

# 3D-grids are not transducible from planar graphs

Jakub Gajarský, Michał Pilipczuk, Filip Pokrývka

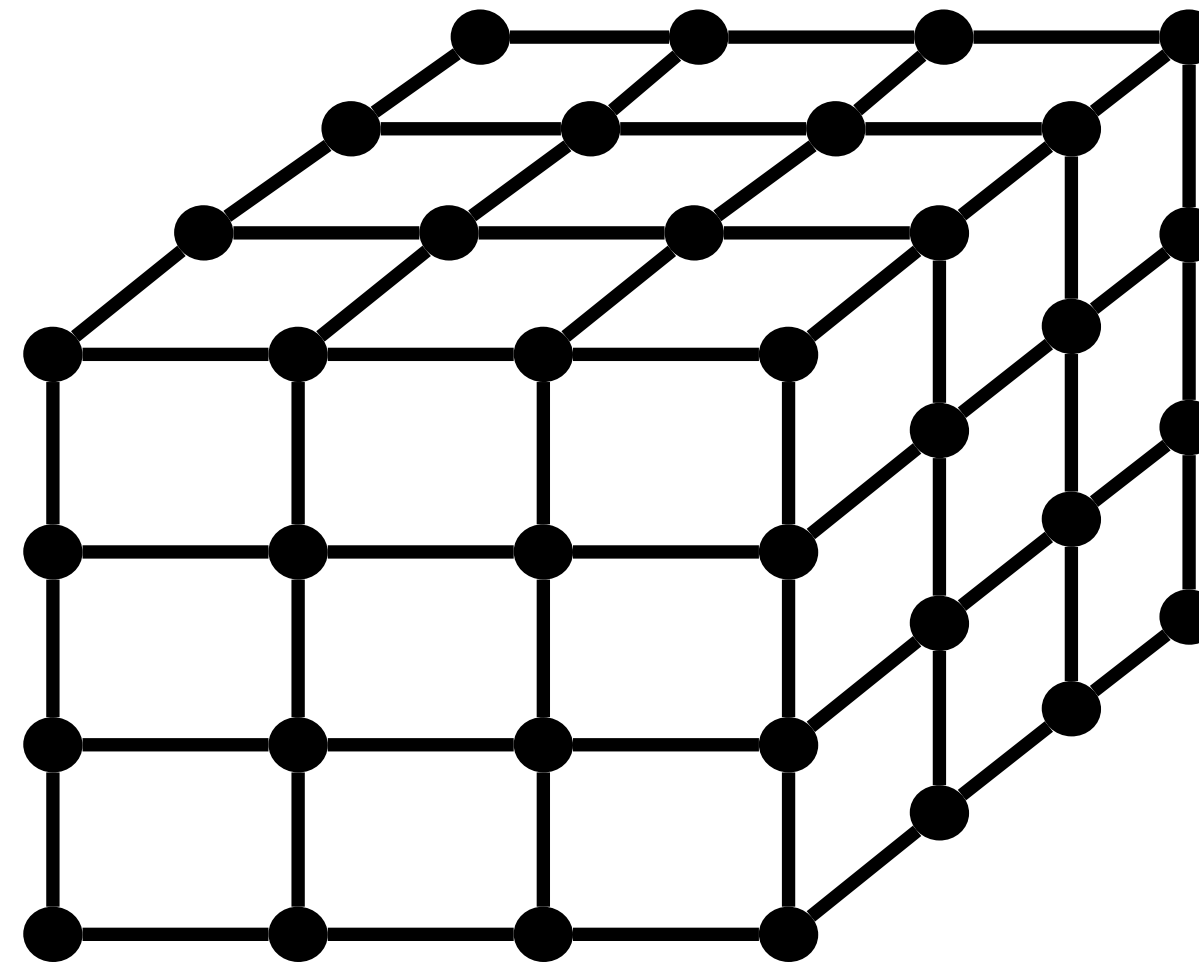
LOGALG 2025, Vienna

## **Theorem**

There is no first-order transduction that produces the class of all 3-dimensional grids from the class of planar graphs.

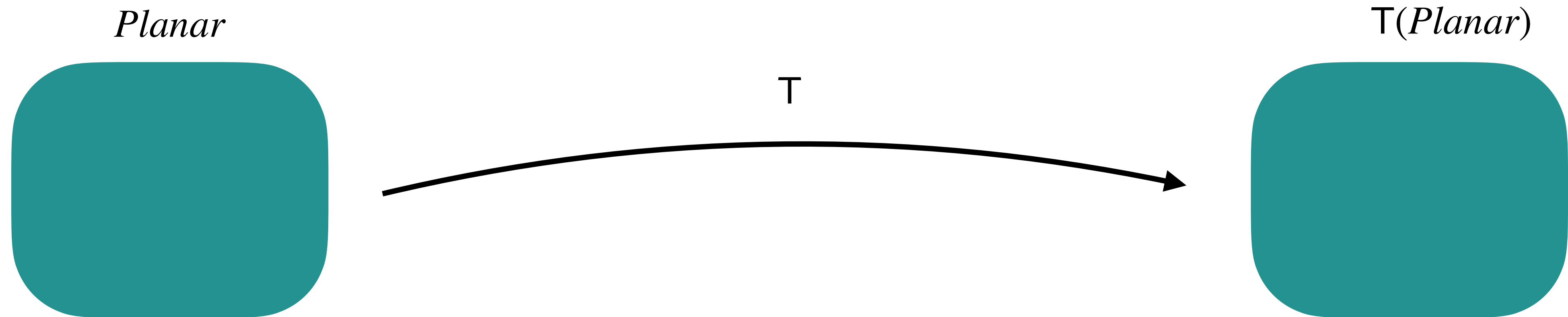
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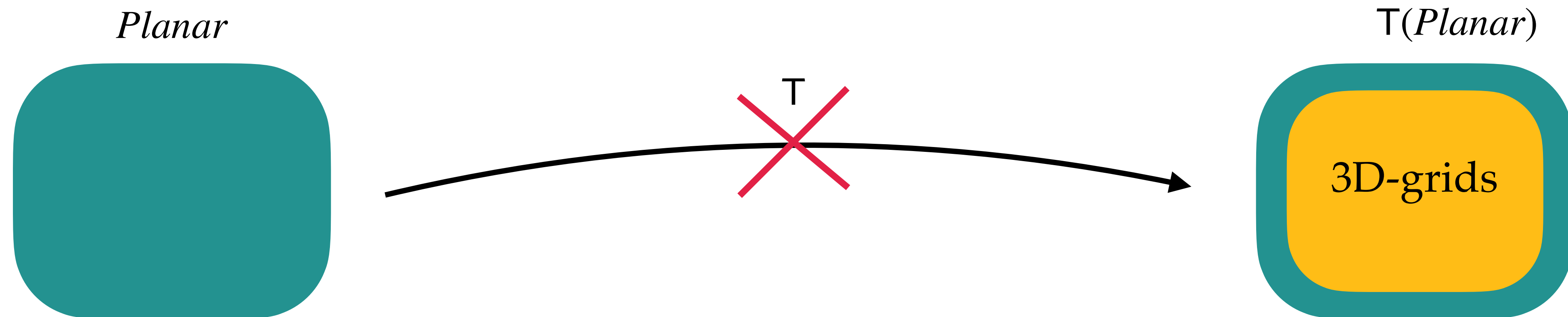
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**How and why prove such results?**

# Why are transductions important?

Transductions play a key role in the newly established field that can be called “**structural logical graph theory**”.

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The core idea:

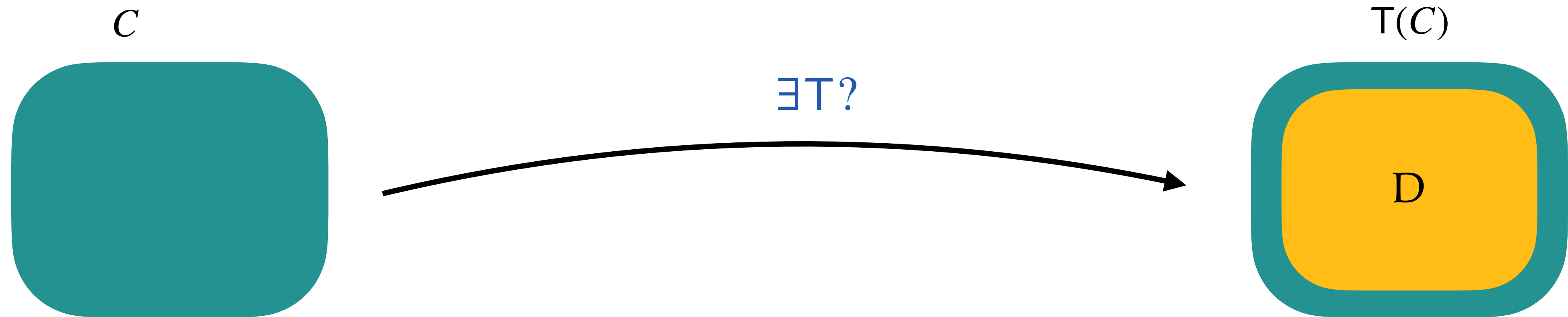
**Study graph classes and the relationships between them using transductions.**



# Structural logical graph theory

Very basic question:

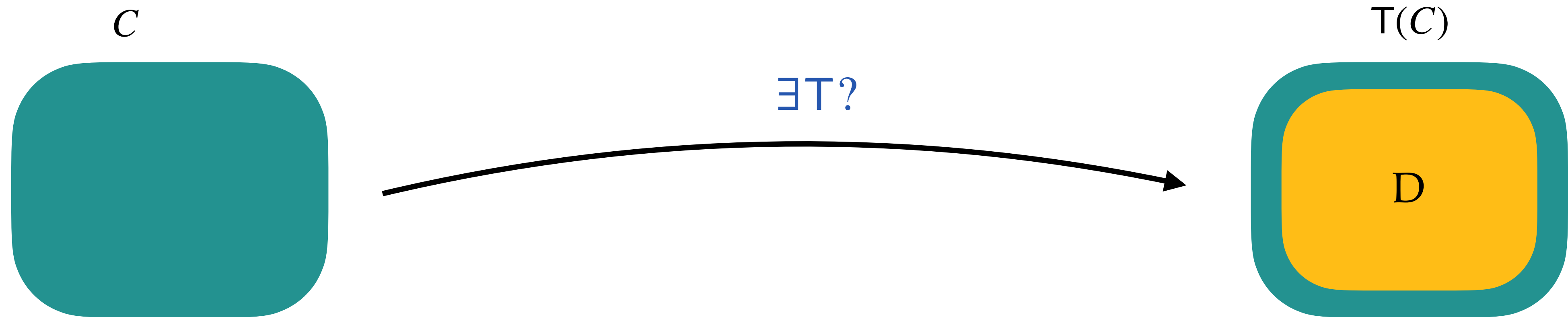
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More concisely:

Given two graph classes  $C$  and  $D$ , is  $D$  transducible from  $C$ ?

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- ▶ **The class of 3D-grids is not transducible from planar graphs.**

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- ▶ For  $k \geq 4$ , the class of graphs of treewidth  $k$  is not transducible from planar graphs.
- ▶ **The class of 3D-grids is not transducible from planar graphs.**
- ▶ The class of graphs of treewidth  $k + 1$  not transducible from treewidth  $k$ .

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One has to expose the simplicity of  $D$  and the richness of  $C$ .

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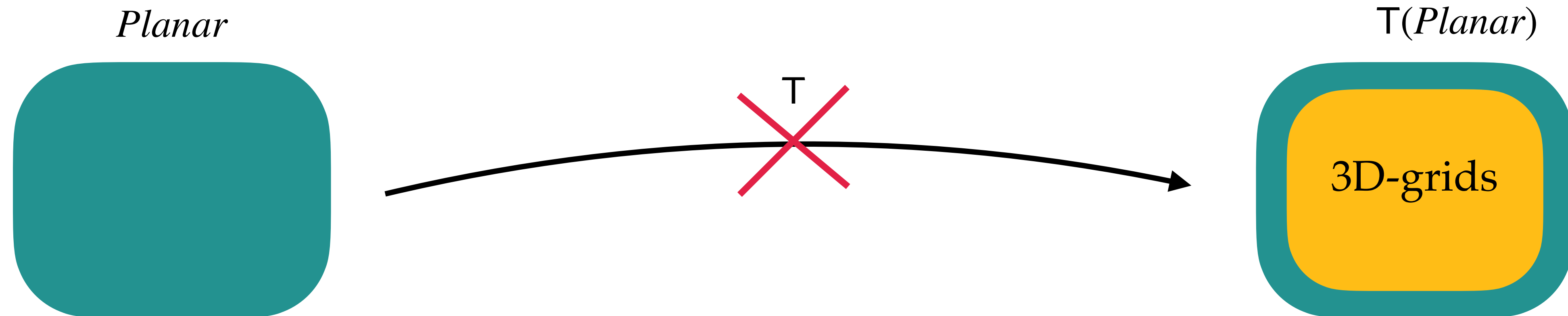
Transduction closed properties:

cliquewidth, twin-width, shrub-depth, merge-width, monadic dependence, monadic stability...

# The proof

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# Transductions of bounded range

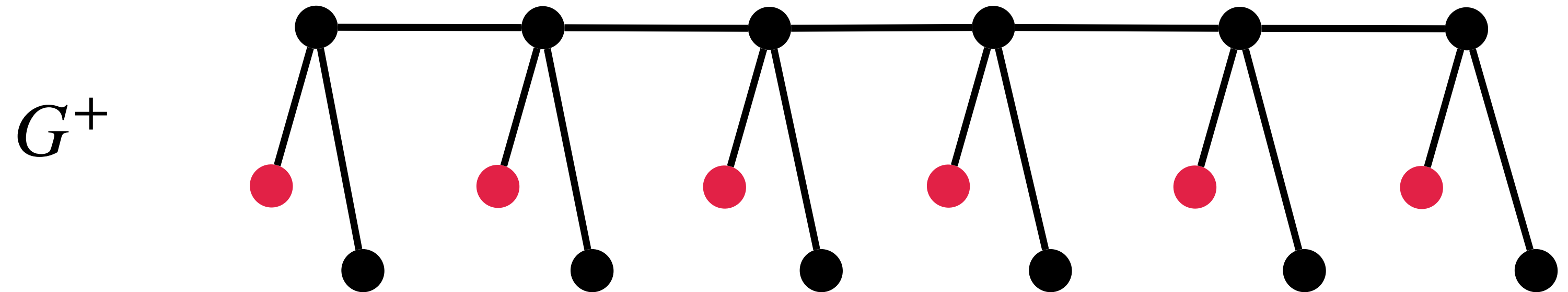
We say that a transduction  $T$  has bounded range if there exists  $b \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the following holds for any  $G$ :

If  $u, v$  are vertices of  $G$  such that  $\text{dist}_G(u, v) > b$ , then  $u, v$  are not adjacent in  $T(G)$ .

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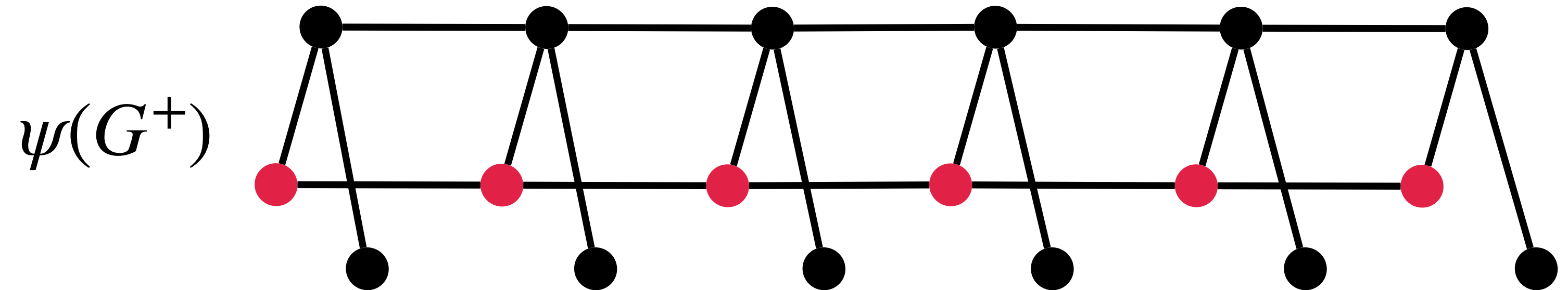


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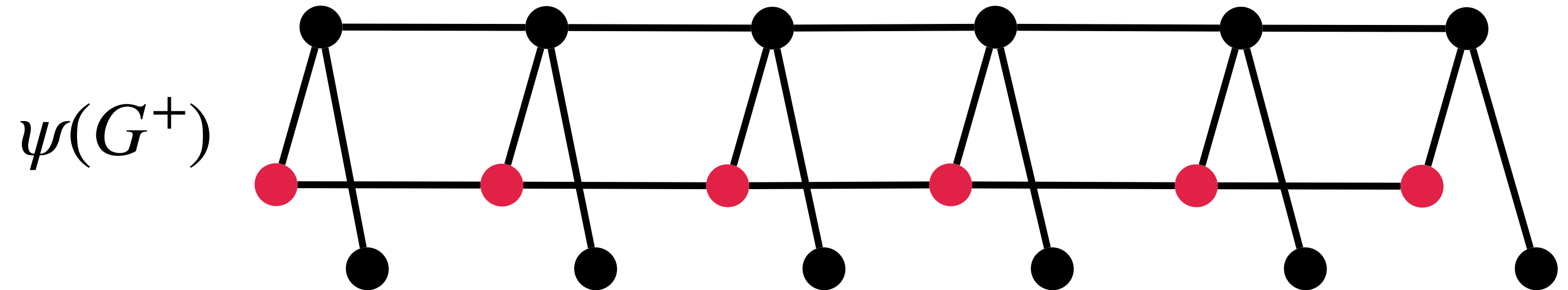
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The range of  $T$  is 3.

