

# Dynamic Treewidth in Logarithmic Time

Tuukka Korhonen



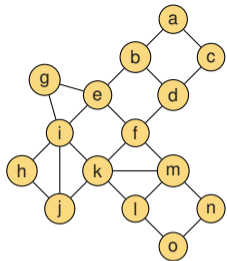
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22 May 2026

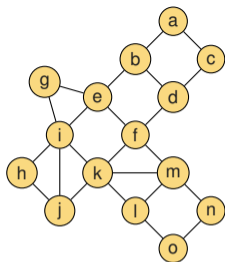
(published at [FOCS'25](#))

# Treewidth

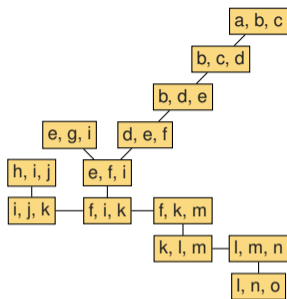


Graph  $G$

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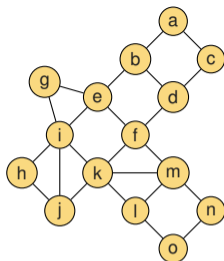


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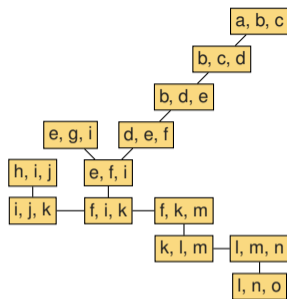


A tree decomposition of G

# Treewidth



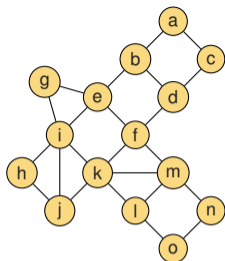
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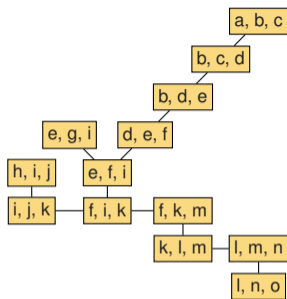
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1. Every vertex should be in a bag

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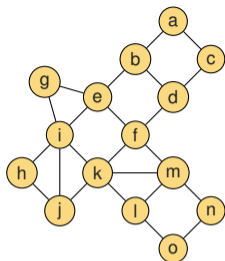
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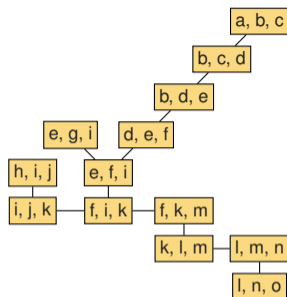
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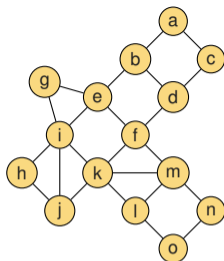
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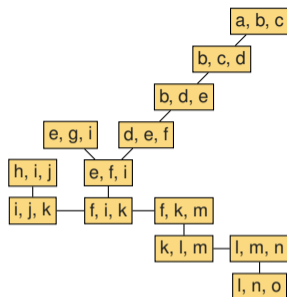
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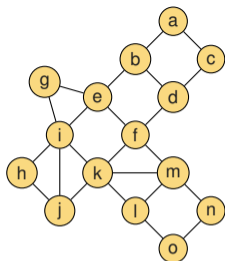


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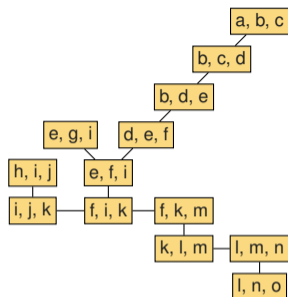
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# Treewidth



Graph  $G$   
Treewidth 2



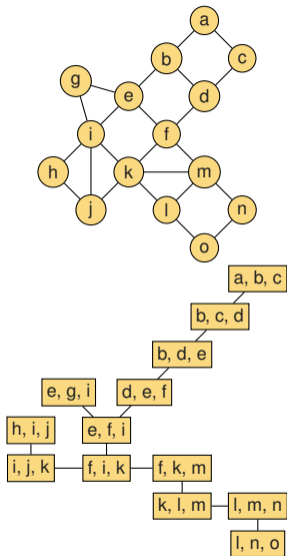
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4. Width = maximum bag size - 1
5. Treewidth of  $G$  = minimum width of tree decomposition of  $G$

[Robertson & Seymour'84, Arnborg & Proskurowski'89, Bertele & Brioschi'72, Halin'76]

