

Ordering Robinsonian matrices with graph algorithms

Monique Laurent



Graph Theory in Paris – 23 November 2018

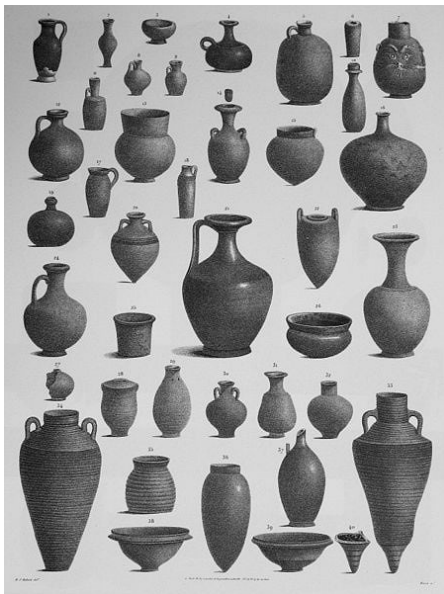
Based on joint works with Matteo Seminaroti

Plan of the talk

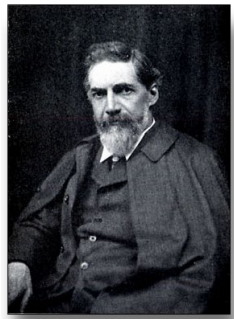
- Ordering similarity matrices: the seriation problem
- Numerical algorithm: the spectral approach
- Combinatorial algorithms: links to (unit interval) graphs
- Graph search: Lexicographic Breadth-First Search (Lex-BFS)
(and unit interval graphs)
- New weighted graph search: Similarity-First Search (SFS)
(and Robinson matrices)
- Combinatorial obstructions

The seriation problem

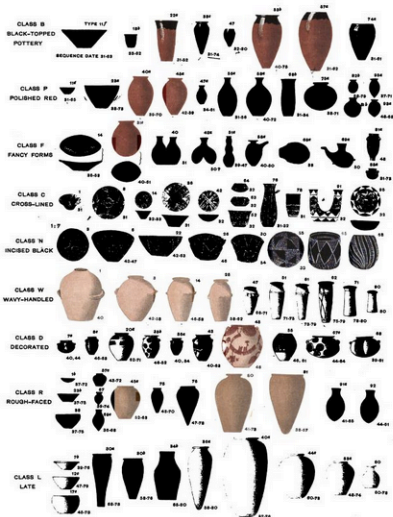
Motivation: Archeology



Sequence dating



**Sir William
Matthew Flinders
Petrie (1853-1942)**



DIOSPOLIS PARVA

THE CEMETERIES OF ABADIYEH AND HU

1898-9

BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE

Hon. B.C.L., Litt.D., LL.D., F.R.S.,
 SENIOR PROFESSOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON;
 MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE;
 CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF SOCIETY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE;
 MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

WITH Chapters by

A. C. MACE

SPECIAL EXTRA PUBLICATION OF
 THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE

LONDON

1901

THE OFFICES OF THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND, 37, GREAT BOWDOIN STREET, W.C.
 AND 49, TRENCH STREET, BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.

AND BY KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO., PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHANCERY LANE ROAD, W.C.
 B. QUARTUCH, 15, PATERNOSTER, W.; ARNER & Co, 11, BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

1901

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Paper-slips of Petrie

©Courtesy of the Petrie Museum, London

Seriation and the Consecutive Ones Property (C1P)

Try to order the graves so that 'similar' graves are close to each other in the ordering.

Seriation and the Consecutive Ones Property (C1P)

Try to order the graves so that 'similar' graves are close to each other in the ordering.

$$\begin{array}{c} P_1 \quad P_2 \quad P_3 \quad P_4 \\ G_1 \left(\begin{array}{cccc} & 1 & & \\ 1 & & & \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right) \\ G_2 \\ G_3 \\ G_4 \\ G_5 \end{array}$$

Matrix with C1P
 P

$$\begin{array}{c} P_1 \quad P_2 \quad P_3 \quad P_4 \\ G_1 \left(\begin{array}{cccc} & 1 & & \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & & 1 & 1 \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ & & 1 & \end{array} \right) \\ G_5 \\ G_2 \\ G_3 \\ G_4 \end{array}$$

Petrie matrix
 ΠP

Permute the rows of P so that the ones are consecutive in its columns.

The approach of **Petrie** is based on the *presence/absence* of pottery types in the graves.

W.S. Robinson (1951) also uses the *frequency* of pottery types in the graves.

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

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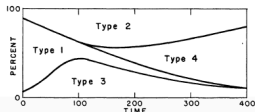
No. 4

A METHOD FOR CHRONOLOGICALLY ORDERING ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS*

W. S. ROBINSON

THEORY

THE statistical technique of this paper is based upon the empirically established fact that over the course of time pottery types come into and go out of general use by a given group of people. It is further based upon the established fact that in cultures where chronology has been determined the differential use of types takes on a form illustrated in Figure 89. The data of this diagram are hypothetical, the purpose being merely to illustrate the present discussion.



into use at the beginning of the period, attains its greatest popularity around the year 100, and thereafter declines in importance. Type 4, on the other hand, first makes its appearance around the year 100, and increases in importance throughout the remaining years shown on the diagram.

The fact that types come into and go out of use in the lenticular fashion shown in Figure 89 has important implications for the archaeologist. Suppose he has a number of deposits, and that these deposits represent different points of time in the development of a people. Assuming that he already has the information given in Figure 89, what can he tell about the properties of these deposits? Reference to the figure will show that a deposit representing an early stage in this culture will have in it a preponderance of pottery of type 1, with small percentages of types 2 and 3. A deposit which represents an intermediate stage, on the other hand, will show a largest percentage of pottery of type 2, a somewhat

The **dissimilarity** measure $d(G_i, G_j)$ between two graves G_i, G_j is the ℓ_1 -distance between their pottery-types frequency vectors.

\leadsto their **similarity** measure (*agreement coefficient*) is $C - d(G_i, G_j)$.

TABLE 17. PERCENTAGES OF EIGHT TYPES OF POTTERY IN THREE STRATIFIED TRENCHES DEPOSITS

Type	11A	11B	11C	1A	1B	111A	111B	111C
1	24.0	1.4	.2	11.3	.3	29.6	54.3	.0
2	66.8	.9	.0	.0	.0	.0	3.5	.0
3	1.3	.0	.2	3.8	.2	14.1	14.0	6.6
4	.0	.0	.0	1.3	.2	.0	1.8	3.3
5	.0	.0	.0	3.3	.5	.0	5.3	5.5
6	4.0	.0	.0	24.9	1.4	7.0	7.0	27.5
7	.0	97.7	99.3	52.6	97.4	.0	12.3	57.1
8	3.9	.0	.3	2.8	.0	49.3	1.8	.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 20. AGREEMENT COEFFICIENTS FOR THREE STRATIFIED TRENCHES—3RD ORDER

	11A	111A	111B	1A	111C	1B	111C	11C
11A		(66) - (69) + 39 + 11 + 4 - 5 + 1						
111A	(66)		(91) + 50 + 27 + 4 + 3 + 1					
111B	(69) + (101)			82 + 66 + 30 + 29 + 26				
1A	(39) + (50) + (82)				(172) + (110) + (108) + (107)			
111C	(13) + (27) + (66) + (172)					(119) + (114) - (115)		
1B	4	4 + 30 + (110) + (119)				(195) - (196)		
111B	5 - 3 + 29 + (108) + (114) + (195)						(196)	
11C	1	1 + 26 + (107) + (115) + (196) - (196)						
	195	252	403	668	624	658	650	642

W.S. Robinson (1951):

Order the graves, given by their pairwise similarities, in such a way that similar graves are placed close to each other in the ordering.

Seriation and Robinson similarity matrices

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Robinsonian matrix
 A

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Robinson matrix
 $\Pi A \Pi^T$

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Theorem (Kendall 1969)

- For P 0/1-valued: P is **Petrie** $\iff PP^T$ is **Robinson**.

