

# Detecting Feedback Vertex Sets of Size $k$ in $O^*(2.7^k)$ Time

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## Introduction

Def: given a graph  $G$ , a **feedback vertex set** (FVS) is a set  $F$  of vertices s.t.  $G-F$  is a forest  
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Want time **FPT in  $k$ :**  $f(k)*\text{poly}(n)$

Goal in FPT setting: **minimize function  $f(k)$ .**  
 $\text{poly}(n)$  factor does not matter

## Prior Work

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**This talk:  $(3-\epsilon)^k$ , or how to break  $3^k$ .**

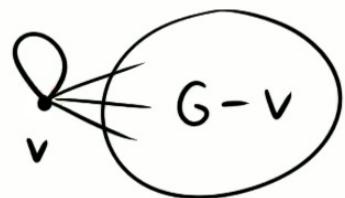
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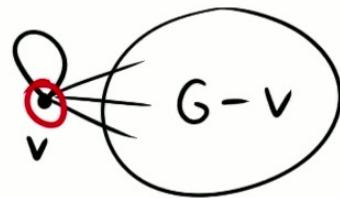
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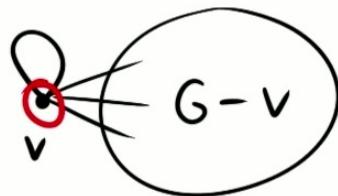


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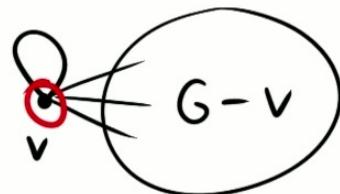
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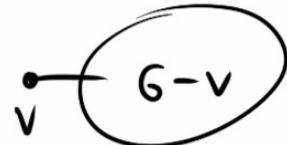
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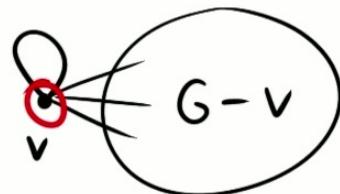
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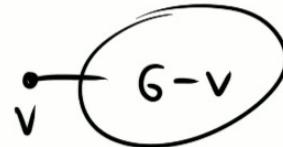
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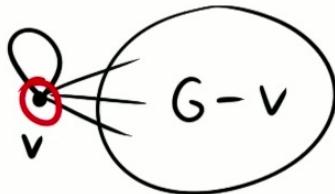


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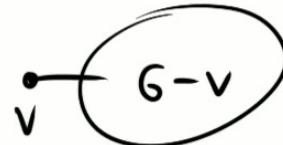
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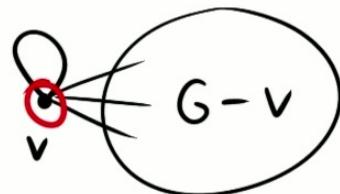
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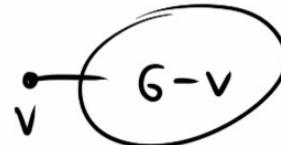
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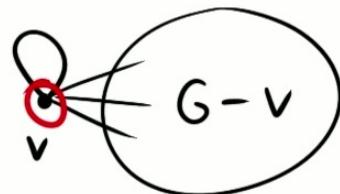


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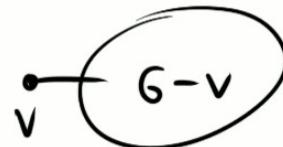
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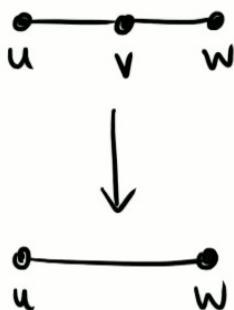
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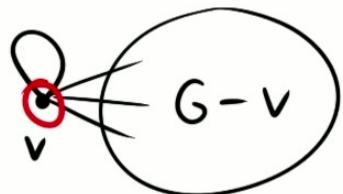


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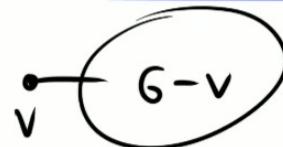
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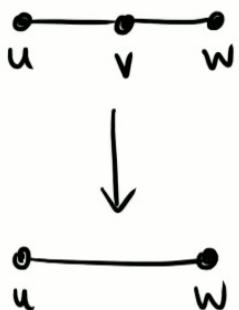
When (1),(2),(3) no longer apply:  
- no self-loops  
- minimum degree 3

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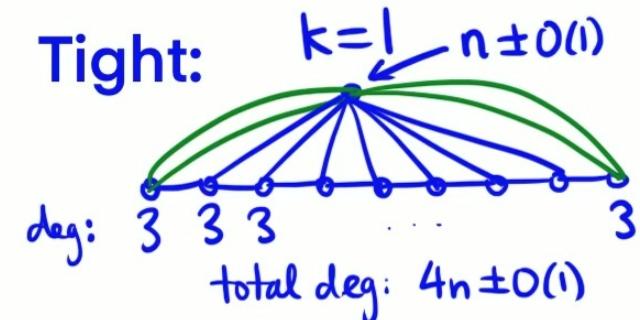
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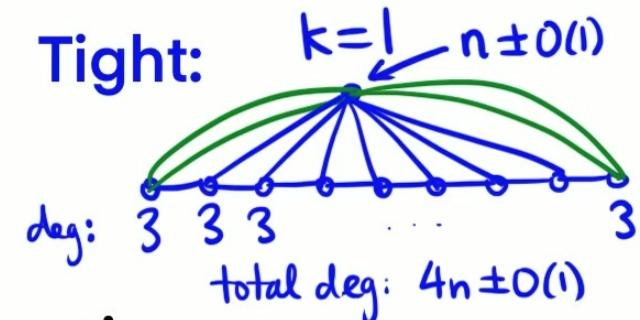
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Prob.  $1/4$  to decrease  $k$  by 1 and preserve reduction

=> prob.  $1/4^k$  to go all the way. Repeat  $4^k$  times:  $O^*(4^k)$  algo.



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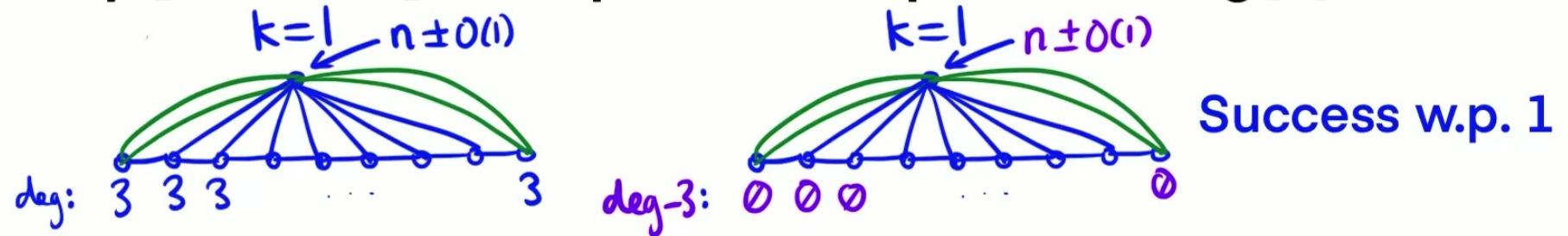
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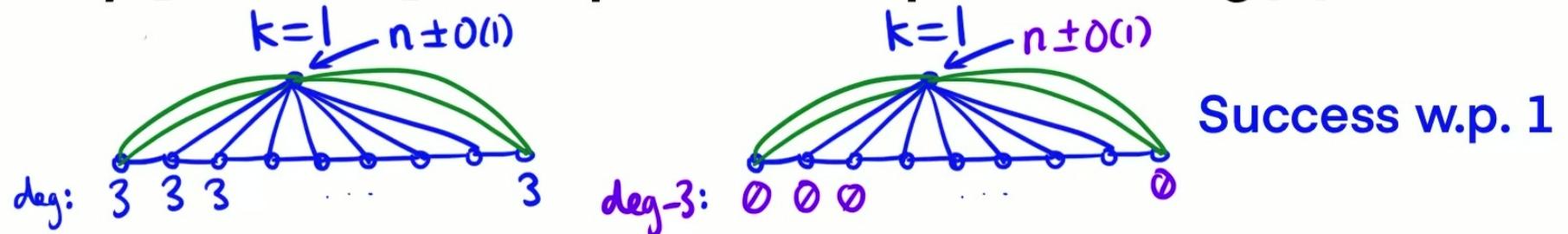


