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Faculté des Sciences

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Characterization and complexity of  
Thin Strip Graphs

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to write a dedication here*

*“You may also include one or more general quotes related to your topic.”*

**Name of the author, date**

*“Another quote.”*

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# Acknowledgment

I want to thank ...

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# Introduction

Talk about what this is etc...



# Chapter 1

## Background

### 1.1 Graphs and intersections

#### 1.1.1 Graphs

A  $G$  is defined as  $G = (V, E)$ , where  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $E$  the set of edges, where  $E \subseteq \binom{V}{2}$ . The vertices  $v, w \in V$  such that  $e = vw \in E$  links are called the *endpoints* of  $e$ .

**Definition 1.1.1.** An embedding of a graph  $G$  into a surface  $\Sigma$  is a mapping of  $G$  in  $\Sigma$  where the vertices correspond to distinct points and the edges correspond to simple arcs connecting the images of their endpoints. [GF17].

A graph  $G$  is planar if there is an embedding of this graph that does not have any crossing between the edges.

**Definition 1.1.2.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  and  $S \subset V$ , an induced subgraph is a graph  $H$  of  $G$  whose vertex set is  $S$  and its edge set  $F = \{vw : v, w \in S, vw \in E\}$ .

**Definition 1.1.3.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  its complement graph  $\overline{G}$  is the graph such that its edge set is defined as:  $\{vw : v, w \in V, vw \notin E\}$ .

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**Definition 1.1.4.**  $H$  is called a *minor* of  $G$  if  $H$  can be constructed by deleting edges and vertices, or contracting edges.

**Theorem 1.1.5** (Kuratowski). *A graph  $G$  is planar if and only if it does not contain  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  as a minor or a induced subgraph.*

**Definition 1.1.6.** A path  $P_n$  in a graph  $G$  is a sequence of vertices  $v_1 v_2 v_3 \dots v_n$  such that  $v_i v_{i+1} \in E$ .

**Definition 1.1.7.** A cycle  $C_n$  in a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a path  $v_1 \dots v_n$  such that  $v_1 = v_n$ .

**Definition 1.1.8.** A chord of a cycle  $C_n$  with  $n \geq 4$  is an edge that connects two non consecutive vertices of  $C_n$ .

**Definition 1.1.9.** A triangular chord of a cycle is a chord that will create a new triangle ( $C_3$ ).

**Definition 1.1.10.** A graph  $G = (V, E)$  is complete if every pair of distinct  $v_1, v_2 \in V$  are adjacent. This is denoted  $K_n$  with  $n$  the size of the graph. If  $G$  is an induced graph of  $H$  then  $G$  is a clique of  $H$ .

**Definition 1.1.11.** A graph  $G$  is bipartite if there exist two disjoint subsets  $A, B \subset V$  such that  $A \cup B = V$  and each edge  $e \in E$  has an endpoint on  $A$  and the another on  $B$ .

**Definition 1.1.12.** A bipartite graph  $G$  with bipartitions  $A$  and  $B$  is complete bipartite if every pair of vertices  $v \in A, w \in B$  are adjacent. It is denoted as  $K_{n,m}$ , being  $n$  and  $m$  the size of each bipartition.

Some graphs can be characterized with properties. A property of a graph is a property that is preserved under all its isomorphisms. These properties are called *hereditary* if they are also preserved under all its induced subgraphs; they are called *minor-hereditary* if they are also preserved under its minors (e.g. Kuratowski's planar graph characterization [1.1.5]).

**Definition 1.1.13.** An forbidden induced subgraph (minor) of a graph class  $X$  is a graph such that if it is the induced subgraph (minor) of a graph  $G$ , we know that  $G \notin X$ .

The coloration of a graph is a color assignment to each vertex such that the color of the two endpoints of every edge of the graph is different.

**Definition 1.1.14.** The chromatic number of a graph  $\chi(G)$  is the smallest number of colors needed to have an acceptable coloration of  $G$ .

**Definition 1.1.15.** The clique number of a graph  $\omega(G)$  is the size of the biggest clique of  $G$ . We can observe that for every graph:  $\chi(G) \geq \omega(G)$ .

**Definition 1.1.16.** A perfect graph is a graph that respects this condition for every induced subgraph:

$$\omega(G) = \chi(G)$$

**Theorem 1.1.17** (Lovasz).  *$G$  is perfect if and only if  $\overline{G}$  is perfect.*

### 1.1.2 Intersection graphs

**Definition 1.1.18.** The *intersection graph* of a collection  $\zeta$  of objects is the graph  $(\zeta, E)$  such that  $c_1 c_2 \in E \Leftrightarrow c_1 \cap c_2 \neq \emptyset$ .

An intersection can be seen as a relationship between two objects. In this thesis, it will be important to define these relations more formally to characterize intersection graphs.

**Definition 1.1.19.** A partial order is a binary relation  $\leq$  over a set  $A$  satisfying these axioms:

- if  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq a$  then  $a = b$  (antisymmetry).
- if  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq c$  then  $a \leq c$  (transitivity).
- $a \leq a$  (reflexivity).

**Definition 1.1.20.** A total order is a partial order where the reflexivity order is replaced by the connex property:

$$a \leq b \text{ or } b \leq a$$

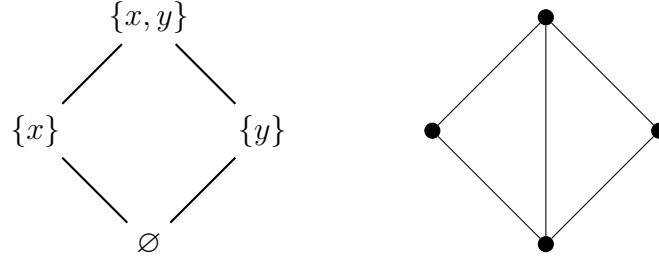


Figure 1.1: On the left, Hasse diagram of a poset of the power set of 2 elements ordered by inclusion. On the right, the comparability graph of this poset.

**Definition 1.1.21.** A partially ordered set or poset  $(S, \leq)$  where  $S$  a set and  $\leq$  a partial order on  $S$ .

**Definition 1.1.22.** A spanning order  $(V, <)$  of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a total order on  $V$  such that for any three vertices  $u < v < w$ :

$$uw \in E \rightarrow uv \in E \text{ or } vw \in E$$

**Definition 1.1.23.** A graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a comparability graph if there exists a partial order  $\leq$  such that  $vw \in E \Leftrightarrow v \leq w$  or  $w \leq v$ . Equivalently,  $G$  is a comparability graph if it is the comparability graph of a poset. For example, the Hasse diagram (figure 1.1) is a comparability graph where the relation is inclusion.

**Definition 1.1.24.** A graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a co-comparability graph if its complement is a comparability graph.

There are multiple characterizations for the co-comparability graph class; we will see one that uses a poset to characterize it:

**Theorem 1.1.25** (Damaschke [Dam92]). *A graph  $G$  is a co-comparability graph if and only if it has a spanning order.*

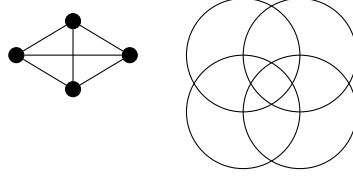


Figure 1.2: Realization of a UDG (Unit Disk Graph).

## Disks

A disk graph  $G$  is a graph that is an intersection graph of disks on the plane, when the size of the disk is unitary, we talk about unit disk graphs. This class of graphs is important for this thesis, as thin strip graphs are a sub-class of unit disk graphs.

We will refer to the unit disk graph class as UDG and an example of a realization can be found in the figure 1.2.

**Induced forbidden subgraphs** The characterization of this class with respect to its induced forbidden subgraphs has been studied [AZ16].

**Theorem 1.1.26** (Atminas-Zamaraev). *For every integer  $k > 1$ ,  $\overline{K_2 + C_{2k+1}}$  is a minimal induced subgraph of UDG.*

**Theorem 1.1.27** (Atminas-Zamaraev). *For every integer  $k > 4$ ,  $\overline{C_{2k}}$  is a minimal induced subgraph of UDG.*

## 1.2 Complexity

Complexity theory has the objective to establish lower bounds on how efficient an algorithm can be for a given problem [Sip06]. This approach let us have a reference point to establish the difficulty of a problem.

