

On the tractability of optimization problems on H -graphs*

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Abstract

For a graph H , a graph G is an H -graph if it is an intersection graph of connected subgraphs of some subdivision of H . H -graphs naturally generalize several important graph classes like interval or circular-arc graph. This class was introduced in the early 1990s by Bíró, Hujter, and Tuza. Very recently, Chaplick et al. initiated the algorithmic study of H -graphs by showing that a number of fundamental optimization problems like MAXIMUM CLIQUE, MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET, or MINIMUM DOMINATING SET are solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs. We extend and complement these algorithmic findings in several directions.

First we show that for every fixed H , the class of H -graphs is of logarithmically-bounded boolean-width. Pipelined with the plethora of known algorithms on graphs of bounded boolean-width, this describes a large class of problems solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs. We also observe that H -graphs are graphs with polynomially many minimal separators. Combined with the work of Fomin, Todinca and Villanger on algorithmic properties of such classes of graphs, this identifies another wide class of problems solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs.

The most fundamental optimization problems among the problems solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs are MAXIMUM CLIQUE, MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET, and MINIMUM DOMINATING SET. We provide a more refined complexity analysis of these problems from the perspective of Parameterized Complexity. We show that MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET, and MINIMUM DOMINATING SET are W[1]-hard being parameterized by the size of H and the size of the solution. On the other hand, we prove that when H is a tree, then MINIMUM DOMINATING SET is fixed-parameter tractable parameterized (FPT) by the size of H .

For MAXIMUM CLIQUE we show that it is W[1]-hard parameterized by the size of H but admits a polynomial kernel parameterized by H and the solution size.

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1 Introduction

The notion of H -graph was introduced in the work of Bíró, Hujter, and Tuza [BHT92] on precoloring extensions of graphs. H -graphs nicely generalize several popular and widely studied classes of graphs. For example, the classical definition of an interval graph is as a graph which is an intersection graph of intervals of a line. Equivalently, a graph is interval if it is an intersection graph of some subpaths of a path. Or, equivalently, if it is an intersection graph of some subgraphs of some subdivision (which is a graph obtained by placing vertices of degree 2 on the edges) of P_2 , the graph with two adjacent vertices. Similarly, every chordal graph is an intersection graph of subtrees of some tree. More generally, for a fixed graph H , a graph G is an H -graph if it is an intersection graph of some connected subgraphs of some subdivision of H . Thus for example, an interval graph is a P_2 -graph, a circular-arc graph is a C_2 -graph, where C_2 is a double-edge with two endpoints, a split graph is a $K_{1,d}$ -graph for some $d \geq 0$, where $K_{1,d}$ is a star with d leaves, etc..

The main motivation behind the study of H -graphs is the following. It is well-known that on interval, chordal, circular-arc, and other graphs with “simple” intersection models many NP-hard optimization problems are solvable in polynomial time, see e.g. the book of Golumbic [Gol04] for an overview. It is a natural question whether at least some of these algorithmic results can be extended to more general classes of intersection graphs. Chaplick et al. [CTVZ16] and Chaplick and Zeman [CZ17] initiated the systematic study of algorithmic properties H -graphs. It appeared that a number of fundamental optimization problems like MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET, MINIMUM DOMINATING SET, or MAXIMUM CLIQUE are solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs for a fixed H . Most of the algorithms developed on H -graphs in [CTVZ16, CZ17] run in time $n^{f(H)}$, where n is the number of vertices in the input graph and f is some function. In other words, being parameterized by H most of the problems are known to be in the class XP.

Our work is driven by the following question.

- Are there generic explanations why many problems admit polynomial time algorithms on H -graphs?

We address the first question by proving the following combinatorial results. We show first that every n -vertex H -graph has boolean-width at most $2|E(H)| \cdot \log n$. Moreover, a decomposition of boolean-width $2|E(H)| \cdot \log n$ can be found in polynomial time. This combinatorial result extends the results of Belmonte and Vatschelle [BV13] on the boolean-width of interval (resp. circular interval) graphs to H -graphs. Together with the algorithms for a vast class of problems called *LC-VSP* problems [BXTV11, BV13], which are solvable on n -vertex graphs of boolean-width b in time $2^b n^{O(1)}$, this implies immediately that all these problems are solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs. The illustrative problems solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs by making use of this approach are MAXIMUM WEIGHT INDEPENDENT SET, MINIMUM WEIGHT DOMINATING SET, TOTAL DOMINATING SET, INDUCED MATCHING, and many others. Then we prove that every n -vertex H -graph has at

most $(2n + 1)^{|E(H)|} + |E(H)| \cdot (2n)^2$ minimal separators.¹ Pipelining the bound on the number of minimal separators in H -graphs with the meta-algorithmic theorem about induced subgraphs of bounded treewidth which properties are expressible in Counting Monadic Second Order Logic (CMSOL) of Fomin, Todinca and Villanger [FTV15], we obtained another wide class of problems solvable in polynomial time on H -graphs. Examples of such problems are TREEWIDTH, MINIMUM FEEDBACK VERTEX SET, MAXIMUM INDUCED SUBGRAPH EXCLUDING A PLANAR MINOR, and various packing problems.

All these generic algorithmic results provide XP algorithms when parameterized by the size of H . This brings us immediately to the second question defining the direction of our research.

- What is the parameterized complexity of the fundamental optimization problems being parameterized by the size of H ?

The first steps in this direction were done by Chaplick et al. in [CTVZ16] who showed that MINIMUM DOMINATING SET is fixed-parameter tractable (FPT) on $K_{1,d}$ -graphs parameterized by d . In this paper we show that MINIMUM DOMINATING SET is W[1]-hard parameterized by H and the size of the solution. Thus the existence of an FPT algorithms for a general graph H is very unlikely. (We refer to books [DF13, CFK+15] for definitions from parameterized complexity and algorithms.) We also prove a similar lower bound for MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET parameterized by H and the solution size. On the positive side, we show that when H is a tree, then MINIMUM DOMINATING SET is FPT parameterized by H . This significantly extends the result from [CTVZ16] for stars to arbitrary trees. We actually prove a slightly more general result, namely that MINIMUM DOMINATING SET is FPT on chordal graphs parameterized by the leafage of the graph.

Finally we show that CLIQUE is W[1]-hard parameterized by H . This nicely complement the result of Chaplick and Zeman who showed that CLIQUE is FPT parameterized by H and size the solution size. We also strengthen the algorithmic result of Chaplick and Zeman by showing that for such a parameterization CLIQUE admits a polynomial kernel. Algorithmic results about H -graphs are summarized in Table 1.

Organization of the paper. Section 2 contains the necessary definitions. In Section 3, we upper-bound the boolean-width of H -graphs and provide algorithmic applications. Section 4 is devoted to the study of minimal separators in H -graphs, again with algorithmic consequences. Last, Section 5 contains our results on the parameterized complexity of some classic optimization problems on H -graphs.

2 Definitions

Basics. All graphs in this paper are finite, undirected, loopless, and may have multiple edges. If G is a graph, we denote by $|G|$ its number of vertices and by $\|G\|$ its number of

¹It was reported to us by Steven Chaplick and Peter Zeman that they also obtained this result independently and that it will be included in the journal version of their paper.

Problem	Parameters	Restrictions	Complexity	Reference
every LC-VSP-problem Π	$\ H\ $	none	XP	Theorem 3
OPT. IND. SGR. FOR \mathcal{P} AND t , when \mathcal{P} is CMSOL	$\ H\ $	none	XP	Corollary 3
DOMINATING SET	$\ H\ $	H is a star	FPT	[CTVZ16]
		none	XP	
	$\ H\ + k$	H is a tree	FPT	Theorem 8
		none	W[1]-hard	Theorem 6
INDEPENDENT SET	$\ H\ $	H is a tree	polynomial	[Gav72]
		none	XP	[CTVZ16]
	$\ H\ + k$	none	W[1]-hard	Theorem 6
		$\ H\ $	H is a tree	polynomial
H is a cactus	polynomial		[CZ17]	
none	W[1]-hard		Corollary 4	
CLIQUE	$\ H\ + k$	none	FPT	[CZ17]
			poly. kernel	Theorem 9

Table 1: Summary of algorithmic results on H -graphs. We always assume that a representation of the input as an H -graph is given. For each of the mentioned problems, k denotes the solution size. See Sections 3 and 4, respectively, for details about the two first problem.

edges (counting multiplicities). For every graph G , we denote by $\omega(G)$ the largest order of a complete subgraph of G . If $X, Y \subseteq V(G)$, \bar{X} is the complement of X in $V(G)$ (i.e. $\bar{X} = V(G) \setminus X$), $G[X]$ is the subgraph of G induced by the vertices of X , and $G[X, Y]$ is the bipartite subgraph of G induced by those edges that have one endpoint in X and the other in Y . Unless otherwise specified, logarithms are binary.

H -graphs. Let H be a (multi) graph. We say that a graph G is an H -graph if there is a subdivision H' of H and a collection $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ (called an H -representation or, simply, *representation*) of subsets of $V(H')$, each inducing a connected subgraph, such that G is isomorphic to the intersection graph of \mathcal{M} . To avoid confusion, we refer to the vertices of H' as *nodes*. We also say that the nodes of H are *branching* vertices of H' and the other nodes are *subdivision* nodes. If v is a vertex of G , then M_v is the *model* of v in the representation \mathcal{M} .

For every set $A \subseteq V(G)$, we define $M_A = \bigcup_{v \in A} M_v$. For every node u of H' , we denote by V_u the set of vertices of G whose model contains u , that is,

$$V_u = \{v \in V(G), u \in M_v\}.$$

For a nonempty $U \subseteq V(H)$, we say that $v \in V(G)$ is a U -vertex if $M_v \cap V(H) = U$. If $U = \{u\}$, we write u -vertex instead of $\{u\}$ -vertex. We denote the set of U -vertices by $V_G(U)$ and $V_G(u)$ if $U = \{u\}$. For $e \in E(H)$, we say that $v \in V(G)$ is an e -vertex if M_v contains only subdivision nodes of H' from the path in H' corresponding to e in H . The set of e -vertices is denoted by $V_G(e)$.

3 H -graphs have logarithmic boolean-width

Boolean-width is a graph invariant that has been introduced in [BXTV11] and which is related to the number of different neighborhoods along a cut. Belmonte and Vatschelle showed in [BV13] that n -vertex interval graphs and circular interval graphs have boolean-width $O(\log n)$. In this section, we generalize their result by proving that, for H a fixed graph, n -vertex H -graphs have boolean-width $O(\log n)$. Using the results of [BXTV13], we obtain polynomial algorithms for a vast class of optimization problems on H -graphs. Before we proceed with the proofs, we need to introduce some notions specific to this section.

Definition 1 (Graph decompositions). A *tree decomposition* of a graph G is a pair (T, δ) where T is a full binary rooted tree (that is, every non-leaf vertex has degree 3) and δ is a bijection from the leaves of T to the vertices of G . A tree decomposition (T, δ) is a *caterpillar decomposition* if T can be obtained from a path by adding a vertex of degree one adjacent to every internal vertex. If $w \in V(T)$, let us denote by V_w the set of vertices of G in bijection with the leaves of the subtree of T rooted at w .

Definition 2 (Maximum induced matching over a cut). A set of vertices of a graph G is an *induced matching* if it induces a disjoint union of edges. If $X \subseteq V(G)$, we denote by $\text{mim}(X)$ the maximum number of edges in an induced matching of $G[X, \overline{X}]$. If (T, δ) is a tree decomposition of G , we denote by $\text{mim}(T, \delta)$ the maximum of $\text{mim}(V_w)$ taken over all $w \in V(T)$.

Definition 3 (Neighborhood equivalence). Let G be a graph, let $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $A \subseteq V(G)$. We say that two subsets $X, Y \subseteq A$ are *d -neighborhood equivalent*, what we denote by $X \equiv_A^d Y$, if for every $v \in \overline{A}$, we have

$$\min(d, |X \cap N(v)|) = \min(d, |Y \cap N(v)|).$$

We write $\text{nec}_d(A)$ for the number of equivalence classes of the relation \equiv_A^d . If (T, δ) is a tree decomposition of G , we denote by $\text{nec}_d(T, \delta)$ the maximum of $\text{nec}_d(V_w)$ and $\text{nec}_d(\overline{V_w})$ over all $w \in V(T)$.

The following lemma relates maximum induced matchings to neighborhood equivalence.

Lemma 1 ([BV13, Lemma 1 and Lemma 2]). *For every n -vertex graph G and $A \subseteq V(G)$,*

- (i) $\text{mim}(A) \leq k$ iff for every $S \subseteq A$ there is a $R \subseteq S$ s.t. $R \equiv_A^1 S$ and $|R| \leq k$;
- (ii) $\text{nec}_d(A) \leq n^{d \cdot \text{mim}(A)}$.

Definition 4 (Boolean-width). If (T, δ) is a tree decomposition of a graph G , the *boolean-width* of (T, δ) , that we write $\text{boolw}(T, \delta)$, is defined as the maximum of $\log(\text{nec}(\equiv_{V_w}^1))$ over all $w \in V(T)$. The boolean-width of G , denoted by $\text{boolw}(G)$, is the minimum boolean-width of a tree decomposition of G .

Our results on the boolean-width of H -graphs will follow from the next result.

Theorem 1. *Let H be a graph. For every H -graph G on n vertices whose intersection model is given, we can compute in polynomial time a caterpillar decomposition (T, δ) with $\text{mim}(T, \delta) \leq 2\|H\|$.*

Proof. Let F be the subdivision of H in which G can be realized and let $\{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ be the intersection model of G . Let us arbitrarily fix a vertex branching vertex r of F . Let v_1, \dots, v_n be an ordering of $V(G)$ by increasing distance of M_{v_i} 's to r .

Claim 1. *For every prefix A of v_1, \dots, v_n and every $S \subseteq A$, there is a set $R \subseteq S$ of size at most $2\|H\|$ such that $N(R) \cap \bar{A} = N(S) \cap \bar{A}$.*

Proof. Let A be a prefix of v_1, \dots, v_n and let $S \subseteq A$. Let $M_A = \bigcup_{v \in A} M_v$ and similarly for $M_{\bar{A}}$ and M_S . Let us consider the path P_e corresponding to some edge $e \in E(H)$. Let x_1, \dots, x_p be the vertices of P_e in the same order.

Let $v \in A$ and notice that since, by definition, $G[M_v]$ is connected, the vertex set $M_v \cap V(P_e)$ induces at most two connected components in P_e . Let us assume that it induces at least one connected component and let x_i and x_j be the first and last vertices (wrt. the ordering x_1, \dots, x_p) of this component. If $\{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}\}$ is disjoint from $M_{\bar{A}}$, we say that v is a *left-protector* of P_e . If j is maximum among all vertices that protects the left of P_e , then v is a *rightmost left-protector*. (Informally, it extends the most to the right.) Similarly, v is a *right-protector* the right of P_e if $\{x_{j+1}, \dots, x_p\}$ is disjoint from $M_{\bar{A}}$ and is a *leftmost right-protector* if i is minimal.

