

# Maximum Reachability Orientation of Mixed Graphs

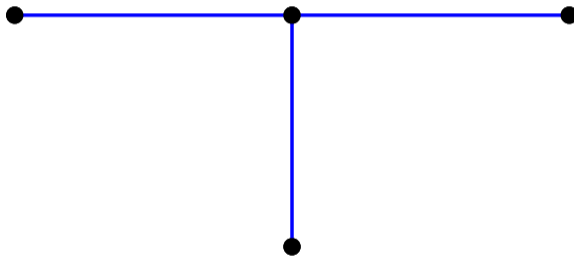
Florian Hörsch

Algorithms and Complexity Group, CISPA,  
Saarbrücken, Germany

13th March, 2026

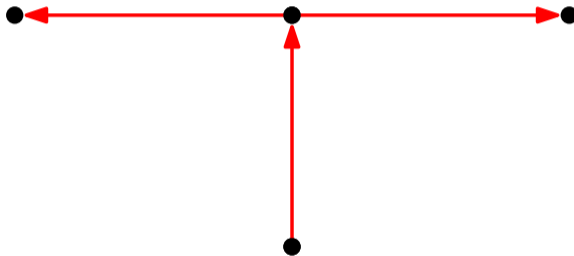
## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.



## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

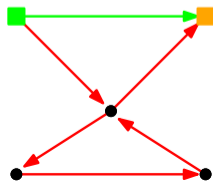


## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,

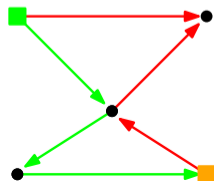


## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,

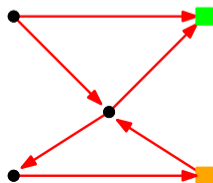


## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,



## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,
- we define  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 1$  if  $v$  is reachable from  $u$  and  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 0$ , otherwise,

## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

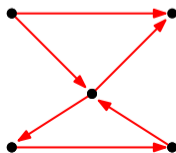
- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,
- we define  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 1$  if  $v$  is reachable from  $u$  and  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 0$ , otherwise,
- we use  $P(D)$  for the set of ordered pairs of distinct vertices,

## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,
- we define  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 1$  if  $v$  is reachable from  $u$  and  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 0$ , otherwise,
- we use  $P(D)$  for the set of ordered pairs of distinct vertices,
- we use  $R(D)$  for  $\sum_{(u,v) \in P(D)} \kappa_D(u, v)$ .



$$R(D) = 13$$

## Basic Definitions

An **orientation** of a graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.

## Reachability in Digraphs

- we say that  $v$  is **reachable** from  $u$  if there is a directed path from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $D$ ,
- we define  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 1$  if  $v$  is reachable from  $u$  and  $\kappa_D(u, v) = 0$ , otherwise,
- we use  $P(D)$  for the set of ordered pairs of distinct vertices,
- we use  $R(D)$  for  $\sum_{(u,v) \in P(D)} \kappa_D(u, v)$ .

## Maximum Reachability Orientation (MRO)

- Input: A graph  $G$ ,
- Objective: Find an orientation  $\vec{G}$  of  $G$  that maximizes  $R(\vec{G})$ .

Theorem (Hakimi, Schmeichel, and Young; 1997)

MRO can be solved in polynomial time.

Theorem (Hakimi, Schmeichel, and Young; 1997)

MRO can be solved in polynomial time.

Question (H,S,Y; 1997)

What if we already know the orientation of some edges?

## Theorem (Hakimi, Schmeichel, and Young; 1997)

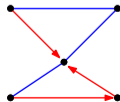
MRO can be solved in polynomial time.

## Question (H,S,Y; 1997)

What if we already know the orientation of some edges?

## Definitions

- a **mixed graph**  $G$  consists of  $V(G)$ , an edge set  $E(G)$  and an arc set  $A(G)$ ,



## Theorem (Hakimi, Schmeichel, and Young; 1997)

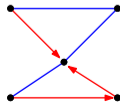
MRO can be solved in polynomial time.

## Question (H,S,Y; 1997)

What if we already know the orientation of some edges?

## Definitions

- a **mixed graph**  $G$  consists of  $V(G)$ , an edge set  $E(G)$  and an arc set  $A(G)$ ,
- an **orientation** of a mixed graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.



## Theorem (Hakimi, Schmeichel, and Young; 1997)

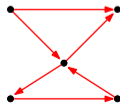
MRO can be solved in polynomial time.

## Question (H,S,Y; 1997)

What if we already know the orientation of some edges?

## Definitions

- a **mixed graph**  $G$  consists of  $V(G)$ , an edge set  $E(G)$  and an arc set  $A(G)$ ,
- an **orientation** of a mixed graph is a digraph obtained by assigning an orientation to every edge.



