

*from the other side*

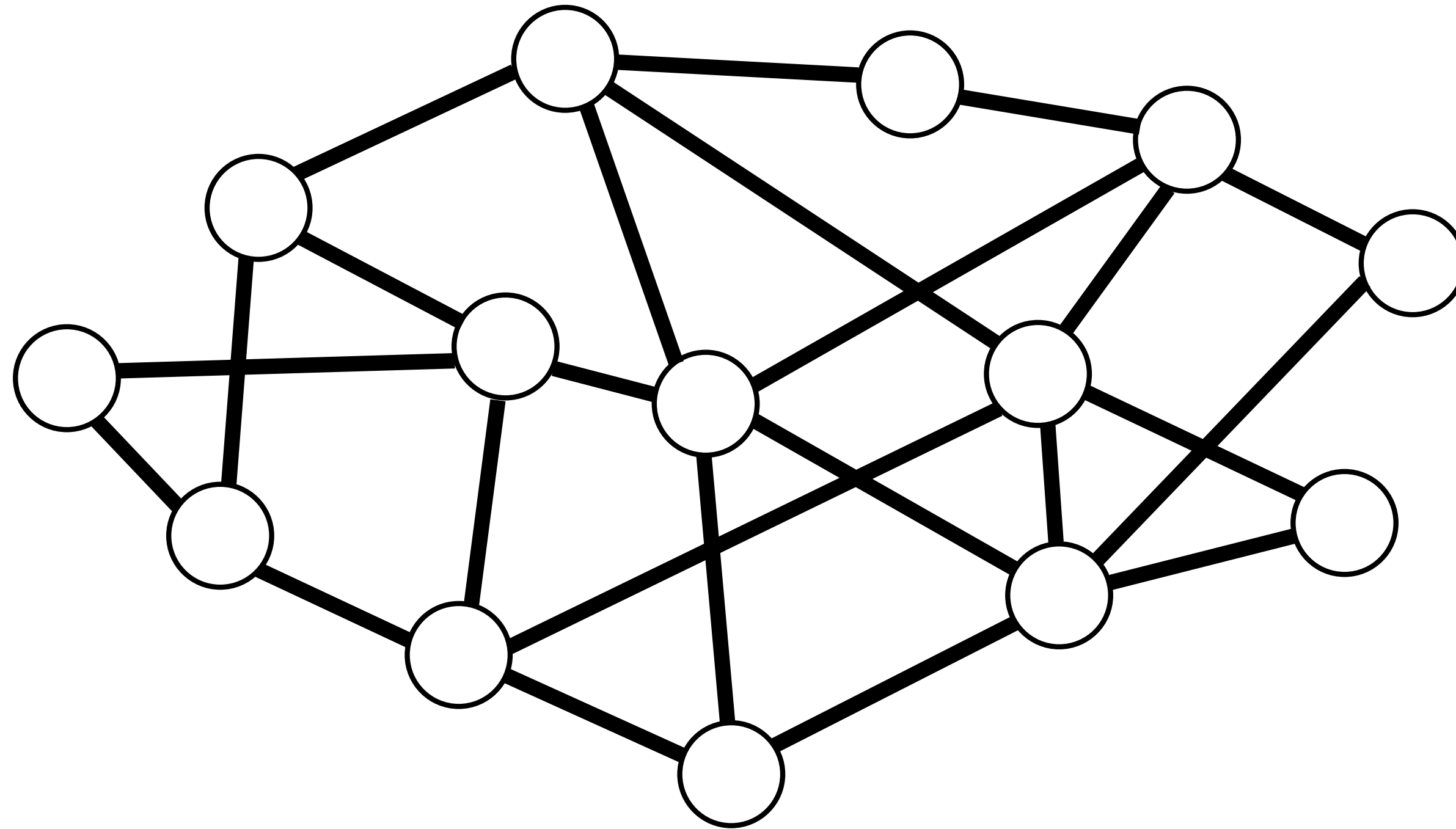
# PTAS for CSPs

Standa Živný

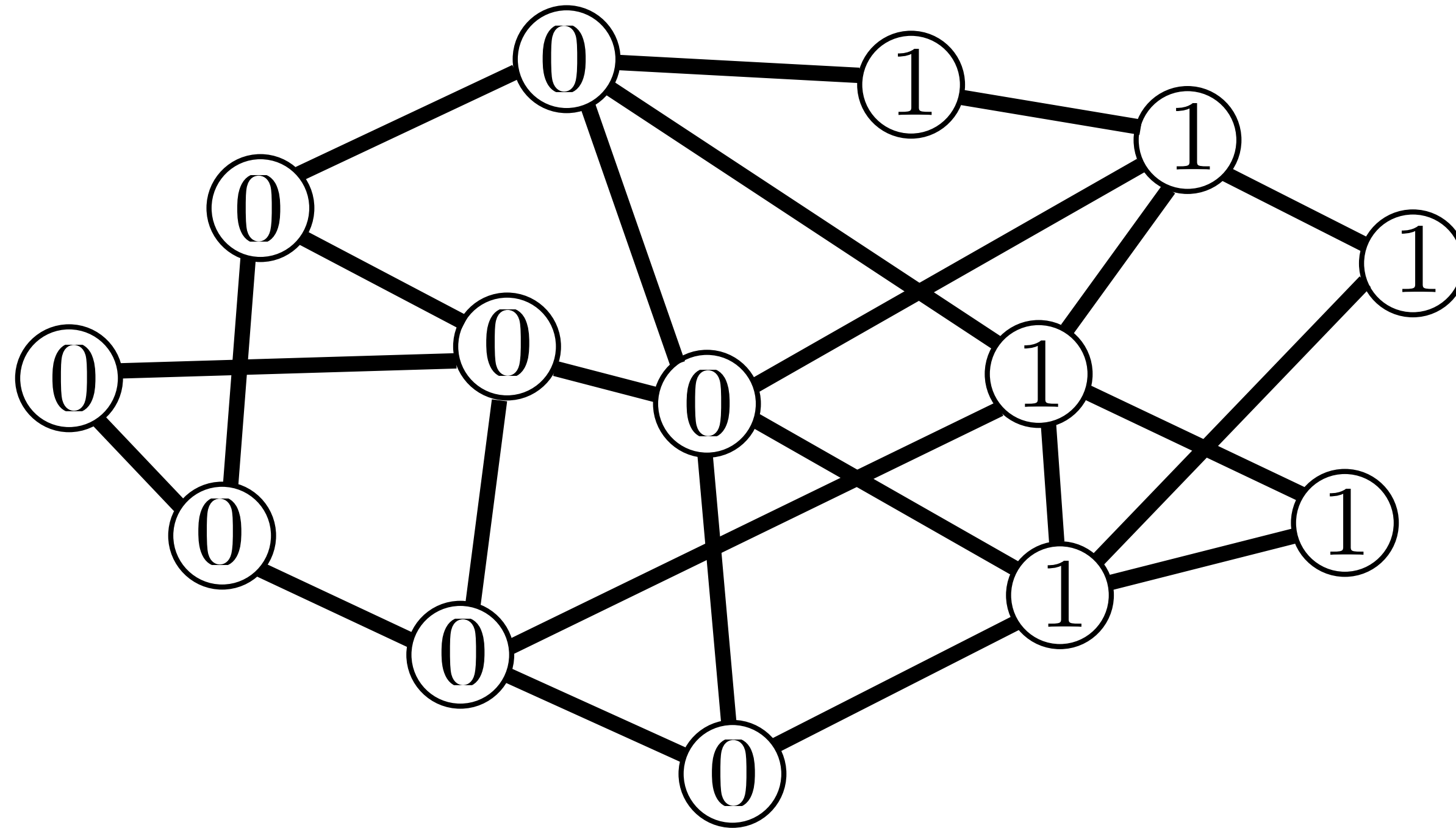


# 2-Colour

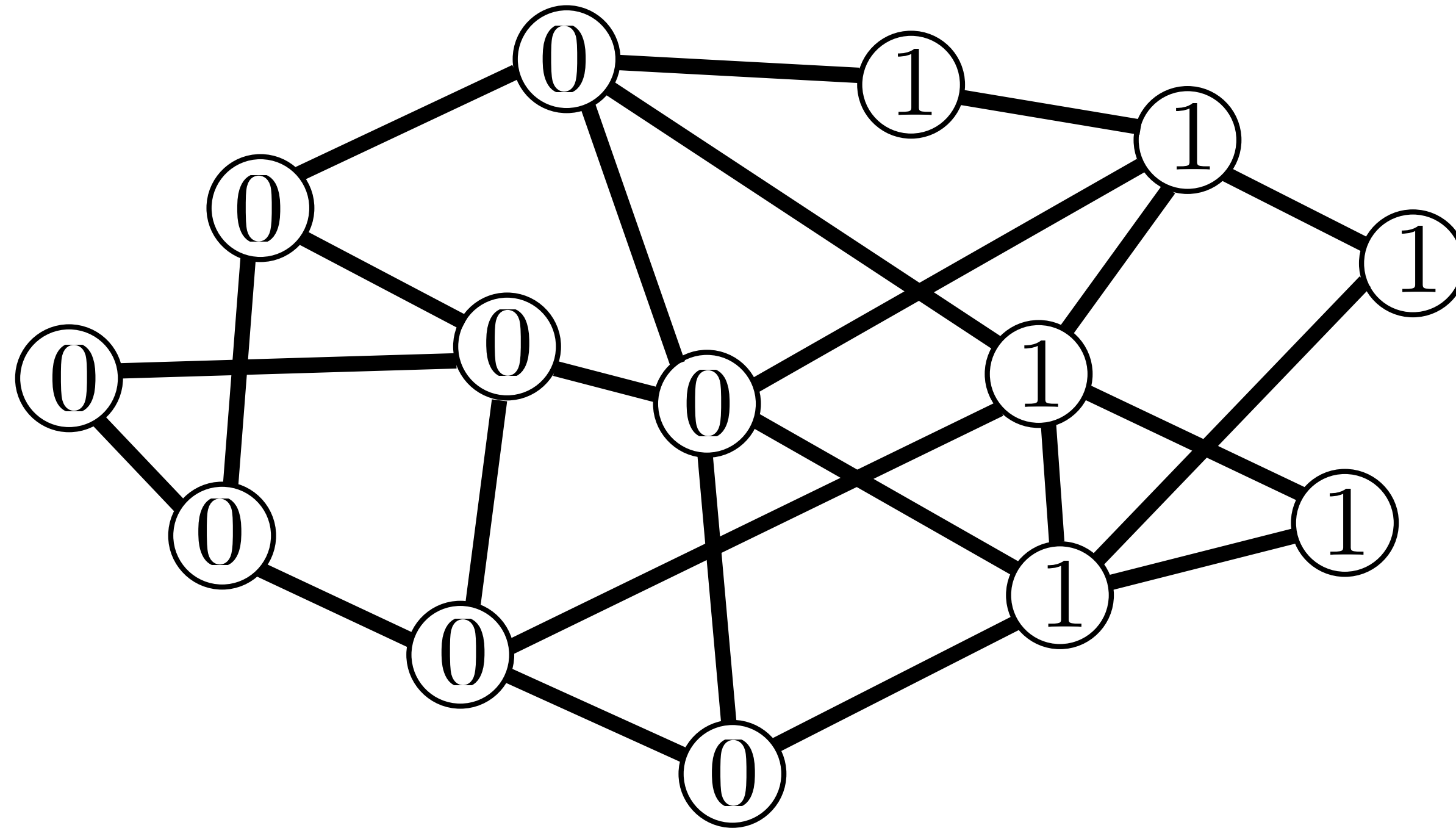
# 2-Colour



# 2-Colour

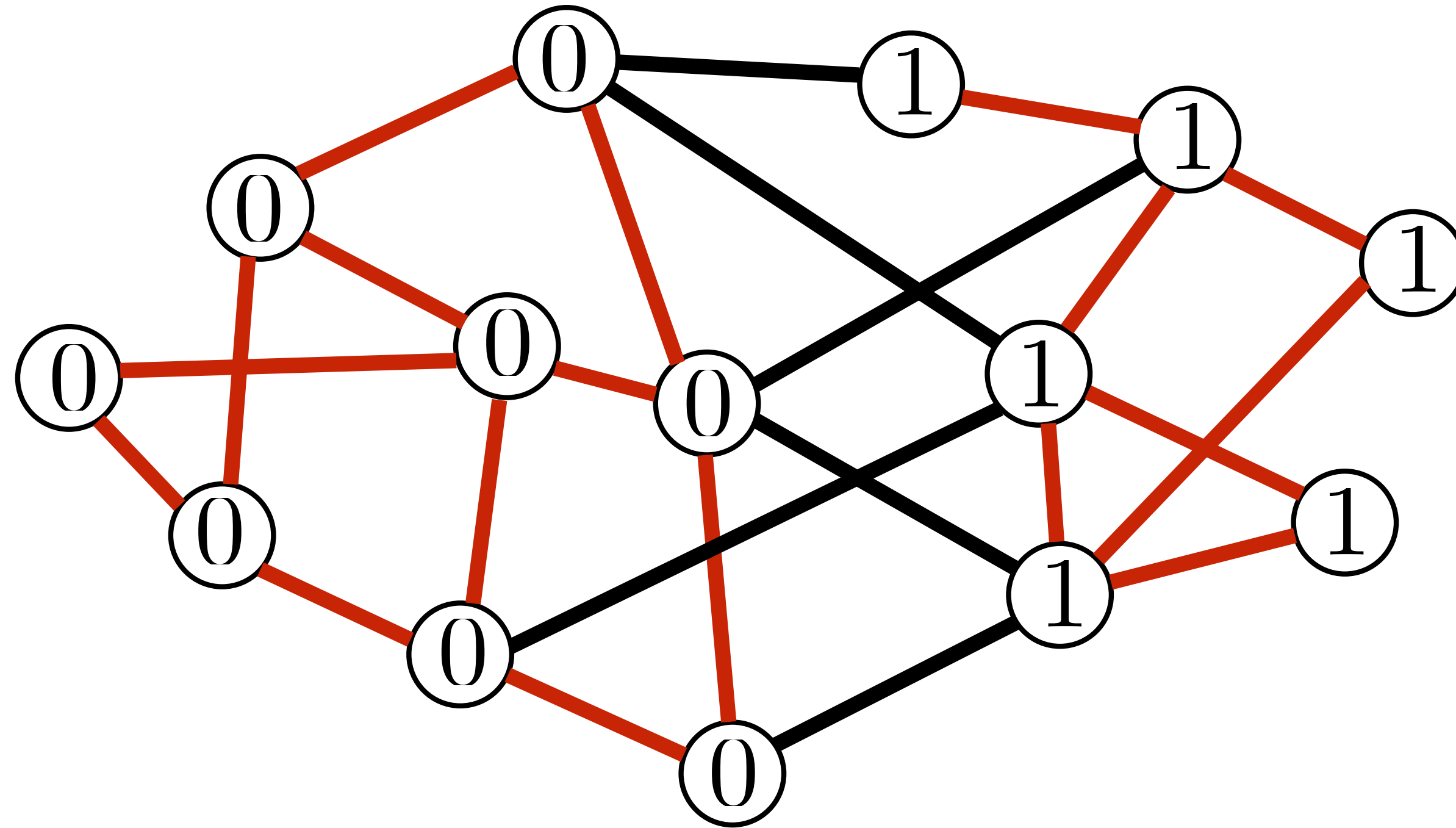


# 2-Colour

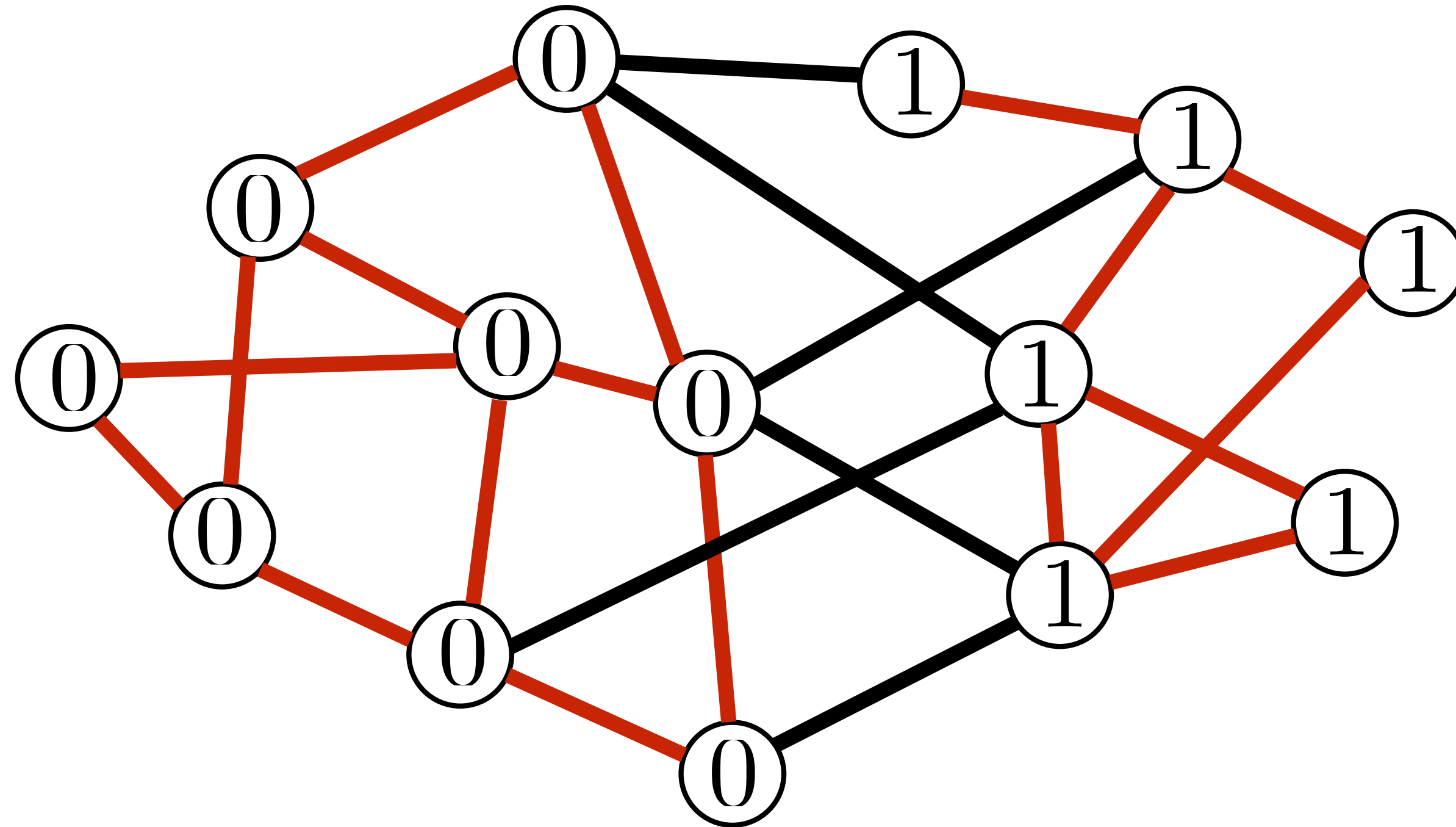


- PTIME

# Min-UnCut



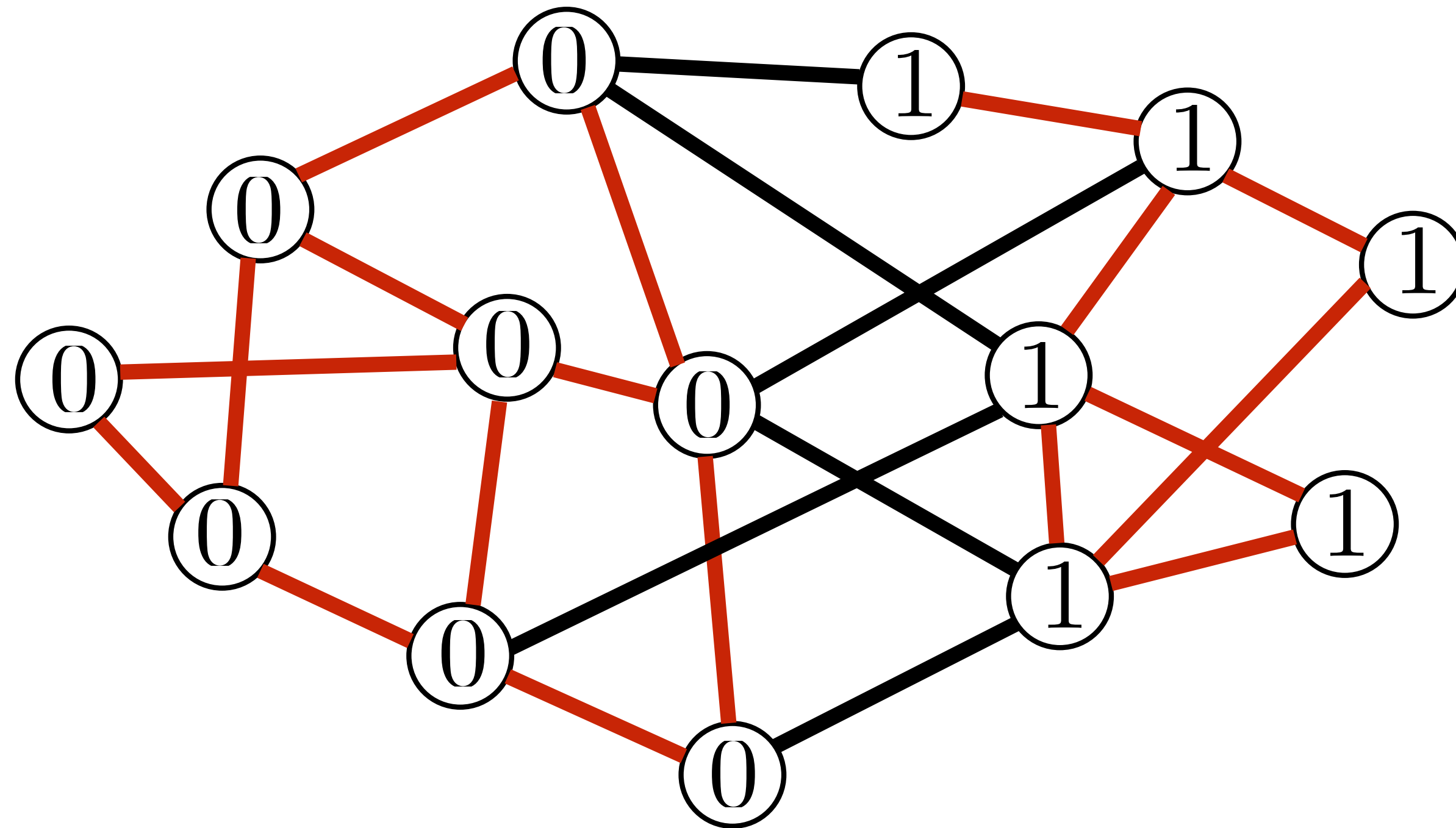
# Min-UnCut



- APX-hard

*[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]*

# Min-UnCut



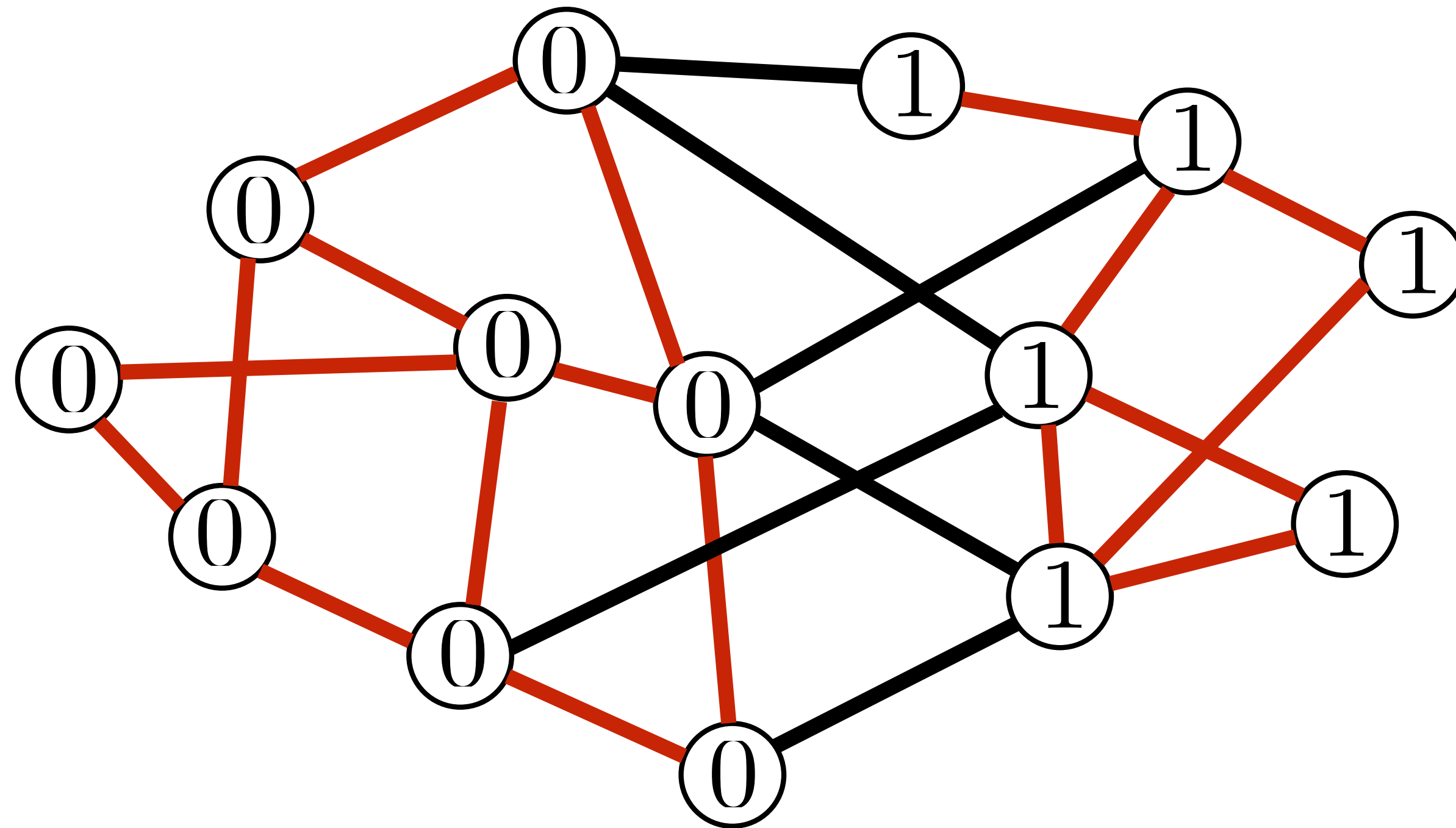
- APX-hard
- $O(\sqrt{\log n})$ -approx

*[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]*

*[Agarwal et al. STOC'05]*



# Min-UnCut



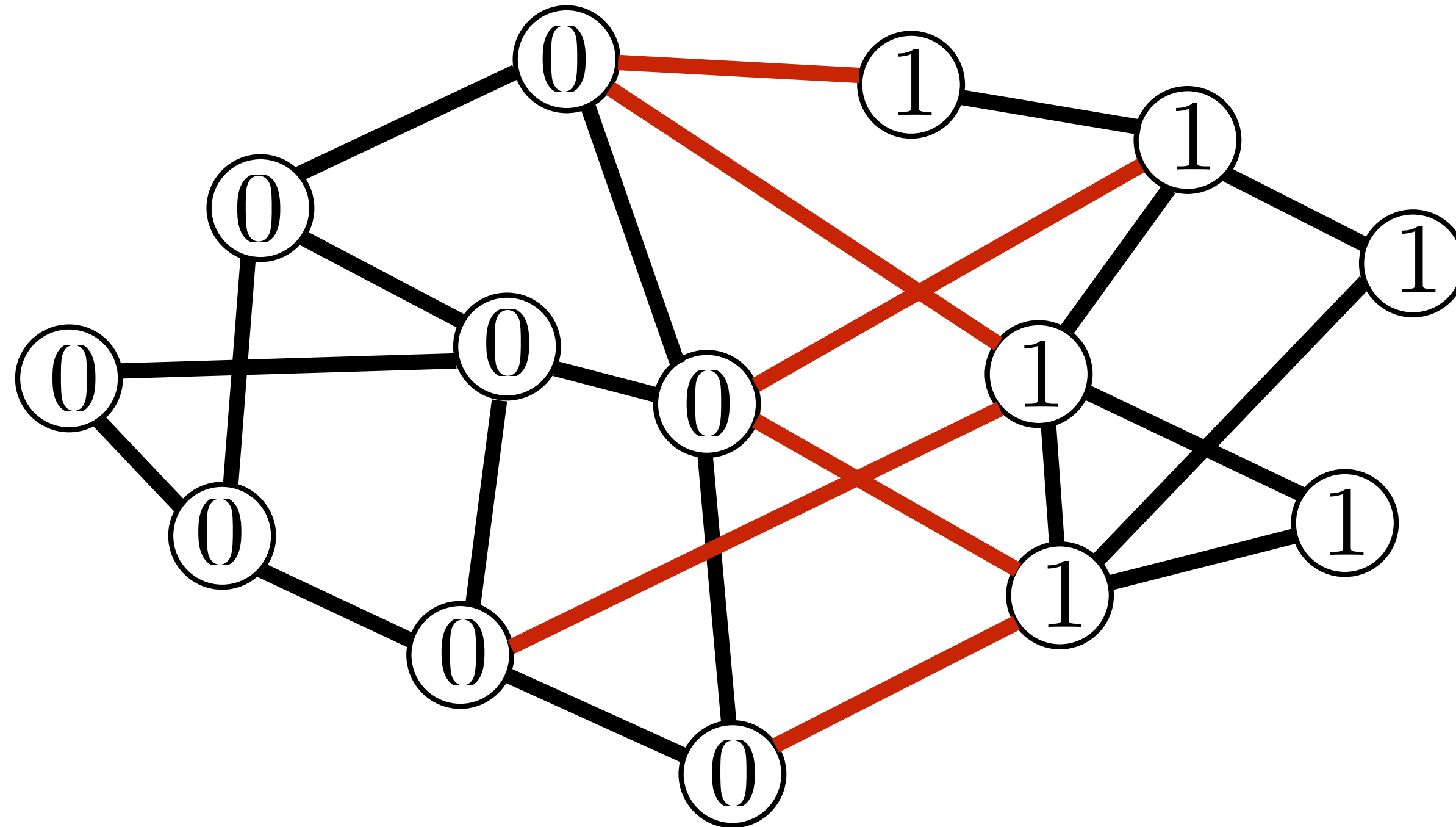
- APX-hard
- $O(\sqrt{\log n})$ -approx
- no  $O(1)$ -approx, under UGC

