

# Graph Decompositions via Counting Logics

Sandra Kiefer



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
**FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS**

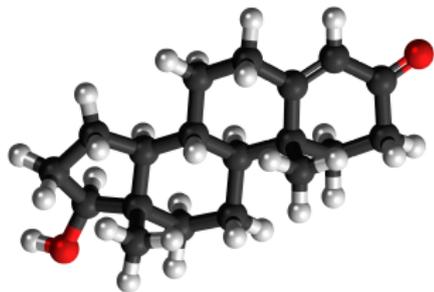
Structure Meets Power

Paris, France

July 4, 2022

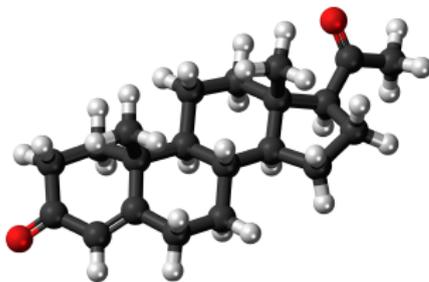
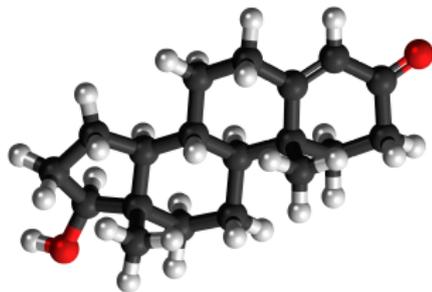
# STRUCTURE IDENTIFICATION

Find a description of **this molecule**.



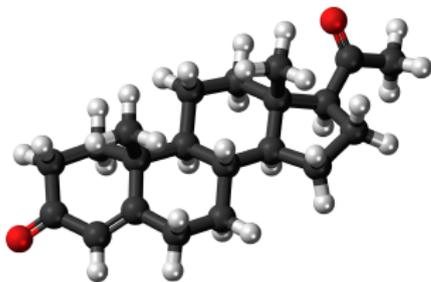
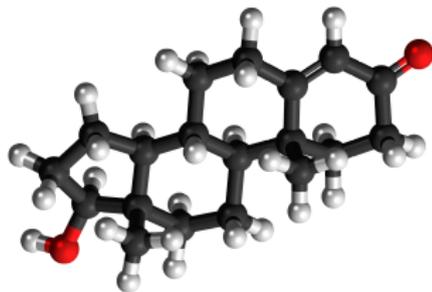
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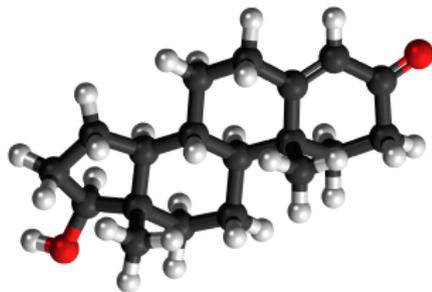
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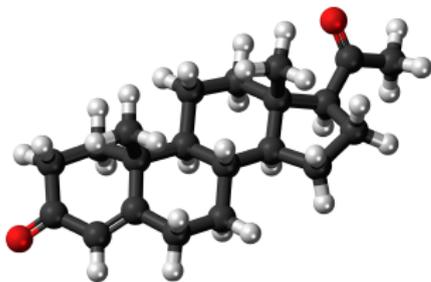
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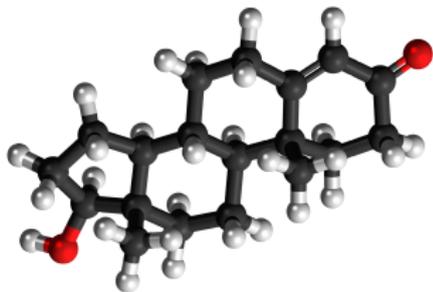
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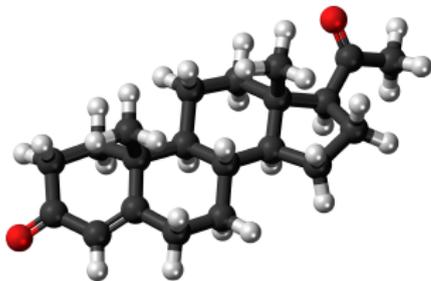
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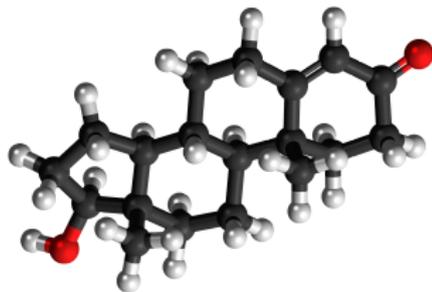
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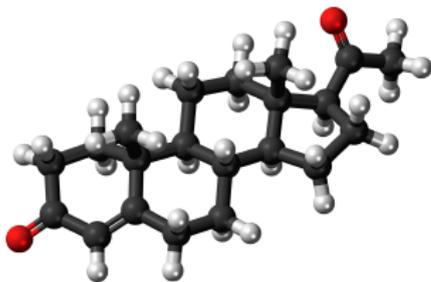
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$\neq$



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$$\exists x \exists y (\text{Red}(x) \wedge \text{White}(y) \wedge E(x, y))$$

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There is *1 vertex* with *exactly 2 neighbours* that *both* have *exactly 3 neighbours*.

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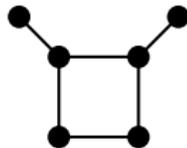
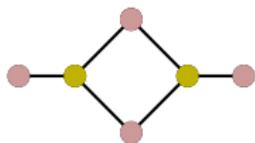
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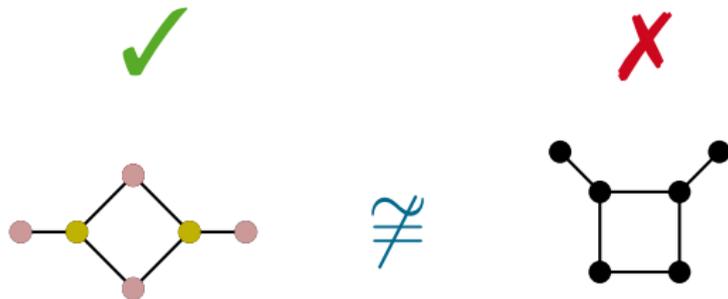
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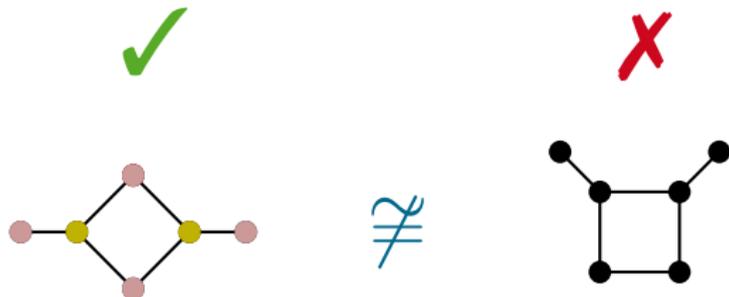
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2 variables, counting quantifiers, FO  $\rightsquigarrow$   $C^2$ -formula

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But how do we get from descriptions to actual algorithms?

# ALGORITHMIC LOGICS

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For graphs  $G, H$ , the following are equivalent.

- 1 The logic  $C^{k+1}$  distinguishes  $G$  and  $H$ .
- 2 The algorithm  $k$ -WL distinguishes  $G$  and  $H$ .

[Cai, Fürer, Immerman '92]

# COLOUR REFINEMENT

Oldest (?) reference: *The generation of a unique machine description for chemical structures*

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## 1-WL

- *Initialisation*: All vertices have their initial colours.
- *Refinement*: Recolour vertices depending on colours in their neighbourhoods.
- *Stop* when colouring is stable.

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## 1-WL

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- *Stop* when colouring is stable.

The induced partition respects orbits, so if two graphs result in different colourings, then they are non-isomorphic.

1-WL has an  $O((m + n) \log n)$ -implementation.

[Cardon & Crochemore '82]

# COLOUR REFINEMENT

## 1-WL

- *Refinement:*  $v$  and  $w$  obtain different colours  $\iff$  there is a colour  $c$  such that  $v$  and  $w$  have different numbers of  $c$ -coloured neighbours

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## Fact

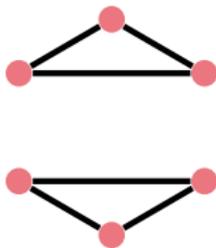
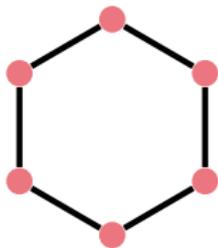
On paths of length  $n$ , 1-WL terminates after at most  $\frac{n}{2}$  iterations.

## REGULAR GRAPHS

If two graphs result in different colourings, then the graphs are non-isomorphic.

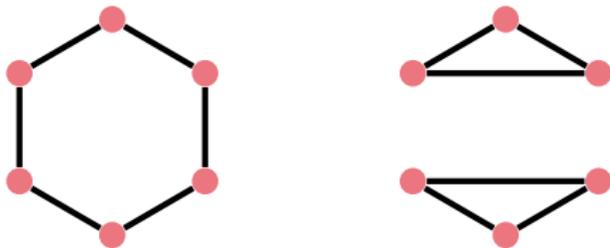
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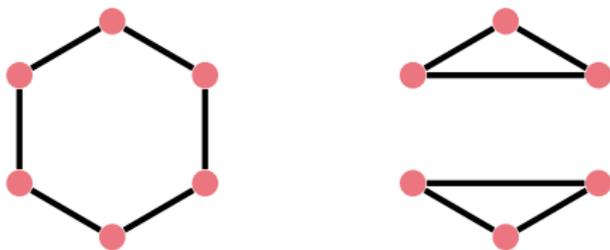


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On every regular graph, 1-WL terminates after one iteration.

1-WL does not distinguish  $d$ -regular graphs of equal order.

# THE WL-ALGORITHM

The more powerful  $k$ -WL iteratively computes a colouring of  $V^k$ .

It can be implemented to run in time  $O(n^{k+1} \log n)$ .

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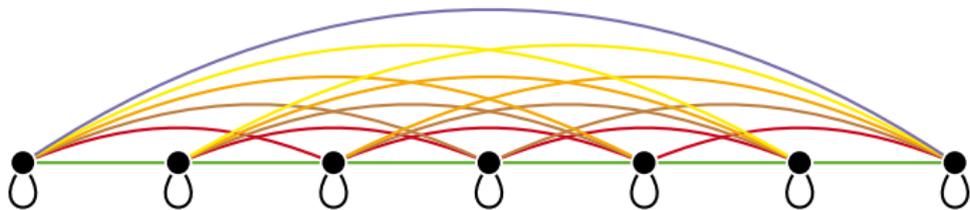
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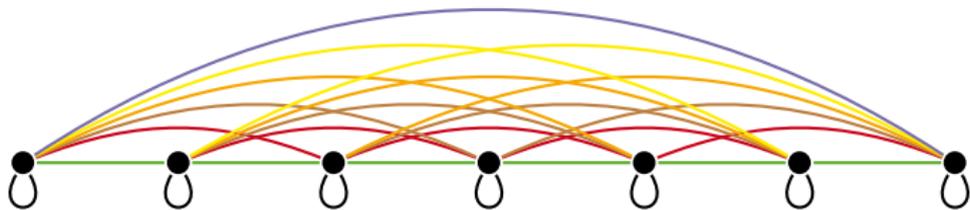
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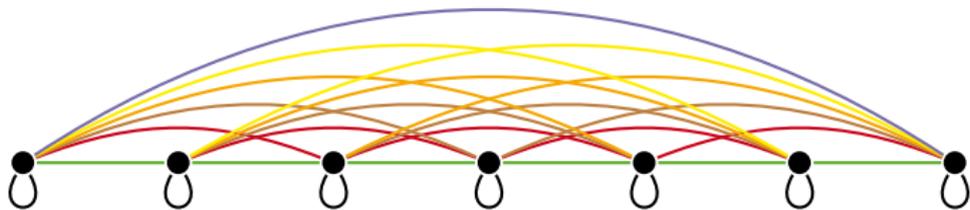
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## Facts

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2-WL does not distinguish strongly regular graphs with equal parameters.

## APPLICATIONS

Via the WL-algorithm, the logic **C** has connections to many areas:

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$$[[\tilde{A}]] = [[\tilde{A}]] = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 & 1 \\ 12 & 4 & \infty \end{pmatrix}$$

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Via the WL-algorithm, the logic  $\mathcal{C}$  has connections to many areas:

- Practical graph-isomorphism tests
- Linear programming
- Graph kernels

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- Graph neural networks
- Propositional proof complexity

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- Propositional proof complexity
- Homomorphism counting

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 3 & -2 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 3 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & -2 & 3 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & -1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \infty \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[[\tilde{A}]] = [[[\tilde{A}]]] = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 & 1 \\ 12 & 4 & \infty \end{pmatrix}$$

# APPLICATIONS

Via the WL-algorithm, the logic  $\mathcal{C}$  has connections to many areas:

- Practical graph-isomorphism tests
- Linear programming
- Graph kernels
- Graph neural networks
- Propositional proof complexity
- Homomorphism counting
- ...

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 3 & -2 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 3 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & -2 & 3 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & -1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \infty \end{pmatrix}$$

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Image source: [Grohe et al. '14]

# ALGORITHMIC LOGICS

For graphs  $G, H$ , the following are equivalent.

- ① The logic  $C^{k+1}$  distinguishes  $G$  and  $H$ .
- ② The algorithm  $k$ -WL distinguishes  $G$  and  $H$ .

[Cai, Fürer, Immerman '92]

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For graphs  $G, H$ , the following are equivalent.

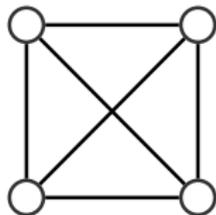
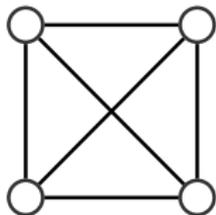
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- ③ Spoiler wins the  $(k + 1)$ -pebble game on  $G$  and  $H$ .

[Cai, Fürer, Immerman '92]

# PEBBLE GAME FOR $C^k$

**Spoiler** and **Duplicator** dispose of  $k$  pairs of pebbles.

1

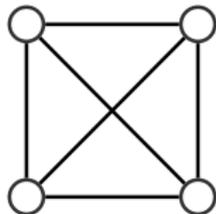
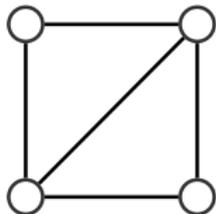


2

$G$

$H$

3



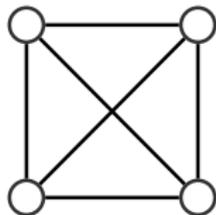
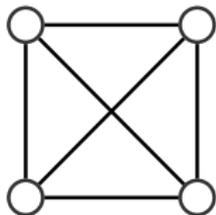
4

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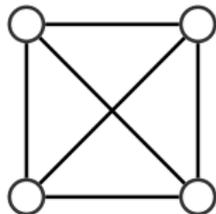
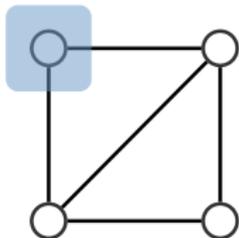
Spoiler takes a pebble and selects a vertex set  $S$  in  $G$  or  $H$ .



