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# Common connected components of interval graphs

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## Abstract

The Common Connected Problem (CCP) consists in identifying common connected components in two or more graphs on the same vertices (or reduced to). More formally, let  $G_1(V, E_1)$  and  $G_2(V, E_2)$  be two such graphs and let  $V' \subset V$ . If  $G_1[V']$  and  $G_2[V']$  are both connected,  $V'$  is said a common connected component. The CCP problem is the identification of maximal (for the inclusion order) such components, that form a partition of  $V$ . Let  $n = |V|$  and  $m = |E_1| + |E_2|$ . We present an  $O((n + m) \log n)$  worst case time algorithm solving the CCP problem when  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are two interval graphs. The algorithm combines maximal clique path decompositions of the two input graphs together with an Hopcroft like partitioning approach.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. The degree of a vertex  $x \in V$  in the graph  $G$  is denoted by  $d_G(x)$ . If  $X$  is a subset of vertices of  $G$ , then we denote  $G[X]$  the subgraph induced by  $X$  : the set of vertices of  $G[X]$  is  $X$  and its edge set is  $E_X = E \cap \{(u, v) \mid u \in X, v \in X\}$ . We denote by  $m_X = |E_X|$  the number of edges in  $G[X]$  and by  $|G[X]| = |X| + m_X$  the size of the induced subgraph. A connected component  $X \subset V$  of  $G$  is such that  $G[X]$  is connected. A connected component is maximal if it can not be augmented with other vertices.

In [9], the problem of finding common connected components of two graphs, namely the *CCP problem*, was addressed.

**Definition 1** *A set  $S \subseteq V$  of vertices is a common connected component of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  if  $S$  is both a connected component in  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , and maximal for the inclusion order.*

As shown by the authors, it can easily be reduced to a pair of graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  on the same vertex set  $V$ . We define  $n = |V|$ ,  $m_1 = |E_1|$ ,  $m_2 = |E_2|$  (where  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are respectively the edge sets of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ ) and  $m = m_1 + m_2$ . It is easy to see that the set of common connected components of two graphs form a unique partition of  $V$ . The CCP problem, defined in [9], is that of identifying such a partition.

### CCP Problem:

Input: two graphs  $G_1 = (V, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V, E_2)$ .

Output: the partition of  $V$  in common connected components.

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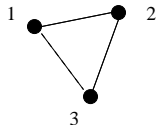


Figure 1: A simple counterexample showing that the set of common connected component of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is not the intersection of the connected components of the two interval graphs. The set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  is connected in  $G_1$ . The set  $\{1, 3\}$  is connected in  $G_2$  (in dashed edges). But  $\{1, 3\}$  is not connected in  $G_1[\{1, 3\}]$  and  $G_2[\{1, 3\}]$ .

A natural approach to solve CCP is to first search the maximal connected component of  $G_1$ . Then, in each of these components, search the connected component of  $G_2$ . In each such new connected component of  $G_2$ , search the maximal connected components of  $G_1$ , and repeat this process until the two sets of components on  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are similar. It is not difficult to build examples where this approach leads to as many repetitions as the number of vertices. As each step is in  $O(n + m)$  time, this approach is  $O(n(n + m))$  worst case time. The algorithm proposed in [9] runs in  $O(n \log n + m \log^2 n)$ . Their algorithm mixes dynamical connectivity maintenance with a partitioning approach. Obtaining faster algorithms for solving CCP is a real challenge, since the graphs currently considered in computational biology are huge: studying graphs with more than 250 000 vertices becomes frequent (see for instance the TERAPROT project [21]). Reducing the complexity of the CCP problem remains an open problem even for some restricted graph families.

This paper considers the CCP problem on interval graphs. A graph is an *interval graph* iff there is a one-to-one mapping between its vertices and a set of interval on the real line such that two vertices are adjacent iff their corresponding intervals intersect. Considering interval graph make sense for both practical and theoretical reasons. First the CCP problem arises from applications in bioinformatics where graph comparisons is required [5]. Moreover many of the applications of the CCP problem in bioinformatics deal with interval graphs, that are the basic structure to represent chromosome built on smaller cDNAs. Consider for instance two interval graphs representing two different possible genomes, built on the same cDNA database. Comparing the longest “common” contigs, that is, the largest set of sequences that are linked together in the two genomes, require solving CCP. Interval graphs are also interesting for theoretical point of view since it is a highly structured graphs family.

