



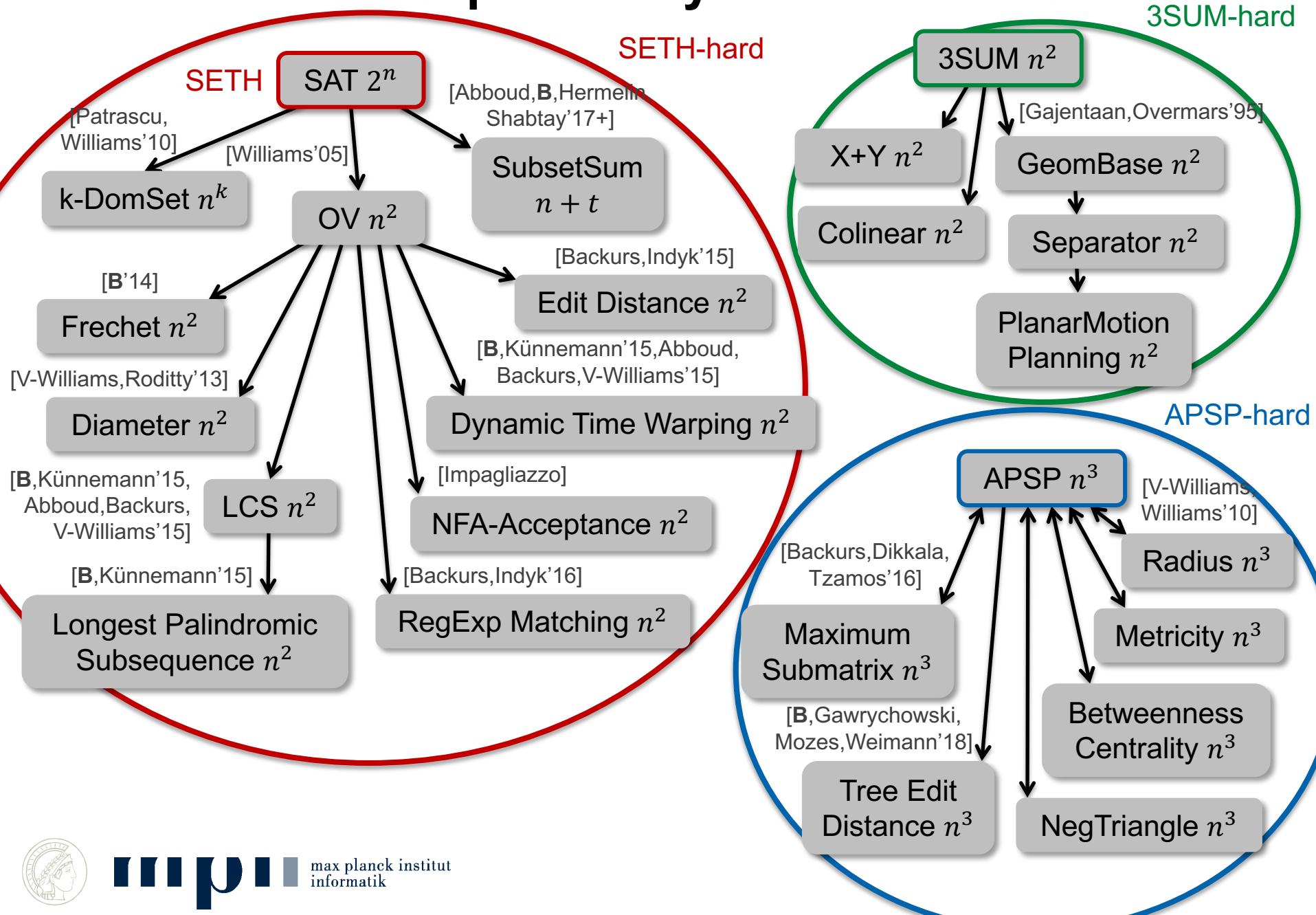
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# Fine-Grained Complexity - Hardness in P

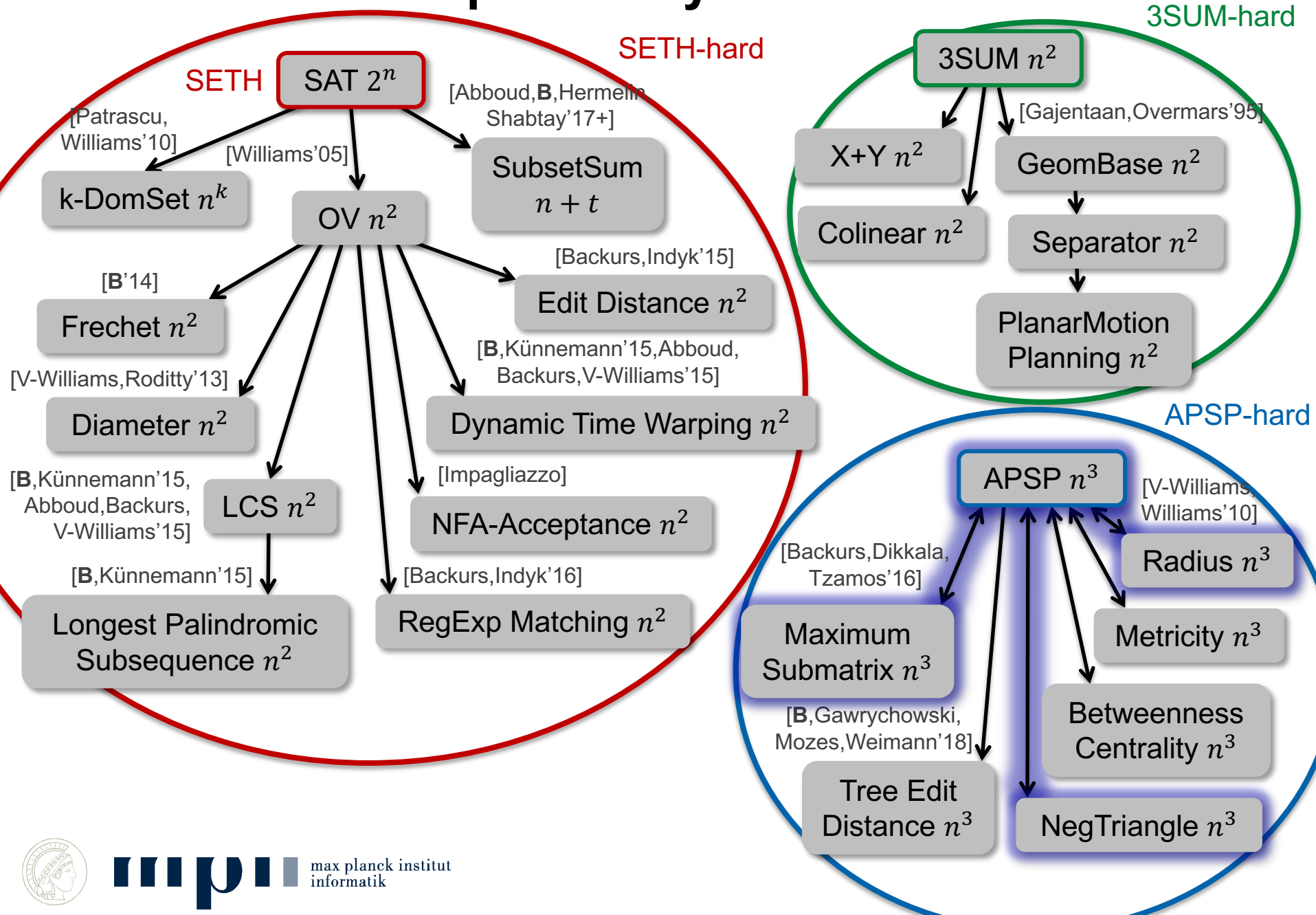
Lecture 2: APSP

Karl Bringmann

# Landscape of Polytime Problems



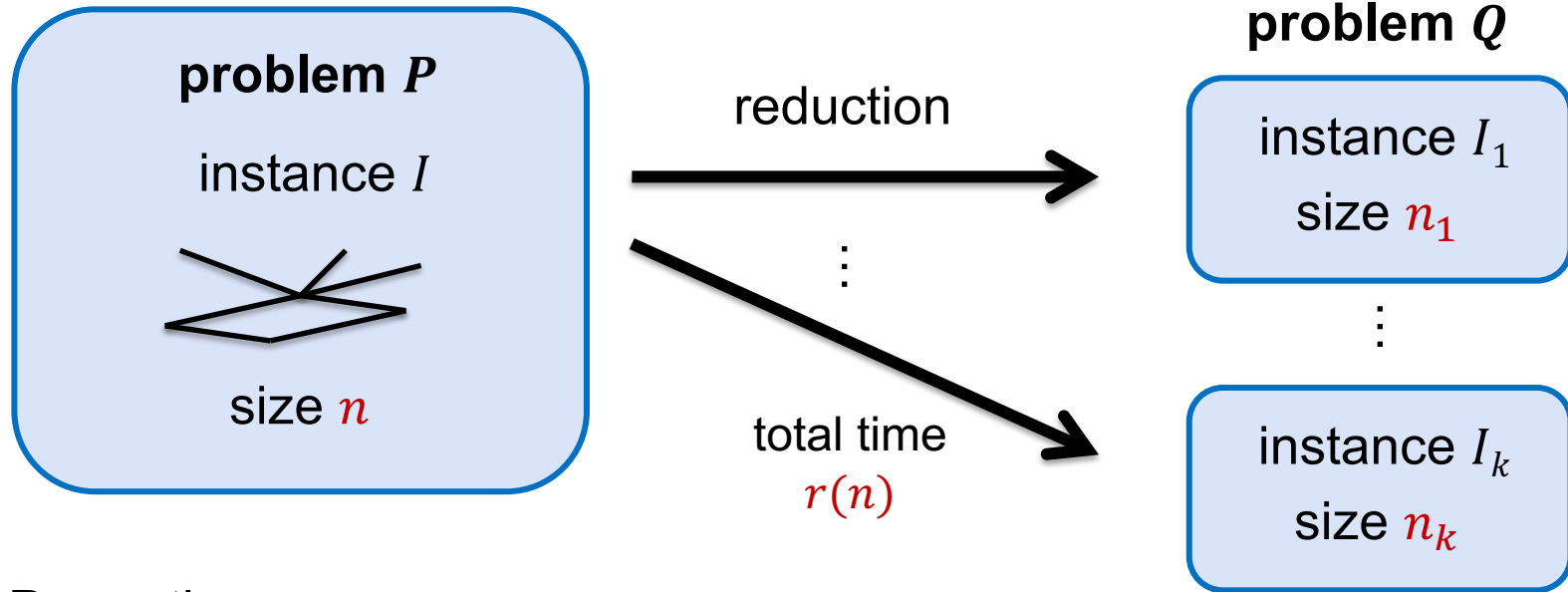
# Landscape of Polytime Problems



# Subcubic Reductions

A **subcubic reduction** from  $P$  to  $Q$  is

an algorithm  $A$  for  $P$  with **oracle** access to  $Q$  s.t.:



Properties:

for any instance  $I$ , algorithm  $A(I)$  correctly solves problem  $P$  on  $I$

$A$  runs in time  $r(n) = O(n^{3-\gamma})$  for some  $\gamma > 0$

for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  s.t.  $\sum_{i=1}^k n_i^{3-\varepsilon} \leq n^{3-\delta}$

# Problem Definitions

## Problem All-Pairs-Shortest-Paths (APSP):

given a weighted directed graph  $G$ , compute the (length of the) **shortest path between any pair** of vertices

## APSP-Hypothesis:

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ : APSP has no  $O(n^{3-\varepsilon})$ -time algorithm

each edge has a weight in  $\{1, \dots, n^c\}$

there exists  $c > 0$  such that

Algorithms:

$O(n^3)$

[Floyd'62, Warshall'62]

...

