

## VERTEX SEPARATORS

## Why

We characterize chordal graphs.<sup>1</sup>

## Definition

Let (V, E) be an undirected graph. A set  $S \subset V$  is a *vertex* separator for two vertices v, w (or a vw-separator) if v and w are disconnected in the subgraph induced by V - S. There always exists a vertex separator for two nonadjacent vertices.

A vertex separator is a *minimal vertex separator* for two vertices if no proper subset of it is a vertex separator for those vertices. Another term for vertex separator is *cutset*. Similarly, one for minimal vertex separator is *relatively minimal cutset*.

## Example

For example, for the graph in Figure 1,  $\{c, e\}$  is a minimal ag-separator and  $\{b, c, e\}$  is a minimal ad-separator. A minimal vertex separator may contain another minimal vertex separator if they are minimal for different pairs of vertices.<sup>2</sup>

 $<sup>^1\</sup>mathrm{Future}$  editions will expand.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>See Vandenberghe and Andersen, 2014.

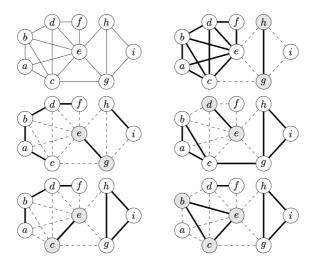


Figure 1: A chordal graph and its five minimal cutsets.

