

# WITH STRINGS ATTACHED



**János Pach (Rényi Institute, Budapest)**



**Heroes Square, Budapest, Hungary**

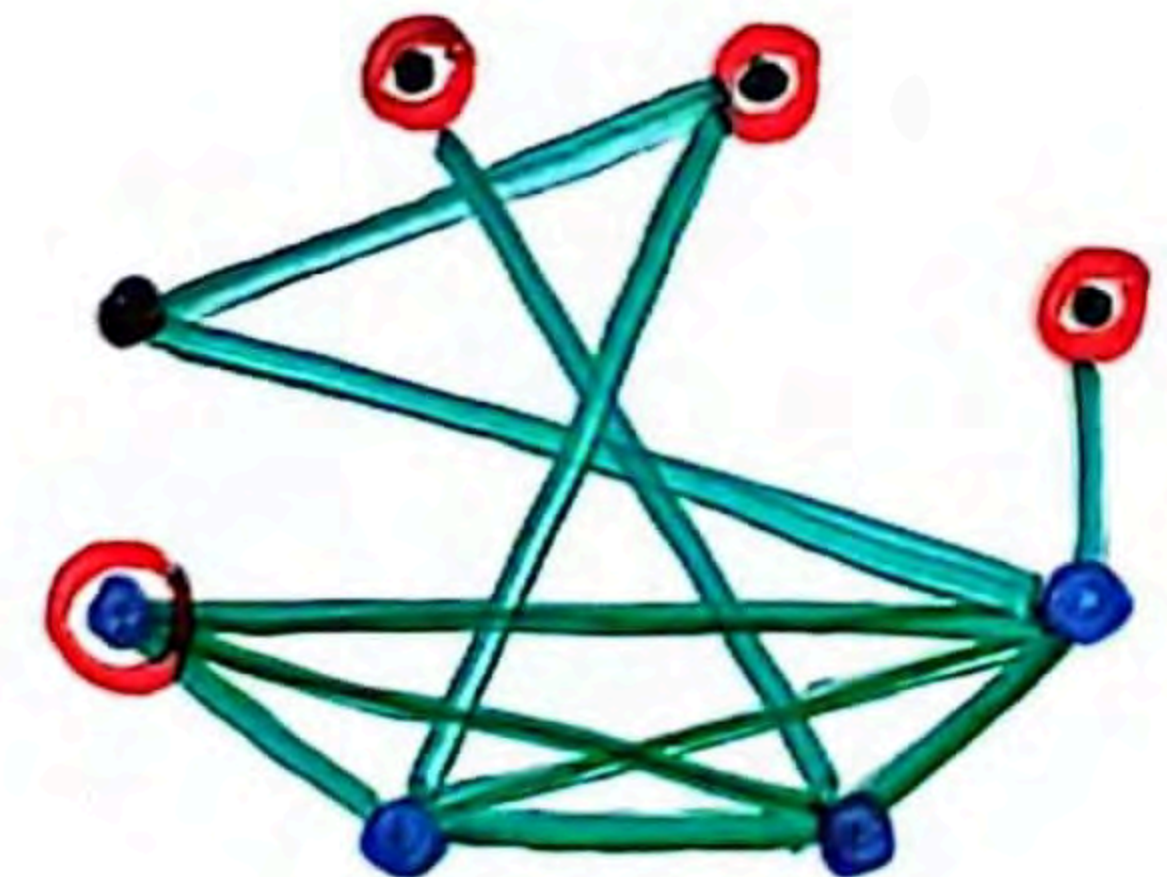
# HEROES' SQUARE

**Theorem** (Ramsey 1930, Erdős-Szekeres 1935)  
Every graph of  $n$  vertices has a clique or an independent set of size  $r(n)$ , where

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} + o(1)\right) \log n \leq r(n) \leq (2 + o(1)) \log n$$

↑

$\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon$  Campos-Griffith-Morris-Sahasrabudhe



# HEROES' SQUARE

**Conjecture** (Erdős-Hajnal 1989)

For every graph  $H$ , there exists  $\epsilon = \epsilon(H) > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$  with  $H \not\subseteq G$  has a clique or an independent set of size  $\geq n^\epsilon$ .

$$e^{\sqrt{\log n}} \ll e^{\epsilon \log n}$$

$$e^{\epsilon \sqrt{\log n \log \log n}}$$

Erdős-Hajnal 1989

Bucić-Nguyen-Scott-Seymour 2023

hereditary class of graphs  $\mathcal{G}$ :

$$G \in \mathcal{G}, G' \text{ induced subgraph of } G \implies G' \in \mathcal{G}$$

# HEROES' SQUARE



**Bucic**



**Campos**



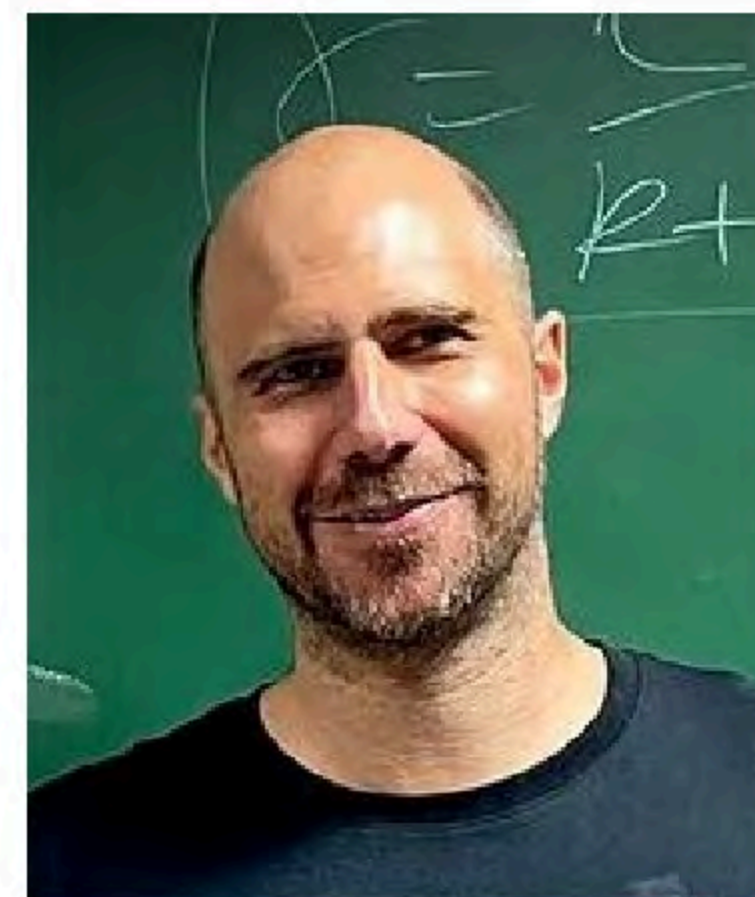
**Conlon**



**Erdős**



**Fox**



**Griffith**



**Hajnal**



**Morris**



**Nguyen**



**Ramsey**



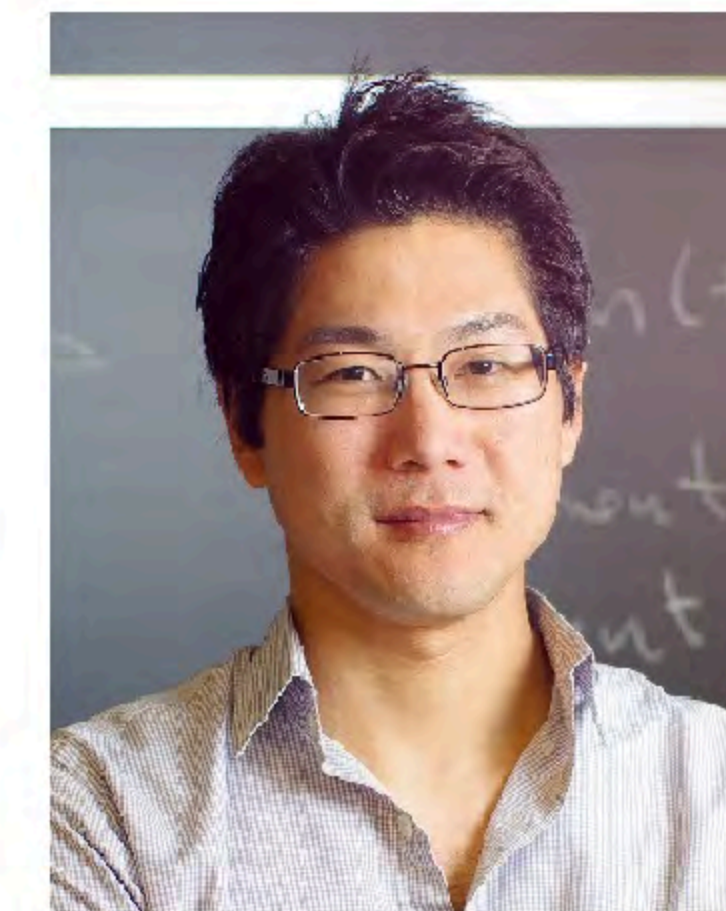
**Sahasrabudhe**



**Scott**



**Seymour**



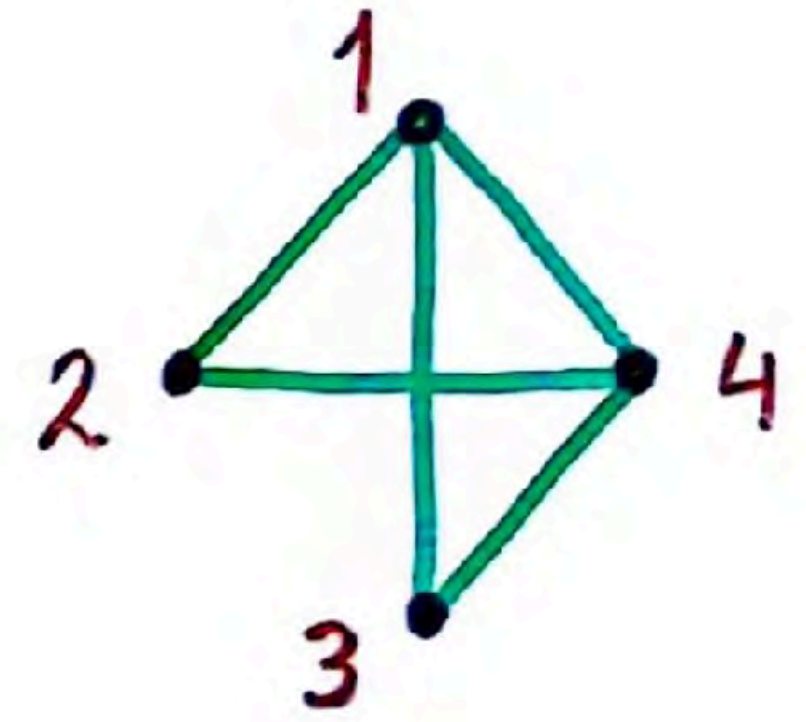
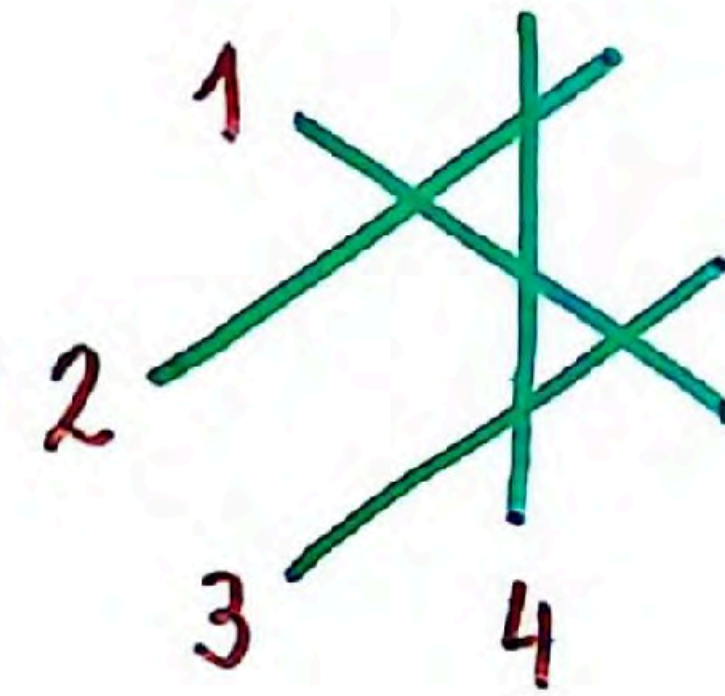
**Suk**