$O\left(n^3 / 2^{\Omega(\log n)^{1/2}}\right)$

[Williams'14]



# Problem Definitions

## Problem All-Pairs-Shortest-Paths (APSP):

given a weighted directed graph  $G$ , compute the (length of the) **shortest path between any pair** of vertices

## APSP-Hypothesis:

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ : APSP has no  $O(n^{3-\varepsilon})$ -time algorithm

## Problem Min-Plus Matrix Product:

each entry in  $\{1, \dots, n^c, \infty\}$

given  $n \times n$ -matrices  $A, B$ , define their min-plus product as the  $n \times n$ -matrix  $C$  with

$$C_{i,j} = \min_{1 \leq k \leq n} A_{i,k} + B_{k,j}$$

Naive algorithm:  $O(n^3)$



# Subcubic Equivalences

*this is surprising!*

*this is useful!*

compute all pairwise distances in a graph

compute matrix  $C$  with

$$C_{i,j} = \min_{1 \leq k \leq n} A_{i,k} + B_{k,j}$$

## Problem NegTriangle:

Given a weighted directed graph  $G$

Decide whether there are vertices  $i, j, k$  s.t.

$$w(j, i) + w(i, k) + w(k, j) < 0$$

APSP

non-trivial  $O(n^3)$ -algorithm,  
output size  $n^2$

Min-Plus  
Product

trivial  $O(n^3)$ -algorithm,  
output size  $n^2$

All-Pairs-  
Negative-  
Triangle

Negative  
Triangle

trivial  $O(n^3)$ -algorithm,  
output size 1

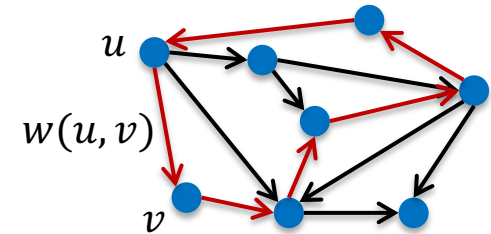
[Vassilevska-Williams, Williams'10]

[Abboud, Grandoni, Vassilevska-Williams'15]



# Easy Application: Minimum Weight Cycle

Given a weighted directed graph  $G$ ,  
find the smallest weight of any (directed) cycle



MinWeightCycle → APSP

compute all pairwise distances  $d(u, v)$ ,

the minimum weight of any cycle is  $\min_{(u,v) \in E} w(u, v) + d(v, u)$

NegTriangle → MinWeightCycle

Let  $M \geq w(i, j)$  for all  $i, j$

Add  $10 \cdot M$  to each edge weight

Then a cycle with  $k$  edges has length in  $[9 \cdot M \cdot k, 11 \cdot M \cdot k]$

So any triangle has smaller length than any 4-cycle, 5-cycle, ...

So minimum weight of any cycle is  $< 30 \cdot M$  iff there is a negative triangle

Can assume that there are no double edges, since input graph is tripartite

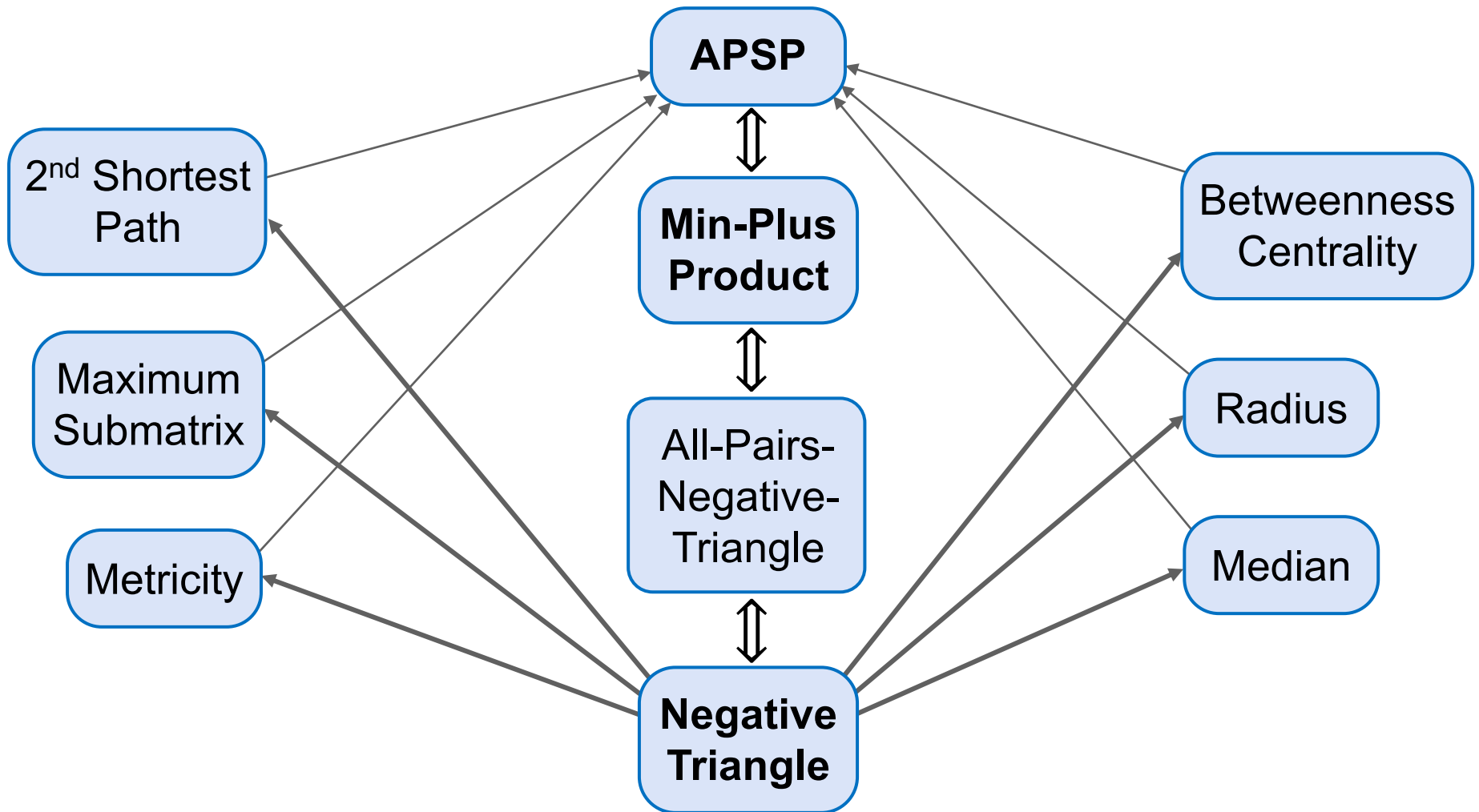




# More Applications

*this is surprising!*

*this is useful!*



[Vassilevska-Williams, Williams'10]

[Abboud, Grandoni, Vassilevska-Williams'15]



# **I. Equivalence of APSP and NegTriangle**

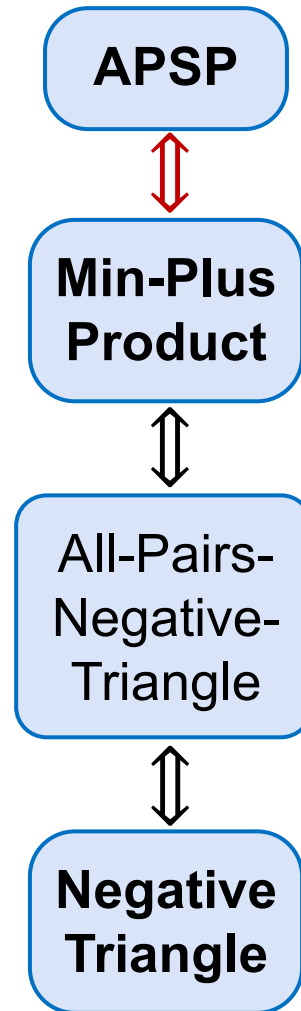
## II. Example Applications

## III. Further Topics

## IV. Conclusion



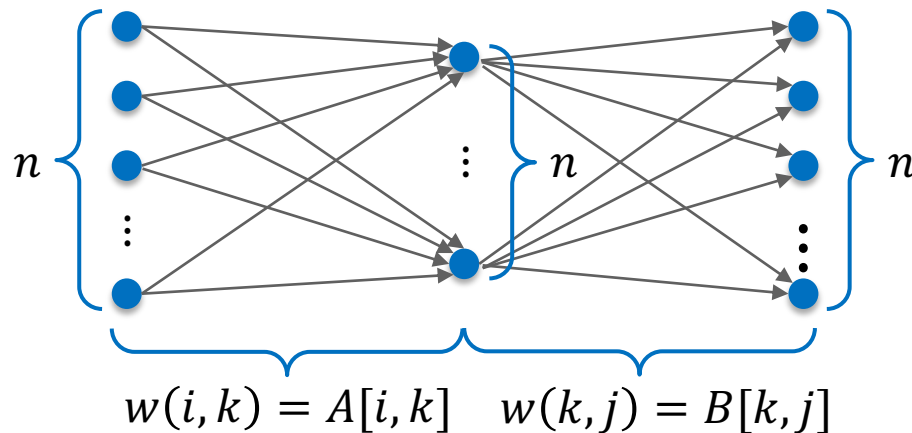
# Subcubic Equivalences



# APSP $\Leftrightarrow$ Min-Plus-Product

**Thm:** If APSP is in time  $T(n)$  then Min-Plus Product is in time  $O(T(n))$ .

**Proof:** Given matrices  $A, B$ , construct graph:



# APSP $\Leftrightarrow$ Min-Plus-Product

**Thm:** If APSP is in time  $T(n)$  then Min-Plus Product is in time  $O(T(n))$ .

**Thm:** If Min-Plus Product is in time  $T(n)$  then APSP is in  $O(T(n) \log n)$ .

**Proof:** Given graph  $G$  with adjacency matrix  $A$

Add selfloops with cost 0, this yields adjacency matrix  $\hat{A}$

Square  $\lceil \log n \rceil$  times using Min-Plus Product:

$$B := \hat{A}^{2^{\lceil \log n \rceil}}$$

Then  $B_{i,j}$  is the length of the shortest path from  $i$  to  $j$

*Property:*  $(\hat{A}^k)_{i,j} = \text{length of shortest path from } i \text{ to } j \text{ using } \leq k \text{ hops}$

# APSP $\Leftrightarrow$ Min-Plus-Product

**Thm:** If APSP is in time  $T(n)$  then Min-Plus Product is in time  $O(T(n))$ .

**Thm:** If Min-Plus Product is in time  $T(n)$  then APSP is in  $O(T(n) \log n)$ .

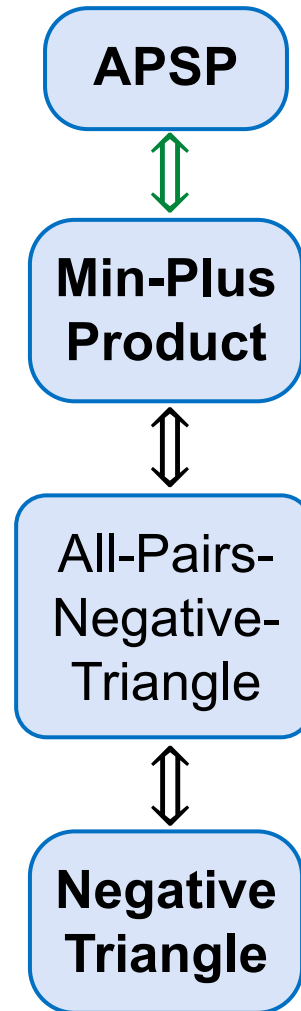
APSP and Min-Plus Product are **subcubic equivalent**

**Cor:** APSP has an  $O(n^{3-\varepsilon})$  algorithm for some  $\varepsilon > 0$  if and only if Min-Plus Product has an  $O(n^{3-\delta})$  algorithm for some  $\delta > 0$

**Cor:** Min-Plus Product is in time  $O\left(n^3 / 2^{\Omega(\log n)^{1/2}}\right)$



# Subcubic Equivalences



# Triangle Problems

## Negative Triangle

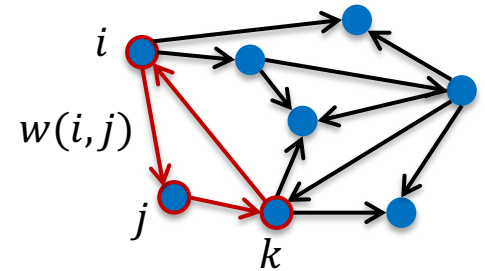
each edge has a weight in  $\{-n^c, \dots, n^c\}$

Given a weighted directed graph  $G$

Decide whether **there are vertices  $i, j, k$**  s.t.