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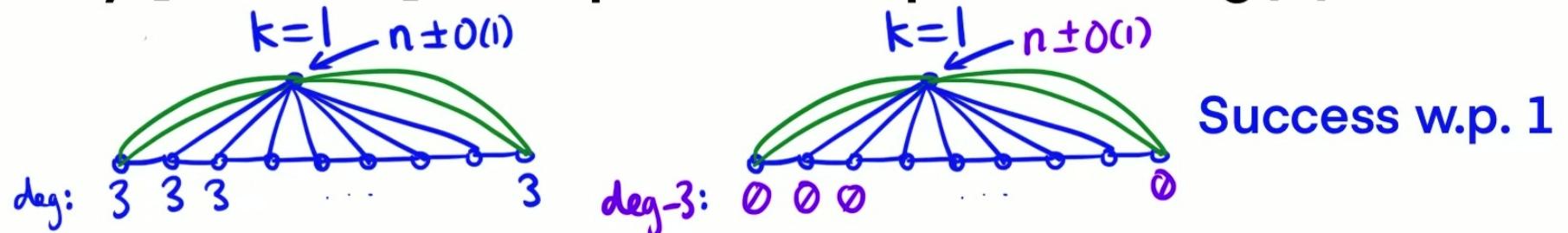
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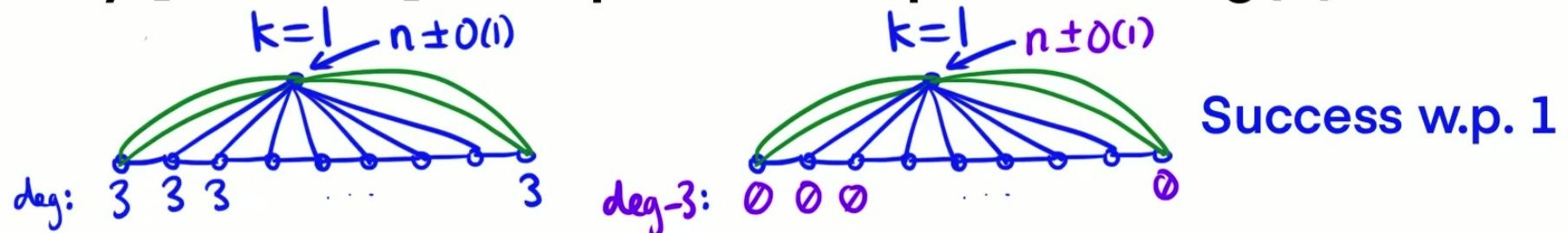
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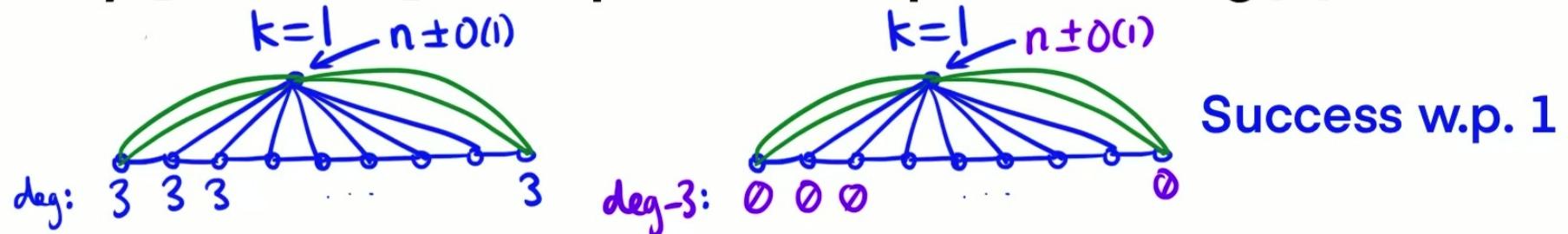
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Lemma: Let  $F$  be a FVS of graph  $G$ . Then,

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If  $n \geq 4k$  and  $F$  has size  $k$ :

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If  $m \geq 20n$  and  $F$  has size  $k$ :

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$$\deg(F) \geq \frac{1}{2}(2m - 2(n-k-1)) \geq m - n + k$$

$$\sum_{v \in F} (\deg(v) - 3) = \deg(v) - 3|F| \geq m - 4n \geq 0.8m$$

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Original problem: given graph  $G$ , find FVS size  $k$ , or determine none exist.

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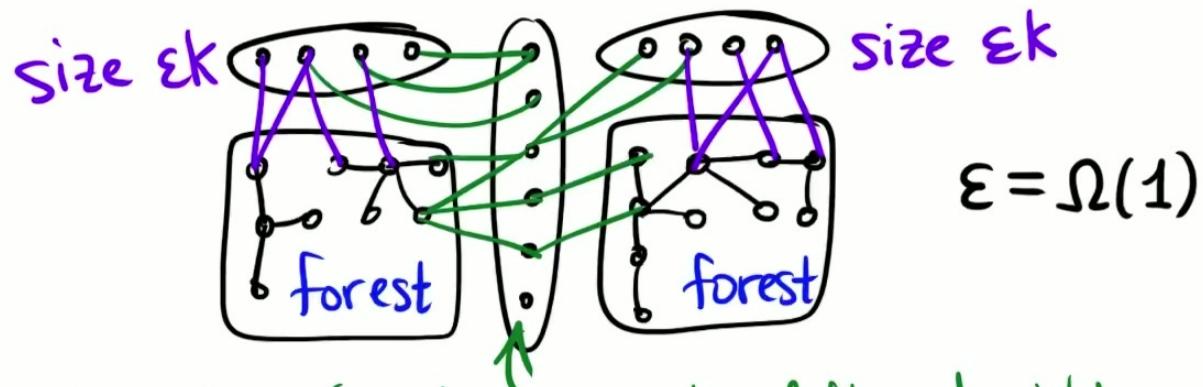
- Get size  $(k+1)$  FVS as input **for free**

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Lemma: Given a graph with  $m \leq 100k$ , and given a FVS of size  $k+1$ ,

