

# TWO NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR ALGORITHMIC *META*-THEOREMS

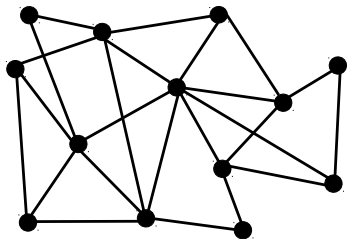
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Jan Dreier

November 16 2020

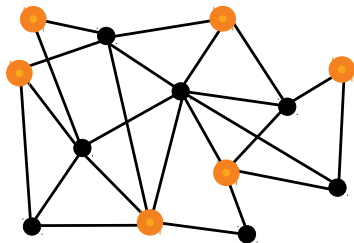
# Algorithmic Meta-Theorems

*Everything is a graph.*



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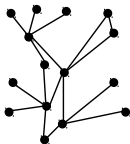
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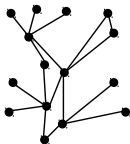


MSO on  
treewidth

# Algorithmic Meta-Theorems

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FO( $\{>0\}$ ) for  
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FO on unclustered  
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- independent set of size  $k$ :

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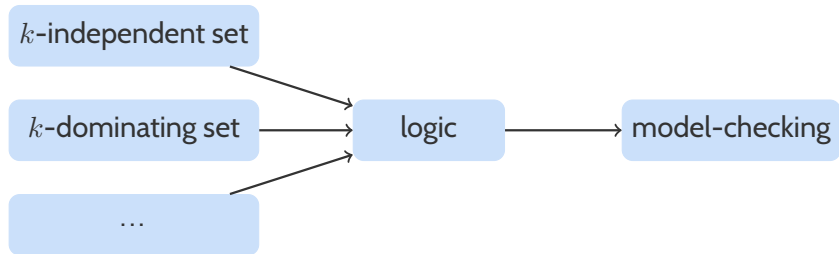
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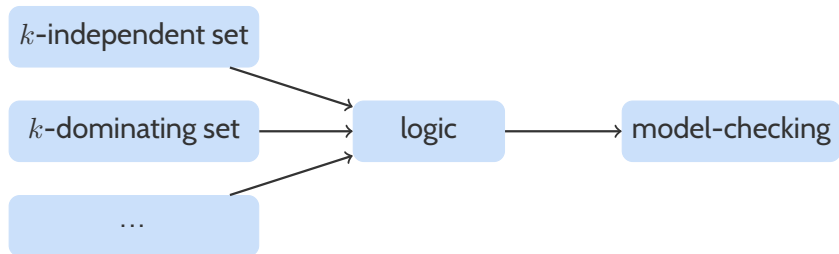
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Best algorithms on general graphs:  $n^{O(k)}$

# Model-Checking



# Model-Checking



## $MC(\mathcal{G}, L)$

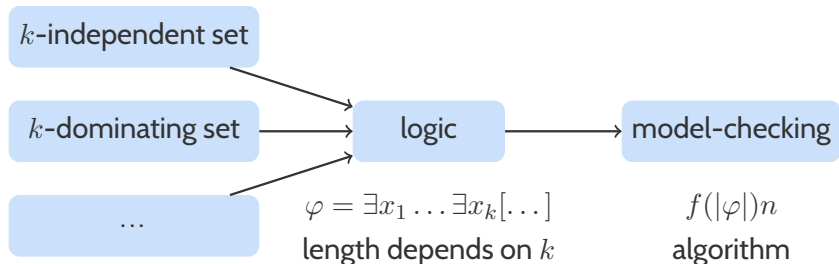
*Input:* A graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  and a sentence  $\varphi \in L$

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# Sparse Graph Classes

Planar

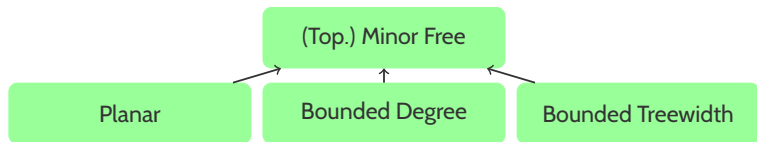
Bounded Degree

Bounded Treewidth

If  $\mathcal{G}$  has bounded treewidth then  $MC(\mathcal{G}, MSO) \in \text{FPT}$ .

[Courcelle 1990]

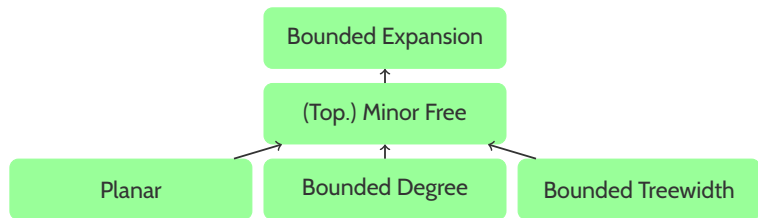
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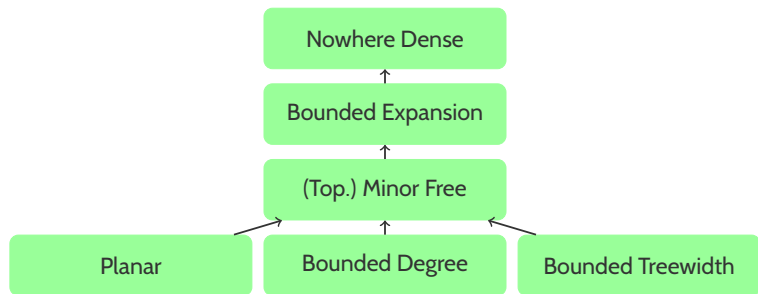
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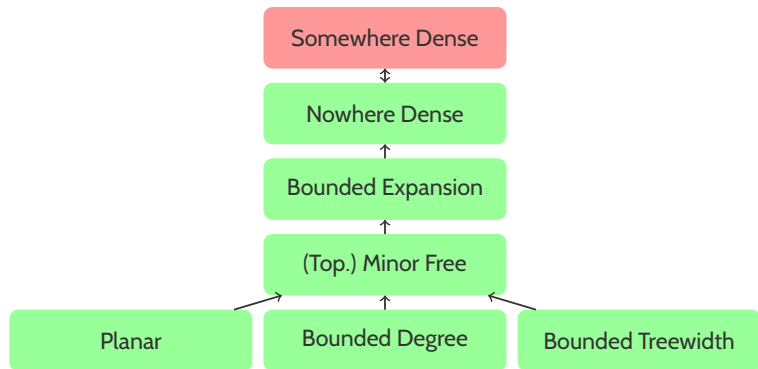
If  $\mathcal{G}$  has bounded treewidth then  $MC(\mathcal{G}, MSO) \in \text{FPT}$ .

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If  $\mathcal{G}$  is nowhere dense then  $MC(\mathcal{G}, FO) \in \text{FPT}$ .

[Grohe, Kreutzer, Sieberz 2011]

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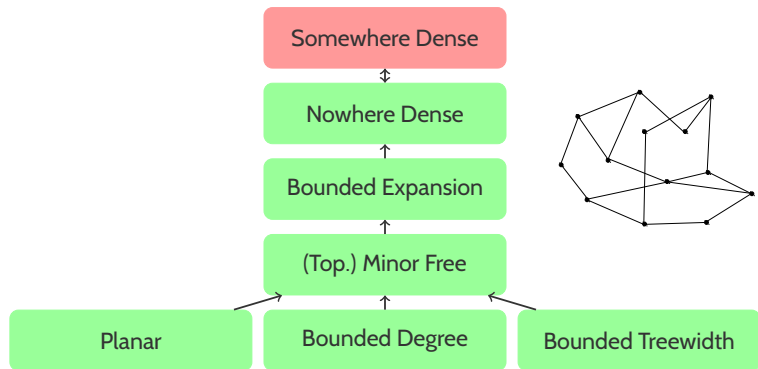
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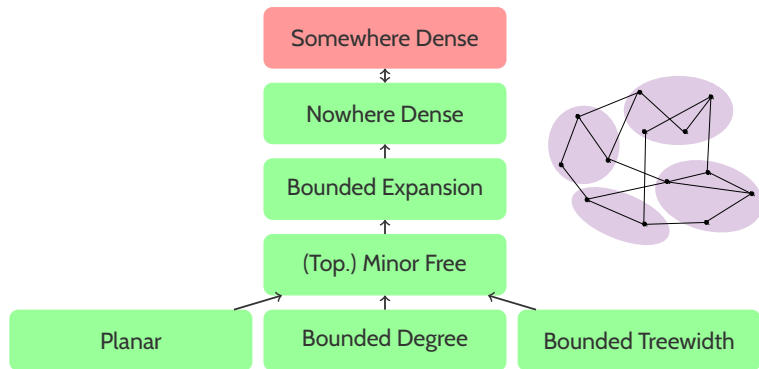
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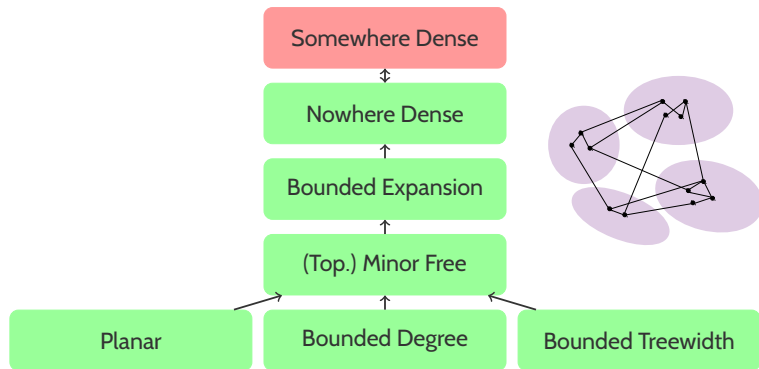
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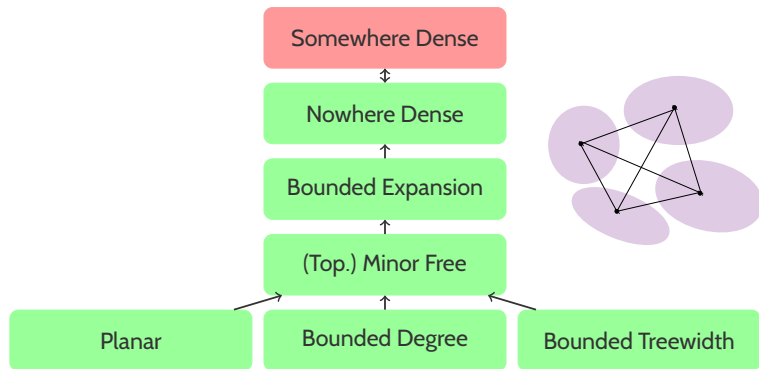
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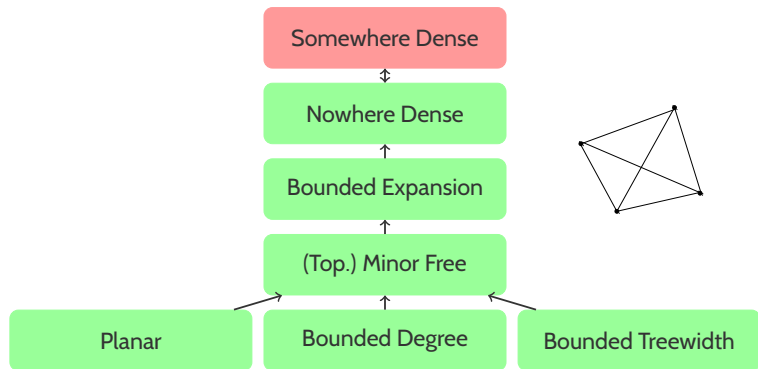
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# APPROXIMATE EVALUATION OF FIRST-ORDER COUNTING QUERIES

