

Coloring Mixed Graphs

Antonio Lauerbach

05.09.2025

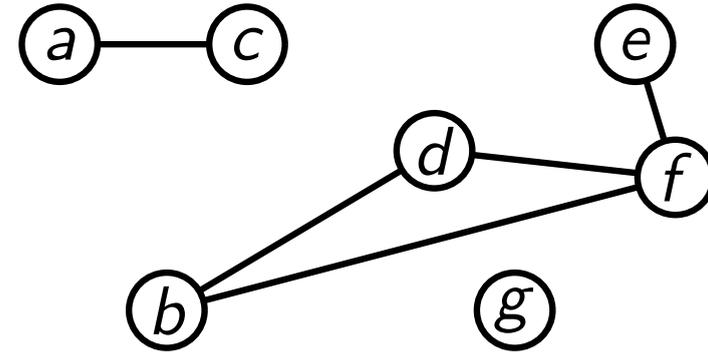
Basics



Basics

Undirected Graphs

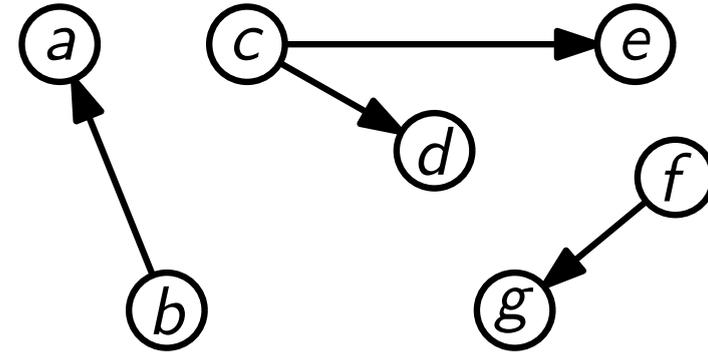
- vertices V
- edges $E \subset \binom{V}{2}$



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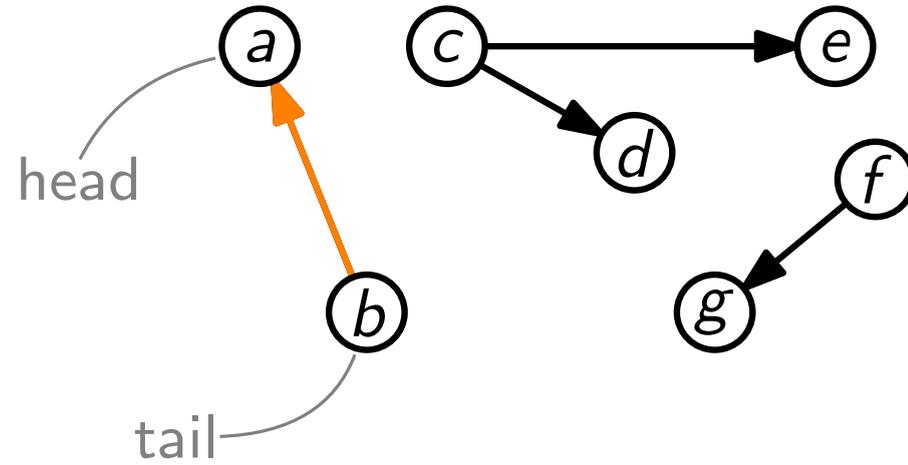
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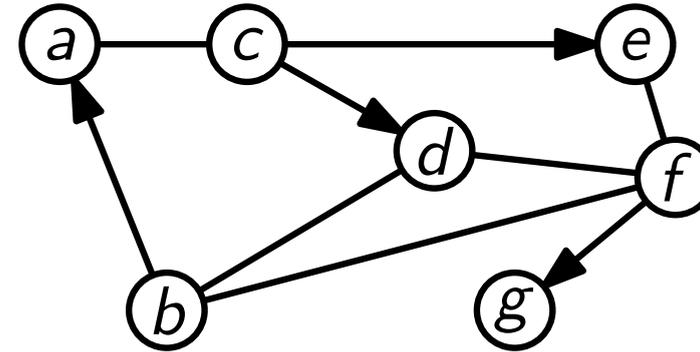
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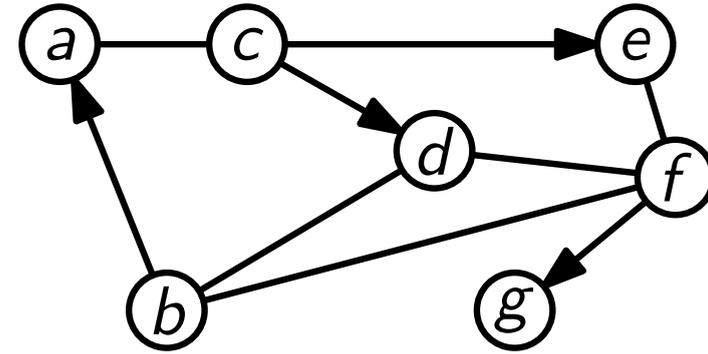
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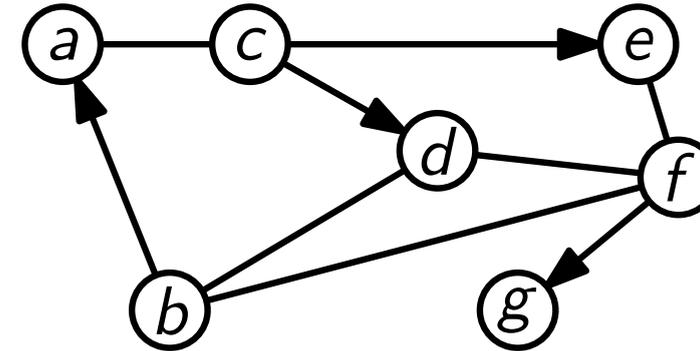
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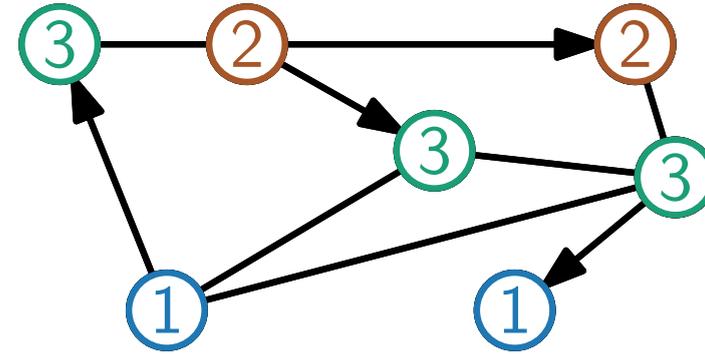
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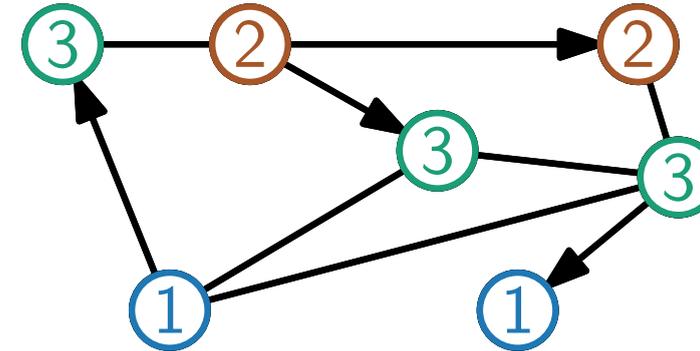
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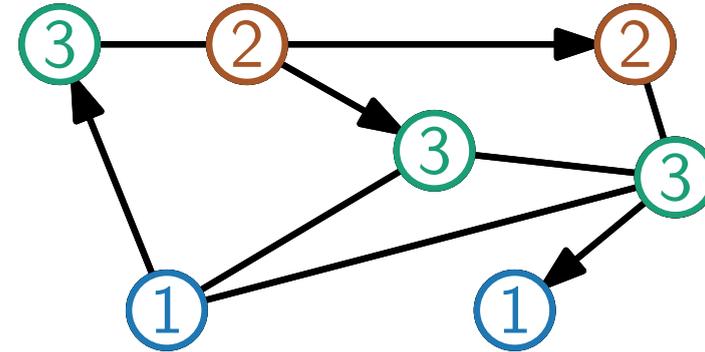


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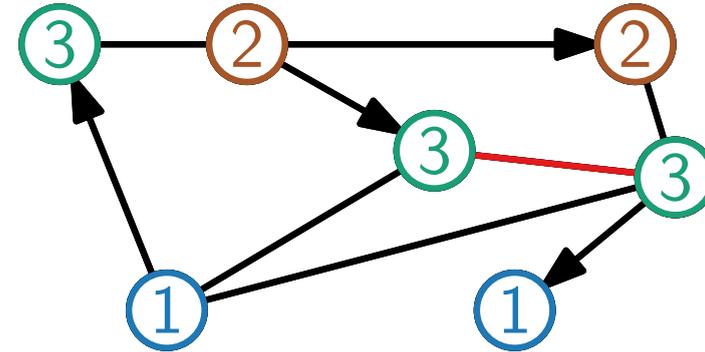


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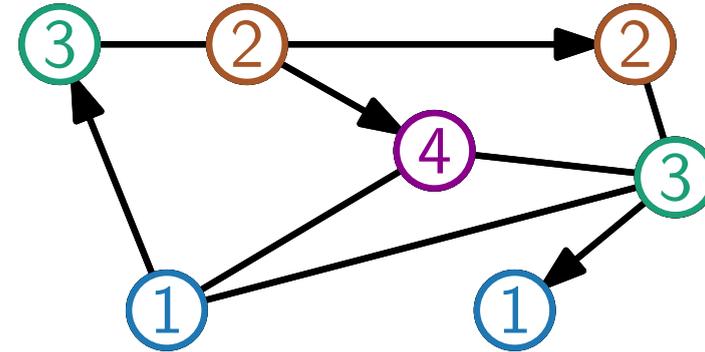


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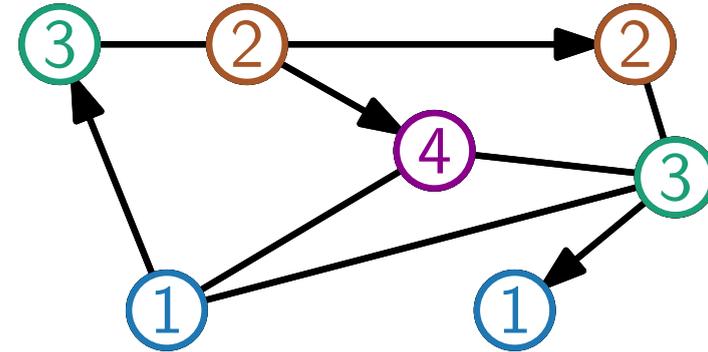


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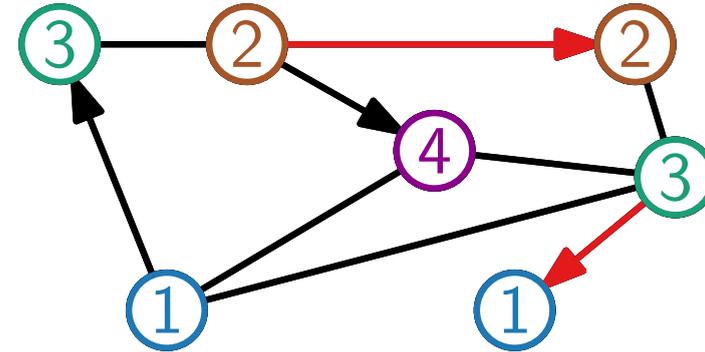


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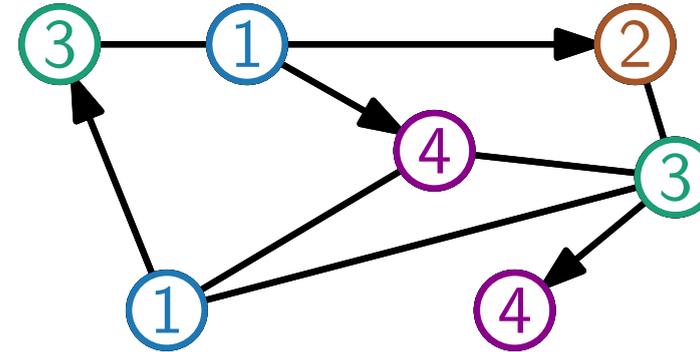


