

Optimization Problems for Blockers and Transversals in a Graph

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Optimization Problems for Blockers and Transversals in a Graph

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Joint work with

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- Find most vital elements of a system
(for protection)

Player A chooses any optimal action plan

Player P wants to prevent this

Example: $G = (V, E)$ graph

$$\mathcal{C}(V) = \{S \mid S \subseteq V \text{ stable set in } G\}$$

$$\alpha(G) = \max(|S| \mid S: \text{ stable})$$

Player A: Find a maximum stable set S in G
(set of possible « independent » stores to open)

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with $|S \cap T| \geq d \quad \forall S \text{ stable with } |S| = \alpha(G)$

« *d-transversal* »

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« *d-transversal* »

After removal of T all maximum action plans
have lost at least d stores

Another option for P:

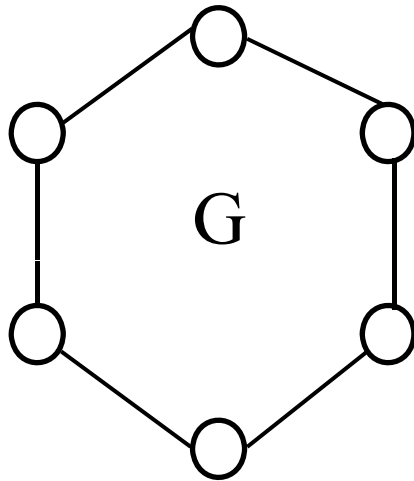
Find smallest subset B of V such that after removal of B no action plan (maximum set of « independent » stores) has more than

$$\alpha(G) - d \text{ stores.}$$

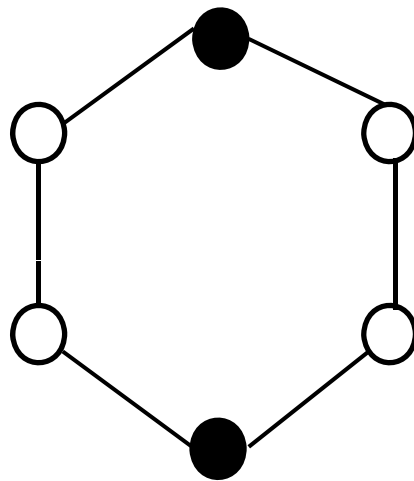
Player P: Find a minimum $B \subseteq V$
with $\alpha(G' = (V - B, E')) \leq \alpha(G) - d$

« *d-blocker* »

Illustration: $T = \{\bullet\} = B$



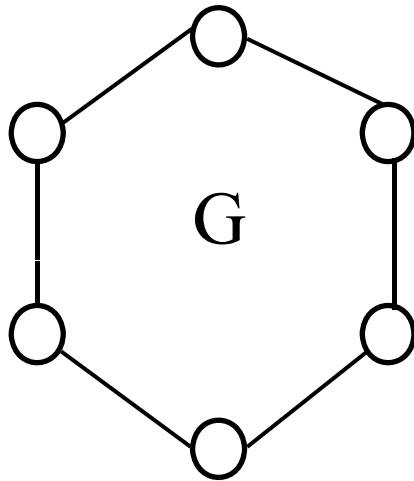
$$\alpha(G) = 3$$



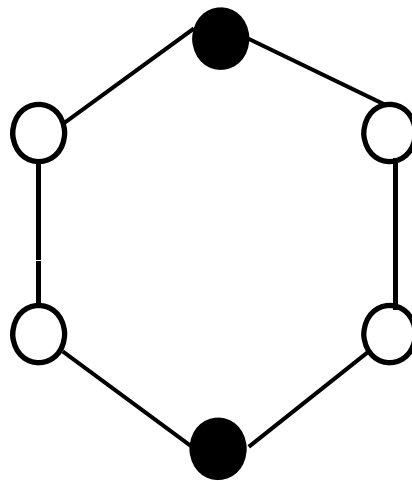
$$d = 1$$

Illustration: $T = \{\bullet\} = B$

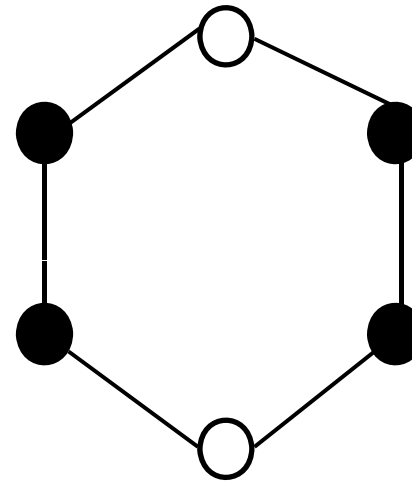
$T = \{\bullet\}$
2-transversal



$$\alpha(G) = 3$$



$$d = 1$$

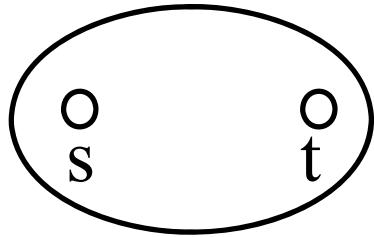


NOT
2-blocker!

$$d = 2$$

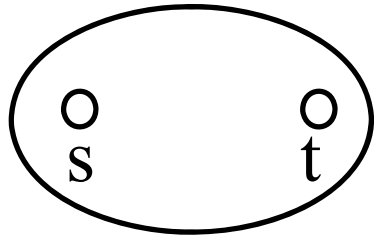
$$\alpha(G) - d = 1$$

Other examples: shortest s - t paths



every arc is in a shortest
 s - t path

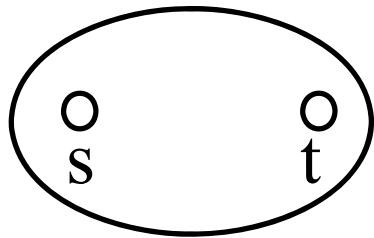
Other examples: shortest s - t paths



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T is an (inclusionwise) minimal
 d -transversal $\Leftrightarrow T = d$ disjoint
 s - t cuts

Other examples: shortest s - t paths



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T is an (inclusionwise) minimal
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 s - t cuts

Finding a minimum d -transversal
 \Leftrightarrow finding disjoint s - t cuts C_1, \dots, C_d
with $|C_1| + \dots + |C_d|$ minimum.

