

# Rank-width, circle graphs, and vertex-minors

Rose McCarty

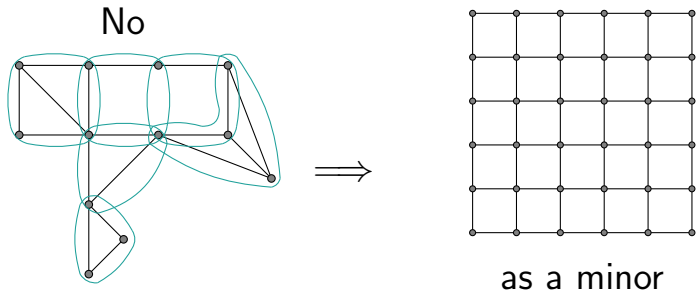
Department of Combinatorics and Optimization



Width Parameters  
March 2021

## Theorem (Robertson-Seymour-86)

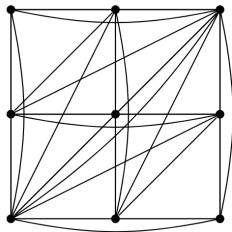
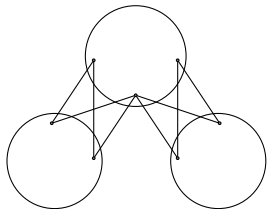
*Every graph of tree-width  $\geq f(t)$  has a  $t \times t$  grid as a minor.*



Theorem (Geelen-Kwon-McCarty-Wollan-20)

Every graph of **rank-width**  $\geq f(t)$  has a  $t \times t$  **comparability grid** as a **vertex-minor**.

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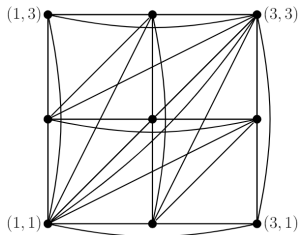
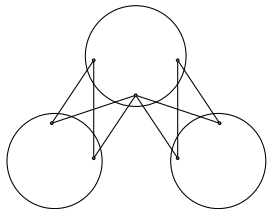


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- $\text{rw}(G) \leq \text{clique-width}(G) \leq 2^{\text{rw}(G)+1}$  (Oum-Seymour-06)
- $H$  a vertex-minor of  $G \implies \text{rw}(H) \leq \text{rw}(G)$ .
- Comparability grids have  $\text{rw} = \Theta(t)$ .

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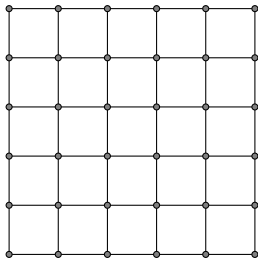
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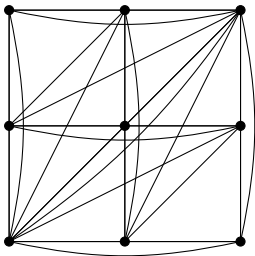
- tree-width iff it has all planar graphs as minors.
- rank-width iff it has all **circle graphs** as vertex-minors.





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**Cut-rank**( $X$ ) is the rank (over the binary field) of the matrix  $\text{adj}[X, V(G) \setminus X]$ .

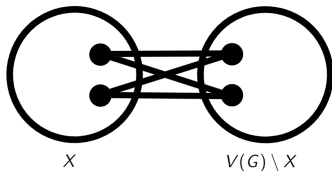
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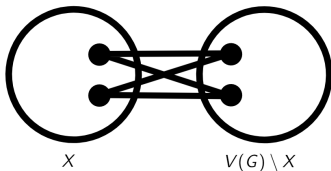
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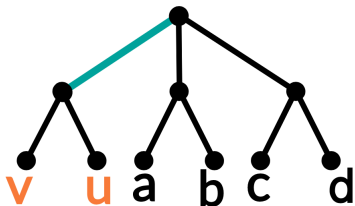
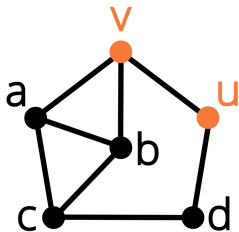
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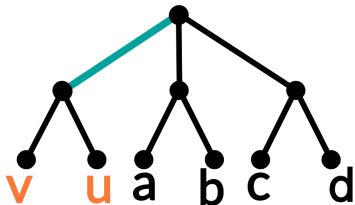
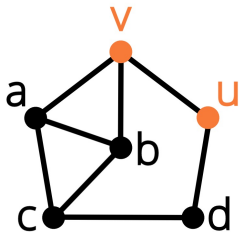
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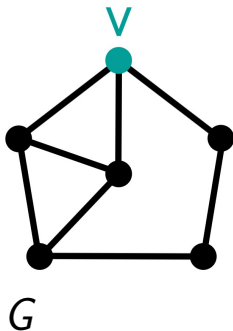
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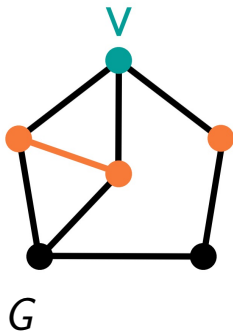
The **vertex-minors** of  $G$  are the induced subgraphs of graphs in the local equivalence class of  $G$ .





