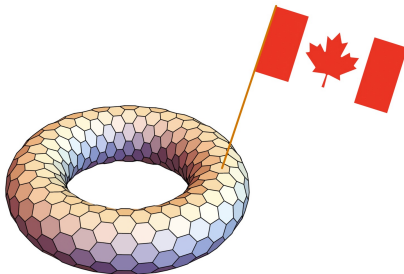


# Canonical decompositions of 3-connected graphs

Jan Kurkofka

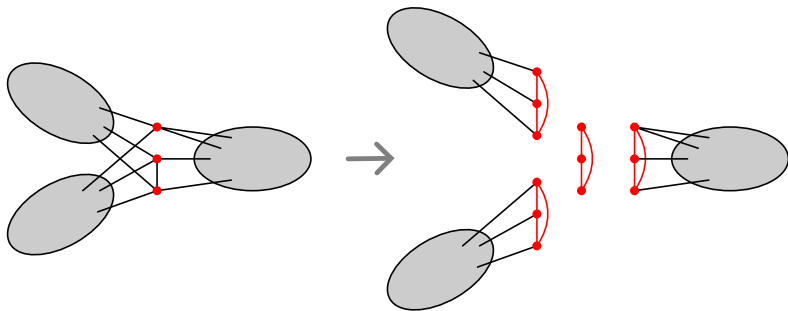


Joint work with Johannes Carmesin

University of Birmingham

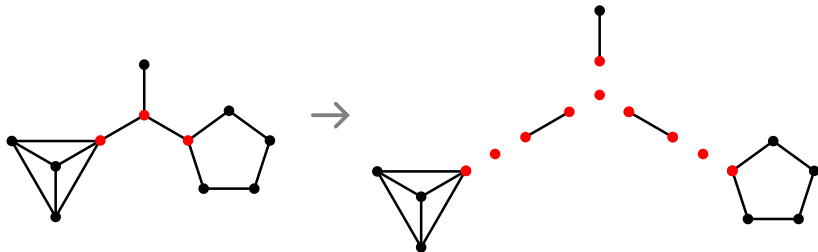
Problem: Decompose  $k$ -con'd  $G$  along  $k$ -separators  
into pieces that are  $(k + 1)$ -con'd or 'basic'.

Decomposing  $G$  along a  $k$ -separator:



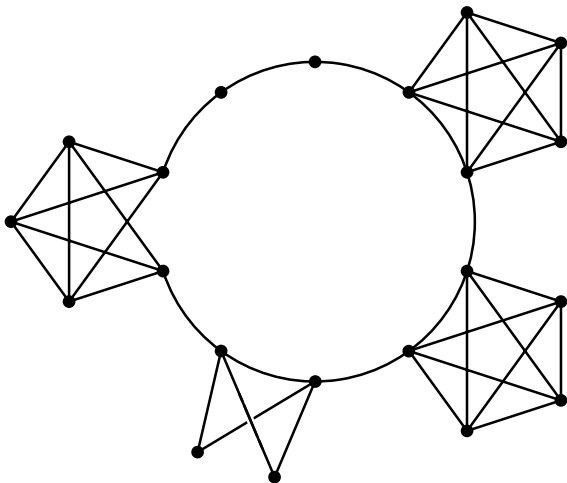
Problem: Decompose  $k$ -con'd  $G$  along  $k$ -separators  
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$k = 1$ :



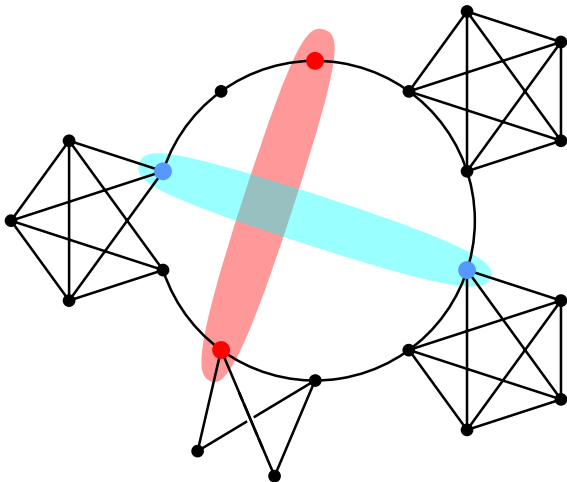
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$k = 2$ :