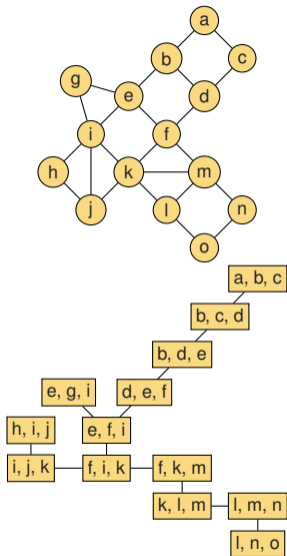
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- Algorithms for **trees** often generalize to algorithms for graphs of **small treewidth**



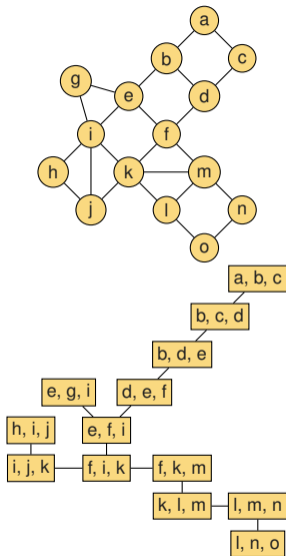
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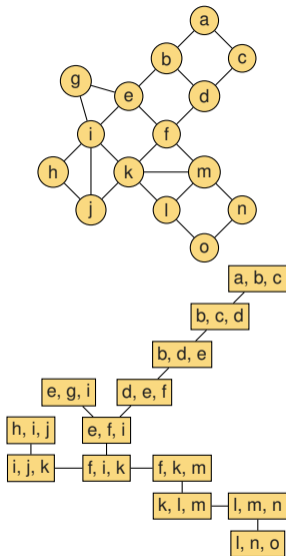
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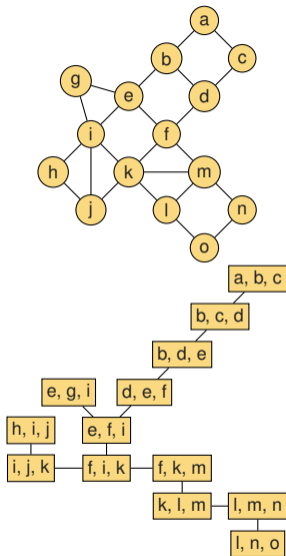
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- Need the tree decomposition!
  - $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^3)} n$  time algorithm to compute an optimum-width tree decomposition [Bodlaender '96]
  - $2^{\mathcal{O}(k)} n$  time for 2-approximation [K. '21]
  - $n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$  time for  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\log k})$ -approximation [Feige, Hajiaghayi, Lee'08]



## Dynamic treewidth

Question [Bodlaender '93, Dvořák, Kupec & Tůma '14, Alman, Mnich & Vassilevska Williams '20]

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- Arguably optimal update time:  $\Omega(\log n)$  needed for dynamic forests [Patrascu&Demaine'04]

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There is data structure that:

- is initialized with an integer  $k$  and an edgeless  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$
- supports edge insertions/deletions in amortized time  $2^{\mathcal{O}(k)} \log n$  under the promise that  $\text{tw}(G) \leq k$
- maintains a tree decomposition of  $G$  of width at most  $9 \cdot \text{tw}(G) + 8$

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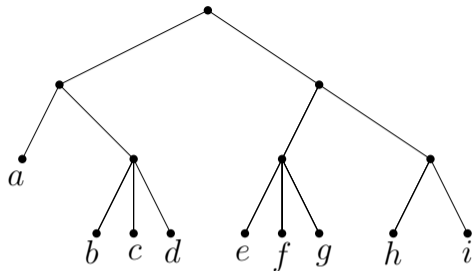
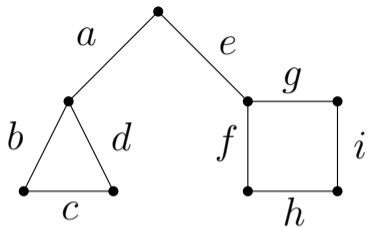
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- ⇒ Dynamic Courcelle's theorem in  $f(k) \cdot \log n$  amortized update time

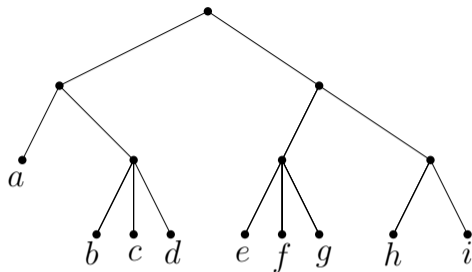
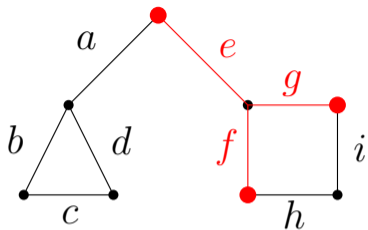
# The algorithm

