A Polynomial-Delay Algorithm for Enumerating Connectors Under Various Connectivity Conditions

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Abstract

We are given an instance (G, I, σ) with a graph $G = (V, E)$, a set I of items, and a function $\sigma : V \to 2^I$. For a subset X of V, let $G[X]$ denote the subgraph induced from G by X, and $I_\sigma(X)$ denote the common item set over X. A subset X of V such that $G[X]$ is connected is called a connector if, for any vertex $v \in V \setminus X$, $G[X \cup \{v\}]$ is not connected or $I_\sigma(X \cup \{v\})$ is a proper subset of $I_\sigma(X)$.

In this paper, we present the first polynomial-delay algorithm for enumerating all connectors. For this, we first extend the problem of enumerating connectors to a general setting so that the connectivity condition on X in G can be specified in a more flexible way. We next design a new algorithm for enumerating all solutions in the general setting, which leads to a polynomial-delay algorithm for enumerating all connectors for several connectivity conditions on X in G, such as the biconnectivity of $G[X]$ or the k-edge-connectivity among vertices in X in G.

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1 Introduction

In this paper, we consider enumeration of subgraphs in a given *attributed graph*, that is, a graph in which vertices are given items. The subgraphs should be connected, and at the same time, be maximal with respect to the common item set.

Formally, we are given an instance (G, I, σ) with a graph $G = (V, E)$, a set I of items, and a function $\sigma : V \to 2^I$. For a subset $X \subseteq V$, let $G[X]$ denote the subgraph induced from G by X, and $I_\sigma(X)$ denote the common item set $\bigcap_{u \in X} \sigma(u)$. A subset $X \subseteq V$ such that $G[X]$ is connected is called a *connector*, if for any vertex $v \in V \setminus X$, $G[X \cup \{v\}]$ is not connected or $I_\sigma(X \cup \{v\}) \subsetneq I_\sigma(X)$; i.e., there is no proper superset Y of X such that $G[Y]$ is connected and $I_\sigma(Y) = I_\sigma(X)$. We show a brief example of an instance in Figure 1(a). Note that we admit a connector whose common item set is empty. In the figure, it is $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$. If such a connector exists, then it is a connected component of the graph, but the converse does not necessarily hold.

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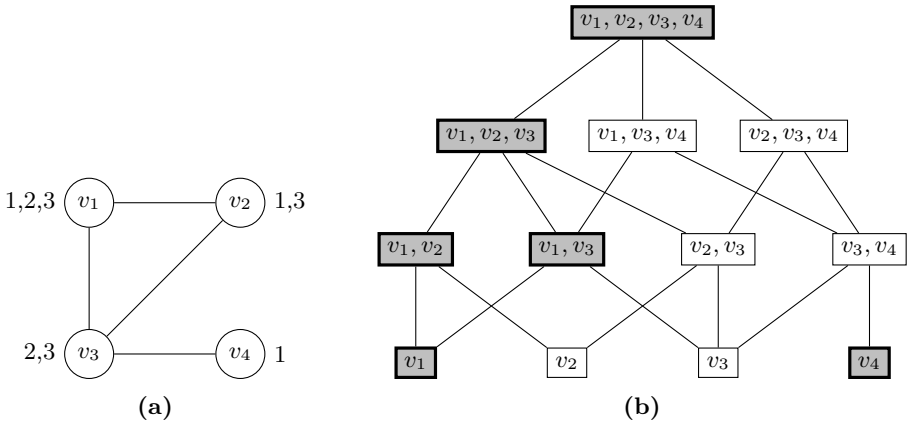

Figure 1 (a) An instance that has connectors $\{v_1\}$, $\{v_4\}$, $\{v_1, v_2\}$, $\{v_1, v_3\}$, $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$, and $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$, where an item is represented by an integer; (b) Hasse diagram of the transitive system $(V, \mathcal{C}_G)$ of the instance in (a), where solutions are indicated by shade.

We consider the problem of enumerating connectors. The problem is a generalization of the *frequent item set mining problem*, a well-known problem in data mining, such that G is a clique and a vertex corresponds to a transaction.

Let us introduce an application example of the problem from [11]. Suppose a biological network such that a vertex corresponds to a gene and an edge represents a protein-protein interaction between genes. A gene produces RNAs under a certain condition, and the phenomenon is called gene expression. A condition at which gene expression occurs is given to a vertex as an item. A biologist is particularly interested in a large-sized connector with a large common item set, that is, a large connected set of genes that make expressions simultaneously under common (possibly complex) conditions. Enumeration of connectors is a basic problem for discovering such meaningful gene sets.

Let us review related studies. For a usual graph (i.e., a non-attributed graph), there are some studies on enumeration of connected subgraphs. Avis and Fukuda [3] showed that all connected induced subgraphs are enumerable in output-polynomial time and in polynomial space, by means of reverse search. Nutov [7] showed that minimal undirected Steiner networks, and minimal k-connected and k-outconnected spanning subgraphs are enumerable in incremental polynomial time.

For an attributed graph, the *frequent subgraph mining problem* [5] is among significant graph mining issues. This problem asks to enumerate all subgraphs that appear in a given set of attributed graphs frequently, where the graph isomorphism is defined by taking into account the items. For the problem, gSpan [15] should be one of the most successful algorithms.

When it comes to the connector enumeration problem, Sese et al. [12] proposed the first algorithm, named COPINE, which explores the search space by utilizing the similar search tree as gSpan. Okuno et al. [9, 10] and Okuno [8] studied the parallelization of COPINE. Haraguchi et al. [4] proposed the first output-polynomial algorithm, named COOMA, which enumerates connectors by means of dynamic programming rather than a search tree.

In this paper, we present the first polynomial-delay algorithm for enumerating all connectors. For this, we first extend the problem of enumerating connectors to a general setting so that the connectivity condition on a vertex subset X in G can be specified in a more flexible way. Concretely, we introduce a new notion of a family of sets, called a "transitive system," which is a generalization of the family of all vertex subsets that induce connected

subgraphs. The notion of connector is also extended to the transitive system and it will be called a solution. We then design a new algorithm for enumerating all solutions in the transitive system, which leads to a polynomial-delay algorithm for enumerating all connectors for several connectivity conditions on X in G, such as the biconnectivity of $G[X]$ or the k-edge-connectivity among vertices in X in G. The proposed algorithm enumerates the solutions by traversing a *family tree*. Traversal of a family tree is a frequently used technique in various enumeration algorithms (e.g., [6]).

The paper is organized as follows. After we make preparations in Section 2, we explain the structure of the family tree in Section 3. Then in Section 4, we provide an algorithm that enumerates all the solutions by traversing the family tree, which yields a polynomial-delay algorithm for the connector enumeration problem. In Section 5, we explain how we deal with various notions of edge- and vertex-connectivity in the enumeration algorithm, followed by concluding remarks in Section 6. For some proofs, details are included in the appendix.

2 Preliminaries

For two integers a and b, let $[a, b]$ denote the set of integers i with $a \leq i \leq b$. For two subsets $J = \{j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_{|J|}\}$ and $K = \{k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_{|K|}\}$ of a set A with a total order, where $j_1 < j_2 < \cdots < j_{|J|}$ and $k_1 < k_2 < \cdots < k_{|K|}$, we denote by $J \prec K$ if $J = \{k_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq j\}$ for some $j < |K|$ or the sequence $(j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_{|J|})$ is lexicographically smaller than the sequence $(k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_{|K|})$. We denote $J \preceq K$ if $J \prec K$ or $J = K$.

