Old and New Challenges in Coloring Graphs with Geometric Representations

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The 27th International Symposium on Graph Drawing and Network Visualization Chromatic number, denoted  $\chi$ : minimum number of colors in a proper coloring

What makes the chromatic number large?



Clique number, denoted  $\omega$ : maximum size of a clique





Tutte, Zykov, Mycielski... 1940/50s There exist triangle-free graphs with arbitrarily large chromatic number.



































Intersection graphs: vertices – geometric objects edges – intersecting pairs of objects A graph is perfect if it satisfies  $\chi = \omega$  and so does its every induced subgraph.

Interval graphs and permutation graphs are perfect.

Chudnovsky, Robertson, Seymour, Thomas, 2006 The Strong Perfect Graph Theorem

Every imperfect graph contains an induced subgraph that is

- a cycle of odd length  $\geqslant$  5, or
- the complement of a cycle of odd length  $\geq$  5.



A graph is perfect if it satisfies  $\chi = \omega$  and so does its every induced subgraph.

Interval graphs and permutation graphs are perfect.

In many natural graph classes,  $\chi$  is bounded by a function of  $\omega.$ 

Gyárfás, 1987 *Problems from the world surrounding perfect graphs* A class of graphs is  $\chi$ -bounded if there is a function fsuch that every graph in the class satisfies  $\chi \leq f(\omega)$ . Asplund, Grünbaum, 1960 On a coloring problem



rectangle graphs

Asplund, Grünbaum, 1960 On a coloring problem

Rectangle graphs satisfy  $\chi = O(\omega^2)$ .





How about box graphs?

Burling, 1965

On coloring problems of families of polytopes

cited as:

On coloring problems of families of prototypes

There are triangle-free box graphs with arbitrarily large chromatic number.

## Rectangle graphs



construction

$$\chi=3\omega$$
Kostochka, 2004

upper bound

 $\chi = O(\omega^2)$ Asplund, Grünbaum, 1960

> better  $\chi = O(\omega^2)$ Hendler, 1998

# What is the truth?

# Gyárfás, 1985 On the chromatic number of multiple interval graphs and overlap graphs



Overlap graphs (circle graphs) are  $\chi$ -bounded.

## Circle graphs



upper bound  $\chi = O(4^{\omega}\omega^2)$ Gyárfás, 1985  $\chi = O(2^{\omega}\omega^2)$ Kostochka, 1988  $\chi = O(2^{\omega})$ 

construction

 $\chi = \Theta(\omega \log \omega)$ Kostochka, 1988 Kostochka, Kratochvíl, 1997 better  $\chi = O(2^{\omega})$ Černý, 2007

# What is the truth?

# Gyárfás, 1987 Problems from the world surrounding perfect graphs Problems attributed to Erdős Are segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded? Are unit-length segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded? Are complements of segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded?



# Gyárfás, 1987 Problems from the world surrounding perfect graphs

# Problems attributed to Erdős

Are segment graphs  $\chi$ -bounded?

Are unit-length segment graphs  $\chi$ -bounded? Are complements of segment graphs  $\chi$ -bounded?

Larman, Matoušek, Pach, Törőcsik, 1994

Complements of segment graphs satisfy  $\chi \leq \omega^4$ .



Yes

# Gyárfás, 1987 Problems from the world surrounding perfect graphs Problems attributed to Erdős Are segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded? Are unit-length segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded? Yes Are complements of segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded? Yes Larman, Matoušek, Pach, Törőcsik, 1994 Complements of segment graphs satisfy $\chi \leq \omega^4$ . Suk, 2014

Unit-length segment graphs are  $\chi$ -bounded.

# Gyárfás, 1987Problems from the world surrounding perfect graphsProblems attributed to ErdősAre segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded?Are unit-length segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded?Are complements of segment graphs $\chi$ -bounded?Yes

Larman, Matoušek, Pach, Törőcsik, 1994 Complements of segment graphs satisfy  $\chi \leq \omega^4$ .

Suk, 2014

Unit-length segment graphs are  $\chi$ -bounded.

Pawlik, Kozik, Krawczyk, Lasoń, Micek, Trotter, W, 2014 There are triangle-free segment graphs with arbitrarily large chromatic number.



Benzer, 1959 *On the topology of the genetic fine structure* Sinden, 1966 *Topology of thin film RC circuits* 

string graphs

Kratochvíl, 1991 String graphs. I. The number of critical nonstring graphs is infinite String graphs. II. Recognizing string graphs is NP-hard

Kratochvíl, Matoušek, 1991 String graphs requiring exponential representations

Pach, Tóth, 2001 *Recognizing string graphs is decidable*  Schaefer, Štefankovič, 2001 Decidability of string graphs

Schaefer, Sedgwick, Štefankovič, 2003 *Recognizing string graphs in NP* 



string graphs





outerstring graphs

# Kratochvíl, 1991

String graphs. I. The number of critical nonstring graphs is infinite String graphs. II. Recognizing string graphs is NP-hard

#### Middendorf, Pfeiffer, 1993

Weakly transitive orientations, Hasse diagrams and string graphs

- alternative proof that recognizing string graphs is NP-hard

#### Note added in proof

Though not stated there explicitly, their method can be used directly to prove that recognition of outerstring graphs is NP-hard as well.



