Bounding twin-width for bounded-treewidth graphs, planar graphs, and bipartite graphs

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Twin-width





Strong product

Definition (Strong product)

Given two graphs G,H, their strong product is the graph $G\boxtimes H$ on vertex set $V(G)\times V(H)$ with edges $\{(u,u'),(v,v')\}$ such that:

•
$$u = v$$
 or $uv \in E(G)$; and

$$\blacktriangleright \ u' = v' \text{ or } u'v' \in E(H).$$

Strong product



Product structure of planar graphs

Using a construction of Pilipczuk and Siebertz [5], Dujmović et al [3] show:

Theorem

Every planar graph is a subgraph of:

- 1. $H \boxtimes P$ for some planar graph H of treewidth at most 8 and some path P.
- 2. $H \boxtimes P \boxtimes K_3$, for some planar graph H of treewidth at most 3 and some path P.

Ueckerdt et al [6] improved the first result with:

Theorem

If G is planar then G is a subgraph of $H \boxtimes P$, where P is a path and H is a minor of G of treewidth at most 6.

Treewidth and branchwidth



Theorem (Robertson and Seymour 1991)

 $\mathbf{b}\mathbf{w} \le \mathbf{t}\mathbf{w} + 1 \le \left|\frac{3}{2}\mathbf{b}\mathbf{w}\right|$

Sphere-cut decompositions













Concluding with treewidth

The previous construction gives:

Lemma

 $\mathbf{tww}(G) \leq \mathbf{ctww}(G) \leq 3 \cdot 2^{\mathbf{tw}(G)-1}$

Bonnet and Déprés [2] show:

Lemma

There are graphs G with $\mathbf{tww}(G) \geq 2^{\mathbf{fvs}(G)} \geq 2^{\mathbf{tw}(G)-1}$

Neighbourhood complexity

Vertices of A_i with different neighbourhoods in $f(\boldsymbol{u})$ must not be contracted.

Definition (Neighbourhood complexity)

The *neighbourhood classes* with respect to Y in X is

$$\Omega(X,Y) = \{N(x) \cap Y : x \in X\}$$

We call *neighbourhood complexity* the number of classes.

In the general setting, we can bound the neighbourhood complexity by $2^{|Y|}$. If we forbid $K_{s,s}$ as an induced subgraph and |Y|>s, we can bound it by $O(|Y|^s)$.

Neighbourhood complexity in planar graphs

We count separately neighbourhoods of sizes less, equal, or more than 2: < 2: |Y| singletons, 1 empty set = 2: at most 3|Y| - 6 > 2: at most 2|Y| - 4 $|\Omega(X, Y)| \le 6|Y| - 9$.

Neighbourhood complexity in planar graphs

We count separately neighbourhoods of sizes less, equal, or more than 2:

< 2:
$$|Y|$$
 singletons, 1 empty set
= 2: at most $3|Y| = 6 2|Y| - 3$
> 2: at most $2|Y| = 4 |Y| - 2$
 $|\Omega(X,Y)| \le 6|Y| = 9 4|Y| - 4$

We now assume that there is a closed curve going through Y that contains vertices of X.

Sphere-cut decompositions



Sphere-cut decompositions

Lemma

For an undirected connected planar graph G with $\mathbf{bw}(G) \ge 2$:

$$\mathbf{tww}(G) \le \mathbf{ctww}(G) \le \max\left(4\mathbf{bw}(G), \frac{9}{2}\mathbf{bw}(G) - 3\right)$$

An undirected graph with $\mathbf{bw}(G) \leq 1$ has $\mathbf{tww}(G) = 0$.

Bounds using previous results

Simple bound on the twin-width of a subgraph of $H \boxtimes P$, taking the product of neighbourhood classes:

 $5\left(\mathbf{ctww}(H)\right)^3 \le 115746$

But we could also use the fact that the subgraph is planar:

 $5(6 \cdot (3 \cdot 7) - 9) \le 585$

Using the embedding

To use our stronger neighbourhood complexity argument, we need an embedding.

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For every edge $uv \in E$, $|d(u) - d(v)| \le 1$

Using the embedding



Contraction sequence



Summing up

We can conclude that the twin-width of a planar graph is at most 183.

Our construction can also be translated to a polynomial time algorithm producing a contraction sequence with these guarantees.

Further work

Improving the planar bound

- ► Can we improve the product structure theorem further ?
- Can we improve the lower bound ?
- Improved to 37 by Bekos et al. [1], then to 9 by Hliněný [4].

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T. Ueckerdt, D. R. Wood, and W. Yi. An improved planar graph product structure theorem. *CoRR*, abs/2108.00198, 2021.

Further work

Universal bipartite graph