\exists polynomial algorithm (D. Wagner, 90)

d -blocker B : subset of arcs whose
removal increases $\ell(G=(V,E))$

by at least d

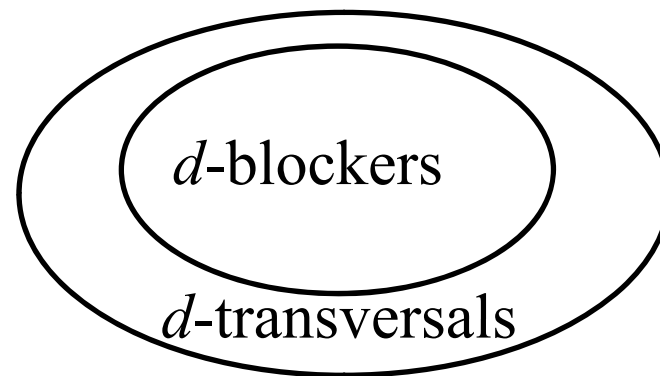
where $\ell(G=(V,E))$ = length of shortest s - t path in G

we have $\ell(G'=(V,E-B)) \geq \ell(G=(V,E)) + d$

NP-hard (Khachiyan et al, 08)

Fact 1 : A subset $T \subseteq V$ is a l -transversal
 $\Leftrightarrow T$ is a l -blocker

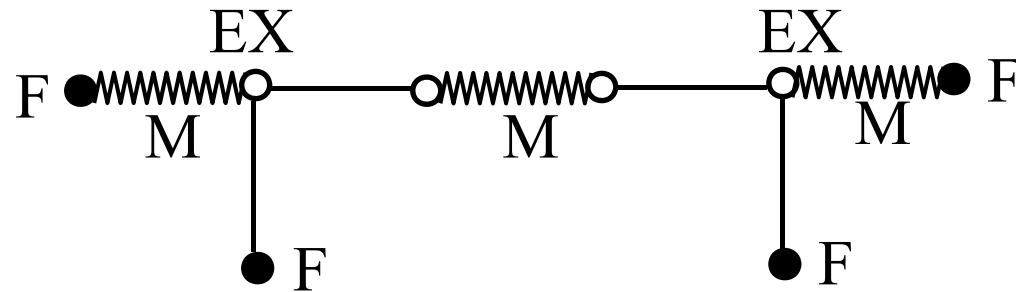
Fact 2 : For $d > l$



\mathcal{C} : Stable sets in bipartite graphs $G=(V,E)$

v is **forced** if $v \in S$
 $\forall S$ maximum stable set

 v is **excluded** if $v \notin S$



More General Formulation

Given finite ground set V , integer d

$$\mathcal{C}(V) = \{C \mid C \subseteq V, C \text{ has property } P^*\}$$

(ex. $P^* : S$ is a stable set in G)

Each element v in V has a **weight** $w(v)$ and
a **cost** $c(v)$

$$h(S) = \sum_{v \in S} (h(v)) \quad \text{for } h = w, c$$

Player A: Find a $C \in \mathcal{C}$ with maximum weight $w(C)$

$$\alpha_w(\mathcal{C}(V)) = \max\{w(C) \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}$$

Player P: Find a subset $T \subseteq V$ with minimum cost $c(T)$
such that $|T \cap C| \geq d$ for all max weight C in \mathcal{C}

«generalized d -transversal »

Given finite ground set V , integer d

$$\mathcal{C}(V) = \{C \mid C \subseteq V, C \text{ has property } P\}$$

Player A: Find a $C \in \mathcal{C}$ with maximum weight $w(C)$

Player P: Find a subset $B \subseteq V$ with minimum cost $c(B)$
such that $\alpha_w(\mathcal{C}(V - B)) \leq \alpha_w(\mathcal{C}(V)) - d$

« generalized d -blocker »

GENTRANS

Find a generalized d-transversal T (of the maximum weight subsets C in \mathcal{C}) with minimum cost $c(T)$

GENBLOCK

Find a generalized d-blocker B (of the maximum weight subsets C in \mathcal{C}) with minimum cost $c(B)$

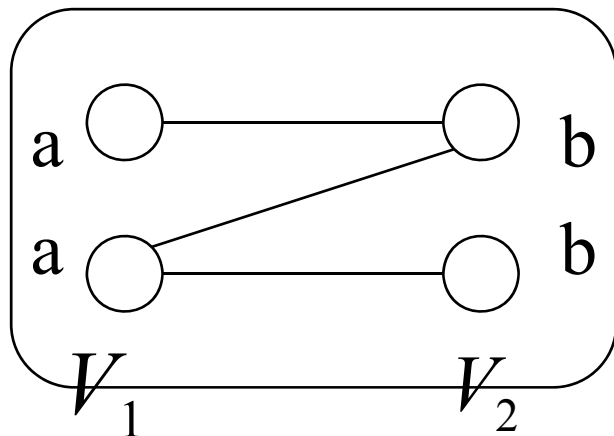
NB if $w(v)=c(v)=1$ d-transversals and d-blockers

GENTRANS(\mathcal{C} , w , $c=1$, $i=w$, d) polynomially
solvable if G is cobipartite

GENTRANS(\mathcal{C} , w , $c=1$, $i=w$, d) polynomially solvable if G is cobipartite

$$|S| \leq 2 \qquad 1 \leq d \leq \alpha_w(G)$$

Introduce all vertices v with $w(v) = \alpha_w(G)$ into T



$$a + b = \alpha_w(G)$$

$$a \geq b \geq d \quad \text{min VC of H into } T$$

$$a \geq d > b \quad V_1 \text{ into } T$$

$$d > a \geq b \quad V \text{ into } T$$

connected component of \overline{G}

GENBLOCK(\mathcal{C} , w , $c=1$, d) is polynomially
solvable if G is cobipartite

DGENBLOCK(\mathcal{C}, w, c, d, k) : Is there a generalized d-blocker B of all max weight sets in \mathcal{C} with $c(B) \leq k$?

NB: As shown before

DGENBLOCK($\mathcal{C}, w=1, c=1, d, k=d$) is NP-complete if G is a split graph (2010)

DGENBLOCK($\mathcal{C}, w=1, c=1, d, k$) and
DGENTRANS($\mathcal{C}, w=1, c=1, d, k$) are NP-complete if
 G is line graph of a bipartite graph (2009)

DGENBLOCK($\mathcal{C}, w, c=1, d, k$) is NP-complete if
G is a bipartite graph (S.Toubaline, 2010)

GENBLOCK($\mathcal{C}, w, c=1, d, k$) is polynomially
solvable if G is a tree or a cograph
(S.Toubaline, 2010)

GENBLOCK($\mathcal{C}, w=1, c=1, d,$) and
GENTRANS($\mathcal{C}, w=1, c=1, d,$) can be solved in
polynomial time if G is a grid graph (2010).

