# A LINEAR-TIME ALGORITHM FOR THE IDENTIFYING CODE PROBLEM ON BLOCK GRAPHS

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A linear-time algorithm for the identifying code





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A subset  $C \subseteq V$  is

• dominating if  $N[i] \cap C$  are non-empty sets for all  $i \in V$ ,

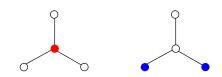


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- identifying if  $N[i] \cap C$  are distinct sets for all  $i \in V$ ,

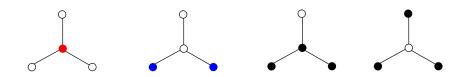


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- an identifying code if it is dominating and identifying.



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#### Remark

*G* is **identifiable** if and only if it has no true twins, i.e., two nodes  $i \neq j$  with N[i] = N[j] [Karpovsky et al. 1998].

# THE IDENTIFYING CODE PROBLEM

The identifying code problem is hard in general and even remains hard for:

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Study the identifying code problem of block graphs.

A *block* graph is a graph in which every maximal 2-connected subgraph (block) is a clique.

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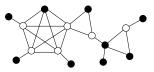
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A block graph B (the black vertices form an identifying code of B).



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CONCLUDING REMARKS

# PREVIOUS WORK ON THE IDENTIFYING CODE PROBLEM FOR TREES

#### KNOWN RESULTS

- A tree is a particular case of a block graph.
- Trees have been addressed in the context of the identifying code problem [Auger 2014, Bertrand et al. 2005, Blidia et al. 2007, Karpovsky et al. 1998].
- There is a linear-time algorithm that solves the identifying code problem on trees [Auger 2014].

 $C \subseteq V$  is a  $\{v\}$ -almost ID of *G* if the sets  $C \cap N[u]$  are nonempty and pairwise distinct for all  $u \in V - \{v\}$ . [Auger 2014]

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- CO (for code) if  $v \in C$ ,
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- **FN** (for favoured neighbour) if *v* has a neighbour *w* with  $N[w] \cap C = \{v\}$ .

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Let call *P* either any of the properties above or  $\overline{ID}$ ,  $\overline{CO}$ ,  $\overline{ADJ}$  and  $\overline{FN}$ .

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- If *C* satisfies ID, CO and FN then *C* satisfies ADJ.

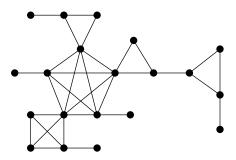
Let  $\Gamma_{\mathsf{P}_1,\ldots,\mathsf{P}_k}(v,G)$  the function that returns the minimum size of a  $\{v\}$ -almost ID code in *G* satisfying  $\mathsf{P}_i$  with  $i = 1, \ldots, k$  or  $\infty$  if no such code exists.

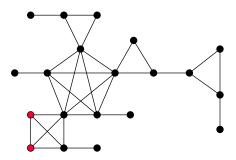
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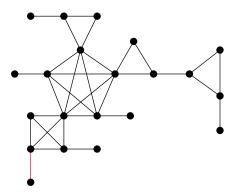
- If C satisfies FN then C satisfies CO.
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Let  $\Gamma_{\mathsf{P}_1,\ldots,\mathsf{P}_k}(v,G)$  the function that returns the minimum size of a  $\{v\}$ -almost ID code in *G* satisfying  $\mathsf{P}_i$  with  $i = 1, \ldots, k$  or  $\infty$  if no such code exists. It can be proved that for any graph *G* and  $v \in V(G)$  it holds:

$$\Gamma_{\rm ID}(G) = \min \begin{cases} \Gamma_{\rm ID,CO,ADJ,FN}(v,G) \\ \Gamma_{\rm ID,CO,ADJ,\overline{FN}}(v,G) \\ \Gamma_{\rm ID,CO,\overline{ADJ}}(v,G) \\ \Gamma_{\rm ID,\overline{CO},ADJ}(v,G) \end{cases}$$

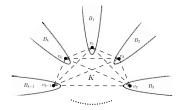






- A block graph *B* is identifiable if and only if each maximal clique *K* of *B* satisfies that all vertices in *K*, except at most one, have a neighbour that is not in V(K).
- If *B* is a block graph,  $v_1 \in V(B)$  and *K* is a maximal clique with  $V(K) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  then if we delete all the edges in *K* we obtain *k* block subgraphs, say  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k$  containing  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k$  respectively.

