

# The Parameterized Complexity of Coloring Mixed Graphs

SWAT 2026

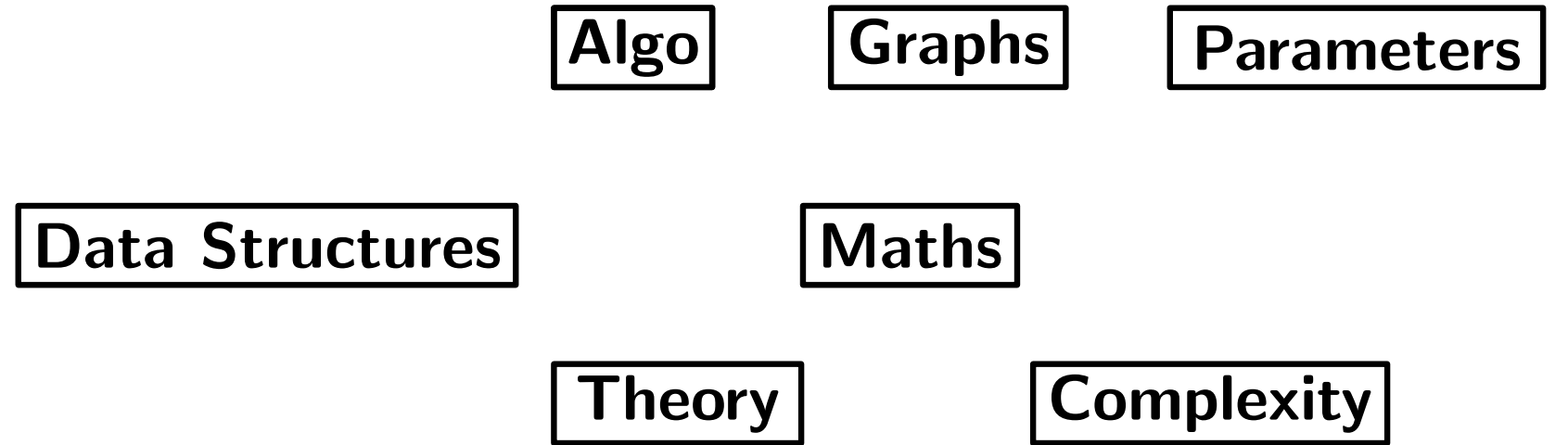
Konstanty  
Junosza-Szaniawski

**Antonio**  
**Lauerbach**

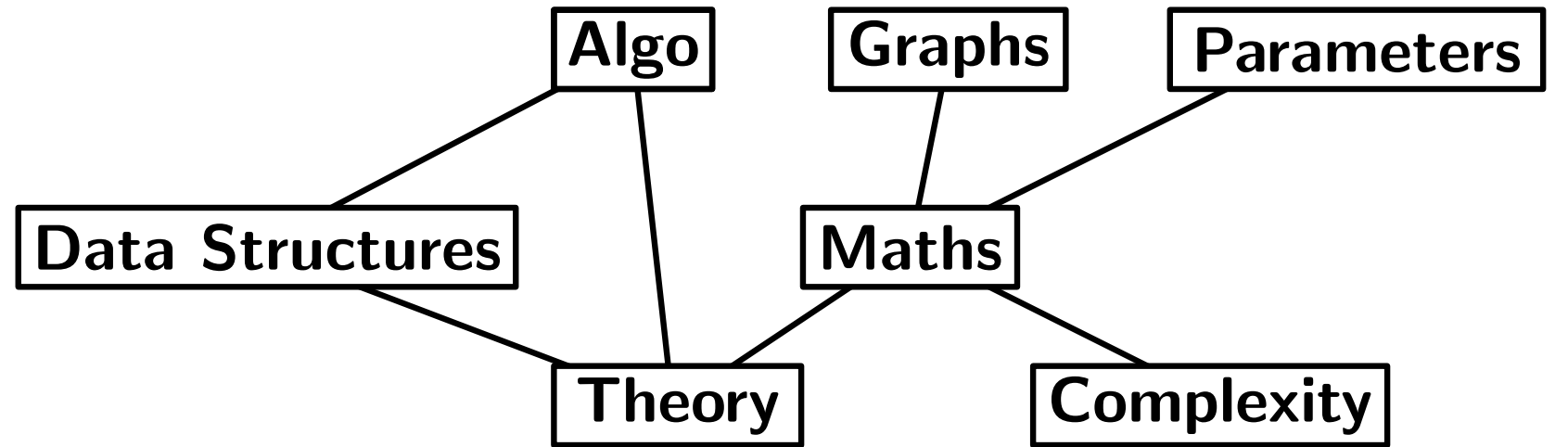
Marie Diana  
Sieper

Alexander  
Wolff

# Introduction



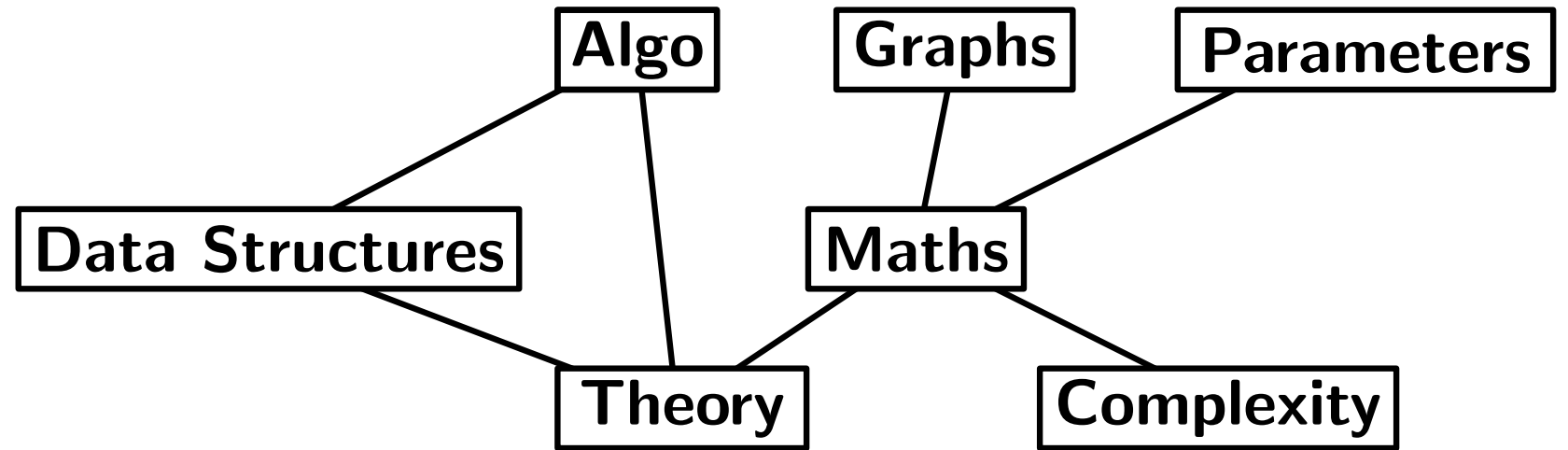
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## Undirected Graph

