# A model theoretic approach to sparsity

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# Sparse vs Dense — Simple vs Complex



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# Part I: Sparsity





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# Shallow minors





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## Topological resolution of a class ${\mathscr C}$

Shallow topological minors at depth t:



 $\mathscr{C} \widetilde{\nabla} t = \{H : \text{some } \leq 2t \text{-subdivision of } H \text{ is a subgraph of some } G \in \mathscr{C}\}.$ 

Topological resolution:

$$\mathscr{C} \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ 0 \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ 1 \ \subseteq \ \ldots \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ t \ \subseteq \ \ldots \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ \infty$$

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 The Somewhere dense
 Nowhere dense dichotomy

A class  $\mathscr{C}$  is *somewhere dense* if there exists  $\tau$  such that  $\mathscr{C} \tilde{\nabla} \tau$  contains all graphs.

$$\iff \quad (\exists \tau) \ \omega(\mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\forall} \ \tau) = \infty.$$

A class  $\mathscr{C}$  is *nowhere dense* otherwise.

$$\iff \quad (\forall \tau) \ \omega(\mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ \tau) < \infty.$$

We define

$$\widetilde{\omega}_{\tau}(G) := \max_{H \in G \,\widetilde{\vee}\, \tau} \,\omega(H).$$



#### Bounded expansion classes

A class  $\mathscr{C}$  has *bounded expansion* if for every  $\tau$  the class  $\mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \tau$  has bounded average degree.

$$\iff \quad (\forall \tau) \ \overline{\mathrm{d}}(\mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ \tau) < \infty.$$

Remark that bounded expansion  $\implies$  nowhere dense.

We define

$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{\tau}(G) := \max_{H \in G \,\widetilde{\nabla}\, \tau} \frac{\|H\|}{|H|}.$$



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		Exam	ples		

- planar graphs;
- cubic graphs;
- $K_n$  subdivided log n times;
- graphs such that any two vertices u, v are at distance at least  $f(\min(d(u), d(v)))$  with f non decreasing unbounded.
- the class of graphs G with  $\Delta(G) \leq \operatorname{girth}(G)$ ;
- classes of cage graphs G with degree  $|G|^{o(1)}$ .





# Every kind of shallow minors

#### Minor

 $Topological\ minor$ 

#### Immersion





Minors	Density	Separators	Cutting	Ordering	Flatening
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	d	χ	$\chi_f$	ω	
Minors					
Topological minors	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense	
Immersions					
Definition					



Minors	Density	Separators	Cutting	Ordering	Flatening
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	$\overline{\mathrm{d}}$	$\chi$	$\chi_f$	ω	
Minors				Nowhere dense	
Topological minors	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense	
Immersions					
$\omega_r(G) \le (\widetilde{\omega}_{3r+1}(G))^{2r+2}$					



Minors	Density	Separators	Cutting	Ordering	Flatening
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	$\overline{\mathrm{d}}$	$\chi$	$\chi_f$	ω	
Minors	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense	
Topological minors	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense	
Immersions					
	$\nabla_r(G) \le 2^{r^2 + 3r + 3} \lceil \widetilde{\nabla}_r(G) \rceil^{(r+2)^2}$				



Minors	Density	Separators	Cutting	Ordering	Flatening
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	d	$\chi$	$\chi_{f}$	ω
Minors	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense
Topological minors	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense
Immersions	Bounded expansion			Nowhere dense



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	d	$\chi$	$\chi_f$	ω	
Minors	Bounded expansion	Bounded expansion		Nowhere dense	
Topological minors	Bounded expansion	Bounded expansion		Nowhere dense	
Immersions	Bounded expansion	Bounded expansion		Nowhere dense	
$\chi(G \widetilde{arphi} (2r+1)) \gtrsim \widetilde{ abla}_r(G)^{1/3}/\log \widetilde{ abla}_r(G) \; ( ext{Dvořák '07})$					



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	$\overline{\mathrm{d}}$	$\chi$	$\chi_f$	ω			
Minors	Bounded	Bounded	Bounded	Nowhere			
	expansion	expansion	expansion	dense			
Topological	Bounded	Bounded	Bounded	Nowhere			
minors	expansion	expansion	expansion	dense			
Immersions	Bounded	Bounded	Bounded	Nowhere			
	expansion	expansion	expansion	dense			
$\chi_f(G \widetilde{\nabla}  (2r+1)) \geq 0.19 \widetilde{\nabla}_r(G)^{1/3}$ (Dvořák, POM, Wu '19+)							



