Twin-width and forbidden subdivisions

Amadeus Reinald ENS de Lyon & IBS

joint work with Édouard Bonnet¹, Eun Jung Kim, Stéphan Thomassé, Rémi Watrigant

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¹Some figures are courtesy of Édouard

Introduction •0000 Parameters and Structure

Connected BFS Decomposition

Bounding the twin-width

Graphs and trigraphs



Fig. Graph: edges, non-edges

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Fig. Trigraph: edges, non-edges, or red edges

Connected BFS Decomposition

Bounding the twin-width

Contractions in trigraphs

• Idea behind twin-width: group near-twins.



Contractions in trigraphs

- Idea behind twin-width: group near-twins.
- **Contraction** of *u* and *v*: record "twin" errors with red edges.





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Contractions in trigraphs

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- Contraction of *u* and *v*: record "twin" errors with red edges.



edges to $N(u) \triangle N(v)$ turn red, for $N(u) \cap N(v)$ red is absorbing

Bounding the twin-width

Twin-width

Definition (Twin-width) tww(G): minimal d such that G admits a **contraction sequence** where all trigraphs have **maximum red degree** at most d.



Maximum red degree = 0 overall maximum red degree = 0

Bounding the twin-width

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Maximum red degree = 0 overall maximum red degree = $2 \rightarrow tww(G) \le 2$.

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Bounding the twin-width

Algorithmic Implications

Theorem (Bonnet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant '20) For a graph G with tww d given a d-sequence, and any FO formula ϕ : Deciding $G \models \phi$ can be done in FPT time $f(|\phi|, d) \cdot n$.

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• k-IS : $\exists x_1 ... \exists x_k \land_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq k} \neg (x_i = x_j \lor E(x_i, x_j)),$

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- k-DS : $\exists x_1 \dots \exists x_k \forall x \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq k} (x = x_i) \lor \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq k} E(x, x_i).$

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Theorem (B,K,R,T,W '21+)

Graphs of girth \ge 5 forbidding **induced subdivisions** of theta have bounded twin-width.



Question

- High parameter $G \Rightarrow$ forced structure/subgraph H?
- Equivalently: G forbidding $H \Rightarrow$ low parameter?

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Theorem (B,K,T,W '20)

For any H, H-minor free graphs have bounded twin-width.

Connected BFS Decomposition

Bounding the twin-width

Treewidth and Minors

Obstruction: $k \times k$ -walls have treewidth $\Omega(k)$.



Fig. A 6×6 -wall.

Connected BFS Decomposition

Bounding the twin-width

Treewidth and Minors

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Fig. A 6×6 -wall.

Theorem (Robertson, Seymour '86) Graphs forbidding a wall **minor** have bounded treewidth.

Bounding the twin-width

Treewidth and induced subdivisions

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Bounding the twin-width

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Bounding the twin-width

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Treewidth and induced subdivisions

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Bounding the twin-width

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Bounding the twin-width

Treewidth and induced thetas

Theorem (Sintiari, Trotignon '19)

There exist theta-free graphs of arbitrarily large girth and treewidth.
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Theorem (Abrishami, Chudnovsky, Hajebi, Spirkl '21) There exists $c \ s.t.$ for any (Theta, triangle)-free G, $tw(G) \leq c \log(|V(G)|)$.

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Degeneracy and induced subdivisions

For degeneracy:

Theorem

Any $K_{t,t}$ -free graph forbidding an induced subdivision of H is f(t, H)-degenerate.

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What about twin-width?

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Twin-width and induced subgraphs

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Optimistic conjecture: forbidding any subcubic graph + sparse \Rightarrow bounded twin-width?

In this talk: forbid **theta-free**, girth ≥ 5



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Bounding the twin-width

Twin-width and mixed minors

Theorem (Bonnet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant '20) If $\exists \sigma \ s.t. \ Adj_{\sigma}(G)$ is t-mixed free, then $tww(G) = 2^{2^{O(t)}}$.

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1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1

Fig. A 3 mixed-minor and a 4-grid minor

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0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1

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In particular: σ forbidding *t*-grid minor \Rightarrow bounded tww.

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1 1	1		0	0	1	0	1
0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 ((C	0	0	1
1 0 0 1	0 0 1	0 1	1		0	1	0
0 0 1 1 0	0 1 1 (1 1 (1 (()	1	0
1 1 1 1 1 0	1 1 1 1 0	1 1 1 0	1 1 0	1 0	0		0
0 1 1 1 0 0 1	1 1 1 0 0 1	1 1 0 0 1	1 0 0 1	0 0 1	0 1	1	

Fig. A 3 mixed-minor and a 4-grid minor

In particular: σ forbidding *t*-grid minor \Rightarrow bounded tww. Example: DFS on trees.

Introduction 00000	Parameters and Structure	Connected BFS Decomposition	Bounding the twin-width
Roadmap			

• Find a grid-free **order** \Rightarrow bounded twin-width,

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
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Introduction F	Parameters and Structure 0000000●	Connected BFS Decomposition	Bounding the twin-width
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- Find a grid-free **order** \Rightarrow bounded twin-width,
- Build an order according to structural properties of the class,

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0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
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Candidates: BFS, DFS...

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Candidates: BFS, DFS...

Little information on **connected** subgraphs, hard finding thetas.

Connected BFS Decomposition

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Idea: BFS exploring connected parts instead of vertices.

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Connected BFS Decomposition

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Connected BFS Decomposition

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Global structure



Let Y_i^j be the *j*-th connected component of $G[Y_i]$ ordered lexicographically.

