

A Fine-Grained Analogue of Schaefer's Theorem in P: Dichotomy of $\exists^k\forall$ -Quantified First-Order Graph Properties

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First-Order Property Model-Checking

Fix a **first-order** property ψ . The **model-checking** problem for ψ asks to check whether ψ is true on a given structure (e.g. graph).

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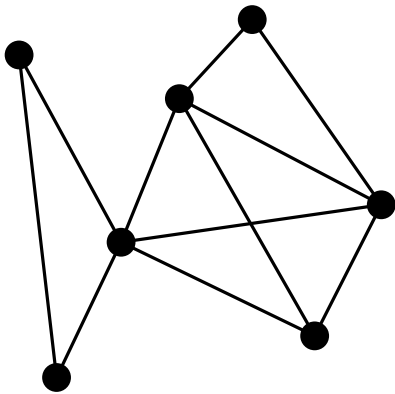
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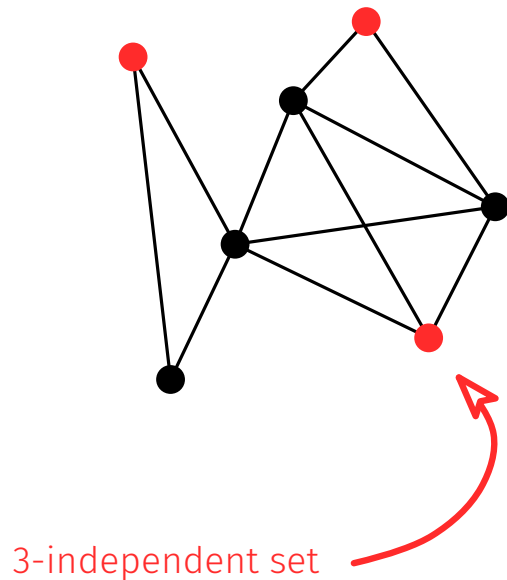
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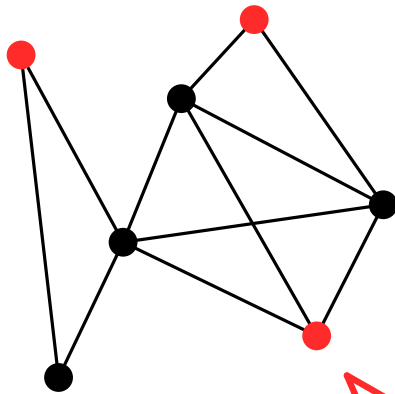
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3-independent set

SQL

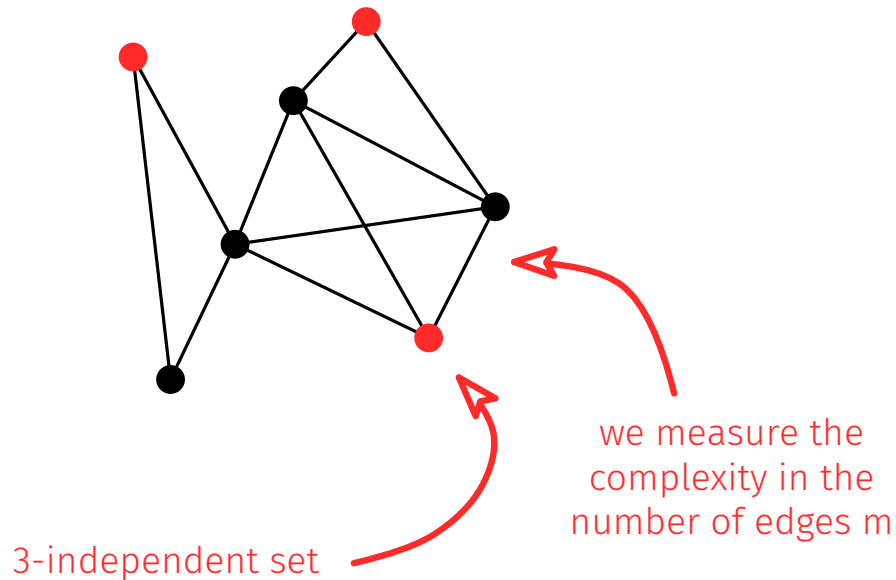
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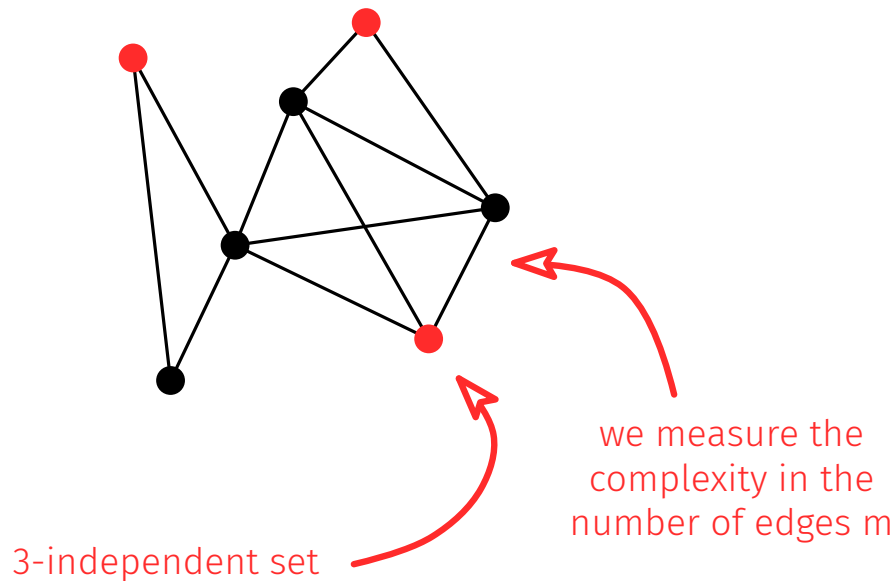
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here, m equals the size of the database

Orthogonal Vectors

Given two sets $X_1, X_2 \subseteq \{0, 1\}^d$ of size n ,
check whether there exists an orthogonal
pair $x_1 \in X_1, x_2 \in X_2$

1	1	0
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orth.

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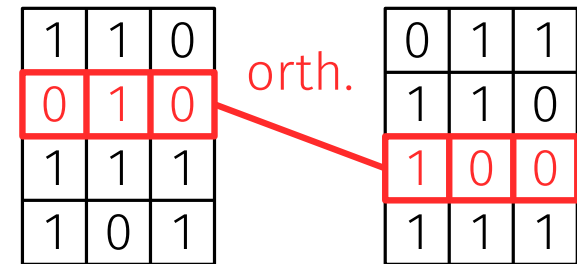
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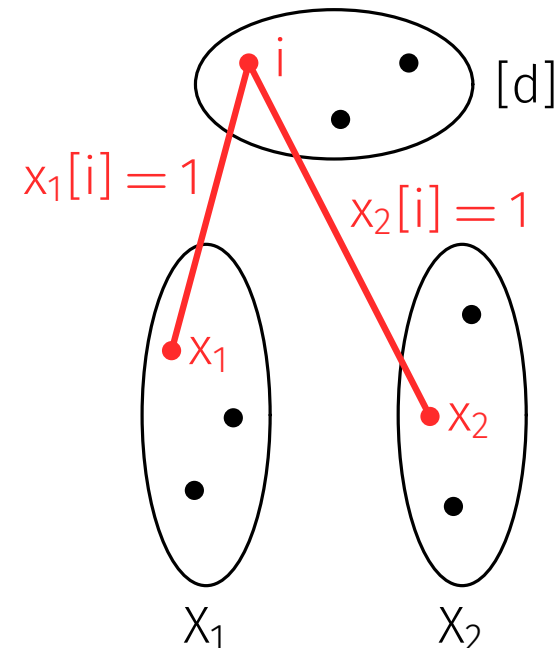
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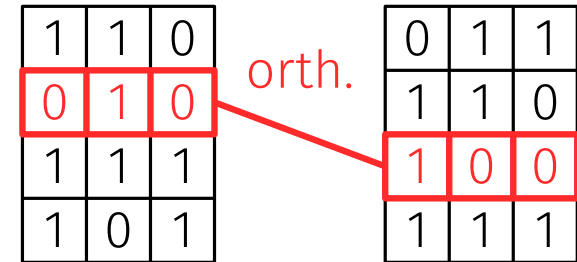
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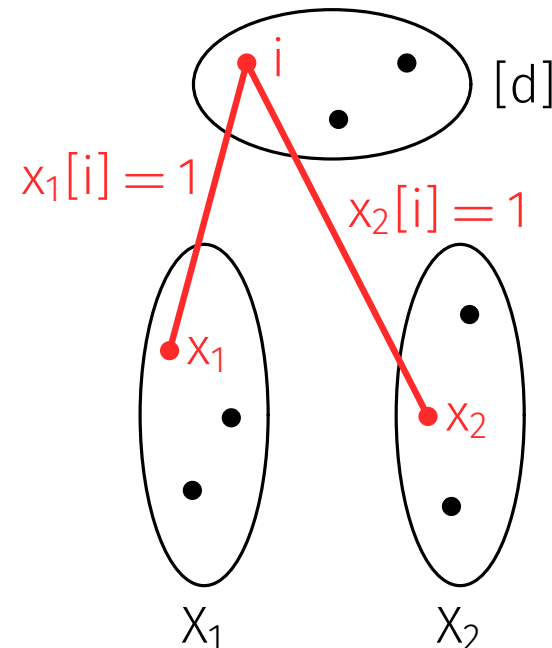


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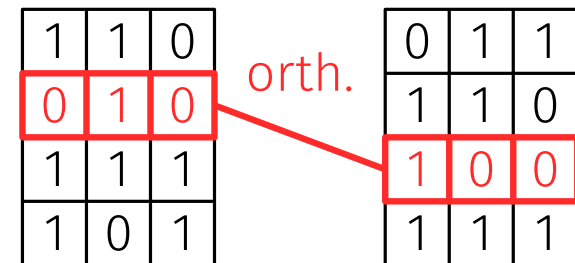
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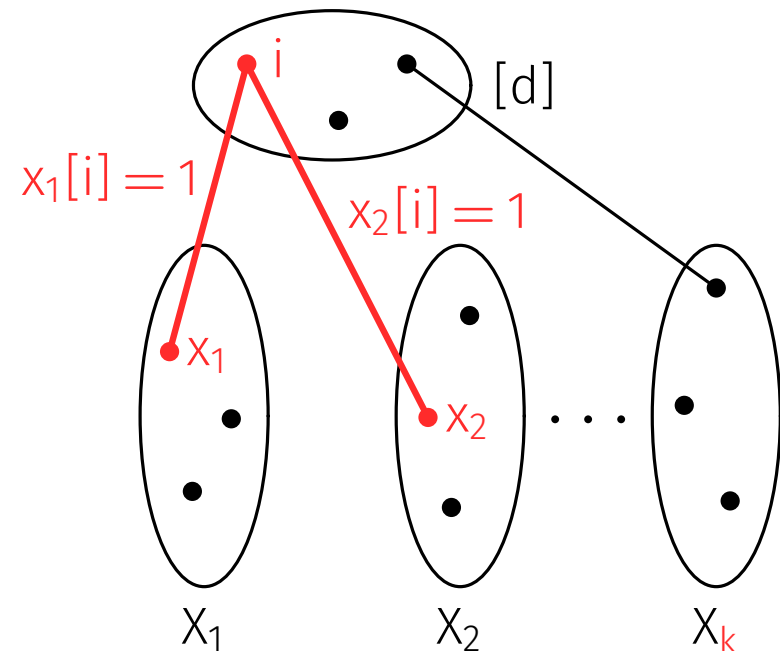
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$$\exists x_1 \in X_1 \dots \exists x_k \in X_k \forall i \in [d]: \\ x_1[i] = 0 \vee \dots \vee x_k[i] = 0$$



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$O(m^k)$ vs. $O(m^{k-0.01})$

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Constraint satisfaction problems

3-SAT is
NP-complete
[Cook '71]

Every Boolean
CSP is either in P
or NP-complete
[Schaefer '78]

First-order properties

k -OV is
FOP-complete
[GIKW '17]

?

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for any subset $J \subseteq [k]$ of $k - h$ inputs, there exists an assignment $\alpha : J \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$,