#### Sinden, 1966

Co-outerstring graphs exclude induced ordered cycles of length  $\ge$  4.





its complement not realizable in an outerstring graph



# Nešetřil, Rödl, 1993; Brightwell, 1993 Recognition of Hasse diagrams is NP-hard.







Hasse diagrams

co-cylinder graphs

co-outerstring graphs

Erdős, Hajnal, 1964 shift graphs



vertices:  $(a, b), 1 \leq a < b \leq m$ edges: touching intervals  $\omega = 2$ 







Hasse diagrams

co-cylinder graphs

co-outerstring graphs

Erdős, Hajnal, 1964 shift graphs



 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{vertices:} & (a, b), \ 1 \leqslant a < b \leqslant m \\ \text{edges:} & \text{touching intervals} \\ \omega = 2 & \chi \geqslant \lceil \log_2 m \rceil \end{array}$ 







Hasse diagrams

co-cylinder graphs

co-outerstring graphs

Erdős, Hajnal, 1964 shift graphs



 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{vertices:} & (a,b), \ 1 \leqslant a < b \leqslant m \\ \text{edges:} & \text{touching intervals} \\ \omega = 2 & \chi = \lceil \log_2 m \rceil \end{array}$ 







Hasse diagrams

Erdős, Hajnal, 1964 shift graphs



co-cylinder graphs

co-outerstring graphs

Pach, Tardos, Tóth, 2017; Mütze, W, Wiechert Shift graphs are disjointness graphs of 1-intersecting curves.

Are disjointness graphs of 1-intersecting grounded curves  $\chi$ -bounded?

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{vertices:} & (a,b), \ 1 \leqslant a < b \leqslant m \\ \text{edges:} & \text{touching intervals} \\ \omega = 2 & \chi = \lceil \log_2 m \rceil \end{array}$ 

# Rok, W, 2014

## Outerstring graphs are $\chi$ -bounded

builds on earlier work: McGuinness, 1996 and 2000 Suk, 2014 Lasoń, Micek, Pawlik, W, 2014



Sinden, 1966

Outerstring graphs exclude complements of induced ordered cycles of length  $\ge 4$ .



not realizable in an outerstring graph

#### Tomon, unpublished

Ordered graphs excluding a fixed non-crossing ordered matching are  $\chi$ -bounded.

Are ordered graphs excluding induced  $\sqrt{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\chi}$ -bounded?



intersection graphs: not  $\chi$ -bounded disjointness graphs: not  $\chi$ -bounded

x-monotone



intersection graphs:  $\chi$ -bounded Rok, W, 2014

disjointness graphs: not  $\chi$ -bounded Middendorf, Pfeiffer, 1993



intersection graphs:  $\chi$ -bounded disjointness graphs:  $\chi$ -bounded

Pach, Tomon, 2019  $\chi \leqslant {\omega+1 \choose 2}$  tight!

intersection graphs: not  $\chi$ -bounded Pawlik et al., 2014

disjointness graphs:  $\chi$ -bounded Larman et al., 1994



 $\Theta(\sqrt{n}/\log n)$  for general triangle-free graphs Ajtai, Komlós, Szemerédi, 1980; Kim, 1995

Are there triangle-free co-string graphs with  $\chi = \Omega(n^{\varepsilon})$ ?


not 3-quasi-planar

geometric graphs convex geometric graphs

convex bipartite geometric graphs







How many edges can an *n*-vertex *k*-quasi-planar graph have?

geometric graphs convex geometric graphs

convex bipartite geometric graphs



segment graph  $\chi = O_k(\log n)$ 



circle graph  $\chi = O_k(1)$ 

permutation graph  $\chi \leqslant k - 1$ 

$$\Rightarrow \omega \leqslant k-1$$

geometric graphs convex geometric graphs

convex bipartite geometric graphs

 $\Rightarrow \omega \leqslant k - 1$ 



segment graph  $\chi = O_k(\log n)$ 

circle graph  $\chi = O_k(1)$ 

permutation graph

$$\chi \leqslant k-1$$



geometric graphs convex geometric graphs

convex bipartite geometric graphs







 $\chi = O_k(\log n)$ O(n) edges of one color

 $\chi = O_k(1)$ O(n) edges of one color

 $\chi \leqslant k - 1$  $\leq n-1$  edges of one color

geometric graphs convex geometric graphs

convex bipartite geometric graphs



 $O_k(n \log n)$  edges  $\chi = O_k(\log n)$ O(n) edges of one color



 $O_k(n)$  edges  $\chi = O_k(1)$ O(n) edges of one color

 $\leq (k-1)(n-1)$  edges  $\chi \leqslant k-1$  $\leq n-1$  edges

of one color

geometric graphs

convex geometric graphs

 $O_k(n \log n)$  edges Valtr, 1997

topological graphs  $n \log^{O(k)} n$  edges Fox, Pach, 2012  $O_k(n)$  edges Capoyleas, Pach, 1992