**Szekeres**

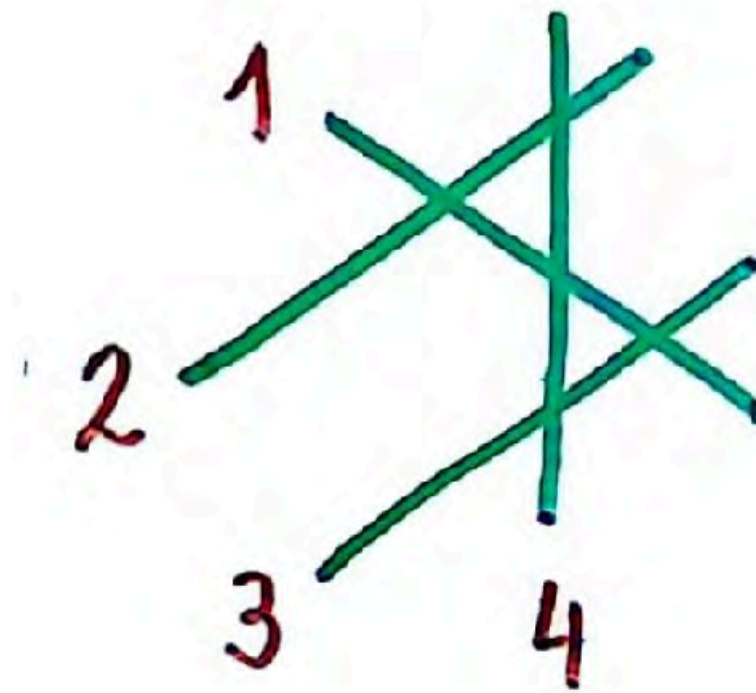
# INTERSECTION GRAPHS

segment graphs

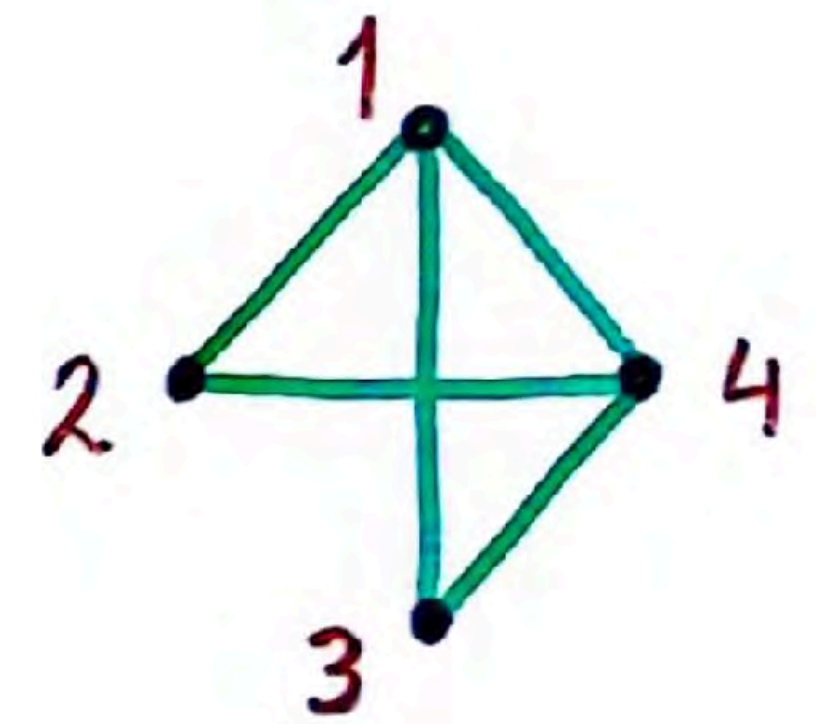
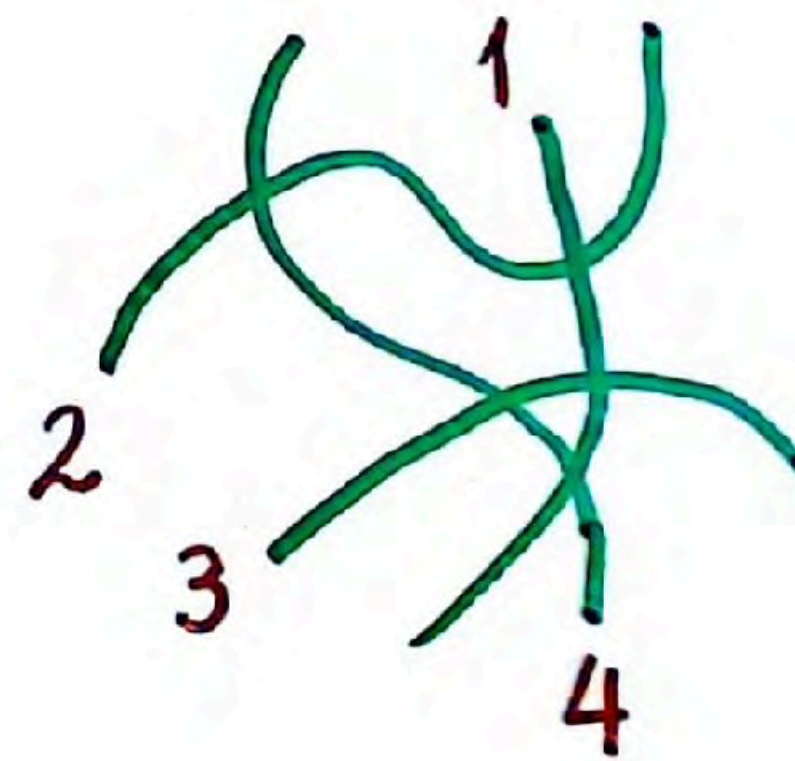


# INTERSECTION GRAPHS

segment graphs

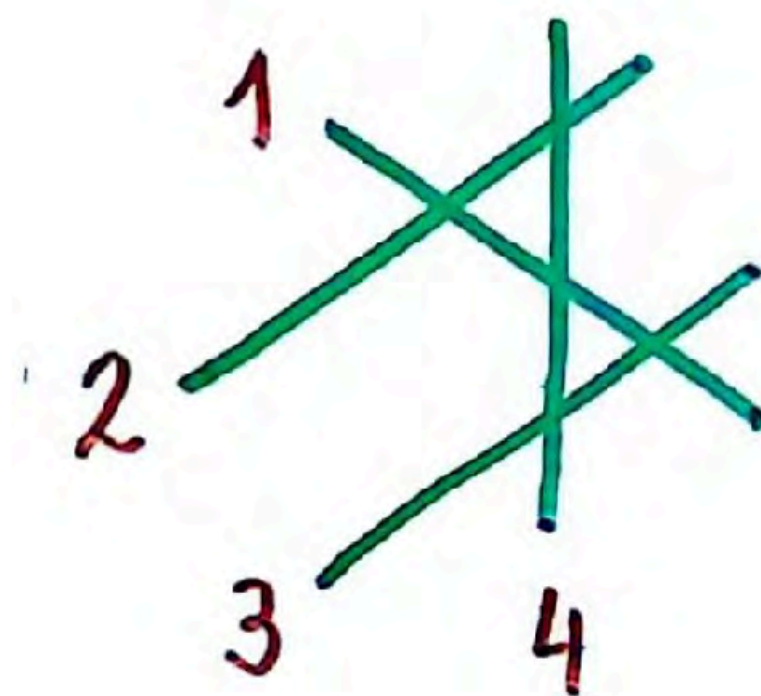


pseudosegment  
intersection graphs  
- any pair of curves  
intersect  $\leq$  once



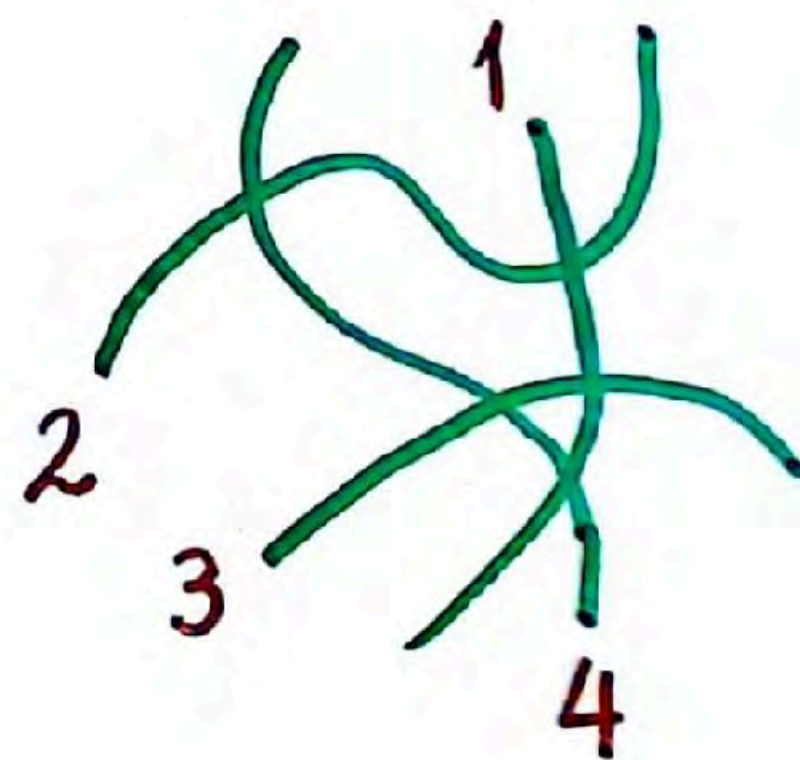
# INTERSECTION GRAPHS

segment graphs



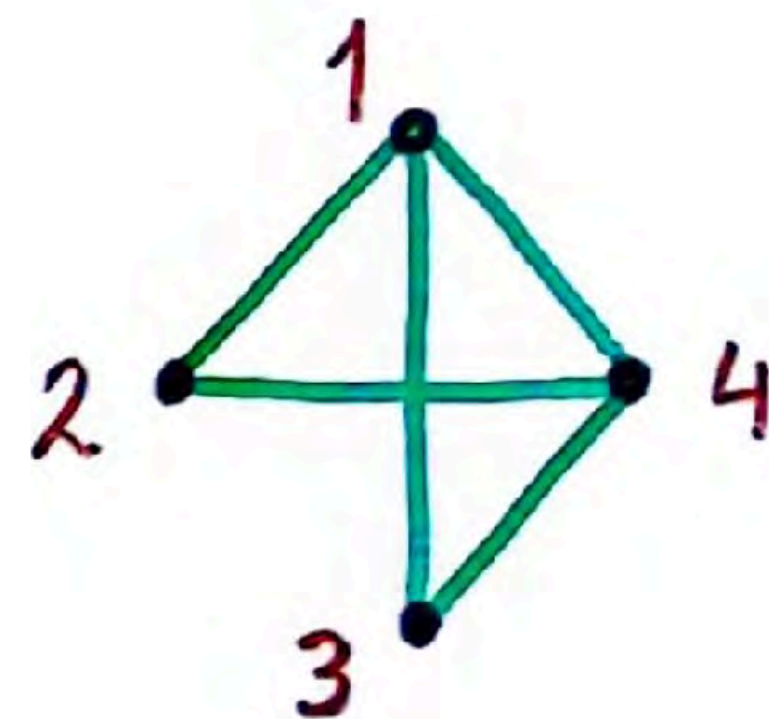
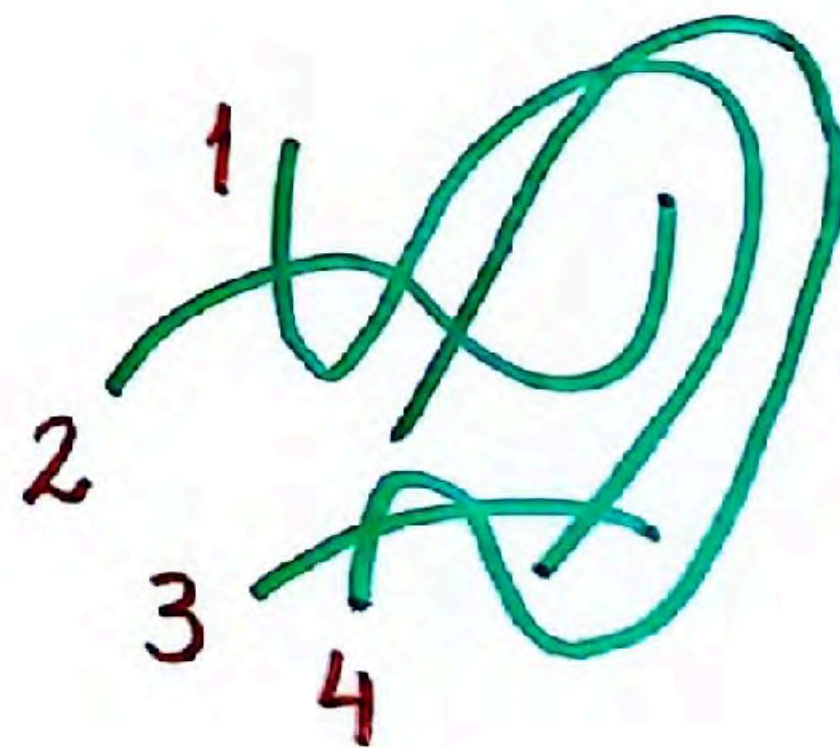
pseudosegment  
intersection graphs

- any pair of curves  
intersect  $\leq$  once



string graphs

- intersection graphs  
of arbitrary curves  
(strings)





# ERDŐS-HAJNAL PROPERTY

A class of graphs  $\mathcal{G}$  has the Erdős-Hajnal property if there exists  $\epsilon = \epsilon(\mathcal{G}) > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  has a clique or an independent set of size  $\geq n^\epsilon$ .

**Conjecture** (Erdős-Hajnal 89)

Every nonempty hereditary class of graphs has the Erdős-Hajnal property.

**Theorem** (Larman-Matoušek-P.-Töröcsik 94)

Segment intersection graphs have the Erdős-Hajnal property (with  $\epsilon \geq 1/5$ ).