- ◆ vertices  $V$
- ◆ edges  $E$



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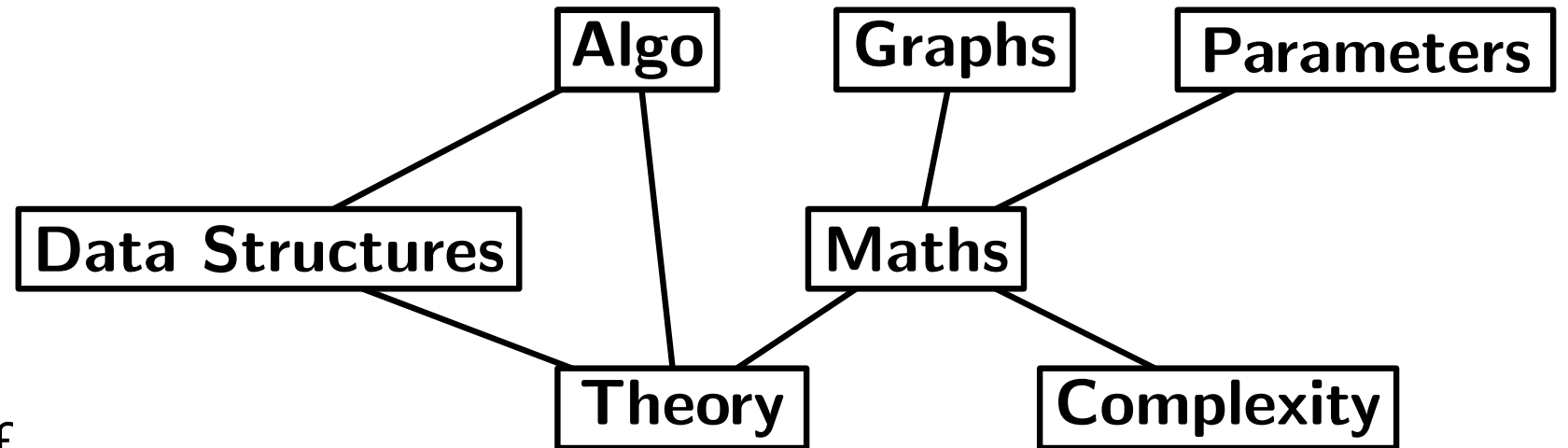
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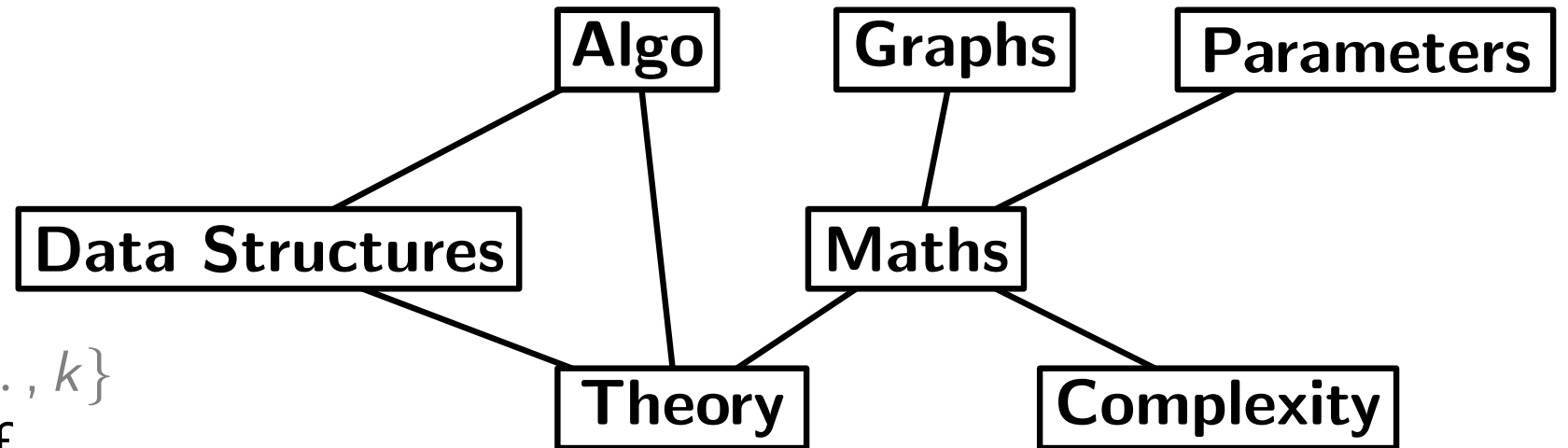
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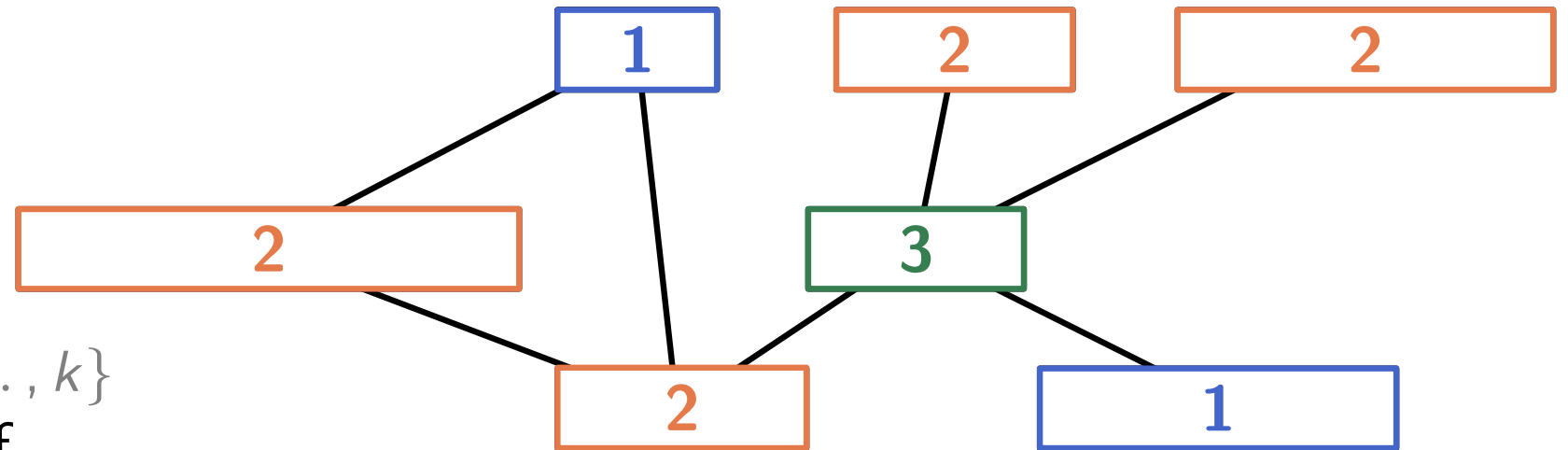
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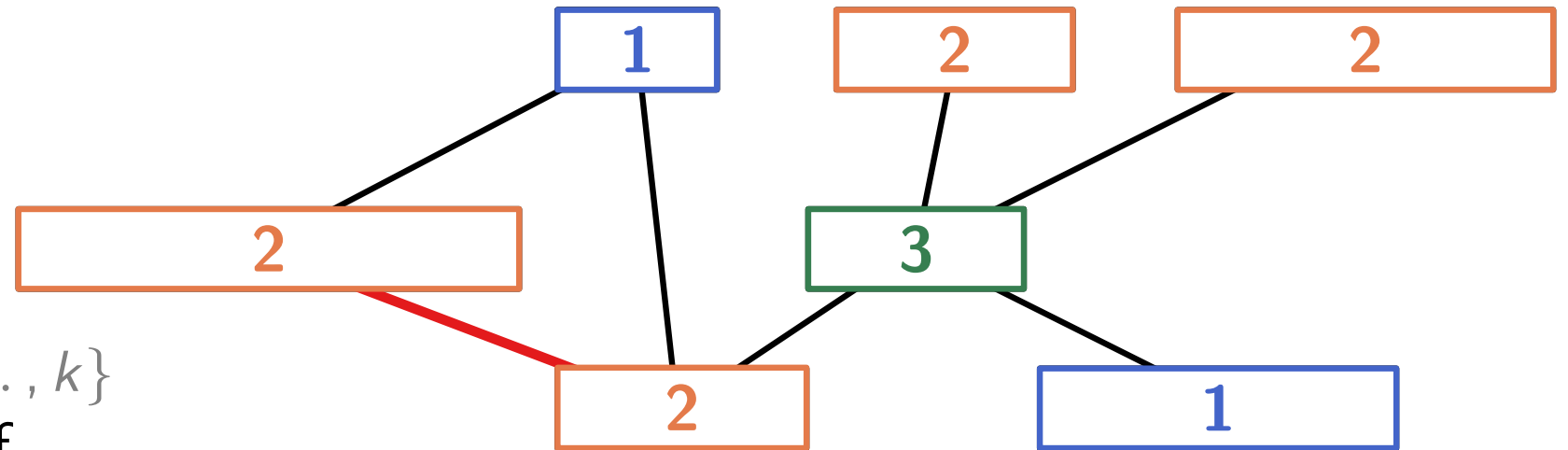
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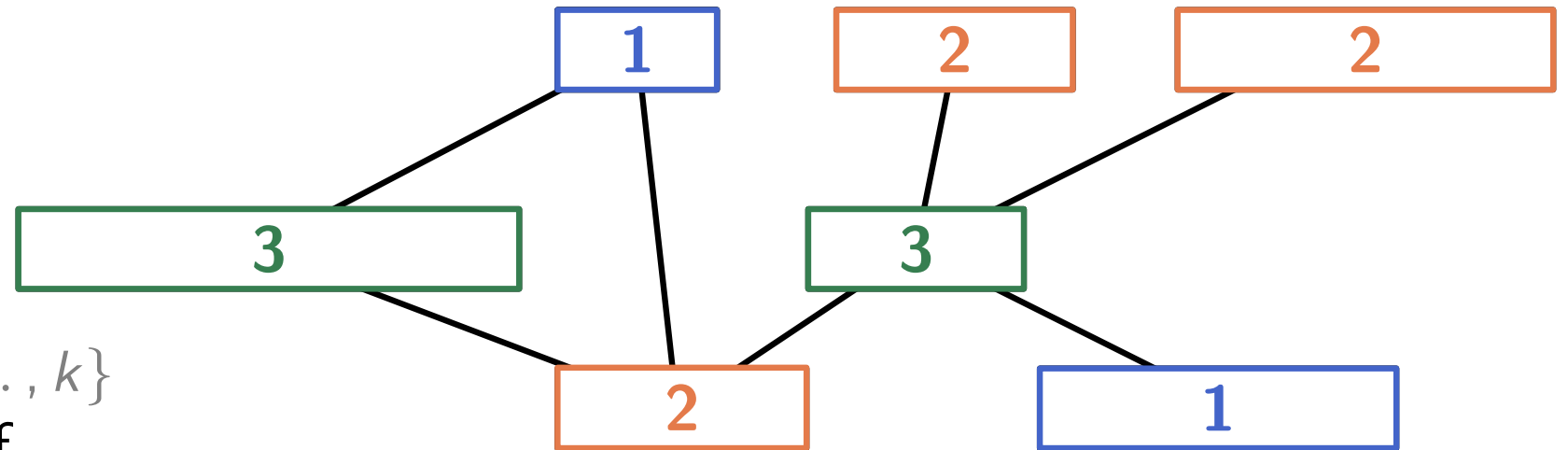
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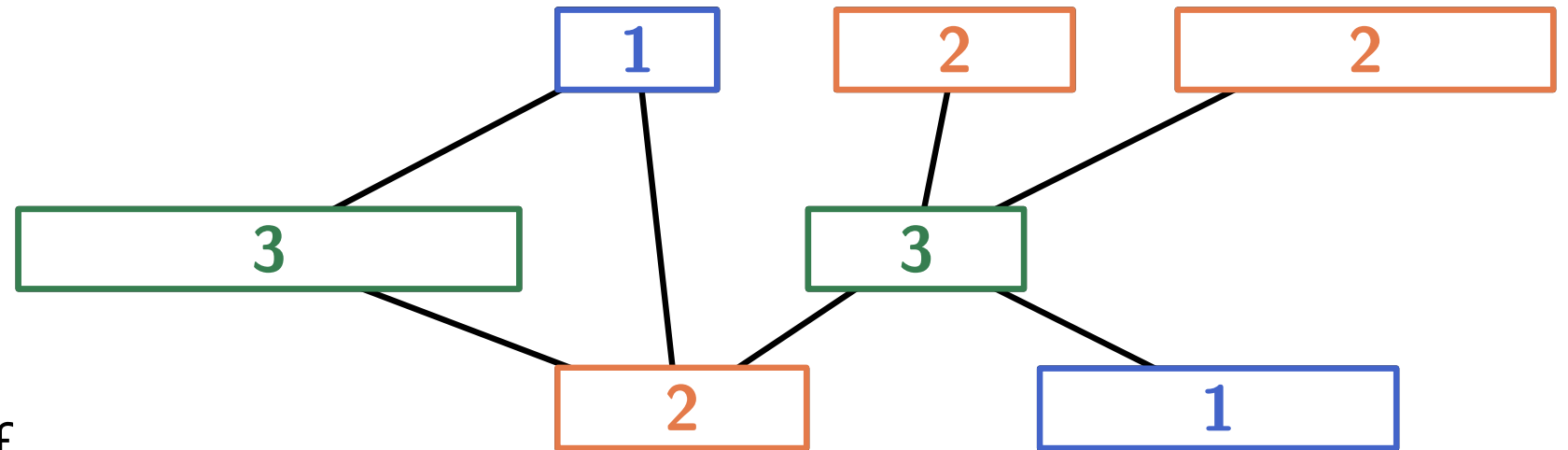
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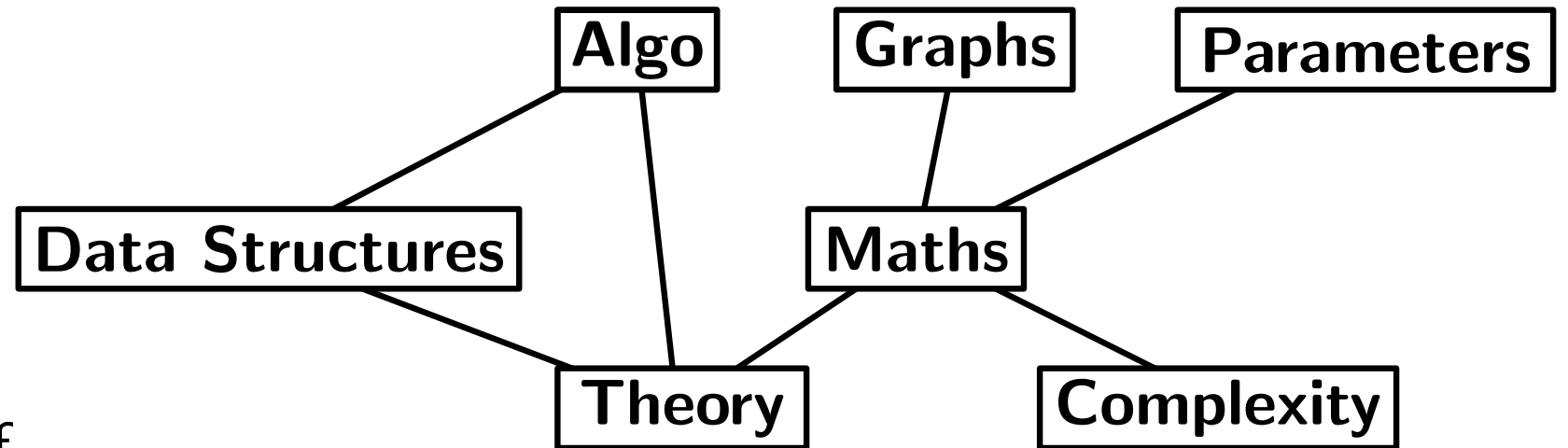
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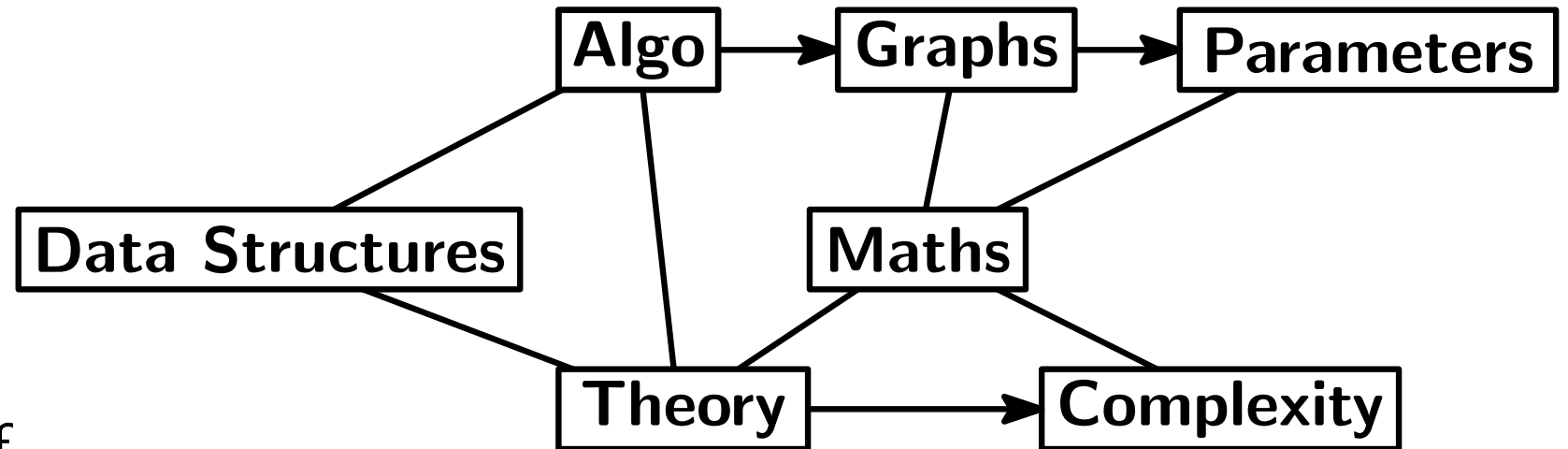
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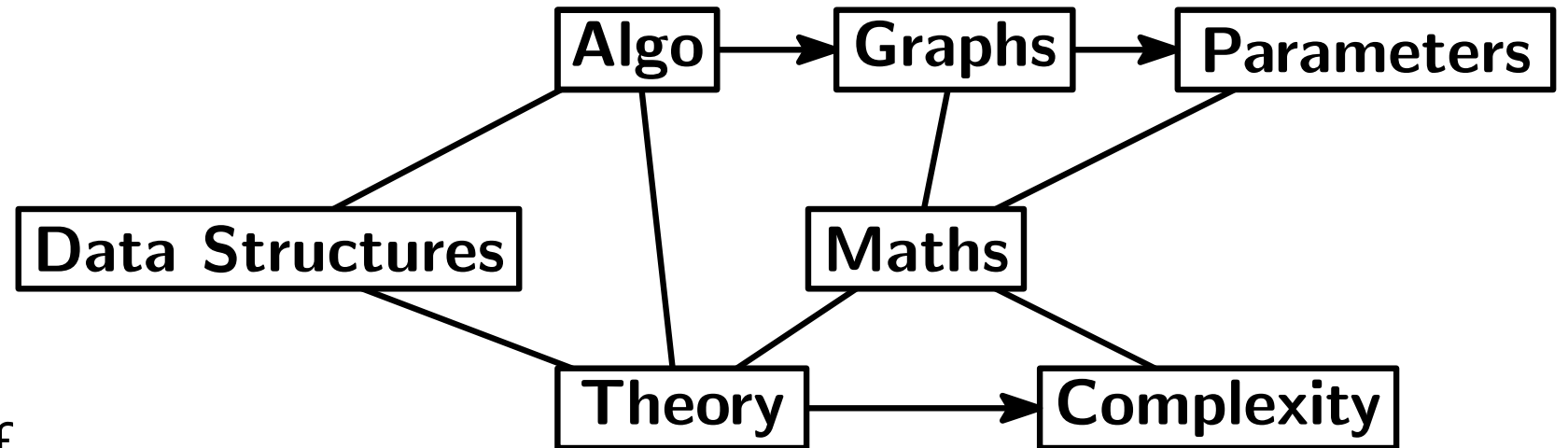
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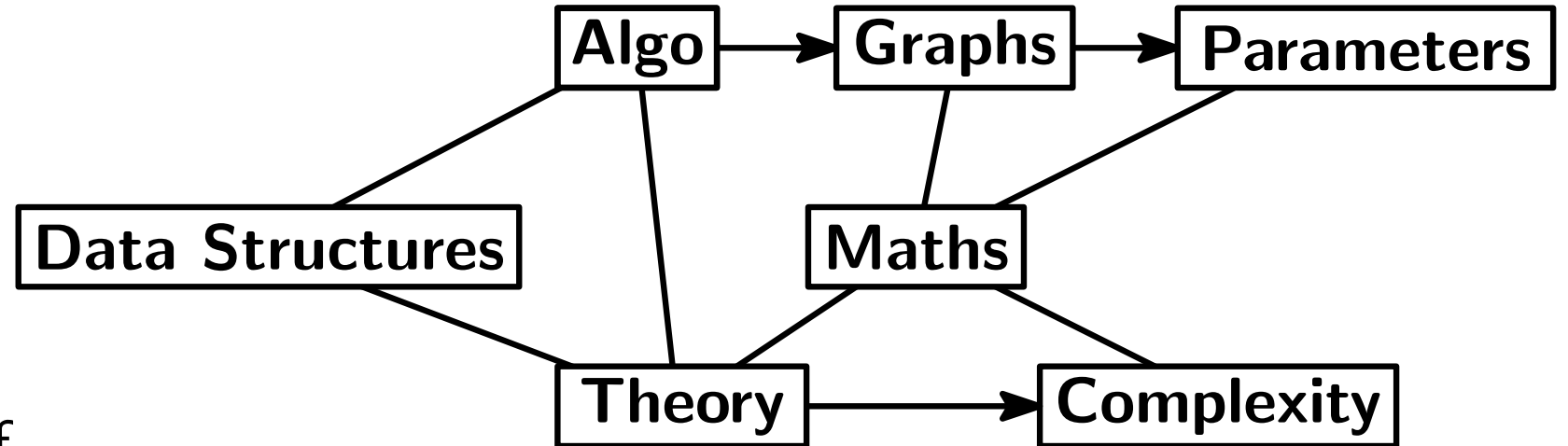
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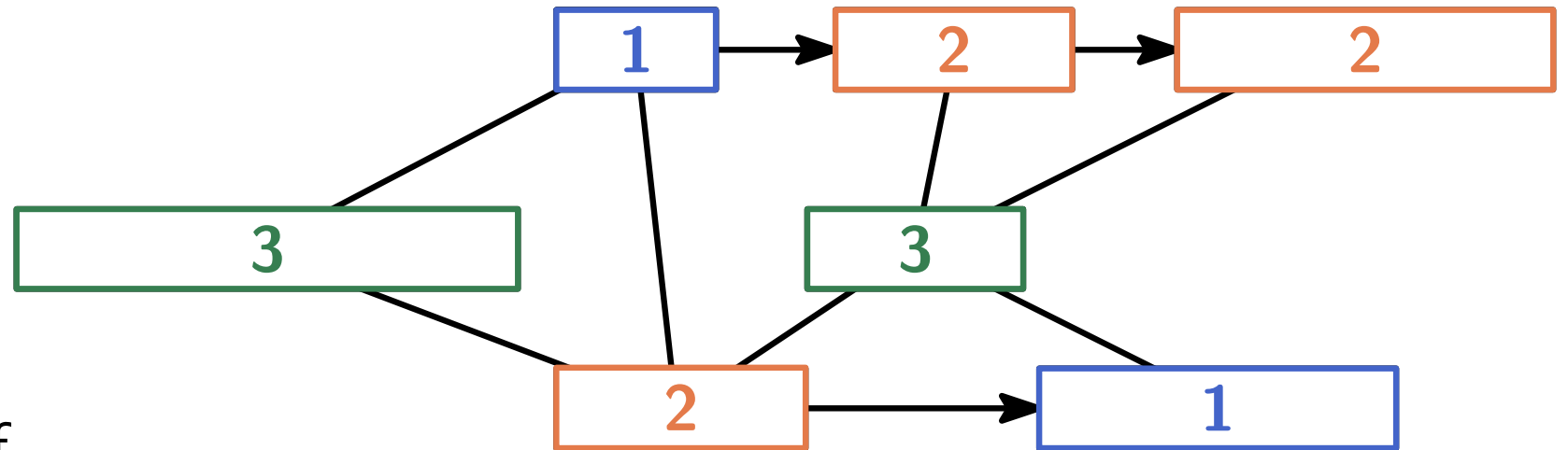
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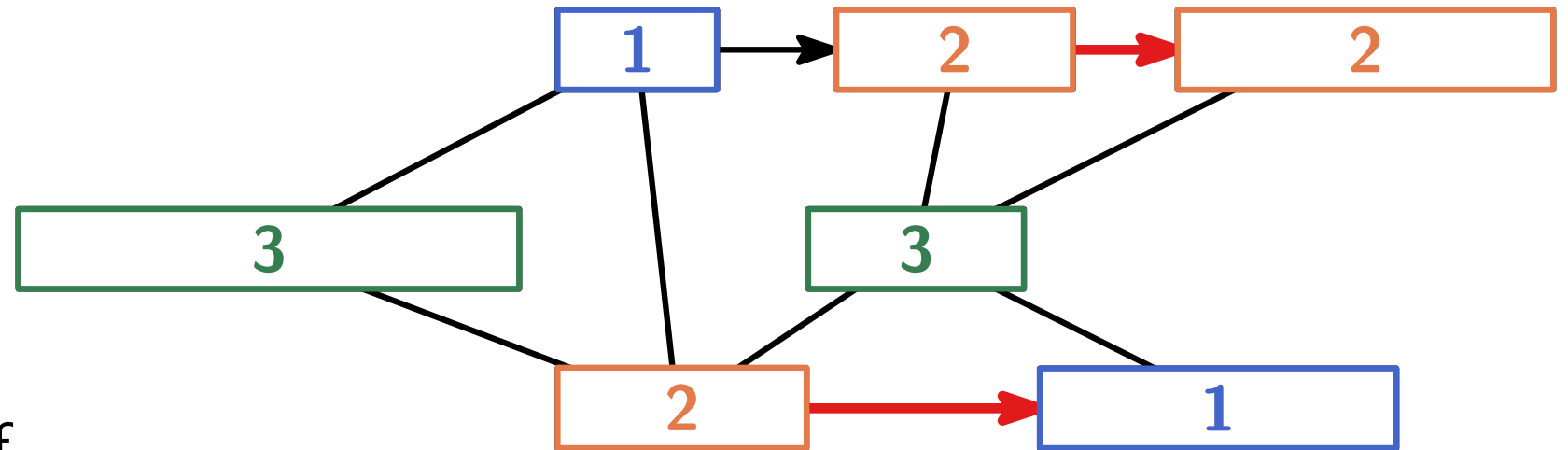
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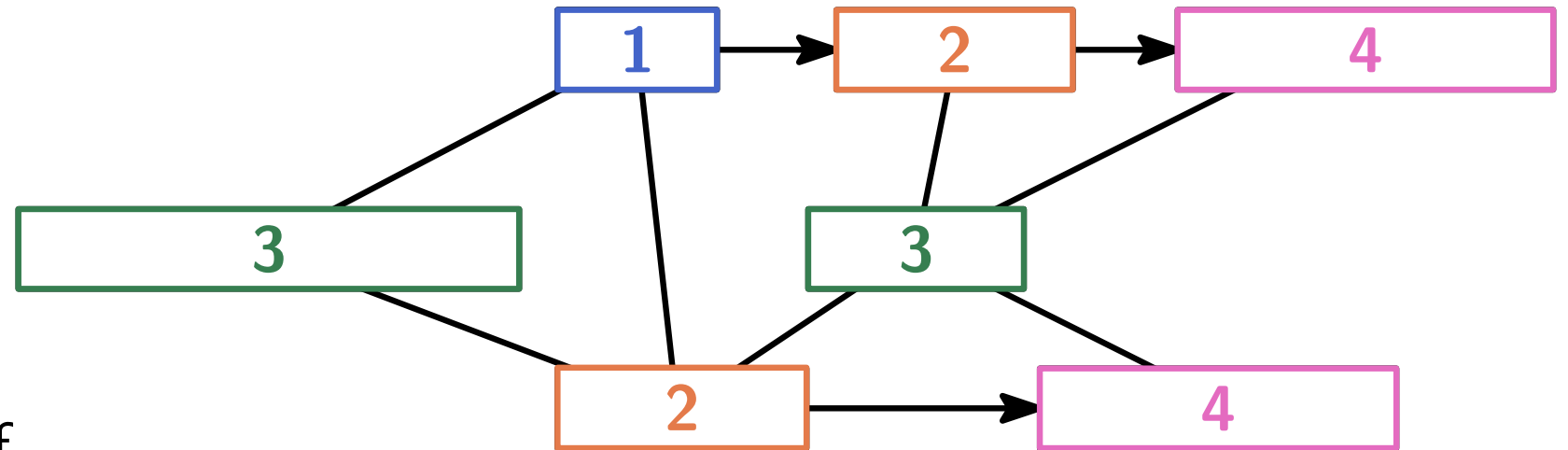
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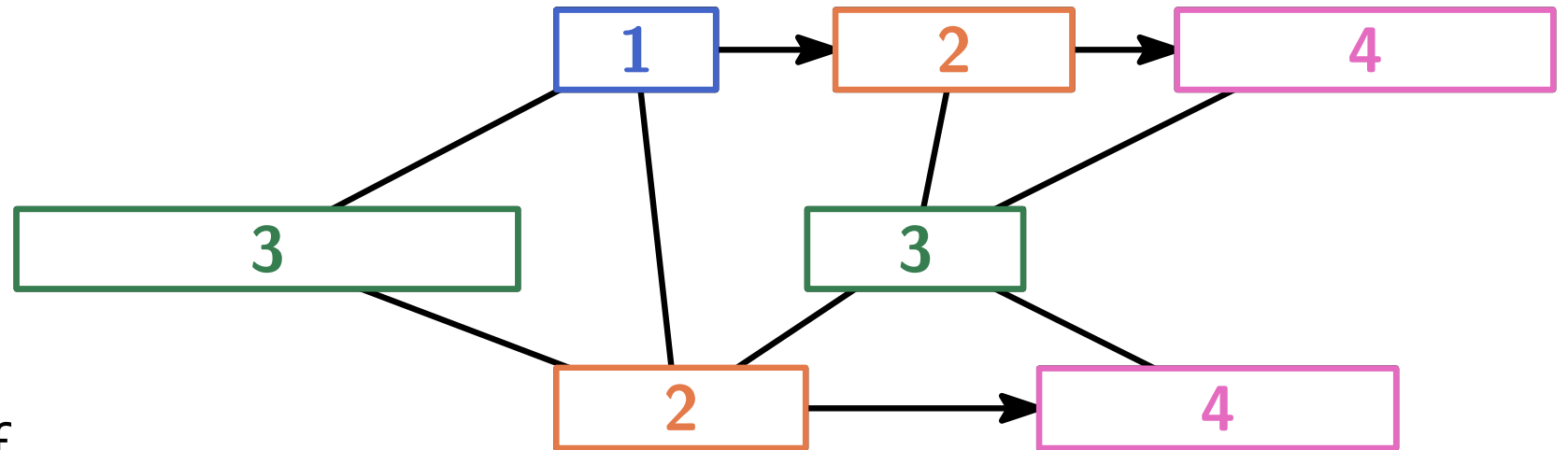
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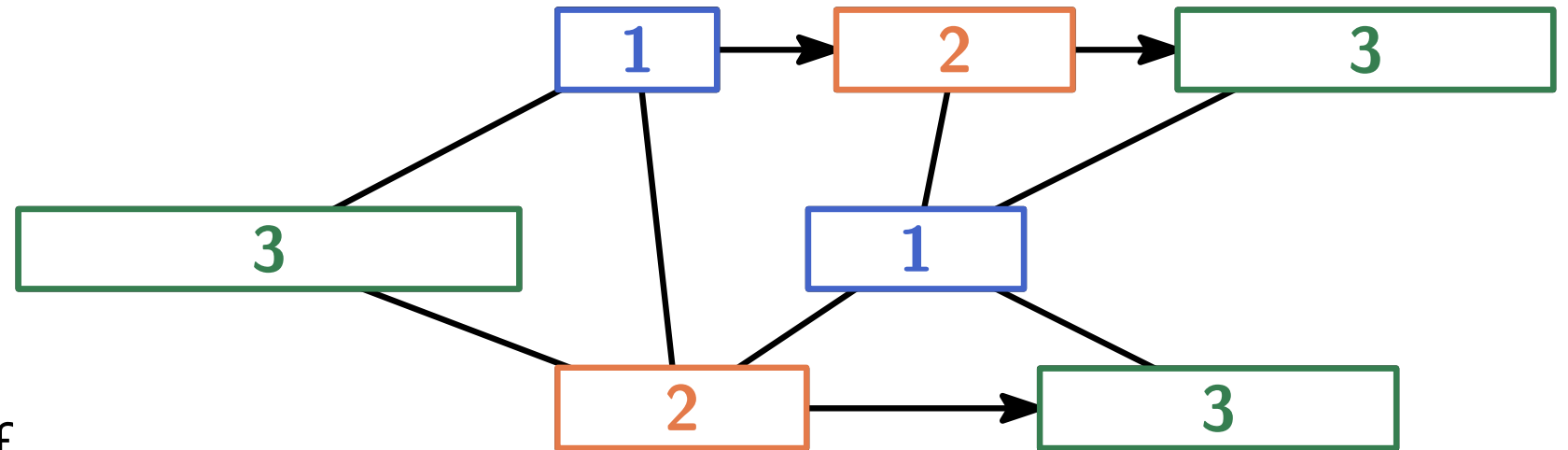
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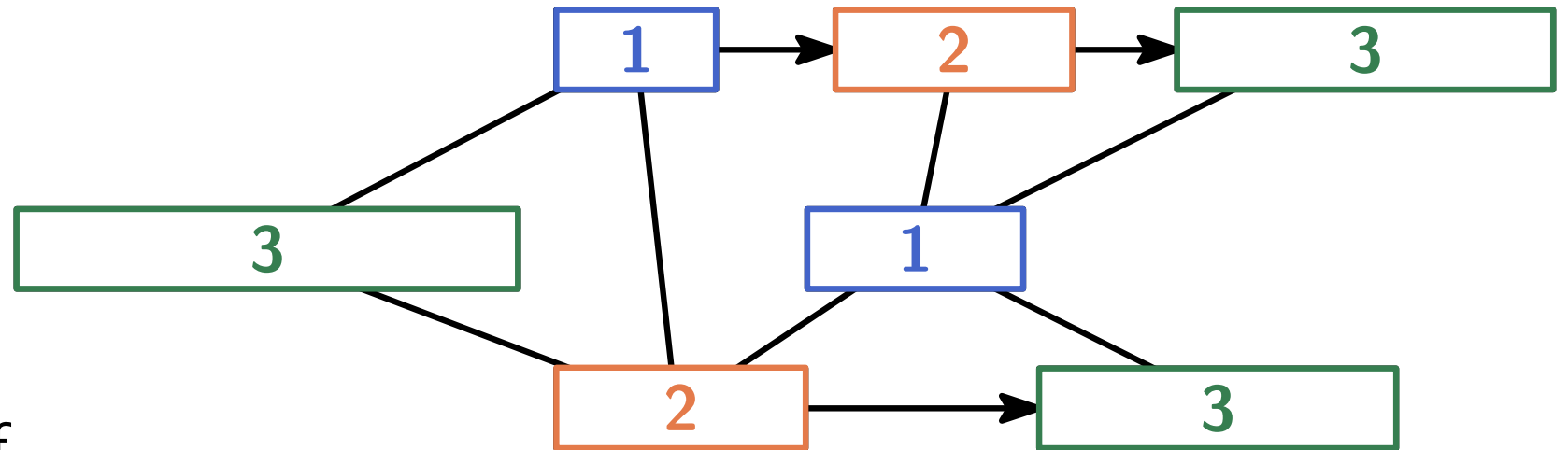
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## Applications

