

# Representative Families and Algorithms

## Lecture 3

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Combinatorics, Complexity 2021





## Week plan

- Bollobas Lemma
- Some combinatorial applications (critical graphs and minimal separators)
- Representative Sets
- Few attempts to compute Reps
- Longest Path application
- Matroids
- One more attempt to compute Reps
- Kernelization application



## Recap from the yesterday's lecture

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of  $a$ -sets,  $\mathcal{F}' \subseteq \mathcal{F}$   $b$ -represents  $\mathcal{F}$  if for every  $B$  of size  $b$  such that there exists an  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  there exists an  $A' \in \mathcal{F}'$  with  $A' \cap B = \emptyset$ .

Corollary of Bollobás: For every  $\mathcal{F}$  there is an  $\mathcal{F}' \subseteq \mathcal{F}$  of size at most  $\binom{a+b}{b}$  that  $b$ -represents  $\mathcal{F}$ .



## Recap from the yesterday's lecture

Let  $F$  be a family of  $a$ -sets,  $F' \subseteq F$   $b$ -represents  $F$  if for every  $B$  of size  $b$  such that there exists an  $A \in F$  with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  there exists an  $A' \in F'$  with  $A' \cap B = \emptyset$ .

Corollary of Bollobás: For every  $F$  there is an  $F' \subseteq F$  of size at most  $\binom{a+b}{b}$  that  $b$ -represents  $F$ .

Algorithm computing  $b$ -representative set

Output size:  $2^{a+b+o(a+b)} \log n$

Running time:  $|F| 2^{a+b} \log n$



**Longest Path:** Given a (directed) graph  $G$  and integer  $k$ , decide whether  $G$  contains a path with at least  $k$  vertices?





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Algorithm solving Longest Path  
in time  $4^{k+o(k)} \cdot \text{poly}(n)$





# Longest Path story

- Monien [1982],  $k \leq n^{O(1)}$  representative sets
- Bodlaender [1984]:  $k \leq n^{O(1)}$  treewidth
- Papadimitriou and Yannakakis [1996]: Is in  $P$  for  $k = \log n$ ?



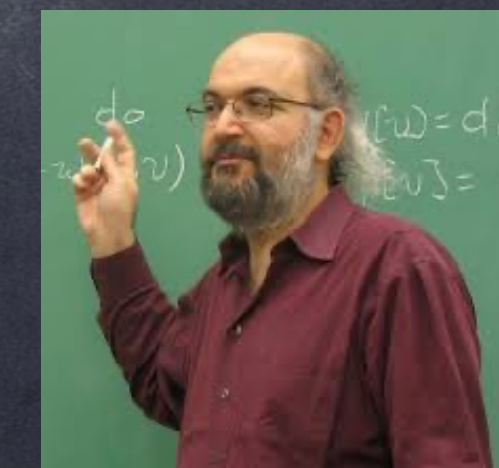
Burkhard Monien



Hans Bodlaender



Christos Papadimitriou



Mihalis Yannakakis



# Color Coding [1995] $O(2^{O(k)} \cdot n)$

## Color-Coding

NOGA ALON

*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey and Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel*

RAPHAEL YUSTER AND URI ZWICK

*Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel*

Abstract. We describe a novel randomized method, the method of *color-coding* for finding simple paths and cycles of a specified length  $k$ , and other small subgraphs, within a given graph  $G = (V, E)$ . The randomized algorithms obtained using this method can be derandomized using families of *perfect hash functions*. Using the color-coding method we obtain, in particular, the following new results:

- For every fixed  $k$ , if a graph  $G = (V, E)$  contains a simple cycle of size *exactly*  $k$ , then such a cycle can be found in either  $O(V^\omega)$  expected time or  $O(V^\omega \log V)$  worst-case time, where  $\omega < 2.376$  is the exponent of matrix multiplication. (Here and in what follows we use  $V$  and  $E$  instead of  $|V|$  and  $|E|$  whenever no confusion may arise.)
- For every fixed  $k$ , if a *planar* graph  $G = (V, E)$  contains a simple cycle of size *exactly*  $k$ , then such a cycle can be found in either  $O(V)$  expected time or  $O(V \log V)$  worst-case time. The same algorithm applies, in fact, not only to planar graphs, but to any *minor closed* family of graphs which is not the family of all graphs.
- If a graph  $G = (V, E)$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to a *bounded tree-width* graph  $H = (V_H, E_H)$  where  $|V_H| = O(\log V)$ , then such a copy of  $H$  can be found in *polynomial time*. This





# Longest Path Story



Determinant-sum



Treewidth algorithms



Algebraic fingerprints



Representative sets



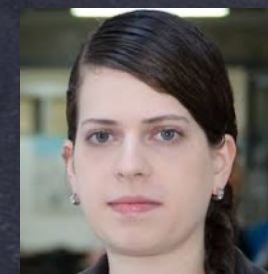
Cut & count



Divide-and-color



Narrow sieves



Polynomial differentiation





# Dynamic Programming Held-Karp, Bellman [1962]: $O(2^n)$

	1	2	3	...	i	...	n
$v_1$							
$v_2$							
$v_3$							
...							
$v_j$							
...							
$v_n$							



Richard Karp



Richard Bellman



# Dynamic Programming Held-Karp, Bellman [1962]: $O(2^n)$



Richard Karp



Richard Bellman

	1	2	3	...	i	...	n
$v_1$							
$v_2$							
$v_3$							
...							
$v_j$							
...							
$v_n$							

$F[v_j, i] = [\text{Vertex Sets of paths of length } i \text{ ending in } v_j]$



# Dynamic Programming Held-Karp, Bellman [1962]: $O(2^n)$



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	1	2	3	...	i	...	n
$v_1$							
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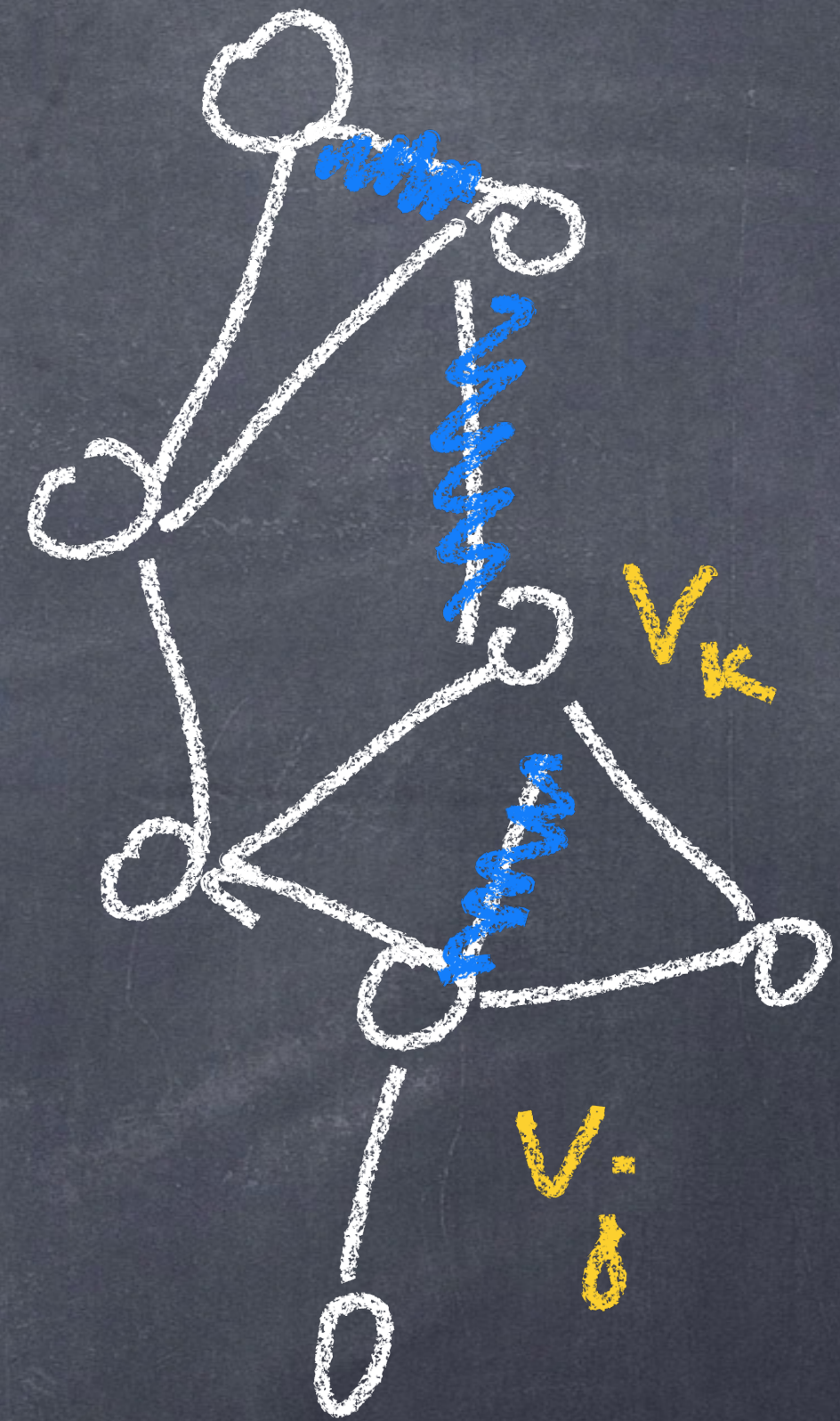
$F[v_j, i] = [\text{Vertex Sets of paths of length } i \text{ ending in } v_j]$

Sets, not sequences!!!



# Dynamic Programming Held-Karp, Bellman [1962]: $O(2^n)$

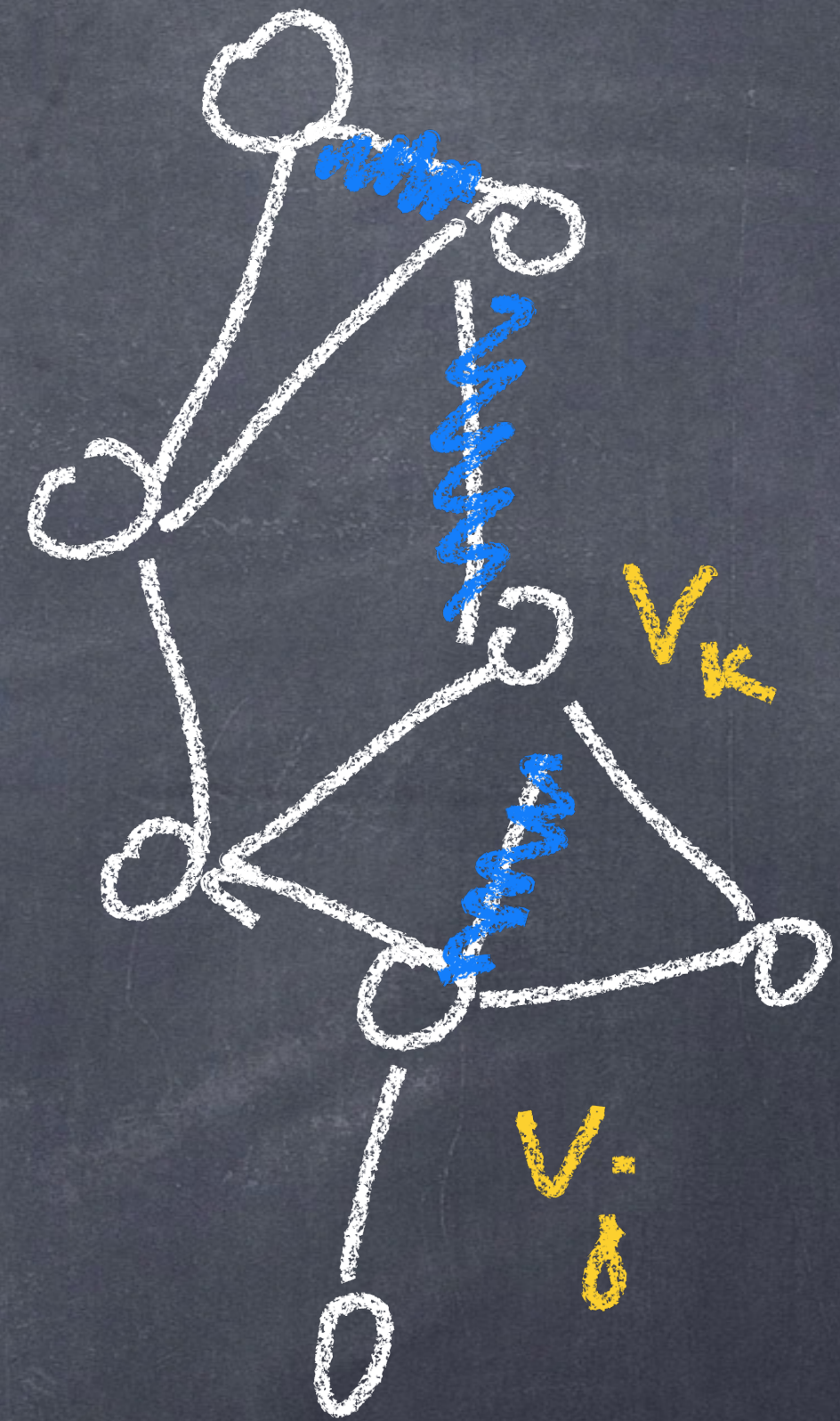
	1	2	...	$i-1$	$i$	...	$n$
$v_1$							
$v_2$							
$v_3$							
...							
$v_j$	$F[v_j, 1] = \{v_j\}$						
...							
$v_n$	$F[v_j, i] = [\text{Vertex Sets of } i\text{-paths ending in } v_j]$						





