

# Identification problems in graphs and other discrete structures

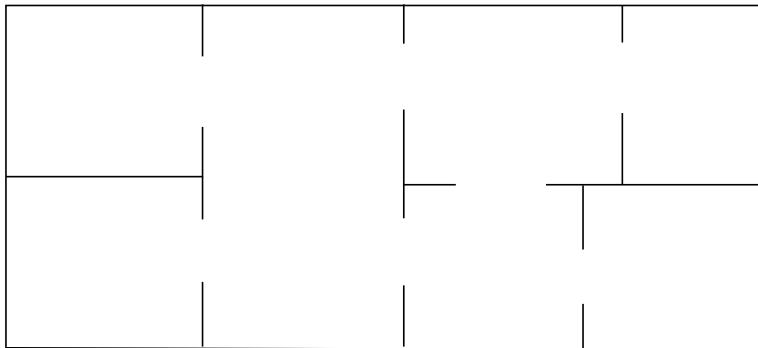
Florent Foucaud



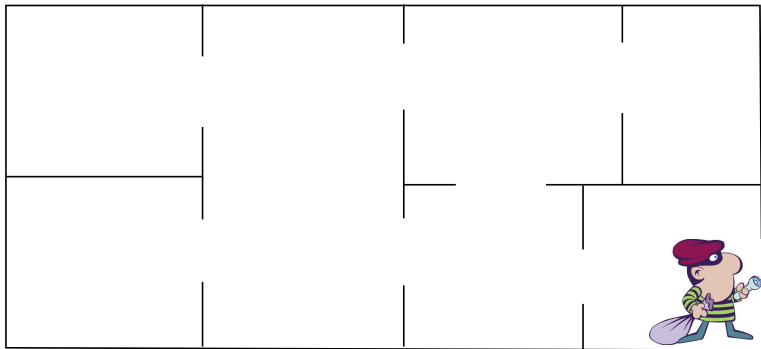
JPOC, June 2023



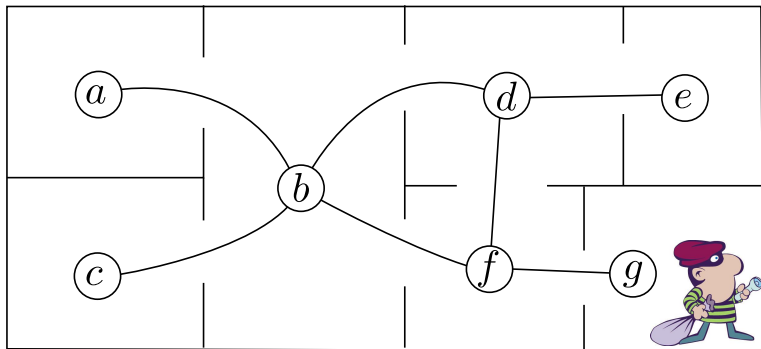
# Locating a burglar



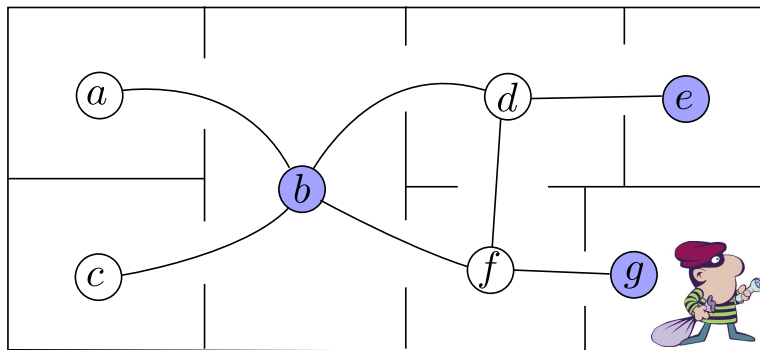
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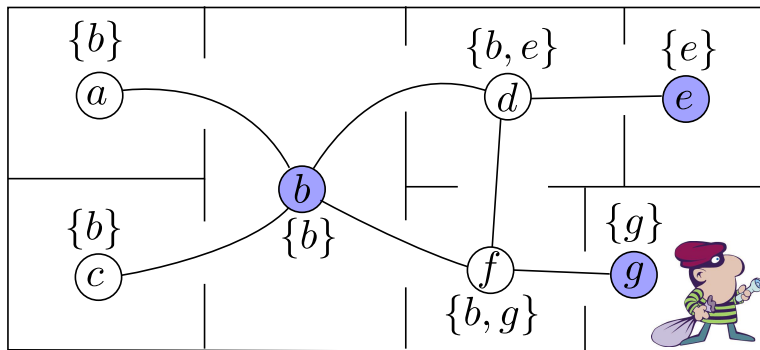


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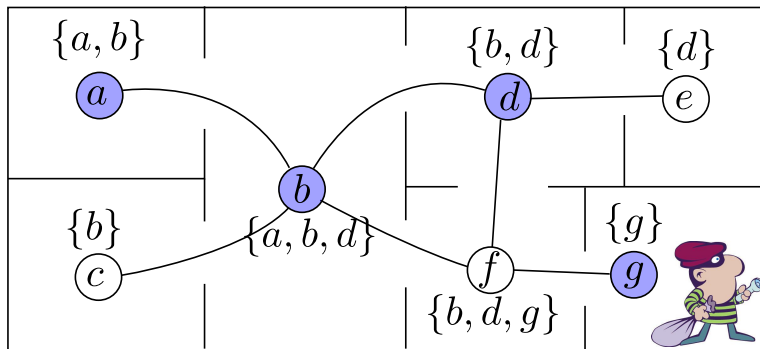
Detectors can detect movement in their room and adjacent rooms

