

Transductions of Graph Classes Admitting Product Structure

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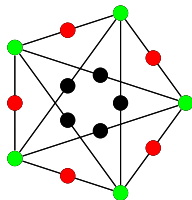
LISC 2025, Singapore

- First-order transductions
 - Interpretations, locality, and flips
- Global structure of planar graphs
 - Planar Product Structure Theorem
- Generalizing product structure to dense setting
 - \mathcal{H} -clique-width
- The main result
- Corollaries

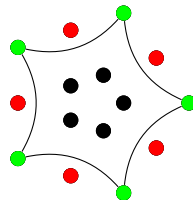
First-order interpretations

Definition

Given a (colored) graph G and a symmetric binary formula $\phi(x, y)$, we denote by $\phi(G)$ the ϕ -interpretation of G , that is, a graph obtained from G by redefining edge relation such that $uv \in E(\phi(G)) \iff G \models \phi(u, v)$.



$\phi(x, y) \equiv x$ and y are both green, and they share a red neighbor

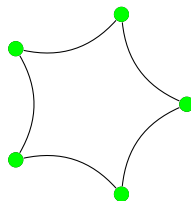
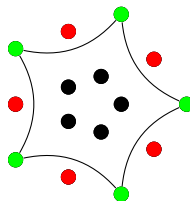
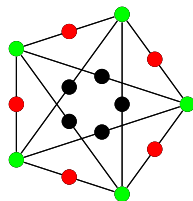
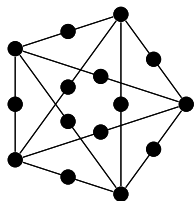


First-order transductions

Definition

A (non-copying) *transduction* τ is a composition of the following operations:

- color vertices arbitrarily
- apply fixed interpretation
- take an induced subgraph



Definition

Given a graph G , we denote by $\tau(G)$ the **class** of graphs that can be obtained from G using τ . A class \mathcal{C} is *FO-transducible* from a class \mathcal{D} if there is a transduction τ such that $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \bigcup \{\tau(G) \mid G \in \mathcal{D}\}$.

Locality

- FO is local – recall the theorems of Gaifman and Hanf
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⇒ every FO transduction can be split into local and global part

Definition (Local part)

A transduction τ is *strongly r -local* if it does not create edges between vertices x, y at distance greater than r , and the existence of an edge between x and y depends only on the union of r -neighborhoods of x and y .

Definition (Glocal part)

A graph H is a *k -flip* of a graph G if H can be obtained by coloring G using k colors and possibly flipping adjacency (edges became non-edges and vice versa) between some color classes.

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Definition (Global part)

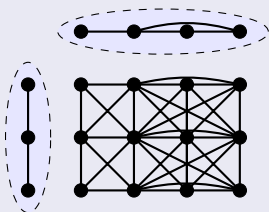
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Theorem (Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, Siebertz)

If a graph class \mathcal{C} is FO-transducible from a class \mathcal{D} (without copying), then there are number k and r , and a strongly r -local transduction τ such that \mathcal{C} is contained in a k -flip of $\tau(\mathcal{D})$.

Planar Product Structure Theorem

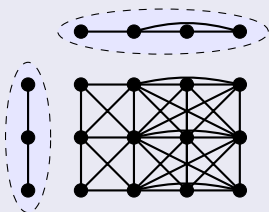
Definition (Strong product $G \boxtimes H$ of graphs G and H)



- $V(G \boxtimes H) = V(G) \times V(H)$
- $[g_1, h_1][g_2, h_2] \in E(G \boxtimes H)$ if one of the following conditions holds:
 - $g_1 = g_2$ and $h_1 h_2 \in E(H)$,
 - $g_1 g_2 \in E(G)$ and $h_1 = h_2$, or
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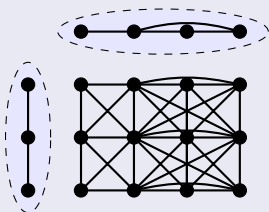
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Definition (Product structure)

A graph class \mathcal{C} admits *product structure* if there is a constant k such that every graph $G \in \mathcal{C}$ is a subgraph of the strong product $P \boxtimes M$ of a path P and a graph M of tree-width at most k .

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Theorem (Dujmovic, Joret, Micek, Morin, Ueckerdt, Wood)

Planar graphs as well as graphs embeddable on a fixed surface admit product structure.

