



CISPA

HELMHOLTZ CENTER FOR
INFORMATION SECURITY

Parameterized Complexity of Weighted Multicut in Trees

WG 2022

Esther Galby¹ Dániel Marx¹ **Philipp Schepper**¹
Roohani Sharma² Prafullkumar Tale¹

¹ CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security, Germany

² Max Planck Institute for Informatics, Saarland Informatics Campus, Germany

June 23, 2022

Definition of Multicut

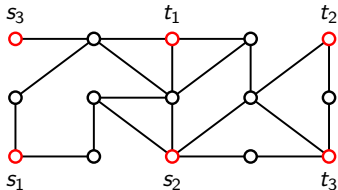
Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

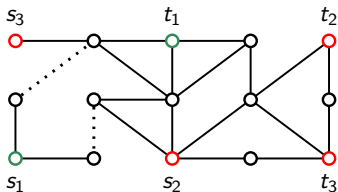
Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.



Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

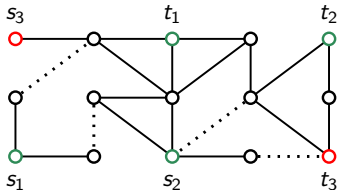
Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.



Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

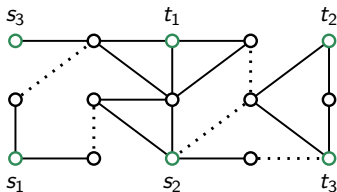
Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.



Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

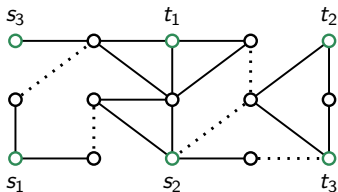
Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.



Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

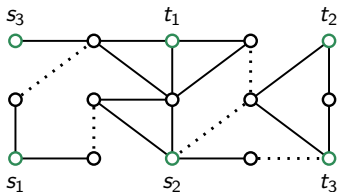


- $p = 1$: classical (s, t) -cut problem, poly-time solvable (Ford, Fulkerson '62)

Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

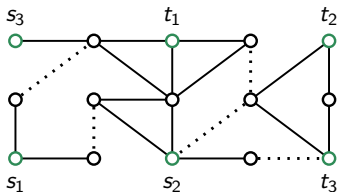


- $p = 1$: classical (s, t) -cut problem, poly-time solvable (Ford, Fulkerson '62)
- $p = 2$: Solvable in poly-time (Yannakakis et al. '83)

Definition of Multicut

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

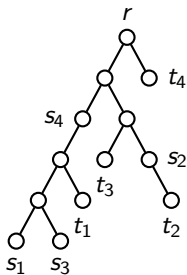
Question: Is there an edge set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$, such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.



- $p = 1$: classical (s, t) -cut problem, poly-time solvable (Ford, Fulkerson '62)
- $p = 2$: Solvable in poly-time (Yannakakis et al. '83)
- $p = 3$: NP-hard (Dahlhaus et al. '94)

Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

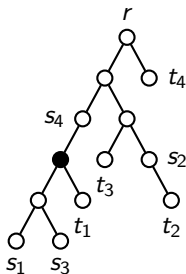
Let r be the root of the tree.



Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

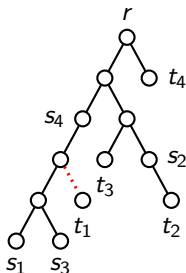
- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that:
the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .



Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

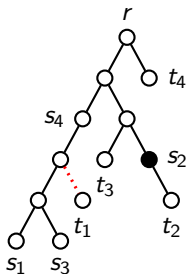
- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.



Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

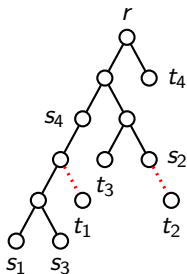
- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.



Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

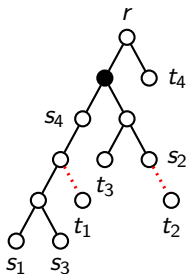
- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.



Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

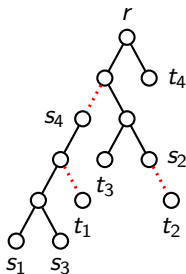
- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.



Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.

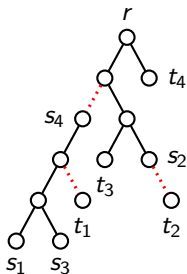


Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.

