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Metric dimension parameterized by treewidth in chordal graphs

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Abstract. The metric dimension has been introduced independently by Harary, Melter [HM75] and Slater [Sla75] in 1975 to identify vertices of a graph G using its distances to a subset of vertices of G . A *resolving set* X of a graph G is a subset of vertices such that, for every pair (u, v) of vertices of G , there is a vertex x in X such that the distance between x and u and the distance between x and v are distinct. The metric dimension of the graph is the minimum size of a resolving set. Computing the metric dimension of a graph is NP-hard even on split graphs and interval graphs.

Bonnet and Purohit [BP21] proved that the metric dimension problem is W[1]-hard parameterized by treewidth. Li and Pilipczuk strengthened this result by showing that it is NP-hard for graphs of treewidth 24 in [LP22]. In this article, we prove that metric dimension is FPT parameterized by treewidth in chordal graphs.

1 Introduction

Determining the position of an agent on a network is a central problem. One way to determine its position is to place sensors on nodes of the network and the agents try to determine their positions using their positions with respect to these sensors. More formally, assume that agents know the topology of the graph. Can they, by simply looking at their position with respect to the sensors determine for sure their position in the network? Conversely, where do sensors have to be placed to ensure that any agent at any possible position can easily determine for sure its position? These questions received a considerable attention in the last decades and have been studied in combinatorics under different names such as metric dimension, identifying codes, locating dominating sets...

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph and s, u, v be three vertices of G . We say that s *resolves* the pair (u, v) if the distance between s and u is different from the distance between s and v . A *resolving set* of a graph $G = (V, E)$ is a subset S of vertices of G such that any vertex of G is identified by its distances to the vertices of the resolving set. In other words, S is a resolving set if for every pair (u, v) of vertices of G , there is a vertex s of S such that s resolves (u, v) . The *metric dimension* of G , denoted by $\dim(G)$, is the smallest size of a resolving set of G .

This notion has been introduced in 1975 by Slater [Sla75] for trees and by Harary and Melter [HM75] for graphs to simulate the moves of a sonar. The

associated decision problem, called the METRIC DIMENSION problem, is defined as follows: given a graph G and an integer k , is the metric dimension of G is at most k ?

The METRIC DIMENSION problem is NP-complete [GJ79] even for restricted classes of graphs like planar graphs [DPSvL12]. Epstein et al. [ELW15] proved that this problem is NP-complete on split graphs, bipartite and co-bipartite graphs. The problem also is NP-complete on interval graphs [FMN⁺17] or sub-cubic graphs [HN13]. On the positive side, computing the metric dimension is linear on trees [HM75, Sla75] and polynomial in outer-planar graphs [DPSvL12].

Parameterized algorithms. In this paper, we consider the METRIC DIMENSION problem from a parameterized point of view. We say a problem Π is *fixed parameter tractable* (FPT) for a parameter k if any instance of size n and parameter k can be decided in time $f(k) \cdot n^{O(1)}$. Two types of parameters received a considerable attention in the literature: the size of the solution and the "width" of the graph (for various widths, the most classical being the treewidth).

Hartung and Nichterlein proved in [HN13] that the METRIC DIMENSION problem is W[2]-hard parameterized by the size of the solution. Foucaud et al. proved that it is FPT parameterized by the size of the solution in interval graphs in [FMN⁺17]. This result was extended by Belmonte et al. who proved in [BFGR16] that METRIC DIMENSION is FPT parameterized by the size of the solution plus the tree-length of the graph. In particular, it implies that computing the metric dimension for chordal graph is FPT parameterized by the size of the solution.

METRIC DIMENSION is FPT parameterized by the modular width [BFGR16]. Using Courcelle's theorem, one can also remark that it is FPT parameterized by the treedepth of the graph as observed in [GHK⁺22]. METRIC DIMENSION has been proven W[1]-hard parameterized by the treewidth by Bonnet and Purohit in [BP21]. Li and Pilipczuk strengthened this result by showing that it is NP-complete for graphs of treewidth, and even pathwidth, 24 in [LP22]. While METRIC DIMENSION is polynomial on graphs of treewidth 1 (forests), its complexity is unknown for graphs of treewidth 2 is open (even if it is known to be polynomial for outerplanar graphs). Our main result is the following:

Theorem 1. *METRIC DIMENSION is FPT parameterized by treewidth on chordal graphs. That is, METRIC DIMENSION can be decided in time $O(n^3 + n^2 \cdot f(\omega))$ on chordal graphs of clique number ω .*

Recall that, on chordal graphs, the treewidth is equal to the size of a maximum clique minus one. Our proof is based on a dynamic programming algorithm. One of the main difficulty to compute the metric dimension is that a pair of vertices might be resolved by a vertex far from them in the graph. This non-locality implies that it is not simple to use classical algorithmic strategies like divide-and-conquer, induction or dynamic programming since a single edge or vertex modification somewhere in the graph might change the whole solution¹.

¹ The addition of a single edge in a graph might modify the metric dimension by $\Omega(n)$, see e.g. [EFKY15].

The first ingredient of our algorithm consists in proving that, given a chordal graph, if we are using a clique tree of a desirable form and make some simple assumptions on the shape of an optimal solution, we can ensure that resolving a pair of vertices close to a separator implies that we resolve all the pairs of vertices in the graph. Using this lemma, we build a dynamic programming algorithm that computes the minimum size of a resolving set containing a given vertex in FPT-time parameterized by treewidth.

The special type of clique tree used in the paper, inspired from [Klo94], is presented in Section 2.1. We then give some properties of resolving sets in chordal graphs in Section 2.2. These properties will be needed to prove the correctness and the running time of the algorithm. Then, we present the definition of the extended problem in Section 3.1 and the rules of the dynamic programming in Section 3.2 where we also prove the correction of the algorithm. We end by an analysis of the complexity of the algorithm in Section 4.

Further work. The function of the treewidth in our algorithm is probably not optimal and we did not try to optimize it to keep the algorithm as simple as possible. A first natural question is the existence of an algorithm running in time $2^\omega \cdot \text{Poly}(n)$ for chordal graphs.

We know that Theorem 1 cannot be extended to bounded treewidth graphs since METRIC DIMENSION is NP-hard on graphs of treewidth at most 24 [LP22]. One can nevertheless wonder if our proof technique can be adapted to design polynomial time algorithms for graphs of treewidth at most 2 on which the complexity status of METRIC DIMENSION is still open.

Our proof crucially relies on the fact that a separator X of a chordal graph is a clique and then the way a vertex in a component of $G \setminus X$ interacting with vertices in another component of $G \setminus X$ is simple. One can wonder if there is a tree decomposition in G where all the bags have diameter at most C , is it true that METRIC DIMENSION is FPT parameterized by the size of the bags plus C . Note that, since METRIC DIMENSION is NP-complete on chordal graphs, the problem is indeed hard parameterized by the diameter of the bags only.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Nice clique trees

Unless otherwise stated, all graphs considered in this paper are undirected, simple, finite and connected. For standard terminology and notations on graphs, we refer the reader to [CLZ15]. Let us first define some notations we use throughout the article.

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph where V is the set of vertices of G and E the set of edges; we let $n = |V|$. For two vertices x and y in G , we denote by $d(x, y)$ the length of a shortest path between x and y and call it *distance between x and y* . For every $x \in V$ and $U \subseteq V$, the *distance between x and U* , denoted by $d(x, U)$, is the minimum distance between x and a vertex of U . Two vertices x and y are *adjacent* if $xy \in E$. A *clique* is a graph where all the pairs of vertices

are adjacent. We denote by ω the size of a maximum clique. Let U be a set of vertices of G . We denote by $G \setminus U$ the subgraph of G induced by the set of vertices $V \setminus U$. We say that U is a *separator* of G if $G \setminus U$ is not connected. If two vertices x and y of $V \setminus U$ belong to two different connected components in $G \setminus U$, we say that U *separates* x and y . If a separator U induces a clique, we say that U is a *clique separator* of G .

Definition 1 *A tree-decomposition of a graph G is a pair (X, T) where T is a tree and $X = \{X_i | i \in V(T)\}$ is a collection of subsets (called bags) of $V(G)$ such that:*

- $\bigcup_{i \in V(T)} X_i = V(G)$.
- For each edge $xy \in E(G)$, $x, y \in X_i$ for some $i \in V(T)$.
- For each $x \in V(G)$, the set $\{i | x \in X_i\}$ induces a connected sub-tree of T .

Let G be a graph and (X, T) a tree-decomposition of G . The *width* of the tree-decomposition (X, T) is the biggest size of a bag minus one. The *treewidth* of G is the smallest width of (X, T) amongst all the tree-decompositions (X, T) of G .

Chordal graphs are graphs with no induced cycle of length at least 4. A characterization given by Dirac in [Dir61] ensures chordal graphs are graphs where minimal vertex separators are cliques. Chordal graphs admit tree-decompositions such that all the bags are cliques. We call such a tree-decomposition a *clique tree*.

Our dynamic programming algorithm is performed in a bottom-up way on a clique tree of the graph with more properties than the one given by Definition 1. These properties permit to simplify the analysis of the algorithm. We adapt the decomposition of [Klo94, Lemma 13.1.2] to get this tree-decomposition. The details of the construction can be found in Appendix A.