$$w(j, i) + w(i, k) + w(k, j) < 0$$

Naive algorithm:  $O(n^3)$



*Intermediate problem:*

## All-Pairs-Negative-Triangle

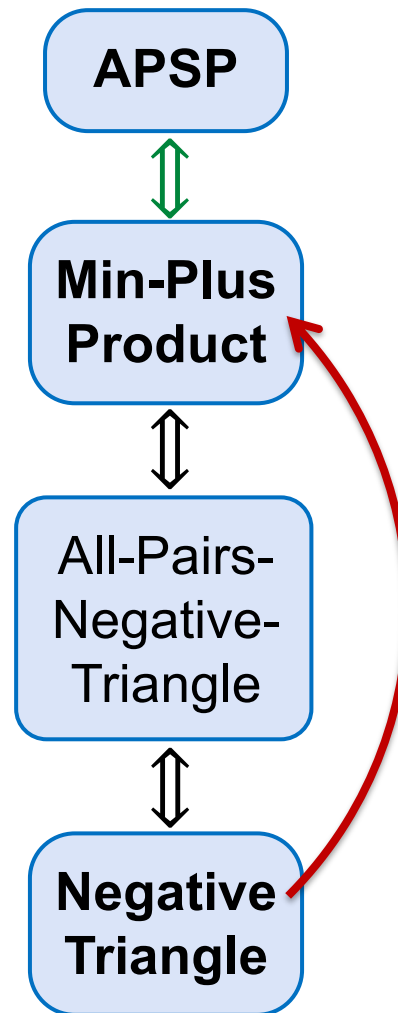
Given a weighted directed graph  $G$  with vertex set  $V = I \cup J \cup K$

Decide **for every  $i \in I, j \in J$  whether there is a vertex  $k \in K$**  s.t.

$$w(j, i) + w(i, k) + w(k, j) < 0$$



# Subcubic Equivalences



# Neg-Triangle to Min-Plus-Product

Given a weighted directed graph  $G$  on vertex set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

Adjacency matrix  $A$ :

$A_{i,j}$  = weight of edge  $(i,j)$ , or  $\infty$  if the edge does not exist

1. Compute Min-Plus Product  $B := A * A$ :

$$B_{i,j} = \min_k A_{i,k} + A_{k,j}$$

2. Compute  $\min_{i,j} A_{j,i} + B_{i,j}$

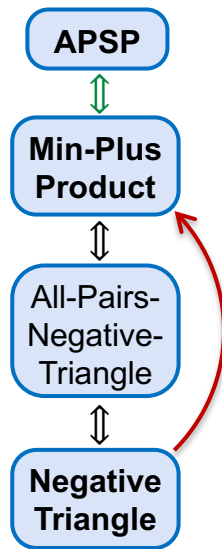
$$= \min_{i,j,k} A_{j,i} + A_{i,k} + A_{k,j}$$

= the smallest weight of any triangle

thus we solved Negative Triangle

Running Time:  $T_{\text{NegTriangle}}(n) \leq T_{\text{MinPlus}}(n) + O(n^2)$

→ subcubic reduction

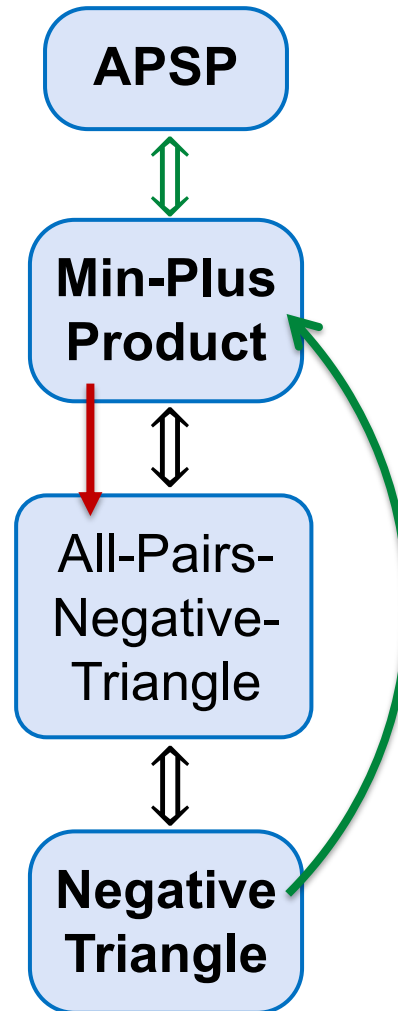


$A$ :

3	1	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	4	$\infty$
1	5	$\infty$	2
2	$\infty$	7	1



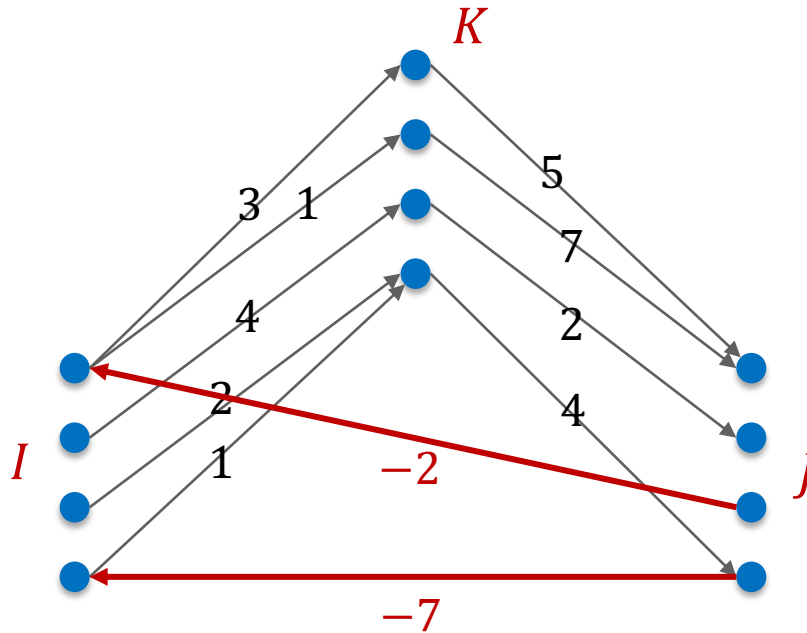
# Subcubic Equivalences



# Min-Plus to All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle

3	1	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	4	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	2
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	1

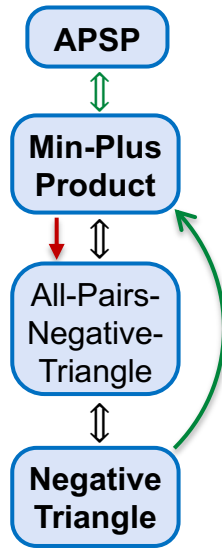
*A*



5	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
7	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	2	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	4

*B*

$n = 4$  in the picture



Add all edges from  $J$  to  $I$  with (carefully chosen) weights  $w(j, i)$

Run All-Pairs-Negative-Triangle algorithm

Result: for every  $i, j$ , is there a  $k$  such that  $w(j, i) + w(i, k) + w(k, j) < 0$ ?

$$\Leftrightarrow w(i, k) + w(k, j) < -w(j, i)$$

**WANTED:** Min-Plus: for every  $i, j$ :  $\min_k w(i, k) + w(k, j)$

= minimum number  $z$  s.t. there is a  $k$  s.t.  $w(i, k) + w(k, j) < z + 1$



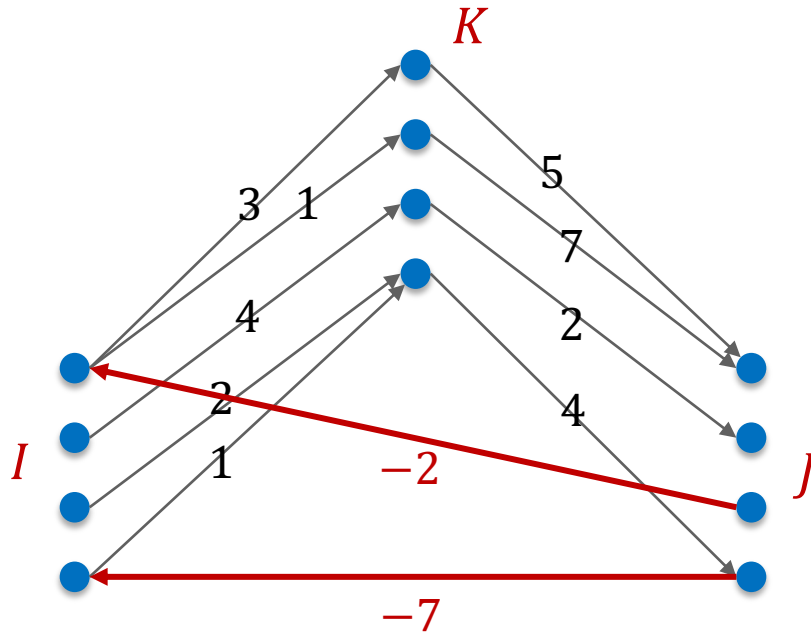
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**binary search** via  $w(j, i)$ ! **simultaneous** for all  $i, j$ !

# Min-Plus to All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle

3	1	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	4	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	2
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	1

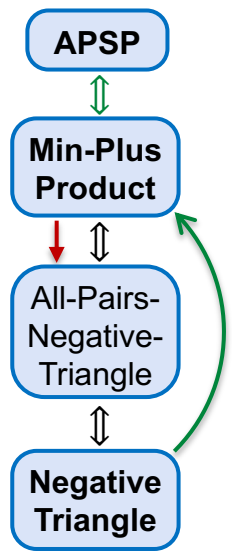
*A*



5	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
7	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	2	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	4

*B*

$n = 4$  in the picture



**binary search** via  $w(j, i)$ ! **simultaneous** for all  $i, j$ !

need that all (finite) weights are in  $\{-n^c, \dots, n^c\}$

each entry of Min-Plus Product is in  $\{-2n^c, \dots, 2n^c, \infty\}$

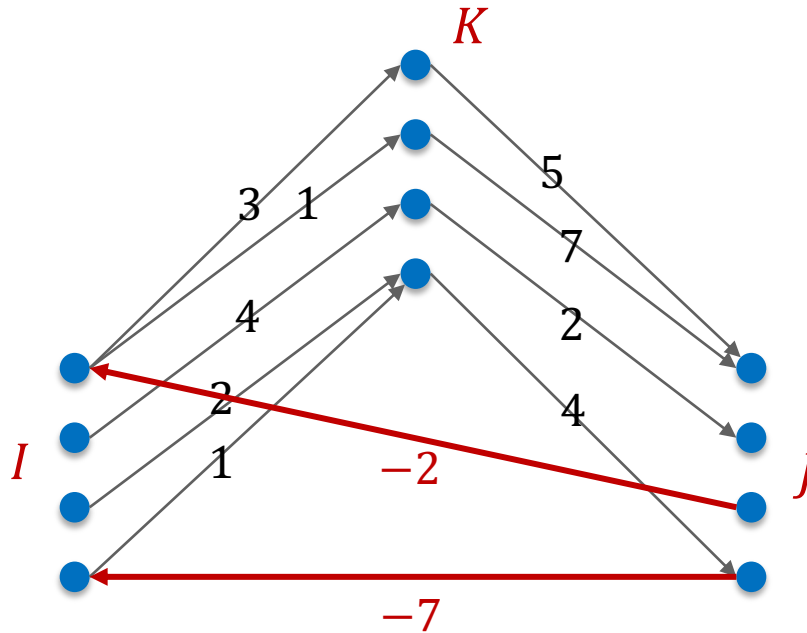
binary search takes  $\log_2(4n^c + 1) = O(\log n)$  steps



# Min-Plus to All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle

3 1 ∞ ∞  
 ∞ ∞ 4 ∞  
 ∞ ∞ ∞ 2  
 ∞ ∞ ∞ 1

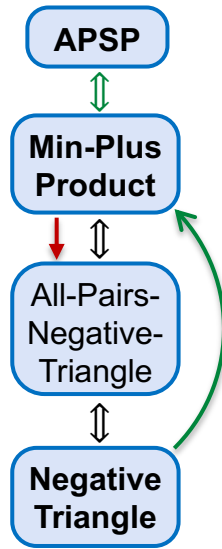
A



5 ∞ ∞ ∞  
 7 ∞ ∞ ∞  
 ∞ 2 ∞ ∞  
 ∞ ∞ ∞ 4

B

$n = 4$  in the picture



**binary search** via  $w(j, i)$ ! **simultaneous** for all  $i, j$ !

for all  $i, j$ : initialize  $m(i, j) := -2n^c$  and  $M(i, j) := 2n^c$

repeat  $\log(4n^c)$  times:

for all  $i, j$ : set  $w(j, i) := -[(m(i, j) + M(i, j))/2]$

compute All-Pairs-Negative-Triangle

for all  $i, j$ : if  $i, j$  is in negative triangle:  $M(i, j) := -w(j, i) - 1$

otherwise:  $m(i, j) := -w(j, i)$

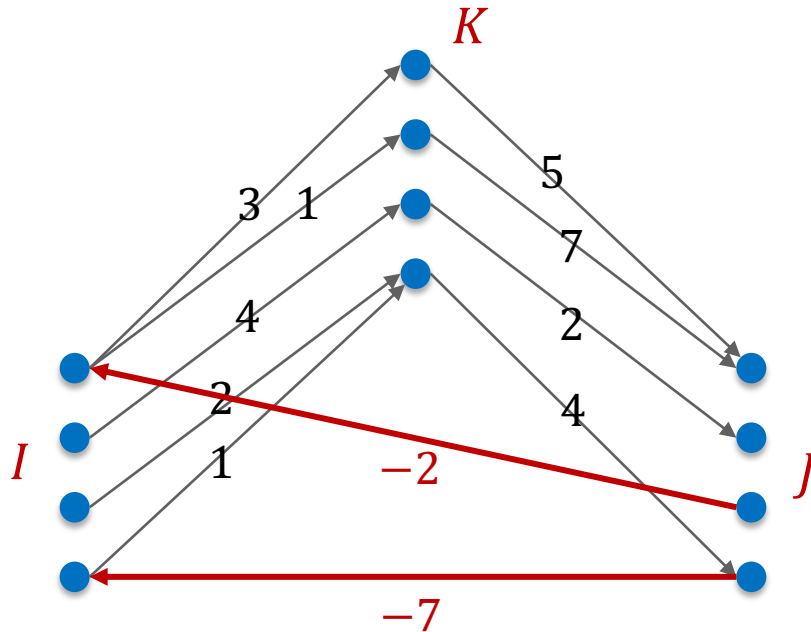
(missing: handling of  $\infty$ )



