# Clique-Stable set Separation 

Aurélie Lagoutte

LIP, ENS Lyon
Princeton Discrete Mathematics Seminar - Oct.15, 2015

Joint work with N. Bousquet, S. Thomassé and T. Trunck

## Clique vs Independent Set Problem



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Upper Bound: there exists a CS-separator of size $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{\log n}\right)$. Lower bound in perfect graphs? Lower bound in general? 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?

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For which classes of graphs does there exist a polynomial CS-Separator?

## Motivation

## Stable Set polytope

$\operatorname{STAB}(G)=\operatorname{conv}\left(\chi^{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \mid S \subseteq V\right.$ is a stable set of $\left.G\right)$ where $\chi^{S}$ denotes the characteristic vector of $S \subseteq V$.


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We like polytopes with a small number of facets.

$P$ : polytope in $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ we want to optimize on (8 facets) $Q$ : polytope in $\mathbb{R}^{3}$ which projects to $P$ (6 facets)
$\Rightarrow$ Easier to optimize on $Q$ and project the solution!

## Extended formulation



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we can describe $\operatorname{STAB}(G)$ with clique inequalities.

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\begin{array}{cl}
0 \leq x_{v} \leq 1 & \forall v \in V \\
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A set of cuts such that for every clique $K$ and stable set $S$ disjoint from $K$, there is a cut that separates $K$ from $S$. Its size is the number of cuts.

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(1) chordal graphs (linear number of max. cliques)
(2) comparability graphs (Yannakakis 1991)
(3) $C_{4}$-free graphs (Conseq. of Alekseev 1991)
(1) $P_{5}$-free graphs (Conseq. of Lokshtanov, Vatchelle, Villanger 2014)

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Even stronger: (1) (2) and (4) have polynomial extension complexity.

## Tools and results about the CS-Separation

## Comparability graphs

LP to compute maximum weighted stable set.

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Polynomially many maximal cliques or stable sets.

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In-depth study of potential maximal cliques.

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## $H$-free graphs when $H$ is split

Can define cuts with a constant nb of neighborhoods.

## Perfect graphs with no BSP <br> Decomposition by 2-joins <br> Easy neighborhood property

## Split-free

Comparability graphs [Yannakakis 1991]
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Split-free [Bousquet, L., Thomassé]
Let $H$ be a split graph. Then every $H$-free graph has a CS-separator of size $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{C_{H}}\right)$.

Let $H$ be a split graph and $t \approx 64|V(H)|^{2}$.

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Key Lemma (using VC-dimension)
Let $G$ be a $H$-free graph, $K$ be a clique of $G$ and $S$ be a stable set disjoint from $K$. Then one of the following holds:

- $\exists S^{\prime} \subseteq S$ s. t. $\left|S^{\prime}\right|=t$ and $S^{\prime}$ dominates $K$, or
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## $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graphs

CS-Sep. in $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graphs [Bousquet, L., Thomassé]
Fix $k$. Every $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graph has a $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{c_{k}}\right)$ CS-Separator.

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Strong Erdős-Hajnal prop. - $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graphs
Fix $k$. Every $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graph has a linear-size biclique or complement biclique ( $A, B$ ).


## Sketch of proof

Theorem (Rödl 1986, Fox, Sudakov 2008)
$\forall k$, every graph $G$ satisfies one of the following:

- G induces all graphs on $k$ vertices.
- G contains a sparse induced subgraph of linear size.
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- First item does not hold.
- Extract a sparse induced subgraph of linear size.
- Extract a connected induced subgraph of linear size, with maximum degree $\leq \varepsilon \cdot n$.


## Sketch of proof (continued)

Connected $P_{k}$-free subgraph $G^{\prime}$ on $n^{\prime}$ vertices, max degree $\leq \varepsilon \cdot n^{\prime}$.

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- There is no vertex of degree $\geq \varepsilon_{k} \cdot n$, or
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Then for every vertex $v$, there exists a $P_{k}$ starting at $v$,

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Then for every vertex $v$, there exists a $P_{k}$ starting at $v$,


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N(v) \\
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## Sketch of proof (continued)

Connected $P_{k}$-free subgraph $G^{\prime}$ on $n^{\prime}$ vertices, max degree $\leq \varepsilon \cdot n^{\prime}$.

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LP to compute maximum weighted stable set.

> When $\alpha$ or $\omega$ is bounded, chordal graphs, $C_{4}$-free, ....

Polynomially many maximal cliques or stable sets.

## $P_{5}$-free graphs

In-depth study of potential maximal cliques.

## $H$-free graphs when $H$ is split

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## Main step in the proof of the Strong Perfect Graph Theorem:

## Decomposition [Chudnovsky, Robertson, Seymour, Thomas 2002]

If a graph is Berge, then for $G$ or $\bar{G}$, one of the following holds :

- It is a basic graph: bipartite, line graph of bip., or double split.
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Skew Partition

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Skew Partition

## Theorem [L., Trunck]

Let $G$ be a perfect graph with no balanced skew partition, then there exists a CS-separator for $G$ of size $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{2}\right)$.

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Every perfect graph with no balanced skew partition admits a biclique or complement biclique of size at least $n / 148$.


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Not hereditary class $\Rightarrow$ cannot directly deduce the poly CS-sep.
But there exist perfect graphs where the Strong Erdős-Hajnal property does not hold [Fox, Pach 2009] $\Rightarrow$ Evidence of some special structure.

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- Check that $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are still Berge with no balanced skew partition [Chudnovsky, Trotignon, Trunck, Vušković 2012]

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- Get CS-separators for $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ by induction hypothesis
- Transform them into a CS-separator for $G$.












## Red=

What is put on the left (clique side) Green= What is put on the right (stable set s.)




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Easy neighborhood property.

## Another tool

Generalization of "having a simplicial vertex". Def: $k$-easy-neighborhood property in a class $\mathcal{C}$
$\forall G \in \mathcal{C}, \exists v \in V(G)$ s.t. $G[N(v)]$ admits a $\mathcal{O}\left(|N(v)|^{k}\right)$ CS-sep.
If $\mathcal{C}$ is hereditary and the $k$-easy-neighborhood property holds, then every $G \in \mathcal{C}$ has a $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{k+1}\right) \mathrm{CS}$-Separator.

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$v$ in clique side
$V_{2}$ in stable set side
Cuts every $(K, S)$ with $v \in K$

## Windmill-free graphs



A 4-windmill

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Fix $k$. Every $k$-windmill-free graph has a $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{2 k-1}\right)$ CS-Separator.

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## Relationship with other problems

## Erdős-Hajnal property

Can we always find a large clique or a large stable set?

## Ramsey Theory

Every graph has a clique or a stable set of logarithmic size.
$\Rightarrow$ Logarithmic order is best possible (Erdős 1947).

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Towards $P_{5}$-free graphs?

- $\left(P_{5}, \overline{P_{5}}\right)$-free graphs (Fouquet 1993)
- ( $P_{5}, \overline{P_{6}}$ )-free graphs (Chudnovsky, Zwols 2012)
- ( $P_{5}, \overline{P_{7}}$ )-free graphs (Chudnovsky, Seymour 2012)


## Erdős-Hajnal prop. - $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free [Bousquet, L., Thomassé]

There exists $\beta_{k}>0$ such that every $\left(P_{k}, \overline{P_{k}}\right)$-free graph $G$ has a clique or a stable set of size $|V(G)|^{\beta_{k}}$.

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Thank you for your attention!

