



Subcoloring of (unit) disk graphs

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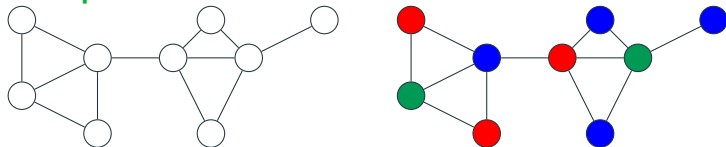
MFCS 2025

Context

Definitions :

- A k -coloring of a graph G is a partition of $V(G)$ into V_1, \dots, V_k such that $G[V_i]$ is an independent set for all $1 \leq i \leq k$.

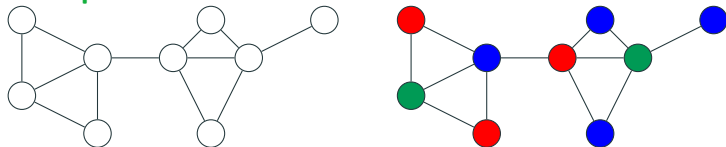
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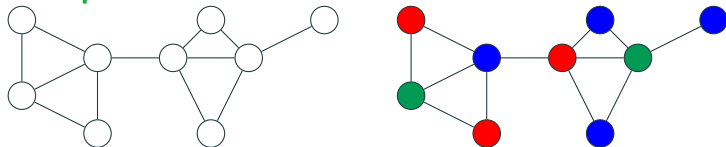
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- k -COLORING : Given a graph G , does $\chi(G) \leq k$ hold ?

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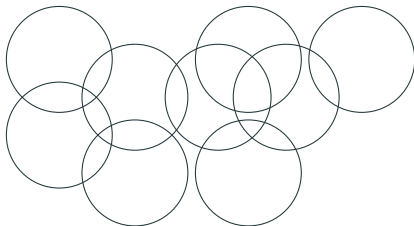
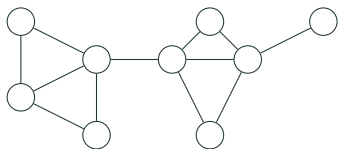


(Unit) disk graphs

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A (unit) disk graph is the intersection graph of (unit) disks on the plane.

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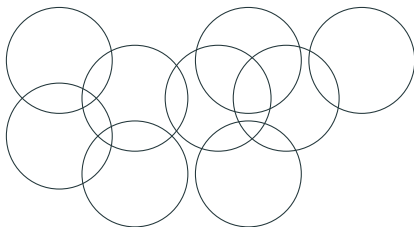
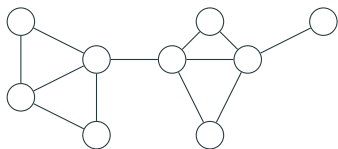


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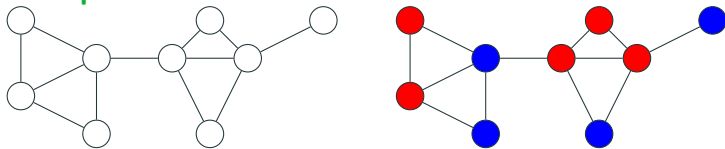
Theorem (Gräf, Stumpf and Weißenfels, '98)

3-COLORING is NP-complete on unit disk graphs and admits a 3-approximation algorithm.

Definitions :

- A k -subcoloring of a graph G is a partition of $V(G)$ into V_1, \dots, V_k such that $G[V_i]$ is a disjoint union of cliques for all $1 \leq i \leq k$.

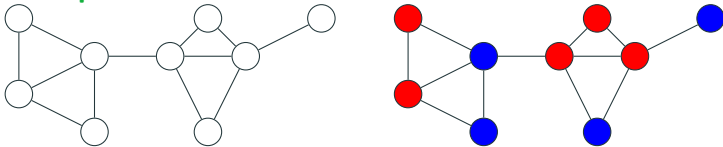
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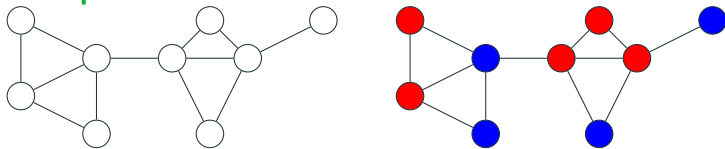
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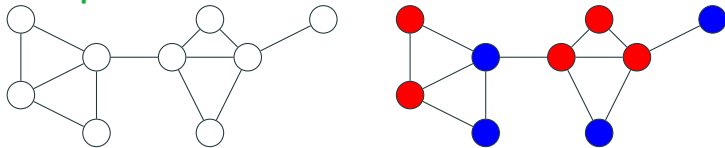
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2-SUBCOLORING *is NP-complete, even on triangle-free planar graph of maximum degree 4.*

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Theorem (Stacho, '2008)

k -SUBCOLORING is NP-complete on chordal graphs for $k \geq 3$ and polynomial for $k = 2$.