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Theorem (Kendall 1969)

- For P 0/1-valued: ΠP is **Petrie** $\iff \Pi P P^T \Pi^T$ is **Robinson**.
- P has **unimodal columns** $\iff P \circ P^T := (\sum_z \min\{P_{xz}, P_{yz}\})_{x,y}$ is **Robinson**.

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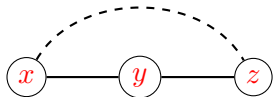
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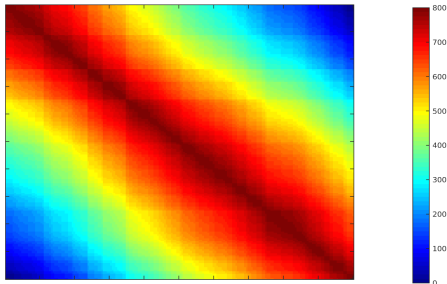
Robinson(ian) similarity matrix

$A \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is a **Robinson similarity** if its entries **increase** monotonically along the rows and columns when moving toward the diagonal:



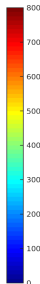
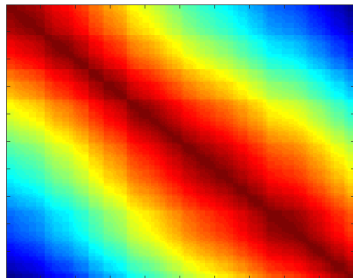
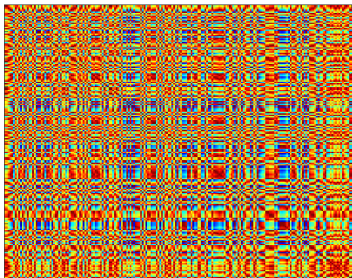
$$A_{xz} \leq \min\{A_{xy}, A_{yz}\}$$

$$\forall 1 \leq x < y < z \leq n$$



Robinson(ian) similarity matrix

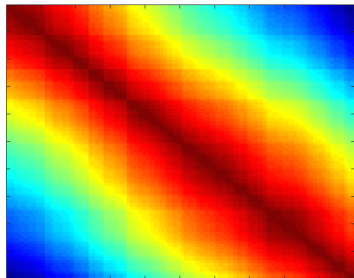
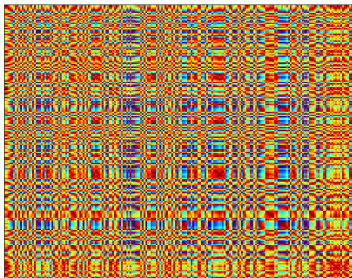
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$A \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is a **Robinsonian similarity** if there exists a permutation π such that $\Pi A \Pi^T = A^\pi := (A_{\pi(x), \pi(y)})_{x,y}$ is a **Robinson similarity**.

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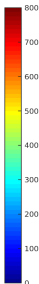
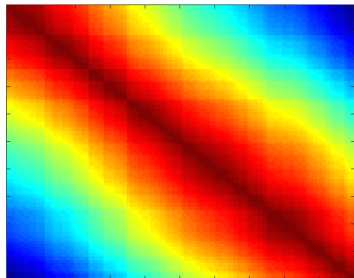
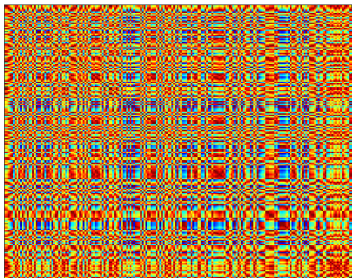


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Then π is called a **Robinson ordering** of A .

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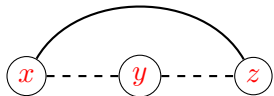
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Then π is called a **Robinson ordering** of A .

The **seriation** problem: Find such a **Robinson ordering** π (if it exists).

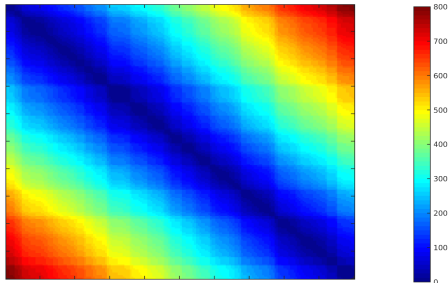
Robinson(ian) dissimilarity matrix

$D \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is a **Robinson dissimilarity** if its entries **decrease** monotonically along rows and columns when moving toward the diagonal:



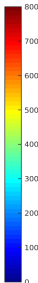
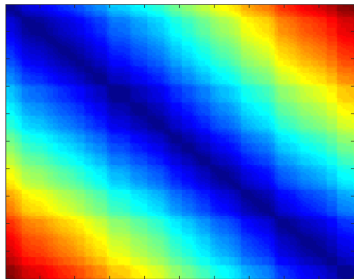
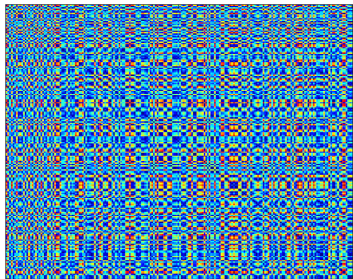
$$D_{xz} \geq \max\{D_{xy}, D_{yz}\}$$

$$\forall 1 \leq x < y < z \leq n$$



Robinson(ian) dissimilarity matrix

$D \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is a **Robinson dissimilarity** if its entries **decrease** monotonically along rows and columns when moving toward the diagonal:



$D \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is a **Robinsonian dissimilarity** if there exists a permutation π such that $D^\pi := (D_{\pi(x),\pi(y)})_{x,y}$ is a **Robinson dissimilarity**, that is: $A = -D$ is a Robinsonian similarity.

The seriation problem

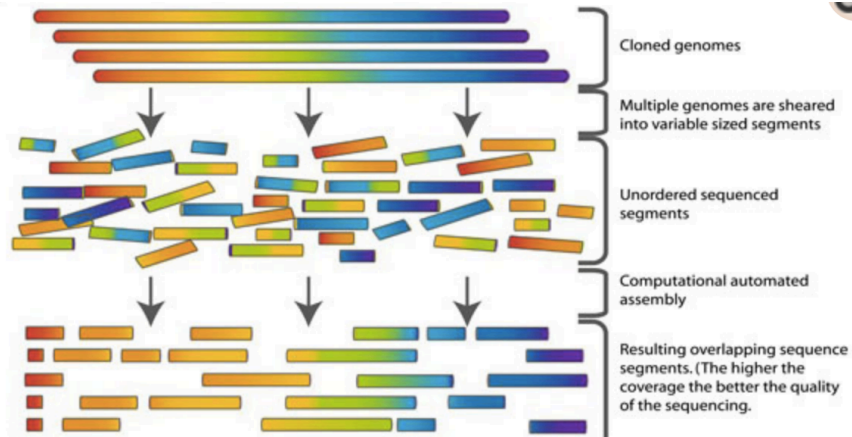
Given $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$, find a permutation π (**Robinson ordering**) for which A^π is Robinson, or decide that none exists.

There are efficient algorithms:

- Numerical algorithm: spectral method
- Combinatorial algorithms: via interval graphs and graph search

Applications: archeology, biology (DNA sequencing), ranking, combinatorial data analysis, etc.

DNA sequencing



Seriation, quadratic assignment and the spectral algorithm

Seriation and Quadratic Assignment

A : similarity matrix

D : dissimilarity matrix

$$\text{QAP}(A, D) \quad \min_{\pi} \sum_{x,y=1}^n A_{xy} D_{\pi(x)\pi(y)} = \text{Tr}(A\Pi D\Pi^T)$$

Seriation and Quadratic Assignment

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- $D = (|x - y|)$ \leadsto 1-SUM problem
- $D = ((x - y)^2)$ \leadsto 2-SUM problem

NP-hard problems for general A

[George-Pothen'97]

Seriation and Quadratic Assignment

A : similarity matrix

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- Note: in both cases D is a **Robinson dissimilarity** and D is **Toeplitz**: constant entries on each diagonal.

