

# Contraction to Generalization of Trees

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Graph Contraction Problems

Problem Definition

FPT Algorithm

No-Polynomial Kernel

Lossy Kernelization

# Graph Contraction Problems

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# Graph Contraction Problems

$\mathcal{F}$  is a graph class and  $G/F$  is graph obtained from  $G$  by contracting edges in  $F$

$\mathcal{F}$ -CONTRACTION

**Parameter:**  $k$

**Input:** A graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$

**Question:** Does there exist  $F \subseteq E(G)$  of size at most  $k$  such that  $G/F$  is in  $\mathcal{F}$ ?

## $\mathcal{F}$ -Contraction: Parameterized Complexity

[HvtHL <sup>+</sup> 12]	TREE CONTRACTION PATH CONTRACTION	$4^k$ $2^{k+o(k)}$
[GvtHP13]	PLANAR CONTRACTION	FPT
[CG13]	CLIQUE CONTRACTION	$2^{\mathcal{O}(k \log k)}$
[HvtHLP13] [GM13]	BIPARTITE CONTRACTION	FPT $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^2)}$

# $\mathcal{F}$ -Contraction: Parameterized Complexity

## Theorem

$\mathcal{F}$ -EDGE CONTRACTION is  $W[2]$ -hard if

- [LMS13] [CG13]  $\mathcal{F}$  can be characterized as  $P_{\ell+1}$ -free graphs or  $C_\ell$ -free graphs for  $\ell \geq 4$ .  
 $P_\ell$  and  $C_\ell$  are path and cycle on  $\ell$  vertices, respectively.
- [ALSZ17]  $\mathcal{F}$  is Split Graphs

### Theorem

[HvtHL<sup>+</sup>12] TREE CONTRACTION *does not admit a polynomial kernel unless  $NP \subseteq coNP/poly$  and* PATH CONTRACTION *admits a linear vertex kernel.*

## Starting Point

1. Why is there a polynomial kernel for PATHS but not for TREES?
2. Why is  $\mathcal{F}$ -CONTRACTION FPT when  $\mathcal{F}$  is TREES (which are  $C_3$ -free) but  $W[1]$ -hard when  $\mathcal{F}$  is family of  $C_t$ -free graphs ( $t \geq 4$ )? Or other simple graph classes like  $P_{t+1}$ -free graphs Or Split Graphs?



What additional parameter we can associate with  $\mathcal{F}$ -CONTRACTION such that :

1. it admits a polynomial kernel?
2. an FPT algorithm for super classes of TREES?

What additional parameter we can associate with  $\mathcal{F}$ -CONTRACTION such that :

1. it admits a polynomial kernel? [Paths to Trees \(CIAC '17\)](#)
2. an FPT algorithm for super classes of TREES? [This Work](#)

# Problem Definition

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## Generalization of Tree Contraction

$\mathcal{F}_\ell := \{T \mid T \text{ can be made into a tree by deleting at most } \ell \text{ edges}\}$

Observe that  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is family of TREES

$\mathcal{F}_\ell$ -CONTRACTION

**Parameter:**  $k$

**Input:** A graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$ .

**Question:** Does there exist  $F \subseteq E(G)$  of size at most  $k$  such that  $G/F \in \mathcal{F}_\ell$ ?

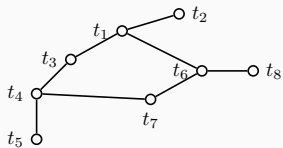
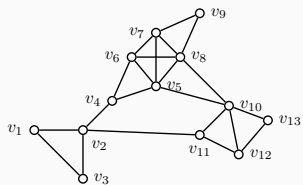
Results:

- FPT algorithm running in time  $\mathcal{O}((2\sqrt{\ell} + 2)^{\mathcal{O}(k+\ell)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)})$ .
- No polynomial kernel, when parameterized by  $k$ , for any (fixed)  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- Lossy Kernelization

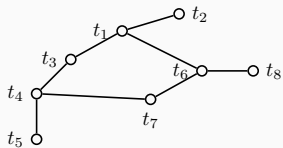
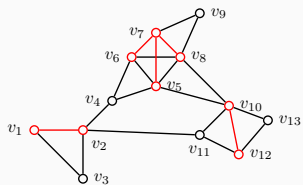
# Contraction as a Partition Problem

