

Tackle NP-Hard Problems (Ch 10)

- Strategies for tackling NP-hard problems
- Special cases: trees
- Special cases: planarity
- Exponential time algorithms
- Fixed parameter algorithms
- Approximation algorithms for metric TSP
- Graph decompositions and algorithms

Strategies for Tackling NP-Hard Problems

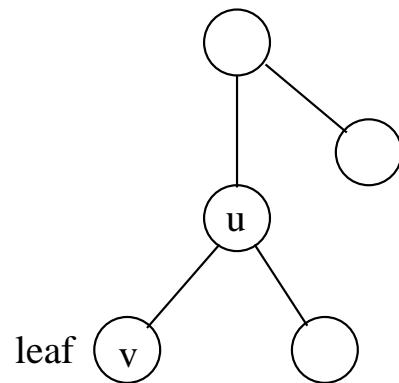
- To solve an NP-hard problem, we need to sacrifice one of following:
 - Find an optimal solution of the problem.
 - Find a solution for every instance of the problem.
 - Find a solution of the problem in polynomial time.
- Strategies for coping NP-hard problems
 - Design algorithms to find approximate solutions.
 - Design algorithms for **special cases of the problems**.
 - Design algorithms which may take **exponential time**.

Special Cases: Trees

- **Maximum independent set (Max-IS): find a maximum cardinality subset of nodes in a graph that no two nodes in the subset are adjacent.**
- **Max-IS in trees: Given a tree T , find a Max-IS of T .**
- **For any leaf node v of T , there is a Max-IS containing v .**

Proof. Let S be a Max-IS of T . If $v \in S$, then the proof is done. Otherwise, let $\{u, v\}$ be the edge incident to v . If $u \notin S$, then $S \cup \{v\}$ is an independent set, implying S is not maximum, contradiction. For $u \in S$, $(S \setminus \{u\}) \cup \{v\}$ is a Max-IS.

□



A greedy algorithm for Max-IS in trees

Max-IS-Tree(T)

Input: A tree T .

Output: A Max-IS S in T .

$S = \emptyset;$

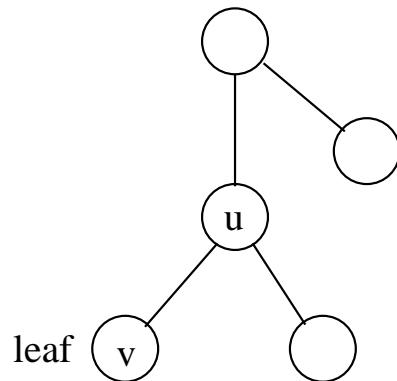
while T has an edge **do**

Let v **be a leaf node of** T **and** $\{u, v\}$ **be the edge incident to** v ;

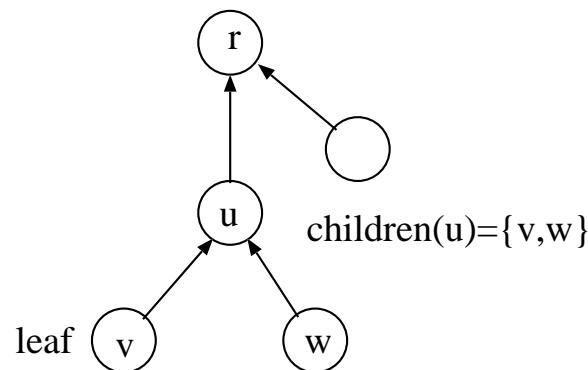
$S = S \cup \{v\}$; **Remove nodes** u, v **from** T ;

end while

Return $S \cup \{\text{nodes remaining in } T\}$; **Max-IS-Tree algorithm finds a Max-IS of** T **in** $O(n)$ **time.**



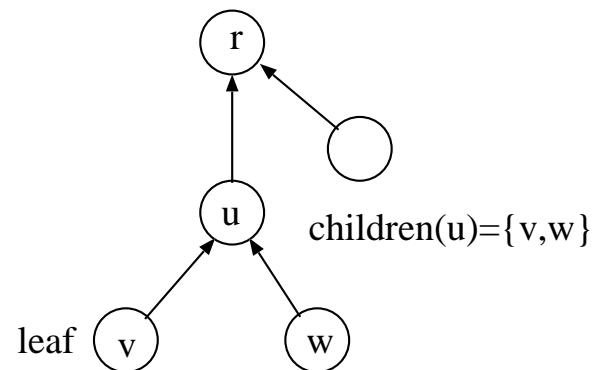
- **Max-weight IS:** Given a node weighted graph G (each node v has a weight $w(v)$), find an independent set S of G s.t. $\sum_{v \in S} w(v)$ is maximized.
- **Max-weight IS on trees:** find a Max-weight IS of a node weighted tree T .
- **A dynamic programming algorithm:** Root T at a node r .
Optimal solution structure: for each node u ,
 - $\text{opt}_{in}(u)$: weight of max-weight IS in subtree rooted at u , containing u .
 $\text{opt}_{in}(u)$ has $w(u)$ and $\text{opt}_{out}(v)$ for every child v of u .
 - $\text{opt}_{out}(u)$: weight of max-weight IS in subtree rooted at u , not containing u .
 $\text{opt}_{out}(u)$ has $\max\{\text{opt}_{in}(v), \text{opt}_{out}(v)\}$ for every child v of u .
 - **Goal:** maximize $\{\text{opt}_{in}(u), \text{opt}_{out}(u)\}$.



- **Bellman equations:**

$$\text{opt}_{in}(u) = w(u) + \sum_{v \text{ a child of } u} \text{opt}_{out}(v)$$

$$\text{opt}_{out}(u) = \max_{v \text{ a child of } u} \{\text{opt}_{in}(v), \text{opt}_{out}(v)\}$$



A dynamic programming algorithm for Max-weight IS in trees.

Max-Weight-IS-Tree(T)

Input: A node weighted tree T .

Output: Weight of Max-weight IS S in T .

for each node u of T in postorder do

 if u is a leaf then $M_{in}[u] = w(u)$; $M_{out}[u] = 0$

 else $M_{in}[u] = w(u) + \sum_v$ a child of u $\text{opt}_{out}(v)$;

$M_{out}[u] = \sum_v$ a child of u $\max\{\text{opt}_{in}(v), \text{opt}_{out}(v)\}$

 end if

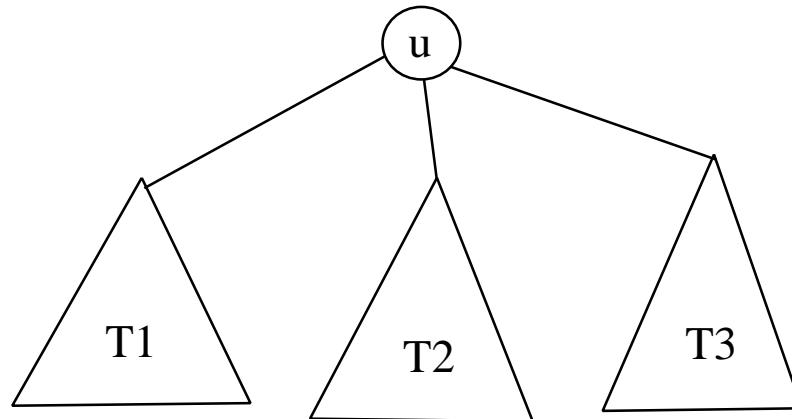
end for

Return $\max\{M_{in}[r], M_{out}[r]\}$;

Max-Weight-IS-Tree algorithm finds the weight of a Max-weight IS of T in $O(n)$ time.

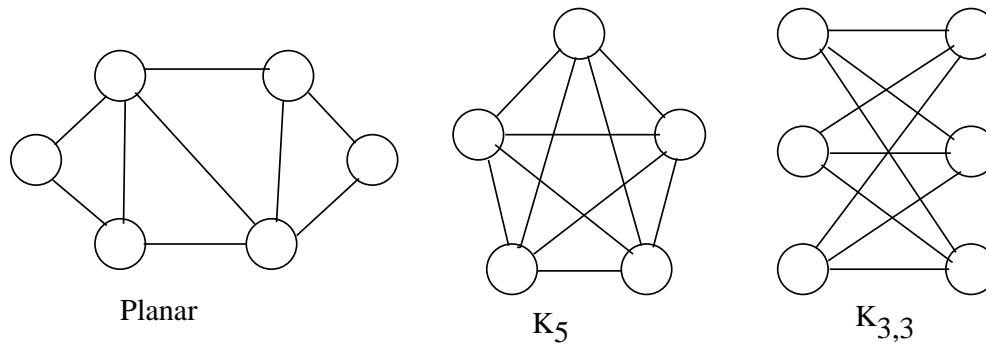
Solving NP-hard problems in graphs

- A well used approach for solving a problem P in graph G is
 - (1) divide G into subgraphs by a node/edge cut set C ,
 - (2) solve subproblems in subgraphs and
 - (3) combine solution to subproblems into a solution to P .
- For an NP-hard problem P , Step (3) may run in $O(2^{\text{Poly}(|C|)})$ time.
- For a tree, a cut set C with $|C| = 1$ may be easily found and the above approach gives an efficient algorithm.