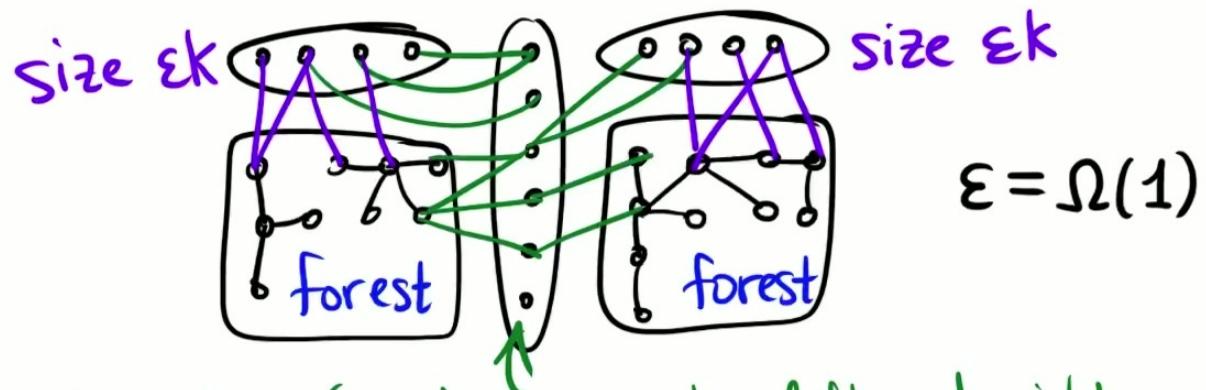
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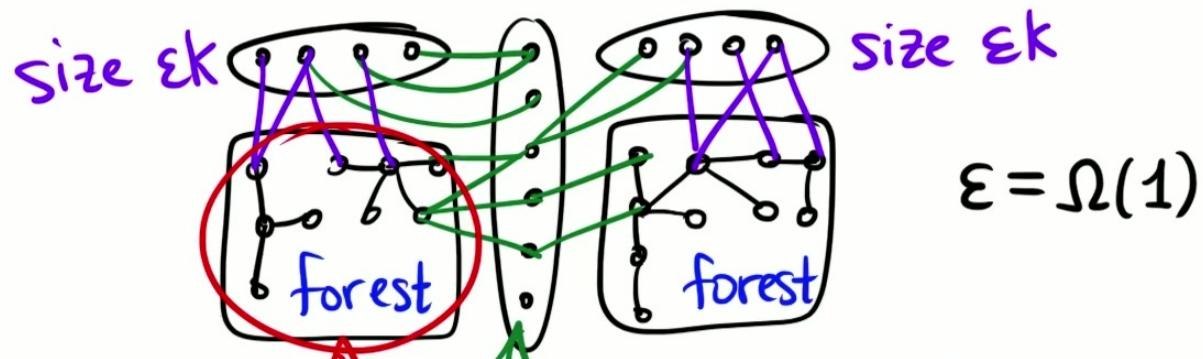


Claim: a graph with this decomposition has treewidth  $(1-\Omega(1))k$

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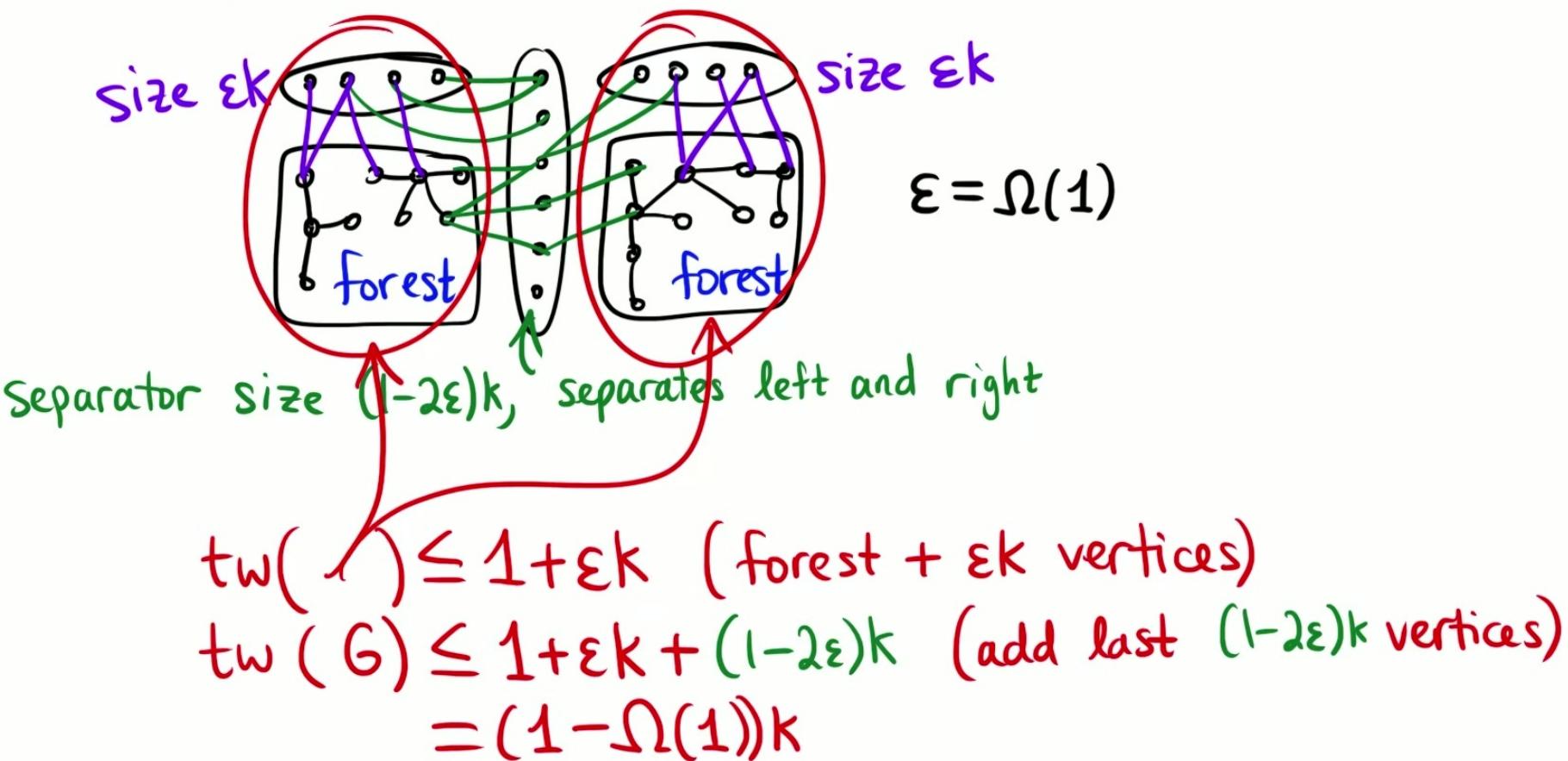
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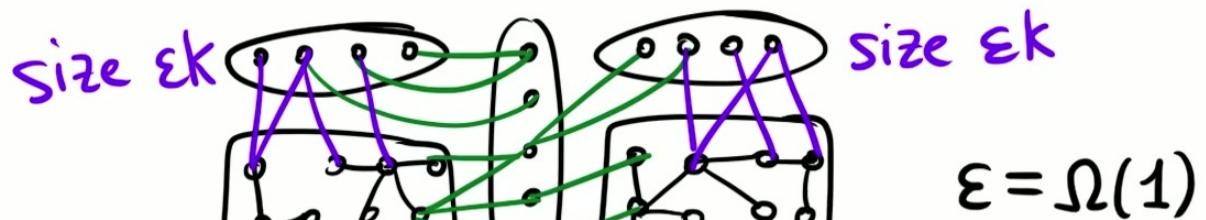
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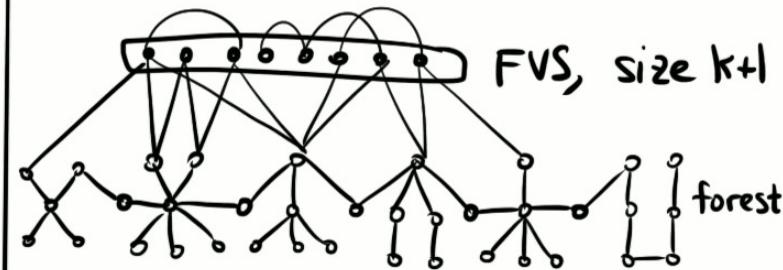


