

# Maximal Independent Set

Parallel Graph Algorithms

# Outline

- Maximal Independent Set (MIS)
  - What is it?
  - Why are we interested in it?
- Bad Ideas
  - Greedy
  - “Local” greedy
- Luby’s Algorithm
- Literature

# Outline

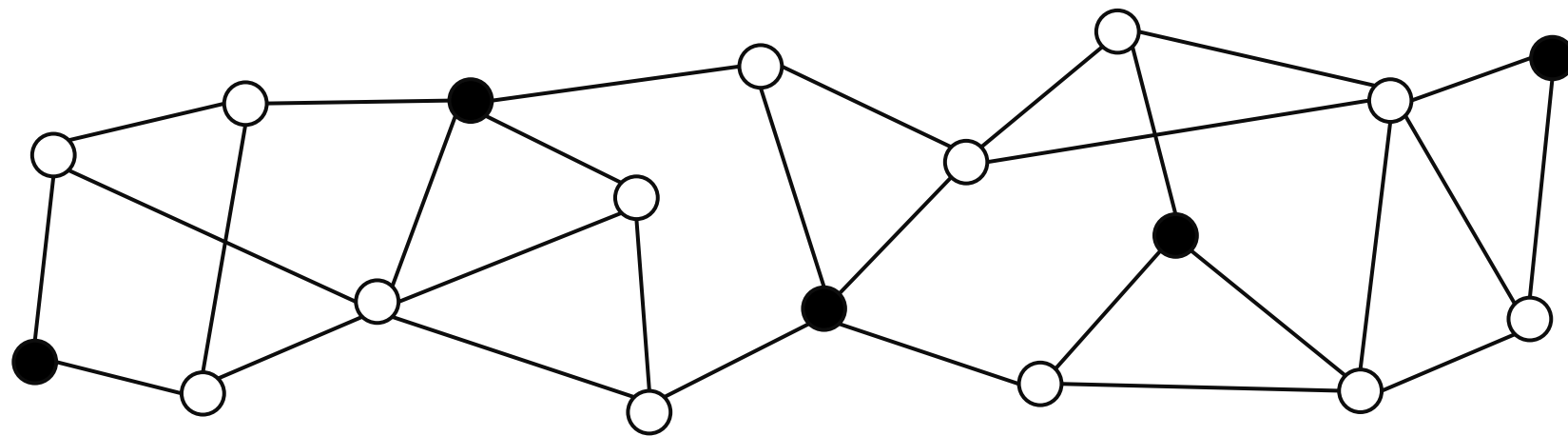
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## **Learning objectives:**

You are able to

- explain why finding a maximum independent set in the LOCAL model is hard
- state the MIS algorithm by Luby
- Analyse the probability that a neighbor of a good node gets selected to the MIS in one iteration of Luby

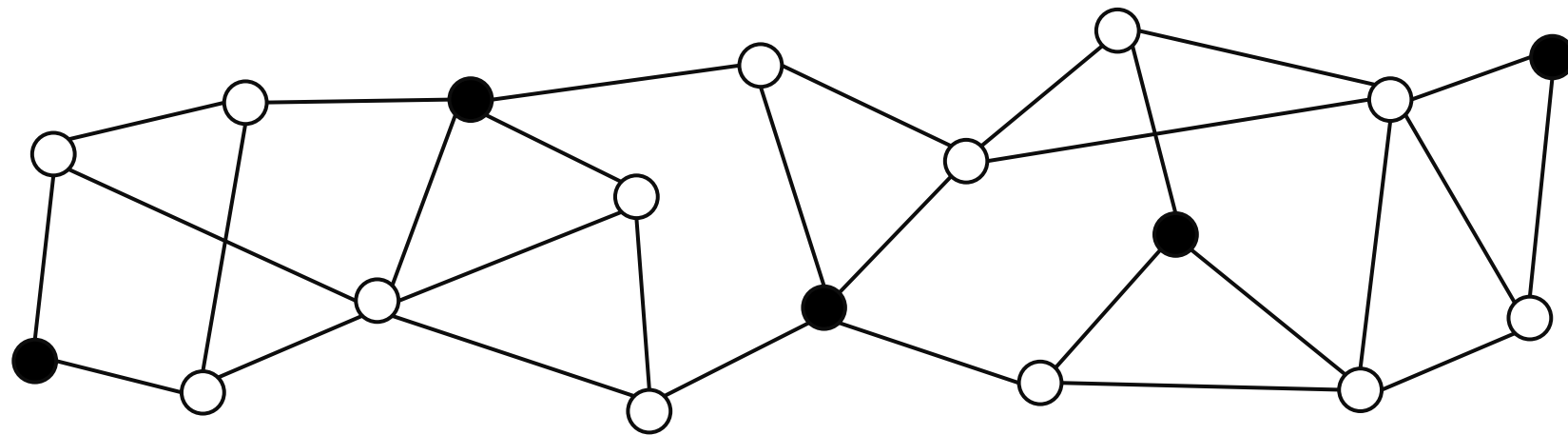
# Maximal Independent Set (MIS)



## **Independent Set:**

A set  $I \subseteq V$  is *independent* if there are no edges between nodes in  $I$ .

# Maximal Independent Set (MIS)



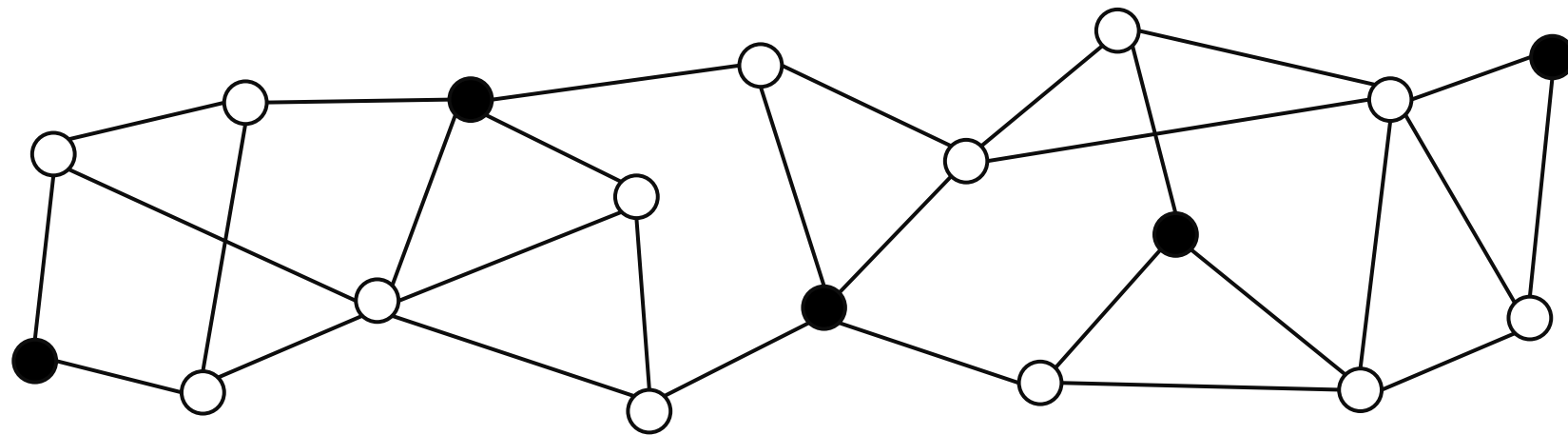
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## Maximality:

An independent set  $I \subseteq V$  is *maximal* if for any node  $u \in V \setminus I$ , it holds that  $I \cup \{u\}$  is not independent.

# Maximal Independent Set (MIS)



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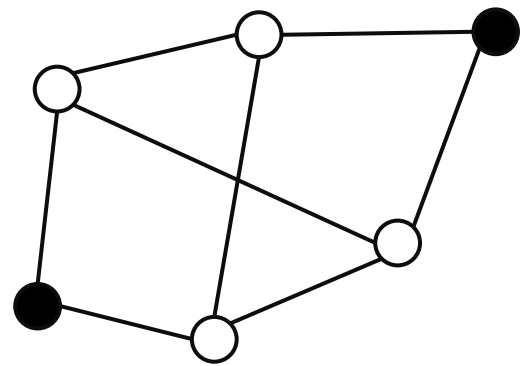
An independent set  $I \subseteq V$  is *maximal* if for any node  $u \in V \setminus I$ , it holds that  $I \cup \{u\}$  is not independent.

You cannot add any nodes to an MIS without breaking independence.

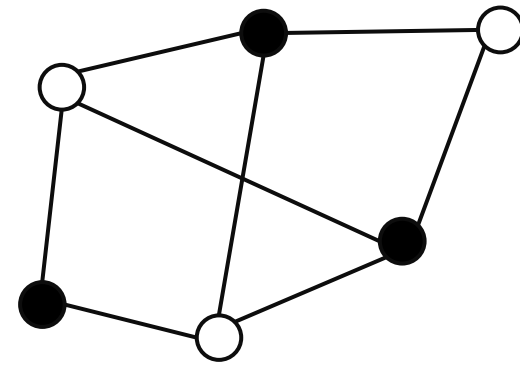
# Why not Maximum?

**Notice:**

A maximal independent set  
does not need to be of  
maximum size.



