## Twin-width

# Édouard Bonnet, Colin Geniet, Eun Jung Kim, Stéphan Thomassé, and Rémi Watrigant <br> ENS Lyon, LIP 

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## Cograph generalization attempt

Iteratively identify near twins

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This complicated graph passes the test

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## Cograph generalization

Iteratively identify near twins and keep the error degree small


It would not with that further restriction

## Contraction and trigraph



Trigraph: non-edges, edges, and red edges (error)

## Contraction and trigraph


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

## Contraction sequence and twin-width



Maximum red degree $=0$ overall maximum red degree $=0$

## Contraction sequence and twin-width



Maximum red degree $=2$ overall maximum red degree $=2$

## Contraction sequence and twin-width



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Maximum red degree $=2$ overall maximum red degree $=2$

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Maximum red degree $=1$ overall maximum red degree $=2$

## Contraction sequence and twin-width



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## Contraction sequence and twin-width



Maximum red degree $=0$ overall maximum red degree $=2$

## Contraction sequence and twin-width

Sequence of 2-contractions or 2-sequence, twin-width at most 2


Maximum red degree $=0$ overall maximum red degree $=2$

## Graphs with bounded twin-width - trees



If possible, contract two twin leaves

## Graphs with bounded twin-width - trees



If not, contract a deepest leaf with its parent

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Cannot create a red degree-3 vertex

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## Graphs with bounded twin-width - trees

Generalization to bounded treewidth and even bounded rank-width

Graphs with bounded twin-width - grids


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Graphs with bounded twin-width - grids


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## Graphs with bounded twin-width - grids



4-sequence for planar grids, $3 d$-sequence for $d$-dimensional grids

## Graphs with bounded twin-width - planar graphs?

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For every $d$, a planar trigraph without planar $d$-contraction

Graphs with bounded twin-width - planar graphs?


For every $d$, a planar trigraph without planar $d$-contraction

More powerfool tool needed

The origin: Permutation Pattern


## The origin: Permutation Pattern



## The origin: Permutation Pattern



Theorem (Guillemot, Marx '14)
Permutation Pattern can be solved in time $2^{|\sigma|^{2}}|\tau|$.

## Guillemot and Marx's win-win algorithm

Theorem (Marcus, Tardos '04)
$\forall t, \exists c_{t} \forall n \times n 0,1$-matrix with $\geqslant c_{t} n$ entries 1 has a $t$-grid minor.
4-grid minor $\left[\begin{array}{cc|cc|cc|cc}1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1\end{array}\right]$

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A) $\geqslant c_{|\sigma|} n$ entries $1 \rightarrow$ YES from the $|\sigma|$-grid minor.
B) $<c_{|\sigma|} n$ entries $1 \rightarrow$ merge of two "similar" rectangles

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A) $\geqslant q_{|\sigma|} n$ entries $1 \rightarrow$ YES from the $|\sigma|$-grid minor.
B) $<c_{|\sigma|} n$ entries $1 \rightarrow$ merge of two "similar" rectangles

If $B$ ) always happens $\rightarrow$ DP on this merge sequence

## Our generalization to the dense case - mixed minor

Mixed zone: not horizontal nor vertical

$$
\left[\begin{array}{ll|lll|lll}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\
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$$

A matrix is said $t$-mixed free if it does not have a $t$-mixed minor

## Grid minor theorem for twin-width

Theorem (B, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant 20)
If $\exists \sigma$ s.t. $\operatorname{Adj}_{\sigma}(G)$ is $t$-mixed free, then $\operatorname{tww}(G)=2^{2^{O(t)}}$.

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Now to bound the twin-width of a class $\mathcal{C}$ :

1) Find a good vertex-ordering procedure
2) Argue that, in this order, a $t$-mixed minor would conflict with $\mathcal{C}$

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Cutting after the $t / 2$-th division of the $t$-grid minor

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One of the shaded areas contains a $t / 2$-grid minor on disjoint sets

## Bounded twin-width - unit interval graphs


order by left endpoints

## Bounded twin-width - unit interval graphs



No 3-by-3 grid has all 9 cells crossed by two non-decreasing curves

## Bounded twin-width $-K_{t}$-minor free graphs



Given a hamiltonian path, we would just use this order

## Bounded twin-width $-K_{t}$-minor free graphs

| $B_{t}$ |  | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Contracting the $2 t$ subpaths yields a $K_{t, t}$-minor, hence a $K_{t}$-minor

## Bounded twin-width $-K_{t}$-minor free graphs



Instead we use a specially crafted lex-DFS discovery order

## Theorem

The following classes have bounded twin-width, and $O(1)$-sequences can be computed in polynomial time.

- Bounded rank-width, and even, boolean-width graphs,
- every hereditary proper subclass of permutation graphs,
- posets of bounded antichain size (seen as digraphs),
- unit interval graphs,
- $K_{t}$-minor free graphs,
- map graphs,
- subgraphs of d-dimensional grids,
- $K_{t}$-free unit d-dimensional ball graphs,
- $\Omega(\log n)$-subdivisions of all the $n$-vertex graphs,
- cubic expanders defined by iterative random 2-lifts from $K_{4}$,
- strong products of two bounded twin-width classes, one with bounded degree, etc.


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Can we solve problems faster, given an $O(1)$-sequence?

## Example of $k$-Independent Set

$d$-sequence: $G=G_{n}, G_{n-1}, \ldots, G_{2}, G_{1}=K_{1}$

Algorithm: Compute by dynamic programming a best partial solution in each red connected subgraph of size at most $k$.