# Dynamic Programming Held-Karp, Bellman [1962]: $O(2^n)$

	1	2	...	$i-1$	$i$	...	$n$
$v_1$	ALL $(i-1)$ -paths that can be extended by $v_j$						
$v_2$							
$v_3$							
...							
$v_j$	$F[v_j, 1] = \{v_j\}$						
...							
$v_n$	$F[v_j, i] = [\text{Vertex Sets of } i\text{-paths ending in } v_j]$ $= [\text{Vertex Sets of } (i-1)\text{-paths avoiding } v_j \text{ ending in } v_k \in N(v_j) \cup \{v_j\}]$						





# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path

	0	1	2	...	k	...	n
$v_1$							
$v_2$							
$v_3$							
...							
$v_j$							
...							
$v_n$							

$k$ -Path, keep at most  $\binom{n}{k}$  sets. Update time for each set polynomial



# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path

Time  $n^{O(k)}$

	0	1	2	...	k	...	n
$v_1$							
$v_2$							
$v_3$							
...							
$v_j$							
...							
$v_n$							

$k$ -Path, keep at most  $\binom{n}{k}$  sets. Update time for each set polynomial



# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path, Reps enter the game

Time  $n^{O(k)}$

Keep  $\binom{n}{k}$  sets

Reps



Update time  $\binom{n}{k} n$

Time  $4^{k+o(k)} \cdot n^{O(1)}$

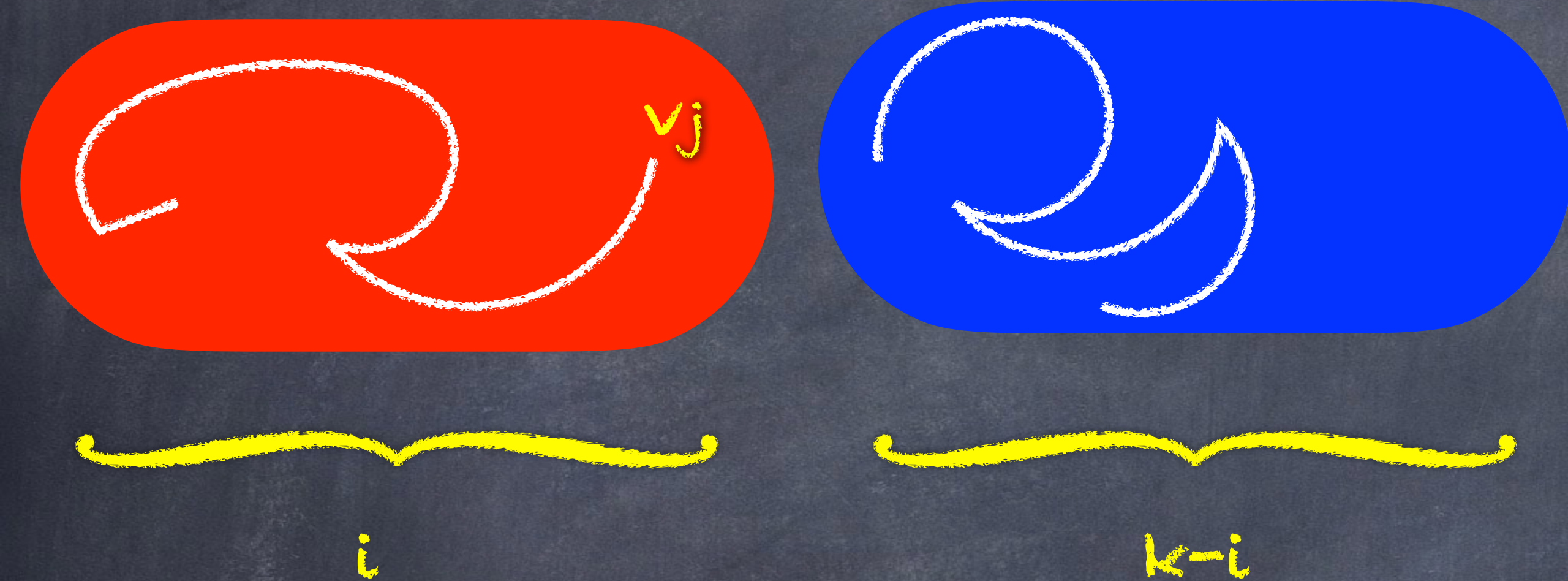
Keep  $2^{k+o(k)} \log n$  sets

Update time  
 $2^k 2^{k+o(k)} n \log n = 4^{k+o(k)} \cdot n^{O(1)}$



# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

$F[v_j, i]$  All  $i$ -paths that end with  $v_j$

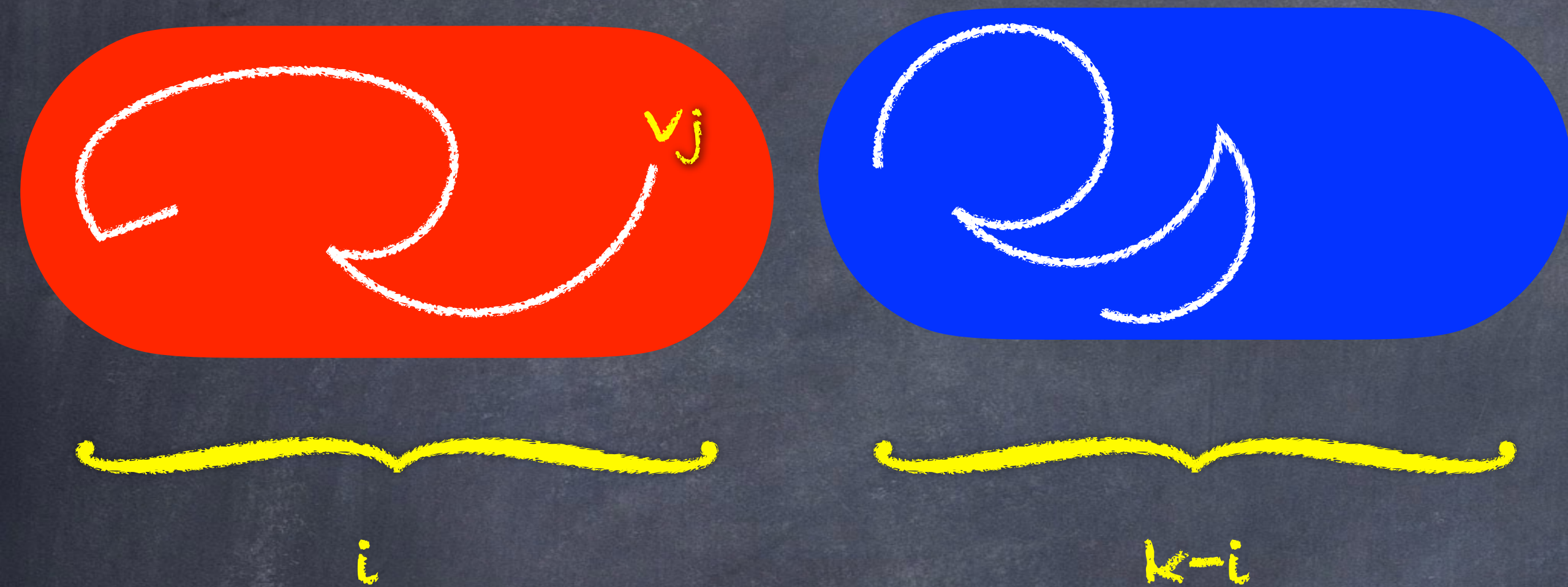




# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

$F[v_j, i]$  All  $i$ -paths that end with  $v_j$

$F'[v_j, i]$  family  $(k-i)$ -representing  $F[v_j, i]$





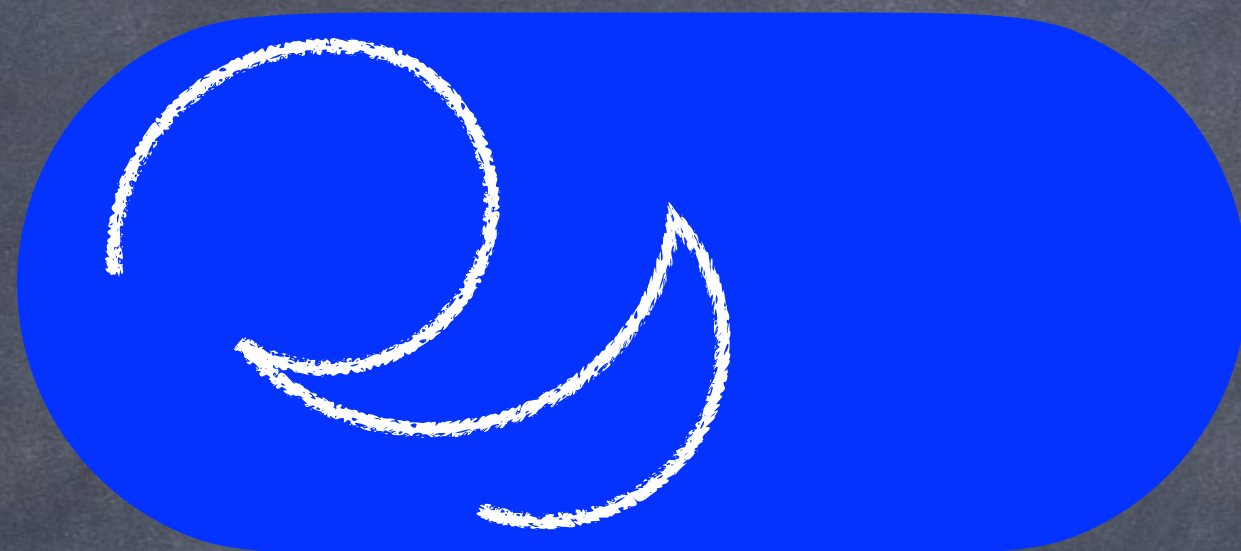
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$F[v_j, i]$  All  $i$ -paths that end with  $v_j$

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Reps



$i$

$k-i$

Output size:  $2^{k+o(k)} \log n$

Running time:

$$|F[v_j, i]| 2^k \log n = \binom{n}{k} 2^k \log n$$



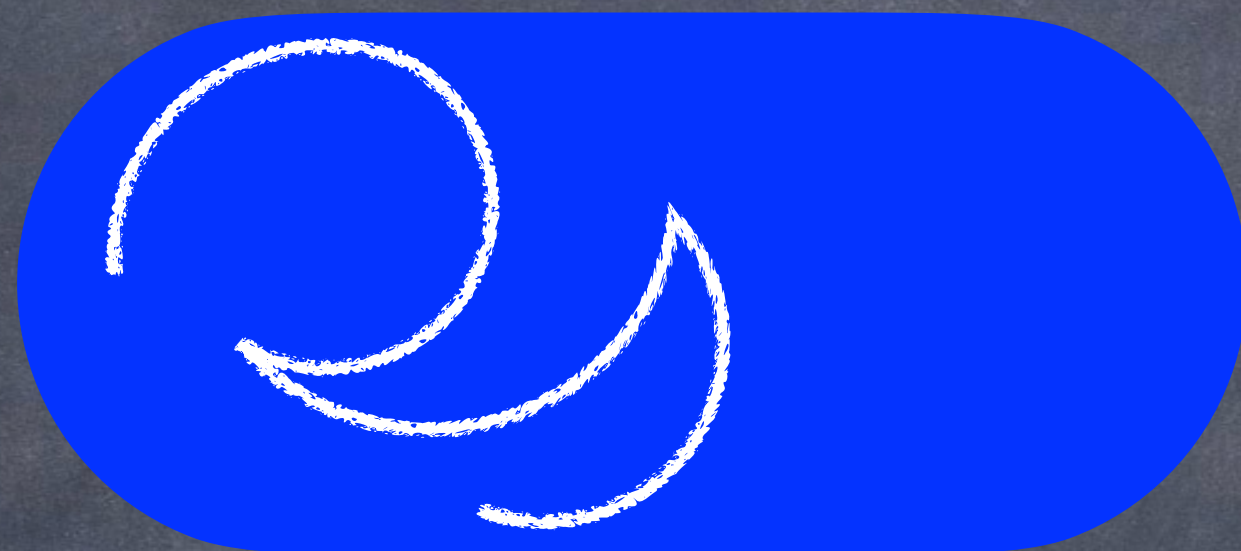
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Reps



$i$

$k-i$

Output size:  $2^{k+o(k)} \log n$

Running time:

$$|F[v_j, i]| 2^k \log n = \binom{n}{k} 2^k \log n$$

Time  $n^{O(k)}$

not what we shoot for!



# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

$$F'[v_j, 1] = \{v_j\}$$



# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

$$F'[v_j, 1] = \{v_j\}$$

$$X[v_j, i] = \bigcup_{v_k v_j \in E(G)} F'[v_k, i-1] \cup \{v_j\}$$

Sets not containing  $v_j$





# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

$$F'[v_j, 1] = \{v_j\}$$

$$X[v_j, i] = \bigcup_{v_k v_j \in E(G)} F'[v_k, i-1] \cup \{v_j\}$$

Sets not containing  $v_j$

$$F'[v_j, i] = \text{REDUCE}(X[v_j, i])$$

Output size:  $2^{k+o(k)} \log n$

Running time:  $|X[v_j, i]| 2^k \log n = 2^{k+o(k)} n 2^k \log n$



# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

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Output size:  $2^{k+o(k)} \log n$

Running time:  $|X[v_j, i]| 2^k \log n = 2^{k+o(k)} n 2^k \log n$

Total running time:  $4^{k+o(k)} n^{O(1)}$

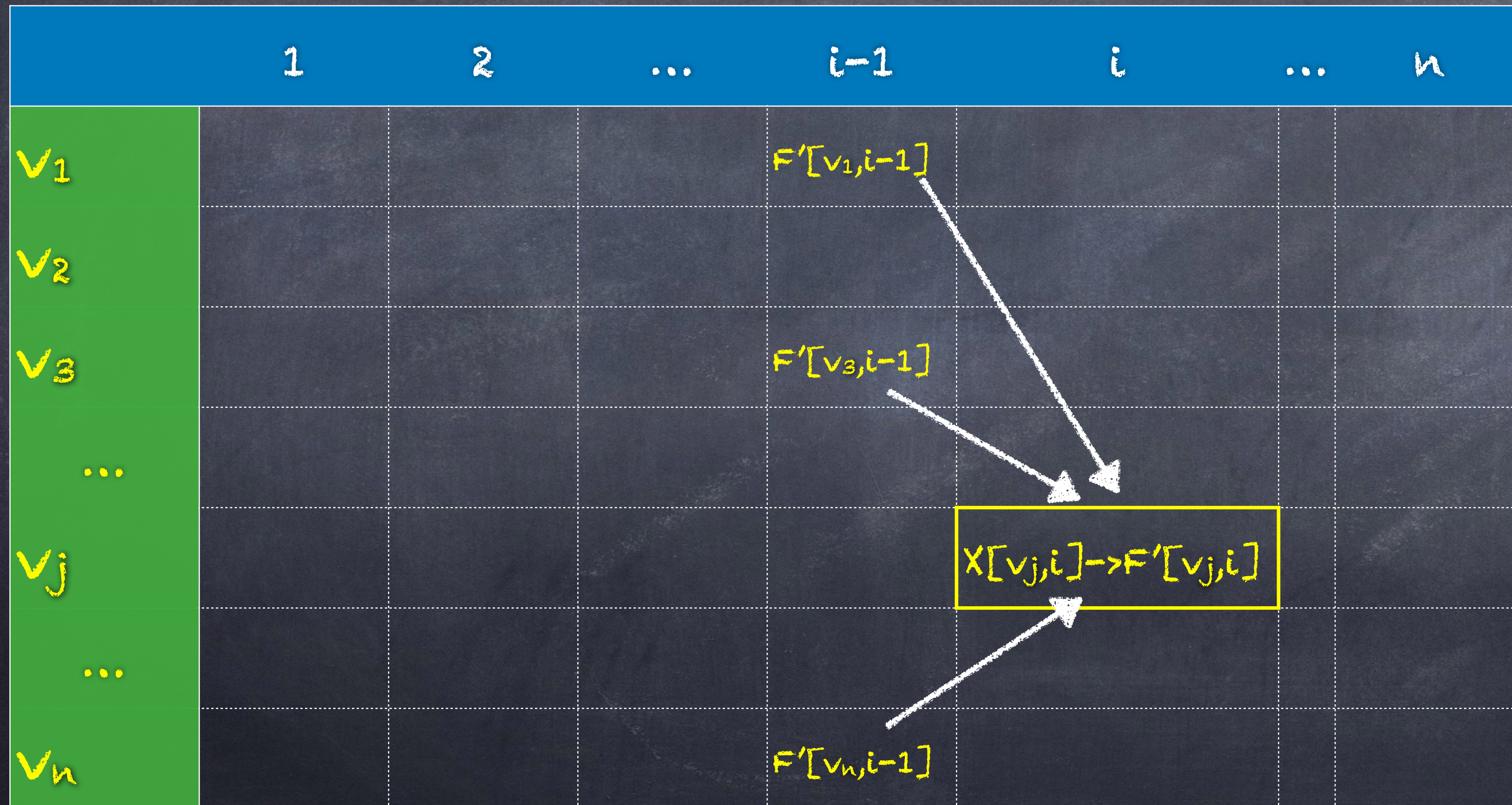


# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps

Correctness:

We have to show that  $F'[v_j, i]$   $(k-i)$ -represents  $F[v_j, i]$

assuming for each  $v_k$ ,  $F'[v_k, i-1]$   $(k-i+1)$ -represents  $F[v_k, i-1]$





# Dynamic Programming for $k$ -Path with Reps Correctness:

Proof:

By def.,  $F'[v_j, i]$   $(k-i)$ -represents  $X[v_j, i]$

We show that  $X[v_j, i]$   $(k-i)$ -reps  $F[v_j, i]$

$\Rightarrow F'[v_j, i]$   $(k-i)$ -reps.  $F[v_j, i]$



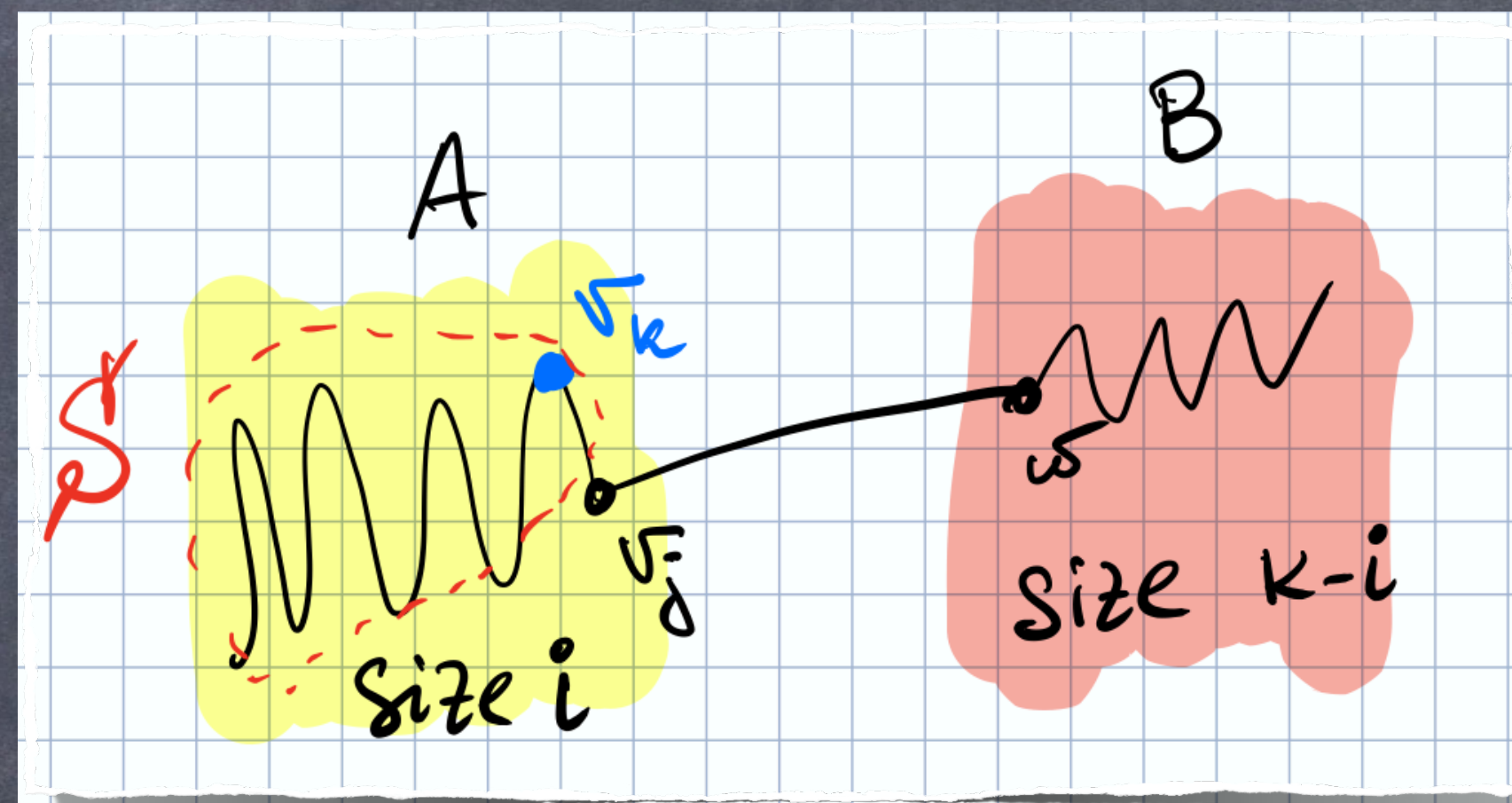
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$\Rightarrow F'[v_j, i]$   $(k-i)$ -reps.  $F[v_j, i]$



$\exists B, |B| = k-i$  and  $\exists A \in F[v_j, i]$  s.t.  $A \cap B = \emptyset$

Then  $\exists v_k$  and  $P \in F[v_k, i-1]$  s.t.  $P \cap (B \cup \{v_j\}) = \emptyset$

$\Rightarrow \exists S \in F[v_k, i-1]$  s.t.  $S \cap (B \cup \{v_j\}) = \emptyset$

$S \cup \{v_j\} \in X[v_j, i-1]$  and  $(S \cup \{v_j\}) \cap B = \emptyset$   $\blacksquare$

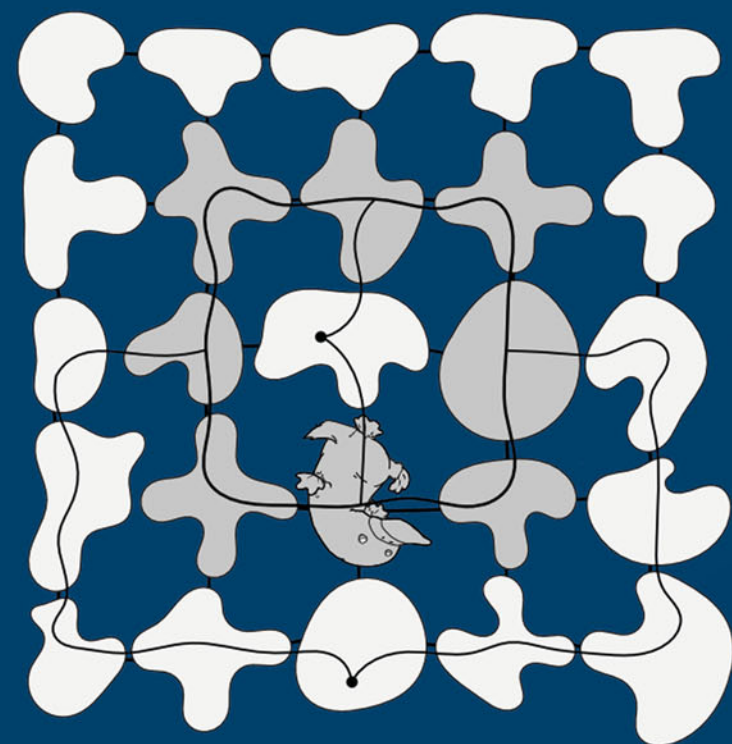


# Further reading

## Chapter 12.3

Marek Cygan · Fedor V. Fomin  
Łukasz Kowalik · Daniel Lokshtanov  
Dániel Marx · Marcin Pilipczuk  
Michał Pilipczuk · Saket Saurabh

# Parameterized Algorithms



 Springer

### Efficient Computation of Representative Families with Applications in Parameterized and Exact Algorithms

FEDOR V. FOMIN and DANIEL LOKSHTANOV, University of Bergen, Norway  
FAHAD PANOLAN, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, India  
SAKET SAURABH, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, India, and University of Bergen, Norway

Let  $M = (E, \mathcal{I})$  be a matroid and let  $S = \{S_1, \dots, S_t\}$  be a family of subsets of  $E$  of size  $p$ . A subfamily  $\hat{S} \subseteq S$  is  $q$ -representative for  $S$  if for every set  $Y \subseteq E$  of size at most  $q$ , if there is a set  $X \in S$  disjoint from  $Y$  with  $X \cup Y \in \mathcal{I}$ , then there is a set  $\hat{X} \in \hat{S}$  disjoint from  $Y$  with  $\hat{X} \cup Y \in \mathcal{I}$ . By the classic result of Bollobás, in a uniform matroid, every family of sets of size  $p$  has a  $q$ -representative family with at most  $\binom{p+q}{p}$  sets. In his famous “two families theorem” from 1977, Lovász proved that the same bound also holds for any matroid representable over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . We give an efficient construction of a  $q$ -representative family of size at most  $\binom{p+q}{p}$  in time bounded by a polynomial in  $\binom{p+q}{p}$ ,  $t$ , and the time required for field operations.

