

# Vertex-minors and Pivot-minors

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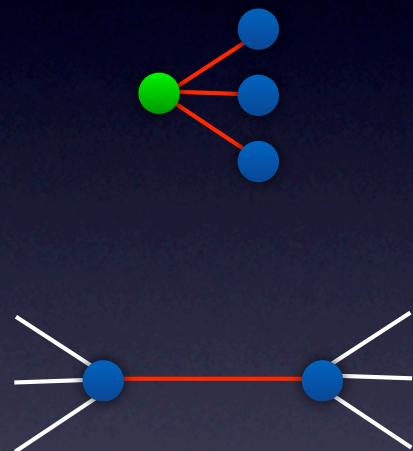
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# Subgraphs and minors



Delete



Contract

Subgraphs

Topological  
minors

Minors

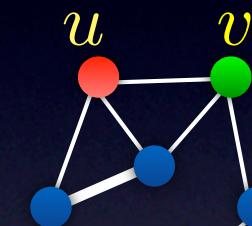


# Induced subgraphs and ?



Delete vertices

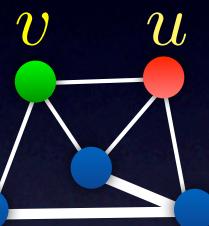
Induced  
Subgraphs



$G \wedge uv$

Pivot

Pivot-minors



$G * v$

Local  
Complementation



Vertex-minors

Minors

Vertex-minors, Pivot-minors

Planar graphs

Circle graphs

k-connected

k-rank-connected

Branch-width

Rank-width