GENTRANS(\mathcal{C}, w, c, d) is
polynomially solvable if G is bipartite

Minimum cost d-transversal of maximum weight stable sets in a bipartite graph

Minimum cost d-transversal of maximum weight stable sets in a bipartite graph

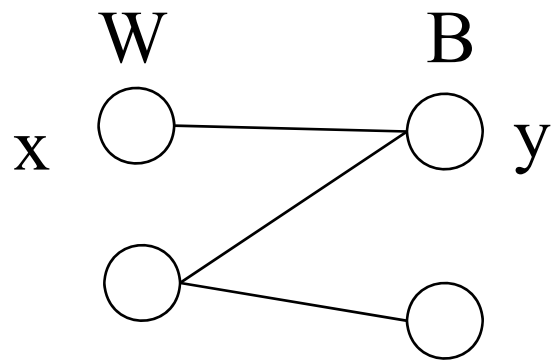
Remove all forbidden vertices

Discard all forced vertices

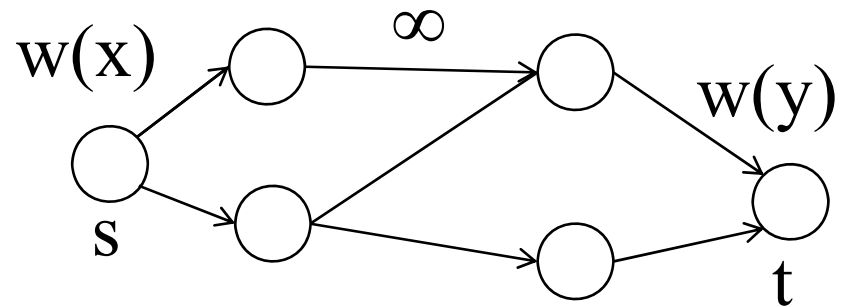
In remaining graph all vertices are free

$G = (B, W, E)$ B = black vertices

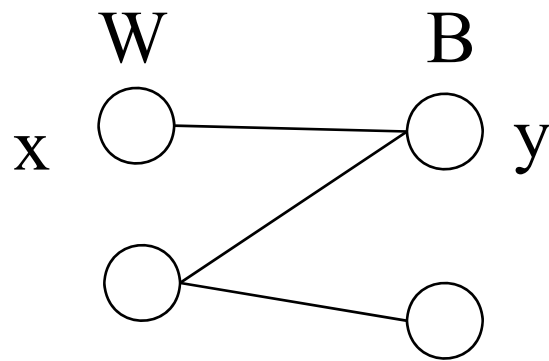
W = white vertices



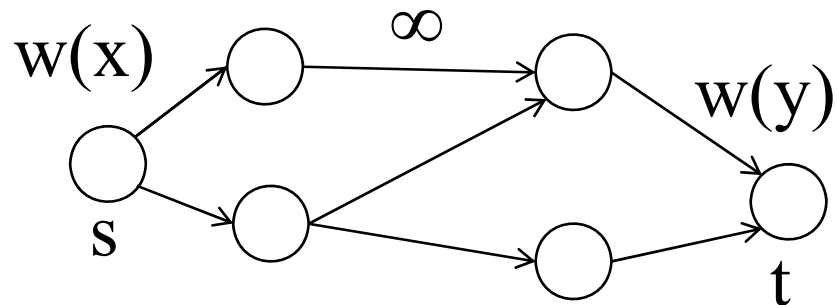
graph G with weights



network N with
capacities



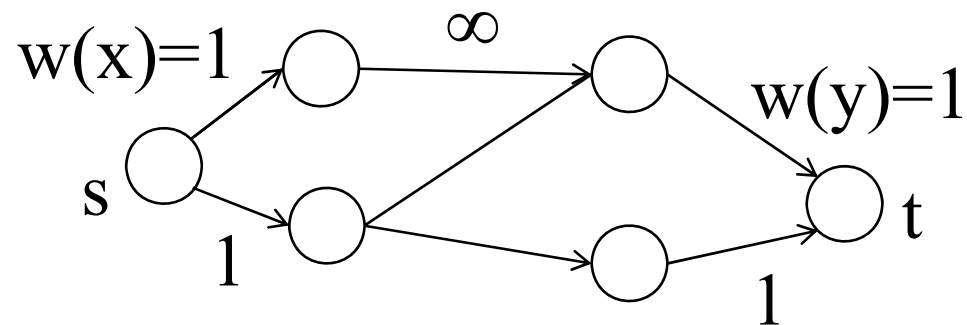
graph G with weights



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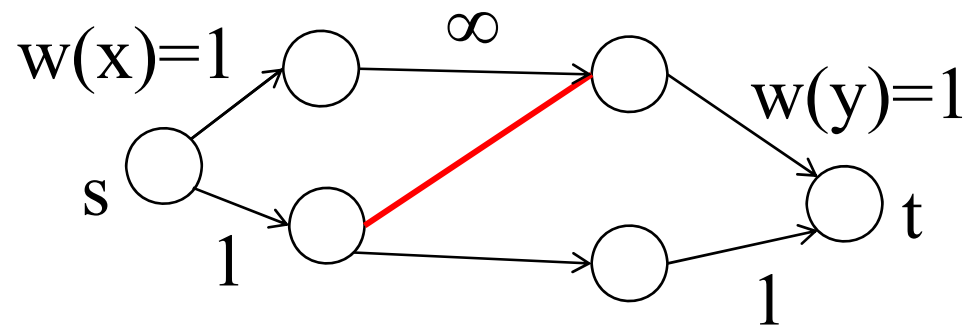
In G all vertices are
free if and only if in N
there is a flow from s to
 t with value

$$w(W) = w(B)$$



network N with
capacities

F^* = forbidden arcs
 $(f(x,y) = 0 \text{ for every maximum flow from } s \text{ to } t \text{ if } \text{arc}(x,y) \text{ is forbidden})$



network N with
capacities

F^* = forbidden arcs
($f(x,y)=0$ for every
maximum flow from
 s to t if $\text{arc}(x,y)$ is
forbidden)

The red arc is in F^*

In $G=(B,W,E)$ connected where all vertices are free,
B and W are the only maximum weight stable sets
if and only if $F^* = \emptyset$
(no forbidden arcs in associated N)

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Remove from G all edges associated with
forbidden arcs of N.

It remains connected components inducing
partition V_1, V_2, \dots, V_q of V.

In each V_i the only maximum weight stable sets are

$$V_i \cap B \text{ and } V_i \cap W$$

In $G = (B, W, E)$ with only free vertices, S is a maximum weight stable set if and only if S is stable and for any i ($1 \leq i \leq q$) $S \cap V_i = V_i \cap B$ or $V_i \cap W$

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NB: Since B and W are two disjoint maximum weight stable sets in G , every d -transversal T must satisfy $|T \cap W| \geq d$, $|T \cap B| \geq d$ and hence $|T| \geq 2d$.