We demonstrate how the efficient construction of representative families can be a powerful tool for designing single-exponential parameterized and exact exponential time algorithms. The applications of our approach include the following:

- In the LONG DIRECTED CYCLE problem, the input is a directed  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$  and the positive integer  $k$ . The task is to find a directed cycle of length at least  $k$  in  $G$ , if such a cycle exists. As a consequence of our  $6.75^{k+o(k)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$  time algorithm, we have that a directed cycle of length at least  $\log n$ , if such a cycle exists, can be found in polynomial time.
- In the MINIMUM EQUIVALENT GRAPH (MEG) problem, we are seeking a spanning subdigraph  $D'$  of a given  $n$ -vertex digraph  $D$  with as few arcs as possible in which the reachability relation is the same as in the original digraph  $D$ .
- We provide an alternative proof of the recent results for algorithms on graphs of bounded treewidth showing that many “connectivity” problems such as HAMILTONIAN CYCLE or STEINER TREE can be solved in time  $2^{\mathcal{O}(t)} n$  on  $n$ -vertex graphs of treewidth at most  $t$ .

For the special case of uniform matroids on  $n$  elements, we give a faster algorithm to compute a representative family. We use this algorithm to provide the fastest known deterministic parameterized algorithms for  $k$ -PATH,  $k$ -TREE, and, more generally,  $k$ -SUBGRAPH ISOMORPHISM, where the  $k$ -vertex pattern graph is of constant treewidth.



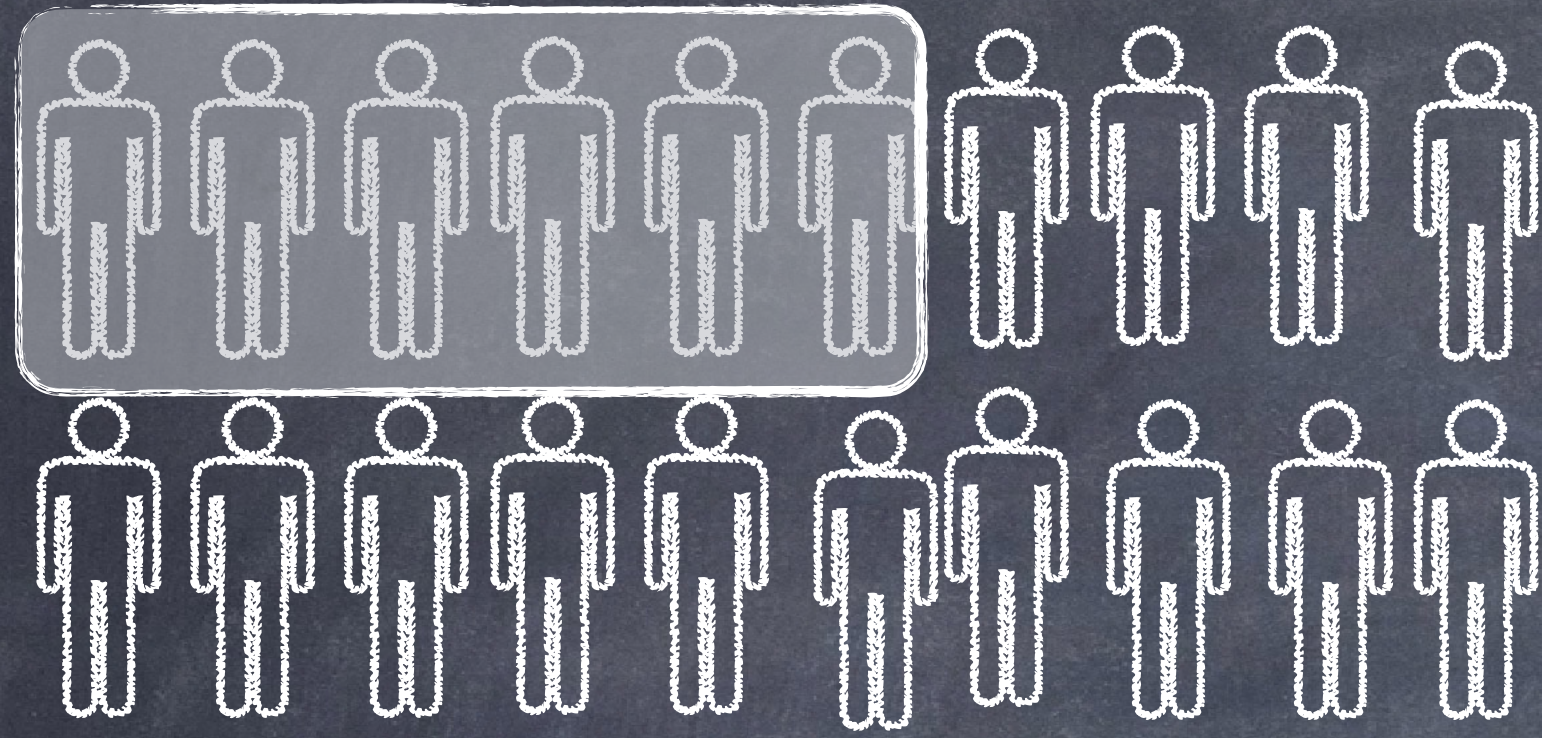
A generalization of Bollobas' Lemma for matroids

- and not only for the sake of generality...





# ML Cosmonaut selection

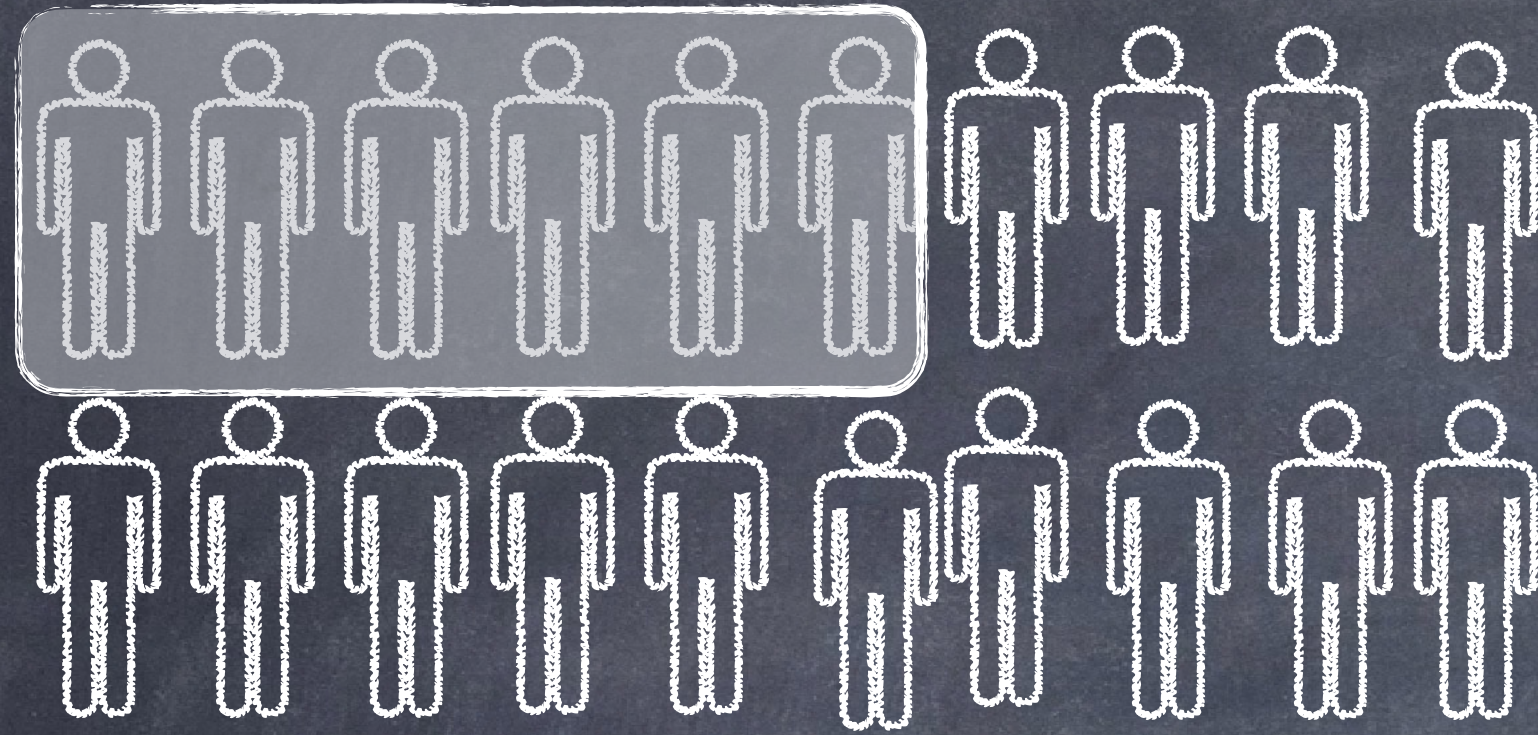


Every cosmonaut has a vector of features  
(common friends, favourite movies, etc.)





# ML Cosmonaut selection



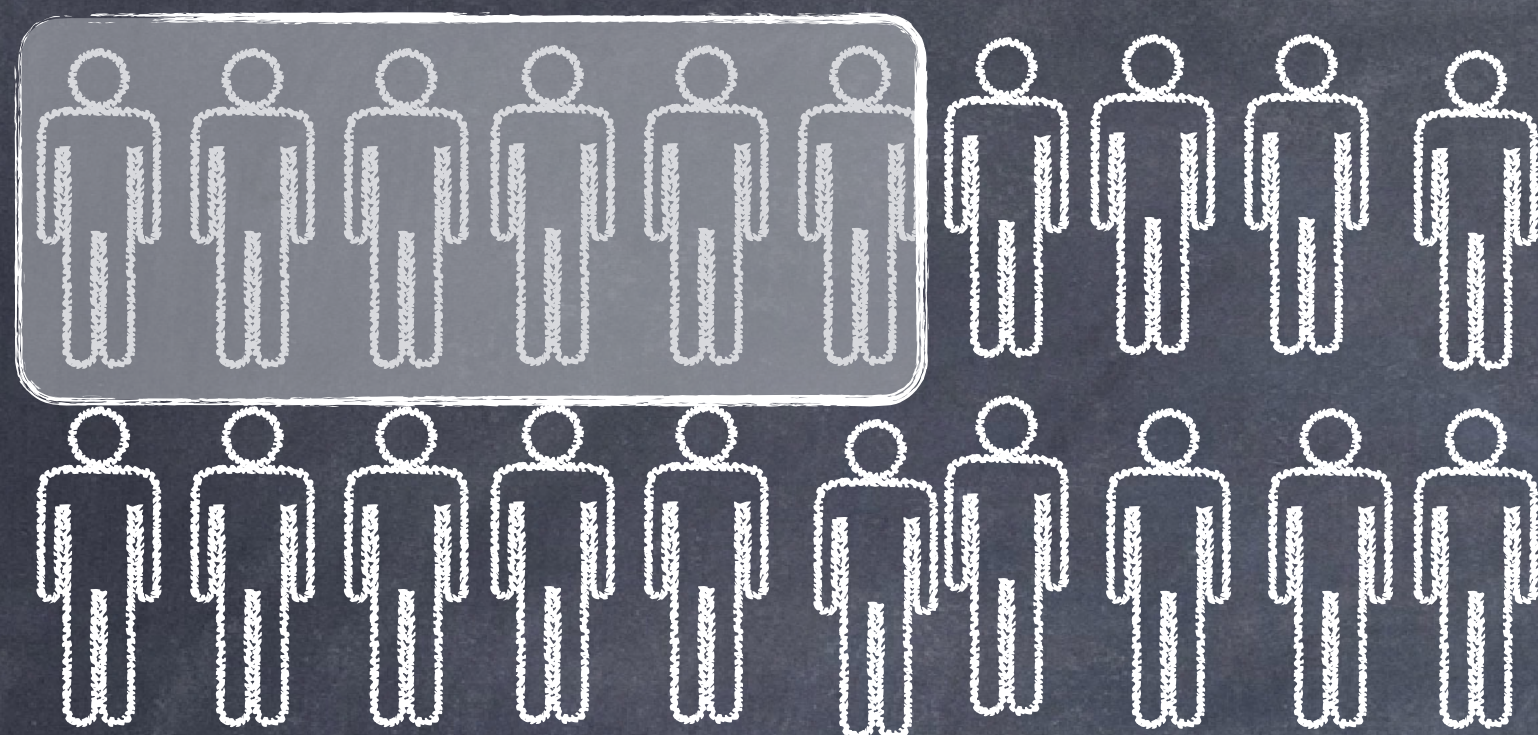
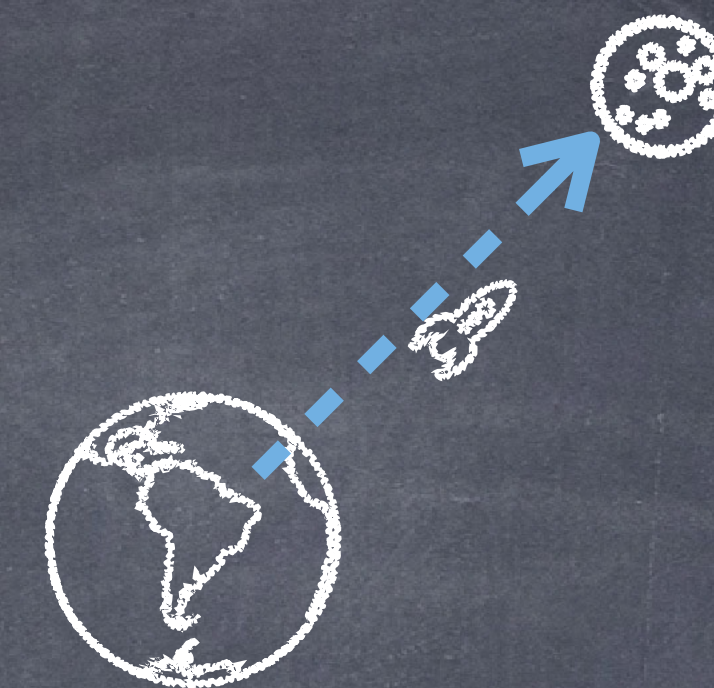
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If 3 cosmonauts will be ill, will at least  
one team **survive**?





