# Tight lower bounds for the complexity of multicoloring 

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Joint work with
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## Coloring



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x
\end{array} \quad \Rightarrow c \neq d \\
& \frac{y}{x} \frac{D}{y} \Rightarrow\left\{\begin{array}{l}
|C|=b \\
|D|=b \\
C \cap D=\emptyset
\end{array}\right.
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- $a=2 b$ : Easy $\sqrt{ }$
- $a \geq 2 b+1$ : NP-hard (Hell, Nešetril '90)


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## Exponential Time Hypothesis (Impagliazzo, Paturi '99)

There is $\epsilon>0$ such that $3-S A T$ cannot be solved in $\mathcal{O}^{*}\left(2^{\epsilon \cdot h}\right)$ time.

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## Theorem (Dell, Husfeldt, Wahlén '10)

For any $k \geq 3$, there is $\alpha>0$ such that $k$-Coloring cannot be solved in $\mathcal{O}^{*}\left(2^{\alpha \cdot n}\right)$ time unless ETH fails.

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## Theorem (Björklund, Husfeldt '06) $k$-Coloring can be solved in $\mathcal{O}^{*}\left(2^{n}\right)$ time.

## Our result

## Theorem (Nederlof '08) <br> a:b-Coloring can be solved in $\mathcal{O}^{*}\left((b+1)^{n}\right)$ time.

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a:b-Coloring can be solved in $\mathcal{O}^{*}\left((b+1)^{n}\right)$ time.

## Theorem (B., Kowalik, Pilipczuk, Socała, Wrochna '16) <br> There is $\alpha>0$ such that, for appropriate ranges of values, a:b-Coloring cannot be solved in $\mathcal{O}^{*}\left((b+1)^{\alpha \cdot n}\right)$ time unless ETH fails.

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We can also relax $a: b$-coloring: every vertex is assigned

- an integer $\in\{1, \ldots, b\}$ (number of colors to receive) and
- a subset of $\{1, \ldots, a\}$ (colors it's allowed to take).


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## $d$-detecting sets

Given a set $X$ and a (mysterious) weight function $\omega: X \rightarrow\{-d,-d+1, \ldots, d-1, d\}$,

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O\left(\frac{|X|}{\log |X|}\right) \text { is enough! (Lindström '65) }
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## Thanks!

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"is $G$ homomorphic to $H$ ?" cannot be solved in
$\mathcal{O}^{*}\left(|V(H)|^{\alpha \cdot|V(G)|}\right)$ time unless ETH fails.

