

Temporal Role Colouring

Joint work with Jessica Enright, Kitty Meeks and Puck Rombach

Ella Yates

Algorithmic Aspects of Temporal Graphs Workshop

6 July 2026



GRAPHS AND COLOURING

A graph is tuple $G = (V, E)$ where V is the set of *vertices* and E is the set of *edges*

$$V = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$E = \{ab, ac\}$$

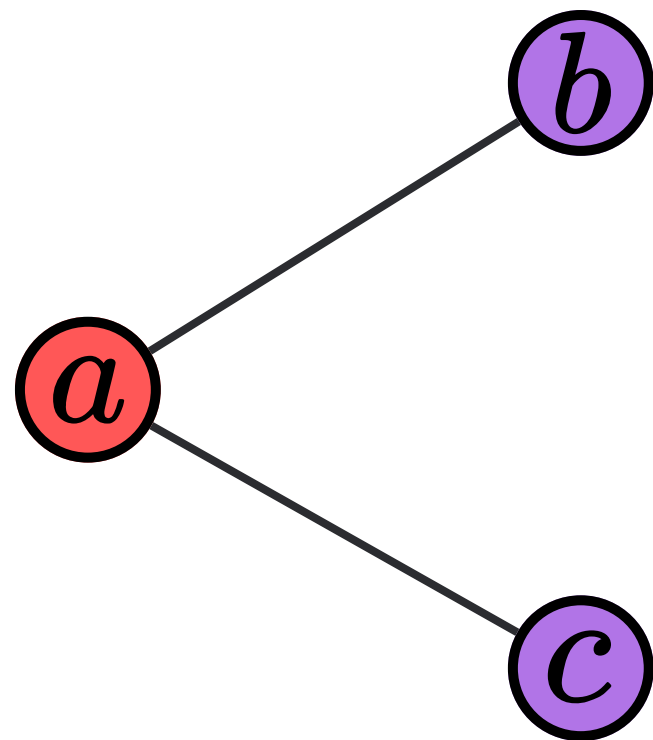
A colouring α of G is a function
assigning a label to each vertex of G

$$\alpha_i : V \rightarrow \{ \text{red circle}, \text{purple circle} \}$$

$$\alpha_1(a) = \text{red circle}$$

$$\alpha_1(b) = \text{purple circle}$$

$$\alpha_1(c) = \text{purple circle}$$



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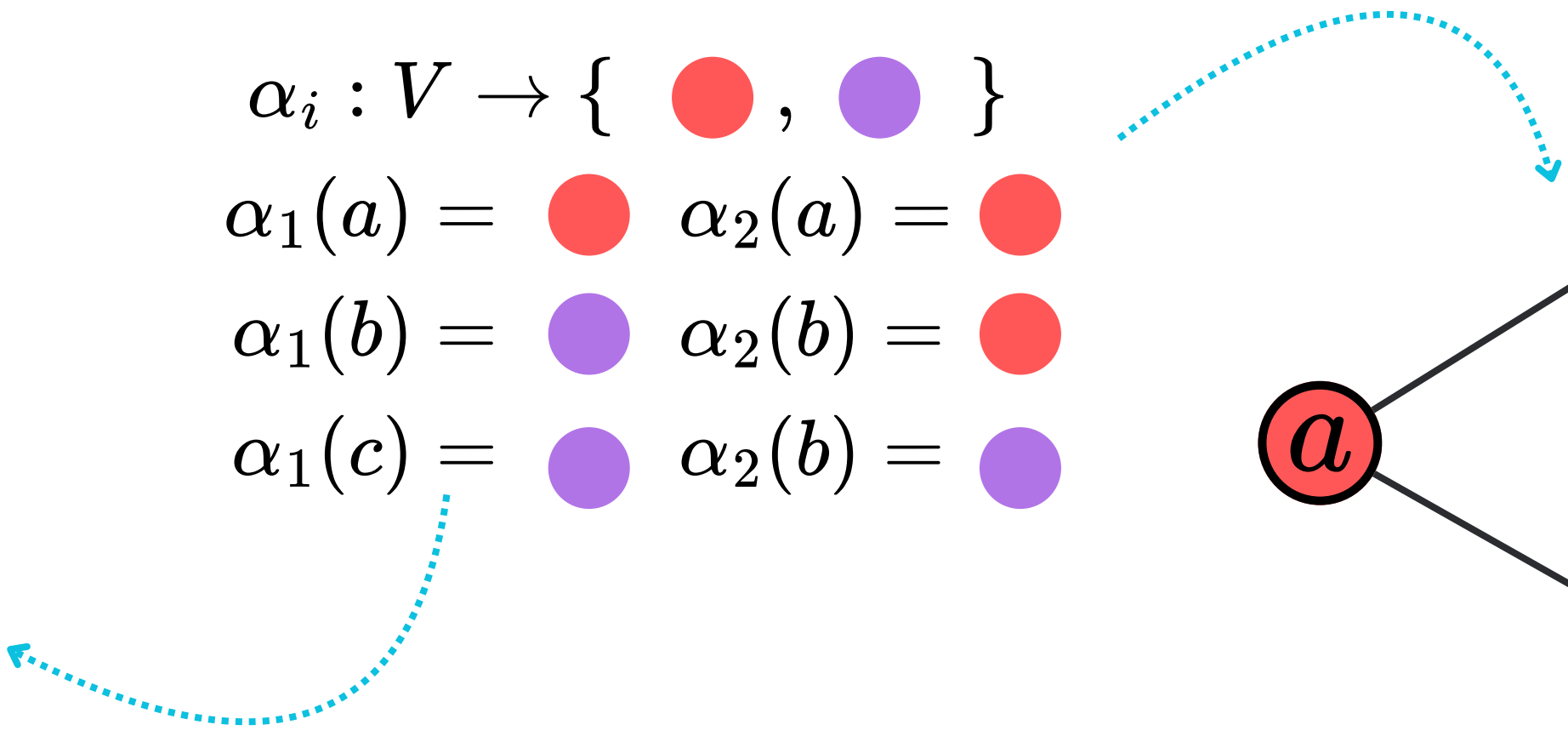
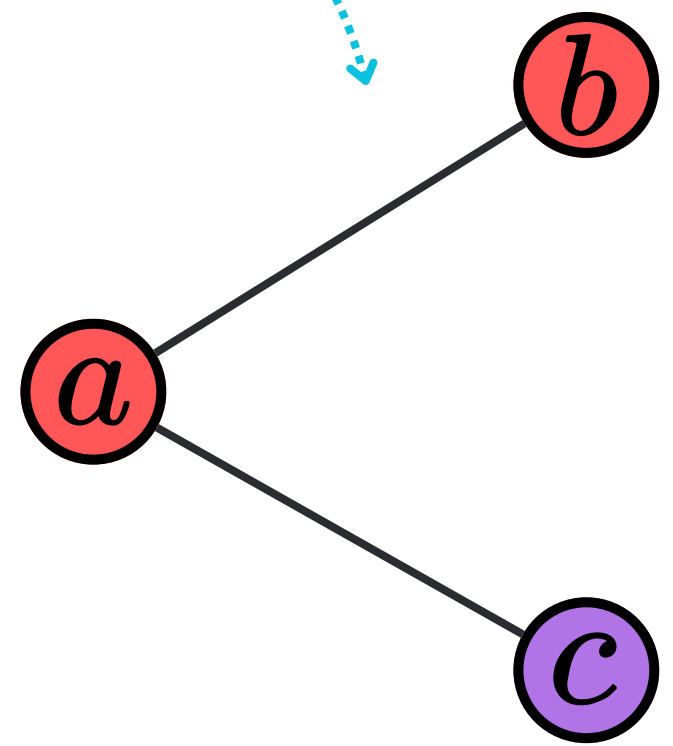
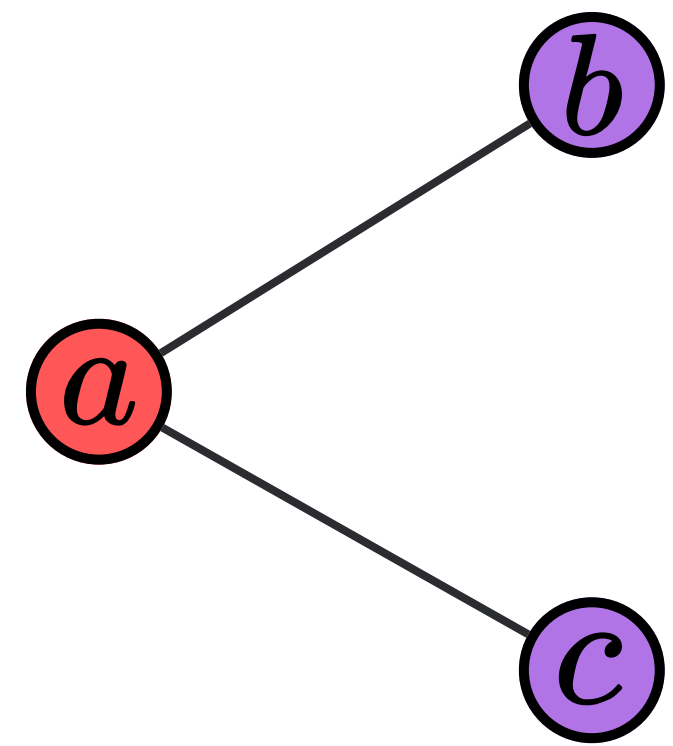
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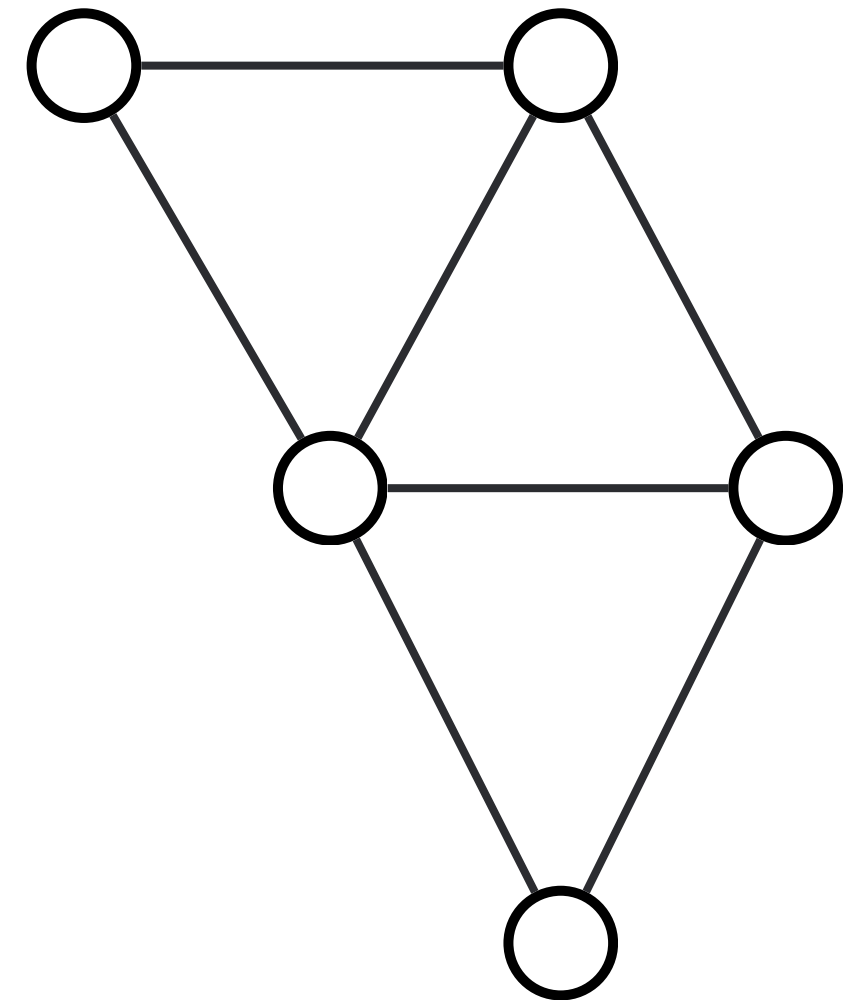
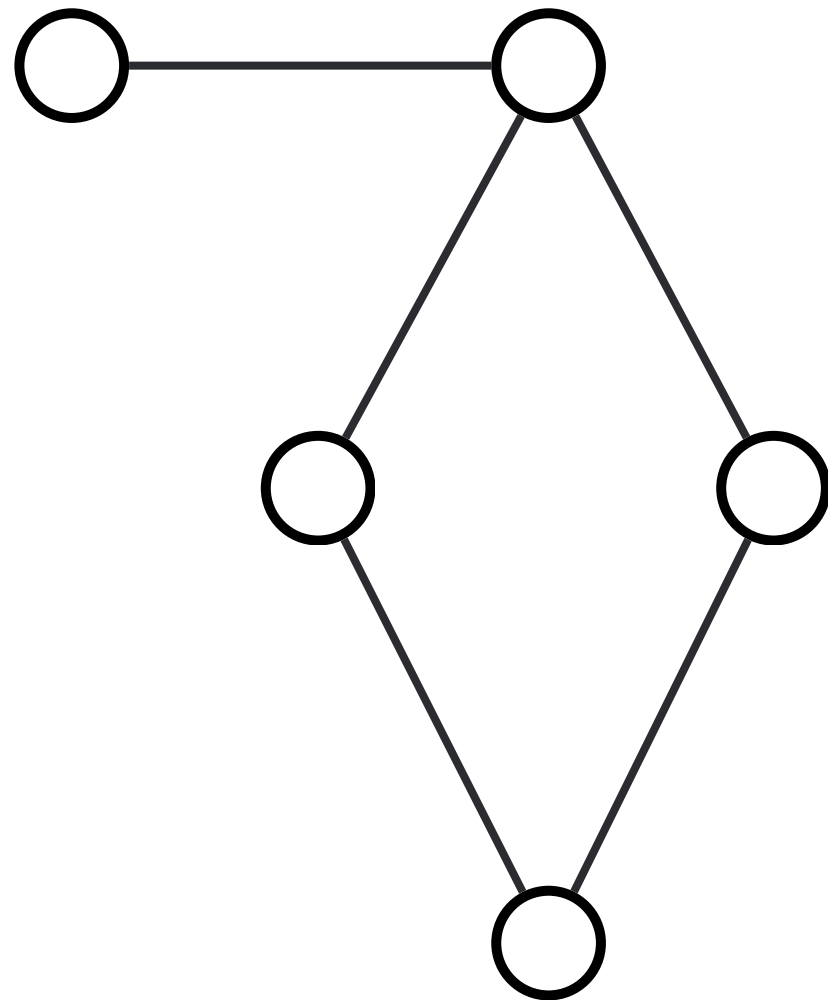
$\alpha_1(a) =$	red circle	$\alpha_2(a) =$	red circle
$\alpha_1(b) =$	purple circle	$\alpha_2(b) =$	red circle
$\alpha_1(c) =$	purple circle	$\alpha_2(b) =$	purple circle



