

ALGORITHMS FOR SUBGRAPH COMPLEMENTATION TO SOME CLASSES OF GRAPHS

(EXTENDED ABSTRACT)

Dhanyamol Antony* Sagartanu Pal[†] R. B. Sandeep[†]

Abstract

For a class $\mathcal{G}$ of graphs, the objective of SUBGRAPH COMPLEMENTATION TO $\mathcal{G}$ is to find whether there exists a subset S of vertices of the input graph G such that modifying G by complementing the subgraph induced by S results in a graph in $\mathcal{G}$. We obtain a polynomial-time algorithm for the problem when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of graphs with minimum degree at least k , for a constant k , answering an open problem by Fomin et al. (Algorithmica, 2020). When $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of graphs without any induced copies of the star graph on $t + 1$ vertices (for any constant $t \geq 3$) and diamond, we obtain a polynomial-time algorithm for the problem. This is in contrast with a result by Antony et al. (Algorithmica, 2022) that the problem is NP-complete and cannot be solved in subexponential-time (assuming the Exponential Time Hypothesis) when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of graphs without any induced copies of the star graph on $t + 1$ vertices, for every constant $t \geq 5$.

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*Department of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. E-mail: dhanyamola@iisc.ac.in. Partially supported by SERB Core Research Grant CRG/2022/006770: “Bridging Quantum Physics with Theoretical Computer Science and Graph Theory” under Prof. Sunil Chandran Leela while Dhanyamol Antony was a Postdoc at IISC Bangalore.

[†]Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad, India. E-mail: [183061001,sandeep@iitdh.ac.in](mailto:{183061001,sandeep@iitdh.ac.in}). Partially supported by SERB MATRICS Grant MTR/2022/000692: “Algorithmic study on hereditary graph properties”.

1 Introduction

Complementation is a very fundamental graph operation and modifying a graph by complementing an induced subgraph to satisfy certain properties is a natural algorithmic problem on graphs. The operation of complementing an induced subgraph, known as subgraph complementation, is introduced by Kamiński et al. [1] in connection with clique-width of graphs. For a class $\mathcal{G}$ of graphs, the objective of SUBGRAPH COMPLEMENTATION TO $\mathcal{G}$ is to find whether there exists a subset S of the vertices of the input graph G such that complementing the subgraph induced by S in G results in a graph in $\mathcal{G}$. Fomin et al. [2] studied this problem on various classes $\mathcal{G}$ of graphs. They obtained that the problem can be solved in polynomial-time when $\mathcal{G}$ is bipartite, d -degenerate, or co-graphs. In addition to this, they proved that the problem is NP-complete when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of all regular graphs. Antony et al. [3] studied this problem when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of H -free graphs (graphs without any induced copies of H). They proved that the problem is polynomial-time solvable when H is a complete graph on t vertices. They also proved that the problem is NP-complete when H is a star graph on at least 6 vertices or a path or a cycle on at least 7 vertices. Later Antony et al. [4] proved that the problem is polynomial-time solvable when H is paw, and NP-complete when H is a tree, except for 41 trees of at most 13 vertices. It has been proved [3,4] that none of these hard problems admit subexponential-time algorithms (algorithms running in time $2^{o(n)}$), assuming the Exponential Time Hypothesis.

Fomin et al. [2] proved that the problem is polynomial-time solvable not only when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of d -degenerate graphs but also when $\mathcal{G}$ is any subclass of d -degenerate graphs recognizable in polynomial-time. This implies that the problem is polynomial-time solvable when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of r -regular graphs or the class of graphs with maximum degree at most r (for any constant r). They asked whether the problem can be solved in polynomial-time when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of graphs with minimum degree at least r , for a constant r . We resolve this positively and obtain a stronger result - a simple quadratic kernel for the following parameterized problem: Given a graph G and an integer k , find whether G can be transformed into a graph with minimum degree at least k by subgraph complementation (here the parameter is k). The result follows from an observation that if G has more than $2k^2 - 2$ vertices, then it is a yes-instance of the problem.

When $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of graphs without any induced copies of the star graph on $t + 1$ vertices (for any fixed $t \geq 3$) and the diamond () , we obtain a polynomial-time algorithm. When $t = 3$ this graph class is known as linear domino and is the class of line graphs of triangle-free graphs. Cygan et al. [5] have studied the polynomial kernelization of edge deletion problem for this target graph class. When $t = 4$, the graph class is the line graphs of linear hypergraphs of rank 3. The technique that we use is similar to that given in [3] and [4] for obtaining polynomial-time algorithms when $\mathcal{G}$ is H -free, for H being a complete graph on t vertices or a paw. Our result is in contrast with the result by Antony et al. [3] that the problem is NP-complete and cannot be solved in subexponential-time (assuming the Exponential Time Hypothesis) when H is a star graph on $t + 1$ vertices, for every constant $t \geq 5$.

