

# Reconfiguration Problems and Token Jumping Logic

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## Warm-up: The Clique Problem

The following problem is well known to be NP-complete:

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hard to approximate

# Reconfiguration Problems

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Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and two cliques  $C, C' \subseteq V$  with  $|C| = |C'|$ , a **reconfiguration sequence** from  $C$  to  $C'$  is a sequence

$$C = C_1, C_2, \dots, C_\ell = C'$$

of *cliques* such that  $|C_i \setminus C_{i\pm 1}| = 1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$ .

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Ito et al., 2011

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## Results in this talk

- FO-Reconfiguration on paths is PSPACE-complete
- with parameter  $|X|$ ,  
FO-Reconfiguration on coloured paths is  $W[1]$ -hard
- FO+Token Jumping  $\equiv$  FO+symmetric transitive closure

# FO/MSO-Reconfiguration

## FO-Reconfiguration

Let  $\varphi(X)$  be a first-order formula with a free set variable  $X$ . Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and two sets  $A, B \subseteq V$  such that both  $A$  and  $B$  satisfy  $\varphi$ , is there a reconfiguration sequence from  $A$  to  $B$ ?

example:  $A \subseteq V$  satisfies

$$\forall x \forall y ((Xx \wedge Xy) \rightarrow (x \dot{=} y \vee Exy))$$

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similar: MSO-Reconfiguration.

# First Result: FO-Reconfiguration on Paths

## FO-Reconfiguration on Paths

There is a first-order formula  $\varphi(X)$  for which the following problem is PSPACE-complete: Given a path  $P = (V, E)$  and two sets  $A, B \subseteq V$  such that both  $A$  and  $B$  satisfy  $\varphi$ , decide if there is a reconfiguration sequence from  $A$  to  $B$ .

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equivalent formulation: For some locally threshold testable regular language  $L \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ , the following problem is PSPACE-complete:

## $L$ -Reconfiguration

Given two words  $u, v \in L$ , decide if there is a sequence

$$u = w_1, w_2, \dots, w_\ell = v$$

such that  $w_i \in L$ ,  $|w_i|_1 = |w_{i+1}|_1$ , and  $|w_i \oplus w_{i+1}|_1 = 2$  for every  $1 \leq i < \ell$ .

## 2-Balanced Symmetric String Rewriting

We reduce from the following problem:

Wrochna, 2018

There is a finite alphabet  $\Sigma$  and a string rewriting system with symmetric rewriting rules of the forms

$$ab \leftrightarrow ab' \quad \text{and} \quad ab \leftrightarrow a'b$$

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however, we need  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$  and have to encode the rewriting rules in  $L$

## Reducing the Alphabet Size

Let  $\Sigma = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_k\}$ . We encode a string  $w_1 w_2 \dots w_\ell \in \Sigma^*$  as

$$\begin{aligned} &1^3 0 1^3 0 0 \underbrace{\alpha_1 0 0 \beta_1 0 0 \gamma_1}_{\text{block for } w_1} 0 0 1^4 0 1^4 0 0 \underbrace{\alpha_2 0 0 \beta_2 0 0 \gamma_2}_{\text{block for } w_2} 0 0 1^5 0 1^5 \dots \\ & \dots 0 0 \underbrace{\alpha_3 0 0 \beta_3 0 0 \gamma_3}_{\text{block for } w_3} 0 0 1^3 0 1^3 0 0 \dots \end{aligned}$$

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Every  $\alpha_i / \beta_i / \gamma_i$  will contain exactly one 1, so the 1s in **these blocks** can never be moved and allow us to retrieve the direction from left to right in a path.

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we start with  $\alpha_j = \beta_j = 0^{j-1} 10^{k-j}$  if  $w_j = \sigma_j$ .

If the rules are

$$S_r: a_1^{(r)} b_1^{(r)} \leftrightarrow a_2^{(r)} b_2^{(r)}$$

for  $r = 1, \dots, m$  we start with

$$\gamma_i = 10^m.$$

Intended meaning:

$\gamma_i = 10^m \Rightarrow w_i$  and  $w_{i+1}$  may not be changed

$\gamma_i = 0^r 10^{m-r} \Rightarrow$  rule  $S_r$  is applied to  $w_i w_{i+1}$ .