Dense analogue of product structure

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Definition (Product structure for dense graphs)

A graph class \mathcal{C} *admits **hereditary** product structure* if there is a constant k such that every graph $G \in \mathcal{C}$ is an **induced** subgraph of the strong product $P \boxtimes M$ of a path P and a graph M of clique-width at most k .

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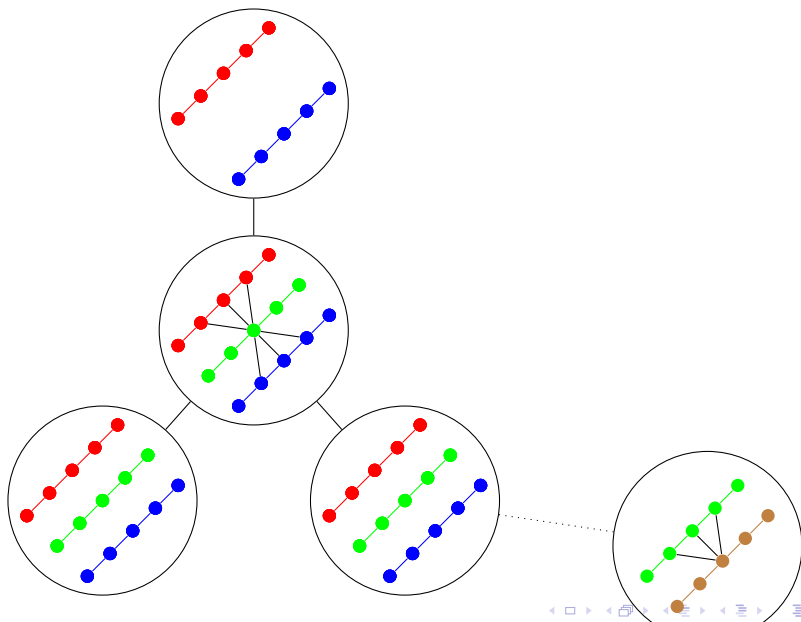
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Theorem

Let \mathcal{C} be a graph class admitting product structure, and let \mathcal{D} be a graph class FO-transducible from \mathcal{C} . Then, \mathcal{D} is a flip of some graph class \mathcal{D}' which admits hereditary product structure.

Product structure – another view



Hereditary product structure = \mathcal{H} -clique-width

Definition

A graph G has *clique-width* at most k if there is a k -expression valued G .

k -expression: k colors and the following operations:

- Given $c \in [k]$, create a graph having single vertex with *color* c
- Take disjoint union
- Given a pair of colors $c_1 \neq c_2$, add edges between every pair of vertices u, v satisfying that:
 - color of u is c_1 , and
 - color of v is c_2
- Recolor c_1 to c_2

Hereditary product structure = \mathcal{H} -clique-width

Definition

A graph G has \mathcal{H} -clique-width at most k if there is a loop graph $H \in \mathcal{H}$ and a (H, k) -expression valued G . If no such expression exists, then we say that \mathcal{H} -Clique-Width is ∞ .

(H, k) -expression: k colors and the following operations:

- Given $c \in [k]$ and $p \in V(H)$, create a graph having single vertex with color c and parameter vertex $p \in V(H)$
- Take disjoint union
- Given a pair of colors $c_1 \neq c_2$, add edges between every pair of vertices u, v satisfying that:
 - color of u is c_1 , and
 - color of v is c_2 , and
 - the parameter vertices of u and v are adjacent in H
- Recolor c_1 to c_2 **without** changing parameter vertices

Example: 2D grid

2D grid has \mathcal{P}° -clique-width at most 5

Create path colored “modulo 2”:



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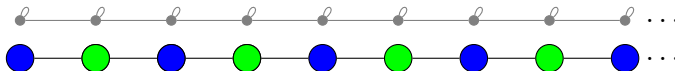
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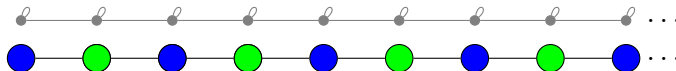
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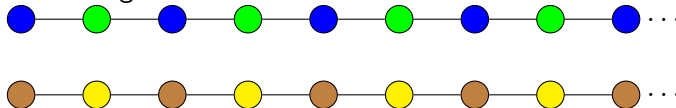
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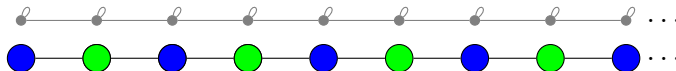
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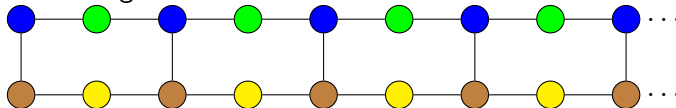
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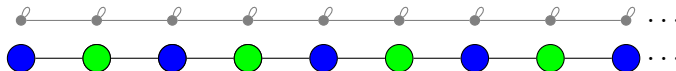
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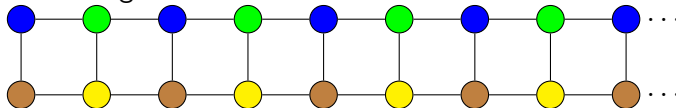
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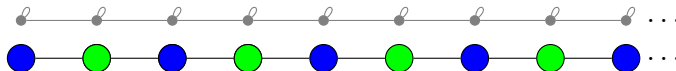
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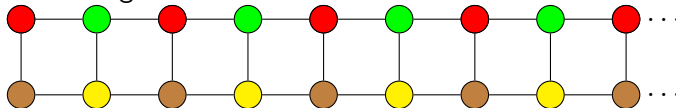
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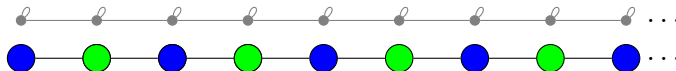
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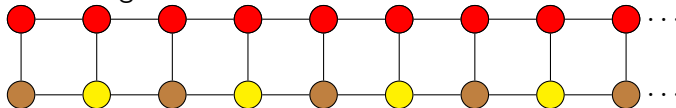
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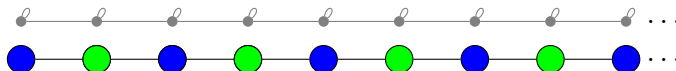
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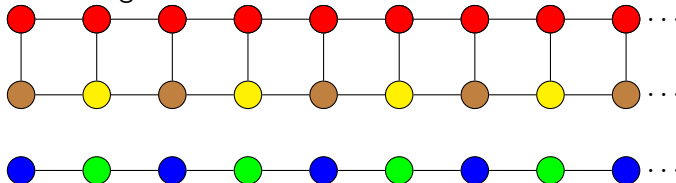
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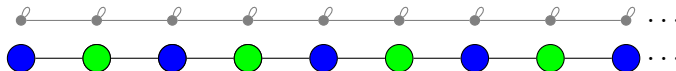
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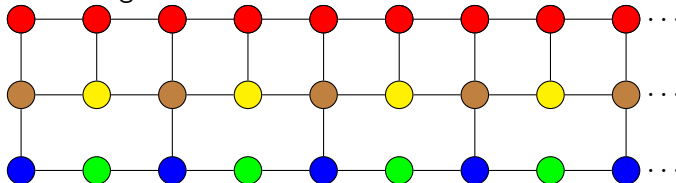
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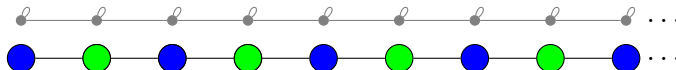
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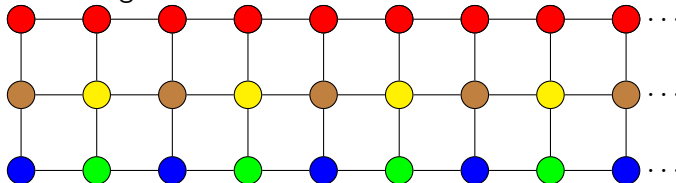
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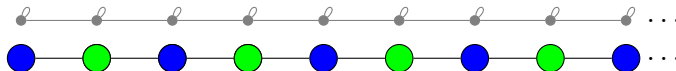
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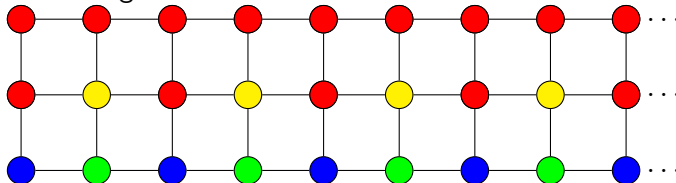
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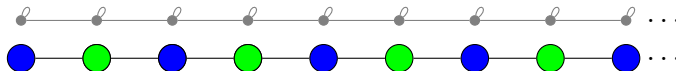
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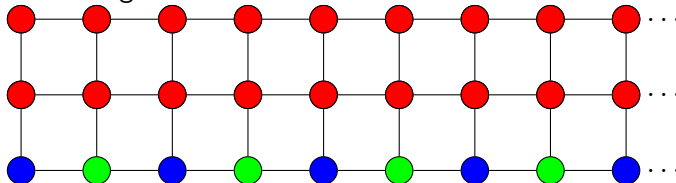
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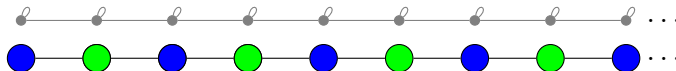
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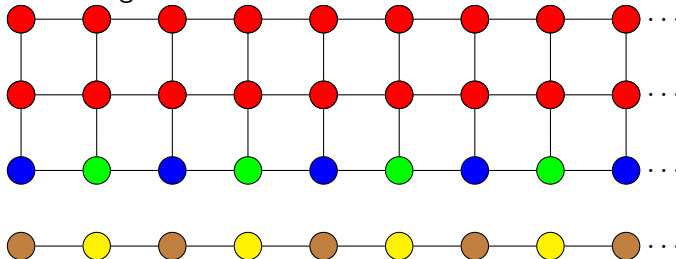
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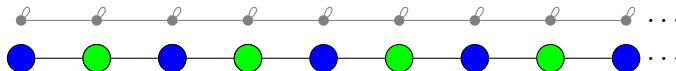
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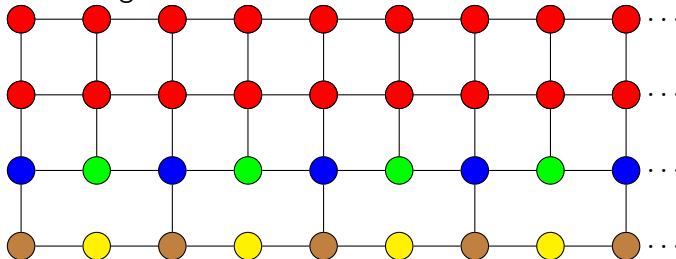
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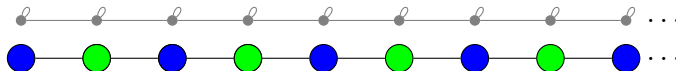
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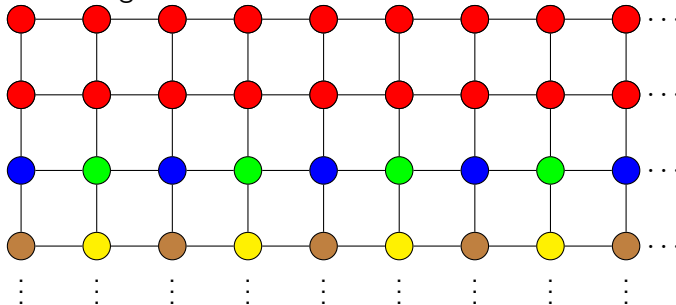
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Main result (again and more generally)

