Tight lower bounds for the complexity of multicoloring

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Joint work with

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Coloring



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$$\lim_{b \to \infty} \frac{\chi_b}{b} = \chi_f$$

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"Is G a: b-colorable?"

- *a* < 2*b*: Easy √
- *a* = 2*b*: Easy √
- $a \ge 2b + 1$: NP-hard (Hell, Nešetril '90)

NP-hard? :(

Exponential Time Hypothesis (Impagliazzo, Paturi '99)

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Theorem (Björklund, Husfeldt '06)

k-Coloring can be solved in $\mathcal{O}^*(2^n)$ time.

Theorem (Nederlof '08)

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

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Theorem (B., Kowalik, Pilipczuk, Socała, Wrochna '16)

There is $\alpha > 0$ such that, for appropriate ranges of values, a:b-Coloring cannot be solved in $\mathcal{O}^*((b+1)^{\alpha \cdot n})$ time unless ETH fails. Fix a, b.

Fix *a*, *b*. Main idea: compress an instance ϕ of 3-SAT on *n* variables and *m* clauses into the *a*:*b*-coloring of a graph *G* on $O(\frac{m+n}{\log b})$ vertices.

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We can assume that in ϕ , every variable belongs to at most 4 clauses.

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

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

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$$\begin{array}{cccc} V_1 & V_i & V_{\frac{n}{\log b}} \\ \circ & \circ & \circ \\ & & & \circ \\ C_1 & & C_j & C_{\frac{m}{b}} \end{array}$$

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b colours out of all that satisfy one of the clauses

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

> Minimum size of a collection (S_1, \ldots, S_p) s.t. if $\sum_{a \in S_i} \omega(a) = 0$ for every *i* then $\omega \equiv 0$?

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$$O(\frac{|X|}{\log|X|})$$
 is enough! (Lindström '65)

Conclusion

Thanks!

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Theorem (Cygan et al '16)

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