

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

George B. Mertzios<sup>1</sup>   Hendrik Molter<sup>2</sup>   Viktor Zamaraev<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Computer Science, Durham University, Durham, UK

<sup>2</sup>Algorithmics and Computational Complexity, TU Berlin, Germany

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Department of Computer Science  
Liverpool University

# Introduction

## Motivation

Main question:

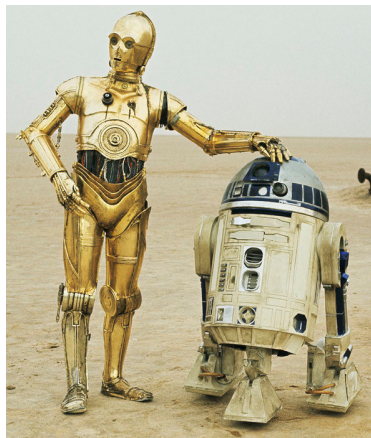
- What is the natural problem that extends **graph coloring** to the case where the graph changes over time?

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A motivating scenario:

- Mobile agents broadcast information



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- When agents meet they can exchange information

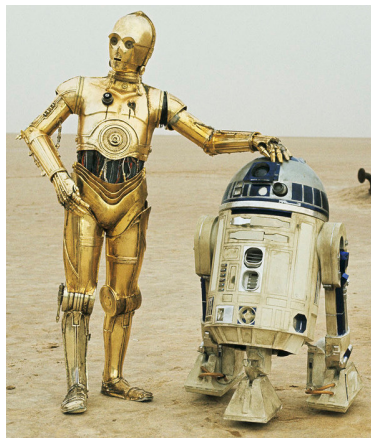


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- Mobile agents broadcast information
- When agents meet they can exchange information
- Information can only be exchanged if agents broadcast on **different** channels

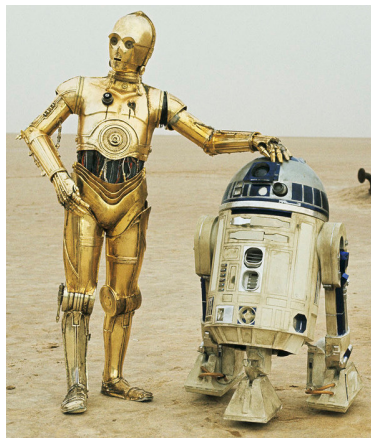


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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”



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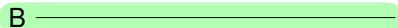
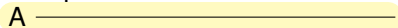
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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 1



1





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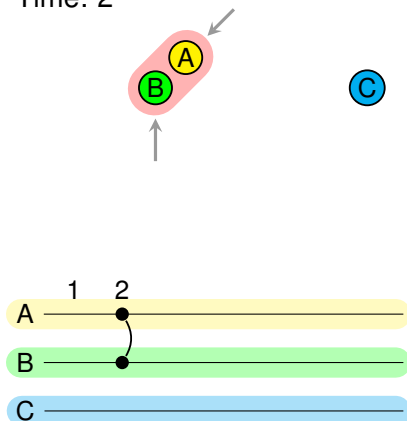
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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 2



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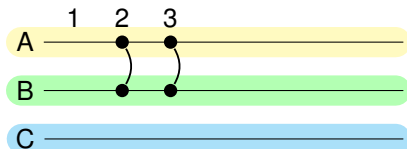
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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 3



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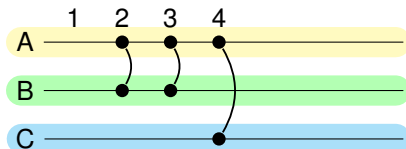
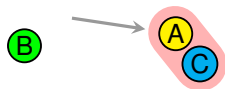
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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 4



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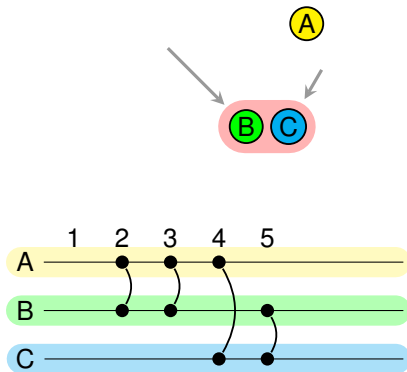
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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 5



