The PACE 2023 Challenge: Twin-Width

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Outline

What is Twin-width?

Computing Twin-width

PACE 2023



Section 1



• A large part of combinatorics is defining useful measures of the complexity of structures



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 - Algorithmic Complexity
 - Efficient encodings
 - ► Decomposition



Operations on Graphs: Disjoint Union







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Operations on Graphs: Complement





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Operations on Graphs: Complement









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Cographs

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- K_1 is a cograph
- The disjoint union of two cographs is also a cograph
- The complement of a cograph is a cograph



Relating Other Graphs to Cographs

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 - Example: Finding the largest complete subgraph of a graph
- However, not every graph is a cograph
- Can we generalize this by adding some sort of *error* measure?
- This is called *twin-width* [BKTW20]



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- Before we can talk about twin-width, we first talk about *contractions* of a graph
 - Our edges in E will have a color associated with them: black or red.
 - ▶ The red edges will be our *error* that we want
 - Vertices are black neighbors if linked by a black edge, and red neighbors if linked by a red edge











(x_1) (x_2) (x_3) (x_4) (x_5) (x_6)

























$(x_1) \quad (x_2) \quad (x_3) \quad (x_4) \quad (x_5) \quad (x_6)$























Formal Definition of Contraction

Suppose we are contracting two nodes u, v in G into one node called uv.

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 - Otherwise, x is a red neighbor of u and v
- All other edges are left alone and maintain their color



Twin-width

Repeatedly applying the contraction operation to nodes of G produces a *contraction sequence* of graphs
 G = G_n → G_{n-1} → ··· → G₂ → G₁ = K₁



Twin-width

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Twin-width

- Repeatedly applying the contraction operation to nodes of G produces a contraction sequence of graphs
 G = G_n → G_{n-1} → · · · → G₂ → G₁ = K₁
- The sequence is a *d*-sequence if the maximum number of red edges in any of the G_i in the contraction sequence is d
- The twin-width of G is the minimum d such that there exists a d-sequence of G



Observations

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- The graph remains connected as we do this
- This process will terminate (finitely many nodes and edges)
- The number of red edges may increase or decrease



Why do We Care?

• We can speed up certain algorithms



Why do We Care?

- We can speed up certain algorithms
- If we have the *d*-sequence for a graph, we can decompose the graph into complete bipartite graphs and do breadth-first-search in $O(n \log n)$ time [BGK⁺20]
- This works even if the number of edges is $O(n^2)$



Section 2

Computing Twin-width



It's Hard

• There are very few practical algorithms for computing the twin-width of a graph in general



It's Hard

- There are very few practical algorithms for computing the twin-width of a graph in general
- There are some things known for special cases
 - Cographs are the graphs with twin-width zero
 - ▶ *d*-dimensional graphs have twin-width $\leq 3d$ [BKTW20]
 - ▶ Planar graphs have twin-width ≤ 9, and bipartite planar graphs have twin-width ≤ 6 [Hli22]
 - ▶ Graphs with 4 vertices have twin-width ≤ 1 and graphs with 5 vertices have twin-width ≤ 2 [Das22]
 - ▶ In general, bipartite graphs may have arbitrarily large twin-width



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- [SS21] found a way to encode twin-width into a SAT formula
- This is one of the only ways we can reasonable compute twin-widths



Section 3

PACE 2023



A Programming Competition

- Parameterized Algorithms and Computational Experiments is a long-term programming competition
- Our goal will be to devise an efficient algorithm to compute the twin-width d of arbitrary graphs and their d-sequence
 - ► Exact Track: Compute the exact sequence
 - ▶ Heuristic Track: Compute an approximate sequence



The Club Submission

- I only found out about this recently so we are a bit behind
- We should make on submission on one track
 - ▶ I was thinking about focusing on the exact track
- There are 100 public test cases + 100 test cases
- Score = the number of test cases we can solve in a given time limit
- My goal is just to put together something and see how well we do



Bibliography

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