Maximal

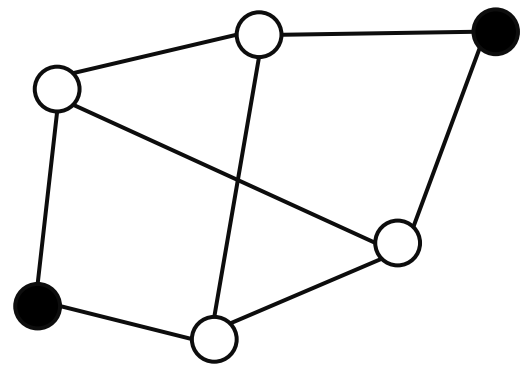


Maximum

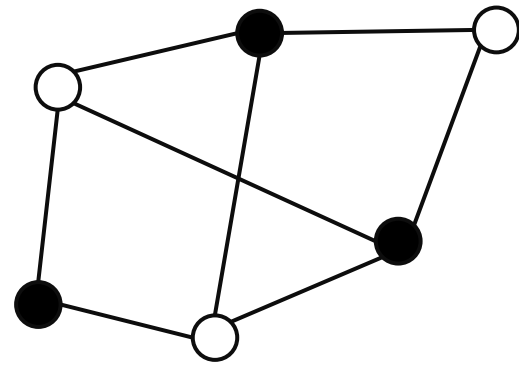
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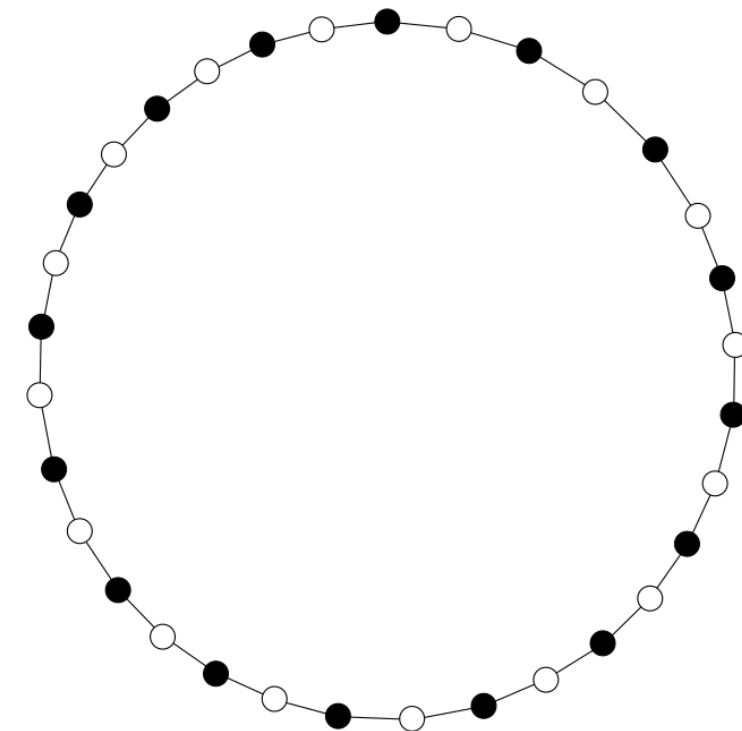
Maximal



Maximum

**Observation:**

A maximum independent set on an even ring corresponds to a 2-coloring.

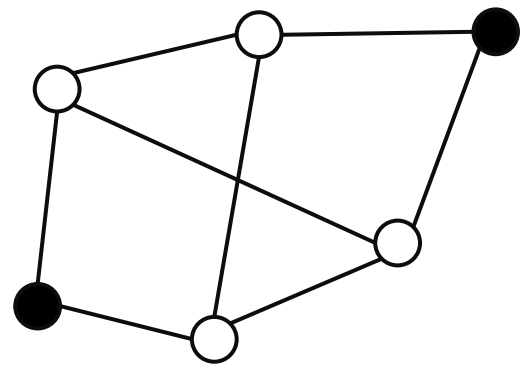




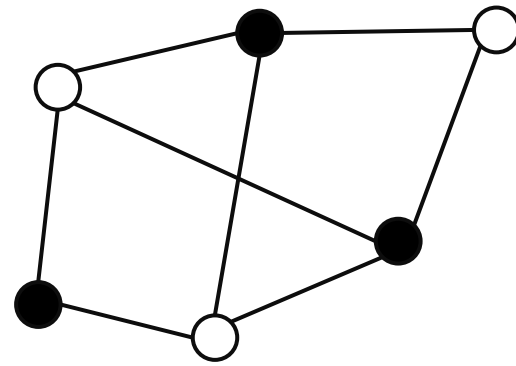
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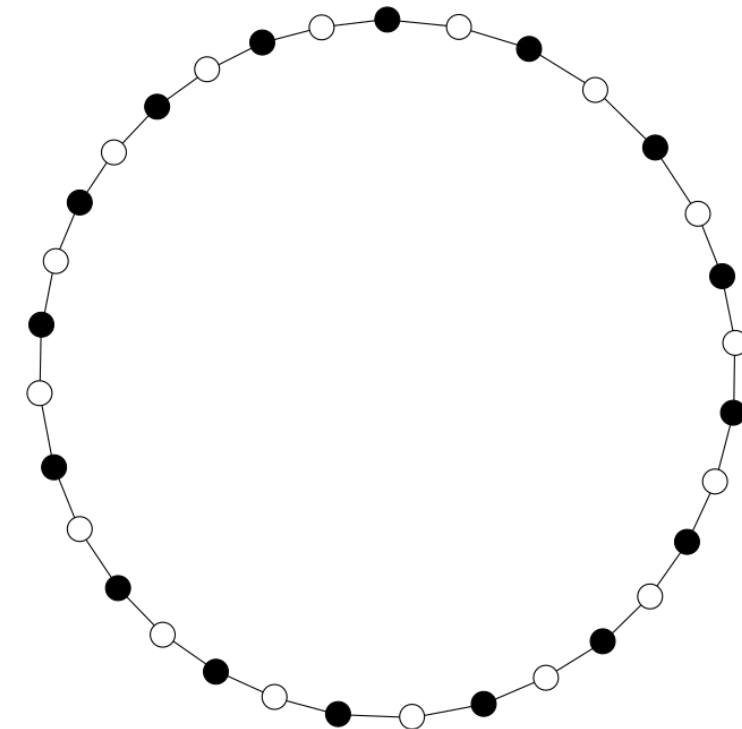
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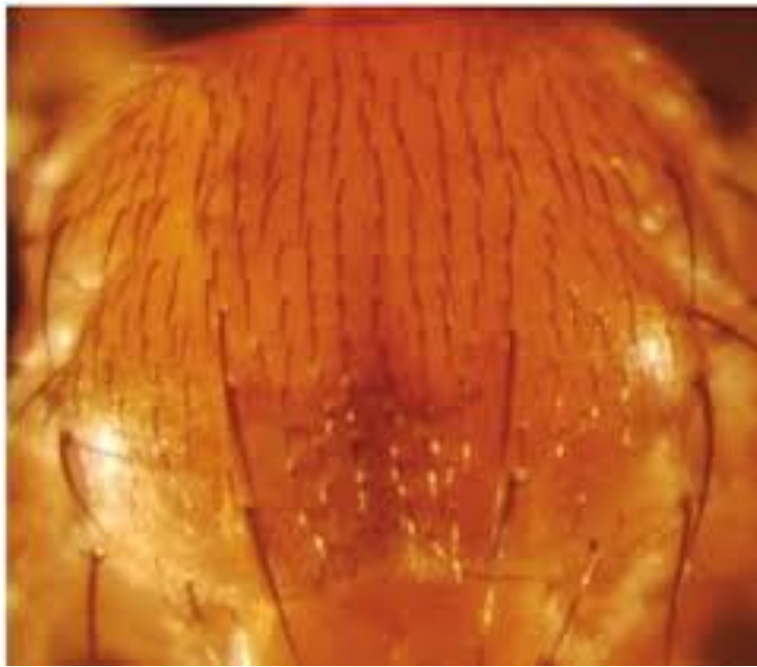
A maximum independent set on an even ring corresponds to a 2-coloring.



Boring 😞

# Why Should I Care?

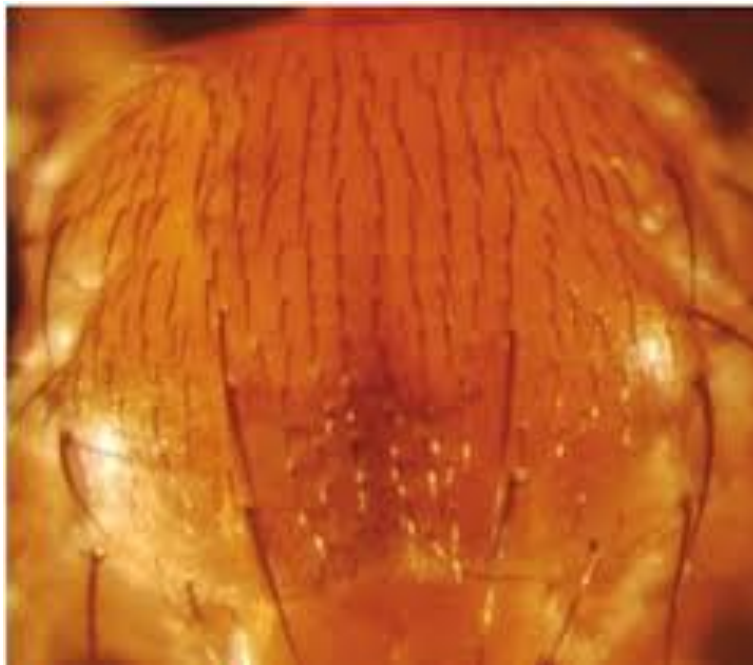
Primitive symmetry breaking



[Afek, Alon, Barad, Hornstein,  
Barkai, Bar-Joseph, Science 2011]