*[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]*

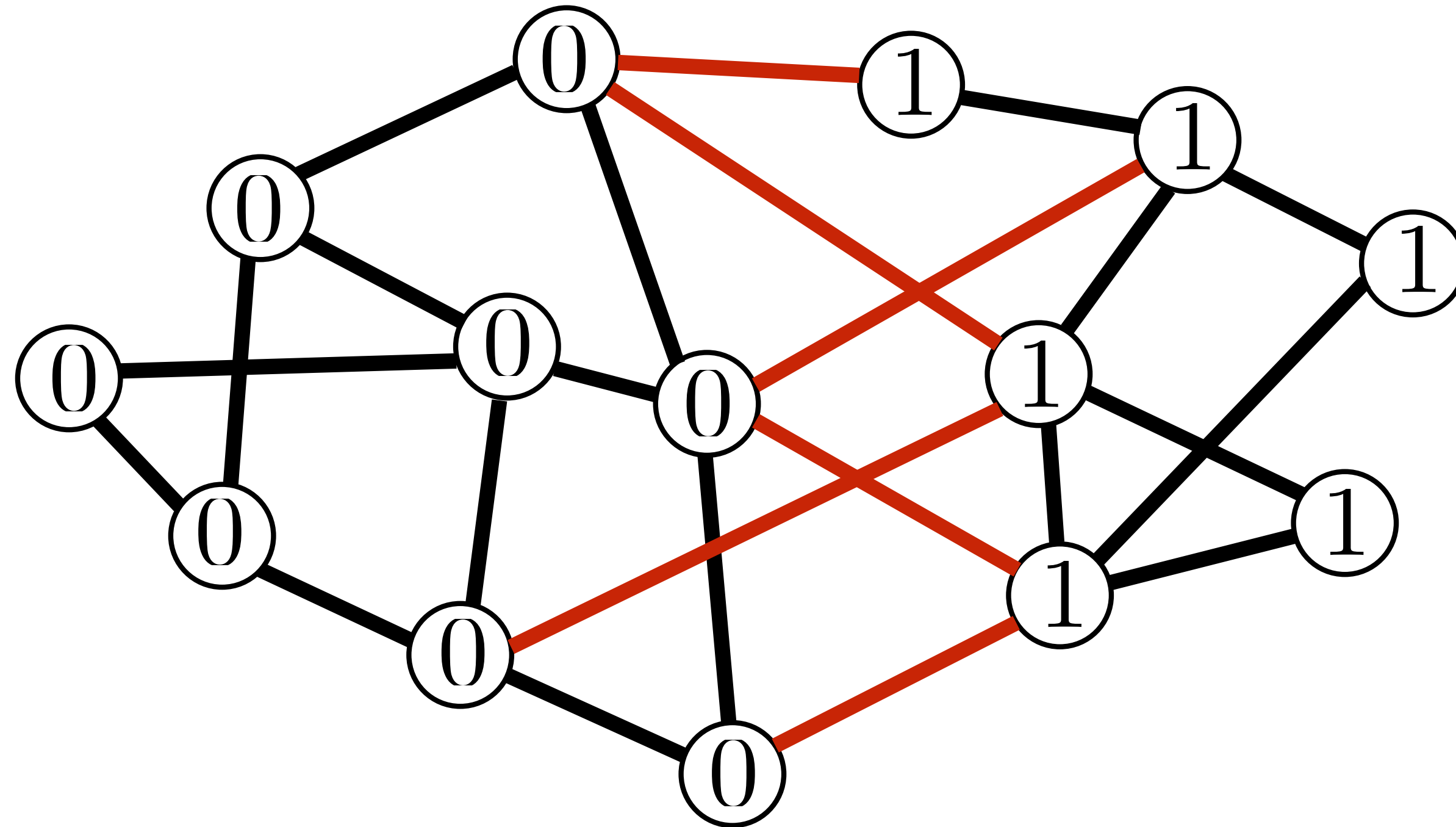
*[Agarwal et al. STOC'05]*

*[Chawla et al. CC'06, Khot-Vishnoi JACM'05]*

# Max-Cut



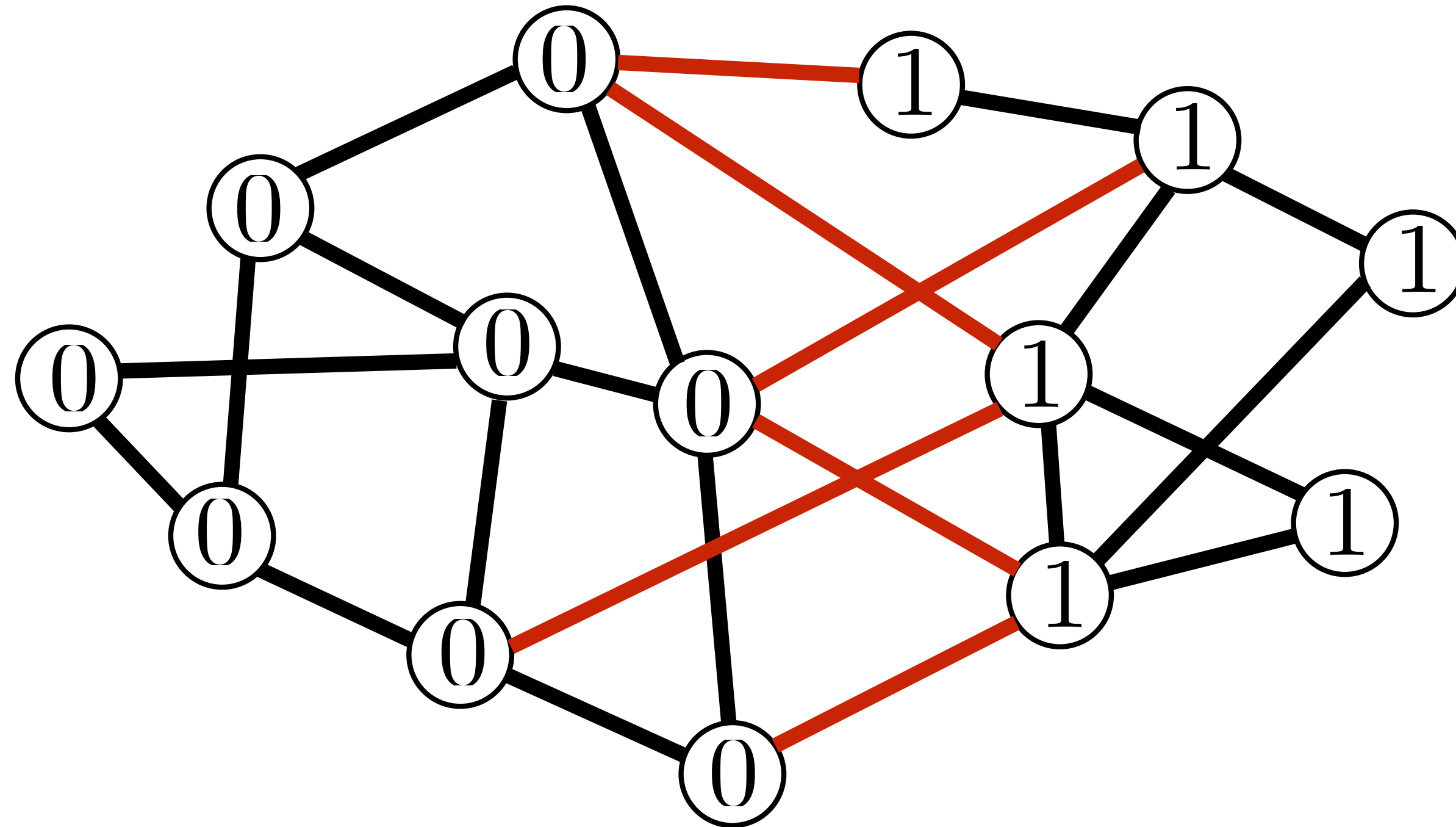
# Max-Cut



- **APX-complete**

*[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]*

# Max-Cut

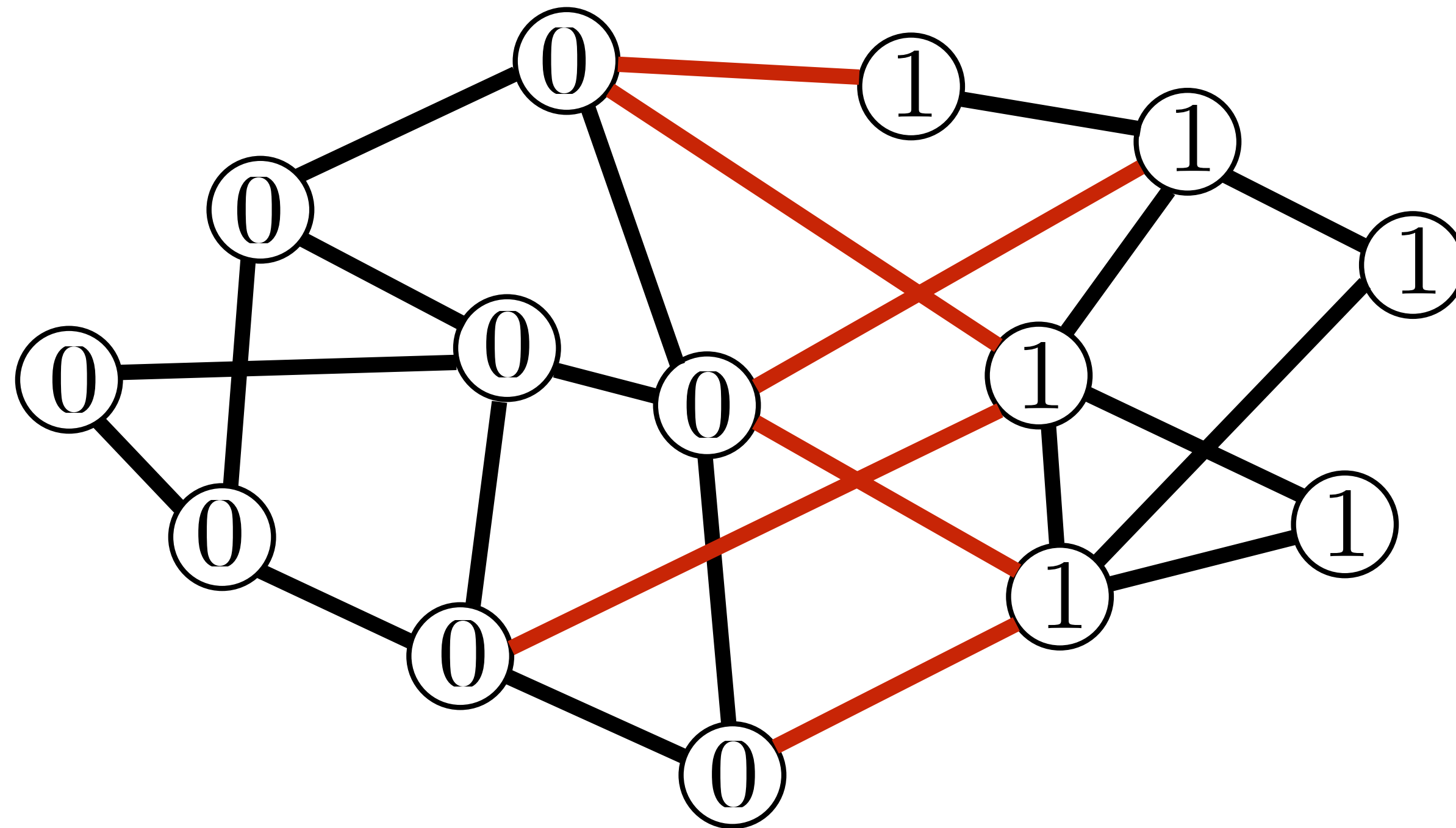


- **APX-complete**
- **0.878-approx**

*[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]*

*[Goemans-Williamson JACM'95]*

# Max-Cut



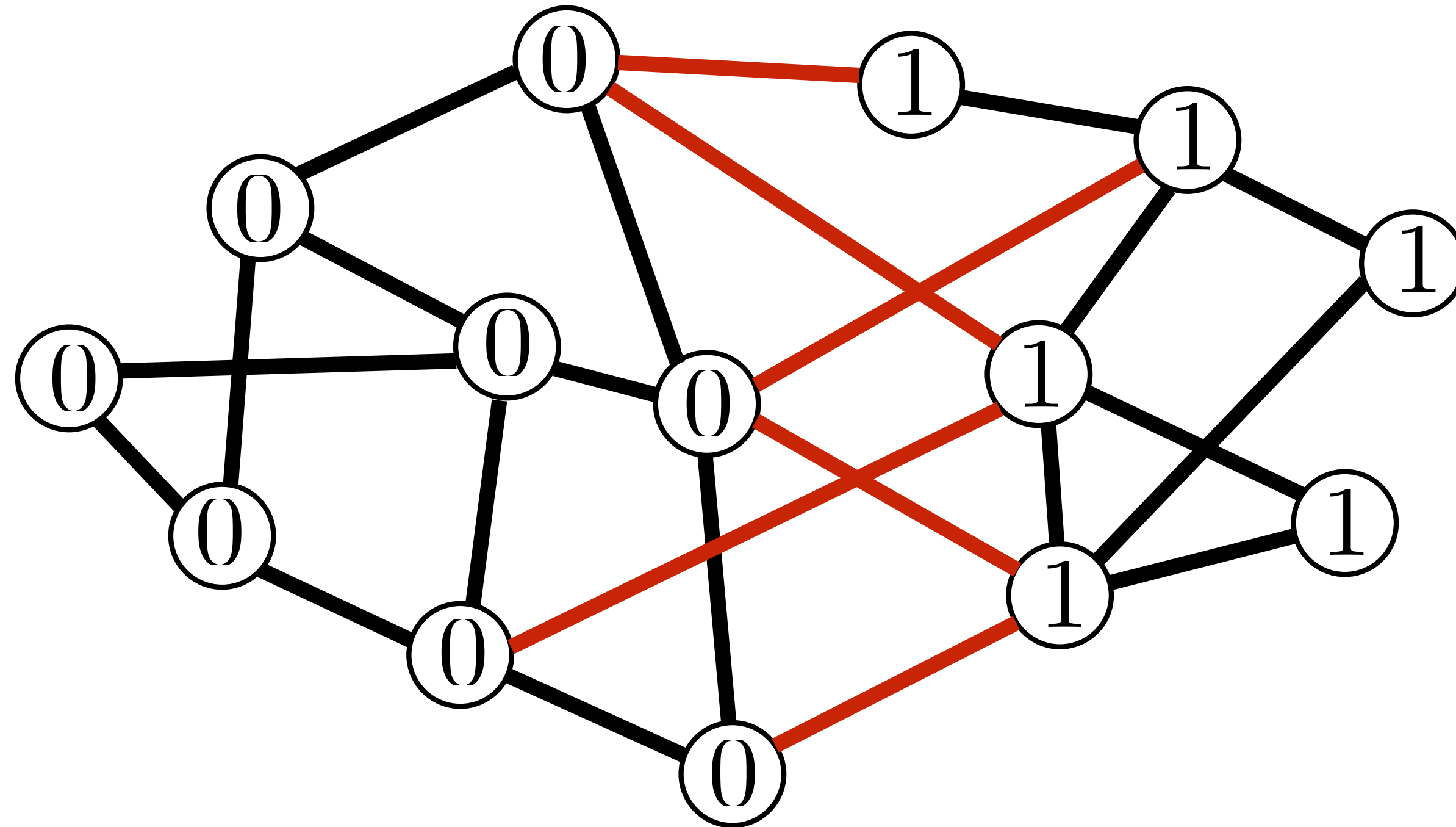
- APX-complete
- 0.878-approx
- 0.941-inapprox

*[Papadimitriou-Yannakakis JCSS'01]*

*[Goemans-Williamson JACM'95]*

*[Trevisan et al. SICOMP'00]*

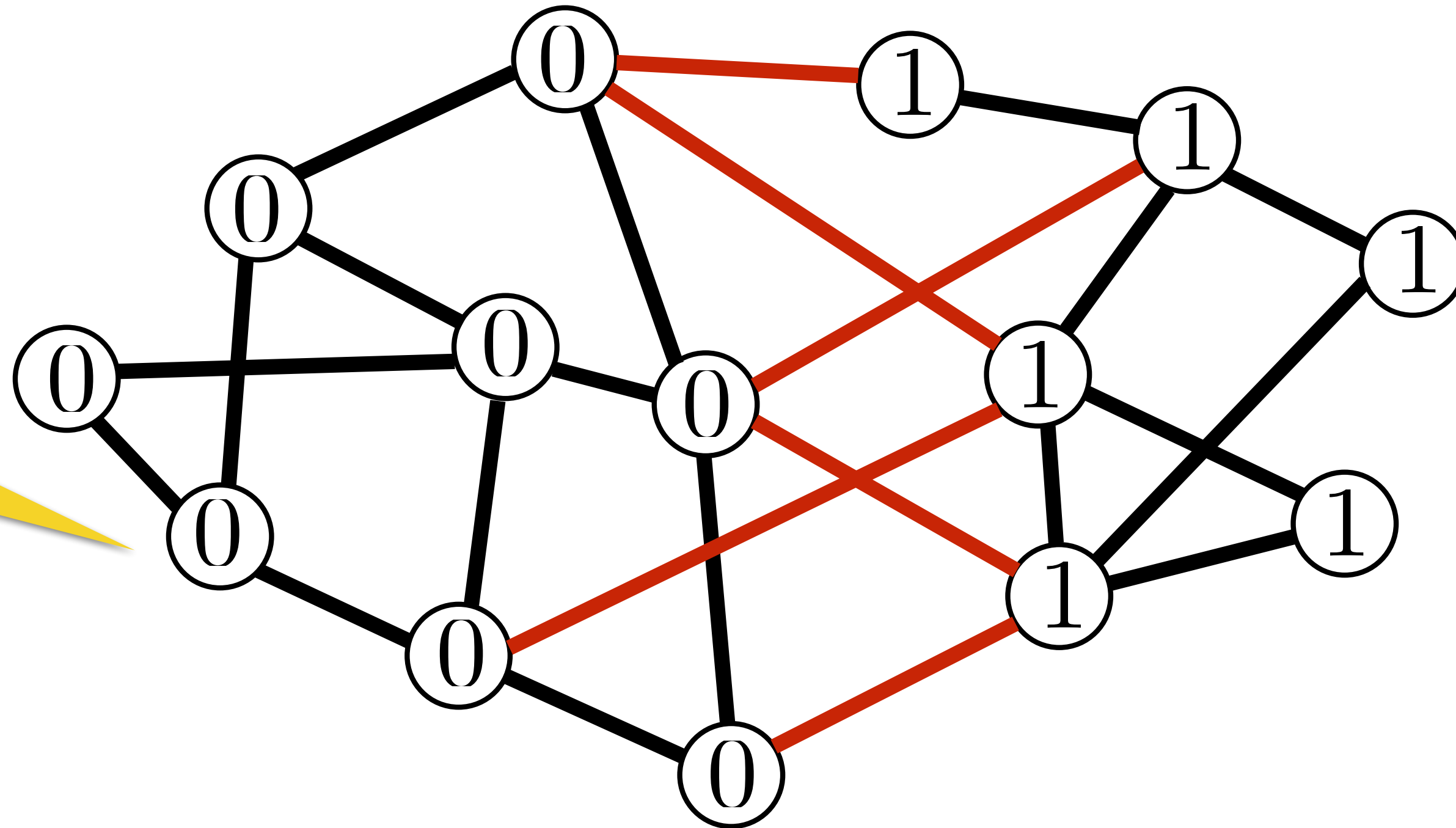
# Max-Cut



# Max-Cut

PTIME for planar

[Hadlock SICOMP'75]



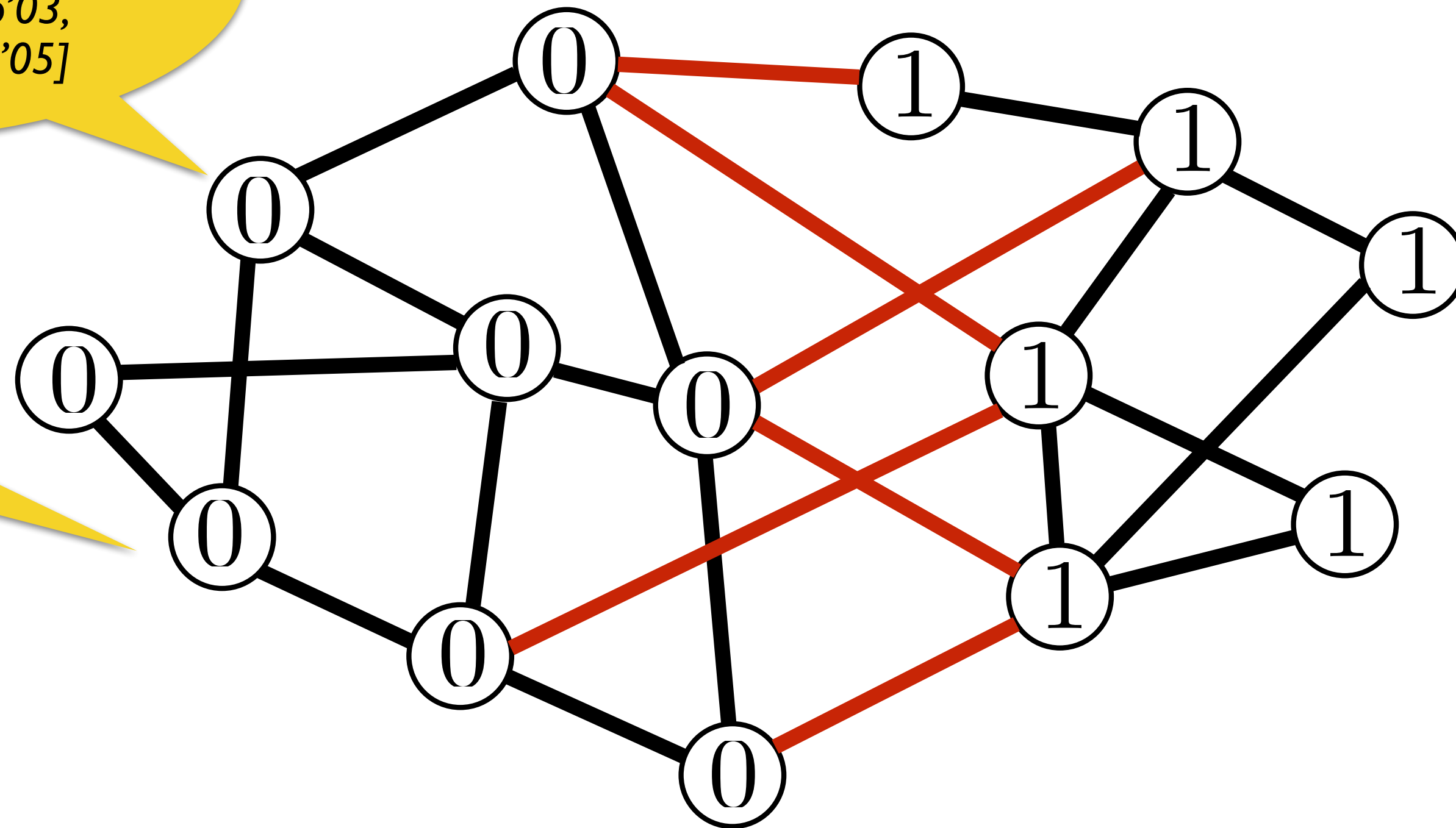
# Max-Cut

PTAS for sparse

[Grohe Comb'03,  
Demaine et al. FOCS'05]

PTIME for planar

[Hadlock SICOMP'75]





# Max-Cut

PTAS for sparse

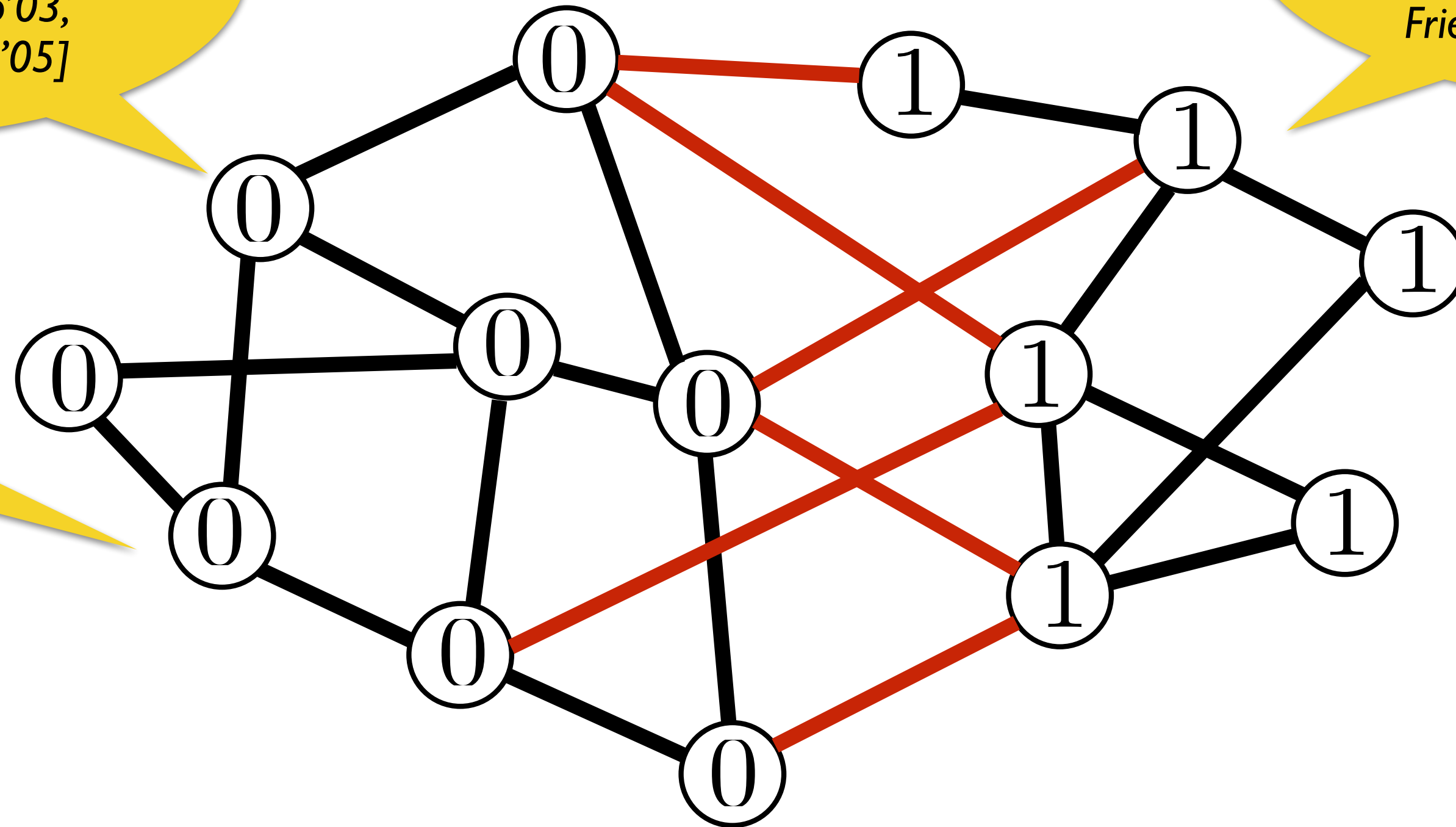
*[Grohe Comb'03,  
Demaine et al. FOCS'05]*

PTAS for dense

*[Arora et al. STOC'95,  
Frieze & Kannan FOCS'96]*

PTIME for planar

*[Hadlock SICOMP'75]*



# Max-Cut

PTAS for sparse

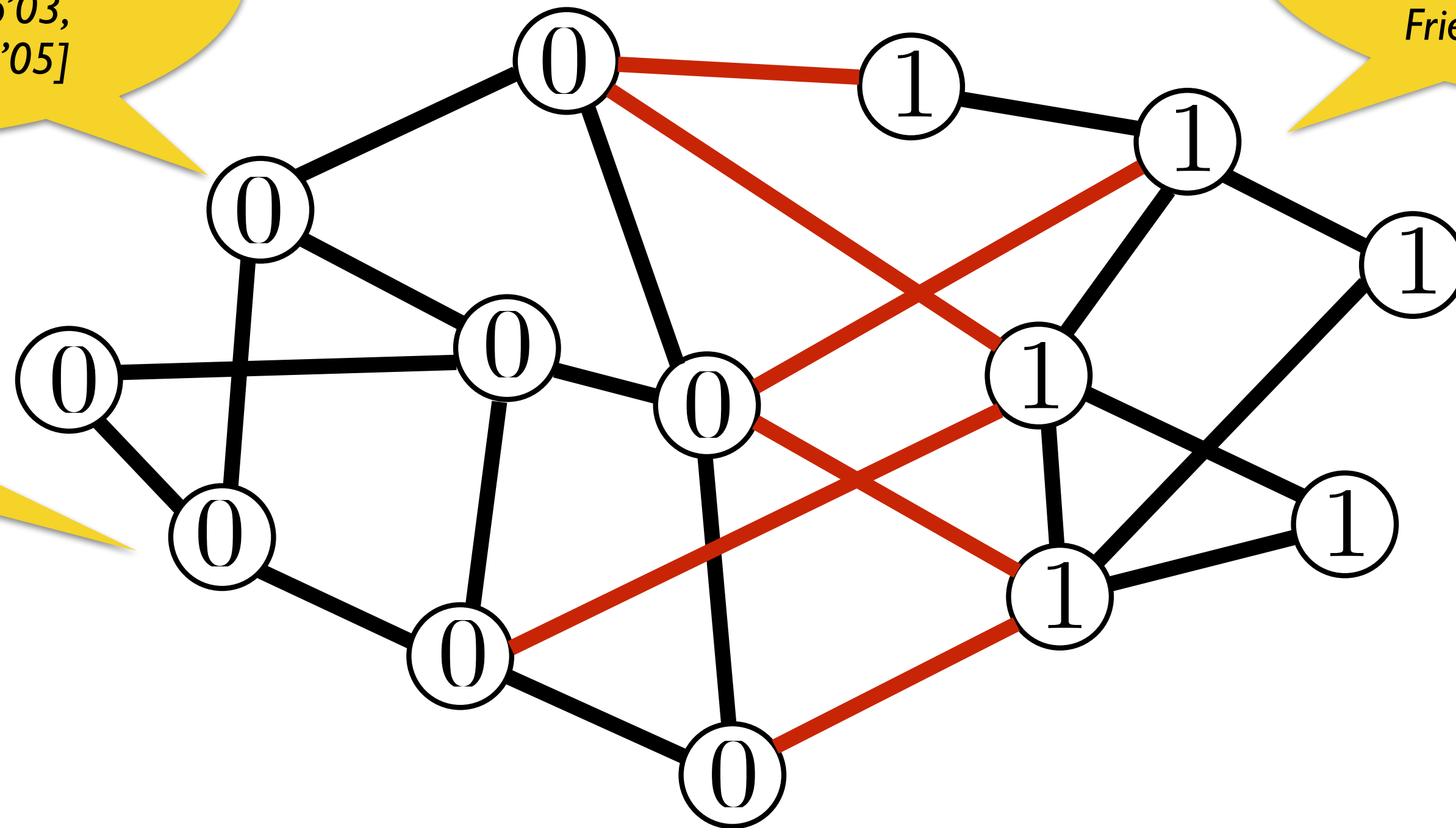
[Grohe Comb'03,  
Demaine et al. FOCS'05]

PTAS for dense

[Arora et al. STOC'95,  
Frieze & Kannan FOCS'96]

PTIME for planar

[Hadlock SICOMP'75]



What mathematical structure explains this?



