

We claim that such a graph  $G$  has a tree decomposition  $(T, \{V_t\})$  in which each piece  $V_t$  corresponds uniquely to an internal triangular face of  $G$ . We prove this by induction on the number of nodes in  $G$ .

Choose any internal edge  $e = (u, v)$  of  $G$ ; deleting  $u$  and  $v$  produces two components  $A$  and  $B$ . Let  $G_1$  be the subgraph induced on  $A \cup \{u, v\}$  and  $G_2$  the subgraph induced on  $B \cup \{u, v\}$ . By induction, there are tree decompositions  $(T_1, \{X_t\})$  and  $(T_2, \{Y_t\})$  of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  respectively in which the pieces correspond uniquely to internal faces. Thus there are nodes  $t_1 \in T_1$  and  $t_2 \in T_2$  that correspond to the faces containing the edge  $(u, v)$ . If we let  $T$  denote the tree obtained by adding an edge  $(t_1, t_2)$  to  $T_1 \cup T_2$ , then  $(T, \{X_t\} \cup \{Y_t\})$  is a tree decomposition having the desired properties.

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<sup>1</sup>ex203.262.545