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NP-complete when $k \geq 3$

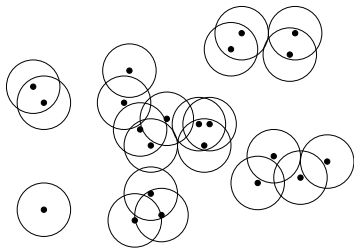
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Subcoloring of unit disk graphs

Observation

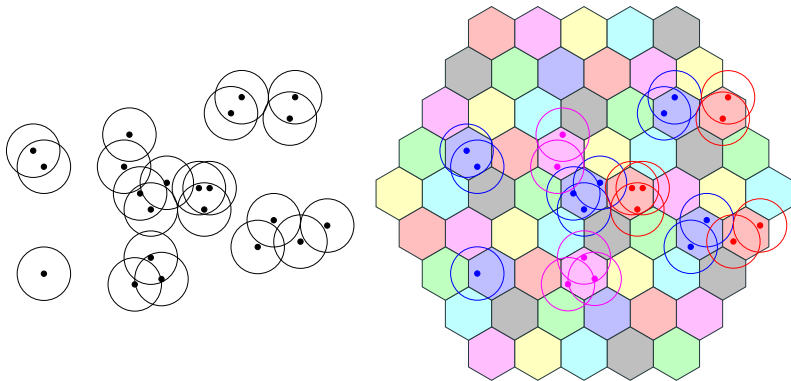
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Remark

Open whether 7 is the optimal, best lower bound is 4.

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Check if $\chi_s(G) = 1$. If $\chi_s(G) \geq 2$, return a 7-subcoloring.



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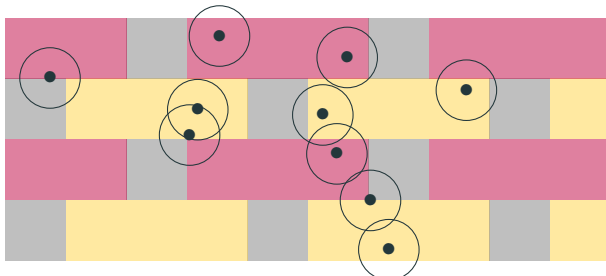
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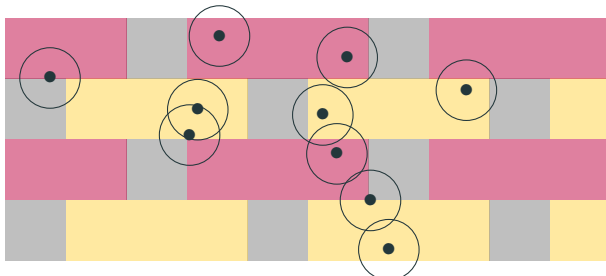


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2. In each cell, solve 2-SUBCOLORING in time $n^{O(\alpha)}$ (reduce to 2-SAT).

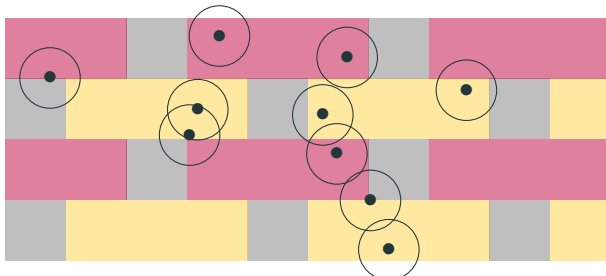


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3. If $\chi_s(G) = 2$, we can return a 6-subcoloring, otherwise return a 7-subcoloring.



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k -SUBCOLORING is NP-complete on co-comparability graphs for all $k \geq 3$.

Subcoloring of disks graphs

How large can be $\chi_s(G)$ for disk graphs ? Construction of Broersma et al.



