



**FACULTY  
OF MATHEMATICS  
AND PHYSICS**  
Charles University

**MASTER THESIS**

Stanislav Kučera

# **Hereditary classes of binary matrices**

Computer Science Institute of Charles University

Supervisor of the master thesis: RNDr. Vít Jelínek, Ph.D.

Study programme: Computer Science

Study branch: Discrete Models and Algorithms

Prague 2017

I declare that I carried out this master thesis independently, and only with the cited sources, literature and other professional sources.

I understand that my work relates to the rights and obligations under the Act No. 121/2000 Sb., the Copyright Act, as amended, in particular the fact that the Charles University has the right to conclude a license agreement on the use of this work as a school work pursuant to Section 60 subsection 1 of the Copyright Act.

In ..... date .....

signature of the author

Title: Hereditary classes of binary matrices

Author: Stanislav Kučera

Institute: Computer Science Institute of Charles University

Supervisor: RNDr. Vít Jelínek, Ph.D., Computer Science Institute of Charles University

Abstract: Abstract.

Keywords: binary matrix pattern-avoiding interval minor

Dedication.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Extremal function . . . . .	3
1.1.1	Known results . . . . .	4
<b>2</b>	<b>Characterizations</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Empty rows and columns . . . . .	5
2.2	Patterns having two one-entries and their generalization . . . . .	8
2.3	Patterns having three one-entries and their generalization . . . . .	9
2.4	Patterns having four one-entries . . . . .	11
2.5	Multiple patterns . . . . .	13
<b>3</b>	<b>Operations with matrices</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1	Direct sum . . . . .	14
3.2	Articulations . . . . .	15
3.3	Basis . . . . .	17
<b>4</b>	<b>Zero-intervals</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1	Pattern complexity . . . . .	20
4.1.1	Adding empty lines . . . . .	21
4.1.2	Non-bounding patterns . . . . .	22
4.1.3	Bounding patterns . . . . .	23
4.2	Chain rules . . . . .	31
4.3	Complexity of one-entries . . . . .	34
	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>40</b>

# 1. Introduction

Throughout the paper, every time we speak about matrices we mean binary matrices (also called 01-matrices) and we omit the word binary. If we speak about a *pattern*, we again mean a binary matrix and we use the word in order to distinguish among more matrices as well as to indicate relationship.

When dealing with matrices, we always index rows and column starting with one and when we speak about a row  $r$ , we simply mean a row with index  $r$ . A *line* is a common word for both a row and a column. When we order a set of lines, we first put all rows and then all columns. For  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ ,  $[m]$  is a set of all rows and  $[m + n]$  is a set of all lines, where  $m$ -th element is the last row. This goes with the usual notation.

**Notation 1.1.** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $n \leq m$  let  $[n, m] := \{n, n + 1, \dots, m\}$ .

**Notation 1.2.** For a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  and  $L \subseteq [m + n]$  let  $M[L]$  denote a submatrix of  $M$  induced by lines in  $L$ .

**Notation 1.3.** For a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ ,  $R \subseteq [m]$  and  $C \subseteq [n]$  let  $M[R, C]$  denote a submatrix of  $M$  induced by rows in  $R$  and columns in  $C$ . Furthermore, for  $r \in [m]$  and  $c \in [n]$  let  $M[r, c] := M[\{r\}, \{c\}] = M[\{r, c + m\}]$ .

**Definition 1.4.** We say a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  *contains* a pattern  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  as a submatrix and denote it by  $P \leq M$  if there are  $R \in [m]$  and  $C \in [n]$  such that  $|R| = k$ ,  $|C| = l$  and for every  $r \in R$  and  $c \in C$  if  $P[r, c] = 1$ , then  $M[R, C][r, c] = 1$ .

This does not necessarily mean  $P = M[R, C]$  as  $M[R, C]$  can have more one-entries than  $P$  does.

**Notation 1.5.** For a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  and  $L \subseteq [m + n]$  let  $M_{\preceq}[L]$  denote a matrix acquired from  $M$  by applying following operation for each  $l \in L$ :

- If  $l$  is the first row in  $L$  then we replace the first  $l$  rows by one row that is a bitwise OR of replaced rows.
- If  $l$  is the first column in  $L$  then we replace the first  $l - m$  columns by one column that is a bitwise OR of replaced columns.
- Otherwise, we take  $l$ 's predecessor  $l' \in L$  in the standard ordering and replace lines  $[l' + 1, l]$  by one line that is a bitwise OR of replaced lines.

**Notation 1.6.** For a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ ,  $R \subseteq [m]$  and  $C \subseteq [n]$  let  $M_{\preceq}[R, C] := M_{\preceq}[R \cup \{c + m | c \in C\}]$ .

**Definition 1.7.** We say a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  *contains* a pattern  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  as an interval minor and denote it by  $P \preceq M$  if there are  $R \in [m]$  and  $C \in [n]$  such that  $|R| = k$ ,  $|C| = l$  and for every  $r \in R$  and  $c \in C$  if  $P[r, c] = 1$ , then  $M_{\preceq}[R, C][r, c] = 1$ .

**Observation 1.8.** For all matrices  $M$  and  $P$ ,  $P \leq M \Rightarrow P \preceq M$ .

**Observation 1.9.** For all matrices  $M$  and  $P$ , if  $P$  is a permutation matrix, then  $P \leq M \Leftrightarrow P \preceq M$ .

*Proof.* If we have  $P \preceq M$ , then there is a partitioning of  $M$  into rectangles and for each one-entry of  $P$  there is at least one one-entry in the corresponding rectangle of  $M$ . Since  $P$  is a permutation matrix, it is sufficient to take rows and columns having at least one one-entry in the right rectangle and we can always do so.

Together with Observation 1.8 this gives us the statement.  $\square$

**Observation 1.10.** Let  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  and  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$ ,  $P \preceq M \Leftrightarrow P^T \preceq M^T$ .

Because of this observation we will usually only show results only for rows or columns and expect both to hold and only show results for  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  but assume the symmetrical results for  $P^T$ .

**Definition 1.11.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be any class of forbidden matrices. We denote by  $Av(\mathcal{F})$  the set of all matrices that avoid every  $F \in \mathcal{F}$  as an interval minor.

**Observation 1.12.** For all patterns  $P, P'$ :  $P \preceq P' \Leftrightarrow Av_{\preceq}(P) \subseteq Av_{\preceq}(P')$ .

*Proof.* Every  $M \in Av_{\preceq}(P)$  avoids  $P$  and because  $P \preceq P'$ , it also avoids  $P'$ ; therefore, it belongs to  $Av_{\preceq}(P')$ .

If  $P \not\preceq P'$  then  $P' \in Av_{\preceq}(P)$ . As  $P' \notin Av_{\preceq}(P')$  we have  $Av_{\preceq}(P) \not\subseteq Av_{\preceq}(P')$ .  $\square$

## 1.1 Extremal function

**Notation 1.13.** Let  $M$  be a matrix. We denote  $|M|$  the weight of  $M$ , the number of one-entries in  $M$ .

Usually  $|M|$  stands for a determinant of matrix  $M$ . However, in this paper we do not work with determinants at all so the notation should not lead to misunderstanding.

**Definition 1.14.** For a matrix  $P$  we define  $Ex(P, m, n) := \max\{|M| \mid M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}, P \not\preceq M\}$ . We denote  $Ex(P, n, n) := Ex(P, n, n)$ .

**Definition 1.15.** For a matrix  $P$  we define  $Ex_{\preceq}(P, m, n) := \max\{|M| \mid M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}, P \not\preceq M\}$ . We denote  $Ex_{\preceq}(P, n) := Ex_{\preceq}(P, n, n)$ .

**Observation 1.16.** For all  $P, m, n$ ;  $Ex_{\preceq}(P, m, n) \leq Ex(P, m, n)$ .

**Observation 1.17.** If  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  has a one-entry at position  $[a, b]$ , then

$$Ex(P, m, n) \geq \begin{cases} m \cdot n & k > m \vee l > m \\ (k-1)n + (l-1)m - (k-1)(l-1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Observation 1.18.** The same holds for  $Ex_{\preceq}(P, m, n)$ .

**Definition 1.19.**  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  is (strongly) minimalist if

$$Ex(P, m, n) = \begin{cases} m \cdot n & k > m \vee l > m \\ (k-1)n + (l-1)m - (k-1)(l-1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Definition 1.20.**  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  is weakly minimalist if

$$Ex_{\preceq}(P, m, n) = \begin{cases} m \cdot n & k > m \vee l > m \\ (k-1)n + (l-1)m - (k-1)(l-1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Observation 1.21.** If  $P$  is strongly minimalist, then  $P$  is weakly minimalist.

### 1.1.1 Known results

**Fact 1.22.** 1.  $(\bullet)$  is strongly minimalist.

2. If  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  is strongly minimalist and there is a one-entry in the last row in the  $c$ -th column, then  $P' \in \{0, 1\}^{k+1 \times l}$ , which is created from  $P$  by adding a new row having a one-entry only in the  $c$ -th column, is strongly minimalist.

3. If  $P$  is strongly minimalist, then after changing a one-entry into a zero-entry it is still strongly minimalist.

**Fact 1.23** (Mohar et al. [2015]). Let  $P = \{1\}^{2 \times l}$ , then  $P$  is weakly minimalist.

*Proof.* Let  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  be a matrix avoiding  $P = \{1\}^{2 \times l}$  as an interval minor and  $A_i = \{j \in [n] \mid \text{weight of } M[[i, \{j\}] > 0 \wedge \text{weight of } M[[i+1, m], \{j\}] > 0\}$ . Clearly  $|A_i| \leq l-1$ , otherwise  $P \preceq M$ . Let  $b_j$  denote the number of one-entries in the  $j$ -th column. Each column  $j$  of  $M$  appears in at least  $b_j - 1$  of sets  $A_i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq m-2$ . It follows that

$$\text{weight of } M = \sum_{j=0}^n b_j = \sum_{j=0}^n (b_j - 1) + n \leq \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} |A_i| + n \leq (l-1)(m-1) + n$$

□

This result is indeed very important because it shows that there are matrices like  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , which are weakly minimalist, although it is known they are not strongly minimalist.

**Fact 1.24** (Mohar et al. [2015]). Let  $P = \{1\}^{3 \times l}$ , then  $P$  is weakly minimalist.

*Proof.* Let  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  be a matrix avoiding  $P = \{1\}^{3 \times l}$  as an interval minor and  $A_i = \{j \in [n] \mid \text{weight of } M[[i-1, \{j\}] > 0 \wedge \text{weight of } M[[i+1, m], \{j\}] > 0 \wedge M[i, j] \text{ one-entry}\}$ . Clearly  $|A_i| \leq l-1$ , otherwise  $P \preceq M$ . Let  $b_j$  denote the number of one-entries in the  $j$ -th column. Each column  $j$  of  $M$  (for which  $b_j \geq 2$ ) appears in exactly  $b_j - 2$  of sets  $A_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m-1$ . It follows that

$$\text{weight of } M = \sum_{j=0}^n b_j = \sum_{j=0}^n (b_j - 2) + 2n \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} |A_i| + 2n \leq (l-1)(m-2) + 2n$$

□



## 2. Characterizations

**Definition 2.1.** A *walk* in a matrix  $M$  is a sequence of some of its entries, beginning in the top left corner and ending in the bottom right one. If an entry  $M[i, j]$  is in the sequence, the next one is either  $M[i + 1, j]$  or  $M[i, j + 1]$ . Symmetrically, a *reverse walk* in  $M$  is a sequence of some of its entries, beginning in the top right corner and ending in the bottom left one.

**Definition 2.2.** We call a matrix  $M$  a *walking matrix* if there is a walk in  $M$  such that all one-entries of  $M$  are contained in the walk.

**Definition 2.3.** For  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  and  $r \in [m], c \in [n]$  we say  $M[r, c]$  is

- *top-left empty* if  $M[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$  is an empty matrix,
- *top-right empty* if  $M[[r - 1], [c + 1, n]]$  is empty,
- *bottom-left empty* if  $M[[r + 1, m], [c - 1]]$  is empty,
- *bottom-right empty* if  $M[[r + 1, m], [c + 1, n]]$  is empty.

**Definition 2.4.** For matrices  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  and  $M' \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times l}$ , we define  $M \rightarrow M' \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times (n+l)}$  to be the matrix created by extending  $M$  by columns of  $M'$ .

### 2.1 Empty rows and columns

**Observation 2.5.** For a matrix  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  let  $P' = P \rightarrow 0^{k \times 1}$ , and for a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  let  $M' = M \rightarrow 1^{m \times 1}$  then  $P \preceq M \Leftrightarrow P' \preceq M'$ .

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  We can map the last column of  $P'$  just to the last column of  $M'$  and then map  $P'[[k], [l]]$  to  $M'[[m], [n]]$  the same way  $P$  is mapped to  $M$ .

$\Leftarrow$  We take the restriction of the mapping of  $P'$  to  $M'$  to get a mapping of  $P$  to  $M$ .

□

The same proof can be used for adding an empty column as the first column or an empty row as the first or the last row. Using induction we can easily show that a pattern  $P'$  is avoided by a matrix  $M'$  if and only if  $P$  is avoided by  $M$  where  $P$  is derived from  $P'$  by excluding all empty leading or ending rows and columns and  $M$  is derived from  $M'$  by excluding the same number of leading or ending rows and columns. Therefore, when characterizing matrices avoiding a forbidden pattern, we do not need to consider patterns having empty rows or columns on their boundary.

The following machinery shows what happens after we add empty columns in between two columns of a pattern that only has two columns.

**Definition 2.6.** For a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  a *one-interval* is a sequence of consecutive one-entries in a single line of  $M$  bounded by the edge of matrix or zero-entry from both sides.

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times 2}$  and let  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  be an inclusion maximal matrix avoiding  $P$ , then  $M$  contains at most one one-interval in each row.*

*Proof.* For contradiction, assume there are at least two one-intervals in a row of  $M$ . Because  $M$  is inclusion maximal, changing any zero-entry  $e$  in between one-intervals  $o_1$  and  $o_2$  creates a mapping of the forbidden pattern. Such a mapping uses the changed one-entry to map an element  $P[r', 1]$  or  $P[r', 2]$ .

In the first case, the same mapping also works if we use a one-entry from  $o_1$  instead of  $e$ ; thus,  $P \not\leq M$  and we reach a contradiction. In the second case, the mapping can use a one-entry from  $o_2$  instead of  $e$ ; therefore, we again get a contradiction with  $P \not\leq M$ . Since  $e$  is not usable for any one-entry of  $P$ , we can change it to a one-entry and get a contradiction with  $M$  being inclusion maximal.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times 2}$  and for any  $l \geq 1$  let  $P^l \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times (l+2)}$  be a pattern created from  $P$  by adding  $l$  new empty columns in between the two columns of  $P$ . If an  $m \times n$  matrix  $M \in Av_{\leq}(P^l)$  is inclusion maximal, then each row of  $M$  is either empty or it contains a single one-interval of length at least  $l + 1$ .*

*Proof.* The same proof as in Lemma 2.7 shows that there is at most one one-interval in each row.

