

The Complexity of Some Reconfiguration Problems on Graphs with Distance Constraints

in collaboration with

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2 Distance Token-Set Reconf.

3 Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconf.

4 Concluding Remarks

1 Introduction to Reconfiguration

- Introduction
- Example: Token-Set Reconfiguration
- Example: Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration
- Example: Nondeterministic Constraint Logic
- Online Wiki Page

2 Distance Token-Set Reconf.

- Distance- d Independent Set Reconfiguration
- Distance- d Dominating Set Reconfiguration

3 Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconf.

4 Concluding Remarks

Introduction to Reconfiguration

Reconfiguration Setting

- A description of what *states* (\equiv *configurations*) are
- One or more *allowed moves* between states (\equiv *reconfiguration rule(s)*)

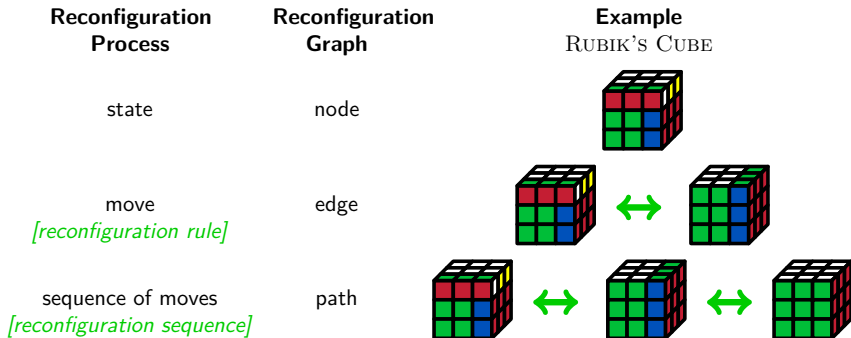


Figure: Reconfiguration Setting

Introduction to Reconfiguration

Reconfiguration vs. Solution Space

For a computational problem \mathcal{P} (e.g., INDEPENDENT SET, DOMINATING SET, VERTEX-COLORING, etc.)

Reconfiguration	Solution Space
States/Configurations	Feasible solutions of \mathcal{P}
Allowed Moves	Slight modifications of a solution <i>without changing its feasibility</i>

Algorithmic Questions

- **REACHABILITY:** Given two states S and T , is there a sequence of moves that *transforms S into T* ?
- **SHORTEST TRANSFORMATION:** Given two states S and T and a positive integer ℓ , is there a sequence of moves that *transforms S into T using at most ℓ moves*?
- **CONNECTIVITY:** Is there a sequence of moves *between any pair of states*?
- and so on

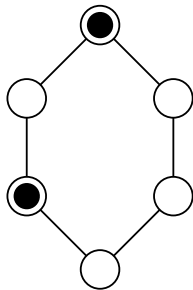
Introduction to Reconfiguration

TOKEN RECONFIGURATION

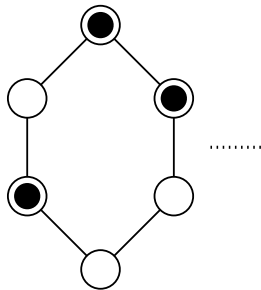
Each vertex has at most one token



Each state is a set of tokens satisfying certain property



Independent Set



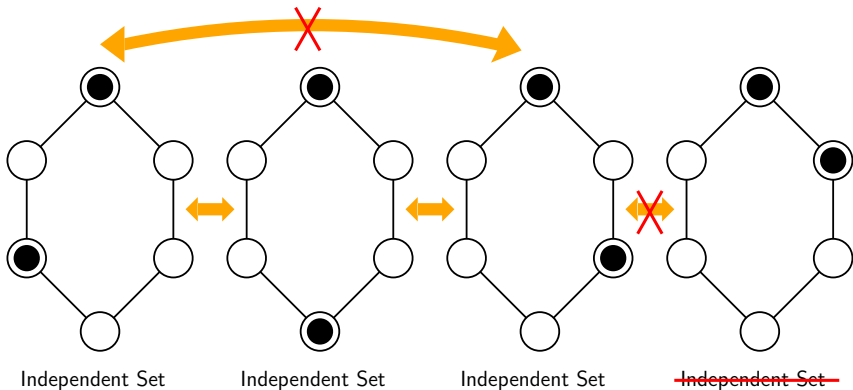
Dominating Set

Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Hearn and E. D. Demaine 2005]

TOKEN RECONFIGURATION (Example: INDEPENDENT SET RECONFIGURATION)

Token Sliding (TS)

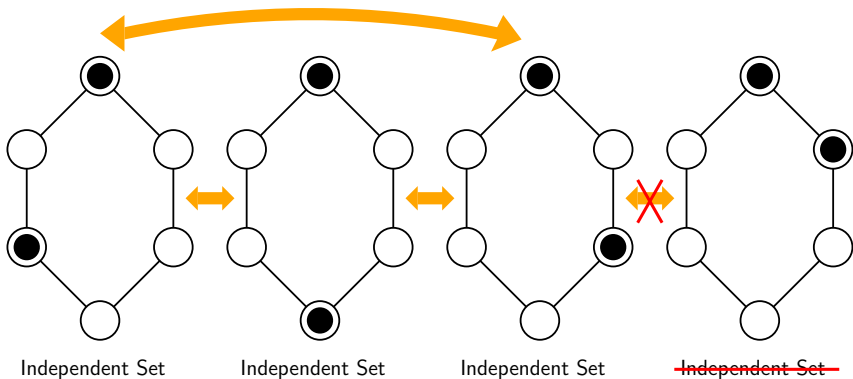


Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Kamiński, Medvedev, and Milanič 2012]

