

# ON-LINE MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET IN CHORDAL GRAPHS

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**Abstract.** In this paper we deal with the on-line maximum independent set and we propose a probabilistic  $O(\log n)$ -competitive algorithm for chordal and interval graphs, proving that the same ratio is a lower bound of the problem. The relation of the on-line maximum independent set with the on-line admission control, allows us to obtain as particular case, an  $O(\log n)$ -competitive algorithm for the on-line admission control in trees and lines. In addition to that, we propose a competitive algorithm for the on-line call admission of subtrees in trees.

## 1 Introduction

The Maximum Independent Set problem (MIS) is one of the most fundamental problems in graph theory. Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with vertex set  $V$  and edge set  $E$ , the goal is to compute a subset of the vertices  $V'$ , such that no two vertices in  $V'$  are joined by an edge and such that the cardinality of  $V'$  is maximized. In this paper we deal with an on-line version of MIS, where the graph  $G$  is not known in advance, but is revealed in an on-line manner by a malicious adversary to the on-line algorithm. The on-line algorithm has to take its decisions during this revealing procedure.

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There are many on-line graph models in the bibliography. In [9]  $G$  is not given in advance to the on-line algorithm. There is a set of rules  $R$  dealing with information about the value of some parameters of the final graph  $G$  (e.g. the maximum degree of  $G$ ) and the manner in which  $G$  is revealed to the on-line algorithm (e.g. vertex by vertex). The adversary may terminate the revealing procedure at any time. In [23] the same model is applied, but for the on-line graph coloring problem. In the same work there are some variations of the model, which do not affect essentially the problem. In [21] an on-line model called *Known-Graph On-line Model* is defined. According to this model, a graph isomorphic to  $G$  is induced, but the identification of the vertices is not known. Finally in [22] two more on-line models are proposed (*multi-solutions model* and *inheritance model*). According to these, the algorithm can preserve a collection of independent sets. In each step, the current vertex can be added to up to a number of different sets.

Another interesting problem that arises in a number of applications in communication networks, is the *on-line admission control problem*. In this work, we focus on particular topologies, namely trees and lines. Given a tree (or a line)  $T$ , call requests (given by the endpoints of the path) to be satisfied are presented in an on-line manner to the on-line algorithm. The algorithm may accept or reject a request and the goal is to maximize the number of the accepted requests. In [4], [8] a  $O(\log n)$ -competitive randomized algorithm is presented for on-line admission control in trees and lines, where  $n$  is the order of  $T$ . In [5] a  $O(\log d)$ -competitive randomized algorithm is suggested, where  $d$  is the diameter of  $T$ .

Here, we propose a randomized  $O(\log n)$ -competitive algorithm for the on-line MIS in chordal graphs and we prove that the same ratio is a lower bound of the problem. We also relate the on-line admission control in trees to the on-line MIS in chordal graphs and achieve an  $O(\log n)$  competitive ratio, where  $n$  is the order of the tree. In section 2 we present the on-line model that we consider for MIS. In section 3 we refer some preliminary notions from graph theory concerning chordal and interval graphs. Then, in section 4 we present the randomized algorithm for the on-line MIS in chordal graphs. Last, in section 5 we adapt the algorithm to the on-line admission control in trees.

## 2 The Model

We consider the following on-line model (see also [6]). The graph that is presented by the adversary to the on-line algorithm, is an induced subgraph of a graph that *is known in advance* to the on-line algorithm. The interesting

part of this model is that it is parallel with the on-line admission control model, where the network is given in advance to the on-line algorithm.

