Linear-Time Algorithms for *k*-Edge-Connected Components, *k*-Lean Tree Decompositions, and More

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ARCO

22 November 2024

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• $\mathcal{O}(k^2 m \log m)$ [Gabow '91], $\mathcal{O}(m \operatorname{polylog} m)$ [Karger '96]

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Implies the first "parameterized linear-time" ($f(k) \cdot m$ time) algorithms for many problems:

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- k-Unbreakable tree decomposition in $k^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}m$ time (with optimal unbreakability parameters)
 - ► Previously $k^{O(k)} n^{O(1)}$ [Cygan, Komosa, Lokshtanov, Pilipczuk, Pilipczuk, Saurabh, Wahlström '21]
 - and $k^{\mathcal{O}(k)}m^{1+o(1)}$ [Anand, Lee, Li, Long, Saranurak '24] (suboptimal unbreakability parameters)





A 3-lean tree decomposition of G





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- Tree decomposition:
 - 1. All vertices and edges are covered by bags
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 - Holds also when $B_1 = B_2$, e.g. $B_1 = B_2 = \{e, f, i\}$ and $X_1 = \{e, i\}, X_2 = \{e, f\}$.





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- Defined by [Thomas '90] (for $k = \infty$), and [Carmesin, Diestel, Hamann, and Hundertmark '14]

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 - k-unbreakable tree decomposition
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Case 2: No matching of size $\Omega(n) \Rightarrow$ manage to recurse in some other way...

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There is an improver algorithm with running time $k^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}m$.

Proof idea:

• Slowly improve the properties of the input tree decomposition (in 6 consecutive steps)

Improver algorithm:

Input: A "weakly-k-lean" tree decomposition:

- Adhesion size < 2k
- Any two subsets X₁, X₂ ⊆ B of a bag B of size |X₁|, |X₂| ≥ 2k can be linked by k vertex-disjoint paths

Output: k-lean tree decomposition

Lemma

There is an improver algorithm with running time $k^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}m$.

Proof idea:

- Slowly improve the properties of the input tree decomposition (in 6 consecutive steps)
- Key tool: Decomposition by doubly well-linked separations