scheduling, graph drawing



# Related Work

MIXEDCOLORING



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- focus on special cases



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- algorithmic approaches: MILPs, branch-and-bound, and heuristics



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computable function  
parameter  
instance size



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considered w.r.t. underlying undirected graph



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← treats arcs as edges



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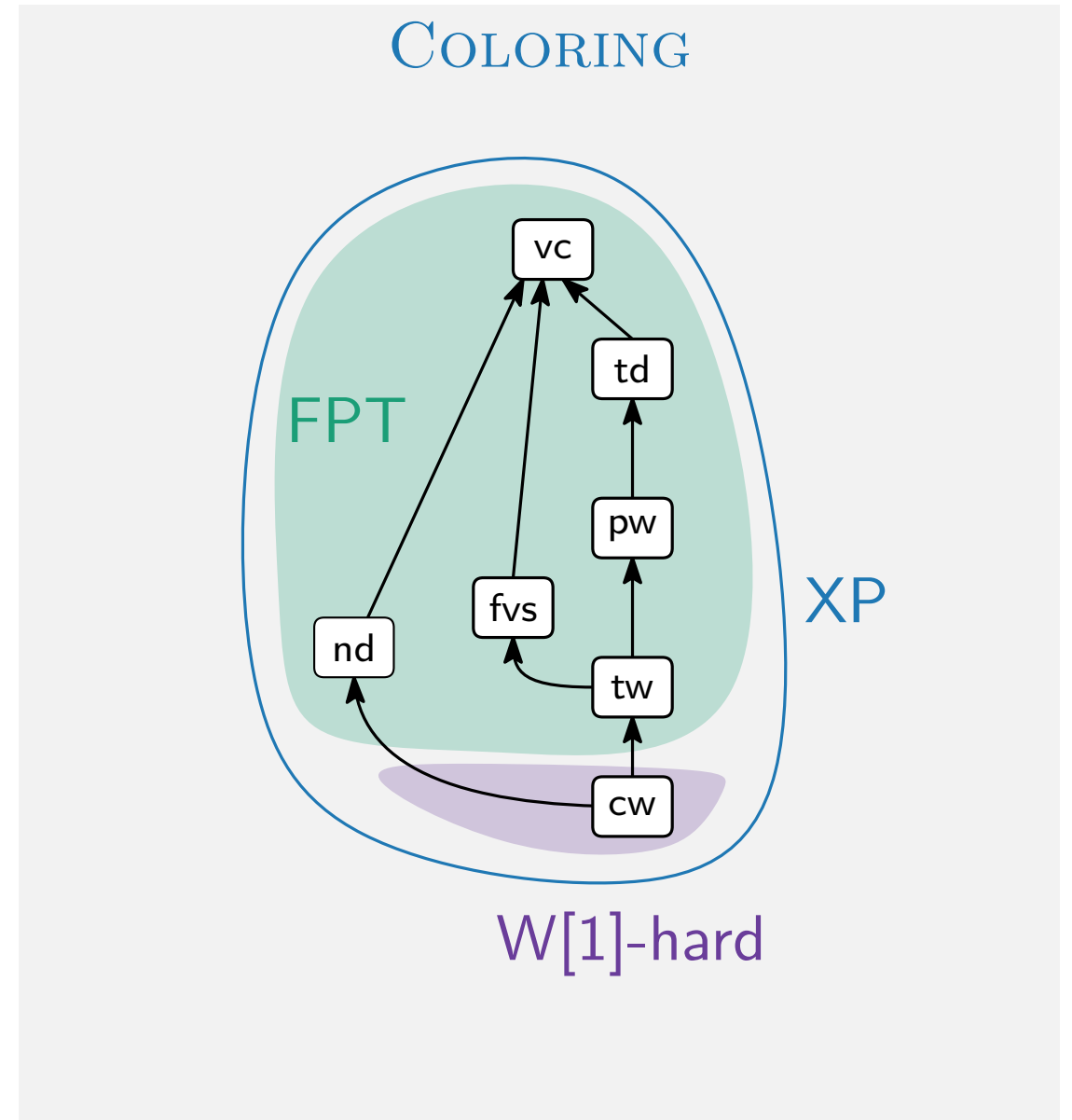
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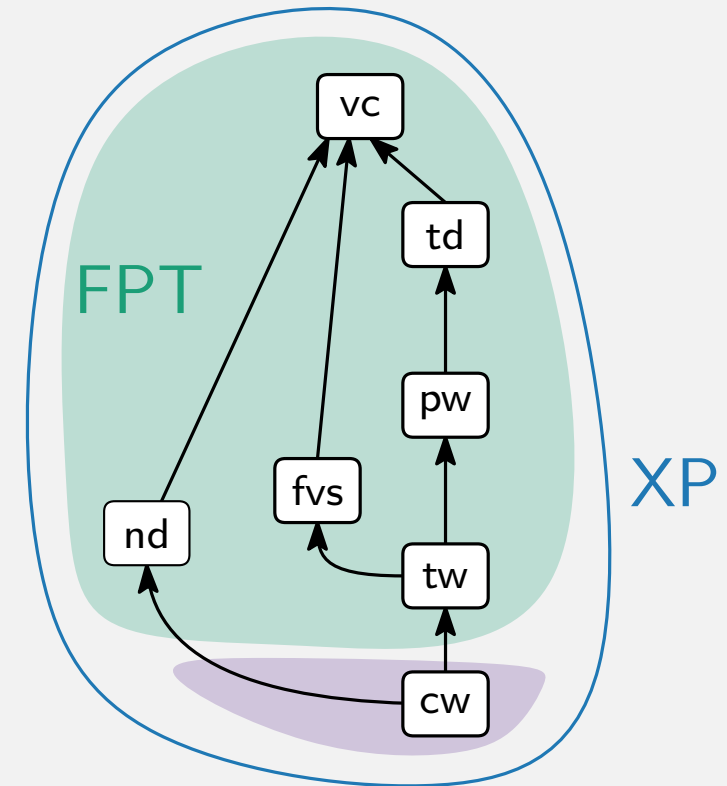
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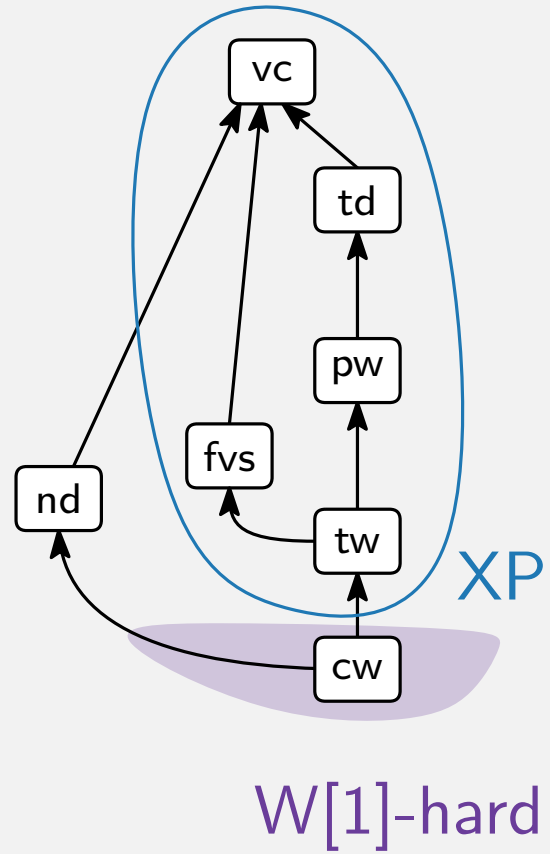


