

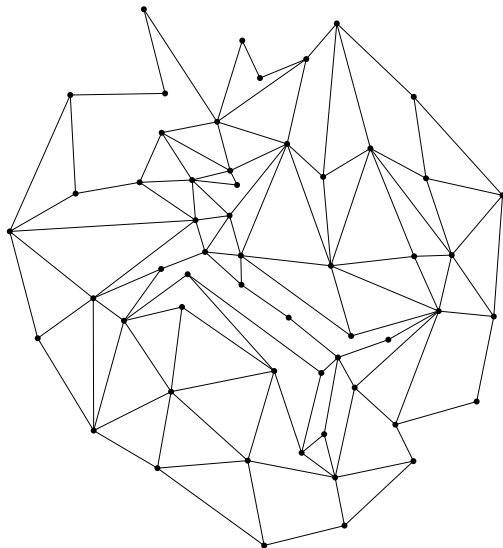
# A Fine-Grained Classification of Subquadratic Patterns for Subgraph Listing and Friends

Karl Bringmann and **Egor Gorbachev**

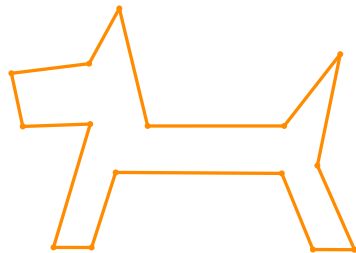
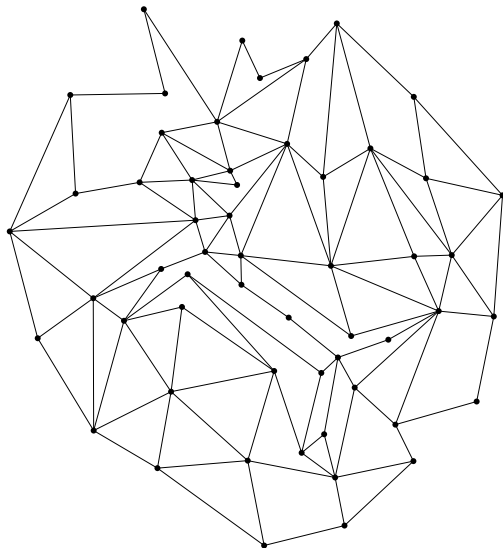
Saarland University and Max Planck Institute for Informatics

STOC 2025  
June 27th, 2025, Prague

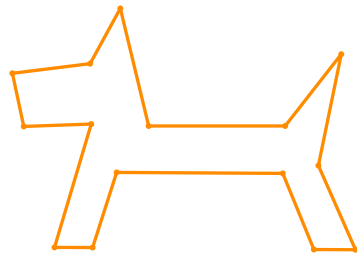
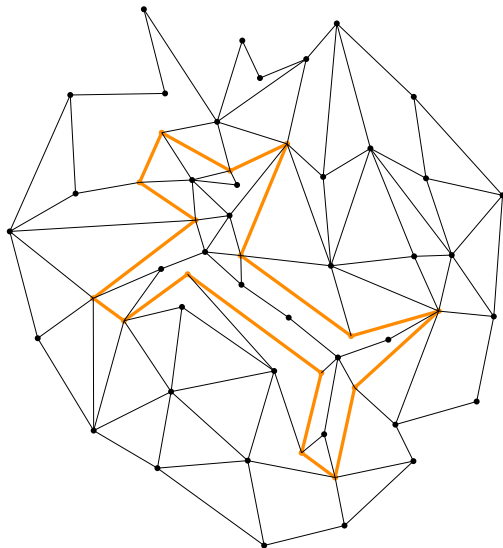
# Example



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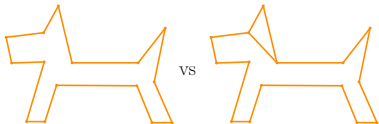


