

# Local certification of forbidden subgraphs

Nicolas Bousquet, Linda Cook, Laurent Feuilloley, Théo Pierron, Sébastien Zeitoun

February 26, 2025



Université Claude Bernard



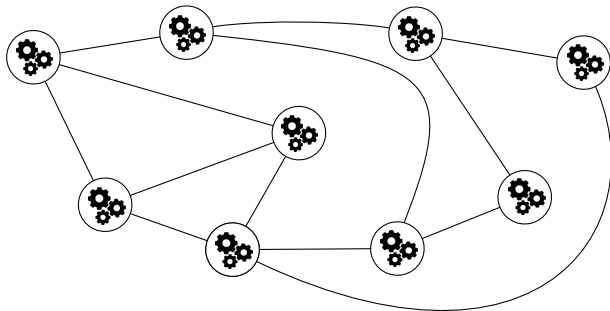
Lyon 1

# Local certification

## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

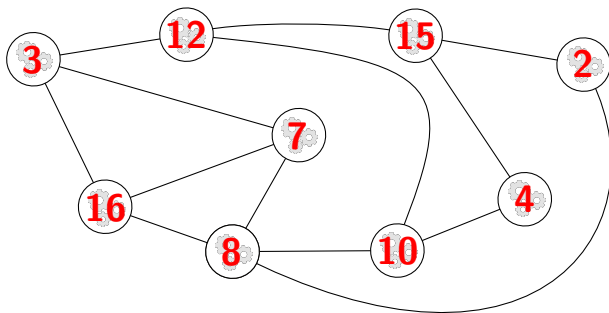
Model: graph,  $\begin{cases} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{cases}$



## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

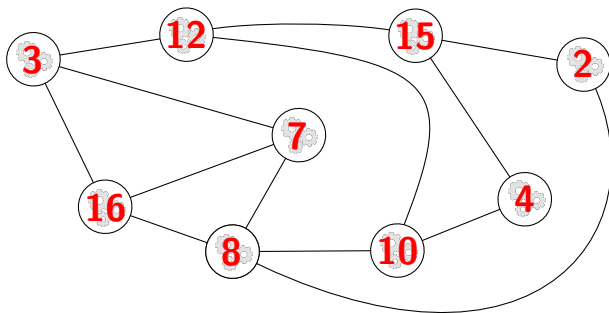


## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**

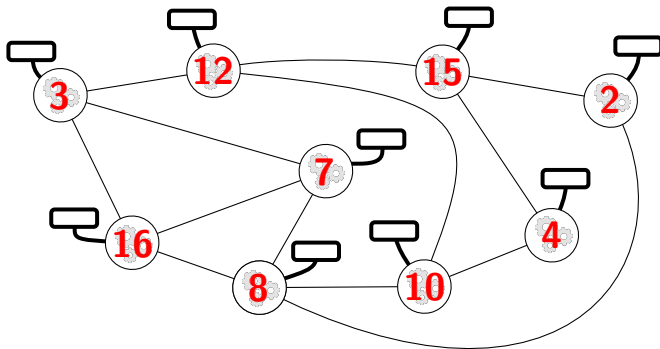


## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**

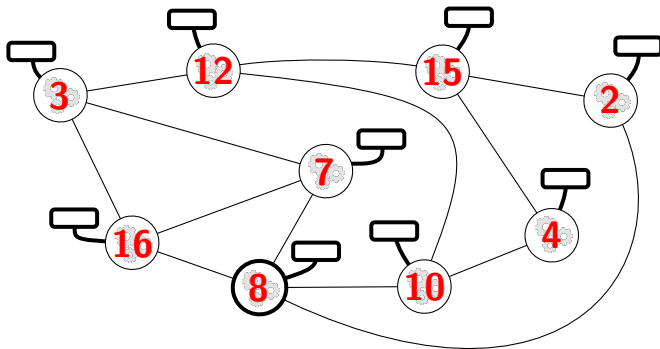


## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**

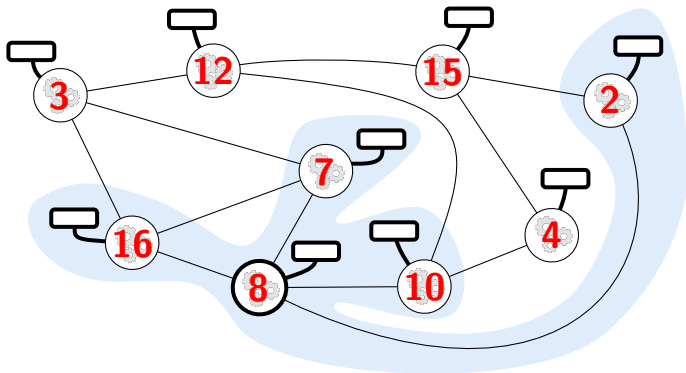


## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**



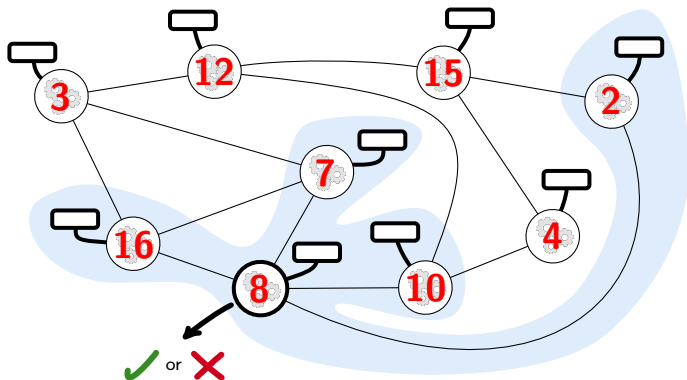


## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\begin{cases} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{cases}$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**

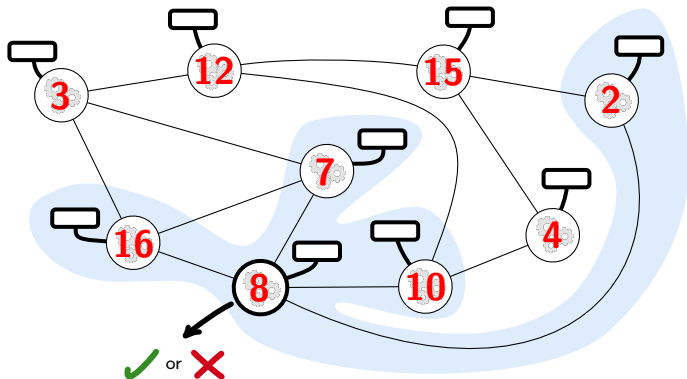


## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**



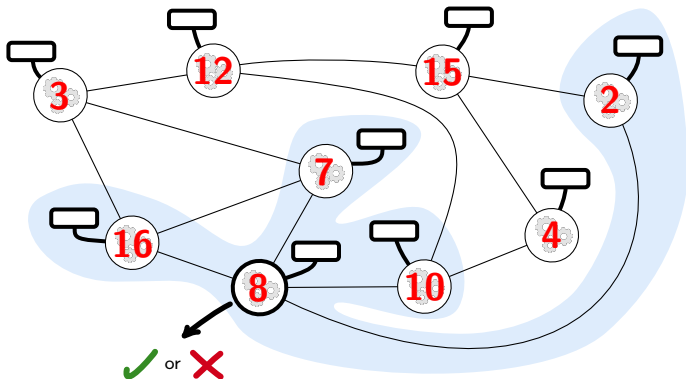
Graph (globally) accepted  $\iff$  all the vertices accept (**consensus**)

## Local certification

Context: distributed computing

Model: graph,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{vertices} = \text{computation units} \longrightarrow \text{have unique identifiers in } \{1, \dots, n^c\} \\ \text{edges} = \text{communication channels} \end{array} \right.$

Goal: verify **locally** a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , thanks to **certificates**

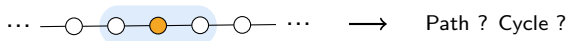


Graph (globally) accepted  $\iff$  all the vertices accept (**consensus**)

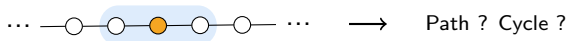
$G$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P} \iff$  there exists an assignment of the certificates such that  $G$  is accepted

Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?

## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?

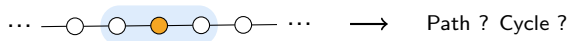


## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.

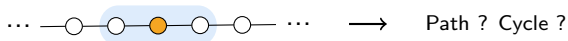
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



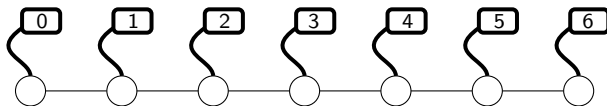
**Certificate = distance** to a fixed endpoint.



## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?

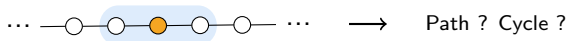


Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.

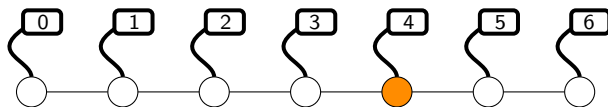




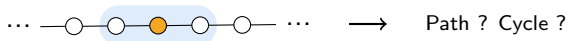
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



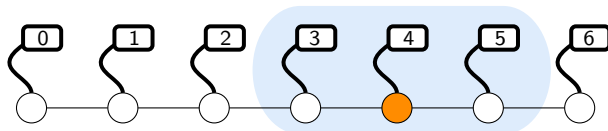
Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.



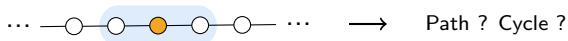
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



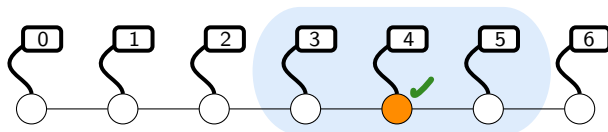
Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.