Let Z_e be a set containing one (arbitrarily chosen) rightmost left-protector and one leftmost right-protector of e if some exist, and let $R = \bigcup_{e \in E(H)} Z_e$. Clearly $|R| \leq 2\|H\|$. Let us now show that $N(S) \cap \bar{A} \subseteq N(R) \cap \bar{A}$. We consider a vertex $u \in N(S) \cap \bar{A}$ and we show that it also belongs to $N(R)$. Let v be a neighbor of u in S . As u and v are adjacent, M_u and M_v have non-empty intersection. Let e be an edge of H such that M_u and M_v meet on P_e , i.e. $M_u \cap M_v \cap V(P_e) \neq \emptyset$. Again, we denote by x_1, \dots, x_p the vertices of P_e .

Claim 2. *Let $w \in A$. If $M_w = \{x_i, \dots, x_j\}$ with $1 < i \leq j < p$, then one of $\{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}\}$ and $\{x_{j+1}, \dots, x_p\}$ is disjoint from $M_{\bar{A}}$.*

Proof. If there are vertices u, u' of \bar{A} such that M_u and $M_{u'}$ respectively intersect $\{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}\}$ and $\{x_{j+1}, \dots, x_p\}$, then one of $\text{dist}_F(M_u, r)$ and $\text{dist}_F(M_{u'}, r)$ is smaller than $\text{dist}_F(M_w, r)$. This contradicts the fact that $w \in A$ whereas $u, u' \notin A$. \square

Claim 3. *Let $w \in A$. If M_w intersects $V(P_e)$ then it is a right-protector or a left-protector.*

Proof. By definition, if $x_1 \in M_w$ then M_w is a left-protector of P_e (and symmetrically for the right). The case where M_w contains none of x_1 and x_p follows from [Claim 2](#). \square

As M_u intersects M_v on P_e , it intersects the vertex set C of one component induced by M_v on P_e (recall that there are either one or two such components). In the case where there are two components, we assume without loss of generality that this is the ‘‘left’’ one (i.e. that with smallest indices). In the case where there is one component, we assume that v is a left-protector of P_e (according to [Claim 3](#), v is a left-protector or a right-protector of P_e).

Observe that in both cases, v is a left-protector of P_e . Let z be the rightmost left-protector of P_e that belongs to R and let $x_k, \dots, x_{k'}$ be the vertices of the corresponding component of $P_e[M_z \cap V(P_e)]$ (that is, the component used in the definition of left-protector).

Notice that $C \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_{k'}\}$, by maximality of z (informally, because it is “rightmost”). As z is a left-protector, $M_u \cap \{x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}\} = \emptyset$. Since M_u and C intersect, they intersect in $\{x_k, \dots, x_{k'}\}$. Therefore $M_u \cap M_z \neq \emptyset$: z is adjacent to u . As $z \in R$, we are done. \square

According to [Claim 1](#) and Lemma 1.(i), a caterpillar decomposition (T, δ) that follows the ordering v_1, \dots, v_n satisfies $\text{mim}(T, \delta) \leq 2\|H\|$. \square

Observe that when H is a tree, G is chordal and so the intersection model can be computed in linear time. The next result follows from the application to the decomposition provided by [Theorem 1](#) of Lemma 1.(ii), with the fact that $\text{mim}(A) = \text{mim}(\overline{A})$ for every $A \subseteq V(G)$.

Corollary 1. *Let H be a graph. For every H -graph G on n vertices whose intersection model is given, we can compute in polynomial time a caterpillar decomposition (T, δ) with $\text{nec}_d(T, \delta) \leq n^{d \cdot 2\|H\|}$.*

For the definition of boolean-width, we also get:

Corollary 2. *Let H be a graph. Every n -vertex H -graph has boolean-width at most $2\|H\| \cdot \log n$.*

By choosing H to be a single or double edge, we recover the results of [\[BV13\]](#) on the boolean-width of interval and circular interval graphs, respectively, as special cases of [Corollary 2](#). As proved in the same paper, there is a infinite family of interval graphs with boolean-width $\Omega(\log n)$. Observe that unless H is edgeless (in which case H -graphs are disjoint unions of cliques), every interval graph is an H -graph. This shows that the bound in [Corollary 2](#) is tight up to a constant factor.

Let us describe provide algorithmic applications of our results. Boolean-width has been used [\[BXTV11\]](#) to design parameterized algorithms for the problems MAXIMUM WEIGHT INDEPENDENT SET and MINIMUM WEIGHT DOMINATING SET. Later, invariants of the form nec_d were used in [\[BXTV13\]](#) as parameters of FPT algorithms for a vast class of problems, called *LC-VSP* problems, that include fundamental problems as INDEPENDENT SET, INDEPENDENT DOMINATING SET, TOTAL DOMINATING SET, INDUCED MATCHING, and many others (see [\[BXTV13\]](#)). The main result of [\[BXTV13\]](#) is the following.

Theorem 2 ([\[BXTV13\]](#)). *For every LC-VSP problem Π , there are constants d and q such that Π can be solved in time $O(n^4 \cdot q \cdot \text{nec}_d(T, \delta)^{3q})$ if a decomposition (T, δ) of the input is given.*

As [Corollary 1](#) provides, in polynomial time, a tree decomposition where the value of nec_d is polynomial in the number of vertices of the graph (for fixed d), we get the following meta-algorithmic consequence from [Theorem 2](#).

Theorem 3. *Let H be a graph. Every LC-VSP problem can be solved in polynomial time on H -graphs.*

4 Minimal separators in H -graphs

Let G be a graph. If $a, b \in V(G)$, we say that $X \subseteq V(G)$ is an (a, b) -separator if a and b are in distinct connected components of $G \setminus X$. It is a *minimal* (a, b) -separator if it is inclusion-wise minimal with this property. A subset of $V(G)$ is a *minimal separator* of G if it is a minimal (a, b) -separator for some $a, b \in V(G)$.

The study of minimal separators is an active line of research that found many algorithmic applications (see e.g. [KBMK93, BBC99, BT01, FTV15]). In general, the number of minimal separators of a graph may be as large as exponential in its number of vertices. We prove in this section that in an H -graph, this number is upper-bounded by a polynomial (Theorem 4). By combining this finding with meta-algorithmic results of Fomin, Todinca and Villanger [FTV15], we deduce that a wide class of optimization problems can be solved in polynomial time on H -graphs (Corollary 3).

Theorem 4. *Let H be a graph. If G is a H -graph, it has at most $(2|G|+1)^{\|H\|} + \|H\| \cdot (2|G|)^2$ minimal separators.*

Proof. Let G be a H -graph and let F be a subdivision of H where G can be represented as the intersection graph of $\{M_v, v \in V(G)\}$. For every subset $V \subseteq V(G)$, the *border edges* of V are the edges of F with one endpoint in M_V and one endpoint in $V(F) \setminus M_V$. Let R be the union of border edges over $\{M_v, v \in V(G)\}$. Observe that for every $V \subseteq V(G)$, the set of border edges of V is a subset of R . For every edge $e \in E(F)$, we set

$$V_e = \{v \in V(G), e \subseteq M_v\}$$

and extend this notation to sets $S \subseteq E(F)$ as follows:

$$V_S = \{v \in V(G), \exists s \in S, s \subseteq M_v\}.$$

Informally, V_S is the set of all vertices of G whose models contain some edge of S .

Claim 4. *For every minimal separator X in G , there is a $S \subseteq R$ such that $X = V_S$.*

Proof. Let A, B be two connected components of $G \setminus X$ such that $N(A) = N(B) = X$. As X is an (A, B) -separator (i.e. A and B are included in the vertex sets of distinct connected components of $G \setminus X$), $M_A \cap M_B = \emptyset$. Let S be the set of border edges of M_A met on all inclusion-wise minimal paths that start in A and end in B . As noted above, $S \subseteq R$. First we show $V_S \subseteq X$. Let $v \in V_S$. That is, v is a vertex G such that $M_v \supseteq s$ for some $s \in S$. Then M_v contains both endpoints of s , one of which belongs to M_A . The vertex v is adjacent to A but does not belong to A (as M_v contains a vertex of \overline{A}), so it has to belong to the separator X . Therefore, $V_S \subseteq X$. Now we show $X \subseteq V_S$. Let $x \in X$. By definition, x has a neighbor in both A and B . Therefore, M_x meets both M_A and M_B . As M_x induces a connected subgraph of F and M_A is disjoint from M_B , it contains an edge $s \in E(F)$ with one endpoint in M_A and the other in $V(F) \setminus M_A$. Then s is a border edge of M_A in a minimal path from A to B : $x \in V_S$. Hence $X = V_S$. \square

From [Claim 4](#) we can already deduce that the number of minimal separators of G is at most the number of subsets of R . In order to obtain better bounds, we need other observations.

Claim 5. *For every $V \subseteq V(G)$ such that M_V induces a connected subgraph of F , and every $e \in E(H)$, the set M_V has at most two border edges in $E(P_e)$. Hence, $|R| \leq 2|G| \cdot \|H\|$.*

Proof. Follows from the fact that $F[M_V]$ is connected. \square

Claim 6. *For every minimal separator X of G , if $S \subseteq R$ is the subset of edges of F defined in the proof of [Claim 4](#), then*

- either $|S \cap E(P_e)| \leq 1$ for every $e \in E(H)$;
- or $|S| = 2$ and $S \subseteq E(P_e)$ for some $e \in E(H)$.

Proof. Let A and B be as in the proof of [Claim 4](#). According to [Claim 5](#) and as S is a subset of the border edges of M_A , we deduce $|S \cap E(P_e)| \leq 2$ for every $e \in E(H)$. Let us assume that $|S \cap E(P_e)| = 2$ for some $e \in E(H)$. Let u, u' and v, v' be the endpoints of the two edges shared by S and $E(P_e)$, respectively and in this order on the path. Then the model of one of A and B has its vertices in the subpath Q of P_e delimited by u' and v . Indeed, both $\{u, u'\}$ and $\{v, v'\}$ and have an endpoint that does not belong to M_A . As M_A induces a connected subgraph of F , either these endpoints are u' and v (intuitively, the exterior endpoints) or they are u, v' (the interior endpoints). In the first case $M_A \subseteq E(Q)$ and in the second one, $M_B \subseteq E(Q)$. From the definition of R , we can then conclude that $S \subseteq E(P_e)$ and we get $|S| = 2$. \square

Therefore, for every minimal separator X of G , there is a set $S \subseteq R$ such that:

1. either $|S \cap E(P_e)| \leq 1$ for every $e \in E(H)$;
2. or $|S| = 2$ and $S \subseteq E(P_e)$ for some $e \in E(H)$;

In order to upper-bound the number of possible minimal separators of G , we can consequently upper-bound the number of sets $S \subseteq R$ that satisfy one of the two conditions above. As noted in [Claim 5](#), for every $e \in E(H)$ we have $R \cap E(P_e) \leq 2|G|$. Hence there are at most $(2|G|)^2$ possible choices of set S that satisfy [\(2\)](#) for each $e \in E(H)$. We deduce that there are at most $\|H\| \cdot (2|G|)^2$ distinct sets $S \subseteq R$ satisfying [\(2\)](#). Let us now consider sets $S \subseteq R$ that satisfy [\(1\)](#). For every $e \in E(H)$, either S contains one of the $2|G|$ edges of $R \cap E(P_e)$ or it does not contain any of them. This makes $2|G| + 1$ possible choices for each $e \in E(H)$, and $(2|G| + 1)^{\|H\|}$ in total. Consequently, G has at most $(2|G| + 1)^{\|H\|} + \|H\| \cdot (2|G|)^2$ minimal separators. \square

For every $r \in \mathbb{N}$, let θ_r be the graph with 2 vertices and r parallel edges. The following shows that the exponential contribution of $\|H\|$ in [Theorem 4](#) cannot be avoided.

Lemma 2. *For every $r \in \mathbb{N}$, there is a θ_r -graph G with at least $\binom{|G|-2}{r}$ minimal separators.*

Proof. Let G be the graph obtained from θ_r by subdividing k times each edge. Then G is a θ_r -graph and $|G| = kr + 2$. Notice that any choice of r subdivision vertices, each corresponding to a different edge of θ_r , gives a distinct minimal separator of G . Hence G has at least $k^r = \binom{|G|-2}{r}$ minimal separators. \square

Our results on minimal separators have algorithmic consequences. We consider the following generic problem described in [FTV15].

OPTIMAL INDUCED SUBGRAPH FOR \mathcal{P} AND t
Input: A graph G
Task: Find sets $X \subseteq F \subseteq V(G)$ such that X is of maximum size, the induced subgraph $G[F]$ is of treewidth at most t , and $\mathcal{P}(G[F], X)$ is true.

For various choices of \mathcal{P} and t , this generic problem corresponds to natural families of optimization meta-problems like \mathcal{F} -MINOR-DELETION (where \mathcal{F} is a class of graphs containing at least one planar graph) whose goal is to delete a minimum number of vertices in order to get an \mathcal{F} -minor free graph² and INDEPENDENT \mathcal{F} -PACKING (where \mathcal{F} is a class of connected graphs), which asks for a maximum number of disjoint copies of graphs in \mathcal{F} as pairwise independent subgraphs of the input. Fomin, Todinca, and Villanger proved that when the property \mathcal{P} can be expressed in Counting Monadic Second Order logic (CMSOL, see [FTV15]), the above problem can be easily solved on classes of graphs that have a polynomial number of minimal separators.

Theorem 5 ([FTV15]). *For any fixed t and CSMO property \mathcal{P} , problem OPTIMAL INDUCED SUBGRAPH FOR \mathcal{P} AND t can be solved in polynomial time for classes of graphs with a polynomial number of minimal separators.*

We deduce the following result about H -graphs.

Corollary 3. *Let H be a graph. For any fixed t and CSMO property \mathcal{P} , the problem OPTIMAL INDUCED SUBGRAPH FOR \mathcal{P} AND t can be solved in polynomial time for H -graphs.*

5 Parameterized complexity of basic problems for H -graphs

In this section we investigate the parameterized complexity of some basic graph problems for H -graphs: DOMINATING SET, INDEPENDENT SET and CLIQUE. First, in [Subsection 5.1](#), we show that DOMINATING SET and INDEPENDENT SET are $W[1]$ -hard when parameterized by the solution size and the size of H and then we prove that CLIQUE is $W[1]$ -hard when parameterized by the size of H even if an H -representation of the input graph is given. In

²In fact, OPTIMAL INDUCED SUBGRAPH FOR \mathcal{P} AND t corresponds to the dual equivalent problem of \mathcal{F} -MINOR-DELETION, which asks for a largest \mathcal{F} -minor free subgraph of the input.