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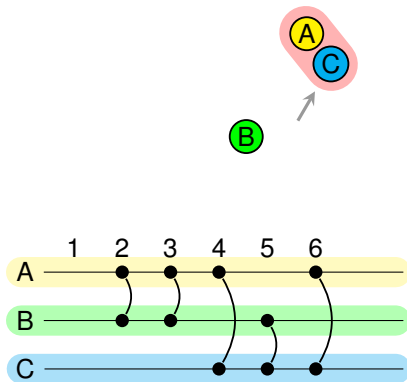
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“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 6



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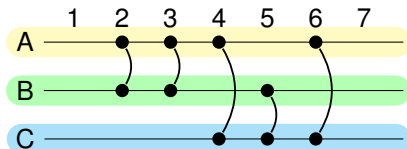
“Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

Time: 7

A

C

B



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### Modeling:

- Vertices in a temporal graph

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- Vertices need to be **differently colored** in order to exchange information

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### “Dynamic Channel Assignment Problem”

### Modeling:

- Vertices in a temporal graph
- Time-edges
- Vertices need to be **differently colored** in order to exchange information
- Each time-edge should be “properly colored” at least once in each  $\Delta$ -window in which it exists

# Introduction

## Temporal Graphs

### Temporal Graph

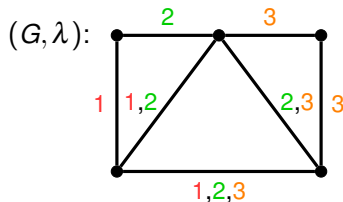
A **temporal graph**  $(G, \lambda)$  with lifetime  $T$  is a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with a labeling function  $\lambda : E \rightarrow 2^{\{1, 2, \dots, T\}}$  that assigns time labels to edges.

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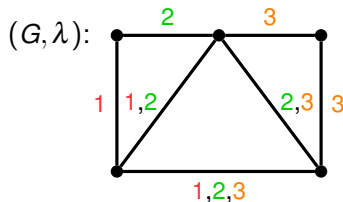


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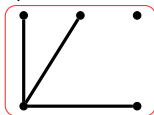
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$G_1$ :

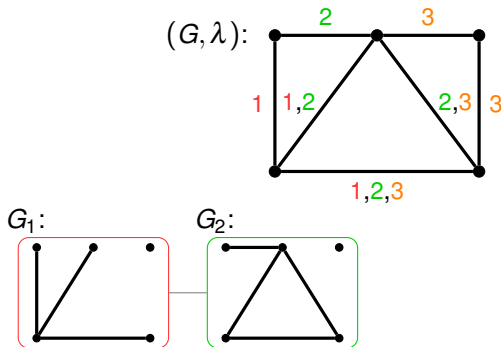


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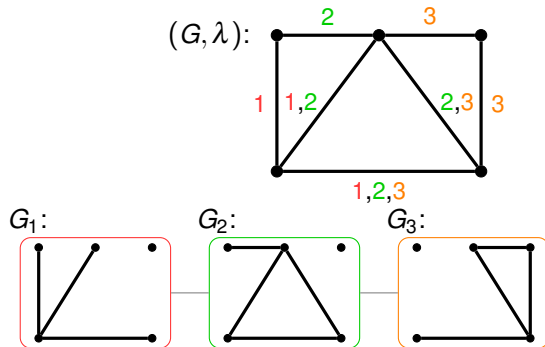


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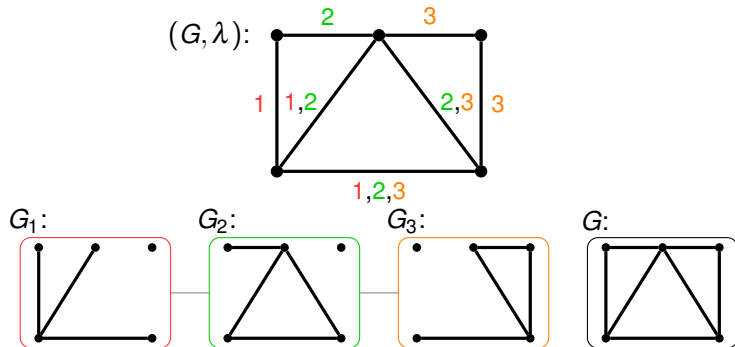


