

Compound Logics for Modification Problems

Fedor V. Fomin, Petr A. Golovach, **Ignasi Sau**,
Giannos Stamoulis, and Dimitrios M. Thilikos

[arXiv 2111.02755](#)

LoGAlg, Montpellier

November 22, 2022

Thanks Dimitrios for most of the slides!!

Our setting: graph modification problems

Our setting: graph modification problems

Let \mathcal{C} be a **target graph class** (planar graphs, bounded degree, ...).

Let \mathcal{M} be a set of allowed graph **modification operations**
(vertex deletion, edge deletion/addition/contraction, elimination distance...).

\mathcal{M} -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{C}

Input: A graph G and an integer k (“**amount of modification**”).

Question: Can we transform G to a graph in \mathcal{C} by applying
at most k operations from \mathcal{M} ?

This meta-problem has a **huge expressive power**.

Our setting: graph modification problems

Let \mathcal{C} be a **target graph class** (planar graphs, bounded degree, ...).

Let \mathcal{M} be a set of allowed graph **modification operations**
(vertex deletion, edge deletion/addition/contraction, elimination distance...).

\mathcal{M} -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{C}

Input: A graph G and an integer k (“**amount of modification**”).

Question: Can we transform G to a graph in \mathcal{C} by applying
at most k operations from \mathcal{M} ?

This meta-problem has a **huge expressive power**.

Because we are in LoGAlg: suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{M} are definable in some **logic(s)**.

Our setting: graph modification problems

Let \mathcal{C} be a **target graph class** (planar graphs, bounded degree, ...).

Let \mathcal{M} be a set of allowed graph **modification operations**
(vertex deletion, edge deletion/addition/contraction, elimination distance...).

\mathcal{M} -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{C}

Input: A graph G and an integer k (“**amount of modification**”).

Question: Can we transform G to a graph in \mathcal{C} by applying
at most k operations from \mathcal{M} ?

This meta-problem has a **huge expressive power**.

Because we are in LoGAlg: suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{M} are definable in some **logic(s)**.

Goal: We define logics L that capture huge families of modification problems.

Our setting: graph modification problems

Let \mathcal{C} be a **target graph class** (planar graphs, bounded degree, ...).

Let \mathcal{M} be a set of allowed graph **modification operations**
(vertex deletion, edge deletion/addition/contraction, elimination distance...).

\mathcal{M} -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{C}

Input: A graph G and an integer k (“**amount of modification**”).

Question: Can we transform G to a graph in \mathcal{C} by applying
at most k operations from \mathcal{M} ?

This meta-problem has a **huge expressive power**.

Because we are in LoGAlg: suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{M} are definable in some **logic(s)**.

Goal: We define logics L that capture huge families of modification problems.

Amount of modification: given by the size of the formula $\varphi \in L$.

Our setting: graph modification problems

Let \mathcal{C} be a **target graph class** (planar graphs, bounded degree, ...).

Let \mathcal{M} be a set of allowed graph **modification operations**
(vertex deletion, edge deletion/addition/contraction, elimination distance...).

\mathcal{M} -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{C}

Input: A graph G and an integer k (“**amount of modification**”).

Question: Can we transform G to a graph in \mathcal{C} by applying
at most k operations from \mathcal{M} ?

This meta-problem has a **huge expressive power**.

Because we are in LoGAlg: suppose that \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{M} are definable in some **logic(s)**.

Goal: We define logics L that capture huge families of modification problems.

Amount of modification: given by the size of the formula $\varphi \in L$.

Want: algorithms in time $f(\varphi) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$, where $n = |V(G)|$.

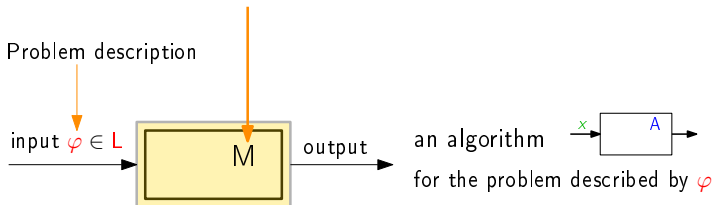
Algorithmic Meta-Theorems (AMTs)

For some logic L and some class C of combinatorial structures, every algorithmic problem Π that is expressible in L , there is an efficient algorithm solving Π for inputs that belong in C .

Algorithmic Meta-Theorems (AMTs)

For some logic L and some class C of combinatorial structures, every algorithmic problem Π that is expressible in L , there is an **efficient** algorithm solving Π for inputs that belong in C .

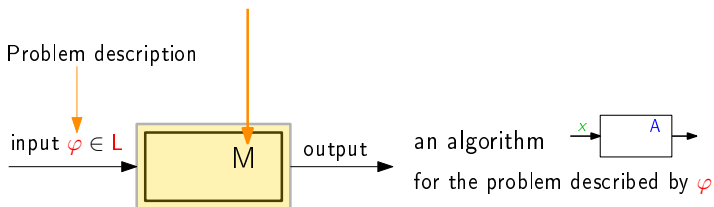
A constructive viewpoint of AMTs:



Algorithmic Meta-Theorems (AMTs)

For some logic L and some class \mathcal{C} of combinatorial structures, every algorithmic problem Π that is expressible in L , there is an **efficient** algorithm solving Π for inputs that belong in \mathcal{C} .