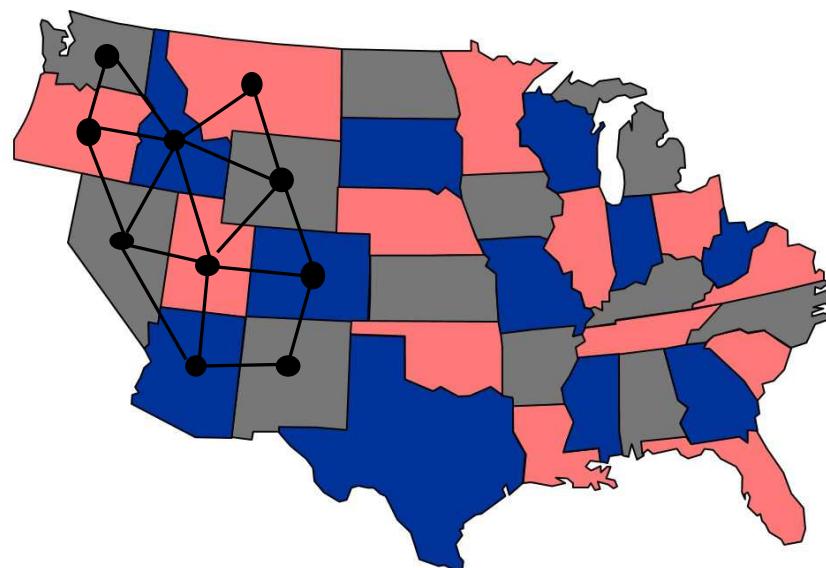
Special Cases: Planarity

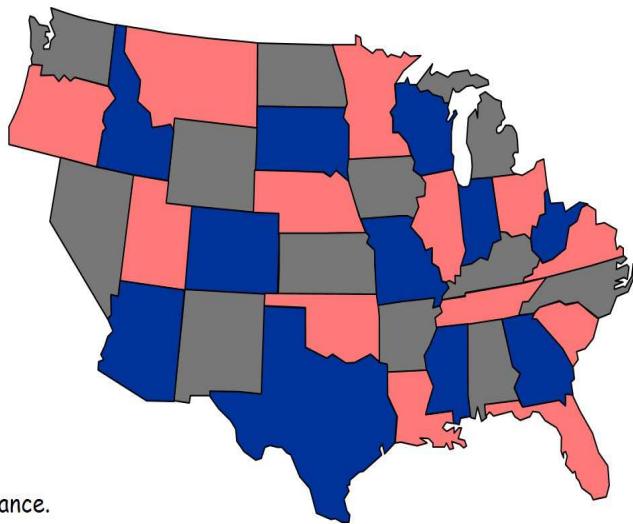
- **Planar graph:** a graph G can be drawn on a plane s.t. no two edges cross with each other.
- Graphs K_5 (complete graph of 5 nodes) and $K_{3,3}$ (complete bipartite graph with 3 nodes in each of the bipartition sets) are nonplanar.
- If G has a subgraph of K_5 or $K_{3,3}$, then G is nonplanar.
 G is planar iff G does not have a minor of K_5 or $K_{3,3}$.
- Whether G is planar or not can be decided in $O(n)$ time.



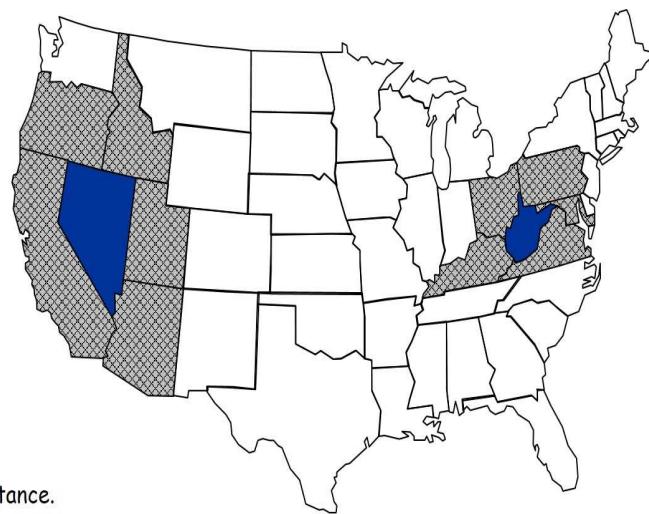
- Many problems in graphs can be solved faster in planar graphs
Examples, shortest paths, max-flow, MST, ...
- Some NP-complete problems become tractable in planar graphs.
Examples, 4-COLORABILITY,..
- More efficient algorithms are known for some NP-complete problems in planar graphs
Examples, Independent set, vertex cover, TSP,...

- **Planar-3-Color:** if a planar graph can be colored by 3 colors s.t. no two adjacent nodes are given a same color?
- **Planar-Map-3-Color:** If a planar map can be colored by 3 colors s.t. no two adjacent regions are given a same color?
- **Planar-3-Color** \equiv_P **Planar-Map-3-Color.**





YES instance.



NO instance.

- Every planar map is 4-colorable [Appel-Haken 1976]
 - Solved a long standing open problem.
 - First major theorem proved using a computer.
- Appel-Haken's proof gives an $O(n^4)$ algorithm to 4-color of a planar map.
 - Best known: $O(n^2)$ for 4-color, $O(n)$ for 5 color.
- Planar-3-Color is NP-complete.
 - Planar-3-Color is in NP and $3\text{-Color} \leq_P \text{Planar-3-Color}$.

Exponential Time Algorithms

- **Brute-force algorithm for 3-SAT**

Given 3-CNF Φ of n variables and m clauses, check whether each of $\{0, 1\}^n$ truth assignments satisfies Φ , takes $O((m + n)2^n)$ time.

- **Recursive framework for improvement**

Let $(l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3)$ be a clause of Φ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi &= (l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3) \wedge \Phi' = (l_1 \wedge \Phi') \vee (l_2 \wedge \Phi') \vee (l_3 \wedge \Phi') \\ &= (\Phi'|l_1 = 1) \vee (\Phi'|l_2 = 1) \vee (\Phi'|l_3 = 1),\end{aligned}$$

where $l_i = 1$ denotes setting literal l_i to true.

- **Example:**

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi &= (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)(x_4 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)(\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \\ \Phi' &= (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)(x_4 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)(\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \\ (\Phi'|x_1 = 1) &= (x_4 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)(x_2 \vee x_3).\end{aligned}$$

Recursive algorithm for 3-SAT

3-SAT(Φ)

Input: A 3-CNF Φ .

Output: T if Φ is satisfiable, otherwise F.

if Φ is empty **then** return T;

Compute $(l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3) \wedge \Phi'$ from Φ ;

if 3-SAT($\Phi'|l_1 = 1$)=T **then** return T;

if 3-SAT($\Phi'|l_2 = 1$)=T **then** return T;

if 3-SAT($\Phi'|l_3 = 1$)=T **then** return T;

else Return F

3-SAT algorithm solves 3-SAT problem in $O(\text{Poly}(n)3^n)$ time.

Proof. Let $T(n)$ be the running time. $T(n) \leq 3T(n - 1) + O(m + n)$. □

Improve 3-SAT algorithm

- $\Phi'|l_1 = 1, \Phi'|l_2 = 1$ and $\Phi'|l_3 = 1$ are not mutually exclusive, each satisfiable assignment containing $(l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3)$ is one of the cases:
 - l_1 is true
 - l_1 is false and l_2 is true
 - l_1 is false and l_2 is false and l_3 is true

3-SAT1(Φ)

Input: A 3-CNF Φ .

Output: T if Φ is satisfiable, otherwise F.

if Φ is empty then return T;

Compute $(l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3) \wedge \Phi'$ from Φ ;

if 3-SAT($\Phi'|l_1 = 1$)=T then return T;

if 3-SAT($\Phi'|l_1 = 0, l_2 = 1$)=T then return T;

if 3-SAT($\Phi'|l_1 = l_2 = 0, l_3 = 1$)=T then return T;

Return F

- **3-SAT1 algorithm solves 3-SAT problem in $O(\text{Poly}(n)1.84^n)$ time.**

Proof. Let $T(n)$ be the running time.

$$T(n) \leq T(n-1) + T(n-2) + T(n-3) + O(m+n).$$

Guess $T(n) = \alpha^n$. Then

$$\alpha^n = \alpha^{n-1} + \alpha^{n-2} + \alpha^{n-3}.$$

Largest root of $\alpha^3 = \alpha^2 + \alpha + 1$: $\alpha \approx 1.84$. □

- **There is an $O(1.33334^n)((4/3)^n \text{Poly}(n))$ time algorithm for 3-SAT [Moser and Scheder 2010].**

DPLL algorithm for SAT [Davis-Putman-Logemann-Loveland 1960 1962]

- **Davis-Putman-Logemann-Loveland algorithm**
 - **Splitting:** assign truth value to a literal and solve both possibilities.
Example, assign $x_i 0$ and 1 to reduce $\Phi(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n)$ to
 $\Phi(x_1, \dots, 0, \dots, x_n)$ and $\Phi(x_1, \dots, 1, \dots, x_n)$.
 - **Unit propagation:** clause contains only a single unassigned literal.
 - **Pure literal elimination:** if a variable appears only unnegated or negated.
- Base for many SAT solver, worst case running time $O(2^n)$, space $O(n)$.

Fixed Parameter Algorithms

- **Vertex-Cover:** Given a graph G and integer k , is there a subset of nodes $S \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $|S| \leq k$ and for each edge $\{u, v\} \in E(G)$, either u or v is in S .
- Vertex-Cover is NP-complete. A brute-force algorithm takes $O(kn^{k+1})$ time:
 - take each of $\binom{n}{k} = O(n^k)$ subsets of size k , and
 - check if the selected subset is a vertex cover in $O(kn)$ time.
- Is it possible to have an algorithm with $(f(k)\text{Poly}(n))$ time, $f(k)$ is a function depending only on k (e.g., $f(k) = 2^k$)?
- If k is a constant then $O(f(k)\text{Poly}(n))$ is poly-time.