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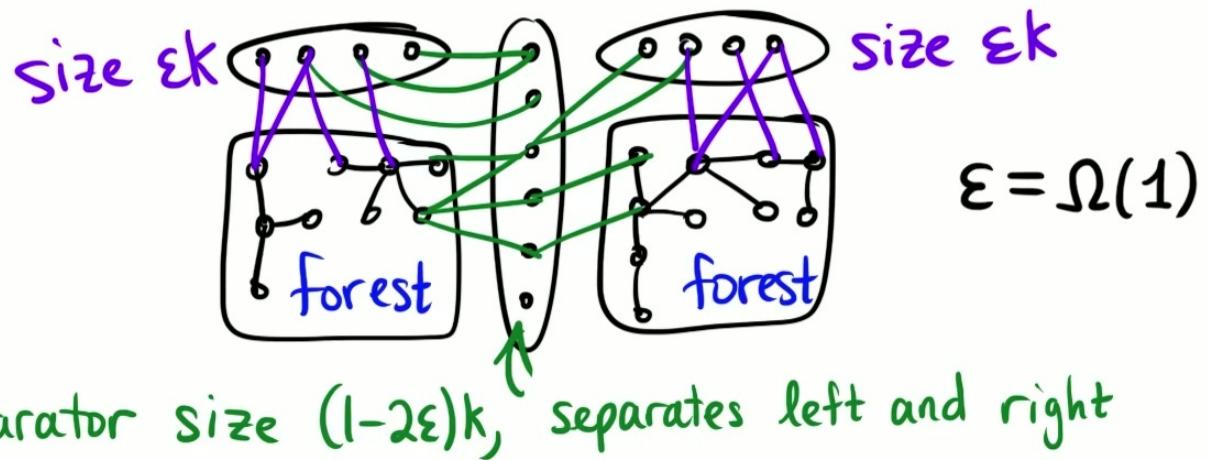


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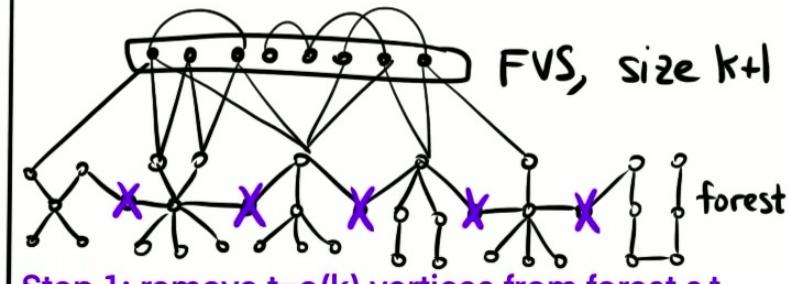


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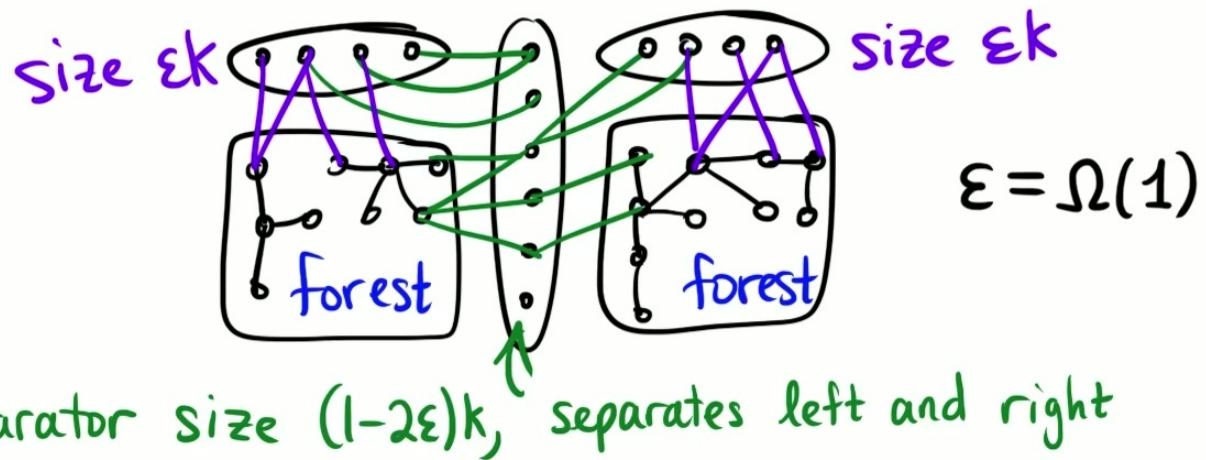
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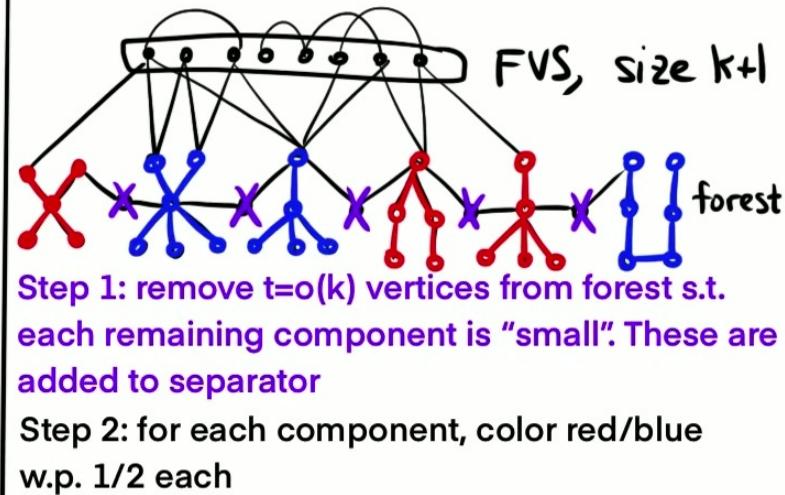
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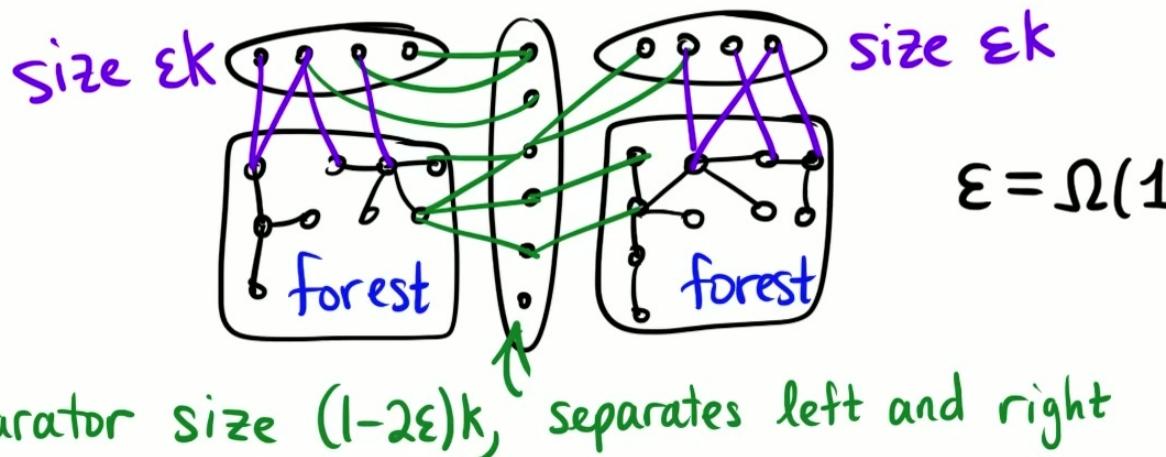