TOKEN RECONFIGURATION (Example: INDEPENDENT SET RECONFIGURATION)

Token Jumping (TJ)

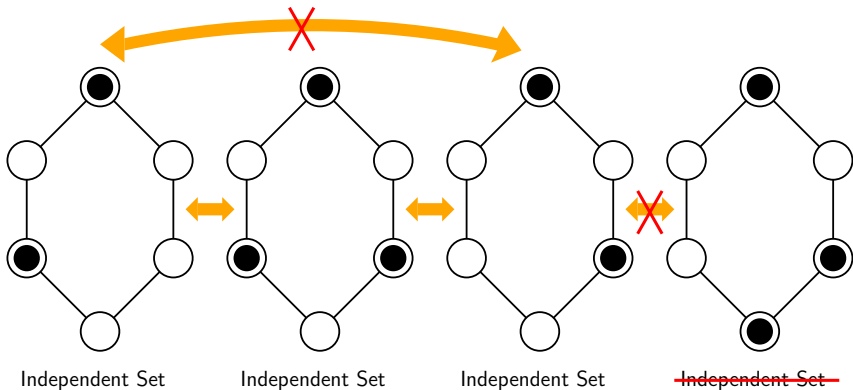


Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Ito et al. 2011]

TOKEN RECONFIGURATION (Example: INDEPENDENT SET RECONFIGURATION)

Token Addition/Removal (TAR)

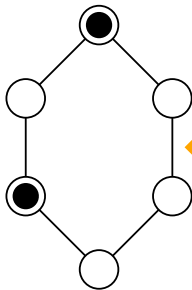


Introduction to Reconfiguration

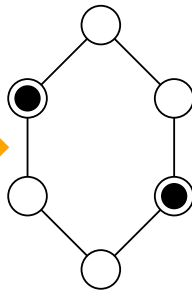
TOKEN RECONFIGURATION (Example: INDEPENDENT SET RECONFIGURATION)

Token Sliding (TS) / Token Jumping (TJ) / Token Addition/Removal (TAR)

PSPACE-complete on general graphs under any rule



Independent Set



Independent Set

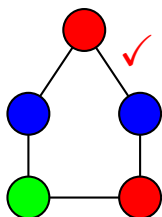
Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Cereceda, van den Heuvel, and Johnson 2008]

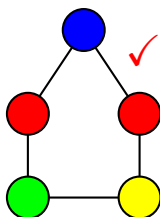
VERTEX-COLORING RECONFIGURATION

Each vertex is colored by one of the k given colors

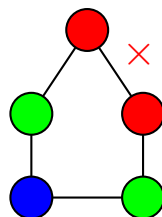
Each state is a k -coloring of all vertices such that no two adjacent vertices share the same color



3-coloring



4-coloring



~~3-coloring~~

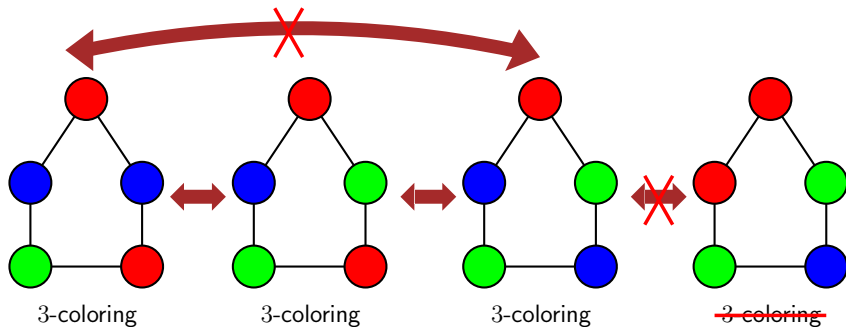
Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Cereceda, van den Heuvel, and Johnson 2008]

VERTEX-COLORING RECONFIGURATION

Recoloring using $\leq k$ colors

Example: $k = 3$



Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Cereceda, van den Heuvel, and Johnson 2008]

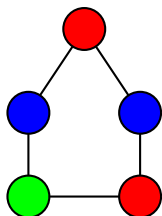
VERTEX-COLORING RECONFIGURATION

Recoloring using $\leq k$ colors

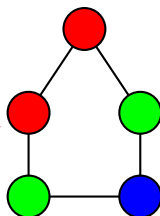
Example: $k = 3$

PSPACE-complete on general graphs for $k \geq 4$

P on general graphs for $k \leq 3$



3-coloring



3-coloring

Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Hearn and E. D. Demaine 2005]

NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC (NCL)

