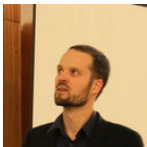


# The Smallest Hard Trees

Florian Starke

joint work with Manuel Bodirsky, Jakub Bulín, and Michael Wernthaler



CSPs

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The CSP of  $G$  is the following problem:

Input:  $H$  <sup>finite digraphs</sup>

Output:  $\exists$  homomorphism  $H \rightarrow G$ ?


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$CSP(\vec{C})$

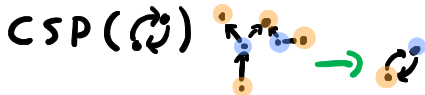


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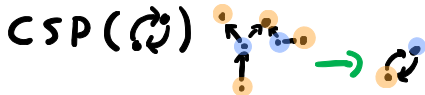


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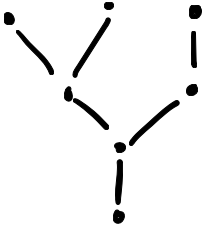
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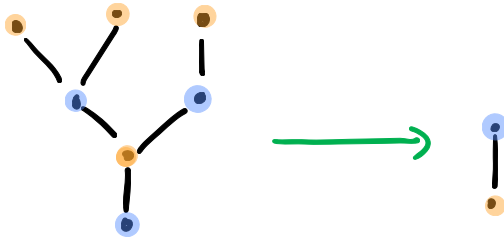
$H \rightarrow \vec{C}_2$  iff  $H$  contains  
no odd cycle



# Trees

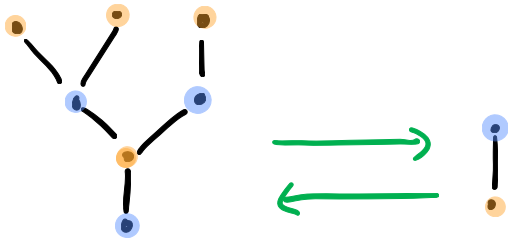


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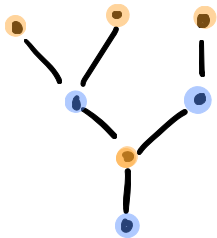




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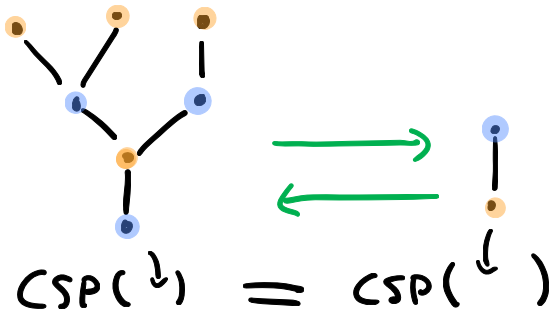


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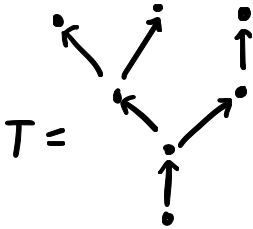
$$\text{CSP}(\downarrow) = \text{CSP}(\downarrow)$$

# Trees

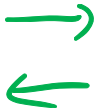
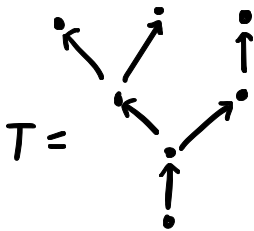


Undirected edges  
are uninteresting

# Trees



# Trees



Core of  $T$

# Trees



# History of NP-Hard Trees

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author	year	size	comment
Gutjahr, Welzl, and Woeginger	1992	287	First published



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Goal:

*assuming  $P \neq NP$*



Find the smallest NP-hard  
Tree.

# NP-hard Trees

TFAE (assuming  $P \neq NP$ )

- $CSP(T)$  is NP-hard

- $T$  can pp-construct 

$f(a r e a)$   
 $= f(r a r e)$

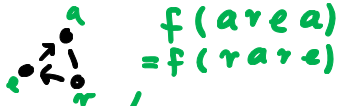
- $T$  has no Siggers-polymorphism

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TFAE (assuming  $P \neq NP$ )

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$$f(area) = f(rare)$$

- $T$  has no Siggers-polymorphism

↖ can be computed by testing

$$T^4 \xrightarrow{\text{area} = \text{rare}} T$$

↖ contract tuples that should have the same image

# NP-hard Trees

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- $CSP(T)$  is NP-hard

- $T$  can pp-construct   $f(area) = f(rare)$

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can be computed by testing

$20^4 \rightarrow T^4 \rightarrow T$   
160000 %  
area = rare  
contract tuples that should have the same image

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- $CSP(T)$  is NP-hard

- $T$  can pp-construct   $f(a r e a)$   
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- $T$  has no Kearnes-Marković-McKenzie-polymorphisms

$$p(a b b) = q(b a a) = q(a a b)$$

$$p(a b a) = q(a b a)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} p(a b b) &= q(b a a) = q(a a b) \\ p(a b a) &= q(a b a) \end{aligned}$$

$$\leftarrow 2 \cdot 20^3 = 16000$$

much better  
but still not easy

How many Trees are there?