Running time: $2^k n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$

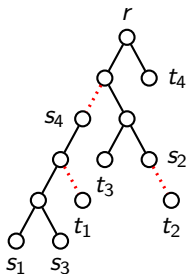


Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that: the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.

Running time: $2^k n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$



General graphs:

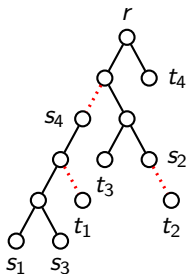
$2^{\mathcal{O}(k^3)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ algorithm based on important separators
(Marx and Razgon '14, Bousquet et al. '18)

Simple branching algorithm (Guo and Niedermeier '05):

Let r be the root of the tree.

- 1 Pick the connected pair (s_i, t_i) such that:
the lowest common ancestor v is farthest from r .
- 2 Guess which of the two “outgoing” edges of v are deleted.
- 3 Repeat.

Running time: $2^k n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$



General graphs:

$2^{\mathcal{O}(k^3)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ algorithm based on important separators
(Marx and Razgon '14, Bousquet et al. '18)

A problem with running time $f(k) \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ is *fixed parameter tractable* (FPT).
FPT also denotes the class of “efficient” problems in the parameterized setting.

As for other problems keep size constraint and add weight constraint.

- Weighted (s, t) -Cut
- Weighted Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- Weighted Steiner Tree

As for other problems keep size constraint and add weight constraint.

- Weighted (s, t) -Cut
- Weighted Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- Weighted Steiner Tree

Weighted Multicut (wMC)

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $wt : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} wt(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

As for other problems keep size constraint and add weight constraint.

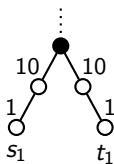
- Weighted (s, t) -Cut
- Weighted Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- Weighted Steiner Tree

Weighted Multicut (wMC)

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

All previous algorithms fail to generalize!



As for other problems keep size constraint and add weight constraint.

- Weighted (s, t) -Cut
- Weighted Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- Weighted Steiner Tree

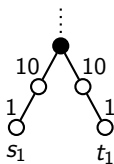
Weighted Multicut (wMC)

Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $wt : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} wt(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

All previous algorithms fail to generalize!

Goal: Solve more restrictive versions first



As for other problems keep size constraint and add weight constraint.

- Weighted (s, t) -Cut
- Weighted Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- Weighted Steiner Tree

Weighted Multicut (wMC)

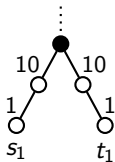
Input: An undirected graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $wt : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} wt(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$: there is no path from s_i to t_i in $G - S$.

All previous algorithms fail to generalize!

Goal: Solve more restrictive versions first

\implies Focus on (subdivided) stars



Hardness on Stars

(Subdivided) Stars seem to be important to handle:

(Subdivided) Stars seem to be important to handle:

Theorem (Garg et al. '97)

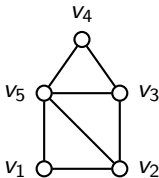
(Weighted) Multicut is NP-hard on stars.

(Subdivided) Stars seem to be important to handle:

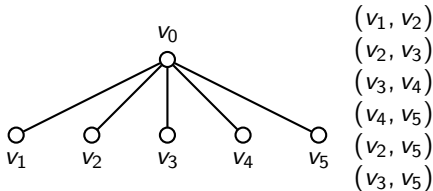
Theorem (Garg et al. '97)

(Weighted) Multicut is NP-hard on stars.

Vertex Cover



Multicut on Stars

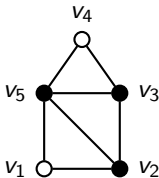


(Subdivided) Stars seem to be important to handle:

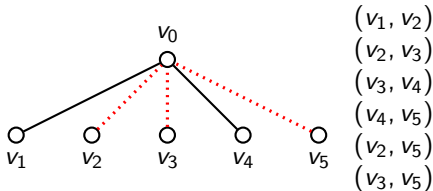
Theorem (Garg et al. '97)

(Weighted) Multicut is NP-hard on stars.