In this paper we design an algorithm for CCP problem on interval graphs whose complexity is in  $O((n + m) \log n)$  worst case time. The algorithm is both faster and simpler than the algorithm solving CCP on general graphs. It combines an Hopcroft like partitioning framework together with a kind of dynamical maintenance of a spanning separator forest. The intervals graphs are represented through a forest of clique paths that roughly captures all the possible separators of the graphs. This forest is “dynamically” maintained, in the sense that we are able to fastly compute the new clique representation after extracting a set of vertices. Sets of vertices are extracted following an Hopcroft like partitioning framework, inspired by the gene teams identification algorithm [2] that has later been proved to resemble a simplified Hopcroft partitioning approach [5]. Notice that the gene team identification algorithm with  $\delta = 1$ , would solve CCP problem on proper interval graphs [2].

This article is organized as follows. We first explain in Section 2 the whole framework of a recursive partitioning algorithm to solve the CCP problem. Section 3 presents data-structures and algorithms that allows us to improve the time complexity for interval graphs. Finally the

whole algorithm and its complexity are explained and proved.

## 2 A recursive partitioning algorithm

Solving the CCP problem on two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  on the same vertex set  $V$  consists in computing a partition of  $V$  whose parts are the common connected component. A *partition*  $\mathcal{P}$  of a set  $V$  is a set of disjoint subsets  $\{\mathcal{X}_1, \dots, \mathcal{X}_k\}$ , whose union is exactly  $V$ . Our partitioning algorithm is based on the following simple lemma.

**Lemma 1** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be graphs on the same vertex set  $V$  and let  $C$  be a maximal connected component of  $G_1$  distinct from  $V$ . Then*

$$CCP(G_1, G_2) = CCP(G_1[C], G_2[C]) \cup CCP(G_1[V \setminus C], G_2[V \setminus C])$$

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a common connected component. By definition  $S$  is connected in  $G_1$ . Since  $C$  is a maximal connected component,  $S$  is either included in  $C$  or in  $V \setminus C$ . It follows that any common connected component of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is either a common connected component of  $G_1[C]$  and  $G_2[C]$  or of  $G_1[V \setminus C]$  and  $G_2[V \setminus C]$ .  $\square$

We can already derive from Lemma 1 a simple paradigm for a recursive algorithm. It takes as input two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  on the same vertex set  $V$  and a partition  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $V$ . Initially,  $\mathcal{P}$  is set to the trivial partition  $\{V\}$ . It first looks for a maximal connected component distinct from  $V$  of  $G_1$  or  $G_2$ . If such a component  $C$  exists, according to Lemma 1 two recursive calls on the subgraphs induced respectively by  $C$  and  $V \setminus C$  are launched.

```

CCP-Algorithm( $G_1 = (V, E_1), G_2 = (V, E_2)$ )
1.   If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are both connected Then
2.     Return  $\mathcal{P} = \{V\}$ 
3.   Else
4.     If  $G_1$  is not connected Then
5.       Let  $C$  be a connected component of  $G_1$ 
6.     Else
7.       Let  $C$  be a connected component of  $G_2$ 
8.     End of if
9.     Let  $\mathcal{P}' = \text{CCP-Algorithm}(G_1[C], G_2[C])$ 
10.    Let  $\mathcal{P}'' = \text{CCP-Algorithm}(G_1[V \setminus C], G_2[V \setminus C])$ 
11.    Return  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}' \cup \mathcal{P}''$ 
12.  End of if

```

Figure 2: Recursive algorithm to compute the common connected components partition of the vertex set  $V$  of two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$

**Lemma 2** *CCP-Algorithm computes the common connected component partition of two graphs.*

*Proof.* First the algorithm ends since the recursive calls are done on strict subgraphs and it stops when both graphs are connected. The correctness of the algorithm directly follows from Lemma 1.  $\square$

Notice that the main difficulties of the **CCP-Algorithm** is first to compute a maximal connected component  $C$  of one the two input graph if one exists and then to extract the subgraphs induced by  $C$  and  $V \setminus C$ . Without any clever data-structure and advanced subroutine for these tasks, such a recursive approach yields to a  $\mathcal{O}(n(n+m))$  worst case time.

