## A Journey on Configuration Graphs Coloring and Independent Set Reconfiguration

#### Nicolas Bousquet

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### My research - 11 years ago



### My research - Now



### My research - Now



## My research - Now



Geometric & Col. Rec. Local certification

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- Important problems in random sampling, bioinformatics, discrete geometry, games...etc... for decades.



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- Exponential length transformation. Looks simple but computationally hard.
- Understandable because of symmetry. In what follows, symmetry / structure will vanish.

## Configuration graph

### **Definition** (Configuration graph  $C(I)$  of I)

- Vertices : Valid solutions of I.
- Create an edge between any two solutions if we can transform one into the other in one elementary step.



 $Reconfiguration$  diameter  $=$ Diameter of  $C(I)$  (when connected)

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- **Algorithmics.** Can we efficiently solve these questions? (In polynomial time, FPT-time...).

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### Outline of the presentation :

Focus on Graph Recoloring an Independent Set Reconfiguration.



# Graph Recoloring







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A spin system is a set of spins given with :



- An integer  $k$  being the number of states.
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A spin configuration is a function  $f: S \to \{1, \ldots, k\}^n$ .  $\Leftrightarrow$  A (non necessarily proper) graph coloring.



## Antiferromagnetic Potts model

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Gibbs measure at fixed temperature T :

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Limit of an antiferromagnetic Potts model when  $T\rightarrow 0.$  $\Rightarrow$  Only **proper** colorings have positive measure.

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### Remark :

The Glauber dynamics is a random walk in the configuration graph.

### Questions :

• Can we generate every solution?

Is the configuration graph connected ?

• How long shall we wait to "sample a solution almost at random" ?

What is the mixing time ? (Related with the diameter of the configuration graph).

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A graph is d-degenerate if there exists an ordering  $v_1, \ldots, v_n$  such that for every i,  $|N(v_i) \cap \{v_{i+1}, \ldots, v_n\}| \le d$ .



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Cerededa's conjecture for  $d = 2...$  and  $\Delta = 4!$ 

[Feghali, Johnson, Paulusma '17]  $d = 2$  and  $\Delta = 3$  is true.












Open : How many colors to get lin. diameter :  $(2 - \epsilon)$ tw $(G)$  colors ?  $(2 - \epsilon)d$  ?



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Part II

# Independent Set Reconfiguration



• [Hopcroft, Schwartz, Sharir '83] Warehouseman's problem - Motion of rectangular robots in a grid. ⇒ PSPACE-complete (but they need large robots).



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Select one vertex of I and move it anywhere else. (keeping an IS)



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Question : What is the complexity of TS / TJ-REACHABILITY?

# TS (resp. TJ) REACHABILITY

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TS/TJ-REACHABILITY :
Input : A graph G, two independent sets I, J.
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### Today :

Focus on parameterized algorithms.

### Parameterized complexity

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Theorem (Bodlaender, Groenland, Swennenhuis '21)

TS and TJ-REACHABILITY are XL-complete.







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TS-ISR is FPT on : [Bartier et al. '20 and '22, '24]

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- Graphs of girth  $> 5$ .



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#### Consequences :

- FPT on bounded degree graphs.
- FPT on planar graphs.

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[BDMMPW'24+] Parameterized hardness of TS-DSR on sparse classes.

- Explore the differences between Connected-TJ and TS.
- Dense classes?

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Enumeration, Random Generation, Computational geometry, Algebraic and geometric combinatorics, bioinformatics...

• Continue to federate the comunity.

Organizing CoRe, reconfiguration workshops, book on reconfiguration problems.





- Lower bounds for combinatorial reconfiguration.
- Explore relations with other fields.

Enumeration, Random Generation, Computational geometry, Algebraic and geometric combinatorics, bioinformatics...

• Continue to federate the comunity.

Organizing CoRe, reconfiguration workshops, book on reconfiguration problems.





Thanks for your attention !