Vertex-minors and structure for dense graphs

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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

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



planar graphs



forbidden minors

Theorem (Robertson & Seymour 2003) The graphs in any proper minor-closed class "almost embed" in a surface of bounded genus.

Figure by Felix Reidl



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Theory of "sparsity" (Nešetřil & Ossona de Mendez)

Theorem (Robertson & Seymour 2003) The graphs in any proper minor-closed class "almost embed" in a surface of bounded genus.



Bouchet's Theorem A graph is a circle graph iff it has no W_5 , \hat{W}_6 , or W_7 vertex-minor.



circle graphs



forbidden vertex-minors

Conjecture (Oum 2017)

Every **vertex-minor**-closed class has **finitely many** minimal forbidden vertex-minors.



circle graphs



forbidden vertex-minors

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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circle graphs forbidden pivot-minors Common generalization! (Bouchet 1988; de Fraysseix 1981) Conjecture (Oum 2017)

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



circle graphs forbidden pivot-minors Common generalization! (Bouchet 1988; de Fraysseix 1981)

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.

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Theorem (Geelen, Kwon, McCarty, Wollan) A class of graphs "fully decomposes" iff it does not have all circle graphs as vertex-minors.

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Theorem (Geelen, Kwon, McCarty, Wollan) A class of graphs "fully decomposes" iff it does not have all circle graphs as vertex-minors.

Theorem (Geelen, McCarty, & Wollan) Relative to a "highly-connected" circle graph, the rest of the graph "almost attaches compatibly".

G

- 1) vertex deletion and
- 2) local complementation



G

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- 1) vertex deletion and
- 2) local complementation (replace the induced subgraph on the neighborhood of v by its complement).



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chord diagram

circle graph G





chord diagram

circle graph G





circle graph G * v

chord diagram





circle graph G * v * u

chord diagram





chord diagram

circle graph G * v * u





chord diagram

circle graph G * v * u - v

Why local equivalence classes?

• 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-

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Conjecture (Geelen)

When the graph states that can be prepared have no H-vertex-minor, $BQP_{H} = BPP$.
Why local equivalence classes?

- graph states in quantum computing
- rank-connectivity



adjacency matrix



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Why local equivalence classes?

- graph states in quantum computing
- rank-connectivity
- has a nice interpretation for circle graphs...





chord diagram



circle graph

tour graph



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













circle graph

tour graph



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.



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.



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circle 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, **split it off** in the **tour graph**.



In a 4-regular graph, there are 3 ways to **split off** v.



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Theorem (Kotzig, Bouchet)

If H and G are 2-rank-connected circle graphs, then H is a vertex-minor of $G \iff tour(H)$ immerses into tour(G).



Lemma (Bouchet)

If H is a vertex-minor of G and $v \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$, then H is a vertex-minor of either G - v, G * v - v, or G * v * u * v - v for each neighbour u of v.





tour graph

Consider a 2-face-coloring.



tour graph

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Consider a 2-face-coloring. Put a vertex in each black face,



tour graph

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tour graph

Consider a 2-face-coloring. Put a vertex in each black face, and an edge between touching faces.



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Consider a 2-face-coloring. Put a vertex in each black face, and an edge between touching faces. Consider a split at v.


tour graph



tour graph



tour graph



tour graph



tour graph



tour graph

Consider a 2-face-coloring. Put a vertex in each black face, and an edge between touching faces. Consider a split at v. The split that we do not allow...



tour graph

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tour graph

Consider a 2-face-coloring. Put a vertex in each black face, and an edge between touching faces. Consider a split at v. The split that we do not allow breaks the orientation.



Take a planar graph.



Take a planar graph. Add a vertex to each edge



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Take a planar graph. Add a vertex to each edge and join consecutive vertices in each face.



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Take a planar graph. Add a vertex to each edge and join consecutive vertices in each face. This is the **medial graph**.



Take a planar graph. Add a vertex to each edge and join consecutive vertices in each face. This is the **medial graph**. The vertices of the planar graph give a 2-coloring.



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Conjecture (Geelen)

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

Grid Theorem (Robertson-Seymour)

A class of graphs has unbounded branch-width iff it has all planar graphs as minors.



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Theorem (Geelen-Kwon-McCarty-Wollan)

A class of graphs has unbounded rank-width iff it has all circle graphs as vertex-minors.

Conjectured by Oum.

$$X \qquad V(G) \setminus X$$

$$X \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



 $\operatorname{cut-rank}(X) = \operatorname{cut-rank}(V(G) \setminus X)$



Cut-rank(X) is invariant under local complementation.



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



$$\mathsf{width}(T) = \max_{e \in E(T)} \mathsf{cut-rank}(X_e)$$

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Theorem (Geelen-Kwon-McCarty-Wollan)

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decomposition

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A graph G is a *p*-perturbation of G' if the diagonal of Adj(G) + Adj(G') can be filled in to rank $\leq p$.



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WMA our favorite circle graph is an induced subgraph.



Say one whose **tour graph** has a big grid subgraph.

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The neighborhood of x can be stored as Σ_x ⊆ E(tour graph) of even size.



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Every **vertex-minor**-closed class has **finitely many** minimal forbidden vertex-minors.

Conjecture (folklore)

Can test if an n-vertex graph has an H-vertex-minor in time $poly_{H}(n)$.

Conjecture (Esperet; see Davies)

The chromatic number of any graph with clique number ω and no *H*-vertex-minor is $\leq poly_{H}(\omega)$

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Thank you!