A system $(V, \mathcal{C})$ consists of a finite set V and a family $\mathcal{C} \subseteq 2^V$, where an element in V is called a *vertex*, and a set in $\mathcal{C}$ is called a *component*. A system $(V, \mathcal{C})$ (or $\mathcal{C}$) is called *transitive* if any tuple of $Z, X, Y \in \mathcal{C}$ with $Z \subseteq X \cap Y$ implies $X \cup Y \in \mathcal{C}$. For a subset $X \subseteq V$, a component $Z \in \mathcal{C}$ with $Z \subseteq X$ is called *X-maximal* if no other component $W \in \mathcal{C}$ satisfies $Z \subsetneq W \subseteq X$. Let $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(X)$ denote the family of all X-maximal components.

For example, any Sperner family [13], a family of subsets such that none is contained in another subset, is a transitive system. Also the family $\mathcal{C}_G$ of vertex subsets $X \in 2^V$ in a graph $G = (V, E)$ such that $G[X]$ is connected is transitive, where $G[X]$ with $|X| = 1$ (resp., $X = \emptyset$) is connected (resp., disconnected). We illustrate the Hasse diagram of a transitive system $\mathcal{C}_G$ in Figure 1(b).

We define an instance to be a tuple $(V, \mathcal{C}, I, \sigma)$ of a set V of $n \geq 1$ vertices, a family $\mathcal{C} \subseteq 2^V$, a set I of $q \geq 1$ items and a function $\sigma : V \to 2^I$. For each subset $X \subseteq V$, let $I_\sigma(X) \subseteq I$ denote the common item set over $\sigma(v)$, $v \in X$; i.e., $I_\sigma(X) = \bigcap_{v \in X} \sigma(v)$. A *solution* is defined to be a component $X \in \mathcal{C}$ such that any component $Y \in \mathcal{C}$ with $Y \supsetneq X$ satisfies $I_\sigma(Y) \subsetneq I_\sigma(X)$. Let $\mathcal{S}$ denote the family of all solutions to the instance. Our aim is to design an algorithm for enumerating all solutions in $\mathcal{S}$ when $\mathcal{C}$ is transitive. When an instance $(V, \mathcal{C}, I, \sigma)$ is given, we assume that $\mathcal{C}$ is implicitly given as two oracles L_1 and L_2 such that

- given non-empty subsets $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$, $\mathrm{L}_1(X, Y)$ returns a component $Z \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ with $X \subseteq Z$ (or $\emptyset$ if no such Z exists) in $\theta_{1,\mathrm{t}}$ time and $\theta_{1,\mathrm{s}}$ space; and
- given a non-empty subset $Y \subseteq V$, $\mathrm{L}_2(Y)$ returns $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ in $\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}}$ time and $\theta_{2,\mathrm{s}}$ space.

We also denote by $\delta(Y)$ an upper bound on $|\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)|$, where we assume that δ is a non-decreasing function in the sense that $\delta(X) \leq \delta(Y)$ if $X \subseteq Y$. For the example of family $\mathcal{C}_G$ of vertex subsets X such that $G[X]$ is connected in a graph G with n vertices and m edges, we see that $\theta_{i,\mathrm{t}} = O(n + m)$, $i = 1, 2$, $\theta_{i,\mathrm{s}} = O(n + m)$, $i = 1, 2$, and $\delta(Y) = O(|Y|)$. We will show that the time delay of our algorithm is polynomial with respect to the input size, $\theta_{1,\mathrm{t}}$, $\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}}$ and $\delta(V)$.

To facilitate our aim, we introduce a total order over the items in I by representing I as a set $[1,q] = \{1,2,\dots,q\}$ of integers. For each subset $X \subseteq V$, let $\min I_\sigma(X) \in [0,q]$ denote the minimum item in $I_\sigma(X)$, where $\min I_\sigma(X) \triangleq 0$ for $I_\sigma(X) = \emptyset$. For each $i \in [0,q]$, define $\mathcal{S}_i \triangleq \{X \in \mathcal{S} \mid \min I_\sigma(X) = i\}$, where we see that $\mathcal{S}$ is a disjoint union of $\mathcal{S}_i$, $i \in [0,q]$. We design an algorithm that enumerates all solutions in $\mathcal{S}_k$ for any specified $k \in [0,q]$.

We observe an important property on a transitive family of components.

▶ **Lemma 1.** *Let $(V,\mathcal{C})$ be a transitive system. For a component $X \in \mathcal{C}$ and a superset $Y \supseteq X$, there is exactly one component $C \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ that contains X.*

Proof. Since $X \subseteq Y$, $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ contains a Y-maximal component C that contains X. For any component $W \in \mathcal{C}$ with $W \neq C$ and $X \subseteq W \subseteq Y$, the transitivity of $\mathcal{C}$ and $X \subseteq C \cap W$ imply $C \cup W \in \mathcal{C}$, where $C \cup W = C$ must hold by the Y-maximality of C. Hence C is unique. ◀

For a component $X \in \mathcal{C}$ and a superset $Y \supseteq X$, we denote by $C(X;Y)$ the component $C \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ that contains X.

3 Defining Family Tree

To generate all solutions in $\mathcal{S}$ efficiently, we use the idea of family tree. Our tasks to establish an enumeration algorithm are as follows:

- Define the roots, called "bases," over all solutions in $\mathcal{S}$ (Section 3.1);
- Define the "parent" $\pi(S) \in \mathcal{S}$ of each non-base solution $S \in \mathcal{S}$, where S is called a "child" of $T = \pi(S)$ (Section 3.2);
- Design an algorithm A that, given $S \in \mathcal{S}$, returns $\pi(S)$ (Algorithm 1 in Section 3.2); and
- Design an algorithm B that, given a solution $T \in \mathcal{S}$, generates a set $\mathcal{X}$ of components $X \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $\mathcal{X}$ contains all children of T (Algorithm 2 in Section 3.3). For each component $X \in \mathcal{X}$, we construct $\pi(X)$ by algorithm A to see if X is a child of T (i.e., $\pi(X)$ is equal to T).

Starting from each base, we recursively generate the children of a solution. The complexity of delay-time of the entire algorithm is the time complexity of algorithms A and B, where $|\mathcal{X}|$ is bounded from above by the time complexity of algorithm B.

3.1 Defining Base

Let $(V,\mathcal{C},I=[1,q],\sigma)$ be an instance on a transitive system. We define $V_{\langle 0\rangle} \triangleq V$ and $V_{\langle i\rangle} \triangleq \{v \in V \mid i \in \sigma(v)\}$, $i \in I$. For each non-empty subset $J \subseteq I$, define $V_{\langle J\rangle} \triangleq \bigcap_{i\in J} V_{\langle i\rangle}$. For $J = \emptyset$, define $V_{\langle J\rangle} \triangleq V$. Define $\mathcal{B}_i \triangleq \{X \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle i\rangle}) \mid \min I_\sigma(X) = i\}$ for each $i \in [0,q]$, and $\mathcal{B} \triangleq \bigcup_{i\in[0,q]} \mathcal{B}_i$. We call a component in $\mathcal{B}$ a *base*.

▶ **Lemma 2.** *Let $(V,\mathcal{C},I=[1,q],\sigma)$ be an instance on a transitive system.*

(i) *For each non-empty set $J \subseteq [1,q]$ or $J = \{0\}$, it holds that $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle J\rangle}) \subseteq \mathcal{S}$;*

(ii) *For each $i \in [0,q]$, a solution $S \in \mathcal{S}_i$ is contained in a base in $\mathcal{B}_i$; and*

(iii) *$\mathcal{S}_0 = \mathcal{B}_0$ and $\mathcal{S}_q = \mathcal{B}_q$.*

Proof.

(i) Let X be a component in $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle J\rangle})$, where $J \subseteq I_\sigma(X)$. When $J = \{0\}$ (i.e., $V_{\langle J\rangle} = V$), no proper superset of X is a component, and X is a solution. Consider the case of $\emptyset \neq J \subseteq [1,q]$. To derive a contradiction, assume that X is not a solution; i.e., there is a proper superset Y of X such that $I_\sigma(Y) = I_\sigma(X)$. Since $\emptyset \neq J \subseteq I_\sigma(X) = I_\sigma(Y)$, we see that $V_{\langle J\rangle} \supseteq Y$. This, however, contradicts the $V_{\langle J\rangle}$-maximality of X. This proves that X is a solution.