R-ROLE COLOURING

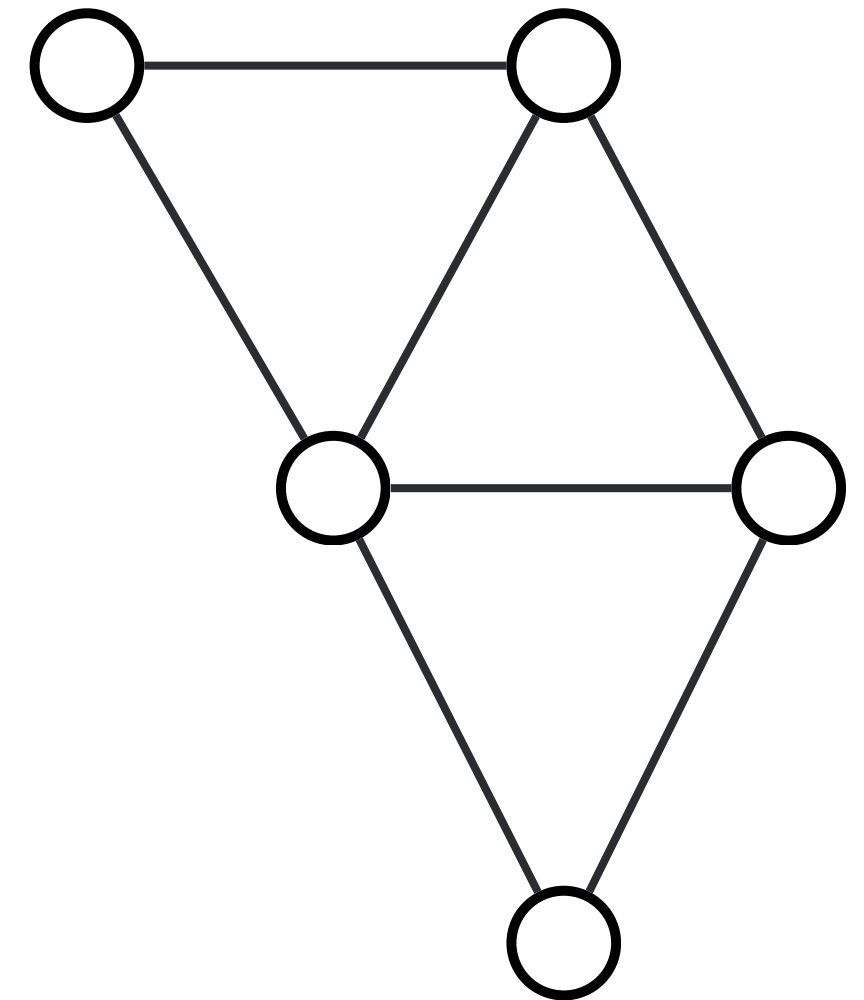
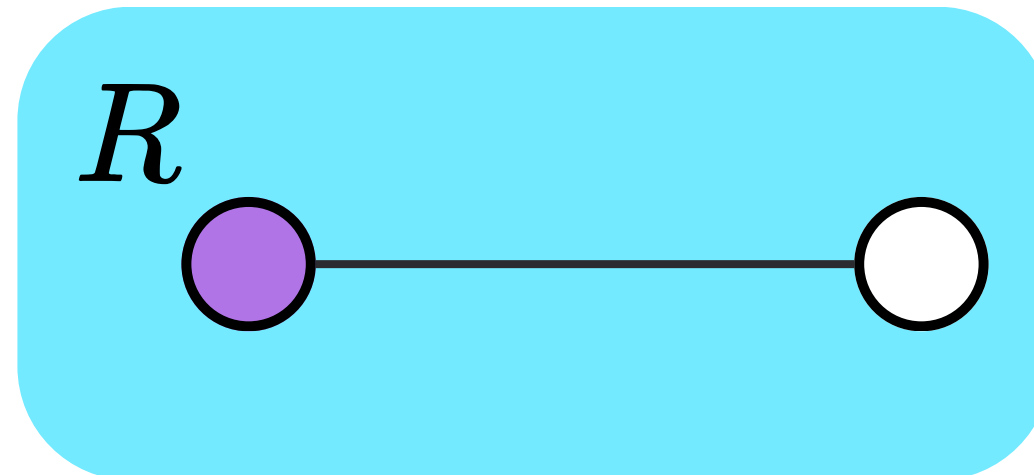
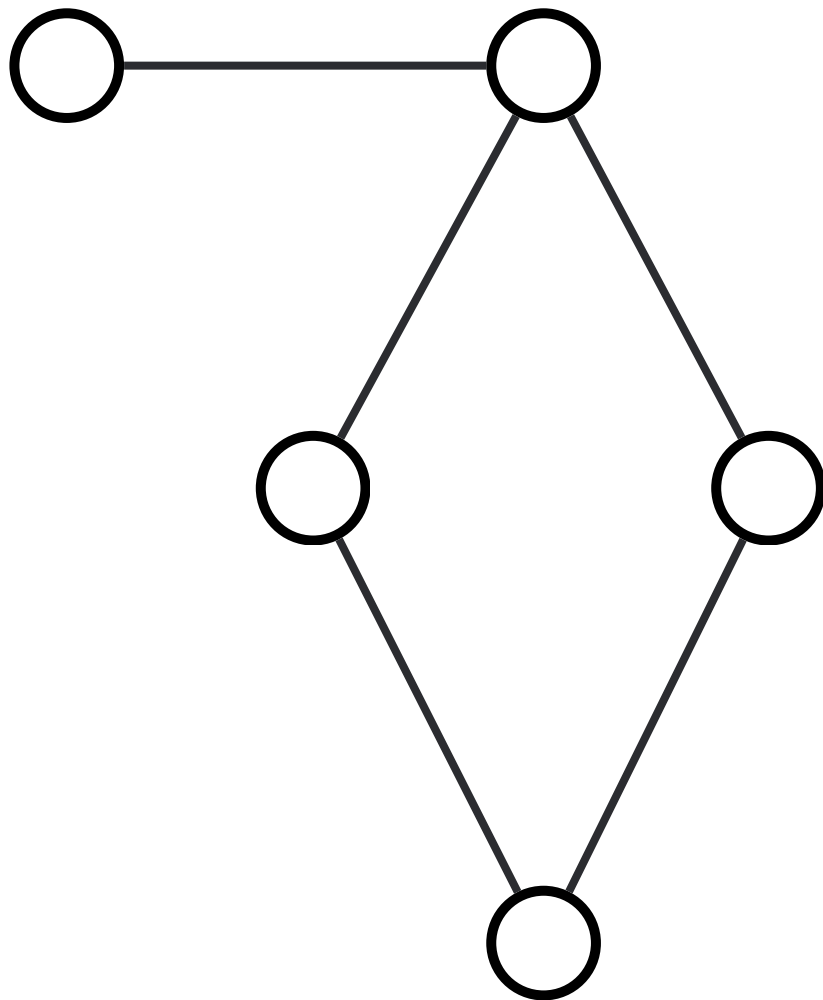
Given a graph $R = (V_R, E_R)$, an R -role colouring of G is a surjective map $\alpha : V_G \rightarrow V_R$ such that for all $v \in V_G$, $\alpha(N_G(v)) = N_R(\alpha(v))$

where $N_G(v)$ is the set of neighbours of v in G
and $N_R(v)$ are the neighbours in R