## Mixed Maximum Reachability Orientation (MMRO)

- Input: A **mixed** graph  $G$ ,
- Objective: Find an orientation  $\vec{G}$  of  $G$  that maximizes  $R(\vec{G})$ .

## Mixed Maximum Reachability Orientation (MMRO)

- Input: A mixed graph  $G$ ,
- Objective: Find an orientation  $\vec{G}$  of  $G$  that maximizes  $R(\vec{G})$ .

## Theorem

MMRO is NP-complete.

## Mixed Maximum Reachability Orientation (MMRO)

- Input: A mixed graph  $G$ ,
- Objective: Find an orientation  $\vec{G}$  of  $G$  that maximizes  $R(\vec{G})$ .

### Theorem

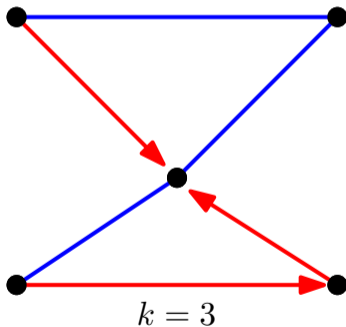
MMRO is NP-complete.

### Theorem

Unless  $P = NP$ , there is no polynomial-time  $\frac{581773}{581774}$ -approximation algorithm for MMRO.

## Definition

Given an instance  $G$  of MMRO, we use  $k$  for  $|A(G)|$ .



## Definition

Given an instance  $G$  of MMRO, we use  $k$  for  $|A(G)|$ .

## Theorem

MMRO can be solved in  $n^{O(k)}$ .

## Definition

Given an instance  $G$  of MMRO, we use  $k$  for  $|A(G)|$ .

## Theorem

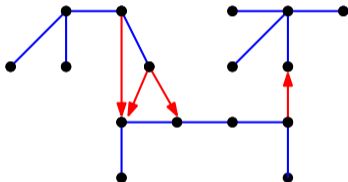
MMRO can be solved in  $n^{O(k)}$ .

## Theorem

For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , a  $(1 - \epsilon)$ -approximation for MMRO can be computed in  $f(k, \epsilon)n^{O(1)}$ .

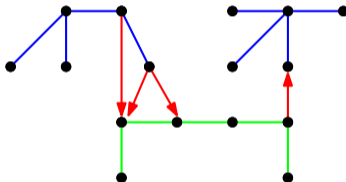
## Definition

An **undirected component** of  $G$  is a component of  $G \setminus A(G)$ .



## Definition

An **undirected component** of  $G$  is a component of  $G \setminus A(G)$ .



## Definition

An **undirected component** of  $G$  is a component of  $G \setminus A(G)$ .

## Preprocessed instances

We simplify so that undirected components

## Definition

An **undirected component** of  $G$  is a component of  $G \setminus A(G)$ .

## Preprocessed instances

We simplify so that undirected components

- are trees (contract cycles),

## Definition

An **undirected component** of  $G$  is a component of  $G \setminus A(G)$ .

## Preprocessed instances

We simplify so that undirected components

- are trees (contract cycles),
- contain at most two vertices incident to arcs (guess certain edges).

# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

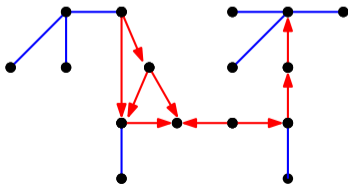
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,



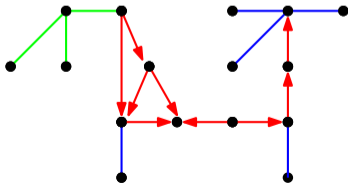
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,



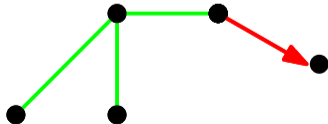
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,



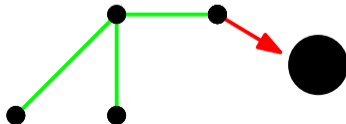
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,
- create small number of simple instances,



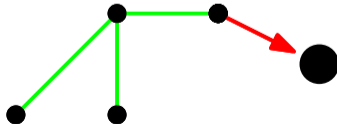
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,
- create small number of simple instances,



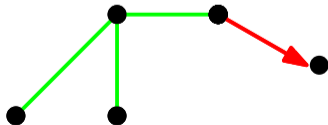
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,
- create small number of simple instances,



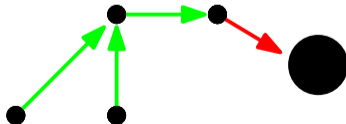
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,
- create small number of simple instances,
- solve these instances and store orientations.



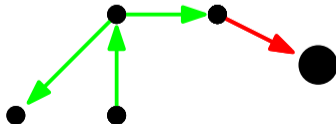
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,
- create small number of simple instances,
- solve these instances and store orientations.