W[1]-hard

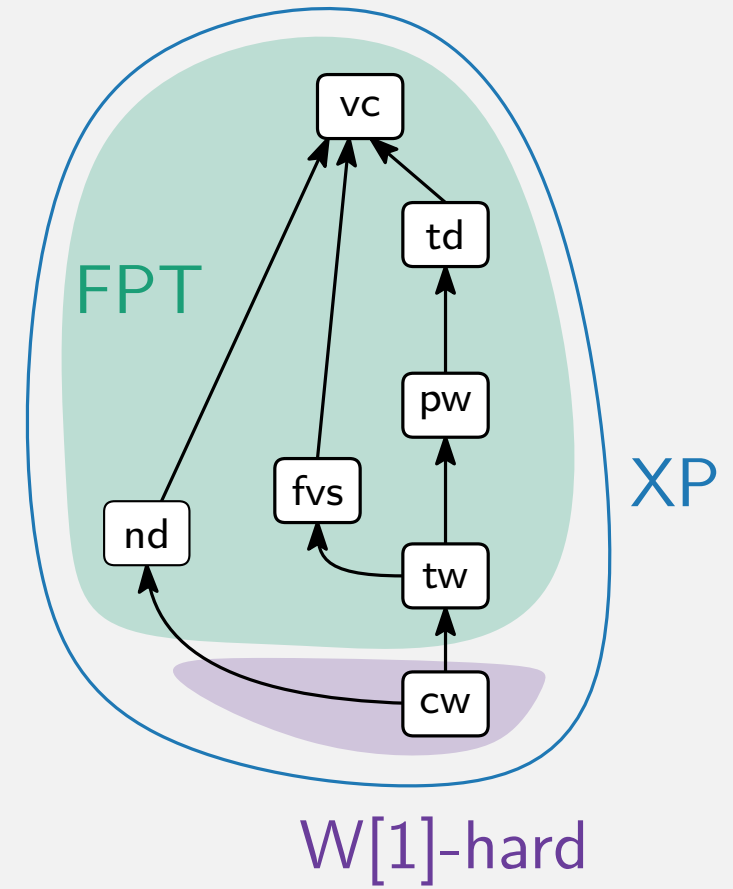
to FPT what NP-hardness is to P

# Related Work

## MIXED COLORING

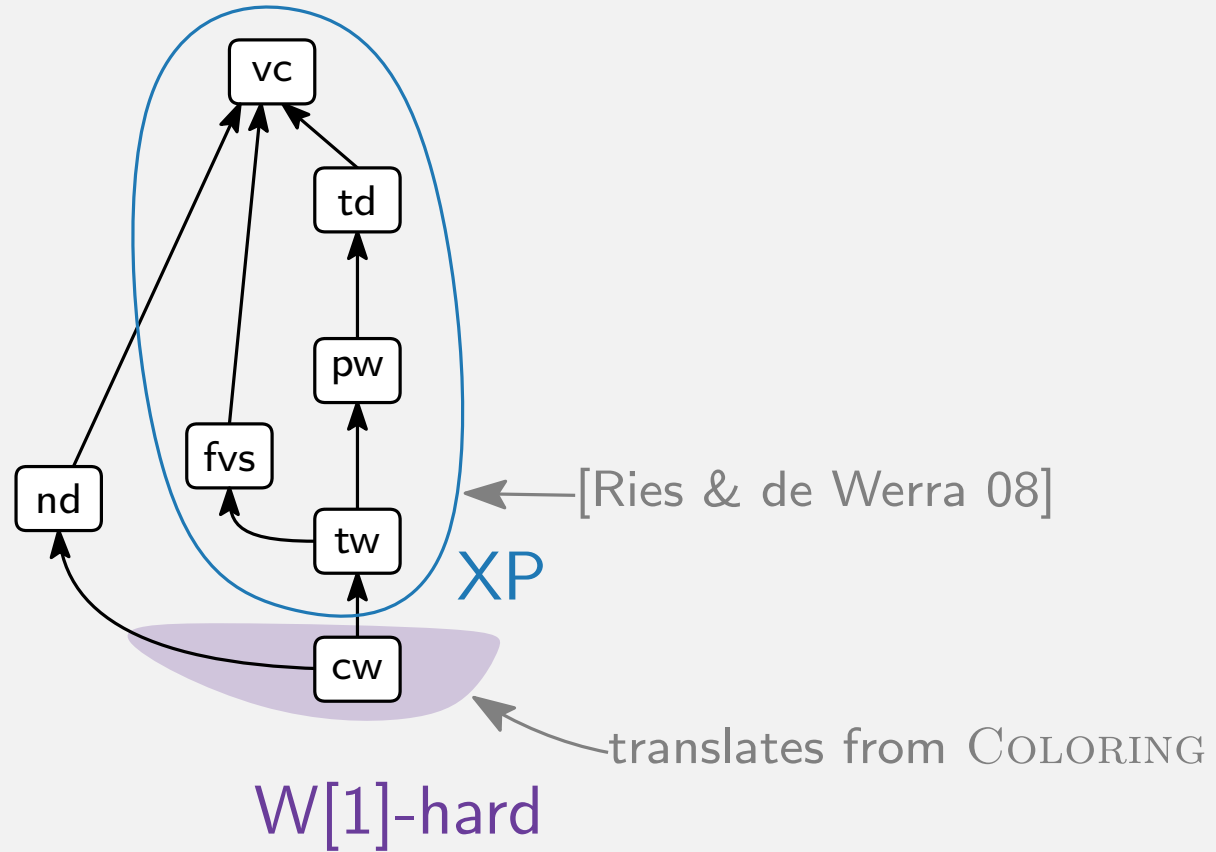


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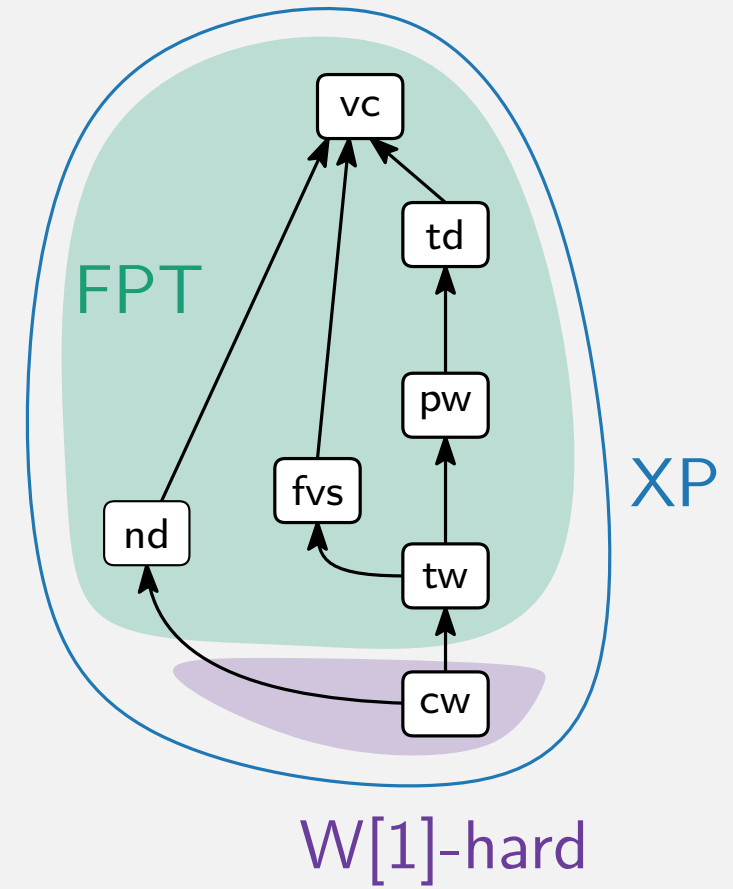


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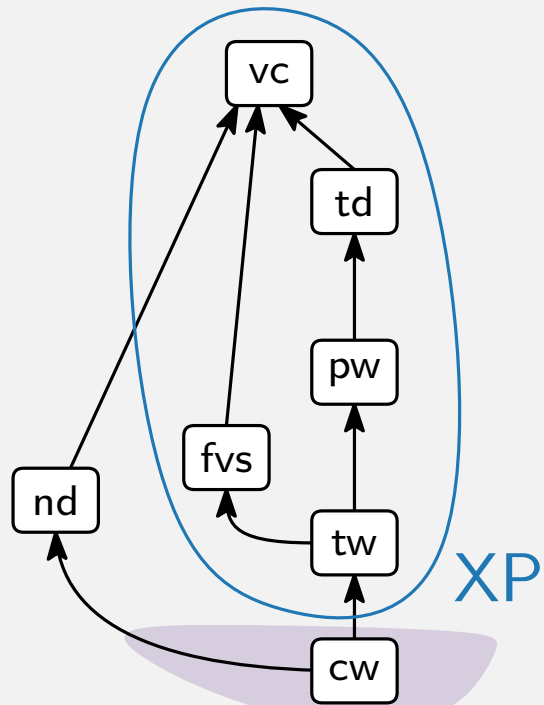


## COLORING



# Parameterized Complexity

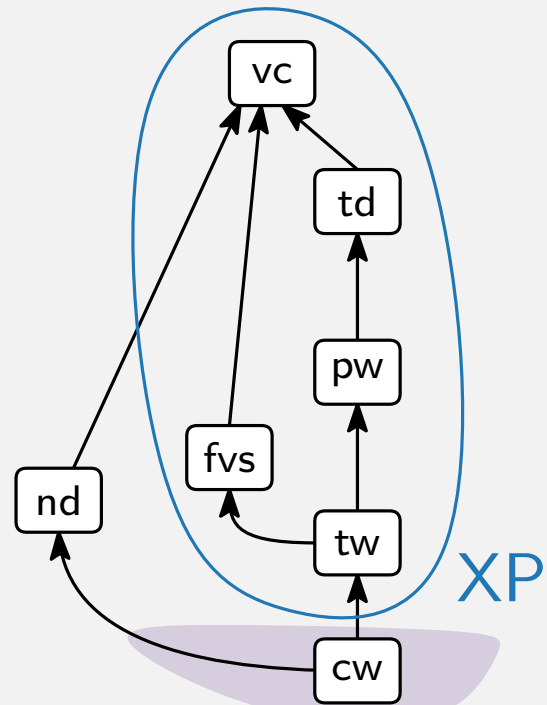
MIXEDCOLORING  
previously



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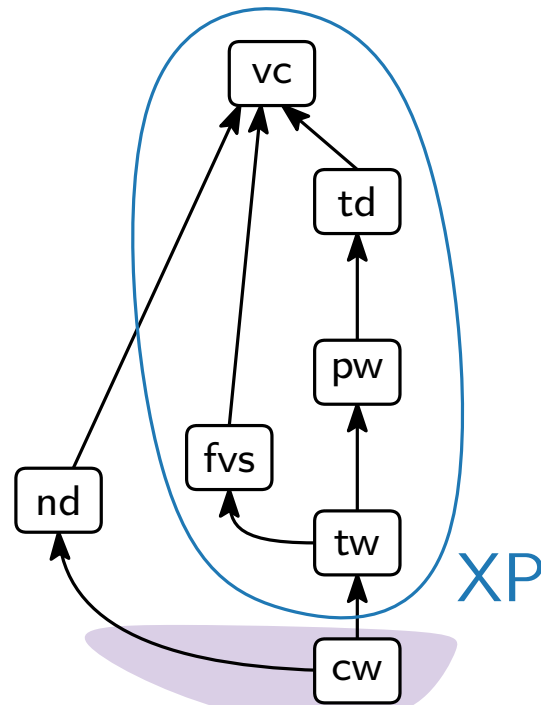
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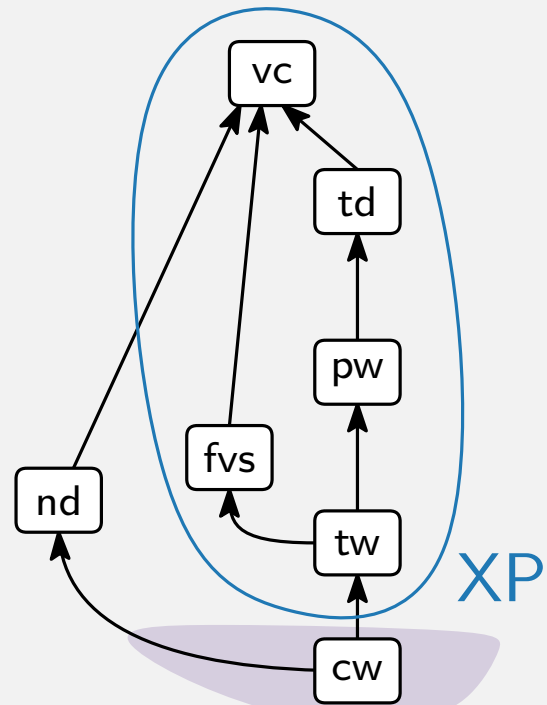
MIXEDCOLORING  
our contribution



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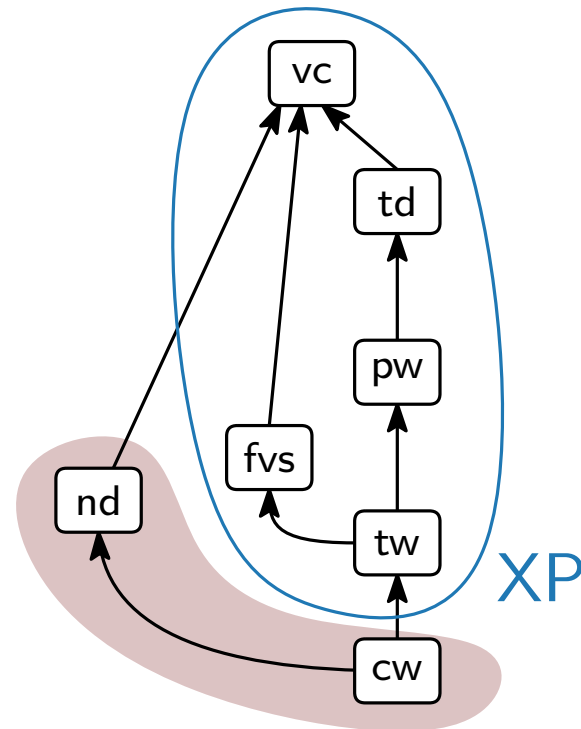
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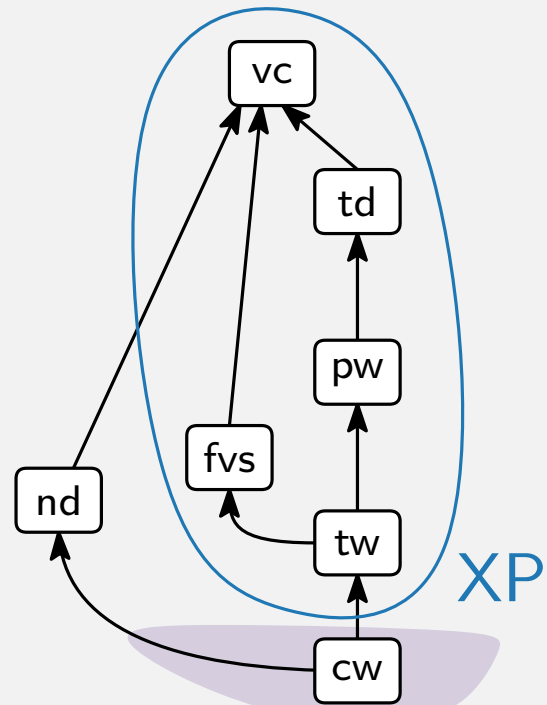
MIXEDCOLORING  
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paraNP-hard

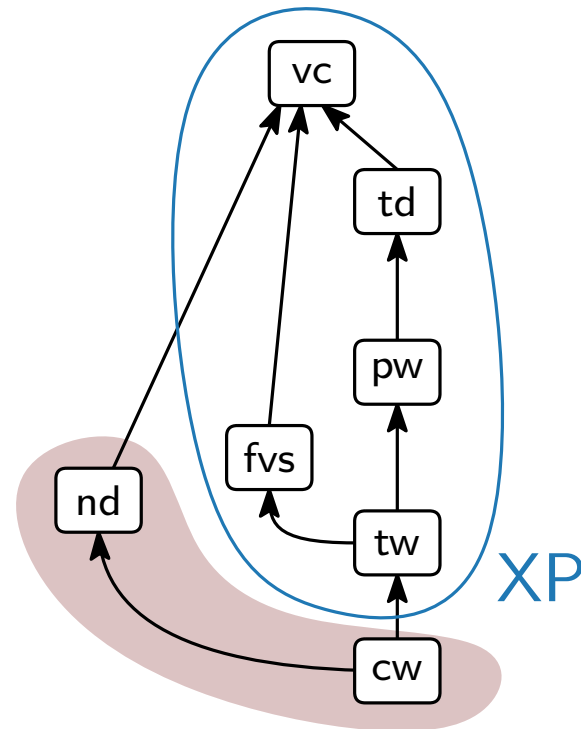
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MIXEDCOLORING  
our contribution

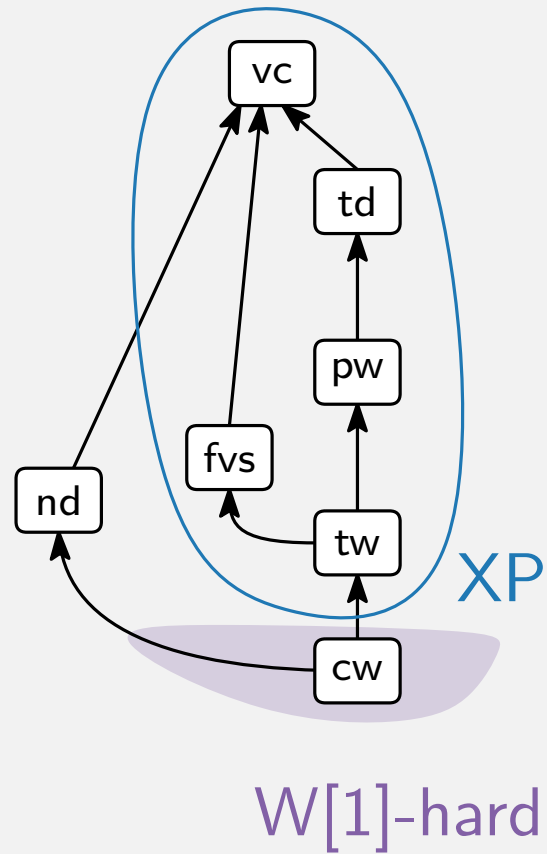


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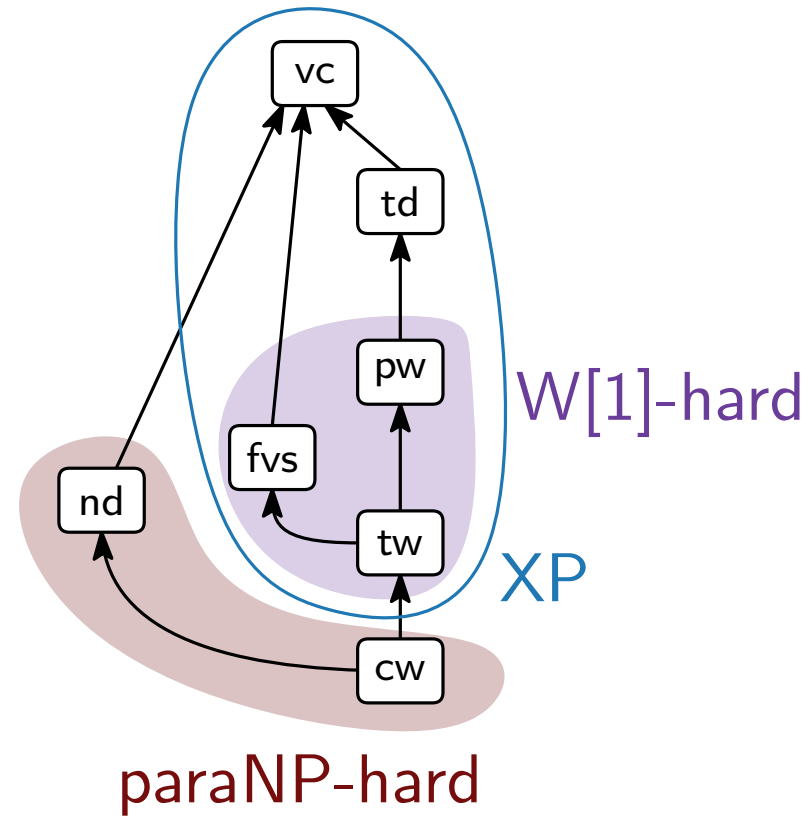
NP-hard for constant values of parameter

