

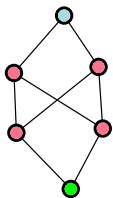
# $\chi$ -Boundedness for posets

Gwenaël Joret

Université libre de Bruxelles

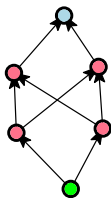
joint work with Piotr Micek, Michał Pilipczuk, and Bartosz  
Walczak

# Drawing posets



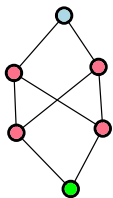
diagram

# Drawing posets



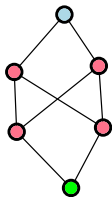
diagram

# Drawing posets

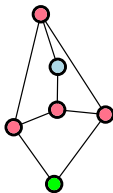


diagram

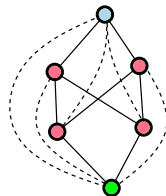
# Drawing posets



diagram



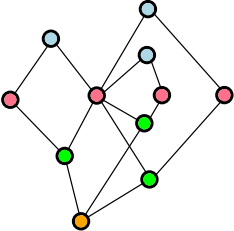
cover graph



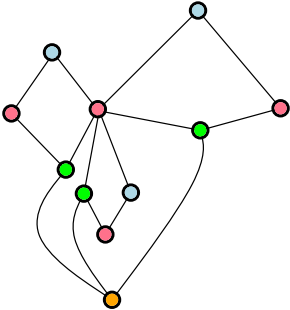
comparability graph

# Drawing posets

poset with ...

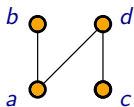


non-planar diagram

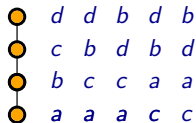


planar cover graph

# Dimension



poset  $\mathbf{P}$



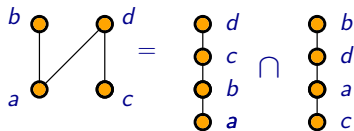
linear extensions of  $\mathbf{P}$

**Dimension** of  $\mathbf{P}$  is the minimum  $d$  such that there are  $d$  linear extensions  $L_1, \dots, L_d$  of  $\mathbf{P}$  with

$$\mathbf{P} = \bigcap_{i \in [d]} L_i$$

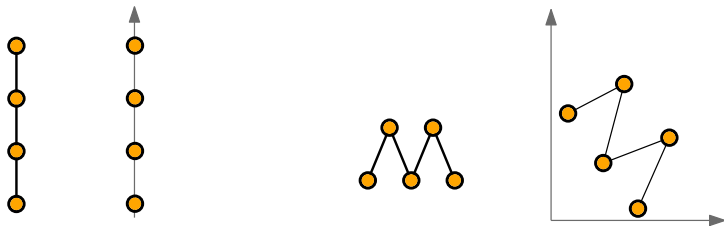
$$\dim \left( \begin{array}{c} b \bullet \quad \bullet d \\ | \quad \diagup \\ a \bullet \quad \bullet c \end{array} \right) \leq 2$$

as



## Dimension: Geometric view

Dimension of  $\mathbf{P}$  is the least  $d$  such that  $\mathbf{P}$  is isomorphic to a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$



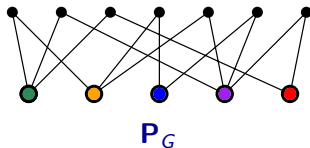
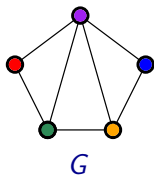


# Why dimension?

A natural notion...