2

$G$

$H$



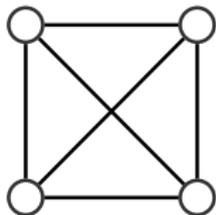
3

4

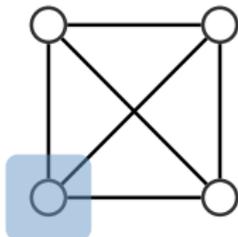
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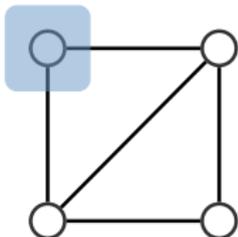
$G$



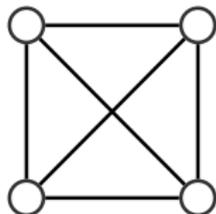
$H$

2

Duplicator takes the other pebble and selects a set  $S'$  of equal size in the other graph.



3

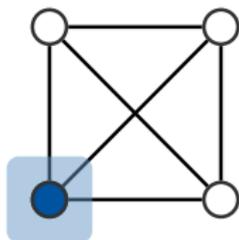
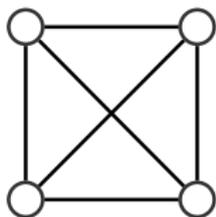


4

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1



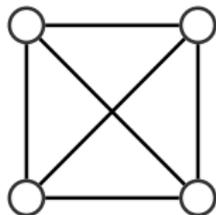
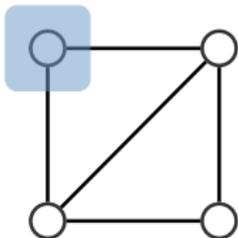
2

$G$

$H$

3

Spoiler places his pebble on a vertex in  $S'$ .

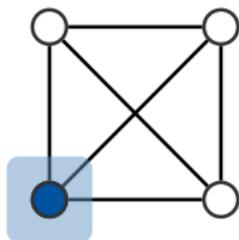
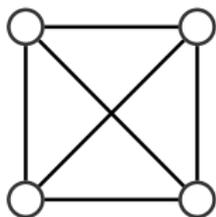


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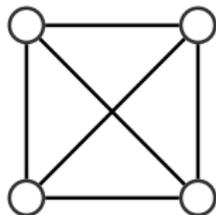
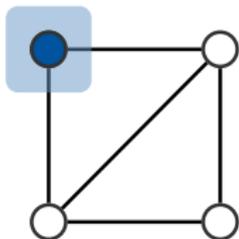


2

$G$

$H$

3

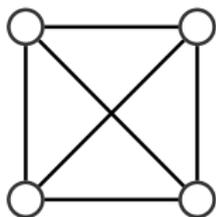


4

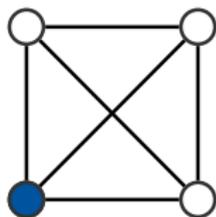
Duplicator places her pebble on a vertex in  $S$ .

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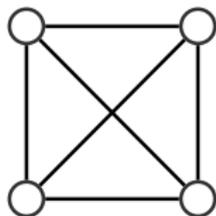
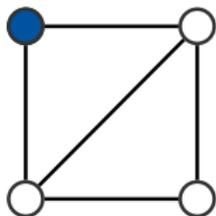
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$G$



$H$



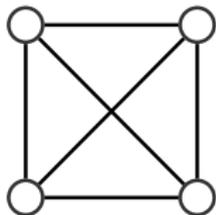
Are the pebbled subgraphs isomorphic? ✓

# PEBBLE GAME FOR $C^k$

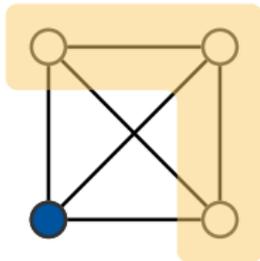
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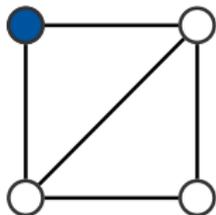


$G$

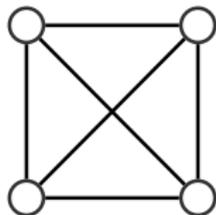


$H$

2



3

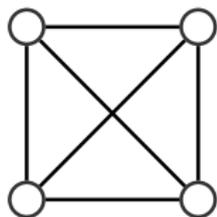


4

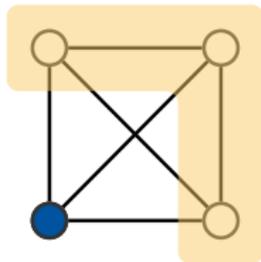
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1



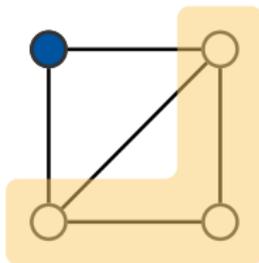
$G$



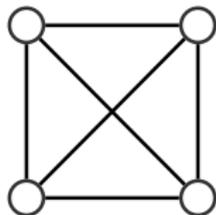
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Duplicator takes the other pebble and selects a set  $S'$  of equal size in the other graph.



3

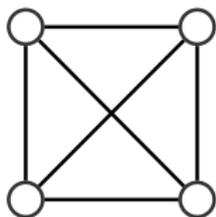


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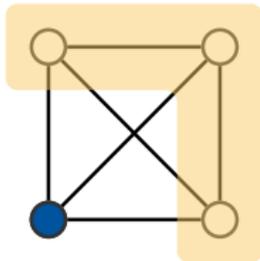
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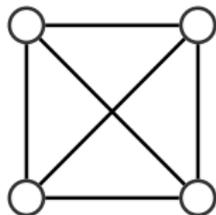
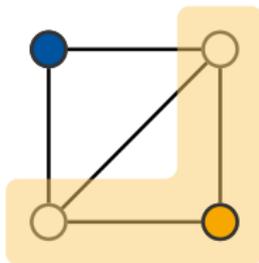


$H$

2

3

Spoiler places his pebble on a vertex in  $S'$ .

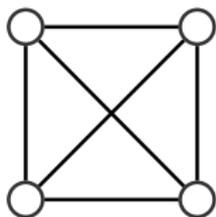


4

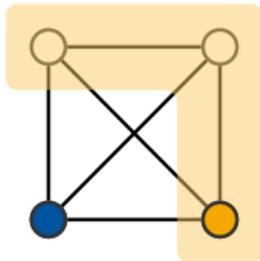
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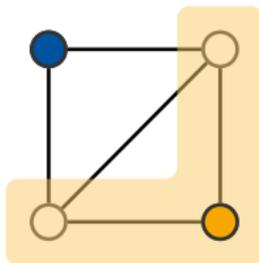


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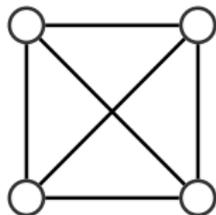


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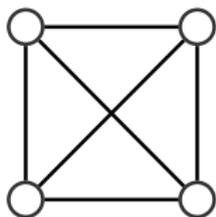
3



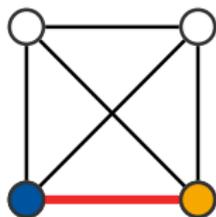
4

Duplicator places her pebble on a vertex in  $S$ .

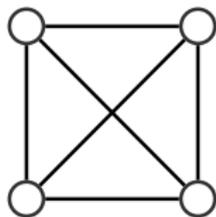
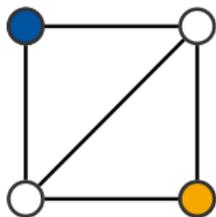
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$G$

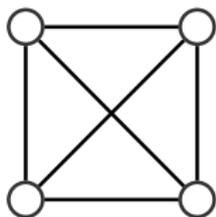


$H$

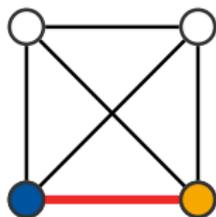


Are the pebbled subgraphs isomorphic? **X**

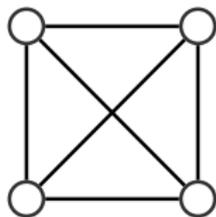
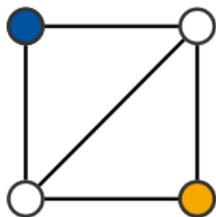
# PEBBLE GAME FOR $C^k$



$G$



$H$



Are the pebbled subgraphs isomorphic? **X**  
Thus, Spoiler wins.

# ALGORITHMIC LOGICS

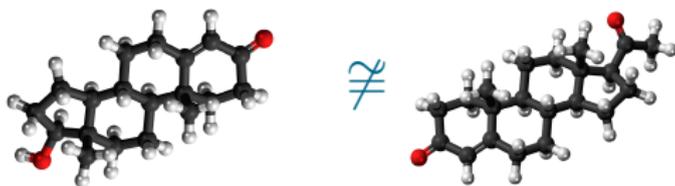
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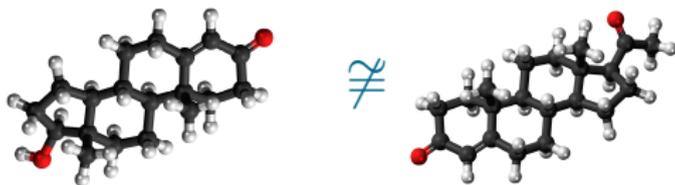
[Cai, Fürer, Immerman '92]

Nesting depth  $\equiv$  Number of iterations  $\equiv$  Rounds in game

# IDENTIFICATION

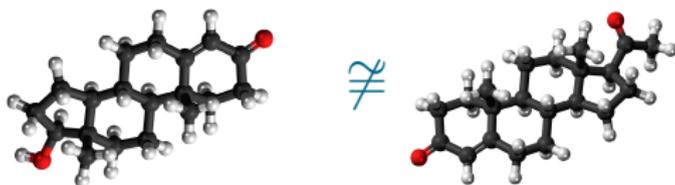


# IDENTIFICATION



$$\exists x \exists y (\text{Red}(x) \wedge \text{White}(y) \wedge E(x, y))$$

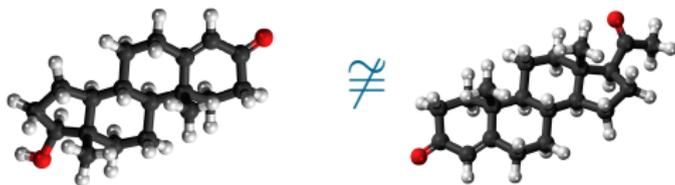
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Graphs that are not distinguished by  $C^k$  are  $C^k$ -*equivalent*.

# IDENTIFICATION

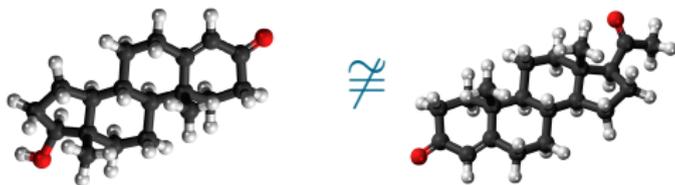


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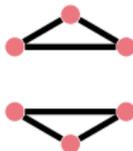
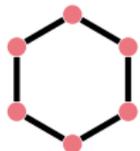
$G$  is *identified* by  $C^k$  : $\iff$  Every  $C^k$ -equivalent graph is isomorphic to  $G$ .

$C^2$  identifies almost all graphs.

[Babai, Erdős, Selkow '80]

But it fails on very simple graphs!

( $C^2 \equiv 1$ -WL)



# IDENTIFICATION

Theorem (K., Schweitzer, Selman 2015)

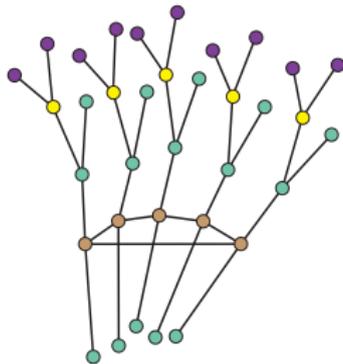
*1-WL identifies  $G$ .  $\iff$  The flip of  $G$  is a bouquet forest.*

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**Bouquet:** copies  $(T_1, v_1), \dots, (T_5, v_5)$  of a vertex-coloured tree  $(T, v)$ , connected via a 5-cycle on  $v_1, \dots, v_5$



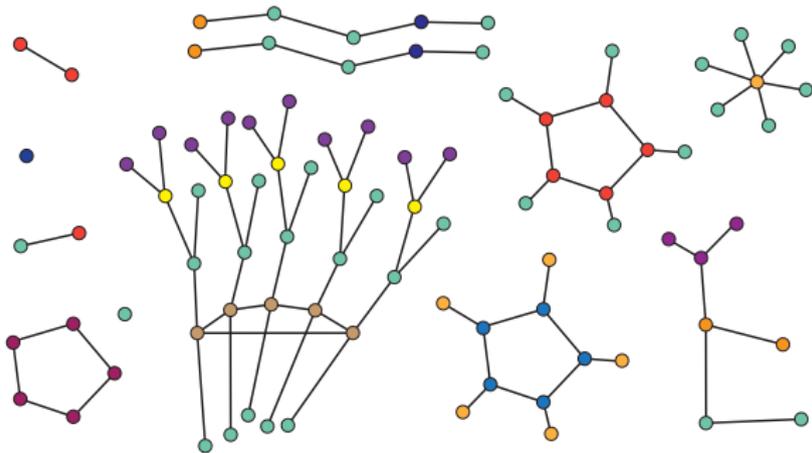
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**Bouquet forest:** disjoint union of vertex-coloured trees and **non-isomorphic bouquets**



# WL-DIMENSION

1-WL has an  $O((m + n) \log n)$ -implementation.

[Cardon & Crochemore '82]

$k$ -WL can be implemented to run in time  $O(n^{k+1} \log n)$ .

[Immerman, Lander '90]

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**How powerful is  $k$ -WL for fixed  $k \geq 2$ ?**

There is no  $k$  such that  $k$ -WL distinguishes every pair of non-isomorphic graphs.