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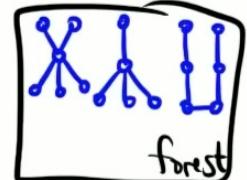
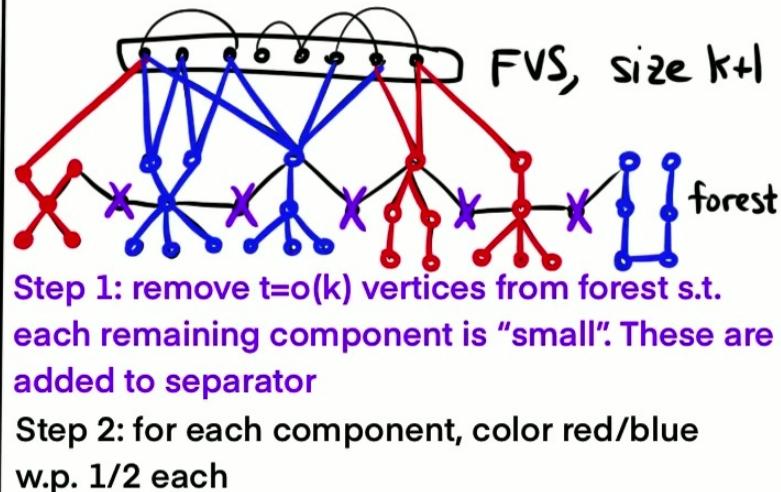


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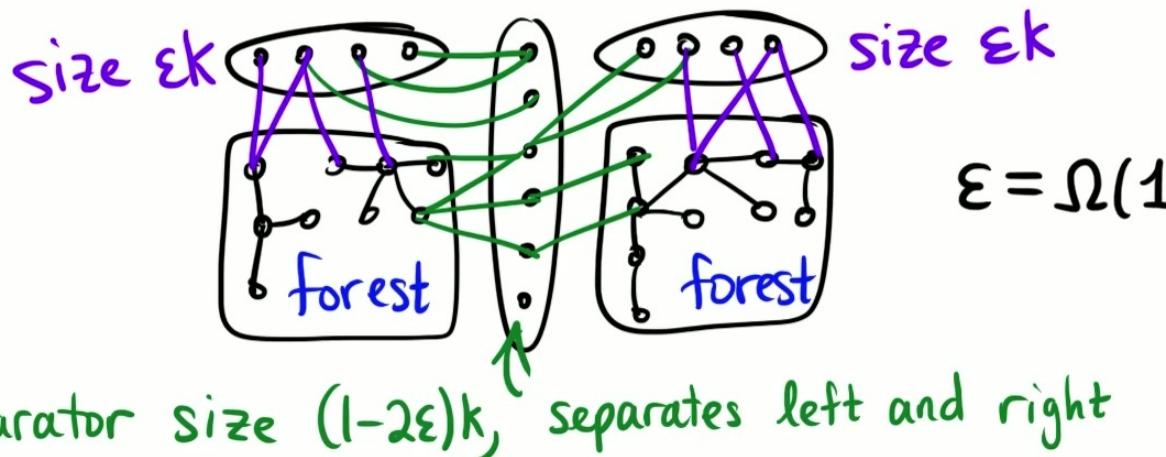


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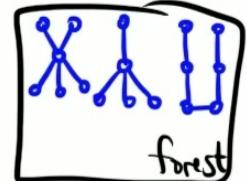
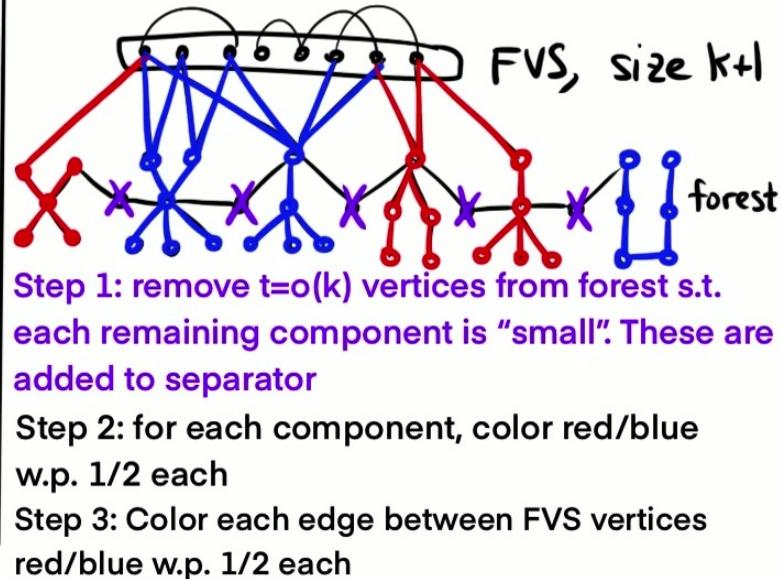


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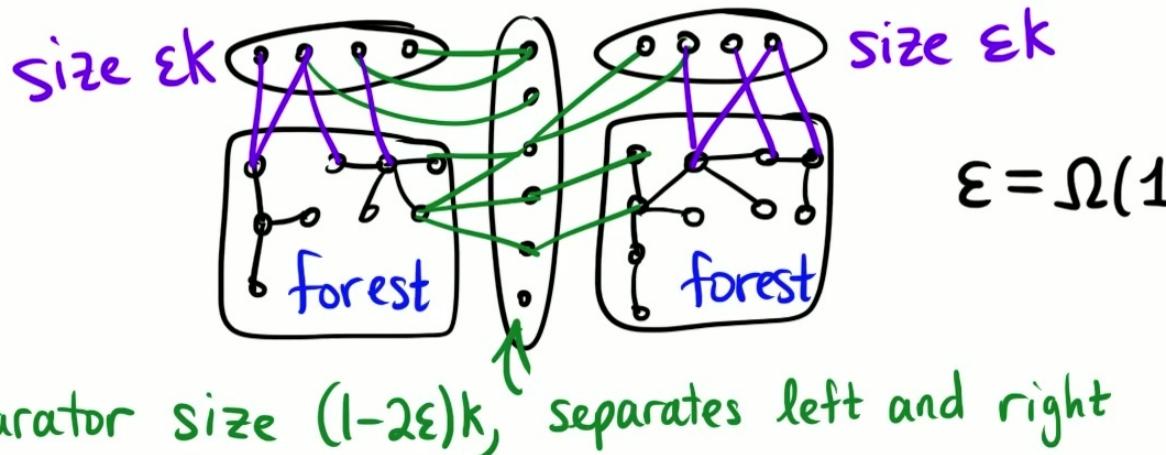