# Min-Plus to All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle

3	1	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	4	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	2
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	1

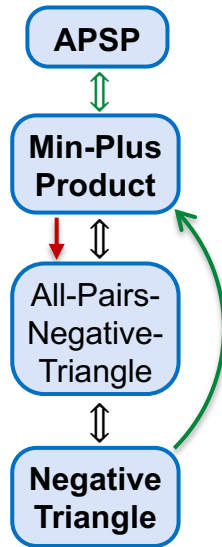
*A*



5	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
7	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	2	$\infty$	$\infty$
$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	4

*B*

$n = 4$  in the picture



binary search takes  $\log_2(4n^c + 1) = O(\log n)$  steps

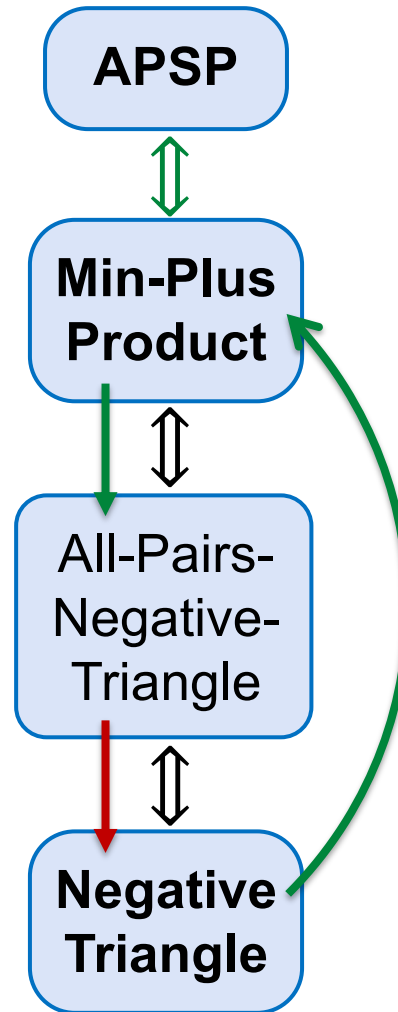
$T(n)$  algorithm for All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle yields

$O(T(n) \log n)$  algorithm for Min-Plus Product

In particular:  $O(n^{3-\varepsilon})$  algorithm for All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle for some  $\varepsilon > 0$  implies  $O(n^{3-\varepsilon})$  algorithm for Min-Plus Product for some  $\varepsilon > 0$



# Subcubic Equivalences





# All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle to Neg-Triangle

**Negative Triangle** Given graph  $G$

Decide whether there are vertices  $i, j, k$  such that

$$w(j, i) + w(i, k) + w(k, j) < 0$$

**All-Pairs-Negative-Triangle** Given graph  $G$  with vertex set  $V = I \cup J \cup K$

Decide for every  $i \in I, j \in J$  whether there is a vertex  $k \in K$  such that

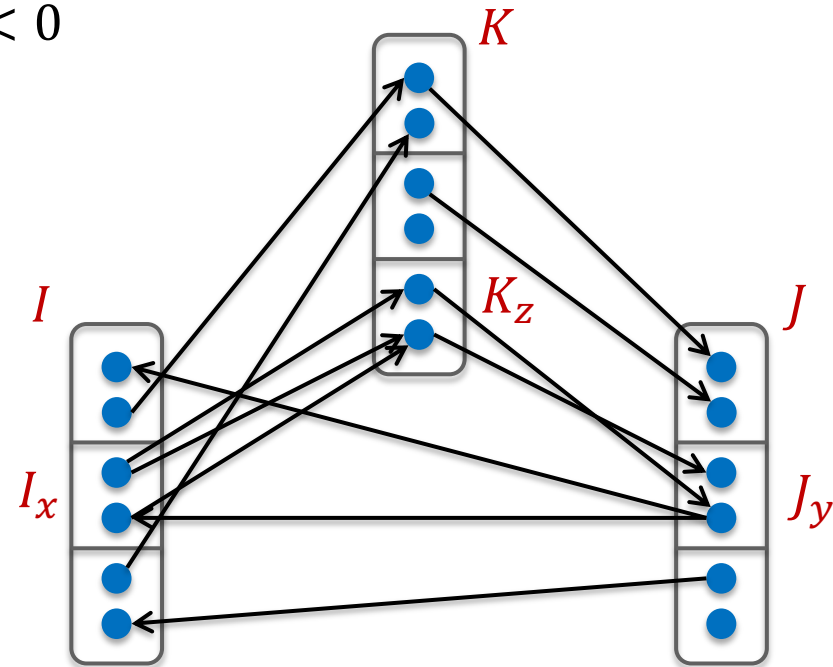
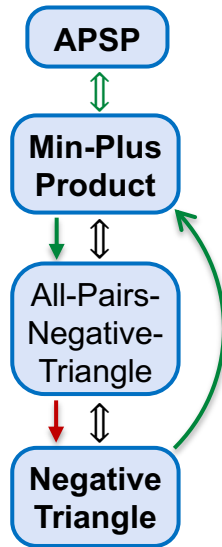
$$w(j, i) + w(i, k) + w(k, j) < 0$$

Split  $I, J, K$  into  $n/s$  parts of size  $s$ :

$$I_1, \dots, I_{n/s}, J_1, \dots, J_{n/s}, K_1, \dots, K_{n/s}$$

For each of the  $(n/s)^3$  triples  $(I_x, J_y, K_z)$ :

consider graph  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$



# All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle to Neg-Triangle

Initialize  $C$  as  $n \times n$  all-zeroes matrix

For each of the  $(n/s)^3$  triples of parts  $(I_x, J_y, K_z)$ :

While  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$  contains a negative triangle:

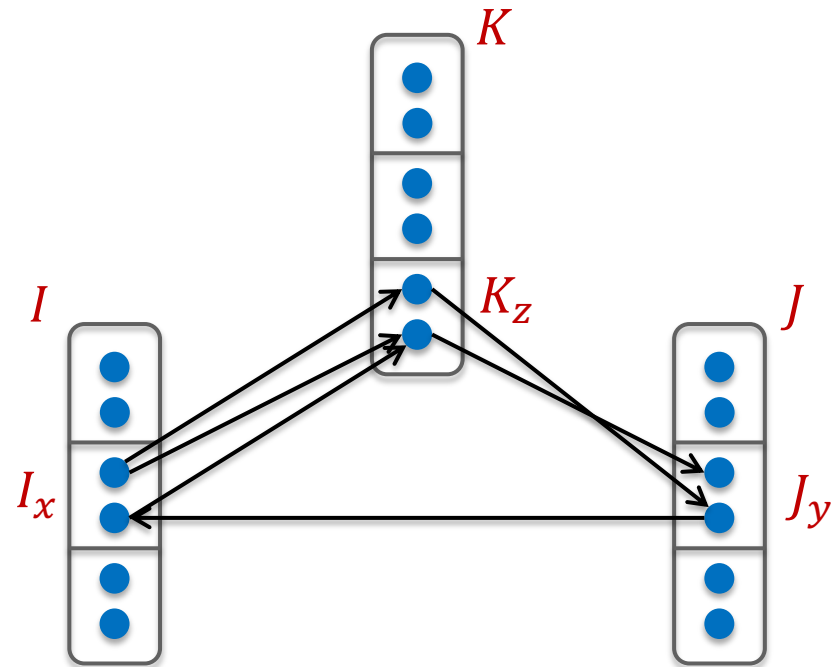
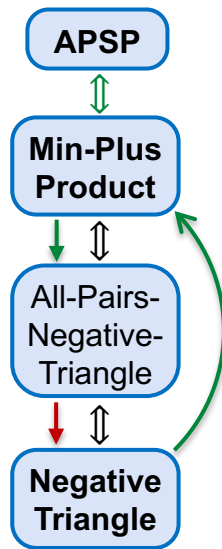
Find a negative triangle  $(i, j, k)$  in  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$

Set  $C[i, j] := 1$

Set  $w(i, j) := \infty$

$(i, j)$  is in no more negative triangles

- ✓ guaranteed termination:  
can set  $\leq n^2$  weights to  $\infty$
- ✓ correctness:  
if  $(i, j)$  is in negative triangle,  
we will find one



# All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle to Neg-Triangle

Find a negative triangle  $(i, j, k)$  in  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$

How to **find** a negative triangle  
if we can only **decide** whether one exists?

Partition  $I_x$  into  $I_x^{(1)}, I_x^{(2)}$ ,  $J_y$  into  $J_y^{(1)}, J_y^{(2)}$ ,  $K_z$  into  $K_z^{(1)}, K_z^{(2)}$

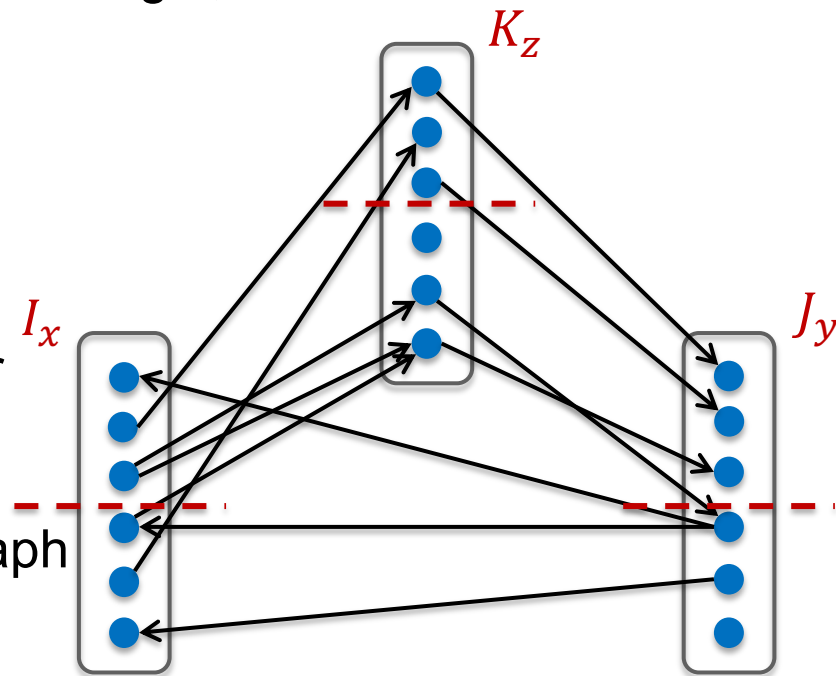
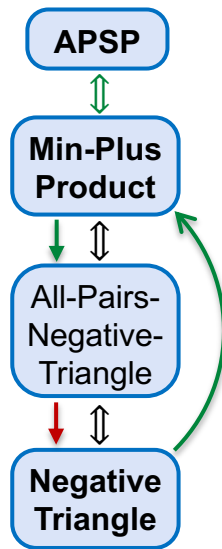
Since  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$  contains a negative triangle,  
at least one of the  $2^3$  subgraphs

$$G[I_x^{(a)} \cup J_y^{(b)} \cup K_z^{(c)}]$$

contains a negative triangle

Decide for each such subgraph whether  
it contains a negative triangle

Recursively find a triangle in one subgraph



# All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle to Neg-Triangle

Find a negative triangle  $(i, j, k)$  in  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$

How to **find** a negative triangle  
if we can only **decide** whether one exists?

