

# On chordal and dually chordal graphs and their tree representations

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# Chordal graphs

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A *chord* is an edge connecting two nonconsecutive vertices of a cycle.

## Definition 2

A graph  $G$  is **chordal** if every cycle of length four or more in  $G$  has a chord.

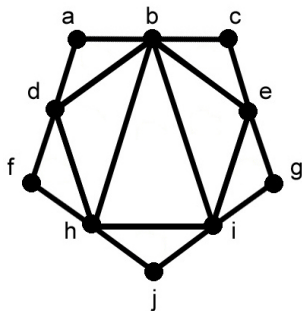
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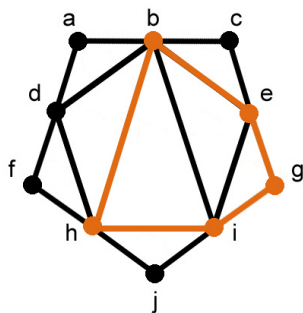
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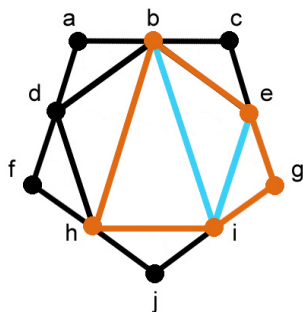
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## Perfect elimination ordering

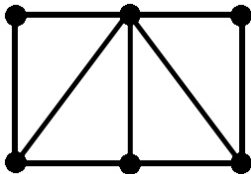
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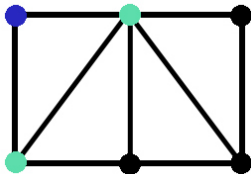


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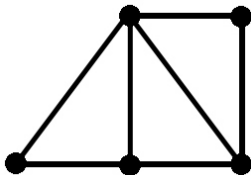


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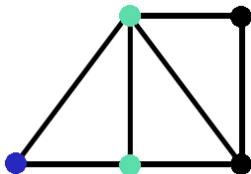


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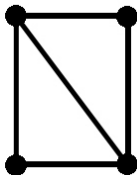


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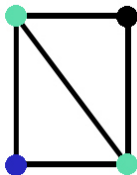


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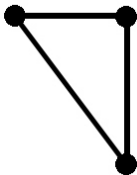


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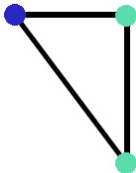


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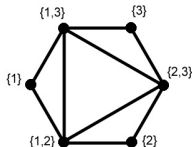
## Theorem

A graph  $G$  is chordal if and only if it has a perfect elimination ordering.



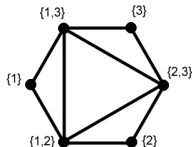
## Intersection graph

The *intersection graph* of the family  $\mathcal{F}$ , or  $L(\mathcal{F})$ , has  $\mathcal{F}$  as vertex set and  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are adjacent in  $L(\mathcal{F})$  if and only if  $F_1 \cap F_2 \neq \emptyset$ .



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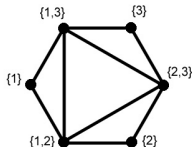


## Another characterization

A graph is chordal if and only if it is the intersection graph of a family of subtrees of a tree.