Preliminaries

A diamond is the graph , and a star graph on $t + 1$ vertices, denoted by $K_{1,t}$, is the tree with t degree-1 vertices and one degree- t vertex. The degree- t vertex of a star is known as the center of the star. For example, $K_{1,3}$, also known as a claw, is the graph . A complete graph on t vertices is denoted by K_t . By $\overline{G}$ we denote the complement graph of G . The open neighborhood and closed neighborhood of a vertex v are denoted by $N(v)$ and $N[v]$ respectively. The underlying graph will be evident from the context. For a subset S of vertices of G , by $G[S]$ we denote the graph induced by S in G . For a given graph G and a set $S \subseteq V(G)$, we define the graph $G \oplus S$ as the graph obtained from G by complementing the subgraph induced by S , i.e., an edge uv is in $G \oplus S$ if and only if uv is a nonedge in G and $u, v \in S$, or uv is an edge in G and $\{u, v\} \setminus S \neq \emptyset$. The operation is called subgraph complementation. Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a set of graphs. We say that a graph G is $\mathcal{H}$ -free if G does not have any induced copies of any of the graphs in $\mathcal{H}$. If $\mathcal{H} = \{H\}$, then we say that G is H -free. The general definition of the problem that we deal with is given below.

SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$: Given a graph G , find whether there is a set $S \subseteq V(G)$ such that $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$.

In a parameterized problem, apart from the usual input, there is an additional integer input known as the parameter. A graph problem is fixed-parameter tractable (FPT) if it can be solved in time $f(k)n^{O(1)}$, where n is the number of vertices and $f(k)$ is any computable function. A parameterized problem admits a kernel if there is a polynomial-time algorithm which takes as input an instance (I', k') of the problem and outputs an instance (I, k) of the same problem so that $|I|, k \leq f(k)$ for some computable function $f(k)$, and (I', k') is a yes-instance if and only if (I, k) is a yes-instance (here, k' and k are the parameters). A kernel is a polynomial kernel if $f(k)$ is a polynomial function. It is known that a problem admits an FPT algorithm if and only if it admits a kernel. An FPT algorithm implies that there is a polynomial-time algorithm to solve the problem when the parameter is a constant. We refer to the book [6] for further exposition on these topics.

2 Algorithms

We obtain our results in this section. Let $\mathcal{G}_k$ be the class of graphs with minimum degree at least k . We prove that a no-instance of SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}_k$ cannot be very large.

Lemma 2.1. *Let G be a graph with more than $2k^2 - 2$ vertices. Then G is a yes-instance of SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}_k$.*

Proof. Let M be the set of vertices in G with degree less than k . Clearly, $M \subseteq S$ for every solution S (i.e., $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}_k$). Let $|M| = m$. Let M' be the set of vertices in $V(G) \setminus M$ adjacent to at least one vertex in M . As each vertex in M has degree at most $k - 1$, we obtain that $|M'| \leq m(k - 1)$.

Let $M'' = V(G) \setminus (M \cup M')$. Let X be the set of vertices in M'' having degree at least $2k - m - 1$ in G . If $|X| \geq k$, then $G \oplus (M \cup X') \in \mathcal{G}_k$, where X' is any subset of k vertices

of X - note that degree of every vertex in X' is at least $(2k - m - 1) + m - (k - 1) = k$, in $G \oplus (M \cup X')$. Therefore, assume that $|X| \leq k - 1$. Every vertex in $M'' \setminus X$ has degree at most $2k - m - 2$ in G . Then, every maximal independent set in $M'' \setminus X$ has size at least $|M'' \setminus X| / (2k - m - 1)$. Therefore, if $|M'' \setminus X| \geq k(2k - m - 1)$, then for any maximal independent set I of $M'' \setminus X$, $G \oplus (M \cup I) \in \mathcal{G}_k$. Hence assume that $|M'' \setminus X| \leq k(2k - m - 1) - 1$. Therefore, if G is a no-instance of SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}_k$, then the number of vertices in G is at most $|M| + |M'| + |X| + |M'' \setminus X| \leq m + m(k - 1) + (k - 1) + k(2k - m - 1) - 1 = 2k^2 - 2$. $\square$