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Let *B* be a block graph and  $v_1, v_2, ..., v_k$  the vertices of the maximal clique *K*. Let  $B_1, B_2, ..., B_k$  be the block graphs, containing  $v_1, v_2, ..., v_k$  respectively, obtained from *B* by deletion of the edges in *K*. Let *C* be a code in *B* and  $C_i = C \cap V(B_i)$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, ..., k\}$ .

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- If *C* is a  $v_1$ -almost *ID* code in *B* then there exists at most one  $i \in \{2, ..., k\}$  such that  $C_i$  satisfies  $\overline{ADJ}$ .

# THE IDENTIFYING CODE PROBLEM ON BLOCK GRAPHS

#### THEOREM

Let *B* be a block graph, *K* a maximal clique  $V(K) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_k\}$ . Let  $C_i$  be a  $v_i$ -almost ID code in  $B_i$ ,  $\forall i \in \{1, 2, ..., k\}$  and  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^k C_i$ , then

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- If u, v ∈ V' = V(B) − V(K), they are dominated and separated by C.
- Let v ∈ V' and v<sub>j</sub> ∈ V(K) such that d(v, v<sub>j</sub>) = 1. Then v and v<sub>j</sub> are dominated and separated by C if there is i ∈ {1,2,...,k} i ≠ j such that C<sub>i</sub> is CO.

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- Let v ∈ V' and v<sub>j</sub> ∈ V(K) such that d(v,v<sub>j</sub>) = 2. Then v and v<sub>j</sub> are dominated and separated by C if C<sub>j</sub> satisfies CO or there is i ∈ {1,2,...,k} i ≠ j such that C<sub>i</sub> is CO and v ∉ V(B<sub>i</sub>).

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- Let v ∈ V' and v<sub>j</sub> ∈ V(K) such that d(v,v<sub>j</sub>) = 2. Then v and v<sub>j</sub> are dominated and separated by C if C<sub>j</sub> satisfies CO or there is i ∈ {1,2,...,k} i ≠ j such that C<sub>i</sub> is CO and v ∉ V(B<sub>i</sub>).
- If v<sub>i</sub>, v<sub>j</sub> ∈ V(K) with i ≠ j then v<sub>i</sub> and v<sub>j</sub> are dominated and separated by C if either C<sub>i</sub> is ADJ or C<sub>j</sub> is ADJ.

Remind that given  $v \in V(B)$ ,

$$\Gamma_{\rm ID}(B) = min \begin{cases} \Gamma_{\rm ID,CO,ADJ,FN}(v,B) \\ \Gamma_{\rm ID,CO,ADJ,\overline{FN}}(v,B) \\ \Gamma_{\rm ID,CO,\overline{ADJ}}(v,B) \\ \Gamma_{\rm ID,\overline{CO},ADJ}(v,B) \end{cases}$$

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How to compute  $\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}}(v, B)$ ?

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Let  $C \subset V(B)$  be a v-almost ID code satisfying ID, CO, ADJ and FN. Let  $v = v_1 \in V(K)$  with K maximal clique in B. It holds that:

- $C_i$  is a  $v_i$ -almost ID code in  $B_i \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .
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- There is *w* such that  $N[w] \cap C = \{v_1\}$  (since *C* is FN).

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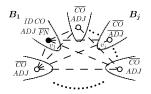
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- There is w such that  $N[w] \cap C = \{v_1\}$  (since C is FN).

If  $w \notin V(B_1)$  then  $C_1$  is  $\overline{FN}$  and  $w = v_j$  for some  $j \neq 1$ .