Next section first presents algorithms for interval graphs that permit a  $\mathcal{O}((n+m) \log n)$  worst case time. Section 3 is devoted to two algorithms that retrieve the maximal connected components of the subgraphs  $G_1[C], G_2[C], G_1[V \setminus C], G_2[V \setminus C]$  after having extracted  $C$ . These algorithms strongly relies on interval graph structural properties. Their complexities are both  $\mathcal{O}(|C| + m_C^d)$  where  $m_C^d = \sum_{x \in C} d(x)$ , which is proportional, not exactly to the size of their induced subgraph, but close to.

Choosing an arbitrary connected component for the recursive call is not enough to obtain the announced complexity, even the component can be extract in  $\mathcal{O}(|C| + m_C^d)$ . It would still lead to  $\mathcal{O}(n(n+m))$  worst case time complexity. To lower the whole complexity, we combine the extraction scheme to an Hopcroft's partitioning approach. Only *small* maximal connected components have to be extracted. By small, we mean that the size of the connected component considered has to be less than or equal to the half of the size of the original graph. Such a component always exist if the graph is not connected. It would ensure that each vertex an edge is used at most  $\log n$  time as expected for the announced complexity. This property is the basis of the Hopcroft's partitioning approach.

### Generalization to an arbitrary number of graphs

One can also consider the  $k$ -CCP problem that is CCP problem applied to  $k$  graphs on the same vertex set. The result is a partition of the vertex set into maximal subset of vertices that induced connected subgraph of any into graph. It turns out that Lemma 1 can be generalized and the algorithm adapted.

**Lemma 3** *Let  $G_1, \dots, G_k$  be graphs on the same vertex set  $V$  and let  $C$  be a maximal connected component of  $G_1$  distinct from  $V$ . Then*

$$k\text{-CCP}(G_1, \dots, G_k) = k\text{-CCP}(G_1[C], \dots, G_k[C]) \cup k\text{-CCP}(G_1[V \setminus C], \dots, G_k[V \setminus C])$$

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a common connected component of the  $k$  graphs. By definition  $S$  is connected in  $G_1$ . Since  $C$  is a maximal connected component,  $S$  is either included in  $C$  or in  $V \setminus C$ . It follows that any common connected component of  $G_1, \dots, G_k$  is either a common connected component of  $G_1[C], \dots, G_k[C]$  or of  $G_1[V \setminus C], \dots, G_k[V \setminus C]$ .  $\square$

It is straightforward to modify the algorithm: the connected component  $C$  used has to be a connected component of an arbitrary graph among  $G_1, \dots, G_k$ . The complexity of the algorithm just increases by a factor  $k$ .

## 3 Clique path representation of interval graphs

This section present the material for the interval graphs. We first introduce some well-known properties and the data-structures used in the algorithms. Then two algorithms that updates the data-structures for induced subgraphs are depicted. These algorithms permit efficient recursive calls. Finally, the last algorithm looks for a small connected component of a given interval graph. It will be used at lines 4-8.

### 3.1 Preliminaries and data-structures

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph and  $G[X]$  the subgraph induced by  $X$ . We set  $m_X^d = \sum_{x \in X} d_G(x)$ . A *clique* is a complete induced subgraph (not necessarily *maximal* for the inclusion).

A graph is an *interval graph* iff it is the intersection graph of a family of intervals on the real line: there is a one-to-one mapping between the intervals and the vertices of the graphs, and two vertices are adjacent iff their corresponding intervals intersect [18]. It follows that the family of interval graphs is *hereditary*: any induced subgraph of an interval graph is an interval graph.

**Definition 2** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected interval graph. A clique decomposition path of  $G$  is a path  $P = (\mathcal{C}, F)$  such that:*

1. *any set  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  is a set of vertices and  $\bigcup_{C \in \mathcal{C}} C = V$ ;*
2. *any  $(u, v) \in E$  is contained in some  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ ;*
3. *the set  $\mathcal{C}_u = \{C \in \mathcal{C} \mid u \in C\}$  induces a subpath  $P_u$  of  $P$*
4. *any  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  is a clique;*

A clique decomposition path will be denoted hereafter by CDP. Notice that a CDP gives an interval intersection model of the interval graph: the underlying path  $P$  and the family of subpaths  $P_u$  that contains the vertex  $u$ . If the condition 4 is not required, a decomposition path can be defined for arbitrary graphs and this is the basement of the pathwidth theory (see [3]).

Dealing with interval graphs, we usually define the *Maximal Clique decomposition Path* (shorten by MCP) where any clique  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  has to be a maximal clique.