**Definition 1.2.1.** Let  $\Sigma$  be a finite alphabet,  $\Sigma^*$  every word derived from  $\Sigma$ ,  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$  is a decision problem.

**Definition 1.2.2.** A decider for a decision problem  $A$  is an deterministic algorithm  $V$  where

$$A = \{w | V \text{ accepts } w\}$$

$A$  is polynomially decidable if it has a polynomial time decider [Sip06].

**Definition 1.2.3.** A verifier for a decision problem  $A$  is an deterministic algorithm  $V$  where

$$A = \{w | V \text{ accepts } \langle w, c \rangle \text{ for some string } c\}$$

$A$  is polynomially verifiable if it has a polynomial time verifier [Sip06].

### 1.2.1 P vs NP

**Definition 1.2.4.** A problem  $L \in \mathcal{P}$  if  $L$  is polynomially decidable.

**Definition 1.2.5.** A problem  $L \in \mathcal{NP}$  if  $L$  is polynomially verifiable. Thus,  $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{NP}$ .

To prove a bound of complexity on an unknown problem  $L$  we have to find another problem with already known complexity and find equivalences between those two. This can be achieved through *reductions*.

**Definition 1.2.6.** A reduction of a problem  $L$  to a problem  $M$  is a mapping of an instance of  $L$  ( $I_L$ ) to an instance of  $M$  ( $I_M$ ) such that  $I_L$  is true for the problem  $L$  if and only if  $I_M$  is true for the problem  $M$ . This is noted  $L \leq M$  and  $L \leq_P M$  if the reduction is done in polynomial time.

With this concept we can define new complexity classes.  $\mathcal{NP}$ -hard is the set of problems so that we can reduce every  $\mathcal{NP}$  problem to. The set of problems that are both  $\mathcal{NP}$ -hard and  $\mathcal{NP}$  are called  $\mathcal{NP}$ -complete. This is generalized to every complexity class ( $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{RP}$ , etc...)

**Satisfiability problem** The satisfiability problem (SAT) is to decide the satisfiability of a CNF formula  $\phi$ . A CNF formula is a boolean formula that is a conjunction of multiple clauses  $c_k$ . A clause is a disjunction of multiple literals. A literal may be a variable or a negation of a variable.

**Theorem 1.2.7** (Cook-Levin). *SAT is  $\mathcal{NP}$ -complete.*

**Clique problem** The clique problem is to find a maximum clique of a graph  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.2.8.** *CLIQUE is  $\mathcal{NP}$ -complete. [Kar72]*

**Theorem 1.2.9.** *CLIQUE is QPTAS when applied to disk graphs. [BGK<sup>+</sup>17]*

**Theorem 1.2.10** (Clark-Colbourn). *CLIQUE is  $\mathcal{P}$  when applied to unit disk graphs. [CCJ90]*

## 1.2.2 $\exists\mathbb{R}$ complexity class

$\exists\mathbb{R}$  is the class that describes the problems that can be reduced to *the existential theory of the reals*[Exi06a]. The existential theory of the reals is the problem of deciding if a sentence of this form is true:

$$(\exists X_1 \dots \exists X_n) : F(\exists X_1, \dots, \exists X_n)$$

where  $F$  is a quantifier-free formula in the reals. In other words, it is a conjunction of clauses where each clause is a real polynomial inequality where each variable  $X_k$  is a real number. We can see that ETR is NP-hard because SAT can be reduced to it.

*Proof.* Let's take an instance of SAT  $\phi_{SAT}$  with clauses  $c_k$  and variables  $x_k$ , we can construct an instance of ETR  $\phi_{ETR}$  where we can construct variables in the domain  $\{0, 1\}$  with this equality, so for each variable  $X_k$ :

$$X_k - X_k^2 = 0$$

Each literal of each clause will be positive or negative depending if the literal is cancelled in  $\phi_{SAT}$ :

$$x_k \rightarrow l = X_k$$

$$\neg x_k \rightarrow l = (1 - X_k)$$

Then for each clause we can have a polynomial for which the sum of the values of every literal in the clause must be greater than one, so that at least one literal is true:

$$\sum_{l \in c_k} l \geq 1$$

With this proof, it is easy to see that  $\phi_{ETR}$  is valid if and only if  $\phi_{SAT}$  is also valid. □

□

This result can show us that  $P \subseteq NP \subseteq \exists\mathbb{R}$ .

### Problems in $\exists\mathbb{R}$

In this section we will describe some problems that are  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -complete and will give an overview of the proof.

**The art gallery problem** Given a simple polygon  $P$  (without crossings between every side), we introduce *guards*. A guard  $g$  is a point such that every point of the polygon is watched by a guard. A point  $p$  is watched by a point  $q$  if the segment  $pq$  is contained in  $P$ . The subset  $G$ , being  $G$  the set of guards and  $G \subseteq P$ , is optimum if it has the minimal cardinality covering the whole polygon.

The art gallery problem is to decide, given a polygon  $P$  and a number of guards  $k$ , whether there exists a configuration of  $k$  guards in  $G$  guarding the whole polygon. The art gallery problem is  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -complete [AAM17].

**Proof idea** First of all, we can see that the art gallery problem is in  $\exists\mathbb{R}$  if we reduce this problem to ETR. If we have an instance  $(P, k)$  of the art gallery problem we can have a formula [EH06] like this:



$$\phi = \{\exists x_1 y_1, \dots, x_k y_k \forall p_x p_y : \text{INSIDE-POLYGON}(p_x, p_y) \rightarrow \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq k} \text{SEES}(x_i, y_i, p_x, p_y)\}$$

Where INSIDE-POLYGON returns 1 if  $(p_x, p_y) \in P$  and SEES returns 1 if the segment  $(x, y)(p_x, p_y) \in P$ .  $\phi$  is not a ETR formula, so we would like to construct a quantifier-free formula with the idea of  $\phi$ . To achieve this, the main idea is to have a small set of points  $Q \subseteq P$  such that if these points are watched, the whole polygon is watched. This subset  $Q$  is called the *witness set*. The only thing is now to create a polynomial for each point that ensures that the point is watched by a guard.

To finish the proof we have to prove that the art gallery problem is  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -hard. For this part an  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -complete problem has been deducted from ETR. For the problem ETR-INV we have a set of variables  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and a set of equations of this form:

$$x = 1, \quad x + y = z, \quad x \cdot y = 1$$

and the problem decides if it exists a solution to this set of equations such that the value of each variable is real in  $[\frac{1}{2}, 2]$ .

A reduction of ETR-INV is found to the art gallery problem by constructing a polygon  $P$  and finding a number  $g$  for that polygon such that the instance of ETR-INT is true if and only if  $P$  is covered by at most  $g$  guards.

**Stretchability** A pseudoline is a simple closed curve in the plane. The stretchability problem is to decide if given a pseudoline arrangement, it is equivalent to an arrangement of straight lines.

**Proof idea** ETR can be reduced to STRETCHABILITY due to Mnev's universality theorem. [Sch10]

**Unit disk graph recognition** The unit disk graph recognition is the problem that decides if a graph  $G$  is a unit disk graph. Unit disk graph recognition is  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -complete. [Sch13a]

**Proof idea** UDG recognition is a corollary of deciding whether a graph with a given length is realizable. This problem is  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -complete.

The reduction is done from STRETCHABILITY [Sch13a]. The reduction is done by adding a vertex to  $V$  for each pseudoline intersection. For each three consecutive points  $u_1, u_2, u_3$  along a pseudoline a widget will be added that will be only realizable if and only if the pseudoline can be stretched with the same arrangement.

## 1.3 Geometry

**Definition 1.3.1.**  $\text{dist}(a, b)$  denotes the distance between the points  $a$  and  $b$  and is calculated with:

$$\text{dist}(a, b) = \sqrt{(a_x - b_x)^2 + (a_y - b_y)^2}$$

The intersection of convex objects is a matter well studied for multiple subjects. In our case, it is interesting to know some properties about the intersection of disks, those ones being convex objects.