More formally [6]:

**Definition 1.** *The graph  $G = (V, E)$  is known to the on-line algorithm. The vertices  $v \in V$  are presented one by one. The adversary may choose to terminate the sequence at any time. The on-line algorithm has to decide if he accepts  $v$  or rejects it. The benefit of the on-line algorithm is the cardinality of the accepted vertex set.*

As a performance measure for our algorithm, we will use *competitive analysis* [30]. The competitive ratio of an on-line MIS algorithm is the maximum over all sequences of vertices of the ratio of the optimal algorithm for a sequence of vertices to the performance of the on-line algorithm on the same sequence. Specifically, let  $\text{ALG}(\sigma)$  be the cardinality of the accepted vertex set by the on-line algorithm, for a sequence of vertices  $\sigma$  and let  $\text{OPT}(\sigma)$  be the cardinality of the accepted vertex set by an optimal offline algorithm for  $\sigma$ . The competitive ratio of  $\text{ALG}$  is the maximum over all  $\sigma$  of  $\text{OPT}(\sigma)/\text{ALG}(\sigma)$ . For the case of randomized on-line algorithms, let  $\mathbf{E}[\text{ALG}(\sigma)]$  be the expected cardinality of the accepted vertex set by the  $\text{ALG}$  on a sequence  $\sigma$ . The competitive ratio of  $\text{ALG}$  is the maximum over all  $\sigma$  of  $\text{OPT}(\sigma)/\mathbf{E}[\text{ALG}(\sigma)]$ . This competitive ratio is called *oblivious* since the sequence  $\sigma$  is produced by the adversary independently of the random choices made by  $\text{ALG}$ . In this paper we consider an oblivious adversary.

### 3 Chordal Graphs

In this section we present some preliminary definitions and results that we will use later.

A *chord* is an edge that joins two non consecutive vertices of a cycle.

**Definition 2.** *A graph is chordal if each one of its cycles with length  $l > 3$  has a chord.*

Every *induced subgraph* of a chordal graph is also a chordal graph.

For the rest of the paper we use  $G$  to denote a simple undirected graph,  $V(G)$  and  $E(G)$  to denote respectively the vertex set and the edge set of  $G$ , the cardinality of which is  $n = |V(G)|$  and  $m = |E(G)|$ . A *clique* is a vertex set that induces a complete subgraph of  $G$ . A clique is *maximal*, if it is not a subclique of some other clique of  $G$ .

**Definition 3.** Let  $F$  be a family of nonempty sets. The intersection graph of  $F$  is a graph the vertices of which correspond to the sets of  $F$ , while two vertices are adjacent if and only if the corresponding subsets intersect.

An interesting subfamily of chordal graphs are the *interval graphs*.

**Definition 4.** An interval graph is an intersection graph of a family of intervals of the real line.

**Theorem 1.** [19] Let  $G$  be an undirected graph and let  $\mathcal{K}$  be the set of its maximal cliques and  $\mathcal{K}_v$  the set of all maximal cliques that contain a vertex  $v$  of  $G$ . The following statements are equivalent:

1.  $G$  is a chordal graph.
2.  $G$  is the intersection graph of a family of subtrees of a tree.
3. There is a tree  $T = (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{E})$  the vertex set of which is the set of maximal cliques of  $G$ , such that each induced subgraph  $T[\mathcal{K}_v]$  is connected.

A tree that satisfies the third property of theorem 1 is called *clique tree* of  $G$ .

**Definition 5.** The clique graph  $K(G)$  of a chordal graph  $G$  is the intersection graph of maximal cliques of  $G$ .

One may consider weights  $w_e$  on the edges  $e \in E(K(G))$ , such that  $w_{u,v} = |u \cap v|$ , where  $u, v \in V(K(G))$  are the ends of an edge  $e$  of  $K(G)$ . We denote the weighted clique graph of  $G$  by  $K_w(G)$

**Theorem 2.** [7] The clique tree of a chordal graph  $G$  is a maximum weight spanning tree of the weighted clique graph  $K_w(G)$ .

In [19] it is proved the *Clique Intersection Property* which is the following:

**Theorem 3.** [19] For any pair of cliques  $K, K' \in \mathcal{K}(G)$ , the set  $K \cap K'$  is contained in every clique of the path (in the clique tree) with endpoints  $K$  and  $K'$  if and only if  $G$  is chordal.