Vertex Cover



Multicut on Stars

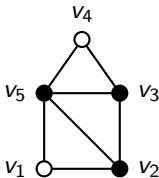


(Subdivided) Stars seem to be important to handle:

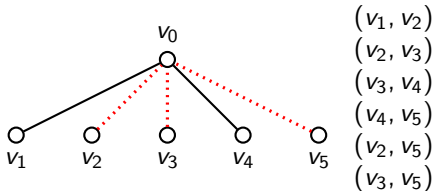
Theorem (Garg et al. '97)

(Weighted) Multicut is NP-hard on stars.

Vertex Cover



Multicut on Stars



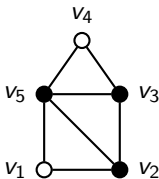
(Weighted) Vertex Cover and (Weighted) Multicut on Stars are equivalent.

(Subdivided) Stars seem to be important to handle:

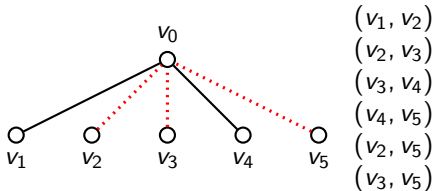
Theorem (Garg et al. '97)

(Weighted) Multicut is NP-hard on stars.

Vertex Cover



Multicut on Stars



(Weighted) Vertex Cover and (Weighted) Multicut on Stars are equivalent.

More evidence that (subdivided) stars are important.

Solving Bicriteria Problems

First criterion: size bound for solution, i.e. $|S| \leq k$

Solving Bicriteria Problems

First criterion: size bound for solution, i.e. $|S| \leq k$

Second criterion: “weight” of the solution, i.e. $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$

First criterion: size bound for solution, i.e. $|S| \leq k$

Second criterion: “weight” of the solution, i.e. $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$

- Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- (s, t) -Cut
- Almost 2-SAT
- Digraph Pair-Cut

are solved in the unweighted setting but the weighted setting was long not known.

First criterion: size bound for solution, i.e. $|S| \leq k$

Second criterion: “weight” of the solution, i.e. $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$

- Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- (s, t) -Cut
- Almost 2-SAT
- Digraph Pair-Cut

are solved in the unweighted setting but the weighted setting was long not known.

Main issue: techniques for unweighted setting fail to generalize.

First criterion: size bound for solution, i.e. $|S| \leq k$

Second criterion: “weight” of the solution, i.e. $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$

- Directed Feedback Vertex Set
- (s, t) -Cut
- Almost 2-SAT
- Digraph Pair-Cut

are solved in the unweighted setting but the weighted setting was long not known.

Main issue: techniques for unweighted setting fail to generalize.

Theorem (Kim et al., STOC'22)

The weighted versions of these problems are (randomized) FPT.

The proof uses directed flow augmentation.

Definition

Input: A directed graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , a source vertex $r \in V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$:

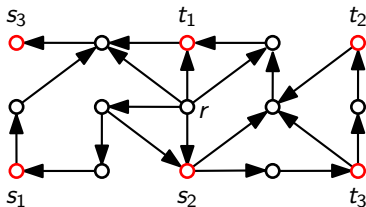
if there is a path from r to s_i in $G - S$, then there is no path from r to t_i in $G - S$.

Definition

Input: A **directed** graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , a **source vertex** $r \in V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$:

if there is a path from r to s_i in $G - S$, then there is no path from r to t_i in $G - S$.

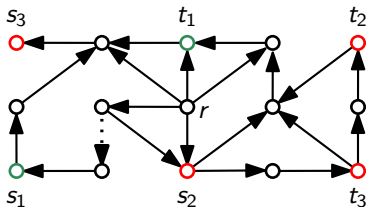


Definition

Input: A **directed** graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , a **source vertex** $r \in V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$:

if there is a path from r to s_i in $G - S$, then there is no path from r to t_i in $G - S$.

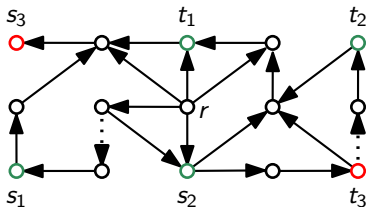


Definition

Input: A **directed** graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , a **source vertex** $r \in V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$:

if there is a path from r to s_i in $G - S$, then there is no path from r to t_i in $G - S$.