Lemma 2 *Let $G = (V, E)$ be a chordal graph and r a vertex of G . There exists a clique tree (X, T) such that (i) T contains at most $7n$ nodes, (ii) T is rooted in a node that contains only the vertex r , (iii) T contains only four types of nodes, that are:*

- Leaf nodes, $|X_i| = 1$ which have no child.
- Introduce nodes i which have exactly one child j , and that child satisfies $X_i = X_j \cup \{v\}$ for some vertex $v \in V(G) \setminus X_j$.
- Forget nodes i which have exactly one child j , and that child satisfies $X_i = X_j \setminus \{v\}$ for some vertex $v \in X_j$.
- Join node i which have exactly two children i_1 and i_2 , and these children satisfy $X_i = X_{i_1} = X_{i_2}$.

Moreover, such a clique tree can be found in linear time.

In the following, a clique tree with the properties of Lemma 2 will be called a *nice clique tree* and we will only consider nice clique trees (X, T) of chordal graphs G .

Given a rooted clique tree (T, X) of G , for any node i of T , we define the *subgraph of G rooted in X_i* , denoted by $T(X_i)$, as the subgraph induced by the subset of vertices of G contained in at least one of the bags of the sub-tree of T rooted in i (i.e. in the bag of i or one of its descendants).

2.2 Clique separators and resolving sets.

In this section, we give some technical lemmas that will permit to bound by $f(\omega)$ the amount of information we have to remember in the dynamic programming algorithm. The omitted proofs of this section are in Appendix B.

Lemma 3 *Let K be a clique separator of G and G_1 be a connected component of $G \setminus K$. Let G_{ext} be the subgraph of G induced by the vertices of $G_1 \cup K$ and $G_{int} = G \setminus G_{ext}$. Let $x_1, x_2 \in V(G_{int})$ be such that $|d(x_1, K) - d(x_2, K)| \geq 2$. Then, every vertex $s \in V(G_{ext})$ resolves the pair (x_1, x_2) .*

Before proving Lemma 5, let us state a technical lemma.

Lemma 4 *Let G be a chordal and T be a nice clique tree of G . Let X, Y be two bags of T such that $X \cap Y = \emptyset$. Assume that there exist $x \in X, y \in Y$ such that $d(x, y) \geq 2$ and let z be a neighbour of x that appears in the bag the closest to Y in T amongst all the bags on the path between X and Y . Then z belongs to a shortest path between x and y .*

Lemma 5 *Let S be a subset of vertices of a chordal graph G . Let X, Y and Z be three bags of a nice tree-decomposition T of G such that Z is on the path P between X and Y in T . Denote by $P = X_1, \dots, Z, \dots, X_p$ the bags of P with $X = X_1$ and $Y = X_p$. Let x be a vertex of X and y a vertex of Y with $d(x, Z) \geq 2$ and $d(y, Z) \geq 2$. Assume that any pair of vertices (u, v) with $u \in X_2 \cup \dots \cup Z$, $v \in Z \cup \dots \cup X_p$, $d(u, Z) < d(x, Z)$ and $d(v, Z) < d(y, Z)$ is resolved by S . Then the pair (x, y) is resolved by S .*

Proof. Let i_1 be such that $X_{i_1} \cap N[x] \neq \emptyset$ and for every $j > i_1$, $X_j \cap N[x] = \emptyset$ and i_2 be such that $X_{i_2} \cap N[y] \neq \emptyset$ and for $j < i_2$, $X_j \cap N[y] = \emptyset$. Let x' be the only neighbour of x in X_{i_1} and y' be the only neighbour of y in X_{i_2} . They are unique by definition of nice tree-decomposition. Note that $d(x, y) \geq 4$ since $d(x, Z) \geq 2$ and $d(y, Z) \geq 2$. So $N[x]$ is not adjacent to $N[y]$ and then $i_1 < i_2$. By Lemma 4, x' is on a shortest path between x and Z and y' is on a shortest path between y and Z . So $d(x', Z) < d(x, Z)$ and $d(y', Z) < d(y, Z)$. By hypothesis, there is a vertex $s \in S$ resolving the pair (x', y') . Let us prove that s resolves the pair (x, y) .

If s belongs to $N[x]$ or to $N[y]$ then s resolves the pair (x, y) since $d(x, y) \geq 4$. So we can assume that $d(s, x) \geq 2$ and $d(s, y) \geq 2$. Let X_s be a bag of T containing s and X'_s be the closest bag to X_s on P between X and Y .

Case 1: $s \in X_{i_1}$ and $s \in X_{i_2}$. Then, $d(s, x') \leq 1$ and $d(s, y') \leq 1$. The vertex s resolves the pair (x', y') so $d(s, x') \neq d(s, y')$ so $s = x'$ or $s = y'$. Assume by

symmetry that $s = x'$, then $d(s, x) = 1$ and $d(s, y) \geq 3$ because $d(x, y) \geq 4$. So s resolves the pair (x, y) .

Case 2: s belongs to exactly one of X_{i_1} or X_{i_2} . By symmetry assume that $s \in X_{i_1}$. By Lemma 4, y' is on a shortest path between y and s . So $d(s, y) = d(s, y') + 1$. As s belongs to X_{i_1} then $d(x', s) \leq 1$ and $d(x, s) \leq 2$. As $d(y', s) \neq d(x', s)$ we have $d(y', s) \geq 2$, so $d(s, y) \geq 3$. Thus s resolves the pair (x, y) .

Case 3: $s \notin X_{i_1}$ and $s \notin X_{i_2}$. First, we consider the case where X'_s is between X_{i_1} and X_{i_2} . Then, $d(s, x) = d(s, x') + 1$ and $d(s, y) = d(s, y') + 1$ by Lemma 4 as X_{i_1} separates y and s and X_{i_2} separates x and s . Thus, s resolves the pair (x, y) .

By symmetry, we can now assume that X'_s is between X and X_{i_1} . Since $i_1 < i_2$, X_{i_2} separates s and y . So $d(s, y) = d(s, y') + 1$ by Lemma 4. To conclude we prove that $d(s, x') < d(s, y')$. Let Q be a shortest path between s and y' . The bag X_{i_1} separates s and y' so $Q \cap X_{i_1} \neq \emptyset$. Let $y_1 \in Q \cap X_{i_1}$. By definition of Q , $d(s, y') = d(s, y_1) + d(y_1, y')$. Since $y_1, x' \in X_{i_1}$ and X_{i_1} is a clique, we have that $y_1 \in N[x']$ and so, $y_1 \neq y'$. So $d(y_1, y') \neq 0$. We also have $d(s, x') \leq d(s, y_1) + 1$ because y_1 is a neighbour of x' . As $d(s, x') \neq d(s, y')$, this ensures $d(s, x') < d(s, y')$. So s resolves the pair (x, y) because $d(s, x) \leq d(s, x') + 1 < d(s, y') + 1 = d(s, y)$. \square

The following lemma is essentially rephrasing Lemma 5 to get the result on a set of vertices.

Lemma 6 *Let G be a chordal graph and S be a subset of vertices of G . Let T be a nice clique tree of G . Let X be a bag of T and let $T_1 = (X_1, E_1)$ and $T_2 = (X_2, E_2)$ be two connected components of $T \setminus X$. Assume that any pair of vertices (u, v) of $(X_1 \cup X) \times (X_2 \cup X)$ with $d(u, X) \leq 2$ and $d(v, X) \leq 2$ is resolved by S . Then any pair of vertices (u, v) of (X_1, X_2) with $|d(u, X) - d(v, X)| \leq 1$ is resolved by S .*

3 Algorithm description

In this section, we fix a vertex v of a chordal graph G and consider a nice clique tree (T, X) rooted in v which exists by Lemma 2. We present an algorithm computing the smallest size of a resolving set of G containing v .

3.1 Extension of the problem

Our dynamic programming algorithm computes the solution of a generalization of metric dimension which is easier to manipulate when we combine solutions. In this new problem, we will represent some vertices by vectors of distances. We define notations to edit vectors.

Definition 7 *Given a vector \mathbf{r} , the notation \mathbf{r}_i refers to the i -th coordinate of \mathbf{r} .*

- Let $\mathbf{r} = (r_1, \dots, r_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$ be a vector of size k and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. The vector $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{r} \mid \mathbf{m}$ is the vector of size $k+1$ with $r'_i = r_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ and $r'_{k+1} = m$.

- Let $\mathbf{r} = (r_1, \dots, r_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$ be a vector of size k . The vector \mathbf{r}^- is the vector of size $k - 1$ with $r_i^- = r_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$.

Definition 8 Let i be a node of T and let $X_i = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ be the bag of i . For a vertex x of G , the distance vector $\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(\mathbf{x})$ of x to X_i is the vector of size k such that, for $1 \leq j \leq k$, $\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(\mathbf{x})_j = d(x, v_j)$. We define the set $d_{\leq 2}(X_i)$ as the set of distance vectors of the vertices of $T(X_i)$ at distance at most 2 of X_i in G (i.e. one of the coordinate is at most 2).

Definition 9 Let G be a graph and $K = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ be a clique of G . Let x be a vertex of G . The trace of x on K , denoted by $\mathbf{Tr}_K(x)$, is the vector \mathbf{r} of $\{0, 1\}^k \setminus \{1, \dots, 1\}$ such that for every $1 \leq i \leq k$, $d(x, v_i) = a + \mathbf{r}_i$ where $a = d(x, K)$.

