

Figure 7: Second-Order Pruning

## A Proof of Theorem 3.1

PROOF. For any  $v \in P'$ , we have  $v \in P$  and since  $P$  is a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex, we have  $\overline{d_P^+}(v) = |\overline{N_P^+}(v)| \leq k_1$  and  $\overline{d_P^-}(v) = |\overline{N_P^-}(v)| \leq k_2$ . Since  $\overline{N_{P'}^+}(u) \subseteq \overline{N_P^+}(u)$  and  $\overline{N_{P'}^-}(u) \subseteq \overline{N_P^-}(u)$ , we have  $\overline{d_{P'}^+}(v) = |\overline{N_{P'}^+}(v)| \leq k_1$  and  $\overline{d_{P'}^-}(v) = |\overline{N_{P'}^-}(v)| \leq k_2$ , so  $P'$  is also a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex.  $\square$

## B Proof of Theorem 4.2

PROOF. This can be seen from Figure 7. Since  $P$  is a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex, we have  $\overline{d_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u) \leq k_1 - 1$  (since  $\overline{d_P^+}(u) \leq k_1$ ) and  $\overline{d_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v) \leq k_2 - 1$  (since  $\overline{d_P^-}(u) \leq k_2$ ).

In Case (a) where  $(u, v) \notin E$ , any vertex  $w \in P$  can only fall in the following 3 scenarios: (1)  $w \in \overline{N_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u)$  (which contains  $v$ ), (2)  $w \in \overline{N_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v)$  (which contains  $u$ ), and (3)  $w \in N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)$ . Note that  $w$  may be in both (1) and (2). So we have:

$$\begin{aligned} |P| &= |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + |\overline{N_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u) \cup \overline{N_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v)| \\ &\leq |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + |\overline{N_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u)| + |\overline{N_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v)| \\ &\leq |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + (k_1 - 1) + (k_2 - 1) \\ &= |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + k_1 + k_2 - 2, \end{aligned}$$

so  $|N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| \geq |P| - k_1 - k_2 + 2 \geq q - k_1 - k_2 + 2$ .

In Case (b) where  $(u, v) \in E$ , any vertex  $w \in P$  can only be in one of the following 4 scenarios: (1)  $w = u$ , (2)  $w = v$ , (3)  $w \in N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)$ , and (4)  $w \in \overline{N_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u) \cup \overline{N_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v)$ , so:

$$\begin{aligned} |P| &= 2 + |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + |\overline{N_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u) \cup \overline{N_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v)| \\ &\leq 2 + |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + |\overline{N_{P-\{u\}}^+}(u)| + |\overline{N_{P-\{v\}}^+}(v)| \\ &\leq 2 + |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + (k_1 - 1) + (k_2 - 1) \\ &= |N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| + k_1 + k_2, \end{aligned}$$

so  $|N_P^+(u) \cap N_P^-(v)| \geq |P| - k_1 - k_2 \geq q - k_1 - k_2$ .  $\square$

## C Counter Computation

**Initial Counter Computation.** Figure 8 shows how we compute the initial values of the counters. Specifically, consider an arbitrary (starting) edge  $(v_1, v_2)$ , then we can obtain a triangle  $\Delta v_1 v_2 v_3$  with four possible edge orientations (a)–(d) as shown on the left of Figure 8. Note that the three acyclic configurations are isomorphic: each triangle of type (b) (resp. (c)) has a one-to-one mapping to

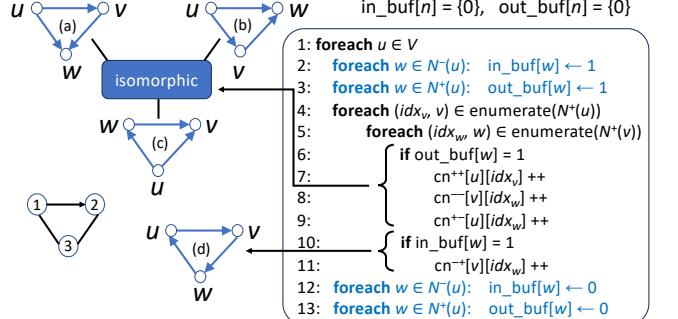


Figure 8: Initial Counter Computation

a triangle of type (a), so we just need to enumerate triangles of type (a) to avoid redundancy.

Figure 8 shows this enumeration where  $v \in N^+(u)$  (Line 4) and  $w \in N^+(v)$  (Line 5), and Line 6 checks if  $w \in N^+(u)$ . Note that for each vertex  $u$ , we save its counters, such as  $cn^{++}(u, :)$ , also sparsely to be space-efficient. For each position  $idx$  in the adjacency list  $N^+(u)$  such that  $N^+(u)[idx] = v$ , we save  $cn^{++}[u][idx] = cn^{++}(u, v)$ .