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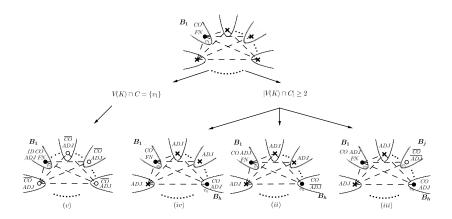
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If  $w \notin V(B_1)$  then  $C_1$  is  $\overline{\mathsf{FN}}$  and  $w = v_j$  for some  $j \neq 1$ . Moreover

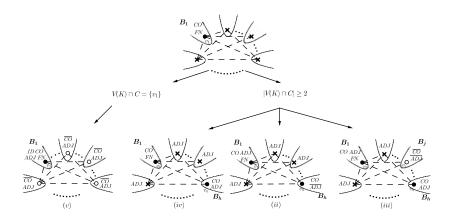


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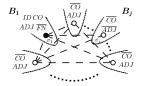
Conversely,  $C_i$  is a  $v_i$ -almost ID of  $B_i \forall i \in \{1, ..., k\}$  satisfying any of (i), (ii), (iv), (v) then *C* satisfies the properties ID, CO, ADJ and FN.

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A linear-time algorithm for the identifying code

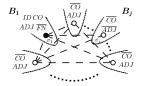
Hence, if  $C_i$  is a  $v_i$ -almost ID of  $B_i \forall i \in \{1, ..., k\}$  satisfying (i), then

- $C_1$  satisfies ID, CO, ADJ,  $\overline{FN}$ ,
- ∃*j* ∈ {2,3,...,*k*} such that C<sub>j</sub> satisfies CO, ADJ,
- ∀*i* ∈ {2,3,...,*k*}, *i* ≠ *j*, *C<sub>i</sub>* satisfies CO, ADJ.



Hence, if  $C_i$  is a  $v_i$ -almost ID of  $B_i \forall i \in \{1, ..., k\}$  satisfying (i), then

- C<sub>1</sub> satisfies ID, CO, ADJ, FN,
- ∃*j* ∈ {2,3,...,*k*} such that C<sub>j</sub> satisfies CO, ADJ,
- ∀*i* ∈ {2,3,...,*k*}, *i* ≠ *j*, *C<sub>i</sub>* satisfies CO, ADJ.

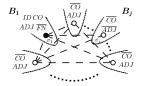


In order to obtain  $\Gamma_{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}(v, B)$  we need to compute:

- $\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ},\overline{\text{FN}}}(v_1, B_1)$
- $\Gamma_{\overline{\operatorname{CO}},\overline{\operatorname{ADJ}}}(v_j,B_j)$  for only one  $j\in\{1,\ldots,k\}$
- $\Gamma_{\overline{\text{CO}},\text{ADJ}}(v_i, B_i)$  for all  $i \neq j$

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And all functions corresponding to the cases (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)

Name	Function	Name	Function
$f_1$	$\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}}$	$f_6$	$\Gamma_{\rm CO,ADJ,\overline{FN}}$
$f_2$	$\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}}$	<i>f</i> <sub>7</sub>	$\Gamma_{CO,\overline{ADJ},FN}$
$f_3$	$\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ}}$	$f_8$	$\Gamma_{CO,\overline{ADJ},\overline{FN}}$
$f_4$	$\Gamma_{ID,\overline{CO},ADJ}$	<i>f</i> 9	$\Gamma_{\overline{CO},ADJ}$
$f_5$	$\Gamma_{\rm CO,ADJ,FN}$	$f_{10}$	$\Gamma_{\overline{CO},\overline{ADJ}}$

List of main functions

Name	Function	Name	Function
$f_1$	$\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}}$	$f_6$	$\Gamma_{\rm CO,ADJ,\overline{FN}}$
$f_2$	$\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}}$	<i>f</i> <sub>7</sub>	$\Gamma_{CO,\overline{ADJ},FN}$
$f_3$	$\Gamma_{ID,CO,\overline{ADJ}}$	$f_8$	$\Gamma_{CO,\overline{ADJ},\overline{FN}}$
$f_4$	$\Gamma_{ID,\overline{CO},ADJ}$	<i>f</i> 9	$\Gamma_{\overline{CO},ADJ}$
$f_5$	$\Gamma_{\rm CO,ADJ,FN}$	$f_{10}$	$\Gamma_{\overline{CO},\overline{ADJ}}$