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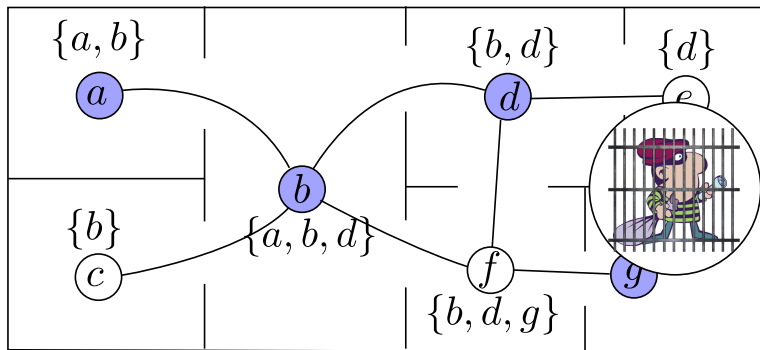
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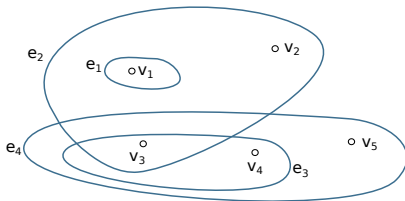
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**Definition** - Separating set (Rényi, 1961)



Hypergraph  $(X, \mathcal{E})$ . A **separating set** is a subset  $C \subseteq X$  such that each edge  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  contains a distinct subset of  $C$ .



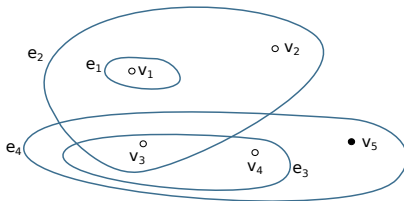
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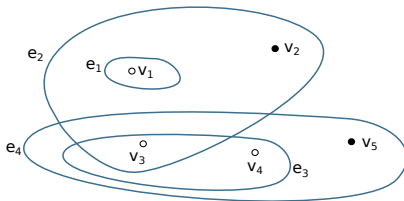
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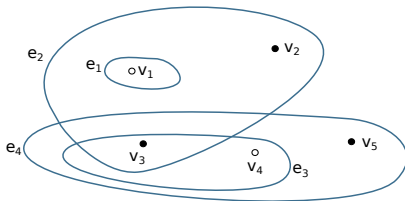
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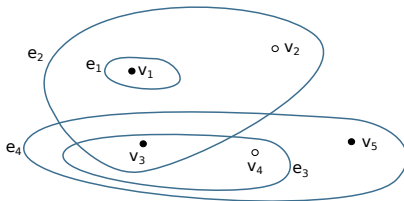
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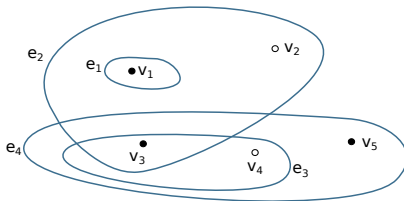
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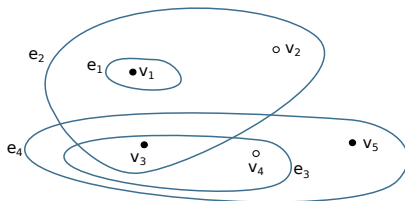
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*Equivalently:* for any pair  $e, f$  of edges, there is a vertex of  $C$  in **exactly** one of  $e, f$ .  
→ **hitting set** of the symmetric differences of all pairs of hyperedges

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Also known as **Separating system**, **Distinguishing set**, **Test cover**, **Distinguishing transversal**, **Discriminating code**...



- network-monitoring, fault detection (burglar)
- medical diagnostics: testing samples for diseases (*test cover*)
- biological identification (attributes of individuals)
- learning theory: teaching dimension
- machine learning: V-C dimension (Vapnik, Červonenkis, 1971)
- graph isomorphism: canonical representation of graphs (Babai, 1982)
- logic definability of graphs (Kim, Pikhurko, Spencer, Verbitsky, 2005)

### Proposition

For a hypergraph  $(X, \mathcal{E})$ , a separating set  $C$  has size at least  $\log_2(|\mathcal{E}|)$ .

**Proof:** Must assign to each edge, a distinct subset of  $C$ :  $|\mathcal{E}| \leq 2^{|C|}$ . □

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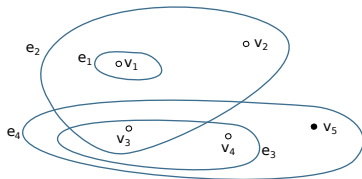
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Which are the “problematic” vertices?



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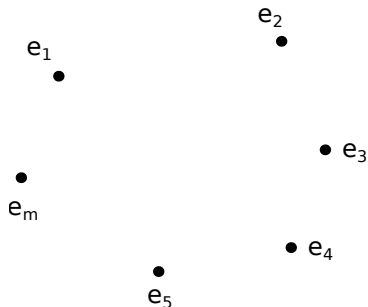
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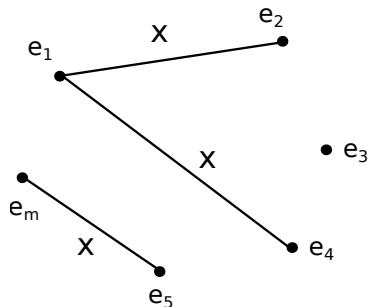
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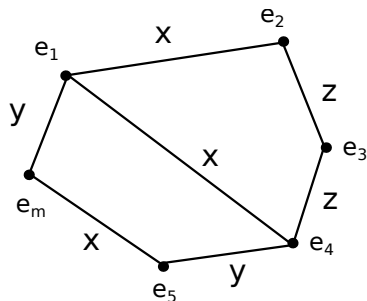
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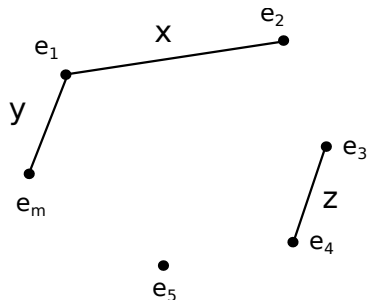
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This destroys all cycles in  $G$ !