Partition  $I_x$  into  $I_x^{(1)}, I_x^{(2)}$ ,  $J_y$  into  $J_y^{(1)}, J_y^{(2)}$ ,  $K_z$  into  $K_z^{(1)}, K_z^{(2)}$

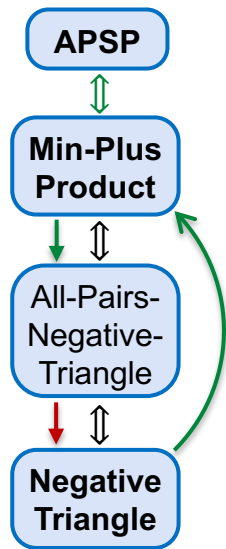
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$$G[I_x^{(a)} \cup J_y^{(b)} \cup K_z^{(c)}]$$

contains a negative triangle

Decide for each such subgraph whether  
it contains a negative triangle

Recursively find a triangle in one subgraph



Running Time:

$$T_{\text{FindNegTriangle}}(n) \leq$$

$$2^3 \cdot T_{\text{DecideNegTriangle}}(n)$$

$$+ T_{\text{FindNegTriangle}}(n/2)$$

---

$$= O(T_{\text{DecideNegTriangle}}(n))$$



# All-Pairs-Neg-Triangle to Neg-Triangle

Initialize  $C$  as  $n \times n$  all-zeroes matrix

For each of the  $(n/s)^3$  triples of parts  $(I_x, J_y, K_z)$ :

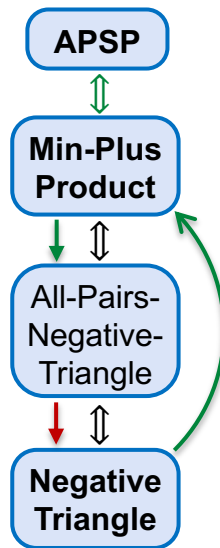
While  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$  contains a negative triangle:

Find a negative triangle  $(i, j, k)$  in  $G[I_x \cup J_y \cup K_z]$

Set  $C[i, j] := 1$

Set  $w(i, j) := \infty$

} (\*)



## Running Time:

$$(*) = O(T_{\text{FindNegTriangle}}(s)) = O(T_{\text{DecideNegTriangle}}(s))$$

$$\text{Total time: } ((\# \text{triples}) + (\# \text{triangles found})) \cdot (*)$$

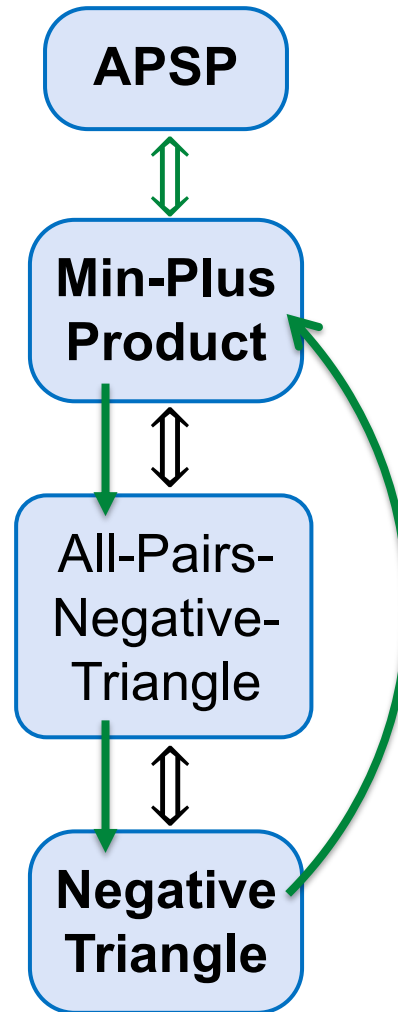
$$\leq ((n/s)^3 + n^2) \cdot T_{\text{DecideNegTriangle}}(s)$$

$$\text{Set } s = n^{1/3} \text{ and assume } T_{\text{DecideNegTriangle}}(n) = O(n^{3-\epsilon})$$

$$\text{Total time: } O(n^2 \cdot n^{1-\epsilon/3}) = O(n^{3-\epsilon/3})$$



# Subcubic Equivalences



I. Equivalence of APSP and NegTriangle

**II. Example Applications**

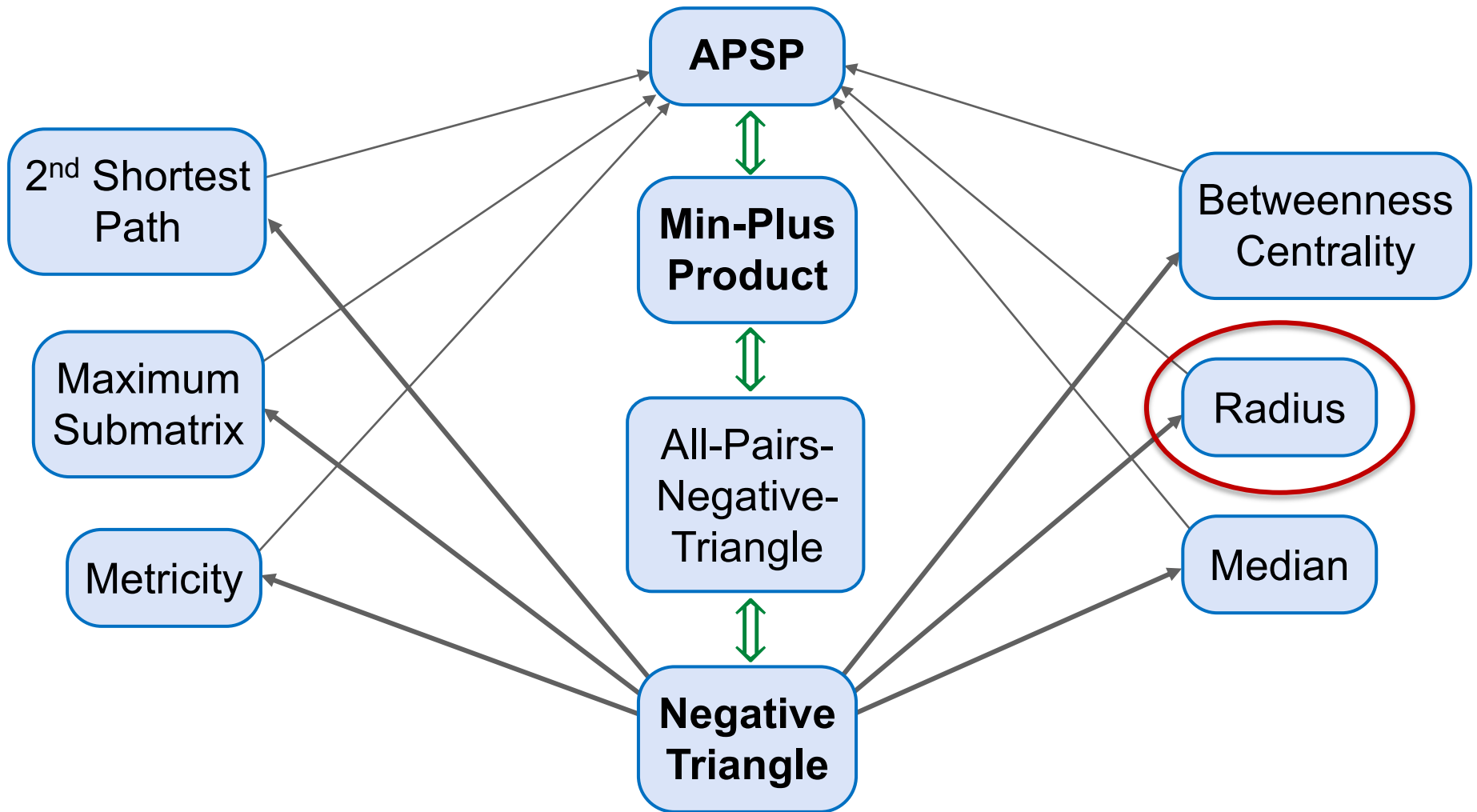
III. Further Topics

IV. Conclusion



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# Subcubic Equivalences





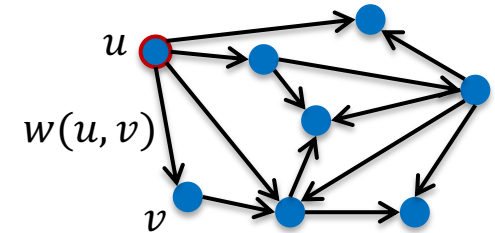
# Radius

$G$  is a weighted directed graph

$d(u, v)$  is the distance from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G$

**Radius:**  $\min_u \max_v d(u, v)$

$u$  is in some sense the *most central vertex*



Radius



APSP

compute all pairwise distances,  
then evaluate definition of radius in time  $O(n^2)$

→ subcubic reduction

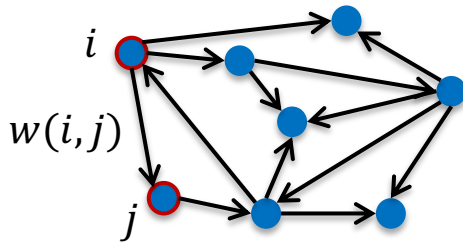
⇒ Radius is in time  $O\left(n^3 / 2^{\Omega(\log n)^{1/2}}\right)$



# Negative Triangle to Radius

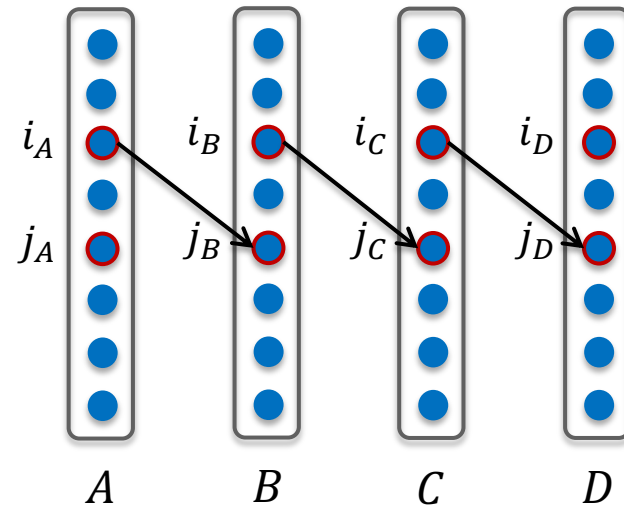
**Negative Triangle** instance:

graph  $G$  with  $n$  nodes,  
edge-weights in  $\{-n^c, \dots, n^c\}$



**Radius** instance:

graph  $H$  with  $O(n)$  nodes,  
edge-weights in  $\{0, \dots, O(n^c)\}$

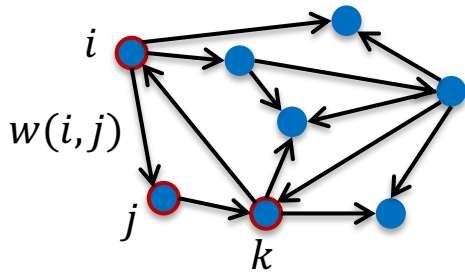


$$M := 3n^c$$

- 1) Make four layers with  $n$  nodes
- 2) For any edge  $(i, j)$ : Add  $(i_A, j_B)$ ,  $(i_B, j_C), (i_C, j_D)$  with weight  $M + w(i, j)$

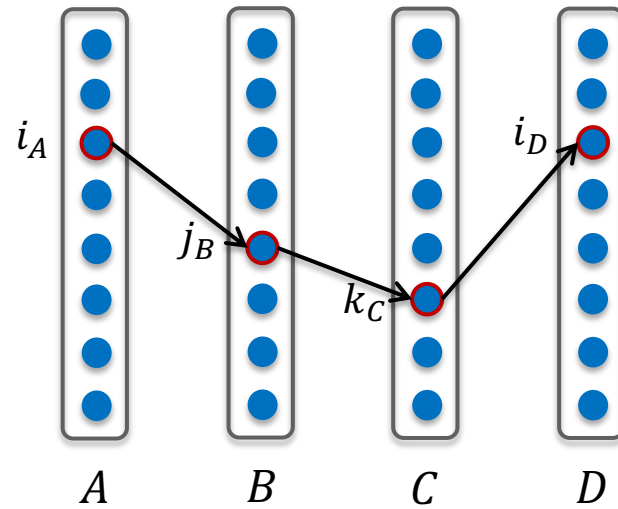
# Negative Triangle to Radius

**Negative Triangle** instance:  
graph  $G$  with  $n$  nodes,  
edge-weights in  $\{-n^c, \dots, n^c\}$



$(i, j, k)$  has weight  $W$

**Radius** instance:  
graph  $H$  with  $O(n)$  nodes,  
edge-weights in  $\{0, \dots, O(n^c)\}$



$M := 3n^c$

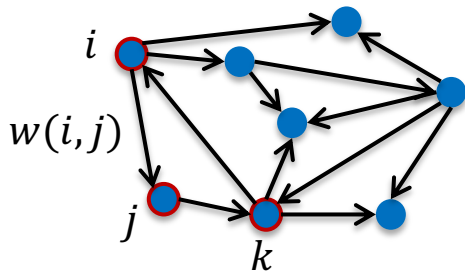
- 1) Make four layers with  $n$  nodes
- 2) For any edge  $(i, j)$ : Add  $(i_A, j_B)$ ,  $(i_B, j_C), (i_C, j_D)$  with weight  $M + w(i, j)$

$\Leftrightarrow$  path has length  $3M + W$

$\rightarrow \exists i_A, j_B, k_C, i_D$ -path of length  $\leq 3M - 1$ ?