Subsection 5.2, we show that DOMINATING SET is FPT when parameterized the solution size and by the number of vertices of H if H is a tree. In fact, we show a more general result by proving that DOMINATING SET is FPT for chordal graphs if the problem is parameterized by the solution size and the *leafage* of the input graph, that is, by the minimum number of leaves in a clique tree for the input graph. This result is somehow tight since DOMINATING SET is well-known to be W[2]-hard for split graphs when parameterized by the solution size [RS08]. Recall also that INDEPENDENT SET and CLIQUE are polynomial for chordal graphs [Gav72, Gol04] and, therefore, for H -graphs if H is a tree. Finally, in **Subsection 5.3**, we show that CLIQUE admits a polynomial kernel when parameterized by the solution size and the size of H .

5.1 Hardness

In this section we prove W[1]-hardness of DOMINATING SET, INDEPENDENT SET and CLIQUE for H -graphs. To show hardness, we reduce from the MULTICOLORED CLIQUE problem. This problem, given a graph G with a k -partition of its vertex set V_1, \dots, V_k , asks whether G has a k -clique with exactly one vertex in each V_i for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. The problem is well-known to be W[1]-complete when parameterized by k [FHRV09, Pie03].

First, we consider DOMINATING SET and INDEPENDENT SET. Recall that DOMINATING SET and INDEPENDENT SET, given a graph G and a positive integer k , ask whether G has a dominating set of size at most k and independent set of size at least k respectively.

Theorem 6. *DOMINATING SET and INDEPENDENT SET are W[1]-hard for H -graphs when parameterized by $k + ||H||$ and the hardness holds even if an H -representation of G is given.*

Proof. First, we show the W[1]-hardness for INDEPENDENT SET and then explain how to modify the reduction for DOMINATING SET. The reduction is from MULTICOLORED CLIQUE.

Let (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) be an instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE. We assume that $k \geq 2$ and $|V_i| = p$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. The second assumption can be made without loss of generality because we always can add isolated vertices to the sets V_1, \dots, V_k to ensure that they have the same size. Denote by v_1^i, \dots, v_p^i the vertices of V_i for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$.

We construct the multigraph H as follows (see **Figure 1 a**)).

- (i) Construct k nodes u_1, \dots, u_k .
- (ii) For every $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, construct a node $w_{i,j}$ and two pairs of parallel edges $u_i w_{i,j}$ and $u_j w_{i,j}$.

Note that $|V(H)| = k(k+1)/2$ and $|E(H)| = 2k(k-1)$.

Then we construct the subdivision H' of H obtained by subdividing each edge p times. We denote the subdivision nodes for 4 edges of H constructed for each pair $0 \leq i < j \leq k$ in (ii) by $x_1^{(i,j)}, \dots, x_p^{(i,j)}, y_1^{(i,j)}, \dots, y_p^{(i,j)}, x_1^{(j,i)}, \dots, x_p^{(j,i)}$ and $y_1^{(j,i)}, \dots, y_p^{(j,i)}$ as it is shown in **Figure 1 b**). To simplify notations, we assume that $u_i = x_0^{(i,j)} = y_0^{(i,j)}$, $u_j = x_0^{(j,i)} = y_0^{(j,i)}$ and $w_{i,j} = x_{p+1}^{(i,j)} = y_{p+1}^{(i,j)} = x_{p+1}^{(j,i)} = y_{p+1}^{(j,i)}$.

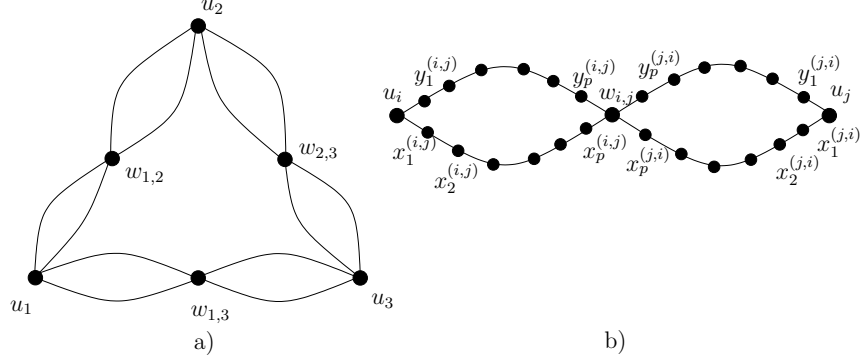


Figure 1: The construction of H for $k = 3$ and the subdivision of the edges of H .

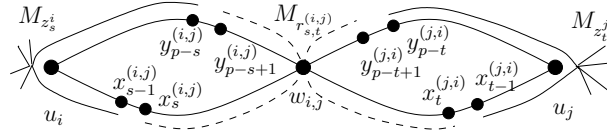


Figure 2: The construction of G' .

Now we construct the H -graph G' by defining its H -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G')}$ where the model of each vertex is a connected subset of $V(H')$ (see Figure 2). Recall that G is the graph of the original instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE.

- (i) For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $s \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, construct a vertex z_s^i with the model

$$M_{z_s^i} = \cup_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}, j \neq i} (\{x_0^{(i,j)}, \dots, x_{s-1}^{(i,j)}\} \cup \{y_0^{(i,j)}, \dots, y_{p-s}^{(i,j)}\}).$$

- (ii) For each edge $v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)$ for $s, t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, construct a vertex $r_{s,t}^{(i,j)}$ with the model

$$M_{r_{s,t}^{(i,j)}} = (\{x_s^{(i,j)}, \dots, x_{p+1}^{(i,j)}\}) \cup (\{y_{p-s+1}^{(i,j)}, \dots, y_{p+1}^{(i,j)}\}) \cup (\{x_t^{(j,i)}, \dots, x_{p+1}^{(j,i)}\}) \cup (\{y_{p-t+1}^{(j,i)}, \dots, y_{p+1}^{(j,i)}\}).$$

Finally, we define $k' = k(k+1)/2$. We claim that (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) is a yes-instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE if and only if G' has an independent set of size k' . The proof is based on the following crucial property of our construction, that can be easily checked.

Claim 7. For every $0 \leq i < j \leq k$, a vertex $z_h^i \in V(G')$ (a vertex $z_h^j \in V(G')$) is not adjacent to a vertex $r_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \in V(G')$ corresponding to the edge $v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)$ if and only if $h = s$ ($h = t$, respectively).

Let $\{v_{h_1}^1, \dots, v_{h_k}^k\}$ be a clique of G . Consider the set

$$I = \{z_{h_1}^1, \dots, z_{h_k}^k\} \cup \{r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i,j)} \mid 0 \leq i < j \leq k\}$$

of vertices of G' . It is straightforward to verify using [Claim 7](#) that I is an independent set of size k' in G' .

Suppose now that G' has an independent set I of size k' . For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, the set $Z_i = \{z_h^i \mid 1 \leq h \leq p\}$ is a clique of G' , and for each $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, the set $R_{i,j} = \{r_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \mid 1 \leq s, t \leq p, v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)\}$ is also a clique of G' . Since all these $k' = k + \binom{k}{2}$ cliques form a partition of $V(G')$, we have that for each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, there is a unique $z_{h_i}^i \in Z_i \cap I$, and for every $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, there is a unique $r_{s_i, s_j}^{(i,j)} \in R_{i,j} \cap I$. Since $r_{s_i, s_j}^{(i,j)}$ is not adjacent to $z_{h_i}^i$ and $z_{h_j}^j$, we obtain that $s_i = h_i$ and $s_j = h_j$ by [Claim 7](#). It implies that $v_{h_i}^i v_{h_j}^j \in E(G)$. Since it holds for every $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, $\{v_{h_1}^1, \dots, v_{h_k}^k\}$ is a clique in G .

This completes the $W[1]$ -hardness proof for INDEPENDENT SET. Now we explain how we modify our proof to show the $W[1]$ -hardness of DOMINATING SET. This time we reduce not from MULTICOLORED CLIQUE but from the MULTICOLORED INDEPENDENT SET problem that, given a graph G with a k -partition of its vertex set V_1, \dots, V_k , asks whether G has an independent set of size k with exactly one vertex in each V_i for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Clearly, the $W[1]$ -completeness of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE parameterized by k [[FHRV09, Pie03](#)] immediately implies the same for MULTICOLORED INDEPENDENT SET.

Let (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) be an instance of MULTICOLORED INDEPENDENT SET. We assume without loss of generality that $k \geq 2$ and $|V_i| = p$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. As before, denote by v_1^i, \dots, v_p^i the vertices of V_i for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. We construct the same multigraph H and its subdivision H' as above. We construct the H -graph G'' from the graph G' constructed above by adding k new vertices d_1, \dots, d_k with the models $M_{d_i} = \{u_i\}$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$.

We show that (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) is a yes-instance of MULTICOLORED INDEPENDENT SET if and only if G'' has a dominating set of size k .

Suppose that $\{v_{h_1}^1, \dots, v_{h_k}^k\}$ is an independent set of G . Consider the set $D = \{z_{h_1}^1, \dots, z_{h_k}^k\}$. By [Claim 7](#) and the construction of G'' , we obtain that D is a dominating set of G'' .

Let now D be a dominating set of G'' with $|D| = k$. Note that each vertex d_i is adjacent only to the vertices of the set $Z_i = \{z_h^i \mid 1 \leq h \leq p\}$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. It implies that $D \cap (Z_i \cup \{d_i\}) \neq \emptyset$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Since Z_i is a clique, we can assume without loss of generality that $D \cap Z_i \neq \emptyset$ as, otherwise, we can replace d_i in D by an arbitrary vertex of Z_i . Since $Z_i \cap Z_j = \emptyset$ if $i \neq j$, we conclude that D contains a unique vertex from each Z_i and no other vertices. Let $D = \{z_{h_1}^1, \dots, z_{h_k}^k\}$. We claim that $I = \{v_{h_1}^1, \dots, v_{h_k}^k\}$ is an independent set of G . To obtain a contradiction, assume that $v_{h_i}^i v_{h_j}^j \in E(G)$ for some $1 \leq i < j \leq k$. Consider the vertex $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i,j)}$ of G'' . By [Claim 7](#), $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i,j)}$ is adjacent neither to $z_{h_i}^i$ nor $z_{h_j}^j$. Because $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i,j)}$ is not adjacent to $z_{h_s}^s$ for any $s \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ such that $s \neq i, j$, we have that $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i,j)}$ is not dominated by D . This contradiction shows the claim. \square

Now we consider the CLIQUE problem. Recall that CLIQUE, given a graph G and a positive integer k , asks whether G has a clique of size at least k . Note that it was shown by Chaplick and Zeman [[CZ17](#)] that CLIQUE is FPT when parameterized by $k + \|H\|$. We show that the problem is $W[1]$ -hard when parameterized by the size of H only. To do it, we first prove $W[1]$ -hardness for the WEIGHTED CLIQUE problem that, given a graph G , a

weight function $\omega: V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and a positive integer k , asks whether G has a clique K of weight $\omega(K) = \sum_{v \in K} \omega(v) \geq k$.

Theorem 7. WEIGHTED CLIQUE is $W[1]$ -hard in the strong sense (i.e., if the weights are encoded in unary) for H -graphs when parameterized by $\|H\|$ and the hardness holds even if an H -representation of G is given.

Proof. We reduce from MULTICOLORED CLIQUE. Let (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) be an instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE. We assume without loss of generality that $k \geq 3$ and $|V_i| = p$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Denote by v_1^i, \dots, v_p^i the vertices of V_i for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$.

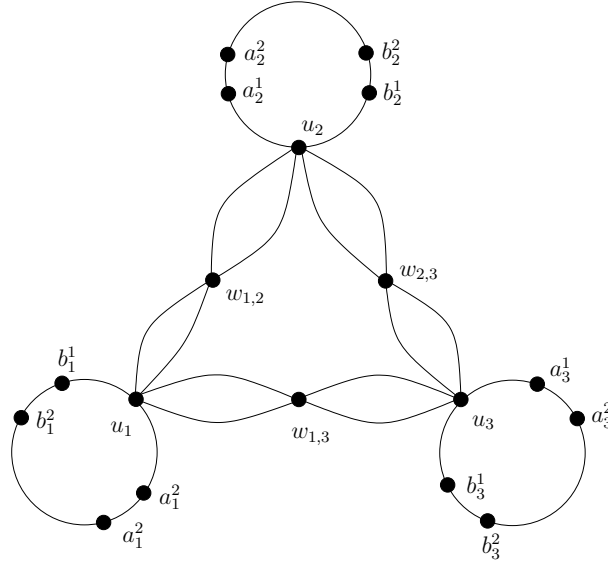


Figure 3: The construction of H for $k = 3$; the edges of S are not shown.

We construct the multigraph H as follows (see [Figure 3](#)).

- (i) Construct k nodes u_1, \dots, u_k .
- (ii) For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, construct nodes $a_i^1, a_i^2, b_i^1, b_i^2$ and edges $u_i a_i^1, a_i^1 a_i^2, u_i b_i^1, b_i^1 b_i^2$.
- (iii) For every $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, construct a node $w_{i,j}$ and two pairs of parallel edges $u_i w_{i,j}$ and $u_j w_{i,j}$.
- (iv) Let $U = (\cup_{i=1}^k \{u_i, a_i^1, a_i^2, b_i^1, b_i^2\}) \cup \{w_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq k\}$, and for every pair x, y of distinct nodes of U , add a new edge xy .

Denote by S the set of the edges added in (iv); note that some of them are parallel to the edges constructed in (ii) and (iii). Observe that $|V(H)| = \mathcal{O}(k^2)$ and $|E(H)| = \mathcal{O}(k^4)$.

Our next aim is to construct the subdivision H' of H . We do it by subdividing p times some edges of $E(H) \setminus S$.

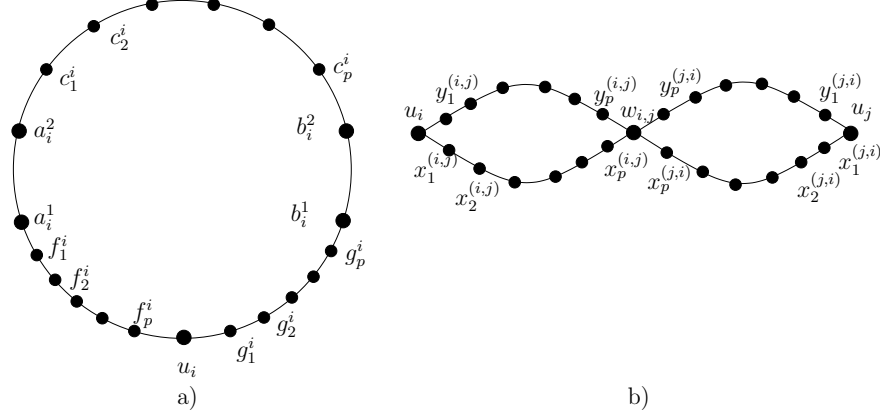


Figure 4: The subdivision of H .