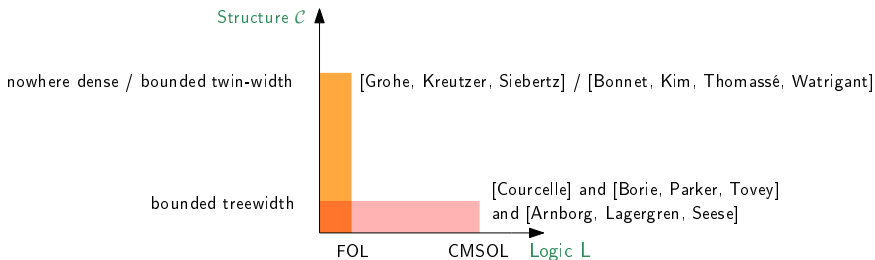
A constructive viewpoint of AMTs:



Two main logics for φ :

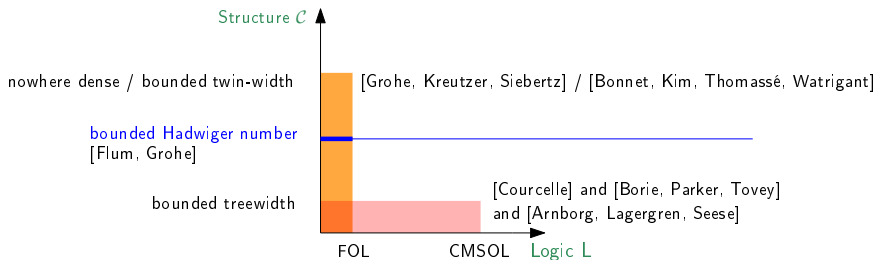
- **FOL**: First Order Logic
 - ▶ quantification on vertices or edges
- **CMSOL**: Counting Monadic Second Order Logic
 - ▶ quantification on **sets** of vertices or edges

Famous AMTs for model-checking in time FPT



treewidth: $\text{tw}(G) \approx \max \text{ grid-minor of the graph } G$

Famous AMTs for model-checking in time FPT



treewidth: $\text{tw}(G) \approx \max$ grid-minor of the graph G

Hadwiger number: $\text{hw}(G) = \max$ clique-minor of the graph G

A typical problem that is **not** captured by the mentioned AMTs:

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar?

A typical problem that is **not** captured by the mentioned AMTs:

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is **planar**?

Or, given G, k , ask whether $G \in \text{Mod}(\varphi_k)$,
where $\varphi_k = \exists x_1, \dots, x_k G \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ is planar.

A typical problem that is **not** captured by the mentioned AMTs:

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is **planar**?

Or, given G, k , ask whether $G \in \text{Mod}(\varphi_k)$,
where $\varphi_k = \exists x_1, \dots, x_k G \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ is planar.

- $\varphi_k \in \text{CMSOL}$, **but** yes-instances have **unbounded treewidth**.
- yes-instances have bounded Hadwiger number **but** $\varphi_k \notin \text{FOL}$.

A typical problem that is **not** captured by the mentioned AMTs:

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is **planar**?

Or, given G, k , ask whether $G \in \text{Mod}(\varphi_k)$,
where $\varphi_k = \exists x_1, \dots, x_k G \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ is planar.

- $\varphi_k \in \text{CMSOL}$, **but** yes-instances have **unbounded treewidth**.
- yes-instances have bounded Hadwiger number **but** $\varphi_k \notin \text{FOL}$.

Modulator: $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

Target property: minor-exclusion of $\mathcal{H} = \{K_5, K_{3,3}\}$

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar?

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar?

... can be solved in time $f(k) \cdot n^2$.

Because: For every k , the set of yes-instances is minor-closed.

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar?

... can be solved in time $f(k) \cdot n^2$.

Because: For every k , the set of yes-instances is minor-closed.

... the same if the target is any minor-closed graph class \mathcal{G} .

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar?

... can be solved in time $f(k) \cdot n^2$.

Because: For every k , the set of yes-instances is minor-closed.

... the same if the target is any minor-closed graph class \mathcal{G} .

[Adler, Grohe, Kreuzer, SODA 2008]

[Marx and Schlotter, Algorithmica 2012]

[Kawarabayashi, FOCS 2009]

[Jansen, Lokshtanov, Saurabh, SODA 2014]

[Kociumaka and Pilipczuk, Algorithmica 2019]

[S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, ACM Trans. Alg. 2022]

[Morelle, S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, arXiv 2022]

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar?

... can be solved in time $f(k) \cdot n^2$.

Because: For every k , the set of yes-instances is minor-closed.

... the same if the target is any minor-closed graph class \mathcal{G} .

[Adler, Grohe, Kreutzer, SODA 2008]

[Marx and Schlotter, Algorithmica 2012]

[Kawarabayashi, FOCS 2009]

[Jansen, Lokshtanov, Saurabh, SODA 2014]

[Kociumaka and Pilipczuk, Algorithmica 2019]

[S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, ACM Trans. Alg. 2022]

[Morelle, S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, arXiv 2022]

Topological minor exclusion:

[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2020]

[Fomin, Lokshtanov, Panolan, Saurabh, Zehavi, STOC 2020]

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY + MORE

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar+more?

- ▶ What if we add further (non-hereditary) conditions on top of planarity?
Such conditions might be FOL-conditions (even CMSOL-conditions)

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY + MORE

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar+more?

- ▶ What if we add further (non-hereditary) conditions on top of planarity?
Such conditions might be FOL-conditions (even CMSOL-conditions)

planarity + any FOL condition:

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

planarity + bipartiteness:

[Fiorini, Hardy, Reed, Vetta, DAM 2008]

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY + MORE

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar+more?