Seriation and Quadratic Assignment

A : similarity matrix

D : dissimilarity matrix

$$\text{QAP}(A, D) \quad \min_{\pi} \sum_{x,y=1}^n A_{xy} D_{\pi(x)\pi(y)} = \text{Tr}(A\Pi D\Pi^T)$$

- $D = (|x - y|)$ \leadsto 1-SUM problem
- $D = ((x - y)^2)$ \leadsto 2-SUM problem

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Theorem (L-Seminaroti'15)

*If D is a **Toeplitz Robinson dissimilarity** and A is a **Robinsonian similarity** then any Robinson ordering π of A is an optimal solution. Hence $\text{QAP}(A, D)$ is polynomial time solvable.*

Extending a result of [Fogel, Jenatton, Bach, Aspremont 2014]

Idea behind this result

For any permutation π :

$$\sum_{x,y=1}^n A_{xy} D_{\pi(x)\pi(y)} \geq \sum_{x,y=1}^n A_{xy} D_{xy}$$

when:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} * & & \leftarrow & \\ \uparrow & * & & \downarrow \\ & & * & \\ & \rightarrow & & * \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} * & & \rightarrow & \\ & * & & \uparrow \\ \downarrow & & * & \\ & \leftarrow & & * \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Toeplitz}$$

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This is the analogous for matrices of the **rearrangement inequality**:

$$\sum_{x=1}^n a_x d_{\pi(x)} \geq \sum_{x=1}^n a_x d_x$$

when:

$$a_1 \geq \dots \geq a_n$$

$$d_1 \leq \dots \leq d_n$$

The spectral algorithm to recognize Robinsonian matrices

Similarity matrix $A \geq 0 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad$ **Laplacian matrix:** $L_A = \text{Diag}(Ae) - A$.

- $\lambda_1(L_A) = 0$, with eigenvector the all-ones vector e .

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$$\min_{\pi} \sum_{x,y=1}^n A_{xy} (\pi(x) - \pi(y))^2 \quad \text{by}$$

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Else **recurse** on the submatrices indexed by the repeated entries.

Combinatorial algorithms via
(unit) interval graphs

Robinsonian matrices, interval graphs and C1P

For a similarity $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$, a **ball** is any set $B(x, \delta) = \{y \in [n], A_{xy} \geq \delta\}$.

\mathcal{B} := set of all balls; $V = [n]$.

Theorem (Fulkerson-Gross'65, Mirkin-Rodin'84)

The following are equivalent:

1. *A is a Robinsonian similarity*
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3. the vertices/balls incidence matrix has **C1P**
(\rightsquigarrow the ball hypergraph (V, \mathcal{B}) is an **interval hypergraph**)

Theorem (Booth-Lueker 1976)

One can test whether a matrix $M \in \{0, 1\}^{p \times q}$ with m ones has **C1P** in $O(p + q + m)$ (using PQ-trees).

Existing recognition algorithms for Robinsonian matrices

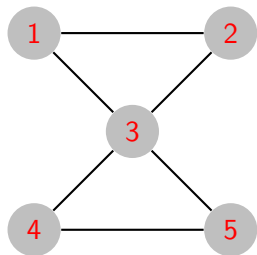
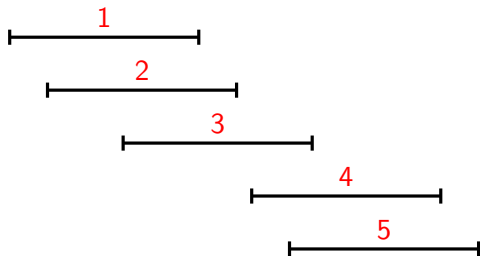
	Year	Complexity	Subroutine	Paradigm
Mirkin & Rodin	1984	$O(n^4)$	PQ-trees	interval hypergraphs
Chepoi & Fichet	1997	$O(n^3)$	PQ-trees	interval hypergraphs
Préa & Fortin	2014	$O(n^2)$		interval graphs
Atkins et al.	1998	$O(n(T(n) + n \log n))$	eigenvalues	Fiedler vector
Laurent & Seminaroti	2015	$O(L(m + n))$	Lex-BFS	unit interval graphs
Laurent & Seminaroti	2017	$O(n^2 + mn \log n)$	SFS	new weighted graph search

n : size of A ; m : # of nonzero entries of A ; L : # of distinct values of A .

Unit interval graphs and binary Robinsonian matrices

G is a **unit interval graph** if \exists unit intervals I_1, \dots, I_n in \mathbb{R} such that

$$\{x, y\} \in E \iff I_x \cap I_y \neq \emptyset.$$



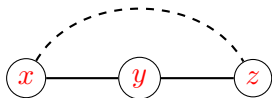
Unit interval graphs and binary Robinsonian matrices

Theorem (Looges-Olariu 1993)

G is a **unit interval graph** \iff there exists a linear order π of the vertices satisfying the **3-point condition**:

$$\{x, z\} \in E \implies \{x, y\}, \{y, z\} \in E \quad \text{if } x <_{\pi} y <_{\pi} z$$

Recall the Robinson (similarity) property:



$$A_{xz} \leq \min\{A_{xy}, A_{yz}\} \quad \text{if } x < y < z$$

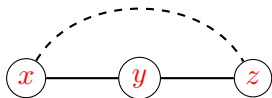
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Fact (Roberts 1969)

$A \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$ is a Robinsonian similarity \iff A is the adjacency matrix of a **unit interval graph** G .

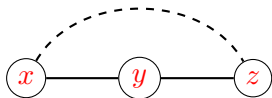
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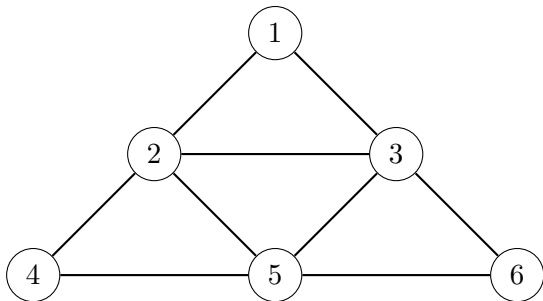
Theorem (Corneil 2004)

One can recognize **unit interval graphs** in $O(|V| + |E|)$ using **Lex-BFS**.

Graph search: Lex-BFS

Graph search paradigm

Given a graph $G = (V, E)$:



visited vertices

unvisited vertices
(stored in a queue Q)

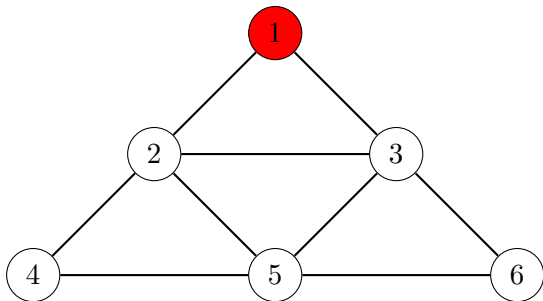
pivot

Q :



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Q :

1

2

3

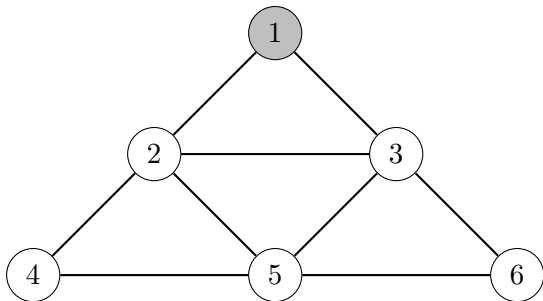
4

5

6

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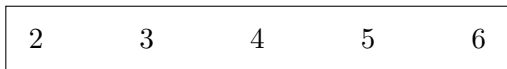