**Problem.** What is the best value of  $\epsilon$  ???

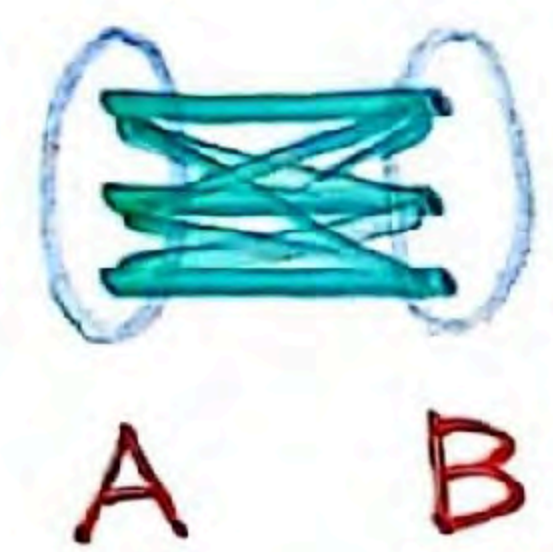
$$0.2 \approx \epsilon < 0.404$$

Kynčl 2012

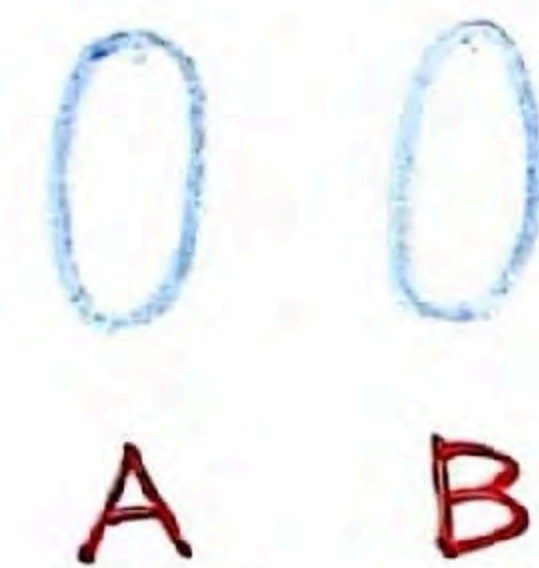
# STRONG ERDŐS-HAJNAL PROPERTY

A class of graphs  $\mathcal{G}$  has the **strong** Erdős-Hajnal property if there exists  $c = c(\mathcal{G}) > 0$  such that in every  $n$ -vertex  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  one can find  $A, B \subseteq V(G)$ ,  $|A| = |B| \geq cn$  with the property that

$$A \times B \subseteq E(G) \text{ or } (A \times B) \cap E(G) = \emptyset.$$



or



$\implies$  Erdős-Hajnal property

**Theorem** (P. Solymosi 2001)

Segment intersection graphs have the **strong** Erdős-Hajnal property.

semialgebraic graphs Alon-Pinchasi-Radoičić-Sharir 2005

# E-H PROPERTY $\neq$ STRONG E-H ?

**Theorem** (P.-G. Tóth : Comment on Fox news 2006)

String graphs (intersection graphs of strings) do **not** have the strong Erdős-Hajnal property.

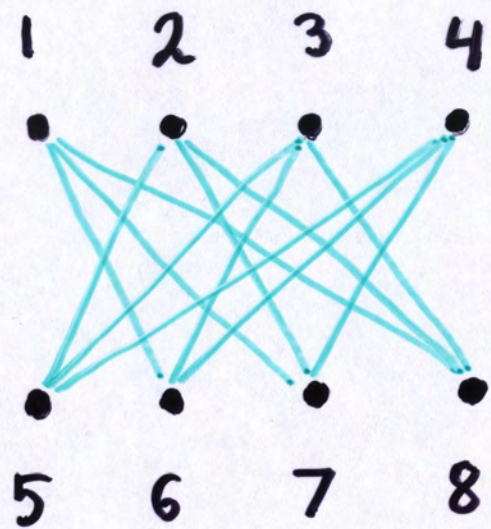
## E-H PROPERTY $\neq$ STRONG E-H ?

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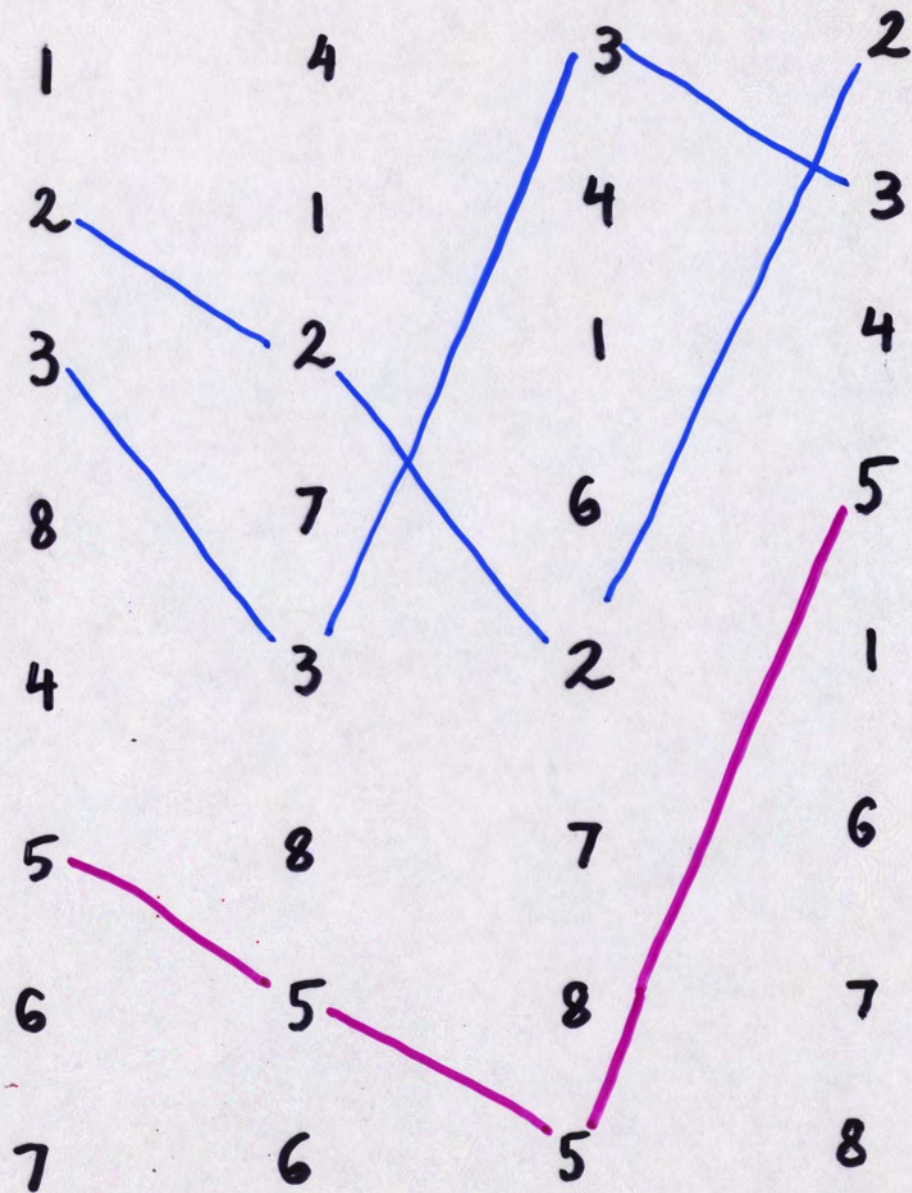
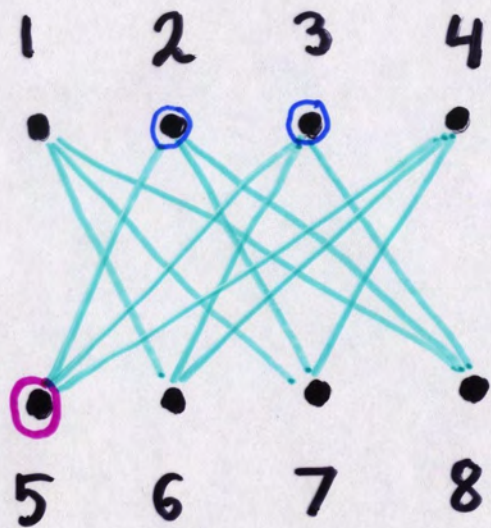
String graphs (intersection graphs of strings) do **not** have the strong Erdős-Hajnal property.

**Theorem** (Golumbic-Rotem-Urrutia 83, Lovász 83)

Every incomparability graph is a string graph, but not vice versa.



1	4	3	2
2	1	4	3
3	2	1	4
8	7	6	5
4	3	2	1
5	8	7	6
6	5	8	7
7	6	5	8



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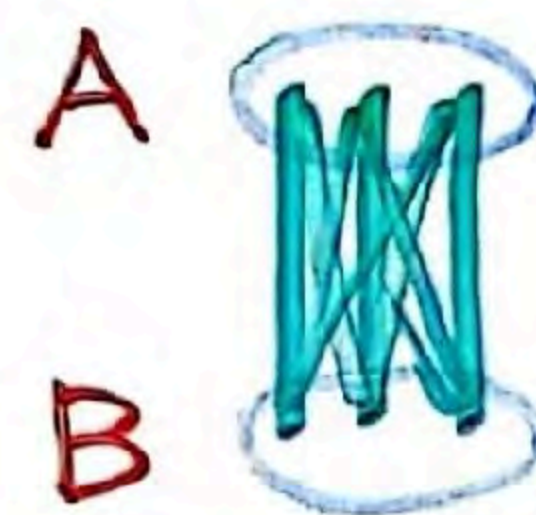
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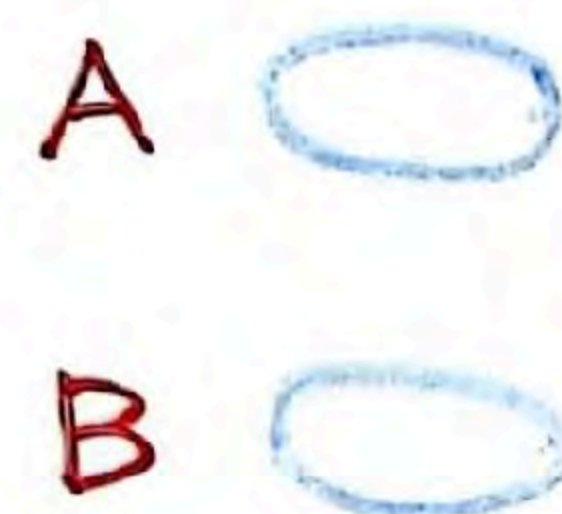
Every incomparability graph is a string graph, but not vice versa.

**Theorem** (Fox 2006) There is a partially ordered set  $P$ ,  $|P| = n$  with no disjoint subsets  $A, B \subset P$ ,  $|A| = |B| \geq \frac{n}{\log n}$  such that every  $a \in A$  is comparable to every  $b \in B$  or no  $a \in A$  is comparable to any  $b \in B$ .

NO



and



# E-H PROPERTY $\neq$ STRONG E-H

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**Theorem** (Tomon 2023)

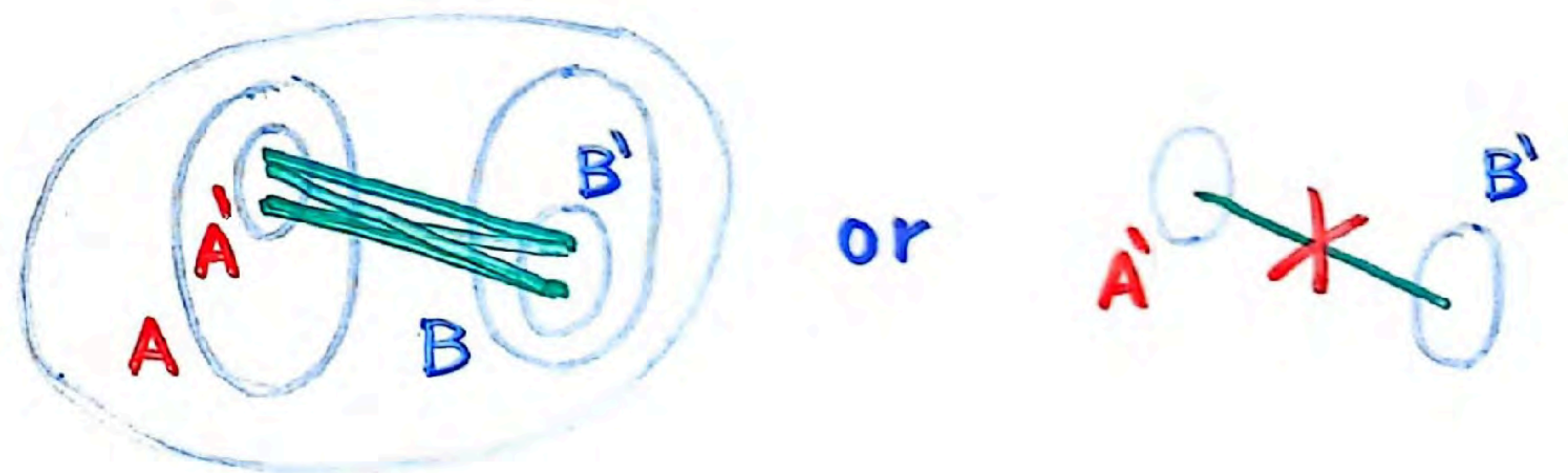
String graphs have the Erdős-Hajnal property.



