

*from the Other Side*

# PTAS for CSPs

Standa Živný

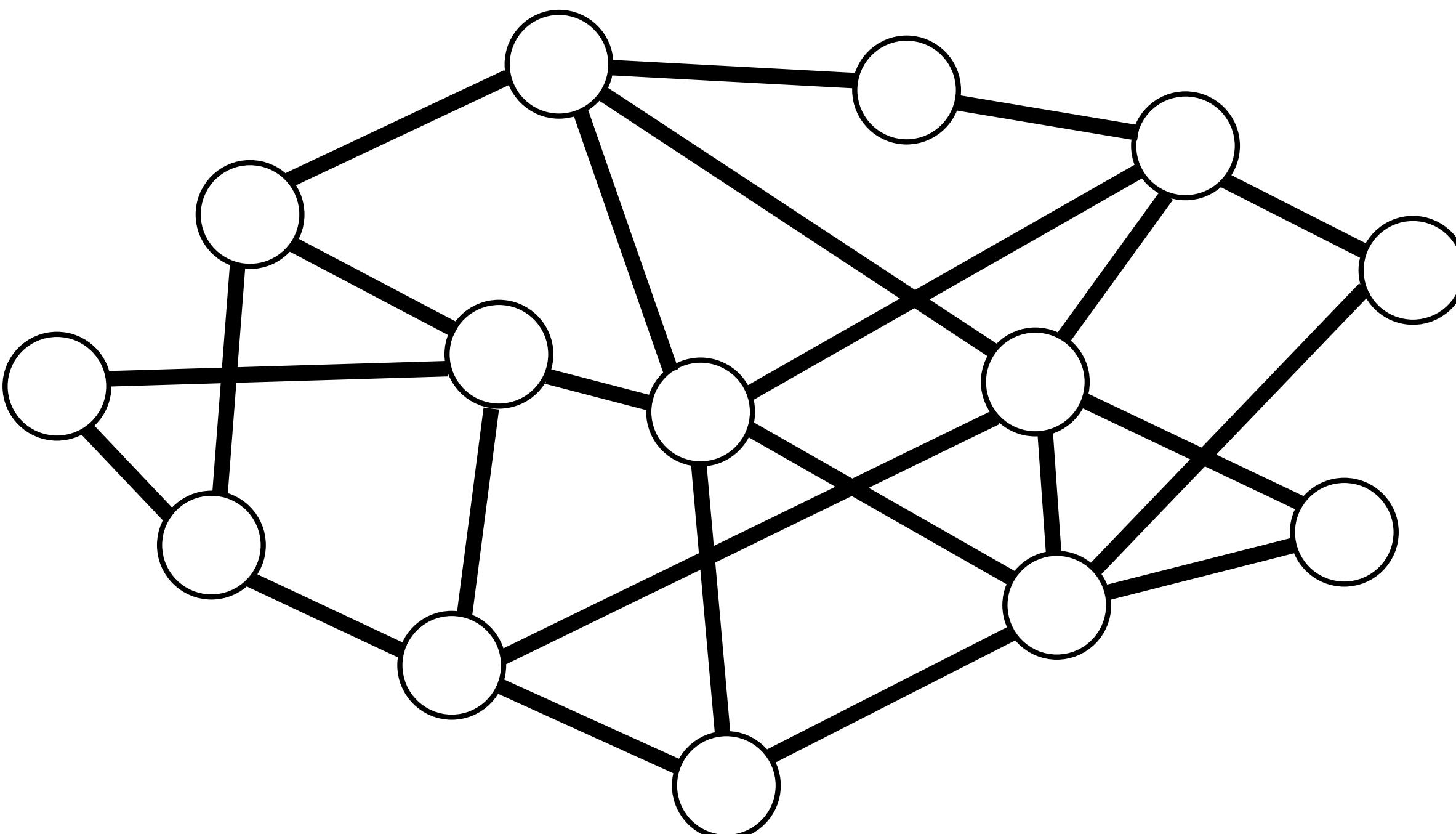


PACS, Tallinn

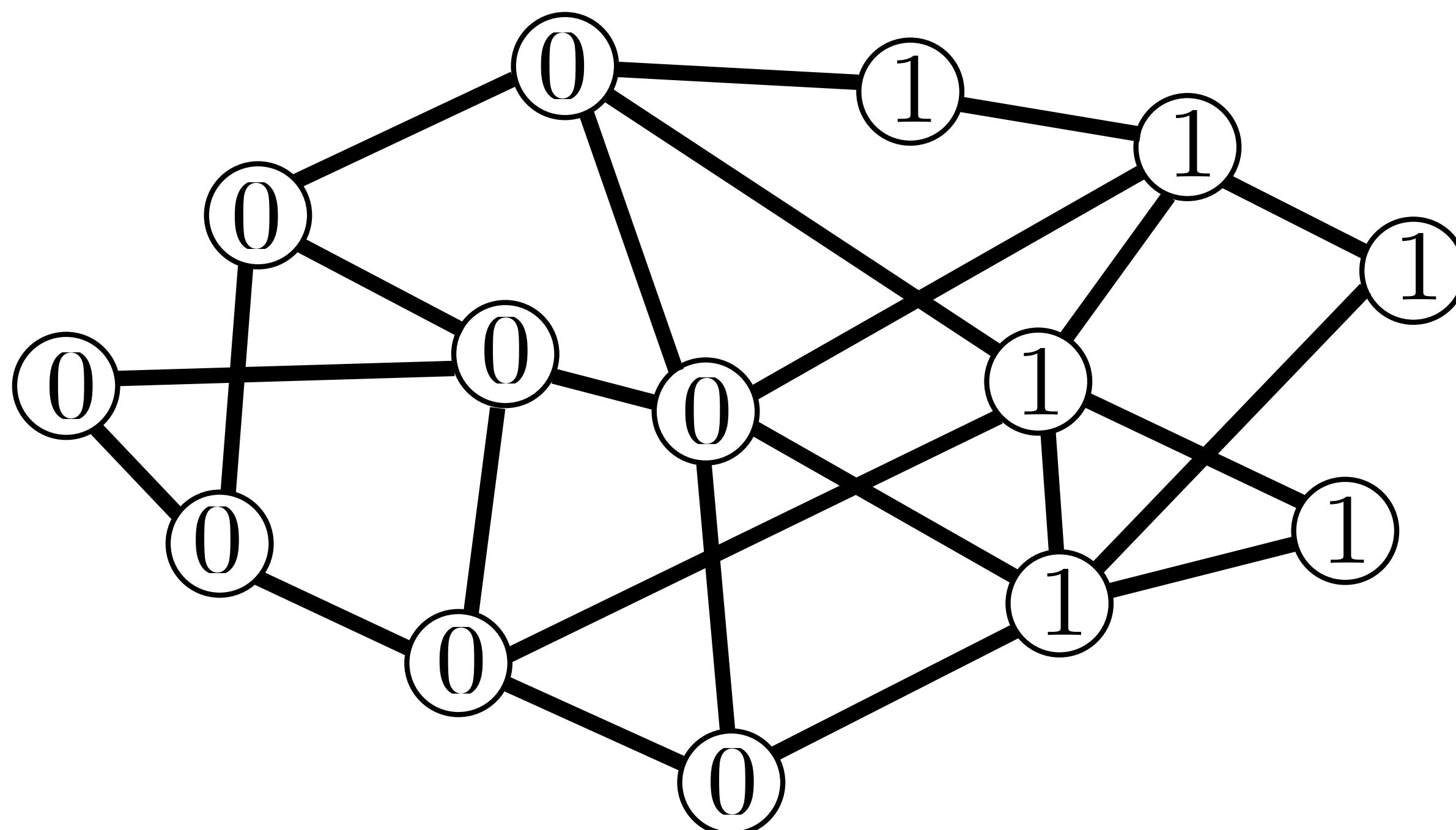
7th July 2024

# 2-Colour

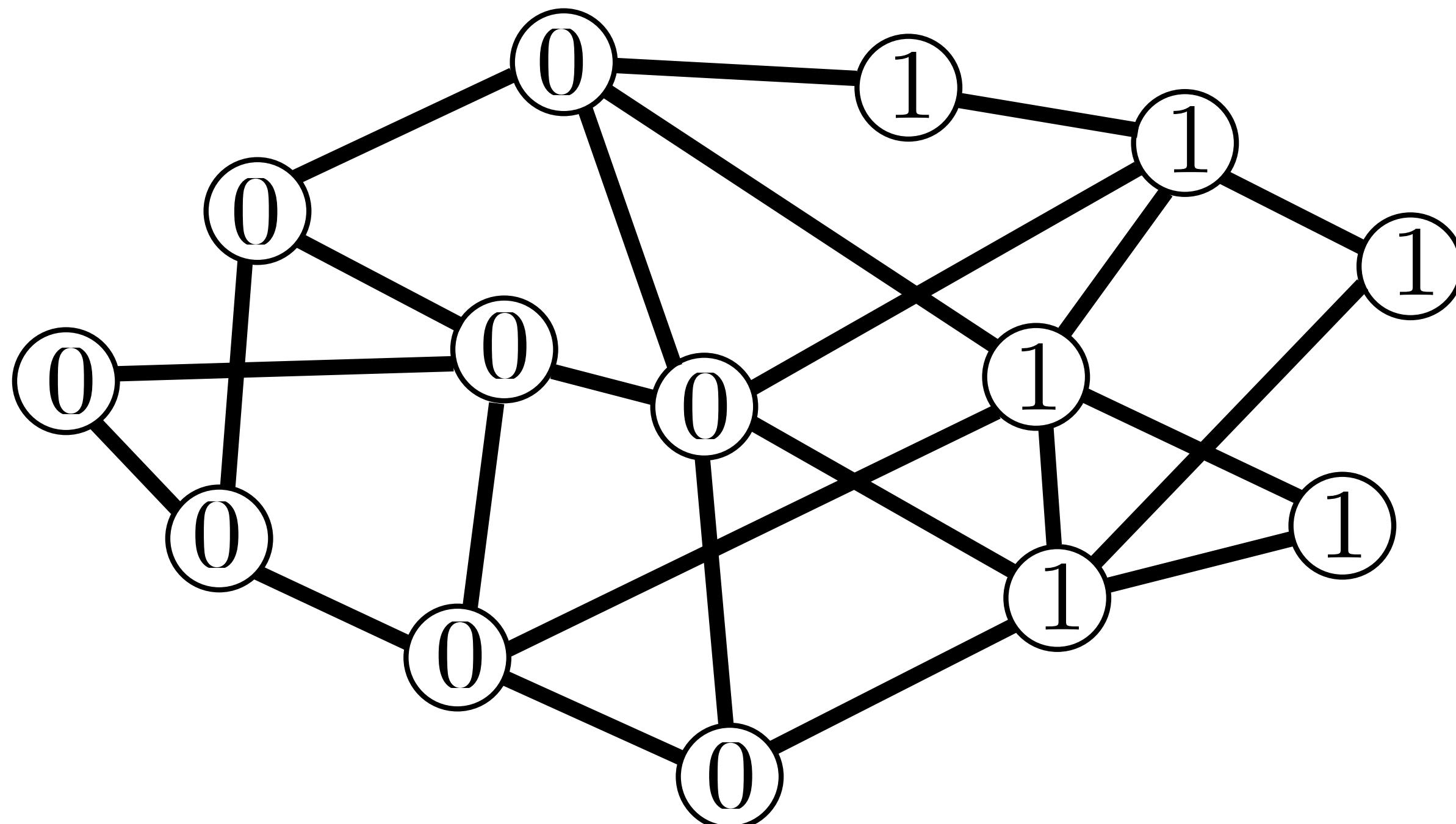
# 2-Colour



# 2-Colour

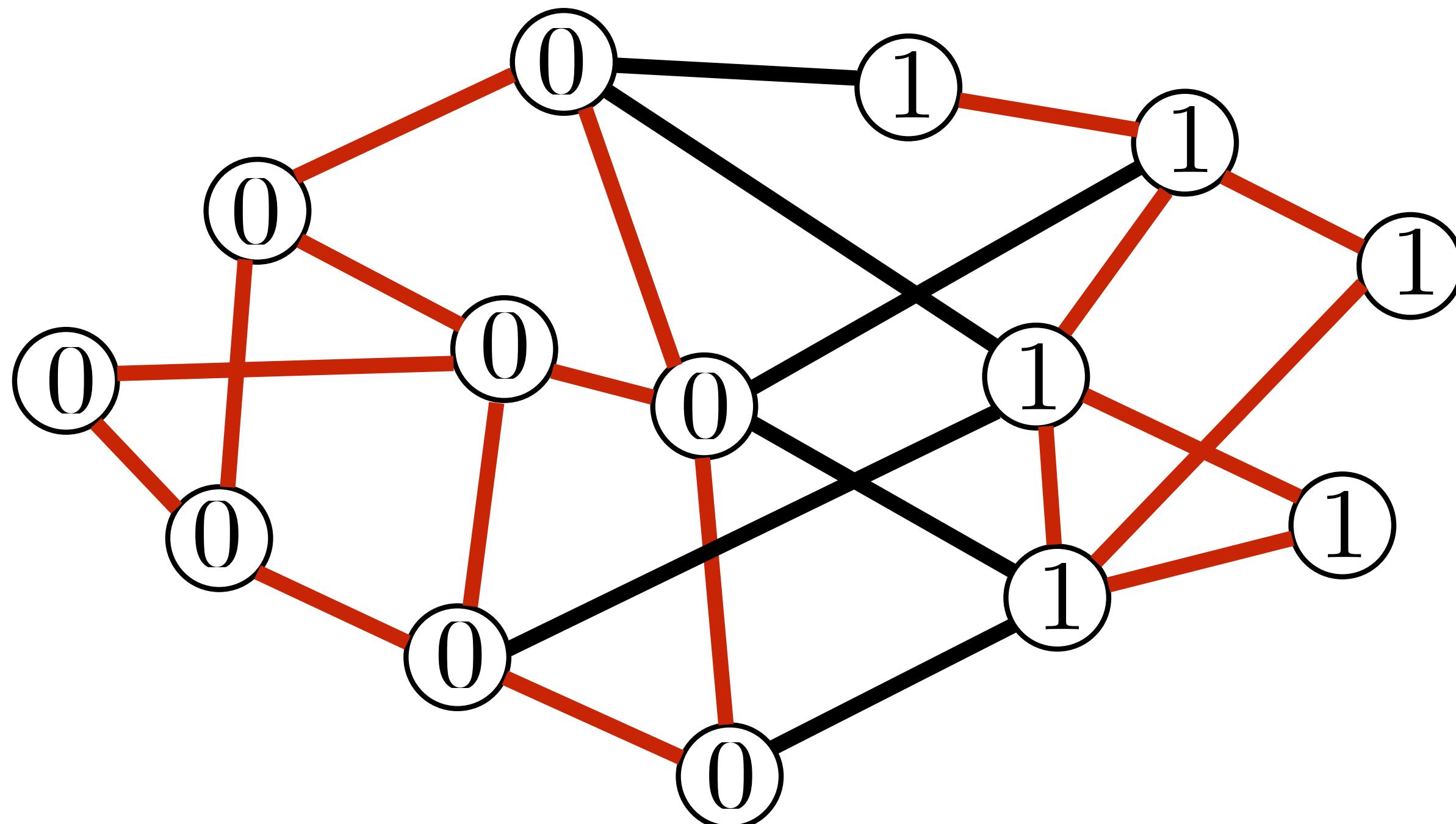


# 2-Colour

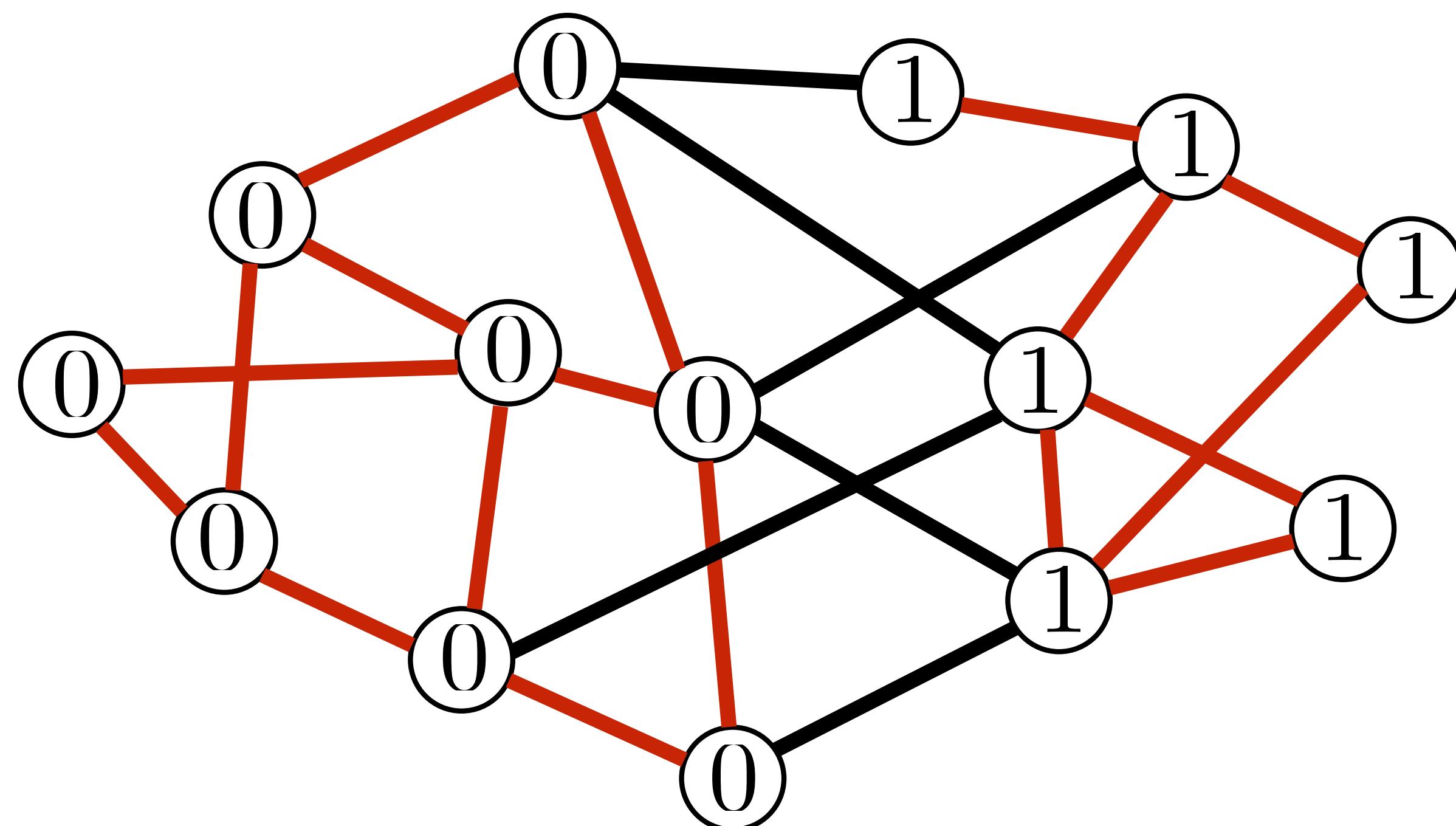


- PTIME

# Min-UnCut



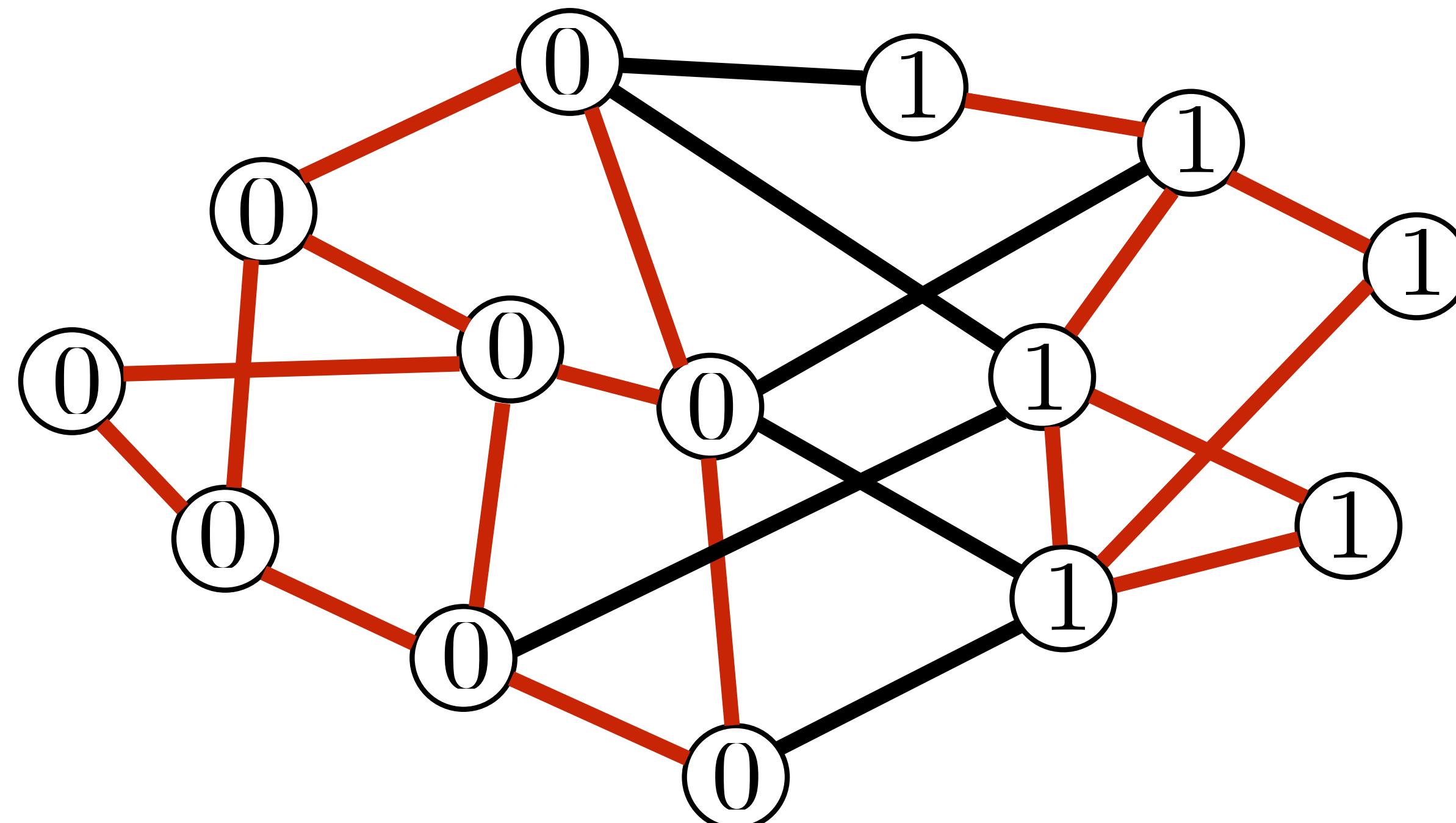
# Min-UnCut



- APX-hard

[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]

# Min-UnCut

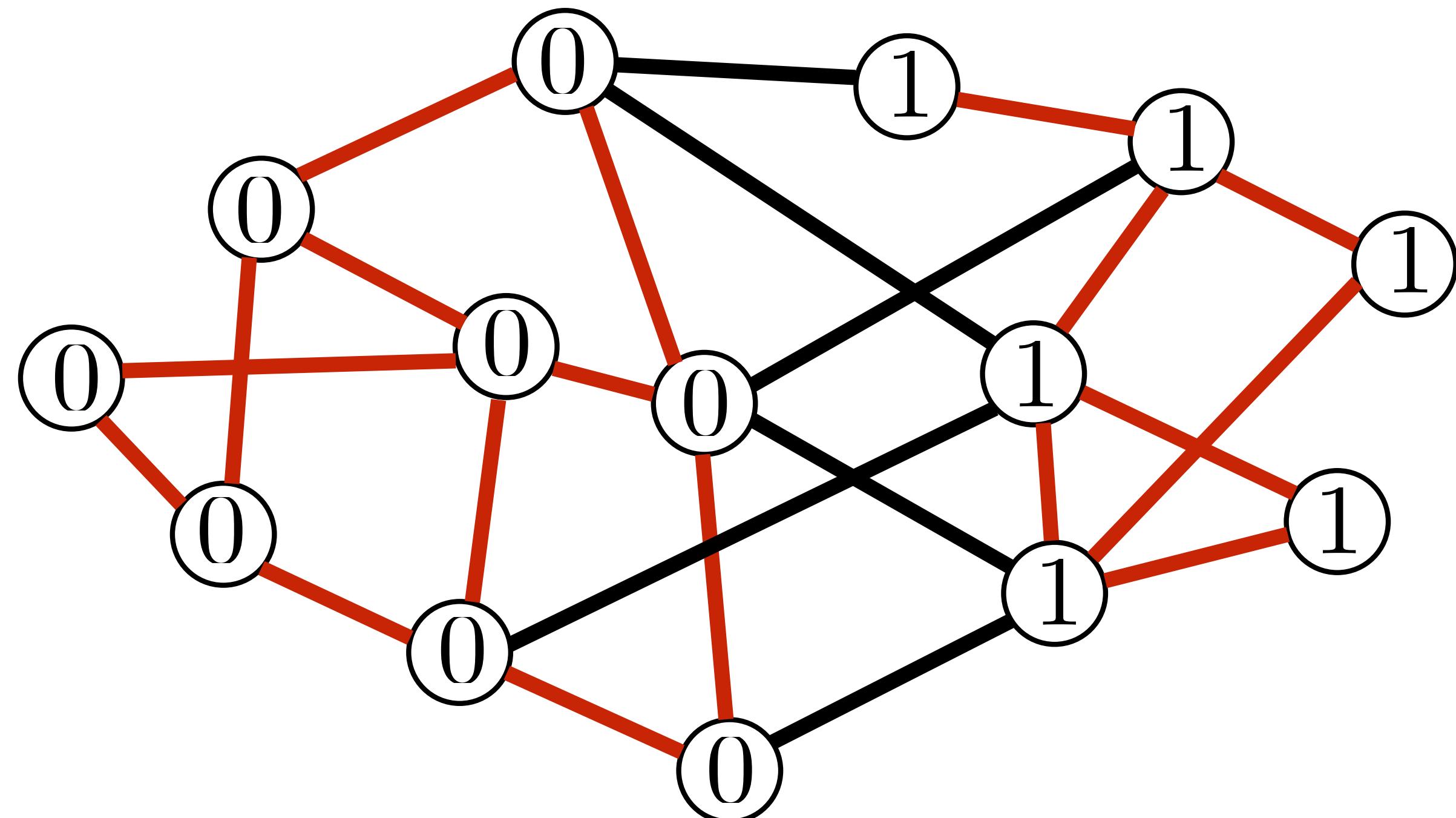


- APX-hard
- $O(\sqrt{\log n})$ -approx

[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]

[Agarwal et al. STOC'05]

# Min-UnCut



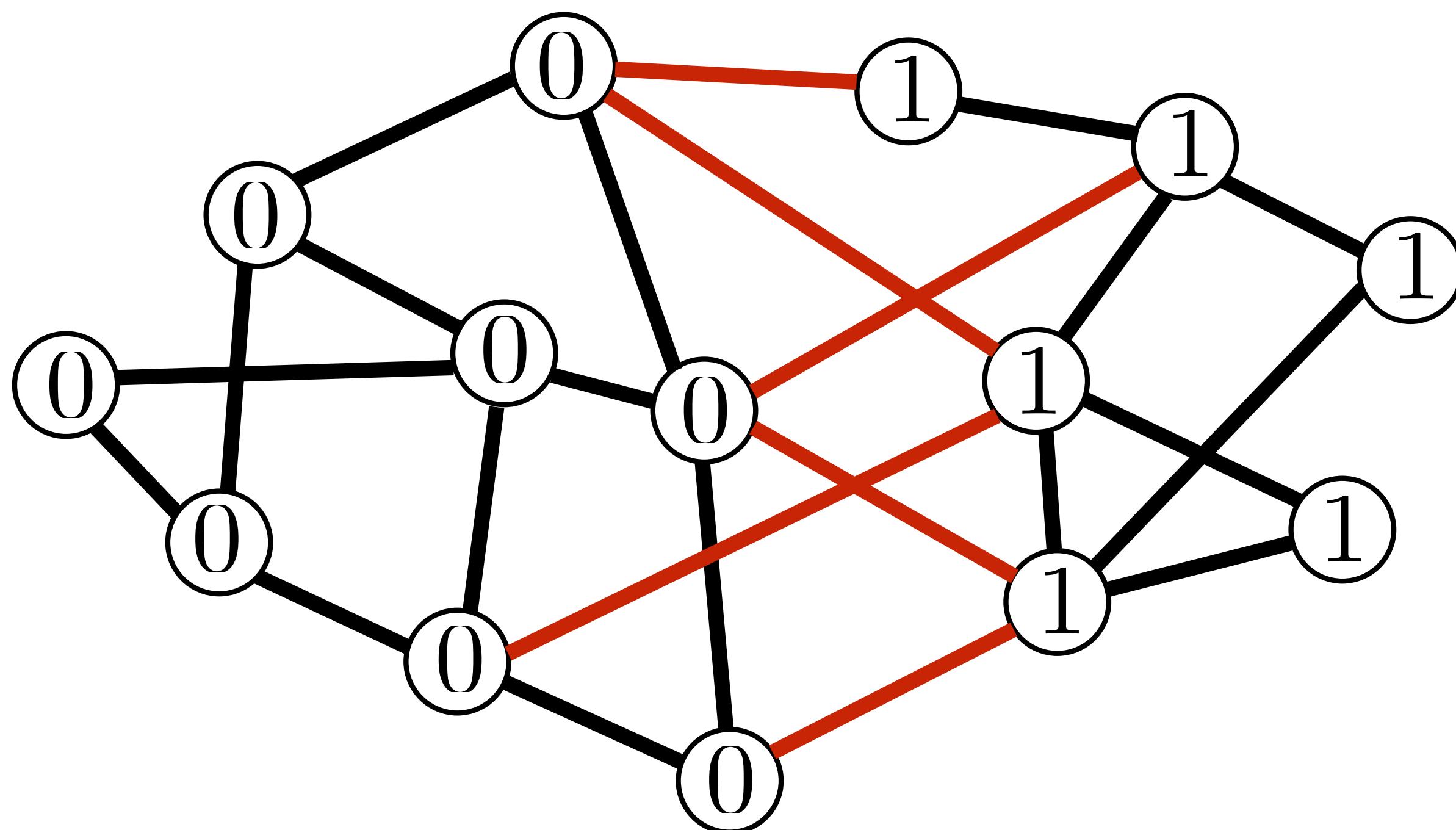
- APX-hard
- $O(\sqrt{\log n})$ -approx
- no  $O(1)$ -approx, under UGC