For contradiction, assume there are at most  $l$  one-entries  $M[\{r\}, [c_1, c_2]]$  in row  $r$ :

- $c_1 = 1$ : we can set  $M[r, c_2 + 1] = 1$  and the matrix still avoids  $P^l$ , which is a contradiction with  $M$  being inclusion maximal.
- $c_2 = n$ : we can set  $M[r, c_1 - 1] = 1$  and the matrix still avoids  $P^l$ , which is a contradiction with  $M$  being inclusion maximal.
- otherwise: let us choose  $e_l$  and  $e_r$  zero-entries in row  $r$  such that there are exactly  $l$  columns in between them and all one-entries of row  $r$  lie in between them. For contradiction, assume we cannot change neither  $e_l = M[r, c_l]$  nor  $e_r = M[r, c_r]$  to a one-entry without creating the pattern. This means  $e_l$  is usable for some  $P^l[r_1, 1]$ , let  $m_l$  be the corresponding mapping. At the same time  $e_r$  is usable for some  $P^l[r_2, l+2]$  with  $m_r$  being the corresponding mapping. We show that the two mappings can be combined to a mapping of  $P^l$  to  $M$  giving a contradiction. Without loss of generality, in both mappings, empty columns of  $P$  are mapped exactly to  $l$  columns of  $M$ . We describe how to partition  $M$  into  $k$  rows. Consider Figure 2.1:

- $r_1 \neq r_2$ : Without loss of generality, we assume  $r_1 > r_2$ . Let  $r_3$  be the first row used to map  $r_1$  in  $m_l$  and let  $r_4$  be the last row used to map  $r_1$  in  $m_r$ . From  $m_l$  being a mapping, we know that the first  $r_1 - 1$  rows of  $P$  can be mapped to rows  $[1, r_3 - 1]$  of  $M$  and from  $m_r$  being a mapping, we know that the last  $k - r_1$  rows of  $P$  can be mapped to rows  $[r_4 + 1, m]$  of  $M$ . Therefore, we can use rows  $[r_3, r_4]$  of  $M$  to map row  $r_1$  of  $P$  without using one-entries  $e_l$  and  $e_r$ .

- $r_1 = r_2$ : Let  $r_3$  and  $r_4$  be the first and the last rows respectively used to map  $r_1$  in  $m_l$  and let  $r_5$  and  $r_6$  be the first and the last rows respectively used to map  $r_1$  in  $m_r$ . Without loss of generality let  $r_3 < r_5$ . From  $m_l$  being a mapping, we know that the first  $r_1 - 1$  rows of  $P$  can be mapped to rows  $[1, r_3 - 1]$  of  $M$ . Without loss of generality let  $r_4 < r_6$ . From  $m_r$  being a mapping, we know that the last  $k - r_1$  rows of  $P$  can be mapped to rows  $[r_6 + 1, m]$  of  $M$ . Therefore, we can use rows  $[r_3, r_6]$  of  $M$  to map row  $r_1$  of  $P$  without using one-entries  $e_l$  and  $e_r$ .

We showed that either  $e_l$  or  $e_r$  can be changed to a one-entry, which is a contradiction with  $M$  being inclusion maximal.

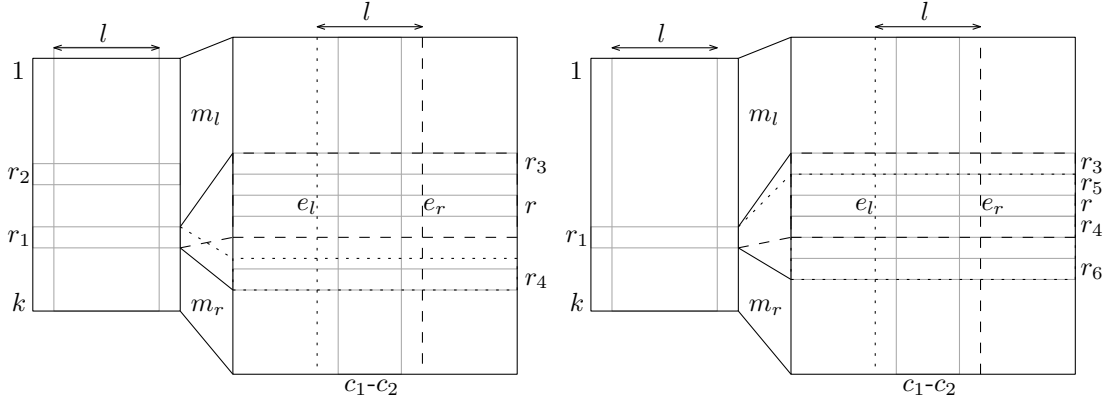


Figure 2.1: Dotted and dashed lines resembling mappings  $m_l$  and  $m_r$  of the forbidden pattern. Two horizontal lines show the boundaries of the mapping of row  $r$  and the vertical lines show boundaries of the mapping of column  $c$ .

□

**Theorem 2.9.** Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times 2}$  and for any  $l \geq 1$  let  $P^l \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times (l+2)}$  be a pattern created from  $P$  by adding  $l$  new empty columns in between the two columns of  $P$ . For all  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  it holds  $M \in \text{Av}_{\leq}(P^l) \Leftrightarrow$  there exists  $N \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times (n-l)}$  such that  $N \in \text{Av}_{\leq}(P)$  is inclusion maximal and  $M$  is a submatrix of an elementwise OR of  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times l}, 0^{m \times 1} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0^{m \times (l-1)}, \dots, 0^{m \times (l-1)} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0^{m \times 1}, 0^{m \times l} \rightarrow N$ .

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  It suffices to prove the statement for an inclusion maximal  $M$ . We know from Lemma 2.8 that each row of  $M$  contains either no one-entry or a single one-interval of length at least  $l + 1$ . Let matrix  $N$  be created from  $M$  by deleting the last  $l$  one-entries from each row and excluding the last  $l$  columns. Clearly,  $M$  is equal to an elementwise OR of  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times l}, 0^{m \times 1} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0^{m \times (l-1)}, \dots, 0^{m \times (l-1)} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0^{m \times 1}, 0^{m \times l} \rightarrow N$ . If  $P \preceq N$  then each mapping of  $P$  can be extended to a mapping of  $P^l$  to  $M$  by mapping each  $P^l[i, 1]$  to the same one-entry where  $P[i, 1]$  is mapped in  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times l}$  and mapping each  $P^l[j, l + 2]$  to the same one-entry where  $P[j, 2]$  is mapped in  $0^{m \times l} \rightarrow N$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Let  $M$  be equal to an elementwise OR of  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times l}, 0^{m \times 1} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0^{m \times (l-1)}, \dots, 0^{m \times (l-1)} \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0^{m \times 1}, 0^{m \times l} \rightarrow N$ . For contradiction, assume  $P^l \preceq M$  and consider any mapping of  $P^l$  to  $M$ . Without loss of generality,

one-entries of the first column of  $P^l$  are mapped to those one-entries of  $M$  created from  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times l}$ . If there is such one-entry mapped to a one-entry of  $M$  not created from  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times l}$ , we just take the first one-entry in the row instead. Symmetrically, all one-entries of the last column of  $P^l$  are mapped to one-entries created from  $0^{m \times 1} \rightarrow N$ . The same one-entries of  $N$  can be used to map  $P$  to  $N$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

The same statement also holds when adding empty rows to a pattern that only has two rows. We can see in the following proposition that the straightforward generalization of the statement for bigger patterns does not hold.

**Proposition 2.10.** *There exists a matrix  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  such that for each  $P' \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times (l+1)}$  created from  $P$  by adding a single empty column in between two existing columns, there exists a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  such that  $P' \preceq M$  and there exists  $N \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times (n-1)}$  such that  $N \in \text{Av}_{\preceq}(P)$  is inclusion maximal and  $M$  is a submatrix of an elementwise OR of  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times 1}$  and  $0^{m \times 1} \rightarrow N$ .*

*Proof.* Later in this chapter, we characterize the class of matrices avoiding pattern  $P_8$ . For the result, look at Proposition 2.22. Let  $N \in \text{Av}_{\preceq}(P_8)$  be any matrix containing  $P_5$  as an interval minor. Let  $M$  be equal to  $N \rightarrow 0^{m \times 1}$  placed over  $0^{m \times 1} \rightarrow N$  with elementwise OR. Then  $(\bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet), (\bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet) \preceq M$ .  $\square$

Next, we characterize matrices avoiding some small patterns. Because of the above results, we also characterize some of their generalizations and we completely omit empty lines in them. If  $P \not\preceq M$  then also  $P^T \not\preceq M^T$  and this holds for all rotations and mirrors of  $P$  and  $M$  and so we only mention these symmetries and do not prove all characterizations one by one.

## 2.2 Patterns having two one-entries and their generalization

These are, up to rotation and mirroring, the only patterns having two one-entries and no empty lines:

$$P_1 = (\bullet \bullet) \quad P_2 = (\bullet \bullet)$$

They can be generalized to:

$$P'_1 = (\bullet \dots \bullet) \quad P'_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \dots & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

**Proposition 2.11.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_1 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M$  has at most one non-empty column.*

*Proof.*  $\Leftarrow$   $M$  having at most one non-empty column does not contain  $P_1$ .

$\Rightarrow$  When  $M$  has two columns  $c_1, c_2$  having a one-entry  $M[r_1, c_1], M[r_2, c_2]$  respectively, those give us a mapping of  $P_1$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.12.** *Let  $P'_1 = \{1\}^{1 \times k}$ . For all matrices  $M$ :  $P'_1 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M$  has at most  $k - 1$  non-empty columns.*

*Proof.*  $\Leftarrow$   $M$  having at most  $k - 1$  non-empty columns does not contain  $P'_1$ .

$\Rightarrow$  When  $M$  has  $k$  columns  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$  each having a one-entry  $M[r_1, c_1], M[r_2, c_2], \dots, M[r_k, c_k]$  respectively, those give us a mapping of  $P'_1$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.13.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_2 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M$  is a walking matrix.*

*Proof.*  $\Leftarrow$  a walking matrix does not contain  $P_2$ .

$\Rightarrow$  When  $M$  is not a walking pattern then there are two one-entries that cannot be in the same walk and those give us a mapping of  $P_2$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.14.** *Let  $P'_2 \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times k}$ . For all matrices  $M$ :  $P'_2 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M$  contains one-entries in at most  $k - 1$  walks.*

*Proof.*  $\Leftarrow$   $M$  containing one-entries in at most  $k - 1$  walks does not contain  $P'_2$ .

$\Rightarrow$  When one-entries of  $M$  cannot fit into  $k - 1$  walks, then there are  $k$  one-entries where no pair can fit to a single walk and those giving us a mapping of  $P'_2$ .  $\square$

## 2.3 Patterns having three one-entries and their generalization

These are up to rotation and mirroring the only patterns having three one-entries and no empty lines that we did not characterize so far:

$$P_3 = (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \quad P_4 = (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \end{smallmatrix}) \quad P_5 = (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \quad P_6 = (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$$

**Proposition 2.15.** *For all matrices  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ :  $P_3 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow$  there exist a row  $r$  and a column  $c$  such that (see Figure 2.2)*

- $M[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$  is empty,
- $M[[r - 1], [c + 1, n]]$  is empty,
- $M[[r + 1, m], [c - 1]]$  is empty and
- $M[[r, m], [c, n]]$  is a walking matrix.

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  If  $M$  is a walking matrix then we set  $r = c = 1$ . Otherwise, there are one-entries  $M[r, c']$  and  $M[r', c]$  such that  $r' < r$  and  $c' < c$ . If there is a one-entry in  $M[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$ ,  $M[[r - 1], [c + 1, n]]$  or  $M[[r + 1, m], [c - 1]]$  then  $P \preceq M$ . If  $M[[r, m], [c, n]]$  is not a walking matrix then it contains  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$  and together with  $M[r, c']$  it gives us the forbidden pattern.

		c
	0	0
r	0	$M'$

Figure 2.2: Characterization of matrices avoiding  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$  as an interval minor. Matrix  $M'$  is a walking matrix.

$\Leftarrow$  For contradiction, assume that  $M$  described in Figure 2.2 contains  $P_3$  as an interval minor. Without loss of generality we can assume  $P_3[1, 1]$  is mapped to the  $r$ -th row. But then both  $P_3[1, 2]$  and  $P_3[2, 1]$  need to be mapped to  $M'$  which is a contradiction with it being a walking matrix.

□

**Proposition 2.16.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_4 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow$  for the top-left most reverse walk  $w$  in  $M$  such that there are no one-entries underneath it and for every one-entry  $M[r, c]$  on  $w$  it holds  $M[[r-1], [c-1]]$  is a walking matrix.*

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  For contradiction assume there are  $r, c$  such that  $M[r, c]$  is a one-entry of  $w$  and  $M[[r-1], [c-1]]$  is not a walking matrix. It means that  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \preceq M[[r-1], [c-1]]$  and together with  $M[r, c]$  it gives us the forbidden pattern and a contradiction.

$\Leftarrow$  For contradiction let  $P_4 \preceq M$  and consider a mapping of  $P_4$ , where  $P_4[3, 3]$  is mapped to  $M[r, c]$  and there is no other one-entry in  $M[[r, m], [c, n]]$ . Clearly,  $M[r, c]$  cannot lie on  $w$ , because then  $M[[r], [c]]$  is a walking matrix and so  $M[r, c]$  cannot be used to map  $P_4[3, 3]$ . So  $M[r, c]$  lies above  $w$  but that is a contradiction with  $w$  being top-left most reverse walk in  $M$  without one-entries underneath it.

□

**Proposition 2.17.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_5 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M = M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  where  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \not\preceq M_1$  and  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \not\preceq M_2$ .*

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  Let  $e = [r, c]$  be the top-most one-entry of  $M$ . If  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \preceq M[[m], [c-1]]$ , together with  $e$  it forms  $P_5$ . If  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \not\preceq M[[m], [c, n]]$  then we are done. Let us assume it is not the case and let  $e_{1,1}, e_{2,2}$  be any two one-entries forming the forbidden pattern. Symmetrically, let  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \preceq M[[m], [c]]$  and let  $e_{1,2}, e_{2,1}$  be any two one-entries forming the forbidden pattern. If we take  $e_{1,1}, e_{1,2}$  and  $e_{2,1}$  or  $e_{2,2}$  with bigger row, we get  $P_5$  as an interval minor of  $M$ .

$\Leftarrow$  For contradiction, let us assume  $P_5 \preceq M$ . Let us look at the one-entry of  $M$  where  $P_5[2, 2]$  is mapped. If it is in  $M_1$  then  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \preceq M_1$  and we get a contradiction. Otherwise we have  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}) \preceq M_2$  which is again a contradiction.

