# Local structure for vertex-minors 

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Joint work with Jim Geelen and Paul Wollan.

## Kuratowski's Theorem

A graph is planar iff it has no $K_{5}$ or $K_{3,3}$ minor.

planar graphs

forbidden minors

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Graph Minors Theorem (Robertson \& Seymour 2004)
Every minor-closed class has finitely many forbidden minors.

## Theorem (Robertson \& Seymour 2003)

The graphs in any proper minor-closed class "decompose" into parts that "almost embed" in a surface of bounded genus.

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## Bouchet's Theorem

A graph is a circle graph iff it has no $W_{5}, \hat{W}_{6}$, or $W_{7}$ vertex-minor.

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Conjecture (Oum 2017)
Every vertex-minor-closed class has finitely many forbidden vertex-minors.

Conjecture (Geelen)
The graphs in any proper vertex-minor-closed class "decompose" into parts that are "almost" circle graphs.


## Conjecture (Geelen)

The graphs in any proper vertex-minor-closed class "decompose" into parts that are "almost" circle graphs.


Ongoing project with Jim Geelen \& Paul Wollan aiming to prove the conjecture.

Geelen and Oum's Theorem
A graph is a circle graph iff it has no $W_{5}, W_{6}, \ldots$ pivot-minor.

circle graphs

forbidden pivot-minors

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## Conjecture (Oum 2017)

Every pivot-minor-closed class has finitely many forbidden pivot-minors.

Geelen and Oum's Theorem
A graph is a circle graph iff it has no $W_{5}, W_{6}, \ldots$ pivot-minor.

## Common generalization! <br> (Bouchet 1988; de Fraysseix 1981)

Conjecture (Oum 2017)
Every pivot-minor-closed class has finitely many forbidden pivot-minors.

## Grid Theorem (Robertson \& Seymour 1986)

For any planar graph $H$, every graph with tree-width $\geq f(H)$ has a minor isomorphic to $H$.

If you cannot "decompose away the whole graph", then there is a big grid as a minor.


Theorem (Geelen, Kwon, McCarty, \& Wollan 2020)
For any circle graph $H$, every graph with rank-width $\geq f(H)$ has a vertex-minor isomorphic to $H$.

If you cannot "rank-decompose away the whole graph", then there is a big comparability grid as a vertex-minor.


Flat Wall Theorem (Robertson \& Seymour 1995)
For any proper minor-closed class $\mathcal{F}$ and any $G \in \mathcal{F}$ with a large grid minor, there is a planar subgraph containing a lot of the grid so that the rest of G "almost attaches" onto just the outer face.


## Flat Wall Theorem (Robertson \& Seymour 1995)

For any proper minor-closed class $\mathcal{F}$ and any $G \in \mathcal{F}$ with a large grid minor, there is a planar subgraph containing a lot of the grid so that the rest of G "almost attaches" onto just the outer face.


## Local Structure Theorem (Geelen, McCarty, \& Wollan)

For any proper vertex-minor-closed class $\mathcal{F}$ and any $G \in \mathcal{F}$ with a prime circle graph containing a comparability grid,


## Local Structure Theorem (Geelen, McCarty, \& Wollan)

For any proper vertex-minor-closed class $\mathcal{F}$ and any $G \in \mathcal{F}$ with a prime circle graph containing a comparability grid, the rest of $G$ "almost attaches" in a way that is "mostly compatible".

The vertex-minors of a graph $G$ are the graphs that can be obtained from $G$ by

## vertex deletion

2) local complementation


G

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The vertex-minors of a graph $G$ are the graphs that can be obtained from $G$ by

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2) local complementation: select a vertex $v$ and replace the induced subgraph on neighborhood(v) by its complement.


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G-u
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G * v-u
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The vertex-minors of a graph $G$ are the induced subgraphs of graphs that are locally equivalent to $G$ (that is, can be obtained from $G$ by a sequence of local complementations).