A set  $S$  is convex if:

$$\forall p, q \in S \ \forall \lambda \in [0, 1] : (1 - \lambda)p + \lambda q \in S$$

### 1.3.1 Stabbing

A *stabbing* is a point that traverses a set of intersecting objects. A lot of research has been done [Sch13b] on the minimal amount of stabblings to cover every object in a set. Stabbings can also be done with more complex structures than points, in that case we are talking about *coverings*.

**Theorem 1.3.2** (Helly). *Given a set  $Q$  of objects in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , if for each subset of  $Q$  of size  $d + 1$  their intersection is non empty, then  $\bigcap_{q \in Q} q \neq \emptyset$ . [Hel23]*

**Theorem 1.3.3.** *The problem that for a set of  $n$  disks whether there exists a regular  $n$ -gon whose vertices stab every disk of the set can be decided in  $O(n^{10.5}/\sqrt{\log(n)})$  [Sch13b]*

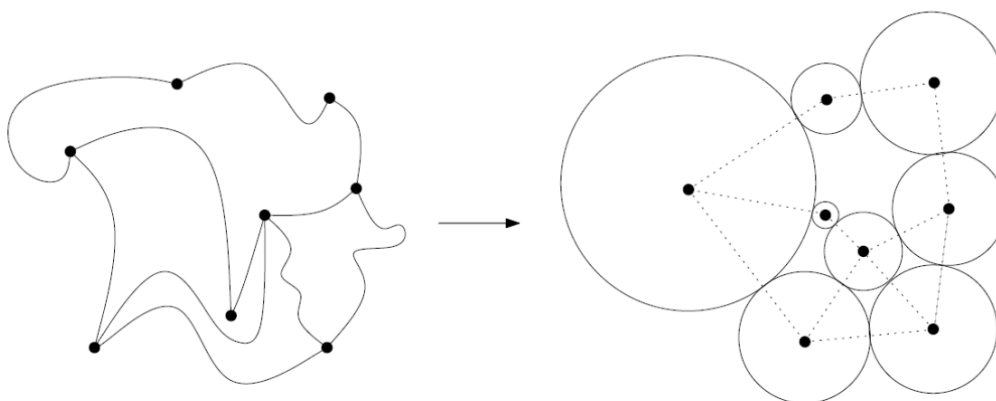


Figure 1.3: Circle packing of a planar graph. [Nac16]

### 1.3.2 Coin graphs

Penny graphs can be defined as disk graphs where the disks can just touch each other without overlapping. A famous theorem is derived from this class of graphs: the circle packing theorem.

**Theorem 1.3.4** (Circle packing theorem). *The circle packing theorem states that every simple connected planar graph  $G$  is a penny graph. [BS93]*

**Corollary 1.3.5.** *Planar graphs  $\subseteq$  disk graphs [Spi12].*

# Chapter 2

## Interval graphs

In this chapter we are going to introduce the class of interval graphs, which is one of the most used classes of intersection graphs at all. There are multiple types of interval graphs and the most relevant for the thesis are going to be defined below.

The mixed unit interval graphs have been introduced by Dourado et al. [DLP<sup>+</sup>12a] and its characterization is given by Joos [Joo13]. The proof of the characterization will not be given because of the length of it, but each family of forbidden subgraphs will be presented.

Last, we present unfettered unit interval graphs, which have been defined by Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17] while defining thin strip graphs in their paper.

### 2.1 Interval graphs

An interval graph is a graph  $G$  that is the intersection graph of a collection of closed intervals in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

First we present the main characterizations of interval graphs. In the next sections we present some other subclasses of interval graphs that will help us characterize the thin strip graphs on chapter 3. There are multiple characterizations of interval graphs that are equivalent, in this thesis we are going to present only one, which is the most relevant for our research:

**Theorem 2.1.1.**  *$G$  is an interval graph if and only if  $G$  does not contain  $C_4$  as an induced subgraph and  $\overline{G}$  has a transitive orientation (it is a co-comparability graph). (Gilmore and Hoffman [GH64])*

*Proof.* We want to prove that  $G$  is an interval graph if and only if it does not contain  $C_4$  and it is

### 2.1.1 Unit interval graphs

When every interval has the same length (or *unitary*), the intersection graph of this interval set is referred to as a unit interval graph (or UIG). Roberts [Rob68] shows in his paper about indifference relations a characterization of UIG and an interesting equivalence with another class:

**Theorem 2.1.2** (Roberts [Rob68]). *A graph is a unit interval graph if and only if it is a proper interval graph (an interval graph where no interval is a strict subset of another).*

**Theorem 2.1.3** (Roberts [Rob68]). *An interval graph is a unit interval graph if and only if it has no induced subgraph  $K_{1,3}$  (or claw).*

## 2.2 Mixed unit interval graphs

The next class of interval graphs that we present are mixed unit interval graphs, where each interval is unitary and can be closed, open, open-closed or closed-open.

In this paper we define four classes of unitary interval graphs:

$$\mathcal{U}^{++} = \{[x, y] : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x \leq y\}$$

$$\mathcal{U}^{--} = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x \leq y\}$$

$$\mathcal{U}^{+-} = \{[x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x \leq y\}$$

$$\mathcal{U}^{-+} = \{(x, y] : x, y \in \mathbb{R}, x \leq y\}$$

where  $\mathcal{U}^{++} = \text{UIG}$ .

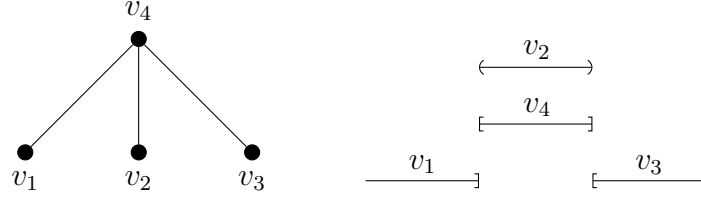


Figure 2.1: Representation of  $K_{1,3}$  as a MUIG.

**Theorem 2.2.1** (Dourado et al. [DLP<sup>+</sup>12b]). *The classes of the graphs  $\mathcal{U}^{--}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}^{++}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}^{-+}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}^{+-}$ , and  $\mathcal{U}^{-+} \cup \mathcal{U}^{+-}$  are the same.*

We can already show an equivalence between UIG and MUIG:

**Theorem 2.2.2** (Dourado et al. [DLP<sup>+</sup>12a]).  *$\text{UIG} \subsetneq \text{MUIG}$ .*

*Proof.* The strict inclusion is straightforward: we know that  $\text{UIG} = \mathcal{U}^{++} \subset \text{MUIG}$  by definition.

And we only have to find a forbidden subgraph in UIG that is a MUIG. By theorem 2.1.3 we have  $K_{1,3}$  forbidden in UIG, but it is in fact in MUIG if we take an interval set  $a, b, c, d$  such that:

- $a = [x, x + 1]$
- $b = (x, x + 1)$
- $c = [x + 1, x + 2]$  (or  $[x + 1, x + 2)$ )
- $d = [x - 1, x]$  (or  $[x - 1, x)$ )

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  (see Figure 2.1). □

A complete characterization by induced forbidden subgraphs have been found independently by A. Schuchat et al. [SSTW14a] and F. Joos [Joo13]. However, the Schuchat paper gives a polynomial algorithm to recognize MUIGs:

**Theorem 2.2.3** (Schuchat et al. [SSTW14b]). *The MUIG recognition problem is in  $\mathcal{P}$ . Moreover, there is an algorithm that solves it in  $O(|V|^2)$  for  $V$  the vertex set of a graph.*

### 2.2.1 Characterization

In this section we will go over the characterization of MUIG given by Joos with forbidden subgraphs. We will also review each one of these forbidden subgraphs and discuss them:

**Theorem 2.2.4** (Joos [Joo13]).  *$G$  is a MUIG if and only if it is a  $\{F\} \cup \mathcal{R} \cup \mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{S}'' \cup \mathcal{T}$ -free interval graph.*

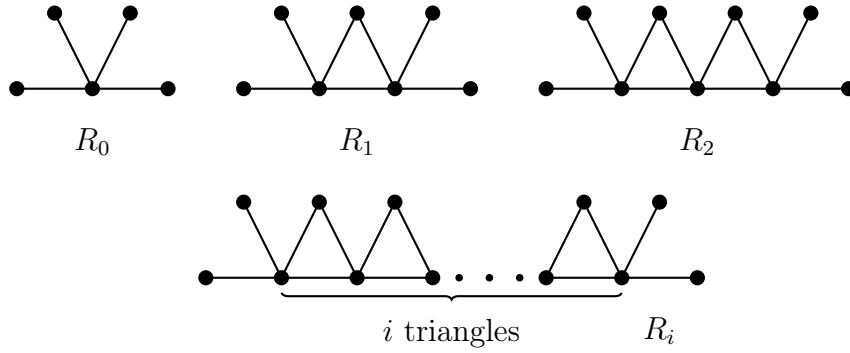


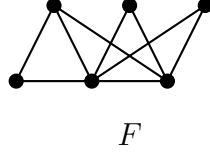
Figure 2.2: The class  $\mathcal{R}$ . [Joo13]

Without including  $F$ , every family of forbidden graphs of MUIG is infinite, and is defined recursively by its precedent: then every property of these graphs has to be proved recursively. We begin first with  $\mathcal{R}$ .