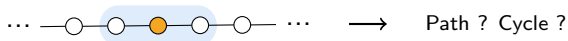
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



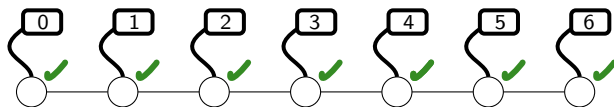
Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.



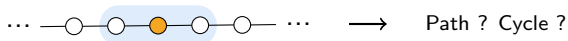
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



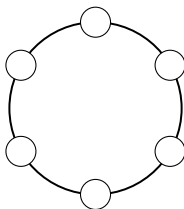
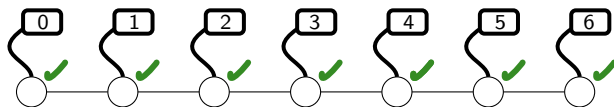
Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.



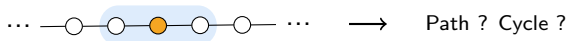
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



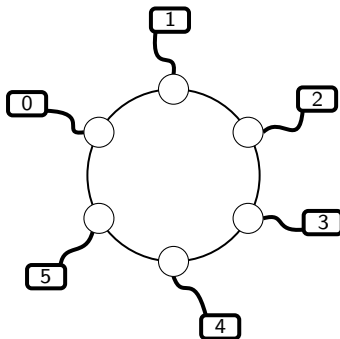
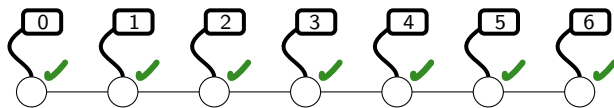
**Certificate** = distance to a fixed endpoint.



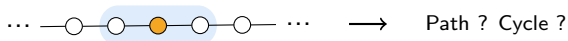
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



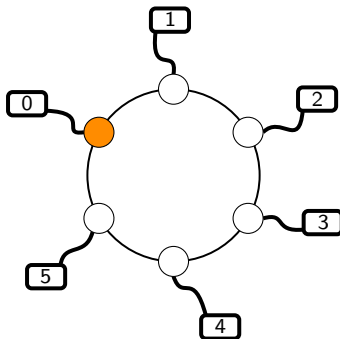
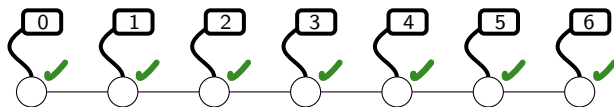
**Certificate** = distance to a fixed endpoint.



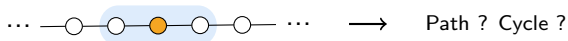
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



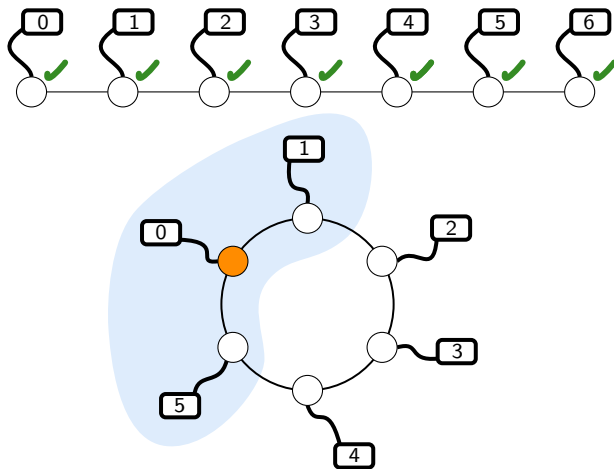
**Certificate** = distance to a fixed endpoint.



## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?

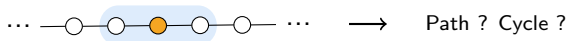


Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.

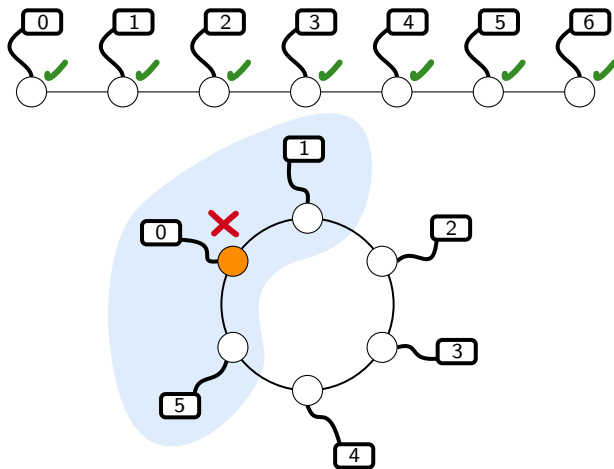




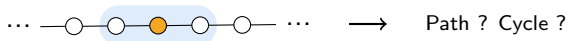
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



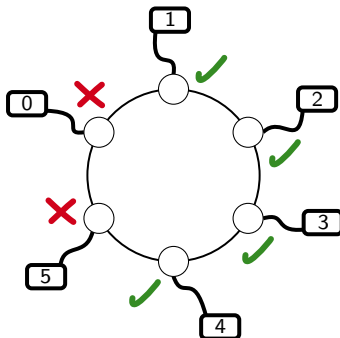
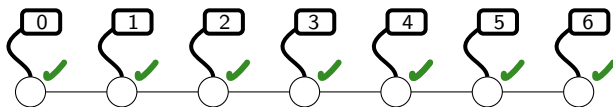
Certificate = distance to a fixed endpoint.



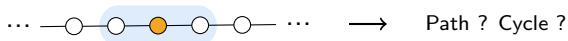
## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



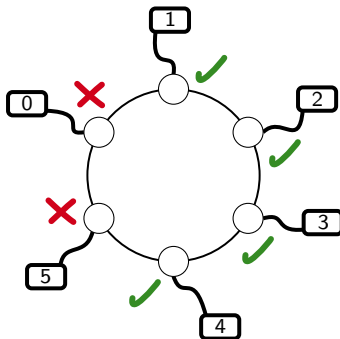
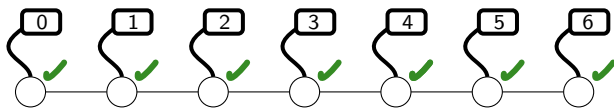
**Certificate** = distance to a fixed endpoint.



## Example 1: how to certify that a graph is a path ?



**Certificate** = distance to a fixed endpoint.



Size of the certificates:  $\lceil \log n \rceil$

Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

## Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

Verification:

- all vertices check the correctness of the spanning-tree
- the root checks it has degree 3

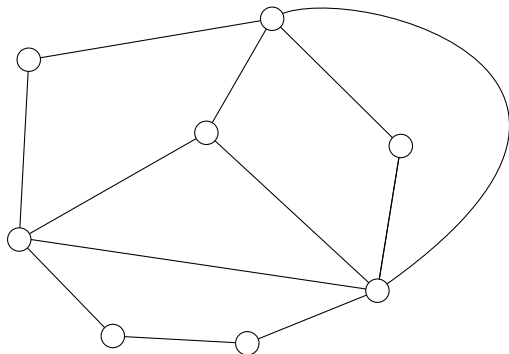
Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

Verification:

- all vertices check the correctness of the spanning-tree
- the root checks it has degree 3





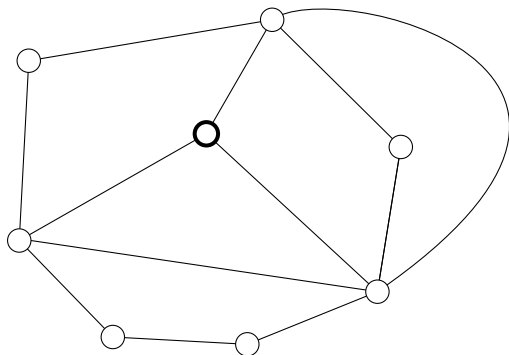
## Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

Verification: 

- all vertices check the correctness of the spanning-tree
- the root checks it has degree 3



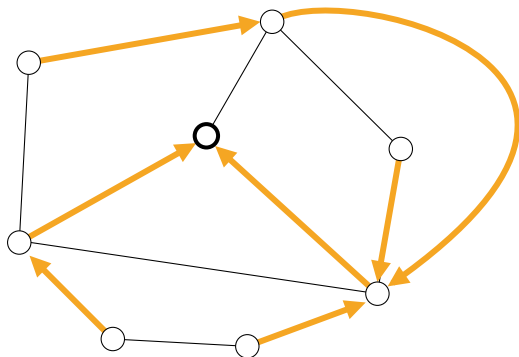
## Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

Verification: 

- all vertices check the correctness of the spanning-tree
- the root checks it has degree 3



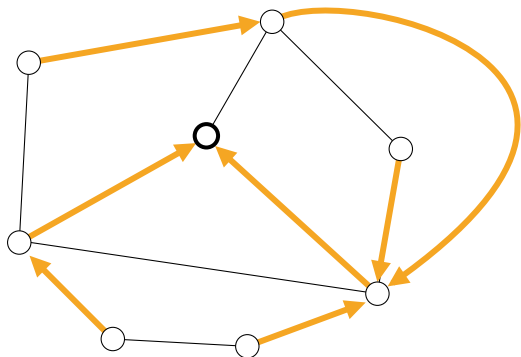
## Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

Verification:

- all vertices check the correctness of the spanning-tree
- the root checks it has degree 3



In the certificate of every vertex, write:

- the identifier of the root
- the identifier of its parent
- its distance to the root

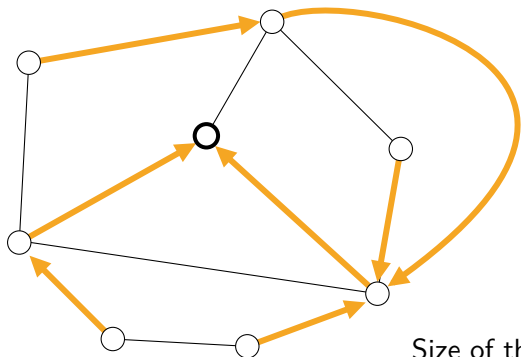
## Example 2: how to certify that a graph has a vertex of degree 3?