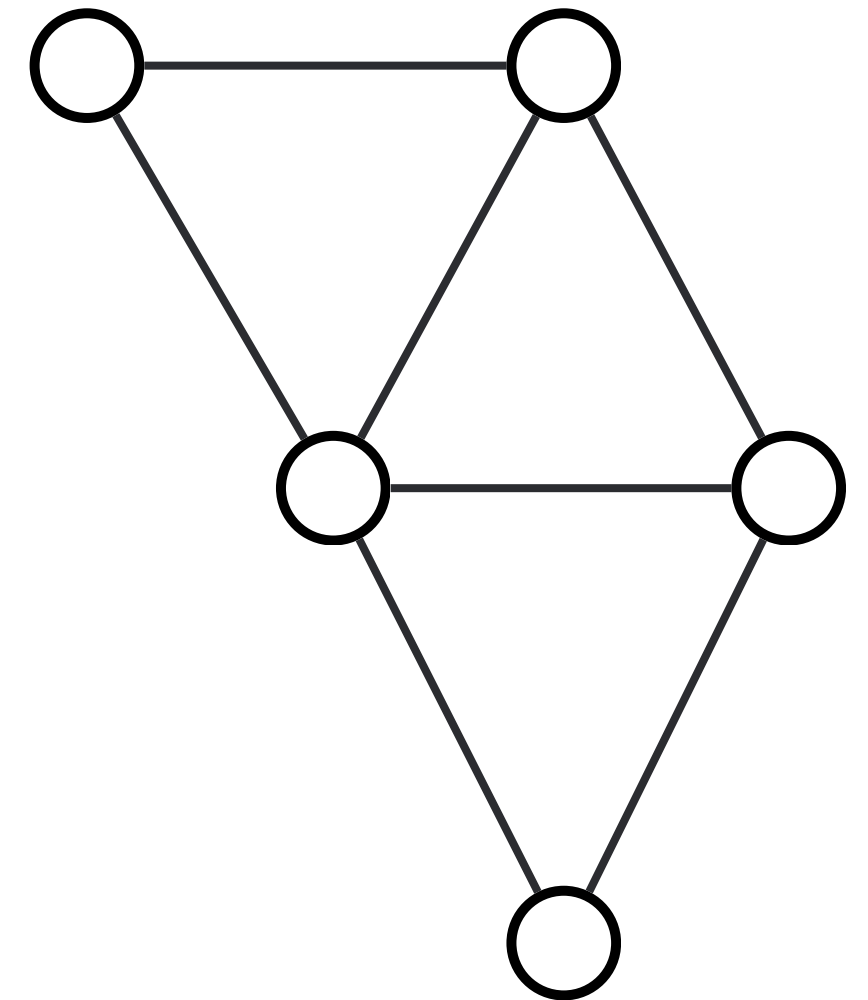
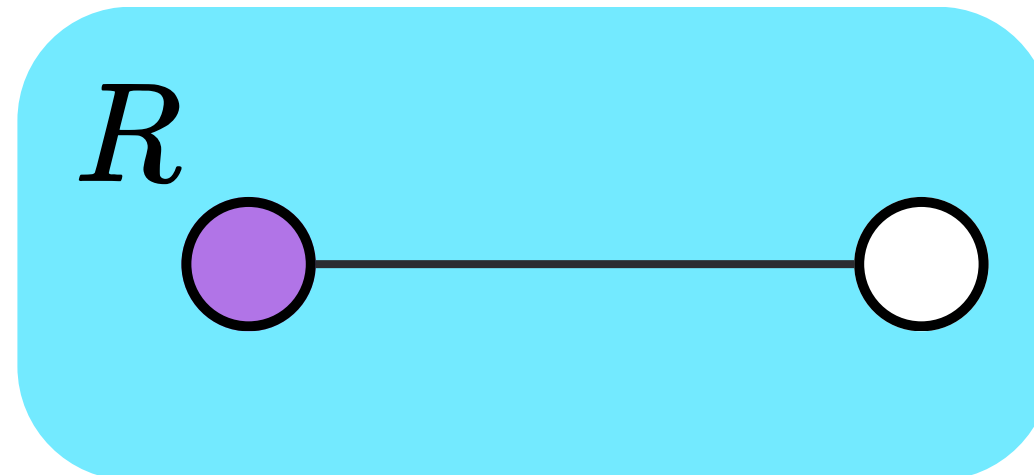
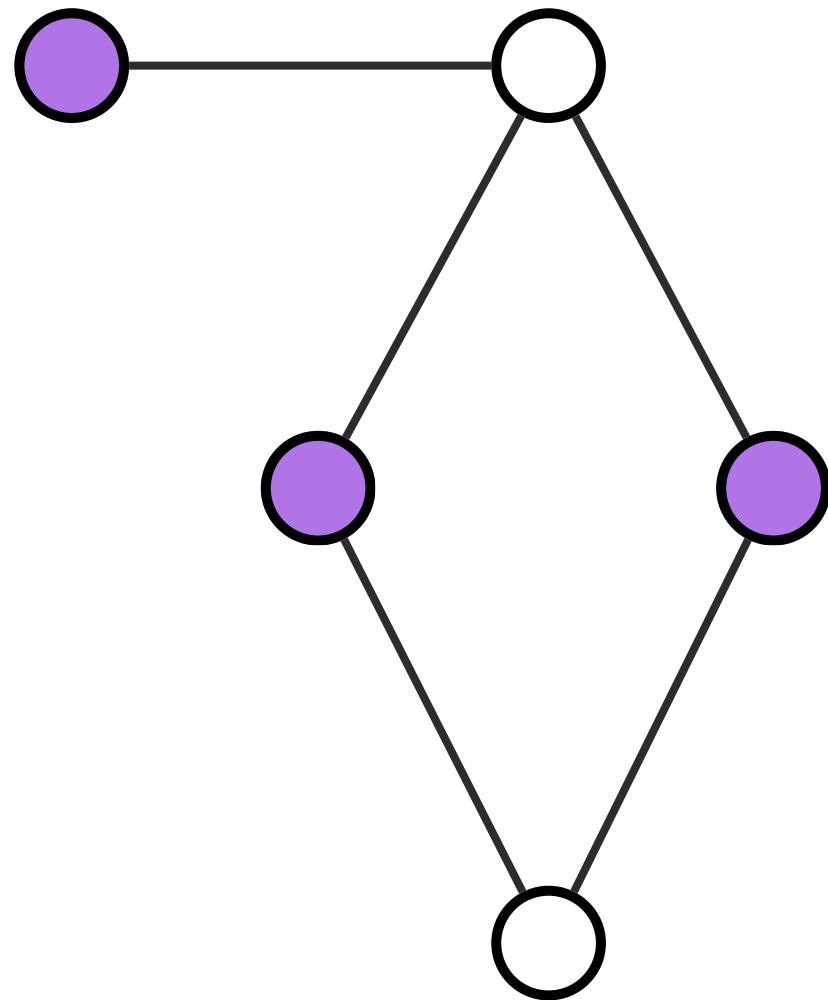
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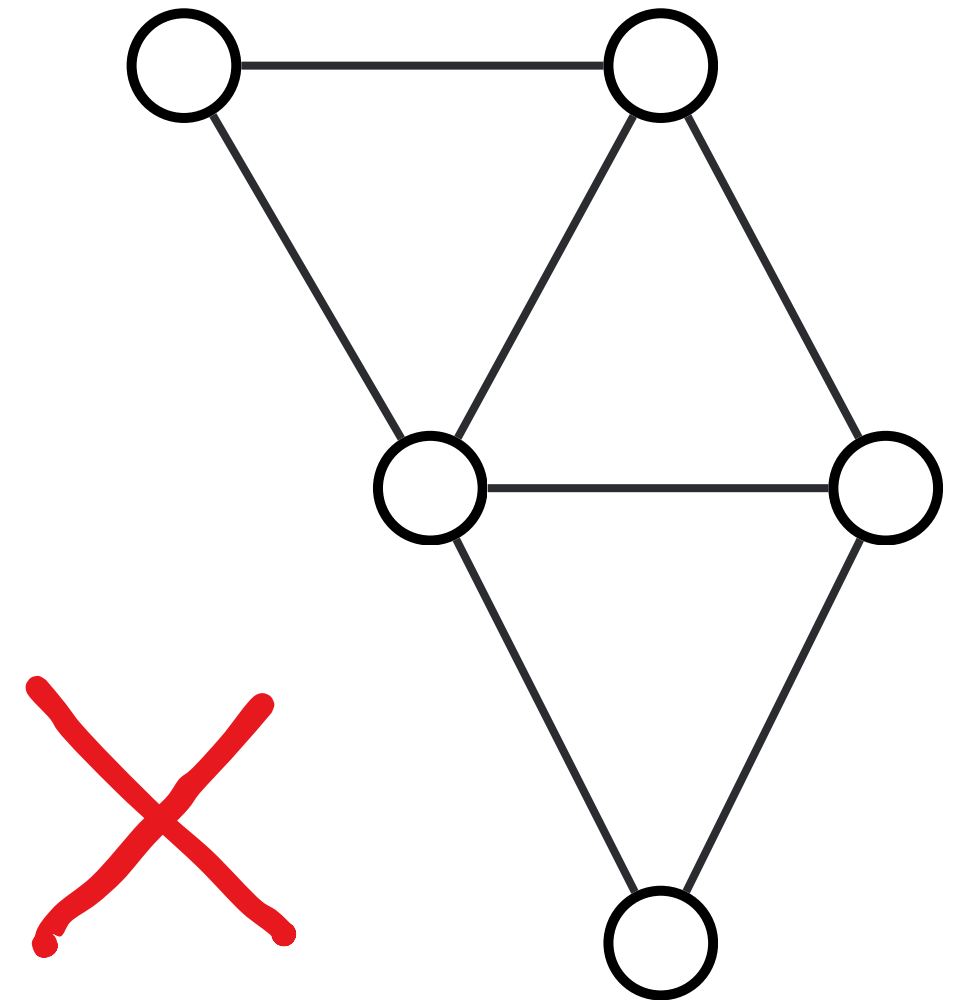
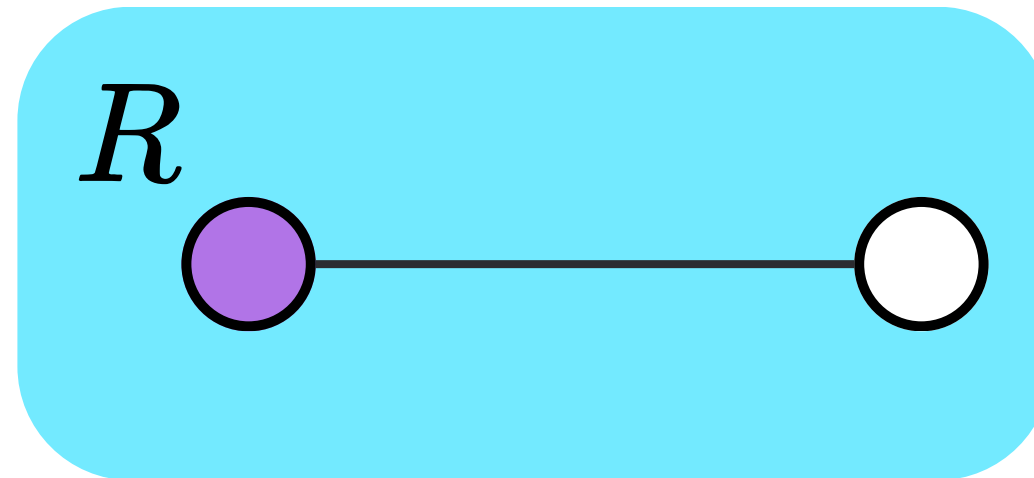
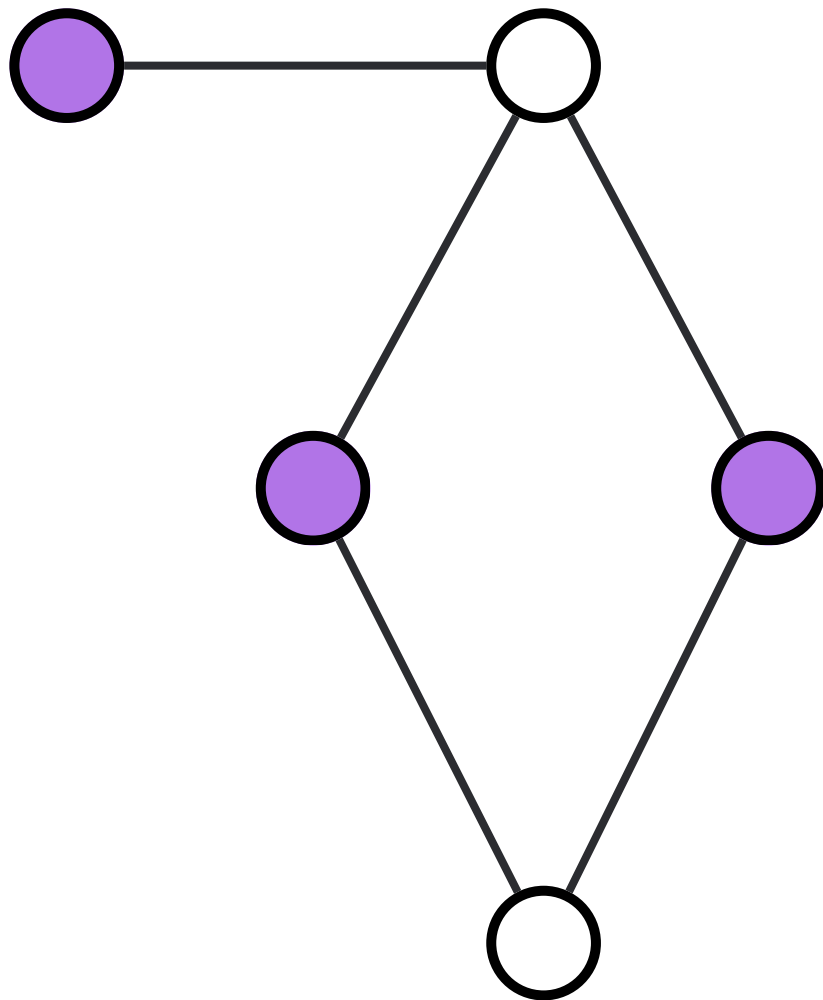
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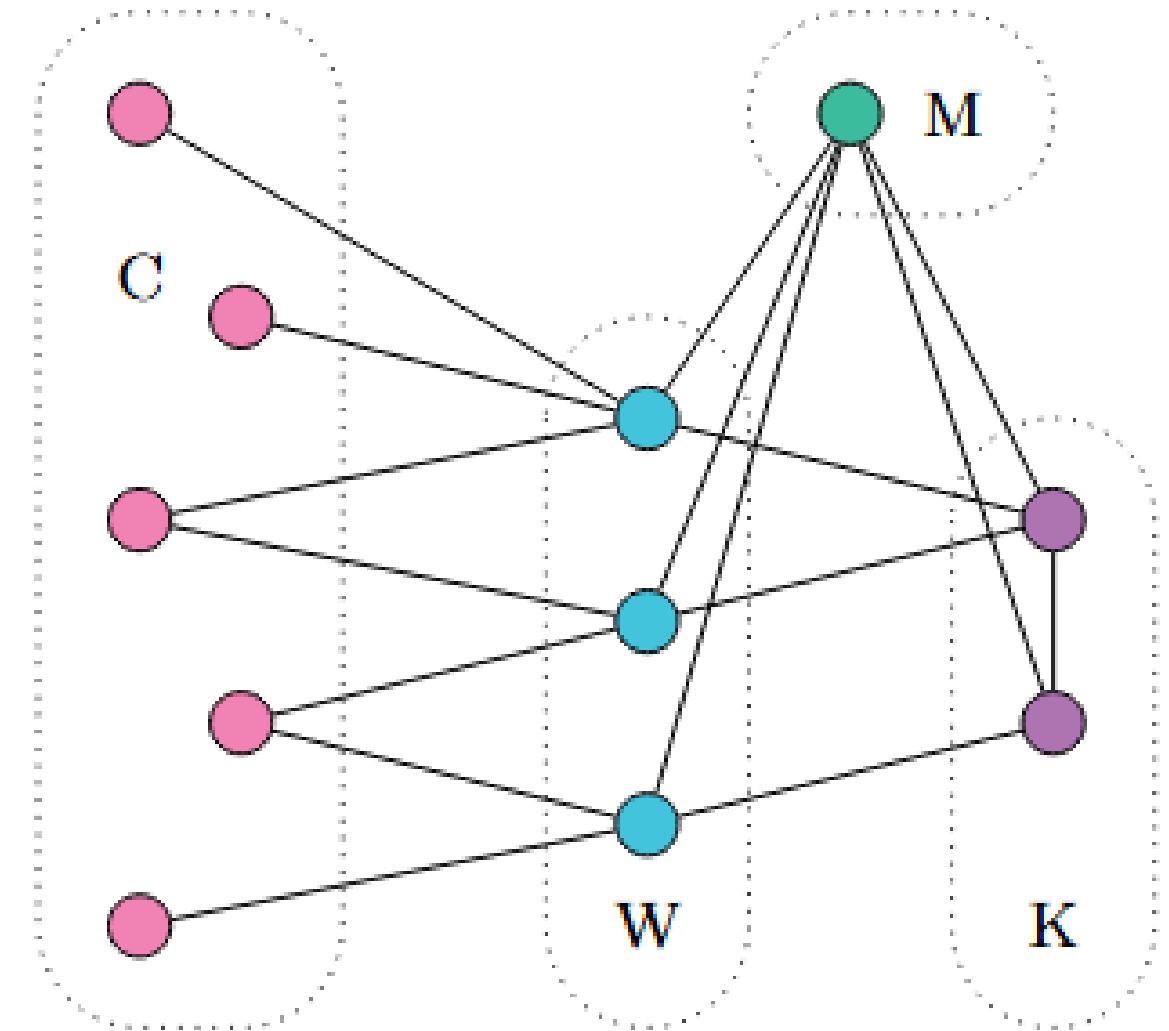
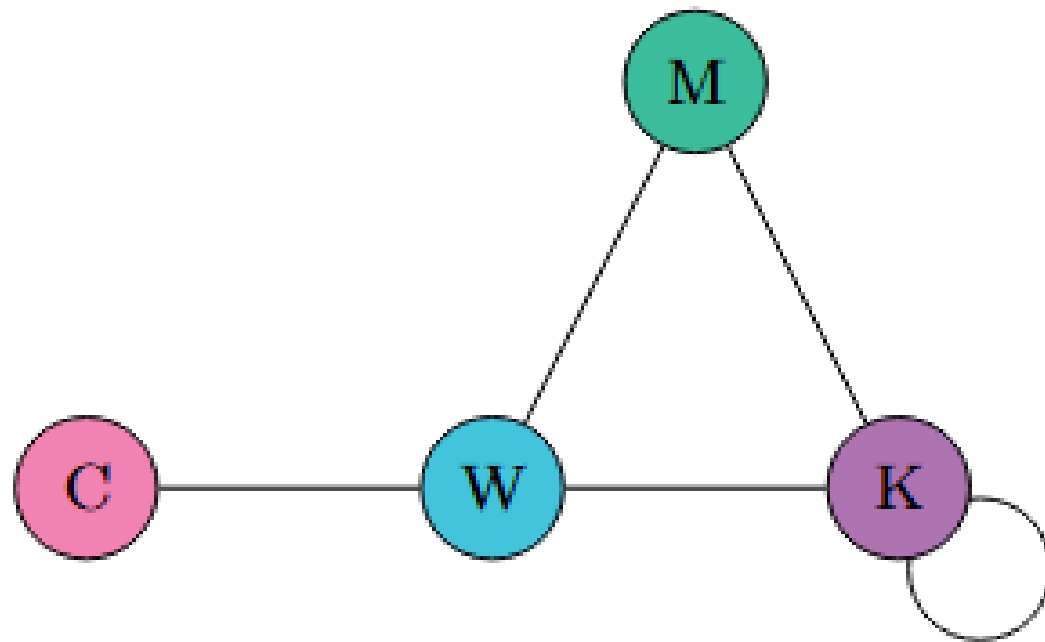
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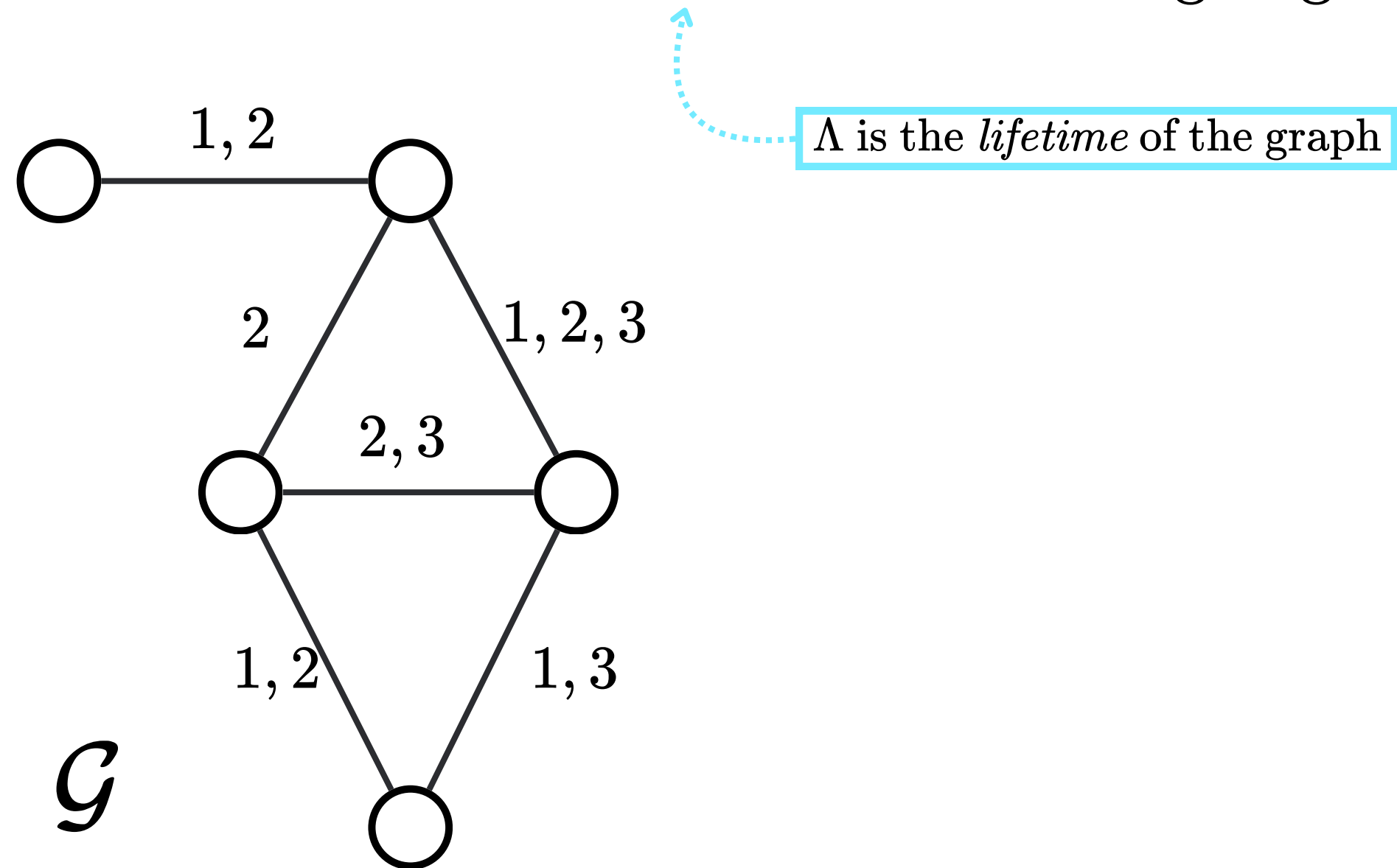
where $N_G(v)$ is the set of neighbours of v in G
and $N_R(v)$ are the neighbours in R