# Negative Triangle to Radius

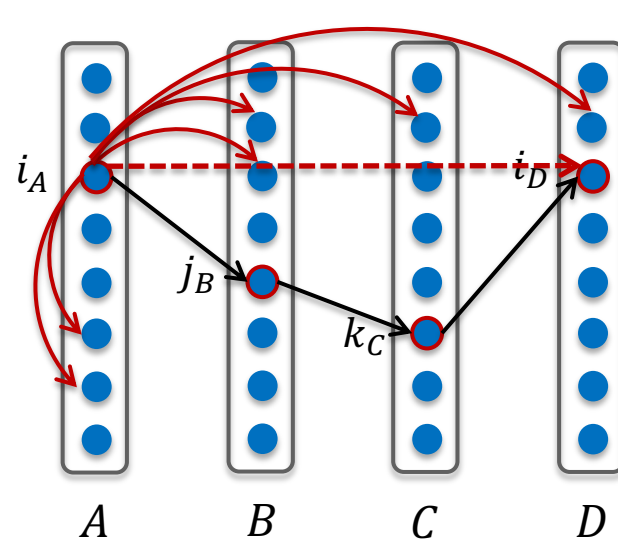
**Negative Triangle** instance:  
graph  $G$  with  $n$  nodes,  
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$(i, j, k)$  has weight  $W$

**Radius** instance:

graph  $H$  with  $O(n)$  nodes,  
edge-weights in  $\{0, \dots, O(n^c)\}$



$M := 3n^c$

- 1) Make four layers with  $n$  nodes
- 2) For any edge  $(i, j)$ : Add  $(i_A, j_B)$ ,  $(i_B, j_C), (i_C, j_D)$  with weight  $M + w(i, j)$
- 3) Add edges of weight  $3M - 1$  from any  $i_A$  to all nodes except  $i_D$

$\Leftrightarrow$  path has length  $3M + W$

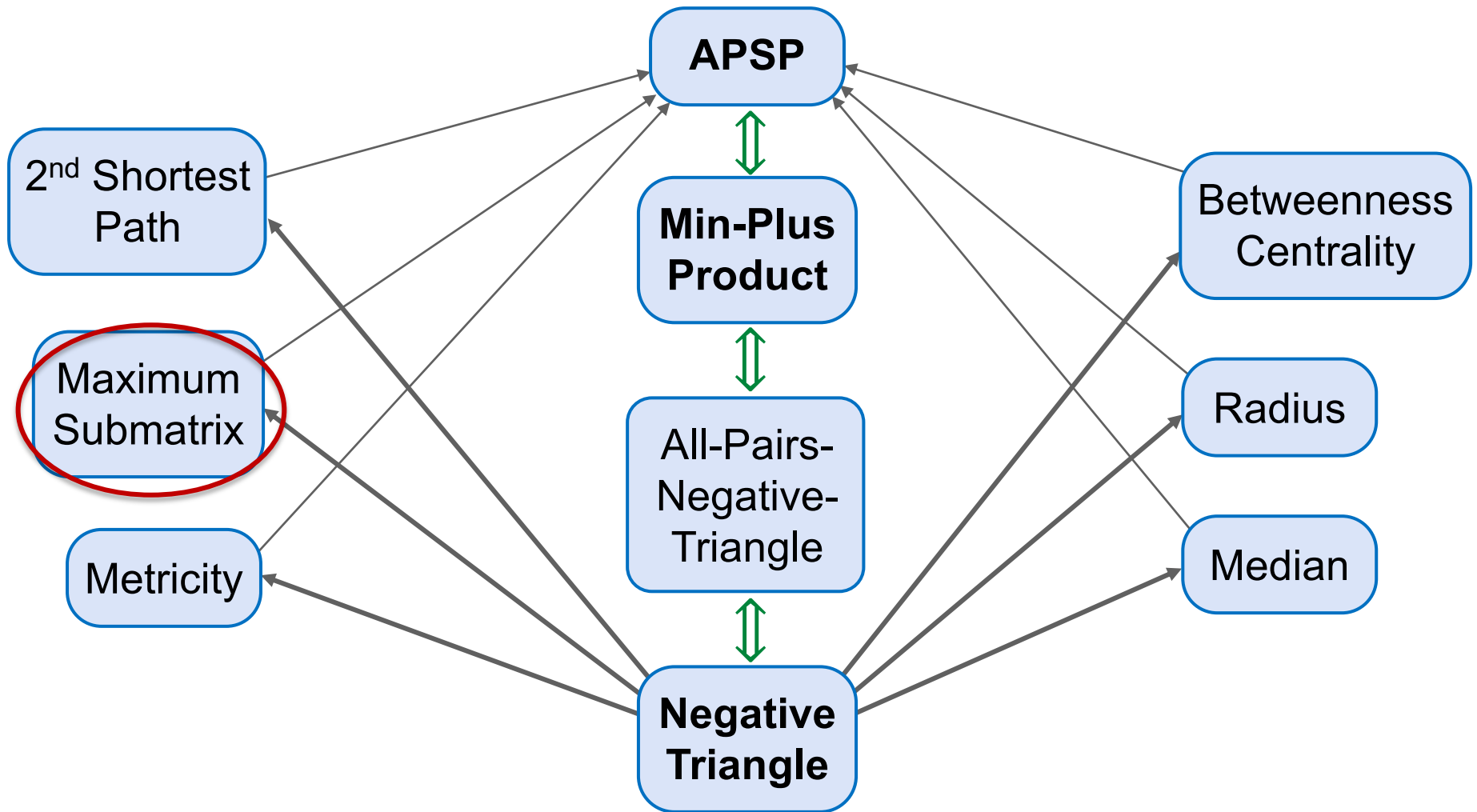
$\rightarrow \exists i_A, j_B, k_C, i_D$ -path of length  $\leq 3M - 1$ ?

Radius:  $\min_u \max_v d(u, v)$

**Claim:** Radius of  $H$  is  $\leq 3M - 1$  iff there is a negative triangle in  $G$



# Subcubic Equivalences



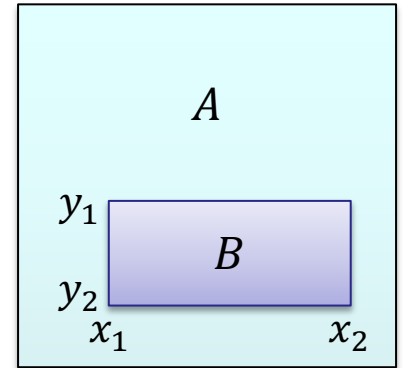
# MaxSubmatrix

## MaxSubmatrix:

given an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  with entries in  $\{-n^c, \dots, n^c\}$

$\Sigma(B) :=$  **sum of all entries** of matrix  $B$

compute maximum  $\Sigma(B)$  over all **submatrices**  $B$  of  $A$



**Thm:** MaxSubmatrix is subcubic equivalent to APSP

[Tamaki, Tokuyama'98]

[Backurs, Dikkala, Tzamos'16]

there are  $O(n^4)$  possible submatrices  $B$

computing  $\Sigma(B)$ :  $O(n^2)$

trivial running time:  $O(n^6)$

**Exercise:** design an  $O(n^3)$  algorithm



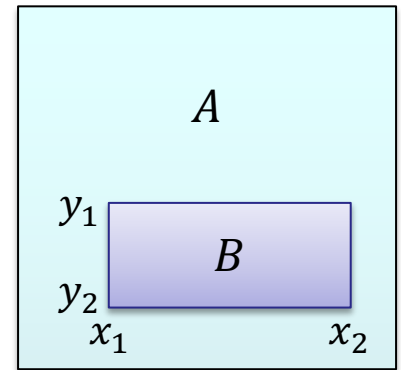
# MaxSubmatrix

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**Thm:** MaxSubmatrix is subcubic equivalent to APSP

[Tamaki, Tokuyama'98]

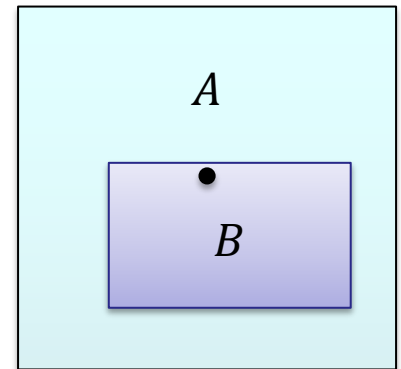
[Backurs, Dikkala, Tzamos'16]

## MaxCenteredSubmatrix:

compute maximum  $\Sigma(B)$  over all **submatrices**  $B$  of  $A$  **containing the center** of  $A$

i.e. we require  $x_1 \leq n/2 < x_2$  and  $y_1 \leq n/2 < y_2$

**Thm:** MaxCenteredSubmatrix is subcubic equ. to APSP



we only prove: NegativeTriangle  $\leq$  MaxCenteredSubmatrix

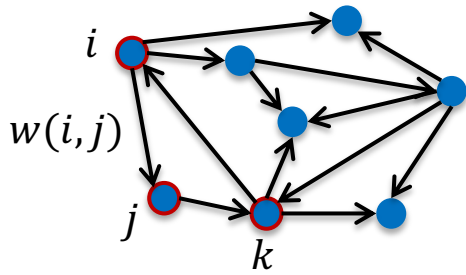
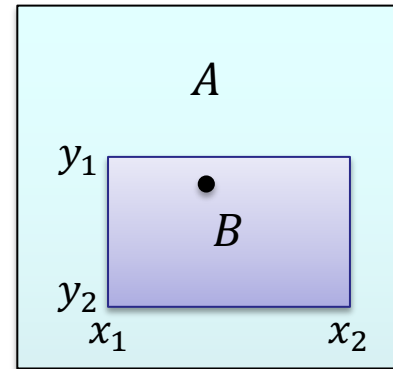
**Exercise:** MaxCenteredSubmatrix  $\leq$  APSP