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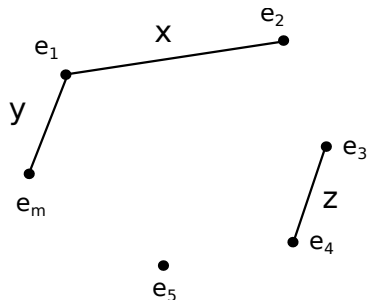
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So, there are at most  $|\mathcal{E}| - 1$  "problematic" vertices. → Find one "non-problematic vertex" and omit it. □

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  - **identifying codes**
  - open neighbourhood locating-dominating sets
  - path/cycle identifying covers
  - separating path systems

# Some example problems

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- Colouring-based identification:
  - Locally identifying colourings
  - Locating-colourings
  - Neighbour-locating colourings

# Identifying codes in graphs



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$G$ : undirected graph

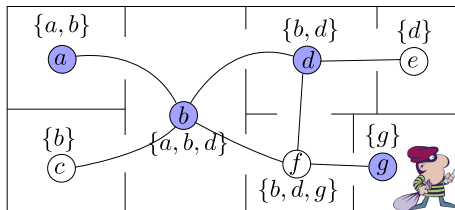
$N[u]$ : set of vertices  $v$  s.t.  $d(u, v) \leq 1$

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Subset  $C$  of  $V(G)$  such that:

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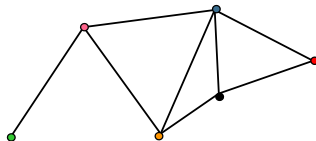
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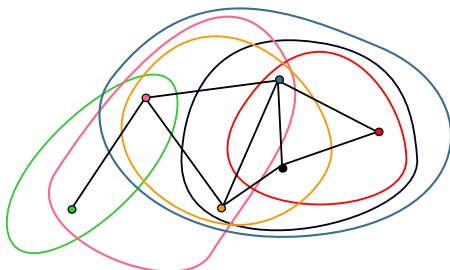
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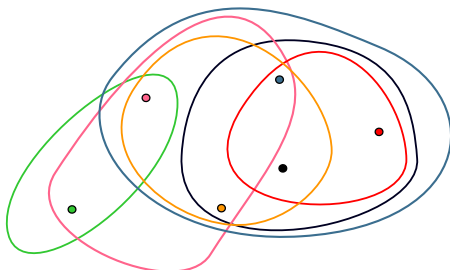
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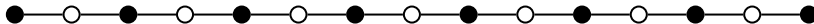
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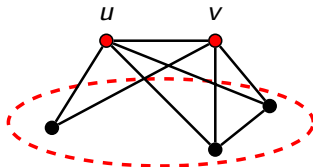
Identifying code number:  $ID(P_n) = \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$



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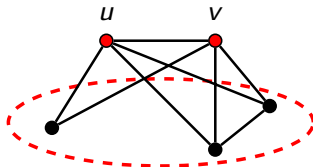
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## Proposition

A graph is **identifiable** if and only if it is **closed twin-free** (i.e. has no twins).



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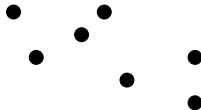
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$ID(G) = n \Leftrightarrow G$  has no edges



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$G$  identifiable,  $n$  vertices, some edges:  $\lceil \log_2(n+1) \rceil \leq ID(G) \leq n-1$

### Definition - Identifying code

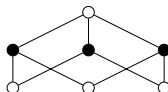
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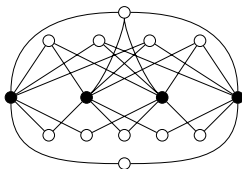
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## Definition - Identifying code

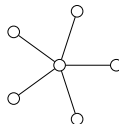
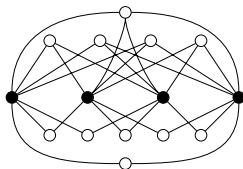
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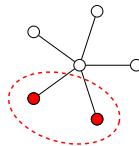
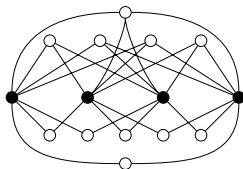
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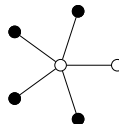
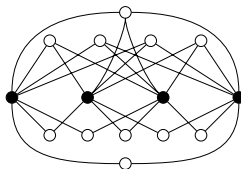
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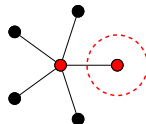
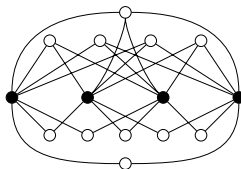
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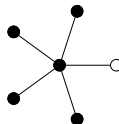
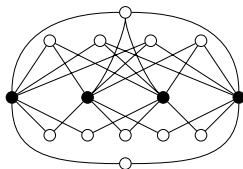
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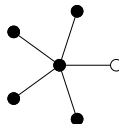
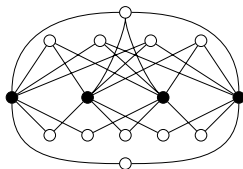
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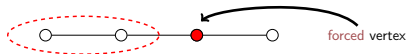
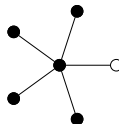
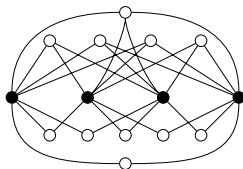
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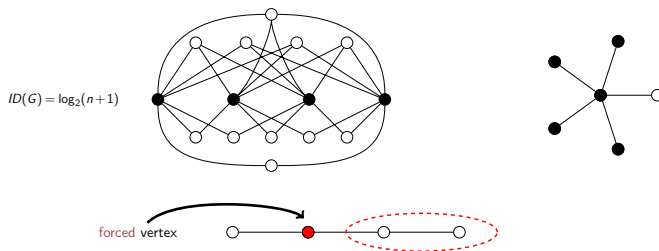
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# Further examples

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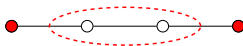
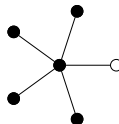
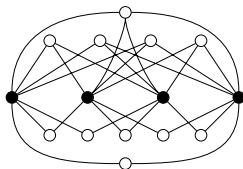
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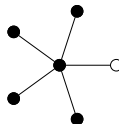
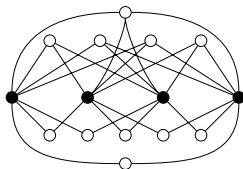
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**Theorem** (Bertrand, 2005 / Gravier, Moncel, 2007 / Skaggs, 2007)

$G$  identifiable graph on  $n$  vertices with at least one edge:

$$ID(G) \leq n - 1$$

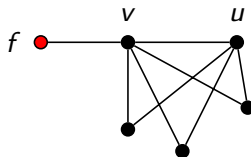
**Question**

What are the graphs  $G$  with  $n$  vertices and  $ID(G) = n - 1$  ?