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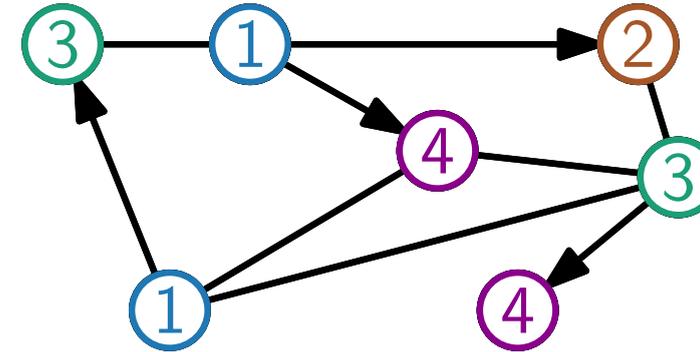
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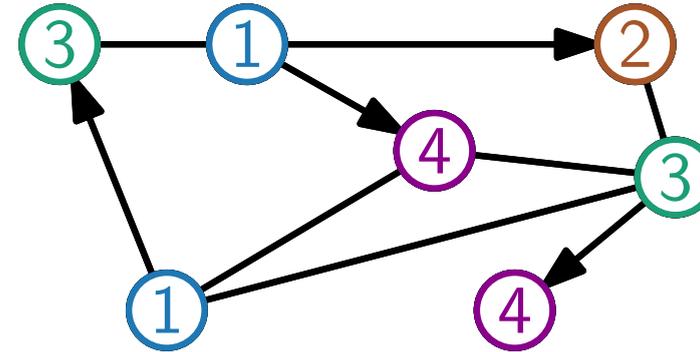
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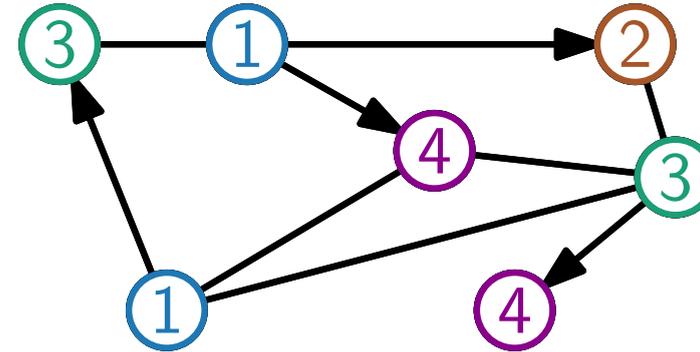
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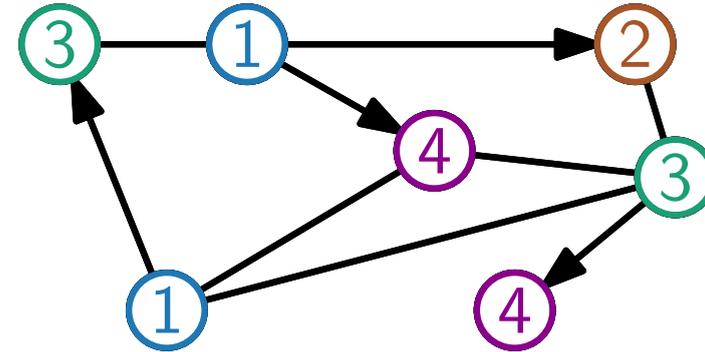
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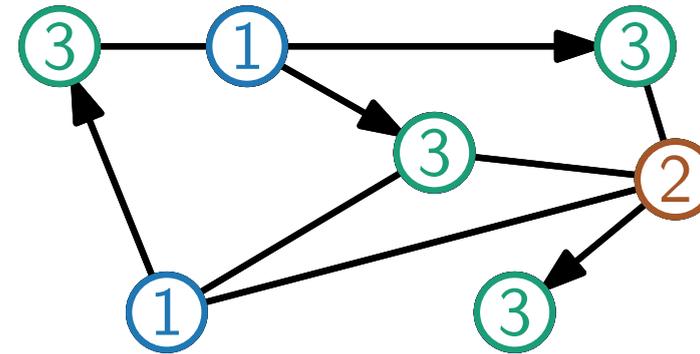
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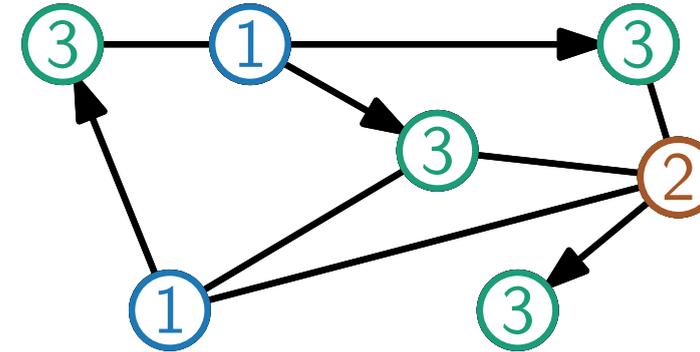
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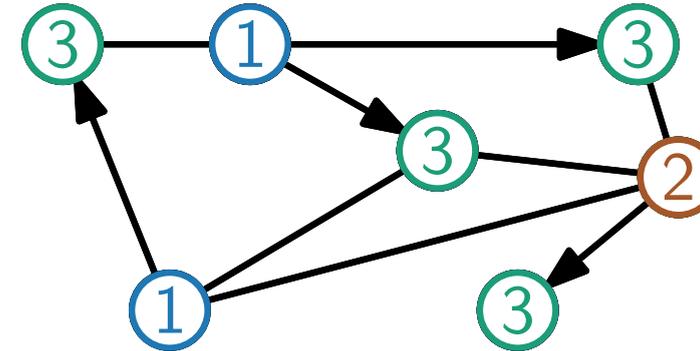
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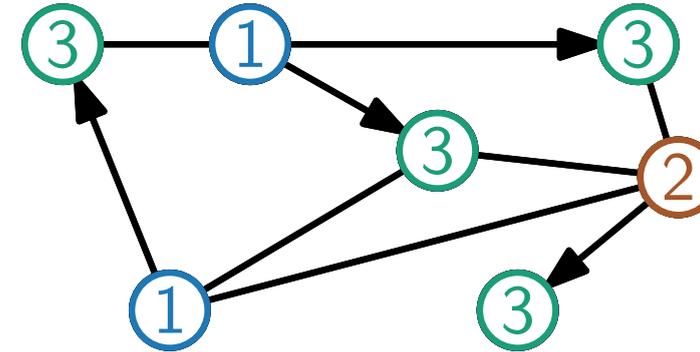
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Applications:

scheduling, frequency assignment, graph drawing

Contribution



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Related Work

- focus on special cases / counting colorings
- algorithmic approaches: MILPs, branch-and-bound, and heuristics



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Single-Exponential-Time Algorithms

Problem	Time	Space
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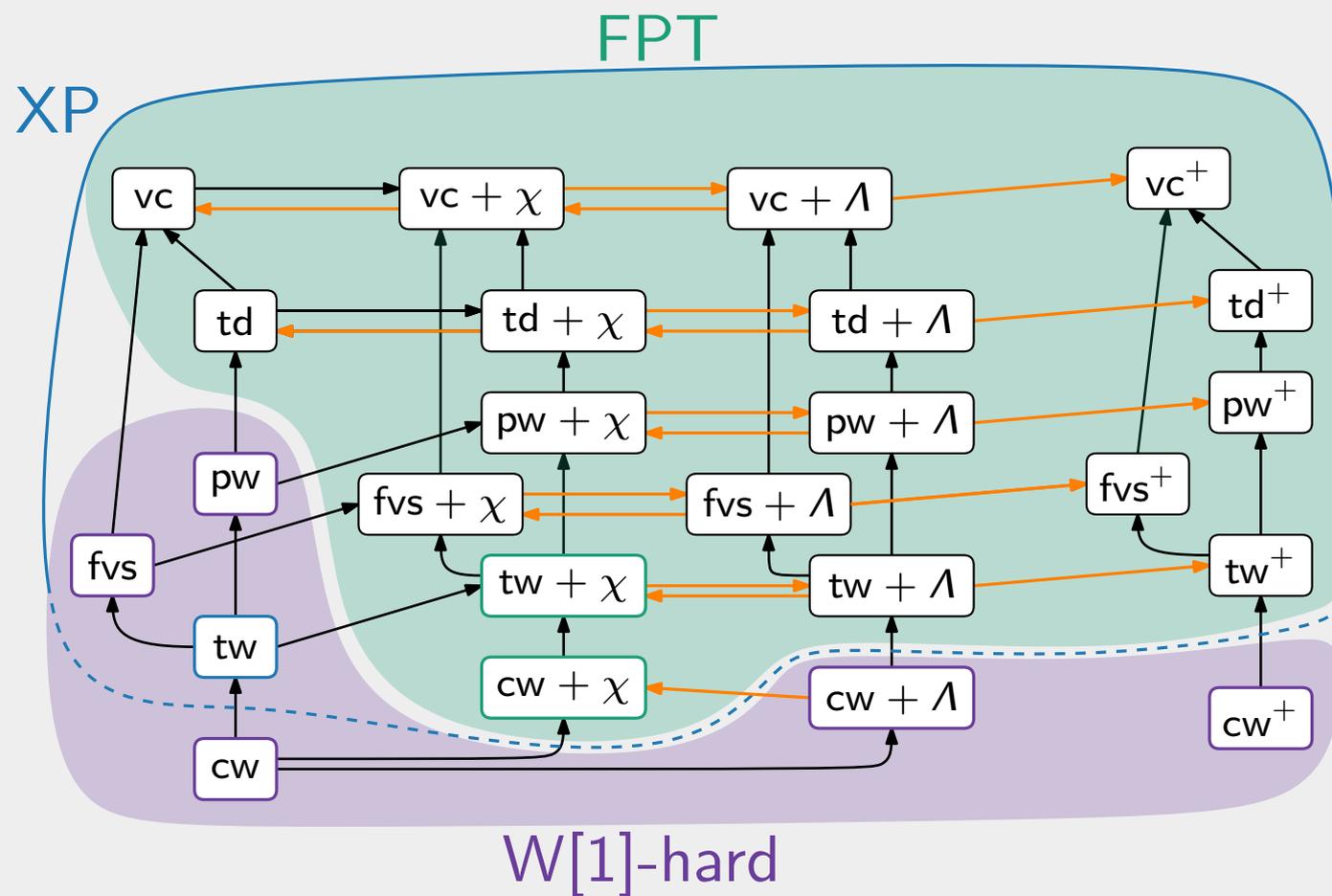
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Parameterized Complexity



