

Spanners and connectivity problems in temporal graphs

Arnaud Casteigts

LaBRI, Université de Bordeaux

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(Liverpool CS seminar)

Based on two joint works with:



Jason Schoeters
(Le Havre)



Joseph Peters
(Vancouver)



Michael Raskin
(Munich)



Malte Renken
(Berlin)

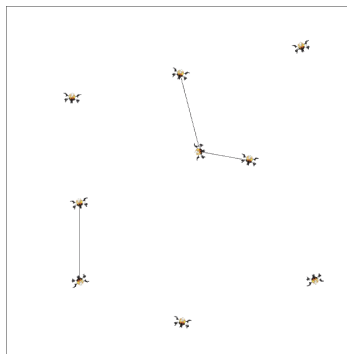


Viktor Zamaraev
(Liverpool)

(Highly) dynamic networks?



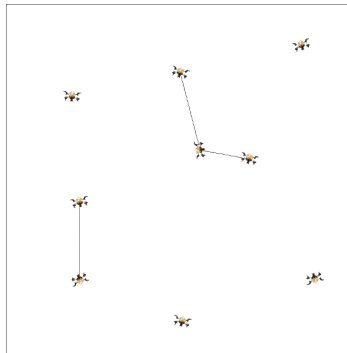
Example of scenario



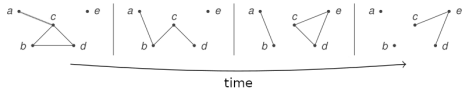
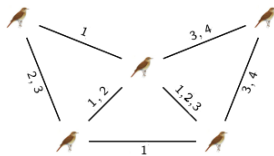
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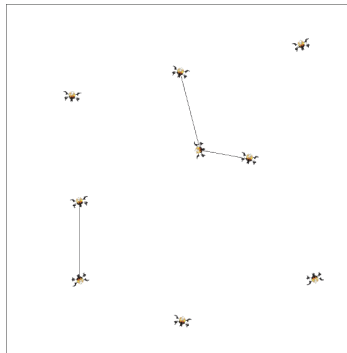
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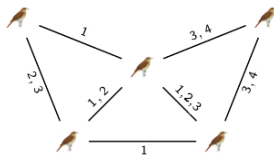
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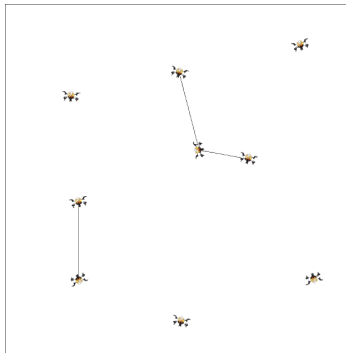
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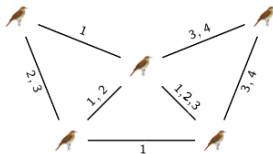
(Highly) dynamic networks?



Example of scenario



Modeling



Properties:

- ▶ Temporal connectivity?
- ▶ Repeatedly?
- ▶ Recurrent links?
- ▶ In bounded time?
- ▶ ...

TC

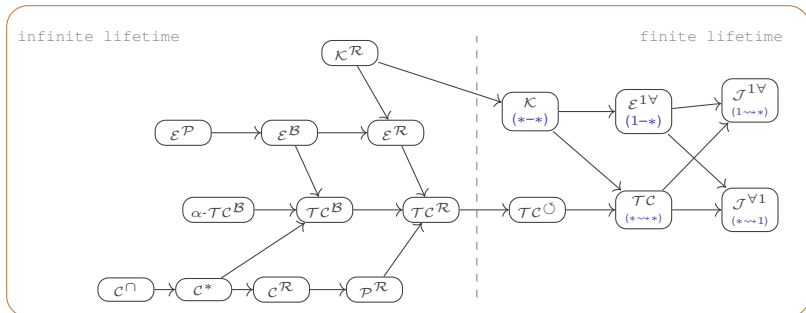
TC^R

\mathcal{E}^R

\mathcal{E}^B

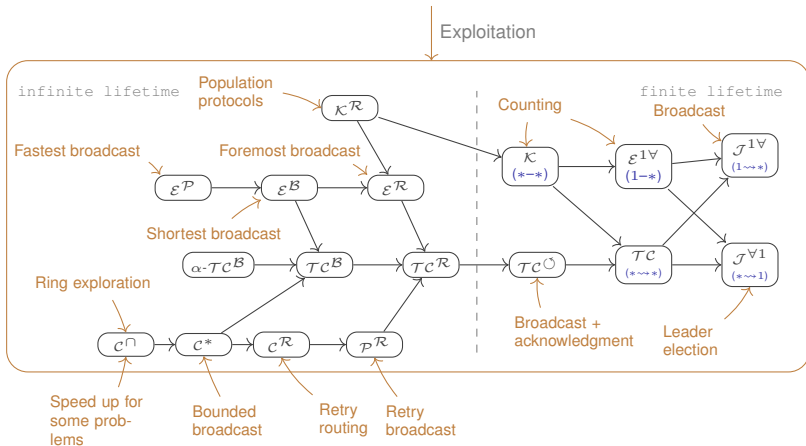
→ Classes of temporal graphs

Some classes of temporal graphs



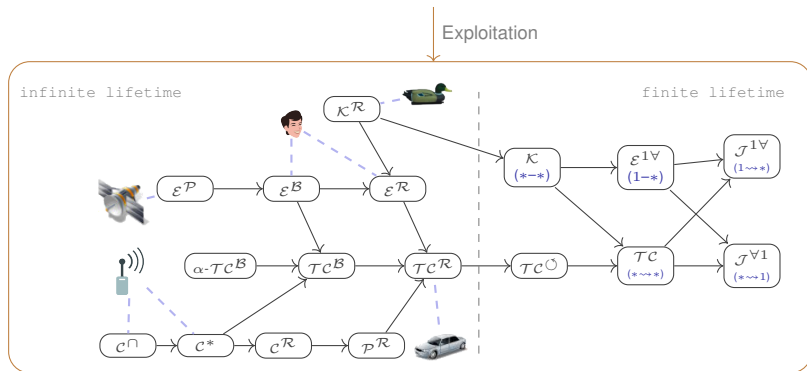
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Distributed algorithm



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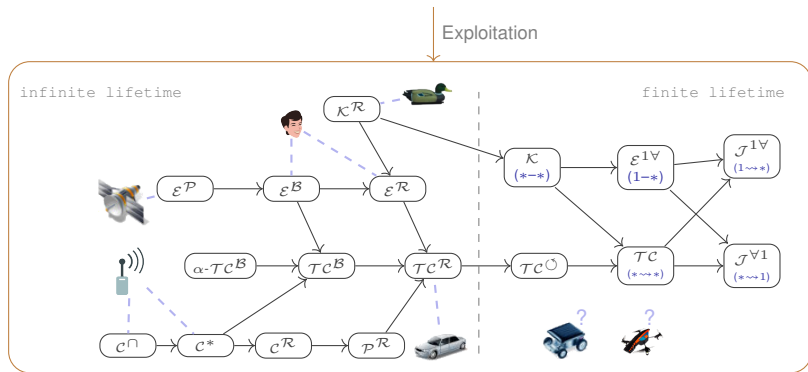
Distributed algorithm



Centralized algorithm

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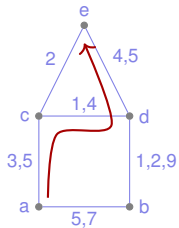
Distributed algorithm



Centralized algorithm

Movement synthesis

Temporal graphs for their own sake



What does make them truly different?

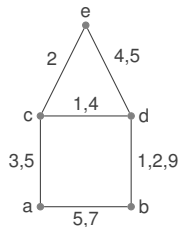
Basic definitions

Temporal graphs

(a.k.a. time-varying, time-dependent, evolving, dynamic,...)

$\mathcal{G} = (V, E, \lambda)$, where $\lambda : E \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ assigns *presence times* to edges.