# NegTriangle to MaxCentSubmatrix

**Positive Triangle** instance:  
graph  $G$  with  $n$  nodes,  
edge-weights in  $\{-n^c, \dots, n^c\}$

**MaxCenteredSubmatrix:**  
 $2n \times 2n$ -matrix  $A$   
entries in  $\{-n^{O(c)}, \dots, n^{O(c)}\}$



**Claim:** MaxCentSubmatrix of  $A$  is  $> M$  iff  $G$  has a **positive** triangle

$$M := 2n^{c+3}$$

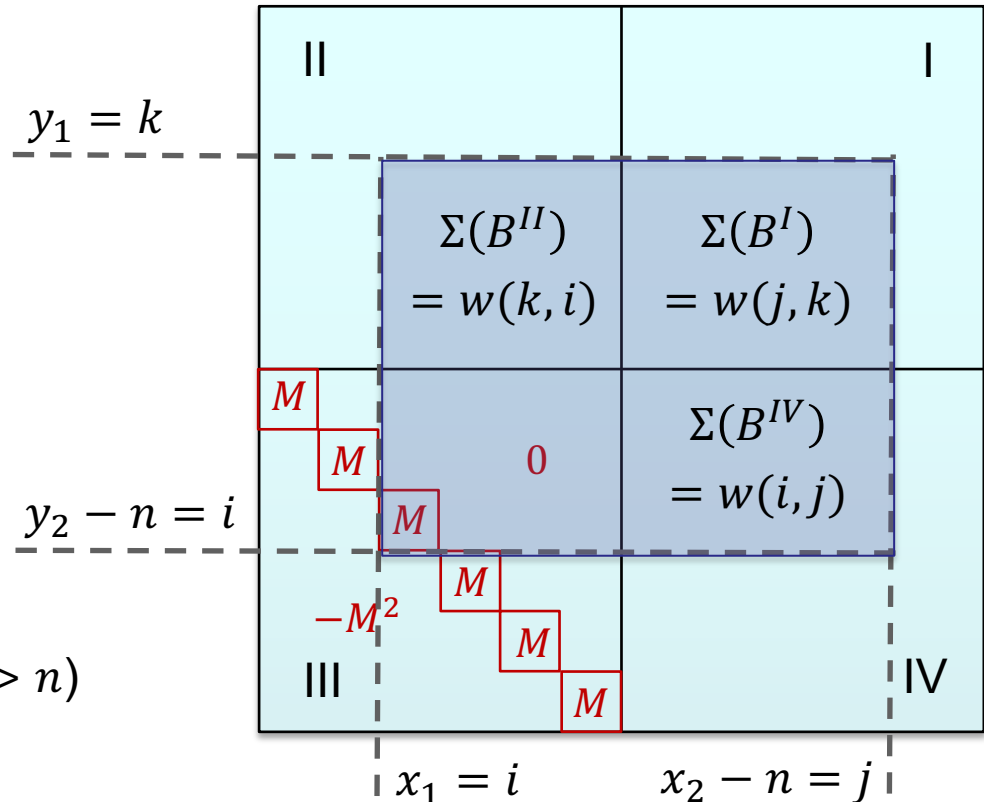
In quadrant II we want for any  $k, i$ :

$$\sum_{y=k}^n \sum_{x=i}^n A_{y,x} = w(k, i)$$

this is satisfied by defining:

$$A_{k,i} := w(k, i) - w(k + 1, i) - w(k, i + 1) + w(k + 1, i + 1)$$

(where  $w(x, y) := 0$  for  $x > n$  or  $y > n$ )





I. Equivalence of APSP and NegTriangle

II. Example Applications

**III. Further Topics**

IV. Conclusion



# Weighted k-Clique

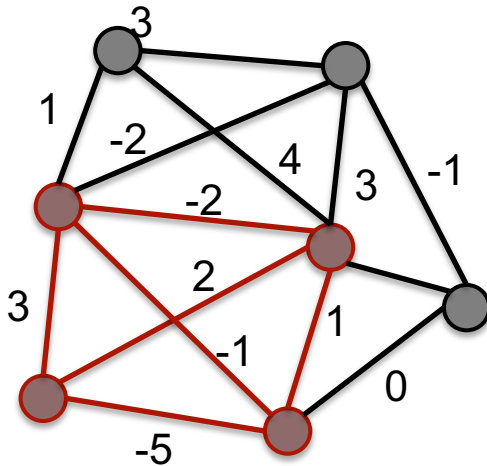
## Problem Negative- $k$ -Clique:

Given weighted directed graph  $G$

is there a  $k$ -Clique with negative total edge-weight?

## Neg- $k$ -Clique-Hypothesis:

$\forall \varepsilon > 0, k \geq 3$ : Neg- $k$ -Clique has no  $O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$  algorithm



*“Yields more lower bounds  
since the input is sparser”*

APSP



Negative  
Triangle



Neg- $k$ -  
Clique



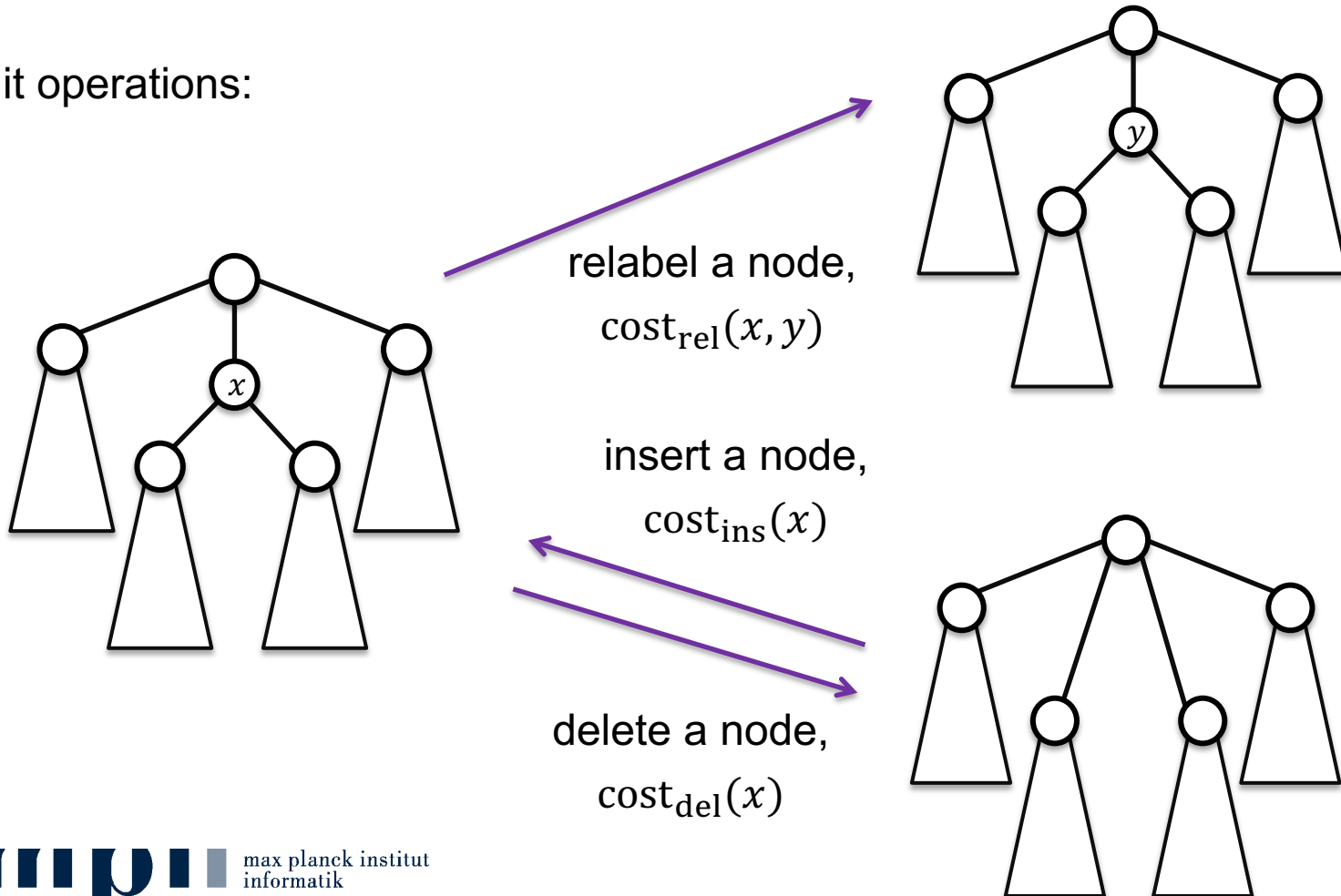
# Tree Edit Distance

Input size:  $O(n + |\Sigma|^2)$

on two rooted ordered trees  $T, T'$  with nodes labeled by  $\Sigma$

determine minimum cost of edit operations transforming  $T$  into  $T'$

edit operations:



# Tree Edit Distance

Input size:  $O(n + |\Sigma|^2)$

on two rooted ordered trees  $T, T'$  with nodes labeled by  $\Sigma$

determine minimum cost of edit operations transforming  $T$  into  $T'$

first algorithm:  $O(n^6)$

[Tai'79]

a series of papers improved to:  $O(n^3)$

[Demaine, Mozes, Rossman, Weimann'07]

**Thm:**

[B., Mozes, Gawrychowski, Weimann'18]

For alphabet  $|\Sigma| = \Omega(n)$ , a truly subcubic algorithm for tree edit distance implies a truly subcubic algorithm for **APSP**.

For  $|\Sigma| = O(1)$ , a truly subcubic algorithm for tree edit distance implies an  $O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$  algorithm for **Neg- $k$ -Clique**.

other applications: Max-Weight-Rectangle, Viterbi, ...

[Backurs, Dikkala, Tzamos'16] [Backurs, Tzamos'17]



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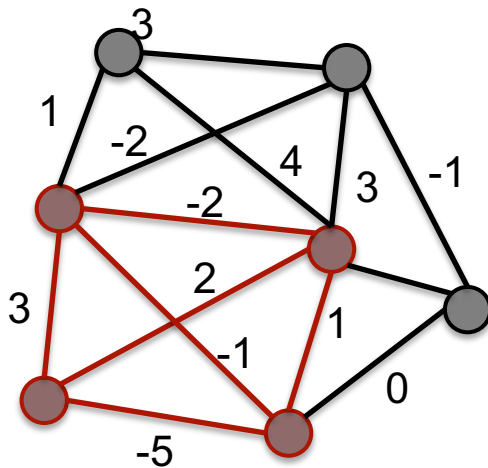
# Weighted k-Clique

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Given weighted directed graph  $G$   
is there a  $k$ -Clique with negative total edge-weight?

## Neg- $k$ -Clique-Hypothesis:

$\forall \varepsilon > 0, k \geq 3$ : Neg- $k$ -Clique has no  $O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$  algorithm



[Abboud, B, Dell,  
Nederlof'18]

OV

If OVH fails then  
Neg- $k$ -Clique is  
in time  $O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$

APSP



Negative  
Triangle



Neg- $k$ -  
Clique



*"Neg- $k$ -Clique unifies OV and APSP"*



# (Weighted) $k$ -Clique in Hypergraphs

$r$ -hypergraph:

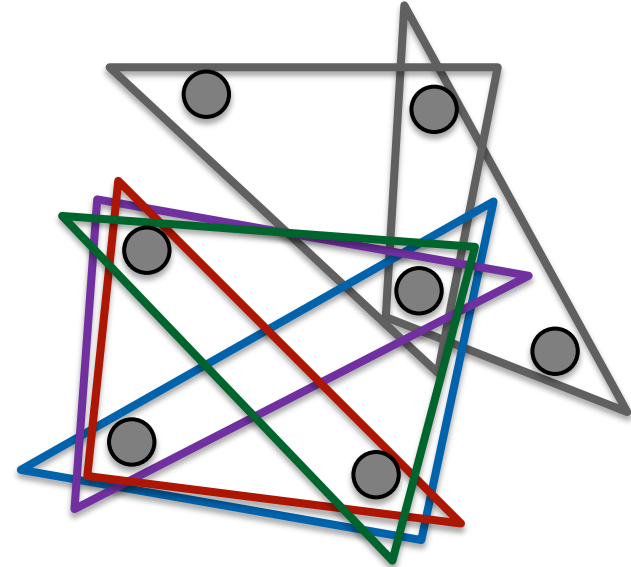
$$G = (V, E) \text{ with } E \subseteq \binom{V}{r}$$

note: 2-hypergraph = graph

$k$ -Clique in  $r$ -hypergraph:

vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  s.t.

for any  $e \subseteq \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  of size  $r$  we have  $e \in E$



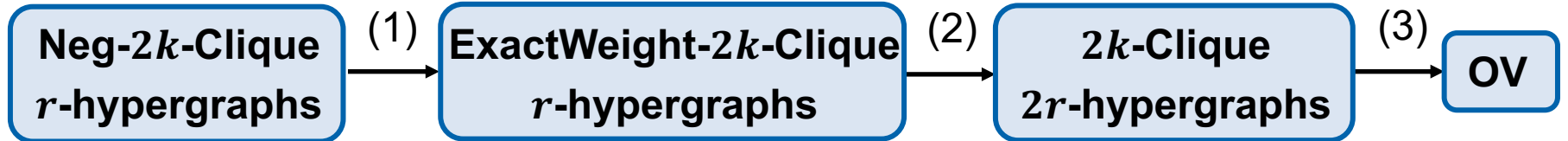
$O(n^{0.79k})$  known for  $k$ -Clique in graphs [NP'85]

$O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$  not known for **Neg- $k$ -Clique in graphs** or  **$k$ -Clique in 3-hypergraphs**

OVH fails:

$\Rightarrow$   $O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$  for **Neg- $k$ -Clique in  $r$ -hypergraphs**  
[ABDN'18] for any  $k \gg r$  and weights bounded by  $n^{f(k)}$

