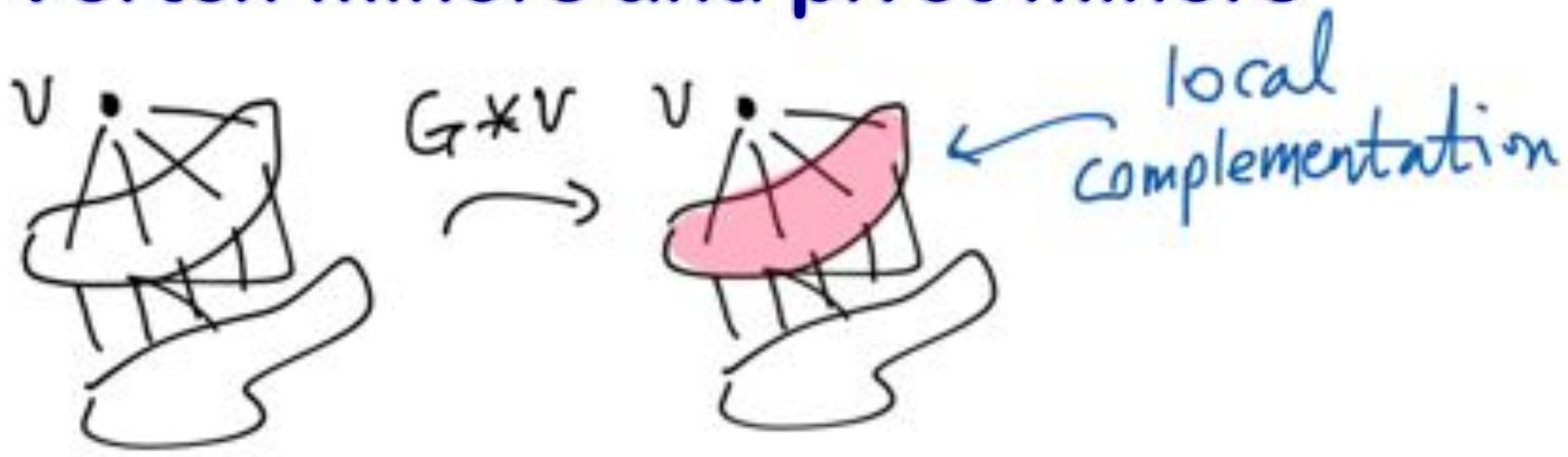


# Vertex-minors and Pivot-minors

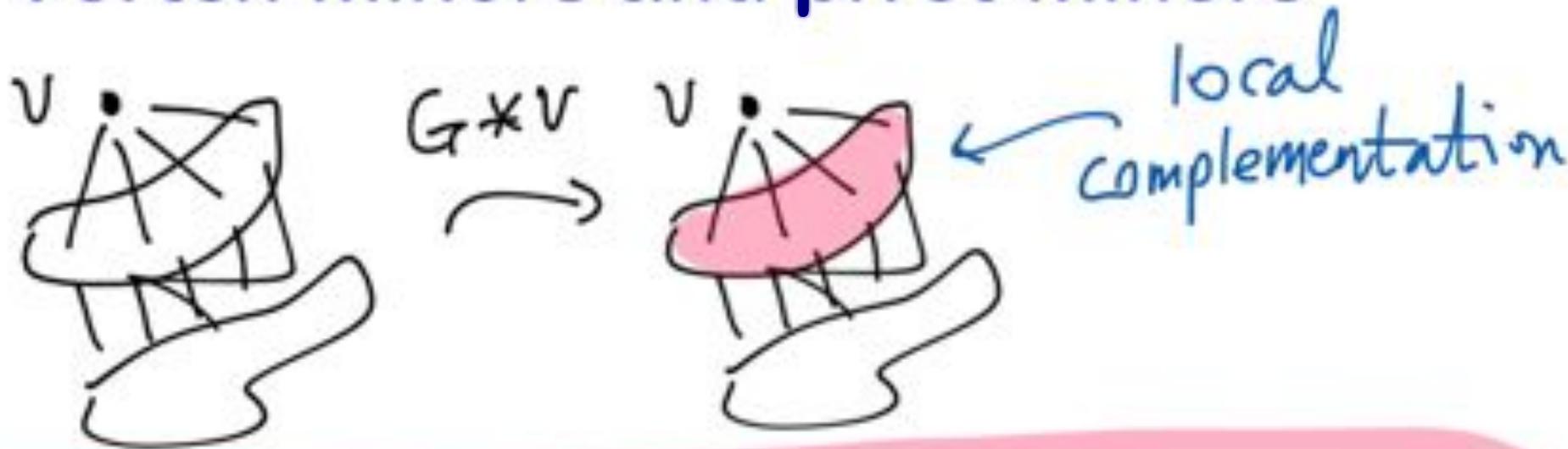
Sang-il Oum  
KAIST  
Daejeon, Korea

ISMP 2012 ( Berlin )

# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors



# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors



$H$  is a **vertex-minor** of  $G$  if  $H = G * v_1 * v_2 * \dots * v_k \setminus w$   
 for some vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_k$   
 and  $w \subseteq V(G)$ .

