

# Approximate Turing Kernels

for Problems Parameterized by Treewidth

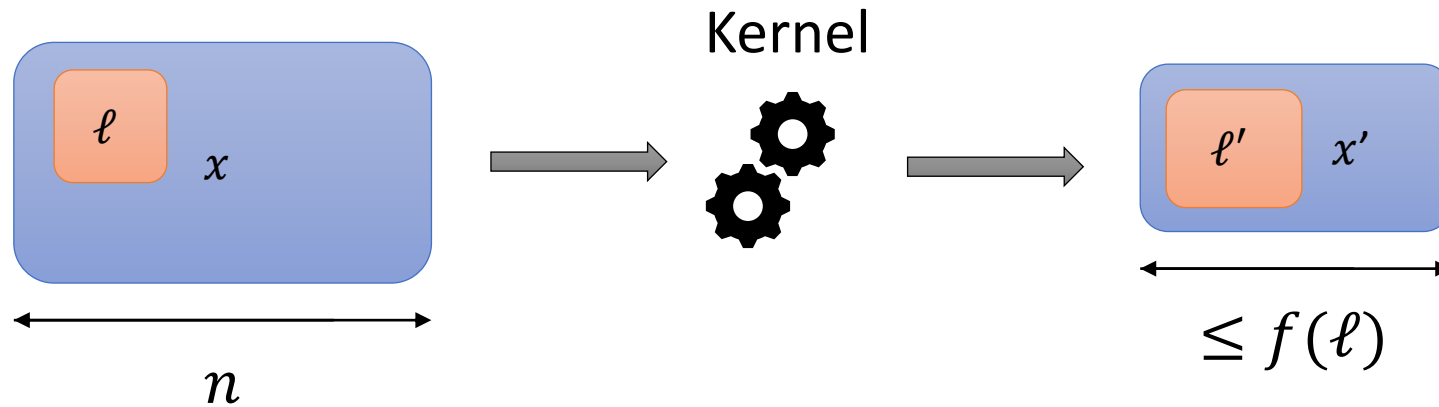
Eva-Maria C. Hols, Stefan Kratsch, and Astrid Pieterse



ESA 2020

# Kernelization

Polynomial time preprocessing



Goal: obtain kernels that are small

- Every problem that is FPT has a kernel
- But only some problems have **polynomial-size** kernels
  - Under some complexity-theoretic assumptions

# Beyond kernelization

## Turing kernelization

- Allow creation of multiple instances

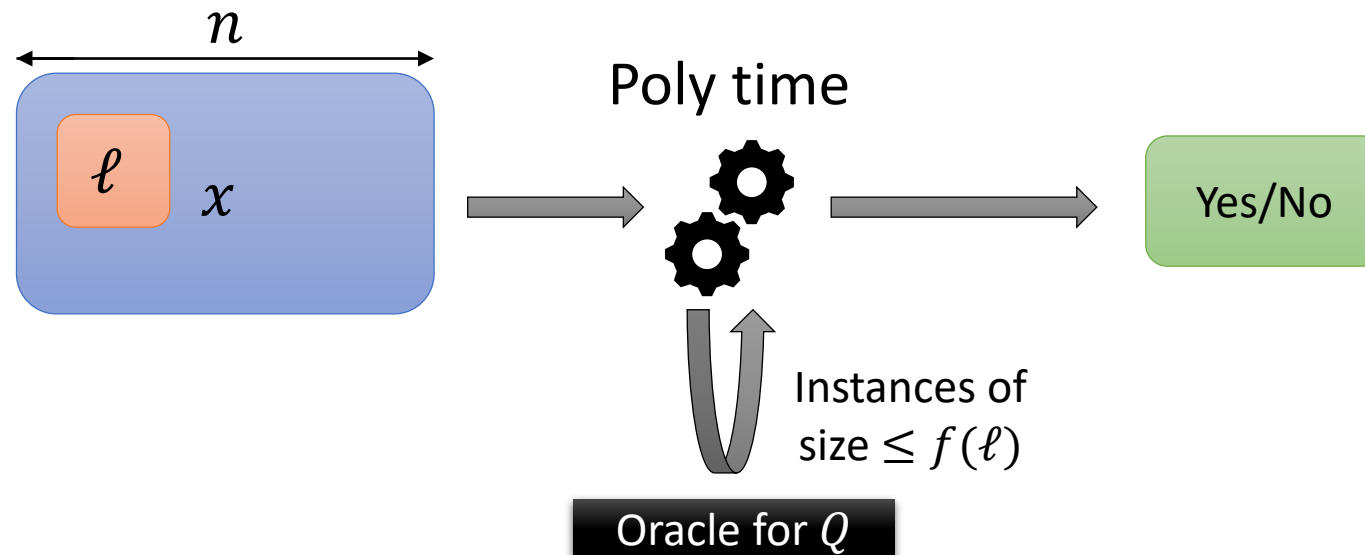
## Approximate kernelization

- Relax the equivalence constraint

This talk: **Approximate Turing** Kernelization

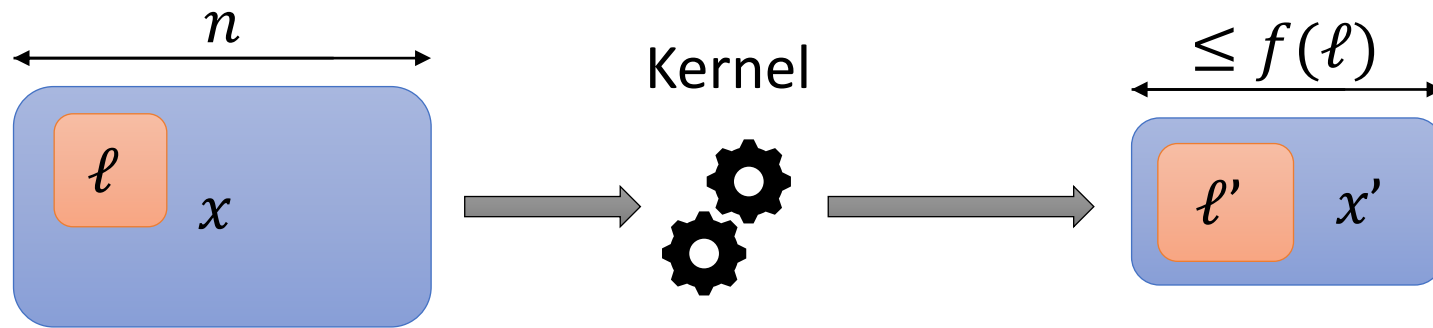
# Turing Kernelization

A Turing Kernel of size  $f$  for a problem  $Q$  is an algorithm that solves a given instance  $(x, \ell)$  in time **polynomial** in  $|x| + \ell$ , when given access to an oracle that decides membership of  $Q$  for any instance with **size at most**  $f(\ell)$  in a single step.