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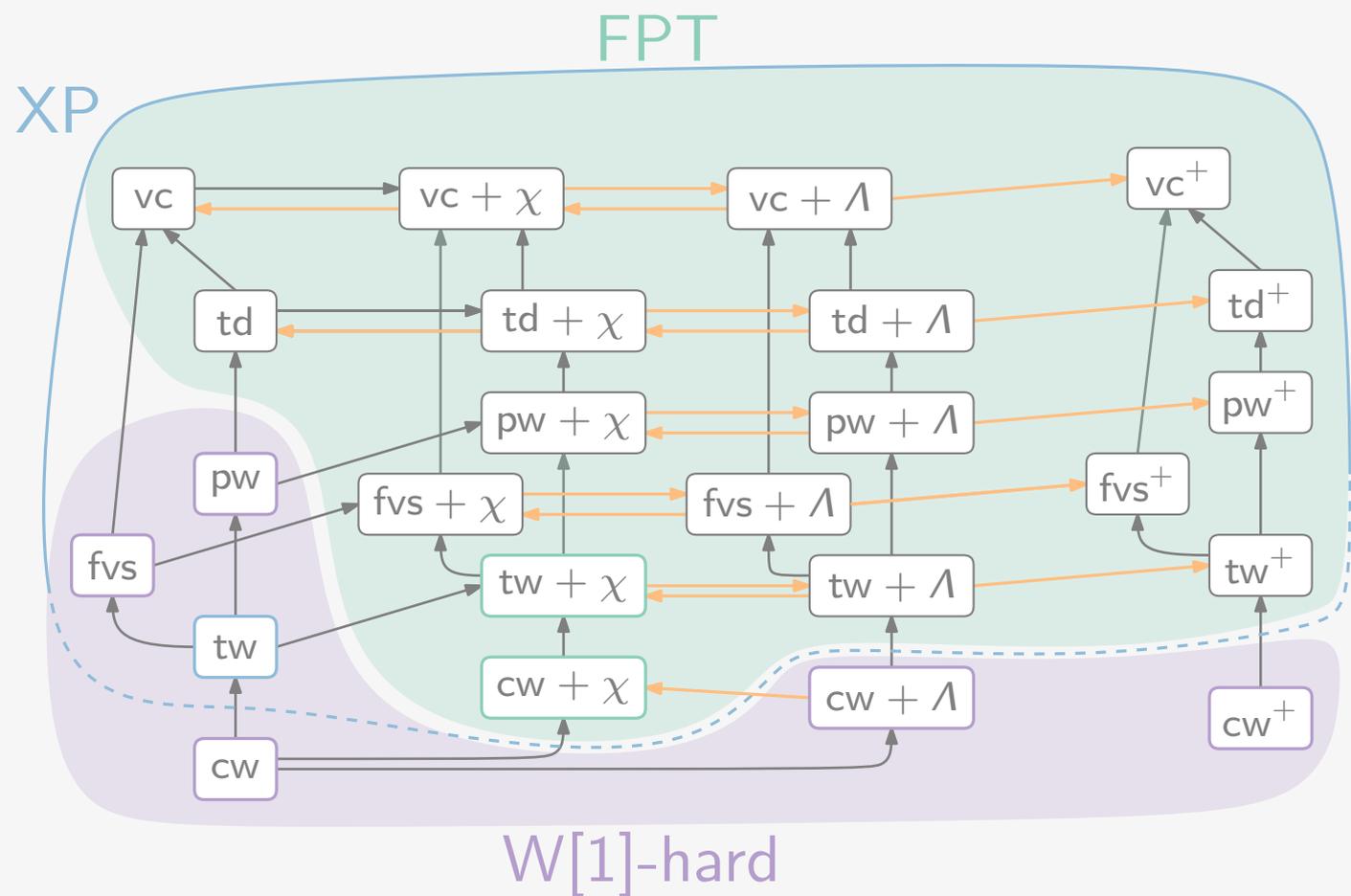
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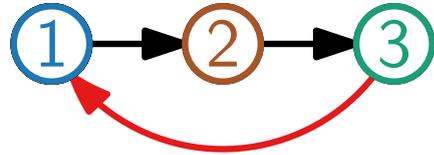
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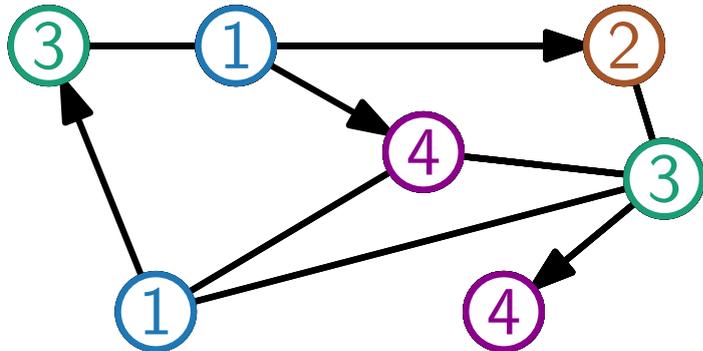
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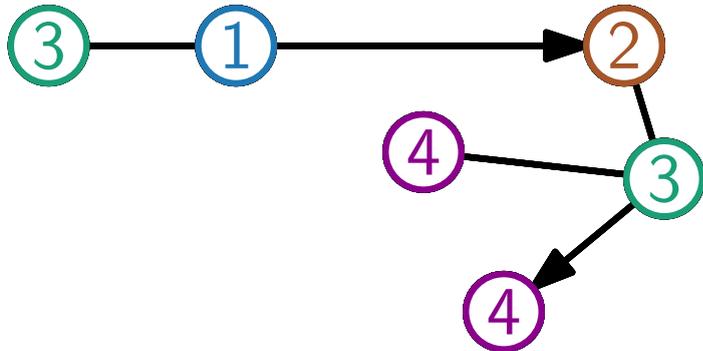
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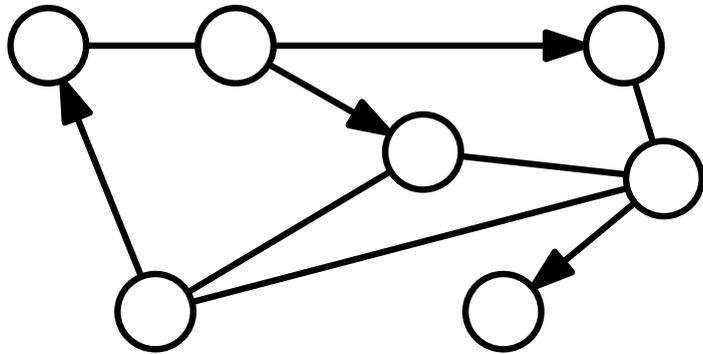
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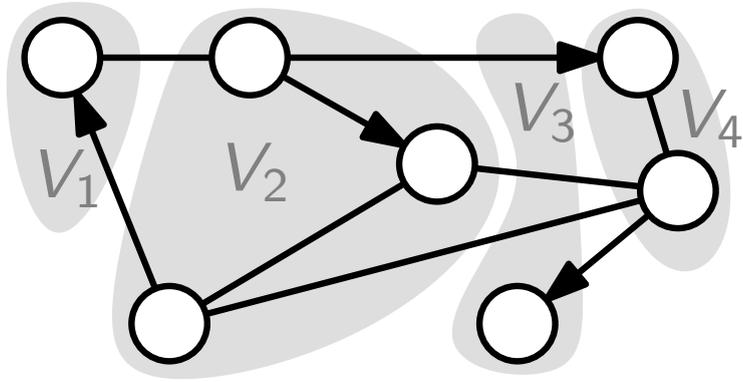
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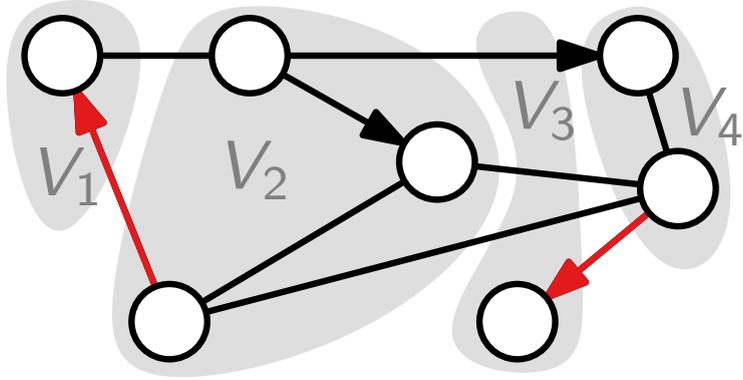
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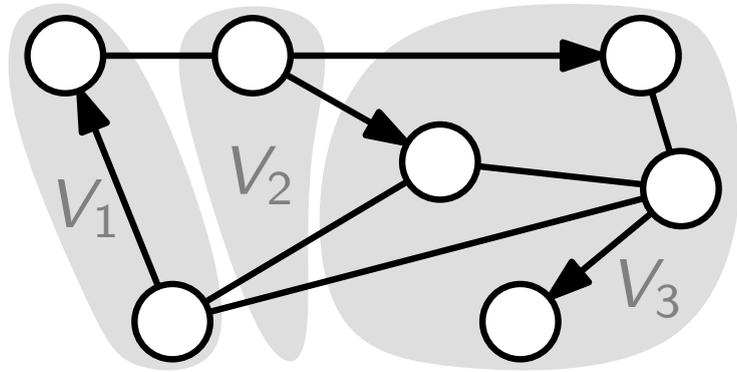
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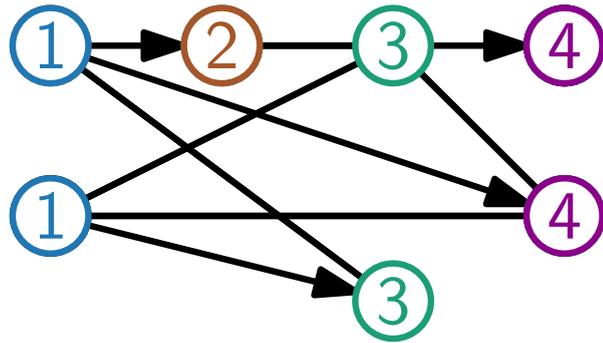


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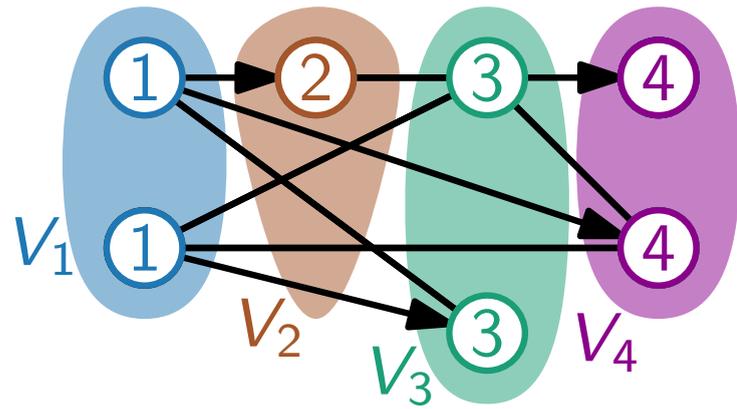


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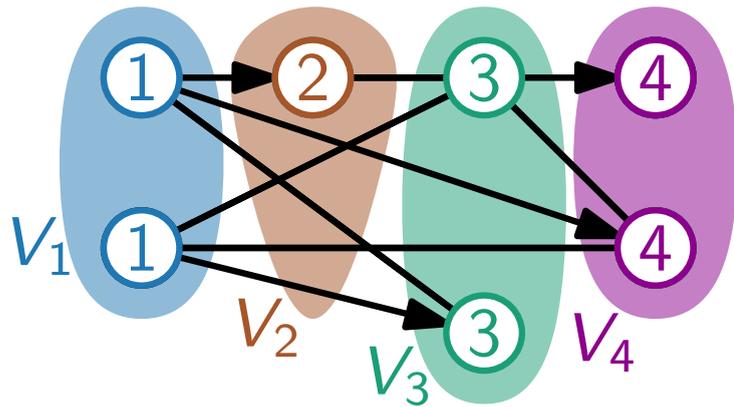


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Observation:

Color classes of proper colorings are equivalent to proper partitions into independent sets



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Lemma

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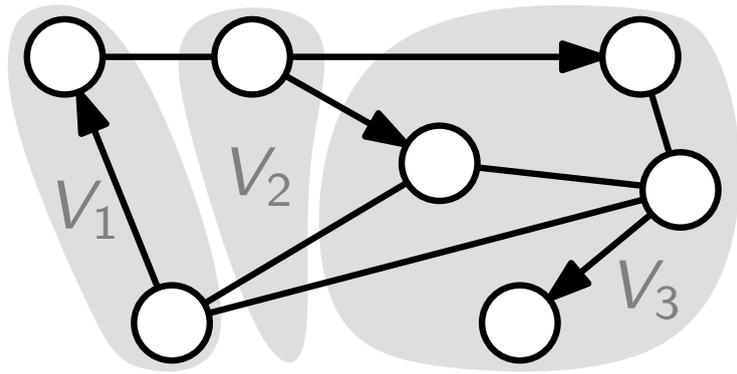
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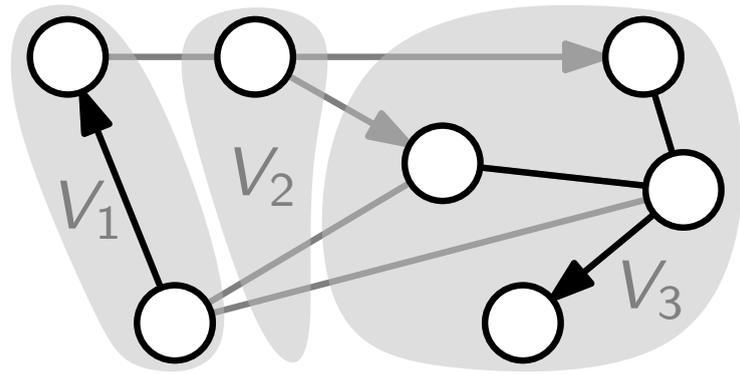
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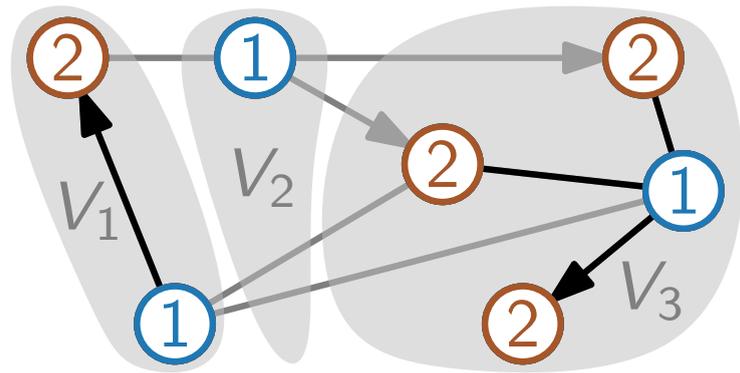
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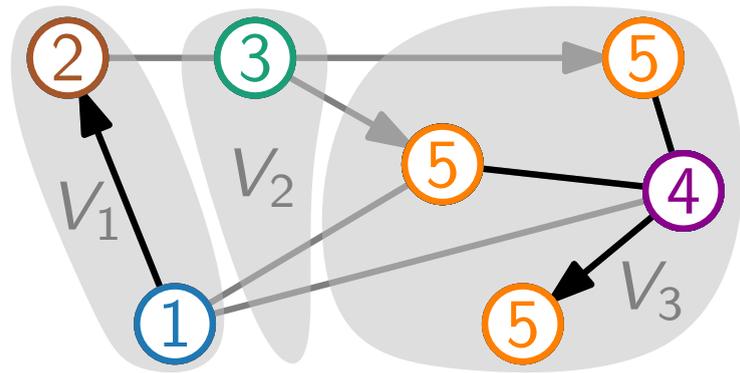
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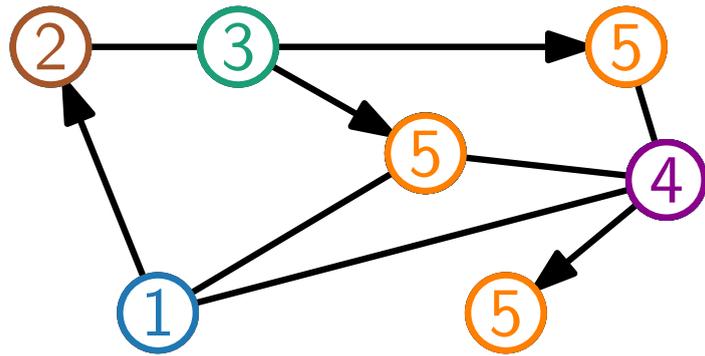
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Property (undirected):

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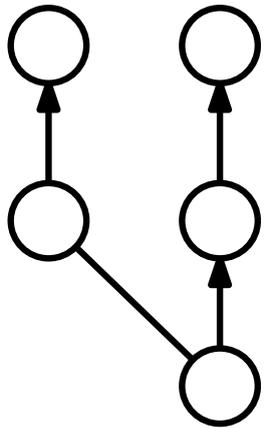


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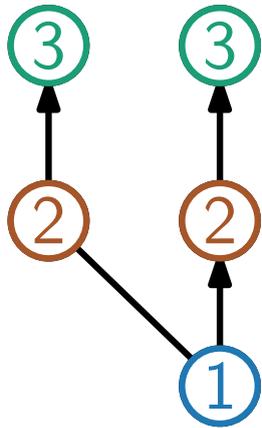


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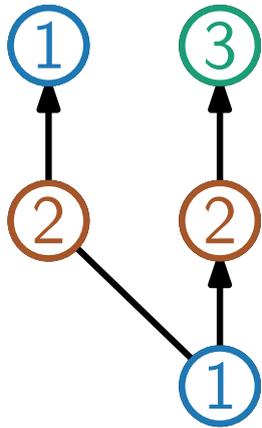


