

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Ganglions	3
1.2	Cyclewidth	4
1.3	Towards a directed structure theorem	4
1.4	Moplexes	5
1.5	Avoidable paths	6
1.6	Linegraph squares	6
2	Background and preliminaries	9
2.1	Undirected graphs	9
2.1.1	Graph classes and their properties	12
2.1.2	Treewidth	14
2.1.3	Obstructions to small treewidth	15
2.2	Directed graphs	18
2.2.1	Directed separations	20
2.2.2	Directed treewidth	22
2.2.3	Obstructions to small directed treewidth	24
2.3	Bipartite graphs and perfect matchings	26
3	Ganglions	29
3.1	Duality of DAG-width and the cops and robber reachability game . .	30
3.1.1	DAG-Width	30
3.1.2	The cops and robber reachability game	32
3.2	Systems of directed separations	34
3.2.1	Uncrossing of directed separations	34
3.2.2	Orientations of directed separations	38
3.2.3	Introducing $\vec{S}$ -DAGs	40
3.3	A general duality theorem	46
3.4	The ν -property	62
3.4.1	The ν -DAG-width	62
3.4.2	ν -ganglions	65
3.4.3	Duality for ν -DAG-width	67
3.4.4	Ganglions yield robber strategies	72

3.4.5	A non-monotone cop strategy	75
3.5	Monotonicity	77
3.6	Conclusion and open questions	85
4	Digraphs of cyclewidth one	87
4.1	Relation to directed treewidth	89
4.2	Digraphs and matchings	97
4.2.1	Perfect matching width	98
4.3	Matching decompositions	101
4.3.1	Cubic trees and spines	102
4.3.2	Tight cut contractions	107
4.3.3	Imbalances of sets	111
4.3.4	Imbalance and spines in k -extendable bipartite graphs . . .	112
4.3.5	Application to braces of perfect matching width 2	118
4.4	Graphs of M -perfect matching width 2	120
4.5	Conclusion	123
5	Towards a directed structure theorem	125
5.1	The directed wall	126
5.2	The cross-row grid	133
5.3	Drawings and weak renditions	138
5.4	Flat wall theorem	141
5.4.1	Selected results from [GKKK20]	146
5.4.2	Removing long jumps	148
5.4.3	Proof of Theorem 5.4.3	154
5.5	A flat wall theorem excluding $K_5^{\rightarrow}$	168
5.6	Where to go from here?	174
6	Induced subgraphs	177
6.1	Graphs with at most two mplexes	177
6.1.1	Bounding the mplex number	181
6.1.2	Avoidable vertices in mplexes	185
6.1.3	Connections with proper interval graphs and cochain graphs	189
6.1.4	Lexicographic searches and vertex orderings	192
6.1.5	2-mplex graphs are cocomparability	196
6.1.6	Hardness results	201
6.1.7	Hamiltonian properties of 2-mplex graphs	206
6.1.8	Outlook on mplexes	216
6.2	Avoidable paths	216
6.2.1	A stronger induction hypothesis	217
6.2.2	Consequences	220

6.2.3	An algorithm for Theorem 6.2.9	222
6.2.4	Conclusion	223
6.3	Perfect linegraph squares	224
6.3.1	Induced paths in G^2	226
6.3.2	Induced odd antiholes and perfect squares	229
6.3.3	Linegraphs	232
6.3.4	Induced paths in linegraph squares	234
6.3.5	Induced odd antiholes and perfect linegraph squares	245
6.3.6	Concluding χ -boundedness	251
7	Conclusion	253
	Bibliography	255
	Index	271