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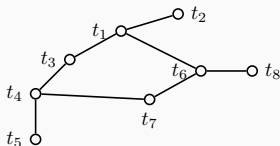
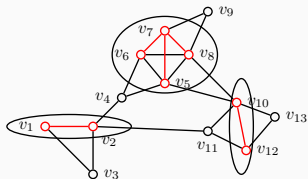
# $\mathcal{F}$ -Contraction as a Partition Problem



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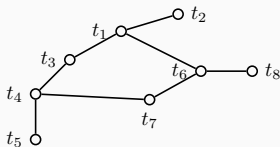
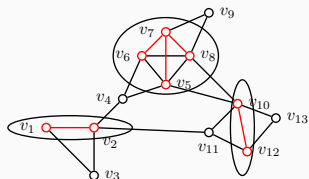


$G$  is **contractible** to  $T$  if there exists a partition of  $V(G)$  into  $W(t_1), W(t_2), \dots, W(t_{|V(T)|})$  s.t.

- $\forall t \in V(T)$ ,  $G[W(t)]$  is connected
- $t_i t_j \in E(T)$  iff  $W(t_i)$  and  $W(t_j)$  are adjacent in  $G$

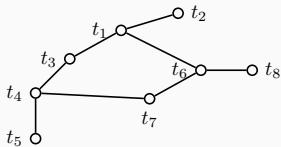
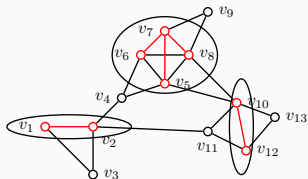


## Witness Structure : Definition



- $\mathcal{W} = \{W(t) \mid t \in V(T)\}$  is called the *T-witness structure* of  $G$
- *Big-witness set* if  $|W(t)| > 1$  e.g.  $W(t_1), W(t_6), W(t_4)$
- $k = \sum_{t \in V(T)} (|W(t)| - 1)$   
We say  $G$  is *k-contractible* to graph  $T$

## Witness Structure : Observations



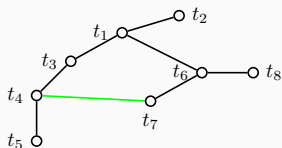
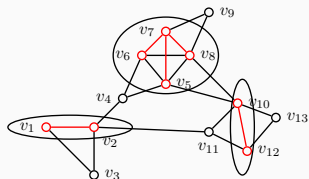
If  $G$  is  $k$ -contractible to  $T$  and  $\mathcal{W}$  be its  $T$ -witness structure then,

- No witness set in  $\mathcal{W}$  contains more than  $k + 1$  vertices;
- $\mathcal{W}$  has at most  $k$  big witness sets;
- Union of big witness sets in  $\mathcal{W}$  contains at most  $2k$  vertices.

## FPT Algorithm

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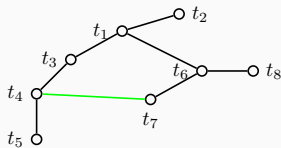
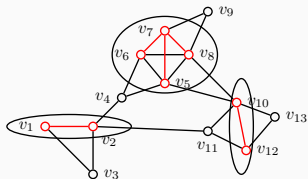
## Few Definitions



$\mathcal{W} \leftarrow$  a  $T$ -witness structure of  $G$

Fix a spanning tree of  $T$  and **mark edges outside** the spanning tree

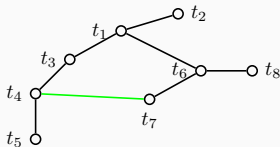
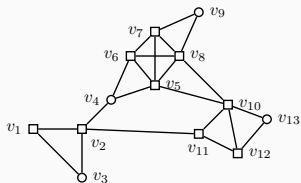
# Few Definitions



## Important Nodes in $T$

- Nodes corresponding to *big-witness* set  $(t_1, t_4, t_6)$
- Nodes incident on extra edges  $(t_4, t_7)$
- Nodes of degree at least 3  $(t_1)$

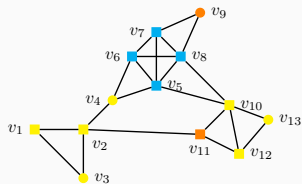
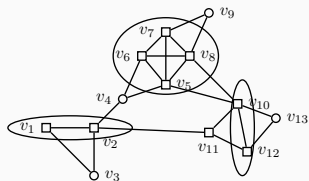
## Few Definitions



**Important vertices** in  $G$  are the vertices contained in bags corresponding to important nodes.

### Lemma

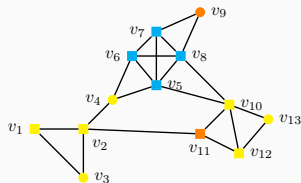
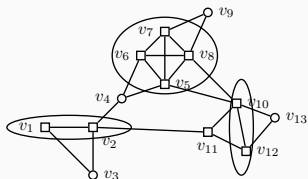
*There are at most  $\mathcal{O}(k + \ell)$  important vertices.*