Example:



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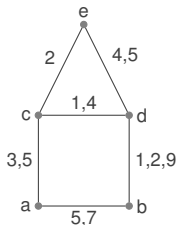
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|
footprint of \mathcal{G}

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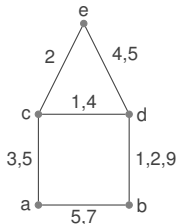
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Can also be viewed as a sequence of *snapshots* $\{G_i = \{e \in E : i \in \lambda(e)\}\}$

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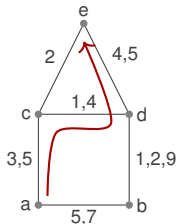
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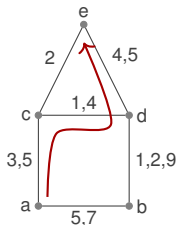
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▶ Non-strict - ex: $\langle (a, c, 3), (c, d, 4), (d, e, 4) \rangle$

(non-decreasing)

▶ Strict - ex: $\langle (a, c, 3), (c, d, 4), (d, e, 5) \rangle$

(increasing)

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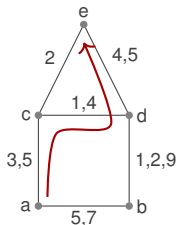
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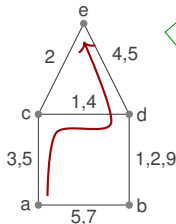
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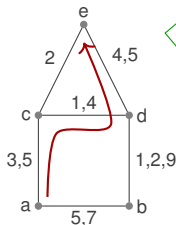
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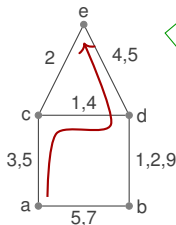
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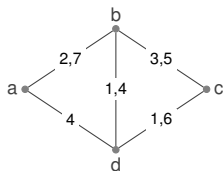
→ Warning: Reachability is non-symmetrical... and **non-transitive**!

Temporal spanners

Input: a graph \mathcal{G} that is temporally connected ($\mathcal{G} \in TC$)

Output: a graph $\mathcal{G}' \subseteq \mathcal{G}$ that preserves temporal connectivity ($\mathcal{G}' \in TC$)

Cost measure: size of the spanner (say, in number of labels)

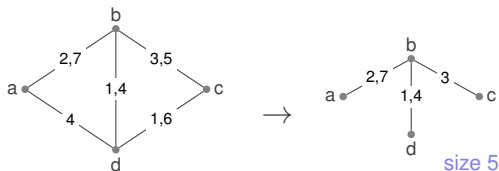


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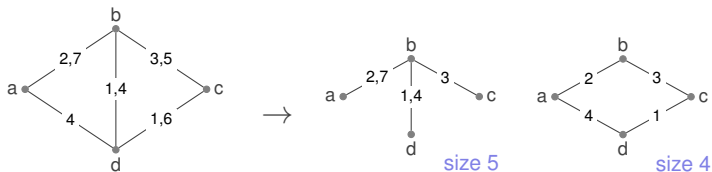


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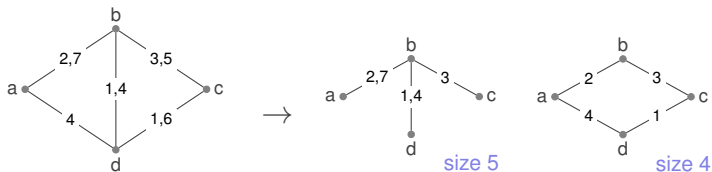


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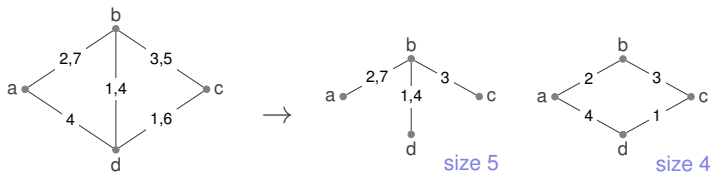
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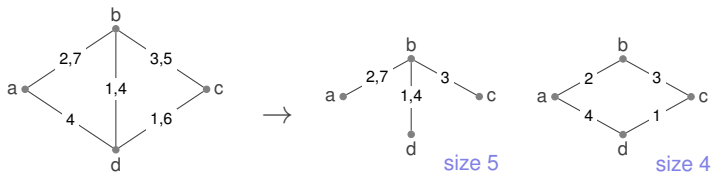
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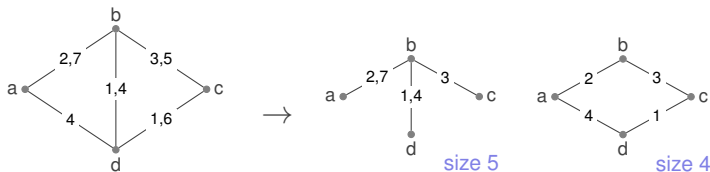
(Kleinberg, Kempe, Kumar, 2000)

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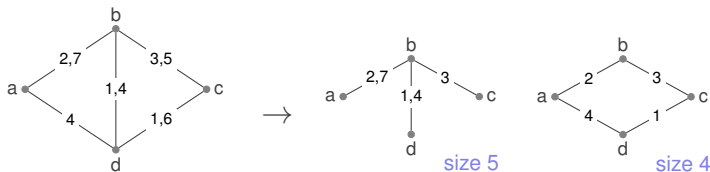
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How about complexity?

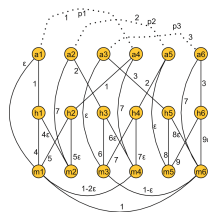
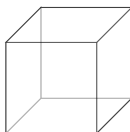
▶ Minimum-size spanner is APX-hard

(Akrida, Gasieniec, Mertzios, Spirakis, 2017)

Bad news and good news

Recall the bad news:

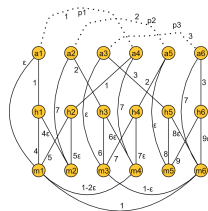
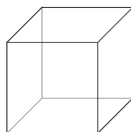
- ▶ $\Omega(n \log n)$ - easy
- ▶ $\Omega(n^2)$ - rather unexpected



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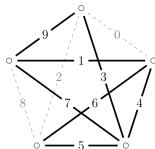
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Good news 1: (C., Peters, Schoeters, ICALP 2019):

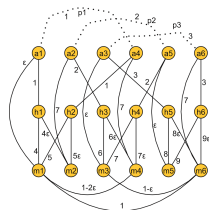
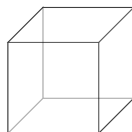
- ▶ Spanners of size $O(n \log n)$ always exist in **complete** temporal graphs



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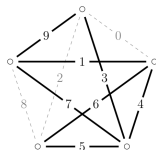
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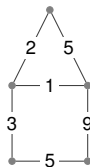
Good news 2: (C., Raskin, Renken, Zamaraev, FOCS 2021):

- ▶ Nearly optimal spanners (of size $2n + o(n)$) almost surely exist in **random** temporal graphs, as soon as the graph is temporally connected

Before we start... an easier model

Simple Temporal Graphs (STGs):

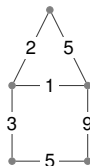
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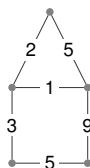
Generality for spanners:

- ▶ Most negative results still apply
- ▶ Positive results extend to general case
- ▶ No distinction between **strict** and **non-strict** temporal paths

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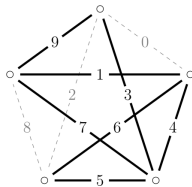
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Further motivations:

- ▶ Distributed models by pairwise interactions, e.g. [population protocols](#) or [gossip models](#) (without repetition)
- ▶ Close model to [edge-ordered graphs](#) (Chvátal, Komlós, 1971)

Good news 1:

Temporal cliques admit sparse spanners



(with)



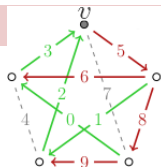
Two promising techniques...