List of main functions

Name	Function	Name	Function
$f_{11}$	$\Gamma_{\text{CO},\overline{\text{ADJ}}} = min\{f_7, f_8\}$	<i>f</i> <sub>15</sub>	$\Gamma_{\overline{\text{CO}}} = \min\{f_9, f_{10}\}$
$f_{12}$	$\Gamma_{\text{CO,ADJ}} = \min\{f_5, f_6\}$	$f_{16}$	$\Gamma_{ADJ} = \min\{f_5, f_6, f_9\}$
$f_{13}$	$\Gamma_{\text{CO,FN}} = min\{f_5, f_7\}$	$f_{17}$	$\Gamma_{ID,CO,ADJ} = \min\{f_1, f_2\}$
$f_{14}$	$\Gamma_{\rm CO,\overline{FN}} = min\{f_6, f_8\}$		

### List of auxiliary functions

 $f_1(v_1, B) = \Gamma_{\mathsf{ID}, \mathsf{CO}, \mathsf{ADJ}, \mathsf{FN}}(v_1, B) =$ 

$$= \min \begin{cases} f_{2}(v_{1}, B_{1}) + \min_{j=2,...,k} \left\{ f_{10}(v_{j}, B_{j}) + \sum_{\substack{i=2\\i\neq j}}^{k} f_{9}(v_{i}, B_{i}) \right\} \\ f_{5}(v_{1}, B_{1}) + \min_{h=2,...,k} \left\{ f_{11}(v_{h}, B_{h}) + \sum_{\substack{i=2\\i\neq h}}^{k} f_{16}(v_{i}, B_{i}) \right\} \\ f_{5}(v_{1}, B_{1}) + \min_{\substack{j,h=2\\j\neq h}} \left\{ f_{10}(v_{j}, B_{j}) + f_{12}(v_{h}, B_{h}) + \sum_{\substack{i=2\\i\neq j,h}}^{k} f_{16}(v_{i}, B_{i}) \right\} \\ f_{13}(v_{1}, B_{1}) + \min_{h=2,...,k} \left\{ f_{12}(v_{h}, B_{h}) + \sum_{\substack{i=2\\i\neq h}}^{k} f_{16}(v_{i}, B_{i}) \right\} \\ f_{1}(v_{1}, B_{1}) + \sum_{\substack{i=2\\i\neq 2}}^{k} f_{9}(v_{i}, B_{i}) \end{cases}$$

Given  $v \in V(B)$  and according to the given functions,

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 $\Gamma_{\mathsf{ID}}(B) = \min\{f_1(v, B), f_2(v, B), f_3(v, B), f_4(v, B)\}.$ 

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#### Algorithm ICB

**Input:** a connected block graph *B* and its list of maximal cliques. Output:  $\Gamma_{\mathsf{ID}}(B)$ .

- 1: randomly select a vertex  $v_1$  and call RICB $(v_1, B)$ ; 2: return  $\Gamma_{\text{ID}}(v_1, B) = \min\{f_1(v_1, B), f_2(v_1, B), f_3(v_1, B), f_4(v_1, B)\}$ .

Given  $v \in V(B)$  and according to the given functions,

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Algorithm ICB randomly selects a vertex  $v_1$  in block graph B and calls Algorithm RICB $(v_1, B)$ that computes the values of all 10 functions in a recursive manner in smaller and smaller block graphs.

