# Coloring perfect graphs with bounded clique number JGA 2016 

Aurélie Lagoutte
Joint work with M. Chudnovsky, P. Seymour and S. Spirkl

G-SCOP, Univ. Grenoble Alpes
November 17, 2016
Paris Dauphine

## What's in my thesis?

Interactions between Cliques and Stable sets in a graph

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## Clique-Stable set Separation

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A CS-Separator is a family of cuts that ensures me to always win.
$\rightarrow$ I am allowed to select only polynomially many cuts.

## Bounds

## Yannakakis (1991)

Upper Bound: $\forall G$ there exists a CS-separator of size $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{\log n}\right)$.
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Does there exist for all graph $G$ on $n$ vertices a CS-separator of size poly $(n)$ ? Or for which classes of graphs does it exist?

It is known that the following classes of graphs admit poly-size CS-Separator:

- If $\omega$ or $\alpha$ is bounded (trivial)
- chordal graphs (linear number of max. cliques)
- comparability graphs (Yannakakis 1991)
- $C_{4}$-free graphs (Conseq. of Alekseev 1991)
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- Random graphs
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- $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graphs
- Perfect graphs with no BSP


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Lower Bound: (Göös 2015): we need $n^{\Omega\left(\log ^{0.128} n\right)}$ cuts for some graphs.

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## What now?

Does there exist for all graph $G$ on $n$ vertices a CS-separator of size poly(n)? No!
Lower Bound: (Göös 2015): we need $n^{\Omega\left(\log ^{0.128} n\right)}$ cuts for some graphs.

## What now?

$\rightarrow$ Want to learn more about perfect graphs and try to close the CS-Separation question on them.

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## Graph Coloring

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## Graph Coloring 3-Coloring

Input: A graph $G$ and an integer $k$.
Output: Does $G$ admits a proper $k$-coloring? 3-coloring?
Graph Coloring is NP-complete. Even 3-Coloring is!

- $\chi(G)$ : chromatic number of $G$, i.e. minimum number of color in a proper coloring.
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\chi(G) \geq \omega(G)
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## Berge's Conjecture (1960's)

A graph $G$ is perfect if and only if $G$ contains no odd hole and no odd antihole as induced subgraph.

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## Berge's Conjecture (1960's) $\Rightarrow$ Strong Perfect Graph Theorem

A graph $G$ is perfect if and only if $G$ contains no odd hole and no odd antihole as induced subgraph.

Proved in 2002 by Chudnovsky, Robertson, Seymour and Thomas.

## What about coloring perfect graphs?

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Not satisfying! We know so much on perfect graphs that we want a combinatorial algorithm.

## We know so much?

## Decomposition theorem from [CRST'02]

If $G$ is Berge, then

- either $G$ is basic (bipartite, line graph of bipartite, ....),
- or $G$ can be decomposed in a given way.

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$\Rightarrow$ Contradiction!


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- Know how to algorithmically construct the tree.


## Our result

## Theorem [Chudnovsky, L., Seymour, Spirkl]

We design an algorithm with the following specification:
Algorithm $\mathcal{A}_{k}$ :
Input: A perfect graph $G$ with $\omega(G) \leq k$.
Output: A proper coloring of $G$ with $\chi(G)=\omega(G)$ colors. Running time: $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{(\omega(G)+1)^{2}}\right)$

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We proceed by induction on $k \rightarrow$ we can call $\mathcal{A}_{k-1}$ when needed.

## Previous results in this direction:

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A combinatorial algorithm that optimally colors:

- any Berge graph with no BSP
[Chudnovsky, Trotignon, Trunkc, Vušković 2015]
- any $C_{4}$-free Berge graph
[Chudnovsky, Lo, Maffray, Trotignon, Vušković $2015{ }^{+}$]


## Outline

Five intermediate steps to reach:

- Describe the decomposition tree that is used
- Know how to algorithmically construct the tree
- Know how to directly solve the problem on leaves
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## Decomposing perfect graphs

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- $G$ or $\bar{G}$ admits a decomposition by 2 -join,
- $G$ admits a decomposition by balanced skew partition (BSP).


Skew partition

## Our decomposition tree



## Decompose along BSP until the graph:

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Decompose along BSP until the graph:

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- or is not anticonnected,
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Find a BSP in polynomial time?

## How to algorithmically construct the tree?

Find a BSP in polynomial time?
Theorem [Chudnovsky, L., Seymour, Spirkl]
There is an algorithm that, given as input a perfect graph $G$, outputs a BSP of $G$ or asserts that there is none.

## How to algorithmically construct the tree?

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## Theorem [Chudnovsky, L., Seymour, Spirkl]

There is an algorithm that, given as input a perfect graph $G$, outputs a BSP of $G$ or asserts that there is none.

Previous results:

- Deciding if a graph has a BSP is NP-complete. [Trotignon 08]
- A poly-time algorithm that decides if a perfect graph has a BSP can be done in polynomial-time (but, if yes, the algo does not output such a partition). [Trotignon 08]
- A poly-time algo that decides if a graph has a skew partition and, if yes, outputs such a partition. [Kennedy \& Reed 08]


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- Know how to directly solve the problem on leaves $\rightarrow$ time $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{\max \left(7, \omega(G)^{2}\right)}\right)$
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Color with CTTV algo $\rightarrow \mathcal{O}\left(n^{7}\right)$

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Color with $\mathcal{A}_{k-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}\left(n^{\omega(G)^{2}}\right)$
Easy to color in $f(k)$

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Label each node of the tree with some well-chosen $Y \subseteq V(G)$ :


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$\Rightarrow$ Bounds the number of nodes by a polynomial.


## Key ingredient: k-pellet

## Definition: $k$-pellet

A subset $Y \subseteq V(G)$ is a $k$-pellet if

- $Y$ contains a clique of size $k$,
- $Y$ is anticonnected,
- and $|Y|=2 k$.

anticonnected set of size $2 k$
Number of $\omega(G)$-pellets: at most $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{2 \omega(G)}\right)$ !!


## Good property of $\omega(G)$-pellet

An $\omega(G)$-pellet can not lie in the middle part $B_{1} \cup B_{2}$ of a BSP.


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$Y$ is anticonnected.
$Y$ contains a clique of size $\omega(G)$ and any $v \in B_{2}$ is complete to it.
$\Rightarrow$ Contradiction!

## Unique labeling

Two nodes getting the same label $Y$ ?

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## How to combine solutions?

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Goal: Find a partition in two sets $\left(F_{1}, F_{2}\right)$ :

- $\omega\left(F_{1}\right)=k_{1}<\omega(G)$;
- $\omega\left(F_{2}\right)=k_{2}<\omega(G)$;
- $k_{1}+k_{2}=\omega(G)$.


Then we will call $\mathcal{A}_{k-1}$ on $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$.

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Goal: Find a partition in two sets $\left(F_{1}, F_{2}\right)$ :

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## Outline

Five intermediate steps to reach:
$\checkmark$ Describe the decomposition tree that is used
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Thank you for your attention!