TEMPORAL GRAPHS

A temporal graph $\mathcal{G}$ is a tuple (G, λ) where $G = (V, E)$ is the *underlying graph*

and $\lambda : E \rightarrow 2^\Lambda$ is a function assigning a set of times to each edge

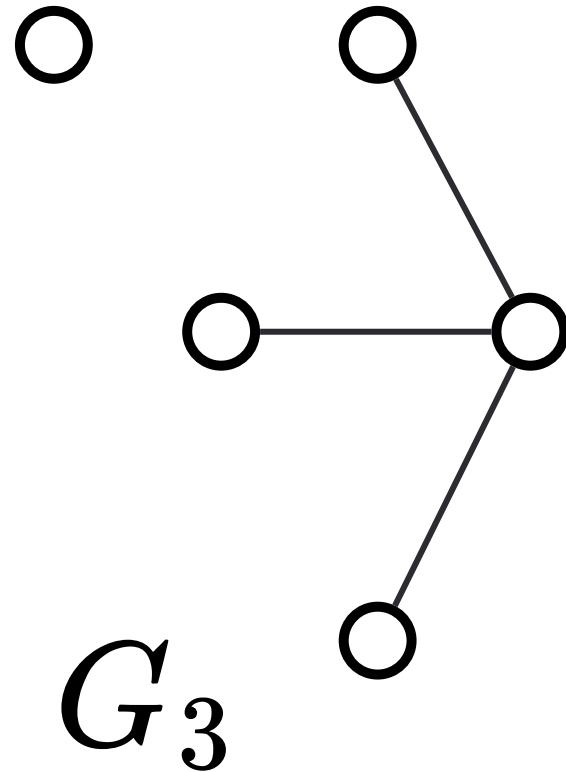
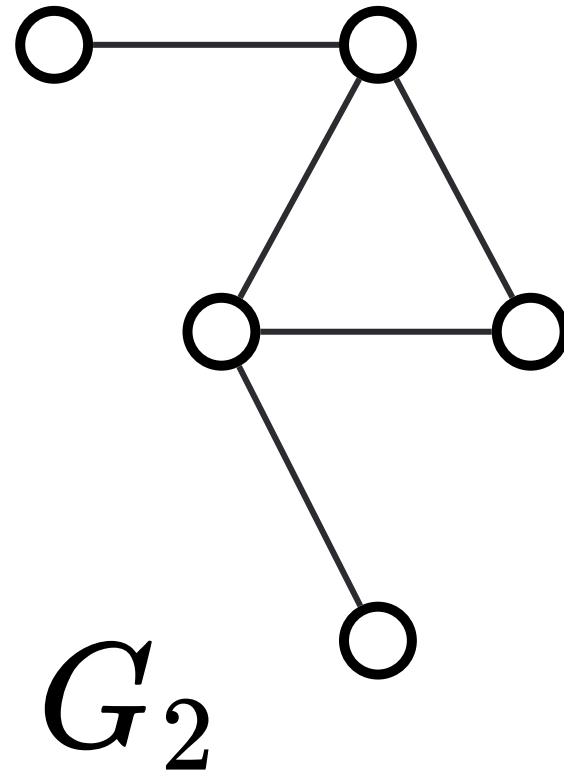
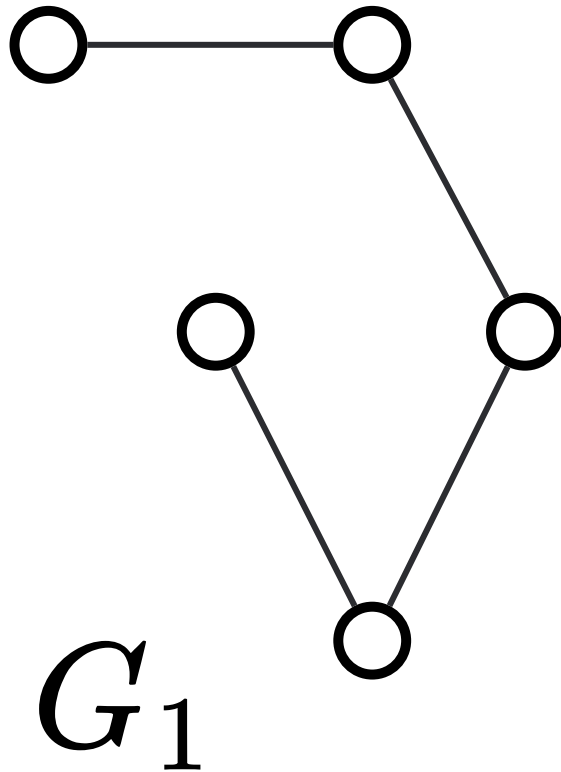
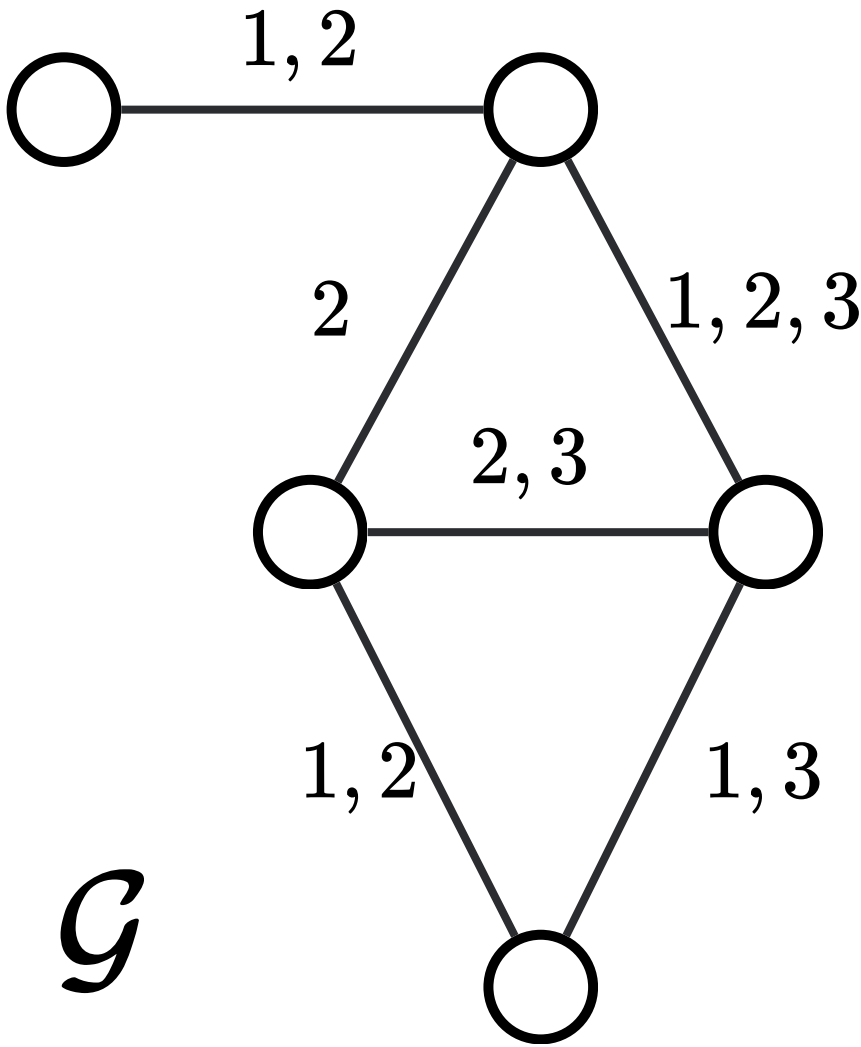


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Λ is the *lifetime* of the graph



TEMPORAL ROLE COLOURING

Input: Temporal graph $\mathcal{G} = (G, \lambda)$, a k -colour role automaton A .

Question: Does $\mathcal{G}$ admit an A -role colouring?

TEMPORAL ROLE COLOURING

What does a *k-colour role automaton* look like?

Input: Temporal graph $\mathcal{G} = (G, \lambda)$, a *k-colour role automaton* A .

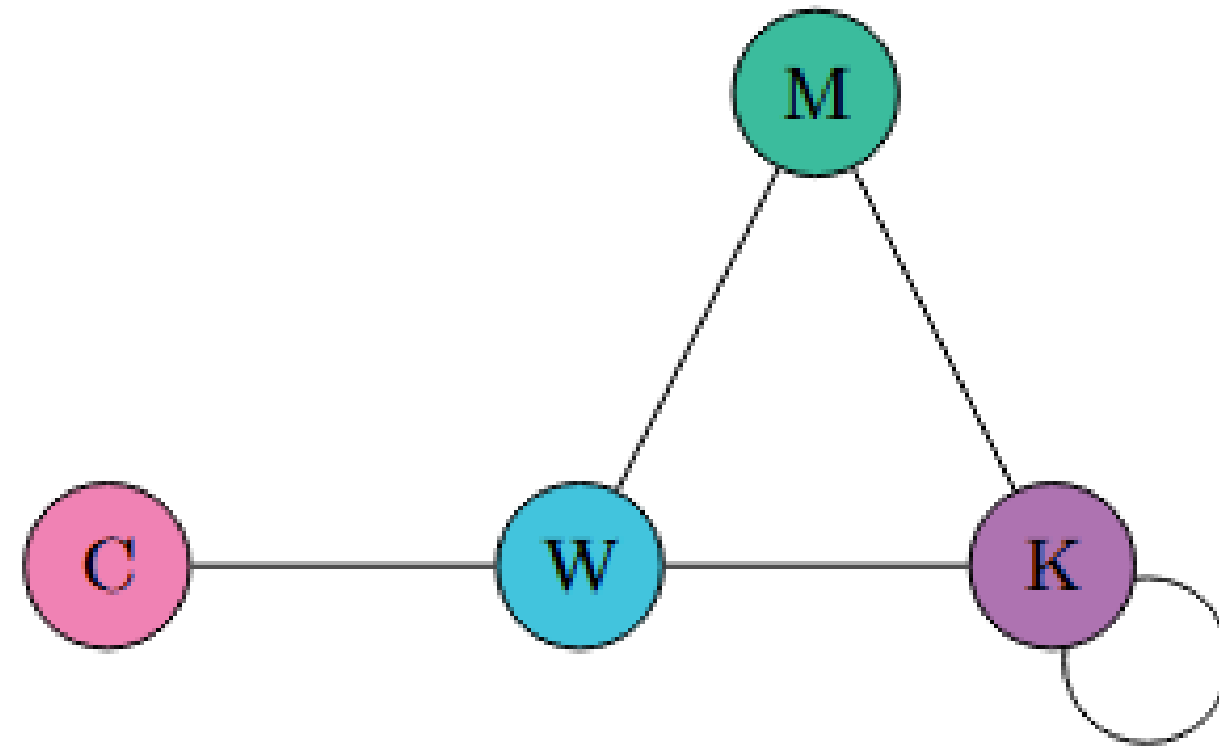
Question: Does $\mathcal{G}$ admit an *A-role colouring*?

$\mathcal{G}$ admits an *A-role colouring* if there's a colouring r such that for each $v \in V$ the word $r(N^1(v))r(N^2(v))\dots r(N^\Lambda(v))$ is an accepting word for A with states $q_1, \dots, q_{\Lambda+1}$ such that $r(v, t) = c(q_t)$ for all times $t \in [\Lambda + 1]$