# Why Should I Care?

Primitive symmetry breaking

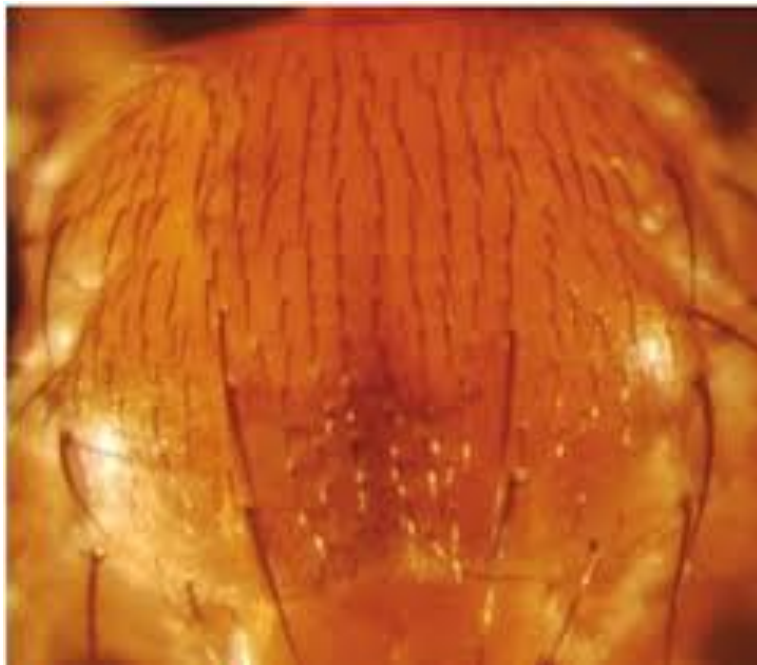


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It's not easy! Understand  
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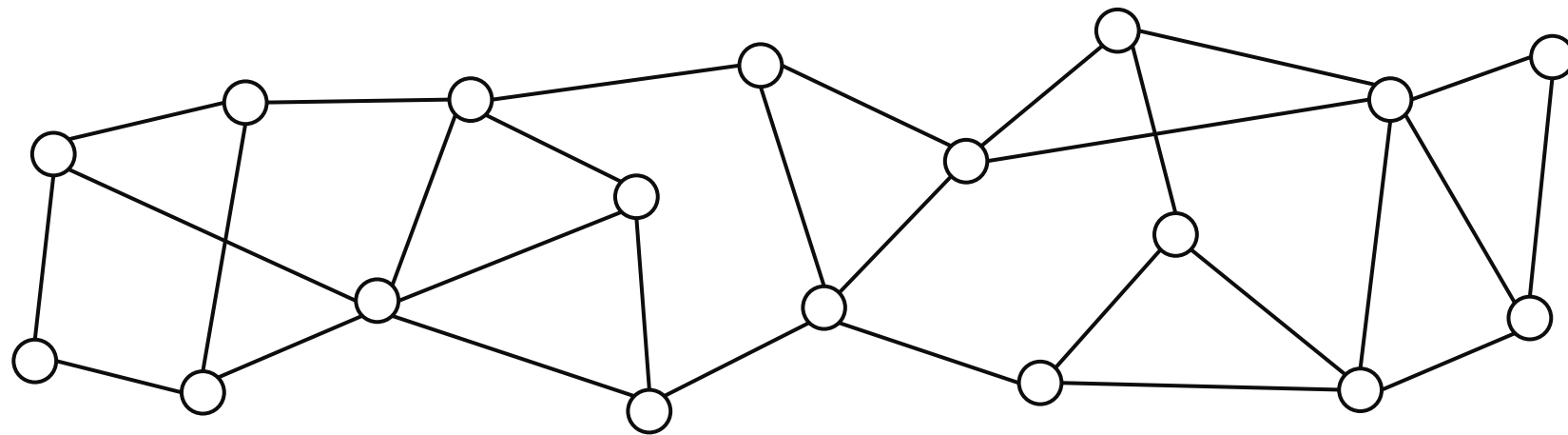
Subroutine for more sophisticated  
tools such as distributed Lovász  
Local Lemma (LLL).

[Moser, Tardos, JACM 2010]

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# Greedy MIS



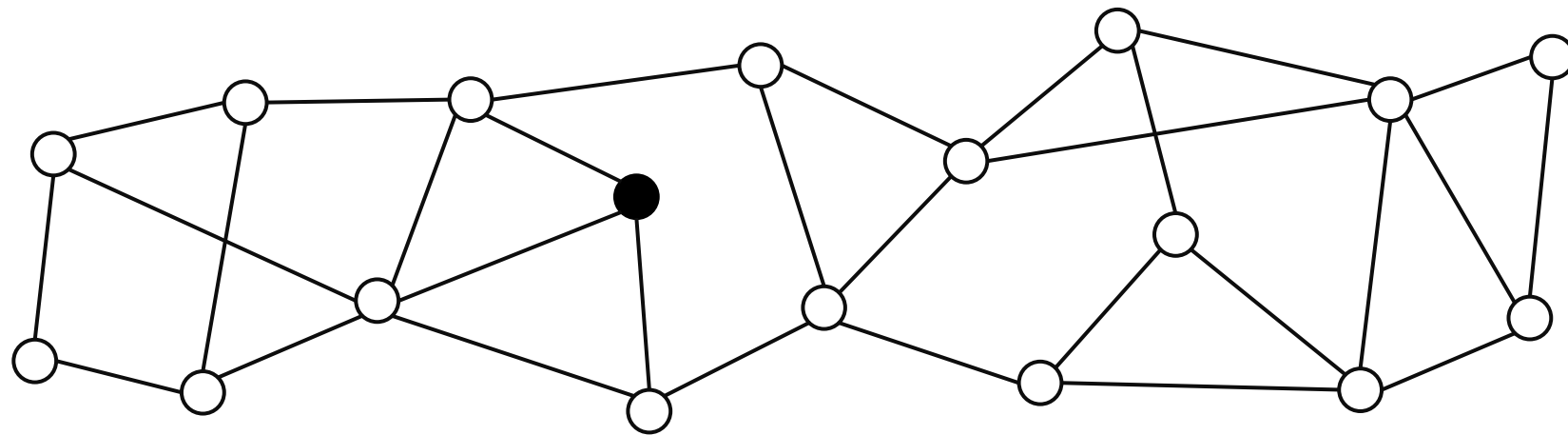
## **Greedy:**

One by one, pick nodes into the MIS and remove neighbors from the graph.

What do we need to solve?

Just use the greedy algorithm...?

# Greedy MIS



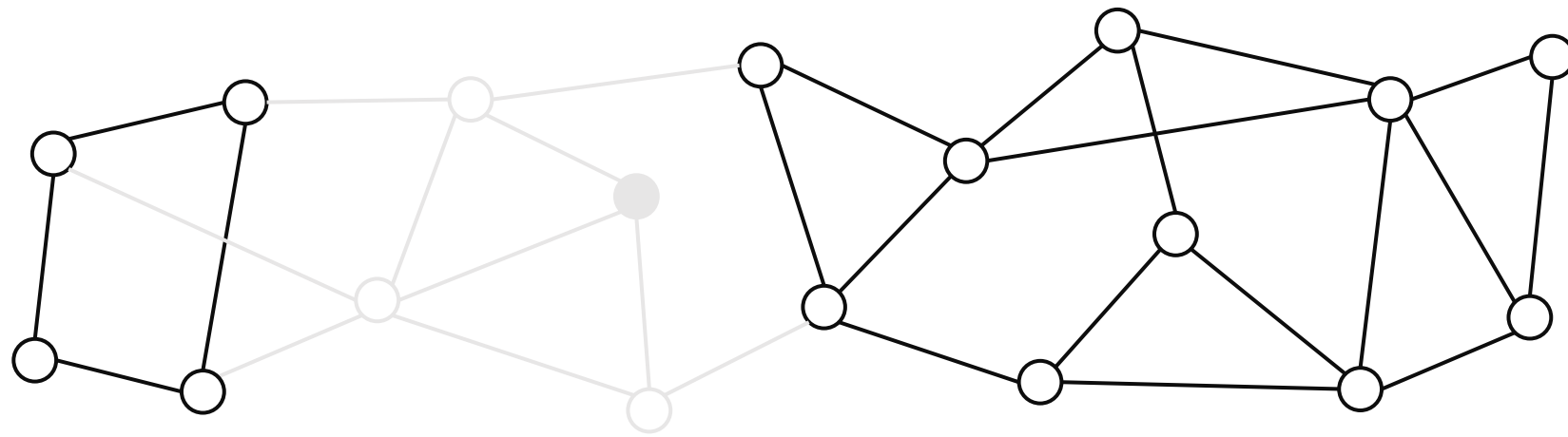
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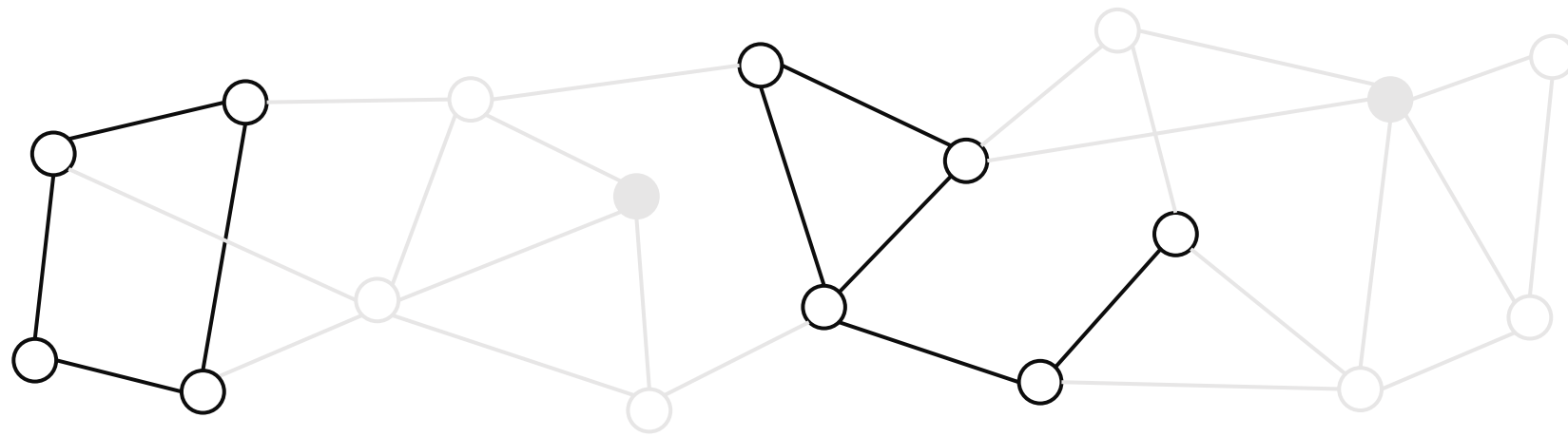
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# Greedy MIS



