

# Transductions of Graph Classes Admitting Product Structure

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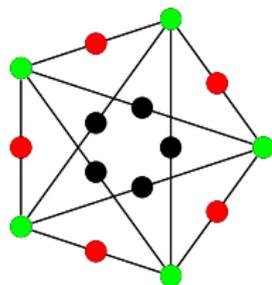
LISC 2025, Singapore

- 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

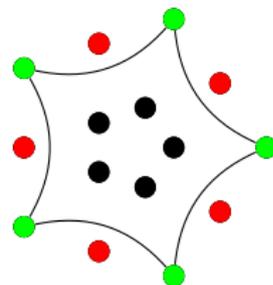
# First-order interpretations

## Definition

Given a (colored) graph  $G$  and a symmetric binary formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , we denote by  $\phi(G)$  the  $\phi$ -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

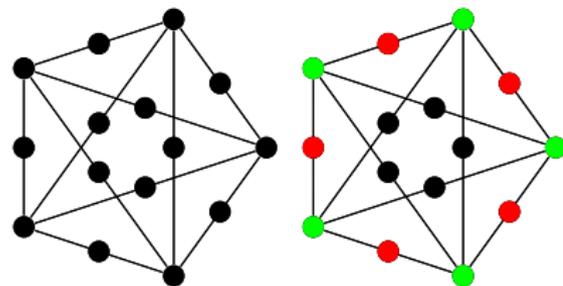


# First-order transductions

## Definition

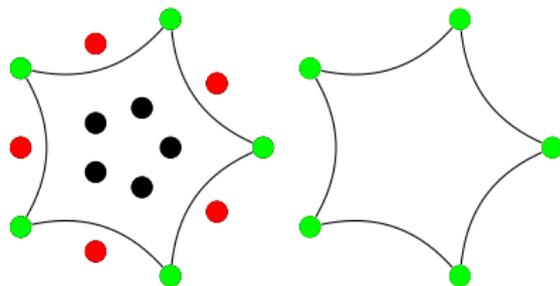
A (non-copying) *transduction*  $\tau$  is a composition of the following operations:

- 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  $\tau$ . A class  $\mathcal{C}$  is *FO-transducible* from a class  $\mathcal{D}$  if there is a transduction  $\tau$  such that  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \bigcup \{ \tau(G) \mid G \in \mathcal{D} \}$ .



# Locality

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

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⇒ every FO transduction can be split into local and global part

## Definition (Local part)

A transduction  $\tau$  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 (Global 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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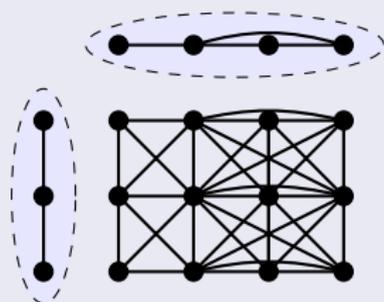
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## Theorem (Nešetřil, Ossona de Mendez, Siebertz)

*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  $\tau$  such that  $\mathcal{C}$  is contained in a  $k$ -flip of  $\tau(\mathcal{D})$ .*

# Planar Product Structure Theorem

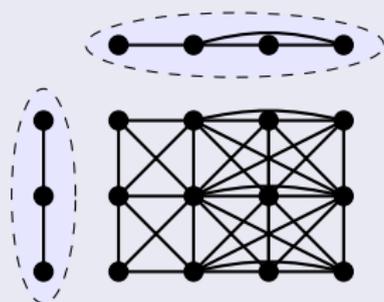
## Definition (Strong product $G \boxtimes H$ of graphs $G$ and $H$ )



- $V(G \boxtimes H) = V(G) \times V(H)$
- $[g_1, h_1][g_2, h_2] \in E(G \boxtimes H)$  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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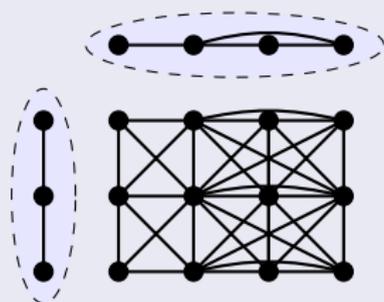
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## Definition (Product structure)

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  $k$ .