If Line 6 finds that  $w \in N^+(u)$ , we increment  $cn^{++}$ ,  $cn^{--}$ , and  $cn^{+-}$  for the triangle's three edges properly. To avoid repeated binary search when checking if  $w \in N^+(u)$  in Line 6, we use a bitmap  $out\_bf$  of size  $|V|$  that is initialized as all zeros. When we process a vertex  $u \in V$  in Line 1, we first set the bits of all the out-neighbors in  $N^+(u)$  to be 1 in Line 3, so that Line 6 can be implemented as a simple bit check. These bits are cleared in Line 13 before we continue to process the next vertex  $u \in V$  in Line 1.

The cyclic triangle of type (d) increments  $cn^{-+}$ . In Line 10, if we find  $w \in N^-(u)$ , we increment  $cn^{-+}(v, w)$  only since  $cn^{-+}(w, u)$  (resp.  $cn^{-+}(u, v)$ ) will be incremented when we enumerate from starting vertex  $v$  (resp.  $w$ ) in Line 1.  $\square$

**Incremental Counter Maintenance.** Let us consider edge peeling first. When we remove an edge  $(u, v)$ , (1) we decrement  $d^+(u)$  and  $d^-(v)$ . (2) For each  $w \in N^+(u) \cap N^-(v)$ , we decrement  $cn^{++}(u, w)$  and  $cn^{--}(w, v)$  (see Figure 7(b) to get the intuition). Similarly, (3) for each  $w \in N^+(u) \cap N^+(v)$ , we decrement  $cn^{+-}(u, w)$  and  $cn^{--}(v, w)$ ; (4) for each  $w \in N^-(u) \cap N^+(v)$ , we decrement  $cn^{-+}(w, u)$  and  $cn^{+-}(v, w)$ ; (5) for each  $w \in N^-(u) \cap N^-(v)$ , we decrement  $cn^{++}(w, u)$  and  $cn^{+-}(w, v)$ .

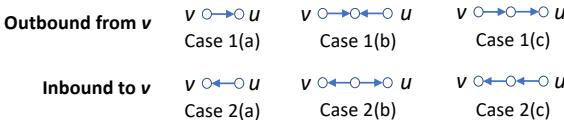
Whenever the decrement of a common-neighbor counter for an edge  $e$  causes its value to be below the threshold stipulated by Theorems 4.2–4.5,  $e$  is added to an edge queue  $Q_e$  for further peeling. Vertices whose degrees get decremented below the thresholds stipulated by Theorem 4.1 are also added to a vertex queue  $Q_v$ . When edge peeling completes (i.e.,  $Q_e = \emptyset$ ), we conduct vertex peeling starting from the vertices in  $Q_v$ . The removal of each vertex  $w$  in  $Q_v$  will also incrementally decrement the degrees (resp. common-neighbor counters) of  $w$ 's neighbors (resp. neighbor-pairs), for which we omit the details. Once vertex peeling completes, new edges may have been added to  $Q_e$  so we start another round of edge peeling. We alternate between edge peeling and vertex peeling until both  $Q_e$  and  $Q_v$  are empty. This process is similar to the CTCP algorithm (Algorithm 3) of [20] in the  $k$ -plex context.  $\square$

1161  
1162  
1163  
1164  
1165  
1166  
1167  
1168  
1169  
1170  
1171  
1172  
1173  
1174  
1175  
1176  
1177  
1178  
1179  
1180  
1181  
1182  
1183  
1184  
1185  
1186  
1187  
1188  
1189  
1190  
1191  
1192  
1193  
1194  
1195  
1196  
1197  
1198  
1199  
1200  
1201  
1202  
1203  
1204  
1205  
1206  
1207  
1208  
1209  
1210  
1211  
1212  
1213  
1214  
1215  
1216  
1217  
1218  
1219  
1220  
1221  
1222  
1223  
1224  
1225  
1226  
1227  
1228  
1229  
1230  
1231  
1232  
1233  
1234  
1235  
1236  
1237  
1238  
1239  
1240  
1241  
1242  
1243  
1244  
1245  
1246  
1247  
1248  
1249  
1250  
1251  
1252  
1253  
1254  
1255  
1256  
1257  
1258  
1259  
1260  
1261  
1262  
1263  
1264  
1265  
1266  
1267  
1268  
1269  
1270  
1271  
1272  
1273  
1274  
1275  
1276

1277 Note that the above process of shrinking  $G$  by alternating edge  
 1278 peeling and vertex peeling is executed on top of the  $(q - k_1, q - k_2)$ -  
 1279 core of  $G$  which is initially computed by a vertex peeling algorithm,  
 1280 since the latter is more efficient in pruning unpromising vertices as  
 1281 a preprocessing.  
 1282