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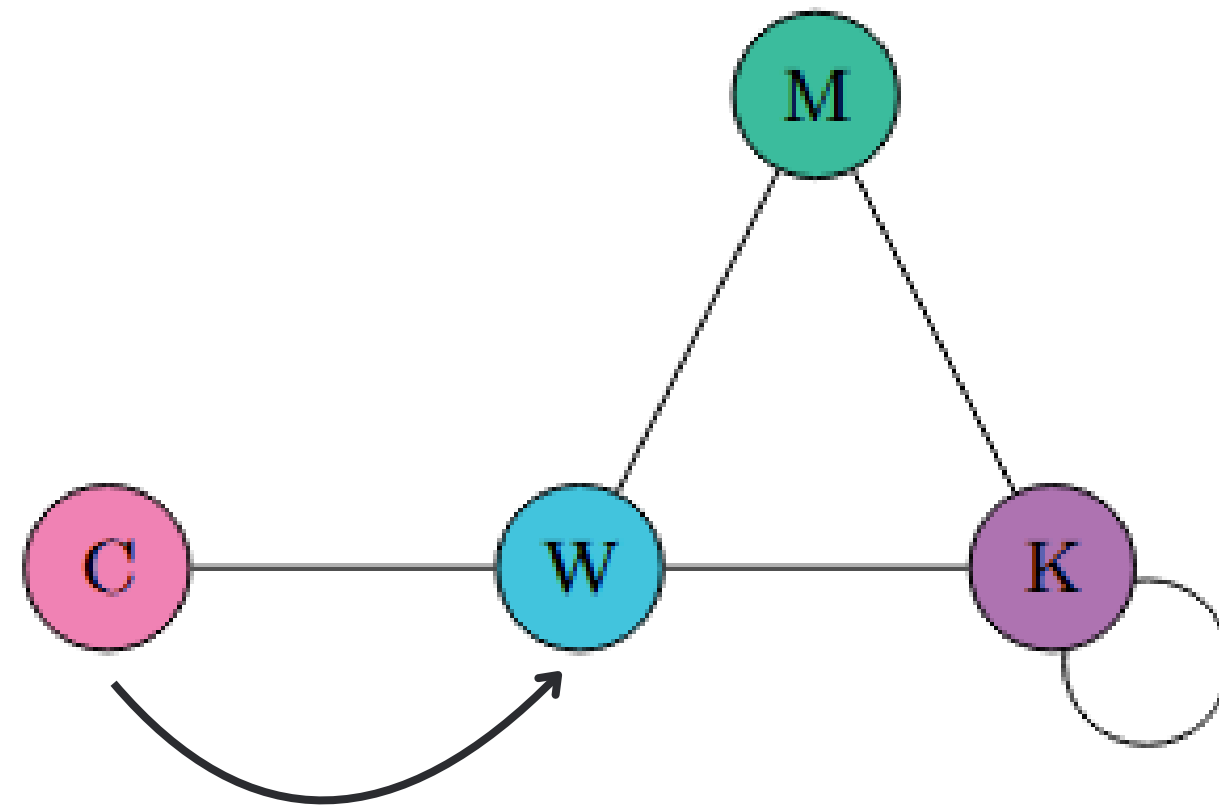
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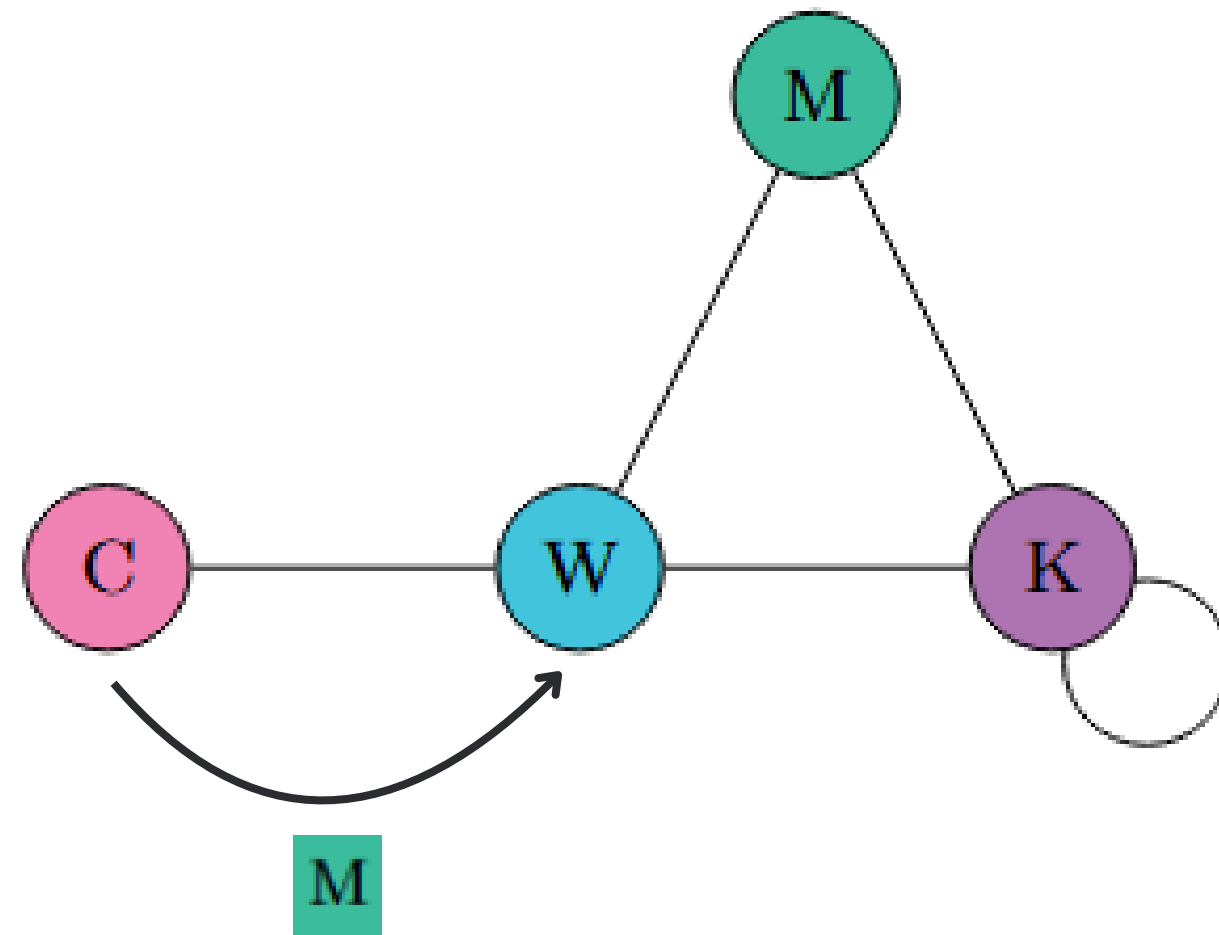
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TEMPORAL ROLE COLOURING

For an integer k , A is a k -colour role automaton if it is a finite automaton with an additional colouring of states c .

Specifically it is a tuple containing:

- An input alphabet $\Sigma = \mathcal{P}([k])$
- A set Q of states
- A colouring of states, $c : Q \rightarrow \{0, \dots, k\}$
- A set $F \subseteq Q$ of accepting states
- A start state q_0 such that $c(q_0) = 0$
- A transition function $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$ where all transitions from q_0 are ε -transitions and there are no ε -transitions from any other state.

Example:

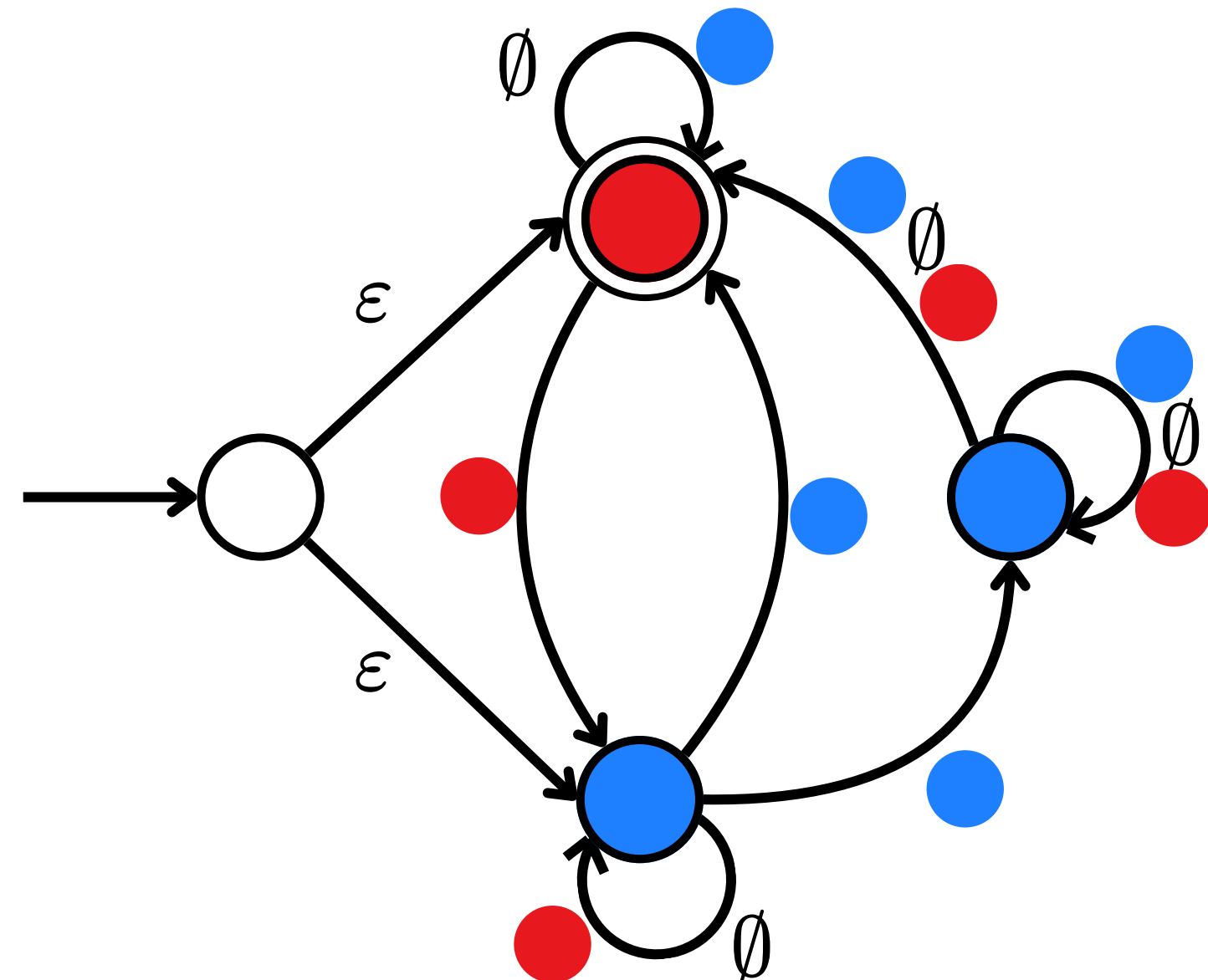
At most one colour of neighbours at a time

Start either colour

If red sees another red immediately turn blue

Once blue sees another blue it can turn red

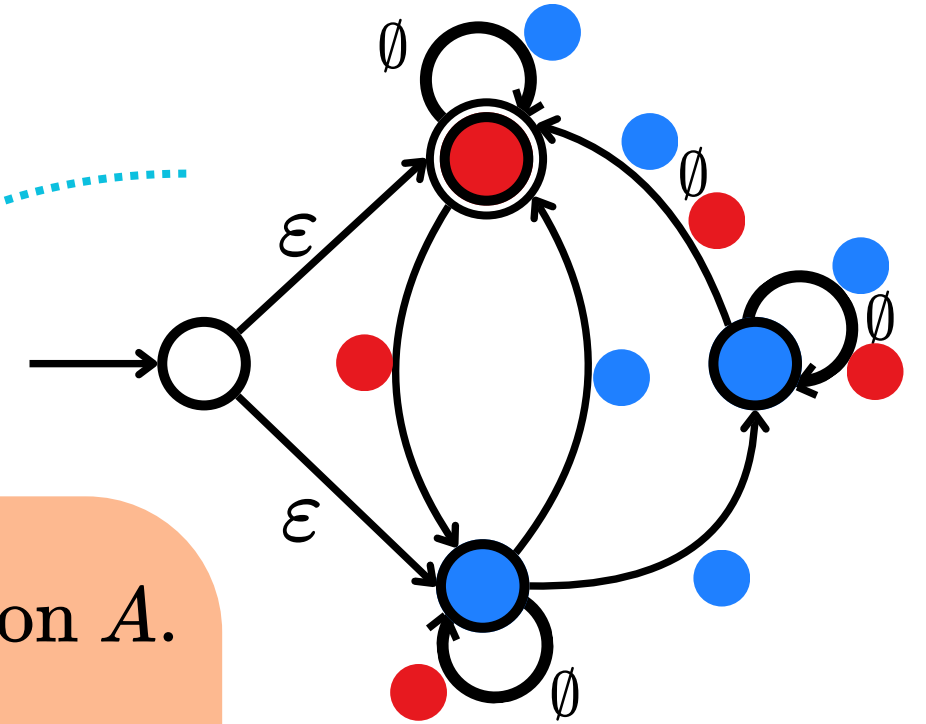
All must be red at the end



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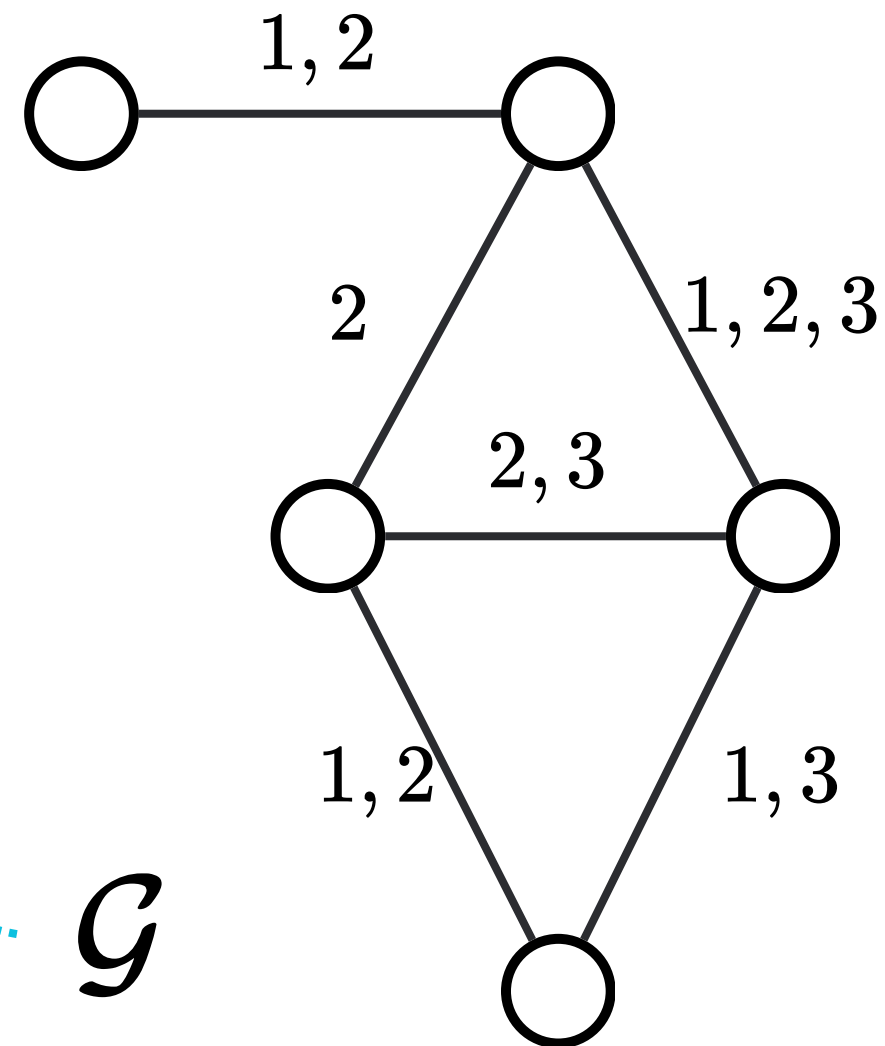
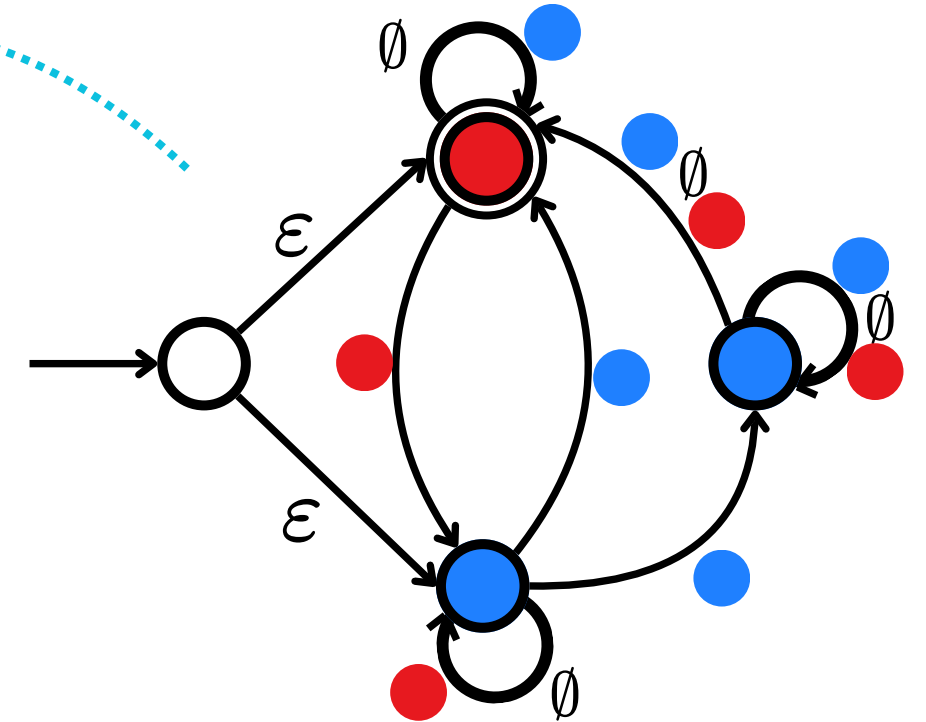