- (i) For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, subdivide the edge $a_i^2 b_i^2$ and denote the subdivision nodes by $c_1^i, c_2^i, \dots, c_p^i$ as it is shown in **Figure 4 a**).
- (ii) For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, subdivide the edges $u_i a_i^1$ and $u_i b_i^1$ p times, and denote the subdivision nodes by f_1^i, \dots, f_p^i and g_1^i, \dots, g_p^i respectively as it is shown in **Figure 4 a**).
- (iii) For every pair $0 \leq i < j \leq k$, subdivide two pairs of parallel edges $u_i w_{i,j}$ and $u_j w_{i,j}$ p times and denote the subdivision nodes by $x_1^{(i,j)}, \dots, x_p^{(i,j)}$, $y_1^{(i,j)}, \dots, y_p^{(i,j)}$, $x_1^{(j,i)}, \dots, x_p^{(j,i)}$ and $y_1^{(j,i)}, \dots, y_p^{(j,i)}$ as it is shown in **Figure 4 b**).

Note that the edges of S are not subdivided. To define the weight function ω , we introduce two constants $\alpha = 3p^3 k^3$ and $\beta = p^2 k^2$ (recall that k is the number of parts in the partition of $V(G)$ and p is the size of each of them).

Now we construct the weighted H -graph G' by defining its H -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G')}$ where the model of each vertex is a connected subset of $V(H')$ defined hereafter and depicted in **Figure 5**.

- (i) For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $s \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$, construct a vertex d_s^i with the model

$$M_{d_s^i} = \{c_1^i, \dots, c_s^i\} \cup \{f_1^i, \dots, f_s^i\} \cup \{a_i^1, a_i^2\} \cup (\{b_1^2, \dots, b_k^2\} \setminus \{b_i^2\})$$

and set $\omega(d_s^i) = \alpha$ (see **Figure 5 a**).

- (ii) For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $s \in \{2, \dots, p\}$, construct a vertex \bar{d}_s^i with the model

$$M_{\bar{d}_s^i} = \{c_s^i, \dots, c_p^i\} \cup \{g_s^i, \dots, g_p^i\} \cup \{b_i^1, b_i^2\} \cup (\{a_1^2, \dots, a_k^2\} \setminus \{a_i^2\})$$

and set $\omega(\bar{d}_s^i) = \alpha$ (see **Figure 5 a**).

- (iii) For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $s \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, construct a vertex z_s^i with the model

$$M_{z_s^i} = \{f_s^i, \dots, f_p^i\} \cup \{u_i\} \cup \{g_1^i, \dots, g_s^i\} \cup \left(\bigcup_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}, j \neq i} \{x_1^{(i,j)}, \dots, x_s^{(i,j)}\} \right) \\ \cup (\{a_1^1, \dots, a_k^1\} \setminus \{a_i^1\}) \cup (\{b_1^1, \dots, b_k^1\} \setminus \{b_i^1\})$$

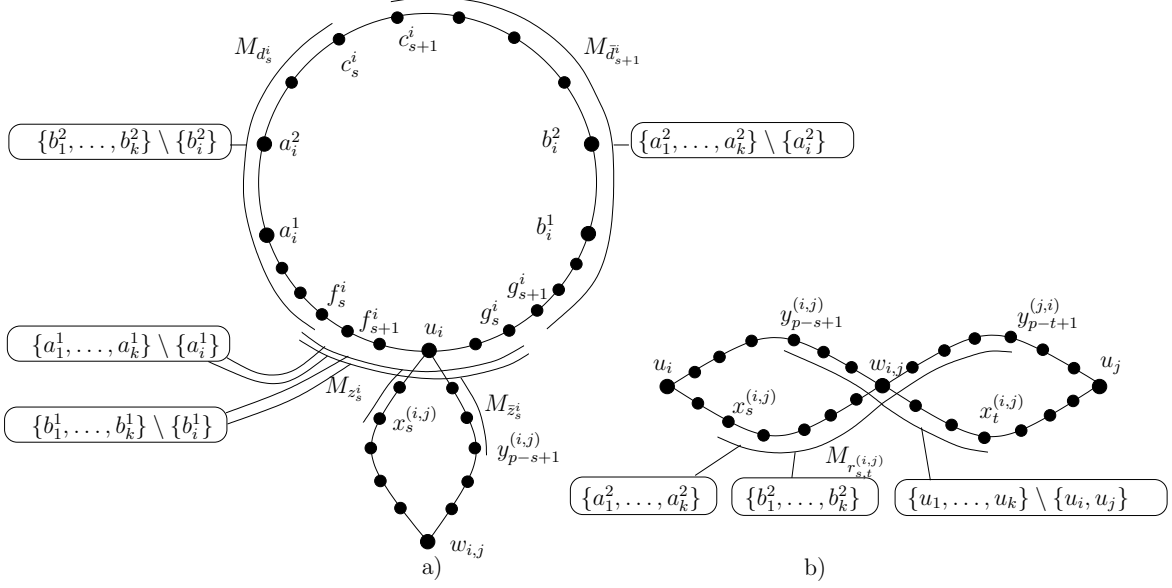


Figure 5: The construction of G' .

and set $\omega(z_s^i) = \beta$ (see Figure 5 a)).

- (iv) For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $s \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, construct a vertex \bar{z}_s^i with the model

$$M_{\bar{z}_s^i} = \{f_s^i, \dots, f_p^i\} \cup \{u_i\} \cup \{g_1^i, \dots, g_s^i\} \cup \left(\bigcup_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}, j \neq i} \{y_1^{(i,j)}, \dots, y_{p-s+1}^{(i,j)}\} \right) \\ \cup (\{a_1^1, \dots, a_k^1\} \setminus \{a_i^1\}) \cup (\{b_1^1, \dots, b_k^1\} \setminus \{b_i^1\}).$$

and set $\omega(\bar{z}_s^i) = \beta$ (see Figure 5 a)).

- (v) For each edge $v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)$ for $s, t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, construct a vertex $r_{s,t}^{(i,j)}$ with the model

$$M_{r_{s,t}^{(i,j)}} = (\{x_s^{(i,j)}, \dots, x_p^{(i,j)}\}) \cup (\{y_{p-s+1}^{(i,j)}, \dots, y_p^{(i,j)}\}) \\ \cup (\{x_t^{(j,i)}, \dots, x_p^{(j,i)}\}) \cup (\{y_{p-t+1}^{(j,i)}, \dots, y_p^{(j,i)}\}) \\ \cup (\{u_1, \dots, u_k\} \setminus \{u_i, u_j\}) \cup \{a_1^2, \dots, a_k^2\} \cup \{b_1^2, \dots, b_k^2\}$$

and set $\omega(r_{s,t}^{(i,j)}) = 1$ (see Figure 5 b)).

Notice that due to the edges of S in H , every set M_v for $v \in V(G')$ is connected, that is, G' is an H -graph. To complete the construction of the instance of WEIGHTED CLIQUE for G' , we define

$$k' = k(p-1)\alpha + 2k\beta + k(k-1)/2.$$

We claim that (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) is a yes-instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE if and only if (G', ω, k') is a yes-instance of WEIGHTED CLIQUE.

For $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, let

$$D_h^i = \begin{cases} \{d_h^i, \dots, d_{p-1}^i\} \cup \{\bar{d}_2^i, \dots, \bar{d}_h^i\} & \text{if } 2 \leq h \leq p-1, \\ \{d_1^i, \dots, d_{p-1}^i\} & \text{if } h = 1, \\ \{\bar{d}_2^i, \dots, \bar{d}_p^i\} & \text{if } h = p, \end{cases}$$

and $Z_h^i = \{z_h^i, \bar{z}_h^i\}$. Notice that $|D_h^i| = p-1$ and each D_h^i is a clique of G' .

Assume that (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) is a yes-instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE. Let $\{v_{h_1}^1, \dots, v_{h_k}^k\}$ be a clique of G . Let $1 \leq i < j \leq k$. The vertices $v_{h_i}^i$ and $v_{h_j}^j$ are adjacent in G . Therefore, G' contains the vertex $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}$. Consider the set

$$K = (D_{h_1}^1 \cup \dots \cup D_{h_k}^k) \cup (Z_{h_1}^1 \cup \dots \cup Z_{h_k}^k) \cup \{r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)} \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq k\}$$

of vertices of G' . We show that K is a clique of G' . We already observed that each D_h^i is a clique. Let $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, p\}$. Notice that $\{b_1^2, \dots, b_k^2\} \setminus \{b_i^2\} \subseteq M_{d_h^i}$ and $\{a_1^2, \dots, a_k^2\} \setminus \{a_i^2\} \subseteq M_{\bar{d}_h^i}$. Because $k \geq 3$, it follows that any two vertices of $D_{h_i}^i$ and $D_{h_j}^j$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ are adjacent. For $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, the vertices of $Z_{h_i}^i$ are adjacent to the vertices of $D_{h_i}^i$, because $f_{h_i}^i, g_{h_i}^i \in M_{z_{h_i}^i}$, $f_{h_i}^i, g_{h_i}^i \in M_{\bar{z}_{h_i}^i}$, and either $f_{h_i}^i \in M_v$ or $g_{h_i}^i \in M_v$ for $v \in D_{h_i}^i$. Since $k \geq 3$ and $\{a_1^1, \dots, a_k^1\} \setminus \{a_i^1\}, \{b_1^1, \dots, b_k^1\} \setminus \{b_i^1\} \subseteq M_{z_{h_i}^i}$ and $\{a_1^1, \dots, a_k^1\} \setminus \{a_i^1\}, \{b_1^1, \dots, b_k^1\} \setminus \{b_i^1\} \subseteq M_{\bar{z}_{h_i}^i}$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, we obtain that the vertices of $Z_{h_i}^i$ are adjacent to the vertices of $Z_{h_j}^j$ and $D_{h_j}^j$ if $i, j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $i \neq j$. Let $1 \leq i < j \leq k$. Notice that $\{a_1^1, \dots, a_k^1\}, \{b_1^1, \dots, b_k^1\} \subseteq M_{r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}}$. It follows, that $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}$ is adjacent to the vertices of $D_{h_s}^s$ for $s \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and, moreover, the vertices $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}$ are pairwise adjacent for all $1 \leq i < j \leq k$. Since $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\} \setminus \{u_i, u_j\} \subseteq M_{r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}}$, $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}$ is adjacent to the vertices of $Z_{h_s}^s$ for $s \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ if $s \neq i, j$. Finally, notice that $x_{h_i}^{(i, j)}, y_{p-h_i+1}^{(i, j)}, x_{h_j}^{(j, i)}, y_{p-h_j+1}^{(j, i)} \in M_{r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}}$ and this implies that $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i, j)}$ is adjacent to the vertices of $Z_{h_i}^i$ and $Z_{h_j}^j$. Combining all these observations together, we obtain that the vertices of K are pairwise adjacent, that is, K is a clique of G' .

Since $\omega(D_h^i) = |D_h^i|\alpha$, $\omega(Z_h^i) = 2\beta$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, and $\omega(r_{s, t}^{(i, j)}) = 1$ if $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ and $s, t \in \{1, \dots, k\}$,

$$\omega(K) = k(p-1)\alpha + 2k\beta + k(k-1)/2 = k'.$$

Therefore, (G', ω, k') is a yes-instance of WEIGHTED CLIQUE.

We now show the reverse direction. Suppose that (G', ω, k') is a yes-instance of WEIGHTED CLIQUE. Let K be a clique in G' with $\omega(K) \geq k'$. Consider the vertices d_s^i and \bar{d}_t^i for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $s, t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$. Observe that these vertices are adjacent if and only if $s \geq t$. It implies that the sets D_h^i for $h \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ form the set of inclusion maximal cliques in $G[D^i]$, where $D^i = \{d_s^i \mid 1 \leq s \leq p-1\} \cup \{\bar{d}_t^i \mid 2 \leq t \leq p\}$. In particular $K \cap D^i \subseteq D_{h_i}^i$ for some $h_i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ for each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$.

We show that $K \cap D^i = D_{h_i}^i$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. To obtain a contradiction, assume that $K \cap D^i \subset D_{h_i}^i$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Then $|K \cap D^i| \leq p - 2$. We obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(K) &\leq \omega((\cup_{i=1}^k D_i) \cap K) + \omega(\cup_{i=1}^k \cup_{h=1}^p \{z_h^i, \bar{z}_h^i\}) \\ &\quad + \omega(\cup_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} \{z_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \mid 1 \leq s, t \leq p, v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)\}) \\ &\leq (k(p-1) - 1)\alpha + 2kp\beta + p^2k(k-1)/2. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Recall that $\alpha = 3p^3k^3$ and $\beta = p^2k^2$. Then

$$\alpha > 2kp\beta + p^2k(k-1)/2. \tag{2}$$

Combining (1) and (2), we have that

$$\omega(K) \leq k(p-1)\alpha < k'$$

and this contradicts $\omega(K) \geq k'$.

Let $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. We proved that $K \cap D^i = D_{h_i}^i$. Consider the set of vertices $Z^i = \{z_h^i \mid 1 \leq h \leq p\} \cup \{\bar{z}_h^i \mid 1 \leq h \leq p\}$. Notice that only the vertices $z_{h_i}^i, \bar{z}_{h_i}^i \in Z^i$ are adjacent to all the vertices of $D_{h_i}^i$. Hence, K can contain only these vertices. We claim that K contains both of them, that is, $K \cap Z^i = Z_{h_i}^i$. To obtain a contradiction, assume that $K \cap Z^i \subset Z_{h_i}^i$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Then $|K \cap Z^i| \leq 1$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(K) &\leq \omega(\cup_{i=1}^k D_{h_i}^i) + \omega((\cup_{i=1}^k Z^i) \cap K) + \omega(\cup_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} \{z_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \mid 1 \leq s, t \leq p, v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)\}) \\ &\leq k(p-1)\alpha + (2k-1)\beta + p^2k(k-1)/2. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Notice that $\beta = p^2k^2 > p^2k(k-1)/2$ and, therefore, by (4),

$$\omega(K) \leq k(p-1)\alpha + 2k\beta < k',$$

a contradiction.

We obtained that $k(p-1)$ vertices of K of weight α belong to $\cup_{i=1}^k D^i$ and $2k$ vertices of weight β belong to $\cup_{i=1}^k Z^i$. The total weight of these vertices is $k(p-1)\alpha + 2k\beta$. Since $\omega(K) \geq k' = k(p-1)\alpha + 2k\beta + k(k-1)/2$, K contains at least $k(k-1)$ vertices of $R = \{r_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq k, 1 \leq s, t \leq p, v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)\}$. Consider $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ and $R^{(i,j)} = \{r_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \mid 1 \leq s, t \leq p, v_s^i v_t^j \in E(G)\}$. Observe that $r_{s,t}^{(i,j)} \in R^{(i,j)}$ is adjacent to all the vertices of the sets Z^{h_i} and Z^{h_j} if and only if $s = h_i$ and $t = h_j$. Hence, K contains at most one vertex from $R^{(i,j)}$. Since $|R \cap K| \geq k(k-1)/2$, K contains exactly one vertex $r_{h_i, h_j}^{(i,j)} \in R^{(i,j)}$. Thus, $v_{h_i}^i v_{h_j}^j \in E(G)$. It follows that $\{v_{h_1}^1, \dots, v_{h_k}^k\}$ is a clique in G , that is, (G, V_1, \dots, V_k) is a yes-instance of MULTICOLORED CLIQUE and this completes the proof. \square

Corollary 4. CLIQUE is W[1]-hard for H -graphs when parameterized by $\|H\|$ and the hardness holds even if an H -representation of G is given.