Each state is a weighted, oriented graph

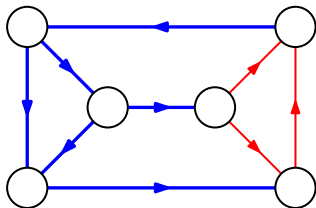


weight 2



weight 1

Total incoming weight at each vertex ≥ 2



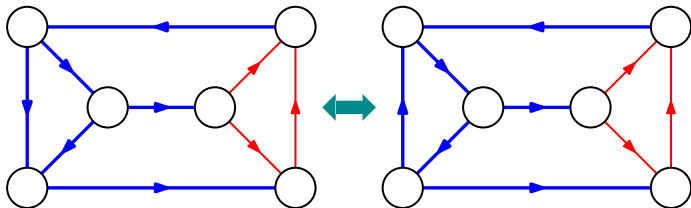
Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Hearn and E. D. Demaine 2005]

NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC (NCL)

Reversing edge direction

Total incoming weight at each vertex ≥ 2



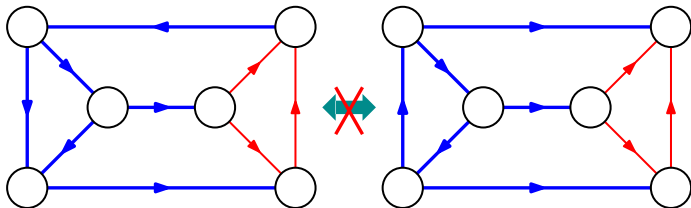
Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Hearn and E. D. Demaine 2005]

NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC (NCL)

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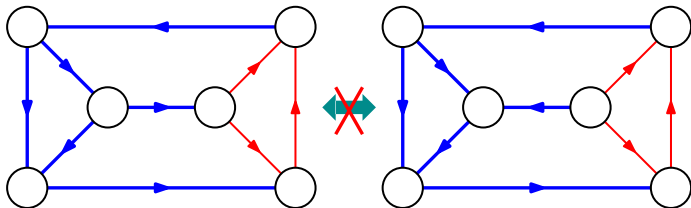
Introduction to Reconfiguration

[Hearn and E. D. Demaine 2005]

NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC (NCL)

Reversing edge direction

Total incoming weight at each vertex ≥ 2

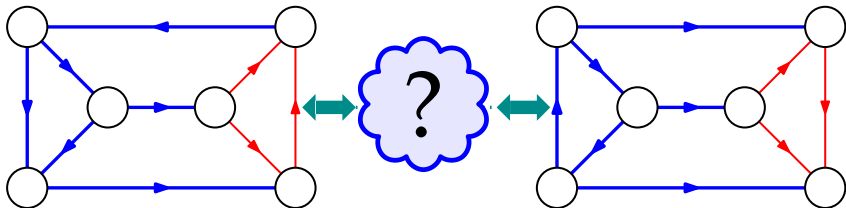
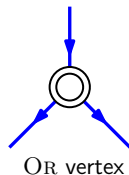
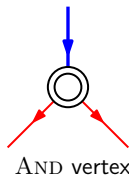


Introduction to Reconfiguration

[van der Zanden 2015]

NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC (NCL)

PSPACE-complete on
planar graphs
having only two types of vertices
max degree 3
bounded bandwidth



Introduction to Reconfiguration

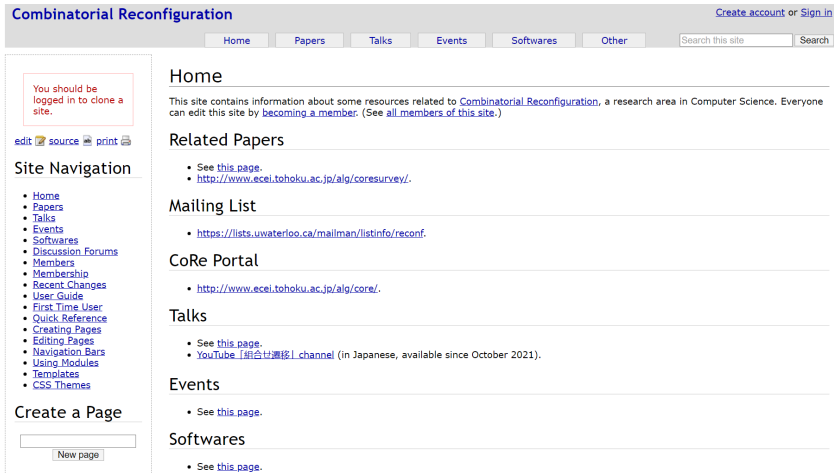


Figure: Online Reconfiguration Wiki Page (<https://reconf.wikidot.com/>)