...with interesting connections, e.g.:

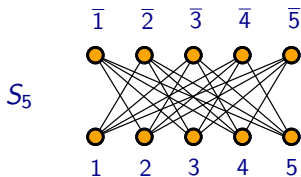
Incidence posets:



Schnyder 1989

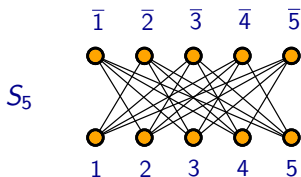
$G$  planar  $\Leftrightarrow \dim(P_G) \leq 3$

Standard examples have large dimension



$$\dim(S_k) = k$$

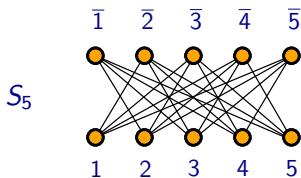
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If  $\mathbf{P}$  contains  $S_k$  then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \geq k$

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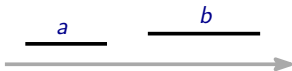
If  $\mathbf{P}$  contains  $S_k$  then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \geq k$

**Standard example number**  $\text{se}(\mathbf{P})$ : Largest  $k$  s.t.  $\mathbf{P}$  contains  $S_k$

$$\dim(P) \geq \text{se}(P)$$

# Posets with large dimension but no big standard example

## Interval orders



Interval orders  $\equiv$  posets with no  $S_2$

**Universal interval order**  $U_n$ : all intervals  $[i, j]$  with  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ .

$$\dim(U_n) \geq \log_2 \log_2 n$$

# $\chi$ -Boundedness and dim-boundedness

chromatic number  $\leftrightarrow$  dimension

cliques  $\leftrightarrow$  standard examples

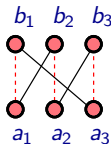
Family  $\mathcal{G}$  of graphs is  **$\chi$ -bounded** if there exists  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  
 $\chi(G) \leq f(\omega(G))$  for all  $G \in \mathcal{G}$

Family  $\mathcal{P}$  of posets is **dim-bounded** if there exists  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  
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# Dimension as a hypergraph coloring problem

Dimension = least number of linear extensions reversing all incomparable pairs  $(a, b)$

**Alternating cycle:** Incomparable pairs  
 $(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_k, b_k)$  s.t.  $a_i \leq_P b_{i+1}$   
 $\forall i$  (cyclically)



**Lemma:** Set  $I$  of incomparable pairs can be reversed with one linear extension  $\Leftrightarrow I$  has no alternating cycle

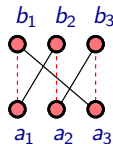
Hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$ :

- vertex set = { incomparable pairs }
- hyperedges  $\leftrightarrow$  alternating cycles
- $\chi(\mathcal{H}) = \dim(\mathbf{P})$

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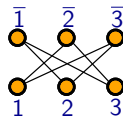
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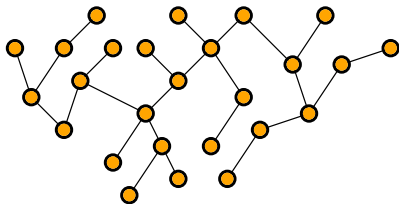
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- $\chi(\mathcal{H}) = \dim(\mathbf{P})$
- cliques  $\leftrightarrow$  standard examples
- $\omega(\mathcal{H}) = \text{se}(\mathbf{P})$





## What is this talk about?

*"If a poset is nice then its dimension is small"*

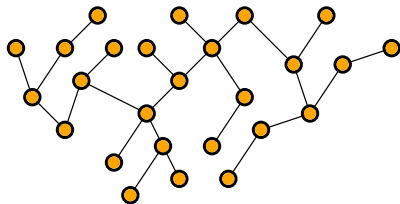


Trotter and Moore 1977

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  is a forest then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 3$

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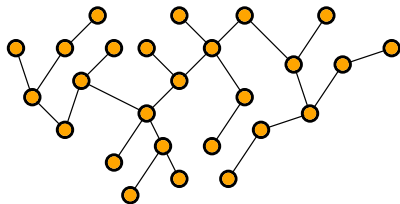
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Felsner, Trotter, Wiechert 2015

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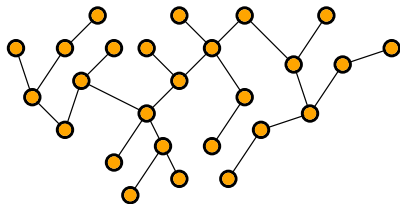
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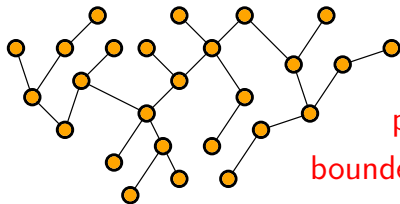
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Seweryn 2020

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  has **treewidth**  $\leq 2$  then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 12$

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planar?

bounded treewidth?