Pivotability

Pivot node v and time t such that:

- ▶ all nodes can reach v before t
- ▶ v can reach all nodes after t

Then **in-tree** \cup **out-tree** = spanner of size $2n - 2$ (in fact $2n - 3\dots$)



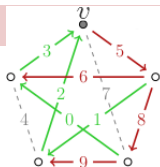
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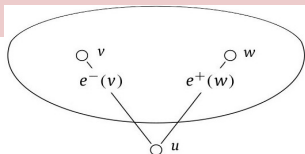


Dismountability

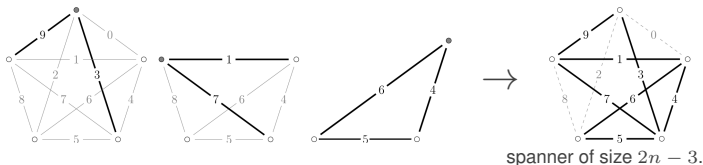
Three nodes u, v, w such that:

- ▶ $uv = \min\text{-edge}(v)$
- ▶ $uw = \max\text{-edge}(w)$

Then $\text{spanner}(\mathcal{G}) := \text{spanner}(\mathcal{G}[V \setminus u]) + uv + uw$



Recursively,



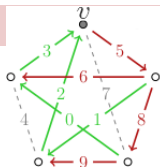
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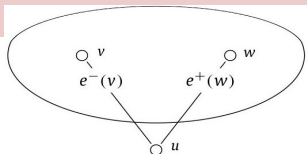


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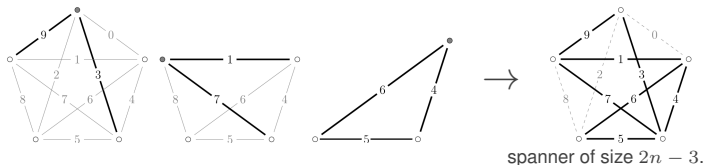
Three nodes u, v, w such that:

- ▶ $uv = \min\text{-edge}(v)$
- ▶ $uw = \max\text{-edge}(w)$

Then $\text{spanner}(\mathcal{G}) := \text{spanner}(\mathcal{G}[V \setminus \{u\}]) + uv + uw$



Recursively,



... unfortunately

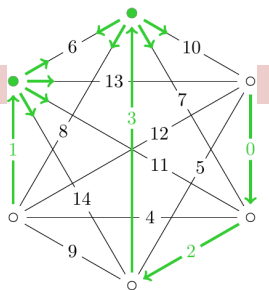
Both techniques fail in some cases.

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Principle:

- ▶ Transitive delegations towards **emitters**
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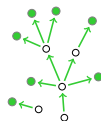
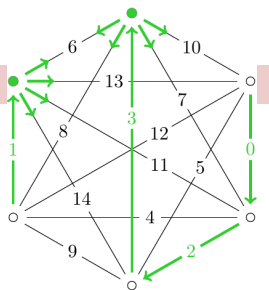


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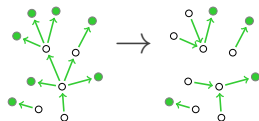
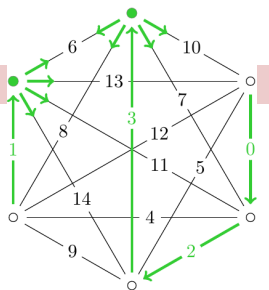
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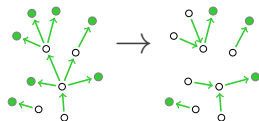
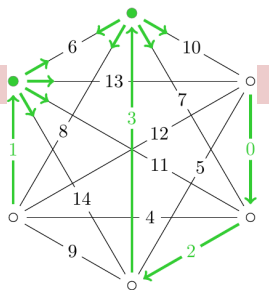
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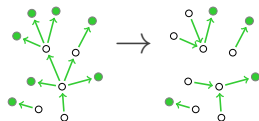
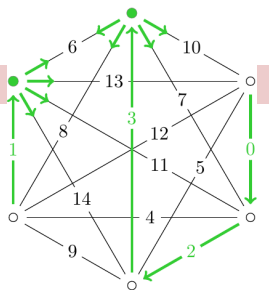
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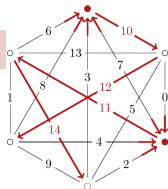
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Backward spanner also possible

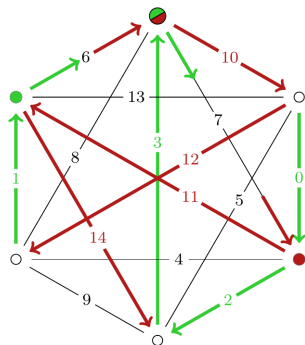
→ Spanner = max edges + all edges of **collectors**



Combining both directions

- ▶ Each vertex can reach at least one emitter u through u 's min edge
- ▶ Each vertex can be reached by a collector v through v 's max edge
- ▶ Each emitter can reach all collectors through direct edges

→ Spanner = min edges + max edges
+ edges between emitters and collectors



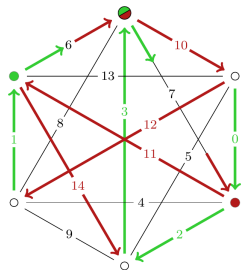
Theorem:

At most $n/2$ emitters and $n/2$ collectors \Rightarrow

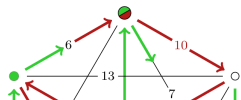
\exists Spanners of size $\binom{n}{2}/2 + O(n)$

\approx half of the edges

Recurse or sparsify?

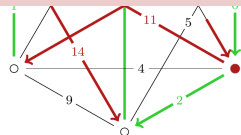


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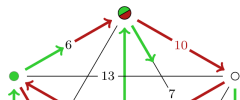


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Lemma: There exists a “2-hop dismantlable” vertex v
→ select 4 edges, recurse on $\mathcal{G}[V - v]$



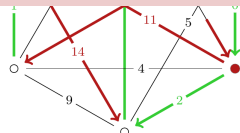
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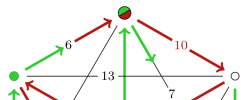
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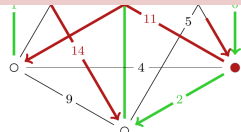
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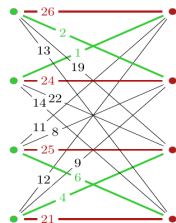
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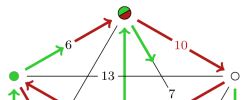


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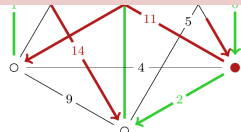
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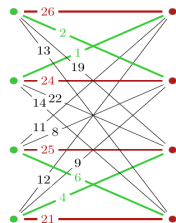


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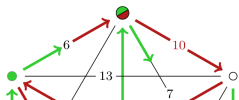
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A lot of structure to work with:

- ▶ Complete bipartite graph \mathcal{H} between emitters and collectors
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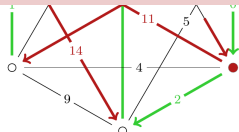
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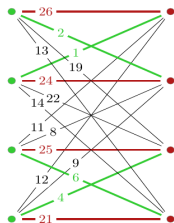
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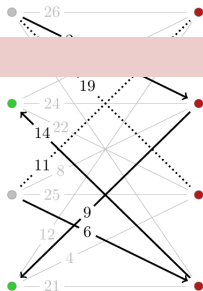
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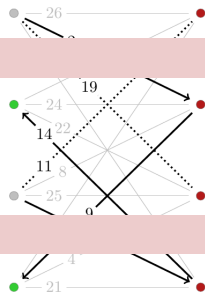
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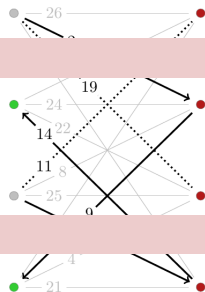
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Conclusion:

∃ spanner of size $O(n \log n)$ □

Open questions (deterministic)

Better spanners for temporal cliques?

- ▶ Is $O(n \log n)$ optimal for cliques? Is $O(n)$ possible?
- ▶ Even better, does $2n - 4 \leq OPT \leq 2n - 3$?
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What about random temporal graphs?

