

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

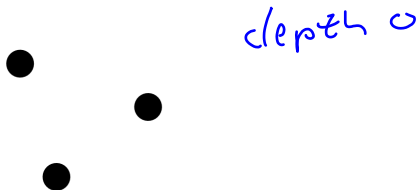
- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.



Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.



Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

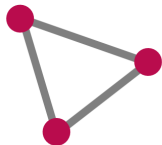
- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.



Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

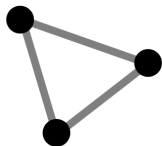
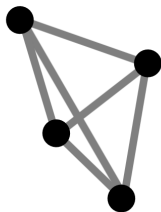
- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.



Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.

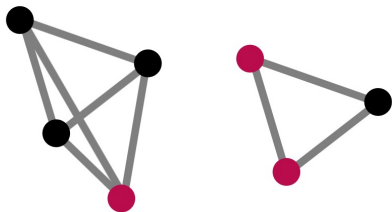


depth 1

Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

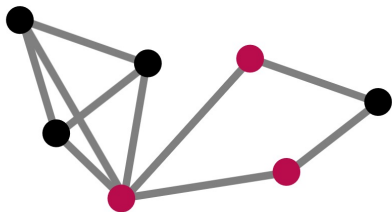
- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.



Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.

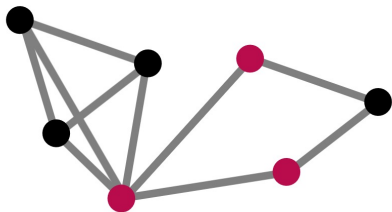


depth 2

Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

A class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if every graph in it can be constructed by a bounded depth sequence, where

- $\text{depth}(K_1) = 0$,
- $\text{depth}(G_1 \uplus G_2) = \max(\text{depth}(G_1), \text{depth}(G_2))$, and
- for any $S \subseteq V(G)$, replacing $G[S]$ by its complement increases depth by 1.



Can we get an induced subgraph characterization?

Conjecture

A hereditary class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if and only if it is ∞ -WQO and forbids a semi-induced half-graph.

- ∞ -WQO: For each n , there is no infinite antichain of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ -coloured graphs under induced subgraphs where colours must match.
- **semi-induced half-graphs**: The following, induced between A and B .

Conjecture

A hereditary class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if and only if it is ∞ -WQO and forbids a semi-induced half-graph.

- **∞ -WQO**: For each n , there is no infinite antichain of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ -coloured graphs under induced subgraphs where colours must match.
- **semi-induced half-graphs**: The following, induced between A and B .

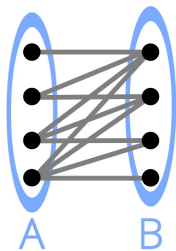


↳ $\{1, 2\}$ -coloured antichain

Conjecture

A hereditary class of graphs has **bounded shrub-depth** if and only if it is ∞ -WQO and forbids a semi-induced half-graph.

- **∞ -WQO**: For each n , there is no infinite antichain of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ -coloured graphs under induced subgraphs where colours must match.
- **semi-induced half-graphs**: The following, induced between A and B .



- Characterization of bounded shrub-depth by vertex-minors (Kwon, M., Oum, and Wollan). [\[link\]](#)
- Related conjectures on 2-WQO (Daligault, Rao, Thomassé). [\[link\]](#)