[Cai, Fürer, Immerman '92]

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Graph class	WL-dimension	
	lower bound	upper bound
Trees	1	1
Interval graphs	2	2 [Evdokimov, Ponomarenko, Tinhofer '00]
Excluded minor $H$	$\Omega( V(H) )$	$f(H)$ [Grohe '10]
Planar graphs	2	<del>14</del> 3 [K., Ponomarenko, Schweitzer '17]
Treewidth $k$	<del><math>\Omega(k)</math></del> $\frac{k}{2} - 2$	<del><math>k + 2</math></del> $k$ [K., Neuen '19]
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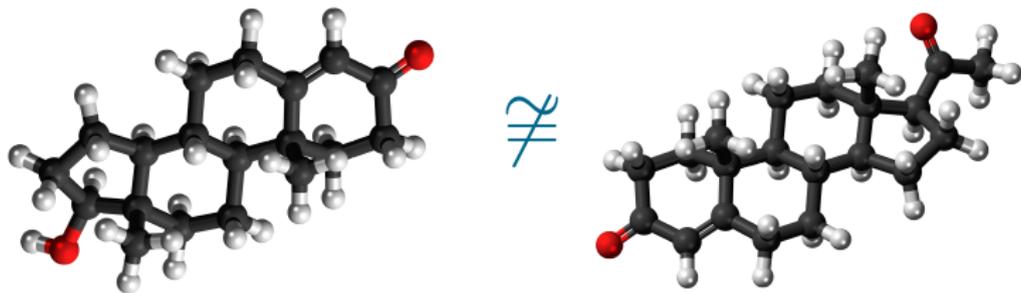
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$G$  is *planar*  $:\Leftrightarrow G$  can be embedded in the plane without any edge crossings.

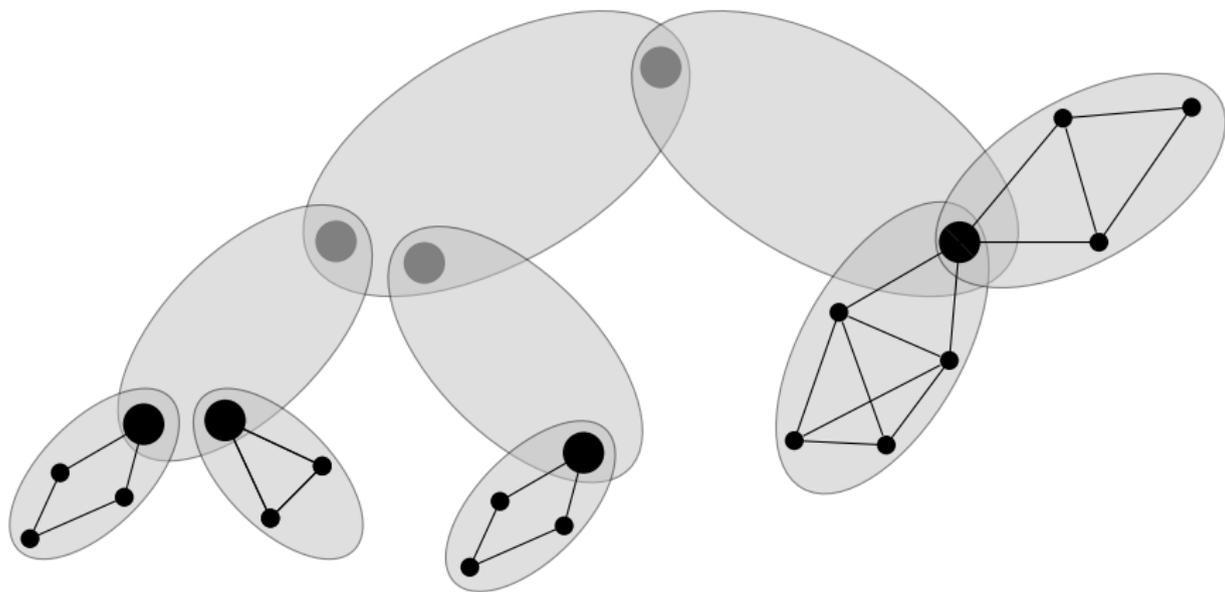


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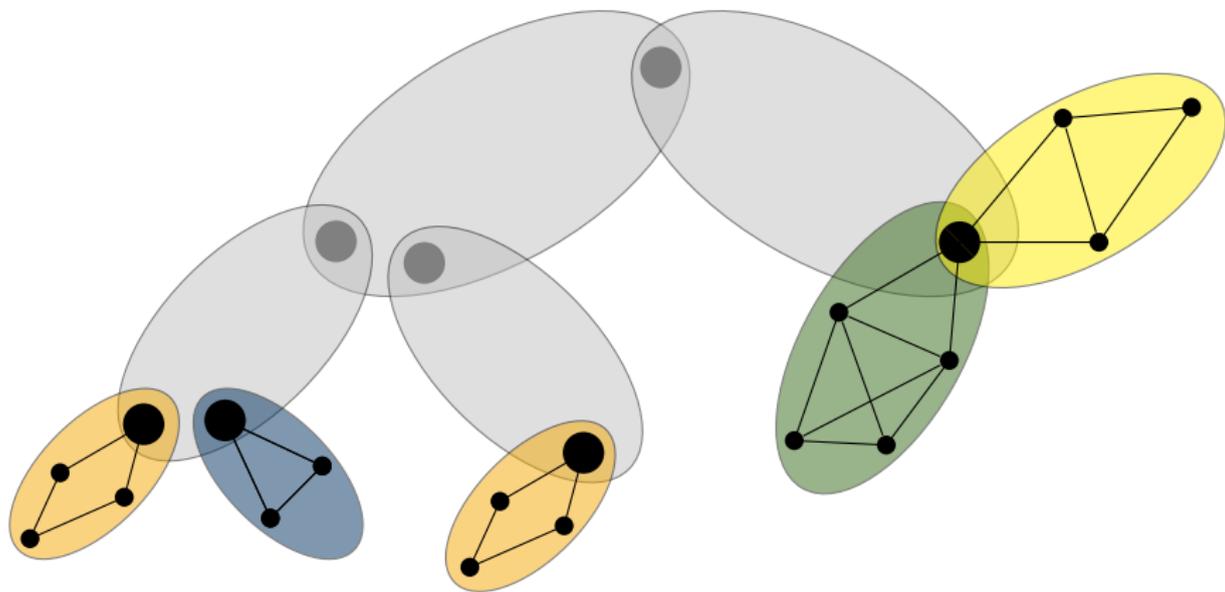


# DECOMPOSITIONS



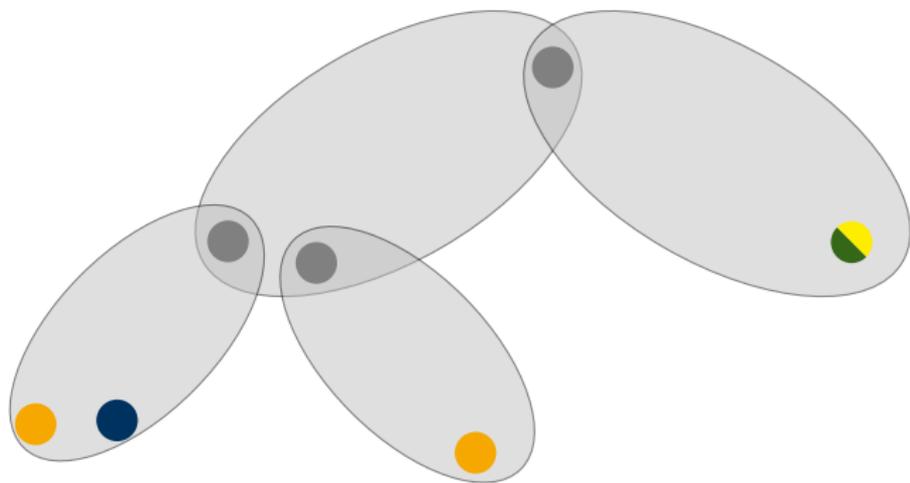
A decomposition of a connected graph into  
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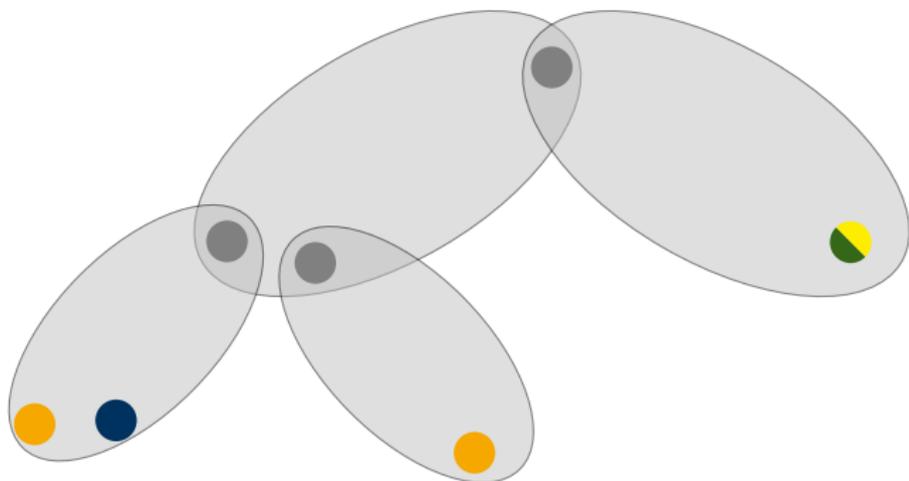


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# DECOMPOSITIONS



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Reduction scheme:

- 1 planar  $\leq$  vertex-coloured 2-connected planar
- 2 vertex-col. 2-conn. planar  $\leq$  arc-col. 3-conn. planar
- 3 arc-coloured 3-connected planar case