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## Unavoidable subgraphs

## Theorem (Erdős, Simonovits, Stone)

$$ex(n, H) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\chi(H) - 1}\right) {n \choose 2} + o(n^2).$$



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## Unavoidable subgraphs

Theorem (Erdős, Simonovits, Stone)

$$ex(n, H) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\chi(H) - 1}\right) \binom{n}{2} + o(n^2).$$

#### Theorem (Jiang, Seiver '12)

Let F be a subdivision of a graph H, where each edge is subdivided by an even number of vertices (at least 2m). Then

$$\operatorname{ex}(n,F) = O(n^{1+\frac{8}{m}}).$$



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#### Concentration

## Theorem (Jiang, Seiver '12)

$$ex(n, K_t^{(\leq 2p)}) = O(n^{1+\frac{8}{p}}).$$

$$\begin{split} \mathscr{C} \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ 0 \ \subseteq \ \ldots \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ t \ \subseteq \ \ldots \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ \frac{8t}{\epsilon} \ \subseteq \ \ldots \ \subseteq \ \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\nabla} \ \infty \\ & \uparrow \\ \|G\| > C_t \ |G|^{1+\epsilon} \qquad K_t \end{split}$$

||G|| = number of edges |G| = number of vertices

Hence:

$$\limsup_{G\in\mathscr{C}\,\widetilde{\heartsuit}\,t}\frac{\log\|G\|}{\log|G|}>1+\epsilon\quad\Longrightarrow\quad \limsup_{G\in\mathscr{C}\,\widetilde{\heartsuit}\,\frac{8t}{\epsilon}}\frac{\log\|G\|}{\log|G|}=2.$$



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### Classification by logarithmic density

#### Theorem (Class trichotomy — Nešetřil and POM)

Let  ${\mathscr C}$  be an infinite class of graphs. Then

$$\sup_t \limsup_{G \in \mathscr{C} \ \widetilde{\bigtriangledown} \ t} \frac{\log \|G\|}{\log |G|} \in \{-\infty, 0, 1, 2\}.$$

- bounded size class  $\iff -\infty$  or 0;
- nowhere dense class  $\iff -\infty, 0 \text{ or } 1;$
- somewhere dense class  $\iff 2$ .



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# Expansion and Separators





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# Polynomial expansion

#### Definition

A class  ${\mathscr C}$  has polynomial expansion if there is a polynomial P with

$$\nabla_r(G) \le P(r) \qquad (\forall G \in \mathscr{C}).$$

A class  ${\mathscr C}$  has polynomial  $\omega\text{-expansion}$  if there is a polynomial P with

$$\omega_r(G) \le P(r) \qquad (\forall G \in \mathscr{C}).$$

- planar graphs have polynomial expansion;
- cubic graphs do not have polynomial expansion.





#### Definition

A class  $\mathscr{C}$  has strongly sublinear separators if there exists a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph  $G \in \mathscr{C}$  has a balanced vertex separator of size at most  $|G|^{1-\delta}$ .





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#### Definition

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#### Theorem (Dvořák '14)

Let  ${\mathscr C}$  be a hereditary class of graphs. The following are equivalent:

- 1.  $\mathscr{C}$  has polynomial expansion;
- 2.  $\mathscr{C}$  has polynomial  $\omega$ -expansion;
- 3. C has strongly sublinear separators.



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 $\rightarrow$  partition vertices of G by distance to a root mod |F| + 1;

(Eppstein '00)

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→ partition vertices of G by distance to a root mod |F| + 1; then unions of  $\leq |F|$  parts induce a subgraph  $G_I$  with bounded tw;

(Eppstein '00)

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- $\rightarrow$  partition vertices of G by distance to a root mod |F| + 1;
- then unions of  $\leq |F|$  parts induce a subgraph  $G_I$  with bounded tw;
  - $\rightarrow$  solve the problem in each  $G_I$ ;

(Eppstein '00)

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- $\rightarrow$  partition vertices of G by distance to a root mod |F| + 1;
- then unions of  $\leq |F|$  parts induce a subgraph  $G_I$  with bounded tw;
  - $\rightarrow$  solve the problem in each  $G_I$ ; (Eppstein '00)

◊ low tree-width decompositions (DeVos, Ding, Oporowski, Sanders, Reed, Seymour, Vertigan '04)

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The *tree-depth* td(G) of a graph G is the minimum height of a rooted forest Y s.t.