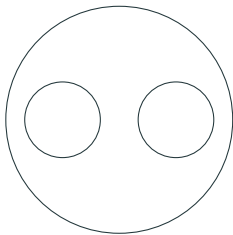
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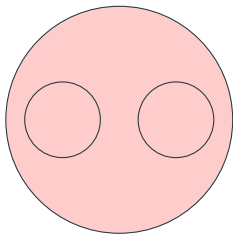
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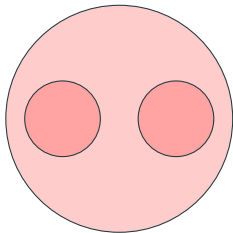
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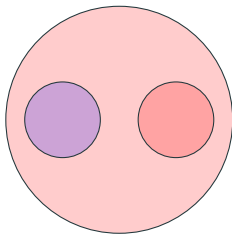
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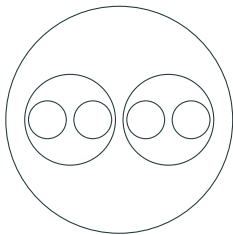
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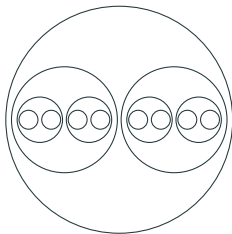
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$$\chi_s(G) = 4$$

Theorem (Broersma, Fomin, Nešetřil, and Woeginger, '2002)

For every $n \geq 1$, there exists a n -vertex disk graph such that

$$\chi_s(G) \geq \log_2(n).$$

The case of interval graphs

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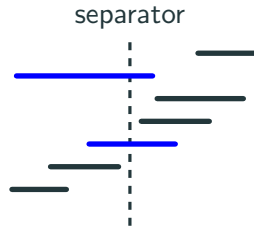
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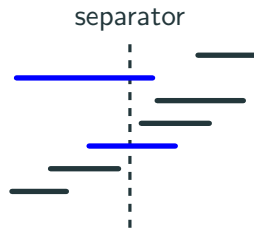
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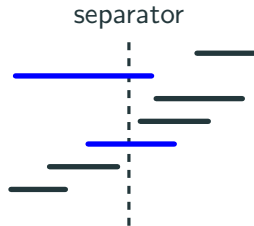
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Conclude by induction. □



Theorem

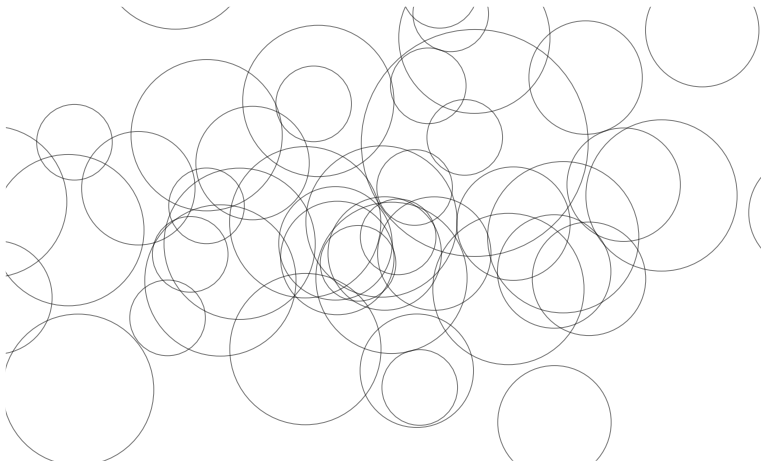
For any n -vertex disk graph with $n \geq 1$, $\chi_s(G) = O(\log^3(n))$.

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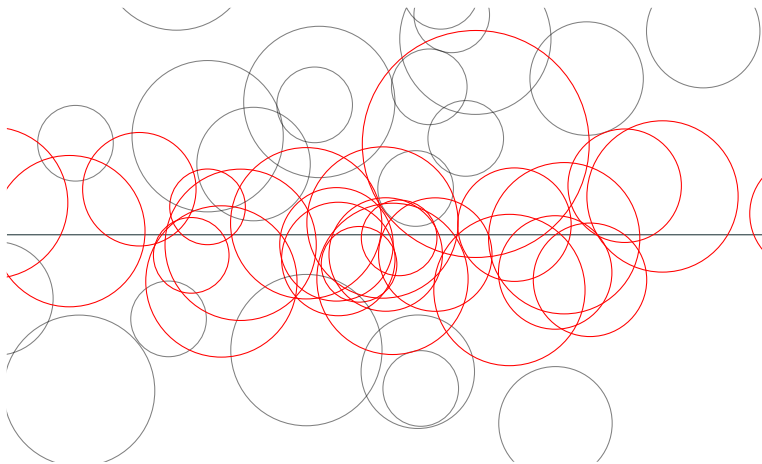
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Proof using Divide-And-Conquer.