- ▶ What if we add further (non-hereditary) conditions on top of planarity?
Such conditions might be FOL-conditions (even CMSOL-conditions)

planarity + any FOL condition:

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

planarity + bipartiteness:

[Fiorini, Hardy, Reed, Vetta, DAM 2008]

- ▶ What if we apply other modifications, apart from vertex removals?

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY + MORE

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar+more?

- ▶ What if we add further (non-hereditary) conditions on top of planarity?
Such conditions might be FOL-conditions (even CMSOL-conditions)

planarity + any FOL condition:

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

planarity + bipartiteness:

[Fiorini, Hardy, Reed, Vetta, DAM 2008]

- ▶ What if we apply other modifications, apart from vertex removals?

Edge removal to planarity:

[Kawarabayashi and Reed, STOC 2007]

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY + MORE

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar+more?

- ▶ What if we add further (non-hereditary) conditions on top of planarity?
Such conditions might be FOL-conditions (even CMSOL-conditions)

planarity + any FOL condition:

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

planarity + bipartiteness:

[Fiorini, Hardy, Reed, Vetta, DAM 2008]

- ▶ What if we apply other modifications, apart from vertex removals?

Edge removal to planarity:

[Kawarabayashi and Reed, STOC 2007]

AMTs:

edge removals, edge contractions, edge additions (to planarity)

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

Other local transformations (to planarity)

[Fomin, Golovach, Thilikos, STACS 2019]

VERTEX DELETION TO PLANARITY + MORE

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)^{\leq k}$ such that $G \setminus X$ is planar+more?

- ▶ What if we add further (non-hereditary) conditions on top of planarity?
Such conditions might be FOL-conditions (even CMSOL-conditions)

planarity + any FOL condition:

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

planarity + bipartiteness:

[Fiorini, Hardy, Reed, Vetta, DAM 2008]

- ▶ What if we apply other modifications, apart from vertex removals?

Edge removal to planarity:

[Kawarabayashi and Reed, STOC 2007]

AMTs:

edge removals, edge contractions, edge additions (to planarity)

[Fomin, Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, ESA 2020]

Other local transformations (to planarity)

[Fomin, Golovach, Thilikos, STACS 2019]

- ▶ Extensions to general minor-closed target classes \mathcal{G} ?

Recent powerful extensions of FOL

Recent powerful extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators (FOL+conn)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]

FPT model-checking on **topological-minor-free** graphs.

[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, ICALP 2022]

Recent powerful extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators (FOL+conn)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]

FPT model-checking on **topological-minor-free** graphs.

[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, ICALP 2022]

ELIMINATION DISTANCE to FOL+conn is FPT on topological-minor-free graphs.

Recent powerful extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators (FOL+conn)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]

FPT model-checking on **topological-minor-free** graphs.

[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, ICALP 2022]

ELIMINATION DISTANCE to FOL+conn is FPT on topological-minor-free graphs.

First-Order Logic with Disjoint Paths (FOL+DP)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022]

FPT model-checking on **minor-free** graphs.

[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2023]

Recent powerful extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators (FOL+conn)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]

FPT model-checking on **topological-minor-free** graphs.

[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, ICALP 2022]

ELIMINATION DISTANCE to **FOL+conn** is FPT on topological-minor-free graphs.

First-Order Logic with Disjoint Paths (FOL+DP)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022]

FPT model-checking on **minor-free** graphs.

[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2023]

ELIMINATION DISTANCE to **FOL+DP** is FPT on minor-free graphs.

Recent powerful extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators (FOL+conn)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]

FPT model-checking on **topological-minor-free** graphs.

[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, IICALP 2022]

ELIMINATION DISTANCE to **FOL+conn** is FPT on topological-minor-free graphs.

First-Order Logic with Disjoint Paths (FOL+DP)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022]

FPT model-checking on **minor-free** graphs.

[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2023]

ELIMINATION DISTANCE to **FOL+DP** is FPT on minor-free graphs.

► More general modification operations do **not** seem to be captured...

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

- ▶ Modulator: X .
- ▶ $\lambda(G, X)$: some (global) measure of modification.
- ▶ \mathcal{G} : target graph class (example: planar + 3-regular).

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

- ▶ **Modulator:** X .
- ▶ $\lambda(G, X)$: some (global) measure of modification.
- ▶ \mathcal{G} : **target** graph class (example: planar + 3-regular).
 - Can we define successive target properties?
 - Hierarchical clustering?
 - Multi-level modification?
 - Consider different modification scenarios?
 - We may demand target conditions to be satisfied by the **connected components** (or even the **blocks**) of $G \setminus X$ (**CMSOL**-demand).
 - **MULTIWAY CUT** or **MULTICUT** to some target property \mathcal{G} .
 - We may demand vertex/edge removals with prescribed adjacencies.
 - ...

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

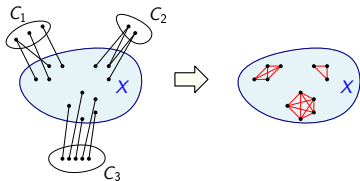
Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

► **Main challenge:** “meta-algorithmize” the modulator operation $\lambda(G, X)$.

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

- ▶ **Main challenge:** “meta-algorithmize” the modulator operation $\lambda(G, X)$.
- ▶ Typically $\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is some graph parameter.



λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

- ▶ **Main challenge:** “meta-algorithmize” the modulator operation $\lambda(G, X)$.
- ▶ Typically $\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is some graph parameter.

▶ **\mathbf{p} =tree-depth:** \mathcal{G} -elimination distance

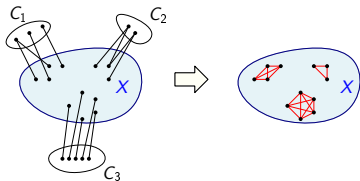
\mathcal{G} = minor-excluding:

[Bulian and Dawar, Algorithmica, 2017]

[Morelle, S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, arXiv 2022]

\mathcal{G} = planar+bounded degree:

[Lindermayr, Siebertz, Vigny, MFCS 2020]



λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

- ▶ **Main challenge:** “meta-algorithmize” the modulator operation $\lambda(G, X)$.
- ▶ Typically $\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is some graph parameter.

- ▶ \mathbf{p} =tree-depth: \mathcal{G} -elimination distance

\mathcal{G} = minor-excluding:

[Bulian and Dawar, Algorithmica, 2017]

[Morelle, S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, arXiv 2022]

\mathcal{G} = planar+bounded degree:

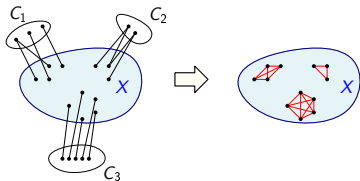
[Lindermayr, Siebertz, Vigny, MFCS 2020]

- ▶ \mathbf{p} =treewidth: \mathcal{G} -treewidth:

[Eiben, Ganian, Hamm, Kwon, JCSS 2021]

[Jansen, de Kroon, Włodarczyk, STOC 2021]

[Agrawal, Kanesh, Lokshtanov, Panolan, Ramanujan, Saurabh, Zehavi, SODA 2022]



λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

- ▶ **Main challenge:** “meta-algorithmize” the modulator operation $\lambda(G, X)$.
- ▶ Typically $\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is some graph parameter.

- ▶ \mathbf{p} =tree-depth: \mathcal{G} -elimination distance

\mathcal{G} = minor-excluding:

[Bulian and Dawar, Algorithmica, 2017]

[Morelle, S., Stamoulis, Thilikos, arXiv 2022]

\mathcal{G} = planar+bounded degree:

[Lindermayr, Siebertz, Vigny, MFCS 2020]

- ▶ \mathbf{p} =treewidth: \mathcal{G} -treewidth:

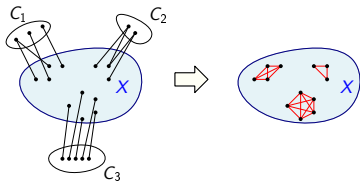
[Eiben, Ganian, Hamm, Kwon, JCSS 2021]

[Jansen, de Kroon, Włodarczyk, STOC 2021]

[Agrawal, Kanesh, Lokshtanov, Panolan, Ramanujan, Saurabh, Zehavi, SODA 2022]

- ▶ \mathbf{p} =bridge-depth: \mathcal{G} -bridge-depth:

[Bougeret, Jansen, S., ICALP 2020]



λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

$\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is parametrically bigger than \mathbf{tw}

- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{tree-depth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{treewidth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{bridge-depth}$

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

$\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is parametrically bigger than \mathbf{tw}

- ▶ \mathbf{p} =tree-depth
- ▶ \mathbf{p} =treewidth
- ▶ \mathbf{p} =bridge-depth
- ▶ \mathbf{p} =pathwidth, cutwidth, tree-cut-width, branchwidth, carving width, block tree-depth... ?

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

$\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is parametrically bigger than \mathbf{tw}

- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{tree-depth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{treewidth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{bridge-depth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{pathwidth, cutwidth, tree-cut-width, branchwidth, carving width, block tree-depth... ?}$

Is it possible to ask [more about the modulator](#)?

- ▶ Can we additionally ask the modulator $G[X]$ to be, e.g., Hamiltonian?

λ -MODIFICATION TO \mathcal{G}

Given G and k , is there an $X \subseteq V(G)$ such that $\lambda(G, X) \leq k$ and $G \setminus X \in \mathcal{G}$?

$\lambda(G, X) = \mathbf{p}(\text{torso}(G, X))$, where \mathbf{p} is parametrically bigger than \mathbf{tw}

- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{tree-depth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{treewidth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{bridge-depth}$
- ▶ $\mathbf{p}=\text{pathwidth, cutwidth, tree-cut-width, branchwidth, carving width, block tree-depth... ?}$

Is it possible to ask **more about the modulator**?

- ▶ Can we additionally ask the modulator $G[X]$ to be, e.g., Hamiltonian?
- ▶ or just $G[X] \models \beta_k$ for some $\beta_k \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$?
- $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, \mathbb{X}]$ (on annotated graphs):
every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, \mathbb{X}]$ for which there exists some c_β such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .

Is there one meta-theorem that deals with **all** these cases?

We define a compound logic for modification problems

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[E, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[E]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[E, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[E]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.

Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[E, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[E]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.

Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that

We define a compound logic for modification problems

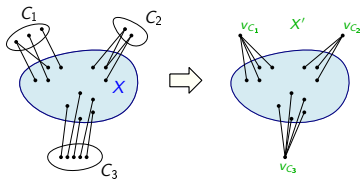
Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.

Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$



We define a compound logic for modification problems

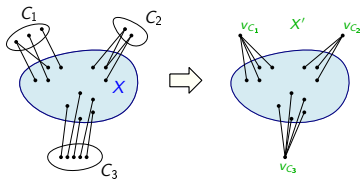
Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.

Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

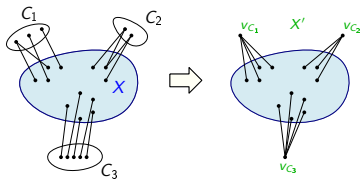


We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

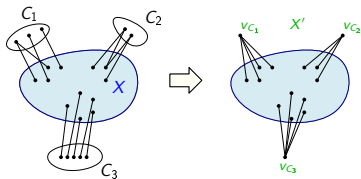
$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

Theorem (our result, in its simplest form)

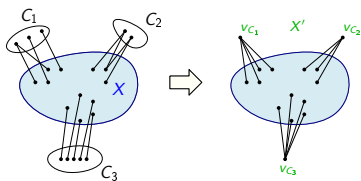
For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \Theta_0$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

Theorem (our result, in its simplest form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \Theta_0$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

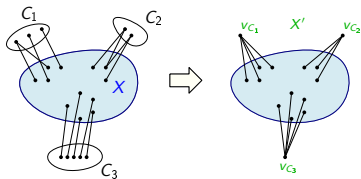
- If γ is void, this gives the theorem of Courcelle.

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

Theorem (our result, in its simplest form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \Theta_0$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

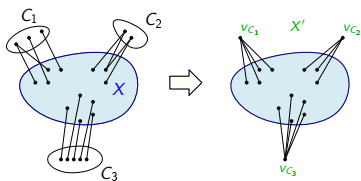
- If γ is void, this gives the theorem of Courcelle.
- If β is void, this gives the theorem of Grohe and Flum.

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

Theorem (our result, in a less simple form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \Theta_0^{(c)}$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

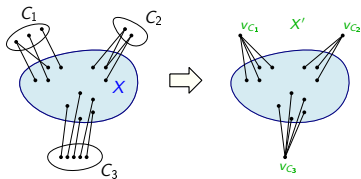
- for $\varphi \in \text{CMSOL}$, define $\varphi^{(c)}$: $G \models \varphi^{(c)}$ if $\forall C \in \text{cc}(G), C \models \varphi$.
- for $L \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$, define $L^{(c)} = L \cup \{\varphi^{(c)} \mid \varphi \in L\}$.

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

Theorem (our result, in a simple form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_0^{(c)})$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

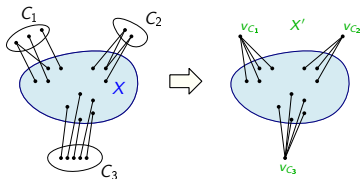
- $\text{MB}(\mathbb{L})$: all **monotone** Boolean combinations of sentences in \mathbb{L} .

We define a compound logic for modification problems

Let $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ and $\gamma \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}]$.

β : **modulator** sentence on annotated graphs.

γ : **target** sentence on graphs.



Compound logic We define $\beta \triangleright \gamma$ so that

$G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ so that $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ and $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

$\Theta_0[\mathbb{E}]$: every sentence $\sigma \wedge \mu$, where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}[\mathbb{E}]$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

Theorem (our result, in a simple form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_0^{(c)})$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

- ▶ This automatically implies algorithms in **all** aforementioned directions, beyond the applicability of the theorems of **Courcelle** and **Grohe and Flum**.

The Θ -hierarchy

Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

The Θ -hierarchy

Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\Theta_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

The Θ -hierarchy

Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\Theta_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\Theta = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \Theta_i$.

The Θ -hierarchy

Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses minor-exclusion.

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\Theta_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\Theta = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \Theta_i$. Observe: $\Theta \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$

The Θ -hierarchy

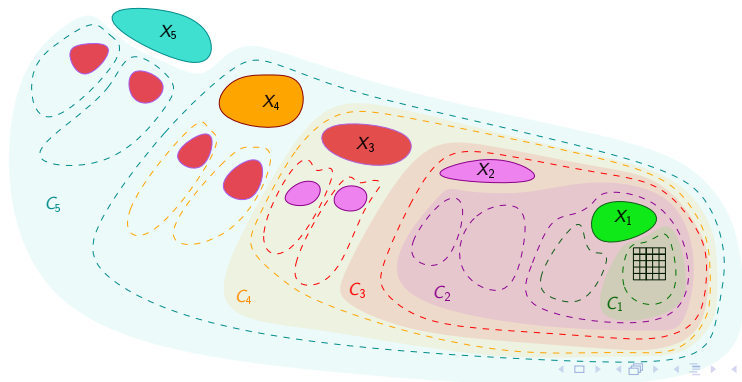
Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses minor-exclusion.

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\Theta_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\Theta = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \Theta_i$. Observe: $\Theta \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$



The Θ -hierarchy

Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses minor-exclusion.

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\Theta_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\Theta = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \Theta_i$. Observe: $\Theta \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$

Theorem (our result, in its general form on graphs)

For $\theta \in \Theta$, there is an *algorithm* \mathbf{A}_θ deciding $\text{Mod}(\theta)$ in quadratic time.

The Θ -hierarchy

Recall that

Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses **minor-exclusion**.

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\Theta_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\Theta_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\Theta = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \Theta_i$. **Observe:** $\Theta \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$

Theorem (our result, in its general form on graphs)

For $\theta \in \Theta$, there is an **algorithm** \mathbf{A}_θ deciding $\text{Mod}(\theta)$ in quadratic time.