# Example



# Problem Variants

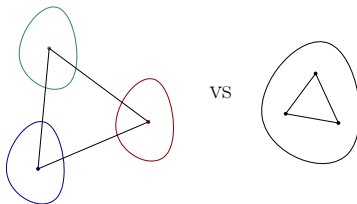
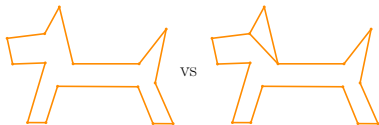
- Induced
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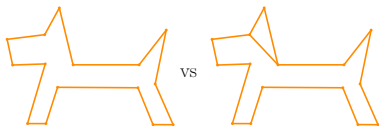
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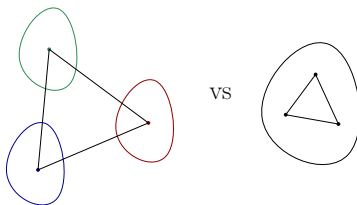


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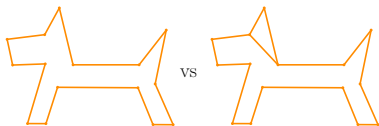
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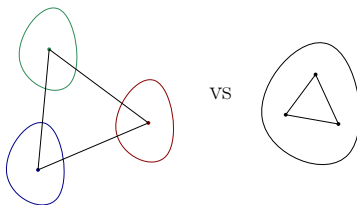
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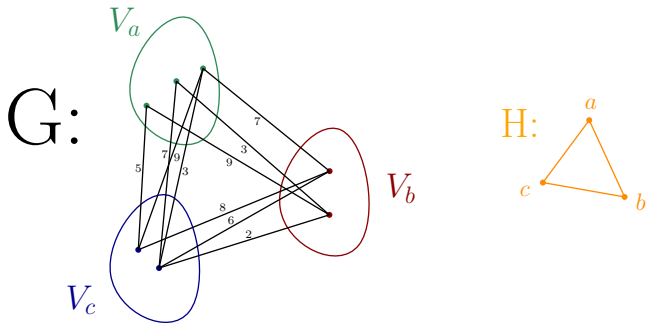


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Fix pattern  $H$ . **Min-weight (colored)  $H$ -subgraph isomorphism problem:**

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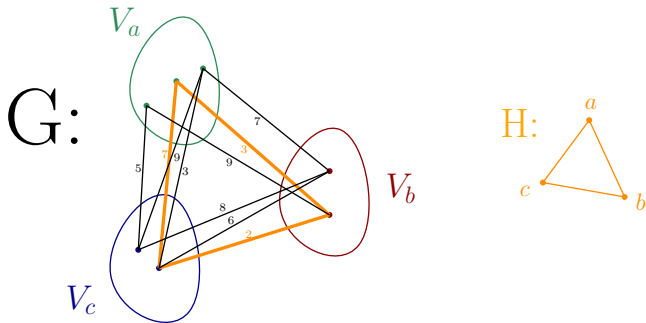


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  - ↪ Our goal: characterize patterns of low time complexity.



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[AYZ97]:  $\mathcal{O}(m^{2-1/\lceil \ell/2 \rceil})$