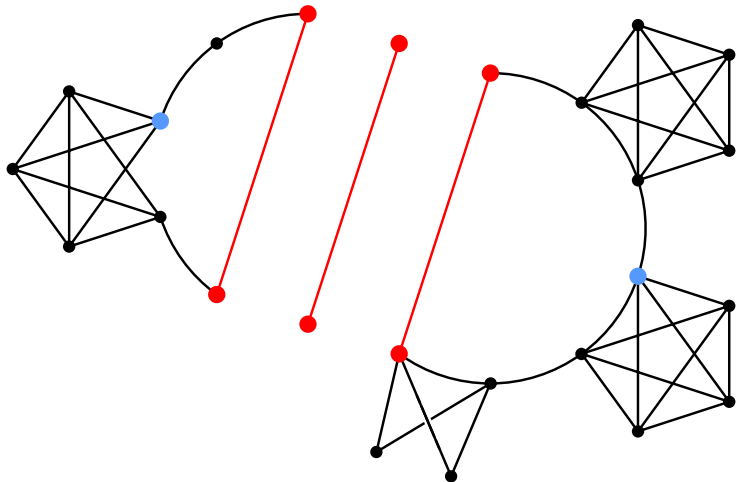
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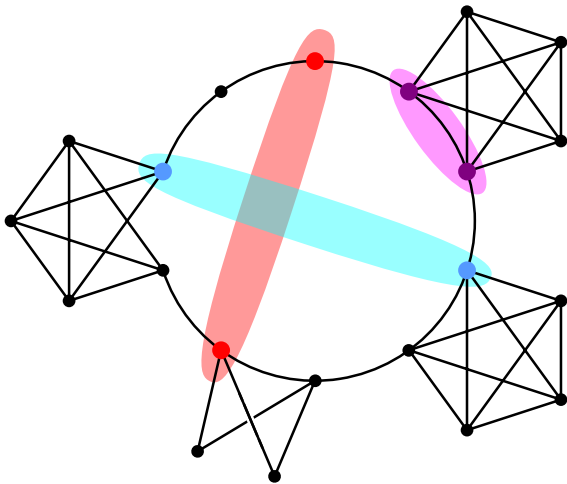


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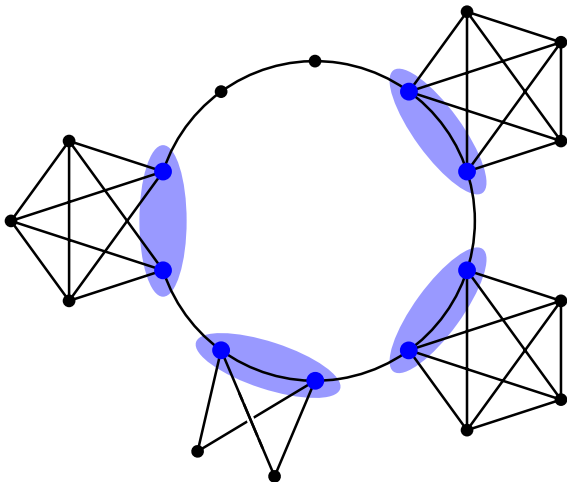


Two  $k$ -separators are *nested* if neither separates the other; otherwise they *cross*.



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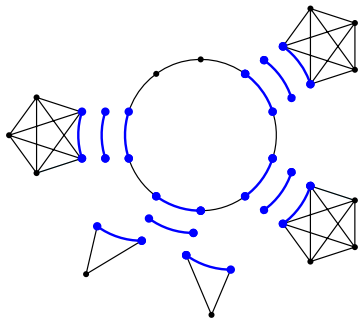
A  $k$ -separator is *totally-nested* if it is nested with every  $k$ -separator.





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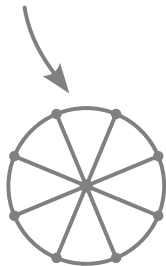


Theorem (Cunningham & Edmonds 80)

Every 2-con'd  $G$  decomposes along its totally-nested 2-separators  
into 3-con'd graphs, cycles and  $K_2$ 's.

Guess

Every 3-con'd  $G$  decomposes along its totally-nested 3-separators into 4-con'd graphs, wheels and  $K_3$ 's.