Construct auxiliary graph $G^* = (V^*, A^*)$ where

$$V^* = \{V_1, \dots, V_q\}$$

$$A^* = \{(V_i, V_j) \mid \exists uv \in E, u \in V_i \cap B, v \in V_j \cap W, i \neq j\}$$

NB: G^* has no oriented circuit

One can define relation \prec on V by: $u \prec v$ if

$u \in W, v \in B$ and either u, v are in the same V_j

or there is a directed path from V_i to V_j in G^*

NB : If $u \prec v$ then for any maximum weight stable set S in G we have $S \cap \{u, v\} \neq \emptyset$

Construct bipartite graph $\hat{G}=(B, W, \hat{E})$
with $\hat{E} = \{uv : u \in W, v \in B, u \prec v\}$

Each edge uv has cost $c(uv) = c(u) + c(v)$

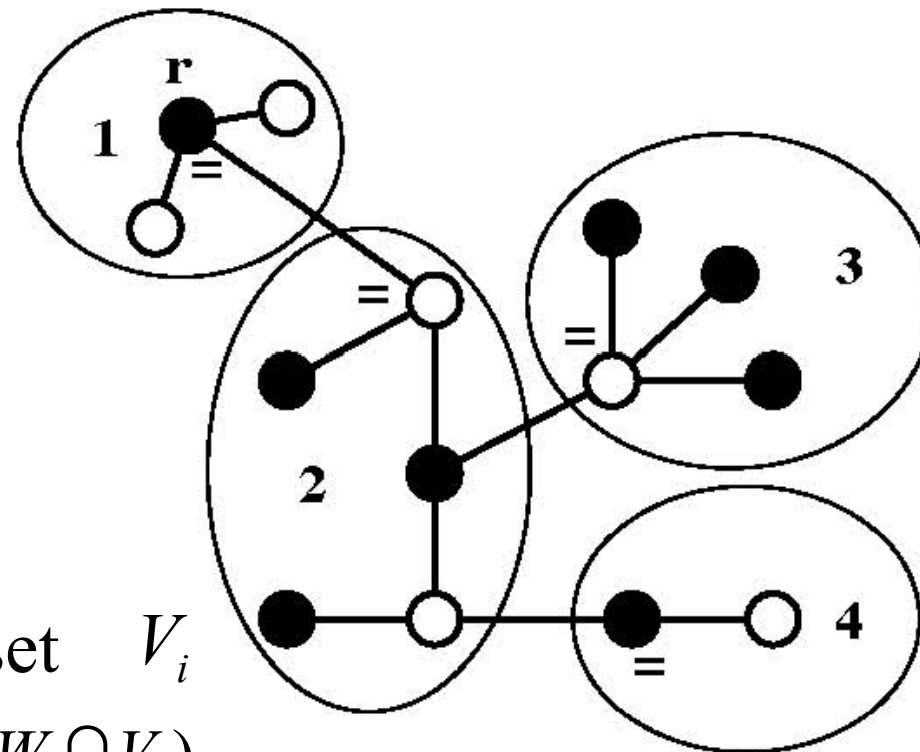
NB : If $u \prec v$ then for any maximum weight stable set S in G we have $S \cap \{u, v\} \neq \emptyset$

Construct bipartite graph $\hat{G}=(B, W, \hat{E})$
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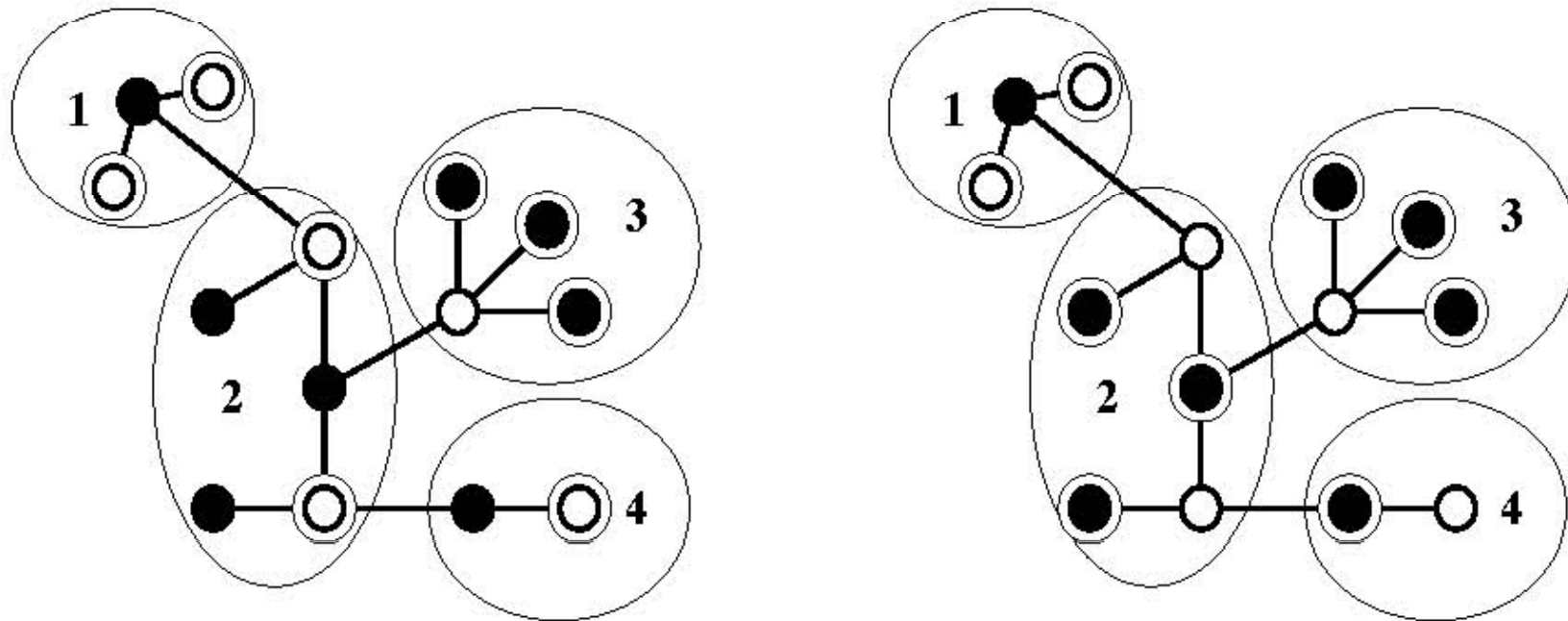
T is a minimum cost d -transversal in G if and only if it consists of the endvertices of a minimum cost matching of size d in \hat{G} .