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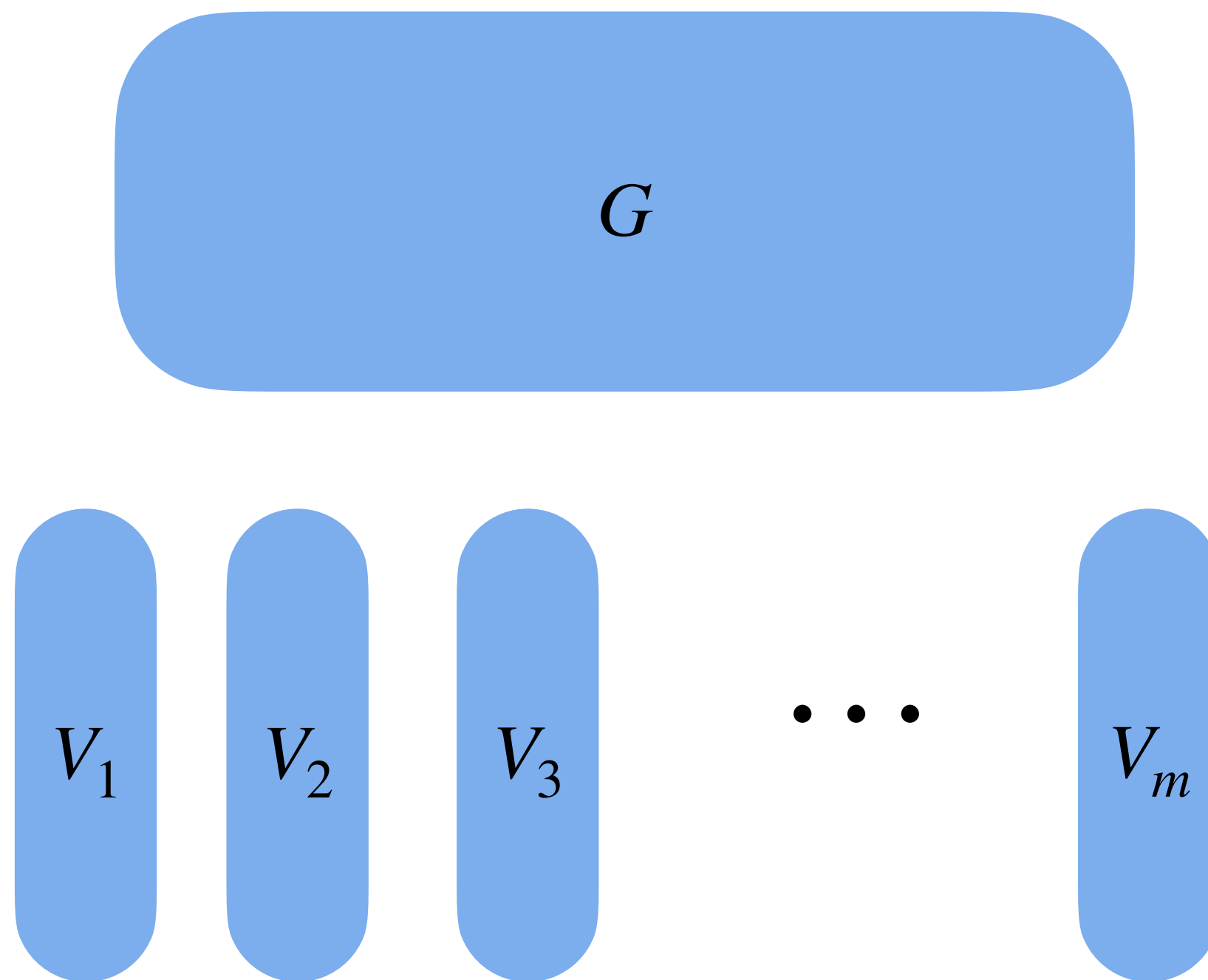
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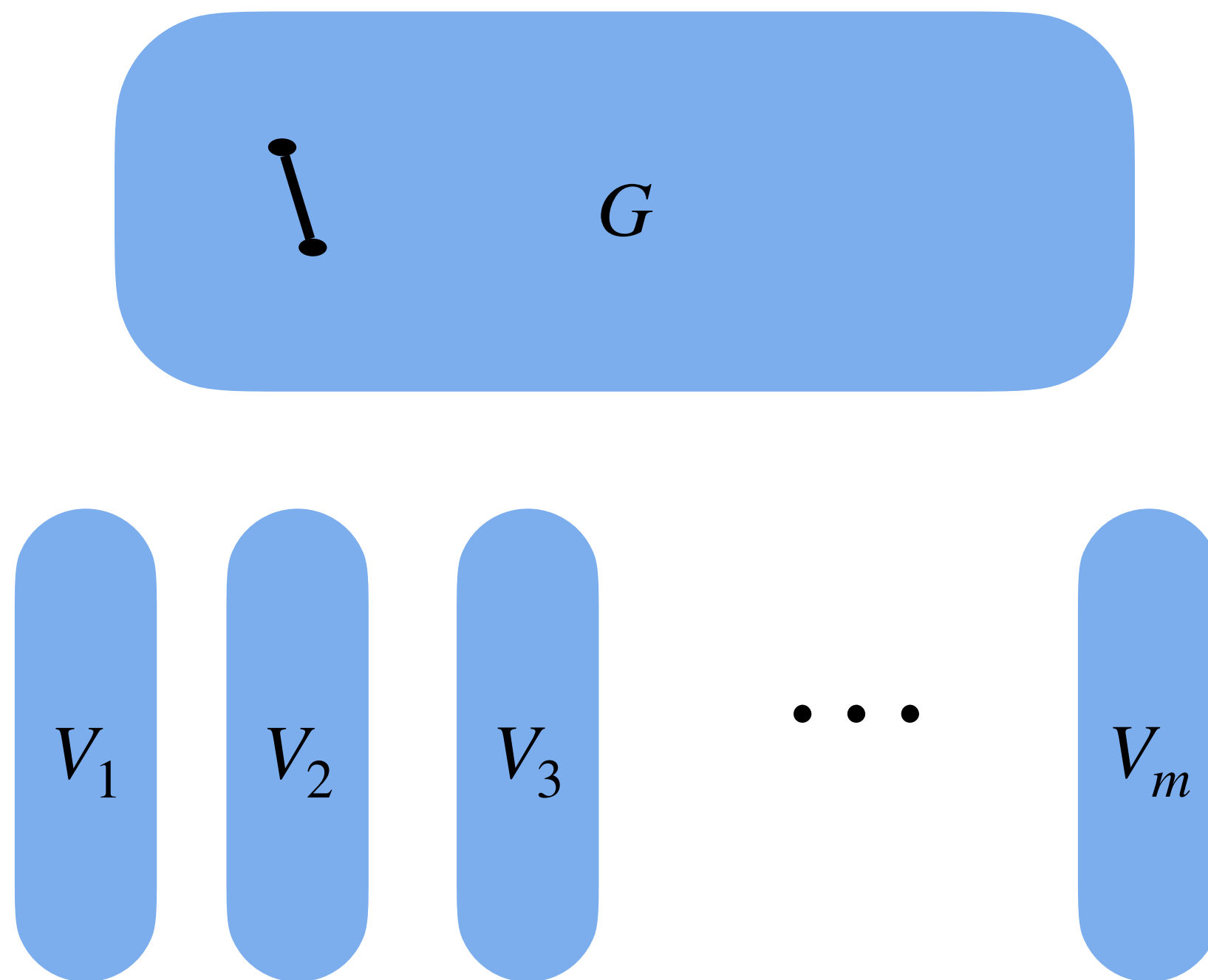
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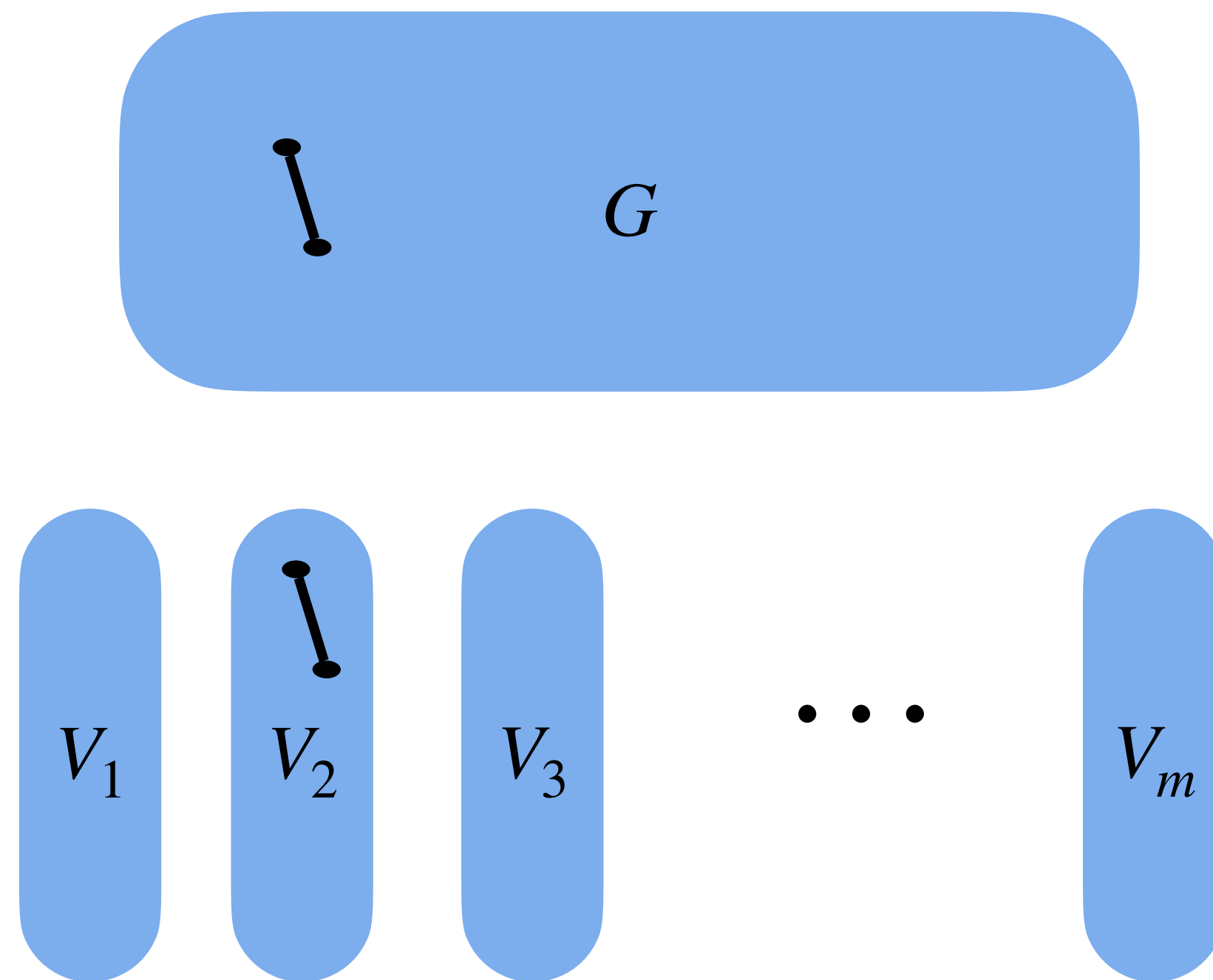
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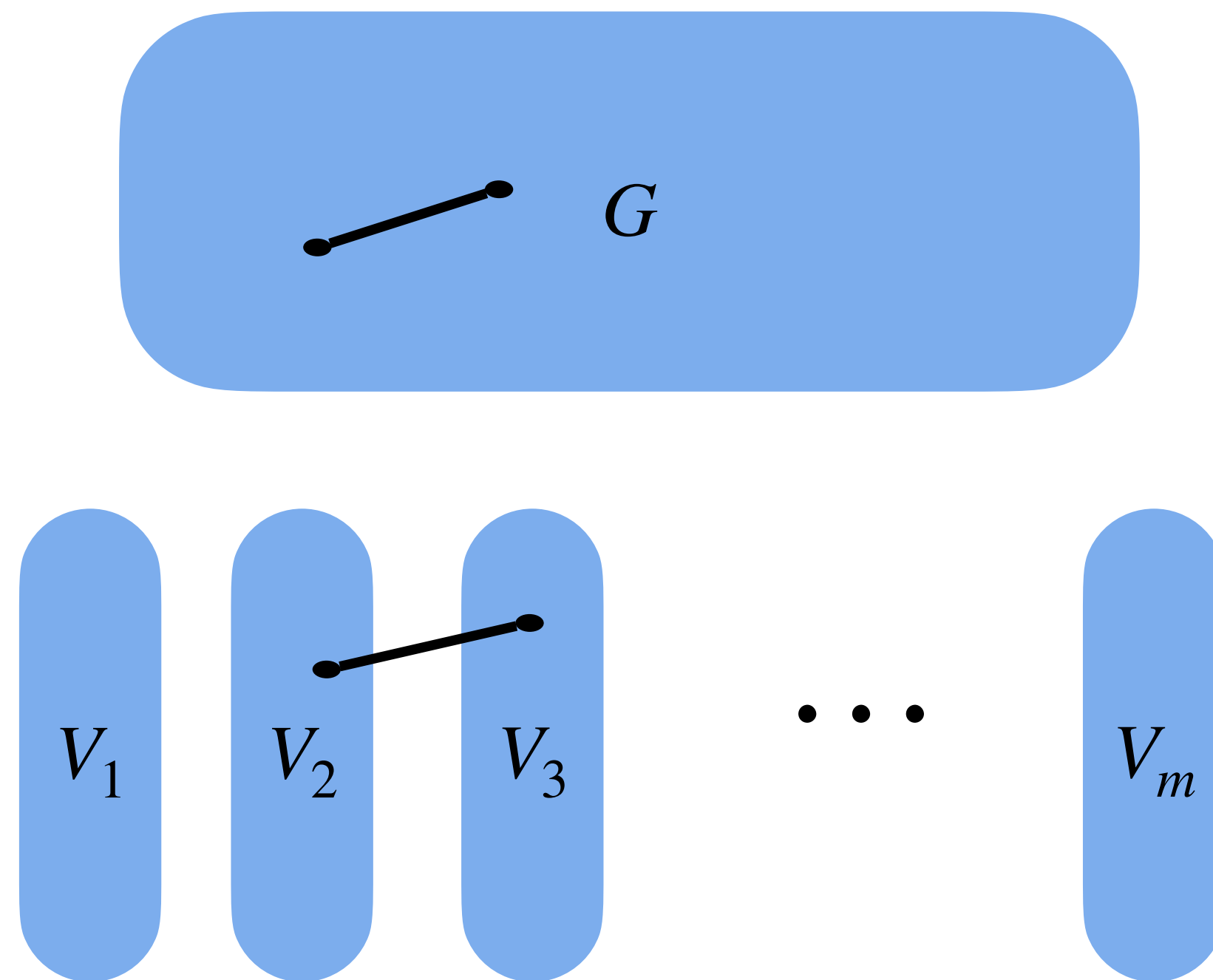
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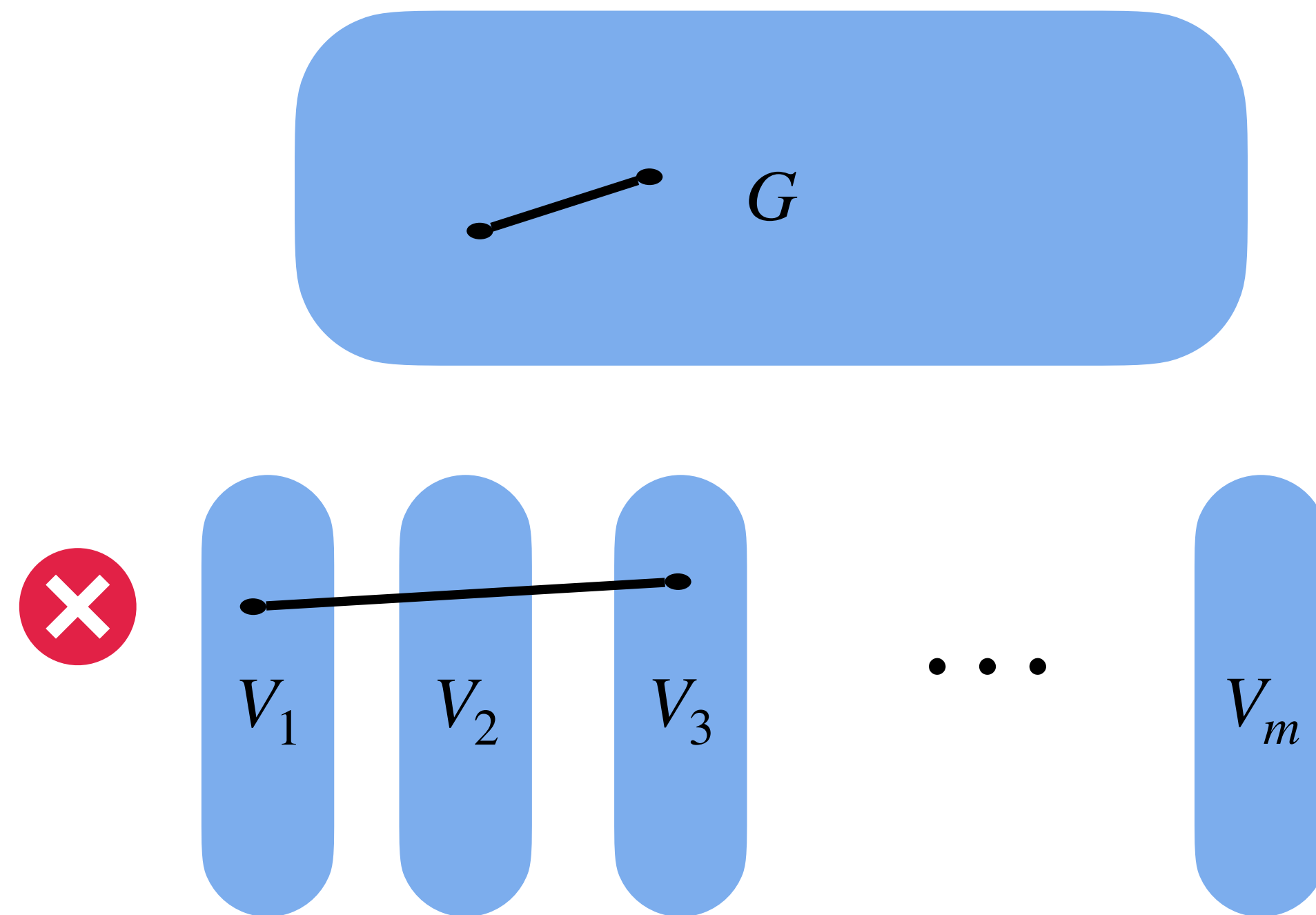
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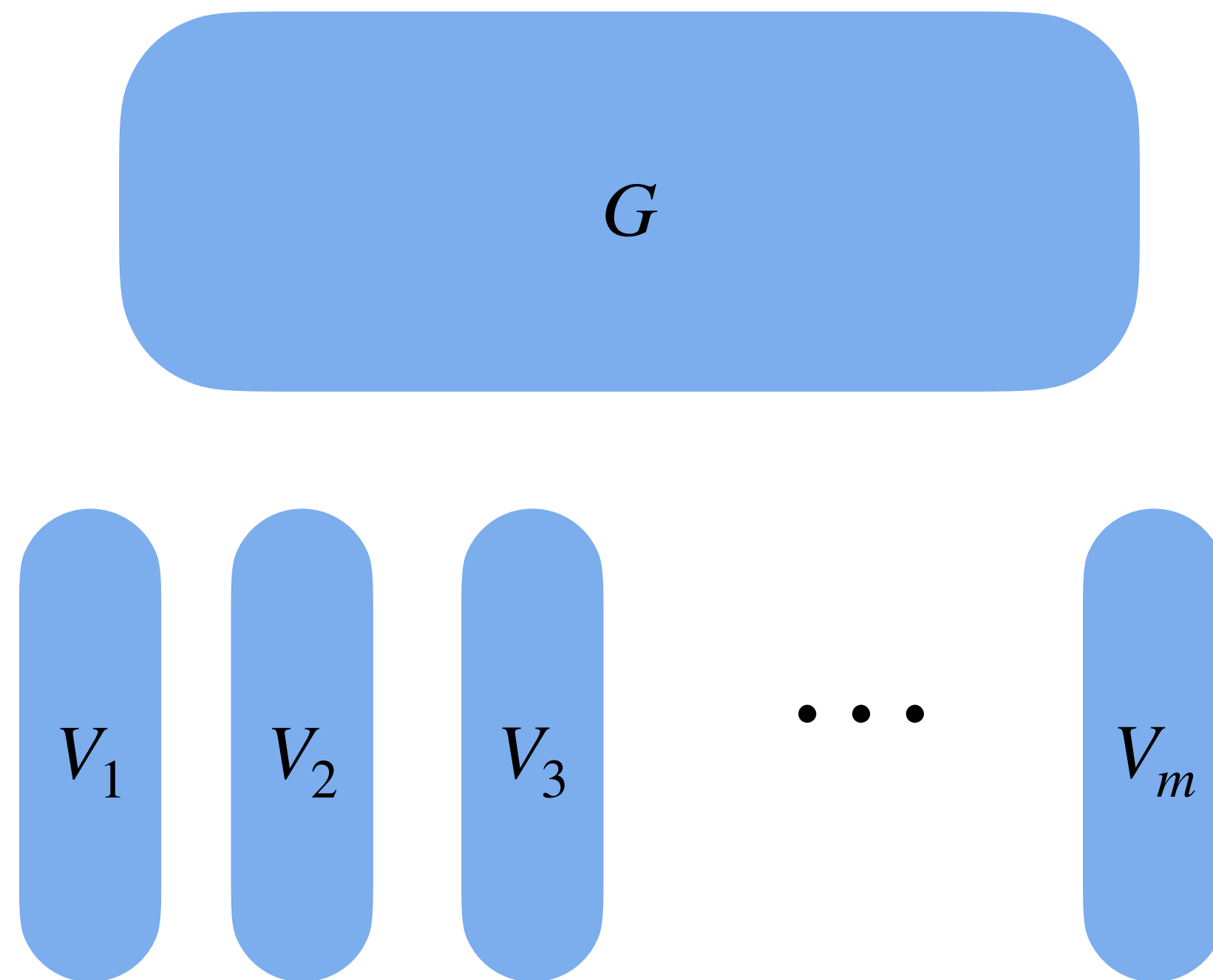
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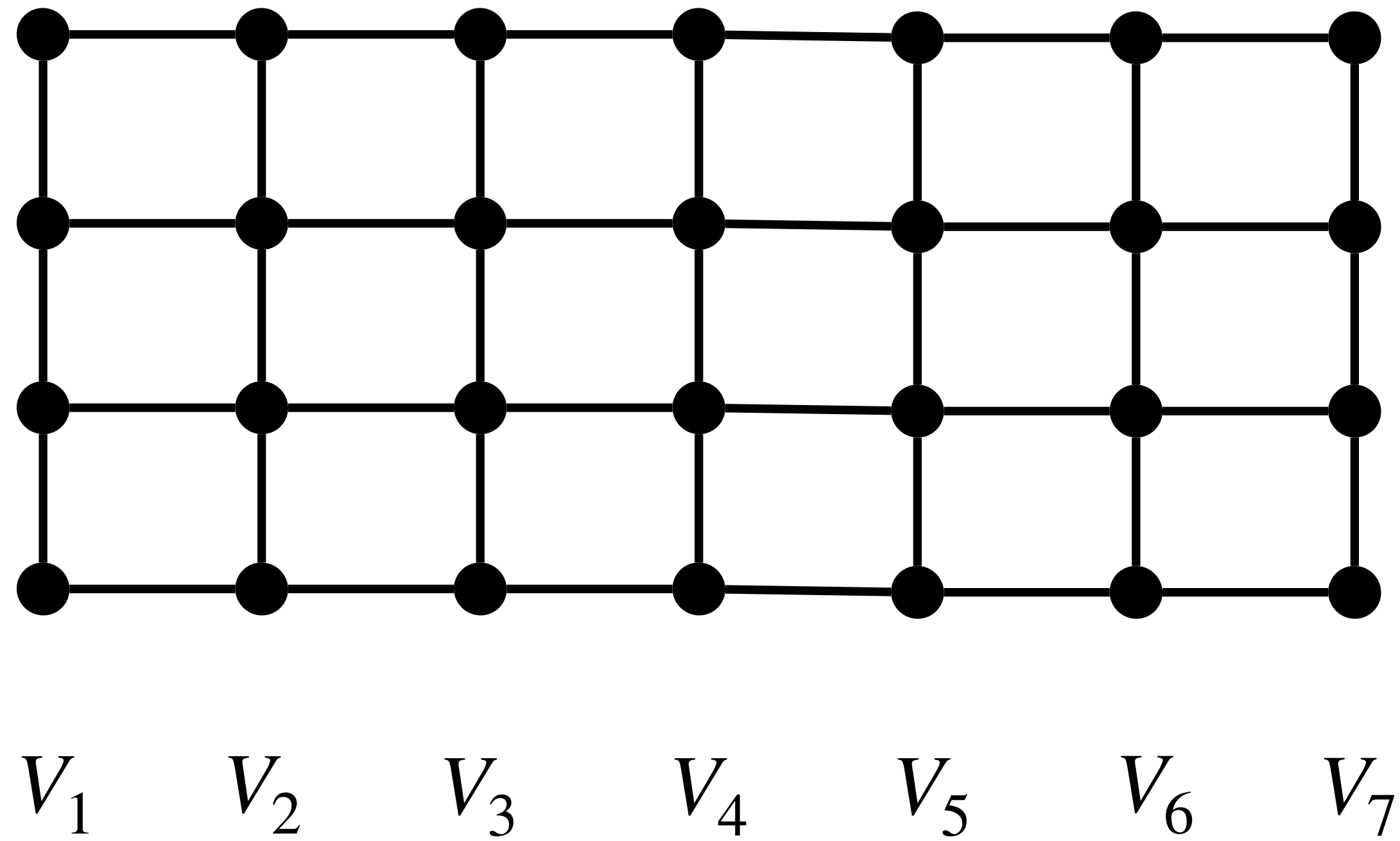
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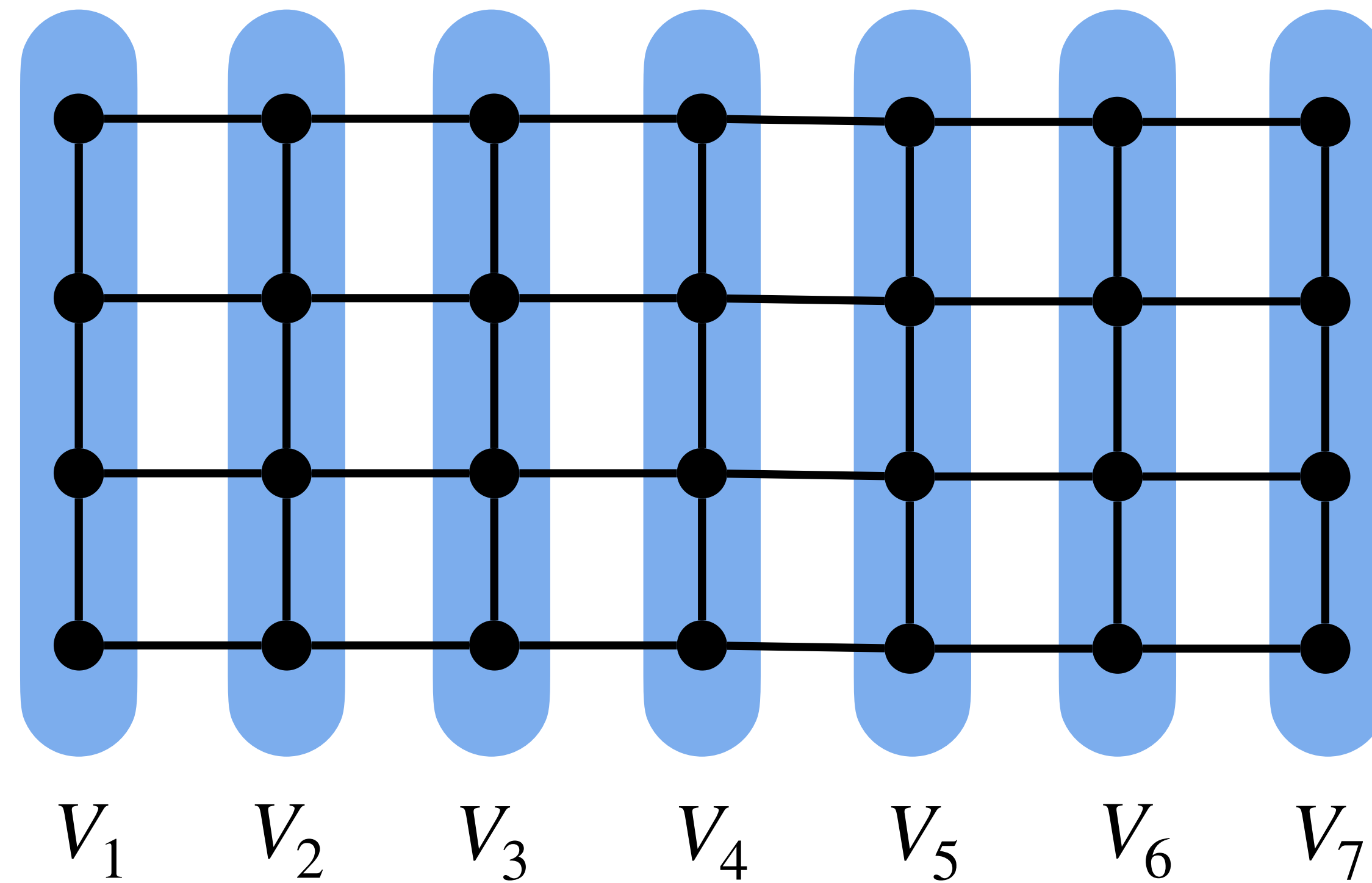