□

**Proposition 2.18.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_6 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow$  for the top-right most walk  $w$  in  $M$  such that there are no one-entries underneath it and for every one-entry  $M[r, c]$  on  $w$  there is at most one non-empty column in  $M[[r - 1], [c + 1, n]]$ .*

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  For contradiction assume that there is a one-entry of the walk  $M[r, c]$  for which there are two non-empty columns in  $M[[r - 1], [c + 1, m]]$ . Then a one-entry from each of those columns and a one-entry in  $M[r, c]$  together give us  $P_6 \preceq M$  and a contradiction.

$\Leftarrow$  For contradiction let  $P_6 \preceq M$ . Without loss of generality  $P_6[2, 1]$  is mapped  $M[r, c]$  which lies on  $w$ . But then  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M[[r - 1], [c + 1, n]]$  which is a contradiction with it having one-entries in at most one column.  $\square$

## 2.4 Patterns having four one-entries

These are some of the patterns having four one-entries and no empty lines that we did not characterize so far:

$$P_7 = (\bullet\bullet\bullet) \quad P_8 = (\bullet\bullet\bullet) \quad P_9 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \\ & & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

**Lemma 2.19.** *For any matrix  $M$ :  $P_7 \not\preceq M \Rightarrow$  there exist integers  $r, c$  such that  $M[r, c]$  is either*

1. *a one-entry and  $(r, c) \in \{(1, 1), (1, n), (m, 1), (m, n)\}$  or*
2. *top-left empty and bottom-right empty and  $(r, c) \notin \{(1, n), (m, 1)\}$  or*
3. *top-right empty and bottom-left empty and  $(r, c) \notin \{(1, 1), (m, n)\}$ .*

*Proof.* If there is a one-entry in any corner then we are done. Otherwise, consider  $M[1, 2]$ . It is trivially bottom-left empty and there is no one-entry in the first row of  $M$  we are done. Therefore, let  $M[1, c_t]$  be the left-most one-entry in the first row. Symmetrically, let  $M[m, c_b]$  be the right-most one-entry in the last row, let  $M[r_l, 1]$  be the bottom most one-entry in the first column and let  $M[r_r, n]$  be the top-most one-entry in the last column. It cannot happen that  $c_t < c_b$  and  $r_r > r_l$ , because then  $P_7 \preceq M$ . Symmetrically, it does not hold at the same time  $c_t > c_b$  and  $r_r < r_l$ . Without loss of generality, let  $c_t \geq c_b$  and  $r_r \geq r_l$ . Matrix  $M[[r_r - 1], [c_t + 1, n]]$  is empty; otherwise, any one-entry there, together with  $M[1, c_t]$ ,  $M[m, c_b]$  and  $M[r_r, 1]$  forms the forbidden pattern. Similarly, matrix  $M[[r_r + 1, m], [c_t - 1]]$  is also empty. Thus  $M[r_t, c_t]$  is top-right and bottom-left empty and it is not a corner, because those are empty.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.20.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_7 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M$  looks like one of the matrices in Figure 2.3, where  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_1$ ,  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_2$ ,  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_3$  and  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_4$ .*

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  We proceed by induction on the size of  $M$ .

If  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{2 \times 2}$  then it either avoids  $(\bullet\bullet)$  or  $(\bullet\bullet)$  and we are done.

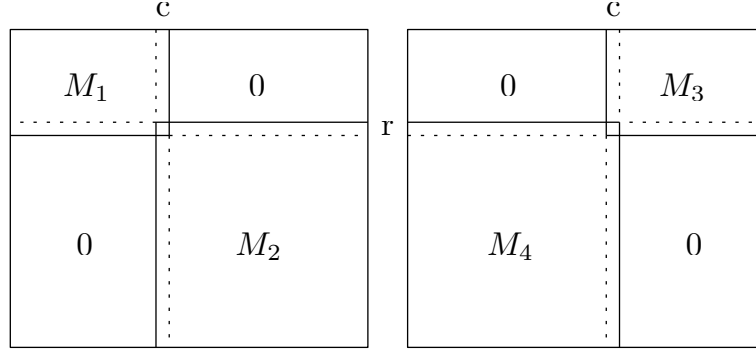


Figure 2.3: Characterization of matrices avoiding  $(\bullet\bullet)$  as an interval minor.

For bigger  $M$ , from Lemma 2.19, there is  $M[r, c]$  satisfying some conditions. If there is a one-entry in any corner, we are done because the matrix cannot contain one of the rotations of  $(\bullet\bullet)$ . Otherwise, assume  $M[r, c]$  is both top-right and bottom-left empty and  $(r, c) \notin \{(1, n), (m, 1)\}$ . Let  $M_1 = M[[r], [c]]$  and  $M_2 = M[[r, m], [c, n]]$ . If  $M_1$  is non-empty, then  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_2$ . Symmetrically,  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_1$  if  $M_2$  is non-empty. If one of them is empty, the other is a smaller matrix avoiding  $P$  as an interval minor and the statement follows from the induction.

$\Leftarrow$  Without loss of generality, let us assume  $M$  looks like the left matrix in Figure 2.3. For contradiction, assume  $P \preceq M$ . In that case, we can partition  $M$  into four quadrants such that there is at least one one-entry in each of them. It does not matter where we partition it, every time we either get  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M_1$  or  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M_2$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.21.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_8 \not\preceq M \Rightarrow M = M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  where*

1.  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_1$  and  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_2$  or
2.  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M_1$  and  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M_2$ .

*Proof.* Let  $e = [r, c]$  be the top-most one-entry of  $M$ . If  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M[[m], [c-1]]$ , together with  $e$  it would be the whole  $P_8$ . Symmetrically,  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M[[m], [c+1, n]]$ . For contradiction assume  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M[[m], [c]]$  and let  $e_{1,1}, e_{2,2}$  (none of them equal to  $e$ ) be any two one-entries forming the pattern. Symmetrically, assume  $(\bullet\bullet) \preceq M[[m], [c, n]]$  and let  $e_{1,2}, e_{2,1}$  be any two one-entries forming the pattern. Then  $e_{1,1}, e, e_{1,2}$  and  $e_{2,1}$  or  $e_{2,2}$  with bigger row give us mapping of  $P_8$  to  $M$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.22.** *For all matrices  $M$ :  $P_8 \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow M$  is structured like the matrix in Figure 2.4 where  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_1$  and  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M_2$ .*

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  From Lemma 2.21 we know  $M = M'_1 \rightarrow M'_2$  where  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M'_1$  and  $(\bullet\bullet) \not\preceq M'_2$ . The second case can be dealt with symmetrically. From Proposition 2.15 we have that  $M'_1$  can be characterized exactly like  $M[[m], [c_2-1]]$  and  $M[[m], [c_2, n]]$  forms a walking matrix. If there are two different columns having a one-entry above the  $r$ -th row, together with a one-entry in the  $r$ -th row between the columns  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  and a one-entry in the  $c_1$ -th column above the  $r$ -th row they form a mapping of  $P_8$ .



		c <sub>1</sub>		c <sub>2</sub>	
	0		0		0
r					
	$M_1$		0		$M_2$

Figure 2.4: Characterization of matrices avoiding  $(\bullet \bullet \bullet)$  as an interval minor.

$\Leftarrow$  One-entry  $P_8[2, 2]$  can not be mapped anywhere but to the  $r$ -th row, but in that case there are at most two columns having one-entries above it.  $\square$

## 2.5 Multiple patterns

**Proposition 2.23.** *Let  $P_{10} = (\begin{smallmatrix} \circ & \circ & \circ \\ \bullet & \circ & \circ \end{smallmatrix})$  and  $P_{11} = (\begin{smallmatrix} \circ & \bullet \\ \circ & \circ \\ \bullet & \circ \end{smallmatrix})$ , then for all matrices  $M$ :  $\{P_{10}, P_{11}\} \not\preceq M \Leftrightarrow$  for the top-right most walk  $w$  in  $M$  such that there are no one-entries underneath it each one-entry  $M[r, c]$  is either on  $w$  or both  $M[r+1, c]$  and  $M[r, c-1]$  are on  $w$ .*

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  For contradiction assume there is a one-entry anywhere but on  $w$  or directly diagonally above any bottom-left corner of  $w$ . Then this one-entry together with at least one bottom-left corner of  $w$  give us  $P_{10}$  or  $P_{11}$  and a contradiction.

$\Leftarrow$  If we take any one-entry  $e$ , from the description of  $M$  there is no one-entry that creates  $P_{10}$  or  $P_{11}$  with  $e$ .  $\square$

### 3. Operations with matrices

When speaking about a class of matrices, unless stated otherwise, the class is always closed under interval minors. Also, all classes discussed are non-trivial. That means that there is at least one matrix of size 2 by 1 and at least one matrix of size 1 by 2 in each class. Moreover, at least one matrix is non-empty.

**Observation 3.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{M} = Av(\mathcal{P})$  for some  $\mathcal{P}$ . Then  $\mathcal{M}$  is closed under interval minors.*

**Observation 3.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a finite class of matrices. There exists a finite set  $\mathcal{P}$  such that  $\mathcal{M} = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ .*

#### 3.1 Direct sum

**Definition 3.3.** For matrices  $A \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  we define their *direct sum* as a matrix  $C := A \nearrow B \in \{0, 1\}^{(m+k) \times (n+l)}$  such that  $C[[k+1, m+k], [n]] = A$ ,  $C[[k], [n+1, n+l]] = B$  and the rest is empty. Symmetrically, we define  $D := A \searrow B \in \{0, 1\}^{(m+k) \times (n+l)}$  such that  $D[[m], [n]] = A$ ,  $D[[m+1, m+k], [n+1, n+l]] = B$  and the rest is empty.

**Proposition 3.4.**  $Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) = \{Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) \searrow Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) \searrow Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))\} \cup \{Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) \nearrow Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) \nearrow Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))\}.$

*Proof.* It follows from Proposition 2.20 and  $Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) = Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) \searrow Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))$ .  $\square$

**Definition 3.5.** For a set of matrices  $\mathcal{M}$ , let  $Cl(\mathcal{M})$  denote a class containing each  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  closed under direct sum and interval minors.

**Observation 3.6.** *For every  $\mathcal{P}$ , each  $M \in Cl(\mathcal{P})$  is an interval minor of the direct sum of multiple copies of  $P$ .*

**Proposition 3.7.**  $Cl((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) = Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))$ .

*Proof.* The direct sum of an arbitrary number of copies of  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$  avoids both forbidden patterns and because the relation of being an interval minor is transitive, we have  $Cl((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) \subseteq Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))$ .

From Proposition 2.23, we have that every  $M \in Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))$  it holds that for the top-right most walk  $w$  in  $M$  such that there are no one-entries underneath it, each one-entry  $M[r, c]$  is either on  $w$  or both  $M[r+1, c]$  and  $M[r, c-1]$  are on  $w$ . Clearly,  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$  is an interval minor of the direct sum of three copies of  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$  and by the direct sum of multiple copies of  $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$  we can then create the whole  $w$  and potential one-entries outside of it and so we also have the second inclusion.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.8.**  $Cl((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})) = Av_{\preceq}((\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}))$ .

**Definition 3.9.** For matrices  $A \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  and integers  $a, b$ , we define the *direct sum with  $a \times b$  overlap* of  $A$  and  $B$  as a matrix  $C := A \nearrow_{a \times b} B \in \{0, 1\}^{(m+k-a) \times (n+l-b)}$  such that  $C[[k+1, m+k], [n]] = A$ ,  $C[[k], [n+1, n+l]] = B$  and the rest is empty. At the part that overlaps, we take a elementwise OR of both entries.

**Theorem 3.10.** *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be any set of matrices, not necessarily closed under interval minors, such that*

- $\mathcal{M}$  is closed under deletion of one-entries and
- $\mathcal{M}$  is closed under the direct sum with  $a \times b$  overlap and
- there is a  $m \times n$  matrix  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ ,

*then  $\mathcal{M}$  is also closed under the direct sum with  $(m - 2a) \times (n - 2b)$  overlap.*

*Proof.* Given arbitrary  $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  such that  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ . Let  $C = A \nearrow_{a \times b} M \nearrow_{a \times b} B$ . It has the same size as  $D = A \nearrow_{(m-2a) \times (n-2b)} B$ , whose set of one-entries is a subset of one-entries of  $C \in \mathcal{M}$ ; therefore  $D \in \mathcal{M}$ .  $\square$

**Observation 3.11.** *Every class of matrices closed under the direct sum is also closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap.*

NOTE: originally this was here to show that while for classes closed under minors a bigger overlap always works (now this is disproved in the following observation) so the question is whether there is any point in having this here anymore.

**Observation 3.12.** *There is a set of matrices  $\mathcal{M}$  closed under submatrices but not interval minors such that it is closed under the direct sum but it is not closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a class of matrices obtained by applying the direct sum to  $(\bullet \bullet)$ . Clearly, it is closed under the direct sum. On the other hand, it is not closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap, as  $(\bullet \bullet) \nearrow_{1 \times 1} (\bullet \bullet) = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix} \notin \mathcal{C}$ .  $\square$

**Observation 3.13.** *There is a class of matrices  $\mathcal{M}$  such that it is closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap but it is not closed under the direct sum with  $2 \times 2$  overlap.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{M}$  consist of all matrices such that all one-entries are contained on a single reverse walk (a sequence of entries from the top-right corner to the bottom-left corner). Clearly,  $\mathcal{M}$  is hereditary and closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap. On the other hand,  $\mathcal{M}$  is not closed under the direct sum with  $2 \times 2$  overlap. While  $(\bullet \bullet), (\bullet \bullet) \in \mathcal{M}$ , it holds  $(\bullet \bullet) \nearrow_{2 \times 2} (\bullet \bullet) = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix} \notin \mathcal{M}$ .  $\square$

## 3.2 Articulations

**Definition 3.14.** Let  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  be a matrix. An element  $M[r, c]$  is an *articulation* if both  $M[[r-1], [c-1]]$  and  $M[[r+1, m], [c+1, n]]$  are empty. We say that an articulation  $M[r, c]$  is *trivial* if  $(r, c) \in \{(m, 1), (1, n)\}$ .

**Observation 3.15.** Let  $P \in \{0,1\}^{k \times l}$  be a matrix. If there are integers  $r, c$  such that  $P[r, c]$  is an articulation, then for every  $P'$  such that  $P' \preceq P$ , if we let  $P'[r', c']$  be an element created from  $P[r, c]$ ,  $P'[r', c']$  is an articulation.

*TODO state it better - what if row  $r$  is deleted? What does "created from" mean?*

**Observation 3.16.** Let  $P \in \{0,1\}^{k \times l}$  be a matrix. There are  $P_1, P_2$  non-empty interval minors of  $P$  such that  $P = P_1 \nearrow_{1 \times 1} P_2 \Leftrightarrow$  there exist integers  $r, c$  such that  $P[r, c]$  is an articulation and  $P[[r, k], [c]], P[[r], [c, l]]$  are non-empty.