$u, v$  such that  $N[v] \ominus N[u] = \{f\}$ :

$f$  belongs to **any** identifying code

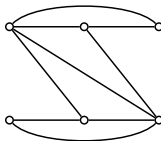
$\rightarrow f$  **forced** by  $u, v$ .



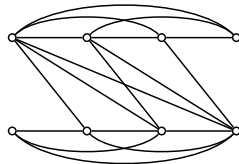
Special path powers:  $A_k = P_{2k}^{k-1}$  (also called complements of **half-graphs**)



$$A_2 = P_4$$



$$A_3 = P_6^2$$

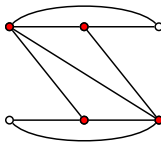


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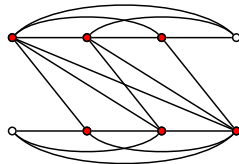
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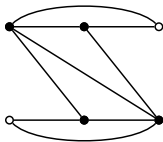


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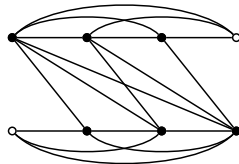
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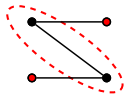


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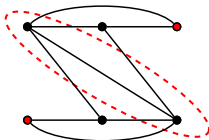


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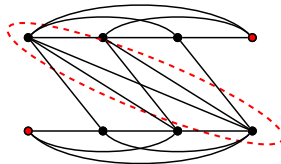
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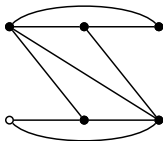


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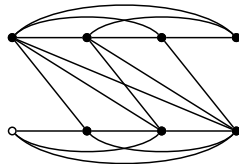
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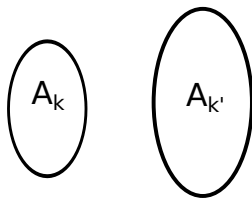
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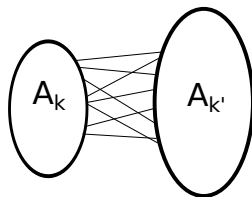
## Proposition

$$ID(A_k) = n - 1$$

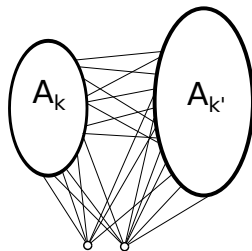


Two graphs  $A_k$  and  $A_{k'}$

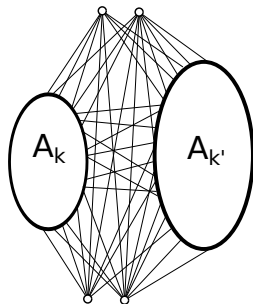




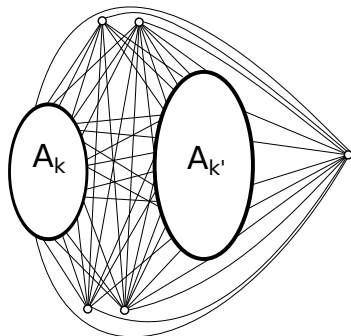
**Join:** add all edges between them



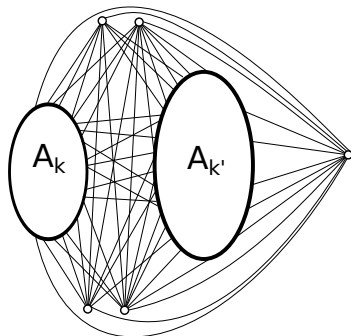
Join the new graph to two non-adjacent vertices ( $\overline{K_2}$ )



Join the new graph to two non-adjacent vertices, again



Finally, add a **universal vertex**



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## Proposition

At each step, the constructed graph has  $ID = n - 1$

- (1) stars
- (2)  $A_k = P_{2k}^{k-1}$
- (3) joins between 0 or more members of (2) and 0 or more copies of  $\overline{K_2}$
- (4) (2) or (3) with a universal vertex

**Theorem** (F., Guerrini, Kovše, Naserasr, Parreau, Valicov, 2011)

$G$  connected identifiable graph,  $n$  vertices:

$$ID(G) = n - 1 \Leftrightarrow G \in (1), (2), (3) \text{ or } (4)$$

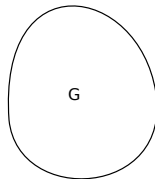
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- $G$ : minimum counterexample



# A characterization

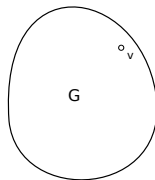
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# A characterization

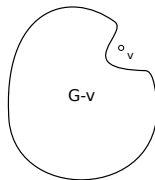
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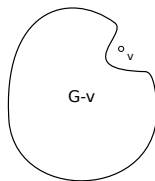
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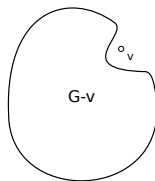
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- Put  $v$  back  $\Rightarrow$  **contradiction:**



no counterexample exists!

# Location-domination in graphs

**Definition** - Locating-dominating set (Slater, 1980's)



$D \subseteq V(G)$  locating-dominating set of  $G$ :

- for every  $u \in V$ ,  $N[v] \cap D \neq \emptyset$  (domination).
- $\forall u \neq v$  of  $V(G) \setminus D$ ,  $N(u) \cap D \neq N(v) \cap D$  (location).

**Notation.** location-domination number  $LD(G)$ ,  
smallest size of a locating-dominating set of  $G$

**Definition** - Locating-dominating set (Slater, 1980's)



$D \subseteq V(G)$  locating-dominating set of  $G$ :

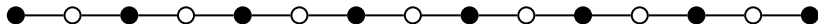
- for every  $u \in V$ ,  $N[u] \cap D \neq \emptyset$  (domination).
- $\forall u \neq v$  of  $V(G) \setminus D$ ,  $N(u) \cap D \neq N(v) \cap D$  (location).