Idea: code a **rooted spanning-tree** in the certificate.

Root = some vertex of degree 3.

Verification:

- all vertices check the correctness of the spanning-tree
- the root checks it has degree 3



In the certificate of every vertex, write:

- the identifier of the root
- the identifier of its parent
- its distance to the root

Size of the certificates :  $O(\log n)$

What is the minimum size of the certificates ?

What is the minimum size of the certificates ?

Usual parameter:  $n$  (number of vertices in the graph)

## What is the minimum size of the certificates ?

Usual parameter:  $n$  (number of vertices in the graph)

### Theorem

Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^2)$ .

↪ idea: write the full graph in the certificate of each vertex

## What is the minimum size of the certificates ?

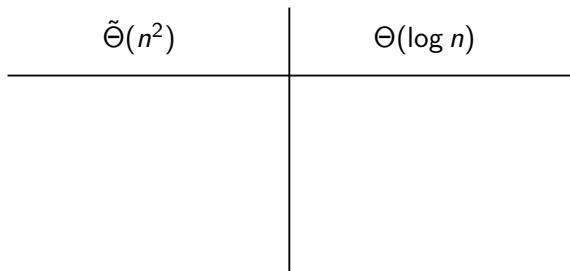
Usual parameter:  $n$  (number of vertices in the graph)

### Theorem

Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^2)$ .

↪ idea: write the full graph in the certificate of each vertex

Typical size of certificates :





## What is the minimum size of the certificates ?

Usual parameter:  $n$  (number of vertices in the graph)

### Theorem

Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^2)$ .

↪ idea: write the full graph in the certificate of each vertex

Typical size of certificates :

$\tilde{\Theta}(n^2)$	$\Theta(\log n)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Non-3-colorability</li><li>▪ Non-trivial automorphism</li></ul>	

## What is the minimum size of the certificates ?

Usual parameter:  $n$  (number of vertices in the graph)

### Theorem

Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^2)$ .

↪ idea: write the full graph in the certificate of each vertex

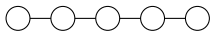
Typical size of certificates :

$\tilde{O}(n^2)$	$\Theta(\log n)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Non-3-colorability</li><li>▪ Non-trivial automorphism</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Paths</li><li>▪ Trees</li><li>▪ Planar graphs</li></ul>

Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains  $H$  as induced subgraph ?

Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains  $H$  as induced subgraph ?

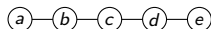
$$H = P_5$$



Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains  $H$  as induced subgraph ?

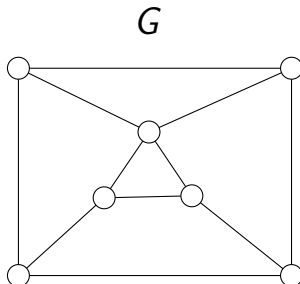
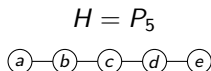
- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .

$$H = P_5$$



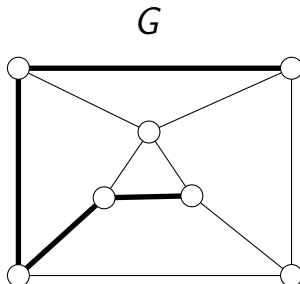
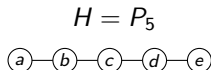
### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .



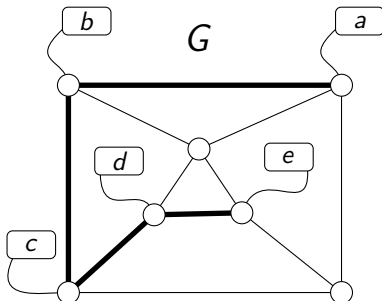
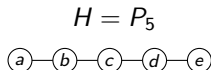
### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .



### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

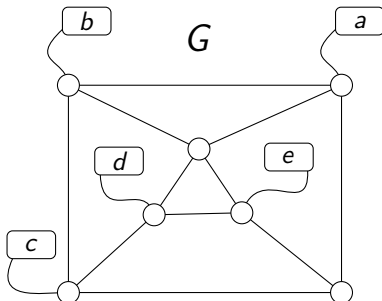
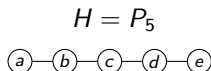
- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).





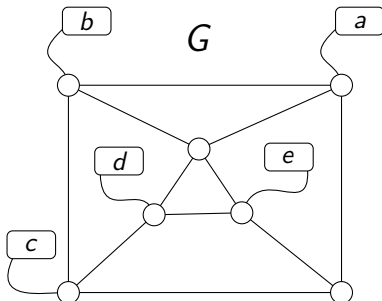
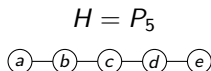
### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.



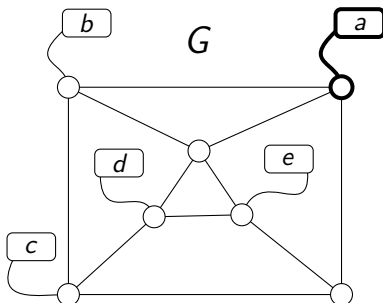
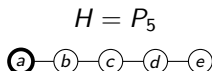
### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !



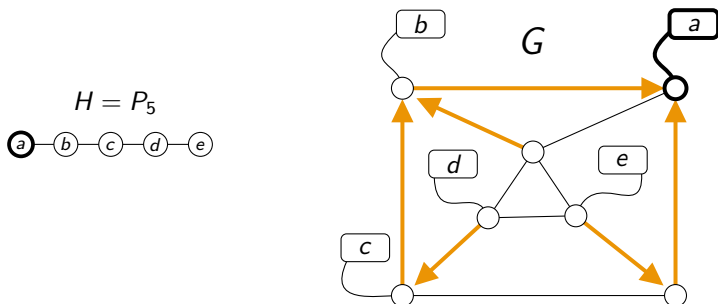
### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !



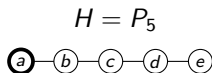
### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !

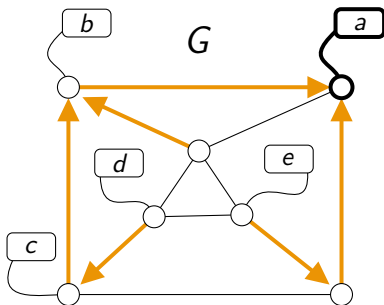


### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !

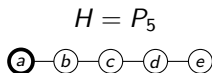


Size of the certificates :  
 $O(\log n)$

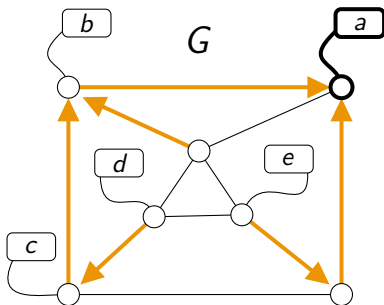


### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !



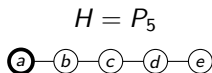
Size of the certificates :  
 $O(\log n)$



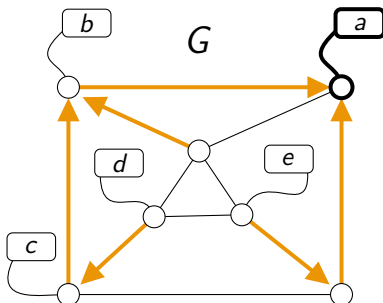
**Question : what about the certification of the complementary property ( $H$ -freeness)?**

### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !

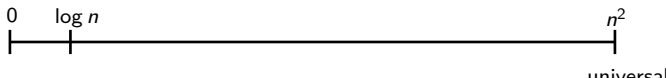


Size of the certificates :  
 $O(\log n)$



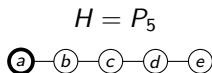
**Question : what about the certification of the complementary property ( $H$ -freeness)?**

We will show : linear lower bounds and subquadratic upper bounds.

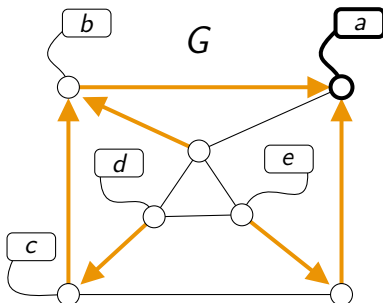


### Example 3: how to certify that a graph contains $H$ as induced subgraph ?

- Fix a name for each vertex of  $H$ .
- Tell every vertex of  $G$  to which vertex of  $H$  it corresponds (if any).
- For every vertex of  $H$ , certify that there is exactly one vertex of  $G$  which corresponds to it.  $\rightarrow$  use a **spanning-tree** !



Size of the certificates :  
 $O(\log n)$



**Question : what about the certification of the complementary property ( $H$ -freeness)?**

We will show : linear lower bounds and subquadratic upper bounds.