## D Proof of Theorem 5.1

1284 PROOF. Consider any two vertices  $u, v$  in a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex  $P$  where  
 1285  $k_1, k_2 \leq \frac{q+1}{2}$ , we show that they cannot be more than 2 hops apart  
 1286 (i.e., cannot fall out of the 6 cases in Figure 9).  
 1287



1292 **Figure 9: Cases for Two-Hop Diameter Upper Bound**

1293 Without loss of generality, we only consider the path from  $v$   
 1294 to  $u$  where the first edge is outbound from  $v$ , i.e., Cases 1(a)–(c).  
 1295 Cases 2(a)–(c) are symmetric and can be similarly proved.  
 1296

1297 If  $v$  directly points to  $u$ , we are done since Case 1(a) occurs. Now  
 1298 assume that edge  $(v, u) \notin E$ , and we show that:

- 1299 • **Case (I):**  $(u, v) \notin E$ , then both Case 1(b) and Case 1(c) should  
 1300 be satisfied. **(i) We first prove Case 1(b).** Note that  $u \notin N^+(v)$  and  $v \notin N^+(u)$ . Since  $k_1 \leq \frac{q+1}{2} \leq \frac{|P|+1}{2}$ ,  $u$  and  $v$   
 1301 each points to at least  $|P| - k_1 \geq \frac{|P|-1}{2}$  other vertices in  $P$ , so they must share an out-neighbor; otherwise, there exist  
 1302  $2 \cdot \frac{|P|-1}{2} = |P| - 1$  vertices other than  $u$  and  $v$ , leading to a  
 1303 contradiction since there will be at least  $(|P| + 1)$  vertices in  $P$  when adding  $u$  and  $v$ . **(ii) We next prove Case 1(c).** Note  
 1304 that  $v \notin N^-(u)$  and  $u \notin N^-(v)$ . Since  $k_1 \leq \frac{q+1}{2} \leq \frac{|P|+1}{2}$ ,  
 1305  $v$  points to at least  $|P| - k_1 \geq \frac{|P|-1}{2}$  other vertices in  $P$ ; also since  $k_2 \leq \frac{q+1}{2} \leq \frac{|P|+1}{2}$ ,  $u$  is pointed to by at least  
 1306  $|P| - k_2 \geq \frac{|P|-1}{2}$  other vertices in  $P$ . So,  $N^+(v)$  and  $N^-(u)$   
 1307 must intersect as illustrated by Figure 9 Case 1(c); otherwise, there will be  $(|P| + 1)$  vertices in  $P$  when adding  $u$  and  $v$ .  
 1308
- 1309 • **Case (II):**  $(u, v) \in E$ , then Case 1(c) should be satisfied.  
 1310 The proof is the same as (ii) above. Note that we cannot  
 1311 guarantee Case 1(b) anymore, since  $v \in N^+(u)$ , i.e.,  $v$  can  
 1312 be one of the at least  $|P| - k_1 \geq \frac{|P|-1}{2}$  neighbors of  $u$ ,  
 1313 invalidating the prove for (i) above.  
 1314

1315 Symmetrically, consider the path from  $v$  to  $u$  where the first edge  
 1316 is inbound to  $v$ , i.e., Cases 2(a)–(c). If  $u$  directly points to  $v$ , we are  
 1317 done since Case 2(a) occurs. If edge  $(u, v) \notin E$ :

- 1318 • **Case (III): edge  $(v, u)$  does not exist in  $G$ ,** then both  
 1319 Case 2(b) and Case 2(c) should be satisfied. The proof is  
 1320 symmetric to Case (I) above and thus omitted.
- 1321 • **Case (IV): edge  $(v, u)$  exists in  $G$ ,** then Case 2(c) should  
 1322 be satisfied. The proof is symmetric to Case (II) above.

1323 Putting the above discussions together, we obtain the following  
 1324 4 cases, for each of which we explain how to exclude an impossible  
 1325 candidate  $u$  from  $\text{ext}(S)$  given a vertex  $v \in S$ , where  $\text{ext}(S)$  denotes  
 1326 the set of candidate vertices that can extend  $S$  into a valid  $(k_1, k_2)$ -  
 1327 plex.  
 1328

