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4-day workshop  
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Institut des  
Systèmes  
Complexes  
de Toulouse

# Hereditary properties $k$ -dismantlability

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## Boolean functions and query complexity

Given a boolean function

$$F : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

and given a  $\sigma = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i) \in \{0, 1\}^n$ , we want to know the value of  $F(\sigma)$ , the only questions possible being «what is the value of  $x_i$  ?» ?

$D(F)$  is the minimum number of questions which permits to know the value of  $F(\sigma)$  for every  $\sigma$ .

We have  $D(F) = 0$  (if  $F$  is a trivial function) or

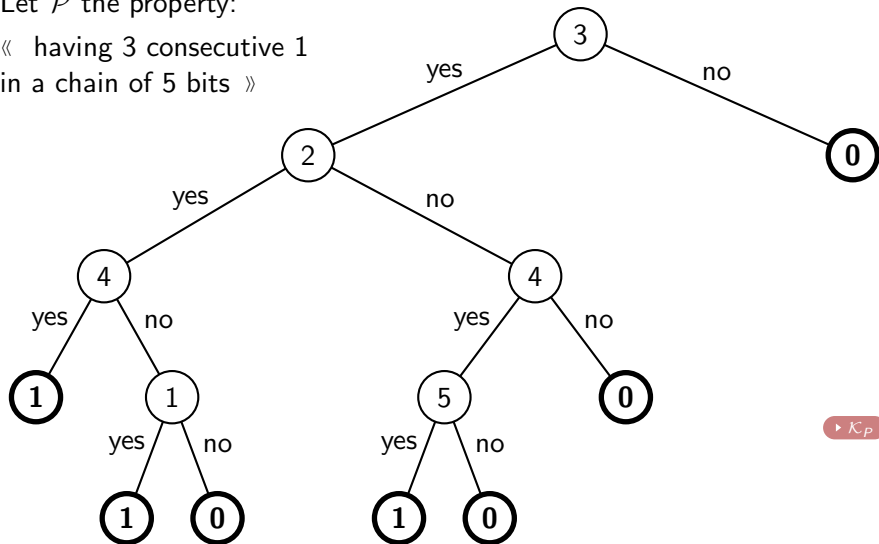
$$1 \leq D(F) \leq n$$

The function  $F$  is said **evasive** if  $D(F) = n$  (maximal «complexity»)

## Decision tree (example)

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  the property:

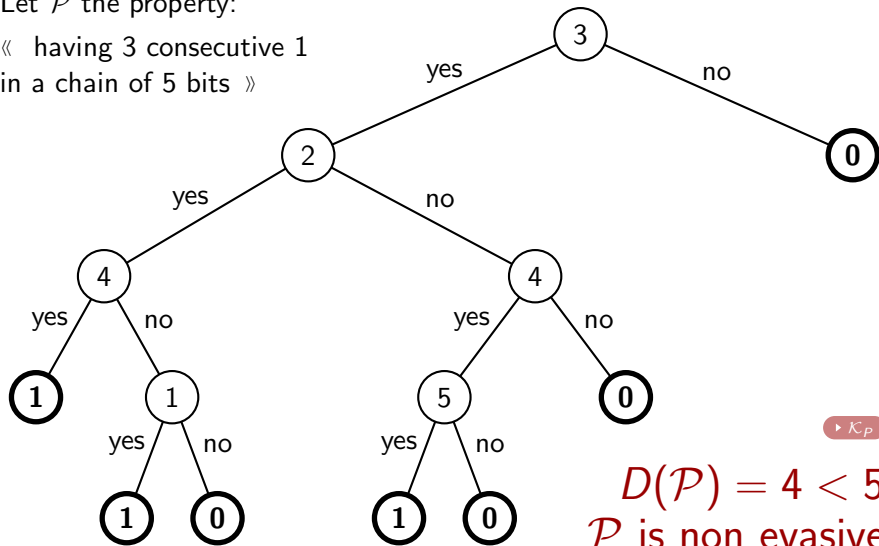
« having 3 consecutive 1  
 in a chain of 5 bits »



## Decision tree (example)

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  the property:

« having 3 consecutive 1  
in a chain of 5 bits »



▷  $\mathcal{K}_P$

$D(\mathcal{P}) = 4 < 5$   
 $\mathcal{P}$  is non evasive

## Boolean functions and evasiveness, examples

- ▶ «  $F(x) = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n \pmod{2}$  » is evasive.
- ▶  $(n = N^2)$  : «  $f((x_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq N}) = \bigwedge_i \bigvee_j x_{ij}$  » is evasive
- ▶ « avoir au moins  $k$  1 » is evasive if, and only if,  $1 \leq k \leq n$
- ▶ For  $n \geq 3$ , the property « to have three consecutive 1 » is evasive if, and only if,  $n \equiv 0$  or  $n \equiv 3$  modulo 4

## Graph properties

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  a set of  $k$  elements. If  $n = \binom{k}{2} = \frac{k(k-1)}{2}$ , every  $\mathcal{E} \subset 2^{[n]}$  represents a graph with vertex set  $\mathcal{V}$  and edge set  $\mathcal{E}$  ( $x_i = 1$  denotes the presence of the edge  $x_i$ ).

A *graph property* is a set of graphs  $\mathcal{P}$  such that

$$(S, A) \simeq (S, A') \implies A, A' \in \mathcal{P} \text{ ou } A, A' \notin \mathcal{P}$$

or may be seen as a boolean function

$$f : \{x_{ij}, 1 \leq i < j \leq n\} \longrightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

such that, for all permutation  $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$  :

$$f((x_{ij})_{1 \leq i < j \leq n}) = f((x_{\sigma(i)\sigma(j)})_{1 \leq i < j \leq n})$$

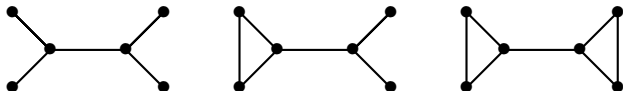
## Graph properties and evasiveness

### Evasive Properties

- ▶ being planar (with  $n \geq 5$  vertices...)
- ▶ having at most  $j$  edges with  $j < \binom{k}{2}$
- ▶ being acyclic
- ▶ being connected

### Non evasive properties

- ▶ ( $k = 6$ ) to be one of the three following graphs :



- ▶ to be a tournament with  $k$  vertices and a source ( $c(P) \leq 3k - 4$ )
- ▶ to be a *scorpion-graph* with  $k \geq 5$  vertices ( $c(P) \leq 6k - 13$ )

## Conjectures about hereditary properties

A graph property  $\mathcal{P}$  is *monotone increasing* if it is preserved by addition of edges, i.e.  $G = (S, A)$  verifies  $\mathcal{P} \implies G - e := (S, A - \{e\})$  verifies  $\mathcal{P}$  (and *monotone decreasing* if it is preserved by deletion of edges).

### Aanderaa-Karp-Rosenberg conjecture

Any *monotone* and non trivial graph property is evasive.