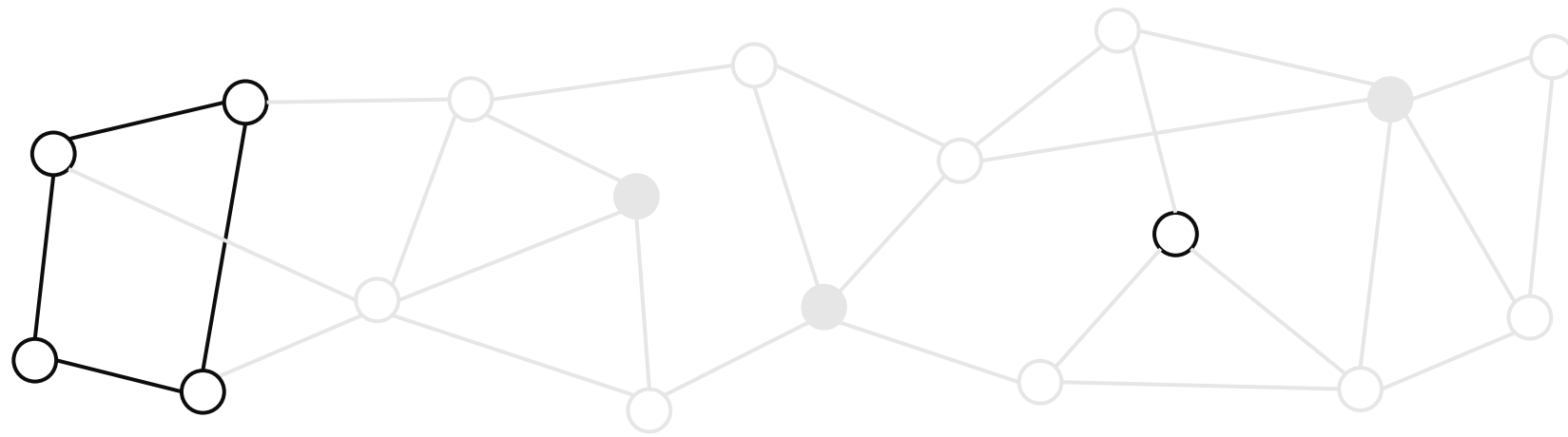
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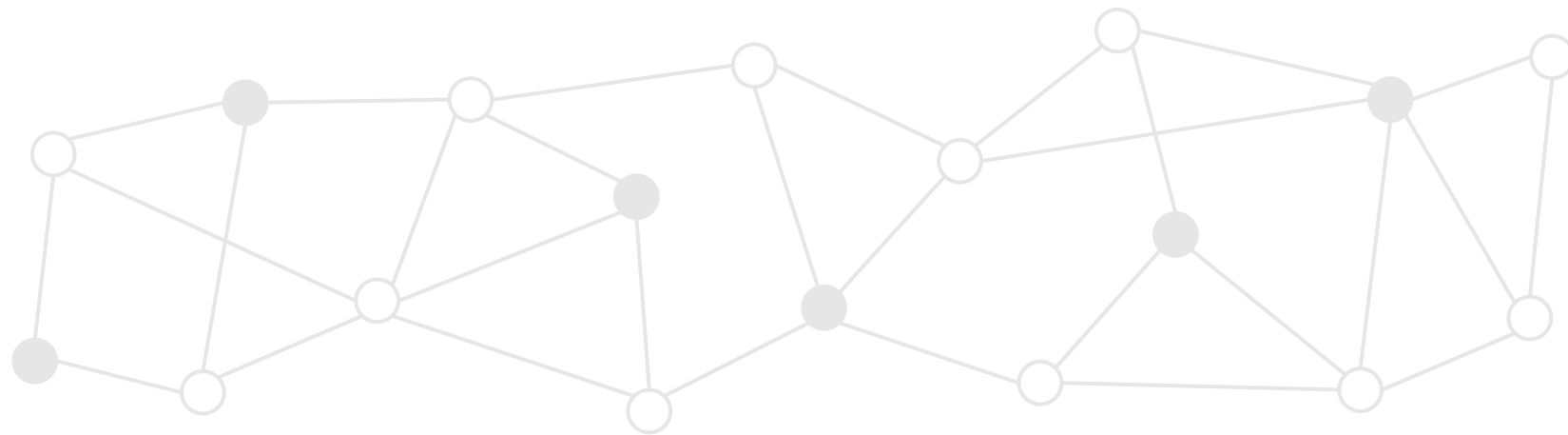
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# Greedy MIS



What do we need to solve?

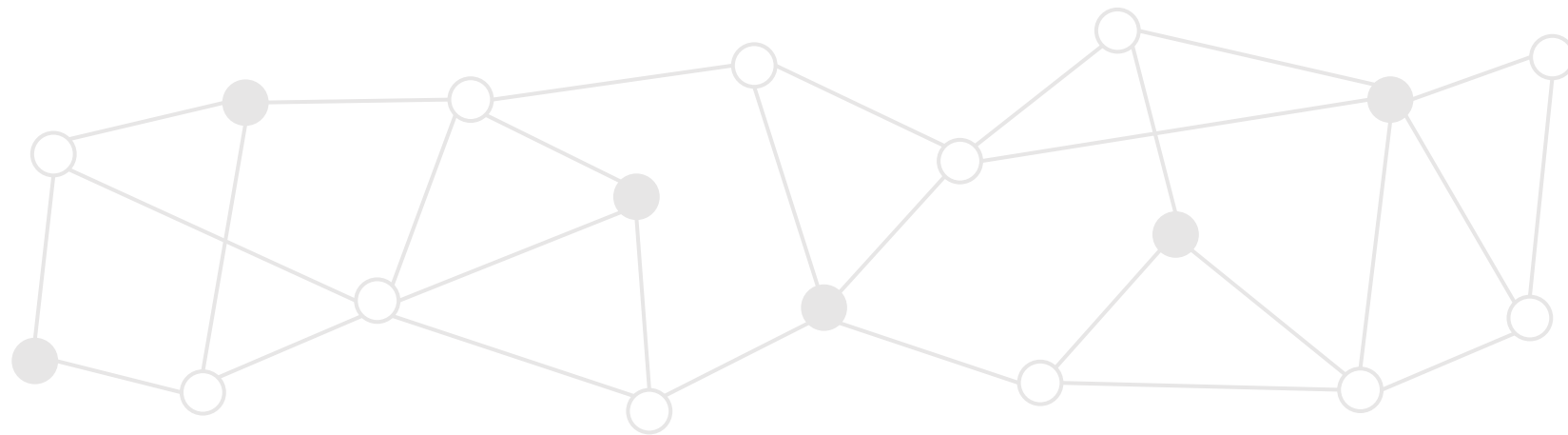
Just use the greedy  
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## **Greedy:**

One by one, pick nodes into  
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**Runtime:**  $\Theta(n)$

# Greedy MIS



What do we need to solve?

Just use the greedy algorithm...?

## **Greedy:**

One by one, pick nodes into the MIS and remove neighbors from the graph.

**Runtime:**  $\Theta(n)$

Not better than the trivial algorithm.

# Greedy MIS

## **Greedy:**

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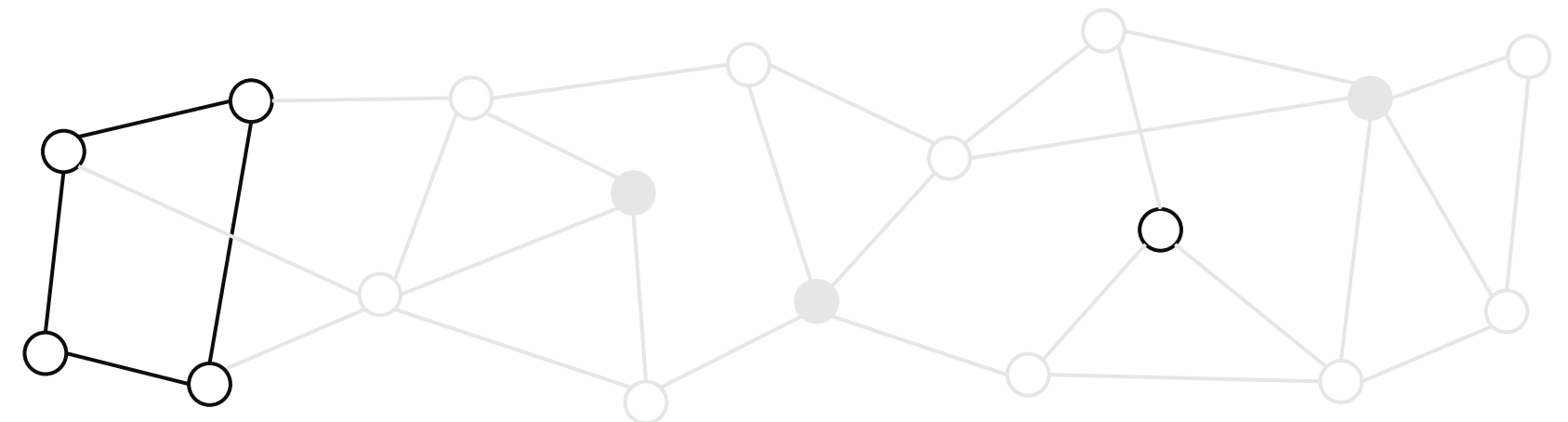
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# Greedy MIS