The clique tree of an interval graph has the following interesting property

**Theorem 4.** [20]  $G$  is an interval graph if and only if  $G$  has a clique tree that is a simple path.

## 4 The Algorithm

In the sequel, we focus on the on-line maximum independent set in chordal graphs. We make use of the on-line model mentioned in section 2.

The initial graph  $G$  presented to the on-line algorithm is chordal, as it is the final graph  $C$ , which is an induced subgraph of  $G$ . In the following we will use the term "vertex" when referring to a vertex of the chordal graph  $G$  and the term "node" when referring to a vertex of the clique tree  $T(G)$  induced by  $G$ . This distinction is meaningful as a node  $u \in T(G)$  denotes a clique of  $G$ .

The algorithm can be separated into two phases. The first is the vertex partitioning phase and the second is the selection phase.

**Vertex Partitioning** The aim of this phase is to classify the vertex set  $V(G)$  into  $O(\log n)$  disjoint classes, where  $n = |V(G)|$ . At the first step of VERTEXPARTITIONING, we construct a clique tree of  $G$ . This process takes linear time, given a perfect elimination order of  $G$  [31]. A perfect elimination ordering of  $G$  can be found in linear time [28], [32]. Then, VERTEXPARTITIONING procedure uses NODEPARTITIONING procedure in order to realize the classification. Notice that a node  $u$  (line 4 of NODEPARTITIONING procedure) always exists, because trees have 1/2-separators of length equal to 1 [33]. The removal of  $u$  from  $T$ , induces a forest, each subtree of which has at most  $\frac{|V(T(G))|}{2}$  nodes.

At the end of this phase every vertex  $v \in V(G)$  is marked with a label that denotes its class. The number of distinct labels is  $k$  with  $k \leq \lceil \log |V(T(G))| \rceil$ . The maximal cliques of  $G$  are at most  $n$  [18], where  $n$  is the order of the initial chordal graph  $G$ . Hence, in respect with the theorems 1 and 3, we have separated the vertices of  $G$  in at most  $O(\log n)$  disjoint classes.

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**Procedure 1** NODEPARTITIONING( $T, l$ )

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- 1: **if**  $T$  is a single node **then**
  - 2:   mark  $T$  with label  $l$
  - 3: **else**
  - 4:   find a 1/2-separator  $u$  in  $T$
  - 5:   mark  $u$  with label  $l$
  - 6:   remove  $u$  from  $T$
  - 7:    $l \leftarrow l + 1$
  - 8:   **for all** subtrees  $T_s$  induced by the removal of  $u$  **do**
  - 9:     NODEPARTITIONING( $T_s, l$ )
  - 10:   **end for**
  - 11: **end if**
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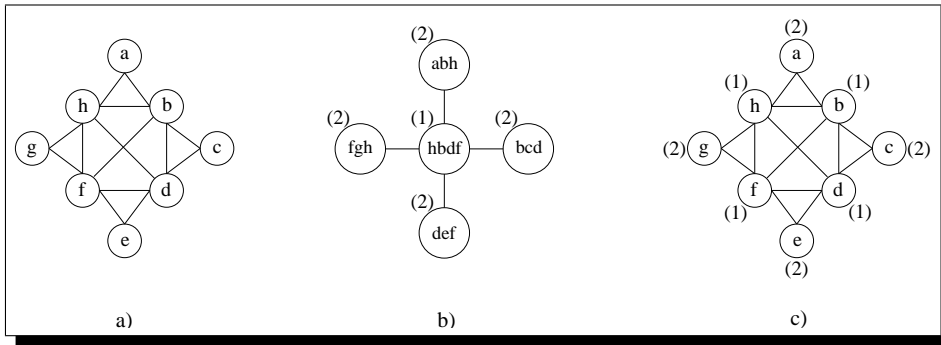
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**Procedure 2** VERTEXPARTITIONING( $G$ )