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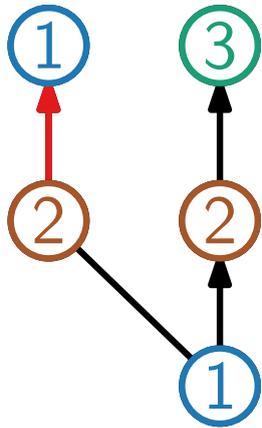


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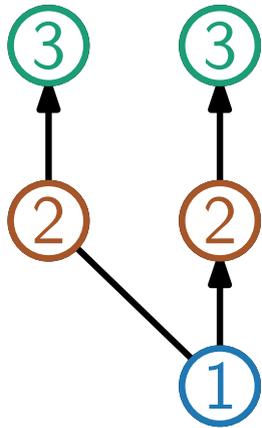


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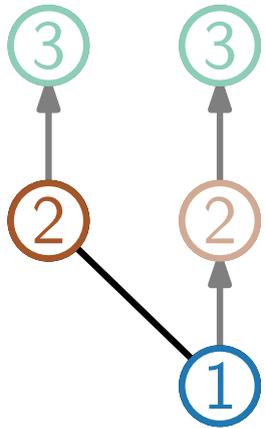


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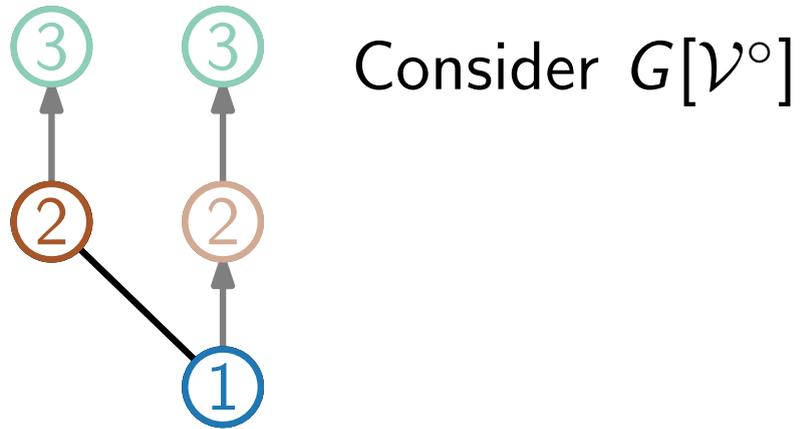


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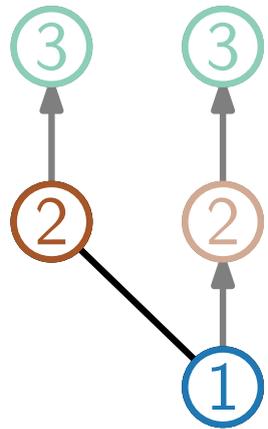


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Consider $G[\mathcal{V}^0]$

vertices with indeg 0 (i.e. without incoming arcs)

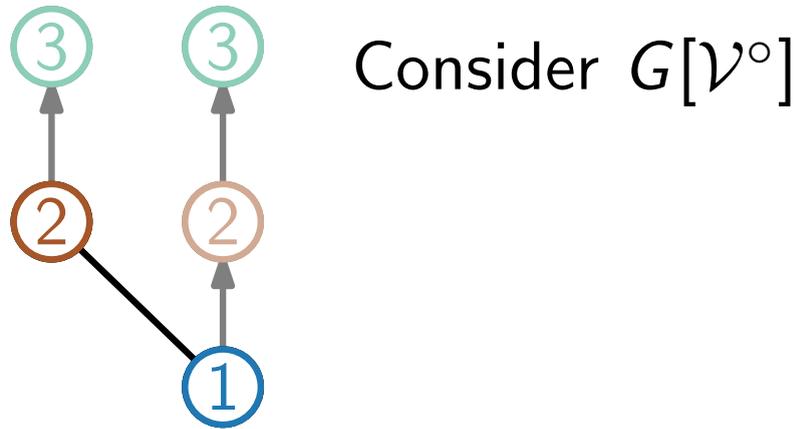


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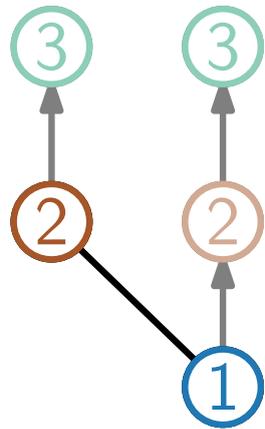


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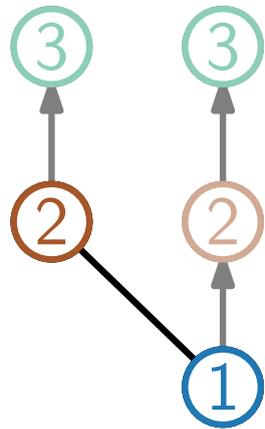


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It holds that:

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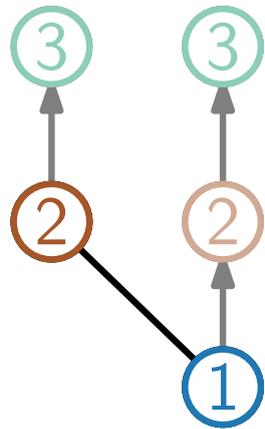


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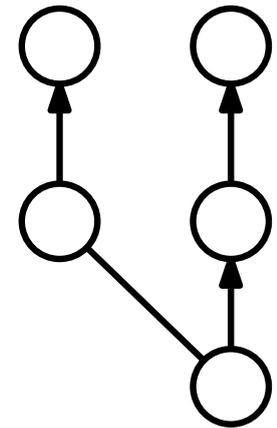
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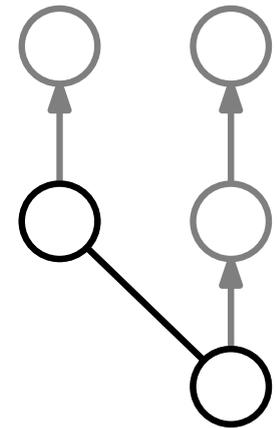
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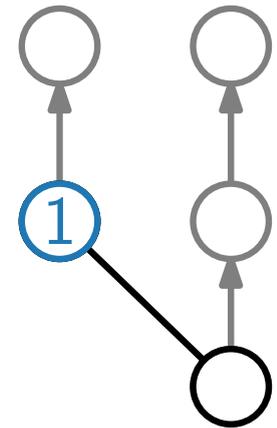
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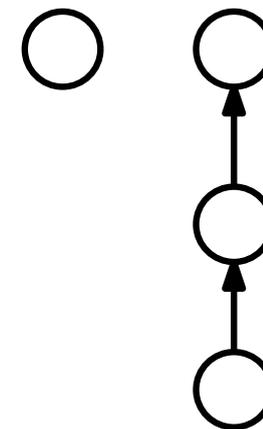
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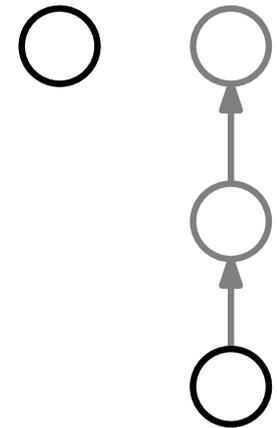
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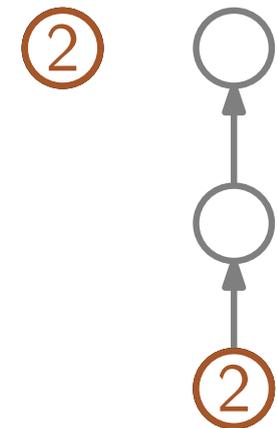
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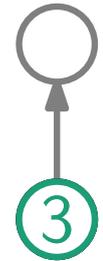
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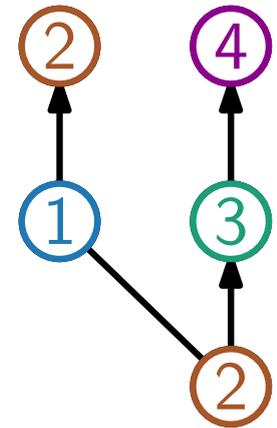
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LawlerMixedColoring(G):

```
L0 = {∅}
for i = 1 to n do
  Li = ∅
  foreach S ∈ Li-1 do
    foreach I ∈ MISo(G - S) do
      Li ← Li ∪ {S ∪ I}
      if S ∪ I = V then
        return i
return 0
```

Theorem

MIXEDCOLORING can be solved in $\mathcal{O}(2.44225^n)$ time and $\mathcal{O}(2^n n)$ space

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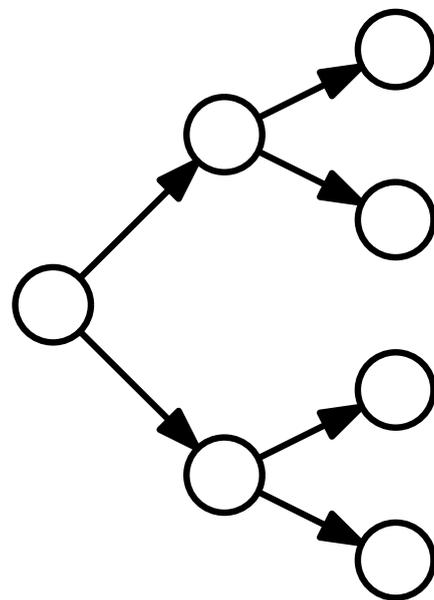
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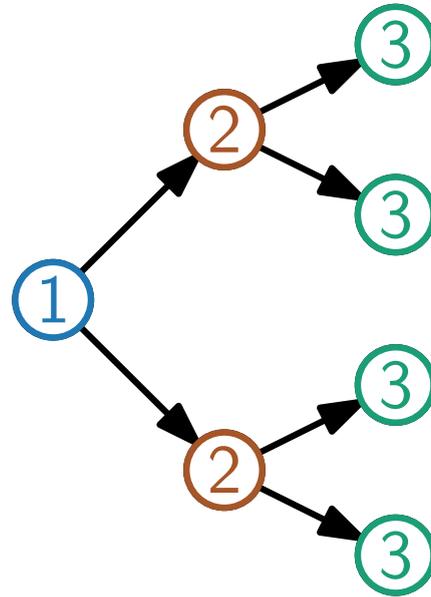
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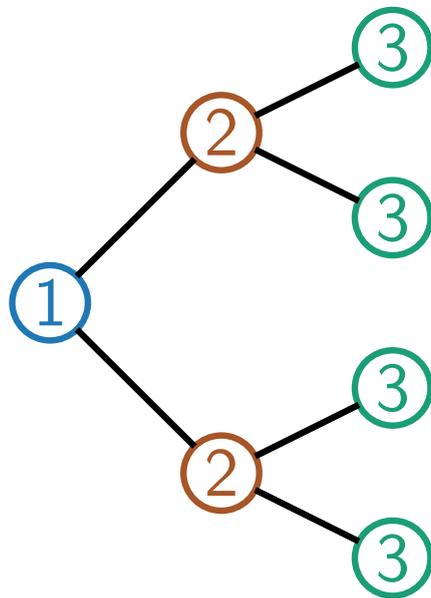
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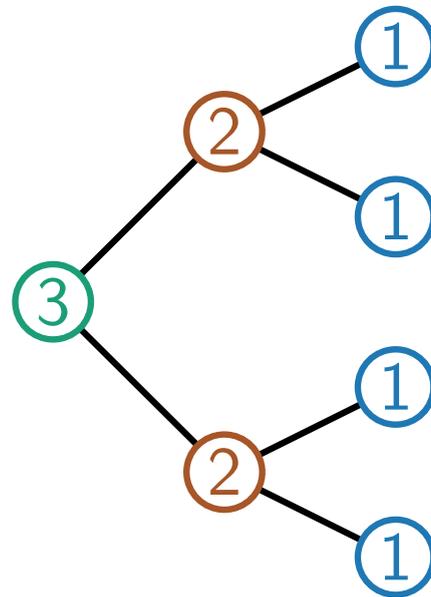
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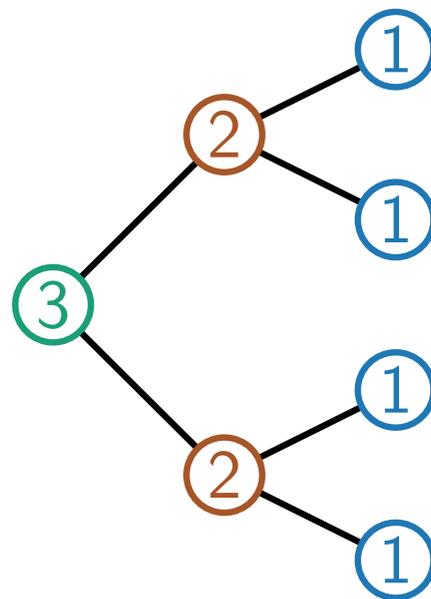
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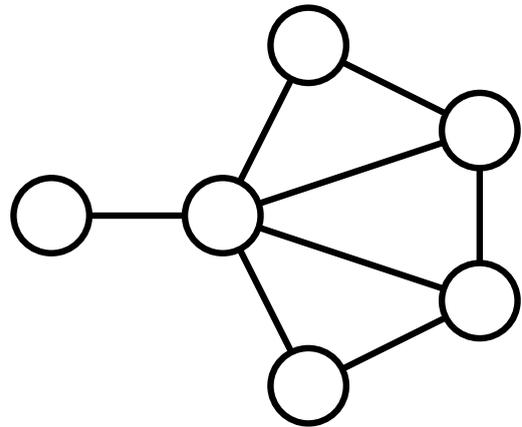
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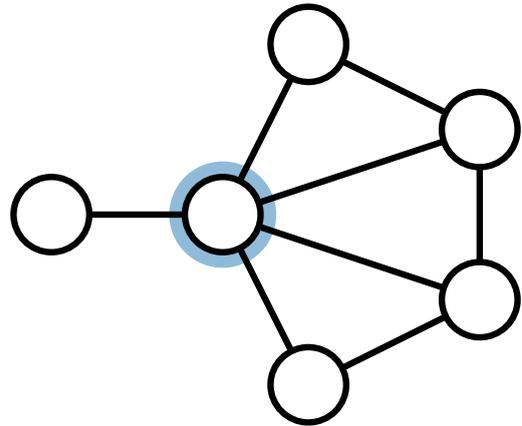


