

Finding sparse induced subgraphs on graphs of bounded induced matching treewidth

Hans L. Bodlaender¹, Fedor V. Fomin², and Tuukka Korhonen



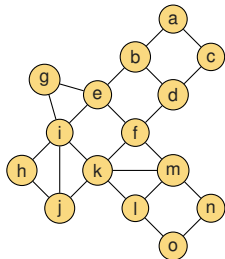
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SODA 2026

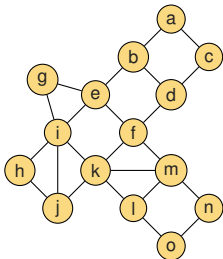
12 January 2026

Treewidth

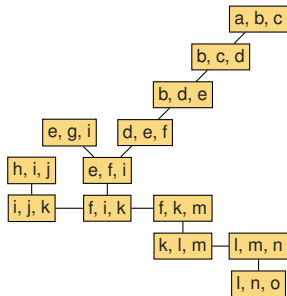


Graph G

Treewidth

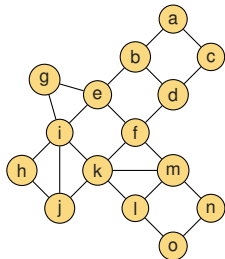


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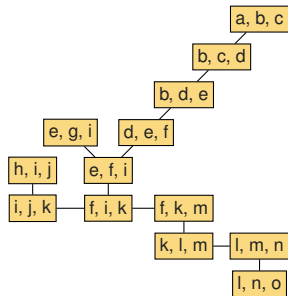


A tree decomposition of G

Treewidth



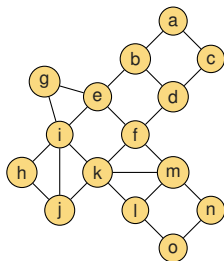
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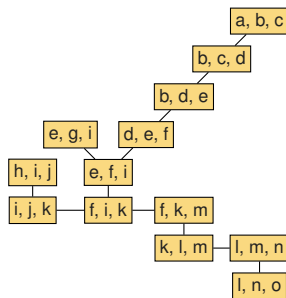
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Treewidth



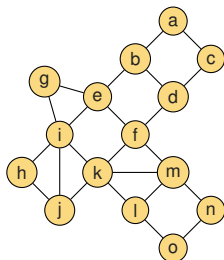
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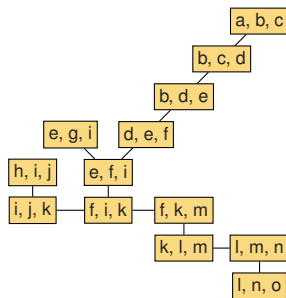
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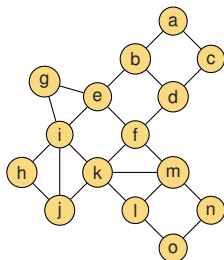
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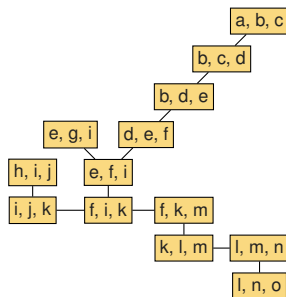
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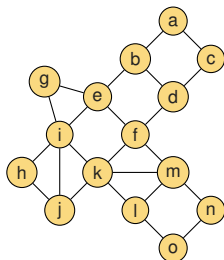
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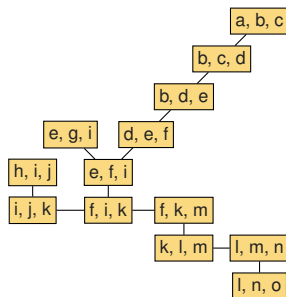
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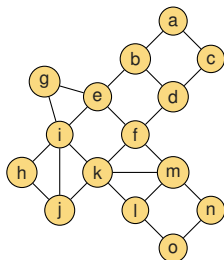


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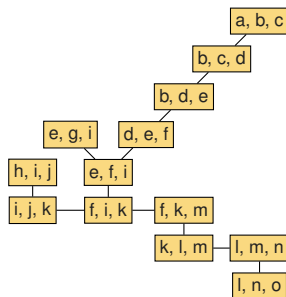
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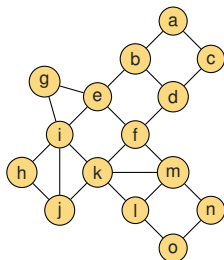


