

A Dense Neighborhood Lemma, with Applications to Domination and Chromatic Number

Romain Bourneuf
LaBRI, LIP

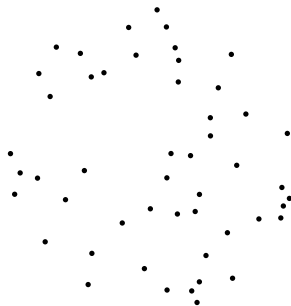
Joint work with Pierre Charbit (IRIF)
and Stéphan Thomassé (ENS de Lyon)

June 25, 2025

Dense Neighborhood Lemma

Theorem

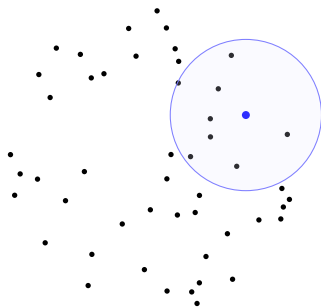
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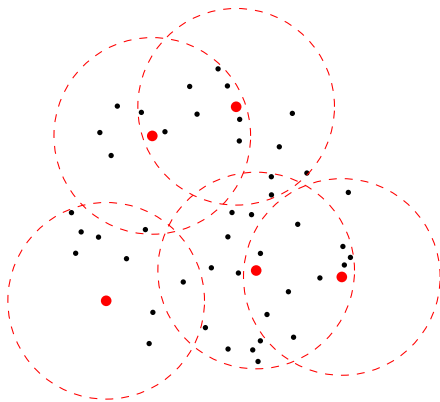


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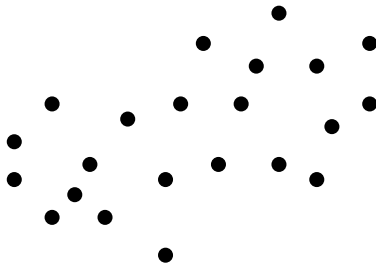
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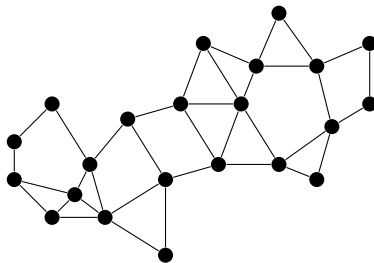
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- $f(\delta, \varepsilon) = \text{poly}(1/\delta, 1/\varepsilon)$.
- Similar statements in many other settings.

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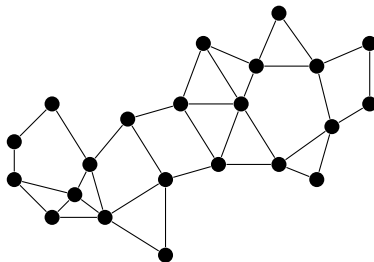


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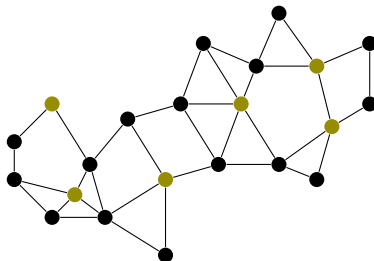
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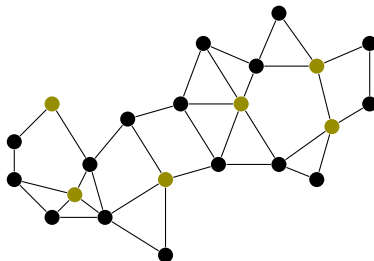
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Dominating set of size $f(\delta)$.

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Dream: Minimum degree $\delta n \Rightarrow$ dominating set of size $f(\delta)$.