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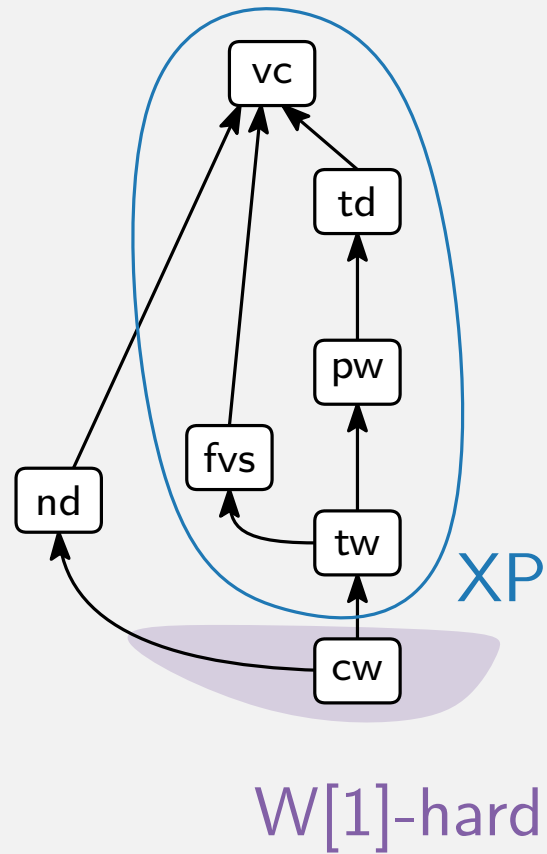
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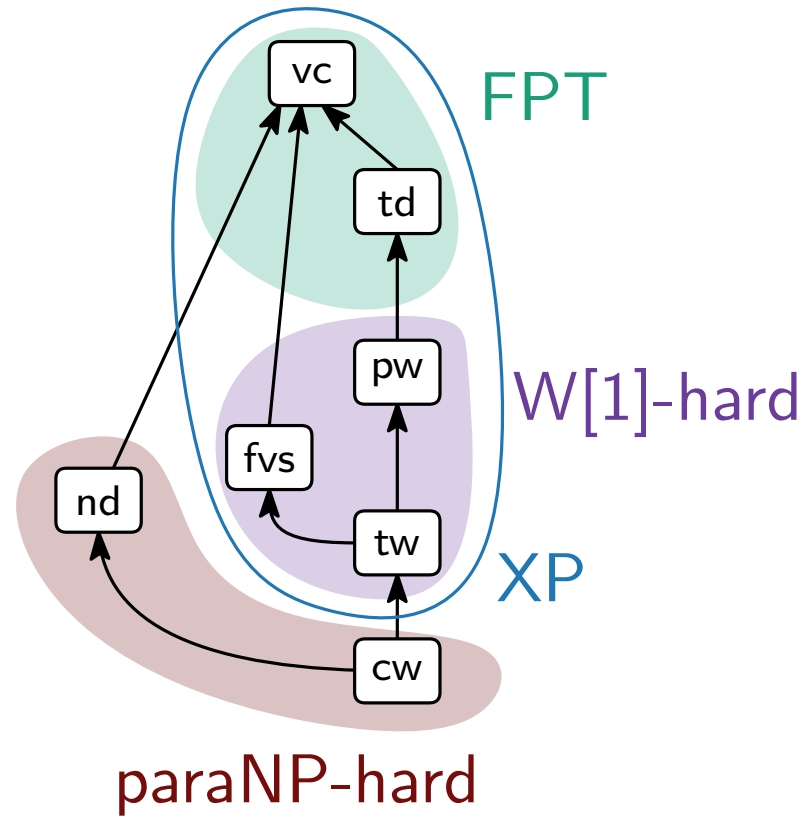


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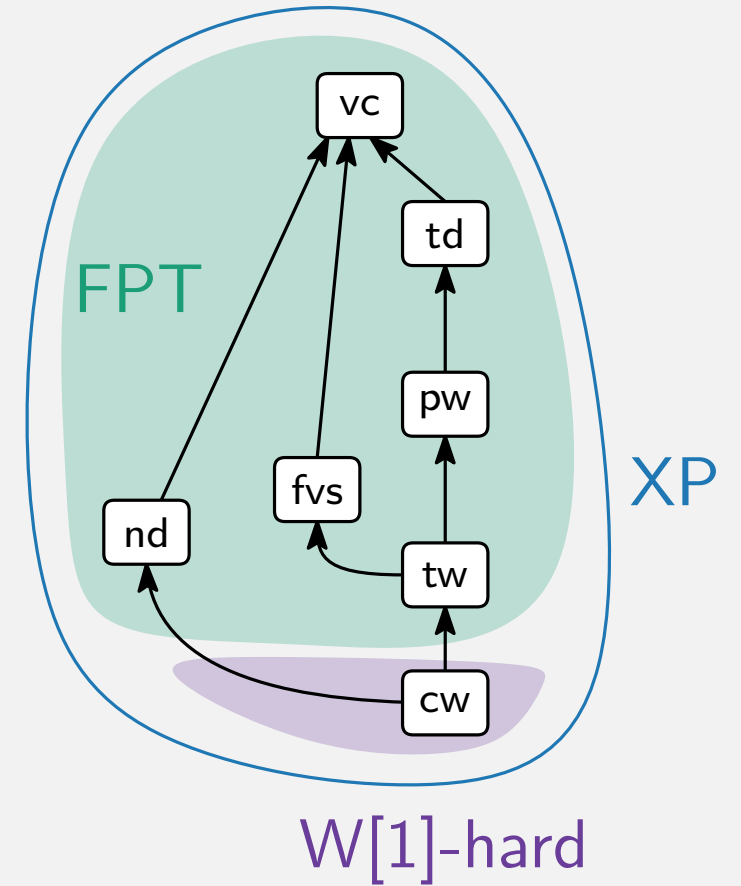
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COLORING



# Mixed Parameters

## **Neighborhood Diversity**

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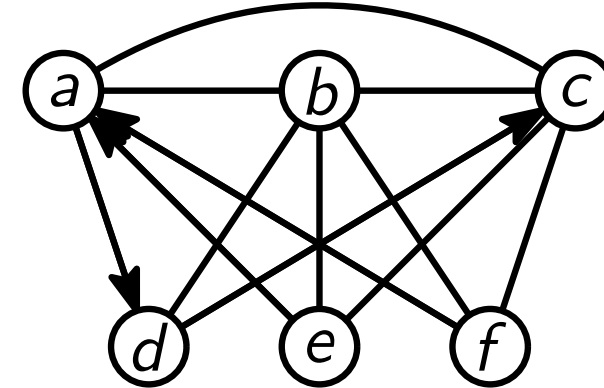
 neighborhood

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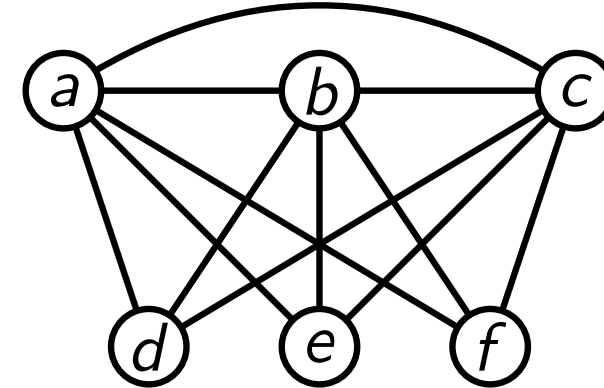


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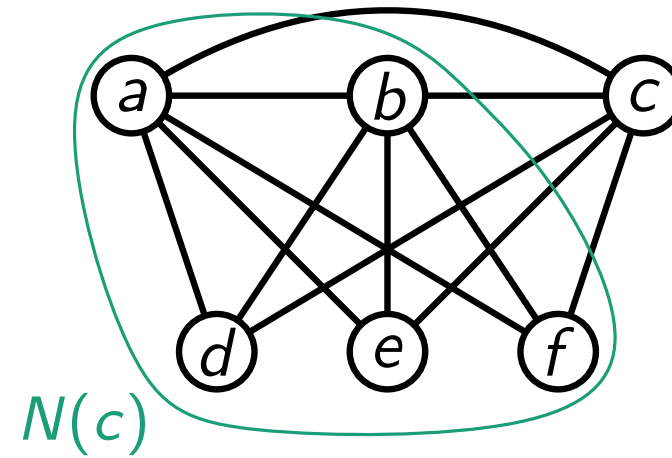


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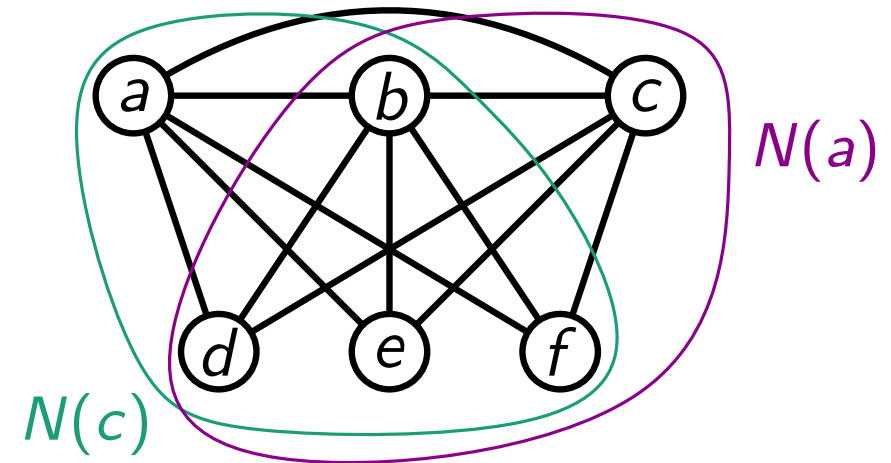
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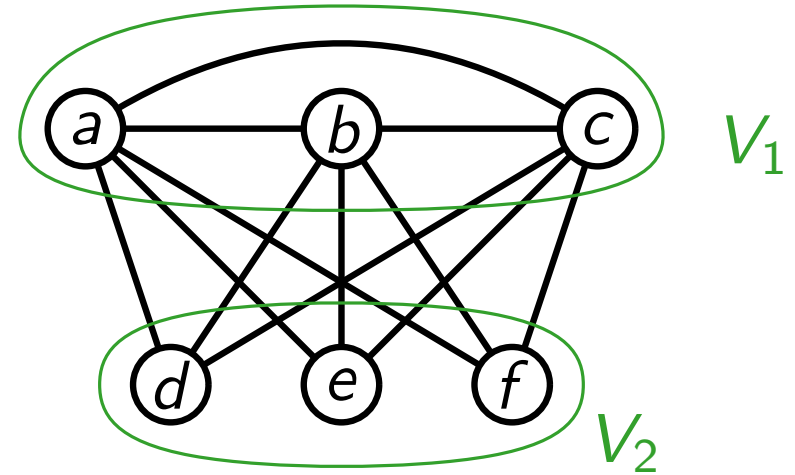
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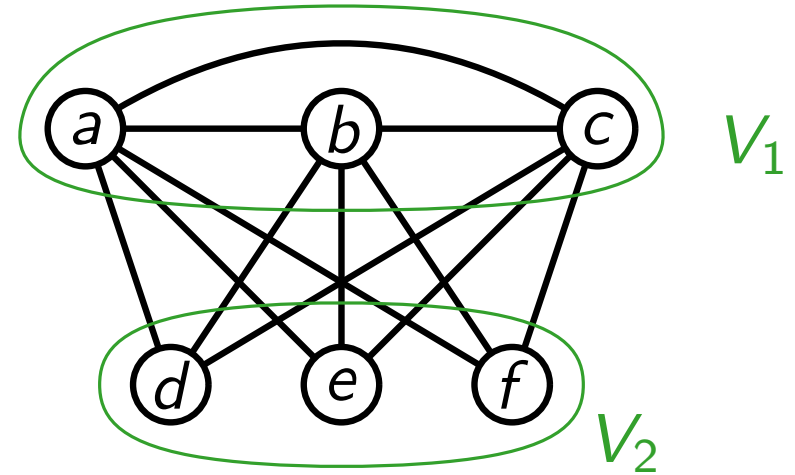


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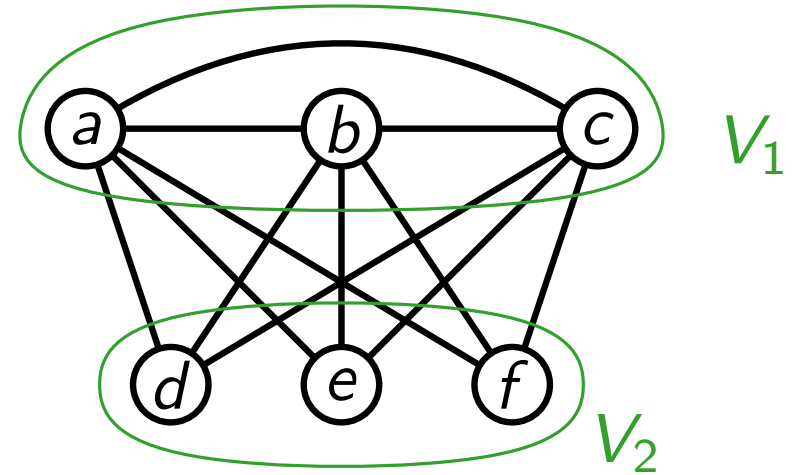
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## Observation

- ◆ subgraphs induced by types form clique or independent set



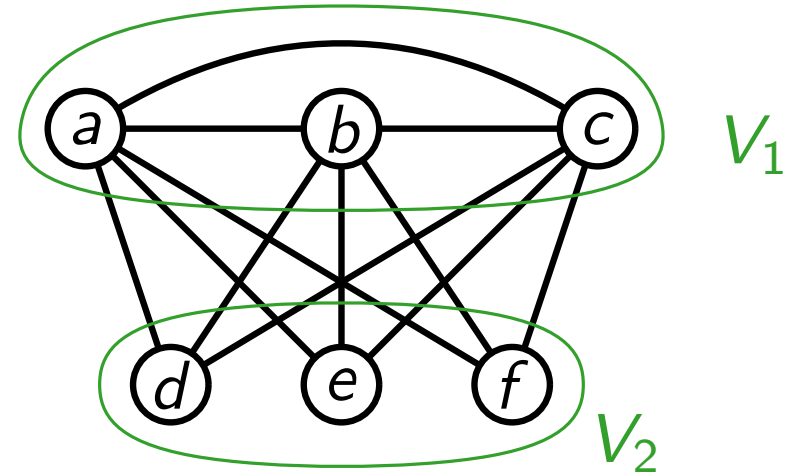
# Mixed Parameters

## Neighborhood Diversity

- ◆ counts types of vertices
- ◆ vertices  $u, v$  of same type iff  $N(u) \setminus \{v\} = N(v) \setminus \{u\}$

## Observation

- ◆ subgraphs induced by types form clique or independent set
- ◆ vertices in type inducing an independent set can receive same color



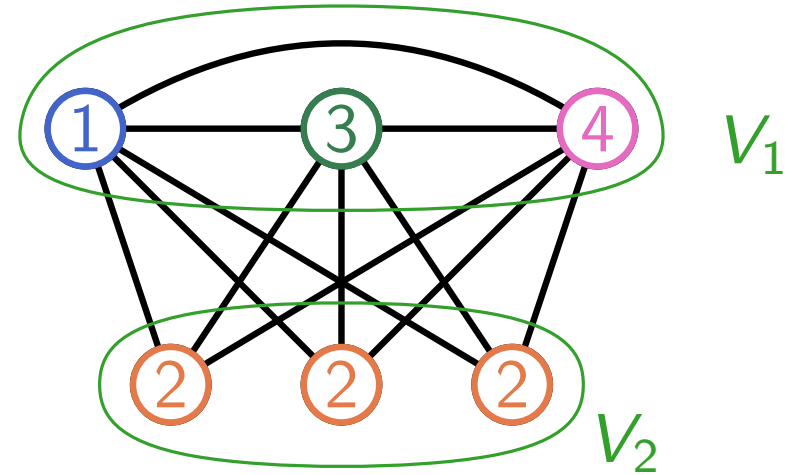
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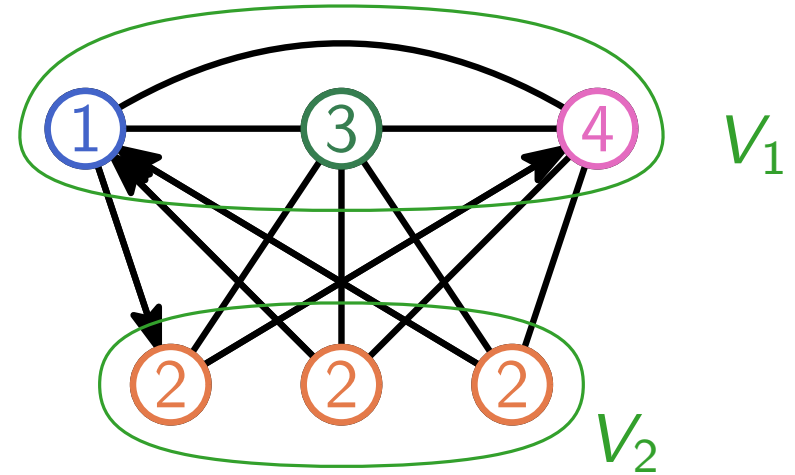
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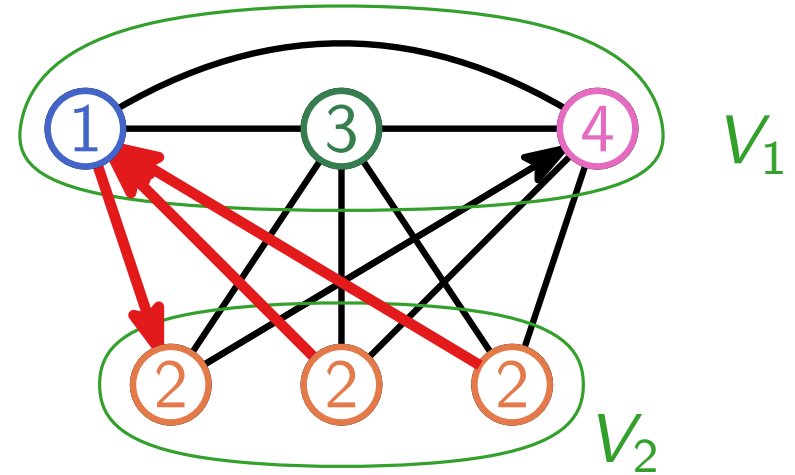
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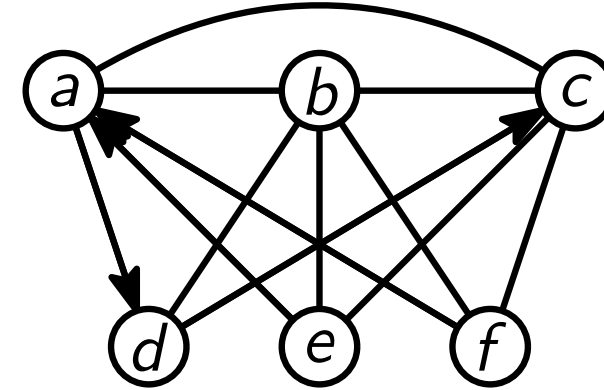
- ◆ subgraphs induced by types form clique or independent set
- ◆ vertices in type inducing an independent set can receive same color