Our results are **constructive**:

Theorem

There is a **Meta-Algorithm** \mathbf{M} that,
with input a sentence $\theta \in \Theta$ and an upper bound c_θ on $\text{hw}(\text{Mod}(\theta))$,
returns as output the **algorithm** \mathbf{A}_θ .

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

We set $\tilde{\Theta}_0 := \text{FOL}$ (i.e., remove *minor-exclusion*)

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

We set $\tilde{\Theta}_0 := \text{FOL}$ (i.e., remove **minor-exclusion**)

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\tilde{\Theta}_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\tilde{\Theta}_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

We set $\tilde{\Theta}_0 := \text{FOL}$ (i.e., remove **minor-exclusion**)

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\tilde{\Theta}_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\tilde{\Theta}_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\tilde{\Theta} = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \tilde{\Theta}_i$.

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

We set $\tilde{\Theta}_0 := \text{FOL}$ (i.e., remove **minor-exclusion**)

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\tilde{\Theta}_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\tilde{\Theta}_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\tilde{\Theta} = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \tilde{\Theta}_i$. **Observe:** $\text{FOL} \subseteq \tilde{\Theta} \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

We set $\tilde{\Theta}_0 := \text{FOL}$ (i.e., remove **minor-exclusion**)

We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\tilde{\Theta}_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\tilde{\Theta}_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\tilde{\Theta} = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \tilde{\Theta}_i$. **Observe:** $\text{FOL} \subseteq \tilde{\Theta} \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$

Corollary (a promise version of our result, using $\tilde{\Theta}$)

For every $\tilde{\theta} \in \tilde{\Theta}$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\tilde{\theta})$ in quadratic time on graphs of fixed Hadwiger number.

The $\tilde{\Theta}$ -hierarchy

We set $\tilde{\Theta}_0 := \text{FOL}$ (i.e., remove **minor-exclusion**)

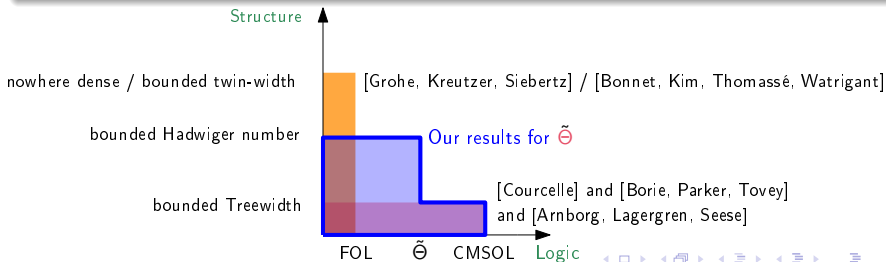
We recursively define, for every $i \geq 1$,

$$\tilde{\Theta}_i = \{\beta \triangleright \gamma \mid \beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}} \text{ and } \gamma \in \text{MB}(\tilde{\Theta}_{i-1}^{(c)})\}.$$

We finally set: $\tilde{\Theta} = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \tilde{\Theta}_i$. **Observe:** $\text{FOL} \subseteq \tilde{\Theta} \subseteq \text{CMSOL}$

Corollary (a promise version of our result, using $\tilde{\Theta}$)

For every $\tilde{\theta} \in \tilde{\Theta}$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\tilde{\theta})$ in quadratic time on graphs of fixed Hadwiger number.



Generalization to extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]
[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, IICALP 2022]

First-Order Logic with Disjoint Paths (FOL + DP)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022]
[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2023]

Generalization to extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]
[Pilipczuk, Schirmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny, ICALP 2022]

First-Order Logic with Disjoint Paths (FOL + DP)

[Schirmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022]
[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2023]

Define Θ^{DP} (resp. $\tilde{\Theta}^{\text{DP}}$): like Θ (resp. $\tilde{\Theta}$) but replacing FOL with FOL + DP in the target sentences.

Generalization to extensions of FOL

First-Order Logic with Connectivity Operators

[Schirrmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022] + [Bojańczyk, 2021]
[Pilipczuk, Schirrmacher, Siebertz, Toruńczyk, Vigny,ICALP 2022]

First-Order Logic with Disjoint Paths (FOL + DP)

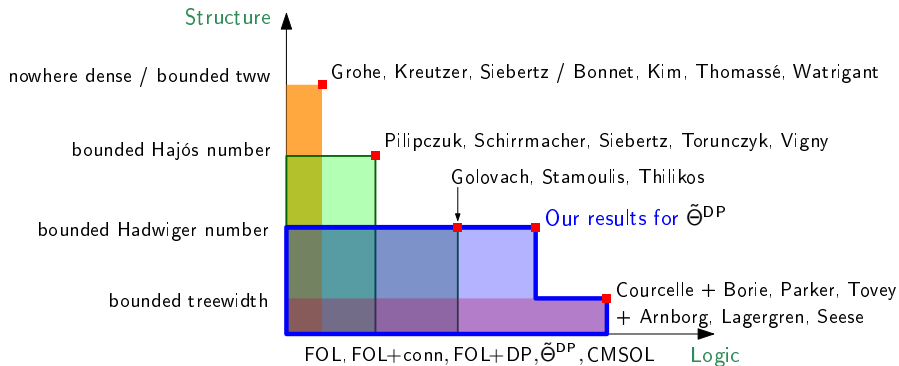
[Schirrmacher, Siebertz, Vigny, CSL 2022]
[Golovach, Stamoulis, Thilikos, SODA 2023]

Define Θ^{DP} (resp. $\tilde{\Theta}^{\text{DP}}$): like Θ (resp. $\tilde{\Theta}$) but replacing FOL with FOL + DP in the target sentences.