**Observation 3.17.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a set of matrices. There is a minimal (with respect to minors)  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  there are  $P_1, P_2$  non-empty interval minors of  $P$  such that  $P = P_1 \nearrow_{1 \times 1} P_2 \Leftrightarrow Av_{\preceq}(P)$  is not closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap.

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  While  $P \not\preceq P_1$  and  $P \not\preceq P_2$ , we have  $P \preceq P_1 \nearrow_{1 \times 1} P_2$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Consider Observation 3.16 and assume there are no such  $r, c$  that  $P[r, c]$  is an articulation and  $P[[r, k], [c]], P[[r], [c, l]]$  are non-empty. Let  $M_1, M_2 \in Av_{\preceq}(P)$  be arbitrary matrices and let  $M = M_1 \nearrow_{1 \times 1} M_2$ . Matrix  $M$  contains an articulation and from Observation 3.15 follows  $M \in Av_{\preceq}(P)$ . This holds for each minimal  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ ; thus  $M \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ . □

**Lemma 3.18.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a set of matrices, then for all  $M \in \{0,1\}^{m \times n}$  it holds that  $M \in Cl(\mathcal{P}) \Leftrightarrow$  there exists a sequence of articulations of  $M$  such that for each matrix  $M'$  in between two consecutive articulations of  $M$  exists  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $M' \preceq (1) \nearrow P \nearrow (1)$ .

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  Let us look at the direct sum of multiple copies of elements of  $\mathcal{P}$  and consider one articulation (out of all four) between each pair of consecutive copies of matrices from  $P$ , together with articulations  $M[m, 1], M[1, n]$ . Between each pair of consecutive articulations, we have a matrix from  $\mathcal{P}$  and so the statement holds. When we consider an arbitrary interval minor and keep original articulations, each matrix between two consecutive articulations only contains at most one original copy of an element of  $\mathcal{P}$ , but it may happen that the bottom-left and top-right corners become one-entries even though they were zero-entries before. The matrix does not have to be an interval minor of  $P$ , but it is an interval minor of  $(1) \nearrow P \nearrow (1)$  for some  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ .

$\Leftarrow$  We can simply blow up each matrix  $M'$  between two consecutive articulation into a direct sum of three copies of the corresponding matrix  $P$ , because  $M' \preceq (1) \nearrow P \nearrow (1) \preceq P \nearrow P \nearrow P$ . □

**Theorem 3.19.** For all  $M \in \{0,1\}^{m \times n}$  there exists a finite set of matrices  $\mathcal{P}$  such that  $Cl(M) = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of all minimal (with respect to interval minors) matrices such that  $Cl(M) = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{F})$ . We need to prove that  $\mathcal{F}$  is finite. Thanks to

Observation 3.11,  $Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{F})$  is closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap and from Observation 3.17 follows that for no  $F \in \mathcal{F}$  there are its non-empty interval minors  $F_1, F_2$  such that  $F = F_1 \nearrow 1 \times 1 F_2$ .

We denote by  $\mathcal{P}$  a set of matrices from  $\mathcal{F}$  such that they have at most  $2m + 4$  rows and  $2n + 4$  columns. Such a set is finite and we immediately see that  $Cl(M) \subseteq Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ . For contradiction with the other inclusion, let us consider the minimum  $X \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P}) - Cl(M)$ .

There are no  $X_1, X_2$  non-empty interval minors of  $X$  such that  $X = X_1 \nearrow 1 \times 1 X_2$ ; otherwise, as  $X_1, X_2 \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$  and  $X$  is the minimum matrix such that  $X \notin Cl(M)$ , we would have  $X_1, X_2 \in Cl(M)$ ; therefore,  $X \in \mathcal{M}$  and a contradiction.

Without loss of generality, we assume  $X \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  has at least  $2m + 5$  rows. Let  $X'$  denote a matrix created from  $X$  by deletion of the first row. We have  $X' \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$  and from minimality of  $X$  also  $X' \in Cl(M)$ . From Lemma 3.18, there is a sequence of articulations of  $X'$  such that it is an interval minor of  $(1) \nearrow M \nearrow (1)$ . Let  $X'[r, c]$  be the first articulation from the sequence for which  $c > 1$ . Together with the previous articulation in the sequence, they form a matrix that is an interval minor of  $(1) \nearrow M \nearrow (1)$ , which also means that  $c < n + 3$ . Since  $X[r, c]$  is not an articulation, it must hold that  $X[1, c_1] = 1$  for some  $c_1 < c < n + 3$ . Symmetrically, let  $X''$  denote a matrix created from  $X$  by deletion of the last row. Following the same steps as we did before, we get the last articulation  $X''[r, c]$  such that  $c < l$  and the observation that  $c > l - n - 2$ . Since  $X[r, c]$  is not an articulation, it must hold that  $X[k, c_2] = 1$  for some  $c_2 > c > l - n - 2$ .

We showed that  $Y \in \{0, 1\}^{(m+1) \times 2}$  such that the only one-entries are  $Y[1, 1]$  and  $Y[m + 1, 2]$  is an interval minor of  $X$ . To reach a contradiction, it suffices to show that there is a  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $P \preceq Y$ . For contradiction, let  $Y \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$  and since  $Y \preceq X$  and  $X$  is minimum such that  $X \notin Cl(M)$  it holds  $Y \in Cl(M)$ . But this cannot be, because  $Y$  contains no non-trivial articulation and from Observation 3.15, we know that every  $Z \in Cl(M)$  that is bigger than  $m \times n$  contains at least one.  $\square$

### 3.3 Basis

**Definition 3.20.** Let  $P$  be a matrix. Let  $\mathcal{R}(P)$  denote a set of all minimal (with respect to minors) matrices  $P'$  such that  $P \preceq P'$  and  $P'$  is not the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap of non-empty interval minors of  $P'$ . For a set of matrices  $\mathcal{P}$ , let  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P})$  denote a set of all minimal (with respect to minors) matrices from the set  $\bigcup_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{R}(P)$ .

**Theorem 3.21.** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  be sets of matrices such that  $\mathcal{M} = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ , then  $Cl(\mathcal{M}) = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}))$ .

*Proof.*  $\subseteq$  Assume  $M \notin Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}))$  and without loss of generality, because  $Cl(\mathcal{M})$  is hereditary, let  $M$  be minimal (with respect to minors). It follows that  $M \in \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P})$ . As such, matrix  $M$  is not a direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap of non-empty interval minors of  $M$ ; therefore, according to Observation 3.16, there is no articulations  $M[r, c]$  such that  $M[[r, k], [c]], M[[r], [c, l]]$  are non-empty. For contradiction, assume  $M \in Cl(\mathcal{M})$ . According to Lemma 3.18

and the fact  $M$  contains no non-trivial articulation,  $M$  is a minor of  $(1) \nearrow M' \nearrow (1)$  for some  $M' \in \mathcal{M}$ . Because the trivial articulations (top-right and bottom-left corners) contain zero-entries, it even holds  $M \preceq M'$ . We also have  $M \preceq P$  for some  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ , which together give us a contradiction with  $\mathcal{M} = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ .

$\supseteq$  First of all,  $Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}))$  is closed under the direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap. For contradiction, assume there are  $M_1, M_2 \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}))$  but  $M = M_1 \nearrow_{1 \times 1} M_2 \notin Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}))$ . Then there exists  $P \in \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P})$  such that  $P \preceq M$ . Because  $P$  is not a direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap of non-empty interval minors of  $P$ , it follows that either  $P \preceq M_1$  or  $P \preceq M_2$  and we have a contradiction.

It suffices to show that the inclusion holds for any  $M \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P}))$  that is not a direct sum with  $1 \times 1$  overlap of non-empty interval minors of  $M$ . From Observation 3.16, we know that  $M$  does not contain any non-trivial articulation and those trivial ones are empty. Thus,  $M \in Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P}) = \mathcal{M}$  and so  $M \in Cl(\mathcal{M})$ .  $\square$

**Definition 3.22.** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a set of matrices. The *basis* of  $\mathcal{M}$  is a set of all minimal (with respect to minors) matrices that do not belong to  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Corollary 3.23.** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  be sets of matrices such that  $\mathcal{M} = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{P})$ , then  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{P})$  is the basis of  $Cl(\mathcal{M})$ .

A natural question is whether the closure under the direct sum of a class with finite basis has final basis. We prove that this is not the case.

**Definition 3.24.** Let  $Nucleus_1 = (\bullet)$  and for  $n > 1$  let  $Nucleus_n \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n+1}$  be a matrix described by the examples:

$$Nucleus_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix} \quad Nucleus_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix} \quad Nucleus_n = \begin{pmatrix} & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet & \cdots & \cdots & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \cdots & \cdots & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Definition 3.25.** Let  $Candy_{k,n,l}$  be a matrix given by  $I_k \nearrow_{1 \times 2} Nucleus_n \nearrow_{1 \times 2} I_l$ , where  $I_k, I_l$  are unit matrices of sizes  $k \times k$  and  $l \times l$  respectively.

$$Candy_{4,1,4} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet & \cdots & \cdots & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \cdots & \cdots & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix} \quad Candy_{4,4,4} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet & \cdots & \cdots & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \cdots & \cdots & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

**Theorem 3.26.** There exists a matrix  $P$  such that  $\mathcal{R}(P)$  is infinite.

*Proof.* Let  $P = Candy_{4,1,4}$ . For all  $n > 3$  it holds  $P \preceq Candy_{4,n,4}$  and it suffices to show that each  $Candy_{4,n,4}$  is a minimal matrix (with respect to minors) that is not the direct sum of two proper submatrices. According to Observation 3.16, the second condition holds as  $Candy_{4,n,4}$  contains no non-trivial articulation. To show it is minimal such matrix, we need to consider any interval minor  $M$  and argue that either  $P \not\preceq M$  or  $M$  contains an articulation. Observation 3.15 allows

us to only consider one minoring operation at a time. It is easy to see that when a one-entry is changed to a zero-entry, then the matrix does not belong to  $\mathcal{R}(P)$  anymore. Consider that rows  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$  are chosen to become one. If  $r_1 < 4$  or  $r_k > n + 3$  then  $P$  is no longer an interval minor of such matrix. Otherwise, the original  $Candy_{4,n,4}[r_1, n - r_1 + 2]$  becomes an articulation. Symmetrically, the same holds for columns and we are done.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.27.** *There exists a class of matrices  $\mathcal{M}$  having a finite basis such that  $Cl(\mathcal{M})$  has an infinite basis.*

*Proof.* From Theorem 3.26, we have a matrix  $P$  for which  $\mathcal{R}(P)$  is infinite. Class  $\mathcal{M} = Av_{\preceq}(P)$  has a finite basis. On the other hand, from Theorem 3.21 we have  $Cl(\mathcal{M}) = Av_{\preceq}(\mathcal{R}(P))$  and  $\mathcal{R}(P)$  is infinite.  $\square$

## 4. Zero-intervals

In Chapter 2, we characterized matrices avoiding small patterns. Their structure is very dependent on the pattern and the results are hard to generalize for arbitrary patterns. In this chapter, we look for a more general property that restricts the complexity that a class of matrices can have.

**Definition 4.1.** For a matrix  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$ , a row interval  $M[\{r\}, [c_1, c_2]]$  is a *zero-interval* if all entries are zero-entries,  $c_1 = 0$  or  $M[r, c_1 - 1] = 1$  and  $c_2 = n$  or  $M[r, c_2 + 1] = 1$ . In other words, it is an interval of zero-entries bounded by one-entries. Symmetrically, we also call a single column sequence  $M[[r_1, r_2], \{c\}]$  a *zero-interval* if all entries are zero-entries,  $r_1 = 0$  or  $M[r_1 - 1, c] = 1$  and  $r_2 = m$  or  $M[r_2 + 1, c] = 1$ . In the same spirit, we define a *one-interval* to be an interval of one-entries in a single line of  $M$  bounded by zero-entries (or edges of the matrix).

In the previous chapter, for pattern  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  it very often holds that any inclusion maximal matrix  $M$  avoiding  $P$  as an interval minor has at most  $l$  zero-intervals in each row and at most  $k$  zero-intervals in each column. The main goal of this chapter is to describe patterns for which the size of a pattern bounds the number of zero-intervals of any inclusion maximal matrix that avoids it.

$$P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot \\ & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \quad P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \quad P_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot \\ & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \quad P_4 = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot \\ & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

Ultimately, we show that for every matrix  $P$ , there is an inclusion maximal matrix  $M \in Av_{\leq}(P)$  with arbitrarily many zero-intervals if and only if  $P$  contains an interval minor  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  or  $P_4$ .

### 4.1 Pattern complexity

Let us present some useful notion. First of all, every time we speak about a *maximal* matrix of a class, we mean inclusion maximal – it has no zero-entry that can be changed to a one-entry so that it still belongs to the class. In terms of pattern avoidance, maximal matrices are those for which a change of a zero-entry creates a mapping of the pattern (or possibly many mappings).

**Definition 4.2.** For any matrix  $P$ , let  $Av_{max}(P)$  be a set of all maximal matrices avoiding  $P$  as an interval minor.

**Definition 4.3.** Let  $P$  be a pattern, let  $e$  a one-entry of  $P$ ,  $M \in Av_{\leq}(P)$  and let  $z$  be an arbitrary zero-interval of  $M$ . We say that  $z$  is *usable for  $e$*  if there is a zero-entry contained in  $z$  such that if we change it to a one-entry, it creates a mapping that uses the new one-entry to map  $e$ . This way,  $z$  can be usable for many one-entries of  $P$  at the same time.

**Observation 4.4.** Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  and  $M \in \{0, 1\}^{m \times n}$  be matrices such that  $P \not\leq M$ . Let  $z = M[\{r_1\}, [c_1, c_2]]$  be a zero-interval of  $M$  usable for a one-entry  $e = P[r, c]$ . If we change a zero-entry of  $z$  and create a mapping of  $P$  that uses the changed entry to map  $e$ , then no such mapping can map column  $c$  outside of columns  $[c_1, c_2]$  of  $M$ .



*Proof.* Since the changed entry is used to map  $e$ , clearly every mapping needs to use a column from  $[c_1, c_2]$  to map column  $c$ . If, for contradiction, after a change of a zero-entry there is a mapping using columns outside  $[c_1, c_2]$  then it, without loss of generality, uses  $c_1 - 1$  but since it bounds zero-interval  $z$ , it is a one-entry and this one-entry can be used in the mapping instead of the changed entry, which gives us a contradiction with  $P \not\leq M$ .  $\square$

**Definition 4.5.** For a class of matrices  $\mathcal{M}$ , we define its *row-complexity*,  $r(\mathcal{M})$  to be the supremum of the number of zero-intervals in a single row of any maximal  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ . We say that  $\mathcal{M}$  is *row-bounded*, if its row-complexity is finite, and *row-unbounded* otherwise. Symmetrically, we define *column-complexity*  $c(\mathcal{M})$  and the property of being *column-bounded* and *column-unbounded*. Class  $\mathcal{M}$  is *bounded* if it is both row-bounded and column-bounded and it is *unbounded* otherwise.