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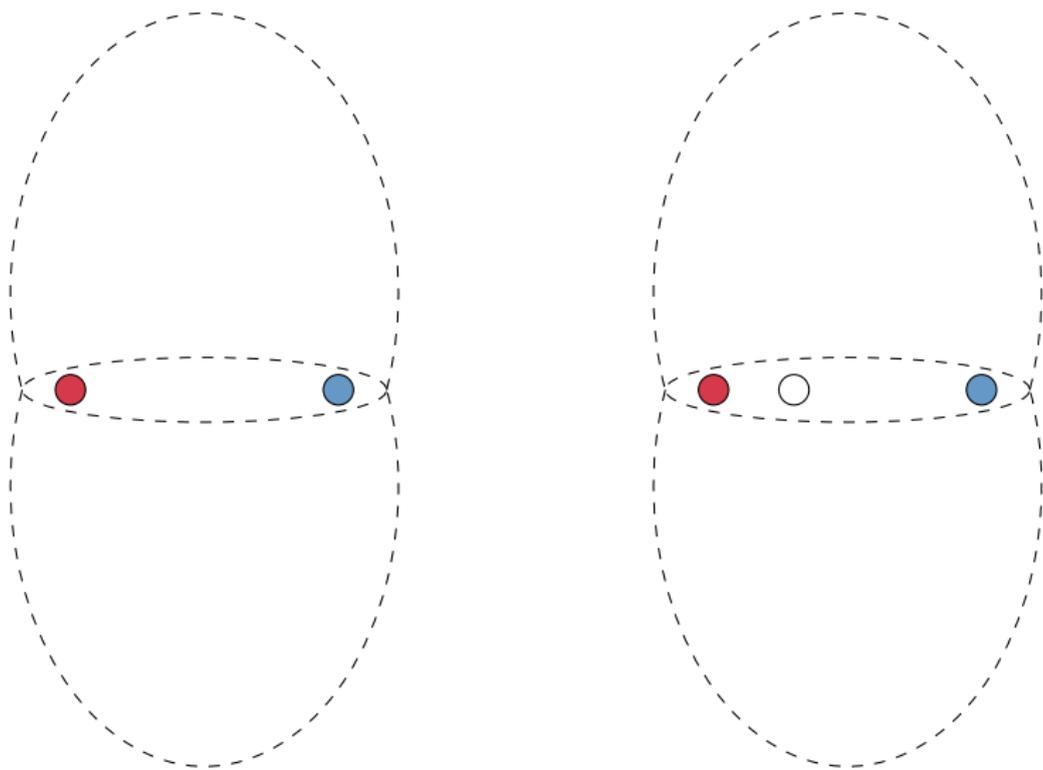
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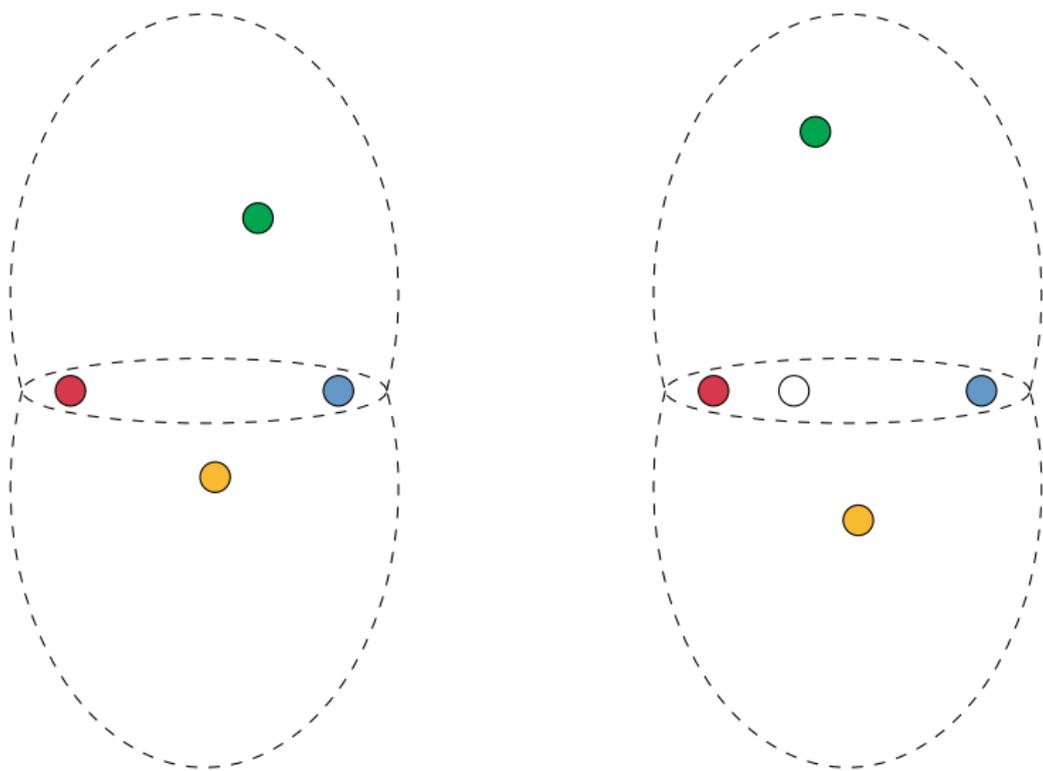
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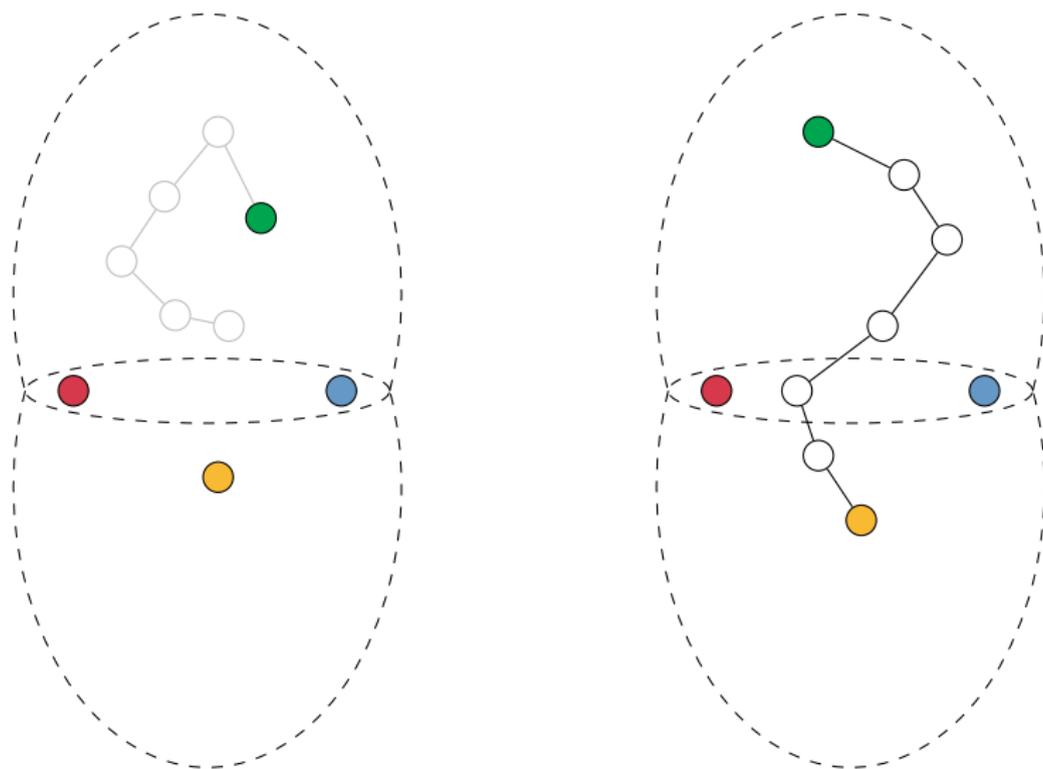
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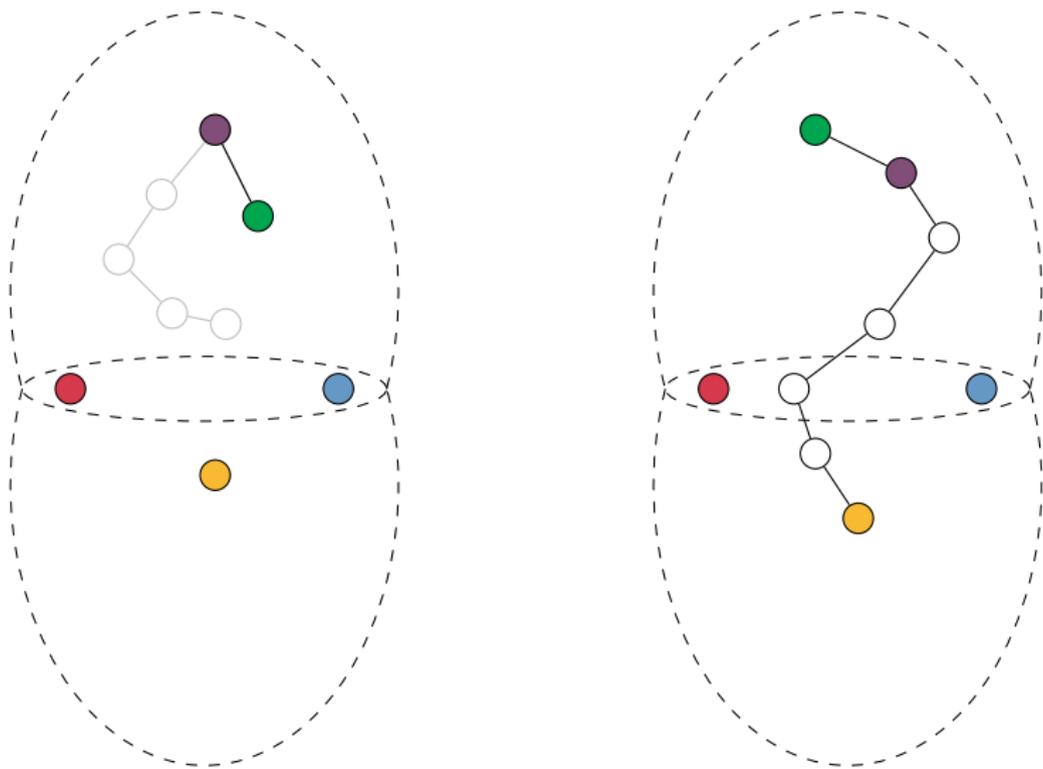
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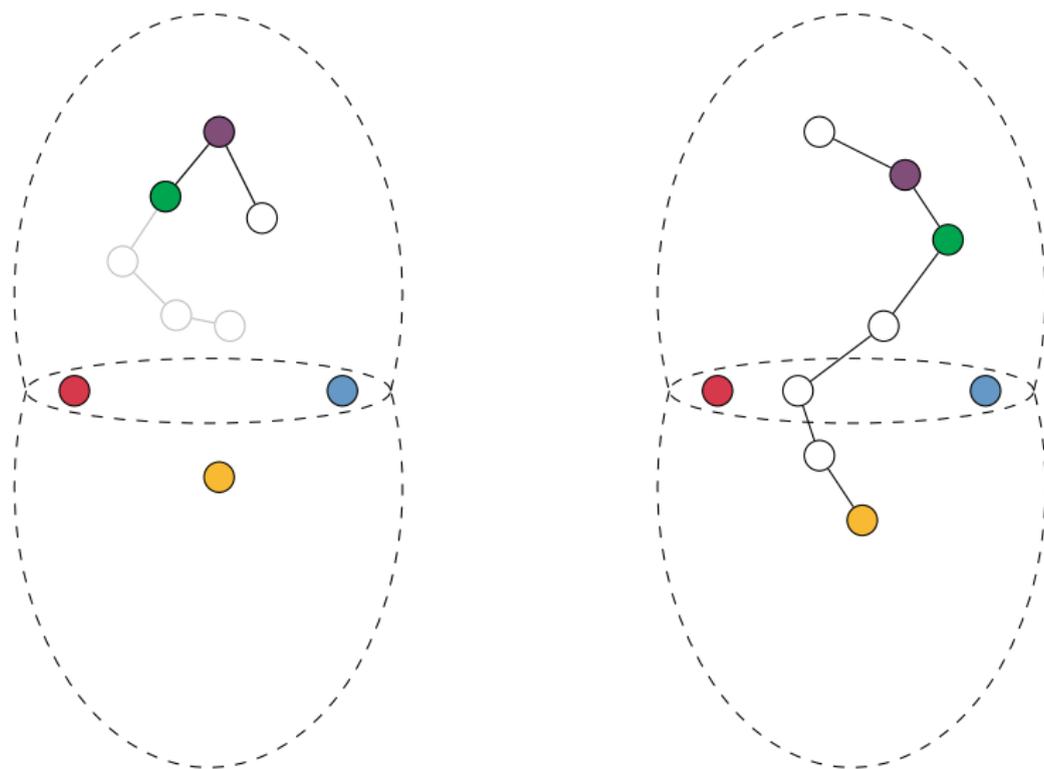
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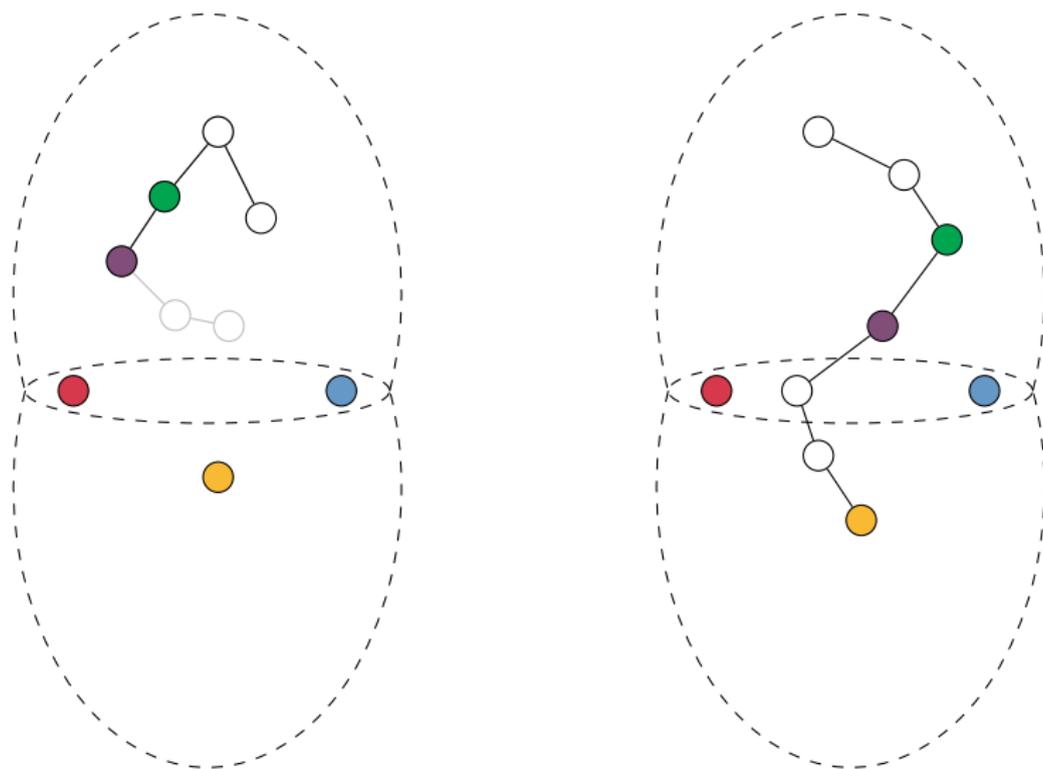
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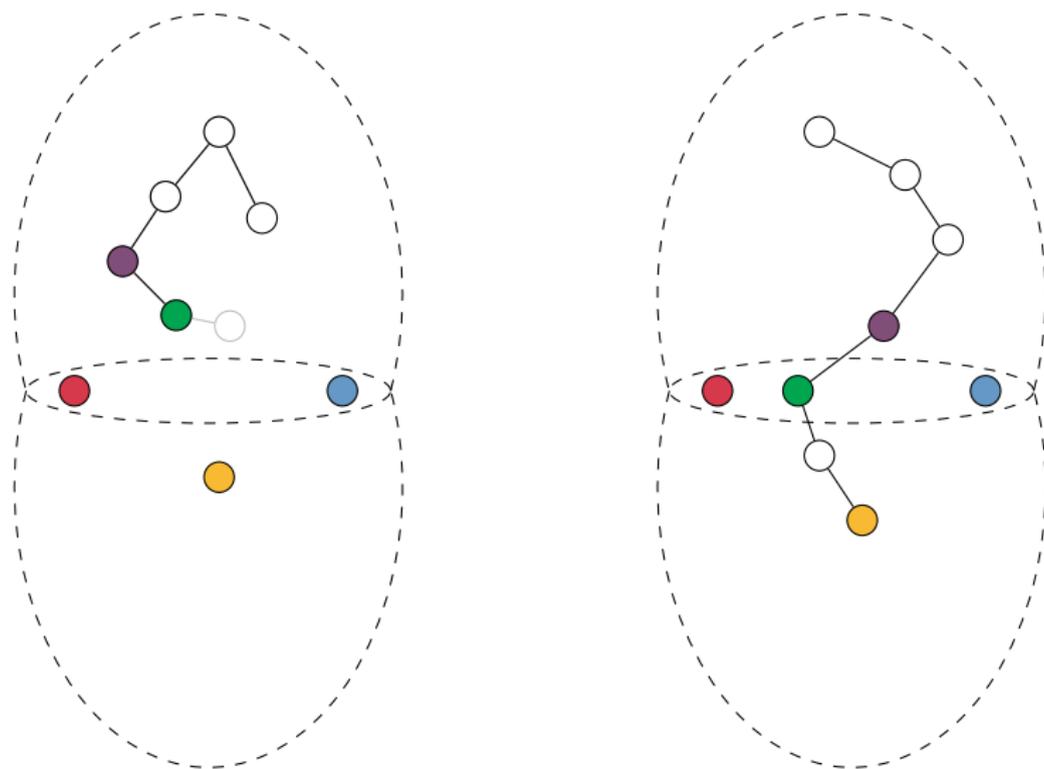
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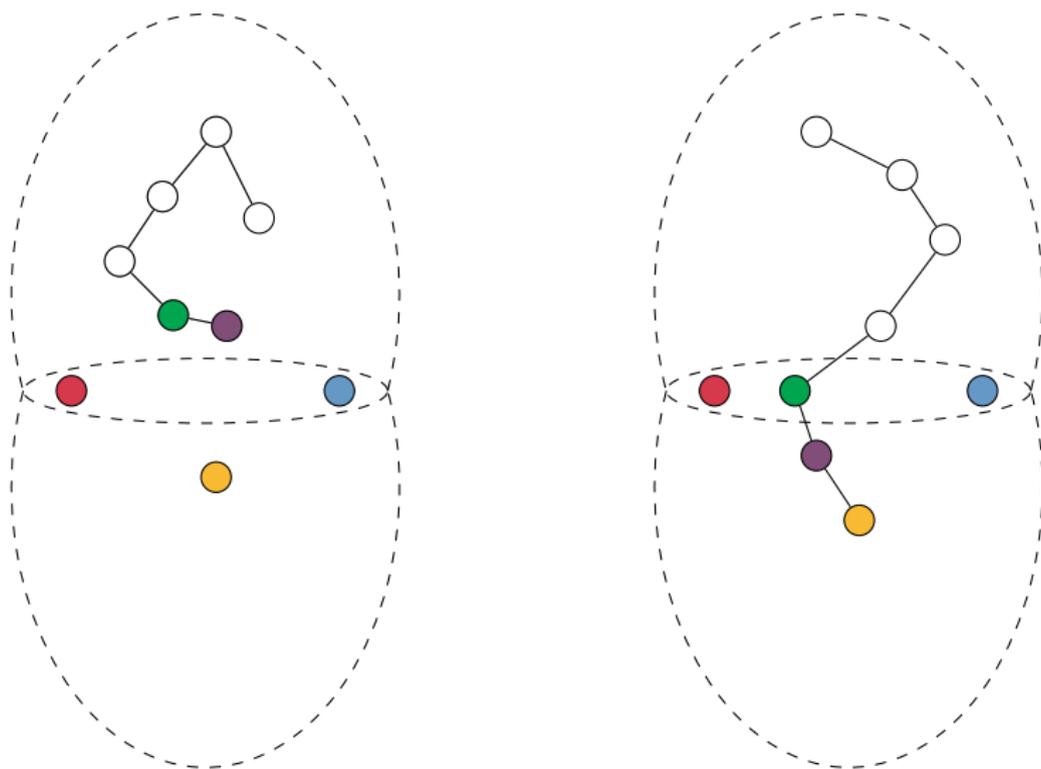
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Spoiler wins.