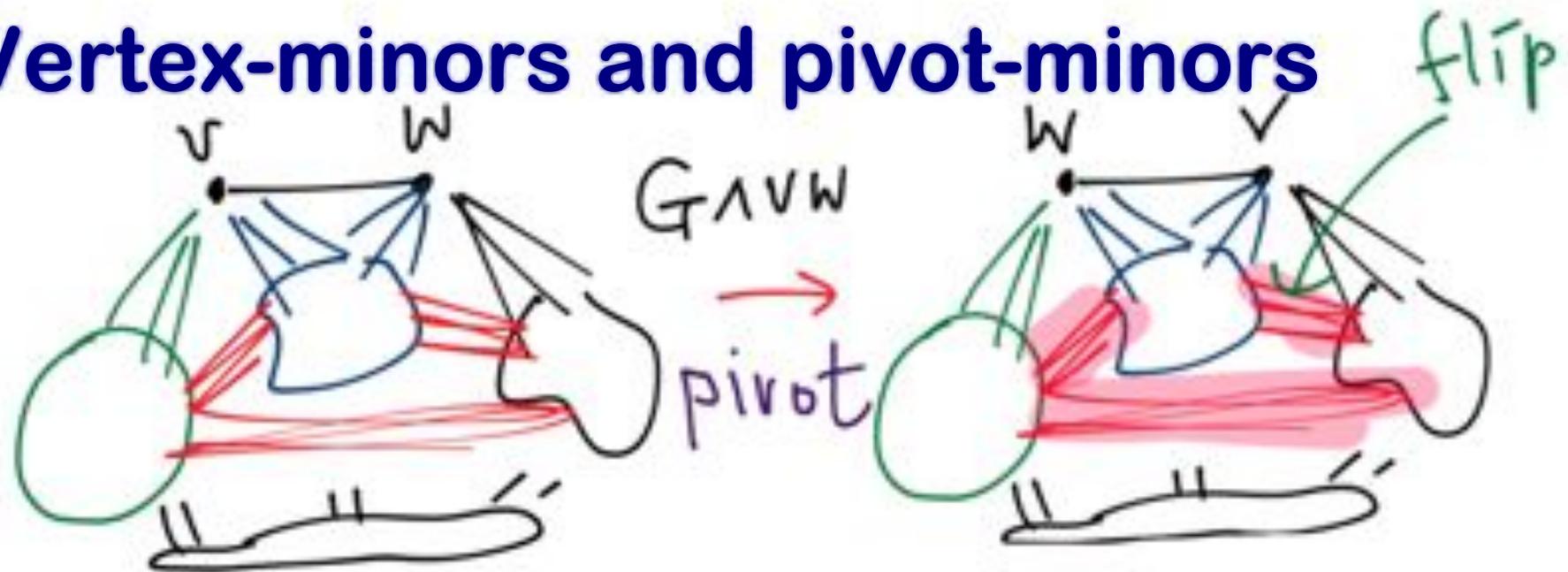
ex :



is a vertex-minor of



# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors

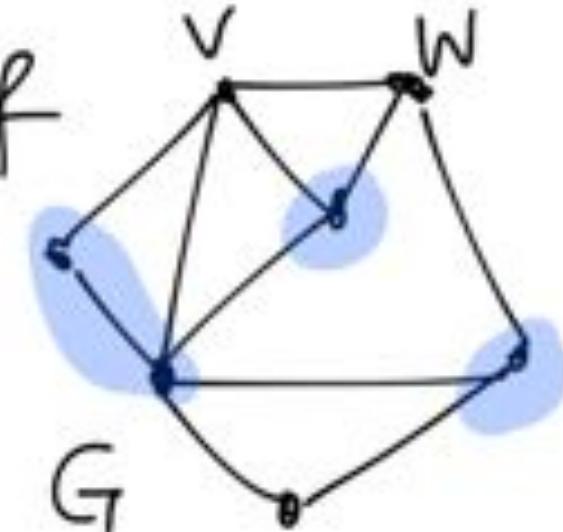
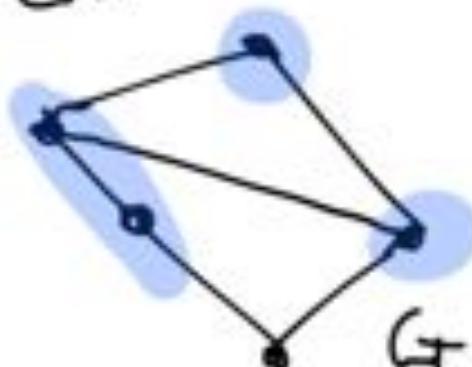


# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors

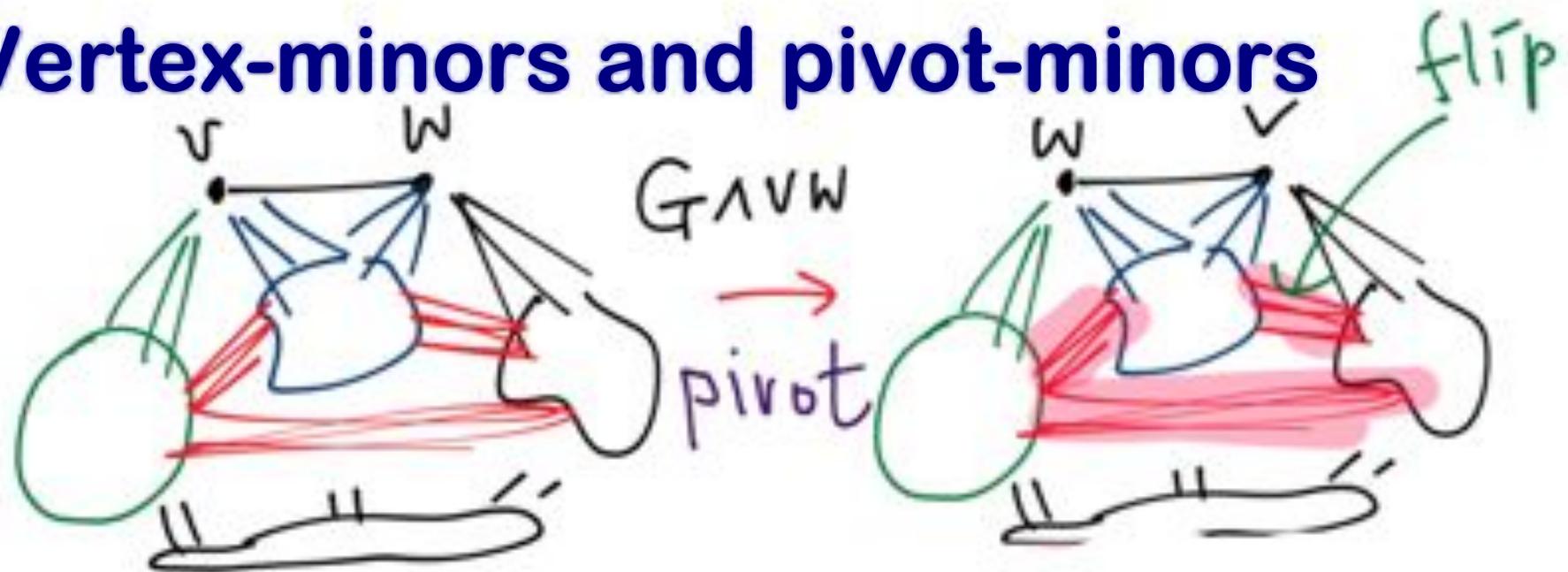


$H$  is a pivot-minor of  $G$  if  $H = G \wedge e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge \dots \wedge e_k \setminus W$   
for edges  $e_i \in E(G \wedge e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_{i-1})$   
and  $W \subseteq V(G)$ .

ex

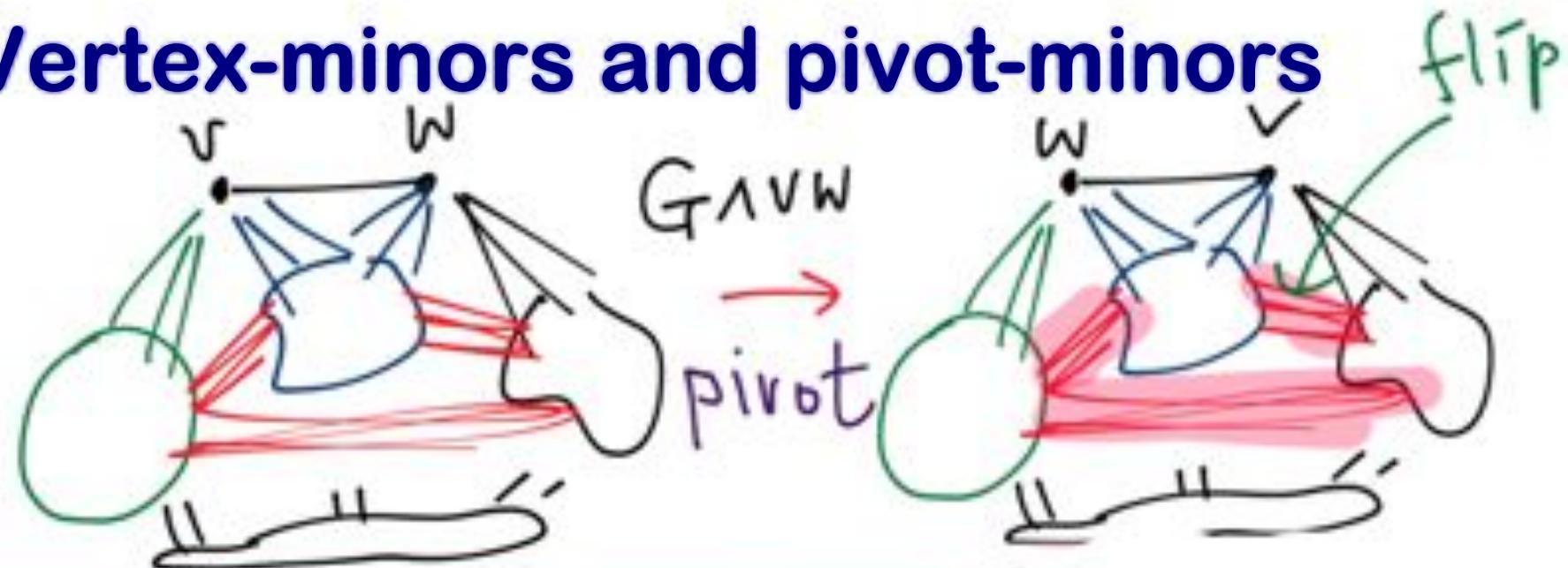


# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors



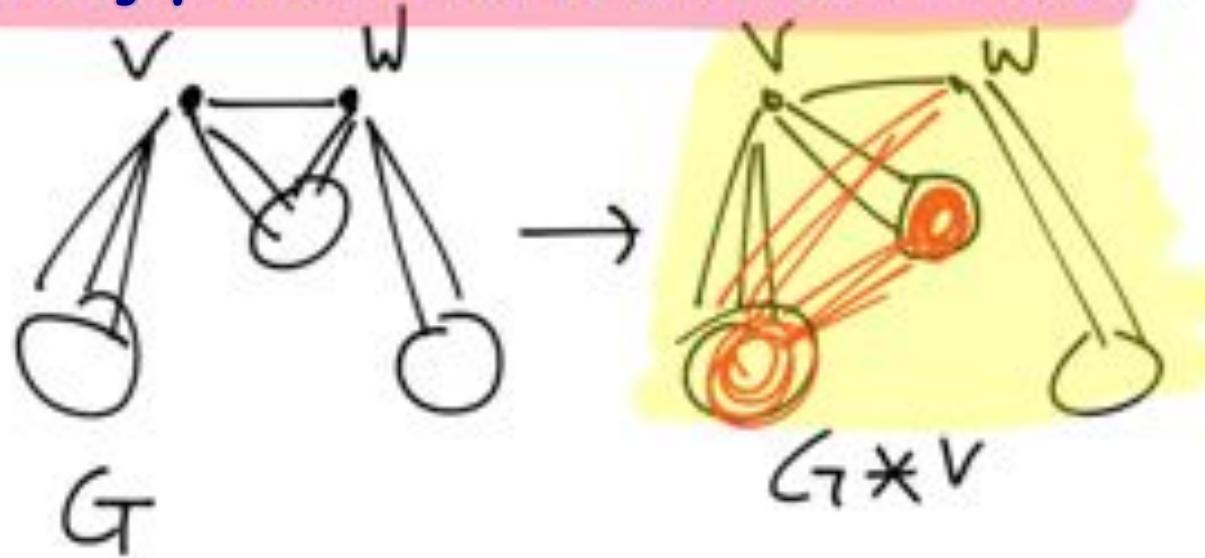
**Every pivot-minor is a vertex-minor.**

# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors



Every pivot-minor is a vertex-minor.

$$G \wedge V W = G \star v \star w \star v$$

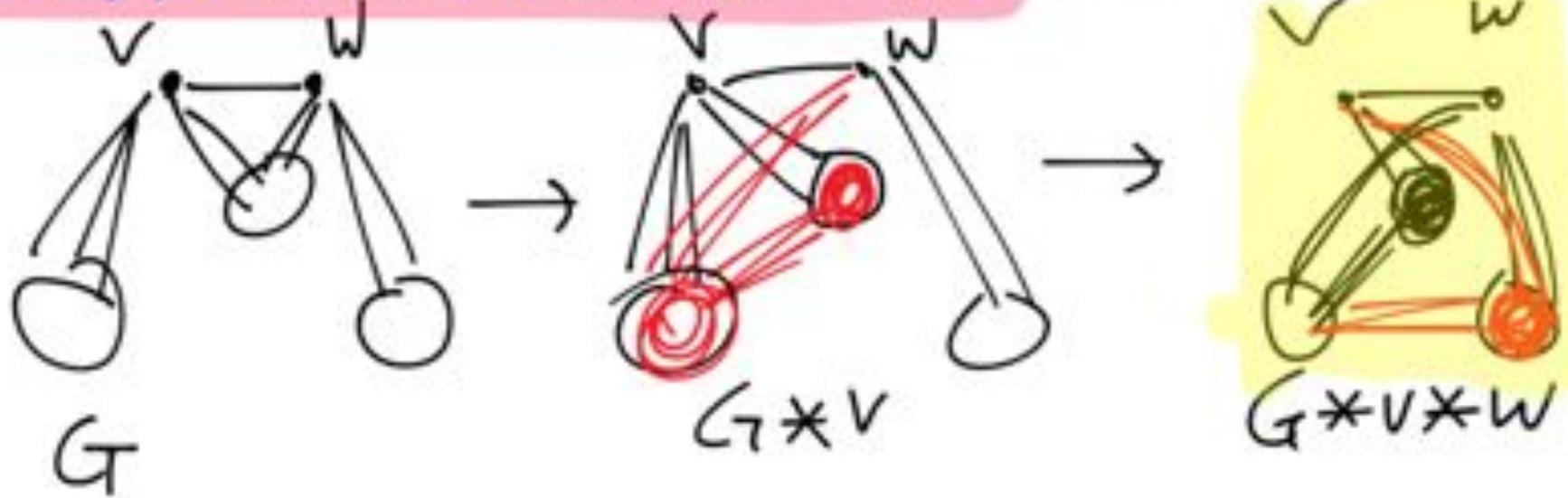


# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors



Every pivot-minor is a vertex-minor.