Proof. Given an instance (G, ω, k) of WEIGHTED CLIQUE, we construct the instance (G', k) of CLIQUE where G' is obtained from G by replacing each vertex $v \in V(G)$ by $\omega(v)$ true twins (i.e. $\omega(v)$ pairwise adjacent vertices, each of which having in $V(G) \setminus v$ the same neighborhood as v). Clearly, (G, ω, k) is a yes instance of WEIGHTED CLIQUE if and only if (G', k) is a yes-instance of CLIQUE. By [Theorem 7](#), WEIGHTED CLIQUE parameterized by $\|H\|$ is W[1]-hard for H -graphs with a given H -representation even if the weight of every vertex is encoded in unary. Then the claim of the corollary follows immediately. \square

5.2 Dominating Set for T -graphs

In this section we show that DOMINATING SET is FPT for chordal graphs if the problem is parameterized by the solution size and the leafage (hereafter defined) of the input graph.

Let G be a graph. As it is standard, we say that $u \in V(G)$ *dominates* $v \in V(G)$ if $v \in N_G[u]$ and u dominates a set $W \subseteq V(G)$ if every vertex of W is dominated by u . Respectively, a set $D \subseteq V(G)$ dominates $W \subseteq V(G)$ if every vertex of W is dominated by some vertex of D .

Let G be a graph. Let \mathcal{K} be the set of (inclusion-wise) maximal cliques of G and let $\mathcal{K}_v \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ be the set of maximal cliques containing $v \in V(G)$. A tree T whose node set is \mathcal{K} such that \mathcal{K}_v induce a subtree of T for every $v \in V(G)$ is called a *clique tree* of G . It is well-known [[Gav74](#)] that G is a chordal graph if and only if G has a clique tree T . Moreover, if T is a clique tree of G , then G is an intersection graph of subtrees of T , that is, G is a T -graph. Note that a clique tree of a chordal graph is not necessarily unique. For a connected chordal graph G , the *leafage* $\ell(G)$ of G is the minimum number of leaves in its clique tree. In was shown by Habib and Stacho in [[HS09](#)] that the leafage of a connected chordal graph G can be found in polynomial time. Their algorithm also constructs the corresponding clique tree T with the minimum number of leaves. In other words, given a connected chordal graph G , we can construct in polynomial time its clique tree T with $\ell(G)$ leaves and a T -representation of G .

Let T be a tree and let G be a connected T -graph with its T -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ with respect to a subdivision T' of T .

Recall that for nonempty $U \subseteq V(T)$, we say that $v \in V(G)$ is a U -vertex if $M_v \cap V(T) = U$. If $U = \{u\}$, we write u -vertex instead of $\{u\}$ -vertex. Recall also that we denote the set of U -vertices by $V_G(U)$ and $V_G(u)$ if $U = \{u\}$. We also denote by $V_G(T)$ the set of all U -vertices of G for all nonempty $U \subseteq V(T)$. For $e \in E(T)$, $v \in V(G)$ is an e -vertex if M_v contains only subdivision nodes of T' from the path in T' corresponding to e in T . The set of e -vertices is denoted by $V_G(e)$.

We need the following lemma that allows to upper bound the number of vertices in a minimum dominating set whose models contain given nodes of T .

Lemma 3. *Let D be a minimum dominating set of G . Let $X \subseteq V(T)$ be an inclusion maximal set of nodes of T such that i) for every $x \in X$, there is $u \in D$ with $x \in M_u$ and ii) for every $xy \in E(T)$ with $x, y \in X$, there is $u \in D$ with $x, y \in M_u$. Then the set $U = \{u \in D \mid X \cap M_u \neq \emptyset\}$ contains at most $|N_T[X]| - 1$ vertices.*

Proof. Denote by v_1, \dots, v_s the vertices of $N_T(X)$. To obtain a contradiction, assume that that $|U| > |N_T[X]| - 1 = s + |X| - 1$. For each $i \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, let $u_i \in U$ be a vertex such that the distance between M_{u_i} and v_i in T' is minimum. For each $xy \in E(T)$ with $x, y \in X$, we select arbitrary $u_{xy} \in U$ with $x, y \in M_{u_{xy}}$. Let $U' = \{u_1, \dots, u_s\} \cup \{u_{xy} \mid x, y \in X, xy \in E(T)\}$. Note that $|U'| \leq s + |X| - 1 = |N_T[X]| - 1$. Since X induces a subtree of T , we have that $\cup_{u \in U} M_u \subseteq \cup_{u \in U'} M_u$. It immediately implies that $D' = (D \setminus U) \cup U'$ is a dominating set of G contradicting the minimality of D . \square

In particular, since $|N_T(X)|$ is at most the number of leaves ℓ , we have that $|U| \leq |X| + \ell - 1$.

The next lemma gives an upper bound for the number of vertices in a minimal dominating set whose models contain nodes of T .

Lemma 4. *Let D be a minimum dominating set of G . Then $|D \cap V_G(T)| \leq 3|V(T)| - 2$.*

Proof. Let D be a minimum dominating set of G . Consider the set W of nodes of T that are included in the models of the vertices of D . Let X_1, \dots, X_r be the partition of W into inclusion maximal subsets such that for each $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ and adjacent $x, y \in X_i$, there is $u \in D$ with $x, y \in M_u$. By [Lemma 3](#),

$$|D \cap V_G(T)| \leq \sum_{i=1}^r (|X_i| + |N_T(X_i)| - 1) \leq |W| + \sum_{i=1}^r |N_T(X_i)| \leq |V(T)| + 2|E(T)| = 3|V(T)| - 2.$$

\square

For an edge $e \in E(T)$, we say that G' is obtained *by contracting e in T* if G' is the (T/e) -graph with the model obtained as follows:

- (i) contract xy in T and, respectively, the (x, y) -path P in T' , and denote the node obtained from x and y by z ,
- (ii) delete all e -vertices of G ,
- (iii) for each remaining vertex $u \in V(G)$, delete from M_u the subdivision nodes of P and replace x and y by z if at least one of these nodes is in M_u .

Note that $V(G') \subseteq V(G)$ and $G[V(G')]$ is a subgraph of G' but not necessarily induced since two vertices of G' that are not adjacent in G could be adjacent in G' .

Consider a *coloring* $c: V_G(T) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 2^{|V(T)|}\}$ such that for $u, v \in V_G(T)$, $c(u) = c(v)$ if and only if u and v are U -vertices for the same $U \subseteq V(T)$.

The next lemmas are used to simplify the models of vertices of G by contracting edges of T .

Lemma 5. *Let $C \subseteq c(V_G(T))$ and let $A = \{xy \in E(T) \mid x, y \in M_u \text{ for } u \in V_G(T), c(u) \in C\}$. Let also G' be the graph obtained from G by consecutive contracting edges of A in T . Then for a set $D \subseteq V(G)$, D is a dominating of G of minimum size satisfying the condition $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$ if and only if D is a dominating set of G' of minimum size satisfying the same condition $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$.*

Proof. Before we start proving the lemma, observe that $V_G(T) \subseteq G'$ and $V_G(T)$ is the set of U -vertices of G' for nonempty subsets U of the set of nodes of T/A . Note also that for G' and T/A , the coloring c not necessarily has the property that if u and v are U -vertices of the same U , then $c(u) = c(v)$.

Suppose that D is a dominating set of G with $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$ that has the minimum size. We claim that $D \subseteq V(G')$. To see it assume that there is $u \in D \setminus V(G')$. Then u is an e -vertex of G for some $e = xy \in A$. Then there is $v \in V_G(T)$ such that $x, y \in M_v$ and $c(v) \in C$. Since D has a vertex v' with $c(v') = c(v)$, we have that $x, y \in M_{v'}$. Clearly, $M_u \subseteq M_{v'}$. It implies that $D \setminus \{u\}$ is a dominating set of G . Since u is e -edge, u is not colored and the obtained dominating set contains vertices with all the colors from C , but this contradicts the choice of D . Therefore, $D \subseteq V(G')$. Because $G[V(G')]$ is a subgraph of G' , we have that D is a dominating set of G' .

Let now D be a dominating set of G' with $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$ that has the minimum size. We show that D is a dominating set of G .

First, we prove that D dominates every $u \in V(G) \setminus V(G')$. If $u \in V(G) \setminus V(G')$, then u is an e -vertex for some $e = xy \in A$. We have that there is $v \in V_G(T)$ such that $x, y \in M_v$ and $c(v) \in C$. Because $C \subseteq c(D \cap V_G(T))$, there is $v' \in D$ with $c(v') = c(v)$. It implies that $x, y \in M_{v'}$ in G and, therefore, v' dominates u .

Now we show that D dominates the vertices of $V(G')$ in G . To obtain a contradiction, assume that there is $u \in V(G')$ that is not dominated by D in G . As D is a dominating set of G' , there is $v \in D$ such that $uv \in E(G')$ and $uv \notin E(G)$. It follows that there are $x, y \in V(T)$ such that $x \in M_u, y \in M_v$ and for the (x, y) -path P in T , $E(P) \subseteq A$. Let xy' be the edge of P that is incident to x . Since $xy' \in A$, there is $w \in V_G(T)$ such that $x, y \in M_w$ in G and $c(w) \in C$. Because $C \subseteq c(D \cap V_G(T))$, there is $w' \in D$ with $c(w') = c(w)$. It implies that $x \in M_{w'}$ in G and, therefore, w' dominates u . \square

Lemma 6. *Let $C \subseteq c(V_G(T))$ and $A' = \{xy \in E(T) \mid x, y \in M_u \text{ for } u \in V_G(T), c(u) \notin C \text{ and } x, y \notin M_v \text{ for } v \in V_G(T), c(v) \in C\}$, and assume that for every $e \in A$, G has no e -vertex. Denote by G' be the graph obtained from G by consecutive contracting of edges of A' in T . Then for a set $D \subseteq V(G)$, D is a dominating of G of minimum size satisfying the condition $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$ if and only if D is a dominating set of G' satisfying the same condition $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$.*

Proof. Observe that $V(G') = V(G)$, because we do not delete e -vertices when we contract A' . Notice also that the model M_u of a vertex $u \in V_G(T)$ with $c(u) \in C$ remains the same in the modified representation obtained by the contraction.

If D is a dominating set of G with $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$, then it is straightforward to verify that D is a dominating set of G' . Suppose that D is a dominating set of G' with $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$. We have that G is a subgraph of G' . Suppose that $u, v \in V(G)$ are adjacent in G' but are not adjacent in G . It follows that there are $x, y \in V(T)$ such that $x \in M_u, y \in M_v$ and there is an (x, y) -path P in T such that $E(P) \subseteq A'$. Then $c(u), c(v) \notin C$ by the definition of A . Hence, $u, v \notin D$. We obtain that for every $u, v \in V(G)$ that are adjacent in G' but are not adjacent in G , $u, v \notin D$. Hence, D is a dominating set of G . \square

We say that \mathcal{M} is a *nice* representation if $|M_v \cap V(H)| \leq 1$ for $v \in V(G)$, i.e., each set M_v contains at most one branching node of T' .

We say that a T -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ of G with respect to a subdivision T' is an r -rooted representation if a node r of T is chosen to be a root. The root defines the parent-child relation on $V(T)$ and $V(T')$. For $x \in V(T)$ ($x \in V(T')$), we denote by T_x (T'_x respectively) the subtree of T (T' respectively) induced by x and its descendants. For $x \in V(T)$ and its child y , we denote by T_{xy} the subtree of T induced by x , y and the descendants of y . For $x \in V(T)$, $V_x(G) = \{v \in V(G) \mid M_v \cap V(T'_x) \neq \emptyset\}$.

Let $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ be a nice r -rooted T -representation of G with respect to T' . For a vertex $x \in V(T')$, we denote by $dist(x)$ the distance between r and x in T' . For a set $X \subseteq V(T')$, we denote by $d_{\min}(X) = \min\{dist(x) \mid x \in X\}$ and by $d_{\max}(X) = \max\{dist(x) \mid x \in X\}$. Consider an edge $e = xy \in E(T)$, where y is a child of x , and denote by P_e the (x, y) -path in T' corresponding to e . Let $u, v \in V(G)$ such that $M_u^e = M_u \cap V(P_e) \neq \emptyset$ and $M_v^e = M_v \cap V(P_e) \neq \emptyset$. We write $u \preceq_e v$ if either $d_{\min}(M_u^e) < d_{\min}(M_v^e)$ or $d_{\min}(M_u^e) = d_{\min}(M_v^e)$ and $d_{\max}(M_u^e) \leq d_{\max}(M_v^e)$. Respectively, $u \prec_e v$ if either $d_{\min}(M_u^e) < d_{\min}(M_v^e)$ or $d_{\min}(M_u^e) = d_{\min}(M_v^e)$ and $d_{\max}(M_u^e) < d_{\max}(M_v^e)$.

We consider the following auxiliary problem for T -graphs with nice representations.

DOMINATING SET EXTENSION

Input: A tree T with ℓ leaves and a graph G with a nice r -rooted T -representation of G with respect to a subdivision T' of T , positive integers k and d , a *labeling* function $c: \cup_{x \in V(T)} V_G(x) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, and a collection of sets $\{C_x\}_{x \in V(T)}$ of size at most d where each $C_x \subseteq c(V_G(x))$ (some sets could be empty) such that for a dominating set D of G of minimum size with the properties that

- (a) D has at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$,
- (b) for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x \subseteq c(D \cap V_G(x))$,

it holds that the number of nodes $x \in V(T)$ such that D contains an x -vertex is maximum and for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x = c(D \cap V_G(x))$.

Task: Decide whether there is a dominating set D' of G of size at most k containing at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$ such that for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x = c(D' \cap V_G(x))$.

Note that DOMINATING SET EXTENSION is a *promise* problem: we are promised that there is D with the described properties but D itself is not given. Moreover, the promise could be false but we are not asked to verify it.

Lemma 7. DOMINATING SET EXTENSION can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}((d+\ell) \log d)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$. Moreover, it can be done by an algorithm that either return a correct yes-answer or (possible incorrect) no-answer even if the promise is false.