**Notation.** location-domination number  $LD(G)$ ,  
smallest size of a locating-dominating set of  $G$

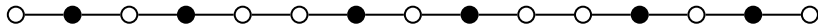
Domination number:  $DOM(P_n) = \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$



Identifying code number:  $ID(P_n) = \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$



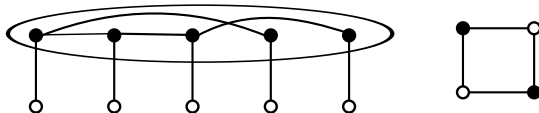
Location-domination number:  $LD(P_n) = \lceil \frac{2n}{5} \rceil$



**Theorem** (Domination bound, Ore, 1960's )

$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices. Then  $DOM(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

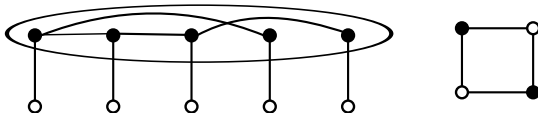
Tight examples:



**Theorem** (Domination bound, Ore, 1960's )

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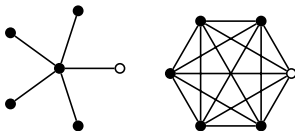
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**Theorem** (Location-domination bound, Slater, 1980's )

$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices. Then  $LD(G) \leq n - 1$ .

Tight examples:

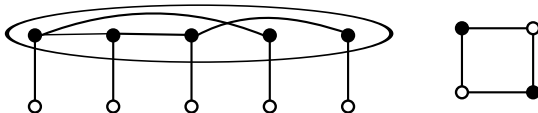




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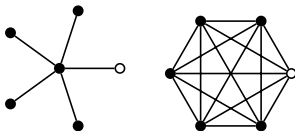
Tight examples:



**Theorem** (Location-domination bound, Slater, 1980's )

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Tight examples:



**Remark:** tight examples contain many twin-vertices!!

## Upper bound: a conjecture

**Theorem** (Domination bound, Ore, 1960's )

$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices. Then  $DOM(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

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$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices, no twins. Then  $LD(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

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### Remark:

- twins are easy to detect
- twins have a trivial behaviour w.r.t. location-domination

## Upper bound: a conjecture

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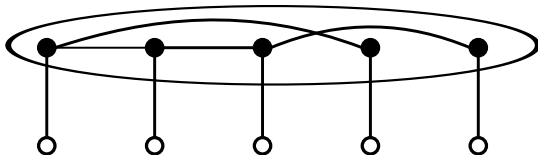
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If true, tight: 1. domination-extremal graphs



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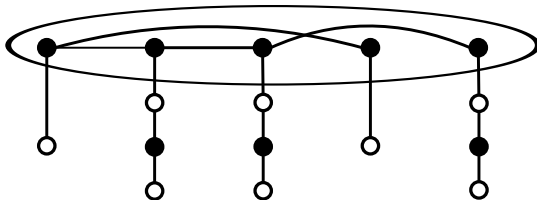
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If true, tight: 2. a similar construction



## Upper bound: a conjecture

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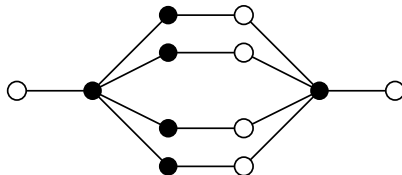
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If true, tight: 3. a family with domination number 2



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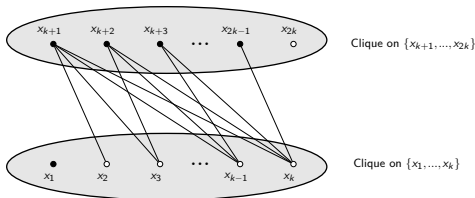
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If true, tight: 4. family with dom. number 2: complements of half-graphs





## Upper bound: a conjecture - special graph classes

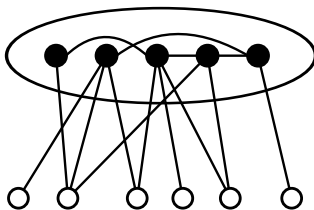
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$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices, no twins. Then  $LD(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

**Theorem** (Garijo, González & Márquez, 2014    )

Conjecture true if  $G$  has independence number  $\geq n/2$ .  
(in particular, if bipartite)

**Proof:** every vertex cover of a twin-free graph is a locating-dominating set



**Conjecture** (Garijo, González & Márquez, 2014 )

$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices, no twins. Then  $LD(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

$\alpha'(G)$ : matching number of  $G$

**Theorem** (Garijo, González & Márquez, 2014 )

If  $G$  has no 4-cycles, then  $LD(G) \leq \alpha'(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

**Conjecture** (Garijo, González & Márquez, 2014   )

$G$  graph of order  $n$ , no isolated vertices, no twins. Then  $LD(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

**Theorem** (F., Henning, 2016 )

Conjecture true if  $G$  is cubic.

# Upper bound: a conjecture - special graph classes

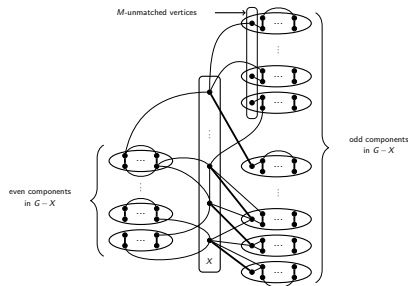
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**Theorem** (F., Henning, 2016 )

Conjecture true if  $G$  is cubic.

**Proof:** Involved argument using maximum matching and Tutte-Berge theorem.



# Upper bound: a conjecture - special graph classes

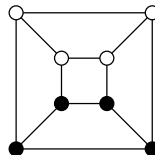
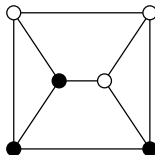
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Bound is tight:



**Question**

Do we have  $LD(G) = \frac{n}{2}$  for other cubic graphs?

**Conjecture** (Garijo, González & Márquez, 2014   )

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True for bipartite, split, co-bipartite, cubic, line...