$$G \wedge V W = G * v * w * v$$

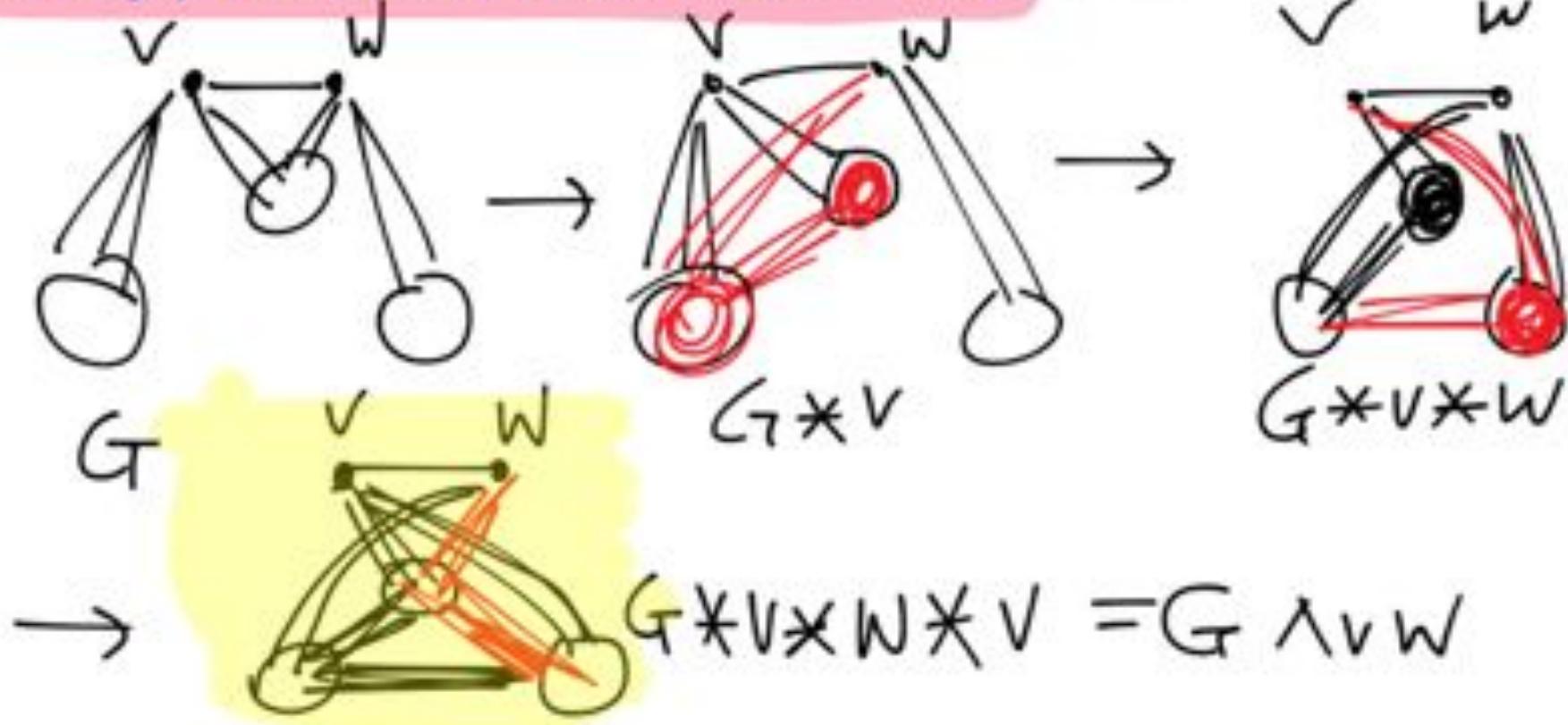


# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors

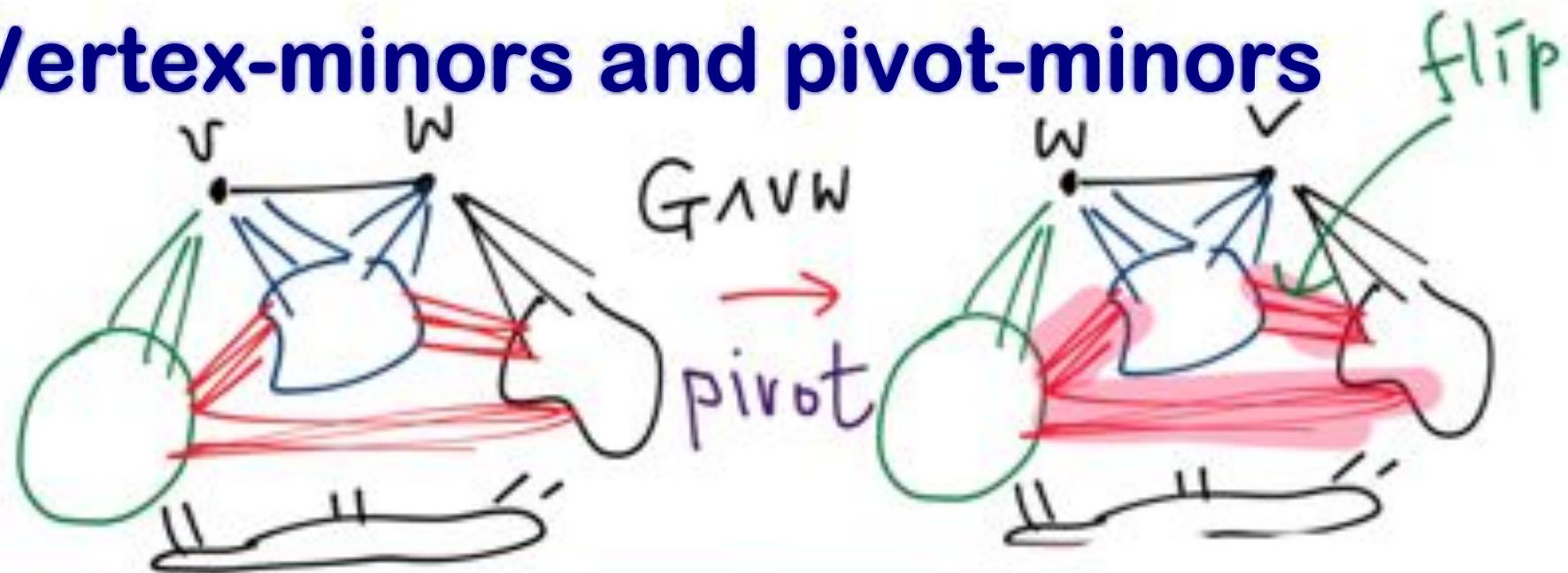


Every pivot-minor is a vertex-minor.

$$G \wedge v w = G \star v w \star v$$



# Vertex-minors and pivot-minors



Every pivot-minor is a vertex-minor.

Not every vertex-minor is a pivot-minor.

Every pivot-minor of a bipartite graph  
is bipartite.

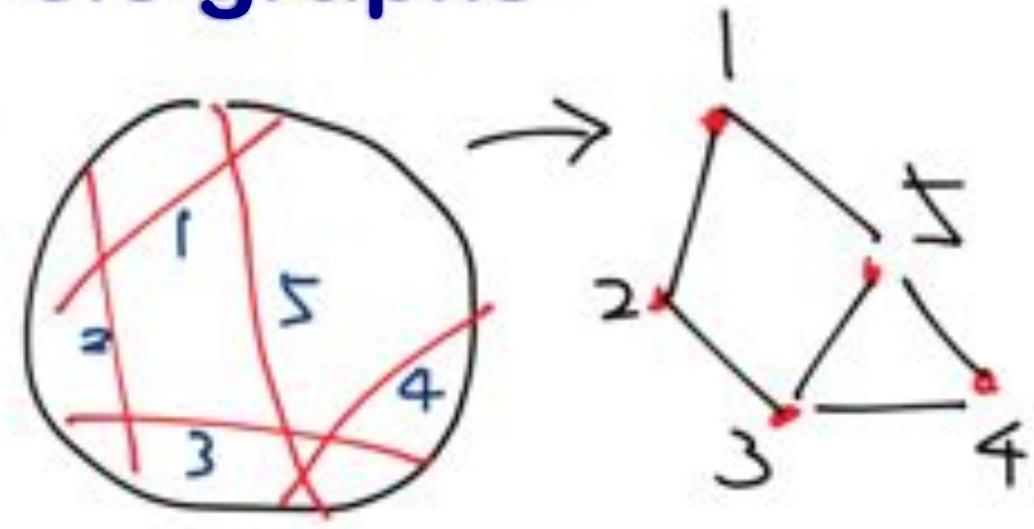


$G_1 * V$  (local complementation)