## Initialization: List *L* when $V(B) = \{v\}$

Name	Function	$f_j(v, \{v\})$	Name	Function	$f_j(v, \{v\})$
$\begin{array}{c}f_1\\f_2\\f_3\\f_4\\f_4\end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c} \Gamma_{\text{ID},\text{CO},\text{ADJ},\text{FN}} \\ \Gamma_{\text{ID},\text{CO},\text{ADJ},\overline{\text{FN}}} \\ \Gamma_{\text{ID},\text{CO},\overline{\text{ADJ}}} \\ \Gamma_{\text{ID},\overline{\text{CO}},\text{ADJ}} \\ \end{array} $	∞ ∞ 1 ∞	$\begin{array}{c} f_6\\ f_7\\ f_8\\ f_9\\ f_9\end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c} \Gamma_{\text{CO,ADJ},\overline{\text{FN}}} \\ \Gamma_{\text{CO},\overline{\text{ADJ}},\overline{\text{FN}}} \\ \Gamma_{\text{CO},\overline{\text{ADJ}},\overline{\text{FN}}} \\ \Gamma_{\overline{\text{CO}},\overline{\text{ADJ}},\overline{\text{FN}}} \\ \Gamma_{\overline{\text{CO}},\overline{\text{ADJ}}} \end{array} $	8 8 1 8
<i>J</i> 5	I CO,ADJ,FN	∞	<i>f</i> 10	I CO, ADJ	0

## Initialization: List L when $V(B) = \{v\}$

Name	Function	$f_j(v, \{v\})$	Name	Function	$f_j(v, \{v\})$
$f_1$ $f_2$	$\Gamma_{\text{ID,CO,ADJ,FN}}$	8 8	$f_6$ $f_7$		8
$f_3$		1	$f_8$		1
$f_4$	I_ID, CO, ADJ	~	<i>f</i> 9	I CO.ADJ	$\infty$
$f_5$	Γ <sub>CO,ADJ,FN</sub>	∞	$f_{10}$	$\Gamma_{\overline{CO},\overline{ADJ}}^{\overline{CO},\overline{ADJ}}$	0

#### Algorithm RICB

**Input:** a block graph *B*, its list of maximal cliques and  $v_1 \in V(B)$ . **Output:** the list *L* of the values of the ten functions  $f_j$  on  $(v_1, B)$ . 1: **if**  $v_1$  has degree 0 in *B* **then** 

initialize L: 2:

3: else

let *K* be a maximal clique with  $V(K) = \{v_1, ..., v_k\}$  and delete its edges; let  $B_1, ..., B_k$  be the remaining block graphs, resp., containing  $v_1, ..., v_k$ ; 4:

5:

Let  $L_i = RICB(v_i, B_i)$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ ; compute the ten functions on  $(v_i, B)$  from  $L_i$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ ; 6:

7:

8: end if

9: return the list L of the values of the ten functions  $f_i$  on  $(v_1, B)$ .

## THEOREM

For each of the ten functions  $f_j$ , we can compute  $f_j(v_1, B)$  from  $L_i(v_i, B_i)$  for all  $i \in \{1, ..., k\}$  in time O(k).

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### THEOREM

Algorithm ICB computes in linear time  $\Gamma_{ID}(B)$  of an identifiable block graph *B* (or returns  $\infty$  if no identifying code exists in *B*).

## COROLLARY

If *B* is a vertex-weighted block graph, the ICB can be easily modified in order to return the minimum weighted identifying code number.

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### COROLLARY

Algorithm ICB could be modified in order to obtain an identifying code of minimum size.





The Identifying code Problem (ICP):

• Find  $C \subseteq V$  of minimum size such that  $C \cap N[i] \neq \emptyset$  and  $C \cap N[i] \neq C \cap N[j]$ ,  $i, j \in V$ .

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Problems related to the Identifying Code Problem in graphs:

• Locating dominating Problem (LDP) Find  $L \subseteq V$  of minimum size such that  $L \cap N[i] \neq \emptyset$  and  $L \cap N(i) \neq L \cap N(j), i, j \in V - L.$ 

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- Open locating dominating Problem (OLDP) Find  $O \subseteq V$  of minimum size such that  $O \cap N(i) \neq \emptyset$  and  $O \cap N(i) \neq O \cap N(j), i, j \in V$ .

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Our future goals:

- Adapt the linear-time algorithm for ICP to LDP and OLDP.
- Extend the results to graphs whose 2-connected components are cycles or complete bipartite graphs.

S. Bianchi (UNR)

## Thanks