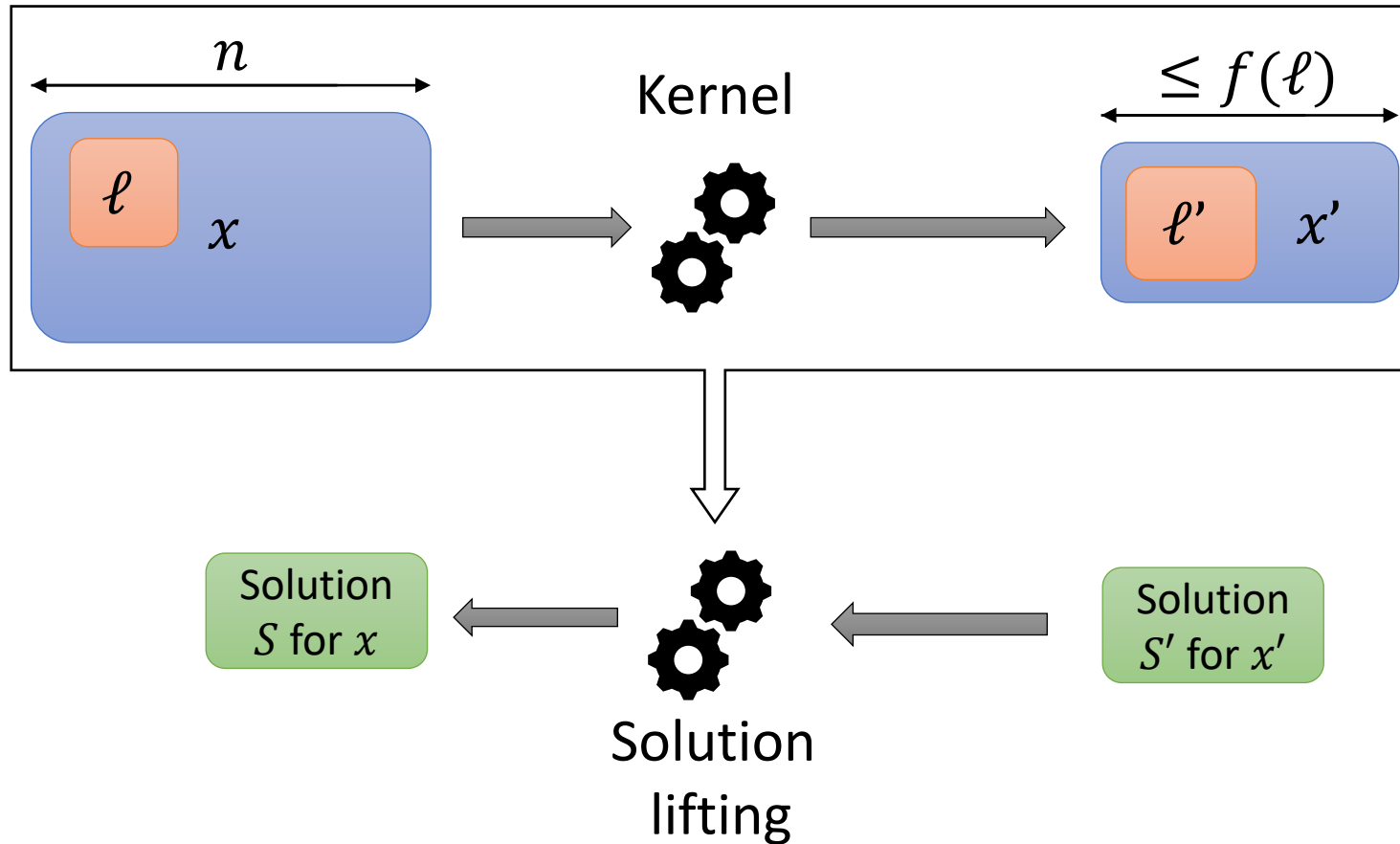
# Towards approximate kernelization

Move from decision problems to optimization problems



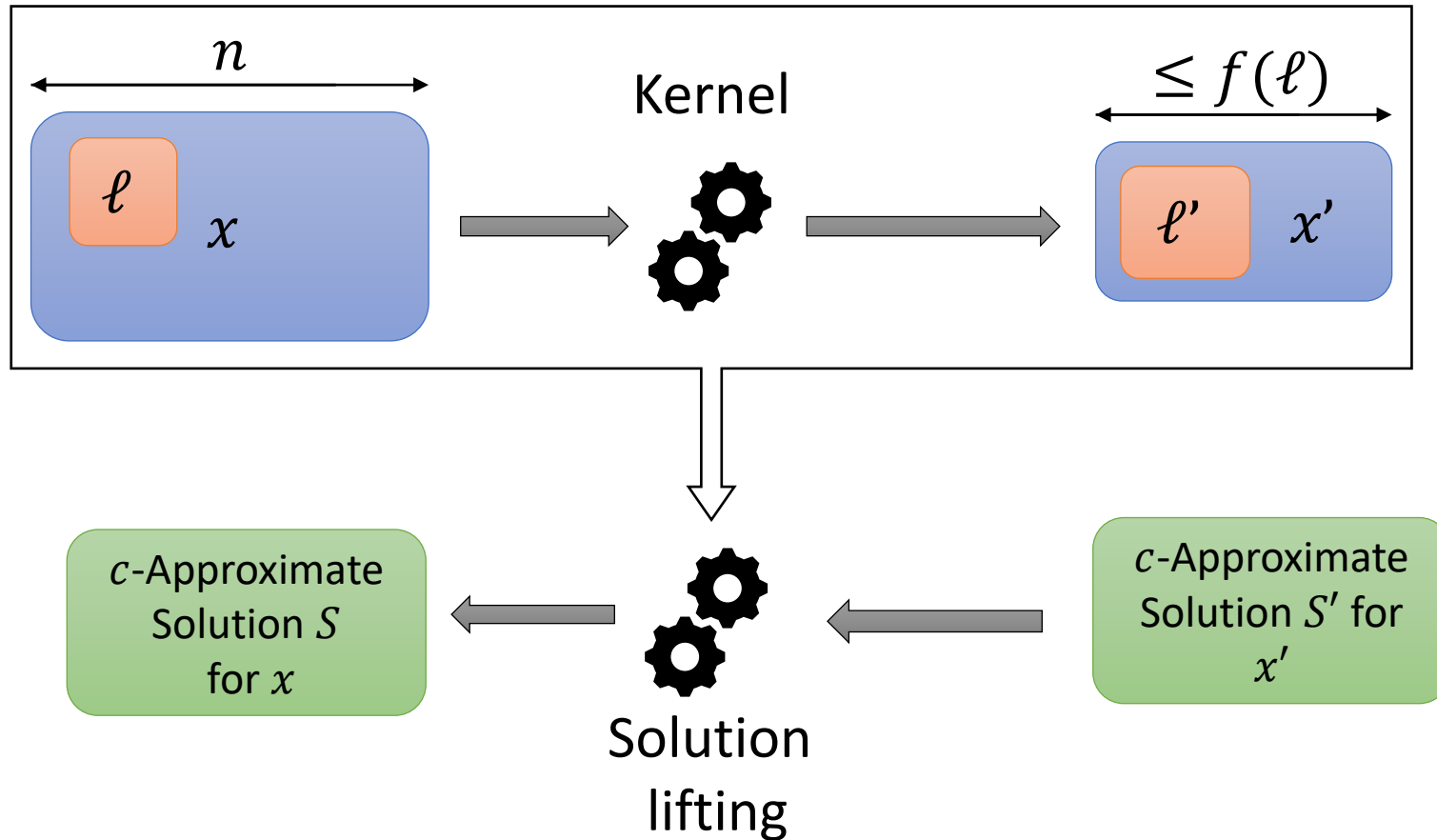
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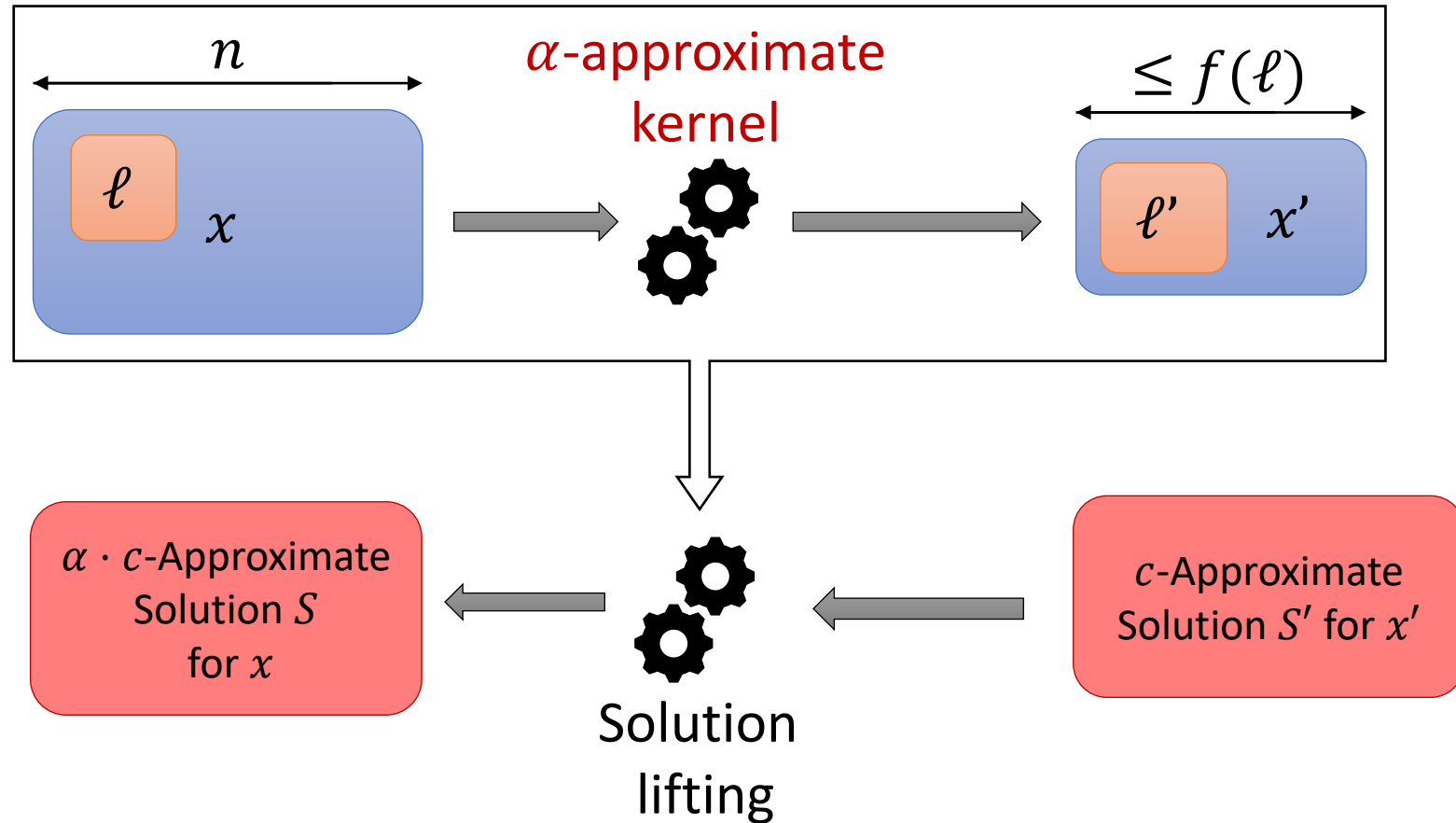
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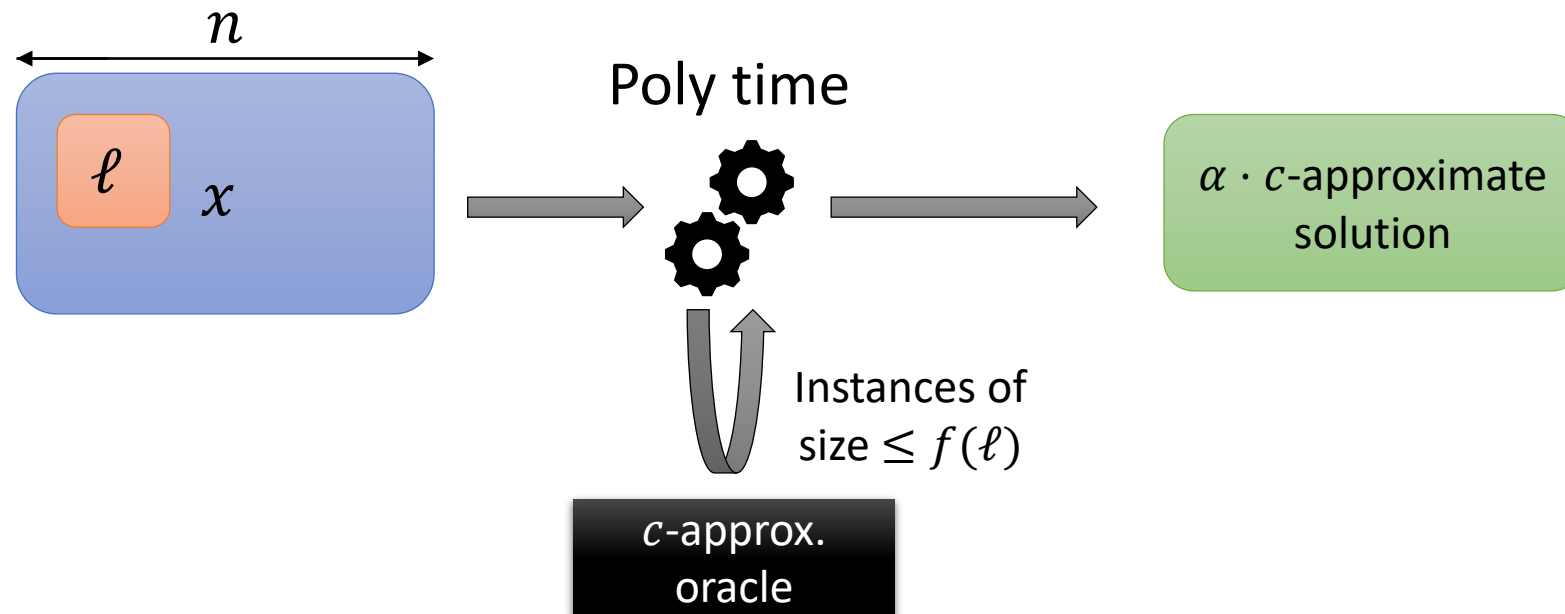




# Approximate Turing Kernelization

## $\alpha$ -approximate Turing Kernel

- Turing kernel, but
  - The oracle is  $c$ -approximate for some (unknown)  $c$
  - The output must be guaranteed to be  $\alpha \cdot c$ -approximate



# Approximate Turing Kernels, when?

When is it possible to aim for a  $\alpha$ -approximate Turing kernel

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## Theorem

If a decidable problem has an  $\alpha$ -approximate Turing kernel, it has an  $\alpha$ -approximation algorithm that runs in FPT time.

