# **Exercise 5: Tree width and Hypertree width**

Database Theory
2022-05-10
Maximilian Marx, Markus Krötzsch

**Exercise.** Construct the query hypergraph and the primal graph for the following queries:

- 1.  $\exists x, y, z, u, v. (r(x, y, z, u) \land s(z, u, v))$
- $2. \ \exists x,y,z,u,v. \left( \mathsf{a}(x,y) \land \mathsf{b}(y,z) \land \mathsf{c}(z,u) \land \mathsf{d}(u,v) \land \mathsf{e}(v,z) \land \mathsf{f}(z,x) \land \mathsf{d}(x,u) \land \mathsf{d}(u,y) \right)$

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# Definition (Lecture 6, Slide 23)

The primal graph of a hypergraph G is the undirected graph with the same vertices as G, and an edge connecting two vertices if there is some hyperedge in G that contains these two vertices.

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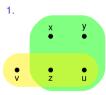
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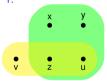
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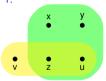
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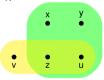
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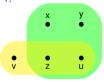
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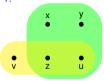
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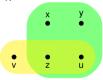
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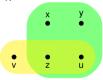
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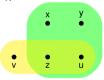
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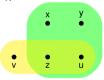
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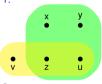
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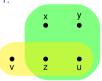
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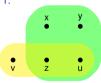
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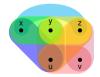
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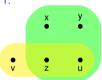
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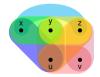
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**Exercise.** Determine the tree width of each of the following graphs and provide a suitable tree decomposition. Argue why there cannot be a tree decomposition of smaller width.

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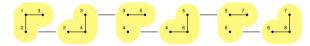


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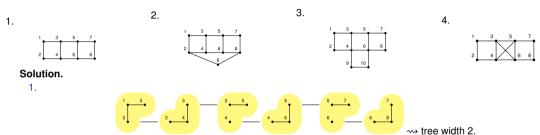


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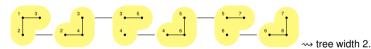


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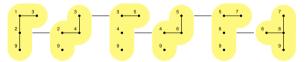


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25/66

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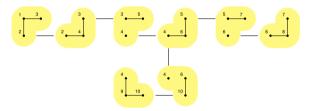
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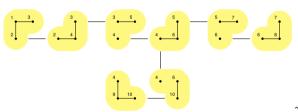


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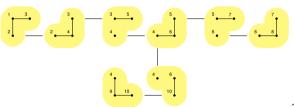


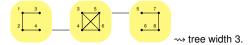
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**Exercise.** Show that the  $n \times n$  grid has a tree width  $\leq n$  by finding a suitable tree decomposition of width n. For example, the following  $4 \times 4$  grid has tree width 4:



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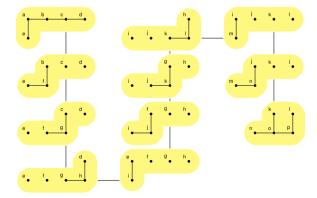


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Theorem (Seymour and Thomas; Lecture 7, Slide 15)

A graph G is of tree width  $\leq k-1$  iff k cops have a winning strategy in the cops & robber game on G.

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- While the cops can occupy all neighbouring vertices, they cannot catch the robber: if they move to the robbers position, one of the neighbouring vertices becomes free.
- ▶ Thus, the robber wins if there are at most n-1 cops.
- ▶ Hence the *n*-clique cannot have tree width  $\leq n-2$ .

**Exercise.** Recall that a graph is 3-colourable if one can assign three colours to its vertices in such a way that neighbouring vertices never share the same colour. Let  $C_3$  be the set of all 3-colourable graphs. Are the graphs in  $C_3$  of bounded or unbounded tree width? Explain your answer.

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# Any $n \times n$ grid is 2-colourable.

- ► Hence, C<sub>3</sub> contains all grids.
- Grids have unbounded tree width.
- ▶ Thus,  $C_3$  contains graphs of unbounded tree width.

**Exercise.** Decide whether the following claims are true or false. Explain your answer.

- 1. Deleting an edge from a graph may make the tree width smaller but never larger.
- 2. Deleting a vertex from a graph (and removing all of its edges) may make the tree width smaller but never larger.
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# Theorem (Seymour and Thomas; Lecture 7, Slide 15)

A graph G is of tree width  $\leq k-1$  iff k cops have a winning strategy in the cops & robber game on G.

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- 2. True: analogous.

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- False: Consider a hypergraph that has a hyperedge containing all vertices. Then the hypergraph is acyclic (i.e., has hypertree width 1), but removing the hyperedge may result in a cyclic hypergraph (i.e., hypertree width > 1).

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- False: Consider a hypergraph that has a hyperedge containing all vertices. Then the hypergraph is acyclic (i.e., has hypertree width 1), but removing the hyperedge may result in a cyclic hypergraph (i.e., hypertree width > 1).
- 4. True: marshals don't occupy vertices, but hyperedges, so deleting vertices does not invalidate winning strategies.

**Exercise.** The following BCQ corresponds to graph (a) in Exercise 2:

$$\exists x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8. \ r(x_1, x_2) \land r(x_1, x_3) \land r(x_2, x_4) \land r(x_3, x_4) \land r(x_3, x_5) \land r(x_4, x_6) \land r(x_5, x_6) \land r(x_5, x_7) \land r(x_6, x_8) \land r(x_7, x_8)$$

According to the logical characterisation from the lecture, this query can be expressed in the  $\exists$ - $\land$ -fragment of FO using only tree width+1 variables. Find such a formula.

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According to the logical characterisation from the lecture, this query can be expressed in the ∃-∧-fragment of FO using only tree width+1 variables. Find such a formula.

$$\exists x, y, z. \ r(x, y) \land r(x, z) \land$$

$$(\exists x. \ r(y, x) \land r(z, x) \land$$

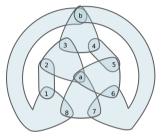
$$(\exists y. \ r(z, y) \land$$

$$(\exists z. \ r(x, z) \land r(y, z) \land$$

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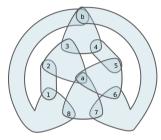
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**Exercise.** Consider *Adler's Hypergraph*:



- 1. Can one marshal catch the robber?
- 2. Can two marshals catch the robber?
- 3. Can three marshals catch the robber?
- 4. Adler et al. [Eur. J. Comb., 2007] proposed this graph as an example where fewer marshals can win if they are allowed to play non-monotonically, that is, if they are not required to shrink the remaining space in each turn. Can you confirm her findings?
- (\*) Can you explain why non-monotone play is unavoidable in one of the above cases if the marshals want to win?

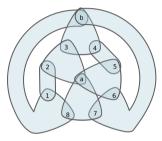
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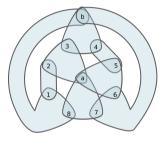


#### Solution.

1. No.

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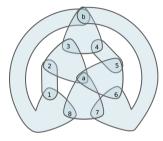


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- 2. Yes, but only non-monotonically.

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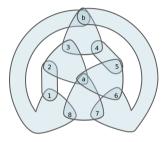


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### **Exercise.** Consider Adler's Hypergraph:



#### Solution.

- 1. No.
- 2. Yes, but only non-monotonically.
- 3. Yes, even when playing monotonically.
- (\*) The graph has hypertree width 3, but generalised hypertree width 2.

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