**Definition 4.6.** We say that a set of pattern  $\mathcal{P}$  is *bounding*, if the class  $Av_{\leq}(\mathcal{P})$  is bounded and is *non-bounding* otherwise.

**Definition 4.7.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a set of patterns and let  $e$  be a one-entry of any  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ . We define the *row-complexity* of  $e$ ,  $r(Av_{\leq}(\mathcal{P}), e)$  to be the supremum of the number of zero-intervals of a single row of any  $M \in Av_{max}(\mathcal{P})$  that are usable for  $e$ . We say that  $e$  is *row-unbounded* in  $Av_{\leq}(\mathcal{P})$  if  $r(Av_{\leq}(\mathcal{P}), e) = \infty$  and *row-bounded* otherwise. Symmetrically, we define the *column-complexity*  $e$ ,  $c(Av_{\leq}(\mathcal{P}), e)$  to be the maximum number of zero-intervals of a single column of any matrix from  $Av_{max}(\mathcal{P})$  that are usable for  $e$  and say  $e$  is *column-unbounded* if it is infinite and *column-bounded* otherwise.

The following observation follows directly from the definition and we use it heavily throughout the chapter to break symmetries.

**Observation 4.8.** For every set  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $\mathcal{M}$  is row-bounded if and only if  $\mathcal{M}^T$  is column-bounded.

### 4.1.1 Adding empty lines

Similarly, as we did in Chapter 2, we show that we do not need to consider patterns with leading (and ending) empty rows (and columns).

**Observation 4.9.** For a matrix  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  and integer  $n$ , let  $P' = P \rightarrow 0^{k \times n}$ . Matrix  $P$  is bounding if and only if  $P'$  is bounding. Moreover, if  $P$  is bounding, then  $r(Av_{\leq}(P')) = r(Av_{\leq}(P)) + 1$ .

**Lemma 4.10.** Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{2 \times k}$  and for any  $l \geq 1$  let  $P^l \in \{0, 1\}^{(l+2) \times k}$  be a pattern created from  $P$  by adding  $l$  new empty rows in between the two row of  $P$ . For every one-entry  $e$  of  $P^l$   $r(Av_{\leq}(P^l), e) \leq k^2$ .

*Proof.* Given  $M \in Av_{max}(P)$ , let us look at an arbitrary row  $r$  of  $M$ . Without loss of generality assume  $e = P[1, c]$ . For contradiction, assume there are  $k^2 + 1$  zero-intervals  $z_1, \dots, z_{k^2+1}$  in  $r$  usable for  $e$ .

- $P[2, c] = 1$ : Clearly, there is a one-entry in rows  $[r + l + 1, m]$  underneath each  $z_j$  and if we combine each such one-entry with a one-entry bounding corresponding  $z_j$ , we find a mapping of  $\left(\{1\}^{2 \times k^2}\right)^l$ , contradicting  $P \not\leq M$ .

- $P[2, c] = 0$ : For each  $i \in [t]$ , we define an extended interval  $z_i^*$  to be the interval containing  $z_i$  and also all elements of  $r$  between  $z_i$  and  $z_{i+1}$ . Because of the Pigeonhole principle, we can find either  $k$  consecutive extended intervals such that there are no one-entries in rows  $[r + l + 1, m]$  underneath them, or  $k$  extended intervals such that there is a one-entry in rows  $[r + l + 1, m]$  underneath each of them. Because each extended interval contains a one-entry, in the second case we find  $(\{1\}^{k \times 2})^l$  as an intervals minor. In the first case, without loss of generality, assume  $P[2, c_1] = 1$  and it is the minimum such  $c_1 > c$ . Also let  $z_{first}, \dots, z_{last}$  be the consecutive zero-intervals. Now consider the mapping of  $P^l$  created when a zero-entry of  $z_{first}$  gets changed to a one-entry used to map  $e$ . Since  $P[2, c_1] = 1$  and there are no one-entries in rows  $[r + l + 1, m]$  underneath extended intervals  $z_{first} - z_{last}$ ,  $P^l[l + 2, c_1]$  has to be mapped to the columns of  $M$  after the end of  $z_{last}$ . This leaves  $k$  one-entries to be used to map potential one-entries in  $P^l[\{l + 2\}, [c, c_2 - 1]]$  and so  $P^l \preceq M$ .

□

**Corollary 4.11.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times 2}$  and for any  $l \geq 1$  let  $P^l \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times (l+2)}$  be a pattern created from  $P$  by adding  $l$  new empty columns in between the two columns of  $P$ . Then  $Av_{\preceq}(P^l)$  is bounded for any  $l \geq 1$ .*

*Proof.* We know  $Av_{\preceq}(P^l)$  is row-bounded from Lemma 2.7. From Lemma 4.10 and Observation 4.8 we have that the class is also column-bounded. □

### 4.1.2 Non-bounding patterns

We see that for patterns having only two rows or columns we can indeed bound the number of zero-intervals of maximal matrices avoiding them. On the other hand, already for a pattern of size  $3 \times 3$  we show that there are maximal matrices with arbitrarily many zero-intervals.

**Lemma 4.12.** *Class  $Av_{\preceq}(P_1)$  is unbounded.*

*Proof.* For given  $n$ , let  $M$  be a  $(2n+1) \times (2n+1)$  matrix described by the picture:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \cdots & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & \cdots & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & & \cdots & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & & & \cdots & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & & & & \cdots & \bullet & \bullet \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ & & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

We see that  $P_1 \not\preceq M$  because we always need to map  $P_1[2, 1]$  and  $P_1[3, 3]$  to just one “block” of one-entries, which only leaves a zero-entry for  $P_1[1, 2]$ .

If we change any zero-entry of the first row into a one-entry we get a matrix containing an interval minor of  $\{1\}^{3 \times 3}$ ; therefore, containing  $P_1$  as an interval minor. In case  $M$  is not maximal, we can add some more one-entries to make it maximal but it will still contain a row with  $n$  zero-intervals. □

Not only  $M \in Av_{max}(P_1)$  but it also avoids any  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{3 \times 3}$  such that  $P_1 \preceq P$ . Its rotations avoid rotations of  $P_1$  and we can deduce that a big portion of patterns of size  $3 \times 3$  are non-bounding. Moreover, the result can be generalized also for bigger matrices.

**Theorem 4.13.** *For every  $P$  such that  $P_1 \preceq P$ ,  $Av_{\preceq}(P)$  is unbounded.*

*Proof.* First, assume there is a mapping of  $P_1$  into  $P \in \{0,1\}^{k \times l}$  that assigns a one-entry of the first row to  $P_1[1,2]$ , a one-entry of the first column to  $P_1[2,1]$  and a one-entry of the last row and column to  $P_1[3,3]$ . Then, we use a similar construction to what we did in the proof of Lemma 4.12 to find a matrix  $M \in Av_{max}(P)$  with  $n$  zero-intervals for any  $n$ .

Let  $P$  be an arbitrary pattern containing  $P_1$  as an interval minor. Let  $P[r_1, c_1]$ ,  $P[r_2, c_2]$  and  $P[r_3, c_3]$  be one-entries that can be used to map  $P_1[1,2]$ ,  $P_1[2,1]$  and  $P_1[3,3]$  respectively. We take a submatrix  $P' := P[[r_1, r_3], [c_2, c_3]]$ . Such a pattern fulfills assumptions of the more restricted case above and we can find a matrix  $M' \in Av_{max}(P')$  having  $n$  zero-intervals. We construct  $M$  from  $M'$  by simply adding new rows and columns containing only one-entries. We add  $r_1 - 1$  rows in front of the first row and  $k - r_3$  rows behind the last row. We also add  $c_2 - 1$  columns in front of the first column and  $l - c_3$  columns behind the last column. Constructed matrix  $M$  avoids  $P$  as an interval minor because its submatrix  $P'$  cannot be mapped to  $M'$ . At the same time, any change of a zero-entry of the  $r_1$ -th row of  $M$  to a one-entry creates a copy of  $1^{k \times l}$ . Constructed  $M$  can be seen in Figure 4.1.

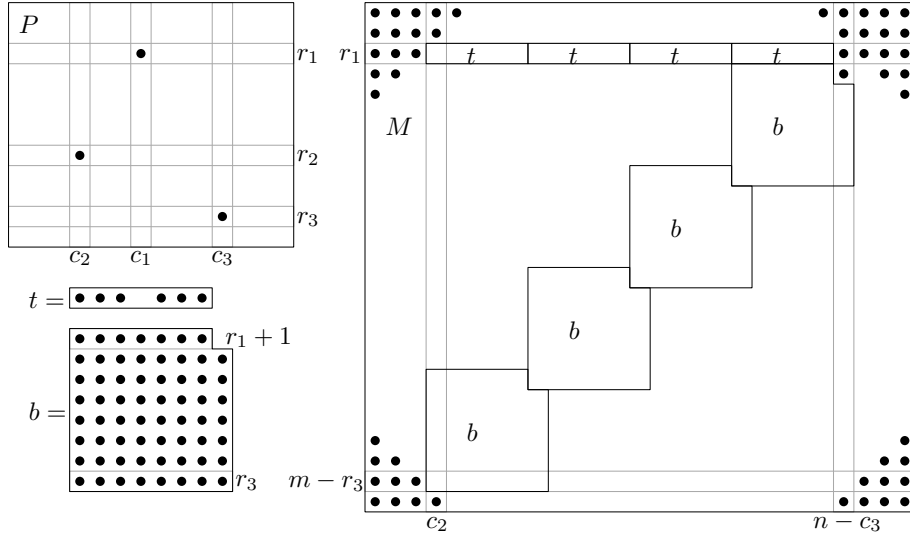


Figure 4.1: Structure of a maximal matrix avoiding  $P$  that has arbitrarily many one-intervals.

□

### 4.1.3 Bounding patterns

What makes it even more interesting is that any pattern avoiding all rotations of  $P_1$  is already bounding.

**Theorem 4.14.** *Let  $P$  be a pattern avoiding all rotations of  $P_1$ , then  $P$ :*

1. *contains at most three non-empty lines or*
2. *avoids  $(\bullet \bullet \bullet)$  or  $(\bullet \bullet \bullet)$ .*

*Proof.* Assume  $P$  has four one-entries that do not share any row or column. Then those one-entries induce a  $4 \times 4$  permutation inside  $P$  and because  $P$  does not contain any rotation of  $P_1$ , the induced permutation is either 1234 or 4321. Without loss of generality, assume it is the first one and denote its one-entries by  $e_1, e_2, e_3$  and  $e_4$ .

For contradiction, assume  $P$  also contains  $P' = (\bullet \bullet)$ . Clearly, no one-entry from  $e_1, e_2, e_3$  and  $e_4$  can be part of any mapping of  $P'$  because it would induce a mapping of a rotation of  $P_1$ .

Let  $e_2 = P[r_2, c_2]$  and  $e_3 = P[r_3, c_3]$ . The submatrix  $P[[r_2], [c_2, l]]$  avoids  $P'$ ; otherwise, together with  $e_1$  it would give us a rotated copy of  $P_1$ . Symmetrically,  $P[[r_3, k], [c_3]]$  does not contain  $P'$ . Also,  $P[[r_3 - 1], [c_3 - 1]]$  and  $P[[r_2 + 1, k], [c_2 + 1, l]]$  are empty; otherwise, they would together with  $e_2$  and  $e_3$  give us a rotation of  $P_1$ . Up to rotation, the only possible way to have  $P' \preceq P$  is that  $P'[1, 1]$  is mapped to a one-entry from  $P[[r_3 - 1], [c_2, c_3 - 1]]$  but then this entry together with  $e_1$  and  $e_3$  give us a rotation of  $P_1$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.15.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern having one non-empty line. Then  $r(Av_{\preceq}(P)) \leq k$  and  $c(Av_{\preceq}(P)) \leq l$ .*

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, let the non-empty line be a row  $r$ . Consider any  $MAv_{max}(P)$ . Matrices  $M[[r - 1], [n]]$  and  $M[[m - r + 1, m], [n]]$  contain no zero-entry. If we look at any other row, it cannot contain  $k$  one-entries, so the maximum number of zero-intervals is  $k$ .

Consider a column  $c$  of  $M$ . If there is at least one one-entry in  $M[[r, m - r], c]$  then because  $M$  is maximal, the whole column is made of one-entries. Otherwise, there are two one-intervals  $M[[r - 1], c]$  and  $M[[m - r, m], c]$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.16.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern having two non-empty lines. Then  $r(Av_{\preceq}(P)) \leq k^2 + l$  and  $c(Av_{\preceq}(P)) \leq l^2 + k$ .*

*Proof.* First, we assume the two non-empty lines of  $P$  are rows  $r_1 < r_2$  (or symmetrically columns). From Observation 2.5 and maximality of  $M$  we have that  $M[[r_1 - 1], [n]]$  and  $M[[m - r_2 + 1, m], [n]]$  contain no zero-entry. Therefore, we may restrict ourselves to the case when  $r_1 = 1$  and  $r_2 = k$ . From Corollary 4.11, we have that there are at most  $k^2$  zero-intervals in each  $M \in Av_{max}(P)$ .

Let the two non-empty lines of  $P$  be a row  $r$  and a column  $c$ . Because of symmetry, we only show the bound for rows. Let us take an arbitrary row of  $M$  and look at its zero-intervals. For every one-entry  $e$  of the pattern except those in the  $r$ -th row, there is at most one zero-interval usable for  $e$ . For contradiction, assume there are two such zero-intervals  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ . Let Figure 4.2 illustrate the situation where dashed and dotted lines form mappings of an interval minor  $P$  to  $M$  when a zero-entry of  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  respectively is changed to a one-entry. When we take the outer two vertical and horizontal lines, we get a mapping of  $P$  that can use an existing one-entry in between  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  to map  $e$ . This gives us a contradiction with  $P \not\preceq M$ .

For a one-entry  $e = P[r, c']$ , if  $c' \leq c$  then there must be less than  $c'$  one-entries before any zero-intervals usable for  $e$ ; otherwise, we could map  $P[r, [1, c']]$  just to the single row of  $M$ . It follows that  $e$  is row-bounded. Symmetrically, the same holds in case  $c' > c$  and together we have at most  $k + l$  zero-intervals in each  $M \in Av_{max}(P)$ .  $\square$

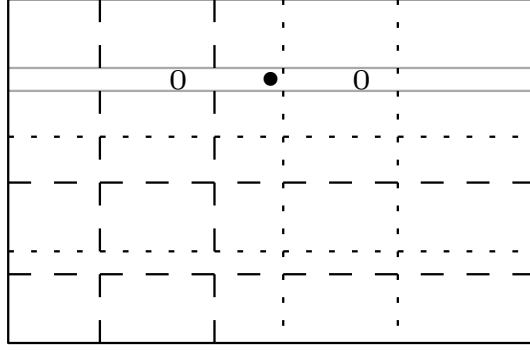


Figure 4.2: Dashed and dotted lines resembling two different mappings of a forbidden pattern, where two horizontal lines show the boundaries of the mapping of row  $r$  and the vertical lines show boundaries of the mapping of column  $c$ .