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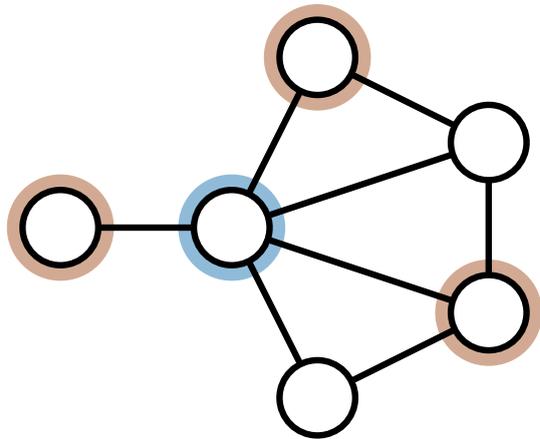


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Property (undirected): graph k -colorable iff there is k -cover with independent sets

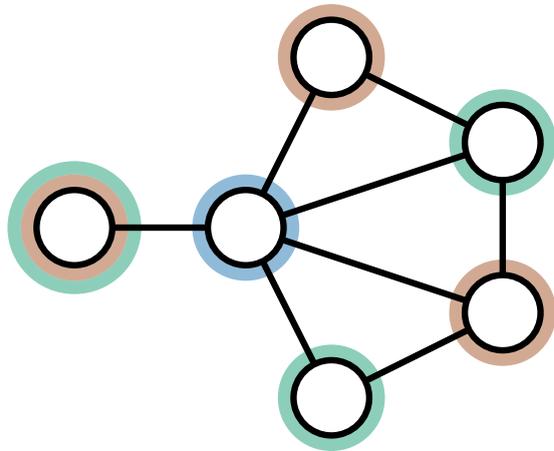


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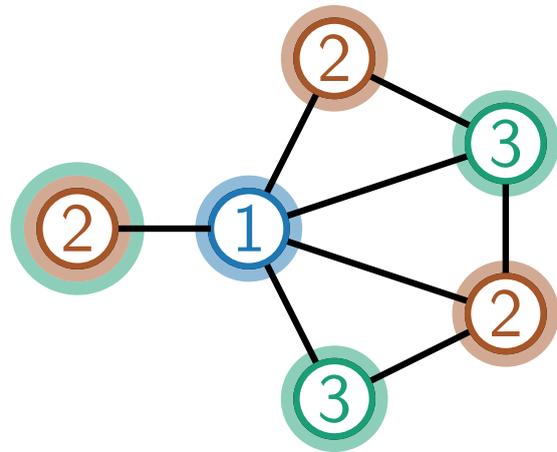


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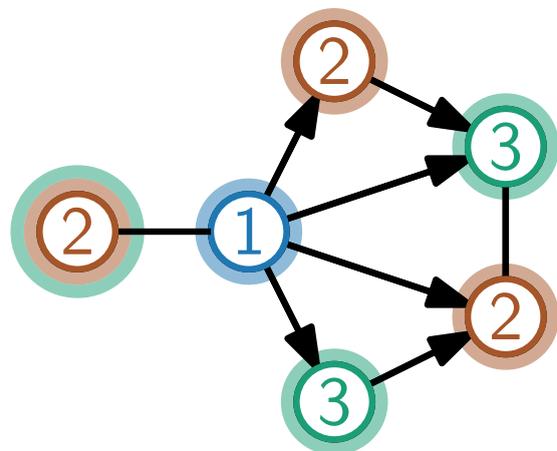
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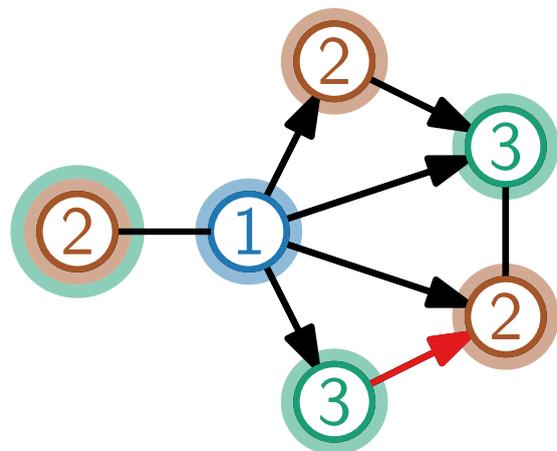
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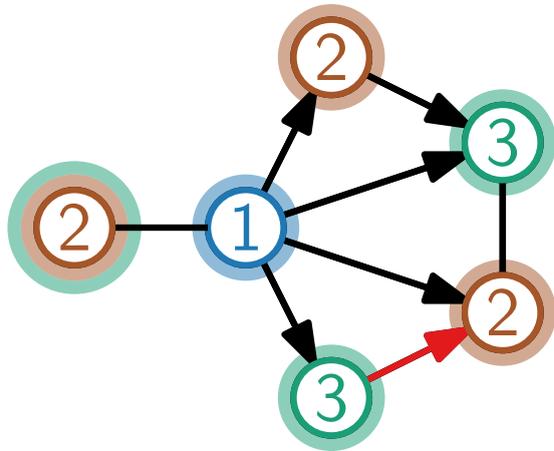
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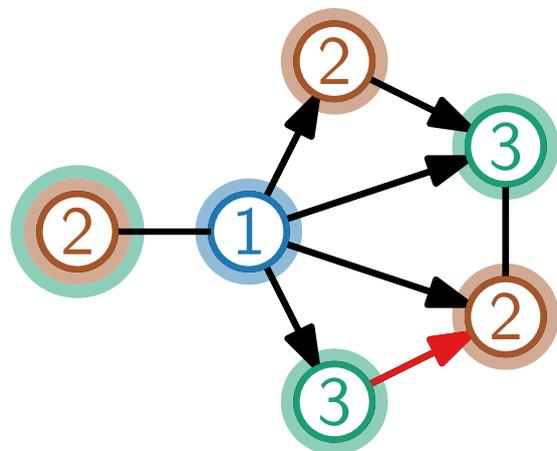
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Inclusion-Exclusion ($\mathcal{O}^*(2^n)$) [BHK09] does not generalize

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PolySpace

PolySpace

Idea: D&C

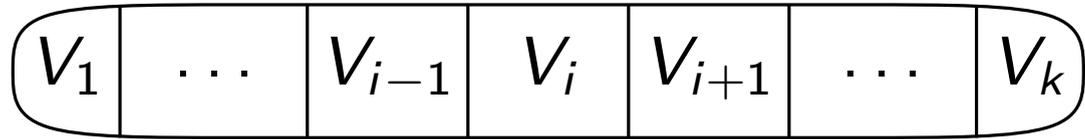
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PolySpace

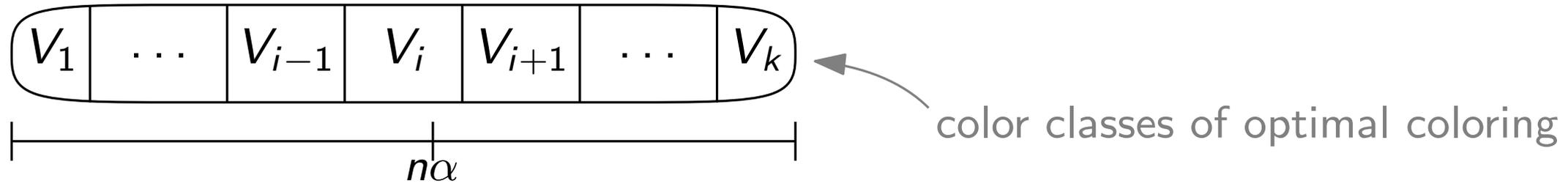
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color classes of optimal coloring

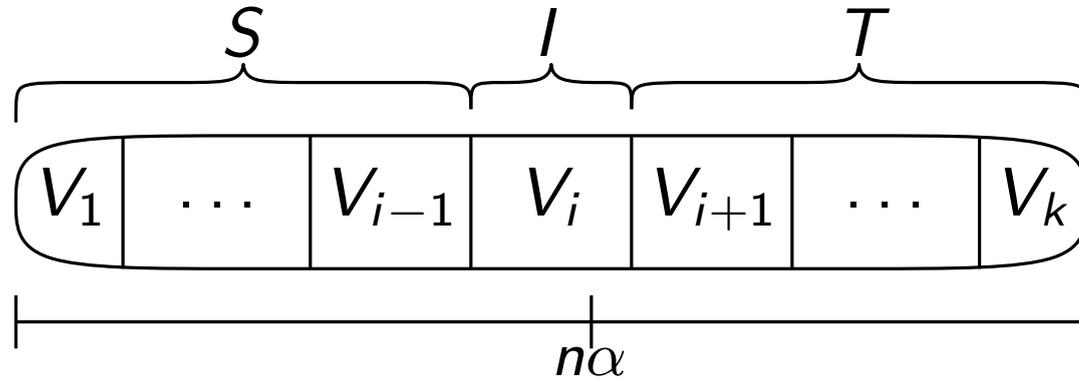
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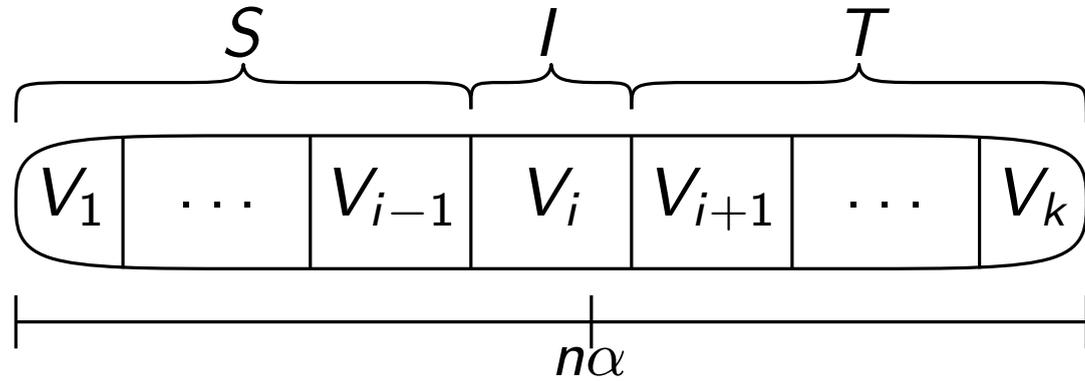
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PolySpace

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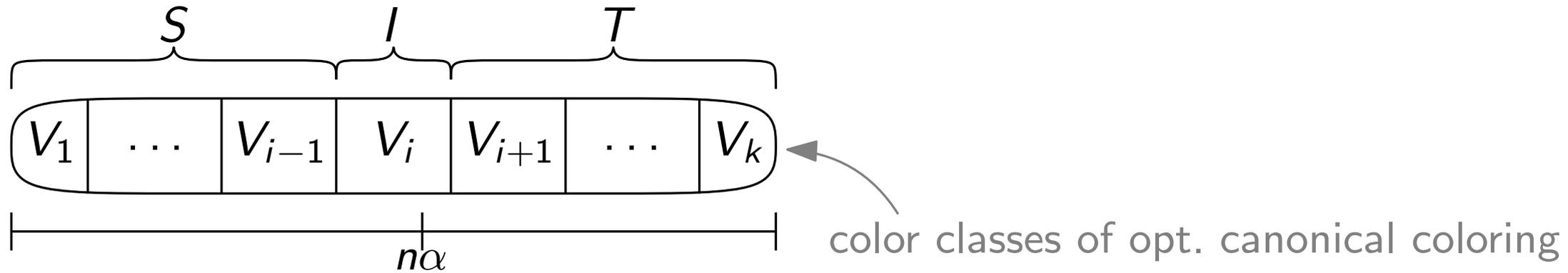


Lemma For $G \neq \emptyset$ it holds that:

$$\chi(G) = \min_{\substack{\text{proper partition } \langle S, I, T \rangle: \\ |S| < n\alpha, I \in IS(G), |T| \leq n(1-\alpha)}} \chi(G[S]) + 1 + \chi(G[T])$$

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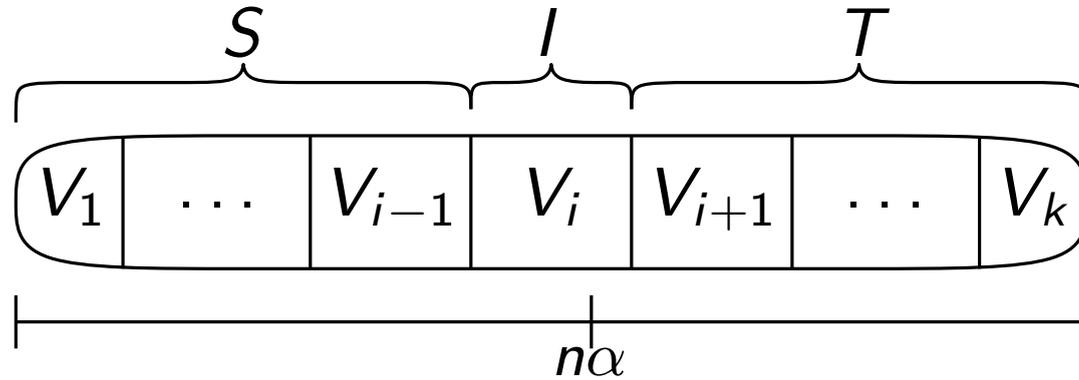


