# Longest Path and Cycle Transversals in Chordal Graphs 

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April 7, 2023

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Let $G$ be a connected graph. If $P$ and $Q$ are longest paths in $G$, then $P$ and $Q$ share at least one vertex.

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Redrawn

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- Golan-Shan (2018): $2 P_{2}$-free graphs


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Question
Do the chordal graphs form a Gallai family?

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Theorem
If $G$ is a connected n-vertex chordal graph, then
$\operatorname{lpt}(G) \leq O\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$.

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- If $G$ is 2-connected, then the longest cycles in $G$ pairwise intersect.


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- Kierstead-Rey (2021): $\operatorname{lct}(G) \leq O\left(n^{2 / 3}\right)$.
- Grünbaum (1974) some 2-connected $G$ has $\operatorname{lct}(G)=3$.
- Open: is there a 2 -connected graph $G$ with $\operatorname{lct}(G) \geq 4$ ?
- Harvey-Payne (2022): If $G$ is a 2-connected chordal graph, then $\operatorname{lpt}(G) \leq 2\lceil\omega(G) / 3\rceil$.


## Theorem

If $G$ is a 2-connected n-vertex chordal graph, then
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- Lemma: If $G$ is 2 -connected and $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ are longest cycles in $G$, then $C_{1} \cup C_{2}$ is a 2-connected subgraph.


## The Core Capture Property

- Let $G$ be chordal with tree representation $T$. The core of a subgraph $H$ of $G$ is given by

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\operatorname{core}(H)=\bigcup_{u v \in E(H)}(V(S(u)) \cap V(S(v)))
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- A set $W \subseteq V(T)$ has the core capture property (ccp) for a family of subgraphs $\mathcal{H}$ if each $H \in \mathcal{H}$ has a core vertex in $W$.


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Theorem
If $G$ is a 2-connected n-vertex chordal graph, then $\operatorname{lct}(G) \leq 4(1+\lceil\lg n\rceil)$.

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- $D(y)$ : all descendants of $y$ (including $y$ ).
- $Q_{0}$ : minimal subpath of $Q$ whose descendants $D\left(Q_{0}\right)$ have ccp for $\mathcal{C}$.


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- Lemma: $G$ has distinct vertices $w_{1}$ and $w_{2}$ with $S\left(w_{1}\right), S\left(w_{2}\right)$ containing $Q_{0}$.
- We add $w_{1}, w_{2}$ to $A$.
- Let $\mathcal{C}_{1}=\left\{C \in \mathcal{C}: V\left(C_{1}\right) \cap\left\{w_{1}, w_{2}\right\}=\varnothing\right\}$.


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- A path $P$ in $G$ is good if $|V(P)| \geq 3, S(u) \subseteq D\left(Q_{0}\right)-V\left(Q_{0}\right)$ for each interior vertex $u \in V(P)$, and $S(v) \cap V(Q) \neq \varnothing$ for each endpoint $v$ of $P$.


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- Except for a degen. case, each $C \in \mathcal{C}_{1}$ contains a good path.
- Let $P$ be a longest good path in $G$ with endpoints $w_{3}$ and $w_{4}$.
- If $C \in \mathcal{C}_{1}$ does not intersect $P$, then we get a longer cycle by replacing the interior of a good path in $C$ with $w_{1} P w_{2}$.


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- Take $X^{\prime}$ to be this component.


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- Long-Milans-Wigal: if $G$ is connected and has a tree representation $T$ such that $T$ is a subdivided star, then $\operatorname{lpt}(G)=1$.



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