Proof. Let G be a T -graph for a tree T rooted in r that has a nice r -rooted T -representation \mathcal{M} with respect to a subdivision T' of T . If G is disconnected, then we reduce the problem to

solving DOMINATING SET EXTENSION for the components of G . Assume from now that G is connected. Let also k and d be positive integers, $c: \cup_{x \in V(T)} V_G(x) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a labeling function, and $\{C_x\}_{x \in V(T)}$ is a collection of sets where each $C_x \subseteq c(V_G(x))$. Since G is connected, we can assume without loss of generality that for every $x \in V(T)$, there is $v \in V(G)$ with $x \in M_v$. Otherwise, we can replace T by its subtree without increasing the number of leaves. We also assume that $|C_x| \leq d \leq |V_G(x)|$ as, otherwise, we have a trivial no-instance of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION. We construct a dynamic programming algorithm for the problem that finds the minimum size of a dominating set D of G containing at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$ such that for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x = c(D \cap V_G(x))$. Our algorithm assumes that the promise is fulfilled for the considered instance of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION. The algorithm uses the properties that every node of T has at most ℓ children, i.e., the number of the children is bounded by the parameter, and for each edge e of T , the set of e -edges of G composes an interval graphs for which the domination problem can be solved efficiently.

First, we construct a subroutine that solves the following auxiliary problem for each $e = xy \in E(T)$. Let P_e be the (x, y) -path in T' corresponding to e . Let $U_e = \{v \in V(G) \mid M_v \cap V(P) \neq \emptyset\}$. For $X \subseteq U_e$, $\alpha_e(X)$ is the minimum size of a set S of e -vertices of G that dominates X ; we assume that $\alpha_e(X) = 0$ if $X = \emptyset$ and $\alpha_e(X) = +\infty$ if such a dominating set of e -vertices S does not exist.

Claim A. For every $e \in E(T)$ and $X \subseteq U_e$, $\alpha_e(X)$ can be computed in time $n^{O(1)}$.

Proof of Claim A. If $X = \emptyset$, then $\alpha_e(X) = 0$ by the definition. Assume that $X \neq \emptyset$. If there is a vertex in X that is not dominated by any e -vertex of G , then we set $\alpha_e(X) = +\infty$. Otherwise, it is straightforward to see that S exists, and we construct S using the well-known greedy approach for constructing a minimum dominating set in an interval graph.

Initially, we set $S = \emptyset$ and then increase it iteratively until all the vertices of X are dominated. Denote by $Y \subseteq X$ the set of vertices that are not dominated by the the current S . Then we do the following:

1. Find a vertex w in Y that is maximum with respect to the ordering \preceq_e .
2. Find a minimum with respect to \preceq_e e -vertex v that dominates w , set $S = S \cup \{v\}$ and recompute Y .
3. If $Y \neq \emptyset$, then return to Step 1.

It is straightforward to verify that the algorithm correctly computes $\alpha_e(X)$ in polynomial time. \square

We say that a node $x \in V(T)$ is *loaded* if $C_x \neq \emptyset$ and x is *unloaded* otherwise.

We say that a set of vertices S is *extendable* if there is a dominating set D such that

- (a) D has at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$,
- (b) for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x \subseteq c(D \cap V_G(x))$,

that has the minimum size and contains S and the conditions of the promise is fulfilled: the number of nodes $x \in V(T)$ such that D contains an x -vertex is maximum and for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x = c(D \cap V_G(x))$.

We are ready to explain our dynamic programming algorithm for DOMINATING SET EXTENSION. It works on T starting from the leaves and moving towards the root. To avoid dealing with the root that has no parent separately, we add an artificial node r' to T and T' and make r' the parent of r and the new root. Observe that r' is the unique node of the tree that is not included in M_v for some $v \in V(G)$.

We start with defining the tables of data that the algorithm stores for each $x \neq r'$ of T . Let y be a parent of x and let $e = yx$. Consider the set $W = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$ of x -vertices of G and assume that $v_1 \preceq_e \dots \preceq_e v_p$ (note that if $x = r$ and $y = r'$, then the ordering is arbitrary).

If x loaded, then for x and $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, the algorithm stores the value $\beta(x, i)$ that is either the minimum size of a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ such that

- (i) $v_i \in S$,
- (ii) S contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_x)$,
- (iii) for each $z \in V(T_x)$, $C_z = c(S \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (iv) S dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G)$,

or we may set $\beta(x, i) = +\infty$ if we detect that there is no $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ satisfying (i)–(iv) such that S is extendable. In particular, it can happen if every set S satisfying (i)–(iv) contradicts the promise of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION.

Similarly, if x is unloaded, then for x and $i \in \{0, \dots, p\}$ the algorithm stores the value $\gamma(x, i)$ that is either the minimum size of a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ such that

- (v) v_{i+1}, \dots, v_p are dominated by S ,
- (vi) S contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_x)$,
- (vii) for each $z \in V(T_x)$, $C_z = c(S \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (viii) S dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G) \setminus \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$,

or we may set $\gamma(x, i) = +\infty$ if we detect that there is no $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ satisfying (v)–(viii) such that S is extendable. Similarly to $\beta(x, i)$, we do it if we detect that every set S satisfying (v)–(viii) contradicts the promise of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION. In particular, it happens when we gain by including an x -vertex of G into a partial solution.

It also is assumed that $\beta(x, i) = +\infty$ and $\gamma(x, i) = +\infty$ if there is no any S that satisfy the conditions (i)–(iv) or (v)–(viii) respectively.

Now we explain how we compute the values $\beta(x, i)$ and $\gamma(x, i)$. First, we do it for leaves.

Computing $\beta(x, i)$ and $\gamma(x, i)$ for leaves. Let x be a loaded leaf of T . We set

$$\beta(x, i) = \begin{cases} |C_x| & \text{if } c(v_i) \in C_x, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let x be unloaded leaf. We set

$$\gamma(x, i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = p, \\ +\infty & \text{if } i < p. \end{cases}$$

Now we compute the values $\beta(x, i)$ and $\gamma(x, i)$ for non-leaves.

Suppose that $x \neq r'$ is a non-leaf node of T . Let z_1, \dots, z_s be the children of x in T and let $e_j = xz_j$ for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Assume that the functions β and γ are computed for the children of x depending on whether they are loaded or not.

Computing $\beta(x, i)$ for loaded x . Consider z_j for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Let $W_j = \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$ be the set of z_j -vertices of G . We assume that $u_1 \preceq_{e_j} \dots \preceq_{e_j} u_q$. For $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, we compute the values of $\delta_j(x, i)$. To do it, we consider two cases.

Case 1. The vertex z_j is loaded. For $i' \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$, let

$$X_{i',h} = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap (M_{v_{i'}} \cup M_{u_h}) = \emptyset\}.$$

We set

$$\delta_j(x, i') = \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} \{\beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{i',h})\}.$$

Case 2. The vertex z_j is unloaded. For $i' \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, let

$$Y_{i'} = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap M_{v_{i'}} = \emptyset\}$$

and for $h \in \{0, \dots, q\}$,

$$Y_{i',h} = \begin{cases} Y_{i'} & \text{if } h = 0, \\ Y_{i'} \cup \{u_h\} & \text{if } h > 0. \end{cases}$$

We set

$$\delta_j(x, i') = \min_{0 \leq h \leq q} \{\gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i',h})\}.$$

We have that $\delta_j(x, i)$ is defined for both cases. For $i' \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and each non-empty $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, q\}$, we set

$$\delta_J(x, i') = \sum_{j \in J} \delta_j(x, i'),$$

and $\delta_\emptyset(x, i') = 0$.

We consider all possible partitions $\mathcal{P} = \{J_1, \dots, J_t\}$ for $|C_x| \leq t \leq d$ of $\{0, 1, \dots, s\}$ where $0 \in J_1$ and some other sets could be empty. We then consider all possible surjections $\varphi: \{1, \dots, t\} \rightarrow C_x$. For x and $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, we set

$$\beta(x, i) = \min\left\{t + \sum_{h=1}^t \min\{\delta_{J_h}(x, i') \mid 1 \leq i' \leq p, i' = i \text{ if } h = 1, c(v_{i'}) = \varphi(h)\} \mid \mathcal{P}, \varphi\right\}, \quad (4)$$

where we assume to simplify notations that

$$\min\{\delta_{J_h}(x, i') \mid 1 \leq i' \leq p, c(v_{i'}) = \varphi(h), i' = i \text{ if } h = 1\} = +\infty$$

if $h \geq 2$ and there is no $1 \leq i' \leq p$ such that $c(v_{i'}) = \varphi(h)$ or if $h = 1$ and $\varphi(1) \neq c(v_i)$.

Computing $\gamma(x, i)$ for unloaded x . Consider z_j for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Let $W_j = \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$ be the set of z_j -vertices of G . We assume that $u_1 \preceq_{e_j} \dots \preceq_{e_j} u_q$. Consider also the ordering $v_{i_1^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}$ of the vertices of W such that $v_{i_1^j} \preceq_{e_j} \dots \preceq_{e_j} v_{i_p^j}$. We compute the functions $\eta(j)$ and $\psi(j)$ as follows depending on whether z_j is loaded or not.

Case 1. The vertex z_j is loaded. For $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$, let

$$X_h = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap M_{u_h} = \emptyset\},$$

and let

$$\eta(j) = \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} (\beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_h)). \quad (5)$$

For $t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, q+1\}$, denote

$$X_{h,t} = \begin{cases} X_h \cup \{v_{i_t^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}\} & \text{if } t \leq p, \\ X_h & \text{if } t = p+1, \end{cases}$$

and let

$$\psi(j) = \min\{t \mid 1 \leq t \leq p+1, \eta(j) = \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} (\beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t}))\}. \quad (6)$$

Case 2. The vertex z_j is unloaded. For $h \in \{0, \dots, q\}$, let

$$Y_h = \begin{cases} \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} & \text{if } h = 0, \\ \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_h\} & \text{if } h \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

and let

$$\eta(j) = \min_{0 \leq h \leq q} (\gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_h)). \quad (7)$$

For $t \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $h \in \{1, \dots, q+1\}$, denote

$$Y_{h,t} = \begin{cases} Y_h \cup \{v_{i_t^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}\} & \text{if } t \leq p, \\ Y_h & \text{if } t = p+1, \end{cases}$$

and let

$$\psi(j) = \min\{t \mid 1 \leq t \leq p+1, \eta(j) = \min_{0 \leq h \leq q} (\gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h,t}))\}. \quad (8)$$

Now for $i \in \{0, \dots, p\}$, we set

$$\gamma(x, i) = \begin{cases} \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j) & \text{if for } h \in \{i+1, \dots, p\}, \text{ there is } j \in \{1, \dots, s\} \text{ s.t. } v_{i\psi(j)} \preceq_{e_j} v_h \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

We compute β and γ for all nodes of T except the artificial root r' . The algorithm is based on the following properties of these values.

Claim B. *If x is a loaded node, then for x and $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, the following is fulfilled: if $\beta(x, i) < +\infty$, then there is a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ satisfying the conditions (i)-(iv) of size at most $\beta(x, i)$, and if there is a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ satisfying the conditions (i)-(iv) that is extendable, then $|S| = \beta(x, i)$. Similarly, if x is unloaded, then for x and $i \in \{0, \dots, p\}$, the following is fulfilled: if $\gamma(x, i) < +\infty$, then there is a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ satisfying the conditions (v)-(viii) of size at most $\gamma(x, i)$, and if there is a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ of minimum size satisfying the conditions (v)-(viii) that is extendable, then $|S| = \gamma(x, i)$.*

Proof of Claim B. It is straightforward to verify these properties for the leaves of T by the definition of β and γ .

We use standard approach for proving correctness of dynamic programming algorithms. We assume inductively that the properties of the values of β and γ are fulfilled for the children of x using as the base of the induction the fact that we already verified the properties of β and γ for the leaves of T .

As in the description of the algorithm, we assume that $W = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$ is the set of x -vertices and assume that $v_1 \preceq_e \dots \preceq_e v_p$ for $e = yx$ where y is the parent of x . In the same way, z_1, \dots, z_s are the children of x .

First, we prove the claim for β . Let x be a loaded node and let $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$.

Let $\beta(x, i) < +\infty$. We show that there is a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ of size at most $\beta(x, i)$ such that

- (i) $v_i \in S$,
- (ii) S contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_x)$,
- (iii) for each $z \in V(T_x)$, $C_z = c(S \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (iv) S dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G)$.

Consider a partition $\mathcal{P} = \{J_1, \dots, J_t\}$ and a mapping $\varphi: \{1, \dots, t\} \rightarrow C_x$ for which the minimum in the right part of (4) is achieved. Further, for each $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, let i_j be a value of i' for which $\min\{\delta_{J_h}(x, i') \mid 1 \leq i' \leq p, i' = i \text{ if } h = 1, c(v_{i'}) = \varphi(h)\}$ is achieved; note that $i_1 = i$.

We define $S_x = \{v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_t}\}$; observe that some vertices could be repeated and in this case we remove the duplicates. We have that $|S_x| \leq t \leq d$ and $v_i \in S_x$. Since φ is a surjection, $C_x = c(S_x \cap V_G(x))$. We obtain (i)–(iii) are fulfilled for $z = x$. Clearly, all x -vertices of G are dominated by S_x .

Consider z_j for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. As in the description of the algorithm, we assume that $W_j = \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$ is the set of z_j -vertices of G . We also assume that $u_1 \preceq_{e_j} \dots \preceq_{e_j} u_q$. Let $j \in J_{i'}$. We consider two cases depending on whether z_j is loaded or not.

Case 1. The vertex z_j is loaded. Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that $\beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{i',h})$ has the minimum value.

By the inductive assumption, there is $S_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ of size at most $\beta(z_j, h)$ such that

- (i') $u_h \in S_j$,
- (ii') S_{z_j} contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$,
- (iii') for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$, $C_z = c(S_{z_j} \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (iv') S_{z_j} dominates all the vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$.

Consider $X_{i',h} = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap (M_{v_{i'}} \cup M_{u_h}) = \emptyset\}$. Notice that if w is a e_j -vertex and $w \notin X_{i',h}$, then w is dominated either by $v_{i'} \in S_x$ or $u_h \in S_{z_j}$, i.e., w is dominated by $S_x \cup S_{z_j}$. By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{i',h})$, there is a set S_{xz_j} of e_j -vertices of size $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{i',h})$ that dominates $X_{i',h}$.

Case 2. The vertex z_j is unloaded. Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that $\gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i',h})$ has the minimum value.

By the inductive assumption, there is $S_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ of size at most $\gamma(z_j, h)$ such that

- (v') u_{h+1}, \dots, u_q are dominated by S_{z_j} ,
- (vi') S_{z_j} contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$,
- (vii') for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$, $C_z = c(S \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (viii') S_{z_j} dominates all the vertices of $V_{z_j}(G) \setminus \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$.

Recall that we defined $Y_{i'} = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap M_{v_{i'}} = \emptyset\}$ and $Y_{i',h} = \begin{cases} Y_{i'} & \text{if } h = 0, \\ Y_{i'} \cup \{u_h\} & \text{if } h > 0. \end{cases}$ If w is a e_j -vertex and $w \notin X_{i',h}$, then w is dominated by $v_{i'} \in S_x$, i.e., w is dominated by $S_x \cup S_{z_j}$. By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i',h})$, there is a set S_{xz_j} of e_j -vertices of size $\alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i',h})$ that dominates $Y_{i',h}$. This set dominates the e_j -vertices that are not dominated by S_x and the z_j -vertices u_1, \dots, u_h if $h \geq 1$ that are the only vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$ that (possibly) are not dominated by S_{z_j} .

