

Polynomial Gyárfás-Sumner conjecture  
for graphs of bounded boxicity

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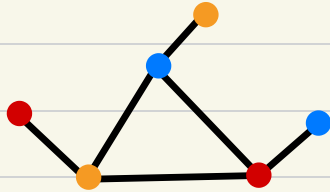
Graphternoon in Ghent  
November 2024

Fact:

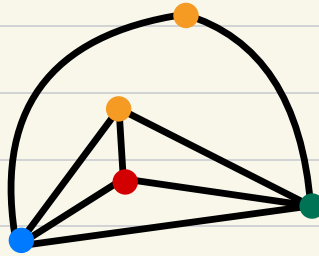
$$\chi(G) \geq \omega(G)$$

the chromatic  
number of  $G$

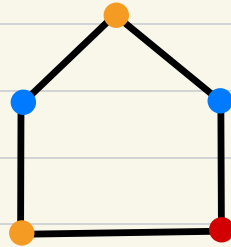
the clique  
number of  $G$



$$\chi(G) = \omega(G) = 3$$



$$\chi(G) = \omega(G) = 4$$



$$\chi(G) = 3$$
$$\omega(G) = 2$$

It is not true that  $\chi(G) \leq w(G) \quad \forall G$ .

Question:

Is there a function  $f$  such that  
$$\chi(G) \leq f(w(G)) \quad \forall G?$$

It is not true that  $\chi(G) \leq w(G) \quad \forall G$ .

Question:

Is there a function  $f$  such that  
 $\chi(G) \leq f(w(G)) \quad \forall G?$

No.

It is not true that  $\chi(G) \leq \omega(G) \quad \forall G$ .

Question:

Is there a function  $f$  such that  
 $\chi(G) \leq f(\omega(G)) \quad \forall G$ ?

No.

Theorem (Erdős 1959):

For every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a graph with  
girth at least  $k$  and  $\chi(G) \geq k$ .

Question:

Is there a function  $f_G$  such that  
 $\chi(G) \leq f_G(w(G))$   
 $\forall G \in \mathcal{G}$  for some class of graphs  $\mathcal{G}$ ?

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Conjecture (Gyárfás - Sumner '80):

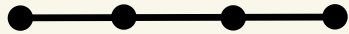
Yes,

if  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_T$  is the class of graphs  
which do not contain the tree  $T$  as  
an induced subgraph.

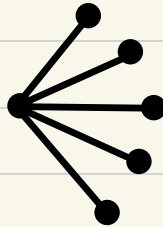
Conjecture (Gyárfás - Sumner '80):

Yes,

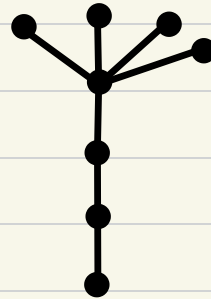
if  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{P}_T$  is the class of graphs which do not contain the tree  $T$  as an induced subgraph.



paths



stars

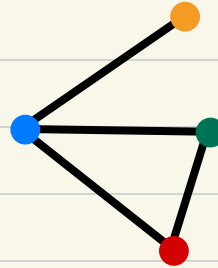
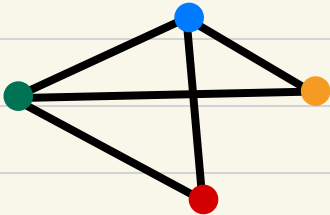
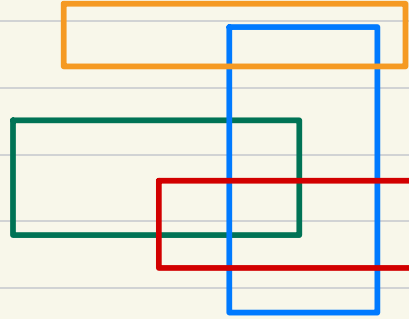
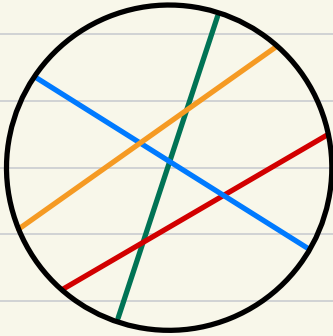