**Good Coloring**  $\phi : V(G) \rightarrow [2\sqrt{\ell} + 2]$  is good coloring (wrt  $\mathcal{W}$ ) if

1. Each witness set is monochromatic (Ex.  $\{v_5, v_6, v_7, v_8\}$ )
2. Color of two *important* vertices which are adjacent or connected by path consisting of *non-important* vertices are different. (Ex.  $v_2, v_{11}$ )

# Randomized FPT Algorithm



**Step 1:** Color vertices of input graph uniformly at random with  $\sqrt{\ell} + 2$  colors.

**Step 2:** Extract witness sets out of each colored components of a *good* coloring.

Ex. Extract  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  out of  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$



# Randomized FPT Algorithm

**Step 1:** Color vertices of input graph uniformly at random with  $\sqrt{\ell} + 2$  colors.

## Lemma

*Probability that a random coloring is a good coloring is sufficiently high.*

**Step 2:** Extract witness sets out of each colored components of a *good* coloring.

## Lemma

*Extracting a witness set from a color class is equivalent of finding its connected vertex cover.*

## Theorem

$\mathcal{F}_\ell$ -CONTRACTION is FPT when parameterized by  $k$  for fixed  $\ell$ .

# No-Polynomial Kernel

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# No-Polynomial Kernel

## Theorem ([HvtHL<sup>+</sup>12])

TREE CONTRACTION *does not admit a polynomial kernel unless*  
 $NP \subseteq coNP/poly$ .

## Lemma

$(G, k)$  is a YES instance of TREE CONTRACTION if and only if  
 $(G', k')$  is a YES instance of  $\mathcal{F}_\ell$ -CONTRACTION, here  $k' = k$ .

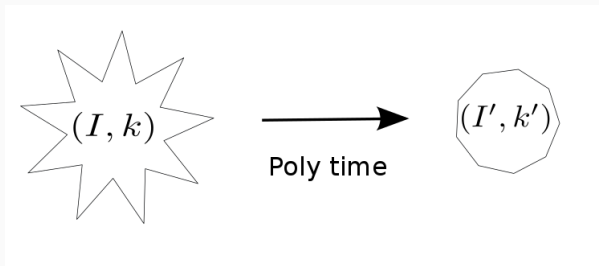
## Theorem

$\mathcal{F}_\ell$ -CONTRACTION *does not admit a polynomial kernel unless*  
 $NP \subseteq coNP/poly$ .

# Lossy Kernelization

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# Kernelization



Parameterized problem  $Q$  admits a  $h(k)$ -kernel if there exists a poly-time algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  which given an input  $(I, k)$  outputs  $(I', k')$  such that

- $|I'| + k' \leq h(k)$
- $(I, k)$  is YES instance iff  $(I', k')$  is YES instance

How about optimization version?

## Optimization Version

For a parameterized problem  $Q$ , its optimization analogue is a computable function

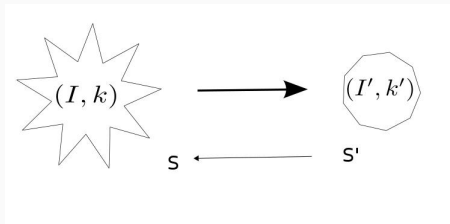
$$\Pi : \Sigma^* \times \mathbb{N} \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$$

Given instance  $I$ , parameter  $k$  and a solution  $S$ , the *value* of a solution  $S$  to an instance  $(I, k)$  of  $Q$  is  $\Pi(I, k, S)$ .

For parameterized minimization problems,

$$\text{OPT}_{\Pi}(I, k) = \min_{S \in \Sigma^*} \{\Pi(I, k, S)\}$$

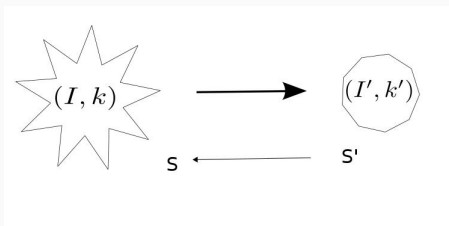
## Lossy Kernelization



Given a solution  $S'$  of  $(I', k')$  can we construct a solution  $S$  of  $(I, k)$  which is **as good as**  $S'$ ?

