

# A Survey on Dynamic Algorithms

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Sebastian Forster, né Krinninger

University of Salzburg

@HALG (June 2025)



# A Survey on Dynamic **Distance** Algorithms

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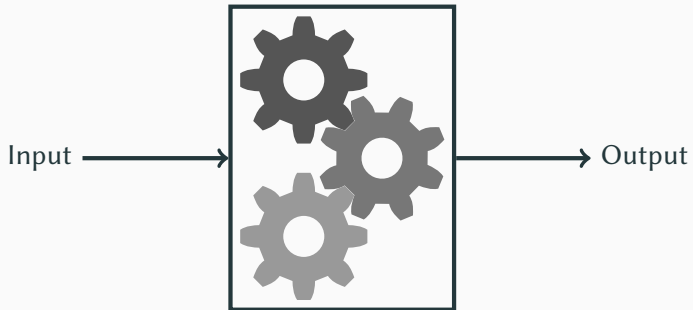
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# Static Approach



# Dynamic Environments



Ziel / Destination	Gleis / Platform/Voor
Mannheim-Friedrich	11
Gernsheim	17
Köln Hbf	7
Berlin Hbf	9
Passau Hbf	6
Siegen	16
Saarbrücken Hbf	20
Fulda	8
Bruxelles-Midi	19
Hanau Hbf	5

DB-Zugverkehr beeinträchtigt. Bitte informieren Sie sich auch im Internet



# Intra-Algorithmic Motivation

## Idea

Use dynamic algorithms as powerful data structures inside of static algorithms

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Design efficient flow optimization algorithm by combining **iterative methods** with **dynamic algorithms**

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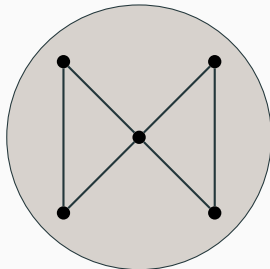
## Successful Research Program

Design efficient flow optimization algorithm by combining **iterative methods** with **dynamic algorithms**

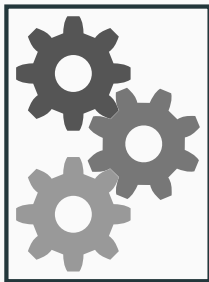
Many highlights ranging from [Mądry '10] to [Chen, Kyng, Liu, Peng Probst Gutenberg, Sachdeva '22]

# Dynamic Distance Maintenance

Input graph  $G$



Algorithm

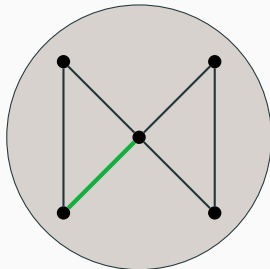


Distance Matrix

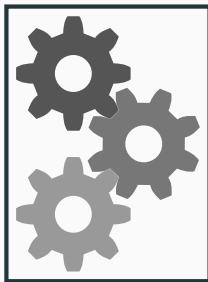
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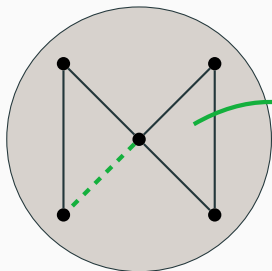
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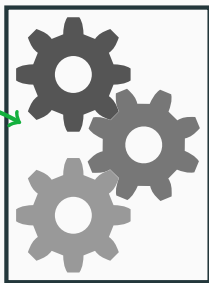
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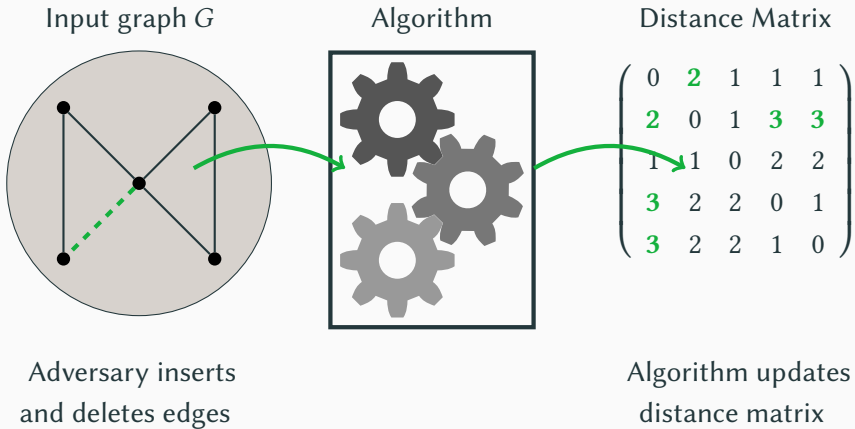


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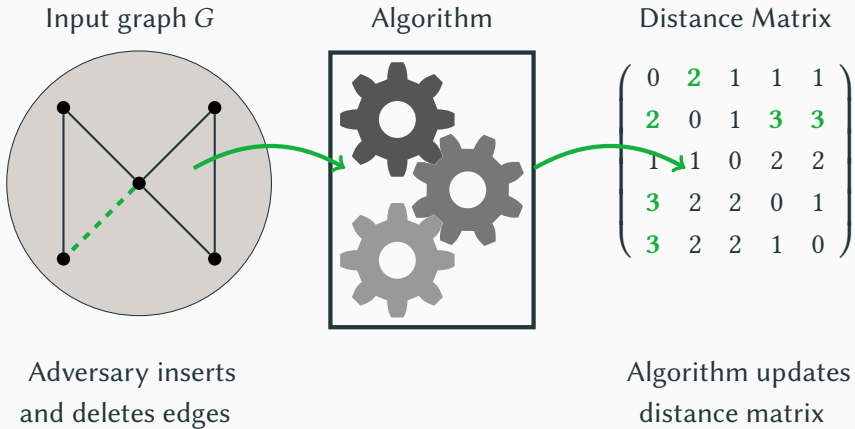
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## State of the Art