# EVEN STRONGER: 'MIGHTY' E-H PROPERTY

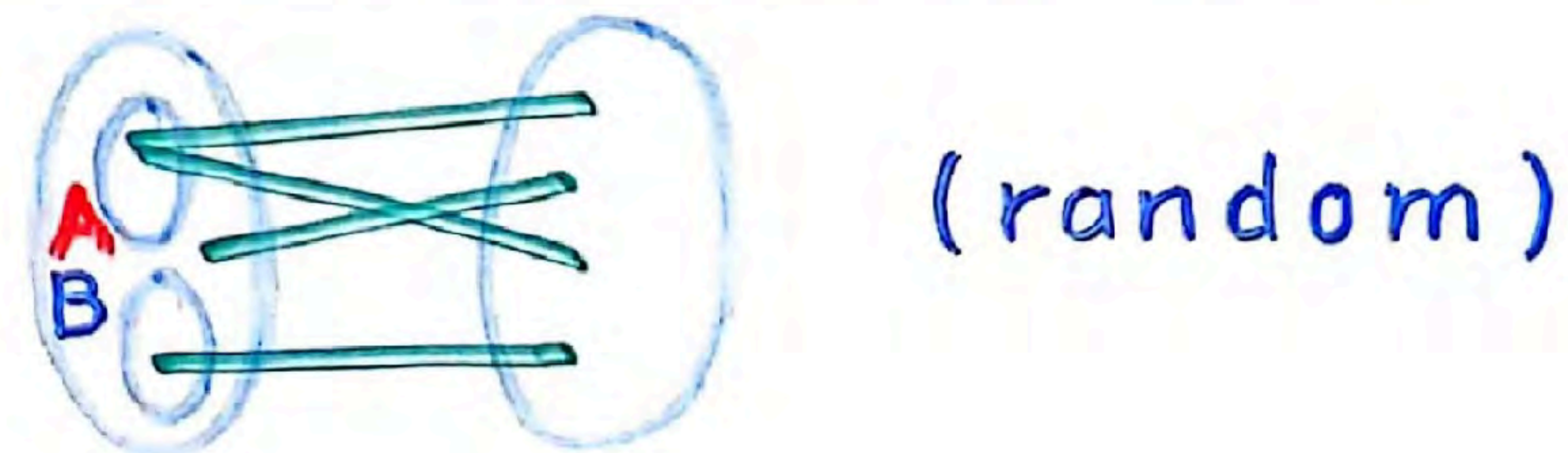
A class of graphs  $\mathcal{G}$  has the **mighty** E-H property if there exists  $c = c(\mathcal{G}) > 0$  with the property that for any  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $A, B \subset V(G)$ , one can find  $A' \subseteq A, B' \subseteq B$  with  $|A'| \geq c|A|, |B'| \geq c|B|$  such that the bipartite graph between  $A'$  and  $B'$  is complete or empty.

$\Rightarrow$  strong E-H property



$\Leftarrow$

$\mathcal{G}$  = class of bipartite graphs



# MIGHTY E-H $\neq$ STRONG E-H PROPERTY

**Theorem** (P.-Solymosi 2001)

Segment intersection graphs have the **mighty** Erdős-Hajnal property.

**Theorem** (Fox-P.-Cs.Tóth 2010)

Intersection graphs of convex sets in the plane have the **strong** Erdős-Hajnal property, but **not** the **mighty** one.

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**pseudosegments** - collection of strings, any pair of which intersect  $\leq$  once

**Theorem** (Fox-P.-Cs.Tóth 2010)

Pseudosegment intersection graphs have the strong Erdős-Hajnal property.

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**mighty ??**

# PSEUDOSEGMENTS

**Theorem** (Fox-P.-Suk 2024)

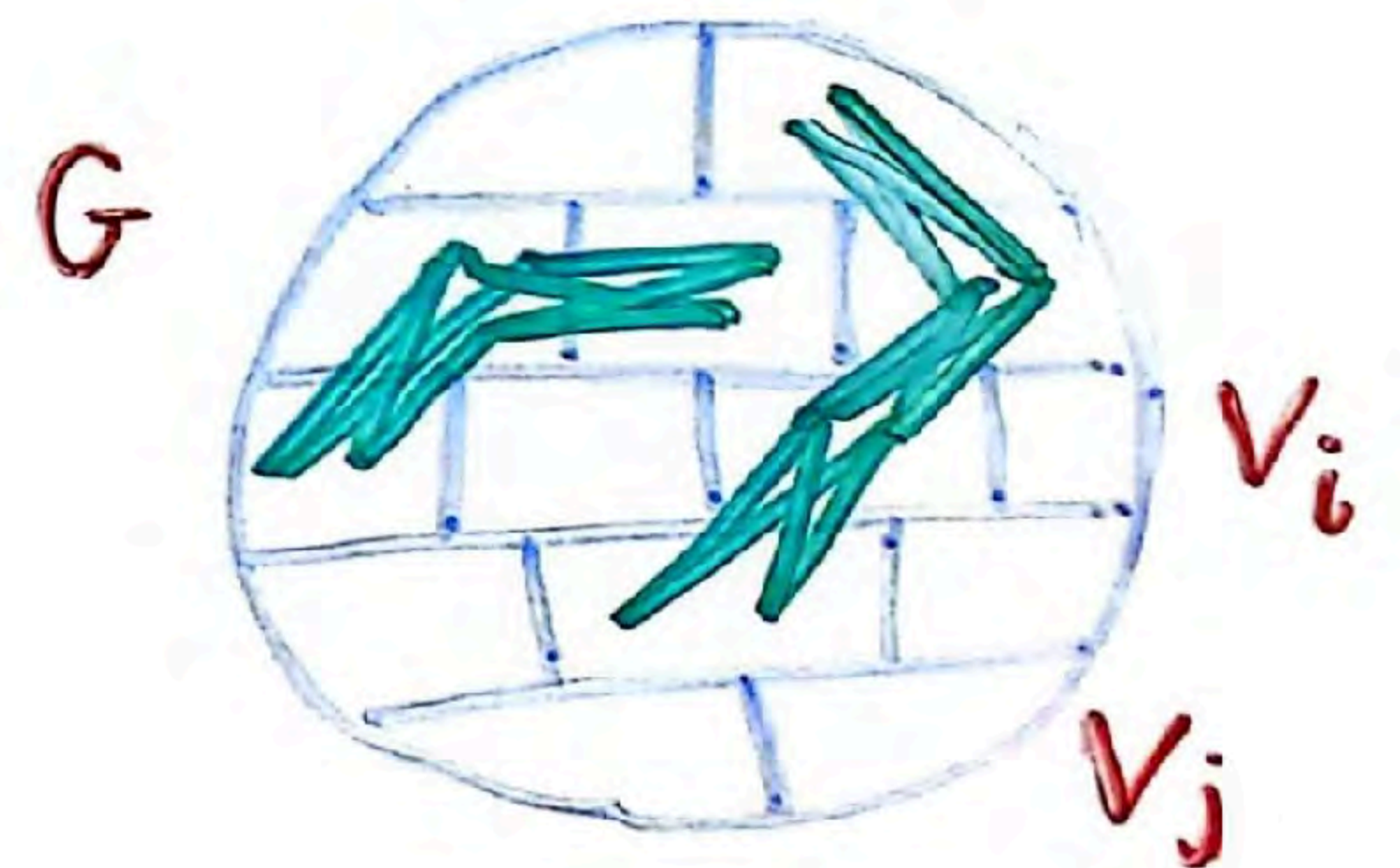
Pseudosegment intersection graphs have the **mighty Erdős-Hajnal property**.



**"Perfect" regularity lemma.**

For every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $K = K(\mathcal{G}, \varepsilon)$  with the property that the vertex set of every  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  can be partitioned into  $K$  equal parts  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_K$  such that all but  $\leq \varepsilon K^2$  pairs  $(V_i, V_j)$  induce complete or empty bipartite graphs.

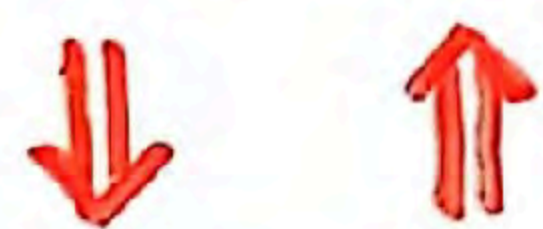
**Conjecture.** If  $\mathcal{G} = \text{pseudosegments}$ ,  
 $K = O(1/\varepsilon^c)$



# PSEUDOSEGMENTS

**Theorem** (Fox-P.-Suk 2024)

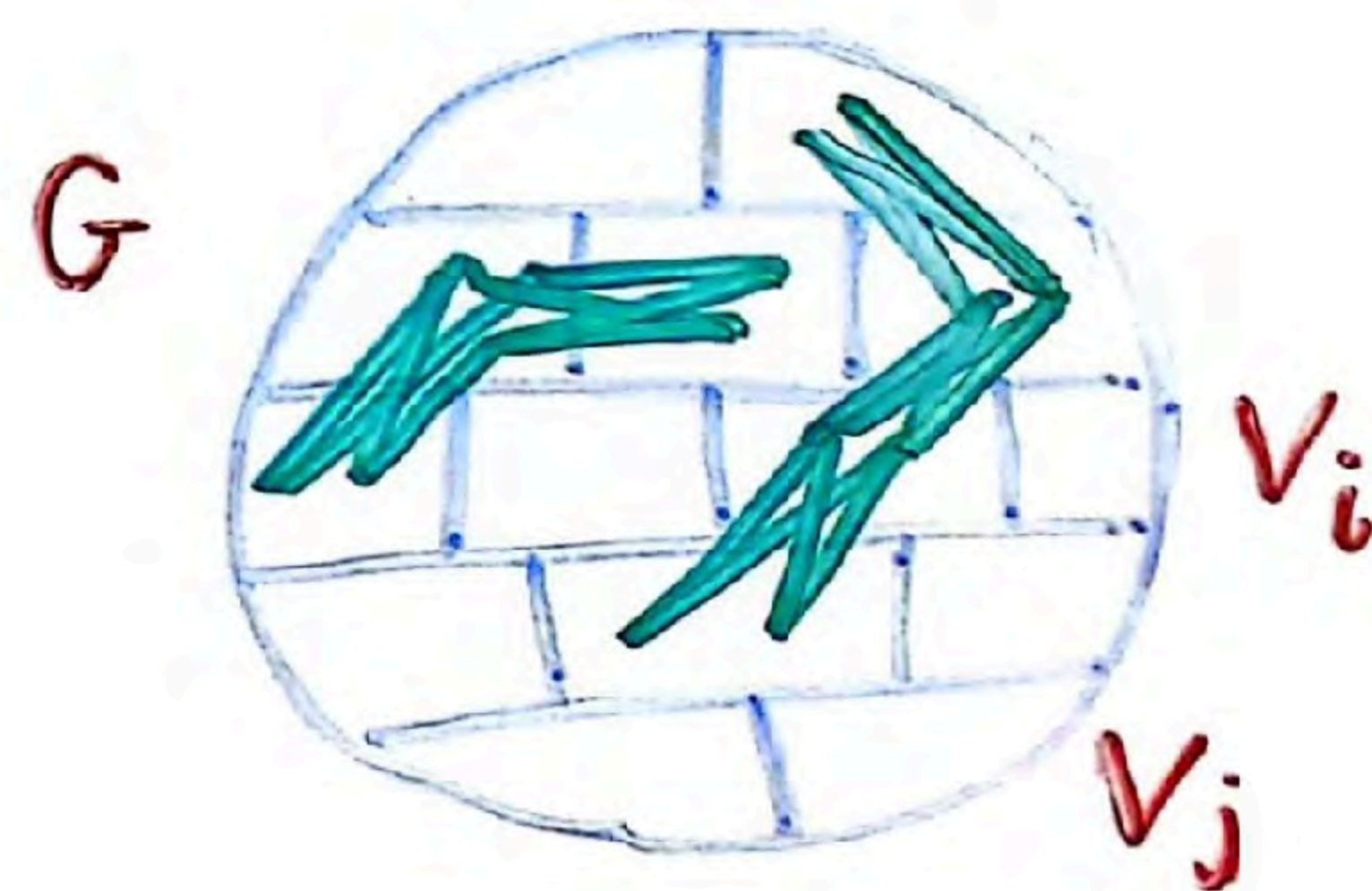
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## "Perfect" regularity lemma.

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## "Perfect" density lemma.

For every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $c = c(\mathcal{G}, \varepsilon) > 0$  with the following property: For every  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  and disjoint sets  $A, B \subseteq V(G)$ ,  $|A| = |B|$  with  $\geq \varepsilon |A||B|$  edges between them, one can find  $A' \subseteq A$ ,  $B' \subseteq B$ ,  $|A'| = |B'| \geq \varepsilon^c |A|$  that induce a complete bipartite subgraph in  $G$ .

The same is true for the class  $\bar{\mathcal{G}} = \{\bar{G} : G \in \mathcal{G}\}$ .