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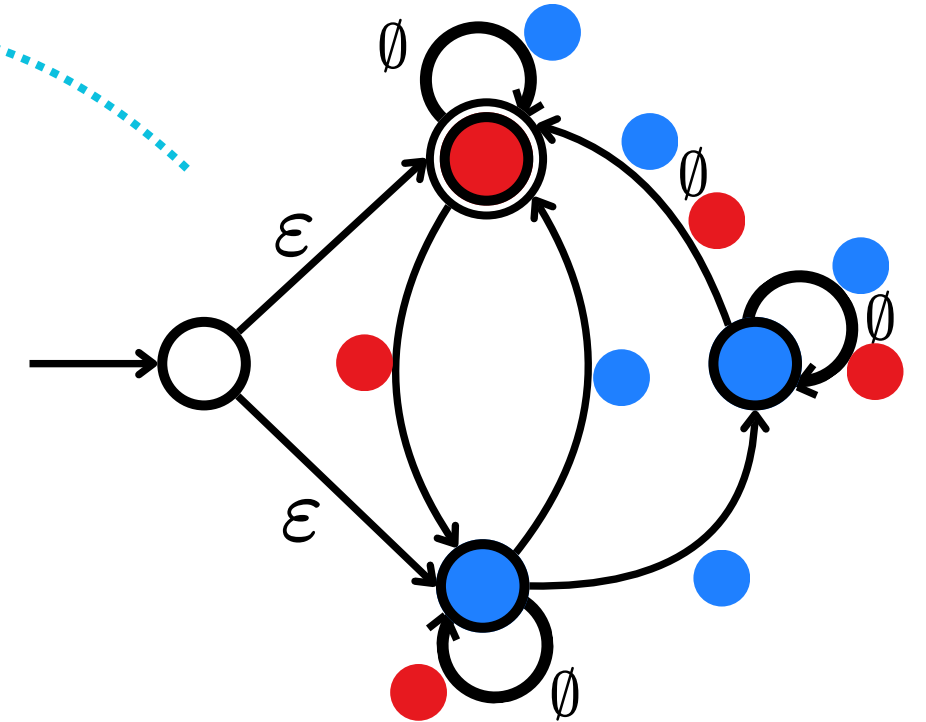
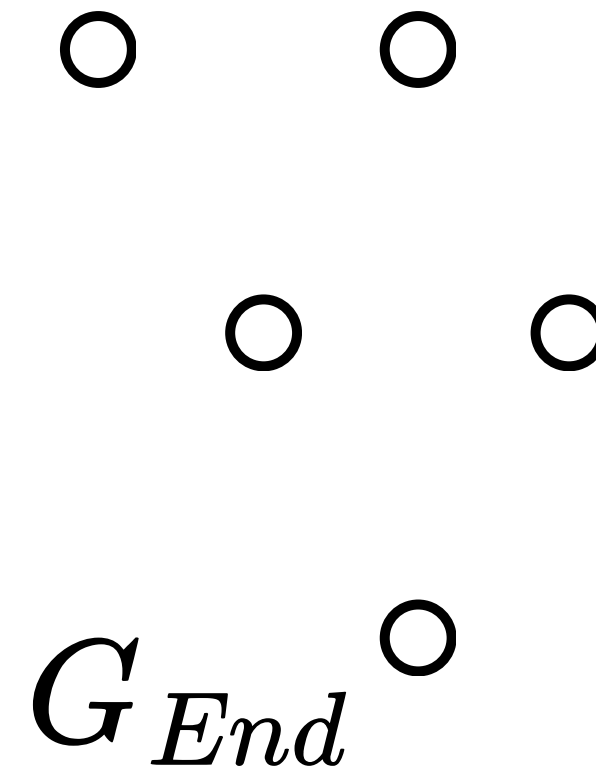
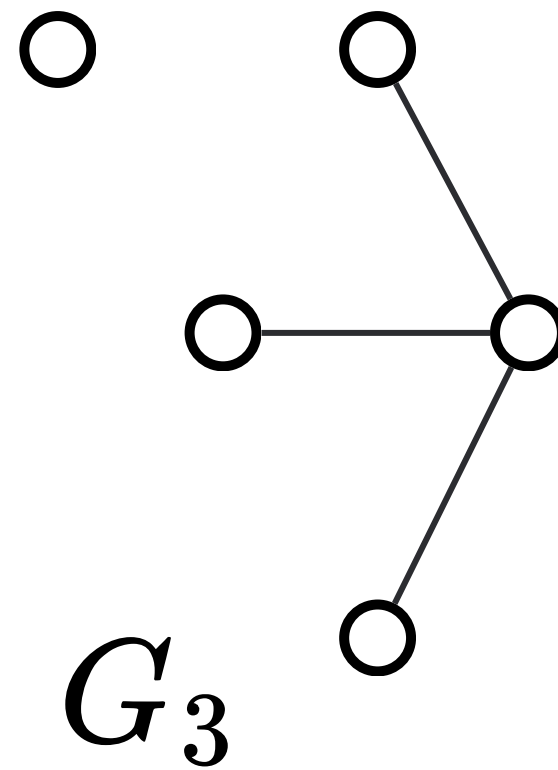
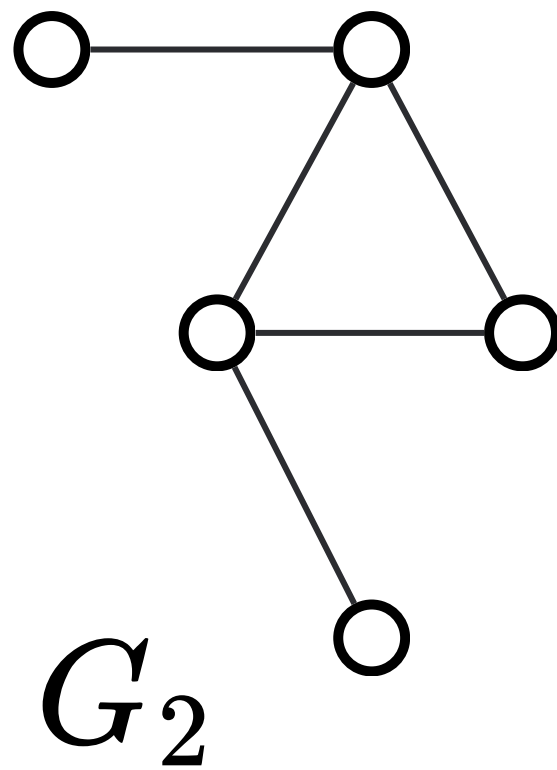
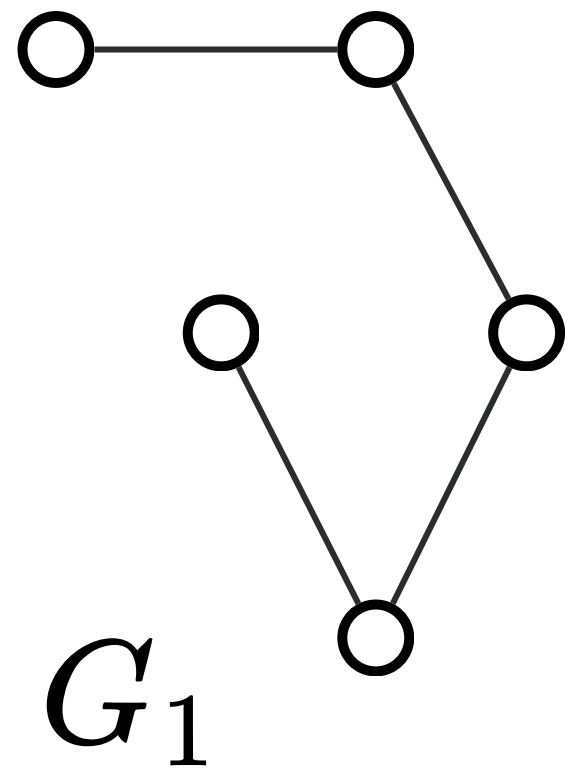


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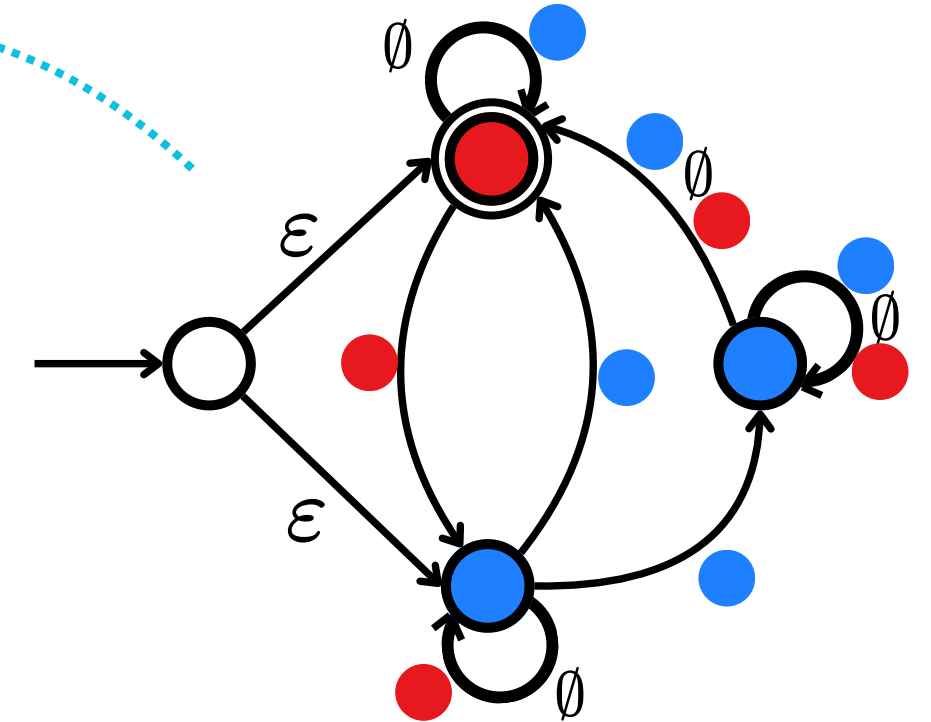
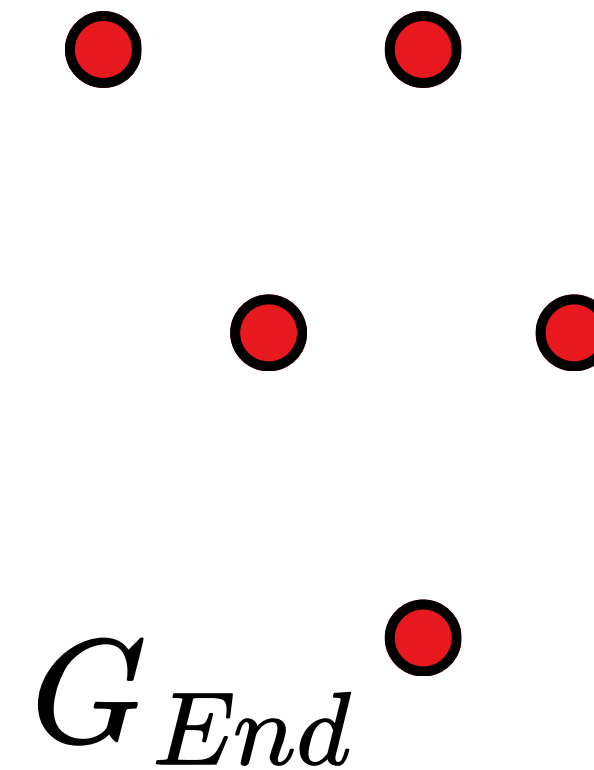
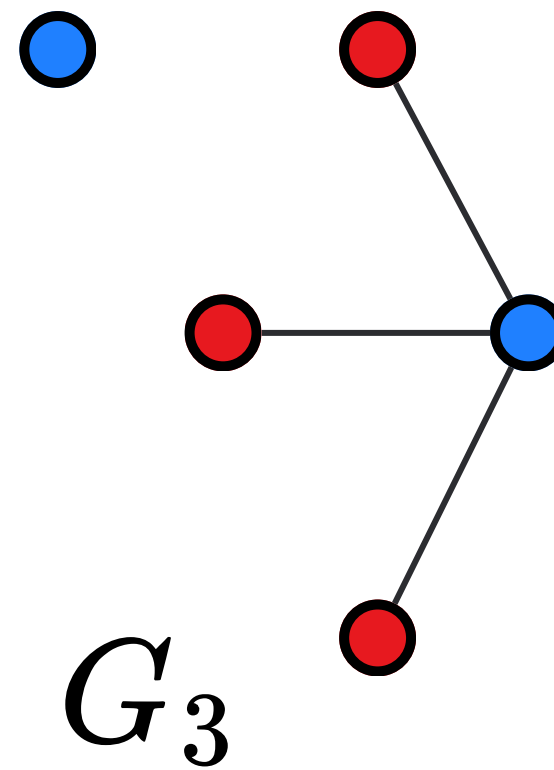
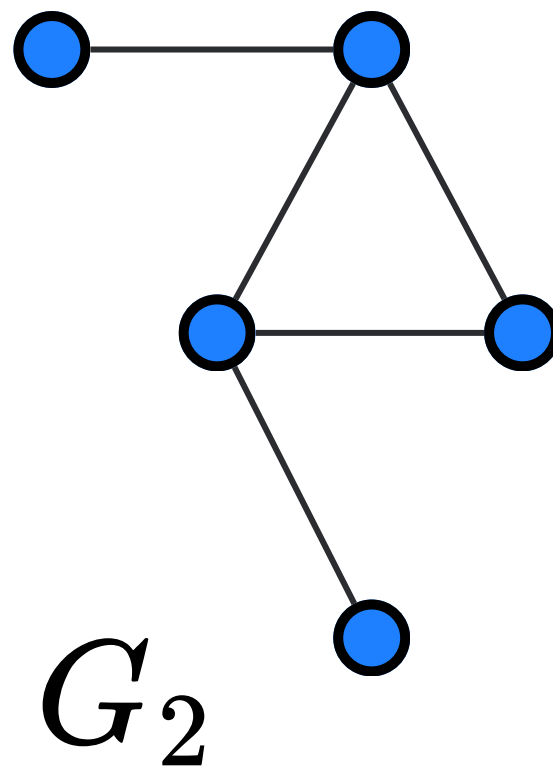
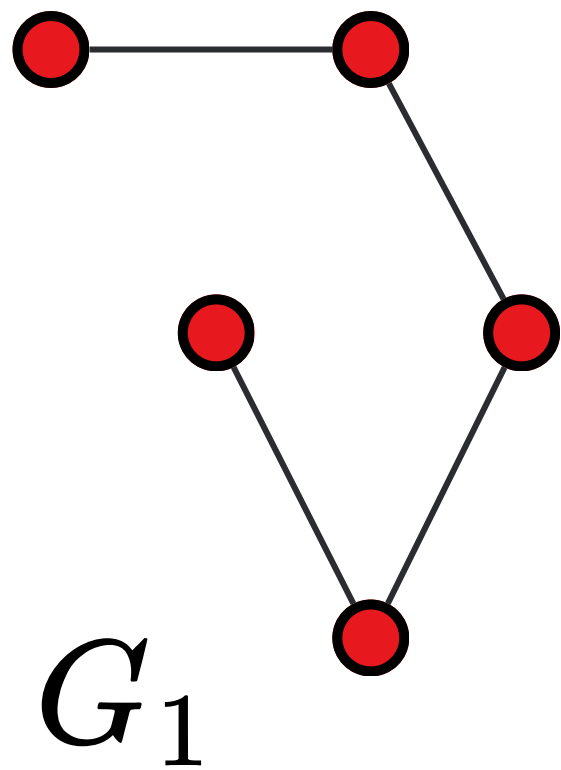