Weighted trees for illustration



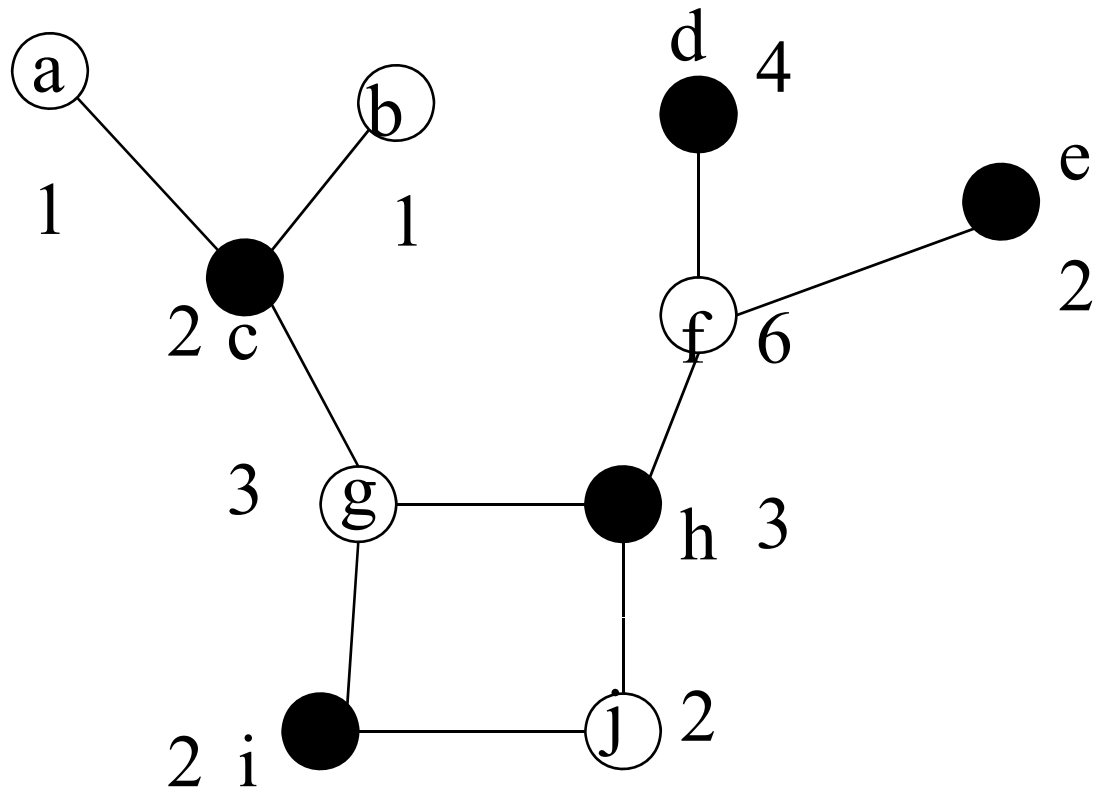
In each subset V_i
 $w(B \cap V_i) = w(W \cap V_i)$