A *separator* is a set  $S$  of vertices whose removal disconnects the graph in several connected components. A separator  $S$  is *minimal* if there exists a pair of vertices  $u, v$  such that no subset of  $S$  separates  $u$  and  $v$  in different connected components. Since interval graphs are chordal (graphs with no induced cycle of length larger than 3), any minimal separator is a clique [8]. The following lemma gives some hints on the structure of the set of minimal separator of an interval graph.

**Lemma 4 (eg. [10])**

- *Let  $P$  be a MCP of an interval graph  $G$ . A set of vertices  $S$  is a minimal separator iff it is the intersection  $S$  of some consecutive cliques  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  in  $P$ .*
- *Let  $P$  be a MCP of an interval graph  $G$ . The intersection of any pair of consecutive cliques is a separator.*

For our needs, we label the edges of a CDP by the intersection of the corresponding cliques. A non-connected interval graph clearly enjoys a CDP: the edges between two cliques of different paths are labelled by the empty set since these cliques belong to different connected components and are disjoint. The number of cliques in a CDP  $P$  is denoted  $|P|$ . We say that the set of paths defines a *linear forest* denoted CPF for Clique Path Forest. When all the paths are maximal, the forest is denoted MCPF.

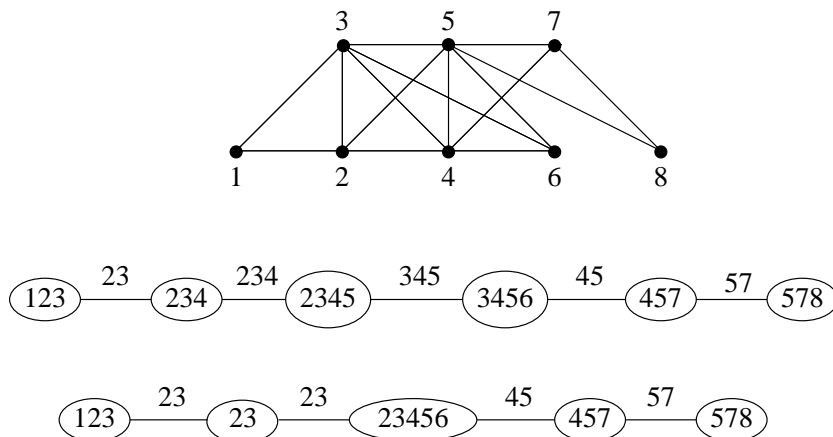


Figure 3: An interval graph with two CDPs. The second is maximal.

**Lemma 5 (eg [10])** *Let  $G$  be an interval graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges. Any MCP is of size  $\mathcal{O}(n + m)$ .*

Many linear time interval graphs recognition algorithms exist. The first one is due to Booth and Lueker in 1976 [4]. Most recent ones [14, 7] are much simpler than the original. All these algorithms are able to output in  $\mathcal{O}(n + m)$  a maximal clique path decomposition.

For algorithmic settings, in case of non-connected interval graphs, the set of paths of a CPF is stored in a list  $\mathcal{F}$ . The cliques of a CDP are stored in a doubly linked list and the CDP are rooted on one of their extremities. A given clique  $C$  stores a pointer to its *father*  $f(C)$  and to its *son*  $s(C)$ ; its set of vertices is stored in a doubly linked list and its size is denoted  $n_C$ . Moreover, each edge is assigned to a record containing: (a) its two extremities; (b) the label of its minimal separator (see lemma 4) whose vertices are stored in a doubly linked list; (c) the size  $n_S$  of this separator. In addition, two lists, namely  $L_S$  and  $L_C$ , are associated to any vertex  $x$ . The list  $L_S$  (resp.  $L_C$ ) contains pointers to the copies of  $x$  in each separator (resp. clique) containing  $x$ .

### 3.2 Dynamic clique decomposition path

**Lemma 6** *Let  $P = (\mathcal{C}, F)$  be a CDP of  $G = (V, E)$  and  $X \subseteq V$ . Then  $P' = (\mathcal{C}', F')$  defined as follows is a CDP of  $G[V \setminus X]$ .*

- $\mathcal{C}' = \{f(C) \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}$ , where  $f(C) = C \setminus X$ ;
- $(f(C_1), f(C_2)) \in F'$  iff  $(C_1, C_2) \in F$ ;
- $(f(C_1), f(C_2))$  is labelled by  $f(C_1) \cap f(C_2) = (C_1 \cap C_2) \setminus X$ .