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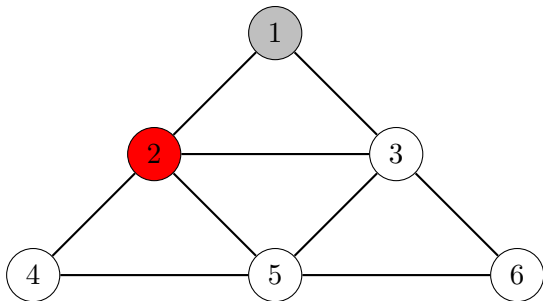
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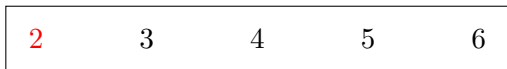


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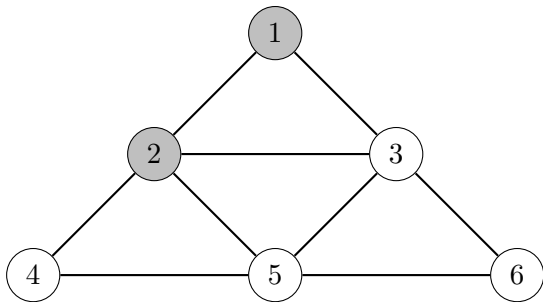
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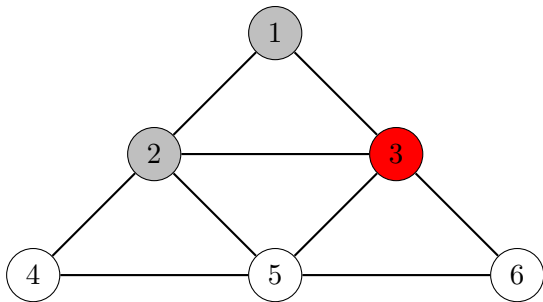
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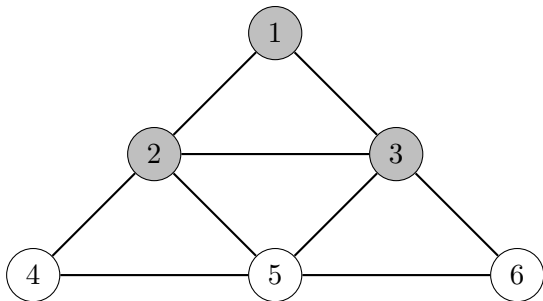
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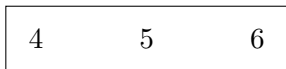


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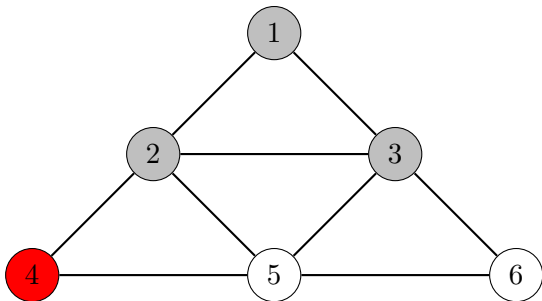
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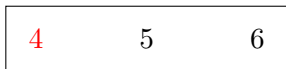


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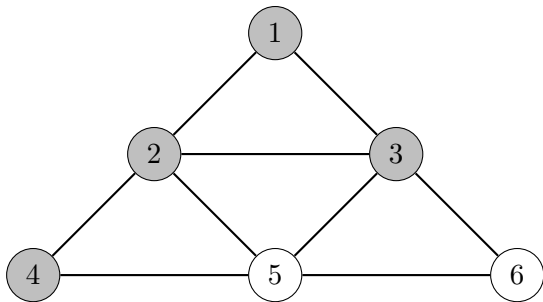
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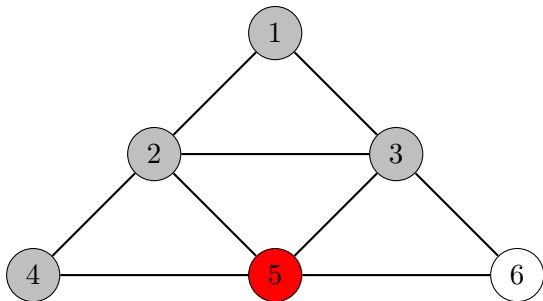
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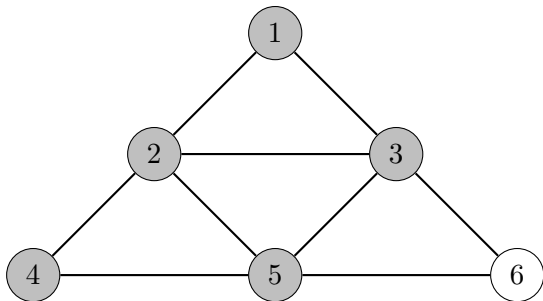
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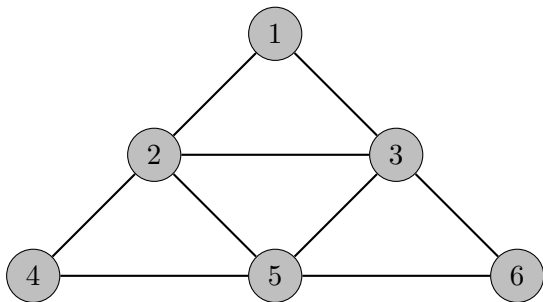
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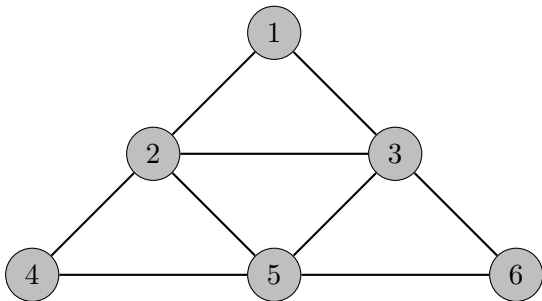
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Different queue updates lead to different graph search algorithms:

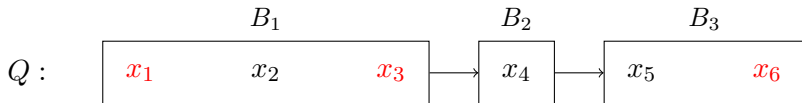
- Breadth-First Search (BFS)
- Depth-First Search (DFS)
- **Lexicographic Breadth-First Search (Lex-BFS)**

“Give the preference to vertices adjacent to vertices visited earlier.”

Lex-BFS via partition refinement

Idea: Maintain (and refine) a **partition** of the queue Q .

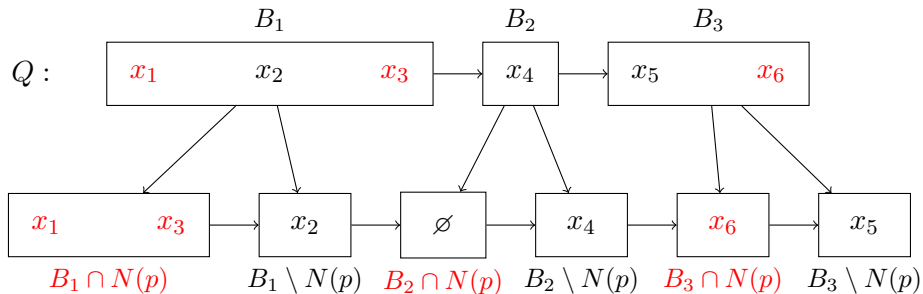
Let $N(p)$ denote the neighborhood of the current pivot p .