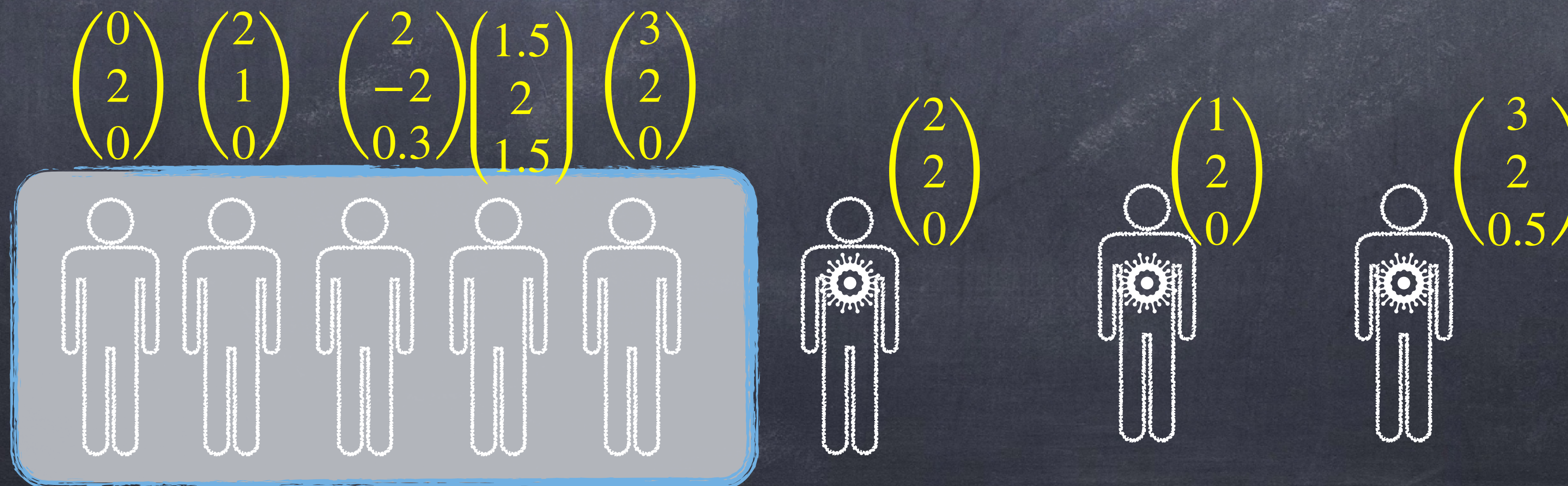
# ML Cosmonaut selection



Every cosmonaut has a vector of features  
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If 3 cosmonauts will be ill, will at least  
one team **survive**?

**Survive:** Means they do not intersect and  
their features are independent





# Matroids

A family  $\mathcal{F}$  of sets over a finite universe  $U$  is a **matroid** if it satisfies the following three matroid axioms:

- $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$ ,
- if  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $B \subseteq A$  then  $B \in \mathcal{F}$ ,
- if  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $|A| < |B|$  then there is an element  $b \in B \setminus A$  such that  $(A \cup \{b\}) \in \mathcal{F}$ .



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$U$  edges of matroid

$\mathcal{F}$  independent sets of matroid

Maximal independent set - **basis**

Size of basis - **rank**



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$U$  edges of matroid

$\mathcal{F}$  independent sets of matroid

Maximal independent set - **basis**

Size of basis - **rank**

If you never saw matroid!!!

Think of  $U$  as vectors (over some field) and  $\mathcal{F}$  as linearly independent sets of vectors.



## Important Matroids

Take some field

In our applications we often use  $\text{GF}(s)$



Important Matroids

Take some field

In our applications we often use GF(s)

Addition					Multiplication				
+	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	·	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>

Example GF(4), source Wikipedia



Important Matroids

Take some field

In our applications we often use  $GF(s)$

For edge  $e \in U \rightarrow$  vector  $v_e$   
over some field

Addition					Multiplication				
+	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	·	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>

Example  $GF(4)$ , source Wikipedia



Important Matroids

Take some field

In our applications we often use  $GF(s)$

Addition					Multiplication				
+	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	·	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>

Example  $GF(4)$ , source Wikipedia

For edge  $e \in U \rightarrow$  vector  $v_e$   
over some field

Declare  $S \subseteq U$  independent if  
and only if  $\{v_e : e \in S\}$  is  
linearly independent



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<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A</i>

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## Important Matroids. Linear matroid

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$M =$

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ l \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & \dots & * \\ * & * & * & \dots & * \\ * & \text{Elements of } F & * & & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ * & * & * & \dots & * \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} e_1 \quad e_2 \quad e_3 \quad \dots \quad e_m \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \quad l \times m$$



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Matroid is linear or representable



## Uniform Matroid

A pair  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  over an  $n$ -element ground set  $U$ , is a uniform matroid if the family of independent sets is given by

$$\mathcal{F} = \{A \subseteq U : |A| \leq k\}$$

where  $k$  is some constant. This matroid is also denoted as  $U_{n,k}$

Example:  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $k = 2$

$$\mathcal{F} = \{\{\emptyset\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}\}$$



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$U = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ , for each  $e_i$  assign non-zero field element  $\alpha_i$  and vector

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_1^2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_1^{k-1} \end{pmatrix}$$



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$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \dots & \alpha_n \\ \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_2^2 & \dots & \alpha_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_1^{k-1} & \alpha_2^{k-1} & \dots & \alpha_n^{k-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_1^2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_1^{k-1} \end{pmatrix}$$



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$k+1$  columns are linearly dependent

For set  $A$  of  $k$  columns, the determinant of the Vandermonde matrix  $M_A$  is  $\prod_{i < j, e_i, e_j \in A} (\alpha_j - \alpha_i) \neq 0$

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \dots & \alpha_n \\ \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_2^2 & \dots & \alpha_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_1^{k-1} & \alpha_2^{k-1} & \dots & \alpha_n^{k-1} \end{pmatrix}$$



# Graphic Matroid

For a graph  $G$ , a graphic matroid is defined as  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  where  $U = E(G)$  (edges of  $G$  are elements of the matroid)

$\mathcal{F} = \{A \subseteq U : A \text{ is a forest}\}$



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Why this is a matroid?

Is it a representable matroid?



# Representative Sets and Matroids

## Reps for matroids

Let  $M$  be a matroid. Set  $A$  fits  $B$  if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  and  $A \cup B$  is independent.

Let  $M$  be a uniform matroid of rank  $a+b$ .  $a$ -set  $A$  fits  $b$ -set  $B$  iff  $A \cap B = \emptyset$



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Let  $M$  be a matroid and  $F$  be a family of  $a$ -sets in  $M$ . A subfamily  $F' \subseteq F$   $b$ -represents  $F$  if for every  $B$  of size  $b$  such that there exists an  $A \in F$  that fits  $B$ , there exists an  $A' \in F'$  that also fits  $B$ .



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## Reps for sets

Let  $F$  be a family of  $a$ -sets, a subfamily  $F' \subseteq F$   $b$ -represents  $F$  if for every  $B$  of size  $b$  such that there exists an  $A \in F$  with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  there exists an  $A' \in F'$  with  $A' \cap B = \emptyset$ .



# FLATS IN MATROIDS AND GEOMETRIC GRAPHS

L. LOVÁSZ

Bolyai Institute, József Attila University,  
Szeged, Hungary

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper was intended to deal with the covering problems in graphs. It has turned out, however, that their study becomes much simpler if a more general structure, which we shall call geometric graph, is considered. Some problems on the covering number of graphs can be translated then to Helly-type problems concerning flats in matroids. The solution of these Helly-type problems (which is complete for the representable matroids only) has required some operations on matroids which generalize the Kronecker product of matrices or versions of it. Analogous Helly-type problems on flats in



**Theorem** There is an algorithm that, given a matrix  $M$  over a field  $GF(s)$ , representing a matroid  $\mathcal{M} = (U, \mathcal{F})$  of rank  $k$ , an  $a$ -family  $\mathcal{A}$  of independent sets in  $\mathcal{M}$ , and an integer  $b$  such that  $a+b=k$ , computes a  $b$ -representative family  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  of size at most  $\binom{a+b}{a}$  using at most

$O(|\mathcal{A}|(\binom{a+b}{b}b^\omega + \binom{a+b}{b}^{\omega-1}))$  operations in  $GF(s)$ .

$\omega = 2.73\dots$  matrix multiplication exponent



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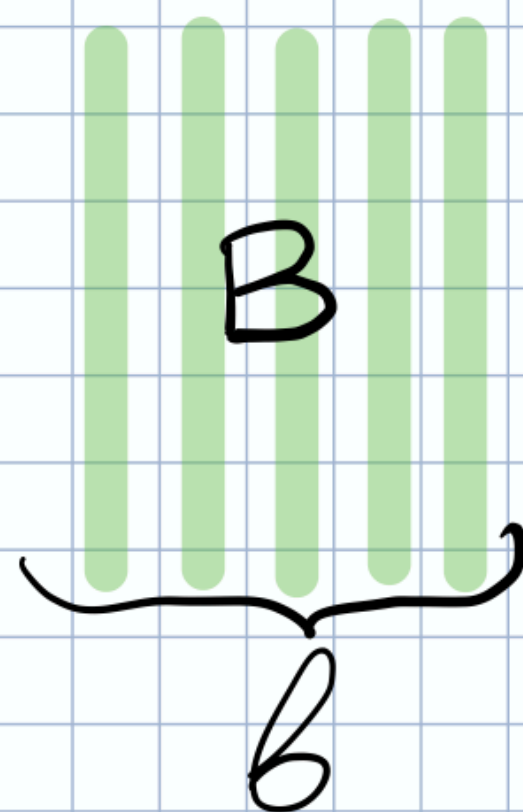
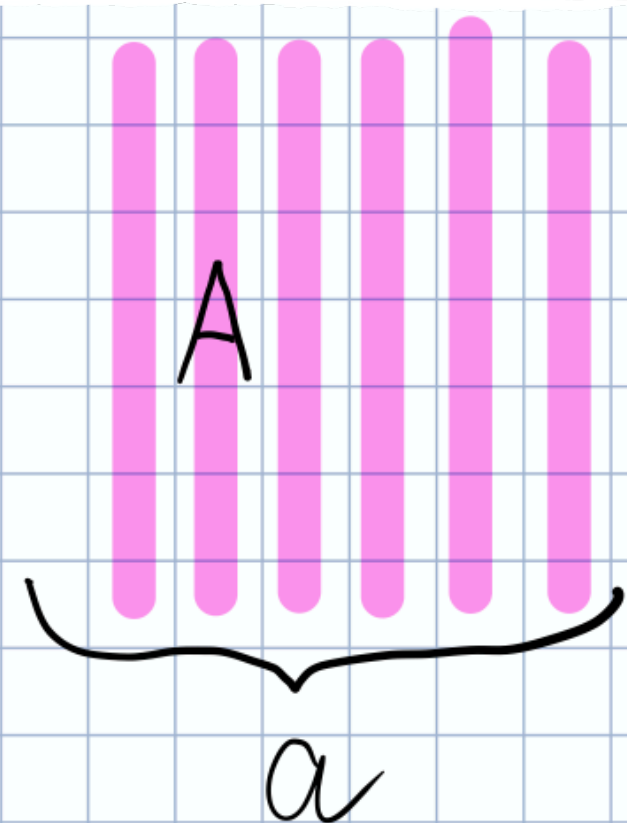
$O(|\mathcal{A}|(\binom{a+b}{b}b^\omega + \binom{a+b}{b}^{\omega-1}))$  operations in  $GF(s)$ .