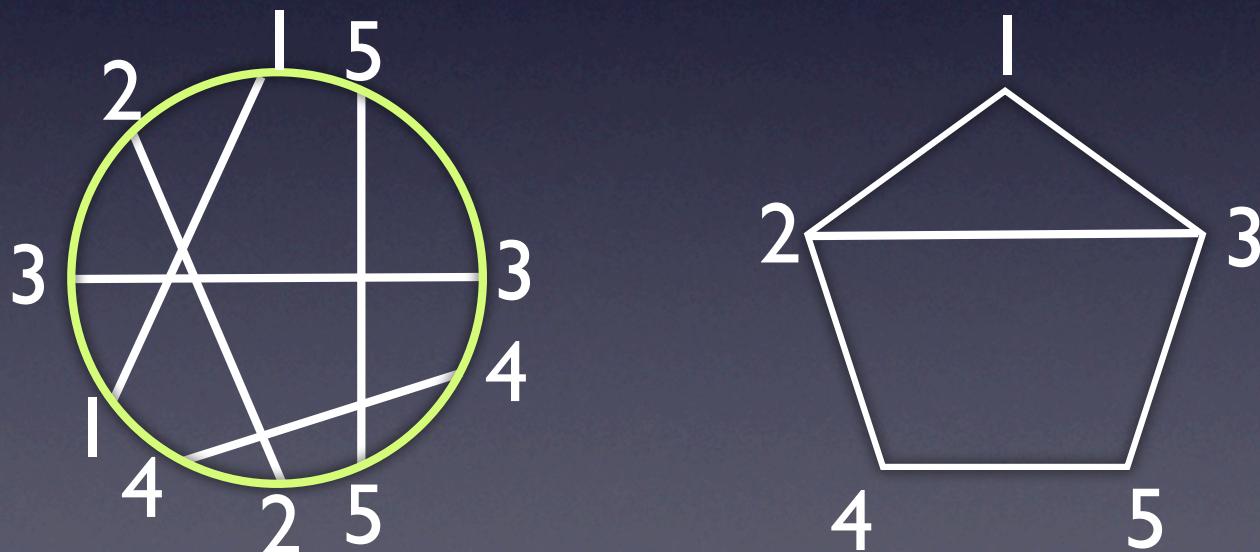
Matroids

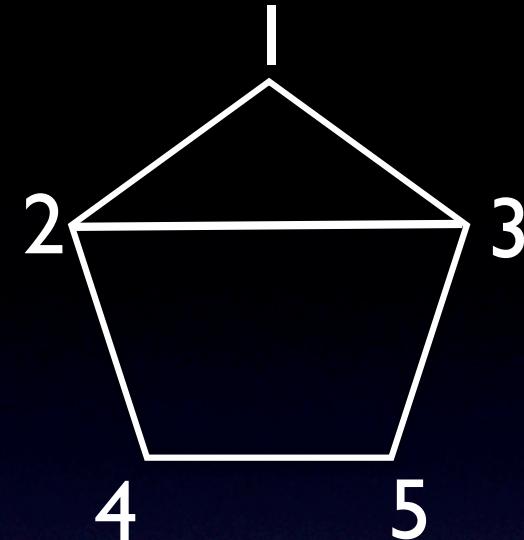
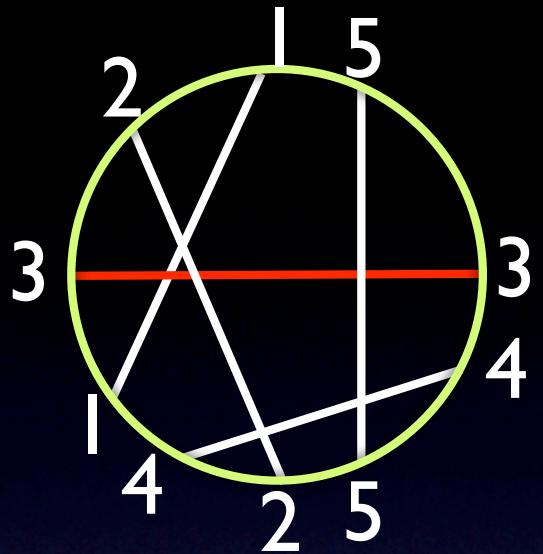
Delta-matroids,  
Isotropic Systems

Minors	Vertex-minors, Pivot-minors
Planar graphs	Circle graphs
k-connected	k-rank-connected
Branch-width	Rank-width
Matroids	Delta-matroids, Isotropic Systems

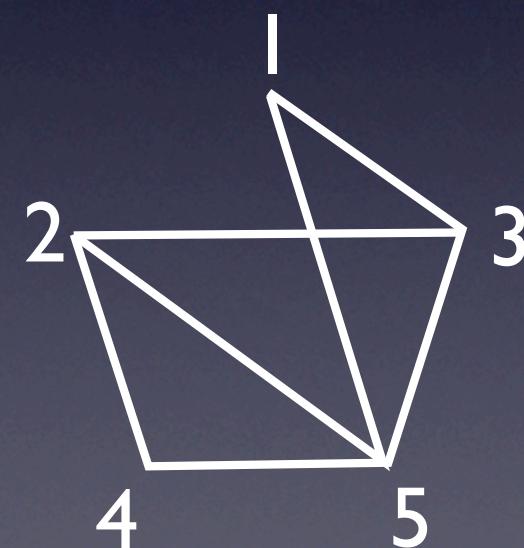
# Circle graphs

- Intersection graphs of chords of a circle
- Overlap graphs of intervals on a line

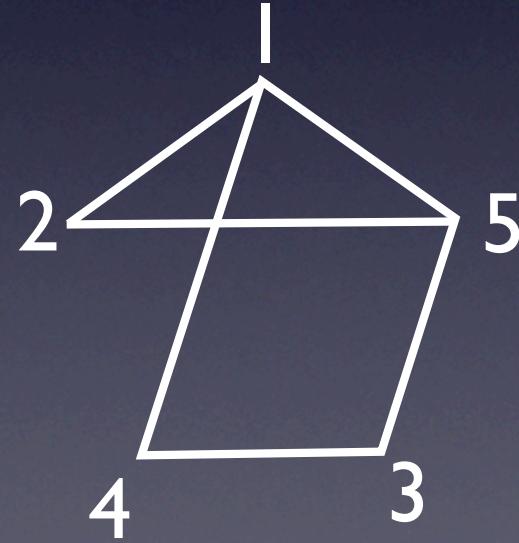
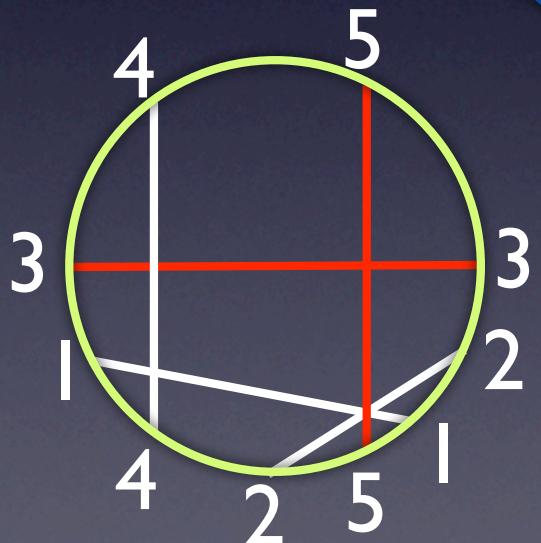
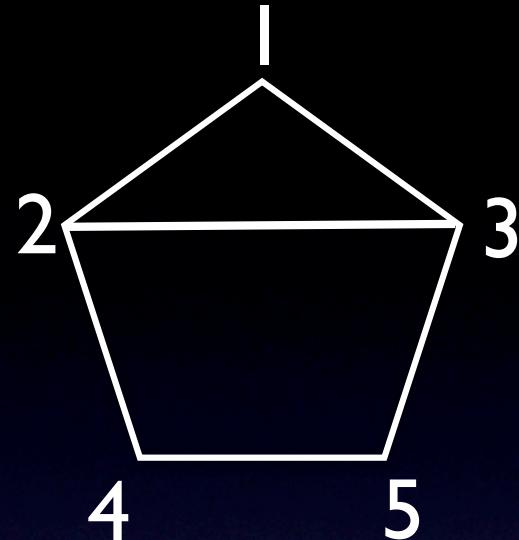
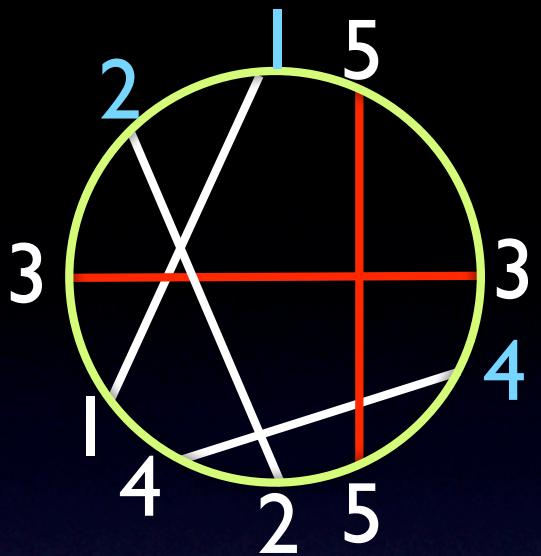