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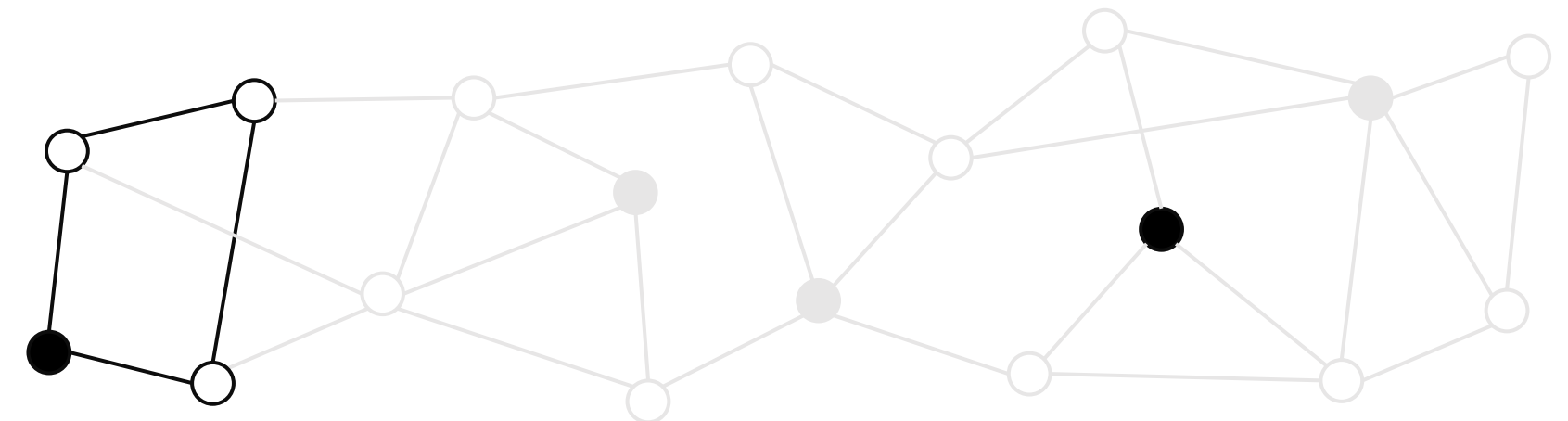


# Greedy MIS

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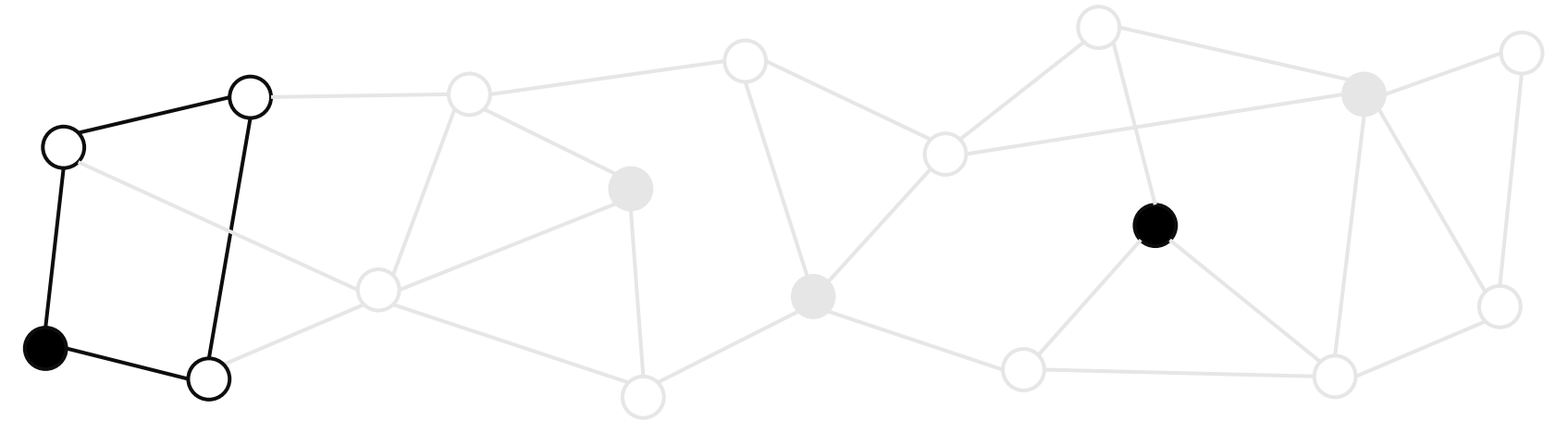
Could deal with both remaining components at once

# Greedy MIS

## **Greedy:**

One by one, pick nodes into the MIS and remove neighbors from the graph.

**Runtime:**  $\Theta(n)$



Choose local maxima,  
according to IDs?

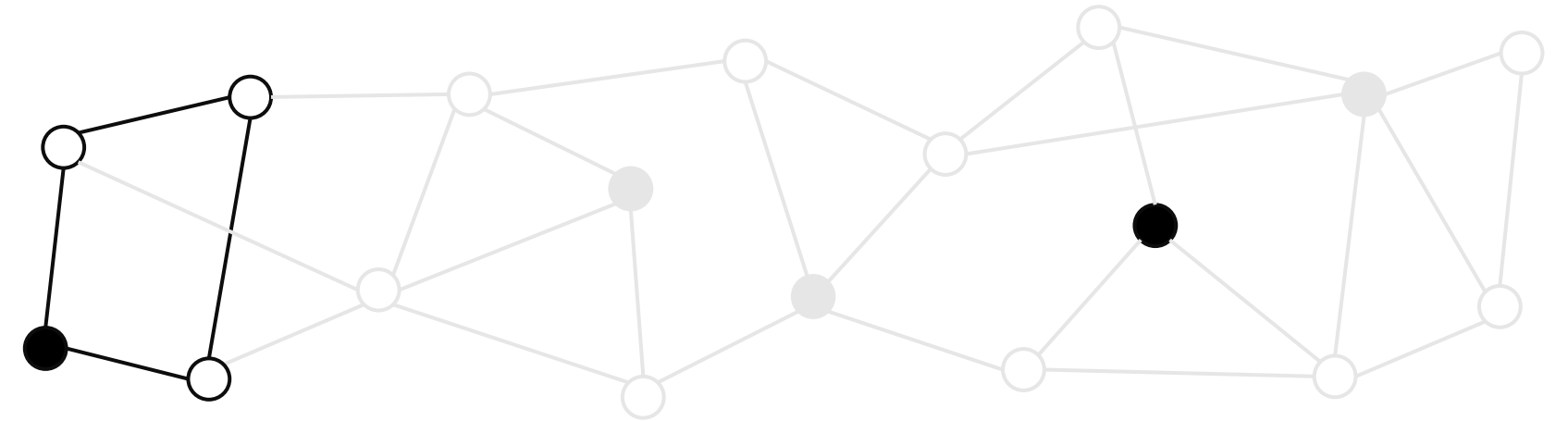


# Greedy MIS

## **Greedy:**

One by one, pick nodes into the MIS and remove neighbors from the graph.

**Runtime:**  $\Theta(n)$



Choose local maxima,  
according to IDs?

Think about a cycle with  
monotonically increasing IDs. One  
local minimum and maximum at once.



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# Luby's Algorithm

[Luby J. Computing 86]

[Alon, Babai, Itai J. Algorithms 86]

**Very informally:**

Randomly pick the  
local maxima.

## Algorithm (one phase)

Each Node  $u$ :

With probability  $\frac{1}{2d(u)}$  mark  $u$ .

If  $u$  is marked and no node  $v \in N(u)$  with  $d(v) \geq d(u)$  is marked:

Select  $u$  to the MIS and remove  $u$   
and all  $N(u)$  from the graph.

In the end of the phase, unmark  
every node.

# Luby's Algorithm

Change  
over time

## Algorithm (one phase)

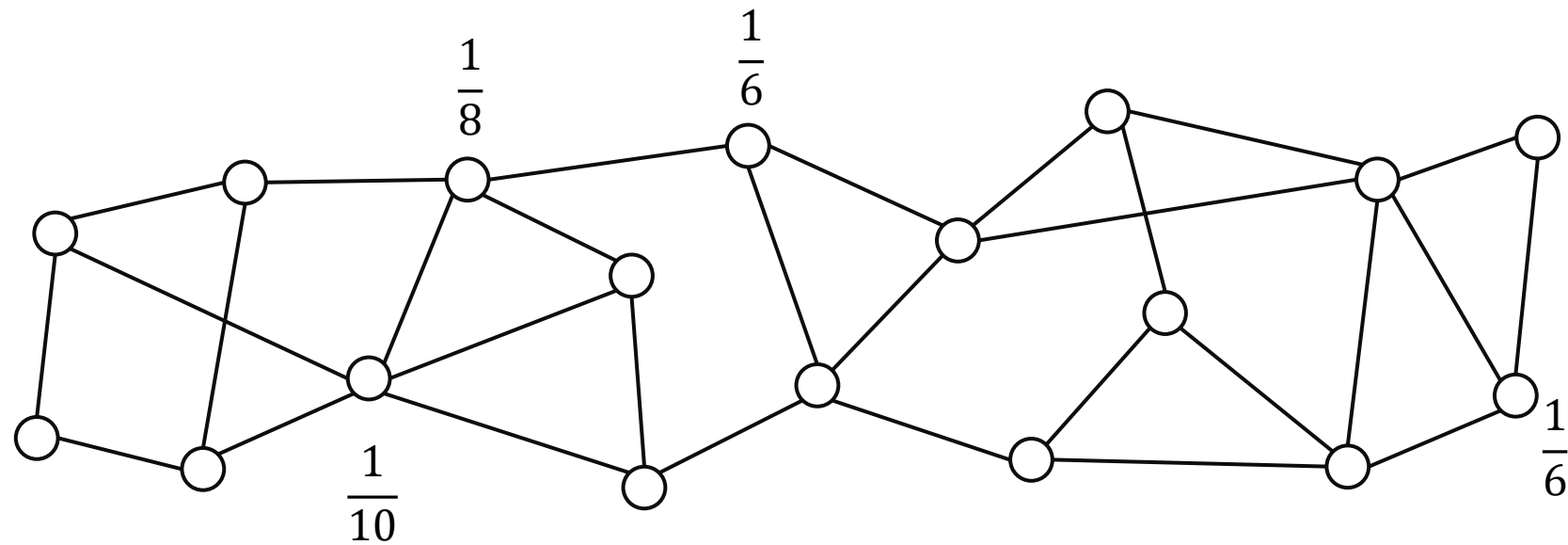
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# Luby's Algorithm



