# Deterministic parameterized connected vertex cover

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## Outline

- Introduction.
- Our algorithm.
- Time complexity analysis.
- Onclusions.

## Introduction

#### Introduction - definitions

Deterministic parameterized connected vertex cover.



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Deterministic parameterized connected vertex cover.

- A parameterized problem instance comes with an additional integer (*G*, *k*).
- A problem is FPT if it admits an algorithm with f(k) poly(n) running time.
- Goal: for problems known to be FPT design the fastest algorithm possible.
- We are interested in the best possible function f and as O<sup>\*</sup>(f(k)) denote O(f(k)poly(n)).

#### Introduction - history

#### CVC problem def.

Given an undirected graph G = (V, E) and an integer k, decide whether there exists a connected vertex cover of G of cardinality at most k?

$O^*(6^k)$	GNW'05
$O^*(3.2361^k)$	MRR'06
$O^*(2.9316^k)$	FM'06
$O^*(2.7606^k)$	MRR'08
$O^*(2.4882^k)$	B'10
$O^*(2^k)$ (randomized)	CNPPRW'11
$O^{*}(2^{k})$	this paper

## CVC is contraction closed, i.e., if (G, k) is a YES-instance than (G', k) is a YES-instance.





We use the *iterative compression* technique.

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- Use Z to exploit the structure of G.



By a factor n (can be reduced to 2k), it is enough to solve:

#### Compression CVC

Given G = (V, E), k and a cvc  $Z \subseteq V$  of size at most k + 2 find cvc of G of size at most k.



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- $V_{take} \cup Z_{take}$  form a vc of G.
- If a vertex of  $V_{take}$  has no neighbor in  $Z_{take}$ , then terminate the branch.



 Since X<sub>0</sub> := V<sub>take</sub> ∪ Z<sub>take</sub> is already a vc of G it remains to find the smallest cardinality set X<sub>1</sub> ⊆ V<sub>maybe</sub> := V \ (Z ∪ V<sub>take</sub>), such that G[X<sub>0</sub> ∪ X<sub>1</sub>] is connected.

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- This is a Steiner tree problem, where as terminals we take contracted connected components of  $G[X_0]$ .
- Therefore we can find X<sub>1</sub> in O<sup>\*</sup>(2<sup>cc(G[X<sub>0</sub>])</sup>) time by using algorithm of Nederlof for Steiner tree (or dynamic programming over subsets).

### Algorithm - example



For each subset Z<sub>take</sub> ⊆ Z such that Z \ Z<sub>take</sub> is independent we have O<sup>\*</sup>(2<sup>z</sup>) running time, where z = cc(G[Z<sub>take</sub>]).

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It is easy to show 3<sup>|Z|</sup> upper bound, since each vertex of Z can be (i) not taken to Z<sub>take</sub>, (ii) taken and its cc belongs to C, (iii) taken and its cc does not belong to C.

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- Observe that knowing the type of each vertex of Z gives us at most one corresponding pair of P.

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- Consider any spanning tree T of G[Z] and root it in an arbitrary vertex.

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- If p is (ii), then v cannot be (iii), as they cannot be in two different components of C.
- Similarly if p is (iii), then v cannot be (ii).
- This gives 3 · 2<sup>|Z|-1</sup> upper bound on |P| and since |Z| ≤ k + 2 we have O<sup>\*</sup>(2<sup>k</sup>) algorithm for CVC.

## Conclusions

#### Conclusions and open problems

- We have shown how to solve CVC deterministically in O\*(2<sup>k</sup>) time.
- Our algorithm can be extended to weighted and counting variants.
- Solution By recent work [CDLMNOPSW'12], one can not solve the counting variant in  $0^*((2 \varepsilon)^k)$  unless SETH fails.
- Open problem: is it possible to show that there is no 0<sup>\*</sup>((2 ε)<sup>k</sup>) algorithm for the decision version unless SETH fails?

#### Questions?

Thank you!