← doesn't work with arcs



# Mixed Parameters

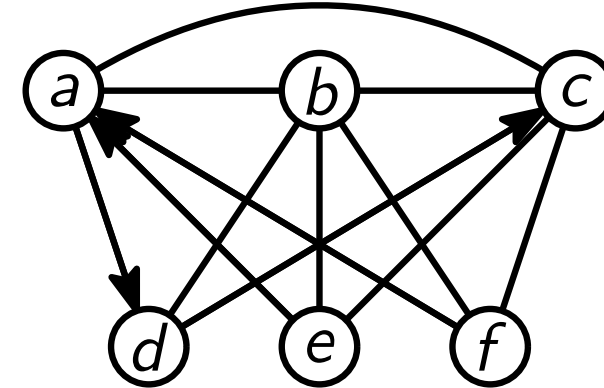
## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity



# Mixed Parameters

## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

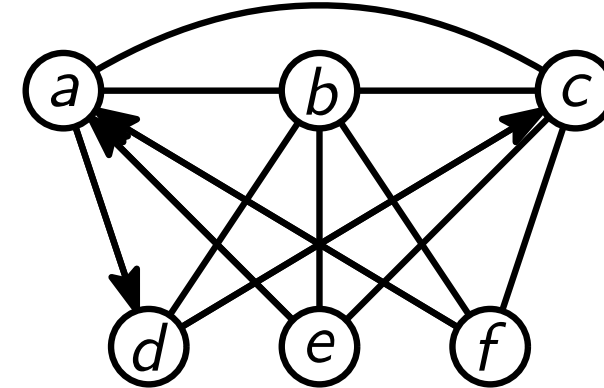
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# Mixed Parameters

## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

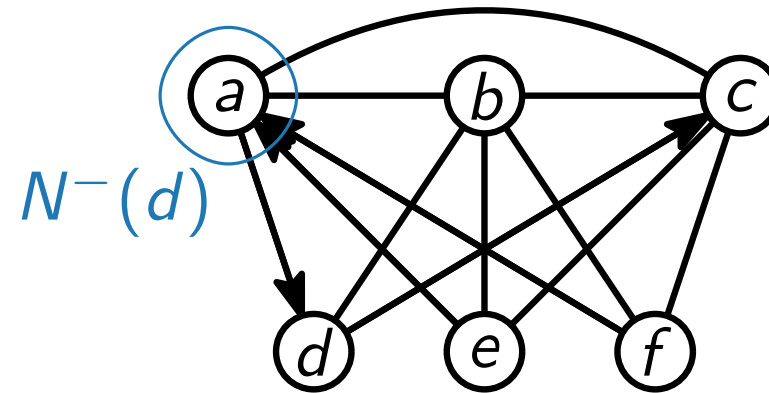
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# Mixed Parameters

## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

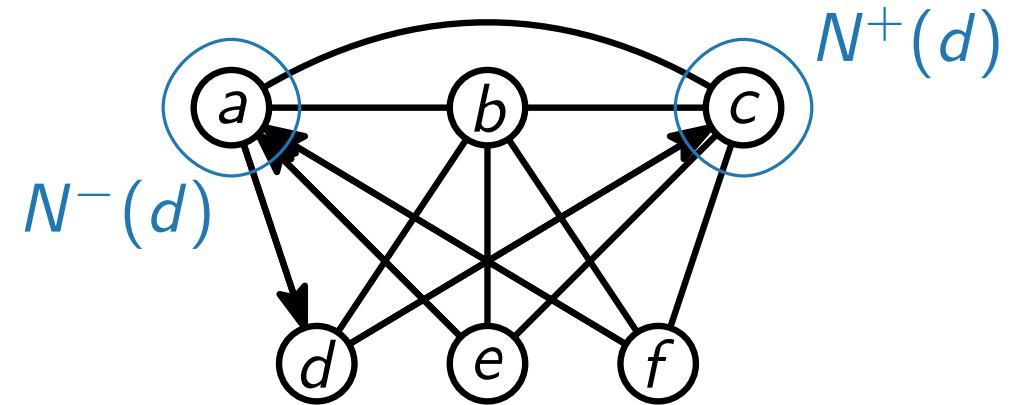
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  - $N^-(u) = N^-(v)$



# Mixed Parameters

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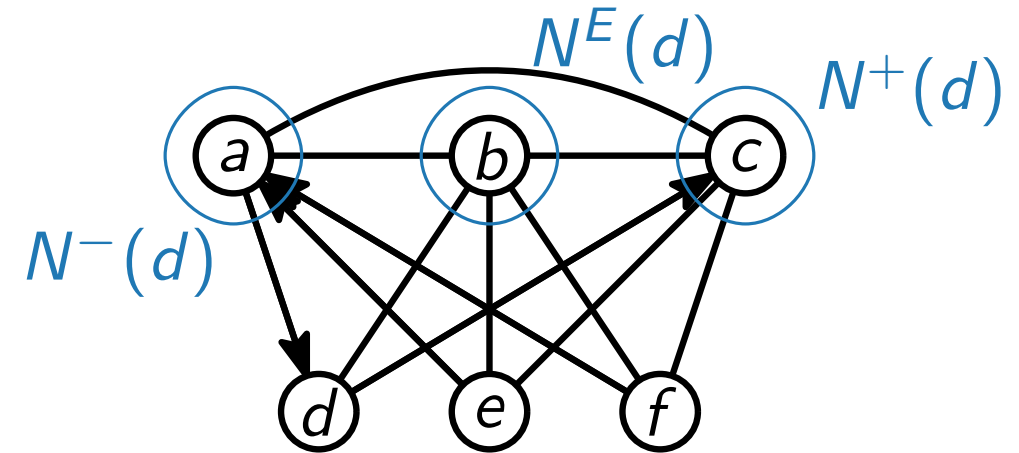
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# Mixed Parameters

## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

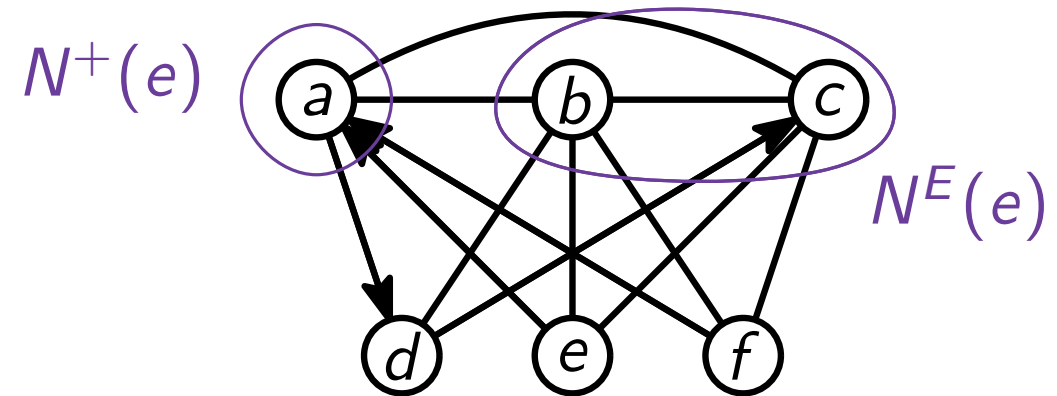
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# Mixed Parameters

## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

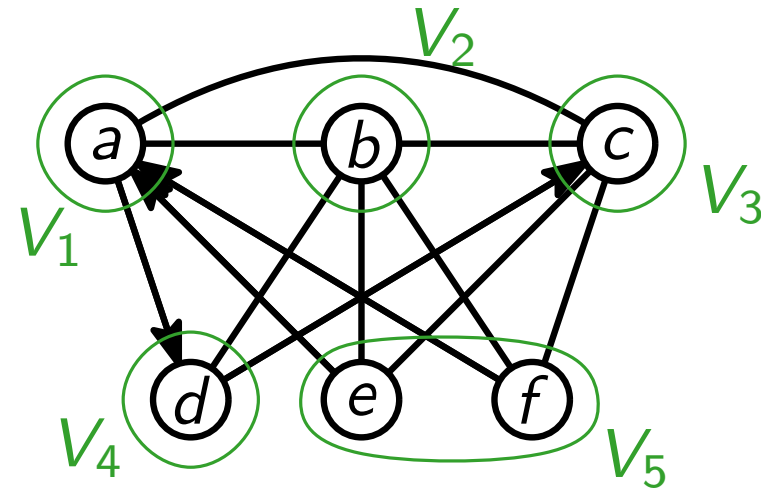
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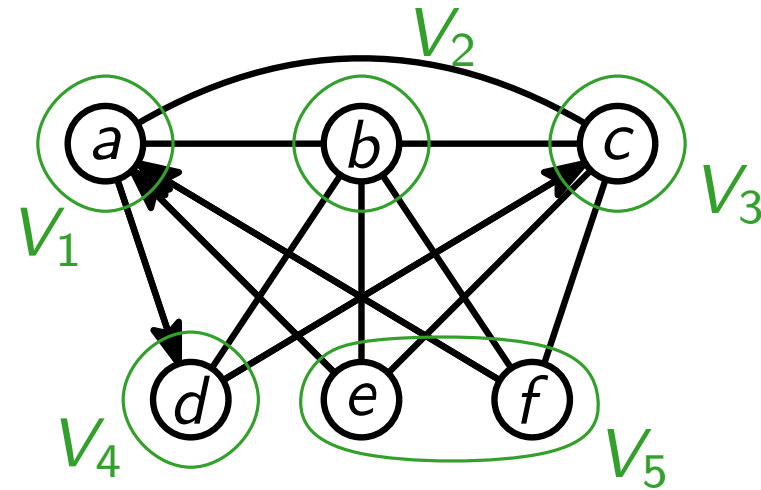
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## Observation

- ◆ subgraphs induced by types form clique or independent set
- ◆ vertices in type inducing IS can receive same color



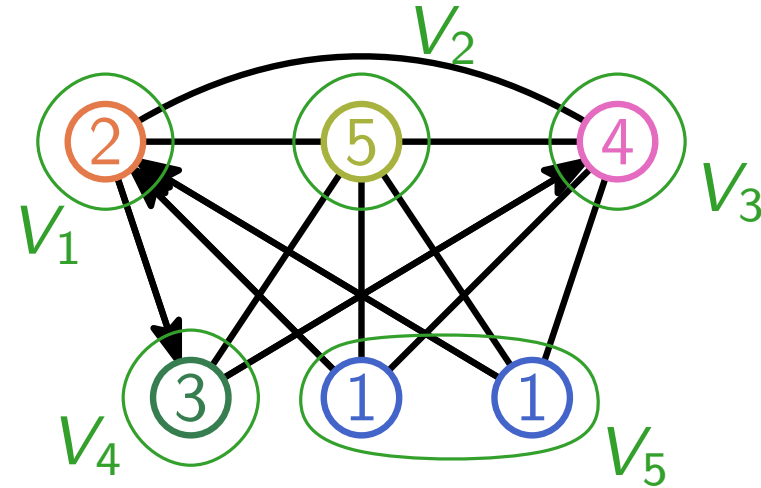
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# Mixed Parameters

## Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

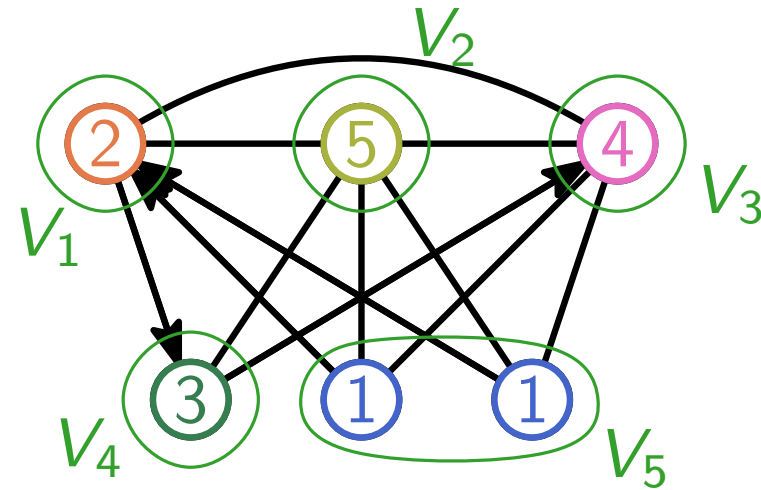
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## Observation

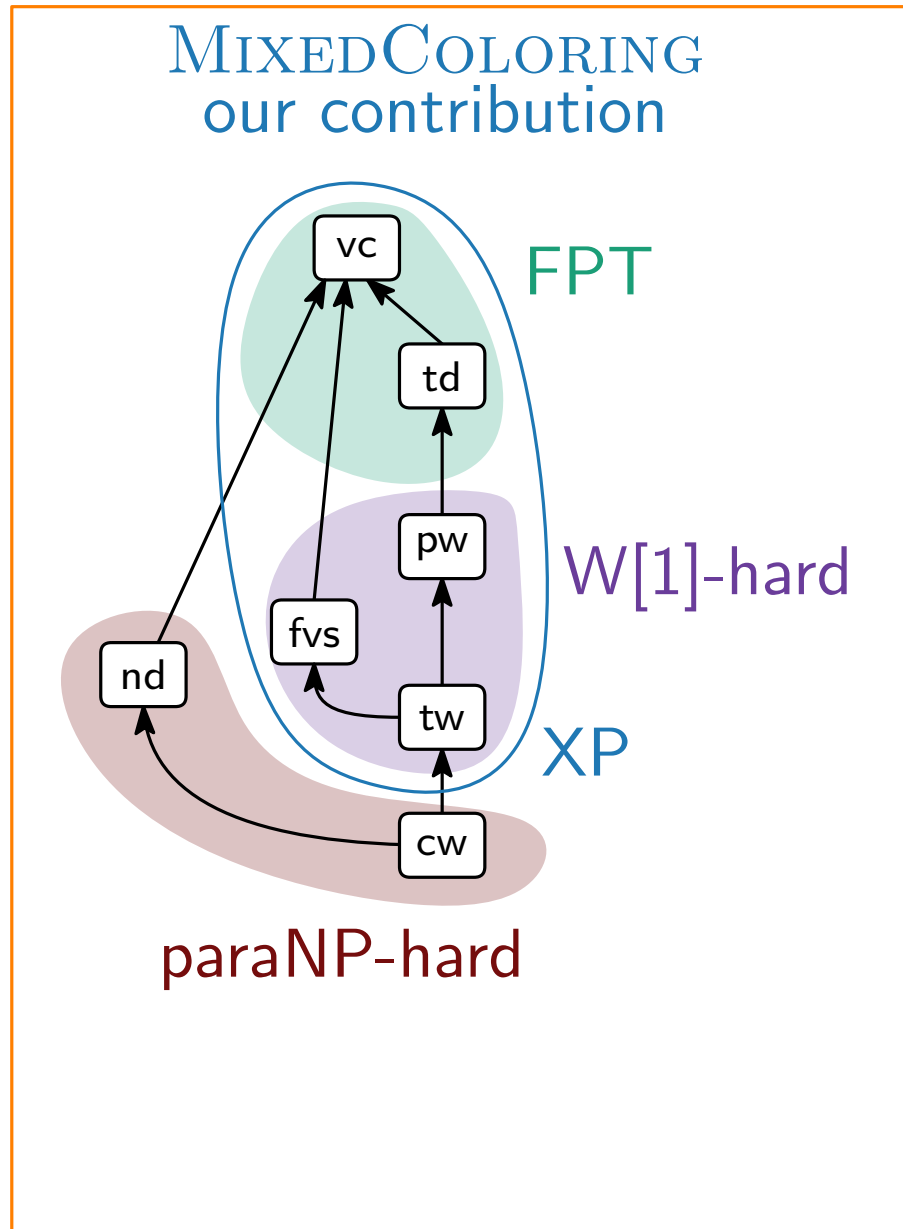
- ◆ subgraphs induced by types form clique or independent set
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## Mixed Cliquewidth