*Proof.* Let us consider two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  belonging to  $V \setminus X$ . The proof follows from the definition. First any  $f(C)$  is a clique and  $\bigcup_{C \in \mathcal{C}} f(C) = V \setminus X$ . If  $u$  and  $v$  are adjacent, there exists a clique  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  containing both  $u$  and  $v$ . Clearly  $f(C)$  also contains both  $u$  and  $v$ . Since the set  $\mathcal{C}_u \subset \mathcal{C}$  of cliques containing  $u \in V \setminus X$  occurs consecutively in  $P$ , the set  $\mathcal{C}'_u \subset \mathcal{C}'$  also occurs consecutively in  $P'$ .  $\square$

Notice that some separator may be empty after the extraction of  $X$ , in which case the resulting CDP is in fact a CPF.

For complexity issue, the above operation is implemented by two different algorithms. Given a CDP, the first one removes the vertices of a given set from each clique: it is called **REMOVE**. The second, in contrast, computes the intersection of any clique with a given set: it is called **EXTRACT**.

```

REMOVE( $P, X$ )
1.   Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a linear forest containing  $P$ 
2.   For any  $x \in X$  Do
3.     For any clique  $C$  st  $x \in C$  Do
4.       Remove  $x$  from  $C$ 
5.       Decrease  $n_C$  by 1
6.     End of for
7.     For any separator  $S$  between cliques  $C$  and  $C'$  st  $x \in S$  Do
8.       Remove  $x$  from  $S$ 
9.       Decrease  $n_S$  by 1
10.      If  $n_S = 0$  Then
11.        Let  $(P, C_r)$  be the CDP containing the edge  $(C, C')$  labeled by  $S$ 
12.        Remove the edge  $(C, C')$  from  $P$  ( $C$  is the father of  $C'$ )
13.        Create in  $\mathcal{F}$  the new CDP  $(P', C')$ 
14.      Else
15.        If  $n_S = n_C$  Then
16.          Remove  $C$  from  $P$ 
17.          Connect the  $s(C)$  and  $f(C)$  with the edge labelled by  $s(C) \cap f(C)$ 
18.        End of if
19.        If  $n_S = n_{C'}$  Then
20.          Remove  $C'$  from  $P$ 
21.          Connect the  $s(C')$  and  $f(C')$  with the edge labelled by  $s(C') \cap f(C')$ 
22.        End of if
23.      End of if
24.    End of for
25.  End of for
26.  Return  $\mathcal{F}$ 

```

Figure 4: Maintaining a MCPF of a graph after removing a set of vertices  $X$  from an interval graph represented by a MCP.

The pseudo-code of algorithm **REMOVE**( $P, X$ ) is given in Fig. 4. The next lemma 7 states its validity and time complexity.

**Lemma 7** *Let  $P$  be a MCP of the connected interval graph  $G = (V, E)$ . The algorithm **REMOVE**( $P, X$ ) (Fig.4) computes in  $O(|X| + m_X^d)$  time a linear forest of  $G[V \setminus X]$  where each path is a MCP of the corresponding connected component.*

*Proof.* First notice that by lemma 6, when the vertices of  $X$  have been removed (lines 4 and 8),  $\mathcal{F}$  is a CDP of  $G[V \setminus X]$  (but no longer a maximal one). Let  $S$  be the intersection between two consecutive cliques  $C$  and  $C'$  of a given path  $P \in \mathcal{F}$  (w.l.o.g.  $C = f(C')$ ).



- $S = \emptyset$  ( $S$  is no longer a separator since it is empty): Since  $P$  is a CDP  $C$  and  $C'$  belongs to different connected components and  $P$  can be split into two CDPs. The first one contains the clique from the root to  $C$  while the second one is rooted at  $C'$  and contains the clique descending from  $C'$  (lines 10-13).
- $n_S = n_C$  (the case  $n_S = n_{C'}$  is similar):  $C$  is no longer a maximal clique (it is included in  $C'$ ). Therefore we can remove  $C$  from  $P$  (lines 15-22).