 $G \subseteq \text{Closure}(Y).$ 

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 $\operatorname{td}(P_n) = \log_2(n+1)$ 



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### Low tree-depth decompositions

 $\chi_p(G)$  is the minimum number of colors such that every subset I of  $\leq p$  colors induces a subgraph  $G_I$  so that  $td(G_I) \leq |I|$ .  $\iff$  the minimum number of colors in a *p*-centered coloring of G, i.e. a coloring such that every subgraph with  $\leq p$ -colors has some uniquely colored vertex.

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### Low tree-depth decompositions

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#### Theorem (Nešetřil and POM; 2006, 2010)

$$\forall p, \sup_{G \in \mathscr{C}} \chi_p(G) < \infty \qquad \Longleftrightarrow \qquad \mathscr{C} \text{ has bounded expansion.}$$

$$\forall p, \ \limsup_{G \in \mathscr{C}} \frac{\log \chi_p(G)}{\log |G|} = 0 \qquad \Longleftrightarrow \qquad \mathscr{C} \text{ is nowhere dense.}$$



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## Algorithmic version

#### Theorem (Nešetřil and POM '06)

For every integer p there is a polynomial  $P_p$  (deg  $P_p \approx 2^{2^p}$ ) such that for every graph G it holds

$$\chi_p(G) \le N_p(G) \le P_p(\widetilde{\nabla}_{2^{p-2}+1}(G)),$$

and G has a p-centered coloring with at most  $N_p(G)$  colors, which can be computed in  $O(N_p(G)|G|)$ -time.

- $\rightarrow$  linear time for bounded expansion classes;
- $\rightarrow\,$  almost linear time for nowhere dense classes.



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Bounds									
_	Class of graphs		$\chi_p$						
_	Maximum degree $\leq \Delta$	$\Omega(\Delta^{2-\frac{1}{p}} p \ln^{-1/p} \Delta), O(\Delta^{2-\frac{1}{p}} p)$		)					
	Outerplanar	$O(p\log p)$							
_	Planar	O(p							
_	Tree-width	(	$\binom{p+t}{t}$						
_	No topological $K_t$ minor	<i>O</i> (1							
_	$\nabla_r \le r+2$	Ω(							

(Dębski, Felsner, Micek, Schröder '20; Pilipczuk, Siebertz '19) (Dubois, Joret, Perarnau, Pilipczuk '20)




## Application: Logarithmic density

## Theorem (Nešetřil and POM)



#### Remark

Proof based on Low Tree-Depth Decompositions and regularity properties of bounded height trees.





Application: Restricted Homomorphism Dualities

#### Theorem (Nešetril, POM '06)

Every class C with bounded expansion has all restricted dualities (ARD):  $\forall F$  connected  $\exists D$  such that  $F \not\rightarrow D$  and

$$\forall G \in \mathcal{C}, \qquad (F \nrightarrow G) \iff (G \to D).$$

# Example (Naserasr '07) $\forall$ planar G $\swarrow$ $\leftrightarrow$ $G \rightarrow$

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Application: Restricted Homomorphism Dualities

#### Theorem (Nešetril, POM '06)

Every class C with bounded expansion has all restricted dualities (ARD):  $\forall F$  connected  $\exists D$  such that  $F \not\rightarrow D$  and

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#### Example (Thomassen '94)

 $\forall$  toroidal G



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## Application: Restricted Homomorphism Dualities

## Theorem (Nešetril, POM '06)

Every class C with bounded expansion has all restricted dualities (ARD):  $\forall F$  connected  $\exists D$  such that  $F \not\rightarrow D$  and

$$\forall G \in \mathcal{C}, \qquad (F \nrightarrow G) \iff (G \to D).$$

#### Theorem (Nešetril, POM '12)

- For class C of graphs closed under subdivisions: C has ARD  $\iff C$  has bounded expansion.
- For class C of directed graphs closed under reorientations: C has ARD  $\iff C$  has bounded expansion.