Algorithm 1 PARENT(S): Finding the lex-min solution of a solution S.

Input : An instance $(V, \mathcal{C}, I = [1, q], \sigma)$ on a transitive system, an item $k \in [1, q-1]$, and a non-base solution $S \in \mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{B}_k$, where $k = \min I_\sigma(S)$
Output : The lex-min solution $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$ of S

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Let {k, i_1, i_2, ..., i_p} := I_σ(S), where k < i_1 < i_2 < ··· < i_p;
J := {k};                                   /* C(S; k) ⊋ S by S ∉ B_k */
for j = 1, 2, ..., p do
    if C(S; J ∪ {i_j}) ≠ S then J := J ∪ {i_j}      /* J = I_σ(T) holds */
Return T := C(S; J)
```

(ii) We prove that each solution $S \in \mathcal{S}_i$ is contained in a base in $\mathcal{B}_i$, where $i = \min I_\sigma(S)$. By Lemma 1, S is a subset of the component $C(S; V_{\langle i \rangle}) \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle i \rangle})$, where $I_\sigma(S) \supseteq I_\sigma(C(S; V_{\langle i \rangle}))$. Since $i \in I_\sigma(C(S; V_{\langle i \rangle}))$ for $i \geq 1$ (resp., $I_\sigma(C(S; V_{\langle i \rangle})) = \emptyset$ for $i = 0$), we see that $\min I_\sigma(S) = i = \min I_\sigma(C(S; V_{\langle i \rangle}))$. This proves that $C(S; V_{\langle i \rangle})$ is a base in $\mathcal{B}_i$.

(iii) Let $k \in \{0, q\}$. We see from (i) that $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle k \rangle}) \subseteq \mathcal{S}$, which implies that $\mathcal{B}_k = \{X \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle k \rangle}) \mid \min I_\sigma(X) = k\} \subseteq \{X \in \mathcal{S} \mid \min I_\sigma(X) = k\} = \mathcal{S}_k$. We prove that any solution $S \in \mathcal{S}_k$ is a base in $\mathcal{B}_k$. By (ii), there is a base $X \in \mathcal{B}_k$ such that $S \subseteq X$, which implies that $I_\sigma(S) \supseteq I_\sigma(X)$, $\min I_\sigma(S) \leq \min I_\sigma(X)$. We see that $I_\sigma(S) = I_\sigma(X)$, since $\emptyset = I_\sigma(S) \supseteq I_\sigma(X)$ for $k = 0$, and $q = \min I_\sigma(S) \leq \min I_\sigma(X) \leq q$ for $k = q$. Hence $S \subsetneq X$ would contradict that S is a solution. Therefore $S = X \in \mathcal{B}_k$, as required. ◀

By Lemma 2(iii), we can find all solutions in $\mathcal{S}_0 \cup \mathcal{S}_q$ by calling oracle $\mathrm{L}_2(Y)$ for $Y = V_{\langle 0 \rangle} = V$ and $Y = V_{\langle q \rangle}$. In the following, we consider how to generate all solutions in $\mathcal{S}_k$ with $1 \leq k \leq q-1$.

For a notational convenience, we denote by $C(X; i)$ the component $C(X; V_{\langle i \rangle})$ with $i \in I_\sigma(X)$ and by $C(X; J)$ the component $C(X; V_{\langle J \rangle})$ with $J \subseteq I_\sigma(X)$.

▶ **Lemma 3.** *Let $(V, \mathcal{C}, I = [1, q], \sigma)$ be an instance on a transitive system. Let $S, T \in \mathcal{S}$ be solutions such that $S \subseteq T$. It holds that $T = C(S; I_\sigma(T))$.*

We omit the proof (Appendix A).

3.2 Defining Parent

This subsection defines the "parent" of a non-base solution. For two solutions $S, T \in \mathcal{S}$, we say that T is a *superset solution* of S if $T \supsetneq S$ and $S, T \in \mathcal{S}_i$ for some $i \in [1, q-1]$. A superset solution T of S is called *minimal* if no proper subset $Z \subsetneq T$ is a superset solution of S. Let S be a non-base solution in $\mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{B}_k$, $k \in [1, q-1]$. We call a minimal superset solution T of S *the lex-min solution* of S if $I_\sigma(T) \preceq I_\sigma(T')$ for all minimal superset solutions T' of S. For example, in Figure 1(b), $\{v_1, v_2\}$, $\{v_1, v_3\}$, $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ and $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ are superset solutions of $\{v_1\}$, whereas $\{v_4\}$ has no superset solution. The solution $\{v_1\}$ has two minimal superset solutions, that is $\{v_1, v_2\}$ and $\{v_1, v_3\}$, where $\{v_1, v_2\}$ is its lex-min solution.

▶ **Lemma 4.** *Let $(V, \mathcal{C}, I = [1, q], \sigma)$ be an instance on a transitive system. For a non-base solution $S \in \mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{B}_k$ with $k \in [1, q-1]$, let $I_\sigma(S) = \{k, i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_p\}$, where $k < i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_p$, and let T denote the lex-min solution of S.*

(i) *For an integer $j \in [1, p]$, let $J = I_\sigma(T) \cap \{k, i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{j-1}\}$. Then $i_j \in I_\sigma(T)$ if and only if $C(S; J \cup \{i_j\}) \supsetneq S$; and*

(ii) *Given S, algorithm* PARENT(S) *in Algorithm 1 correctly delivers the lex-min solution of S in $O(q(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}}))$ time and $O(q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}})$ space.*

Proof.

(i) By Lemma 2(i) and $\min I_\sigma(S) = k$, we see that $C(S; J \cup \{i_j\}) \in \mathcal{S}_k$.
Case 1. $C(S; J \cup \{i_j\}) = S$: For any set $J' \subseteq \{i_{j+1}, i_{j+2}, \ldots, i_p\}$, the component $C(S; J \cup \{i_j\} \cup J')$ is equal to S and cannot be a minimal superset solution of S. This implies that $i_j \notin I_\sigma(T)$.
Case 2. $C(S; J \cup \{i_j\}) \supsetneq S$: Then $C = C(S; J \cup \{i_j\})$ is a solution by Lemma 2(i). Observe that $k \in J \cup \{i_j\} \subseteq I_\sigma(C) \subseteq I_\sigma(S)$ and $\min I_\sigma(C) = k$, implying that $C \in \mathcal{S}_k$ is a superset solution of S. Then C contains a minimal superset solution $T^* \in \mathcal{S}_k$ of S, where $I_\sigma(T^*) \cap [1, i_{j-1}] = I_\sigma(T^*) \cap \{k, i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{j-1}\} \supseteq J = I_\sigma(T) \cap \{k, i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{j-1}\} = I_\sigma(T) \cap [1, i_{j-1}]$ and $i_j \in I_\sigma(T^*)$. If $I_\sigma(T^*) \cap [1, i_{j-1}] \supsetneq J$ or $i_j \notin I_\sigma(T)$, then $I_\sigma(T^*) \prec I_\sigma(T)$ would hold, contradicting that T is the lex-min solution of S. Hence $I_\sigma(T) \cap [1, i_{j-1}] = J = I_\sigma(T^*) \cap [1, i_{j-1}]$ and $i_j \in I_\sigma(T)$.

(ii) Based on (i), we can obtain the solution T as follows. First we find the item set $I_\sigma(T)$ by applying (i) to each $j \in [1, p]$, where we construct subsets $J_0 \subseteq J_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq J_p \subseteq I_\sigma(S)$ such that $J_0 = \{k\}$ and

$$J_j = \begin{cases} J_{j-1} \cup \{i_j\} & \text{if } C(S; J_{j-1} \cup \{i_j\}) \supsetneq S, \\ J_{j-1} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Each J_j can be obtained from J_{j-1} by testing whether $C(S; J_{j-1} \cup \{i_j\}) \supsetneq S$ holds or not, where $C(S; J_{j-1} \cup \{i_j\})$ is computable by calling the oracle L_1. By (i), we have $J_j = I_\sigma(T) \cap \{k, i_1, \ldots, i_j\}$, and in particular, $J_p = I_\sigma(T)$ holds. Next we compute $C(S; J_p)$ by calling the oracle $\mathrm{L}_1(S, V_{\langle J_p \rangle})$, where $C(S; J_p)$ is equal to the solution T by Lemma 3. The above algorithm is described as algorithm Parent(S) in Algorithm 1. We omit the complexity analysis (Appendix B). ◀

For each non-base solution in $\mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{B}_k$, $k \in [1, q-1]$, the *parent* $\pi(S)$ of S is defined to be the lex-min solution of S. For a solution $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$, each non-base solution $S \in \mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{B}_k$ such that $\pi(S) = T$ is called a *child* of T.

3.3 Generating Children

This subsection shows how to construct a family $\mathcal{X}$ of components so that all children of a solution T are included in $\mathcal{X}$.

▶ **Lemma 5.** *Let $(V, \mathcal{C}, I = [1, q], \sigma)$ be an instance on a transitive system. For an item $k \in [1, q-1]$, let $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$ be a solution.*

(i) *For each child $S \in \mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{B}_k$ of T, it holds that $[k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T)) \neq \emptyset$ and $S \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ for any $j \in [k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T))$.*

(ii) *The set of all children of T can be constructed in $O\big(q\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} + q^2(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}})\delta(T)\big)$ time and $O(q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} + \theta_{2,\mathrm{s}})$ space.*

Proof.

(i) Note that $[0, k] \cap I_\sigma(S) = [0, k] \cap I_\sigma(T) = \{k\}$ since $S, T \in \mathcal{S}_k$. Since $S \subseteq T$ are both solutions, $I_\sigma(S) \supsetneq I_\sigma(T)$. Hence $[k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T)) \neq \emptyset$. Let $j \in [k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T))$. Since $S \subseteq T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle}$, there is a $(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$-maximal component $C \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ with $S \subseteq C$, where $S \subseteq C \subseteq T$ and $I_\sigma(S) \supseteq I_\sigma(C) \supseteq I_\sigma(T)$. Then $k = \min I_\sigma(S) = \min I_\sigma(T)$ implies $\min I_\sigma(C) = k$.
We show that $C \in \mathcal{S}$, which implies $C \in \mathcal{S}_k$. Note that $j \in I_\sigma(C) \setminus I_\sigma(T)$, and $C \subsetneq T$. Assume that C is not a solution; i.e., there is a solution $C^* \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $C \subsetneq C^*$ and $I_\sigma(C) = I_\sigma(C^*)$, where $j \in I_\sigma(C) = I_\sigma(C^*)$ means that $C^* \subseteq V_{\langle j \rangle}$. Hence $C^* \setminus T \neq \emptyset$

Algorithm 2 CHILDREN(T, k): Generating all children.

Input : An instance $(V, \mathcal{C}, I, \sigma)$, $k \in [1, q-1]$ and a solution $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$
Output : All children of T, each of which is output whenever it is generated

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for each j ∈ [k+1, q] \ I_σ(T) do
    Compute C_max(T ∩ V_⟨j⟩);
    for each S ∈ C_max(T ∩ V_⟨j⟩) do
        if k = min I_σ(S) and j = min{i | i ∈ [k+1, q] ∩ (I_σ(S) \ I_σ(T))} then
            if T = PARENT(S) (i.e., S is a child of T) then
                Output S as one of the children of T
```