$F : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is *weakly symmetric* if there is a subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $S_n$  transitive on  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that  $F$  is  $\Gamma$ -invariant, i.e. for all  $g \in \Gamma$  and all  $(x_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n} \in \{0, 1\}^n$ ,  $F((x_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}) = F((x_{g(i)})_{1 \leq i \leq n})$ .

### Generalized AKR conjecture

[▶ others versions](#)

Any *monotone*, non trivial and weakly symmetric boolean function is evasive.



## Simplicial complexes

An **abstract simplicial complex**  $K = (V(K), \Sigma(K))$  is given by :

- ▶  $V(K)$ , a set of **vertices**
- ▶  $\Sigma(K) \subset 2^{V(K)}$  a set of **simplices** such that

$$\tau \subset \sigma \text{ and } \sigma \in \Sigma(K) \Rightarrow \tau \in \Sigma(K)$$

DÉFINITIONS/NOTATIONS :

- ▶ If  $\tau \subset \sigma \in \Sigma(K)$  and  $\tau \neq \sigma$ , one says that  $\tau$  is a **face** of  $\sigma$ .
- ▶  $|K|$  : **geometric realization** of  $K$  (if  $\#V(K) = n$ ,  $|K| \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ ).

abstract  
simplices

geometrical  
simplices


0-simplex

$\{s_1\}$

$s_1$   

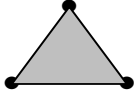

1-simplex

$\{s_1, s_2\}$

$s_1$   $s_2$   



2-simplex

$\{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$

$s_3$   
  
 $s_1$   $s_2$

3-simplex

$\{s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4\}$

$s_3$   
  
 $s_1$   $s_2$   $s_4$

## From monotone boolean functions to simplicial complexes

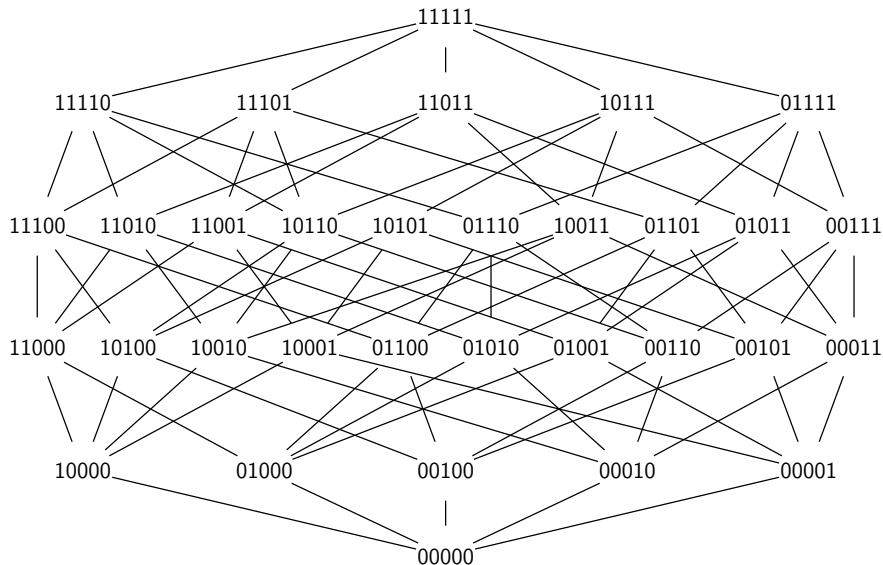
A *monotone increasing* boolean function  $F$  defines a simplicial complex

$$\mathcal{K}_F := \{S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}, F(x^S) = 0\}$$

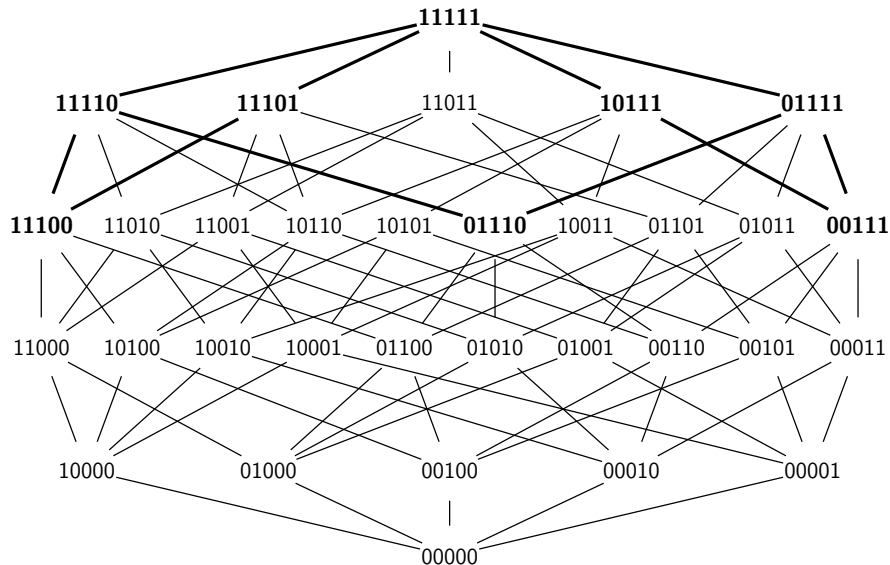
where  $x_i^S = 1$  if and only if  $i \in S$ .

Reciprocally, a simplicial complex  $K$  defines a monotone boolean function  $F_K$  such that  $K = \mathcal{K}_{F_K}$  and  $K = \mathcal{K}_F$  is said **evasive** if, and only if,  $F$  is evasive

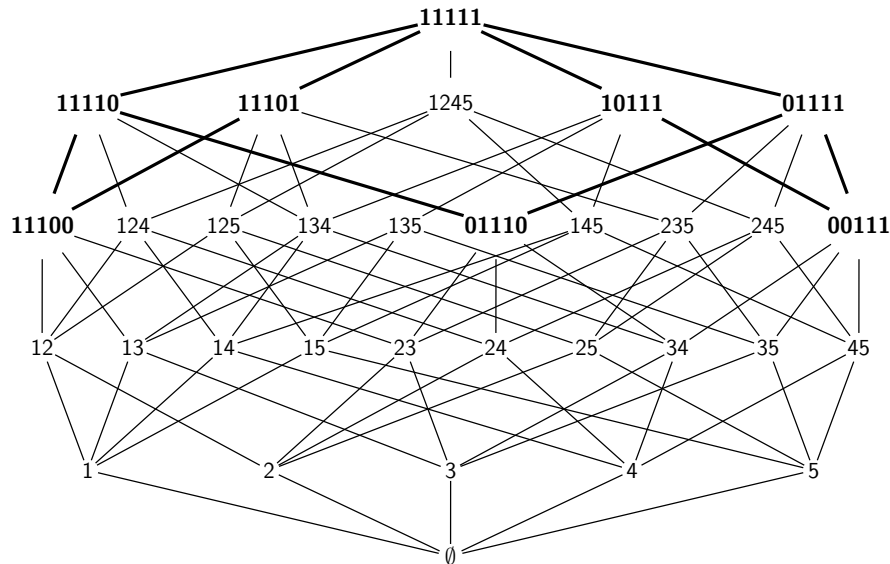
Example with  $F$  associated to « (at least) 3 consecutive 1 »