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- 1: construct clique tree  $T$  from  $G$
  - 2: run NODEPARTITIONING( $T, 1$ )
  - 3: **for all** nodes  $u \in V(T)$  **do**
  - 4:   **for all** unmarked vertices  $v \in V(G) \cap u$  **do**
  - 5:     mark  $v$  with the label of  $u$
  - 6:   **end for**
  - 7: **end for**
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Figure 1a) depicts the chordal graph  $G$ , Figure 1b) depicts the induced clique tree  $T(G)$  after the NODEPARTITIONING procedure, while Figure 1c) depicts  $G$  after the VERTEXPARTITIONING procedure. The numbers denote the class of each node/vertex.



**Figure 1:** Separation of vertices into classes: a) a chordal graph  $G$ , b) the clique tree  $T(G)$ , c) partitioning of  $G$  in two classes

**Selection** Once we have classified the vertices of  $G$ , we need an on-line algorithm that chooses proper vertices to the Independent Set  $S$ . The on-line algorithm **RANDMIS** picks at random a label and accepts in a greedy way (using **GREEDYSELECTION**) only vertices with this label. The input  $\sigma$  is the sequence of the vertex arrivals, so  $\sigma_i$  is the  $i$ -th vertex of the sequence and its label is denoted by  $\text{lab}(\sigma_i)$ .

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**Procedure 3** GREEDYSELECTION( $v$ )

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- 1: **if**  $v$  is not adjacent with any  $u \in S$  **then**
  - 2:    $S \leftarrow S \cup \{v\}$
  - 3: **end if**
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**Algorithm 4**  $\text{RANDMIS}(G, \sigma)$ 

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1: VERTEXPARTITIONING( $G$ )
2:  $S \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
3: pick a label  $l^*$  uniformly at random from  $[1, \dots, k]$ 
4: for each arriving vertex  $\sigma_i$  of  $G$  do
5:   if  $\text{lab}(\sigma_i) = l^*$  then
6:      $\text{GREEDYSELECTION}(\sigma_i)$ 
7:   end if
8: end for
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**Claim 1.** *If the input sequence is restricted to vertices of a single class, then  $\text{GREEDYSELECTION}$  is 1-competitive.*

*Proof.* Let suppose that the selected class is class with label  $l$ . Let  $u_1, \dots, u_m$  be the nodes of  $T(G)$  with label  $l$ . These nodes correspond to  $m$  cliques of  $G$ , after the  $\text{VERTEXPARTITIONING}$  procedure, that have no any vertex in common. The optimal offline algorithm can choose at most one vertex per clique  $u_i$ , because the maximum independent set of a clique is a singleton that contains any vertex of the clique.  $\text{GREEDYSELECTION}$  accepts exactly one vertex per clique.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.** *The  $\text{RANDMIS}$  is  $O(\log n)$ -competitive, where  $n$  is the order of the chordal graph (for an oblivious adversary).*

*Proof.* For any input sequence  $\sigma$  of vertices of  $G$ , let  $\text{RANDMIS}(\sigma)$  and  $\text{ALG}(\sigma)$  be the number of vertices accepted by the on-line and the offline algorithm respectively. Let  $c_l$  and  $o_l$  the number of vertices of class  $l$  accepted by the on-line and the offline algorithm respectively. By claim 1,  $c_{l^*} = o_{l^*}$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[\text{RANDMIS}(\sigma)] &= \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} \Pr[\text{chooses level } l] \cdot c_l \\ &\geq \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} \frac{1}{\log n} \cdot o_l \\ &= \frac{1}{\log n} \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} o_l \\ &= \frac{1}{\log n} \text{OPT}(\sigma) \end{aligned}$$

□

The following lemma, suggests that there is no on-line algorithm that achieves better competitive ratio.