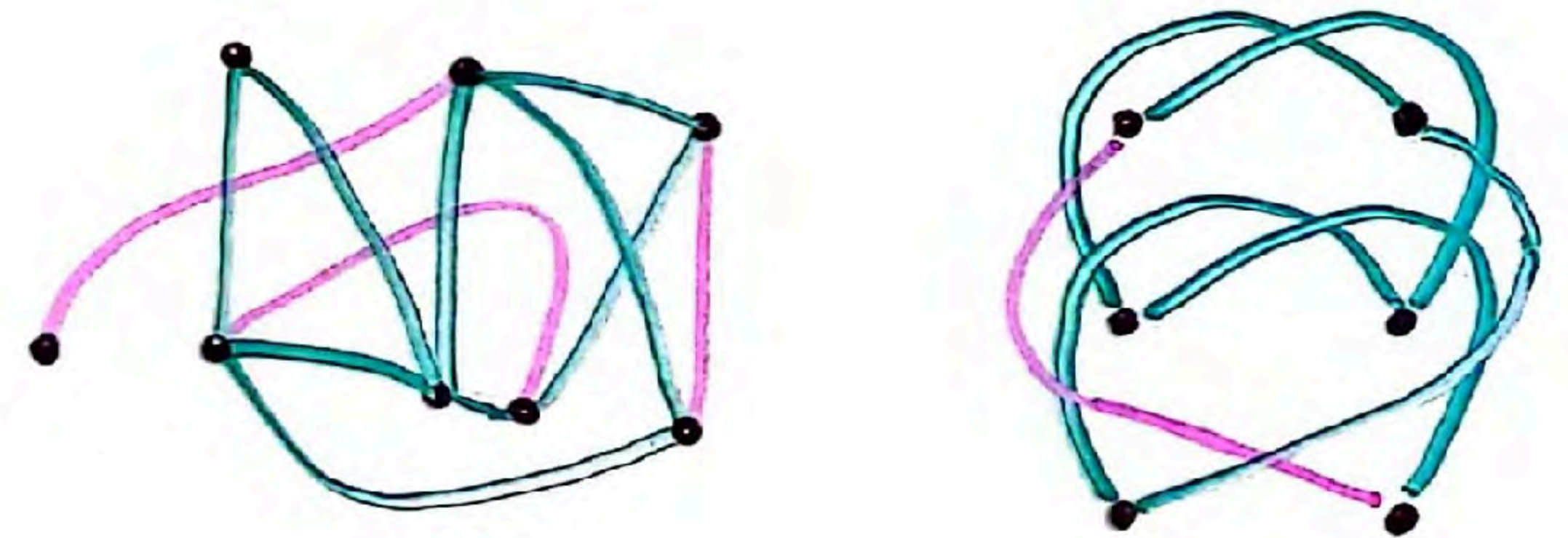
**Theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a hereditary class of graphs. The following statements are equivalent.

- (i)  $\mathcal{G}$  has the mighty Erdős-Hajnal property.
- (ii)  $\mathcal{G}$  satisfies the perfect regularity lemma.
- (iii)  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{G}}$  satisfy the perfect density lemma.



# APPLICATION OF DENSITY THEOREM

simple drawing of a graph  $G$  - edges are pseudosegments



**Theorem** (P. - G. Toth 2005)

If  $G$  has a simple drawing with **no**  $k$  pairwise disjoint edges, then  $|E(G)| \leq n (\log n)^{4k-8}$ .

**Theorem** (Fox - P. - Suk 2024)

If  $G$  has a simple drawing with **no**  $k$  pairwise disjoint edges, then  $|E(G)| \leq n (\log n)^{O(\log k)}$ .

**Conjecture.**  $O_k(n) ??$

# ENUMERATION OF SEGMENT GRAPHS

segments



**Theorem** (P.-Solymosi 2001)

The number of segment intersection graphs on  $n$  labeled vertices is

$$\leq 2^{(4+o(1))n \log n}.$$

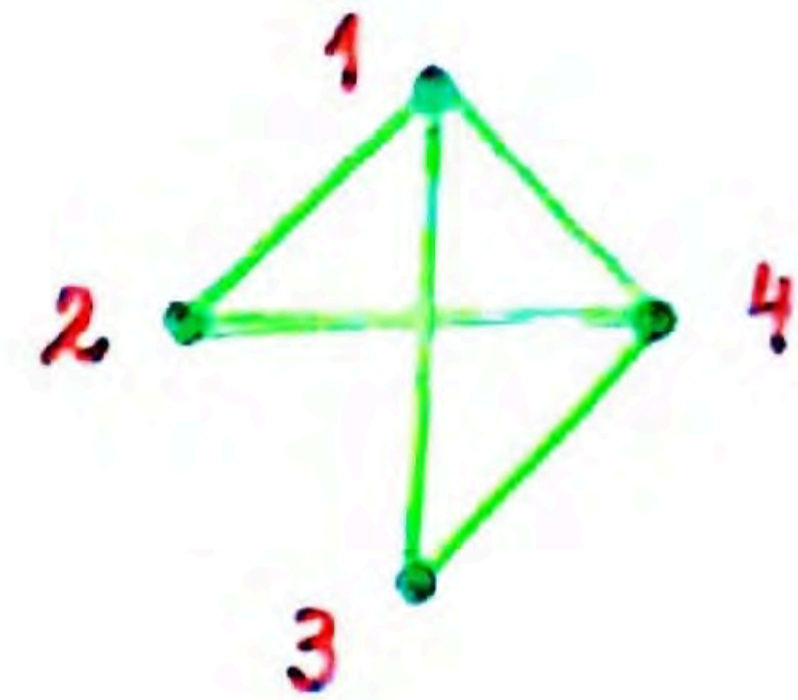
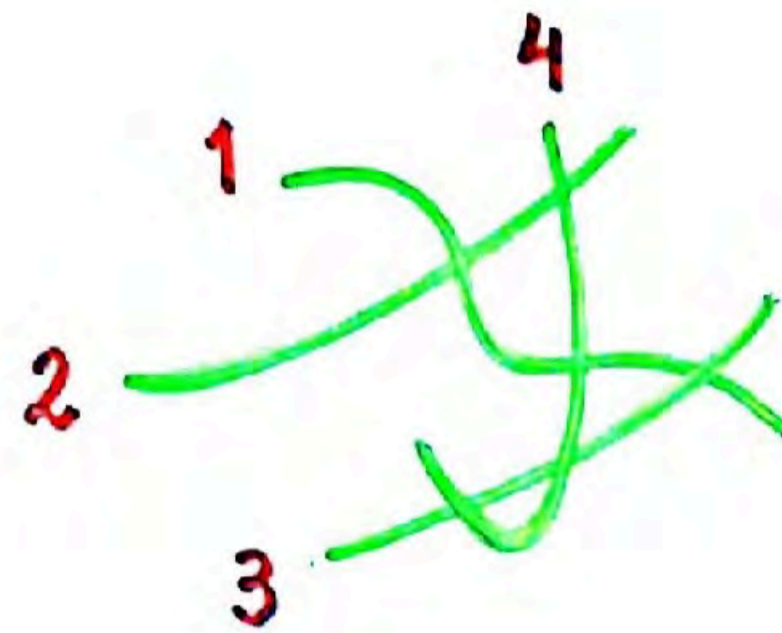
$$\ll 2^{\binom{n}{2}}$$

This bound is asymptotically tight.

Fox; Sauermann 2021

# ENUMERATION OF STRING GRAPHS

"strings"  
(arcs)



string graph

**Theorem** (P. - Toth 2002)

The number of labeled string graphs on  $n$  vertices is

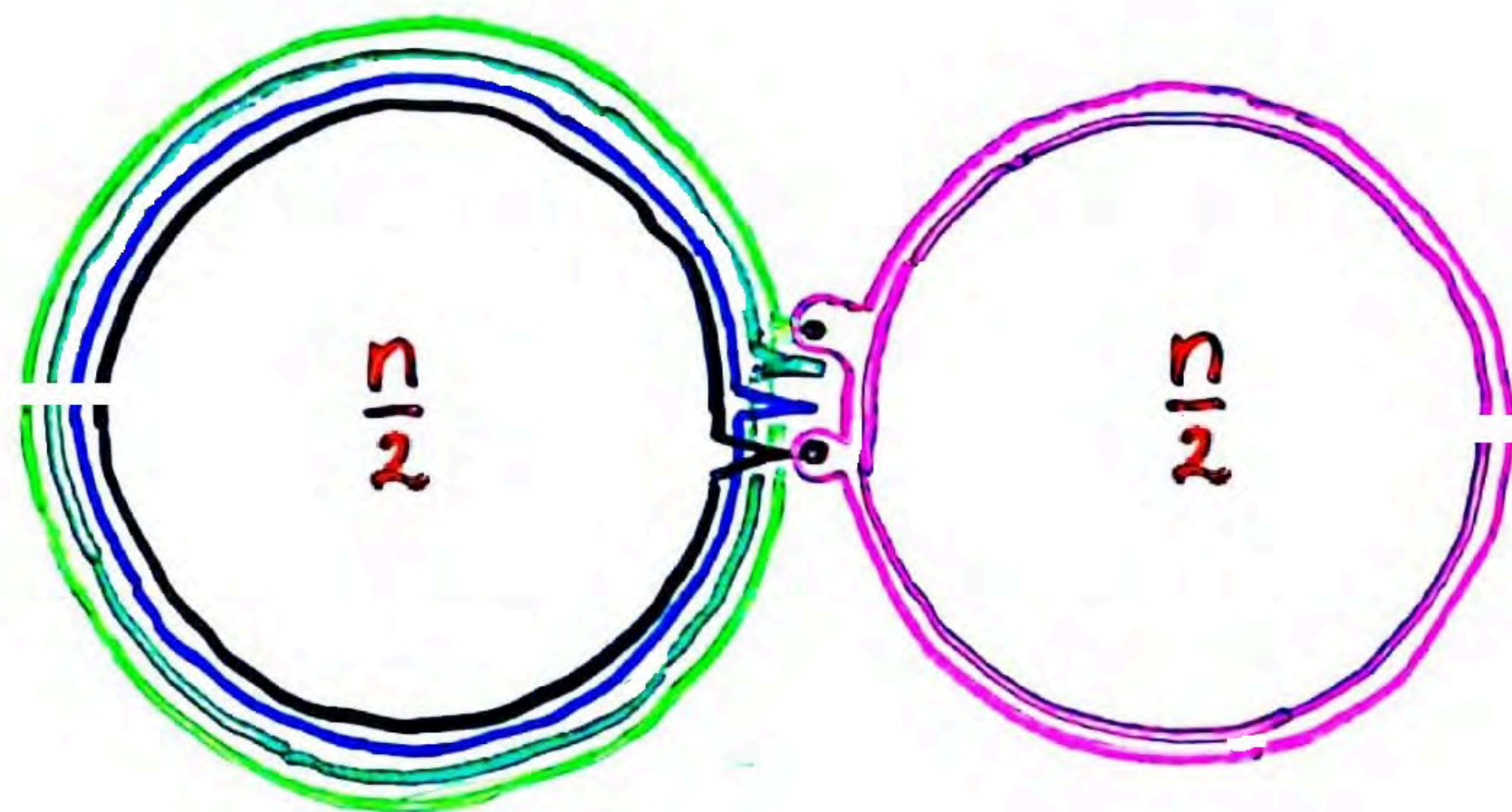
$$2^{\left(\frac{3}{4} + o(1)\right) \binom{n}{2}}$$

**Theorem** (P. - Toth 2002)

The number of intersection graphs of  $n$  strings, any pair of which cross  $\leq d$  times, is