so that $\varphi|_\alpha$ has exactly one falsifying assignment

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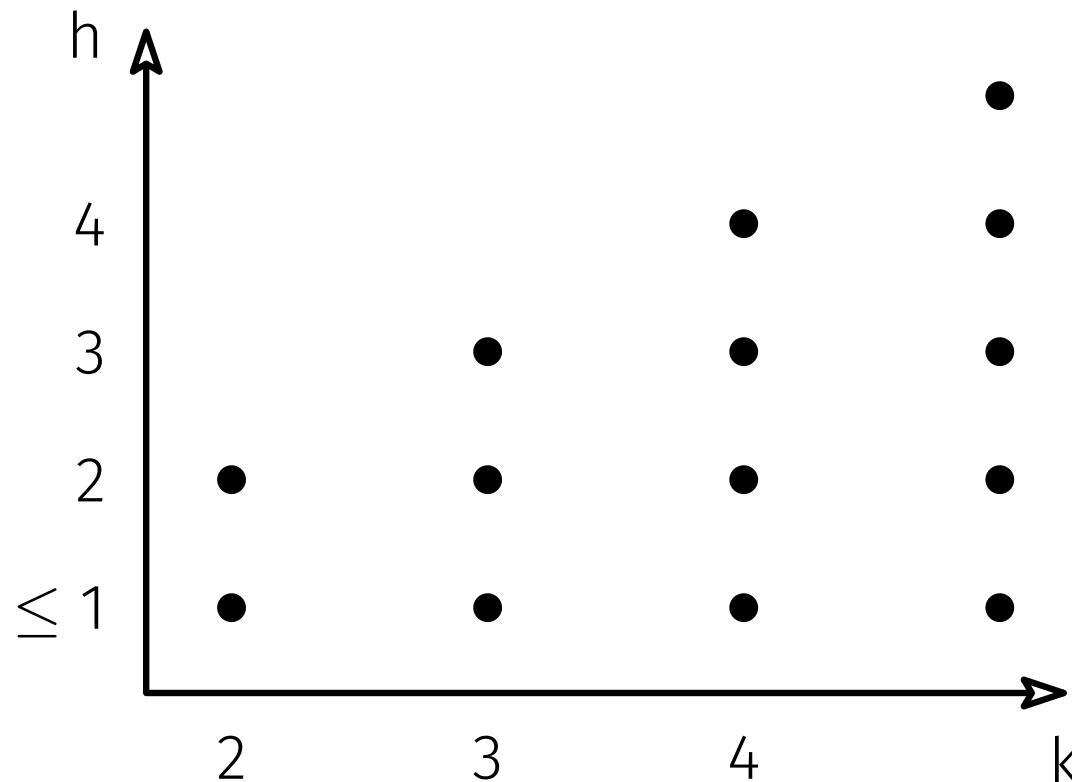
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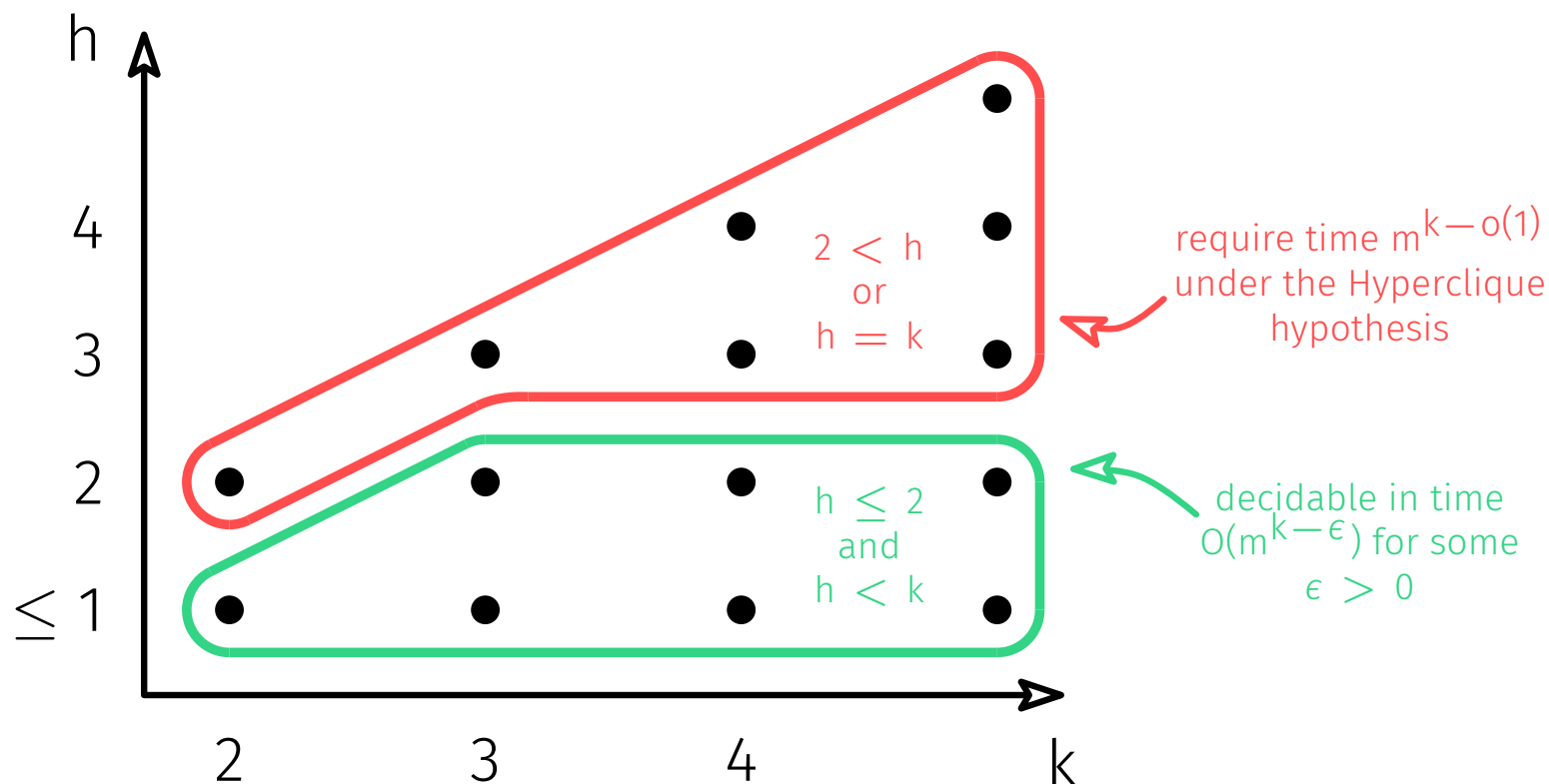
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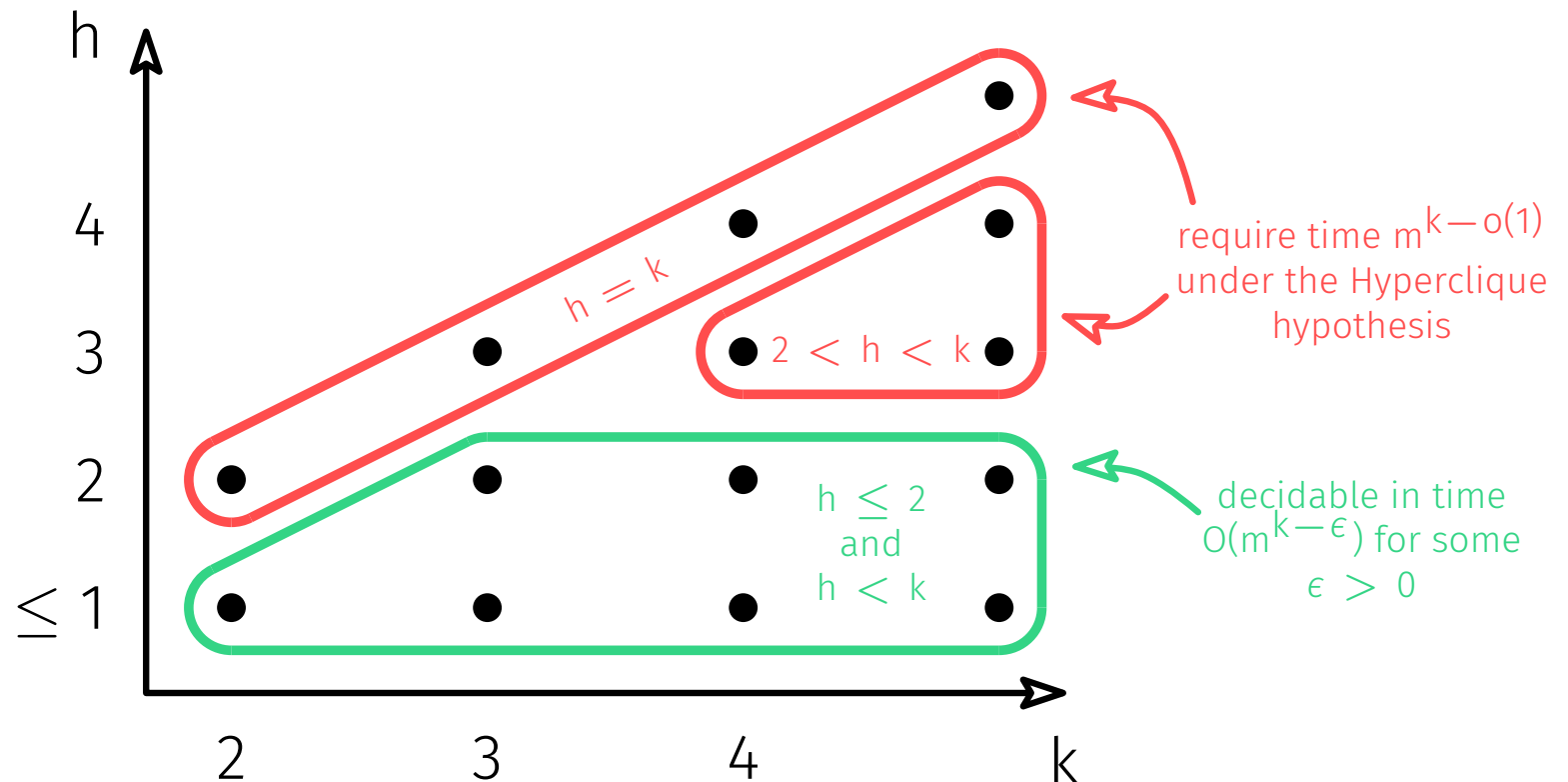
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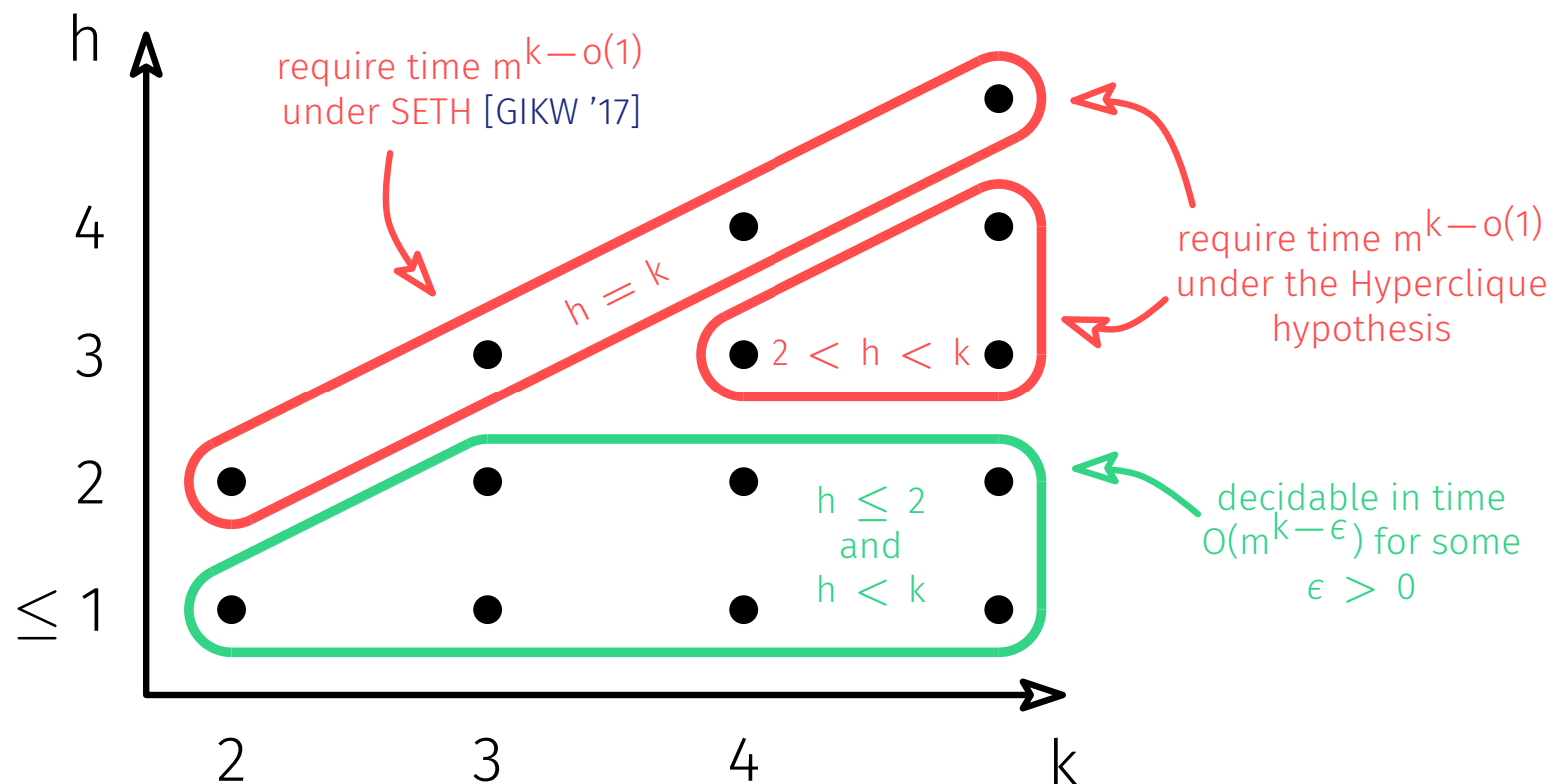
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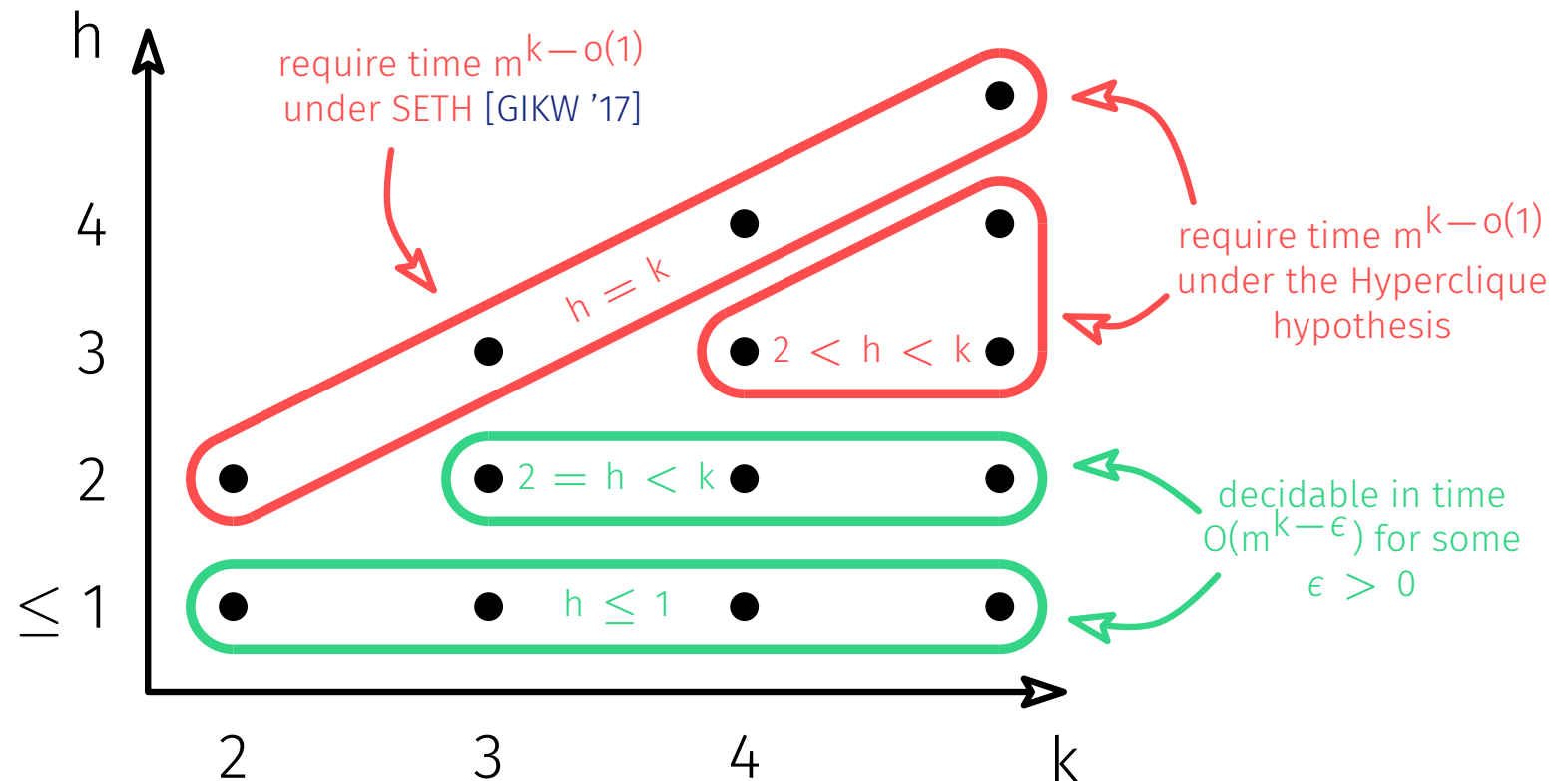
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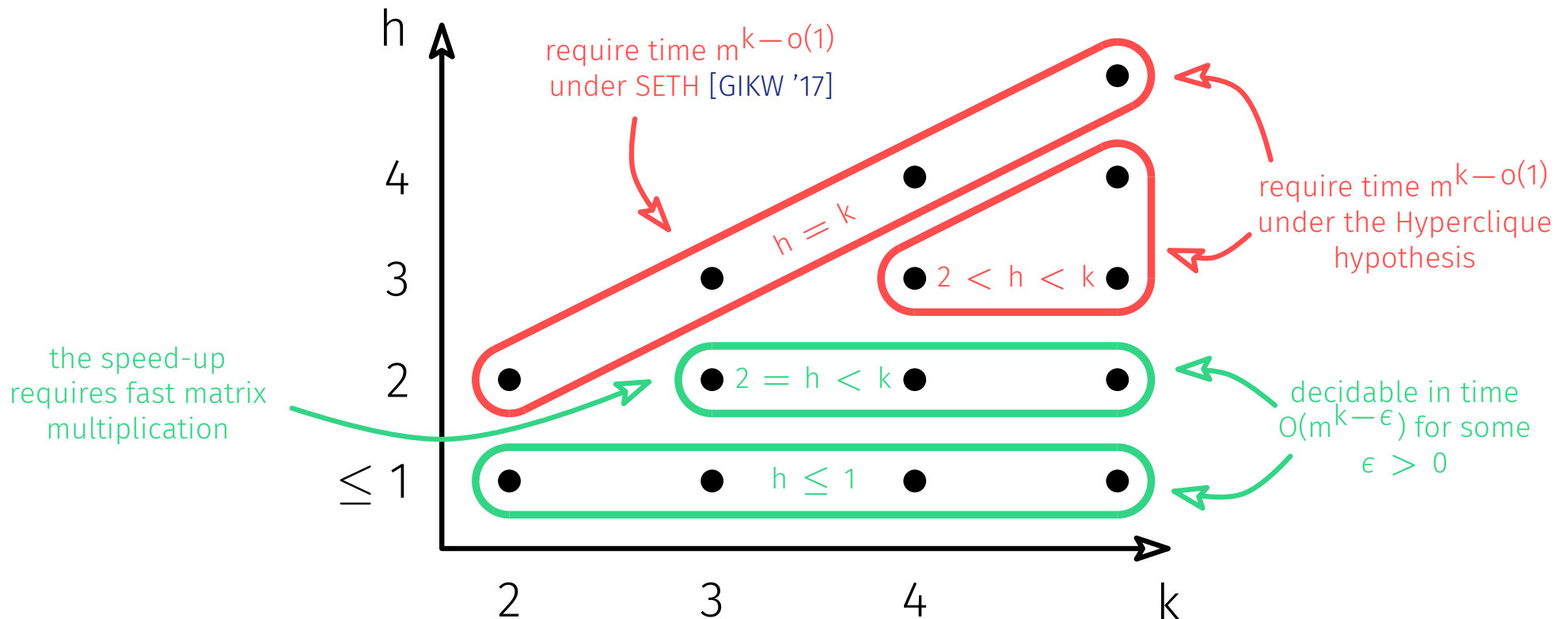
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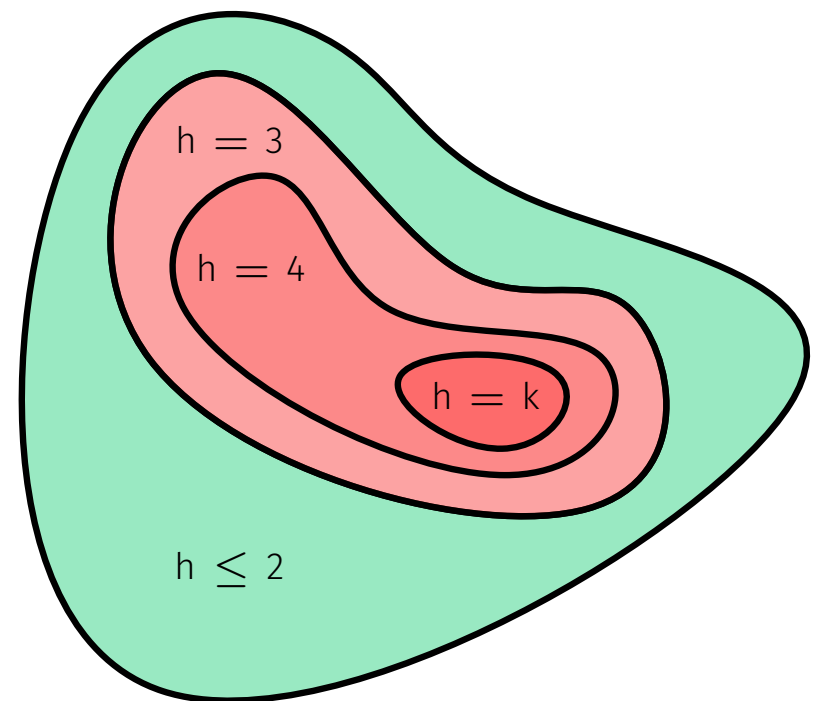
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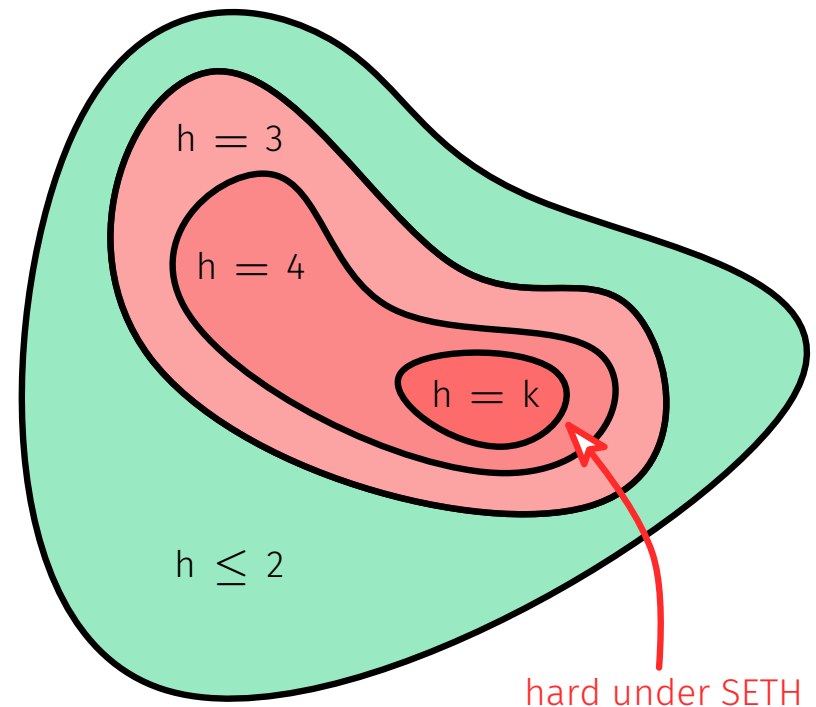
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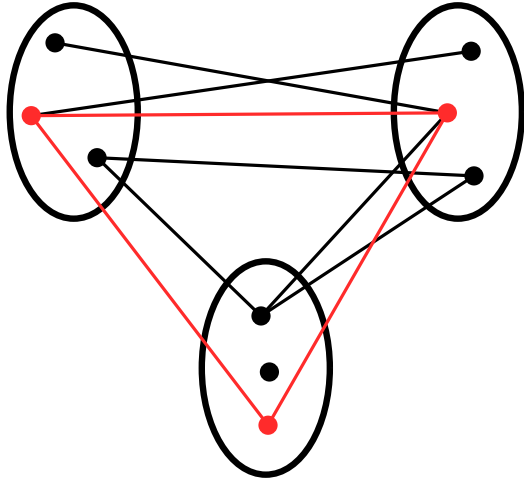
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Step 1: Take the basis problem

