A tamed family of triangle-free graphs with unbounded chromatic number

Romain Bourneuf LaBRI

Joint work with Édouard Bonnet, Julien Duron, Colin Geniet, Stéphan Thomassé and Nicolas Trotignon

JGA 2024

Definition (Chromatic Number, Clique Number)

• $\chi(G) =$ minimum number of colors to color the vertices of G so that adjacent vertices always get different colors.

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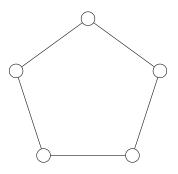
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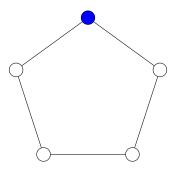
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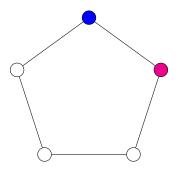
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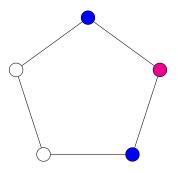
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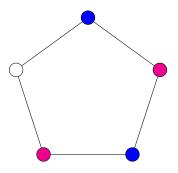
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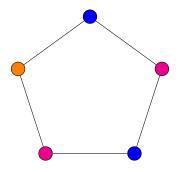
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There exist triangle-free graphs with arbitrarily large χ .

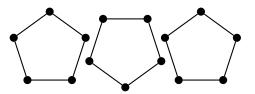
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- Zykov (1952)
- Blanche Descartes (1954)
- Mycielski (1955)
- Erdős (1959)
- Burling (1965)
- ...

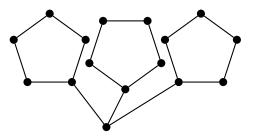
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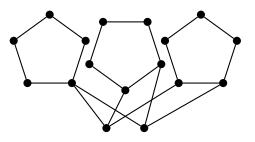


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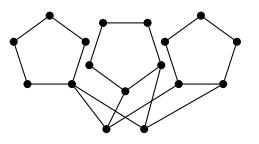
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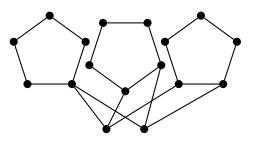
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• If G_1, \ldots, G_k are triangle-free then $Z(G_1, \ldots, G_k)$ too.

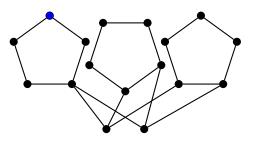
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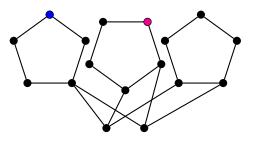
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- If $\chi(G_i) \ge i$ for every *i* then $\chi(Z(G_1, \ldots, G_k)) \ge k + 1.$

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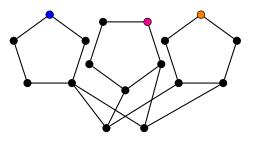
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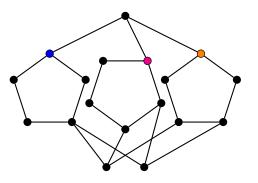
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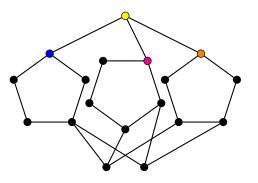
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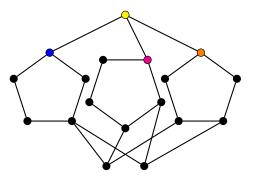
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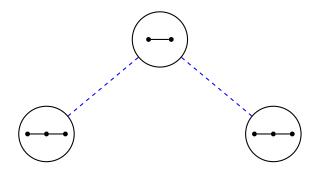
Zykov sequence: $Z_1 = K_1$, $Z_{k+1} = Z(Z_1, ..., Z_k)$.

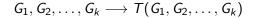
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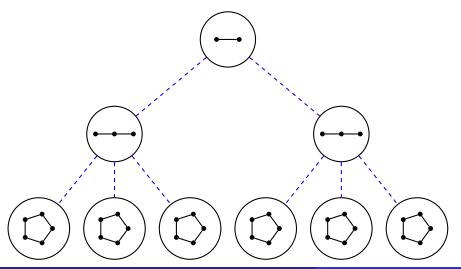
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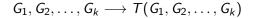
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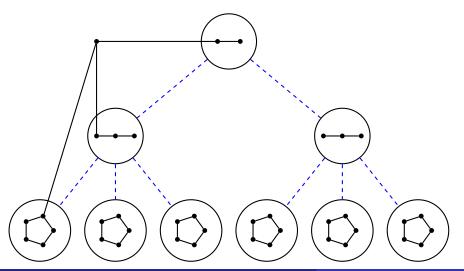




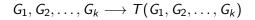


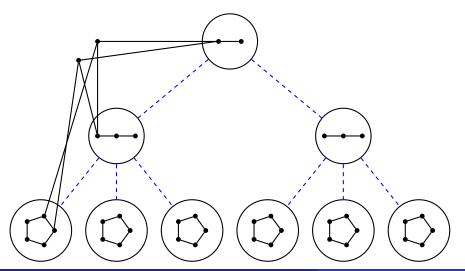
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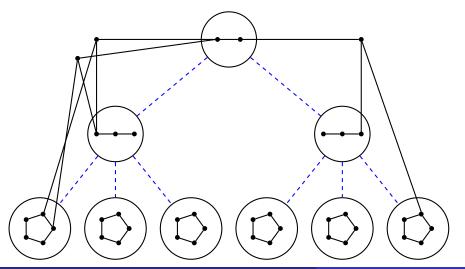


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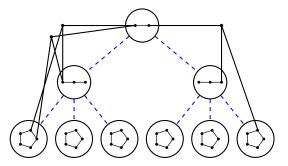
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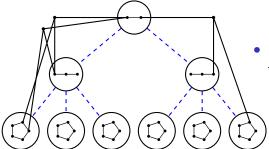
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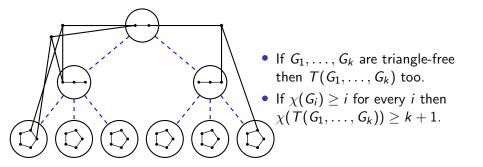
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Twincut sequence

$$T_1 = K_1, T_{k+1} = T(T_1, \ldots, T_k).$$

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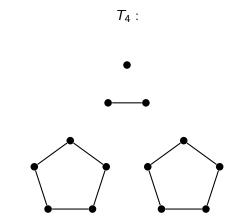


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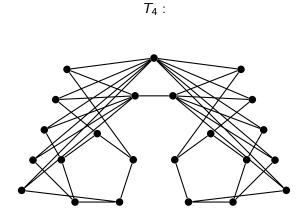
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Every T_k is edge-critical: for every edge e of T_k , $\chi(T_k - e) = k - 1$.

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Theorem [Bonnet, Geniet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant '21]

Every triangle-free graph of chromatic number k has twin-width at least k - 2.

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Thank you!