- 1329 • **Case A:**  $(v, u) \in E$  and  $(u, v) \in E$ . In this case, we always  
 1330 have  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$ .
- 1331 • **Case B:**  $(v, u) \notin E$  and  $(u, v) \in E$ . Based on Case (II) above,  
 1332 we have  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$  only if a path  $u \leftarrow w \leftarrow v$  exists in  $G$   
 1333 for some  $w \in V$  ( $w \neq u, v$ ).
- 1334 • **Case C:**  $(v, u) \in E$  and  $(u, v) \notin E$ . Based on Case (IV) above,  
 1335 we have  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$  only if a path  $u \rightarrow w \rightarrow v$  exists in  $G$   
 1336 for some  $w \in V$  ( $w \neq u, v$ ).
- 1337 • **Case D:**  $(v, u) \notin E$  and  $(u, v) \notin E$ . Based on Case (I) above,  
 1338 we have Condition (C1):  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$  only if both Case 1(b)  
 1339 and Case 1(c) in Figure 9 are satisfied. Similarly, based on  
 1340 Condition (C2):  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$  only if both Case 2(b) and Case 2(c)  
 1341 are satisfied. Combining both conditions,  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$  only if there exist  
 1342  $w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4 \in V - \{u, v\}$  such that  $u \leftarrow w_1 \leftarrow v$  and  $u \leftarrow w_2 \rightarrow v$  and  
 1343  $u \rightarrow w_3 \leftarrow v$  and  $u \rightarrow w_4 \rightarrow v$ .  
 1344

1345 Once we have applied the above rules to prune  $\text{ext}(S)$  to exclude  
 1346 invalid candidates  $u$ , let us abuse the notation to use  $G$  again to  
 1347 denote the resulting graph induced by  $S \cup \text{ext}(S)$  after pruning. Note  
 1348 that we can apply this diameter-based pruning on the pruned  $G$   
 1349 again, since some vertex  $w$  in Case B (resp. Case C) could have been  
 1350 pruned by Case C (resp. Case B) in the previous iteration, causing  
 1351 some required paths to disappear, further invalidating more vertices  
 1352  $u$  from  $\text{ext}(S)$ . This pruning can be iteratively run over  $G$ .  
 1353

1354 Based on the above idea, Algorithm 2 computes the set of vertices  
 1355 in  $\text{ext}(S)$  that are not 2-hop pruned by a vertex  $v \in S$ . Specifically,  
 1356 Line 1 computes  $O$  (resp.  $I$ ) as the set of  $v$ 's out-neighbors (resp.  
 1357 in-neighbors)  $u$  that belong to Case B (resp. Case C). Then, Line 3  
 1358 recovers  $S_O$  (resp.  $S_I$ ) as the set of  $v$ 's all non-pruned out-neighbors  
 1359 (resp. in-neighbors)  $w$  in Case B (resp. Case C) with path  $v \rightarrow w \rightarrow u$  (resp.  
 1360  $v \leftarrow w \leftarrow u$ ). Note that  $N^\pm(v) \subseteq \text{ext}(S)$  based on Case A  
 1361 so its vertices cannot be further pruned, so the iterative pruning is  
 1362 contributed by the shrink of sets  $O$  and  $I$ .  
 1363

1364 Next, Line 4 prunes away those vertices  $u \in O$  (resp.  $u \in I$ ) that  
 1365 cannot find a path  $u \rightarrow w$  (resp.  $u \leftarrow w$ ) for some non-pruned  
 1366  $w \in N^-(v)$  (resp.  $w \in N^+(v)$ ), which is based on Case C (resp.  
 1367 Case B). Note that if  $O$  or  $I$  shrinks in Line 4, Line 5 will trigger  
 1368 another iteration of pruning. When the loop of Lines 2–5 exits, we  
 1369 have  $O$  (resp.  $I$ ) being the remaining vertices  $u \in \text{ext}(S)$  in Case B  
 1370 (resp. Case C) after iterative pruning. Finally, Line 6 computes  
 1371 the set  $B$  of vertices where  $u$  satisfies Case D w.r.t.  $v$ , and Line 7  
 1372 unions the 4 disjoint candidate sets that correspond to Cases A–D,  
 1373 respectively, to obtain the final 2-hop pruned  $\text{ext}(S)$  for a vertex  
 1374  $v \in S$ . We denote this set as  $\mathbb{B}(v)$ , which is returned by Line 7.  $\square$   
 1375

## E Complexity Analysis

Given a directed graph  $G = (V, E)$ , we evaluate the worst-case running time of Algorithm 4. Let  $T(m, n)$  be the worst-case running time of function  $\text{BK2}(G, k_1, k_2, q, P, C, X)$  where  $m = |C|$  and  $n = |P \cup C|$ , and we define  $k = \max(k_1, k_2)$ . Next, we analyze  $T(m, n)$  by considering four different cases:

I. When  $C = \emptyset$  (Lines 4–6), then

$$T(m, n) = T(0, n) \leq c_1, \quad (4)$$

where  $c_1$  is a constant.

1393 II. When  $P \cup C$  is not a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex and the pivot vertex is  
 1394 in  $P$  (Lines 8–17). Here,  $p + 1$  branches are created each  
 1395 with a smaller candidate set  $C'$ . Before each call the sets  
 1396  $C'$  and  $X'$  are further shrunk in Lines 15–16 which takes  
 1397 time  $O(|V|^2)$ . The worst-case running time of this case is,  
 1398 therefore

$$1400 T(m, n) \leq (p+1)c_2|V|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^p T(m-i, n-1) \quad (5)$$

$$1401 + T(m-d, n-d+p),$$

1403 where  $c_2$  is a constant.