Good news 2:

Spanners of size $2n + o(n)$ almost surely exist
in random temporal graphs

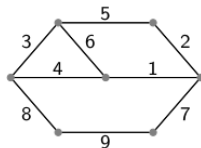
(with)



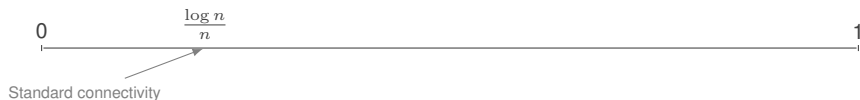
Sharp thresholds in random temporal graphs (C., Raskin, Renken, Zamaraev, 2021)

Random simple temporal graphs:

1. Pick an Erdős-Rényi $G \sim G_{n,p}$
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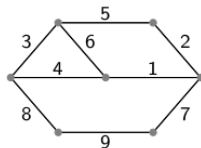
Timeline for p (as $n \rightarrow \infty$):



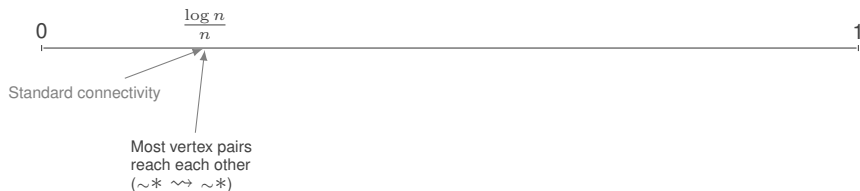
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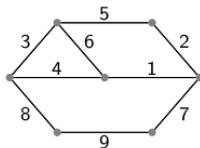
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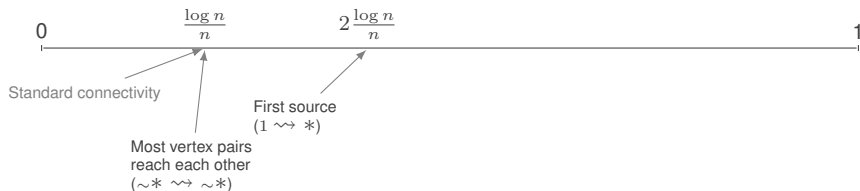
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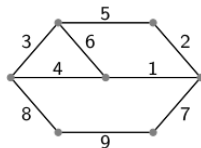
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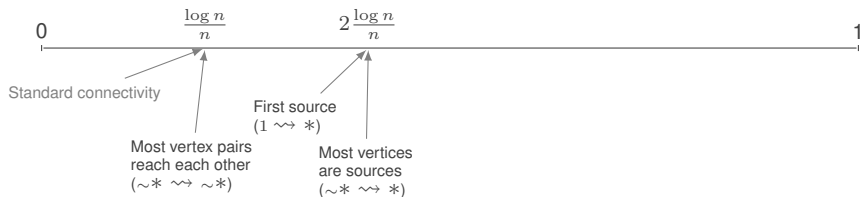
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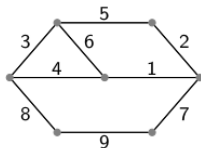
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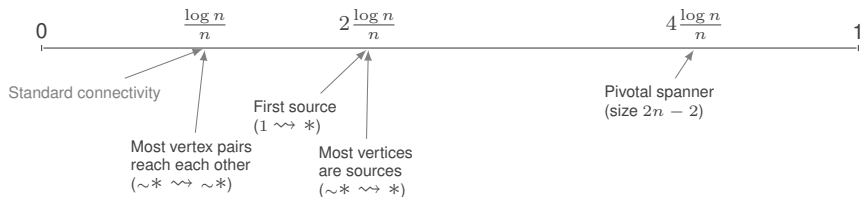
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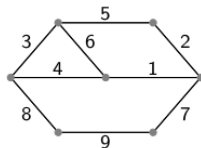
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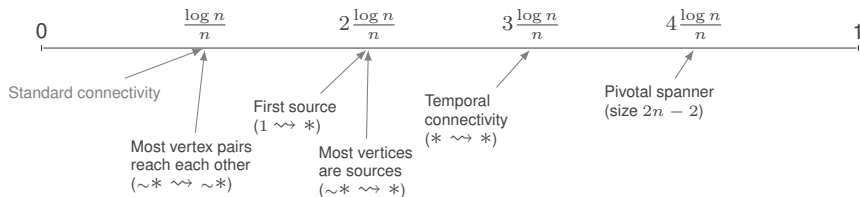
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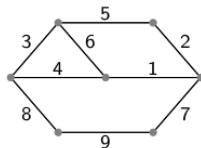
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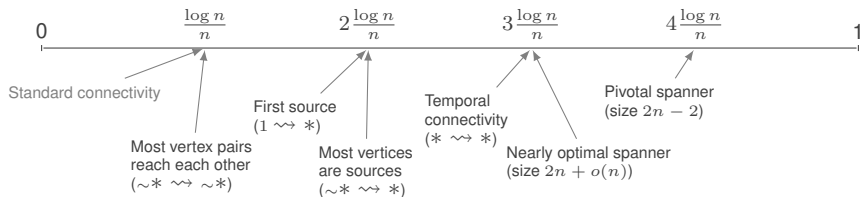
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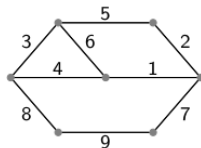
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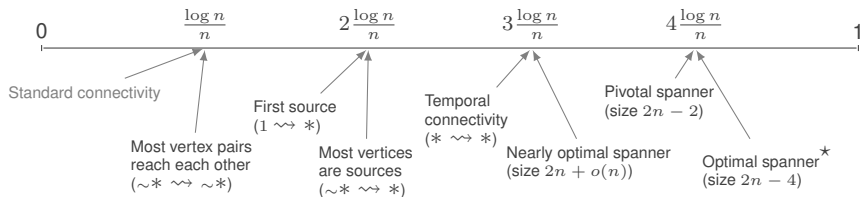
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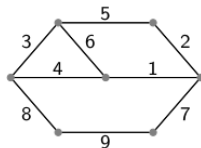
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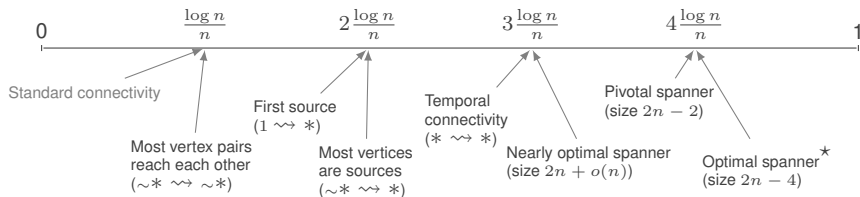
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All the thresholds are sharp, except \star (open problem)

(sharp: $\exists \epsilon(n) = o(1)$, not true at $(1 - \epsilon(n))p$, true at $(1 + \epsilon(n))p$)

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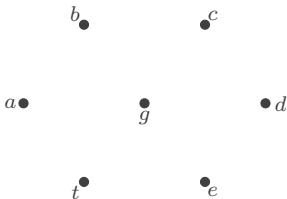
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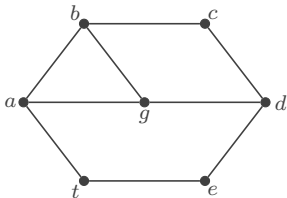
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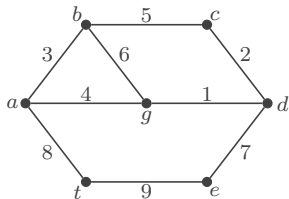
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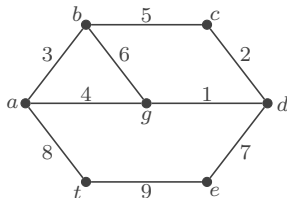
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Another point of view:

1. Take a complete graph K_n
2. Assign random real times in $[0, 1]$ to every edge
3. Restrict your attention to $\mathcal{G}_{[0,p]}$

→ **Better for analysis.**

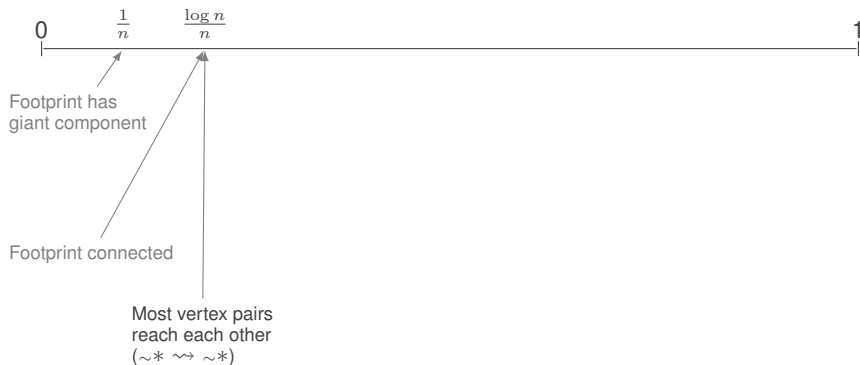
Timeline of temporal reachability in $\mathcal{G}_{n,p}$

For sufficiently large n , what happens when p increases?