[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]

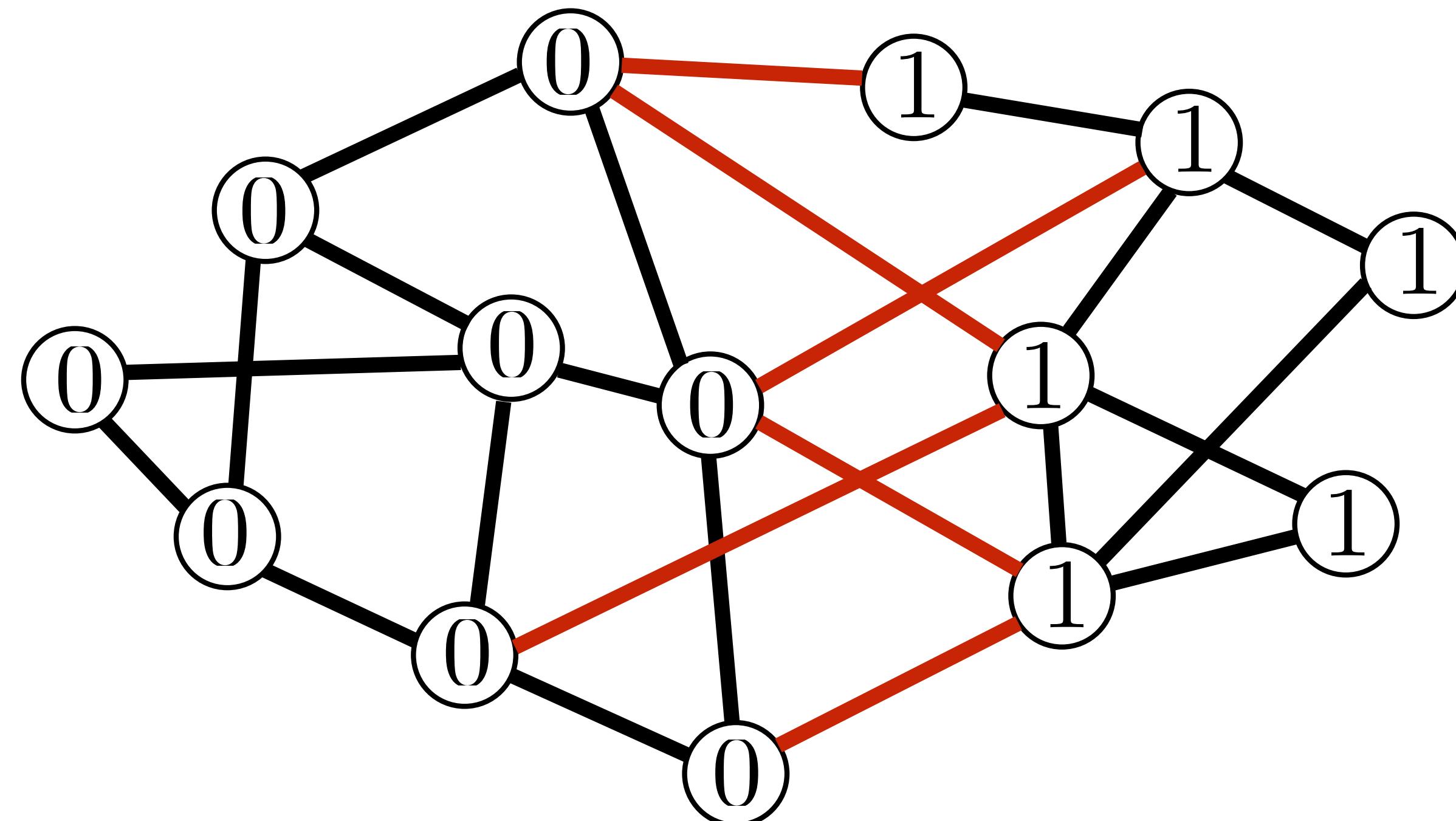
[Agarwal et al. STOC'05]

[Chawla et al. CC'06, Khot-Vishnoi JACM'05]

# Max-Cut



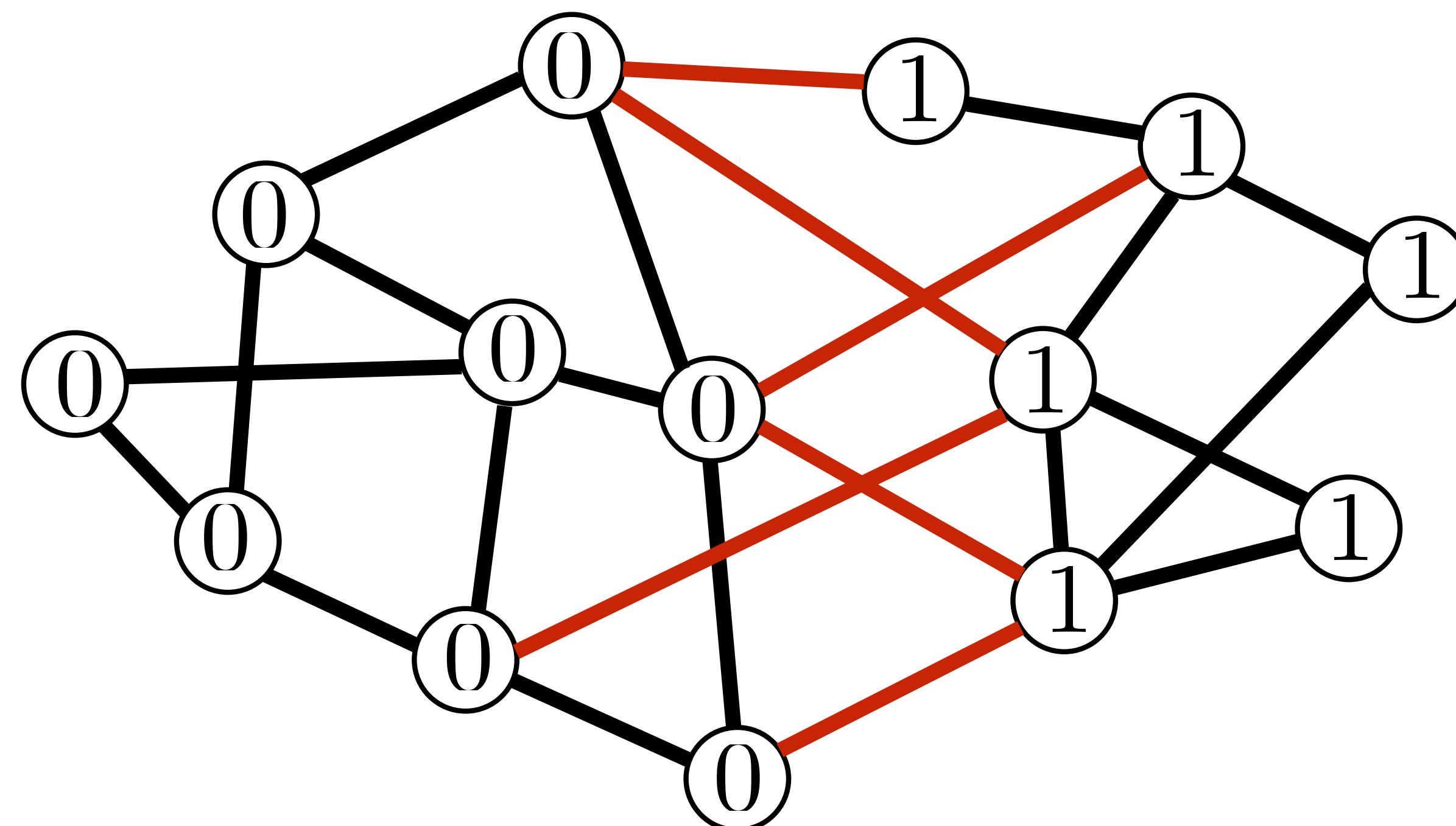
# Max-Cut



- APX-complete

[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]

# Max-Cut

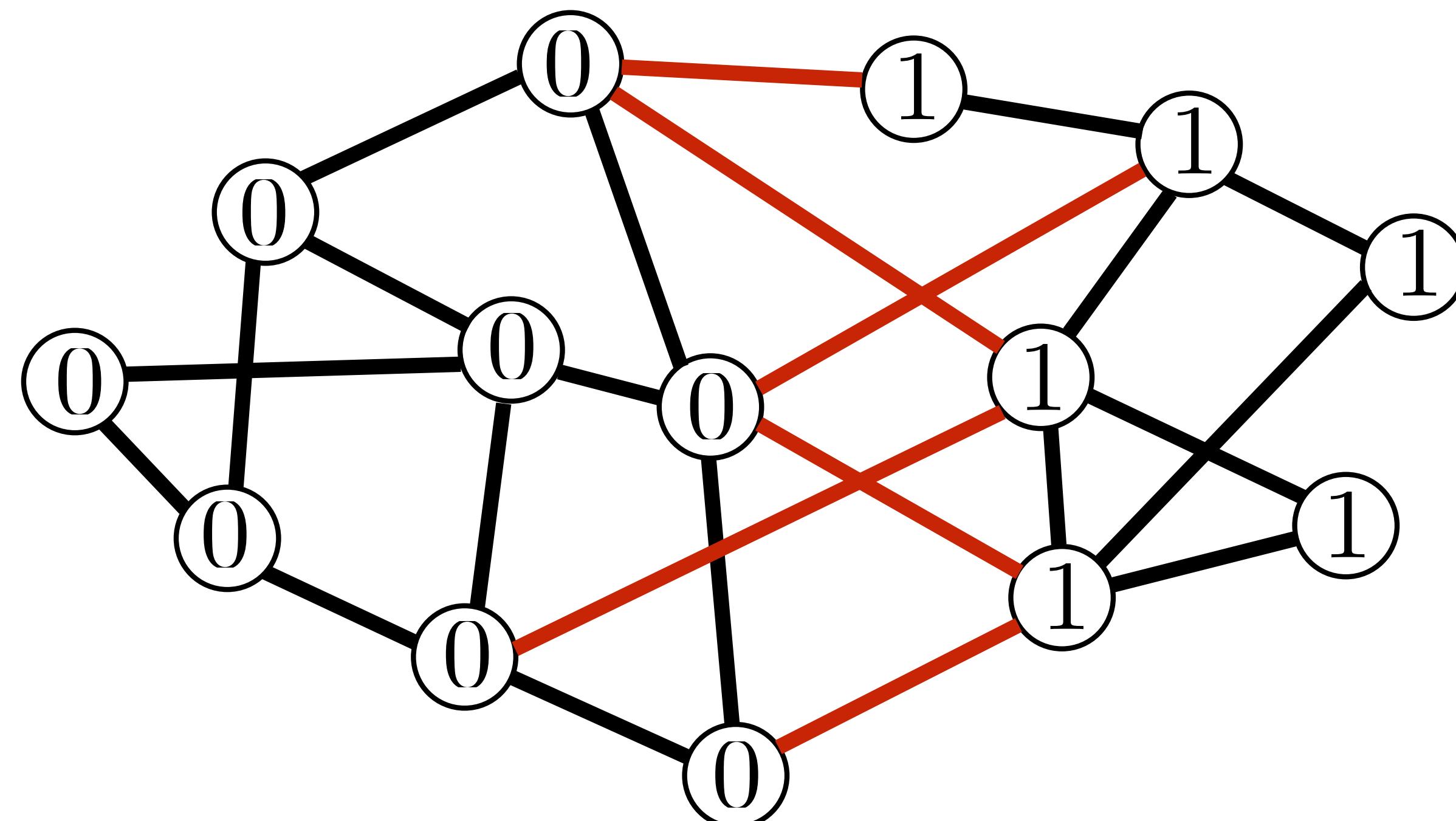


- APX-complete
- 0.878-approx

[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]

[Goemans-Williamson JACM'95]

# Max-Cut



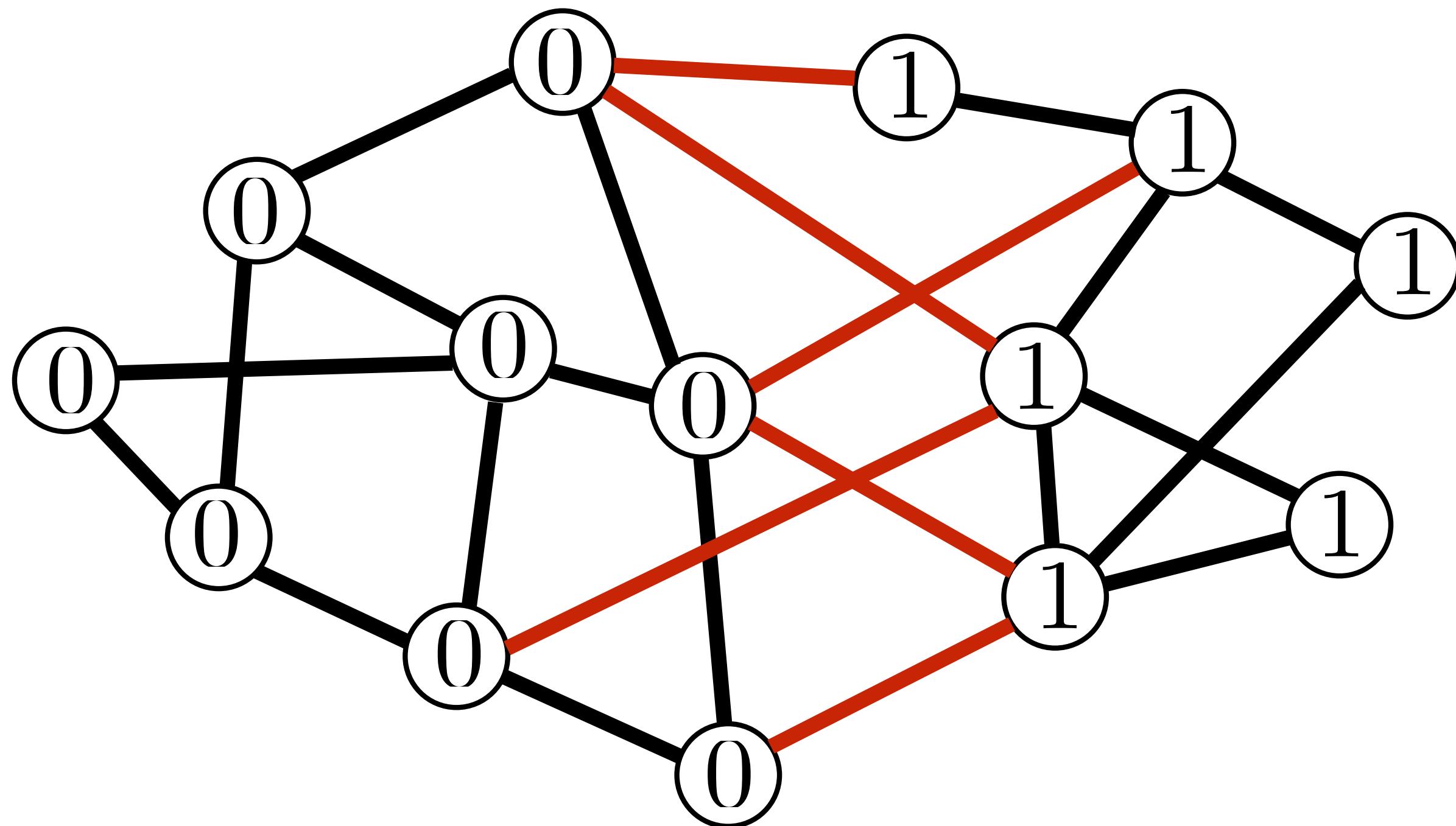
- APX-complete
- 0.878-approx
- 0.941-inapprox

[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]

[Goemans-Williamson JACM'95]

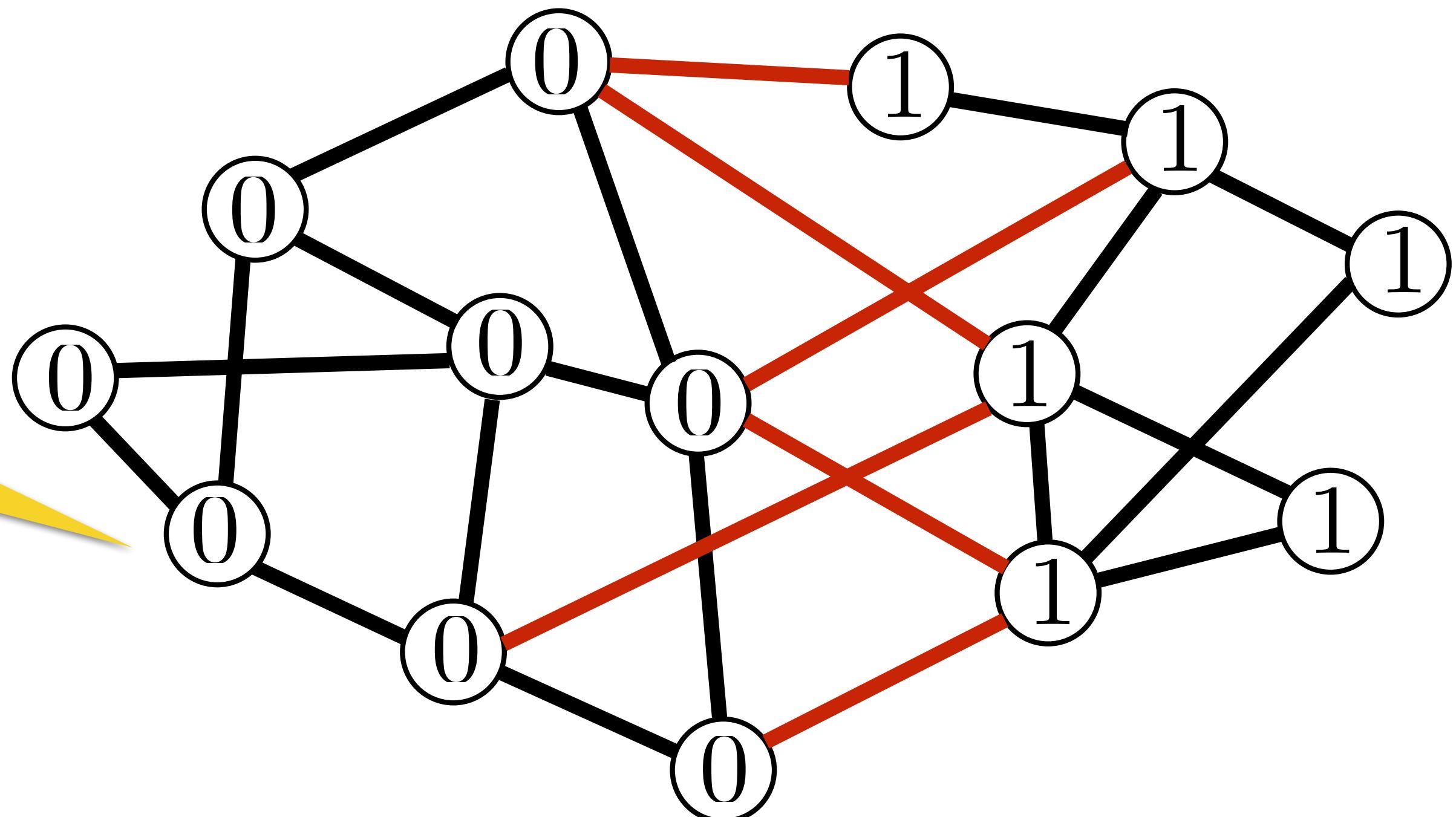
[Trevisan et al. SICOMP'00]

# Max-Cut



# Max-Cut

PTIME for planar  
[Hadlock SICOMP'75]



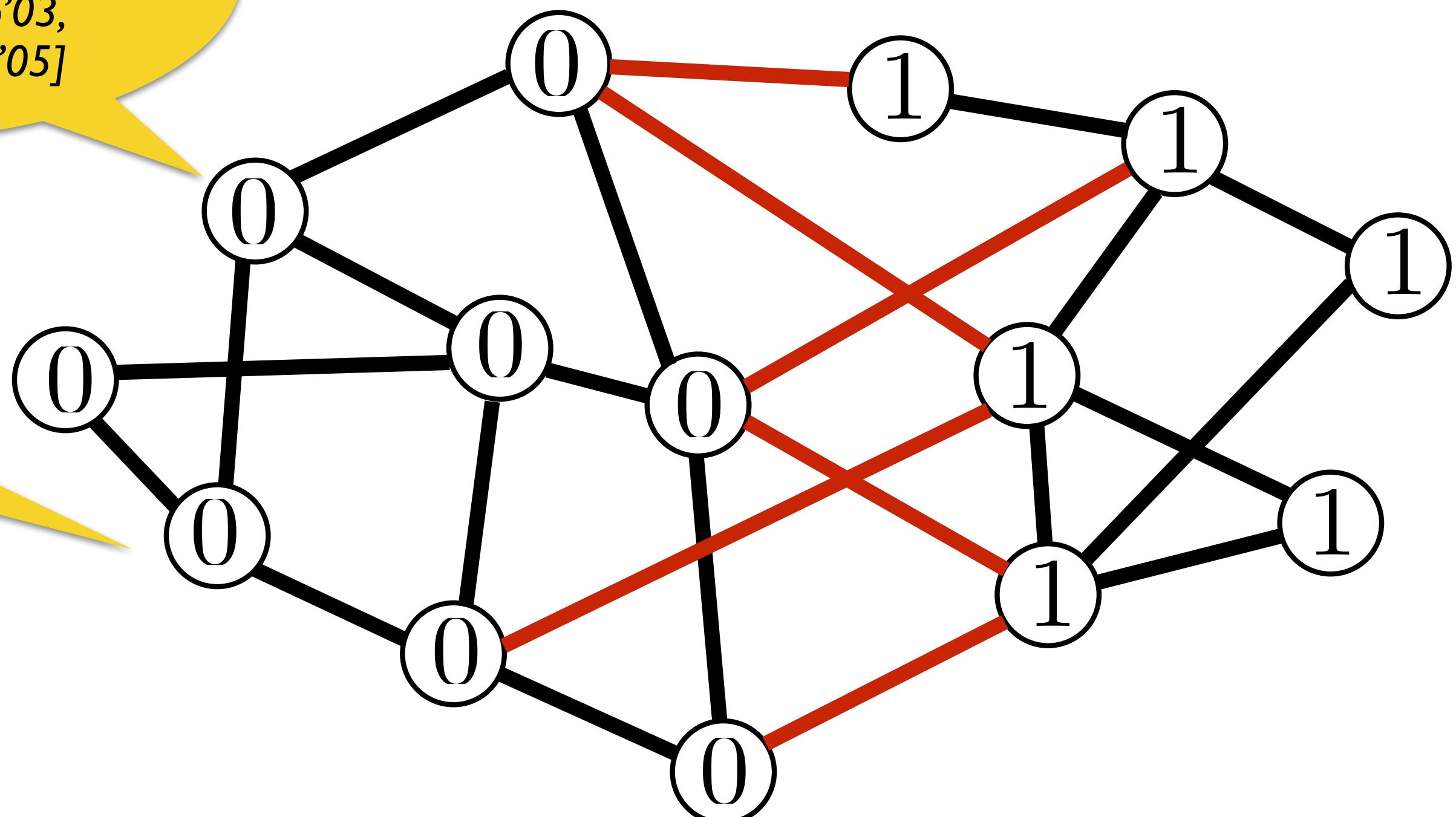
# Max-Cut

PTAS for sparse

[Grohe Comb'03,  
Demaine et al. FOCS'05]

PTIME for planar

[Hadlock SICOMP'75]



# Max-Cut

PTAS for sparse

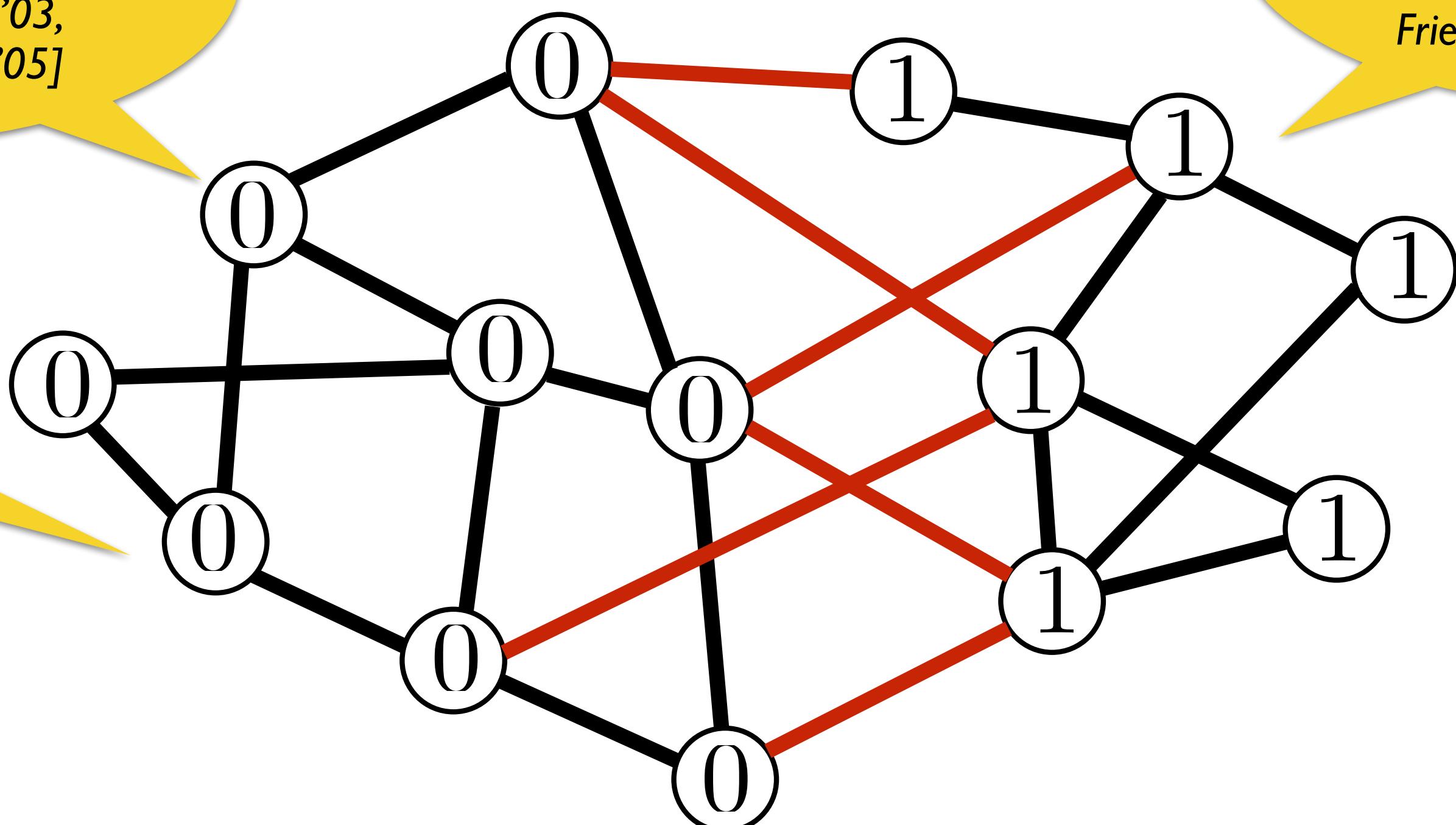
[Grohe Comb'03,  
Demaine et al. FOCS'05]

PTIME for planar

[Hadlock SICOMP'75]

PTAS for dense

[Arora et al. STOC'95,  
Frieze & Kannan FOCS'96]



# Max-Cut

PTAS for sparse

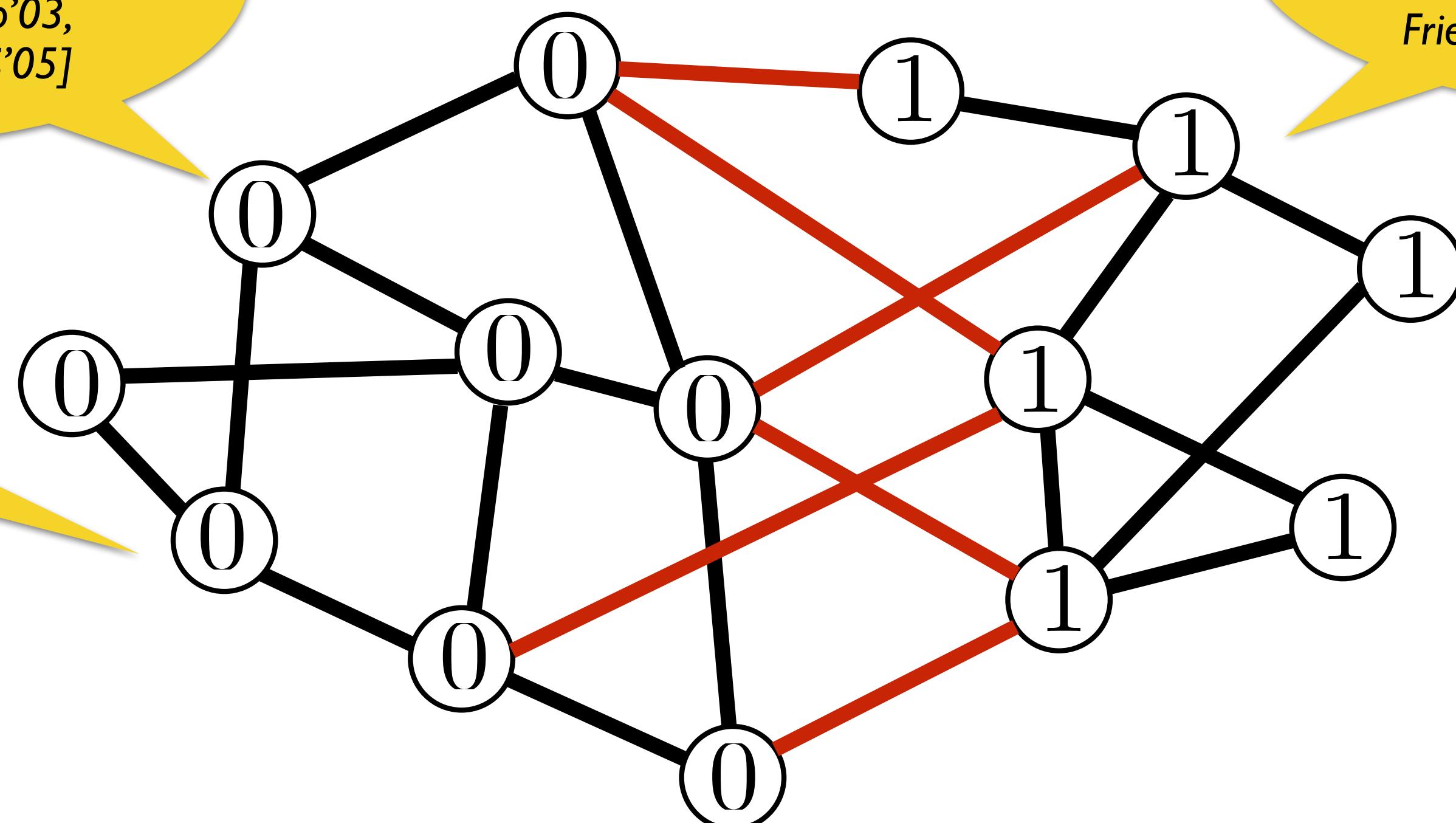
[Grohe Comb'03,  
Demaine et al. FOCS'05]

PTIME for planar

[Hadlock SICOMP'75]

PTAS for dense

[Arora et al. STOC'95,  
Frieze & Kannan FOCS'96]



What mathematical structure explains this?