# Proof Outline



*From testing " $\leq$ "  
to testing " $=$ "*

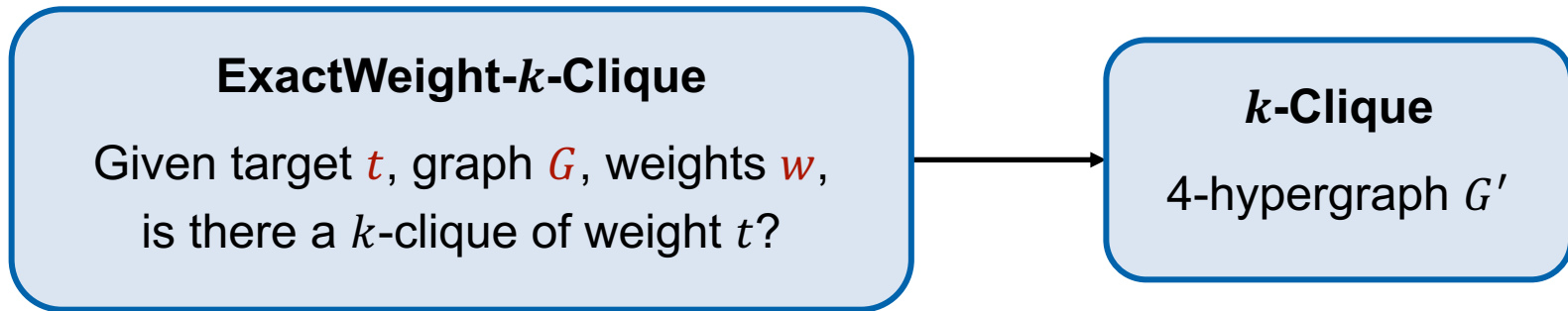
*Removing weights by  
increasing the arity*

*Implementing Constraint  
Satisfaction Problems by  
Orthogonal Vectors*



# Proof Outline – Step (2)

*Removing weights by increasing the arity*



assume weights bounded by  $W = O(n^{f(k)})$

Consider  $k$ -clique  $C$  with  $\sum_{e \subseteq C} w(e) = t$

Base- $B$  expansion:  $t = \sum_{\ell} t_{\ell} \cdot B^{\ell}$ ,  $w(e) = \sum_{\ell} w_{\ell}(e) \cdot B^{\ell}$

we have  $\sum_{e \subseteq C} w(e) = t$

$\Leftrightarrow \exists$  carries  $c_{\ell} \in \{0, \dots, O(k^2)\}$  such that  $c_{\ell} + \sum_{e \subseteq C} w_{\ell}(e) = t_{\ell} + c_{\ell+1} \cdot B \quad \forall \ell$

**guess carries:** blowup of  $O(k^2)^{\log W / \log B} = n^{o(1)}$  for  $B := \log n$





# Proof Outline – Step (2)

Removing weights by increasing the arity

$$W = O(n^{f(k)})$$

$$B := \log n$$

## ExactWeight- $k$ -Clique

Given target  $t$ , graph  $G$ , weights  $w$ ,  
is there a  $k$ -clique of weight  $t$ ?

## $k$ -Clique

4-hypergraph  $G'$

New problem after guessing carries:

Find  $k$ -clique  $C$  with  $c_\ell + \sum_{e \subseteq C} w_\ell(e) = t_\ell + c_{\ell+1} \cdot B \quad \forall \ell$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{e \subseteq C} w'_\ell(e) = 0 \quad \forall \ell \quad \text{with } w'_\ell(e) := c_\ell + \binom{k}{2} w_\ell(e) - t_\ell - c_{\ell+1} \cdot B$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_\ell (\sum_{e \subseteq C} w'_\ell(e))^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{e_1, e_2 \subseteq C} \sum_\ell w'_\ell(e_1) \cdot w'_\ell(e_2) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{h \subseteq C, |h|=4} w''(h) = 0 \quad \text{with weights bounded by } O\left(B^2 \frac{\log W}{\log B}\right) = \text{polylog } n$$

**guess all weights:**  $(\text{polylog } n)^{O(k^4)} = n^{o(1)}$  blowup

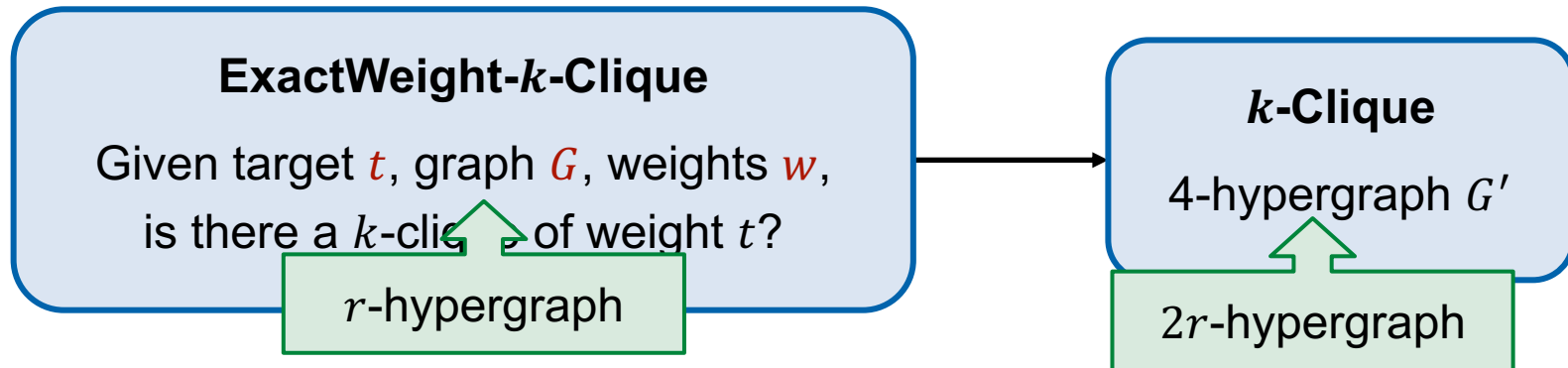


# Proof Outline – Step (2)

Removing weights by increasing the arity

$$W = O(n^{f(k)})$$

$$B := \log n$$



New problem after guessing carries:

$$\text{Find } k\text{-clique } C \text{ with } c_\ell + \sum_{e \subseteq C} w_\ell(e) = t_\ell + c_{\ell+1} \cdot B \quad \forall \ell$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_\ell (c_\ell + \sum_{e \subseteq C} w_\ell(e) - t_\ell - c_{\ell+1} \cdot B)^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_\ell (\sum_{e \subseteq C} w'_\ell(e))^2 = 0 \quad \text{with } w'_\ell(e) := c_\ell + \binom{k}{2} w_\ell(e) - t_\ell - c_{\ell+1} \cdot B$$

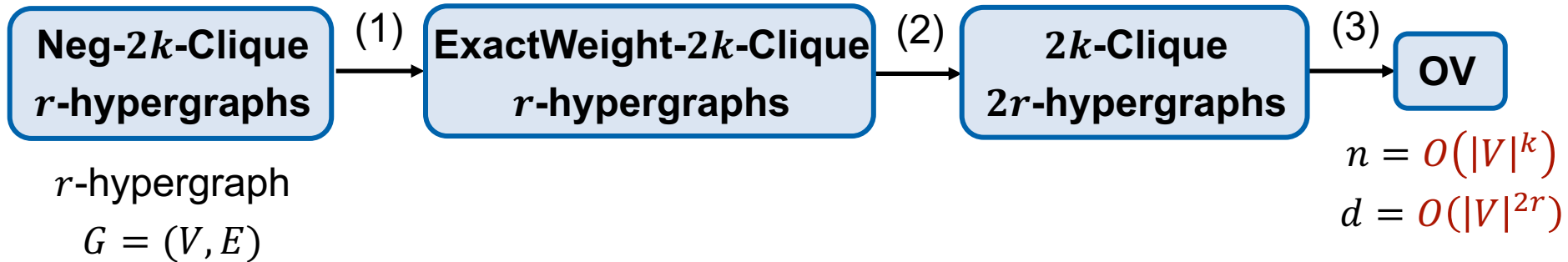
$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{e_1, e_2 \subseteq C} \sum_\ell w'_\ell(e_1) \cdot w'_\ell(e_2) = 0$$

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guess all weights:  $(\text{polylog } n)^{O(k^2)} = n^{o(1)}$  blowup



# Proof Outline – Putting it together



**OV-Hypothesis:** (moderate dimension)

$\forall \varepsilon, \delta > 0$ : OV in  $d = n^\delta$  has no  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ -time algorithm

If OVH fails, then for some  $\varepsilon, \delta$  OV is in time  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$  in  $d = n^\delta$

Then for any  $r$  and  $k \geq 2r/\delta$ , **Neg- $2k$ -Clique in  $r$ -hypergraphs** is in  $O(|V|^{2k-\varepsilon k})$



I. Equivalence of APSP and NegTriangle

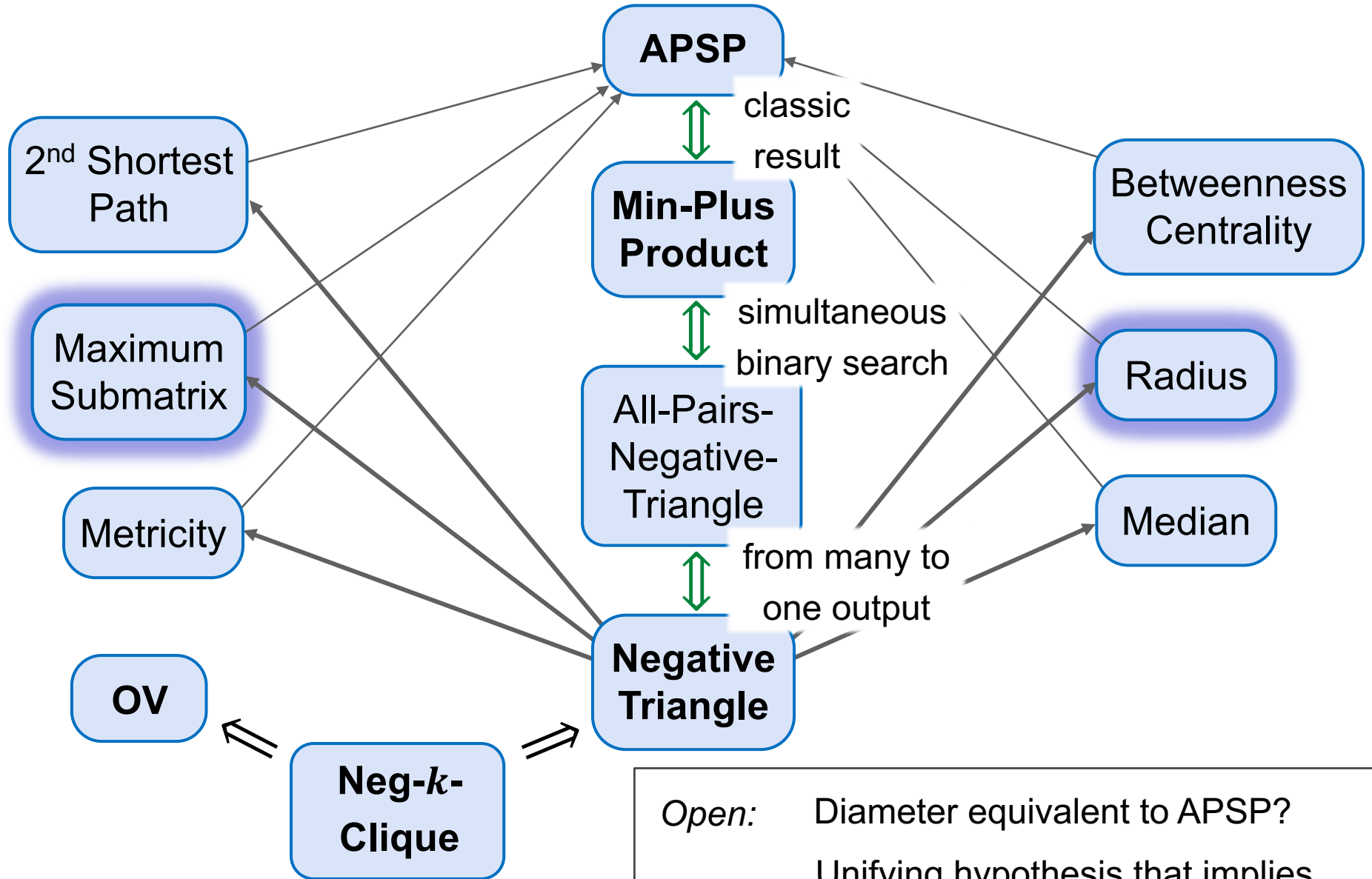
II. Example Applications

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# Conclusion



*Open:* Diameter equivalent to APSP?  
Unifying hypothesis that implies  
OV-H, APSP-H and 3SUM-H?