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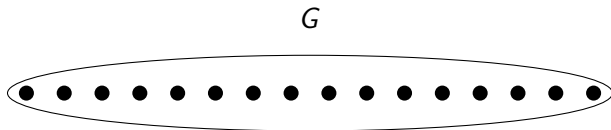
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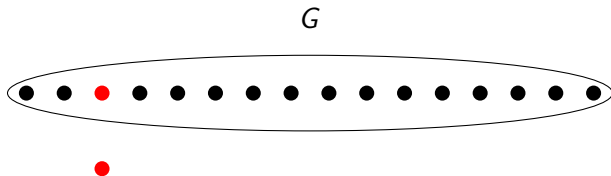
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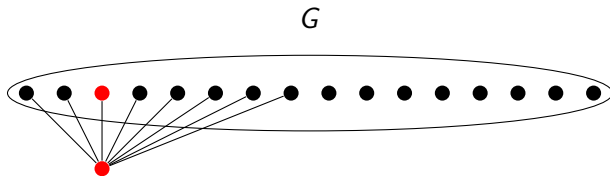
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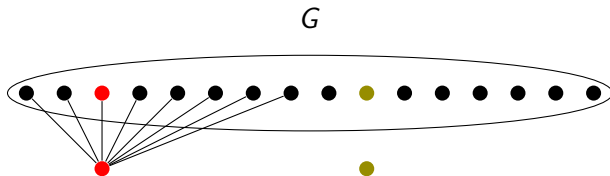
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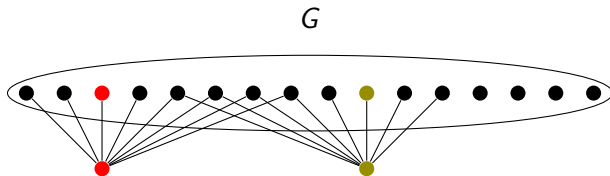
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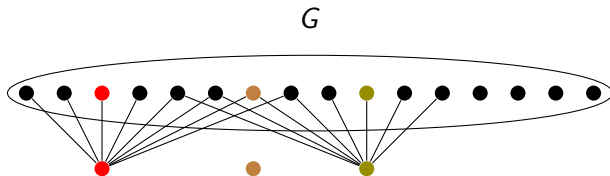
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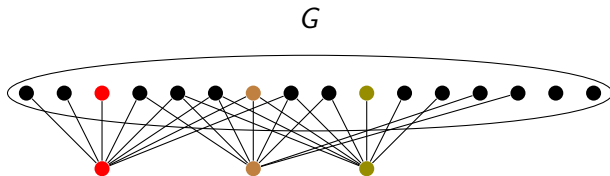
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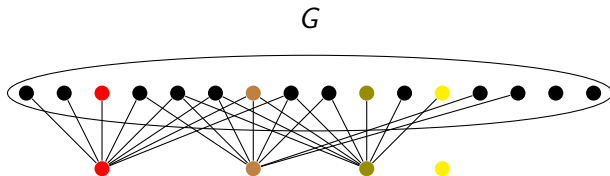
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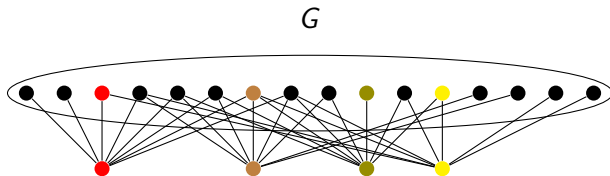
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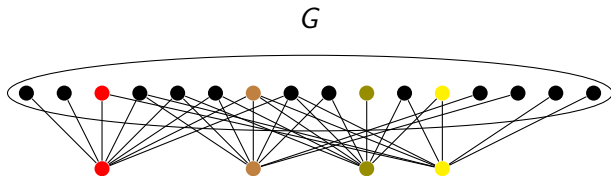
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If $G \sim G(n/2, n/2, 1/2)$ then $\delta(G) \approx n/4$ but $\gamma(G) \approx \log(n)$.

VC-dimension

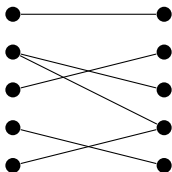
Definition (Vapnik, Cervonenkis '71)

A class \mathcal{C} of graphs has bounded *VC-dimension* if it does not contain all bipartite graphs as semi-induced subgraphs.