**Lemma 2.**  $\lfloor \frac{\log(n+1)}{2} \rfloor$  is a lower bound on the randomized (oblivious adversary) competitive ratio for the on-line maximum independent set in chordal graphs, where  $n$  is the order of the chordal graph.

*Proof.* We will use the Yao's Principle in order to prove the lower bound. It is sufficient to produce a distribution on sequences of vertices  $\sigma$ , such that

$$\mathbf{E}[\text{OPT}(\sigma)] > \frac{\log(n+1)}{2}$$

while for every on-line algorithm  $\text{ALG}$ ,  $\mathbf{E}[\text{ALG}(\sigma)] \leq 1$ .

For this purpose, we need firstly to construct a chordal graph  $G$  in the following way. We produce a complete binary tree  $B$  with  $n$  vertices. Then we recursively add edges in the following way: We add edges that join the root with any other vertex and we repeat this procedure for the two subtrees adjacent to the root and so on.

This chordal graph  $G$ , is in fact an interval graph, because its clique tree is a trail (theorem 4). We denote the vertex set of depth  $i$  with  $V_i$  and call them vertices of class  $i$ .

We consider  $G$  as the initial chordal graph of the problem. We also consider as sets of arriving vertices  $V_i, 0 \leq i \leq \log(n+1) - 1$  where  $n$  is the order of  $G$ .

Note that every vertex in  $V_i$  is a vertex of class  $i$  and is adjacent to any leaf of the tree. Every vertex in  $V_i$  is adjacent with two vertices in  $V_{i+1}$ , with four vertices of  $V_{i+2}$  and so on.

Now, we produce the probability distribution as follows: Choose  $l$  in the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, \log n\}$  with probability  $p_l = \frac{2^{-l}}{2-1/2^d}$ , where  $d = \log(n+1) - 1$  is the depth of the tree  $B$ .

Then, produce the arrivals of all the vertices in  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_l$  and terminate the sequence.

Initially, we consider  $\text{OPT}$  in a random input  $\sigma$ . If this input terminates with vertices of class  $i$ , then  $\text{OPT}$  accepts exactly the vertices of class  $i$ , rejecting every vertex of class  $j < i$ .

Consequently,



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[\text{OPT}(\sigma)] &= \sum_{i=0}^d 2^i \cdot \frac{2^{-i}}{2 - 1/2^d} \\ &> \frac{\log(n+1)}{2} \end{aligned}$$

For every deterministic on-line algorithm ALG we claim the following:

**Claim 2.** *If ALG rejects a vertex  $v$  of  $V_i$  that is not adjacent to any already accepted vertex, then  $\mathbf{E}[\text{the expected benefit of ALG by rejecting } v] \leq 1 = \text{the benefit of ALG if it accepts } v$ .*

*Proof.* Note that we have chosen a probability distribution such that  $\Pr[\text{ALG meets vertices of } V_i \mid \text{ALG has met vertices of } V_{i-1}] \leq \frac{1}{2}$ . We will prove Claim 2 with induction on  $i = d, d-1, \dots, 0$ . For the special case  $i = d$ , if the on-line algorithm rejects  $v$ , its expected benefit is 0, since there will not be other arrivals of vertices adjacent to  $v$ . Let's consider that the claim holds for the class  $j$ . We will prove that it also holds for the class  $j-1$ . If the algorithm rejects a vertex  $v$  of the class  $j-1$ , it hopes to the benefit of vertices of the class  $j$ , that are adjacent to  $v$ . Hence the expected benefit of ALG by rejecting  $v$ , is at most  $\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{E}[v_1] + \mathbf{E}[v_2])$ , where  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are the two adjacent vertices to  $v$  and  $\mathbf{E}[v_i]$  is the maximum expected benefit of accepting or rejecting  $v_i$ . With probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ , ALG will meet both  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  and will have the choice to either accept them or to reject them. However, since  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are class  $j$  vertices, we know by the induction hypothesis that  $\mathbf{E}[v_1] = \mathbf{E}[v_2] \leq 1$ , no matter if ALG accepts them or not. □

Summarizing, ALG may accept or reject the first vertex. If it accepts it then  $\text{ALG}(\sigma) = 1$ . If it rejects it, then by Claim 2,  $\mathbf{E}[\text{ALG}(\sigma)] \leq 1$ . □

From the above lemmas the following main result for the on-line MIS in chordal graphs is induced.