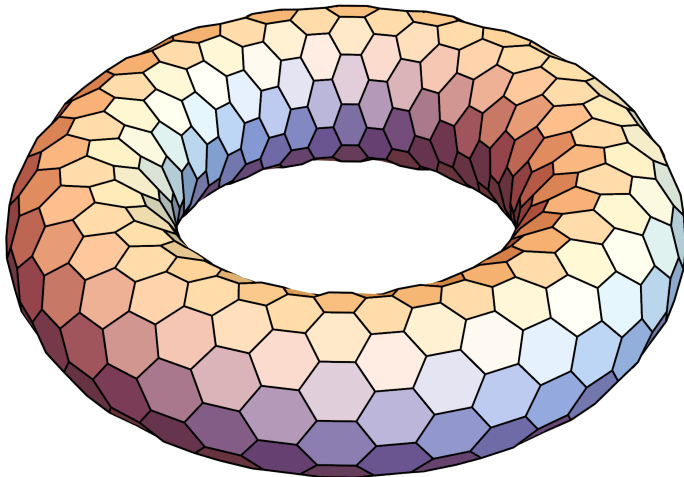


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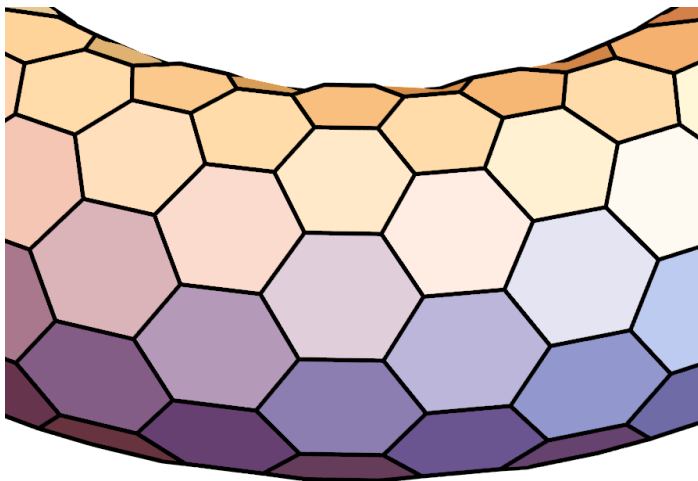
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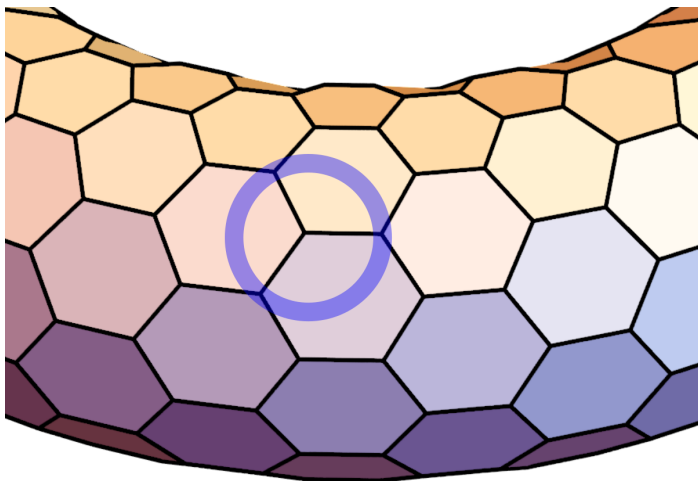
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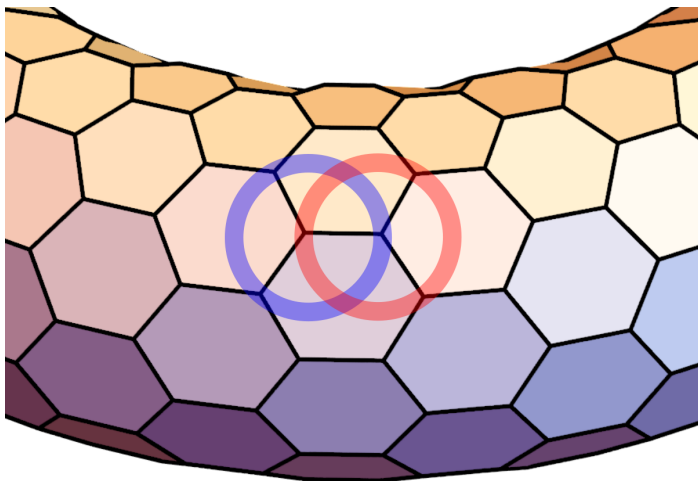
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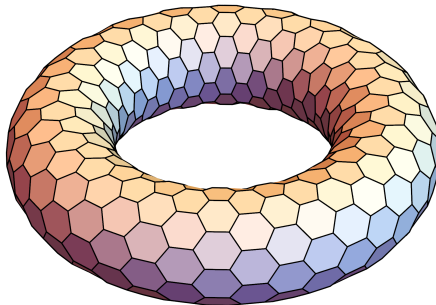
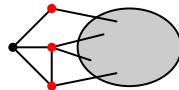


Guess

Every 3-con'd  $G$  decomposes along its totally-nested 3-separators into quasi 4-con'd graphs, wheels and  $K_3$ 's.