**Lemma 2.2.5.**  *$\mathcal{R}$  is a family of co-comparability graphs.*

*Proof.* If we recall Theorem 1.1.25, in order to prove that  $\mathcal{R}$  is a family of co-comparability graphs we will have to find a spanning order for every  $R_i$  with  $i \geq 0$ . We will proceed to label our vertices with a mapping function  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that  $f(v) \in [1, |V|]$ . This mapping will give us a spanning order by induction:

- $i = 0$ : We assign the number 1 to the vertex with maximum degree  $v_1$ . We assign then the rest of the numbers to the other vertices. We see then that  $\forall u < v < w : uw \in E \rightarrow uv \in E$  because every vertex is adjacent to  $v_1$ .

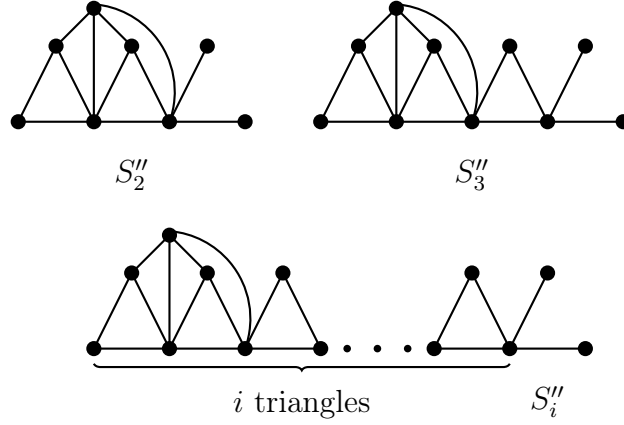
Figure 2.4: The graph  $F$ . [Joo13]

- $i = i + 1$ : We define  $\lambda_i = 5 + 2i$  where  $\lambda_i = |V(R_i)|$ . We add two vertices on each graph, where their labels are  $\lambda_i + 1$  and  $\lambda_i + 2$  and we also add three new edges:  $v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i-1}, v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i+1}, v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i+2} \in E$ .

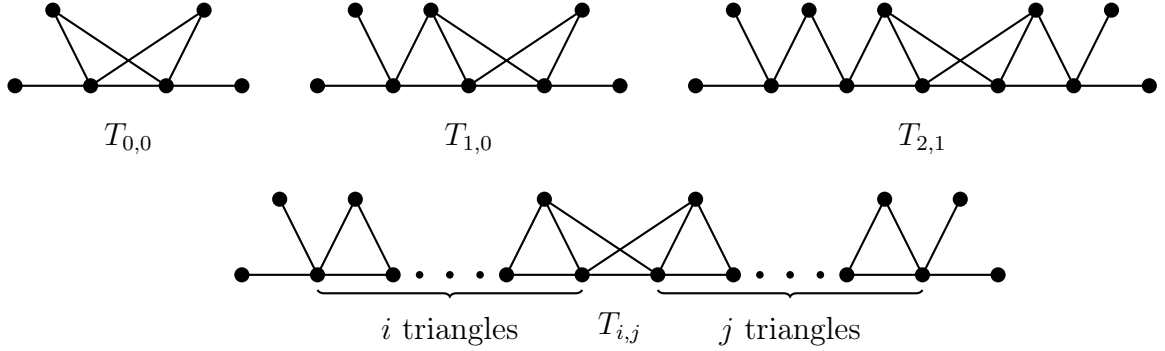
By induction we only have to see if it holds with the new edges. We can say that it still holds with  $v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i-1}$  and  $v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i+1}$  because:

$$\nexists k \in \mathbb{N} : i < k < i + 1$$

Finally, we see that  $v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i+2}$  is a valid edge because  $v_{\lambda_i}v_{\lambda_i+1} \in E$ .  $\square$

Figure 2.3: The class  $\mathcal{S}''$ . [Joo13]



Figure 2.5: The class  $\mathcal{T}$ . [Joo13]

## 2.3 Unfettered unit interval graphs

An unfettered unit interval graph can be defined as an unit interval graph such that for every touching endpoints we can chose either if they are adjacent or not.

Hayashi has characterized this class of graphs by levels. A *level structure* of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a partition  $L = \{L_i : i \in [1, t]\}$  of  $V$  such that

$$v \in L_k \rightarrow N(v) \subseteq L_{k-1} \cup L_k \cup L_{k+1}$$

where  $L_0 = L_t + 1 = \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 2.3.1** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]). *A graph  $G$  is an unfettered unit interval graph if and only if it has a level structure where each level is a clique.*

We can clearly see that  $\text{MUIG} \in \text{UUIG}$ . However, we still have to see what is the location of  $\text{UUIG}$  in the higher graph classes hierarchy:

**Proposition 2.3.2.**  *$\text{UUIG} \subset \text{co-comparability}$ .*

*Proof.* This proposition is equivalent to say that a graph  $G$  is a  $\text{UUIG}$  if and only if it has a spanning order.

For each vertex of a partition  $L_k$  of  $\text{UUIG}$  (Theorem 2.3.1) we assign arbitrarily a number  $i \in [\max(V(L_{k-1})) + 1, \max(V(L_{k-1})) + |V(L_k)| + 1]$ ;

intuitively, we assign every available number from the beginning in increasing order ( $|V(L_1)|$  first numbers on the first partition and consecutively).

Because we know that each partition  $L_k$  is a clique, we can say that for each three vertices  $u < v < w$ , if  $vw \in E \rightarrow uv \in E$  or  $vw \in E$ . We know this because given  $u \in L_i$  and  $w \in L_j$ : if  $uw \in E$  it means that levels  $L_i$  and  $L_j$  are adjacent, which means that  $v \in L_i$  or  $v \in L_j$  so  $v$  will be adjacent either to  $u$  or  $w$ . This is a spanning order.  $\square$

If we recall the characterization of MUIG in section 2.2.1, we can see that every forbidden graph of MUIG is an UUIG (except for  $\mathcal{R}$ ); which means that they are also co-comparability graphs.

In the other hand, we can find a graph in UUIG that is not an UDG. This theorem will be used in chapter 3.

**Theorem 2.3.3** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]). *UUIG  $\neq$  UDG.*

*Proof.* We can define  $G = (L_1 \cup L_2, E)$  a UUIG with two levels  $L_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  and  $L_2 = \mathcal{O}(L_1)$  and  $E = \binom{L_1}{2} \cup \binom{L_2}{2} \cup \{vw : w \in L_2, v \in w\}$ .

We can see  $L_1$  as a Venn diagram with four sets. We know by instance that a Venn diagram cannot be constructed if the number of sets is bigger than four [Ven80]. Thus,  $G \notin \text{UDG}$ .  $\square$

### 2.3.1 Recognition

As we mentioned in the previous section, UUIG is a class of graphs very relevant to define TSG and that is why we are interested in knowing how this class of graphs is recognized.

**Lemma 2.3.4.** *Let  $G$  be a connected UUIG with a level structure with levels  $L_1, \dots, L_n$ .  $G \setminus L_i$  is a graph where each connected component is also an UUIG and the number of connected components is not bigger than two.*

*Proof.* By definition for a graph with a level structure, if  $v \in L_i$ ,  $N(v) = L_{i-1} \cup L_i \cup L_{i+1}$ . This said, if we delete a level  $L_i$ ,  $L_{i-1}$  and  $L_{i+1}$  are disconnected, but they are still connected to the other consecutive levels ( $L_{i-1}$  is connected to  $L_{i-2}$ , which is connected to  $L_{i-3}$ ... and viceversa with  $L_{i+1}$ ).