## Maintained decomposition



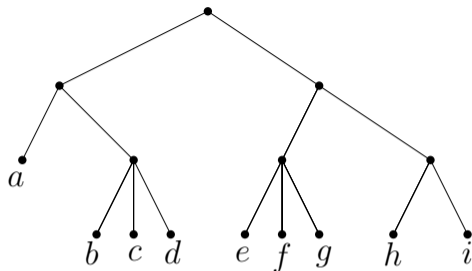
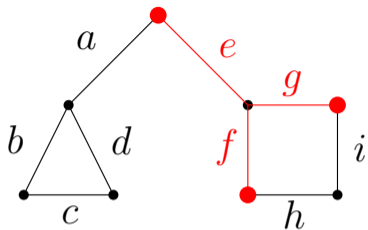
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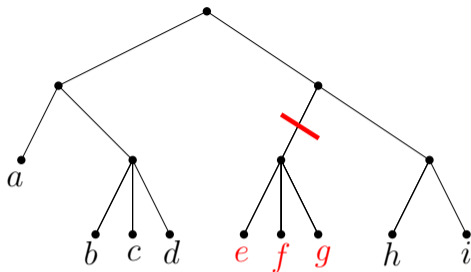
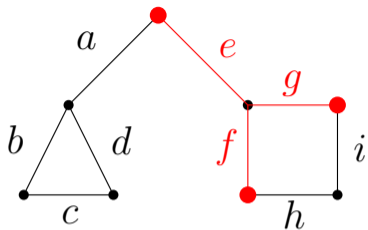
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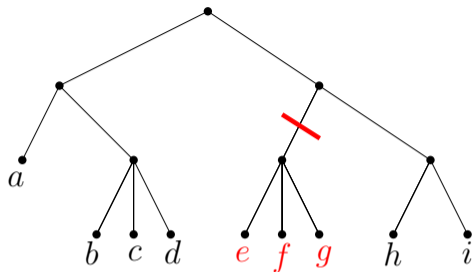
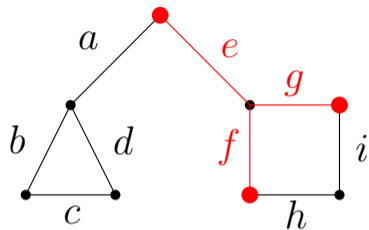
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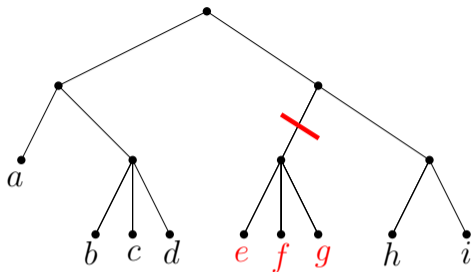
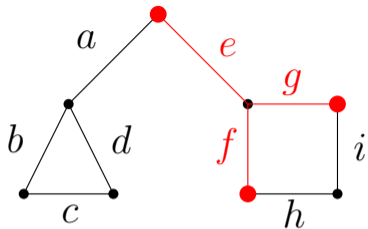
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- Want to maintain: Every edge set corresponding to a subtree is well-linked “downwards well-linkedness”

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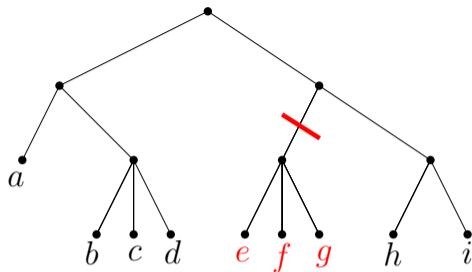
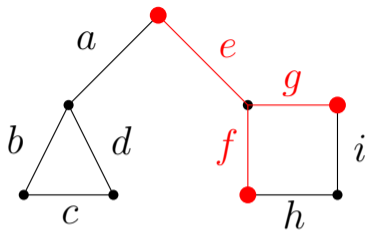
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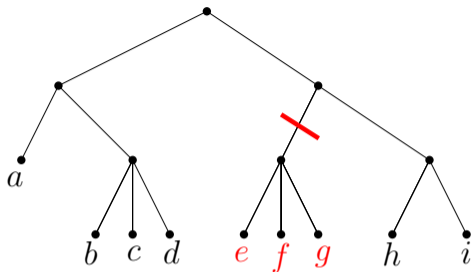
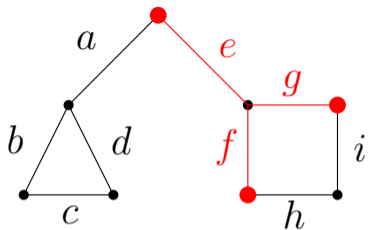
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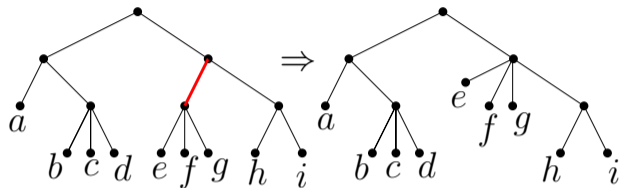