by the $(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$-maximality of C. Since $C, C^*, T \in \mathcal{C}$ and $C \subseteq C^* \cap T$, we have $C^* \cup T \in \mathcal{C}$ by the transitivity. We also see that $I_\sigma(C^* \cup T) = I_\sigma(C^*) \cap I_\sigma(T) = I_\sigma(C) \cap I_\sigma(T) = I_\sigma(T)$. This, however, contradicts that T is a solution, proving that $C \in \mathcal{S}_k$. If $S \subsetneq C$, then $S \subsetneq C \subsetneq T$ would hold for $S, C, T \in \mathcal{S}_k$, contradicting that T is a minimal superset solution of S. Therefore $S = C$.

(ii) By (i), the union of families $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ with $j \in [k+1, q] \setminus I_\sigma(T)$ contains all children of T. Whether a set S is a child of T or not can be tested by checking if PARENT(S) is equal to T or not. However, for two items $j, j' \in [k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T))$, the same child S can be generated from the different families $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ and $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j' \rangle})$. To avoid this, we output a child S of T when $S \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ for the minimum item j in the item set $[k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T))$. In other words, we discard any set $S \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ if j is not the minimum item in $[k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T))$. Algorithm 2 formally describes this procedure. We omit the complexity analysis (Appendix C). ◀

4 Traversing Family Tree

We are ready to describe an entire algorithm for enumerating solutions in $\mathcal{S}_k$ for a given $k \in [0, q]$. We first compute $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle k \rangle})$. We next compute the set $\mathcal{B}_k$ $(\subseteq \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle k \rangle}))$ of bases by testing whether $k = \min I_\sigma(T)$ or not, where $\mathcal{B}_k \subseteq \mathcal{S}_k$. When $k = 0$ or q, we are done with $\mathcal{B}_k = \mathcal{S}_k$ by Lemma 2(iii). Let $k \in [1, q-1]$. Suppose that we are given a solution $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$, we find all the children of T by CHILDREN(T, k) in Algorithm 2. By applying Algorithm 2 to a newly found child recursively, we can find all solutions in $\mathcal{S}_k$.

When no child is found to a given solution $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$, we may need to go up to an ancestor by traversing recursive calls $O(n)$ times before we generate the next solution. This would result in $O(n\alpha)$ time delay, where α denotes the time complexity required for a single run of CHILDREN(T, k). To improve the delay to $O(\alpha)$, we employ the *alternative output method* [14], where we output the children of T after (resp., before) generating all descendants when the depth of the recursive call to T is an even (resp., odd) integer.

The entire enumeration algorithm is described in Algorithms 3 and 4. The following theorem summarizes the complexity of the enumeration algorithm. We omit the proof (Appendix D).

▶ **Theorem 6.** *Let $(V, \mathcal{C}, I = [1, q], \sigma)$ be an instance on a transitive system. For each $k \in [0, q]$, the set $\mathcal{S}_k$ of solutions can be enumerated in $O\big(q\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} + q^2(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}})\delta(V_{\langle k \rangle})\big)$ time delay and in $O\big((q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} + \theta_{2,\mathrm{s}})n\big)$ space.*

Algorithm 3 An algorithm to enumerate solutions in $\mathcal{S}_k$ for a given $k \in [0, q]$.

Input : An instance $(V, \mathcal{C}, I = [1, q], \sigma)$ on a transitive system, and an item $k \in [0, q]$
Output : The set $\mathcal{S}_k$ of solutions to $(V, \mathcal{C}, I, \sigma)$

Compute $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle k \rangle})$; $d := 1$;
for ***each*** $T \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle k \rangle})$ **do**
  if $k = \min I_\sigma(T)$ (i.e., $T \in \mathcal{B}_k$) **then**
    Output T;
    if $k \in [1, q-1]$ **then** DESCENDANTS$(T, k, d+1)$

Algorithm 4 DESCENDANTS(T, k, d): Generating all descendants.