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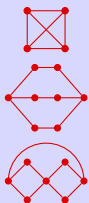
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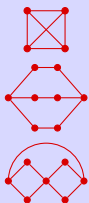
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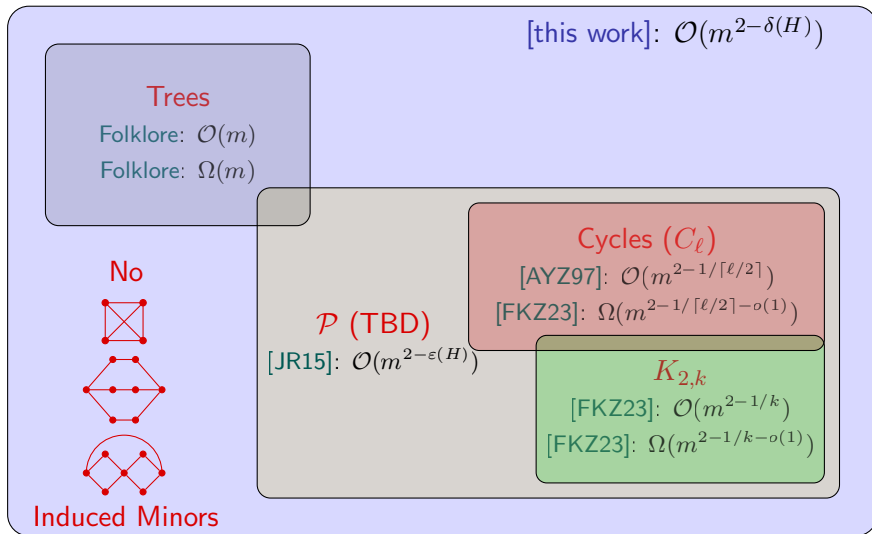
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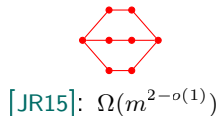
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**Everything Else**

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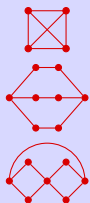
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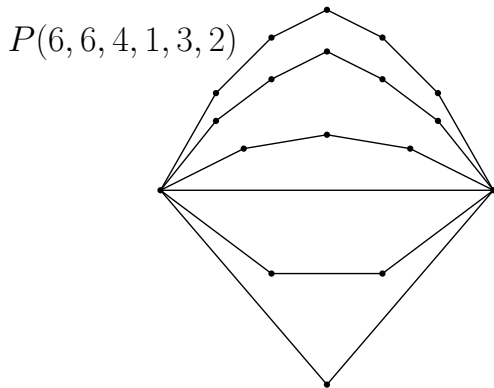
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# Parallel Path Graph

## Definition (Parallel Path Graph)

A *Parallel Path Graph*  $P(\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_k)$  consists of two specified vertices connected by  $k$  internally disjoint paths of lengths  $\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_k$ .



# Building Blocks of Subquadratic Patterns

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[JR15]

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the family of patterns consisting of:

- A single edge ( $P(1)$ );
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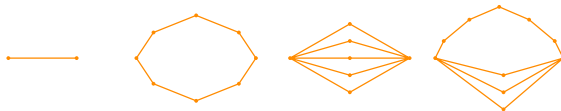
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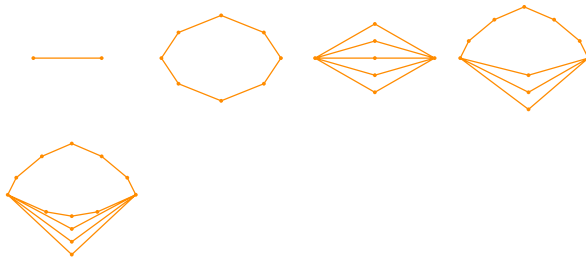
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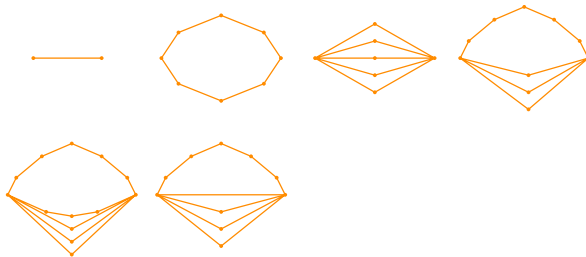
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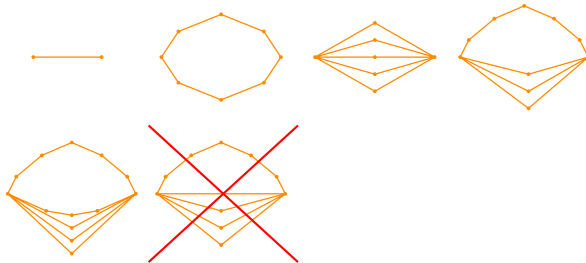
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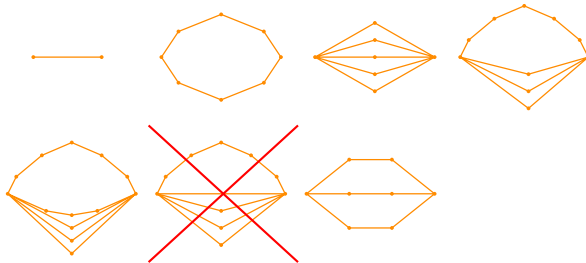
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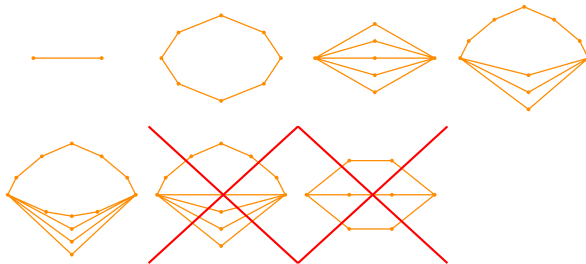
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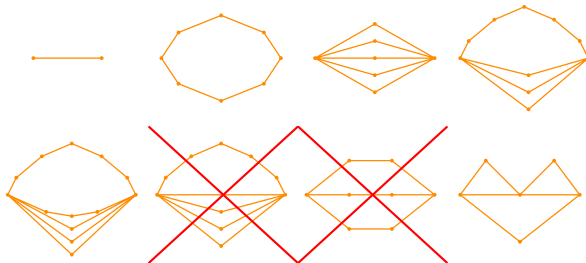
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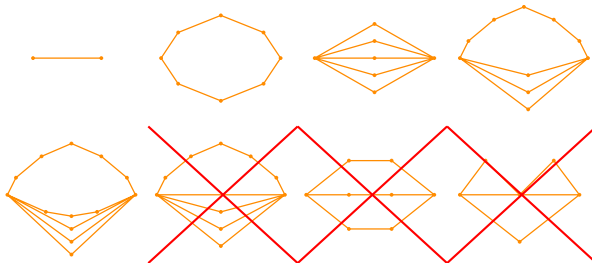
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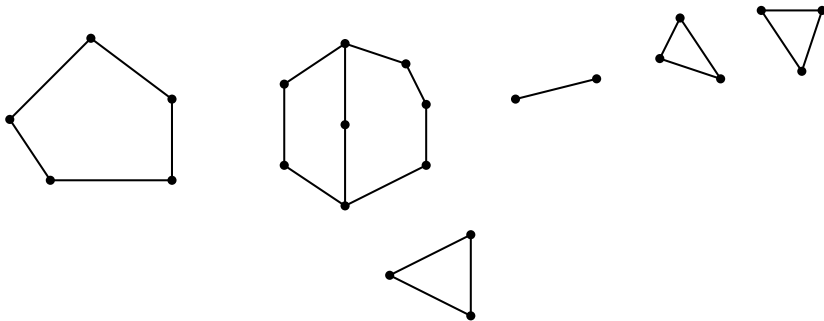
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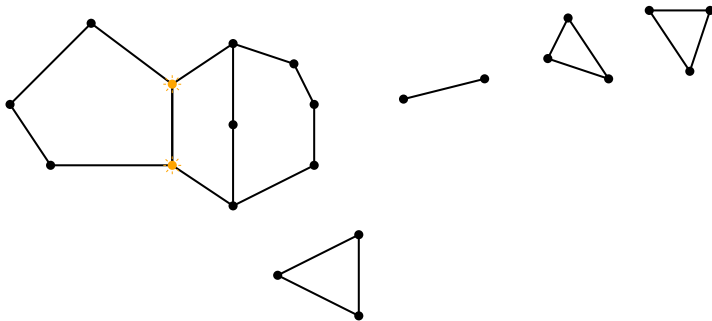
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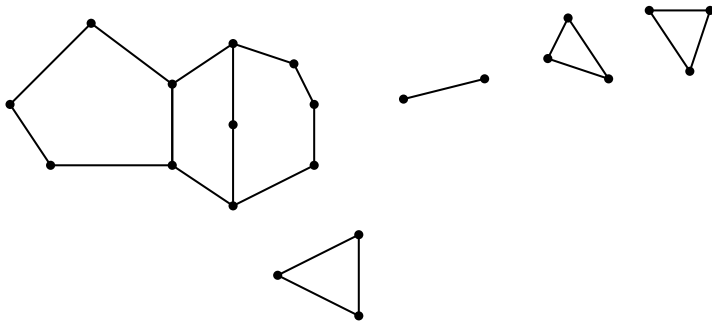