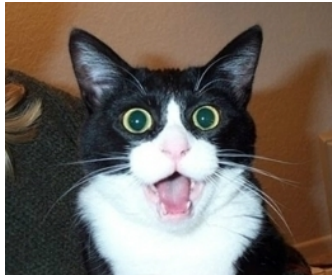
# How many Trees are there?

$n$	trees
1	1
2	1
3	3
4	8
5	27
6	91
7	350
8	1376
9	5743
10	24635

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12	492180
13	2266502
14	10598452
15	50235931
16	240872654
17	1166732814
18	5702001435
19	28088787314
20	139354922608

$\approx 10^{12}$



testing 100 trees per second  
this would take 317 years

# How many Trees are there?

$n$	trees	cores
1	1	1
2	1	1
3	3	1
4	8	1
5	27	1
6	91	2
7	350	3
8	1376	7
9	5743	15
10	24635	36
11	108968	85
12	492180	226
13	2266502	578
14	10598452	1569
15	50235931	4243
16	240872654	11848
17	1166732814	33104
18	5702001435	94221
19	28088787314	269455
20	139354922608	<u>779268</u>

testing 100 trees per second  
this would take 2 hours

much better  
but still not easy

# Core Trees


# Core Trees

**Theorem** *Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be a finite tree. Then the following are equivalent.*

- 1.  $\mathbb{T}$  is a core;*
- 2.  $\text{End}(\mathbb{T}) = \{\text{id}_T\}$ ;*
- 3.  $\text{AC}_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbb{T})$  terminates such that the list for each vertex contains a single element.*

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for each vertex contains a single element.
- 
- Three green curved arrows are positioned to the left of the list items. One arrow points from item 1 to item 2, another from item 2 to item 3, and a third from item 3 back to item 1, forming a cycle that indicates the equivalence of all three statements.

*easy*

# Core Trees

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easy

fun exercise

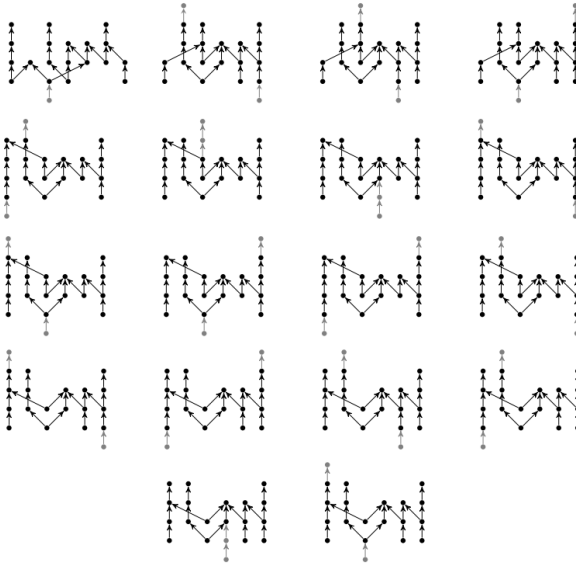
# NP-hard Trees

foreach core tree  $T$

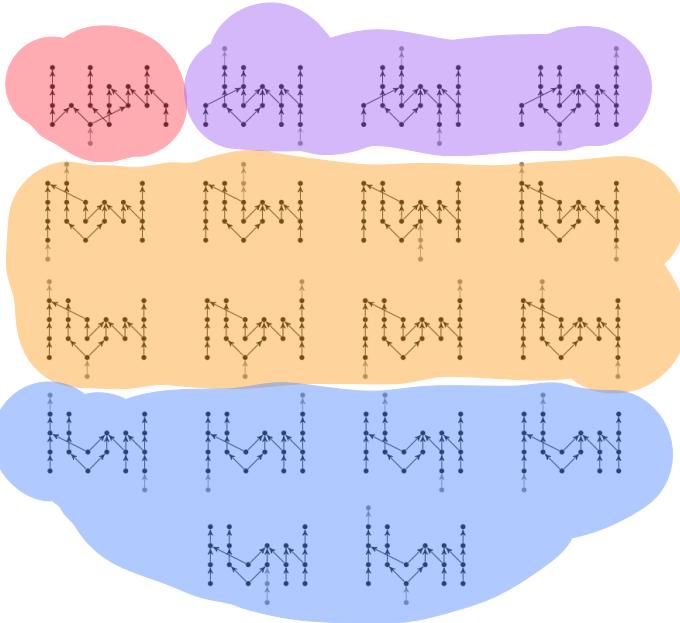
IF  $T$  has no kMM-polymorphisms then  
return  $T$