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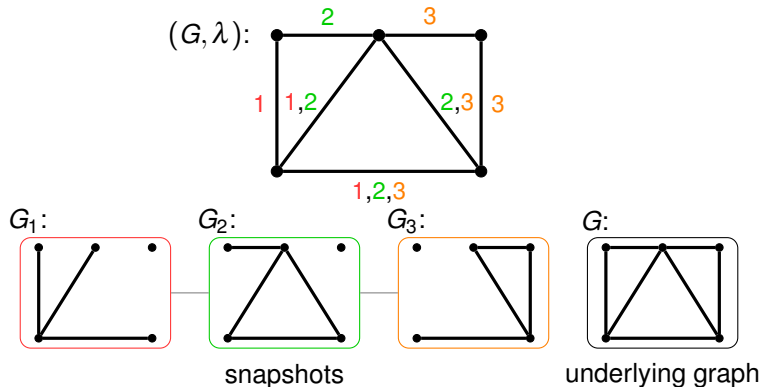


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### Proper Sliding $\Delta$ -Window Temporal Coloring

A **proper** sliding  $\Delta$ -window **temporal coloring** of  $(G, \lambda)$  is a coloring vector  $\phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_T)$  such that:

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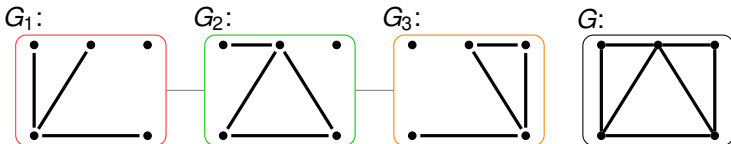
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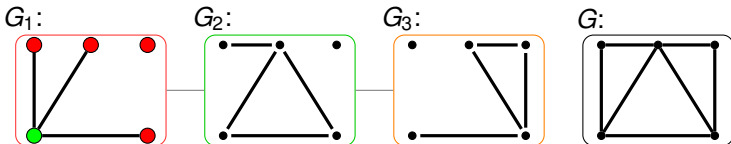
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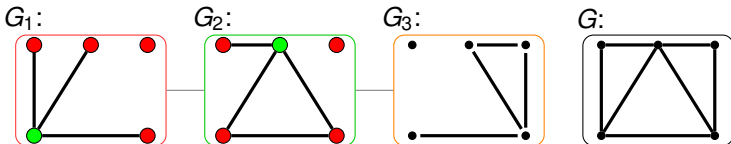
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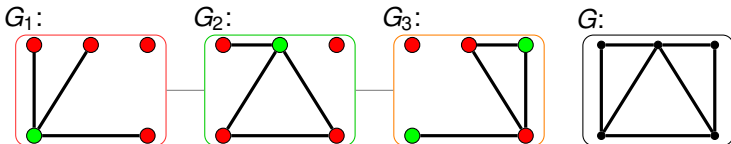
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# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

## Main Results

### Sliding Window Temporal Coloring (SWTC)

**Input:** A temporal graph  $(G, \lambda)$ , and two integers  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\Delta \leq T$ .

**Question:** Does there exist a proper sliding  $\Delta$ -window temporal coloring  $\phi$  of  $(G, \lambda)$  using at most  $k$  colors?



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### Main Hardness Results:

SWTC is **NP-hard**, even if

- $k = 2$ ,  $\Delta = 2$ ,  $T = 3$ ,  
 $G$  is 3-colorable,  $O(1)$  max. deg.,  
every connected component in  
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- FPT-approx. algorithm for parameter “vertex cover number of  $G$ ” (additive error of one).