Now we let

$$S = S_x \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^s (S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}) \right).$$

We have that (i)–(iv) are fulfilled for S . It remains to notice that $|S| \leq \beta(x, i)$ by the definition.

Assume now that $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ is a set of minimum size satisfying (i)–(iv) and S is extendable. Since S is a set of minimum size satisfying these conditions, as we already proved, $|S| \leq \beta(x, i)$. We prove that $|S| \geq \beta(x, i)$.

We consider the partition $(S_x, S_{z_1}, \dots, S_{z_s}, S_{xz_1}, \dots, S_{xz_s})$ of S , where $S_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ and S_{xz_j} are e_j -vertices for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$; some sets in the partition could be empty.

Let $t = |S_x|$. For each $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, select $v_{i(j)} \in S_x$ to be a maximum with respect to the relation \preceq_{e_j} element of S_x . Observe that the selection is not necessarily unique. We consider a partition $\mathcal{P} = \{J_1, \dots, J_t\}$ of $\{0, 1, \dots, s\}$ such that $0 \in J_1$ and it holds that $j, j' \in \{1, \dots, s\}$ are in the same set of \mathcal{P} if and only if $i(j) = i(j')$. We define $\varphi: \{1, \dots, t\} \rightarrow C_x$ as follows. If $J_h \neq \emptyset$, then $\varphi(h) = c(v_{i(j)})$ for $j \in J_h$. Then we extend φ on $h \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ with $J_t = \emptyset$ greedily to ensure that φ is a surjection. Such a mapping always exists because $C_x = c(S_x \cap V_G(x))$.

Consider z_j for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. It is assumed again $W_j = \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$ is the set of z_j -vertices of G . We also assume that $u_1 \preceq_{e_j} \dots \preceq_{e_j} u_q$. Let $j \in J_{i'}$. We consider two cases depending on whether z_j is loaded or not.

Case 1. The vertex z_j is loaded. Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that u_h is a minimum with respect to \preceq_{e_j} element of S_{z_j} . By our inductive assumption, we have that $\beta(z_j, h) \leq |S_{z_j}|$, because S_{z_j} is extendable. Consider $X_{i(j),h} = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap (M_{v_{i(j)}} \cup M_{u_h}) = \emptyset\}$. By the definition of $i(j)$ and h , the vertices of $X_{i(j),h}$ are not dominated by $S_x \cup S_{z_j}$. Therefore, they are dominated by S_{xz_j} . By the definition of α_{e_j} , we have that $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{i(j),h}) \leq |S_{xz_j}|$. Then

$$\delta_j(x, i(j)) = \min_{1 \leq h' \leq q} \{\beta(z_j, h') + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{i',h'})\} \leq \beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{i(j),h}) \leq |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|. \quad (10)$$

Case 2. The vertex z_j is unloaded. Let $h \in \{0, \dots, q\}$ be the minimum integer such that u_{h+1}, \dots, u_q are dominated by S_{z_j} . Clearly, if $h > 0$, then u_h is not dominated by S_{z_j} . By the inductive assumption, we have that $\beta(z_j, h) \leq |S_{z_j}|$ as S_{z_j} is extendable. Consider the set $Y_{i(j),h}$. By the definition of this set, we obtain that the vertices of $X_{i(j),h}$ are not dominated by $S_x \cup S_{z_j}$. Therefore, they are dominated by S_{xz_j} . By the definition of α_{e_j} , we have that $\alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i(j),h}) \leq |S_{xz_j}|$. Then

$$\delta_j(x, i(j)) = \min_{0 \leq h' \leq q} \{\gamma(z_j, h') + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i',h'})\} \leq \gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{i(j),h}) \leq |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|. \quad (11)$$

Now we combine (10) and (11) and conclude that for each $h' \in \{1, \dots, t\}$,

$$\delta_{J_{h'}}(x, i') \leq \sum_{j \in J_{h'}} (|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|), \quad (12)$$

where $i' = i(j)$ for $j \in J_{h'}$.

By (4) and (12), we obtain that

$$\beta(x, i) \leq |S_x| + \sum_{j=1}^s (|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|) = |S|.$$

Our next aim is to prove Claim B for γ . Assume that x is unloaded and let $i \in \{0, \dots, p\}$.

We suppose that $\gamma(x, i) < +\infty$ and prove that there is a set $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ with $|S| \leq \gamma(x, i)$ such that

- (v) v_{i+1}, \dots, v_p are dominated by S ,
- (vi) S contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_x)$,
- (vii) for each $z \in V(T_x)$, $C_z = c(S \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (viii) S dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G) \setminus \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$.

Since $\gamma(x, i) < +\infty$, $\gamma(x, i) = \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j)$. Recall that $\eta(j)$ is computed differently depending on whether z_j is loaded or not. We consider each $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$ and analyze the corresponding cases. Recall that $v_{i_1^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}$ is the ordering of the vertices of W with respect to \preceq_{e_j} .

Case 1. The vertex z_j is loaded.

We select $t \in \{1, \dots, p+1\}$ for which the minimum achieved in (6), that is, $\psi(j) = t$. In particular, we have that it holds

$$\eta(j) = \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} (\beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})), \quad (13)$$

where

$$X_{h,t} = \begin{cases} X_h \cup \{v_{i_t^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}\} & \text{if } t \leq p, \\ X_h & \text{if } t = p+1 \end{cases}$$

and $X_h = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap M_{u_h} = \emptyset\}$. Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that the minimum in the right part of (13) is achieved for this value.

By the inductive assumption, there is a set $S_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ of size at most $\beta(z_j, h)$ such that

- (i') $u_h \in S_{z_j}$,
- (ii') S_{z_j} contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$,
- (iii') for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$, $C_z = c(S_{z_j} \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (iv') S_{z_j} dominates all the vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$.

By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})$, there is a set of e_j vertices S_{xz_j} of size $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})$ that dominates $X_{h,t}$. Note that $|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}| \leq \eta(j)$. Observe also that $S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}$ dominates all vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$ and the e_j -vertices.

Case 2. The vertex z_j is unloaded.

We select $t \in \{1, \dots, p+1\}$ for which the minimum achieved in (8), that is, $\psi(j) = t$. In particular, we have that it holds

$$\eta(j) = \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} (\gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h,t})), \quad (14)$$

where

$$Y_{h,t} = \begin{cases} Y_h \cup \{v_{i_t^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}\} & \text{if } t \leq p, \\ Y_h & \text{if } t = p+1, \end{cases}$$

and

$$Y_h = \begin{cases} \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} & \text{if } h = 0, \\ \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_h\} & \text{if } h \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that the minimum in the right part of (14) is achieved for this value.

By the inductive assumption, there is a set $S_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ of size at most $\gamma(z_j, h)$ such that

- (v') u_{h+1}, \dots, u_q are dominated by S_{z_j} ,
- (vi') S_{z_j} contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$,
- (vii') for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$, $C_z = c(S_{z_j} \cap V_G(z))$, and
- (viii') S_{z_j} dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G) \setminus \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$.

By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h,t})$, there is a set of e_j vertices S_{xz_j} of size $\alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h,t})$ that dominates $Y_{h,t}$. We have that $|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}| \leq \eta(j)$. Notice that $S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}$ dominates all vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$ and the e_j -vertices.

Now we define

$$S = \cup_{j=1}^s (S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}).$$

We have that

$$|S| = \sum_{j=1}^s (|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|) \leq \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j) = \gamma(x, i).$$

By the definition of S , we have that (vi)–(viii) are fulfilled. To show (v), recall that $\gamma(x, i) < +\infty$. Then for each $h \in \{i+1, \dots, p\}$, there is $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$ such that $v_{i_{\psi(j)}^j} \preceq_{e_j} v_h$ and, therefore, v_h is dominated by S_{xz_j} .

Assume now that $S \subseteq V_x(G)$ is a set of minimum size satisfying (v)–(viii) for x and $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and S is extendable. Because S is a set of minimum size satisfying these conditions, $|S| \leq \gamma(x, i)$. We show that $|S| \geq \gamma(x, i)$.

We consider the partition $(S_{z_1}, \dots, S_{z_s}, S_{xz_1}, \dots, S_{xz_s})$ of S , where $S_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ and S_{xz_j} are e_j -vertices for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$; some sets in the partition could be empty. Note that since S extendable, all the sets in the partition are extendable as well.

First, we show that $\eta(j) \leq |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|$ for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$.

If x_j is loaded then $\eta(j)$ is computed by (5). Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that u_h is a minimum with respect to \preceq_{e_j} vertex in S_{z_j} . By induction, $|S_{z_j}| \geq \beta(z_j, h)$. Since the vertices of G that are in $X_h = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap M_{u_h} = \emptyset\}$ are not dominated by S_{z_j} , they are dominated by S_{xz_j} . By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_h)$, $|S_{xz_j}| \geq \alpha_{e_j}(X_h)$. Therefore, $\eta(j) \leq \beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_h) \leq |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|$.

If z_j is unloaded, then $\eta(j)$ is computed by (7). We find minimum $h \in \{0, \dots, q\}$ such that u_{h+1}, \dots, u_q are dominated by S_{z_j} . By induction, $|S_{z_j}| \geq \gamma(z_j, h)$. We consider

$$Y_h = \begin{cases} \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} & \text{if } h = 0, \\ \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_h\} & \text{if } h \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

and observe that the vertices of Y_h are not dominated by S_{z_j} . Hence, the vertices of Y_h are dominated by S_{xz_j} . By the definition of $\alpha_{z_j}(Y_h)$, $|S_{xz_j}| \geq \alpha(Y_h)$. Hence, $\eta(j) \leq \gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_h) \leq |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|$.

Since $\eta(j) \leq |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|$ for all $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$, we have that if $\gamma(x, i) = \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j)$, then

$$\gamma(x, i) = \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j) \leq \sum_{j=1}^s (|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|) = |S|.$$

Suppose now that $\gamma(x, i) \neq \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j)$. By (9), we have that there is $h' \in \{i+1, \dots, p\}$ such that $v_{h'} \prec_{e_j} v_{\psi(j)}^{i,j}$ for all $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. The vertex $v_{h'}$ is dominated by S by the condition (v). Assume that $v_{h'}$ is dominated by $S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}$ for $j \in \{1, \dots, s\}$. Let $v_{h'} = v_{i_t}^{h'}$ according to the ordering of x -vertices with respect to \preceq_{e_j} . We again consider two cases.

Case 1. The vertex z_j is loaded.

By (6), $\eta(j) < \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} (\beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t}))$, where $X_h = \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j), M_w \cap M_{u_h} = \emptyset\}$ and

$$X_{h,t} = \begin{cases} X_h \cup \{v_{i_t}^{i,j}, \dots, v_{i_p}^{i,j}\} & \text{if } t \leq p, \\ X_h & \text{if } t = p+1. \end{cases}$$

Let $h \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that u_h is a minimum with respect to \preceq_{e_j} vertex in S_{z_j} . By induction, $|S_{z_j}| \geq \beta(z_j, h)$. Since the e_j -vertices of G that are in $X_{h,t}$ are not dominated by S_{z_j} , they are dominated by S_{xz_j} . By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})$, $|S_{xz_j}| \geq \alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})$. It means that $\eta(j) < |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|$.

Let $h^* \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that the minimum in the right part of (13) is achieved for this value, that is, $\eta(j) = \beta(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(X_{h^*})$. By the inductive assumption, there is a set $S'_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ of size at most $\beta(z_j, h^*)$ such that

$$(i') \quad u_{h^*} \in S'_{z_j},$$

(ii') S'_{z_j} contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$,

(iii') for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$, $C_z = c(S_{z_j} \cap V_G(z))$, and

(iv') S'_{z_j} dominates all the vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$.

By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{h^*})$, there is a set of e_j vertices S'_{xz_j} of size $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{h^*})$ that dominates X_{h^*} . Note that $|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}| \leq \eta(j)$. Observe also that $S'_{z_j} \cup S'_{xz_j}$ dominates all vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$ and the e_j -vertices. Let $S' = S'_{z_j} \cup S'_{xz_j} \cup \{v_1\}$. This set dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G)$. Note that $|S'| \leq |S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}|$.

Case 2. The vertex z_j is unloaded.

By (8), $\eta(j) < \min_{1 \leq h \leq q} (\gamma(z_j, h) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h,t}))$, where

$$Y_{h,t} = \begin{cases} Y_h \cup \{v_{i_t^j}, \dots, v_{i_p^j}\} & \text{if } t \leq p, \\ Y_h & \text{if } t = p + 1, \end{cases}$$

and

$$Y_h = \begin{cases} \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} & \text{if } h = 0, \\ \{w \in V(G) \mid w \in V_G(e_j)\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_h\} & \text{if } h \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Let $h \in \{0, \dots, q\}$ be the minimum index such that u_{h+1}, \dots, u_q are dominated by S_{z_j} . By induction, $|S_{z_j}| \geq \gamma(z_j, h)$. Since the vertices of G that are in $Y_{h,t}$ are not dominated by S_{z_j} , they are dominated by S_{xz_j} . By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})$, $|S_{xz_j}| \geq \alpha_{e_j}(X_{h,t})$. It means that $\eta(j) < |S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}|$.

Let $h^* \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ be such that the minimum in the right part of (14) is achieved for this value, that is, $\eta(j) = \gamma(z_j, h^*) + \alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h^*})$. By the inductive assumption, there is a set $S'_{z_j} \subseteq V_{z_j}(G)$ of size at most $\gamma(z_j, h^*)$ such that

(v') u_{h^*+1}, \dots, u_q are dominated by S_{z_j} ,

(vi') S_{z_j} contains at most d z -vertices for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$,

(vii') for each $z \in V(T_{z_j})$, $C_z = c(S_{z_j} \cap V_G(z))$, and

(viii') S_{z_j} dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G) \setminus \{u_1, \dots, u_q\}$.

By the definition of $\alpha_{e_j}(X_h)$, there is a set of e_j vertices S'_{xz_j} of size $\alpha_{e_j}(Y_{h^*})$ that dominates Y_{h^*} . Note that $|S_{z_j}| + |S_{xz_j}| \leq \eta(j)$. Observe also that $S'_{z_j} \cup S'_{xz_j}$ dominates all vertices of $V_{z_j}(G)$ and the e_j -vertices. Let $S' = S'_{z_j} \cup S'_{xz_j} \cup \{v_1\}$. This set dominates all the vertices of $V_x(G)$. Note that $|S'| \leq |S_{z_j} \cup S_{xz_j}|$.