## Proof

Simply run the  $\alpha$ -approximate Turing kernel, replacing oracle calls by calls to any algorithm solving the problem. Running time is bounded by

$$f(\text{size of TK}) \cdot \text{running time of approxTK} = f(\ell) \cdot \text{poly}(n)$$

# Approximate Turing Kernels, when?

When is it possible to aim for a  $\alpha$ -approximate Turing kernel

- The problem is  $\alpha$ -FPT-approximable
- But not  $\alpha$ -approximable in polynomial time

It is only useful, when

- The best-known Turing kernel is too **large**
  - Ideally, evidence that no polynomial Turing kernel exists
- The best-known  $\alpha$ -approximate kernel is also **large**
  - Ideally, proof of nonexistence, but this seems much harder to come by

# Our results

Problem	#Vertices in kernel
INDEPENDENT SET	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)$
VERTEX COVER	$O\left(\frac{\ell}{\varepsilon}\right)$
CONNECTED VERTEX COVER	$O\left(\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\lceil \frac{3+\varepsilon}{\varepsilon} \rceil}\right)$
EDGE CLIQUE COVER	$O\left(\frac{\ell^4}{\varepsilon}\right)$
EDGE-DISJOINT TRIANGLE PACKING	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)$
VERTEX-DISJOINT $H$ -PACKING FOR CONNECTED $H$	$O\left(\left(\frac{\ell}{\varepsilon}\right)^{ V(H) -1}\right)$
CLIQUE COVER	$O\left(\frac{\ell^4}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$
FEEDBACK VERTEX SET	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$
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These problems parameterized by **treewidth**  $\ell$  have  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate Turing Kernels

- Assuming tree decomposition on input
- For all  $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$

Plus a general statement concerning “sufficiently friendly” problems

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# Approximate Turing kernel checklist

Considered problems are FPT (and hence, FPT-approximable)

Polynomial kernels rare, parameterized by treewidth

- VERTEX COVER and INDEPENDENT SET are  $MK[2]$  hard
- No good approximate kernels known
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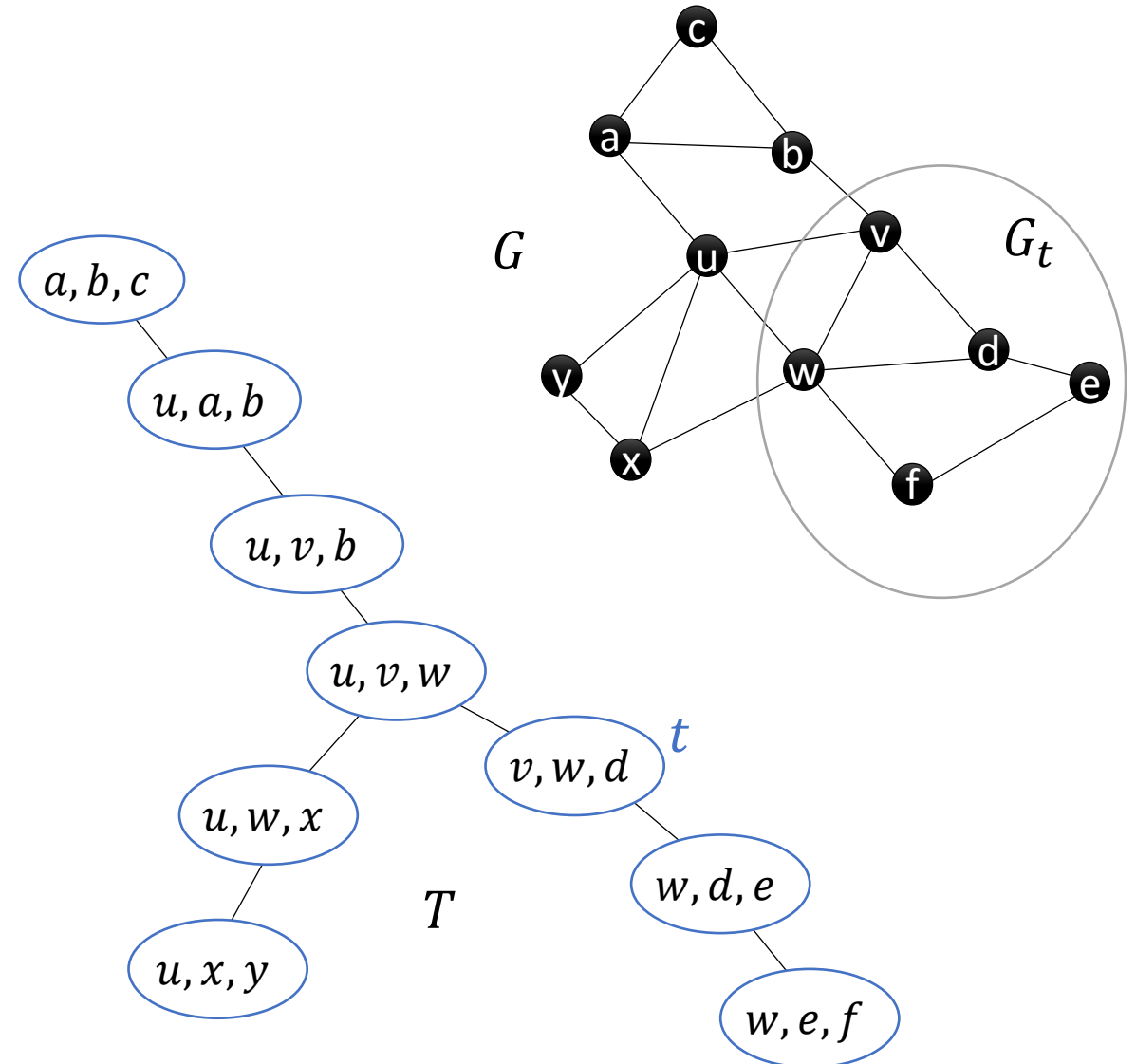
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# Treewidth