Local complementation at 3

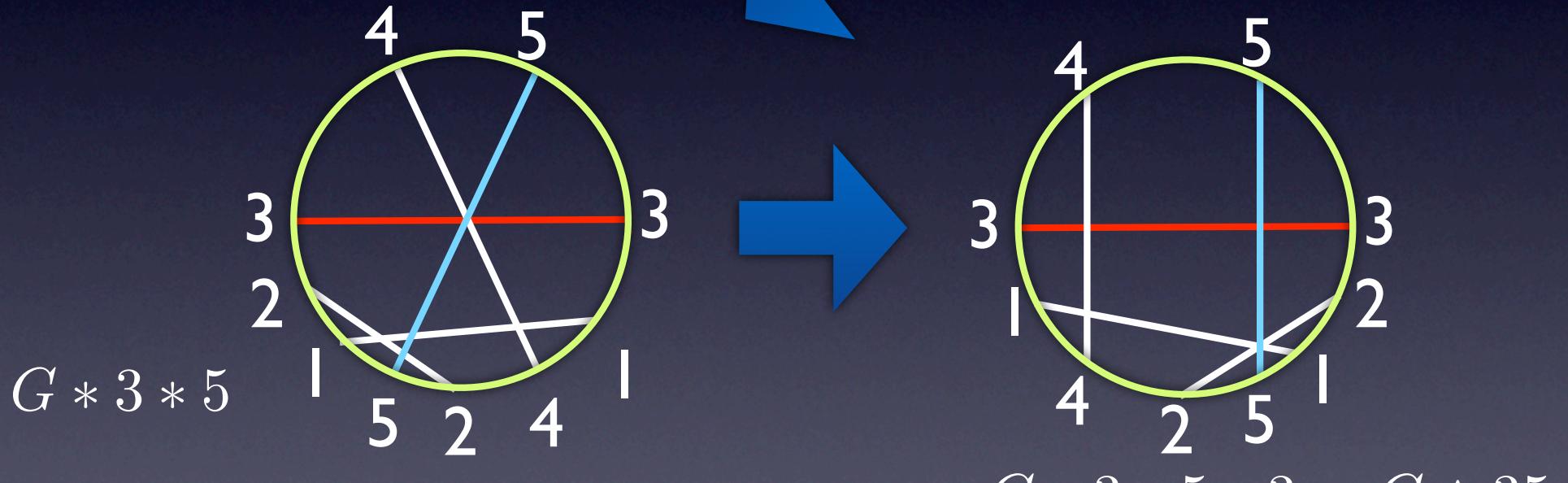


Circle graphs are closed under taking vertex-minors



Pivoting 35

Circle graphs are closed under taking pivot-minors



$$G * 3 * 5 * 3 = G \wedge 35$$

$$G * u * v * u = G \wedge uv$$

In general, every pivot-minor is a vertex-minor.