Let S be a subset of vertices of G . The trace $Tr_K(S)$ of S in K is the set of vectors $\{\mathbf{Tr}_K(x), x \in S\}$.

The trace is well-defined because for a vertex x and a clique K , the distance between x and a vertex of K is either $d(x, K)$ or $d(x, K) + 1$.

Definition 10 Let $\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2$ and \mathbf{r}_3 be three vectors of same size k . We say that \mathbf{r}_3 resolves the pair $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)$ if

$$\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r}_3)_i \neq \min_{1 \leq i \leq k} (\mathbf{r}_2 + \mathbf{r}_3)_i.$$

Lemma 11 Let K be a clique separator of G and G_1 be a connected component of $G \setminus K$. Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $G \setminus G_1$ and let \mathbf{r} be a vector of size $|K|$. If \mathbf{r} resolves the pair $(\mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{y}))$, then any vertex $s \in V(G_1)$ with $\mathbf{Tr}_K(s) = \mathbf{r}$ resolves the pair (x, y) .

Proof. Let s be a vertex of G_1 such that $\mathbf{Tr}_K(s) = \mathbf{r}$. The clique K separates s and x (resp. y) so $d(x, s) = \min_{1 \leq i \leq |K|} (\mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{Tr}_K(s))_i + d(K, s)$ (resp. $d(y, s) = \min_{1 \leq i \leq |K|} (\mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{y}) + \mathbf{Tr}_K(s))_i + d(K, s)$). The vector \mathbf{r} resolves the pair $(\mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{y}))$. So $d(x, s) \neq d(y, s)$ and s resolves the pair (x, y) . \square

Definition 12 Let K be a clique separator of G and G_1, G_2 be two (non necessarily distinct) connected components of $G \setminus K$. Let M be a set of vectors and let $x \in V(G_1) \cup K$ and $y \in V(G_2) \cup K$. If a vector \mathbf{r} resolves the pair $(\mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{d}_K(\mathbf{y}))$, we say that \mathbf{r} resolves the pair (x, y) . We say that the pair of vertices (x, y) is resolved by M if there exists a vector $\mathbf{r} \in M$ that resolves the pair (x, y) .

We can now define the generalised problem our dynamic programming algorithm actually solves. We call it the EXTENDED METRIC DIMENSION problem (EMD for short). We first define the instances of this problem.

Definition 13 Let i be a node of T . An instance for a node i of the EMD problem is a 5-uplet $I = (X_i, S_I, D_{int}(I), D_{ext}(I), D_{pair}(I))$ composed of the bag X_i of i , a subset S_I of X_i and three sets of vectors satisfying

- $D_{int}(I) \subseteq \{0, 1\}^{|X_i|}$ and $D_{ext}(I) \subseteq \{0, 1\}^{|X_i|}$,
- $D_{pair}(I) \subseteq \{0, 1, 2, 3\}^{|X_i|} \times \{0, 1, 2, 3\}^{|X_i|}$,
- $D_{ext}(I) \neq \emptyset$ or $S_I \neq \emptyset$,
- For each pair of vectors $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) \in D_{pair}(I)$, there exist two vertices $x \in T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}_1$ and $d(x, X_i) \leq 2$ and $y \notin T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{r}_2$ and $d(y, X_i) \leq 2$.

Definition 14 A set $S \subseteq T(X_i)$ is a solution for an instance I of the EMD problem if

- **(S1)** Every pair of vertices of $T(X_i)$ is either resolved by a vertex in S or resolved by a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$.
- **(S2)** For each vector $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$ there exists a vertex $s \in S$ such that $\text{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.
- **(S3)** For each pair of vector $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) \in D_{pair}(I)$, for any vertex $x \in T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}_1$ and any vertex $y \notin T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{r}_2$, if $d(x, X_i) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_i) \leq 2$ the pair (x, y) is resolved by S .
- **(S4)** $S \cap X_i = S_I$.

In the rest of the paper, for shortness, we will refer to an instance of the EMD problem only by an instance.

Definition 15 Let I be an instance. We denote by $\dim(I)$ the minimum size of a set $S \subseteq T(X_i)$ which is a solution of I . If such a set does not exist we define $\dim(I) = +\infty$. We call this value the extended metric dimension of I .

We now explain the meaning of each element of I . Firstly, a solution S must resolve any pair in $T(X_i)$, possibly with a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$ which represents a vertex of $V \setminus T(X_i)$ in the resolving set. Secondly, for all \mathbf{r} in $D_{int}(I)$, we are forced to select a vertex in $T(X_i)$ whose trace is \mathbf{r} . This will be useful to combine solutions since it will be a vector of D_{ext} in other instances. The elements in $D_{pair}(I)$ will also be useful for combinations. In some sense $D_{pair}(I)$ is the additional gain of S compared to the main goal to resolve $T(X_i)$. The set S_I constrains the intersection between S and X_i by forcing a precise subset of X_i to be in S .

The following lemma is a consequence of Definition 14. It connects the definition of the extended metric dimension with the metric dimension.

Lemma 16 Let G be a graph, T be a nice tree-decomposition of G and r be the root of T . Let I_0 be the instance $(\{r\}, \{r\}, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)$, then $\dim(I_0)$ is the smallest size of a resolving set of G containing r .

To ensure that our algorithm works well, we will need to use Lemma 3 in some subgraphs of G . This is possible only if we know that the solution is not included in the subgraph. This corresponds to the condition $D_{ext}(I) \neq \emptyset$ or $S_I \neq \emptyset$ and this is why the algorithm computes the size of a resolving set containing the root of T .

3.2 Dynamic programming

We explain how we can compute the extended metric dimension of an instance I given the extended metric dimension of the instances on the children of X_i in T . The proof is divided according to the different type of nodes.

Leaf node. Computing the extended metric dimension of an instance for a leaf node can be done easily with the following lemma:

Lemma 17 *Let I be an instance for a leaf node i and v be the unique vertex of X_i . Then,*

$$\dim(I) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } S_I = \emptyset, D_{int}(I) = \emptyset \text{ and } D_{pair}(I) = \emptyset \\ 1 & \text{if } S_I = \{v\} \text{ and } D_{int}(I) \subseteq \{\mathbf{0}\} \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let I be an instance for i . If $S_I = \emptyset$, only the set $S = \emptyset$ can be a solution for I . This set is a solution only if $D_{int}(I) = \emptyset$ and $D_{pair}(I) = \emptyset$. If $S_I = \{v\}$, only the set $S = \{v\}$ can be a solution for I . This is a solution only if $D_{int}(I)$ is empty or only contains the vector $\mathbf{Tr}_{x_i}(v)$. \square

In the rest of the section, we treat the three other types of nodes. For each type of nodes we will proceed as follows: define some conditions on the instances on children to be compatible with I , and prove an equality between the extended metric dimension on compatible children instances and the extended metric dimension of the instance of the node.

Join node. Let I be an instance for a join node i and let i_1 and i_2 be the children of i .

Definition 18 *A pair of instances (I_1, I_2) for (i_1, i_2) is compatible with I if*

- **(J1)** $S_{I_1} = S_{I_2} = S_I$,
- **(J2)** $D_{ext}(I_1) \subseteq D_{ext}(I) \cup D_{int}(I_2)$ and $D_{ext}(I_2) \subseteq D_{ext}(I) \cup D_{int}(I_1)$,
- **(J3)** $D_{int}(I) \subseteq D_{int}(I_1) \cup D_{int}(I_2)$,
- **(J4)** Let $C_1 = \{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1) \text{ such that } \mathbf{r} \notin d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1})\}$ and $C_2 = \{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_2) \text{ such that } \mathbf{r} \notin d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_2})\}$. Let $D_1 = \{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1}) \times d_{\leq 2}(G \setminus X_{i_1}) \text{ such that there exists } \mathbf{u} \in D_{int}(I_2) \text{ resolving the pair } (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t})\}$ and $D_2 = \{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_2}) \times d_{\leq 2}(G \setminus X_{i_2}) \text{ such that there exists } \mathbf{u} \in D_{int}(I_1) \text{ resolving the pair } (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t})\}$
Then $D_{pair}(I) \subseteq (C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1)) \cap (C_2 \cup D_2 \cup D_{pair}(I_2))$,
- **(J5)** For all $\mathbf{r}_1 \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1})$, for all $\mathbf{r}_2 \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_2})$, $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$ or $(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_1) \in D_{pair}(I_2)$ or there exists $\mathbf{t} \in D_{ext}(I)$ such that \mathbf{t} resolves the pair $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)$.

Condition **(J4)** represents how the pairs of vertices of $V(T(X_{i_1})) \times V(T(X_{i_2}))$ can be resolved. A pair (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) is in $(C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1))$ if all the pairs of vertices

(x, y) with $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ and $y \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$ are resolved. If (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) is in C_1 , no pair (x, y) with $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ and $y \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$ exists, if (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) is in D_1 the pairs of vertices are resolved by a vertex outside of $V(T(X_{i_1}))$ and if (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) is in $D_{pair}(I_1)$ the pairs of vertices are resolved by a vertex of $V(T(X_{i_1}))$. So a pair (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) is resolved if the pair is in $(C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1))$ and in $(C_2 \cup D_2 \cup D_{pair}(I_2))$.