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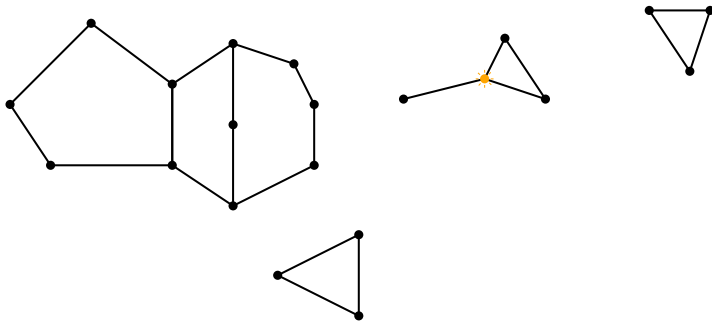
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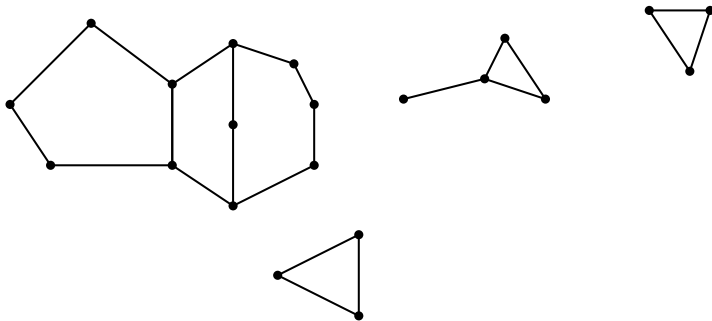
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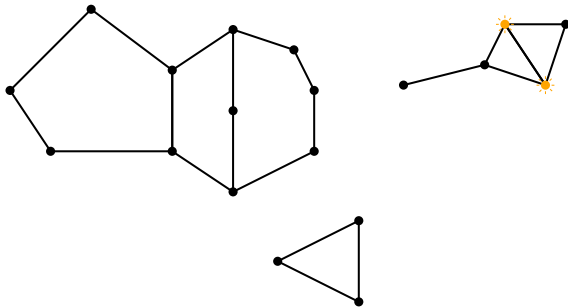
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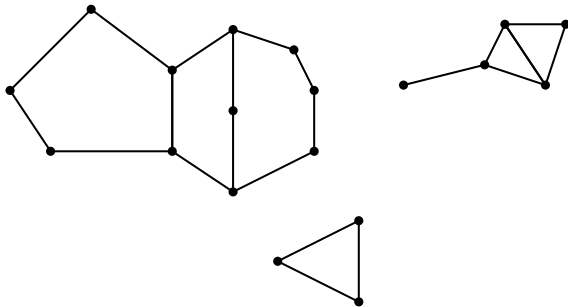
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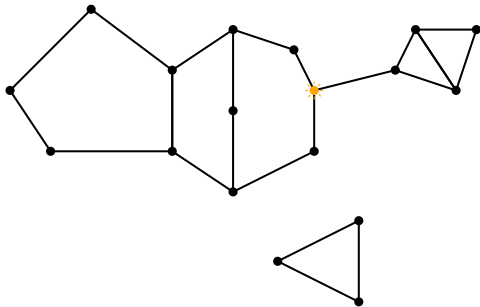
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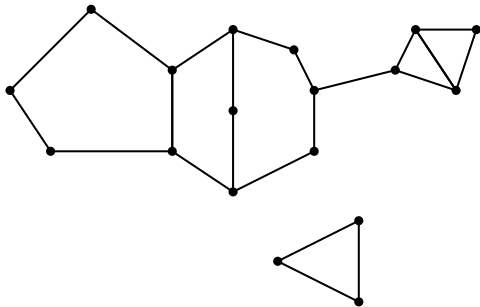
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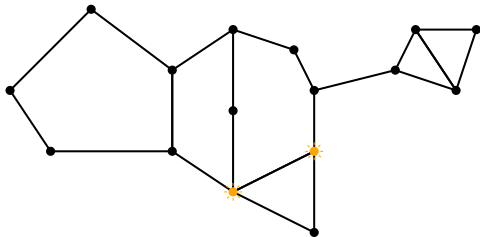
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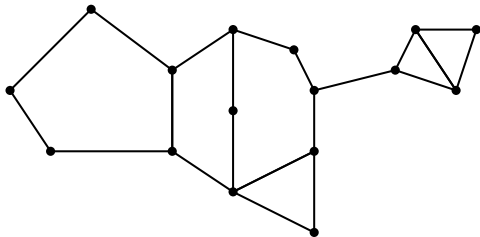