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We demand:

- at most one  $\gamma_i$  is not equal to  $10^m$
- if  $\gamma_i = 10^m$  then  $\alpha_i = \beta_i$  and  $\alpha_{i+1} = \beta_{i+1}$ .
- if  $\gamma_i = 0^r 10^{m-r}$  and  $S_r: a_1^{(r)} b_1^{(r)} \leftrightarrow a_2^{(r)} b_2^{(r)}$ ,  
then  $\alpha_i, \beta_i$  encode  $a_1^{(r)}$  or  $a_2^{(r)}$   
and  $\alpha_{i+1}, \beta_{i+1}$  encode  $b_1^{(r)}$  or  $b_2^{(r)}$ .

This is definable in FO.

## Second Result: $W[1]$ -hardness

There is an FO-formula  $\varphi(X)$  for which the following parameterised problem is  $W[1]$ -hard:

### $p$ - $\varphi$ -Reconf on Coloured Paths

*Instance:* coloured path  $P$  and two subsets  $A, B$  of vertices.

*Parameter:*  $|A|$  ( $= |B|$ )

*Problem:* check if there is a reconfiguration sequence from  $A$  to  $B$ .

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- by FO-interpretations: hardness on caterpillar graphs
- FPT-algorithm for MSO with parameter  $|\varphi| + |A| + \text{shrub-depth}$  (not yet published)

## Rephrasing in Terms of Languages

For  $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_\ell \in \Sigma^*$  and  $A \subseteq \{1, \dots, \ell\}$  we define  $w_A \in (\Sigma \times \{0, 1\})^*$  by

$$w_A = v_1 v_2 \dots v_\ell \quad \text{with} \quad v_i = \begin{cases} (w_i, 0) & \text{if } i \neq A \\ (w_i, 1) & \text{if } i = A \text{ (token on this position)} \end{cases}$$

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We show that the following problem is  $W[1]$ -hard for some locally threshold testable regular language  $L \subseteq (\Sigma \times \{0, 1\})^*$ :

### p-L-Reconfiguration

*Instance:* a word  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , two sets  $A, B$  of positions of  $w$  such that  $w_A, w_B \in L$

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note: decision problem (given  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $k$ , is there a set  $A$  with  $w_A \in L$  and  $|A| = k$ ?) can be solved in time  $O(n \cdot k \cdot f(L))$