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## PARTIAL DOMINATING SET

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Can be solved on  $H$ -minor free graphs in time  $(g(H)k)^k n^{O(1)}$ .

[Amini, Fomin, Saurabh, 2008]

Can be solved on apex-minor-free graphs in time  $2^{\sqrt{k}} n^{O(1)}$ .

[Fomin, Lokshantov, Raman, Saurabh, 2011]

Is  $W[1]$ -hard for 2-degenerate graphs.

[Golovach, Villanger 2008]

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Length of formula depends only on  $k$  (and not on  $m$ )

## Definition of FO( $\{\> 0\}$ )

built recursively using

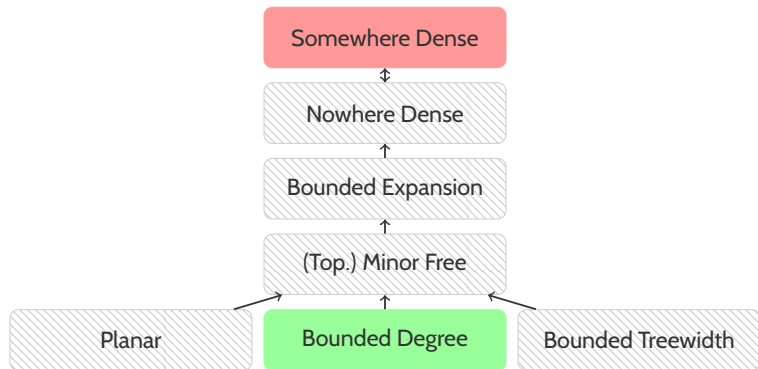
- the rules of FO
- $\#y \varphi \geq m$  for every  $m \in \mathbf{N}$  and FO( $\{\> 0\}$ ) formula  $\varphi$

Example 1: PARTIAL DOMINATING SET

$$\exists x_1 \dots \exists x_k \#y \left( \bigvee_i y \sim x_i \wedge y = x_i \right) \geq m$$

Example 2:  $h$ -Index

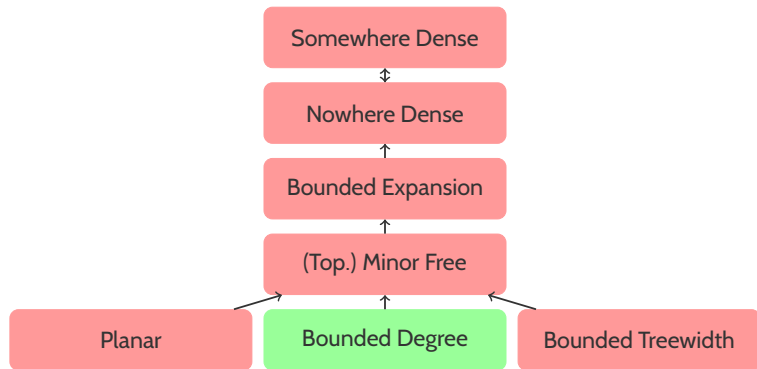
$$\#\text{mypaper} \left( \#\text{otherpaper} \text{cite}(\text{otherpaper}, \text{mypaper}) \geq h \right) \geq h$$



If  $\mathcal{G}$  has bounded degree then  $MC(\mathcal{G}, \text{FOC}) \in \text{FPT}$ .

[Kuske, Schweikardt 2017]

# Bad News



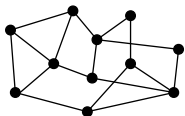
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$MC(\mathcal{G}, \text{FO}(\{>0\}))$  is  $\text{AW}[*]$ -hard on trees.

similar to [Grohe, Schweikardt 2018]

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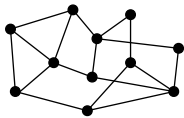


contains  $k$ -clique



satisfies  $\text{FO}(\{>0\})$  formula

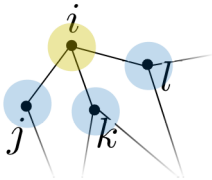
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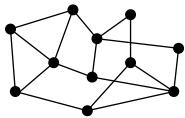
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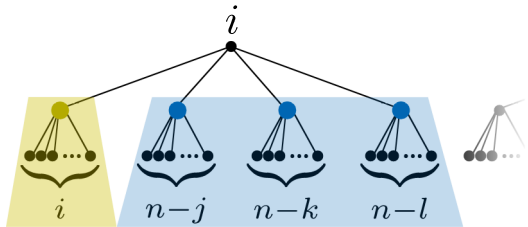
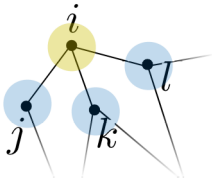
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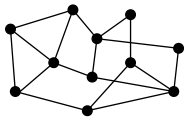
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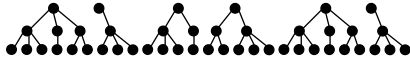
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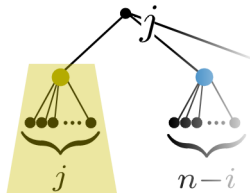
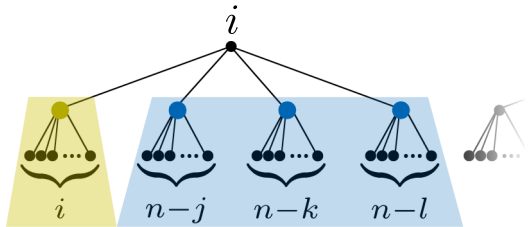
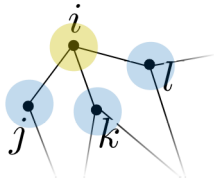
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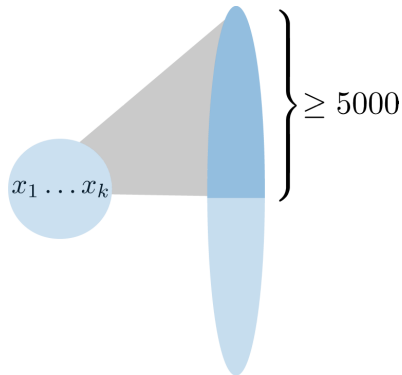
satisfies FO( $>0$ ) formula





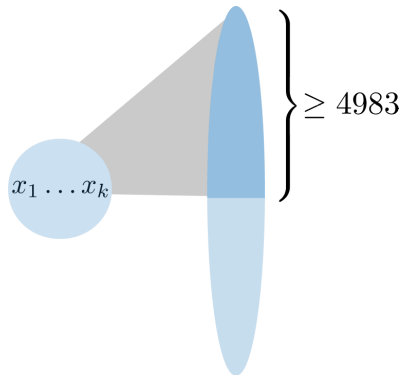
# Stability

Are there  $k$  vertices dominating at least  $m = 5000$  vertices?