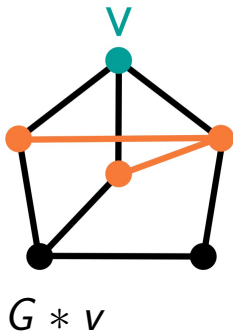
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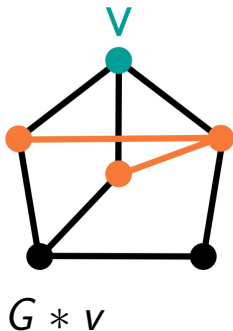
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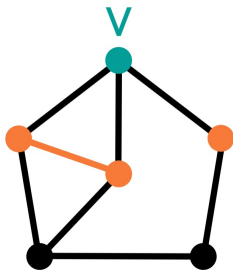
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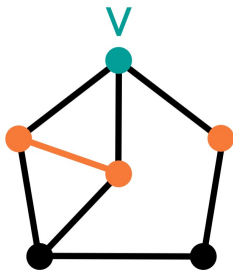
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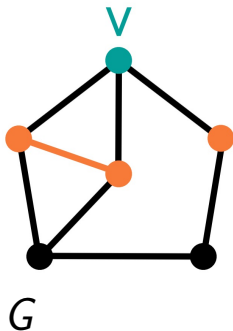
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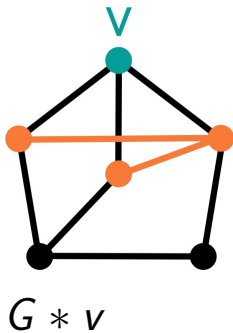
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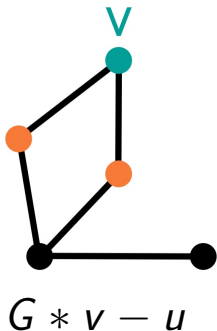
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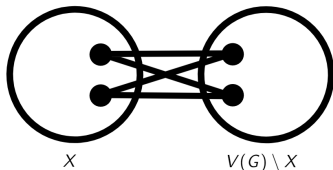
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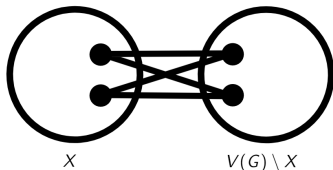
Rank-width only depends on **cut-rank**( $X$ ), which is invariant under local complementation.

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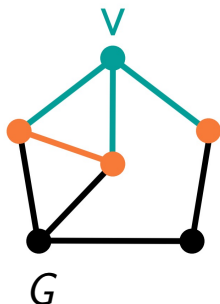
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The following are equivalent for any graph class.

- It has unbounded clique-width.
- It has unbounded rank-width.
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- It has all **circle graphs** as vertex-minors.

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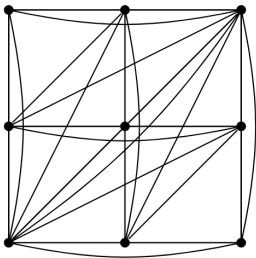
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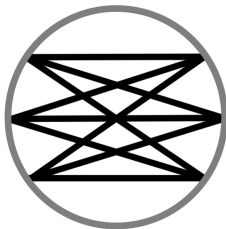
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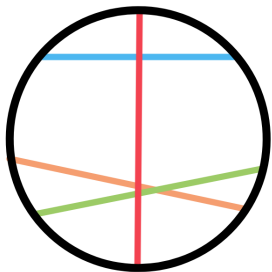


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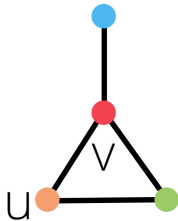
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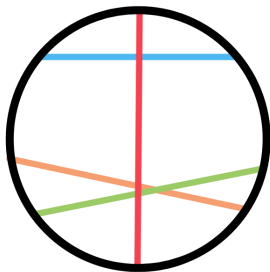


**chord diagram**

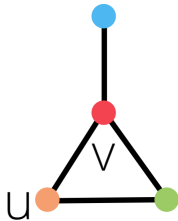


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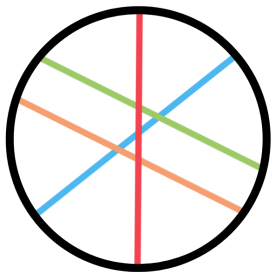


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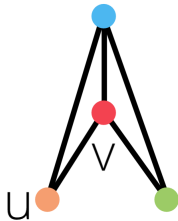


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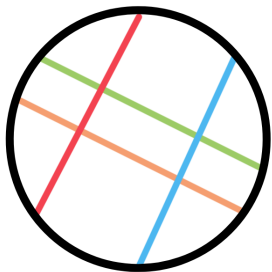


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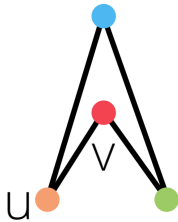


**circle graph**  $G * v$

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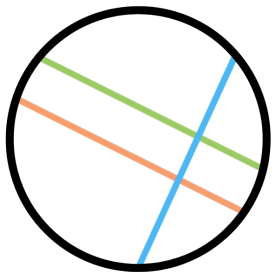


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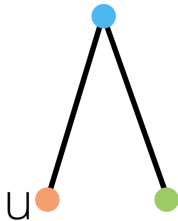


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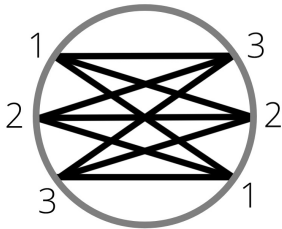


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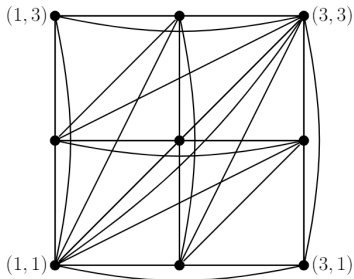


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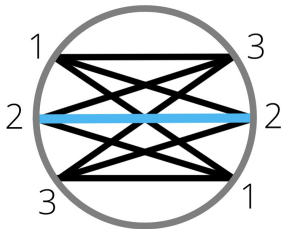


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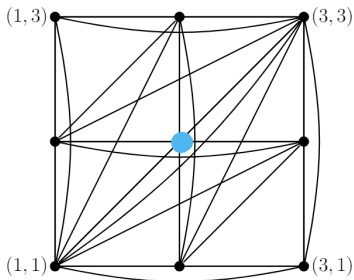


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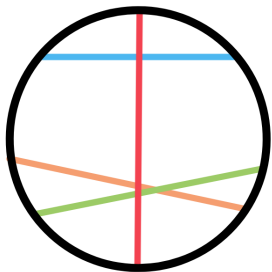
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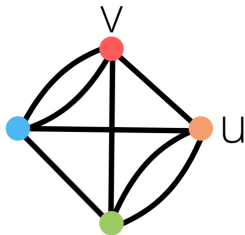
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View a **chord diagram** as a 3-regular graph and contract the chords to get the **tour graph**. It is invariant under local complementation, and vertex-deletion works nicely.