## Reducing $p$ -Clique to $p$ - $L$ -Reconfiguration

Basic idea: Given  $G = (V, E)$  and  $k \geq 1$ ,

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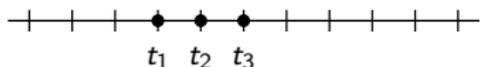
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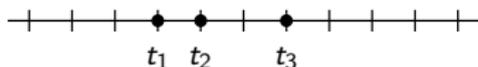
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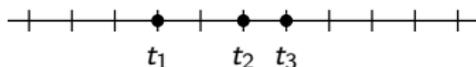
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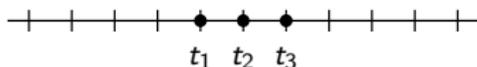
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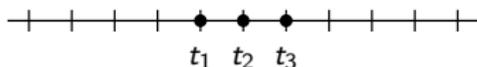
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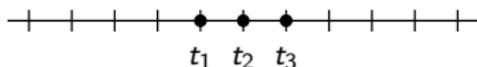
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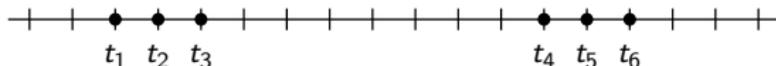
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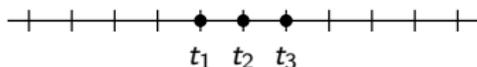
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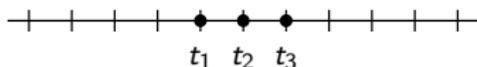
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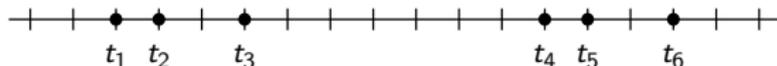
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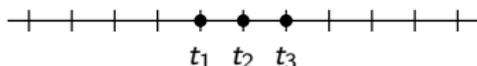
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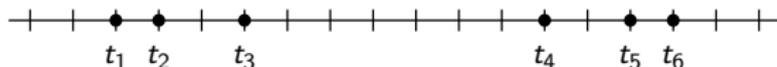
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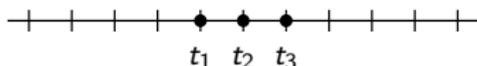
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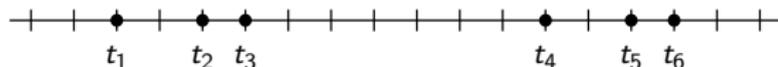
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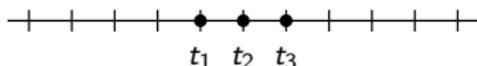
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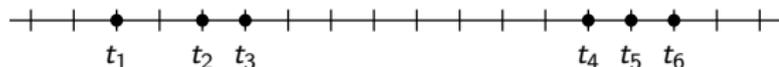
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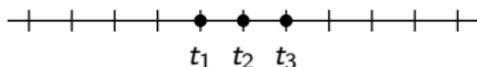
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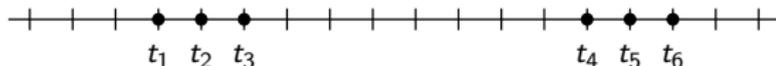
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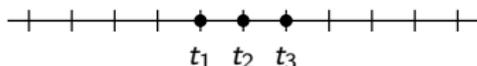
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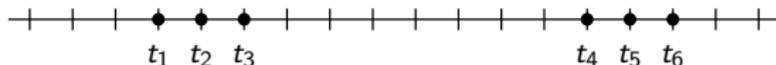
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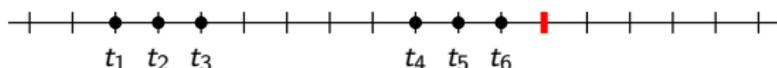
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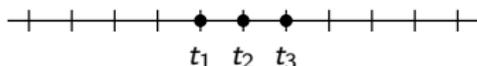
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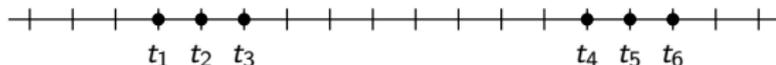
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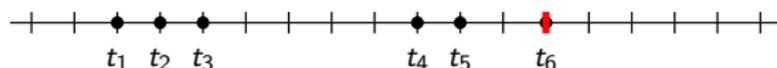
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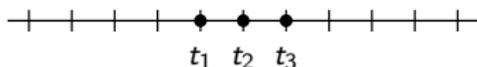
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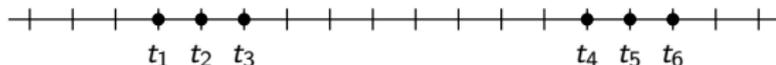
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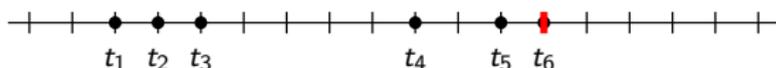
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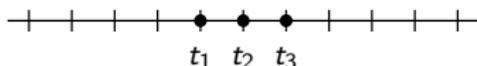
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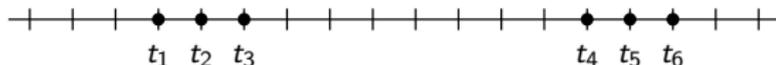
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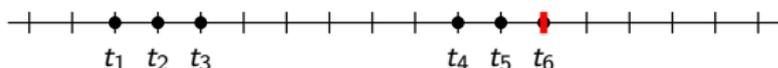