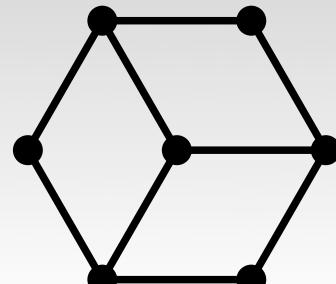
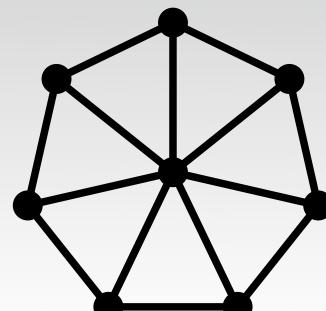
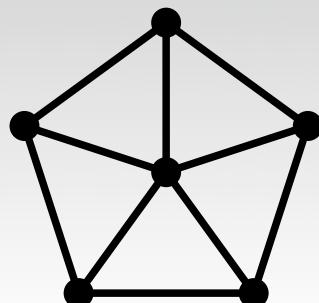
# Forbidden vertex-minors for circle graphs

- A graph is a circle graph iff it has no vertex-minors isomorphic to

$W_5$

$W_7$

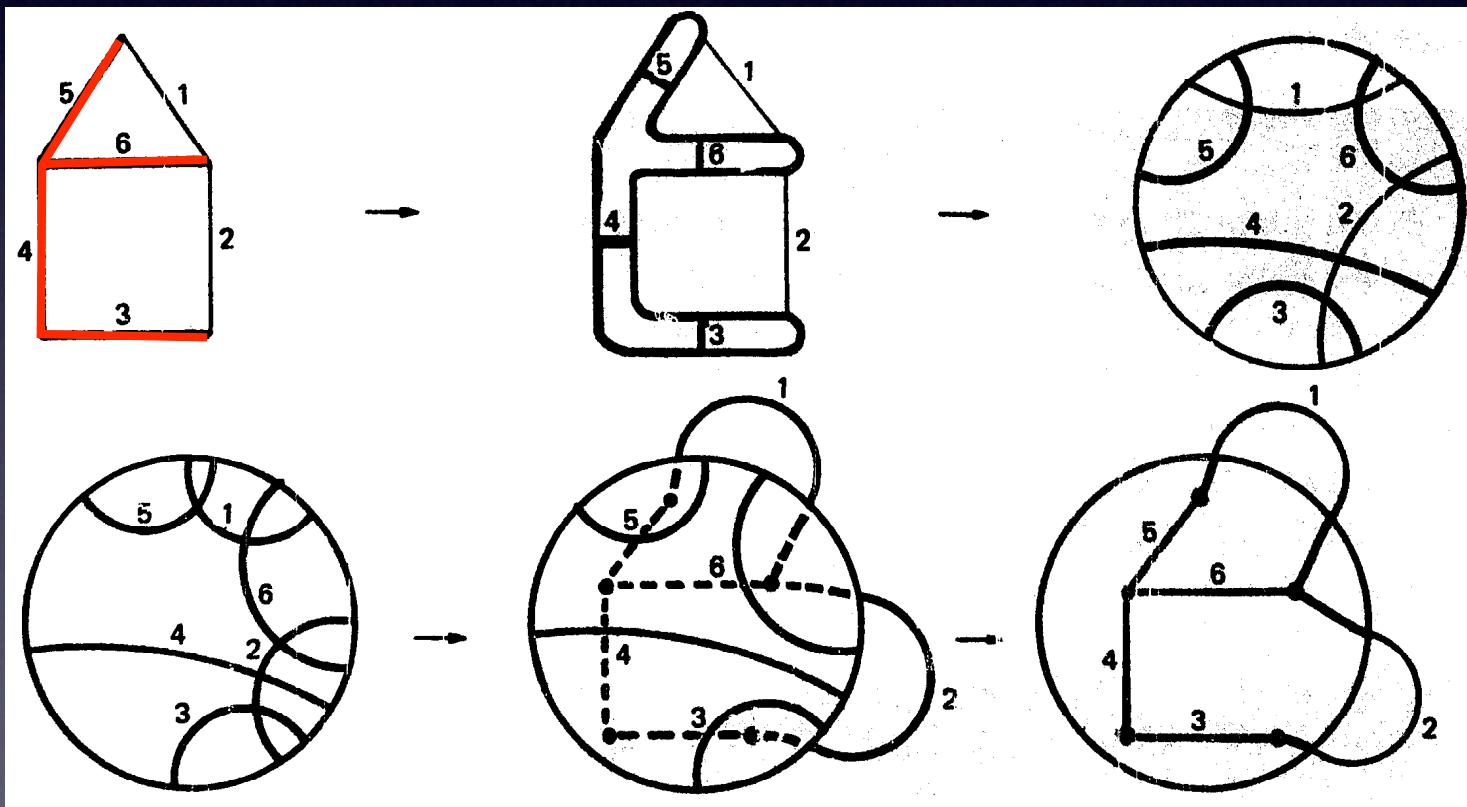
$BW_3$



Bouchet '94

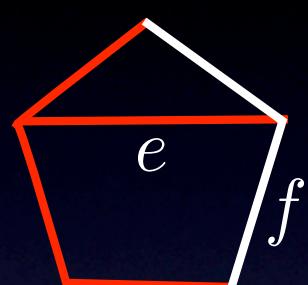
# Circle v.s. Planar

- A **bipartite** graph is a **circle** graph iff it is a fundamental graph of a **planar** graph.

