The Magic Number Three P versus NP

Henning Fernau 22 July 2025



Trier University

Definition (Two-layer drawing)

Let $G = (V_1, V_2, E)$ be a **bipartite** graph.

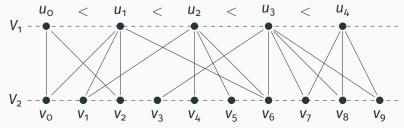
$$U_0 < U_1 < U_2 < U_3 < U_4$$
 $V_1 - ullet -$

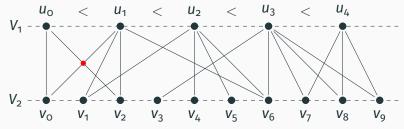
V₂ -----

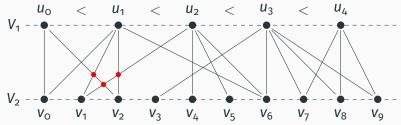
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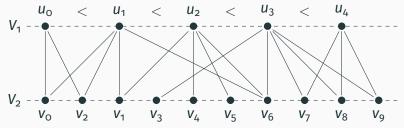
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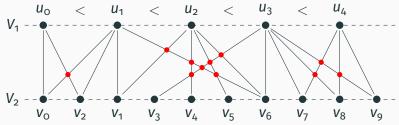
1





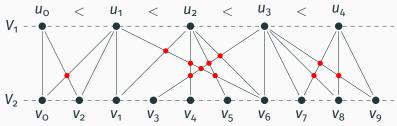






Definition (Two-layer drawing)

Let $G = (V_1, V_2, E)$ be a **bipartite** graph.



Problem (OSCM)

Given a **bipartite graph** $G = (V_1, V_2, E)$, a **linear order** τ_1 on V_1 and $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Is there a **linear order** τ_2 on V_2 such that the two-layer drawing specified by (τ_1, τ_2) has at most k edge crossings?

1

Definition (Swap)c a d d a a b c c d d

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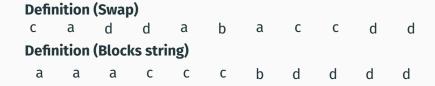
caddab^{k-}accdd

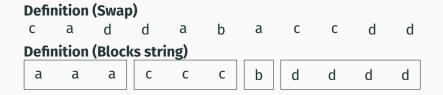
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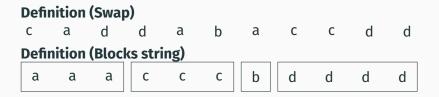
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Definition (Blocks string)







Problem (GbS)Given a **finite alphabet** Σ , a **string** $w \in \Sigma^*$, and

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2

GbS

An alphabet $\Sigma = \{a, b, c, d\}$ and w = caddaabccdd.

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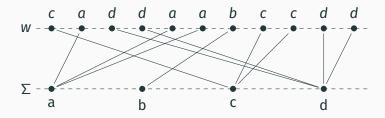
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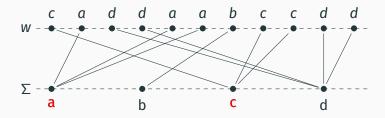
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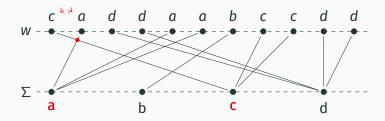
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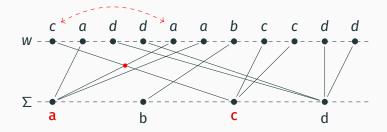
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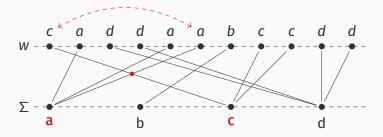
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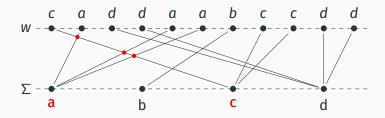
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OSCM is NP-complete if $G = (V_1, V_2, E)$ is a collection of $K_{1,4}$ with centers of stars in V_2 .

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OPEN: OSCM with a max-3 restriction.

OPEN: GbS if each letter occurs (at most) 3 times.

Recall: Reeb graph presentation!

Problem (KRA)

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Given a **list of votes** Π over a **set of candidates** C and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ Is there a **ranking** τ on C such that the sum of the KT-distances of τ from all the votes is at most k. C: C_1 , C_2 , C_3 , C_4 , C_5 , C_6 , C_7

5

Problem (KRA)

C:
$$c_1$$
, c_2 , c_3 , c_4 , c_5 , c_6 , c_7
 c_1 : c_1 < c_4 < c_7 < c_2 < c_5 < c_6 < c_3
 c_4 < c_7 < c_2 < c_6 < c_1 < c_5 < c_3
 c_4 < c_6 < c_7 < c_2 < c_6 < c_7 < c_8 < c_8

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 \square : $c_1 < c_4 < c_7 < c_2 < c_5 < c_6 < c_3$
 $c_4 < c_7 < c_2 < c_6 < c_1 < c_5 < c_3$
 $c_4 < c_6 < c_7 < c_2 < c_5 < c_5 < c_3 < c_1$
 τ : $c_4 < c_7 < c_2 < c_6 < c_1 < c_5 < c_3$
KT-Distance
 $(\pi, \tau) = |\{\{i, j\} \mid c_i <_{\pi} c_j, c_i >_{\tau} c_j\}|$

KRA is NP-complete already for 4 voters.

KRA is polynomial-time solvable with 2 voters.

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OPEN: KRA with 3 voters.