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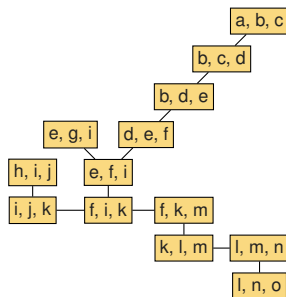
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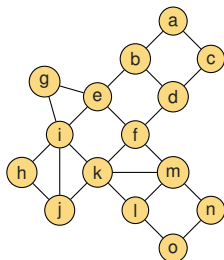
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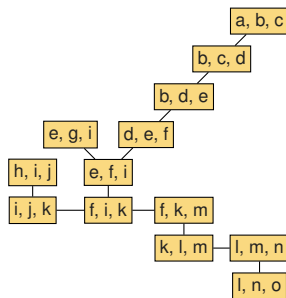
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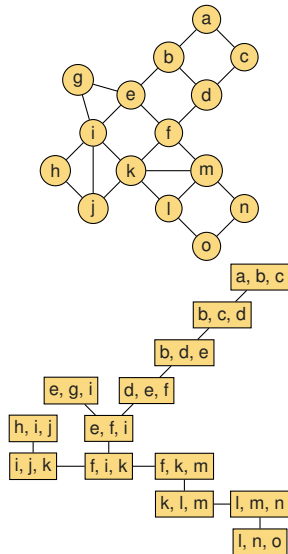


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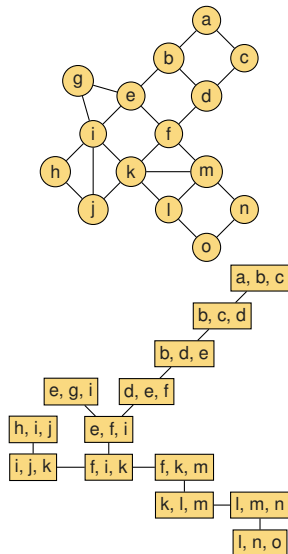
[Robertson & Seymour'84, Arnborg & Proskurowski'89, Bertele & Brioschi'72, Halin'76]

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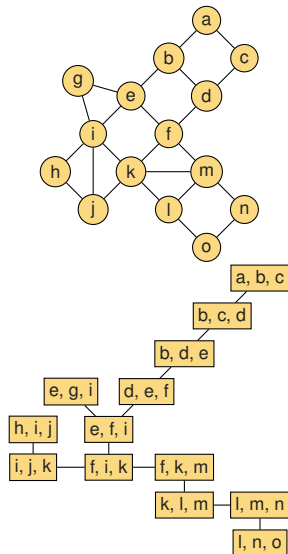
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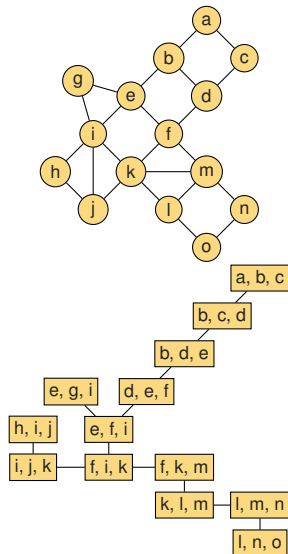
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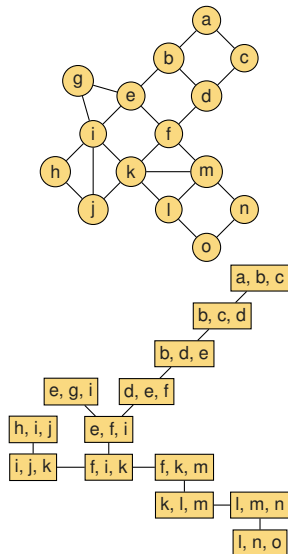


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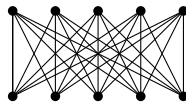
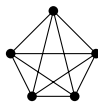
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Given an n -vertex graph G with $\text{tree-}\mu(G) \leq k$, a **CMSO**₂-sentence Φ , and an integer w , we can in time $f(k, w, |\Phi|) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(kw^2)}$ find a maximum-size set $X \subseteq V(G)$ so that

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Answers an open problem of [Lima, Milanič, Muršič, Okrasa, Rzażewski, and Štorgel, '24], who gave a similar theorem for tree-independence number

The algorithm

Step 1: Containers

Yolov's idea:

Lemma (Yolov'18)

For a set $B \subseteq V(G)$ with $\mu(B) \leq k$, there are at most $n^{O(k)}$ possible intersections $B \cap I$, where I is a maximal independent set of G .

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- use Yolov's lemma, a “kicking out”-lemma, and properties of **CMSO**₂ to guess the rest

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Let T be a nice tree decomposition of G with $\mu(T) \leq k$, and $X \subseteq V(G)$ a set with $\text{tw}(G[X]) \leq w$. There is a tree decomposition T_X of $G[X]$ of width $\mathcal{O}(kw^2)$, whose structure “follows” T .

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- This allows to run a dynamic programming on T , that simultaneously:
 - ▶ Guesses the set X
 - ▶ Guesses the decomposition T_X
 - ▶ Evaluates Φ on $G[X]$ by using T_X

Conclusion

- An $f(k, w, |\Phi|) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(kw^2)}$ time algorithm for finding maximum induced subgraph of treewidth $\leq w$ satisfying Φ on graphs of $\text{tree-}\mu(G) \leq k$

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 - ▶ Even more general parameters for tree decompositions?

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- Open problems:
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Thank you!