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$H \in \mathcal{P}^+ \Rightarrow \mathcal{O}(m^{2-\delta(H)})$ -time algorithm and  $\Omega(m^{2-\delta(H)-o(1)})$  *conditional lower bound*.

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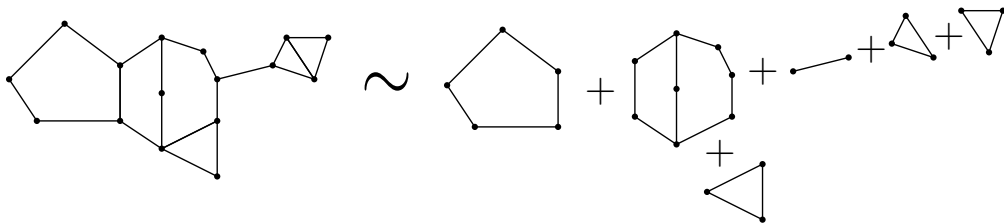
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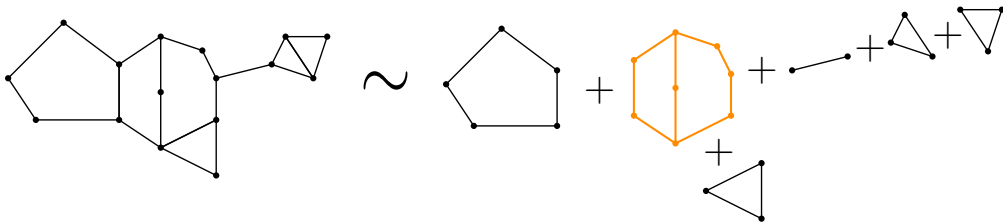
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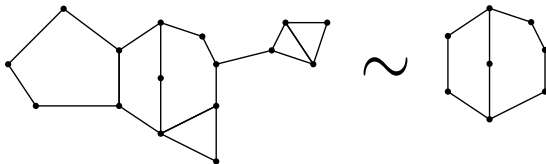
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# Main Result: Quantitative Version

## Main Technical Theorem

*Min-weight  $P(\alpha, \beta, \gamma \times 2)$ -subgraph isomorphism is solvable in time  $O(m^{2-1/f(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)})$  and not solvable in time  $O(m^{2-1/f(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)-\varepsilon})$  for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  under fine-grained complexity assumptions, where*