Balázs Mezei



Miguel Romero

PUC



Marcin Wrochna

Warsaw

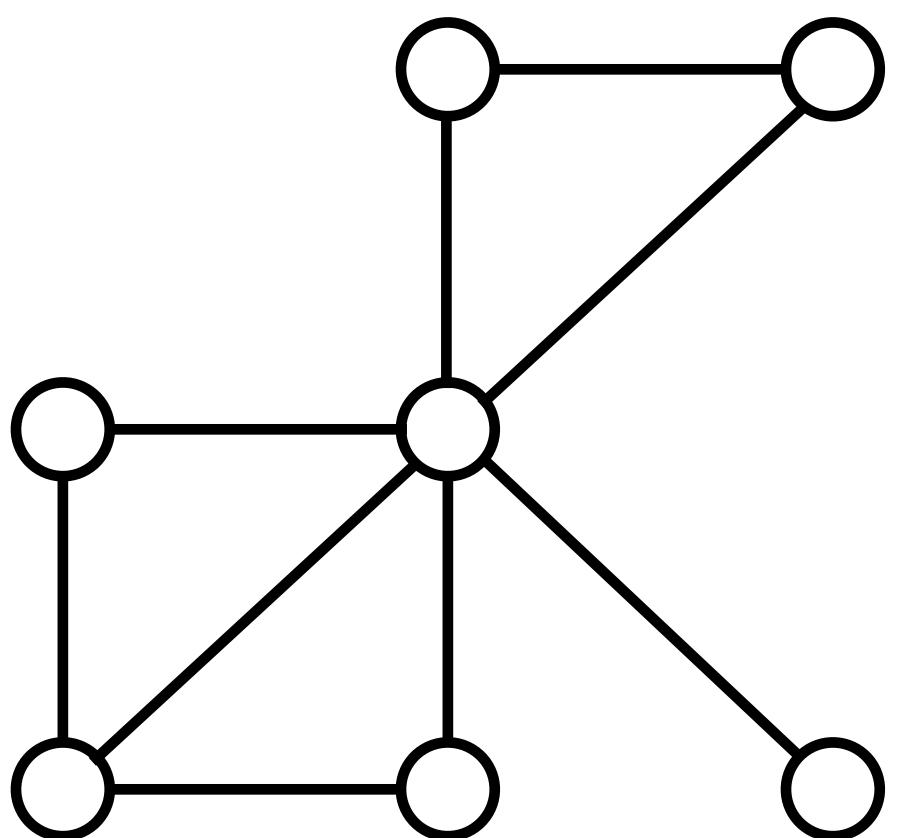
- **Pliability and approximating MaxCSPs**
- **PTAS for general sparse general-valued CSPs**

[RWŻ SODA'21, JACM'23]

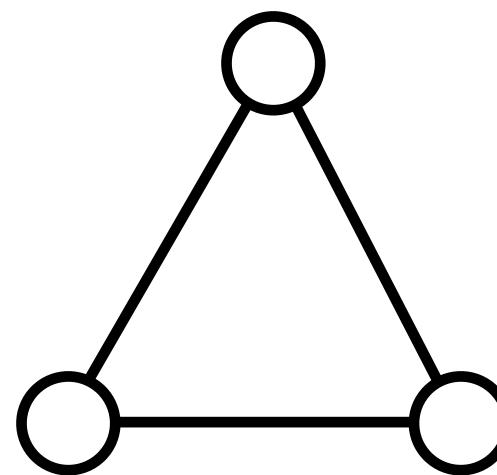
[MWŻ LICS'21, ACM TALG'23]

# CSP

A

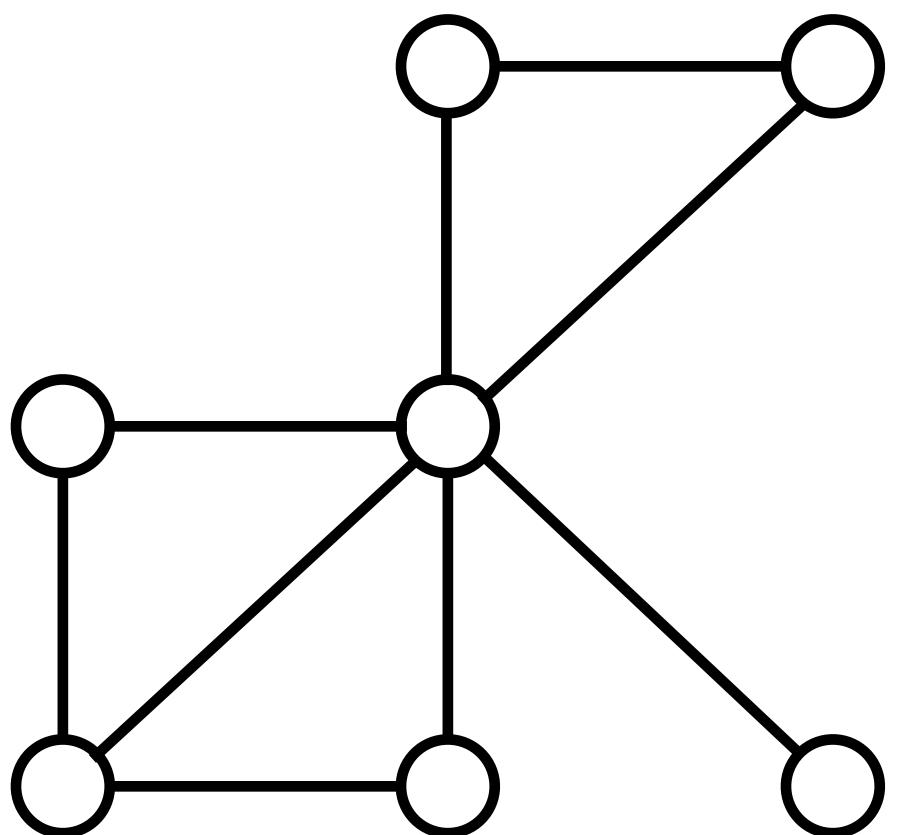


B

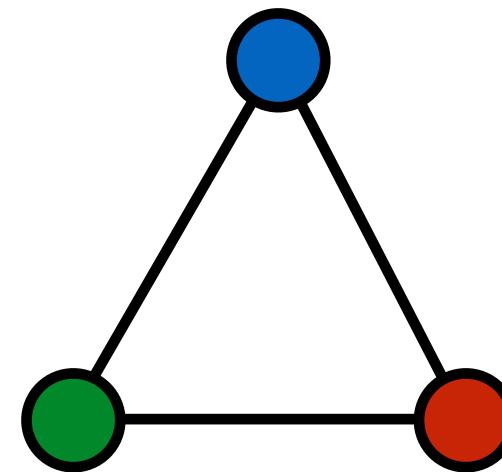


# CSP

A

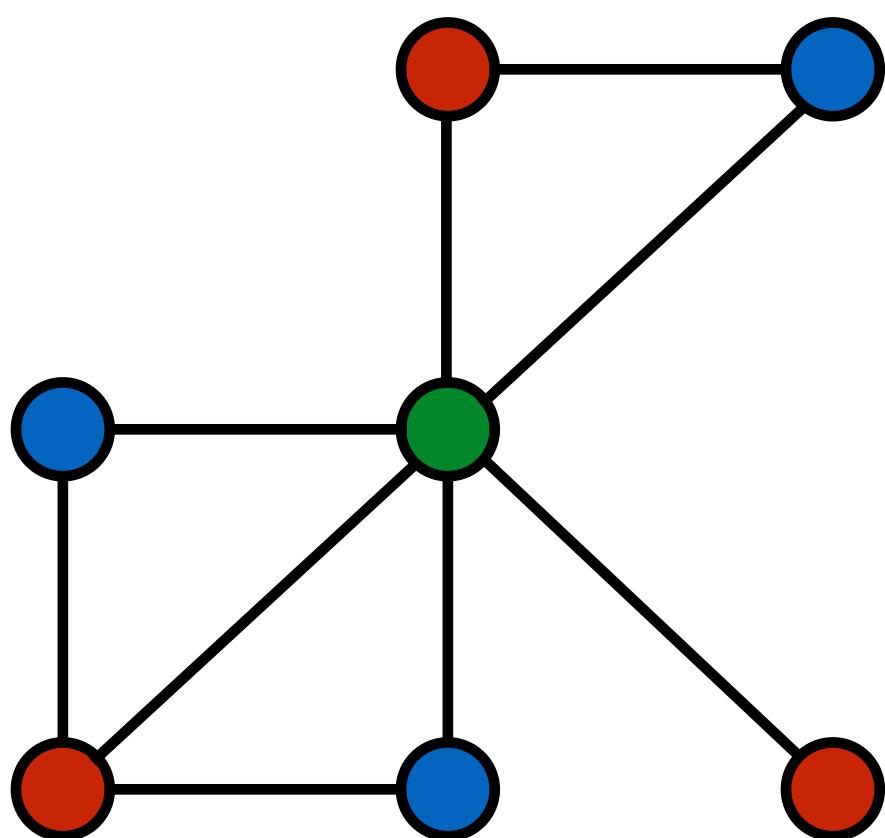


B

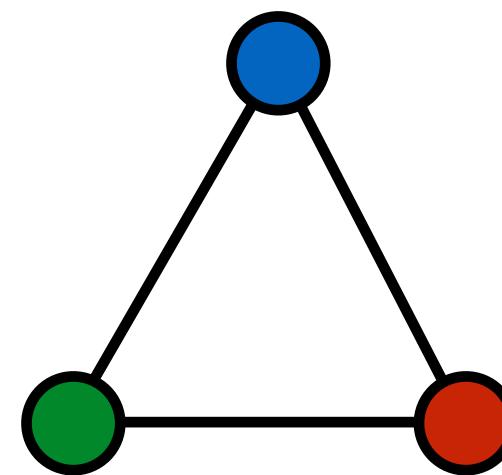


# CSP

A

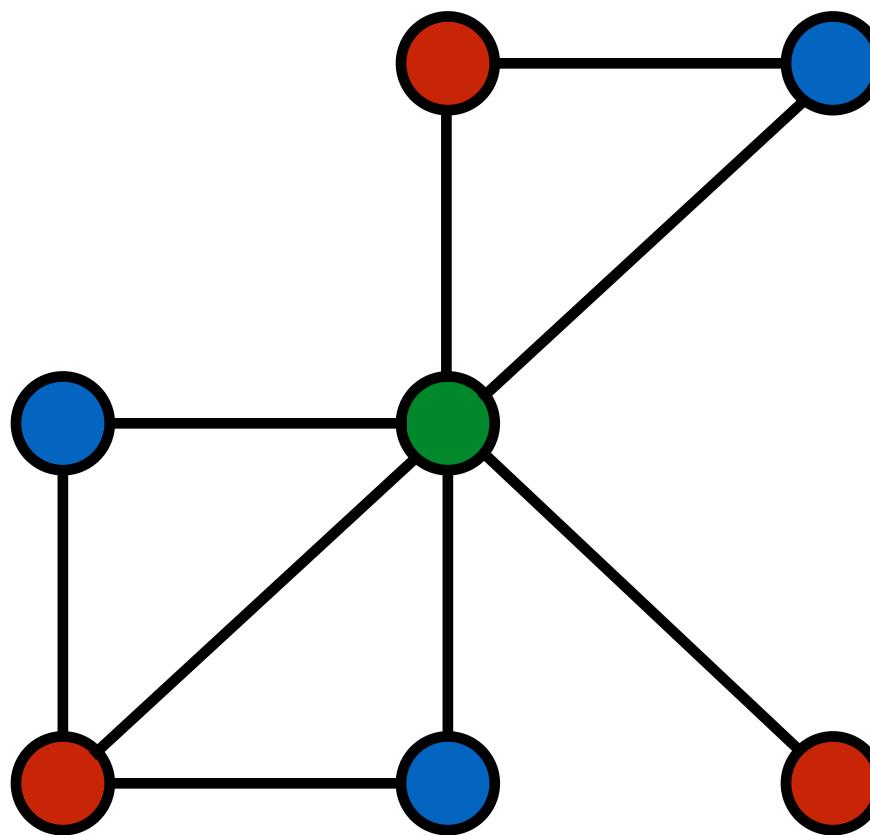


B

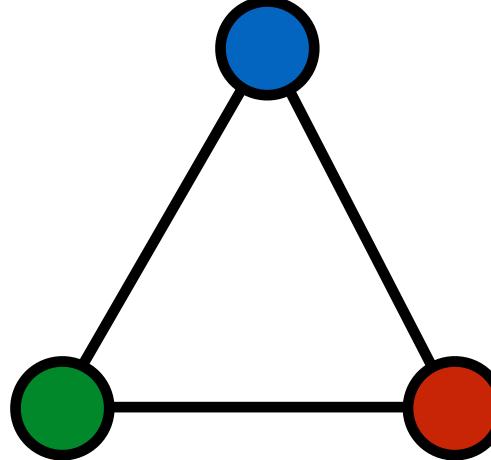


# CSP(-, B)

A

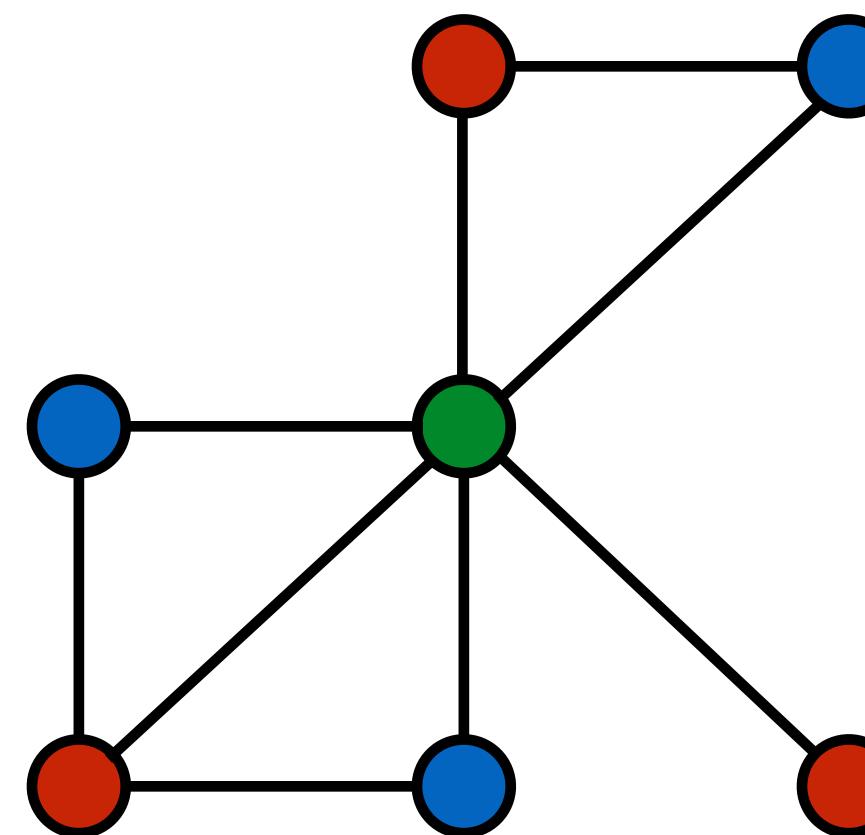


B

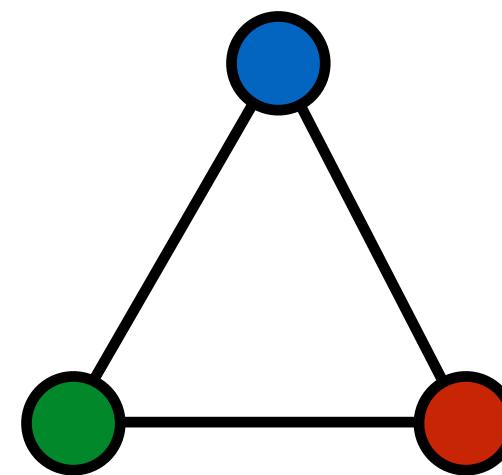


# $CSP(-, B)$

A



B

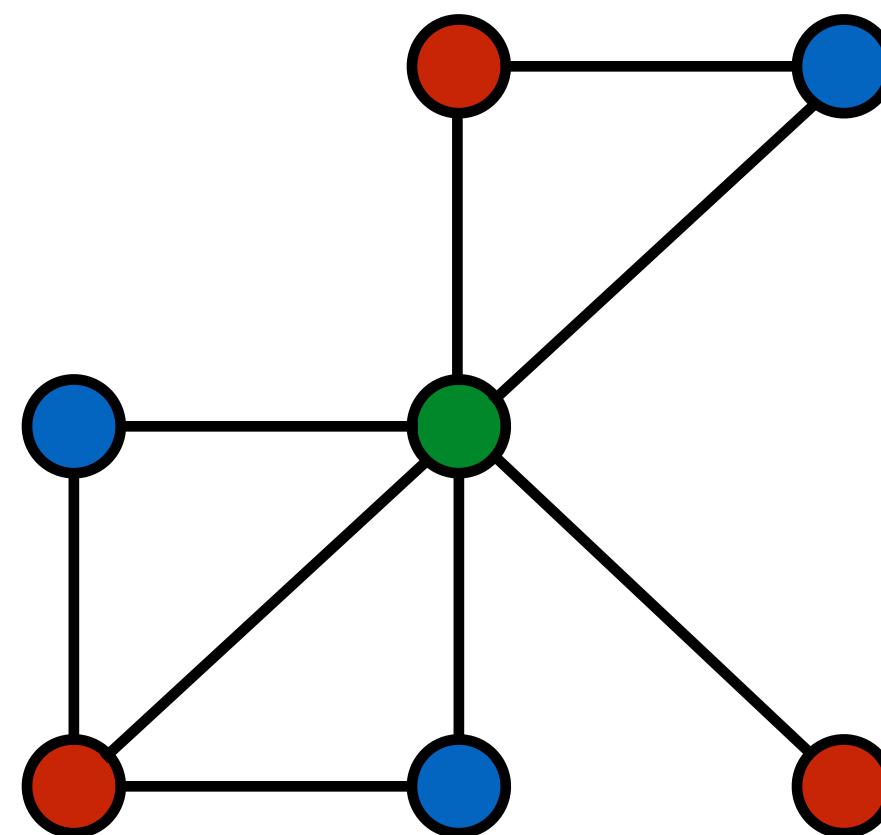


- $CSP(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP-complete}$

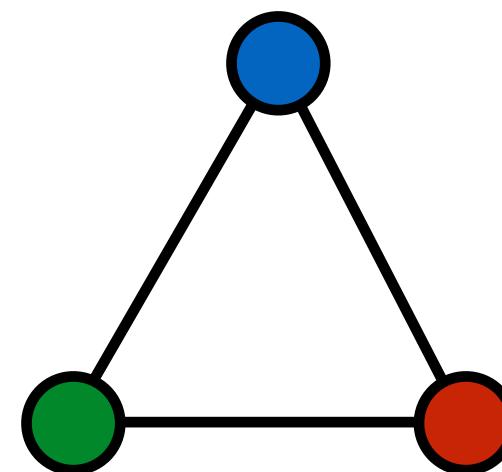
[Hell-Nešetřil JCTB'90]

# $CSP(-, B)$

A



B



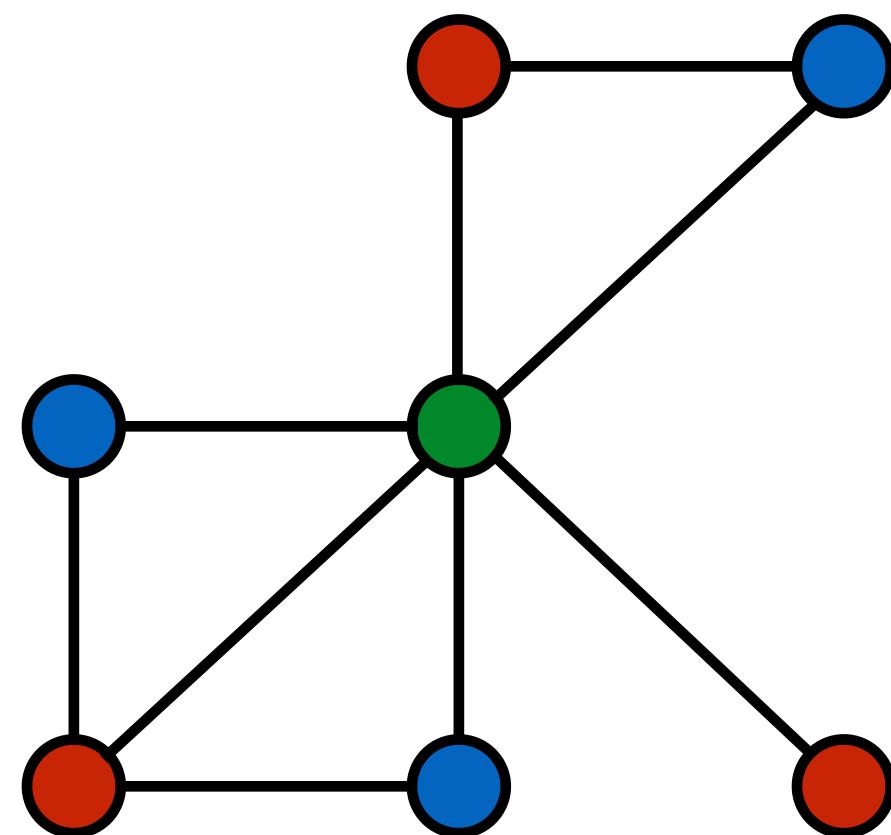
- $CSP(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete
- $CSP(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete

[Hell-Nešetřil JCTB'90]

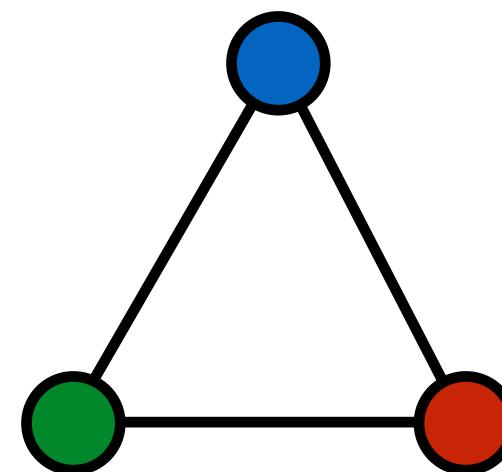
[Bulatov FOCS'17, Zhuk FOCS'17]

# $CSP(-, B)$

A



B



digraph

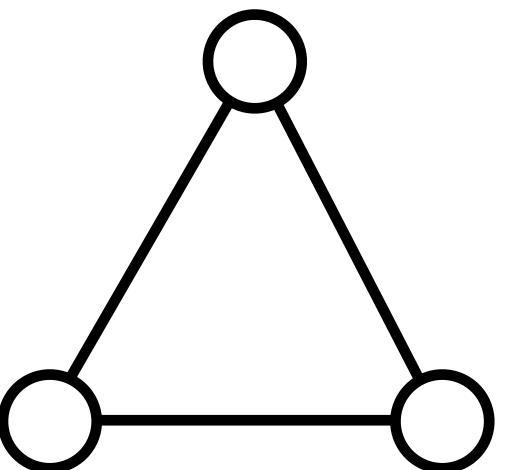
- $CSP(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete
- $CSP(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete

[Hell-Nešetřil JCTB'90]

[Bulatov FOCS'17, Zhuk FOCS'17]

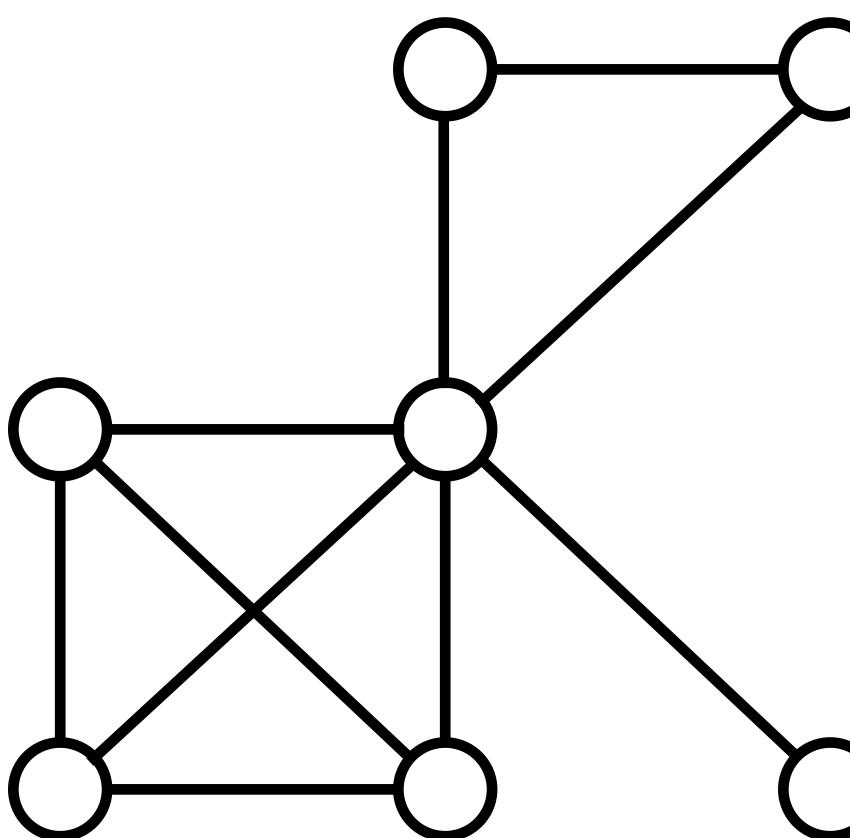
# CSP

A



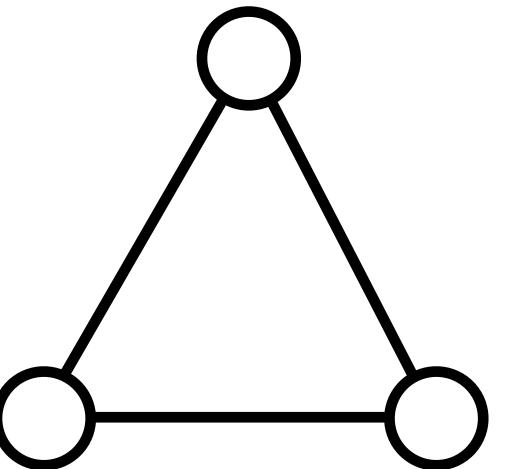
?

B

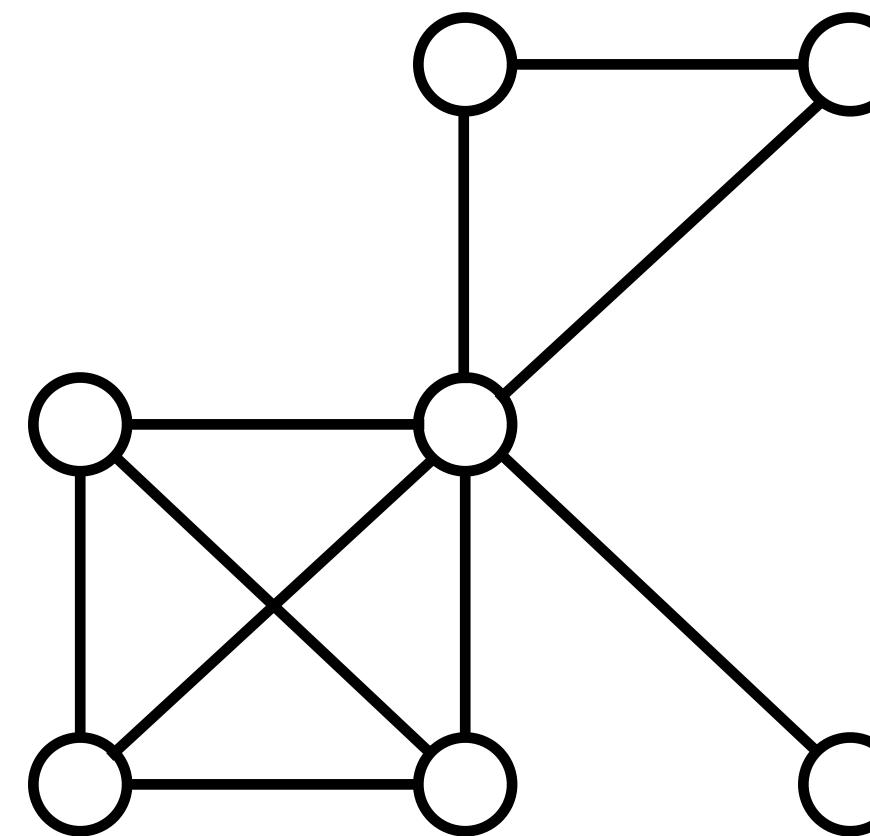


$CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$

A



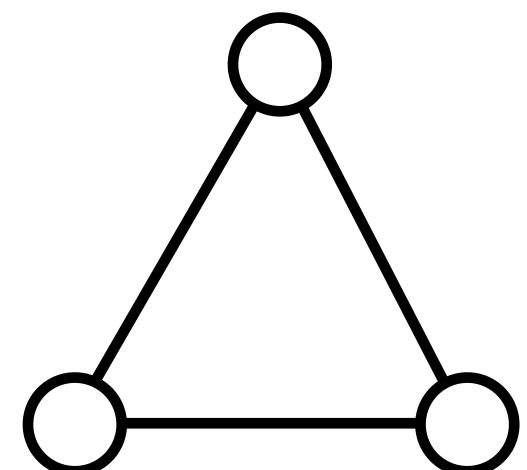
B



$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

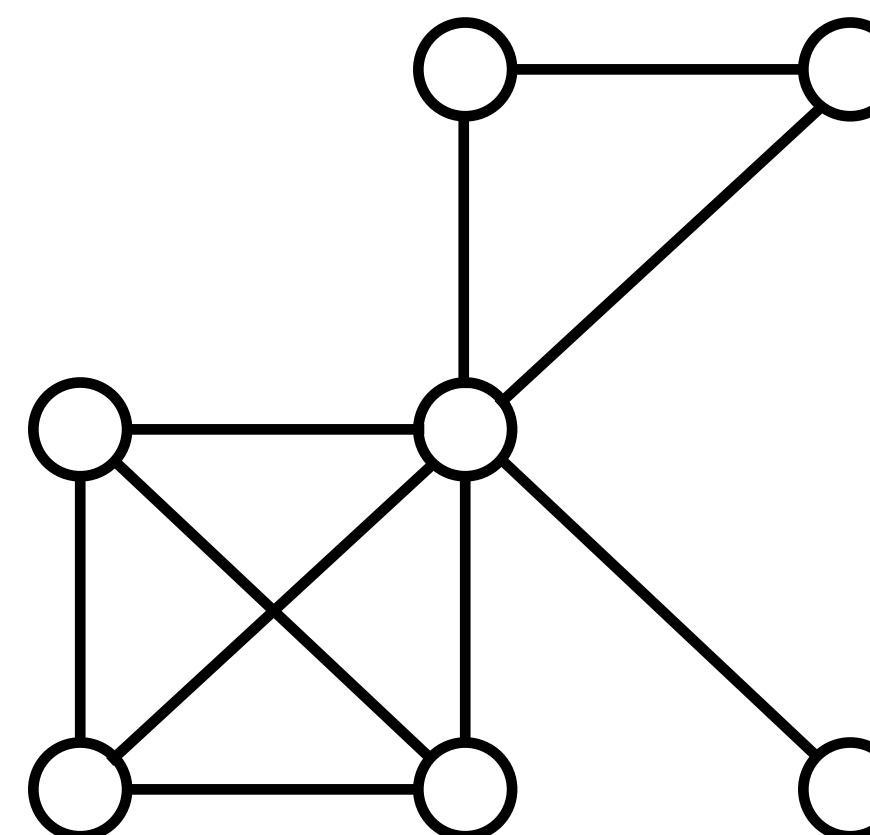
# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$

A



?