# Motivation

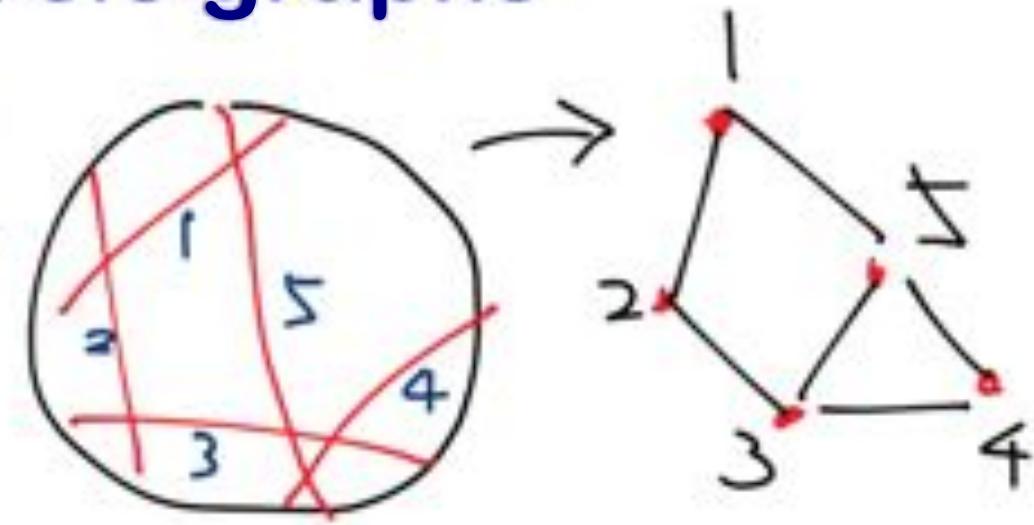
# Motivation 1 - circle graphs

Circle graph: intersection graph of chords in a circle

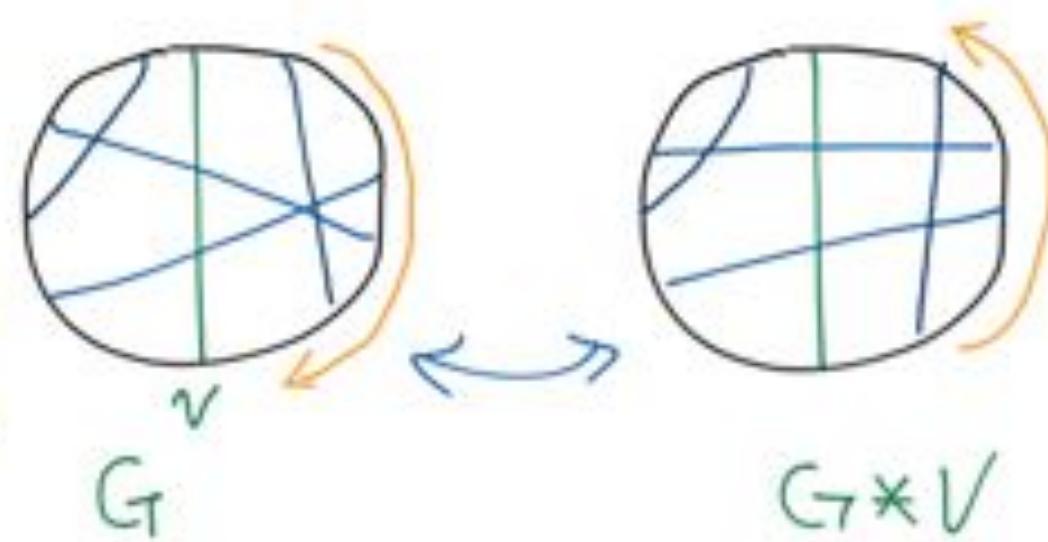


# Motivation 1 - circle graphs

Circle graph: intersection graph of chords in a circle

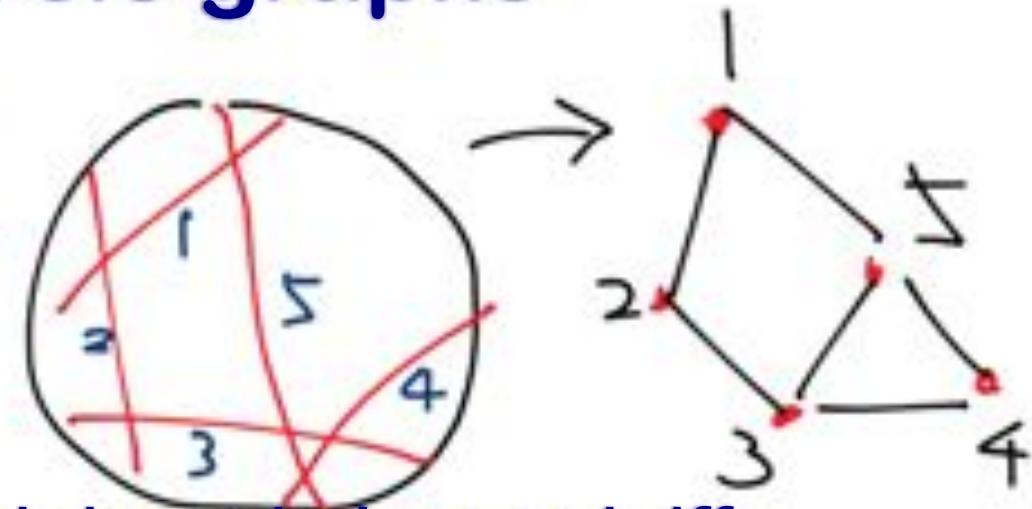


A vertex-minor  
of a circle graph  
is a circle graph.