Polynomial in  $|\mathcal{A}|$

$\omega = 2.73\dots$  matrix multiplication exponent



# Proof: Exterior (Grassmann) algebra under the carpet



A fits B

$A \cap B = \emptyset$   
 $A \cup B$  is INDEPENDENT

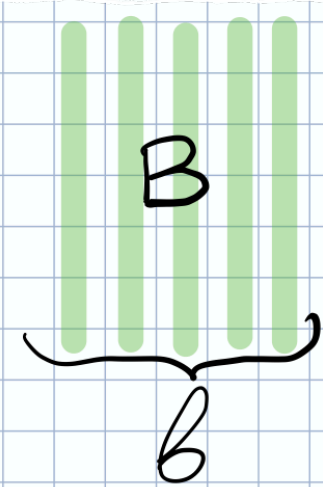
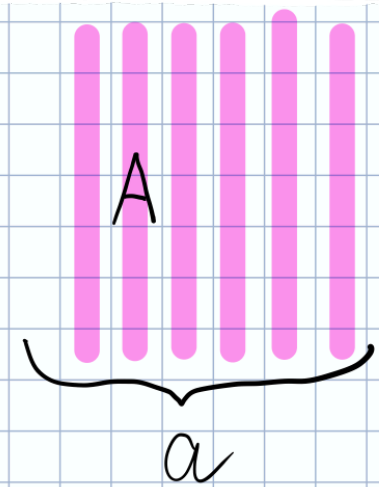


det

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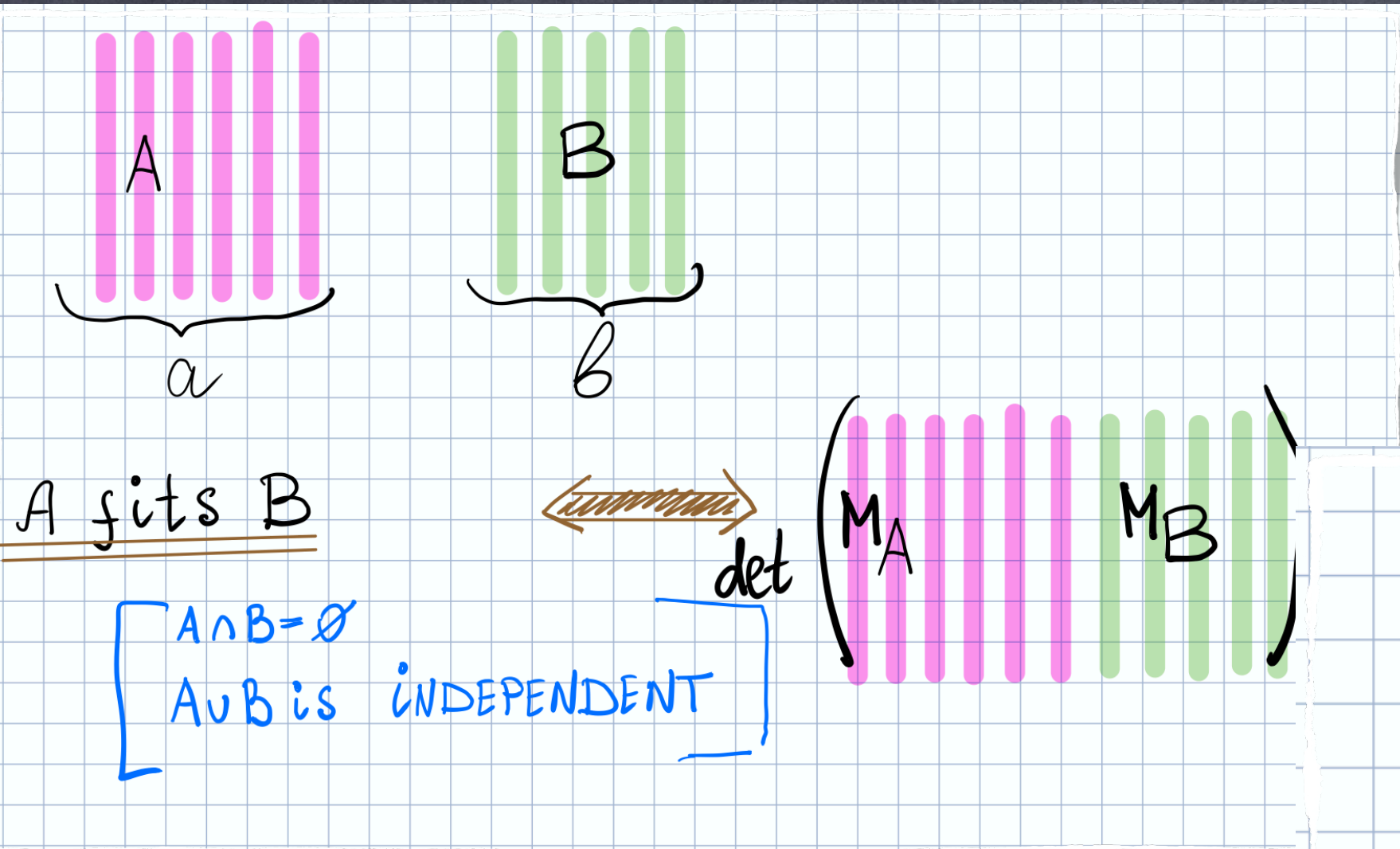
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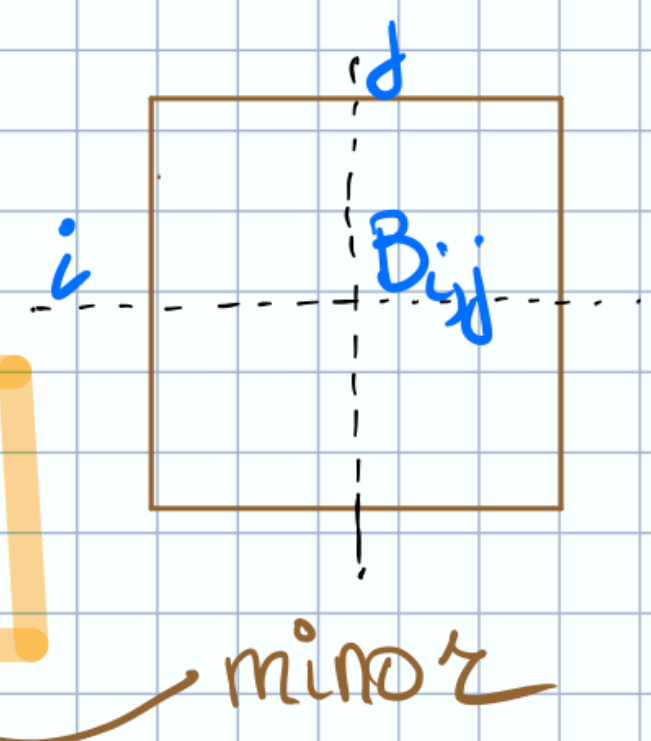


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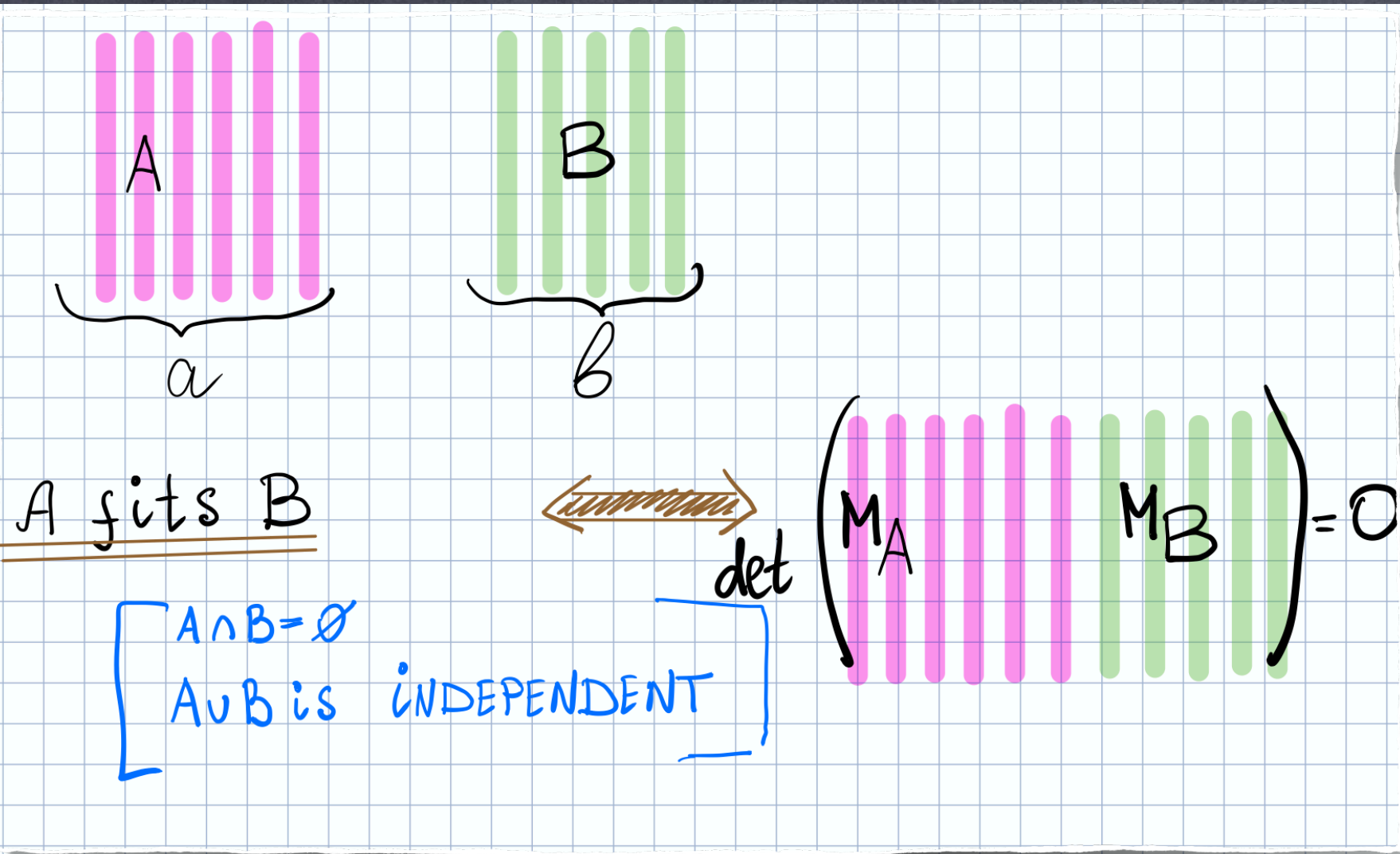
Laplace expansion  
for  $i$