Input : An instance $(V, \mathcal{C}, I, \sigma)$, $k \in [1, q-1]$, a solution $T \in \mathcal{S}_k$, and the current depth d of recursive call of DESCENDANTS
Output : All descendants of T in $\mathcal{S}_k$

for ***each*** $j \in [k+1, q] \setminus I_\sigma(T)$ **do**
  Compute $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$;
  for ***each*** $S \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(T \cap V_{\langle j \rangle})$ **do**
    if $k = \min I_\sigma(S)$ and $j = \min\{i \mid i \in [k+1, q] \cap (I_\sigma(S) \setminus I_\sigma(T))\}$ **then**
      if $T =$PARENT(S) (i.e., S is a child of T) **then**
        if d is odd **then**
          Output S
        DESCENDANTS$(S, k, d+1)$;
        if d is even **then**
          Output S

It is worthwhile to mention that the enumeration task can be parallelized by running the algorithm for each item $k \in I$ independently.

For the connector enumeration problem, it is natural to assume that the item set $\sigma(v)$ is given as a list for each $v \in V$, and that every $i \in I$ appears in at least one list. Then the input size is $\Omega(n + m + q)$. Theorem 6 yields a strongly polynomial-delay algorithm for the connector enumeration problem as follows.

▶ **Theorem 7.** *Given an instance $(G = (V, E), I, \sigma)$, we can enumerate all connectors in $O(q^2(n+m)n)$ time delay and in $O((q+n+m)n)$ space, where $n = |V|$, $m = |E|$ and $q = |I|$.*

Proof. The connector enumeration problem for (G, I, σ) is solved by enumerating all solutions for the instance $(V, \mathcal{C}_G, I, \sigma)$, where $\mathcal{C}_G$ denotes the family of connected components that was introduced in Section 2. For the transitive system $(V, \mathcal{C}_G)$, we see that $\theta_{i,\mathrm{t}} = O(n+m)$, $i = 1, 2$, $\theta_{i,\mathrm{s}} = O(n+m)$, $i = 1, 2$, and $\delta(Y) = O(|Y|) = O(n)$. By Theorem 6, we can enumerate all solutions in $\mathcal{S}$ in $O(q^2(n+m)n)$ time delay and in $O((q+n+m)n)$ space. ◀

5 Connectors under Various Connectivity Conditions

We consider enumerating connectors under various connectivity conditions such as the edge- or vertex-connectivity. To treat this issue universally, we present a general method of constructing a transitive system from a graph and a weight function on elements in the graph. We assume that a given graph is undirected, but all the discussons can be extended to a mixed graph (i.e., a graph containing directed edges as well as undirected edges).

5.1 Transitive System Based on k-Connectivity

Let $\mathbb{R}_+$ denote the set of non-negative reals. For a function $f : A \to \mathbb{R}_+$ and a subset $B \subseteq A$, we let $f(B)$ denote $\sum_{a \in B} f(a)$.

We assume that the graph $G = (V, E)$ may have multiple edges but no self-loops. For two vertices $u, v \in V$, let $E(u, v)$ denote the set of edges between u and v. For two non-empty subsets $X, Y \subseteq V$, let $E(X; Y) \triangleq \bigcup_{u \in X, v \in Y} E(u, v)$. For two vertices $s, t \in V$, an *s,t-cut* C is defined to be an ordered pair (S, T) of disjoint subsets $S, T \subseteq V$ such that $s \in S$ and $t \in T$, and the element set $\varepsilon(C)$ of C ($\varepsilon(S, T)$ of (S, T)) is defined to be a union $F \cup R$ of the edge subset $F = E(S, T)$ and the vertex subset $R = V \setminus (S \cup T)$, where $R = \emptyset$ is allowed.

We define a *meta-weight function* on G to be $\omega : 2^V \times (V \cup E) \to \mathbb{R}_+$. For each subset $X \in 2^V$, we denote $w(X, a), a \in V \cup E$ as a function $\omega_X : V \cup E \to \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $\omega_X(a) = \omega(X, a)$ for each $a \in V \cup E$. We call ω *monotone* if, for any subsets $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$, $\omega_Y(a) \geq \omega_X(a)$ holds for any $a \in V \cup E$.

For two vertices $s, t \in V$ and a subset $X \subseteq V$, define $\mu(s, t; X) \triangleq \min\{\omega_X(\varepsilon(C)) \mid s,t\text{-cuts } C = (S, T) \text{ in } G\}$. We call a vertex subset $X \subseteq V$ *k-connected* if $|X| = 1$ or $\mu(u, v; X) \geq k$ for each pair of vertices $u, v \in X$.

▶ **Lemma 8.** *Let (G, ω) be an undirected mixed graph with a monotone meta-weight function, and $k \geq 0$. For two k-connected subsets $X, Y \subseteq V$ such that $\omega_{X \cap Y}(X \cap Y) \geq k$, the subset $X \cup Y$ is k-connected.*

Proof. To derive a contradiction, assume that $X \cup Y$ is not k-connected; i.e., $|X \cup Y| \geq 2$ and some vertices $s, t \in X \cup Y$ admits an s,t-cut $C = (S, T)$ with $\omega_{X \cup Y}(\varepsilon(C)) < k$. By the monotonicity of ω, it holds that $\omega_{X \cup Y}(a) \geq \omega_X(a), \omega_Y(a)$ for any element $a \in V \cup E$. Hence $\omega_{X \cup Y}(\varepsilon(C)) < k$ implies $\omega_X(\varepsilon(C)) < k$ and $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C)) < k$. Since each of X and Y is k-connected, we see that neither of $s, t \in X$ and $s, t \in Y$ occurs. Without loss of generality assume that $s \in X \setminus Y$ and $t \in Y \setminus X$. If a vertex $v \in X \cap Y$ belongs to T (resp., S), then C would be an s,v-cut with $s, v \in X$ (resp., v,t-cut with $v, t \in Y$), contradicting the k-connectivity of X (resp., Y). Hence for the set $R = V \setminus (S \cup T)$, it holds $X \cap Y \subseteq R$. By the assumption of $X \cap Y$, we have $k \leq \omega_{X \cap Y}(X \cap Y) \leq \omega_{X \cap Y}(R) \leq \omega_{X \cup Y}(R) \leq \omega_{X \cup Y}(\varepsilon(C))$. This, however, contradicts $\omega_{X \cup Y}(\varepsilon(C)) < k$. ◀

For a graph (G, ω) with a meta-weight function and a real $k \geq 0$, let $\mathcal{C}(G, \omega, k) \subseteq 2^V$ denote the family of k-connected subsets $X \subseteq V$ with $\omega_X(X) \geq k$.

▶ **Lemma 9.** *For an undirected graph (G, ω) with a monotone meta-weight function and a real $k \geq 0$, let $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}(G, \omega, k)$. Then $\mathcal{C}$ is transitive.*

Proof. Let $Z, X, Y \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $Z \subseteq X \cap Y$, where $\omega_{X \cup Y}(X \cup Y) \geq \omega_{X \cup Y}(Z) \geq \omega_Z(Z) \geq k$. By $\omega_Z(Z) \geq k$ and Lemma 8, $X \cup Y$ is k-connected. Since $\omega_{X \cup Y}(X \cup Y) \geq k$, it holds that $X \cup Y \in \mathcal{C}$. Therefore $\mathcal{C}$ is transitive. ◀

5.2 Construction of Monotone Meta-weight Functions

For a graph $G = (V, E)$, let $w : V \cup E \to \mathbb{R}_+$ be a weight function. We define a *coefficient function* to be $\gamma = (\alpha, \beta)$ that consists of functions $\alpha : E \to \mathbb{R}_+$ and $\beta : V \cup E \to \mathbb{R}_+$. We call γ *monotone* if $1 \geq \alpha(e) \geq \beta(e)$ for each edge $e \in E$ and $1 \geq \beta(v)$ for each vertex $v \in V$. We call a tuple (G, w, γ) a *system*, and define a meta-weight function $\omega : 2^V \times (V \cup E) \to \mathbb{R}_+$ to the system so that, for each subset $X \subseteq V$, $\omega_X : V \cup E \to \mathbb{R}_+$ is given by

$$\omega_X(v) = \begin{cases} w(v) & \text{if } v \in X, \\ \beta(v)w(v) & \text{if } v \in V \setminus X, \end{cases} \quad \omega_X(e) = \begin{cases} w(e) & \text{if } e \in E(X;X), \\ \alpha(e)w(e) & \text{if } e \in E(X;V \setminus X), \\ \beta(e)w(e) & \text{if } e \in E(V \setminus X; V \setminus X). \end{cases}$$

We call a system (G, w, γ) *monotone* if γ is monotone.