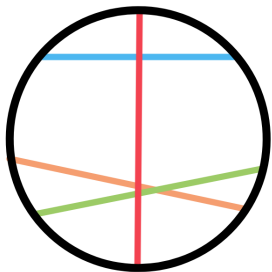


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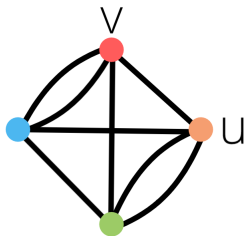


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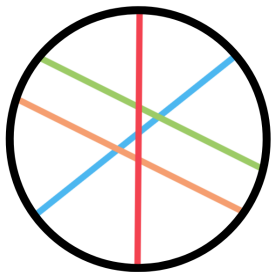


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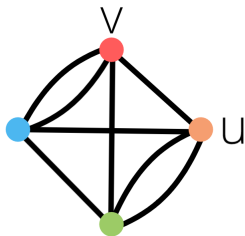


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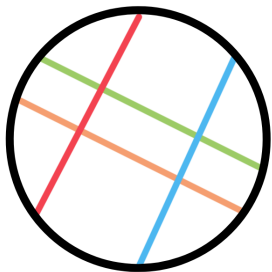


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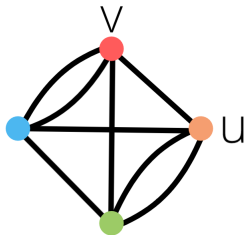


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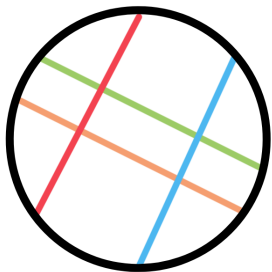


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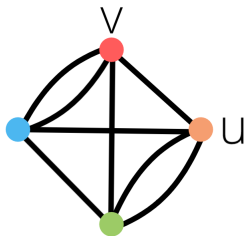


**tour graph**

View a **chord diagram** as a 3-regular graph and contract the chords to get the **tour graph**. It is invariant under local complementation, and vertex-deletion works nicely.

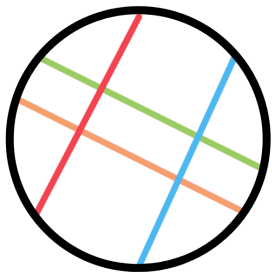


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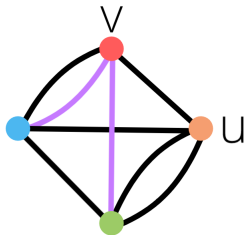


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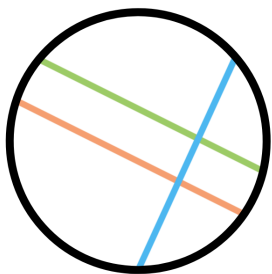


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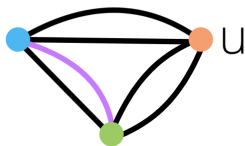


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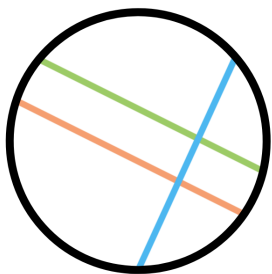


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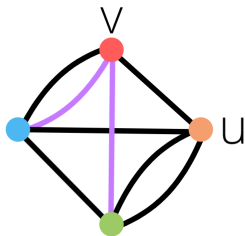


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**chord diagram**



**tour graph**



## Lemma

If  $H$  is a minor of  $G$  and  $e \notin E(H)$ , then  $H$  is a minor of either  $G - e$  or  $G/e$ .

## Theorem (Bouchet-88)

If  $H$  is a vertex-minor of  $G$  and  $v \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ , then  $H$  is a **vertex-minor** of either

- $G - v$ ,
- $G * v - v$ , or
- $G * v * u * v - v$  for each neighbour  $u$  of  $v$ .

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minor	~	vertex-minor
grid	~	comparability grid
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**Pause :)**



## Kuratowski's Theorem

*A graph is planar iff and only if it has no  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$  minor.*

## Theorem (Bouchet-94)

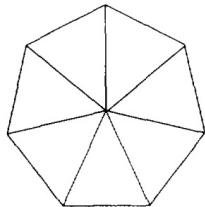
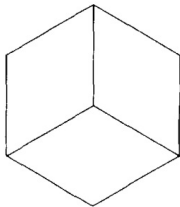
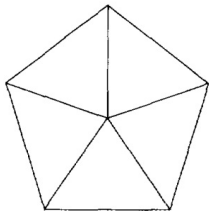
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## Menger's Theorem

For any  $S, T \subseteq V(G)$  and edge  $e$ , either  $G - e$  or  $G/e$  has no smaller  $(S, T)$ -separator than  $G$ .

## Theorem (Oum-05)

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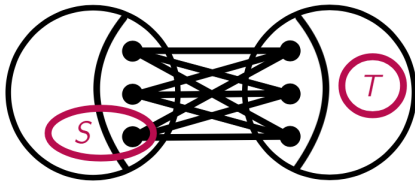
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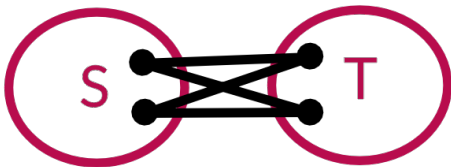


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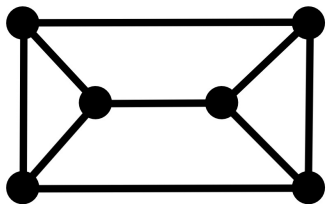
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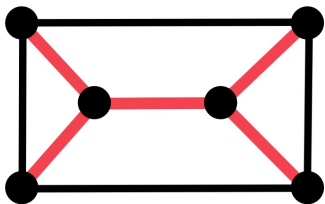