## DETECTING SEPARATORS

Thus, 2-separators can be detected with **5 pebbles**. (4-WL)

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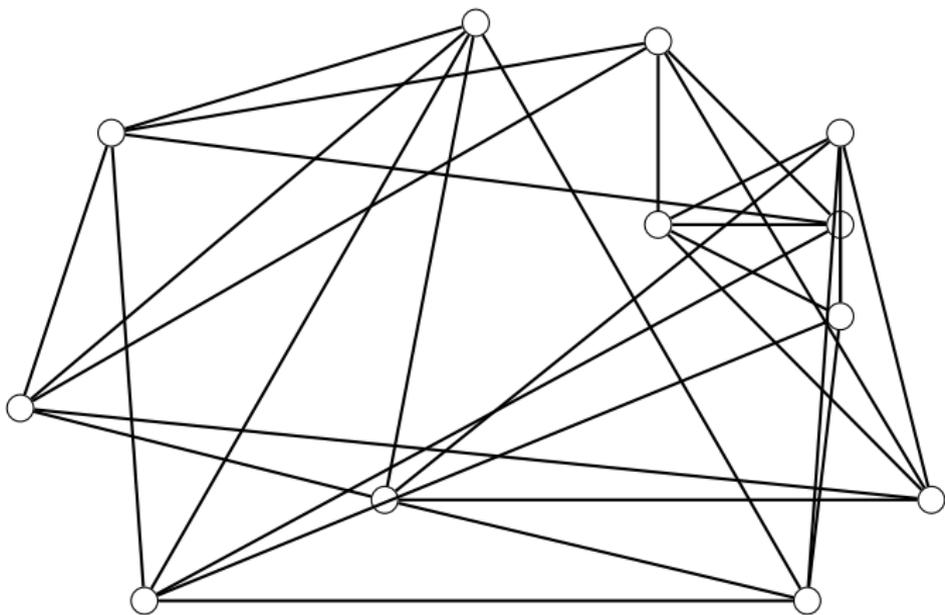
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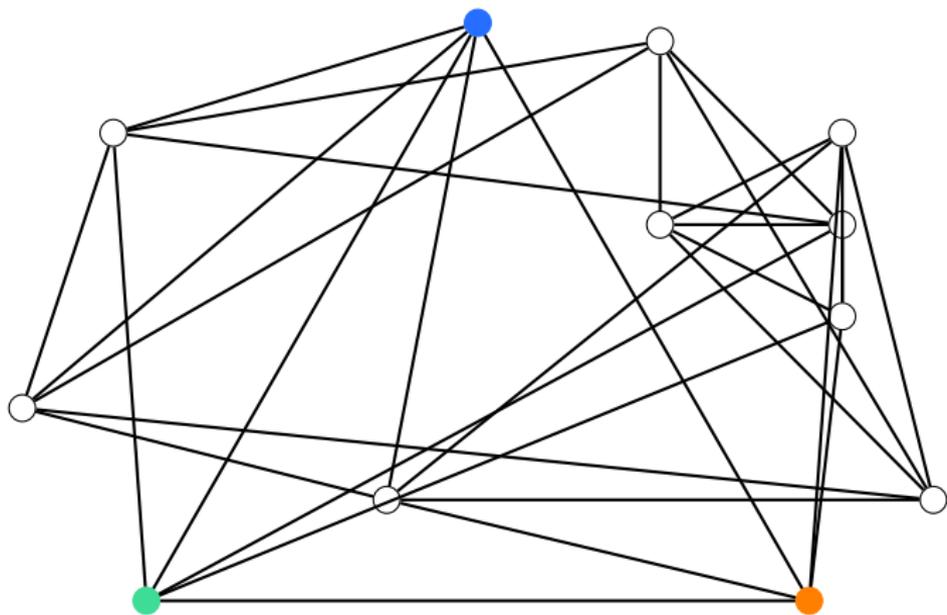
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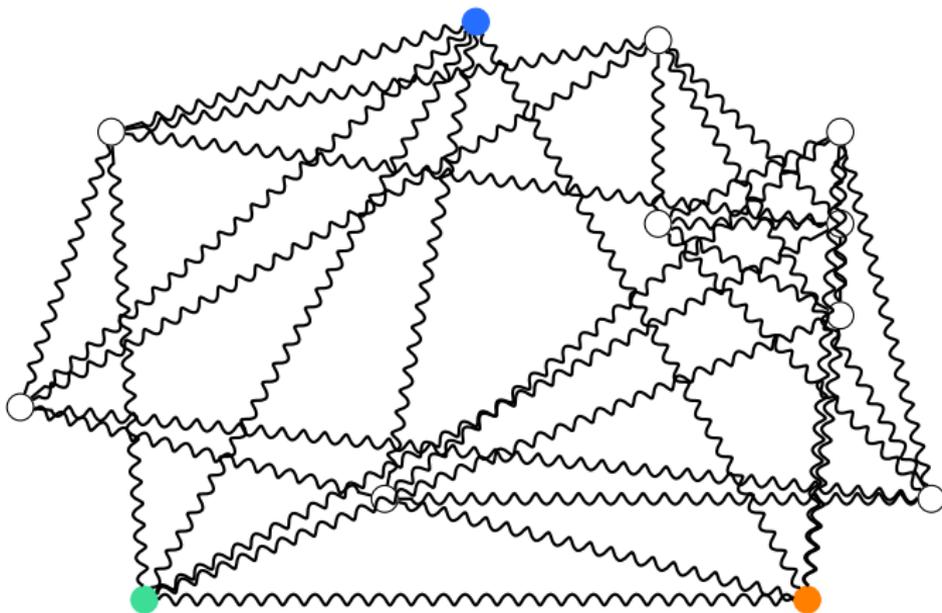
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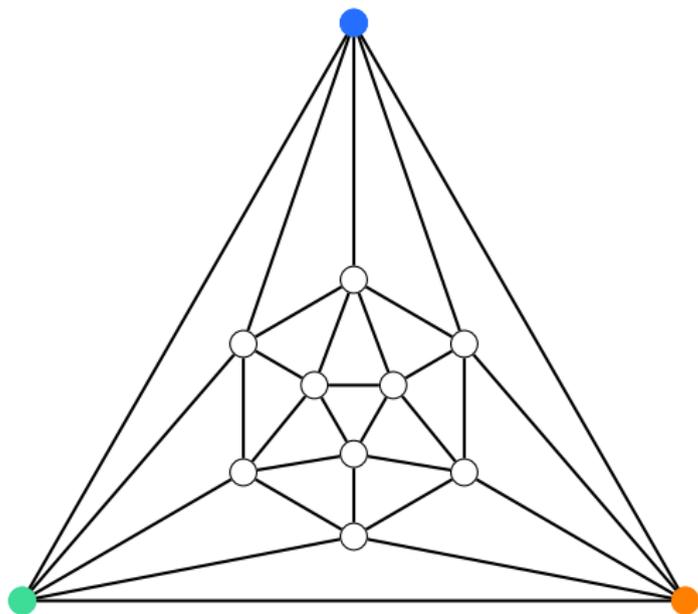
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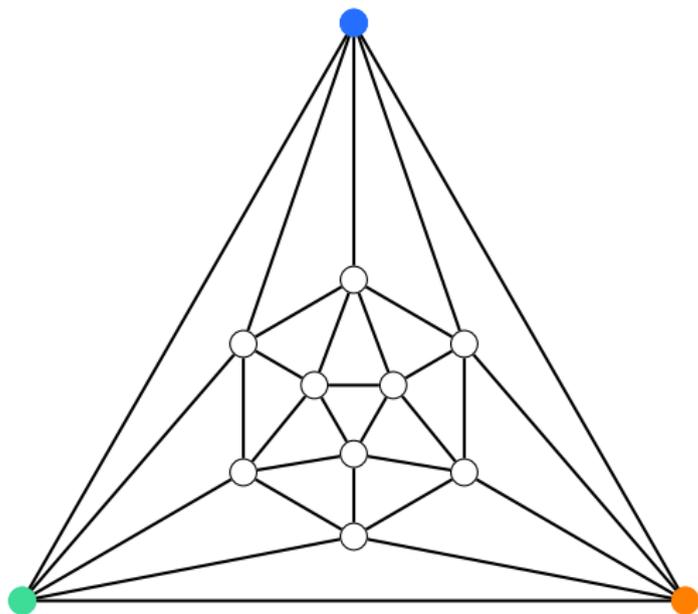
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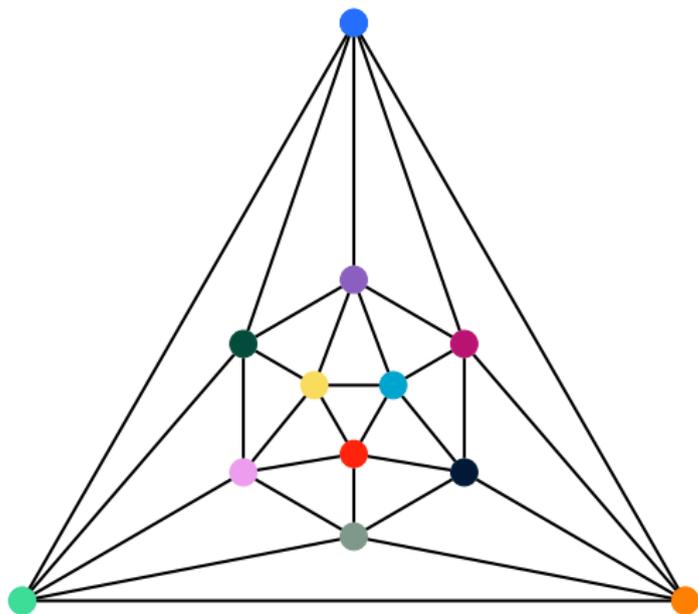
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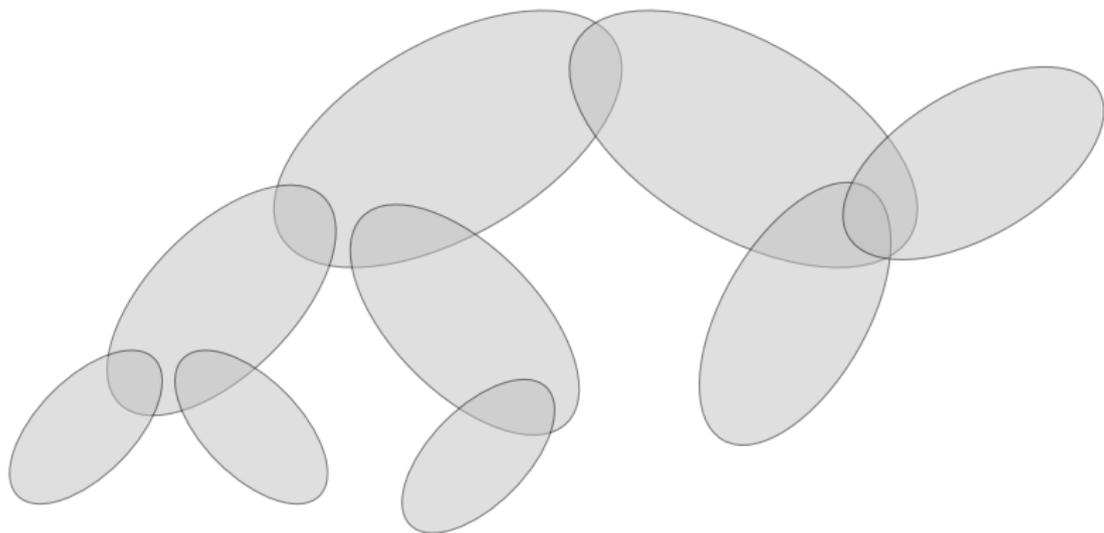
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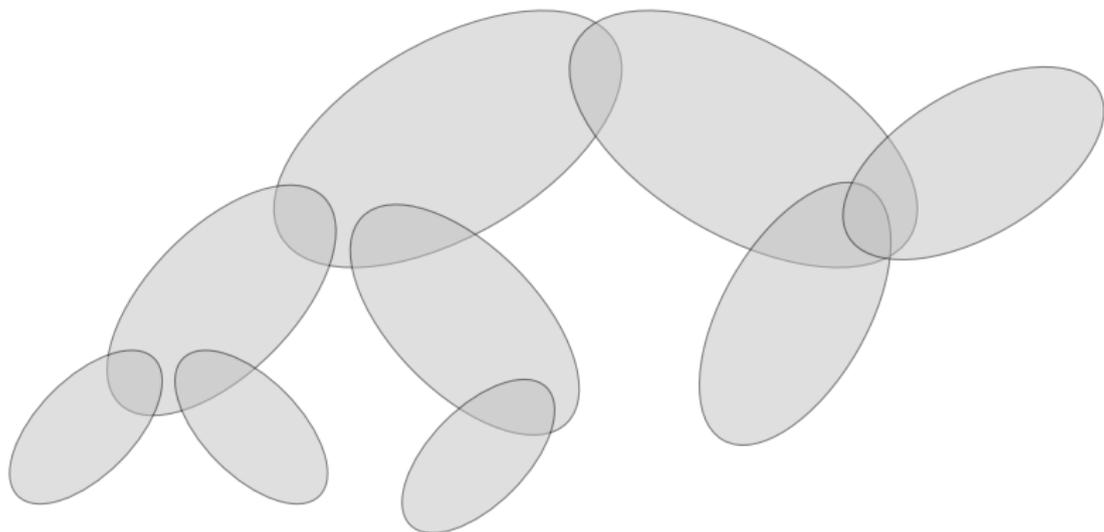
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Spoiler enforces a descent of a tree decomposition  
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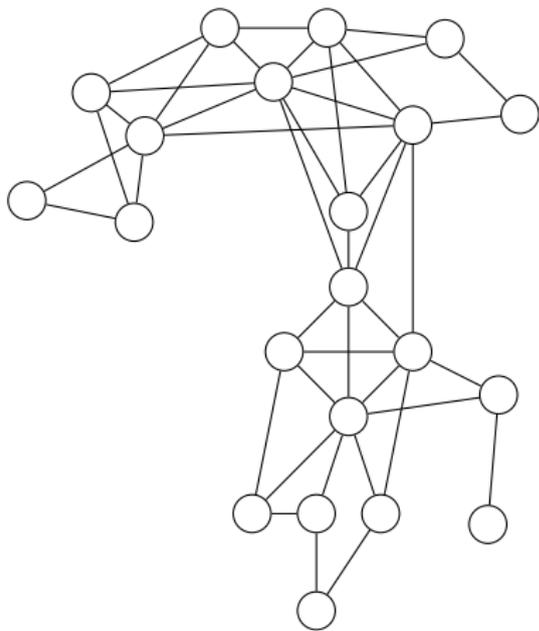
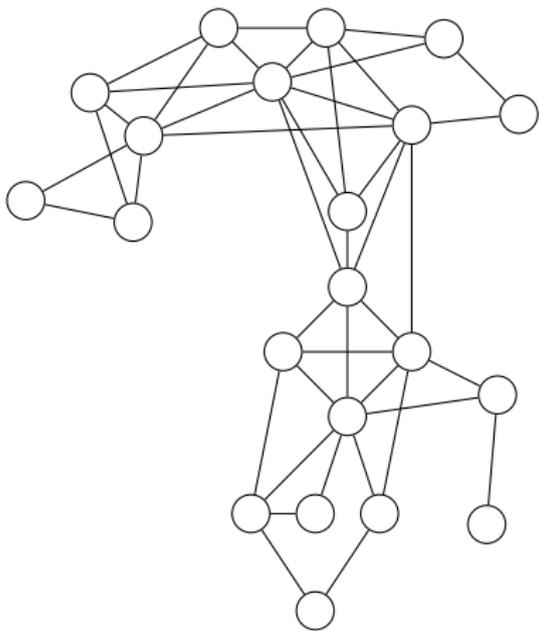
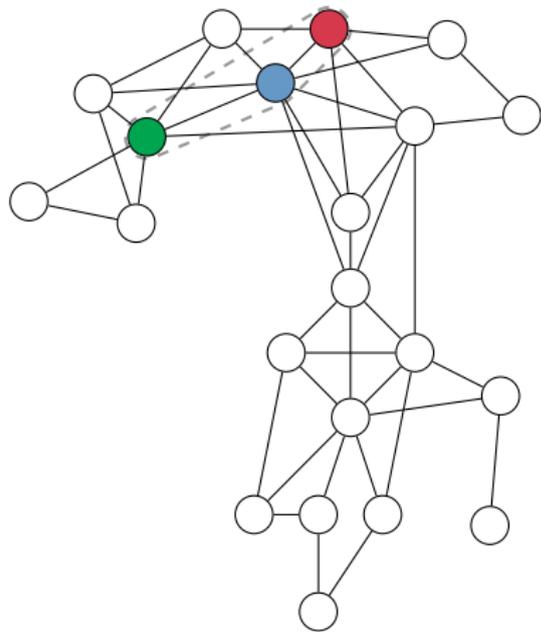
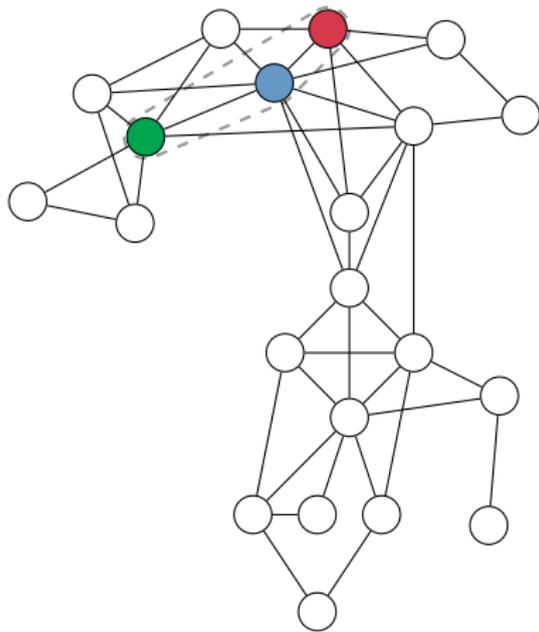
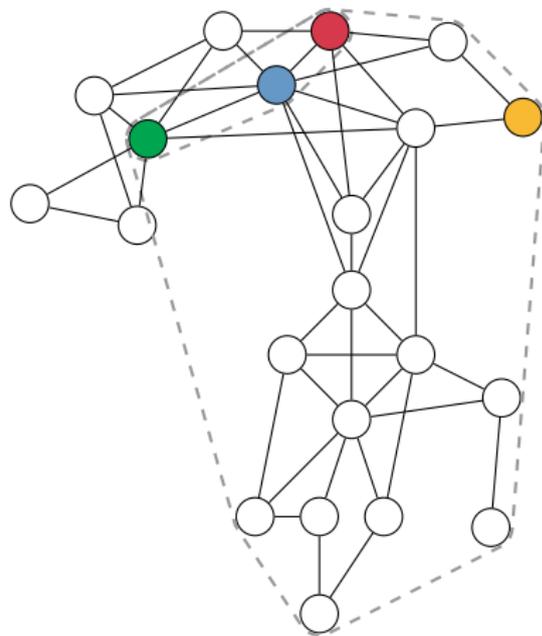
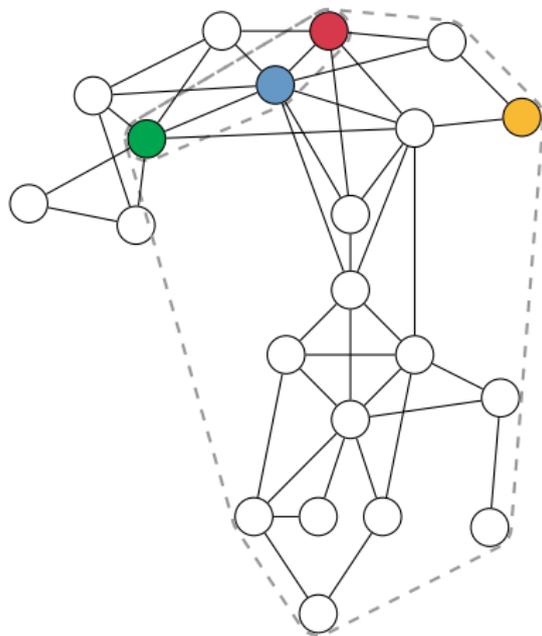