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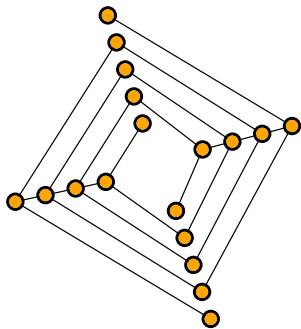
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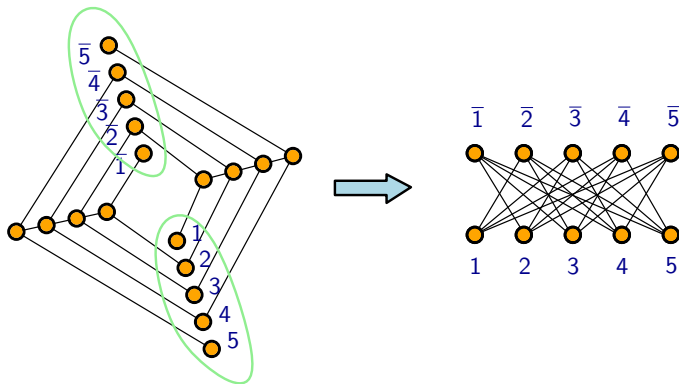
# Kelly's example

Kelly 1981



# Kelly's example

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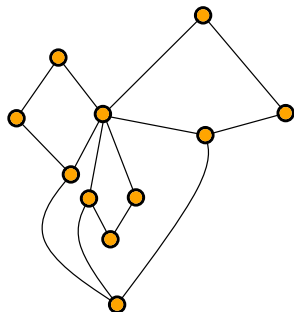


**planar** posets with arbitrarily large dimension  
cover graphs have **treewidth 3**

# What now?

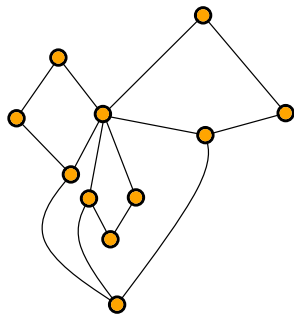
1. Are planar posets **dim**-bounded?  
Posets with planar cover graphs?

**Conjecture** (Trotter, 1980s): Yes and yes





# What now?

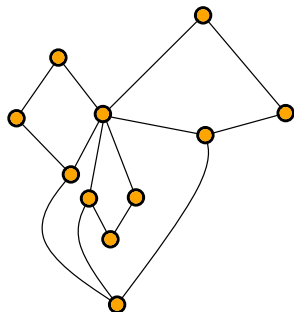


1. Are planar posets **dim**-bounded?  
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2. Are posets with cover graphs of bounded treewidth **dim**-bounded?

# What now?

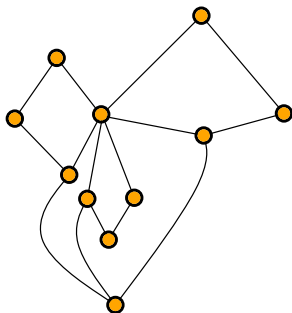


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Posets with planar cover graphs?

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2. Are posets with cover graphs of bounded treewidth **dim**-bounded?
3. What properties of cover graphs imply bounded dimension?