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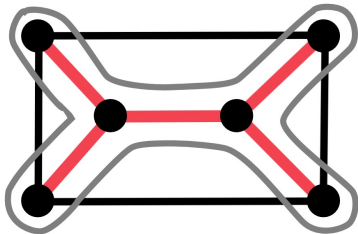
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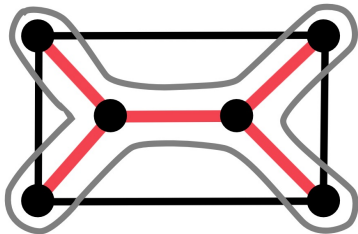
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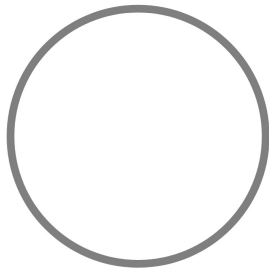
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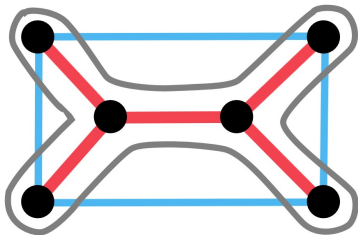


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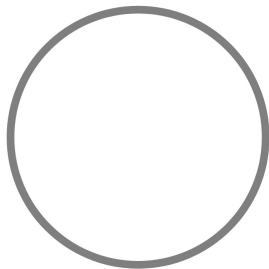


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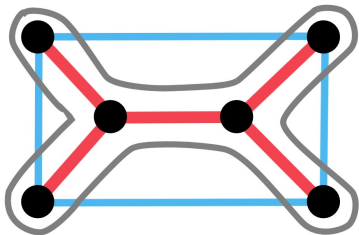


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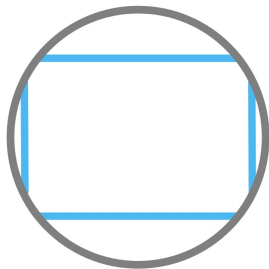


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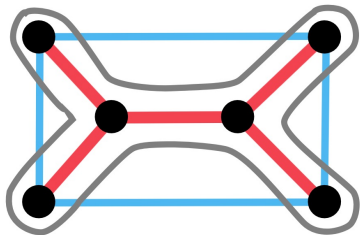


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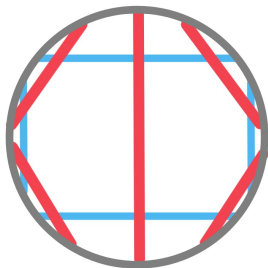


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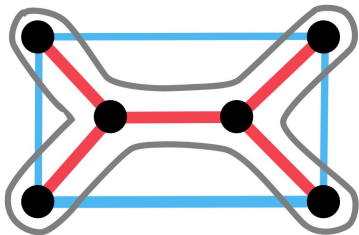


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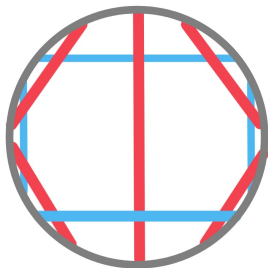


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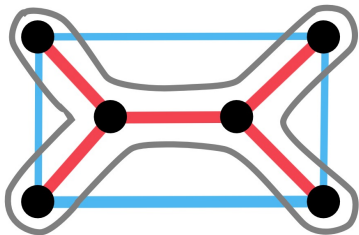


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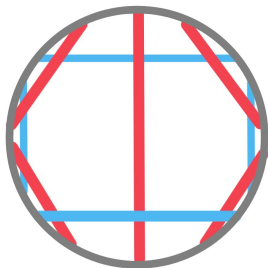


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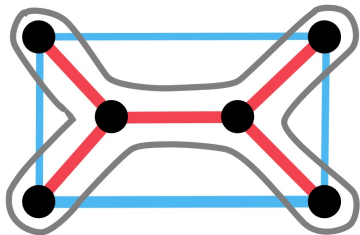


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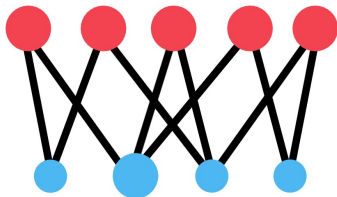


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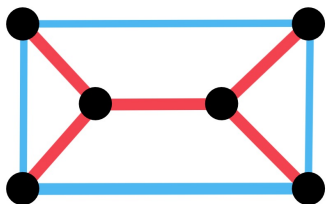


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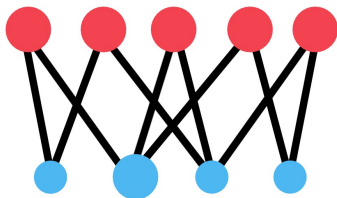


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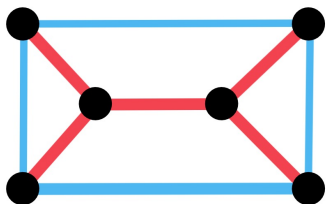
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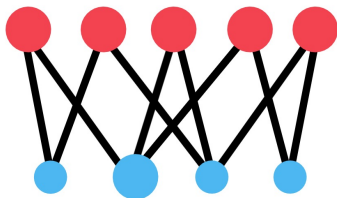
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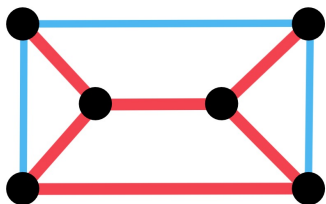


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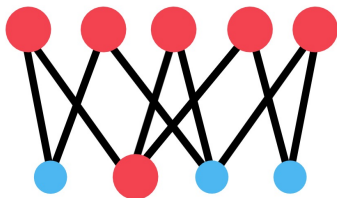


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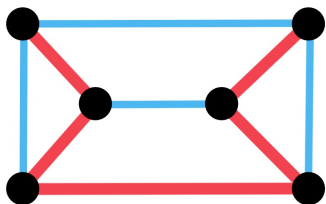