Balázs Mezei



Miguel Romero

PUC



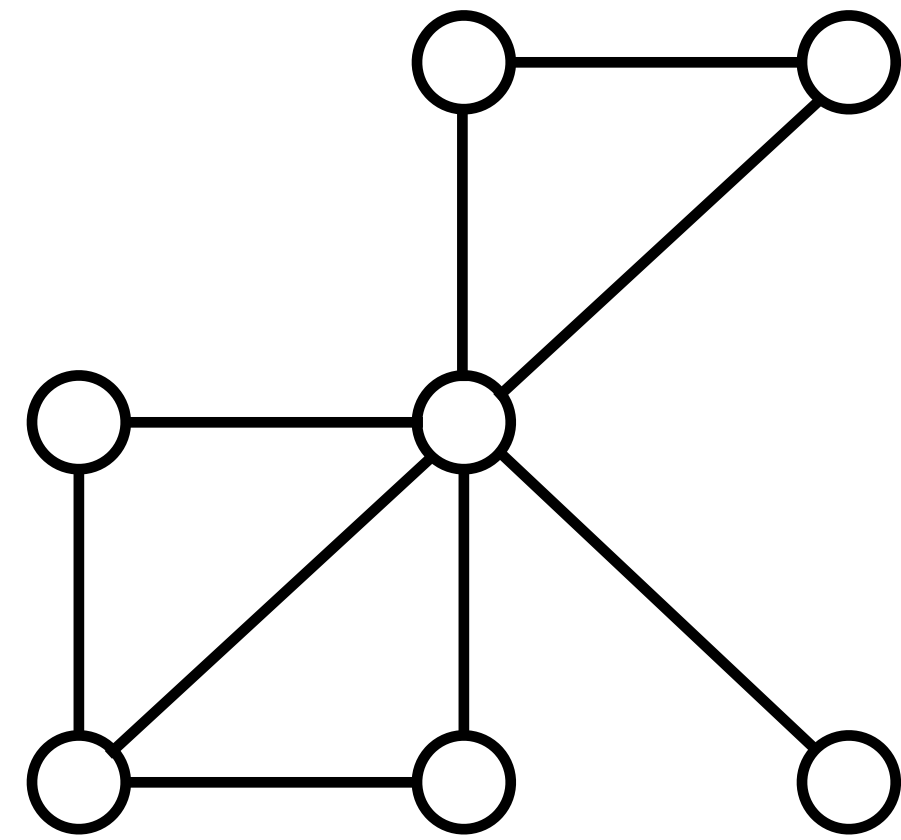
Marcin Wrochna

Warsaw

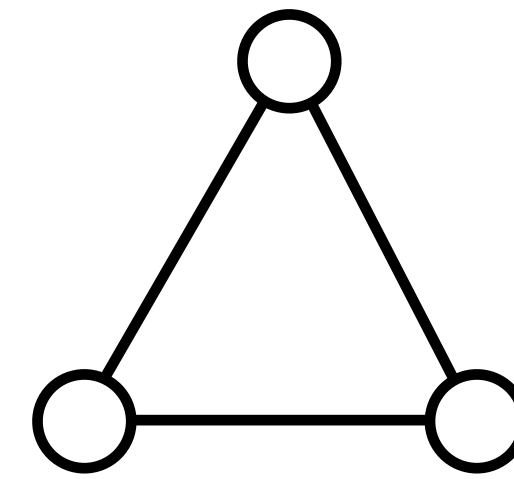
- **Pliability and approximating MaxCSPs** *[RWŻ SODA'21, JACM'23]*
- **PTAS for general sparse general-valued CSPs** *[MWŻ LICS'21, ACM TALG'23]*

# CSP

A

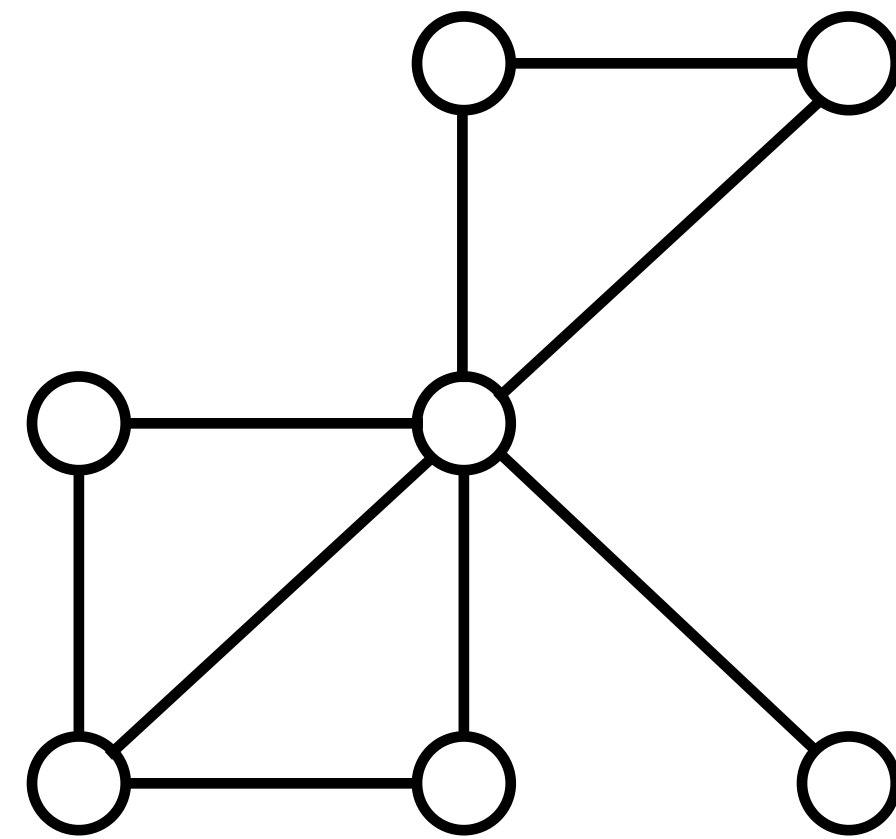


B

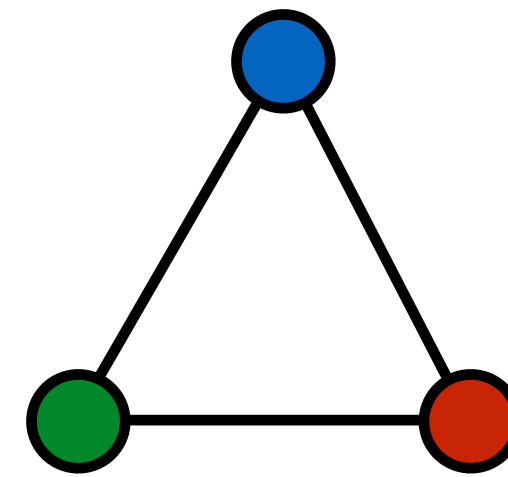


# CSP

A

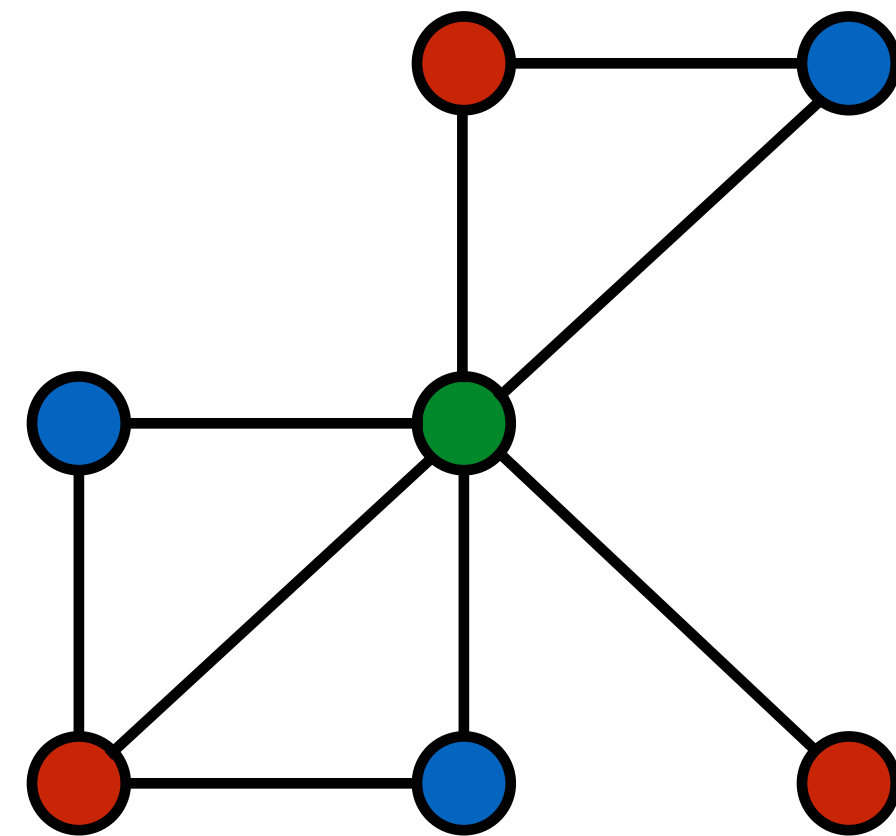


B

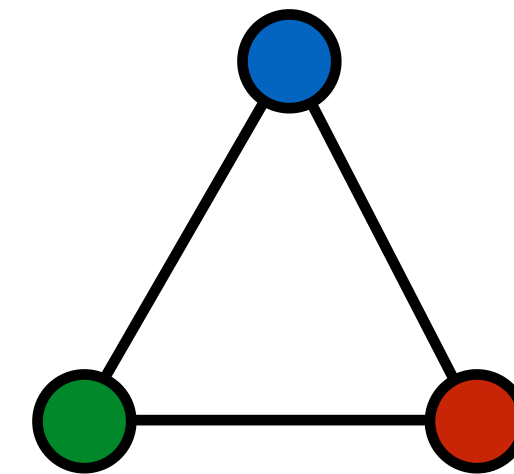


# CSP

A

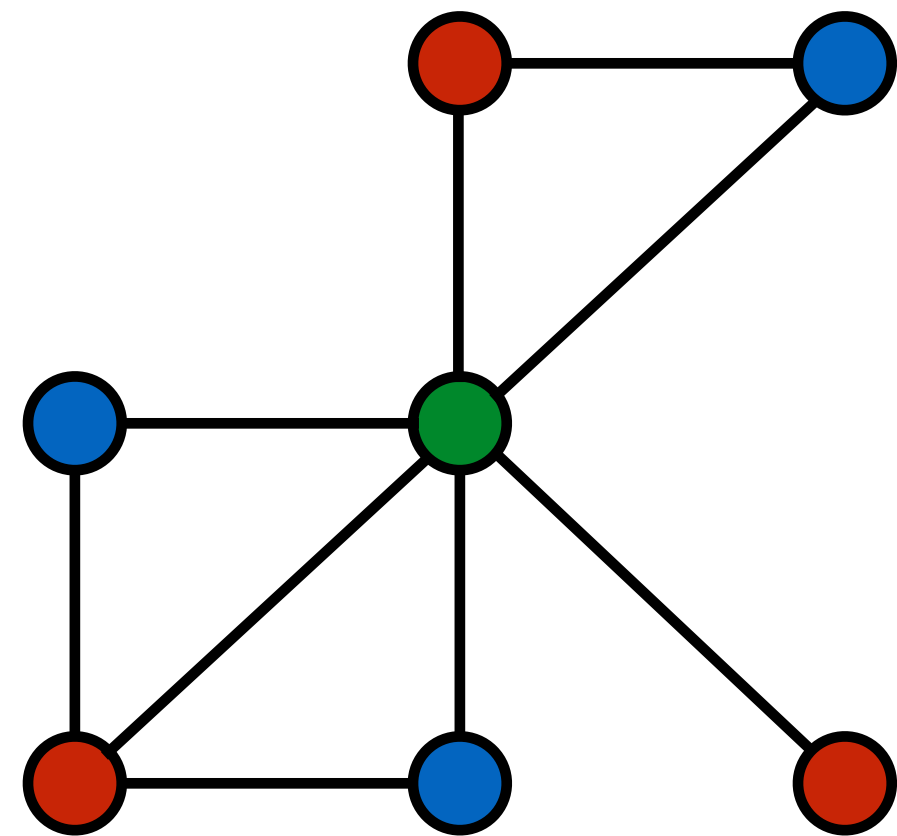


B

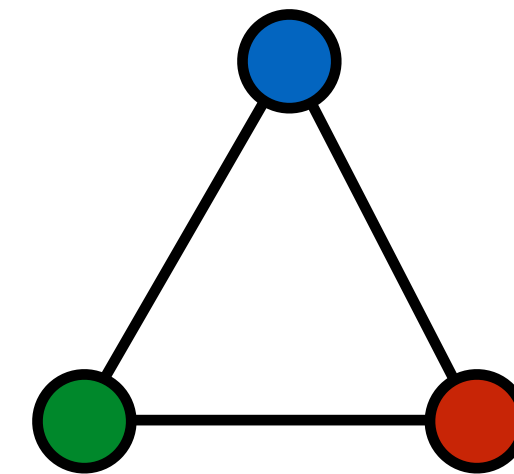


# CSP(-, B)

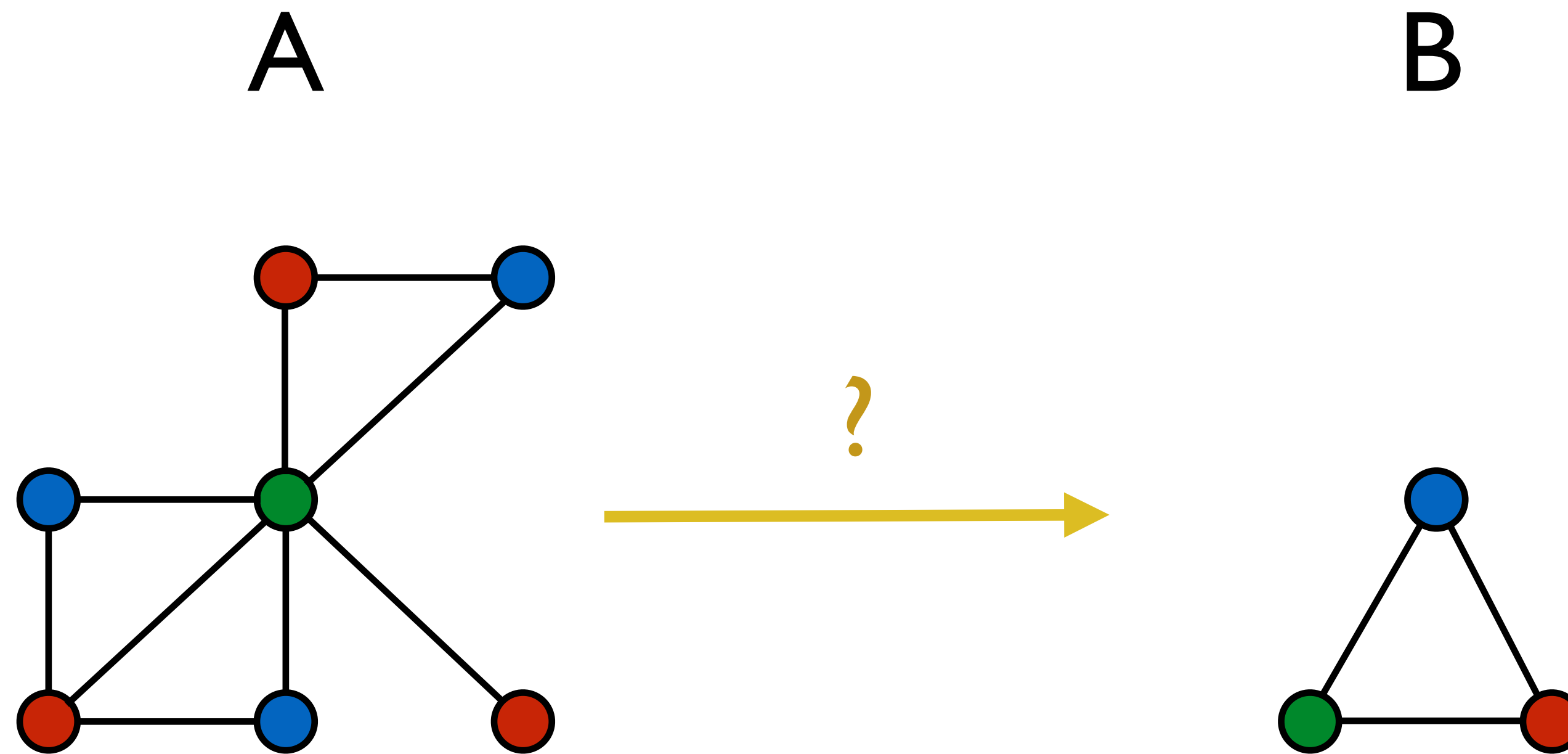
A



B



# CSP(-, B)

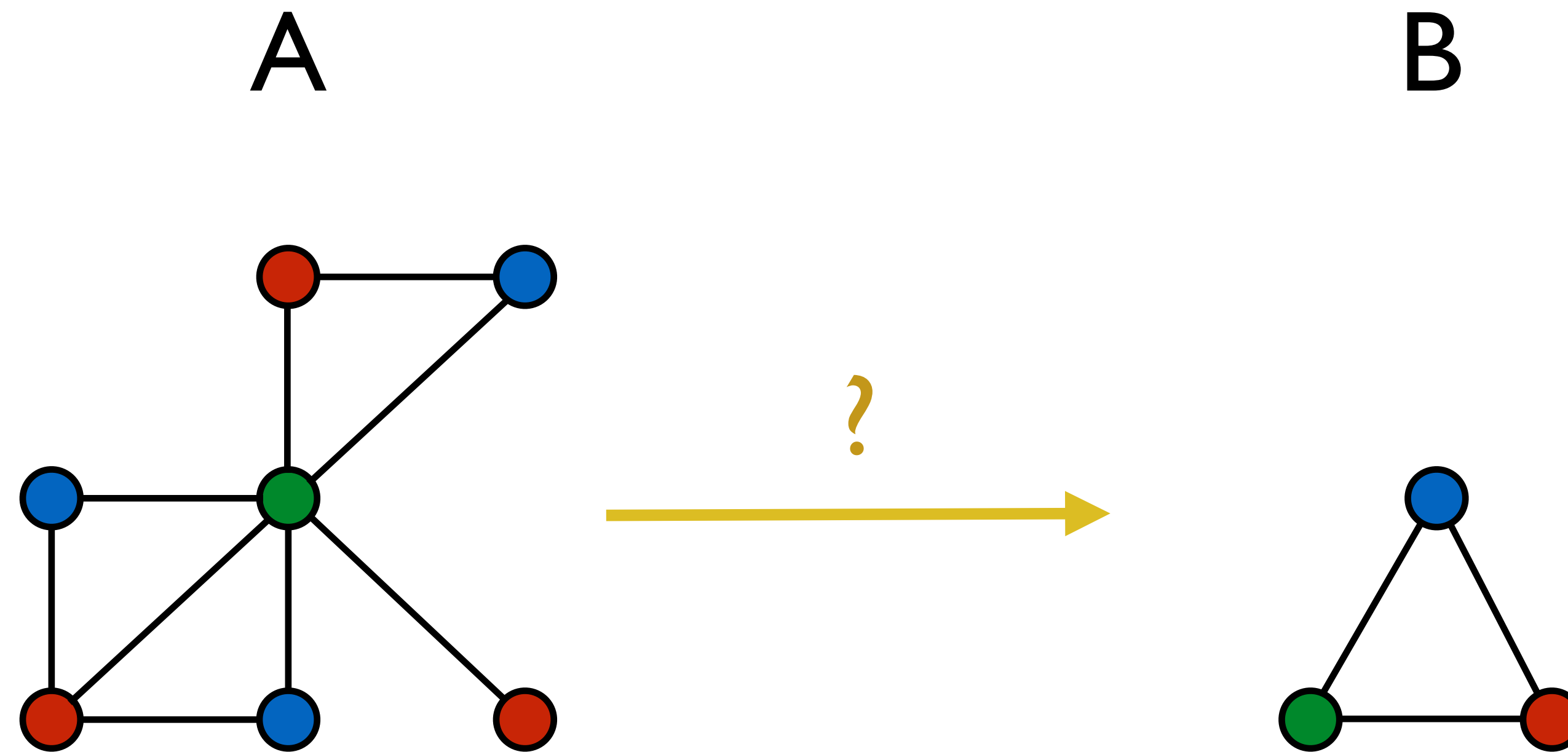


- $\text{CSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or  $\text{NP-complete}$

*[Hell-Nešetřil JCTB'90]*



# CSP(-, B)

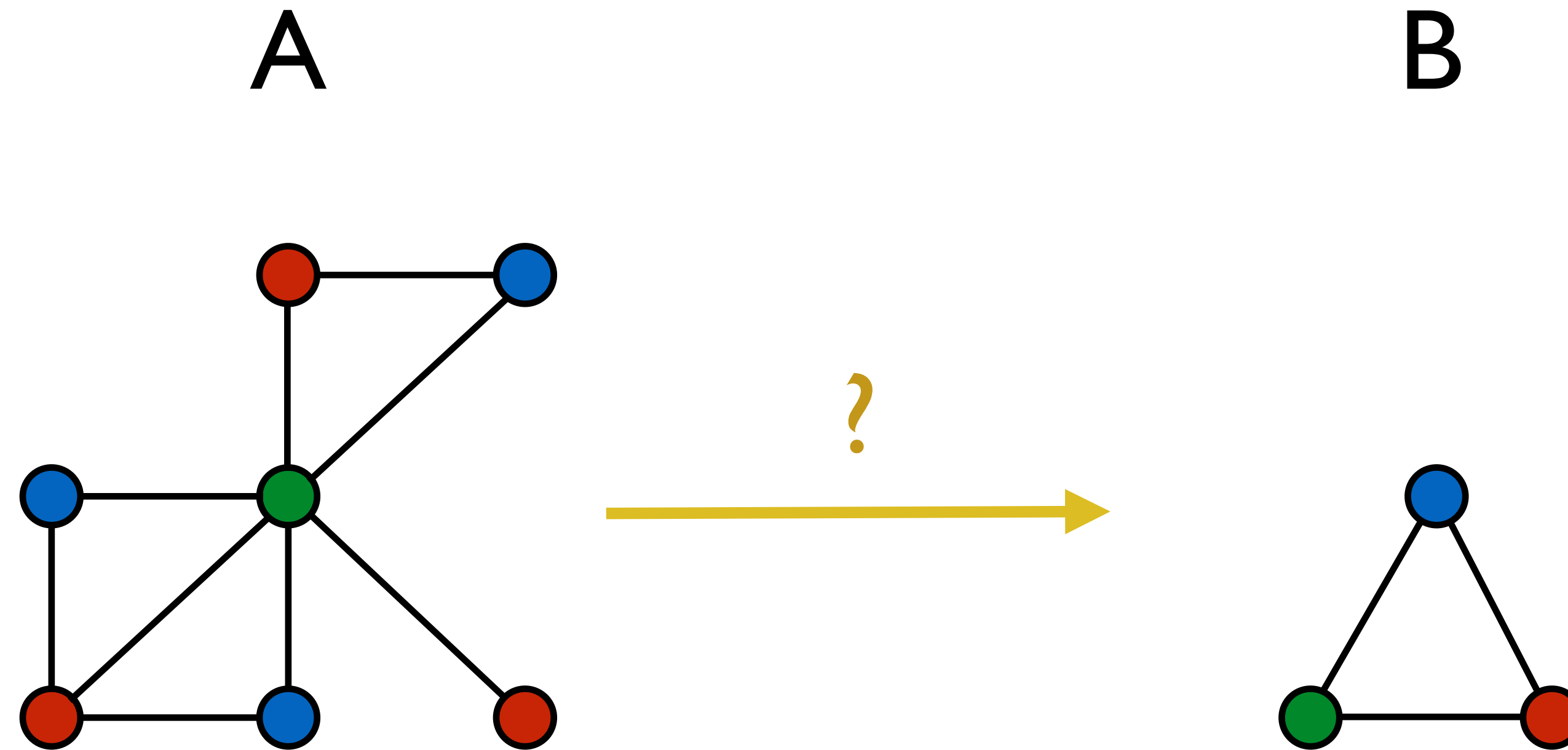


- $\text{CSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete
- $\text{CSP}(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete

[Hell-Nešetřil JCTB'90]

[Bulatov FOCS'17, Zhuk FOCS'17]

# CSP(-, B)



digraph

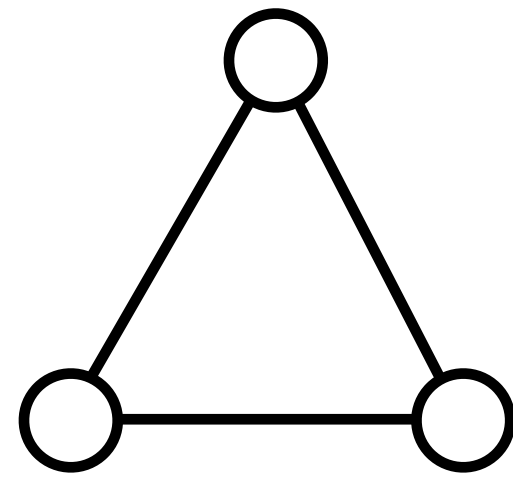
- $\text{CSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete
- $\text{CSP}(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete

[Hell-Nešetřil JCTB'90]

[Bulatov FOCS'17, Zhuk FOCS'17]

# CSP

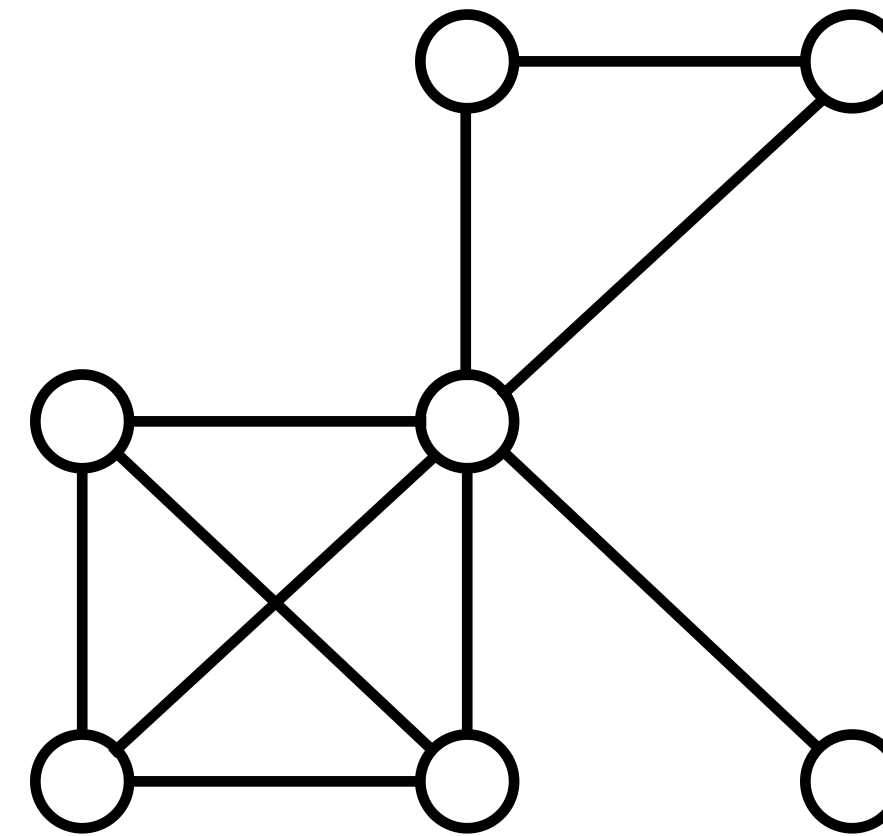
A



?

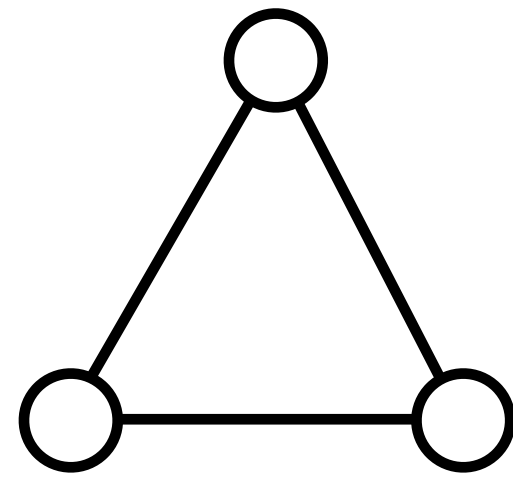


B



# CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )

A

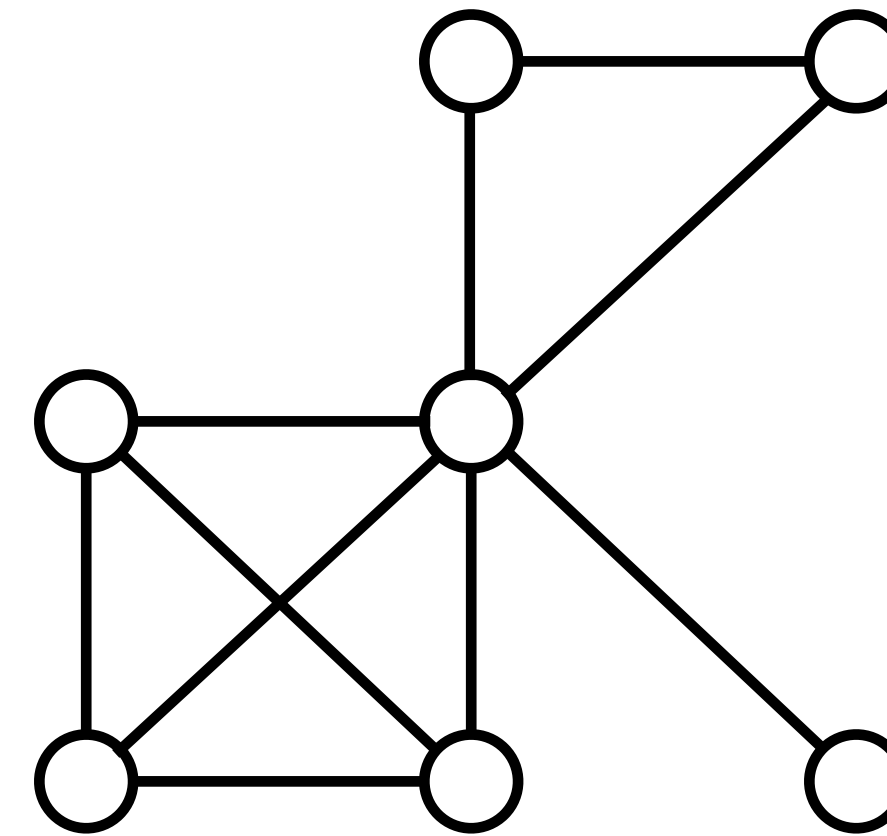


$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

?