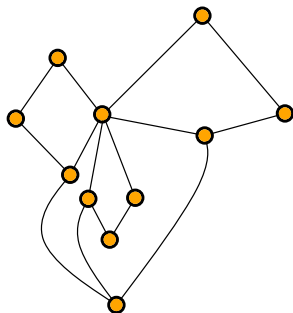
## Posets with planar cover graphs



Blake, Hodor, Micek, Seweryn, Trotter 2023+

Posets with **planar** cover graphs are **dim**-bounded

## Posets with planar cover graphs



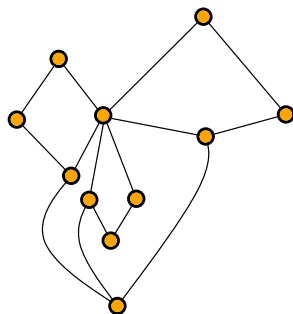
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If  $\mathbf{P}$  has a planar cover graph then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 2^{O(\text{se}(\mathbf{P}))}$

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Blake, Hodor, Micek, Seweryn, Trotter 2023+

If  $\mathbf{P}$  has a planar diagram then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 128 \text{se}(\mathbf{P}) + O(1)$

# Posets with cover graphs of bounded treewidth

J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with cover graphs of **bounded treewidth** are **dim**-bounded

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J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with cover graphs of **bounded treewidth** are **dim**-bounded

J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with **bounded cliquewidth** are **dim**-bounded

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J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with cover graphs of **bounded treewidth** are **dim**-bounded

J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with **bounded cliquewidth** are **dim**-bounded

New tool: Colcombet's factorization theorem

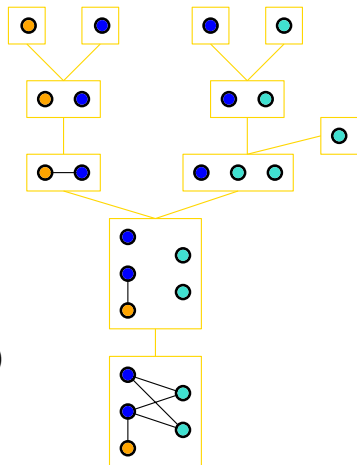


# Graph cliquewidth

Build graph  $G$  using 4 operations:

- ▶ create new vertex  $v$  with label  $i$
- ▶ disjoint union of two labeled graphs
- ▶ put all edges between vertices labeled  $i$  and vertices labeled  $j$  ( $i \neq j$ )
- ▶ rename label  $i$  to  $j$

**Cliquewidth:** min. number of labels needed



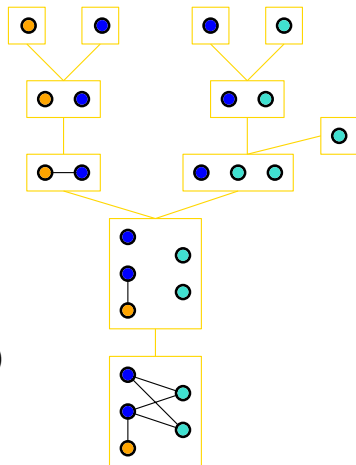
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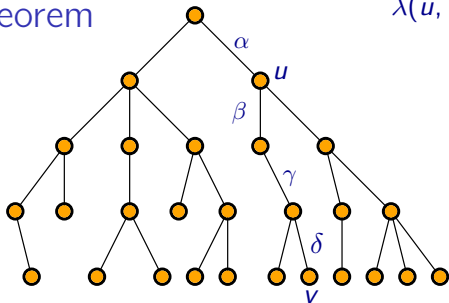
Poset cliquewidth: Same for posets



# Colcombet's Theorem

$$\lambda(u, v) = \beta \cdot \gamma \cdot \delta$$

Rooted tree  $T$



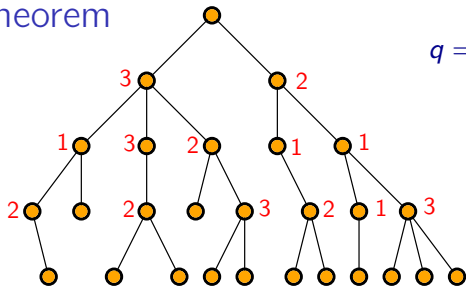
Edges labeled with elements of a finite semigroup  $(\Lambda, \cdot)$