1-intersecting topological graphs  $O_k(n \log n)$  edges Suk, W, 2015 convex bipartite geometric graphs



 $\leq (k-1)(n-1)$  edges

k-intersecting topological graphs  $O_k(n \log n)$  edges Rok, W, 2017

geometric graphs convex geometric graphs

convex bipartite geometric graphs







 $O_k(n \log n)$  edges Valtr, 1997

 $O_k(n)$  edges Capoyleas, Pach, 1992  $\leq (k-1)(n-1)$  edges

Conjecture – Pach, Shahrokhi, Szegedy, 1996 For every k, k-quasi-planar graphs have linearly many edges. Ackerman, 2009: True up to k = 4.

### Circle graphs

construction

 $\chi = \Theta(\omega \log \omega)$ 

Kostochka, 1988



upper bound  $\chi = O(4^{\omega}\omega^2)$ Gyárfás, 1985  $\chi = O(2^{\omega}\omega^2)$ Kostochka, 1988  $\chi = O(2^{\omega})$ Kostochka, Kratochvíl, 1997

better  $\chi = O(2^{\omega})$ Černý, 2007

Davies, McCarty, 2019+ *Circle graphs are quadratically*  $\chi$ *-bounded* 





permutation graph a group of  $\omega$  colors



permutation graphs a group of  $\omega$  colors



permutation graphs a group of  $\omega$  colors





Idea: Reuse colors in a smart way







Easy case:  $\leq \omega + m$  conflicting parents





Easy case:  $\leq \omega + m$  conflicting parents





Difficult case:  $\omega + m + 1$  conflicting parents



Difficult case:  $\omega + m + 1$  conflicting parents



 $\begin{array}{l} \max \ \# \ {\rm color} \ {\rm groups:} \\ \omega + 2m + 1 \\ \max \ \# \ {\rm conflicting} \ {\rm parents:} \\ \omega + m + 1 \end{array}$ 

m to be determined later



convex bipartite ( $\omega + 1$ )-quasi-planar graph on  $q + \omega + m + 2$  vertices



convex bipartite  $(\omega + 1)$ -quasi-planar graph on  $q + \omega + m + 2$  vertices  $q\omega + q = q(\omega + 1) \leqslant \# \text{ edges} \leqslant (q + \omega + m + 1)\omega = q\omega + \omega^2 + m\omega + \omega$ 



max # color groups:  $\omega + 2m + 1$ max # conflicting parents:  $\omega + m + 1$ m to be determined later  $q \leq \omega^2 + m\omega + \omega$ 

 $q\omega + q = q(\omega + 1) \leqslant \# \operatorname{edges} \leqslant (q + \omega + m + 1)\omega = q\omega + \omega^2 + m\omega + \omega$ 









# colors = (# color groups)  $\cdot \omega \leqslant \omega^2 + 2m\omega + \omega = \omega^2 + O(\omega \log \omega)$ 

### Circle graphs



upper bound

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construction

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What is the truth?

Davies, Krawczyk, McCarty, W, 2019+ Grounded L-graphs are polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded.



Are grounded segment graphs polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded? Are outerstring graphs polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded?

**Esperet**, 2017 Is every  $\chi$ -bounded class of graphs polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded?





Kára, Pór, Wood, 2005 Are polygon visibility graphs  $\chi$ -bounded?

Davies, Krawczyk, McCarty, W, 2019+ Yes, they are.

polygon visibility graph



Kára, Pór, Wood, 2005 Are polygon visibility graphs  $\chi$ -bounded?

Davies, Krawczyk, McCarty, W, 2019+ Yes, they are.



all vertices visible from a common boundary segment

Kára, Pór, Wood, 2005 Are polygon visibility graphs  $\chi$ -bounded?

Davies, Krawczyk, McCarty, W, 2019+ Yes, they are.



Kára, Pór, Wood, 2005 Are polygon visibility graphs  $\chi$ -bounded?

Davies, Krawczyk, McCarty, W, 2019+ Yes, they are.

Davies, Krawczyk, McCarty, W, 2019+

Ordered graphs with  $\sqrt{2}$  or  $\sqrt{2}$  excluded are  $\chi$ -bounded.

Are these graphs (or polygon visibility graphs) polynomially  $\chi$ -bounded?

### Rectangle graphs



construction

$$\chi=3\omega$$
Kostochka, 2004

upper bound

 $\chi = O(\omega^2)$ Asplund, Grünbaum, 1960

> better  $\chi = O(\omega^2)$ Hendler, 1998

Chalermsook, W, 2019+ Rectangle graphs satisfy  $\chi = O(\omega \log \omega)$ .