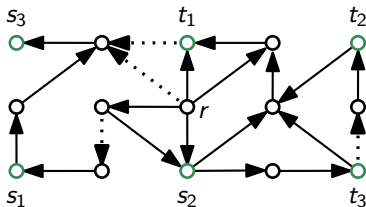


Definition

Input: A **directed** graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , a **source vertex** $r \in V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$:

if there is a path from r to s_i in $G - S$, then there is no path from r to t_i in $G - S$.

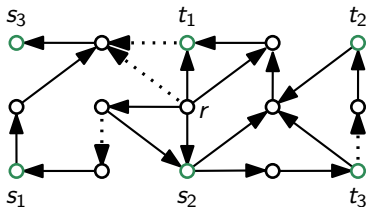


Definition

Input: A **directed** graph G , vertex pairs $(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_p, t_p) \in V(G) \times V(G)$, a weight function $\text{wt} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, an integer weight budget W , a **source vertex** $r \in V(G)$, and a positive integer k .

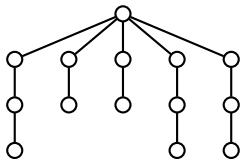
Question: Is there a set $S \subseteq E(G)$ with $|S| \leq k$ and $\sum_{e \in S} \text{wt}(e) \leq W$ such that for all $i \in [p]$:

if there is a path from r to s_i in $G - S$, then there is no path from r to t_i in $G - S$.

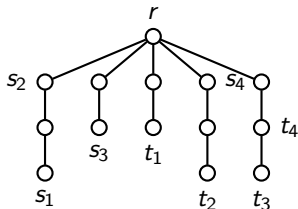


Recall: Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut is FPT.

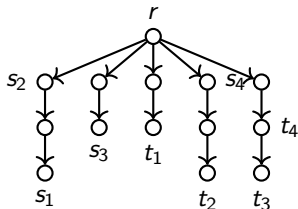
Weighted Multicut on Subdivided Stars



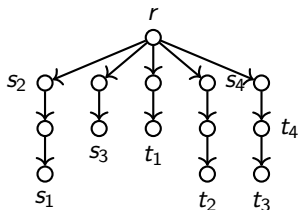
- Assume all pairs use the root r .



- Assume all pairs use the root r .
- Orient all edges away from r .

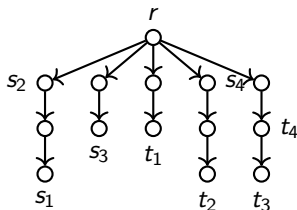


- Assume all pairs use the root r .
- Orient all edges away from r .
- Solve the constructed Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut instance.



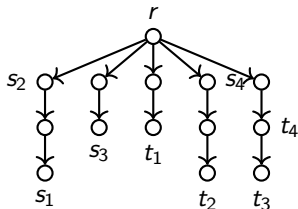
- Assume all pairs use the root r .
- Orient all edges away from r .
- Solve the constructed Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut instance.

Observe: This also works for trees if we have the assumption!



- Assume all pairs use the root r .
- Orient all edges away from r .
- Solve the constructed Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut instance.

Observe: This also works for trees if we have the assumption!



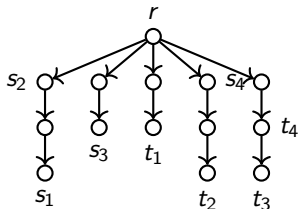
To achieve the assumption:

Compute an *unweighted* solution (with certain properties)

and then modify the graph while using the algorithm for subdivided stars.

- Assume all pairs use the root r .
- Orient all edges away from r .
- Solve the constructed Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut instance.

Observe: This also works for trees if we have the assumption!



To achieve the assumption:

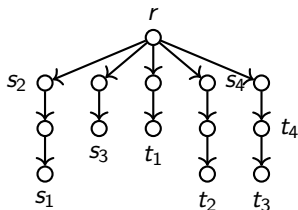
Compute an *unweighted* solution (with certain properties)
and then modify the graph while using the algorithm for subdivided stars.

Main Theorem

Weighted Multicut on trees is FPT when parameterizing by the solution size k .

- Assume all pairs use the root r .
- Orient all edges away from r .
- Solve the constructed Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut instance.

Observe: This also works for trees if we have the assumption!



To achieve the assumption:

Compute an *unweighted* solution (with certain properties) and then modify the graph while using the algorithm for subdivided stars.

Main Theorem

Weighted Multicut on trees is FPT when parameterizing by the solution size k .