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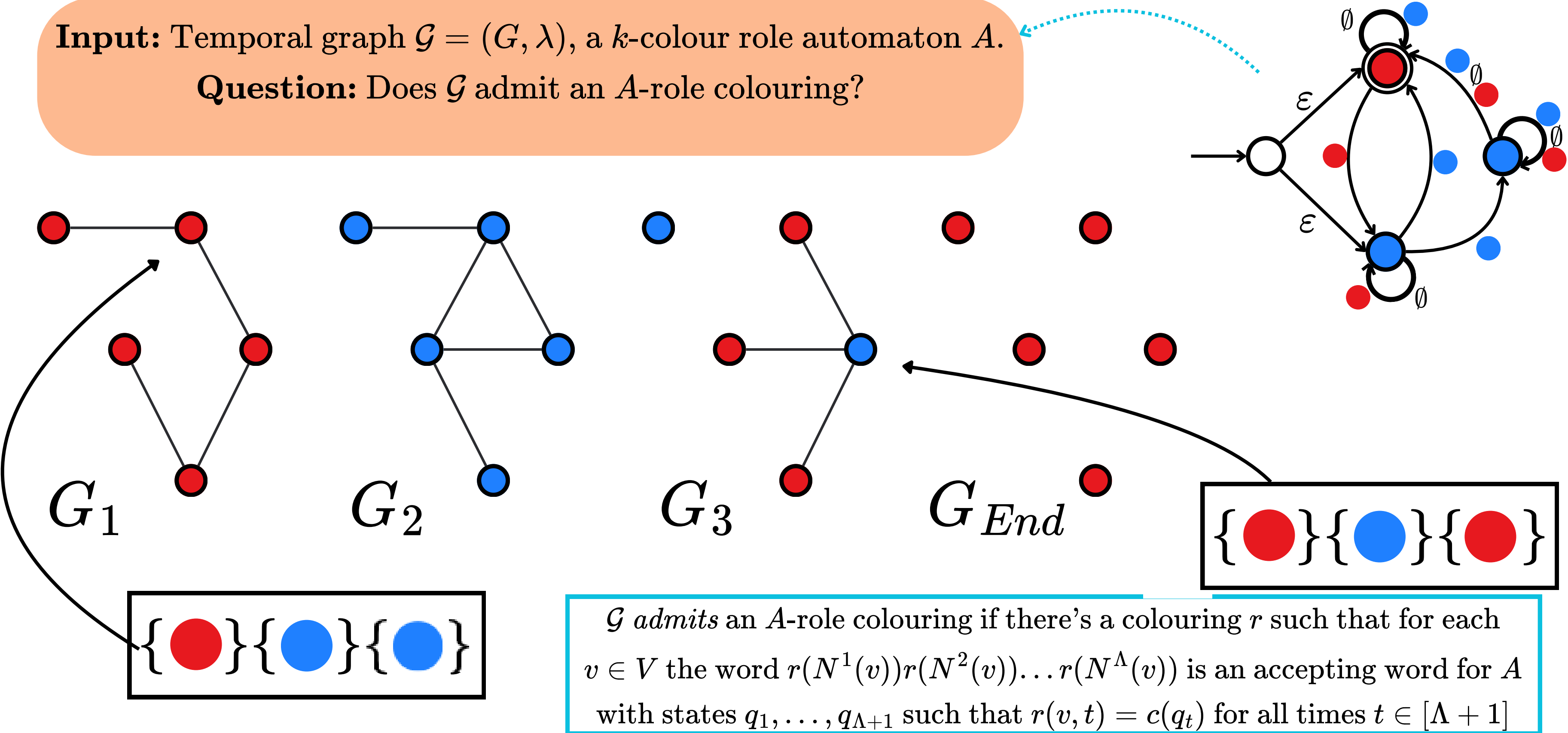


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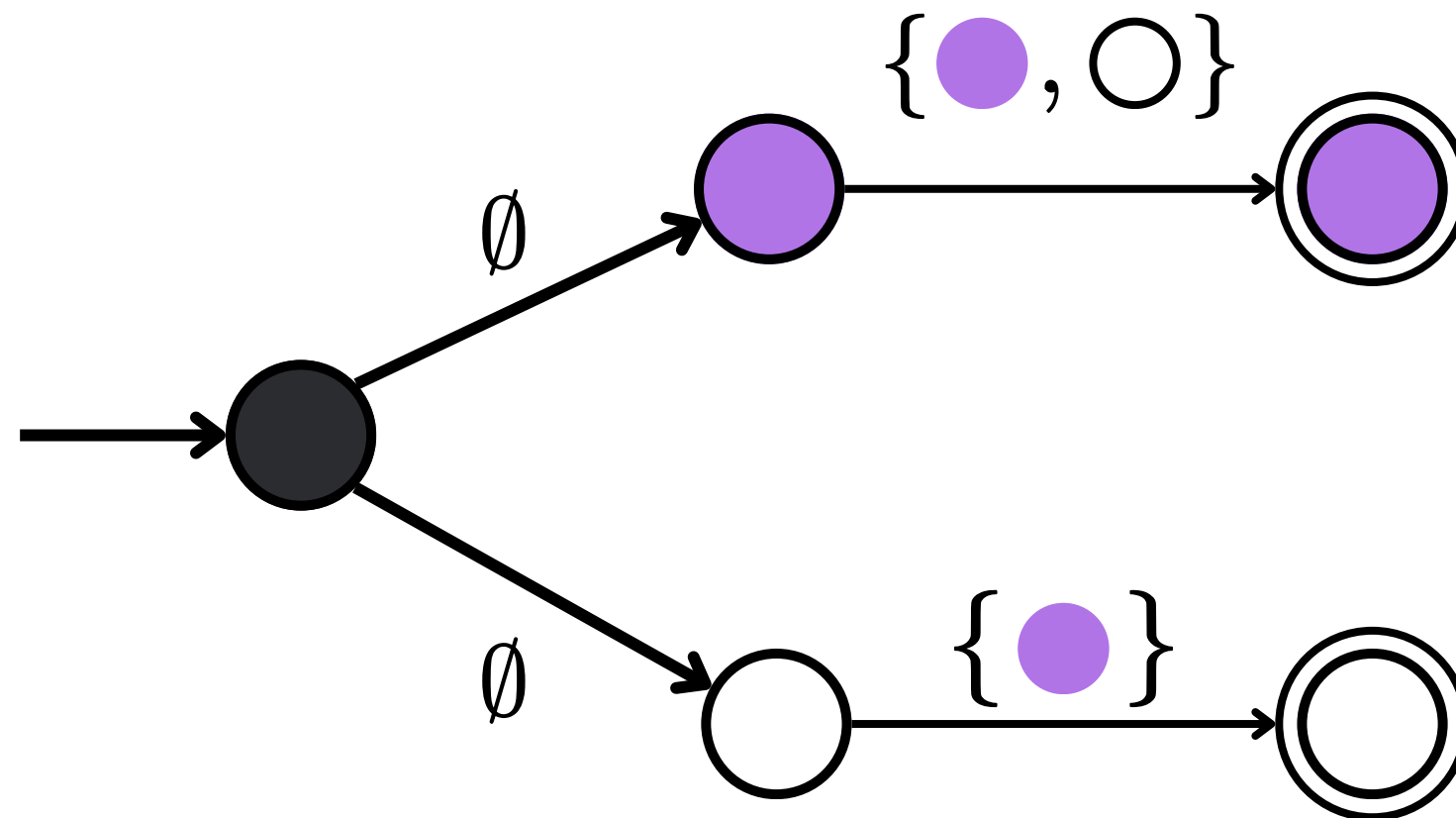
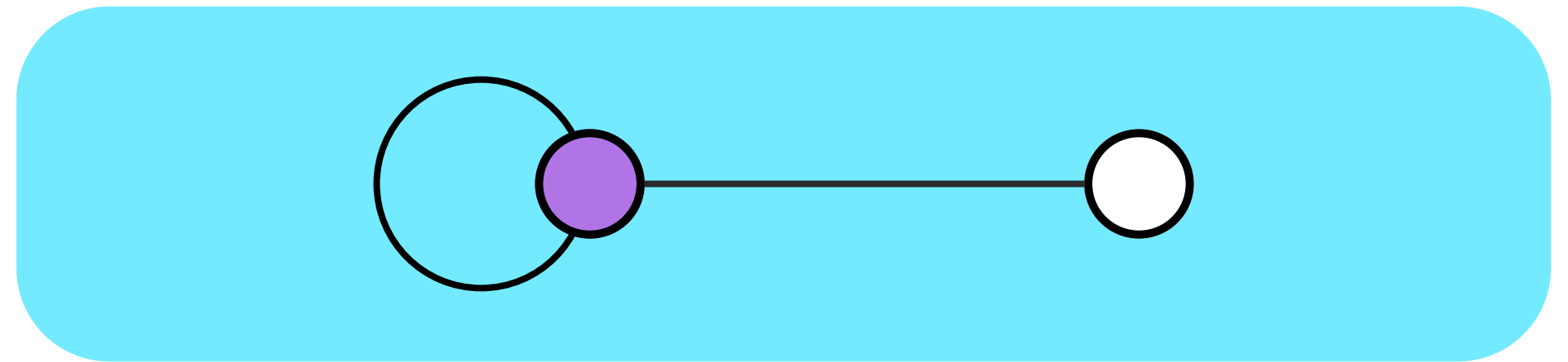
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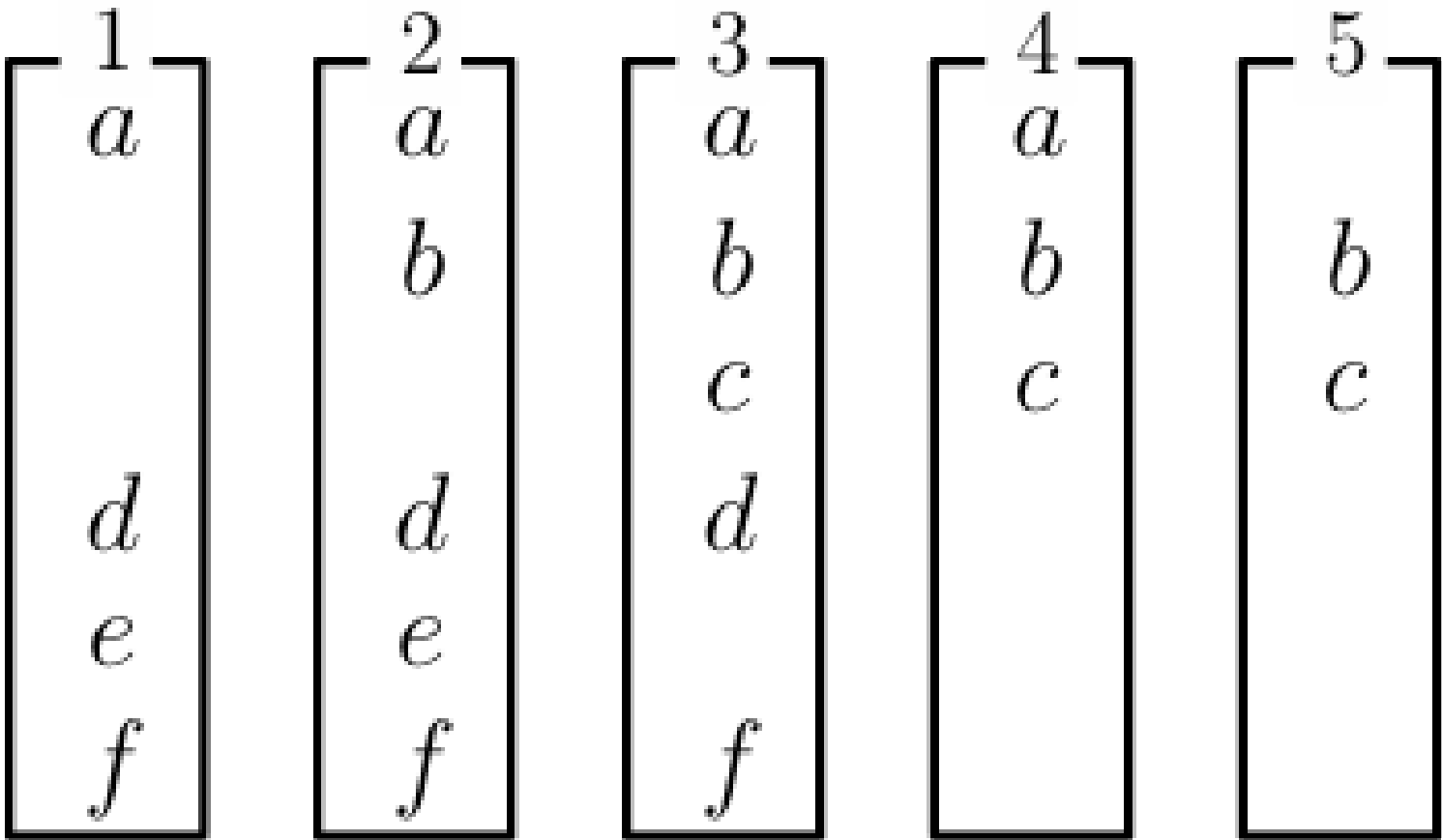
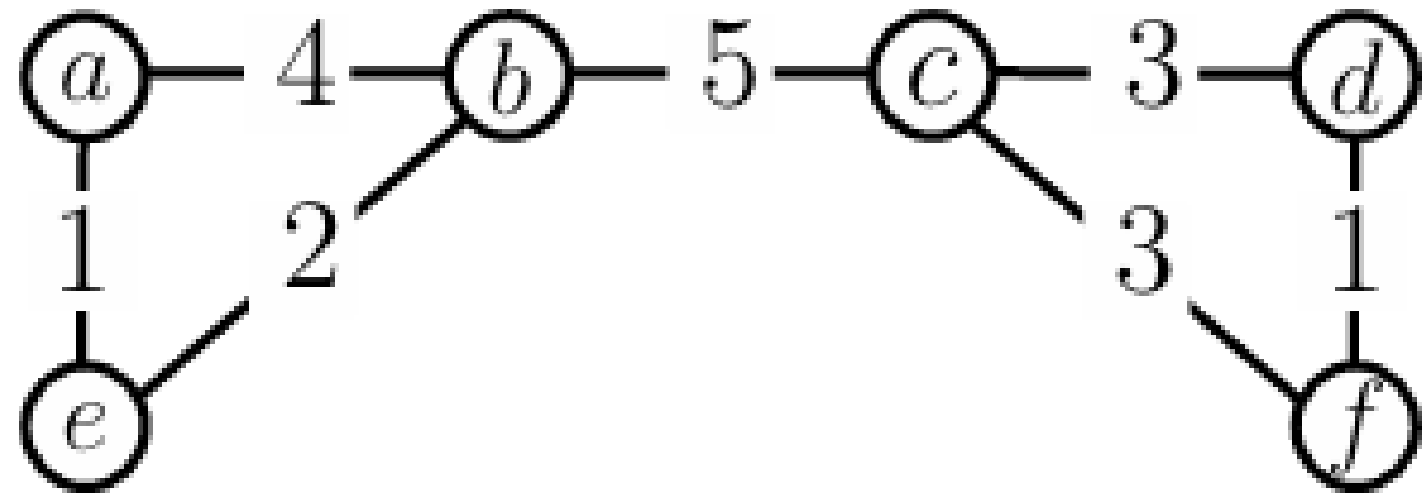
NP-COMPLETENESS