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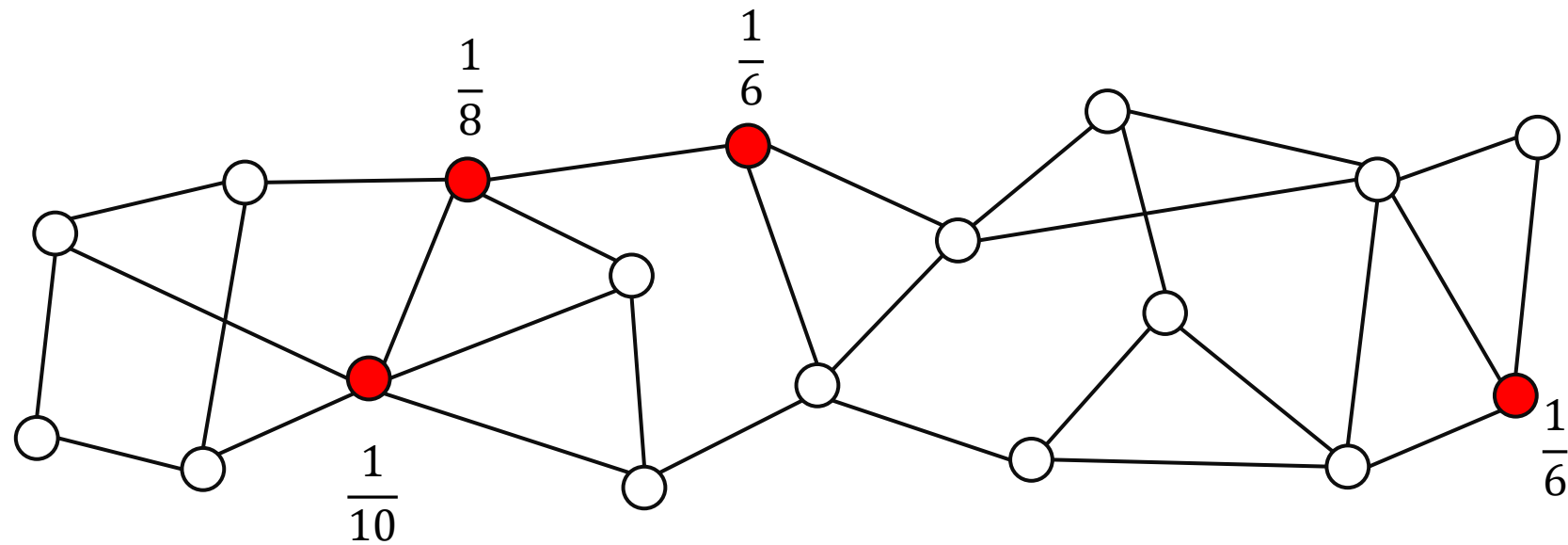
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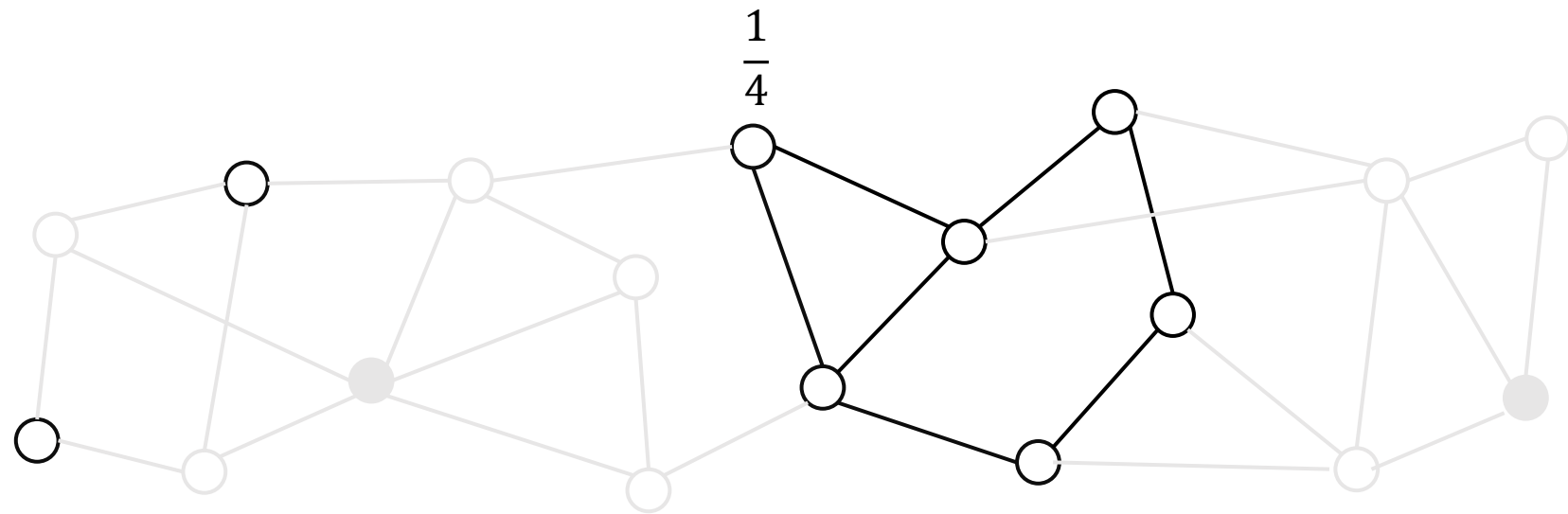
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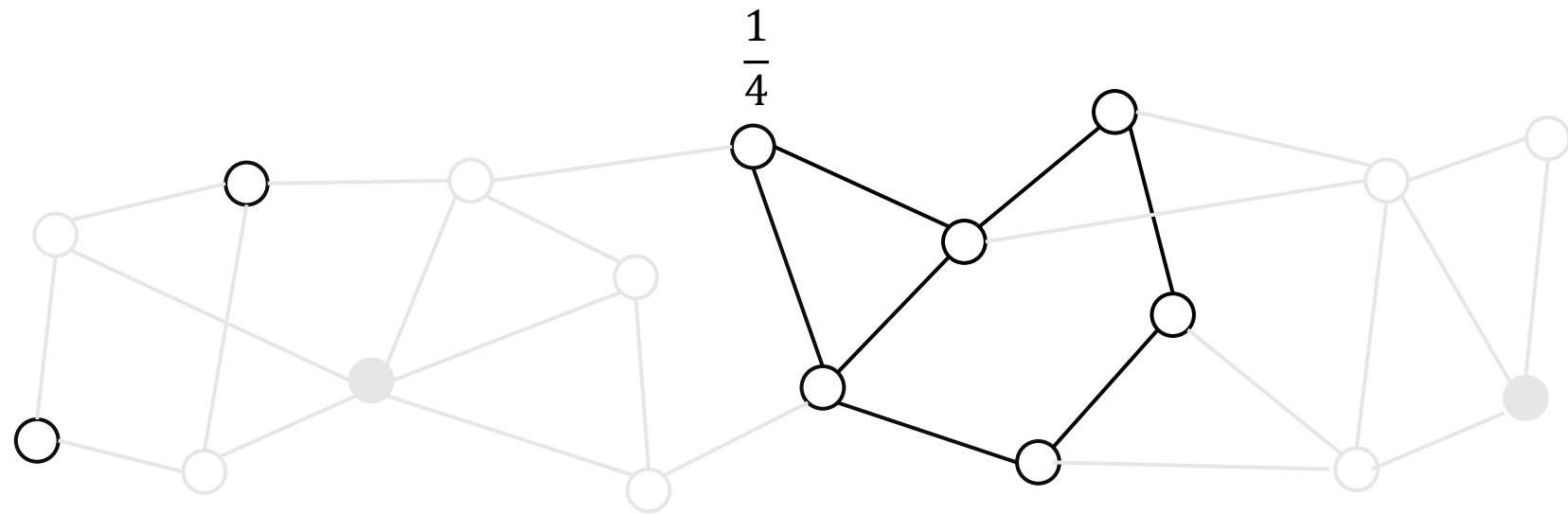
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# Luby's Algorithm



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# Luby's Algorithm

## Challenge:

What kind of progress do we have?

Does a node get **picked** to the MIS with a constant probability?

## Algorithm (one phase)

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# Luby's Algorithm

## Challenge:

What kind of progress do we have?

Does a node get **picked** to the MIS with a constant probability? **No.**

## Algorithm (one phase)

Each Node  $u$ :

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# Luby's Algorithm

## Challenge:

What kind of progress do we have?

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Does a node get **removed** with a constant probability?

## Algorithm (one phase)

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In the end of the phase, unmark every (remaining) node.