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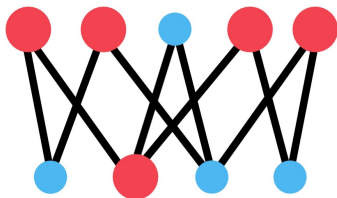


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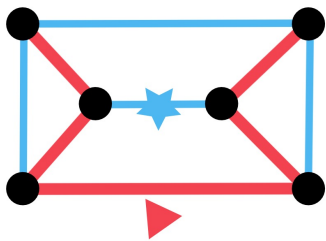


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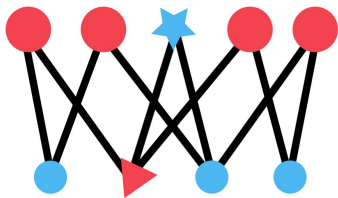


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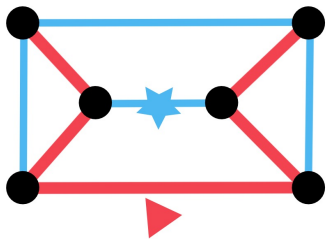


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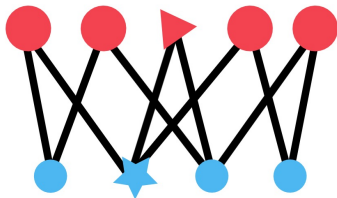


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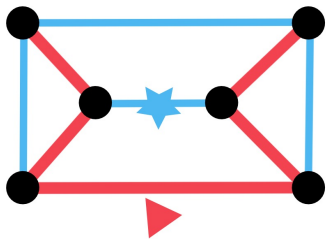


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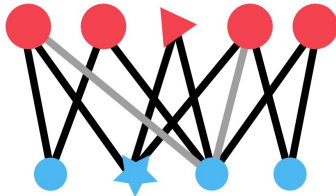


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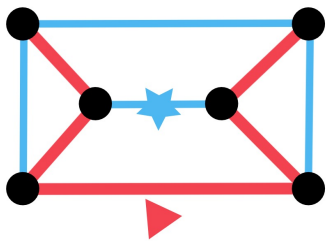


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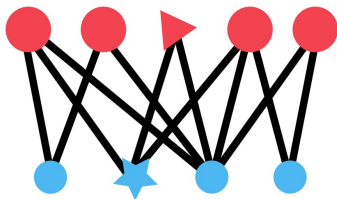


fundamental graph ...

Consider a planar graph with a spanning tree  $T$ . Draw a curve closely around  $T$ . So  $E(G) \setminus E(T)$  yields one set of non-crossing chords and  $E(T)$  yields another. The circle graph is the **fundamental graph**  $\mathcal{F}(T)$ . What is  $\mathcal{F}(T')$ ?



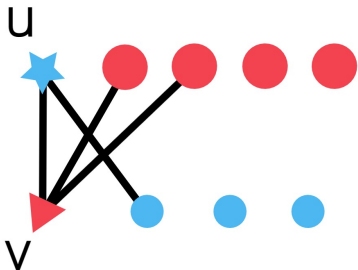
planar graph



fundamental graph  $\mathcal{F}(T')$

How do we switch out  $u$  and  $v$ ?

- 1) Exchange their labels.
- 2) Complement between  $N(u) - \{v\}$  and  $N(v) - \{u\}$ .



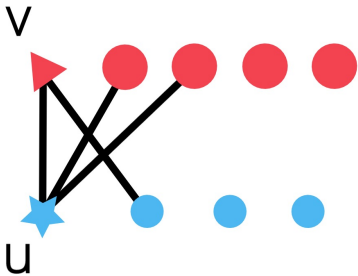
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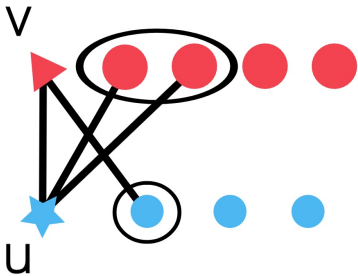
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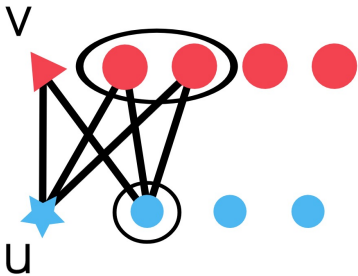
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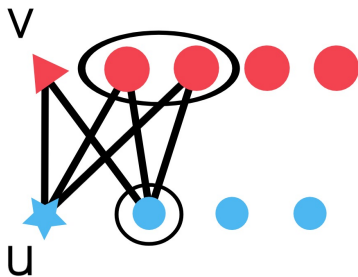
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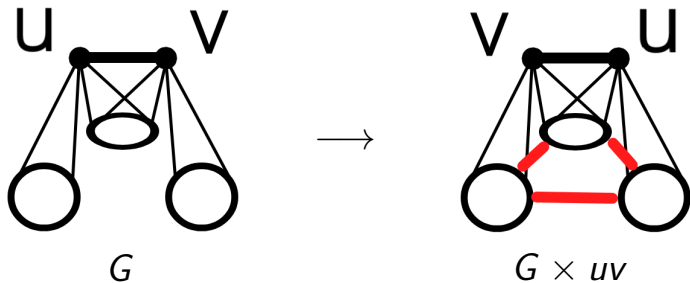


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**Pivoting** an edge  $uv$  of  $G$  yields the graph

$$G \times uv := G * u * v * u = G * v * u * v.$$

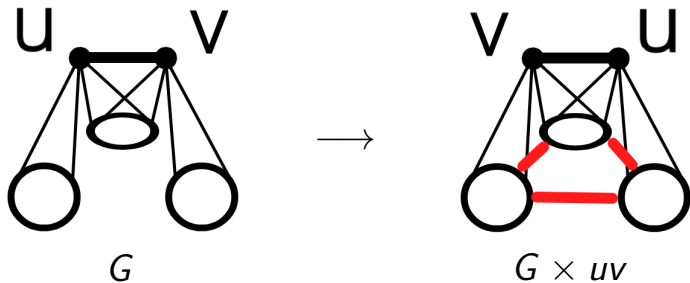
We can define **pivot equivalence** and **pivot-minors** as well.