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## Main Exponential Time Algorithm I

### Observation

Let  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  be two proper sliding  $\Delta$ -window temporal colorings  
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If they overlap on at least  $\Delta$  time steps and agree how to color the overlap, they can be combined.

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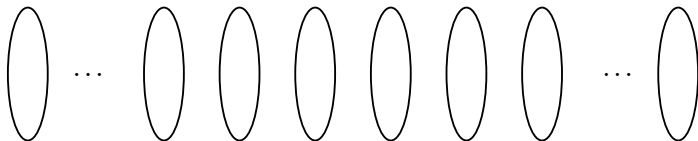
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$(G, \lambda)$



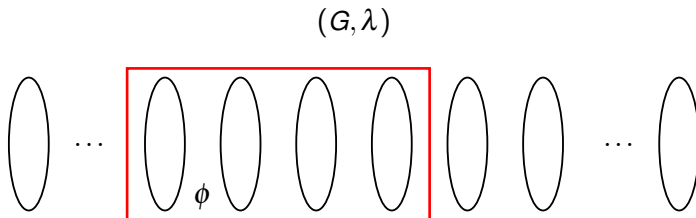
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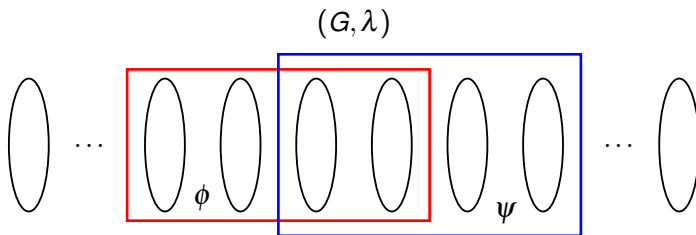
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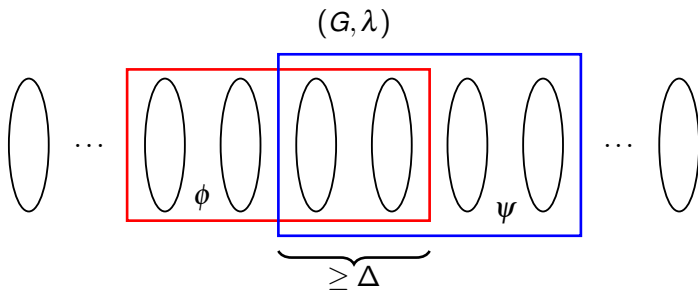
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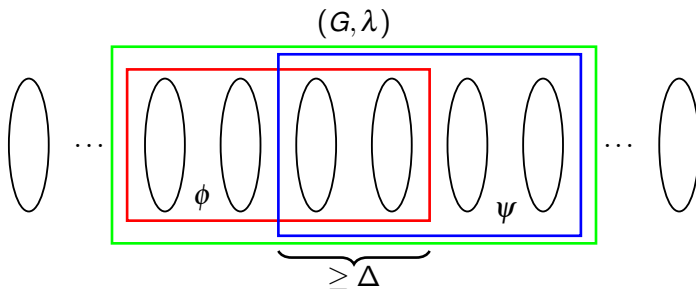
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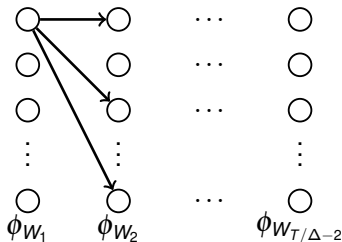
## Main Exponential Time Algorithm II

- 1 For  $2\Delta$ -windows  $W_i = [i\Delta + 1, (i+2)\Delta]$  for  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, T/\Delta - 2\}$ , **enumerate all** partial sliding  $\Delta$ -window temporal colorings  $\phi_{W_i}$ , where each trivial snapshot is colored in some fixed (but arbitrary) way.