## Application: Model checking

#### Theorem (Dvořák, Kráľ, Thomas 2010)

For every class  $\mathscr{C}$  with bounded expansion, every property of graphs definable in first-order logic can be decided in time O(n) on  $\mathscr{C}$ .

## Theorem (Kazana, Segoufin 2013)

For every class  $\mathscr{C}$  with bounded expansion, every first-order definable subset can be enumerated in lexicographic order in constant time between consecutive outputs and linear time preprocessing time.



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## Coloring number







## Generalized coloring numbers

$$\operatorname{adm}_r(G) \le \operatorname{col}_r(G) \le \operatorname{wcol}_r(G) \le 1 + r(\operatorname{adm}_r(G) - 1)^{r}$$





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Bounds							

Class of graphs	$\operatorname{wcol}_r$	
Bounded expansion	$\leq f(r)$	(Zhu '09)
No $K_t$ -minor	$\binom{r+t-2}{t-2}(t-3)(2r+1)$	$\in O(r^{t-1})$
Planar	$\binom{r+2}{2}(2r+1)$	$\in O(r^3)$

(van den Heuvel, POM, Quiroz, Rabinovich, Siebertz '17)





## Application: r-neighbourhood covers

#### Lemma (Grohe, Kreutzer, Siebertz 2013)

Let  $r\in\mathbb{N}.$  For every graph G there exists a family  $\mathscr X$  of induced subgraphs of G s.t.

- the maximum radius of  $H \in \mathscr{X}$  is  $\leq 2r$ ;
- every  $v \in G$  has all its *r*-neighborhood in some  $H \in \mathscr{X}$ ;
- every  $v \in G$  belongs to at most  $\operatorname{wcol}_{2r}(G)$  subgraphs in  $\mathscr{X}$ .

#### Remark

Leads to a characterization of nowhere dense and bounded expansion monotone classes.



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## Uniformly quasi-wide classes

A class  $\mathscr{C}$  of graphs is *uniformly quasi-wide* if  $\forall d \exists s \forall m \exists N: \forall G \in \mathscr{C}, A \subseteq V(G), |A| \geq N, \exists S \subseteq V(G), X \subseteq A$ with

• 
$$|S| \leq s, |X| \geq m,$$

• 
$$\forall x \neq y \in X \setminus S$$
,  $\operatorname{dist}_{G-S}(x, y) > d$ .

Theorem (Nešetril and Ossona de Mendez '10)

A class of graphs is uniformly quasi-wide if and only if it is nowhere dense.



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## Polynomial uniform quasi-wideness

## Theorem (Pilipczuk, Siebertz, Toruńczyk '18)

 $\forall r, t$  there is a polynomial P of degree at most  $(2t+1)^{2rt}$  s.t. the following holds:

Let G be a graph such that  $K_t \notin G \triangledown \lceil 5r/2 \rceil$  and let  $A \subseteq V(G)$ with  $|A| \ge P(m)$  then  $\exists S \subseteq V(G)$  with  $|S| \le t$  and  $X \subseteq A - S$ with  $|X| \ge m$  such that X is r-independent in G - S. Moreover, given G and A, sets S and X can be computed in time  $O(|A| \cdot ||G||)$ .





## Application: Distance-r Dominating Sets

#### Lemma (Pilipczuk, Siebertz '18)

Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a nowhere dense class and let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $Z \subseteq V(G)$  be a large enough vertex subset  $(|Z| \ge F_{\mathscr{C},r}(k))$ . Then we can compute in polynomial time a vertex  $w \in Z$  such that for any set  $D \subseteq V(G)$  satisfying  $|D| \le k$ , we have

D distance-r dominates Z

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

D distance-r dominates  $Z - \{w\}$ .



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Proof								



 $Z \ge F_{\mathscr{C},r}(k)$ 



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		× z <sub>2</sub>		G	

 $\rightarrow \exists S = \{z_1, \dots, z_s\}$  and  $> (k+2)(s+1)^r$  vertices pairwise at distance > r in G - S.