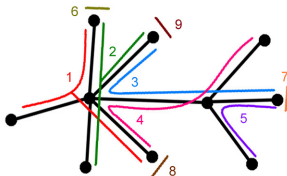
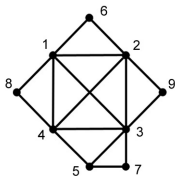
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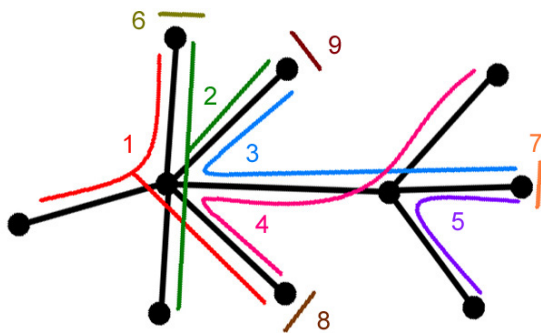
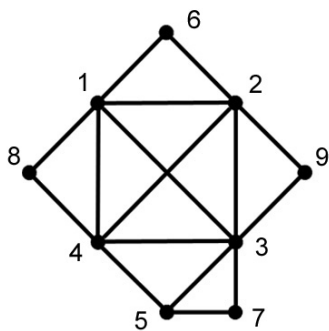
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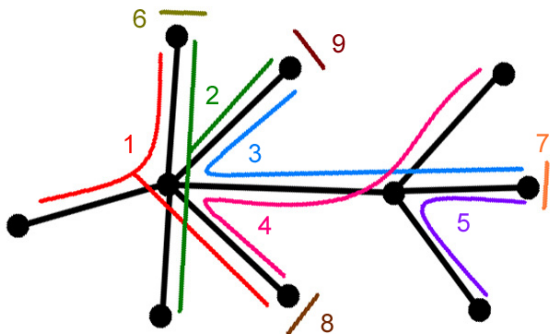
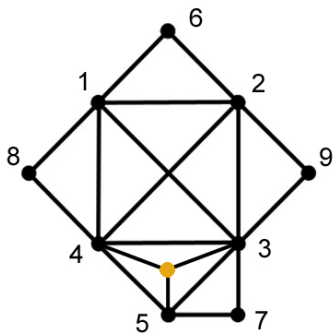


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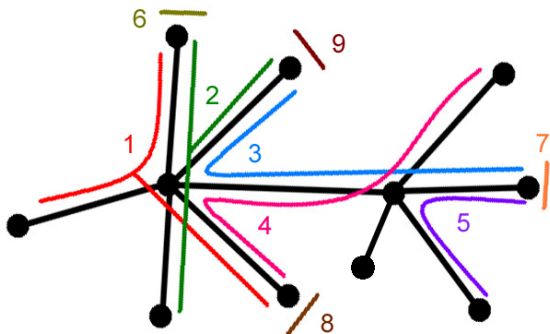
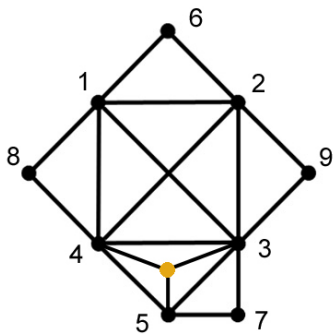
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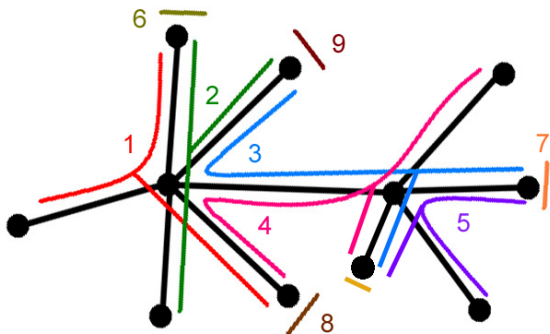
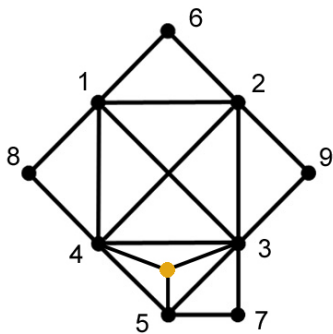












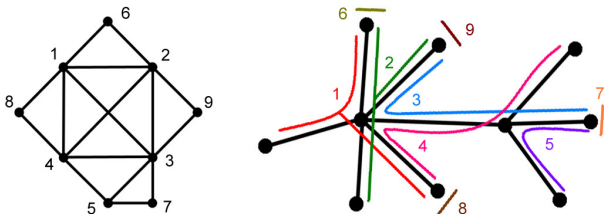
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We can reduce the number of vertices in the representation by contracting every edge  $uv$  of the tree such that every subtree containing  $u$  also contains  $v$ .