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Global structure



Let Y_i^j be the *j*-th connected component of $G[Y_i]$ ordered lexicographically.

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Parameters and Structure

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• Y_i has an unique antecedent Y_{i-1}^j (otherwise, better Y_{i-1}^j). Global relation between components: tree = "simple" / tww.

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Component structure

Does complexity lie **inside** components Y_i^j ?

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Lemma For any CBFS of G, each Y_i^j is a tree.

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Component structure

Does complexity lie **inside** components Y_i^j ? **No**

Lemma For any CBFS of G, each Y_i^j is a tree. Moreover, each $v \in Y_i^j$ has an unique antecedent $v^{-1} \in Y_{i-1}$.

Component structure

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→ Complexity must lie in adjacencies **between** components...
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Describe the structure between layers,

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- \hookrightarrow Complexity must lie in adjacencies **between** components...
 - Describe the structure between layers,
 - **2** Use it to guide our **ordering** choice.

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Component-Antecedent Structure



Parameters and Structure

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Component-Antecedent Structure



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Component-Antecedent Structure

How do successors of **different** vertices of Y_{i-1} relate in Y_i ?



Lemma For any Y_i^j , there is a **principal path** P_i^j s.t. any successor $v \in Y_i^j$ belongs to a v^{-1} -private branch of P_i^j .

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Component-Antecedent Structure

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Natural order: follow P_i^j exhausting private branches along the way.

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Component-Successors Structure

Locally: for any vertex r in component Y_i^j :

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Component-Successors Structure

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Definition *Consecutivity: shortest path between successors of two different r-branches.*



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Definition *Consecutivity: shortest path between successors of two different r-branches.*

Lemma All but two r-branches admit at most two consecutivities.



Connected BFS Decomposition

Bounding the twin-width

Constructing the total order

• **Globally:** components Y_i^j related as a tree

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- → follow the CBFS order lexicographically.

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Fig. Inter-component BFS

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Fig. Inter-component BFS

• Locally: branches in Y_i^j : little intertwining on Y_{i+1}

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- **Globally:** components Y_i^j related as a tree
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- Locally: branches in Y_i^J : little intertwining on Y_{i+1}
- → DFS: order branches / consecutivity cycles



Fig. Inter-component BFS

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Constructing the total order

- **Globally:** components Y_i^j related as a tree
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- $\begin{array}{c} & Y_{0} \\ & Y_{1}^{1} \\ & Y_{2}^{2} \\ & Y_{2}^{2} \\ & Y_{3}^{2} \\ & Y_{3}^{2} \\ & Y_{3}^{3} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} Y_{1}^{2} \\ & Y_{2}^{2} \\ & Y_{3}^{2} \\ & Y_{3}^{3} \\ & Y_{3}^{4} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array}$
 - Fig. Inter-component BFS

- Locally: branches in Y_i^J : little intertwining on Y_{i+1}
- → DFS: order branches / consecutivity cycles



Fig. Intra-component DFS

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Bounding the twin-width

Graphs in the class \rightarrow corresponding **ordered** matrices $M_{<:}$

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Graphs in the class \rightarrow corresponding **ordered** matrices $M_{<:}$

Roadmap:

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Graphs in the class \rightarrow corresponding **ordered** matrices $M_{<:}$

Roadmap:

Assume existence of arbitrarily large minors,

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Bounding the twin-width

Graphs in the class \rightarrow corresponding **ordered** matrices $M_{<:}$

Roadmap:

- Assume existence of arbitrarily large minors,
- 2 Use global order to localize them,

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Roadmap:

- Assume existence of arbitrarily large minors,
- 2 Use global order to localize them,
- **③** Use local order to yield a contradiction.

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Bounding the twin-width $0 \bullet 00000$

- **Globally:** We have ordered layers $Y_0 < Y_1 < ... < Y_k$.
- Where can a large grid minor lie?

Parameters and Structure

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Grid minors among successive layers

- **Globally:** We have ordered layers $Y_0 < Y_1 < ... < Y_k$.
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Lemma If matrices $M_{<}$ have arbitrarily large grid minors, some submatrices indexed by $(Y_i \cup Y_{i+1})^2$ also do.

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Grid minors between successive layers

Locally: Y_i are forests \rightarrow bounded tww (DFS) \rightarrow



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Lemma If matrices $M_{<}$ have arbitrarily large grid minors, some submatrices indexed by $Y_i \times Y_{i+1}$ also do.
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Grid Minors from One Component

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Grid Minors from One Component



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Grid Minors from One Component



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Grid Minors from One Component



Lemma If $M_{<}$ admit arbitrarily large grid minors, some submatrices indexed by Y_{i}^{j} and its successors do too.

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Excluding Grid Minors

Assume large grid minor on Y_i^j and successors:



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Excluding Grid Minors

Assume large grid minor on Y_i^j and successors:

• Row sets \leftrightarrow subforests of Y_i^j ,



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Excluding Grid Minors

Assume large grid minor on Y_i^j and successors:

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Connected BFS Decomposition

Bounding the twin-width

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- Non-zero entries → **consecutivities**.



Connected BFS Decomposition

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Theorem (B,K,R,T,W '21) Theta-free graphs of girth at least 5 have bounded twin-width.



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Further paths

 Do sparse θ-free graphs have bounded queue/stack number? Possibly through the same order.

Further paths

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Further paths

- Do sparse θ-free graphs have bounded queue/stack number? Possibly through the same order.
- Extend the approach to classes forbidding any subcubic subgraph of the wall.

Thank you!



Bibliography

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