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Proof							



 $\rightarrow \exists S = \{z_1, \ldots, z_s\}$  and  $> (k+2)(s+1)^r$  vertices pairwise at distance > r in G - S. Among them,  $b_1, \ldots, b_{k+2}$  have the same distance profile w.r.t.  $z_1, \ldots, z_s$ . We let  $w := b_1$ .



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Proof							





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Proof							



Assume  $|D| \leq k$  and D distance-r dominates  $Z - \{b_1\}$ . Let  $b_i$  be such that no vertex of D is at distance at most r from  $b_i$  in G - S.



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Proof							



 $\rightarrow$  There is a short path from D to  $b_i$  through S.



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Proof								



 $\rightarrow$  There is a short path from D to  $b_1$  through S. Hence D distance-r dominates  $b_1$ .





## Application: Model checking

Theorem (Grohe, Kreutzer, Siebertz 2014)

For every nowhere dense class  $\mathscr{C}$  and every  $\epsilon > 0$ , every property of graphs definable in first-order logic can be decided in time  $O(n^{1+\epsilon})$  on  $\mathscr{C}$ .

Theorem (Dvořák, Kráľ, Thomas 2010; Kreutzer 2011)

if a monotone class  $\mathscr{C}$  is somewhere dense, then deciding firstorder properties of graphs in  $\mathscr{C}$  is not fixed-parameter tractable (unless FPT = W[1].

#### Remark

Hence a characterization of nowhere dense/somewhere dense dichotomy in terms of algorithmic complexity.





## Application: First-order Limits

#### Theorem (Nešetřil, POM '16)

A hereditary class of graphs C is nowhere dense if and only if  $\forall d, \forall \epsilon > 0, \forall G \in C, \exists S \subseteq G \text{ with } |S| \leq N(d, \epsilon)$  such that

$$\sup_{v \in G-S} \frac{|\mathcal{N}_{G-S}^d(v)|}{|G|} \le \epsilon.$$







## Application: First-order Limits

#### Theorem (Nešetřil, POM '19)

Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a nowhere dense class and let  $G_1, G_2, \dots \in \mathscr{C}$ . Assume that for every first-order formula  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_p)$  the probability  $\Pr[G_n \models \phi(X_1, \dots, X_p)]$  converges as  $n \to \infty$ . Then there exists a modeling **G** (i.e. a totally Borel graph on a probability space) such that for every first-order formula  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_p)$  we have

$$\Pr[\mathbf{G} \models \phi(X_1, \dots, X_p)] = \lim_{n \to \infty} \Pr[G_n \models \phi(X_1, \dots, X_p)]$$

#### Remark

Actually a characterization of nowhere dense classes.





## Coffee break (and commercial)



# 下周继续 To be continued next week



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## Subcoloring powers

#### Definition

A *subcoloring* of a graph G is a coloring of the vertices such that each color class induces a disjoint union of cliques.

$$\max_{H \subseteq_i G} \frac{\chi(H)}{\omega(H)} \le \chi_{\rm sub}(G).$$



#### 

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## Definition

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Theorem (Nešetřil, POM, Pilipczuk, Zhu '19+)

For every graph G and every integer  $d\geq 2$  we have

$$\chi_{\rm sub}(G^d) \le \begin{cases} \operatorname{wcol}_{2d-1}(G) & \text{ if } d \text{ is odd,} \\ \operatorname{wcol}_{2d}(G) & \text{ if } d \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$



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Let 
$$d' = \lfloor d/2 \rfloor$$
 and  $\begin{cases} (c, <) \text{ a rank } d+2d' \text{ weak colouring;} \\ v \mapsto \hat{v} := \min \operatorname{Ball}_{d'}(v); \\ \gamma(v) := c(\hat{v}). \end{cases}$ 



$$\begin{cases} uv \in E(G^d) \\ \gamma(u) = \gamma(v) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \hat{u} = \hat{v} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \text{No } \gamma \text{-monochromatic induced } P_3. \end{cases}$$









#### Theorem (Nešetřil, POM, Pilipczuk, Zhu '19+)

For every  $H \subseteq_i G^d$  we have

$$\frac{\operatorname{col}(H)}{\operatorname{wcol}_{2d}(G)} \le \omega(H) \le \chi(H) \le \operatorname{col}(H).$$

#### Remark

Linear time constant factor approximation for  $\chi(G^d)$  if G is in a bounded expansion class.