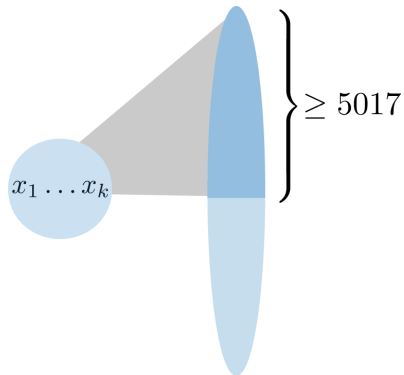


# Stability

Are there  $k$  vertices dominating at least  $m = 4983$  vertices?

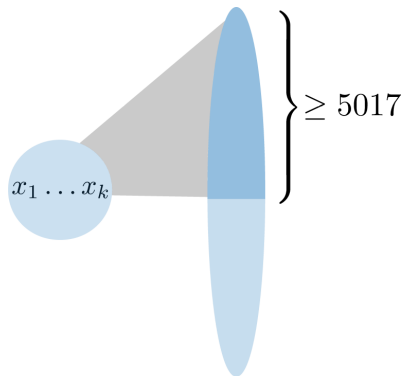


Are there  $k$  vertices dominating at least  $m = 5017$  vertices?



# Stability

Are there  $k$  vertices dominating at least  $m = 5017$  vertices?



A formula  $\varphi$  is  $\varepsilon$ -stable on a graph  $G$  if scaling the counting literals by  $(1 \pm \varepsilon)$  does not change whether  $\varphi$  is true in  $G$ .




## Theorem

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There exists an algorithm which takes  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $\varphi \in \text{FO}(\{>0\})$ ,

runs in time  $f(|\varphi|)n$  and returns , , or .




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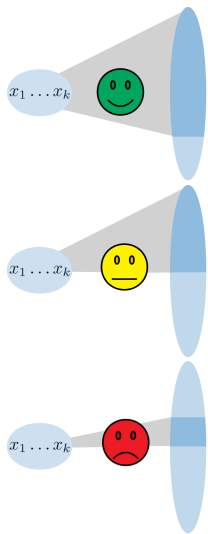
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- If  then  $\varphi$  is  $\varepsilon$ -unstable on  $G$ .

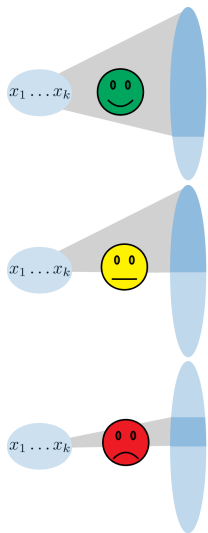
# Approximate Model-Checking

PARTIAL DOMINATING SET:  $\exists x_1 \dots \exists x_k \#y \left( \bigvee_i y \sim x_i \wedge y = x_i \right) \geq m$



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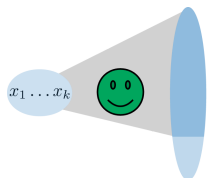
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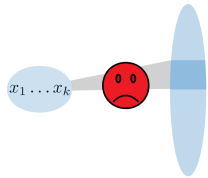
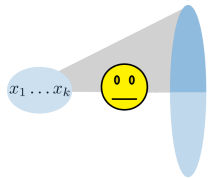
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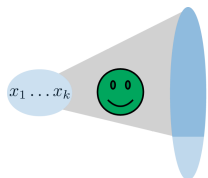
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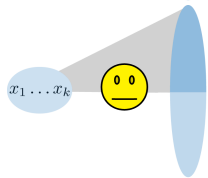
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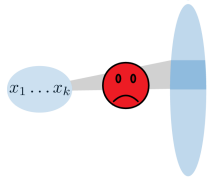
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All sets dominate  $< (1 + \varepsilon)m$  vertices  
and there exists a set dominating  
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All sets dominate  $< (1 - \varepsilon)m$  vertices.

# How about extensions of $\text{FO}(\{> 0\})$ ?

$\text{FO}(\{> 0\})$  allows comparing  $\#y$  and  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ .

## Theorem

Approximate model-checking becomes hard if also allow one of the following:

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- multiplying of counting terms (e.g.,  $\#y \varphi \cdot \#z \psi > m$ )

# How about extensions of $\text{FO}(\{> 0\})$ ?

$\text{FO}(\{> 0\})$  allows comparing  $\#y$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## Theorem

Approximate model-checking becomes hard if also allow one of the following:

- comparing  $\#y$  and  $\#z$  (e.g.,  $\#y \varphi > \#z \psi$ )
- counting tuples  $\#yz$  (e.g.,  $\#yz \varphi > m$ )
- multiplying of counting terms (e.g.,  $\#y \varphi \cdot \#z \psi > m$ )
- subtraction of counting terms (e.g.,  $\#y \varphi - \#z \psi > m$ )

# Summary

---

FO( $\{>0\}$ ) is

- hard to solve exactly on trees,

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Slight extensions of  $\text{FO}(\{>0\})$  are

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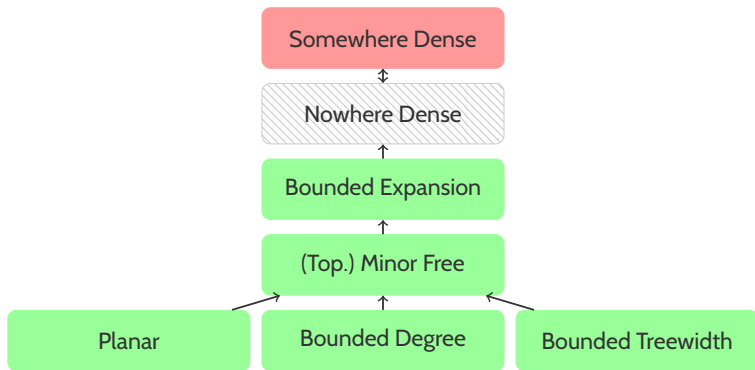
- hard to solve exactly on trees,
- possible to approximate on bounded expansion.

Slight extensions of  $\text{FO}(\{>0\})$  are

- hard to approximate on trees.

$\Rightarrow \text{FO}(\{>0\})$  seems like “the right logic” for approximation on sparse graphs

# Big Question



Can we generalize our results to nowhere dense graph classes?

## Proof Sketch – Quantifier Elimination

We want to gradually simplify this formula.

$$m_1 \leq \#x_1 \left( \quad \quad \quad \right)$$



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$$m_1 \leq \#x_1 \left( m_2 \leq \#x_2 \left( m_3 \leq \#x_3 \overbrace{\varphi(x_1 x_2 x_3)}^{\text{quantifier-free FO}} \right) \right)$$

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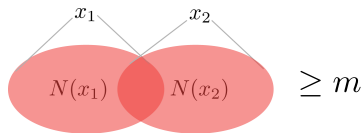
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quantifier-free FO

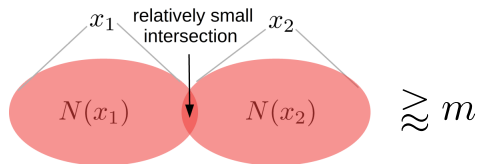
$\varphi'''$

# Proof Sketch – Domination

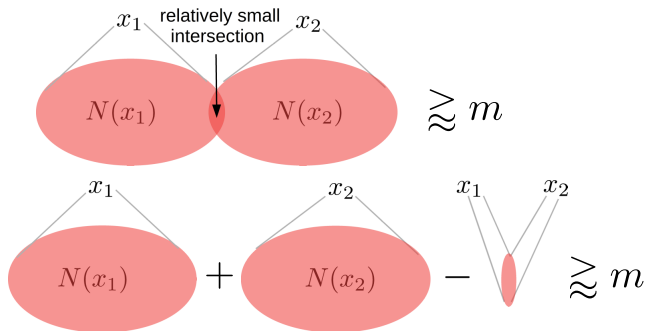
$$\underbrace{\#x_3 (x_3 \sim x_1 \vee x_3 \sim x_2)}_{\text{replace with quantifier-free FO}} \geq m$$



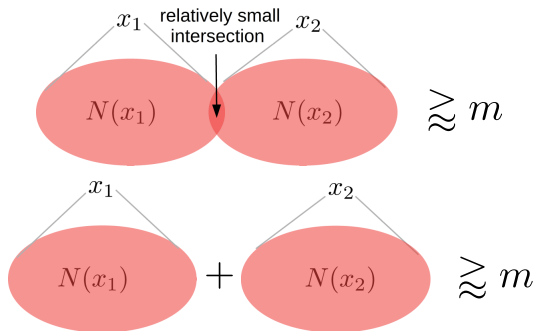
# Proof Sketch – Small Intersection



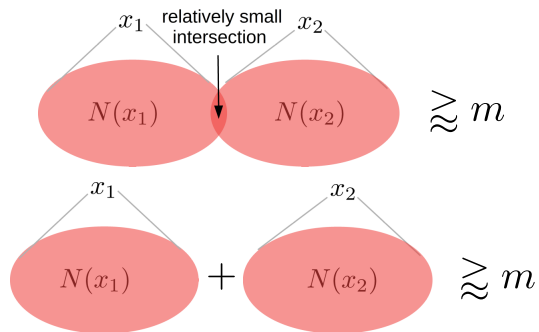
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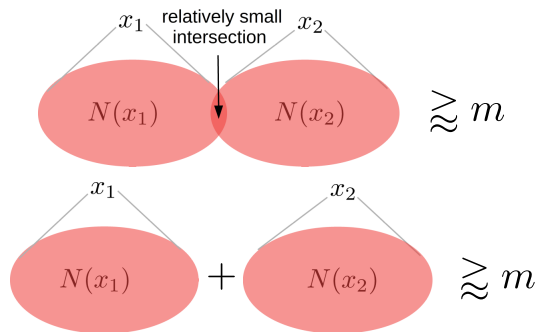


