# Logic and Twin-width

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## Stability and dependence

- A graph G is definable in a structure H if there is a formula  $\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ such that  $V(G) = V(H)^{|\bar{x}|}$  and  $E(G) = \{(\bar{a}, \bar{b}) : H \vDash \varphi(\bar{a}, \bar{b})\}.$
- Example: Finding *d*-degenerate graphs in the age of edgeless graphs.
  - $\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  with  $|\bar{x}| = |\bar{y}| = d + 1$
  - Assume |V(G)| = n. Let  $V(H) = [n] \longrightarrow V(G) \subseteq [n]^{d+1}$ .
  - G is d-degenerate  $\longrightarrow$  order V(G) such that every  $v \in V(G)$  has at most d smaller neighbors, say  $v_1, \ldots, v_k$  for  $k \le d$ .

• Map v to 
$$(v_1, ..., v_k, v, ..., v)$$
.

• Define E(G) in H by

$$\varphi(\bar{x},\bar{y}) = \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq d} (x_i = y_{d+1} \lor y_i = x_{d+1}).$$

• Attention: we do not interpret G but a supergraph of G.

# Stability and dependence

- A class *C* of graphs is definable in a class *D* of structures if there is a formula φ(x̄, ȳ) such that every G ∈ C is defined by φ in some H ∈ D.
- The order-dimension of a graph G is the largest integer l such that there exist vertices a<sub>1</sub>,..., a<sub>l</sub>, b<sub>1</sub>,..., b<sub>l</sub> with {a<sub>i</sub>, b<sub>j</sub>} ∈ E(G) ⇔ i ≤ j.



• A class  $\mathscr{C}$  of structures is stable if every graph class definable in  $\mathscr{C}$  has bounded order-dimension.

# Stability and dependence

 The VC-dimension of a graph G is the largest integer d such that there exist vertices a<sub>1</sub>,..., a<sub>d</sub> ∈ V(G) and vertices b<sub>J</sub> ∈ V(G) for J ⊆ [d] such that {a<sub>i</sub>, b<sub>J</sub>} ∈ E(G) ⇔ i ∈ J.



• A class  $\mathscr{C}$  of structures is dependent/NIP if every graph class definable in  $\mathscr{C}$  has bounded VC-dimension.

# Monadic stability and dependence

- A class  $\mathscr{C}$  of structures is monadically stable/NIP if the class of all monadic expansions (colorings) of structures from  $\mathscr{C}$  is stable/NIP.
- Example: The class of 1-subdivided cliques is stable but not monadically NIP.
- [Braunfeld and Laskoswki, 22]: A hereditary class of graphs is stable/NIP if and only if it is monadically stable/NIP.
  - Twin-width is hereditary  $\rightarrow$  we only have to show monadic NIP.
- [Baldwin and Shelah, 85]:  $\mathscr{C}$  is monadically stable/NIP if and only every graph class definable in the monadic expansions of  $\mathscr{C}$  by formulas  $\varphi(x, y)$  have bounded order/VC dimension.
  - Instead of interpretations (in powers) we may look at transductions.
  - Transductions combine colorings and simple interpretations  $\varphi(x, y)$ .

# Transductions



- Simple interpretation φ(x, y) defining the new edge set and taking an induced subgraph
  - $\varphi(x,y) = \neg E(x,y)$  (complementing the edge relation)
  - Keep only red and blue vertices (definable induced subgraph)



- [Bonnet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant, 20]: If  $\mathscr C$  has bounded twin-width, then every transduction of  $\mathscr C$  has bounded twin-width.
  - Twin-width is preserved under the *k*-copy operation:



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  - Twin-width is preserved under the *k*-copy operation:  $\checkmark$
  - Coloring and simple interpretation:
    - Refine the contraction sequence by local red types.
      [Beautiful presentation by Gajarský, Pilipczuk, Przybyszewski, Toruńczyk, 22]
    - In the contraction sequence local red types change only in local red neighborhoods and can be updated efficiently.