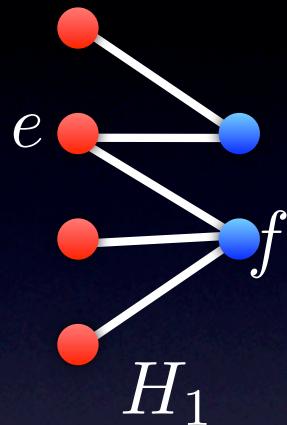


de Fraysseix '81

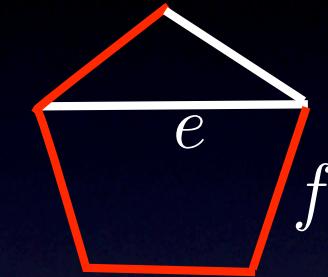
# Minors & Pivot-minors



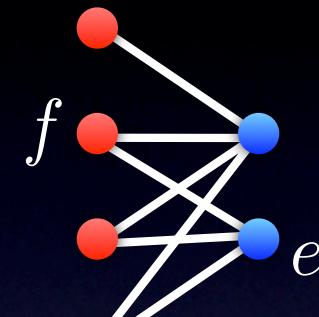
$G$



$H_1$



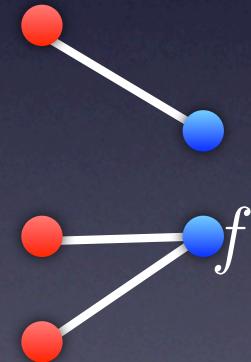
$G/f$



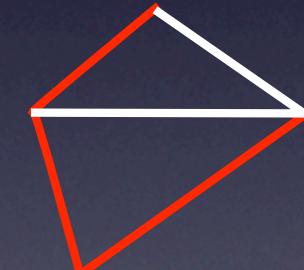
$H_2 = H_1 \wedge ef$



$G/e$



$H_1 \setminus e$



$G/f$

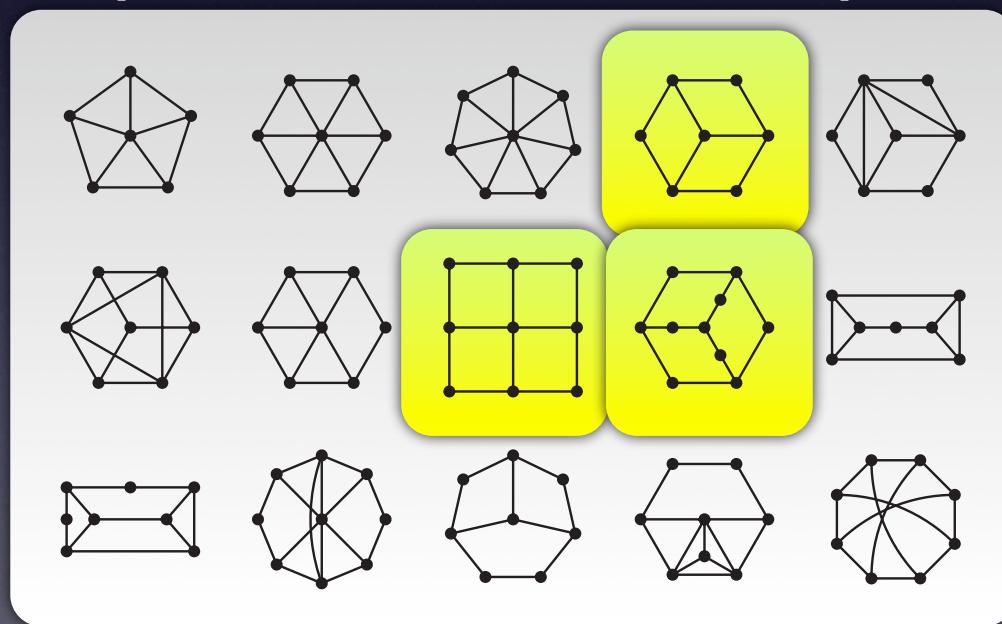


$H_2 \setminus f = H_1 \wedge ef \setminus f$

Minors correspond to pivot-minors of fundamental graphs.

# Forbidden pivot-minors for circle graphs

- A graph is a circle graph iff it has no pivot-minors isomorphic to



FG of Fano  
matroid

$M(K_5)$

$M(K_{3,3})$

Implies Kuratowski's theorem!