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In $G_{n}$ : red connected subgraphs are singletons, so are the solutions.
In $G_{1}$ : If solution of size at least $k$, global solution.

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In $G_{n}$ : red connected subgraphs are singletons, so are the solutions.
In $G_{1}$ : If solution of size at least $k$, global solution.
How to go from the partial solutions of $G_{i+1}$ to those of $G_{i}$ ?


Best partial solution inhabiting $\bullet$ ?


3 unions of $\leqslant d+2$ red connected subgraphs to consider in $G_{i+1}$ with $u$, or $v$, or both

## Other (almost) single-exponential parameterized algorithms

Theorem
Given a $d$-sequence $G=G_{n}, \ldots, G_{1}=K_{1}$,

- k-Independent Set,
- $k$-Clique,
- $(r, k)$-Scattered Set,
- $k$-Dominating Set, and
- $(r, k)$-Dominating Set
can be solved in time $2^{O_{d}(k)} n$, whereas Subgraph Isomorphism and Induced Subgraph IsOMORPHISM can be solved in time $2^{O_{d}(k \log k)} n$.


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A more general FPT algorithm?

## First-order model checking on graphs

Graph FO Model Checking Parameter: $|\varphi|$ Input: A graph $G$ and a first-order sentence $\varphi \in F O\left(\left\{E_{2},={ }_{2}\right\}\right)$ Question: $G \models \varphi$ ?

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Example:

$$
\varphi=\exists x_{1} \exists x_{2} \cdots \exists x_{k} \forall x \bigvee_{1 \leqslant i \leqslant k} x=x_{i} \vee \bigvee_{1 \leqslant i \leqslant k} E\left(x, x_{i}\right) \vee E\left(x_{i}, x\right)
$$

$G \models \varphi ? \Leftrightarrow$

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$G \models \varphi ? \Leftrightarrow k$-Dominating Set

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Example:

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\varphi=\exists x_{1} \exists x_{2} \cdots \exists x_{k} \bigwedge_{1 \leqslant i<j \leqslant k} \neg\left(x_{i}=x_{j}\right) \wedge \neg E\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \wedge \neg E\left(x_{j}, x_{i}\right)
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$G \models \varphi ? \Leftrightarrow$

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$G \models \varphi ? \Leftrightarrow k$-Independent $\operatorname{Set}$

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking



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FO Model Checking solvable in $f(|\varphi|) n$ on bounded-degree graphs [Seese '96]

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking



FO Model Checking solvable in $f(|\varphi|) n^{1+\varepsilon}$ on any nowhere dense class [Grohe, Kreutzer, Siebertz '14]

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking



End of the story for the classes closed by taking subgraphs tractable FO Model Checking $\Leftrightarrow$ nowhere dense

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking



New program: dense (hence not subgraph-closed) classes

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking


$\mathrm{MSO}_{1}$ Model Checking solvable in $f(|\varphi|, w) n$ on graphs of rank-width $w$ [Courcelle, Makowsky, Rotics '00]

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking



Is $\sigma$ a subpermutation of $\tau$ ? solvable in $f(|\sigma|)|\tau|$
[Guillemot, Marx '14]

## Classes with known tractable FO model checking



FO Model Checking solvable in $f(|\varphi|, w) n^{2}$ on posets of width $w$ [GHLOORS '15]

Classes with known tractable FO model checking


FO Model Checking solvable in $f(|\varphi|) n^{O(1)}$ on map graphs [Eickmeyer, Kawarabayashi '17]

Classes with known tractable FO model checking


FO Model Checking solvable in $f(|\varphi|, d) n$ on graphs with a $d$-sequence [B, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant '20+]

## Workflow of the FO model checking algorithm



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Direct examples: trees, bounded rank-width, grids, $d$-dimensional grids, unit interval graphs, $K_{t}$-free unit ball graphs

## Workflow of the FO model checking algorithm



Detour via mixed minor for: pattern-avoiding permutations, bounded width posets, $K_{t}$-minor free graphs

## Workflow of the FO model checking algorithm



Let us see a snapshot of the FO model checking

DP for FO model checking with $d$-sequence


DP for FO model checking with $d$-sequence

only $f(d, \ell)$ trees

## Small classes

Small: class with at most $n!c^{n}$ labeled graphs on $[n]$.
Theorem (B, Geniet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant 20+)
Bounded twin-width classes are small.

Unifies and extends the same result for: $\sigma$-free permutations [Marcus, Tardos '04] $K_{t}$-minor free graphs [Norine, Seymour, Thomas, Wollan '06]

## Small classes

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Bounded twin-width classes are small.

Subcubic graphs, interval graphs, triangle-free unit segment graphs have unbounded twin-width

## Small classes

Small: class with at most $n!c^{n}$ labeled graphs on [ $n$ ].
Theorem (B, Geniet, Kim, Thomassé, Watrigant 20+)
Bounded twin-width classes are small.

Is the converse true for hereditary classes?
Conjecture (small conjecture)
A hereditary class has bounded twin-width if and only if it is small.

## Future directions

## Obvious questions:

Algorithm to compute/approximate twin-width in general Fully classify classes with tractable FO model checking Small conjecture, polynomial expansion

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Better approximation algorithms on bounded twin-width classes Twin-width of Cayley graphs of finitely generated groups

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On arxiv
Twin-width I: tractable FO model checking [BKTW '20]
Twin-width II: small classes [BGKTW '20]
Twin-width III: Max Independent Set and Coloring [BGKTW '20]