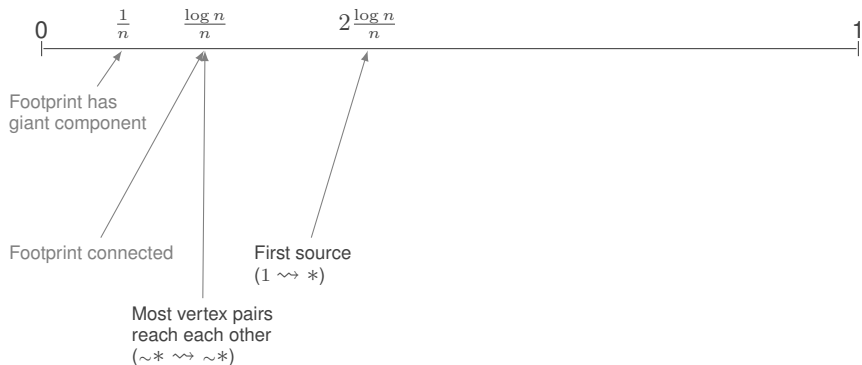
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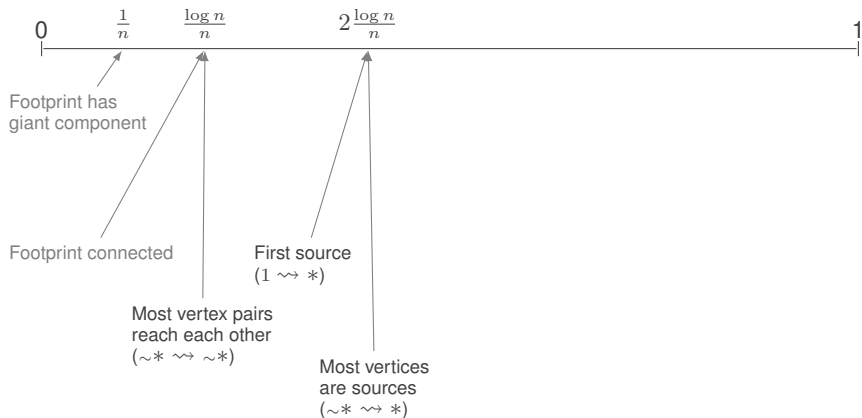
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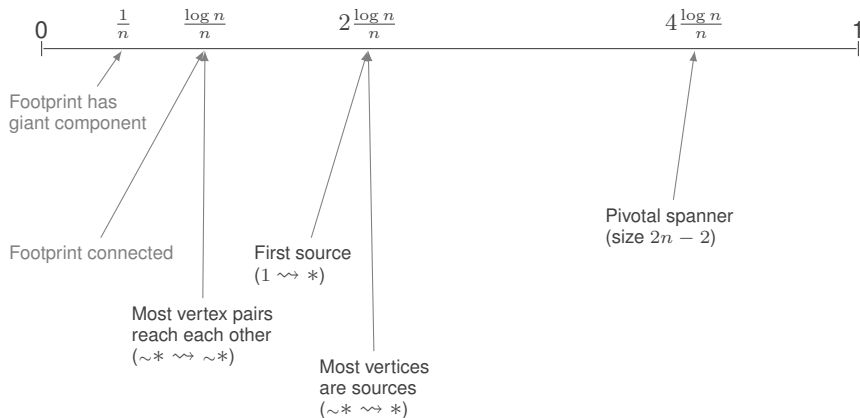
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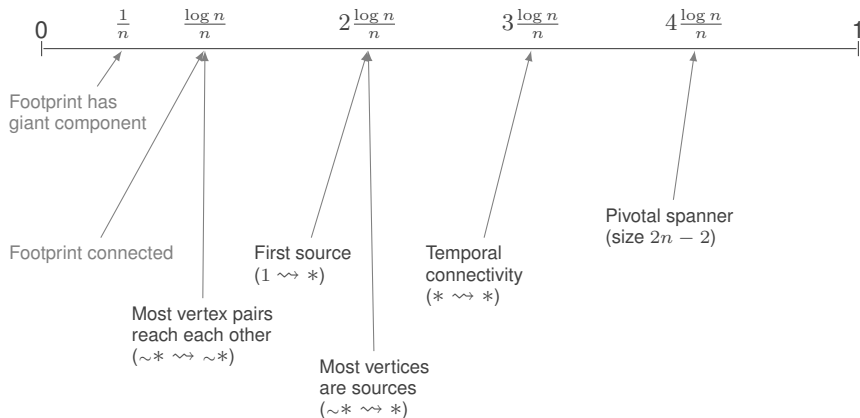
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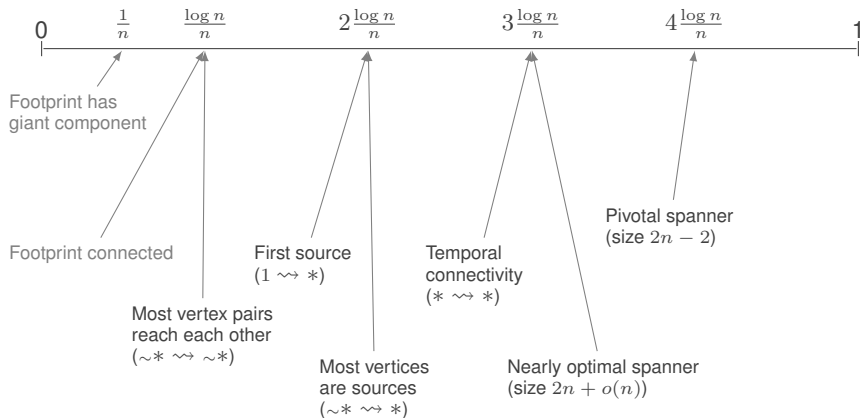
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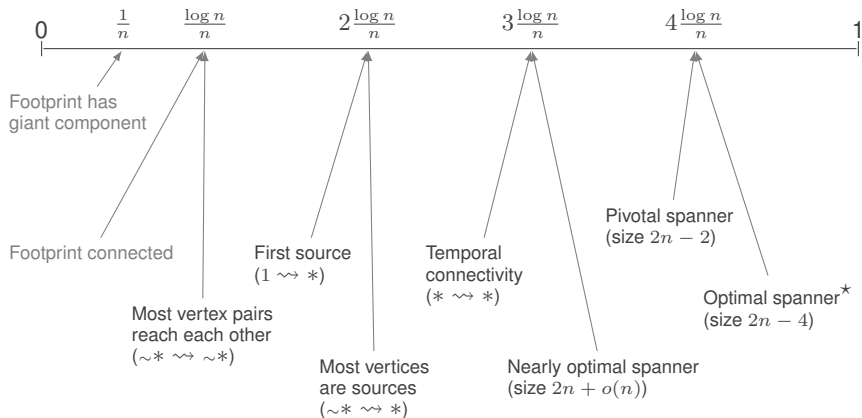
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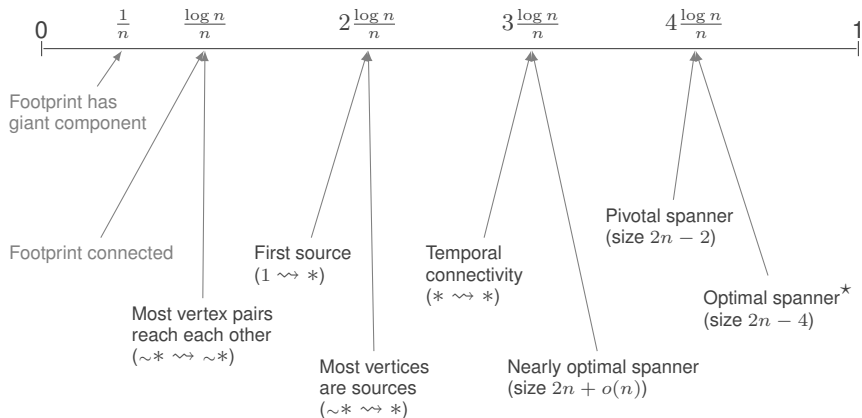
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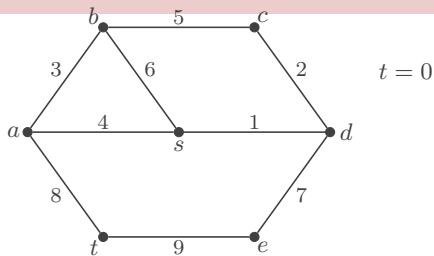
All the thresholds are sharp, except \star (open problem)

(sharp: $\exists \epsilon(n) = o(1)$, not true at $(1 - \epsilon(n))p$, true at $(1 + \epsilon(n))p$)

Main technical tool: growth of a foremost tree

Foremost tree (from s)