$$\Theta(n^3) \quad O(n^\omega)$$

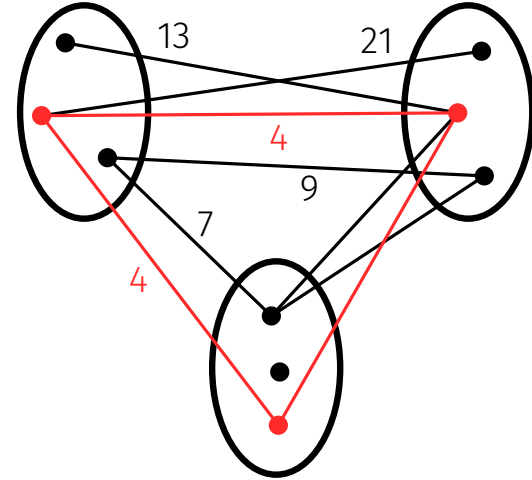


(Triangle Detection)

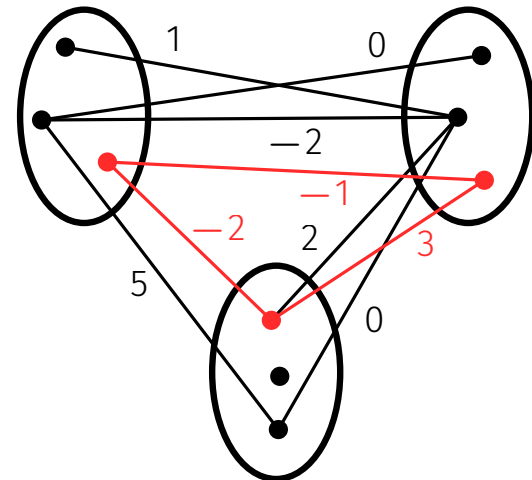


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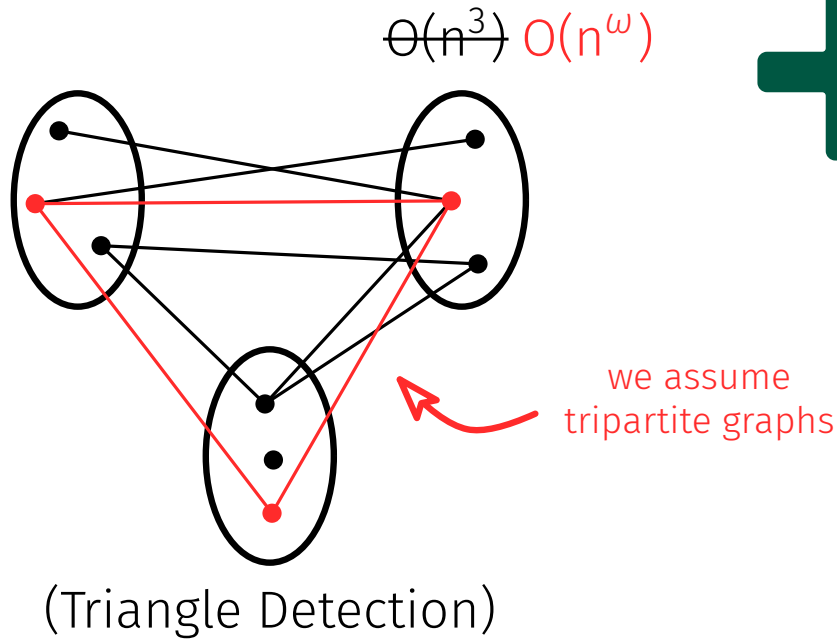
(Equal Constraint)