▶ **Lemma 10.** *For a monotone system (G, w, γ), the corresponding meta-weight function $\omega : 2^V \times (V \cup E) \to \mathbb{R}_+$ is monotone.*

We omit the proof (Appendix E).

For a system (G, w, γ) on a graph G with n vertices and m edges and a real $k \geq 0$, let $\tau(n, m, k)$ and $\sigma(n, m, k)$ denote the time and space complexities for testing if $\mu(u, v; X) < k$ holds or not for two vertices $u, v \in V$ and a subset $X \subseteq V$.

▶ **Lemma 11.** *For a monotone tuple (G, w, γ), let ω be the corresponding monotone meta-weight function.*

- **(i)** *$\tau(n, m, k) = O(mn \log n)$ and $\sigma(n, m, k) = O(n + m)$; and*
- **(ii)** *Let $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$ be non-empty subsets such that $\omega_X(X) \geq k$ and $\mu(u, u'; Y) \geq k$ for all vertices $u, u' \in X$. Given a vertex $t \in Y \setminus X$, whether there is a vertex $u \in X$ such that $\mu(u, t; Y) < k$ or not can be tested in $\tau(n, m, k)$ time and $\sigma(n, m, k)$ space.*

We omit the proof (Appendix F).

We denote by $\mathcal{C}(G, w, \gamma, k)$ the family of k-connected sets X with $\omega_X(X) \geq k$ in a system (G, w, γ). We consider how to construct oracles L_1 and L_2 to the system. For two non-empty subsets $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$, let $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ denote the family of maximal subsets $Z \in \mathcal{C}(G, w, \gamma, k)$ such that $Z \subseteq Y$, and let $C_k(X; Y)$ denote a maximal set $X^* \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ such that $X \subseteq X^*$; and $C_k(X; Y) \triangleq \emptyset$ if no such set X^* exists.

▶ **Lemma 12.** *For a monotone system (G, w, γ), let ω denote the corresponding monotone meta-weight function. Let $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$ be non-empty subsets such that $\omega_X(X) \geq k$. Then*

- **(i)** *$C_k(X; Y)$ is uniquely determined;*
- **(ii)** *If there are vertices $u \in X$ and $v \in Y$ such that $\mu(u, v; Y) < k$, then $v \notin X^*$;*
- **(iii)** *Assume that $\mu(u, v; Y) \geq k$ for all vertices $u \in X$ and $v \in Y \setminus X$. Then $C_k(X; Y) = Y$ if $\mu(u, u'; Y) \geq k$ for all vertices $u, u' \in X$; and $C_k(X; Y) = \emptyset$ otherwise; and*
- **(iv)** *Finding $C_k(X; Y)$ can be done in $O(|Y|^2 \tau(n, m, k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n, m, k) + |Y|)$ space.*

Proof. We omit the proofs for (i) to (iii) (Appendix G). For (iv), we can find $C_k(X; Y)$ as follows. Based on (ii), we first remove the set Z of all vertices $v \in Y \setminus X$ such that $\mu(u, v; Y) < k$ for some vertex $u \in X$ so that $C_k(X; Y) = C_k(X; Y')$ for $Y' = Y \setminus Z$. For a fixed vertex $t \in Y \setminus X$, we can test if there is a vertex $u \in X$ such that $\mu(u, t; Y) < k$ or not in $O(\tau(n, m, k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n, m, k))$ space by Lemma 11(ii). Hence finding such a set Z takes $O(|Y \setminus X|\tau(n, m, k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n, m, k) + |Z|)$ space. We repeat the above procedure until there is no pair of vertices $u \in X$ and $v \in Y' \setminus X$ after executing at most $|Y \setminus X|$ repetitions taking $O(|Y \setminus X|^2 \tau(n, m, k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n, m, k) + |Y \setminus X|)$ space.

Based on (iii), we finally conclude that $C_k(X; Y) = Y'$ ($C_k(X; Y) = \emptyset$) if there is no pair of vertices $u, u' \in X$ such that $\mu(u, u'; Y') < k$ (resp., otherwise), which takes $O(|X|^2 \tau(n, m, k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n, m, k))$ space by Lemma 11(i).

An entire algorithm is described in Algorithm 5. The time and space complexities are then $O(|Y|^2 \tau(n, m, k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n, m, k) + |Y|)$, respectively. ◀

Algorithm 5 MAXIMAL$(X;Y)$: Finding the maximal set in $\mathcal{C}(G,w,\gamma,k)$ that contains a specified set.

Input : A monotone system (G,w,γ), a real $k \geq 0$, and non-empty subsets $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$ such that $\omega_X(X) \geq k$
Output : $C_k(X;Y)$

```
Y' := Y;
while there are vertices u ∈ X and t ∈ Y' \ X such that μ(u,t;Y') < k do
    Z := {t ∈ Y' \ X | μ(u,t;Y') < k for some u ∈ X};
    Y' := Y' \ Z
if μ(u,u';Y') ≥ k for all vertices u,u' ∈ X then
    Output Y' as C_k(X;Y)
else
    Output ∅ as C_k(X;Y)
```

By the lemma, oracle $\mathrm{L}_1(X;Y)$ to a monotone system (G,w,γ) runs in $\theta_{1,\mathrm{t}} = O(|Y|^2\tau(n,m,k))$ time and $\theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} = O(\sigma(n,m,k)+|Y|)$ space.

For a system (G,w,γ), we define a *k-core* of a subset $Y \subseteq V$ to be a subset Z of Y such that $\omega_Z(Z) \geq k$ and any proper subset Z' of Z satisfies $\omega_{Z'}(Z') < k$.

▶ **Lemma 13.** *Let (G,w,γ) be a monotone system, and Y be a subset of V. For the family $\mathcal{K}$ of all k-cores of Y, it holds that $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y) = \bigcup_{Z\in\mathcal{K}}\{C_k(Z;Y)\}$ and $|\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)| \leq |\mathcal{K}|$. Given $\mathcal{K}$, $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ can be obtained in $O(|\mathcal{K}|(|Y|^2\tau(n,m,k)+|Y|\log|\mathcal{K}|))$ time and $O(\sigma(n,m,k)+|\mathcal{K}|\cdot|Y|)$ space.*

Proof. Clearly each set $X \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ satisfies $\omega_X(X) \geq k$ and contains a k-core $Z \in \mathcal{K}$, where $C_k(Z;Y) \neq \emptyset$ and $C_k(Z;Y) = X$ holds by the uniqueness in Lemma 12(i). Therefore $\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y) = \bigcup_{Z\in\mathcal{K}}\{C_k(Z;Y)\}$, from which $|\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)| \leq |\mathcal{K}|$ follows. Given $\mathcal{K}$, we compute $C_k(Z;Y)$ for each set $Z \in \mathcal{K}$ taking $O(|Y|^2\tau(n,m,k))$ time and $O(\sigma(n,m,k)+|Y|)$ space by Lemma 12(iv). We can test if the same set $X \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ has been generated or not in $O(|Y|\log|\mathcal{K}|)$ time and $O(|\mathcal{K}|\cdot|Y|)$ space. Therefore $\mathcal{X}$ can be constructed in $O(|\mathcal{K}|(|Y|^2\tau(n,m,k)+|Y|\log|\mathcal{K}|))$ time and $O(\sigma(n,m,k)+|\mathcal{K}|\cdot|Y|)$ space. ◀

By the lemma, oracle $\mathrm{L}_2(Y)$ to a monotone system (G,w,γ) runs in $\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} = O(|\mathcal{K}|(|Y|^2\tau(n,m,k)+|Y|\log|\mathcal{K}|))$ time and $\theta_{2,\mathrm{s}} = O(\sigma(n,m,k)+|\mathcal{K}|\cdot|Y|)$ space, where we assume that the family $\mathcal{K}$ of k-cores of Y is given as input.