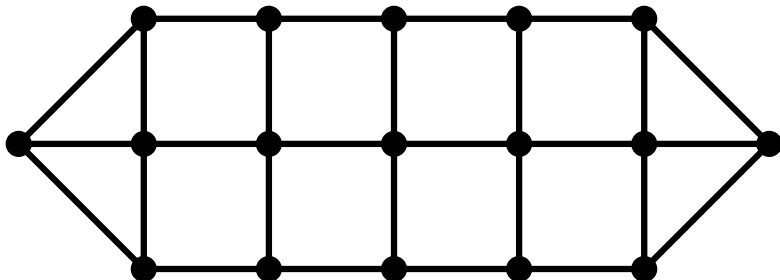


3-con'd,  $> 4$  vertices, every 3-separator has form



Guess

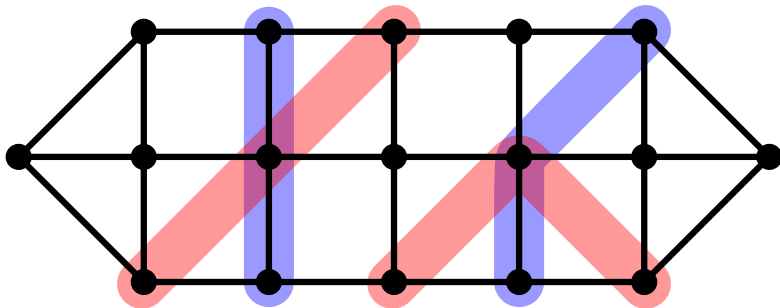
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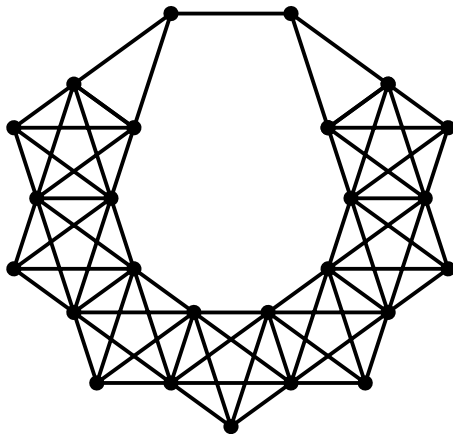
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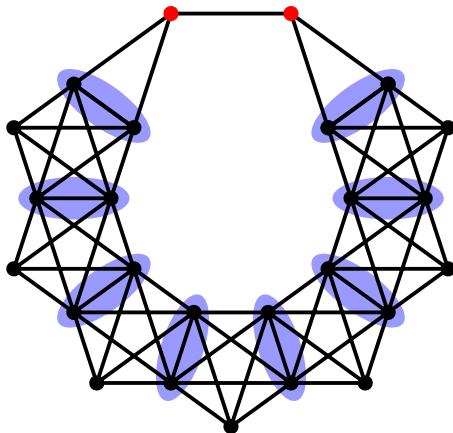
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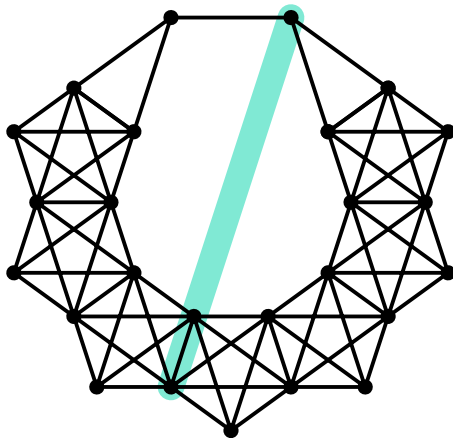
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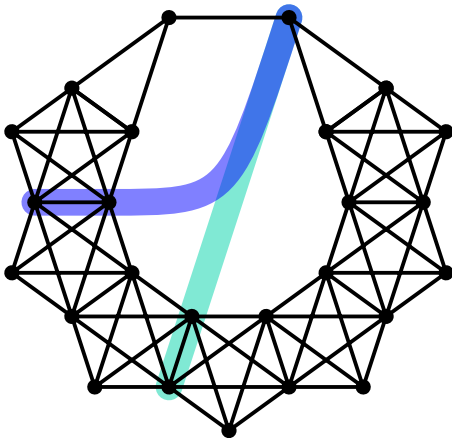
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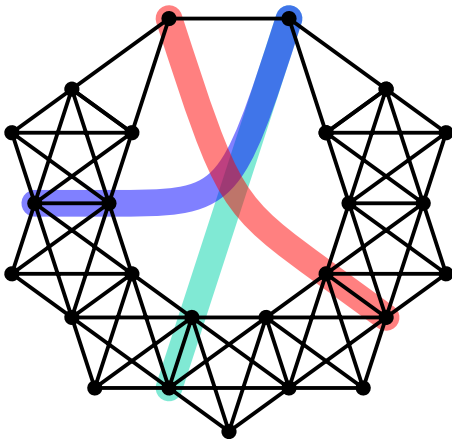
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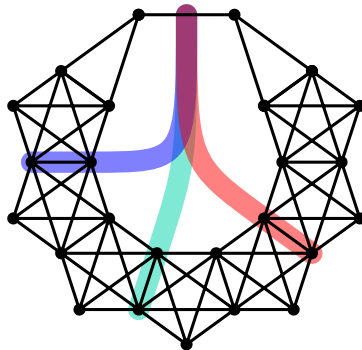