# Proof Sketch – Small Intersection



$R_{\geq i}(x)$  true  
iff  $|N(x)| \geq i$

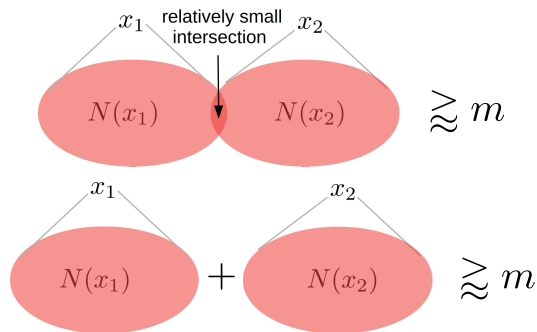
# Proof Sketch – Small Intersection



$$\bigvee_{i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m\}} R_{\geq i}(x_1) \wedge R_{\geq m-i}(x_2)$$

$$R_{\geq i}(x) \text{ true} \\ \text{iff } |N(x)| \geq i$$

# Proof Sketch – Small Intersection



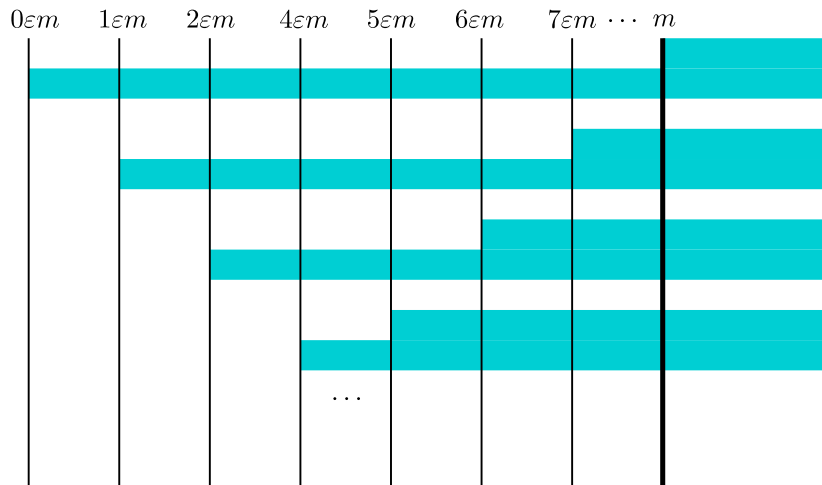
$$\bigvee_{i \in \{0\epsilon m, 1\epsilon m, 2\epsilon m, \dots, m\}} R_{\geq i}(x_1) \wedge R_{\geq m-i}(x_2)$$

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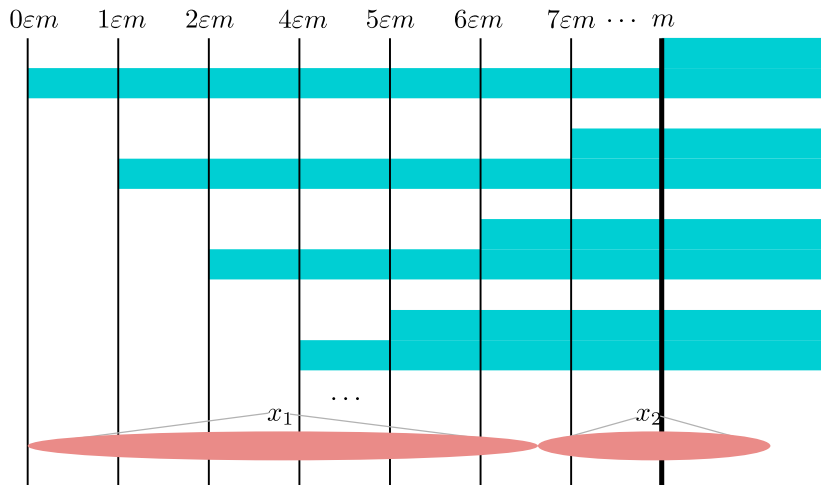
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$$\bigvee_{i=0}^{1/\varepsilon} R_{\geq \varepsilon m i}(x_1) \wedge R_{\geq m - \varepsilon m i}(x_2)$$



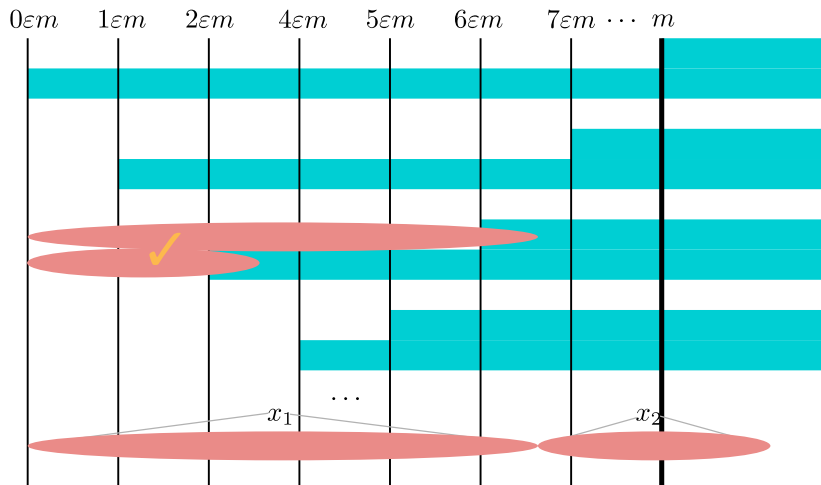
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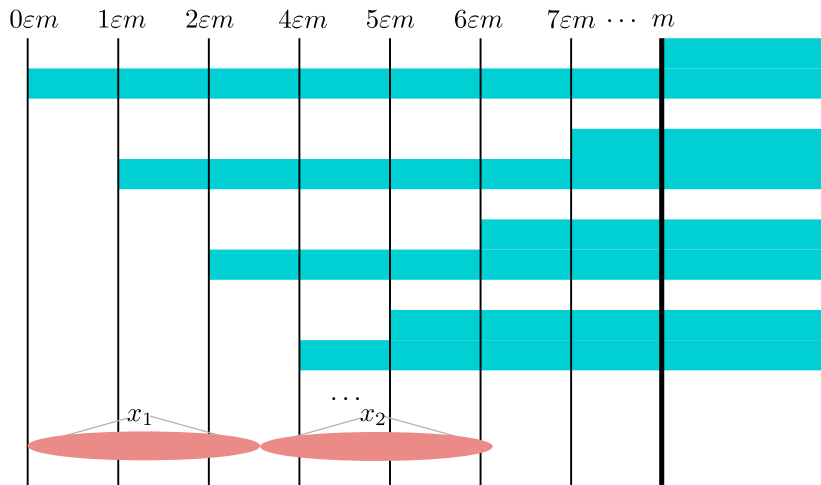
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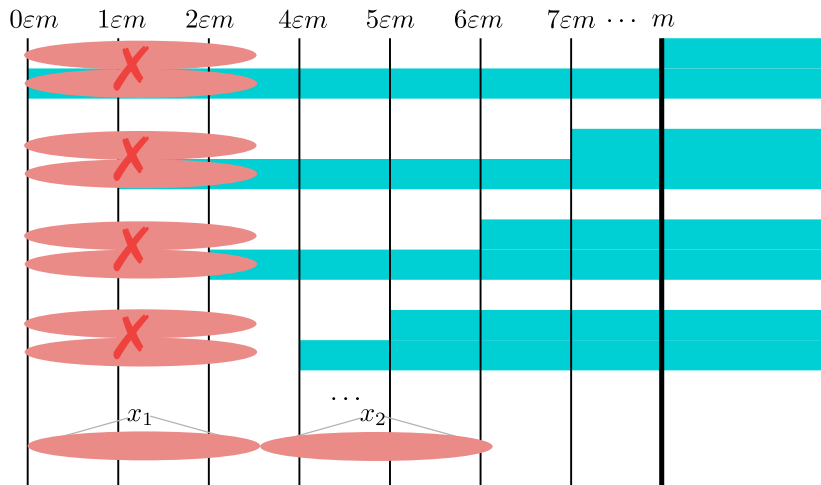
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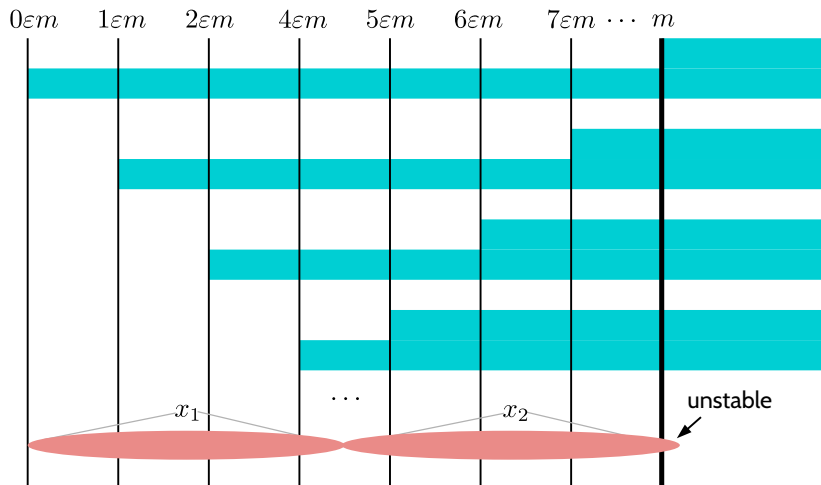
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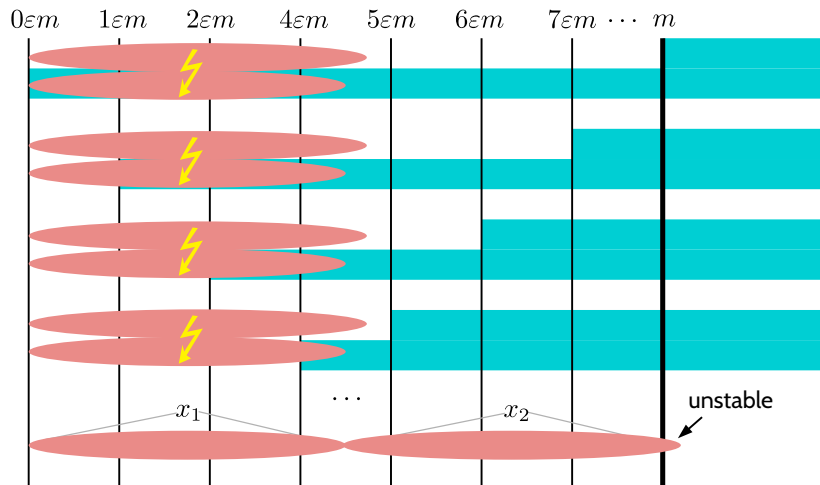
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$$\bigvee_{i=0}^{1/\varepsilon} R_{\geq \varepsilon m i}(x_1) \wedge R_{\geq m - \varepsilon m i}(x_2)$$