Answers an implicit question by Bousquet et al. (STACS '09).

Situation on trees:

	Multicut	
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	
Weighted		

Situation on trees:

	Multicut	
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	

Edge Deletion vs. Vertex Deletion

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	poly-time: Greedy delete the lowest common ancestor
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	poly-time: Greedy delete the lowest common ancestor
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	??

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	poly-time: Greedy delete the lowest common ancestor
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	??

Observation:

Weighted *Vertex* Multicut generalized Weighted *Edge* Multicut:

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	poly-time: Greedy delete the lowest common ancestor
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	??

Observation:

Weighted *Vertex* Multicut generalized Weighted *Edge* Multicut:

- Split each edge by a vertex which has the weight of the original edge.

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	poly-time: Greedy delete the lowest common ancestor
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	??

Observation:

Weighted *Vertex* Multicut generalized Weighted *Edge* Multicut:

- Split each edge by a vertex which has the weight of the original edge.
- Make all original vertices undeletable (e.g. infinite weight).

Situation on trees:

	Edge Multicut	Vertex Multicut
Unweighted	FPT: Simple branching algorithm	poly-time: Greedy delete the lowest common ancestor
Weighted	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen	FPT: Algorithm we have just seen

Observation:

Weighted *Vertex* Multicut generalized Weighted *Edge* Multicut:

- Split each edge by a vertex which has the weight of the original edge.
- Make all original vertices undeletable (e.g. infinite weight).

Our algorithm also works for the vertex version!

We use results for Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut to show the following:

Main Theorem 1

Weighted Multicut on trees can be solved in randomized time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.

We use results for Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut to show the following:

Main Theorem 1

Weighted Multicut on trees can be solved in randomized time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.

Similarly we solve a version of the problem without the size constraint k .

Main Theorem 2

Weighted Multicut without size constraint on trees with ℓ leaves can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^3)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.

We use results for Weighted Digraph Pair-Cut to show the following:

Main Theorem 1

Weighted Multicut on trees can be solved in randomized time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.

Similarly we solve a version of the problem without the size constraint k .

Main Theorem 2

Weighted Multicut without size constraint on trees with ℓ leaves can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^3)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.

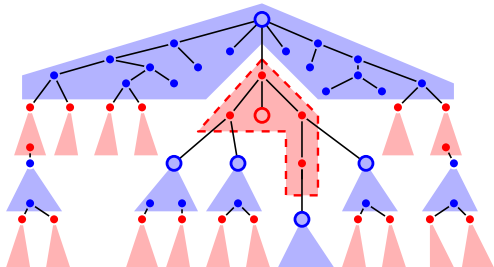
One more result generalizing Main Theorem 2 and a result by Guo and Niedermeier (2006) about request degree.

Full version: [arXiv:2205.10105](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.10105)

Additional Material

(d, ℓ) -Light Instances

- Delete all vertices used for at most d terminal pair request.
- The closed neighborhood of the remaining components must have at most ℓ leaves.



Parameter: request degree d and number of leaves ℓ

wMC on (d, ℓ) -light trees can be solved in time $3^d \cdot 2^{d\ell} \cdot 2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^3)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$
if we drop the size constraint.

Proof idea:

- For vertices with small ($\leq d$) request degree:
Use dynamic programming.
- For components of vertices with large ($\geq d$) request degree:
Use one of the new algorithms as subroutine as the component has at most ℓ leaves.

This implies a result by Guo and Niedermeier (2006) about the request degree d .

Parameter: number of leaves ℓ

wMC on trees with ℓ leaves can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^3)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$
if we drop the size constraint.

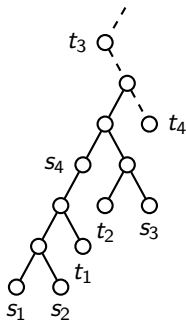
Proof idea:

- Use another result from Kim et al. '22 to solve the problem on paths and stars.
- Apply similar procedure as for previous algorithm to solve the problem on trees.

Algorithm – Main Idea

Preprocessing:

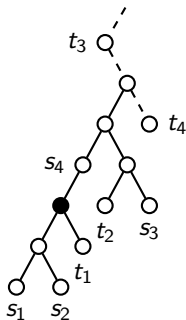
- 1 Compute a minimum *unweighted* solution X_{opt} .