And because a level is only adjacent to two other levels, we only have two connected components, only one if  $L_i = L_1$  or  $L_i = L_n$ .  $\square$

By this lemma we can suppose that the input graph  $G$  is a connected graph. Given an input graph  $G$ , we can compute a level structure where each level is a clique in exponential time.

**Theorem 2.3.5.** *UUIG recognition is in  $\mathcal{NP}$ .*

*Proof.* We can design a deterministic algorithm that solves UUIG recognition in exponential time when  $G$  is a connected graph. We begin by taking an arbitrary vertex  $v \in G$ . By instance, this vertex is included in the maximal clique  $K \subseteq G$ .

We have  $P(K \setminus \{v\})$  the powerset of the clique  $K$  excluding  $v$ . For each subset  $s \in P(K \setminus \{v\})$ , we have a subgraph  $H = G \setminus (s \cup \{v\})$ . We recall that  $q(G)$  denotes the set of connected components of  $G$ . We can have three cases:

1.  $|q(H)| > 2$ : If the number of components of  $H$  is bigger than 2, the current chosen clique is connected to more than two different cliques (or different levels); this is an invalid level, and we choose another clique from  $s \in P(K \setminus \{v\})$ .
2.  $0 < |q(H)| \leq 2$ : The current chosen clique is connected to one or two levels, which still respects our definition of level structure for the current chosen level. We check recursively if those connected components are also UUIG.
3.  $|q(H)| = 0$ : The current clique is an UUIG with only one level. This is a valid valid.

To prove that UUIG recognition is in UUIG, we have to prove that it is in  $\mathcal{NP}$ . We have an upper bound on the complexity of this algorithm that is given by:

$$T(n) \leq 2^{\omega(G)-1} T(n-1)$$

Which gives us:

$$T(n) \leq (2^{\omega(G)-1})^n = 2^{O(n\omega(G))}$$

with  $\omega(G)$  the size of the maximum clique of  $G$ .  $\square$

Future work on the recognition of unit unfettered interval graphs would be to adapt this algorithm to avoid combinatorial complexity. In our case we are interested in seeing the recognition of UIG for unit disk graphs. We know that the CLIQUE problem is in  $\mathcal{P}$  for unit disk graphs and the first hypothesis was that given an UIG  $G$ , at least one level of  $G$  is a maximal clique of the graph. Nevertheless, we have a counterexample in  $T_{0,0}$  (Fig. 2.5) where the levels of the graph are  $\{K_1, K_2, K_2, K_1\}$  while  $\omega(T_{0,0}) = 3$ .

**Observation 2.3.6.** *Given an UIG  $G$ , no level of  $G$  has to be a maximal clique.*

# Chapter 3

## Thin strip graphs

The goal of this chapter is to introduce you to the main subject of this thesis. Thin strip graphs is a class of graphs that lay between unit disk graphs and mixed interval graphs. We can define formally a  $c$ -strip graph as a unit disk graph such that the centers of the disks belong to  $\{(x, y) : -\infty < x < \infty, 0 \leq y \leq c\}$ , more intuitively we can see this as a unit disk graph where the centers of the disks lay between two parallel horizontal lines with a distance of  $c$  between them. We denote this class by  $\text{SG}(c)$ . We have then that  $\text{SG}(0) = \text{UIG}$  and  $\text{SG}(\infty) = \text{UDG}$ .

The definition and main work for this class comes from Breu in his thesis [Bre96]. However, Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17] expand his work by defining the class of *thin strip graphs*.

### 3.1 Thin strip graphs

A thin strip graph can be intuitively defined as a  $c$ -strip graph where  $c$  is an arbitrarily little  $\varepsilon$ . Also, we can see that  $\text{SG}(k) \subseteq \text{SG}(l)$  with  $k < l$ . A more strict definition emerges from this observation:

**Definition 3.1.1.** Thin strip graphs are defined as  $\text{TSG} = \bigcap_{c>0} \text{SG}(c)$ .

*Remark 3.1.2.*  $\text{SG}(0) \neq \text{TSG}$ . We can construct a  $K_{1,3}$  such that we have 3 vertices with the coordinates  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 0)$  and a last one  $(0, \varepsilon)$  with  $\varepsilon > 0$  and arbitrarily small as seen in Figure 3.1.

**Theorem 3.1.3** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]). *There is no constant  $t$  such that  $SG(t) = TSG$ .*

**Theorem 3.1.4** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]). *There is no constant  $t$  such that  $SG(t) = UDG$ .*

Hayashi et al. left some open problems. I try to expand the knowledge around some of these problems to better understand them, largely for the recognition of this class of graphs. Before that, we see where this class lays in the hierarchy of classes. We know by definition that  $\text{TSG} \subsetneq \text{UDG}$ .

### 3.1.1 Interval graphs

Thin strip graphs shares their geometrical structure with interval graphs (remember  $\text{SG}(0) = \text{UIG}$ ). In this subsection, we overview the results of Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17] where they find maximal and minimal superclasses for TSG in the interval graphs presented in chapter 2. The following theorem

will be proven by taking the proof written by Hayashi et al. in order to use their mapping in other theorems (e.g. 4).

**Theorem 3.1.5** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]).  $MUIG \subsetneq TSG$ .

*Proof.* First, we prove that  $MUIG \neq TSG$ . This can be proven because  $C_4 \in TSG$  if we take as points  $(0, 0), (0, \varepsilon), (1, 0), (1, \varepsilon)$  with  $1 > \varepsilon > 0$  and  $C_4 \notin MUIG$  because it is a chordal graph.

Then, we have to prove that  $MUIG \subseteq TSG$ . Let  $G = (V, E) \in MUIG$  where each vertex is a unit mixed interval denoted as  $I_v$ . We define  $t = \min\{|I_u \cap I_v| : |I_u \cap I_v| > 0, \{I_u, I_v\} \subseteq V\}$  and  $s = \min\{\ell(I_v) - r(I_u) : \ell(I_v) > r(I_u), \{I_u, I_v\} \subseteq V\}$ . We have then  $t$  being the minimum length of an intersection bigger than zero (that is, not endpoint-adjacent) and  $s$  is the minimum distance between non-adjacent vertices (also not endpoint-adjacent). We also define  $c(I_v) = \frac{\ell(I_v) + r(I_v)}{2}$  as the center of the interval and  $p(I_v) = (-1)^{\lfloor c(I_v) \rfloor}$ .

Let  $d$  be a real such that  $0 < d < \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $d \leq \frac{t}{4}$ ,  $d < \frac{s}{2}$  and  $\varepsilon \geq 2\sqrt{d - d^2}$ . If we let  $h = \sqrt{d - d^2}$ , then we can create a  $2h$ -realization of  $G$  with the following mapping:

$$\phi(v) = \begin{cases} (c(I_v), 0) & \text{if } I_v \text{ is a closed interval} \\ (c(I_v), hp(I_v)) & \text{if } I_v \text{ is an open interval} \\ (c(I_v) - d, hp(I_v)) & \text{if } I_v \text{ is a closed-open interval} \\ (c(I_v) + d, hp(I_v)) & \text{if } I_v \text{ is an open-closed interval} \end{cases}$$

For two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $G$  such that  $u \leq v$ , we have the three following cases:

1.  $r(I_u) < \ell(I_v)$ :

$I_u$  and  $I_v$  are not adjacents, which means that  $\text{dist}(\phi(u), \phi(v)) > 1$ . If we minimize the distance between them we have  $\phi(u) = (c(I_u) + d, hp(I_u))$  and  $\phi(v) = (c(I_v) - d, hp(I_v))$  with  $p(I_u) = p(I_v)$ . Therefore, we only have to compare their  $x$ -coordinates:

$$\text{dist}(\phi(u), \phi(v)) \geq (c(I_v) - d) - (c(I_u) + d) = c(I_v) - c(I_u) - 2d$$