Amortized update time  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$  [Demetrescu, Italiano '03]



# The Landscape of Dynamic Graph Algorithms



# The Landscape of Dynamic Graph Algorithms

fully dynamic  
incremental  
decremental



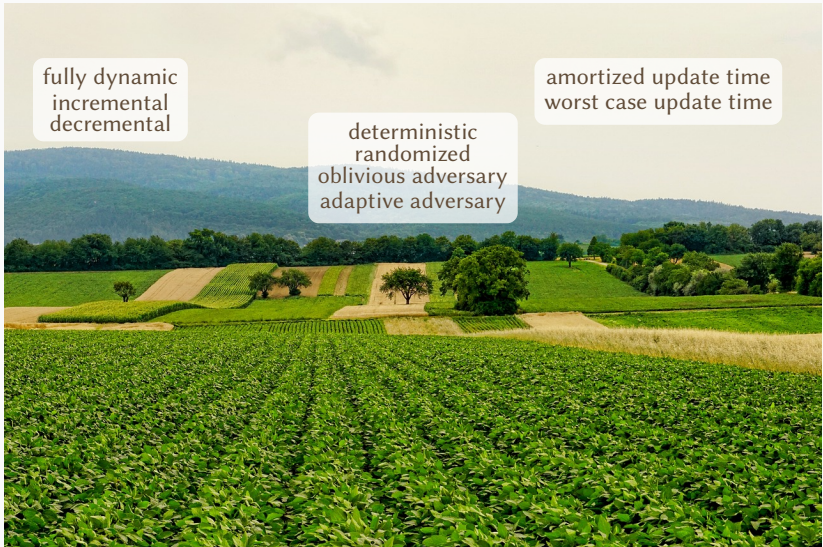
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amortized update time  
worst case update time



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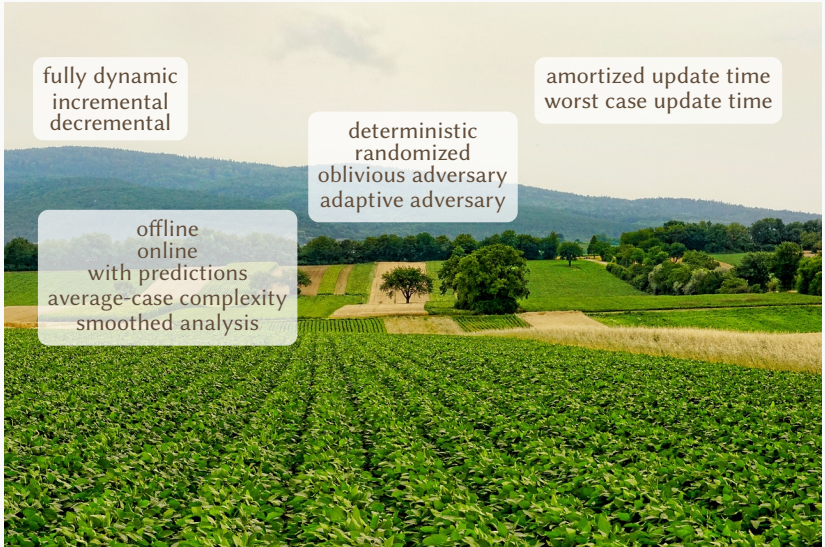
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fully dynamic  
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deterministic  
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offline  
online  
with predictions  
average-case complexity  
smoothed analysis





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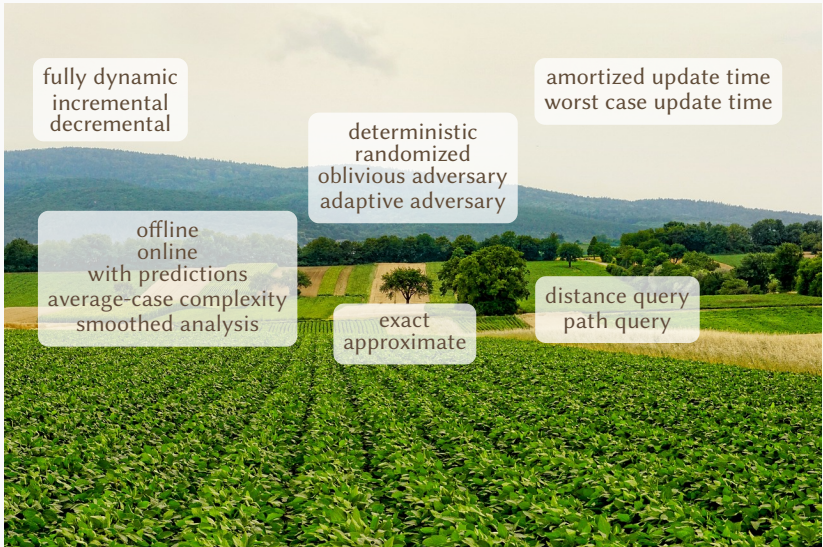
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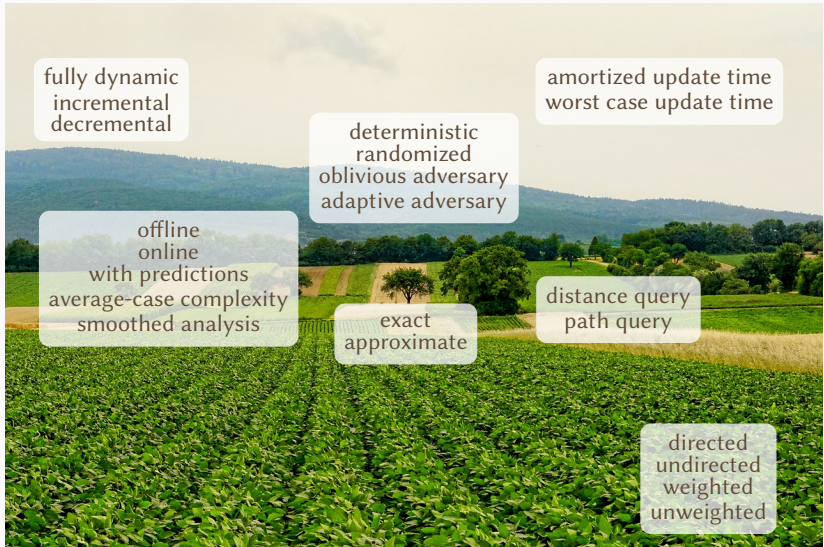
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average-case complexity  
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distance query  
path query