1404 III. When  $P \cup C$  is a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex (Lines 19–24), then no fur-  
 1405 ther branches are created, and the cost in this case is only  
 1406 incurred by updating  $X'$  in Line 22, which is

$$1408 T(m, n) \leq c_2|V|^2 \quad (6)$$

1409 IV. When  $P \cup C$  is not a  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex and the pivot vertex is in  
 1410  $C$  (Lines 25–30). The cost in this case is

$$1412 T(m, n) \leq c_2|V|^2 + T(m-1, n) + T(m-1, n-1).$$

1413 In the worst case, no candidate vertex is reduced from  $C -$   
 1414  $\{v_p\}$  in Line 28 so  $v_p$  remains the minimum degree vertex  
 1415 in the subsequent recursive call at Line 30 (within which  
 1416  $v_p \in P' = P \cup \{v_p\}$ ). Hence, by expanding  $T(m-1, n)$  using  
 1417 Equation (5) we have:

$$1419 T(m, n) \leq (p+2)c_2|V|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^p T(m-1-i, n-1) \quad (7)$$

$$1420 + T(m-1-d, n-d+p) + T(m-1, n-1).$$

1422 Next, we compute a closed-form upper-bound of  $T(m, n)$  which  
 1423 satisfies the Equations (4)–(7), and we can drop the second argument  
 1424  $n$  from  $T(m, n)$  since the base case expressions in Equations (4)  
 1425 and (6) are not a function of  $n$ . Then, the largest  $T(m)$  is upper-  
 1426 bounded by Equations (4) and (7), i.e.

$$1429 T(m) \leq \begin{cases} c_1 & \text{if } m = 0 \\ 1430 (p+2)c_2|V|^2 + \sum_{i=0}^p T(m-1-i) & \quad \quad \quad (8) \\ 1431 + T(m-1-d) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1433 Since  $p \leq d-1$  and  $p < k$ , the worst-case is reached when  $p = k-1$   
 1434 and  $d = k$ . Then, Equation (8) can be rewritten as:

$$1436 T(m) \leq \begin{cases} c_1 & \text{if } m = 0 \\ 1437 (k+1)c_2|V|^2 + \sum_{i=0}^k T(m-1-i) & \text{otherwise} \quad (9) \\ 1438 + T(m-1-d) & \end{cases}$$

1439 We show that  $T(m) = O(\alpha_k \gamma_k^m - \beta_k)$  where  $\gamma_k$  is largest real root  
 1440 of  $x^{k+2} - 2x^{k+1} + 1 = 0$ ,  $\beta_k = \frac{(k+1)c_2|V|^2}{k}$  and  $\alpha_k = \frac{(2^k k+1)\beta_k + 2^k c_1}{\gamma_k^{k+1}}$ .

1442 LEMMA E.1. Let  $H(m) = \alpha_k \gamma_k^m - \beta_k$  where  $\gamma_k$  is largest real root  
 1443 of  $x^{k+2} - 2x^{k+1} + 1 = 0$ ,  $\beta_k = \frac{(k+1)c_2|V|^2}{k}$  and  $\alpha_k = \frac{(2^k k+1)\beta_k + 2^k c_1}{\gamma_k^{k+1}}$ .  
 1444 If  $T(m)$  satisfies Equation (9), then  $T(m) \leq H(m)$  for  $m \geq 0$ .

1446 PROOF. We first show  $T(m) \leq 2^{m-1}k\beta_k + 2^{m-1}c_1$  by induction  
 1447 on  $m$ .

1449 Basis: for  $m = 1$ ,  $T(1) \leq (k+1)c_2|V|^2 + T(0) \leq k\beta_k + c_1$ .

1451 **Induction:** We assume that  $T(i) \leq 2^{i-1}k\beta_k + 2^{i-1}c_1$  for all  $i =$   
 1452  $1, \dots, m-1$  and prove that it also holds for  $i = m$ . By Equation (9)  
 1453 we have:

$$1454 T(m) \leq (k+1)c_2|V|^2 + T(m-1) + \dots + T(0)$$

$$1455 = (k+1)c_2|V|^2 + c_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} T(i)$$

$$1456 \leq (k+1)c_2|V|^2 + c_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} (2^{i-1}k\beta_k + 2^{i-1}c_1) \quad (10)$$

$$1457 = k\beta_k(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} 2^{i-1}) + c_1(\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} 2^{i-1} + 1)$$

$$1458 = 2^{m-1}k\beta_k + 2^{m-1}c_1$$

1461 Then, we prove that  $T(m) \leq H(m)$  for all  $m \geq 0$  again by  
 1462 induction on  $m$ .

1463 **Basis:** for  $m = 1$ ,  $T(1) \leq (k+1)c_2|V|^2 + T(0) \leq k\beta_k + c_1$ , and  
 1464  $H(1) = \alpha_k \gamma_k - \beta_k = \frac{(2^k k+1)\beta_k + 2^k c_1}{\gamma_k^k} \geq k\beta_k + c_1$  (since  $\gamma_k < 2$  and  
 1465 hence  $\gamma_k^k < 2^k$ ).