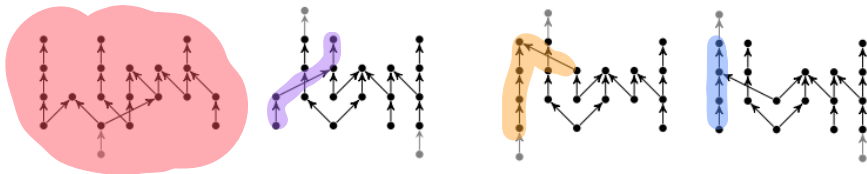
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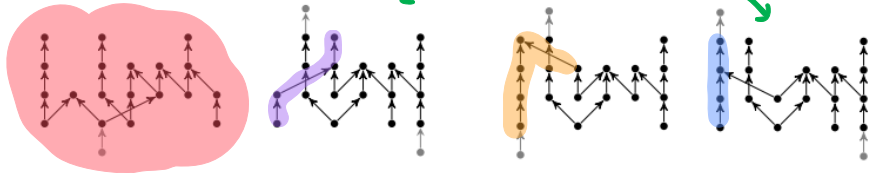
# NP-hard Trees



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Present article	2022	20	Smallest tree

↑ assuming  $P \neq NP$

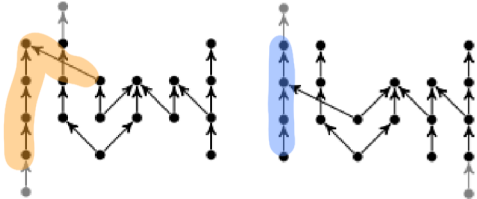
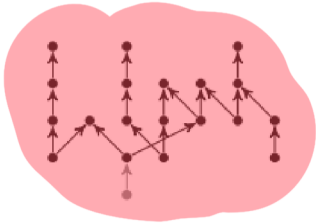
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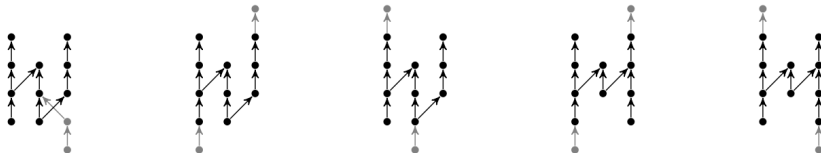


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# Other smallest Trees

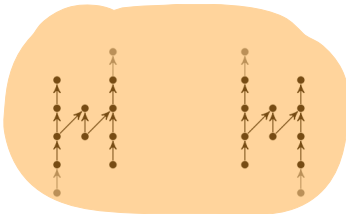
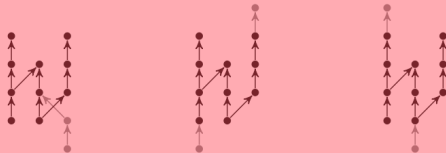
# Other smallest Trees



↙ assuming  $L \neq NL$

smallest  $NL$ -hard trees  
(12 vertices)

# Other smallest Trees

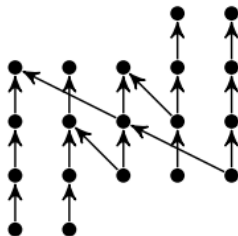


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(12 vertices)



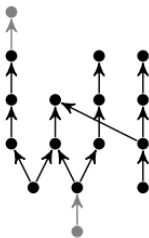
## Other smallest Trees



smallest tree not solved by AC  
(19 vertices)

# Open Problem

# Open Problem



- in P
  - NL-hard
  - Smallest tree without majority polymorphism
  - has Kearnes-kiss-chain of length 5 (no kk-chain  $\Rightarrow$  P-hard)
  - has no Jónsson-chain of length 1000 (J-chain  $\Rightarrow$  in NL)
- (16 vertices)

Paper:

The Smallest Hard Trees

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.07528>