Introduction to Reconfiguration

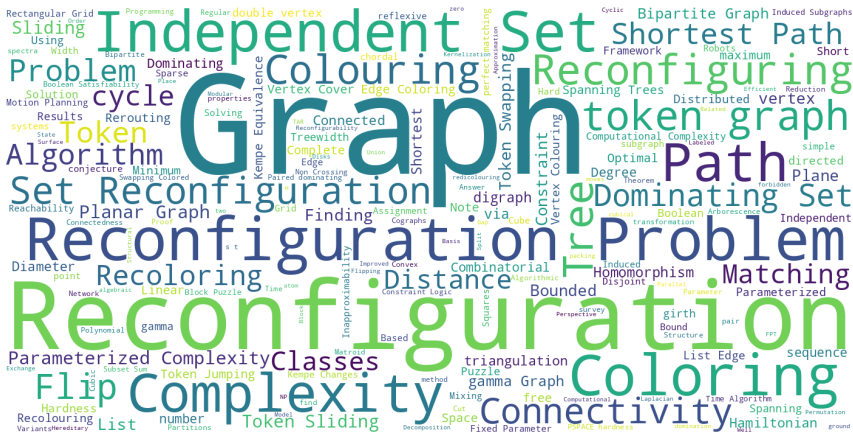


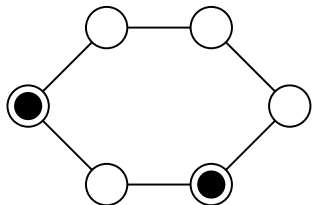
Figure: A word cloud of titles extracted from the current list of papers related to reconfiguration problems available at <https://reconf.wikidot.com/> (Accessed on January 3, 2025)

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

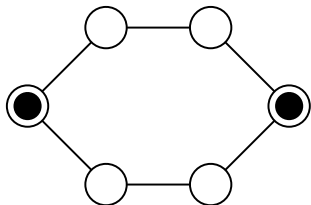
Distance constraints for *independent sets*

	Independent Set (IS)	Distance- d Independent Set (DdIS)
Distance between any two tokens	≥ 2	$\geq d$

- DdIS was (first?) studied in [Kong and Zhao 1993]
- Dual to the *dispersion problem*, which has numerous applications in *facility location* and in *management decision science* [Agnarsson, Damaschke, and Halldórsson 2003]



(Distance-2) Independent Set
~~Distance-2 Independent Set~~

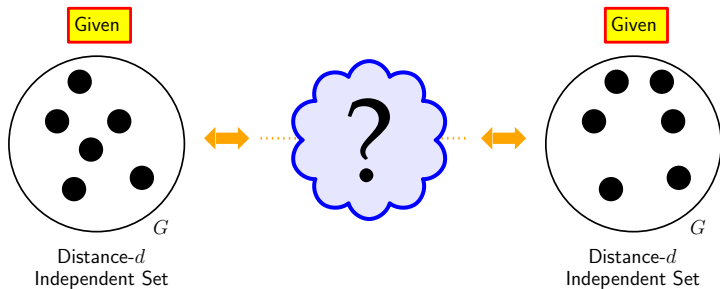


(Distance-2) Independent Set
Distance-3 Independent Set

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

DISTANCE- d INDEPENDENT SET RECONFIGURATION (DdISR)

Reconfiguration Rule: Token Sliding (TS) and Token Jumping (TJ)



- The case $d = 2$ has been well-studied [Nishimura 2018]; [Bousquet et al. 2024]
- The case $d \geq 3$ under TAR was first studied from the *parameterized complexity* perspective in [Siebertz 2018] (parameterized by the size of the independent set)
 - » FPT on “nowhere dense graphs” for $d \geq 2$
 - » $\mathsf{W}[1]$ -hard on “somewhere dense graphs” that are closed under taking subgraphs for some value of $d \geq 2$
- We focus on the *classic complexity* for $d \geq 3$

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

Graph	$d = 2$		$d \geq 3$	
	TS	TJ	TS	TJ
planar	PSPACE-C [Hearn and E. D. Demaine 2005]		PSPACE-C	
perfect	PSPACE-C [Kamiński, Medvedev, and Milanič 2012]		PSPACE-C	
chordal	PSPACE-C (\supseteq split)	P (\subseteq even-hole-free)	unknown	PSPACE-C if d is odd P if d is even
split	PSPACE-C [Belmonte et al. 2021]	P (\subseteq even-hole-free)	P	PSPACE-C if $d = 3$ P if $d \geq 4$
cograph	P [Kamiński, Medvedev, and Milanič 2012]	P [Bonsma 2016]	P	
tree	P [E. D. Demaine, M. L. Demaine, et al. 2015]	P (\subseteq even-hole-free)	unknown	P
interval	P [Bonamy and Bousquet 2017]	P (\subseteq even-hole-free)	unknown	P

Table: Our Results for $d \geq 3$. We provide the status for $d = 2$ for comparison. Here PSPACE-C stands for PSPACE-complete [Hoang 2024]

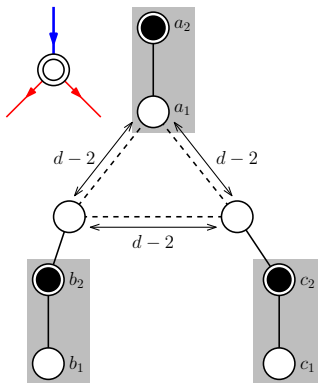
Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

Theorem (Hoang 2024)

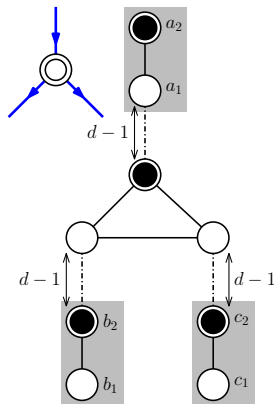
DdISR is PSPACE-complete for $d \geq 3$ on planar graphs of maximum degree 3 and bounded bandwidth.