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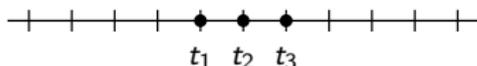
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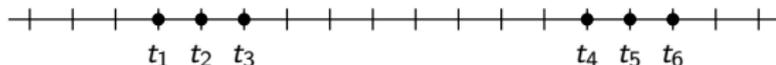
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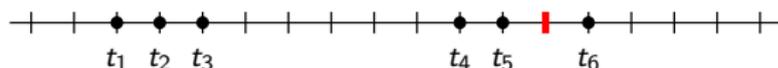
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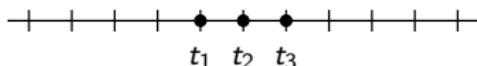
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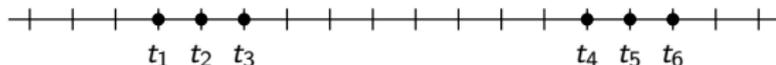
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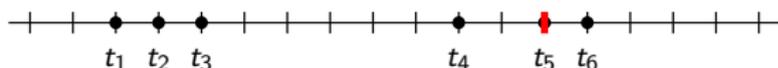
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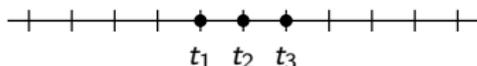
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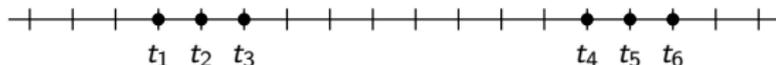
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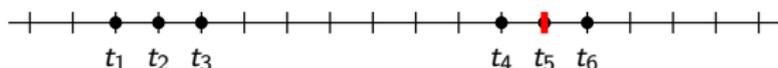
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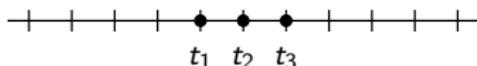
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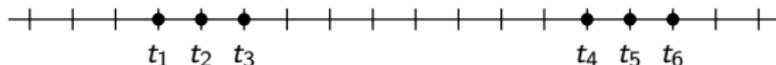
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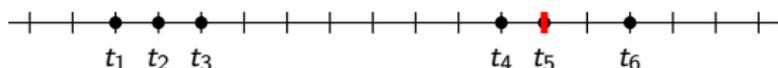
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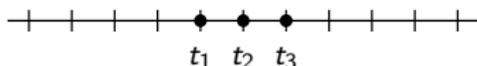
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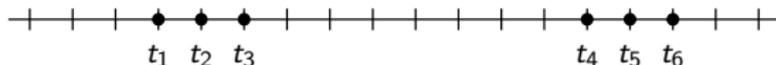
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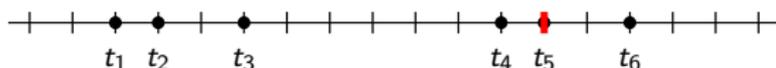
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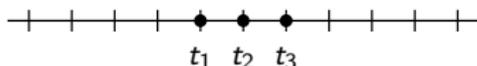
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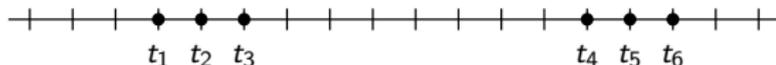
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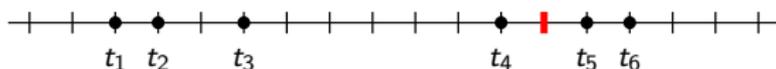
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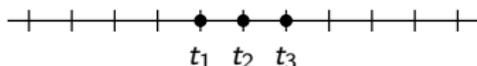
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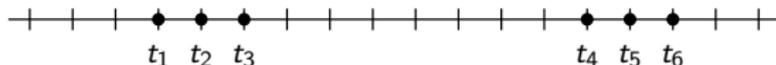
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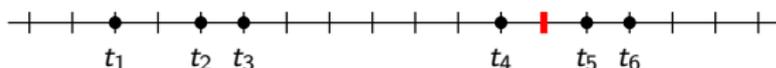
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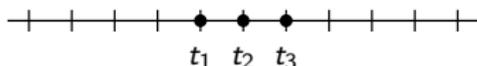
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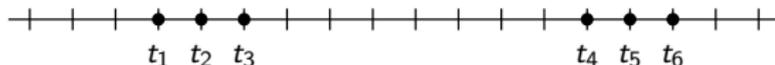
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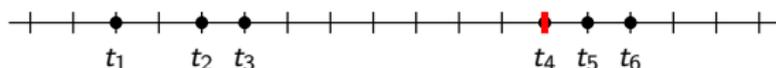
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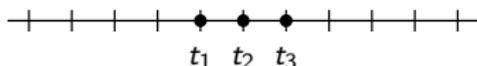
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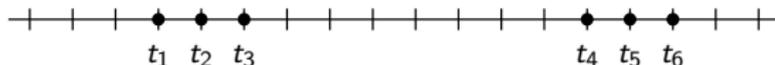
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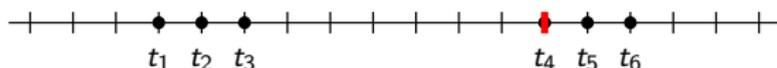
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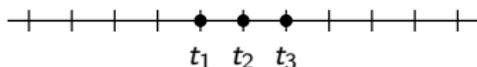
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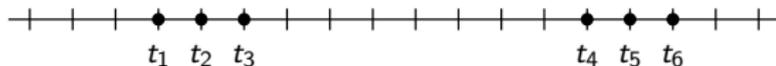
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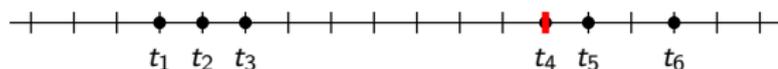
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- *sliders*: tokens  $t_1, t_2, t_3$  with  $t_1 < t_2 < t_3$  and  $d(t_1, t_3) \leq 3$ :