Let $\mathcal{F}_J(I)$ be the set of pairs of instances compatible with I . We want to prove the following lemma:

Lemma 19 *Let I be an instance for a join node i . Then,*

$$\dim(I) = \min_{(I_1, I_2) \in \mathcal{F}_J(I)} (\dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|).$$

We prove the equality by proving the two inequalities in the next lemmas.

Lemma 20 *Let (I_1, I_2) be a pair of instances for (i_1, i_2) compatible with I with finite values for $\dim(I_1)$ and $\dim(I_2)$. Let $S_1 \subseteq V(T(X_{i_1}))$ be a solution for I_1 and $S_2 \subseteq V(T(X_{i_2}))$ be a solution for I_2 . Then $S = S_1 \cup S_2$ is a solution for I . In particular,*

$$\dim(I) \leq \min_{(I_1, I_2) \in \mathcal{F}_J(I)} (\dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|).$$

Proof. Let us prove that the conditions of Definition 14 are satisfied.

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_i)$. Assume first that $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ and $y \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$. Either (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of S_1 and then by a vertex of S or (x, y) is resolved by a vector $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I_1)$. By condition **(J2)**, $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$ or $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_2)$. If $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$ then (x, y) is resolved by a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$. Otherwise, there exists a vertex $t \in S_2$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_{i_2}}(t) = \mathbf{r}$. So $t \in S$ and t resolves the pair (x, y) . The case $x \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$ and $y \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$ is symmetric. So we can assume that $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ and $y \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$. If $d(x, X_i) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_i) \leq 2$, the condition **(J5)** ensures that the pair (x, y) is resolved by S or by a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$. Otherwise, either $|d(x, X_i) - d(y, X_i)| \leq 1$ and (x, y) is resolved by Lemma 6 or $|d(x, X_i) - d(y, X_i)| \geq 2$ and (x, y) is resolved by Lemma 3 because $D_{ext}(I) \neq \emptyset$ or $S_I \neq \emptyset$.

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$. By compatibility, the condition **(J3)** ensures that $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_1)$ or $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_2)$. As $S = S_1 \cup S_2$, S contains a vertex s such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$ and (x, y) with $x \in V(T(X_i))$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $y \notin T(X_i)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. Without loss of generality assume that $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$.

By compatibility, $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in (C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1)) \cap (C_2 \cup D_2 \cup D_{pair}(I_2))$ so in $C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1)$. If $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$, then there exists $s \in S_1$ that resolves the pair (x, y) so the pair is resolved by S . If $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_1$, there exists $\mathbf{u} \in D_{int}(I_2)$ such that \mathbf{u} resolves the pair (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) . By compatibility, there exists $s \in S_2$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(s) = \mathbf{u}$. So s resolves the pair (x, y) . And $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \notin C_1$ since x belongs to $T(X_{i_1})$ with vector distance \mathbf{r} .

(S4) is clear since $X_{i_1} = X_{i_2} = X_i$.

Thus, $\dim(I) \leq \dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|$ is true for any pair of compatible instances (I_1, I_2) so $\dim(I) \leq \min_{(I_1, I_2) \in \mathcal{F}_J(I)} (\dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|)$. \square

Lemma 21 *Let I be an instance for a join node i and let i_1 and i_2 be the children of i . Then,*

$$\dim(I) \geq \min_{(I_1, I_2) \in \mathcal{F}_J(I)} (\dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|).$$

Proof. If $\dim(I) = +\infty$ then the result indeed holds. So we can assume that $\dim(I)$ is finite. Let S be a solution for I of minimal size. Let $S_1 = S \cap T(X_{i_1})$ and $S_2 = S \cap T(X_{i_2})$. We define now two instances I_1 and I_2 for i_1 and i_2 . Let $S_{I_1} = S_{I_2} = S_I$, $D_{int}(I_1) = Tr_{X_{i_1}}(S_1)$, $D_{int}(I_2) = Tr_{X_{i_2}}(S_2)$, $D_{ext}(I_1) = D_{ext}(I) \cup D_{int}(I_2)$ and $D_{ext}(I_2) = D_{ext}(I) \cup D_{int}(I_1)$. To build the sets $D_{pair}(I_1)$ and $D_{pair}(I_2)$ we make the following process that we explain for $D_{pair}(I_1)$. For all pairs of vectors (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) of $(d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1}), d_{\leq 2}(G \setminus X_{i_1}))$, consider all the pairs of vertices (x, y) with $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$, $y \in V(G \setminus T(X_{i_1}))$, $\mathbf{r} \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1})$, $\mathbf{t} \in d_{\leq 2}(G \setminus X_{i_1})$, $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. If all the pairs are resolved by vertices of S_1 (that is for each pair, there exists a vertex of S_1 that resolves the pair), then add (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) to $D_{pair}(I_1)$.

Checking that (I_1, I_2) is compatible with I , that S_1 is a solution of I_1 , and that S_2 is a solution of I_2 is straightforward. It consists of checking conditions of respectively Definition 18 and Definition 14. The complete proof can be found in Appendix C.1.

Finally we prove the announced inequality. Since S is a minimal solution for I , we have $\dim(I) = |S|$. The sets S_1 and S_2 are solutions for I_1 and I_2 so $\dim(I_1) \leq |S_1|$ and $\dim(I_2) \leq |S_2|$. Since $|S| = |S_1| + |S_2| - |S_I|$, $\dim(I) \geq \dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|$, giving the result. \square

Lemma 19 is a direct consequence of Lemma 20 and Lemma 21.

Introduce node. We now consider an instance I for an introduce node i . Let j be the child of i and $v \in V$ be such that $X_i = X_j \cup \{v\}$. Let $X_i = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ with $v = v_k$. The tree $T(X_i)$ contains one more vertex than its child. The definition of the compatibility is slightly different if we consider the same set as a solution (type 1) or if we add this vertex to the resolving set (type 2).

Definition 22 *An instance I_1 is compatible with I of type 1 (resp. 2) if*

- **(I1)** $S_I = S_{I_1}$ (resp. $= S_{I_1} \cup \{v\}$).
- **(I2)** For all $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$, $\mathbf{r}^- \in D_{ext}(I_1)$ (resp. or $\mathbf{r} = (0, \dots, 0)$).
- **(I3)** For all $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$, $\mathbf{r}_k = 1$ and $\mathbf{r}^- \in D_{int}(I_1)$ (resp. or $\mathbf{r} = (1, \dots, 1, 0)$).
- **(I4)** For all $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$, $(\mathbf{r}^-, \mathbf{t}^-) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$.
- **(I5)** If I_1 is of type 1, for all (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) with $\mathbf{t} = (0, \dots, 0)$, $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$.

Lemma 23 *Let I be an instance for an introduce node i . Let $\mathcal{F}_1(I)$ be the set of instances I_1 for i_1 compatible with I of type 1 and $\mathcal{F}_2(I)$ be the set of instances I_2 for i_1 compatible with I of type 2. Then,*

$$\dim(I) = \min \left\{ \min_{I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1(I)} \{\dim(I_1)\}; \min_{I_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2(I)} \{\dim(I_2) + 1\} \right\}.$$

The proof of Lemma 23 consists in proving both inequalities similarly to Lemma 19. One inequality comes from the fact that we can get a solution of I from any compatible instance. The other consists in building a solution for a compatible instance from a minimal solution for I . The proof of both inequalities can be found in Appendix C.1.

Forget node. The construction for the forget nodes is similar to the one for introduce nodes. The main difference is that a vertex is removed from the bag so we have to keep the information about this vertex. The full construction is presented in Appendix C.3 and leads to a similar equality between the extended metric dimension of an instance and the extended metric dimension of the compatible instances of its child.

3.3 Algorithm

Given as input a nice clique tree, the algorithm computes the extended metric dimension bottom up from the leaves. The algorithm computes the extended metric dimension for leaves using Lemma 17, for join nodes using Lemma 19, for introduce nodes using Lemma 23 and forget nodes using Lemma 41. The correction of the algorithm is straightforward by these lemmas.

We denote this algorithm by IMD in the following which takes as input a nice clique tree T and outputs the minimal size of a resolving set of G containing the root of T .

4 Proof of Theorem 1

Let us finally explain how we can compute the metric dimension of G . The following lemma is a consequence of Lemma 16.

Lemma 24 *The metric dimension of G is $\min_{v \in V(G)} \{IMD(T(v))\}$ where $T(v)$ is a nice clique tree of G rooted in v .*

So, n executions of the IMD algorithm with different inputs are enough to compute the metric dimension. Lemma 2 ensures that we can find for any vertex v of G a nice clique tree in linear time, the last part is to compute the complexity of the IMD algorithm which is done in Appendix D.

Lemma 25 *The algorithm for IMD runs in time $O(n(T)^2 + n(T) \cdot f(\omega))$ where $n(T)$ is the number of vertices of the input tree T and $f = O(\omega^2 \cdot 2^{O(4^{2^\omega})})$ is a function that only depends on the size of a maximum clique ω .*

We now have all the ingredients to prove Theorem 1:

Proof. For each vertex v of G , one can compute a nice clique tree of size at most $7n$ according to Lemma 2. Given this clique tree, the IMD algorithm outputs the size of a smallest resolving set containing v by Lemma 16 in time $O(n(T)^2 + n(T) \cdot f(\omega))$ for a computable function f according to Corollary 25. Repeat this for all vertices of G permits to compute the metric dimension of G by Lemma 24 in time $O(n^3 + n^2 \cdot f(\omega))$. \square

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A Construction of a nice clique tree

We explain in this section the construction of the nice clique tree. Before proving Lemma 2, we state a first lemma that is an adaptation of [Klo94, Lemma 13.1.2].