**Lower bounds**

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

↪ size =  $\Theta(n^2)$

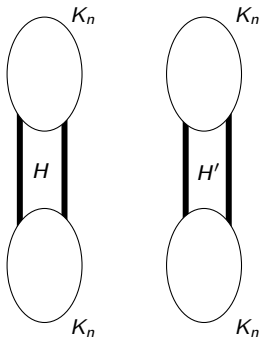
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

↪ size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



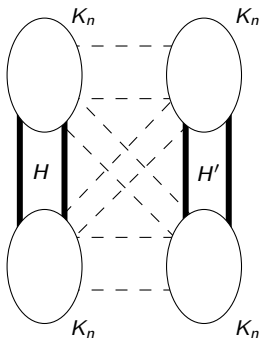
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

↪ size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



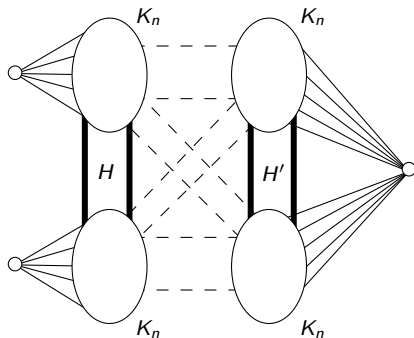
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

size =  $\Theta(n^2)$





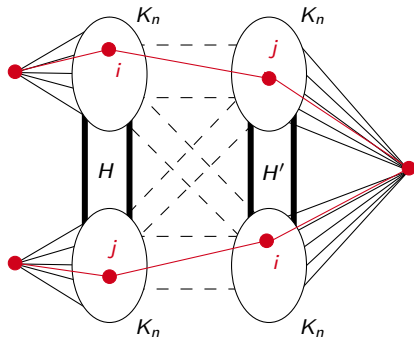
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



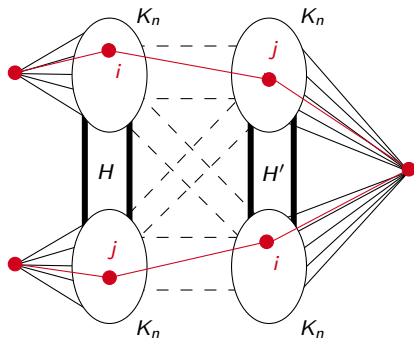
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



$\exists P_7 \iff H \text{ and } H' \text{ have a common non-edge}$

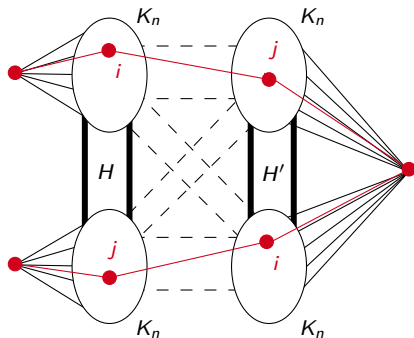
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



$\exists P_7 \iff H \text{ and } H' \text{ have a common non-edge}$

$P_7\text{-free} \iff \overline{H} \cap \overline{H'} = \emptyset$

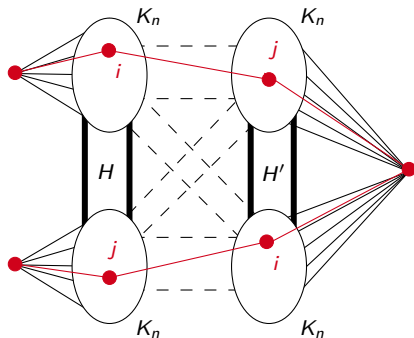
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



$\exists P_7 \iff H \text{ and } H' \text{ have a common non-edge}$

$P_7\text{-free} \iff \overline{H} \cap \overline{H'} = \emptyset$

In the certificates,  $\Theta(n^2)$  bits of information have to be transmitted through  $O(n)$  vertices

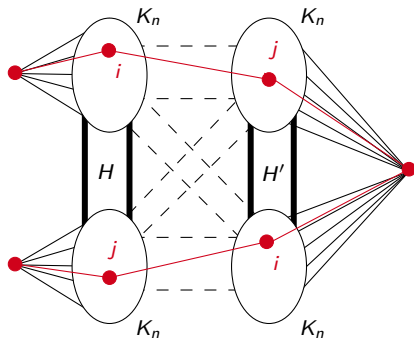
## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega(n)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_7$ -free.

$H, H'$  bipartite graphs with  $n$  vertices on each side

size =  $\Theta(n^2)$



$\exists P_7 \iff H \text{ and } H' \text{ have a common non-edge}$

$P_7\text{-free} \iff \overline{H} \cap \overline{H'} = \emptyset$

In the certificates,  $\Theta(n^2)$  bits of information have to be transmitted through  $O(n)$  vertices  $\implies$  certificates of size  $\Omega(n)$

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d+3}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d+3}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

View of a vertex = all the information available at distance  $\leq d$ :

- vertices (and their identifiers)
- edges
- certificates

## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

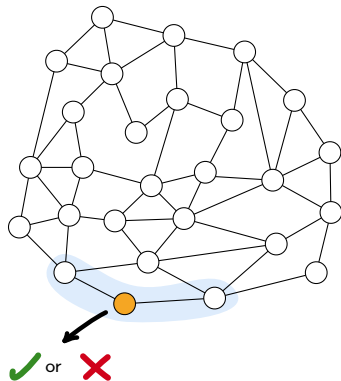
Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d+3}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

View of a vertex = all the information available at distance  $\leq d$ :

- vertices (and their identifiers)
- edges
- certificates

$d = 1$





## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

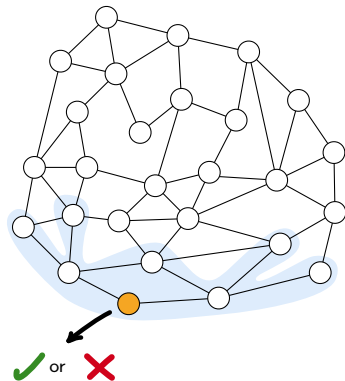
Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d+3}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

View of a vertex = all the information available at distance  $\leq d$ :

- vertices (and their identifiers)
- edges
- certificates

$d = 2$



## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

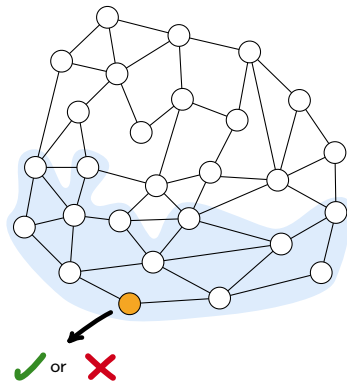
Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d+3}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

View of a vertex = all the information available at distance  $\leq d$ :

- vertices (and their identifiers)
- edges
- certificates

$d = 3$



## Certification of $P_k$ -freeness: lower bound

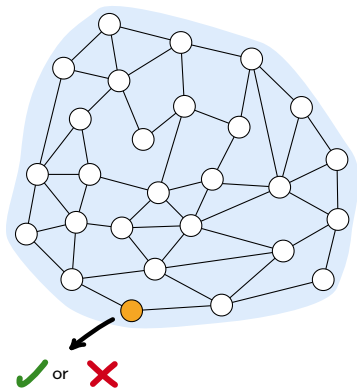
Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\Omega\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$  bits are necessary to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d+3}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

View of a vertex = all the information available at distance  $\leq d$ :

- vertices (and their identifiers)
- edges
- certificates

$d = 6$



## Upper bounds

# Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$

## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex



## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex



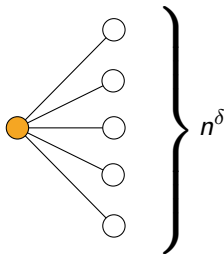
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex



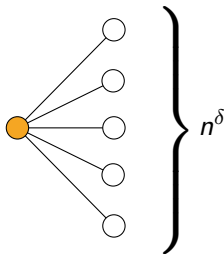
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**



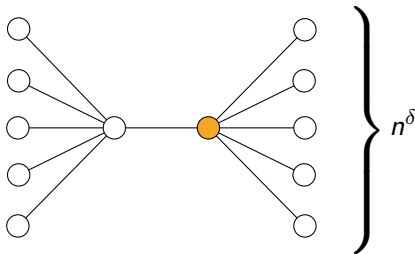
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**



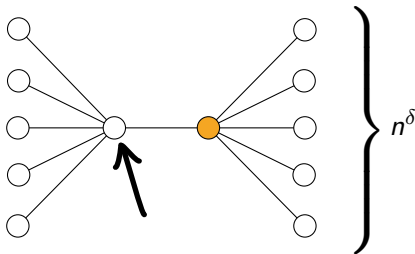
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**



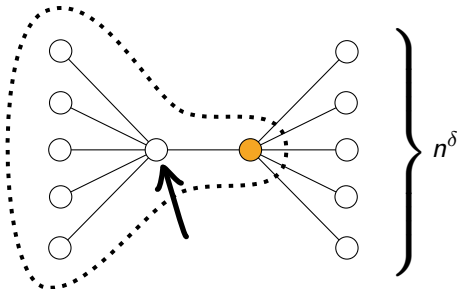
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**



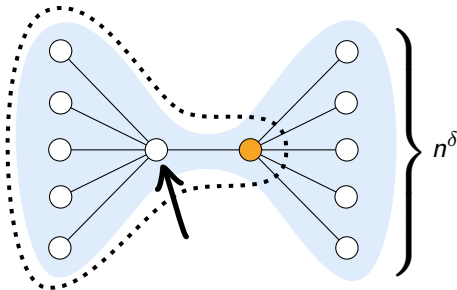
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**



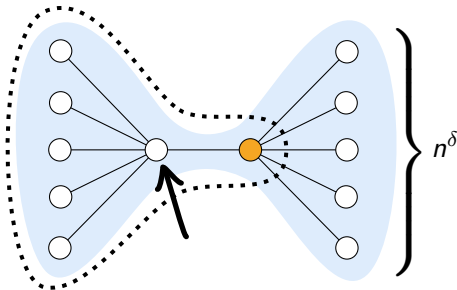
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**
- each vertex checks that it is the **same reconstructed graph for all its neighbors**





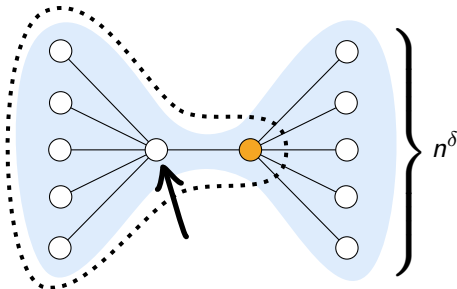
## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**
- each vertex checks that it is the **same reconstructed graph for all its neighbors**
- each vertex checks that its neighborhood is correctly written in this graph



## Certification in graphs of minimum degree $O(n^\delta)$

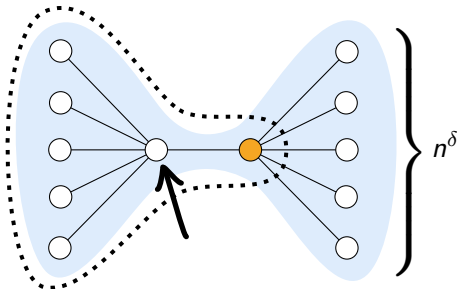
### Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

Let  $\delta < 1$ . Any property can be certified with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\delta} \log n)$  in graphs of minimum degree  $n^\delta$ , if vertices can see at distance 2.

