On an odd case of an XP algorithm for graphs of bounded clique-width

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Based on joint work with **R. Ganian and J. Obdržálek**, orig. presented at STACS 2011.

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can one always process those throughout the recursion?

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Canonical equivalence; metadefinition Abrahamson–Fellows The canonical equivalence of \mathcal{P} on the universe \mathcal{U} is defined: $(G_1, \varphi_1) \approx_{\mathcal{P}} (G_2, \varphi_2)$ if and only if, for all (H, φ) , $(G_1, \varphi_1) \otimes (H, \varphi) \models \mathcal{P} \iff (G_2, \varphi_2) \otimes (H, \varphi) \models \mathcal{P}$.

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A canonical partition ${\mathcal X}$ is *consistent with* \otimes if

- for all $(G_1, \varphi_1) \in X_1$, $(G_2, \varphi_2) \in X_2$; the part of $(G_1, \varphi_1) \otimes (G_2, \varphi_2)$ depends only on X_1, X_2 .

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- Table update (wrt. ⊗) has to be done in polytime...
- But what if X is inconsistent with ⊗ (i.e., cannot do table update), and we have no "better" canonical partition?

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- Seems to resist nearly all useful parametrizations (except by *clique-width / rank-width*).
- In MSO₂, only one "∃F" above MSO₁.
 Hence if an extension of Courcelle–Makowsky–Rotics is sought (MSO₁ on graphs of bounded clique-width), then MinLOB should be understood first...

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- Working over vertex-labelled graphs, too. Non-symmetric!
- An "across" edge / arc depends only on the label of its end(s).

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Recall: Exp. *strong signature* of an out-forest $F \subseteq G$ = for each tree of F; – the root label, and the labels of all active vertices (multiset).



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Hence the upper two fragments are canonically equivalent, indeed.

Now, What is Wrong? Fact. Reduced signature is inconsistent with the labelled join \otimes ! \longrightarrow \longrightarrow \longrightarrow \simeq_{MinLOB}



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• Pretend like if active labels do "not disappear" from particular tree, until all these labels are gone from the whole graph.

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- **Theorem.** If a "singleton" weak signature is found on our decomposition, then the whole graph really contains an out-branching of the same number of leaves (constructively).
- ⇒ There is an XP algorithm for the MinLOB problem on digraphs of bounded clique-width, ... but it does not fit into the dynamic iterative Myhill–Nerode-based scheme. Why?

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So, which one is more likely to be true?

- One can always find an (asymptotically?) optimal canonical partition consistent with ⊗.
- Or, there is something mysterious going on with Myhill–Nerode for XP algorithms.