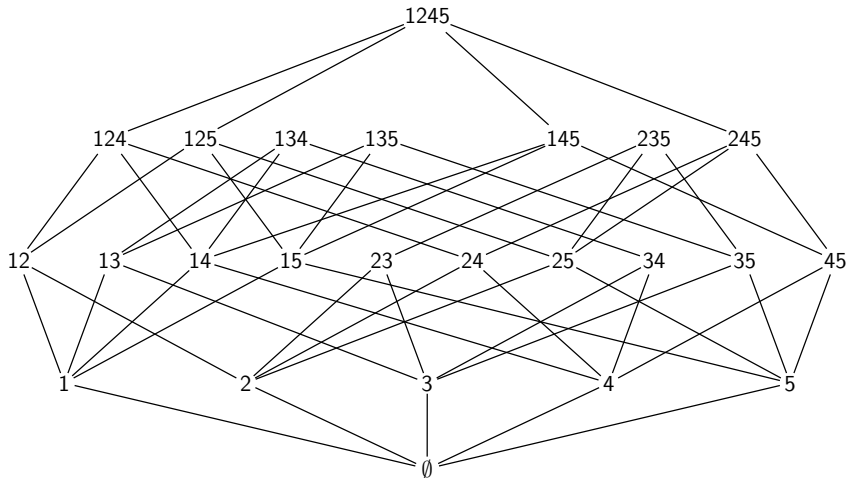
Example with  $F$  associated to « (at least) 3 consecutive 1 »



Example with  $F$  associated to « (at least) 3 consecutive 1 »



(face poset of the) simplicial complex  $\mathcal{K}_F$  obtained for «  $F : 3$  consecutive 1 » :



## Why simplicial complexes ?

So, for the evasiveness question, one can replace the monotone boolean function  $F$  by the simplicial complex  $\mathcal{K}_F$ .

And... ?



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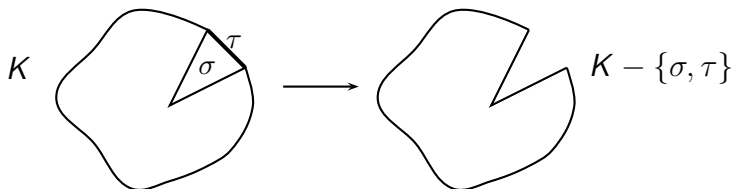
**Theorem** (Kahn, Saks, Sturtevant, 1984)

A non evasive complex is collapsible.

(recall that : collapsible  $\implies$  contractible)

## Collapsibility

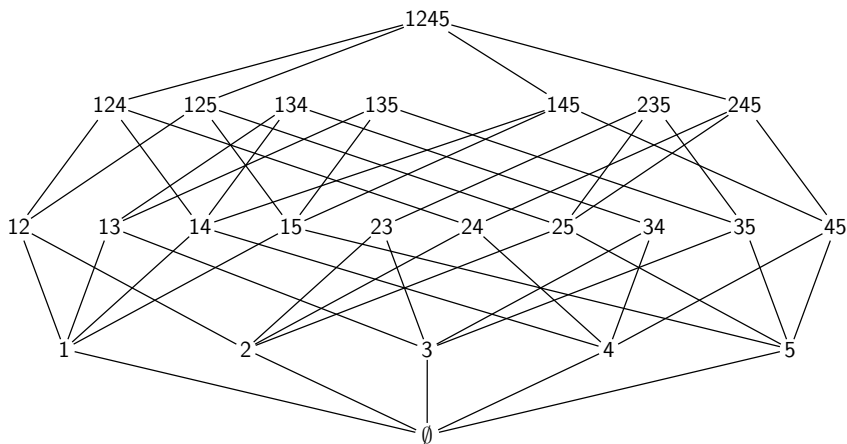
If  $\tau$  is a maximal face of  $\sigma$  and is not a strict face of another simplex, one says that  $\tau$  is **free face** and that  $\{\sigma, \tau\}$ , is a **collapsible pair**.



- ▶ The deletion of a collapsible pair is an **elementary simplicial collapse**
- ▶ Notation :  $K \searrow_{sc} K - \{\sigma, \tau\}$
- ▶ A **collapse**  $K \searrow_{sc} L$  is a succession of elementary collapses transforming  $K$  in  $L$
- ▶  $K$  is said **collapsible** if  $K \searrow_{sc} pt$  where  $pt$  is a simplicial complex reduced to a point

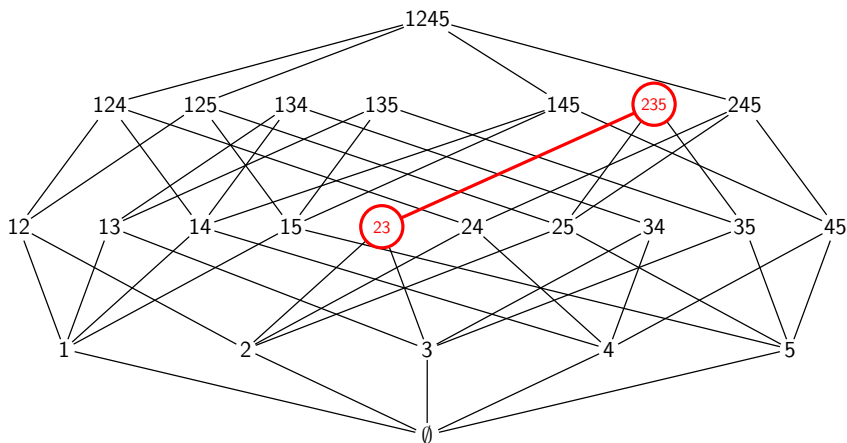
# Simplicial collapsing of $\mathcal{K}_F$ :

▶ decision tree



## Simplicial collapsing of $\mathcal{K}_F$ :

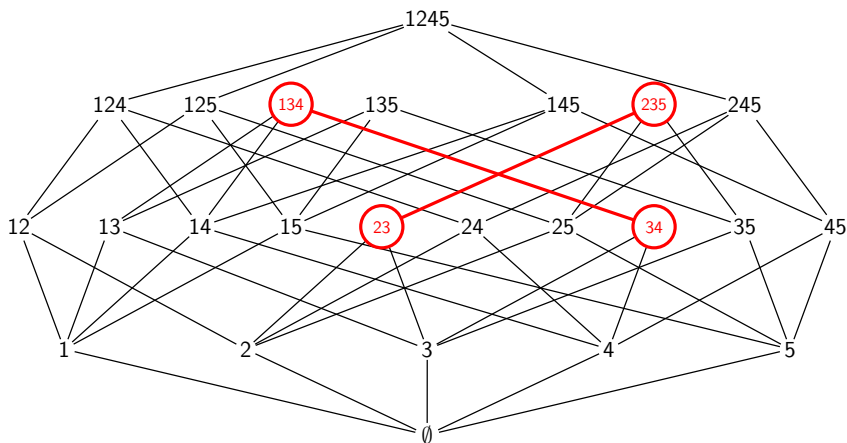
$$\mathcal{K}_F \xrightarrow{sc} \mathcal{K}_1 := \mathcal{K}_F - \{23, 235\}$$