## Tree decomposition of $G$

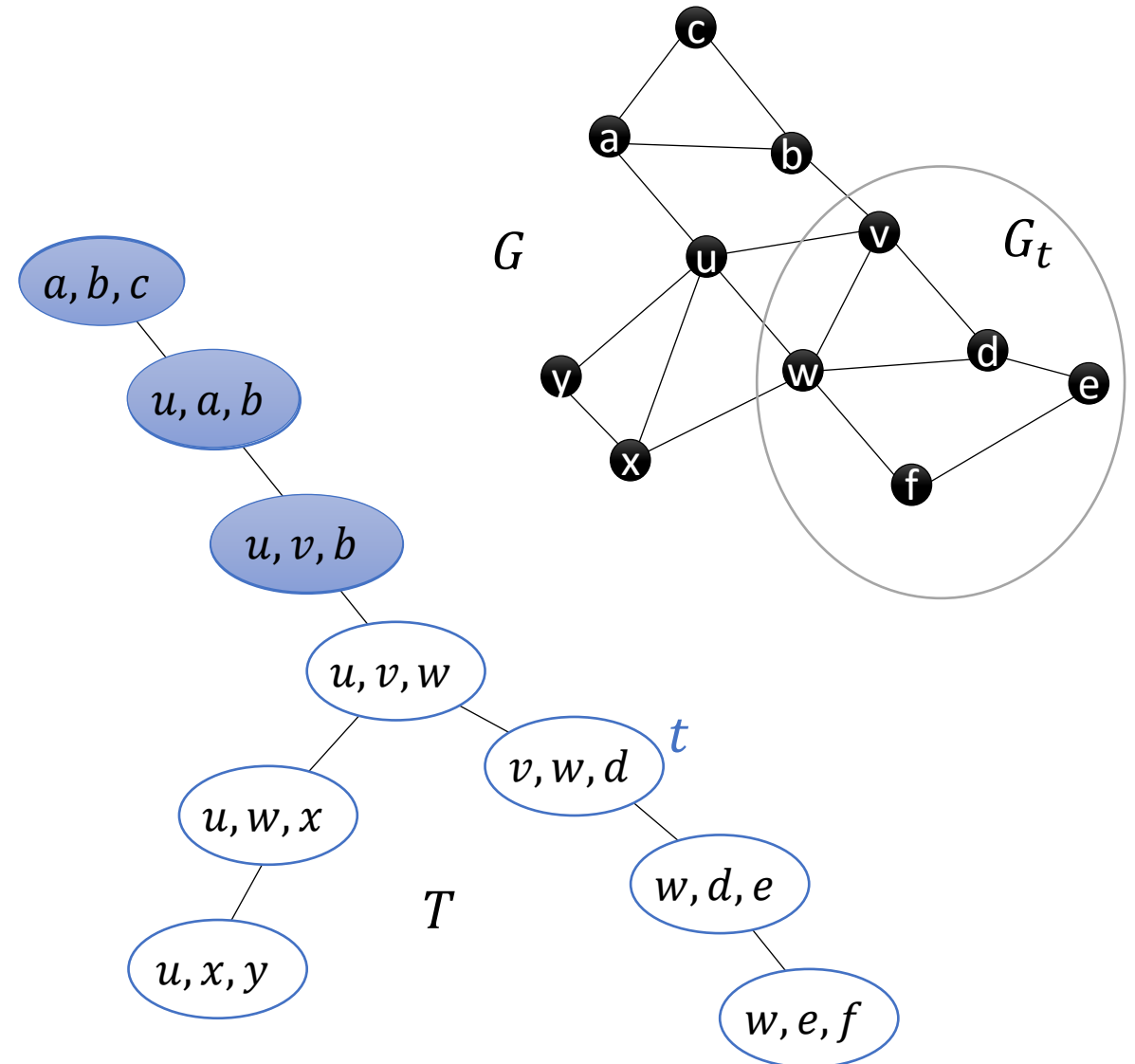
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  - For **each edge**  $uv$  in  $G$ , exists bag such that  $u \in X_t, v \in X_t$
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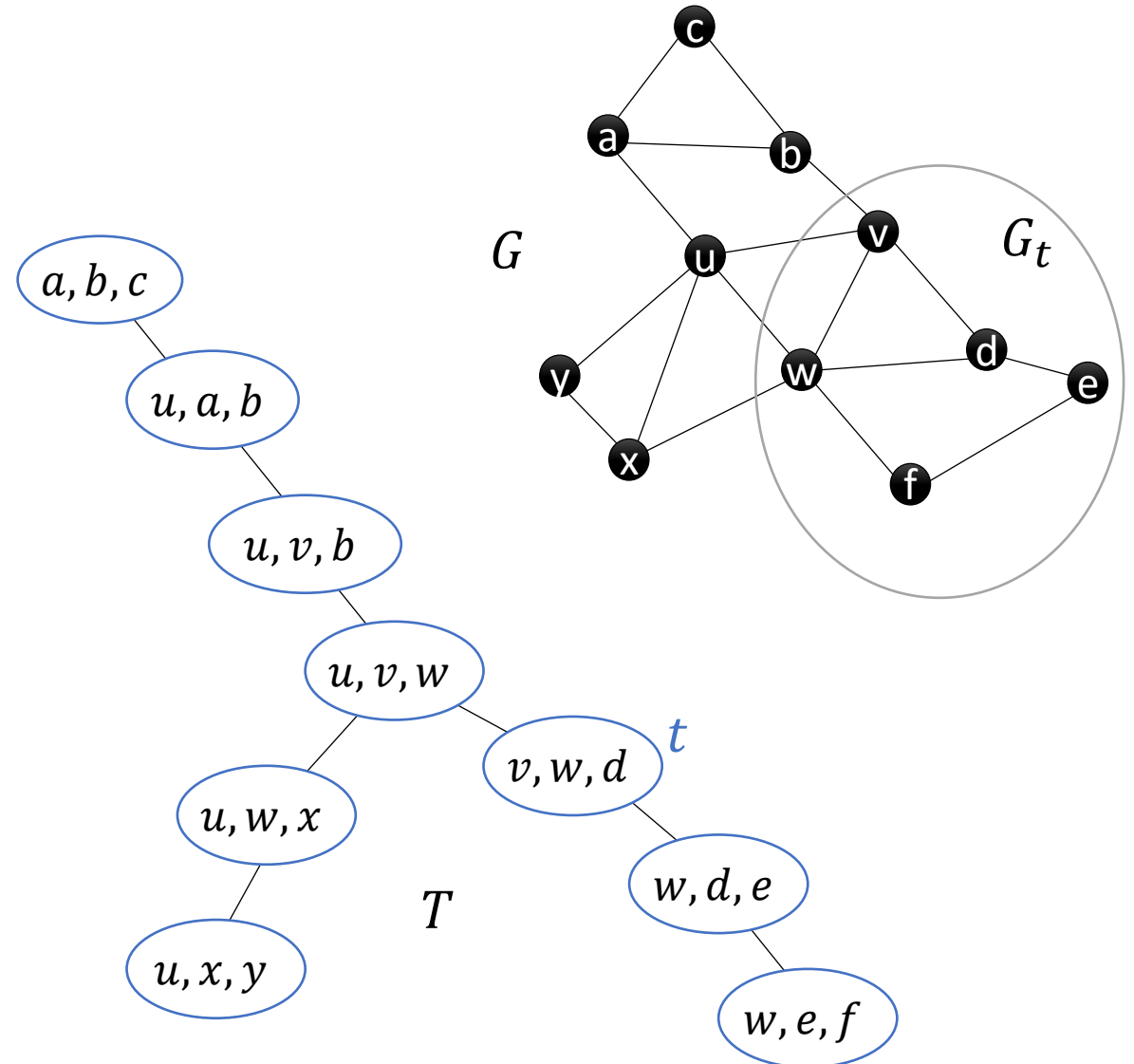
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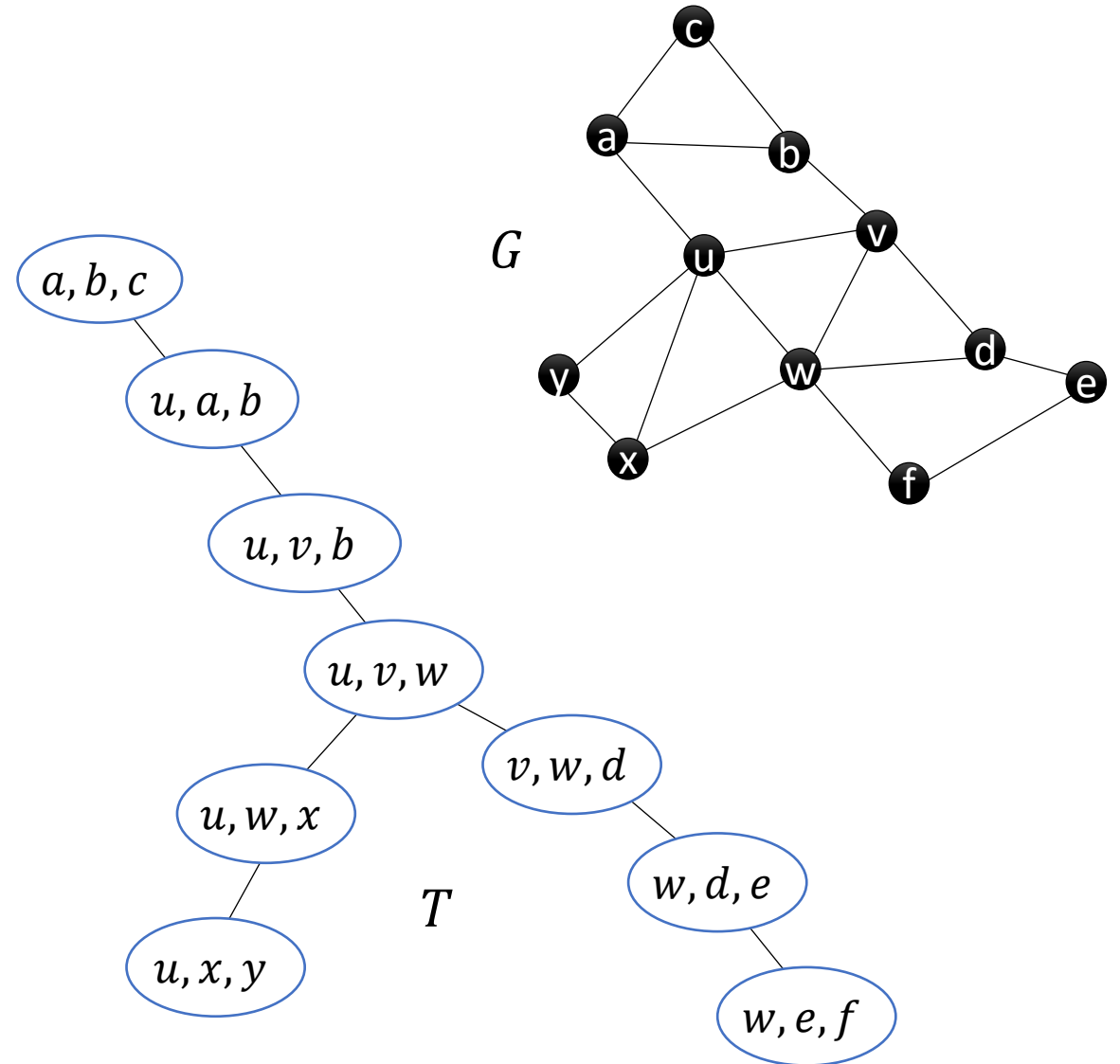
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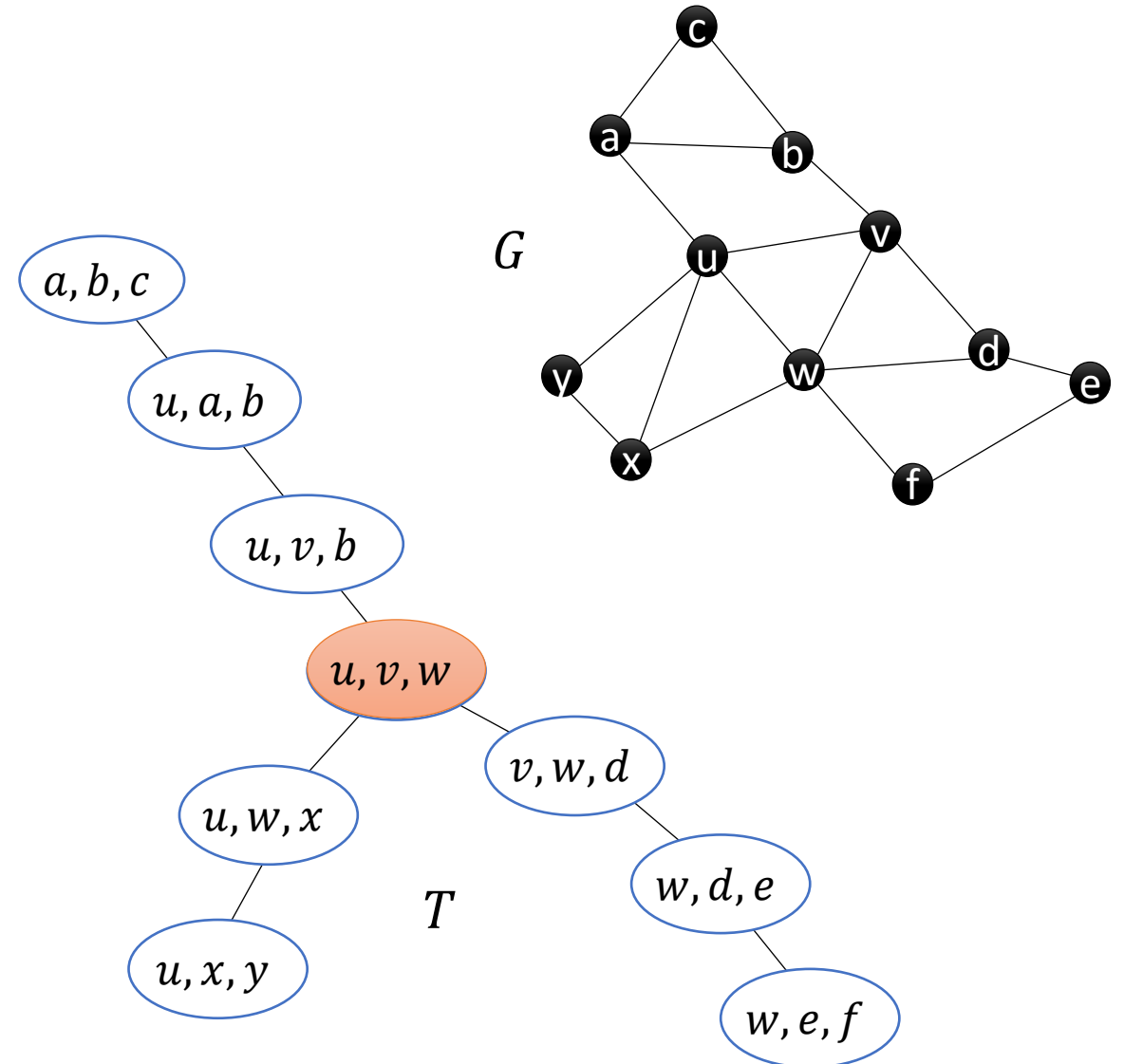
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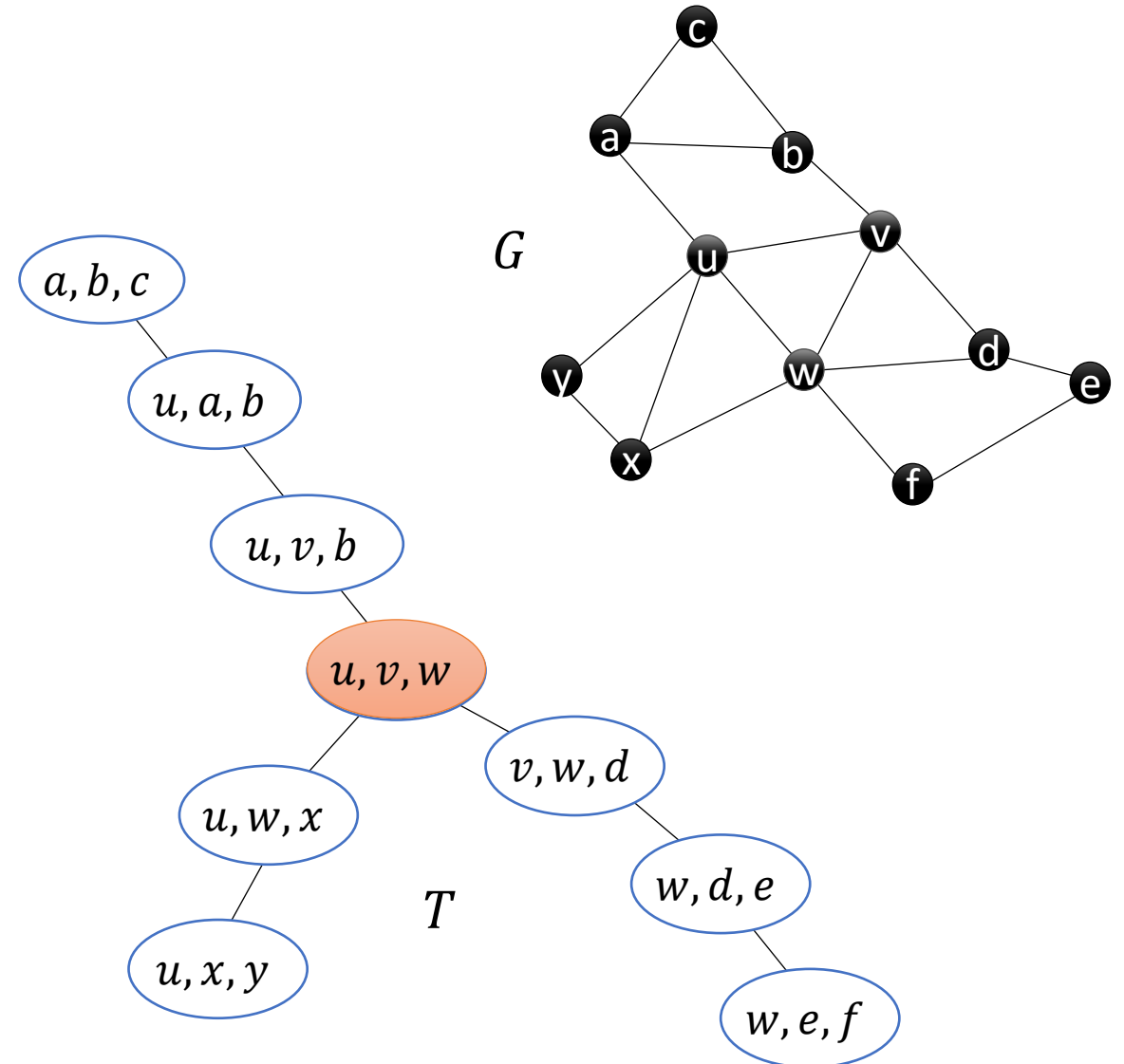
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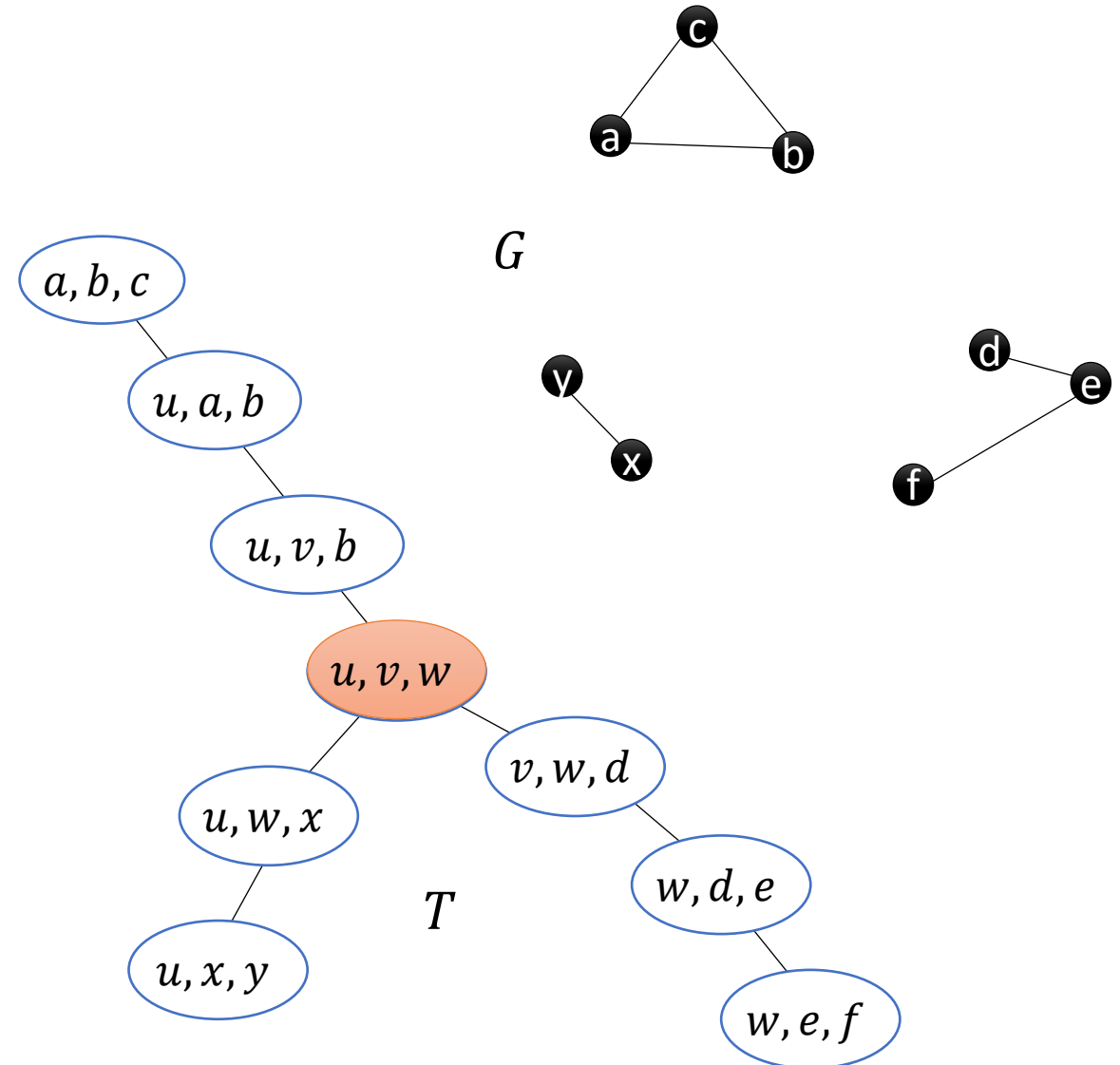