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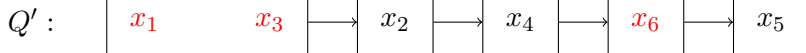
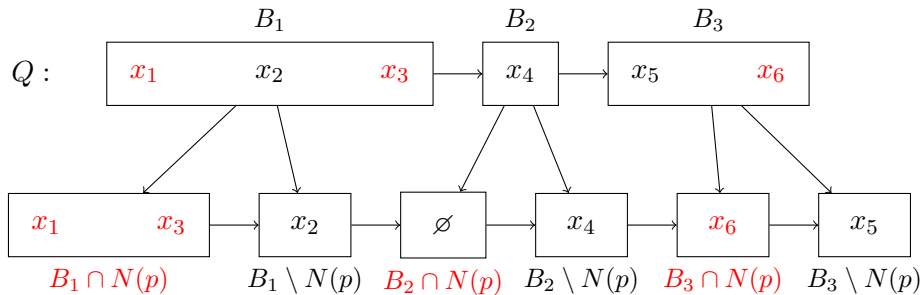
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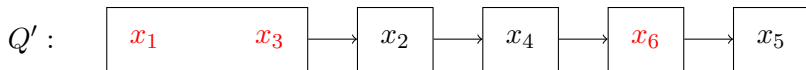
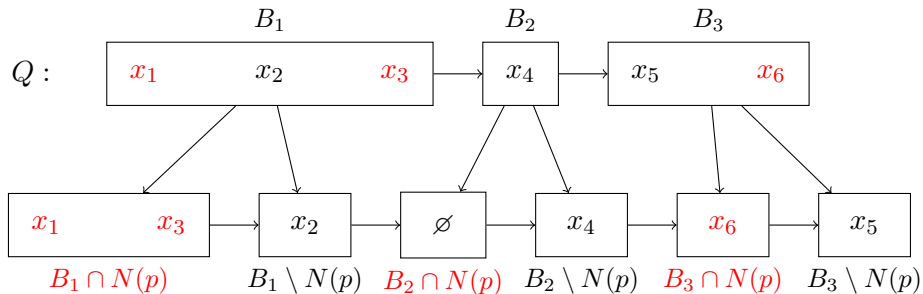
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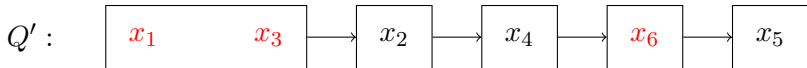
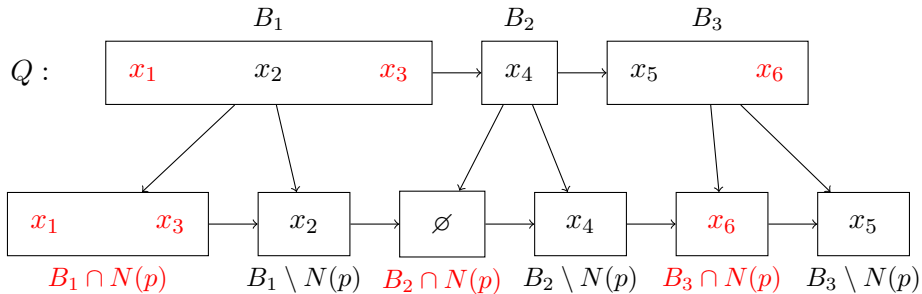
Lex-BFS runs in time $O(|V| + |E|)$

[Rose-Tarjan'75, Habib et al.'00]

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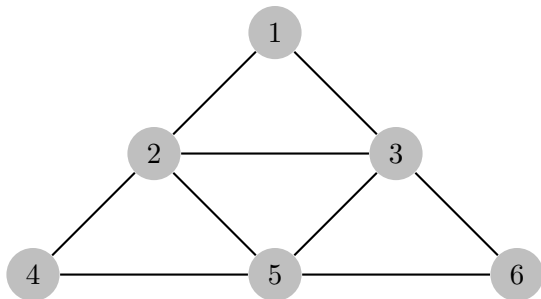
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Lex-BFS $_+(G, \tau)$: Order vertices in the blocks using a **reference order** τ .

Example of Lex-BFS₊

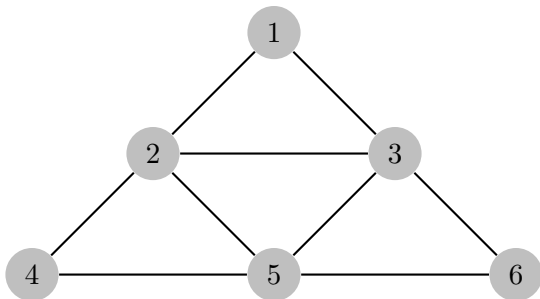
$\tau = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)$



1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

Example of Lex-BFS₊

$\tau = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)$

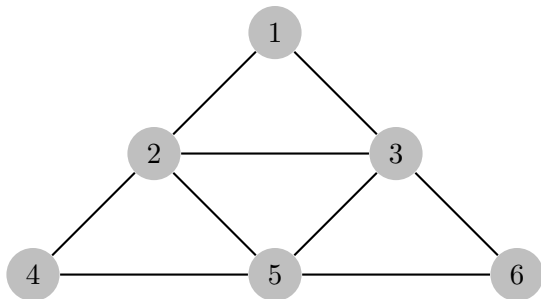


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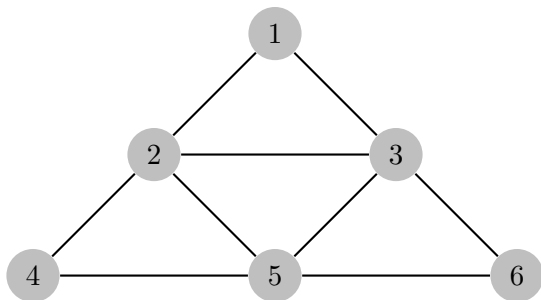
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1	2	<table border="1"><tr><td>3</td></tr></table>	3	<table border="1"><tr><td>4</td></tr></table>	4	<table border="1"><tr><td>5</td></tr></table>	5	<table border="1"><tr><td>6</td></tr></table>	6
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1	<table border="1"><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	2	3	<table border="1"><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>	4	5	6
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Corneil (2004) 3-sweep algorithm for unit interval graphs

Input: A graph $G = (V, E)$.

Output: an ordering π of V satisfying the 3-point condition, or stating that G is not a unit interval graph.

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Option 2: Generalize Lex-BFS to weighted graphs: **SFS**

Weighted graph search:

Similarity-First Search (SFS)

Similarity-First Search (SFS) for nonnegative A

For the current pivot p , define $N(p) = \{x : A_{px} > 0\}$.

Similarity-First Search (SFS) for nonnegative A

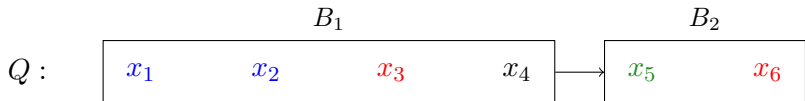
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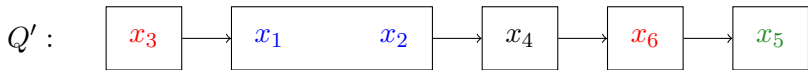
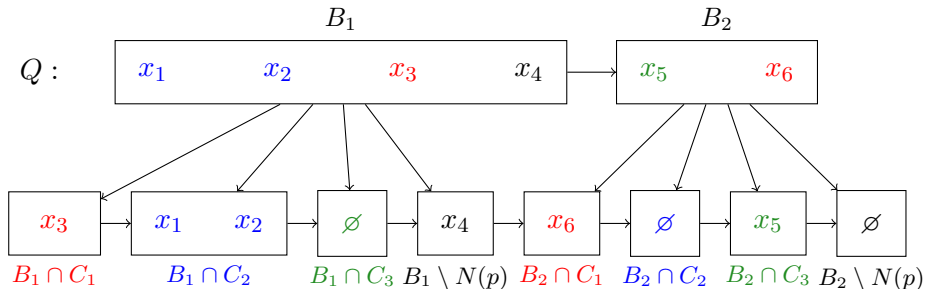
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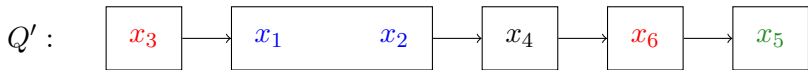
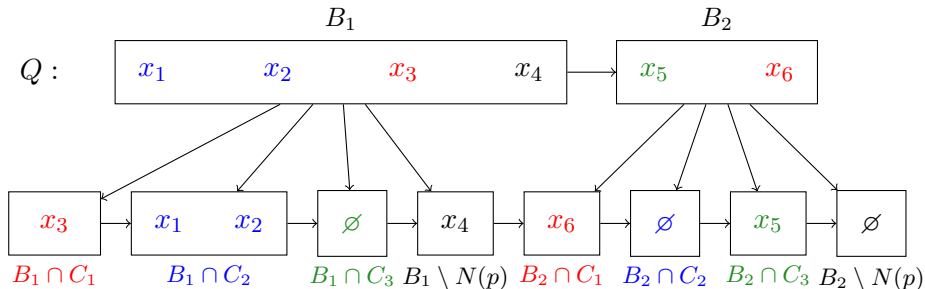