Idea of the proof:

- cut the information of the graph in  $n^\delta$  pieces of size  $O(n^{2-\delta})$
- give well-chosen  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- each vertex checks that it sees all the pieces in its neighborhood, and **reconstructs the graph**
- each vertex checks that it is the **same reconstructed graph for all its neighbors**
- each vertex checks that its neighborhood is correctly written in this graph

$\implies$  every vertex knows  $G$



# Upper bound for path-freeness certification

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification


Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)


$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- 
- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)


$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- 
- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
  - if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

**Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)**

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- 
- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
  - if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges


$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$

$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

**Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)**

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- 
- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
  - if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$

$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$


- give  $G[V^-]$  to every vertex



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

**Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)**

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- 
- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
  - if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$


$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$

- give  $G[V^-]$  to every vertex
- cut  $G$  in  $\sqrt{n}$  pieces of size  $n^{3/2}$  and give  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

**Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)**

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- 
- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
  - if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$

$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$

- give  $G[V^-]$  to every vertex
  - cut  $G$  in  $\sqrt{n}$  pieces of size  $n^{3/2}$  and give  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- } <sup>size</sup>  $\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

**Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)**

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
- if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$

$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$

- give  $G[V^-]$  to every vertex
  - cut  $G$  in  $\sqrt{n}$  pieces of size  $n^{3/2}$  and give  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- } size  $\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

$u \in V^-$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $u$  knows  $G[V^-]$

$u \in V^+$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $u$  knows  $G[V^-]$

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

**Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)**

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
- if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$

$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$

- give  $G[V^-]$  to every vertex
  - cut  $G$  in  $\sqrt{n}$  pieces of size  $n^{3/2}$  and give  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- } size  $\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

$u \in V^-$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $u$  knows  $G[V^-]$

$u \in V^+$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $u$  knows  $G[V^-]$   
and  
 $u$  sees all the pieces of the  $G$  in its neighborhood, so it can reconstruct  $G$

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Theorem (Bousquet, Cook, Feuilloley, Pierron, Z.)

$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  bits are sufficient to certify that a graph is  $P_{4d-1}$ -free, if vertices can see at distance  $d$ .

- if all vertices have degree  $\geq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok by previous Theorem
- if all vertices have degree  $\leq \sqrt{n} \rightarrow$  ok because  $G$  has at most  $\leq n^{3/2}$  edges

$V^- :=$  vertices of degree  $< \sqrt{n}$

$V^+ :=$  vertices of degree  $\geq \sqrt{n}$

- give  $G[V^-]$  to every vertex
  - cut  $G$  in  $\sqrt{n}$  pieces of size  $n^{3/2}$  and give  $O(\log n)$  pieces to every vertex
- } size  $\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

$u \in V^-$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $u$  knows  $G[V^-]$

$u \in V^+$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $u$  knows  $G[V^-]$   
and  
 $u$  sees all the pieces of the  $G$  in its neighborhood, so it can reconstruct  $G$

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

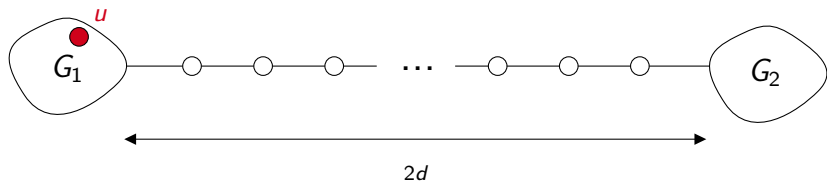
Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\longrightarrow$  **in general : no.**

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

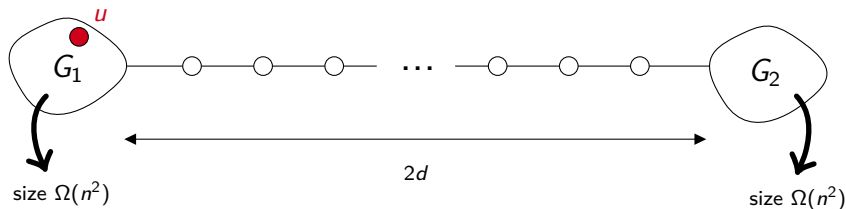
Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**





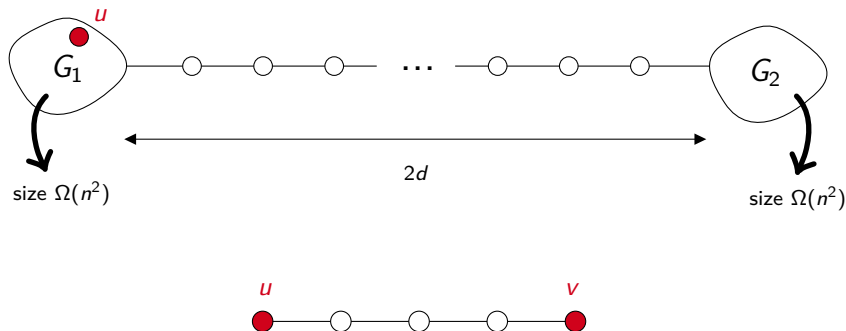
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



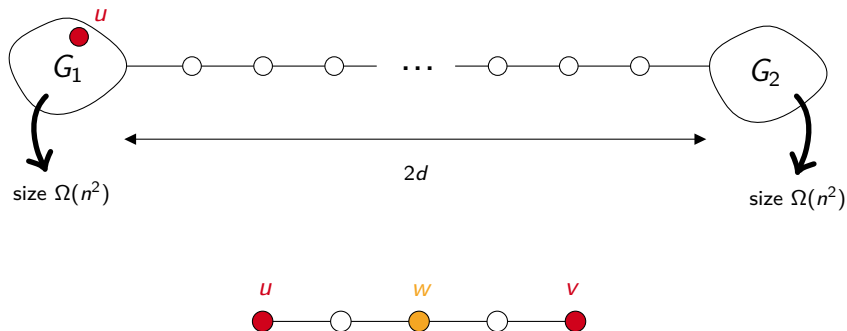
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



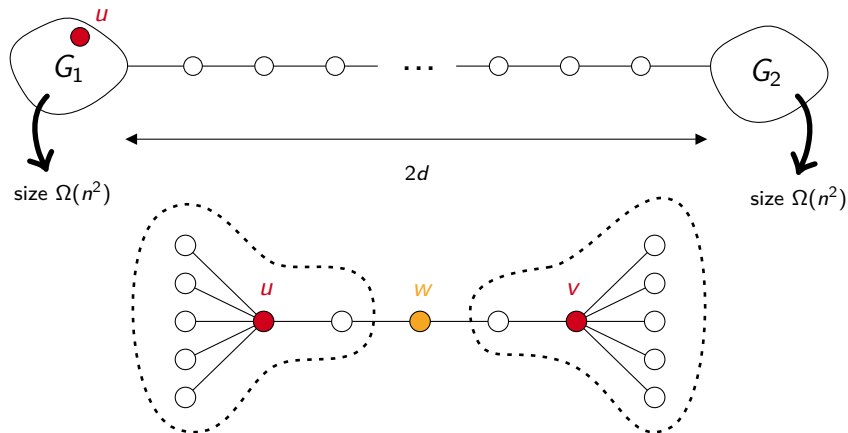
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



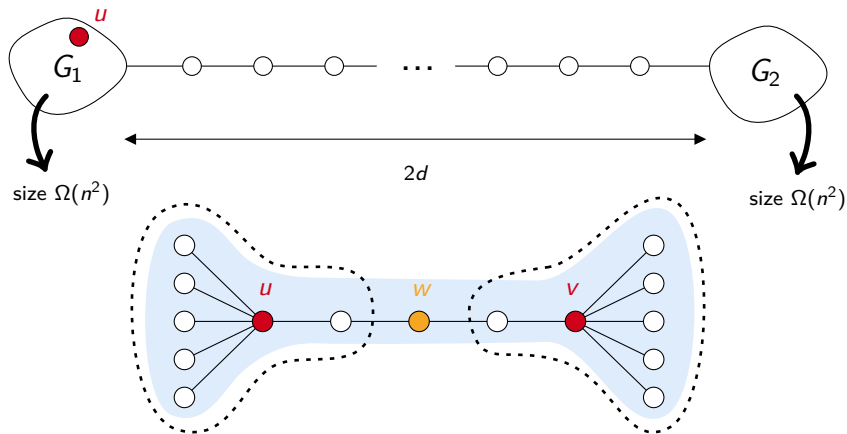
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