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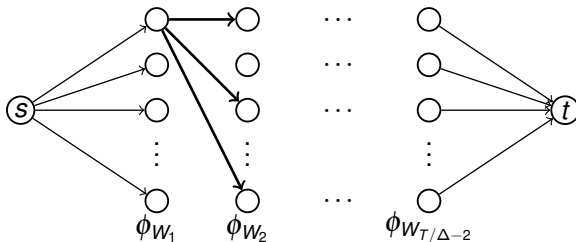
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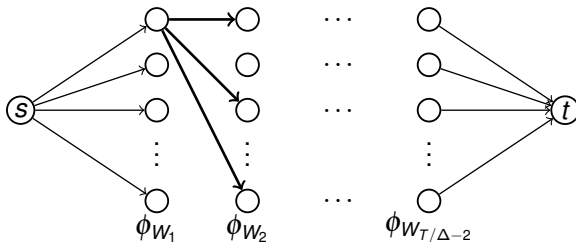
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- 3 Create a source vertex  $s$  and connect it to all  $\phi_{W_1}$  and we create a sink vertex  $t$  and connect  $\phi_{W_{T/\Delta-2}}$  to it.



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- 2 Create a DAG with  $\phi_{W_i}$  as vertices and connect  $\phi_{W_i}$  to  $\phi_{W_{i+1}}$  if the two colorings agree on the overlapping part.
- 3 Create a source vertex  $s$  and connect it to all  $\phi_{W_1}$  and we create a sink vertex  $t$  and connect  $\phi_{W_{T/\Delta-2}}$  to it.
- 4 If there is a path from  $s$  to  $t$ , answer YES, otherwise NO.



# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

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SWTC can be solved in  $O(k^{4\Delta \cdot n} \cdot T)$  time.



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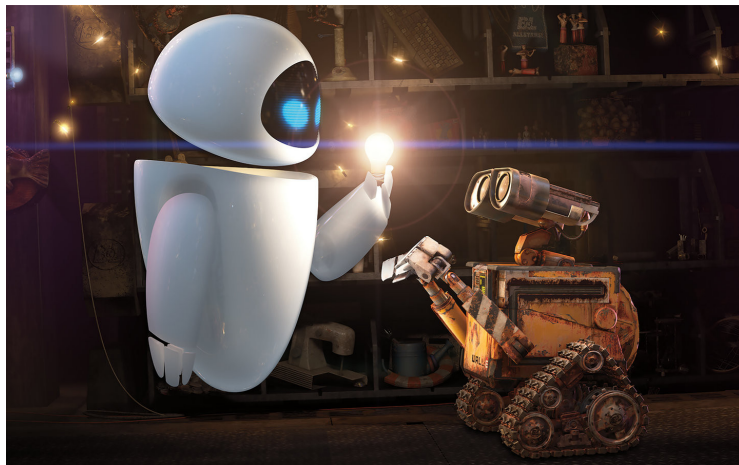
SWTC can be solved in  $O(k^{4\Delta \cdot n} \cdot T)$  time.

### ETH Lower Bound

SWTC does **not** admit a  $2^{o(n) \cdot f(T+k)}$ -time algorithm for any computable function  $f$  **unless ETH fails**.

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

Fixed-Parameter Tractability I



How to exploit few vertices?

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

## Fixed-Parameter Tractability II

### Observation

If a snapshot appears  $n^2$  times in a  $\Delta$ -window, all its edges can be colored properly. *[just properly color every edge of it once]*

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### Reduction Rule

If a snapshot appears more than  $2n^2$  times in a  $\Delta$ -window, then replace of its “middle” copies with an edgeless snapshot.

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### Lemma

If the reduction rule is not applicable, each  $\Delta$ -window contains at most  $2n^2 \cdot 2^{n^2}$  (non-trivial) snapshots.

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

## Fixed-Parameter Tractability III

Recall our first exponential-time algorithm:

### Theorem

Sliding Window Temporal Coloring can be solved in  $O(k^{4\Delta \cdot n} \cdot T)$  time.

Therefore, since every  $\Delta$ -window has at most  $2n^2 \cdot 2^{n^2}$  snapshots (and since  $k \leq n$ ):

### Theorem

SWTC is linear-time fixed-parameter tractable (FPT) with respect to  $n$  (i.e. in  $O(f(n) \cdot T)$  time).