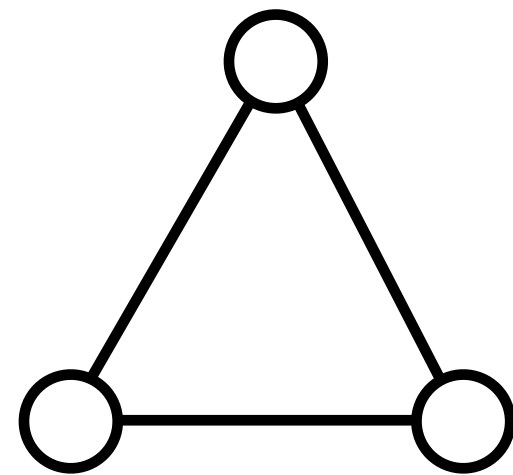


B



# CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

A

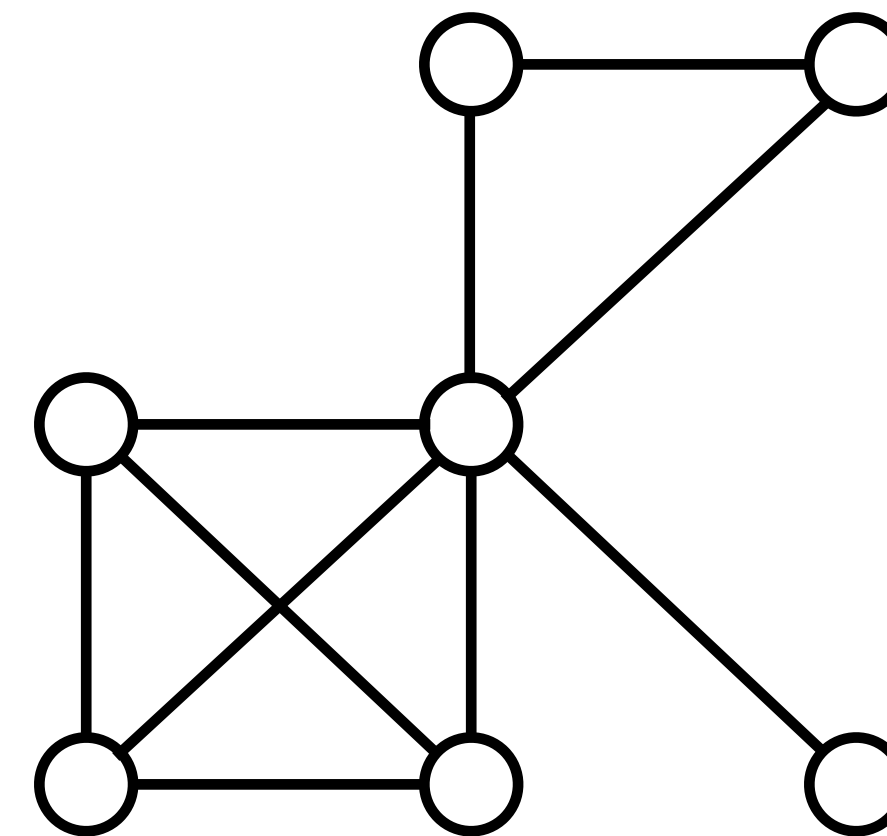


$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

?



B

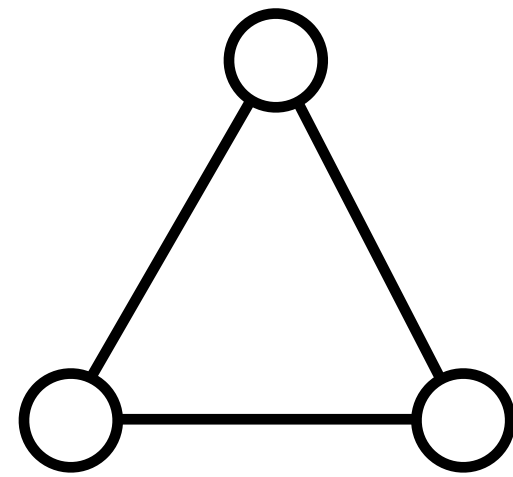


- CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded

[Freuder AAI'90]

# CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

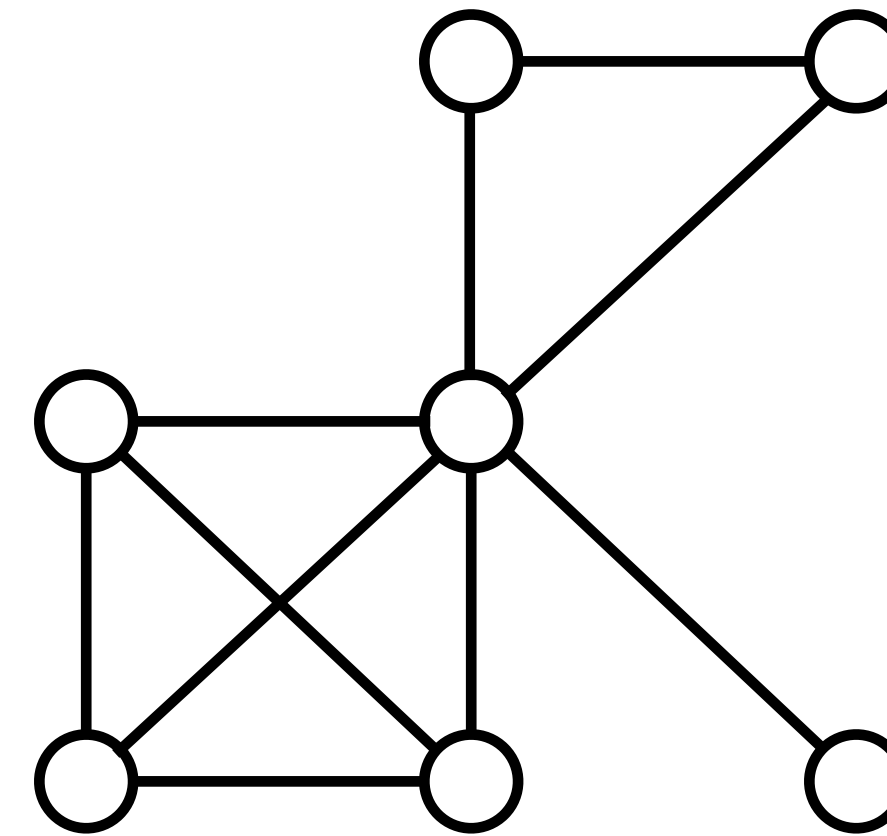
A



?



B

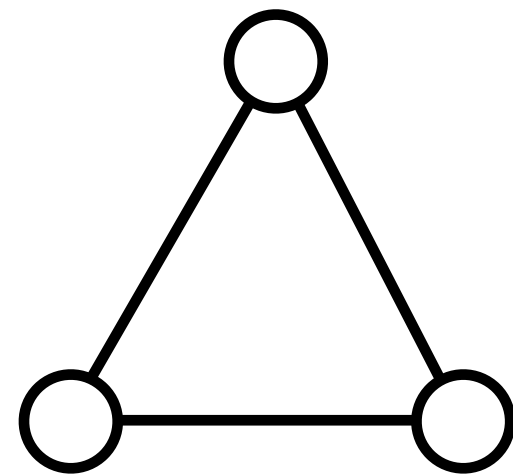


$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

- CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded [Freuder AAI'90]
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}$ , -)  $\notin$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded [Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

# CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

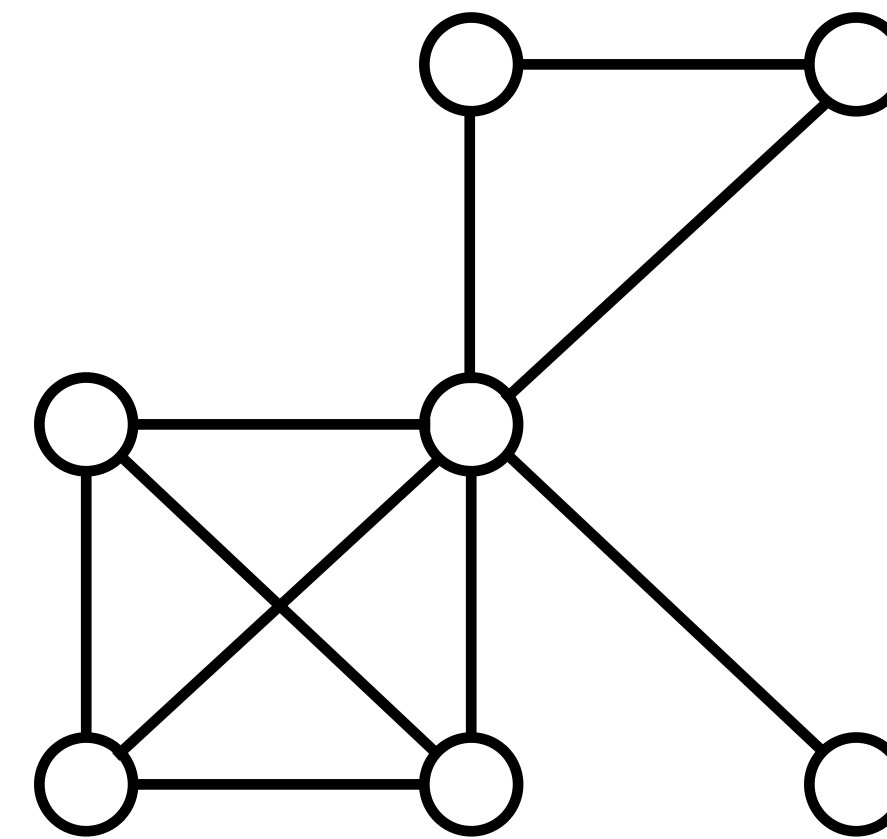
A



?



B



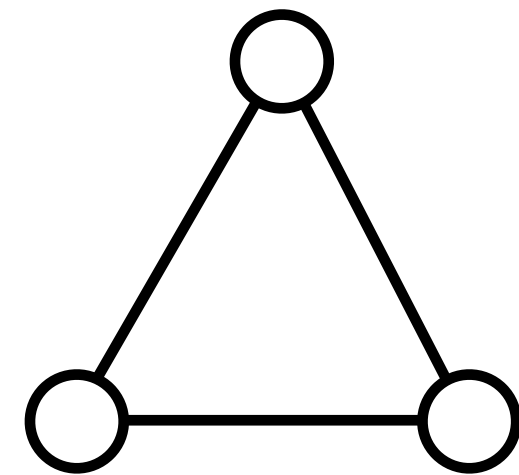
FPT  $\neq$  W[1]

$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$

- CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded [Freuder AAI'90]
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# CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

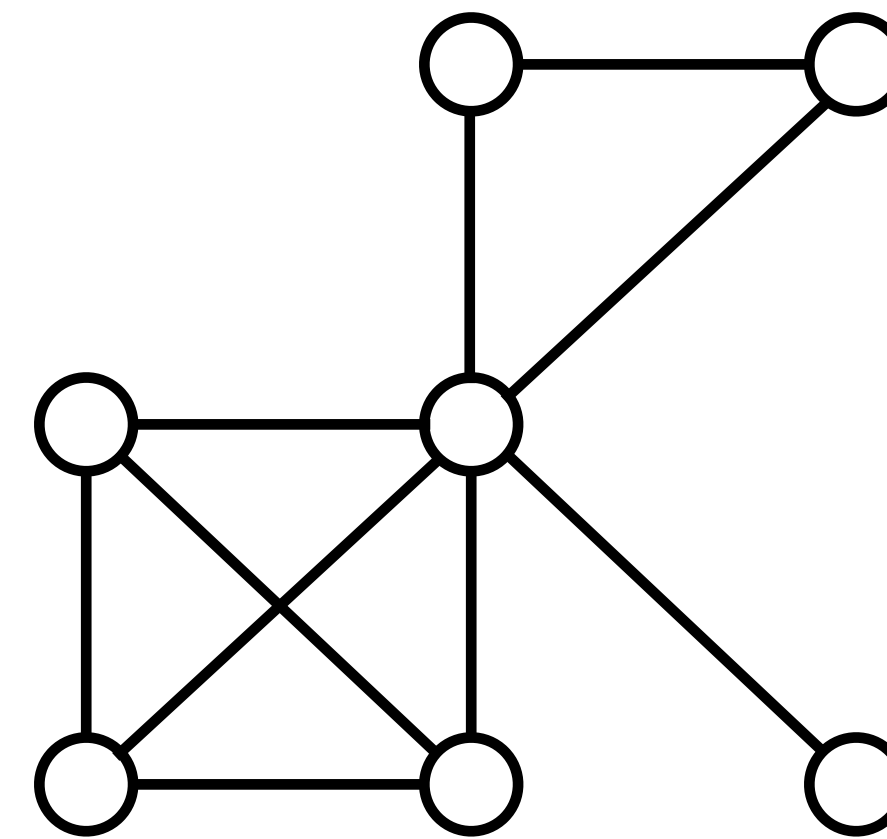
A



?



B



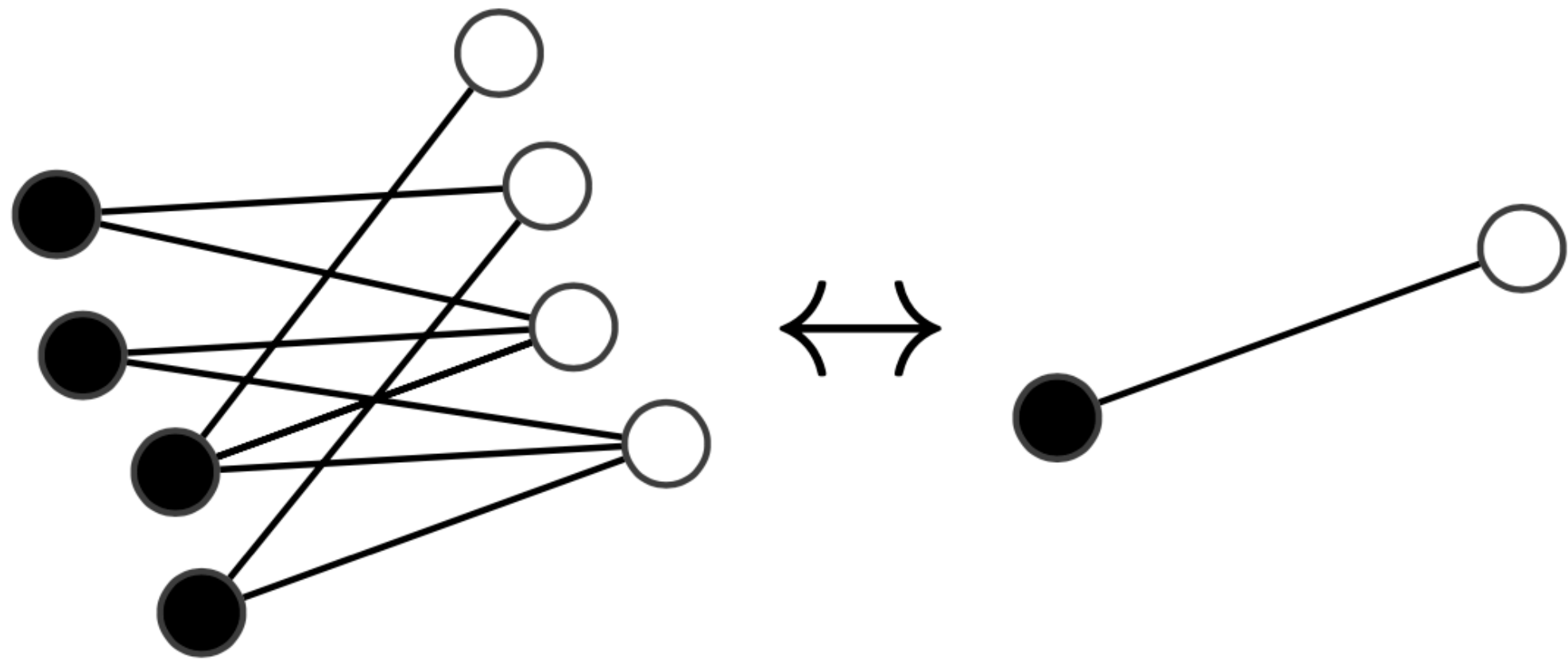
FPT  $\neq$  W[1]

$$\mathcal{A} = \{K_3, K_4, \dots\}$$

- CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded [Freuder AAI'90]
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}$ , -)  $\notin$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded [Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded [Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]

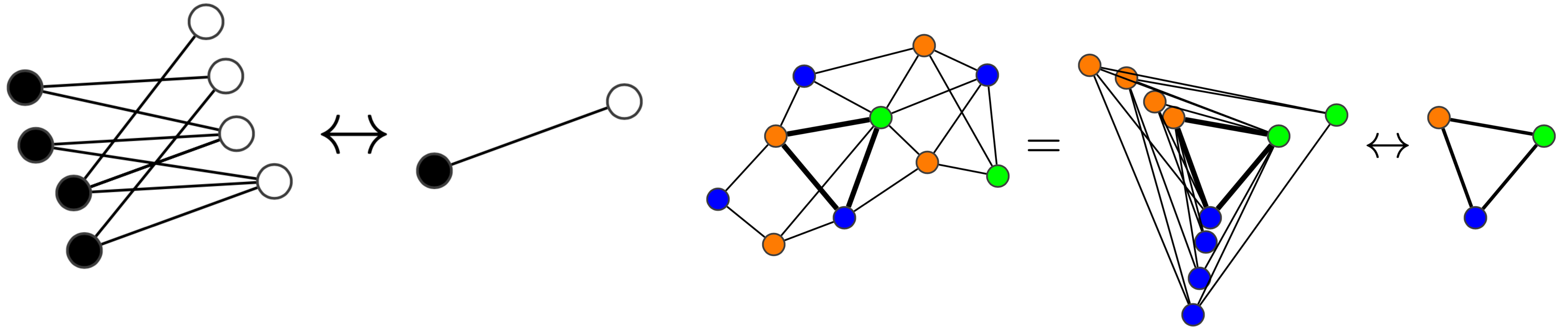


# CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )



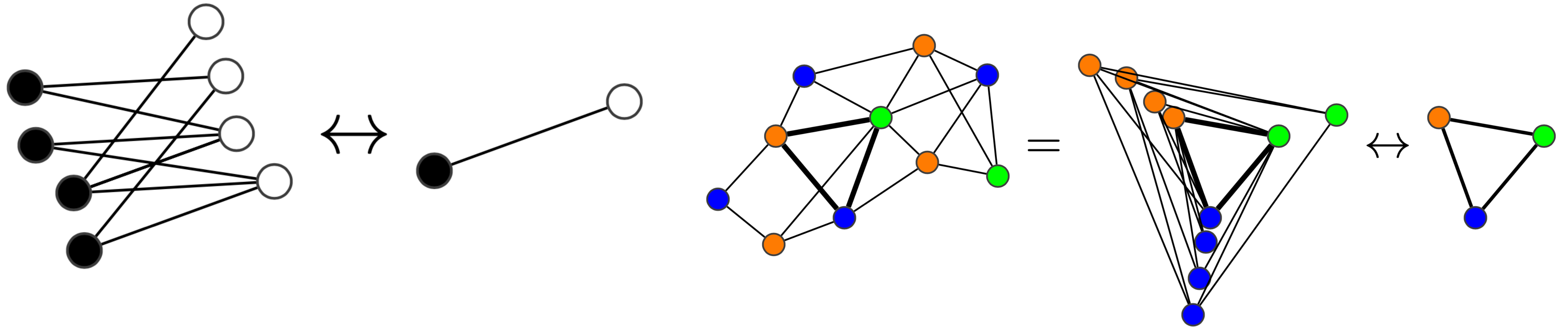
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded *[Freuder AAI'90]*
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -$ )  $\notin$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded *[Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]*
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded *[Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]*

# CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )



- CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{A})$  bounded [Freuder AAI'90]
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -$ )  $\notin$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  unbounded [Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded [Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]

# CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )



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- CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded [Dalmau-Kolaitis-Vardi CP'02]
- CSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\notin$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  unbounded [Grohe JACM'07]<sub>13</sub>

# The Complexity of Homomorphism and Constraint Satisfaction Problems **Seen from the Other Side**

MARTIN GROHE

*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany*

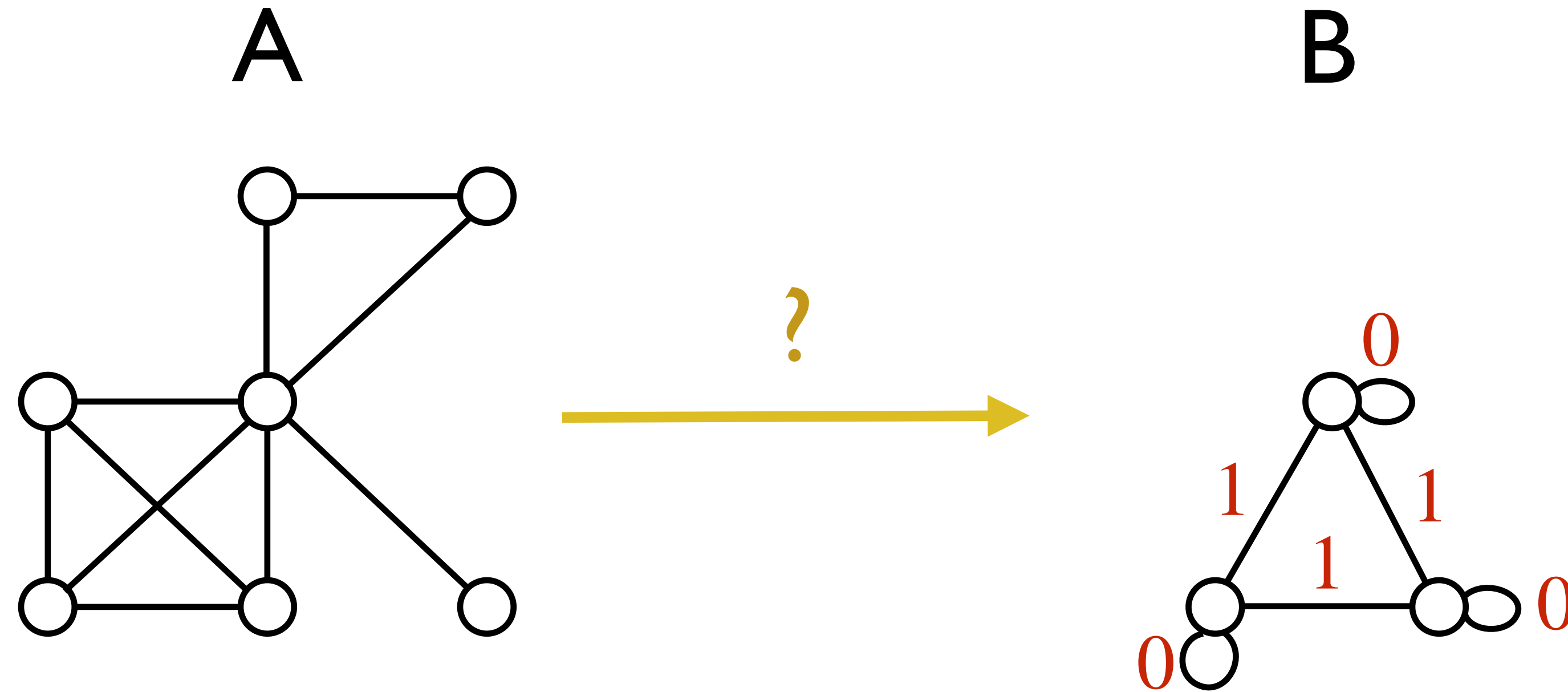


**Abstract.** We give a complexity theoretic classification of homomorphism problems for graphs and, more generally, relational structures obtained by restricting the left hand side structure in a homomorphism. For every class  $\mathcal{C}$  of structures, let  $\text{HOM}(\mathcal{C}, -)$  be the problem of deciding whether a given structure  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{C}$  has a homomorphism to a given (arbitrary) structure  $\mathcal{B}$ . We prove that, under some complexity theoretic assumption from parameterized complexity theory,  $\text{HOM}(\mathcal{C}, -)$  is in polynomial time if and only if  $\mathcal{C}$  has bounded tree width modulo homomorphic equivalence.

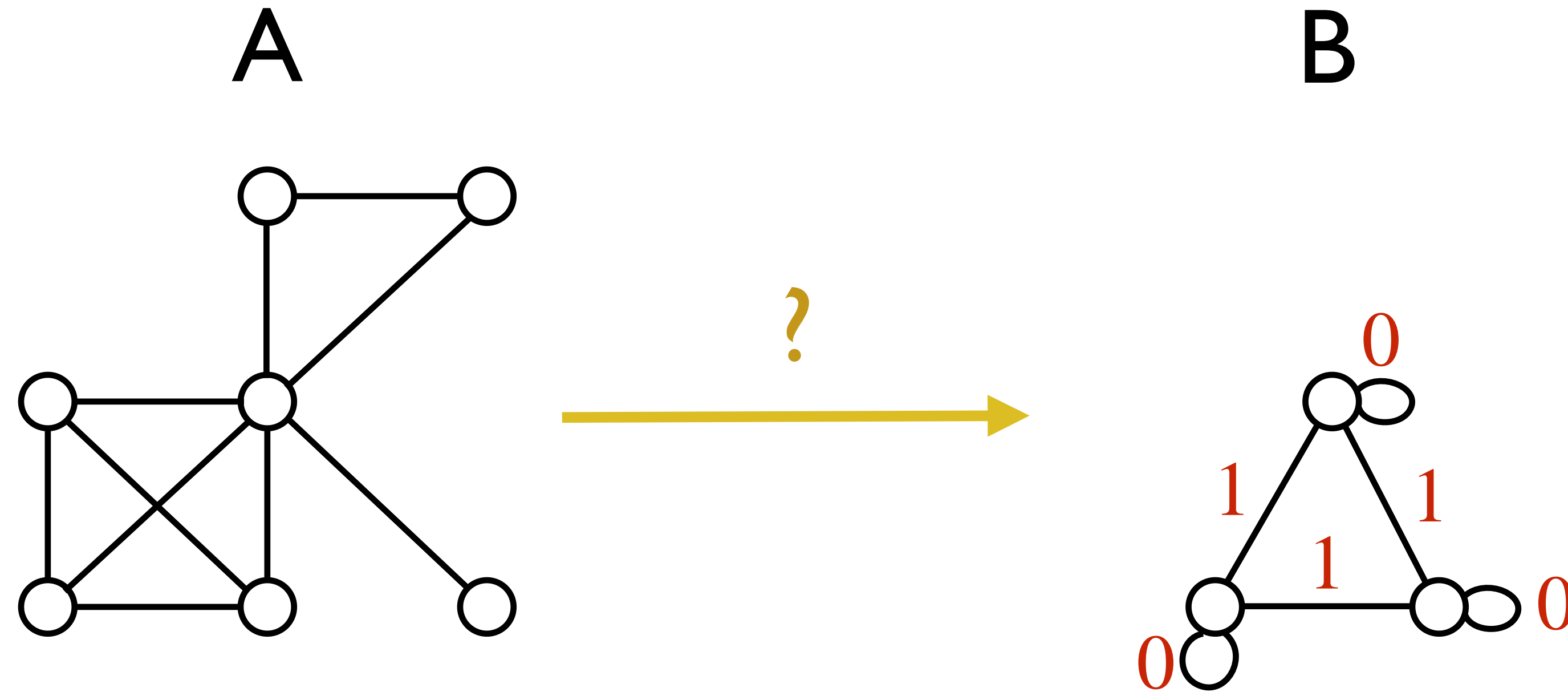
Translated into the language of constraint satisfaction problems, our result yields a characterization of the tractable structural restrictions of constraint satisfaction problems. Translated into the language of database theory, it implies a characterization of the tractable instances of the evaluation problem for conjunctive queries over relational databases.

- $\text{CSP}(\mathcal{A}, -) \notin \text{PTIME}$  if  $\text{tw}(\text{core}(\mathcal{A}))$  unbounded

# MaxCSP(-, B)



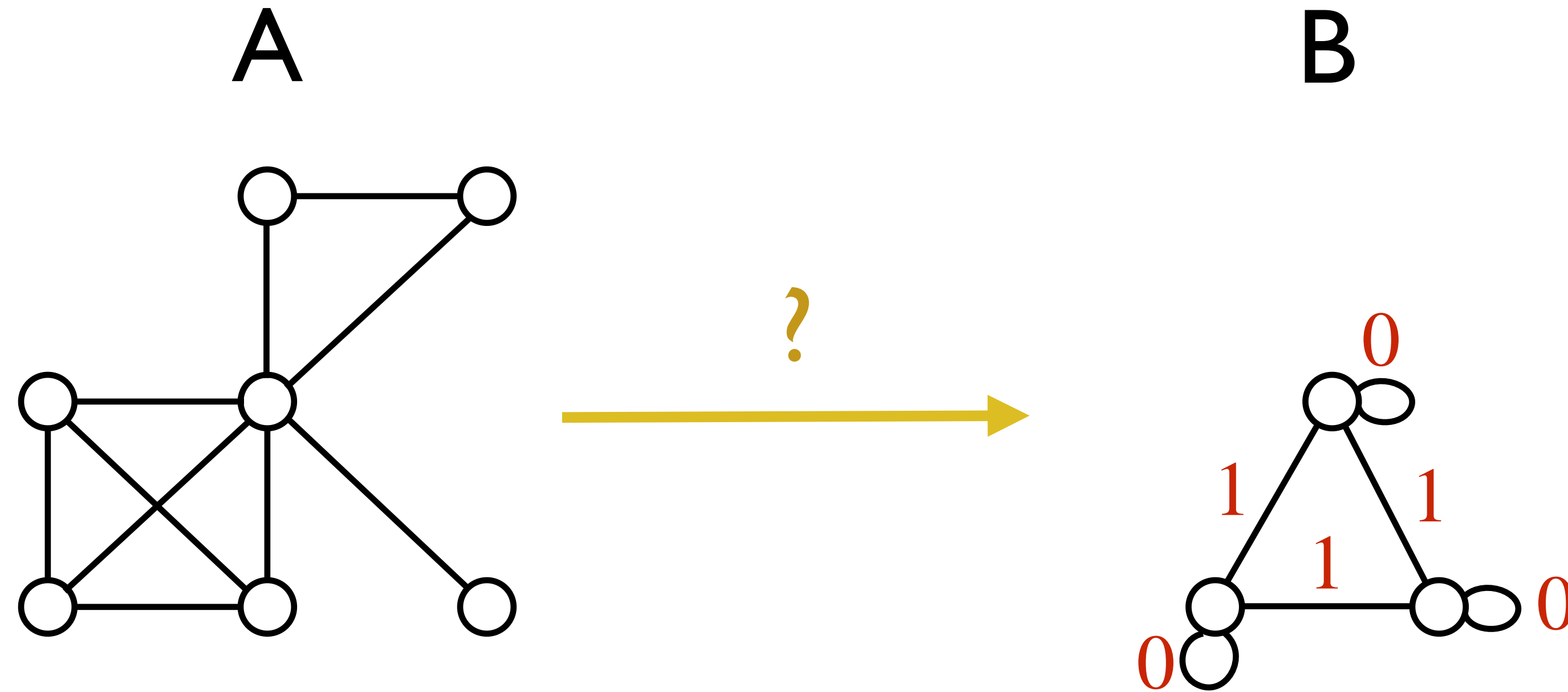
# MaxCSP(-, B)