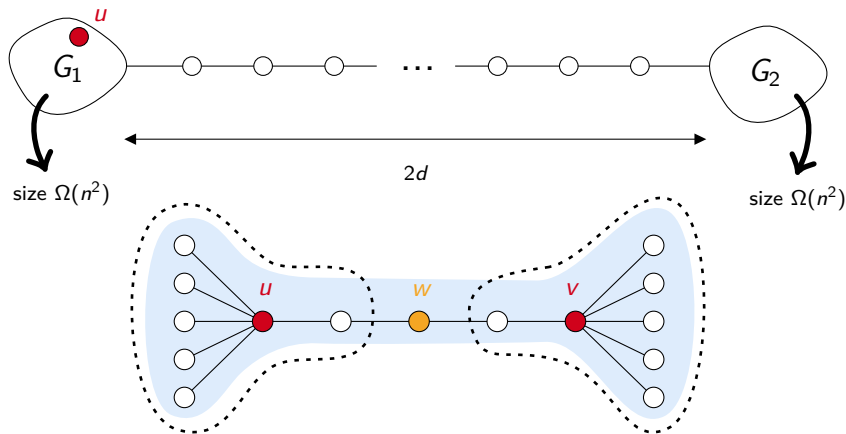
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

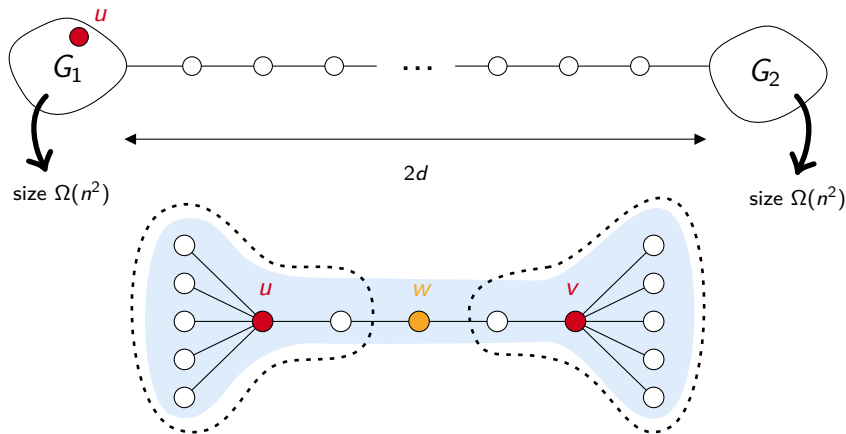
Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



$d(u, v) \leq 2d - 2 \implies u$  and  $v$  reconstruct the same graph

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

Main challenge : if  $u \in V^+$ , is it possible for  $u$  to verify that it reconstructed the correct graph  $G$  ?  $\rightarrow$  **in general : no.**



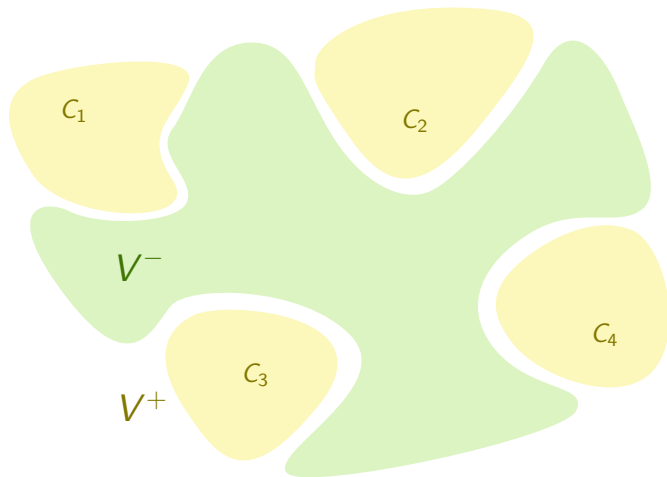
$d(u, v) \leq 2d - 2 \implies u$  and  $v$  reconstruct the same graph

Partition  $V^+$  into **components**: set of vertices which reconstruct the same graph

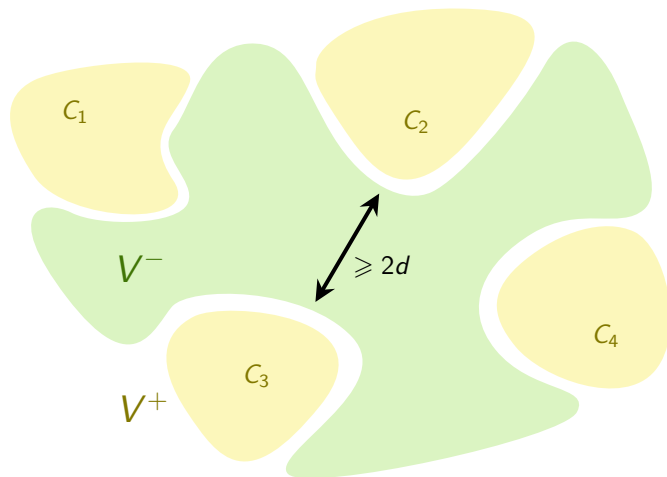
# Upper bound for path-freeness certification



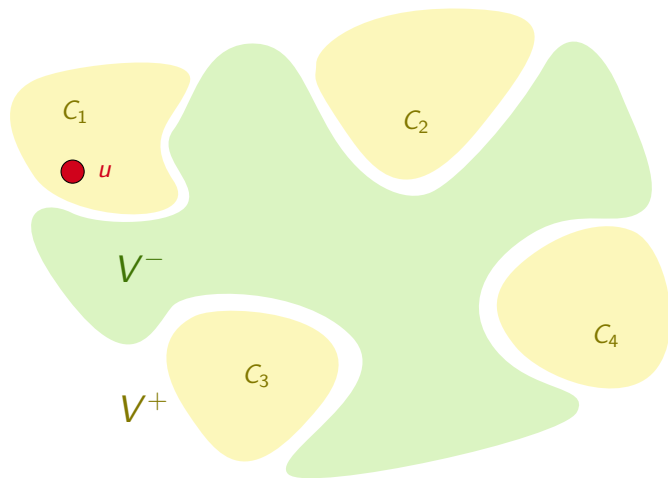
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification



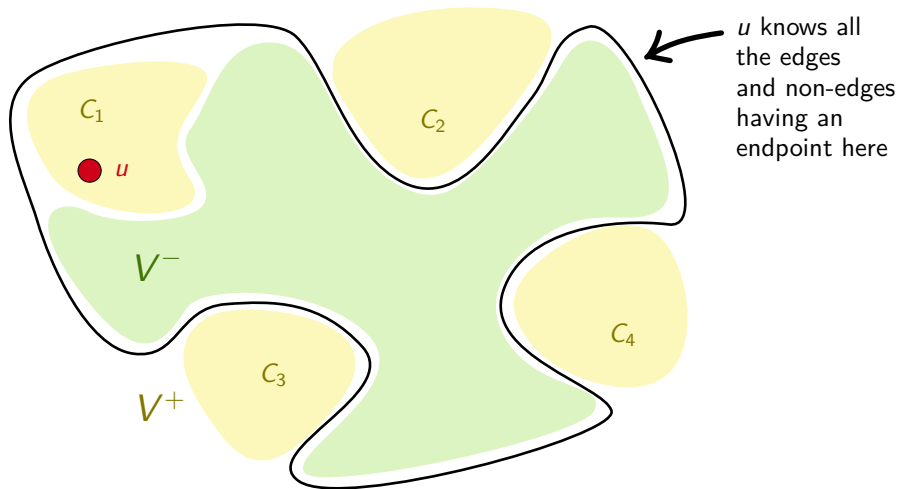
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification



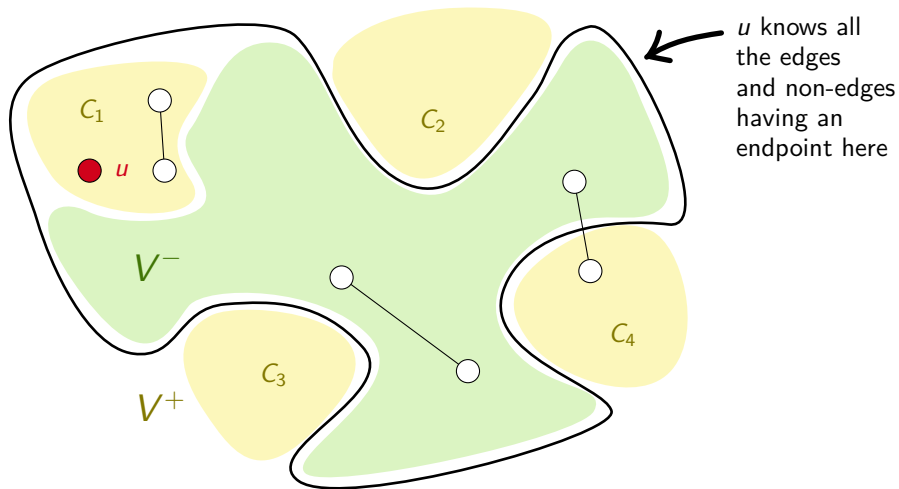
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification



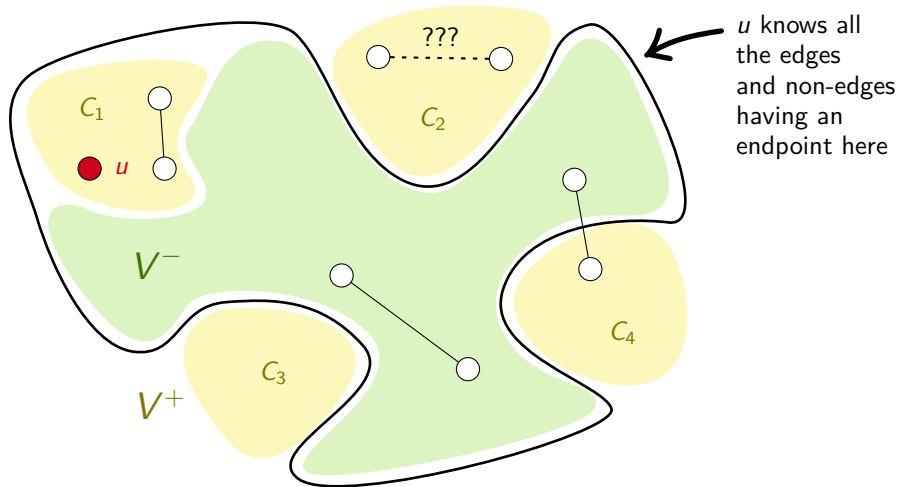
## Upper bound for path-freeness certification



