# A Tight Lower Bound for Steiner Orientation 

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Joint work with Andreas Emil Feldmann

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## Outline of Talk

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- Steiner Orientation


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- Steiner Orientation
- Upper Bound


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- Steiner Orientation
- Upper Bound
- Non-Tight Lower Bound


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- Some new results...


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## A Tight Lower Bound for Steiner Orientation

The Steiner Orientation problem

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- $f(k) \cdot n^{O(1)}$


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## A Tight Lower Bound for Steiner Orientation

Sketch of $n^{O(k)}$ algorithm of Cygan, Kortsarz and Nutov ['13]

- Lemma 1: Let $C$ be a subgraph which admits a strongly-connected orientation. Then we can obtain an equivalent instance by contracting $C$ to a single node.


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- From Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, can assume $G$ is a DAG
- Guess second and second-last vertices of satisfying path for each terminal pair
- This gives $n^{O(k)}$ possibilities
- Use topological order of $G$ (since it is a DAG) and some clever dynamic programming


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Basic gadget: Attempt I


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How can we satisfy both the pairs $\left(s_{1}, t_{1}\right)$ and $\left(s_{2}, t_{2}\right)$ ?

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How can we satisfy both the pairs $\left(s_{1}, t_{1}\right)$ and $\left(s_{2}, t_{2}\right)$ ? Note that the only edges to orient are the green paths!

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This is the only way to satisfy both the pairs ( $s_{1}, t_{1}$ ) and ( $s_{2}, t_{2}$ )

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- Except the choice of which unique blue edge is used by both paths


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Basic gadget: Attempt II


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The pairs are $\left(s_{1}, t_{1}\right),\left(s_{2}, t_{2}\right),\left(a_{1}, b_{1}\right)$ and $\left(a_{2}, b_{2}\right)$

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Hence, by last slide we have the orientations of green paths:

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Hence, by last slide the orientations of green paths are as shown!
Can we make the two gadgets use blue edges on same level?
Add orange edges, and the pairs $\left(a_{1}, t_{1}\right)$ and $\left(a_{2}, t_{2}\right)$

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## Multicolored $k$-Clique

Input: An undirected graph $G=\left(V_{1} \cup V_{2} \cup \ldots V_{k}, E\right)$
Question: Does $G$ have a clique of size $k$ which contains exactly one vertex from each $V_{i}$
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- Next slide...


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In addition to usual terminal pairs, also add the pairs $\left(X_{i, j}, Y_{i, j}\right)$ and $\left(X_{j, i}, Y_{j,}\right)$

## A Tight Lower Bound for Steiner Orientation

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In addition to usual terminal pairs, also add the pairs $\left(X_{i, j}, Y_{i, j}\right)$ and $\left(X_{j, i}, Y_{j,}\right)$ So we have to take one horizontal black row and one vertical black column!

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Still need to encode edge-relations in vertices of black grid (next slide)

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Non-tight $f(k) \cdot n^{o(\sqrt{k})}$ Lower Bound of Wahlstrom and Pilipczuk ['16]


- The splitting operation for vertex $v_{i, j}^{x, y}$ when $(x, y) \notin E(G)$ where $x \in V_{i}$ and $y \in V_{j}$.


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- The idea behind this splitting is that no matter which way we orient the undirected dotted edge we cannot go both from left to right and from top to bottom.


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- The idea behind this splitting is that no matter which way we orient the undirected dotted edge we cannot go both from left to right and from top to bottom.
- However, if we just want to go from left to right (top to bottom) then it is possible by orienting the dotted edge to the right (left), respectively.


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- The idea behind this splitting is that no matter which way we orient the undirected dotted edge we cannot go both from left to right and from top to bottom.
- However, if we just want to go from left to right (top to bottom) then it is possible by orienting the dotted edge to the right (left), respectively.
- So, if we use a horizontal black row and vertical black column then the unique black vertex they meet in cannot be split, i.e., the two corresponding vertices form an edge!


## A Tight Lower Bound for Steiner Orientation

Improved $f(k) \cdot n^{o(k / \log k)}$ Lower Bound of Wahlstrom and Pilipczuk ['16]

- The $f(k) \cdot n^{o(\sqrt{k})}$ lower bound had $O(1)$ pairs per edge gadget


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- The $f(k) \cdot n^{o(\sqrt{k})}$ lower bound had $O(1)$ pairs per edge gadget
- Standard way to improve this lower bound to $f(k) \cdot n^{\circ(k / \log k)}$ is to reduce from a slightly different problem


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## Colored Subgraph Isomorphism (CSI)

Input: An undirected graph $G=\left(V_{1} \cup V_{2} \cup \ldots V_{\ell}, E(G)\right)$ and an undirected graph $H=([\ell], E(H))$
Question: Is there an injective function $\phi:[\ell]=V(H) \rightarrow V(G)$ such that $\phi(i) \in V_{i}$ for each $i \in[\ell]$ and for each $1 \leq i \neq j \leq \ell$ we have $i-j \in E(H)$ implies $\phi(i)-\phi(j) \in E(G)$
Parameter: $r=|E(H)|$

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- Marx ['07] showed a lower bound of $f(r) \cdot n^{o(r / \log r)}$ for CSI under ETH
- The previous reduction can be easily modified to start from CSI instead of Multicolored $k$-Clique
- The lower bound follows since the number of terminal pairs is $O(|V(H)|+|E(H)|)=O(|E(H)|)$


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- Upper Bound
- Non-Tight Lower Bound
- Tight Lower Bound
- Some new results...


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- Open question: Is there $O(1)$-approximation in FPT time? At least on planar graphs?


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Questions?