Weighted trees

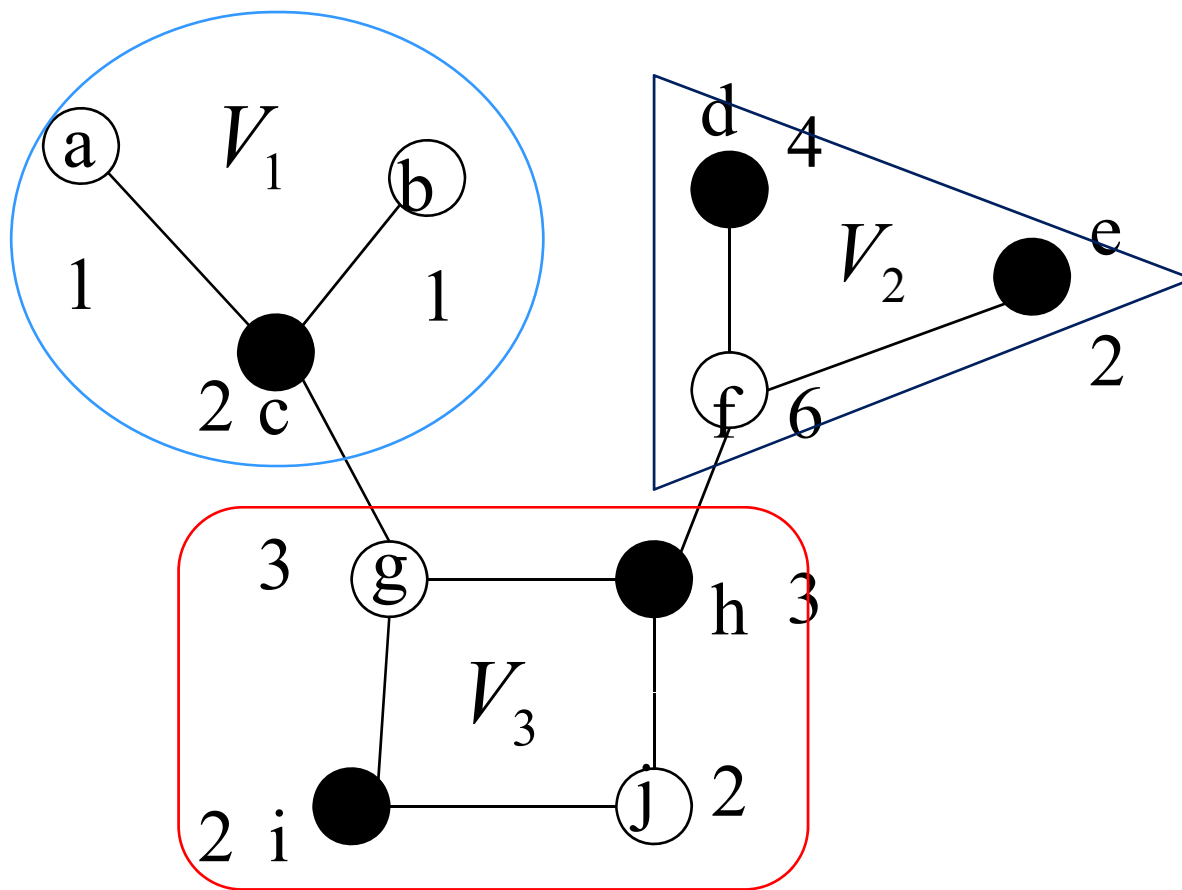


maximum-weight stable sets S

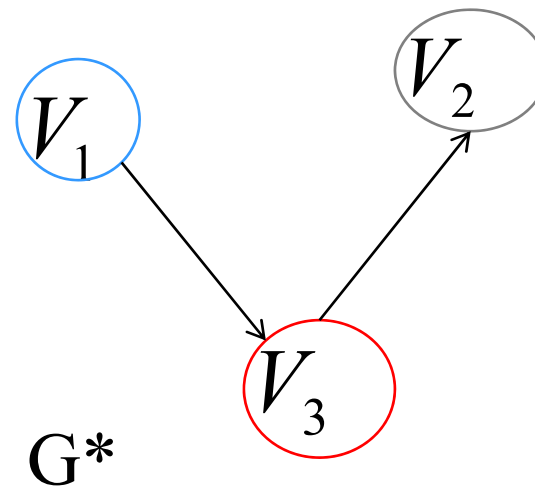
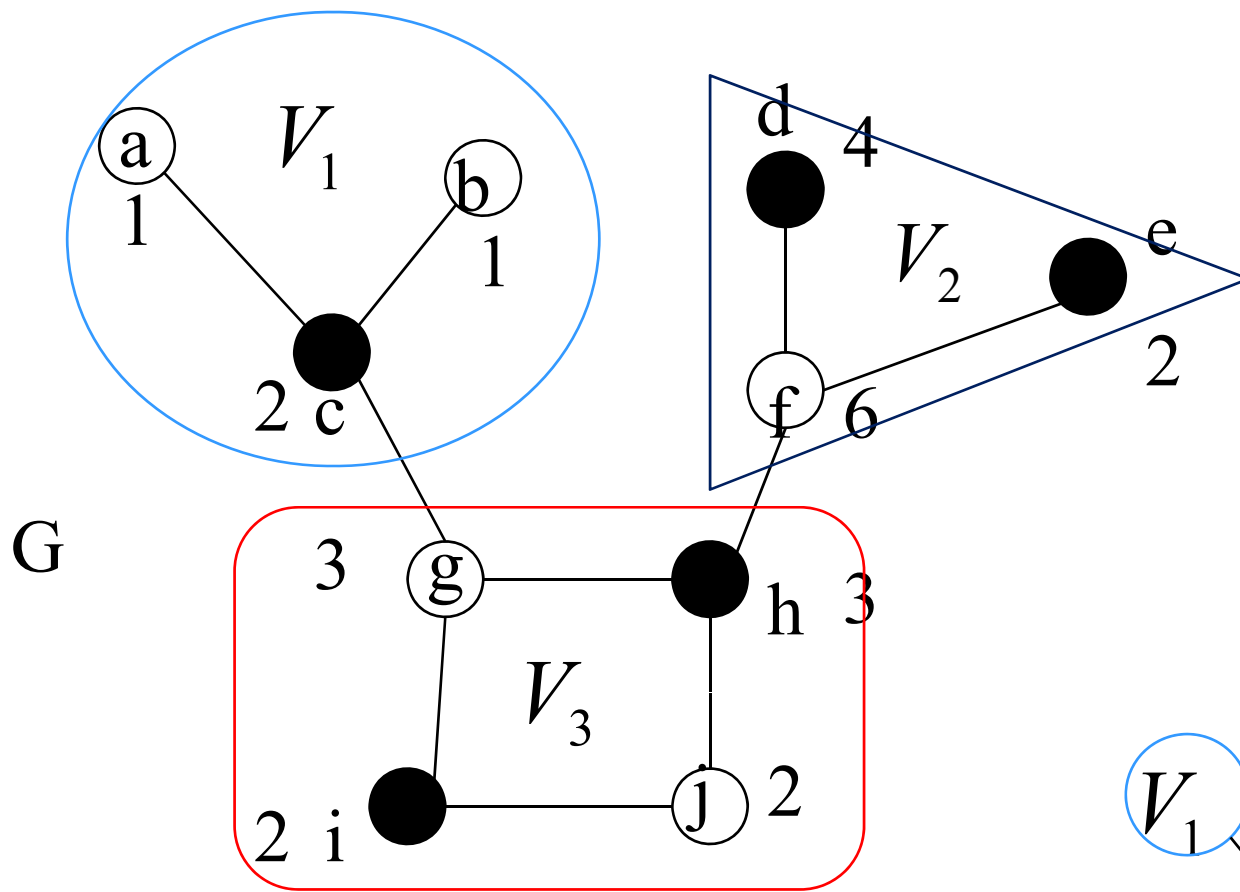
$$S \cap V_i = W \cap V_i \text{ or } B \cap V_i$$

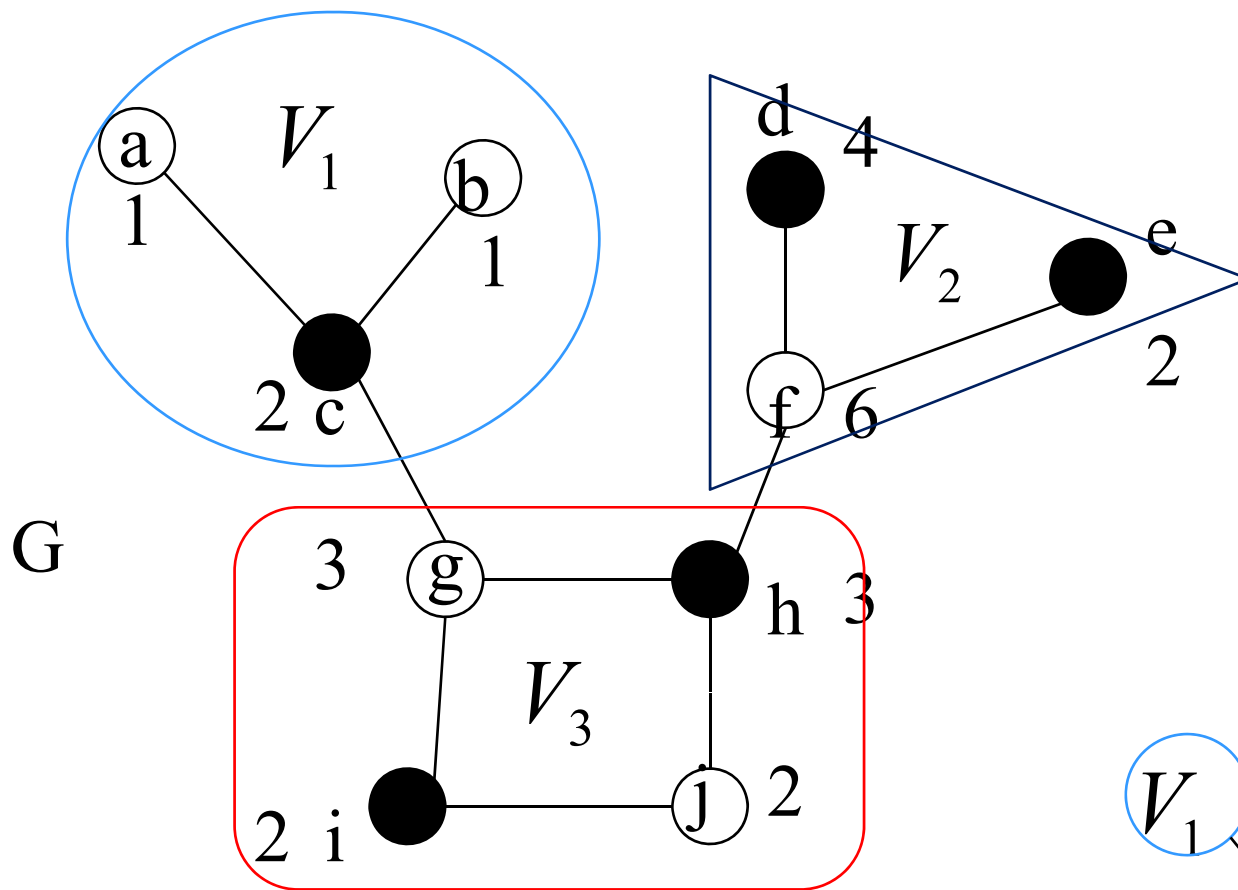


Weighted bipartite graph
(all vertices are free)