Now we use the obtained in both cases set S' to obtain a contradiction with the extendability of S . The set S is extendable, that is, there is a dominating set D of G such that

(a) D has at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$,

(b) for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x \subseteq c(D \cap V_G(x))$,

that has the minimum size and contains C and the conditions of the promise is fulfilled: the number of nodes $z \in V(T)$ such that D contains an z -vertex is maximum and for each $z \in V(T)$, $C_z = c(D \cap V_G(z))$. Let $D' = (D \setminus (S_{z_i} \cup S_{x_{z_j}})) \cup S'$. It is straightforward to see that D is a dominating set and $|D'| \leq |D|$. We also have that (a) and (b) are fulfilled for D' , because of (ii'), (iii'), (vi') and (vii'), but this contradicts the condition that the number of nodes $x \in V(T)$ such that D contains an x -vertex is maximum because D' contains the x -vertex v_1 . Hence, $\gamma(x, i) \neq \sum_{j=1}^s \eta(j)$ and this completes the proof of the claim that $|S| \geq \gamma(x, i)$. \square

Now we are ready to complete the description of our algorithm for DOMINATING SET EXTENSION. The algorithm computes the table of values of $\beta(r, i)$ if r is loaded and the table of values of $\gamma(r, i)$ if r is unloaded. If r is loaded, we find the minimum value $\beta(r, i^*)$ in the table for i . By Claim B, if $\beta(r, i^*) < +\infty$, then G has a dominating set S of size at most $\beta(r, i^*)$ containing at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$ such that for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x = c(S \cap V_G(x))$. Moreover, if the promise is true, then $\beta(r, i^*) < +\infty$ and the minimum size of S is $\beta(r, i^*)$. If r is unloaded, then we consider $\gamma(r, 0)$ in the table for r . By Claim B, if $\gamma(r, 0) < +\infty$, then G has a dominating set S of size at most $\gamma(r, 0)$ containing at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(T)$ such that for each $x \in V(T)$, $C_x = c(S \cap V_G(x))$, and if the promise is true, then $\gamma(r, 0) < +\infty$ and the minimum size of S is $\gamma(r, 0)$. It remains to check whether $\beta(r, i^*) \leq k$ or $\gamma(r, 0) \leq k$ respectively and return the answer.

To evaluate the running time, observe that to compute $\beta(x, i)$, we consider all possible partitions $\mathcal{P} = \{J_1, \dots, J_t\}$ for $1 \leq t \leq d$ of $\{0, 1, \dots, s\}$ into non-empty sets such that $0 \in J_1$ where s is the number of children of x . Since $s \leq \ell$, we have that the number of partitions is $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell \log d)}$. Then for each partition $\mathcal{P} = \{J_1, \dots, J_t\}$, we consider all possible surjections $\varphi: \{1, \dots, t\} \rightarrow C_x$. Since $t \leq d$ and each $|C_x| \leq d$, there are $2^{\mathcal{O}(d \log d)}$ choices of φ . Because each value of α and γ can be computed in polynomial time, it implies that the total running time of the algorithms is $2^{\mathcal{O}((\ell+d) \log d)} n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$. \square

Now we are ready to prove the main theorem of the section.

Theorem 8. DOMINATING SET can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^2)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ for connected chordal graphs with $\ell(G) \leq \ell$.

Proof. Let (G, k) be an instance of DOMINATING SET where G is a connected chordal graph.

We use the algorithm of Habib and Stacho [HS09] to compute its leafage $\ell(G)$. If $\ell(G) > \ell$, we stop and return a no-answer. Otherwise, we consider the clique tree T' of G constructed by the algorithm. We construct the tree T from T' by *dissolving* nodes of degree two, that is, for a node x of degree two with the neighbors y and z , we delete x and make y and z adjacent. Observe that since T is a tree with at most ℓ leaves that has no node of degree two, $|V(T)| \leq 2\ell - 2$. We have that G is a T -graph. Note also that the algorithm of Habib and Stacho [HS09] gives us a T -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ where $M_v \in V(T')$ for $v \in V(G)$.

We consider $2^{|V(T)|} - 1 \leq 2^{2\ell-2} - 1$ nonempty subsets of $V(T)$ and construct a coloring $c: V_G(T) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 2^{|V(T)|}\}$ such that for $u, v \in V_G(T)$, $c(u) = c(v)$ if and only if u and v are U -vertices for the same $U \subseteq V(T)$.

By [Lemma 4](#), a minimum dominating set of G contains at most $3|V(T)| - 2 \leq 6\ell - 8$ vertices of $V_G(T)$. Clearly, these vertices can have at most $6\ell - 8$ distinct colors. We consider all set $C \subseteq \{1, \dots, 2^{|V(T)|}\}$ of distinct colors of size at most $6\ell - 8$ and for each C , we aim to find a minimum dominating set of G whose vertices in $V_G(T)$ are colored by the maximum number of distinct colors and are colored exactly by the colors of C . Since we consider all possible choices of C , it holds for some C .

Toward this aim, we apply the following rule.

Rule 1. If there is an xy -vertex w of G for $xy \in E(T)$ such that i) $x, y \notin M_u$ for $u \in V_G(T)$ with $c(u) \in C$ and ii) there is $v \in V_G(T)$ such that $x, y \in M_v$, then discard the current choice of C .

To see that the rule is safe, observe that if D is minimum dominating set of G whose vertices in $V_G(T)$ are colored exactly by the colors of C , then w is dominated by some xy -vertex w' . We have that $v \notin D$, because $c(v) \notin C$. Then it is straightforward to see that $D' = (D \setminus \{w'\}) \cup \{v\}$ is a minimum dominating set of G whose vertices in $V_G(T)$ are colored by $|C| + 1$ colors.

Now we are looking for a dominating set D of minimum size such that $c(D \cap V_G(T)) = C$.

We use the following rule.

Rule 2. If there is a U -vertex u of G for nonempty $U \subseteq V(T)$ such that i) $c(u) \notin C$ and ii) there is $c \in C$ such that for every $v \in V_G(T)$ with $c(v) = c$, v dominates u , then delete u .

To see that the rule is safe, observe that u cannot be included in a dominating set D of minimum size such that $c(D \cap V_G(T)) = C$ and u is dominated by any set D such that $c(D \cap V_G(T)) = C$.

Let

$$A = \{xy \in E(T) \mid x, y \in M_u \text{ for } u \in V_G(T), c(u) \in C\}$$

$$A' = \{xy \in E(T) \mid x, y \in M_u \text{ for } u \in V_G(T), c(u) \notin C \text{ and } x, y \notin M_v \text{ for } v \in V_G(T), c(v) \in C\}.$$

Observe that because of Rule 1, there is no e -vertex for $e \in A'$. We contract the edges $e \in A \cup A'$. Denote by \hat{T} the obtained from T tree and let \hat{T}' be the tree obtained from T' by contracting the paths that correspond to the contracted edge. We also construct the graph \hat{G} that is obtained from G by contracting these edges of T and we also construct its \hat{T} -representation $\hat{\mathcal{M}} = \{\hat{M}_v\}_{v \in V(\hat{G})}$ where $\hat{M}_v \in V(\hat{T}')$ for $v \in V(\hat{G})$. We set $\hat{c} = c|_{V(\hat{G})}$ and let $C_x = \{c \mid \text{there is } u \in V_{\hat{G}}(\hat{T}) \text{ with } \hat{c}(u) = c\}$ for $x \in V(\hat{G})$. Observe that $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$ is a nice \hat{T} -representation of \hat{G} . Indeed, for every $xy \in E(T)$ such that $x, y \in M_u$ for $u \in V_G(T)$ we have that $xy \in A$ if $c(u) \in C$ and $xy \in A'$ if $c(u) \notin C$ because of Rule 2, and all such edges xy are contracted.

Combining [Lemmas 5](#) and [6](#) we obtain that D is a dominating set of minimum size with $C = c(D \cap V_G(T))$ if and only if D is a dominating set of G' of minimum size such that

$C = \hat{c}(D \cap V_{\hat{G}}(\hat{T}))$. Note that the condition $C = \hat{c}(D \cap V_{\hat{G}}(\hat{T}))$ is equivalent to the condition that for every $x \in V(\hat{T})$, $C_x = \hat{c}(D \cap V_{\hat{G}}(x))$, because the \hat{T} -representation of \hat{G} is nice and $C_x \cap C_y = \emptyset$ for distinct $x, y \in V(\hat{T})$.

We set $d = |V(T)| + \ell - 1 \leq 3\ell - 3$ and apply the next rule.

Rule 3. If there is $x \in V(\hat{T})$ with $|C_x| > d$, then discard the current choice of C .

To see that the rule is safe, assume that the input graph G has a minimum dominating set D whose vertices in $V_G(T)$ are colored exactly by the colors of C . By [Lemma 3](#), we have that if a set of nodes X of T is contracted into a single vertex x of \hat{T} , then D has at most $|X| + \ell - 1$ vertices whose models contain a vertex of X and, therefore, the number of vertices colored by the colors of C_x in D is at most d .

We select arbitrarily a node r be the root of \hat{T} and \hat{T}' respectively. Then we apply [Lemma 7](#) for the instance $(\hat{T}, k, d, \hat{c}, \{C_x\}_{x \in V(\hat{T})})$ of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION.

Recall that DOMINATING SET EXTENSION is a promise problem. If the algorithm from [Lemma 7](#) returns a yes-answer, it means that there is a dominating set D of \hat{G} of size at most k such that for each $x \in V(\hat{T})$, $C_x = c(D \cap V_{\hat{G}}(x))$. It means that the input graph G has a dominating set of size at most k . Still, if the promise is false, the algorithm can return an incorrect no-answer. Recall that the promise of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION is the following: for a dominating set D of \hat{G} of minimum size with the properties that

- (a) D has at most d x -vertices for $x \in V(\hat{T})$,
- (b) for each $x \in V(\hat{T})$, $C_x \subseteq c(D \cap V_{\hat{G}}(\hat{x}))$,

it holds that the number of nodes $x \in V(\hat{T})$ such that D contains an x -vertex is maximum and for each $x \in V(\hat{T})$, $C_x = c(D \cap V_{\hat{G}}(\hat{x}))$. By [Lemmas 5](#) and [6](#), we have that if C is chosen in such a way that G has a minimum dominating set D that has the maximum number of vertices of $V_G(T)$ and whose vertices in $V_G(T)$ are colored exactly by the colors of C , then this promise holds for the corresponding instance of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION constructed for this choice of C . Therefore, if (G, k) is a yes-instance of DOMINATING SET, then for some choice of C , we obtain a yes-answer.

To evaluate the running time of the algorithm, observe that T , T' and the representation \mathcal{M} are constructed in polynomial time by the algorithm of Habib and Stacho [[HS09](#)]. The coloring function $c: V_G(T) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 2^{|V(T)|}\}$ can be constructed in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$. Then we construct $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^2)}$ sets $C \subseteq \{1, \dots, 2^{|V(T)|}\}$ of size at most $6\ell - 8$ and it can be done in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^2)}$. For each C , the Rules 1 and 2 can be applied in polynomial time. Similarly, the construction of the instance $(\hat{T}, k, d, \hat{c}, \{C_x\}_{x \in V(\hat{T})})$ of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION for a given C can be done in polynomial time. Clearly, Rule 3 can be applied in polynomial time. Then we solve the constructed instance of DOMINATING SET EXTENSION in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell \log \ell)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$. Hence, the total running time of the algorithm is $2^{\mathcal{O}(\ell^2)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$. \square

The theorem immediately gives the following corollary for T -graphs.

Corollary 5. DOMINATING SET can be solved in time $2^{\mathcal{O}(|V(T)|^2)} \cdot n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$ for T -graphs if T is a tree.

5.3 A polynomial kernel for Clique

It was observed in [CZ17] that the CLIQUE problem is FPT for H -graphs when parameterized by the solution size k and $\|H\|$ if an H -representation of G is given. We show that CLIQUE admits a polynomial kernel.

Let G be an H -graph with an H -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ where $M_v \subseteq V(H')$ for the corresponding subdivision H' of H . Recall that for $e \in E(T)$, $v \in V(G)$ is an e -vertex if M_v contains only subdivision nodes of H' from the path in H' corresponding to e in H . We claim that we can find a maximum clique in G that contains some e -vertex in polynomial time.

Lemma 8. *Let G be an H -graph given together with its H -representation. Then a clique of maximum size that contains at least one e -vertex for some $e \in E(G)$ can be found in time $\mathcal{O}(n^{3/2}m)$.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ be an H -representation of G . For each e -vertex u of G , we find a maximum clique K such that M_u is inclusion minimal for K , that is, there is no $v \in K$ with $M_v \subset M_u$. Let $e = xy$ for $x, y \in V(H)$ and denote by P the (x, y) -path corresponding to e in the subdivision H' of G . Since u is an e -vertex, $M_u \subseteq V(P)$, that is, the vertices of M_u form a subpath of P . Denote by x' and y' the end-vertices of the subpath. Note that it can happen that $x' = y'$. Because M_u is inclusion maximal model of a vertex of K , for every $v \in K$, $x' \in M_v$ or $y' \in M_v$. Consider $U = \{v \in V(G) \mid x' \in M_v \text{ or } y' \in M_v\}$. We have that finding K in G is equivalent to finding a maximum clique containing u in $G' = G[U]$.

Notice that U can be partitioned into two cliques $K_1 = \{v \in V(G) \mid x' \in M_v\}$ and $K_2 = \{v \in V(G) \mid y' \in M_v \text{ and } x' \notin M_v\}$. It means that G' is a *cobipartite* graph. A maximum clique in a cobipartite graph can be found in time $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{nm})$ by the algorithm of Hopcroft and Karp [HK73] as finding a maximum clique in G' is equivalent to finding a maximum independent set in the complement of G' that is a bipartite graph. Note that a maximum clique in G' always contains u , because u is adjacent to every other vertex of G' .

Since we consider all e -vertices to find a maximum clique containing some e -vertex for some $e \in E(H)$, the total running time is $\mathcal{O}(n^{3/2}m)$. \square

Now we are ready to construct our kernel.

Theorem 9. *The CLIQUE problem for H -graphs admits a kernel with at most $(k-1)|V(H)|$ vertices if an H -representation of the input graph is given.*

Proof. Let G be an H -graph with an H -representation $\mathcal{M} = \{M_v\}_{v \in V(G)}$ where $M_v \subseteq V(H')$ for the corresponding subdivision H' of H .

First, we use Lemma 8 to check whether G has a clique of size at least k that contains at least one e -vertex for some $e \in E(G)$. If we find such a clique we return a yes-answer. Assume that this is not the case. Let G' be the graph obtained from G by the deletion of all e -vertices for $e \in E(H)$. We have that G has a clique of size at least k if and only if G' has a clique of size at least k .

If there is $x \in V(H)$ such that $V_x = \{v \in V(G') \mid x \in M_v\}$ has size at least k , then it is a clique of size at least k and we return a yes-answer. Otherwise, we return G' . Clearly, $|V(G')| \leq (k-1)|V(H)|$ in this case. \square

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