# Bounded twin-width classes are monadically NIP

- [Bonnet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant, 20]: If  $\mathscr C$  has bounded twin-width, then every transduction of  $\mathscr C$  has bounded twin-width.
  - Bounded twin-width classes are monadically NIP.
- [Bonnet, Giocanti, Ossona de Mendez, Simon, Thomassé, Toruńczyk, 22]: A hereditary class of ordered binary structures has bounded twin-width if and only if it is monadically NIP.
- [Bonnet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant, 20]: If *C* has bounded twin-width and each G ∈ C is given with a contraction sequence, then FO model checking is FPT linear on *C*.
  - Open problem: How to compute good contraction sequences?
- [Bonnet, Giocanti, Ossona de Mendez, Simon, Thomassé, Toruńczyk, 22]: If  $\mathscr{C}$  is a hereditary class of ordered graphs, then FO model checking is FPT on  $\mathscr{C}$  if and only if  $\mathscr{C}$  has bounded twin-width.





- [Nešetřil and Ossona de Mendez, 04]: A class *C* of graphs has bounded expansion ⇔ for every *p* there exists a class *D*<sub>p</sub> with bounded treedepth, such that each *G* ∈ *C* can be partitioned into at most *N*<sub>p</sub> parts, each *p* of them inducing a subgraph in *D*<sub>p</sub>.
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Classes with bounded expansion have bounded treedepth decompositions.
- [Nešetřil and Ossona de Mendez, 04]: A class *C* of graphs is nowhere dense ⇔ for every *p* there exists a class *D*<sub>p</sub> with bounded treedepth, such that each graph *G* ∈ *C* can be partitioned into at most N<sub>p</sub> ∈ |G|<sup>o(1)</sup> parts, each *p* of them inducing a subgraph in *D*<sub>p</sub>.
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Nowhere dense classes have quasi-bounded treedepth decompositions.

- [Gajarský, Kreutzer, Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, Pilipczuk, S., Toruńczyk, 20]: A class *C* of graphs has structurally bounded expansion ⇔ for every there exists a class *D*<sub>p</sub> with bounded shrubdepth, such that each *G* ∈ *C* can be partitioned into at most *N*<sub>p</sub> parts, each *p* of them inducing a subgraph in *D*<sub>p</sub>.
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Classes with structurally bounded expansion have bounded shrubdepth decompositions.
- [Dreier, Gajarský, Kiefer, Pilipczuk, Toruńczyk, 22]: If a class  $\mathscr{C}$  of graphs is structurally nowhere dense, then for every p there exists a class  $\mathscr{D}_p$  with bounded shrubdepth, such that each  $G \in \mathscr{C}$  can be partitioned into at most  $N_p \in |G|^{o(1)}$  parts, each p of them inducing a subgraph in  $\mathscr{D}_p$ .
  - $\rightarrow$  Structurally nowhere dense classes have quasi-bounded shrubdepth decompositions.

- Let Π be a hereditary class property. If every class *C* with quasi-bounded Π decompositions again has property Π, we call Π a decomposition horizon.
- [Braunfeld, Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, S., 22] The class properties monadic stability and monadic NIP are decomposition horizons.
  - Classes with quasi-bounded twin-width decompositions are monadically NIP.
- Conjecture: Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a hereditary class of graphs. Then the following are equivalent:
  - ▶ 𝒞 is structurally nowhere dense
  - $\blacktriangleright$  % has quasi-bounded shrubdepth decompositions

 $\bullet$  Conjecture: Let  ${\mathscr C}$  be a hereditary class of graphs. Then

- ▶ 𝒞 is monadically NIP
- $\Leftrightarrow \ {\mathscr C} \text{ has quasi-bounded twin-width decompositions.}$
- [Bonnet, Geniet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant, 21]: Sparse classes with bounded twin-width have bounded expansion, hence bounded treedepth decompositions.
- [Gajarský, Pilipczuk, Toruńczyk, 22]: Stable classes with bounded twin-width have structurally bounded expansion, hence bounded shrubdepth decompositions.

