

Vertex Cover

In:  $G$

Task: Find  $S \subseteq V(G)$  s.t.  $\forall uv \in E(G)$   
 $\{u, v\} \cap S \neq \emptyset$

Parameterized by OPT:

In:  $G, k$

Q:  $\exists$  vertex cover of size  $\leq k$ ?

Naive:  $n^k \cdot m$

Can we do BETTER?

$2^k n^{O(1)}$

Fixed Parameter Tractable  
 $f(k) n^c$   
 for  $c$  independent of  $k$ .

Greedy randomized algorithm:

$S = \emptyset$   
 while  $G-S$  has at least one edge  
 pick  $uv \in E(G-S)$  u.a.r.  
 pick  $s \in \{u, v\}$  u.a.r.  
 $S = S \cup \{s\}$

Output  $S$

- ALG always runs in polynomial (linear!) time
- $S$  is always a vertex cover (why?)
- What is  $\Pr[S \text{ is an OPTIMAL v.c.}]$ ?
- Let OPT be some fixed optimal vertex cover, suppose  $|OPT| \leq k$ .
- Initially  $S \subseteq OPT$ .
- Claim: in each round, if  $S \subseteq OPT$  then  $\Pr[s \in OPT] \geq 1/2$
- Proof:  $uv$  has  $\geq 1$  endpoint in  $OPT-S$ !
- $|S|$  increases by 1 in every round. if  $s \in OPT$  in every round then  $S = OPT$ !
- happens with probability  $\geq (1/2)^k = 1/2^k$
- $S$  is optimal with prob  $\geq 1/2^k$
- (repeat  $2^k$  times and keep smallest soln to get success prob  $1 - (1 - 1/2^k)^{2^k} \geq 1 - 1/e$ )

Problem for tutorial:

1) Show that the number of inclusion minimal vertex covers of size  $\leq k$  is at most  $2^k$

This algorithm is also a factor 2 approximation algorithm!

For a graph  $G$ , define  $X_G$  to be the random variable returning the size of the set  $S$  output by the algorithm

For integers  $k, n$  define

$X_{n,k} = \max_G E[X_G]$

where max is taken over all graphs with  $n$  vertices and vertex cover of size  $\leq k$

In each step of ALG, with probability  $\geq 1/2$ , the vertex  $s$  selected by ALG is contained in an optimal v.c. of  $G-S$

$X_{n,k} = E[X_G] \leq 1 + \frac{1}{2} E[X_{G-v} | v \in OPT] + \frac{1}{2} E[X_{G-v} | v \notin OPT]$   
 $\leq \frac{1}{2} X_{n,k-1} + \frac{1}{2} X_{n,k}$

Hence  $X_{n,k} \leq 2 + E[X_{n,k-1}] \leq 2k$ !

Tutorial: use Markov inequality to show that

$\Pr[|S| \leq 2 \cdot |OPT|] \geq \Omega(1/|OPT|)$

Feedback Vertex Set:

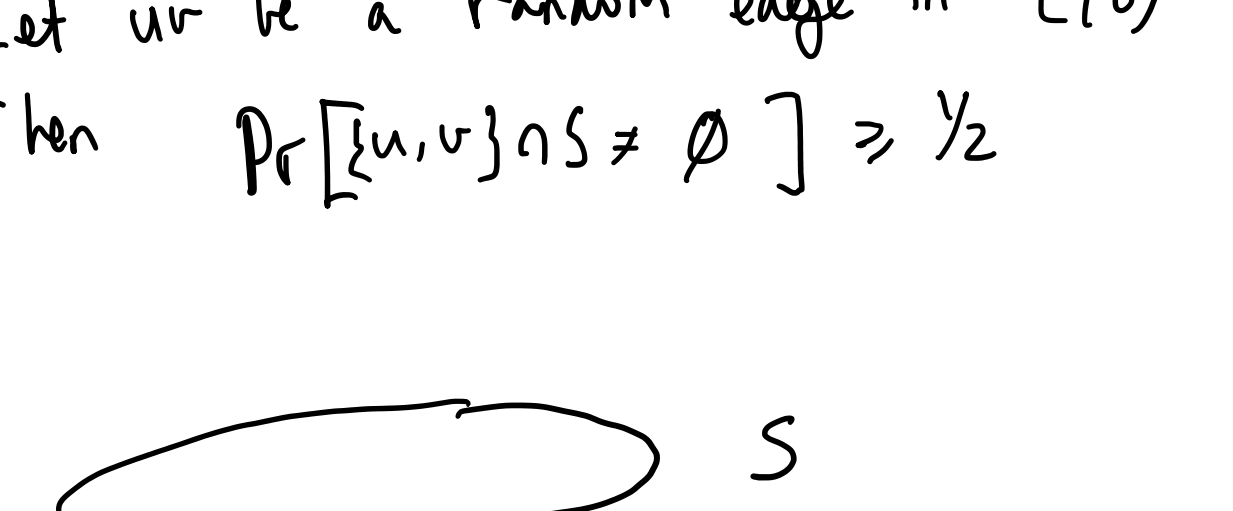
In:  $G$

Task: Find  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , s.t.  $G-S$  is a forest (acyclic)

Minimize  $|S|$

Will see 4: APPX 2  $4^k$  ALG.

Will work with multi-graphs



Lemma 1: Let  $G$  be a multi-graph,  $v$  be a vertex of degree  $\leq 1$ . Then:

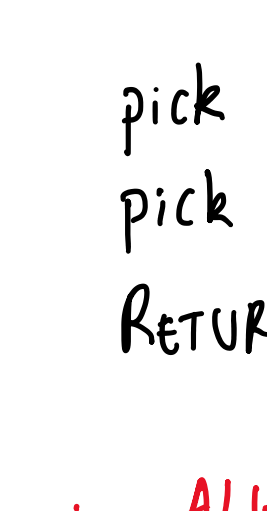
- Min FVS of  $G-v \leq$  Min FVS of  $G$
- $\forall S \subseteq V(G)-\{v\}$   $S$  is an FVS of  $G$   $\iff$   $S$  is an FVS of  $G-v$

PF: Why?

Lemma 2: If  $G$  has a vertex  $v$  with a self loop then

- Every FVS  $S$  of  $G$  contains  $v$
- For every  $S$  containing  $v$   $S$  is an FVS of  $G$   $\iff$   $S-v$  is an FVS of  $G-v$

Lemma 3: Let  $G$  be a (multi)graph with no self loops,  $u$  be a vertex of degree 2,  $a$  and  $b$  be the neighbors of  $u$  ( $a=b$  is possible!)



Then: Every FVS  $S$  of  $G$  s.t.  $u \notin S$  is an FVS of  $G'$

Every FVS  $S$  of  $G'$  is an FVS of  $G$

PF: ?? [where do we use that  $G$  has no self loops?]