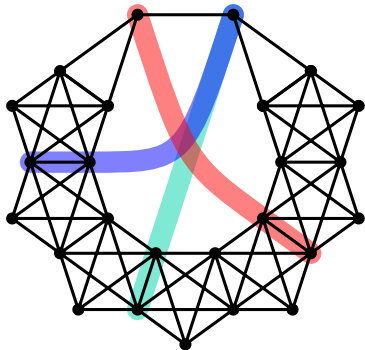
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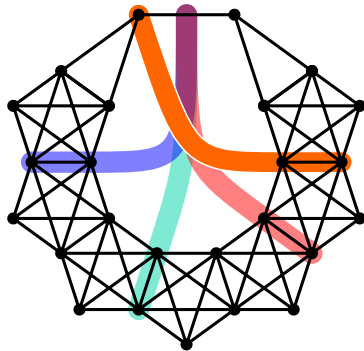
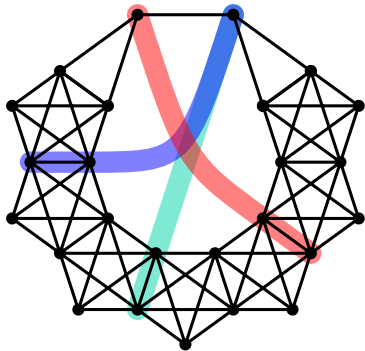
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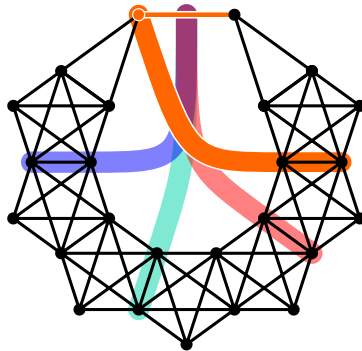
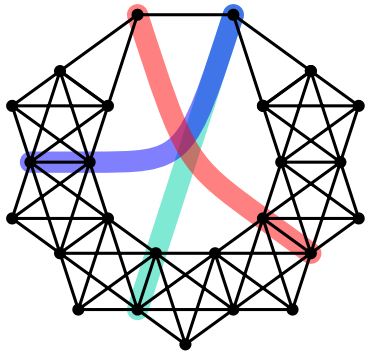
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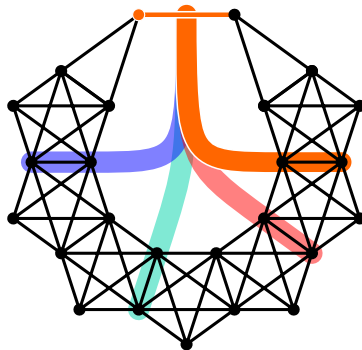
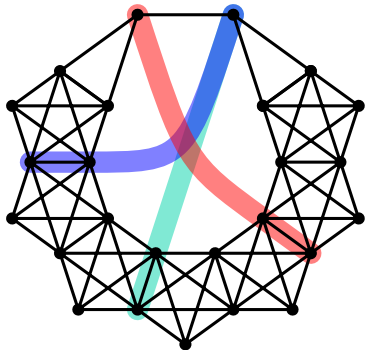
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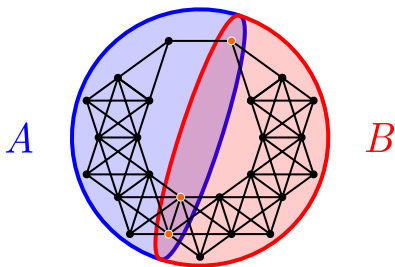
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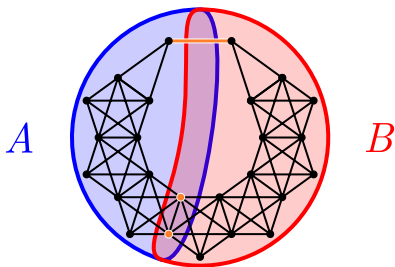
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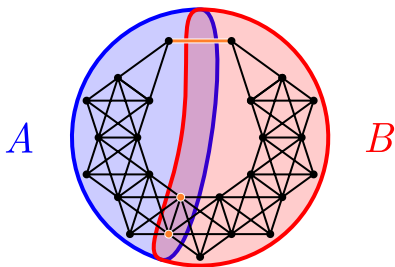