"brooms"

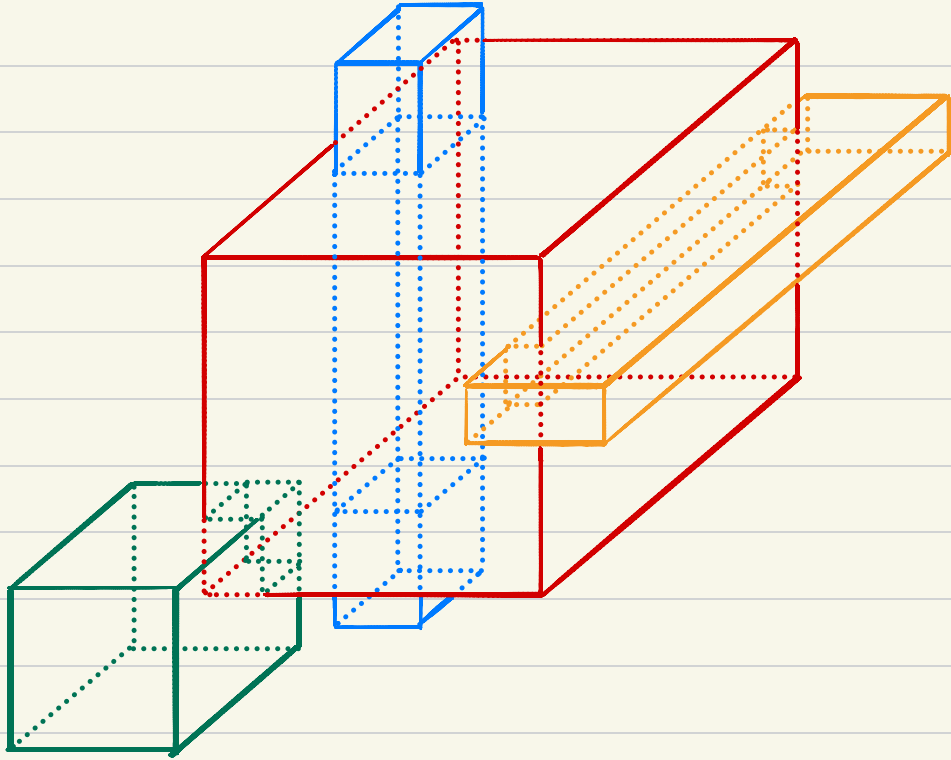
...



$\mathcal{P}$  is a class of geometrically defined graphs:



Axis-aligned boxes:



Our result:

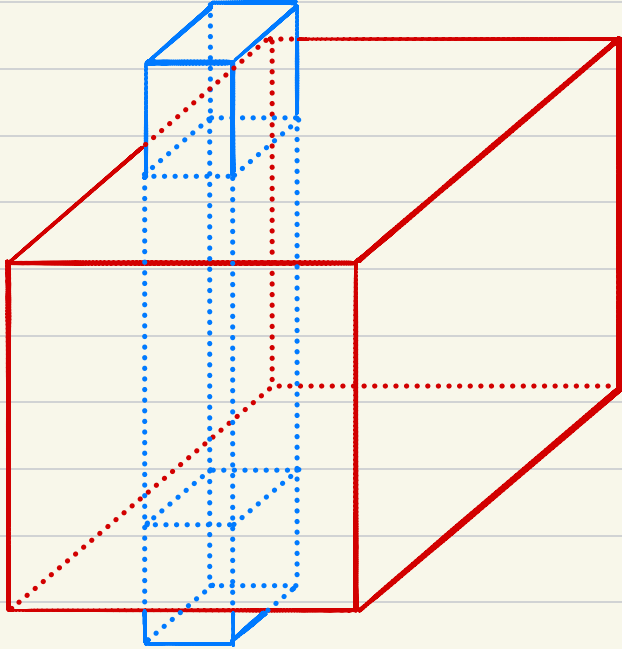
Theorem (Davies, Y. 2024):

$\forall d \in \mathbb{N}$  and a tree  $T$ , the class of intersection graphs of axis-aligned boxes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with no induced copy of  $T$  is polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded.