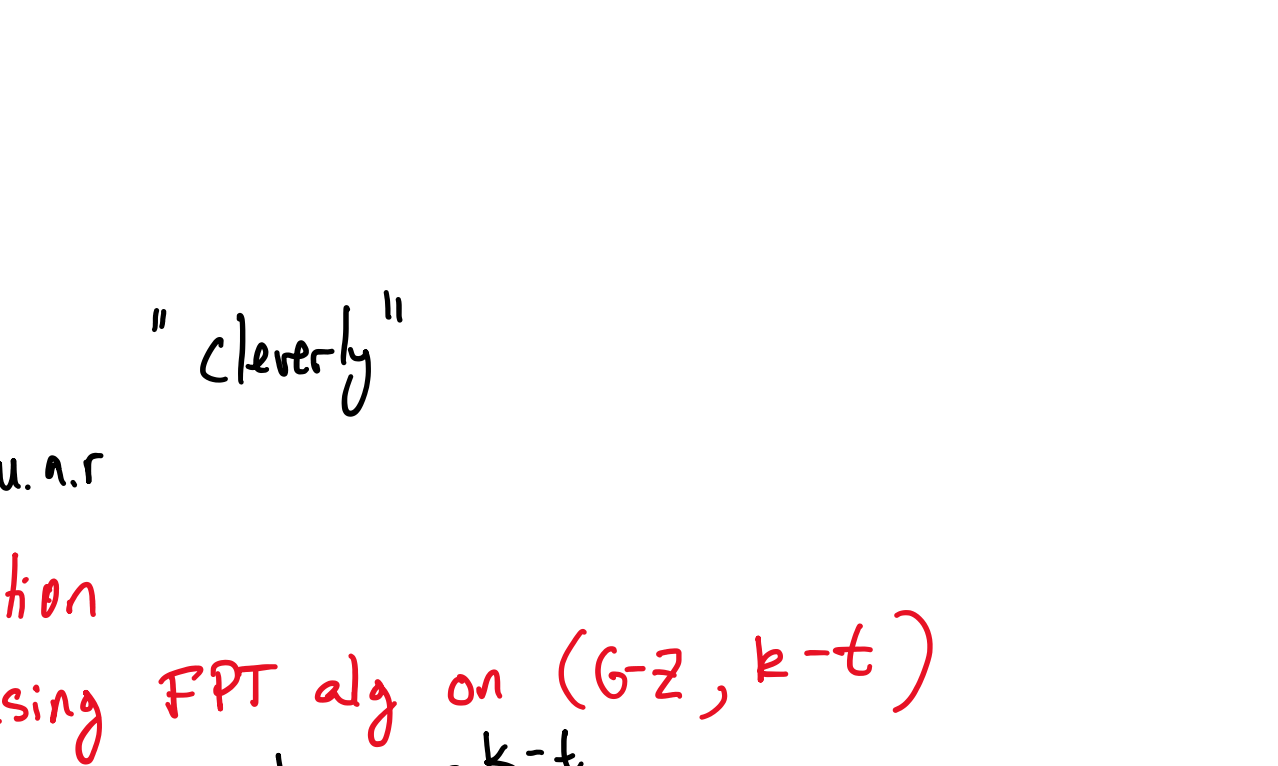
Key Lemma: Let  $G$  be a multigraph with no self loops and minimum degree  $\geq 3$

Let  $S$  be an FVS of  $G$

Let  $uv$  be a random edge in  $E(G)$

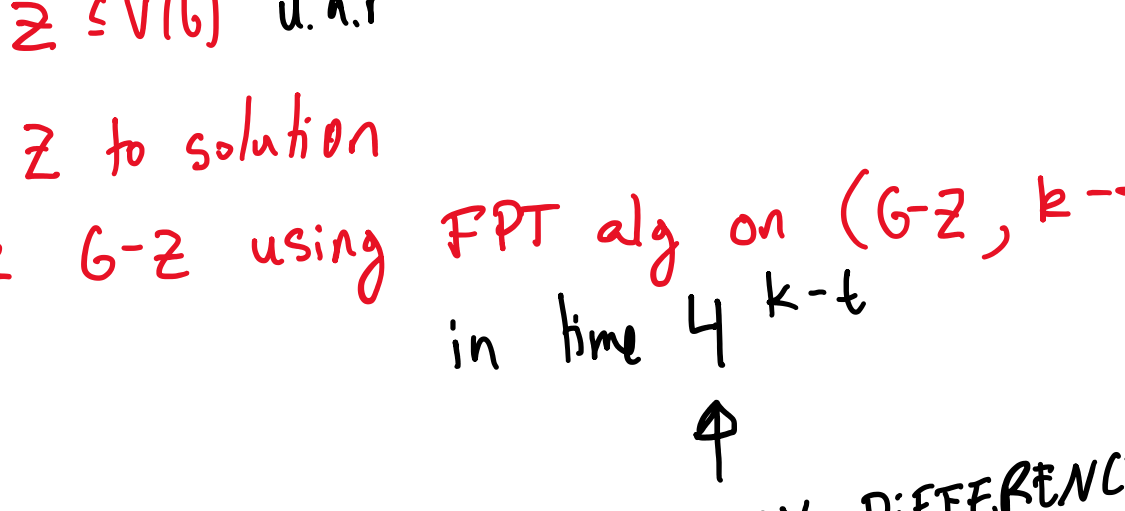
Then  $\Pr[\{u, v\} \cap S \neq \emptyset] \geq 1/2$