**Theorem 5.** *The on-line MIS in chordal graphs has competitive ratio  $O(\log n)$  (for oblivious adversary), where  $n$  is the order of the initial chordal graph.*

## 5 Applications

The specific on-line model for maximum independent set is particularly useful because it can be used to solve the on-line admission control. Instead of solving the on-line admission control or the on-line maximum edge-disjoint paths problem in a graph  $G$ , one may consider the intersection graph  $I(G)$  which is induced by any possible request (path in  $G$ ) and then solve the on-line maximum independent set in  $I(G)$ . In  $I(G)$  two vertices are adjacent if the corresponding paths on  $G$  intersect.

We propose the following randomized algorithm for the on-line admission control problem in a tree  $T$  of order  $n$ .

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**Algorithm 5** RANDAC( $T, \sigma$ )

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- 1:  $G \leftarrow I(T)$
  - 2: RANDMIS( $G, \sigma$ )
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**Corollary 1.** *The RANDAC is  $O(\log n)$ -competitive, where  $n$  is the order of the tree  $T$  (for an oblivious adversary).*

*Proof.* The intersection graph  $G = I(T)$  has  $\binom{n}{2}$  vertices, as we consider any possible pair of vertices of  $T$ . Note that a pair of vertices of  $T$  denote a unique path in  $T$ . Consequently the competitive ratio  $c$  of RANDAC on  $T$  equals the competitive ratio of RANDMIS on  $G$ . Hence  $c = O(\log \binom{n}{2}) = O(\log n)$   $\square$

The algorithm RANDMIS partitions the node set of the clique tree in  $k$  classes.  $k$  becomes equal to  $\log n$  in the case where the clique tree is a trail, otherwise  $k < \log n$ . As a matter of fact, we are not interested in  $1/2$ -separators of the tree, but for the *minimum height elimination tree* of the clique tree. Hence the proposed here algorithm is  $O(\log(\text{rank}(T)))$ -competitive, where  $T$  is the clique tree and  $\text{rank}(T)$  the height of the minimum height elimination tree of  $T$ . According to [25] the following holds.

**Proposition 1.** [25] *If  $T$  is a tree on  $n$  vertices and of diameter  $D$ , then*

$$1 + \lfloor \log D \rfloor \leq \text{rank}(T) \leq 1 + \lfloor \log n \rfloor$$

*and these bounds are tight.*

The application of the algorithm in interval graphs is obvious. The interval graphs are intersection graphs in trails. Hence, we have the same result for the on-line admission control in trails.

As known by theorem 1, the family of chordal graphs is the family of the intersection graphs of subtrees in trees. This interesting property provides a straightforward algorithm for a generalization of on-line admission control in trees, where the calls are not just paths but subtrees. The problem is that the intersection graph may have superpolynomial number of vertices on  $V(T)$ , and in this case the competitive ratio is linear on  $V(T)$ .

In general the on-line MIS in chordal graphs is more general than the on-line admission control in trees. One can produce the former by the latter but not inversely. For example one can represent the tree as a chordal graph that considers every possible path. However, a chordal graph does not correspond to a network where every possible call is considered, but only a part of them.

## 6 Conclusion

In this paper we suggested an  $O(\log n)$ -competitive algorithm for the on-line maximum independent set problem in chordal and interval graphs. The specific on-line model can be applied to the on-line admission control in trees and lines and achieve competitive ratio  $O(\log n)$ . The same idea may also be applied in other intersection graph families (e.g. circular arc graphs) and produce results for the on-line admission control (e.g in rings).

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