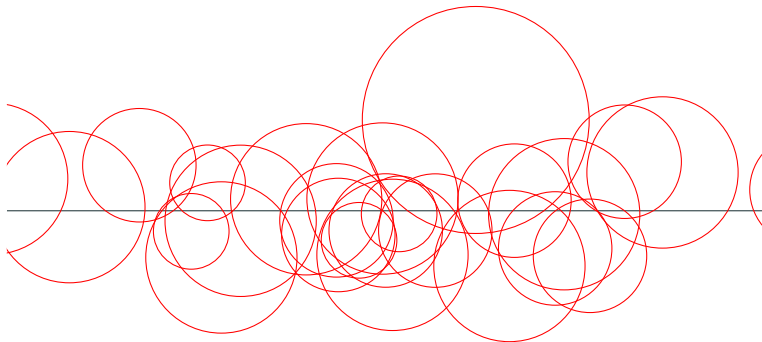
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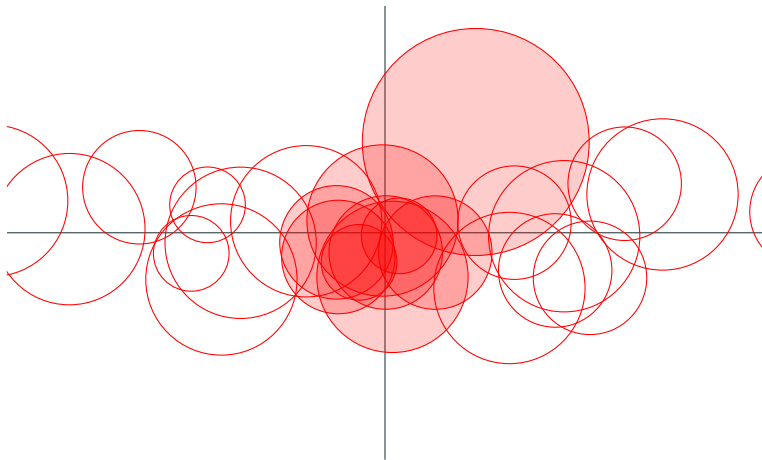
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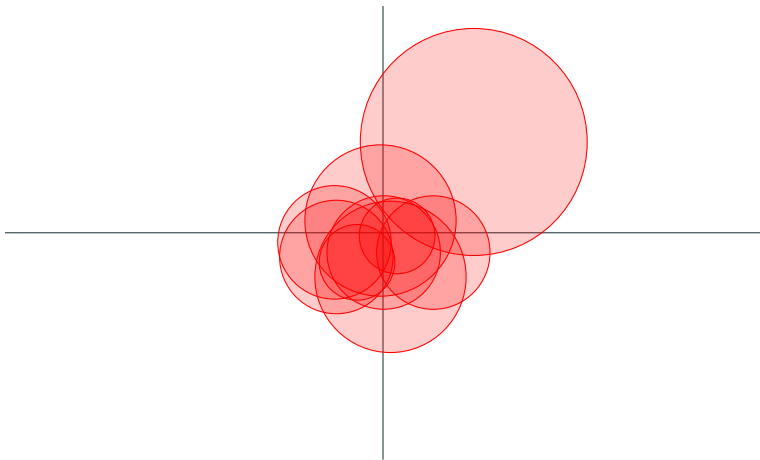
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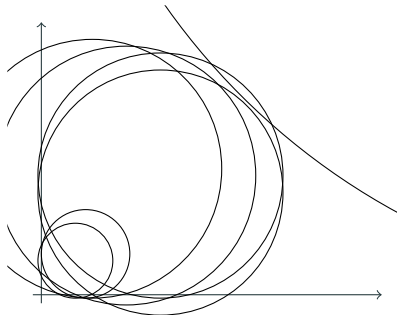


Δ -disk graphs

Definition

A disk graph G is a Δ -disk graph if it has a disk representation where :

- each disk center has positive coordinate ;
- no disk cross the origin ;
- each disk intersects both axis.



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Any interval graph is a Δ -disk graph.

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Theorem

There exists a $O(\log^2(n))$ -approximation algorithm for SUBCOLORING on n -vertex disk graphs.

Conclusion

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- Broesma et al : What is the complexity of k -SUBCOLORING of interval graphs, when k is part of the input ? (conjecture : polynomial)
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- Can we improve the upper bound of 7 on unit disk graphs ?
- Close the extremal values of $\chi_s(G)$ on disk graphs (between $\log(n)$ and $\log^3(n)$).

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- Study of Δ -disk graphs as a graph class.

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THANKS