## Simplicial collapsing of $\mathcal{K}_F$ :

▶ decision tree

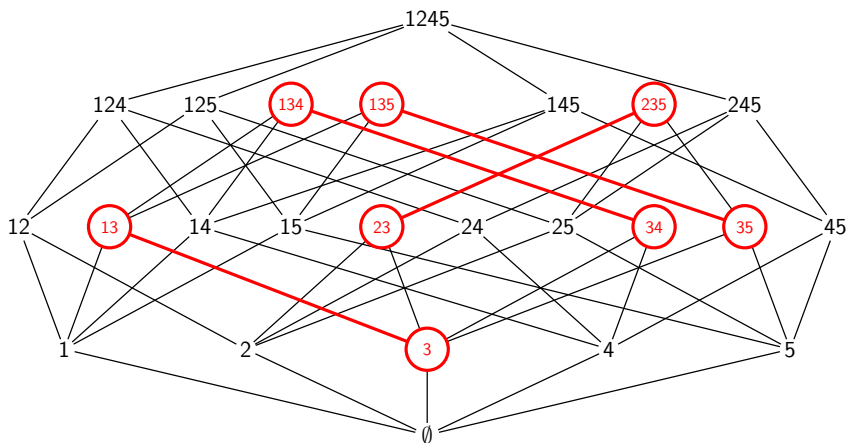
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_F &\xrightarrow{sc} \mathcal{K}_1 := \mathcal{K}_F - \{23, 235\} \\ &\xrightarrow{sc} \mathcal{K}_2 := \mathcal{K}_1 - \{34, 134\} \end{aligned}$$



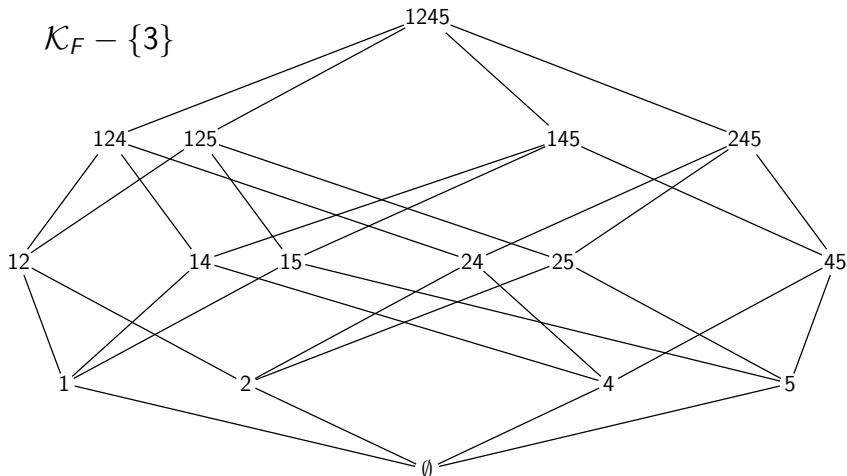
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## Simplicial collapsing of $\mathcal{K}_F : \mathcal{K}_F \searrow^{sc} \mathcal{K}_F - \{3\} \searrow^{sc} pt$



important : collapsible  $\implies$  contractible

The topological space  $X$  is said *contractible* if there is a continuous map  $H : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  such that, for all  $x$  in  $X$ ,  $H(x, 0) = x$  and  $H(x, 1) = x_0$  for some point  $x_0$  of  $X$ .

**Brouwer theorem**

Let  $K$  a simplicial complex and  $\varphi : |K| \rightarrow |K|$  continue.

$$|K| \text{ contractible} \implies \text{fix}(\varphi) \neq \emptyset$$

where  $\text{Fix}(\varphi) := \{x \in |K|, \varphi(x) = x\}$  is the set of fixed points of  $\varphi$ .

NOTE : Every simplicial  $f : K \rightarrow K$  (i.e.  $f(\sigma)$  is a simplex for any simplex  $\sigma$ ), induces  $\varphi := |f| : |K| \rightarrow |K|$ . Nevertheless

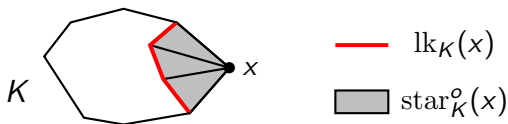
$$|K| \text{ contractible} \not\Rightarrow \text{Fix}(f) \neq \emptyset$$



## non evasiveness of $F \implies$ collapsibility of $\mathcal{K}_F$

Let  $K$  a simplicial complex and  $x$  a vertex of  $K$

- ▶  $\text{lk}_K(x) := \{\sigma \in K, \{x\} \cup \sigma \in K \text{ et } x \notin \sigma\}$
- ▶  $K - x := \{\sigma \in K, x \notin \sigma\}$



$$\mathcal{K}_{F|_{x_i=0}} := \{S \subset \{1, \dots, i-1, i+1, \dots, n\}, F(x^S) = 0\} = \mathcal{K}_F - i$$

$$\mathcal{K}_{F|_{x_i=1}} := \{S \subset \{1, \dots, i-1, i+1, \dots, n\}, S \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{K}_F\} = \text{lk}_{\mathcal{K}_F}(i)$$

**Proposition** The complex  $K$  is non evasive if, and only if, it admits a vertex  $x$  such that  $K - x$  and  $\text{lk}_{\mathcal{K}_F}(x)$  are non evasive.

## vertex-collapsibilities (J. Barmak, G. Minian 2009)

Let  $K$  a simplicial complex and  $x$  a vertex (i.e. a 0-simplex) of  $K$

- ▶ An **elementary strong collapse**, denoted  $K \searrow\swarrow K - x$ , is the deletion of a vertex  $x$  s.t.  $\text{lk}_K(x)$  is a cone. Such a vertex is called **0-collapsible** and  $\text{Coll}_0(K)$  is the set of 0-collapsible vertices of  $K$ .
- ▶ A strong collapse, denoted  $K \searrow\swarrow L$ , is the succession of elementary strong collapses.
- ▶  $K$  is **strong collapsible** if  $K \searrow\swarrow pt$  and  $\text{Coll}_0$  is the set of strong collapsible finite complexes
- ▶ A vertex is  $k$ -collapsible if  $\text{lk}_K(x) \in \text{Coll}_{k-1}$
- ▶ A complex  $K$  is  $k$ -collapsible if one can reduce it to a vertex by deleting  $k$ -collapsible vertices and  $\text{Coll}_k$  is the set of strong collapsible finite complexes.