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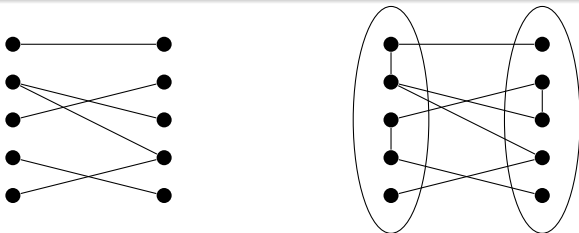
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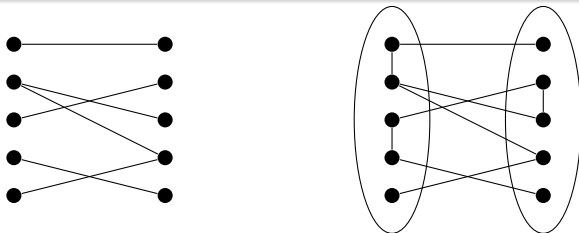
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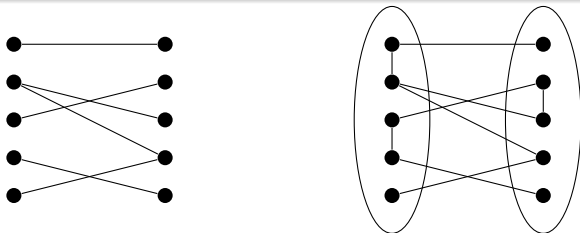


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Theorem [Haussler, Welzl '89]

If G has VC-dimension d and minimum degree δn then G has a dominating set of size $f(\delta, d)$.

VC-dimension of threshold graphs

Proposition [Folklore]

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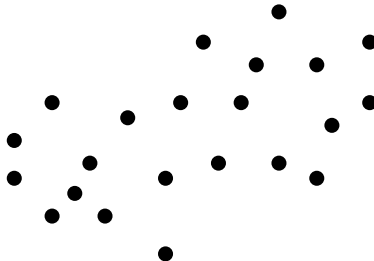
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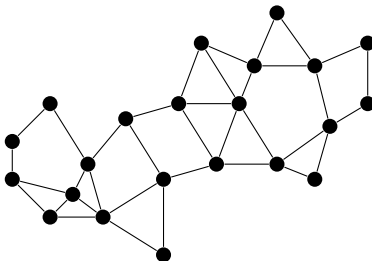
Every n -vertex graph is a threshold graph in $\mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow$ needs to depend on N .

Trigraphs

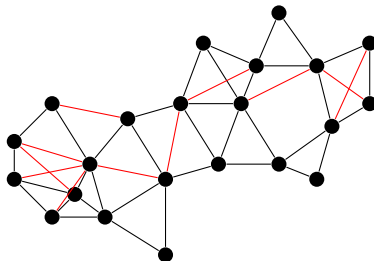
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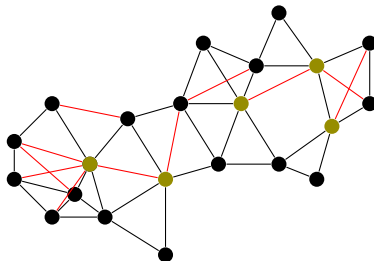


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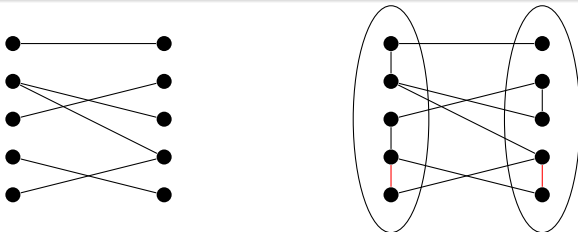


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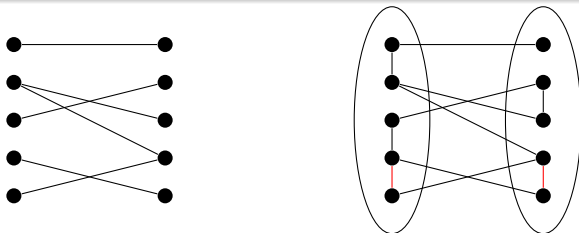
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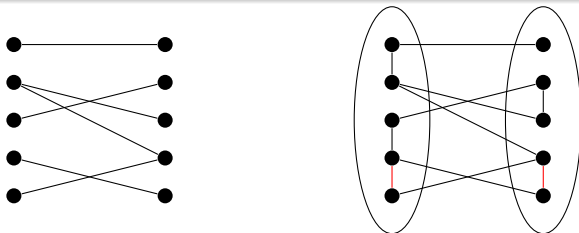