Proof Sketch.

Reduction from NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC



AND gadget



OR gadget

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

Theorem (Hoang 2024)

On *split graphs*,

	TS	TJ
$d = 2$	PSPACE-complete <i>[Belmonte et al. 2021]</i>	P <i>[Kamiński, Medvedev, and Milanič 2012]</i>
$d = 3$	P	PSPACE-complete
$d \geq 4$		P

Proof Sketch.

- $d \geq 4$ Trivial. (Any connected split graph has diameter $\leq 3 \Rightarrow$ Any DdIS has size $\leq 1 \Rightarrow$ Reconfiguration is easy!)
- $d = 3$
 - **Under TS:** Trivial. (If there are more than two tokens then none of them can be moved.)
 - **Under TJ:** Reduction from the problem for $d = 1$ on general graphs

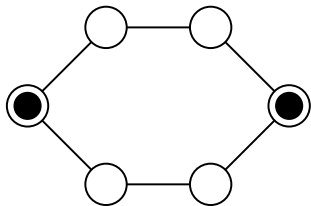
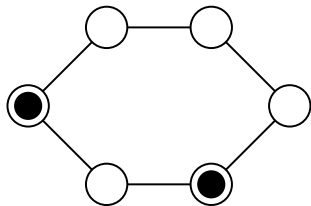


Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

Distance constraints for *dominating sets*

	Dominating Set (DS)	Distance- d Domingating Set (DdDS)
Distance that a token dominates	≤ 1	$\leq d$

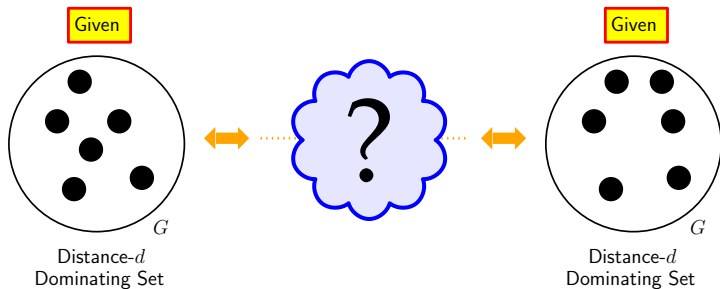
- DdDS was first studied in [Meir and Moon 1975]
- Has applications in *facility location* [E. D. Demaine, Fomin, et al. 2005]



Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

DISTANCE- d DOMINATING SET RECONFIGURATION (DdDSR)

Reconfiguration Rule: Token Sliding (TS) and Token Jumping (TJ)



- The case $d = 1$ (DOMINATING SET RECONFIGURATION) has been well-studied [Nishimura 2018]; [Mynhardt and Nasserar 2019]
- The case $d \geq 2$ under TAR was first studied from the *parameterized complexity* perspective in [Siebertz 2018] (parameterized by the size of the dominating set)
 - » FPT on “nowhere dense graphs” for $d \geq 2$
 - » $W[2]$ -hard on “somewhere dense graphs” that are closed under taking subgraphs for some value of $d \geq 2$
- We focus on the *classic complexity* for $d \geq 2$

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

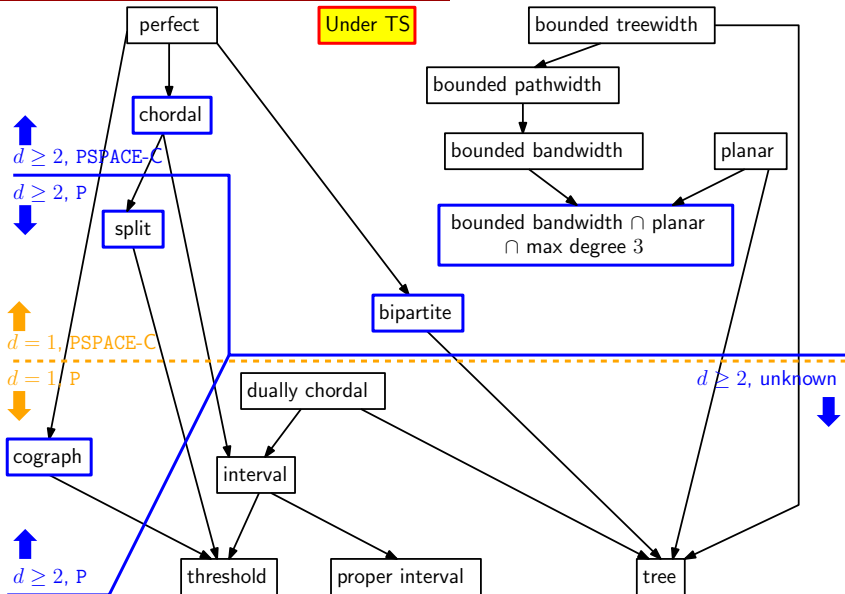


Figure: Our Results for $d \geq 2$. We provide the status for $d = 1$ for comparison. Here PSPACE-C stands for PSPACE-complete [Banerjee and Hoang 2024]