Lemma 26 *Let $G = (V, E)$ be a chordal graph. There exists a clique tree (X, T) of G such that, (i) T is a rooted tree that contains at most $4n$ nodes, (ii) for every bag $i \in V(T)$, the set of vertices X_i induces a clique in G and (iii) T contains four types of nodes which are:*

- Leaf nodes which satisfy $|X_i| = 1$ or,
- Introduce nodes i which have exactly one child j , and that child satisfies $X_i = X_j \cup \{v\}$ for some vertex $v \in V(G) \setminus X_j$ or,
- Forget nodes i which have exactly one child j , and that child satisfies $X_i = X_j \setminus \{v\}$ for some vertex $v \in X_j$ or,
- Join node i which have exactly two children i_1 and i_2 satisfying $X_i = X_{i_1} = X_{i_2}$.

Moreover, such a clique tree can be found in linear time.

The original proof uses k -trees instead of chordal graphs but the proof only needs that the graph contains a simplicial vertex which holds for chordal graphs.

Lemma (2) *Let $G = (V, E)$ be a chordal graph and r a vertex of G . There exists a clique tree (X, T) such that (i) T contains at most $7n$ nodes, (ii) T is rooted in a node that contains only the vertex r , (iii) T contains only four types of nodes, that are:*

- Leaf nodes, $|X_i| = 1$ which have no child.
- Introduce nodes i which have exactly one child j , and that child satisfies $X_i = X_j \cup \{v\}$ for some vertex $v \in V(G) \setminus X_j$.
- Forget nodes i which have exactly one child j , and that child satisfies $X_i = X_j \setminus \{v\}$ for some vertex $v \in X_j$.
- Join node i which have exactly two children i_1 and i_2 , and that children satisfy $X_i = X_{i_1} = X_{i_2}$.

Moreover, such a clique tree can be found in linear time.

Proof. By Lemma 26, there exists a clique tree (T, X) that satisfies all the properties except that the root of T can be any bag.

Let us first modify (T, X) to ensure that the clique tree is rooted on a node that contains only $\{r\}$. If r appears in a bag of a leaf node then it holds. Otherwise, there exists a forget node i with a child i' such that $X_i = X_{i'} \setminus \{r\}$. Let $X_i = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ with $r = v_1$. We do the following modifications on T : delete the edge ii' , add two nodes i'' and i_k such that $X_{i''} = X_{i_k} = X_{i'}$, i'' is a join node with child i' and i_k and i is a forget node with child i'' . Ultimately, we add the nodes i_{k-1}, \dots, i_1 such that for any $1 \leq t \leq k-1$, $X_{i_t} = \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}$ and i_t is the child of the node i_{t+1} (which is a forget node). Then, r appears in a bag of a leaf node by adding at most n nodes in T .

Let us now root T on the node whose bag is $\{r\}$. We need to check that the property on nodes are preserved. Note that for every edge, the two bags on the extremities differ at most on one vertex. If a node has only one child with the same bag then merge the two nodes. If a node i had two children with different bags, let X be the bag of i , then add a new bag with vertex set X between i and its child with a different bag. The tree we get after these modifications satisfies all the properties of the lemma.

All these modifications can be performed in linear time. So find the clique tree can be performed in time $O(n)$. \square

B Proofs of Section 2.2

Lemma (3) *Let K be a clique separator of G and G_1 be a connected component of $G \setminus K$. Let $G_{ext} = G_1 \cup K$ and $G_{int} = G \setminus G_{ext}$. Let $x_1, x_2 \in V(G_{int})$ be such that $|d(x_1, K) - d(x_2, K)| \geq 2$. Then, every vertex $s \in V(G_{ext})$ resolves the pair (x_1, x_2) .*

Proof. Without loss of generality, assume $d(x_1, K) + 2 \leq d(x_2, K)$. By triangular inequality and since K is a clique, $d(x_1, s) \leq d(x_1, K) + 1 + d(K, s)$ and $d(x_2, s) \geq d(x_2, K) + d(K, s)$. The sum of these inequalities gives $d(x_2, K) + d(x_1, s) \leq d(x_1, K) + 1 + d(x_2, s) < d(x_2, K) + d(x_2, s)$. Thus, $d(x_1, s) < d(x_2, s)$, meaning that s resolves the pair (x_1, x_2) . \square

Lemma (4) *Let G be a chordal graph and T be a nice clique tree of G . Let X, Y be bags of T and x, y be vertices in X, Y respectively. Let Z be a bag of T such that $X \cap Y = \emptyset$ and z be a vertex of Z . Assume $d(x, y) \geq 2$ and let x be a neighbour of z that appears in the bag the closest to Y in T among the bags on the path between X and Y . Then z belongs to a shortest path between x and y .*

Proof. Let Z be the bag containing z and no other vertices of $N[x]$ with Z on the path between X and Y . If $Z = Y$ then z is a common neighbour of x and y which gives the result since $d(x, y) \geq 2$. Otherwise, consider a shortest path $x = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m = y$ between x and y and let x_i be the first vertex of this path belonging to Z . Such a vertex exists since Z separates x and y . If $x_i = z$ then the result holds. Otherwise by definition of z , x_i is not adjacent to x and is adjacent to z because they both belong Z . Thus, if we replace the sub-path x_1, \dots, x_i by x, z, x_i , it gives a path from x to Z whose length is at most the length of the initial path which gives the result. \square

Lemma (6) *Let G be a chordal graph and let S be a subset of vertices of G . Let X_i be a bag of T and let $T_1 = (X_1, E_1)$ and $T_2 = (X_2, E_2)$ be two connected components of $T \setminus X_i$. Assume that any pair of vertices (u, v) of $(X_1 \cup X_i) \times (X_2 \cup X_i)$ with $d(u, X_i) \leq 2$ and $d(v, X_i) \leq 2$ is resolved by S . Then any pair of vertices (u, v) of (X_1, X_2) with $|d(u, X_i) - d(v, X_i)| \leq 1$ is resolved by S .*

Proof. Assume by contradiction, that there exist some pairs of vertices of (T_1, T_2) with $|d(u, X_i) - d(v, X_i)| \leq 1$ which are not resolved by S . Among all these

pairs, let (u, v) be one pair minimizing $q := d(u, X_i) + d(v, X_i)$. If $q \leq 4$ then $d(u, X_i) \leq 2$ and $d(v, X_i) \leq 2$, so the pair (u, v) is resolved by the hypothesis of the lemma. If $q \geq 5$, then $d(u, X_i) \geq 2$ and $d(v, X_i) \geq 2$. By minimality, we know that all pairs (u', v') of (T_1, T_2) with $d(u', X_i) < d(u, X_i)$ and $d(v', X_i) < d(v, X_i)$ are resolved by S . So, by Lemma 5, the pair (u, v) is resolved by S . \square

C Detailed proofs for the dynamic programming algorithm

C.1 Join node

This is the extended proof of Lemma 21.

Lemma (21) *Let I be an instance for a join node i and let i_1 and i_2 be the children of i . Then,*

$$\dim(I) \geq \min_{(I_1, I_2) \in \mathcal{F}_J(I)} (\dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|).$$

Proof. If $\dim(I) = +\infty$ then the result indeed holds. So assume $\dim(I)$ is finite. Let S be a solution for I of minimal size. Let $S_1 = S \cap T(X_{i_1})$ and $S_2 = S \cap T(X_{i_2})$. We define now two instances I_1 and I_2 for i_1 and i_2 . Let $S_{I_1} = S_{I_2} = S_I$, $D_{int}(I_1) = Tr_{X_{i_1}}(S_1)$, $D_{int}(I_2) = Tr_{X_{i_2}}(S_2)$, $D_{ext}(I_1) = D_{ext}(I) \cup D_{int}(I_2)$ and $D_{ext}(I_2) = D_{ext}(I) \cup D_{int}(I_1)$. To build the sets $D_{pair}(I_1)$ and $D_{pair}(I_2)$ we make the following process that we explain for $D_{pair}(I_1)$. For all pairs of vectors (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) of $(d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1}), d_{\leq 2}(G \setminus X_{i_1}))$, consider all the pairs of vertices (x, y) with $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$, $y \in V(G \setminus T(X_{i_1}))$, $\mathbf{r} \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1})$, $\mathbf{t} \in d_{\leq 2}(G \setminus X_{i_1})$, $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. If all the pairs are resolved by vertices of S_1 (that for each pair, there exists a vertex of S_1 that resolves the pair), then add (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) to $D_{pair}(I_1)$.

Claim. (I_1, I_2) is compatible with I .

Proof. **(J1)**, **(J2)** and **(J3)** are straightforward.

(J4) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$, we want to prove that $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in (C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1)) \cap (C_2 \cup D_2 \cup D_{pair}(I_2))$. We prove that $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in (C_1 \cup D_1 \cup D_{pair}(I_1))$, the other part of the proof is symmetrical.