Quality of solution  $S'$  of  $(I', k')$  is  $\frac{\Pi(I', k', S')}{\text{OPT}(I', k')}$

## Lossy Kernelization



Given  $(I', k', S')$  can we construct a solution  $S$  of  $(I, k)$  such that

$$\frac{\Pi(I, k, S)}{\text{OPT}(I, k)} \leq \alpha \frac{\Pi(I', k', S')}{\text{OPT}(I', k')}$$

for some constant  $\alpha$ ?



## Definition ( $\alpha$ -PTAS)

An  $\alpha$ -approximate polynomial-time preprocessing algorithm ( $\alpha$ -PTAS) is pair of two polynomial time algorithms as follows:

	Input	Output
Reduction Algorithm	$(I, k)$	$(I', k')$
Solution Lifting Algorithm	$(I, k)$ and $(I', k', S')$	$S$

such that

$$\frac{\Pi(I, k, S)}{\text{OPT}(I, k)} \leq \alpha \cdot \frac{\Pi(I', k', S')}{\text{OPT}(I', k')}$$

## Definition ( $\alpha$ -approximate kernel)

For a parameterized minimization problem  $\Pi$  if

1.  $\alpha$ -PTAS
2. the size of the output instance is upper bounded by a computable function  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  of  $k$ .

## Strict $\alpha$ -approximate kernel

### Definition (Strict $\alpha$ -approximate kernel)

An  $\alpha$ -approximate kernel is said to be *strict* if the solution lifting algorithm returns a solution  $S$  such that

$$\frac{\Pi(I, k, S)}{\text{OPT}(I, k)} \leq \max\left\{\frac{\Pi(I', k', S')}{\text{OPT}(I', k')}, \alpha\right\}$$

## Lossy Kernelization

$$\Pi(I, k, S) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } S \text{ is not a solution} \\ \min\{|S|, k + 1\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since we are interested in solutions of size at most  $k$

### **Definition ( $\alpha$ -safe)**

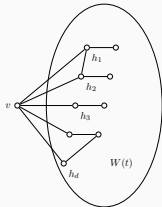
A reduction rule is  $\alpha$ -safe for  $\Pi$  if there is a solution lifting algorithm s.t. together they constitute a strict  $\alpha$ -approximate polynomial-time preprocessing algorithm for  $\Pi$ .

## Lossy Kernelization

Let  $(G, k)$  be an instance of  $\mathcal{F}_\ell$ -CONTRACTION and  $\alpha > 1$  is a fixed constant. Fix  $d = \lceil \frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1} \rceil$

In *polynomial time* ( $n^{\mathcal{O}(d)}$ ) we can find vertices  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_d$  s.t.

- all these vertices are in witness set  $W(t)$
- there exists  $v$  such that  $\{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_d\} \subseteq N(v)$

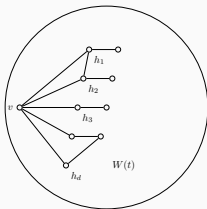


Can we utilize this information to simplify graph?

## Lossy Kernelization

Notice : we can't find entire  $W(t)$ ;  $v$  may or may not be in  $W(t)$ .

Introducing Lossy-ness : Add vertex  $v$  to  $W(t)$

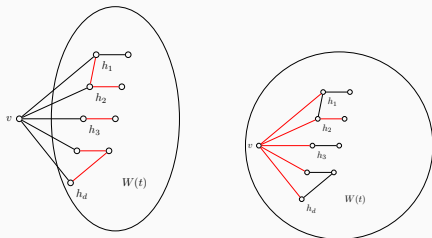


Contract all edges  $vh_i$  for all  $i \in [d]$  to get new instance  
( $G', k - (d - 1)$ )

Notice : We contracted  $d$  edges but reduced the budget by  $d - 1$ .

## Lossy Kernelization

$h_1, h_2, \dots, h_d$  are in big-witness set  $\Rightarrow$  there are  $d - 1$  solution edges incident these vertices



We are contracting  $d$ -many edges for every  $(d - 1)$  edges in the solution.

The number of extra edge contracted in this process is  $\frac{d}{d-1} = \alpha$  factor of the optimum solution



This reduction rule coupled with other two reduction rules leads to following theorem.

### Theorem

$\mathcal{F}_\ell$ -CONTRACTION admits a strict PSAKS, where the number of vertices is bounded by  $c[k(k + 2\ell)]^{\lceil \frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1} \rceil + 1}$ , where  $c$  is some fixed constant.

Thank you!



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