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

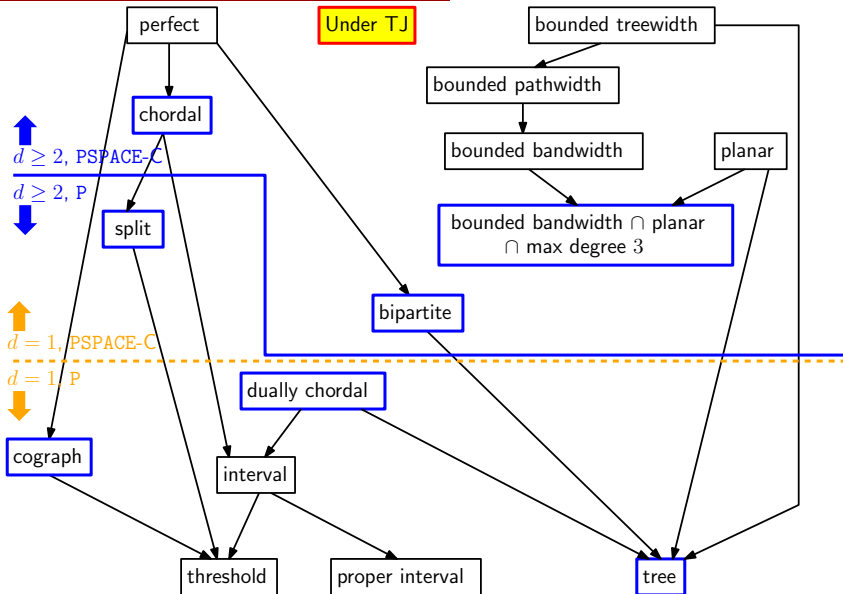


Figure: Our Results for $d \geq 2$. We provide the status for $d = 1$ for comparison. Here PSPACE-C stands for PSPACE-complete [Banerjee and Hoang 2024]

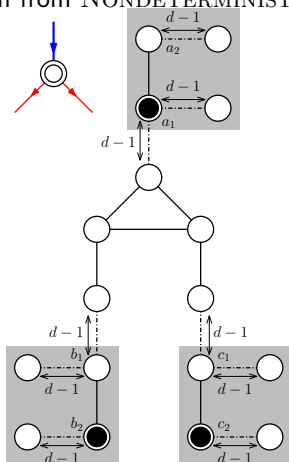
Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

Theorem (Banerjee and Hoang 2024)

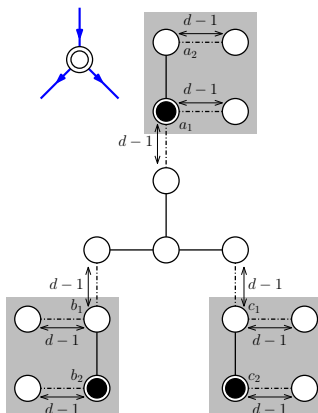
DdDSR is PSPACE-complete for $d \geq 1$ on planar graphs of maximum degree 3 and bounded bandwidth.

Proof Sketch.

Reduction from NONDETERMINISTIC CONSTRAINT LOGIC



AND gadget



OR gadget

Distance Token-Set Reconfiguration

Theorem (Banerjee and Hoang 2024)

On *split graphs*,

	TS	TJ
$d = 1$	PSPACE-complete <i>[Bonamy, Dorbec, and Ouvrard 2021]</i>	PSPACE-complete <i>[Haddadan et al. 2016]</i>
$d \geq 2$	P	P

Proof Sketch.

- $d \geq 3$ Trivial. (Any connected split graph has diameter $\leq 3 \Rightarrow$ Any non-empty token-set is a DdDS \Rightarrow Reconfiguration is easy!)
- $d = 2$ When doing reconfiguration, *always keep at least one token in the clique side of the split graph*

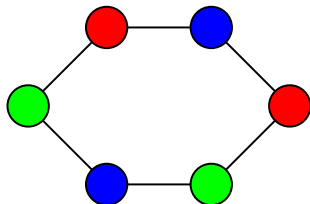


Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

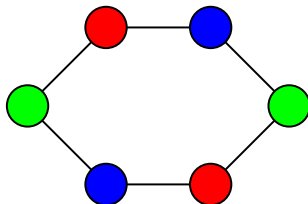
Distance constraints for *vertex colorings*

	k -Coloring	(d, k) -Coloring
Distance between two vertices having the same color	≥ 2	$\geq d + 1$

- (d, k) -coloring was first studied in [F. Kramer and H. Kramer 1969]
- Has applications in *frequency assignment problem* (or radio channel assignment) [F. Kramer and H. Kramer 2008]



3-coloring
~~(2, 3)-coloring~~

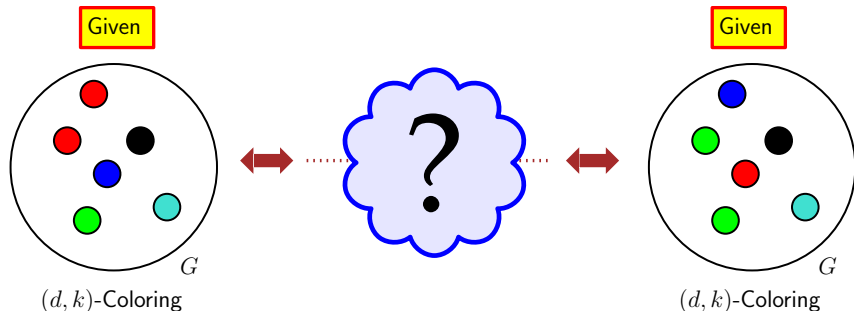


3-coloring
(2, 3)-coloring

Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

(d, k) -COLORING RECONFIGURATION $((d, k)$ -CR)