Image source: [Neuen]

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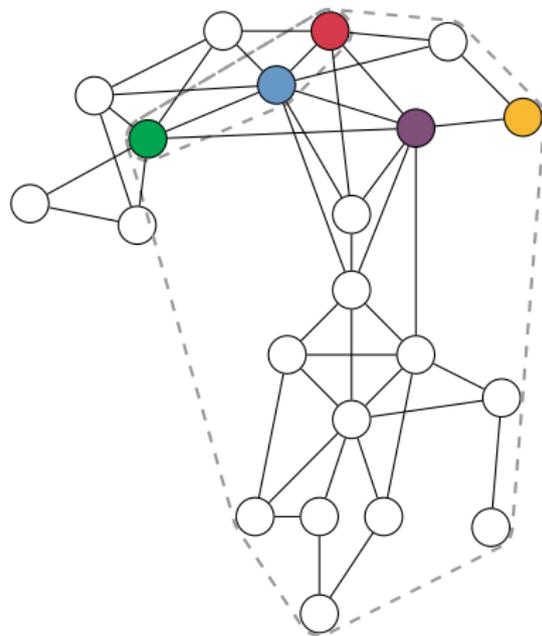
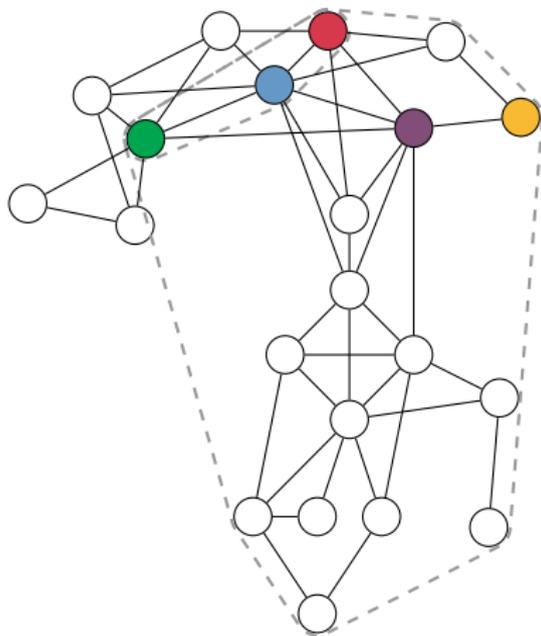
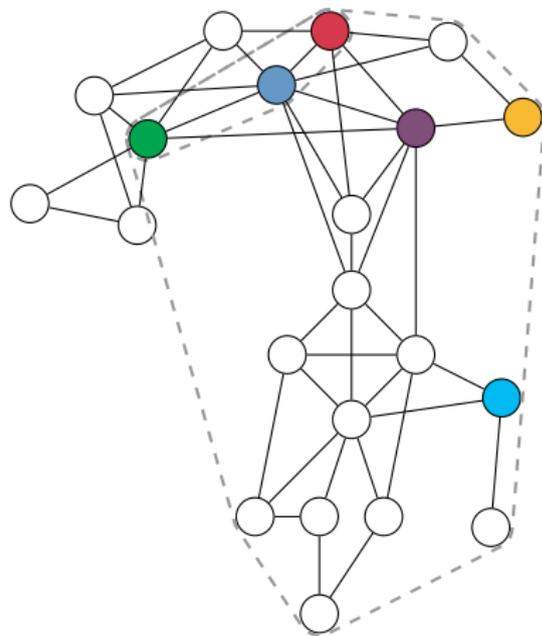
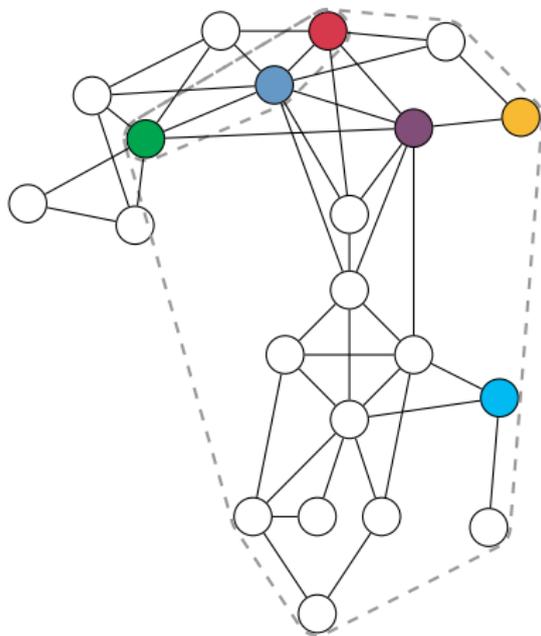


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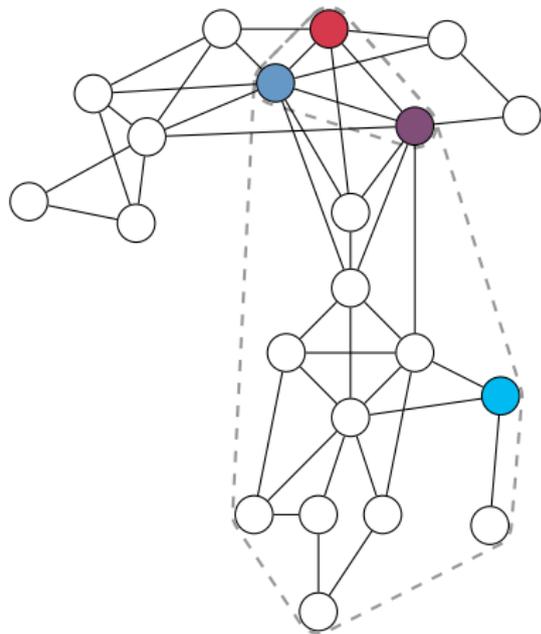
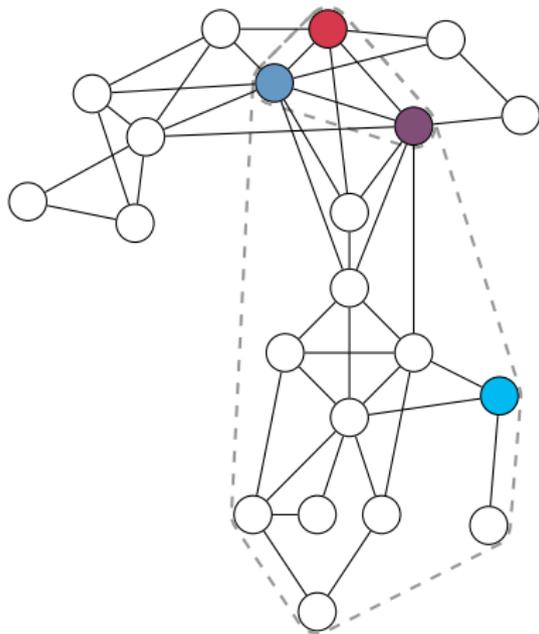


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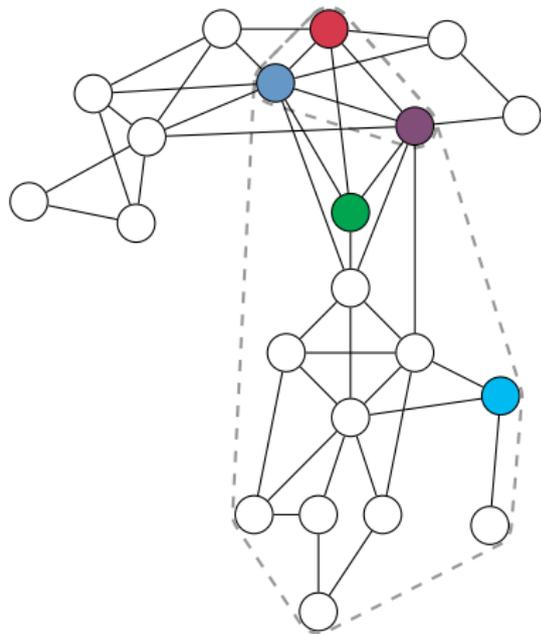
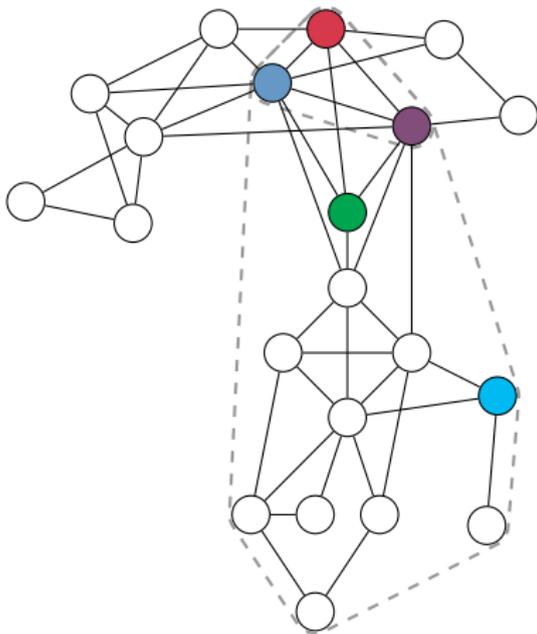