# Dense analogue of product structure

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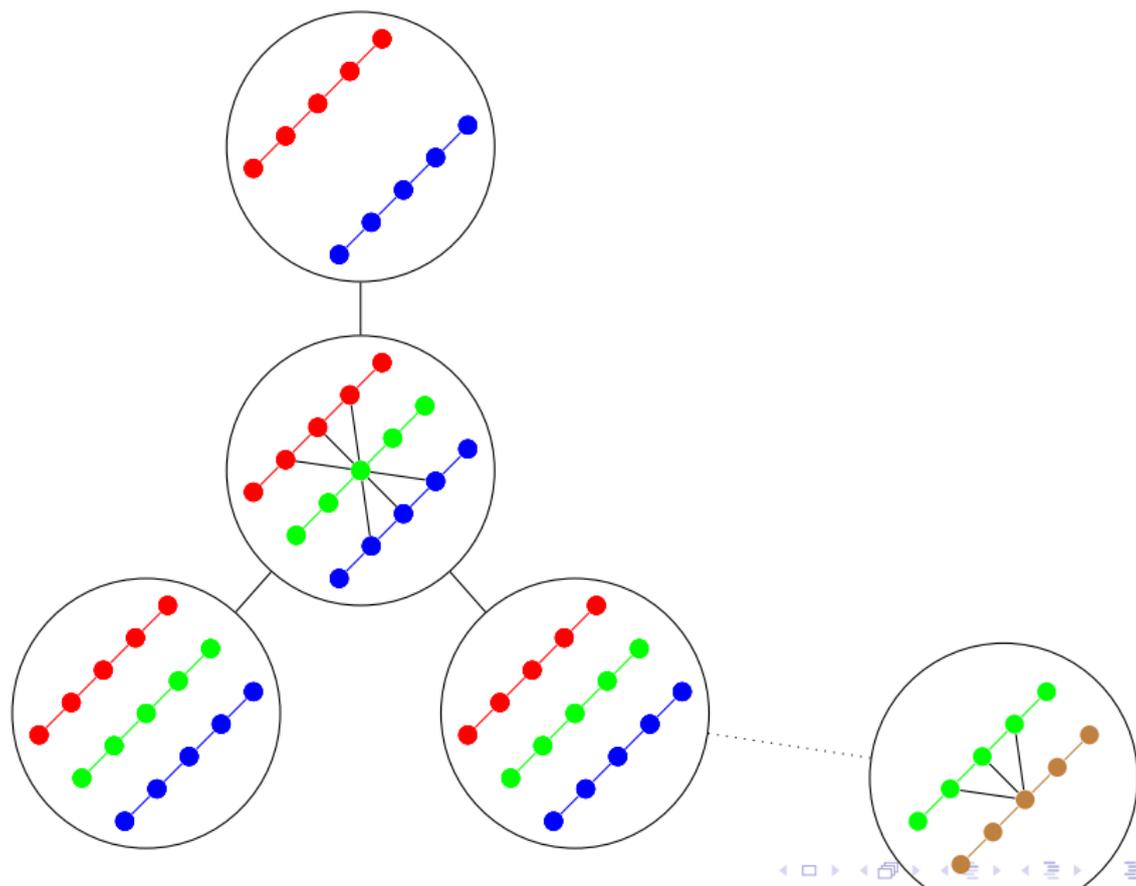
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A graph class  $\mathcal{C}$  admits **hereditary product structure** if there is a constant  $k$  such that every graph  $G \in \mathcal{C}$  is an **induced** subgraph of the strong product  $P \boxtimes M$  of a path  $P$  and a graph  $M$  of clique-width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

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  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



## 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  $\infty$ .

$(H, k)$ -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  $\mathcal{P}^\circ$ -clique-width at most 5

Create path colored “modulo 2”:



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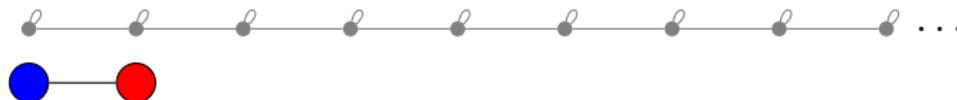
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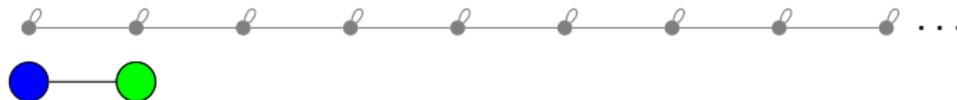
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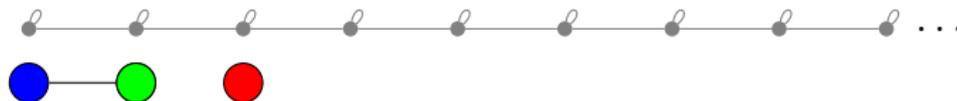
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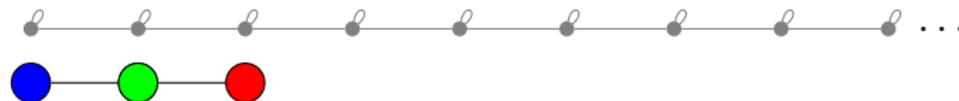
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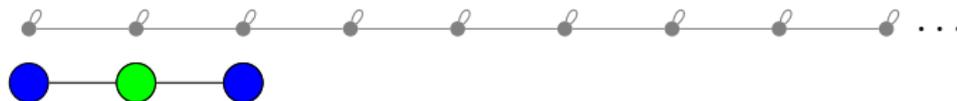
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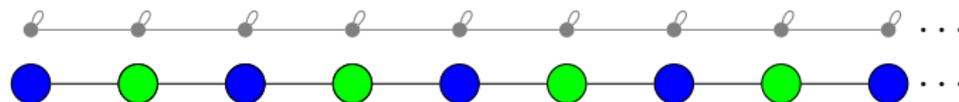
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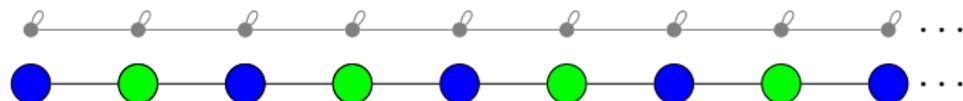
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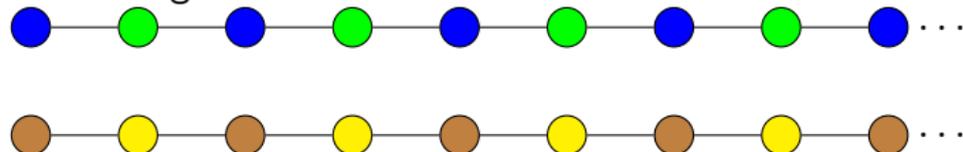
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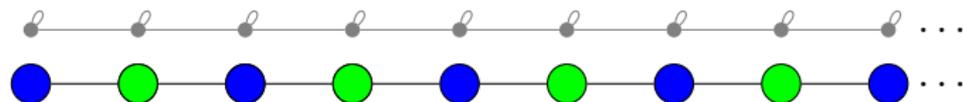
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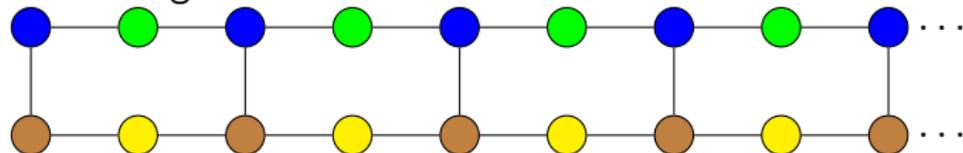
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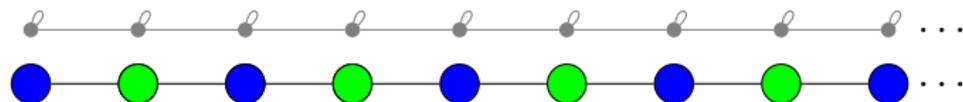