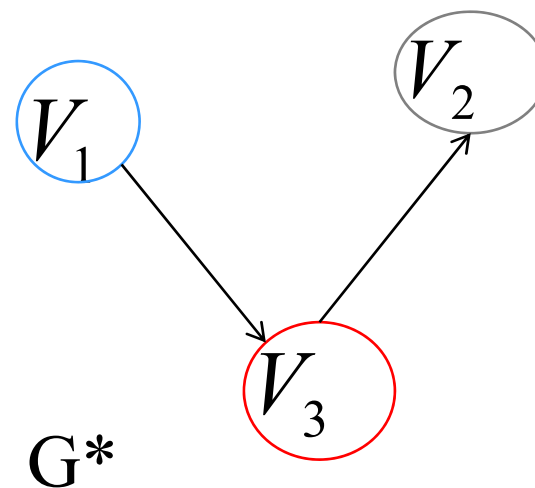
Partition into V_1, V_2, V_3

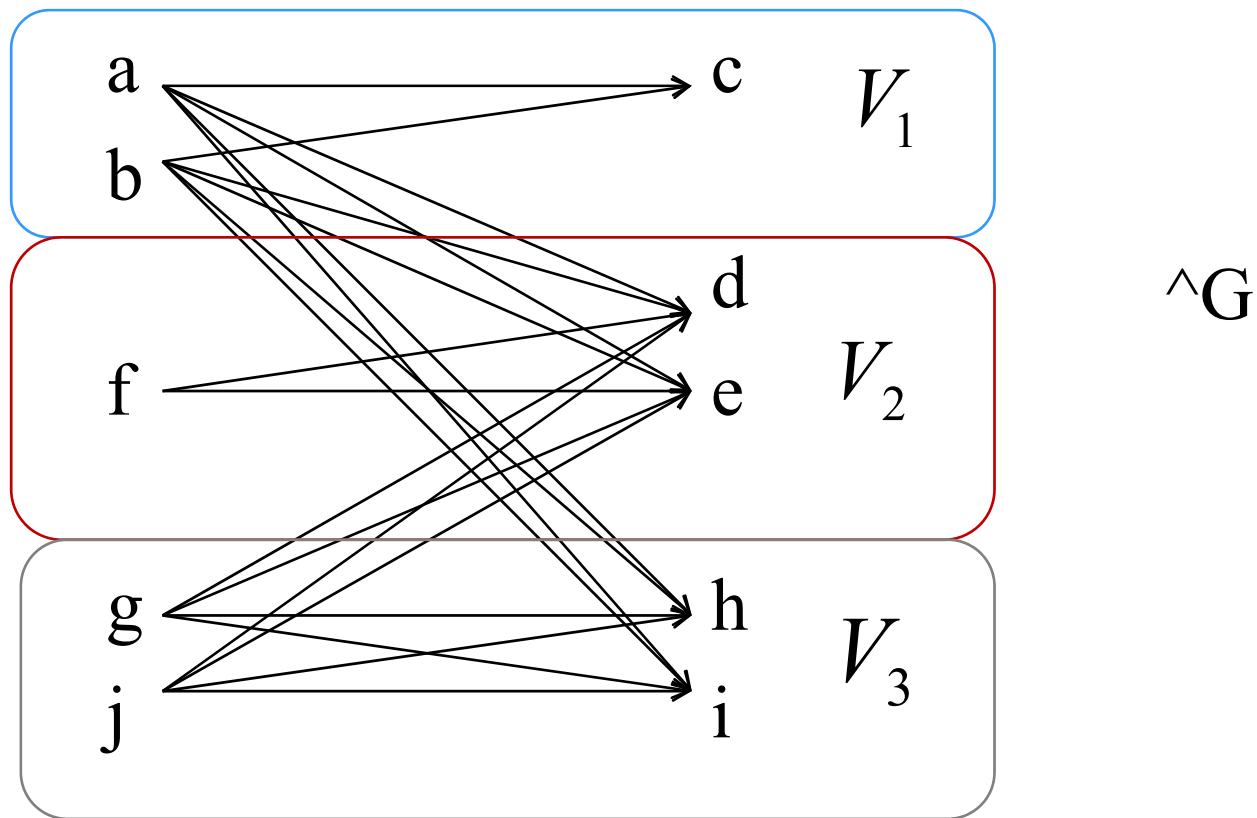




$a, b \prec c, h, i, d, e$
 $f \prec d, e$
 $g, j \prec d, e, h, i$

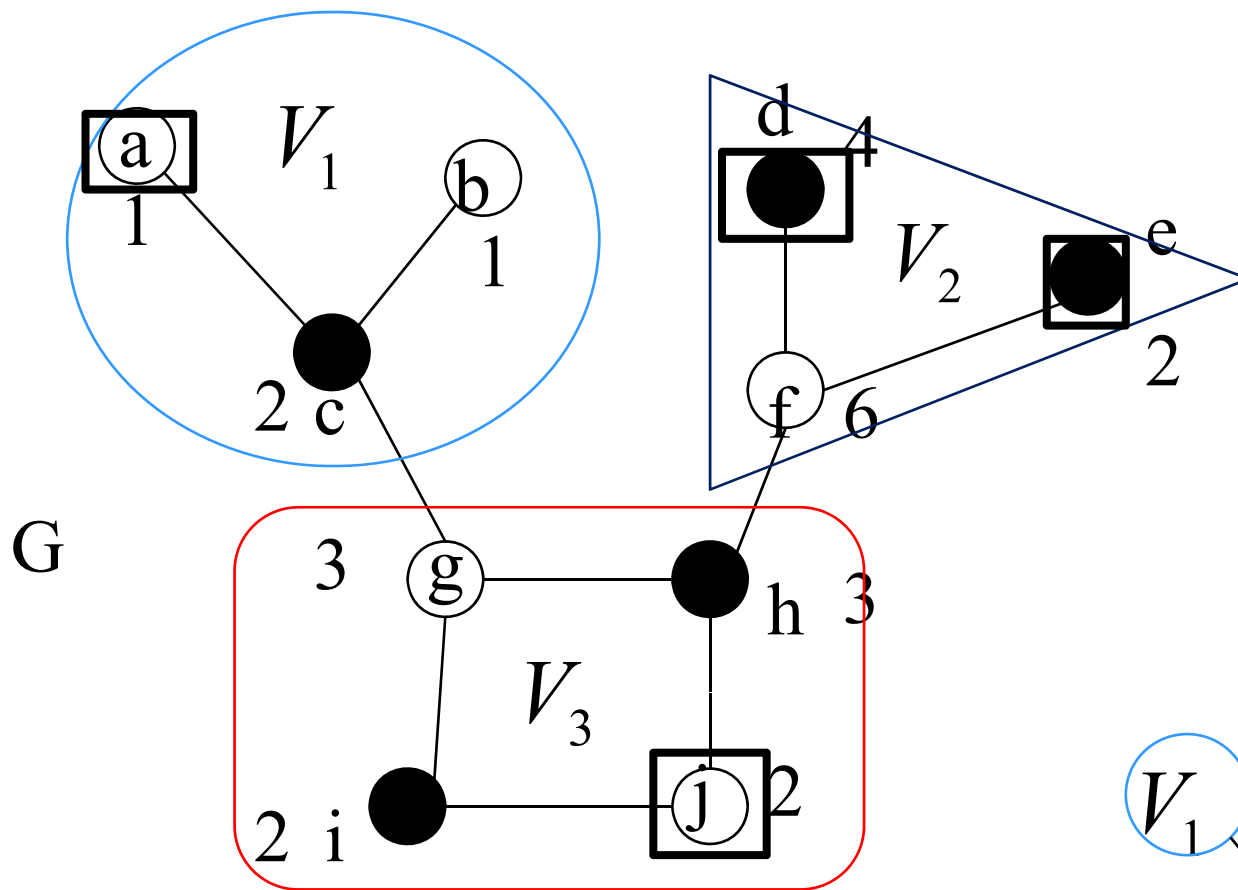
$\wedge G$





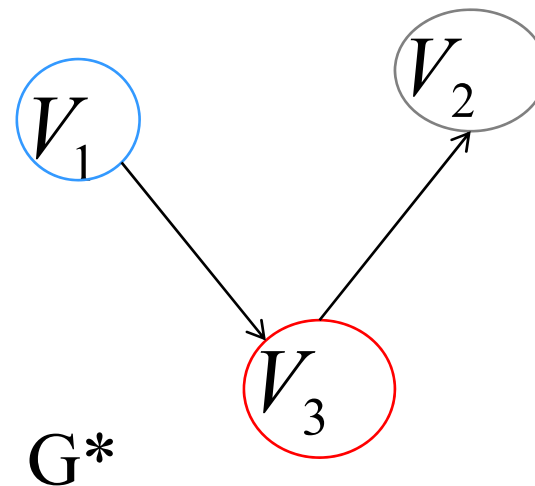
Verification: ad, je matching with cost $1+4+2+2$ and size 2.

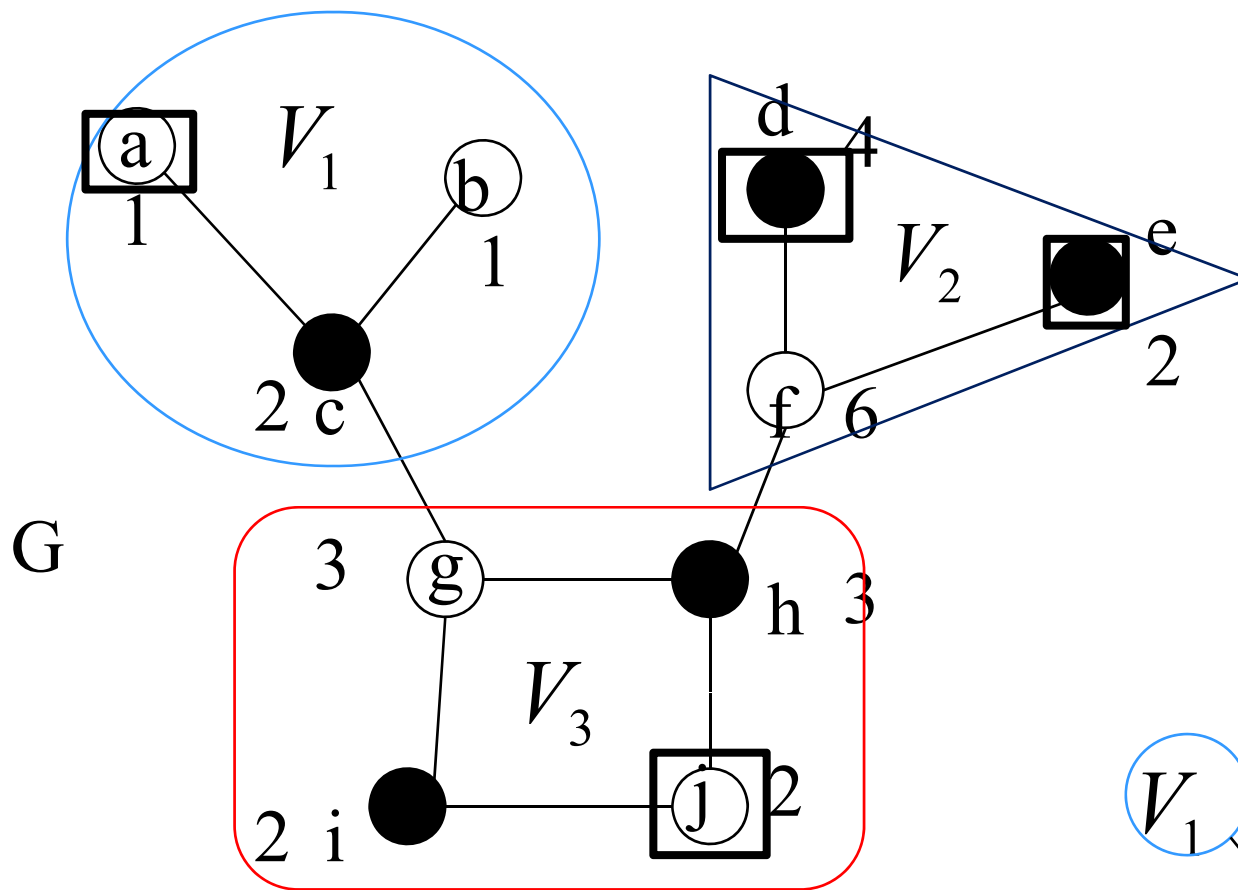
Is $\{a, d, j, e\}$ a 2-transversal ?



$a, b \prec c, h, i, d, e$
 $f \prec d, e$