- A decision problem X can be expressed as a parameterized decision problem (X, K) based on their inherent difficulty w.r.t. some parameter k of the input or output.
- A parameterized problem (X, K) is **fixed-parameter tractable (fpt)** if given a problem instance (x, k) , whether $(x, k) \in (X, K)$ can be decided in $O(f(k)\text{Poly}(n))$ time, f is a function depending on k only.
- An algorithm which solves problem (X, K) in $O(f(k)\text{Poly}(n))$ is called an **fpt-algorithm** for the problem.
- Example, Vertex-Cover admits an fpt-algorithm.

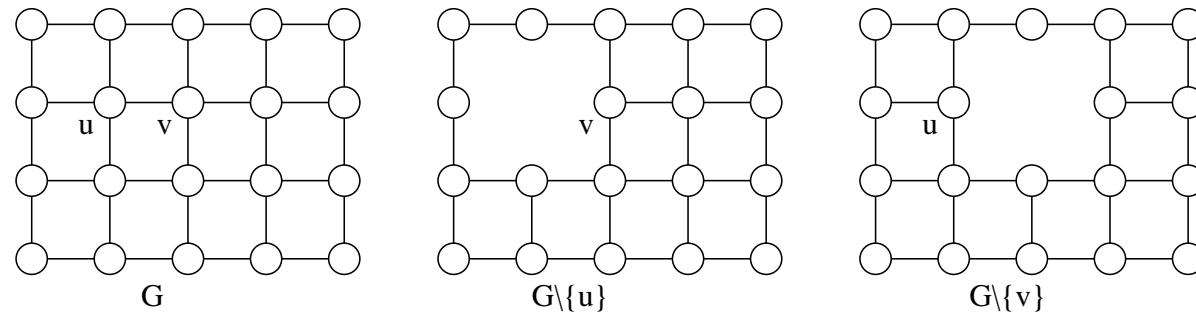
Fpt-algorithm for Vertex-Cover

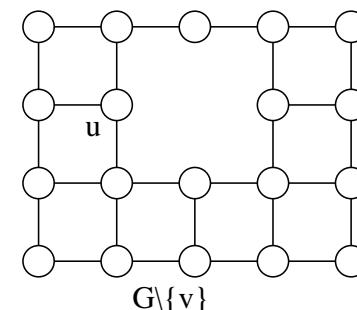
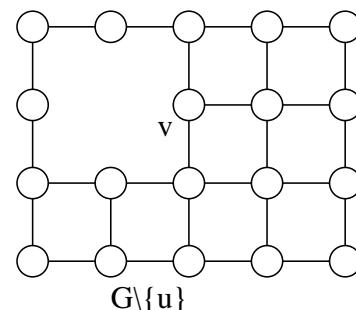
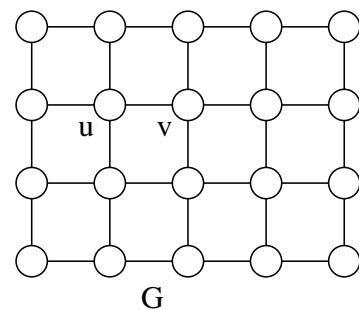
- For any edge $\{u, v\}$ of G , G has a vertex cover of size $\leq k$ iff one of $G \setminus \{u\}$ and $G \setminus \{v\}$ has a vertex cover of size $\leq k - 1$.

Proof. Assume G has a vertex cover S of $|S| \leq k$. Then S has u or v . Assume S has u . Then $S \setminus \{u\}$ is a vertex cover of $G \setminus \{u\}$.

Assume S is a vertex cover of $G \setminus \{u\}$ with $|S| \leq k - 1$. Then $S \cup \{u\}$ is a vertex cover of G . \square

- If G has a vertex cover of size k , G has at most $k(n - 1)$ edges.



VC(G, k)**Input:** A graph G and integer k .**Output:** T if G has a vertex cover of size $\leq k$, otherwise F.**if G has no edge then return T;****if G has $\geq kn$ edges then return F;****Let $\{u, v\}$ be any edge of G ;** $a = \text{VC}(G \setminus \{u\}, k - 1); b = \text{VC}(G \setminus \{v\}, k - 1);$ **if $a = F$ and $b = F$ then return F else return T**

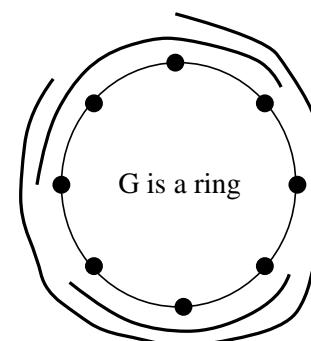
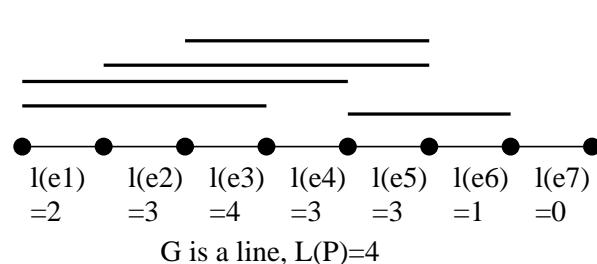
- **VC algorithm solves Vertex-Cover in $O(2^k kn)$ time.**

Proof. The depth of the recursion is at most k , implying at most 2^{k+1} calls of the algorithm. Each call takes $O(kn)$ time. □

- **VC algorithm is an-fpt algorithm for Vertex-Cover.**
- **Vertex-Cover is fixed parameter tractable.**

Circular arc coloring problem

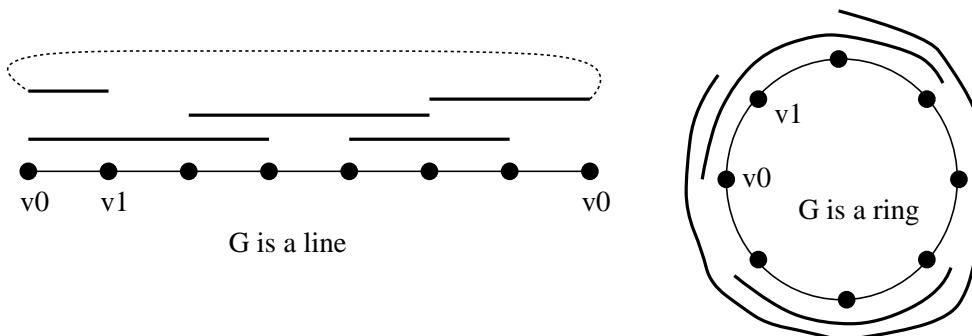
- Given a graph G and a set P of paths on G , the load $l(e)$ of edge e is the number of paths containing e . The load of P is defined as $L(P) = \max_{e \in E(G)} l(e)$.
- Path-Color:** given G, P and k colors, if each path of P can be colored by one of the k colors s.t. any two paths sharing a common edge are given distinct colors.
 - $k \geq L(P)$.
 - Circular-Arc-Color:** Path-Color when G is a ring; NP-complete.
 - Path-Color can be solved in Poly-time if G is a line.
- For G of n nodes and P of m paths, brute force algorithm solves Circular-Arc-Color in $O(k^m \text{Poly}(m, n))$ time.



Fixed parameter algorithm for Circular-Arc-Color

- **Dynamic programming algorithm**

- Let G be a ring of n nodes v_0, \dots, v_{n-1} . Cut the ring at any node, say v_0 , into a line $\{v_0, v_1\} \{v_1, v_2\} \dots \{v_{n-1}, v_0\}$.
- Assign distinct colors for the paths containing edge $\{v_0, v_1\}$.
- For paths containing an edge of $\{v_0, v_1\}, \dots, \{v_{i-1}, v_i\}$ ($i > 1$), enumerate all k -colorings that are consistent with the k -colorings for paths containing an edge of $\{v_0, v_1\}, \dots, \{v_{i-2}, v_{i-1}\}$ to find all possible colorings s.t. the paths sharing a common edge are given distinct colors.



- The algorithm solves Circular-Arc-Color in $O(k!n)$ time.

Proof. The algorithm has n phases, each phase has $L(P) \leq k$ paths to consider, implying at most $k!$ different colorings to enumerate. \square

- Circular-Arc-Color is fixed parameter tractable.

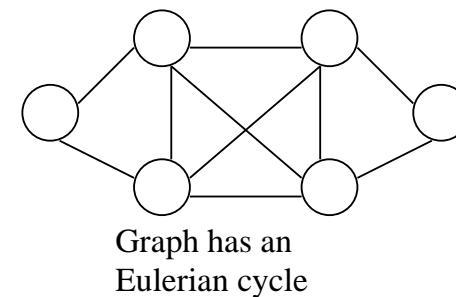
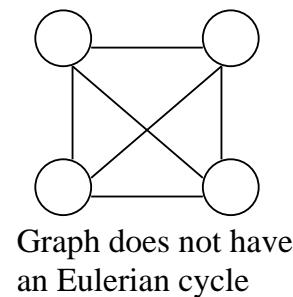
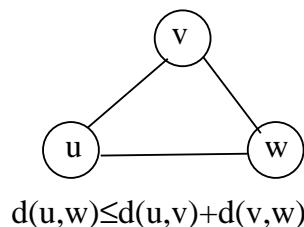
Approximation Algorithms for Metric TSP

- **TSP problem:** Given a complete (di)graph G with each edge assigned a non-negative weight, find a simple cycle containing every node of G s.t. the total weight of edges in the cycle is minimized.