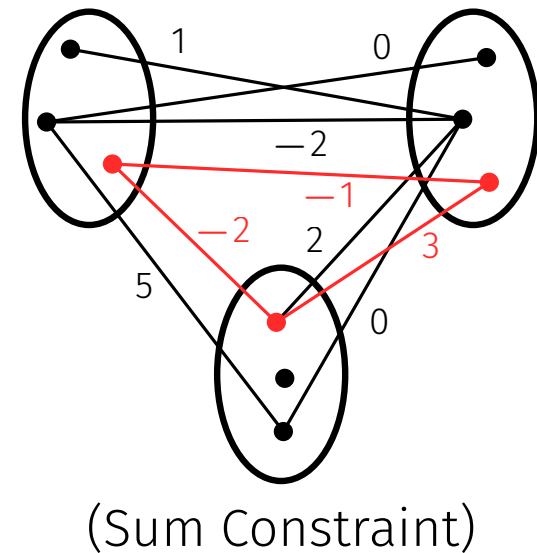
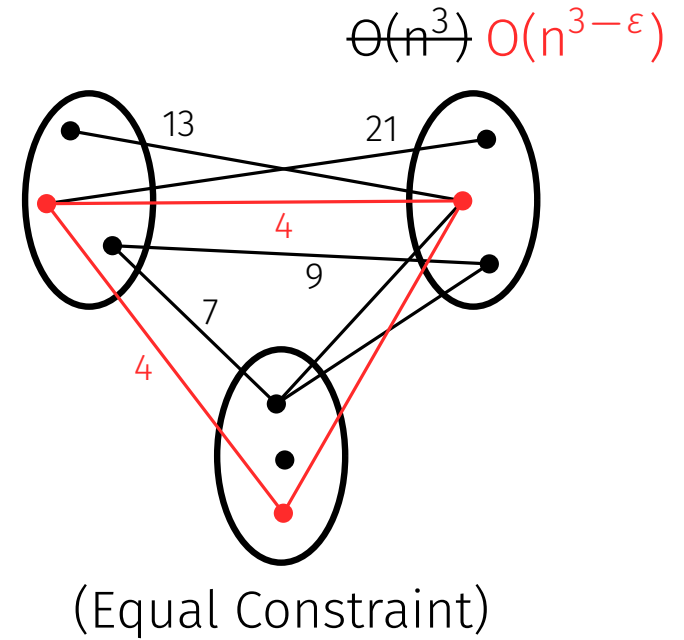
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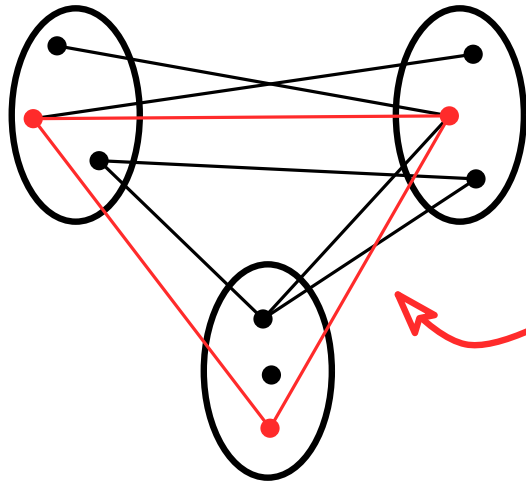
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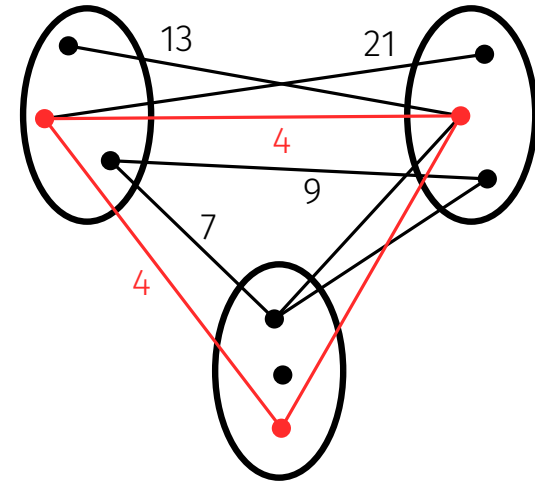
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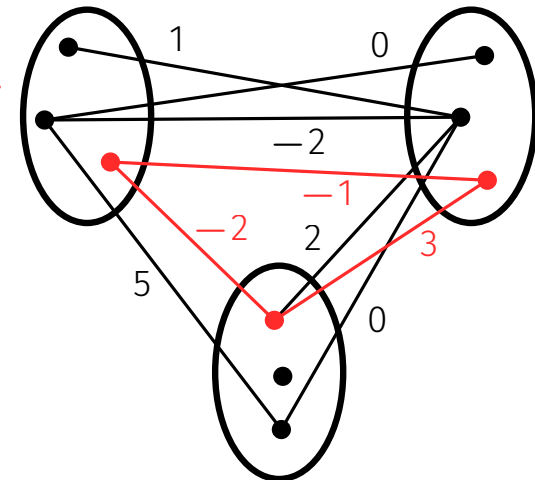
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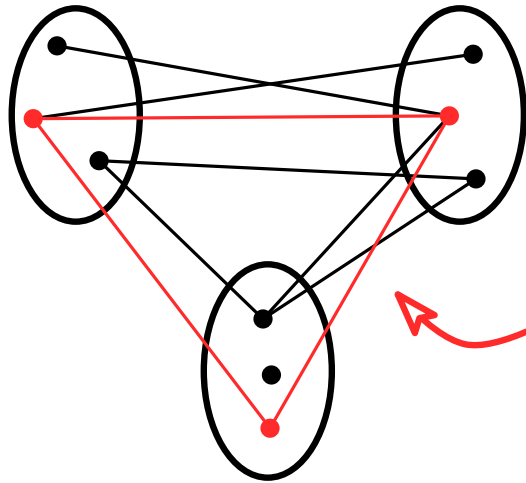


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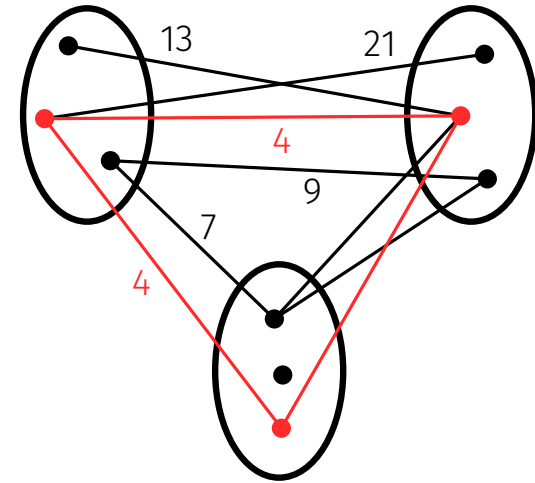


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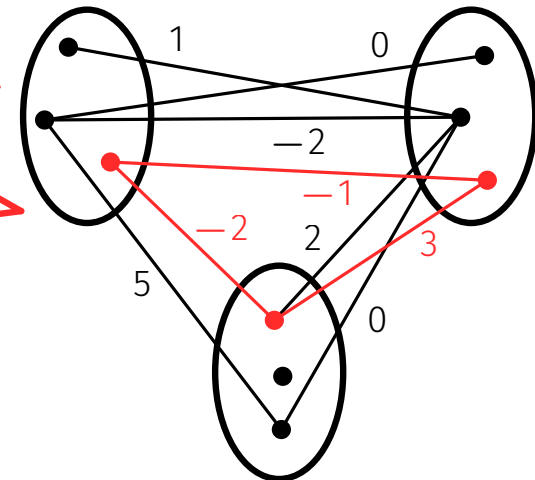
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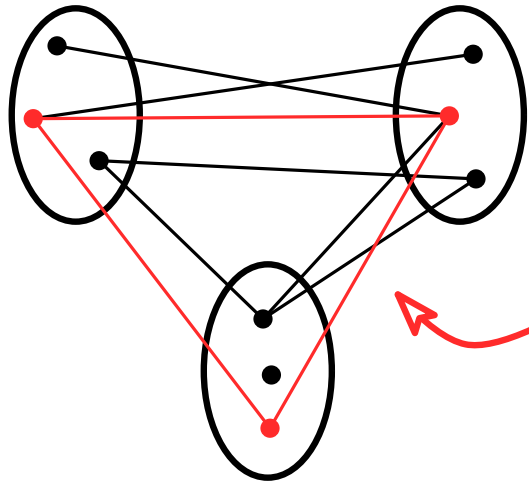


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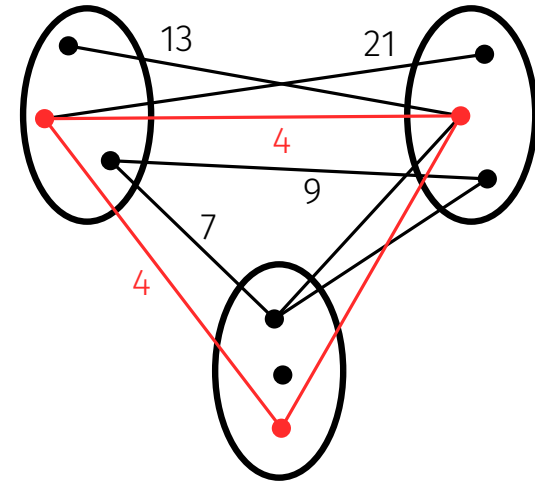


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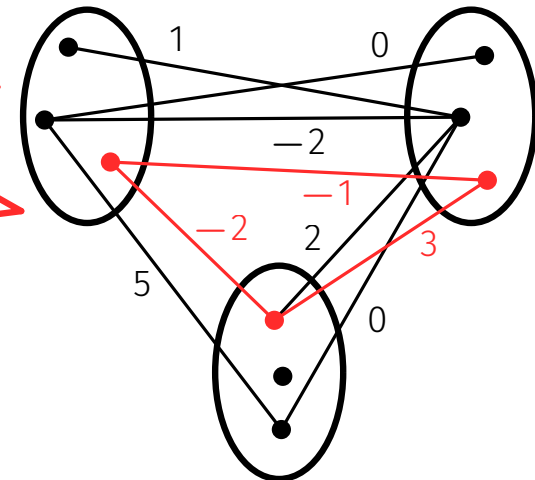
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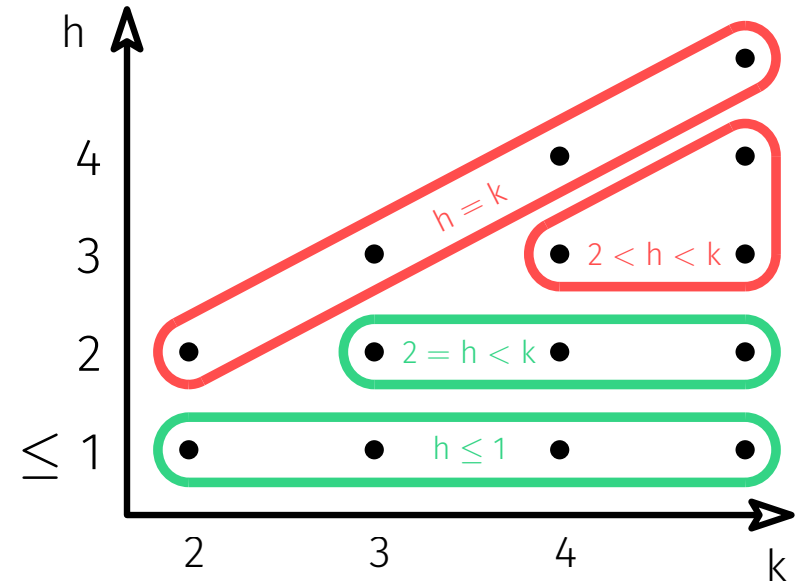
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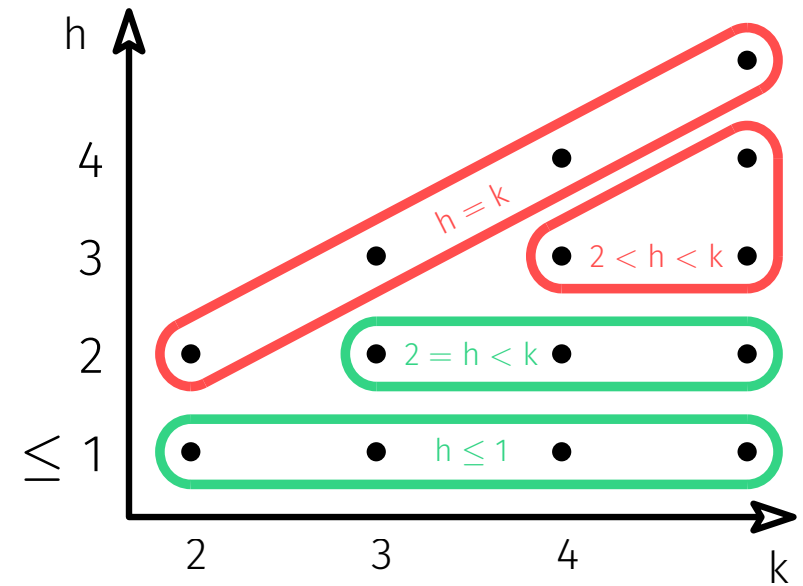
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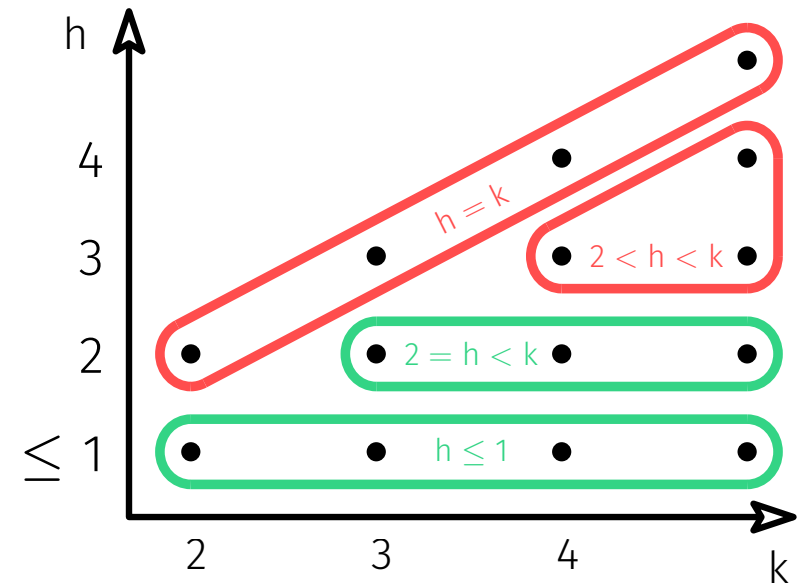
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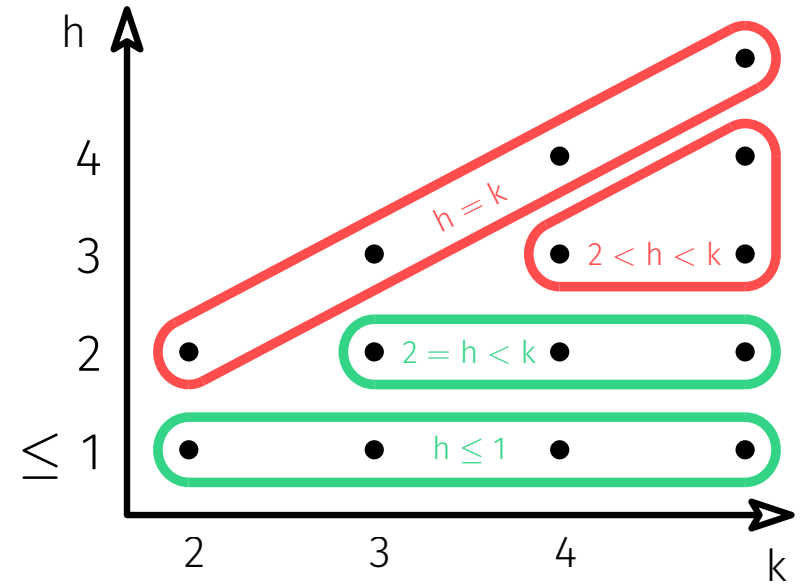