For $s,t \in V$, we denote by $\lambda(s,t;G)$ denote the minimum size $|F|$ of a subset $F \subseteq E$ so that the graph $G-F$ obtained from G by removing edges in F has no path between s and t. A graph G is called *k-edge-connected* if $|V(G)| \geq 1$ and $\lambda(u,v;G) \geq k$ for any two vertices $u,v \in X$. Below we describe how we enumerate connnectors X such that $G[X]$ is k-edge-connected. We can apply our framework to enumeration of connectors under other connectivity conditions (e.g., k-vertex-connectivity) in the same way.

▶ **Theorem 14.** *Let (G,I,σ) be an instance and $k \geq 0$ be an integer, where $G=(V,E)$ is either a digraph or an undirected graph, $n=|V|$, $m=|E|$, and $q=|I|$. We can enumerate all connectors such that the induced subgraphs are k-edge-connected in $O(\min\{k+1,n\}q^2n^3m)$ time delay and in $O(qn+n^3)$ space.*

Proof. Let (G, w, γ, k) be a system that consists of a graph G, a weight function w and a coefficient function $\gamma = (\alpha, \beta)$ such that $\alpha(e) := 0$, $e \in E(G)$, and $\beta(a) := 0$, $a \in V(G) \cup E(G)$. We see that γ is monotone and the family $\mathcal{C}(G, w, \gamma, k)$ is transitive by Lemmas 9 and 10. Set w so that $w(e) := 1$, $e \in E(G)$ and $w(v) := k$, $v \in V(G)$. Then we see that $\mathcal{C}(G, w, \gamma, k)$ is identical to the family of connectors X such that $G[X]$ is k-edge-connected.

Whether $\mu(s, t; X) \geq k$ or not can be tested in $O(\min\{k, n\}m)$ time [1, 2]. By Lemma 12(iv), $\mathrm{L}_1(X; Y)$ runs in $O(|Y|^2 \min\{k+1, n\}m)$ time and $O(n^2)$ space. The family $\mathcal{K}$ of k-cores $Z \subseteq Y$ is $\{\{v\} \mid v \in Y\}$. By Lemma 13, $|\mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)| \leq |\mathcal{K}| \leq |Y|$ and $\mathrm{L}_2(Y)$ runs in $O(|Y|^3 \min\{k+1, n\}m)$ time and $O(n^2)$ space.

By Lemma 12(iv) and Lemma 13, we have $\theta_{1,\mathrm{t}} = O(\min\{k+1, n\}n^2m)$, $\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} = O(\min\{k+1, n\}n^3m)$, and $\theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} = \theta_{2,\mathrm{s}} = O(n^2)$, where we can set $\delta(Y) = n$ for any $Y \subseteq V$. The time delay and space complexity follow by Theorem 6. ◀

6 Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we proposed a polynomial delay algorithm for the connector enumeration problem. We treated the problem on what we call a transitive system and proposed an algorithm for enumerating all solutions in the system (Algorithms 3 and 4 in Section 4). We also presented how to treat connectors that satisfy various connectivity conditions.

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A Proof of Lemma 3

Proof. Let $T' = C(S; I_\sigma(T)) \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle I_\sigma(T)\rangle})$, where $S \subseteq T \subseteq V_{\langle I_\sigma(T)\rangle}$. The uniqueness of maximal component $T' = C(S; I_\sigma(T))$ by Lemma 1 indicates $T \subseteq T'$. To derive a contradiction, assume that $T \subsetneq T'$. By Lemma 2(i), $T' \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(V_{\langle I_\sigma(T)\rangle})$ is a solution. Since T and T' are solutions with $T \subsetneq T'$, it must hold that $I_\sigma(T) \supsetneq I_\sigma(T')$, implying that $V_{\langle I_\sigma(T)\rangle} \not\supseteq T'$, a contradiction. Therefore we have $T = T'$. ◀

B Complexity Analysis of Lemma 4 (ii)

Proof. Let us mention critical parts in terms of time complexity analysis. In line 1, it takes $O(qn)$ time to compute $I_\sigma(S)$. The for-loop from line 3 to 4 is repeated $O(q)$ times. In line 4, the oracle $\mathrm{L}_1(S, V_{\langle J\cup\{i_j\}\rangle})$ is called to obtain a component $Z = C(S; J \cup \{i_j\})$ and whether $S = Z$ or not is tested. This takes $O(\theta_{1,\mathrm{t}} + n)$ time. The overall running time is $O(q(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}}))$. It takes $O(q)$ space to store $I_\sigma(S)$ and J, and $O(n)$ space to store S and Z. An additional $O(\theta_{1,\mathrm{s}})$ space is needed for the oracle L_1. ◀

C Complexity Analysis of Lemma 5 (ii)

Proof. Now we analyze the time and space complexities of the algorithm. Note that T may have no children. The outer for-loop is repeated $O(q)$ times. Computing $\mathcal{C}(T \cap V_{\langle j\rangle})$ in line 2 takes $\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}}$ time by calling the oracle L_2. The inner for-loop is repeated at most $\delta(T \cap V_{\langle j\rangle})$ times for each j, and the most time-consuming part of the inner for-loop is algorithm Parent(S) in line 5, which takes $O(q(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}}))$ time by Lemma 4(ii). Recall that δ is a non-decreasing function. Then the running time of algorithm Children(T, k) is evaluated by

$$O\Big(q\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} + q(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}}) \sum_{j\in[k+1,q]\setminus I_\sigma(T)} \delta(T \cap V_{\langle j\rangle})\Big) = O\big(q\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} + q^2(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}})\delta(T)\big).$$

For the space complexity, we do not need to share the space between iterations of the outer for-loop. In each iteration, we use the oracle L_2 and algorithm Parent(S), whose space complexity is $O(q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}})$ by Lemma 4(ii). Then algorithm Children(T, k) uses $O(q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} + \theta_{2,\mathrm{s}})$ space. ◀

D Proof of Theorem 6

Proof. First we analyze the time delay. Let α denote the time complexity required for a single run of Children(T, k). By Lemma 5(ii) and $\delta(T) \leq \delta(V_{\langle k \rangle})$, we have $\alpha = O\big(q\theta_{2,\mathrm{t}} + q^2(n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{t}})\delta(V_{\langle k \rangle})\big)$. Hence we see that the time complexity of Algorithm 3 and Descendants without including recursive calls is $O(\alpha)$.

From Algorithm 3 and Descendants, we observe:

- **(i)** When d is odd, the solution S for any call Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ is output immediately before Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ is executed; and
- **(ii)** When d is even, the solution S for any call Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ is output immediately after Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ is executed.

Let m denote the number of all calls of Descendants during a whole execution of Algorithm 3. Let $d_1 = 1, d_2, \ldots, d_m$ denote the sequence of depths d in each Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ of the m calls. Note that $d = d_i$ satisfies (i) when d_{i+1} is odd and $d_{i+1} = d_i + 1$, whereas $d = d_i$ satisfies (ii) when d_{i+1} is even and $d_{i+1} = d_i - 1$. Therefore we easily see that during three consecutive calls with depth d_i, d_{i+1} and d_{i+2}, at least one solution will be output. This implies that the time delay for outputting a solution is $O(\alpha)$.