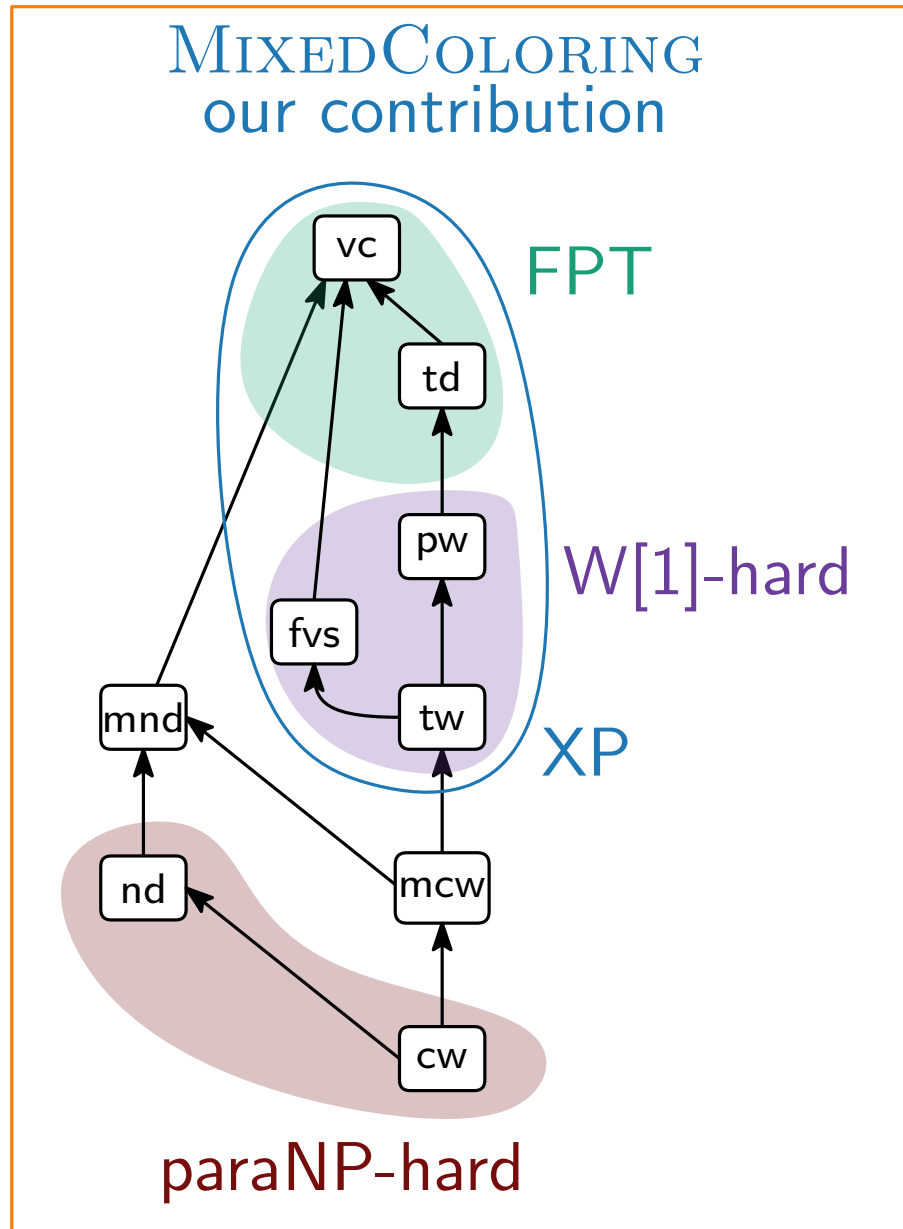
combines definitions of cliquewidth for undirected and directed graphs



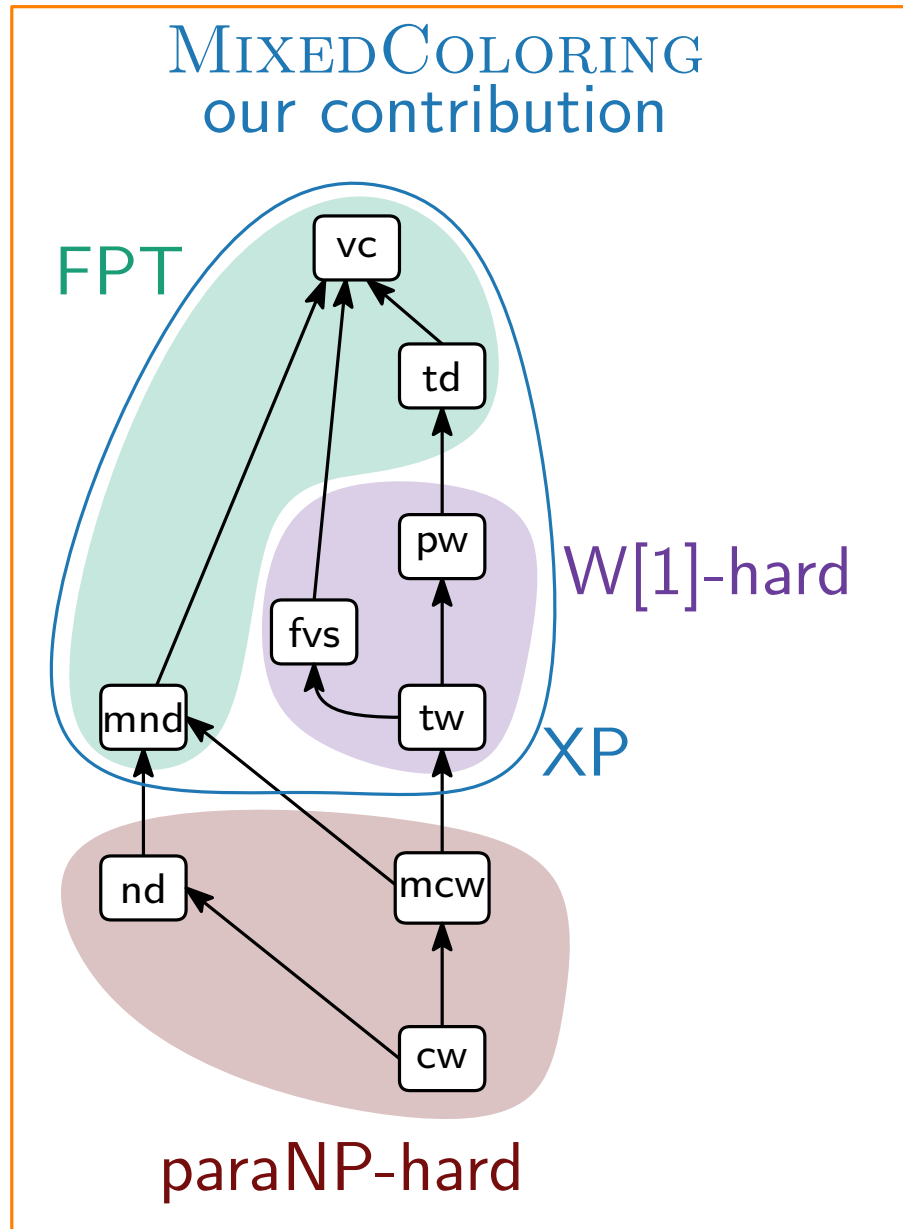
# Parameterized Complexity



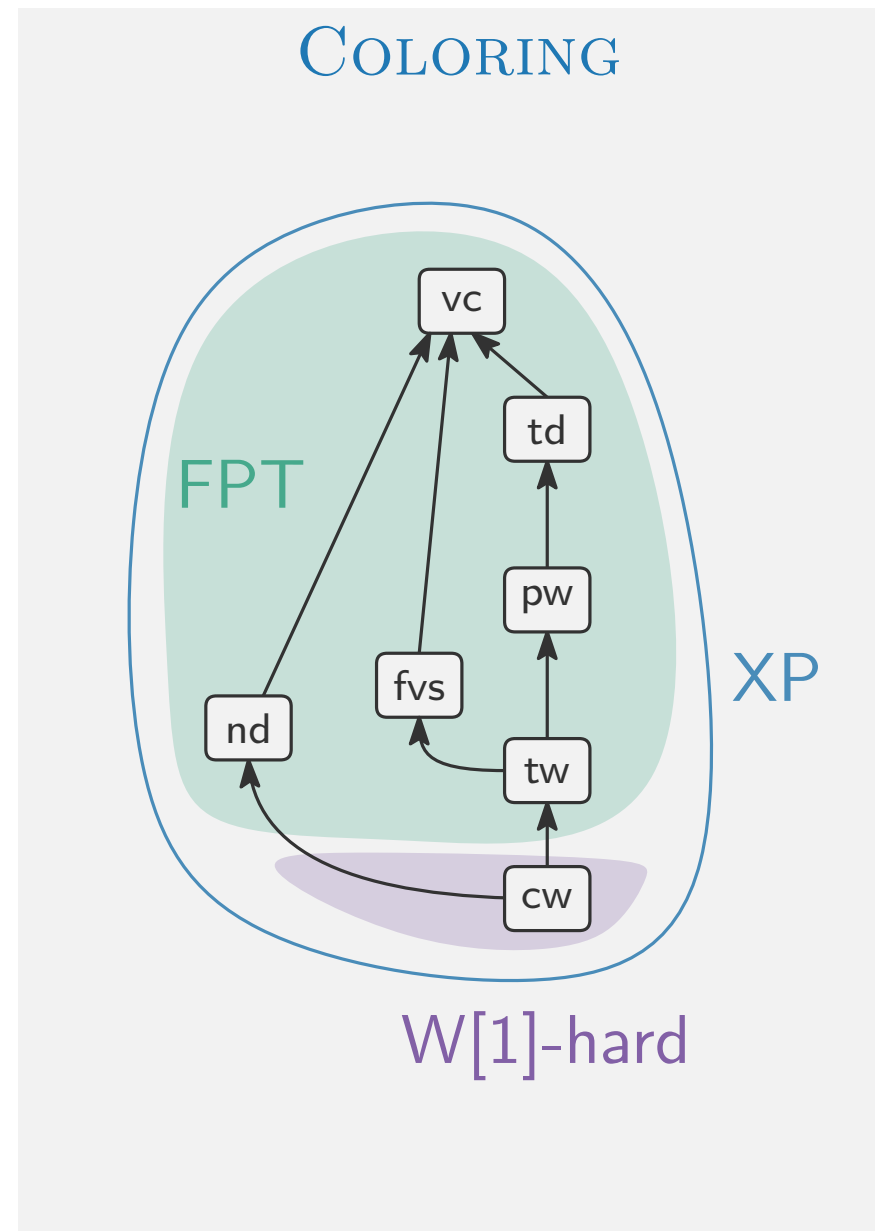
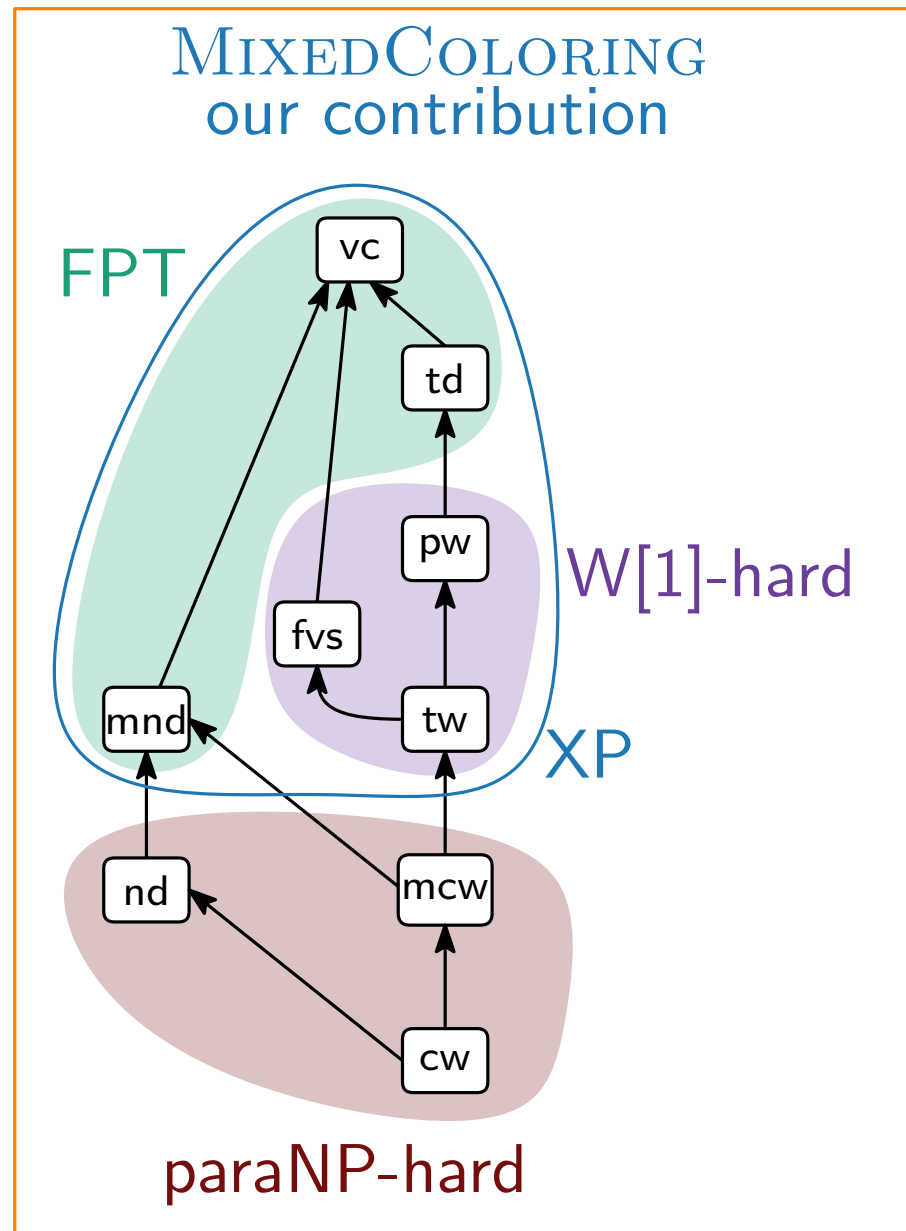
# Parameterized Complexity



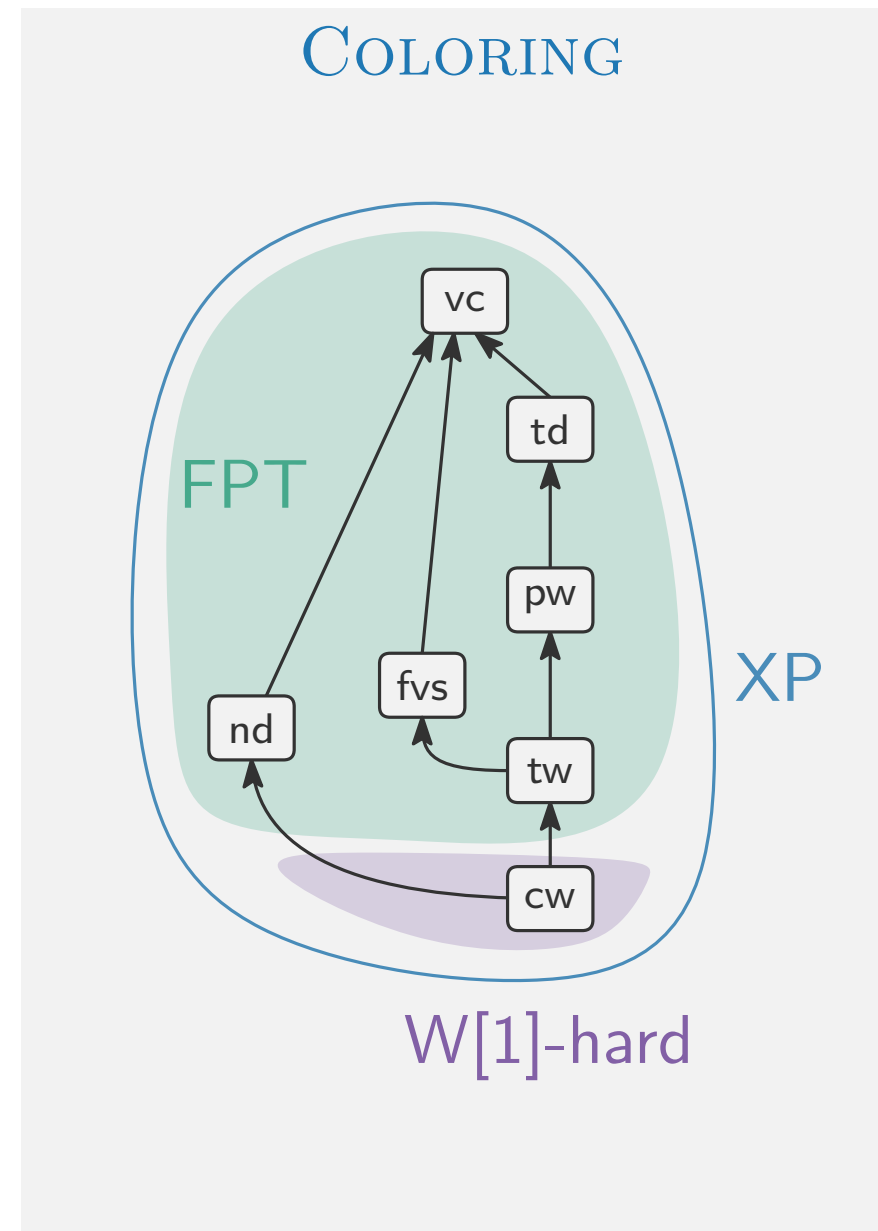
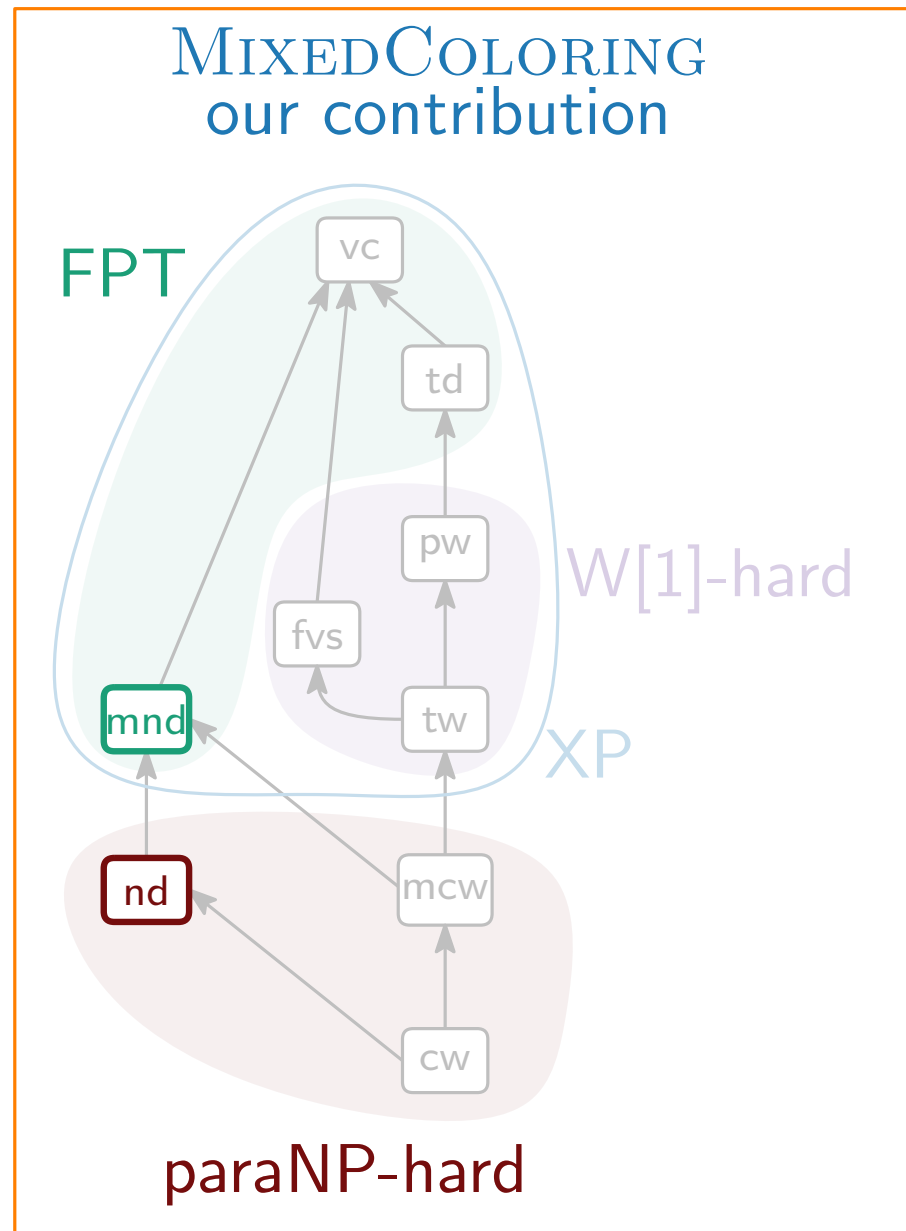
# Parameterized Complexity