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		Dis	stance colori	ng	





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## Distance Coloring of Planar Graphs

#### Problem

How many colors are needed to ensure that any two vertices at distance 3 get different colors?

 $G^{[\sharp p]}$ : x and y adjacent if  $\operatorname{dist}_G(x, y) = p$ .



## Distance Coloring of Planar Graphs

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#### Problem

How many colors are needed to ensure that any two vertices at distance 3 get different colors?

 $G^{[\sharp p]}$ : x and y adjacent if  $\operatorname{dist}_G(x, y) = p$ .

#### Theorem (Sampathkumar; '77)

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For planar G and every odd p it holds  $\chi(G^{[\sharp p]}) \leq 5$ .



## **Distance** Coloring

## Counterexample (Nešetřil, POM)

 $\substack{G^{[\sharp p]}\\\circ\circ\bullet\circ\circ\circ}$ 





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# Counterexample (Nešetřil, POM)

 $C^{[\sharp p]}$ 

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### Theorem (Nešetřil, POM; '06)

For all graph G and odd integer p it holds  $\chi(G^{[\sharp p]}) \leq 2^{2^{p^{\chi_p(G)^p}}}$ . Thus  $\sup_{G \in \mathscr{C}} \chi(G^{[\sharp p]}) < \infty$  for every bounded expansion class  $\mathscr{C}$ .

$$6 \leq \sup_{G \text{ planar}} \chi(G^{[\sharp 3]}) \leq 5 \cdot 2^{20971522}$$





# Theorem (van den Heuvel, Quiroz, Kierstead 2016)

$$\chi(G^{[\sharp p]}) \leq \begin{cases} \operatorname{wcol}_{2p-1}(G) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \\ \operatorname{wcol}_{2p}(G) \Delta(G) & \text{if } p \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

$$\sup_{G \text{ planar}} \chi(G^{[\sharp(2p+1)]}) = O(p^3)$$

$$7 \le \sup_{G \text{ planar}} \chi(G^{[\sharp 3]}) \le 103$$



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Assume p > 1. Then

- $\chi(G^{[\sharp 2p]}) = 2.$
- wcol<sub>4p</sub>(G) ~ log p;
- $\Delta(G)$  unbounded.



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# Theorem (Jiang, POM '20+)

$$\frac{\chi(G^{[\sharp 2p]})}{\omega(G^{[\sharp 2p]})} \le \operatorname{wol}_{4p}(G) \operatorname{wol}_{4p-3}(G).$$

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# Odd Distance Coloring

## Problem (Van den Heuvel and Naserasr)

Does there exist a constant C such that for every odd-integer p and any planar graph G it holds

 $\chi(G^{[\sharp p]}) \leq C?$ 

Theorem (Bousquet, Esperet, Harutyunyan, de Joannis de Verclos 2018)



$$\chi(G^{[\sharp p]}) = \Theta\left(\frac{p}{\log p}\right).$$







How to encode graphs in a structure?

- Use a formula  $\varphi(x, y)$  to define the edges,
- Use colors to encode several graphs in the same graph,
- Extract induced subgraphs.

$$\mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \mathscr{D}$$

### Remark

Transduction compose. In particular,

$$\mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \mathscr{D} \longrightarrow \mathscr{E} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \mathscr{E}$$



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# Transduction: Color, Interpret, and Cut





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# Edgeless graphs



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Unit interval graphs —— Half-graphs

Unit interval graphs  $\longrightarrow$  All graphs



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		cle graphs			





Circle graphs  $\longrightarrow$  All graphs







 $\begin{aligned} & \text{Interval graphs} \longrightarrow \text{All graphs} \\ \exists y (G(y) \land \forall x (B(x) \to ((x \sim b \to x \sim y) \land (x \sim y \to x \sim a)))) \end{aligned}$ 



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		Sh	rub-depth		



 $\mathscr{C}$  has bounded shrub-depth  $\iff$   $(\exists n) \mathscr{Y}_n \longrightarrow \mathscr{C}$ 



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# More transductions

It follows from (Colcombet '07) that we have:

 $\operatorname{Half-graphs} \longrightarrow \mathscr{C} \quad \iff \quad \mathscr{C} \text{ has bounded linear-rankwidth}$ 

 $\operatorname{Cographs} \longrightarrow \mathscr{C} \quad \iff \quad \mathscr{C} \text{ has bounded rankwidth}$ 

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# More transductions

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If  ${\mathcal C}$  has bounded linear rankwidth then

 $\mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Half-graphs}$ 

 $\Leftrightarrow$ 

% is a transduction of a class with bounded pathwidth.(Nešetřil, POM, Rabinovich, Siebertz '20)



# More transductions

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 $\operatorname{Cographs} \longrightarrow \mathscr{C} \quad \iff \quad \mathscr{C} \text{ has bounded rankwidth}$ 

If  ${\mathscr C}$  has bounded rankwidth then

 $\mathscr{C} { \longrightarrow } \operatorname{Half-graphs}$ 

 $\Leftrightarrow$ 

# $\mathscr{C}$ is a transduction of a class with bounded treewidth. (Nešetřil, POM, Pilipczuk, Rabinovich, Siebertz '20+)





# Monadic dependence and stability





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# Monadic dependence and stability

#### Definition

A class  ${\mathscr C}$  is monadically dependent if  ${\mathscr C} \longrightarrow \operatorname{All graphs}$  .

A class  ${\mathscr C}$  is monadically stable if  ${\mathscr C} {\sc {\sc {\rm \hspace{-.1em} Half-graphs}}}\,.$ 



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# Monadic dependence and stability

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A class  ${\mathscr C}$  is monadically stable if  ${\mathscr C} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Half-graphs}$  .

## Theorem (Podewski, Ziegler '78; Adler, Adler '14)

For a monotone class  ${\mathscr C}$  the following are equivalent:

- $\mathscr{C}$  is nowhere dense,
- C is monadically stable,
- $\mathscr{C}$  is monadically dependent.

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VC-dimension





$$\begin{split} \pi_{\mathscr{F}}(n) &= \max_{|A| \leq n} \left| \{C \cap A : C \in \mathscr{F}\} \right| \quad shatter \ function \\ \mathrm{VC}(\mathscr{F}) &= \max\{n : \pi_{\mathscr{F}}(n) = 2^n\} \qquad \qquad VC\text{-dimension} \end{split}$$



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### Problem

How many distinct traces vertex neighborhoods can have on a subset of n vertices?

Theorem (Reidl '15; Adler<sup>2</sup> '10+ Sauer-Shelah)

Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a monotone class of graphs. For  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $\mathscr{S}_r = \{N_r(G, v) : v \in V(G), G \in \mathscr{C}\}.$ 

Then  $\mathscr{C}$  is

- a bounded expansion class iff  $(\forall r) \pi_{\mathscr{S}_r}(n)$  is linear;
- a nowhere dense class iff  $(\forall r) \pi_{\mathscr{S}_r}(n)$  is polynomial;
- a somewhere dense class iff  $(\exists r) \ \pi_{\mathscr{S}_r}(n) = 2^n$ .



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 Polynomial or Quasi-Linear?

#### Theorem

If  $\mathscr{C}$  is nowhere dense then  $\pi_{\mathscr{S}_r}(n) = n^{1+o(1)}$ .

- case r = 1: (Gajarský, Hlinený, Obdrzálek, Ordyniak, Reidl, Rossmanith, Villaamil, and Sikdar '13).
- general case: (Eickmeyer, Giannopoulou, Kreutzer, Kwon, Pilipczuk, Rabinovich, and Siebertz '17)



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- general case: (Eickmeyer, Giannopoulou, Kreutzer, Kwon, Pilipczuk, Rabinovich, and Siebertz '17)

#### Theorem (Pilipczuk, Siebertz, and Toruńczyk '18)

If  $\mathscr C$  is nowhere dense and  $\ \mathscr C \longrightarrow \mathscr D$  then on  $\mathscr D$  we have  $\pi_{\mathscr S_r}(n)=n^{1+o(1)}$ 







# FO model checking on transduction of sparse classes?

For any sparse graph class  $\mathscr{C}\colon$ 

- • Characterize graph classes that are transductions of  ${\mathscr C}$
- Find an algorithm to 'reverse' transductions
- Find a model checking algorithm

Examples:

- Interpretations of classes with bounded degree (Gajarský, Hliněný, Lokshtanov, Obdržálek, Ramanujan '16)
- Map graphs (Eickmeyer, Kawarabayashi '17)
- Classes obtained from degenerate ND classes by a bounded number of complementations (Gajarský, Kraľ '18)



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# FO model checking on transduction of sparse classes?