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k = 3: Reduction to Constrained Triangles

think of
 x_1, x_2, x_3
as vectors

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall y:$$
$$\varphi(E(x_1, y), E(x_2, y), E(x_3, y))$$

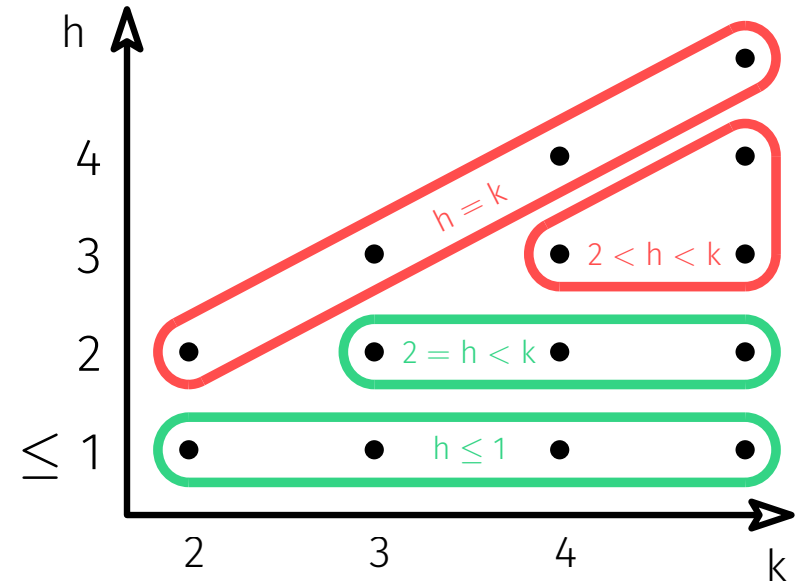


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

k = 3: Reduction to Constrained Triangles

think of
 x_1, x_2, x_3
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$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \\ \varphi(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

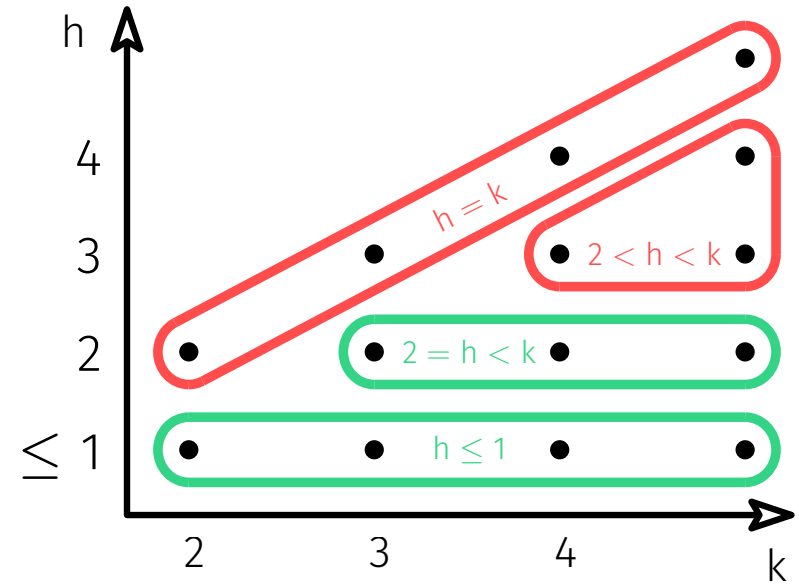
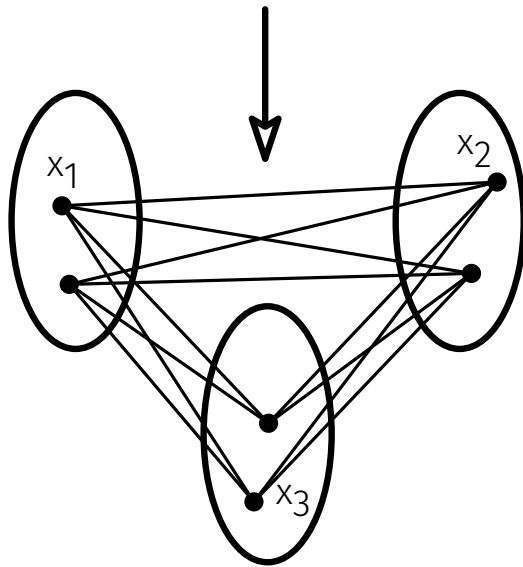


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

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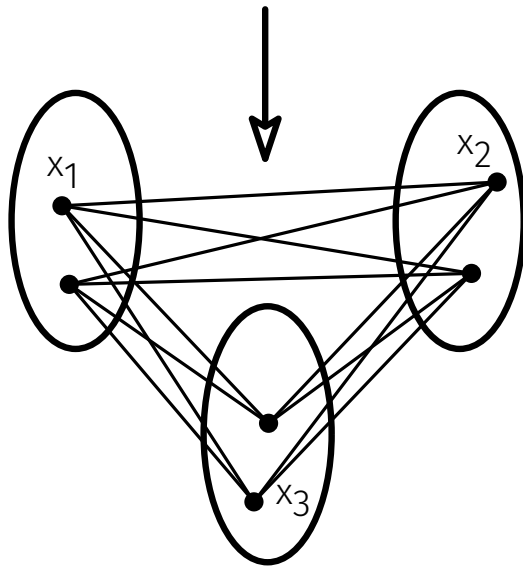


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

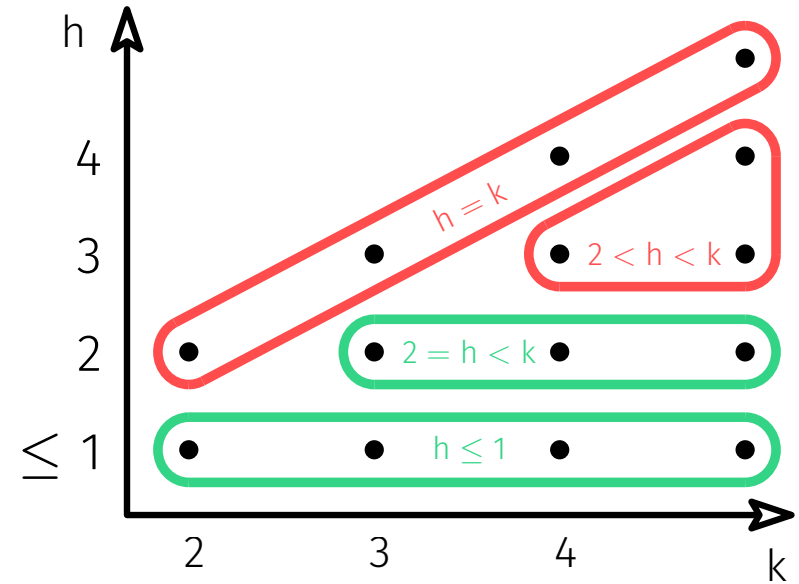
$k = 3$: Reduction to Constrained Triangles

think of x_1, x_2, x_3 as vectors

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \varphi(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$



$O(m)$ vertices

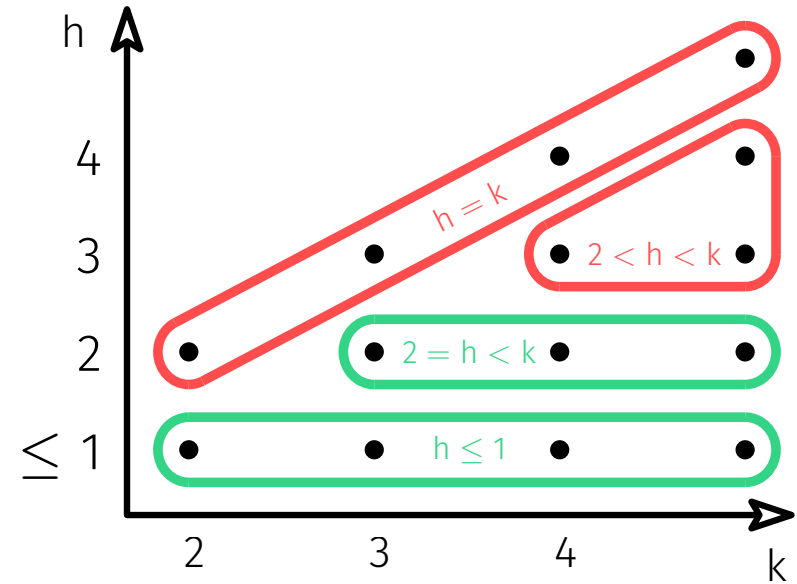
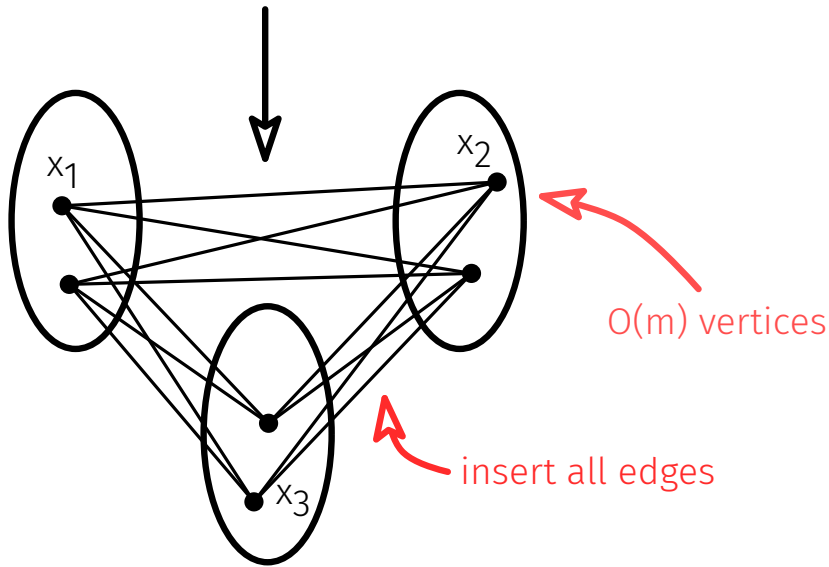


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

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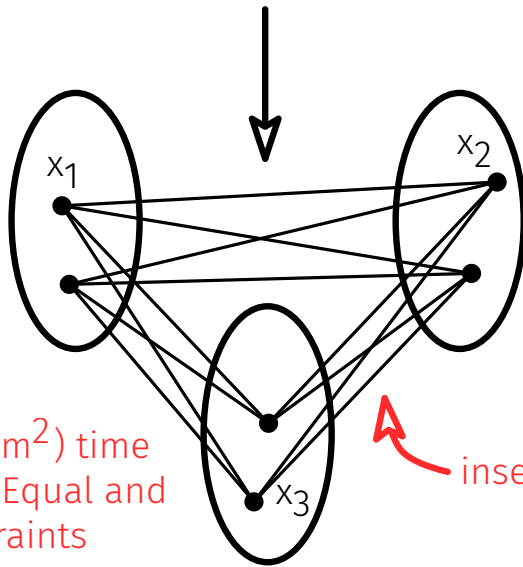


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

$k = 3$: Reduction to Constrained Triangles

think of x_1, x_2, x_3 as vectors

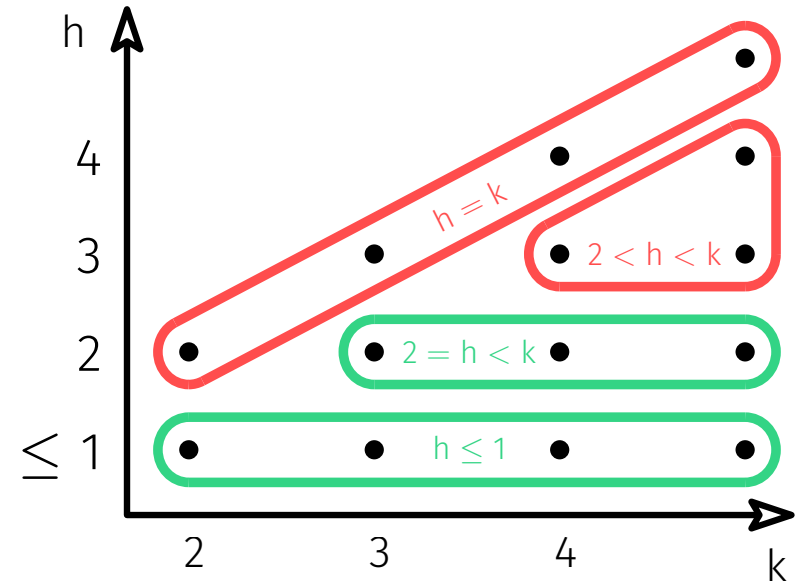
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \varphi(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$



$O(m)$ vertices

Idea: spend $O(m^2)$ time to encode φ by Equal and Sum constraints

insert all edges

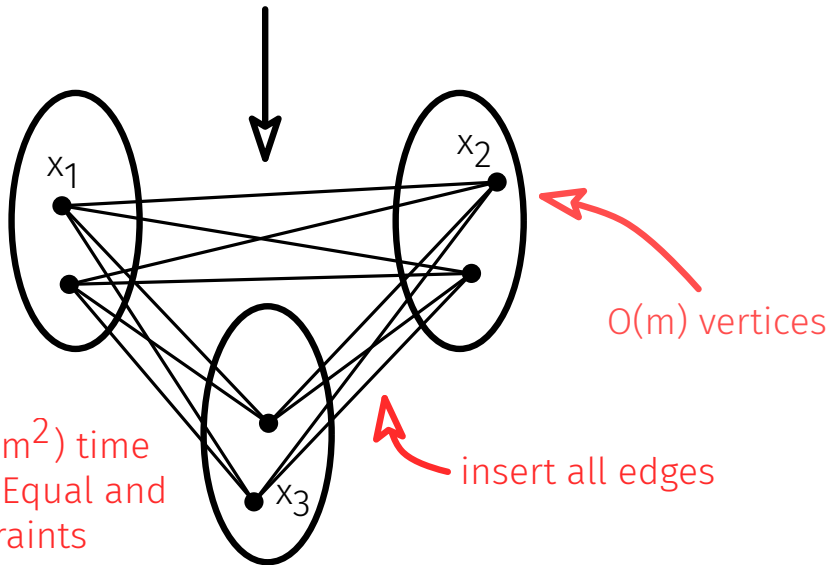


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

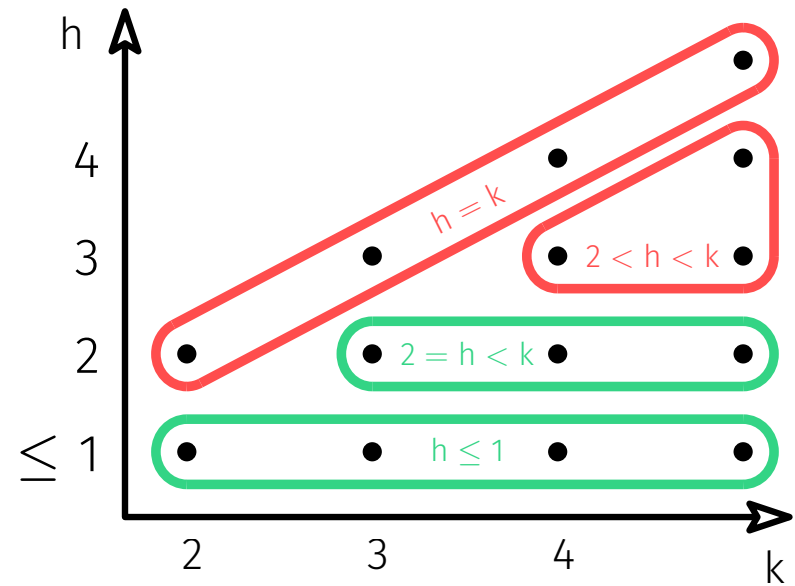
$k = 3$: Reduction to Constrained Triangles

think of x_1, x_2, x_3 as vectors

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \varphi(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$