Geelen, O. '09

# Distance-hereditary

- Distance-hereditary: graphs that can be generated from a graph with no edges by
  - creating twins
  - creating pendant vertices
- Closed under taking vertex-minors
- “series-parallel graphs” for vertex-minors
- Distance-hereditary
  - iff no  $C_5$  vertex-minors
  - iff no  $C_5, C_6$  pivot-minors

Bandelt, Mulder '86      Bouchet'87,'88

# Finitely many forbidden graphs

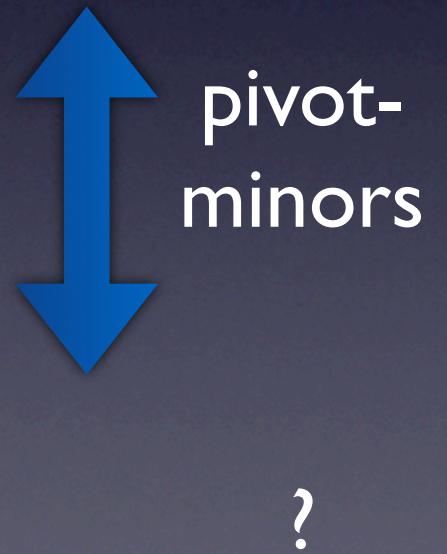
- Thm: Every minor-closed class of graphs has finitely many forbidden minors.
- Conj: Every pivot-minor-closed class of graphs has finitely many forbidden pivot-minors.
- Weak Conj: Every vertex-minor-closed class of graphs has finitely many forbidden vertex-minors.
- If Weak Conj is true then: every vertex-minor-closed class of graphs has finitely many forbidden pivot-minors. (Geelen, O'09)

# Well-quasi-ordering

- Equivalently: Every infinite set of graphs contains a pair of graphs  $H, G$  such that  $H$  is isomorphic to a vertex-minor of  $G$ .

- Known to be true when graphs are:

- bipartite graphs (by binary matroids)
- line graphs (by group-labelled graphs)
- bounded rank-width (O'08)
- circle graphs (by Graph Minors XXIII, immersion order of 4-regular graphs)



pivot-  
minors

?

Minors

Vertex-minors, Pivot-minors

Planar graphs

Circle graphs

k-connected

k-rank-connected

Branch-width

Rank-width

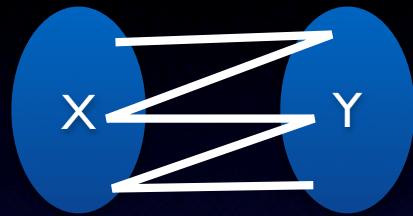
Matroids

Delta-matroids,  
Isotropic Systems

# Connectivity

- For a subset  $X$  of  $E$ ,  
 $\text{mid}(X)$ =set of vertices meeting  $X$  and  $E-X$ .
- $k$ -connected:  
If  $|\text{mid}(X)| < k$ , then  $X$  or  $E-X$  is “small”.  
 (“small”: no vertices meet edges in  $X$  only)
- $\text{mid}(X)$  can only decrease  
if we take a minor

# Rank connectivity



$$\rho_G(X) = \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

↑  
cut-rank function  
↓

- **k-rank-connected:**  
If  $\rho_G(X) < k$   
then  $\min(|X|, |V - X|) \leq \rho(X)$
- All graphs are 0-rank-connected.
- All connected graphs are 1-rank-connected.
- $k$ -rank-connected  $\rightarrow (k - 1)$ -rank-connected

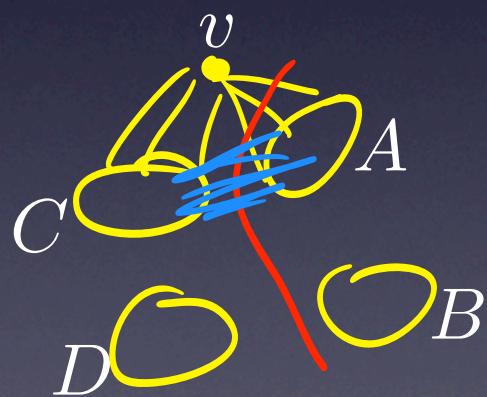
# 2-rank-connected graphs

- 2-rank-connected=
$$\min(|X|, |V - X|) \leq 1$$
 whenever  $\rho(X) < 2$
- Split (X,Y) ( $|X|, |Y| > 1$ )
- 2-rank-connected = no splits (1-join)
- 2-rank-connected = prime w.r.t.  
split decompositions



# Rank-connectivity and vertex-minors

- Cut-rank is invariant under taking local complementation.



rank

	A	B
v	1 1 1 1 1 1	0 0 0 0 0 0
C		
D		

# Chain theorems

- If  $G$  is **simple 3-connected**, then  $G$  has a simple simple 3-connected minor with one fewer edges, unless  $G=\text{wheel}$ .
- If  $G$  is **2-rank-connected** with  $|V|>4$ , then  $G$  has a 2-rank-connected pivot-minor with one fewer vertices, unless  $G=\text{cycle}$ .
- If  $G$  is **2-rank-connected** with  $|V|>5$ , then  $G$  has a 2-rank-connected vertex-minor with one fewer vertices.

