# The Parameterized Complexity of Finding Paths with Shared Edges

#### Till Fluschnik, Stefan Kratsch, Rolf Niedermeier, and Manuel Sorge

TU Berlin

October 14, 2015









# **VIP-Routing**



The Problem

**Problem**: MINIMUM SHARED EDGES (MSE) **Input**: A simple, undirected graph G = (V, E),  $s, t \in V$ , and two integers  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . **Question**: Are there  $p \ s-t$  paths in G that share at most k edges?

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Are there p = 3 s-t paths in G that share at most k = 2 edges ?

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Aoki et al. [COCOA '14]	MINIMUM VUL- NERABILITY on undirected graphs	solvable in $p^{f(tw)} \cdot n^{O(1)}$ time; MV(p) is FPT on chordal graphs

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 $^+$  to appear in Proc. FSTTCS 2015

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( <i>p</i> , <i>k</i> )	FPT	Branching Algorithm with running time in $(p-1)^k \cdot O( G ^2)$

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# MSE(p) is FPT.

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MINIMUM SHARED EDGES is fixed-parameter tractable with respect to the number p of paths.

# Strategy of Proving "MSE(p) is FPT"

Instance: (G, s, t, p, k)





### The Treewidth Reduction Technique

#### Theorem (Marx et al. [TALG '13, Theorem 2.15])

Let G be a graph,  $T \subseteq V(G)$ , and let  $\ell$  be an integer. Let C be the set of all vertices of G participating in a minimal s-t separator of size at most  $\ell$  for some  $s, t \in T$ .

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(1)  $C \cup T \subseteq V(G^*)$ 

(2) For every  $s, t \in T$ , a set  $L \subseteq V(G^*)$  with  $|L| \leq \ell$  is a minimal s-t separator of  $G^*$  if and only if  $L \subseteq C \cup T$  and L is a minimal s-t separator of G.

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- (1)  $C \cup T \subseteq V(G^*)$
- (2) For every s, t ∈ T, a set L ⊆ V(G\*) with |L| ≤ ℓ is a minimal s-t separator of G\* if and only if L ⊆ C ∪ T and L is a minimal s-t separator of G.
- (3) The treewidth of  $G^*$  is at most  $h(\ell, |T|)$  for some function h.

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  (4) G\*[C ∪ T] is isomorphic to G[C ∪ T].

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Till Fluschnik, TU Berlin



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Introduction

The Number of Paths

Conclusion and Remarks

References

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  - Further research: complexity of  $\mathrm{MSE}$  on special planar graphs, e.g. grids with holes.

Thank you.

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