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# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

## Fixed-Parameter Tractability III

One of our hardness results:

### Theorem

SWTC is NP-hard, even if the vertex cover number of the underlying graph  $G$  is at most  $2k + 13$  (where  $k =$  number of colors).

Thus we cannot hope for an (exact) FPT algorithm with respect to the parameter “vertex cover number of the underlying graph”.

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

## Fixed-Parameter Tractability III

However:

### Theorem

SWTC admits a linear-time FPT-approximation algorithm for parameter “vertex cover number of  $G$ ” with an **additive error one**. (Objective: Minimize number of colors.)

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## Fixed-Parameter Tractability III

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SWTC admits a linear-time FPT-approximation algorithm for parameter “vertex cover number of  $G$ ” with an **additive error one**. (Objective: Minimize number of colors.)

Idea:

- Compute in linear FPT-time a minimum vertex cover of  $G$  (the rest is independent set in every slot!)
- Use our exponential algorithm to optimally solve SWTC in the temporal graph induced by the vertex cover vertices
- This is a lower bound on the number of colors needed for  $(G, \lambda)$
- Color all other vertices in all slots with a fresh color

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

Constant Underlying VC Reduction – Main Ideas I

Reduction from **Monotone Exactly 1-in-3 SAT**.

# Sliding Window Temporal Graph Coloring

## Constant Underlying VC Reduction – Main Ideas I

Reduction from **Monotone Exactly 1-in-3 SAT**.

Main Idea: Encode variables with vertices, clauses with snapshots.

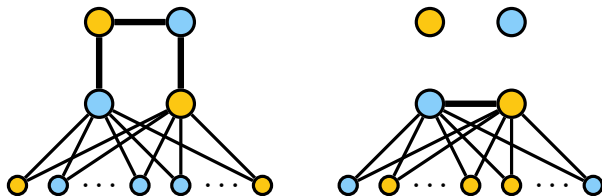
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Variable Gadget:



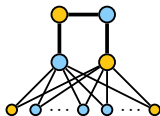
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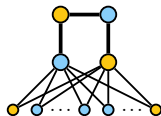
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Type 2 snapshot.



Type 3 snapshot.



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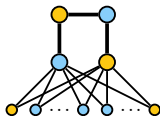


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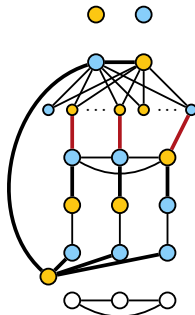
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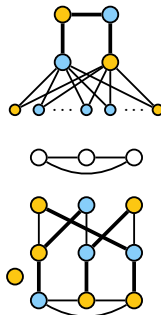
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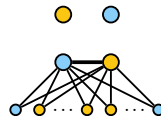
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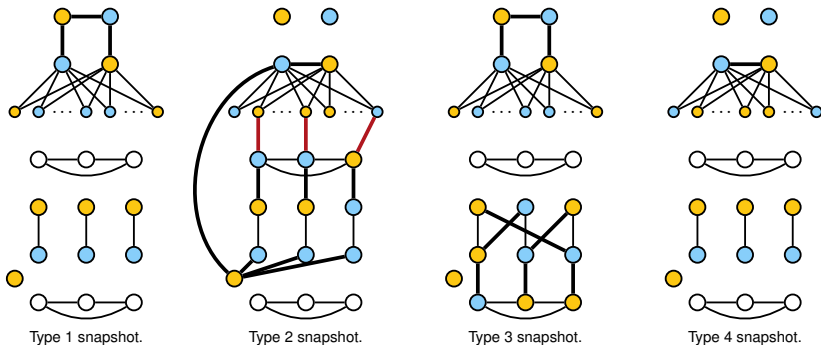
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# Outlook

## and Future Work

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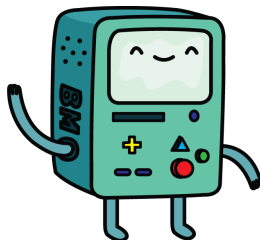
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<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1811.04753.pdf>  
Link to arXiv.

**Thank you!**