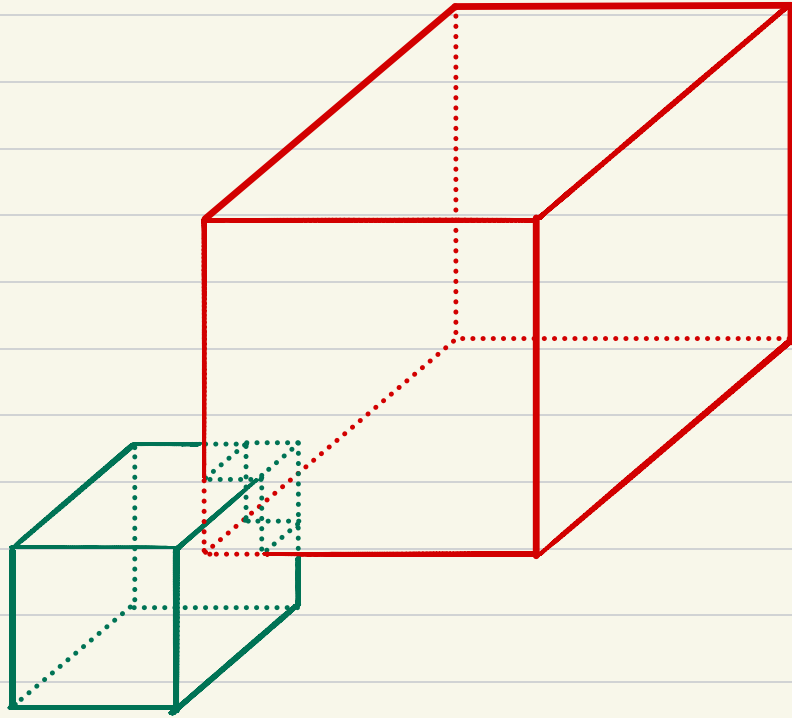
Proof idea: (in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ )

Partition the edges into a few types.

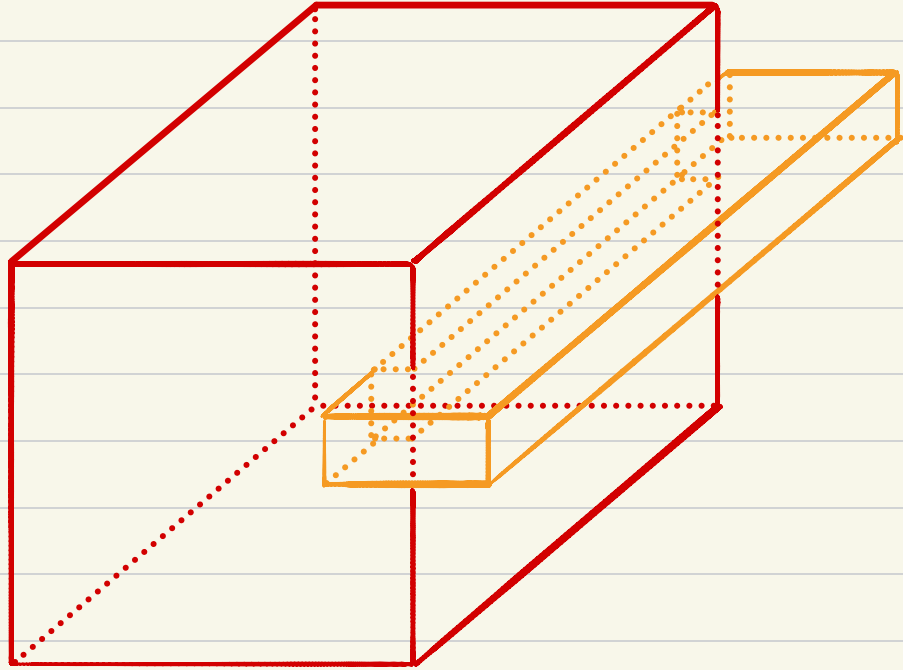
Type 1:



Type 2:



Type 3:



Open questions:

Does the Gyárfás-Sumner Conjecture hold for the following classes of graphs:

- Intersection graphs of lines in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ? segments in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ?
- Hasse diagrams? Disjointness graph of strings in the plane?

Thank you