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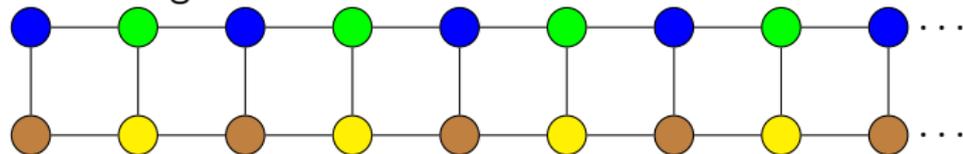
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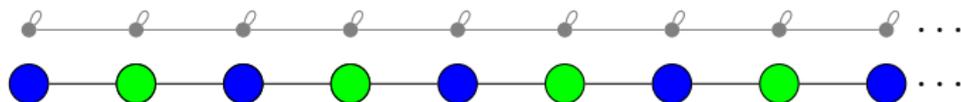
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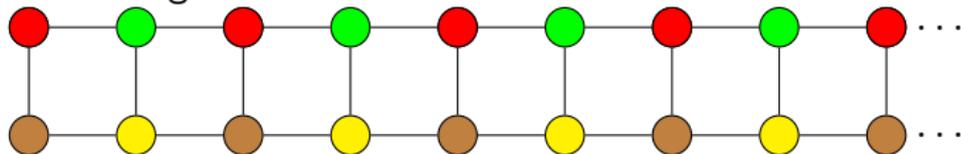
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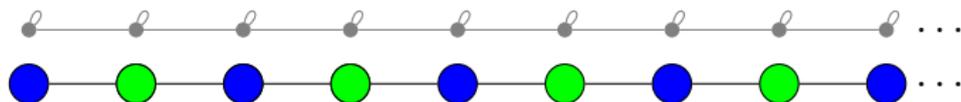
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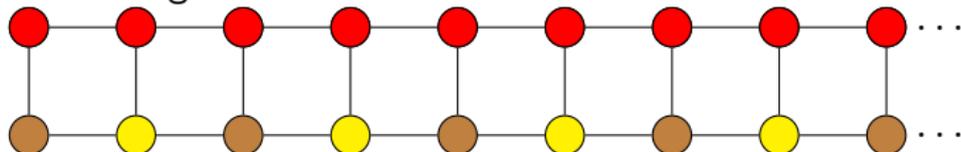
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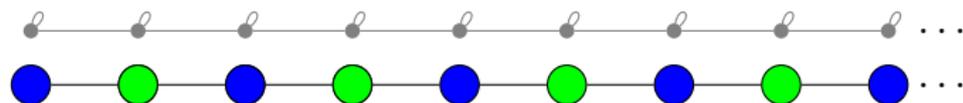
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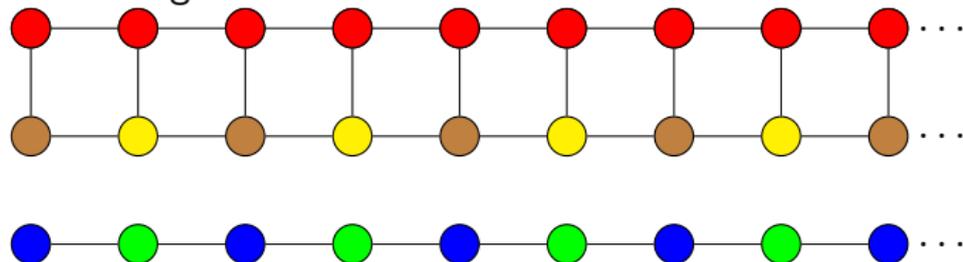
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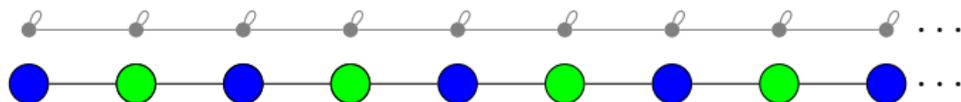
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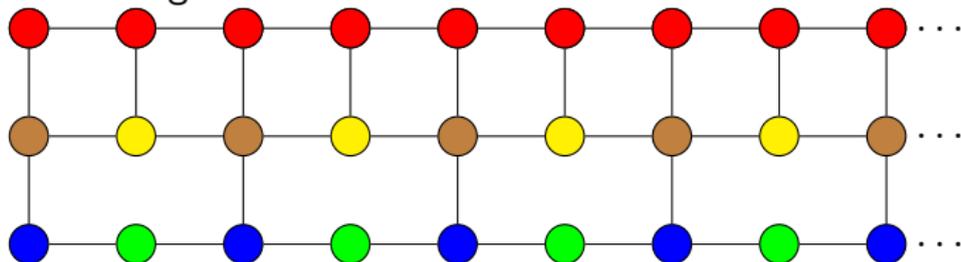
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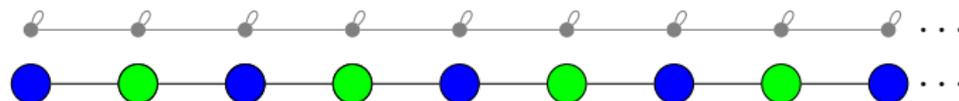
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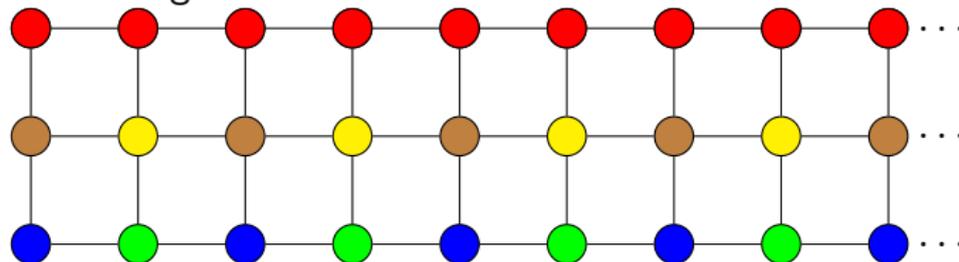