$$2^{o(n^2)}$$

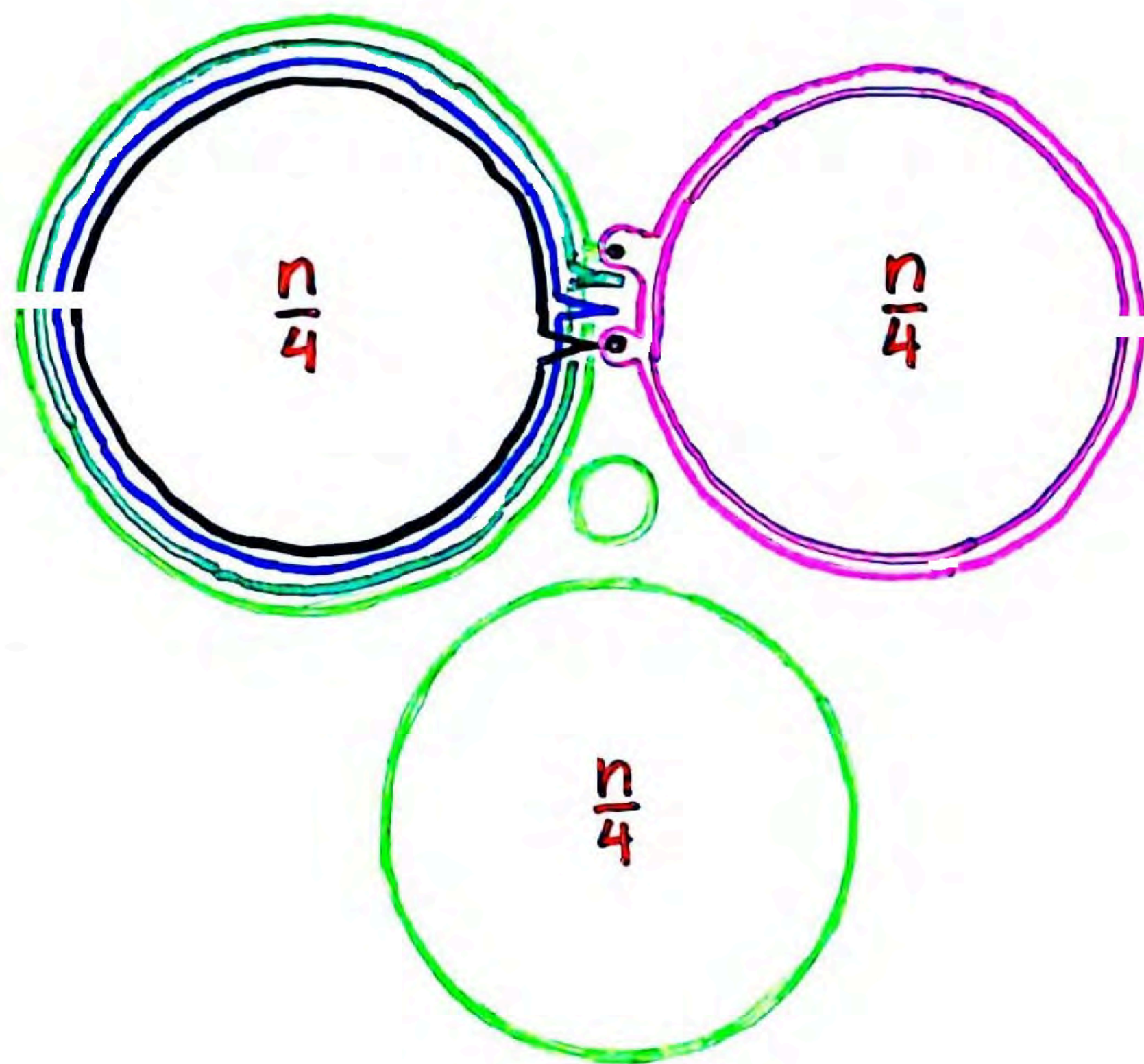
# STRING GRAPHS - A CONSTRUCTION



$$\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{4}{n^2}$$

# string graphs on  $n$  vertices  $\geq 2^{\frac{4}{n^2}}$

# STRING GRAPHS - A CONSTRUCTION

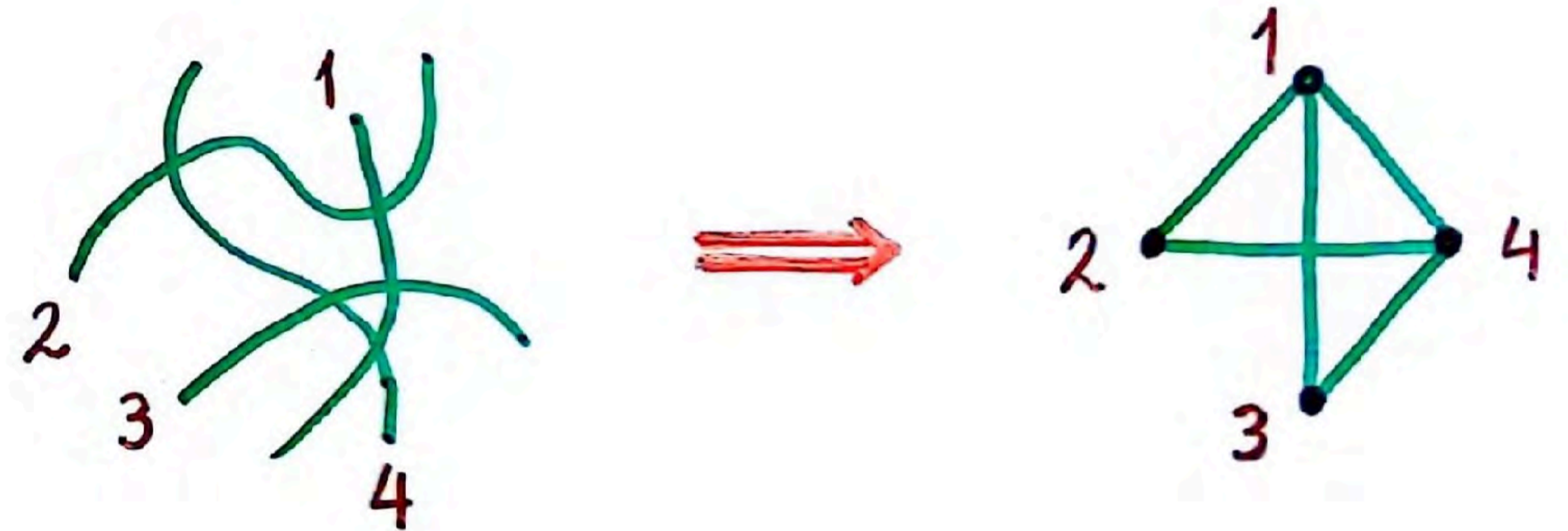


$$\binom{4}{2} \left(\frac{n}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{3}{4} \frac{n^2}{2}$$

# string graphs on  $n$  vertices  $\geq 2 \frac{3}{4} \frac{n^2}{2}$

# ENUMERATION OF PSEUDOSEGMENT GRAPHS

pseudosegment  
intersection graphs  
- any pair of curves  
intersect  $\leq$  once

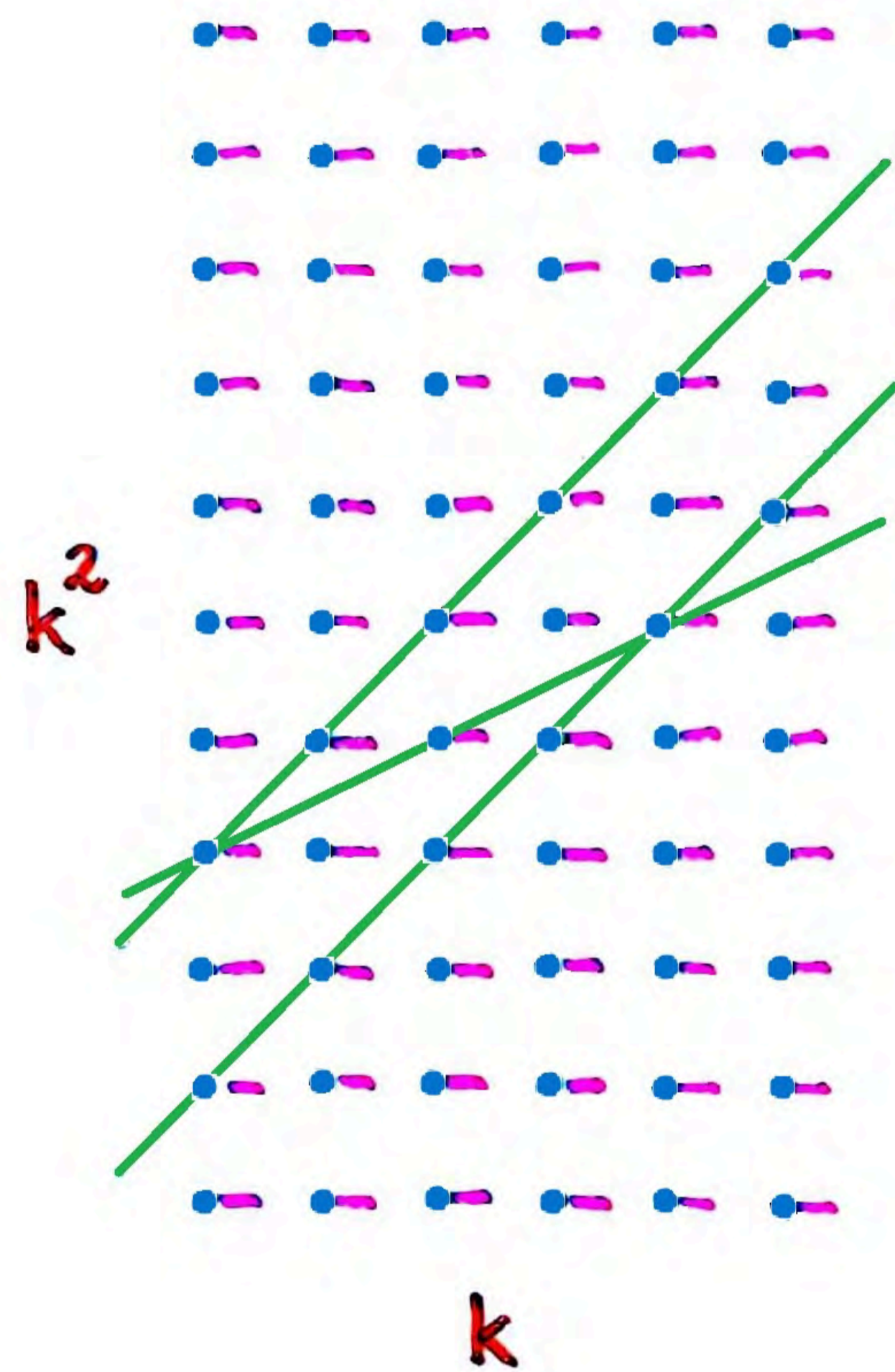


**Theorem** (Fox-P.-Suk 2022)

The number of pseudosegment intersection graphs on  $n$  labeled vertices is

$$\geq 2^{cn^{4/3}} \Rightarrow 2^{(4+o(1))n \log n}$$

# A CONSTRUCTION WITH PSEUDOSEGMENTS



$n = k^3$  short segments

$n = k^3$  lines

$$y = ax + b \quad (1 \leq a \leq k, 1 \leq b \leq k^2)$$

$cnk = cn^{4/3}$  incidences

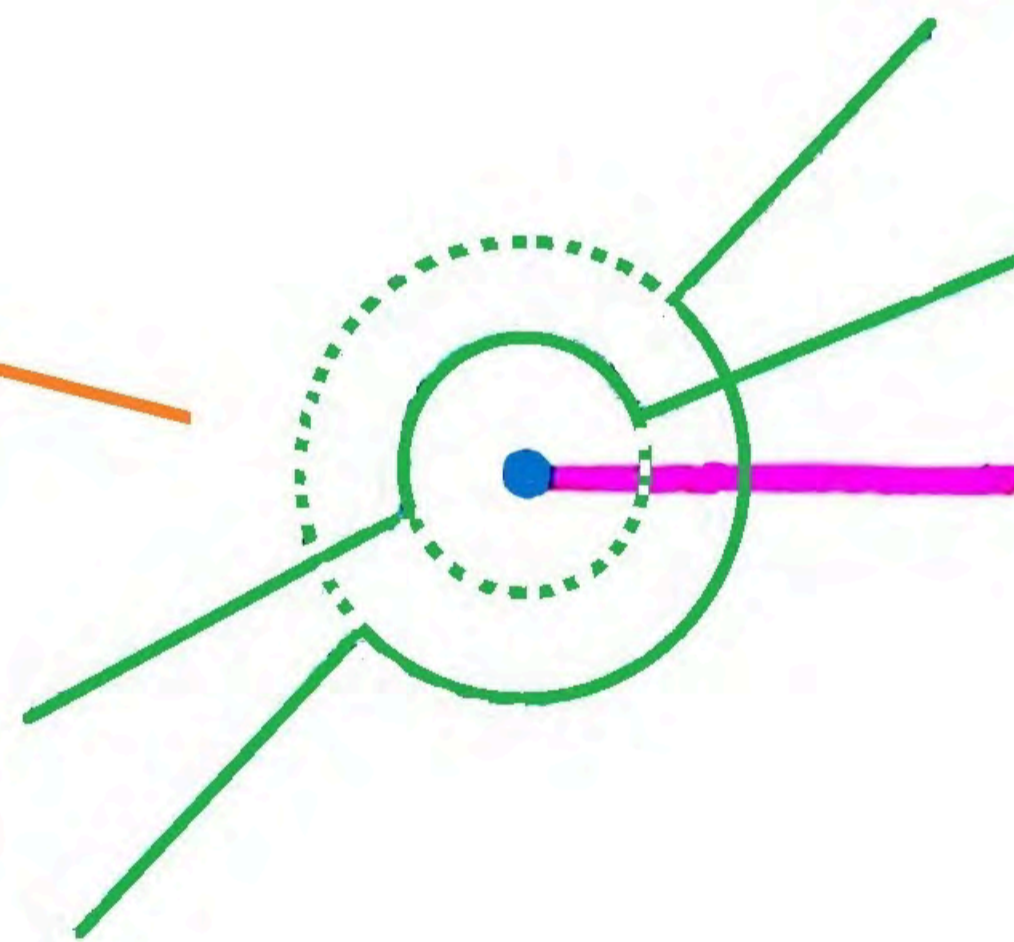
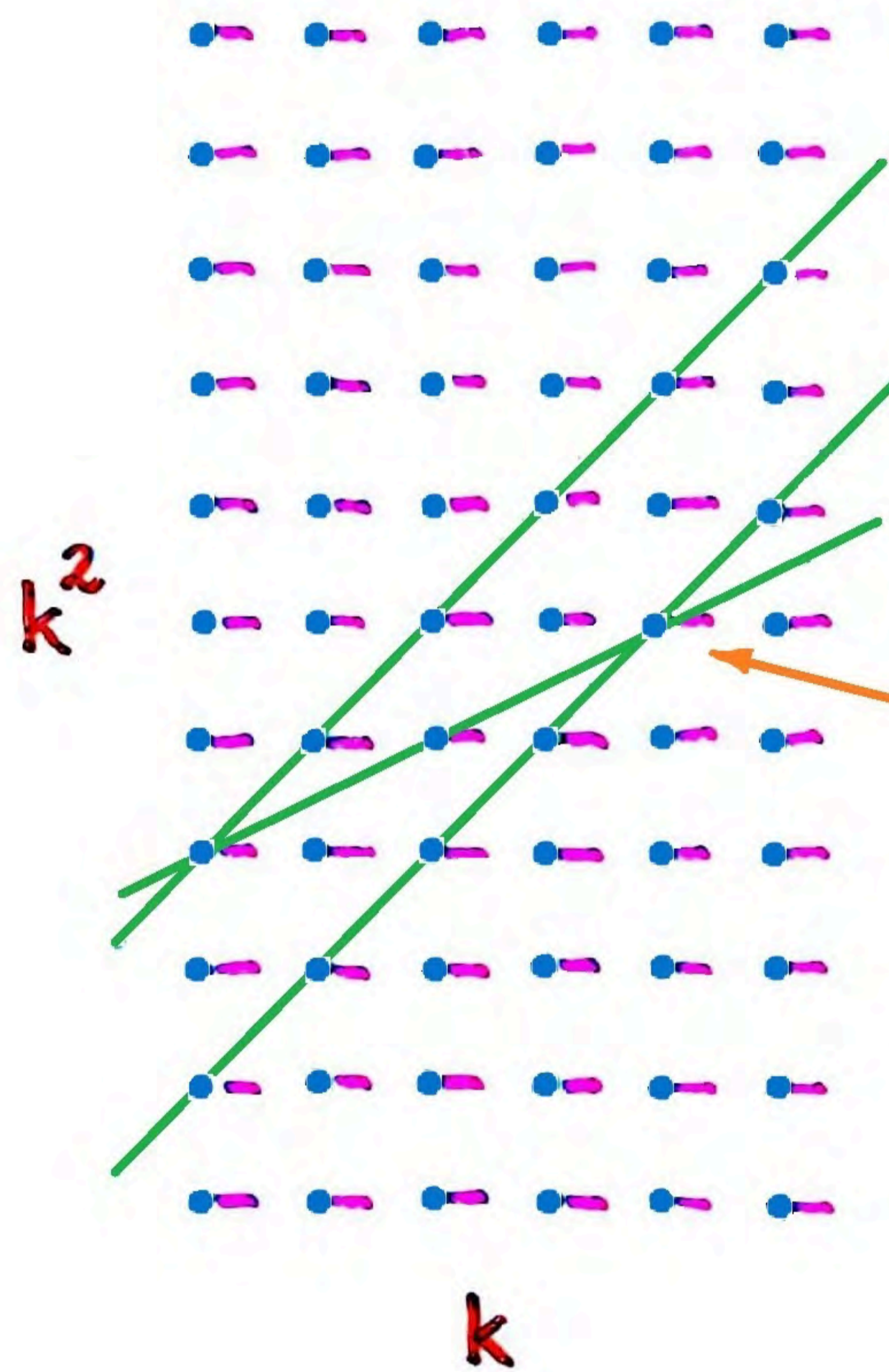
# A CONSTRUCTION WITH PSEUDOSEGMENTS