- *synchronised sliders*:



- *partly synchronised sliders*:



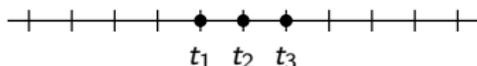
# Reducing p-Clique to p-L-Reconfiguration

Basic idea: Given  $G = (V, E)$  and  $k \geq 1$ ,

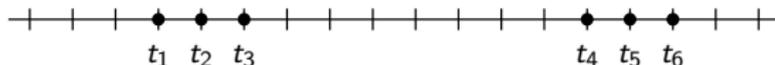
- first place  $k$  tokens on vertices
- then read the adjacency matrix of  $G$  line by line, checking that any pair of tokenised vertices is adjacent

Some ingredients:

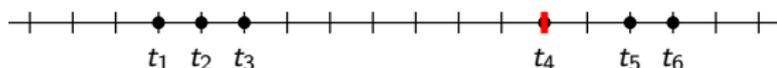
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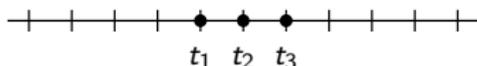
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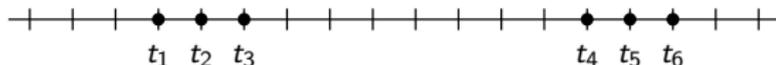
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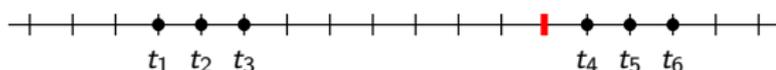
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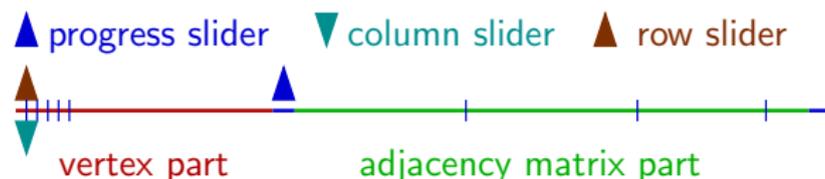
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# Putting it all together

Two parts of the string:

- 1 vertex part  
(letters for each vertex, tokenised  $\hat{=}$  in clique)
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(letters for each pair of vertices, “carriage return gadgets”)