PF:



Claim: In any forest on  $x$  vertices  $2 \cdot \# \text{leaves} + \# \text{degree 2 vertices} \geq x$

PF: Can make any forest by adding leaves + induction



ALG( $G$ )

- if  $G$  is acyclic return  $\emptyset$
- 1) if  $\exists$  self loop  $v$  RETURN  $ALG(G-v) \cup \{v\}$
- 2) if  $\exists$  degree  $\leq 1$  vertex  $v$  RETURN  $ALG(G-v)$
- 3) if  $\exists$  degree  $\leq 2$  vertex  $v$  RETURN  $ALG(G')$  ( $G' = G/v$ )

pick edge  $uv \in E(G)$  u.a.r

pick  $s \in \{u, v\}$  u.a.r.

RETURN  $ALG(G-S) \cup \{s\}$

Lemma: ALG always returns FVS of  $G$

PF: Lemmas 1,2,3 + Induction

Lemma 2: If  $G$  has an FVS of size  $k$  then  $\Pr[ALG \text{ returns OPTIMAL FVS}] \geq 1/4^k$

PF: Induction on  $n$  + Lemmas 1,2,3 + KEY.

poly time alg with success probability  $1/4^k$   
 $\implies 4^k \text{ poly}(n)$  time alg with success probability  $\geq 1 - 1/e$ !

SIMILAR ANALYSIS AS FOR V.C. SHOWS THAT ALG IS A POLY TIME 4-APPROXIMATION IN EXPECTATION

$X_{n,k} \leq \max \left\{ \begin{aligned} &1 + X_{n,k-1} \\ &X_{n-1,k} \\ &1 + \frac{1}{4} X_{n,k-1} + \frac{3}{4} X_{n-1,k} \end{aligned} \right.$

which solves to  $X_{n,k} \leq 4k$

Have seen APPROXIMATION AND PARAMETERIZED ALG.

EXACT: Brute force is  $2^n \text{ poly}(n)$

Can we do BETTER??

For V.C. ALG:

- Given  $G, k$  pick  $t \leq k$  "cleverly"
- pick  $Z \subseteq V(G)$  u.a.r
- Add  $Z$  to solution
- Solve  $G-Z$  using FPT alg on  $(G-Z, k-t)$  in time  $2^{k-t}$

GENERIC SCHEME - ALSO WORKS FOR FVS:

For FVS ALG:

- Given  $G, k$  pick  $t \leq k$  "cleverly"
- pick  $Z \subseteq V(G)$  u.a.r
- Add  $Z$  to solution
- Solve  $G-Z$  using FPT alg on  $(G-Z, k-t)$  in time  $4^{k-t}$

ONLY DIFFERENCE

running time:  $2^{k-t}$  for VC,  $4^{k-t}$  for FVS  $\} \leq 4^{k-t}$

Success probability:  $\geq \frac{\binom{k}{t}}{\binom{n}{t}}$



repeat  $\frac{\binom{n}{t}}{\binom{k}{t}}$  times for success prob  $1 - 1/e$

running time:  $\frac{\binom{n}{t}}{\binom{k}{t}} \cdot 4^{k-t} \leq \min_{t \leq k} \frac{\binom{n}{t}}{\binom{k}{t}} \cdot 4^{k-t} \leq \left(2 - \frac{1}{c}\right)^n \cdot \text{poly}(n)$

$\implies 1.5^n$  alg for V.C.

$1.75^n$  alg for FVS