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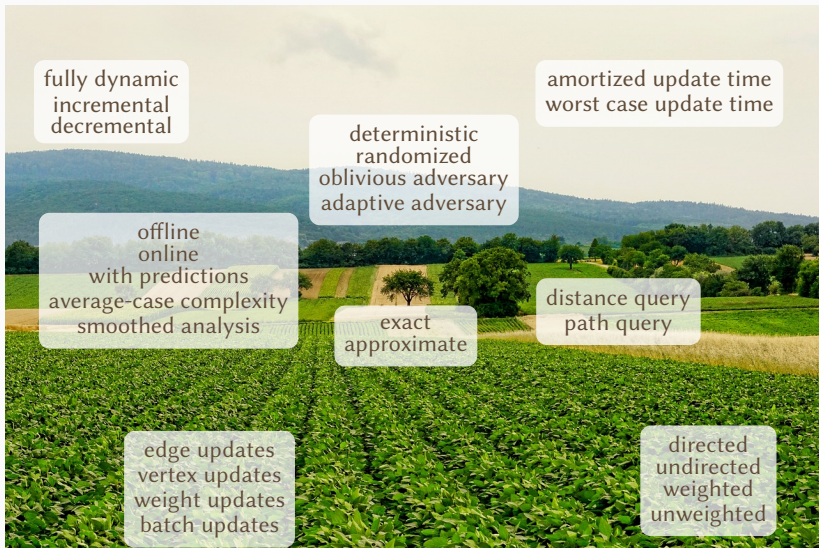


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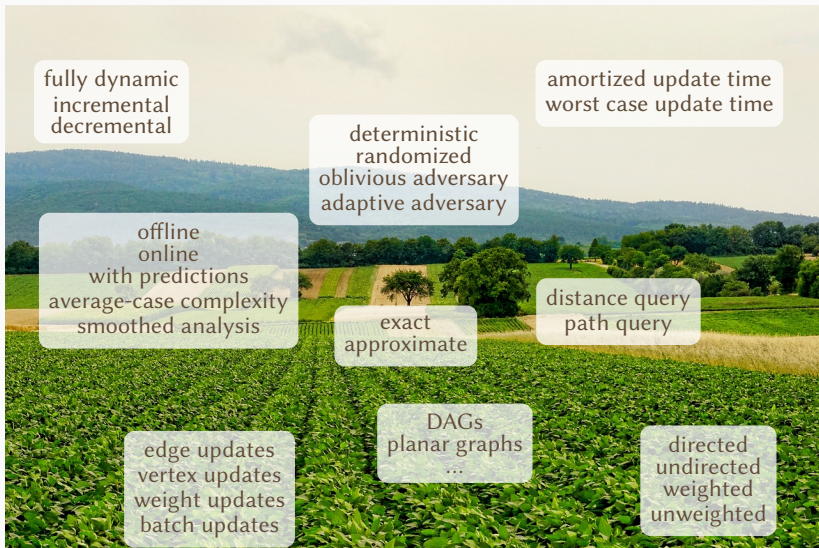