It follows that when  $\mathcal{F}$  has been cleaned up, any clique is a maximal clique and each new CDP is therefore a MCP. For complexity issue, since the number of copies of elements of  $X$  is  $\mathcal{O}(|X| + m_X^d)$  and each copy is touched once, removing  $X$  cost  $\mathcal{O}(|X| + m_X^d)$ . The cleaning can be done within the same complexity since (a) removing a separator or a clique costs  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ ; (b) the number of removing operations is bounded by the number of copies of elements of  $X$ .  $\square$

We now consider the maximal clique path decomposition of the induced subgraph  $G[X]$ . The pseudo-code of algorithm **EXTRACT**( $P, X$ ) is given in Fig. 5. The next lemma 8 states its validity and time complexity.

```

EXTRACT( $P, X$ )
1.   Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an empty linear forest
2.   For any  $x \in X$  Do
3.     For any clique  $C$  containing  $x$  Do
4.       If  $C$  has not been already duplicated Then
5.         Create a copy  $C' = \{x\}$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  in a new singleton CDP
6.          $n_{C'} \leftarrow 1$ 
7.       Else
8.         Let  $C'$  the existing copy of  $C$ 
9.          $C' \leftarrow C' \cup \{x\}$ 
10.         $n_{C'} \leftarrow n_{C'} + 1$ 
11.      End of if
12.    End of for
13.    For any separator  $S$  containing  $x$  Do
14.      Let  $(C_1, C_2)$  be the edge labeled by  $S$  in  $P$  (wlog  $C_1 = f(C_2)$ )
15.      If  $(C_1, C_2)$  has not been duplicated Then
16.        Create a new edge  $(C'_1, C'_2)$  labelled by  $x$ 
17.         $n_{S'} \leftarrow 1$ 
18.      Else
19.        Let  $S'$  the label of the edge  $(C'_1, C'_2)$ 
20.         $S' \leftarrow S' \cup \{x\}$ 
21.         $n_{S'} \leftarrow n_{S'} + 1$ 
22.      End of if
23.    End of for
24.  End of for
25.  Remove from  $\mathcal{F}$  any non maximal clique as in lines 15-22 of REMOVE (fig 4)
26.  Return  $\mathcal{F}$ 

```

Figure 5: Maintaining a MCPF of the induced subgraph of  $G[X]$  when extracting  $X$  from  $G$ .

**Lemma 8** *Let  $F$  be a MCP of the connected interval graph  $G = (V, E)$ . The algorithm  $\text{EXTRACT}(F, X)$  (Fig. 5) computes in  $\mathcal{O}(|X| + m_X^d)$  time a linear forest of  $G[X]$  where any path is a MCP.*

*Proof.* A similar proof than that of lemma 7 shows that a linear forest of  $G[X]$  can be computed in  $\mathcal{O}(|X| + m_X^d)$ .  $\square$

### 3.3 Smaller Induced Subgraph (SIS) algorithm

The SIS algorithm on two MCPs  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  allows us to find the smallest of the two induced subgraphs in time proportional to the size of this smallest subgraph. The difficulty comes from that the sizes of the two paths are not necessarily representative of the sizes of their induced subgraphs. It may happen that  $|P_1| < |P_2|$ , but that  $|G[V_1]| > |G[V_2]|$ , where  $V_1$  (resp.  $V_2$ ) is the set of vertices contained in the cliques of  $P_1$  (resp.  $P_2$ ).

To overcome this obstacle, we use a trick. We perform in parallel a Depth First Search (DFS) on the two paths. In “parallel” means that we read a new clique (or path node) of each MCP in alternance. During this search, we compute for each path the sums  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  of the sizes of the cliques we encountered.

At the end of this parallel DFS, the smallest MCP, say  $P_1$ , has been totally covered, and  $S_1$  is the size of its induced subgraph. If  $S_1 \leq S_2$ , the simplest case (a), the subgraph induced by  $P_1$  is smaller than that induced by  $P_2$ , and SIS returns  $P_1$ .

Otherwise, if  $S_1 > S_2$  we continue the DFS of the second path  $P_2$ , computing the new sum  $S'_2$  for each new clique encountered. Figure 6 illustrates this search.

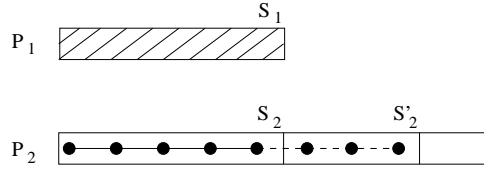


Figure 6: Continuing the Depth First Search in the longest path  $P_2$  if  $S_1 > S'_2$  while until either  $S'_2 \geq S_1$  or  $P_2$  is completely covered.

The process goes on, until, case (b), either the whole path  $P_2$  has been visited, in which case  $S'_2 \leq S_1$ , either, case (c),  $S'_2$  becomes greater than  $S_1$ . Figure 7 illustrates these two last cases.