1466 **Induction:** We assume that  $T(m) \leq H(m)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, i$  and  
 1467 prove that it also holds for  $m = i+1$ . First, let us factorize  $x^{k+1} -$   
 1468  $2x^{k+1} + 1$  as  $(x-1)(x^{k+1} - x^k - \dots - 1)$ . Denote  $F_k(x) = (x^{k+1} -$   
 1469  $x^k - \dots - 1)$ . We have  $F_k(1) < 0$  and  $F_k(2) > 0$ , indicating that  
 1470  $F_k(x) = 0$  has a root between  $(1, 2)$ . Combining the fact that  $\gamma_k$  is  
 1471 also the root of  $F_k(x) = 0$ , thus  $\gamma_k^k + \dots + 1 = \gamma_k^{k+1}$ . Multiply both  
 1472 side with  $\gamma_k^{i-k}$ , we have  $\gamma_k^i + \dots + \gamma_k^{i-k} = \gamma_k^{i+1}$ . Then the following  
 1473 inequalities hold.

$$1474 T(i+1) \leq T(i) + \dots + T(i-k) + (k+1)c_2|V|^2$$

$$1475 \leq \alpha_k(\gamma_k^i + \dots + \gamma_k^{i-k}) - (k+1)\beta_k + k\beta_k$$

$$1476 \leq \alpha_k(\gamma_k^i + \dots + \gamma_k^{i-k}) - \beta_k \quad (11)$$

$$1477 = \alpha_k \gamma_k^{i+1} - \beta_k$$

$$1478 = H(i+1)$$

1479  $\square$

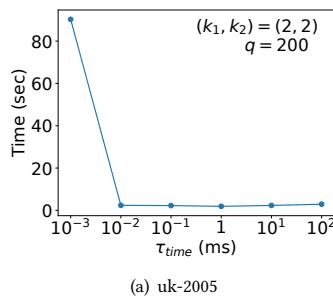
1480 Finally, as we call BK2(.) with  $m = |V|$  and  $k$  is a constant,  
 1481 we get the worst-case running time of our algorithm as given in  
 1482 Theorem 6.1.

## F Incremental Set and Degree Maintenance

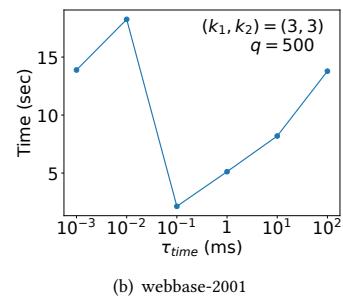
1483 Instead of creating new sets  $P'$ ,  $C'$  and  $X'$  as the inputs into each  
 1484 recursive call  $\text{BK2}(G, k_1, k_2, q, P', C', X')$  (see Lines 17, 27 and 30),  
 1485 we propose to reuse the same containers for  $P$ ,  $C$  and  $X$  throughout  
 1486 the recursive execution, by initializing their spaces at the very  
 1487 beginning, and populating them with proper elements for use in  
 1488 each recursion body.

1489 In particular, we maintain three global containers for  $P$ ,  $C$  and  
 1490  $X$ , respectively, using the data structure shown in Figure 10. Specifi-  
 1491 cally, two arrays with capacity  $|V|$  are maintained for each set  
 1492  $S$ : (1)  $list[]$  which keeps the list of  $S$ 's elements for scanning and  
 1493 adding new elements; (2)  $pos[]$  with which maps vertex ID back to  
 1494 its position in  $list[]$ , to facilitate element search and removal. Note  
 1495 that element addition, search and removal can all be done in  $O(1)$

1509  
1510  
1511  
1512  
1513  
1514  
1515  
1516  
1517  
1518  
1519  
1520  
1521  
1522  
1523  
1524  
1525  
1526  
1527  
1528  
1529  
1530  
1531  
1532  
1533  
1534  
1535  
1536  
1537  
1538  
1539  
1540  
1541  
1542  
1543  
1544  
1545  
1546  
1547  
1548  
1549  
1550  
1551  
1552  
1553  
1554  
1555  
1556  
1557  
1558  
1559  
1560  
1561  
1562  
1563  
1564  
1565  
1566