SFS runs in $O(n + m \log n)$ if A has m nonzero entries. [L-Seminaroti 17]

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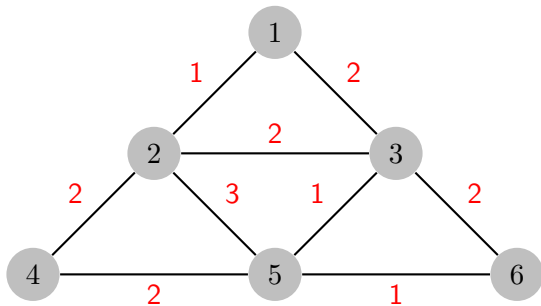
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$SFS_+(A, \tau)$: order the vertices in each block using a **reference order** τ

Example for SFS_+

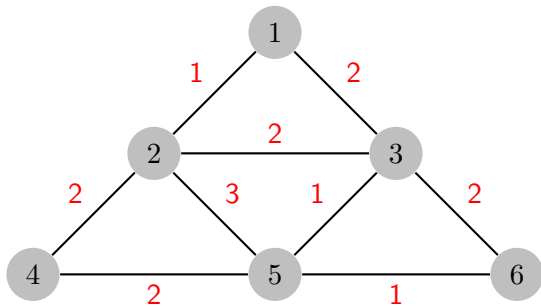
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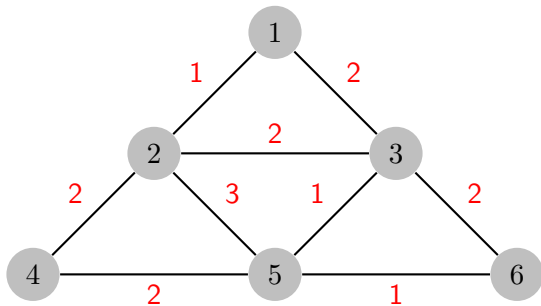


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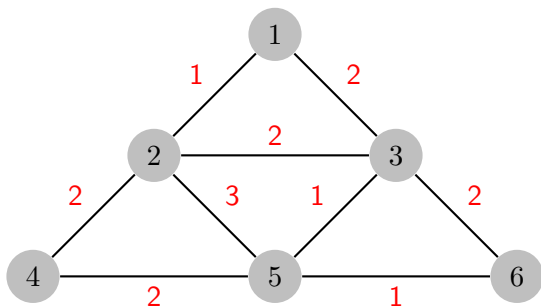
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SFS and Robinson matrices

SFS multisweep recognition algorithm

Input: a nonnegative matrix $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$

Output: a Robinson ordering π of A , or stating that A is not Robinsonian

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Let $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$ be nonnegative with m nonzero entries. Then:

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2. The multisweep recognition algorithm runs in $O(n^2 + mn \log n)$ time.
3. Simpler test at line 4: Check whether $\sigma_i = \sigma_{i-1}^{-1}$. If **YES** then:
if σ_i is Robinson then A is Robinsonian; else A is not Robinsonian.

Tight example where $n - 1$ sweeps are needed

Example by S. Tanigawa: Robinson matrix $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$:

$$A_{1n} = 0, A_{1i} = 1, A_{2n} = 1, A_{in} = 2, A_{ij} = A_{i-1,j+1} + 1.$$

$$A = \begin{matrix} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} & \mathbf{8} & \mathbf{9} & \mathbf{10} & \mathbf{11} \\ \mathbf{1} & * & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \mathbf{2} & & * & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ \mathbf{3} & & & * & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ \mathbf{4} & & & & * & 4 & 4 & 4 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ \mathbf{5} & & & & & * & 5 & 4 & 4 & 4 & 3 & 2 \\ \mathbf{6} & & & & & & * & 5 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 \\ \mathbf{7} & & & & & & & * & 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 \\ \mathbf{8} & & & & & & & & * & 4 & 3 & 2 \\ \mathbf{9} & & & & & & & & & * & 3 & 2 \\ \mathbf{10} & & & & & & & & & & * & 2 \\ \mathbf{11} & & & & & & & & & & & * \end{matrix}$$

With SFS $\sigma_0 = (2, 3, \dots, n, 1)$, the **first Robinson sweep** is σ_{n-2} .

SFS and end-vertices of Robinson orderings (anchors of A)

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- $a \in V$ is an **anchor** of A if there exists a Robinson ordering π of A starting (or ending) at a

$\pi : \quad a \quad a_1 \quad a_2 \quad \dots \quad b_2 \quad b_1 \quad b$

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Theorem (L-Seminaroti 2017)

Assume A is Robinsonian and $\sigma = \text{SFS}(A)$ has **last vertex** b .

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(In fact any anchor arises as end-vertex of some SFS ordering of A .)

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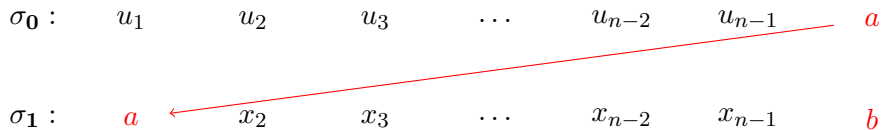
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2. If the **first vertex** a in σ is an anchor of A , then a, b are opposite anchors of A .

Anchor flipping property of SFS_+

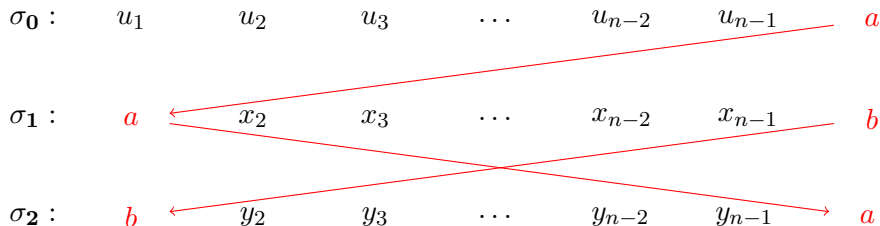
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$\sigma_0 :$ u_1 u_2 u_3 \dots u_{n-2} u_{n-1} a

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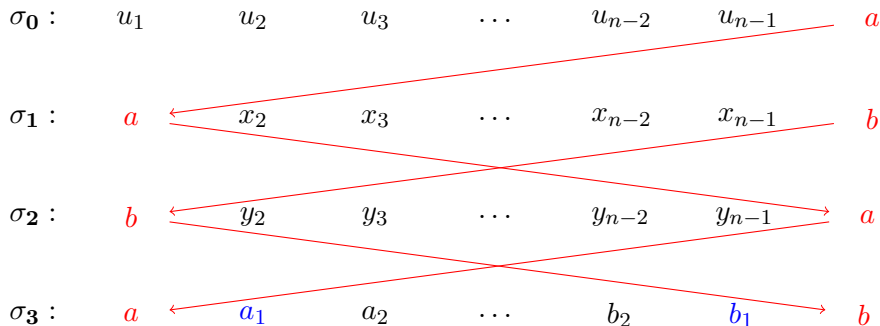


Theorem (Anchors Flipping)

Assume $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is Robinsonian and $\sigma_i = SFS_+(A, \sigma_{i-1})$ with $i \geq 1$.