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Recall: $I = V_i \in \text{MIS}^\circ(G - (V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_{i-1}))$

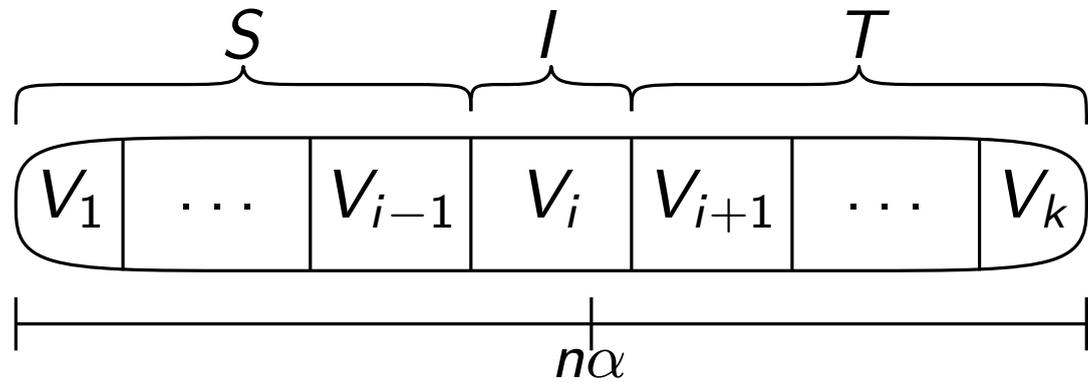
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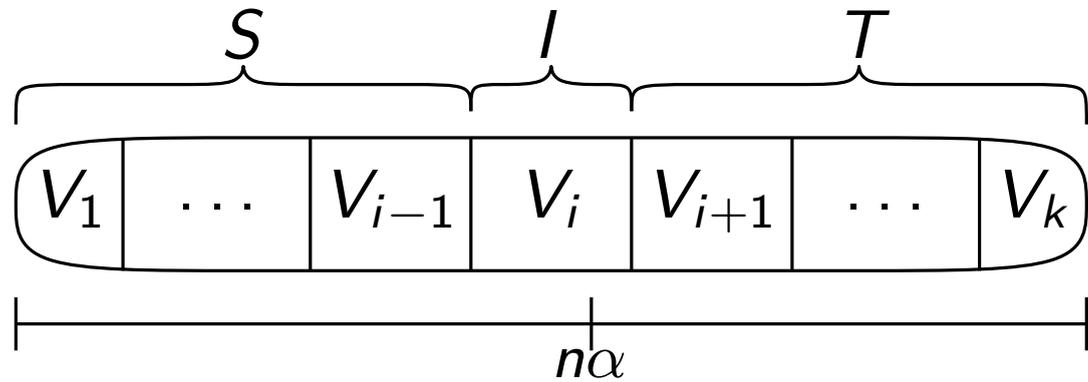
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PolySpaceColor(G):

if $G = \emptyset$ **then**

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Space:

PolySpace

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Space:

- poly for each node

PolySpace

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Space:

- poly for each node
- recursion depth $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$

PolySpace

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Space:

■ poly for each node

■ recursion depth $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$

⇒ poly space overall

PolySpace

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Runtime:

PolySpace

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Runtime:

- poly in #nodes

PolySpace

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Runtime:

- poly in #nodes
- recursion depth $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$

PolySpace

PolySpaceColor(G):

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└ **return** x

Runtime:

- poly in #nodes
 - recursion depth $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$
- ⇒ poly in #leaves

PolySpace

PolySpaceColor(G):

if $G = \emptyset$ **then**

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$x \leftarrow \infty$

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└ **return** x

Runtime: $\mathcal{O}^*(L(n))$

PolySpace

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Runtime: $\mathcal{O}^*(L(n))$

max. #leaves in recursion tree of graph with n vertices

PolySpace

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Runtime: $\mathcal{O}^*(L(n))$

$L(0) = 1$

PolySpace

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Runtime: $\mathcal{O}^*(L(n))$

$L(0) = 1$

For $n \geq 1$:

PolySpace

PolySpaceColor(G):

if $G = \emptyset$ **then**

└ **return** 0

$x \leftarrow \infty$

for $i = 0$ **to** $\lceil n\alpha - 1 \rceil$ **do**

└ **foreach** $S \subset \binom{V(G)}{i}$ **with** $d_G^-(S) = 0$ **do**

└└ $x_1 = \text{PolySpaceColor}(G[S])$

└└ **for** $\ell = \lceil n\alpha - i \rceil$ **to** $n - i$ **do**

└└└ **foreach** $I \in \text{MIS}^\circ(G - S, \ell)$ **do**

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$$L(n) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil n\alpha - 1 \rceil} \binom{n}{i} \cdot \left[L(i) + \sum_{\ell=\lceil n\alpha - i \rceil}^{n-i} \mu(n-i, \ell) \cdot L(n-i-\ell) \right] \text{ for } n \geq 1$$

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max. #MIS of size ℓ in graph with $n - i$ vertices

PolySpace

Goal: $L(n) \leq c^n$ for $c > 1$

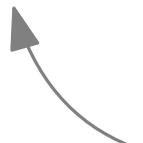
PolySpace

Goal: $L(n) \leq c^n \cdot (2n^2)^{D(n)}$ for $c > 1$

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max. depth of recursion tree on graphs with n vertices



PolySpace

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Base Case ($n = 0$): $L(0) = 1 \leq c^0 \cdot (2 \cdot 0^2)^0$

PolySpace

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IS ($n \geq 1$):

PolySpace

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$$L(n) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil n\alpha-1 \rceil} \binom{n}{i} \cdot \left[L(i) + \sum_{\ell=\lceil n\alpha-i \rceil}^{n-i} \mu(n-i, \ell) \cdot L(n-i-\ell) \right]$$

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using induction hypothesis: $L(m) \leq c^m (2m^2)^{D(m)}$ for $m < n$

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$$\leq n^2 (2n^2)^{D(n)-1} \left[\max_{i=0}^{\lceil n\alpha-1 \rceil} \binom{n}{i} c^i + \max_{i=\lfloor n(1-\alpha)+1 \rfloor}^n \binom{n}{i} \max_{\ell=\lceil i-n(1-\alpha) \rceil}^i (\mu(i, \ell) \cdot c^{i-\ell}) \right]$$

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PolySpace

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Remains to determine best c and α

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Remains to determine best c and α

Consider only $\alpha \geq 0.5$

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Lemma For $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ it holds that:

$$\frac{1}{\alpha^{1-\alpha} (1-\alpha)} \leq c \implies \max_{i=0}^{\lceil n\alpha-1 \rceil} \binom{n}{i} c^i \leq c^n$$

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Uses: $\binom{n}{n\beta} \leq \frac{1}{\beta^\beta (1-\beta)^{1-\beta}}$

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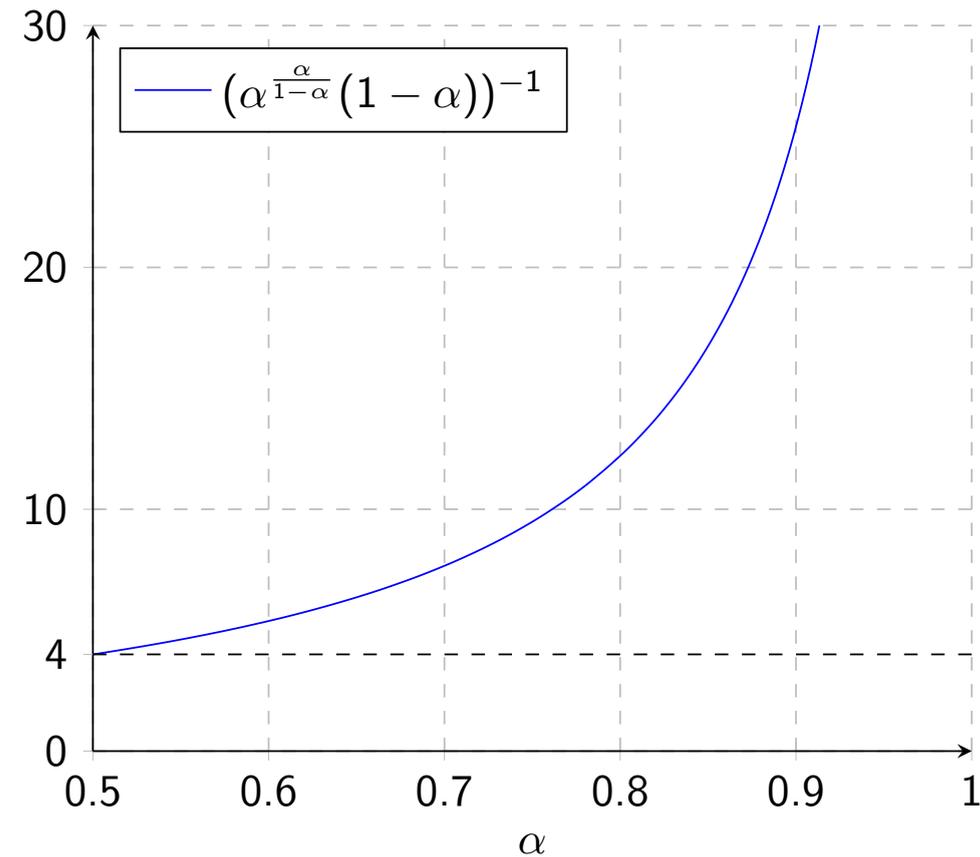
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Lemma For $\frac{16}{43} \leq \alpha < 1$ and $c \geq \frac{81}{64}$ it holds that:

$$\frac{81}{64} \cdot \frac{172}{81}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \leq c \implies \max_{i=\lfloor n(1-\alpha)+1 \rfloor}^n \binom{n}{i} \max_{\ell=\lceil i-n(1-\alpha) \rceil}^i (\mu(i, \ell) \cdot c^{i-\ell}) \leq c^n$$

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Uses bound by [Epp01]: $\mu(i, \ell) \leq 3^{4\ell-i} 4^{i-3\ell}$