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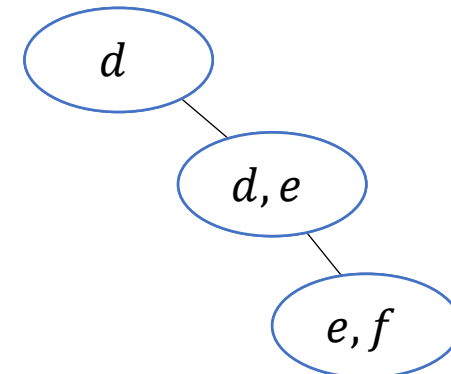
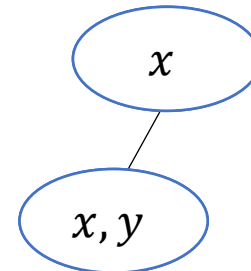
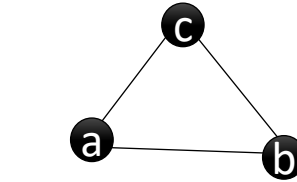
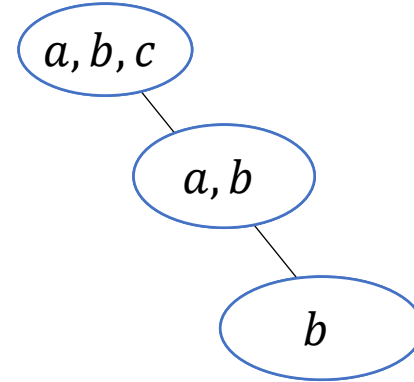
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Approximate Turing kernel for  
Independent Set

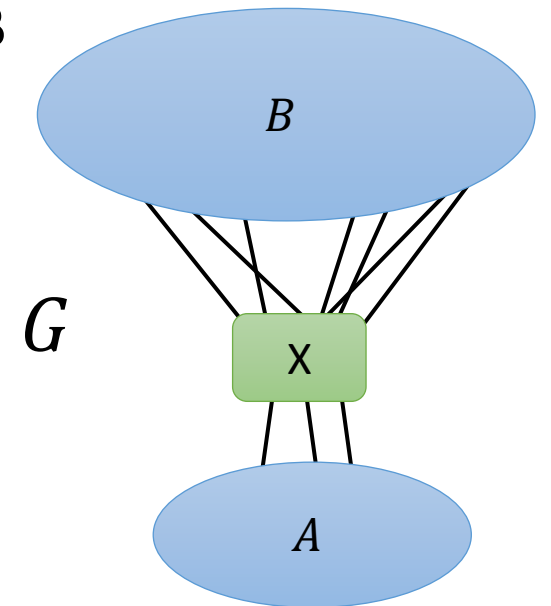
# Independent Set

## Theorem

Independent Set has a  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate Turing Kernel with  $O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)$  vertices.