*separation* of  $G$ :  $\{A, B\}$  with  $A \cup B = V(G)$  and  
 $E(A \setminus B, B \setminus A) = \emptyset$

*separator* of  $\{A, B\}$ :  $A \cap B$



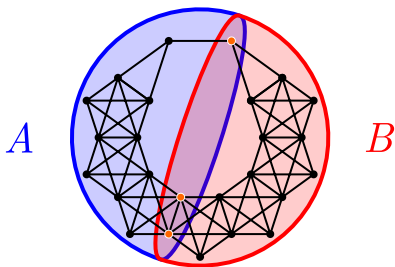
*mixed-separation* of  $G$ :  $\{A, B\}$  with  $A \cup B = V(G)$  and  
 $E(A \setminus B, B \setminus A) = \emptyset$   $A \not\subseteq B \not\subseteq A$   
*separator* of  $\{A, B\}$ :  $(A \cap B) \cup E(A \setminus B, B \setminus A)$



*mixed-separation* of  $G$ :  $\{A, B\}$  with  $A \cup B = V(G)$  and  
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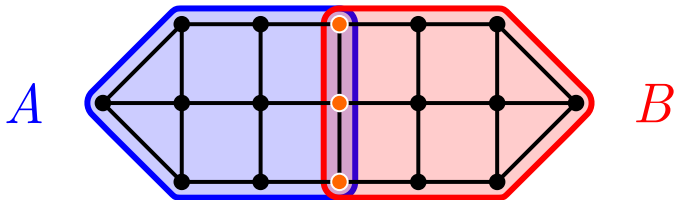
*tri-separation* of  $G$ : mixed-sep'n  $\{A, B\}$  with  $|\text{sep}'r| = 3$   
 and every  $v_x$  in  $A \cap B$  has two neighb's  
 in  $G[A]$  and in  $G[B]$



*mixed-separation* of  $G$ :  $\{A, B\}$  with  $A \cup B = V(G)$  and  
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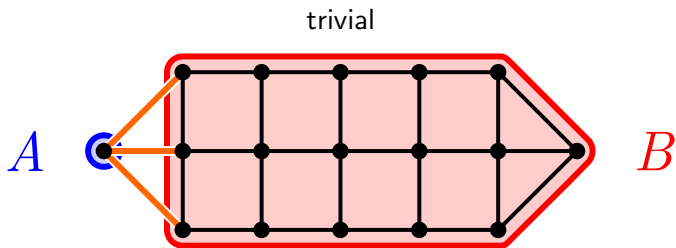
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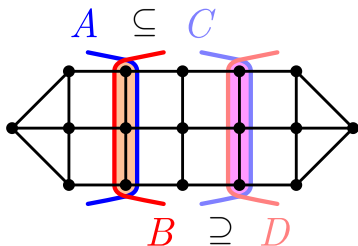
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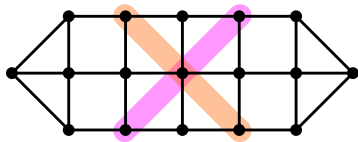


$\{A, B\}$  and  $\{C, D\}$  are *nested* if  $A \subseteq C$  and  $B \supseteq D$   
after possibly switching  $A$  with  $B$  or  $C$  with  $D$ ;  
otherwise they *cross*.