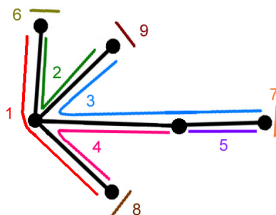
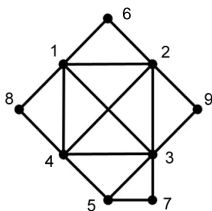
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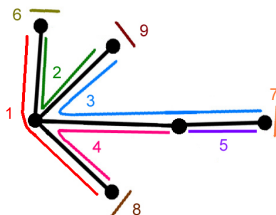
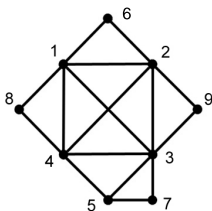
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When no more contractions are possible, the family  $\mathcal{F}_v$ , for  $v \in V(T)$ , of subtrees that contain  $v$  corresponds to pairwise adjacent vertices of the graph and no  $\mathcal{F}_v$  contains another.

## Conclusion

There is a correspondence between the vertices of  $T$  and the cliques of  $G$ .

## The clique tree

A clique tree of  $G$  is a tree  $T$  whose vertices are the cliques of  $G$  and such that, for every  $v \in V(G)$ , the set  $\mathcal{C}_v$  of cliques containing  $v$  induces a subtree in  $T$ .



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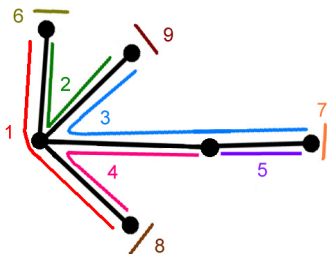
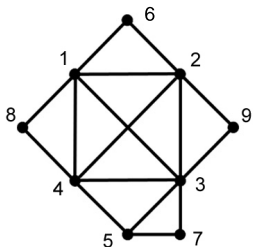
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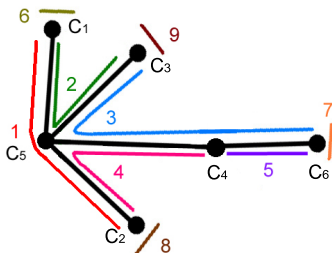
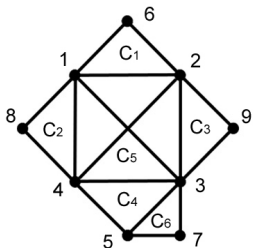


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The *clique graph* of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $K(G)$ , is the intersection graph of the cliques of  $G$ .

### Property

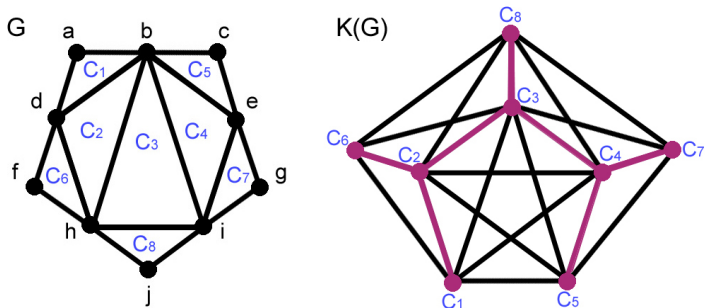
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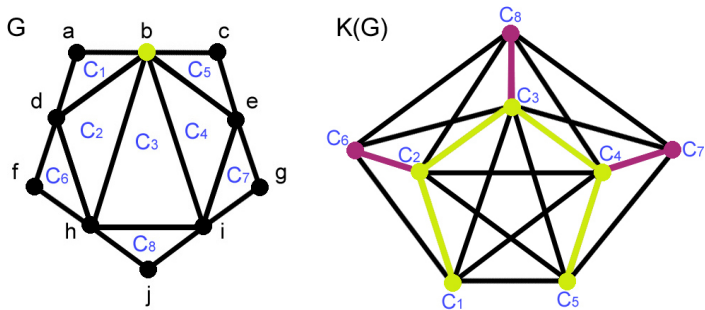


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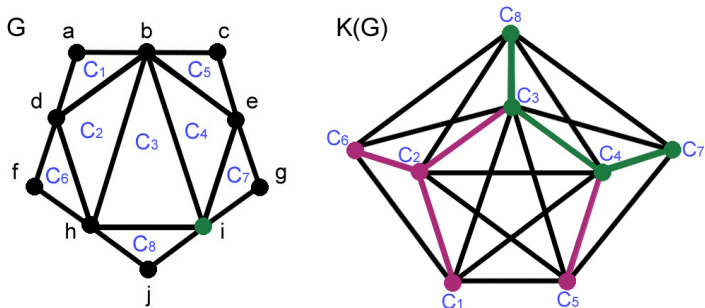