The sets  $V_1, \dots, V_m$  are called **slices**.

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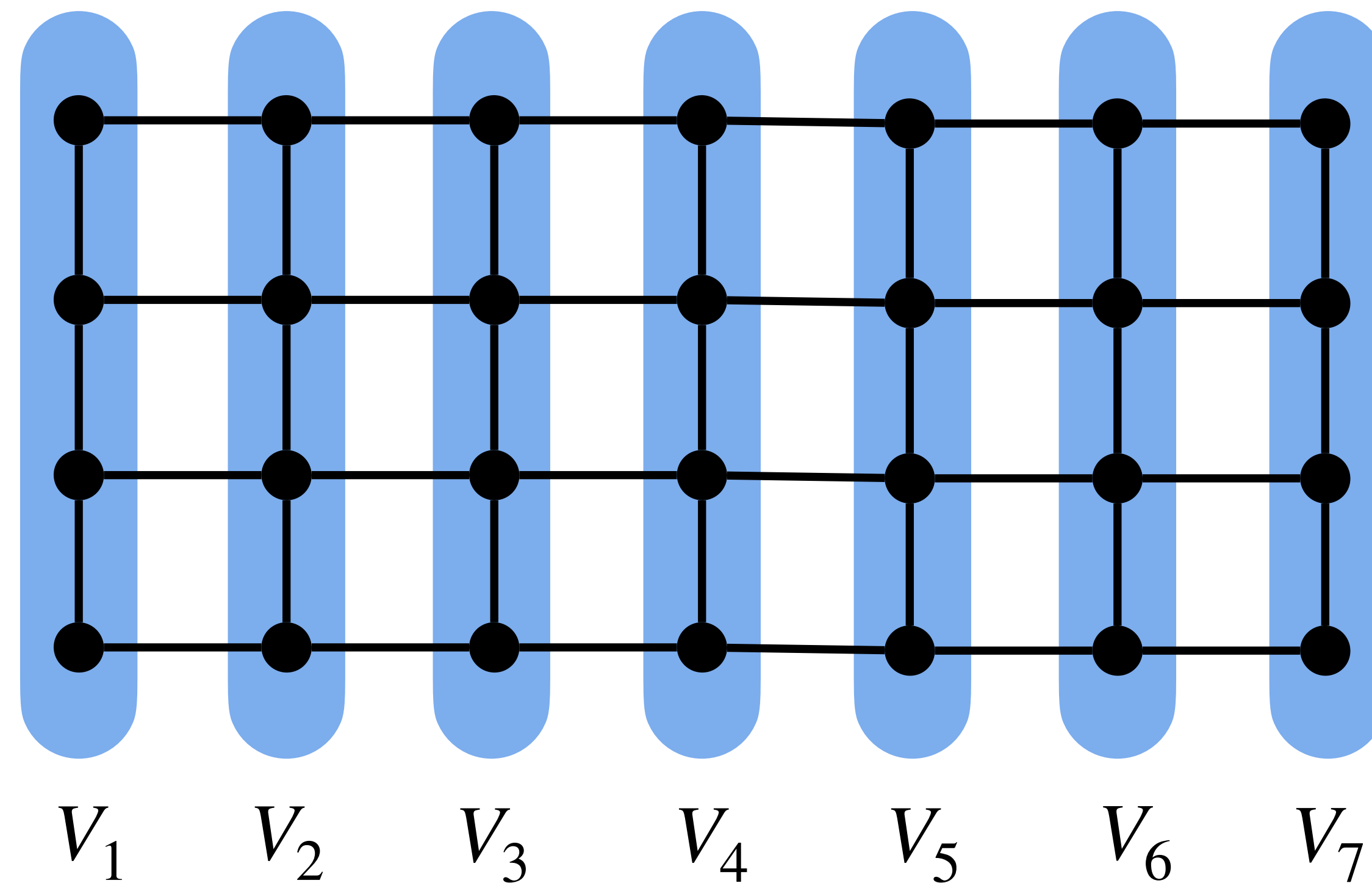
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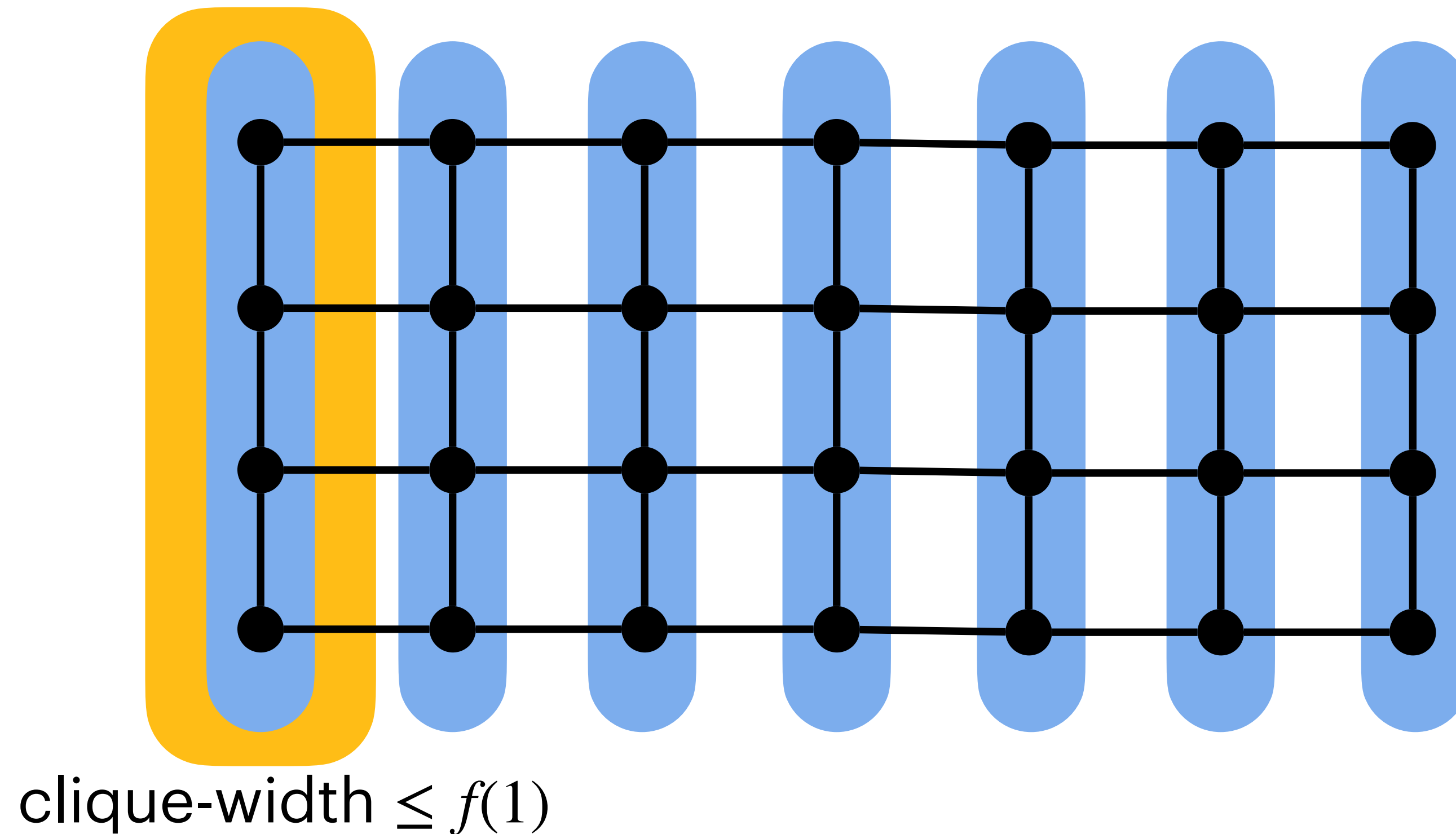




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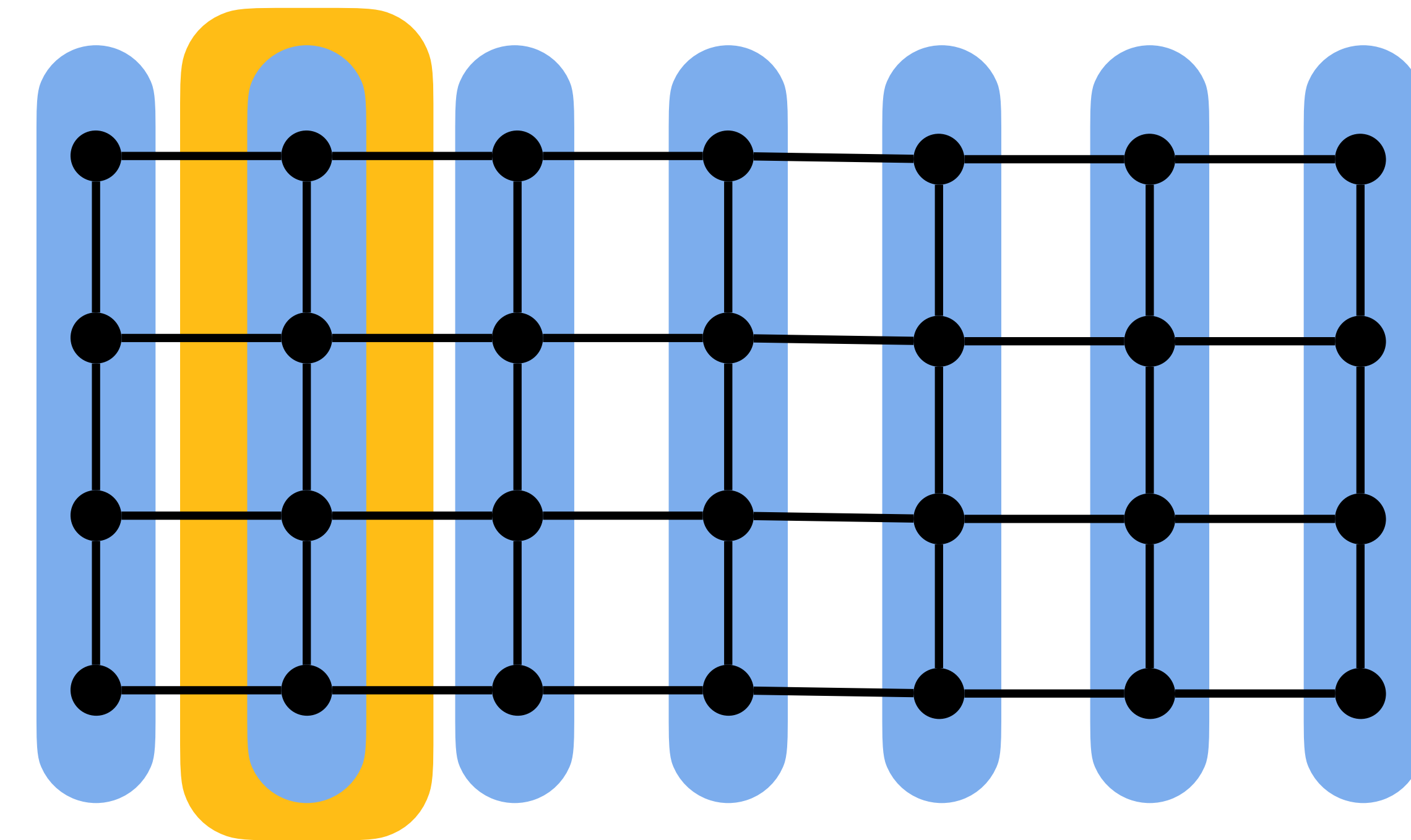
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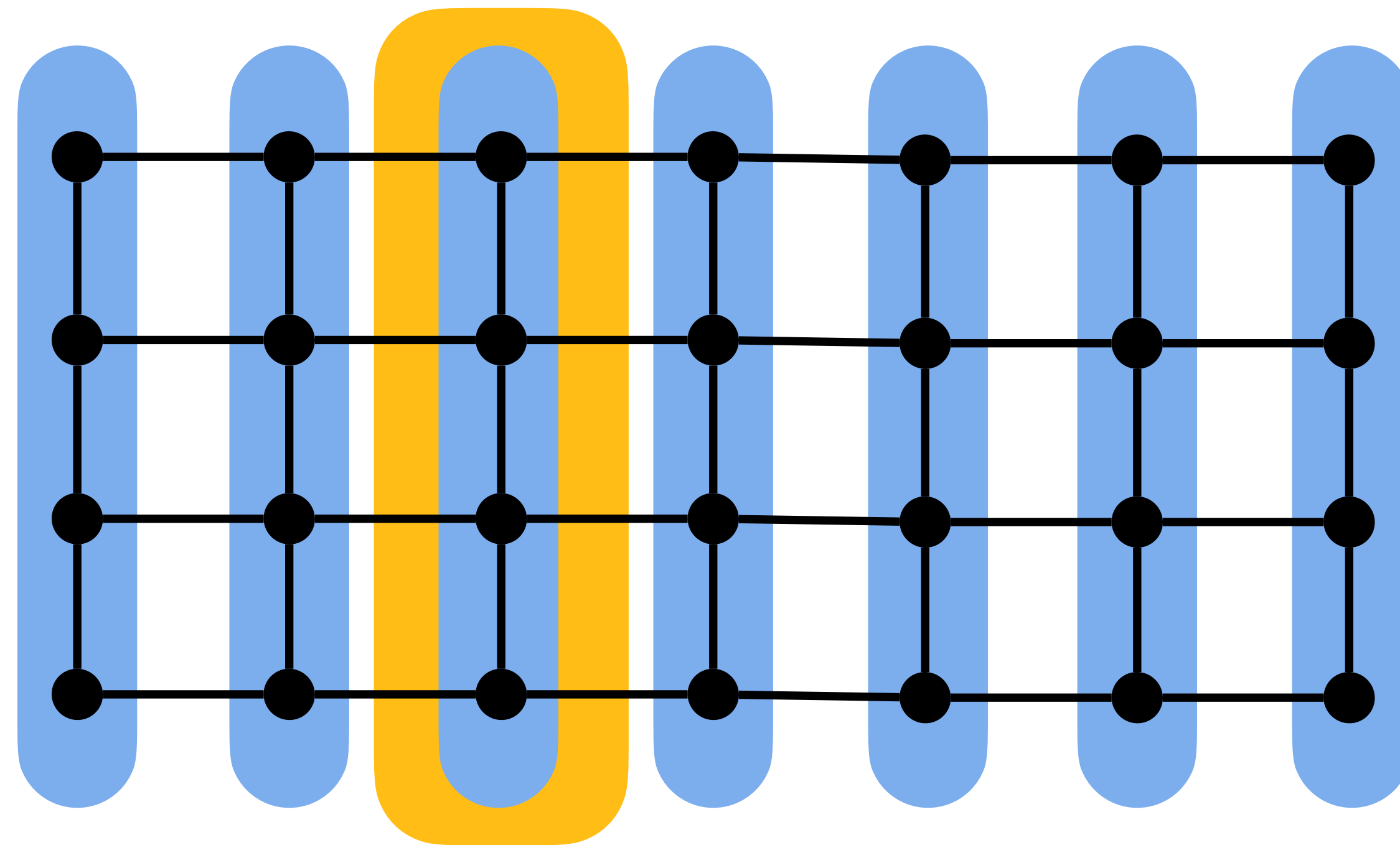