$u <_T v$  means “ $u$  strict ancestor of  $v$ ”

For  $u <_T v$ , set  $\lambda(u, v) :=$  product of labels on  $u$ -to- $v$  path

# Colcombet's Theorem

$q = 3$



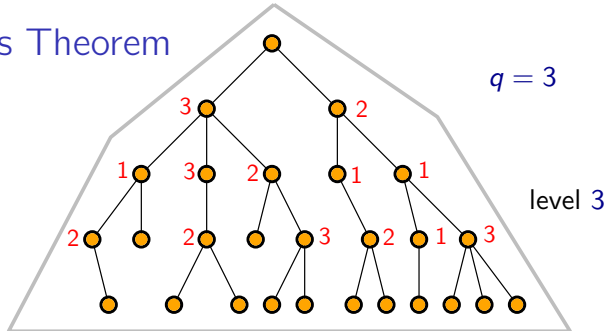
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**Split** of order  $q$ : each inner node receives some number in  $\{1, \dots, q\}$

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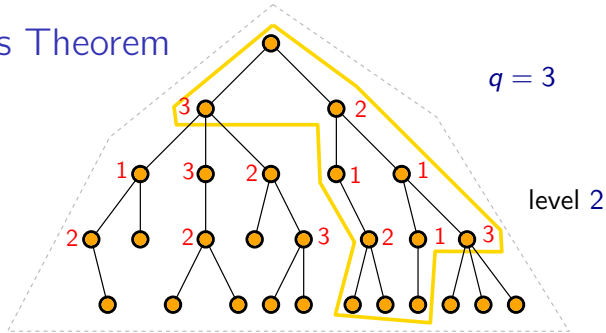
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Hierarchical factorization of  $T$