$$\det(B) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} B_{ij} M_{ij}$$





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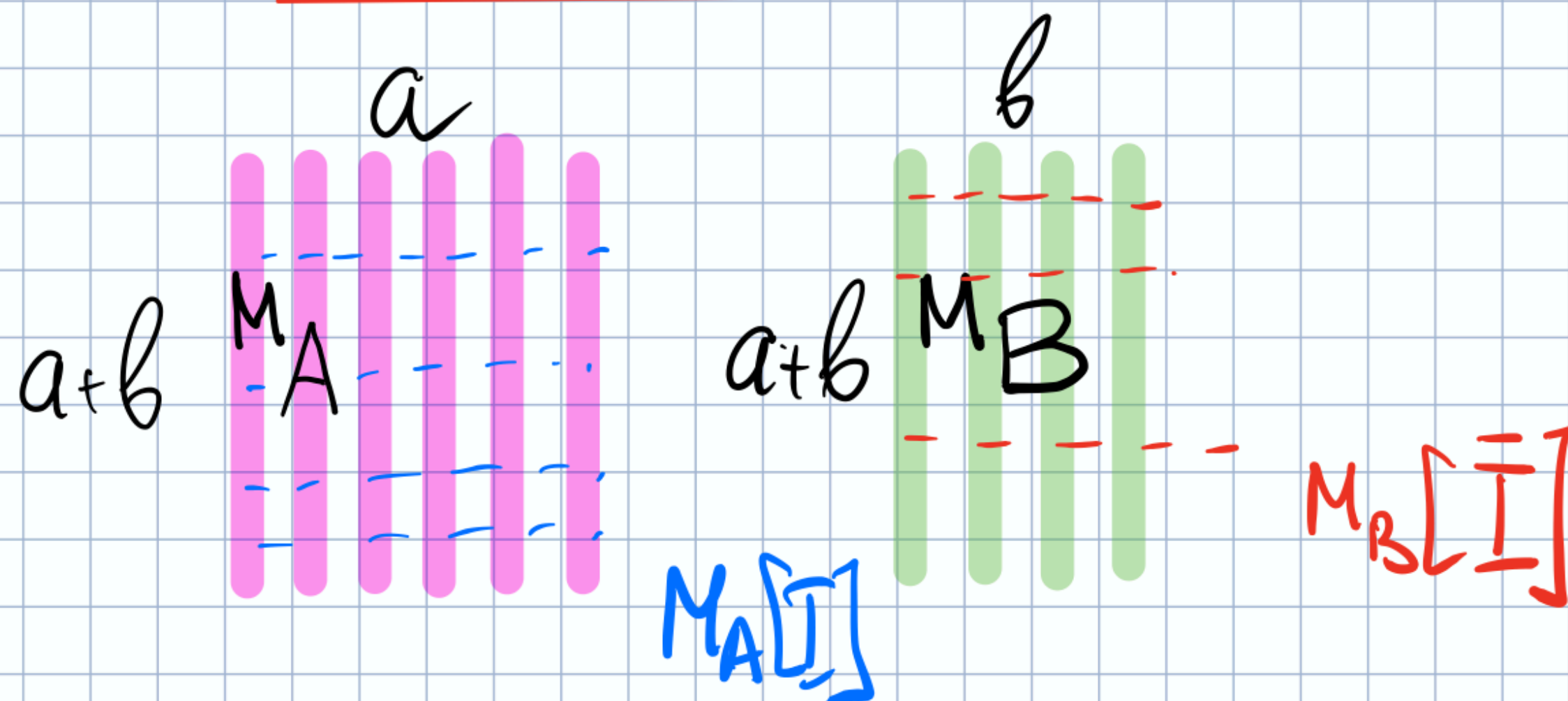
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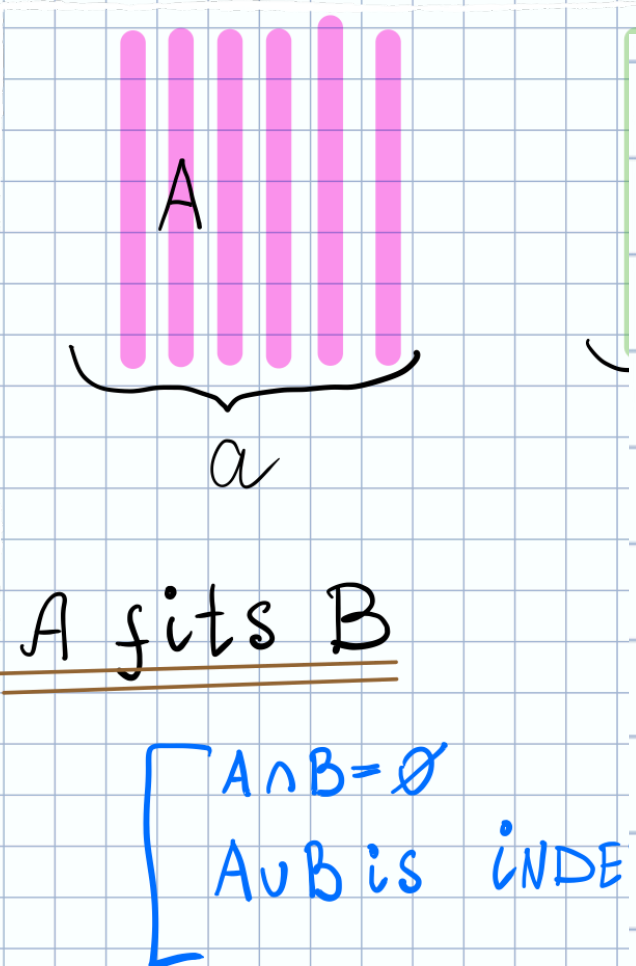
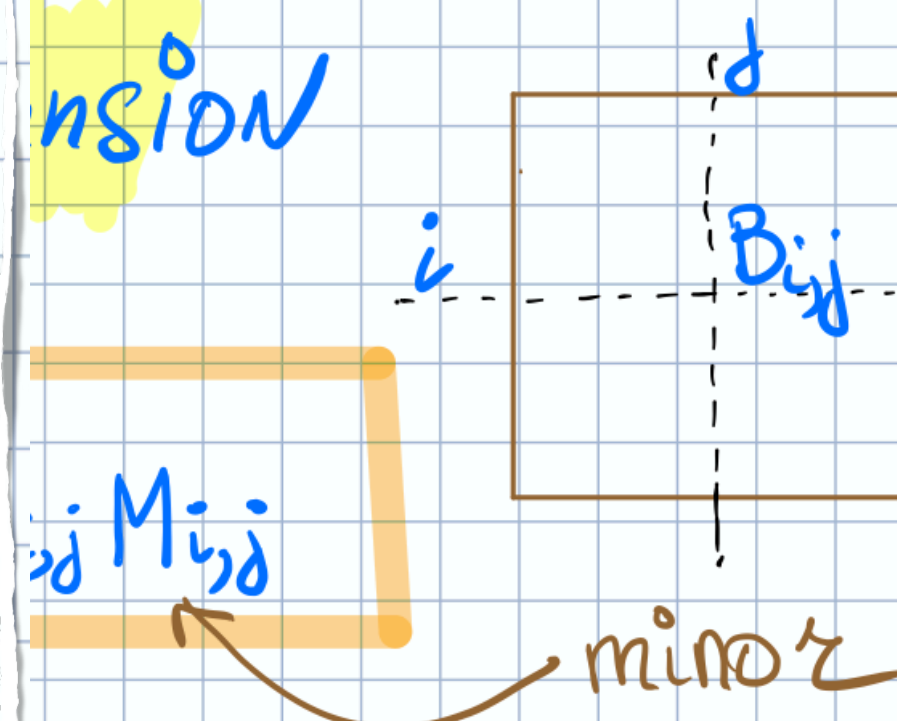


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## Generalized Laplace expansion



$$\det([M_A | M_B]) = (-1)^{[a/2]} \sum_{I \subseteq [a+b], |I|=a} (-1)^{\Sigma I} \det(M_A[I]) \det(M_B[\bar{I}]).$$





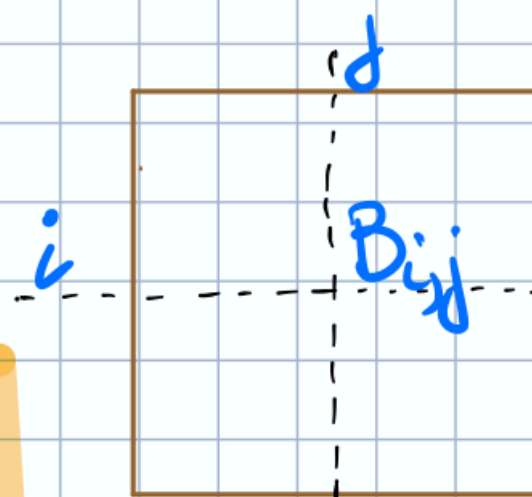
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$A$  (5 pink vertical bars)  $a$   
 $B$  (4 green vertical bars)  $b$   
 $A$  fits  $B$   
 $A \cap B = \emptyset$   
 $A \cup B$  is INDEPENDENT  
 $\det \begin{pmatrix} M_A & M_B \end{pmatrix} = 0$

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minor

Generalized Laplace expansion

$a$  (5 pink vertical bars)  $M_A$   $a+b$   
 $a+b$  (4 green vertical bars)  $M_B$   $a+b$   
 $M_A[I]$   $M_B[\bar{I}]$

$$\det([M_A | M_B]) = (-1)^{[a/2]} \sum_{I \subseteq [a+b], |I|=a} (-1)^{\sum I} \det(M_A[I]) \det(M_B[\bar{I}]).$$



## Proof

$I_1, \dots, I_\ell$  : all  $a$ -subsets of  
 $\{1, 2, \dots, a+b\}$

$$\ell = \binom{a+b}{a}$$



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For  $a$ -set  $A$  define  $\sigma^A \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$

$$\sigma^A = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_i^A = \det(M_A[I:i])$$



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$A$  fits  $B \iff \det(M_A | M_B) \neq 0$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} G_i \mathbf{v}_i^A \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}_i^B \neq 0$$

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$$\ell = \binom{a+b}{a}$$

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$$\mathbf{v}^A = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}_i \quad \mathbf{v}_i^A = \det(M_A[I_i])$$

$\bar{I}_i = \{1, \dots, a+b\} \setminus I_i$

For  $b$ -set  $B$  define  $\bar{\mathbf{v}}^B \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$

$$\bar{\mathbf{v}}^B = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}_i \quad \bar{\mathbf{v}}_i^B = \det(M_B[\bar{I}_i])$$

## Observation

$A$  fits  $B \iff \det(M_A | M_B) \neq 0$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} G_i \mathbf{v}_i^A \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}_i^B \neq 0$$

$$\det([M_A | M_B]) = (-1)^{\lceil a/2 \rceil} \sum_{I \subseteq [a+b], |I|=a} (-1)^{\sum I} \det(M_A[I]) \det(M_B[\bar{I}]).$$

$$G_i = (-1)^{\sum I_i}$$



## Proof: Main idea

We know: Matrix  $M$ , set  $A \Rightarrow U_A$

We do not know: Set  $B \Rightarrow \overline{U_B}$

What we care:  $\sum_{i=1}^L \mathbb{G}: U_i^A \cdot \overline{U_i^B} \neq \emptyset$



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IDEA:

Just the basis of  $\{U^A \mid A \in \mathcal{R}\}$  suffice!

size  $|\mathcal{F}|$

size  $\binom{a+b}{a}$



## Proof: Algorithm

Algorithm

Compute basis  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\{v^A \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\}$

a column



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Algorithm

Compute basis  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\{v^A \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\}$

a column

**TIME:**  $- v^A: \begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ a \end{pmatrix} a^\omega$

# of entries

computing determ.  
of  $a \times a$  matrix

$$\rightarrow \{v^A \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\} : |\mathcal{A}| \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ a \end{pmatrix} \cdot a^\omega$$

= Basis  $\mathcal{A}'$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ a \end{pmatrix} \underbrace{\left( \begin{matrix} n \times m \text{ matrix} \\ \text{in } mn^{\omega-1} \end{matrix} \right)}_{|\mathcal{A}|} \rightarrow$$

$$|\mathcal{A}| \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ a \end{pmatrix}^{\omega-1}$$



## Proof: Correctness

Correctness

→  $A'$  basis of  $\binom{a+b}{b} \times |A|$  matrix

$$\Rightarrow |A'| \leq \binom{a+b}{b}$$



## Proof: Correctness

### Correctness

→  $A'$  basis of  $\binom{a+b}{b} \times |A|$  matrix  
⇒  $|A'| \leq \binom{a+b}{b}$

→ Why  $A'$   $b$ -represents  $A$ ?

∃  $B$  fits some  $A \in A$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\neq \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i U_i^A \bar{U}_i^B \stackrel{\Leftrightarrow}{=} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{A' \in A'} \alpha_i \lambda_{A'} U_i^{A'} \bar{U}_i^B \\ &= \sum_{A' \in A'} \lambda_{A'} \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i U_i^{A'} \bar{U}_i^B \end{aligned}$$