Let \mathcal{Q} be a class of bounded degree simple graphs. We denote by \mathcal{Q}_r° the reflexive closure of the r -th power of \mathcal{Q} .

Definition

A graph class \mathcal{C} admits \mathcal{Q} -product structure if there is a constant k such that every graph $G \in \mathcal{C}$ is a subgraph of the strong product $Q \boxtimes M$ of a graph $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$ and a graph M of tree-width at most k .

Theorem

Let \mathcal{C} be a graph class admitting \mathcal{Q} -product structure (such as that class of planar graphs). Let \mathcal{D} be a graph class FO-transducible from \mathcal{C} . Then, there are constants k , ℓ , and r such that \mathcal{D} is contained in a k -flip (global path) of a class with \mathcal{Q}_r° -clique-width at most ℓ (local part).

Going there and back again

Definition (Product structure for dense graphs)

A graph class \mathcal{C} *admits hereditary product structure* if there is a constant k such that every graph $G \in \mathcal{C}$ is an induced subgraph of the strong product $P \boxtimes M$ of a path P and a graph M of clique-width at most k .

Theorem

Let \mathcal{D} be a class of bounded stable clique-width (stable = does not FO-transduce all half-graphs). Let \mathcal{C} be a class admitting hereditary product structure such that, the graph M from the above definition can be chosen from \mathcal{D} . Then, there is a class \mathcal{G} admitting (the classical) product structure such that \mathcal{C} is FO-transducible from \mathcal{G} .