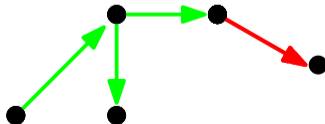
# Algorithm for one Undirected Component

## Objective

Want a small number of orientations one of which is always good.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance and one undirected component,
- create gadget for influence of the remainder,
- create small number of simple instances,
- solve these instances and store orientations.



## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

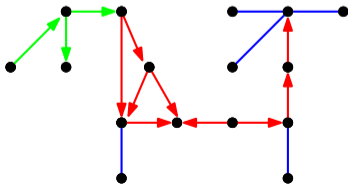
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,



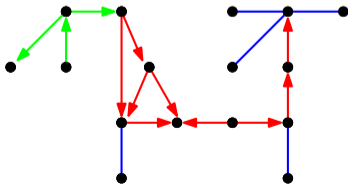
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



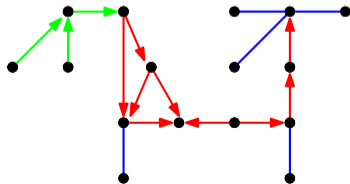
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



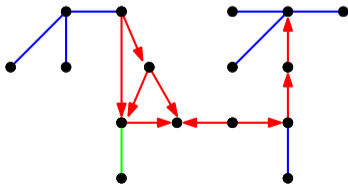
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



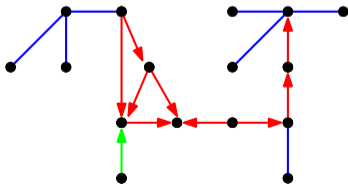
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



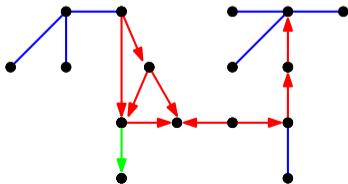
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



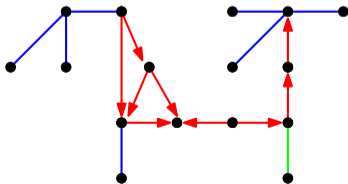
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



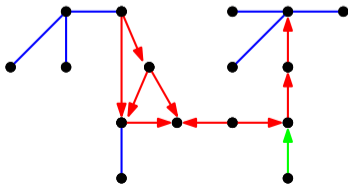
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



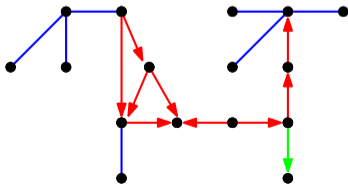
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



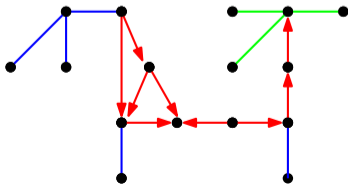
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



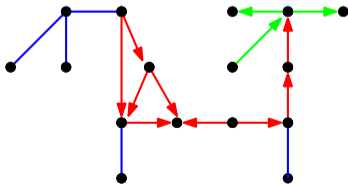
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



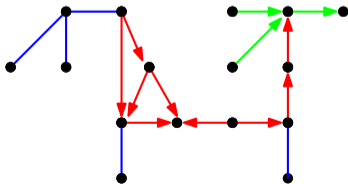
# Final Algorithm

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,



## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,
- try all possible combinations,

## Objective

Compute optimal orientation overall.

## Algorithm Sketch

- take a simplified instance,
- assume orientations for all undirected components are available,
- try all possible combinations,
- keep the best one.

## Results

- NP-hardness,

## Results

- NP-hardness,
- APX-hardness,

## Results

- NP-hardness,
- APX-hardness,
- solution in  $n^{O(k)}$ ,

## Results

- NP-hardness,
- APX-hardness,
- solution in  $n^{O(k)}$ ,
- $(1 - \epsilon)$ -approximation in  $f(k, \epsilon)n^{O(1)}$ .

## Results

- NP-hardness,
- APX-hardness,
- solution in  $n^{O(k)}$ ,
- $(1 - \epsilon)$ -approximation in  $f(k, \epsilon)n^{O(1)}$ .

## Open problems

- constant factor approximation in polynomial time,

## Results

- NP-hardness,
- APX-hardness,
- solution in  $n^{O(k)}$ ,
- $(1 - \epsilon)$ -approximation in  $f(k, \epsilon)n^{O(1)}$ .

## Open problems

- constant factor approximation in polynomial time,
- FPT algorithm (i.e.  $f(k)n^{O(1)}$ ),

## Results

- NP-hardness,
- APX-hardness,
- solution in  $n^{O(k)}$ ,
- $(1 - \epsilon)$ -approximation in  $f(k, \epsilon)n^{O(1)}$ .

## Open problems

- constant factor approximation in polynomial time,
- FPT algorithm (i.e.  $f(k)n^{O(1)}$ ),
- similar parameterization for other problems.