For any $\alpha > 1$, an α -approximation algorithm for TSP implies P=NP.

- **Metric TSP:** TSP on G that for any three nodes u, v, w of G , $d(u, w) \leq d(u, v) + d(v, w)$, where $d(x, y)$ is the weight of edge (x, y) .
- **Eulerian cycle** G , a cycle of G contains each edge exactly once.

An undirected graph G has an Eulerian cycle iff each node has an even degree.

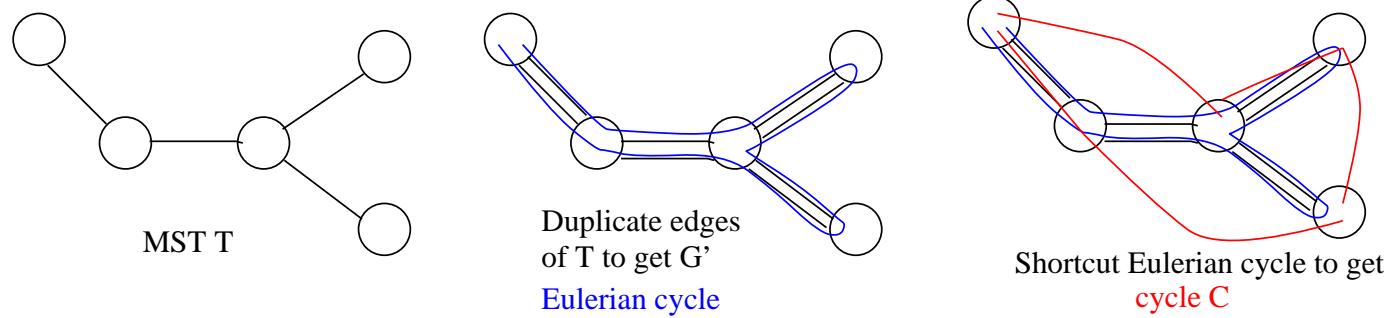


- For a subgraph G' of G , denote $d(G')$ be the sum of all edge weights in G' .
- A 2-approximation algorithm for (symmetric) metric TSP on undirected graph (double tree algorithm).

Find a minimum spanning tree (MST) T of G .

Duplicate each edge of T to get graph G' , find an Eulerian cycle of G' .

Shortcut C : Initialize $C =$ the Eulerian cycle. If a node v of G appears in C more than once, replace edges $\{u, v\}, \{v, w\}$ in C by edge $\{v, w\}$ until each node of G appears in C exactly once.



- **There is a 2-approximation algorithm for the symmetric metric TSP.**

Proof. Let C be the solution by the double tree algorithm. For a node v of G appears in cycle C $k \geq 1$ times, v has degree $2k$ in C . For $k > 1$, edges $\{u, v\}, \{v, w\}$ are replaced by edge $\{u, w\}$, degree of v becomes $2k - 2$, degrees of u and w unchanged. So, when the algoithm terminates, each node of G appears in C exactly once.

Let C^* be an optimal solution for the metric TSP and T be an MST of G . Since removing one edge from C^* gives a spanning tree of G , $d(T) \leq d(C^*)$. Initially, $d(C) = 2d(T)$, when edges $\{u, v\}, \{v, w\}$ are replaced by $\{u, w\}$, $d(u, w) \leq d(u, v) + d(v, w)$. So, $d(C) \leq 2d(T) \leq 2d(C^*)$. The running time of the algorithm is $O(t(n) + n)$, where $t(n)$ is the time to find an MST. \square

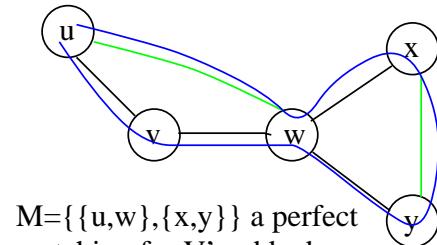
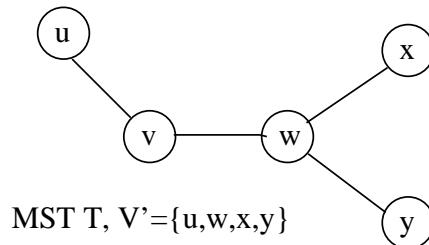
- A 1.5-approximation algorithm for symmetric metric TSP (Christofides' algorithm)

Find an MST T of G . Let V' be the set of nodes in T of odd degree.

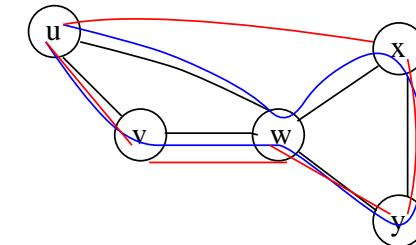
Find a minimum weight perfect matching M of edges in G for V' .

Add edges of M to T to get graph G' , find an Eulerian cycle of G' .

Shortcut C : Initialize $C =$ the Eulerian cycle. If a node v of G appears in C more than once, replace edges $\{u, v\}, \{v, w\}$ in C by edge $\{u, w\}$ until each node of G appears in C exactly once.



Find a Eulerian cycle of G'



Shortcut Eulerian cycle to get cycle C

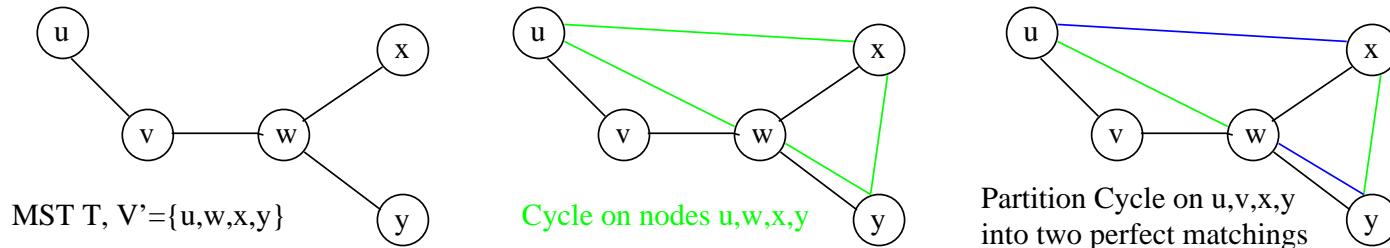
- There is a 1.5-approximation algorithm for the symmetric metric TSP

Proof. The number of nodes of odd degree in a graph is even. So, $|V'|$ is even and there is a perfect matching for V' . Add edges of M to T to get G' , every node of G' has even degree. Let C be the solution by Christofides' algorithm. As shown before, each node of G appears in C exactly once.

Let C^* be an optimal solution for the metric TSP and M be a minimum perfect matching for V' . We first show $d(M) \leq d(C^*)/2$.

Initialize $C' = C^*$. For each node $v \notin V'$, replace edges $\{u, v\}, \{v, w\}$ in C' by edge $\{u, w\}$ until C' contains every node of V' only. Since $d(u, w) \leq d(u, v) + d(v, w)$, $d(C') \leq d(C^*)$. C' can be decomposed into two perfect matchings M_1 and M_2 for V' . So, $d(M) \leq \min\{d(M_1), d(M_2)\} \leq d(C')/2 \leq d(C^*)/2$.

For solution C by the algorithm, $d(C) \leq d(G') \leq d(T) + d(M) \leq 1.5d(C^*)$. A minimum cost perfect matching for V' can be computed in poly-time, algorithm takes poly-time. \square



Tree-decomposition based Algorithms

- Graph decomposition approach for problems in graphs
 - Partition a graph G into subgraphs by a separator (vertex cut, edge cut, subgraph).
 - Problem in G becomes subproblems on subgraphs, subproblems may be independent or only related via the separator.
 - Combine solutions to subproblems to a solution to the problem. This step may take exponential time in the size of separator for NP-hard problems.
- When G is a tree, G can be partitioned into subtrees by a separator of a single node (size 1) and many NP-hard problems in graph G become tractable.
- Whether some NP-hard problems become tractable for G close to a tree?
- Tree-decomposition, a formal way to describe how G is close to a tree.

- **Tree-decomposition [Robertson and Seymour, 1986]**

Decompose a graph G into subgraphs, view each subgraph as a node (bag) and connect the nodes into a tree T subject to some conditions.

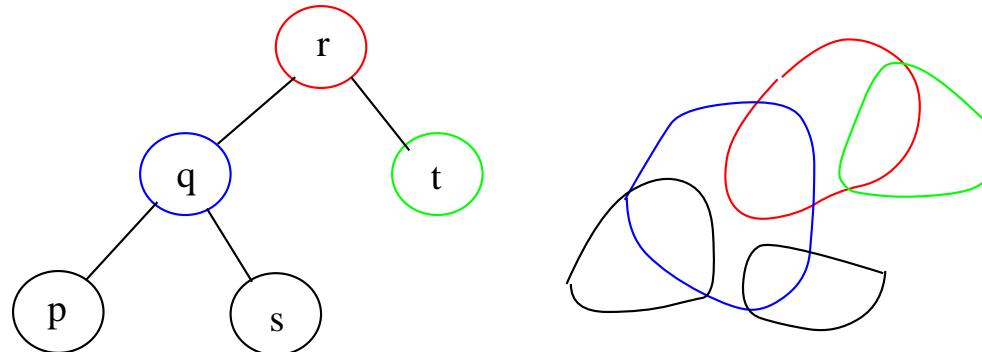
Formally, a tree-decomposition of graph G is a pair (f, T) , T is a tree and

$\forall p \in V(T), f(p) \subseteq V(G)$ s.t.