By definition,  $s \leq l(I_v) - r(I_u)$ . If we take the centers, then  $s \leq c(I_v) - c(I_u) - 1$ , which means finally that  $s + 1 \leq c(I_v) - c(I_u)$

$$\text{dist}(\phi(u), \phi(v)) \geq s + 1 - 2d > 1$$

2.  $r(I_u) > \ell(I_v)$ : In this case  $u$  and  $v$  are adjacent. We maximize  $\text{dist}(\phi(u), \phi(v))$  when  $\phi(u) = (c(I_u) - d, hp(I_u))$  and  $\phi(v) = (c(I_v) + d, hp(I_v))$  with  $p(I_u) \neq p(I_v)$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dist}(\phi(u), \phi(v)) &\leq \sqrt{((c(I_v) + d) - (c(I_u) - d))^2 + (h + h)^2} \\ &\text{with the same reasoning as before } c(I_v) - c(I_u) \leq 1 - t \\ &\leq \sqrt{(1 - t + 2d)^2 + 4h^2} \\ &\leq \sqrt{(1 - 4d + 2d)^2 + 4(d - d^2)} \\ &= \sqrt{1 - 4d + 4d^2 + 4d - 4d^2} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

3.  $r(I_u) = \ell(I_v)$ :

In this case,  $u$  and  $v$  are adjacent only if  $r(I_u)$  and  $I_v$  are closed. We know that  $c(I_v) = c(I_u) + 1$  and  $p(I_u) \neq p(I_v)$ . Without loss of generality, we suppose that  $p(I_u) = 1$  and  $p(I_v) = -1$ . We have two cases:

- (a) Both ends are closed. So we have this set of possible assignments for each one of the vertices:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(u) &\in \{(c(I_u), 0), (c(I_u) + d, h)\} \\ \phi(v) &\in \{(c(I_u) + 1, 0), (c(I_u) + 1 - d, -h)\} \end{aligned}$$

This gives us a rectangle with its diagonal smaller than one.



- (b) One of the ends is closed, we suppose  $r(I_u)$  is open. In this case, we have these solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(u) &\in \{(c(I_u) - d, h), (c(I_u), h)\} \\ \phi(v) &\in \{(c(I_u) + 1, 0), (c(I_u) + 1, -h), (c(I_u) + 1 \pm d, -h)\}\end{aligned}$$

Every distance between every points is greater than 1 if we take into consideration the domain of  $d$ .  $\square$

From this theorem,  $\text{UIG} \subsetneq \text{TSG}$ . Actually, there exists a stronger connection between these two classes:

**Theorem 3.1.6** (Breu [Bre96]). *Let  $G$  a  $c$ -strip graph with  $c \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$ .  $G$  has an induced  $K_{1,3}$  or  $C_4$  if and only if  $G$  is not an unit interval graph.*

Thin strip graphs can also be seen as unfettered unit interval graphs, which means that if a graph is a thin strip graph, then we can partition this graph with a level structure where each level is a clique. This information will be relevant in the next section.

**Theorem 3.1.7** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]).  *$\text{TSG} \subsetneq \text{UUIG}$ .*

*Proof.* See [HKO<sup>+</sup>17].

## 3.2 Characterization of thin strip graphs

One of the main goals of this thesis is to characterize thin strip graphs by forbidden induced subgraphs. We know that TSG is an hereditary class, then a way to characterize this class of graphs is by looking for its forbidden subgraphs the same way as MUIG has been characterized by Joos. Furthermore,  $\text{MUIG} \subsetneq \text{TSG}$  by Theorem 3.1.5, so the first we can do is to check if the forbidden subgraphs of MUIG are also for TSG.

One of the main goals of this thesis is to characterize TSG. by forbidden induced subgraphs. To approach this, we will see how many induced forbidden subgraphs are also forbidden for TSG. We have described the families

of forbidden induced subgraphs for MUIG in section 2.2 and one of these families has been proven to be a forbidden induced subgraph for TSG.

### 3.2.1 Mixed unit interval graph forbidden subgraphs

**Theorem 3.2.1** (Hayashi et al. [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]).  *$\mathcal{R}$  is a forbidden induced subgraph family of TSG.*

*Proof.* A way to prove this theorem is to prove that  $\mathcal{R} \notin \text{UUIG}$  because  $\text{TSG} \subsetneq \text{UUIG}$ . We can prove this by taking into consideration the embedding of the graphs in Figure 2.2.

Let  $v$  be the leftmost vertex of  $R_k$  with  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $L_i$  the  $i^{\text{th}}$  level of the level structure of the graph. We have two choices:

- $v \in L_1 = K_1$ : we have  $H = R_k \setminus L_1$ .  $H$  has only one connected component, which means that it is a valid level. The next step is to take  $N(L_1 \cap H) = L_2$ , then  $N(L_2 \cap H') = L_3$  where  $H' = H \setminus L_2$ . We repeat this until we arrive to the end of our graph. The last one will divide the graph in two components of  $K_1$ , which does not respect our condition because  $L_n$  has already one adjacent level ( $L_{n-1}$ ).
- $v \in L'_1 = K_2$ : in this case  $H$  has two connected components,  $K_1$  and  $H \setminus K_1$ . This level is valid, however, because  $H$  has two components  $L'_1$  cannot be the first level of our level structure (see definition), so we take the neighbour  $K_1$  as the first level  $L_1$ . We can observe that we are in the same case as before, where  $L_1 = K_1$ .

Another (more extended) proof can be found in [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]. □

We see that  $\mathcal{R}$  is a family of forbidden subgraphs of TSG. Nevertheless, the rest of the forbidden subgraphs for MUIG are thin strip graphs. The main reason is because they are unfettered unit interval graphs. We see our first example with the forbidden graph for MUIG  $F$ .

**Theorem 3.2.2.**  $F \in \text{TSG}$ .

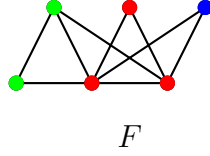


Figure 3.2: The graph  $F$  where each level is represented by a different color.

*Proof.* To prove this we have to find an  $\epsilon$ -realization for our graph  $F = (V, E)$  with  $\epsilon$  arbitrarily small. Let  $\phi(v)$  be the mapping of our vertices on the plane. We know that the level structure of  $F$  is  $L = \{L_1 = K_2, L_2 = K_3, L_3 = K_1\}$  as seen in Figure 3.2. For each  $v_k \in L_2$  with  $k \in [0, 2]$  as follows:

$$\phi(v_k) = \left(0, \epsilon \frac{k}{2}\right)$$

Then, for each  $u_k \in L_1$  with  $l \in [1, 2]$  as follows if we take into consideration that  $v_0u_0, v_1u_0, v_0u_1 \in E$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(u_1) &= \left(\left(\frac{\epsilon}{4}\right)^2 - 1, \epsilon \frac{1}{4}\right) \\ \phi(u_2) &= (-1, 0)\end{aligned}$$

If you can see  $L_1$  at the left of  $L_2$ . Finally, we have  $w \in L_3$ . We can see that  $w$  and  $u_1$  share the same neighbours, so they can be put in the same  $y$ -coordinate we put it at the right side of  $L_3$ .

$$\phi(w) = \left(1 - \left(\frac{\epsilon}{4}\right)^2, \epsilon \frac{1}{4}\right)$$

□

We can also prove the same for  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{S}''$ . In this case these graphs have induced  $K_{1,3}$  (before we had an induced  $C_4$ ). There is a property about  $K_{1,3}$  and TSGs that will help us embed those graphs in the plane.

**Lemma 3.2.3.** *The only way to represent  $K_{1,3}$  as a thin strip graph is for three points  $u, v, w$  such that  $u_x = v_x - 1$  and  $w_x = v_x + 1$  with the same*

$y$ -coordinate and the fourth point  $t$  is placed such  $t_x = v_x$  and  $t_y \neq v_y$  (see Figure 3.1).

*Proof.* We begin constructing the realization of  $K_{1,3}$  by taking its induced  $P_3 \in K_{1,3}$ . The middle point of  $P_3$  has to be between the other two points horizontally, so we know then that  $u_x < v_x < w_x$  with  $v$  the middle point.

Now we introduce  $t$ , the vertex that is adjacent to the middle point of  $P_3$ . We know by fact that  $u_x < t_x < w_x$ : if we take  $t_x \leq u_x$ ,  $t$  has to be adjacent to  $u$  in order to intersect  $v$  which is not the case; viceversa for  $w$ .