**Lemma 4.17.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern structured like one of the matrices in Figure 4.3. Then every one-entry in  $P[\{r_2\}, [c_1, c_2]]$  is row-bounded.*

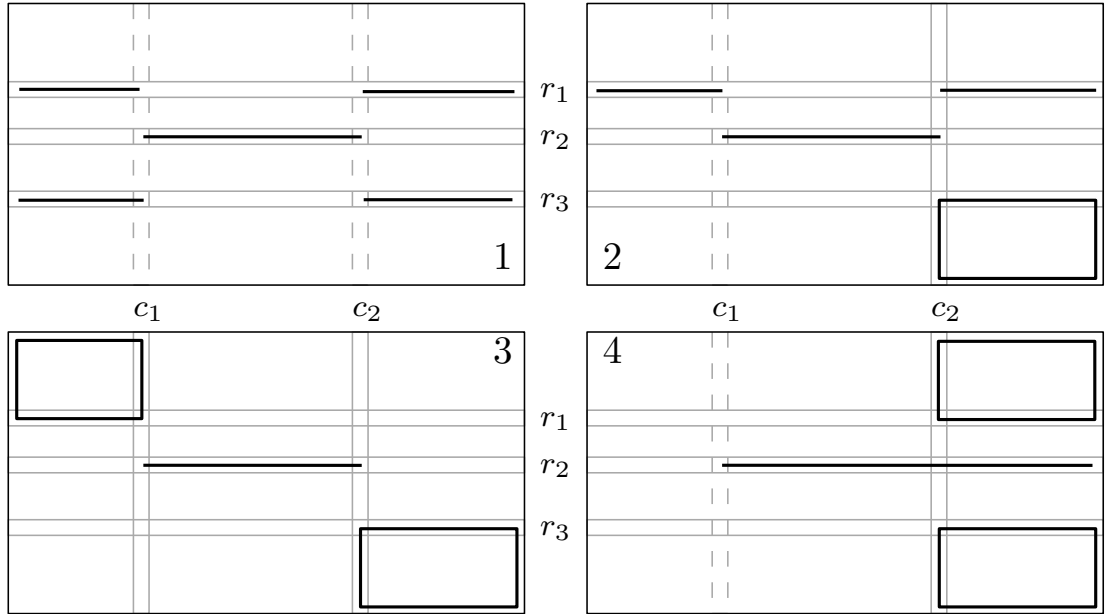


Figure 4.3: Patterns for which one-entries in row  $r_2$  and columns  $c_1$  to  $c_2$  are row-bounded. One-entries may only be in the areas enclosed by bold lines.

*Proof.* Let  $P$  be the first described pattern and let  $k' = c_2 - c_1$ . We show that for each one-entry  $e$  from row  $r_2$  and every  $M \in Av_{max}(P)$  there is at most  $k'$  zero-intervals for which it is usable. For contradiction assume there is a row  $r$  with  $k' + 1$  zero-intervals usable for  $e$ . It follows that there are at least  $k'$  one-entries in between two most distant zero-intervals  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ . Therefore, the whole row  $r_2$  can be mapped just to  $r$ . Since changing a zero-entry of  $z_1$  to a one-entry to which  $e$  can be mapped creates a partitioning of  $M$  where all one-entries from columns 1 to  $c_1$  are mapped to columns up to  $z_1$  and similarly all one-entries from columns  $c_2$  to  $l$  can be mapped to columns from and past  $z_2$ , we can simply map empty rows from  $r_1 + 1$  to  $r_3 - 1$  around row  $r$  and use the rest to map rows  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ . Described partitioning gives us  $P \preceq M$  and a contradiction. We can see the partitioning in Figure 4.4.

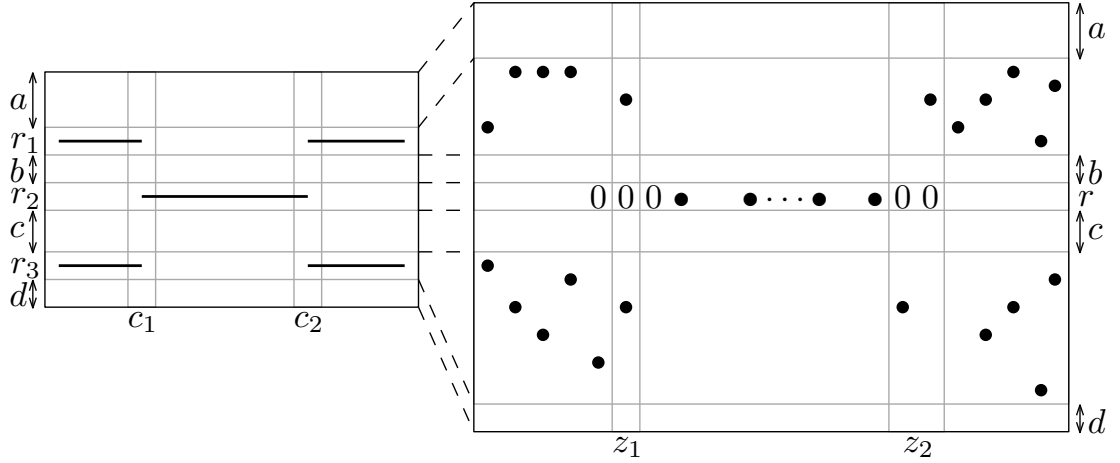


Figure 4.4: Mapping of a pattern into a matrix only using one line to map an empty line of the pattern and only using one line to map row  $r_2$ .

Proofs of cases two and three are similar to the first one and we skip them.

Let us look on the fourth case. For  $i$ -th one-entry in row  $r_2$  (ordered from left to right and only considering those in columns  $c_1$  to  $c_2$ ) no zero-interval of a maximal matrix avoiding the pattern cannot have  $i$  one-entries to the left of it and so each such one-entry is bounded by  $i \geq l$ .

It is important to realize we could not have used the same proof we used for the first three cases also for the fourth case, because we can never rely on the fact a mapping of  $P$  only uses one row of  $M$  to map row  $r_2$ . This is because in the fourth case, unlike the first three, there are also potential one-entries in  $P[\{r_2\}, [c_2, l]]$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.18.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern structured like one of the matrices in Figure 4.5. Then every one-entry in  $P[[r_1 + 1, r_2 - 1], \{c\}]$  is row-bounded. Moreover, in the first two cases, if  $c = l - 1$  and there are no one-entries in  $P[[r_1 - 1], \{c\}]$  and  $P[[r_2 + 1, k], \{c\}]$ , then also one-entries  $P[r_1, c]$  and  $P[r_2, c]$  are row-bounded.*

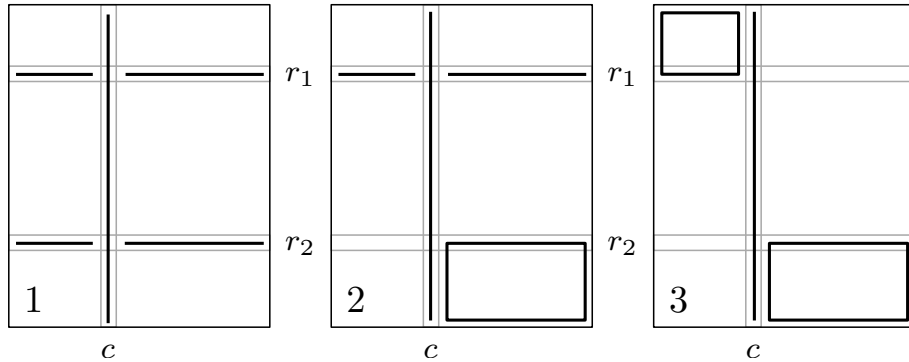


Figure 4.5: Patterns for which one-entries in column  $c$  and rows  $r_1 + 1$  to  $r_2 - 1$  are row-bounded. One-entries may only be in the areas enclosed by bold lines.

*Proof.* Let  $P$  be the first described pattern. We show that for each one-entry from  $P[[r_1 + 1, r_2 - 1], \{c\}]$  and every  $M$  maximal matrix avoiding  $P$  there is at

most one zero-interval for which it is usable. For contradiction assume there is a row  $r$  with two zero-intervals  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  usable for  $e$ . Look at Figure 4.6 and let the dashed partitioning be a mapping of  $P$  to  $M$  when a zero-entry of  $z_1$  is changed to a one-entry used to map  $e$  and let the dotted partitioning be a mapping of  $P$  to  $M$  when a zero-entry of  $z_2$  is changed to a one-entry used to map  $e$ . If we map column  $c$  to where it is mapped in both mappings together and map rows  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  as suggested in the picture, we get a partitioning of  $P$  inside  $M$  and so a contradiction with  $P \not\leq M$ .

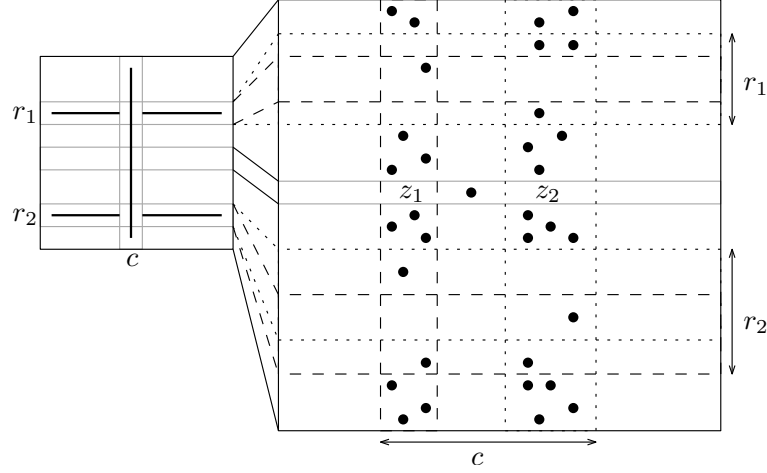


Figure 4.6:

Proofs of cases two and three are similar to the first one and we skip them.

From now on, consider there are no one-entries in  $P[[r_1 - 1], \{c\}]$  and  $P[[r_2 + 1, k], \{c\}]$ . Let  $P$  be the second described pattern and let  $c = l - 1$ . One-entry in  $P[r_1, c]$  is row-bounded thanks to the fourth case of Lemma 4.17. Without loss of generality assume  $P[r_1, l] = 1$ , as otherwise, the pattern avoids  $(\bullet \bullet)$  and in Lemma 4.20 we will show that each one-entry is then row-bounded. Without loss of generality, when a zero-entry of a zero-interval is changed to a one-entry that is used to map  $P[r_2, c]$ , the row  $r_2$  is mapped to just one row because we can always use the one-entry bounding the corresponding interval to map  $P[r_2, l]$  (if we do not consider the only potential zero-interval that is bounded by the edge of matrix). If  $z_1 < z_2$  are two zero-intervals usable for  $P[r_2, c]$  then in each mapping created by changing a zero-entry of  $z_1$  to a one-entry used to map  $P[r_2, c]$ , one-entry  $P[r_1, l]$  is mapped to a column smaller than the first column of  $z_2$ . Otherwise, we could combine the mapping with a one-entry in between  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  and a mapping created when a zero-entry of  $z_2$  is changed to a one-entry to find a mapping of  $P$ . Assume, there are  $l$  zero-intervals usable for  $P[r_2, c]$  and for each consider a one-entry used to map  $P[r_1, l]$  in the corresponding mapping created when a zero-entry is changed to a one-entry. If there is a non-decreasing pair of them, the corresponding mappings can be combined to find a mapping of  $P$ . Otherwise, the one-entries form a decreasing sequence of length  $l$  and if we consider the last used zero-interval and its mapping, we can use the decreasing sequence of one-entries to map all one-entries from row  $r_1$  and we can still take a one-entry bounding the zero-interval from left and use it to map  $P[r_2, c]$ . This proves there are at most  $l + 1$  zero-intervals usable for  $P[r_2, c]$ .

The proof that  $P[r_1, c]$  and  $P[r_2, c]$  are row-bounded in the same setting when  $P$  is described by the first picture is analogous.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.19.** *Let  $P$  be a pattern and  $c$  be its first non-empty column. Then every one-entry from  $c$  is row-bounded.*

*Proof.* The result follows immediately from the fourth case of Lemma 4.17.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.20.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern avoiding  $(\bullet \bullet)$  (or  $(\bullet \cdot)$ ). Then  $Av_{\preceq}(P)$  is bounded.*

*Proof.* From Proposition 2.13 we know that  $P$  is a walking pattern. Every one-entry of  $P$  satisfies either conditions of the third case of Lemma 4.17 or it satisfies conditions of the third case of Lemma 4.18 and therefore is row-bounded. From Observation 4.8, we know it is also column-bounded.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.21.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern having three non-empty lines and avoiding all rotations of  $P_1$ . Then  $Av_{\preceq}(P)$  is bounded.*

*Proof.* First of all, if  $P$  avoids  $(\bullet, \bullet)$  or  $(\bullet, \bullet)$ , we use Lemma 4.20. From now on, we assume it contains both.

Let us prove that each pattern having one-entries in three rows is bounded. Pattern  $P$  has one-entries in at least three columns; therefore, it contains a three by three permutation matrix as a submatrix. Since rotations of  $P_1$  are avoided, only feasible permutations are 123 and 321 and without loss of generality we assume the first case. In Figure 4.7 we see the structure of each such pattern. Capital letters stand for one-entries of the permutation, letters  $a - f$  stand each for a potential one-entry and Greek letters stand each for a potential sequence of one-entries and zero-entries. Everything else is empty. Not all one-entries can be there at the same time, because that would create a mapping of  $P_1$  or its rotation. We also need to find  $(\bullet, \bullet)$ . The following analysis only uses hereditary arguments, which means that if we prove  $P$  is bounded, we also prove that each submatrix of  $P$  is bounded. With this in mind, we restrict ourselves to maximal patterns.

$a$	$c$	$C$	$\gamma$
$b$	$B$	$\beta$	$e$
$A$	$\alpha$	$d$	$f$

Figure 4.7: Structure of a pattern only having three non-empty rows and avoiding all rotations of  $P_1$ .