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Chromatic number

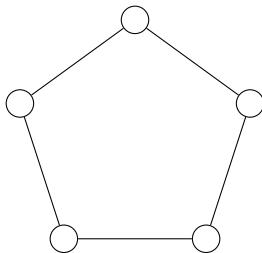
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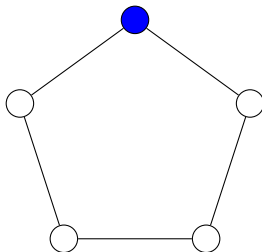
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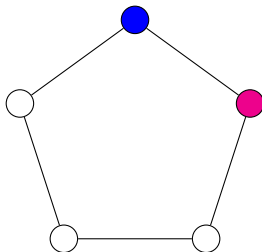
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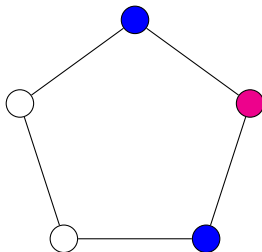
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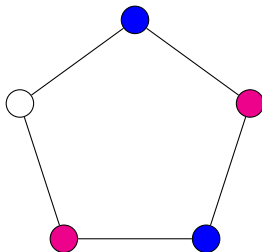
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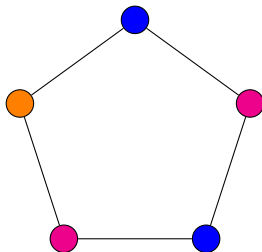
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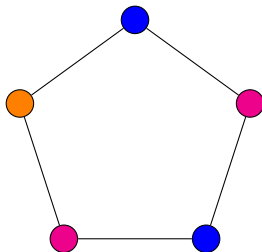
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Theorem [Mycielski, Zykov, Tutte, Erdős...]

There exist triangle-free graphs with arbitrarily large χ .

The chromatic threshold of triangle-free graphs ($1/2$)

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Conjecture [Erdős, Simonovits '73]

The chromatic threshold of triangle-free graphs is $1/3$.

The chromatic threshold of triangle-free graphs (2/2)

Theorem [Thomassen '02]

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Theorem [Brandt, Thomassé '04]

Every triangle-free graph with minimum degree $> n/3$ has chromatic number at most 4.

A quick proof

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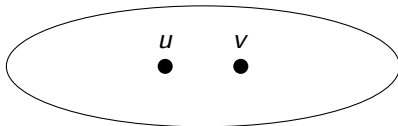
$|N(x) \cup N(u) \cup N(v)| \geq 3 \cdot (1/3 + \varepsilon) \cdot n - 2 \cdot \varepsilon n > n$, a contradiction.

Clustering

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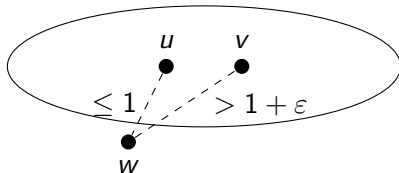
$V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, set of n points. There is a partition of V into $2^{\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)}$ clusters such that if u, v are in the same cluster,



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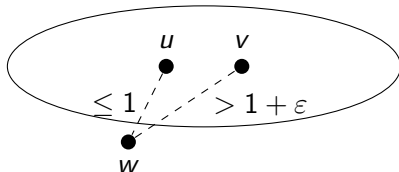
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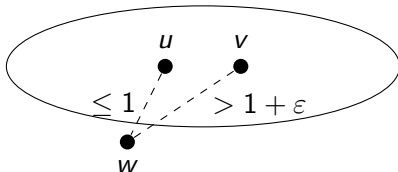
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There is always an ε -fair set of recipients of size $O(1/\varepsilon^2)$.

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Thank you!