Let  $\alpha_{u,v} = \sqrt{1 - (u_y - v_y)^2}$  be the *critical region* between two points. Note that if  $|u_x - v_x| \leq \alpha_{u,v}$  then  $u$  and  $v$  are touching.

Now that we know that  $u_x < t_x < w_x$ , if we set  $t_x < v_x$  and maximize the distance between  $u$  and  $v$  (so  $u_x = v_x - 1$ ) we should have:

$$t_x > \alpha_{u,t} + u_x$$

for every  $t_y$ .

$$t_x > \alpha_{u,t} + v_x - 1$$

$$t_x + 1 > \alpha_{u,t} + v_x$$

We know that  $t_x < v_x$ , which means that  $\alpha_{u,v}$  has to be bigger than one, which is impossible given the definition of  $\alpha_{u,v}$ . The same occurs with  $w_x$  and  $t_x > v_x$ .

The only case that is left is with  $t_x = v_x$ . If  $u$  and  $t$  touch then:

$$t_x \leq \alpha_{u,t} + u_x$$

$$t_x + 1 \leq \alpha_{u,t} + v_x$$

we know that  $t_x = v_x$ :

$$v_x + 1 \leq \alpha_{u,t} + v_x$$

$$1 \leq \alpha_{u,t}$$

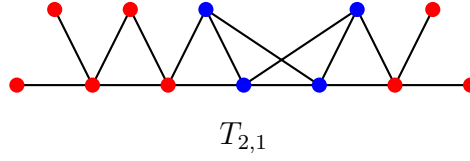


Figure 3.3: The graph  $T_{2,1}$  with the diamond in blue and the arms in red.

$$1 \leq \sqrt{1 - t_y^2}$$

which is impossible except when  $t_y = 0$ , which means that the only solutions are when  $t_y \neq v_y$ ,  $t_x = v_x$ ,  $u_x = v_x - 1$  and  $w_x = v_x + 1$ .  $\square$

We can see that  $\mathcal{S}''$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  both have induced  $K_{1,3}$  while  $F$  has an induced  $C_4$ .

Main idea is that we construct first the induced  $K_{1,3}$ , then the rest follows, just have to finish writing.

### 3.3 Recognition

The recognition of this class of graphs is approached by Breu in his thesis [Bre96]. He gives a polynomial-time algorithm to recognise strip graphs for a given input with an assignment of  $y$ -coordinates for each vertex of the graph and an orientation of the edges of its complement.

**Theorem 3.3.1** (Breu [Bre96]). *Let  $G = (V, E, \gamma, \vec{E})$  a graph where  $\gamma : V \rightarrow [0, c]$  is a function associating a  $y$ -coordinate (or a level) to each vertex and  $\vec{E}$  an orientation of the complement of the graph. The recognition of  $c$ -strip graphs with this input is in  $\mathcal{P}$ .*

**Observation 3.3.2.** *Recognition of  $c$ -strip graphs without a given  $\vec{E}$  is in  $\mathcal{NP}$ .*

*Proof.* Given an polynomial-time algorithm with a complexity of  $O(f(n))$  to solve recognition of  $G = (V, E, \gamma, \vec{E})$ , we can run again this algorithm by testing every possible orientation of its complement. This algorithm would

take  $O(f(n))2^{|E|-1} = O(f(n)2^{|E|})$  time to execute.  $\square$

We would like to have an algorithm that solves this problem without knowing the  $y$ -coordinates of the vertices. Nevertheless, further research would concentrate on recognition of UIGs. We know that  $\text{TSG} \subsetneq \text{UIG}$ , and recognition of UIGs is  $\mathcal{NP}$ . If the problem of recognising TSG given a UIG and is solved in polynomial time, then TSG recognition would be  $\mathcal{NP}$ . However, given the observations in the end of chapter 2, there may be a polynomial-time algorithm for UIG.

# Chapter 4

## Thin two-level graphs

Breu [Bre96] has presented in his thesis a similar class of constrained unit disk graphs where the disks are placed on  $k$  horizontal parallel lines. More formally: a disk  $(x, y)$  can be placed in  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$  and  $y \in L$  with  $|L| = k$ .

In this chapter I define thin two-level graphs as a two-level graph where  $L = \{0, \varepsilon\}$  and  $\varepsilon$  is an arbitrarily small real number.

### 4.1 Thin two-level graph

A two-level graph can be defined intuitively as a strip graph such that the disks are placed only on the horizontal lines. In the same way, we can define also

This class of graphs is close to our main class TSG. But we have to know at what point we can rely in this class of graphs to study TSG:

**Lemma 4.1.1** (Breu [Bre96]). *Let  $abcd$  be a chordless 4-cycle in a two-level graph  $G = (V, E)$ . Then  $ad$  and  $bc$  are level edges (they are adjacent in the*

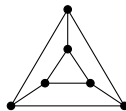


Figure 4.1: Forbidden graph in TTLG

same level), and the others are cross edges for every realization  $\phi$  of  $G$  for which  $\phi(a)_x < \phi(c)_x$  and  $\phi(b)_x < \phi(d)_x$ .

With this preliminary result, we proceed to one of our main result:

**Theorem 4.1.2.**  $TTLG \subsetneq TSG$

*Proof.* By definition, we know that  $TTLG \subset TSG$  because the area where the disks can be placed in TTLG is included in the area in TSG.

We can prove that  $TTLG \neq TSG$  because we can construct a graph  $G$  such that  $G \in TSG$  and  $G \notin TTLG$ . This graph  $D$  is a net\* graph as described in Figure 4.1.

**Part 1.**  $D$  is a TSG because we can realize it as a TSG if we take as center of disks  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(0, z)$ ,  $(0, \epsilon)$ ,  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(1, z)$ ,  $(1, \epsilon)$  such that  $0 < z < \epsilon$ .

**Part 2.** Now we have to prove that  $D$  is a forbidden induced subgraph of TTLG. We will try to construct it by taking an induced subgraph that is realizable: we take  $D_{-1} = D - x$  with  $x \in V(D)$ . We notice that  $V(D_{-1})$  is a chordless  $C_4$  ( $abcd$ ) with a vertex  $e$  adjacent to any two consecutive vertices  $x, y \in V(C_4)$  creating the triangle  $xye$ .

By Lemma 4.1.1 we know that  $abcda$  is a cycle if  $ab$  and  $cd$  are level edges. We can classify these vertices in two sets:  $\ell(V) = a, d$  and  $r(V) = b, c$  where  $\forall u \in \ell(V) v \in r(V) : u_x < v_x$ .

To realize  $D_{-1}$  we have to add a vertex  $i$  to  $C_4$ . We can either put it between two line-vertices or put it between two vertices with different level. In the case where we want to put it between two line vertices  $a$  and  $b$  we have:

$$b_x < d_x < c_x$$

In this case, we have  $d_x$  that is adjacent to at least one vertex of the other level. The only way to do this is to put it adjacent to two different level vertices ( $a$  and  $b$ ). Now that we have a realization of  $D_{-1}$ , we should add a last vertex  $j$  adjacent to  $i$ ,  $c$  and  $d$ . If we put  $j$  on the right of the cycle, then  $i$  has to be on the left to be able to touch  $c$  and  $d$ . However, it is impossible for  $j$  to reach  $i$  because between because at each level there is a region  $a \cap d$  and  $b \cap c$  that neither of these disks can breach, so they will always be disjoint.  $\square$



### 4.1.1 Relation with interval graphs

The relationship between two-level graphs and interval graphs is clear: a  $k$ -two-level graph with  $k > 1$  gives us a disconnected graph where every connected component is a unit interval graph. Here we could say that a two-level graph  $G = F \cup H$  being  $F$  and  $H$  unit interval graphs.

Furthermore, this relationship between unit interval graphs and two-level graphs is even stronger:

**Theorem 4.1.3** (Breu [Bre96]). *For any value of  $k$ , a  $k$ -two-level-graph is an union of two unit interval graphs.*

Before proving this, we have to define:

**Definition 4.1.4.** A short edge  $\tau$ -two-level graph is a  $\tau$ -two-level graph  $G(V, E)$  such that given  $vw \in E$ , then  $|v_x - w_x| \leq \sqrt{1 - \tau^2}$ .