B



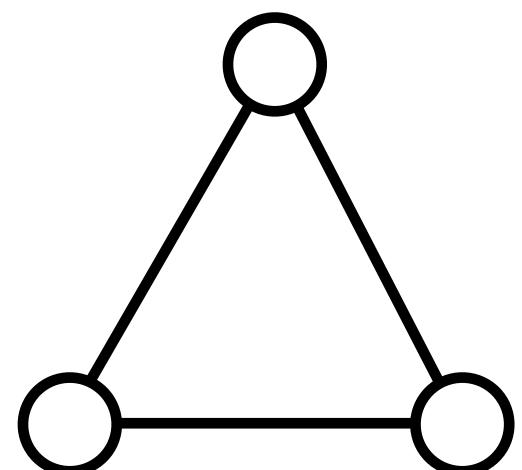
$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded

[Freuder AAAI'90]

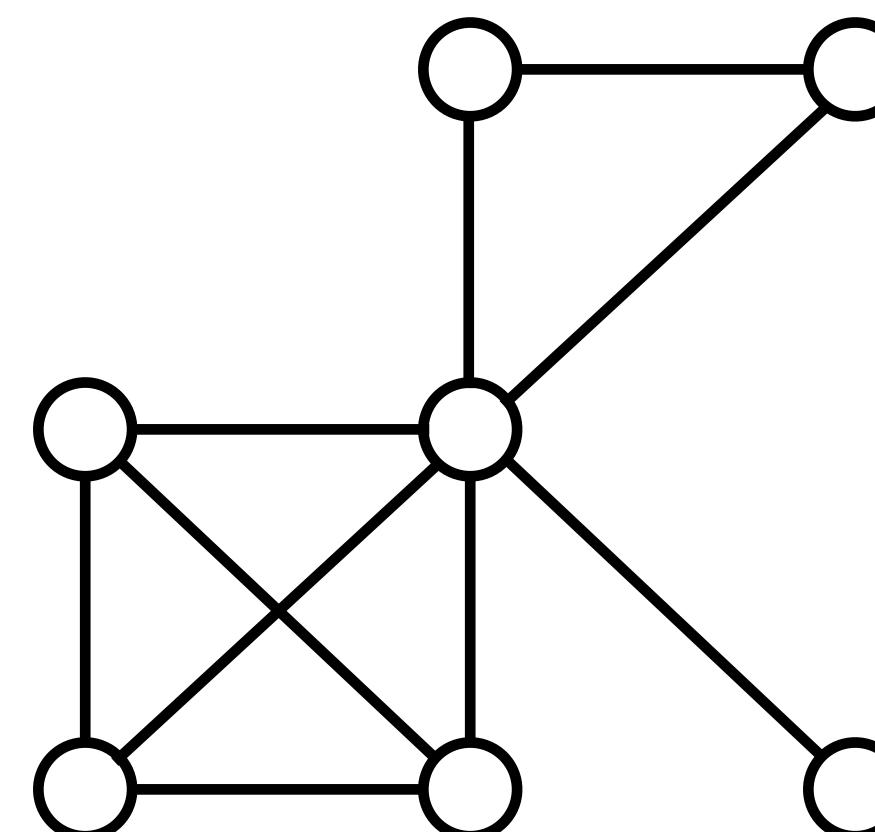
# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$

A



?

B



$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

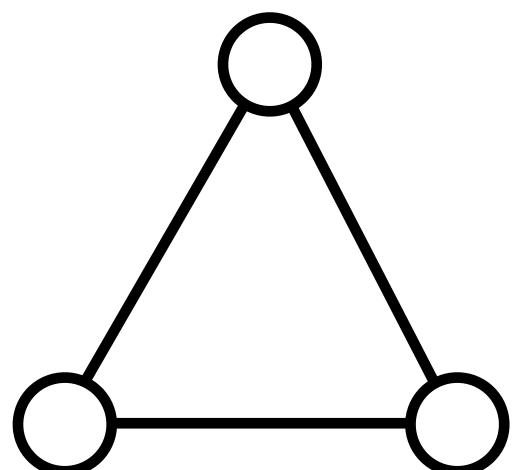
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \notin \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded

[Freuder AAAI'90]

[Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

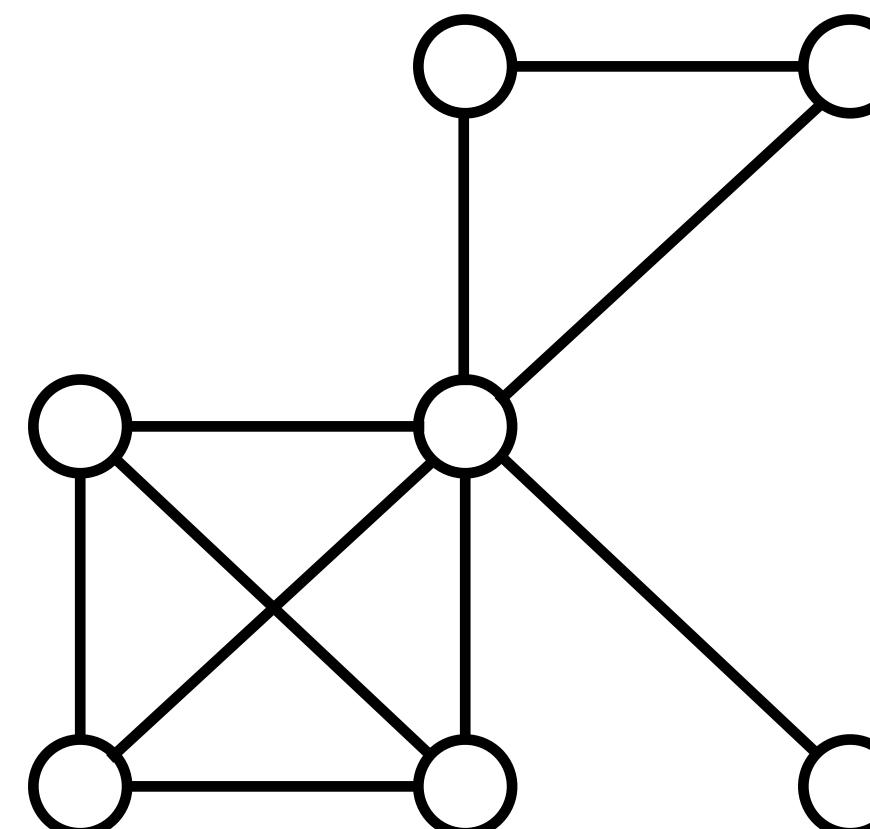
# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$

A



?

B



FPT ≠ W[1]

$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

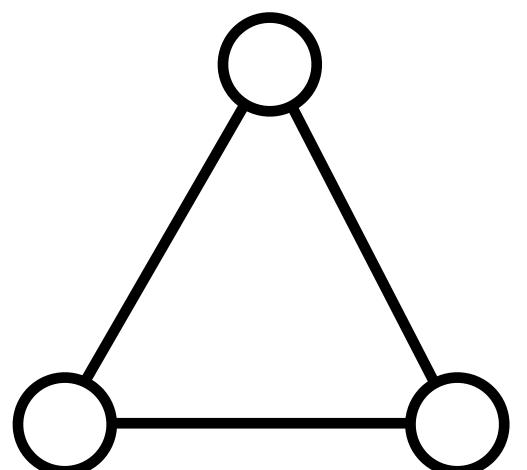
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \notin \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded

[Freuder AAAI'90]

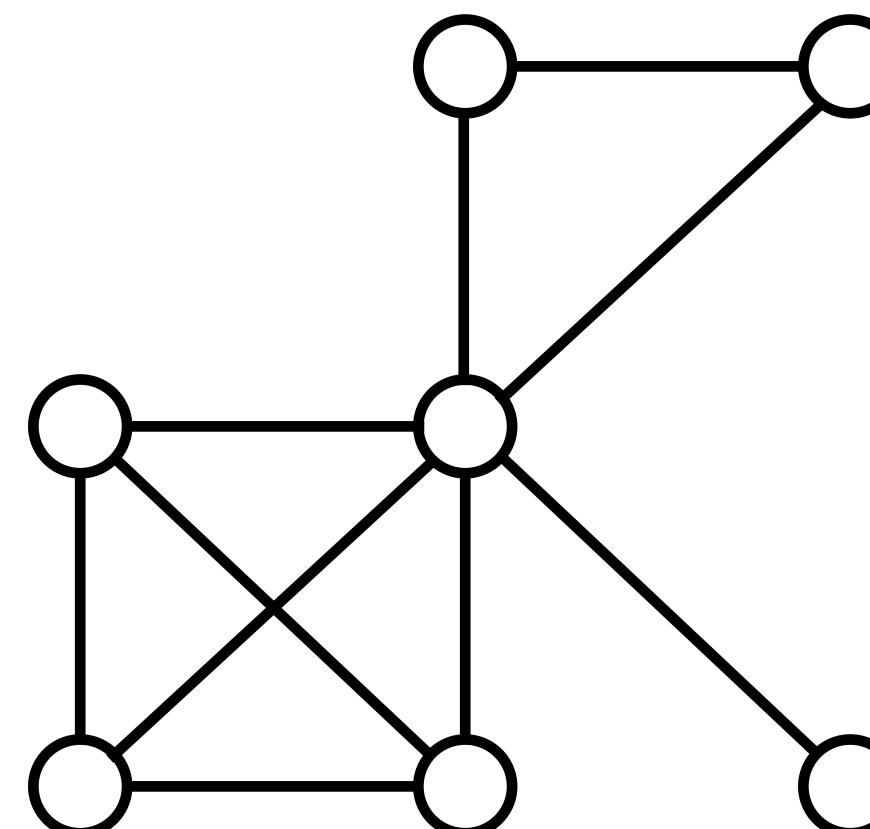
[Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$

A



B



FPT ≠ W[1]

$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

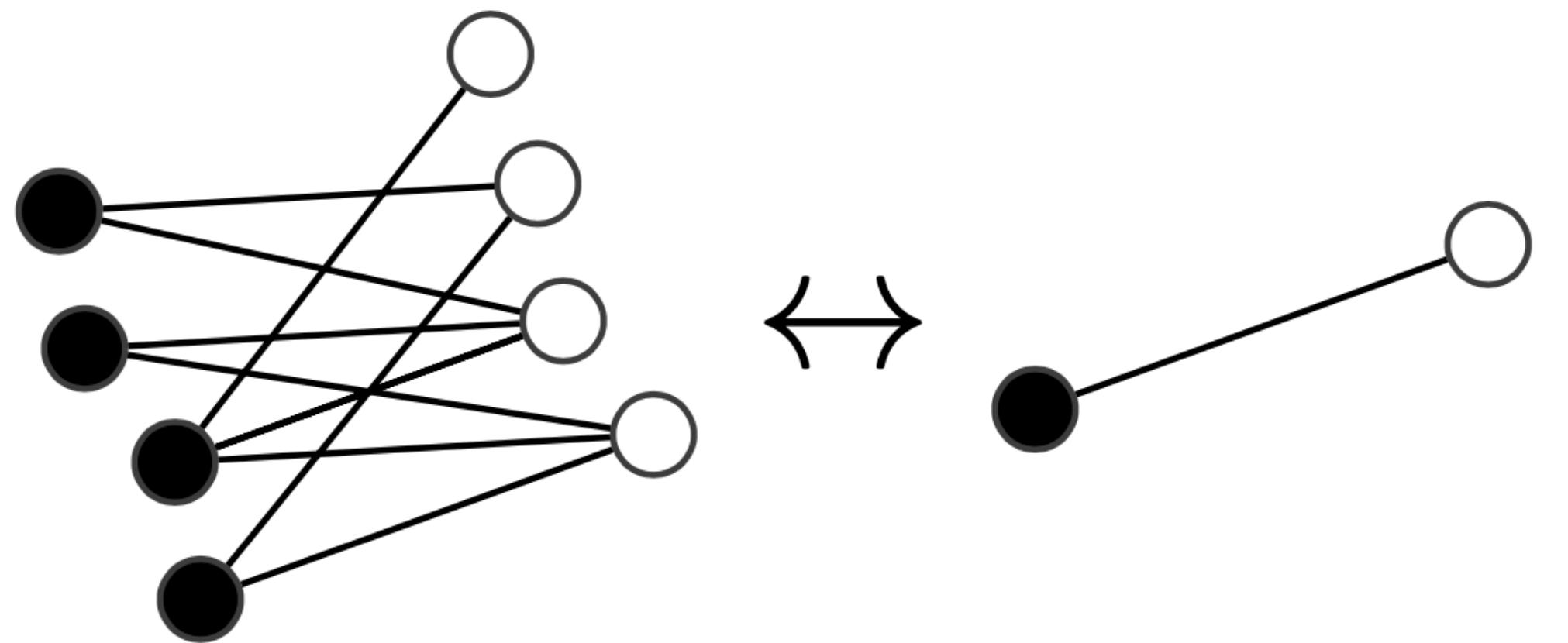
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \notin \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded

[Freuder AAAI'90]

[Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

[Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]

# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$



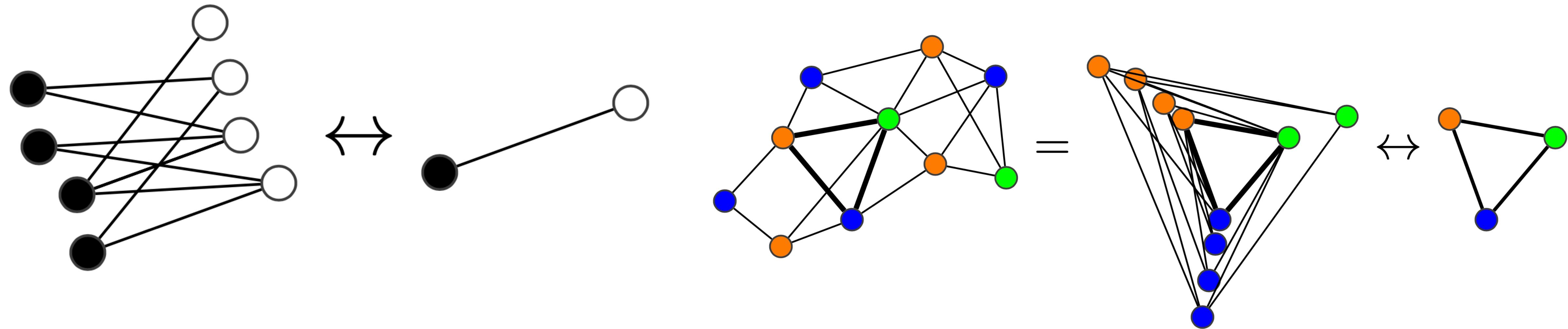
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \notin \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded

[Freuder AAAI'90]

[Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

[Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]

# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$



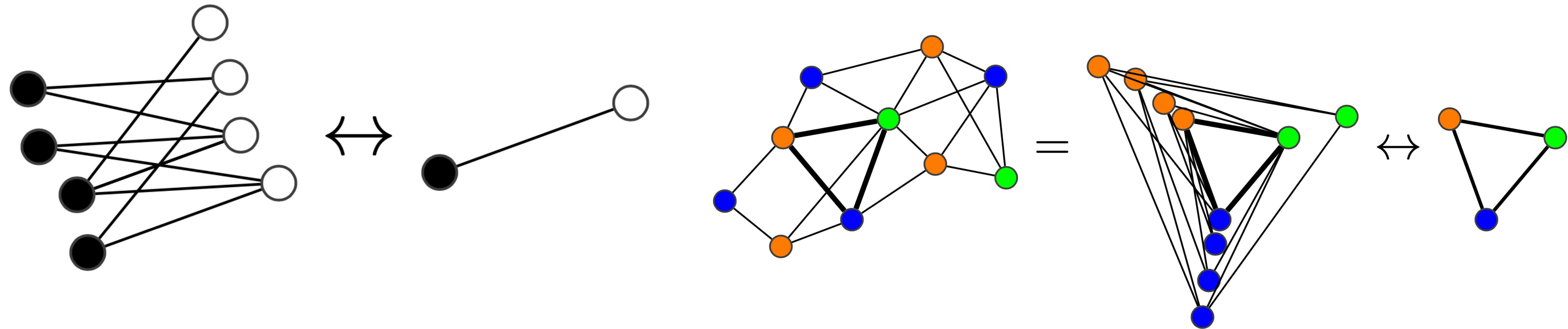
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \notin PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded

[Freuder AAAI'90]

[Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

[Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]

# $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -)$



- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded [Freuder AAAI'90]
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \notin PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded [Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \in PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded [Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]
- $CSP(\mathcal{A}, -) \notin PTIME$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  unbounded [Grohe JACM'07] <sub>13</sub>

# The Complexity of Homomorphism and Constraint Satisfaction Problems Seen from the Other Side

MARTIN GROHE

*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany*



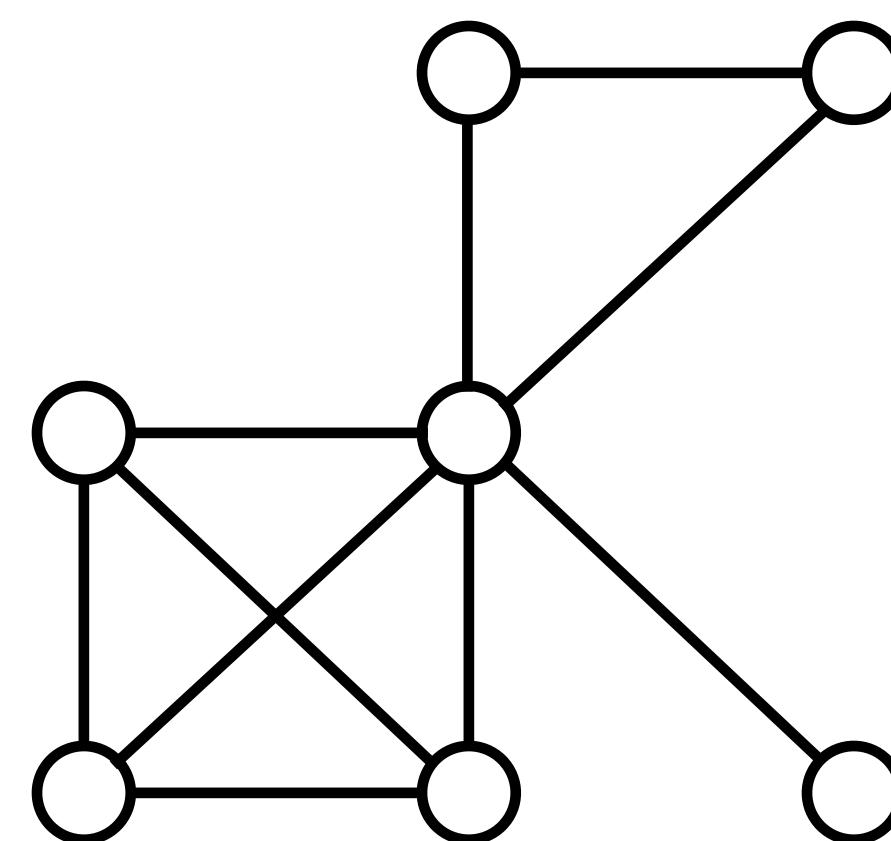
**Abstract.** We give a complexity theoretic classification of homomorphism problems for graphs and, more generally, relational structures obtained by restricting the left hand side structure in a homomorphism. For every class  $C$  of structures, let  $\text{HOM}(C, -)$  be the problem of deciding whether a given structure  $\mathcal{A} \in C$  has a homomorphism to a given (arbitrary) structure  $\mathcal{B}$ . We prove that, under some complexity theoretic assumption from parameterized complexity theory,  $\text{HOM}(C, -)$  is in polynomial time if and only if  $C$  has bounded tree width modulo homomorphic equivalence.

Translated into the language of constraint satisfaction problems, our result yields a characterization of the tractable structural restrictions of constraint satisfaction problems. Translated into the language of database theory, it implies a characterization of the tractable instances of the evaluation problem for conjunctive queries over relational databases.

- $\text{CSP}(\mathcal{A}, -) \notin \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  unbounded

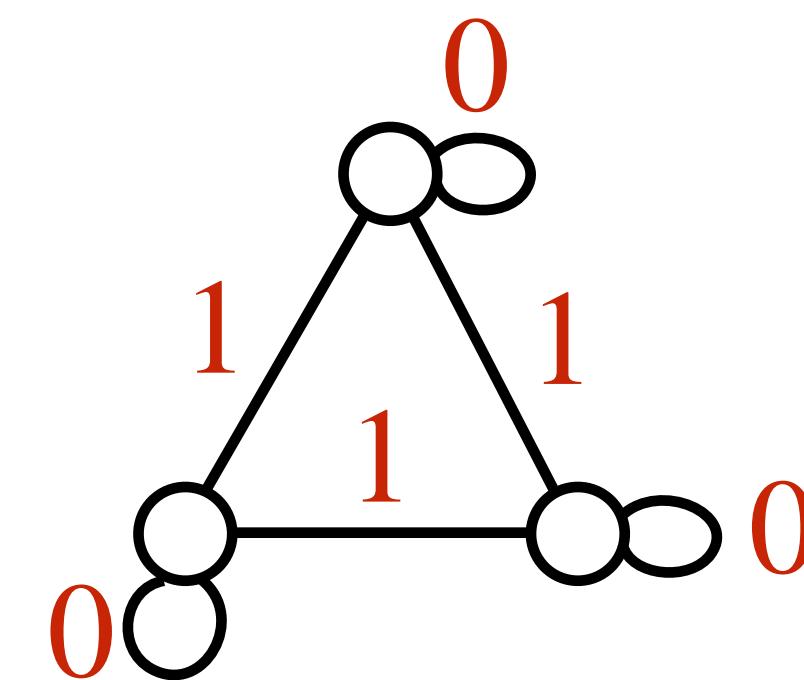
# MaxCSP(-, B)

A

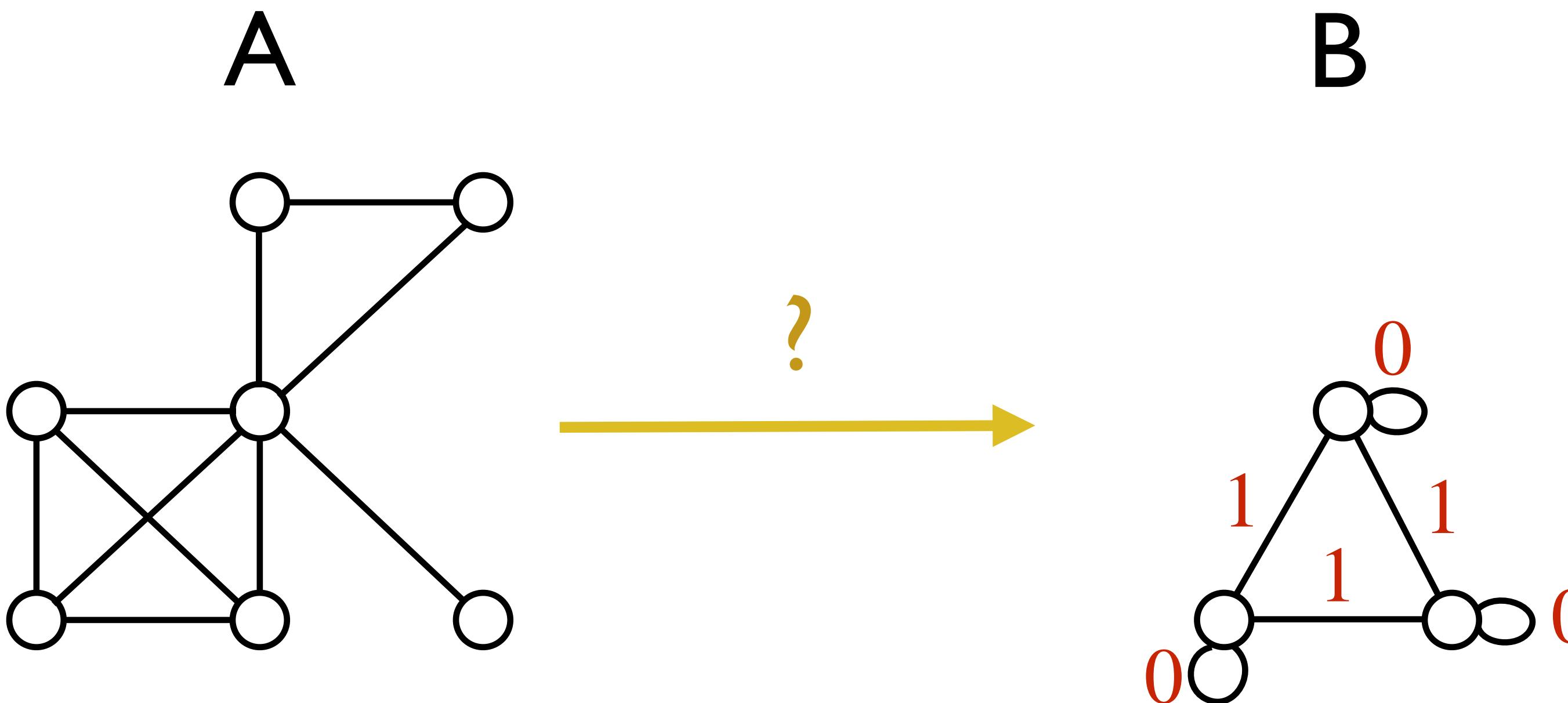


?