# Motivation 1 - circle graphs

Circle graph: intersection graph of chords in a circle

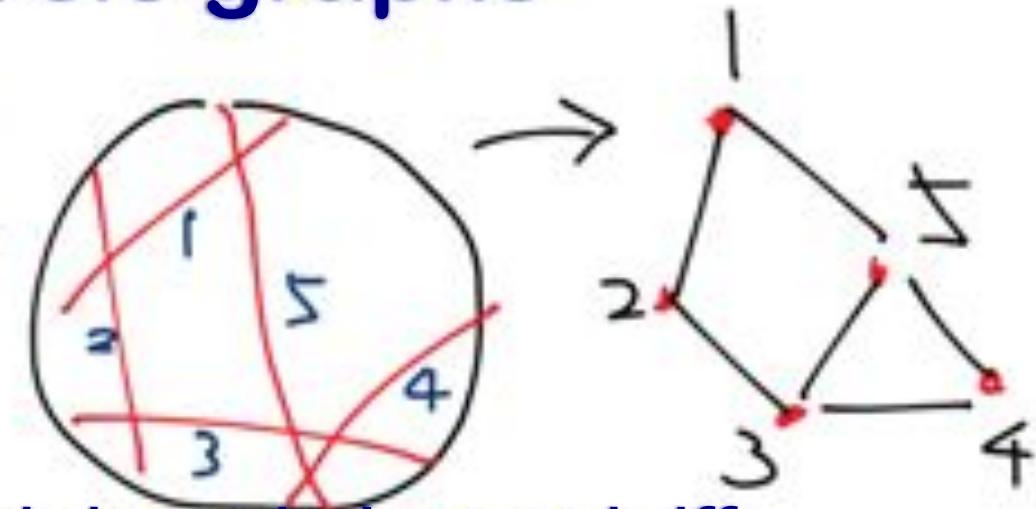


Bouchet 1994: A graph is a circle graph iff it has no vertex-minor isomorphic to

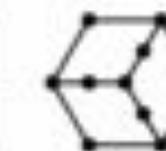
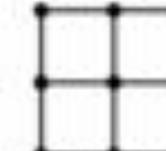
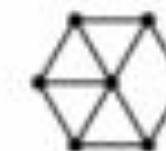
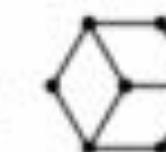


# Motivation 1 - circle graphs

Circle graph: intersection graph of chords in a circle



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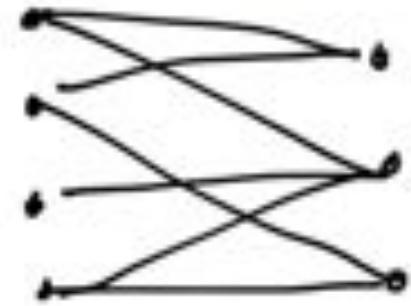
Geelen, O. 2009: A graph is a circle graph iff it has no pivot-minor isomorphic to

# Motivation 2 - Binary matroids

Standard representation  
of a binary matroid

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|cc} 1 & & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & 1 & & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow$$

Fundamental graph

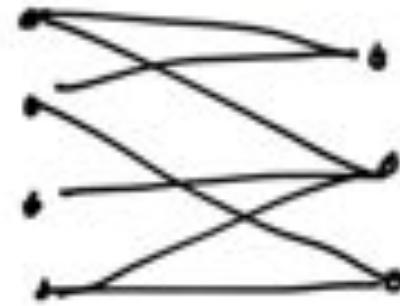


# Motivation 2 - Binary matroids

Standard representation  
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Fundamental graph



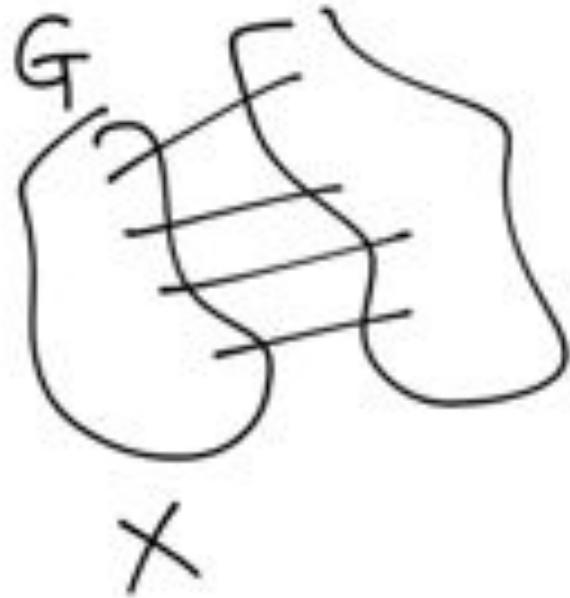
↓  
matroid minor  
(or its dual)