Tutte'61  
Bouchet'87, Allys'94

# Splitter theorems

- If  $H$  is a simple 3-connected minor of a simple 3-connected graph  $G$ ,  
then  $G$  has a simple 3-connected minor with one fewer edges having a minor isomorphic to  $H$  unless  $|V(G)|=|V(H)|$  or  $H=\text{wheel}$ .
- If  $H$  is a 2-rank-connected pivot-minor of a 2-rank-connected graph  $G$  and  $|V(H)|>4$ ,  
then  $G$  has a 2-rank-connected pivot-minor with one fewer vertices having a pivot-minor isomorphic to  $H$ , unless  $|V(G)|=|V(H)|$  or  $H=\text{cycle}$ .

Seymour '80, Negami '82  
Bouchet (unpublished), Geelen '95

- If  $H$  is a simple 3-connected minor of a simple 3-connected graph  $G$ , then  $G$  has a simple 3-connected minor with one fewer edges having a minor isomorphic to  $H$  unless  $|V(G)|=|V(H)|$  or  $H=\text{wheel}$ .
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- If  $H$  is a 2-rank-connected vertex-minor of a 2-rank-connected graph  $G$  and  $|V(H)|>4$ , then  $G$  has a 2-rank-connected vertex-minor with one fewer vertices having a vertex-minor isomorphic to  $H$ , unless  $|V(G)|=|V(H)|$ .

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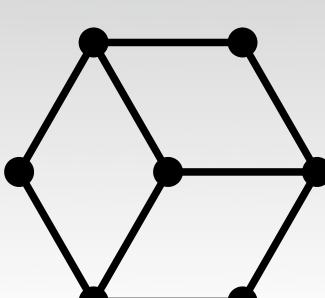
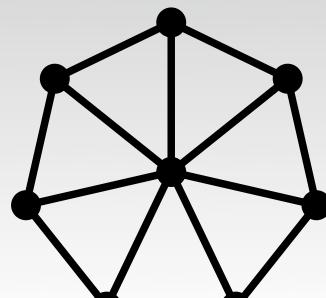
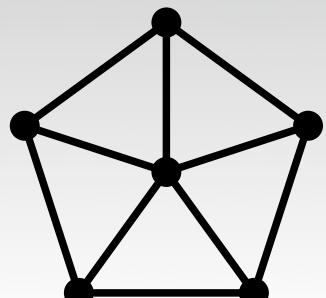
# Applications of Splitter Theorems

- Graphs with no  $K_5$  minor=  
Planar graphs +  $K_{3,3}$  +  $V_8$   
+ their 0-, 1-, 2-, 3-sums
- Graphs with no  $W_5$  vertex-minor=  
circle graphs +  $W_7$  +  $BW_3$  + cube  
+ their disjoint unions + their 1-joins

$W_5$

$W_7$

$BW_3$



Wagner'3?  
Geelen'95

Minors

Vertex-minors, Pivot-minors

Planar graphs

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k-connected

k-rank-connected

Branch-width

Rank-width

Matroids

Delta-matroids,  
Isotropic Systems

# Rank-width

- “Branch-width measured by cut-rank”
- Rank-decomposition= A subcubic tree  $T$  whose leaves are labeled bijectively by  $V(G)$
- Width of an edge of  $T$ =cutrank of the partition given by an edge of  $T$
- $\text{Width}(T,L) = \max$  width of all edges
- Rank-width=  $\min \text{Width } (T,L)$
- $\text{Rank-width}(H) \leq \text{Rank-width}(G)$  if  $H$ =vertex-minor  
O., Seymour '06  
O.'05

# Rank-width

- Related to branch-width of matroids and graphs
- Poly-time algorithm to construct a decomposition of width  $\leq k$  if it exists, for fixed  $k$
- Thm: Graphs of bounded rank-width are well-quasi-ordered by the pivot-minor relation.

Hineny, O. '08  
O'05, O'08

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# Delta-matroids

- If  $A$  is a skew-symmetric matrix over  $\mathbb{F}$ , then

$$\mathcal{F} = \{X : A[X] \text{ is nonsingular}\}$$

satisfies the following axioms:

(1)  $\mathcal{F}$  is nonempty.