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- ▶ A complex  $K$  is  $k$ -collapsible if one can reduce it to a vertex by deleting  $k$ -collapsible vertices and  $\text{Coll}_k$  is the set of strong collapsible finite complexes.

**Proposition** :  $NE = \bigcup_k \text{Coll}_k$  (where  $NE$  denotes the set of non evasive simplicial complexes)

## Evasiveness conjecture

A simplicial complex  $K$  is said vertex-homogeneous if  $\text{Aut}(K)$ , the group of simplicial automorphisms of  $K$ , acts transitively on the vertices of  $K$ .

In the framework of simplicial complexes, we get the following reformulations of the generalized AKR conjecture:

### Generalized AKR conjecture, version 2

If  $K$  is a non evasive and vertex homogeneous simplicial complex, then  $K$  is a simplex.

### Generalized AKR conjecture, version 3

If  $K \in \text{Coll}_k$  for some integer  $k \geq 0$  and if  $K$  is vertex homogeneous, then  $K$  is a simplex.

## 0-dismantlability (« classical » dismantlability)

Graphs  $G = (V(G), E(G))$  are finite and reflexive.

A vertex  $a \in V(G)$  is called **0-dismantlable** if there is another vertex  $b \in V(G)$  such that every neighbour of  $x$  is also a neighbour of  $x$  :

$$N_G[a] \subset N_G[b] \quad (\text{notation : } a \vdash b)$$

Then, we say that  $G$  is **0-dismantlable on  $G - a$** ; notation :  $G \searrow^0 G - a$ .

A graph  $G$  is called **0-dismantlable** if  $V(G) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  with

$$G = G_1 \searrow^0 G_2 \searrow^0 G_3 \dots \searrow^0 G_i \searrow^0 G_{i-1} \searrow^0 \dots \searrow^0 G_n = \{x_n\}$$

where  $G_i$  is the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $\{x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n\}$ .

## « cop and rob » game

- ▶ Player 1 (the cop) chooses a vertex
- ▶ Then, player 2 (the robber) chooses a vertex
- ▶ Then, cop and rob move to an adjacent vertex alternatively (first cop, next rob) ; and so on...
- ▶ The cop wins if he « catches » the robber (they are on the same vertex)

Theorem (Quilliot 1978, Nowakowski, Winkler 1983, ...)

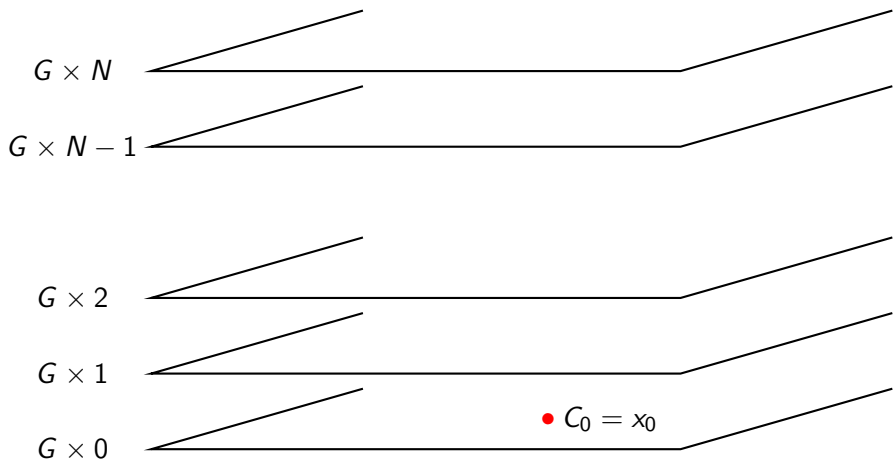
Let  $G$  be a reflexive finite graph

$G$  is cop-win  $\iff G$  is dismantlable  $\iff G$  is contractible

$\mathcal{H} : G \times I_N \rightarrow G$  from  $\mathcal{H}_0 = C_{x_0}$  to  $\mathcal{H}_N = 1_G$  gives a **winning strategy** :

	$R_1$	$R_2$	$\dots$	$R_{N-1}$	$R_N$
$C_0$	$C_1$	$C_2$	$\dots$	$C_{N-1}$	$C_N$

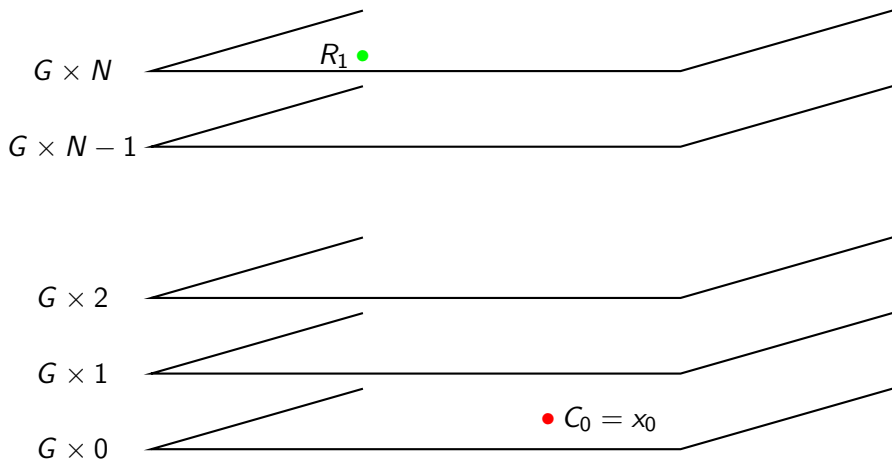
with  $C_i = \mathcal{H}_i(R_i)$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ .



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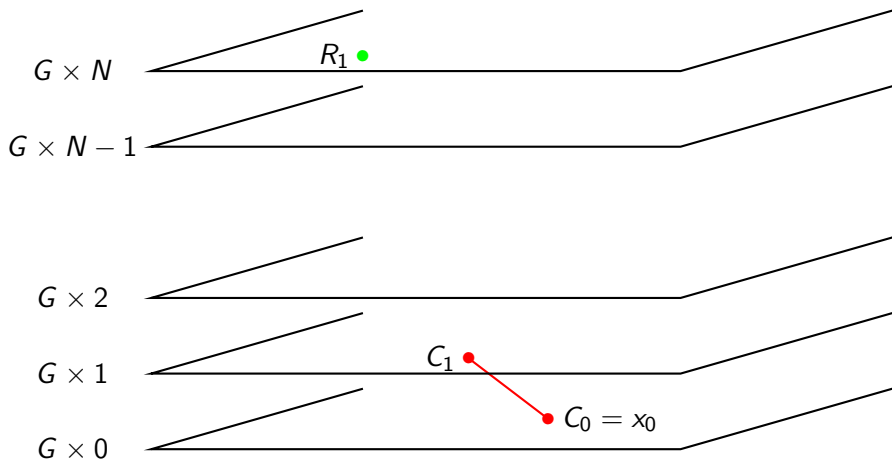