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planar graphs



pivot-equivalent  
bipartite circle graphs

via **fundamental graphs**

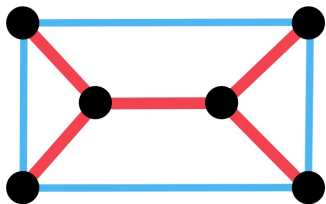
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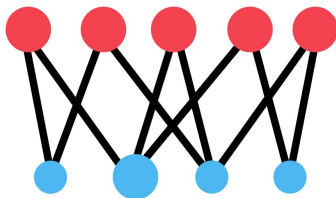


## Theorem (Bouchet)

*The fundamental graphs of two distinct, 2-connected planar graphs are pivot equivalent iff the planar graphs are **dual**.*



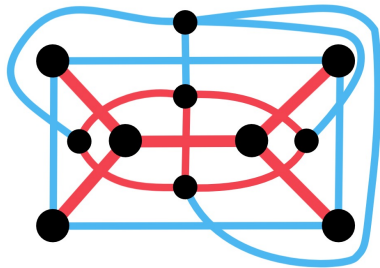
planar graph



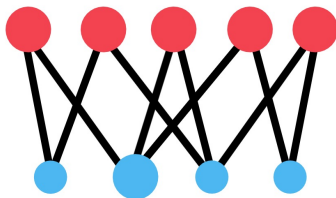
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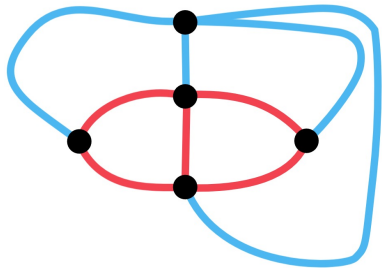
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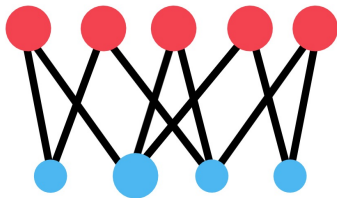
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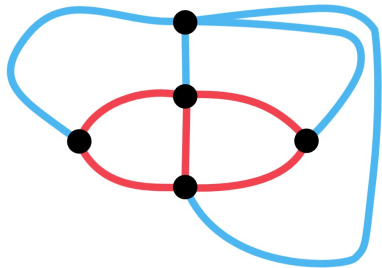
**planar graph**



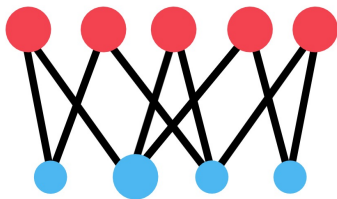
**fundamental graph**  $\mathcal{F}(T^*)$

## Theorem (Bouchet)

*The fundamental graphs of two distinct, connected **binary matroids** are pivot equivalent iff the matroids are **dual**.*



**planar graph**



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### Theorem (de Fraysseix-81)

*Every bipartite circle graph is the fundamental graph of a planar graph, and every circle graph is a vertex-minor of one that is bipartite.*

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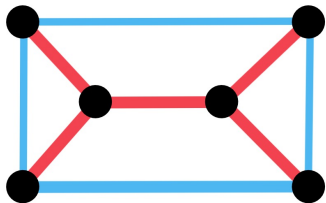
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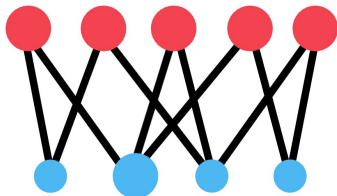


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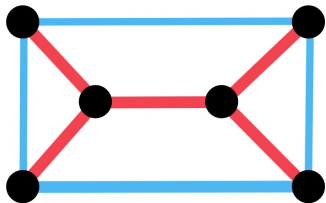
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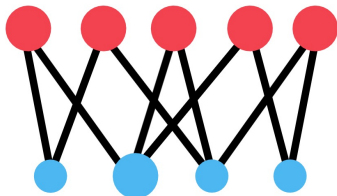
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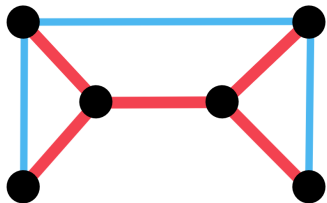
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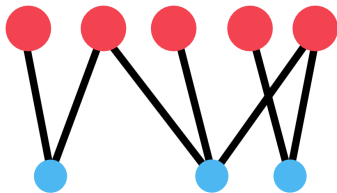
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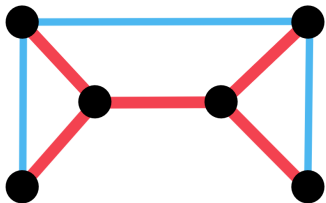


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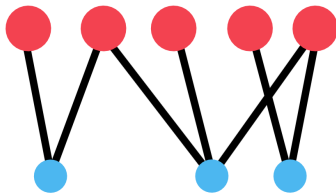
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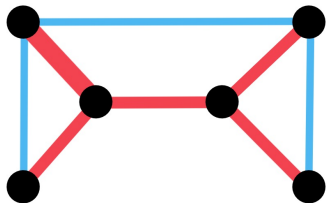


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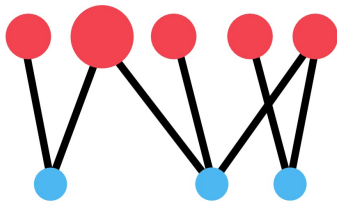
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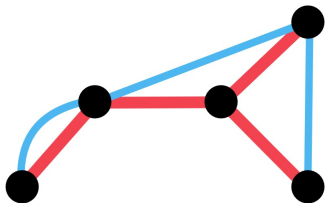


**fundamental graph**

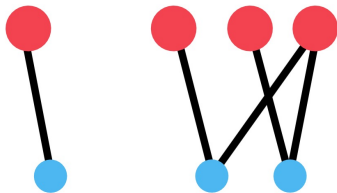
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**planar graph**



**fundamental graph**

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{T}) - v - u$$

branch-width	~	rank-width
minor	~	vertex-minor
grid	~	comparability grid
planar graphs	~	circle graphs
Kuratowski's Theorem	~	Bouchet's Theorem
Menger's Theorem	~	Oum's Theorem

Minors and vertex-minors are incomparable, but **pivot-minors** provide a common generalization.