Idea: spend $O(m^2)$ time to encode φ by Equal and Sum constraints



$k > 3$: Brute-force $k - 3$ quantifiers

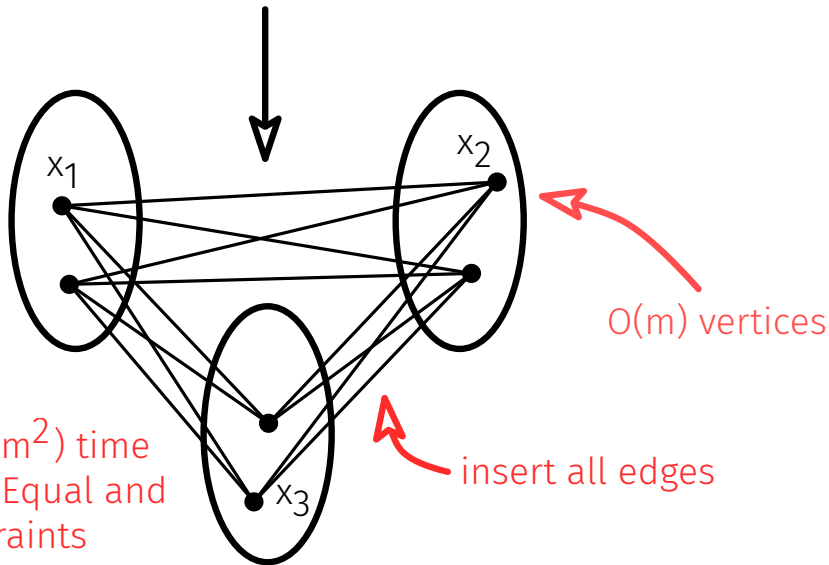
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \exists x_4 \forall i: \varphi(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i], x_4[i])$$

Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

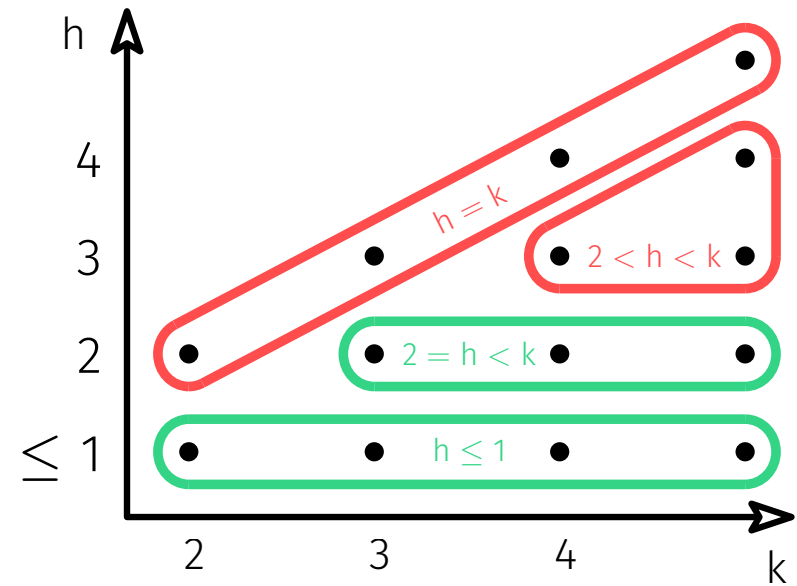
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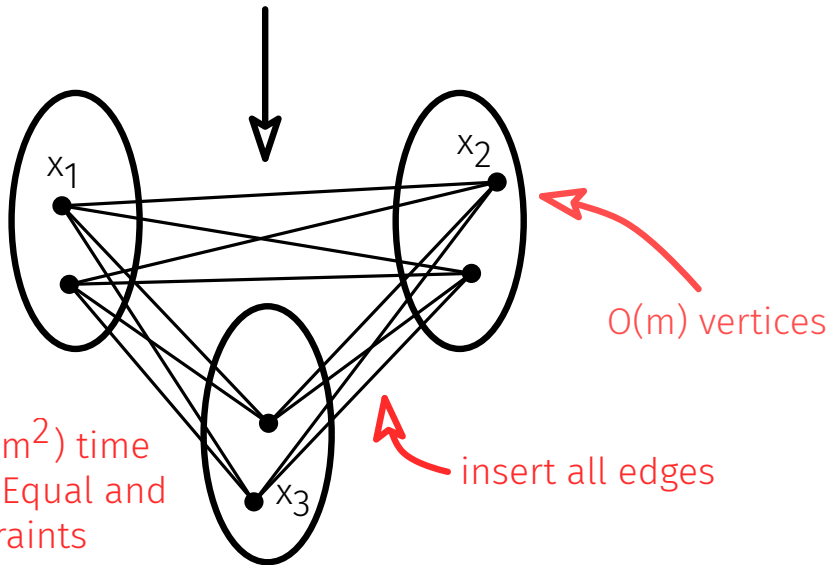
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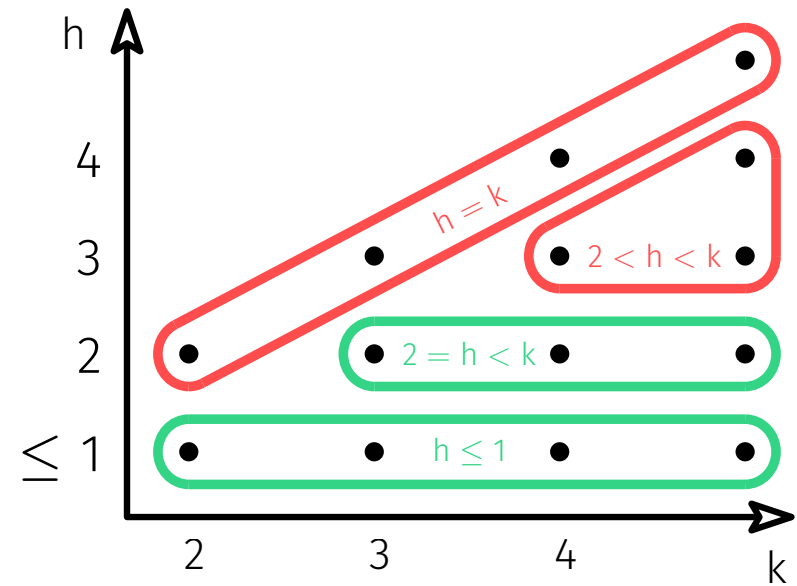
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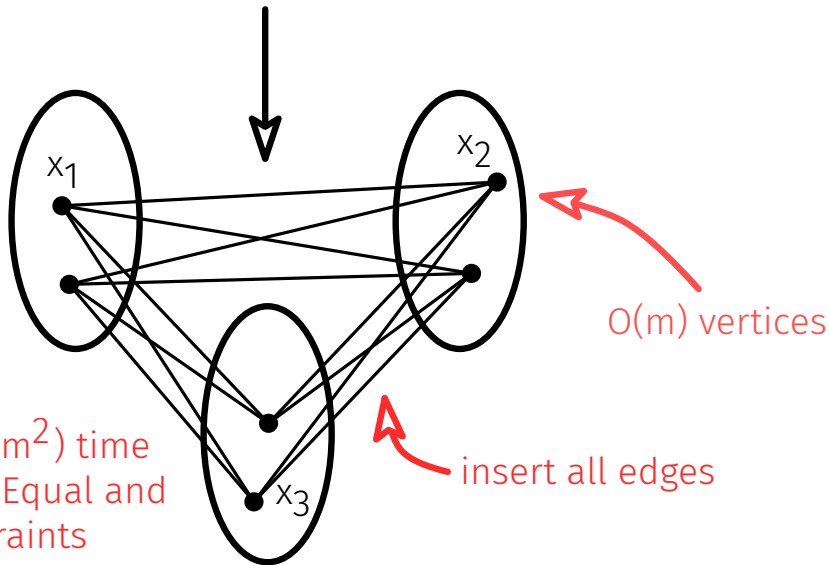
Idea: repeat the above reduction and combine the triangle constraints

Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

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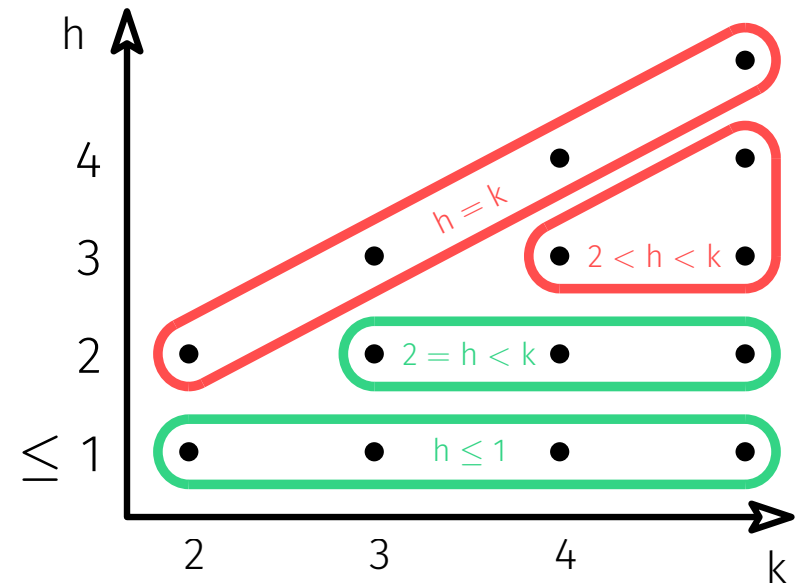


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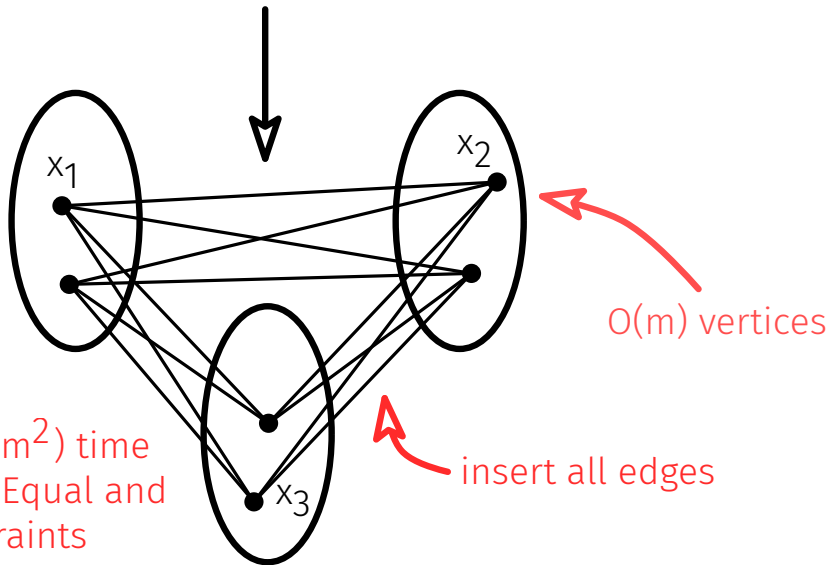
Examples

Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

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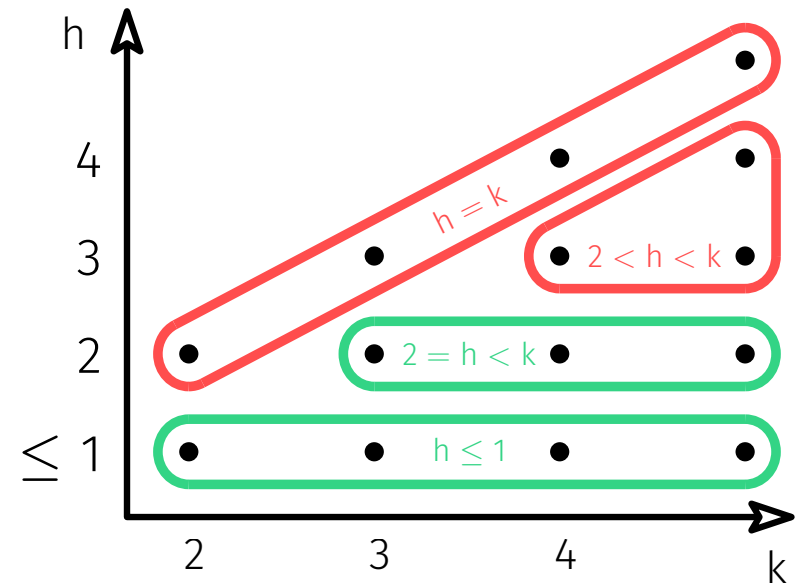


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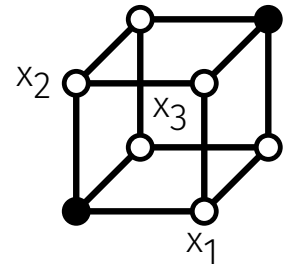
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Examples