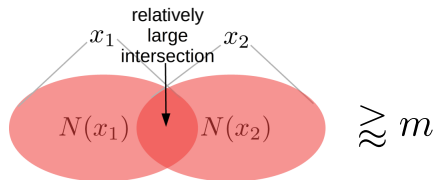


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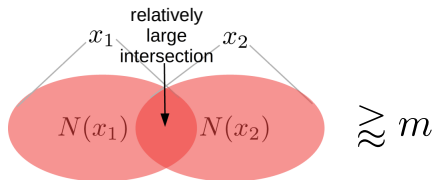


# Proof Sketch – Large Intersection

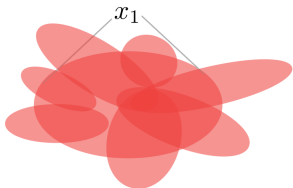




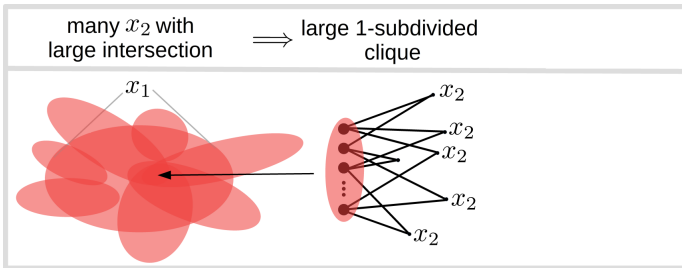
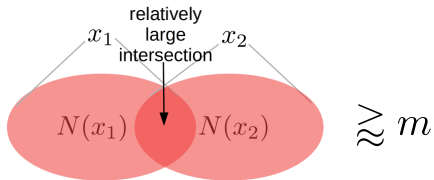
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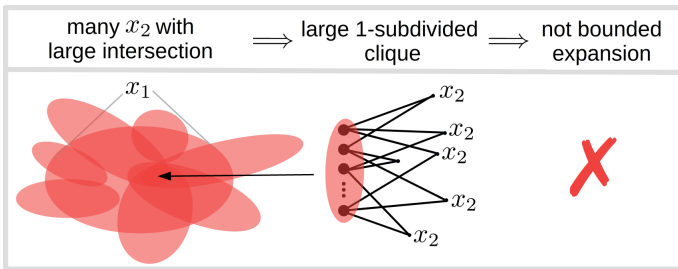
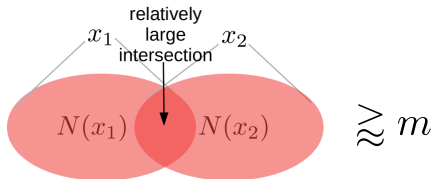
many  $x_2$  with  
large intersection



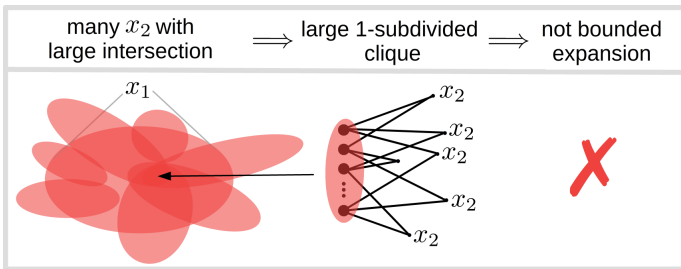
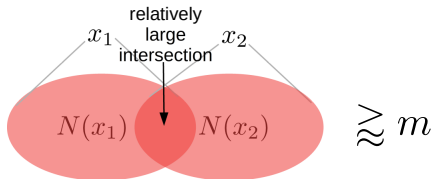
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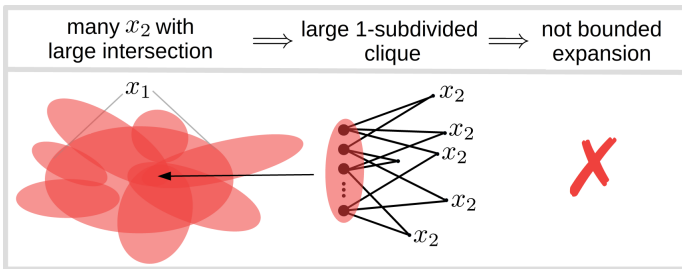
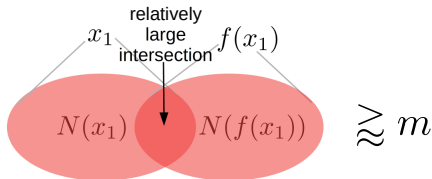


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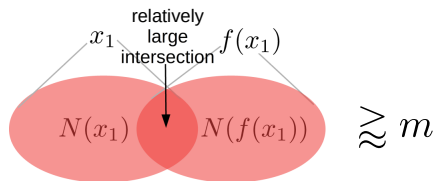
We assume (for simplicity)  $x_1$  has only one  $x_2$  with a large intersection.

# Proof Sketch – Large Intersection



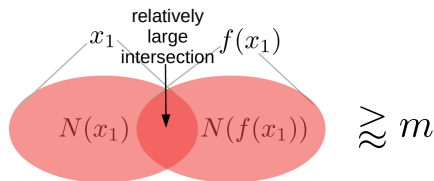
We assume (for simplicity)  $x_1$  has only one  $x_2$  with a large intersection.  
We call it  $f(x_1)$ .

# Proof Sketch – Large Intersection



$$Q_f(x) \text{ true} \\ \text{iff } |N(x) \cup N(f(x))| \geq m$$

# Proof Sketch – Large Intersection

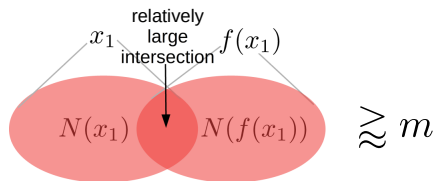


$$Q_f(x) \text{ true} \\ \text{iff } |N(x) \cup N(f(x))| \geq m$$

Final Formula:

$$\left( x_2 = f(x_1) \wedge Q_f(x_1) \right)$$

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Final Formula:

$$\left( x_2 = f(x_1) \wedge Q_f(x_1) \right) \vee \\ \left( x_2 \neq f(x_1) \wedge \varphi_{\text{small}}(x_1, x_2) \right)$$



# Proof Sketch – Quantifier Elimination

We want to gradually simplify this formula.

$$m_1 \leq \#x_1 \left( m_2 \leq \#x_2 \left( \underbrace{m_3 \leq \#x_3 \quad \overbrace{\varphi(x_1 x_2 x_3)}^{\text{quantifier-free FO}}}_{\text{replace with quantifier-free FO}} \right) \right)$$

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quantifier-free FO

$\varphi'''$

# FIRST-ORDER MODEL-CHECKING IN RANDOM GRAPHS AND COMPLEX NETWORKS

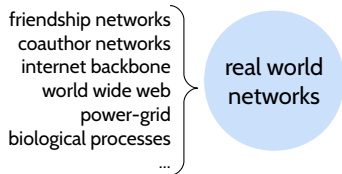
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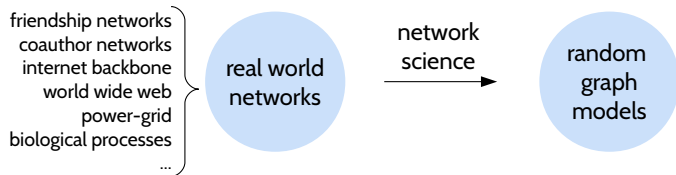
real world  
networks