- Input alphabet $\Sigma = 2^{[k]}$
- A start state q_0
- A set of states $Q = \{q_0, q_{1,s}, q_{1,a}, q_{2,s}, q_{2,a}, \dots, q_{k,s}, q_{k,a}\}$, that is, the start state and two states for each vertex in R
- A colouring of states $c : Q \rightarrow \{0, \dots, k\}$ defined as $c(q_0) = 0$ and $c(q_{i,a}) = c(q_{i,s}) = i$
- A set $F = \{q_{1,a}, q_{2,a}, \dots, q_{k,a}\}$ of accepting states
- A transition function δ with $\delta(q_0, \varepsilon) = q_{i,s}$ for each $i \in [k]$ and $\delta(q_{i,s}, N_R(i)) = q_{i,a}$ for each $i \in [k]$.



VERTEX-INTERVAL-MEMBERSHIP WIDTH

For a temporal graph $\mathcal{G}$ and a k -colour role automaton A , Temporal Role Colouring on $\mathcal{G}$ is solvable in time $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda \rho^{3\omega+1} \omega^2)$ where ω is the vertex-interval-membership width of $\mathcal{G}$ and ρ is the number of states of A .

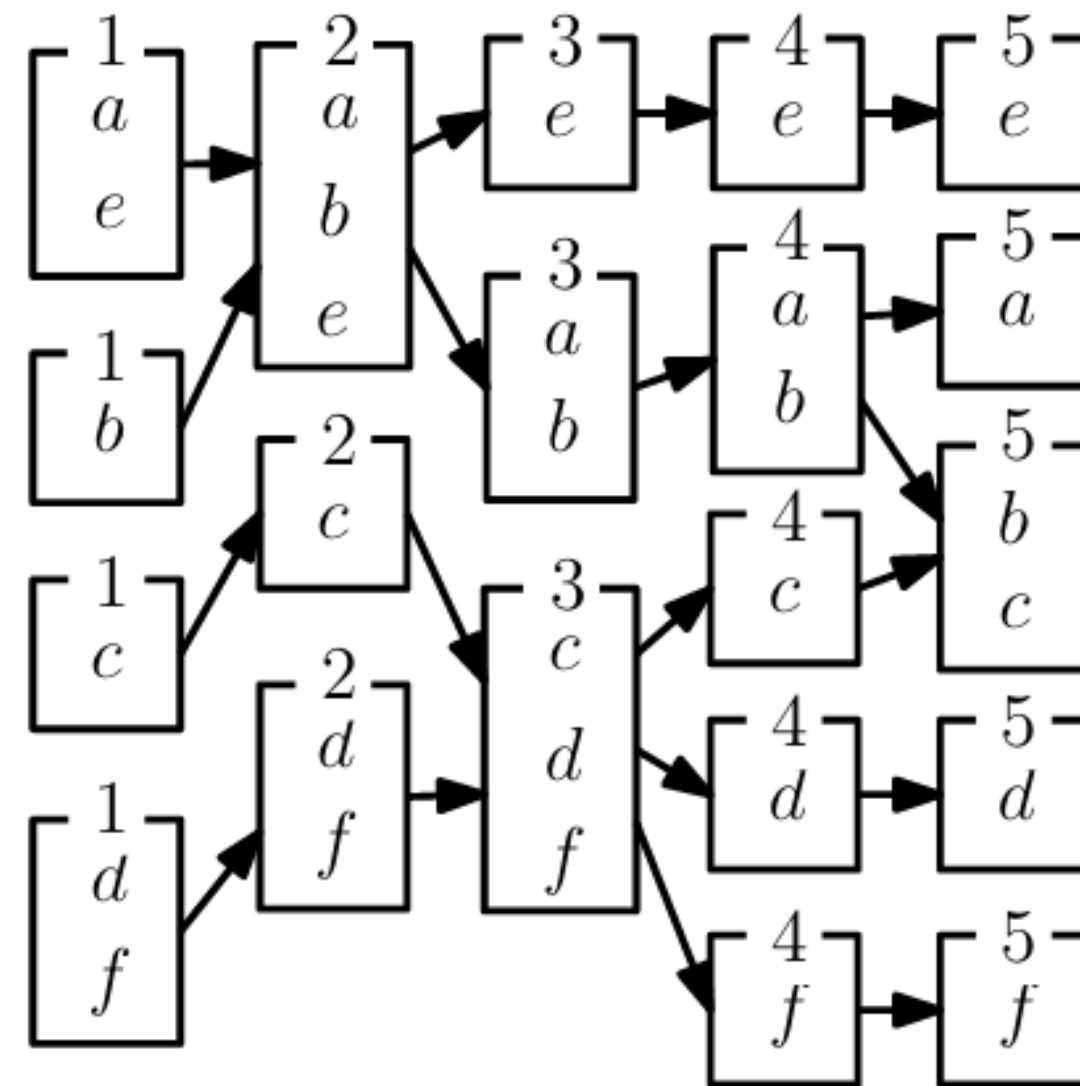
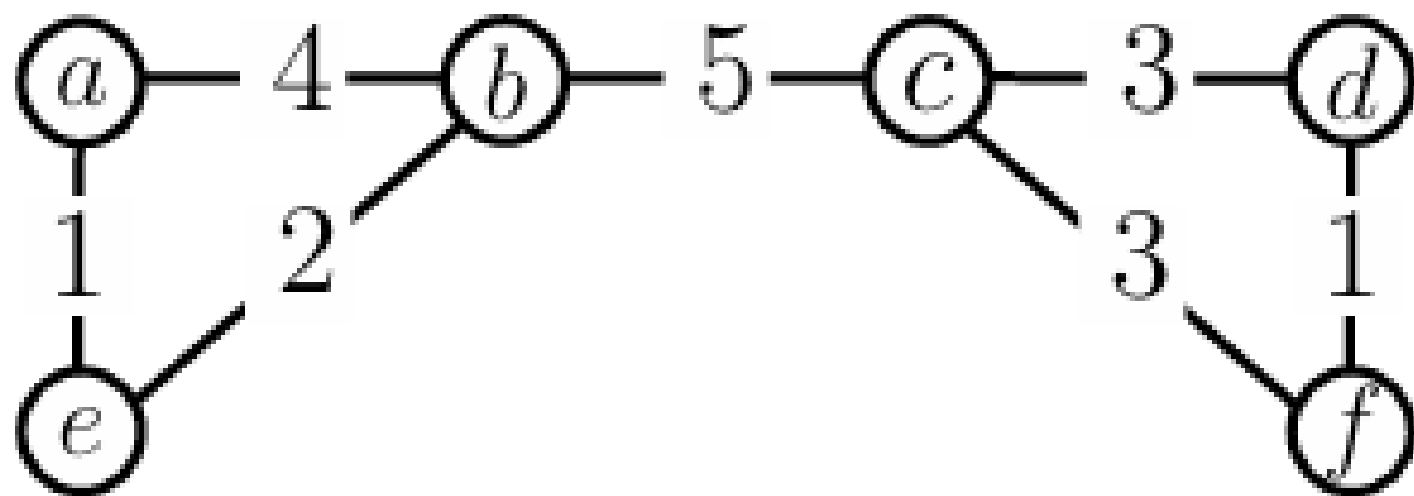


TREE-INTERVAL-MEMBERSHIP WIDTH

For a temporal graph $\mathcal{G}$ with n vertices and lifetime Λ and a k -colour role automaton A with ρ states

the Temporal Role Colouring problem on $\mathcal{G}$ is solvable in time $\mathcal{O}((n\Lambda)^5 (3\rho)^{12\phi^3} \rho\phi^{12})$

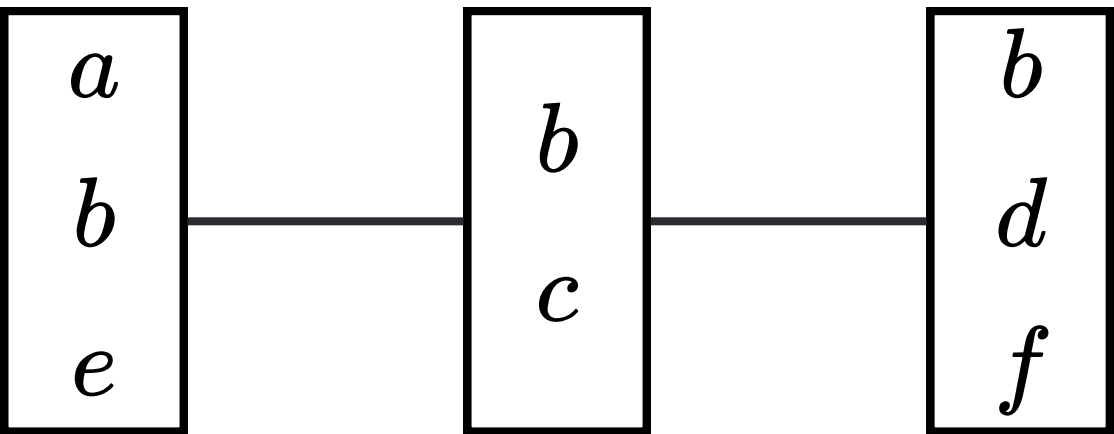
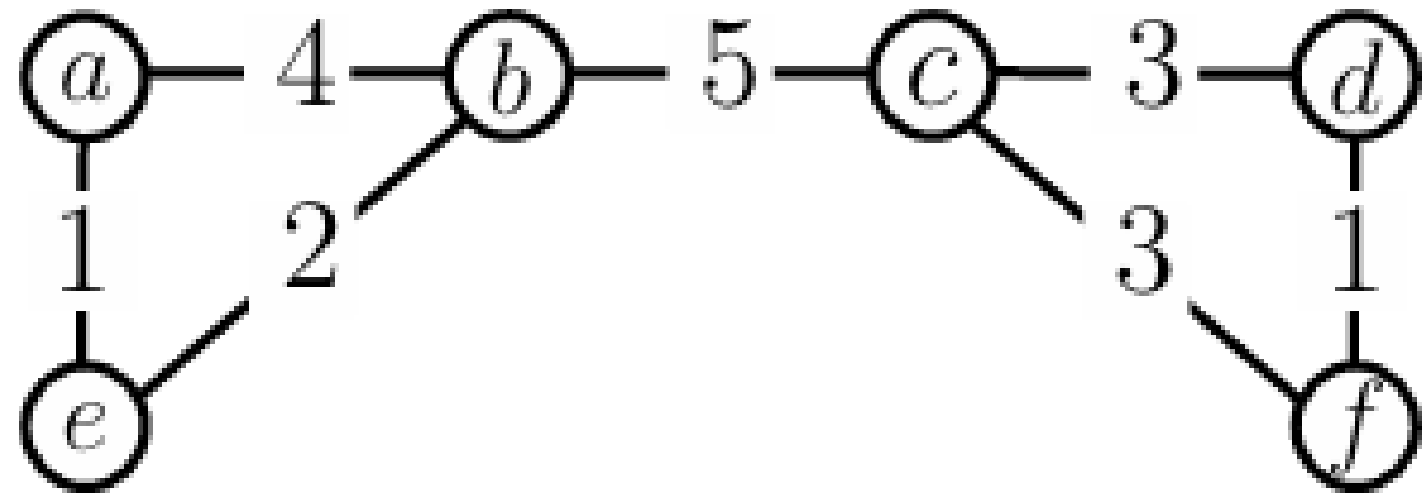
where ϕ is the tree-interval-membership width of $\mathcal{G}$.



TREewidth

For a temporal graph $\mathcal{G}$ and a k -colour role automaton A ,

Temporal Role Colouring on instance $(\mathcal{G}, A)$ is solvable in time $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda n \omega (\rho^2 + \omega k) 2^{6k(\Lambda+1)(\omega+1)})$
where ω is the treewidth of the underlying graph $G_\downarrow$, Λ is the lifetime of $\mathcal{G}$ and ρ is the number of states of A .



ANY QUESTIONS?