1.  $\gamma$  contains a one-entry  $\Rightarrow f = 0 \Rightarrow$  because  $(\bullet, \bullet) \preceq P$ , it holds  $a = 1 \Rightarrow \alpha = 0$ 
  - (a)  $d = 1 \Rightarrow b = 0, \beta = 0, e = 0$



- (b)  $d = 0$ 
  - i.  $c = 1 \Rightarrow \beta = 0, e = 0$
  - ii.  $c = 0$
- 2.  $\gamma = 0$ 
  - (a)  $\alpha$  contains a one-entry  $\Rightarrow a = 0, b = 0$ . If  $f = 0$  we have case 1.(b) ii. otherwise, we have case 1.(a).
  - (b)  $\alpha = 0$ 
    - i.  $c = 1, d = 1 \Rightarrow b = 0, e = 0, \beta = 0$
    - ii.  $c = 1, d = 0 \Rightarrow e = 0, \beta = 0$  and without loss of generality,  $b = 1$ . Otherwise, we have the previous case. Therefore,  $f = 0$
    - iii.  $c = 0, d = 1 \Rightarrow b = 0$ : Without loss of generality,  $e = 1$  or  $\beta$  contains a one-entry. Otherwise, we have the case  $c = 1, d = 1$ . Therefore,  $a = 0$
    - iv.  $c = 0, d = 0$

The same analysis also proves that if a pattern with the same restrictions only has three non-empty columns then it is bounding.

Let us now look at the case when all one-entries of the pattern are in either one of two rows  $r_1, r_2$  or in a column  $c_1$ . Without loss of generality, we again assume permutation 123 is present and we distinguish three cases. Consider Figure 4.8:

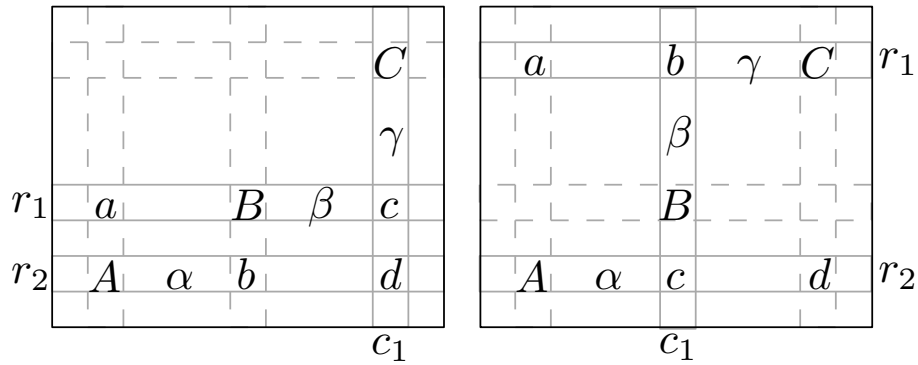


Figure 4.8: Structure of a pattern only having one-entries in two rows and one column that avoids all rotations of  $P_1$ .

- 1.  $C$  lies in column  $c_1$ 
  - (a)  $a = 0$
  - (b)  $a = 1 \Rightarrow b = 0, \alpha = 0$
- 2.  $B$  lies in column  $c_1$ : Thanks to Lemma 4.19 are one-entries in  $a, d, A, C$  row-bounded and one-entries in  $a, b, c, d, A, C, \alpha$  and  $\gamma$  column-bounded. From the first case of Lemma 4.18, we have that one-entries in  $B$  and  $\beta$  are row-bounded and from the first case of Lemma 4.17, one-entries in  $b, c, B$  and  $\beta$  are column-bounded. Thus, every one-entry is column-bounded.
  - (a)  $a = 1, d = 1 \Rightarrow \alpha = 0, \gamma = 0$

- (b)  $a = 1, d = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 0$   
(c)  $a = 0, d = 1 \Rightarrow \gamma = 0$   
(d)  $a = 0, d = 0$ : The pattern avoids  $(\bullet \bullet)$  so it is bounded according to Lemma 4.20.

3.  $A$  lies in column  $c_1$ : This is symmetric to the first situation.

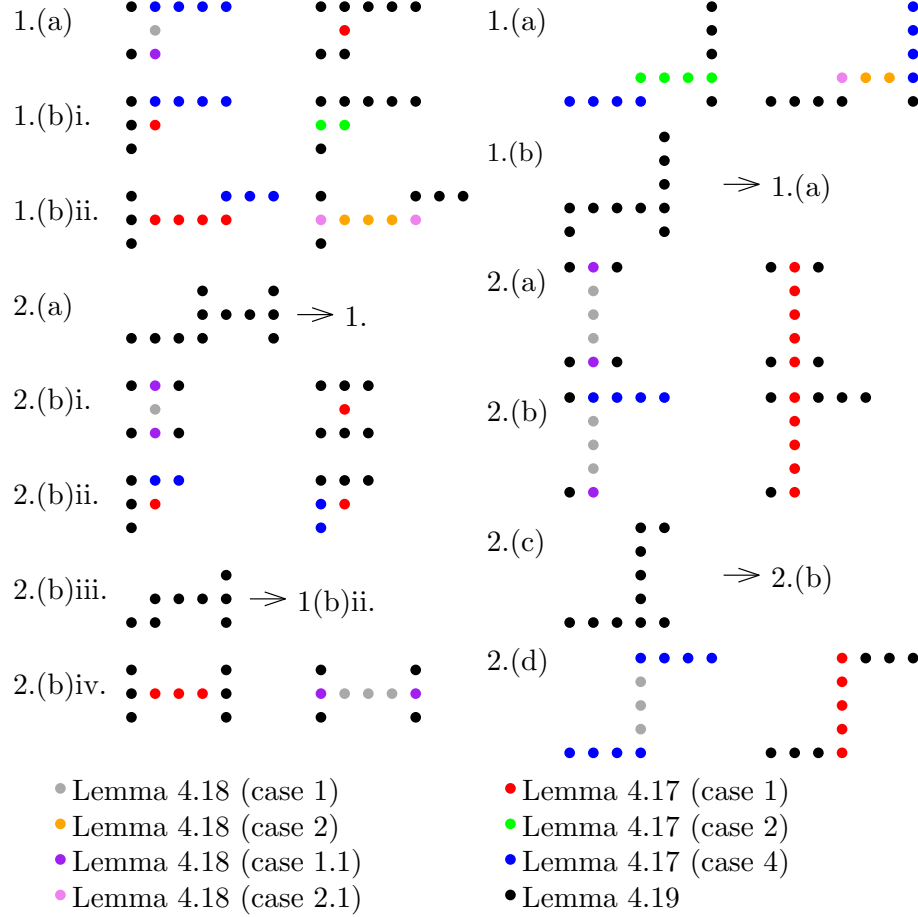


Figure 4.9: A figure showing which lemma can be used to prove row-boundedness and column-boundedness for each one-entry of patterns discussed in the case analysis. The left half of the picture deals with the situation where there are three non-empty rows and the right half with the situation where there are two non-empty rows and one non-empty column. Each case either contains a picture showing row-boundedness and column-boundedness or an arrow describing that the case can be easily reduced to a different one.

The same analysis also proves that if one-entries of a pattern with the same restrictions are in one row or two columns then the pattern is bounded.  $\square$

Combining all the lemmata we finally get the following result.

**Theorem 4.22.** *Let  $P$  be a pattern avoiding all rotations of  $P_1$ , then  $Av_{\preceq}(P)$  is bounded.*  $\square$

## 4.2 Chain rules

In this section, we study what happens when we combine multiple classes that are bounded or unbounded.

**Theorem 4.23.** *Let  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$  be classes of patterns. If both  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$  are bounded then  $Av(\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{Q})$  is bounded.*

*Proof.* We show  $comp_{\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{Q}} \leq comp_{\mathcal{P}} + comp_{\mathcal{Q}} = C$ .

For contradiction, let  $M$  be a maximal matrix avoiding  $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{Q}$  having at least  $C + 1$  zero-intervals in a single row (or column). Without loss of generality it means there is more than  $comp_{\mathcal{P}}$  zero-intervals usable for one-entries of the patterns from  $\mathcal{P}$ . Not let us change some zero-entries of  $M$  to one-entries to get  $M' \in Av(\mathcal{P})$ . Clearly, it still contains more than  $comp_{\mathcal{P}}$  zero-intervals usable for one-entries of the patterns from  $\mathcal{P}$ , which is a contradiction with the definition of  $comp_{\mathcal{P}}$ .

Similarly, the same inequality holds also for the column-complexity of  $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{Q}$  and so the union is bounded.  $\square$

Using induction, we can show that also a union of a finite number of bounded classes of finite sizes is bounded. Interestingly enough, unbounded classes are not closed the same way.

**Theorem 4.24.** *For every  $1 \leq i < j \leq 4$  is  $\{P_i, P_j\}$  bounded.*

*Proof.* Due to symmetries it is enough to only consider  $i = 1$  and  $j = [1, 2]$ .

- $\{P_1, P_2\}$  is row-bounded: from Lemma 4.19 we have that one-entries  $P_1[2, 1]$ ,  $P_1[3, 3]$ ,  $P_2[2, 1]$  and  $P_3[3, 1]$  are row-bounded. For  $P_1[1, 2]$  and  $P_2[1, 2]$  we prove there are at most two zero-intervals usable for each of them. Otherwise, if there are three zero-intervals  $z_1 < z_2 < z_3$  usable for  $P_1[1, 2]$  then the one-entries used to map  $P_1[2, 1]$  and  $P_1[3, 3]$  in a mapping created when a zero-entry of  $z_1$  changes to one-entry used to map  $P_1[1, 2]$  together with a one-entry in between  $z_2$  and  $z_3$  give us a mapping of  $P_2$  to  $M$ . Symmetrically, the same goes for  $P_2[1, 2]$  and  $z'_3$ .
- $\{P_1, P_2\}$  is column-bounded: from Lemma 4.19 combined with Observation 4.8 we have that one-entries  $P_1[1, 2]$ ,  $P_1[3, 3]$ ,  $P_2[1, 2]$  and  $P_3[3, 1]$  are column-bounded. For  $P_1[2, 1]$  and  $P_2[2, 3]$  we prove there are at most two zero-intervals usable for each of them. Otherwise, if there are three zero-intervals  $z_1 < z_2 < z_3$  (from top down) usable for  $P_1[2, 1]$  then the one-entries used to map  $P_1[1, 2]$  and  $P_1[3, 3]$  in a mapping created when a zero-entry of  $z_1$  changes to one-entry used to map  $P_1[1, 2]$  together with a one-entry in between  $z_2$  and  $z_3$  give us a mapping of  $P_2$  to  $M$ . Symmetrically, the same goes for  $P_2[2, 3]$  and  $z'_3$ .
- $\{P_1, P_3\}$  is row-bounded: we can use the same proof as when showing that  $\{P_1, P_2\}$  is column-bounded.
- $\{P_1, P_3\}$  is column-bounded: we can use the same proof as when showing that  $\{P_1, P_2\}$  is row-bounded.

□

We prove even stronger result by using a well known fact from the theory of ordered sets.

**Fact 4.25** (Higman's lemma). *Let  $A$  be a finite alphabet and  $A^*$  be a set of finite sequences over  $A$ . Then  $A^*$  is well quasi ordered with respect to the subsequence relation.*

**Theorem 4.26.**  $\sigma = Av\left(\left(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}\right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}\right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}\right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix}\right)\right)$  is bounded. Moreover, every subclass is bounded.

*Proof.* From Theorem 4.14 we know that elements of  $\sigma$  fall into finitely many classes. For each we need to prove that it is bounded and also that it does not contain an infinite anti-chain. Knowing that we use Theorem 4.23 to obtain the result. Let us consider an  $m$  by  $n$  matrix  $M \in \sigma$ :

- $M$  only contains up to three non-empty rows (columns):  
Clearly, if  $M$  is maximal then it contains three rows made of one-entries and everything else is zero, so the number of one-intervals is bounded by three.

We use words over alphabet  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j\}$  to describe each  $M$  as follows. Let  $r_1 < r_2 < r_3$  be the non-empty rows (if less than three are non-empty we choose extra values arbitrarily). We define  $w_M \in A^*$  as follows. First, we use letter  $g$   $r_1$  times, letter  $h$   $r_2 - r_1$  times, letter  $i$   $r_3 - r_2$  times and letter  $j$   $m - r_3$  times to describe the number of rows of  $M$ . Then we describe columns from the first one to the last one as follows. For each 0 in  $r_1$  we use letter  $a$  and for 1, we use  $ab$ . For each 0 in  $r_2$  we use letter  $c$  and for 1, we use  $cd$ . For each 0 in  $r_3$  we use letter  $e$  and for 1, we use  $ef$ .

If we have  $w_M, w_{M'} \in A^*$  such that  $w_M$  is a subsequence of  $w_{M'}$  then we want to show that  $M$  is an interval minor of  $M'$ . Let  $r_1, r_2, r_3$  and  $r'_1, r'_2, r'_3$  be the non-empty rows of  $M$  and  $M'$  respectively. Since the number of leading letters  $g$  is not bigger in  $w_M$ ,  $M$  does not have more empty rows before  $r_1$  than  $M'$  does before  $r'_1$  and similarly it has at most as many empty rows in between  $r_1, r_2$  and  $r_2, r_3$  and after  $r_3$ .

Now consider there is  $ab$  in  $w_M$  and it corresponds to some  $a \dots b$  in  $w_{M'}$ . We can always assume that in  $w_{M'}$  the “ $a$ ” is the one exactly before  $b$ . It can only happen that  $abcdeface$  is a subsequence of **abceacdeaceface** if the bold letters are used and since they correspond to one-entries lying in the following columns, this indeed corresponds to an interval minor (but it clearly does not have to mean that  $M$  is a submatrix of  $M'$ ).

From Fact 4.25 we have that  $A^*$  is well ordered which means that matrices having at most three non-empty rows (columns) are well ordered (the construction can be extended to every fixed number of non-empty rows) and so they does not have an infitely long anti-chain.

- one-entries of  $M$  lie in at most two rows and one column (or vice versa):  
The number of one-intervals of any such maximal  $M$  is bounded by two.

We use words over alphabet  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\}$  and for non-empty rows  $r_1, r_2$  and column  $c_1$  we define  $w_M$  as follows. We first encode each column in such a way that for each 0 in  $r_1$  we use letter  $a$  and for 1, we use  $ab$ . For each 0 in  $r_2$  we use letter  $c$  and for 1, we use  $cd$ . Right before and after the description of column  $c_1$  we put letter  $g$ . Next we encode each row in such a way that for each 0 in  $c_1$  we use letter  $e$  and for each 1 letters  $ef$ . Right before and after the descriptions of rows  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  we again place letter  $g$ .

Because of the distinct letters for encoding rows and columns we can apply the same analysis as we did in the previous case and since entries at  $M[r_1, c_1]$  and  $M[r_2, c_1]$  are separated from the rest by a special letter  $g$  there is no way to find a one-entry if it is not there.