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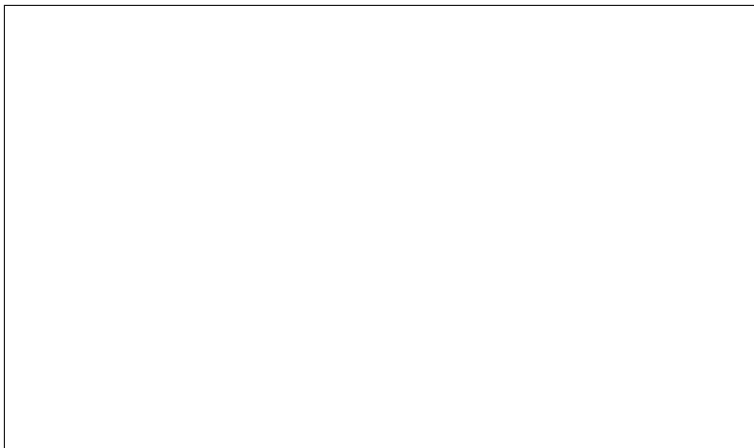
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**Pause**

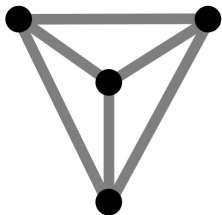


**Pivot-minors** seem truly harder...

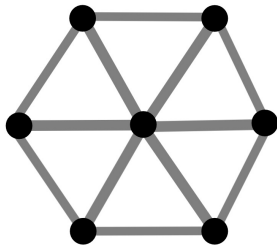
There are large graphs with a “uniquely obtainable” minor.  
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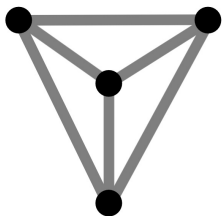
$K_4$



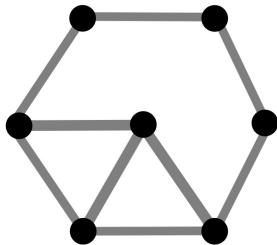
large wheel

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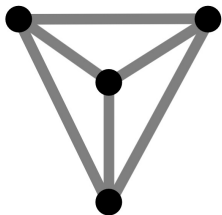
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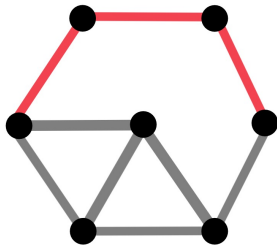
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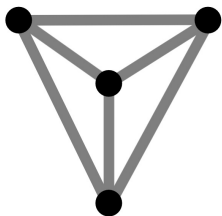
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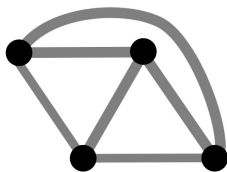
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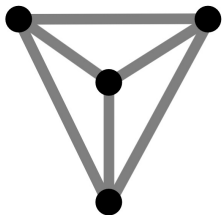


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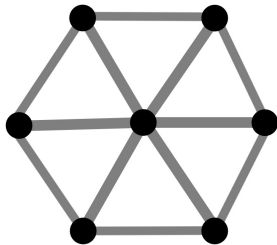


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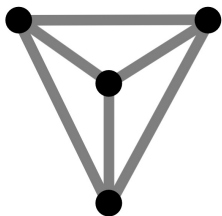
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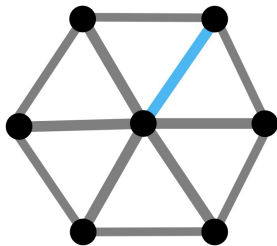
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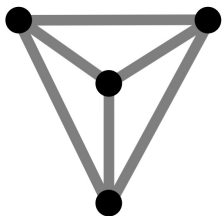
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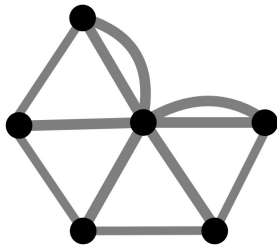
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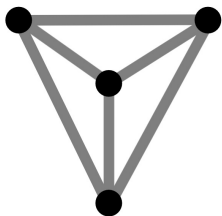
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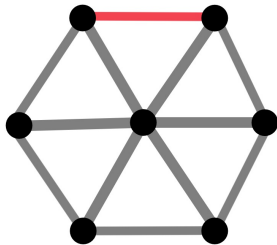
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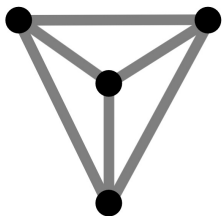
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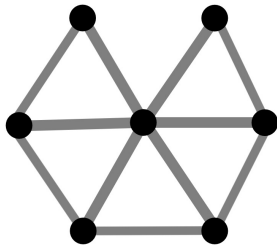
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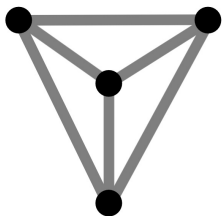
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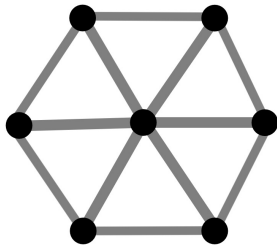
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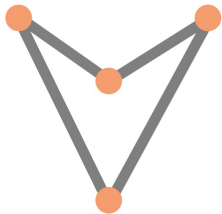
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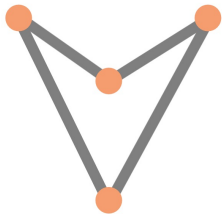
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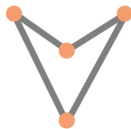
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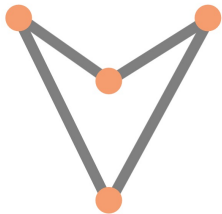
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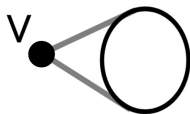
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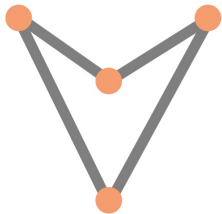
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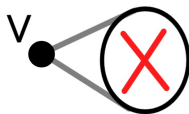
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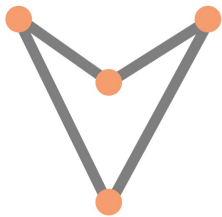
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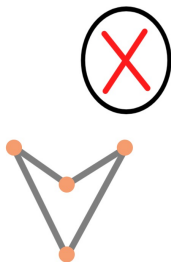
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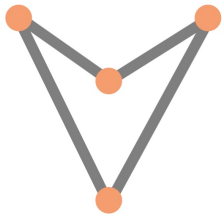
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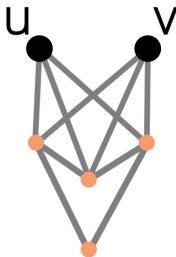
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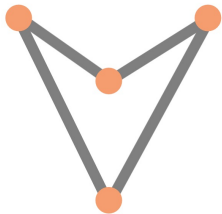
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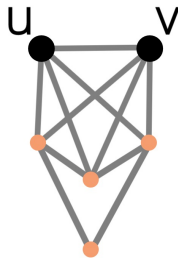
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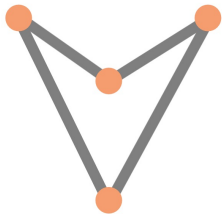
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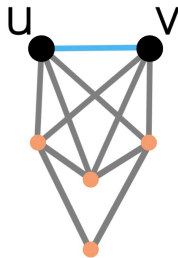
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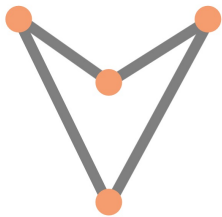