- [Ossona de Mendez]: Classes with bounded twin-width cannot be decomposed into a constant number of simpler pieces (no bounded decompositions):
  - Take a class & with bounded twin-width and unbounded X (e.g. unbounded cliquewidth).
  - ▶ Close 𝒞 under lexicographic products (this preserves twin-width).
  - Color with a bounded number of colors.
  - Then we find a monochromatic copy of any  $G \in \mathscr{C}$  (Ramsey).
  - Hence,  $\mathscr{C}$  does not have bounded X decompositions.

# Twin-models

 [Bonnet, Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, S, Thomassé, 22]: Twin-model: read the contraction sequence the other way around to get a tree-like representation



- Create all tuples (u, v) such that there exists  $u' \le u$  and  $v' \le v$  with a transversal edge (u', v').
  - Need to satisfy a minimality and consistency condition so that we can get a contraction sequence from a twin-model.

## Twin-models

- The twin-model together with the tree-order (full twin-model) has bounded twin-width (at most twice the twin-width of the structure).
- The Gaifman graph of the twin-model (without the order) is sparse
  → has bounded expansion.
- Two applications:
  - Construction of sparse weak neighborhood covers.
  - Twin-width and permutations.

- A weak r-neighborhood cover with degree d and spread s of a graph G is a family X of subsets of V(G), called clusters, such that
  - the *r*-neighborhood of every vertex is contained in some cluster: for every  $v \in V(G)$  there exists  $X \in \mathcal{X}$  with  $N_r[v] \subseteq X$ ,
  - every cluster has weak diameter at most s and
  - every vertex occurs in at most *d* clusters:
    for all *v* ∈ *V*(*G*)

 $|\{X\in\mathcal{X}\mid v\in X\}|\leq d.$ 

A class *C* admits sparse weak neighborhood covers if there exist functions g(r, ε) and s(r) ≥ r such that for every r ∈ N, every ε > 0, every graph G ∈ C admits a weak r-neighborhood cover with degree g(r, ε) · |G|<sup>ε</sup> and spread s(r).

- It suffices to look for 1-neighborhood covers: An *r*-neighborhood cover can be recovered from a 1-neighborhood cover in the *r*th power of G
   → this is a transduction, hence we again have bounded twin-width.
- Let A ⊆ V(G). The contraction of A into a single vertex is a weak k-contraction if A has weak radius at most k, that is, there is v ∈ V(G) such that A ⊆ N<sub>k</sub>(v).
- If H is obtained from G by disjoint weak k-contractions and H admits a weak r-neighborhood cover with degree d and spread s, then G admits a weak r-neighborhood cover with degree d and spread (2k+1)s.

• Consider a full twin-model (with order).



• Consider the minimal elements with traversal edges and contract everything below to single vertices.



• These are 1-contractions, because the traversal edges encode bicliques.



- The contractions are definable in the full twin-model, which has bounded twin-width.
- Hence, the resulting graph has bounded twin-width.



- The resulting edges are either blue (transversal edges that were present in the twin-model).
- These edges alone induce a graph of bounded expansion, because they are a subset of the edges of a graph with sparse bounded twin-width.



- All other edges are created by the contraction.
- Problem: these are not red edges from the contraction sequence.
  - Assume v comes alive first and is no longer alive when u comes alive (reading the sequence backwards).



Then a predecessor of u became alive before v and we have a red edge (otherwise there would be a blue edge in the twin-model and u would not be a vertex of the reduced graph).