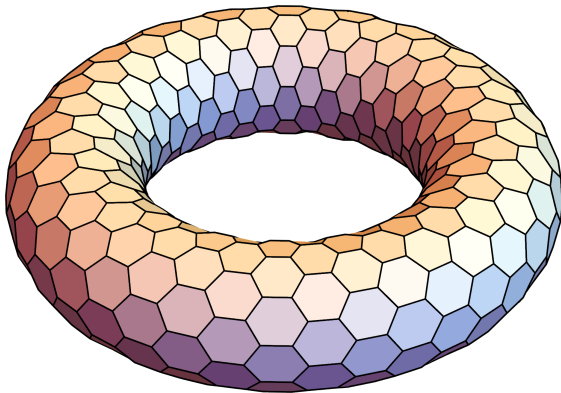
nested



crossing

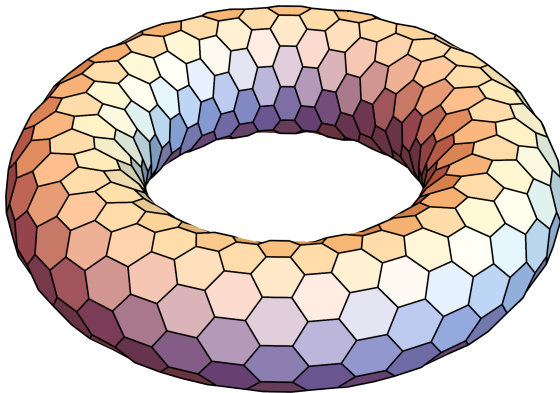


totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations

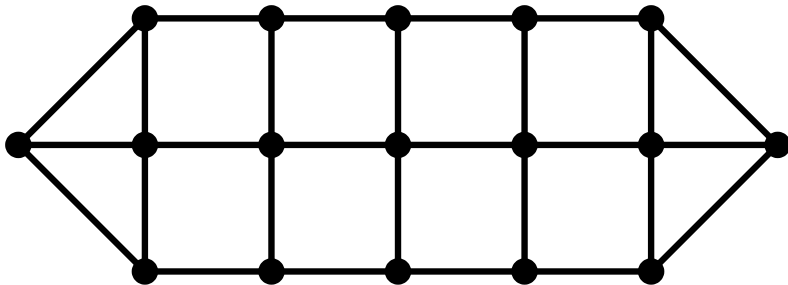


totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations

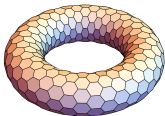
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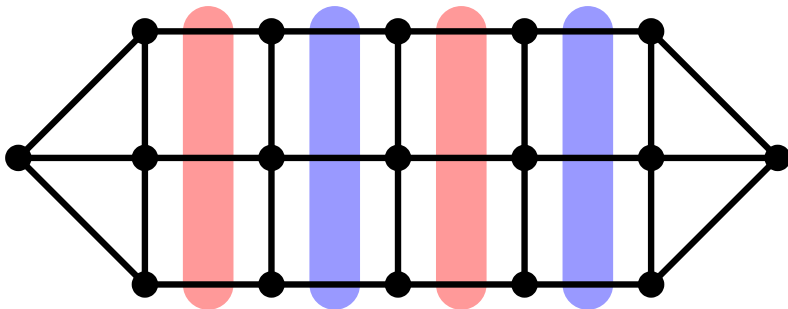
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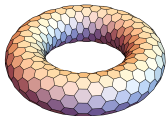
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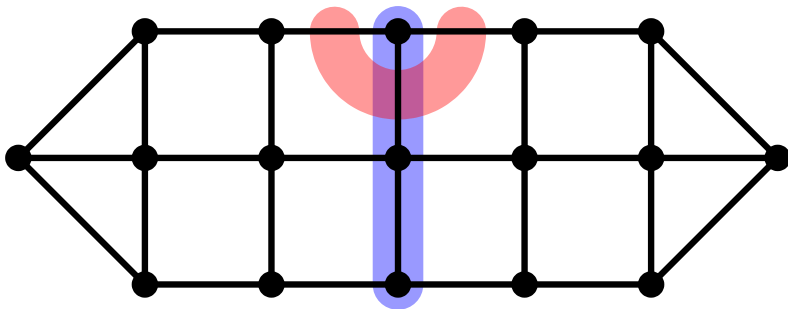
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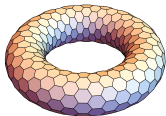
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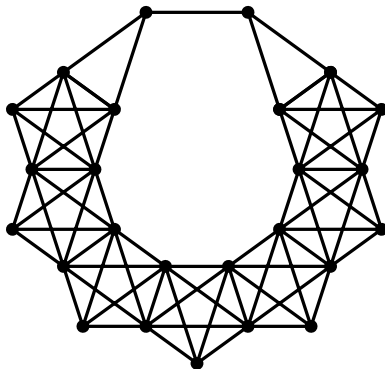
totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations



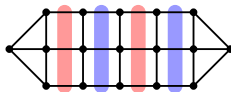
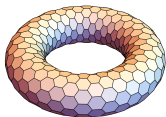
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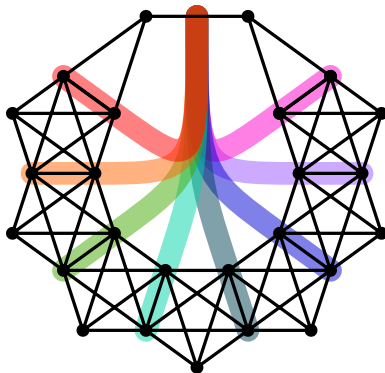
totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations



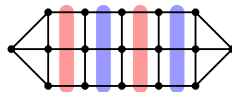
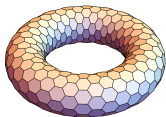
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totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations