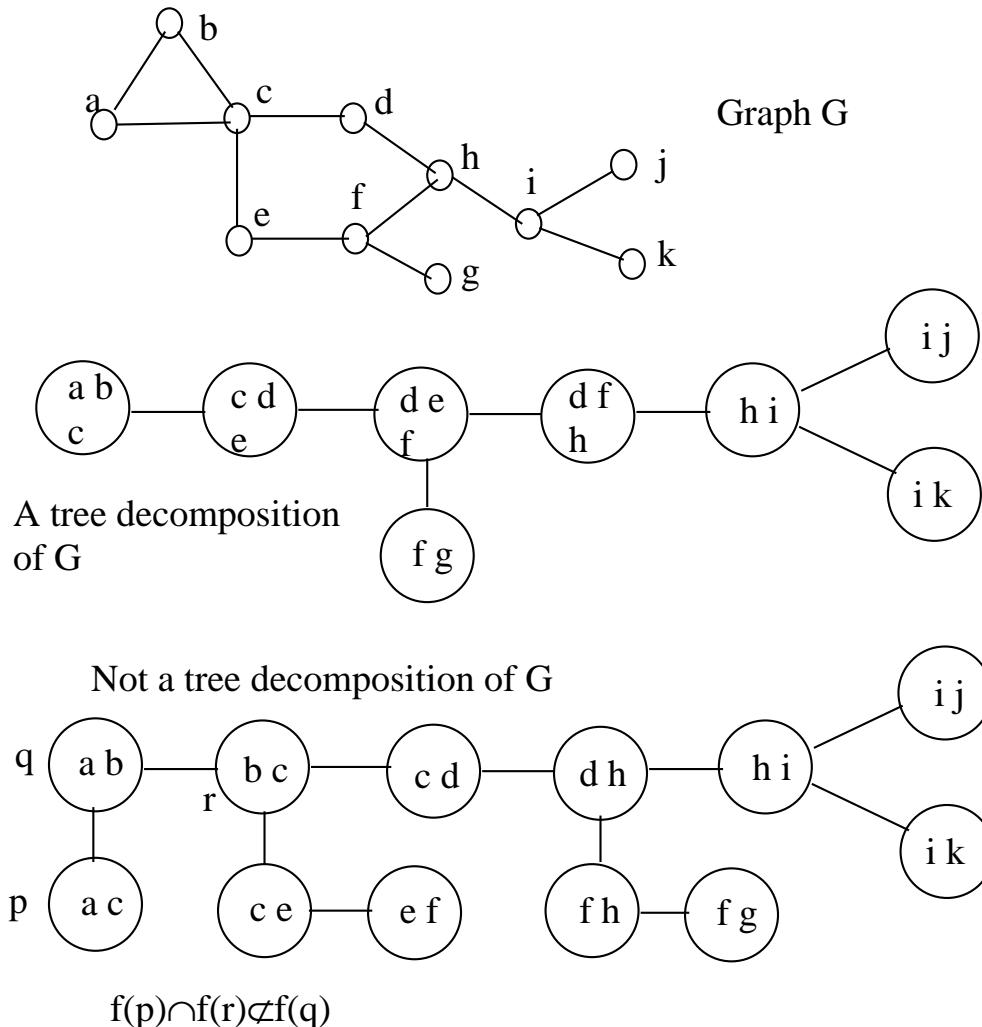
1. $\cup_{p \in V(T)} f(p) = V(G)$
2. $\forall (u, v) \in E(G), \exists p \in V(T)$ s.t. $u, v \in f(p)$
3. $\forall p, q, r \in V(T)$, if q is on the path from p to r in T , $f(p) \cap f(r) \subseteq f(q)$.

- **Treewidth of (f, T) is $\max_{p \in V(T)} |f(p)| - 1$**

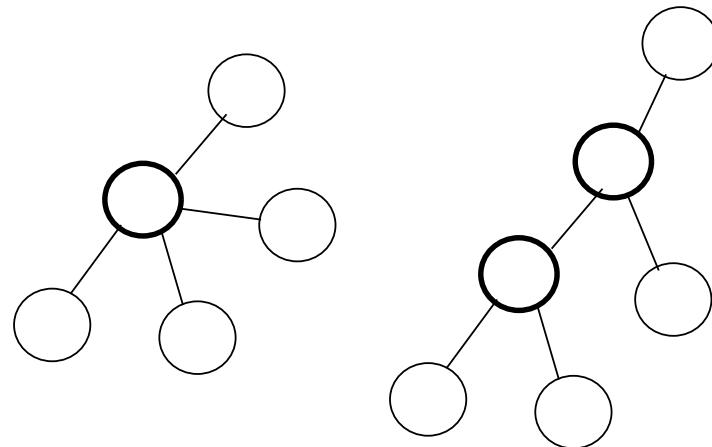
- **Treewidth $\text{tw}(G)$ of graph G is the minimum treewidth of all (f, T) .**



An Example of Tree Decomposition



- **Maximum independent set problem (Max-IS): given $G(V, E)$, find a maximum $W \subseteq V(G)$ s.t. $\forall u, v \in W, \{u, v\} \notin E(G)$.**
- **Tree-decomposition based algorithm for the Max-IS.**
 1. Find a tree-decomposition (f, T) and change T to a rooted binary tree.
 2. $\forall p \in V(T)$, compute by dynamic programming method in bottom-up manner the IS of the subgraph induced by \cup_q a descendant of $_p f(q)$.



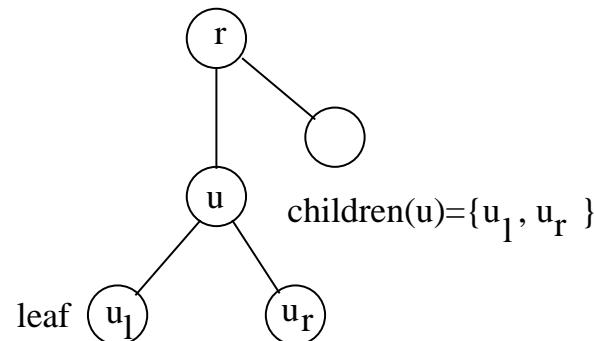
Simple example, dynamic programming for Max-IS on a rooted binary tree T

- Optimal solution structure: For each node u of T ,
 - $\text{opt}_{in}(u)$ =max-IS in subtree rooted at u , containing u .
 - $\text{opt}_{out}(u)$ =max-IS in subtree rooted at u , not containing u .
 - Goal: maximize $\{\text{opt}_{in}(u), \text{opt}_{out}(u)\}$.
 - $\{u\}$ has two subsets, \emptyset and $\{u\}$; $\emptyset \subseteq \text{opt}_{out}(u)$, $\{u\} \subseteq \text{opt}_{in}(u)$.
 - Bellman equations:

$$\text{opt}_{in}(u) = \{u\} \cup \text{opt}_{out}(u_l) \cup \text{opt}_{out}(u_r)$$

$$\text{opt}_{out}(u) = \max\{\text{opt}_{in}(u_l), \text{opt}_{out}(u_l)\} \cup \max\{\text{opt}_{in}(u_r), \text{opt}_{out}(u_r)\}$$

u_l and u_r are child nodes of u .

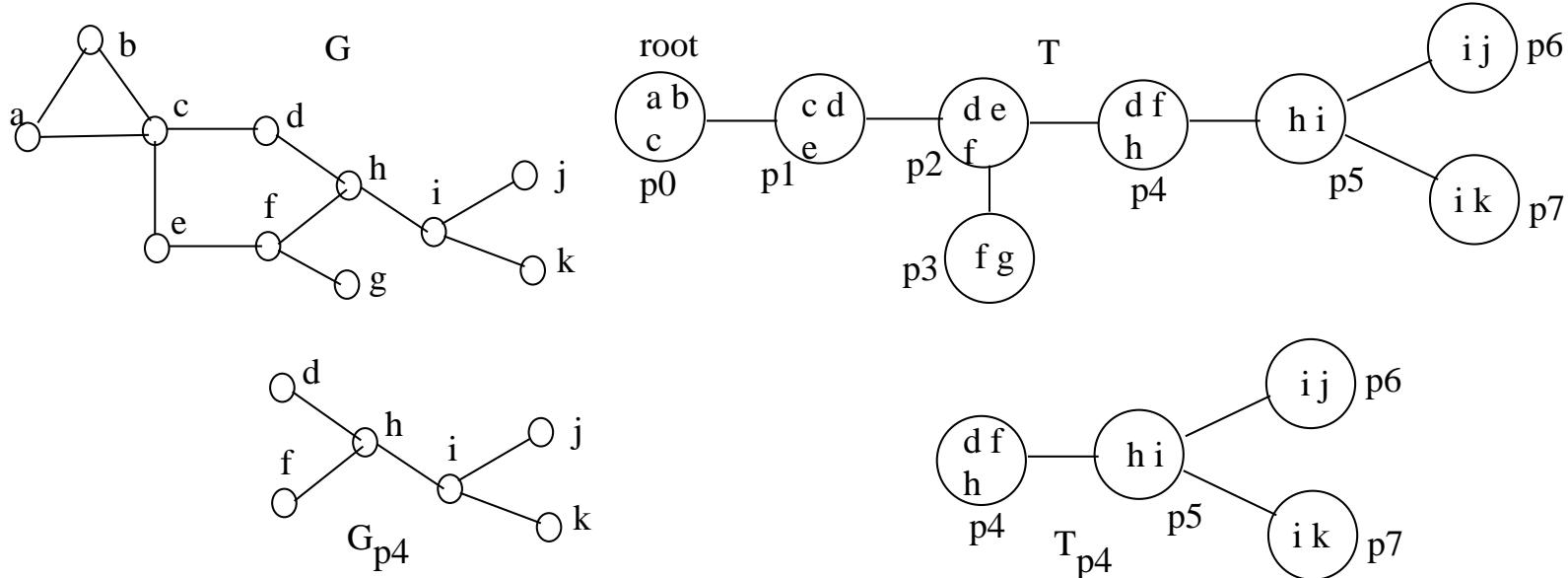


Tree-decomposition based dynamic programming for Max-IS

- **Optimal solution structure:** Given a tree-decomposition (f, T) of graph G , for each bag p of T (rooted binary tree), let T_p be the subtree of T rooted at p and G_p be the subgraph of G induced by the nodes in the bags of T_p .