Reconfiguration Rule: Recoloring a vertex



- The case $d = 1$ (k -COLORING RECONFIGURATION (k -CR)) has been well-studied [Mynhardt and Nasserar 2019]; [Heuvel 2013]
- We focus on the case $d \geq 2$

Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

Graph	k -CR	(d, k) -CR ($d \geq 2$)
general	PSPACE-C ($k \geq 3$) [Cereceda, Heuvel, and Johnson 2011]	PSPACE-C ($k = \Omega(d^2)$)
planar	PSPACE-C ($4 \leq k \leq 6$) P ($k \geq 7$) [Bonsma and Cereceda 2009]	
bipartite	PSPACE-C ($k \geq 4$) [Bonsma and Cereceda 2009]	
planar \cap bipartite	PSPACE-C ($k = 4$) P ($k \geq 5$) [Bonsma and Cereceda 2009]	
2-degenerate	P [Hatanaka, Ito, and Zhou 2019]	
planar \cap bipartite \cap 2-degenerate	P (\subseteq 2-degenerate)	
path	P (\subseteq planar \cap bipartite \cap 2-degenerate)	P ($k \geq d + 1$)
split	P [Hatanaka, Ito, and Zhou 2019]	PSPACE-C ($d = 2$, large k)
		P ($d \geq 3$)

Table: Our Results for $d \geq 2$. We provide the status for $d = 1$ for comparison. Here PSPACE-C stands for PSPACE-complete [Banerjee, Engels, and **Hoang** 2024]

Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

Theorem (Banerjee, Engels, and Hoang 2024)

(d, k) -CR is PSPACE-complete for $d \geq 2$ and $k = \Omega(d^2)$ on *graphs which are planar, bipartite, and 2-degenerate*.

Proof Sketch.

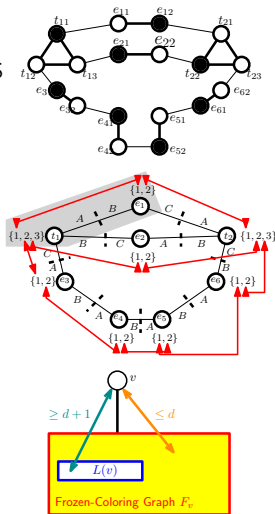
Restricted PSPACE-Complete Variant of ISR under TS
(RESTRICTED SLIDING TOKENS)



LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION



$(d, \Omega(d^2))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION



Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

First Phase

RESTRICTED SLIDING TOKENS \Rightarrow LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION

RESTRICTED SLIDING TOKENS

PSPACE-complete on **very restricted instances**

Three types of gadgets

Token triangle

Token edge

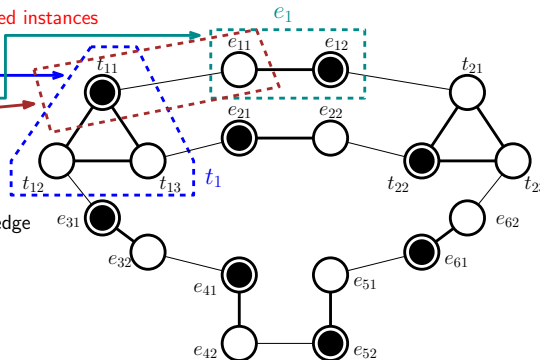
Link edge

Planar

Max degree 3, min degree 2

No two token triangles
are directly joined by a link edge

Each token triangle/token edge
has exactly one token



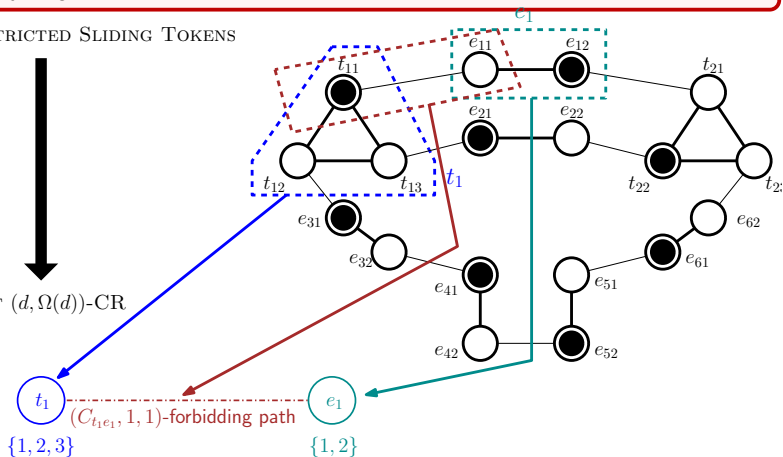
Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