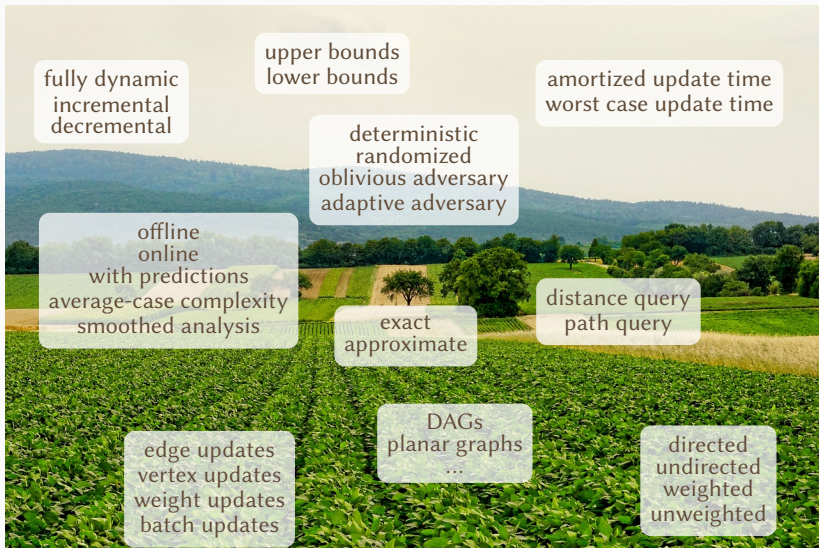
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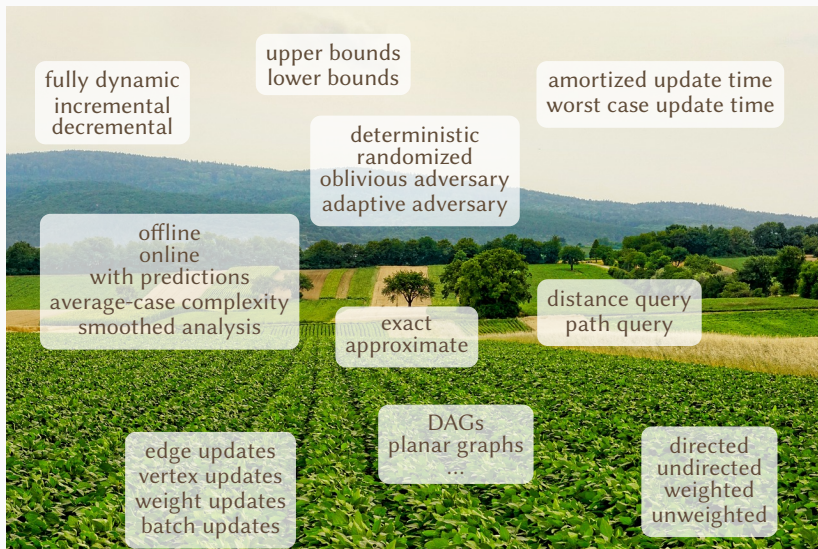
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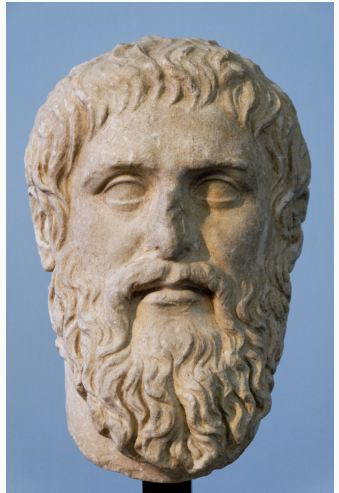
# The Landscape of Dynamic Graph Algorithms



$n$ : #nodes,  $m$ : #edges, edge weights polynomially bounded, constant  $\epsilon$

# Five Regimes

1.  $\pm 0$  (exact)
2.  $1 + \epsilon$  (almost exact)
3.  $2 + \epsilon$  (small constant)
4.  $2k - 1$  (large constant)
5.  $\omega(1)$  (superconstant)

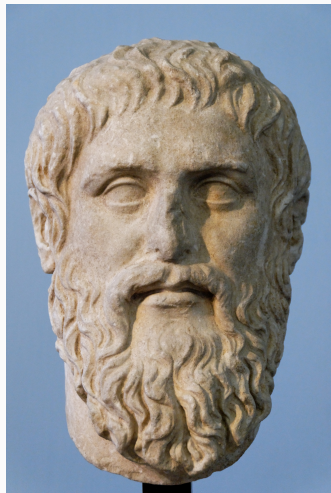


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Stretch  $\alpha$ :

$$d(u, v) \leq \tilde{d}(u, v) \leq \alpha \cdot d(u, v)$$



$\pm 0$  (**exact**)

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## Regime 1: $\pm 0$ (exact)

### Constant query time:

- Amortized update time  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$  (det.) [Demetrescu, Italiano '03]  
(log-factor improvement by [Thorup '04])



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### Trade-offs:

- Worst-case update/query time  $O(n^{1.724})$  in unweighted graphs  
[Sankowski '05; v.d. Brand, Nanongkai, Saranurak '19]
- Amortized update time  $\tilde{O}(mn^2/t^2)$ , query time  $O(t)$  (for  
 $t \approx [n^{1/2}, n^{3/4}]$ ) in unweighted graphs [Roditty, Zwick '11]
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[Karczmarz, Sankowski '23]

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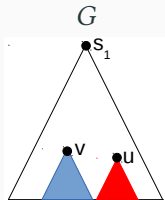
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[Karczmarz, Sankowski '23] **Open: improved trade-offs?**

## ACK Framework: Preprocessing

Construct shortest path tree up to  $h$  edges for all sources one by one  
**counting** total size of subtrees for every node (idea of [Thorup '05]):

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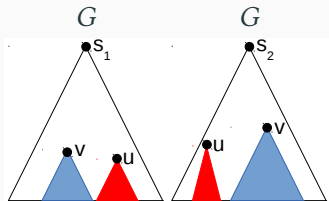


**Rule:** If number of nodes in subtrees of  $v$  exceeds  $\lambda$ :

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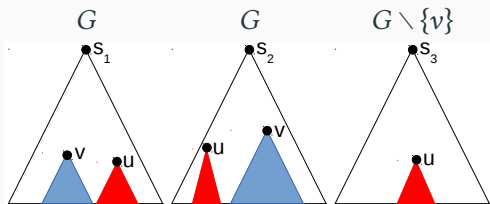
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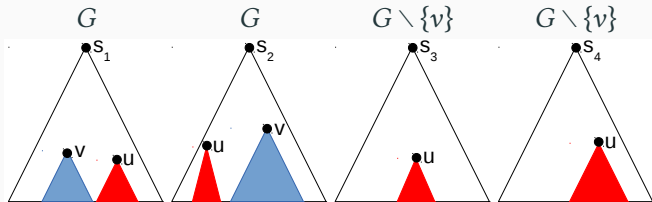