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**Theorem** (F., Henning, Löwenstein, Sasse, 2016   )

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But the conjecture remains open in the general case!



# Lower bounds

### Proposition

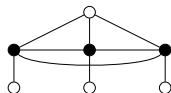
$G$  identifiable graph on  $n$  vertices:  $\lceil \log_2(n+1) \rceil \leq ID(G) \leq LD(G)$ .

## Proposition

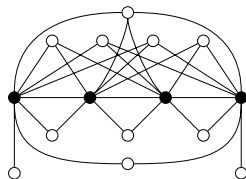
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Tight examples:

$$ID(G) = \log_2(n+1)$$



$$ID(G) = \log_2(n+1)$$



## Proposition

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**Theorem** (Rall & Slater, 1980's  )

$G$  planar graph, order  $n$ ,  $LD(G) = k$ . Then  $n \leq 7k - 10 \rightarrow LD(G) \geq \frac{n+10}{7}$ .

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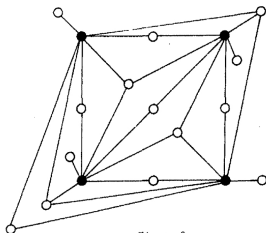
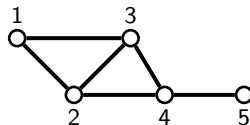
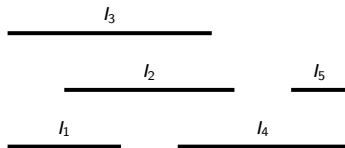


Figure 3.

Tight examples:

## Definition - Interval graph

Intersection graph of intervals of the real line.



**Theorem** (F., Mertzios, Naserasr, Parreau, Valicov, 2017)



$G$  interval graph of order  $n$ ,  $LD(G) = k$ .

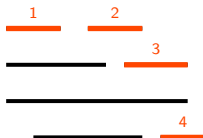
Then  $n \leq \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$ , i.e.  $LD(G) = \Omega(\sqrt{n})$ .

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- Identifying code  $D$  of size  $k$ .
- Define zones using the **right** points of intervals in  $D$ .

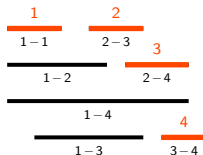


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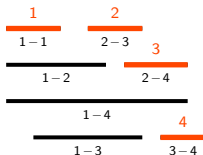
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$$\rightarrow n \leq \sum_{i=1}^k (k - i) = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}.$$

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Tight:

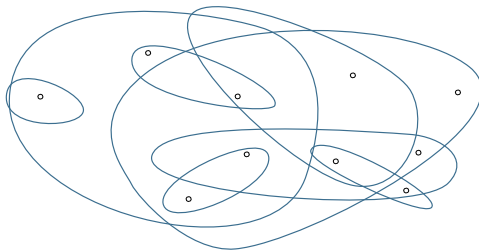




Measure of intersection complexity of sets in a hypergraph  $(X, \mathcal{E})$   
(initial motivation: machine learning, 1971)

A set  $S \subseteq X$  is **shattered**:

for every subset  $S' \subseteq S$ , there is an edge  $e$  with  $e \cap S = S'$ .



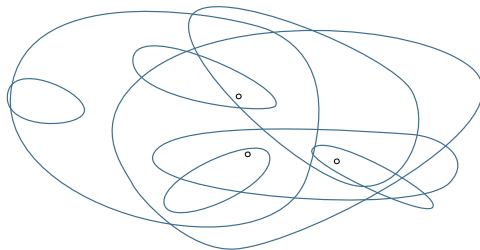
**V-C dimension of  $H$ :** maximum size of a shattered set in  $H$



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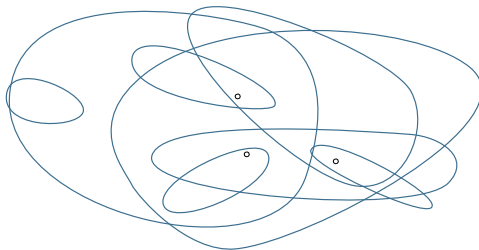
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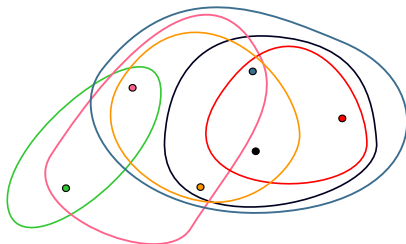
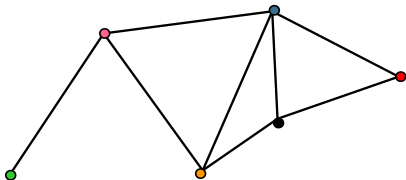


**V-C dimension of  $H$ :** maximum size of a shattered set in  $H$

Typically bounded for **geometric** hypergraphs:



V-C dimension of a **graph**: V-C dimension of its open/closed neighbourhood hypergraph



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Typically bounded for **geometric** intersection graphs:

→ interval graphs ( $d = 2$ ),  $C_4$ -free graphs ( $d = 2$ ), line graphs ( $d = 4$ ), permutation graphs ( $d = 3$ ), unit disk graphs ( $d = 3$ ), planar graphs ( $d = 4$ )...



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**Theorem** (Sauer-Shelah Lemma  )

Let  $H$  be a hypergraph of V-C dimension at most  $d$ . Then, any set  $S$  of vertices has at most  $|S|^d$  distinct traces.

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## Corollary

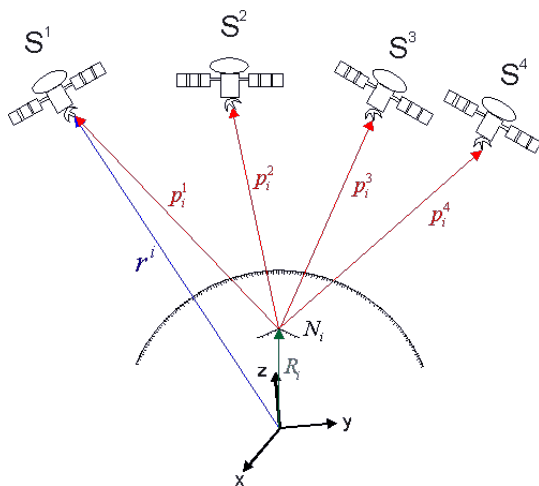
$G$  graph of order  $n$ ,  $LD(G) = k$ , V-C dimension  $\leq d$ . Then  $n = O(k^d)$ .