Algorithm – Main Idea

Preprocessing:

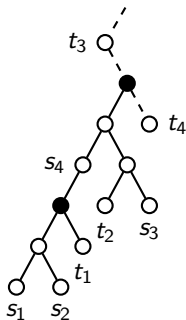
- 1 Compute a minimum *unweighted* solution X_{opt} .



Algorithm – Main Idea

Preprocessing:

- 1 Compute a minimum *unweighted* solution X_{opt} .
- 2 Extend X_{opt} to X by computing the closure under taking the “lowest common ancestor”.



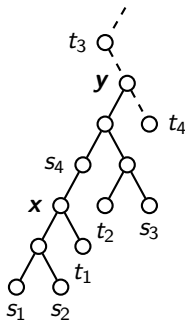
Algorithm – Main Idea

Preprocessing:

- 1 Compute a minimum *unweighted* solution X_{opt} .
- 2 Extend X_{opt} to X by computing the closure under taking the “lowest common ancestor”.

Branching algorithm:

- 1 Pick $x \in X$ to be furthest from the root.
Let $y \in X$ be its closest ancestor.



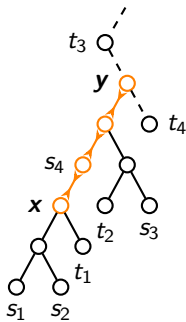
Algorithm – Main Idea

Preprocessing:

- 1 Compute a minimum *unweighted* solution X_{opt} .
- 2 Extend X_{opt} to X by computing the closure under taking the “lowest common ancestor”.

Branching algorithm:

- 1 Pick $x \in X$ to be furthest from the root.
Let $y \in X$ be its closest ancestor.
- 2 Guess if some vertex between x and y is selected.
- 3 Case “no such vertex”:
Contract the path from x to y onto an undeletable vertex.



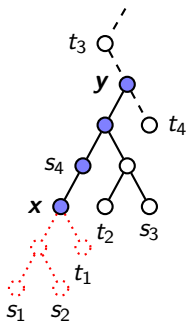
Algorithm – Main Idea

Preprocessing:

- 1 Compute a minimum *unweighted* solution X_{opt} .
- 2 Extend X_{opt} to X by computing the closure under taking the “lowest common ancestor”.

Branching algorithm:

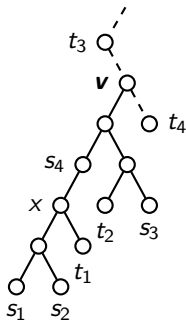
- 1 Pick $x \in X$ to be furthest from the root.
Let $y \in X$ be its closest ancestor.
- 2 Guess if some vertex between x and y is selected.
- 3 Case “no such vertex”:
Contract the path from x to y onto an undeletable vertex.
- 4 Case “there is such a vertex”:
For each vertex v between x and y :
Update $\text{wt}(v) = \text{wt}(v) + \text{OPT}(T_{v,x}^\dagger)$ (next step)
Delete T_x^\dagger and add the pair (x, y) .
- 5 Recurse.



Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

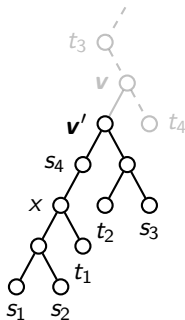


Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

- 1 Consider the graph $T_{v,x}^\dagger$, i.e. the subtree of T_v containing x .
Let v' be its root.
Observe: For each $(s, t) \in \mathcal{P}|_{v'}$, the path from x to s or from x to t has to be cut.

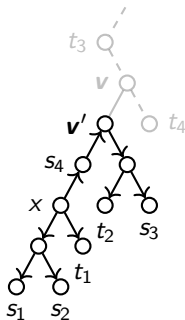


Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

- 1 Consider the graph $T_{v,x}^\dagger$, i.e. the subtree of T_v containing x .
Let v' be its root.
Observe: For each $(s, t) \in \mathcal{P}|_{v'}$, the path from x to s or from x to t has to be cut.
- 2 Direct all edges away from x .
Define the weight of each edge as the weight of its head.
→ Must solve a digraph pair-cut problem.