For each subset $S_p \subseteq f(p)$,

- $\text{opt}(S_p) = \text{max-IS } W \text{ of } G_p \text{ with } S_p \subseteq W$.
- **Goal: maximize** $\{\text{opt}(S_p) | S_p \subseteq f(p)\}$.



- **Bellman equations:**

Let $\mathcal{W}_p = \{W \mid W \text{ maximal IS of } G_p\}$.

For each bag p of T and each subset $S_p \subseteq f(p)$, define

$\mathcal{W}_{S_p} = \{W \mid W \text{ maximal IS of } G_P \text{ with } S_p \subseteq W\}$.

Then $\mathcal{W}_{S_p} = \{W = S_p \cup W_l \cup W_r \mid W_l \in \mathcal{W}_{p_l}, W_r \in \mathcal{W}_{p_r}, W \text{ is IS of } G_p\}$,
 p_l and p_r are child bags of p .

Let $\text{opt}(S_p) = \arg \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}_{S_p}} |W|$. Then

$\mathcal{W}_p = \{W \mid W = \text{opt}(S_p), S_p \subseteq f(p), W \text{ maximal}\}$.

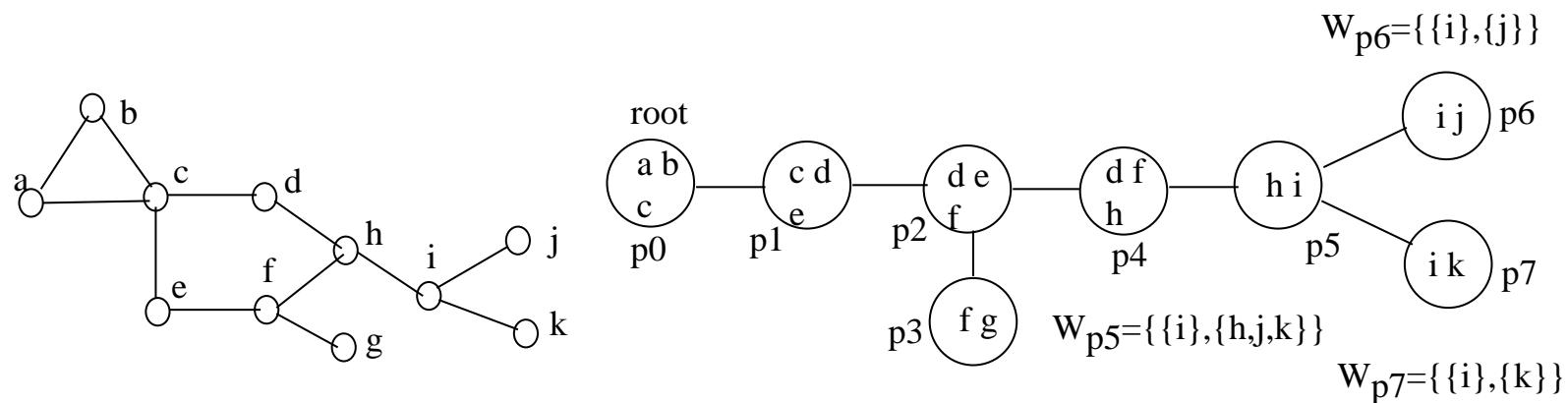
- (1) Compute \mathcal{W}_p for each leaf node $p \in V(T)$.
 - (2) Compute \mathcal{W}_p for each non-leaf $p \in V(T)$ in bottom-up manner in T .
 - (3) A maximum set in \mathcal{W}_p , p is the root of T , is a solution to Max-IS.
- For leaf bag p , time for \mathcal{W}_p is $O(2^{|f(p)|})$. For non-leaf bag p , time for \mathcal{W}_p is $O(2^{|f(p) \cup f(p_l) \cup f(p_r)|})$.

- **An example**

$\mathcal{W}_{S_p} = \{W = S_p \cup W_l \cup W_r | W_l \in \mathcal{W}_{p_l}, W_r \in \mathcal{W}_{p_r}, W \text{ is IS of } G_p\}$,
 p_l and p_r are child bags of p .

$$\text{opt}(S_p) = \arg \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}_{S_p}} |W|,$$

$$\mathcal{W}_p = \{W | W = \text{opt}(S_p), S_P \subseteq f(p), W \text{ maximal}\}.$$

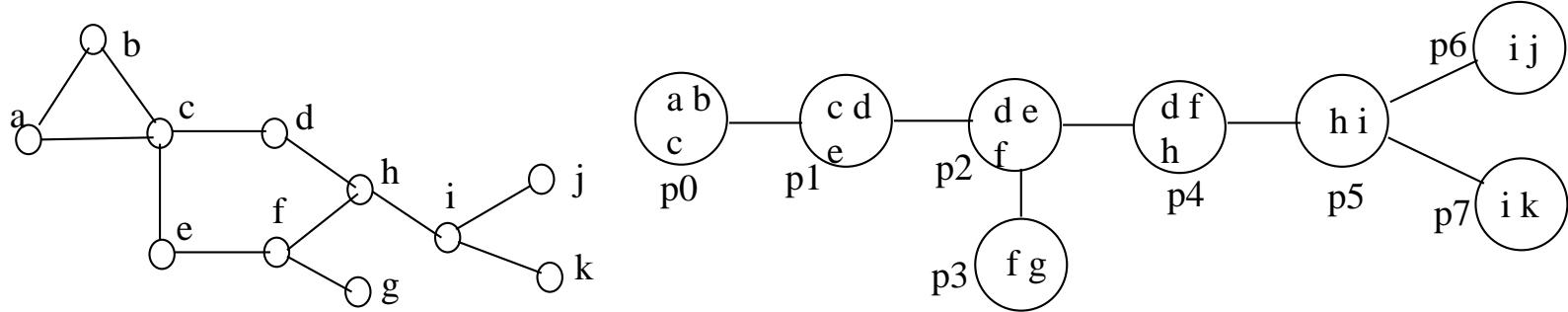


$$f(p_5) = \{h, i\}, S_{p_5} = \emptyset, S_{p_5} = \{h\}, S_{p_5} = \{i\}.$$

$$\text{opt}(\emptyset) = \max\{\emptyset \cup \{i\} \cup \{i\} = \{i\}, \emptyset \cup \{k\} \cup \{j\} = \{j, k\}\}.$$

$$\text{opt}(\{h\}) = \max\{\{h\} \cup \{k\} \cup \{j\}\} = \{h, j, k\}.$$

$$\text{opt}(\{i\}) = \max\{\{i\} \cup \{i\} \cup \{i\}\} = \{i\}. \mathcal{W}_{p_5} = \{\{h, j, k\}, \{i\}\}.$$



$$\mathcal{W}_{p_3} = \{\{f\}, \{g\}\}, \mathcal{W}_{p_6} = \{\{i\}, \{j\}\}, \mathcal{W}_{p_7} = \{\{i\}, \{k\}\}.$$

$$\mathcal{W}_{p_5} = \{\{h, j, k\}, \{i\}\}, \mathcal{W}_{p_4} = \{\{h, j, k\}, \{d, f, i\}, \{d, f, j, k\}\}.$$

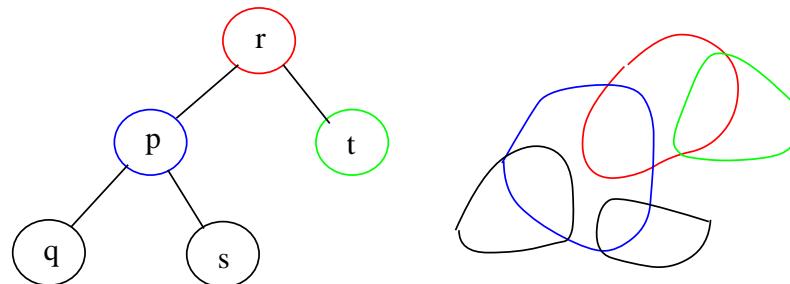
$$\mathcal{W}_{p_2} = \{\{e, g, h, j, k\}, \{d, f, i\}, \{d, f, j, k\}, \{d, e, g, i\}, \{d, e, g, j, k\}\}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W}_{p_1} = & \{\{c, g, h, j, k\}, \{e, g, h, j, k\}, \{c, f, i\}, \{d, f, i\}, \{c, f, j, k\}, \{d, f, j, k\}, \\ & \{c, g, i\}, \{d, e, g, i\}, \{c, g, j, k\}, \{d, e, g, j, k\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W}_{p_0} = & \{\{c, g, h, j, k\}, \{a, e, g, h, j, k\}, \{b, e, g, h, j, k\}, \{c, f, i\}, \{a, d, f, i\}, \\ & \{b, d, f, i\}, \{c, f, j, k\}, \{a, d, f, j, k\}, \{b, d, f, j, k\}, \{c, g, i\}, \{a, d, e, g, i\}, \\ & \{b, d, e, g, i\}, \{c, g, j, k\}, \{a, d, e, g, j, k\}, \{b, d, e, g, j, k\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Intuition of tree-decomposition based algorithm

- T can be viewed as a binary tree with root r .
- The vertex set $f(r)$ separates G into two subgraphs G_1 and G_2 .
- For a problem on G , if the solution on G_1 (or G_2) only depends on G_1 (or G_2) and the subgraph induced by $f(r)$ then the problem can be decomposed into two independent problems on G_1 and G_2 .
- For every internal bag p of T , $f(p)$ separates the subgraph G_P induced by the nodes of bags in the subtree T_p rooted at p into two subgraphs.
- Dynamic programming algorithm using the tree-decomposition (f, T) .