# Metric dimension

# Determination of Position in 3D euclidean space

GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/Beidou/IRNSS:

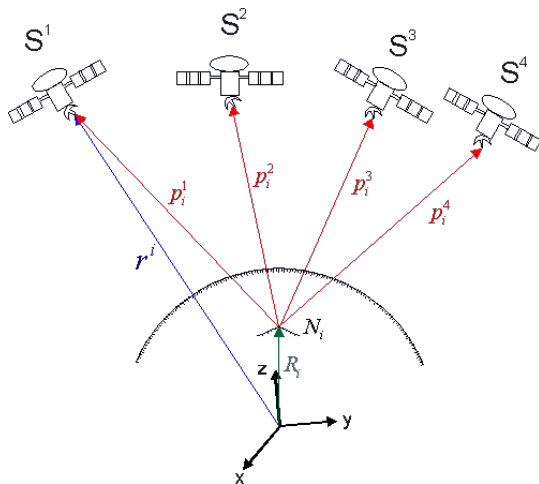
need to know the exact position of 4 satellites + distance to them



## Determination of Position in 3D euclidean space

GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/Beidou/IRNSS:

need to know the exact position of 4 satellites + distance to them



### Question

Does the “GPS” approach also work in undirected unweighted graphs?

Now,  $w \in V(G)$  distinguishes  $\{u, v\}$  if  $\text{dist}(w, u) \neq \text{dist}(w, v)$

**Definition** - Resolving set (Slater, 1975 - Harary & Melter, 1976)



$R \subseteq V(G)$  resolving set of  $G$ :

$\forall u \neq v$  in  $V(G)$ , there exists  $w \in R$  that distinguishes  $\{u, v\}$ .

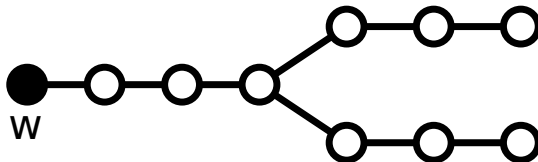
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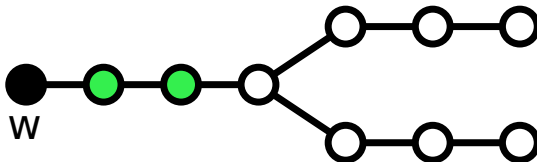
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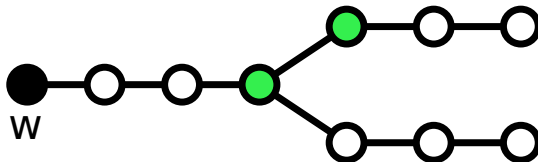
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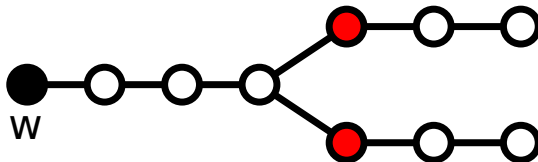
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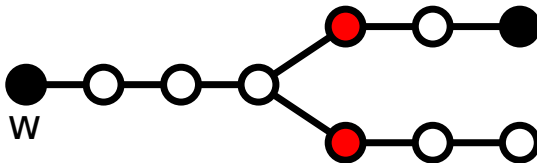
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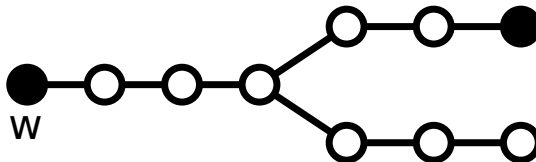
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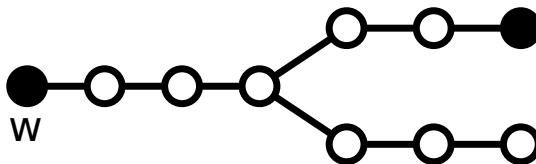
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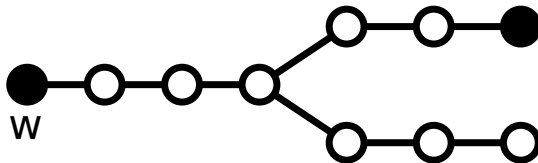
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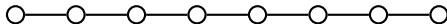
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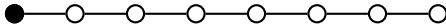


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### Remark

- Any locating-dominating set is a resolving set, hence  $MD(G) \leq LD(G)$ .
- A locating-dominating set can be seen as a “distance-1-resolving set”.









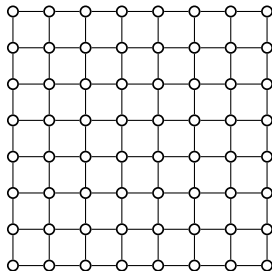
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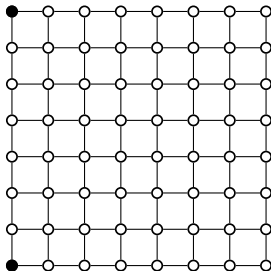
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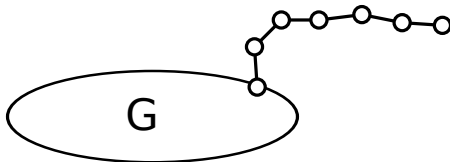
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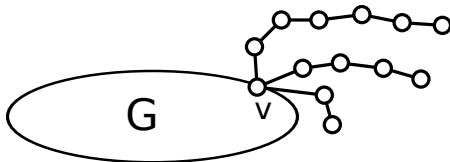
## Proposition

For any square grid  $G$ ,  $MD(G) = 2$ .