Theorem (a generalized promise version)

For every $\tilde{\theta} \in \tilde{\Theta}^{\text{DP}}$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\tilde{\theta})$ in quadratic time on graphs of fixed Hadwiger number.

The current meta-algorithmic landscape



Basic ingredients and techniques of the proof(s)

Basic ingredients and techniques of the proof(s)

- Some (suitable) variant of Courcelle's theorem + CMSOL transductions to deal with the “meta-algorithmic” modulator operation.

Basic ingredients and techniques of the proof(s)

- Some (suitable) variant of Courcelle's theorem + CMSOL transductions to deal with the “meta-algorithmic” modulator operation.
- Some (non-trivial) adaptation of Gaifman's theorem working on proper minor-excluding classes.

Basic ingredients and techniques of the proof(s)

- Some (suitable) variant of Courcelle's theorem + CMSOL transductions to deal with the “meta-algorithmic” modulator operation.
- Some (non-trivial) adaptation of Gaifman's theorem working on proper minor-excluding classes.
- The combinatorial/algorithmic results in
 - 1 Ken-ichi Kawarabayashi, Robin Thomas, and Paul Wollan. A new proof of the flat wall theorem. *Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B*, 129:204–238, 2018.
 - 2 Ignasi Sau, Giannos Stamoulis, and Dimitrios M. Thilikos. A more accurate view of the Flat Wall Theorem, 2021. [arXiv:2102.06463](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.06463).
 - 3 Petr A. Golovach, Giannos Stamoulis, and Dimitrios M. Thilikos. Hitting topological minor models in planar graphs is fixed parameter tractable. In *Proc. of the 31st Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms, (SODA)*, pages 931–950, 2020.
 - 4 Julien Baste, Ignasi Sau, and Dimitrios M. Thilikos. A complexity dichotomy for hitting connected minors on bounded treewidth graphs: the chair and the banner draw the boundary. In *Proc. of the 31st Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)*, pages 951–970, 2020.
 - 5 Ignasi Sau, Giannos Stamoulis, and Dimitrios M. Thilikos. k -apices of minor-closed graph classes. I. Bounding the obstructions. *Transactions on Algorithms* 2022.
 - 6 Fedor V. Fomin, Petr A. Golovach, Giannos Stamoulis, and Dimitrios M. Thilikos. An algorithmic meta-theorem for graph modification to planarity and FOL. In *Proc. of the 28th Annual European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA)*, volume 173 of *LIPICs*, pages 51:1–51:17, 2020.

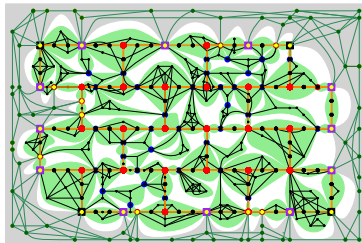
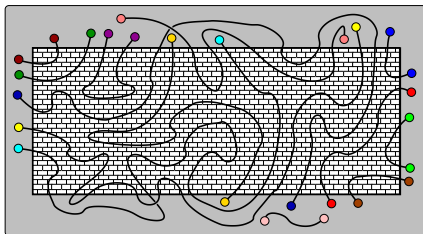
Basic ingredients and techniques of the proof(s)

- Some (suitable) variant of Courcelle's theorem + CMSOL transductions to deal with the “meta-algorithmic” modulator operation.
- Some (non-trivial) adaptation of Gaifman's theorem working on proper minor-excluding classes.

Irrelevant Vertex Technique

(> 1200 citations and used in > 120 papers)

- Neil Robertson and Paul D. Seymour. Graph minors. XIII. The disjoint paths problem. *Journal of Comb. Theory, Ser. B*, 63(1):65–110, 1995.



Ultra-sketch of proof

Given $\theta \in \Theta$ and a graph G :

Ultra-sketch of proof

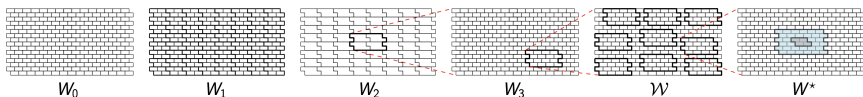
Given $\theta \in \Theta$ and a graph G :

- If the treewidth of G is “small” (as a function of θ): Courcelle.

Ultra-sketch of proof

Given $\theta \in \Theta$ and a graph G :

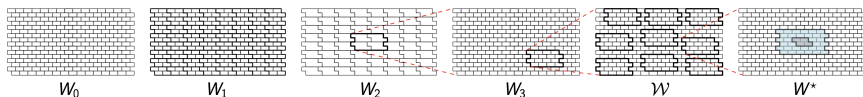
- If the treewidth of G is “small” (as a function of θ): Courcelle.
- Otherwise: find an irrelevant vertex.



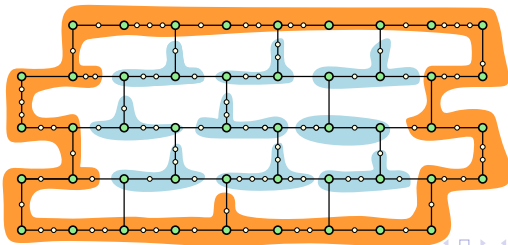
Ultra-sketch of proof

Given $\theta \in \Theta$ and a graph G :

- If the treewidth of G is “small” (as a function of θ): Courcelle.
- Otherwise: find an irrelevant vertex.