- MaxCSP(-, H)  $\in$  PTIME or NP-complete

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

# MaxCSP(-, B)

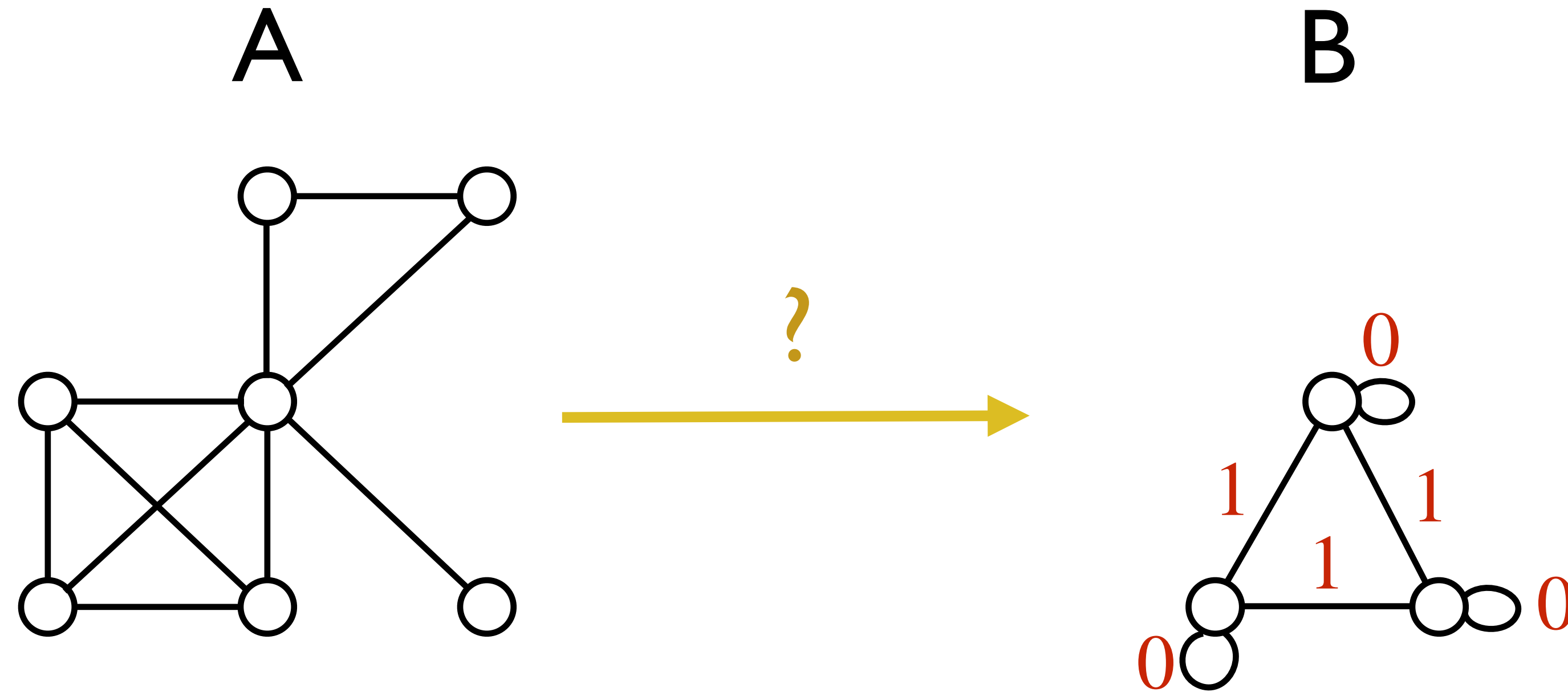


- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, H) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete
- $\text{MaxCSP}(-, B) \in \text{PTIME}$  or NP-complete

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

[Thapper-Ž. JACM'16]

# MaxCSP(-, B)



Q-valued

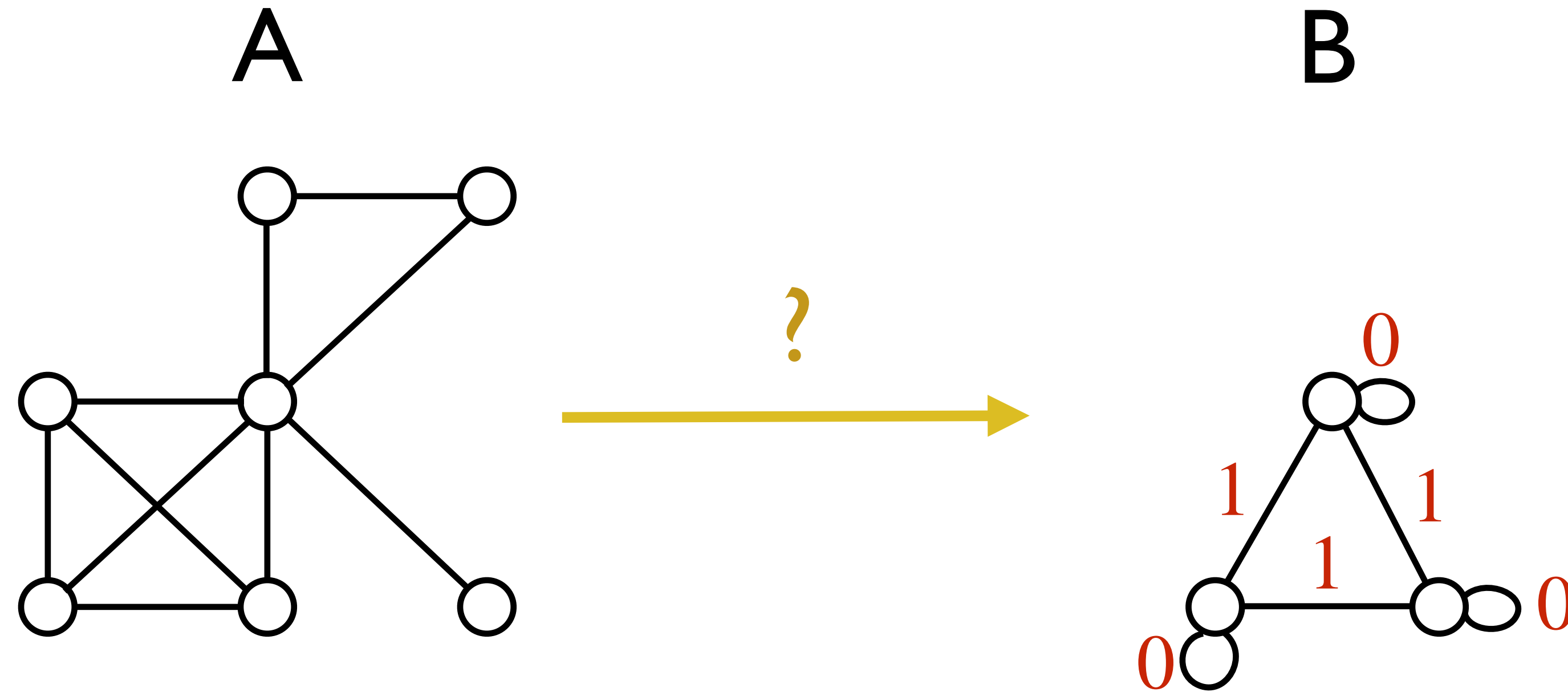
- MaxCSP(-, H)  $\in$  PTIME or NP-complete
- MaxCSP(-, B)  $\in$  PTIME or NP-complete

[Jonsson-Krokhin JCSS'07]

[Thapper-Ž. JACM'16]



# MaxCSP(-, B)



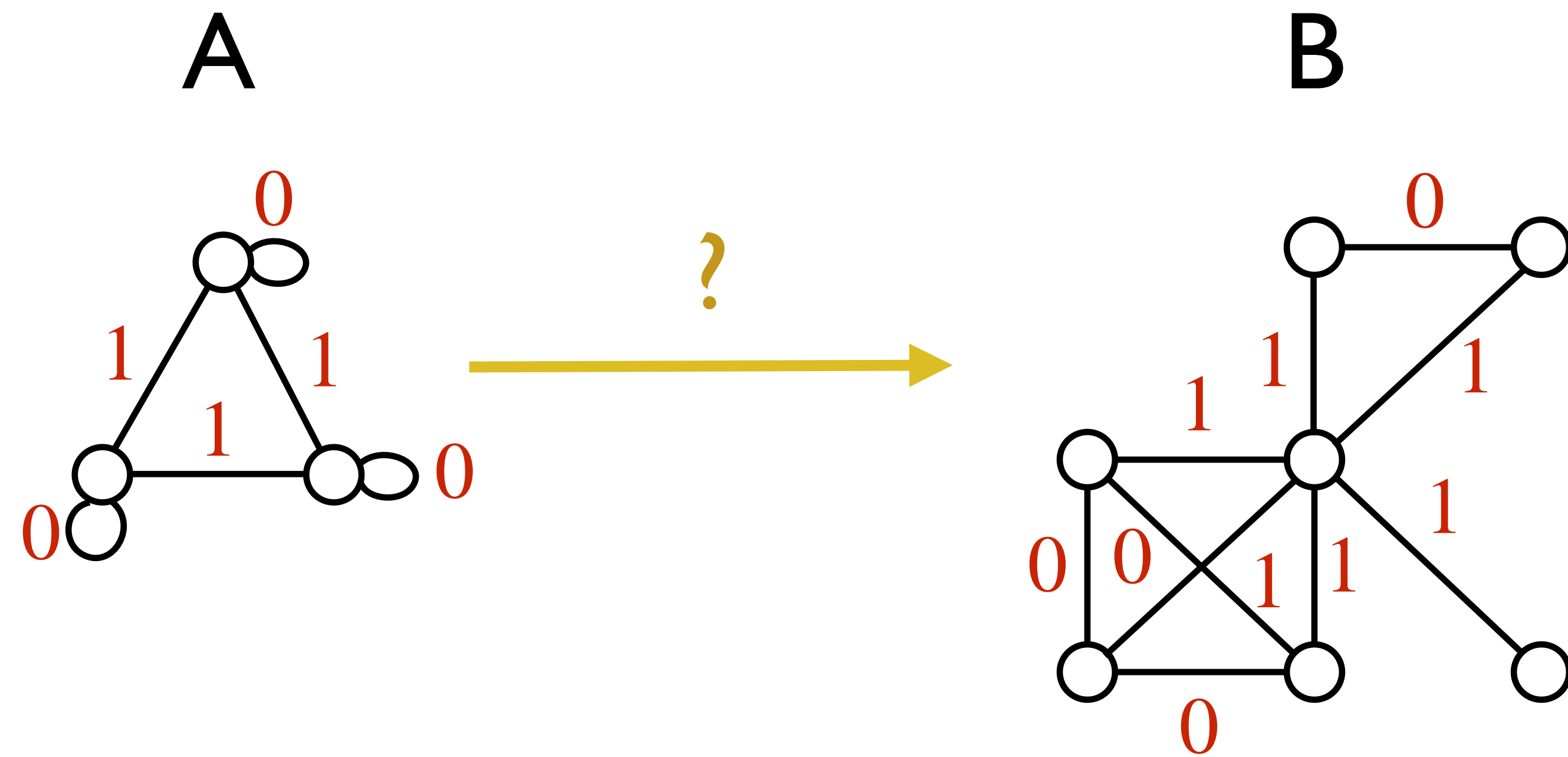
- MaxCSP(-, H)  $\in$  PTIME or NP-complete
- MaxCSP(-, B)  $\in$  PTIME or NP-complete
- Basic SDP optimal for MaxCSP(-, B), under UGC

[Jonsson-Krokkin JCSS'07]

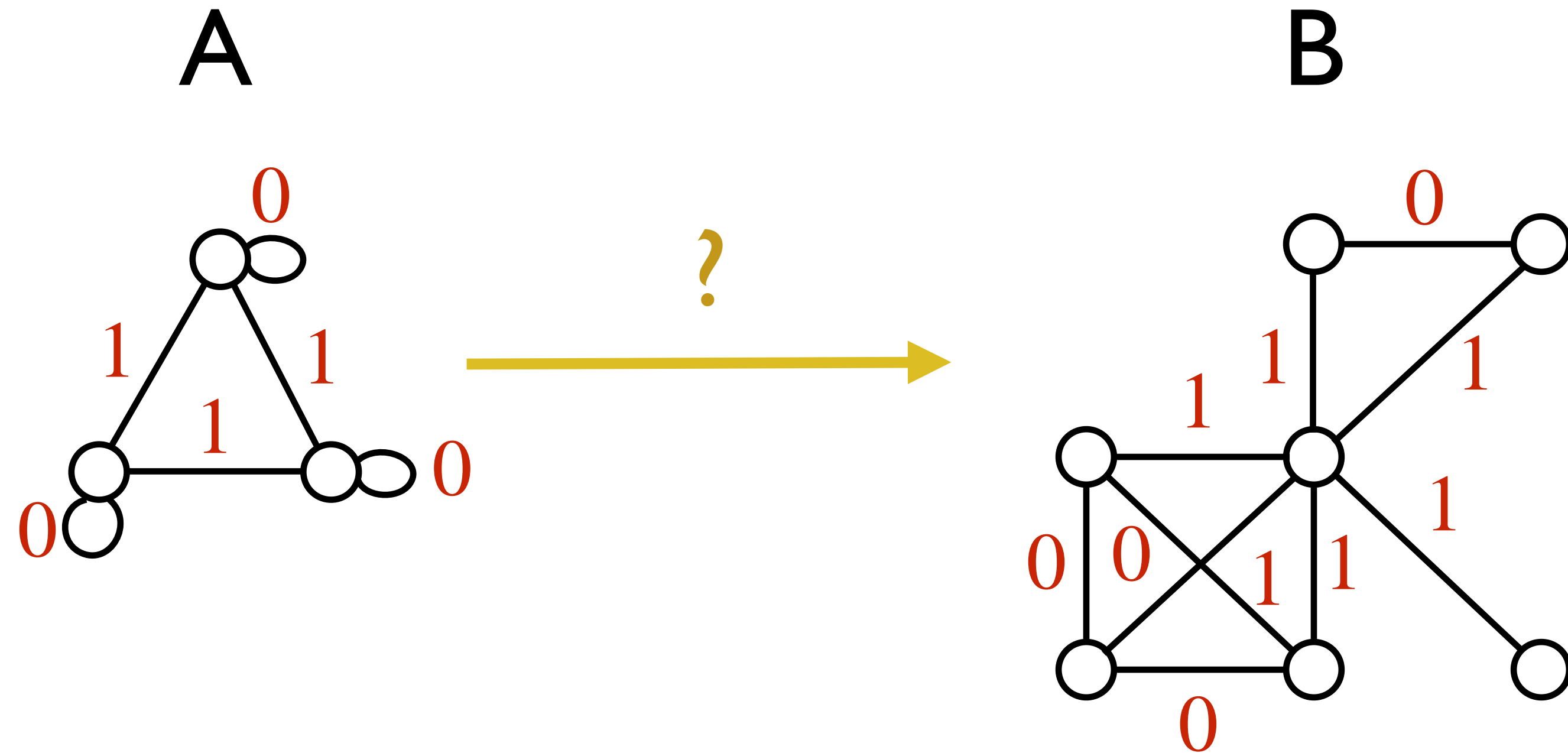
[Thapper-Ž. JACM'16]

[Raghavendra STOC'08]

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )



# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )

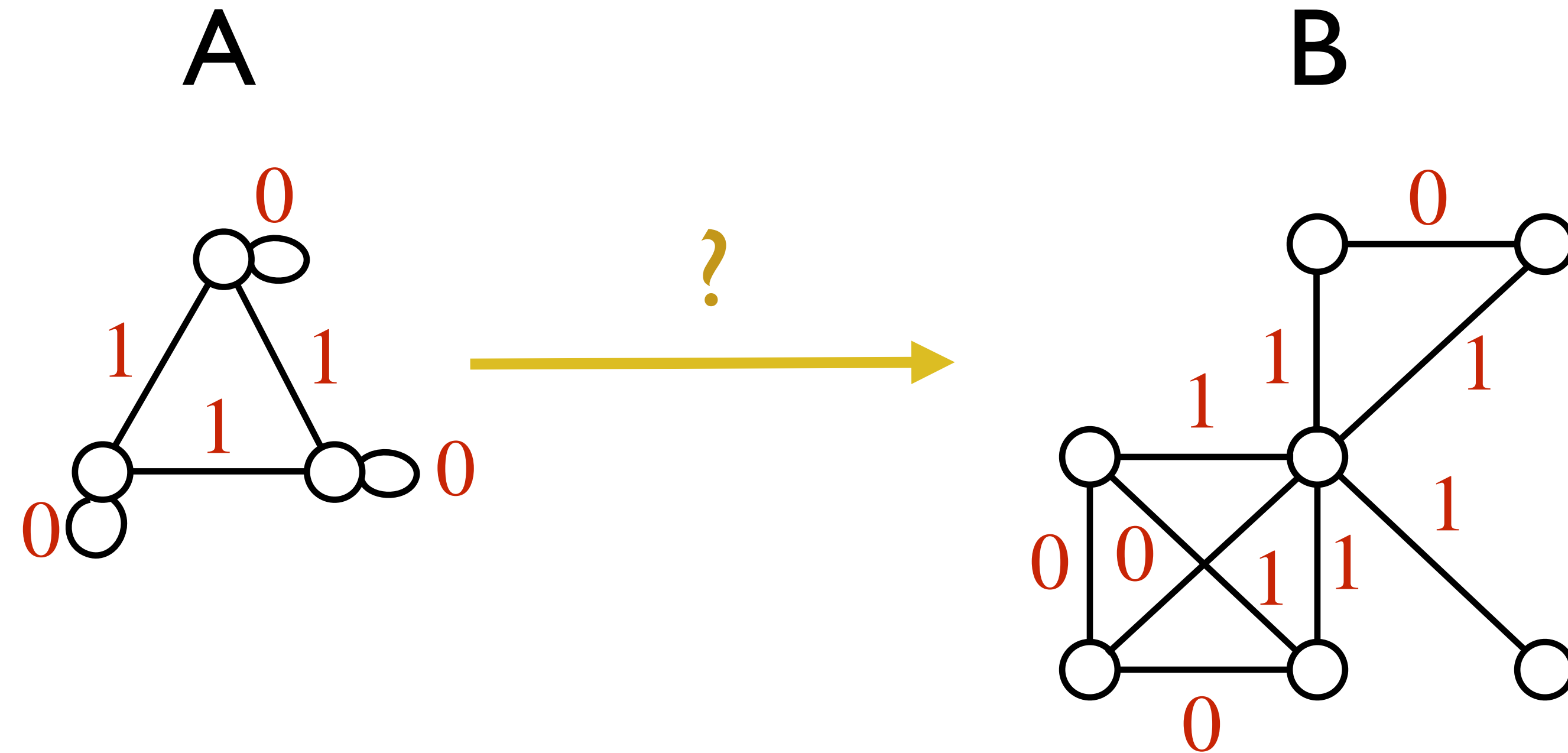


• MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME

if  $\text{tw}(\text{vcore}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded, and  $\notin$  PTIME otherwise

[Carbonnel-Romero-Ž. SICOMP'22]

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )



- MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}, -$ )  $\in$  PTIME if  $\text{tw}(\text{vcore}(\mathcal{A}))$  bounded, and  $\notin$  PTIME otherwise [Carbonnel-Romero-Ž. SICOMP'22]
- MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -$ )  $\in$  APX for monotone  $\mathcal{G}$  of bounded avg deg, Gap-ETH-hard if avg deg  $\geq n^{\delta}$  [Dinur-Manurangsi ITCS'18]

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?

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# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?



$(1 \pm \varepsilon)$ -approx in time  $n^{f(1/\varepsilon)}$

# MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)

Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?



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Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?

*Input:*  $A, B$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}, \varepsilon > 0$

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Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?

*Input:*  $A, B$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}, \varepsilon > 0$

*Time:*  $(|A| + |B|)^{f(1/\varepsilon)}$

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Which  $\mathcal{A}$  give rise to a PTAS for MaxCSP( $\mathcal{A}$ , -)?

*Input:*  $A, B$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}, \varepsilon > 0$

*Time:*  $(|A| + |B|)^{f(1/\varepsilon)}$

*Output:*  $h : A \rightarrow B$  with  $\text{val}(h) \geq (1 - \varepsilon)\text{opt}(A, B)$

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*Input:*  $A, B$  with  $A \in \mathcal{A}, \varepsilon > 0$

*Time:*  $(|A| + |B|)^{f(1/\varepsilon)}$

*Output:*  ~~$h : A \rightarrow B$  with  $\text{val}(h) \geq (1 - \varepsilon)\text{opt}(A, B)$~~

$v$  with  $v \geq (1 - \varepsilon)\text{opt}(A, B)$

# Tw-Pliability

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“uniformly close to structures of bounded treewidth”

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$$d_{opt}(A, A') = \inf_{\varepsilon} [\forall B \mid \text{MaxCSP}(A, B) = (1 \pm \varepsilon)\text{MaxCSP}(A', B)]$$