↙  
 $B$  fits some  $A' \in A'$



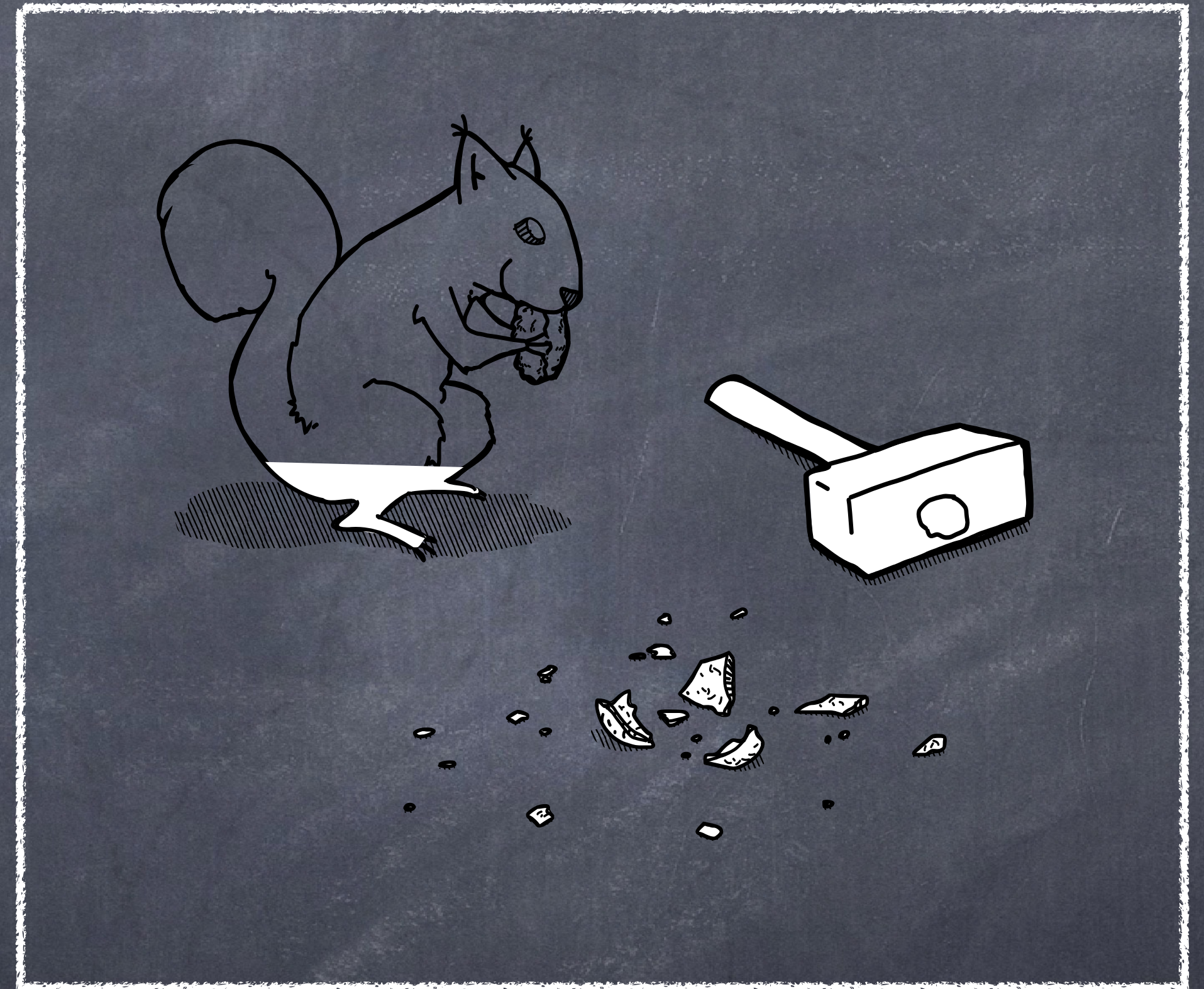


## Summarizing

The algorithm computes a  $b$ -representative family  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  of size at most  $\binom{a+b}{a}$  using at most  $O(|\mathcal{A}|(\binom{a+b}{b}b^\omega + \binom{a+b}{b}^{\omega-1}))$  operations.



# Application. Kernelization

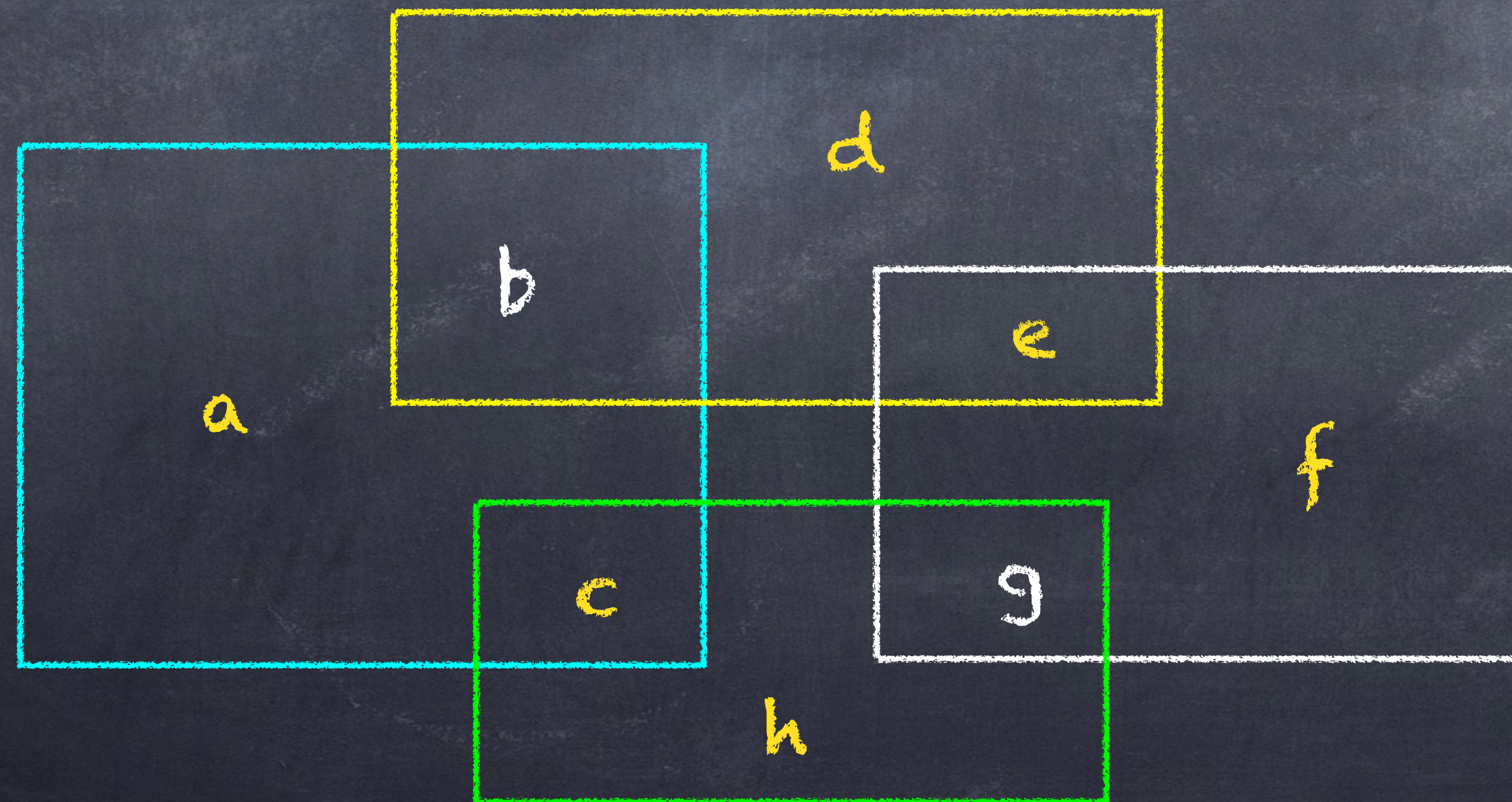




## $d$ -Hitting Set

Input: A universe  $U$ , a family  $S$  of sets of size  $d$  over  $U$ , integer  $k$

Question: Does there exist a subset  $X$  of  $U$  of size  $k$  that has a nonempty intersection with every member of  $S$ ?





## Polynomial kernel: What we shoot for

A polynomial time algorithm that takes as an input an instance of  $d$ -Hitting Set

A universe  $U$ , a family  $S$  of sets of size  $d$  over  $U$ , integer  $k$



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A polynomial time algorithm that takes as an input an instance of  $d$ -Hitting Set

A universe  $U$ , a family  $S$  of sets of size  $d$  over  $U$ , integer  $k$

Outputs an equivalent instance of  $d$ -Hitting Set

A universe  $U'$ , a family  $S'$  of sets of size  $d$  over  $U'$ , integer  $k'$

Such that the size of the new instance is bounded by a polynomial of  $k$ .



## 2-Hitting Set (Vertex Cover)

**Theorem:** Every edge  $k$ -critical graph has at most  $\binom{k+1}{2}$  edges

**"Algorithm":** If graph is not  $k$ -critical, delete an edge



## 2-Hitting Set (Vertex Cover)

A graph  $G$  is edge  $k$ -critical, if its vertex cover is  $k$ , but for every edge  $e$ , the vertex cover of  $G \setminus e$  is at most  $k-1$ .

**Theorem:** Every edge  $k$ -critical graph has at most  $\binom{k+1}{2}$  edges

**"Algorithm":** If graph is not  $k$ -critical, delete an edge



## $d$ -Hitting Set

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**Theorem:**  $d$ -Hitting Set admits a kernel with at most  $\binom{k+d}{d}$  sets and at most  $\binom{k+d}{d} \cdot d$  elements

Polynomial time algorithm producing an equivalent instance





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$$|S'| \leq \binom{k+d}{d} \text{ and } |U'| \leq \binom{k+d}{d} \cdot d$$



## Correctness

Why  $(U, S, k)$  and  $(U', S', k)$  are equivalent?

→ If a set  $B$  of size  $k$  hits every set in  $S$ , it also hits every set in  $S'$ .

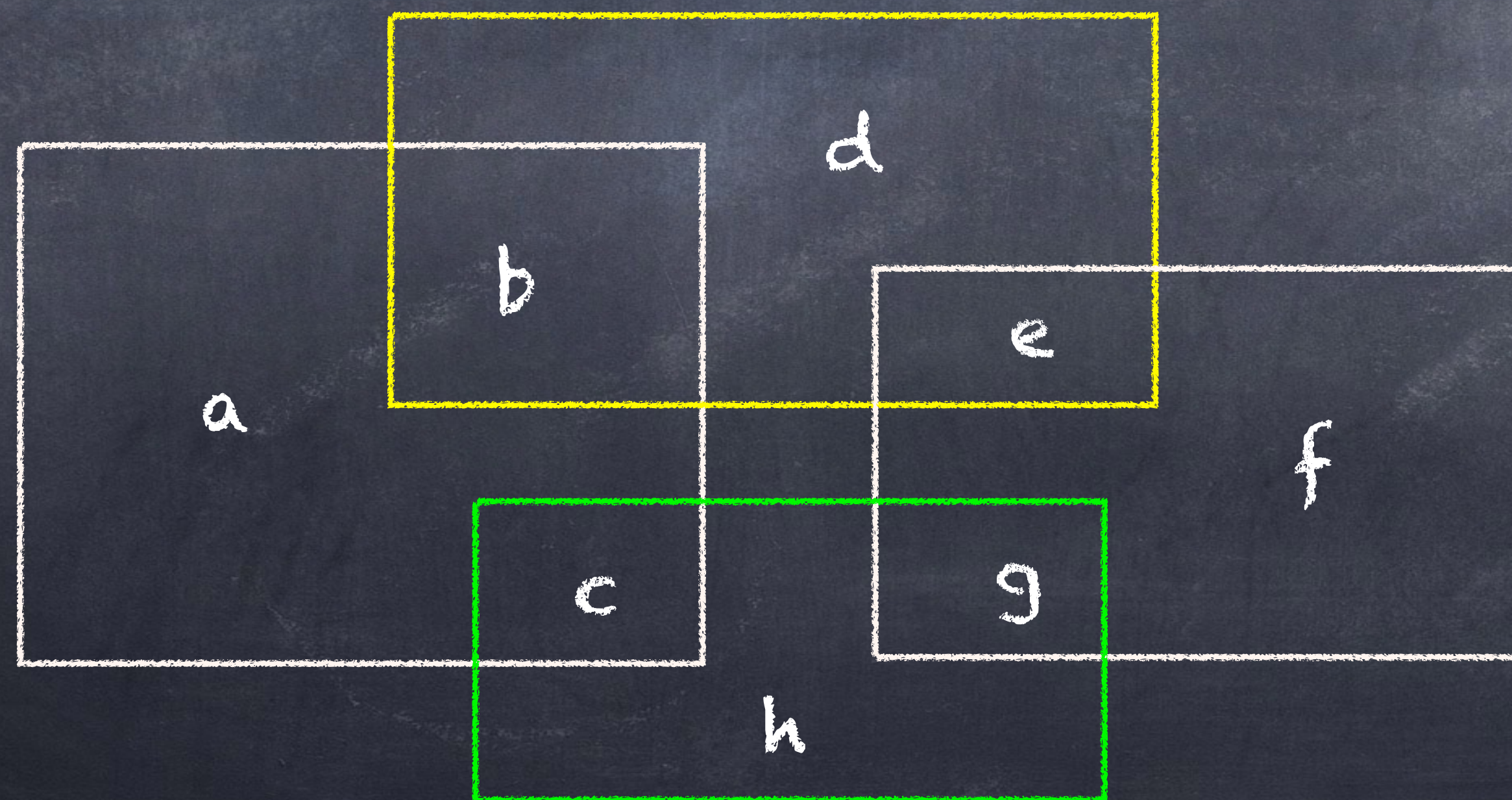
← If a set  $B$  of size  $k$  is not a hitting set for  $S$ , there is  $A$  in  $S$  that fits  $B$ . Then there is  $A'$  in  $S'$  that also fits  $B$ . Hence  $B$  is not a hitting set for  $S'$ .



## $d$ -Set Packing

**Input:** A universe  $U$ , a family  $S$  of sets of size at most  $d$  over  $U$ , integer  $k$

**Question:** Does there exist a subset  $X$  of  $S$  of size  $k$  such that all sets of  $X$  are pairwise disjoint?





## $d$ -Set Packing

**Input:** A universe  $U$ , a family  $\mathcal{S}$  of sets of size  $d$  over  $U$ , integer  $k$

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Delete sets, do not turn a no-instance into a yes-instance!



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Further reading



Juhna  
Matroids book  
PA book

Kernelization (application protrusions, OCT)  
add running times

### Open problems

- Faster computation of representative sets for **linear** matroids?
- Faster computation of representative sets for **graphic** matroids?
- Compute representative sets for **uniform** matroids in time linear in input + output?
- Compute representative sets for **gammoids** without matroid representation?