(a) uk-2005



(b) webbase-2001

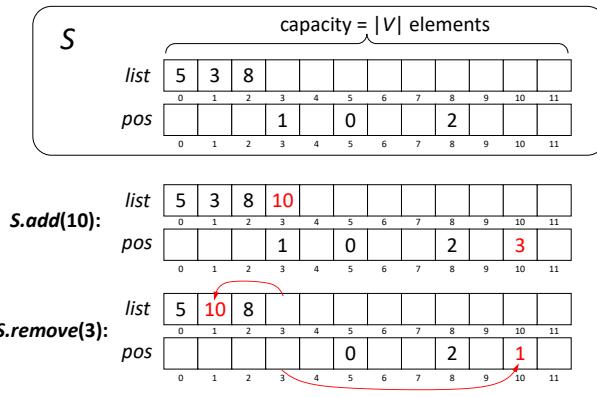
Figure 11: The Running Time of Large Datasets When  $\tau_{time}$  is Varied.

Figure 10: Data Structure for Set Maintenance

time. To illustrate using Figure 10,  $S.add(10)$  appends 10 to  $list[]$  at position 3, and records  $pos[10] = 3$ ; while  $S.remove(3)$  first finds the element position in  $list[]$  as  $pos[3] = 1$ , and then erases it in  $list[]$  by moving the last element 10 to  $list[1]$ , and moving 1 from  $pos[3]$  to  $pos[10]$ . In this way, we can incrementally populate  $(P, C, X)$  for calling BK2(.) with minimal cost.

For example, for the else-branch in Lines 27–30, we can first conduct  $C.remove(v_p)$  and  $X.add(v_p)$  before calling BK2(.) at Line 27, and then recover  $X$  for use by Line 30 by conducting  $X.remove(v_p)$ . Line 28 (resp. Line 29) then removes from  $C$  (resp.  $X$ ) those elements  $v$  such that  $P \cup \{v_p, v\}$  is a not  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex, and let us denote the set of removed elements by  $C''$  (resp.  $X''$ ). Then, we can conduct  $P.add(v_p)$  and call BK(.) with  $(P, C, X)$  in Line 30, after which we recover  $P, C$  and  $X$  for backtracking by conducting  $P.remove(v_p)$ ,  $C.add(C'')$  and  $X.add(X'')$ . Note that  $C''$  and  $X''$  are kept in global buffers whose spaces are initialized at the beginning, and reused throughout the recursive execution.

Finally, we also incrementally maintain (1)  $d_{P \cup C}^+(.)$  and  $d_{P \cup C}^-(.)$  which are needed in Lines 22, 28 and 29; and (2)  $d_P^+(.)$  and  $d_P^-(.)$  which are needed in Lines 8, 28 and 29, as we have explained at the end of Section 3. For example, whenever we remove a vertex  $v$  from  $C$ , we need to decrement  $d_{P \cup C}^-(u)$  for all  $u \in N_{P \cup C}^+(v)$  and  $d_{P \cup C}^+(u)$  for all  $u \in N_{P \cup C}^-(v)$ .

## G Complete Results in Parallel Executions

We implemented the parallel version of Ours based on the description in Section 7. Table 5 reports the  $(k_1, k_2)$ -plex enumeration time of parallel Ours on all our datasets in Table 1 when running with 2, 4, 8, 16 and 32 threads, respectively, where we use the default timeout threshold  $\tau_{time} = 0.1$  ms is adopted, which is tested to work consistently well on various datasets.

As Table 5 shows, our parallel algorithm is efficient and scales up well with the number of CPU cores on all the datasets.

## H Load Balancing

We also conducted experiments to study the impact of  $\tau_{time}$ . Recall from Section 7 that if a task runs for a period of more than  $\tau_{time}$ , it will decompose itself so that the decomposed tasks can be processed in parallel. Figure 11 shows the impact of  $\tau_{time}$  on the job running time, when using 32 threads and varying  $\tau_{time}$  as  $10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-1}, 1, 10, 100$  for two representative settings on our large graphs uk-2005 and webbase-2001. We can see that our default setting of  $\tau_{time} = 0.1$  ms does work the best in general. Also, Figure 11(a) shows that if we set  $\tau_{time}$  too small, too many tasks will be created so the task creation time dominates and the running time can be significantly increased, and Figure 11(b) shows that if we set  $\tau_{time}$  too large, load balancing suffers so the running time can be many times longer.