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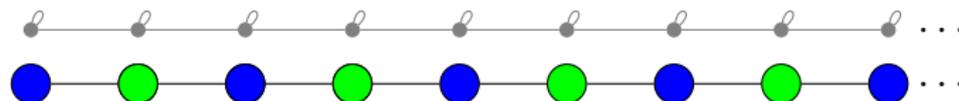
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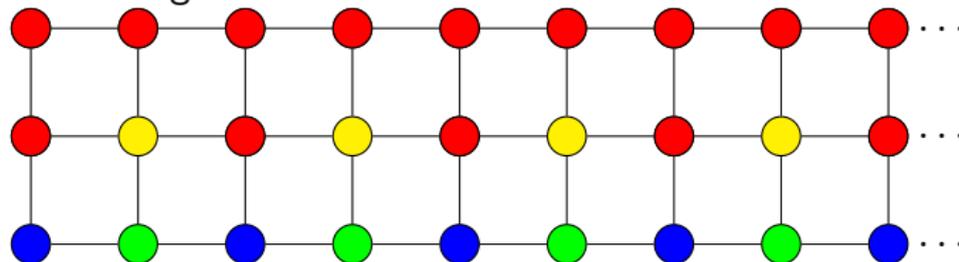
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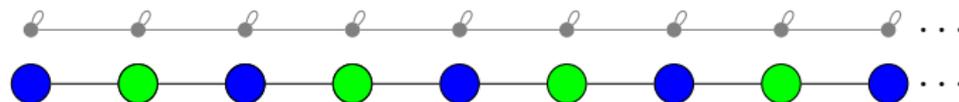
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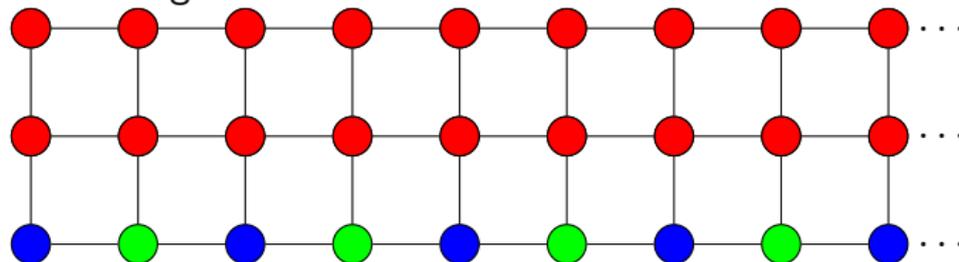
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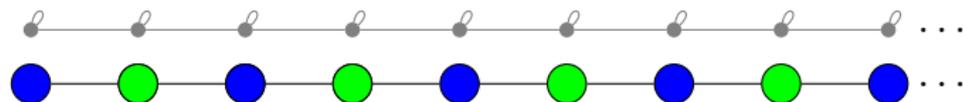
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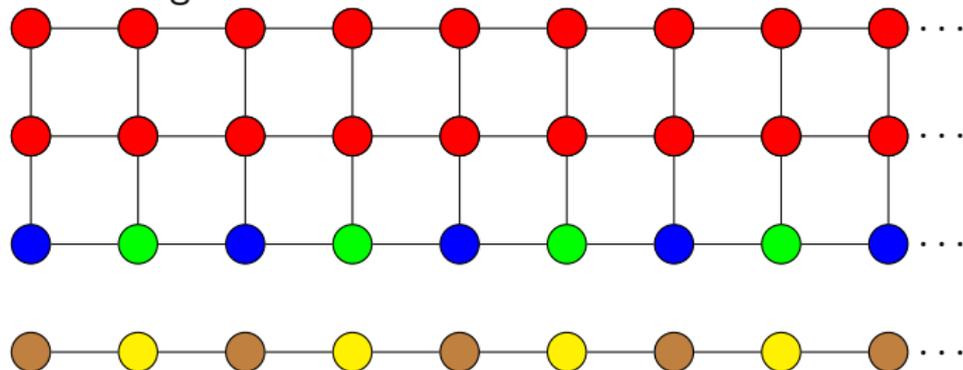
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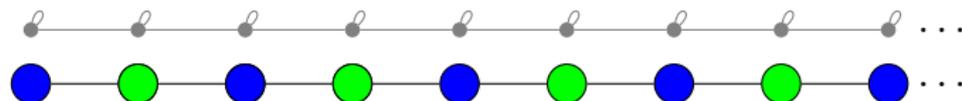
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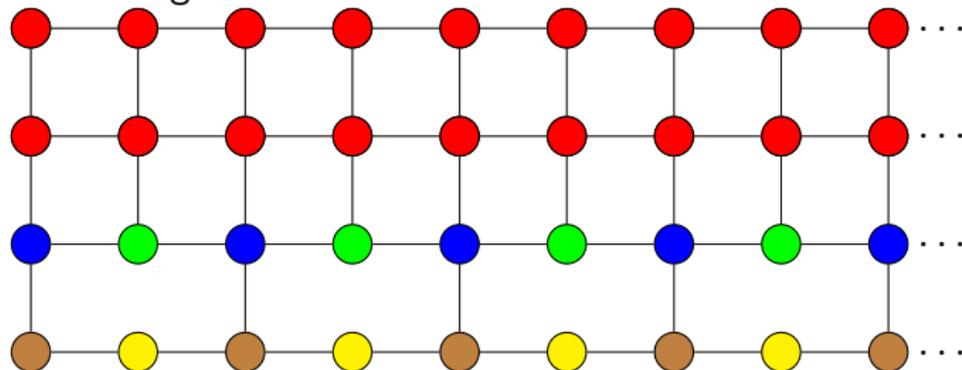
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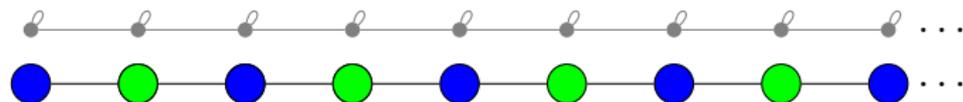
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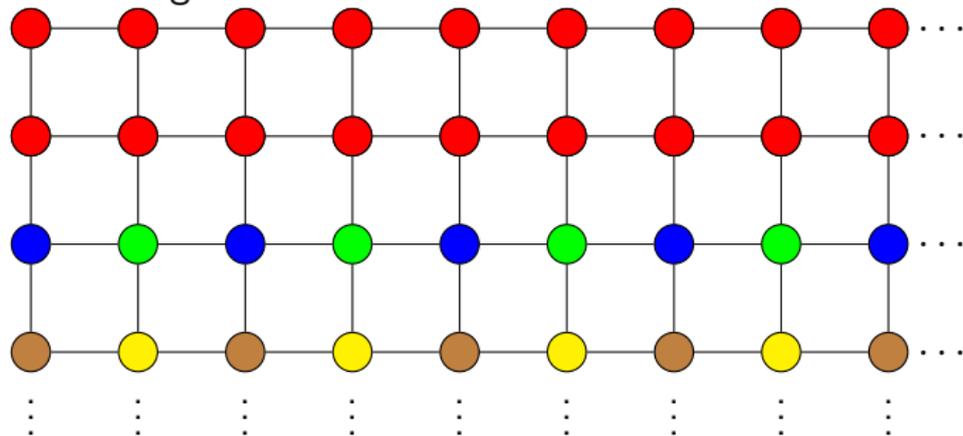
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# Main result (again and more generally)