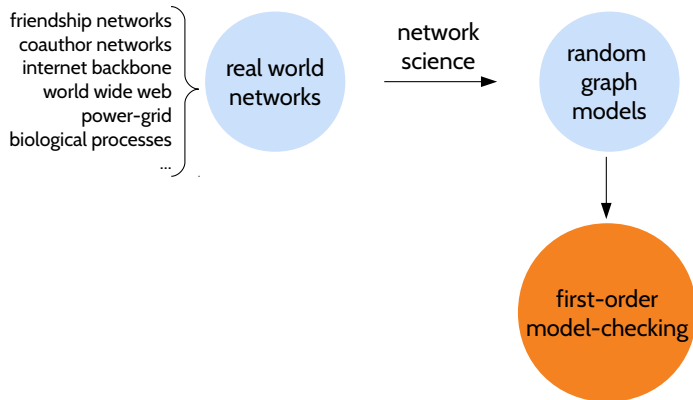
# Motivation



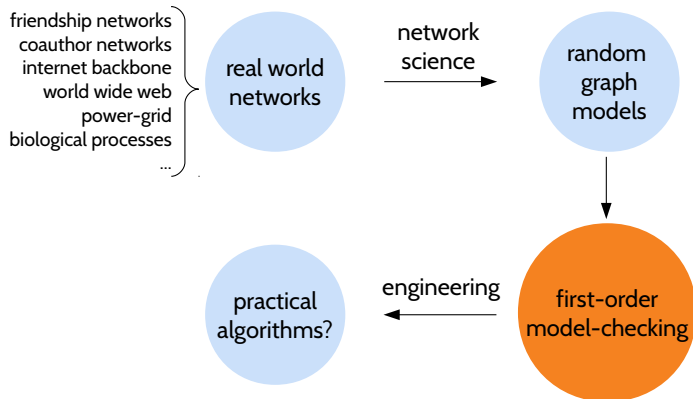
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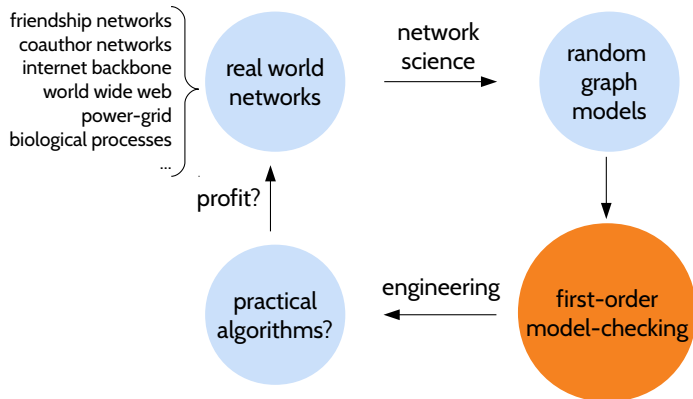
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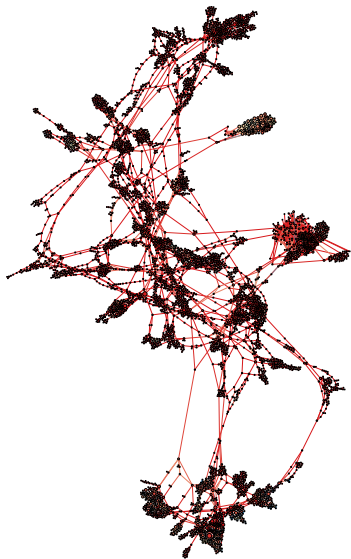
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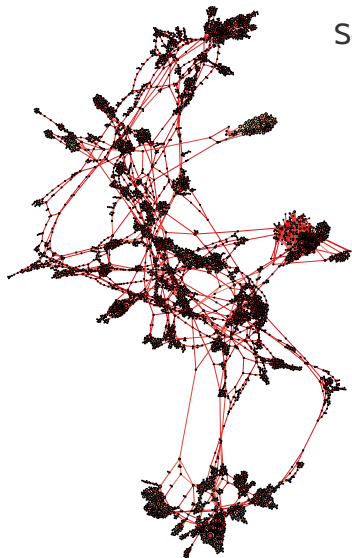


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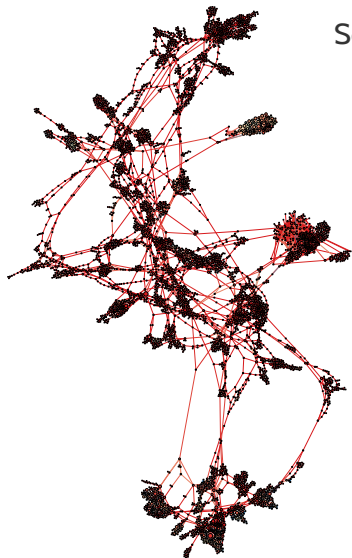


# The Real World





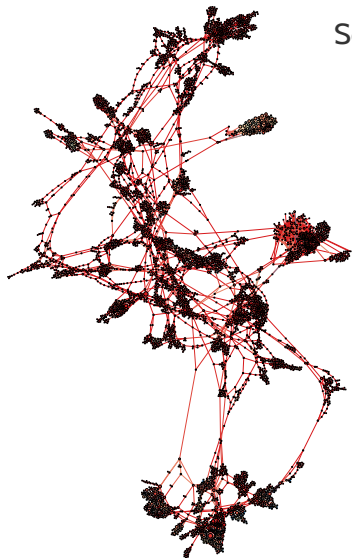
Some central properties:



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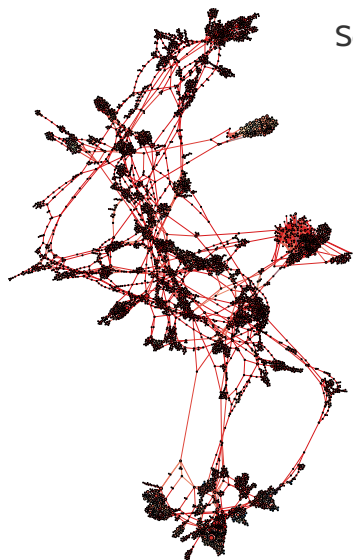
- **Skewed degree distribution**  
Fraction of vertices with degree  $k$   
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If we have a common friend we are  
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- **Small-world property**  
Everyone is close to everyone

# Example: Preferential Attachment Model

Introduced by Barabási and Albert in 1999 to explain the structure of the world wide web.



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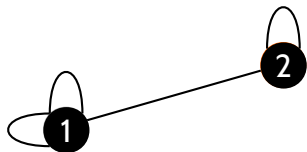
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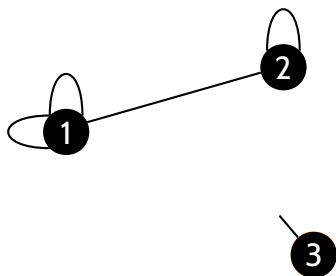
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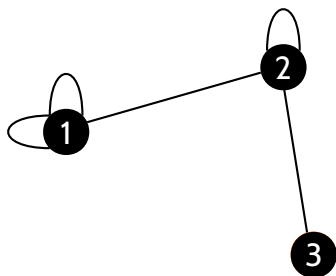
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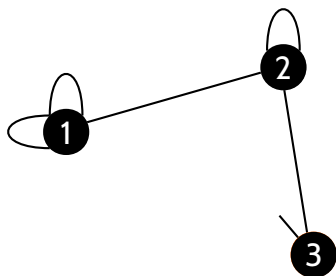
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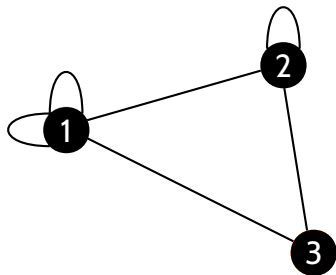
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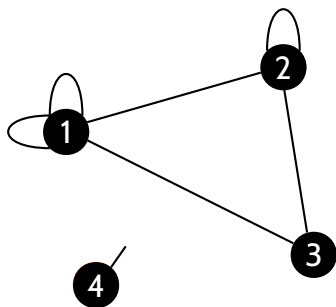
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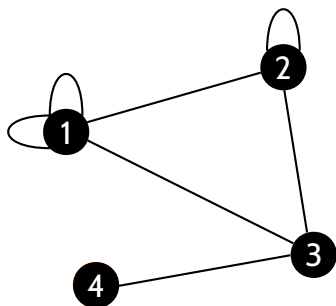
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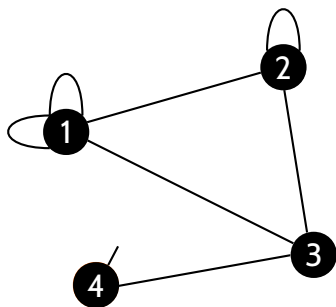
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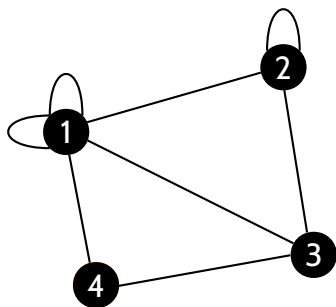
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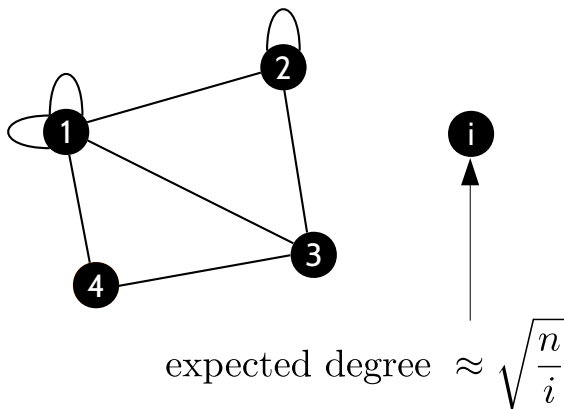
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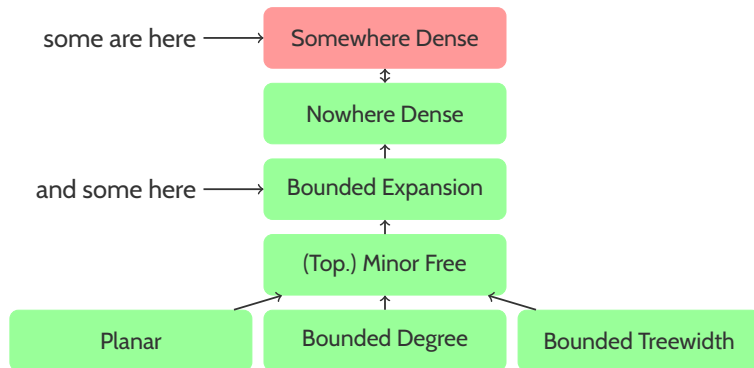