Construction of tree-decomposition

- For arbitrary graphs

It is NP-hard to find an optimal tree-decomposition [Arnborg et al. 1987].

An $O(\log n)$ -approximation algorithm is known [Bodlaender et al. 1992].

$O(n)$ time for an optimal tree-decomposition of G with constant $\text{tw}(G)$ [Bodlaender 1996].

- For planar graphs

A 1.5-approximation algorithm is known [Robertson-Seymour 1991, Seymour-Thomas 1994].

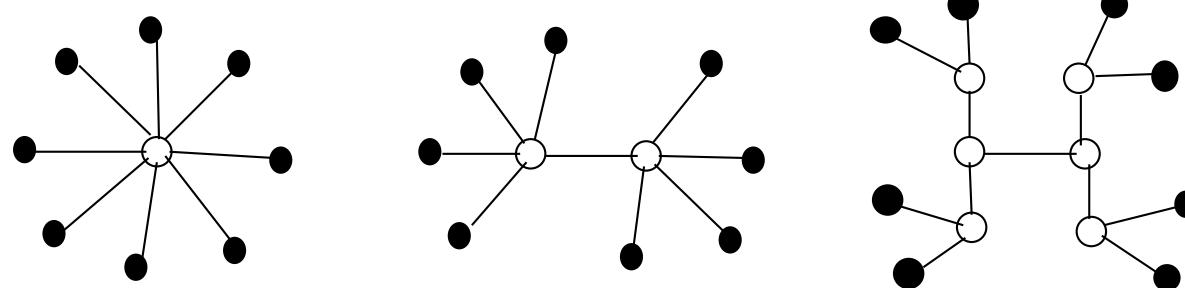
It is open if finding an optimal tree-decomposition is NP-hard.

- A number of heuristics are known.

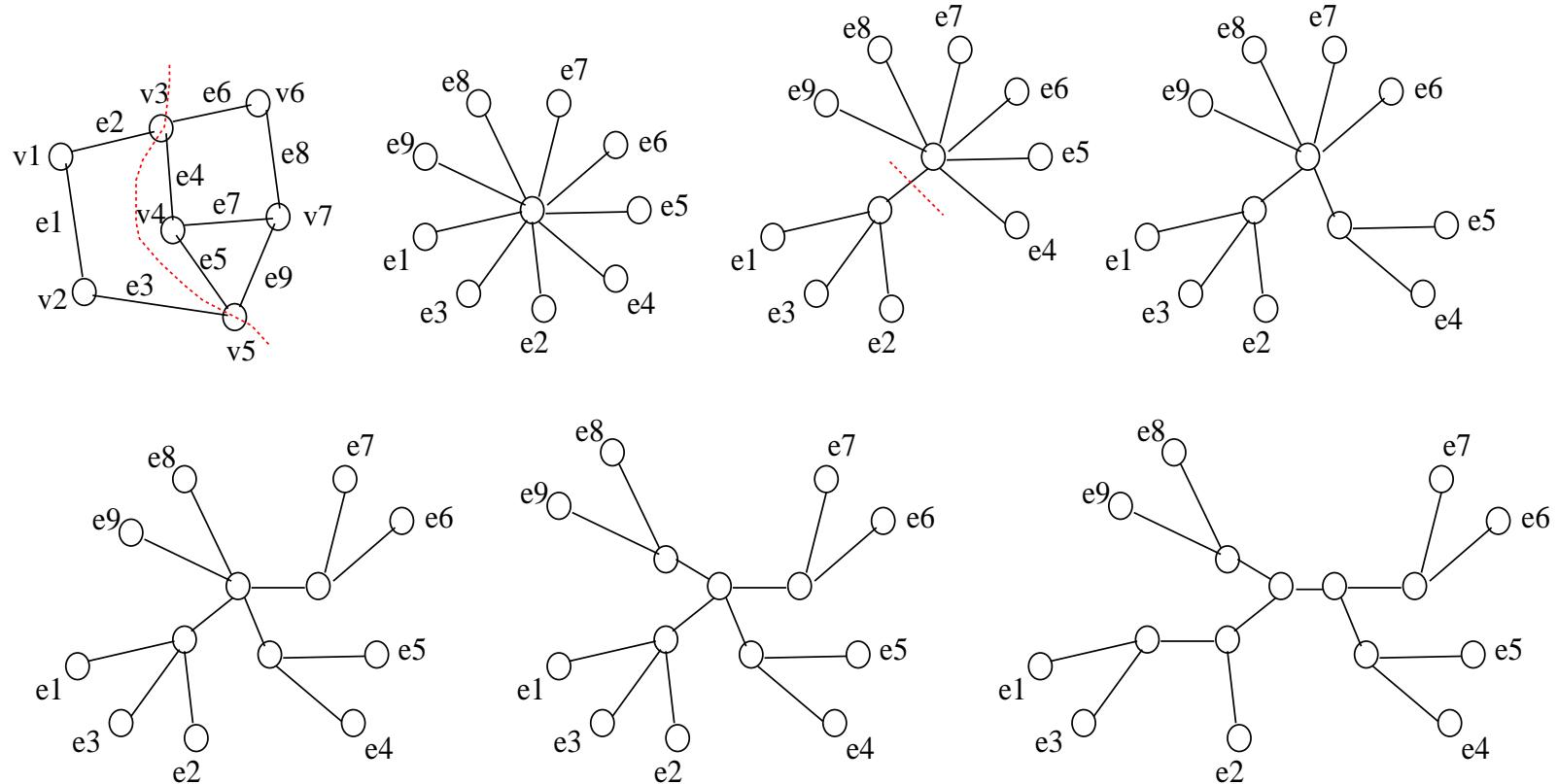
A simple heuristic for finding a tree-decomposition (1)

1. Given G , initialize a tree T_B with one internal node and $|E(G)|$ leaf nodes, each leaf node is assigned a distinct edge of $E(G)$.
2. If $\exists p \in V(T_B)$ with degree greater than 3 then partition the leaves adjacent to p into two subsets V_1 and V_2 , create two nodes p_1 and p_2 , connect the leaves of V_1 (V_2) to p_1 (p_2), and connect p_1 and p_2 to p ; otherwise output T_B and terminate.
3. Repeat Step 2

T_B is known as a branch-decomposition of G . Then turn T_B into a tree-decomposition (f, T) .



An example of simple heuristic to construct a branch-decomposition T_B

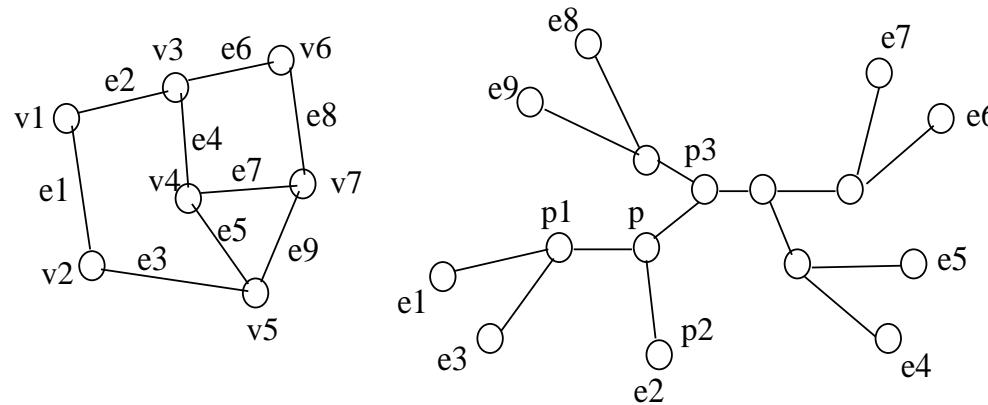


A simple heuristic for finding a tree-decomposition (2)

- Given a branch-decomposition T_B of G , we construct a tree-decomposition (f, T) .
- Let $T = T_B$. For each link $\{p, q\}$ of T , let $L_T(p, q)$ is the subset of leaves of T reachable from p not passing through q . (e.g., $L_T(p, p_3) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ in figure).
- For each leaf node p of T assigned edge $e = \{u, v\}$ of G , $f(p) = \{u, v\}$.
- For each internal node p of T , let $\{p, p_1\}, \{p, p_2\}, \{p, p_3\}$ be the three links of T incident to p and

$$f(p) = \{u | u \in V(L_T(p_i, p)) \cap V(L_T(p_j, p)), i, j = 1, 2, 3, i \neq j\}$$

- Example: in the figure, $V(L_T(p_1, p)) = \{v_1, v_2, v_5\}$, $V(L_T(p_2, p)) = \{v_1, v_3\}$, $V(L_T(p_3, p)) = \{v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6, v_7\}$, $f(p) = \{v_1, v_3, v_5\}$.