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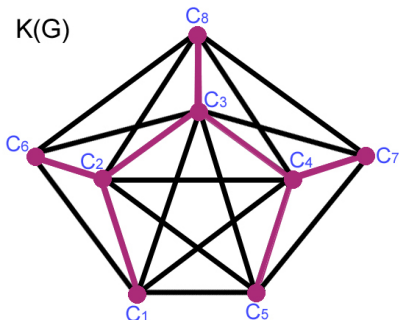
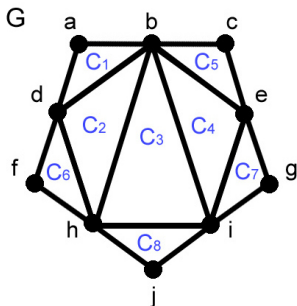
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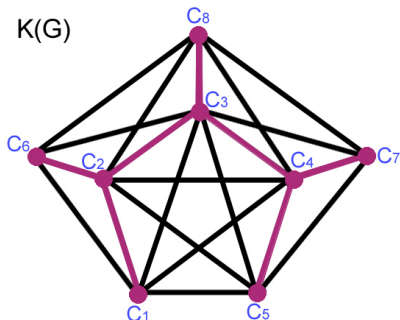
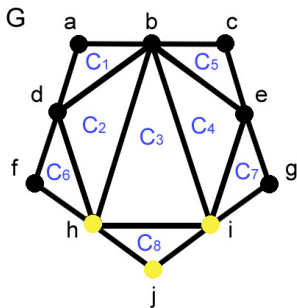
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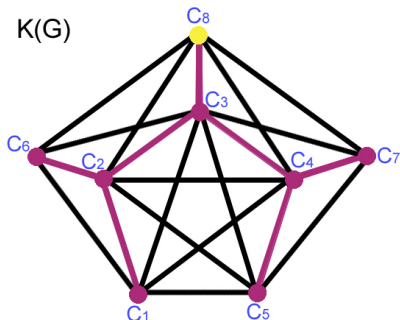
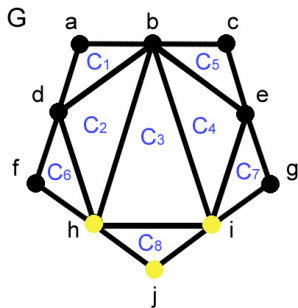
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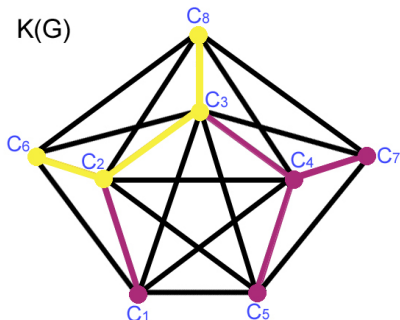
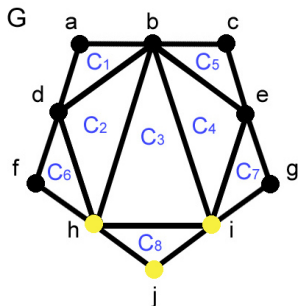
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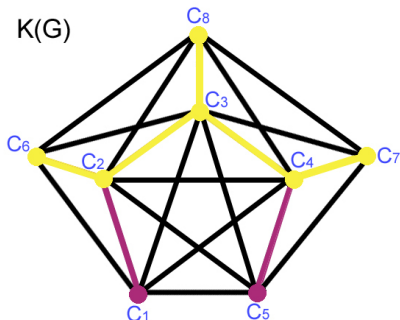
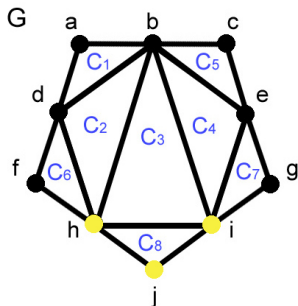
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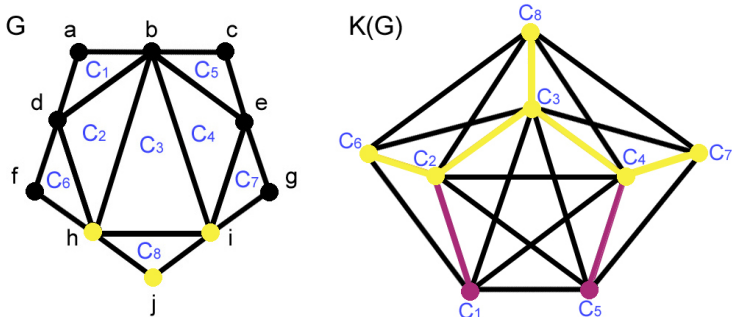
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In other words, every clique tree of  $G$  verifies that every closed neighborhood of  $K(G)$  induces a subtree.

