# The Parameterized Complexity of Finding Paths with Shared Edges 

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## VIP-Routing



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## 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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## Related Work

| Who | Problem | Results |
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| Omran et al. | MSE on directed <br> [JCOMB '13] | NP-hard; W[2]-hard wrt. $k$ |
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| Ye et al. | MSE on undi- | solvable in $p^{f(\mathrm{tw})} \cdot n^{O(1)}$ time |
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| Omran et al. [JCOMB '13] | MSE on directed graphs | NP-hard; W[2]-hard wrt. k |
| Ye et al. [FCS '13] | MSE on undirected graphs | solvable in $p^{f(\mathrm{tw})} \cdot n^{O(1)}$ time |
| Aoki et al. [COCOA '14] | Minimum VulNERABILITY on undirected graphs | solvable in $p^{f(\mathrm{tw})} \cdot n^{O(1)}$ time; $\mathrm{MV}(p)$ is FPT on chordal graphs |

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## Parameter Complexity Remark

$k \quad$ XP / W[2]-hard Reduction from Set Cover
tw $\quad \mathrm{XP} / W[1]$-hard
$(p, k) \quad$ FPT

Reduction from Multicolored Clique ${ }^{+}$ Branching Algorithm with running time in $(p-1)^{k} \cdot O\left(|G|^{2}\right)$

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## $\operatorname{MSE}(p)$ is FPT.

Theorem<br>Minimum Shared Edges is fixed-parameter tractable with respect to the number $p$ of paths.

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

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

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## 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) $C \cup T \subseteq V\left(G^{*}\right)$
(2) For every $s, t \in T$, a set $L \subseteq V\left(G^{*}\right)$ 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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(4) $G^{*}[C \cup T]$ is isomorphic to $G[C \cup T]$.

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$-\operatorname{tw}\left(G^{*}\right) \leq h(p)$

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| Instance: $(G, s, t, p, k)$ | Treewidth reduction technique with | - 1-to-1 corresp. of all minimal $s-t$ cuts of size $\leq p-1$ of $G$ and $G^{*}$. |
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Instance: $\left(G^{*}, s, t, p, k\right)$

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- is solvable in FPT-time wrt. $p$ using a dynamic program.
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## Conclusion and Remarks

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- Further research: complexity of MSE on special planar graphs, e.g. grids with holes.

Thank you.

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