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

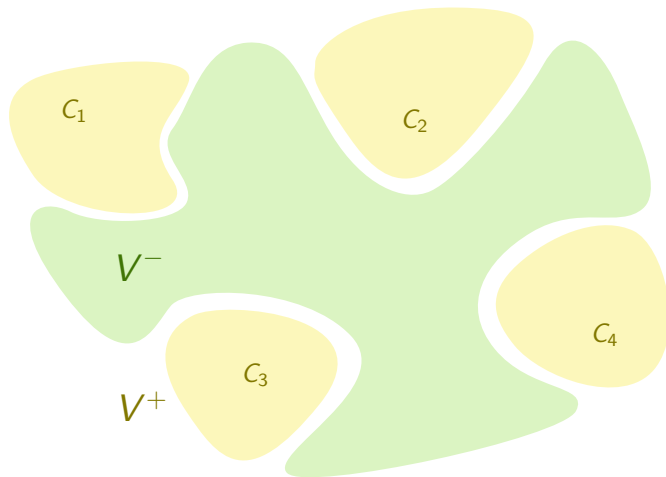


## Upper bound for path-freeness certification



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

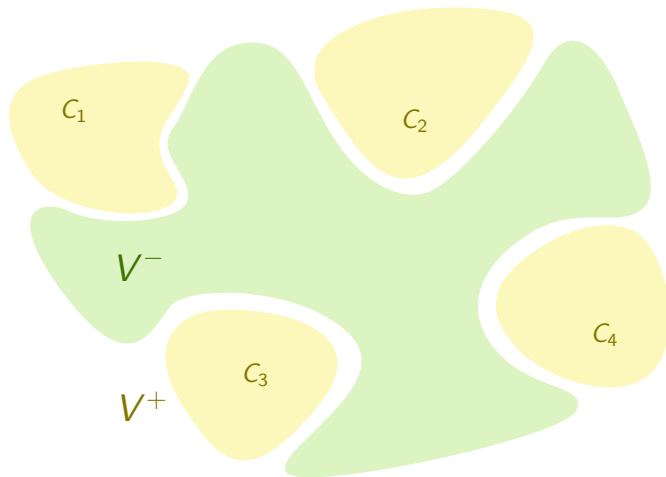
If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 1:  $P_{4d-1}$  is included in  $V^-$ .

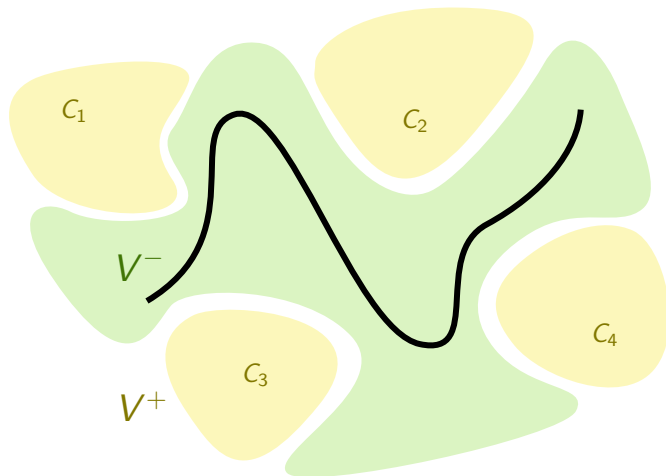




## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

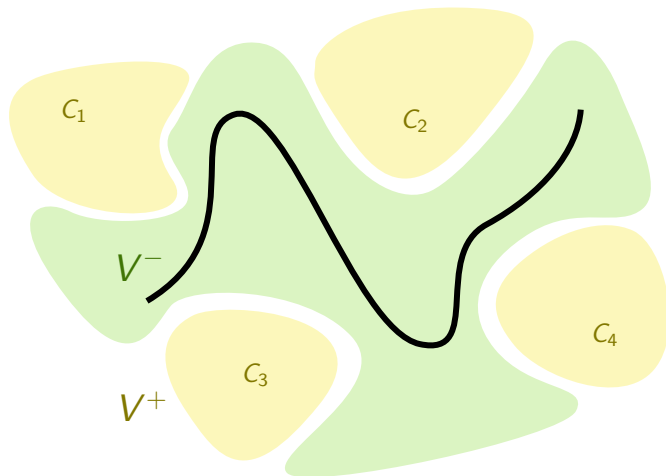
Case 1:  $P_{4d-1}$  is included in  $V^-$ .



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 1:  $P_{4d-1}$  is included in  $V^-$ .

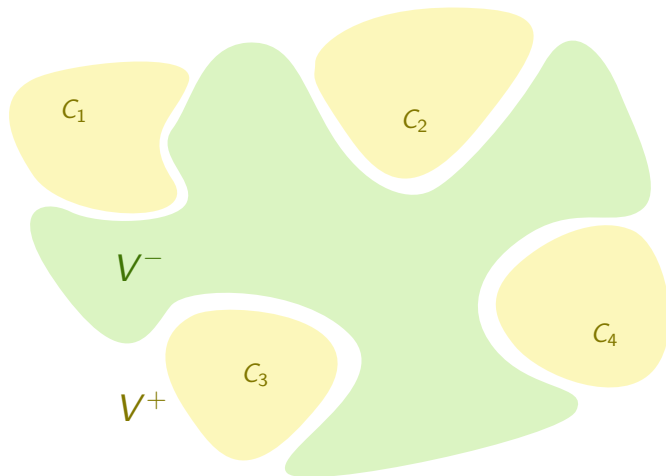


Every vertex detects it !

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

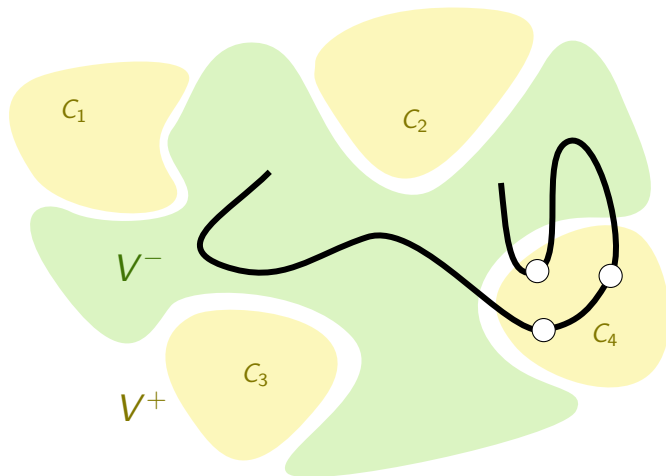
Case 2: exactly one component intersects  $P_{4d-1}$ .



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

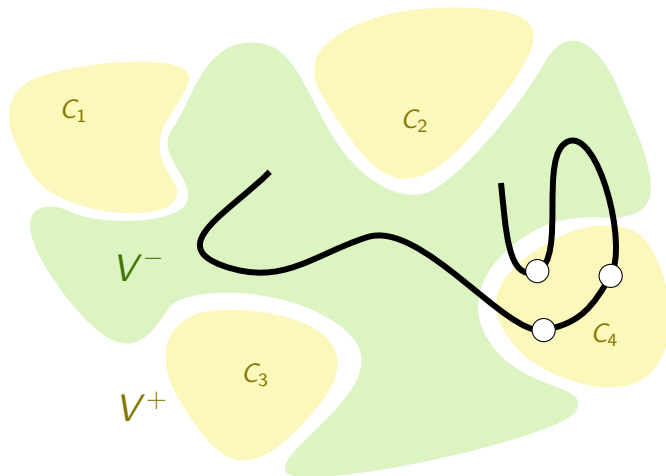
Case 2: exactly one component intersects  $P_{4d-1}$ .



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 2: exactly one component intersects  $P_{4d-1}$ .

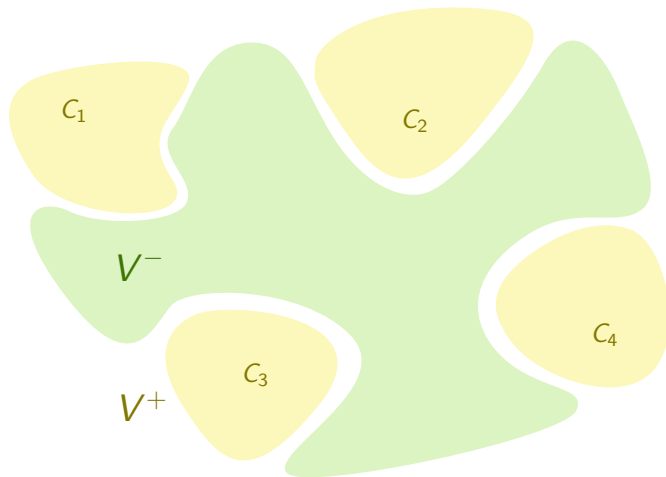


Every vertex in  $C_4$  detects it !