$n = k^3$  short segments

$n = k^3$  pseudolines

$y = ax + b$  ( $1 \leq a \leq k, 1 \leq b \leq k^2$ )

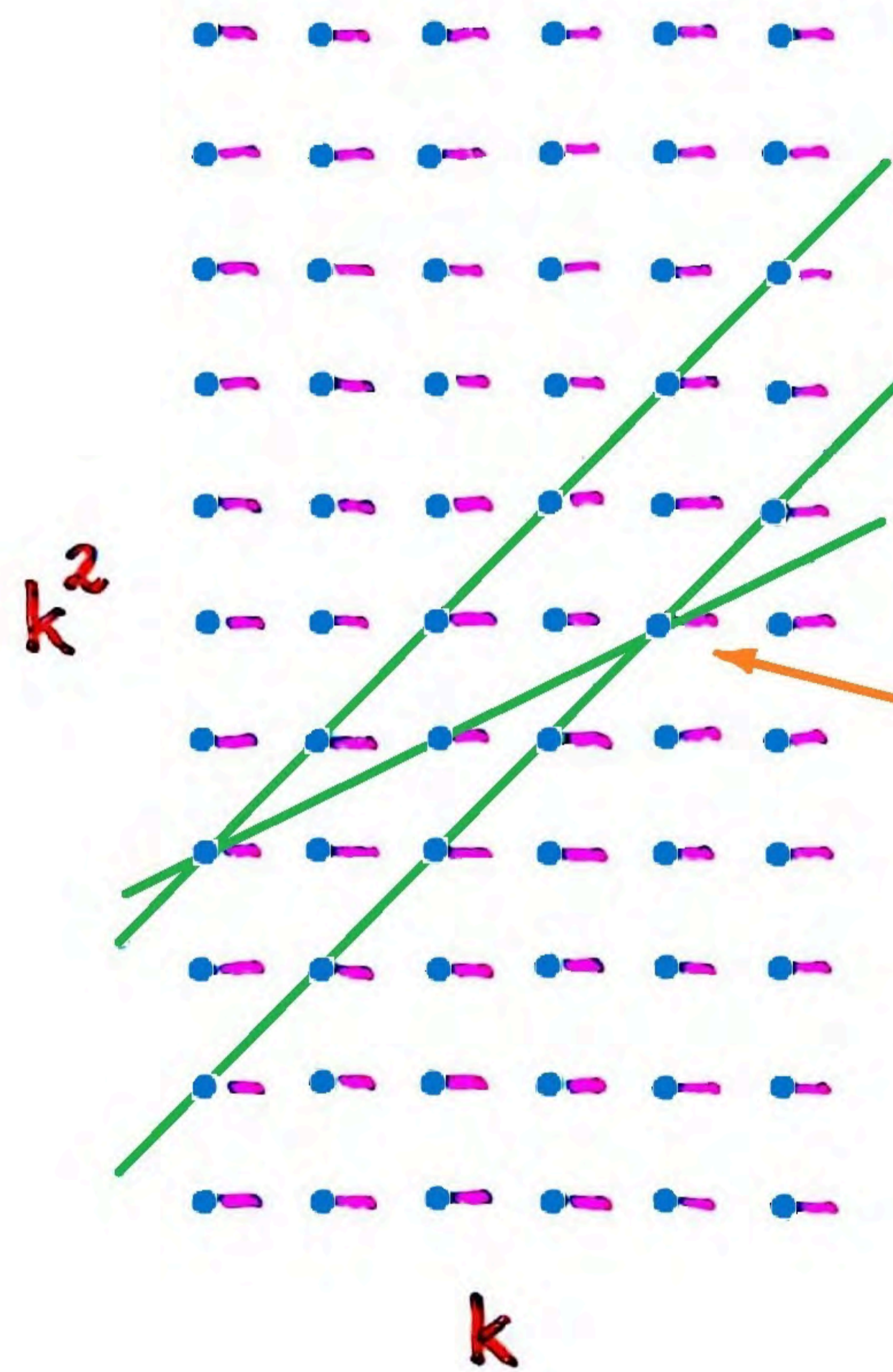
$cnk = cn^{4/3}$  incidences



at each incidence  
2 choices



# A CONSTRUCTION WITH PSEUDOSEGMENTS

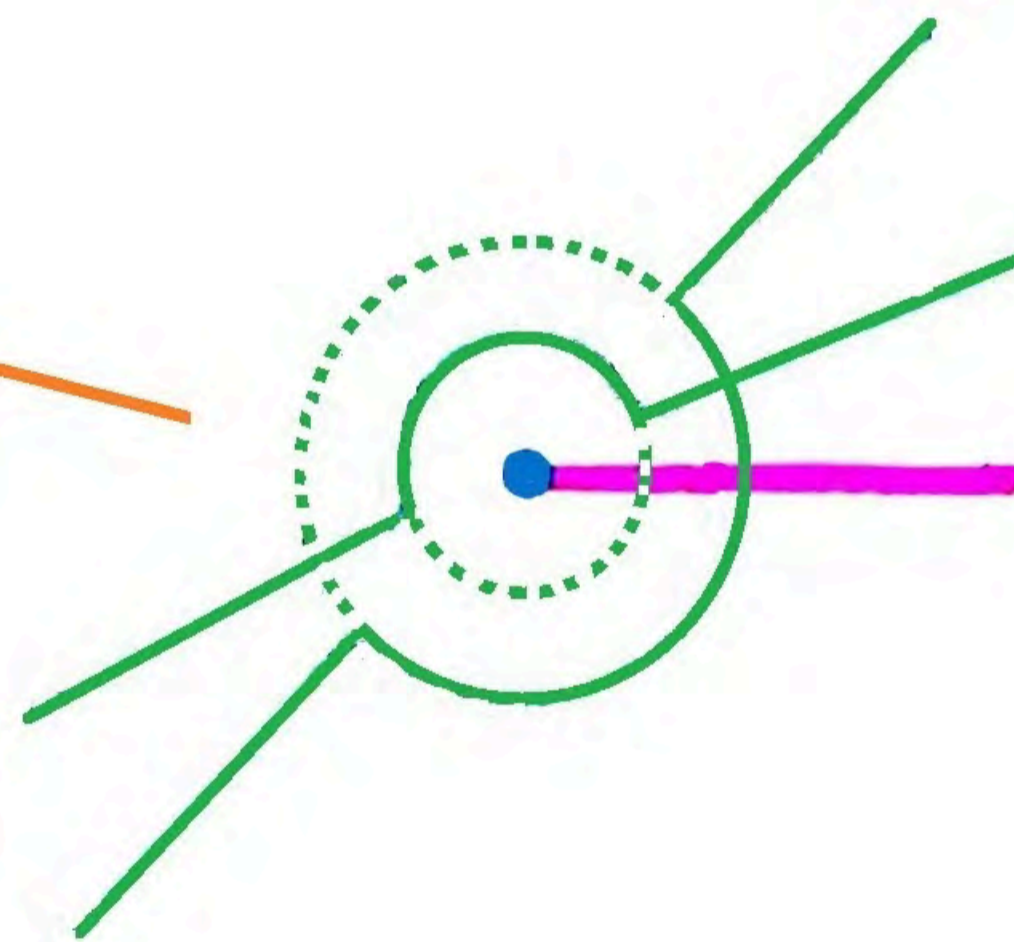


$n = k^3$  short segments

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$y = ax + b$  ( $1 \leq a \leq k, 1 \leq b \leq k^2$ )

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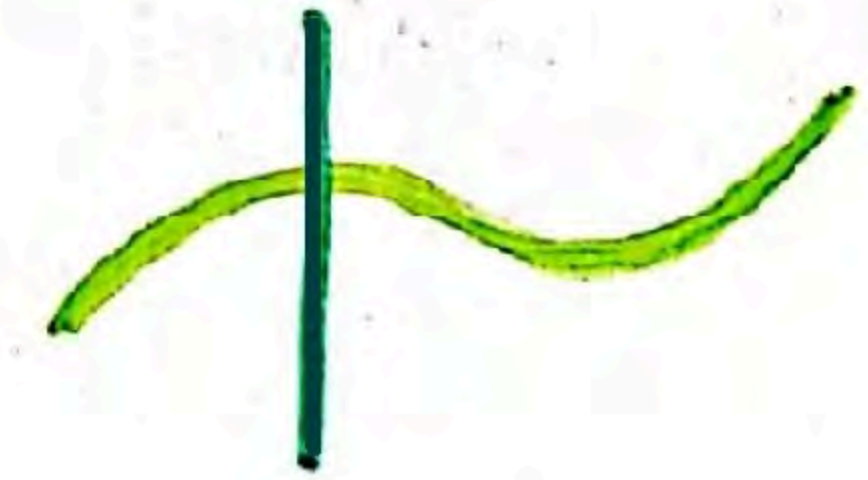
at each incidence  
2 choices

$2^{cn^{4/3}}$

different intersection graphs  
of  $x$ -monotone pseudosegments

# ENUMERATION OF PSEUDOSEGMENT GRAPHS

$x$ -monotone curve - every vertical line intersects it  $\leq$  once



**Theorem (Fox-P.-Suk 2022)**

The number of  $x$ -monotone pseudosegments intersection graphs on  $n$  labeled vertices,  $f(n)$ , satisfies

$$2^{\Omega(n^{4/3})} \leq f(n) \leq 2^{O(n^{3/2-\epsilon})},$$

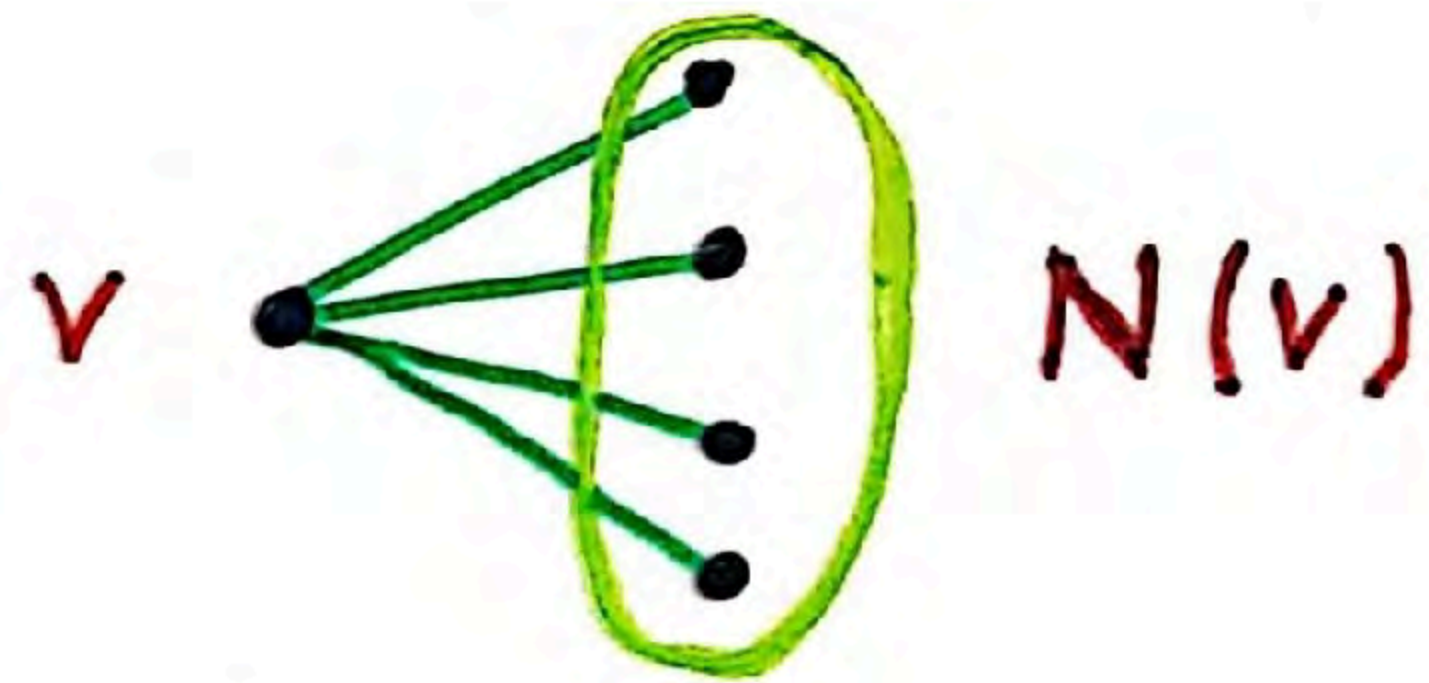
for some  $\epsilon > 0$ .