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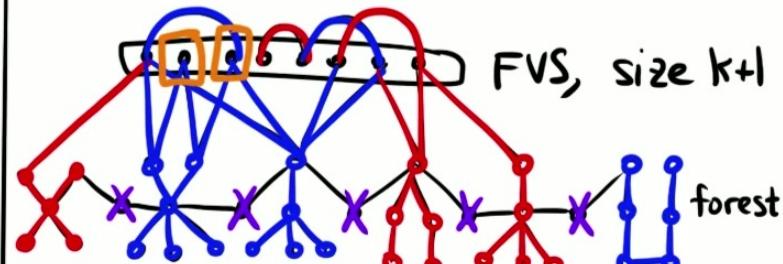
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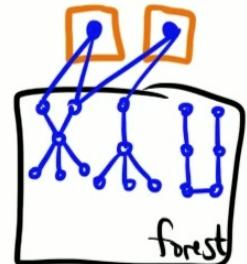
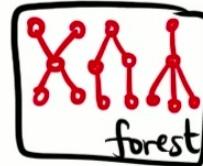
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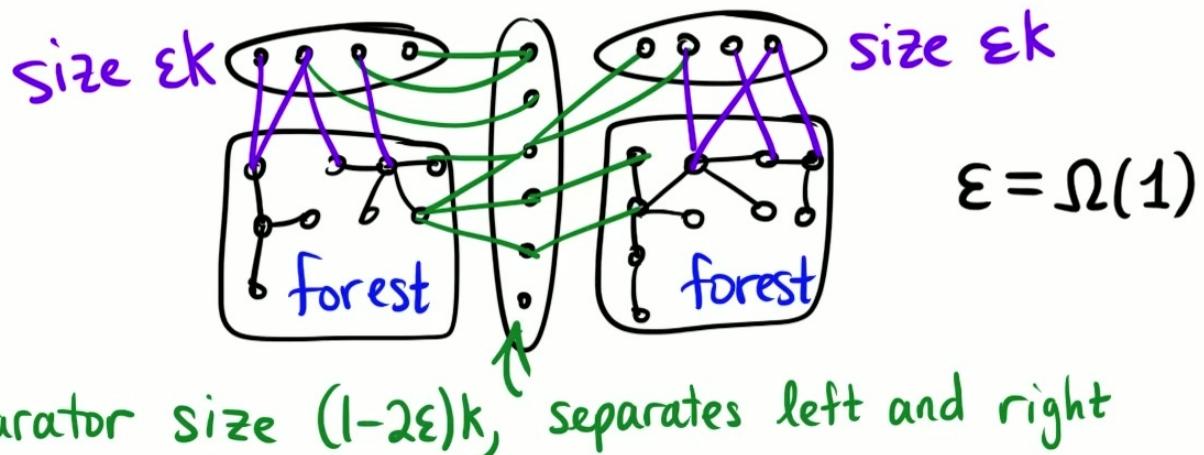
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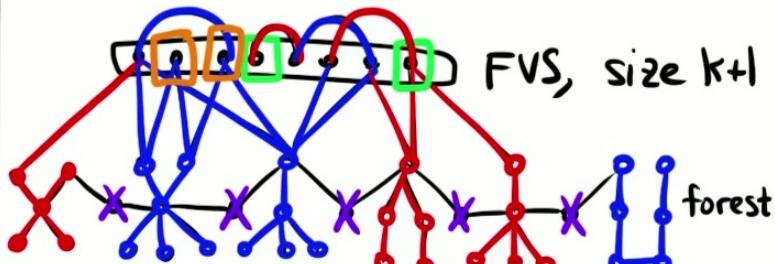


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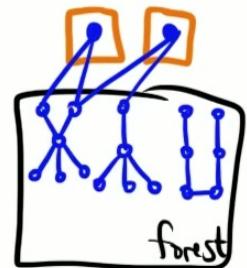
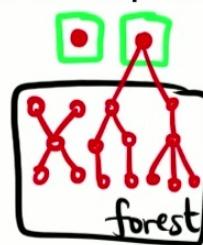
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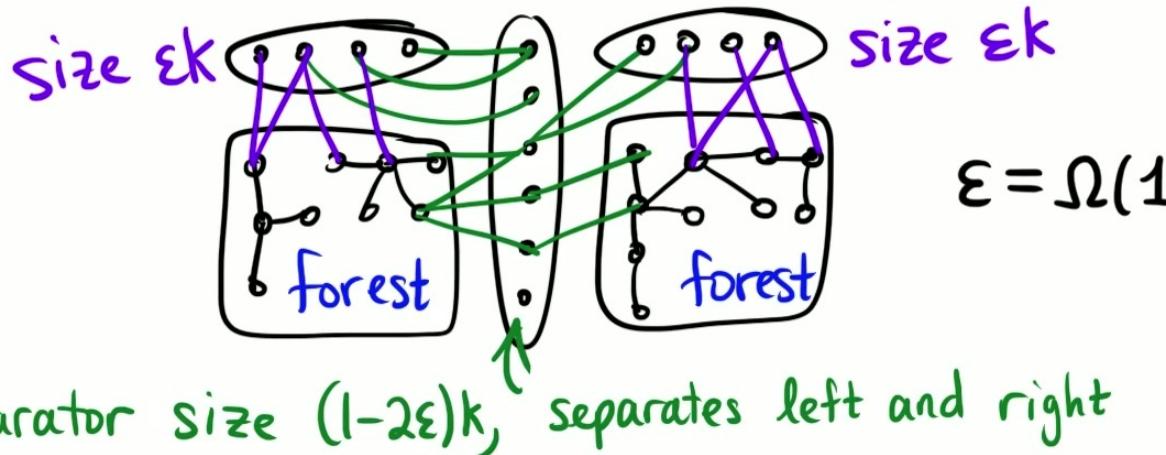
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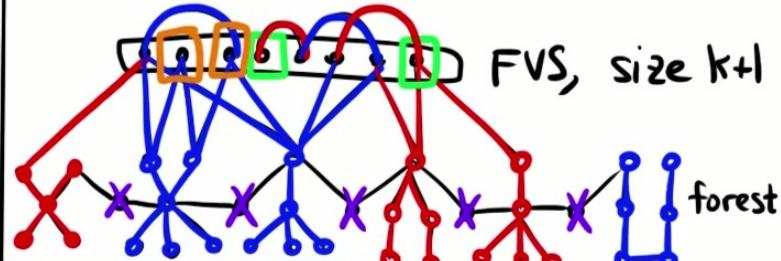