σ_1 start with a and end with b ; σ_2 start with b and end with a ;

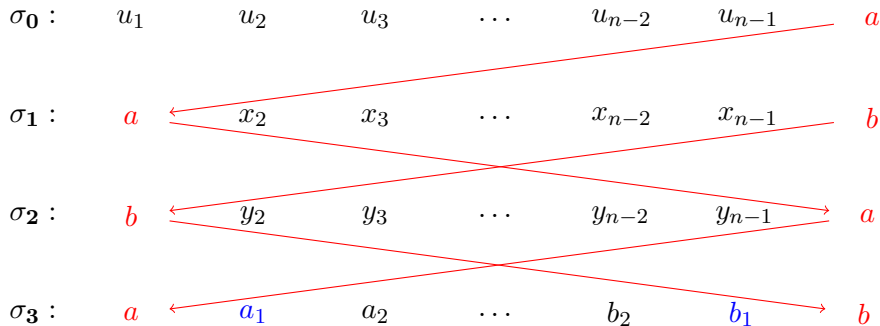
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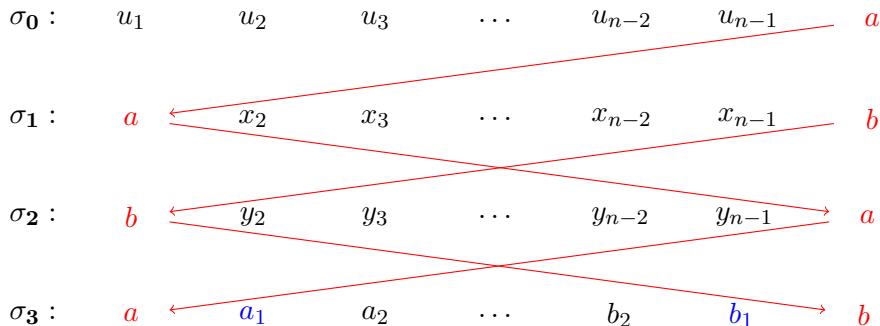


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Key fact: $a_1 = y_{n-1}$ and b_1 are opposite anchors of $A[V \setminus \{a, b\}]$.

Anchor flipping property of SFS_+



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Moreover: $\sigma_{n-2}[A \setminus \{a, b\}]$ can be seen as result of the multisweep algorithm applied to $A[V \setminus \{a, b\}]$, starting with $\sigma_3[V \setminus \{a, b\}]$.

\leadsto can apply induction.

Obstructions for Robinsonian matrices

Certifying non-Robinsonian matrices

For distinct $x, y, z \in V$, $P = (x = v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}, v_k = y)$ is a **path from x to y avoiding z** if each triple (v_i, z, v_{i+1}) is **not Robinson**, i.e.,

$$A_{v_i v_{i+1}} > \min\{A_{z v_i}, A_{z v_{i+1}}\}, \quad \forall i = 0, 1, \dots, k-1.$$

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Fact

Assume A is Robinsonian. If \exists path $x \rightsquigarrow y$ avoiding z then z **does not lie between x and y in any Robinson ordering π of A .**

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Definition

A **weighted asteroidal triple** for A is a triple $\{x, y, z\}$ such that \exists paths $x \rightsquigarrow y$ avoiding z ; $x \rightsquigarrow z$ avoiding y ; $y \rightsquigarrow z$ avoiding x .

If such triple exists then A is not Robinsonian!

Certifying non-Robinsonian matrices

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Theorem (L-Seminaroti-Tanigawa 2017)

A is Robinsonian \iff there does not exist a weighted asteroidal triple.

Certifying non-Robinsonian matrices

For distinct $x, y, z \in V$, $P = (x = v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}, v_k = y)$ is a **path from x to y avoiding z** if each triple (v_i, z, v_{i+1}) is **not Robinson**, i.e.,

$$A_{v_i v_{i+1}} > \min\{A_{z v_i}, A_{z v_{i+1}}\}, \quad \forall i = 0, 1, \dots, k-1.$$

Fact

Assume A is Robinsonian. If \exists path $x \rightsquigarrow y$ avoiding z then z **does not lie between x and y in any Robinson ordering π of A .**

Definition

A **weighted asteroidal triple** for A is a triple $\{x, y, z\}$ such that \exists paths $x \rightsquigarrow y$ avoiding z ; $x \rightsquigarrow z$ avoiding y ; $y \rightsquigarrow z$ avoiding x .

Theorem (L-Seminaroti-Tanigawa 2017)

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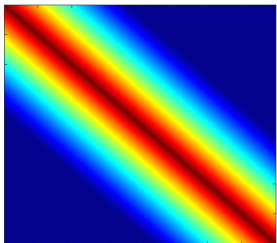
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- Find a weighted asteroidal triple in $O(n^3)$: certifies A **not Robinsonian**.
- Implies the characterization of **unit interval graphs**: no asteroidal triple, no induced cycle of length at least 4, no induced claw $K_{1,3}$. [Roberts 69]

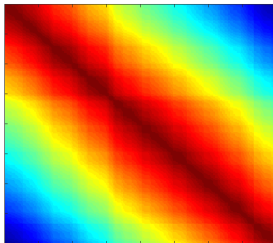
Computational experiments

Matteo's PhD thesis

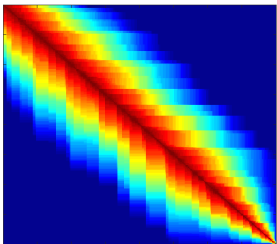
Instances generation



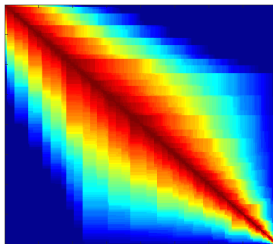
(a) Generation 1



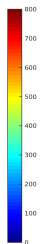
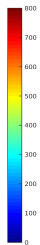
(b) Generation 2



(c) Generation 3



(d) Generation 4

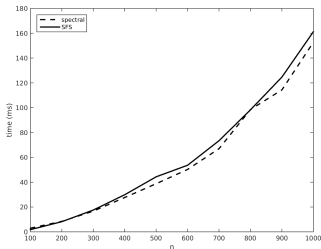


Performance table ($n \leq 1000$)

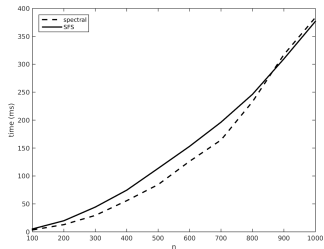
	# distinct values	low (≤ 50)			medium (> 50 and ≤ 200)			high (≥ 200)		
# nonzero entries	algorithms	spectral	SFS	LBFS	spectral	SFS	LBFS	spectral	SFS	LBFS
	n									
sparse ($\leq 30\%$)	100	2,98	1,78	10,57	3,68	1,97	58,85	4,24	2,20	-
	200	8,48	8,22	36,99	8,38	8,08	211,08	9,62	8,93	-
	300	16,69	17,58	83,08	18,00	16,55	513,76	18,18	16,58	-
	400	27,68	29,91	153,23	30,06	31,92	953,13	30,30	32,10	-
	500	38,78	44,35	209,87	47,77	47,33	1382,98	45,60	41,20	-
	600	50,28	53,66	277,90	59,06	55,47	1771,93	54,10	57,10	-
	700	67,02	73,45	383,13	72,54	75,64	2437,52	76,55	78,96	-
	800	98,54	98,29	526,48	94,76	98,96	3236,95	104,52	102,09	-
	900	114,36	124,67	616,90	121,75	122,12	4103,76	136,70	130,02	-
	1000	152,63	161,15	904,72	153,52	148,28	5047,28	189,63	184,12	-
normal ($> 30\%$ and $\leq 70\%$)	100	3,16	4,65	26,25	3,46	5,20	196,26	3,41	5,04	-
	200	11,04	18,58	108,28	12,96	19,92	942,65	14,43	20,08	-
	300	25,62	40,91	252,98	29,46	44,37	2098,60	30,71	45,09	-
	400	49,50	76,23	459,03	55,82	74,65	3833,16	56,85	79,34	-
	500	73,35	108,69	645,23	84,66	113,71	5659,31	84,77	110,84	-
	600	108,05	139,40	893,37	126,33	153,15	7437,49	126,89	148,99	-
	700	143,32	186,48	1247,81	164,40	196,33	10402,90	172,27	195,22	-
	800	193,45	253,49	1646,54	232,95	246,19	13920,20	253,77	255,05	-
	900	254,46	307,13	2131,64	317,26	309,65	17909,20	310,84	326,79	-
	1000	331,47	408,70	2856,86	383,54	376,66	22601,10	442,26	499,45	-
dense ($> 70\%$)	100	3,87	6,81	66,58	3,89	7,72	493,64	3,89	7,78	-
	200	16,37	27,38	285,67	16,08	30,01	2126,32	16,95	31,57	-
	300	38,64	61,59	633,54	40,14	65,96	4904,51	38,32	69,41	-
	400	77,00	112,23	1165,52	76,81	114,90	9114,09	77,66	121,97	-
	500	122,27	158,87	1691,87	122,57	163,62	13693,00	114,96	161,89	-
	600	174,42	211,88	2349,12	173,31	210,19	18455,80	171,59	225,39	-
	700	273,01	291,58	3364,06	248,08	286,44	25932,80	245,26	299,84	-
	800	359,28	379,78	4493,35	339,09	373,69	34891,70	344,47	397,55	-
	900	489,78	487,85	5854,02	450,70	466,22	45060,20	450,22	519,41	-
	1000	663,46	642,58	8046,78	588,68	579,59	58410,50	707,10	775,99	-