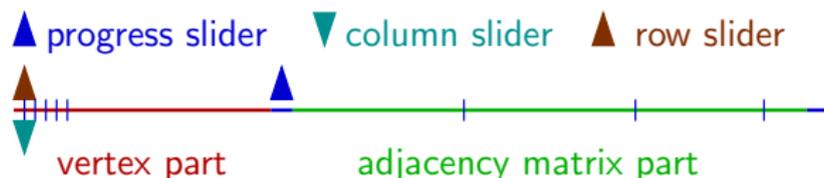
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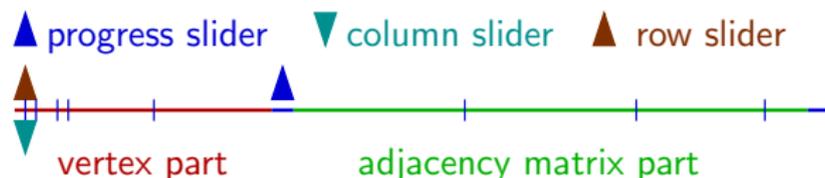
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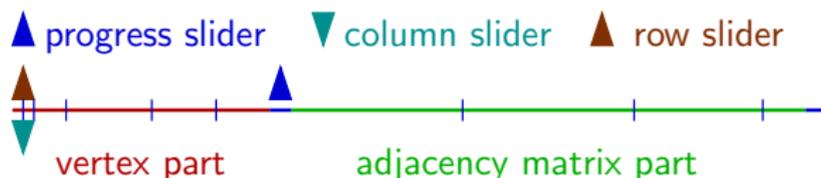
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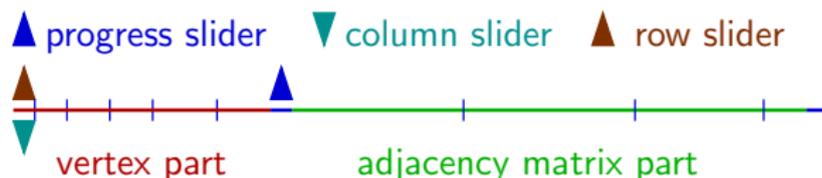
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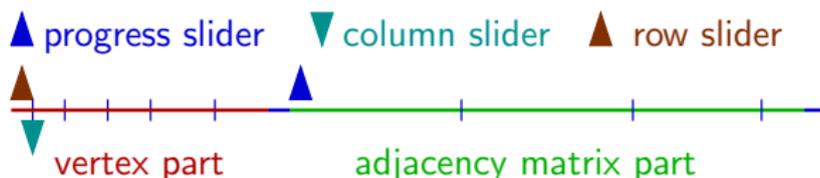
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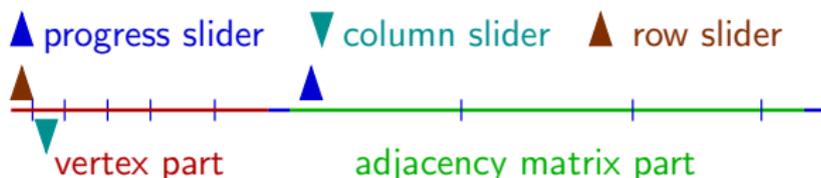
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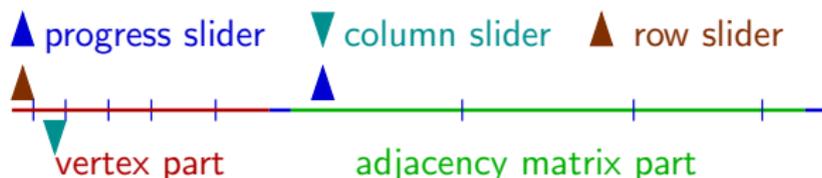
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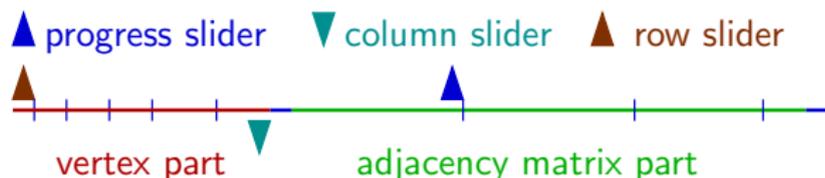
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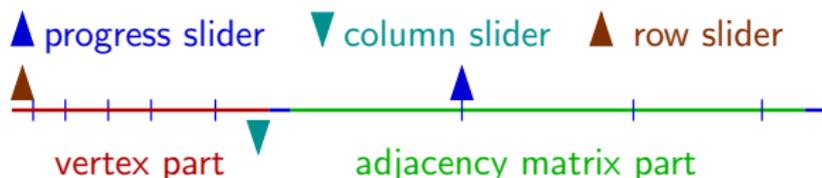