B



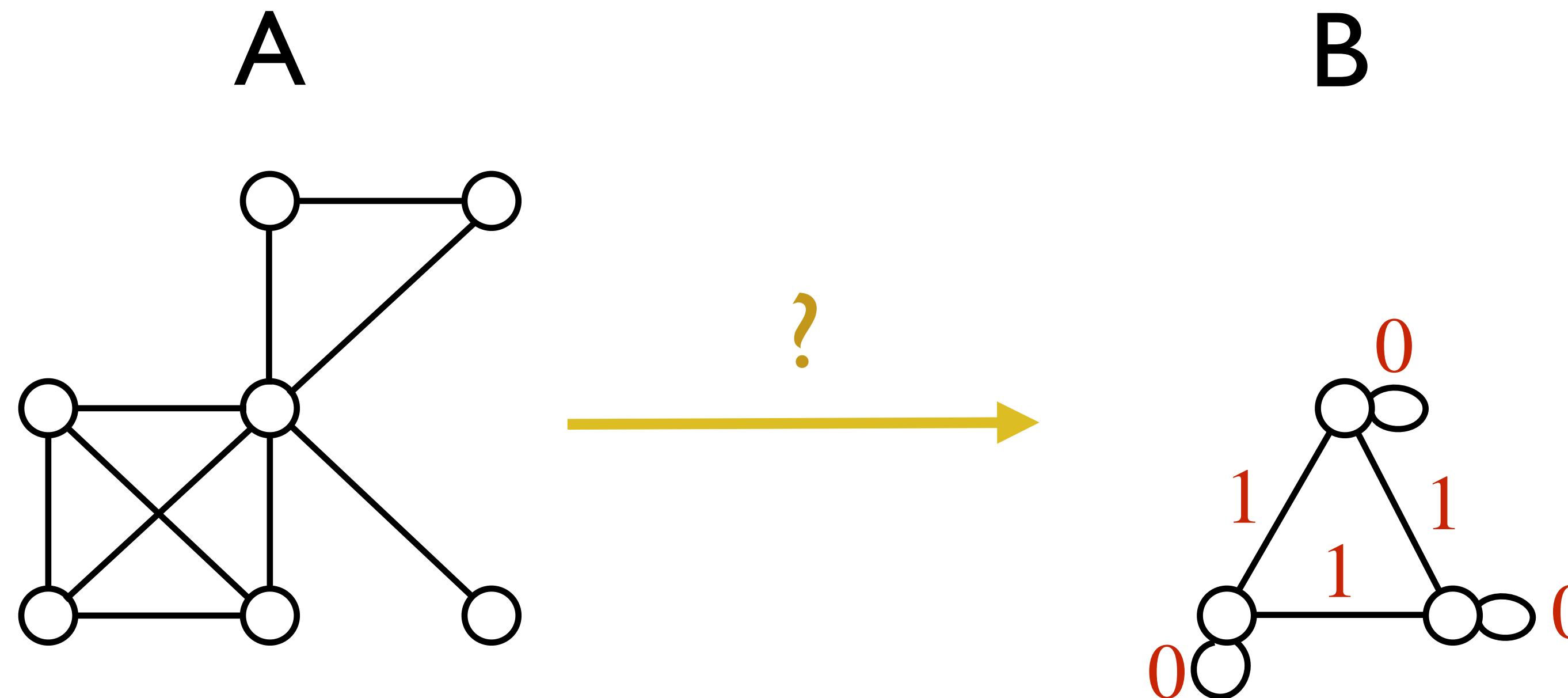
# MaxCSP(-, B)



- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP-complete}$

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

# MaxCSP(-, B)

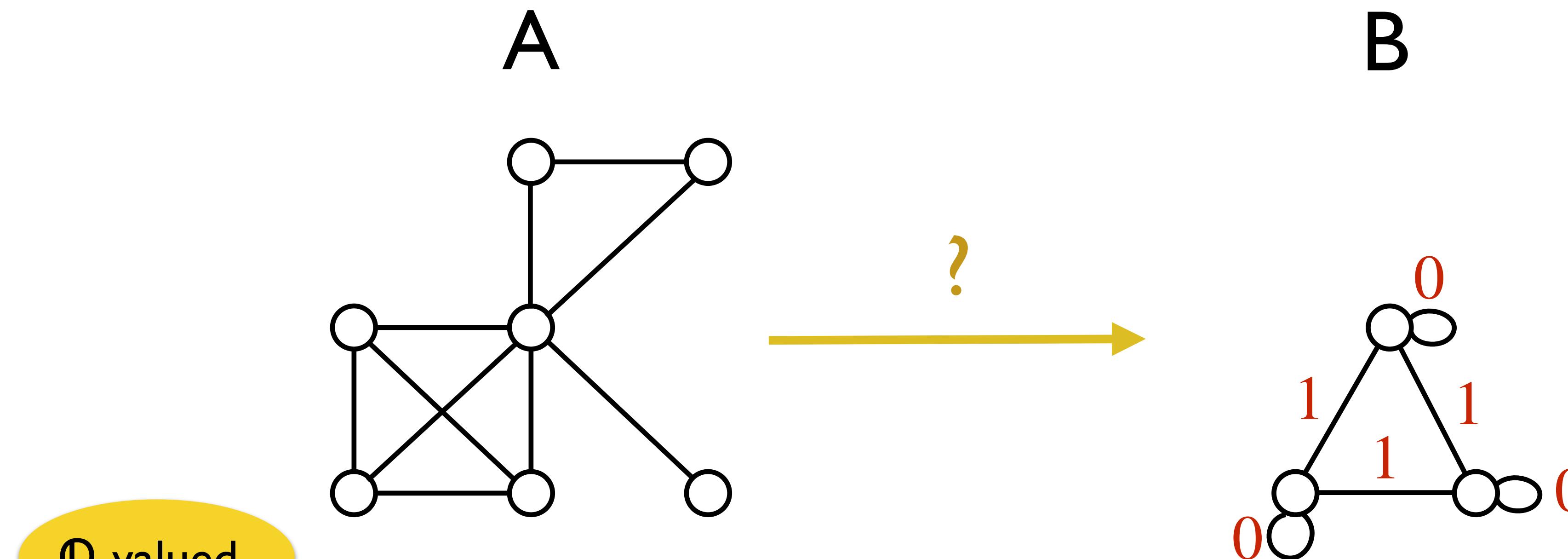


- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, \mathcal{H}) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP}\text{-complete}$
- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, \mathcal{B}) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP}\text{-complete}$

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

[Thapper-Ž. JACM'16]

# MaxCSP(-, B)

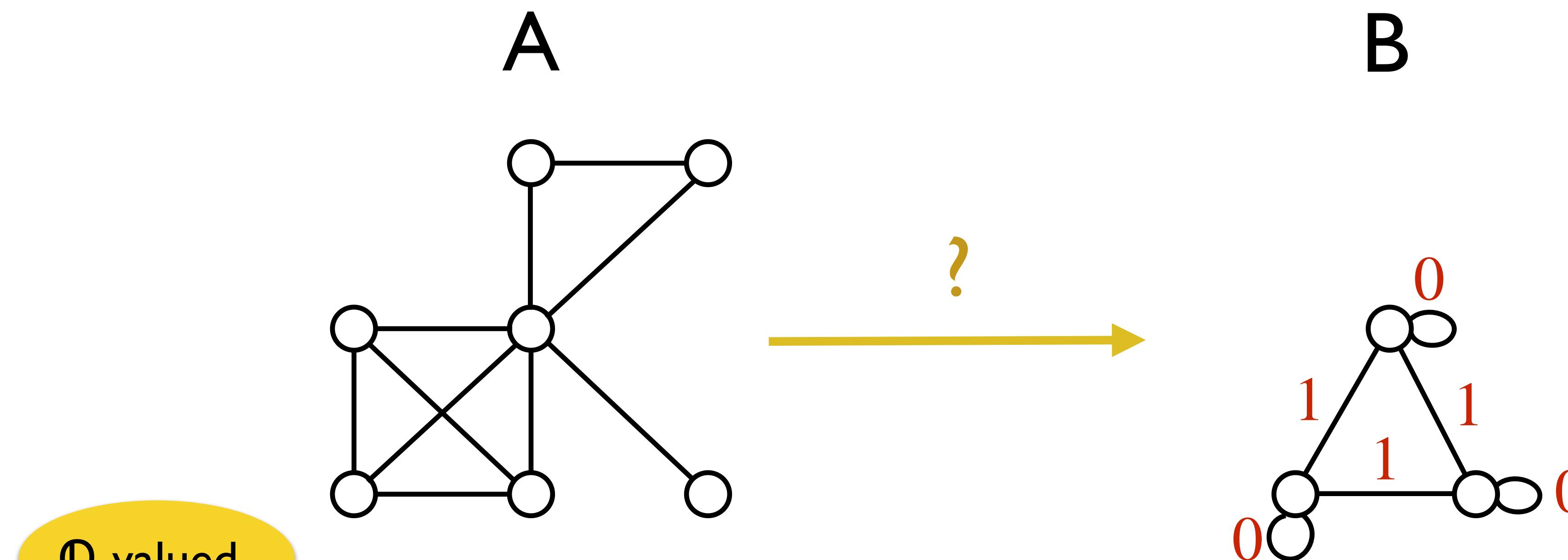


- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP-complete}$
- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP-complete}$

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

[Thapper-Ž. JACM'16]

# MaxCSP(-, B)



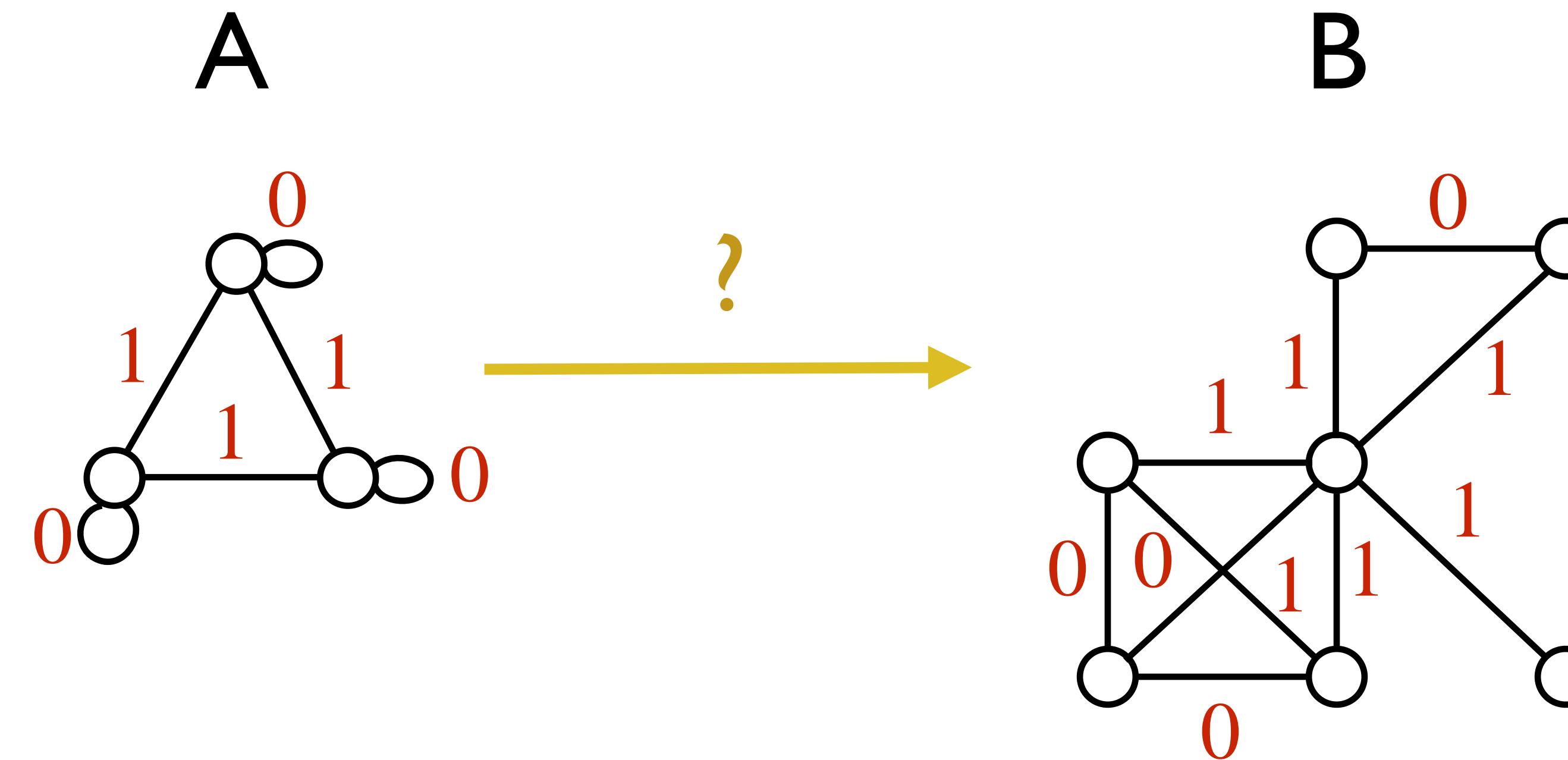
- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP}\text{-complete}$
- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP}\text{-complete}$
- Basic SDP optimal for  $\text{MaxCSP}(-, B)$ , under UGC

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

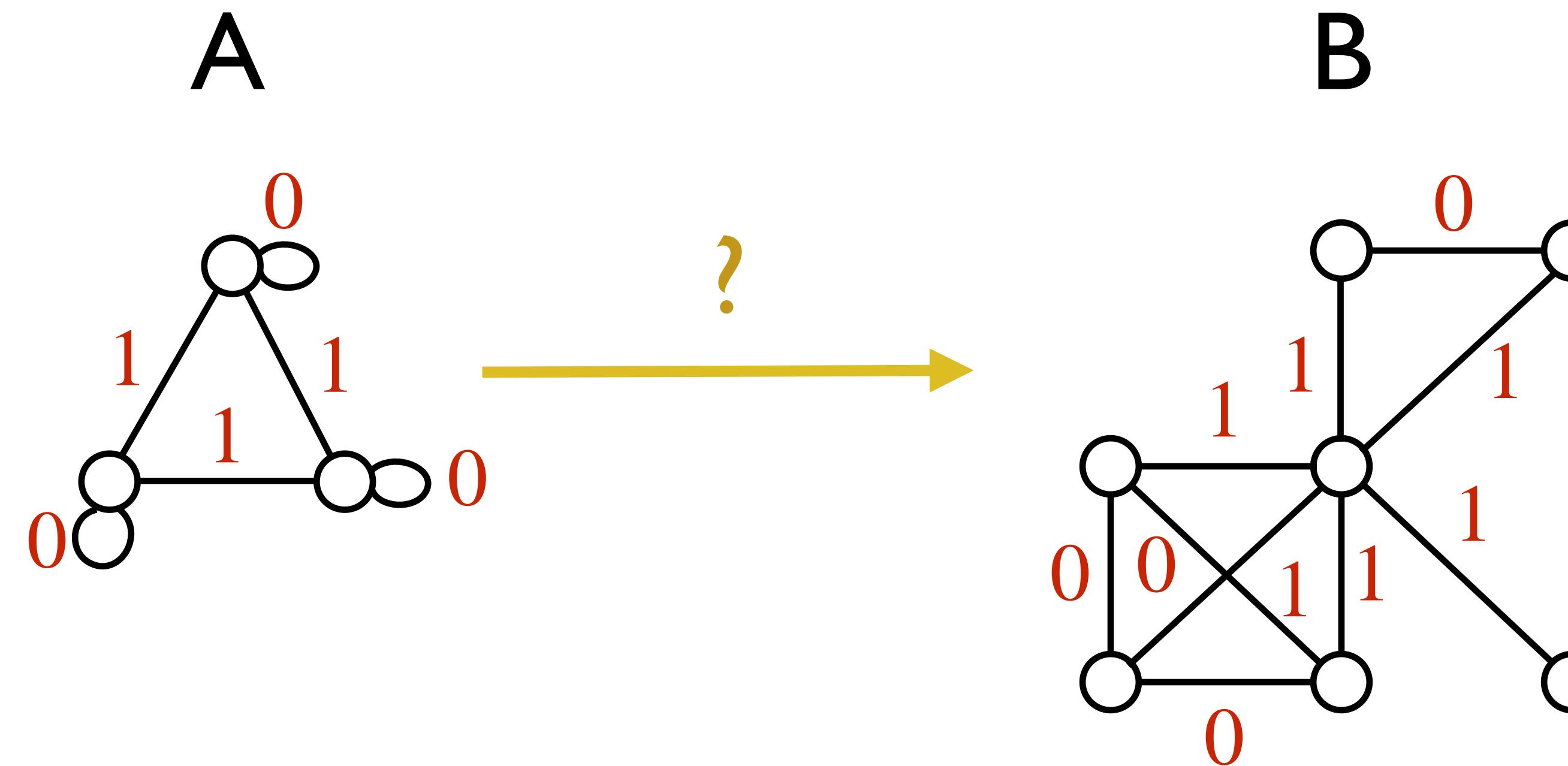
[Thapper-Ž. JACM'16]

[Raghavendra STOC'08]

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)



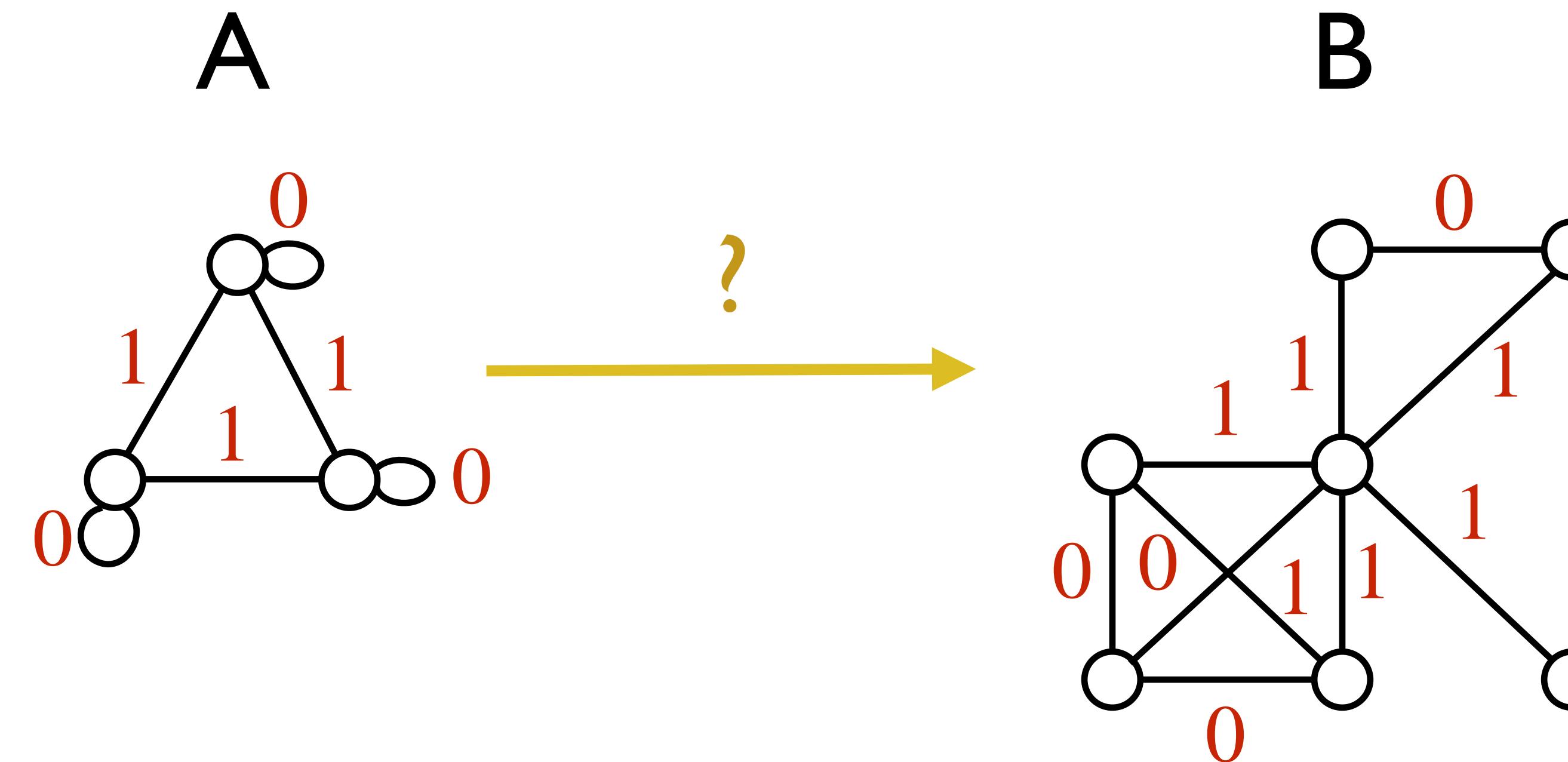
# $\text{MaxCSP}(\mathcal{A}, -)$



- $\text{MaxCSP}(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$   
if  $\text{tw}(\text{vcore}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded, and  $\notin \text{PTIME}$  otherwise

[Carbonnel-Romero-Ž. SICOMP'22]

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)



- $\text{MaxCSP}(\mathcal{A}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  [Carbonnel-Romero-Ž. SICOMP'22]  
if  $\text{tw}(\text{vcore}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded, and  $\notin \text{PTIME}$  otherwise
- $\text{MaxCSP}(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \in \text{APX}$  for monotone  $\mathcal{G}$  of bounded avg deg,  
Gap-ETH-hard if  $\text{avg deg} \geq n^\delta$  [Dinur-Manurangsi ITCS'18]

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?

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# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?



$(1 \pm \varepsilon)$ -approx in time  $n^{f(1/\varepsilon)}$

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?

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Gaifman

$(U; R_1, \dots, R_k) \longrightarrow (U; \{\{uv\} \mid \exists i \exists t \in R_i \text{ with } u, v \in R_i\})$

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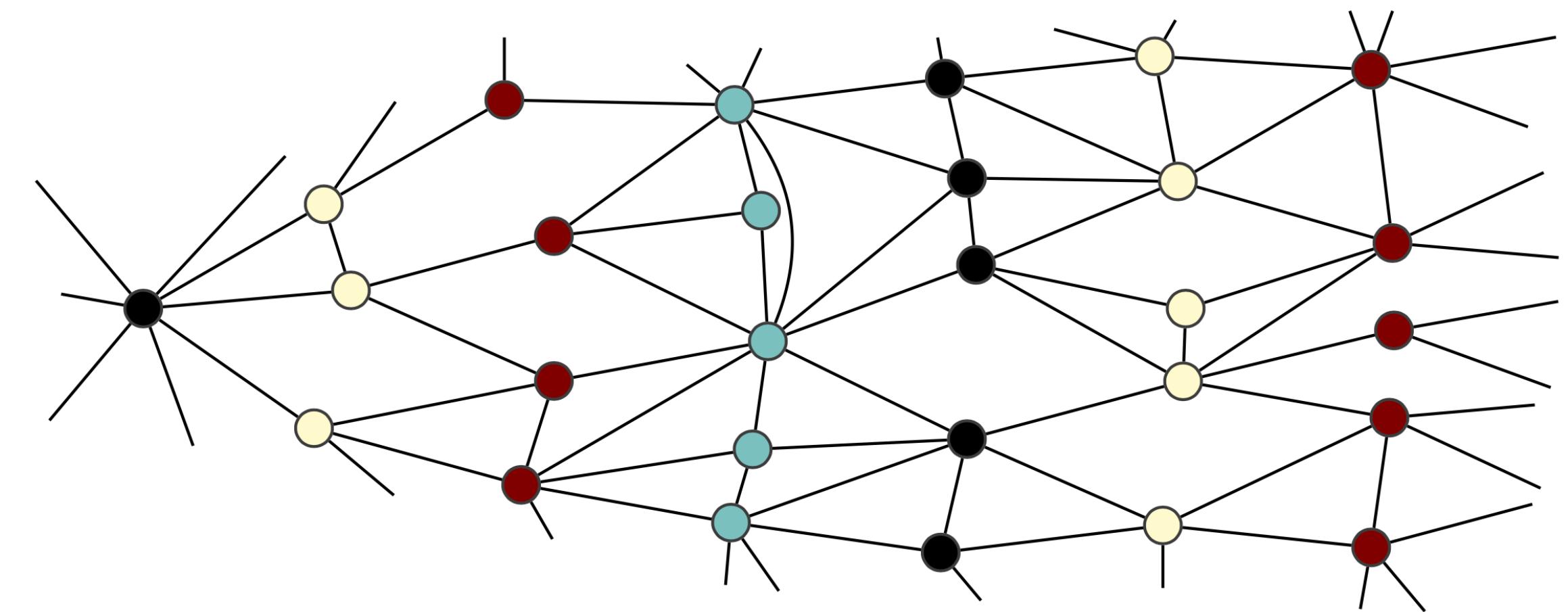
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$$d_{opt}(A, A') = \inf_{\varepsilon} [\forall B \mid \text{MaxCSP}(A, B) = (1 \pm \varepsilon) \text{MaxCSP}(A', B)]$$