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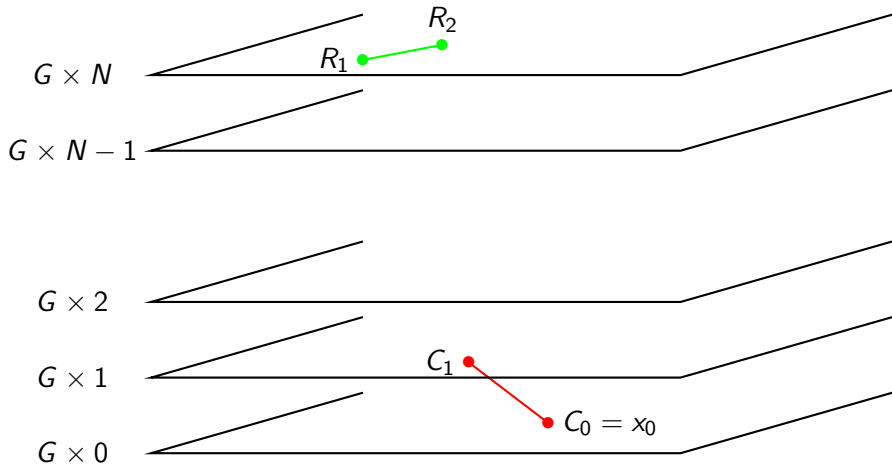
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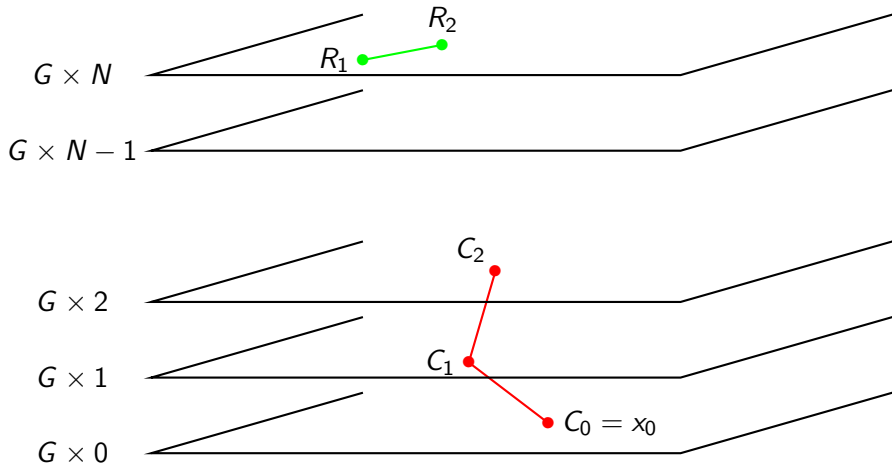
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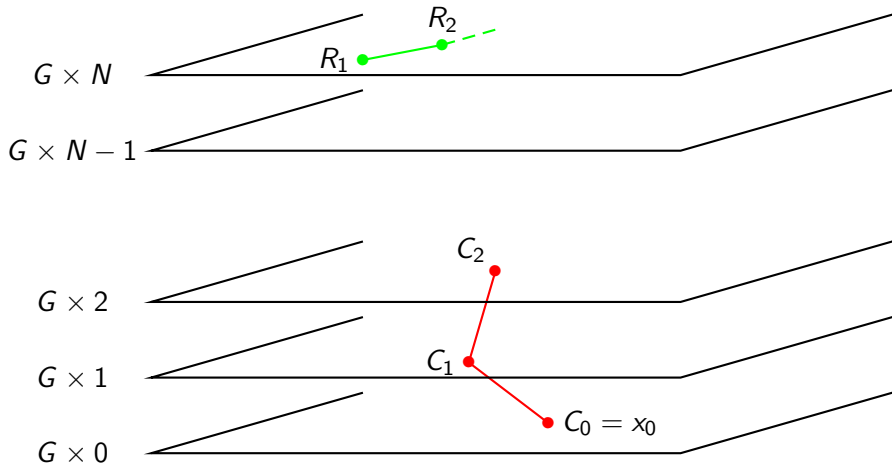
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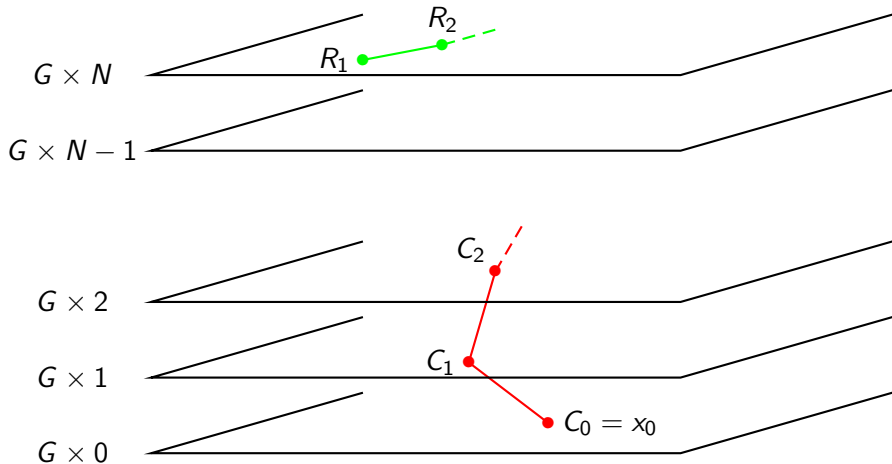
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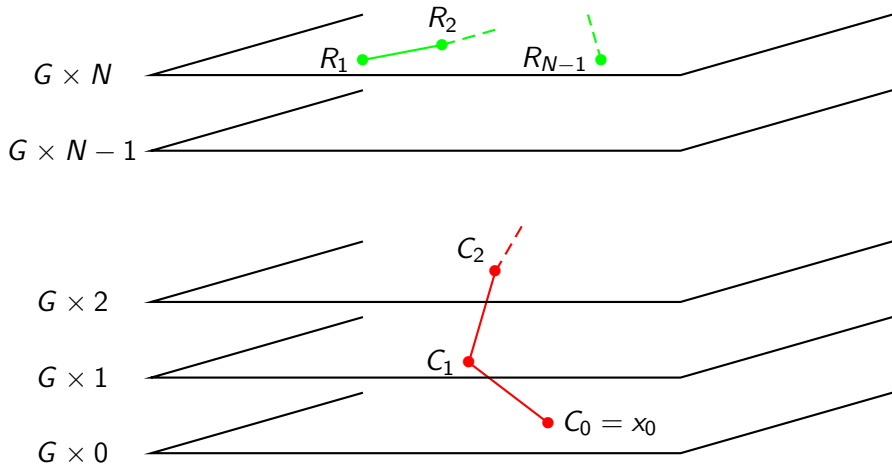
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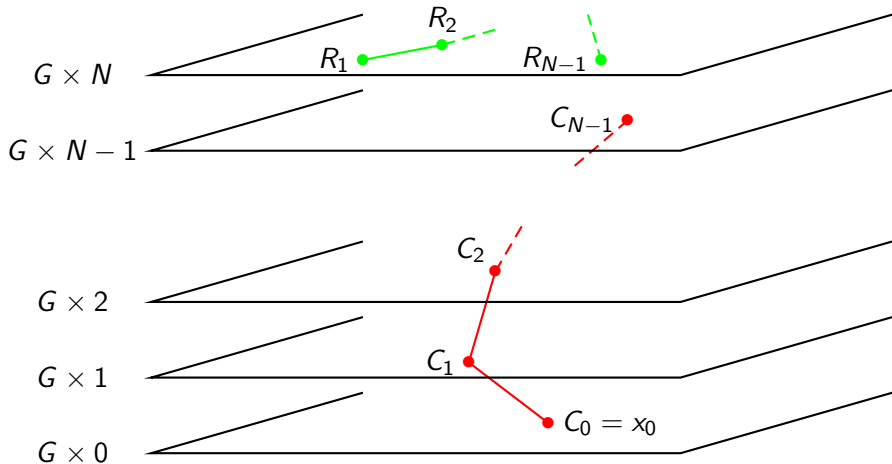
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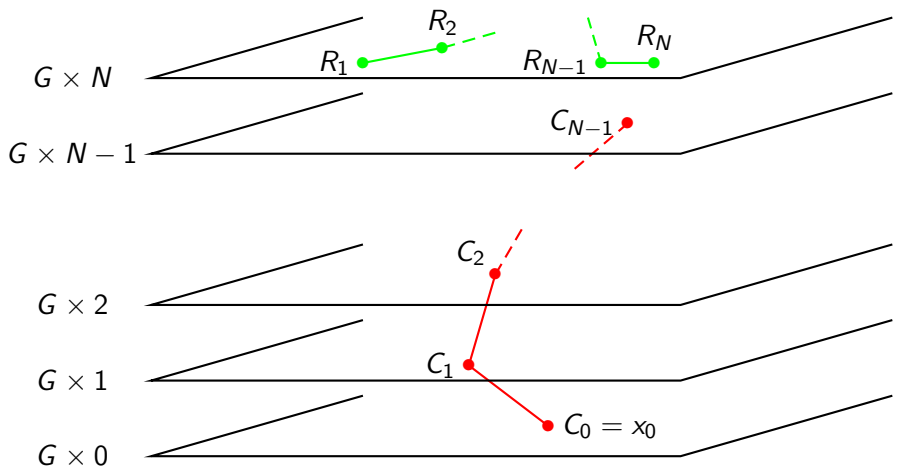
with  $C_i = \mathcal{H}_i(R_i)$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ .



$\mathcal{H} : G \times I_N \rightarrow G$  from  $\mathcal{H}_0 = C_{x_0}$  to  $\mathcal{H}_N = 1_G$  gives a **winning strategy** :

	$R_1$	$R_2$	...	$R_{N-1}$	$R_N$
$C_0$	$C_1$	$C_2$	...	$C_{N-1}$	$C_N$

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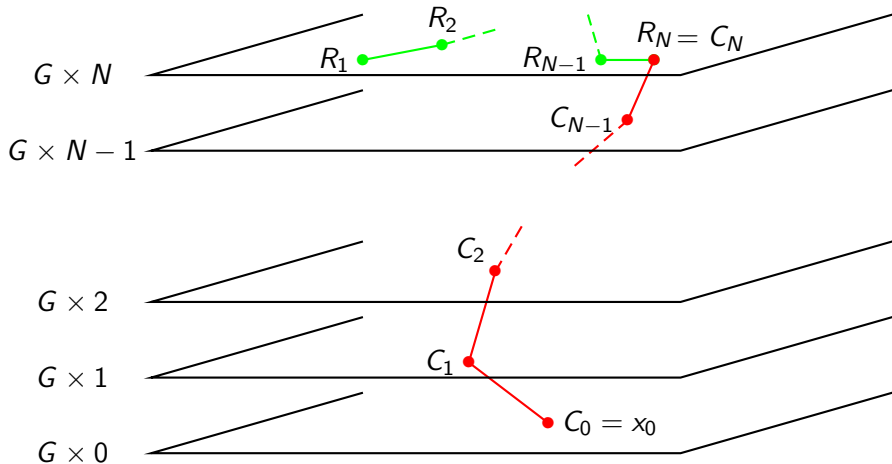




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## 1-dismantlability

A vertex  $a \in V(G)$  is called **1-dismantlable** if its open neighbourhood  $N_G[a] := N_G[a] - a$  is a 0-dismantlable graph. Then, we say that  $G$  is **1-dismantlable on  $G - a$** ; notation :  $G \searrow_1 G - a$ .

A graph  $G$  is called **1-dismantlable** if  $V(G) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  with

$$G = G_1 \searrow_1 G_2 \searrow_1 G_3 \dots \searrow_1 G_i \searrow_1 G_{i-1} \searrow_1 \dots \searrow_1 G_n = \{x_n\}$$

where  $G_i := G[x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n]$ .

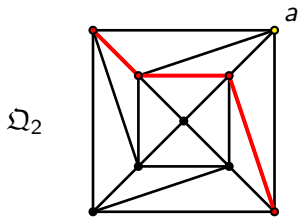
## 1-dismantlability

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$a$  is 1-dismantlable

$G$  is 1-dismantlable  
and minimal in  $D_1 \setminus D_0$   
(in number of vertices)

## k-dismantlability

Inductively, for  $k$  integer  $\geq 1$  :

A vertex  $a \in V(G)$  is called **k-dismantlable** if its open neighbourhood  $N_G a := N_G[a] - a$  is a  $(k-1)$ -dismantlable graph. Then, we say that **G is k-dismantlable on  $G - a$** ; notation :  $G \searrow^k G - a$ .

A graph  $G$  is called **k-dismantlable** if  $V(G) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  with

$$G = G_1 \searrow^k G_2 \searrow^k G_3 \dots \searrow^k G_i \searrow^k G_{i-1} \searrow^k \dots \searrow^k G_n = \{x_n\}$$

where  $G_i := G[x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n]$ .

NOTATIONS :  $D_k := \{k\text{-dismantlable graphs}\}$

## a strict hierarchy

### Theorem

The sequence  $(D_k)_{k \geq 1}$  is strictly increasing and  $D_\infty := \bigcup_{k \geq 0} D_k \subsetneq D_{\text{coll}}$  :

$$D_0 \subsetneq D_1 \subsetneq D_2 \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq D_k \subsetneq D_{k+1} \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq D_{\text{coll}}$$

where  $D_{\text{coll}}$  is the set of graphs whose clique complex is collapsible.