## Overview

1. Find a good separator  $X$ , separate the graph into (small)  $A$  and  $B$
2. Ask the oracle for a solution  $S_A$  of part  $A$
3. Recurse to find an approximate solution  $S_B$  for part  $B$
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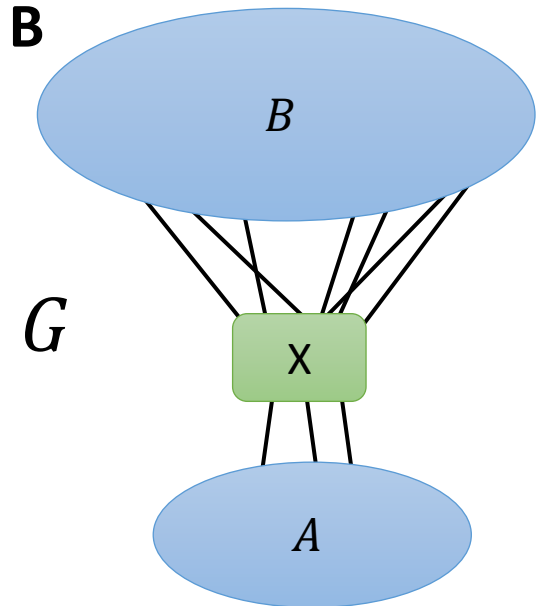
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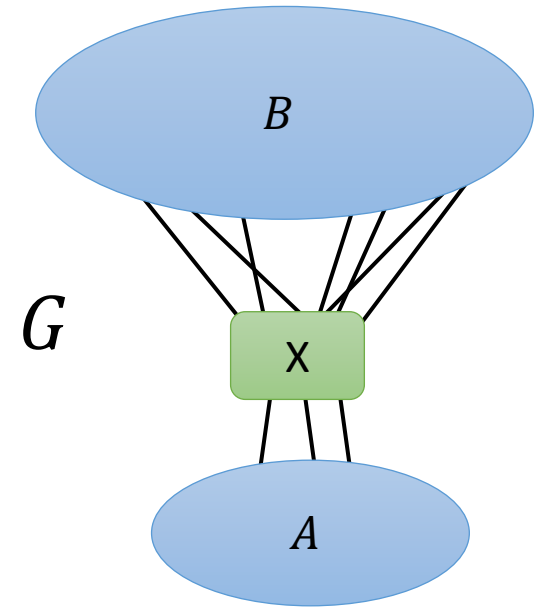
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# Finding a separator

What is a good separator? Separate the graph into  $X$ ,  $A$  and  $B$ , such that

- $|X| \leq \ell + 1$ 
  - Use a **bag** in the tree decomposition!
- $|A|$  is small
  - $|A|$  will determine the size of the kernel
  - $|A| = O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)$
- The part of an optimal solution in  $G[A]$  is sufficiently large
  - By discarding  $X$ , we **lose out on value at most  $|X|$**
  - $|X|$  should be small, compared to  $IS(G[A])$



# Size of $A$

## Theorem

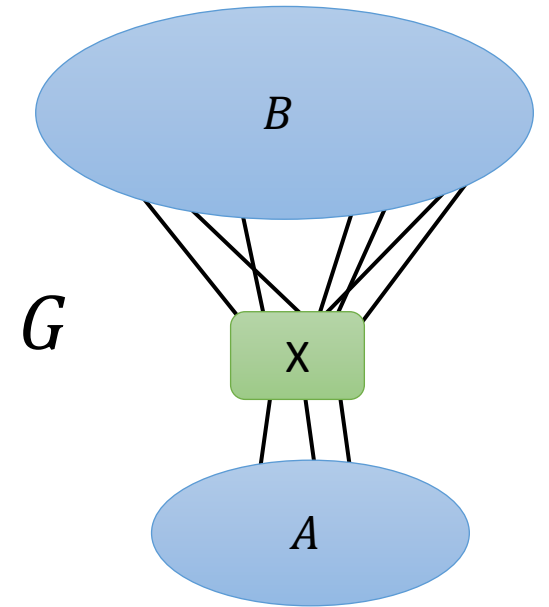
A graph with  $n$  vertices and treewidth  $\ell$ , has an independent set of size at least  $\frac{n}{\ell+1}$

## Proof

Various options, immediate from alternative definition of TW

## Conclusion

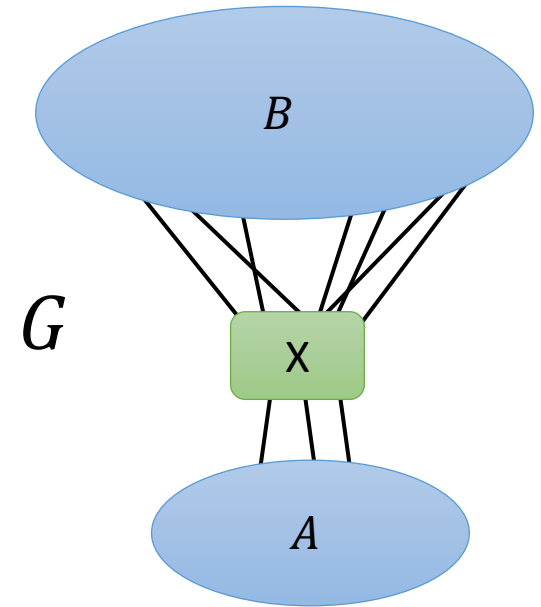
If  $|A| \geq \frac{(\ell+1)^2}{\varepsilon}$ , then  $IS(A) \geq \frac{\ell+1}{\varepsilon} \geq \frac{|X|}{\varepsilon}$



# Finding a separator

Find a node  $t$  in  $T$  such that  $\frac{(\ell+1)^2}{\varepsilon} \leq |G_t - X_t| \leq \frac{10(\ell+1)^2}{\varepsilon}$

- Let  $A := G_t - X_t, X := X_t$
- Recurse as long as  $G_t - X_t$  too large
  - **Join node** – Recurse on subtree with at least half the vertices
  - **Introduce/forget node** – Recurse on subtree
  - **Leaf node** – Contradicts  $G_t - X_t$  large





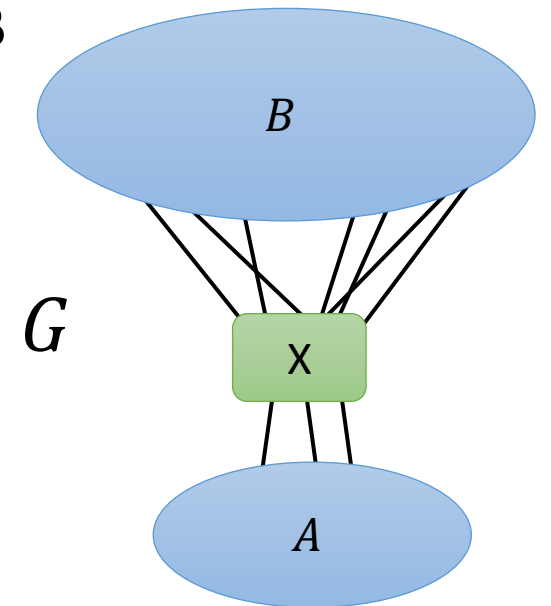
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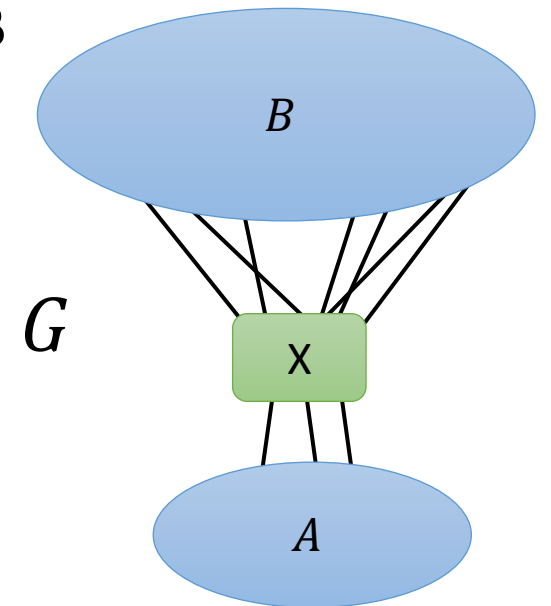
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# Independent Set: Correctness

Consider an optimal solution  $S$ , then

$$|S| = |S \cap A| + |S \cap B| + |S \cap X| \leq \text{opt}(G[A]) + \text{opt}(G[B]) + |X|$$

$$\leq c|S_A| + c(1 + \varepsilon)|S_B| + \varepsilon|S_A|$$

$$\leq c(1 + \varepsilon)(S_A + S_B)$$

Crucial point: Lower bound for IS on graphs of low treewidth

# Independent Set: Correctness

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$$|S| = |S \cap A| + |S \cap B| + |X| \leq \text{opt}(G[A]) + \text{opt}(G[B]) + |X|$$

By the  
oracle

Induction

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Approximate Turing kernel for  
**Connected Vertex Cover**

Parameterized by treewidth

# Connected Vertex Cover

Given a graph  $G$  (and tree decomposition  $T$ ) find **minimum vertex cover**  $S$  such that  $G[S]$  is **connected**

Cannot apply earlier idea immediately

- No lower bound based on treewidth
- Combining solutions is complex
  - Need to ensure connectivity

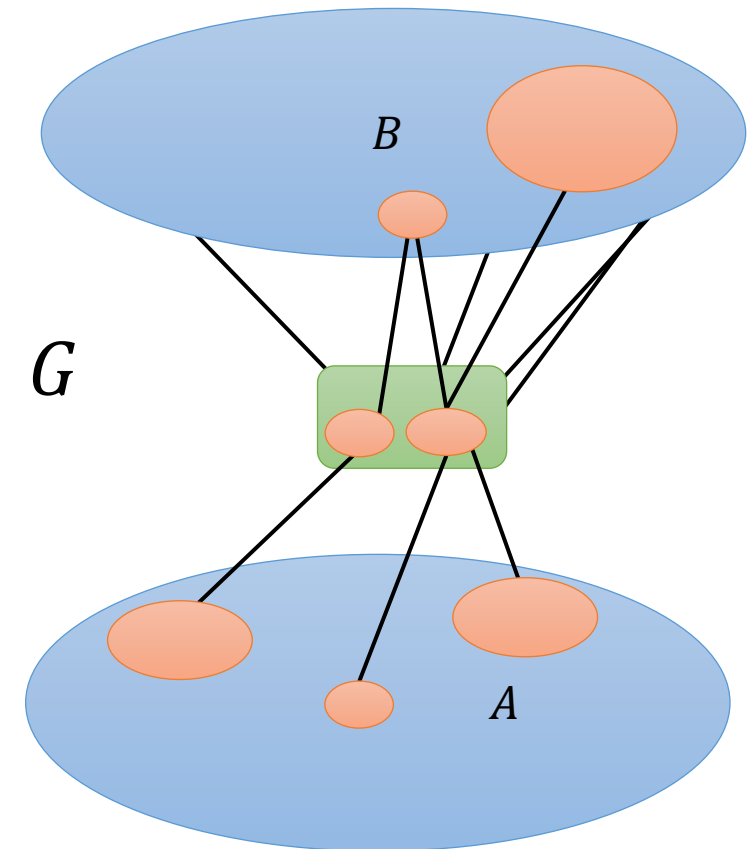
# Connected Vertex Cover

No bound depending on treewidth, but

- A  $(1 + \delta)$ -approximate kernel for all  $\delta > 0$

[Lokshtanov, Panolan, Ramanujan, Saurabh STOC 2017]