# Sparse Structures

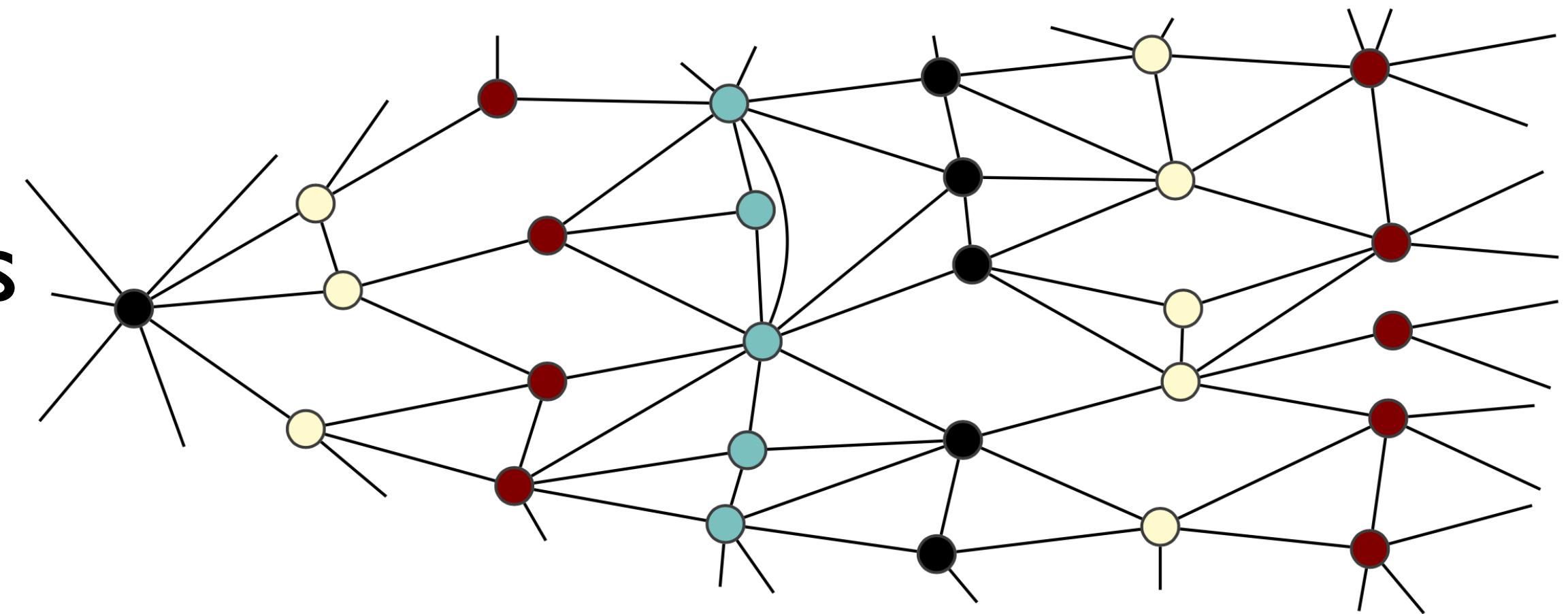
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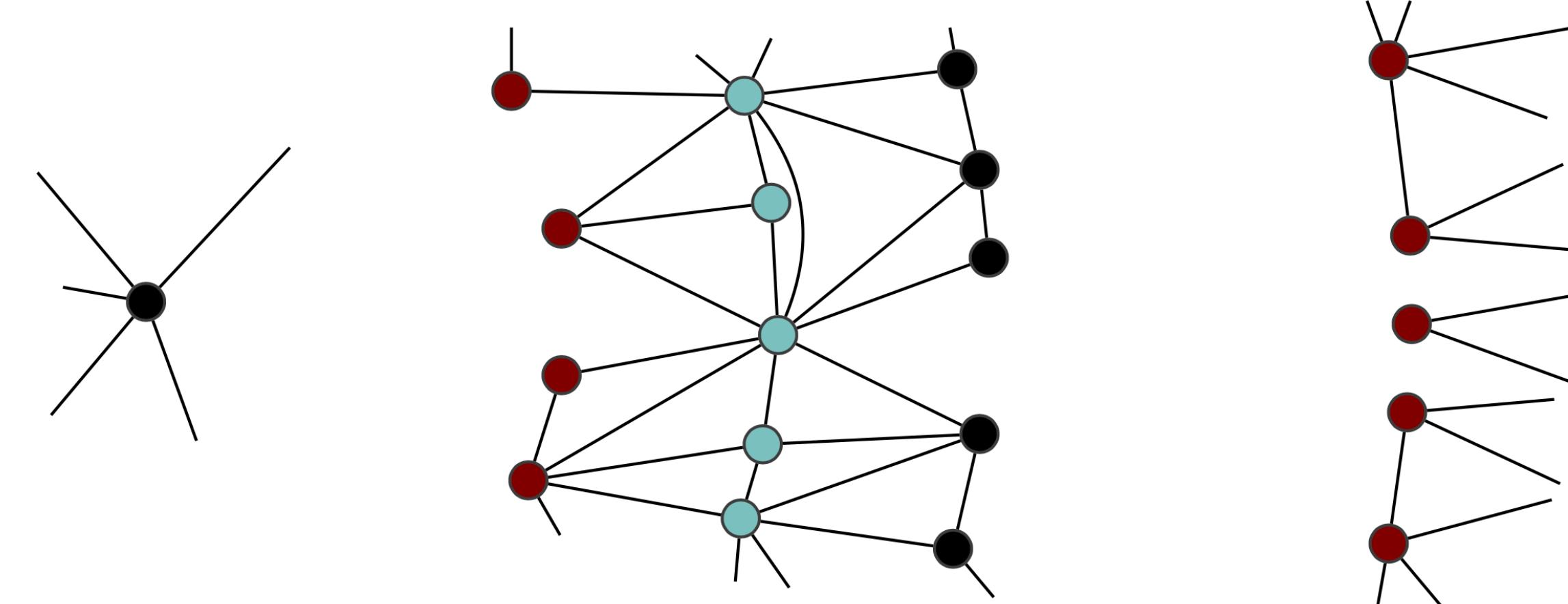
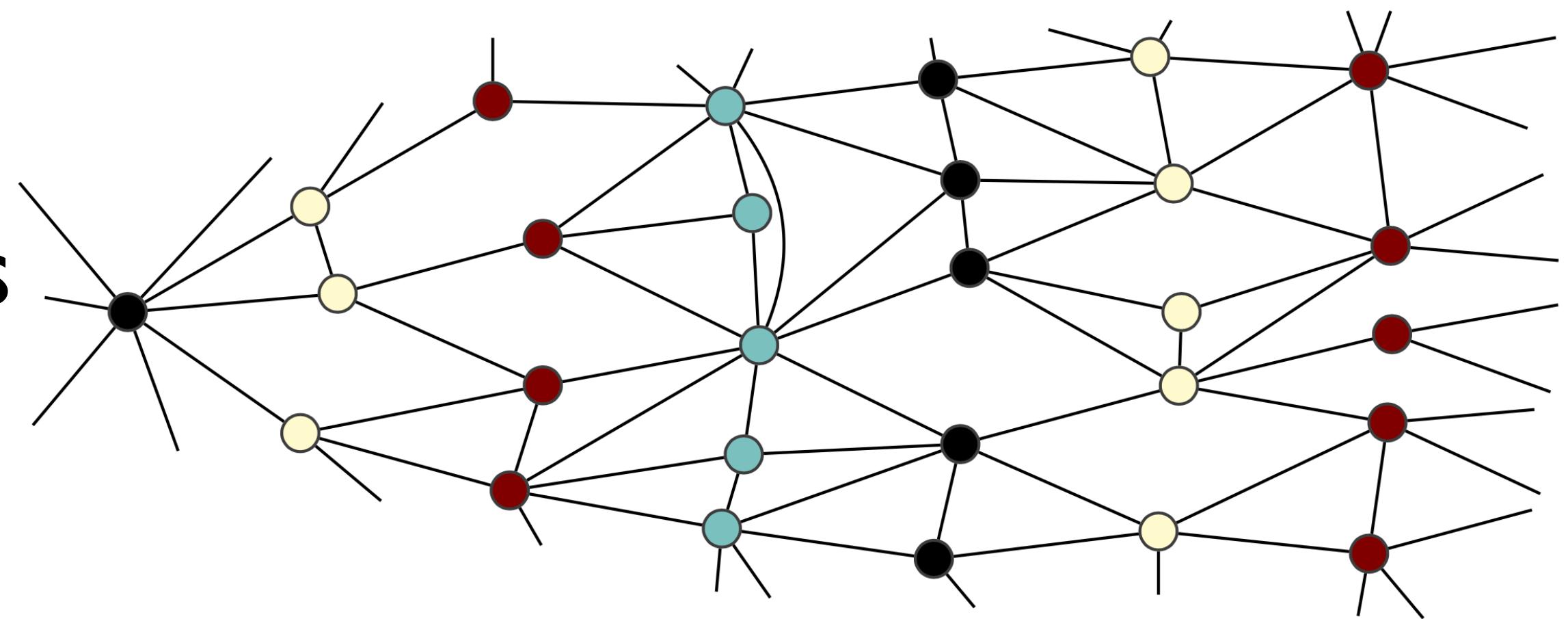
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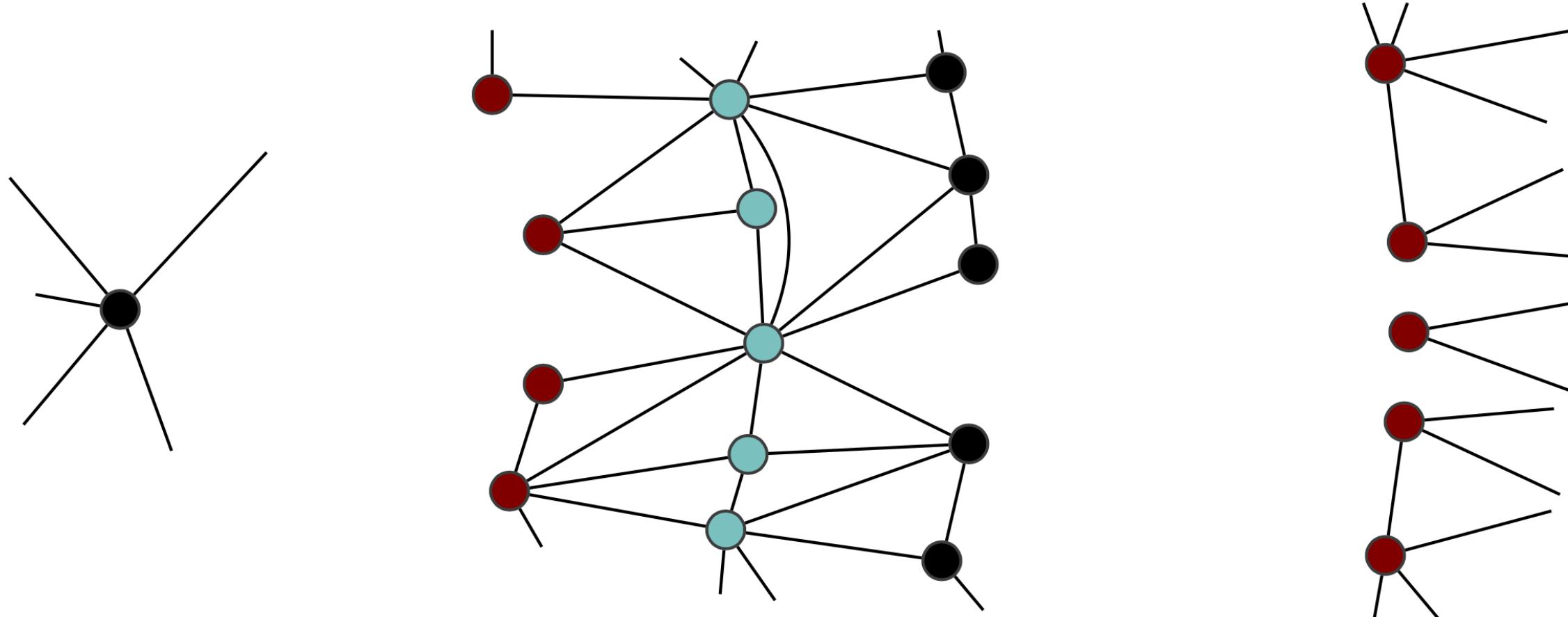
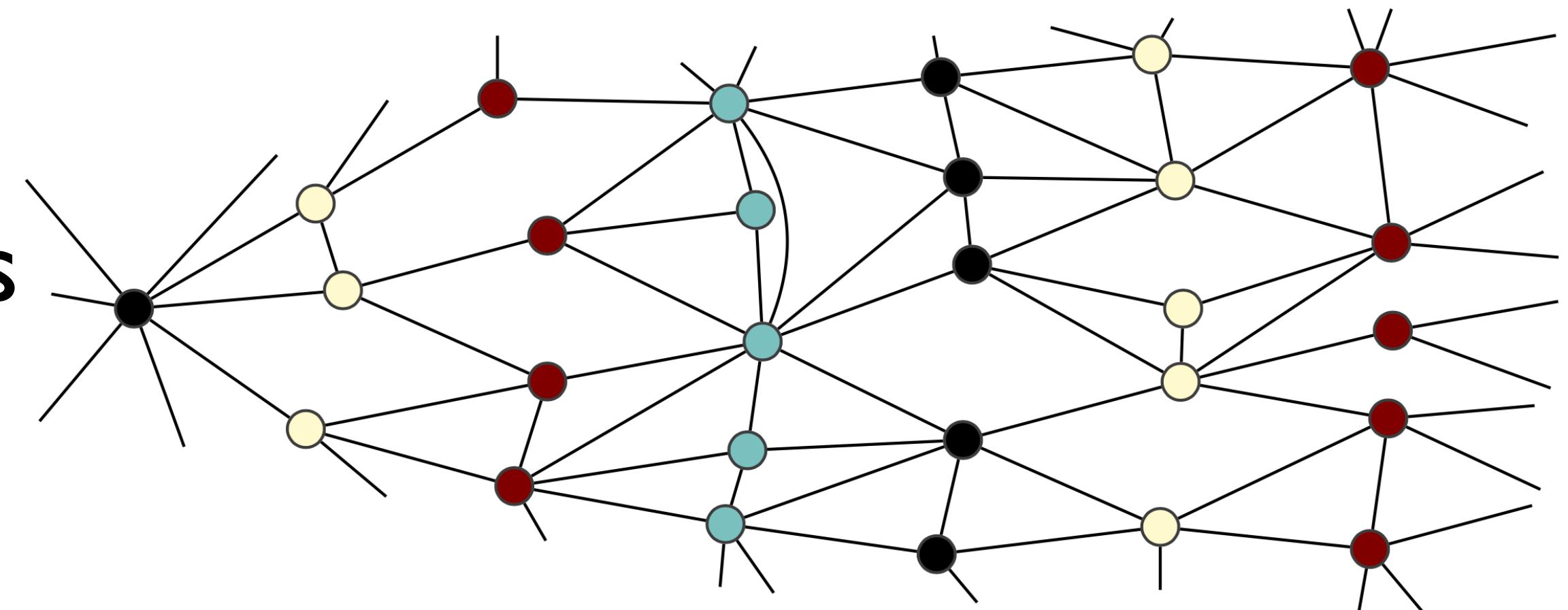
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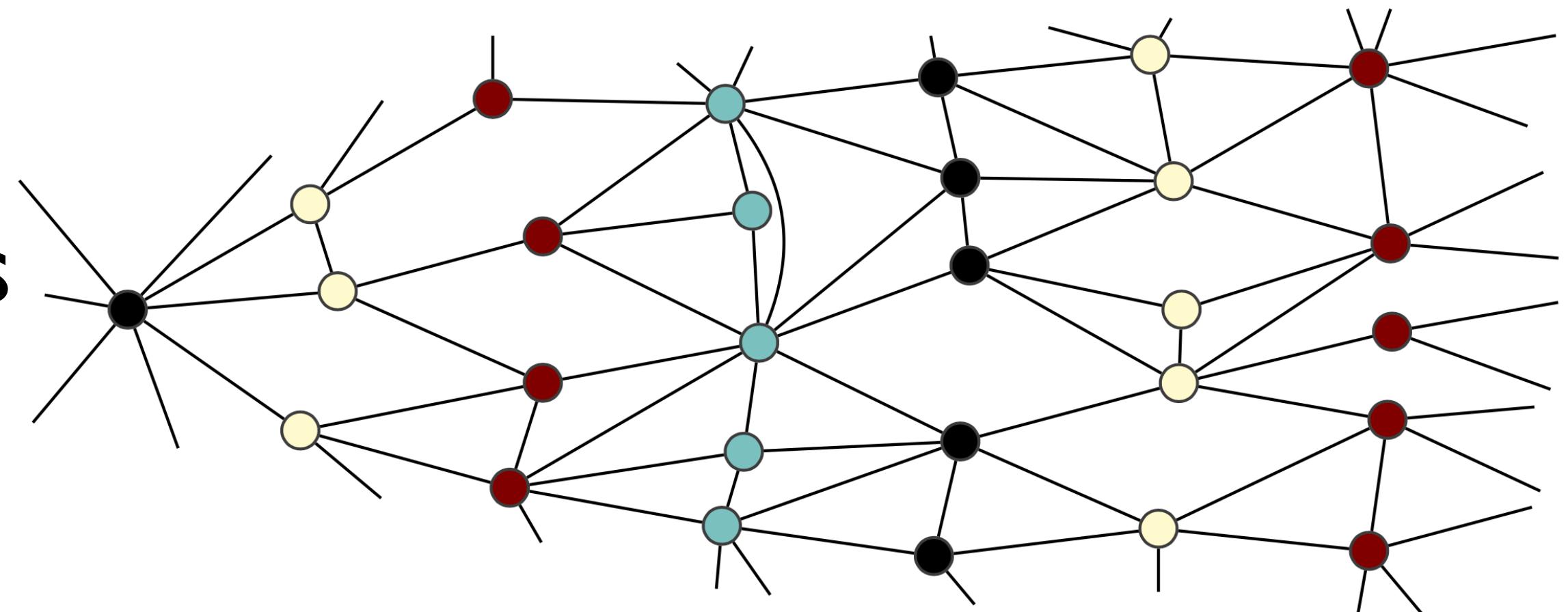
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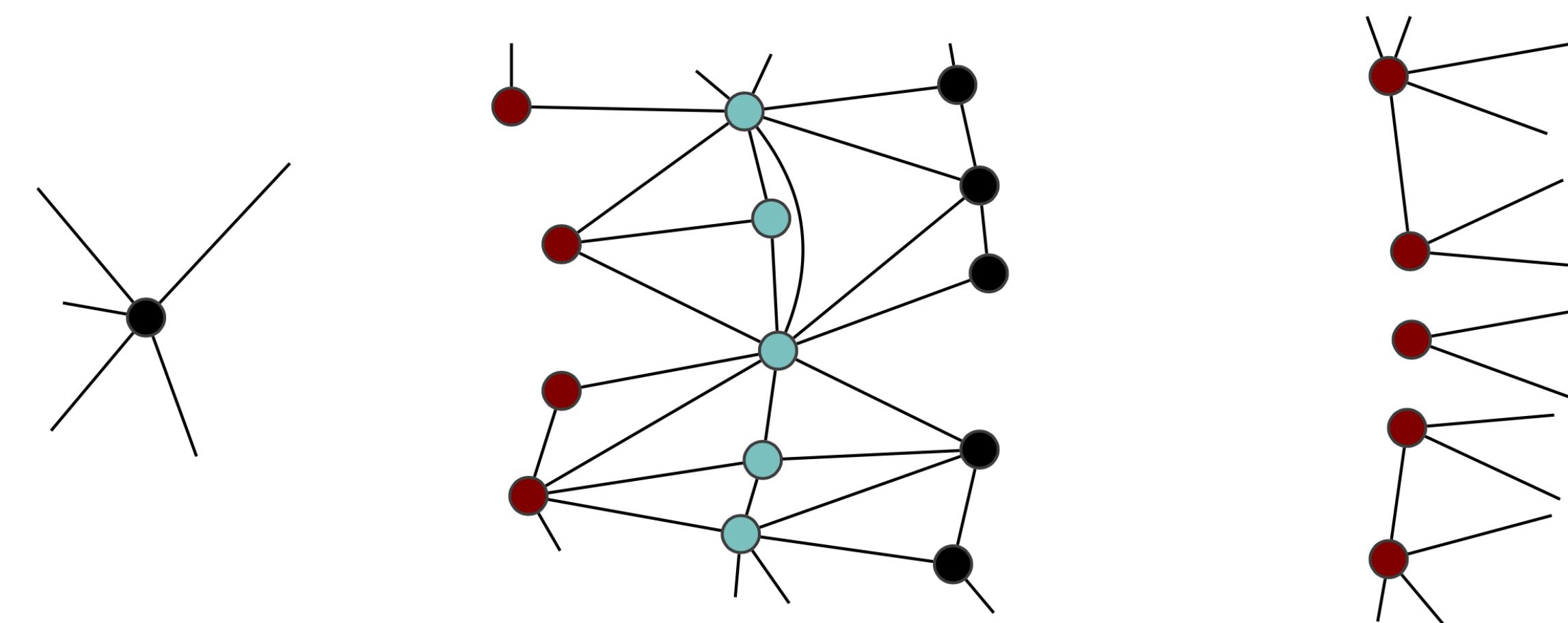
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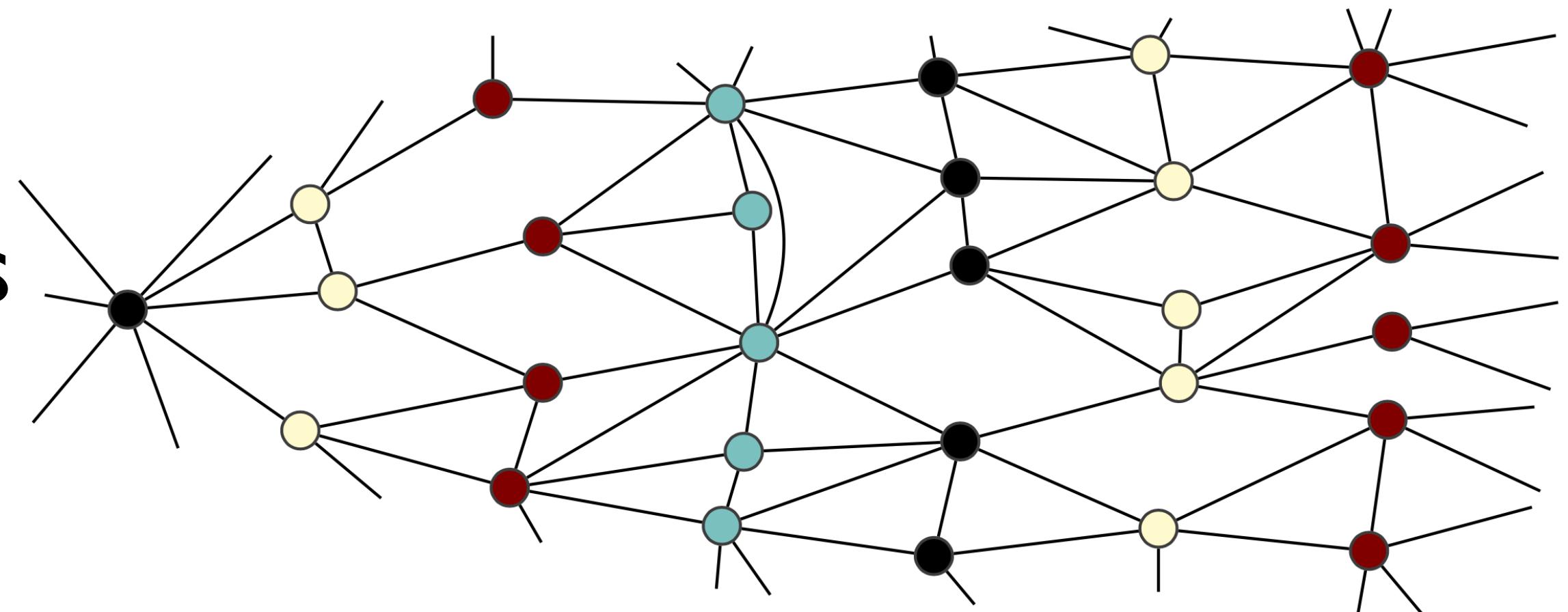
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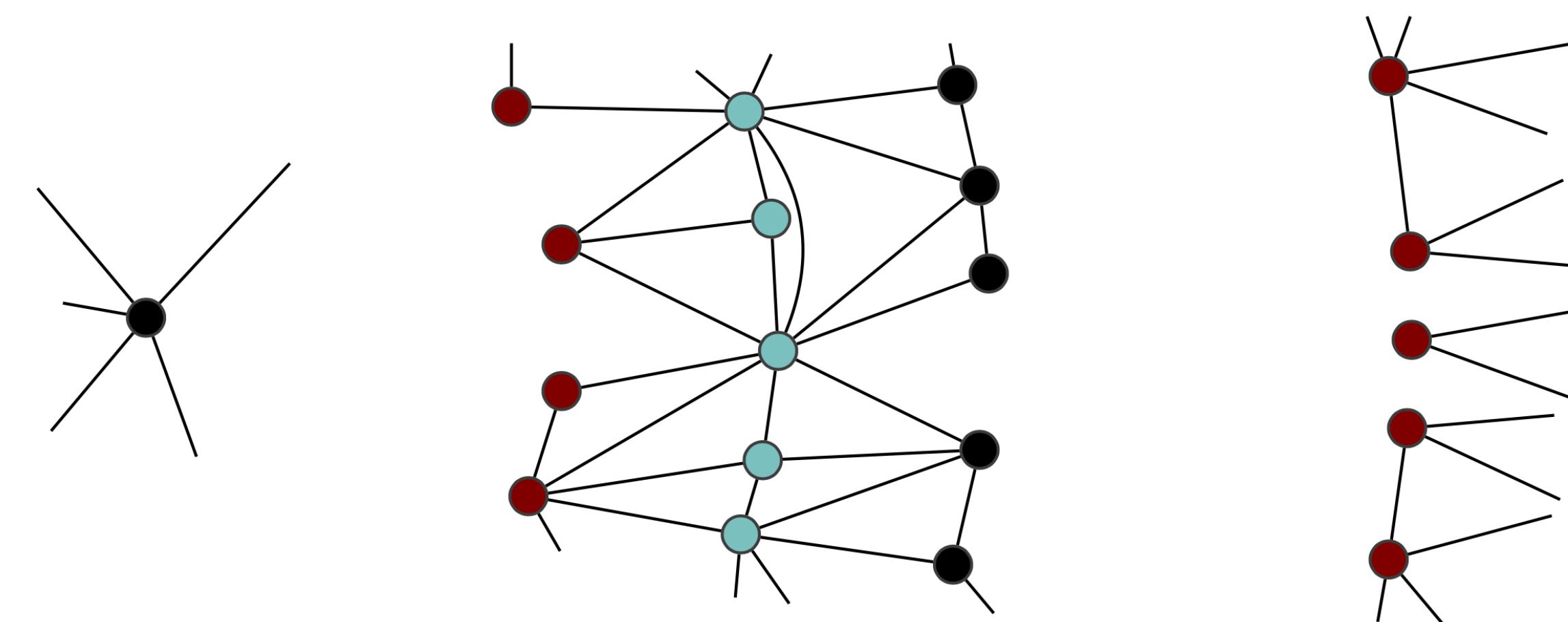
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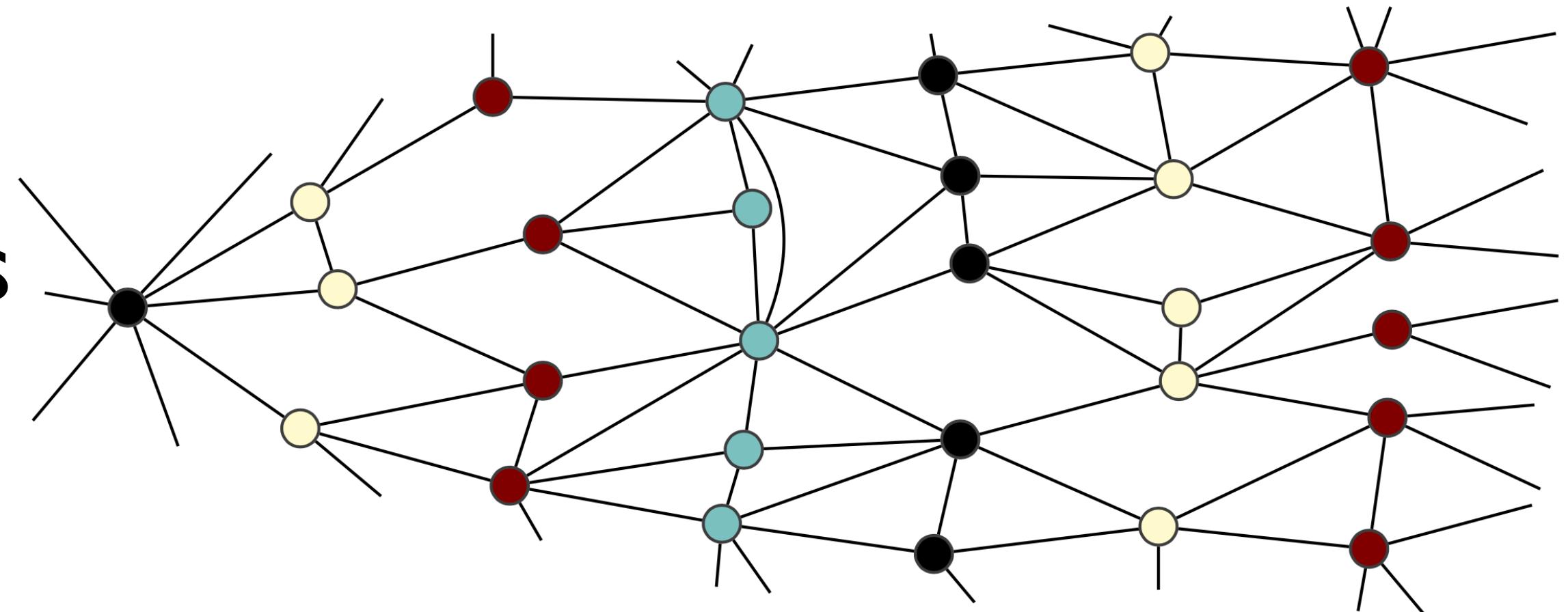
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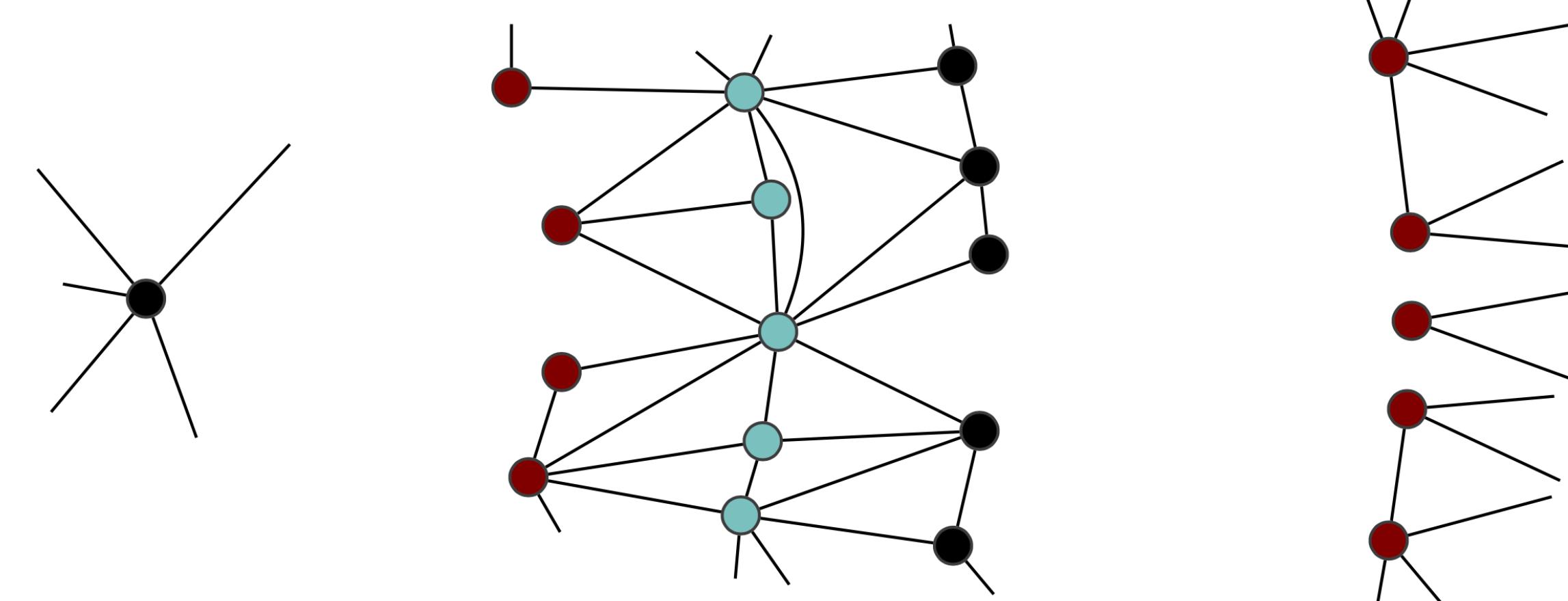
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- fr-tw-fragility

[Dvořák EJC'16]

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$\mathcal{G}$  **fr-tw-fragile** if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists k \in \mathbb{N} \forall G \in \mathcal{G} \exists$  distribution on  $\{X \subseteq V(G) \mid \text{tw}(G - X) \leq k\}$  with,  $\forall v, \text{Prob}[v \in X] \leq \varepsilon$