For any sparse graph class  $\mathscr{C}$ :

- Characterize graph classes that are transductions of  ${\mathscr C}$
- Find an algorithm to 'reverse' transductions
- Find a model checking algorithm

## Conjecture (Gajarský et al. 2016)

Let  $\mathscr{C}$  be a nowhere dense class and  $\mathscr{D}$  a graph class interpretable in  $\mathscr{C}$ . Then  $\mathscr{D}$  has an FO model checking algorithm in FPT.



# Tree-depth covers

### Definition

Class  $\mathscr{C}$  of graphs has *low tree-depth covers* if for every k there exist N and a class  $\mathscr{T}$  with bounded tree-depth such that for each  $G \in \mathscr{C}$  we there is a system  $G_1, \ldots, G_N$  of induced subgraphs of G such that:

- Each  $G_i$  belongs to  $\mathscr{T}$ ,
- Each k-tuple of vertices is in at least one  $G_i$ .

## Theorem (Nešetřil, POM '06)

A class has bounded expansion if and only if it has low tree-depth covers.



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# Shrub-depth covers

## Definition

Class  $\mathscr{C}$  of graphs has *low shrub-depth covers* if for every k there exist N and a class  $\mathscr{S}$  with bounded shrub-depth such that for each  $G \in \mathscr{C}$  we there is a system  $G_1, \ldots, G_N$  of induced subgraphs of G such that:

- Each  $G_i$  belongs to  $\mathscr{S}$ ,
- Each k-tuple of vertices is in at least one  $G_i$ .

Theorem (Gajarský, Kreutzer, Kwon, Nešetril, POM, Pilipczuk, Siebertz, Toruńczyk '18)

If  ${\mathscr C}$  has low shrub-depth covers then  ${\sf T}({\mathscr C})$  has low shrub-depth covers.



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# Structural Sparsity

Theorem (Gajarský, Kreutzer, Kwon, Nešetril, POM, Pilipczuk, Siebertz, Toruńczyk '18)

For a class of graphs  ${\mathscr C}$  the following are equivalent:

•  $\mathscr{C}$  has structurally bounded expansion, i.e. there is a bounded expansion class  $\mathscr{D}$  such that

$$\mathscr{D} \longrightarrow \mathscr{C}$$

- C has low shrub-depth covers;
- there is a class  $\mathrm{Sparsify}(\mathscr{C})$  with bounded expansion such that

 $Sparsify(\mathscr{C}) \longrightarrow \mathscr{C} \longrightarrow Sparsify(\mathscr{C})$ 





# Application: $\chi$ -boundedness

#### Definition

A class  ${\mathscr C}$  is  $\chi\text{-bounded}$  if there is a function f with

 $\forall G \in \mathscr{C} \qquad \chi(G) \leq f(\omega(G)).$ 

The class  ${\mathcal C}$  is linearly  $\chi\text{-bounded}$  if

$$\forall G \in \mathscr{C} \qquad \chi(G) = O(\omega(G)).$$

#### Corollary

Every class with structurally bounded expansion is linearly  $\chi\text{-bounded}.$ 



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		Low rank-width covers (Kwon, Pilipczuk, Siebertz '17)	⇒	polynomially χ-bounded (Bonamy, Pilipczuk '20)
Monadically	Lo dependent?	w linear rank-width covers $\uparrow$	$\Rightarrow$	linearly $\chi$ -bounded (Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, Rabinovich, Siebertz '20)
SBE (∫) BE	$\Leftrightarrow \\ \Leftrightarrow \\ \Leftrightarrow \\$	Low shrub-depth covers   Low tree-depth covers	⇒	linearly $\chi$ -bounded
Monadical	lly stable			



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# Low complexity classes



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# Transduction semilattice





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# Thank you for your attention.



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