 $g, j \prec d, e, h, i$

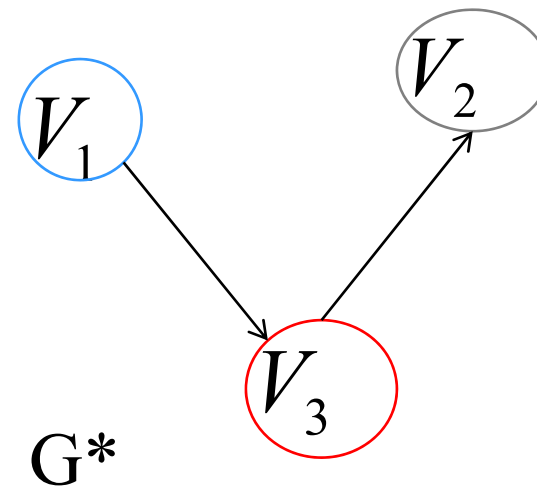
$\wedge G$





If $a \notin S$ then $d \in S$

If $j \notin S$ then $e \in S$



¿ And if there are forced vertices in G ?

Introduce into \hat{G} every forced vertex x
with weight $w(x)$
as an isolated edge xx'
with cost $c(xx') = w(x)$.

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Polynomial algorithm
(minimum cost bipartite matching)

The end...

...but much more is to be discovered.