It is obvious that SIS returns the path which represents the smallest induced graph. We prove in the next lemma 9 that its complexity only depends of the size of this smallest induced subgraph.

**Lemma 9** *Algorithm SIS applied on two paths  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  returns which of both represents the smallest induced subgraph  $G[X]$  in  $\mathcal{O}(|X| + m_X)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $c_1$  (resp.  $c_2$ ) be the number of cliques visited in  $P_1$  (resp  $c_2$ ) at the end of SIS algorithm. The total number of cliques visited is  $c_1 + c_2$ .

In case (a),  $P_1$  represents the smallest subgraph  $G[X]$  of size  $S_1 = |X| + m_X$ . The number  $c_1 + c_2$  is in this case  $2c_1$ . As  $c_1 \leq S_1$  (lemma 5), the complexity of SIS is  $\mathcal{O}(|X| + m_X)$ .

In case (b),  $S'_2 \leq S_1$ . The path  $P_1$  represents the smallest subgraph  $G[X]$  of size  $S'_2 = |X| + m_X$ . Therefore SIS returns  $P_2$ . As the first DFS stopped first w.l.o.g on  $P_1$ ,  $c_2 > c_1$ , and, as  $c_2 \leq S'_2$  (lemma 5),  $c_1 + c_2 < 2S'_2$  and the complexity of SIS is  $O(|X| + m_X)$ .

In case (c), the path  $P_1$  represents the smallest subgraph  $G[X]$  of size  $S_1 = |X| + m_X$ . As  $c_2 \leq S_1 + 1$ ,  $c_1 + c_2 \leq 2S_1 + 1$  and the complexity of SIS is  $O(|X| + m_X)$ .  $\square$

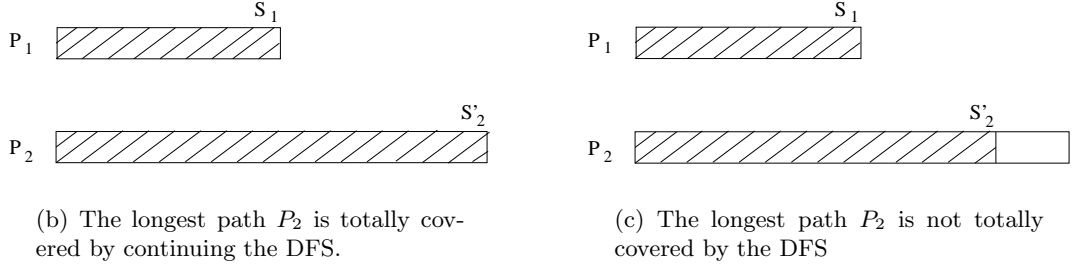


Figure 7: Two ending cases when continuing the DFS on the longest path  $P_2$ . In the first case (a), the DFS covers all the vertices of  $P_2$ . Then as  $S'_2 \leq S_1$ , SIS returns  $P_2$ . In the second case, at most  $S_1$  vertices of  $P_2$  have been visited by the DFS without exploring all the tree. Then SIS returns  $P_1$ .

## 4 The whole CCP algorithm for interval graphs

The whole CCP algorithm for interval graphs (CCPI-Algorithm) is shown on figure 8. The algorithm takes as input two lists  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are respectively the clique forest decompositions of the two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . It outputs a partition of the common vertex set. At lines 5 and 7, it looks for a connected component  $C$  whose size is at most half of the size of the corresponding graph. By lemma 9, it can be done in time proportional to the connected component. Let  $P$  be the CDP of  $C$ . W.l.o.g. we assume that  $C$  is a connected component of  $G_1$  and  $P$  is the first CDP of  $L_1$ . Lines 11 and 12 compute the four subgraphs on which the recursive calls will be done. Using  $\text{EXTRACT}(L_2, P)$  and  $\text{REMOVE}(L_2, P)$  we compute the subgraphs of  $G_2$  respectively induced by the vertices  $V_P$  belonging to the cliques of  $P$  and  $V \setminus V_P$ . As seen in Lemmas 8 and 7, it can be done in  $\mathcal{O}(|V_P| + m_{V_P}^d)$ .