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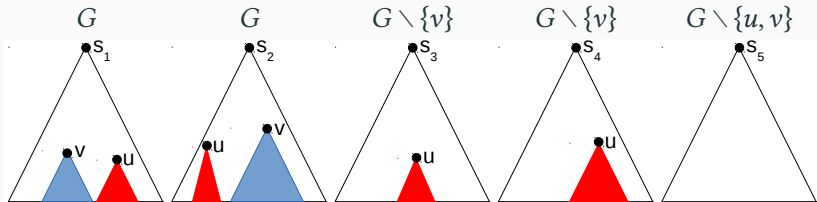


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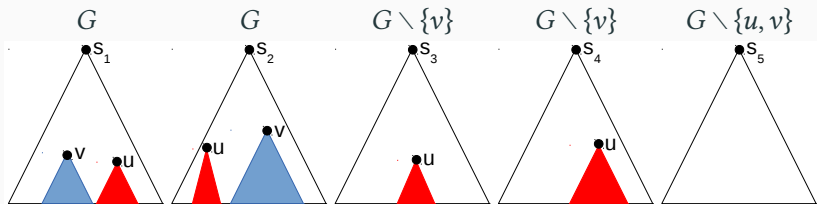


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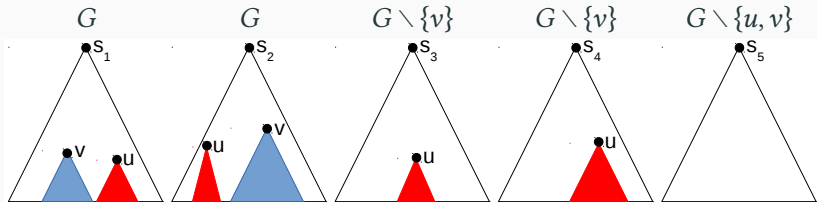
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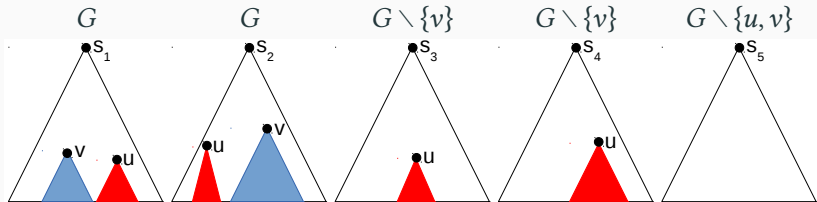
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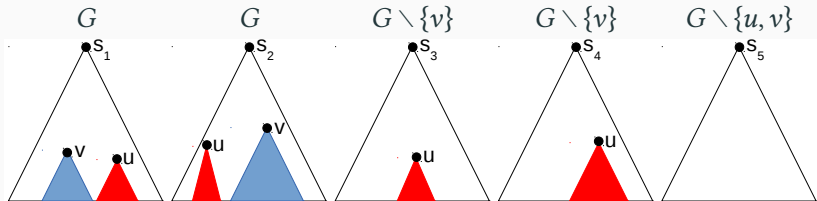
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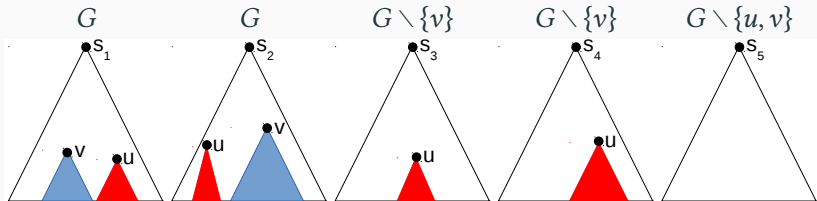
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- Number of heavy nodes:  $|H| \leq O(\frac{|S|nh}{\lambda}) \leq O(\frac{n^2h}{\lambda})$
- Preprocessing time:  $O(|S|n^2) \leq O(n^3)$

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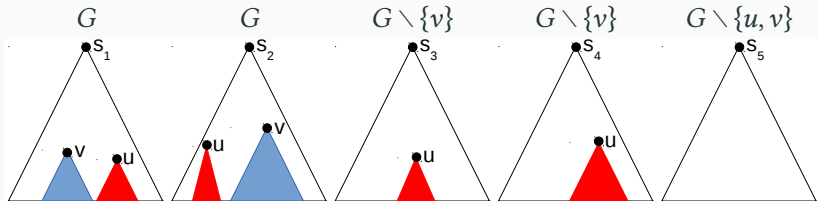
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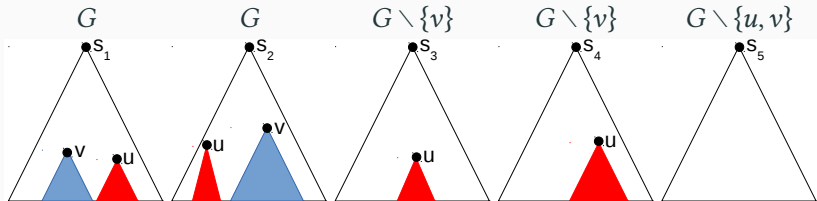
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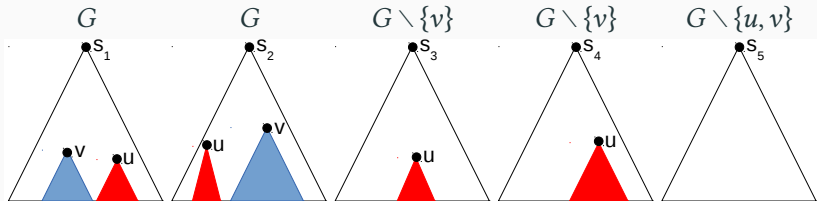
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2. Additionally: shortest paths via heavy nodes