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- Depth at most  $2^{\mathcal{O}(k)} \log n$

## Local rotations

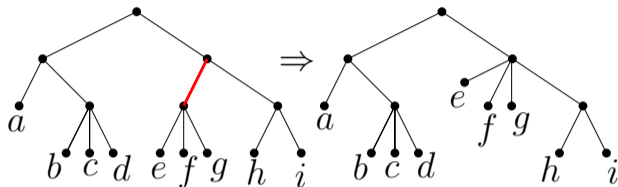
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1. **Contraction:** Given an edge  $uv$  of the decomposition, contract it.



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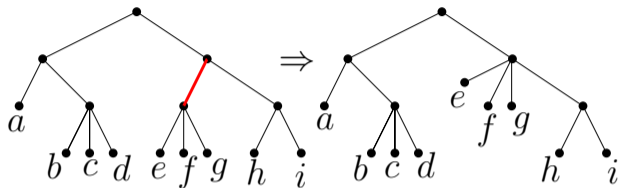
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  - ▶ Maintains downwards well-linkedness



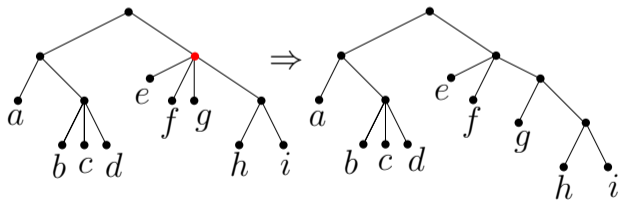
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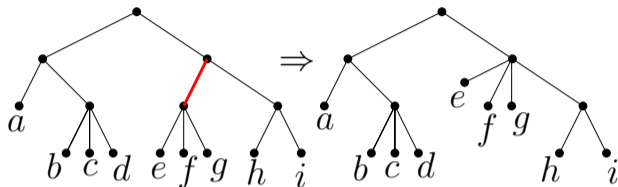
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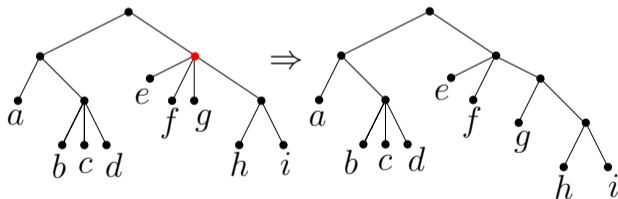
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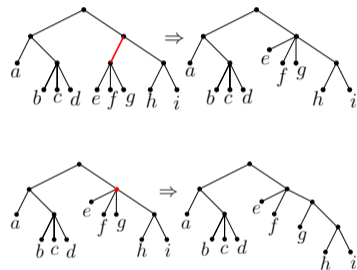
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► **Lemma:** Can be done so that downwards well-linkedness is maintained



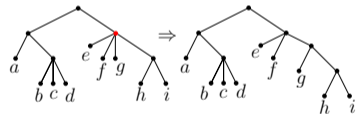
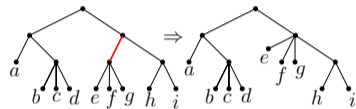
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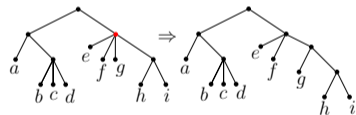
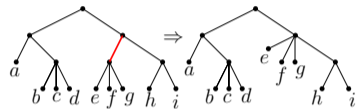
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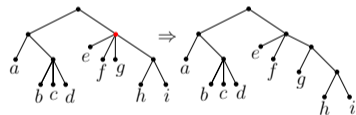
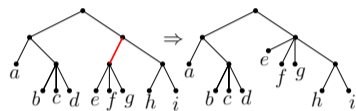
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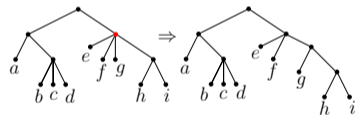
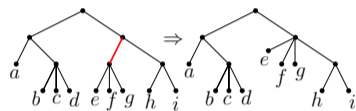
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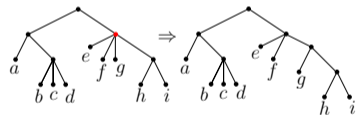
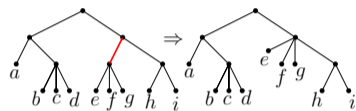
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- **Post-processing:** Replace each node of size  $2^{O(k)}$  by a tree decomposition of width  $O(k)$



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Thank you!