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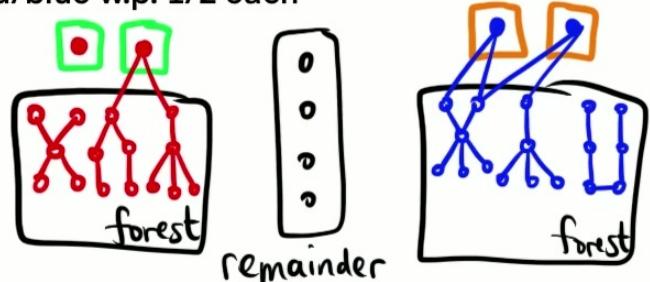
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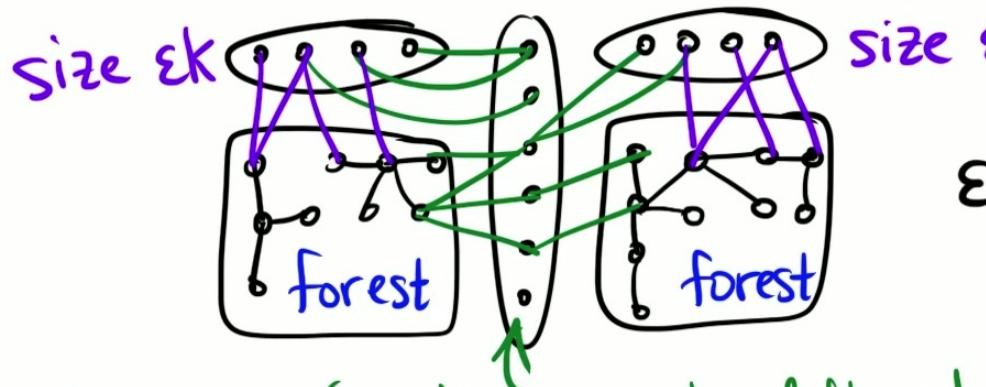
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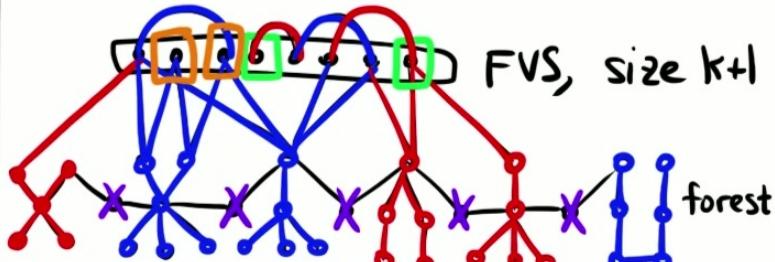
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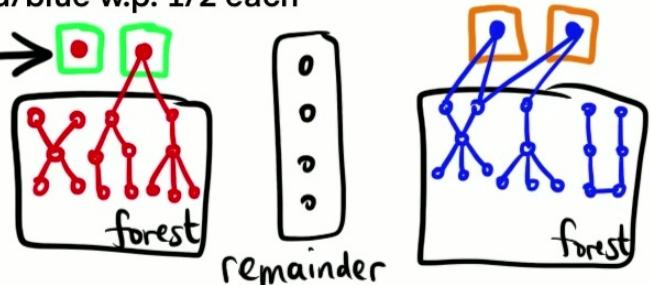
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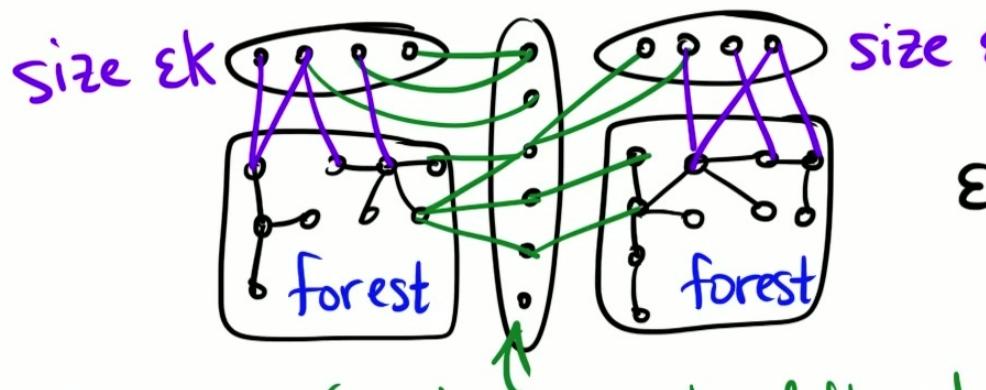
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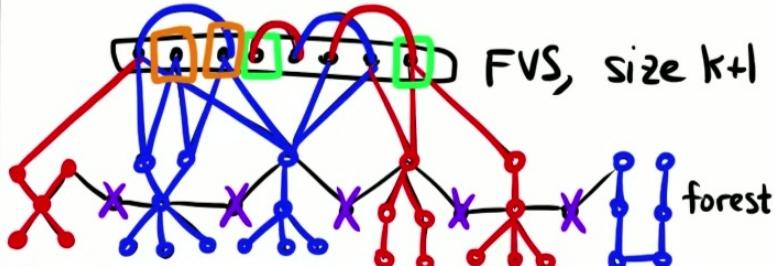
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Jensen