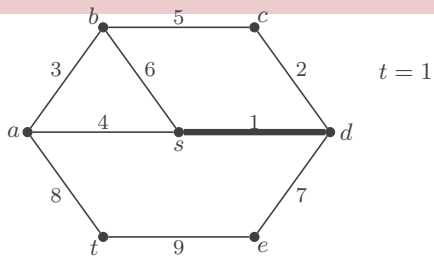
- Foremost temporal paths from s to all
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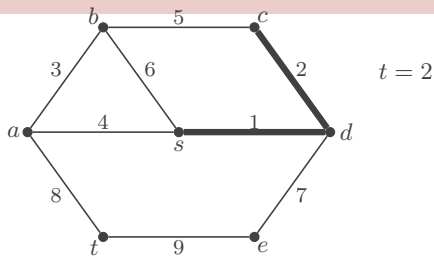
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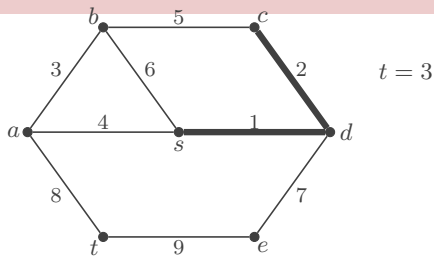
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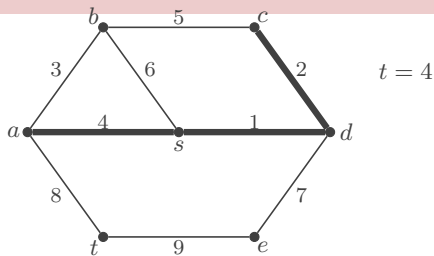
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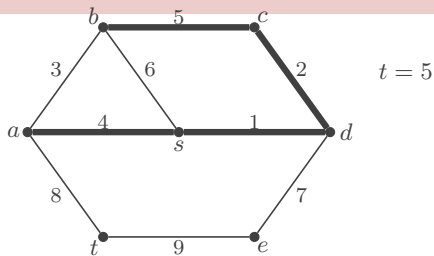
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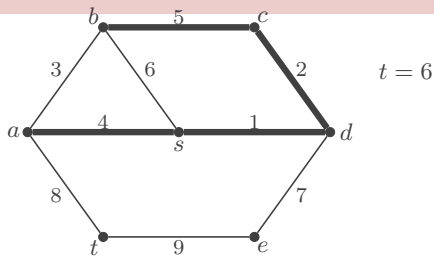
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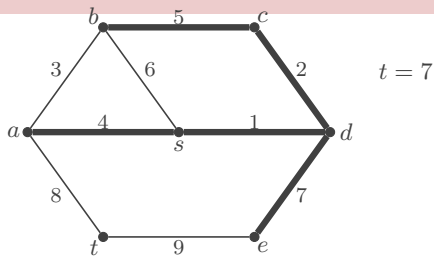
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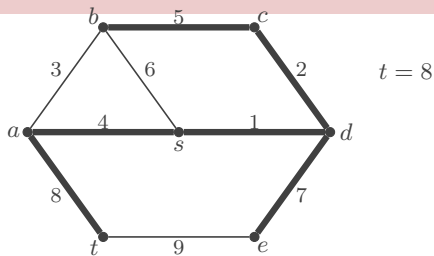
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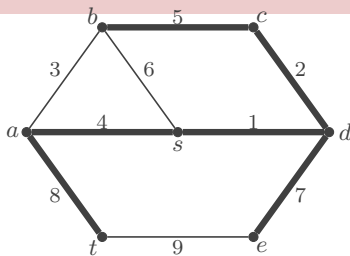
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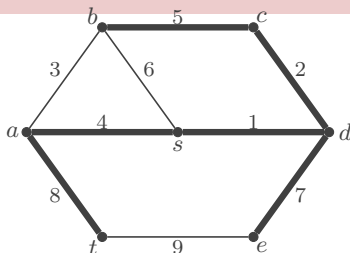


Analysis

Main technical tool: growth of a foremost tree

Foremost tree (from s)

- Foremost temporal paths from s to all
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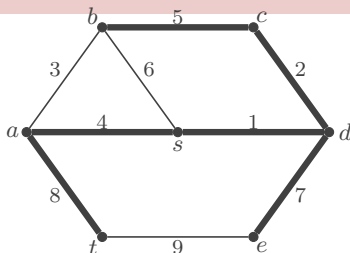
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- Consider “growing” a foremost tree in $\mathcal{G} \sim \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ from a vertex s .

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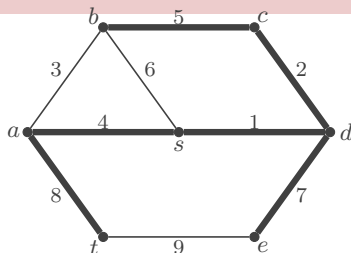
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- ▶ Once we have reached k vertices, there are $k(n - k)$ potential edges.

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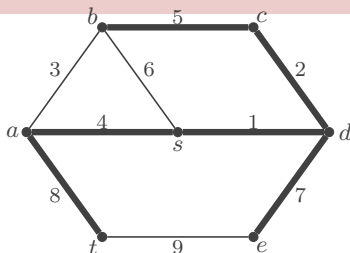
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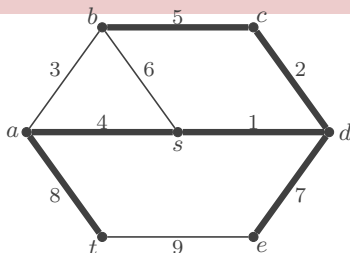
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- ▶ Azuma’s inequality for concentration.

Derived arguments

We note $foremost(u)$ the set of vertices reached by a foremost tree from u .

Reachability thresholds

▶ $\sim^* \rightsquigarrow \sim^* \iff \forall u, \forall v, a.a.s. v \in foremost(u)$ ($\log n/n$)

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- ▶ Pivotal $(* \rightsquigarrow 1 \rightsquigarrow^*) \leftarrow (* \rightsquigarrow \sim^*) + (\sim^* \rightsquigarrow^*)$ ($4 \log n/n$)

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Pivotal square. Sharp ?

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Reachability thresholds

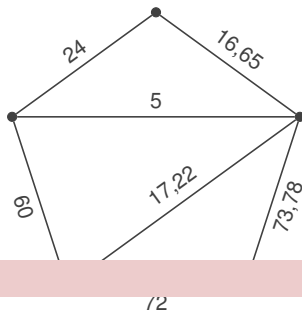
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Spanners

- ▶ Pivotal $(* \rightsquigarrow 1 \rightsquigarrow *) \iff (* \rightsquigarrow \sim^*) + (\sim^* \rightsquigarrow *)$ ($4 \log n/n$)
- ▶ Optimal spanner (size $2n - 4$) ($4 \log n/n$)
Pivotal square. Sharp ?
- ▶ Nearly optimal spanner (size $2n + o(n)$) ($3 \log n/n$)
LB: Trivial (not temporally connected)
UB: Explicit construction
Three intervals of length $\log n/n$:
 - ▶ $\sim^* \rightsquigarrow 1$ (say u) By $\log n/n$
 - ▶ $u \rightsquigarrow \sim^*$ between $2 \log n/n$ and $3 \log n/n$.
 - ▶ $missing \rightsquigarrow u$ between 0 and $2 \log n/n$
 - ▶ $u \rightsquigarrow missing$ between $\log n/n$ and $3 \log n/n$
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Random Non-Simple Temporal Graphs

$\mathcal{H}_{n,p}$: Each edge independently appears according to a rate 1 Poisson process stopped at time p .



Theorem

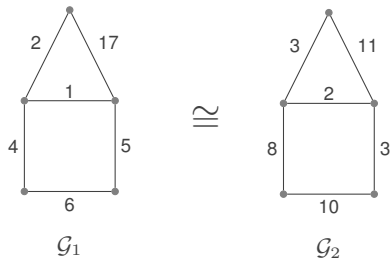
All our thresholds also hold for $\mathcal{H}_{n,p}$.

Simple temporal graphs (beyond spanners)

Special properties and symmetries

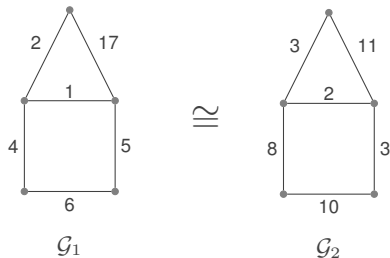
Equivalence based on reachability (up to time distortion)

Different STGs are equivalent in terms of *reachability*



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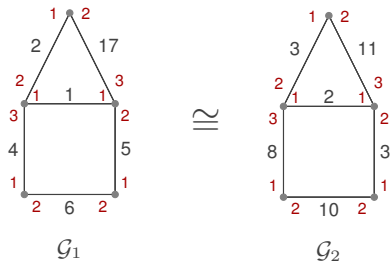
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How to capture this equivalence?