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Introduced by Barabási and Albert in 1999 to explain the structure of the world wide web.



# Previous Results



[Grohe 2001], [Farrell et. al. 2015], [Demaine et. al. 2019], [Dreier et. al. 2020]

# Meta-Theorem

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**real networks: typically clustered**

## Theorem

*Given a first-order sentence  $\varphi$  and a graph  $G$  sampled from a 3-power-law-bounded model, one can decide whether  $\varphi$  is true on  $G$  in expected time  $f(|\varphi|)n^{1+\varepsilon}$  for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ .*

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**real networks: typically  $k^{-\alpha}$  with  $2 \leq \alpha \leq 3$**
- unclustered  
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optimal

## Theorem

*Given a first-order sentence  $\varphi$  and a graph  $G$  sampled from a 3-power-law-bounded model, one can decide whether  $\varphi$  is true on  $G$  in expected time  $f(|\varphi|)n^{1+\varepsilon}$  for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ .*

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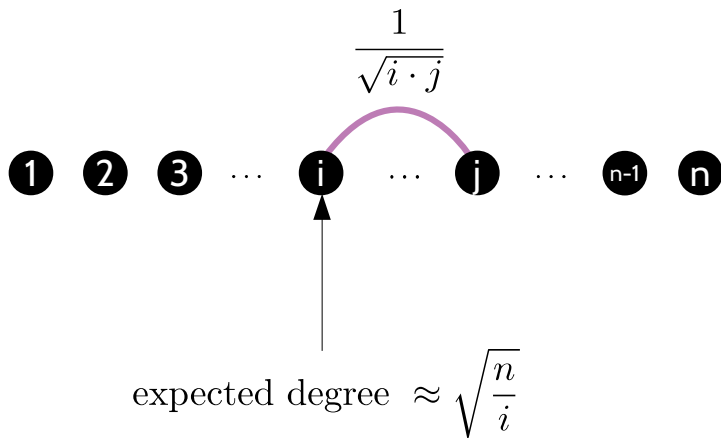
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*Big Question: model-checking on clustered models?*

# Example: Chung-Lu Model

A more direct way to get a desirable degree distribution.



A random graph model with vertices  $1, \dots, n$  is *3-power-law-bounded* if the probability that some subset of edges

$E \subseteq \binom{1, \dots, n}{2}$  is present is at most

$$\log(n)^{O(|E|^2)} \prod_{ij \in E} \frac{1}{\sqrt{i \cdot j}}.$$

# $\alpha$ -power-law-boundedness

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- Preferential attachment model
- Chung–Lu model
- Erdős–Rényi model
- Configuration model
- ...

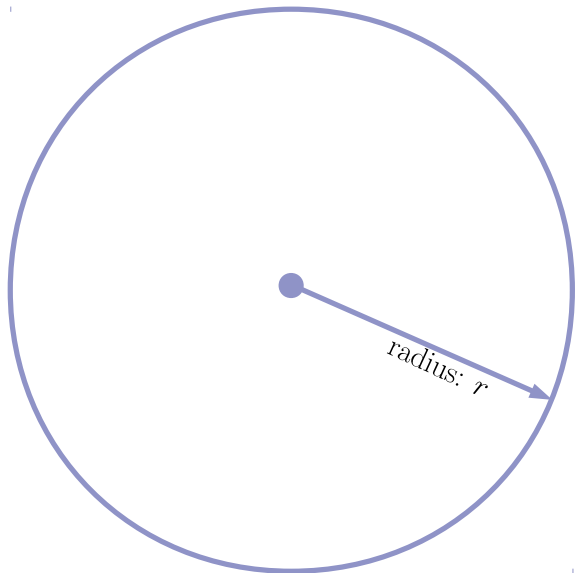


- Hyperbolic random graph model
- random intersection model
- Watts–Strogatz model
- Kleinberg model
- ...

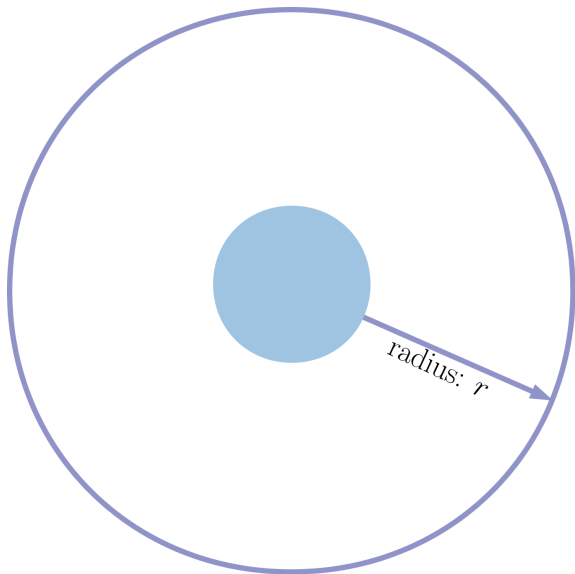
# Asymptotic Structure of 3-power-law-bounded models

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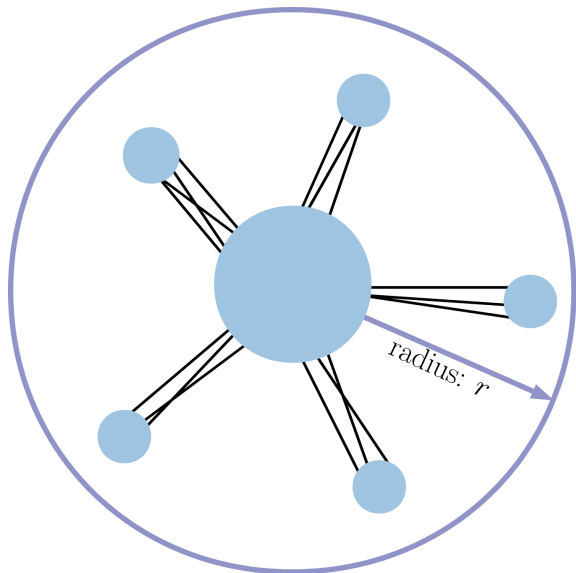
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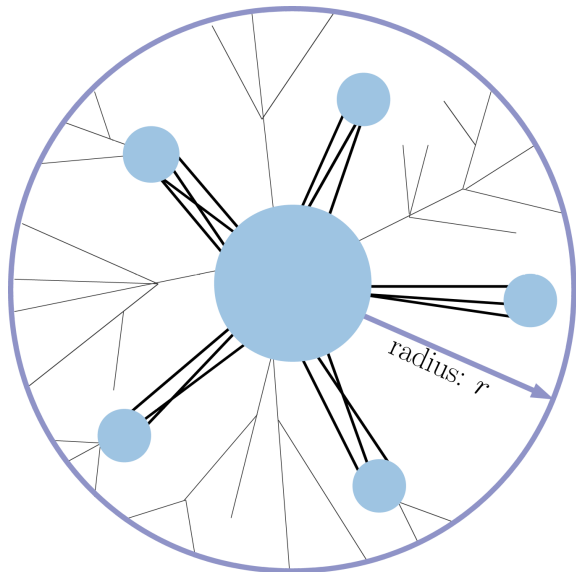