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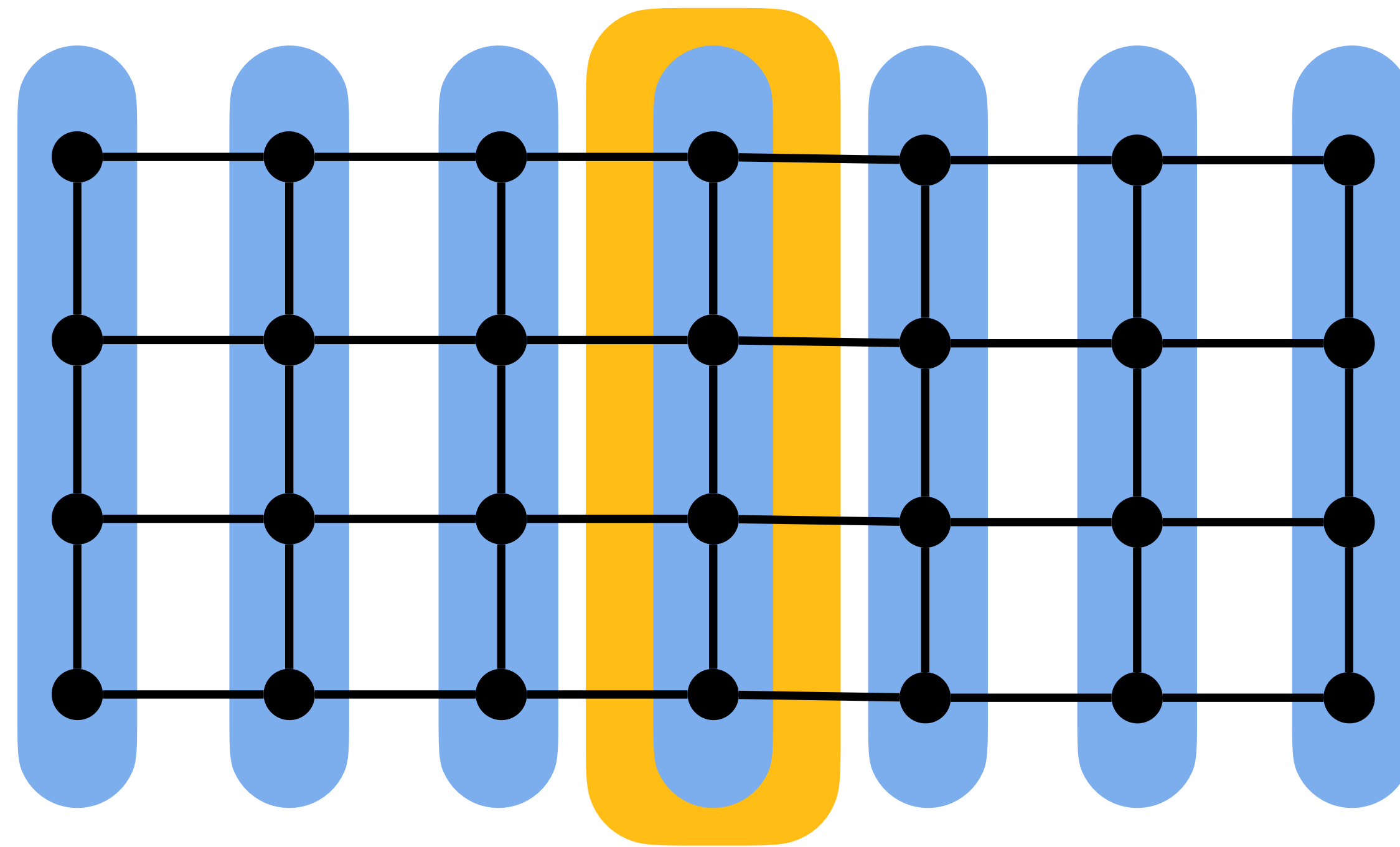


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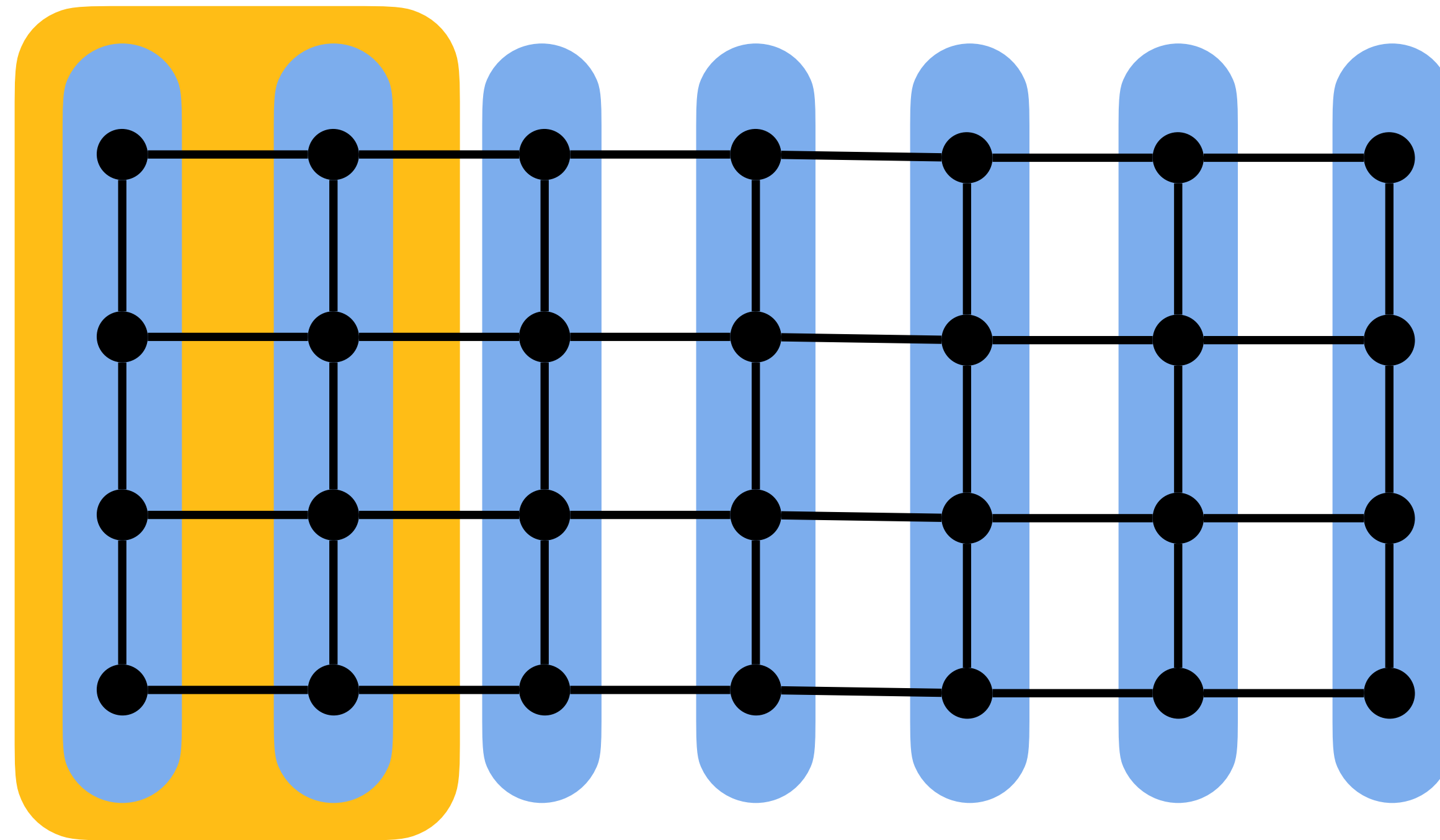


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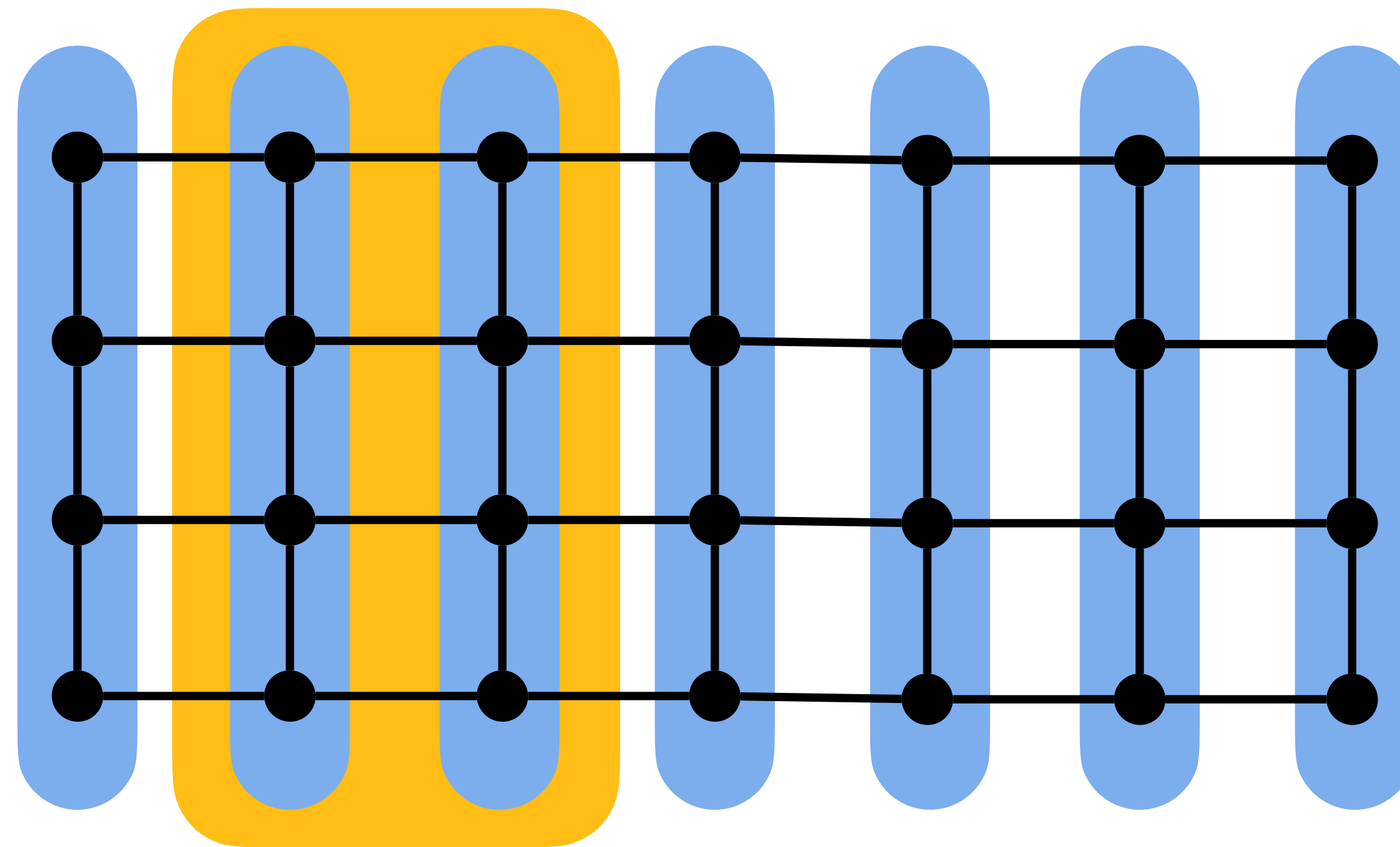


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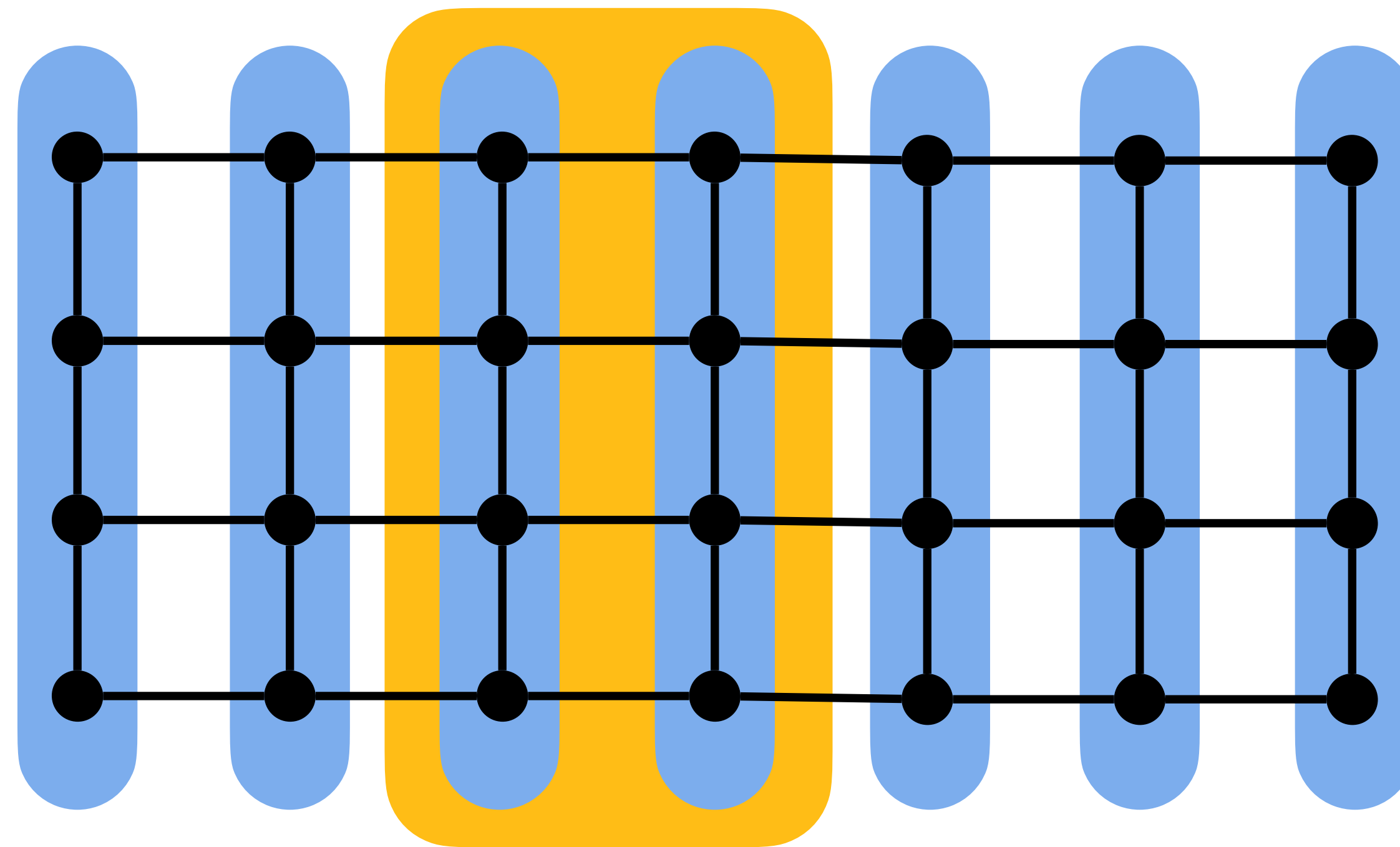


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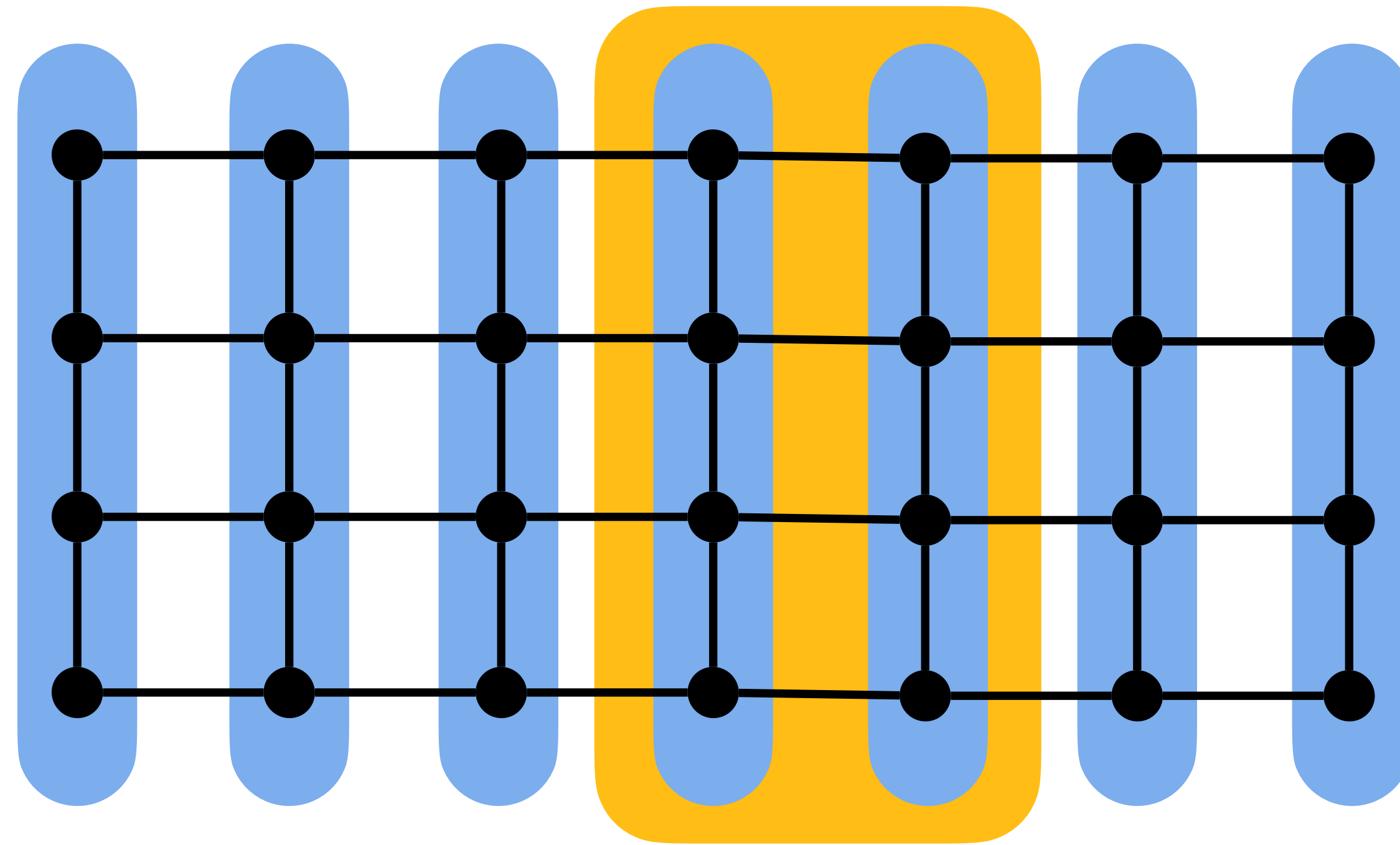