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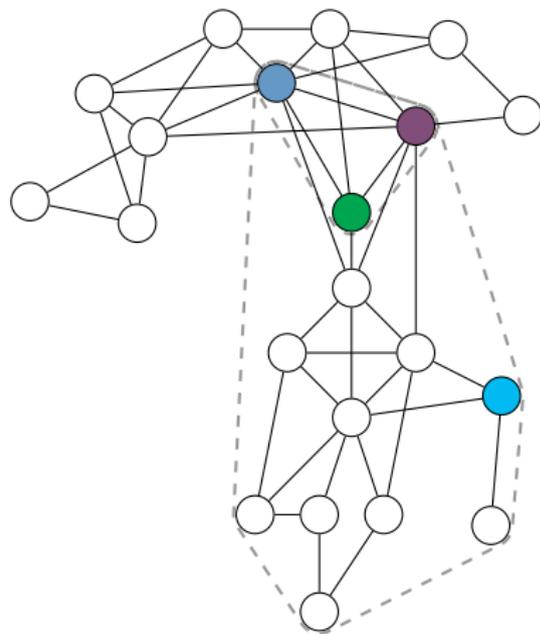
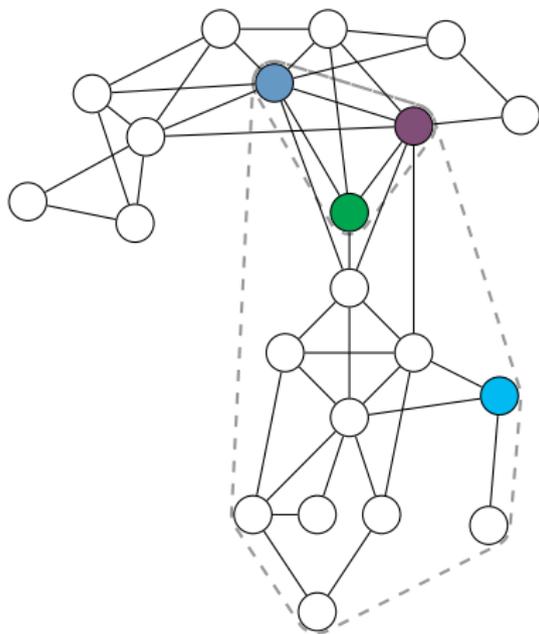


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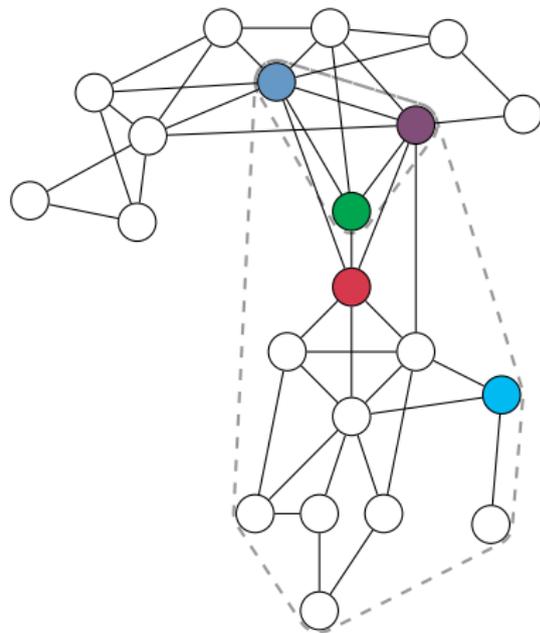
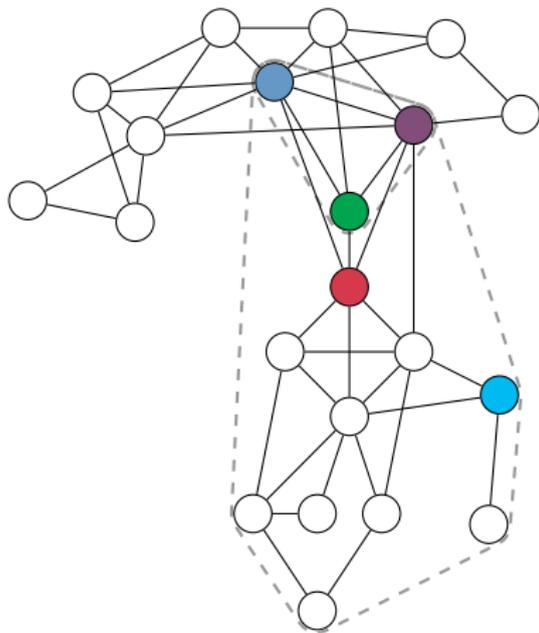
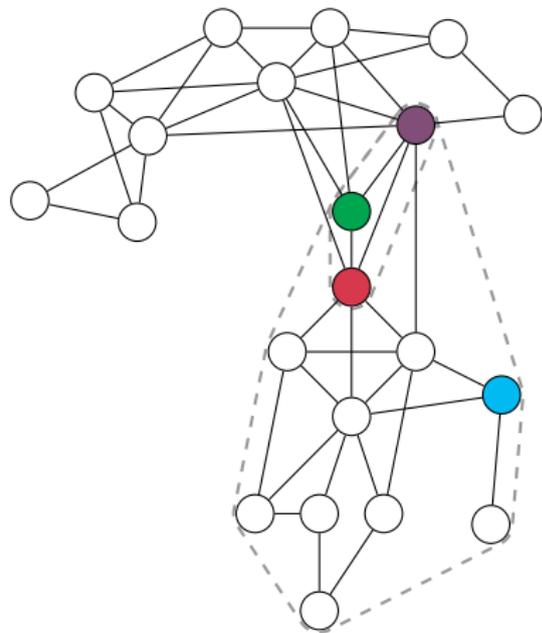
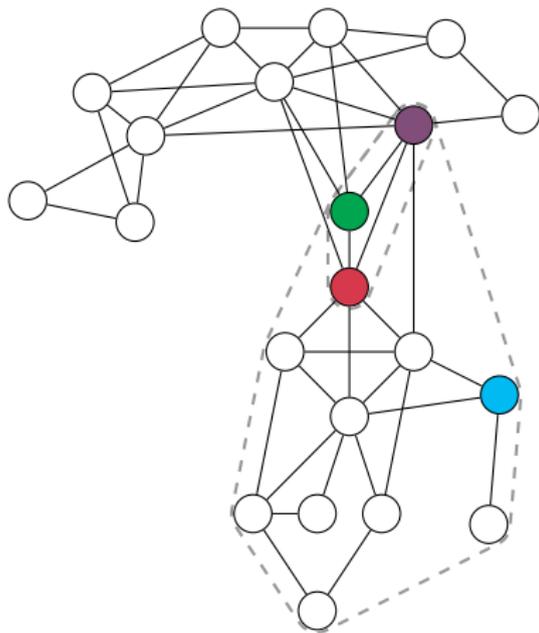


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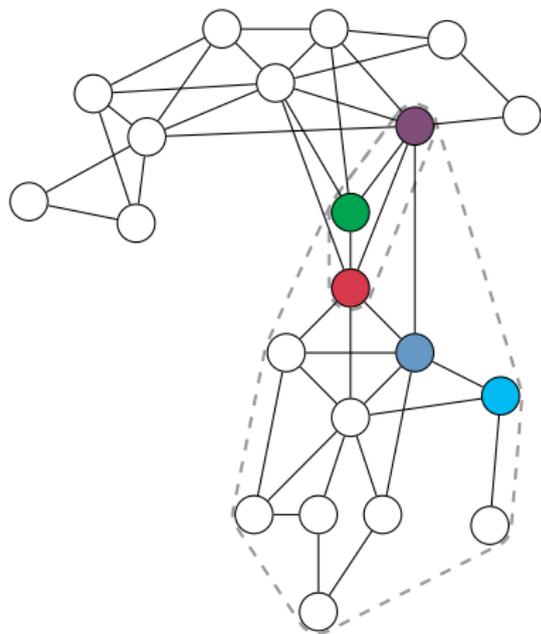
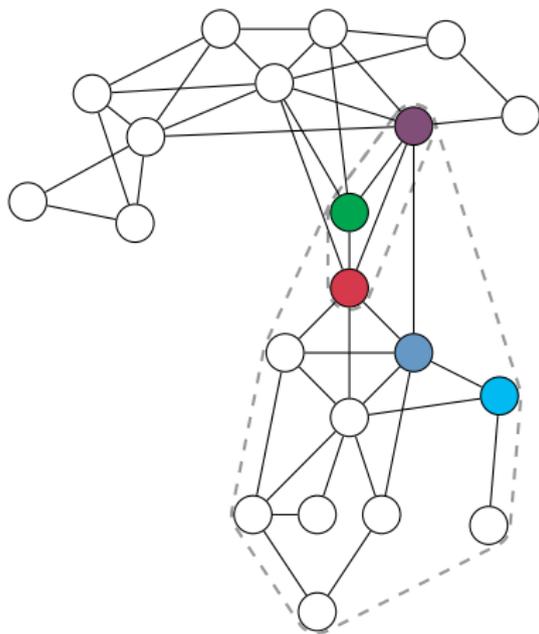


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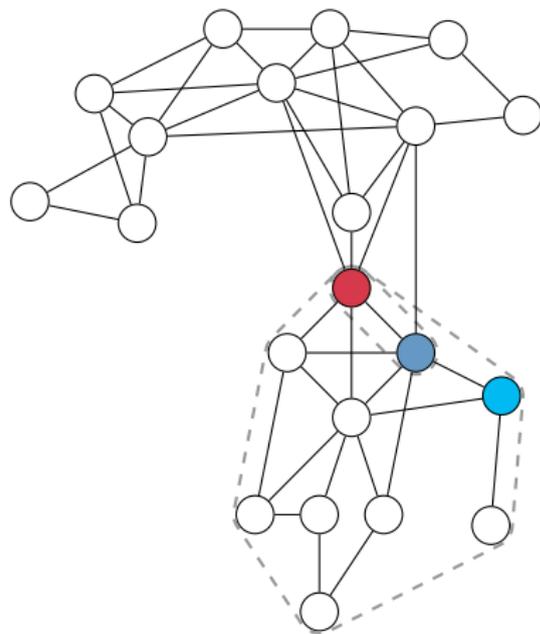
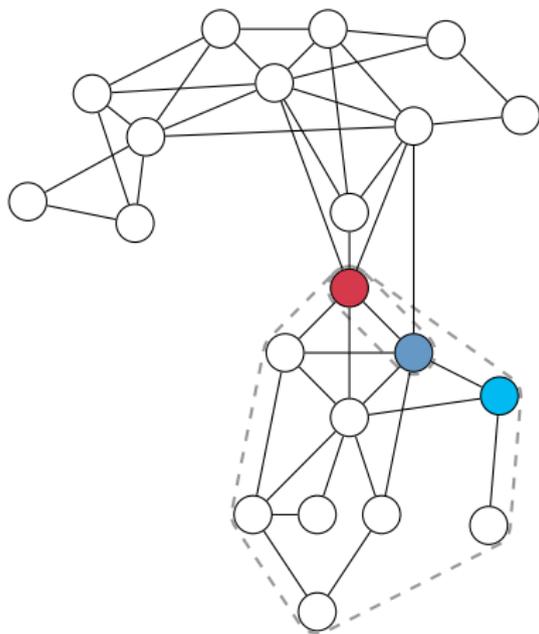


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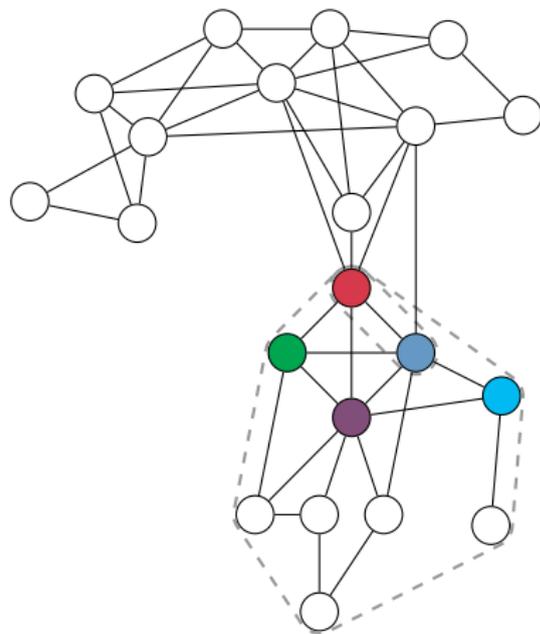
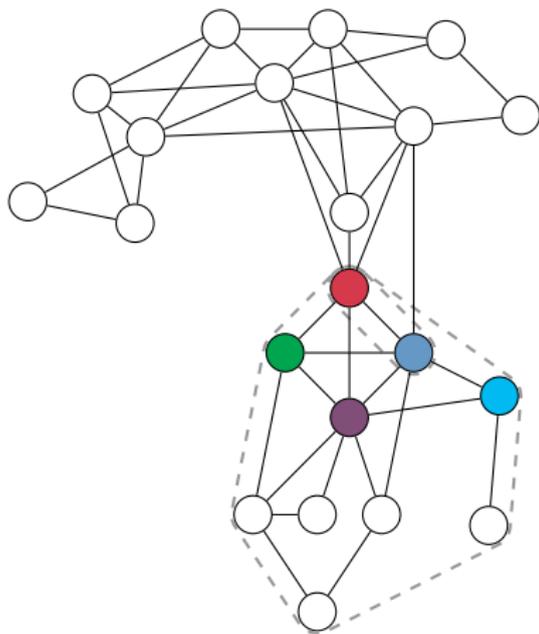
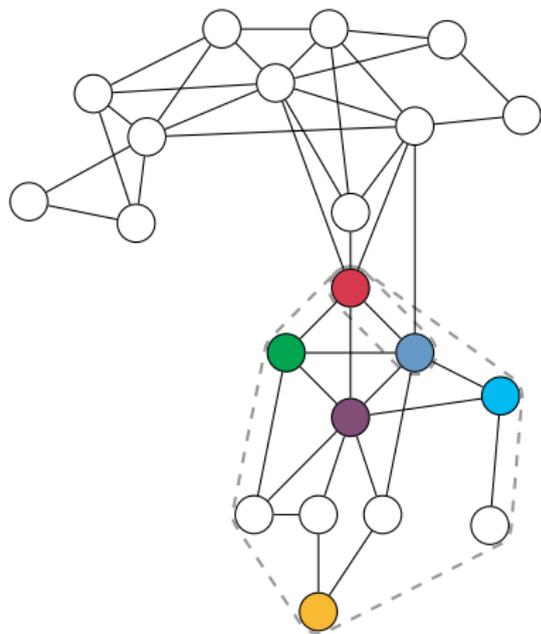
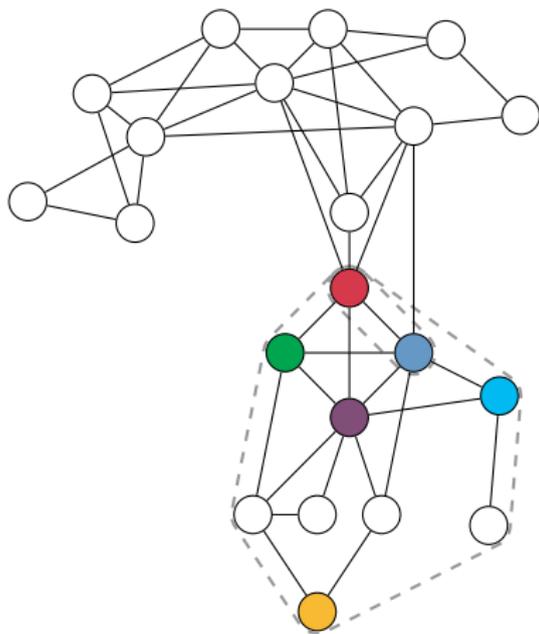