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## Theorem

Every dually chordal graph has a compatible tree.

What is more, a graph is dually chordal if and only if it has a compatible tree.

# Why dually chordal graphs?

## Proposition

A tree  $T$  is compatible with  $G$  if and only if every clique induces a subtree in  $T$ .

**Idea of proof:**  $C = \bigcap_{v \in C} N[v]$       and       $N[v] = \bigcup_{C \ni v} C$

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## Dual family

The dual of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the family  $D\mathcal{F} = \{D_v\}_{v \in \bigcup_{F \in \mathcal{F}} F}$ , where

$$D_v = \{F \in \mathcal{F} : v \in F\}.$$

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**Idea of proof:**  $C = \bigcap_{v \in C} N[v]$       and       $N[v] = \bigcup_{v \in C} C$

## Dual family

The dual of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the family  $D\mathcal{F} = \{D_v\}_{v \in \bigcup_{F \in \mathcal{F}} F}$ , where

$$D_v = \{F \in \mathcal{F} : v \in F\}.$$

## Result

Define  $\mathcal{C}(G)$  as the family of cliques of a graph  $G$ .

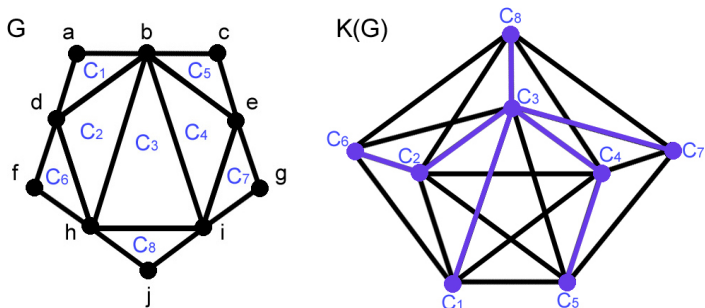
- ▶  $G$  is dually chordal if and only if there exists a tree such that every member of  $\mathcal{C}(G)$  induces a subtree.
- ▶  $G$  is chordal if and only if there exists a tree such that every member of  $D\mathcal{C}(G)$  induces a subtree.

**Property:** Every clique tree of a graph  $G$  is a compatible tree of  $K(G)$ .

Is the converse true?