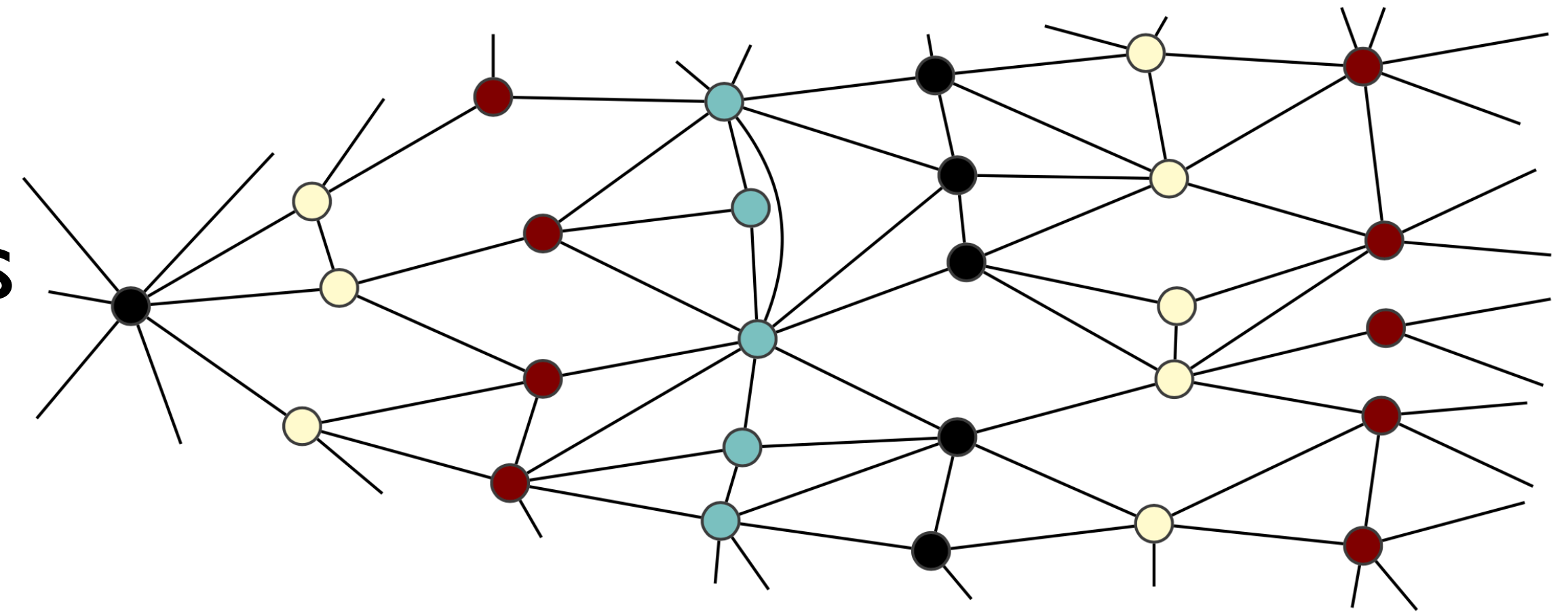
# Sparse Structures





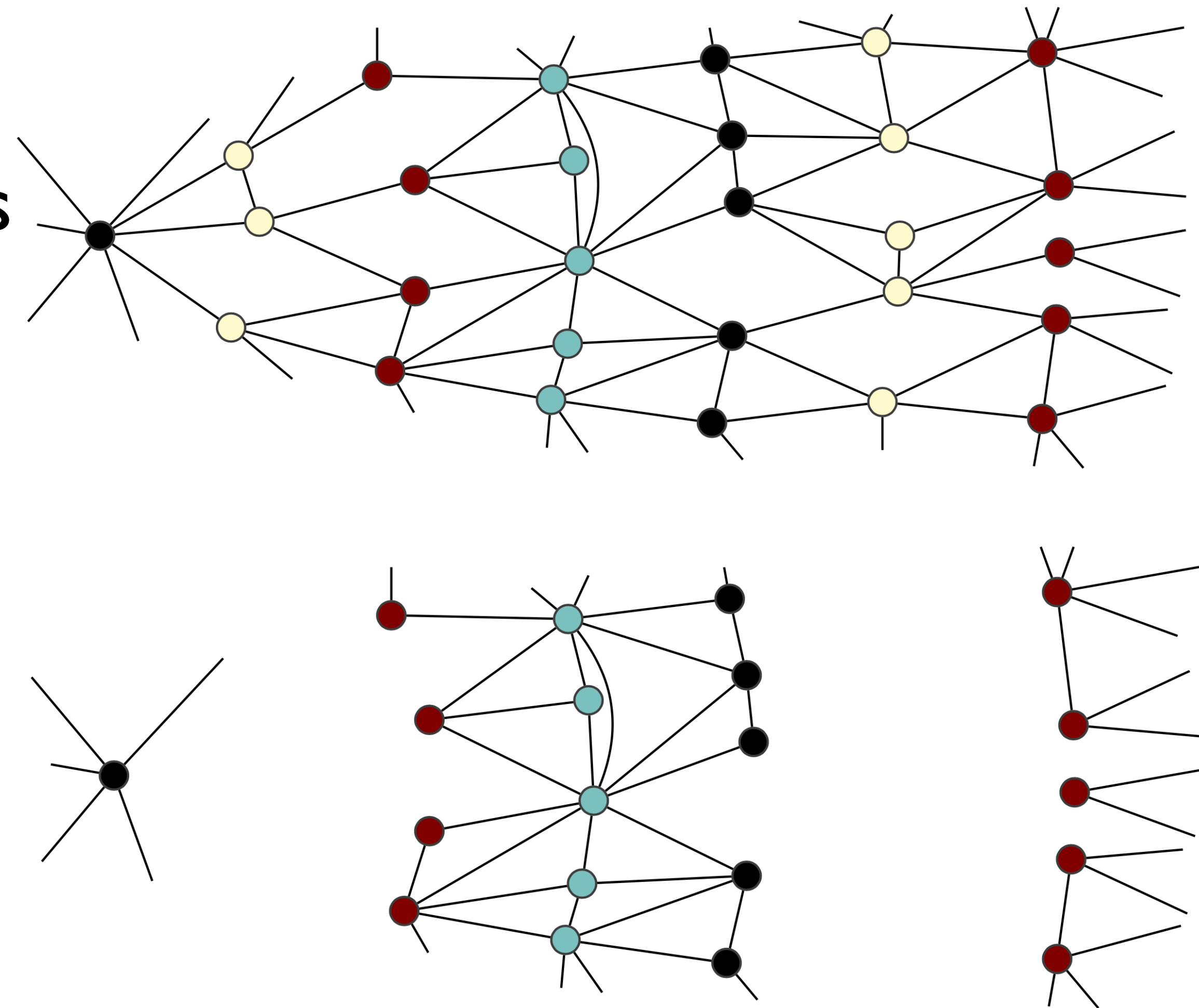
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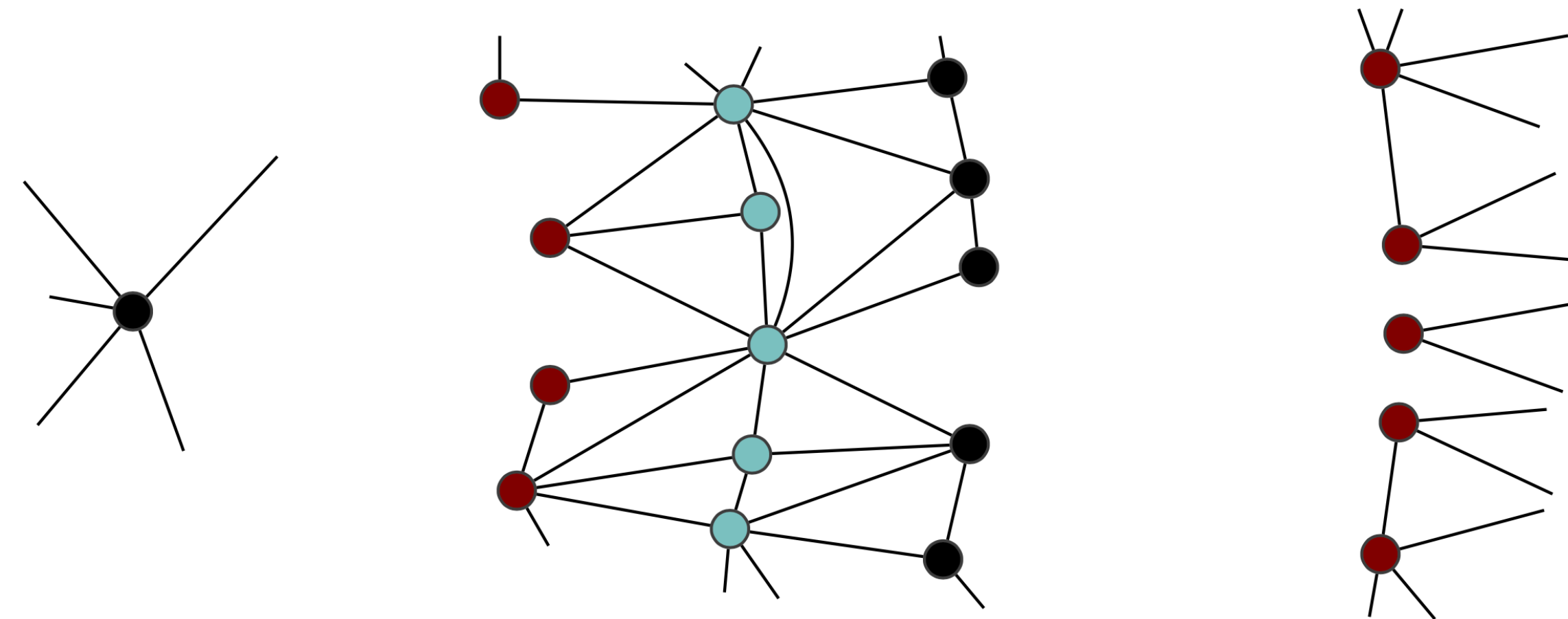
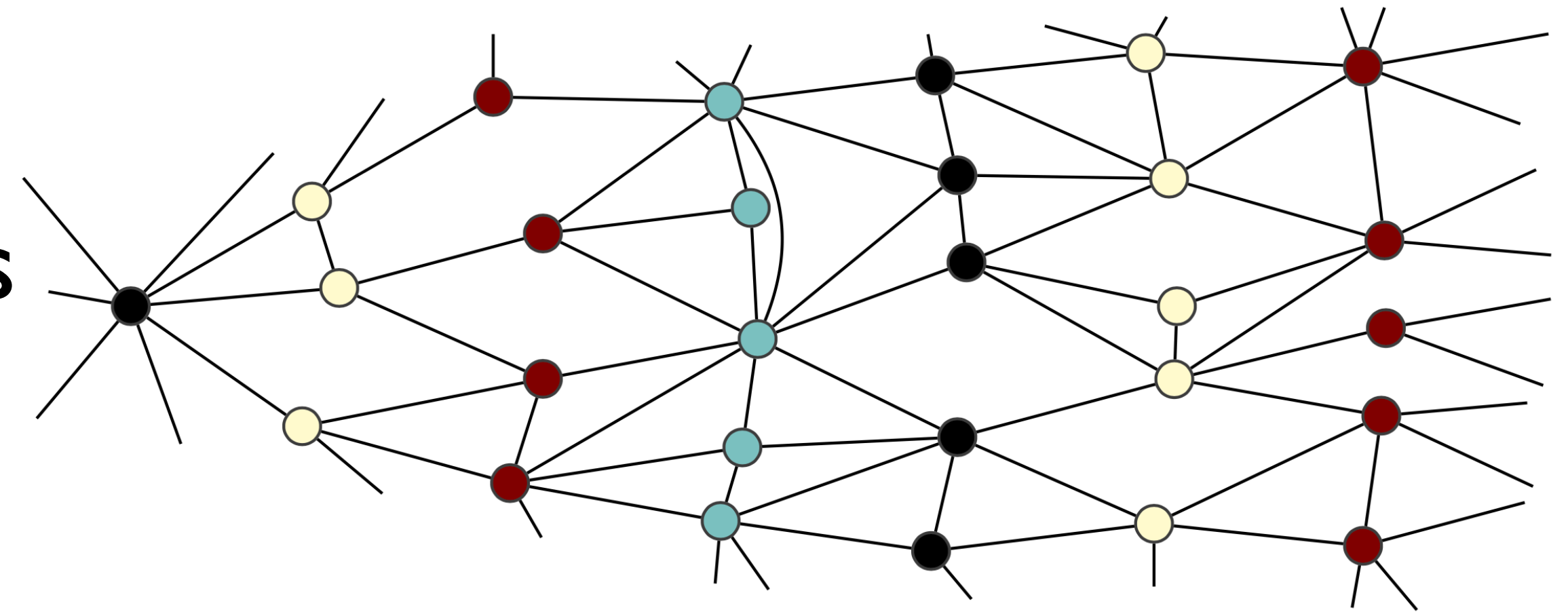
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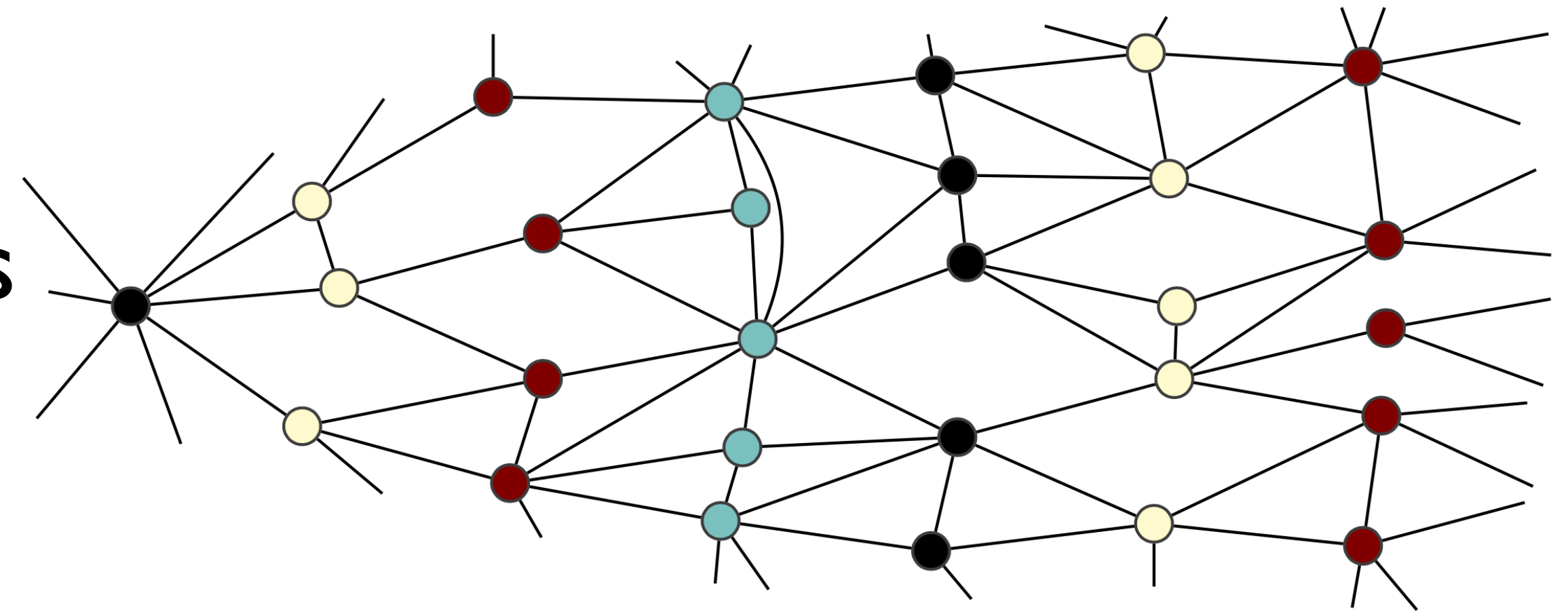
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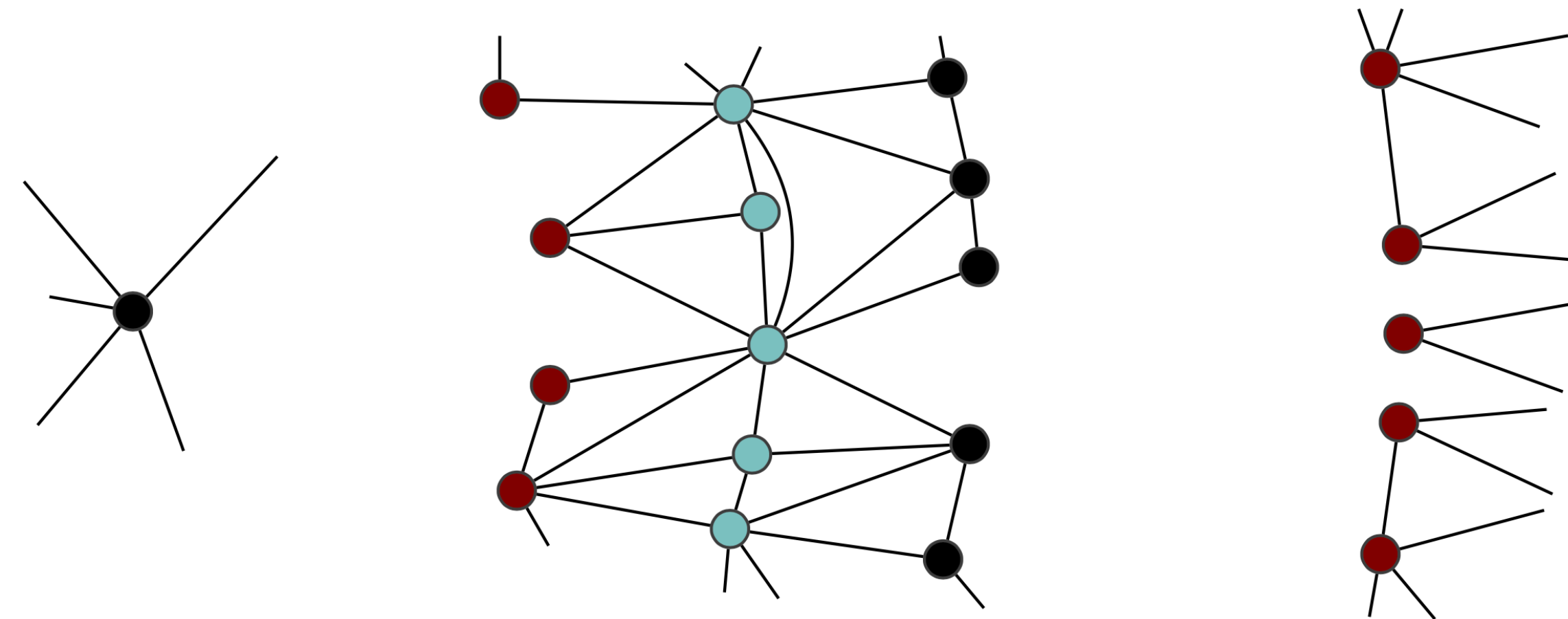
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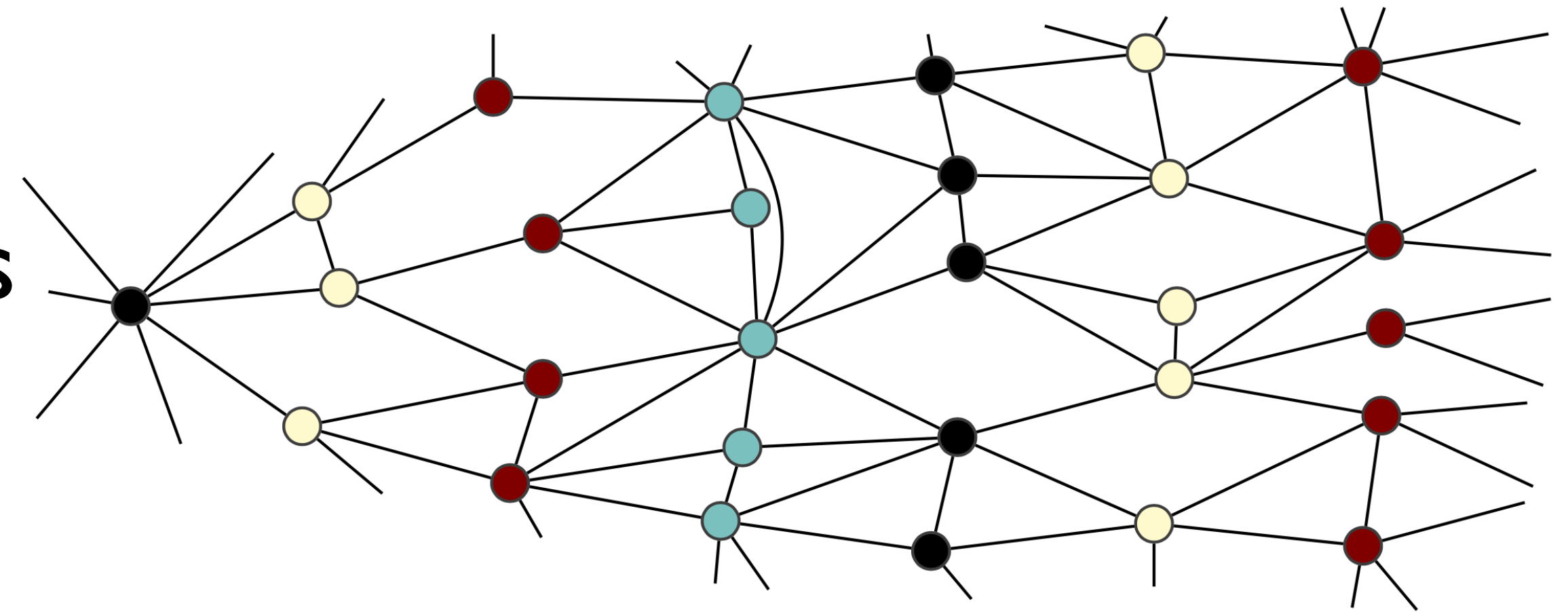
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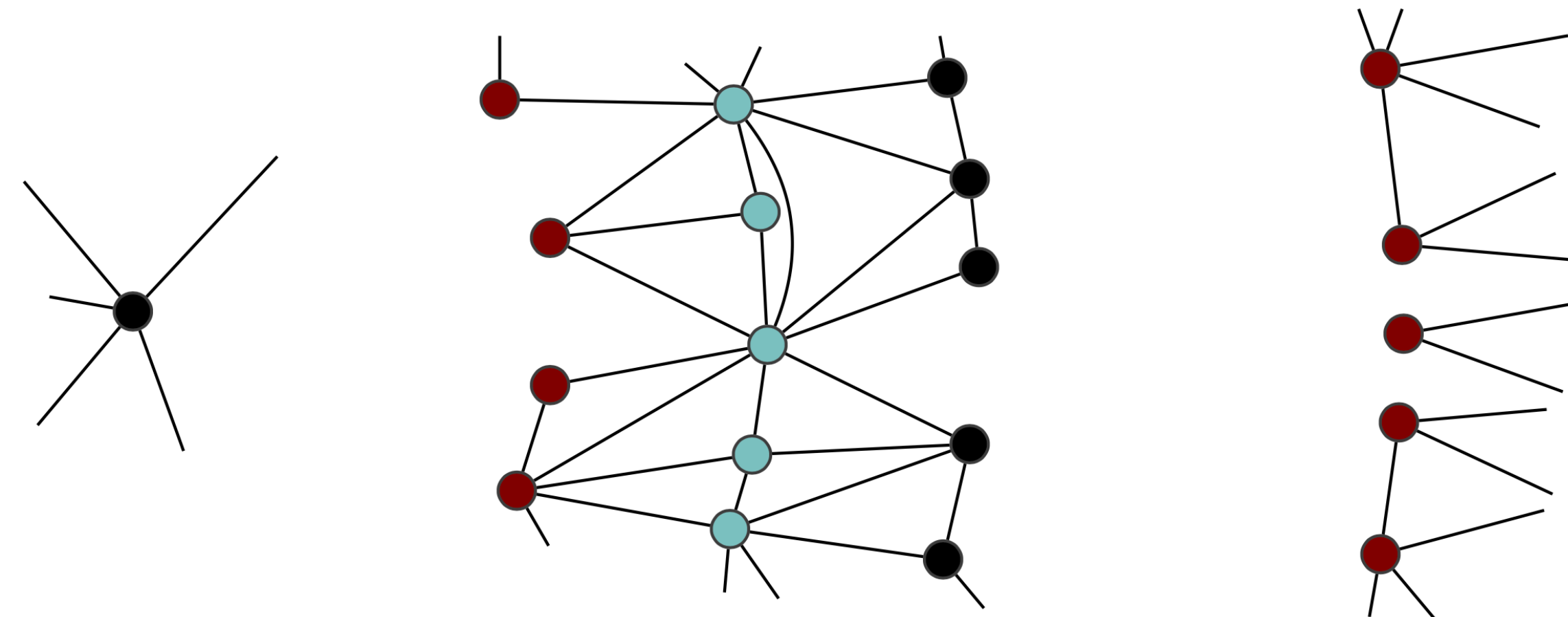


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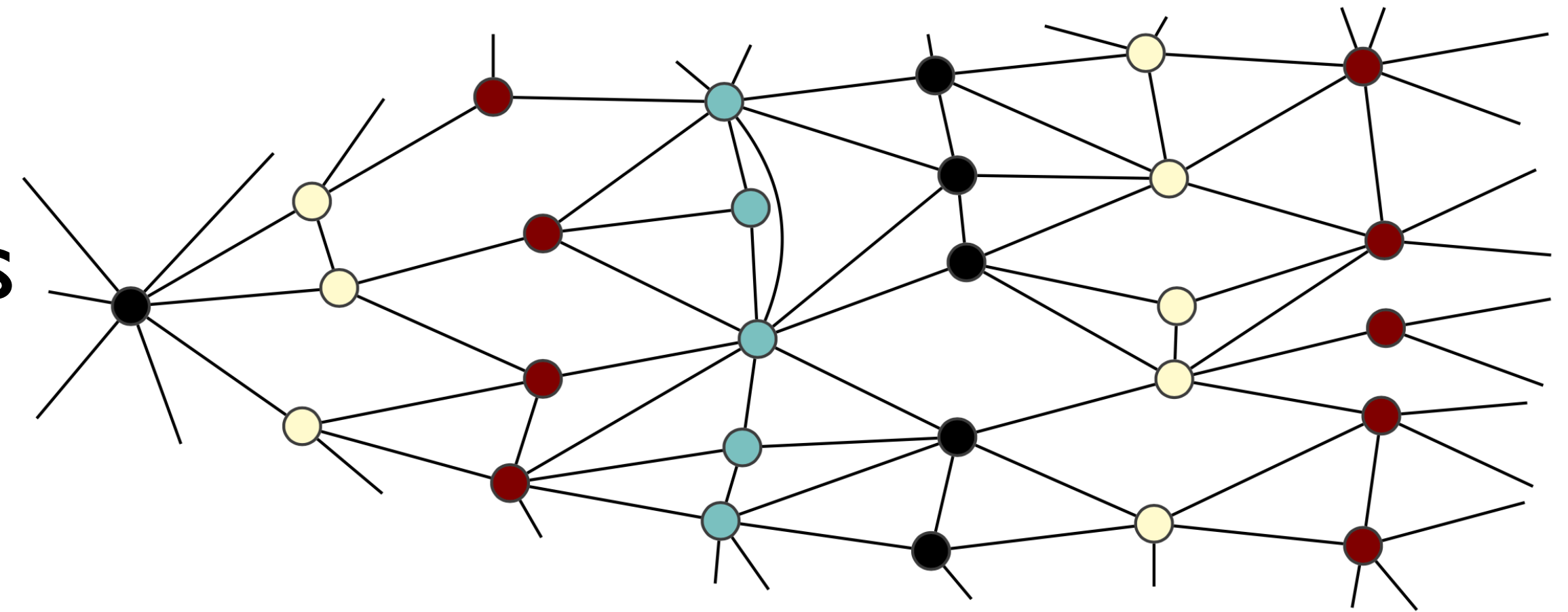
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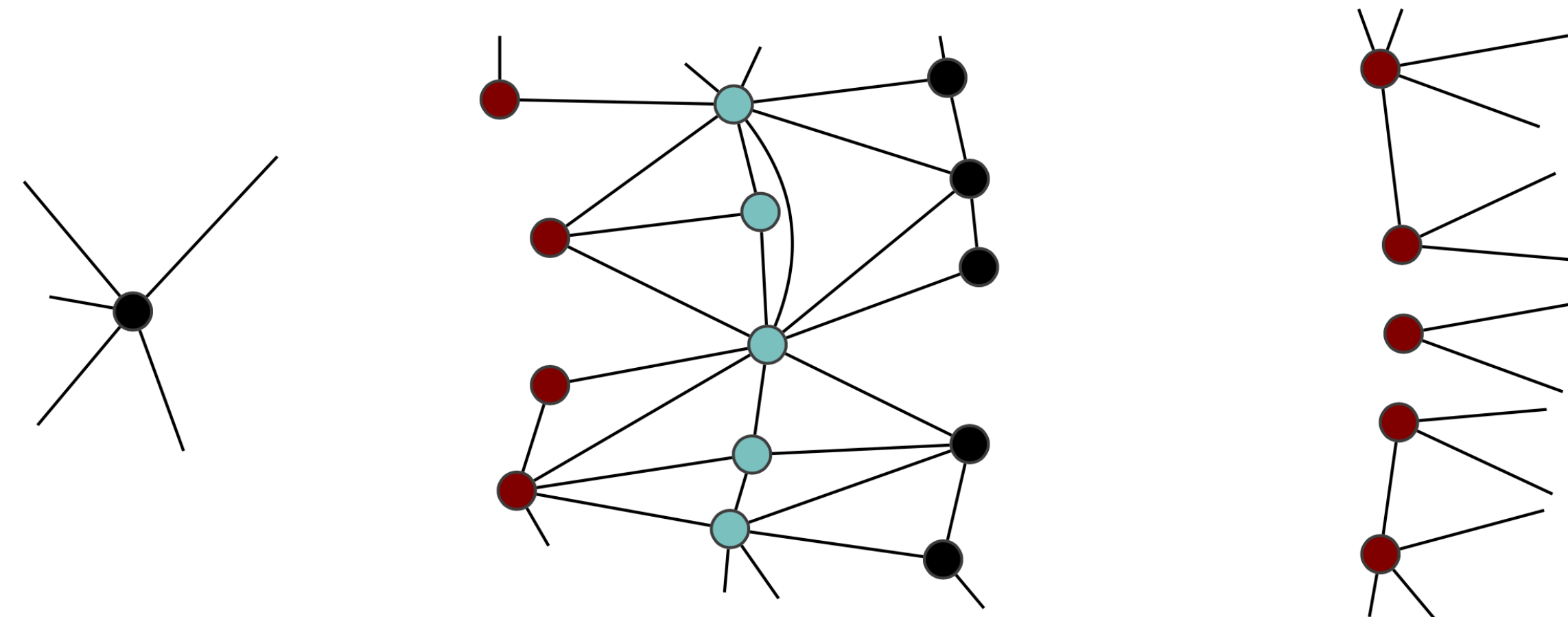


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- fr-tw-fragility

[Dvořák EJC'16]

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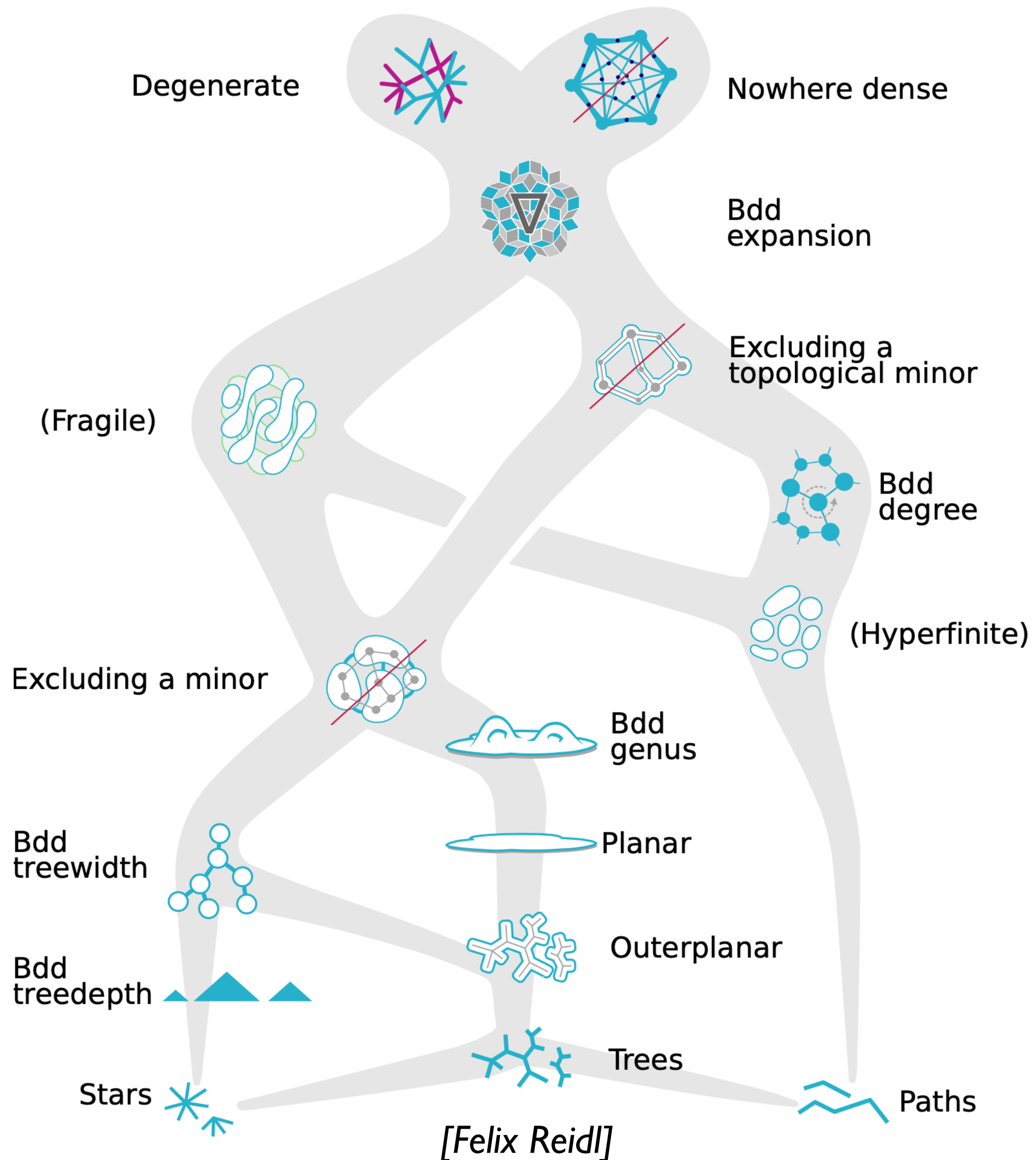
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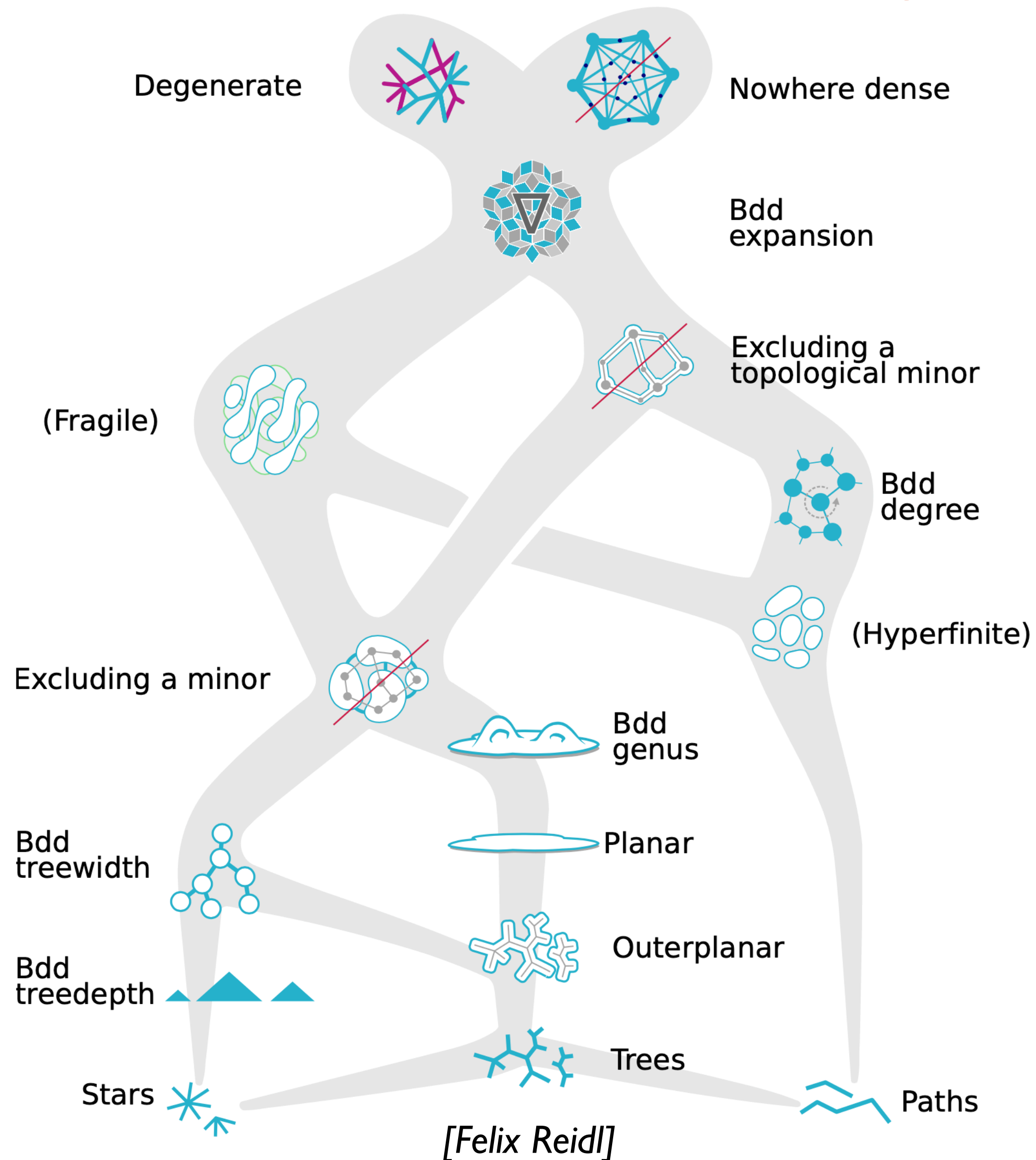
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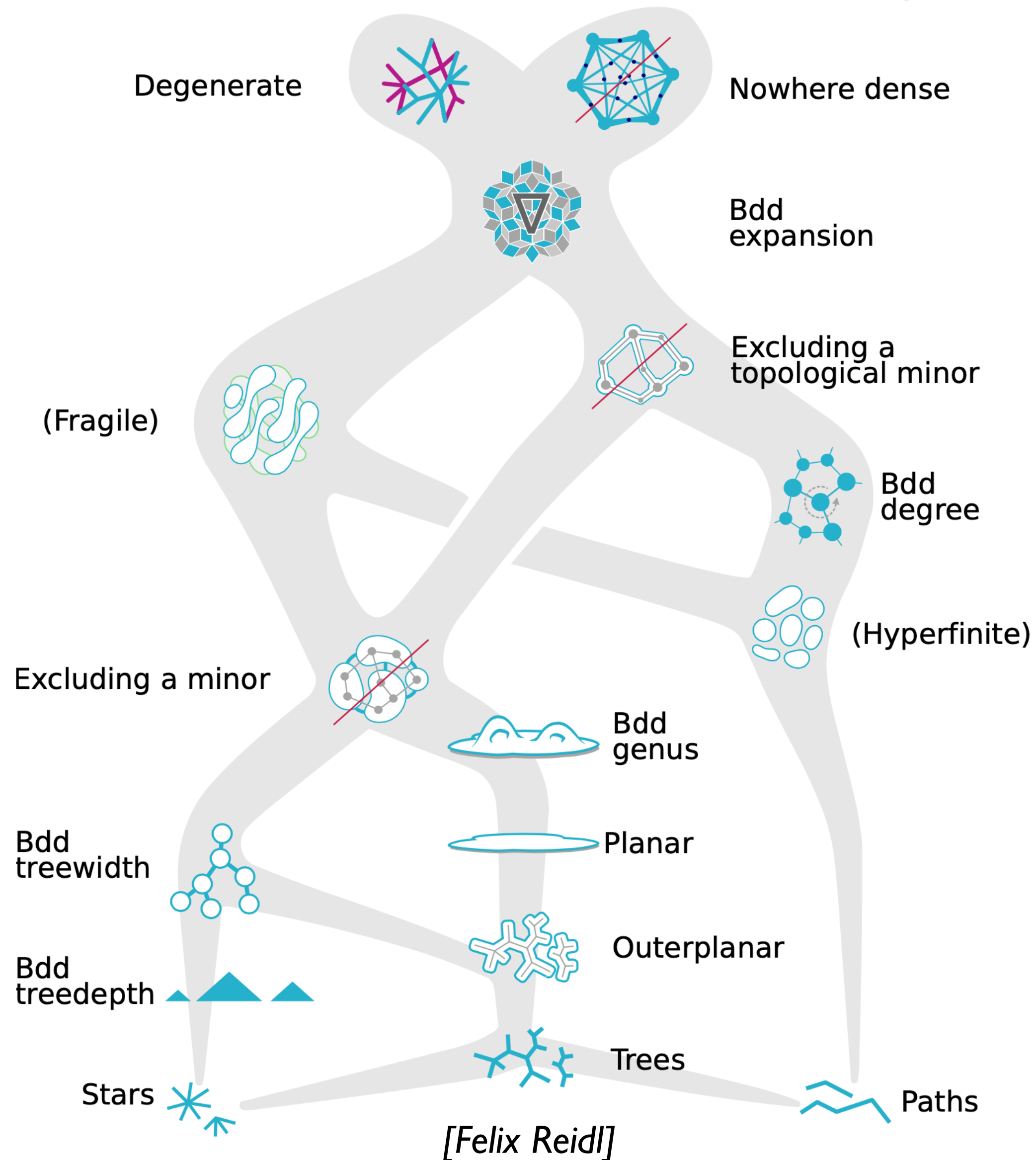
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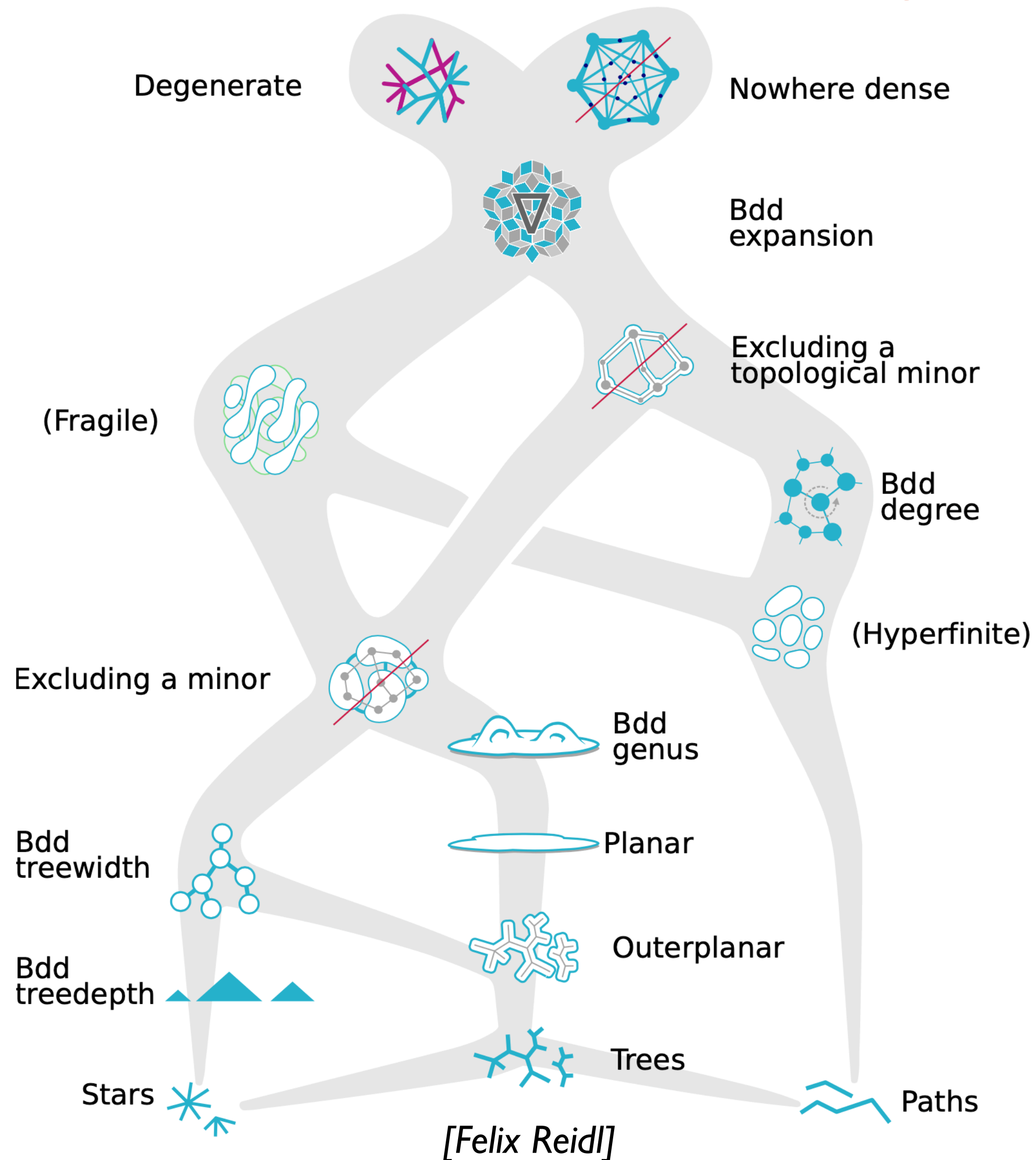