**Theorem 1** *The CCPI-algorithm applied on  $\text{MCPF}(G_1)$  and  $\text{MCPF}(G_2)$  correctly identifies the common connected components of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ .*

*Proof.* The CCPI-Algorithm fully respects the general algorithm framework described in section 2. Indeed lemmas 8 and 7 ensures that the recursive calls are done on the right subgraphs. The only difference is that we now choose which maximal component we extract first.  $\square$

To analyse its complexity, we use an amortized argument that is common to many Hopcroft like approach, but did not appear in the original paper [17]. To our knowledge, it is due to [6].

**Theorem 2** *The CCPI-Algorithm is worst case  $\mathcal{O}((n + m) \log n)$  time .*

```

CCPI-Algorithm( $L_1, L_2$ )
1.   If  $|L_1| = 1$  and  $|L_2| = 1$  Then
2.     Return  $\mathcal{P} = \{V\}$           /* $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are both connected*/
3.   Else
4.     If  $|L_1| \geq 2$  Then
5.        $P \leftarrow \text{SIS}(L_1[1], L_1[2])$     /* $G_1$  is not connected*/
6.     Else
7.        $P \leftarrow \text{SIS}(L_2[1], L_2[2])$     /* $G_2$  is not connected*/
8.     End of if
9.     /* we assume below w.l.o.g that  $P = L_1[1]$  */
10.     $L'_1 \leftarrow P$ ;           $L''_1 \leftarrow L_1 \setminus P$ 
11.     $L'_2 \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT}(L_2, V[P])$ ;   $L''_2 \leftarrow \text{REMOVE}(L_2, V[P])$ 
12.    Let  $\mathcal{P}' = \text{CCP-Algorithm}(L'_1, L'_2)$ 
13.    Let  $\mathcal{P}'' = \text{CCP-Algorithm}(L''_1, L''_2)$ 
14.    Return  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}' \cup \mathcal{P}''$ 
15.  End of if

```

Figure 8: Recursive algorithm to compute the partition of the vertex set into common connected components of two interval graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  represented respectively by the MCPF  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ .

*Proof.* We first focus on the number of times a vertex  $x$  and a transition  $(y, z)$  may participate to EXTRACT and REMOVE. W.l.o.g., let  $S_1$  be the size of the subgraph of  $G_1$  at the beginning of a recursive call of CCCIA. If a maximal connected component of  $G_1$  is extracted through its MCP  $P$ , then the size of the induced subgraph of  $P$  is less than or equal to  $S_1/2$ . This is straightforward since  $P$  has been isolated through SIS as the smallest of the two induced subgraphs. By induction, if  $x$  and  $(y, z)$  participate to many EXTRACT and REMOVE, they are contained in subgraphs whose sizes is divided at least by two at each recursive call. Therefore, they may only participate to  $\log(n+m)$  EXTRACT and REMOVE calls.

Secondly, we amortized the cost of each EXTRACT and REMOVE of a path  $P$  on all the vertices and edges of the induced subgraph of  $P$ . The complexity of EXTRACT and REMOVE (lemmas 8 and 7) for extracting a set  $X$  out of a graph  $G$  is  $|X| + m_G^d(X)$ . We amortize the cost  $|X|$  over each vertex of  $X$ , and therefore a vertex  $x \in X$  participates for a constant amount of time. The term  $m_G^d(X)$  is amortized over the edges. As an edge  $(x, y)$  may be visited when considering  $x$  and when considering  $y$ , an edge can be visited only twice and consecutively participates for a constant amount of time.

In consequence, each vertex or each edge cost at most  $\log(n+m)$ . This leads to an overall complexity of  $\mathcal{O}((n+m)\log(n+m))$ . As in the worst case,  $m = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$ , the final complexity is  $\mathcal{O}((n+m)\log n)$  worst case time.  $\square$

The space complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(n+m)$ , since the two MCPFs are space linear in  $n+m$  and that the recursive call of CCCIA algorithm can be managed with a list of at least  $\mathcal{O}(\log(n+m))$  pointers on the MCPFs.

## 5 Conclusion

We presented an  $\mathcal{O}((n+m)\log n)$  worst case time and space complexity for solving the CCP problem on interval graphs. Let us recall that in the general case, the best algorithm runs in  $\mathcal{O}(n\log n + m\log^2 n)$  [9]. The algorithm combines an Hopcroft partitioning approach with a maintenance of a spanning clique forest decomposition of the two graphs. Designing faster algorithms or proving a lower bound for CCP remains open, on interval and general graphs. It is worthwhile to notice that even on chordal graph the general upper bound can still not be improved.

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