Theorem

The class of all 3D grids is not FO-transducible from planar graphs.

Proof.

- Any balanced bipartition A, B ($|A| \leq 2|B| \leq 4|A|$) of $a \times a \times a$ grid $G_{a \times a \times a}$ induces a matching of size $\Omega(a^2)$
- $G_{a \times a \times a}$ has diameter $\Theta(a)$
- If a is large enough, then any k -flip of $G_{a \times a \times a}$ contains a large induced subgraph H of diameter $d \in \mathcal{O}_k(a)$ such that any balanced bipartition of H induces a matching or anti-matching of size $m \in \Omega_k(a^2)$
- Suppose that there is (P, ℓ) -expression ϕ valued H
- Some node of ϕ corresponds to balanced bipartition A, B but the maximum size of both matching and anti-matching at every node is at most $\mathcal{O}(\ell \cdot d) = \mathcal{O}_\ell(a)$



Corollaries – adding shortcuts to grids

Consider class \mathcal{C} of graphs G obtained from $a^3 \times a^3$ grid by adding vertices as follows:

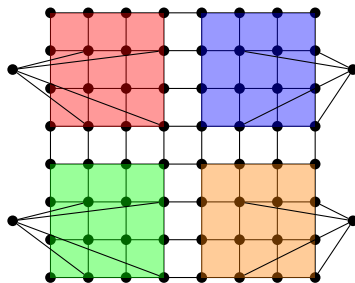
Observe that G contains a^2 disjoint subgrids of size $a^2 \times a^2$.
For each such subgrid $H \subseteq G$, we add a single new vertex v_H .
For each i, j , we add an edge between v_H and the vertex of H which lies in the intersections of ai -th row and aj -th column.

Theorem

The class \mathcal{C} is not FO-transducible from planar graphs.

Observation

The class \mathcal{C} admits slice decomposition.



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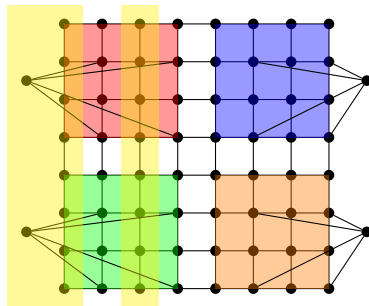
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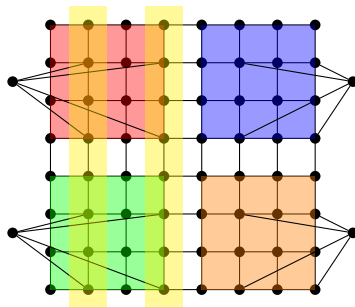
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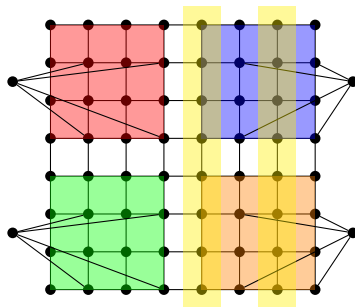
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Corollaries – adding shortcuts to grids

Consider class \mathcal{C} of graphs G obtained from $a^3 \times a^3$ grid by adding vertices as follows:

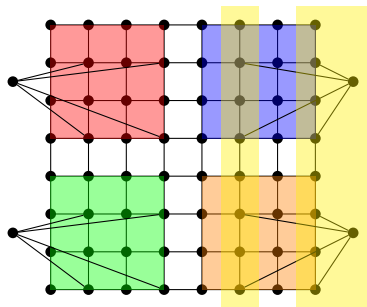
Observe that G contains a^2 disjoint subgrids of size $a^2 \times a^2$.
For each such subgrid $H \subseteq G$, we add a single new vertex v_H .
For each i, j , we add an edge between v_H and the vertex of H which lies in the intersections of ai -th row and aj -th column.

Theorem

The class \mathcal{C} is not FO-transducible from planar graphs.

Observation

The class \mathcal{C} admits slice decomposition.



Conclusions

- Transductions of graph classes admitting product structure (subgraphs of Path \boxtimes Small Tree-Width) are k -flips of a class admitting hereditary product structure (induced subgraphs of Path \boxtimes Small Clique-Width)
- \mathcal{C} admits hereditary product structure $\iff \mathcal{C}$ has bounded Path^o-clique-width
- Using (H, k) -expressions, it is easy to prove some non-transducibility results – eq. 3D grids are not transducible from planar graphs