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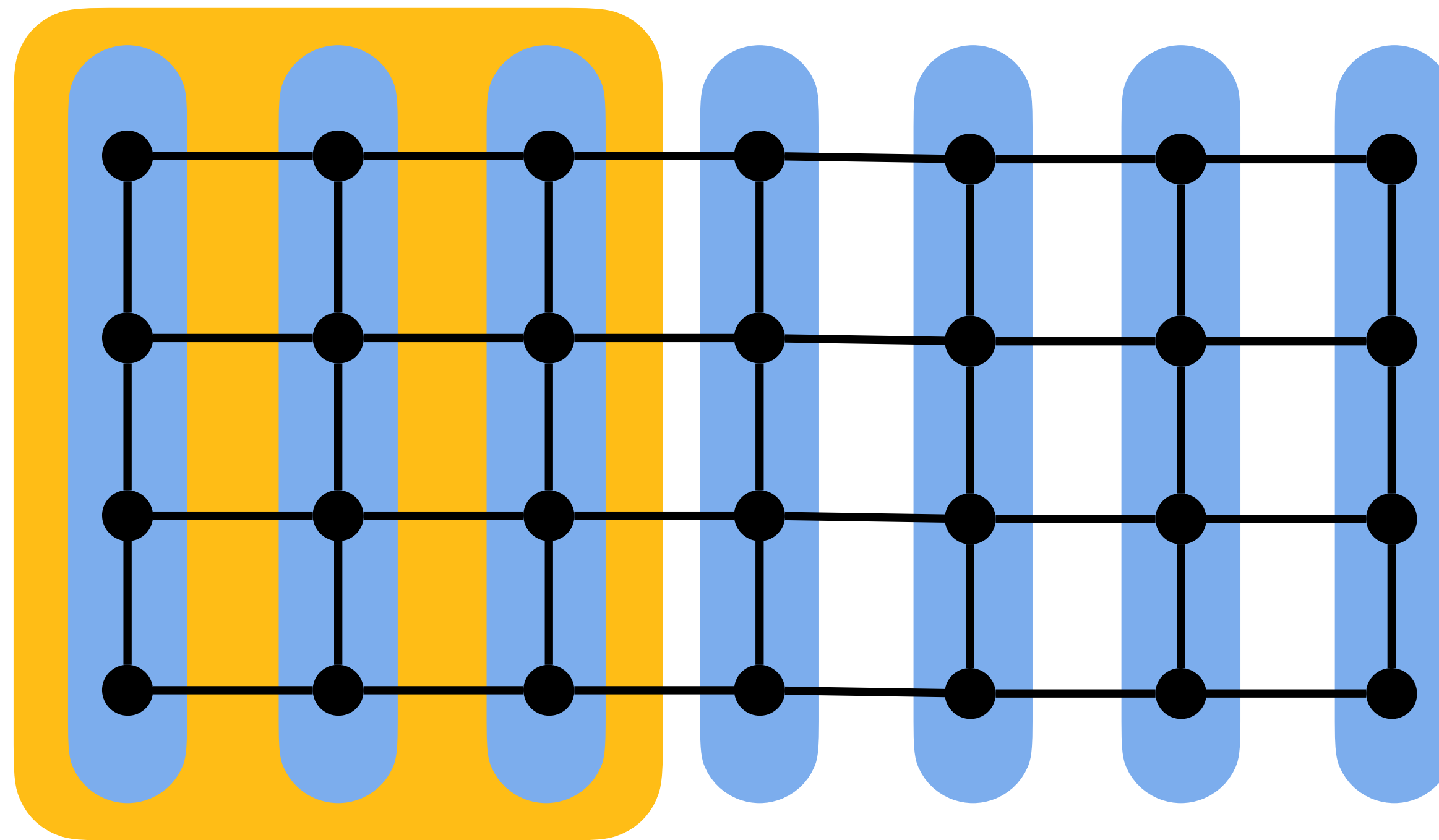
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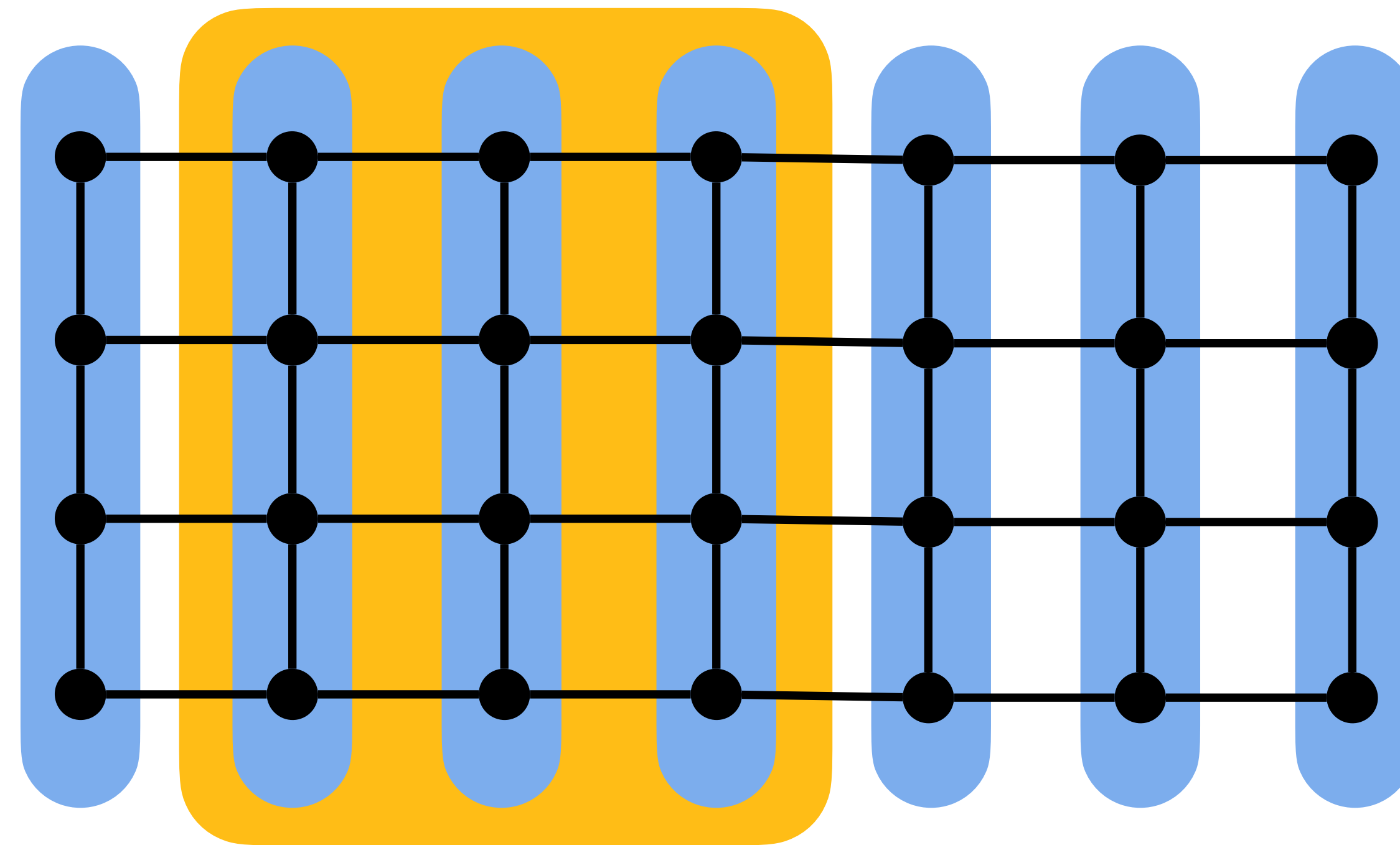


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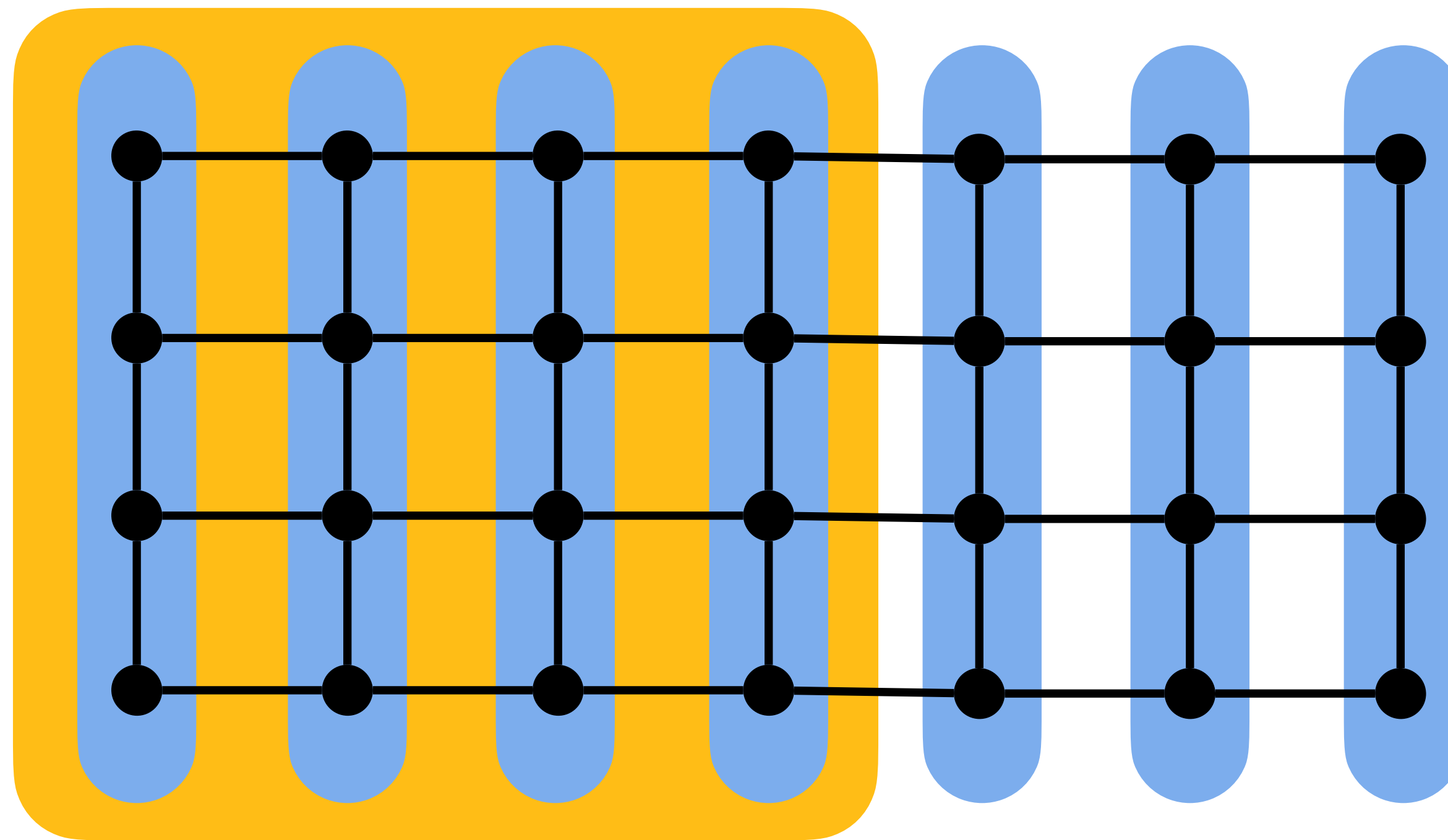


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# Slice decompositions

## Definition

We say that a **graph class  $C$**  admits **slice decompositions** if there exists a function  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that every  $G \in C$  has a slice decomposition with respect to  $f$ .

## Theorem

There is no first-order transduction that produces the class of all 3-dimensional grids from the class of planar graphs.

Proof plan:

- Focus on transductions of **bounded range** first:
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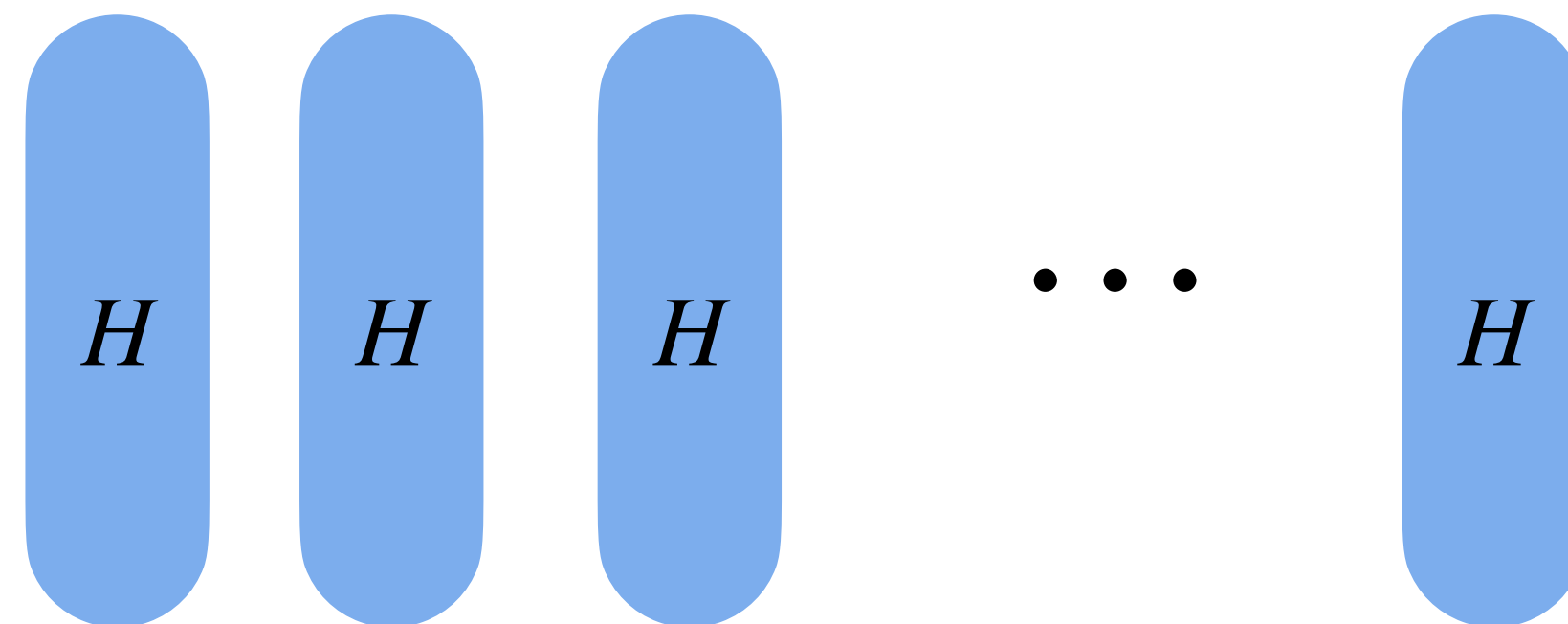
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- (II) Show that if a class  $C$  admits slice decompositions, then  $T(C)$  admits slice decompositions for any transduction  $T$  of bounded range.

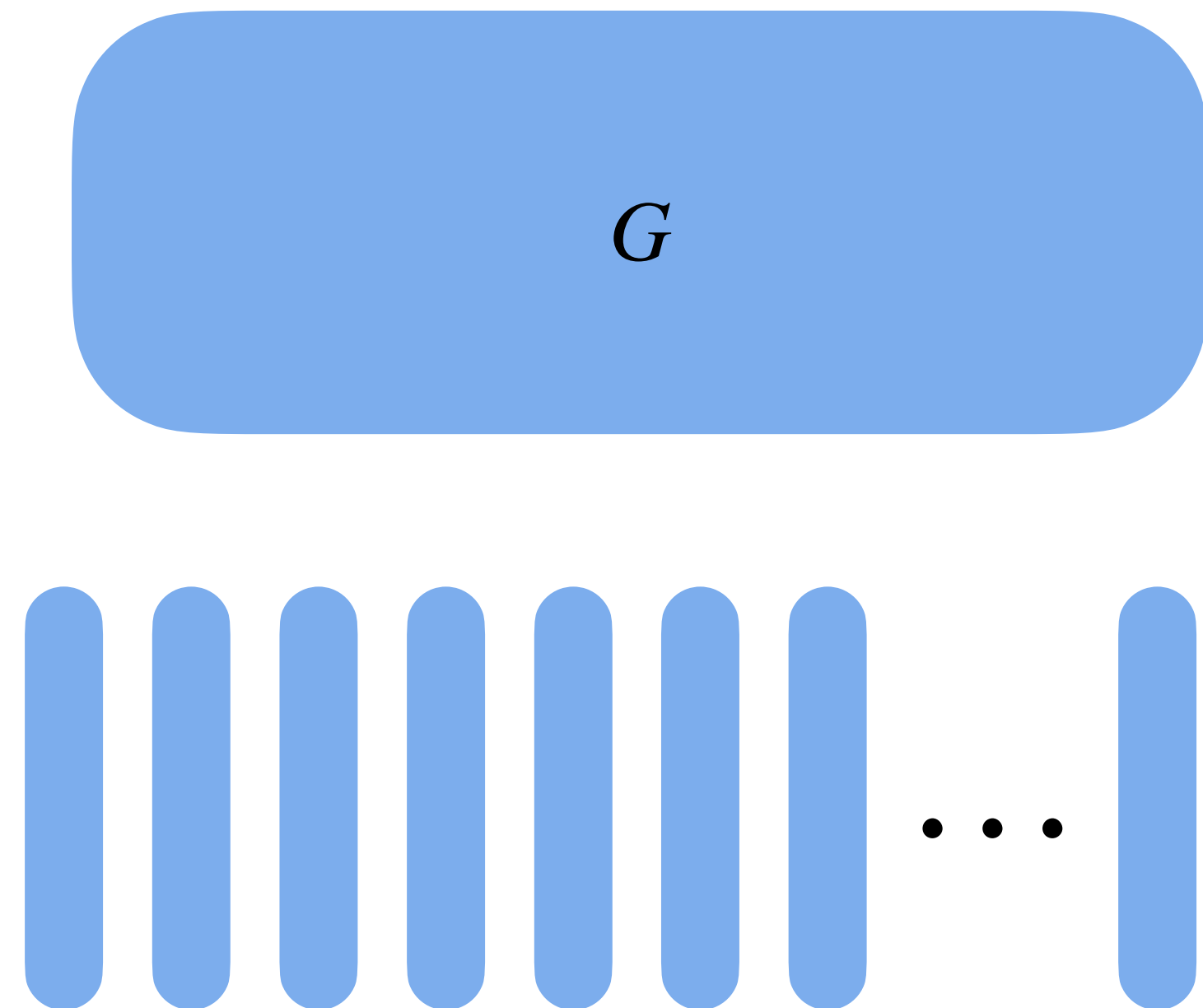


# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

- (II) Show that if a class  $C$  admits slice decompositions, then  $T(C)$  admits slice decompositions for any transduction  $T$  of bounded range.