Compute  $\min_{v \in H} (dist(s, v) + dist(v, t))$  for all  $s$  and  $t$

Time per deletion:  $O(|H|n^2) = O(\frac{n^4 h}{\lambda})$

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Fully dynamic can be reduced to bounded-hop batch-deletion

## Regime 1: $\pm 0$ (exact)

### Unweighted graphs:

- **Incremental:** total update time  $\tilde{O}(n^3)$  [Ausiello et al. '92]
- **Decremental:** total update time  $\tilde{O}(n^3)$  [Demetrescu, Italiano '01; Baswana, Hariharan, Sen '02]  
→ **Deterministic version:** [Evald, Fredslund-Hansen, Probst Gutenberg, Wulff-Nilsen '21]

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- Static time:  $O(n^{2.575})$  [Zwick '02]

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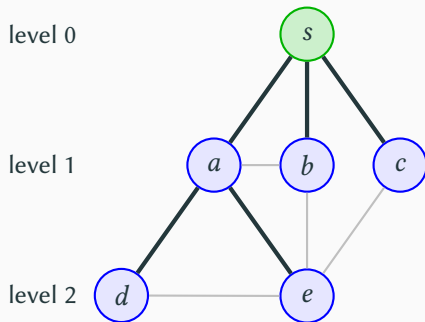
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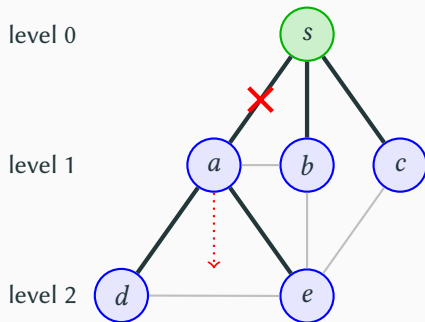
- Static time:  $O(n^{2.575})$  [Zwick '02]
- $\Omega(n^3)$  changes to pairwise distance even in sparse graphs
- No  $O(n^{3-\delta})$  total update time with small query time based on OMv conjecture [Henzinger, K, Nanongkai, Saranurak '15]

## 🔧 Decremental Shortest Path Tree [Even/Shiloach '81]

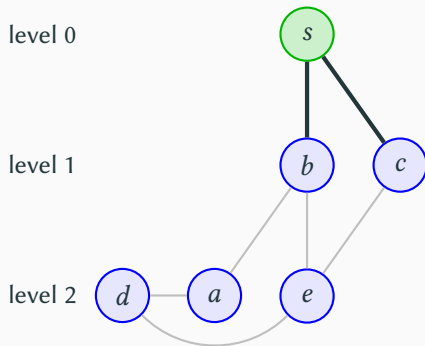




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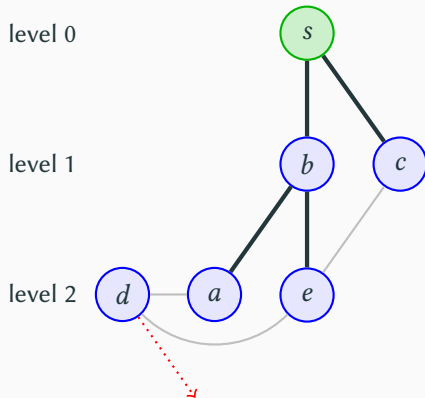


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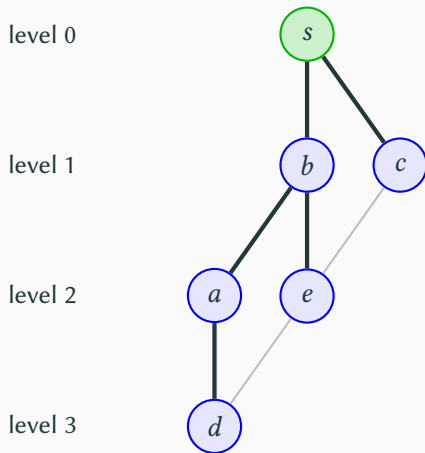




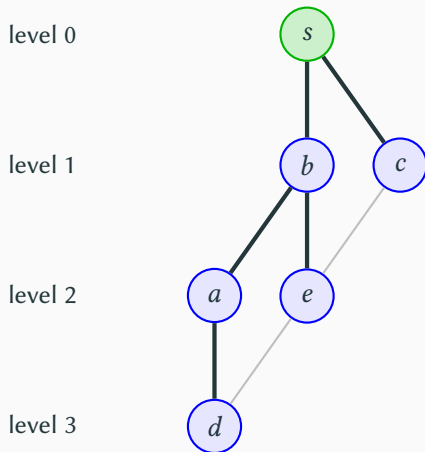
# Decremental Shortest Path Tree [Even/Shiloach '81]