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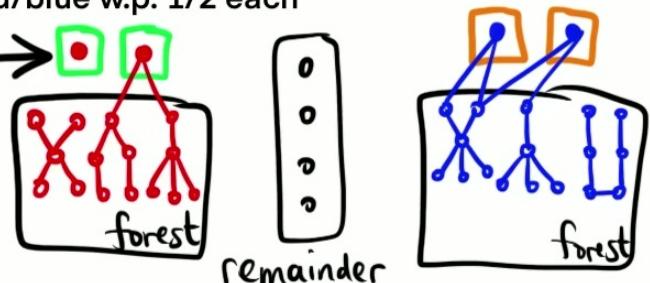
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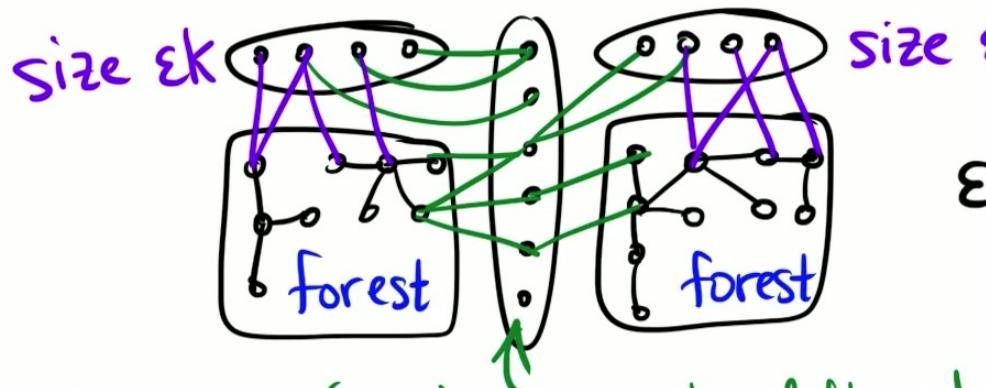
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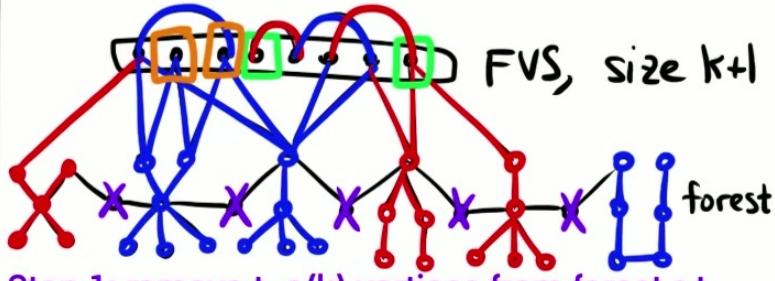
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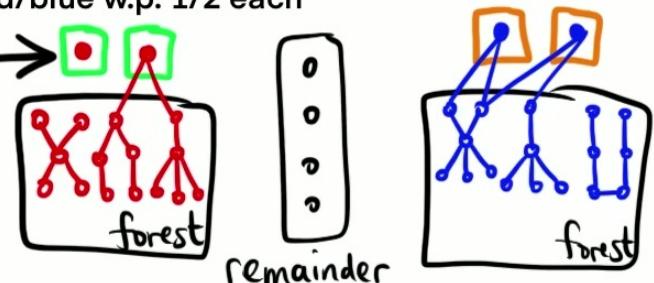
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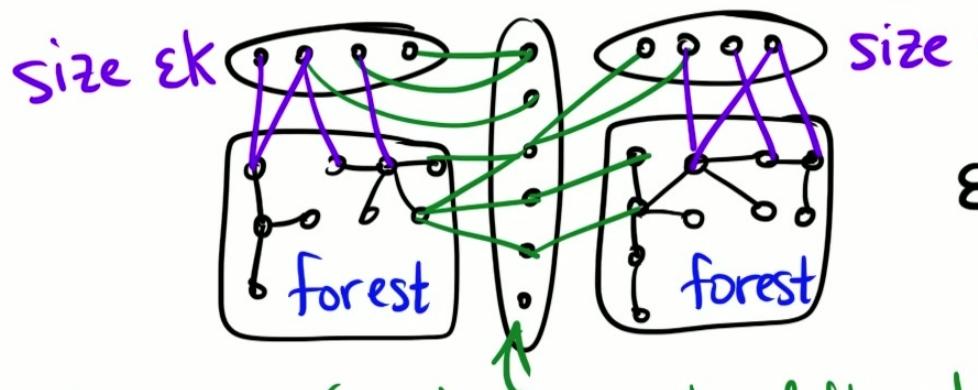
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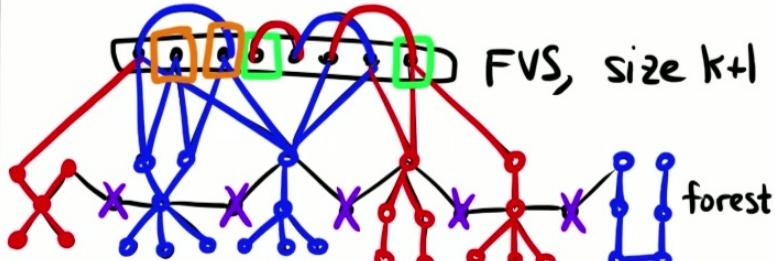
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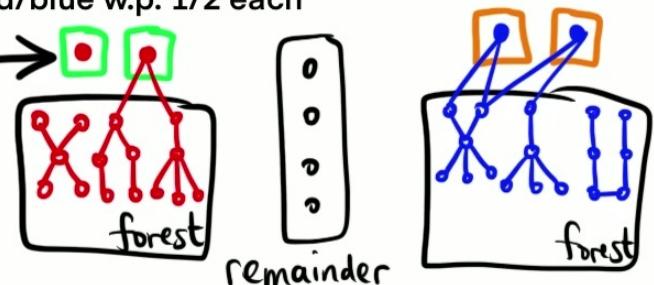
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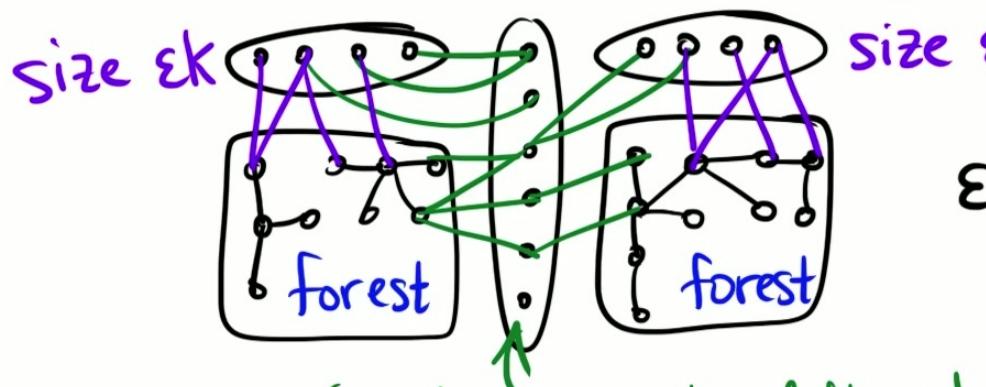
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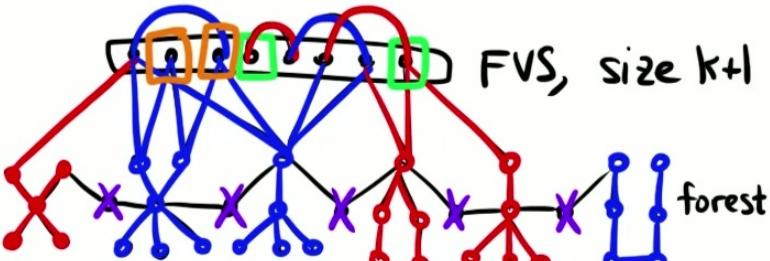
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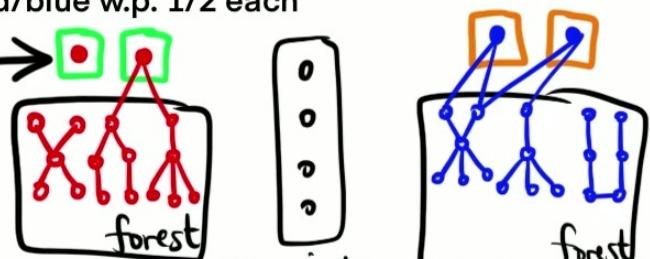
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## Speedup: $O^*(2.7^k)$ time

- Tighten  $(\deg(v)-3)$  analysis and open  $3^{\text{tw}}$  algorithm [CNP+11]
- [CNP+11] actually solves a **counting** problem
  - special arithmetic structure: speed up via **fast matrix multiplication**

## Speedup: $O^*(2.7^k)$ time

- Tighten  $(\deg(v)-3)$  analysis and open  $3^{\text{tw}}$  algorithm [CNP+11]
- [CNP+11] actually solves a **counting** problem
  - special arithmetic structure: speed up via **fast matrix multiplication**

## Open problems

- Our main conceptual message:  $3^k$  can be broken (randomized)
  - Faster deterministic algorithm? [BBG'00] is inherently randomized
- $2^k$  possible?
- SETH lower bound? No  $1.00001^k$  lower bound known!