$$2^{O(n^{3/2} \log n)}$$

Kynčl 2013

# ENUMERATION AND VC-DIMENSION

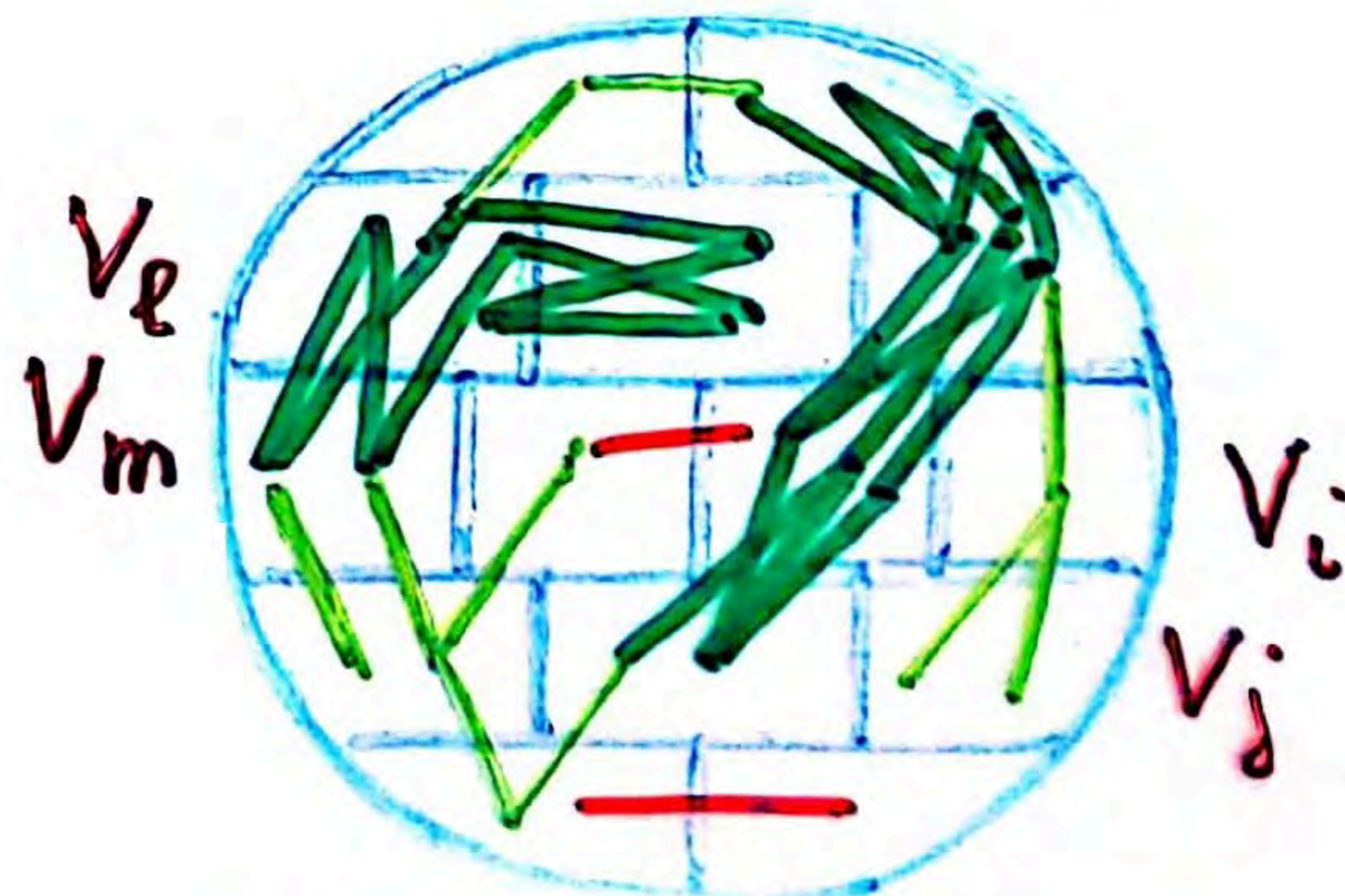
VC-dimension of a graph = VC-dimension of the family of the neighborhoods of its vertices



$\epsilon$ -perfect partition of the vertex set of  $G$  - into  $K$  equal parts  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_K$  such that for all but  $\leq \epsilon K^2$  pairs of parts

$$|E_G(V_i, V_j)| \leq \epsilon |V_i| |V_j| \quad \text{or} \quad |E_G(V_i, V_j)| \geq (1 - \epsilon) |V_i| |V_j| .$$

$$|E_G(V_e, V_m)| \geq (1 - \epsilon) |V_e| |V_m|$$

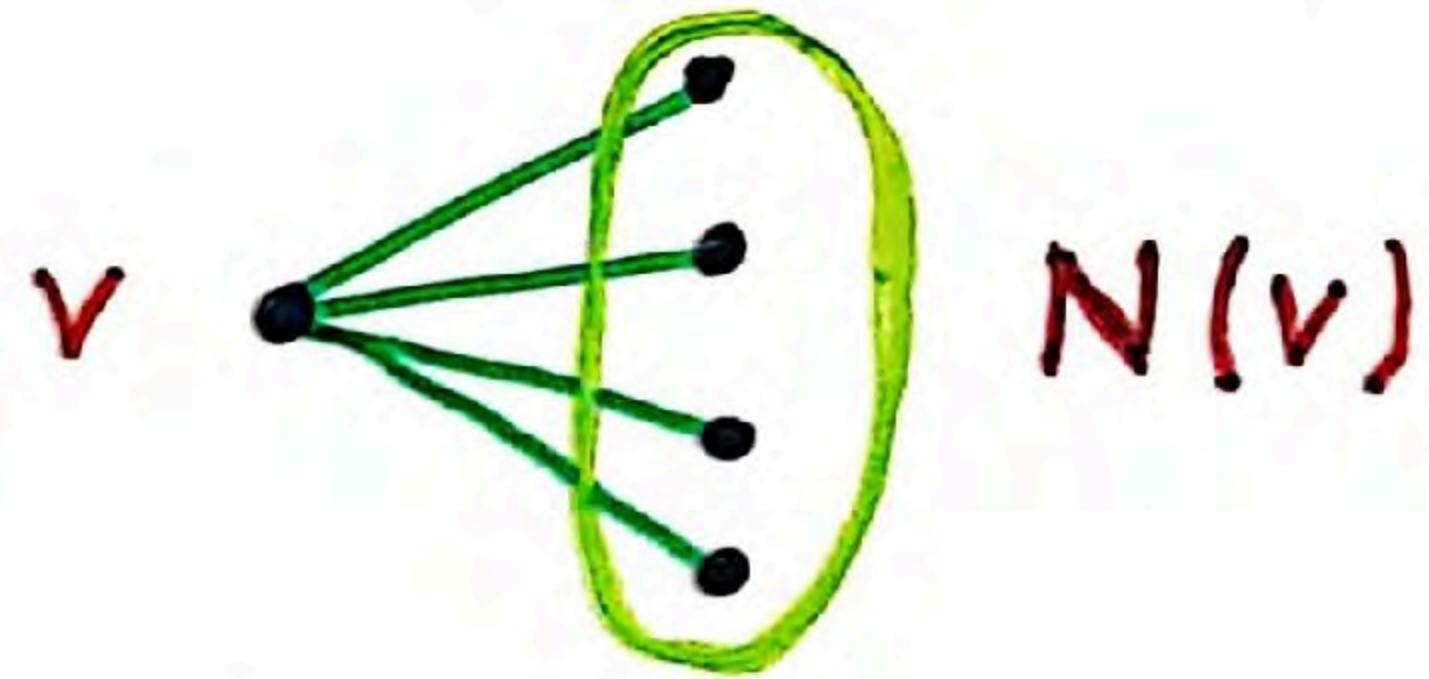


$$|E_G(V_i, V_j)| \leq \epsilon |V_i| |V_j|$$

exceptional

# ENUMERATION AND VC-DIMENSION

VC-dimension of a graph = VC-dimension of the family of the neighborhoods of its vertices



$\epsilon$ -perfect partition of the vertex set of  $G$  - into  $K$  equal parts  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_K$  such that for all but  $\leq \epsilon K^2$  pairs of parts  $|E_G(V_i, V_j)| \leq \epsilon |V_i| |V_j|$  or  $|E_G(V_i, V_j)| \geq (1 - \epsilon) |V_i| |V_j|$ .

**Theorem** (Lovász-Szegedy 2010, Fox-P.-Suk 2019)

Every graph of VC-dimension  $d$  has an  $\epsilon$ -perfect partition into  $(1/\epsilon)^{O(d)}$  parts.

bipartite version

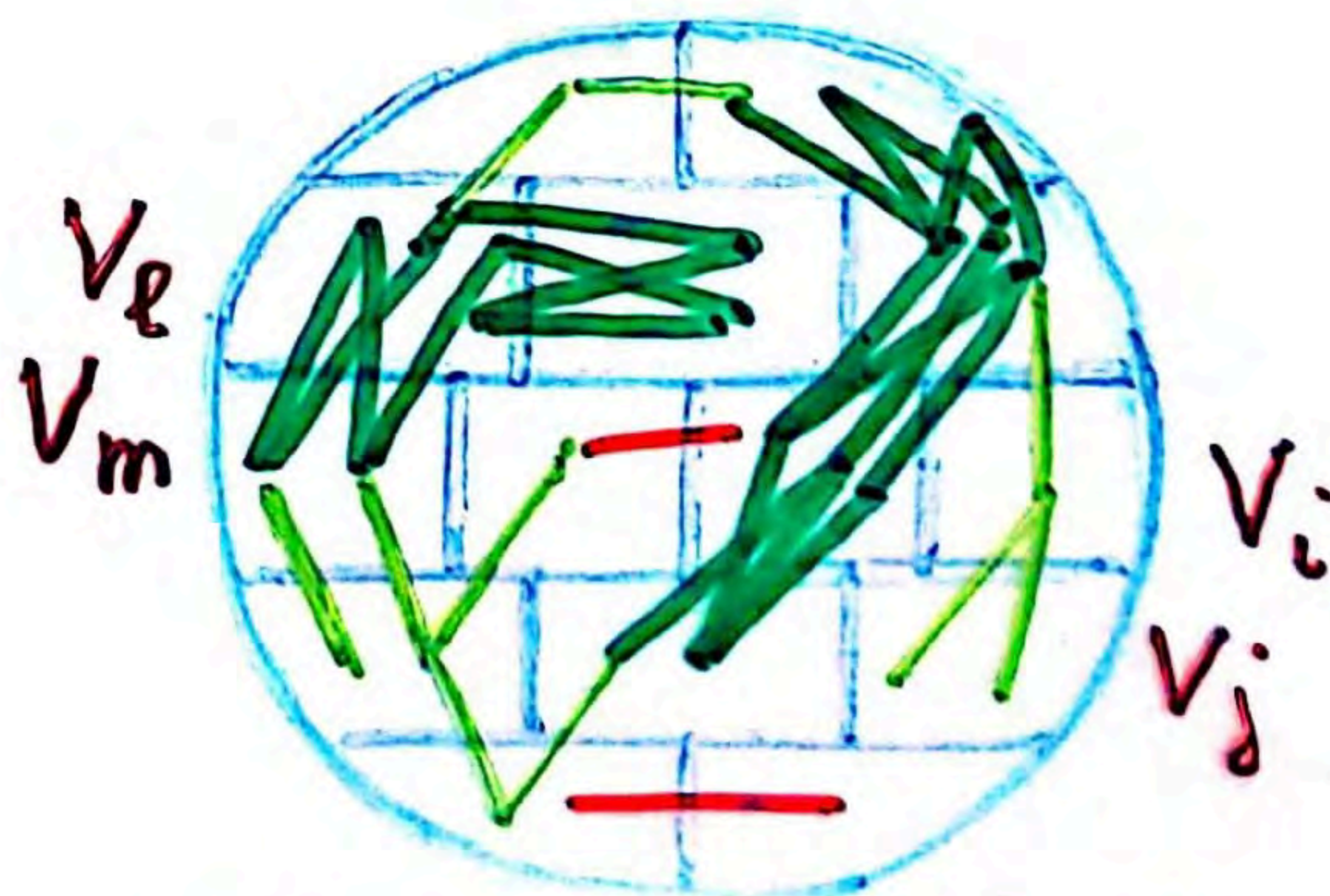
Alon-Fischer-Newman 2007

# ENUMERATION AND VC-DIMENSION

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a hereditary class of graphs. The following statements are equivalent.

- (i) The graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  have bounded VC-dimension.
- (ii) The number of  $n$ -vertex graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $2^{o(n^2)}$ .
- (iii) The graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  admit bounded  $\varepsilon$ -perfect partitions (i.e.,  $\mathcal{G}$  satisfies the " $\varepsilon$ -perfect regularity lemma").

$$|E_G(V_e, V_m)| \geq (1-\varepsilon) |V_e| |V_m|$$



exceptional

$$|E_G(V_i, V_j)| \leq \varepsilon |V_i| |V_j|$$