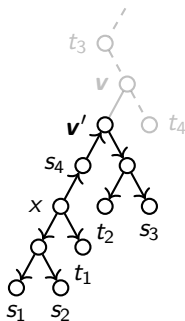


Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

- 1 Consider the graph $T_{v,x}^\dagger$, i.e. the subtree of T_v containing x .
Let v' be its root.
Observe: For each $(s, t) \in \mathcal{P}|_{v'}$, the path from x to s or from x to t has to be cut.
- 2 Direct all edges away from x .
Define the weight of each edge as the weight of its head.
→ Must solve a digraph pair-cut problem.
- 3 By Kim et al. '22 this can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.
Let $C_{v,i}$ be the optimal value.

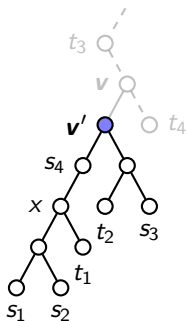


Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

- 1 Consider the graph $T_{v,x}^\dagger$, i.e. the subtree of T_v containing x .
Let v' be its root.
Observe: For each $(s, t) \in \mathcal{P}|_{v'}$, the path from x to s or from x to t has to be cut.
- 2 Direct all edges away from x .
Define the weight of each edge as the weight of its head.
→ Must solve a digraph pair-cut problem.
- 3 By Kim et al. '22 this can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.
Let $C_{v,i}$ be the optimal value.
- 4 Define $\text{wt}(v) = \text{wt}(v) + C_{v,i}$.



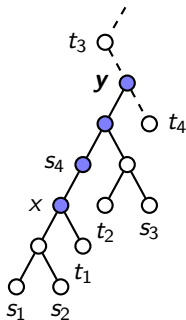
Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

- 1 Consider the graph $T_{v,x}^\dagger$, i.e. the subtree of T_v containing x .
Let v' be its root.
Observe: For each $(s, t) \in \mathcal{P}|_{v'}$, the path from x to s or from x to t has to be cut.
- 2 Direct all edges away from x .
Define the weight of each edge as the weight of its head.
→ Must solve a digraph pair-cut problem.
- 3 By Kim et al. '22 this can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.
Let $C_{v,i}$ be the optimal value.
- 4 Define $\text{wt}(v) = \text{wt}(v) + C_{v,i}$.

Repeat this for all vertices between x and y .

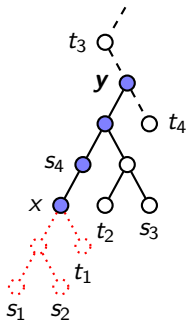


Algorithm – Updating the Weights

Goal: Compute for each v the optimal solution in the subtree below, i.e. in $T_{v,x}^\dagger$.

Guess the size $i \in [k]$ of the solution in this part.

- 1 Consider the graph $T_{v,x}^\dagger$, i.e. the subtree of T_v containing x .
Let v' be its root.
Observe: For each $(s, t) \in \mathcal{P}|_{v'}$, the path from x to s or from x to t has to be cut.
- 2 Direct all edges away from x .
Define the weight of each edge as the weight of its head.
→ Must solve a digraph pair-cut problem.
- 3 By Kim et al. '22 this can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.
Let $C_{v,i}$ be the optimal value.
- 4 Define $\text{wt}(v) = \text{wt}(v) + C_{v,i}$.



Repeat this for all vertices between x and y .

Remove the subtree below x and the corresponding pairs.

Remove x from X and add (x, y) as a new pair to \mathcal{P} .

Preprocessing:

- Solution X_{opt} and its closure X can be computed in polynomial time
- $|X| \leq 2|X_{\text{opt}}| \leq 2k$

Preprocessing:

- Solution X_{opt} and its closure X can be computed in polynomial time
- $|X| \leq 2|X_{\text{opt}}| \leq 2k$

For each iteration of the **branching algorithm**:

- create $k + 1$ new branches,
- create $\mathcal{O}(n)$ digraph pair-cut instances
- solve them in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ due to the subroutine, and
- remove one vertex from X .

Preprocessing:

- Solution X_{opt} and its closure X can be computed in polynomial time
- $|X| \leq 2|X_{\text{opt}}| \leq 2k$

For each iteration of the **branching algorithm**:

- create $k + 1$ new branches,
- create $\mathcal{O}(n)$ digraph pair-cut instances
- solve them in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ due to the subroutine, and
- remove one vertex from X .

\implies Total running time is $k^{\mathcal{O}(k)} \cdot 2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)} = 2^{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$.