- $M$  avoids  $(\cdot \cdot)$  (or  $(\cdot \cdot)$ ):

From Proposition 2.13 we know  $M$  is a walking matrix and any such maximal matrix only contains at most one one-intervals in each row and column.

We use words over alphabet  $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and encode  $M$  as follows. We choose an arbitrary walk of  $M$  containing all one-entries and index its entries as  $w_1 \dots w_{m+n-1}$ . Starting from  $w_1$  we encode  $w_i$  so that  $a$  stands for 0 and  $ab$  for 1 if  $w_{i+1}$  lies in the same row as  $w_i$  and we use  $c$  for 0 and  $cd$  for 1 if  $w_{i+1}$  lies in the same column as  $w_i$ .

In the construction of words corresponding to matrices, we only made sure that  $w_M \subseteq w_{M'} \Rightarrow M \preceq M'$  and the other implication does not hold. A different construction may lead to equivalence, but that is not necessary for our result.

We now use distinct alphabets to describe different classes and when we given a potentially infinite class of matrices from  $\sigma$ , we know that inside each class there is at most finite number of minimal matrices such that all of the rest contain a smaller one inside. Using induction on Theorem 4.23, we have that each class is bounded and by applying induction with Theorem 4.23 once again we get that the union of the classes is also bounded.  $\square$

**Observation 4.27.** *There exists a bounding pattern  $P$  having an unbounded subset of  $Av(P)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $P = I_n$  (identity matrix) for  $n > 3$ . From Lemma 4.20 we have that  $P$  is bounding. On the other hand,  $Av(I_n, P_1)$  is unbounded, because the construction used in the proof of Lemma 4.12 also works for this class.  $\square$

We define matrices to be bounded if they are both row-bounded and column-bounded. From what we proved so far, we see that a pattern  $P$  is row-bounded if and only if it is column-bounded. But once we look at collections of patterns, this does not have to be true.

**Lemma 4.28.** *There exists a class of patterns  $\mathcal{P}$ , which is row-bounded but column-unbounded.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{P} = \left\{ P = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix}, I_4 = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ . We can use the same construction as we did in Lemma 4.12, just transposed, to prove  $Av(\mathcal{P})$  is column-unbounded.

To prove that  $\mathcal{P}$  is row-bounded, we take any  $M$  maximal avoiding  $\mathcal{P}$  and look at an arbitrary row. In Lemma 4.20 we proved that patterns avoiding  $(\bullet \bullet)$  are bounded and so every one-entry of  $I_4$  is row-bounded. We need to proof the same for  $P$ . Using Lemma 4.19,  $P[2, 1]$  and  $P[4, 3]$  are row-bounded. Using the first case of Lemma 4.18,  $P[3, 2]$  is row-bounded. We prove that there are at most two zero-intervals usable for  $P[1, 2]$ . For contradiction, let there be three –  $z_1 < z_2 < z_3$ . It means there are at least two one-entries  $e_1 < e_2$  in between them. Now consider the partitioning of  $P$  into  $M$  when a zero-entry of  $z_3$  is changed to one-entry used to map  $P[1, 2]$ . Clearly, the one-entry used for mapping  $P[2, 1]$  lies under the left one-entry  $e$  bounding  $z_3$  or in a latter column; otherwise we could use  $e$  to map  $P[1, 2]$  and find the pattern in  $M$ . It may happen  $e = e_2$ , but still  $e_1$  and the one-entries used for mapping  $P[2, 1]$ ,  $P[3, 2]$  and  $P[4, 3]$  together give us a mapping of  $I_4$  and so a contradiction with  $M \in Av(\mathcal{P})$ . It means that each one-entry of  $P$  is also row-bounded and  $Av(\mathcal{P})$  is row-bounded.  $\square$

### 4.3 Complexity of one-entries

So far we have been working with the whole patterns and determining their complexity. To make the results even more general, we can analyze the complexity of each one-entry.

In spare time, I will have a look at this.

**Lemma 4.29.** *Let  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{k \times l}$  be a pattern such that all its one-entries are either in rows  $r_1, r_2$  ( $r_1 < r_2$ ) and  $P[[r_2], \{c\}]$ . Then  $P[r_1, c]$  is row-bounded.*

*Proof.* We prove there are at most  $k^4$  zero-intervals usable for  $P[r_1, c]$  in each row of any maximal matrix  $M$  avoiding  $P$ . For contradiction, let there be more than  $k^4$  of them  $(zi_1, \dots, zi_{k^4})$  in some row and for each of them, consider the top most row  $r'_j$  used to map  $r_2$ -th row of  $P$  in a mapping created when a zero-entry of  $zi_j$  is changed to a one-entry used to map  $P[r_1, c]$ . Then pairs  $[zi_1, r'_1], [zi_2, r'_2], \dots, [zi_{k^4}, r'_{k^4}]$  form a sequence of distinct pairs and thanks to the Pidgeonhole principle, there is a subsequence of length at least  $k^2$  such that the values of  $r'_j$  are either non-increasing or non-decreasing. Without loss of generality, assume they are non-decreasing and let  $zi'_1, \dots, zi'_{k^2}$  be their corresponding zero-intervals.

What if  $P[r_2, c] = 0$ ? TODO  $\square$

**Theorem 4.30.** *Let  $P$  be a pattern. Any one-entry  $P[r, c]$  is row-unbounded if (and only if) there is a trivially unbounded one-entry  $P[r, c']$  and we cannot apply the fourth case of Lemma 4.17 nor Lemma 4.29 to  $P[r, c]$ .*

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, let  $P[r, c']$  be part of mapping of  $P_1$ , where  $P_1[1, 2]$  is mapped to it. Let  $P_1[2, 1]$  be mapped to  $P[r_2, c_2]$  and  $P_1[3, 3]$  be mapped to  $P[r_3, c_3]$ . We go through all potential one-entries  $P[r, c]$  and show that either we can use one of the lemmata mentioned in the statement or the one-entry is row-unbounded.

- $c < c_2$ : If there is no one-entry in  $P[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$  nor  $P[[r + 1, k], [c - 1]]$ , then the fourth case of Lemma 4.17 can be used for  $P[r, c]$ . Otherwise, first consider there is a one-entry in  $P[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$ , then we can use the

construction from Lemma ?? . In the last case, assume there is a one-entry  $P[r', c']$  in  $P[[r + 1, k], [c - 1]]$ , then if  $r' \neq r_2$ , entries  $P[r, c]$ ,  $P[r', c']$  and  $P[r_2, c_2]$  form either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  and  $P[r, c]$  is trivially row-unbounded. If  $r' = r_2$ , then we use  $P[r, c]$ ,  $P[r', c']$  and  $P[r_3, c_3]$  to again find either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  and  $P[r, c]$  is trivially row-unbounded once again.

- $c = c_2$ : If there is no one-entry in  $P[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$  nor  $P[[r + 1, k], [c - 1]]$ , then the fourth case of Lemma 4.17 can be used for  $P[r, c]$ . Otherwise, first assume there is a one-entry in  $P[[r - 1], [c - 1]]$ , then we can use the construction from Lemma ?? . In the last case, assume there is a one-entry  $P[r', c']$  in  $P[[r + 1, k], [c - 1]]$ , then if  $r' \neq r_3$ , entries  $P[r, c]$ ,  $P[r', c']$  and  $P[r_3, c_3]$  form either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  and  $P[r, c]$  is trivially row-unbounded. If  $r' = r_3$ , then what?

Cannot just use lemma even if it was proved.

TOOD

- $c_2 < c < c_3$ : In this case  $P[r, c]$  is trivially unbounded as together with  $P[r_2, c_2]$  and  $P[r_3, c_3]$  it forms  $P_1$ .
- $c = c_3$ : If there is no one-entry in  $P[[r - 1], [c + 1, l]]$  nor  $P[[r + 1, k], [c + 1, l]]$ , then the fourth case of Lemma 4.17 can be used for  $P[r, c]$ . Otherwise, first consider there is a one-entry in  $P[[r - 1], [c + 1, l]]$ , then we can use the construction from Lemma ?? . In the last case, assume there is a one-entry  $P[r', c']$  in  $P[[r + 1, k], [c - 1]]$ , then if  $r' \neq r_2$ , entries  $P[r, c]$ ,  $P[r', c']$  and  $P[r_2, c_2]$  form either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  and  $P[r, c]$  is trivially row-unbounded. If  $r' = r_2$ , then we use the construction from Lemma ?? to show  $P[r, c]$  is row-unbounded once again.
- $c > c_3$ : There are three cases to go through and we can handle them the same way as we did in case  $c < c_2$ .

□

# Conclusion

Throughout the thesis, we have been looking from multiple angles at classes binary matrices. In particular, we studied properties of matrices containing or avoiding other, smaller matrices as interval minors.

**Characterizations** We started by describing the structure of matrices avoiding some small patterns. We managed to characterize all matrices avoiding patterns having up to three one-entries and also showed how to generalize some of the characterizations for much bigger patterns. Even for very small patterns (only having four one-entries), the structure of matrices avoiding them became very rich and hard to properly describe.

So instead, we began to consider how a small change of the pattern influences the structure of matrices avoiding the pattern. This was mainly looked at when adding empty lines to the pattern. We showed for patterns of size  $k \times 2$  what matrices avoiding its blown version look like, but we are unable to generalize the result (or show something similar) when the pattern we are working with is bigger. So the question, answer for which could later be used to describe complexity of some patterns or help enumerate matrices from some class, is:

*Question 4.31.* What can we say about matrices avoiding a pattern with added empty line with respect to the matrices avoiding the original pattern?

**Operations with matrices** After dealing with small patterns, we defined an operation of the direct sum and a closure under the direct and began to explore how it relates with classes of matrices. Once again we started by considering some small cases, where we observed that the closure can be describe by forbidden patterns very naturally. Later, we considered the direct sum with an overlap, which allowed us to restate the characterizations from the previous chapter in a much easier way.

We also introduced a notion of articulation that allowed us to proof a strong result saying that any matrix closed under the direct sum can always be describe by a finite set of forbidden patterns.

In order to generalize the result, we started looking at sets of matrices and ultimately, we showed that there are set of matrices with finite basis, whose closure cannot be described with a finite number of forbidden minors.

**Zero-intervals** In the last chapter, we studies a property of a class of matrices that in some terms describes the complexity of inclusion maximal matrices from the class.

To bring the notion back to the pattern avoiding, we defined a pattern  $P$  to be bounding if and only of the class  $Av_{\leq}(P)$  is bounded and we showed that a pattern is bounding if and only if it avoids all rotations of  $P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$ .

To show for a pattern that it is bounding meant to show that each one-entry it contains is bounded. It may be an interesting generalization to show for each one-entry whether it is bounded or unbounded in its pattern. On our way, we only saw one type of unbounded one-entries, and those are  $P_1[2, 1]$  for rows,  $P_1[1, 2]$  for



Considering this generalization, there are one-entries that are unbounded but not trivially unbounded. Let us mention some of them (arrows point to row-unbounded one-entries):

**Proposition 4.32.** *Let  $P = \begin{pmatrix} & & \downarrow \\ \cdot & \cdot & \\ & \cdot & \\ & & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$ . For every integer  $n$  there is a matrix  $M \in Av_{max}(P)$  having at least  $n$  zero-intervals.*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be a matrix described by the picture:

[illegible]

We see that  $P \not\preceq M$  because we always need to map  $P[2, 1]$  and  $P[3, 3]$  to just one “block” of one-entries of  $M$ , which only leaves a zero-entry where we need to map  $P[1, 3]$  or  $P[2, 4]$ .

When we change any marked zero-entry of the first row into a one-entry, we get a matrix containing a minor of  $\{1\}^{3 \times 4}$ ; therefore, containing  $P$  as an interval minor. In case  $M$  is not maximal, we can add more one-entries to make it maximal but it will still contain a row with  $n$  one-intervals.  $\square$

Our tools are not strong enough to let us characterize unbounded one-entries. Based on our attempts, we state the following conjecture:

*Conjecture 4.33.* Every row-unbounded one-entry share a row with a trivially row-unbounded one-entry.

Throughout the chapter, we work with arguments such that if something holds for a matrix, it also holds for every submatrix. While it seems completely natural, we are unable to decide the following question:

*Question 4.34.* Can a non-bounding pattern become bounding after a one-entry is changed to a zero-entry?

Using our machinery, we showed that while the union of bounding sets of patterns is always bounding again, the union of non-bounding sets may become bounding. For the class of matrices avoiding all rotations of  $P_1$ , we even showed that every subclass is also bounded. The same remains open for other sets of patterns:

*Question 4.35.* Is  $Av_{\leq} \left( \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ & \bullet \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix} \right) \right)$  hereditarily bounded?

# Bibliography

Bojan Mohar, Arash Rafiey, Behruz Tayfeh-Rezaie, and Hehui Wu. Interval minors of complete bipartite graphs. *Journal of Graph Theory*, 2015.

# List of Figures

2.1	Dotted and dashed lines resembling mappings $m_l$ and $m_r$ of the forbidden pattern. Two horizontal lines show the boundaries of the mapping of row $r$ and the vertical lines show boundaries of the mapping of column $c$ . . . . .	7
2.2	Characterization of matrices avoiding $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$ as an interval minor. Matrix $M'$ is a walking matrix. . . . .	10
2.3	Characterization of matrices avoiding $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$ as an interval minor. .	12
2.4	Characterization of matrices avoiding $(\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{smallmatrix})$ as an interval minor. .	13
4.1	Structure of a maximal matrix avoiding $P$ that has arbitrarily many one-intervals. . . . .	23
4.2	Dashed and dotted lines resembling two different mappings of a forbidden pattern, where two horizontal lines show the boundaries of the mapping of row $r$ and the vertical lines show boundaries of the mapping of column $c$ . . . . .	25
4.3	Patterns for which one-entries in row $r_2$ and columns $c_1$ to $c_2$ are row-bounded. One-entries may only be in the areas enclosed by bold lines. . . . .	25
4.4	Mapping of a pattern into a matrix only using one line to map an empty line of the pattern and only using one line to map row $r_2$ . .	26
4.5	Patterns for which one-entries in column $c$ and rows $r_1 + 1$ to $r_2 - 1$ are row-bounded. One-entries may only be in the areas enclosed by bold lines. . . . .	26
4.6	. . . . .	27
4.7	Structure of a pattern only having three non-empty rows and avoiding all rotations of $P_1$ . . . . .	28
4.8	Structure of a pattern only having one-entries in two rows and one column that avoids all rotations of $P_1$ . . . . .	29
4.9	A figure showing which lemma can be used to proof row-boundedness and column-boundedness for each one-entry of patterns discussed in the case analysis. The left half of the picture deals with the situation where there are three non-empty rows and the right half with the situation where there are two non-empty rows and one non-empty column. Each case either contains a picture showing row-boundedness and column-boundedness or an arrow describing that the case can be easily reduced to a different one. . . . .	30

# List of Tables