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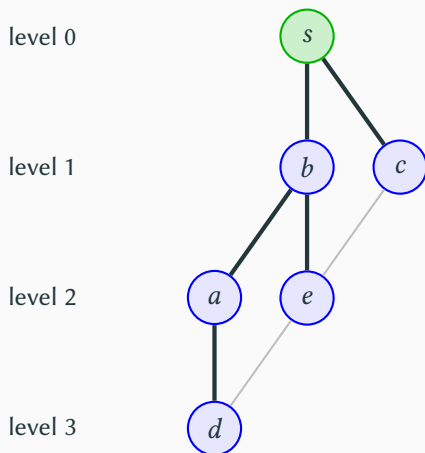


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Over all deletions for tree up to depth  $D$ :

$$O\left(\sum_v \text{degree}(v) \cdot D\right) = O(mD)$$

$1 + \epsilon$  (almost exact)

---

## Regime 2: $1 + \epsilon$ (almost exact)

### Partially dynamic:

- Decremental: randomized, total time  $\tilde{O}(mn)$  in directed graphs [Bernstein '13]
- Decremental: determ., total time  $O(mn^{1+o(1)})$  in undirected graphs via SSSP [Bernstein, Probst Gutenberg, Saranurak '21]
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### Fully dynamic:

- Update time  $\tilde{O}(n^{2.045})$  [v.d. Brand, Nanongkai '19]
- Update time  $O(n^{1.863})$ , query time  $O(n^{0.666})$  [v.d. Brand, Nanongkai '19]
- Unweighted, undirected graphs
  - Update time  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$  [v.d. Brand, Nanongkai '19]
  - Update time  $O(n^{1.788})$ , query time  $O(n^{0.45})$  [v.d. Brand, F, Nazari '22]

### Trade-offs:

- Based on improved *decremental* APSP or SSSP algorithms (reduction)
- General form: Amortized update time  $mn/t$ , query time  $t$ 
  - Randomized, unweighted, undirected graphs: [Roditty, Zwick '04]
  - Deterministic, unweighted, undirected graphs: [Henzinger, K, Nanongkai '13]
  - Randomized, weighted, directed graphs: [Bernstein '13]
  - Deterministic, weighted, undirected graphs: [Bernstein, Gutenberg, Saranurak '21]

## Dynamic Inverse Maintenance: Idea

- $\mathbf{A} \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$  adjacency matrix of unweighted, directed graph
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  - *Random*  $p = \Theta(n^c)$ : degree zero check correct with high probability (Schwartz-Zippel Lemma)

## Sophisticated lazy update schemes

- for maintaining submatrix (row, column, entry, ...)
- using fast matrix multiplication
- leading to update/query trade-offs

[King Sagert '99]

[Demetrescu, Italiano '00]

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[Sankowski '04]

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[v.d. Brand, Nangongkai, Saranurak '19]

[v.d. Brand, Forster, Nazari, Polak '24]

**$2 + \epsilon$  (small constant)**

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- Decremental: stretch  $2 + \epsilon$ , total update time  $\tilde{O}(m^{1/2}n^{3/2+o(1)})$  (weighted) or  $\tilde{O}(m^{7/4})$  (unweighted) [Dory, F, Nazari, de Vos '24]

## Enforcing Monotonicity

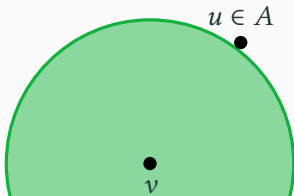
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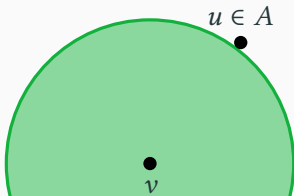


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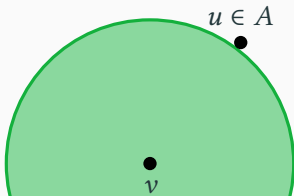


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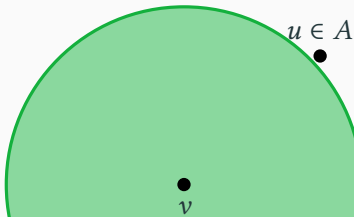




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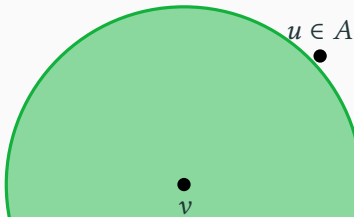
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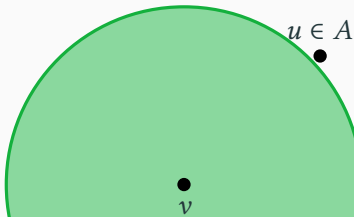


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 $\Rightarrow$  Total recourse:  $\tilde{O}(\frac{1}{p} \log_{1+\epsilon}(nW))$



$2k - 1$  (large constant)

---

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- Incremental with stretch  $(2k - 1)^t$  and worst case update/query time  $\tilde{O}(m^{1/(t+1)}n^{t/k})$  **deterministic** [Chen, Goranci, Henzinger, Peng, Saranurak '20]

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- Stretch  $2^{O(\rho k)}$ , update time  $\tilde{O}(m^{1/2}n^{1/k})$ , and query time  $O(k^2 \rho^2)$  (for  $\rho = 1 + \lceil \log n^{1-1/k} / \log(m/n^{1-1/k}) \rceil$ ) [Abraham, Chechik, Talwar '14]