- We push down the red edge(s) (may be many copies) and orient them towards v
- The out-degree remains bounded → we still have a degenerate twin-model (without the order) and hence bounded expansion.
- Classes with bounded expansion have sparse neighborhood covers  $\checkmark$

# Structurally nowhere dense graphs

- [Dreier, Gajarský, Kiefer, Pilipczuk, Toruńczyk, 22]: If a class  $\mathscr{C}$  of graphs is structurally nowhere dense, then its graphs have similar tree-like decompositions called quasi-bushes with quasi-bounded weak coloring numbers.
- [Dreier, Mählmann, S., 23]: Structurally nowhere dense graph classes have sparse weak neighborhood covers.
  - Proof: conceptually similar but more technical.
  - Question: Do structurally nowhere dense graph classes have nowhere dense quasi-bushes?
- [Dreier, Mählmann, S., 23]: FO model checking on (locally) structurally nowhere dense classes is fixed-parameter tractable.
  - Flipper game
  - Local types (avoid complicated rank preserving locality)
  - Sparse weak neighborhood covers (can be efficiently approximated)

# Model checking on monadically stable classes

- If a monadically stable class  $\mathscr{C}$  admits sparse weak neighborhood covers, then FO model-checking is fixed-parameter tractable on  $\mathscr{C}$ .
- Conjecture: Monadically NIP classes admit sparse weak neighborhood covers.
- Question: Do monadically stable classes have treelike decompositions of bounded depth?

#### Permutations

- [Bonnet, Nešetřil Ossona de Mendez, S, Thomassé, 2022]: A class of binary relational structures has bounded twin-width if and only if it is a first-order transduction of a proper permutation class.
  - Permutation: two linear orders on the universe  $(V, <_1, <_2)$ .
  - Proper permutation class: set of permutations closed under sub-permutations excluding at least one permutation.
- Example: 21-avoiding permutation = linear order. Transductions have bounded linear cliquewidth.
- Example: 231-avoiding permutation = tree order. Transductions have bounded cliquewidth.
- "⇐" Proper permutation classes have bounded twin-width (small ordered hereditary classes) and so have their transductions.

## Tree-models and permutations

" $\Rightarrow$ " Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a class of bounded twin-width.

- We show that the class  $\mathscr{F}$  of full twin-models of graphs from  $\mathscr{C}$  is bi-transducible with a permutation class  $\mathscr{P}$ .
  - We can transduce  $\mathscr C$  from  $\mathscr F$ .
  - Hence  $\mathscr C$  is a transduction of the permutation class  $\mathscr P$ .
  - $\mathscr{P}$  is a proper permutation class because it is a transuction of  $\mathscr{F}$ , which has bounded twin-width, and hence has bounded twin-width.
- The full twin-models of graphs from  $\mathscr{C}$  have bounded twin-width and without the order they are sparse (have bounded expansion and in particular have bounded star chromatic number).

# Transductions and star chromatic numer

• Star coloring: Proper coloring such that any two color classes induce a star forest (disjoint union of stars).



- [Courcelle?]: Let  $\Sigma$  be a relational signature (of arbitrary arity) and  $\mathscr{C}$  a class of  $\Sigma$ -structures. Assume the class of Gaifman graphs  $\mathscr{G}$  of  $\mathscr{C}$  has bounded star chromatic number. Then  $\mathscr{C}$  is bi-transducible with  $\mathscr{G}$ .
  - In particular, we can transduce all orientations of graphs with bounded star chromatic number.

- Let G<sup><</sup> be a class of ordered graphs with star chromatic number at most c. Then G<sup><</sup> is bi-transducible with a class P of permutations.
  - Take a star coloring of G with c colors.



 Orient the edges so that bicolored stars are oriented away from their centers (every edge is bicolored because we have a proper coloring).



- Blow each vertex into  $(u, 1), \ldots, (u, c+1)$  and
- keep only the vertices of the form (u, c + 1) and (u, i) if u has an in-neighbor colored i.



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- Define two orders:
  - <1 helps to identify copies it orders  $(u, 1), (u, 2), \dots, (u, c+1)$  consecutively.
  - <<sub>2</sub> helps to recover the edges it puts a copy (v, i) for an out-neighbor v of u directly in front of (u, c + 1).