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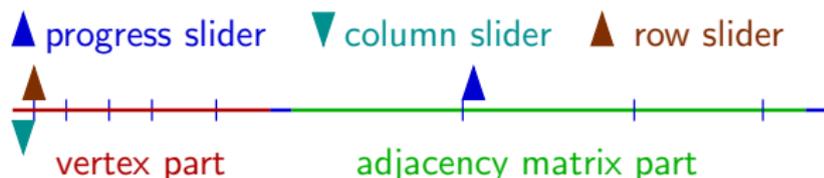
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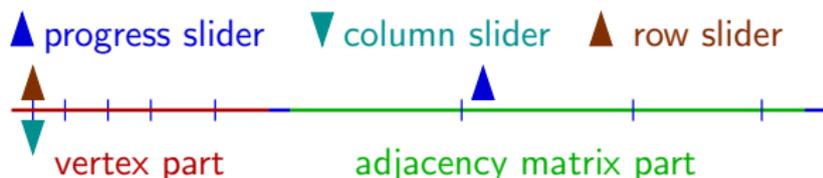
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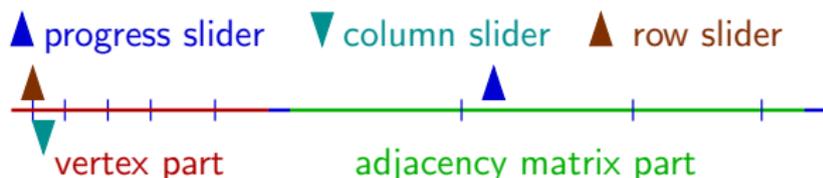
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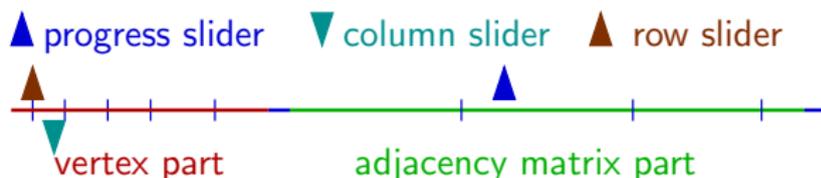
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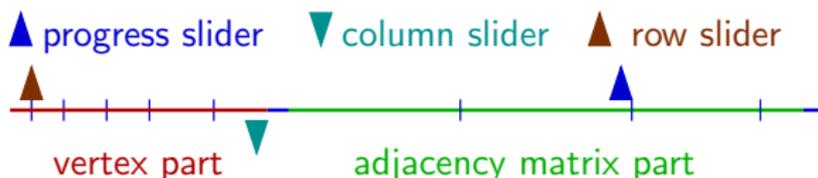
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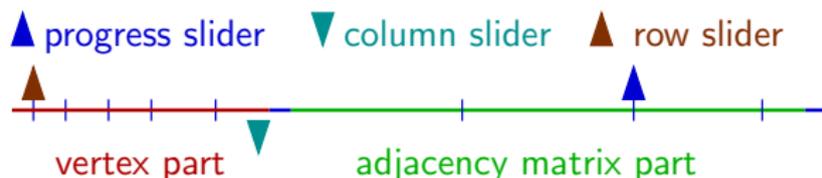
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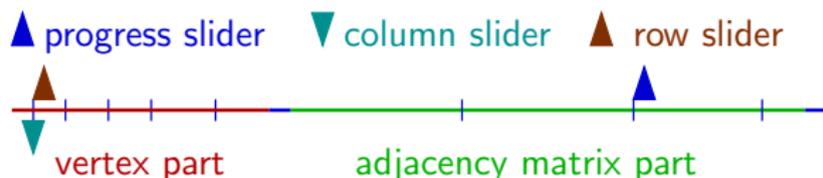
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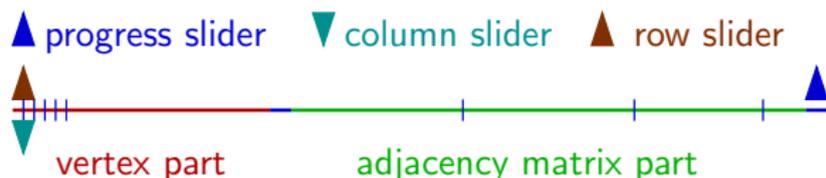
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# Token Jumping Logic