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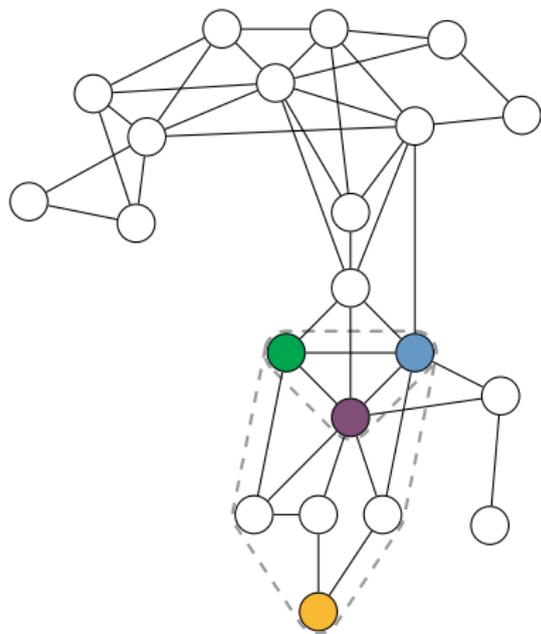
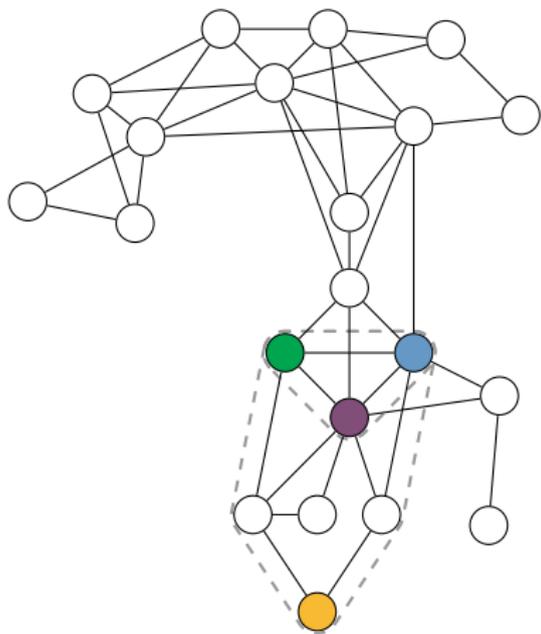
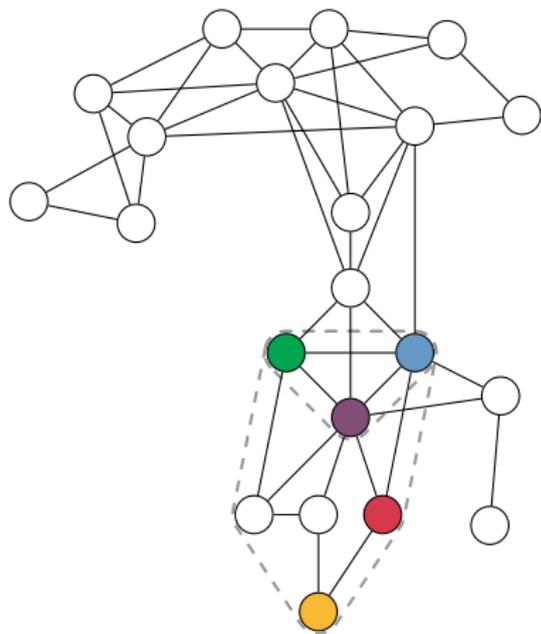
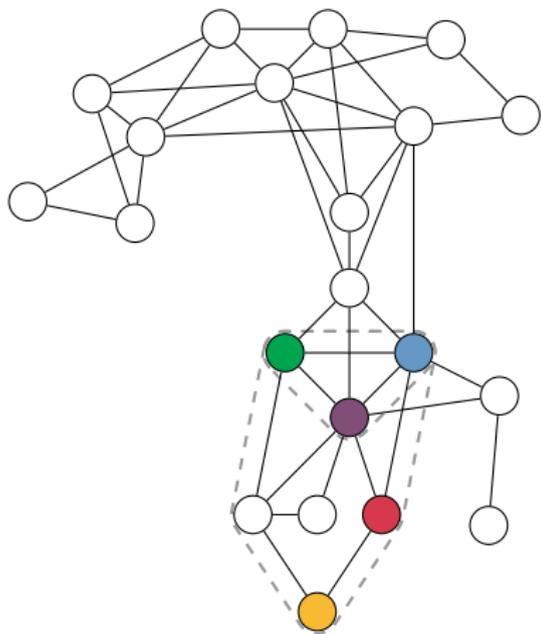
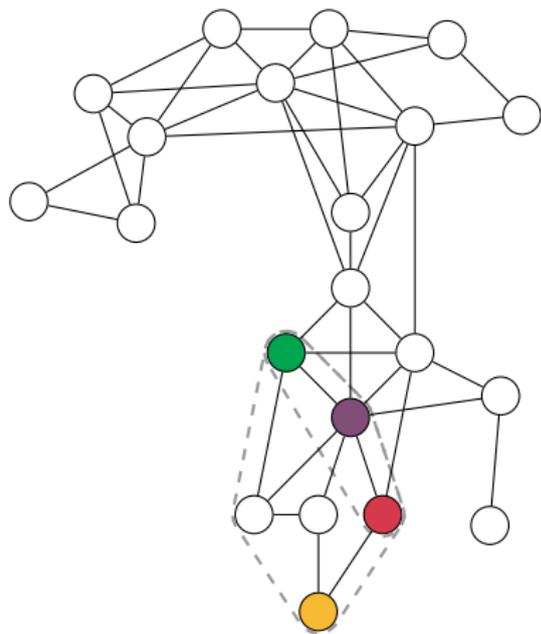
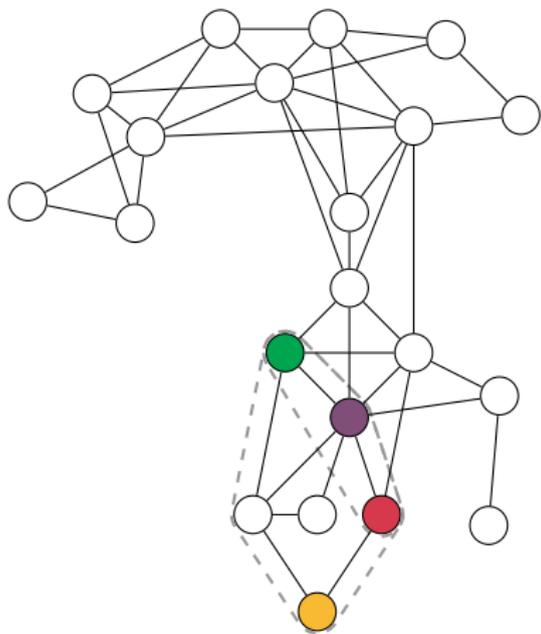


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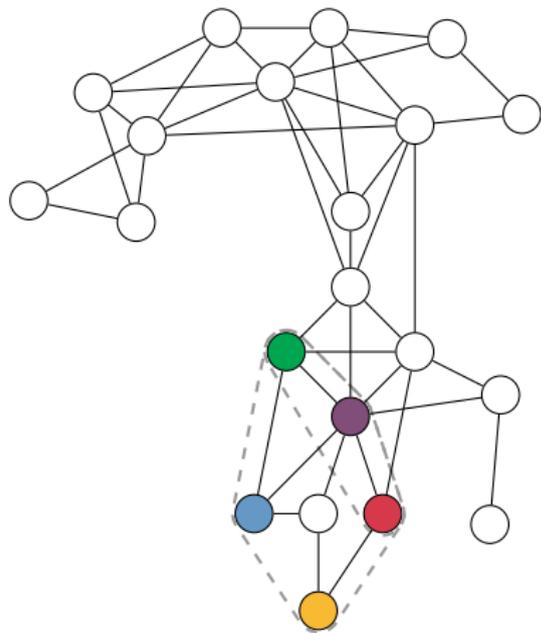
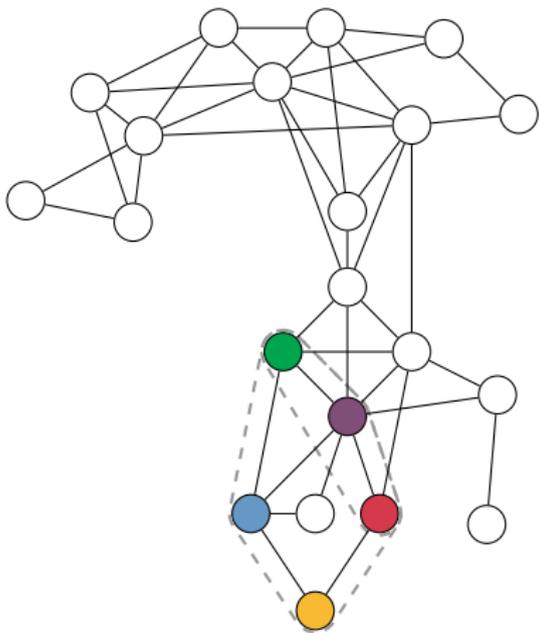
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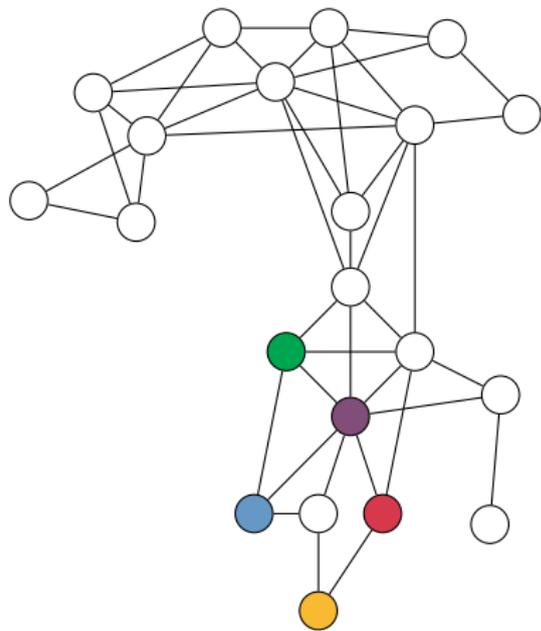
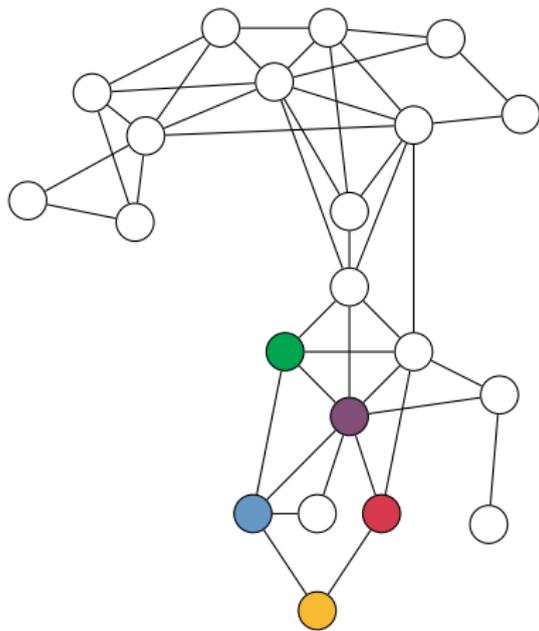
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Spoiler wins.

# WL-DIMENSION

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Graph class	WL-dimension	
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Interval graphs	2	2 [Evdokimov, Ponomarenko, Tinhofer '00]
Excluded minor $H$	$\Omega( V(H) )$	$f(H)$ [Grohe '10]
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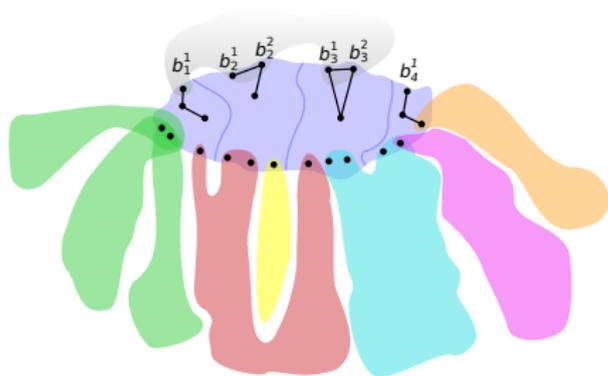
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Theorem (Grohe, K. 2021)

*There is a  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $k$ -WL identifies all planar  $n$ -vertex graphs in  $O(\log n)$  iterations.*

## CONCLUSION

The WL-dimension to distinguish two graphs is at most the dimension that distinguishes their decompositions into 3-connected components.

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## WL-Dimension of Planar Graphs

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| ① Reduction to 2-connected graphs | 2-WL |
| ② Reduction to 3-connected graphs | 3-WL |
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### WL-Dimension of Planar Graphs

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| ① Reduction to 2-connected graphs | 2-WL |
| ② Reduction to 3-connected graphs | 2-WL |
| ③ 3-connected planar graphs       | 3-WL |

# CONCLUSION

The WL-dimension to distinguish two graphs is at most the dimension that distinguishes their decompositions into 3-connected components.

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- **What is the exact WL-dimension of planar graphs?**
- What about other graph classes?
- **What other useful decompositions does **C** detect?**

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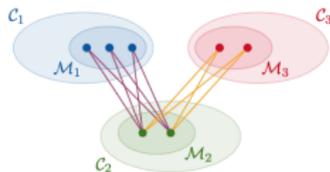
~> ICALP-talk on Thursday 

## WL-Complexity



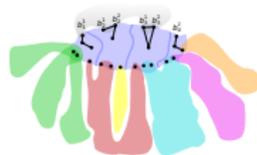
1-WL

Graphs with  
 $n-1$  iterations



2-WL

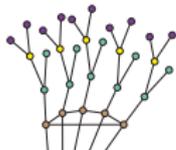
First nontrivial  
upper bound



Planar graphs

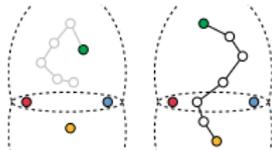
Logarithmic  
upper bound

## WL-Power



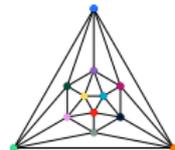
1-WL

Complete  
characterisation



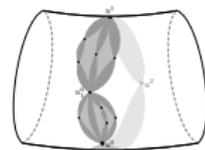
2-WL

Detects  
2-separators



Planar graphs

WL-dim  $\leq 3$



Euler genus

WL-dim  $\leq 4g+3$