If $\mathbf{r} \notin d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1})$, then $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in C_1$. Otherwise, there exists a vertex x in $T(X_{i_1})$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_{i_1}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and a vertex y in $G \setminus T(X_{i_1})$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$ (because the pair (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) belongs to $D_{pair}(I)$). The pair (x, y) is resolved by S . If there is a vertex $s \in S \cap T(X_{i_2})$ resolving the pair, then s resolves all the pairs with such distance vector and then $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_1$. Otherwise, for any pair (x, y) of $T(X_{i_1}) \times G \setminus T(X_{i_1})$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_{i_1}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$, there is a vertex of $S \cap T(X_{i_1})$ that resolves the pair (x, y) , so $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$.

(J5) Let $\mathbf{r}_1 \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_1})$, $\mathbf{r}_2 \in d_{\leq 2}(X_{i_2})$ and two vertices $x \in X_{i_1}$ and $y \in X_{i_2}$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_{i_1}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}_1$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_{i_2}}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{r}_2$. As S is a solution of I , either the pair (x, y) is resolved by a vector $\mathbf{r}_3 \in D_{ext}(I)$, or there exists $s \in S$ resolving (x, y) . If (x, y) is resolved by s , assume by contradiction that $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) \notin D_{pair}(I_1)$

and $(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_1) \notin D_{pair}(I_1)$. Then there exist vertices $x_1, x'_1 \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_{i_1}}(\mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{r}_1$, $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_{i_2}}(\mathbf{x}'_1) = \mathbf{r}_1$ and $x_2, x'_2 \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_{i_2}}(\mathbf{x}_2) = \mathbf{r}_2$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_{i_2}}(\mathbf{x}'_2) = \mathbf{r}_2$ such that the pair (x_1, x_2) is not resolved by a vertex of S_1 and the pair (x'_1, x'_2) is not resolved by a vertex of S_2 . Let $s \in S$ resolving the pair (x_1, x'_2) . If $s \in S_1$, then s resolves the pair (x_1, x_2) and if $s \in S_2$, then s resolves the pair (x'_1, x'_2) , a contradiction. \square

Claim. S_1 is a solution of I_1 and S_2 is a solution of I_2 .

Proof. We only prove that S_1 is a solution of I_1 as the proof that S_2 is a solution of I_2 is similar.

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_{i_1})$. As S is a solution of I , the pair (x, y) is either resolved by a vertex of S or by a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$. If (x, y) is resolved by a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$, the pair (x, y) is also resolved by a vector of $D_{ext}(I_1)$ since $D_{ext}(I) \subseteq D_{ext}(I_1)$. Otherwise let $s \in S$ resolving the pair (x, y) . If $s \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ then (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of S_1 . Otherwise $s \in V(T(X_{i_2}))$ and by construction of I_1 , $D_{ext}(I_1)$ contains the vector $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(s)$ so (x, y) is resolved by a vector of $D_{ext}(I_1)$.

(S2) By definition, $D_{int}(I_1) = Tr_{X_{i_1}}(S_1)$. Hence, for any vector $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_1)$, there is a vertex $s \in S_1$ with $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$, $x \in V(T(X_{i_1}))$ and $y \notin T(X_{i_1})$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. By construction of $D_{pair}(I_1)$ there is a vertex $s \in S_1$ resolving the pair (x, y) .

(S4) $S_{I_1} = S_I$ and since S is a solution of I , $S_I = S \cap X_i$. \square

Ultimately we get the announced inequality. Since S is a minimal solution for I , we have $\dim(I) = |S|$. The sets S_1 and S_2 are solutions for S_1 and S_2 so $\dim(I_1) \leq |S_1|$ and $\dim(I_2) \leq |S_2|$. Since $|S| = |S_1| + |S_2| - |S_I|$ we get $\dim(I) \geq \dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|$. This inequality is true for a specific pair of instances so in particular is true for a pair minimising the amount $\dim(I_1) + \dim(I_2) - |S_I|$, giving the result. \square

C.2 Introduce node

We want to prove Lemma 23 to get an equality between the extended metric dimension on compatible child instances and the extended metric dimension of the instance of an introduce node. All the results of this section are devoted to prove the two inequalities.

Lemma (23) *Let I be an instance for an introduce node i . Let $\mathcal{F}_1(I)$ be the set of instances I_1 for i_1 compatible with I of type 1 and $\mathcal{F}_2(I)$ be the set of instances I_2 for i_1 compatible with I of type 2. Then,*

$$\dim(I) = \min \left\{ \min_{I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1} \{ \dim(I_1) \}; \min_{I_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2} \{ \dim(I_2) + 1 \} \right\}.$$

Let us first prove a technical case.

Lemma 33 *Let i be an introduce node, j be the child of i and $v \in V$ such that $X_i = X_j \cup \{v\}$. Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_j)$. Let \mathbf{r} be a binary vector of size $|X_i|$, then \mathbf{r} resolves (x, y) if and only if \mathbf{r}^- resolves (x, y) .*

Proof. Let $\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{Tr}_{X_i}(x)$ and $\mathbf{r}_2 = \mathbf{Tr}_{X_i}(y)$. Note that the set $X_i \setminus \{v\}$ separates v from x and y so $(\mathbf{r}_1)_k = (\mathbf{r}_2)_k = 1$.

Assume first that \mathbf{r} resolves (x, y) and by contradiction that \mathbf{r}^- does not resolve (x, y) . Since \mathbf{r} resolves (x, y) , $\min_{1 \leq \ell \leq k} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_\ell \neq \min_{1 \leq \ell \leq k} (\mathbf{r}_2 + \mathbf{r})_\ell$ and $\min_{1 \leq \ell \leq k-1} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_\ell = \min_{1 \leq \ell \leq k-1} (\mathbf{r}_2 + \mathbf{r})_\ell$ by Definition 10. So the minimum change in at least one case. Assume by symmetry that $\min_{1 \leq \ell \leq k} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_\ell \neq \min_{1 \leq \ell \leq k-1} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_\ell$. So for $\ell < k$ we have $(\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_\ell > (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_k$. Since $(\mathbf{r}_1)_k = 1$, it implies that $d(x, v) < d(x, v_j)$ for all $\ell \leq k-1$. A contradiction since $\{v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$ separates x from v .

Assume now that \mathbf{r}^- resolves (x, y) and by contradiction that \mathbf{r} does not resolve (x, y) . Then by symmetry we can assume that $\min_{1 \leq j \leq k} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_j \neq \min_{1 \leq j \leq k-1} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_j$ meaning $(\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_k < \min_{1 \leq j \leq k-1} (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_j$. Since $(\mathbf{r}_1)_k = 1$, $(\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_k \geq 1$ and $(\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r})_j = 2$ for $1 \leq j \leq k-1$. So $\mathbf{r}_1 = (1, \dots, 1)$ which contradicts the fact that $X_i \setminus \{v\}$ separates v from x . \square

The two next lemmas show that from a minimal solution for a compatible instance I_1 , we can get a solution for the instance I .

Lemma 34 *Let I_1 be a compatible instance of type 1 and S be a solution of I_1 , then S is a solution of I .*

Proof. Let us prove that the conditions of Definition 14 are satisfied.

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_i)$. First assume that $x \neq v$ and $y \neq v$. If the pair (x, y) is not resolved by a vertex of S , since S is a solution for I_1 , (x, y) is resolved by a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$. Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$ resolving the pair (x, y) . As I_1 is compatible of type 1, $\mathbf{r}^- \in D_{ext}(I_1)$. Then \mathbf{r}^- resolves (x, y) by Lemma 33. So we can assume that $x = v$. The pair (x, y) is also resolved by S since $(\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(\mathbf{x}_1), (0, \dots, 0)) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$. As S is a solution for I_1 , there is a vertex $s \in S$ that resolves the pair (x, y) .

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$. Since I_1 is compatible with I , there exists $\mathbf{r}_1 \in D_{int}(I_1)$ such that $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_1 | \mathbf{1}$. Let $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{X_j}(s) = \mathbf{r}_1$, then $\mathbf{Tr}_{X_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}$. Indeed, the vertex v is not the closest vertex of X_i from s . If $s \in X_j$, that is clear. Otherwise X_j is a separator between s and v , so the shortest path between s and v crosses a vertex of X_j . Thus, $\mathbf{Tr}_{X_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}_1 | \mathbf{1}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$. Let $x \in V(T(X_i))$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $y \notin T(X_i)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. Then $\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(\mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{r}^-$ and $\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(\mathbf{x}_2) = \mathbf{t}^-$ so the pair (x, v) is resolved by S because $(\mathbf{r}_1^-, \mathbf{r}_2^-)$ belongs to $D_{pair}(I_1)$.

(S4) As $S_I = S_{I_1}$ we have $S \cap X_i = S_I$. \square

Lemma 35 *Let I_2 be a compatible instance of type 2 and S a solution of I_2 , then $S' = S \cup \{v\}$ is a solution of I .*

Proof. Let us prove that the conditions of Definition 14 are satisfied.