## FO with Token Jumping – FO(TJ)

For every  $\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{z})$  introduce a formula

$$[\text{TJ}_{\bar{x}}\varphi](\bar{s}, \bar{t})$$

where  $\bar{x}$  is a tuple of variables and  $\bar{s}, \bar{t}$  are tuples of terms of the same length.

In a structure  $\mathcal{A}$ , for every tuple  $\bar{b} \in A^{|\bar{z}|}$  the formula  $\varphi$  defines a set

$$\varphi(\mathcal{A}, \bar{b}) := \{\bar{a} \in A^{|\bar{x}|} \mid \mathcal{A} \models \varphi[\bar{a}, \bar{b}]\}$$

Then

$$\mathcal{A} \models [\text{TJ}_{\bar{x}}\varphi](\bar{s}, \bar{t})[\bar{b}]$$

if there is a reconfiguration sequence from  $\bar{s}$  to  $\bar{t}$  in  $\varphi(\mathcal{A}, \bar{b})$ .

# FO(STC)

## FO with symmetric transitive closure – FO(STC)

For every  $\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z})$  introduce a formula

$$[\text{STC}_{\bar{x}, \bar{y}} \varphi](\bar{s}, \bar{t})$$

where  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are tuples of variables and  $\bar{s}, \bar{t}$  are tuples of terms of the same length.

In a structure  $\mathcal{A}$ , for every tuple  $\bar{b} \in A^{|\bar{z}|}$  the formula  $\varphi$  defines a symmetric binary relation

$$\{(\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2) \in (A^{|\bar{x}|})^2 \mid \mathcal{A} \models \varphi[\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \bar{b}] \text{ or } \mathcal{A} \models \varphi[\bar{a}_2, \bar{a}_1, \bar{b}]\}$$

on  $A^{|\bar{x}|}$ . Then

$$\mathcal{A} \models [\text{STC}_{\bar{x}, \bar{y}} \varphi](\bar{s}, \bar{t})[\bar{b}]$$

if a path between  $\bar{s}$  and  $\bar{t}$  in this graph.

$$\text{FO(TJ)} \equiv \text{FO(STC)}$$

Third Result:  $\text{FO(TJ)} \equiv \text{FO(STC)}$

For every  $\varphi \in \text{FO(TJ)}$  there is an equivalent  $\varphi' \in \text{FO(STC)}$  and vice versa.

# FO(TJ) $\equiv$ FO(STC)

## Third Result: FO(TJ) $\equiv$ FO(STC)

For every  $\varphi \in \text{FO}(\text{TJ})$  there is an equivalent  $\varphi' \in \text{FO}(\text{STC})$  and vice versa.

- note that token jumping is inherently symmetric.
- equivalence is not hard to show, need to make sure changes happen one entry at a time
- FO(DTC) (deterministic transitive closure) captures logspace *on ordered structures*, and symmetric logspace is equal to logspace. What can we say about FO(STC)?

# Conclusion / Open Questions

We have shown:

- PSPACE-completeness for FO-Reconfiguration on paths
- $W[1]$ -hardness for parameterised FO-Reconfiguration on caterpillars / coloured paths
- equivalence of FO with token jumping and FO with symmetric transitive closure

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Open Questions

- $AW[*]$ -hardness for parameterised MSO-Reconfiguration on caterpillars / coloured paths?
- parameterised complexity of FO-Reconfiguration on paths?
- normal form for FO with token jumping?

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Thank you for your attention!