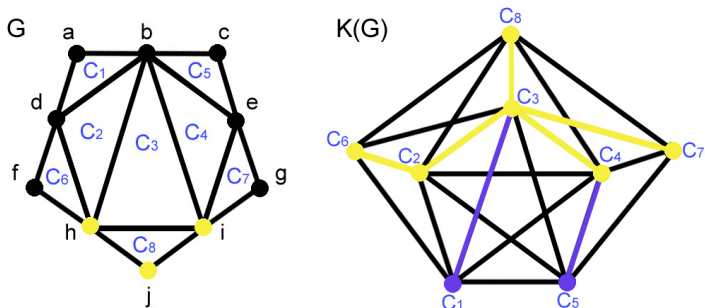
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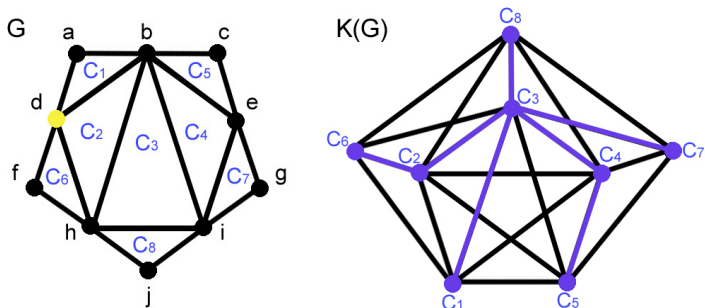
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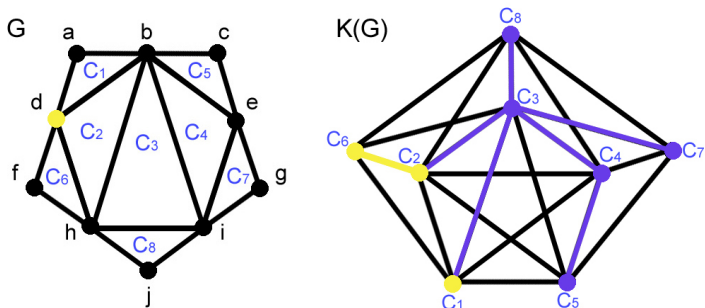
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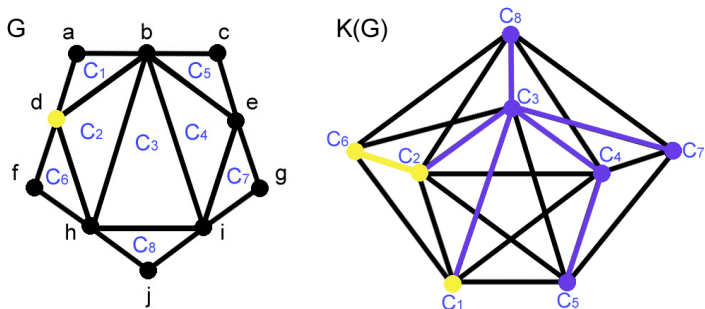
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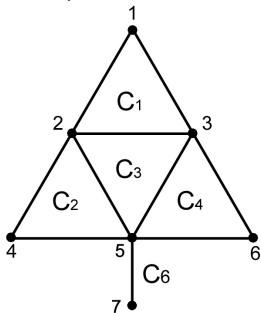
A chordal graph  $G$  is said to be **basic chordal** if the clique trees of  $G$  are exactly the compatible trees of  $K(G)$ .

$G$  is *basic chordal* if the compatible trees of  $K(G)$  are exactly the clique trees of  $G$ .

Let  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  be the family of minimal vertex separators of  $G$  and let  $S \in \mathcal{S}(G)$ .

$\mathcal{C}_S$ : Cliques that contain  $S$

$B_S$ : Consists of every  $C$  such that  $C \cap D \neq \emptyset$  for  $D \in \mathcal{C}(G)$  such that  $D \cap S \neq \emptyset$ .



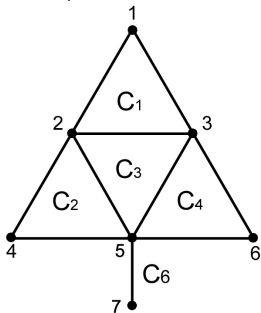
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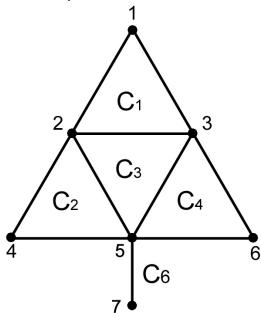
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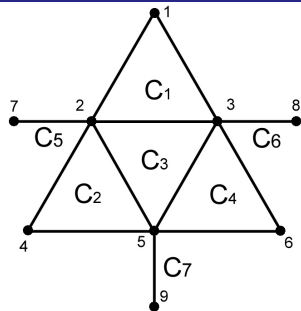
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## Theorem

A graph  $G$  is basic chordal *iff*  
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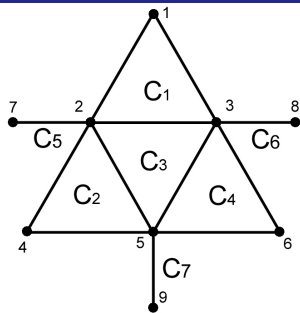
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$S$	$B_S$	$C_S$	$B_S = C_S$
$\{2, 3\}$	$\{C_1, C_3\}$	$\{C_1, C_3\}$	✓
$\{2, 5\}$	$\{C_2, C_3\}$	$\{C_2, C_3\}$	✓
$\{3, 5\}$	$\{C_3, C_4\}$	$\{C_3, C_4\}$	✓
$\{2\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_5\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_5\}$	✓
$\{3\}$	$\{C_1, C_3, C_4, C_6\}$	$\{C_1, C_3, C_4, C_6\}$	✓
$\{5\}$	$\{C_2, C_3, C_4, C_7\}$	$\{C_2, C_3, C_4, C_7\}$	✓



If  $G$  is chordal,

$SC(G)$ : Sets that induce a subtree of every clique tree of  $G$ .