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$$f(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \begin{cases} 2\beta\gamma + \frac{\alpha\beta}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2} - 2\gamma + 2, & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \text{ is even, } \alpha > \beta, \text{ and } \beta < \gamma + 2; \\ 2\beta\gamma + \frac{\alpha\beta}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{2} + \frac{3\beta}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2} - 3\gamma, & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \text{ is even, } 3\beta < \alpha + 6\gamma + 8, \text{ and } (\alpha = \beta \text{ or } \beta \geq \gamma + 2); \\ 2\beta\gamma + \frac{\alpha\beta}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{2} + 3\beta - \alpha - 6\gamma - 4, & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \text{ is even, } 2\beta \leq \alpha + 4\gamma + 6, \text{ and } 3\beta \geq \alpha + 6\gamma + 8; \\ 2\beta\gamma + \frac{\alpha\beta}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{2} + \beta - \frac{\alpha}{2} - 2\gamma + \frac{3}{2}, & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \text{ is odd and } \beta < 2\gamma + 3; \\ 2\beta\gamma + \frac{\alpha\beta}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{2} + 2\beta - \frac{\alpha}{2} - 4\gamma - \frac{3}{2}, & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \text{ is odd, } 2\beta \leq \alpha + 4\gamma + 6, \text{ and } \beta \geq 2\gamma + 3; \\ 2\gamma^2 + \alpha\gamma + \frac{\alpha^2}{8} + \frac{\alpha}{2}, & \text{if } \alpha \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \text{ and } 2\beta > \alpha + 4\gamma + 6; \\ 2\gamma^2 + \alpha\gamma + \frac{\alpha^2}{8} + \frac{\alpha}{2} + \frac{3}{8}, & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is odd and } 2\beta > \alpha + 4\gamma + 6; \\ 2\gamma^2 + \alpha\gamma + \frac{\alpha^2}{8} + \frac{\alpha}{2} + \frac{1}{2}, & \text{if } \alpha \equiv 2 \pmod{4} \text{ and } 2\beta > \alpha + 4\gamma + 6. \end{cases}$$

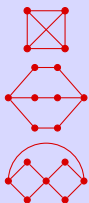
# State of the Art

## Trees

Folklore:  $\mathcal{O}(m)$

Folklore:  $\Omega(m)$

No



Induced Minors

$\mathcal{P}^+$

[this work]:  $\mathcal{O}(m^{2-\delta(H)})$

[this work]:  $\Omega(m^{2-\delta(H)-o(1)})$

## Cycles ( $C_\ell$ )

[AYZ97]:  $\mathcal{O}(m^{2-1/\lceil \ell/2 \rceil})$

[FKZ23]:  $\Omega(m^{2-1/\lceil \ell/2 \rceil - o(1)})$

$\mathcal{P}$

[JR15]:  $\mathcal{O}(m^{2-\varepsilon(H)})$

$K_{2,k}$

[FKZ23]:  $\mathcal{O}(m^{2-1/k})$

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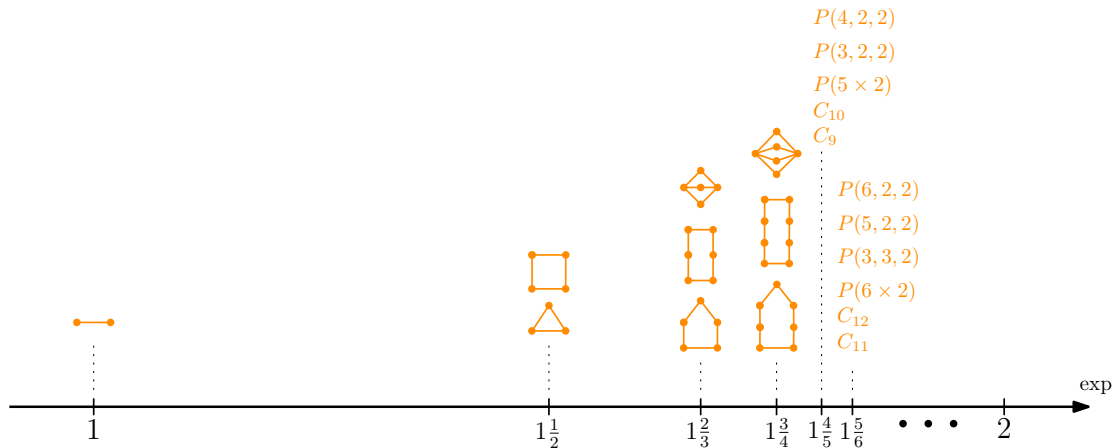
## Everything Else