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_i)$ with $x \neq v$ and $y \neq v$. If the pair (x, y) is not resolved by a vertex of S , since S is a solution for I_2 , (x, y) is resolved by a vector $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I_2)$. By compatibility there exists $\mathbf{r}' \in D_{ext}(I)$ such that $\mathbf{r}'^- = \mathbf{r}$. By Lemma 33, \mathbf{r}' resolves the pair (x, y) . Ultimately, if $v = x$ or $v = y$, the pair (x, y) is also resolved by S' as $v \in S'$.

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$. If $\mathbf{r} = (1, \dots, 1, 0)$, as $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(v) = \mathbf{r}$, there is a vertex in S' with trace \mathbf{r} . Otherwise, as I_1 is compatible, there exists $\mathbf{r}_1 \in D_{int}(I_2)$ such that $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_1 | \mathbf{1}$. Let $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(s) = \mathbf{r}_1$, then $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}$. Indeed, the vertex v is not the closest vertex of X_i from s . If $s \in X_j$, that's clear. Otherwise X_j is a separator between s and v , so the shortest path between s and v crosses a vertex of X_j . Thus, $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}_1 | \mathbf{1}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$. Let $x \in V(T(X_i))$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $y \notin T(X_i)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. Then $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}^-$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}^-$ so the pair (x, y) is resolved by S because $(\mathbf{r}^-, \mathbf{t}^-)$ belongs to $D_{pair}(I_1)$.

(S4) As $S_I = S_{I_1} \cup \{v\}$ we have $S \cap X_i = S_{I_1} \cup \{v\} = S_I$. \square

Lemma 36 *Let I be an instance for an introduce node i . Let $\mathcal{F}_1(I)$ be the set of instances I_1 for i_1 compatible with I of type 1 and $\mathcal{F}_2(I)$ be the set of instances I_2 for i_1 compatible with I of type 2. Then,*

$$\dim(I) \leq \min \left\{ \min_{I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1(I)} \{\dim(I_1)\}, \min_{I_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2(I)} \{\dim(I_2) + 1\} \right\}.$$

Proof. The proof directly follows from the fact that, for any instance I_1 for j compatible with I , we can get a solution of I of size $\dim(I_1)$ if $I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1$ by Lemma 34 and of size $\dim(I_1) + 1$ if $I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_2$ by Lemma 35. \square

We prove the second inequality by building an instance I_1 from an instance I such that I_1 is compatible with I and a solution for I_1 can be get from a solution of I .

Lemma 37 *Let S be a solution for I with $v \notin S$. Then there exists $I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1$ such that S is a solution of I_1 .*

Proof. Let I_1 be the instance defined by $S_{I_1} = S_I$, $D_{int}(I_1) = (\cup_{\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)} \mathbf{r}^-)$, $D_{ext}(I_1) = (\cup_{\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)} \mathbf{r}^-)$ and $D_{pair}(I_1) = \cup_{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)} (\mathbf{r}^-, \mathbf{t}^-)$. One can easily remark that I_1 is compatible with I of type 1.

We prove that S is a solution of I_1 .

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_j)$. As S is a solution for I , either there exists $s \in S$ that resolves the pair (x, y) , or there is a vector $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$ that resolves (x, y) . In the second case, by construction of I_1 , the vector \mathbf{r}^- belongs to $D_{ext}(I_1)$ and resolves (x, y) by Lemma 33. So the pair (x, y) is resolved in both cases.

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_1)$. By construction, there is $\mathbf{r}' \in D_{int}(I)$ such that $\mathbf{r}'^- = \mathbf{r}$. Let $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}'$, then $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$, $x \in T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $y \notin T(X_j)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$ with $d(x, X_j) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_j) \leq 2$. Let $(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{t}') \in D_{pair}(I)$ such that $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) = (\mathbf{r}'^-, \mathbf{t}'^-)$. First $d(x, v) = d(x, X_j) + 1$ because X_j separates x and v .

This is true for any vertex of X_j so the last component of \mathbf{r}' is $d(x, X_j) + 1$. So $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}'$. If $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}'$, then (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of s . Otherwise, as $(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{t}') \in D_{pair}(I)$, there exist a vertex $z \notin T(X_j)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{t}'$ and s is S that resolves the pair (x, z) . Then s resolves the pair (x, y) because $d(s, y) = d(s, z)$.

(S4) We have $S_I = S_{I_1}$ and $v \notin S_I$ so $S \cap X_j = S_{I_1}$.

Finally, S is a solution of I_1 so $\dim(I_1) \leq |S| \leq \dim(I)$. In particular $\dim(I) \geq \min_{I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1} \{\dim(I_1)\}$. \square

Lemma 38 *Let S be a solution for I of minimal size with $v \in S$. Then there exists $I_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2$ such that $S \setminus \{v\}$ is a solution of I_2 .*

Proof. Let I_2 be the instance where $S_{I_1} = S_I \setminus \{v\}$, $D_{int}(I_2) = (\cup_{\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)} \mathbf{r}^-)$, $D_{ext}(I_2) = \{\cup_{\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)} \mathbf{r}^-\} \cup \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$ and $D_{pair}(I_2) = \cup_{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)} (\mathbf{r}^-, \mathbf{t}^-)$. One can easily remark that I_2 is compatible with I of type 2.

We prove that S is a solution of I_2 . (S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_j)$. As S is a solution for I , either there exists $s \in S$ that resolves the pair (x, y) or there is a vector $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$ that resolves (x, y) . If (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of $S \setminus \{v\}$, then the pair (x, y) is resolved in I_2 . If (x, y) is resolved by v , then the vector $(0, \dots, 0)$ of $D_{ext}(I_2)$ resolves the pair. If (x, y) is resolved by a vector \mathbf{r} of $D_{ext}(I)$, then by Lemma 33. So \mathbf{r}^- resolves the pair (x, y) and $\mathbf{r}^- \in D_{ext}(I_2)$ by construction.

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_1)$. By construction, there is $\mathbf{r}' \in D_{int}(I)$ such that $\mathbf{r}'^- = \mathbf{r}$. Let $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}'$, then $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{x}_j}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$, $x \in T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_j}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $y \notin T(X_j)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_j}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$ with $d(x, X_j) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_j) \leq 2$. Let $(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{t}') \in D_{pair}(I)$ such that $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) = (\mathbf{r}'^-, \mathbf{t}'^-)$. First $d(x, v) = d(x, X_j) + 1$ because X_j separates x and v . This is true for any vertex of X_j so the last component of \mathbf{r}' is $d(x, X_j) + 1$. So $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}'$. If $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}'$, then (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of s . Otherwise, as $(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{t}') \in D_{pair}(I)$, there exist a vertex $z \notin T(X_j)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{t}'$ and s in S that resolves the pair (x, z) . Then s resolves the pair (x, y) because $d(s, y) = d(s, z)$.

(S4) We have $S_I = S_{I_1}$ and $v \notin S_I$ so $S \cap X_j = S_{I_1}$.

Finally, $S \setminus \{v\}$ is a solution of I_2 , thus $\dim(I_2) \leq |S - 1| \leq \dim(I)$. In particular $\dim(I) \geq \min_{I_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2} \{\dim(I_2) + 1\}$. \square

Lemma 23 is a consequence of Lemmas 36, 37 and 38.

C.3 Forget node

We now consider an instance I for an forget node i . Let j be the child of i and $v \in V$ be such that $X_j = X_i \cup \{v\}$. Let $X_j = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ with $v = v_k$. The trees $T(X_i)$ and $T(X_j)$ contain the same vertices, the definition of compatibility gives conditions to have the same solution for I and for an instance on the child node.

We introduce three functions on vectors representing how the trace of a vertex can be modified when one considers two separators that differ by one vertex.

Definition 39 Let \mathbf{r} be any binary vector. We define the functions f , f^- and f^+ which return a vector with one more component. The function f^- is defined as $\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r} | \min(\mathbf{r}_i)$ if \mathbf{r} is not constant and $\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r} | (\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{1})$ if \mathbf{r} is constant. We define f^+ as $\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r} | \max(\mathbf{r}_i)$ if \mathbf{r} is not constant and $\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r} | (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{1})$ if \mathbf{r} is constant. We define f as $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r} | \min(\mathbf{r}_i)$ if \mathbf{r} is not constant and $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r} | \mathbf{r}_1$ if \mathbf{r} is constant.

The function f is introduced only to deal with the case of constant vector. These functions are defined to deal with the following case. Let X_i and X_j be two bags such that $X_i = X_j \setminus \{v\}$ for some vertex v . Let x be any vertex, then $\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(x)$ is equal to $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(x))$, $\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(x))$ or $\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(x))$. Moreover, if X_i separates x and v , $\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(x) = \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{d}_{X_i}(x))$.

Definition 40 Let I be an instance for a forget node i and let j be the child of i and $v \in V$ such that $X_i = X_j \setminus \{v\}$. Let $X_j = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ with $v = v_k$. An instance I_1 for j is compatible with I if

- (F1) $S_I = S_{I_1} \setminus \{v\}$.
- (F2) For all $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$, $\mathbf{r} | \mathbf{1} \in D_{ext}(I_1)$.
- (F3) For all $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$, $\mathbf{r} | \mathbf{0} \in D_{int}(I_1)$ or $\mathbf{r} | \mathbf{1} \in D_{int}(I_1)$.
- (F4) $\forall (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$, if there exist two vertices $x \in T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(x) = \mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r})$ (resp. $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r})$, $\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r})$) and $y \notin T(X_i)$ with $\mathbf{d}_{X_j}(y) = \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t})$ with $d(x, X_j) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_j) \leq 2$ then $(\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t}))$ (resp. $(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t}))$, $(\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t}))$) belongs to $D_{pair}(I_1)$.