Figure 1: (Average) Time performance of the algorithms (in **milliseconds**)

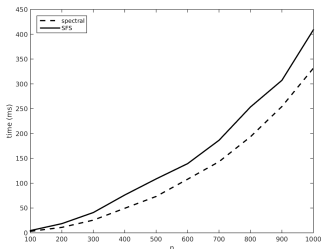
Performance chart ($n \leq 1000$)



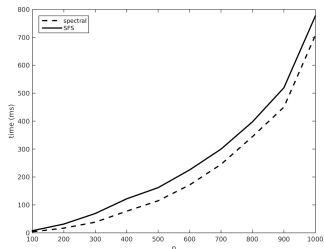
(a) sparse - low



(b) normal - medium



(c) normal - low



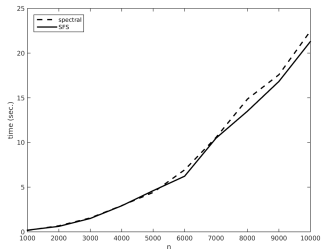
(d) dense - high

Performance table (large instances)

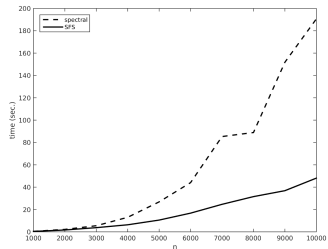
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# nonzero entries	algorithms	spectral	SFS	LBFS	spectral	SFS	LBFS	spectral	SFS	LBFS
	n									
sparse (≤ 30 %)	1000	0,16	0,19	-	0,16	0,16	-	0,17	0,18	-
	2000	0,68	0,62	-	0,72	0,7	-	0,76	0,62	-
	3000	1,56	1,5	-	1,95	1,58	-	1,95	1,48	-
	4000	2,94	2,92	-	3,6	2,57	-	3,58	2,81	-
	5000	4,41	4,61	-	5,56	4,03	-	6,09	4,38	-
	6000	6,94	6,23	-	9,93	6,52	-	10,87	6,72	-
	7000	10,56	10,48	-	20,98	10,32	-	20,73	8,75	-
	8000	14,86	13,5	-	18,24	10,67	-	21,03	11,63	-
	9000	17,58	16,83	-	26,38	13,75	-	31,66	13,97	-
	10000	22,46	21,28	-	45,32	18,11	-	32,87	16,18	-
normal (> 30 % and ≤ 70 %)	1000	0,32	0,4	-	0,45	0,41	-	0,45	0,46	-
	2000	1,53	1,8	-	2,2	1,67	-	1,99	1,71	-
	3000	4,42	4,77	-	5,49	3,77	-	5,74	3,64	-
	4000	9,13	9,46	-	13,04	6,33	-	14,22	6,54	-
	5000	17,08	16,45	-	26,85	10,55	-	26,33	10,77	-
	6000	29,09	27,48	-	44,08	16,76	-	43,07	18,11	-
	7000	43,05	45,63	-	85,31	24,65	-	68,86	21,71	-
	8000	72,48	58,42	-	88,91	31,54	-	86,72	30,49	-
	9000	92,18	95,53	-	151,81	36,85	-	116,02	36,87	-
	10000	111,08	116,67	-	190,55	48,09	-	155,1	43,41	-
dense (> 70 %)	1000	0,62	0,67	-	0,62	0,6	-	0,6	0,63	-
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	3000	10,46	8,43	-	11,65	4,99	-	11,61	5,51	-
	4000	25,64	16,75	-	27,53	9,38	-	26,62	9,92	-
	5000	43,85	29,4	-	51,63	15,22	-	51,03	15,89	-
	6000	104,47	59,28	-	101,14	22,69	-	92,41	26,09	-
	7000	121,14	91,75	-	166,53	38,52	-	142,65	31,19	-
	8000	220,08	129,7	-	219,71	40,28	-	216,43	43,31	-
	9000	284,63	175,07	-	331,37	52,81	-	293,18	52,44	-
	10000	383,98	248,97	-	423,32	65,31	-	411,29	64,93	-

Figure 2: (Average) Time performance of the algorithms (in **seconds**)

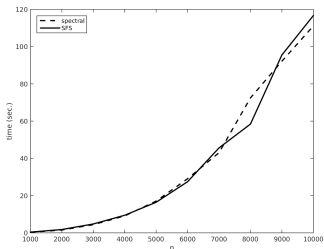
Performance chart (large instances)



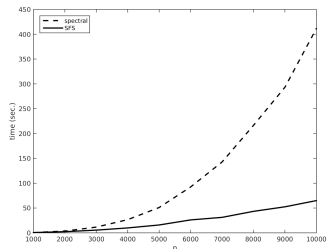
(a) sparse - low



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Conclusions

- **Lex-BFS** is widely used: recognize chordal graphs (1 sweep, Rose-Tarjan-Lueker'76), unit interval graphs (3 sweeps, Corneil'04), interval graphs (5^* sweeps, Corneil & al.'09), cocomparability graphs (n sweeps, Dusart-Habib'17),...

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[L-Tanigawa'17]: Structural characterization for '**chordal**' matrices.
Other matrix analogues? applications?

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Other matrix analogues? applications?

- ℓ_∞ -fitting by Robinsonian is NP-hard to **approximate** within $3/2 - \epsilon$ [Chepoi-Fichet-Seston'09]

Exists 16-approximation algorithm.

[Chepoi-Seston'11]

Better approximation guarantee?

THANK YOU



M. Laurent and M. Seminaroti.

The quadratic assignment problem is easy for Robinsonian matrices with Toeplitz structure. [Operations Research Letters](#), 2015.



M. Seminaroti.

Combinatorial Algorithms for the Seriation Problem. PhD thesis, [Tilburg University](#), December 2016.



M. Laurent and M. Seminaroti.

A Lex-BFS-based recognition algorithm for Robinsonian matrices. [Discrete Applied Mathematics](#), 2017.



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Similarity-First Search: a new algorithm with application to Robinsonian matrix recognition. [SIAM J. Discrete Mathematics](#), 2017.



M. Laurent, M. Seminaroti, S. Tanigawa.

A Structural Characterization for Certifying Robinsonian Matrices. [Electronic Journal of Combinatorics](#), 2017.



M. Laurent, S. Tanigawa.

Perfect Elimination Orderings for Symmetric Matrices. [Opt. Letters'17](#).