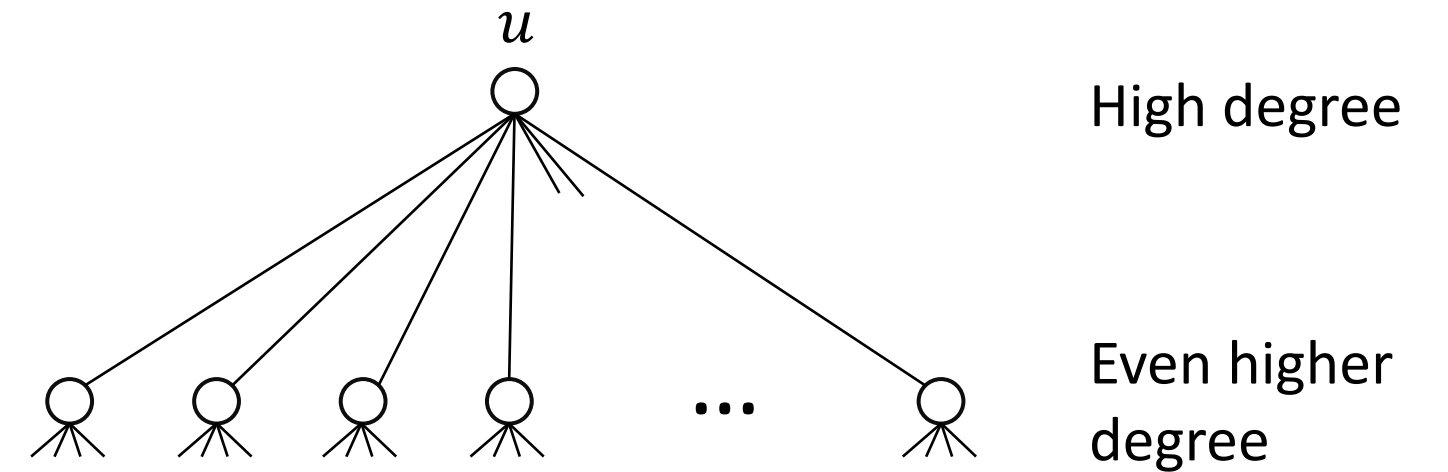
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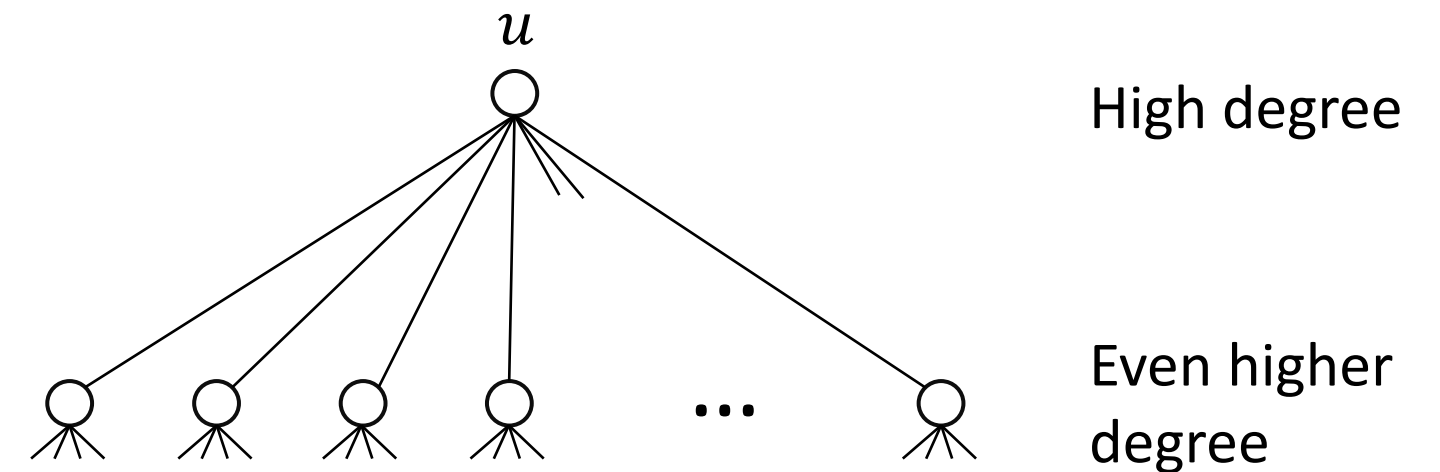
# Luby's Algorithm

## Challenge:

What kind of progress do we have?

Does a node get picked to the MIS with a constant probability?

Does a node get **removed** with a constant probability?



$P[u \text{ gets selected}]$  is small

$P[\text{some } u \in N(u) \text{ gets selected}]$  is small.



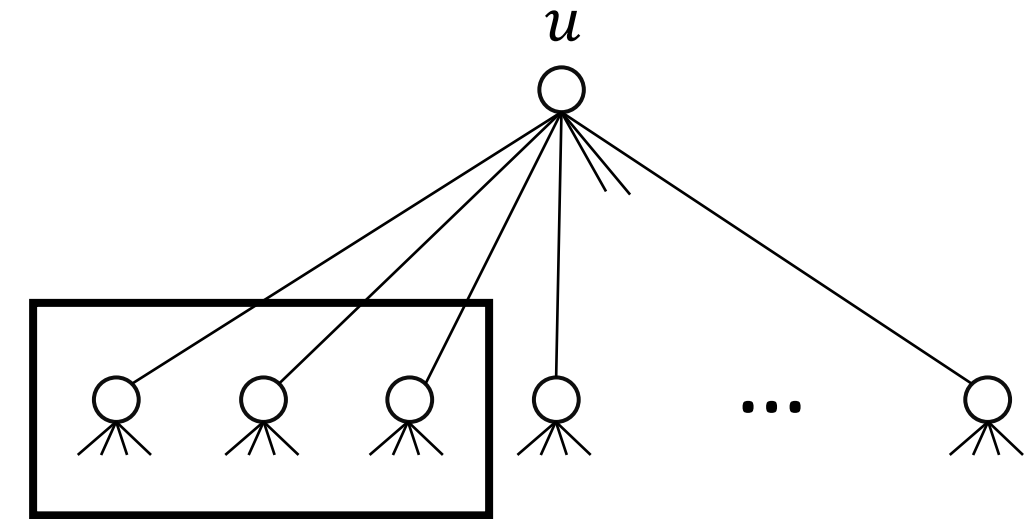
# Luby's Algorithm

Node  $u$  is *good* if

$$|\{v \in N(u) \mid d(u) > d(v)\}| \geq \frac{d(u)}{3}$$

At least one third of the neighbors of  $u$  have smaller degree.

An edge is *good* if it is incident on a good node.



## Intuition:

There is a reasonable chance that one is selected to the MIS.

# Luby's Algorithm

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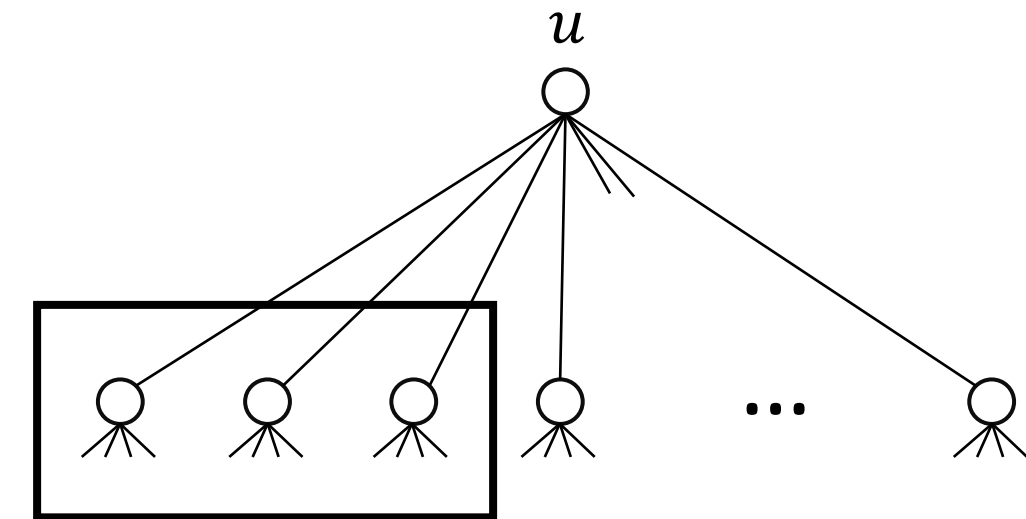
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At least one third of the neighbors of  $u$  have smaller degree.

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**Lemma:**

A good edge gets removed with a constant probability.



**Lemma:**

At least half of all edges are good.

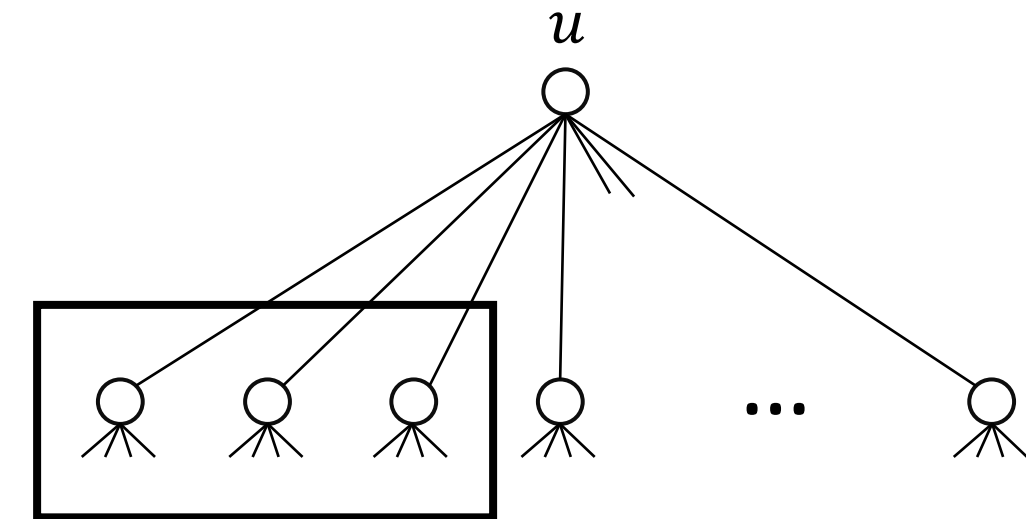
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# Luby's Algorithm

**Lemma:**

A good edge gets removed with a constant probability.

**Lemma:**

At least half of all edges are good.

**Corollary:**

After expected  $O(\log m)$  rounds, no edges remain.  
We can get this in expectation and w.h.p.

# Luby's Algorithm

**Lemma:**

A good **node** gets removed with a constant probability.

Node  $u$  is *good* if

$$|\{v \in N(u) \mid d(u) > d(v)\}| \geq \frac{\deg u}{3}$$

**What would be nice (Event  $R$ ):**

A “low degree” neighbor  $v$  of  $u$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

**Event  $B(v)$ :**

$v$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

# Luby's Algorithm

**Event  $B(v)$ :**

$v$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

$$P(B(v)) \geq \frac{1}{2d(v)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2d(v)}\right)^{d(v)}$$

# Luby's Algorithm

$$\left(1 - \frac{x}{2}\right) \geq 2^{-x}$$

**Event  $B(v)$ :**

$v$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

$$\begin{aligned} P(B(v)) &\geq \frac{1}{2d(v)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2d(v)}\right)^{d(v)} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2d(v)} \cdot \left(2^{1/d(v)}\right)^{d(v)} = \frac{1}{4d(v)} \end{aligned}$$

# Luby's Algorithm

**Event  $B(v)$ :**

$v$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

$$P(B(v)) \geq \frac{1}{4d(v)}$$

**Lemma:**

A good **node** gets removed with a constant probability.