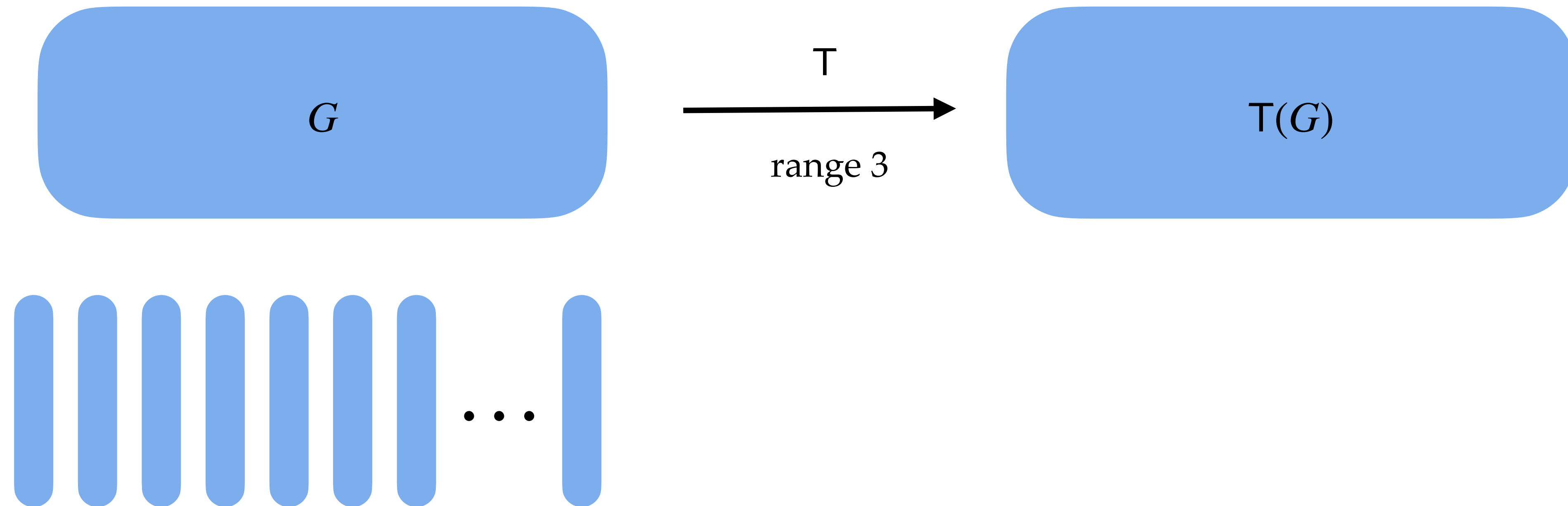
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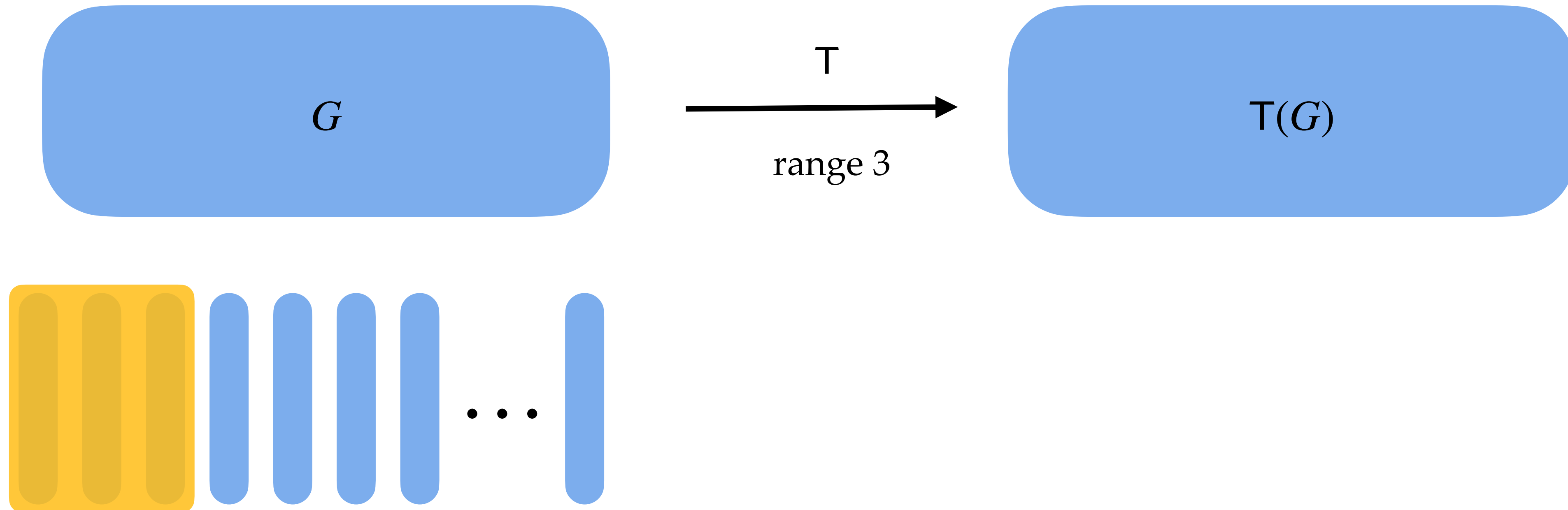
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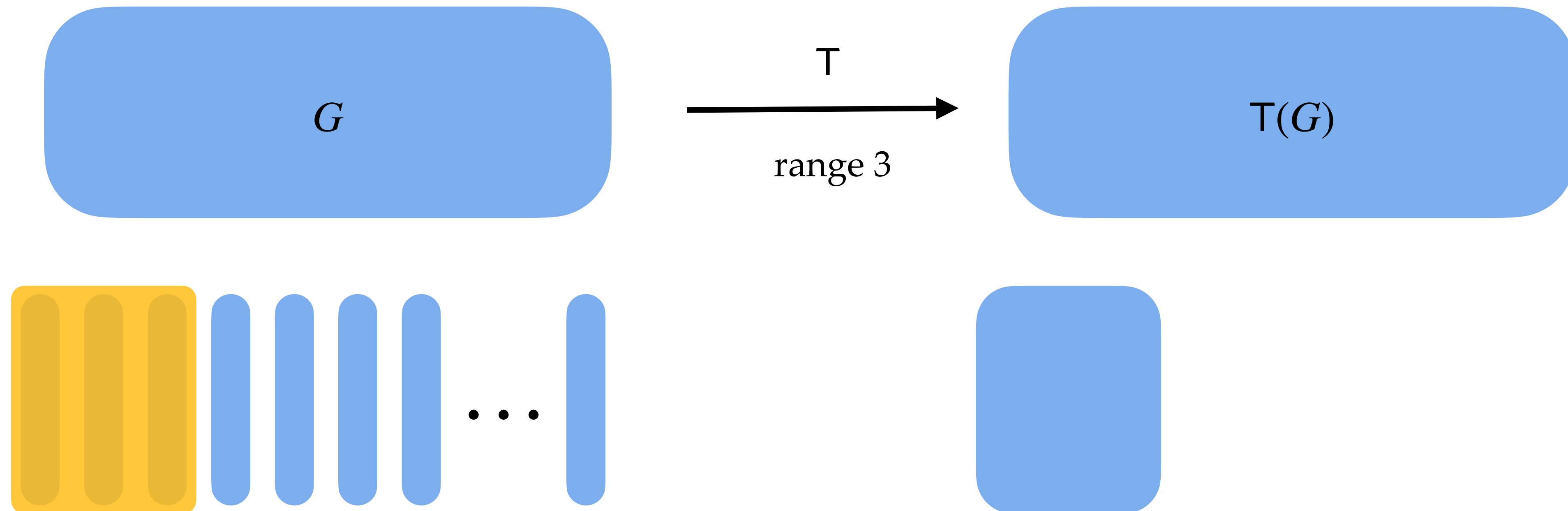
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# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

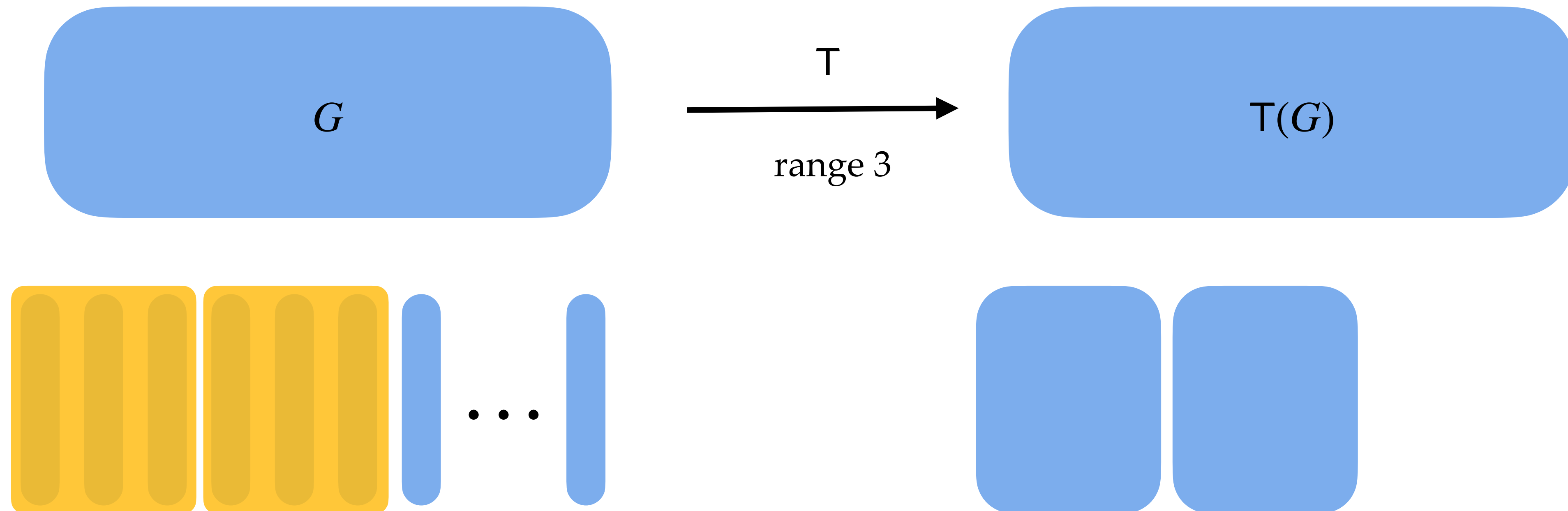
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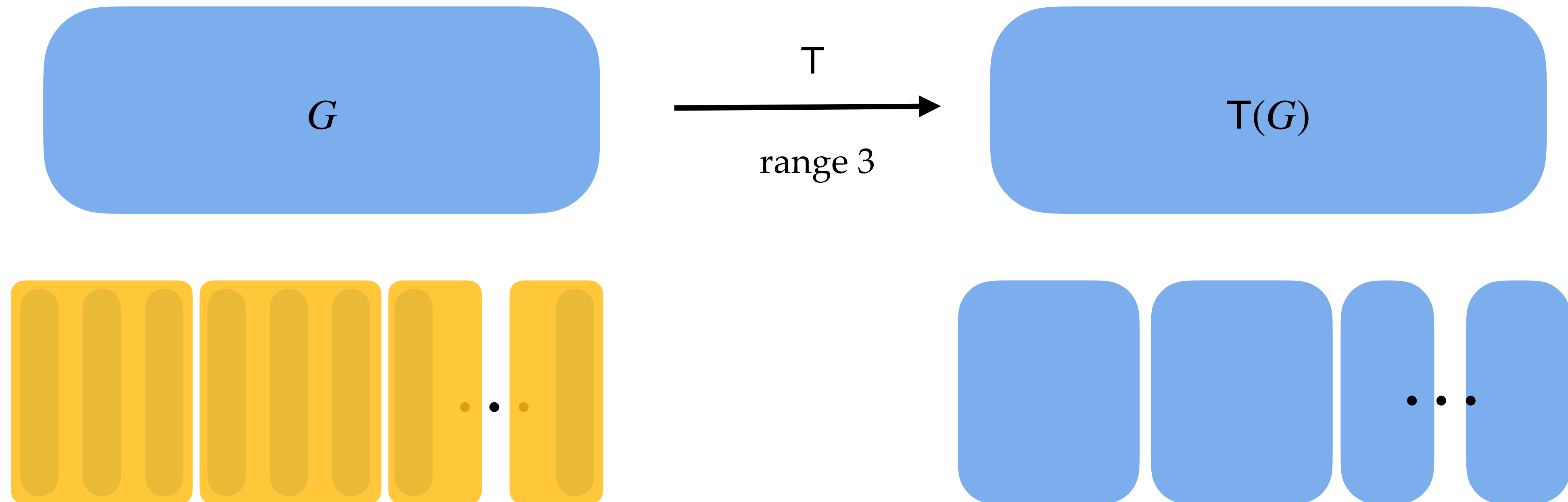
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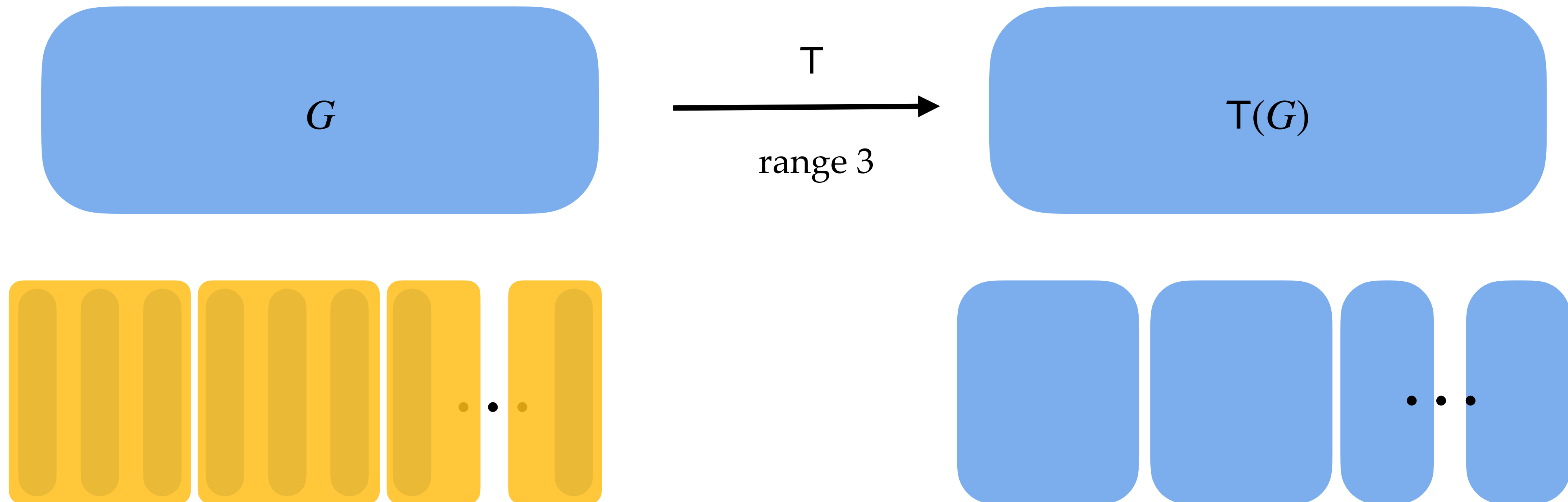
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# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

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Need to also argue that each slice has small clique-width.

# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

## Theorem

Let  $T$  be a transduction of bounded range. Then  $T(\textit{Planar})$  admits slice decompositions.

Proof idea:

- (I) Show that the class of planar graphs admits slice decompositions. 
- (II) Show that if a class  $C$  admits slice decompositions, then  $T(C)$  admits slice decompositions for any transduction  $T$  of bounded range. 

## Theorem

There is no first-order transduction that produces the class of all 3-dimensional grids from the class of planar graphs.

Proof plan:

- Focus on transductions of **bounded range** first:
  - (i) Show that the class  $\mathsf{T}(\textit{Planar})$  has **slice decompositions** for every transduction  $\mathsf{T}$  of bounded range.
  - (ii) Show that 3D-grids do not have slice decompositions



From (i) and (ii) we have that:  $\text{3D-grids} \subsetneq \mathsf{T}(\textit{Planar})$

- Extend the result to full transductions.

# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

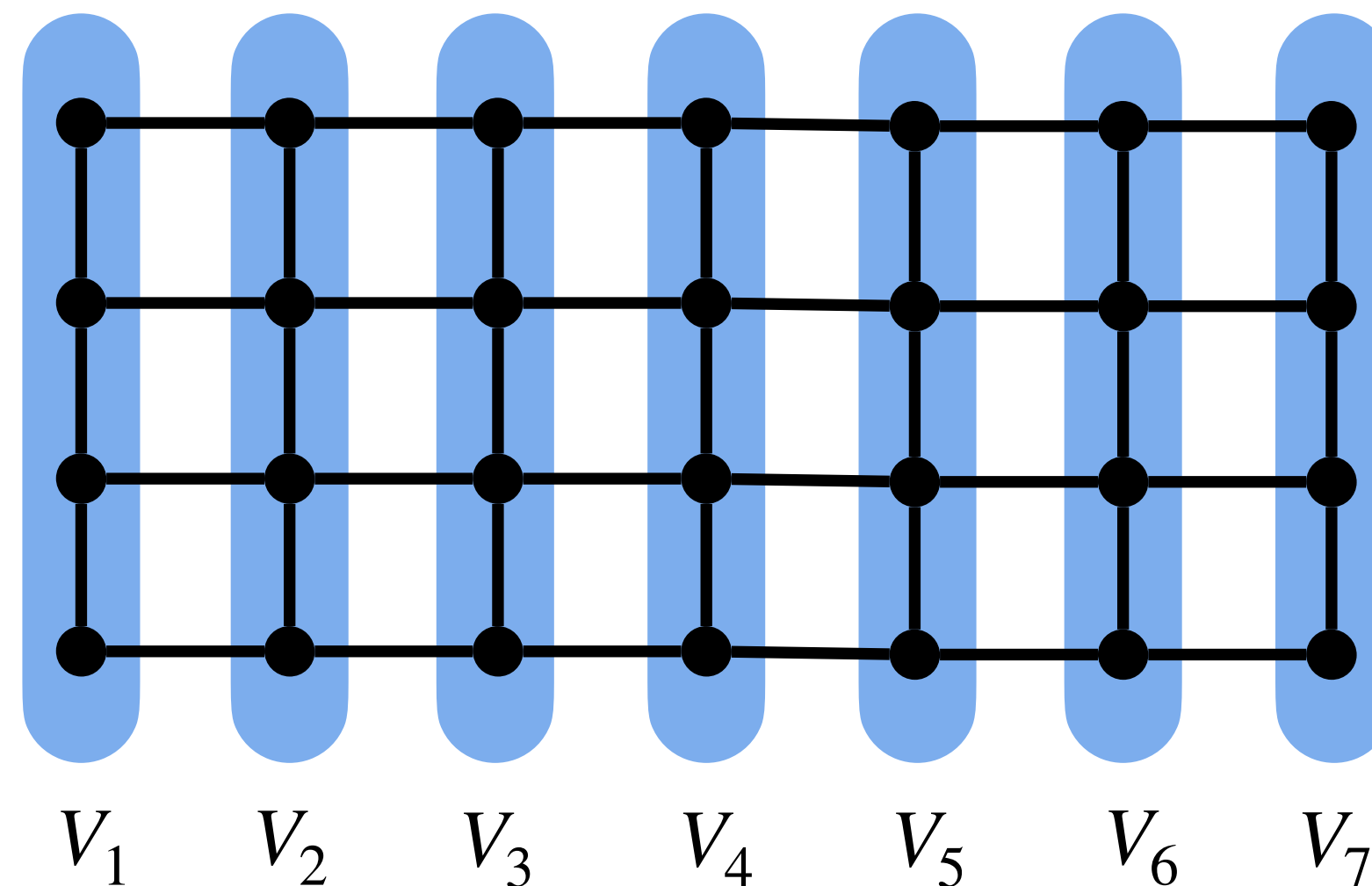
## Lemma

The class of 3D-grids does not admit slice decompositions.

# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

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The class of 3D-grids does not admit slice decompositions.



Will not work for 3D-grids.

# Slice decompositions and planar graphs

## Lemma

The class of 3D-grids does not admit slice decompositions.



Proof: Easy consequence of a result of Berger, Dvořák and Norine.