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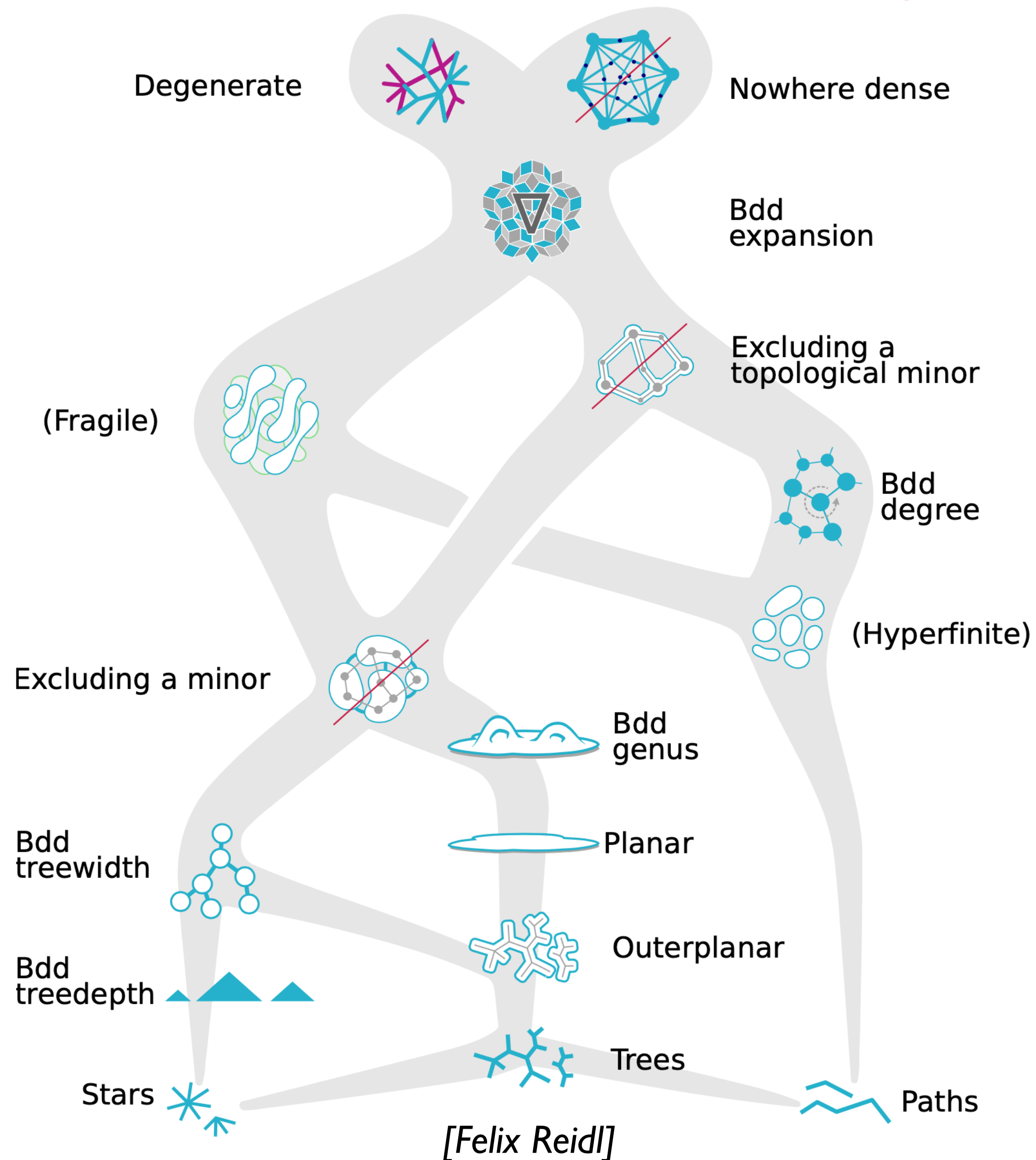
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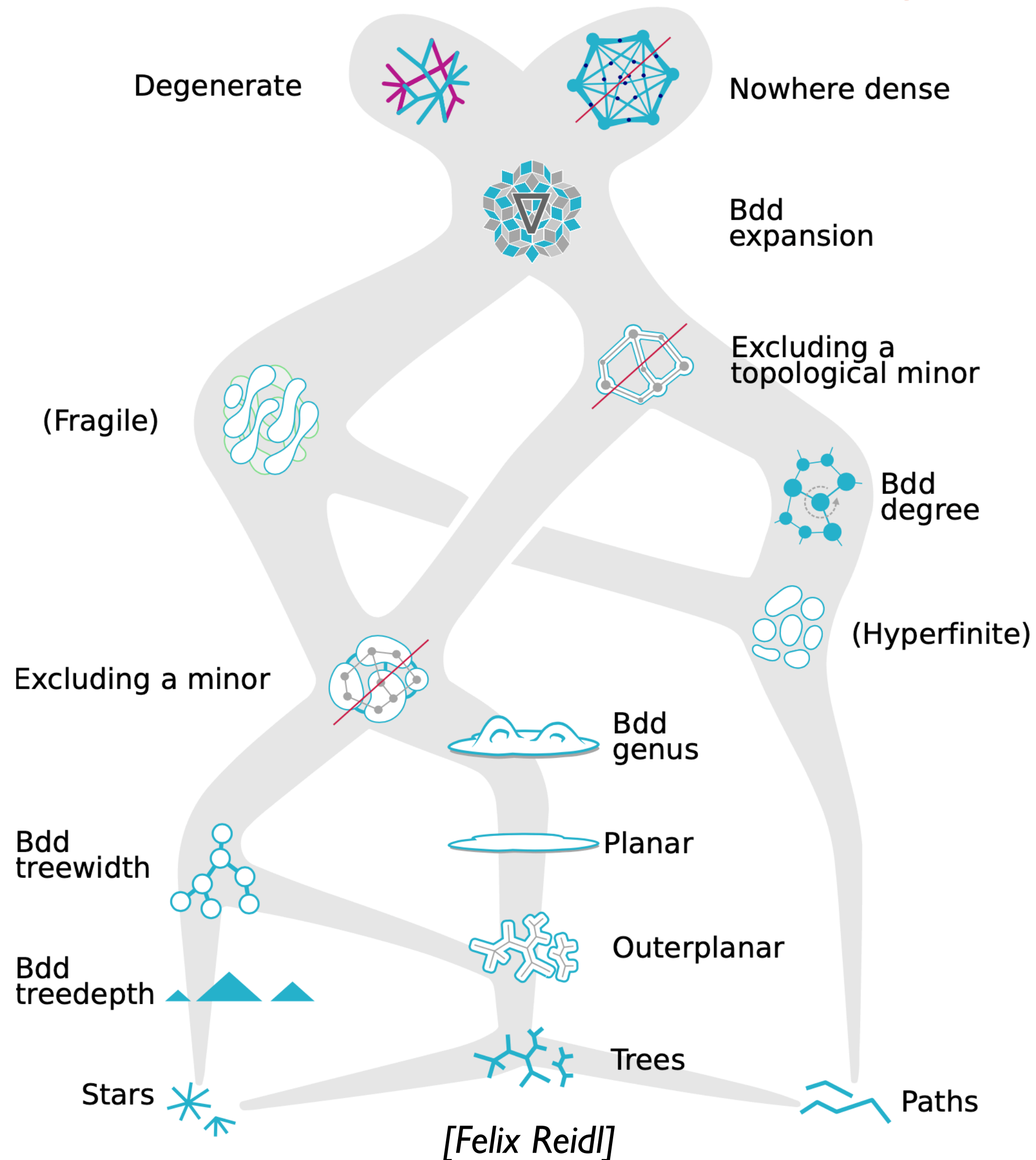


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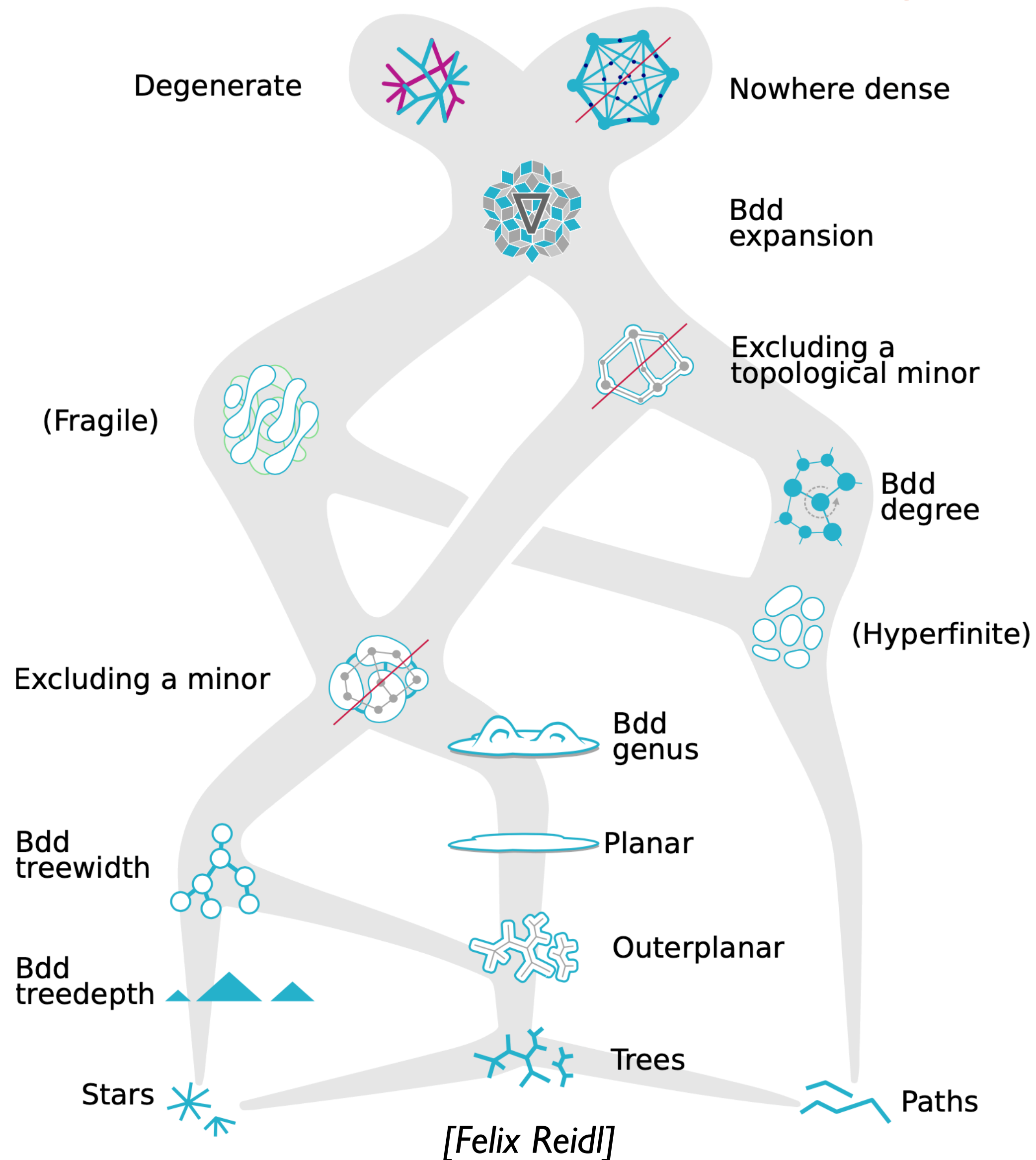
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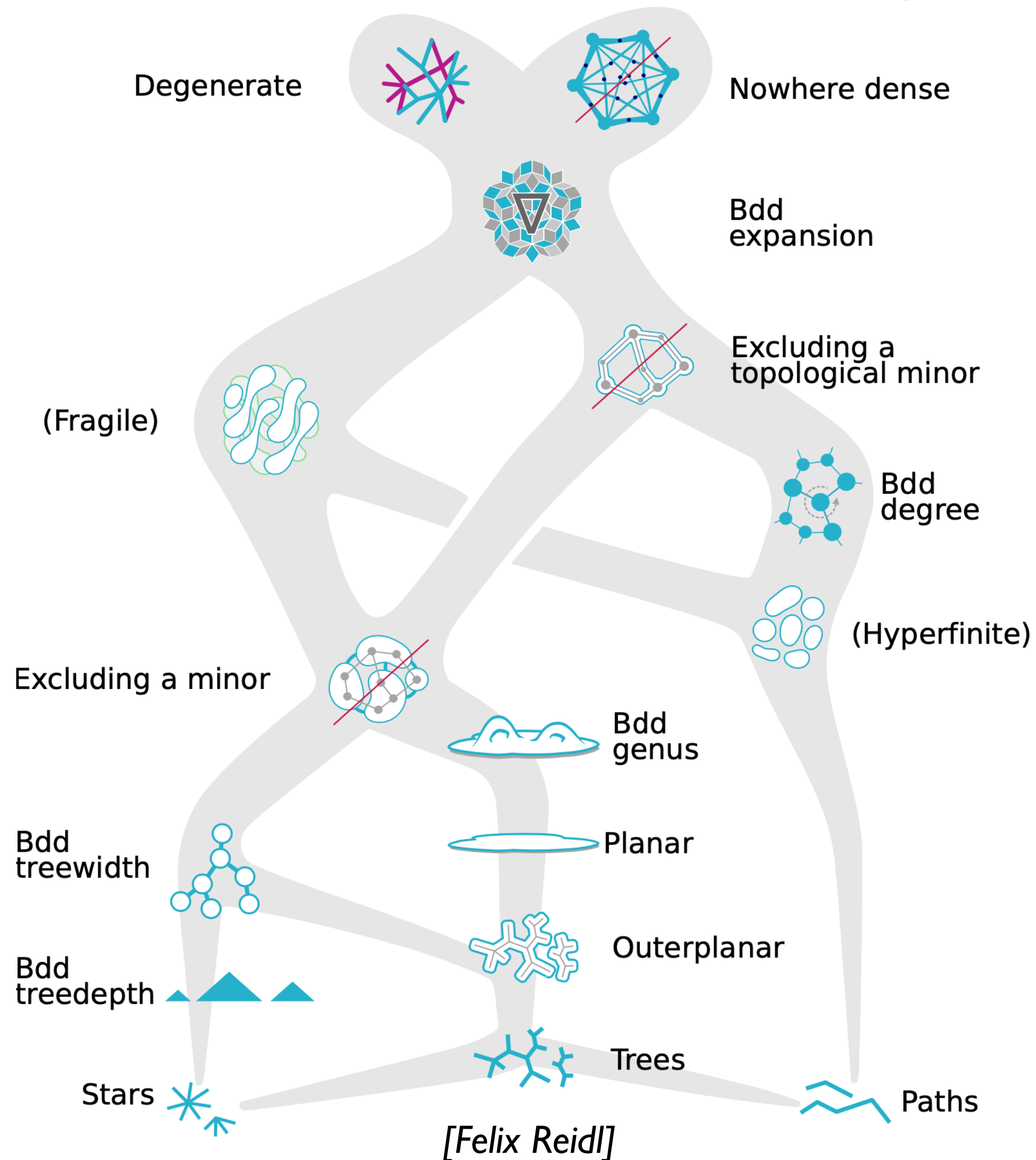
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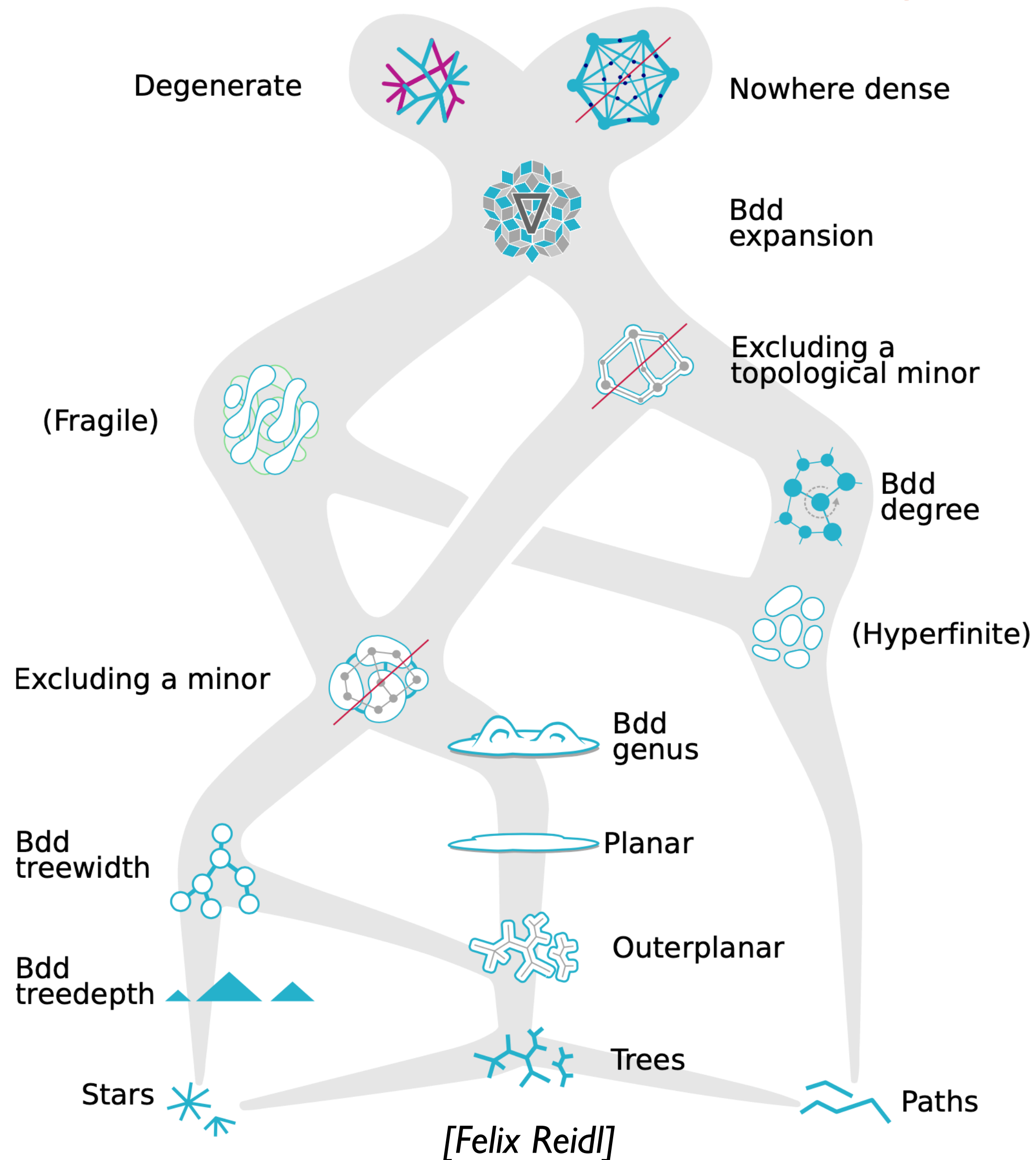
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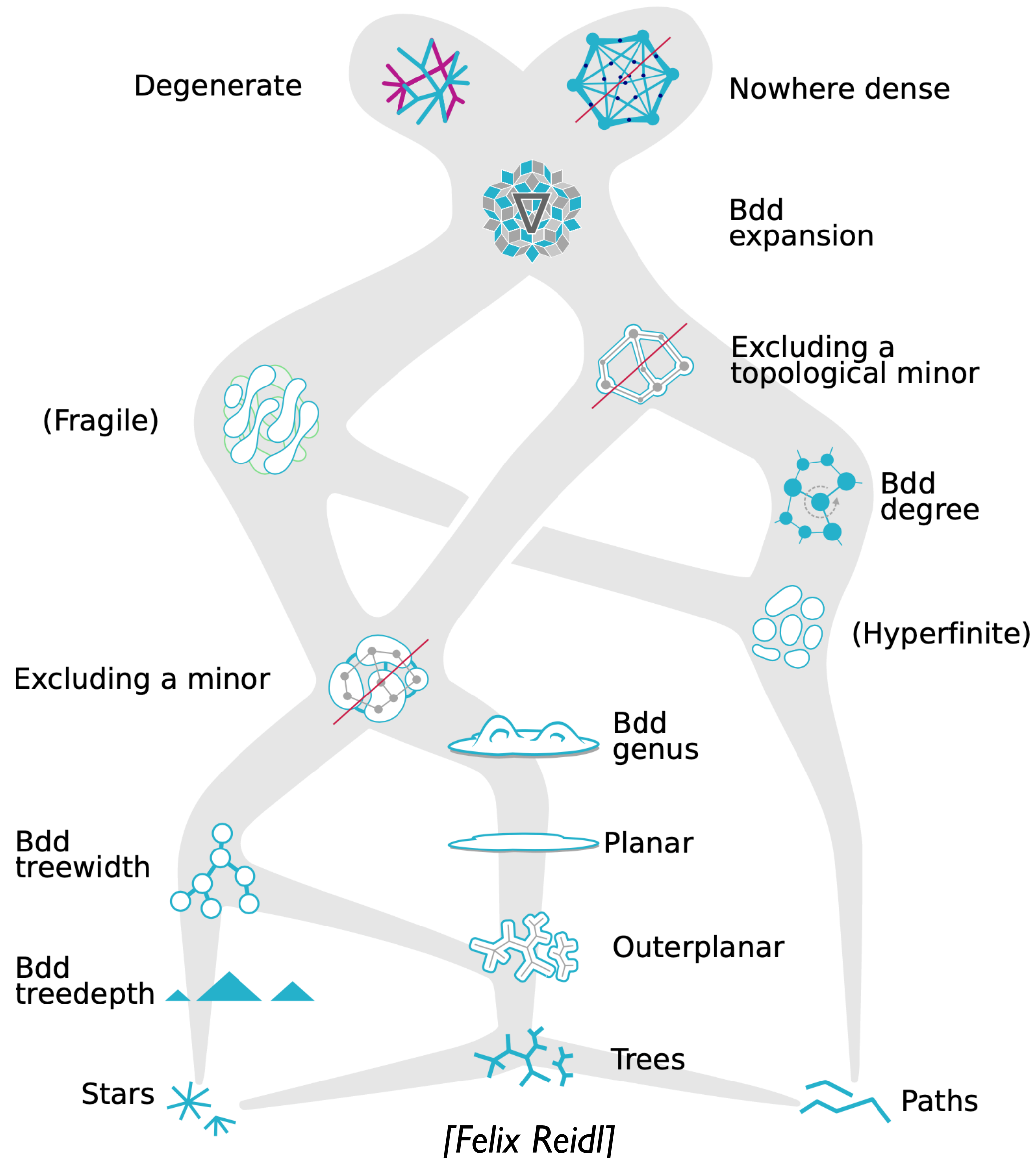
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Balázs Mezei



Miguel Romero  
PUC



Marcin Wrochna  
Warsaw

- Pliability and approximating MaxCSPs
- PTAS for general sparse **general-valued** CSPs

[RWŽ]

[MWŽ]



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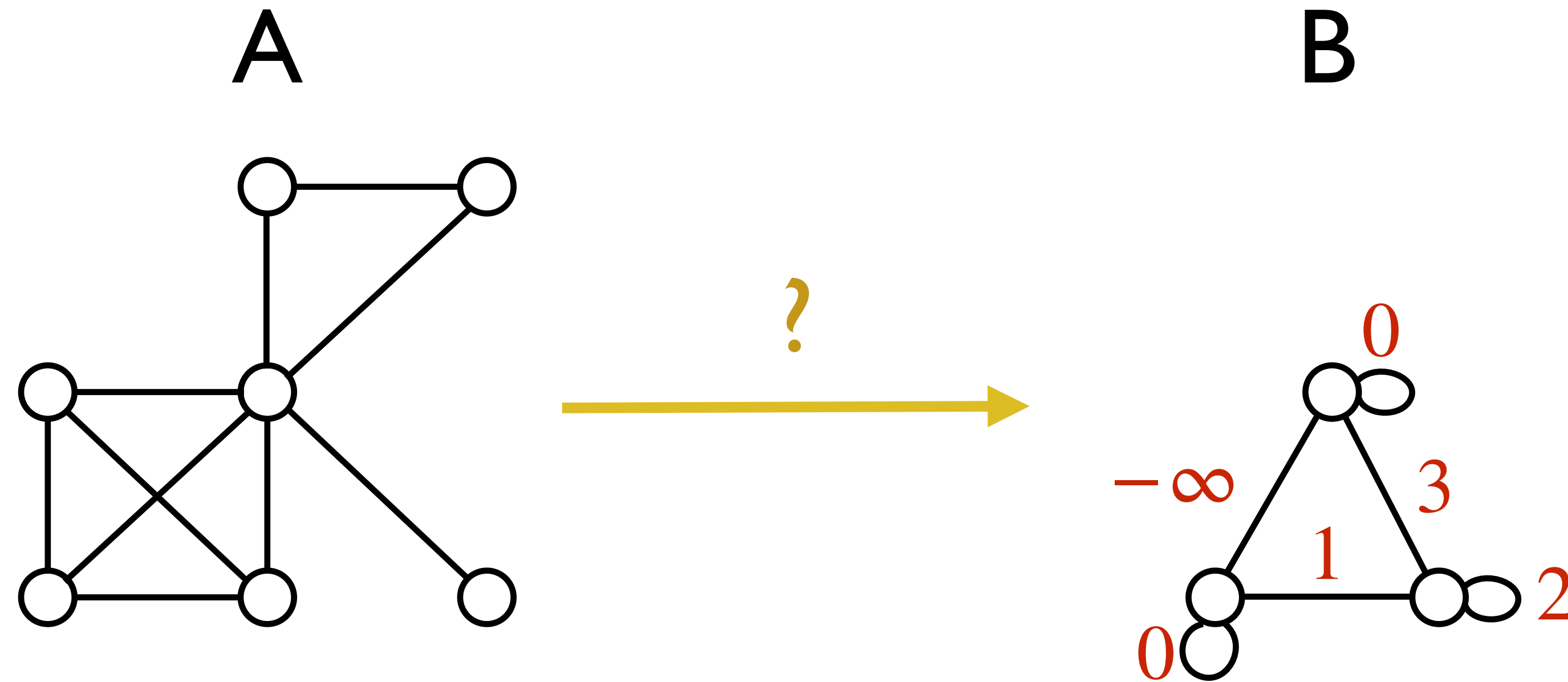
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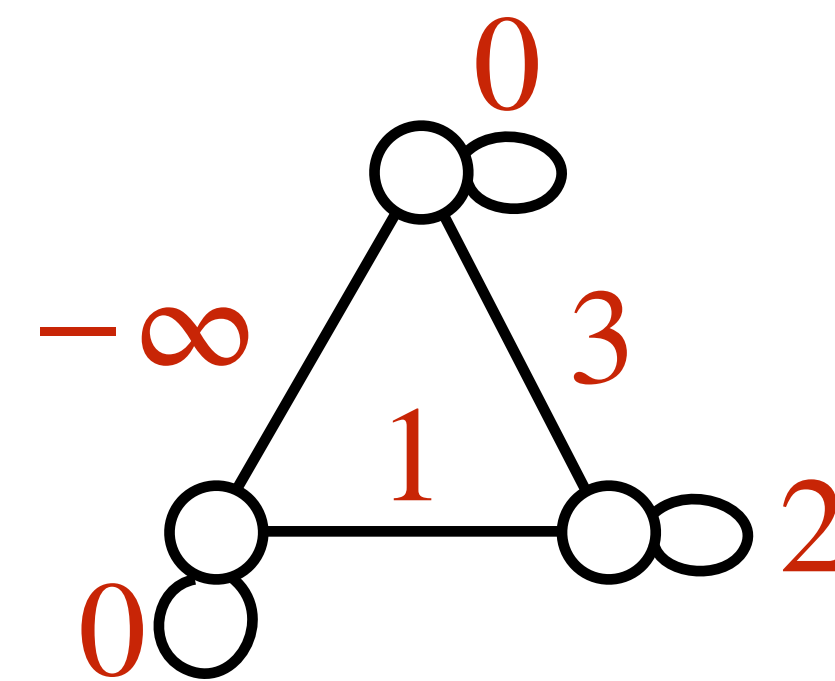
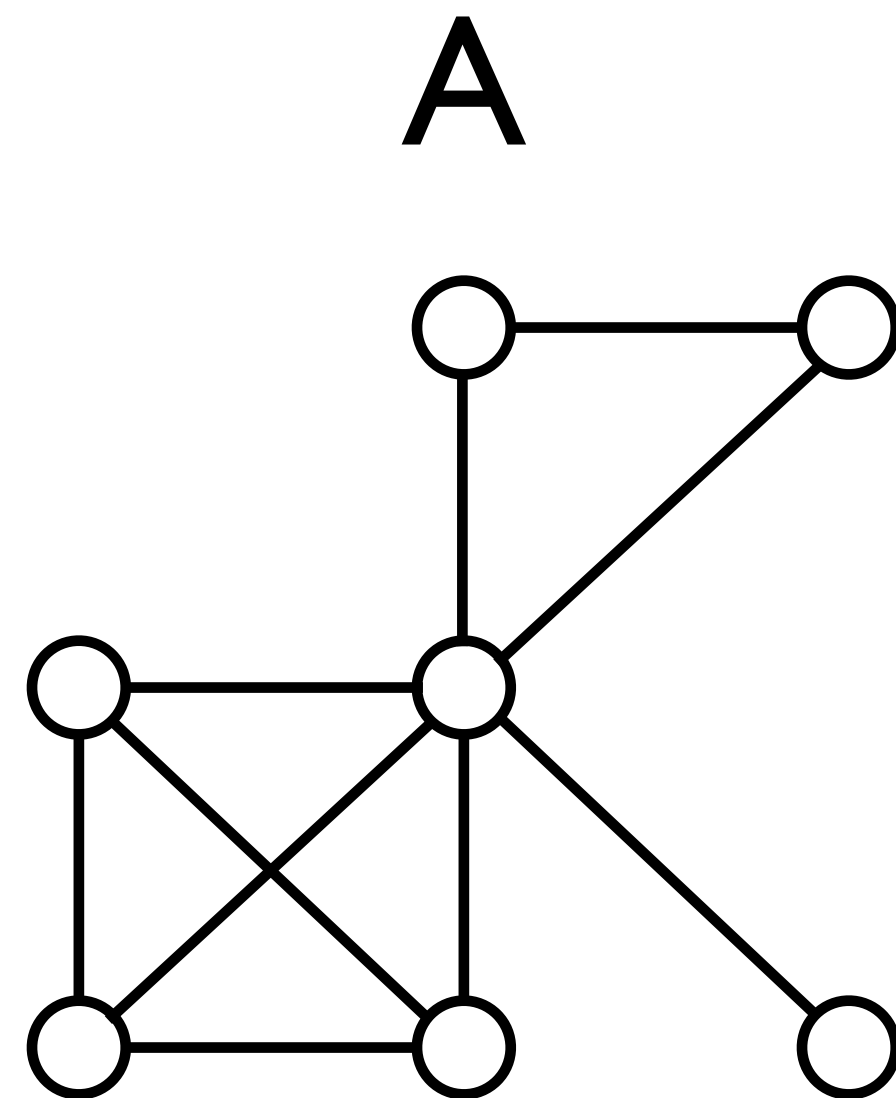
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# PTAS for VCSP( $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}, -$ )