A neighbor  $v$  with  $d(v) \leq 3$  is selected to the MIS with probability at least **1/12**.

Hence, we can assume that each  $d(v) > 3$ .

# Luby's Algorithm

Node  $u$  is *good* if

$$|\{v \in N(u) \mid d(u) > d(v)\}| \geq \frac{d(u)}{3}$$

Let  $C$  be the lower degree neighbors of  $u$ .

Each  $d(v) > 3$ .

# Luby's Algorithm

Node  $u$  is *good* if

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Let  $C$  be the lower degree neighbors of  $u$ .

Each  $d(v) > 3$ .

**By definition:**

$$\sum_{v \in C} \frac{1}{2d(v)} \geq \frac{d(u)}{3} \frac{1}{2d(v)}$$

# Luby's Algorithm

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$$\frac{d(u)}{3} \frac{1}{2d(u)} \geq \frac{1}{6}$$

Each  $d(v) > 3$ .



# Luby's Algorithm

Node  $u$  is *good* if

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Let  $C$  be the lower degree neighbors of  $u$ .

**By definition:**

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v \in C} \frac{1}{2d(v)} &\geq \frac{d(u)}{3} \frac{1}{2d(u)} \\ \frac{d(u)}{3} \frac{1}{2d(u)} &\geq \frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$

Each  $d(v) > 3$ .

There must exist  $S \subseteq C$  such that

$$\frac{1}{6} \leq \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{2d(v)} \leq \frac{1}{3}$$

# Luby's Algorithm

## Inclusion-Exclusion:

Let  $S$  be a set such that  $\frac{1}{6} \leq \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{2d(v)} \leq \frac{1}{3}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(R) \\ \geq \sum_{v \in S} P(B(v)) - \sum_{v \neq w \in S} P(B(v) \text{ and } B(w)) \end{aligned}$$

## Event $B(v)$ :

$v$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

$$P(B(v)) \geq \frac{1}{4d(v)}$$

## Event $R$ :

A neighbor  $v$  of  $u$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

# Luby's Algorithm

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$P(R)$

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# Luby's Algorithm

## Inclusion-Exclusion:

Let  $S$  be a set such that  $\frac{1}{6} \leq \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{2d(v)} \leq \frac{1}{3}$ .

$P(R)$

$$\geq \sum_{v \in S} P(B(v)) - \sum_{v \neq w \in S} P(B(v) \text{ and } B(w))$$

$$\geq \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{4d(v)} - \sum_{v \neq w \in S} \frac{1}{2d(v)} \frac{1}{2d(w)}$$

**Event  $B(v)$ :**

$v$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

$$P(B(v)) \geq \frac{1}{4d(v)}$$

**Event  $R$ :**

A neighbor  $v$  of  $u$  is marked and no higher degree neighbor of  $v$  is marked.

They both need to get marked at the least.

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# Luby's Algorithm

**Definition:**

Each good edge is adjacent to a good node  $u$ .

**Event  $R$ :**

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$$P(R) \geq \frac{1}{36}$$



# Luby's Algorithm

**Lemma:**

A good edge gets removed with a constant probability.

**Lemma:**

At least half of all edges are good.

**Corollary:**

After expected  $O(\log m)$  rounds, no edges remain.  
We can get this in expectation and w.h.p.

# Luby's Algorithm

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**Approach:**

Find an upper bound on the number of bad edges.

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Node  $u$  is *good* if

$$|\{v \in N(u) \mid d(u) > d(v)\}| \geq \frac{d(u)}{3}$$

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A bad node  $u$  has outdegree of at least  $2d(u)/3$ .

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**Recall:**

An edge is *good* if it is incident on a good node.

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**Lemma:**

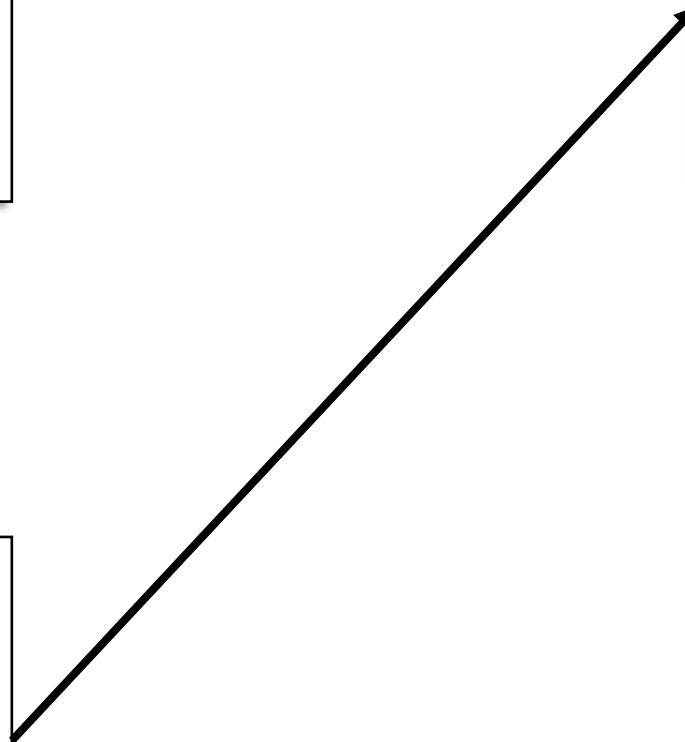
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A bad edge ends in a bad node.



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**Let  $B$  be the bad nodes.**

#bad edges  $\leq \sum_{u \in B} \text{indeg}(u)$

$\sum_{u \in B} \text{indeg}(u) \leq \sum_{u \in B} \text{outdeg}(u) / 2$



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$$\begin{aligned} \# \text{bad edges} &\leq \sum_{u \in B} \text{outdeg}(u) / 2 \\ &\leq \# \text{edges} / 2 \end{aligned}$$

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A good edge gets removed with probability at least  $1/36$ .

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**Linearity of expectation:**

Let  $R$  be the number of edges removed in a phase.

$$E[R] \geq m/72$$

**Markov's inequality:**

$$P \left[ R \leq \frac{E[R]}{2} \right] \leq \frac{1}{144}$$

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A good edge gets removed with probability at least  $1/36$ .

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Let  $R$  be the number of edges removed in a phase.

$$P \left[ R \leq \frac{E[R]}{2} \right] \leq \frac{1}{144}$$

Let  $\hat{m}$  be the number of edges in the original input graph.

After expected  $O(\log \hat{m}) = O(\log n)$  rounds, all edges are removed.

Notice that a degree 0 node joins the MIS with probability 1.

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Left as an exercise.



# Literature

## **Maximal Independent Set**

Deterministic:

$O(\text{poly } \log n)$

Randomized:

[Ghaffari et al., SODA 2021]

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Deterministic:

$O(\text{poly } \log n)$

$\Omega(\log n)$

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# Literature

## Maximal Independent Set

Deterministic:

$O(\text{poly } \log n)$

$\Omega(\log n)$

Randomized:

$O(\log \Delta + \text{poly } \log \log n)$

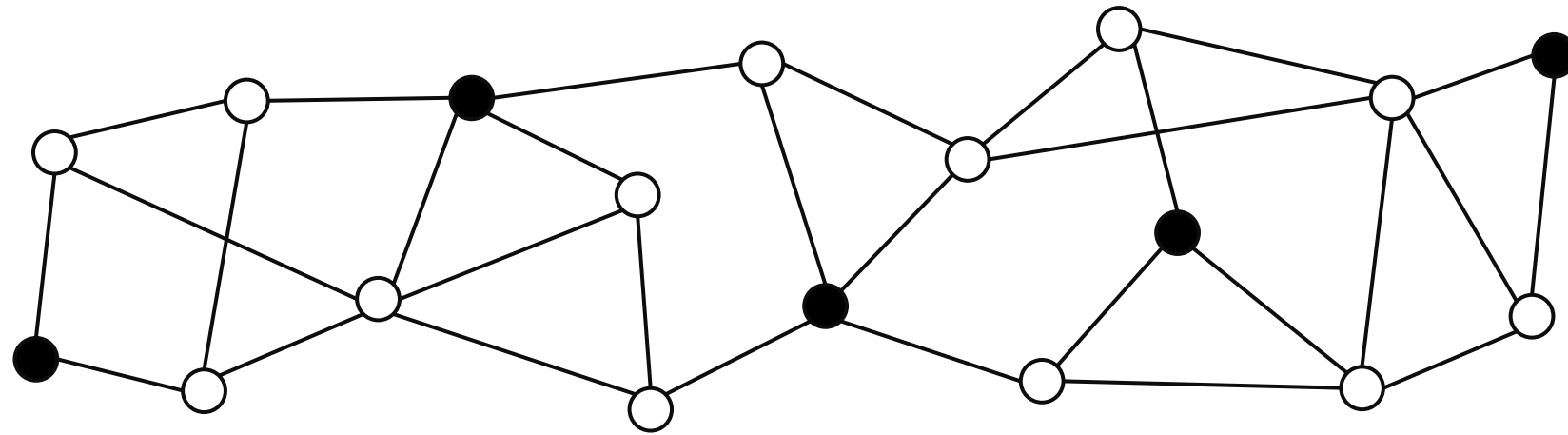
$\Omega(\log \log n)$

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[Balliu et al., FOCS 2019 best paper]

[Ghaffari, SODA 2016 best student paper]

# Wrap-up



**Luby's Algorithm:**  $O(\log n)$

## Maximal Independent Set

Deterministic:

$O(\text{poly } \log n)$

$\Omega(\log n)$

Randomized:

$O\left(\sqrt{\log \Delta} + \text{poly } \log \log n\right)$

$\Omega(\log \log n)$

## Maximum Independent Set