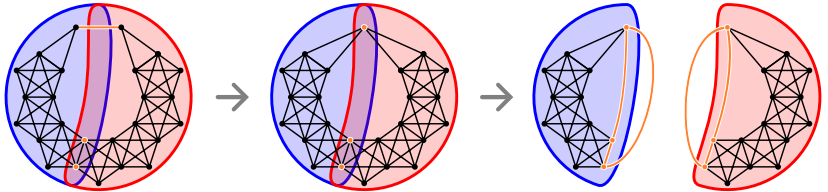


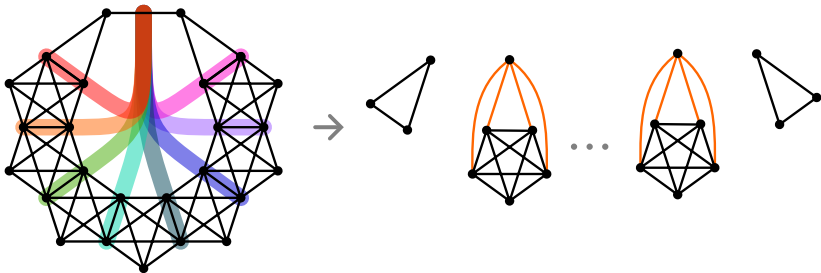
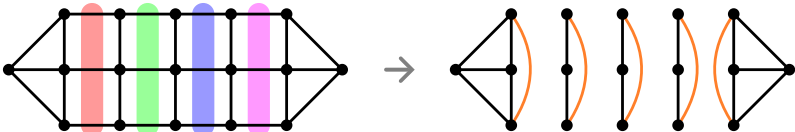
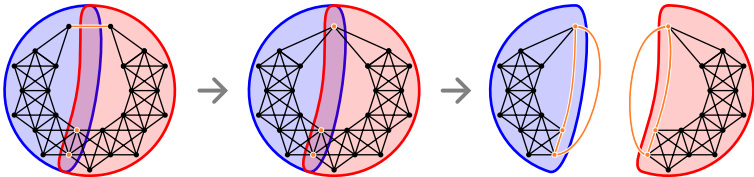
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## Decomposing along a tri-separation





Main result (Carmesin & K. 23)

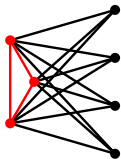
Every 3-con'd  $G$  decomposes along its totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations into minors of  $G$  that are

- quasi 4-con'd

- wheels

- thickened  $K_{3,m}$

or  $G = K_{3,m}$  ( $m \geq 0$ ).



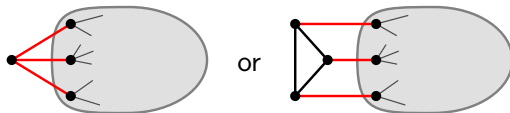
3

$m$

Application 1 (Carmesin & K. 23)

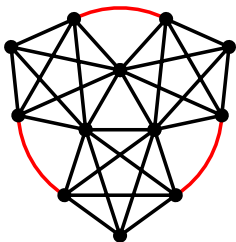
Every vertex-transitive finite con'd  $G$  is either

- 4-con'd
- 3-con'd and 3-regular and every tri-sep'n has form



- $K_1, \dots, K_4$  or a cycle.

## Application 2: Connectivity Augmentation to 4



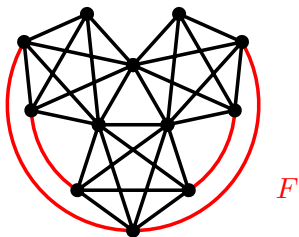
Theorem (Carmesin & Ramanujan 23+)

$\exists$  FPT-algorithm with runtime  $C(k) \cdot \text{Poly}(|V(G)|)$  and

Input: Graph  $G$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $F \subseteq E(\overline{G})$

Output: No, or  $\leq k$ -sized  $X \subseteq F$  such that  $G + X$  is 4-con'd

## Application 2: Connectivity Augmentation to 4



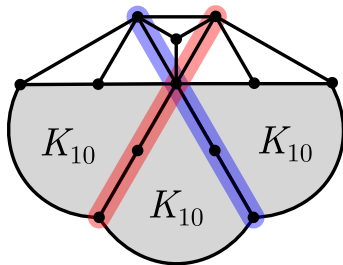
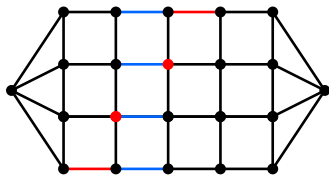
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Open: Extend the main result to  $k$ -separations for  $k \geq 4$ .



Open: Tri-separations for matroids

$k = 2$ : ✓ finite      Cunningham & Edmonds 80

          ✓ infinite    Aigner-Horev, Diestel & Postle 16

$k = 3$ : ???

Related: Oxley, Semple & Whittle 04

Tri-separation

Mixed-sep'n  $\{A, B\}$  with  $|\text{sep}'r| = 3$  such that every  $vx$  in  $A \cap B$  has two neighb's in  $G[A]$  and in  $G[B]$ .

Main result (Carmesin & K. 23)

Every 3-con'd  $G$  decomposes along its totally-nested nontrivial tri-separations into minors of  $G$  that are quasi 4-con'd, wheels, thickened  $K_{3,m}$ 's or  $G = K_{3,m}$  ( $m \geq 0$ ).

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Extend to  $k$ -separations for  $k \geq 4$ . Tri-separations for matroids.

arXiv: 2304.00945

Slides: [web.mat.bham.ac.uk/J.Kurkofka/](http://web.mat.bham.ac.uk/J.Kurkofka/)



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Thank you!