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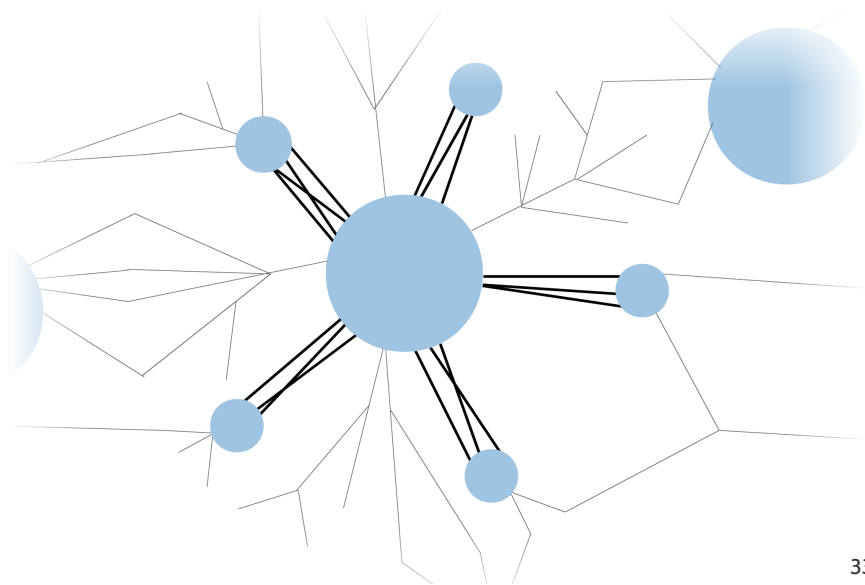




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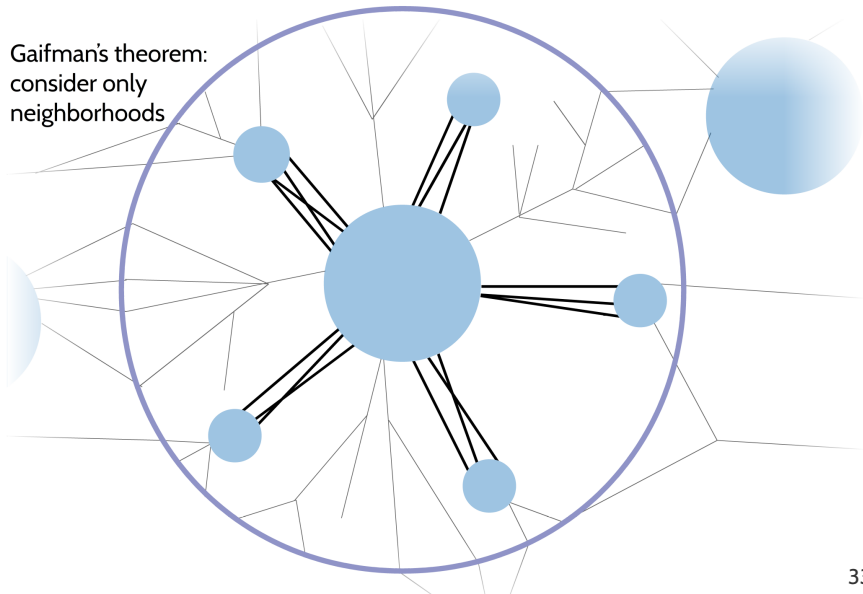


Input: graph sampled from 3-power-law-bounded model

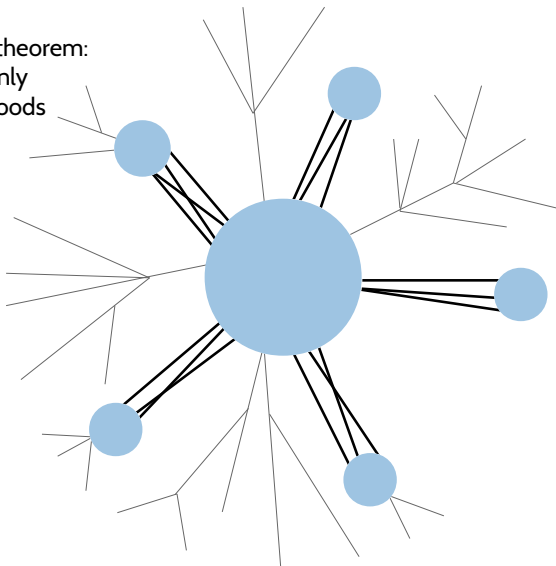


# Algorithm

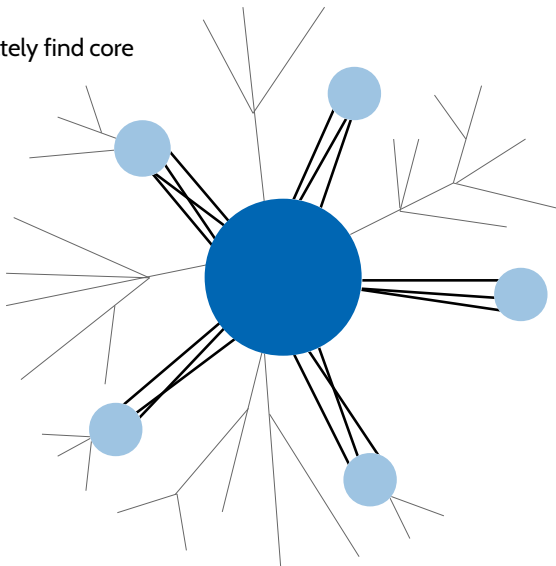
Gaifman's theorem:  
consider only  
neighborhoods



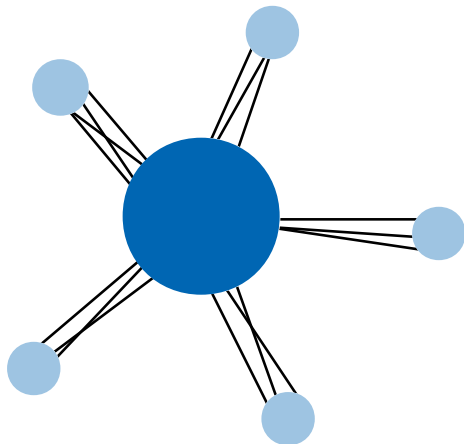
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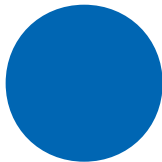
approximately find core



prune trees



prune protrusions



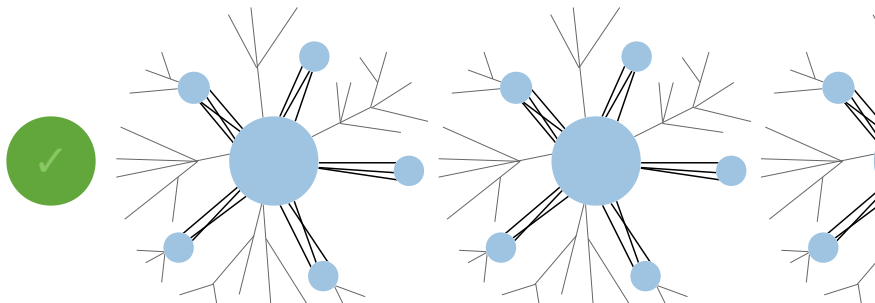


use brute force on core



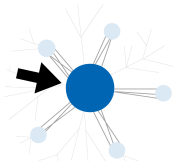
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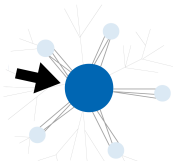
repeat for every neighborhood

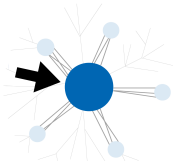


Runtime:  $n^{O(1)}$  .

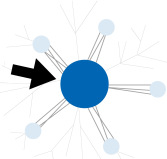
# Runtime Analysis

$$\text{Runtime: } n^{O(1)} \cdot \sum_{x=1}^n \Pr[\text{node } x \text{ is root}] \cdot$$


$$\text{Runtime: } n^{O(1)} \cdot \sum_{x=1}^n \Pr[\text{ } \rightarrow \text{ } = x] \cdot x^{|\varphi|}$$
A diagram of a tree structure. At the center is a large blue circle representing a node. From this central node, several thin lines radiate outwards, each ending in a smaller light blue circle representing a child node. There are approximately 8 such child nodes visible. A thick black arrow points from the left towards the central blue node.

$$\text{Runtime: } n^{O(1)} \cdot \sum_{x=1}^n \Pr[\text{Diagram} = x] \cdot x^{|\varphi|}$$


To get a run time of  $f(|\varphi|)n^{O(1)}$  we bound

$$\Pr[\text{Diagram} \geq x] \text{ for every } x.$$


# Summary

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*Big Question: model-checking on clustered models?*





Let  $\alpha > 2$ . A random graph model  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $\alpha$ -power-law-bounded if for every  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  there exists an ordering  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  of  $V(\mathcal{G}_n)$  such that for all  $E \subseteq \binom{\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}}{2}$

$$\Pr[E \subseteq E(\mathcal{G}_n)] \leq \prod_{v_i v_j \in E} \frac{(n/i)^{1/(\alpha-1)} (n/j)^{1/(\alpha-1)}}{n} \cdot \begin{cases} 2^{O(|E|^2)} & \text{if } \alpha > 3 \\ \log(n)^{O(|E|^2)} & \text{if } \alpha = 3 \\ O(n^\varepsilon)^{|E|^2} \text{ for every } \varepsilon > 0 & \text{if } \alpha < 3. \end{cases}$$

A graph  $H$  is an  $r$ -shallow topological minor of a graph  $G$  if a graph obtained from  $H$  by subdividing every edge up to  $2r$  times is isomorphic to a subgraph of  $G$ . The set of all  $r$ -shallow topological minors of a graph  $G$  is denoted by  $G \nabla r$ .

A graph class  $\mathcal{C}$  has *bounded expansion* if there exists a function  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  and all  $G \in \mathcal{C}$

$$\max_{H \in G \nabla r} \frac{\|H\|}{|H|} \leq f(r).$$