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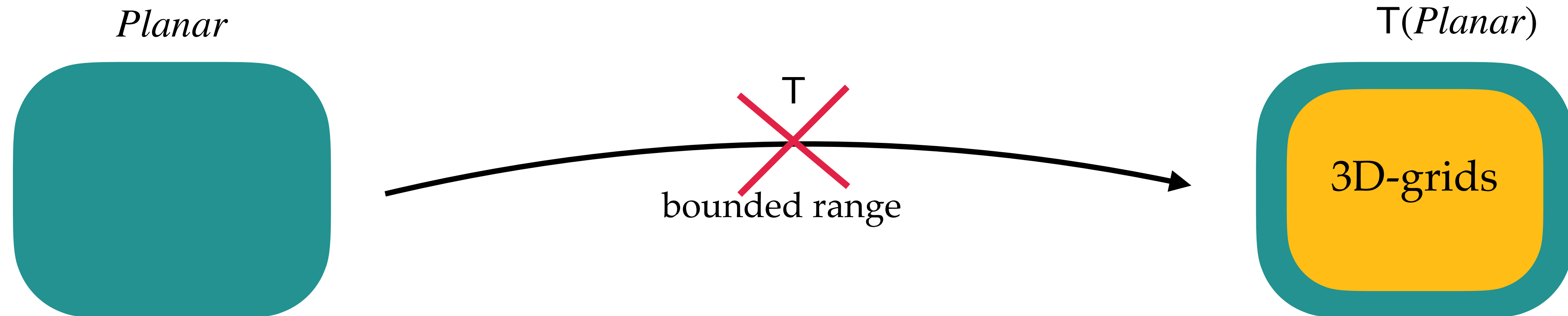
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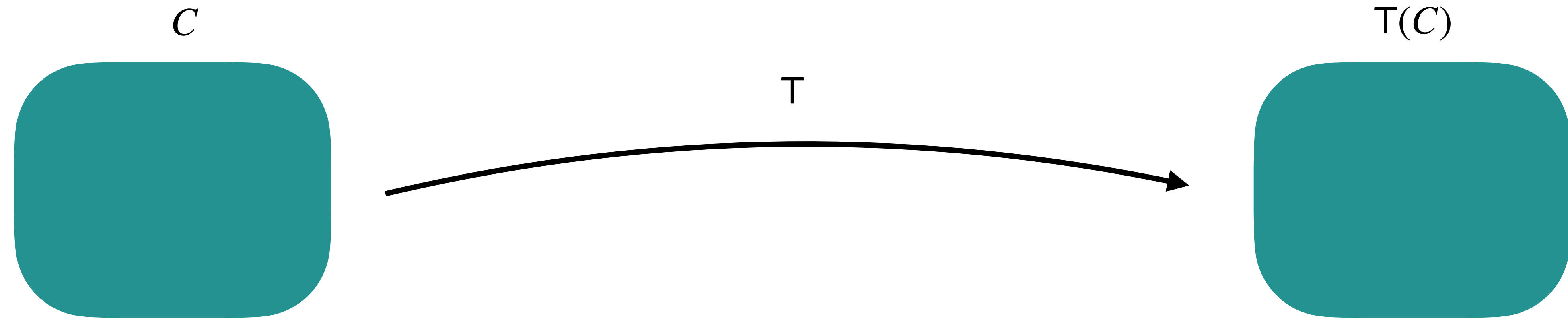
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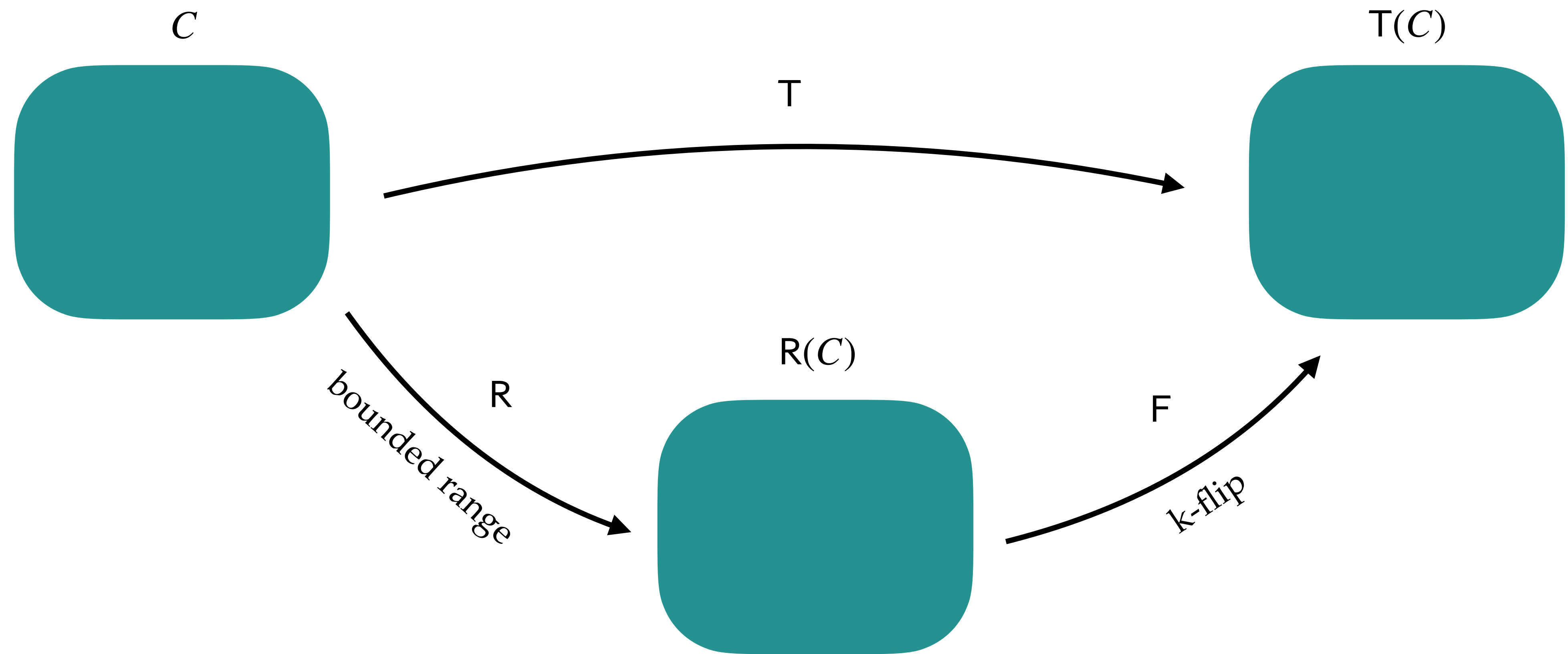
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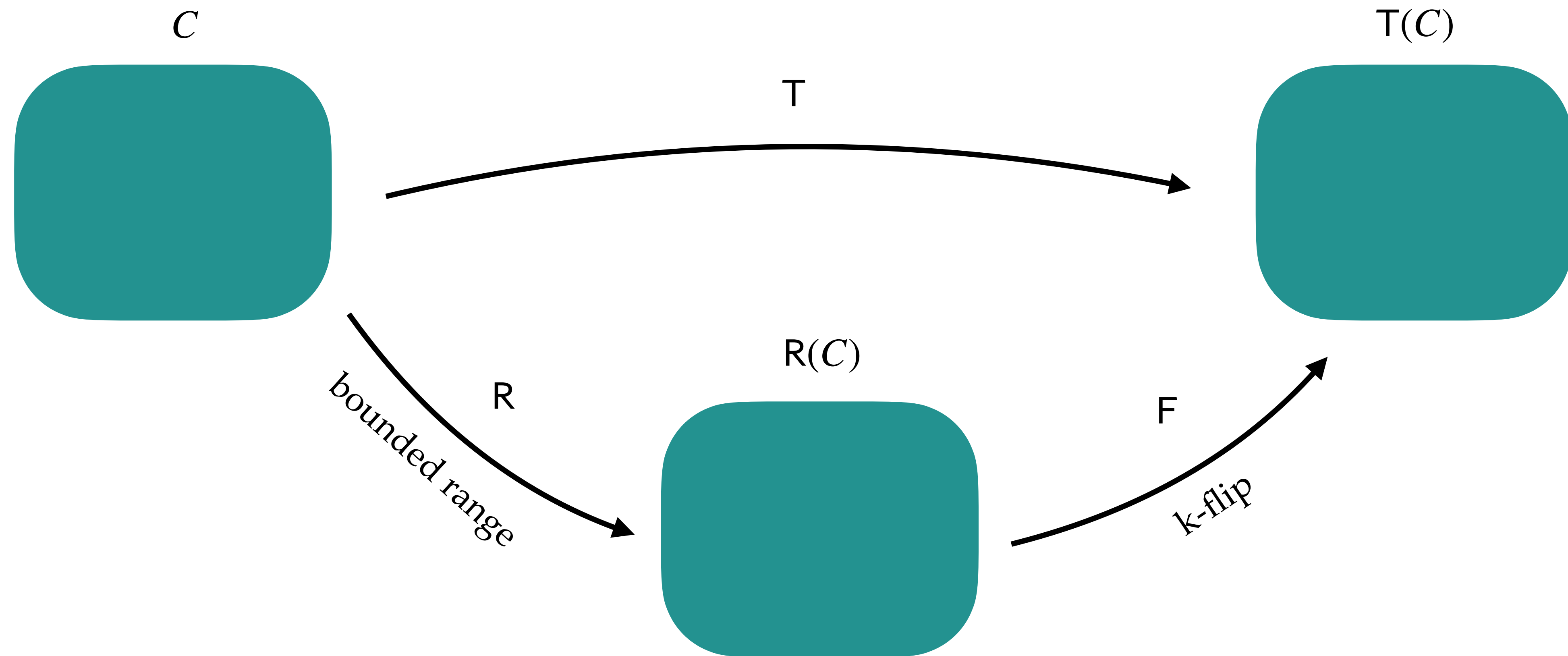
# Decomposing transductions



# Decomposing transductions

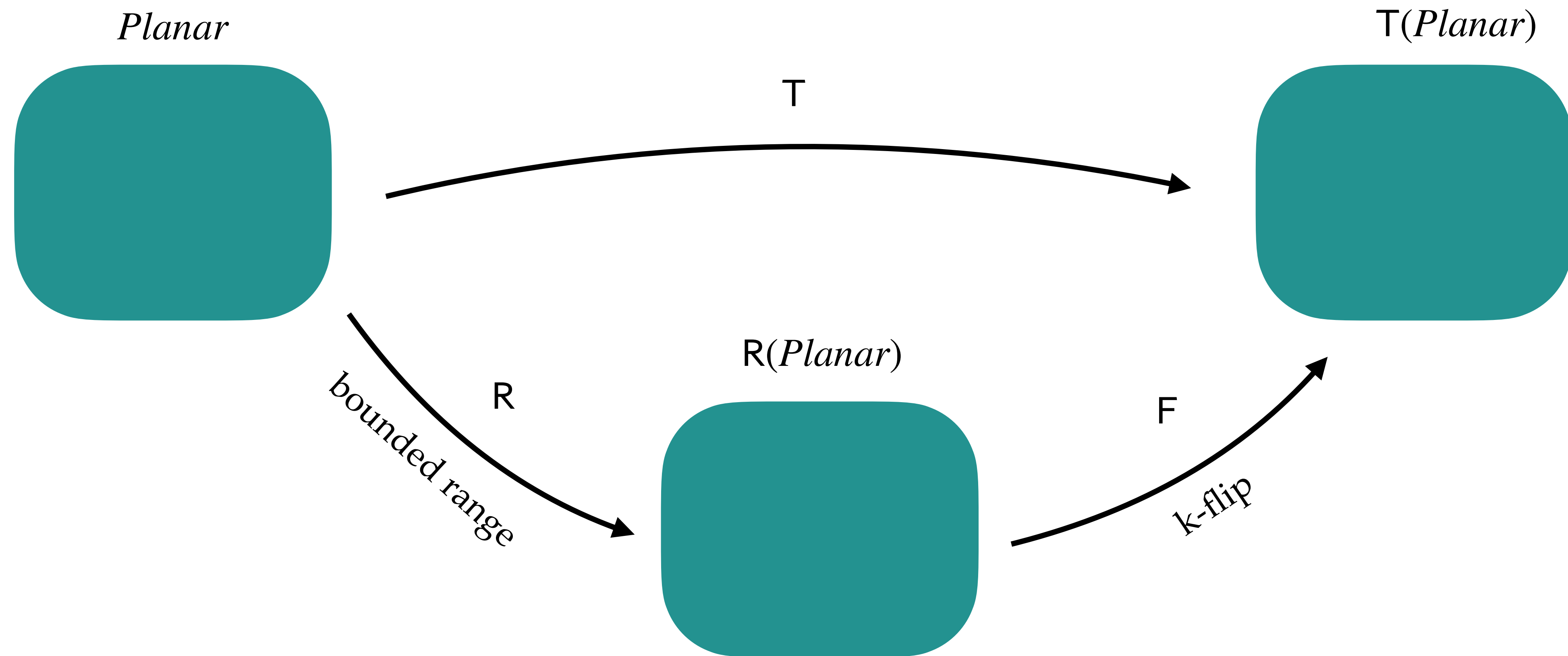


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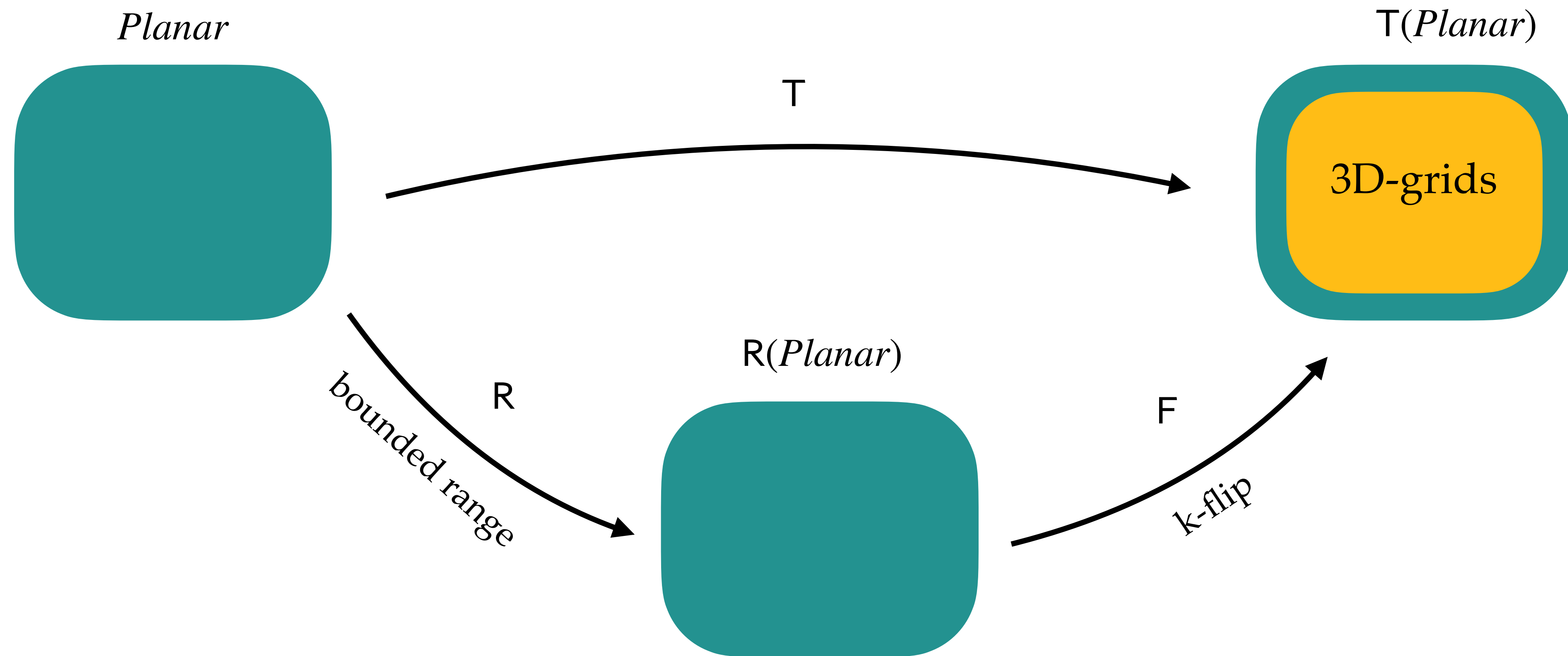
$k$ -flip: special transduction — at most  $k$  subset complementations

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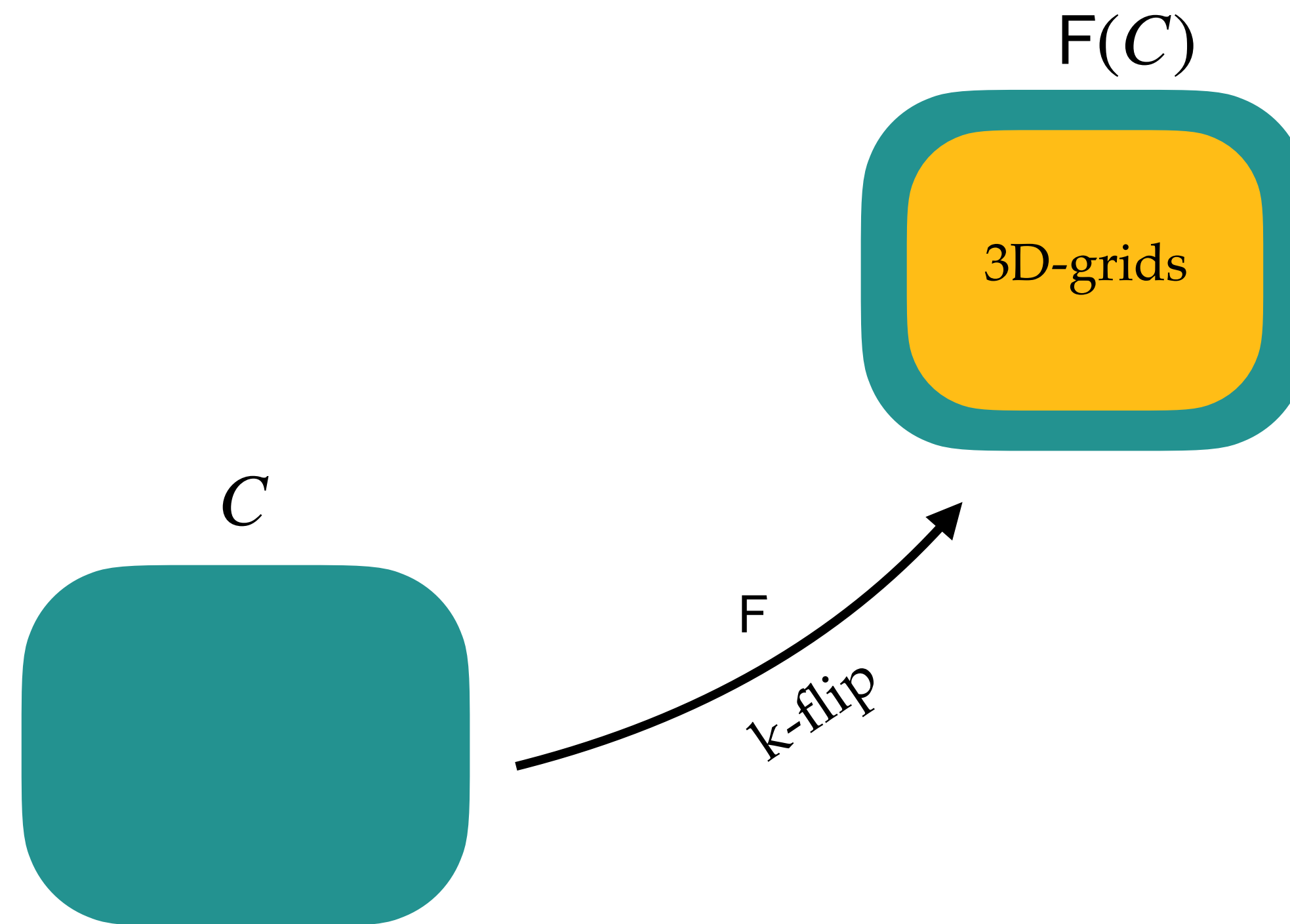


## Theorem

Let  $C$  be a graph class such that all 3D-grids are in  $F(C)$ , i.e. every 3D-grid is a  $k$ -flip of some graph from  $C$ . Then there is a bounded range transduction  $S$  such that every 3D-grid is in  $S(C)$ .