No good bounds on optimal solution depending on  $CVC(G[A])$ ,  $CVC(G[B])$ , and  $X$

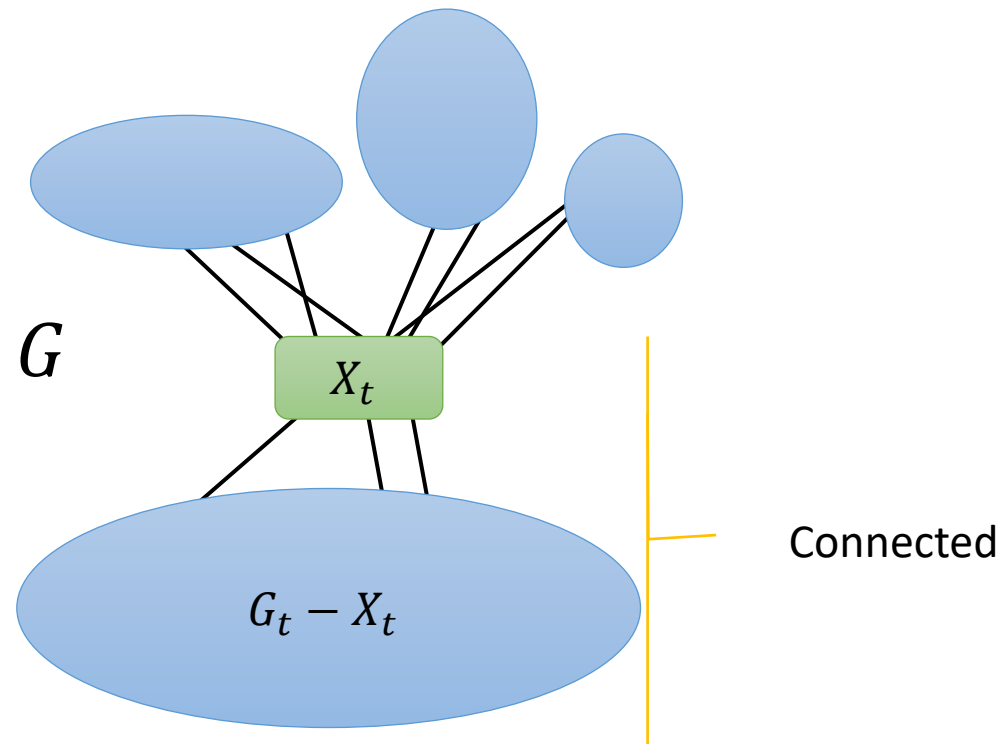


# Subconnected tree decompositions

Tree decomposition such that  $G_t$  is connected for all  $t$

- A given tree decomposition can be made subconnected in polynomial time
  - Without increasing its width

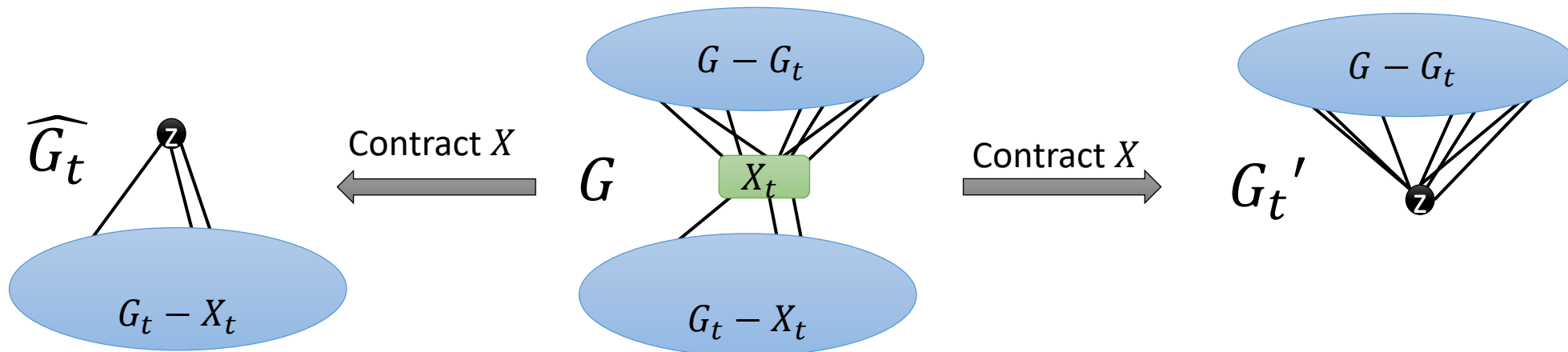
[Fraigniaud, Nisse, LATIN 2006]





# Connected Vertex Cover

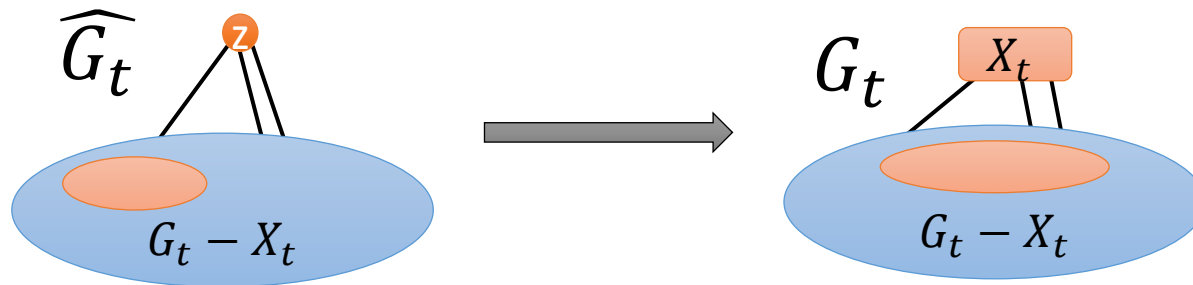
1. If our graph has a small CVC
  - Apply  $(1 + \delta)$ -approximate kernel, obtain  $(G', k')$
  - Feed  $(G', k')$  to oracle, obtain solution  $S'$
  - Lift  $S'$  to a solution  $S$  of  $(G, k)$
2. Else, obtain tree decomposition such that  $G_t$  connected for all  $t$ 
  - For all  $t$ , define the following graphs



# Connected Vertex Cover

## Lemma

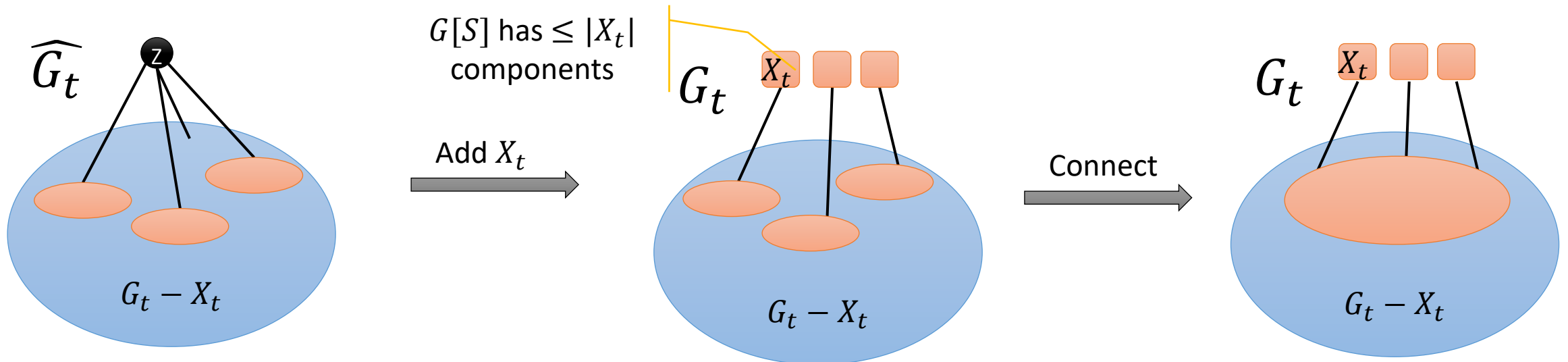
Given a connected vertex cover  $S$  in  $\widehat{G}_t$ , we can in polynomial time find a connected vertex cover  $S'$  in  $G_t$  such that  $|S'| \leq |S| + 2|X|$ . Furthermore,  $X \subseteq S'$ .