[this work]:  $\Omega(m^{2-o(1)})$

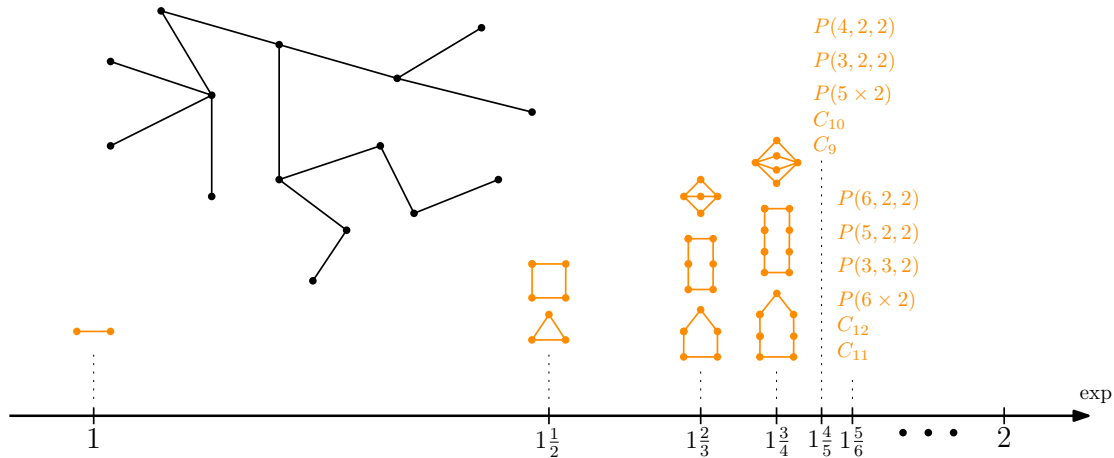


[JR15]:  $\Omega(m^{2-o(1)})$

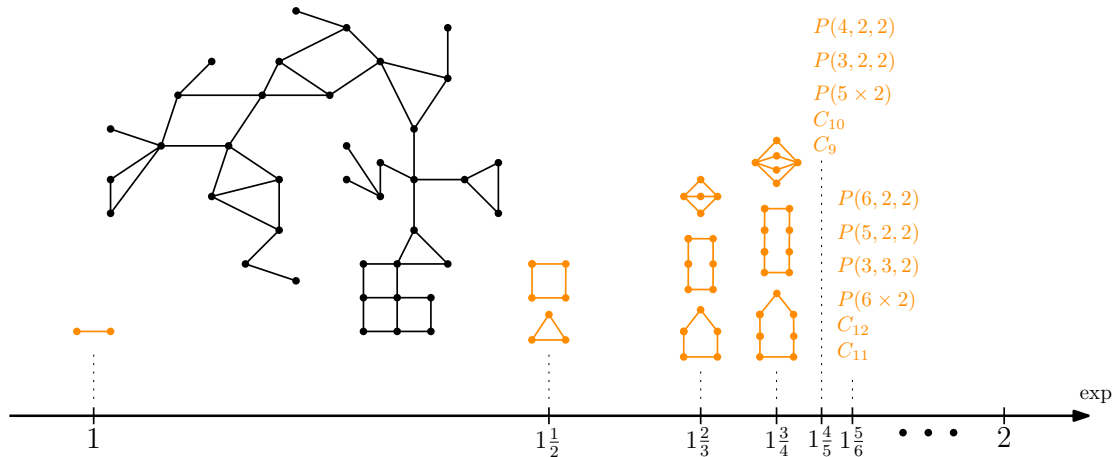
# Exponent Examples



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# Summary and Open Problems

## Main Theorem

There is an explicitly defined set of patterns  $\mathcal{P}^+$  such that:

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Paper PDF



Long talk recording

# Thank you!