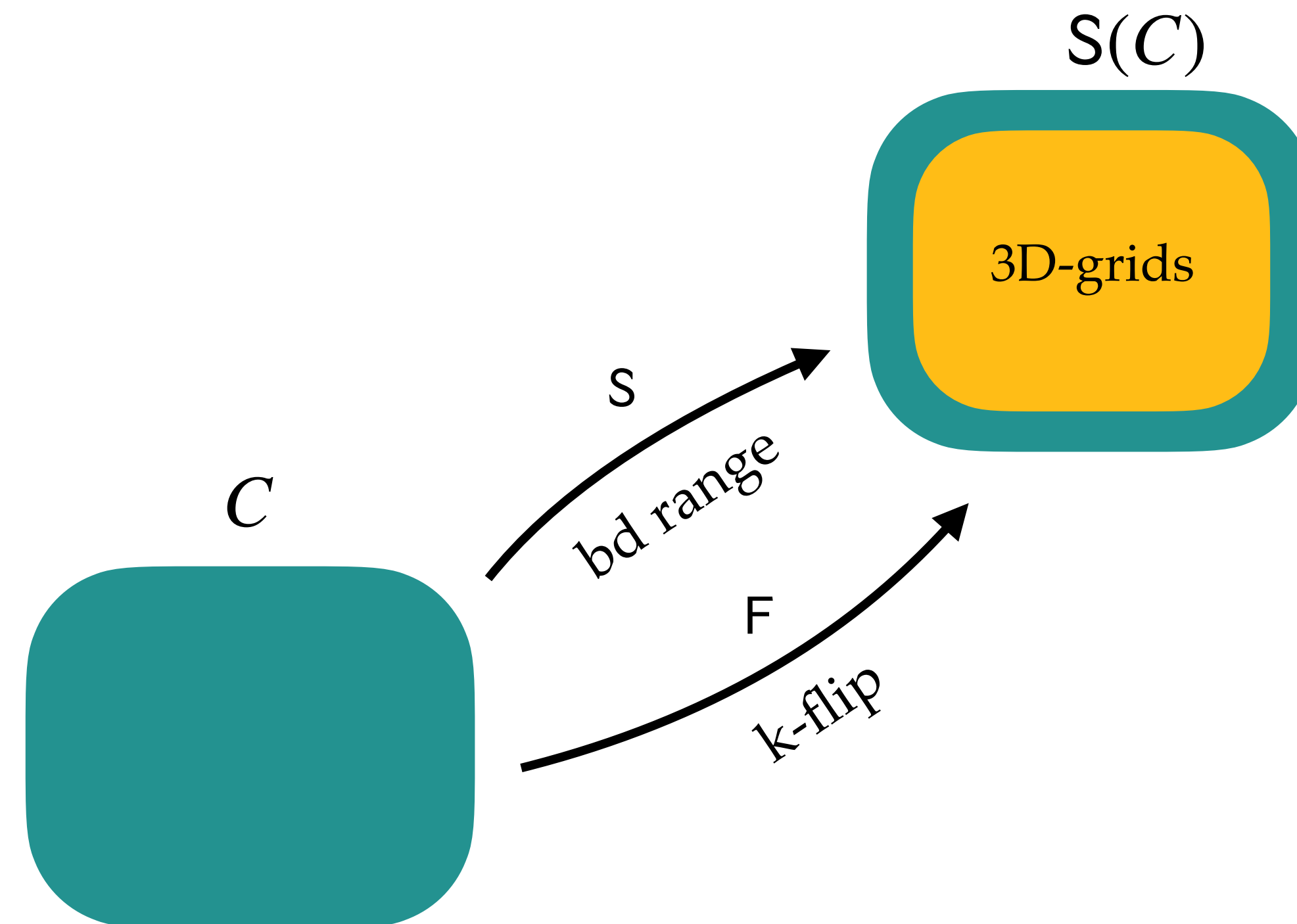
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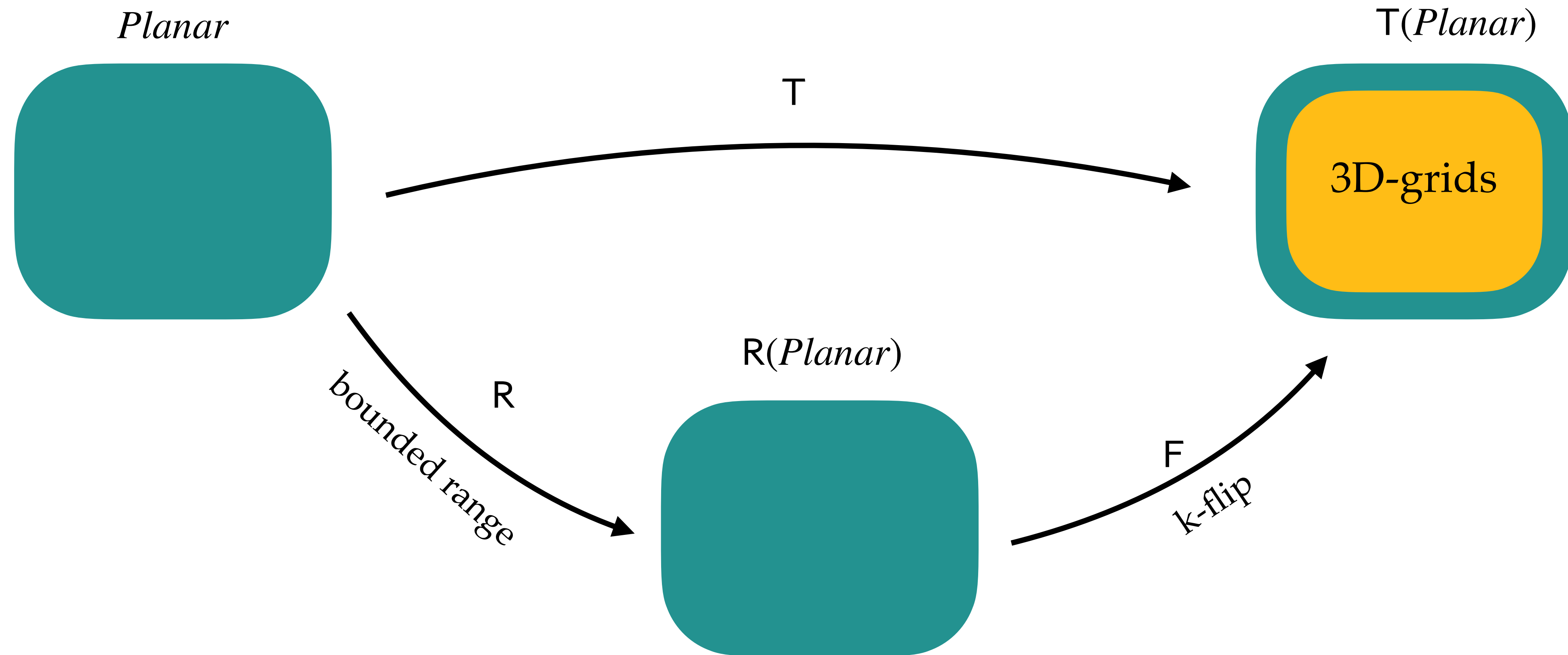


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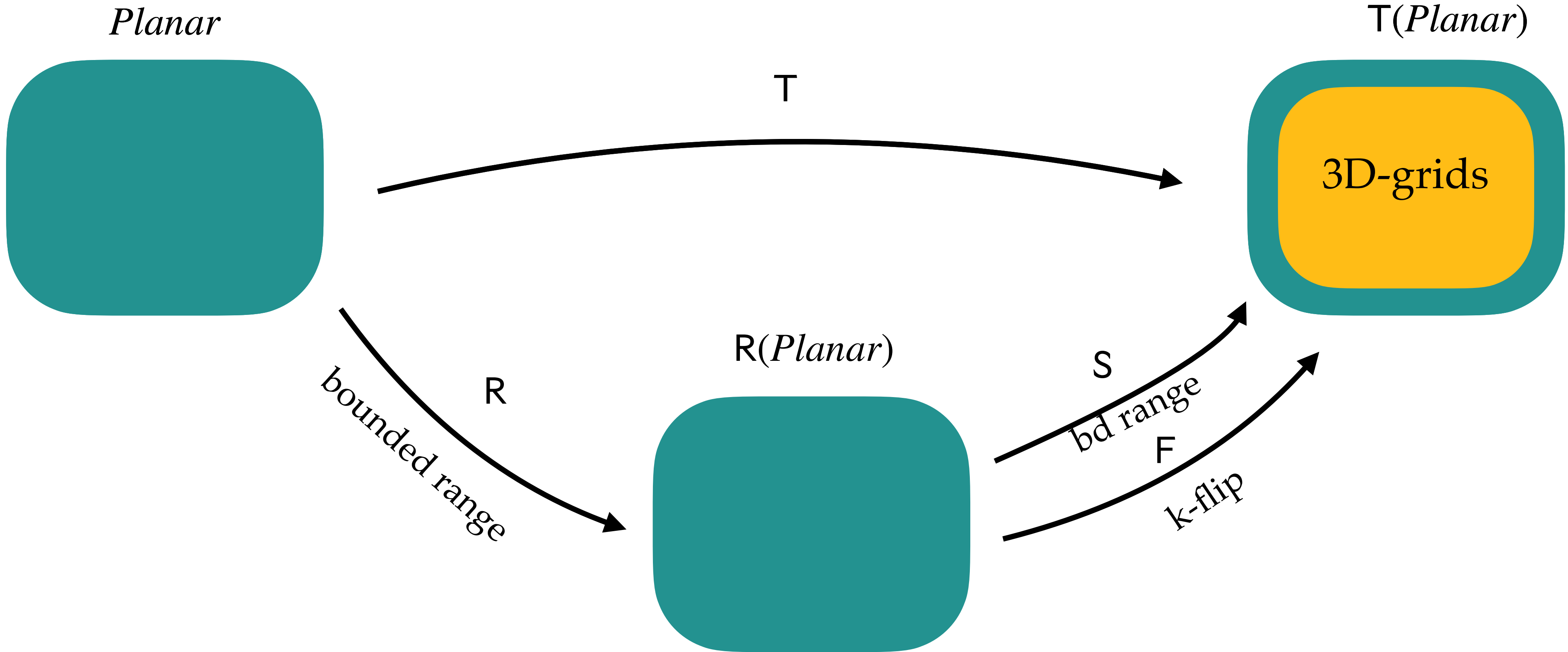
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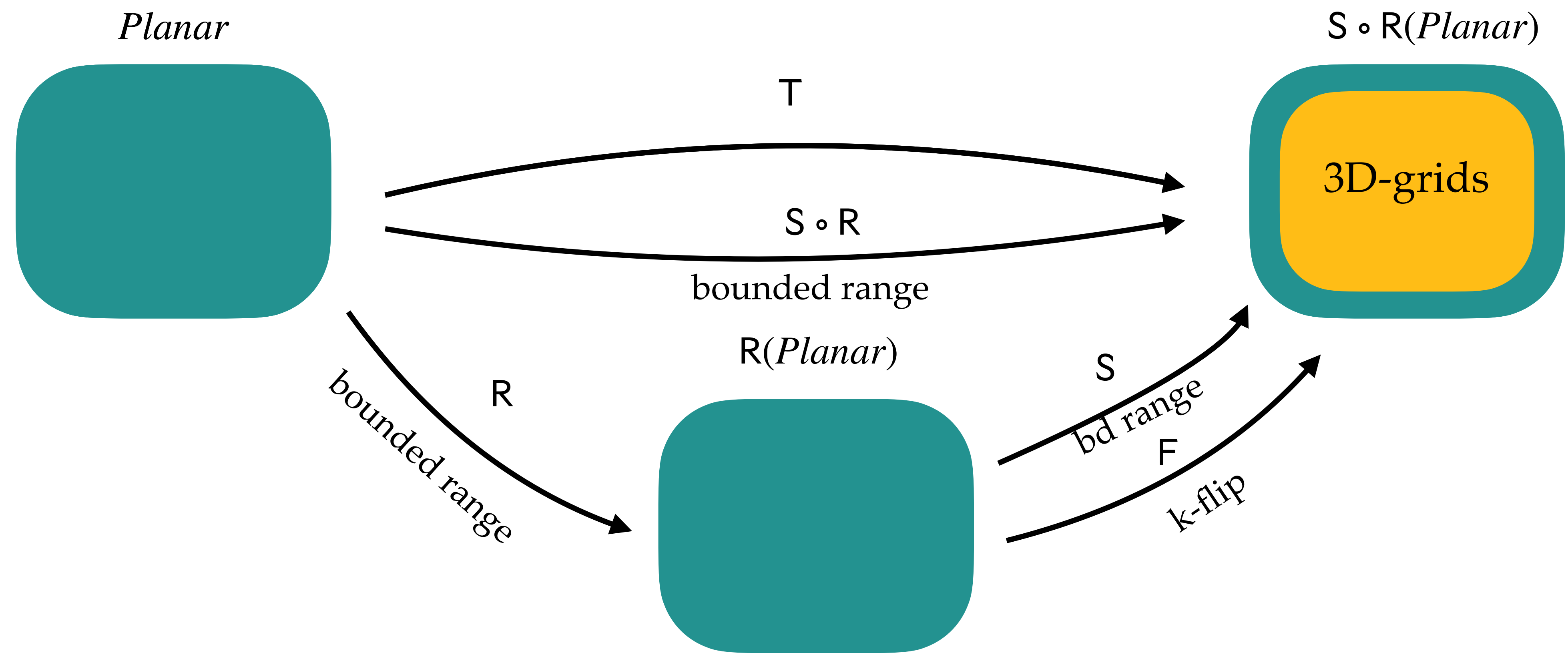
# Decomposing transductions



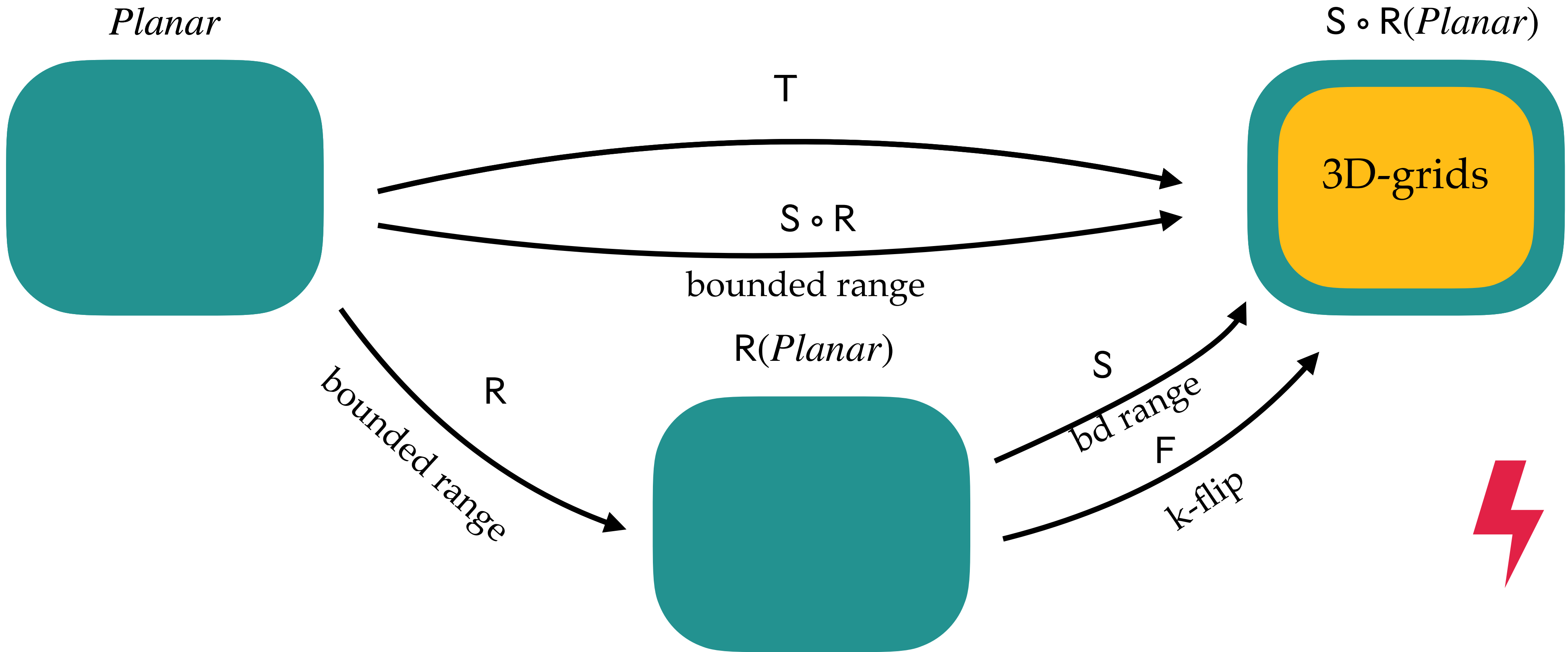
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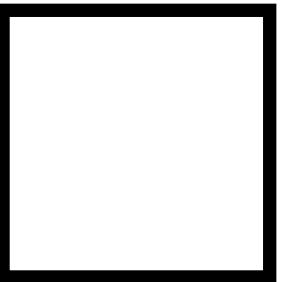
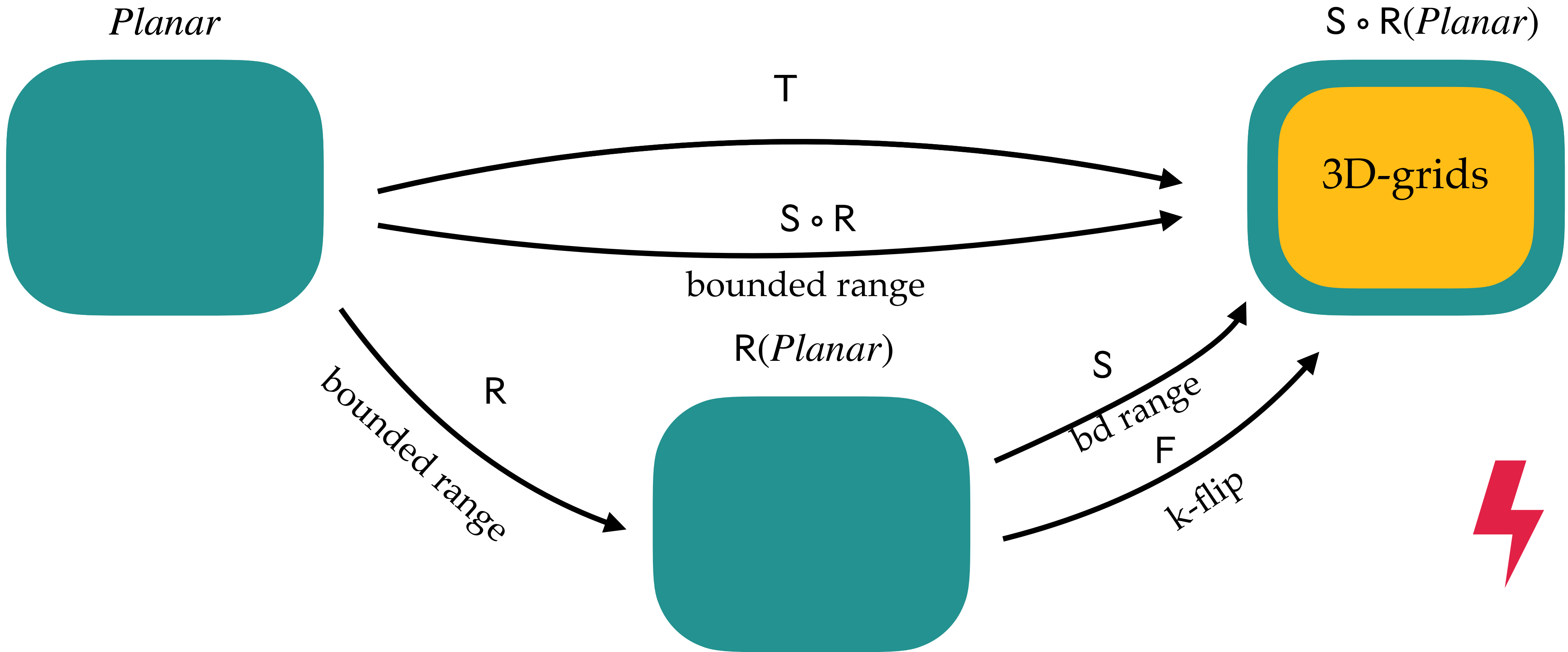
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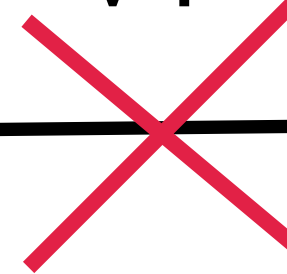
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# Thank you!

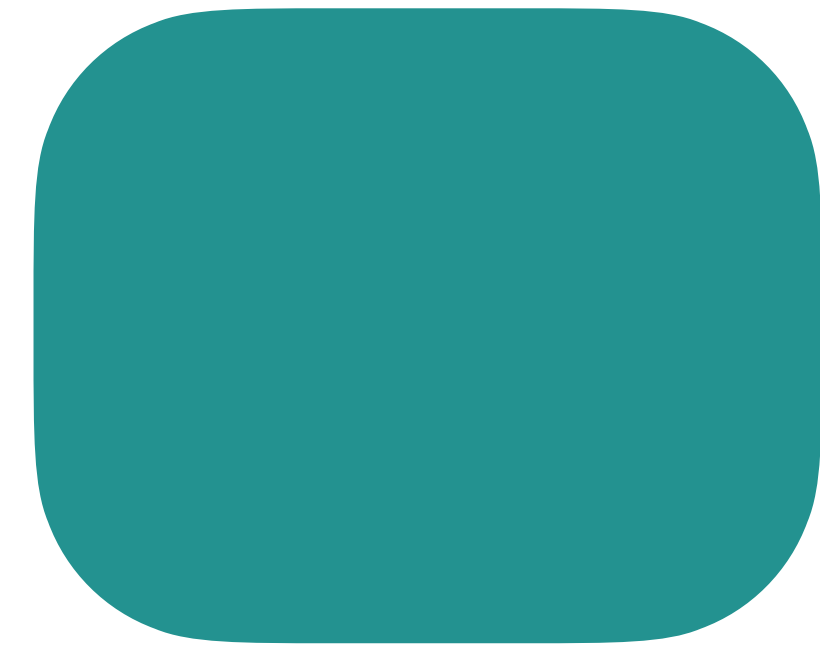
Planar graphs



$\forall T$



3D-grids



Planar graphs



$\exists T?$



Toroidal graphs?



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