(2) If  $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $a \in X \Delta Y$

then there exists  $b \in X \Delta Y$  such that  
 $X \Delta \{a, b\} \in \mathcal{F}$

- Delta-matroid: set-system satisfying (1), (2)
- Binary: represented by a matrix over  $\text{GF}(2)$   
Bouchet'87

# Twisting

(1)  $\mathcal{F}$  is nonempty.

(2) If  $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $a \in X \Delta Y$

then there exists  $b \in X \Delta Y$  such that  
 $X \Delta \{a, b\} \in \mathcal{F}$

- Twisting: Replacing  $A$  by  $A \Delta X$  for some  $X$
- Thm: If  $M$  is binary, then  $M \Delta X$  is binary

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y & X \end{pmatrix} \quad A * X = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y & X \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^{-1} & \alpha^{-1}\beta \\ -\gamma\alpha^{-1} & \delta - \gamma\alpha^{-1}\beta \end{pmatrix}$$

principal pivot  $(A^*X)^*Y = A^*(X \Delta Y)$

Tucker'60:  
 $A^*X[Y]$  is nonsingular  
iff  
 $A[X \Delta Y]$  is nonsingular

If  $X = \{u, v\}$ , then  $A(G) * X = A(G \wedge uv)$

# Twisting

- Twisting: Replacing  $A$  by  $A\Delta X$  for some  $X$
- Thm: If  $M$  is binary, then  $M\Delta X$  is binary

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y & Z \end{pmatrix} \quad A * X = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y & Z - YX^{-1}Y \end{pmatrix}$$

principal pivot  $(A*X)*Y = A*(X\Delta Y)$

Tucker'60:  
 $A*X[Y]$  is nonsingular  
iff  
 $A[X\Delta Y]$  is nonsingular

If  $X=\{u,v\}$ , then  $A(G) * X = A(G \wedge uv)$

Binary even Delta-matroids up to twisting

= Graphs up to pivot equivalence

Binary even Delta-matroid minors

= Graph pivot-minors

# Isotropic systems

- Introduced by Bouchet '87
- Linear-algebraic description of equivalent classes of graphs up to local complementations
- Minors of isotropic systems  
=Vertex-minors
- Powerful tool for vertex-minors

# Other topics

# Algorithmic Aspects

- Can we decide whether  $G$  has a  $H$ -pivot-minor in poly time for fixed  $H$ ?
  - Yes if  $G$  has bounded rank-width
  - Yes if  $G$  is a bipartite graph
  - Yes if  $G$  is a line graph
  - Yes if  $G$  is a circle graph and  $H$  is bipartite

MSOL  
formula

matroid  
result

group-  
labelled  
graph

bounded rank-width

# Structural Aspects

- Any interesting class of graphs closed under vertex-minors or pivot-minors?
- circle graphs, graphs of bounded rank-width, distance-hereditary graphs, bipartite graphs (pivot-minors), pivot-minors of line graphs (pivot-minors)
- Structures of graphs with no  $H$  vertex-minors?

# Fields other than GF(2)

- Pivot-minors and vertex-minors of graphs: generalizing minors of **binary** matroids
- One can define: delta-matroids representable over a field  $F$ : pivot-minors of edge-labelled directed graphs
- Thm: Delta-matroids of “bounded branch-width” over a finite field are well-quasi-ordered.
- Structural theory for skew-symmetric matrices over a finite field?

# Interlace polynomials

$$q(G; x, y) = \sum_{S \subseteq V} (x - 1)^{\text{rank}(G[S])} (y - 1)^{\text{nullity}(G[S])}$$

Over GF(2)

- Reduction formula is given in terms of pivot-minor operations.

$$q(G) = q(G \setminus a) + q(G \wedge ab \setminus a) + ((x - 1)^2 - 1)q(G \wedge ab \setminus a \setminus b)$$

$$q(n\text{-vertex graph with no edges}) = y^n$$

- If  $G$  is a graph and  $H$  is a FG of  $G$ , then  
 $q(H; 2, y) = T(H; y, y)$  (Tutte polynomial)

Arratia, Bollobás, Sorkin'04  
Aigner, van der Holst '04

# More...

- Measurement based quantum computation “Graph States”
  - >10 papers in last 5 years in Physics journals using local complementations and pivoting
- Coding theory “Self-dual additive codes over GF(4)”
- Local complementation on directed graphs
  - “Eulerian systems” (Bouchet '87)
  - “Directed rank-width” (Kanté '09)
  - “Weakly  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers of the n-dim cube” (Choi '08)

# Thank you!

<http://mathsci.kaist.ac.kr/~sangil/>

minor	vertex-minor pivot-minor
graph planar graph series parallel Tutte poly. Tree-width k-connected cycle matroid totally unimodular	simple graph circle graph distance-hereditary Interlace poly. Rank-width rank-(k-l)-connected delta-matroids/iso. sys. principally unimodular