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

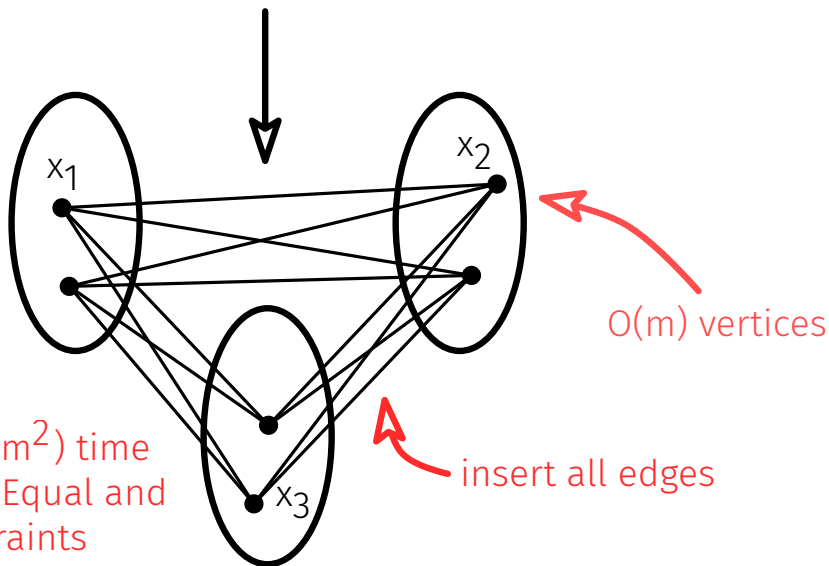


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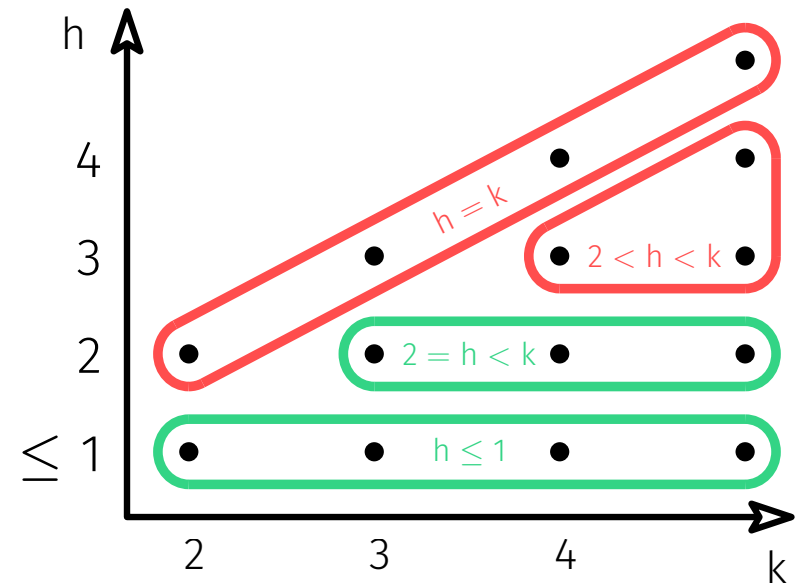


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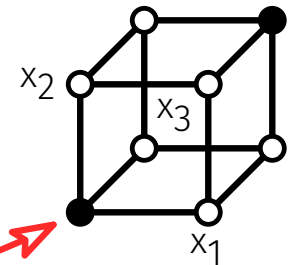
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Examples

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

falsifying assignments

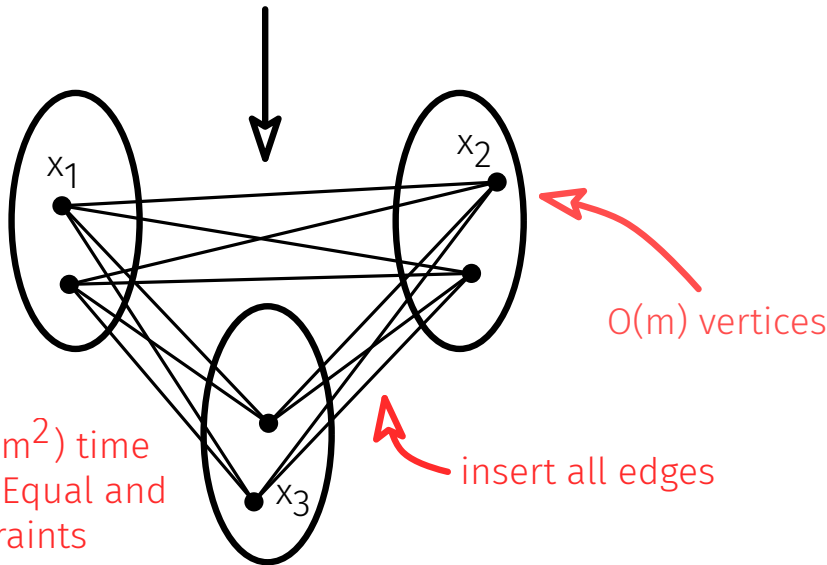


Algorithms for Properties of Hardness $h \leq 2$

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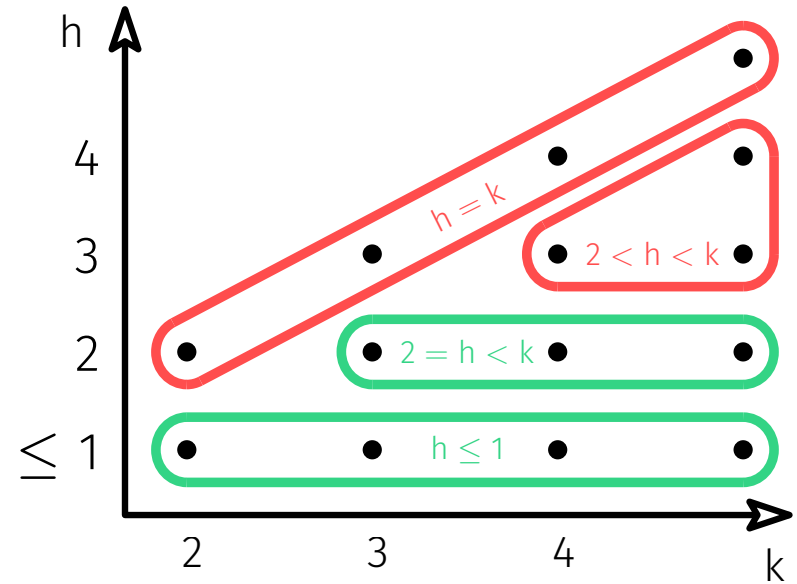


Idea: spend $O(m^2)$ time to encode φ by Equal and Sum constraints

$k > 3$: Brute-force $k - 3$ quantifiers

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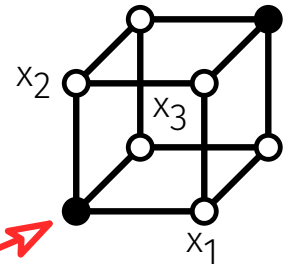
Idea: repeat the above reduction and combine the triangle constraints



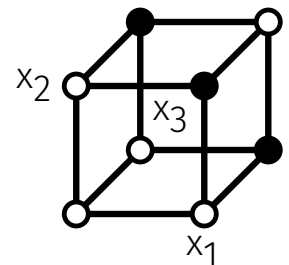
Examples

$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

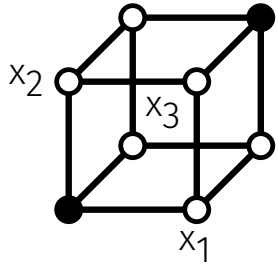
falsifying assignments



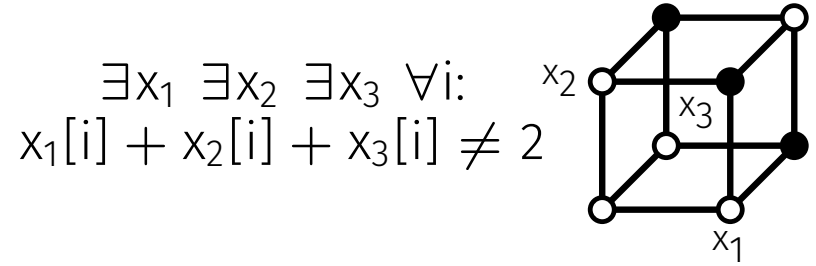
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$



How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints

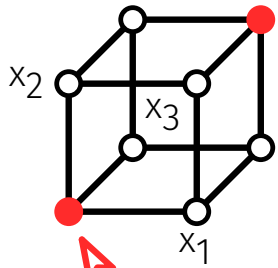


$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \\ \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$



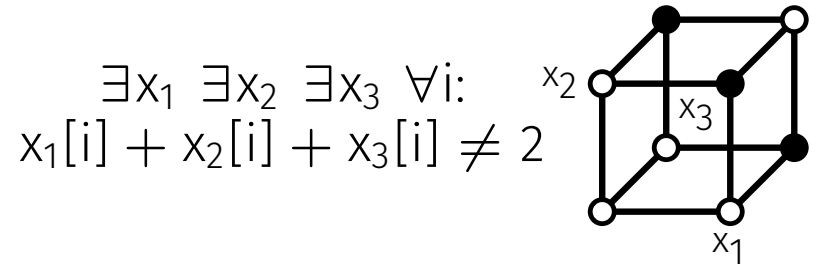
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How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



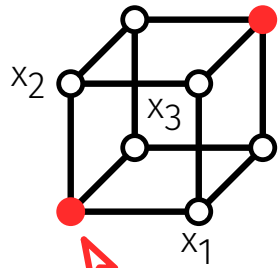
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints

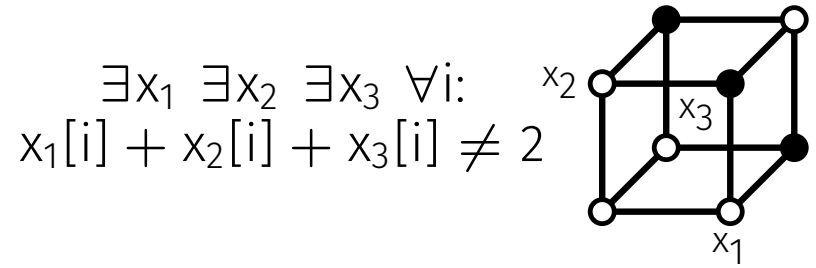


$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint

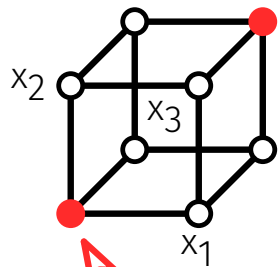
Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



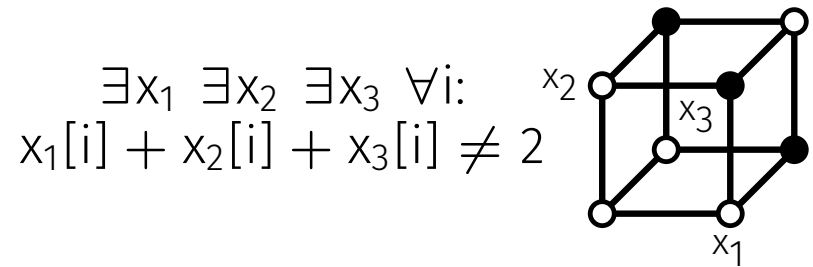
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

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Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

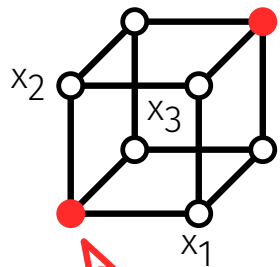
$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

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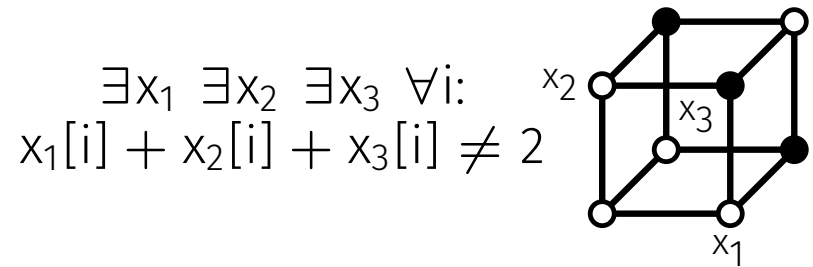
$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1$$

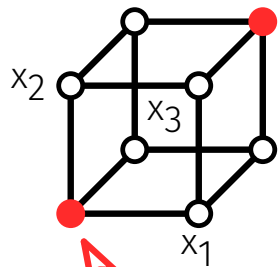
$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1$$

$$+ d$$



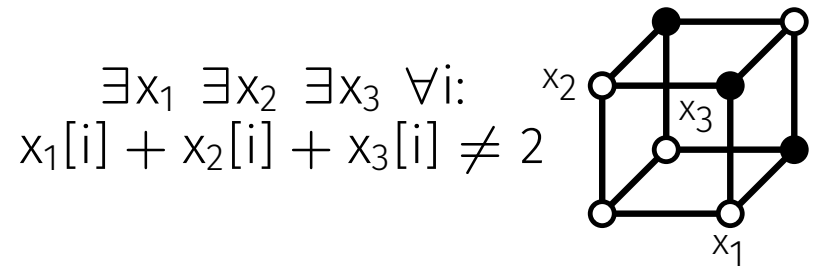
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \boxed{\|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1}$$

cancels!