↓  
pivot-minor

theory on minors  
of binary matroids ~

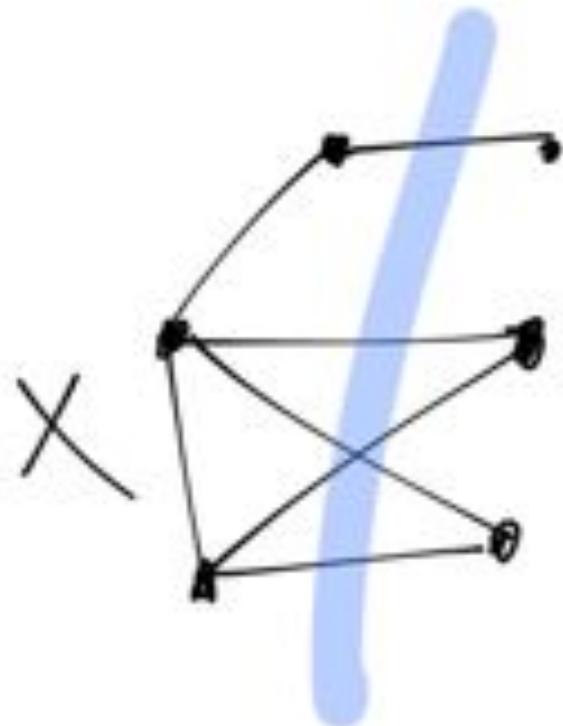
pivot-minors  
of bipartite  
graphs

## Motivation 3 - cut-rank function



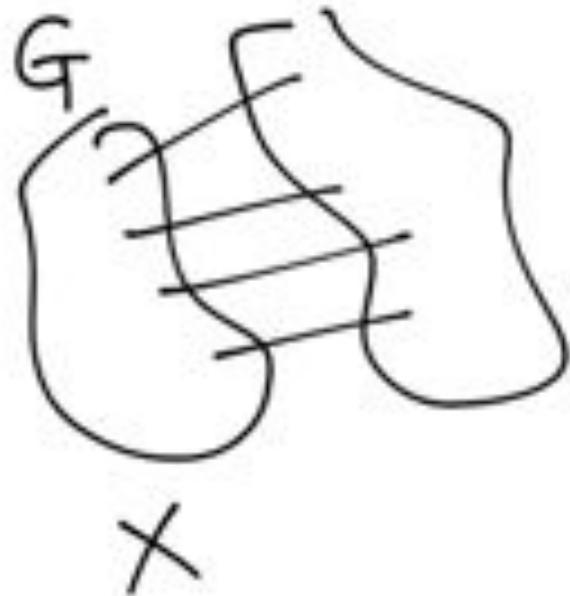
$$\text{cutrk}_G(X) = \text{rank} \left( \begin{matrix} & V(G) - X \\ X & \end{matrix} \right)$$

0-1 matrix over  $\mathbb{GF}(2)$ .



$$\text{cutrk}(X) = \text{rank} \left( \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{matrix} \right) = 2$$

# Motivation 3 - cut-rank function

 $\text{cutrk}_G(x)$  $= \text{rank}$ 

$$\left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline x \\ \hline \end{array} \right)$$

 $V(G) - x$ 

0-1 matrix  
over  $\mathbb{GF}(2)$ .

**Fact:** Cut-rank function is invariant under taking local complementation and pivot.



**Cut-rank function =  
natural connectivity measure in the context of vertex-minors and pivot-minors**

# Motivation 3 - rank-width

Rank-width: measuring how easy it is to decompose a graph into a tree-like structure where each cut has small cut-rank

(introduced by O., Seymour 2006)

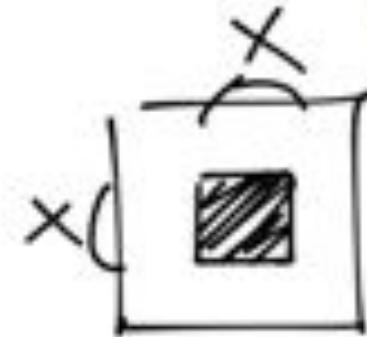
If  $H$  is a vertex-minor (or pivot-minor) of  $G$ ,  
then  $\text{rankwidth}(H) \leq \text{rankwidth}(G)$

cf: If  $H$  is a minor of  $G$ ,  
then  $\text{treewidth}(H) \leq \text{treewidth}(G)$

## Motivation 4 - Principally unimodular

A square matrix  $A$  is **principally unimodular (PU)** if  $\det(A[X]) = +1, -1, 0$  for all  $X$ .

↳ principal submatrix



A graph is PU-orientable if  
 $\exists$  orientation so that  
its directed adjacency matrix is PU.

**{PU-orientable graphs}** are  
closed under taking pivot-minors.

# Problems

# Well-quasi-ordering?

**Conjecture** If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a set of graphs closed under taking pivot-minors (or vertex-minors), then  $\exists$  finitely many graphs  $H_1, \dots, H_k$  s.t.  $G \in \mathcal{C} \iff$  no  $H_i$  is a pivot-minor(vertex-minor) of  $G$ .

Equivalently.

If  $G_1, G_2, G_3, \dots$  is an infinite sequence of graphs, then  $\exists i < j$  s.t.  $G_i$  is a pivot minor(vertex-minor) of  $G_j$ .

If  $G_1, G_2, G_3, \dots$  is an infinite sequence of graphs,  
then  $\exists i < j$  s.t.  $G_i$  is a ~~pivot-minor~~ (vertex-minor) of  $G_j$ .

Known : True when  $G_i$ -s are

- (1) Graphs of small rank-width  
(O., 2008)
- (2) Bipartite graphs  
(via binary matroids)
- (3) Line graphs  
(via group-labelled graphs)
- (4) Circle graphs  
(GMXXIII, immersion of 4-regular graphs)

Geelen  
et al.

- If  $G_1, G_2, G_3, \dots$  is an infinite sequence of graphs, then  $\exists i < j$  s.t.  $G_i$  is a pivot minor (~~vertex minor~~) of  $G_j$ .

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(GMXXIII, immersion of 4-regular graphs)
- Geelen et al.
- Pivot minors
- ?

# Corollaries of the conjecture

- (1) Robertson-Seymour graph minors theorem
- (2) Geelen et al.'s matroid minors theorem for binary matroids
- (3) Finitely many forbidden pivot-minors for PU-orientable graphs

→ OPEN!

Thm (Bouchet) : Circle graphs  
are PU-orientable

# Possible first step to the conjecture

**Problem:** For each bipartite circle graph  $H$ ,  
there exists  $c(H)$  such that  
if  $G$  has no  $H$  pivot-minor, then  
 $\text{rankwidth}(G) < c(H)$

→ OPEN!

True for:

(1) Bipartite graphs

→ Geelen et al.  
matroids

(2) Circle graphs

→ Johnson 2002

(3) Line graphs

→ O. 2009

# Algorithms

**Problem:** Can we find a poly-time algorithm to check whether an input graph has a pivot-minor isomorphic to a fixed graph  $H$ .

→ OPEN!

Yes for:

(1) Bipartite graphs

(2) Bounded rank-width

(3) Line graphs

→ Geelen et al.

matroids

→ MSOL

→ group-labelled graphs

# Thank you for your attention!

## Question?