Example: The members of  $DC(G)$ .

If  $G$  is dually chordal,

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A chordal graph  $G$  is basic chordal if and only if  
 $SC(G) = SDC(K(G))$ .

## Connected unions

$\bigcup_{F \in \mathcal{F}} F$  is connected if  $L(\mathcal{F})$  is connected.

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Families closed under connected unions are characterized by the existence of a basis.

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Example:  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

$\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}$  form the basis of the power set of  $A$ .

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A basis is always unique and consists of the sets that cannot be expressed as connected unions of others.



## Why basic chordal graphs?

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What is the basis of  $\mathcal{SC}(G)$  for  $G$  chordal?

The basis consists of the sets  $\mathcal{C}_S$ ,  $S \in \mathcal{S}(G)$ .

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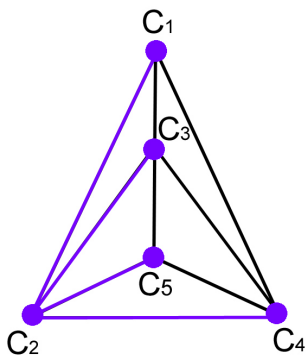
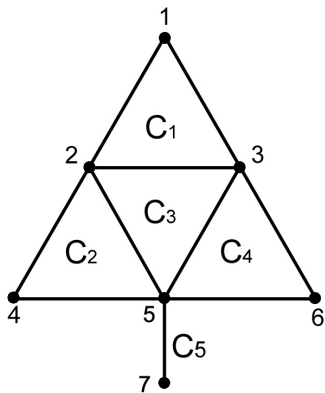
What is the basis of  $\mathcal{SDC}(K(G))$ ?

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How can the basis for a dually chordal graph be obtained without using chordal graphs?

Take  $T$  compatible and, for every  $uv \in E(T)$ , Consider

$$\bigcap_{\{u,v\} \subseteq C} C = \bigcap_{\{u,v\} \subseteq N[w]} N[w].$$



The only clique containing  $C_1 C_2$ , is  $\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4\}$ . But it is not a basic set for the graph at left.

# Clique graphs of basic chordal graphs

## Separating family

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- ▶ For  $G$  dually chordal, the basic chordal graphs with  $G$  as a clique graph are of the form  $L(\mathcal{F})$ , where  $\mathcal{F}$  is separating,  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \text{SDC}(G)$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  covers all the edges of  $G$ .

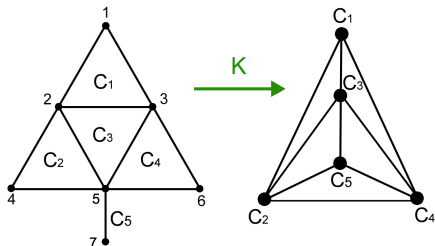
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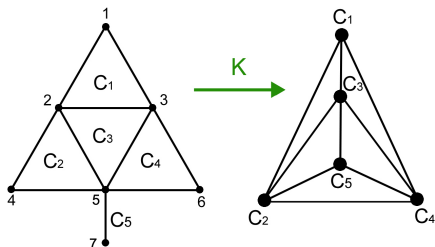
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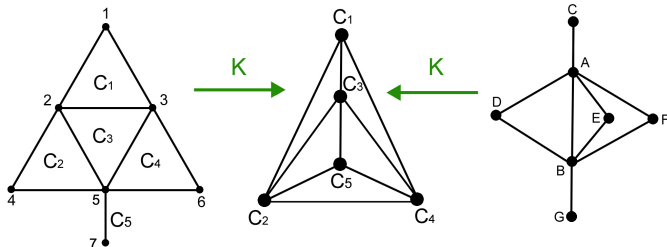
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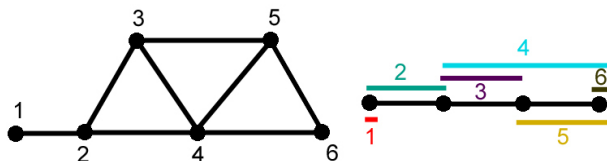
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# Applications