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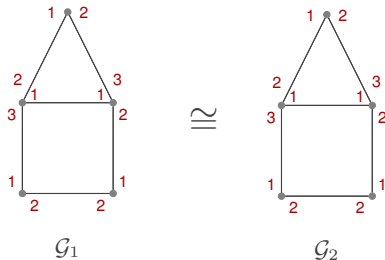


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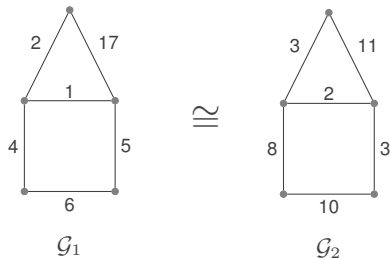


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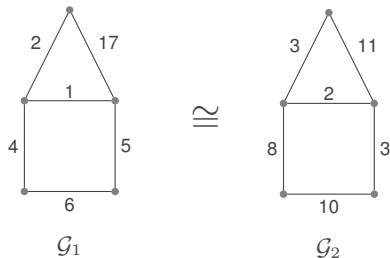


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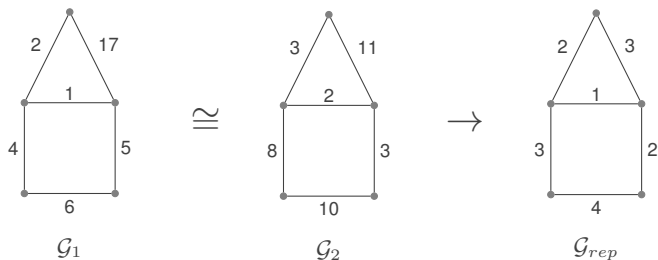


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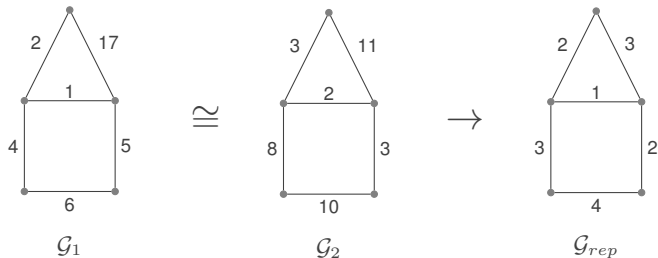


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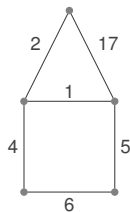
STG representatives have good properties for generation

+ canonization, isomorphism testing, and computation of generators for the automorphism group, are all feasible in *polynomial time*.

STG representatives

Canonization

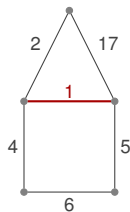
1. Find edges that are *local* minima
2. Assign them the smallest available time
3. Increment time
4. Repeat on remaining edges



STG representatives

Canonization

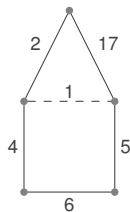
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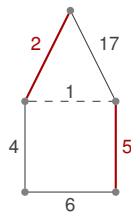
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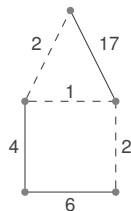
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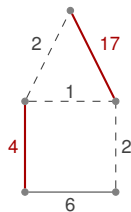
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STG representatives

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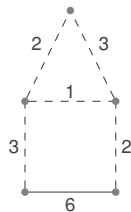
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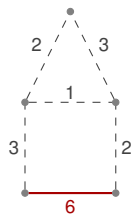
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STG representatives

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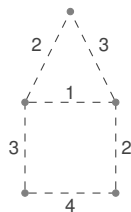
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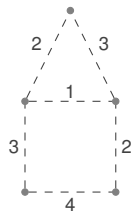
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STG representatives

Canonization

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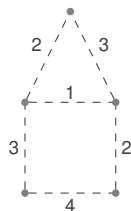
Properties of the labeling

Time induces a *proper* coloring of the edges (by definition of STGs).

STG representatives

Canonization

1. Find edges that are *local* minima
2. Assign them the smallest available time
3. Increment time
4. Repeat on remaining edges



Properties of the labeling

Time induces a *proper* coloring of the edges (by definition of STGs).

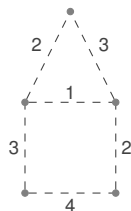
In addition,

Contiguity Lemma: If an edge is labeled $t > 1$, then an adjacent edge is labeled $t - 1$.

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(If you know a name for this type of edge coloring, please let me know.)

How to test for equivalence?

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Input: Two STGs \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2

Output: Are they equivalent?

Two steps algorithm:

1. Canonize them
2. Test for (classical) isomorphism of the canonical forms

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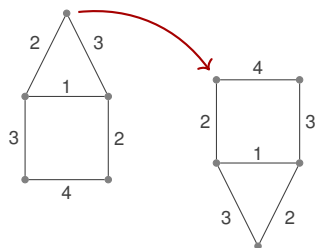
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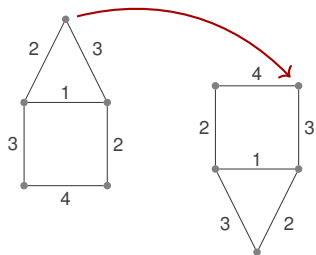
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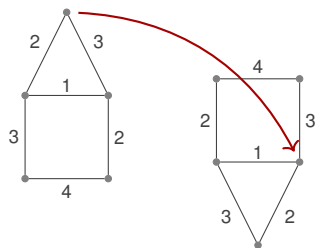
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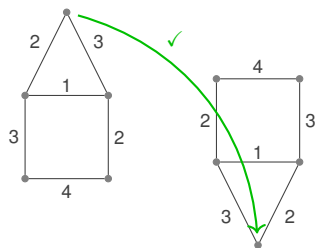
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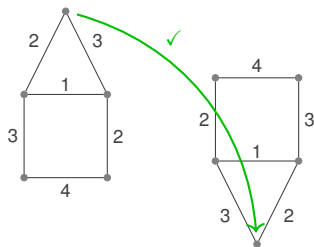
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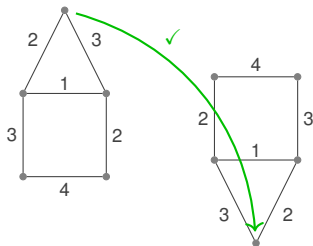
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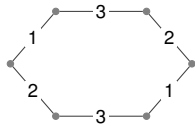
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Remark: Also feasible using Babai & Luks machinery (1983)

Automorphisms of an STG

Case 1: The underlying graph is connected.

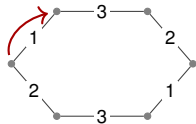
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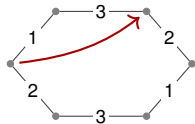
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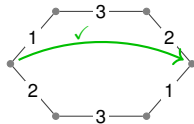
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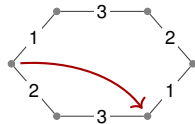
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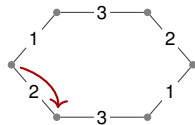
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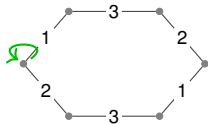
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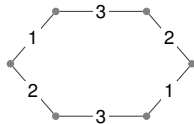


At most n automorphisms!

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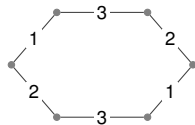


Case 2: The underlying graph is not connected
(the complement trick does not work for temporal graphs...)