Lemma 41 Let I be an instance for a forget node i . Let $\mathcal{F}_F(I)$ be the set of instances I_1 for j compatible with I . Then,

$$\dim(I) = \min_{I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_F(I)} \{\dim(I_1)\}.$$

The end of this section is devoted to prove Lemma 41 by proving both inequalities in a similar way than for join and introduce nodes.

We prove a technical lemma similar to Lemma 33 with a similar proof.

Lemma 42 Let i be a forget node, j be the child of i and $v \in V$ such that $X_i = X_j \setminus \{v\}$. Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_j)$. Let \mathbf{r} be a binary vector of size k with $\mathbf{r}_k = 1$. Then \mathbf{r} resolves (x, y) if and only if \mathbf{r}^- resolves (x, y) .

Proof. Let $\mathbf{t}_1 = \mathbf{Tr}_{X_i}(x)$ and $\mathbf{t}_2 = \mathbf{Tr}_{X_i}(y)$. Assume \mathbf{r} resolves (x, y) and by contradiction that \mathbf{r}^- does not resolve (x, y) . As \mathbf{r} resolves (x, y) we have by Definition 10, $\min_{1 \leq l \leq k} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l \neq \min_{1 \leq l \leq k} (\mathbf{t}_2 + \mathbf{r})_l$ and $\min_{1 \leq l \leq k-1} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l \neq \min_{1 \leq l \leq k-1} (\mathbf{t}_2 + \mathbf{r})_l$. So the minimum change in at least one case, assume by symmetry that $\min_{1 \leq l \leq k} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l \neq \min_{1 \leq l \leq k-1} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l$. Thus, for $l < k$, we have $(\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l > (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_k$. We know $\mathbf{r}_k = 1$, so, for $l < k$, we have $(\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l > 1$. That gives $\mathbf{r} = (1, \dots, 1)$ which contradicts the fact that X_j separates v from x_1 , one vertex of X_j is strictly closer to x than v . Assume \mathbf{r}^- resolves (x, y) and by contradiction that \mathbf{r} does not resolve (x, y) . Then, by symmetry we can

assume that $\min_{1 \leq l \leq k} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l \neq \min_{1 \leq l \leq k-1} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l$, meaning $(\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_k < \min_{1 \leq l \leq k-1} (\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l$. We know $\mathbf{r}_k = 1$ so $(\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_k \geq 1$ and $(\mathbf{t}_1 + \mathbf{r})_l = 2$ for $1 \leq l \leq k-1$. So $\mathbf{r} = (1, \dots, 1)$ which contradicts the fact that X_j separates v from s . \square

Lemma 43 *Let $I_1 \in \mathcal{F}_F(I)$ and S be a solution for I_1 , then S is a solution for I .*

Proof. Let us prove that the conditions of Definition 14 are satisfied.

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_i)$. As $T(X_i) = T(X_j)$, the pair is resolved by a vertex of S or by a vector \mathbf{r} of $D_{ext}(I_1)$. If (x, y) is resolved by $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I_1)$ then by Lemma 42, \mathbf{r}^- resolves the pair (x, y) and $\mathbf{r}^- \in D_{ext}(I)$ by compatibility.

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$. By compatibility, $\mathbf{r}|0 \in D_{int}(I_1)$ or $\mathbf{r}|1 \in D_{int}(I_1)$. Let $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(s) \in \{\mathbf{r}|0, \mathbf{r}|1\}$, then $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)$, $x \in V(T(X_i))$ and $y \notin T(X_i)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. Assume also $d(x, X_i) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_i) \leq 2$. The set X_j separates v and y so $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t})$. As $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{x})$ is equal either to $\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r})$, $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r})$ or to $\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r})$, the pair (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of S .

(S4) is clear. \square

Lemma 44 *Let S be a solution for I of minimal size. Then there exists I_1 compatible with I such that S is a solution of I_1 .*

Proof. Let S be an solution for I of minimal size. Let I_1 be the following instance: $S_{I_1} = S \cap X_j$, $D_{int}(I_1) = \{\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(s), s \in S\}$, $D_{ext}(I_1) = \{\mathbf{r}|1, \mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)\}$, $D_{pair}(I_1) = \{(\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t})), (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)\} \cup \{(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t})), (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)\} \cup \{(\mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t})), (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I)\}$. We first check the compatibility.

(F1), (F2) and (F4) are straightforward.

(F3) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I)$ and $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_i}(s) = \mathbf{r}$. By construction, $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(s)$ belongs to $D_{int}(I_1)$ and $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{r}^-$ so $\mathbf{r}'|0 \in D_{int}(I_1)$ or $\mathbf{r}'|1 \in D_{int}(I_1)$.

We prove now S is a solution for I_1 .

(S1) Let (x, y) be a pair of vertices of $T(X_j)$. As $T(X_i) = T(X_j)$, the pair is resolved by a vertex of S or by a vector \mathbf{r} of $D_{ext}(I)$. If (x, y) is resolved by $\mathbf{r} \in D_{ext}(I)$ then by Lemma 42, $\mathbf{r}|1$ resolves the pair (x, y) and $\mathbf{r}|1 \in D_{ext}(I_1)$ by construction.

(S2) Let $\mathbf{r} \in D_{int}(I_1)$. By construction there is $s \in S$ such that $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(s) = \mathbf{r}$.

(S3) Let $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{t}) \in D_{pair}(I_1)$, $x \in V(T(X_j))$ and $y \notin T(X_j)$ such that $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{t}$. Assume also $d(x, X_i) \leq 2$ and $d(y, X_i) \leq 2$. Then $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(y) = \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{t})$ and $\mathbf{Tr}_{\mathbf{X}_j}(x) \in \{\mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{r})\}$. Since S is a solution of I , the pair (x, y) is resolved by a vertex of S .

(S4) is clear. \square

Lemma 41 is a consequence of Lemmas 43 and 44.

D Complexity analysis

To get the announced complexity, we add a first step to the *IMD* algorithm: for each bag X , we compute $d_{\leq 2}(X) \cap T(X)$ and $d_{\leq 2}(X) \cap (G \setminus T(X))$. This computation can be done in $O(n^2)$ times (recall that T has a linear number of bags by Lemma 2). Note also that the size of $d_{\leq 2}(X) \cap T(X)$ and $d_{\leq 2}(X) \cap (G \setminus T(X))$ depends only of $|X_i|$.

To compute the complexity, we need to compute the number of instances and the time to solve an instance. For simplicity we let $\alpha(k) := 2^k \cdot 2^{2^k} \cdot 2^{2^k} \cdot 2^{4^{2^k}}$.

Lemma 45 *Let I be any instance for a node i and assume $\dim(I')$ is known for every instance I' compatible with I for every child of i . Then $\dim(I)$ can be computed in time $O(f(|X_i|))$ for a computable function f .*

Proof. If i is a leaf node then $\dim(I)$ can be computed in constant time by Lemma 17. Otherwise, let us prove that one can compute for all the instances on the child nodes (at most two child nodes) all the compatible instances. Given a multi-set $(X_i, S_I, D_{int}(I), D_{ext}(I), D_{pair}(I))$, checked if it is an instance according to Definition 14 can be done in time $O(|I| \cdot g(|X_i|))$ where g gives the size of $d_{\leq 2}(X_i) \cap T(X_i)$ plus the size $d_{\leq 2}(X_i) \cap (G \setminus T(X_i))$. The number of such multi-sets $(X_i, S_I, D_{int}(I), D_{ext}(I), D_{pair}(I))$ is bounded by $\alpha(|X_i|)$. Thus, identifying the instances among all the multi-sets can be done in time depending only of $|X_i|$.

Checking the compatibility can be done in a time that only depends on $|X_i|$. Condition **(J5)** can be checked in time $O(|X_i|^2 \cdot |I|)$ to check for each pair of vectors if a vector of $D_{ext}(I)$ resolves it. Condition **(I5)** can be checked in time $O(|X_i|)$ and condition **(F4)** in time $O(|X_i|^2)$. The other compatibility conditions can be checked in time $O(|I|)$ and by Definition 14, $|I|$ is bounded by a function of $|X_i|$. Then, computing the minimum using the formulas of Lemmas 19, 23 and 41 can be done in time $O(\alpha(X_i))$. Ultimately the computation of $\dim(I)$ is done in time bounded by a function of X_i .

Lemma (25) *The algorithm for *IMD* runs in time $O(n(T)^2 + n(T) \cdot f(\omega))$ where $n(T)$ is the number of vertices of the input tree T and $f = O(k^2 \cdot 2^{O(4^{2^k})})$ is a function that only depends on the size of a maximum clique ω .*

Proof. By definition of the treewidth, for any bag X of T , $|X| \leq \omega$. The first step of computation to get $d_{\leq 2}(X_i) \cap T(X_i)$ and $d_{\leq 2}(X_i) \cap (G \setminus T(X_i))$ takes time $O(n^2)$. Then, the number of instances to compute for each vertex of T is bounded by $\alpha(\omega)$ and each instance can be computed in time bounded by a function of ω by Lemma 45.