Lemma 2.1 gives a polynomial-time algorithm for the problem: If G has more than $2k^2 - 2$ vertices, then return YES, and do an exhaustive search for a solution otherwise. Lemma 2.1 also gives a simple quadratic kernel for the problem parameterized by k : For an input (G, k) if G has more than $2k^2 - 2$ vertices, then return a trivial yes-instance, and return the same instance otherwise. By a result from [3], SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$ and SC-TO- $\overline{\mathcal{G}}$ are polynomially equivalent. Therefore, we obtain a polynomial-time algorithm for SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$ when $\mathcal{G}$ is the class of graphs with maximum degree at most $n - k$, for a constant k . It also implies a quadratic kernel for the problem parameterized by k . It remains open whether the following problem is NP-complete: Given a graph G and an integer k , find whether G can be subgraph complemented to a graph with minimum degree at least k . We note that, the problem is NP-complete if the objective is to make the input graph k -regular [2].

Destroying stars and diamonds

Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the class of $\{K_{1,t}, \text{diamond}\}$ -free graphs, for any fixed $t \geq 3$. We give a polynomial-time algorithm for SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$. The concept of (p, q) -split graphs was introduced by Gyárfás [7]. For $p \geq 1$, and $q \geq 1$, if the vertices of a graph G can be partitioned into two sets P and Q in such a way that the clique number of $G[P]$ and the independence number of $G[Q]$ are at most p and q respectively (i.e., $G[P]$ is K_{p+1} -free and $G[Q]$ is $(q + 1)K_1$ -free), then G is called a (p, q) -split graph and (P, Q) is a (p, q) -split partition of G .

Proposition 2.2 ([3, 8, 9]). *For any fixed constants $p \geq 1$ and $q \geq 1$, recognizing a (p, q) -split graph and obtaining all (p, q) -split partitions of a (p, q) -split graph can be done in polynomial-time.*

Algorithm for SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$, where $\mathcal{G}$ is $\{K_{1,t}, \text{diamond}\}$ -free graphs, for any constant $t \geq 3$.

Input: A graph G .

Output: If G is a yes-instance of SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$, then returns YES; otherwise returns NO.

Step 1 : Let S be the set of all degree-2 vertices of all the induced diamonds in G . If $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, then return YES.

Step 2 : Let r be the center of any induced $K_{1,t}$ in G and let I be the set of isolated vertices in the subgraph induced by $N(r)$ in G . For every subset $S \subseteq I$ such that $|S| \geq |I| - t + 2$, if $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, then return YES.

Step 3 : For every edge uv in G , do the following:

1. If $N(u) \setminus N[v]$ or $N(v) \setminus N[u]$ does not induce a $(t-1, t-1)$ -split graph, then continue with Step 3.
2. Compute $L(u\bar{v})$, the list of all $(t-1, t-1)$ -split partitions of the graph induced by $N(u) \setminus N[v]$.
3. Compute $L(\bar{u}v)$, the list of all $(t-1, t-1)$ -split partitions of the graph induced by $N(v) \setminus N[u]$.
4. Compute $L(uv)$, the list of all partitions of the graph induced by $N(u) \cap N(v)$ into an independent set of size at most $t-1$ and the rest.
5. For every $(S_1, T_1) \in L(u\bar{v})$, for every $(S_2, T_2) \in L(\bar{u}v)$, for every $(S_3, T_3) \in L(uv)$, do the following:
 - (a) Let $S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3 \cup \{u, v\}$. If $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, return YES.
 - (b) For every vertex $w \in \overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$, let $S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3 \cup \{u, v, w\}$. If $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, return YES.
 - (c) For every edge xy in the graph induced by $\overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$, if the graph induced by $J = N[x] \cap N[y] \cap \overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$ is not a split graph then continue with the current step. Otherwise, for every split partition (S_4, T_4) of the graph induced by J , let $S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3 \cup S_4 \cup \{u, v\}$. If $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, then return YES.

Step 4 : Return NO.

Lemma 2.3 and 2.4 deals with the case when G is a yes-instance having a solution which is an independent set, the case handled in Step 1 and 2 of the algorithm.