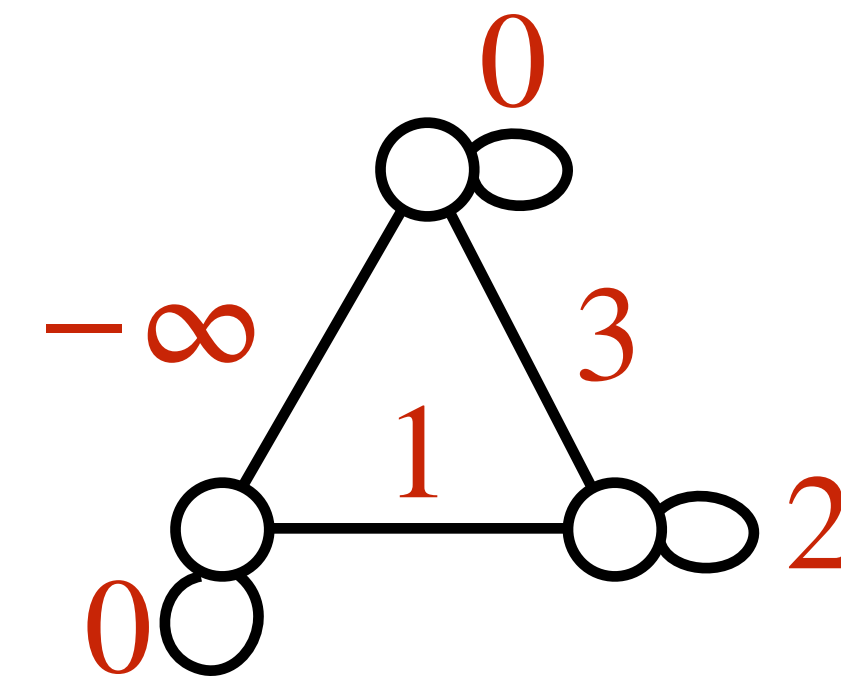
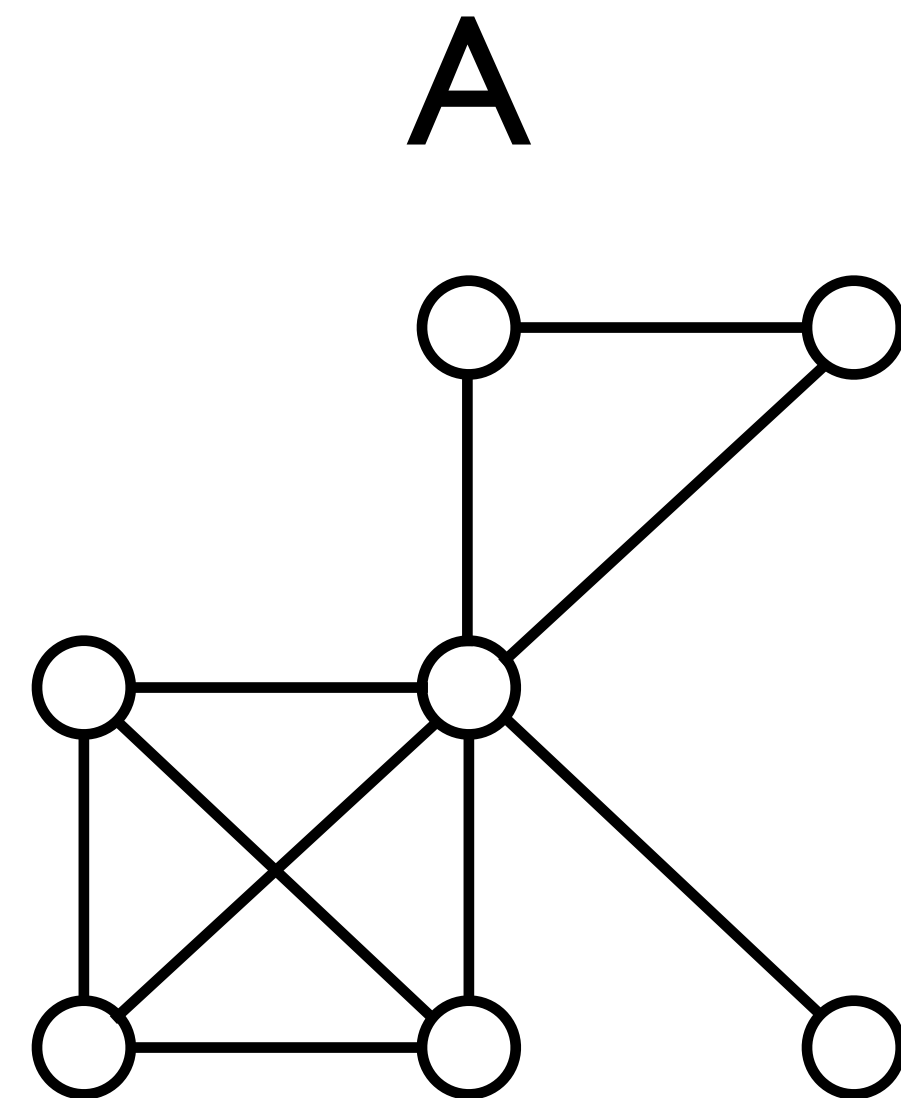


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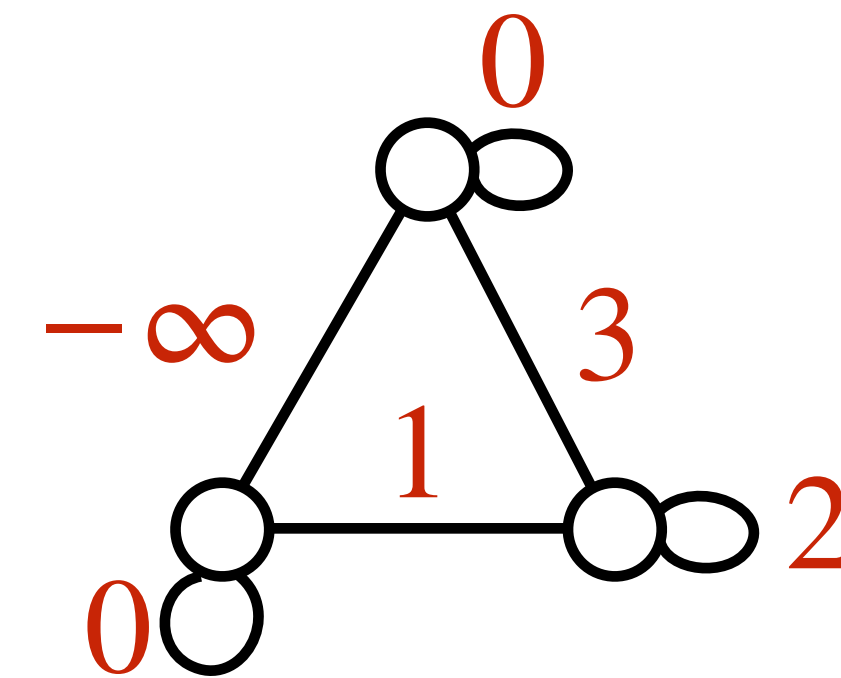
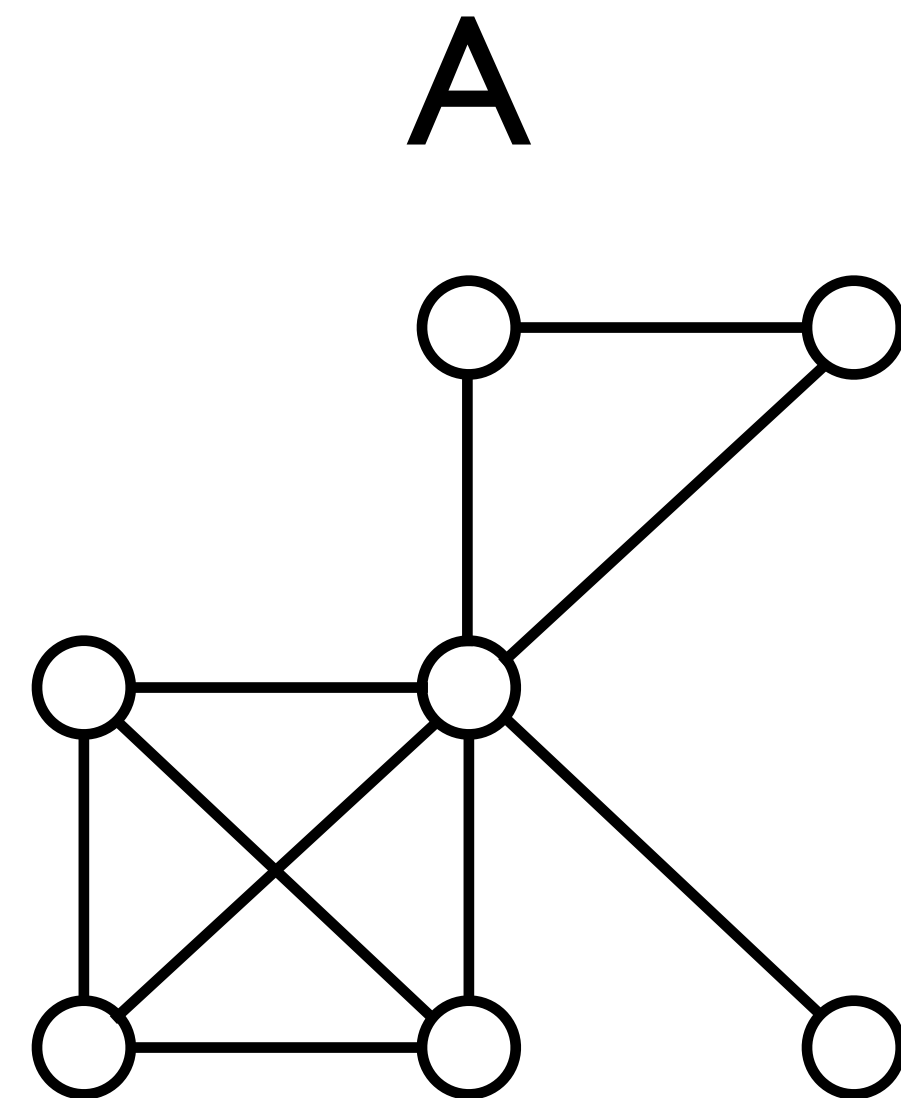


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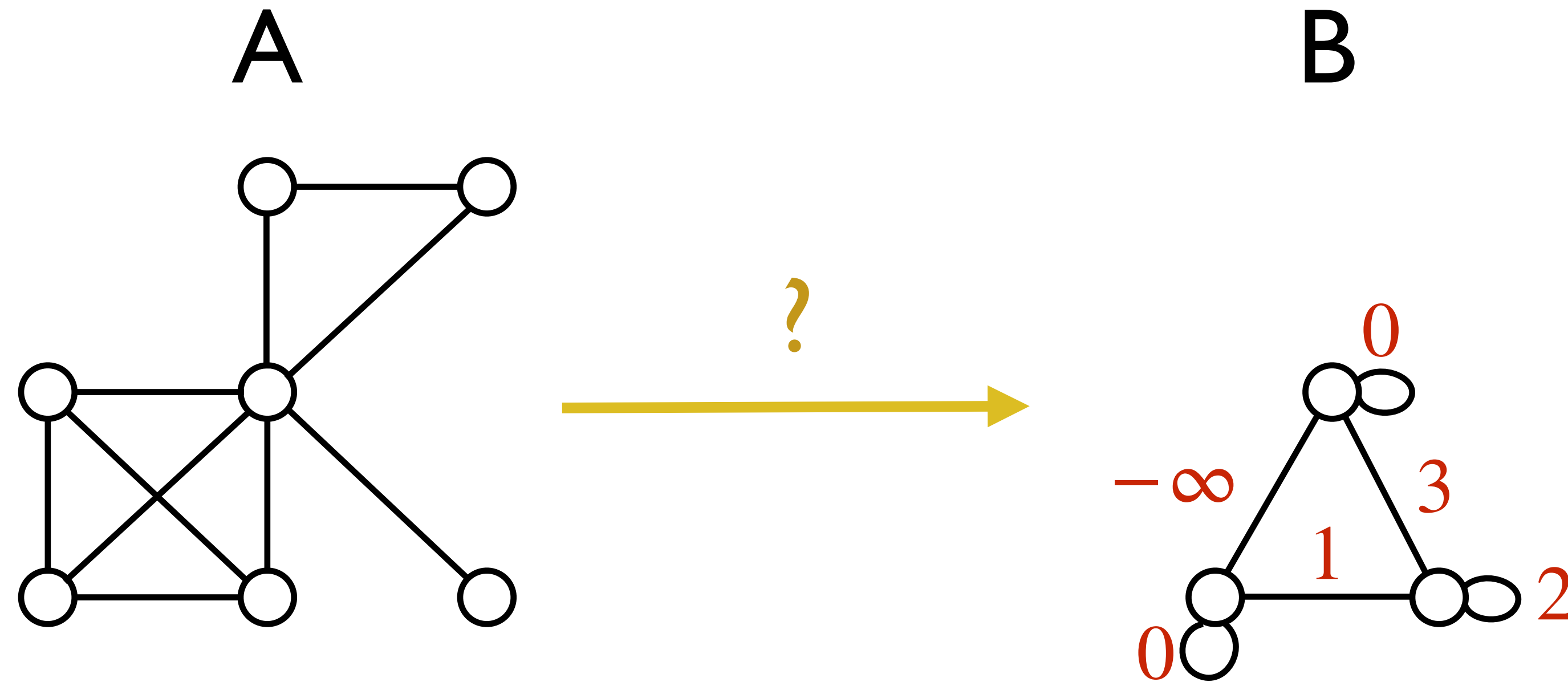
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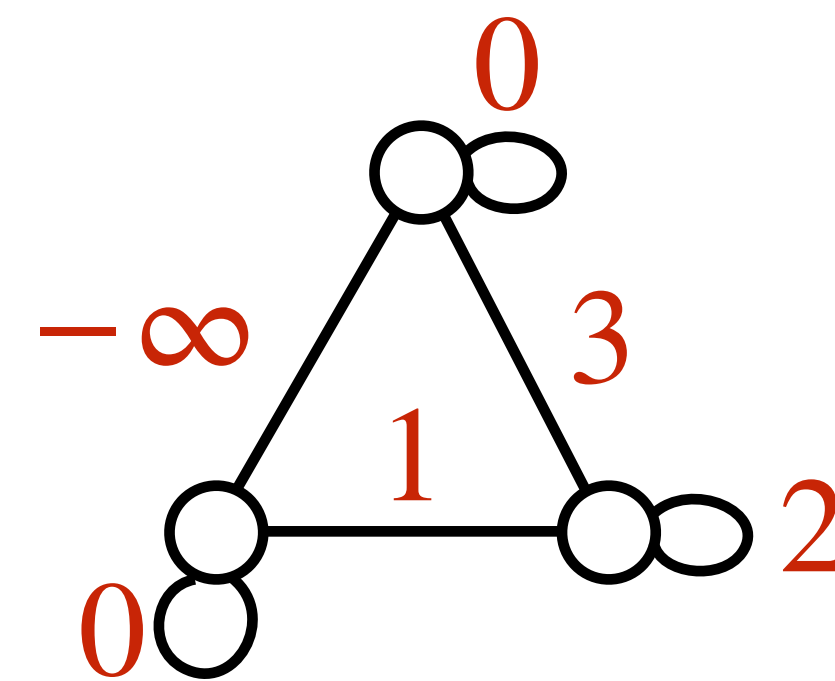
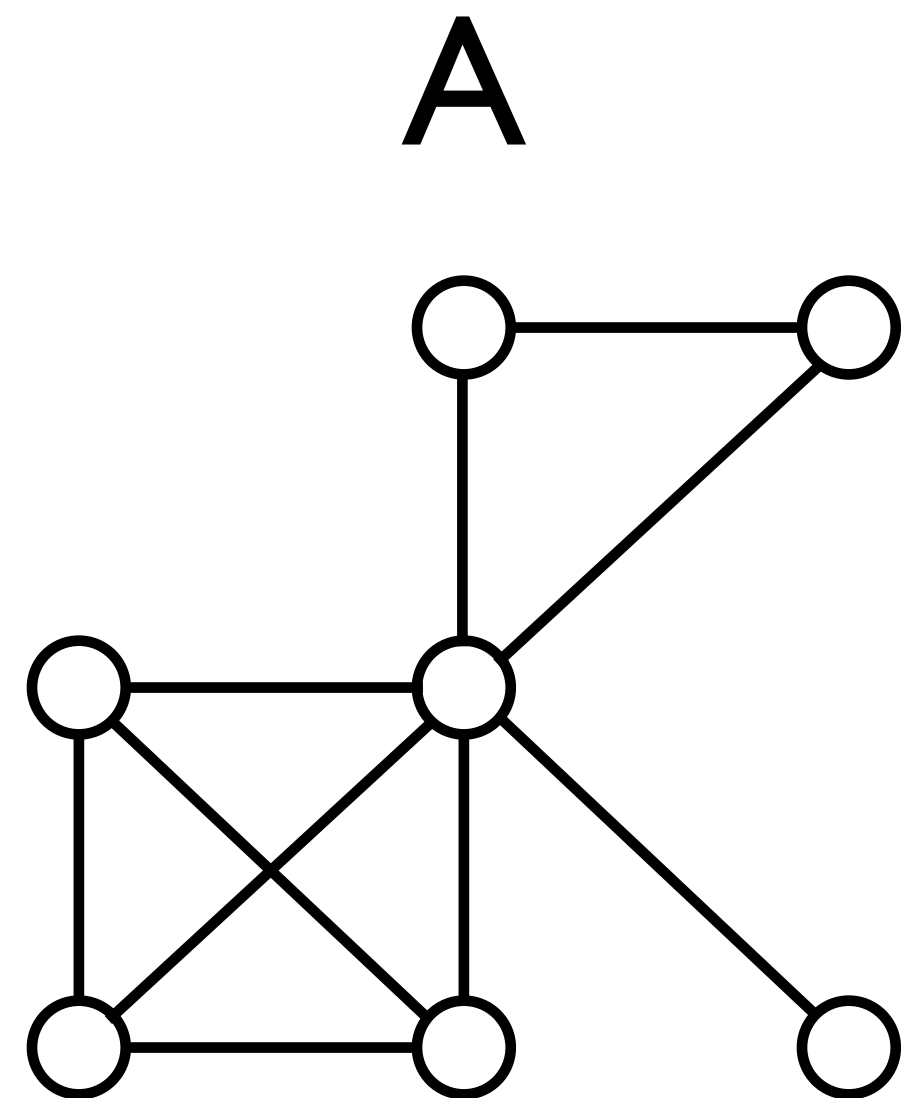
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- $\text{CSP}(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -) \in \text{PTIME}$  iff  $\text{tw}(\mathcal{G})$  bounded [Grohe-Schwentick-Segoufin STOC'01]

# PTAS for VCSP( $\mathcal{A}_g, B$ )

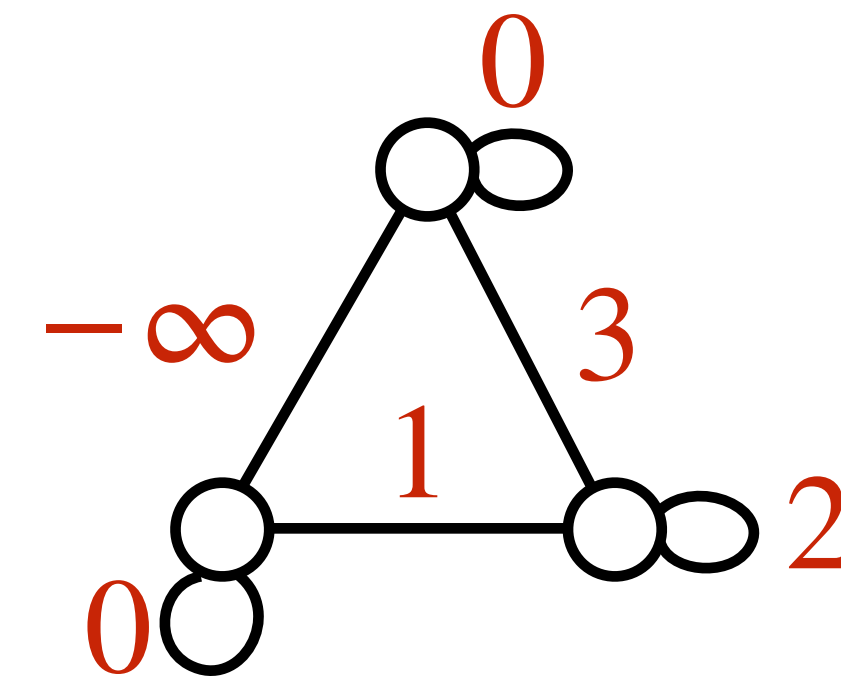
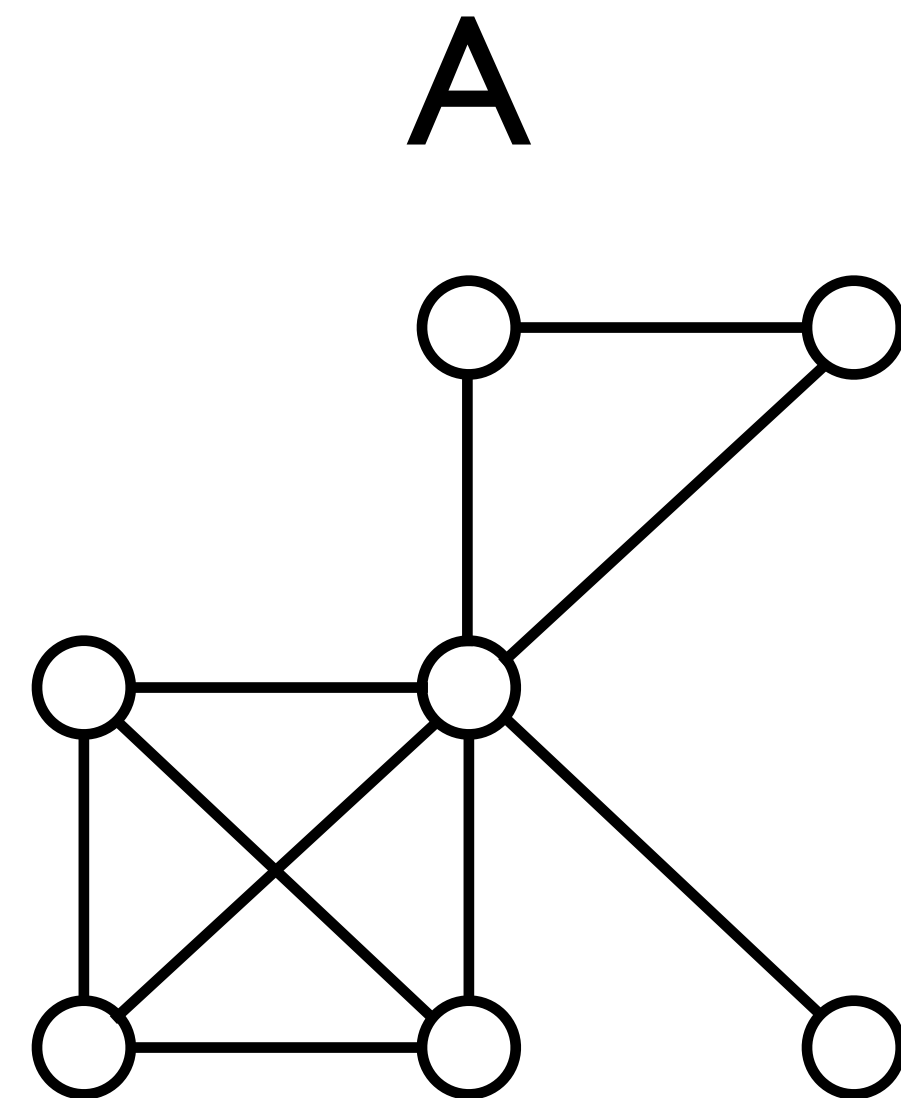


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[Kozik-Ochremiak ICALP'15 + Kolmogorov et al. SICOMP'17]

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- Max-IS: domain  $\{0,1\}$  with  $b_{\perp} = 0$

# PTAS for **Max**VCSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}$ , B)

- $\mathcal{G}$  is fr-tw-fragile *[Dvořák EJC'16]*
- B contains bottom label  $b_{\perp}$  *[Kumer et al.. SODA'11]*

$(b_1, \dots, b_r)$  feasible then so is  $(b_{\perp}, b_2, \dots, b_{\perp}, b_r)$

- Max-IS: domain  $\{0, 1\}$  with  $b_{\perp} = 0$
- Max-3-Col-Subgraph: domain  $\{r, g, b, b_{\perp}\}$

# PTAS for $\text{MinVCSP}(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, B)$

- $\mathcal{G}$  is efficiently Baker *[Dvořák SODA'20]*
- $B$  is diagonalisable *[Brightwell-Winkler JCTB'00]*

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- $\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{y}$  and  $R(\mathbf{x}) < \infty$  then  $R(\mathbf{y}) < \infty$



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- Min-VC: domain  $\{0,1\}$  with  $0 \leq 1$

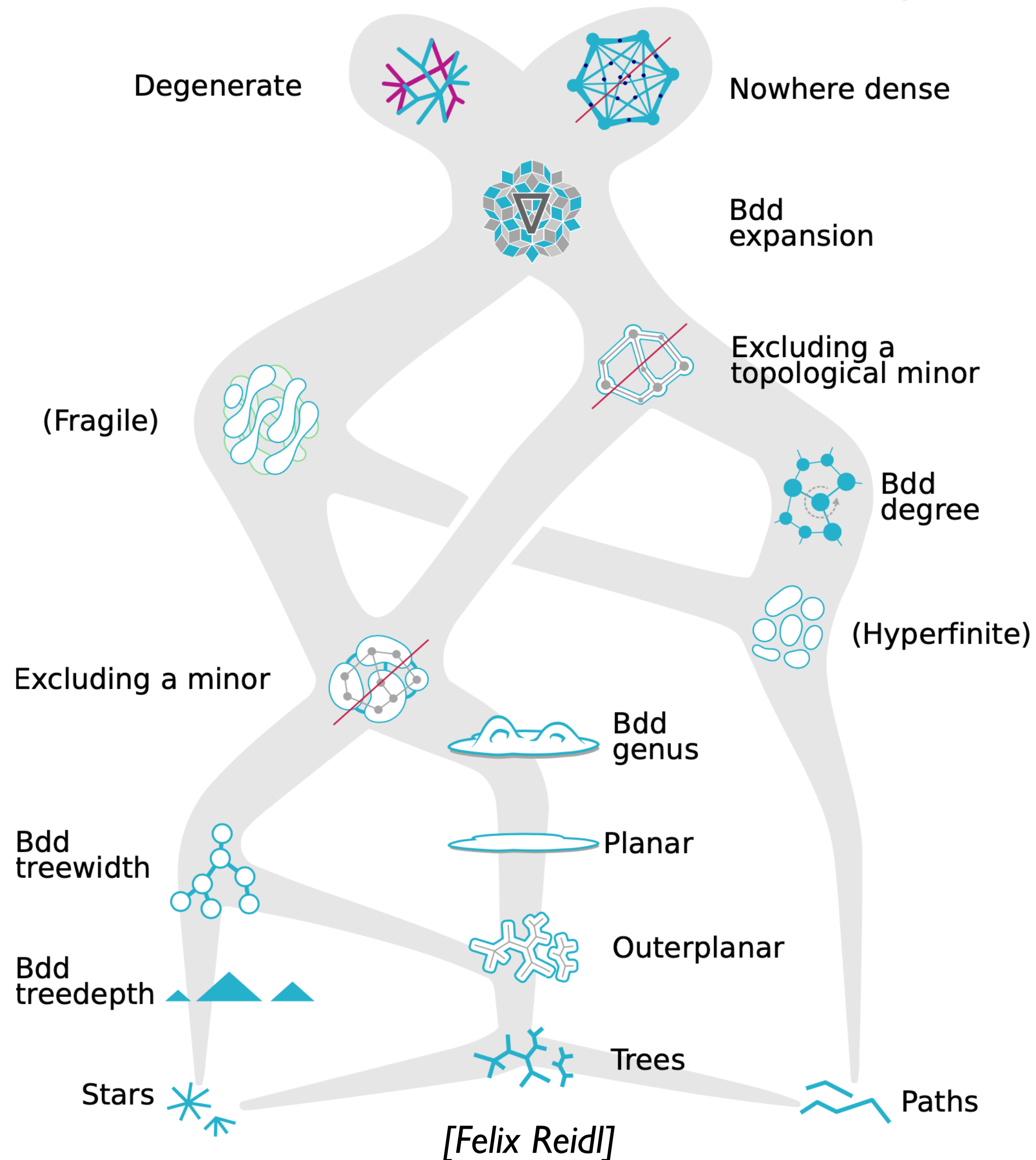
# PTAS for **Min**VCSP( $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}$ , B)

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- total order on the domain of B
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Min-VC on fr-tw-fr?

**Conj:**  $\text{MaxCSP}(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}, -)$  admits a PTAS iff  $\mathcal{G}$  is fr-tw-fr.



- Gap-ETH-hardness for tournaments
- hardness of non-degenerate  $\mathcal{G}$ ?
- hardness of 3-regular high girth  $\mathcal{G}$ ?
- hardness of  $\mathcal{G}$  containing expanders?
- Sherali-Adams gaps?
- $O(1)$ -approx
- weak hyperfiniteness
- EPTAS (via random samples)
- twin-width