**Claim 4.1.5.** *A short edge two-level graph is a unit interval graph.*

*Proof.* See [Bre96].

*Proof of theorem.* Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a two-level graph. Let have  $G_S = (V, E_S)$  the graph induced on the short edges and  $G_L = (V, E_L)$  a graph induced on the line-edges (between points in the same line). Both of these graphs are unit interval graphs.

We can see that  $E_S \cup E_L \subseteq E$ , we only have to prove that  $E \subseteq E_S \cup E_L$ . Given an edge  $vw \in E$ , if  $|v_x - w_x| > \alpha$ , then  $vw \in E_L$  because two graphs on different levels cannot touch. In the other case, when  $|v_x - w_x| \leq \alpha$ ,  $v$  and  $w$  can be either in the same level or in different levels.

This shows that every edge of  $E$  is in either  $E_L$  or  $E_S$ , so  $E \subseteq E_L \cup E_S$ . Which means that  $G = G_L \cup G_S$ .

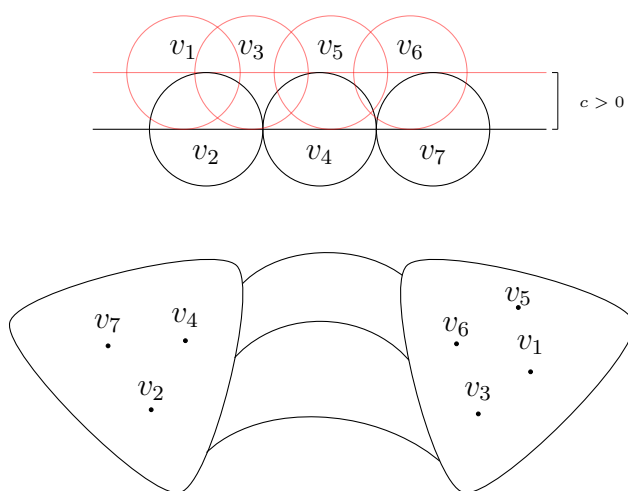


Figure 4.2: A representation of a  $TL(c)$

# Conclusions

The conclusions are to be written with care, because it will be sometimes the part that could convince a potential reader to read the whole document.

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Graph classes hierarchy

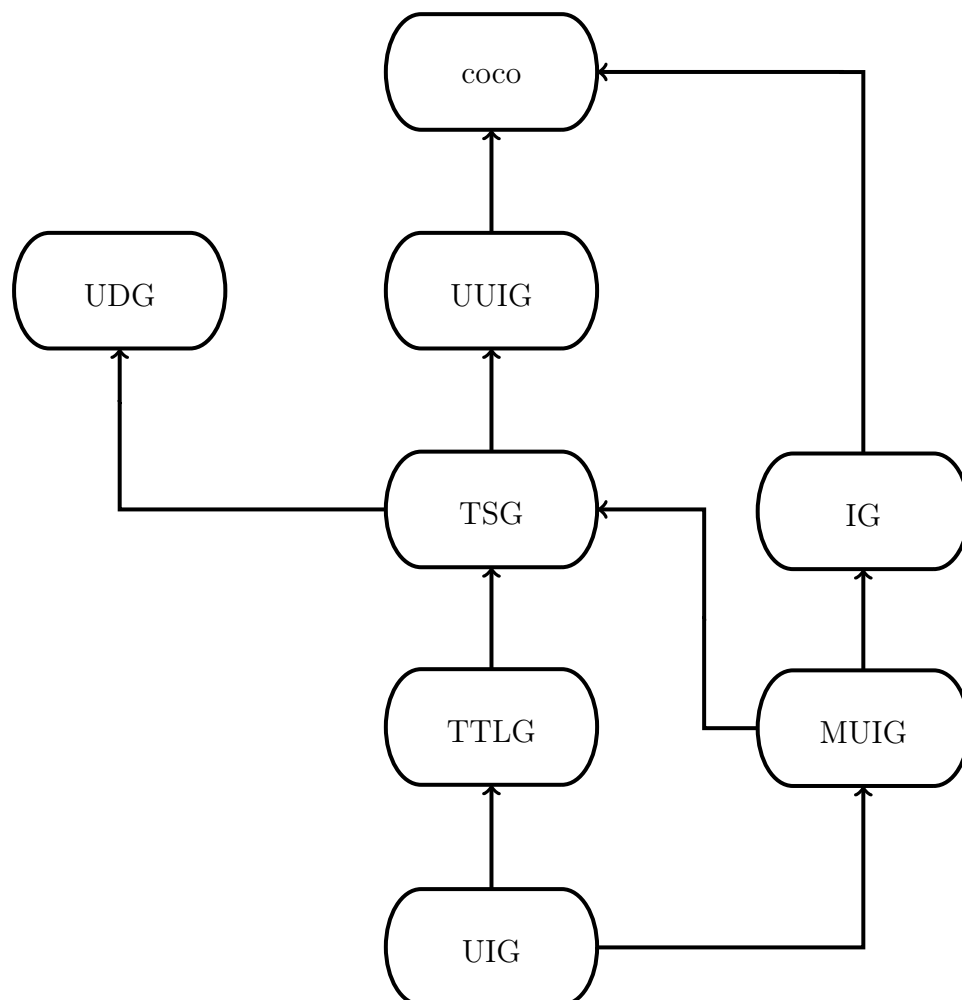


Figure A.1: A hierarchy of every relevant graph of this document. The relation  $\text{class}_1 \rightarrow \text{class}_2$  means that  $\text{class}_1 \subset \text{class}_2$ .

# Appendix B

## Problems in inclusion

- **MUIG  $\subsetneq$  TSG  $\subsetneq$  UUIG** : Hayashi [HKO<sup>+</sup>17]
- **MUIG  $\neq$  TTLG (Open)**: To prove that MUIG  $\subsetneq$  TSG, Hayashi [HKO<sup>+</sup>17] could simulate MUIGs with 4 different levels. Having only two levels, I conjecture that this is not possible. However, MUIG can have  $C_4$ , so an inclusion between these two classes is impossible (it has to be rewritten).
- **TTLG  $\subsetneq$  TSG (Open)**: This problem has been solved in my thesis by finding a forbidden graph for TTLG, theorem 4.1.3.
- **TLG  $\subset$  TSG (Open)**: This is a plausible stronger statement than the one before. However, this result could make the study of TTLG less relevant. Thus, this result would imply:

$$G \in \text{TLG}(j) \rightarrow G \in \text{SG}(k) : j, k \in \mathbb{R}$$

# Appendix C

## Problems in forbidden induced subgraph characterization

- **MUIG**: Joos [Joo13] gives us a complete characterization of forbidden graphs.
- **TSG (Open)**: Hayashi [HKO<sup>+</sup>17] says that MUIG's forbidden induced subgraphs also are in TSG. He claims that finding a graph  $F \in (\text{UDG} \cap \text{UUIG}) \setminus \text{TSG}$  could be a good starting point. In my thesis I show that a forbidden induced subgraph for MUIG is in  $\text{UDG} \cap \text{UUIG}$ .
- **TTLG (Open)**: There are many properties about these graphs in Breu's thesis [Bre96].
- **UDG (Open)**: There is no complete characterization of UDG. Can the results of this thesis help find new ones?



# Appendix D

## Problems in complexity

- **UIG/IG recognition:** Both of these problems are polynomial.
- **MUIG recognition:** Schuchat et al. give a linear algorithm ( $O(|V|^2)$ ) to recognise MUIGs [SSTW14b].
- **UDG recognition:**  $\exists\mathbb{R}$ -complete [Exi06b].
- **SG( $c$ ) recognition (Open):** Breu [Bre96] states that SG( $c$ ) recognition is polynomial if a complement edge orientation and a mapping  $\phi : V \rightarrow [0, c]$  is polynomial as an input of the decision problem.
- **TSG recognition (Open):** Can we get rid of the mapping as input to recognise TSGs? In that case the problem would be at least NP.
- **UUIG recognition (Open):** Informally the recognition of this class of graphs **cannot** be polynomial because we have to find all the cliques of the graph; the CLIQUE problem is NP-complete.

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