Lemma 2.3. *Assume that G is not diamond-free. Let $S \subseteq V(G)$ such that $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$ and S is an independent set. Then S is the set of all degree-2 vertices of all the induced diamonds in G .*

Proof. Since S is an independent set and $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, both the degree-2 vertices of every induced diamond in G must be in S . Assume for a contradiction that S has a vertex v which is not a degree-2 vertex of any of the induced diamonds in G . Let $D = \{d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4\}$ induces a diamond in G , where d_1 and d_2 are the degree-2 vertices of the diamond. Clearly, $S \cap D = \{d_1, d_2\}$. We know that $v \neq d_1$ and $v \neq d_2$. If v is not adjacent to d_3 in G , then $\{v, d_1, d_2, d_3\}$ induces a diamond in $G \oplus S$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, v is adjacent to d_3 . Similarly, v is adjacent to d_4 . Then $\{v, d_1, d_3, d_4\}$ induced a diamond in G , where v and d_1 are the degree-2 vertices, which is a contradiction. $\square$

Lemma 2.4. *Assume that G has no induced diamond but has at least one induced $K_{1,t}$. Let $S \subseteq V(G)$ such that $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$ and S is an independent set. Let r be the center of any induced $K_{1,t}$ in G . Let I be the set of isolated vertices in the subgraph induced by $N(r)$ in G . Then $S \subseteq I$ and $|S| \geq |I| - t + 2$.*

Proof. If $r \in S$, then none of the vertices in $N(r)$ is in S - recall that S is an independent set. But then, none of the induced $K_{1,t}$ centered at r is destroyed in $G \oplus S$. Therefore, $r \notin S$. Since G is diamond-free, $N(r)$ induces a cluster (graph with no induced path of length 3) J in G . Since r is the center of an induced $K_{1,t}$ in G , there are at least t cliques in J . Since $G \oplus S$ is $K_{1,t}$ -free, S must contain all vertices of at least two cliques in J . Since S is an independent set, S contains at least two isolated vertices, say s_1 and s_2 , in J . First we prove that $S \subseteq N(r)$. For a contradiction, assume that there is a vertex $v \in S$ such that v is not adjacent to r . Then $\{v, s_1, s_2, r\}$ induces a diamond in $G \oplus S$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, $S \subseteq N(r)$. Next we prove that $S \subseteq I$. For a contradiction, assume that there is a vertex $v \in S \setminus I$. Then v is part of a clique J' of size at least 2 in J . Let v' be any other vertex in J' . Since S is an independent set, $v' \notin S$. Then $\{v, v', s_1, r\}$ induces a diamond in $G \oplus S$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, $S \subseteq I$. If $|S| < |I| - t + 2$, then there is a $K_{1,t}$ centered at r in $G \oplus S$, which is a contradiction. $\square$

Let G be a yes-instance of SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$. Let $S \subseteq V(G)$ be such that $|S| \geq 2$, $G \oplus S \in \mathcal{G}$, and S be not an independent set. Let u , and v be two adjacent vertices in S . Then with respect to S, u, v , we can partition the vertices in $V(G) \setminus \{u, v\}$ into eight sets as given below, and shown in Figure 1.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) $N_S(uv) = S \cap N(u) \cap N(v)$ | (v) $N_T(uv) = (N(u) \cap N(v)) \setminus S$ |
| (ii) $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v}) = S \cap \overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$ | (vi) $N_T(\bar{u}\bar{v}) = (\overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}) \setminus S$ |
| (iii) $N_S(u\bar{v}) = S \cap (N(u) \setminus N[v])$ | (vii) $N_T(u\bar{v}) = (N(u) \setminus N[v]) \setminus S$ |
| (iv) $N_S(\bar{u}v) = S \cap (N(v) \setminus N[u])$ | (viii) $N_T(\bar{u}v) = (N(v) \setminus N[u]) \setminus S$ |

We notice that $S = N_S(uv) \cup N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v}) \cup N_S(u\bar{v}) \cup N_S(\bar{u}v) \cup \{u, v\}$.

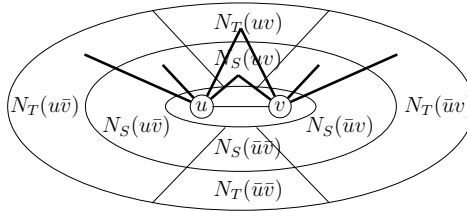


Figure 1: Partitioning of vertices of G based on S and two adjacent vertices $u, v \in S$. The bold lines represent the adjacency of vertices u and v [3].

Observation 2.5. *Then the following statements are true.*

- (i) $N(u) \setminus N[v]$ induces a $(t-1, t-1)$ -split graph with a $(t-1, t-1)$ -split partition of $(N_S(u\bar{v}), N_T(u\bar{v}))$.
- (ii) $N(v) \setminus N[u]$ induces a $(t-1, t-1)$ -split graph with a $(t-1, t-1)$ -split partition of $(N_S(\bar{u}v), N_T(\bar{u}v))$.