Let  $\mathcal{Q}$  be a class of bounded degree simple graphs. We denote by  $\mathcal{Q}_r^\circ$  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  $k$ ,  $\ell$ , and  $r$  such that  $\mathcal{D}$  is contained in a  $k$ -flip (global path) of a class with  $\mathcal{Q}_r^\circ$ -clique-width at most  $\ell$  (local part).

## 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  $(P, \ell)$ -expression  $\phi$  valued  $H$
- Some node of  $\phi$  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:

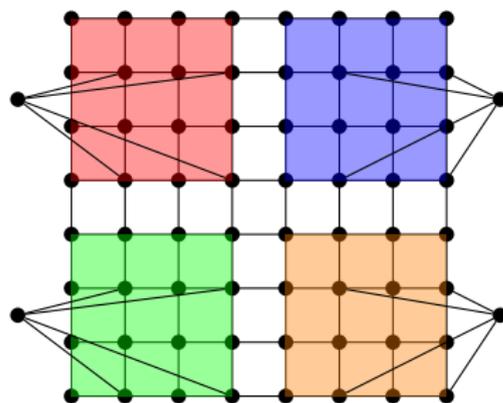
Observe that  $G$  contains  $a^2$  disjoint subgrids of size  $a^2 \times a^2$ . For each such subgrid  $H \subseteq G$ , we add a single new vertex  $v_H$ . For each  $i, j$ , we add an edge between  $v_H$  and the vertex of  $H$  which lies in the intersections of  $a_i$ -th row and  $a_j$ -th column.