## a strict hierarchy

### Theorem

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where  $D_{coll}$  is the set of graphs whos clique complex is collapsible.

proof :

- ▶ For  $k \geq 0$ ,  $\Omega_{k+1} \in D_k \setminus D_{k-1}$  (cubions)
- ▶ For  $n \geq 7$ ,  $\Uparrow_n \in D_{coll} \setminus D_\infty := \bigcup_{k \geq 0} D_k$

## The cubions $\mathfrak{Q}_n$ , $n \in \mathbf{N}$

### Definition of the $n$ -Cubion $\mathfrak{Q}_n$

$V(\mathfrak{Q}_n) = \{\alpha_{i,\epsilon}, i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and } \epsilon = 0, 1\} \cup \{x = (x_1, \dots, x_n), x_i = 0, 1\}$   
and  $E(\mathfrak{Q}_n)$  defined by:

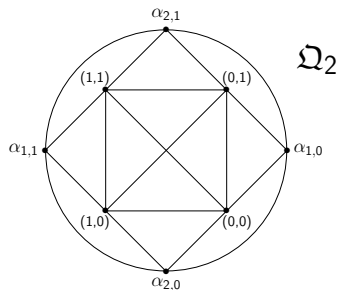
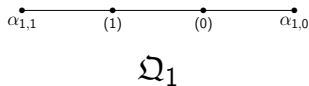
- $\forall i \neq j, \alpha_{i,\epsilon} \sim \alpha_{j,\epsilon'}$
- $\forall x \neq x', x \sim x'$
- $\forall i \in [n], \alpha_{i,1} \sim (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 1, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$  and  $\alpha_{i,0} \sim (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$

## The cubions $\Omega_n$ , $n \in \mathbf{N}$

### Definition of the $n$ -Cubion $\Omega_n$

$V(\Omega_n) = \{\alpha_{i,\epsilon}, i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and } \epsilon = 0, 1\} \cup \{x = (x_1, \dots, x_n), x_i = 0, 1\}$   
and  $E(\Omega_n)$  defined by:

- $\forall i \neq j, \alpha_{i,\epsilon} \sim \alpha_{j,\epsilon'}$
- $\forall x \neq x', x \sim x'$
- $\forall i \in [n], \alpha_{i,1} \sim (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 1, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$  and  
 $\alpha_{i,0} \sim (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$

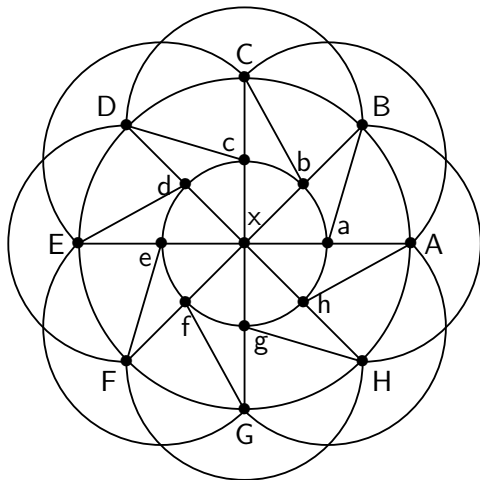




$\Omega_n \in D_{n-1} \setminus D_{n-2}$ ,  $n \in \mathbf{N}^*$  results from:

- ▶  $\forall i \in [n]$ ,  $\forall \epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $\alpha_{i,\epsilon} \in D_{n-1}(\Omega_n) \setminus D_{n-2}(\Omega_n)$  because  $N_{\Omega_n}(\alpha_{i,\epsilon}) \simeq \Omega_{n-1}$
- ▶  $\forall x$ ,  $x \notin D_\infty(X)$  because  $N_{\Omega_n}(x) \not\leq^0 \overline{nK_2}$
- ▶  $\alpha_{2,\epsilon} \simeq \in D_{n-2}(\Omega_n - \{\alpha_{1,\epsilon}\}) \setminus D_{n-3}(\Omega_n - \{\alpha_{1,\epsilon}\})$
- ▶ ...
- ▶  $\alpha_{n-1,\epsilon} \in D_1(\Omega_n - \{\alpha_{i,\epsilon}, i = 1, \dots, n-2\}) \setminus D_0(\Omega_n - \{\alpha_{i,\epsilon}, i = 1, \dots, n-2\})$
- ▶  $\alpha_{n,\epsilon} \in D_0(\Omega_n - \{\alpha_{i,\epsilon}, i = 1, \dots, n-1\})$
- ▶ So :  $\Omega_n \not\leq^{n-1} K_2^n \not\leq^0 pt$

$$\uparrow_8 \in D_{coll} \setminus D_\infty$$



big-top  $\uparrow_8$



## Back to evasiveness

### **a weak evasiveness conjecture**

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \exists k \in \mathbf{N}, X \in D_k \\ X \text{ vertex transitive} \end{array} \right\} \implies X \text{ complete}$$

## Back to evasiveness

### a weak evasiveness conjecture

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \exists k \in \mathbf{N}, X \in D_k \\ X \text{ vertex transitive} \end{array} \right\} \implies X \text{ complete}$$

Proposition (case  $k = 0$  ; E. F., B. Jouve)

Let  $X$  a finite graph.

If  $X$  is 0-dismantlable and vertex transitive, then  $X$  is a complete graph.

## First direction of results

Let  $X$  a graph and  $k$  an integer  $\geq 0$ .

Let  $\mathcal{C}_k(X)$  denote the set of  $(k+1)$ -subsets of  $V(X)$  which induce a complete subgraph of  $X$  (e.g.  $\mathcal{C}_0(X) = V(X)$  and  $\mathcal{C}_1(X) = E(X)$ ).

$X$  will be called  **$k$ -transitive** if  $\text{Aut}(X)$  acts transitively on  $\mathcal{C}_k(X)$ , i.e.:

$$\forall (\{a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}, \{b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k\}) \in \mathcal{C}_k(X) \times \mathcal{C}_k(X),$$

$$\exists \varphi \in \text{Aut}(X) \text{ s.t. } \varphi(a_u) = b_u, \text{ for all } u \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, k\}$$

**Exemples** : Johnson graphs  $J(v, k, i)$  ; for  $i = 0$  : Kneser graphs

### Theorem

*Let  $X$  a finite graph and  $k$  an integer  $\geq 0$ .*

*If  $X \in D_k$  and  $X$  is  $j$ -transitive for all  $j \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, k\}$ , then  $X$  is a complete graph.*

## Second direction of results

### Theorem

*If a Cayley graph  $X = \text{Cay}(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}, S)$  is  $k$ -dismantlable for some integer  $k \geq 0$ , then  $X$  is a complete graph.*

*In particular, if a vertex transitive graph with a prime number of vertices is  $k$ -dismantlable for some integer  $k \geq 0$ , then it is a complete graph.*

proof :

- ▶ By non evasiveness,  $|\Delta X|^\Gamma \neq \emptyset$  (where  $|\Delta X|^\Gamma$  the set of fixed points of  $|\Delta X|$  under the action of  $\Gamma$ ).
- ▶ By vertex transitivity,  $V(X)$  is the unique orbit.
- ▶ So,  $X$  is a complete.

Thanks for your attention !