An Improved Parameterized Algorithm for Treewidth

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joint work with Daniel Lokshtanov, UCSB

Aalto TCS Seminar

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Graph G





Graph G

A tree decomposition of G





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1. Every vertex should be in a bag





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- 2. Every edge should be in a bag

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Graph G

A tree decomposition of GWidth = 2

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- 5. Treewidth of G = minimum width of tree decomposition of G





Graph *G* Treewidth 2

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[Bertele & Brioschi'72, Halin'76, Robertson & Seymour'84]







Trees (tw \leq 1)

Series-parallel (tw \leq 2)







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k-outerplanar (tw $\leq 3k - 1$)

Some graphs of small treewidth:



Some graphs of large treewidth:

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Series-parallel (tw \leq 2)

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Some graphs of large treewidth:



Clique (tw = n - 1)

Some graphs of small treewidth:







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Series-parallel (tw < 2)

k-outerplanar (tw $\leq 3k - 1$)

Some graphs of large treewidth:



Clique (tw = n - 1)



Some graphs of small treewidth:







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 Algorithms on trees generalize to algorithms on graphs of small treewidth



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- Any problem in MSO-logic in time $f(k) \cdot n$
- Need to compute the tree decomposition first!



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- "Can the dependence 2^{O(k³)} on k be improved?" [Downey & Fellows'99], [Telle'06], [Bodlaender, Drange, Dregi, Fomin, Lokshtanov & Pilipczuk'16], [Bodlaender, Jaffke & Telle'20]

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Theorem (This work)

There is a $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}n^4$ time algorithm for treewidth.
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- FPT-approximation:
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 - ► $k^{\mathcal{O}(k)} n \log^2 n$ [Matoušek and Thomas'91, Lagergren'91] and $k^{\mathcal{O}(k)} n \log n$ time [Reed'92] approximations

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 - $2^{\mathcal{O}(k)}n$ time 2-approximation [K. '21]

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Theorem (This work)

There is a $k^{\mathcal{O}(k/\varepsilon)}n^4$ time $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximation algorithm for treewidth.

Outline

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1. How to improve a tree decomposition

Suffices to solve the Subset treewidth problem

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Suffices to solve the Subset treewidth problem

2. Solving the subset treewidth problem

Algorithms for subset treewidth that then imply algorithms for treewidth

1. How to improve a tree decomposition

How to improve a tree decomposition

Suppose we have a tree decomposition T whose largest bag is W



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Goal:



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Goal:

1. either decrease the number of bags of size |W| while not increasing the width of *T*, or



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Repeat for $\mathcal{O}(\mathsf{tw}(G) \cdot n)$ iterations to get an (approximately) optimal tree decomposition



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Repeat for $\mathcal{O}(\mathsf{tw}(G) \cdot n)$ iterations to get an (approximately) optimal tree decomposition

(assume to start with width $\mathcal{O}(\mathsf{tw}(G))$ decomposition)



Let W be a largest bag of T

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Want to find:

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Want to find:

• a set X with $W \subseteq X \subseteq V(G)$, and

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Want to find:

- a set X with $W \subseteq X \subseteq V(G)$, and
- a tree decomposition of torso(X) of width $\leq |W| 2$

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SUBSET TREEWIDTH

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Torso?



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Make neighborhoods of components of G \ X into cliques

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Make neighborhoods of components of G \ X into cliques
Delete V(G) \ X

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Observations:

• If T is not optimal, then such X exists by taking X = V(G)



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Big-leaf formulation:



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Big-leaf formulation:

• Find a tree decomposition of *G* whose internal bags have size $\leq |W| - 1$ and cover *W*, but leaf bags can be arbitrarily large



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SUBSET TREEWIDTH

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- This holds if T_X is preprocessed so that its every bag is linked into W
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- Proofs by Bellenbaum-Diestel type arguments
- (actually need a bit stronger condition than linkedness for improvement)

Subset treewidth for exact algorithms

Input: Graph *G*, integer *k*, set of vertices $W \subseteq V(G)$ with |W| = k + 2

Output: Set $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $W \subseteq X$ and tree decomposition of torso(X) of width $\leq k$ or that the treewidth of G is > k

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Theorem

If there is an $f(k) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for subset treewidth, then there is an $f(k) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for treewidth with the same function *f*.

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(actually if and only if)

 $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}n^2$ time algorithm for subset treewidth $\rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}n^4$ time algorithm for treewidth

Subset treewidth for approximation schemes

PARTITIONED SUBSET TREEWIDTH

Input: Graph *G*, integer *k*, set of vertices $W \subseteq V(G)$ with |W| = k+2 that is partitioned into *t* cliques W_1, \ldots, W_t

Output: Set $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $W \subseteq X$ and tree decomposition of torso(X) of width $\leq k$ or that the treewidth of G is > k

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Theorem

If there is an $f(k, t) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for partitioned subset treewidth, then there is a $f(\mathcal{O}(k), \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon)) \cdot k^{\mathcal{O}(k)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximation algorithm for treewidth with the same function *f*.

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 $k^{\mathcal{O}(kt)}n^2$ time algorithm for partitioned subset treewidth $\rightarrow k^{\mathcal{O}(k/\varepsilon)}n^4$ time $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximation algorithm for treewidth

2. Solving the subset treewidth problem

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Goal: Sketch $k^{\mathcal{O}(kt)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for partitioned subset treewidth

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Goal: Sketch $k^{\mathcal{O}(kt)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for partitioned subset treewidth

(this is also a $k^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for subset treewidth)

Setting:

• Input: Graph *G*, *t* terminal cliques W_1, \ldots, W_t , and an integer *k*



Setting:

- Input: Graph G, t terminal cliques W_1, \ldots, W_t , and an integer k
- Goal: Find $X \supseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{t} W_i$ and a tree decomposition of torso(X) of width $\leq k$



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Reduction rule:



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Reduction rule:

Let S be a non-trivial minimum size (W_i, W_j) -separator



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Reduction rule:

Let *S* be a non-trivial minimum size (W_i , W_j)-separator Make *S* into a terminal clique and solve both sides independently



Setting:

- Input: Graph G, t terminal cliques W_1, \ldots, W_t , and an integer k
- Goal: Find $X \supseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{t} W_i$ and a tree decomposition of torso(X) of width $\leq k$

Reduction rule:

Let *S* be a non-trivial minimum size (W_i , W_j)-separator Make *S* into a terminal clique and solve both sides independently



• Now terminal cliques strongly linked into each other



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- Goal: To make progress, increase the size/flow of some terminal clique



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Branching for partitioned subset treewidth

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- Increase W₂ by guessing an important separator



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Analysis of branching



 Increased the size/flow of a leaf terminal clique by guessing a forget-vertex and an important separator

Analysis of branching



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- Sum of sizes/flows of terminal cliques at most (k + 1)t, so branching depth at most kt

Analysis of branching



- Increased the size/flow of a leaf terminal clique by guessing a forget-vertex and an important separator
- Sum of sizes/flows of terminal cliques at most (k + 1)t, so branching depth at most kt
- To get $k^{\mathcal{O}(kt)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time, need also an important separator hitting set lemma

Open questions:

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- Is there $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^{1.999})}n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ time algorithm for subset treewidth?
- When t = O(1), is there 2^{O(k)}n^{O(1)} time algorithm for partitioned subset treewidth?
- How much can the n^4 factor be optimized?

Thank you!

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Tuukka Korhonen

Improved Parameterized Algorithm for Treewidth