PolySpace

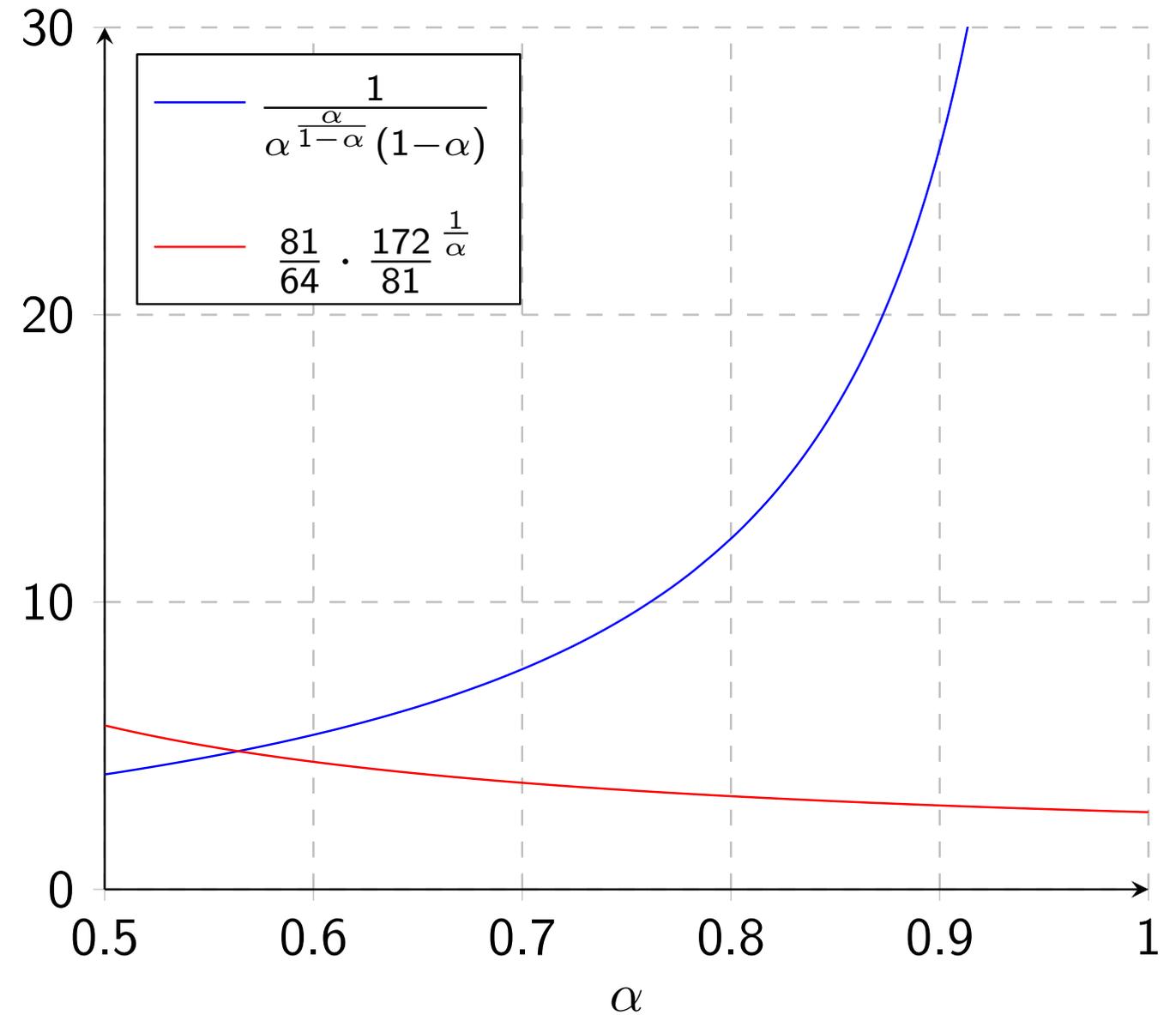
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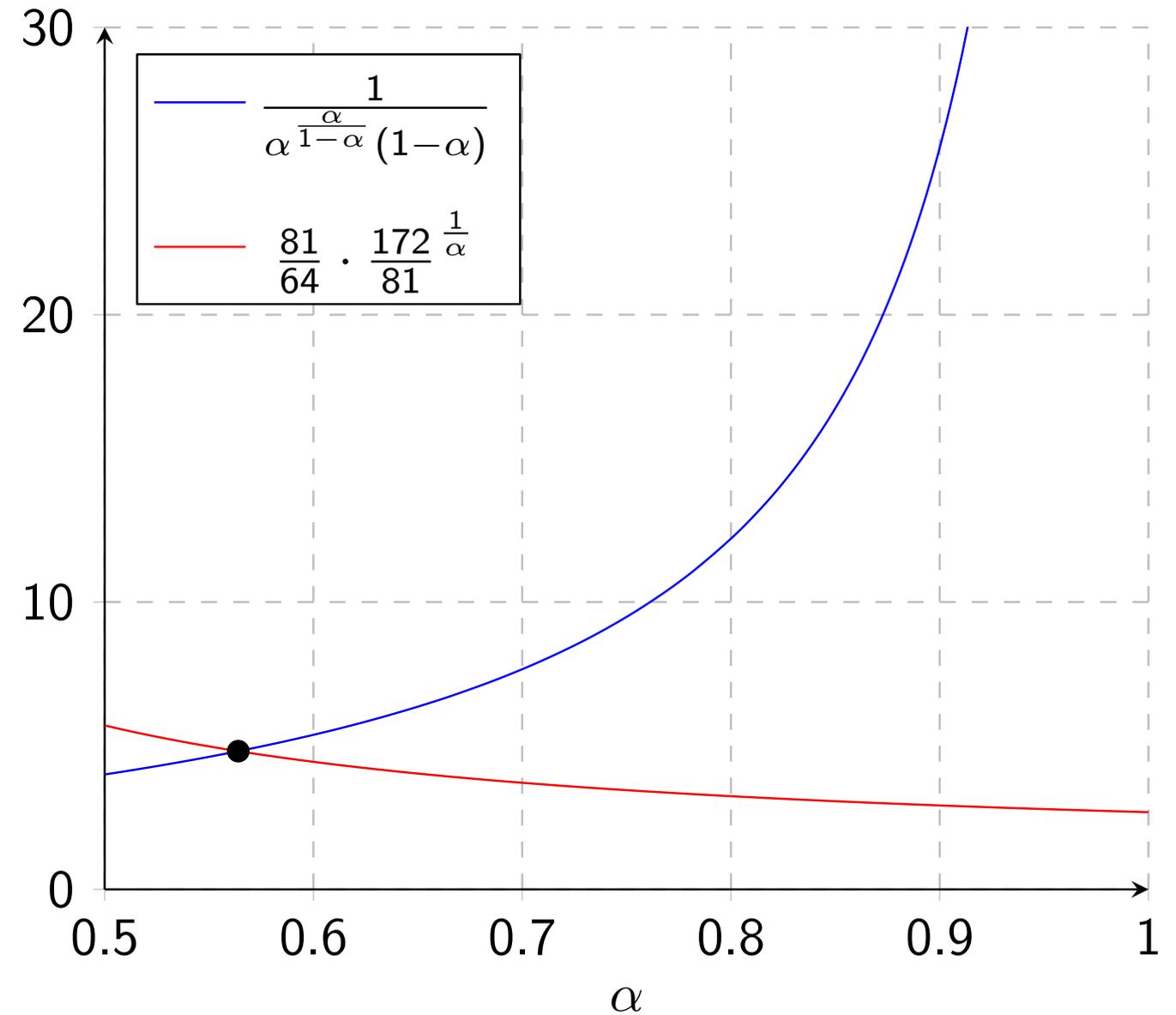
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Observation:

both inequalities hold for $\alpha = 0.563964$
and $c = 4.81068$



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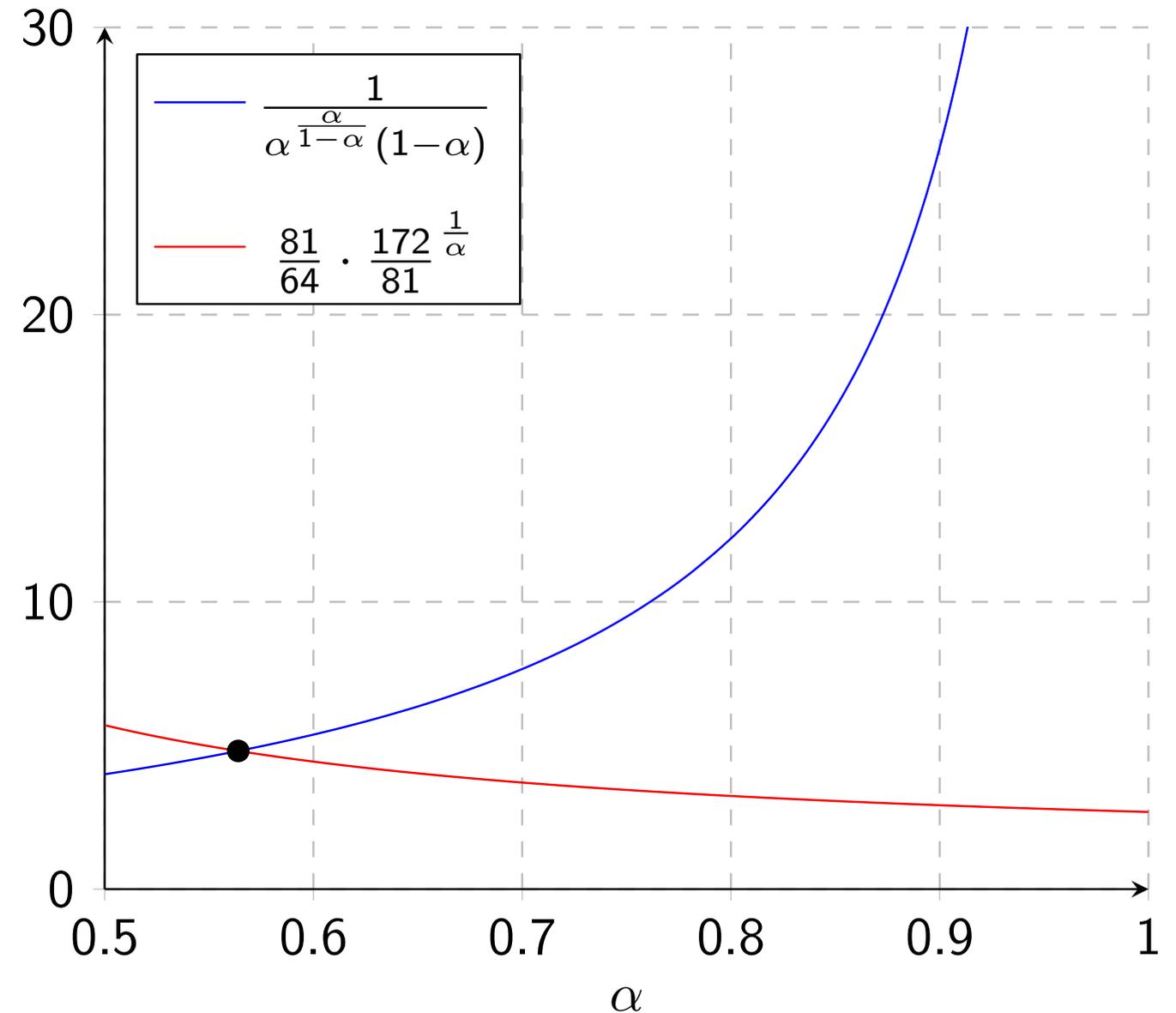
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Runtime:

$$\mathcal{O}^*(4.81068^n (2n^2)^{D(n)})$$



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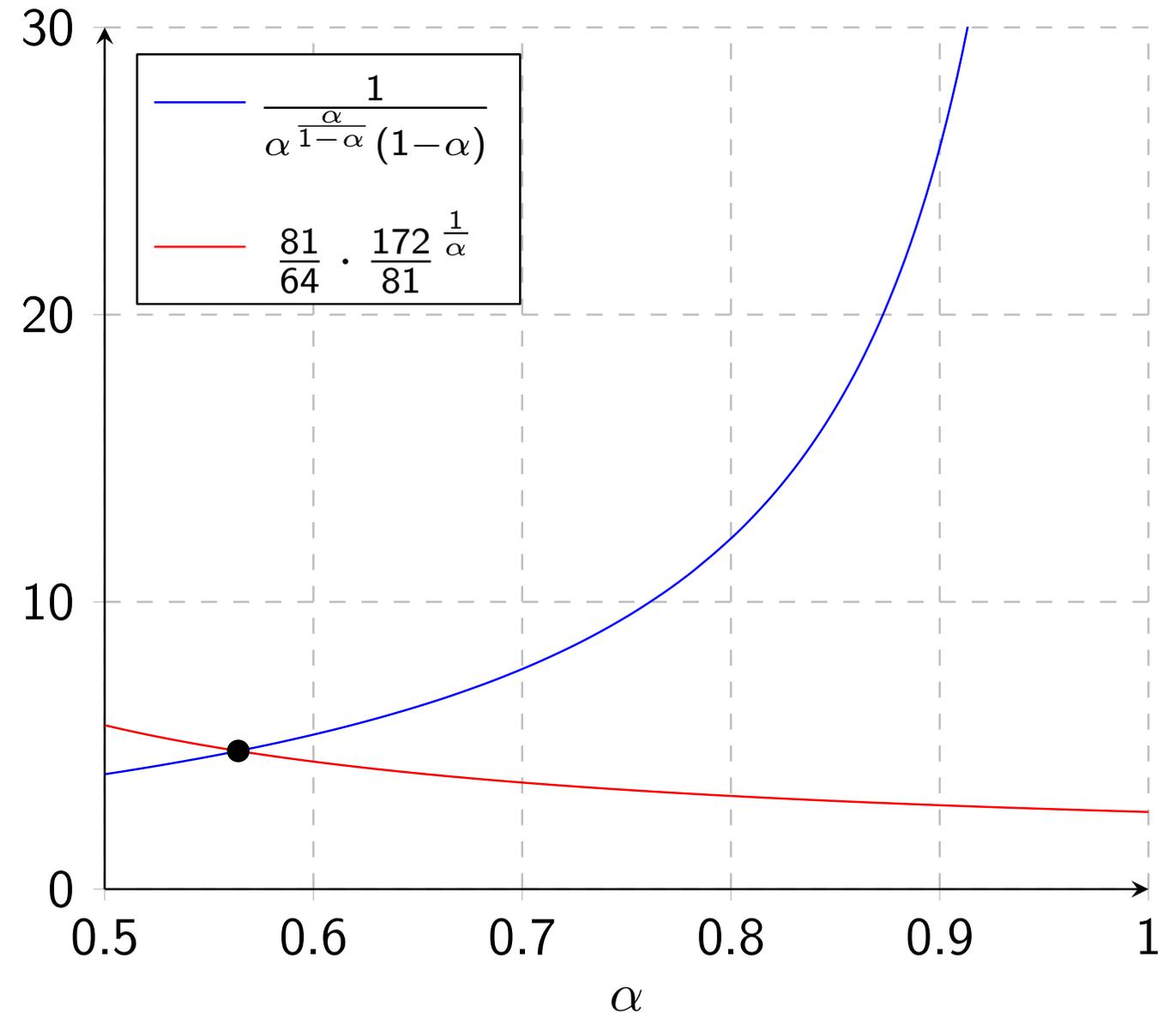
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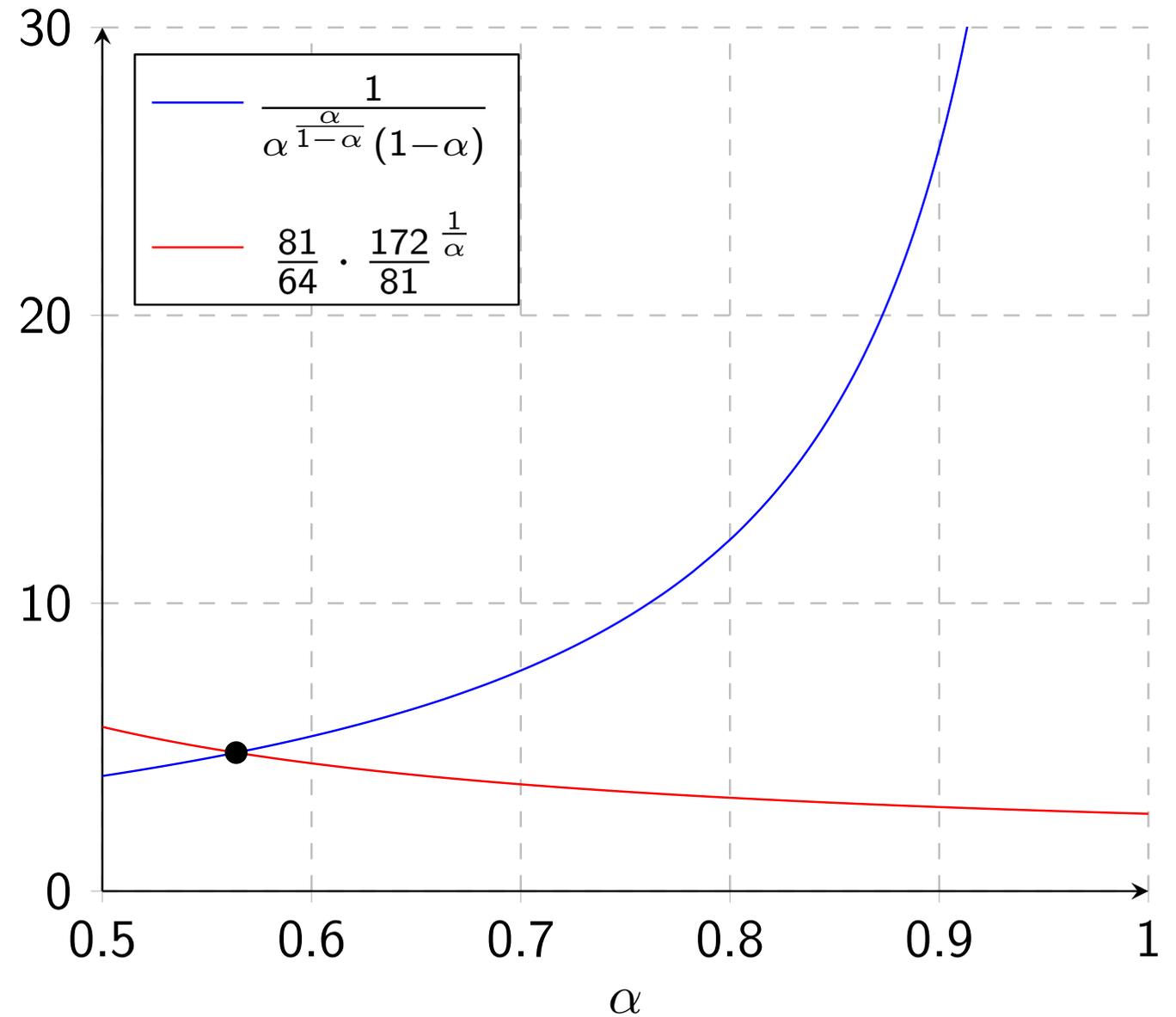
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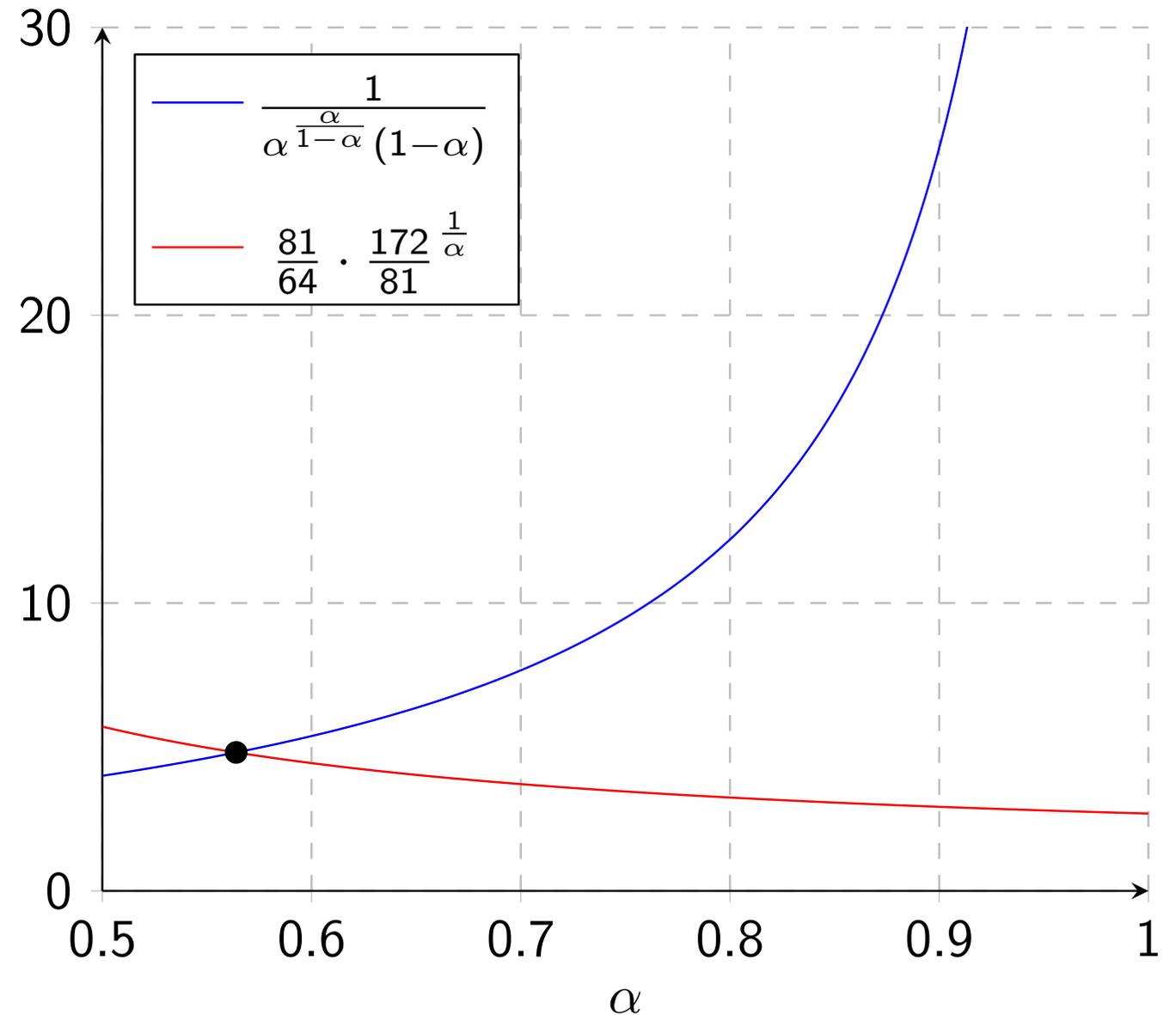
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$$\mathcal{O}^*(4.81068^n (2n^2)^{D(n)}) \subset \mathcal{O}(4.81069^n)$$

Theorem

MIXEDCOLORING can be solved in $\mathcal{O}(4.81069^n)$ time and polynomial space

3-MIXED COLORING

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Lemma [Mei23]

3-COLORING solvable in $\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$ time and polynomial space

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3-COLORING solvable in $\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$ time and polynomial space

- based on reduction for CONSTRAINTS SATISFACTION PROBLEM
- exploits graph properties to further reduce instance size

3-MIXED COLORING

Lemma [Mei23]

3-COLORING solvable in $\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$ time and polynomial space

- based on reduction for CONSTRAINTS SATISFACTION PROBLEM generalizes
- exploits graph properties to further reduce instance size does not generalize

3-MIXEDCOLORING

Lemma [Mei23]

3-COLORING solvable in $\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$ time and polynomial space

Lemma

A 3-MIXEDCOLORING instance reduces in poly time to a 3-COLORING instance with three additional vertices

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Lemma

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Idea: reduction via LISTCOLORING

3-MIXEDCOLORING

Lemma [Mei23]

3-COLORING solvable in $\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$ time and polynomial space

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k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 1:

k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 1:

Property (undirected):

There exists an optimal k -coloring where the first color class is a maximal independent set and has size at least $\lceil n/k \rceil$

k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 1:

Property (generalized undirected):

There exists an optimal k -coloring where the first color class is a maximal independent set with indeg 0 and has size at least $\lceil n/k \rceil$

k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 1:

Property (mixed):

There exists an optimal k -coloring where the first color class is a maximal independent set
with indeg 0

k -MIXEDCOLORING

Technique 1:

Property (mixed):

There exists an optimal k -coloring where the first color class is a maximal independent set
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Algo for k -MIXEDCOLORING: branch on all $I \in \text{MIS}^\circ(G)$,
use fast $(k - 1)$ -MIXEDCOLORING algorithm for $G - I$

k -MIXEDCOLORING

Technique 1:

Property (mixed):

There exists an optimal k -coloring where the first color class is a maximal independent set with indeg 0

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Runtime: Assuming $(k - 1)$ -MIXEDCOLORING solvable in $\mathcal{O}^*(c^n)$, $\mathcal{O}^*(\sum_{\ell=1}^n \mu(n, \ell) c^{n-\ell})$

Use bound by [Bys04]: $\mu(n, \ell) \leq \lfloor n/\ell \rfloor (\lfloor n/\ell \rfloor + 1)^{\ell-n} (\lfloor n/\ell \rfloor + 1)^{n-\lfloor n/\ell \rfloor \ell}$

k -MIXEDCOLORING

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Theorem

Let $(k - 1)$ -MIXEDCOLORING be solvable in $\mathcal{O}^*(c^n)$ time and polynomial space for some constant $c \geq 1$. Then, k -MIXEDCOLORING is solvable with polynomial space and a runtime of, if $\frac{\lfloor ce \rfloor^{\lfloor ce+1 \rfloor}}{\lfloor ce+1 \rfloor^{\lfloor ce \rfloor} c} \leq 1$, $\mathcal{O}^*((\lceil ce \rceil^{\frac{1}{\lceil ce \rceil}} c^{1-\frac{1}{\lceil ce \rceil}})^n)$, otherwise, $\mathcal{O}^*((\lfloor ce \rfloor^{\frac{1}{\lfloor ce \rfloor}} c^{1-\frac{1}{\lfloor ce \rfloor}})^n)$.

k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 2:

k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 2:

Property (undirected):

graph k -colorable iff exists partition $\langle S, T \rangle$ where
 $G[S]$ is $\lceil k/2 \rceil$ -colorable and $G[T]$ is $\lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ -colorable

k -MIXED COLORING

Technique 2:

Property (mixed):

graph k -colorable iff exists proper partition $\langle S, T \rangle$ where $G[S]$ is $\lceil k/2 \rceil$ -colorable and $G[T]$ is $\lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ -colorable

k -MIXEDCOLORING

Technique 2:

Property (mixed):

graph k -colorable iff exists proper partition $\langle S, T \rangle$ where
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Algo for k -MIXEDCOLORING: checks for all proper partitions $\langle S, T \rangle$
whether $G[S]$ is $\lceil k/2 \rceil$ -colorable and $G[T]$ is $\lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ -colorable

k -MIXEDCOLORING

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Algo for k -MIXEDCOLORING: checks for all proper partitions $\langle S, T \rangle$ whether $G[S]$ is $\lceil k/2 \rceil$ -colorable and $G[T]$ is $\lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ -colorable

Theorem

The k -MIXEDCOLORING problem can be solved in $\mathcal{O}^*((c+1)^n)$ time and polynomial space if $\lceil k/2 \rceil$ -MIXEDCOLORING can be solved in $\mathcal{O}^*(c^n)$ time and polynomial space.

Runtimes for Poly-Space k -MIXEDCOLORING

$k \leq$	Runtime	Approach
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Runtimes for Poly-Space k -MIXEDCOLORING

$k \leq$	Runtime	Approach
2	Linear	DFS

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Runtimes for Poly-Space k -MIXEDCOLORING

$k \leq$	Runtime	Approach
2	Linear	DFS
3	$\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$	CSP
4	$\mathcal{O}(1.74330^n)$	T1 (3)

Runtimes for Poly-Space k -MIXEDCOLORING

$k \leq$	Runtime	Approach	$k \leq$	Runtime	Approach
2	Linear	DFS	17	$\mathcal{O}(4.12981^n)$	T1 (16)
3	$\mathcal{O}(1.32173^n)$	CSP	18	$\mathcal{O}(4.13611^n)$	T2 (9)
4	$\mathcal{O}(1.74330^n)$	T1 (3)	20	$\mathcal{O}(4.15225^n)$	T2 (10)
5	$\mathcal{O}(2.15225^n)$	T1 (4)	24	$\mathcal{O}(4.32173^n)$	T2 (12)
6	$\mathcal{O}(2.32173^n)$	T2 (3)	25	$\mathcal{O}(4.70563^n)$	T1 (24)
7	$\mathcal{O}(2.71979^n)$	T1 (6)	26	$\mathcal{O}(4.71075^n)$	T2 (13)
8	$\mathcal{O}(2.74330^n)$	T2 (4)	28	$\mathcal{O}(4.71979^n)$	T2 (14)
9	$\mathcal{O}(3.13611^n)$	T1 (8)	32	$\mathcal{O}(4.74330^n)$	T2 (16)
10	$\mathcal{O}(3.15225^n)$	T2 (5)	∞	$\mathcal{O}(4.81069^n)$	PolySpaceAlgo
12	$\mathcal{O}(3.32173^n)$	T2 (6)			
13	$\mathcal{O}(3.71075^n)$	T1 (12)			
14	$\mathcal{O}(3.71979^n)$	T2 (7)			
16	$\mathcal{O}(3.74330^n)$	T2 (8)			

Open Problems

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Algorithms

- more detailed analysis
- using other properties

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Reductions

Open Problems

Algorithms

- more detailed analysis
- using other properties

Reductions

Coloring Variants

- algorithms seem to generalize to MIXEDLISTCOLORING
- other coloring variants on mixed graphs

Open Problems

Algorithms

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Parameterized Complexity