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

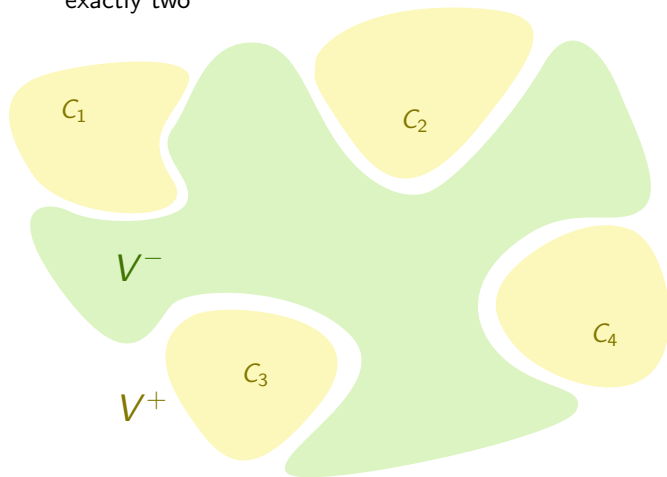
Case 3: at least two components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

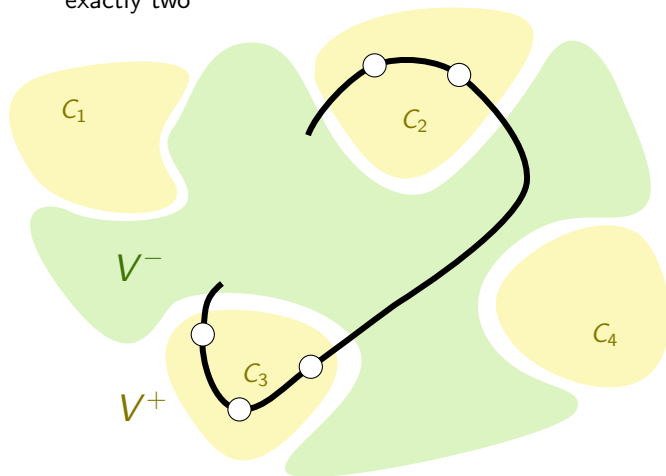
Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two

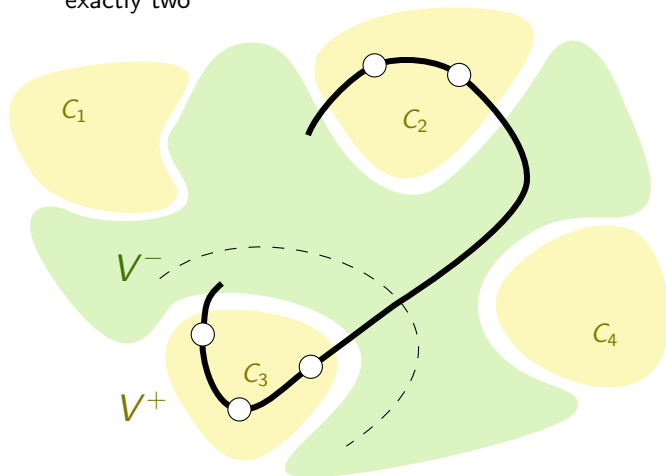




## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

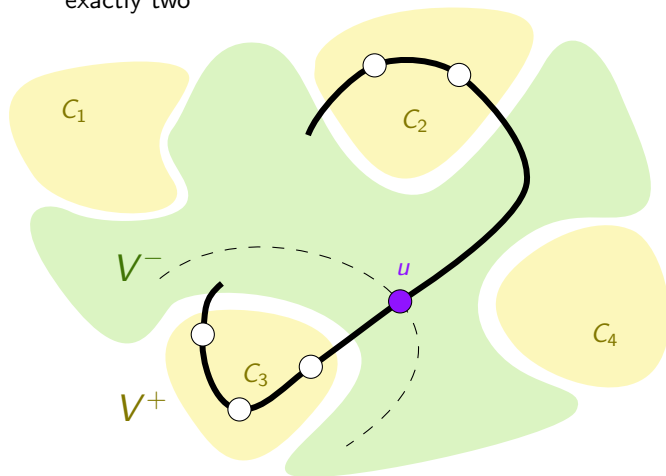
Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

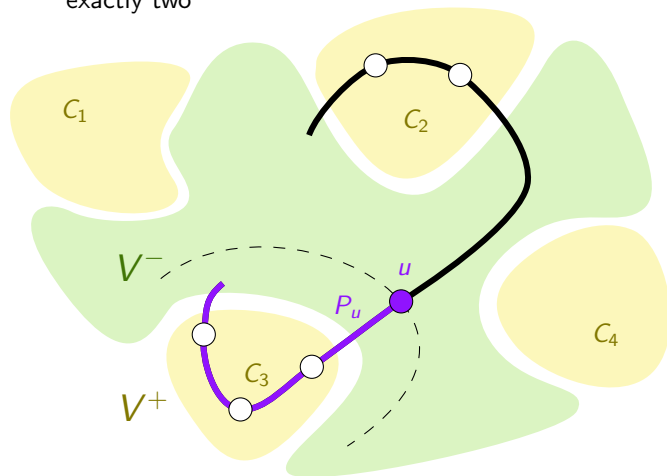
Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

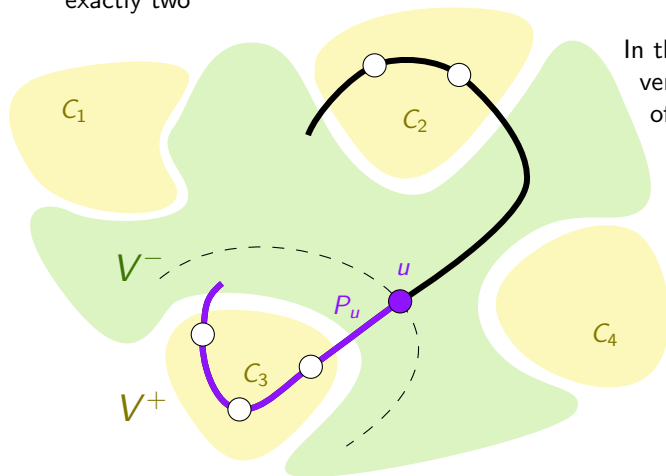
Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two



## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two

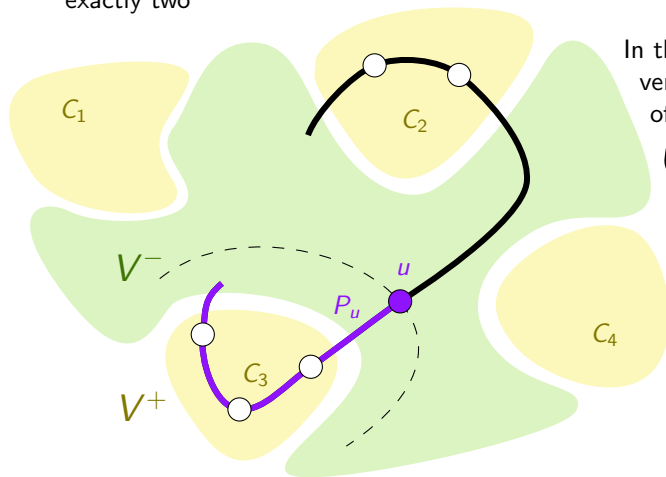


In the certificate of every vertex, add the length of  $P_u$ .

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two



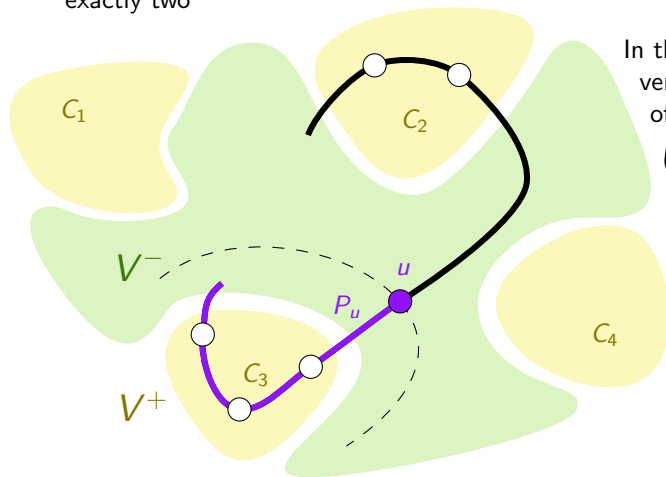
In the certificate of every vertex, add the length of  $P_u$ .

↪ size  $O(n \log n)$  in total.

## Upper bound for path-freeness certification

If there is a  $P_{4d-1}$ , which vertex detects it ?

Case 3: ~~at least two~~ components intersect  $P_{4d-1}$ .  
exactly two



In the certificate of every vertex, add the length of  $P_u$ .

↪ size  $O(n \log n)$  in total.

Every vertex in  $C_2$  detects it !

Conclusion: overview of our results for  $H$ -freeness and open questions

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound



## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$ V(H)  \leq 4d - 1$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$ V(H)  \leq 4d - 1$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{\lceil 14d/3 \rceil - 1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$ V(H)  \leq 4d - 1$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{\lceil 14d/3 \rceil - 1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{3d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n)$

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$ V(H)  \leq 4d - 1$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{\lceil 14d/3 \rceil - 1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{3d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n)$

Open questions:

- what if  $d = 1$  ?

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$ V(H)  \leq 4d - 1$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{\lceil 14d/3 \rceil - 1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{3d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n)$

Open questions:

- what if  $d = 1$  ?  $\longrightarrow \tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  for  $P_5$

## Conclusion: overview of our results for $H$ -freeness and open questions

Graph $H$	Bound
$P_{4d+3}$	$\Omega(n)$
$P_{4d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$ V(H)  \leq 4d - 1$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{\lceil 14d/3 \rceil - 1}$	$\tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$
$P_{3d-1}$	$\tilde{O}(n)$

### Open questions:

- what if  $d = 1$  ?  $\longrightarrow \tilde{O}(n^{3/2})$  for  $P_5$
- Conjecture: for every  $\alpha > 0$ , there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that we can certify  $P_{\alpha d}$ -free graphs with certificates of size  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ .



Thanks for your attention !