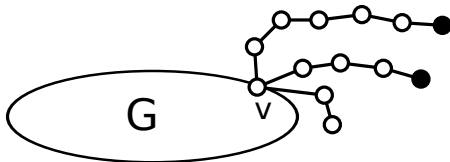
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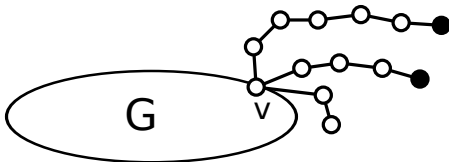


## Observation

$R$  resolving set. If  $v$  has  $k$  legs, at least  $k - 1$  legs contain a vertex of  $R$ .

Simple leg rule: if  $v$  has  $k \geq 2$  legs, select  $k - 1$  leg endpoints.

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## Theorem (Slater, 1975 )

For any tree, the simple leg rule produces an optimal resolving set.

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→ Proofs are similar as for identifying codes.

**Theorem** (Beaudou, Dankelmann, F., Henning, Mary, Parreau, 2018)

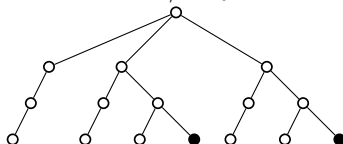


$T$  a tree with diameter  $D$  and  $MD(T) = k$ , then

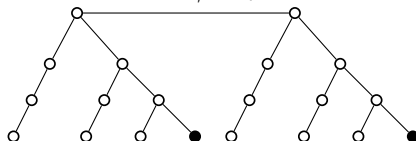
$$n \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{8}(kD+4)(D+2) & \text{if } D \text{ even,} \\ \frac{1}{8}(kD-k+8)(D+1) & \text{if } D \text{ odd.} \end{cases} = \Theta(kD^2)$$

Bounds are tight.

$k=2, D=6$



$k=2, D=7$



Using the concept of [distance-VC-dimension](#):

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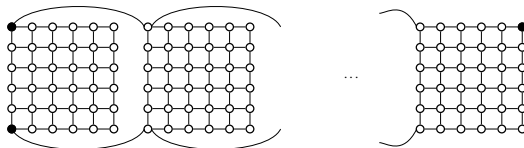
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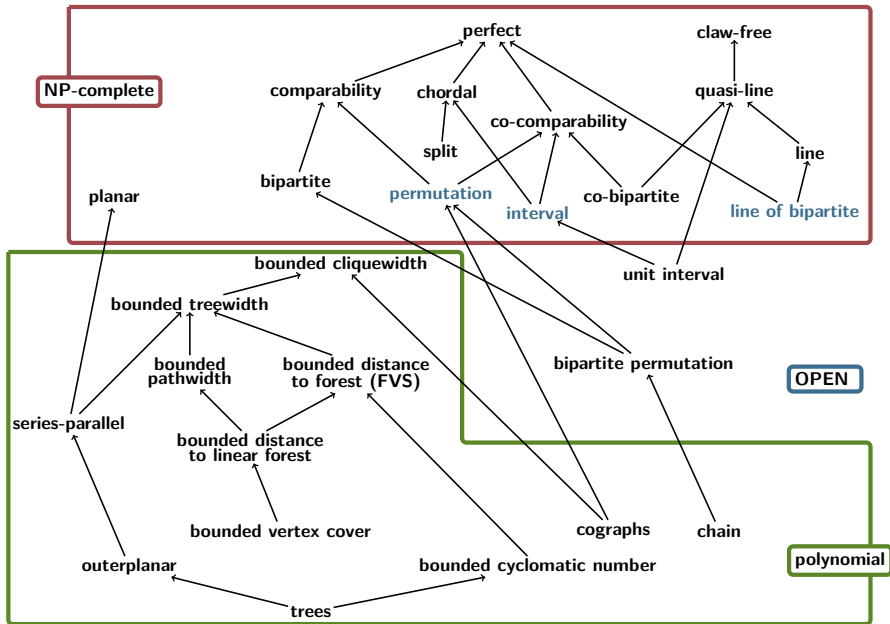
Tight? Example with  $k = 3$  and  $n = \Theta(D^3)$ :



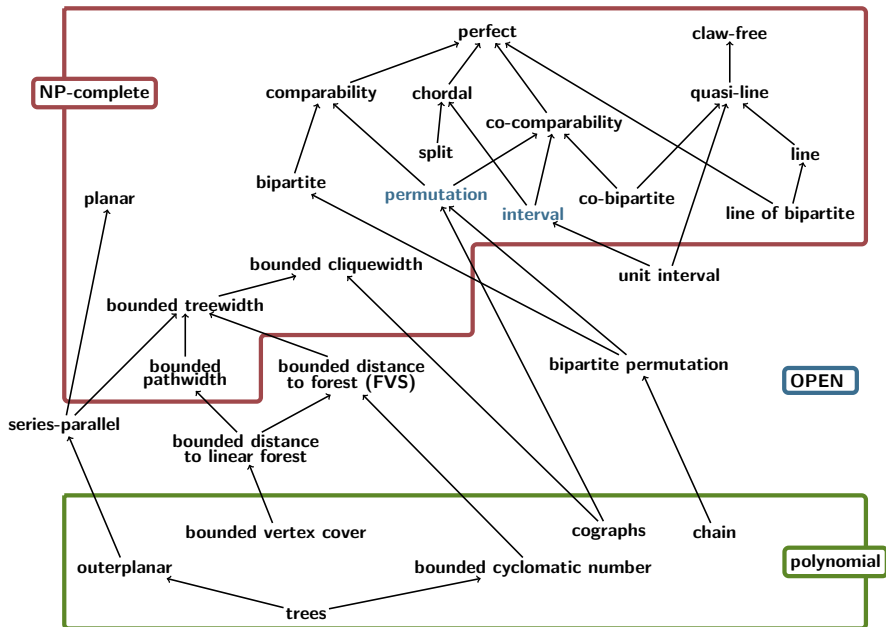
## **Two slides on complexity and algorithms**



# Complexity of IDENTIFYING CODE / LOCATING-DOMINATING SET



# Complexity of METRIC DIMENSION



Some of my favorite open problems:

- **Conjecture:**  $LD(G) \leq n/2$  in the absence of twins
- Find tight bounds for Metric Dimension in **planar graphs** of diameter  $D$   
(and other classes, e.g. graphs of bounded **twin-width**)
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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