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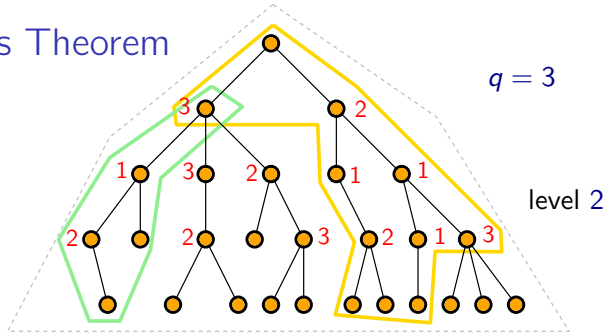
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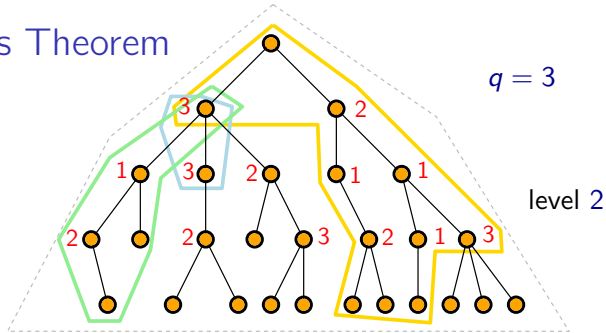
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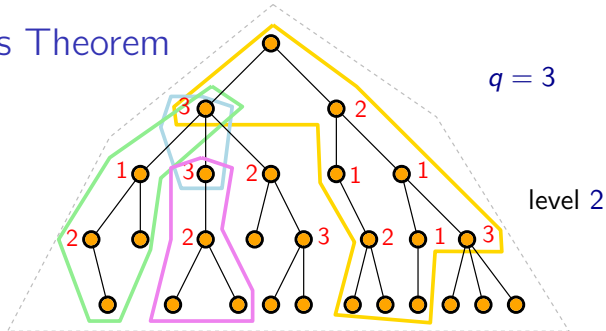
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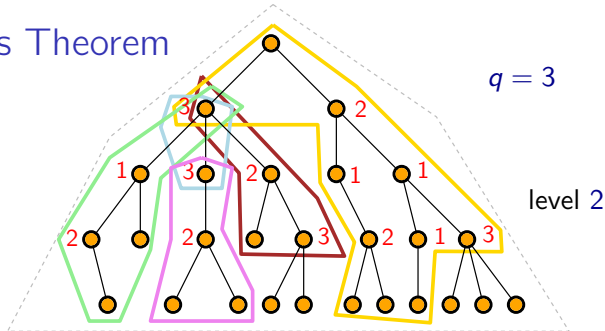
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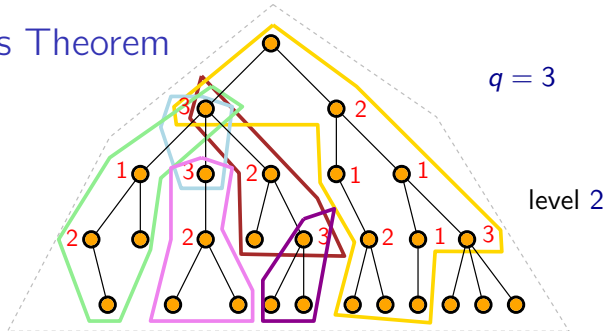
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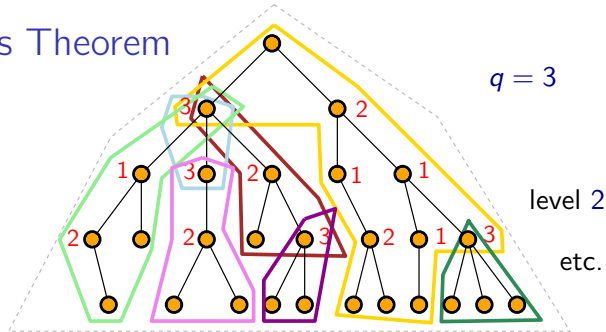
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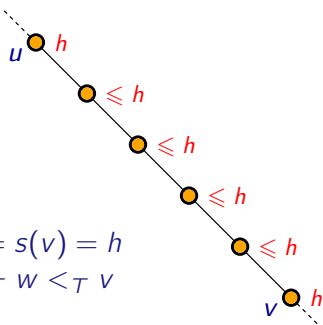
For  $u <_T v$ , set  $\lambda(u, v) :=$  product of labels on  $u$ -to- $v$  path

**Split** of order  $q$ : each inner node receives some number in  $\{1, \dots, q\}$

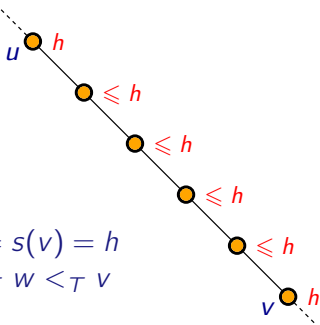
Hierarchical factorization of  $T$

# Colcombet's Theorem

$u <_T v$  are  **$h$ -neighbors** if  $s(u) = s(v) = h$   
and  $s(w) \leq h$  for all  $w$  with  $u <_T w <_T v$



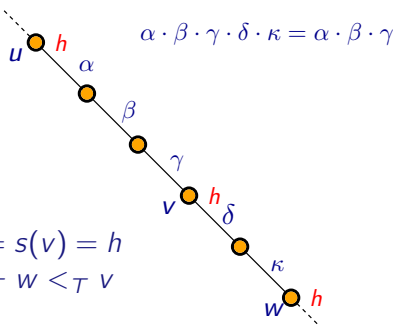
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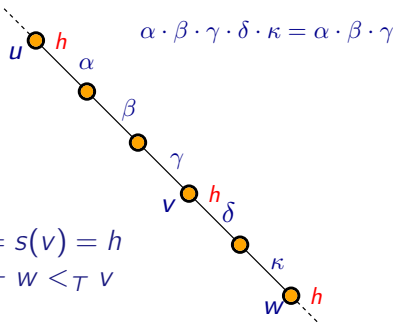
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Colcombet 2007