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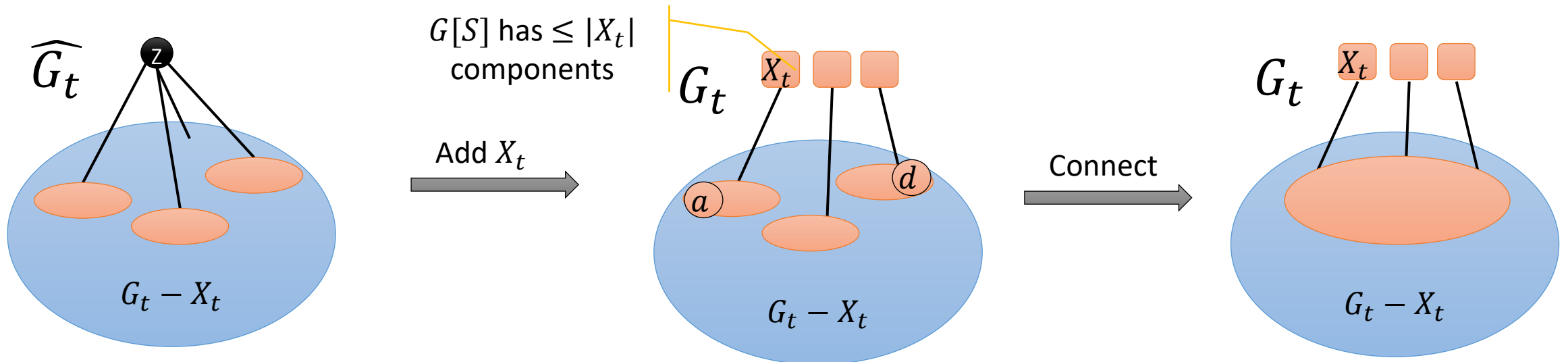
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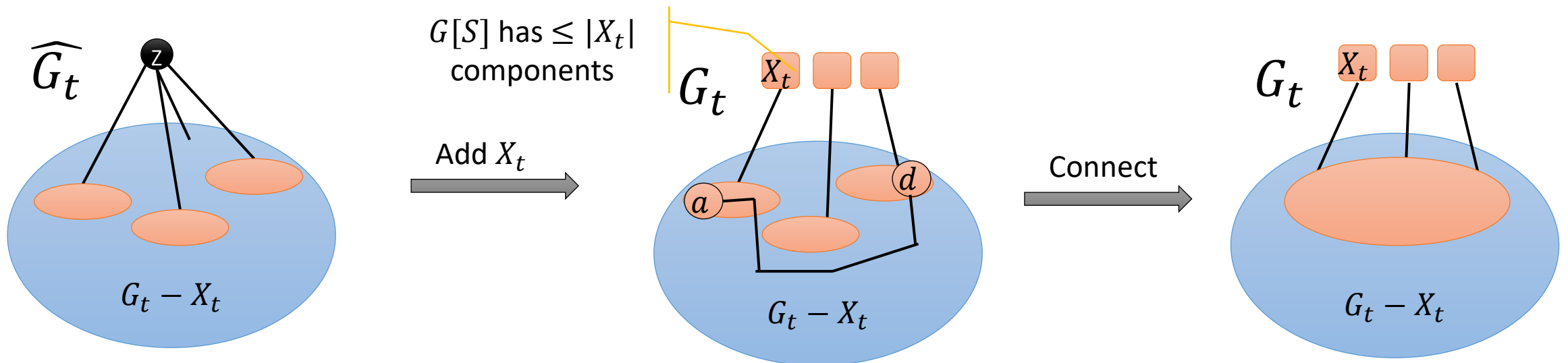
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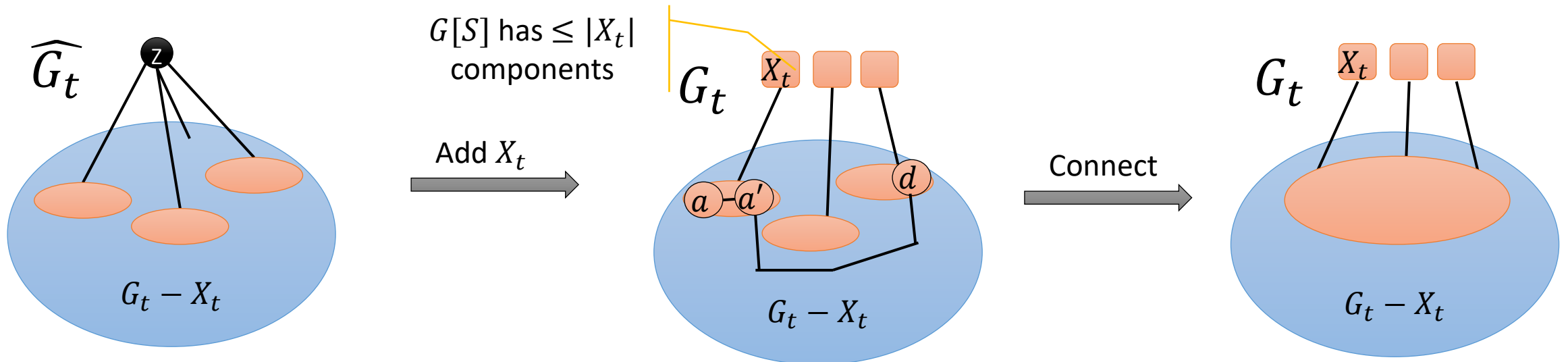
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# Connected Vertex Cover

## Lemma

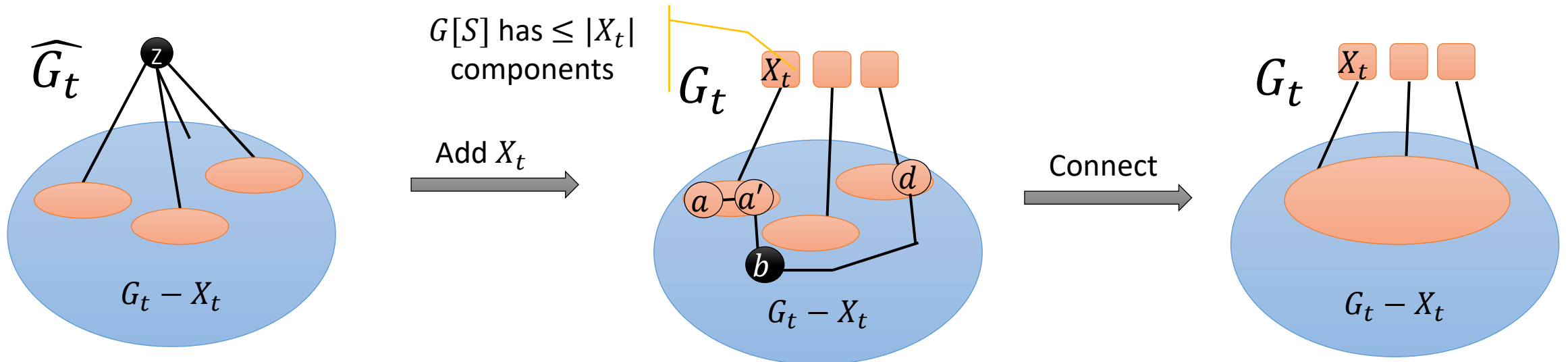
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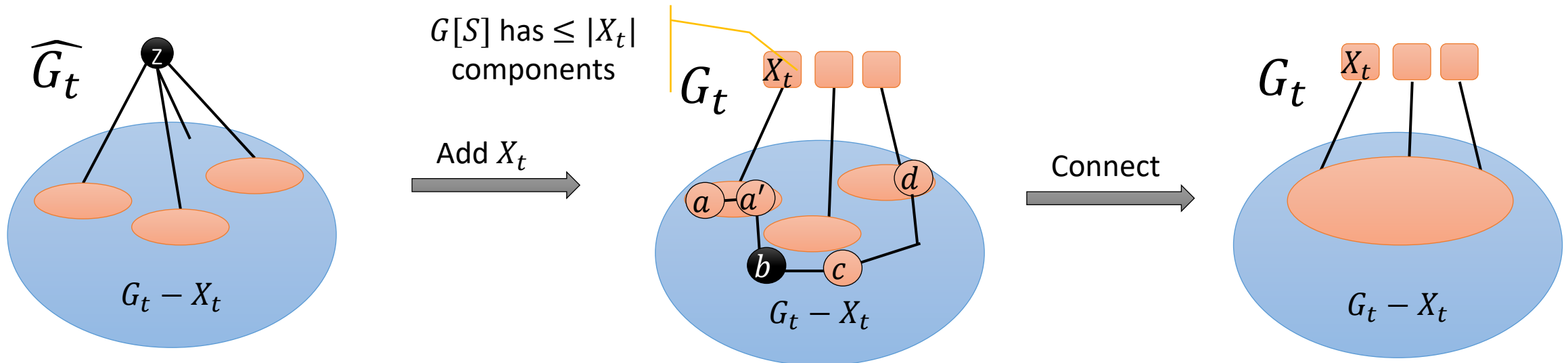
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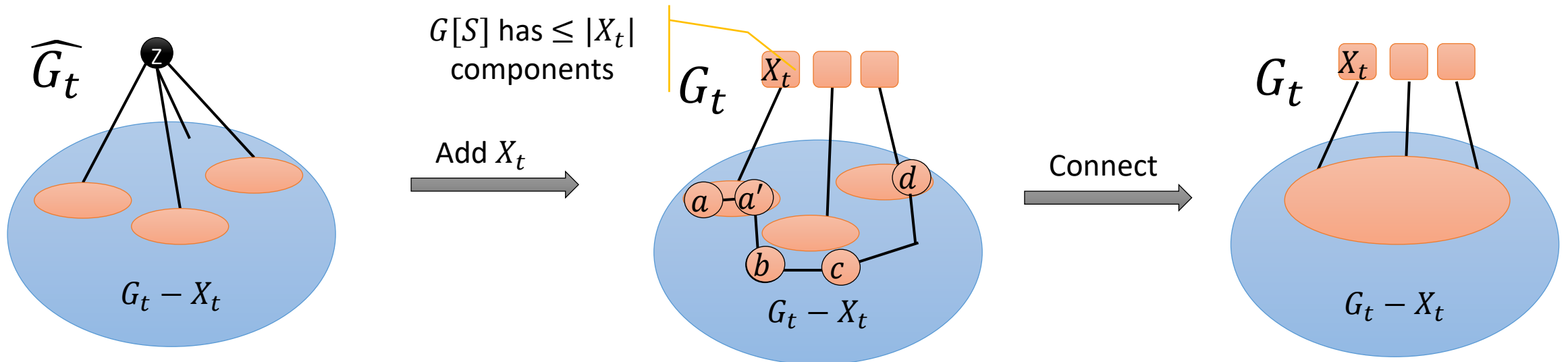




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# Connected Vertex Cover

1. If  $G$  has small CVC
  - Use the  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate kernel & oracle to obtain  $c(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approx. solution
2. Otherwise, find  $t$  such that  $\widehat{G}_t$  has CVC of size between  $\frac{\ell}{\delta}$  and  $\frac{100\ell^2}{\delta}$  for  $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$
3. Obtain  $c(1 + \delta)$ -approximate CVC  $\widehat{S}$  in  $\widehat{G}_t$ 
  - Use the  $(1 + \delta)$ -approximate kernel & oracle
4. By lemma, obtain CVC  $\widetilde{S}$  in  $G_t$ , with  $X \subseteq \widetilde{S}$  and  $|\widetilde{S}| \leq |\widehat{S}| + 2|X|$
5. Obtain  $c(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate CVC  $S'$  in  $G'_t$
6. Output  $S' \cup \widetilde{S} \setminus \{z\}$

Approximate Turing kernels

Conclusions and future work

# Summary

Problem	#Vertices in kernel
INDEPENDENT SET	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)$
VERTEX COVER	$O\left(\frac{\ell}{\varepsilon}\right)$
CONNECTED VERTEX COVER	$O\left(\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\lceil \frac{3+\varepsilon}{\varepsilon} \rceil}\right)$
EDGE CLIQUE COVER	$O\left(\frac{\ell^4}{\varepsilon}\right)$
EDGE-DISJOINT TRIANGLE PACKING	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon}\right)$
VERTEX-DISJOINT $H$ -PACKING FOR CONNECTED $H$	$O\left(\left(\frac{\ell}{\varepsilon}\right)^{ V(H) -1}\right)$
CLIQUE COVER	$O\left(\frac{\ell^4}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$
FEEDBACK VERTEX SET	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$
EDGE DOMINATING SET	$O\left(\frac{\ell^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$

These problems parameterized by **treewidth**  $\ell$  have  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate Turing Kernels

- Assuming tree decomposition on input
- For all  $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$

**Friendly** problems have a  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate Turing kernel with

$$h\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{3}, \varphi\left(\frac{6 \cdot g(\ell + 1)}{\varepsilon} + g(1), \ell\right) + \ell\right)$$

vertices

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“Friendliness” (usually  $\ell + 1$ )

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Approximation factor of approximation algorithm

# Open questions

## Approximate Turing kernels for other problems

- Many graph problems are not “friendly”
  - Constant-factor approximate Turing kernel for DOMINATING SET parameterized by treewidth ?
- Extend to other parameters
  - Other width parameters

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Thank you!