## Theorem

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

## Observation

The class  $\mathcal{C}$  admits slice decomposition.



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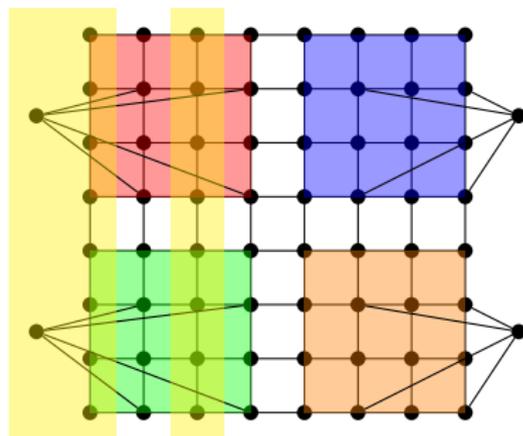
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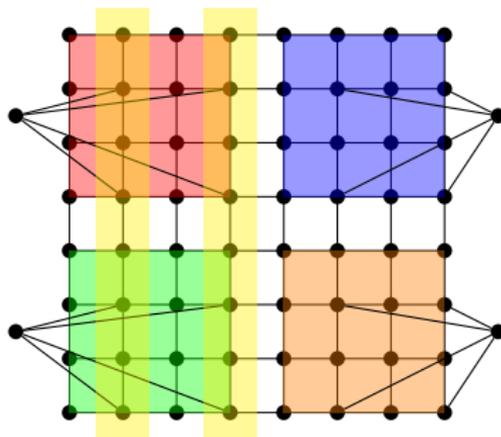
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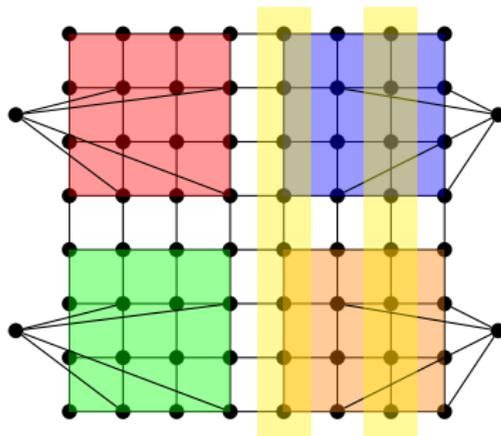
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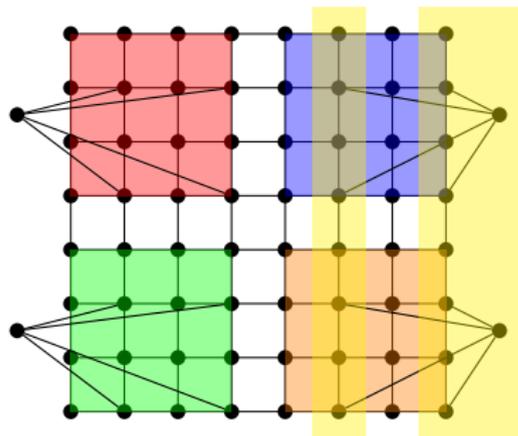
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- Transductions of graph classes admitting product structure (subgraphs of Path  $\boxtimes$  Small Tree-Width) are  $k$ -flips of a class admitting hereditary product structure (induced subgraphs of Path  $\boxtimes$  Small Clique-Width)
- $\mathcal{C}$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