There exists a split of  $T$  of order  $|\Lambda|$  that is forward Ramseyan



Inspiration:

Bonamy and Mi. Pilipczuk 2020

Graphs of **bounded cliquewidth** are polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded

Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, Mi. Pilipczuk, Rabinovich, Siebertz 2021

Graphs with bounded cliquewidth excluding some half-graph as a semi-induced subgraph are linearly  $\chi$ -bounded

J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with **bounded cliquewidth** are **dim**-bounded

# Absolute bounds on dimension

Trotter and Moore 1977

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  is a forest then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 3$

Seweryn 2020

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  has treewidth  $\leq 2$  then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 12$

# Absolute bounds on dimension

Trotter and Moore 1977

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  has no  $K_3$  minor then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq 3$

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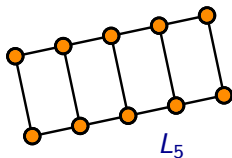
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Huynh, J., Micek, Seweryn, Wollan 2022

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  has no  $L_k$  minor then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq f(k)$

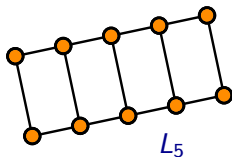
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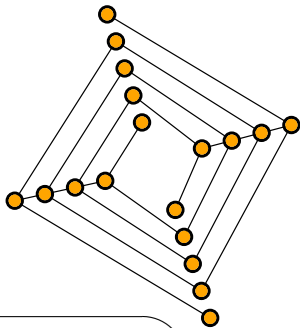


Huynh, J., Micek, Seweryn, Wollan 2022

If cover graph of  $\mathbf{P}$  has no  $L_k$  minor then  $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \leq f(k)$

Can we characterize minor-closed graph classes  $\mathcal{G}$  s.t. posets with cover graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  have bounded dimension?

## Kelly's examples again

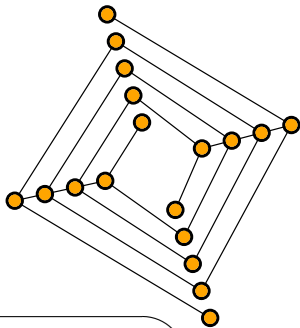


J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Fix a minor-closed graph class  $\mathcal{G}$ .

Then posets with cover graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  have bounded dimension  $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{G}$  excludes the cover graph of some Kelly example

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J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

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J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

For fixed  $t, k$ , every poset with large enough dimension and whose cover graph has treewidth  $\leq t$  contains the Kelly example of order  $k$  as a subposet

## Boolean Dimension

**Boolean realizer** of  $\mathbf{P}$ : sequence of  $k$  linear orders  $L_1, \dots, L_k$  on elements of  $P$  and a  $k$ -ary Boolean function  $\phi$  s.t.

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$$\text{bdim}(\mathbf{P}) \leq \text{dim}(\mathbf{P})$$

$$\text{bdim}(S_k) = 4$$

Felsner, Mészáros, Micek 2020

Posets with cover graphs of **bounded treewidth** have bounded Boolean dimension

J., Micek, Mi. Pilipczuk, Walczak 2023

Posets with **bounded cliquewidth** have bounded Boolean dimension

## Open problems

**Conjecture:** Fix a proper minor-closed graph class  $\mathcal{G}$ . Then posets with cover graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  are **dim**-bounded.

True for planar graphs and graphs of bounded treewidth

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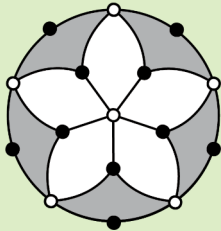
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**Conjecture** (Nešetřil and Pudlák, 1989): Posets with planar cover graphs have bounded Boolean dimension



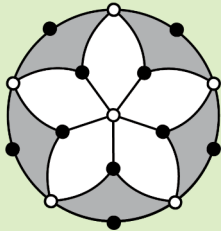
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