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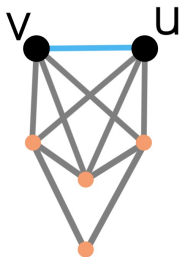


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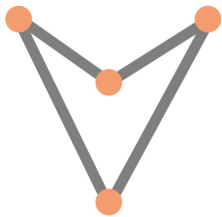
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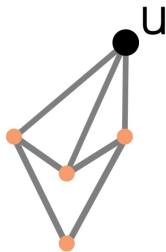
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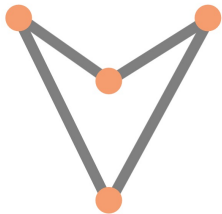
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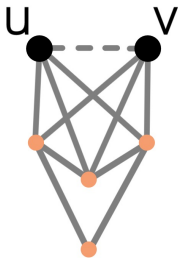
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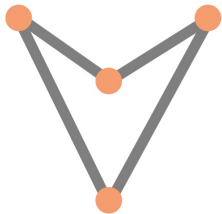
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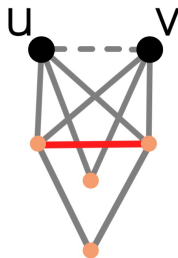
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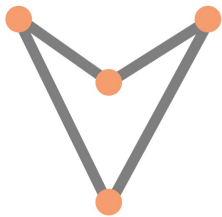
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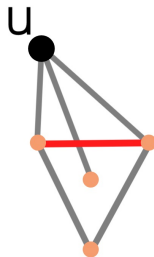
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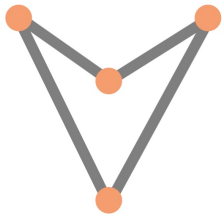
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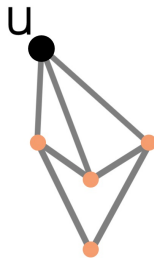
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$(G * v - v) * u$

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A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$ ,
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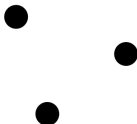




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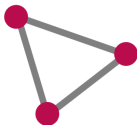
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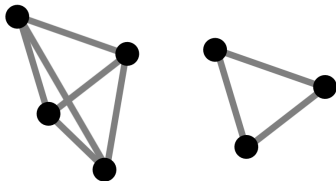
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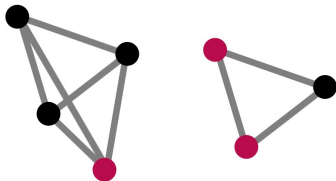
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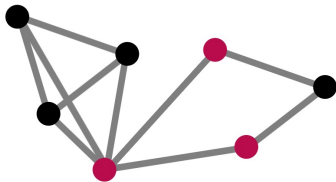
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Theorem (Kwon-McCarty-Oum-Wollan-21)

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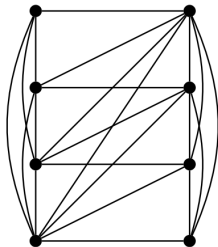
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Theorem (Kwon-McCarty-Oum-Wollan-21)

*A class of **bipartite** graphs has unbounded shrub-depth iff it has all paths as **pivot-minors**.*



Yet there are classes of unbounded shrub-depth  
**without** all paths as pivot-minors.



$H_n$

## Conjecture

*A class of graphs has unbounded shrub-depth iff it has all **paths** or all  $H_n$  as pivot-minors.*

Is it true when rank-width is bounded?!?

See Nešetřil-Ossona de Mendez-Pilipczuk-Rabinovich-Siebertz.

## Conjecture (Oum-09)

*A class of graphs has unbounded rank-width iff it has all **bipartite circle graphs** as pivot-minors.*

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*Every proper **vertex-minor-closed** class can be characterized by a **finite** list of forbidden vertex-minors.*

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**Thank you!**