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no efficient fr-tw-fr

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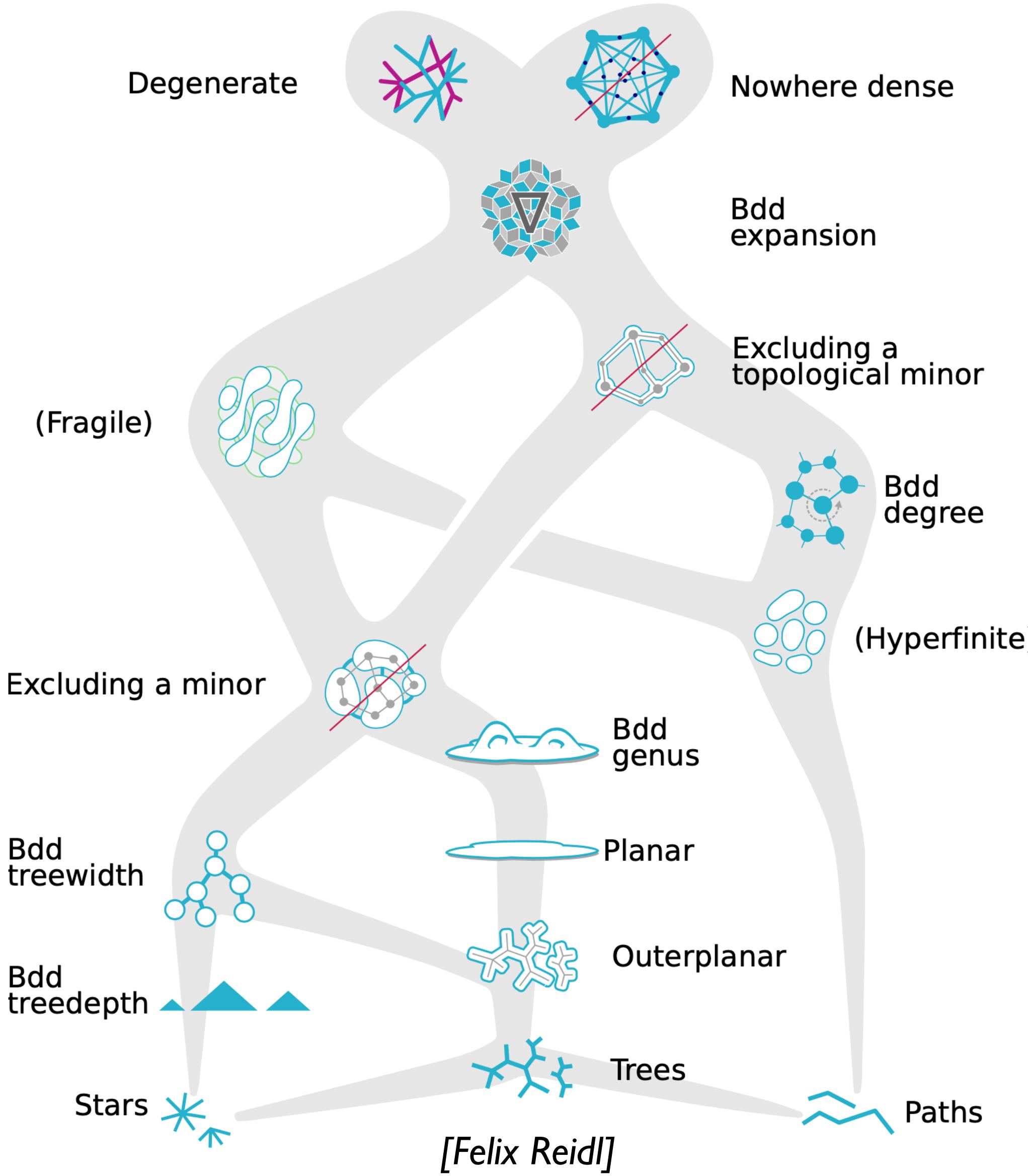
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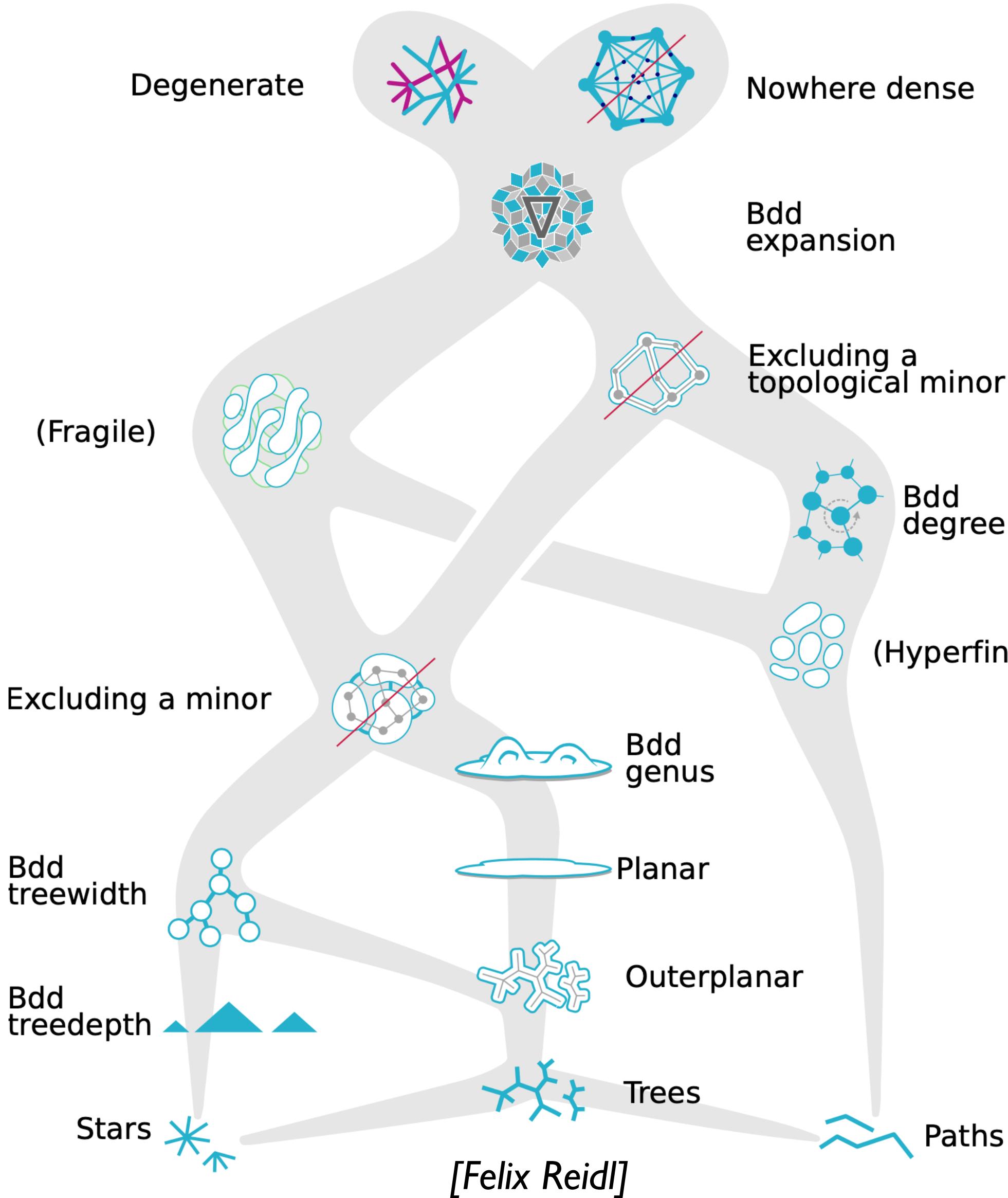
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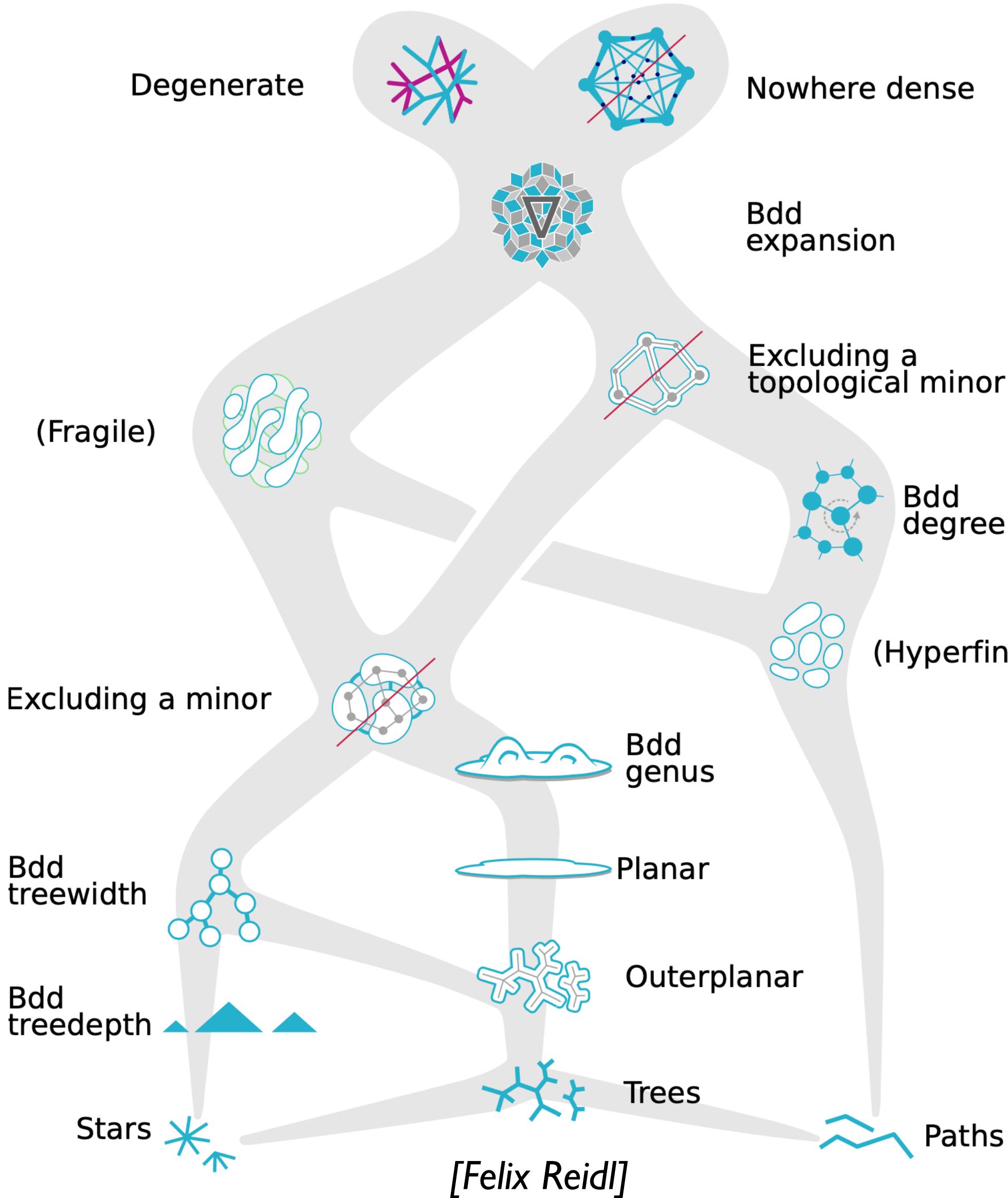
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- orientations of unbounded avg deg graphs



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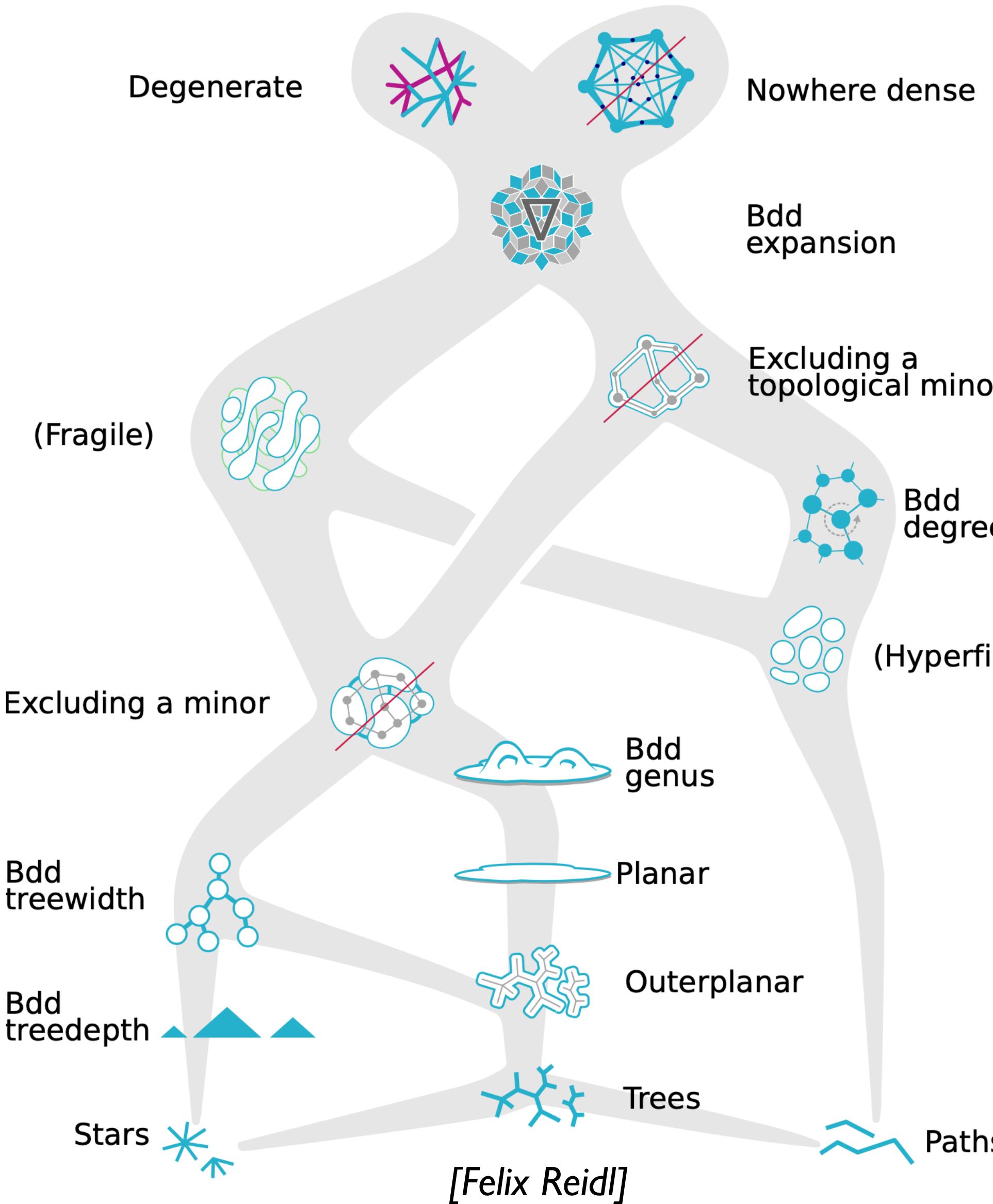


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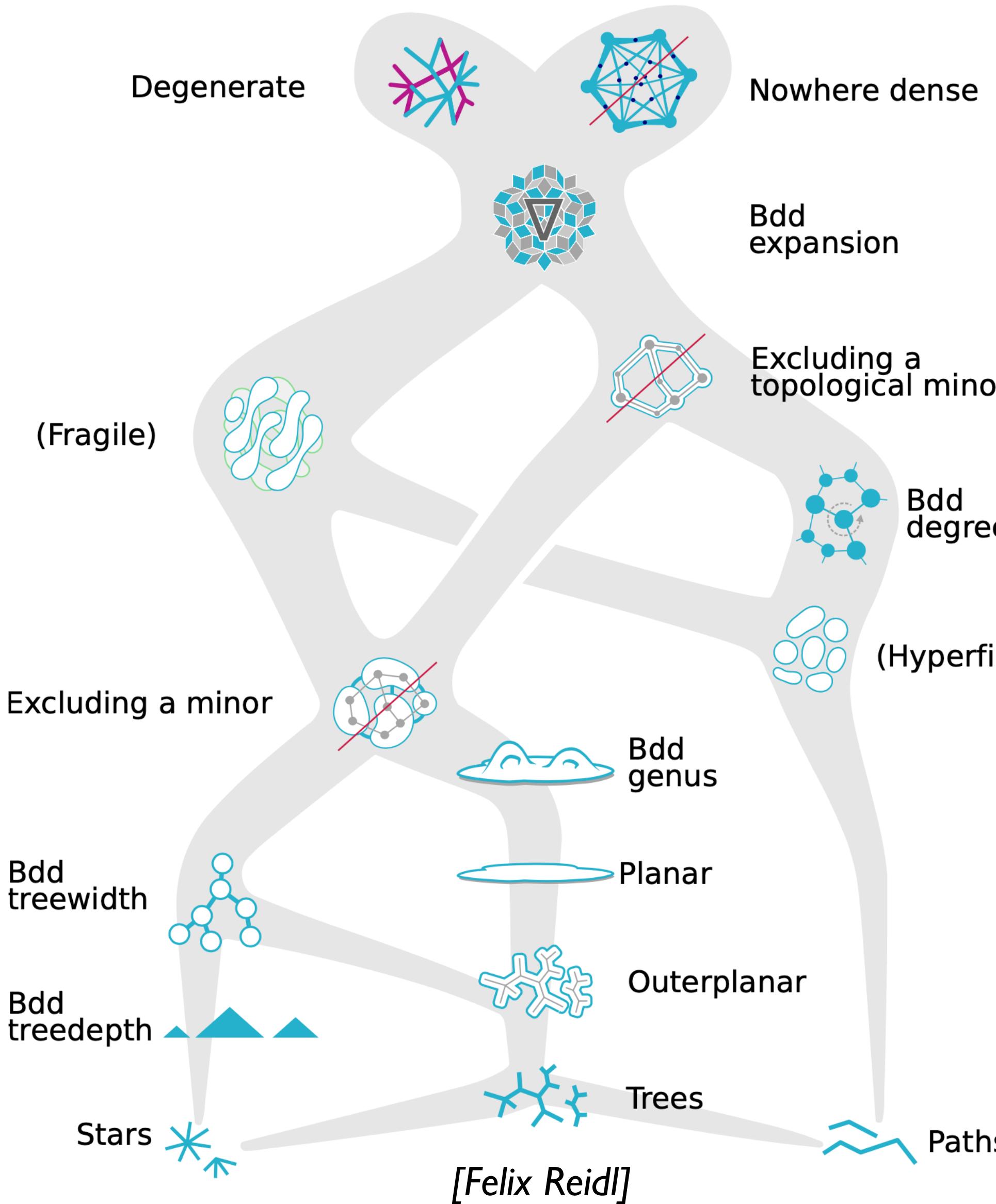
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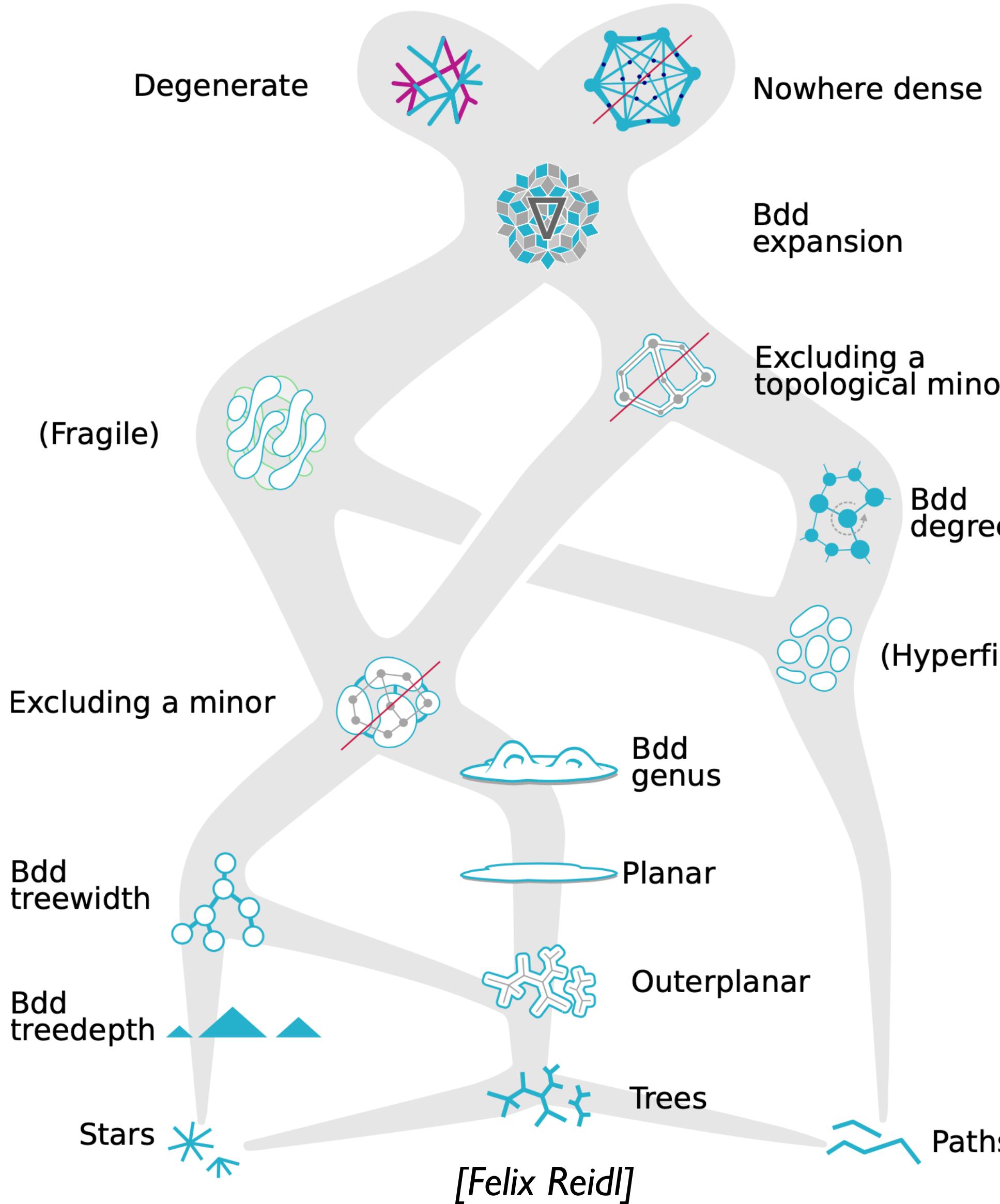
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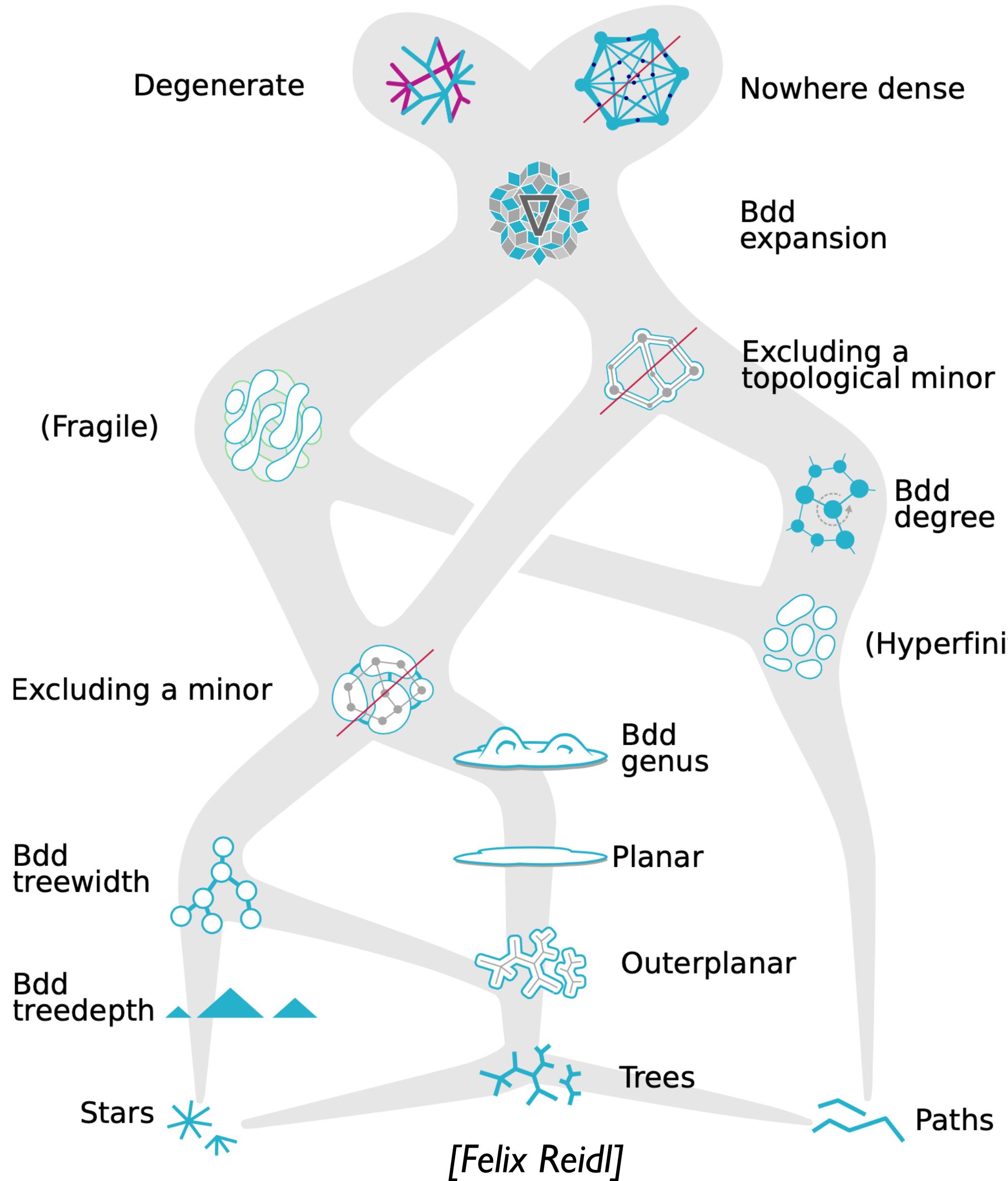
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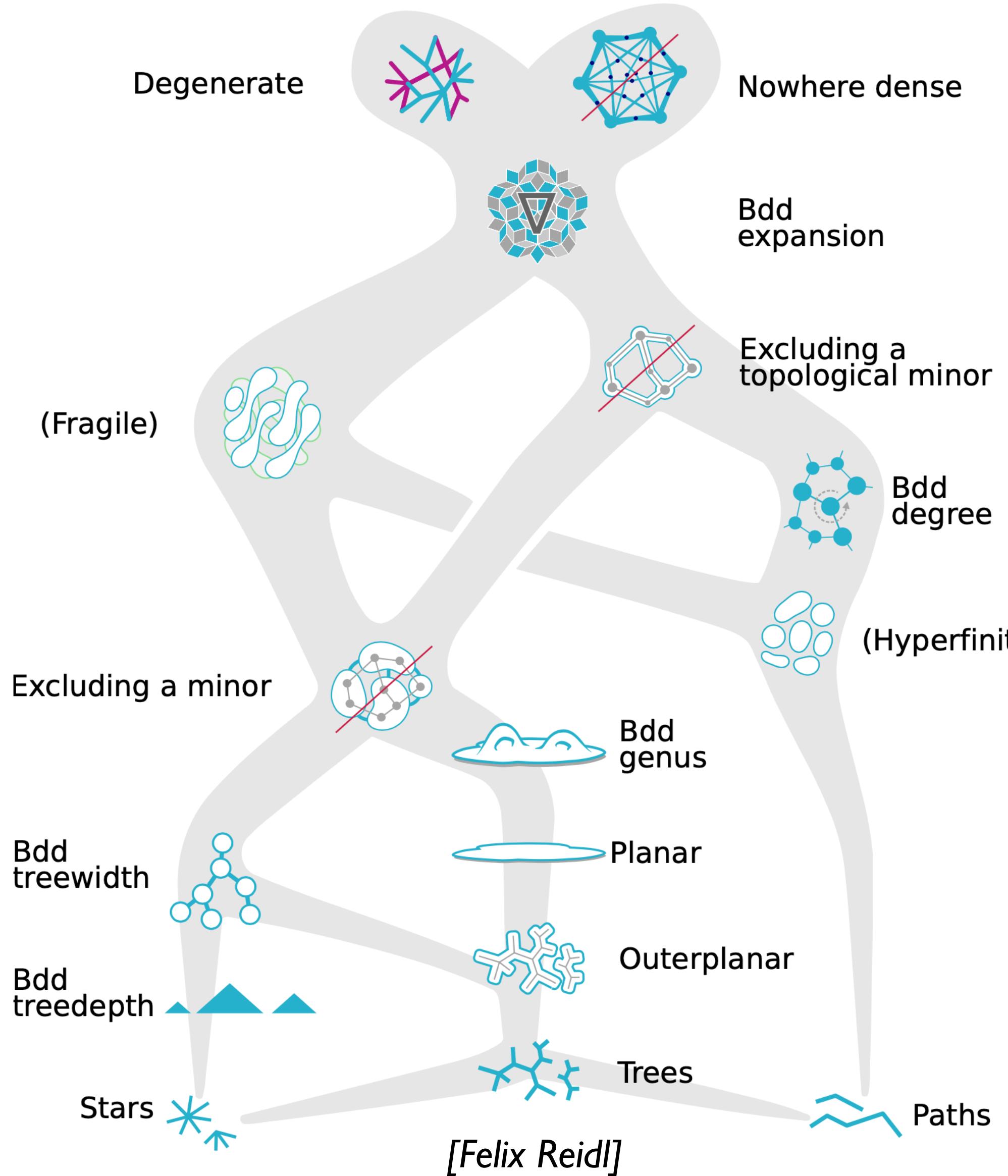
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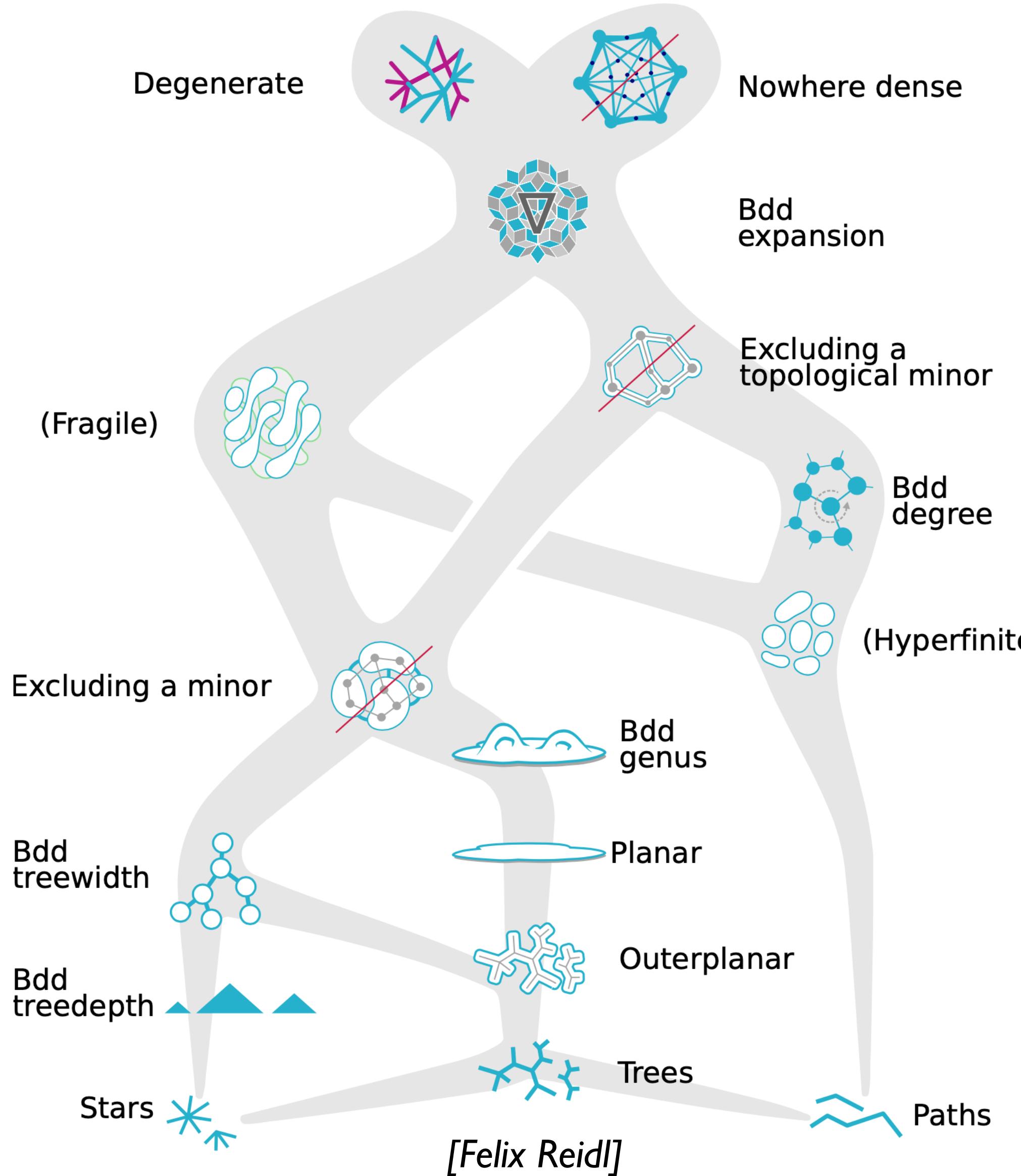
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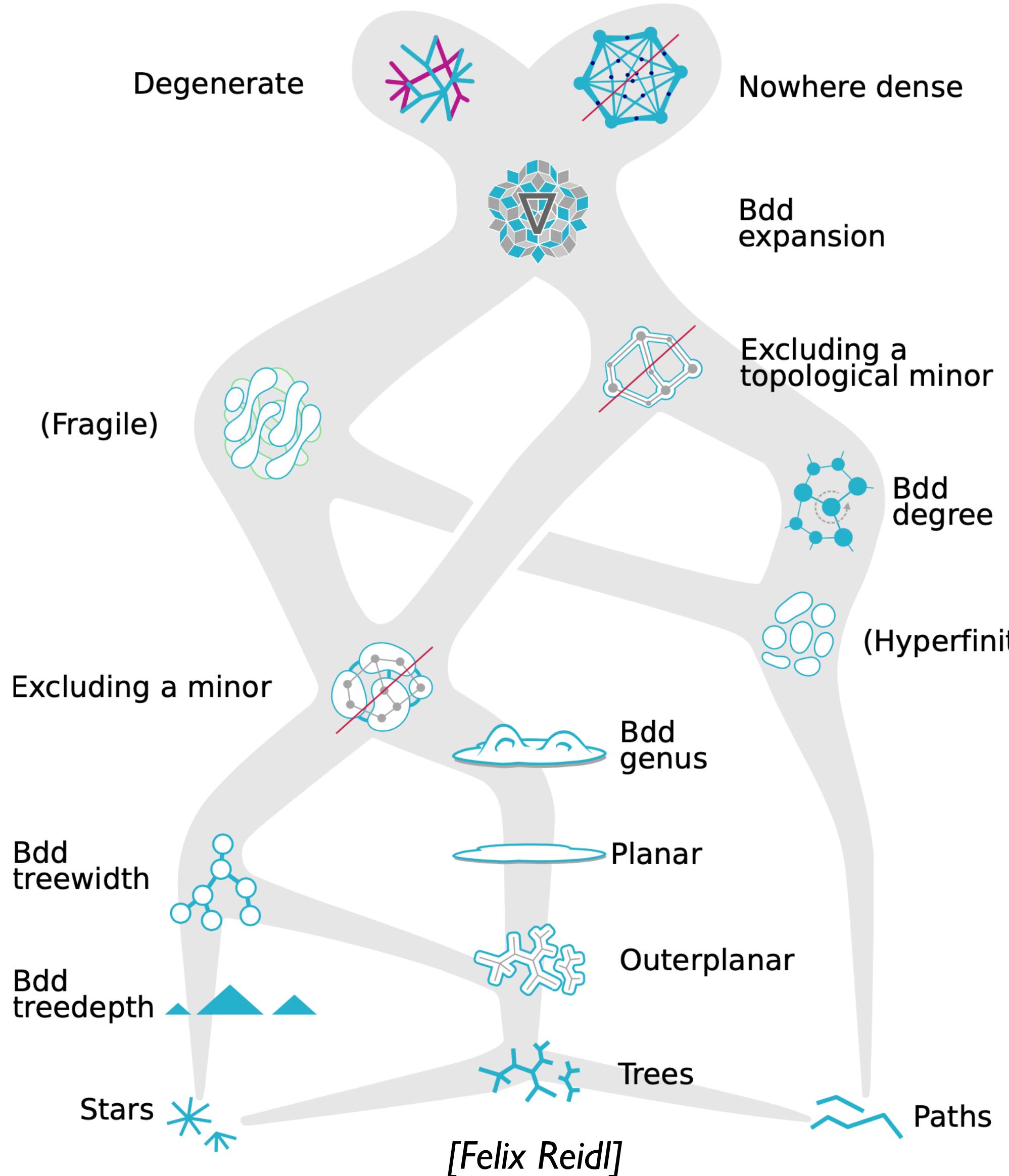
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- EPTAS (via random samples)