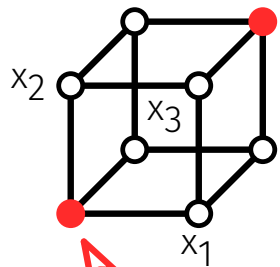
$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1$$

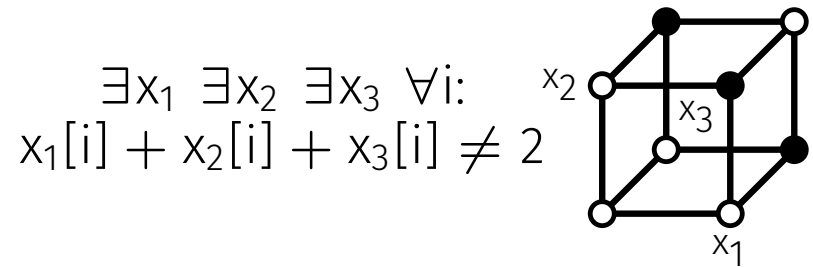
$$+ d$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

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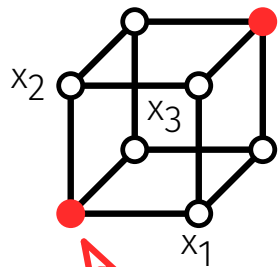
$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 w(x_3, x_1)$$

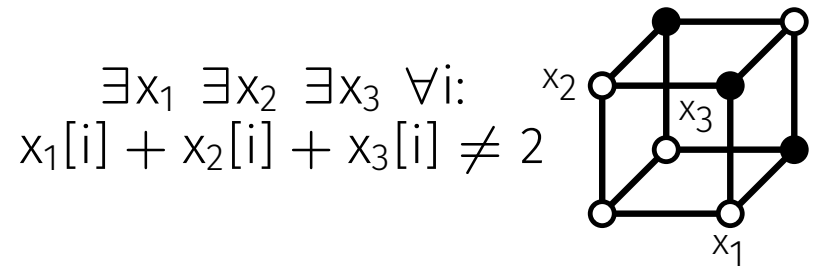
$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

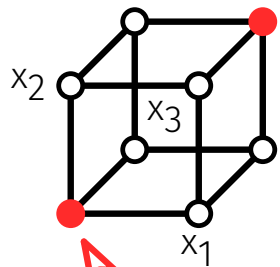
$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 w(x_3, x_1)$$

$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

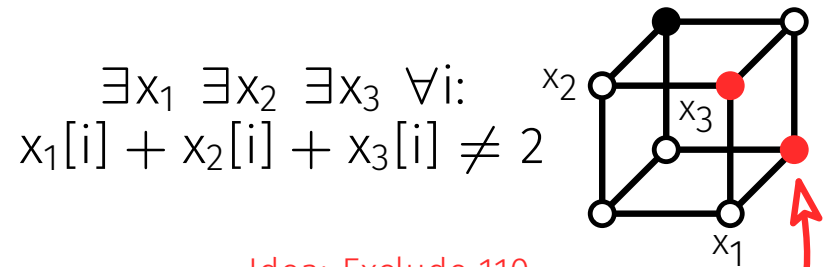
Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **odd** Hamming distance

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Idea: Exclude 110 and 101 by an Equal constraint

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 \quad w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

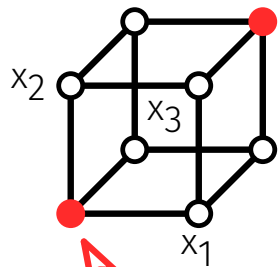
$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 \quad w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 \quad w(x_3, x_1)$$

$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **odd** Hamming distance

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

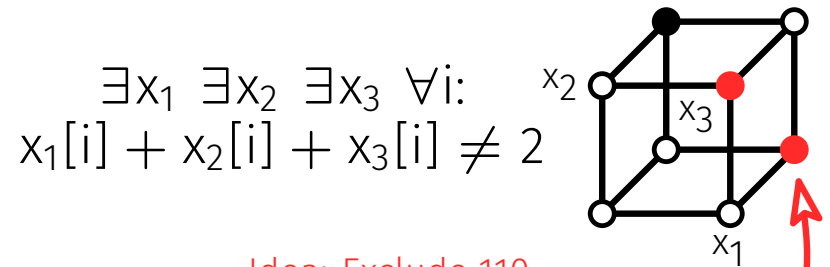
$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 \quad w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 \quad w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 \quad w(x_3, x_1)$$

$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **odd** Hamming distance



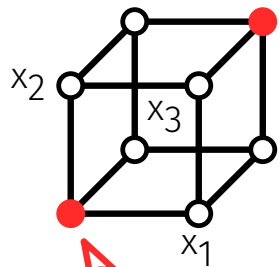
$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Idea: Exclude 110 and 101 by an Equal constraint

Exclude 110 and 101 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 \wedge x_2 = x_1 \wedge x_3$$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

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$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

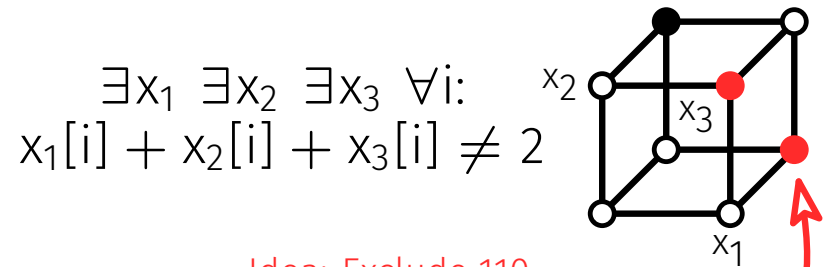
$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 \quad w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 \quad w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 \quad w(x_3, x_1)$$

$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **odd** Hamming distance



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

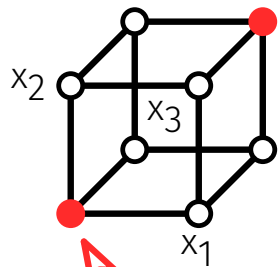
Idea: Exclude 110 and 101 by an Equal constraint

Exclude 110 and 101 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 \wedge x_2 = x_1 \wedge x_3$$

$w(x_1, x_2) \qquad w(x_1, x_3)$

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

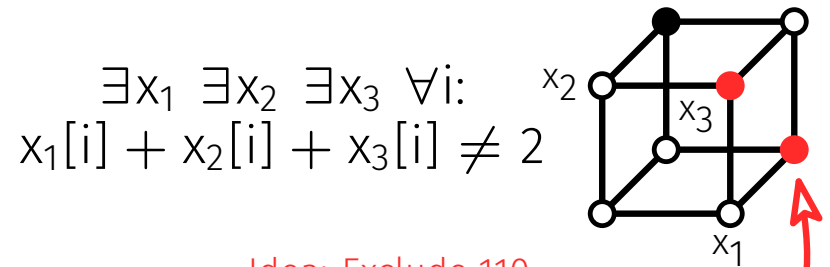
$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 w(x_3, x_1)$$

$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **odd** Hamming distance



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Idea: Exclude 110 and 101 by an Equal constraint

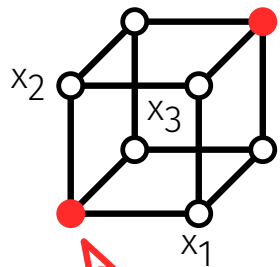
Exclude 110 and 101 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 \wedge x_2 = x_1 \wedge x_3$$

$w(x_1, x_2)$ $w(x_1, x_3)$

convert vectors arbitrarily into numbers

How to Employ Sum and Equal Constraints



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: \text{NAE}(x_1[i], x_2[i], x_3[i])$$

Idea: Exclude 000 and 111 by a Sum constraint

Exclude 111 and 000 in all dimensions

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 = \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 + \|\bar{x}_1 \wedge \bar{x}_2 \wedge \bar{x}_3\|_1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1$$

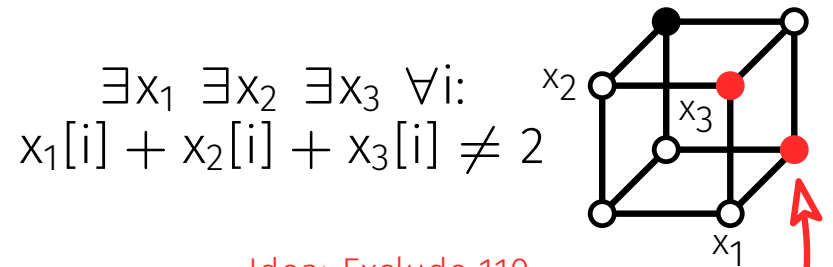
$$+ \|x_1 \wedge x_2\|_1 - \|x_1\|_1 w(x_1, x_2) \text{ cancels!}$$

$$+ \|x_2 \wedge x_3\|_1 - \|x_2\|_1 w(x_2, x_3)$$

$$+ \|x_3 \wedge x_1\|_1 - \|x_3\|_1 w(x_3, x_1)$$

$$+ d \text{ target } t$$

Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **odd** Hamming distance



$$\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3 \forall i: x_1[i] + x_2[i] + x_3[i] \neq 2$$

Idea: Exclude 110 and 101 by an Equal constraint

Exclude 110 and 101 in all dimensions

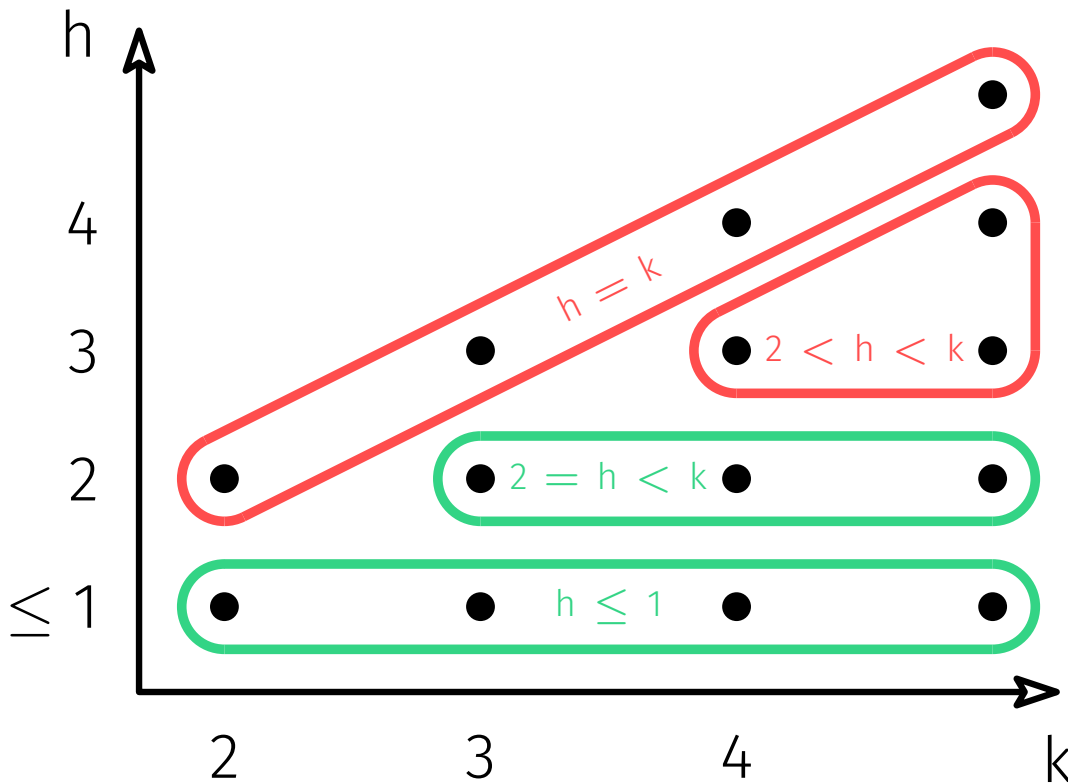
$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 \wedge x_2 = x_1 \wedge x_3$$

$w(x_1, x_2)$ $w(x_1, x_3)$

convert vectors arbitrarily into numbers

Generalizes for any pair of falsifying assignments of **even** Hamming distance

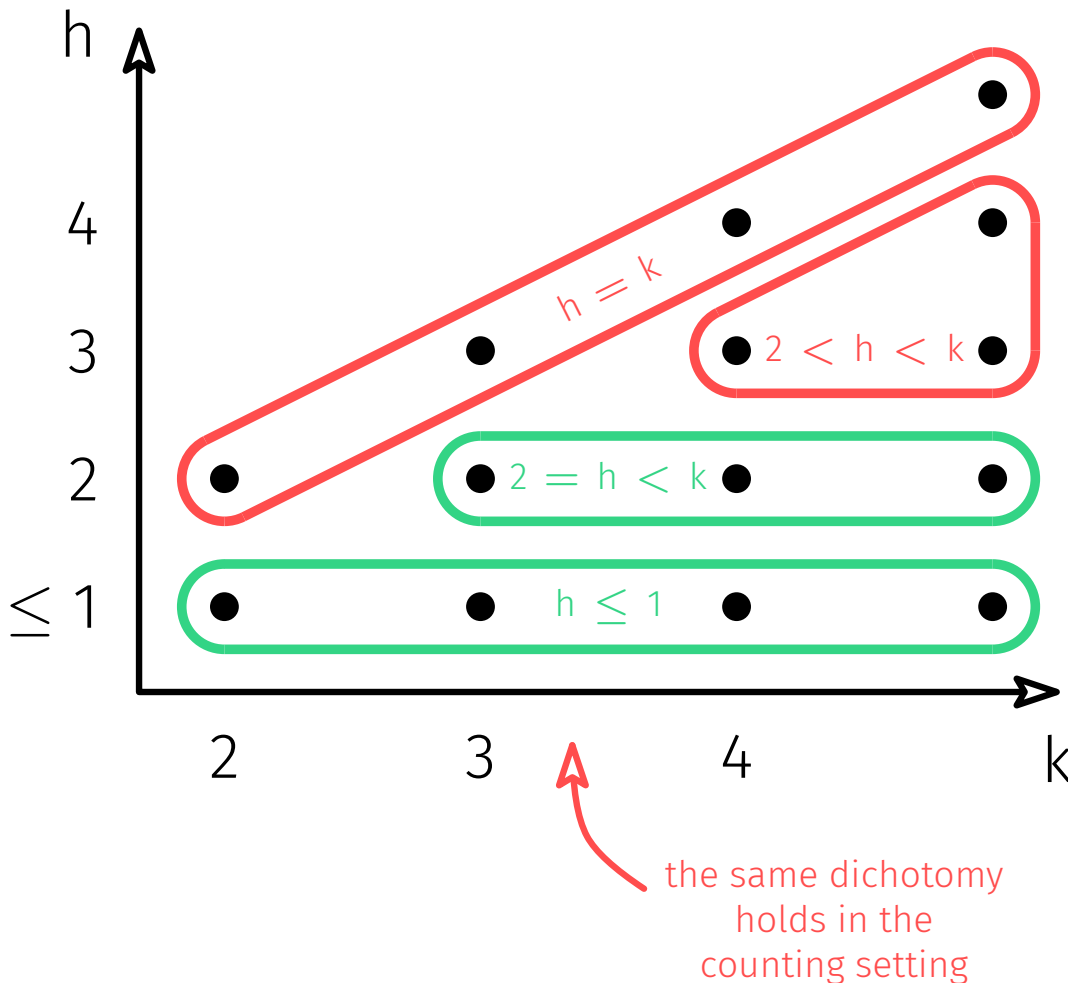
Conclusion and Open Problems



Open problems

- In which way does the classification extend to first-order queries beyond $\exists^k \forall$ -quantified graph properties?
- What's the exact complexity of low-hardness properties?
- Equivalence of finding cliques in h -hypergraphs and properties of hardness h ?

Conclusion and Open Problems



Open problems

- In which way does the classification extend to first-order queries beyond $\exists^k \forall$ -quantified graph properties?
- What's the exact complexity of low-hardness properties?
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