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$$
G * v * v=G
$$

## Why local equivalence classes?

- nice interpretation for graph states in quantum computing


FIG. 1. Quantum computation by measuring two-state parti-
(Raussendorf-Briegel, Van den Nest-Dehaene-De Moor)

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FIG. 1. Quantum computation by measuring two-state parti-
(Raussendorf-Briegel, Van den Nest-Dehaene-De Moor)
Conjecture (Geelen)
If the graph states that can be prepared come from a proper vertex-minor-closed class $\mathcal{F}$, then $B Q P_{\mathcal{F}}=B P P$.

## Why local equivalence classes?

- nice interpretation for graph states in quantum computing
- locally equivalent graphs have the same cut-rank function

| $X$ |
| :---: |
| $X$ |
| $X$ | \(\left.\begin{array}{llllll}0 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1 \& 1 \& 1 <br>

0 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1 \& 1 \& 1 <br>
0 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1 \& 1 \& 1 <br>
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adjacency matrix


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adjacency matrix


The cut-rank of $X \subseteq V(G)$ is the rank of $\operatorname{adj}[X, \bar{X}]$ over $\mathrm{GF}_{2}$.

## Why local equivalence classes?

- nice interpretation for graph states in quantum computing
- locally equivalent graphs have the same cut-rank function

separators $\longrightarrow$ cut-rank


## Why local equivalence classes?

- nice interpretation for graph states in quantum computing
- locally equivalent graphs have the same cut-rank function
- locally equivalent circle graphs can be efficiently represented

chord diagram

circle graph

tour graph


View the chord diagram as a 3-regular graph...


View the chord diagram as a 3-regular graph and contract each of the chords to get the tour graph.


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View the chord diagram as a 3 -regular graph and contract each of the chords to get the tour graph. It has a specified Eulerian circuit. Consider locally complementing at $v$ then $u$. To delete $v$...

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View the chord diagram as a 3 -regular graph and contract each of the chords to get the tour graph. It has a specified Eulerian circuit. Consider locally complementing at $v$ then $u$. To delete $v . .$.

chord diagram

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View the chord diagram as a 3-regular graph and contract each of the chords to get the tour graph. It has a specified Eulerian circuit. Consider locally complementing at $v$ then $u$. To delete $v$, split it off in the tour graph.


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Theorem (Kotzig, Bouchet)
If $H$ and $G$ are prime circle graphs, then $H$ is a vertex-minor of $G \Longleftrightarrow \operatorname{tour}(H)$ completely immerses into tour $(G)$.


## Lemma (Bouchet)

If $H$ is a vertex-minor of $G$ and $v \in V(G) \backslash V(H)$, then $H$ is also a vertex-minor of either

1) $G-v$,
2) $G * v-v$, or
3) $G \times u v-v$ for each neighbour $u$ of $v$.

Consider a planar graph with a spanning tree T. Draw a curve closely around $T$. So $E(G) \backslash E(T)$ yields one set of non-crossing chords and $E(T)$ yields another. The circle graph is fund $(T)$. Taking the dual just exchanges sides.

planar graph

Consider a planar graph with a spanning tree $T$. Draw a curve closely around $T$. So $E(G) \backslash E(T)$ yields one set of non-crossing chords and $E(T)$ yields another. The circle graph is fund $(T)$. Taking the dual just exchanges sides.
planar graph

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chord diagram

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Theorem (Bouchet)
The fundamental graphs of two distinct, connected binary matroids are pivot equivalent iff the matroids are dual.

Rank-width $(G)$ is the minimum width of a subcubic tree $T$ with leafs $V(G)$.


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$\operatorname{width}(T)=\max _{e \in E(T)} \operatorname{cut}-\operatorname{rank}\left(X_{e}\right)$

## Theorem (Geelen, Kwon, McCarty, \& Wollan 2020)

For any circle graph $H$, every graph with rank-width $\geq f(H)$ has a vertex-minor isomorphic to $H$.


## Conjecture (Oum 2009)

A class of graphs has bounded rank-width if and only if it does not contain all bipartite circle graph as pivot-minors.


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Would be a common generalization!

Thank you!