Automorphisms of an STG

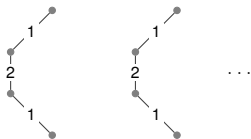
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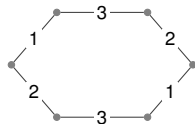


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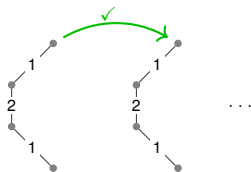
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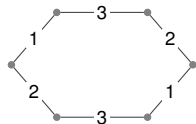


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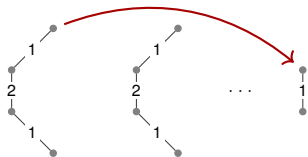
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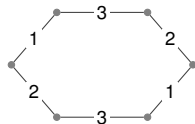


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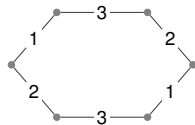


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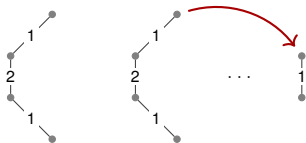
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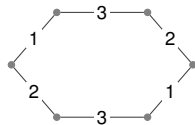


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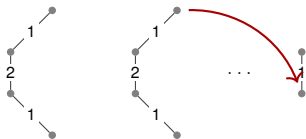
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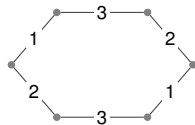


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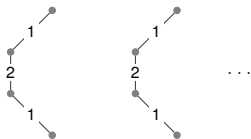
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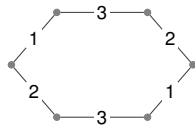


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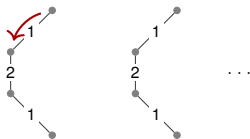
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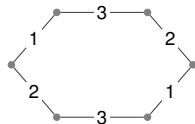


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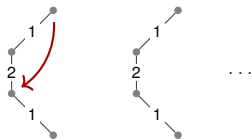
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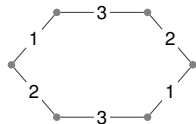


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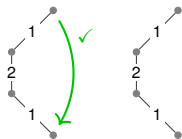
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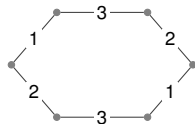
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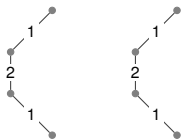
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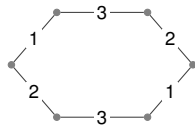


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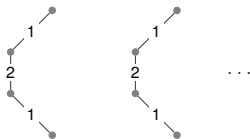
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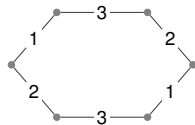
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Automorphisms of an STG

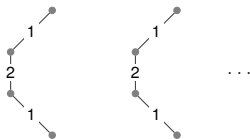
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→ *Generators for $Aut(\mathcal{G})$ can be computed in polynomial time!*

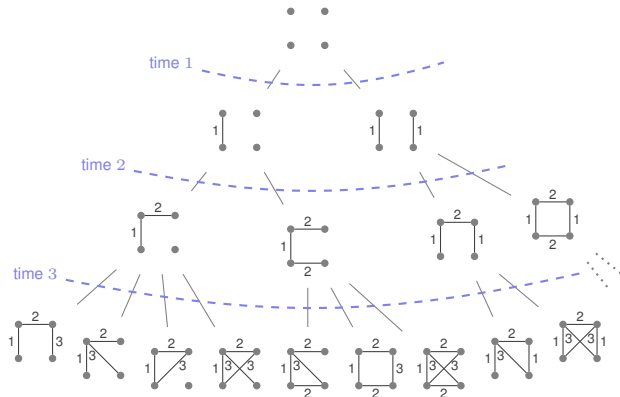
Enumeration up to equivalence

(motivated by conjecture refutation on spanners)

Generation tree

Principle: One level = one time unit

→ children of a graph = all the possible ways to add the *next time*



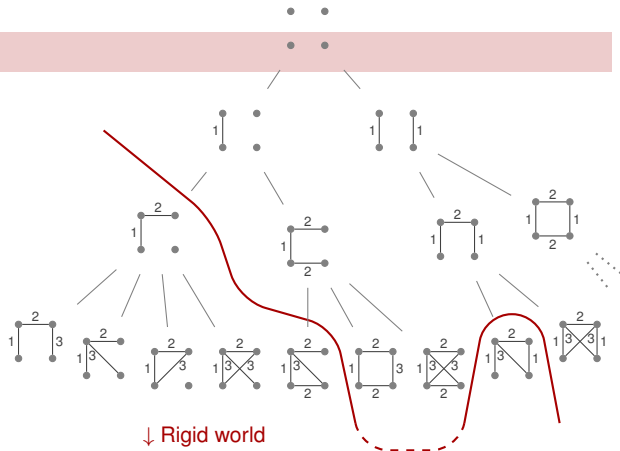
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Key properties

1. Rigidity is inherited



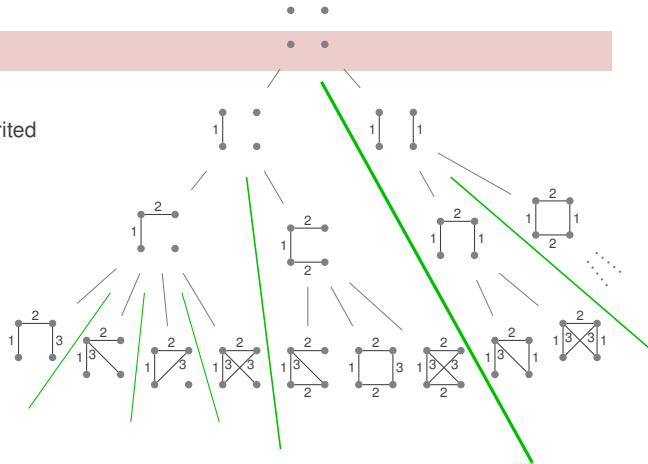
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Key properties

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2. Dissimilarity is inherited



↓ Isomorphism types separated (forever)

How to generate successors at each level?

Input: An STG representative \mathcal{G} , whose maximum time is t

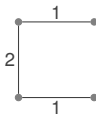
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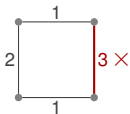


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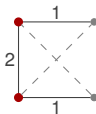
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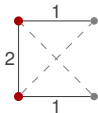
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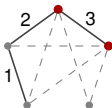
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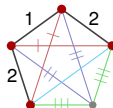
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\mathcal{G} is rigid



Two cases

\mathcal{G} has symmetries

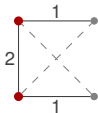


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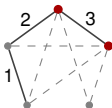
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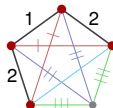
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Two cases

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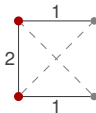
→ Enumerate all matchings of eligible *non-edges*.
Each one defines a successor.

How to generate successors at each level?

Input: An STG representative \mathcal{G} , whose maximum time is t

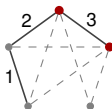
Output: All STG representatives that extend \mathcal{G} with time $t + 1$.

First, how to decide if a *non-edge* is eligible to receive a $(t + 1)$ time label? (E.g. here, time 3)



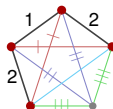
Coloring lemma: $(t+1)$ must be adjacent to (t)

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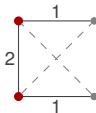
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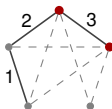
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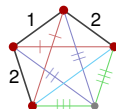
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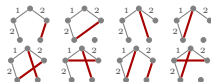
\mathcal{G} has symmetries



→ Enumerate all matchings of eligible *non-edges*. Each one defines a successor.

→ Enumerate matchings of eligible *non-edges* whose *multisets of orbits* are distinct

≡ Independent sets in the *line graph* of eligible *non-edges* (standard algorithm)



Done using the generators for $Aut(\mathcal{G})$

How to use

```
include("generation.jl")

n = 5
for g in TGraphs(n)
    ...
end
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Implemented in Julia
(other versions also in Python and Java)

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Do simple temporal cliques admit spanners of size $2n - 3$?

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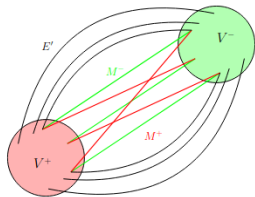
→ True for $n \leq 7$ (and for all non-rigid graphs at $n = 8$).

Otherwise still open! :-)

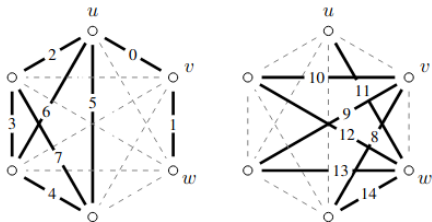
Some numbers

# Vertices	# STGs	# Temporally connected STGs	# Simple Temporal cliques
1	1	1	1
2	2	1	1
3	4	1	1
4	62	32	20
5	15378	10207	4524
6	89769096	70557834	23218501
7	13828417028594	?	3129434545680
8	?	?	?

Non dismantlable clique:



Non pivotable clique (seen as a union of two graphs):



Thanks!



next time... :-)