**Leafage of a chordal graph  $G$ :** It is the minimum number of leaves of a clique tree of  $G$ .

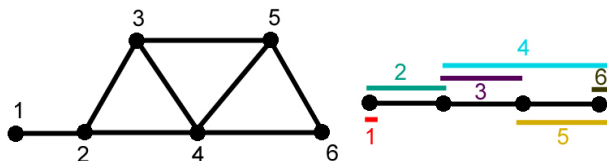


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**Dual leafage of a graph  $G$ :** Minimum number of leaves of a compatible tree of  $G$ .

The dual leafage of  $G$  is equal to the leafage of any basic chordal graph  $H$  with  $K(H) = G$ .

## Problem

Let  $G$  be a dually chordal graph,  $|V(G)| \geq 3$  and  $A \subseteq V(G)$ . Is there a compatible tree of  $G$  that has  $A$  as its set of leaves?

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Let  $G^*$  be obtained from  $G$  by adding, for each  $v \in A$ , the vertex  $v^*$  and the edge  $vv^*$ .

## Theorem

If every vertex of  $A$  is dominated by another in  $V(G) \setminus A$ , then  $G$  has a compatible tree with set of leaves equal to  $A$  if and only if the dual leafage of  $G^*$  equals  $|A|$ .

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Given a family  $\mathcal{T}$  on a set  $V$  of vertices. Is there a chordal graph whose clique trees are exactly those of  $\mathcal{T}$ ?

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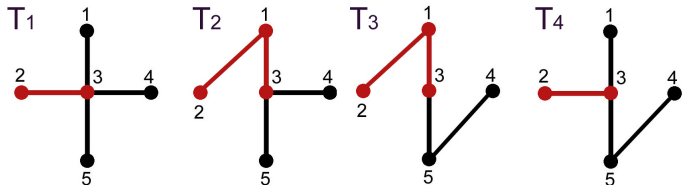
## Question

How to identify the sets  $\mathcal{C}_S$  when the graph is unknown and all what we know about it are its clique trees?

## Definitions

$T[a, b]$  : Vertices in the path of  $T$  from  $a$  to  $b$ .

$$\mathcal{T}[a, b] = \bigcup_{T \in \mathcal{T}} T[a, b].$$



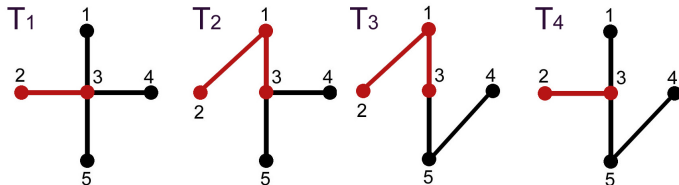
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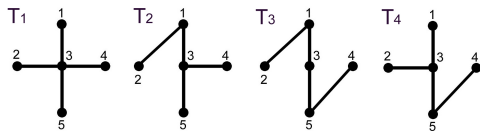
Let  $G$  be chordal,  $\mathcal{T}$  be its family of clique trees and  $T \in \mathcal{T}$ . Then  $\{\mathcal{C}_S\}_{S \in \mathcal{S}(G)} = \{\mathcal{T}[C, C'] : CC' \in E(T)\}$ .

## Theorem

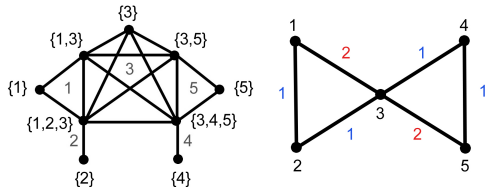
Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a family of trees on a set of vertices  $V$ ,  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{T}[u, v]\}_{uv \in E(T)} \cup \{\{v\}\}_{v \in V(T)}$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}$  is the family of clique trees of a chordal graph if and only if  $L(\mathcal{F})$  is chordal and has  $|\mathcal{T}|$  clique trees.

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- ▶ Every set of compatible trees of some dually chordal graph is the set of clique trees of some chordal graph.
- ▶ However, the converse is not true.
- ▶ Determining the complexity of recognizing families of compatible trees is an open problem.