We analyze the space complexity. Observe that the number of calls Descendants whose executions are not finished during an execution of Algorithm 3 is the depth d of the current call Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$. In Algorithm 4, $|T| + d \leq n + 1$ holds initially, and Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ is called for a nonempty subset $S \subsetneq T$, where $|S| < |T|$. Hence $|S| + d \leq n + 1$ holds when Descendants$(S, k, d+1)$ is called. Then Algorithm 3 can be implemented to run in $O(n\beta)$ space, where β denotes the space required for a single run of Children(T, k). We have $\beta = O(q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} + \theta_{2,\mathrm{s}})$ by Lemma 5(ii). Then the overall space complexity is $O\big((q + n + \theta_{1,\mathrm{s}} + \theta_{2,\mathrm{s}})n\big)$. ◀

E Proof of Lemma 10

Proof. Let $X \subseteq Y \subseteq V$. To prove $\omega_Y(A) \geq \omega_X(A)$ for any set $A \subseteq V \cup E$, it suffices to show that $\omega_Y(a) \geq \omega_X(a)$ for any element $a \in V \cup E$. For each vertex $v \in V$, we see that $\omega_Y(v) = \omega_X(v) + |\{v\} \cap (Y \setminus X)|(1 - \beta(v))w(v) \geq \omega_X(v)$. For each edge $e \in E$, we see that $\omega_Y(e) = \omega_X(e) + \Delta|V(e) \cap (Y \setminus X)|w(e) \geq \omega_X(e)$, where Δ is one of $1 - \alpha(e)$, $\alpha(e) - \beta(e)$, and $(1 - \beta(e))/2$. ◀

F Proof of Lemma 11

Proof.

- **(i)** The problem of computing $\mu(u, v; X)$ can be formulated as a problem of finding a maximum flow in a graph (G, ω_X) with an edge-capacity $\omega_X(e)$, $e \in E$ and a vertex-capacity $\omega_X(v)$, $v \in V$, and $\mu(u, v; X)$ can be computed in $O(mn \log n)$ time and $O(n + m)$ space by using the maximum flow algorithm [1, 2]. Hence $\tau(n, m, k) = O(mn \log n)$ and $\sigma(n, m, k) = O(n + m)$.
- **(ii)** Let $t \in Y \setminus X$. To find a vertex $u \in X$ with $\mu(u, t; Y) < k$ if any by using (i) only once, we augment the weighted graph (G, ω_Y) into (G^*, ω_Y) with a new vertex s^* and $|X|$ new directed edges $e_u = (s^*, u)$, $u \in X$ such that $\omega_Y(e_u) := k$. We denote by $V(G)$ and $V(G^*)$ the vertex sets of G and G^*, respectively. We claim that $\mu(s^*, t; Y) \geq k$ if and only if $\mu(u, t; Y) \geq k$, $\forall u \in X$.

First consider the case of $\mu(s^*,t;Y) < k$ in (G^*,ω_Y); i.e., (G^*,ω_Y) has an s^*,t-cut $C^* = (S,T)$ with $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C^*)) < k$, where $s^* \in S$ and $t \in T$. Let $R = V(G^*) \setminus (S \cup T)$, where $R = V(G) \setminus (S \cup T)$. Note that $X \subseteq S \cup R$, since otherwise $u \in T \cap X$ would mean that $e_u = (s^*,u) \in E(S,T)$ and $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C^*)) \geq \omega_Y(e_u) = k$, contradicting that $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C^*)) < k$. Also $S \cap X \neq \emptyset$, since otherwise $X \subseteq R$ would mean that $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C^*)) \geq \omega_Y(R) \geq \omega_X(X) \geq k$, contradicting that $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C^*)) < k$. Let $u \in S \cap X$. Then $C = (S \setminus \{s^*\}, T)$ is a u,t-cut in (G,ω_Y) with $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C)) \leq \omega_Y(\varepsilon(C^*)) < k$. This means that $\mu(u,t;Y) < k$.

Next consider the case of $\mu(s^*,t;Y) \geq k$ in (G^*,ω_Y). In this case, we show that $\mu(u,t;Y) \geq k$ for all $u \in X$. To derive a contradiction, assume that $\mu(u,t;Y) < k$ for some vertex $u \in X$; i.e., (G,ω_Y) has a u,t-cut $C = (S,T)$ with $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C)) < k$. Note that $T \cap X = \emptyset$, since otherwise $u' \in T \cap X$ would contradict the assumption that $\mu(u,u';Y) \geq k$ holds for $u,u' \in X$. Then $C' = (S' = S \cup \{s^*\}, T)$ is an s^*,t-cut in (G^*,ω_Y), and satisfies $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C')) = \omega_Y(\varepsilon(C)) < k$ since $T \cap X = \emptyset$. This, however, contradicts that $\mu(s^*,t;Y) \geq k$ holds in (G^*,ω_Y).

By the claim, it suffices to test if $\mu(s^*,t;Y) \geq k$ or not in $\tau(n,m,k)$ time and $\sigma(n,m,k)$ space. ◀

G Proof of Lemma 12

Proof.

(i) To derive a contradiction, assume that there are two maximal sets $X_1, X_2 \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$ such that $X \subseteq X_1 \cap X_2$. From this and the monotonicity of ω, it holds that $\omega_{X_1 \cup X_2}(X_1 \cup X_2) \geq \omega_{X_1 \cap X_2}(X_1 \cap X_2) \geq \omega_X(X) \geq k$. From this and Lemma 8, $X_1 \cup X_2$ is also k-connected and $X_1 \cup X_2 \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$, contradicting the maximality of X_1 and X_2. Therefore $C_k(X;Y)$ is unique.

(ii) When $C_k(X;Y) = \emptyset$, $v \notin C_k(X;Y)$ is trivial. Assume that $C_k(X;Y) = X^* \in \mathcal{C}_{\max}(Y)$. By the monotonicity of ω and $X^* \subseteq Y$, it holds that $\mu(u,v;X^*) \leq \mu(u,v;Y) < k$. Hence $u,v \in X^*$ would contradict the k-connectivity of X^*. Since $u \in X^*$, we have $v \notin X^*$.

(iii) Obviously if $\mu(u,u';Y) < k$ for some vertices $u,u' \in X$, then no subset Y' of Y with $X \subseteq Y'$ can be k-connected, and $C_k(X;Y) = \emptyset$. Assume that $\mu(u,u';Y) \geq k$ for all vertices $u,u' \in X$. By the monotonicity of ω and $X \subseteq Y$, it holds that $\omega_Y(Y) \geq \omega_X(X) \geq k$. To prove that $C_k(X;Y) = Y$, it suffices to show that $\mu(u,v;Y) \geq k$ for all pairs of vertices $u,v \in Y$. By assumption, $\mu(u,v;Y) \geq k$ for all vertices $u \in X$ and $v \in Y$. To derive a contradiction, assume that there is a pair of vertices $s,t \in Y \setminus X$ with $\mu(s,t;Y) < k$; i.e., there is an s,t-cut $C = (S,T)$ with $\omega_Y(\varepsilon(C)) < k$. Let $R = V \setminus (S \cup T)$. We observe that $X \subseteq R$, since $u \in X \cap S$ (resp., $u \in X \cap T$) would imply that C is a u,t-cut (resp., s,u-cut), contradicting that $\mu(u,v;Y) \geq k$ for all vertices $v \in Y \setminus X$. By the monotonicity of ω and $X \subseteq R$, it would hold that $k \leq \omega_X(X) \leq \omega_Y(R) \leq \omega_Y(\varepsilon(C)) < k$, a contradiction. ◀