(iii) $N_T(uv)$ induces an independent set with at most $(t - 1)$ vertices.

(iv) $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ induces a clique. If xy is an edge of the clique, then $N[x] \cap N[y]$ in $\overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$ induces a split graph with one split partition being $(N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v}), (N[x] \cap N[y] \cap \overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}) \setminus (N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})))$.

Proof. If $N_S(u\bar{v})$ has a K_t , then v along with the vertices of the K_t induce a $K_{1,t}$ in $G \oplus S$. If $N_T(u\bar{v})$ has an independent set of size t , then u along with the vertices of the independent set induce a $K_{1,t}$ in $G \oplus S$. Therefore, (i) holds true. Similarly we can prove the correctness of (ii). If there are two adjacent vertices x and y in $N_T(uv)$, then $\{x, y, u, v\}$ induces a diamond in $G \oplus S$. Therefore, $N_T(uv)$ is an independent set. If it has at least t vertices then there is an induced $K_{1,t}$ formed by those vertices and u in $G \oplus S$. Therefore, (iii) holds true. If there are two nonadjacent vertices x and y in $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$, then there is a diamond induced by $\{x, y, u, v\}$ in $G \oplus S$. Therefore, $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ is a clique. Assume that $x, y \in N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$. If x and y have two adjacent common neighbors x' and y' in $N_T(\bar{u}\bar{v})$, then $\{x, y, x', y'\}$ induces a diamond in $G \oplus S$. Therefore, $N[x] \cap N[y] \cap \overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$ is a split graph with one split partition being $(N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v}), (N[x] \cap N[y] \cap \overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}) \setminus (N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})))$. $\square$

Lemma 2.6. G is a yes-instance of SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$ if and only if the algorithm returns YES.

Proof. Since the algorithm returns YES only when a solution is found, the backward direction of the statement is true. For the forward direction, let G be a yes-instance. Assume that there exists a solution S which is an independent set. Further, assume that G has an induced diamond. Then by Lemma 2.3, S is the set of all degree-2 vertices of the induced diamonds in G . Then Step 1 returns YES. Assume that G is diamond-free. Then by Lemma 2.4, $S \subseteq I$, where I is the set of isolated vertices in the graph induced by the neighbors of r , for a center r of an induced $K_{1,t}$ in G . Further $|S| \geq |I| - t + 2$. Then Step 2 returns YES. Let S be a solution which is not an independent set. Let uv be an edge in the graph induced by S . The algorithm will discover uv in one iteration of Step 3. By Observation 2.5, we know that the graph induced by $N(u) \setminus N[v]$ is a $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split graph with a $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split partition $(N_S(u\bar{v}), N_T(u\bar{v}))$. Similarly, the graph induced by $N(v) \setminus N[u]$ is a $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split graph with a $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split partition $(N_S(\bar{u}v), N_T(\bar{u}v))$. Further, $N_T(uv)$ is an independent set of size at most $t - 1$. Therefore, in one iteration of Step 3.5, we obtain $S_1 = N_S(u\bar{v})$, $S_2 = N_S(\bar{u}v)$, and $S_3 = N_S(uv)$. If $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ is empty, then Step 3.5(a) returns YES. If $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ is a singleton set, then Step 3.5(b) returns YES. Assume that $|N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})| \geq 2$. By Observation 2.5, $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ is a clique and for every edge xy in it, the common neighborhood of x and y in $\overline{N[u]} \cap \overline{N[v]}$ is a split graph with a partition being $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ and the rest. The algorithm will discover such an edge xy in one of the iterations of Step 3.5(c) and $N_S(\bar{u}\bar{v})$ will be discovered as S_4 . Then YES is returned at Step 3.5(c). $\square$

By Proposition 2.2, $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split graphs can be recognized in polynomial-time and all $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split partitions of a $(t - 1, t - 1)$ -split graph can be found in polynomial-time. Therefore, each step in the algorithm runs in polynomial-time. Then we obtain Theorem 2.7 from Lemma 2.6.

Theorem 2.7. *Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the class of $\{K_{1,t}, \text{diamond}\}$ -free graphs for any constant $t \geq 3$. Then SC-TO- $\mathcal{G}$ can be solved in polynomial-time.*

It remains open whether the problem is polynomial-time solvable when $\mathcal{G}$ is H -free for an $H \in \{K_{1,3}, K_{1,4}, \text{diamond}\}$.

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