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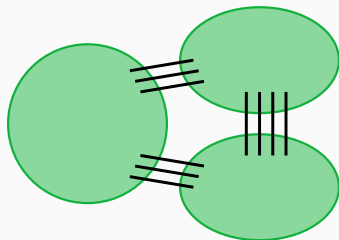
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- Stretch  $(\log \log n)^{2^{1/\rho^3}}$ , update time  $\tilde{O}(n^{O(\rho)})$ , query time  $\tilde{O}(2^{O(1/\rho)})$  **deterministic** (for  $\frac{2}{(\log n)^{1/200}} < \rho < \frac{1}{400}$ ) [Chuzhoy, Zhang '23]
- Stretch  $2^{\text{poly}(1/\rho)}$ , update time  $O(n^\rho)$ , query time  $O(\log \log n / \rho^4)$  (for  $\frac{1}{\log^\epsilon n} < \rho < 1$ ) **deterministic + worst case** [Haeupler, Long, Saranurak '24]

# ⚙️ Expander Decompositions

[Spielman, Teng '04] [Nanongkai, Saranurak, Wulff-Nilsen '17]

Partition of nodes into clusters  $C_1, \dots, C_k$   
such that

- each  $G[C_i]$  is a  $\phi$ -expander
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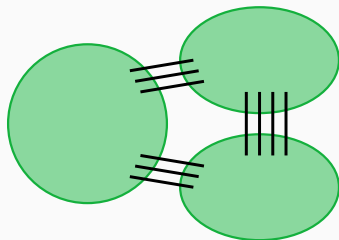


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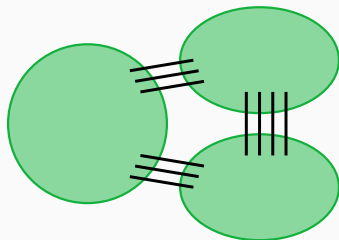
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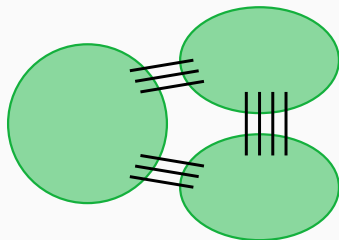
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- Development of new types of decompositions

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### Definition ([Peleg, Schäffer '89])

A **spanner** of **stretch**  $t$  of  $G = (V, E)$  is a subgraph  $H = (V, E')$  such that

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- Many papers on dynamic spanners ranging from [Ausiello, Franciosa, Italiano '05] to [Chuzhoy, Parter '25]
- Several open problems
- Techniques overlap with dynamic shortest paths
- Additionally, the problem has a “local” flavor

$\omega(1)$  (superconstant)

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### Partially dynamic:

- Decremental: Stretch  $n^{o(1)}$ , total update time  $m^{1+o(1)}$  [Chuzhoy '21; Bernstein, Probst Gutenberg, Saranurak '21]
- Incremental: Stretch  $\tilde{O}(1)$ , total update time  $\tilde{O}(m)$ , query time  $O(\log \log n)$  [F, Nazari, Probst Gutenberg '23]

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### Fully dynamic:

- Stretch  $O(\log n)^{3k-2}$ , update time  $m^{1/k+o(1)} \cdot O(\log n)^{4k-2}$ , query time  $O(k(\log n)^2)$  [F, Goranci, Henzinger '21]

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### Open Problem

Stretch  $\tilde{O}(1)$ , update time  $\tilde{O}(1)$ , query time  $\tilde{O}(1)$



Initially developed for the PRAM model [Andoni, Stein, Zhong '20]

### Overall setup:

- Hierarchy of  $k = \Theta(\log \log n)$  sparsifiers:  $G = H_1, H_2, \dots, H_k$
- $|V(H_{i+1})| = |V(H_i)|/b_i$  for double exponentially increasing  $b_i$ 's

$$|V(H_i)| = O\left(\frac{n}{b_1 \cdot b_2 \cdot \dots \cdot b_{i-1}}\right)$$

$$|E(H_i)| \leq m + O\left(\frac{n}{b_1 \cdot b_2 \cdot \dots \cdot b_{i-1}} \cdot b_i\right)$$

- $H_i$  is an  $\alpha$ -approximation of  $H_{i-1}$  for some constant  $\alpha$   
 $\alpha^k = \text{polylog } n$

## One Level of ASZ

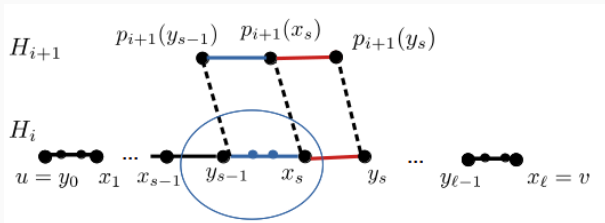
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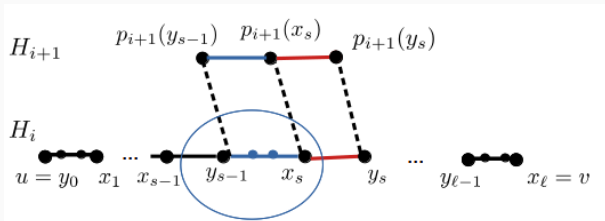
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segment  $y_{s-1} \rightarrow y_s$  approximated in  $H_{i+1}$  with multiplicative stretch  $\alpha$  and additive stretch  $d_{H_i}(y_s, p_i(y_s))$

# Summary

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- Similar stories for dynamic matching, dynamic connectivity, dynamic spanners, ...

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Thank you!