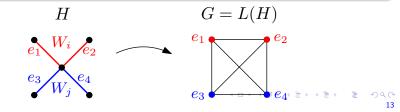
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FPT algorithms in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\mathsf{tw})} \cdot |V(G)|$ were obtained for Induced Matching, Acyclic Matching, and c-Disconnected Matching.

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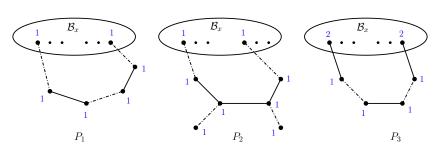
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Theorem (Bodlaender, Jansen, Kratsch. 2011)

If some problem L is NP-hard (under Karp reduction) and there exists an OR-cross-composition from L into some parameterized problem Q, then there is no polynomial kernel for Q unless $NP \subseteq conP/poly$.

Reduction: OR-cross-composition from EXACT-3-COVER (NP-hard):

EXACT-3-COVER:

Instance: A set \mathcal{U} with $|\mathcal{U}| = 3c$, where $c \in \mathbb{N}$, and a collection

 ${\mathcal X}$ of 3-element subsets of ${\mathcal U}$.

Question: Does there exist a subcollection $\mathcal{X}'\subseteq\mathcal{X}$ such that every element

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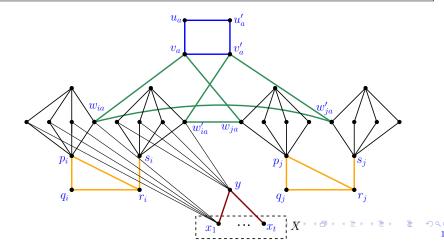
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- Study below-guarantee parameters of the form $UB \ell$, where UB is an upper bound on the uniquely restricted matching number. Explored for INDUCED MATCHING and ACYCLIC MATCHING.

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[Koana. 2023]
[Chaudhary, Zehavi. 2025]
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Gràcies!