Crucial fact: the fact that the modulator sentence $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ allows to prove that the removal of the modulator X does not destroy a flat wall too much.



Necessity of the ingredients of our logic

Theorem (our result, in its simplest form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \Theta_0$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta + G \setminus X \models \gamma$.
- $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ (on annotated graphs):
every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ for which there exists some c_β such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .
- Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses minor-exclusion.

Necessity of the ingredients of our logic

Theorem (our result, in its simplest form)

For every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$ and every $\gamma \in \Theta_0$, there is an algorithm deciding $\text{Mod}(\beta \triangleright \gamma)$ in quadratic time.

- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.
 - $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ (on annotated graphs):
every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ for which there exists some c_β such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .
 - Θ_0 : sentences $\sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ expresses minor-exclusion.
- 1 Why bounded treewidth of torso of modulator? $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$.
 - 2 Why the target sentence $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ (or extensions)?
 - 3 Why the target sentence μ expresses minor-exclusion?

- $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, X]$: every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ for which $\exists c_\beta$ such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .
- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

1. Why bounded treewidth of the torso of the modulator? $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$.

- $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, X]$: every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ for which $\exists c_\beta$ such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .
- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

1. Why bounded treewidth of the torso of the modulator? $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$.

- CMSOL -model-checking is not FPT if treewidth is unbounded.

[Kreutzer and Tazari, LICS 2010]

[Ganian, Hliněný, Langer, Obdržálek, Rossmanith, Sikdar, JCSS 2014]

- $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, X]$: every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ for which $\exists c_\beta$ such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .
- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

1. Why bounded treewidth of the torso of the modulator? $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$.

- CMSOL -model-checking is not FPT if treewidth is unbounded.
 [Kreutzer and Tazari, LICS 2010]
 [Ganian, Hliněný, Langer, Obdržálek, Rossmanith, Sikdar, JCSS 2014]
- But why caring about the torso of the modulator?

- $\text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}[\mathbb{E}, X]$: every $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}[\mathbb{E}, X]$ for which $\exists c_\beta$ such that the torsos of all the models of β have treewidth at most c_β .
- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.

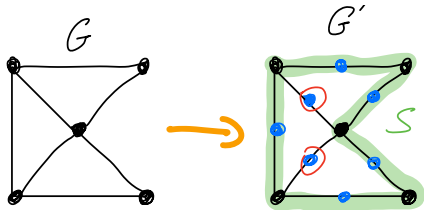
1. Why bounded treewidth of the torso of the modulator? $\beta \in \text{CMSOL}^{\text{tw}}$.

- CMSOL-model-checking is not FPT if treewidth is unbounded.

[Kreutzer and Tazari, LICS 2010]

[Ganian, Hliněný, Langer, Obdržálek, Rossmanith, Sikdar, JCSS 2014]

- But why caring about the torso of the modulator?



- G Hamiltonian $\Leftrightarrow G'$ has a vertex set S such that $G'[S]$ is a cycle and $G' \setminus S$ is edgeless.
- $\text{tw}(G'[S]) = 2$ but $\text{tw}(\text{torso}(G', S)) = \text{tw}(G)$ unbounded.

- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.
- Θ_0 : target sentences $\gamma = \sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ minor-exclusion.

2. Why the target sentence $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ (or extensions)?

- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.
- Θ_0 : target sentences $\gamma = \sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ minor-exclusion.

2. Why the target sentence $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ (or extensions)?

Hamiltonicity is CMSOL-definable and NP-complete on planar graphs (consider a void modulator).

Thus, $\sigma \in \text{CMSOL}$ is not possible (although can be more general than FOL).

- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.
- Θ_0 : target sentences $\gamma = \sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ minor-exclusion.

2. Why the target sentence $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ (or extensions)?

Hamiltonicity is CMSOL-definable and NP-complete on planar graphs (consider a void modulator).

Thus, $\sigma \in \text{CMSOL}$ is not possible (although can be more general than FOL).

3. Why the target sentence μ expresses proper minor-exclusion?

- $G \models \beta \triangleright \gamma$ if $\exists X \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $(\text{stell}(G, X), X) \models \beta$ + $G \setminus X \models \gamma$.
- Θ_0 : target sentences $\gamma = \sigma \wedge \mu$ where $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ and μ minor-exclusion.

2. Why the target sentence $\sigma \in \text{FOL}$ (or extensions)?

Hamiltonicity is **CMSOL**-definable and NP-complete on planar graphs (consider a void modulator).

Thus, $\sigma \in \text{CMSOL}$ is not possible (although can be more general than **FOL**).

3. Why the target sentence μ expresses **proper minor-exclusion**?

Expressing whether a graph G contains a clique on k vertices is **FOL**-expressible, while **k-CLIQUE** is $W[1]$ -hard on general graphs (again, consider a void modulator).

Some final remarks

- Limitations

- are torsos really necessary?
- which are the optimal combinatorial assumptions on FOL+CMSOL?

- Extensions

- irrelevant friendliness (bipartiteness)
- other modification operations (blocks, contractions, ...)

- Open problems

- constants hidden in $\mathcal{O}_{|\theta|}(n^2)$
- is the Θ -hierarchy proper?
- Is quadratic time improvable?
- Further than minor-exclusion?