A simple heuristic for finding a tree-decomposition (3)

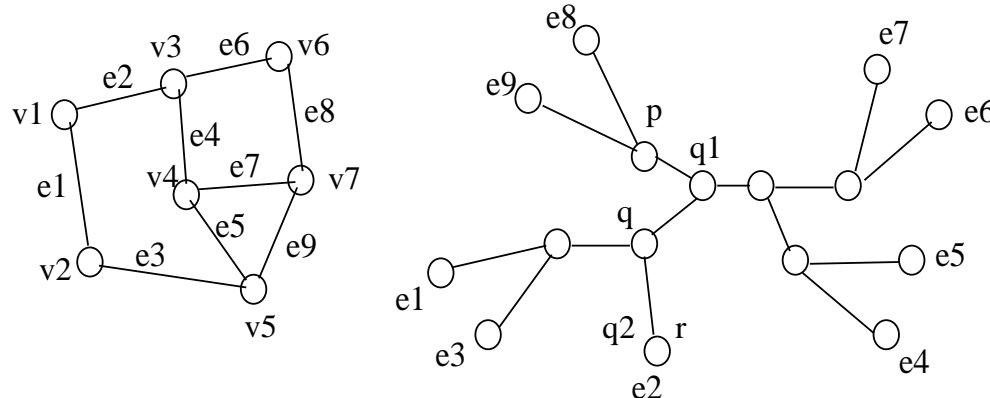
- (f, T) constructed in previous slide is a tree-decomposition of G .

(1) $\cup_{p \in V(T)} f(p) = V(G)$.

(2) For each edge $\{u, v\}$ of G , there is a leaf node p of T s.t. $u, v \in f(p)$.

(3) For any nodes p, q, r of T , assume q is on the path between p and r . Let $\{q_1, q\}$ be the edge in the path between p and q and $\{q, q_2\}$ be the edge in the path between q and r . Then

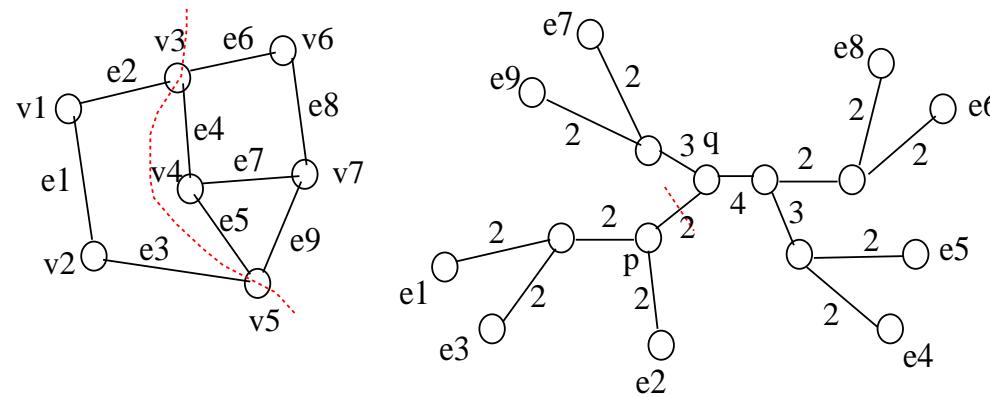
$$f(p) \cap f(r) \subseteq V(L_T(q_1, q)) \cap V(L_T(q_2, q)) \subseteq f(q).$$



Branch-decomposition [Robertson and Seymour 1991]

- A branch-decomposition of $G(V, E)$ is a tree T_B s.t. every internal node of T_B has node degree three and the set of leaves of T_B is $E(G)$.
- Removing an link $e = \{p, q\}$ of T_B separates T_B into two subtrees. Let E' and E'' be the sets of leaves of the subtrees, and $S_e = V(L_T(p, q)) \cap V(L_T(q, p))$ be the set of vertices incident to an edge of E' and an edge of E'' .
- The width of link e is $|S_e|$ and the width of T_B is $\max_{e \in E(T)} |S_e|$.
The branchwidth $\text{bw}(G)$ of G is the minimum width of all T_B .

Example: $e = \{p, q\}$, $L_T(p, q) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$, $V(L_T(p, q)) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_5\}$, $L_T(q, p) = \{e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8, e_9\}$, $V(L_T(q, p)) = \{v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6, v_7\}$, $S_e = \{v_3, v_5\}$.



Relation between treewidth and branchwidth [Robertson-Seymour 1991]

$$\max\{2, \text{bw}(G)\} \leq \text{tw}(G) + 1 \leq \max\{2, \lfloor 3\text{bw}(G)/2 \rfloor\}.$$

- **A proof for** $\text{tw}(G) + 1 \leq \lfloor 3\text{bw}(G)/2 \rfloor$.

Let T_B be an optimal branch-decomposition of G and (f, T) be a tree-decomposition of G constructed by the simple heuristic. For any link $e = \{p, q\}$ in T_B ,

$S_e = V(L_T(p, q)) \cap V(L_T(q, p))$. For each node p of T ,

$$f(p) = \{u | u \in V(L_T(p_i, p)) \cap V(L_T(p_j, p)), i, j = 1, 2, 3, i \neq j\}.$$

For each node p incident to links $e_1 = \{p_1, p\}, e_2 = \{p_2, p\}, e_e = \{p_3, p\}$, each vertex in $f(p)$ appears in at least two of $S_{e_i} = V(L_T(p_i, p)) \cap V(L_T(p, p_i))$, $i = 1, 2, 3$. Hence, $2|f(p)| \leq \sum_{i=1}^3 |S_{e_i}| \leq 3\text{bw}(G)$, implying $\text{tw}(G) + 1 \leq \lfloor 3\text{bw}(G)/2 \rfloor$.

- **A proof for** $\max\{2, \text{bw}(G)\} \leq \text{tw}(G) + 1$.

Let (f, T) be a tree-decomposition of G . Each edge $e = \{u, v\}$ of G is in some bag p of T . If p has more than one edge or is an internal bag of T then create a new bag p' and with $f(p') = \{u, v\}$, remove edge e from p , and connect p' to p by a link. Repeat this process until each leaf of T has exactly one edge.

If there is a bag p in T with degree greater than 3 then partition the neighbors of p into subsets V_1 and V_2 of same size, replace p by link $\{p_1, p_2\}$, connect bags of V_1 to p_1 and bags of V_2 to p_2 . Repeat this process, T is turned into a tree with degree at most 3. For each bag p of degree 2, replace links $\{p', p\}$ and $\{p, p''\}$ by link $\{p', p''\}$, we get a branch-decomposition T' . The branchwidth of T' is at most

$$\max\{f(p) | p \in V(T)\} = \text{tw}(G) + 1.$$

Intuition of branch-decomposition of a graph G : define a collection of (vertex) separators of G that partitions G into subgraphs with a single edge a minimum subgraph.

Branchwidth

- Given an integer β , it is NP-complete to decide if $\text{bw}(G) \geq \beta$ for general graph G [Seymour and Thomas, 1994]
- An optimal branch-decomposition of G with constant $\text{bw}(G)$ can be found in linear time [Bodlaender and Thilikos, 1997]
- A number of heuristics are known.
- For planar graph G , if $\text{bw}(G) \geq \beta$ can be decided in $O(n^2)$ time. [Rat-catching algorithm, Seymour-Thomas 1994]
An optimal branch-decomposition of G can be computed in $O(n^4)$ time [Edge-contraction algorithm, Seymour-Thomas 1994], implying 1.5-approximation algorithm for optimal tree-decomposition of planar graphs.
An improved edge-contraction of $O(n^3)$ time is known [Gu-Tamaki 2005]
An $\min\{O(n \log^3 n \log k), O(nk^2 \log k)\}$, $k = \text{bw}(G)$, time $(2 + \epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm is known [Gu-Xu 2019]

More information on fixed parameter algorithms and tree-/branch-decomposition based algorithms can be found in:

- **Invitation to Fixed Parameter Algorithms**, by Rolf Niedermeier, Oxford Univ Press, 2006.
- **N. Robertson and P.D. Seymour. Graph minors II. Algorithmic aspects of tree-width.** Journal of Algorithms, 7:309–322, 1986.
- **N. Robertson and P.D. Seymour. Graph minors X. Obstructions to tree-decomposition.** Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B 52(2):153–190, 1991.
- **P.D. Seymour and R. Thomas. Call routing and the ratcatcher.** Combinatorica, 14(2):217–241, 1994.
- **Q. Gu and H. Tamaki. Optimal branch-decomposition of planar graphs in $O(n^3)$ time,** ACM Trans. on Algorithms, 4(3):30.1-30.13, 2008
- **I. Hicks, A. Koster, and E. Kolotoglu. Branch and tree-decomposition techniques for discrete optimization,** Tutorials in Operations Research, Informs 2005.