Balázs Mezei



Miguel Romero

PUC



Marcin Wrochna

Warsaw

- Pliability and approximating MaxCSPs
- PTAS for general sparse **general-valued CSPs**

[RWŽ]

[MWŽ]



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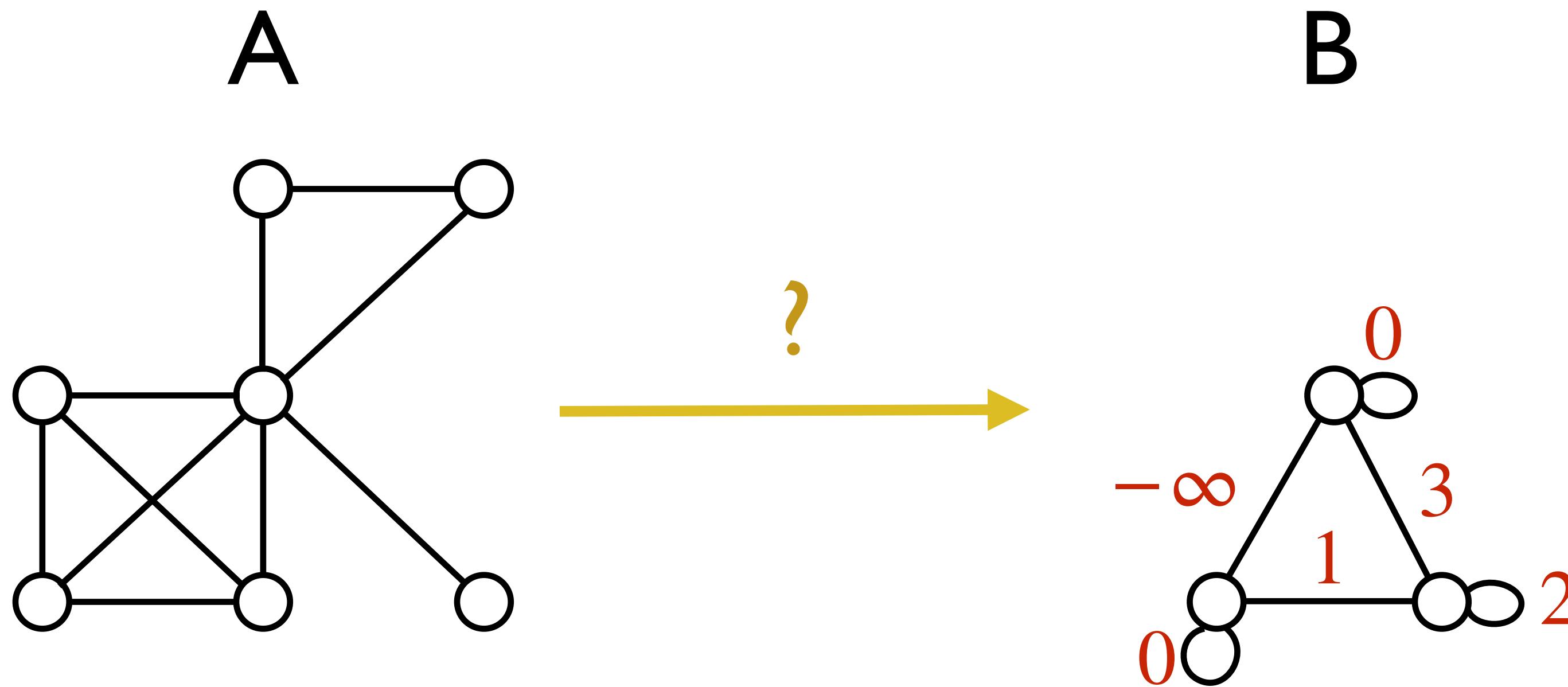
Warsaw

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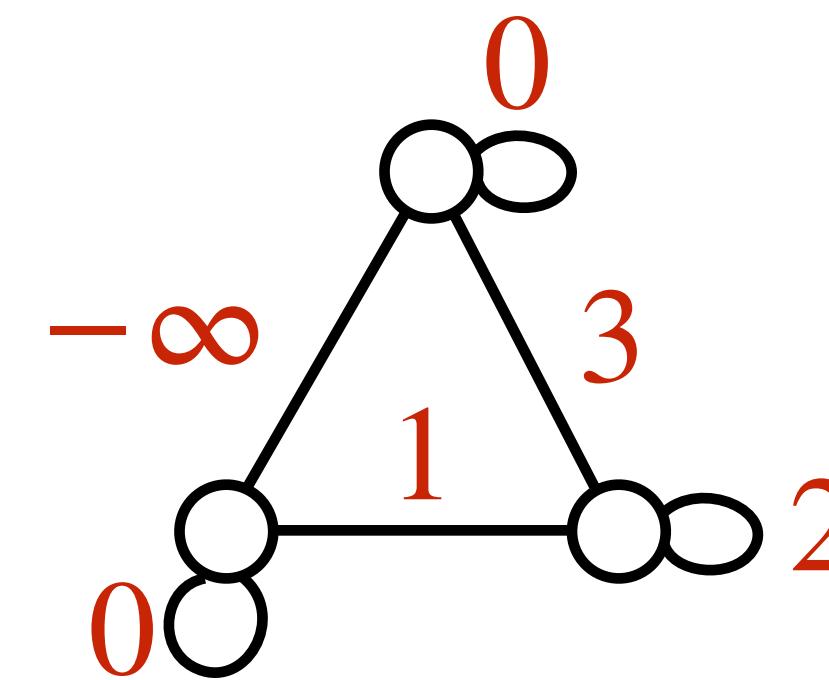
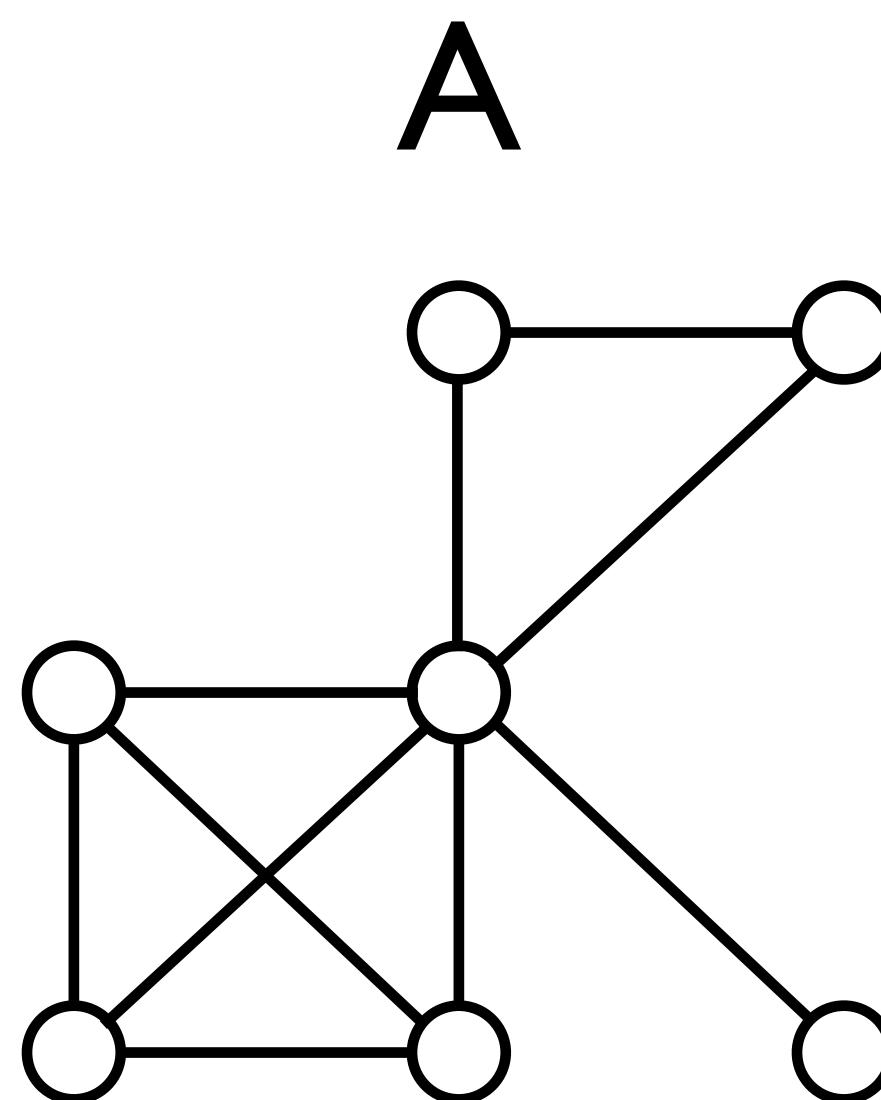
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# PTAS for VCSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -$ )

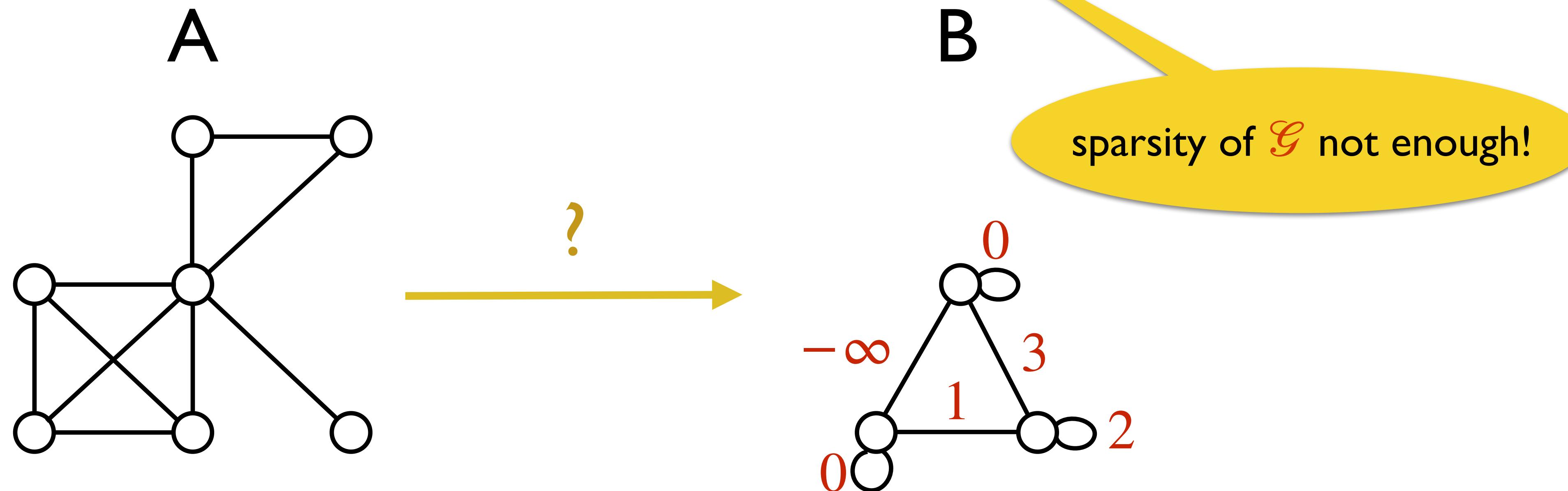


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sparsity of  $\mathcal{G}$  not enough!

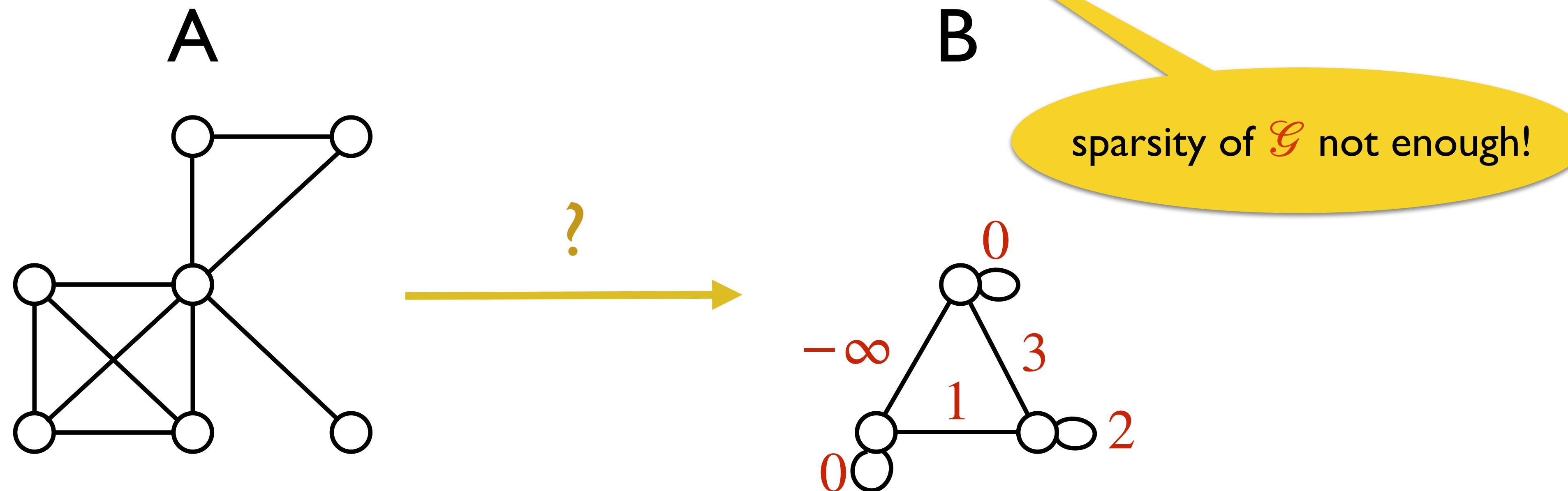
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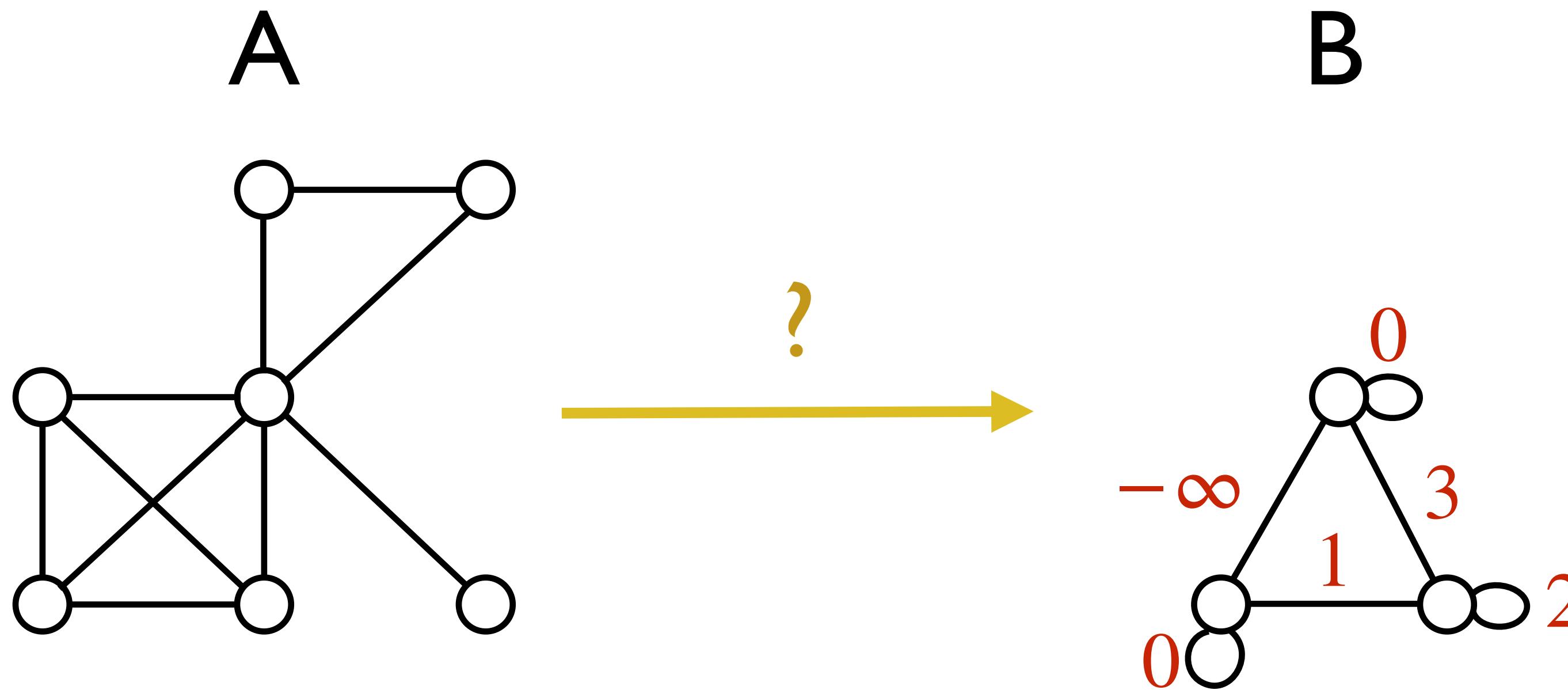
[Dailey DAM'80]

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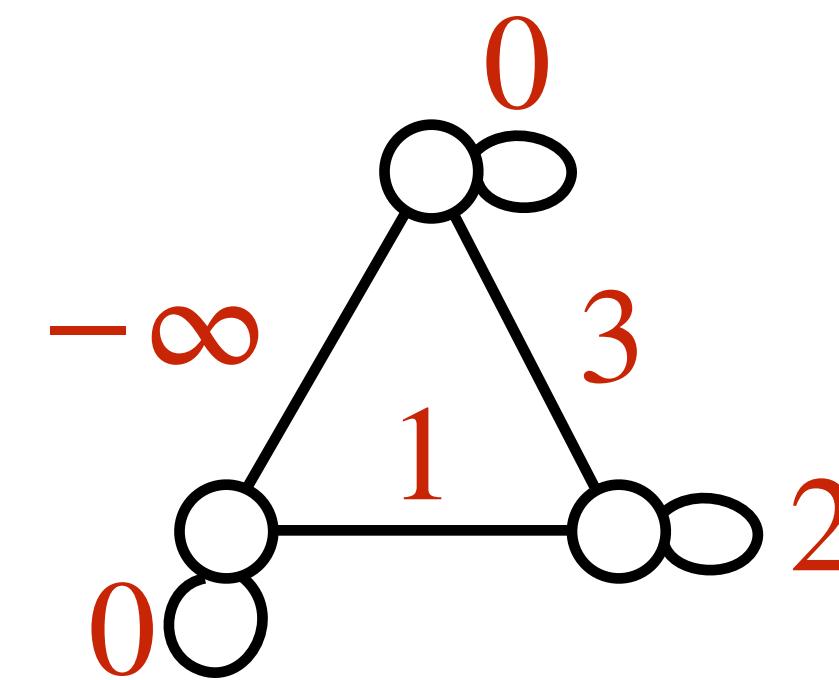
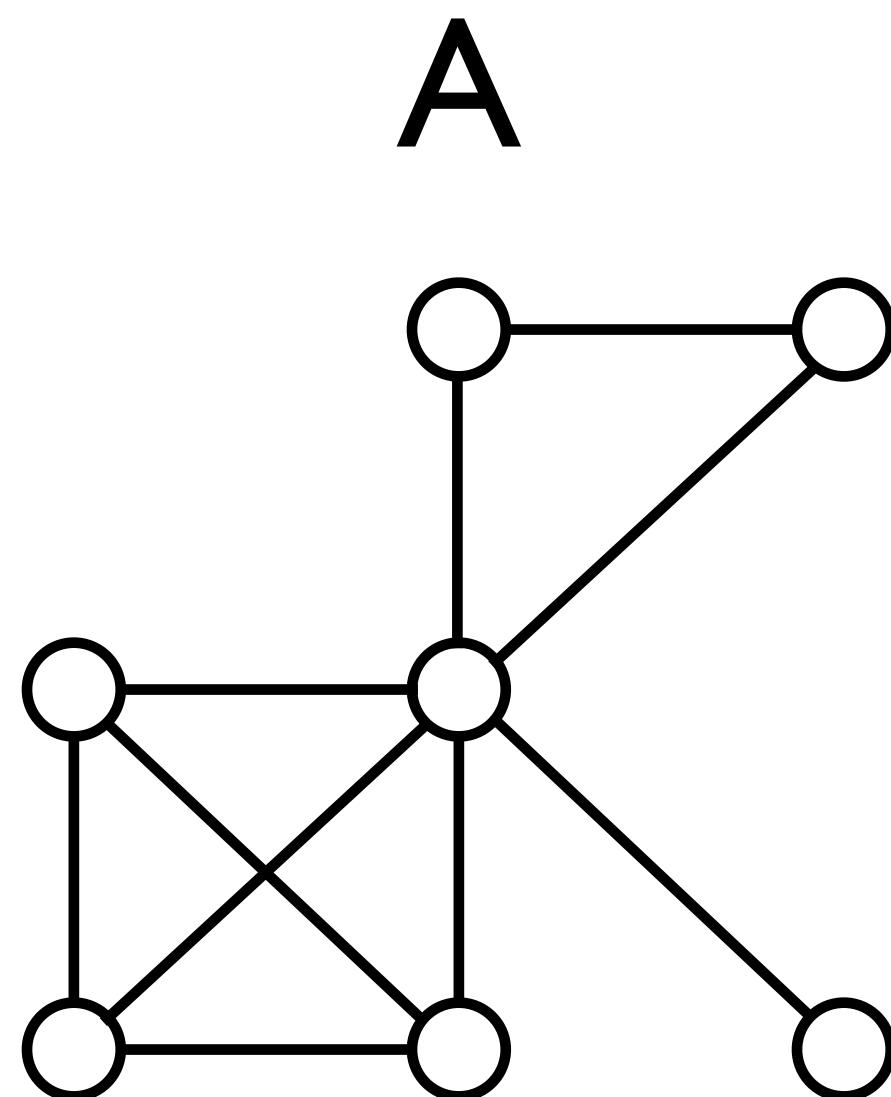


- 3-colour in planar 4-regular graphs is NP-hard [Dailey DAM'80]
- $\text{CSP}(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  iff  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  bounded [Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

# PTAS for VCSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}$ , B)

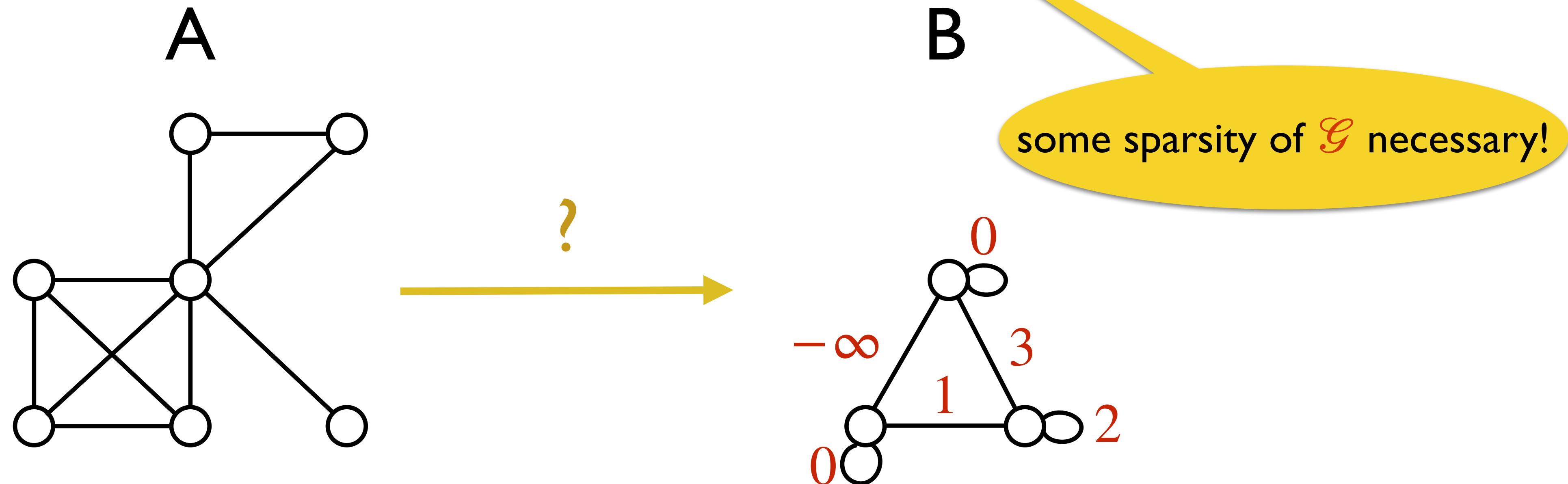


# PTAS for VCSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}$ , B)



some sparsity of  $\mathcal{G}$  necessary!

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- $\text{VCSP}(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete

[Kozik-Ochremiak ICALP'15 + Kolmogorov et al. SICOMP'17]

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- Max-3-Col-Subgraph: domain  $\{\textcolor{red}{r}, \textcolor{green}{g}, \textcolor{blue}{b}, b_{\perp}\}$

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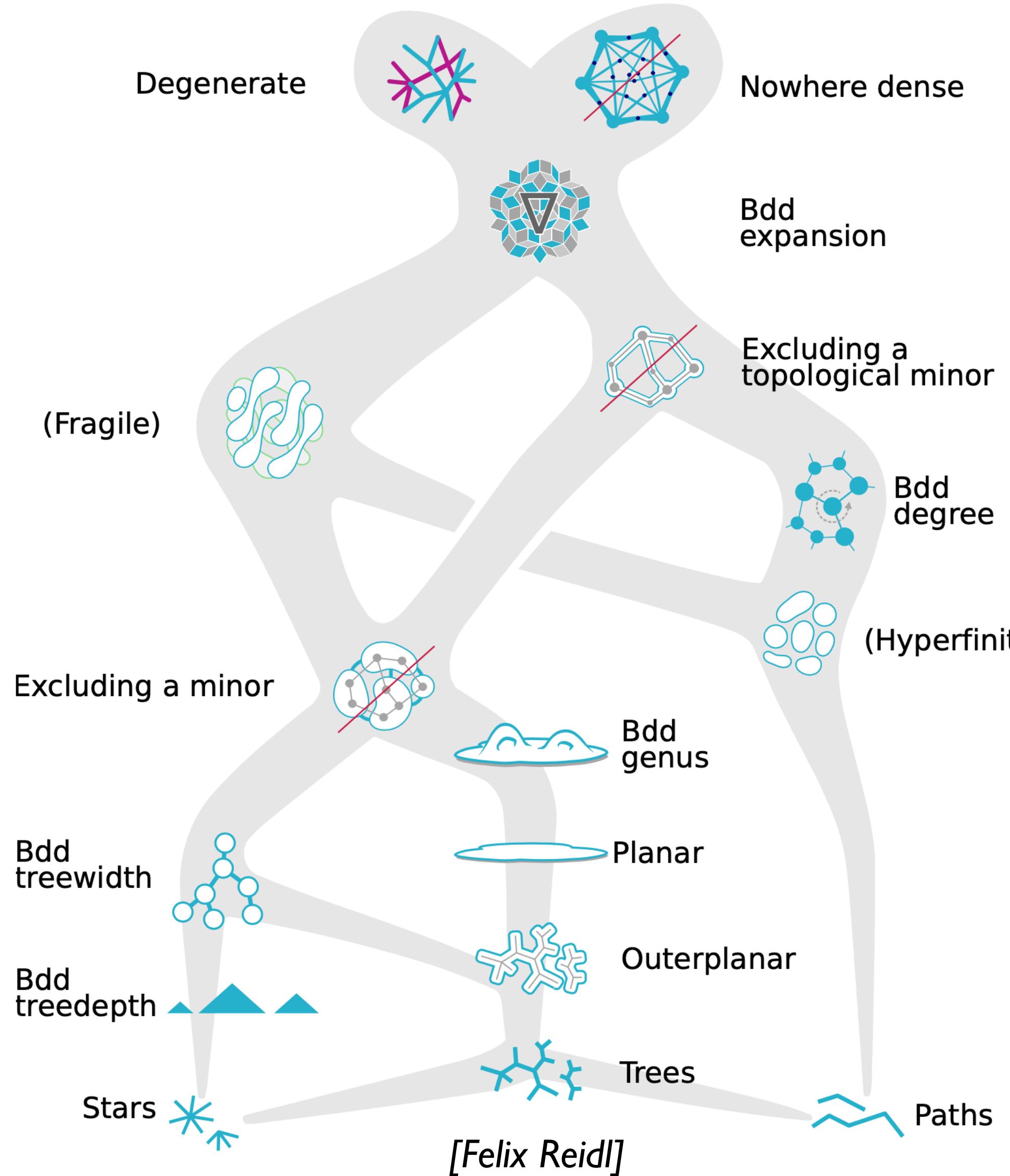
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Min-VC on fr-tw-fr?

# Conj: $\text{MaxCSP}(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -)$ admits a PTAS iff $\mathcal{G}$ is fr-tw-fr.



- Gap-ETH-hardness for tournaments
- hardness of non-degenerate  $\mathcal{G}$ ?
- hardness of 3-regular high girth  $\mathcal{G}$ ?
- hardness of  $\mathcal{G}$  containing expanders?
- Sherali-Adams gaps?
- $O(1)$ -approx
- weak hyperfiniteness
- EPTAS (via random samples)
- twin-width