1567  
1568  
1569  
1570  
1571  
1572  
1573  
1574  
1575  
1576  
1577  
1578  
1579  
1580  
1581  
1582  
1583  
1584  
1585  
1586  
1587  
1588  
1589  
1590  
1591  
1592  
1593  
1594  
1595  
1596  
1597  
1598  
1599  
1600  
1601  
1602  
1603  
1604  
1605  
1606  
1607  
1608  
1609  
1610  
1611  
1612  
1613  
1614  
1615  
1616  
1617  
1618  
1619  
1620  
1621  
1622  
1623  
1624

**Table 5: The Running Time of Mining Large Maximal  $(k_1, k_2)$ -Plexes in Parallel Execution**

1625	Dataset	$k_1$	$k_2$	$q$	#( $k_1, k_2$ )-plexes	Serial	2 Threads	4 Threads	8 Threads	16 Threads	32 Threads	1683
1626	bitcoin	2	5	10	144.00	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	1685
1627				12	0	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1686
1628	wiki-vote	3	5	10	24,261	8.35	4.78	2.46	1.29	0.66	0.36	1687
1629				12	286	1.05	0.62	0.33	0.17	0.09	0.05	1688
1630	mathoverflow	3	5	10	474	1.85	1.08	0.55	0.29	0.15	0.08	1689
1631				12	0	0.08	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	1690
1632	as-caida	4	5	10	30,222	349.32	197.94	102.45	52.57	26.57	16.44	1691
1633				12	94	16.63	9.76	4.99	2.61	1.32	0.91	1692
1634	epinions	2	2	10	523,633	28.55	18.48	9.48	4.93	2.50	1.34	1693
1635				12	150,888	13.35	9.01	4.56	2.38	1.22	0.69	1694
1636	email-euall	2	3	10	1,762,917	63.16	47.81	24.41	12.71	6.45	3.52	1695
1637				12	602,862	32.44	24.92	12.61	6.63	3.36	1.86	1696
1638	amazon0505	2	3	10	23,314	7.99	0.34	0.19	0.10	0.08	0.15	1697
1639				15	185	0.93	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	1698
1640	soc-pokec	3	4	15	17,303	14.87	0.63	0.33	0.18	0.10	0.10	1699
1641				20	0	0.19	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1700
1642	web-google	2	3	10	773,095	23.85	18.34	9.48	4.94	2.56	1.41	1701
1643				12	252,511	10.33	8.06	4.18	2.23	1.19	0.80	1702
1644	wiki-talk	3	4	12	24,599,029	2,053.04	1,174.05	605.69	314.25	158.78	85.62	1703
1645				15	2,382,084	381.99	229.27	118.32	61.53	31.62	18.13	1704
1646	arabic-2005	2	3	10	17,438	1.69	1.26	0.65	0.34	0.18	0.19	1705
1647				12	1442	0.58	0.39	0.21	0.11	0.07	0.12	1706
1648	uk-2005	3	4	12	196,878	80.58	46.44	23.49	12.18	6.14	3.38	1707
1649				15	1351	9.19	5.20	2.68	1.40	0.72	0.44	1708
1650	it-2004	3	5	10	4,696	0.27	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	1709
1651				12	24	0.14	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1710
1652	webbase-2001	5	3	10	1,532	0.20	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	1711
1653				12	1	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1712
1654	clue-web	2	3	15	997	0.29	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	1713
1655				20	57	0.21	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1714
1656	soc-pokec	3	4	15	1,993	0.32	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	1715
1657				20	61	0.22	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1716
1658	arabic-2005	2	3	15	17,980	2.11	0.92	0.49	0.25	0.21	0.39	1717
1659				20	17	0.95	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	1718
1660	uk-2005	3	3	15	508,884	54.91	32.24	16.52	8.65	4.41	2.41	1719
1661				20	648	1.66	0.49	0.25	0.13	0.07	0.06	1720
1662	soc-pokec	2	2	15	22,219	287.28	173.50	87.73	44.75	22.50	11.48	1721
1663				20	0	69.70	38.84	19.89	10.27	5.17	2.67	1722
1664	webbase-2001	2	3	15	165,156	525.13	376.12	191.71	97.82	48.99	25.01	1723
1665				20	0	129.02	77.30	39.23	20.22	10.16	5.21	1724
1666	arabic-2005	2	2	1000	106,895	3,906.70	1,897.35	1,017.31	527.40	269.04	140.58	1725
1667				3	3000	3,500	111.60	60.20	29.56	15.10	8.69	4.64
1668	it-2004	2	2	200	117,255	301.09	162.70	84.11	43.34	21.82	11.38	1727
1669				3	3000	66,639	168.98	91.51	46.34	23.95	12.11	6.34
1670	clue-web	2	2	1000	15,087	1,170.05	621.80	321.12	166.53	85.40	52.04	1729
1671				3	3000	1,034	77.90	41.35	21.72	10.21	6.40	3.94
1672	clue-web	2	2	300	327,882	646.41	320.84	164.46	90.02	53.56	30.75	1731
1673				500	88,777	184.44	95.16	52.07	30	18.15	8.75	1732
1674	webbase-2001	2	2	10	1,215,977	26.05	14.15	7.66	3.82	1.75	1.69	1733
1675				20	95,383	52.92	31.76	16.46	8.56	4.42	2.37	1734
1676												1735
1677												1736
1678												1737
1679												1738
1680												1739
1681												1740
1682												1741