First Phase

RESTRICTED SLIDING TOKENS \Rightarrow LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION

RESTRICTED SLIDING TOKENS

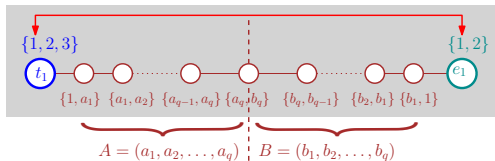
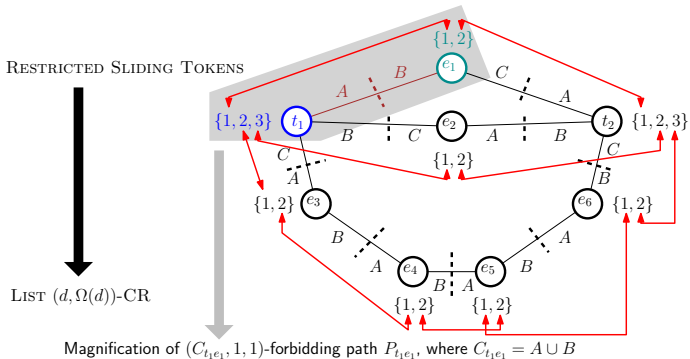
LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -CR



Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

First Phase

RESTRICTED SLIDING TOKENS \Rightarrow LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION



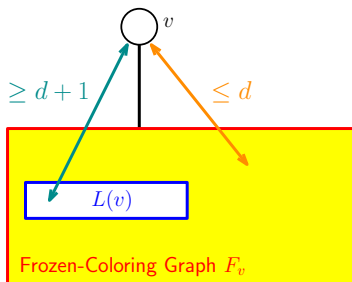
Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

Second Phase

LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION $\Rightarrow (d, \Omega(d^2))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION

Key Ideas

- 1 List Coloring \equiv Coloring with constraints on which colors can be used for each vertex
- 2 *Frozen-Coloring Graphs*: Pre-colored graphs where *no vertex can be recolored*



Vertices are pre-colored

Containing all possible colors

No vertex can be recolored

Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

Second Phase

LIST $(d, \Omega(d))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION $\Rightarrow (d, \Omega(d^2))$ -COLORING RECONFIGURATION

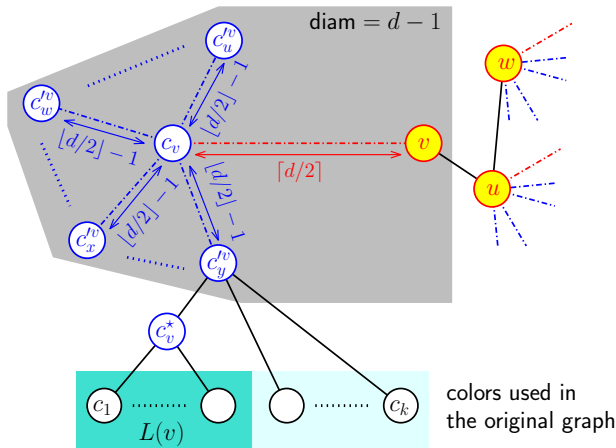


Figure: Construction of the frozen-coloring subgraph F_v for a vertex v . The colors used in this figure are just for illustration of paths.

Distance Vertex-Coloring Reconfiguration

Theorem (Banerjee, Engels, and Hoang 2024)

On *split graphs*,

	(d, k) -Coloring Reconfiguration
$d = 1$	P for any k [Hatanaka, Ito, and Zhou 2019]
$d = 2$	PSPACE-complete for large k
$d \geq 3$	P for any k

Proof Sketch.

- $d \geq 3$ Trivial. (Any connected split graph has diameter $\leq 3 \Rightarrow$ Reconfiguration is easy!)
- $d = 2$ Reduction from the problem for $d = 1$ and $k \geq 4$ on general graphs (which is known to be PSPACE-complete [Bonsma and Cereceda 2009])



Concluding Remarks

Take-Home Messages

- 1 *Reconfiguration* studies the “solution space” of a problem
 - » Moving from one solution to another *without violating feasibility*
- 2 Under certain *distance constraints*,
 - » *Reconfiguration problems* can be *hard* for very restricted graph classes
 - » *Problems on graphs whose diameters are bounded by some constant c* (e.g., split graphs) are interesting when *restricted to distances close to c*
- 3 *Nondeterministic Constraint Logic* is a powerful tool for *hardness reductions*

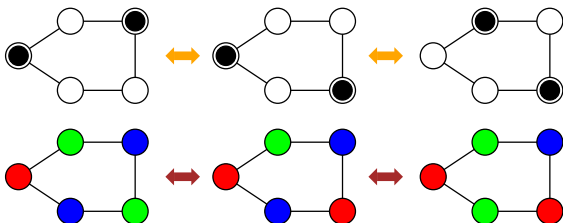
Open Problems

The complexities of the following problems remain *open* for *trees*:

- » DdISR ($d \geq 3$) under Token Sliding (TS)
- » DdDSR ($d \geq 2$) under Token Sliding (TS)
- » (d, k) -CR ($d \geq 2$)

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**Came to my talk, you did.
Thank you, I must!**

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