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# Parameterized Complexity



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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Reduction from

# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

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Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

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NP-hard [Garey & Johnson, SS9]



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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

Input:

# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

Input: ♦ sets  $T_{\square}, T_{\square}$  of unit-length tasks

# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

Input: ♦ sets  $T_{\diamond}, T_{\diamond}$  of unit-length tasks

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

- Input:
- ◆ sets  $T_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  of unit-length tasks
  - ◆ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks

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- ◆ sets  $T_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  of unit-length tasks
  - ◆ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\square} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

- Input:
- ◆ sets  $T_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  of unit-length tasks
  - ◆ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks
  - ◆ deadline  $D$

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\square} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

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- ◆ sets  $T_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  of unit-length tasks
  - ◆ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks
  - ◆ deadline  $D$

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\square} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

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$$D = 3$$

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- Input:
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  - ◆ deadline  $D$

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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

- Input:
- ◆ sets  $T_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  of unit-length tasks
  - ◆ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks
  - ◆ deadline  $D$

Output: schedule on two machines  $M_{\diamond}, M_{\square}$   
respecting partial order  $\prec$  and deadline  $D$   
( $T_{\diamond}$  on  $M_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}$ )

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

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  - ◆ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks
  - ◆ deadline  $D$

Output: schedule on two machines  $M_{\diamond}, M_{\square}$   
respecting partial order  $\prec$  and deadline  $D$   
( $T_{\diamond}$  on  $M_{\diamond}, T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}$ )

**Reduction (Idea):**

$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\square} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

$$t_2 \prec t_5$$

$$D = 3$$

# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

Input: ♦ sets  $T_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  of unit-length tasks  
♦ partial order  $\prec$  of tasks  
♦ deadline  $D$

Output: schedule on two machines  $M_{\square}, M_{\triangle}$   
respecting partial order  $\prec$  and deadline  $D$   
( $T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  on  $M_{\triangle}$ )

**Reduction (Idea):**

■ tasks as vertices

$$T_{\square} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\triangle} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

$$t_2 \prec t_5$$

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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

Reduction from

PRECEDENCE CONSTRAINED SCHEDULING

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♦ deadline  $D$

Output: schedule on two machines  $M_{\square}, M_{\triangle}$   
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( $T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  on  $M_{\triangle}$ )

**Reduction (Idea):**

■ tasks as vertices

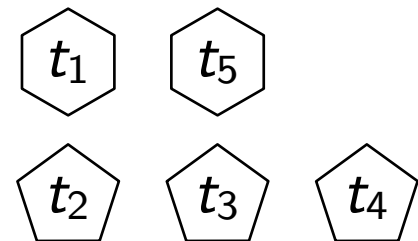
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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( $T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  on  $M_{\triangle}$ )

**Reduction (Idea):**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors

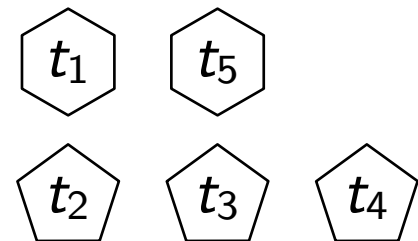
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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Output: schedule on two machines  $M_{\square}, M_{\triangle}$   
respecting partial order  $\prec$  and deadline  $D$   
( $T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  on  $M_{\triangle}$ )

**Reduction (Idea):**

- tasks as vertices
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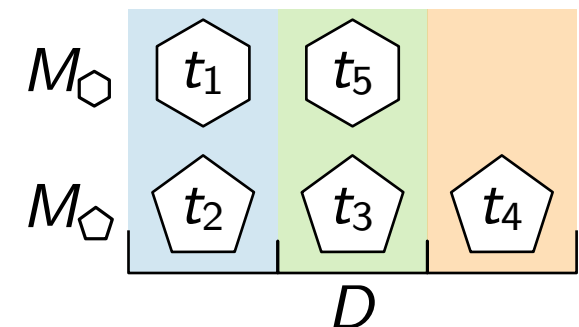
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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Input: ♦ sets  $T_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  of unit-length tasks  
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( $T_{\square}$  on  $M_{\square}, T_{\triangle}$  on  $M_{\triangle}$ )

**Reduction (Idea):**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
- arcs enforce partial order

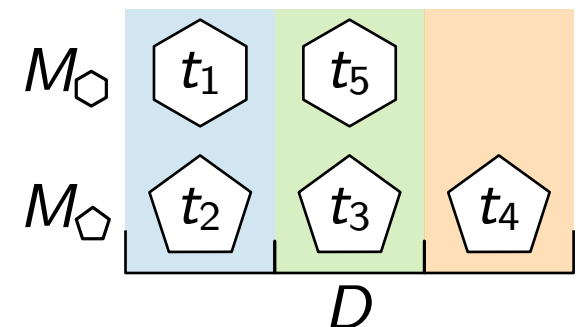
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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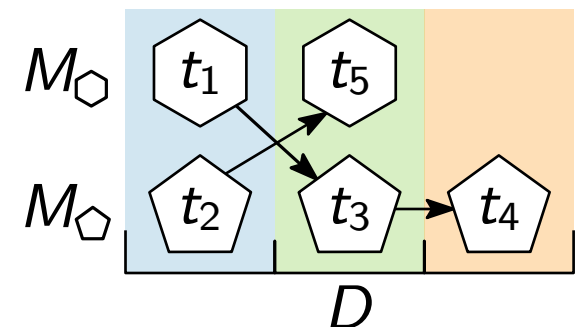
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
  - ◆ start  $t^-$  and end vertex  $t^+$  for each task  $t$

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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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  - ◆ start  $t^-$  and end vertex  $t^+$  for each task  $t$

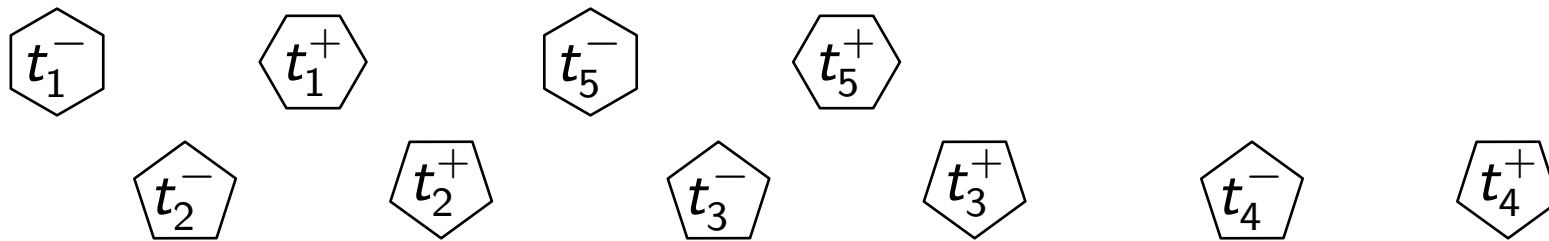
$$T_{\square} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\square} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
  - ◆ start  $t^-$  and end vertex  $t^+$  for each task  $t$
  - ◆ arc  $(t^-, t^+)$  for each task  $t$

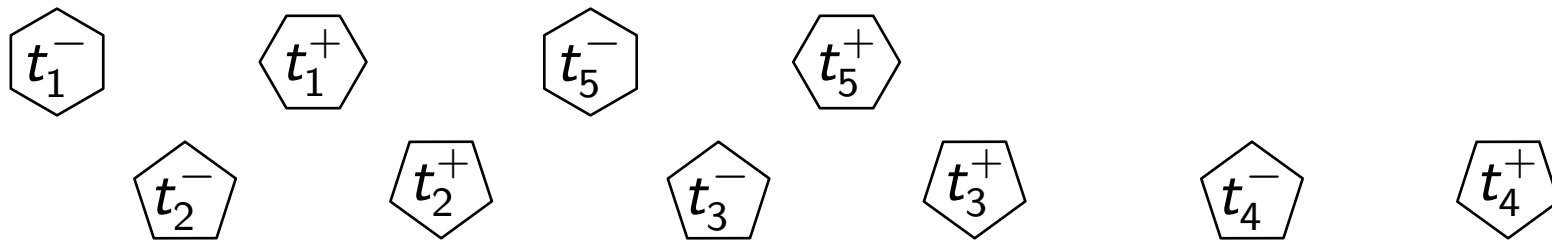
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

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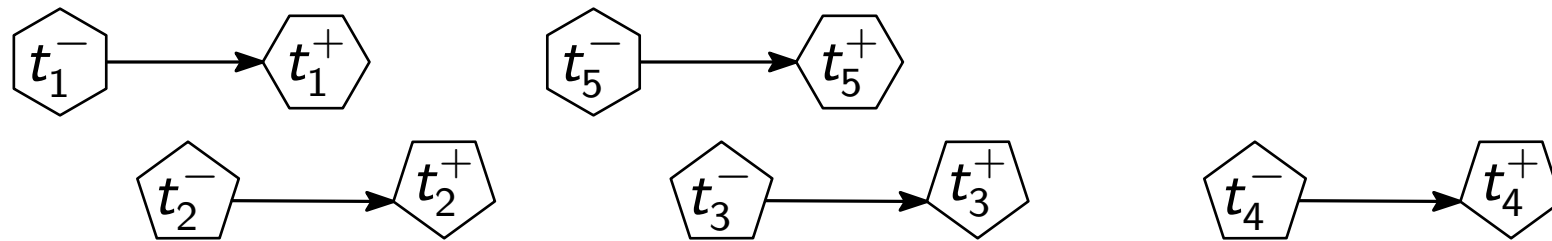
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
  - ◆ start  $t^-$  and end vertex  $t^+$  for each task  $t$
  - ◆ arc  $(t^-, t^+)$  for each task  $t$
  - ◆ arc  $(t_i^+, t_j^-)$  for  $t_i \prec t_j$

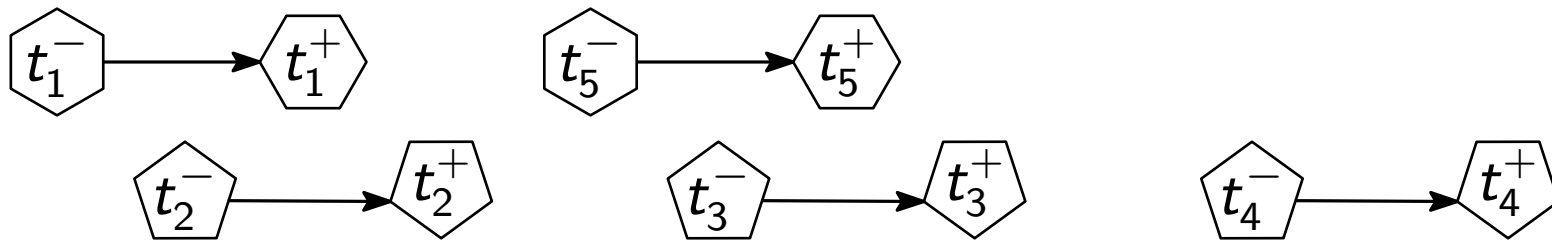
$$T_{\diamond} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

$$T_{\square} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

$$t_2 \prec t_5$$

$$D = 3$$



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
  - ◆ start  $t^-$  and end vertex  $t^+$  for each task  $t$
  - ◆ arc  $(t^-, t^+)$  for each task  $t$
  - ◆ arc  $(t_i^+, t_j^-)$  for  $t_i \prec t_j$

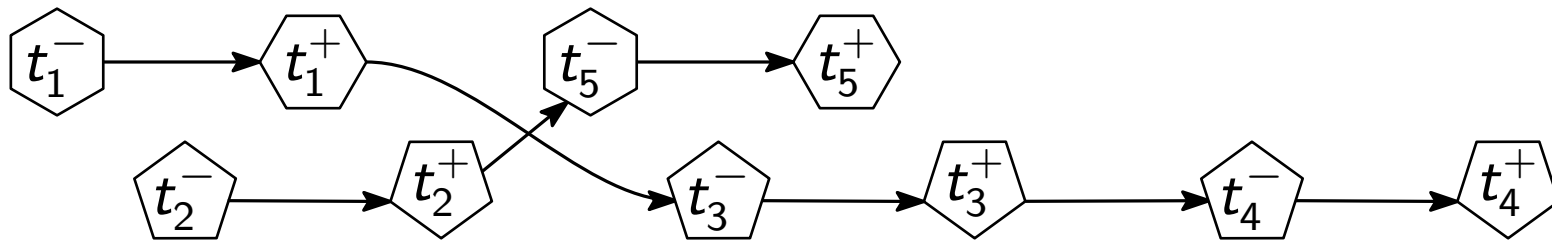
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices

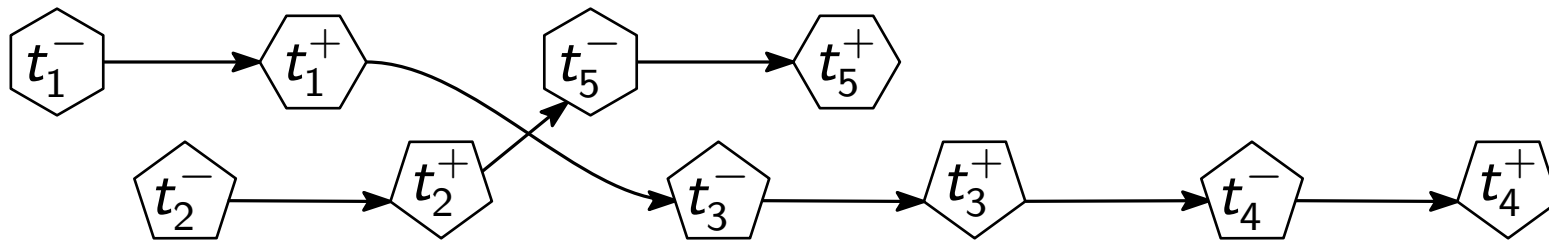
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$$D = 3$$



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors

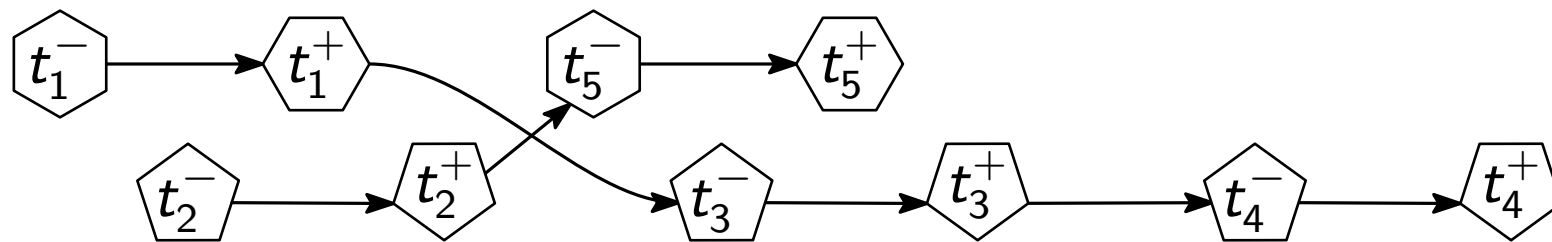
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$$D = 3$$



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
  - ◆ four colors per time unit

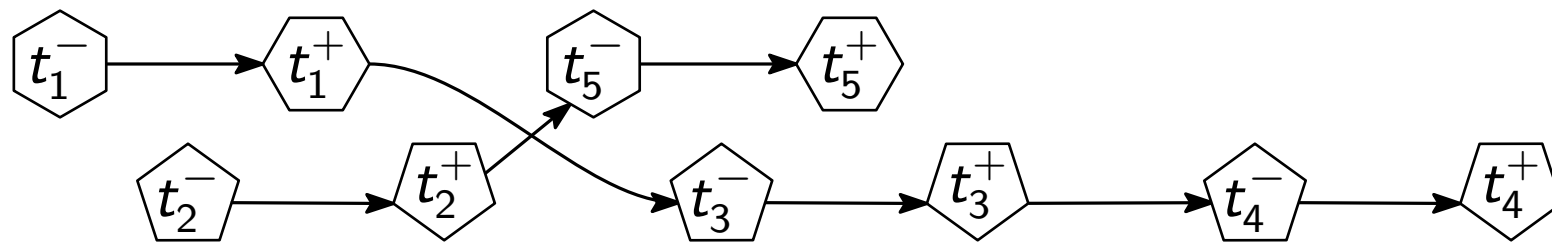
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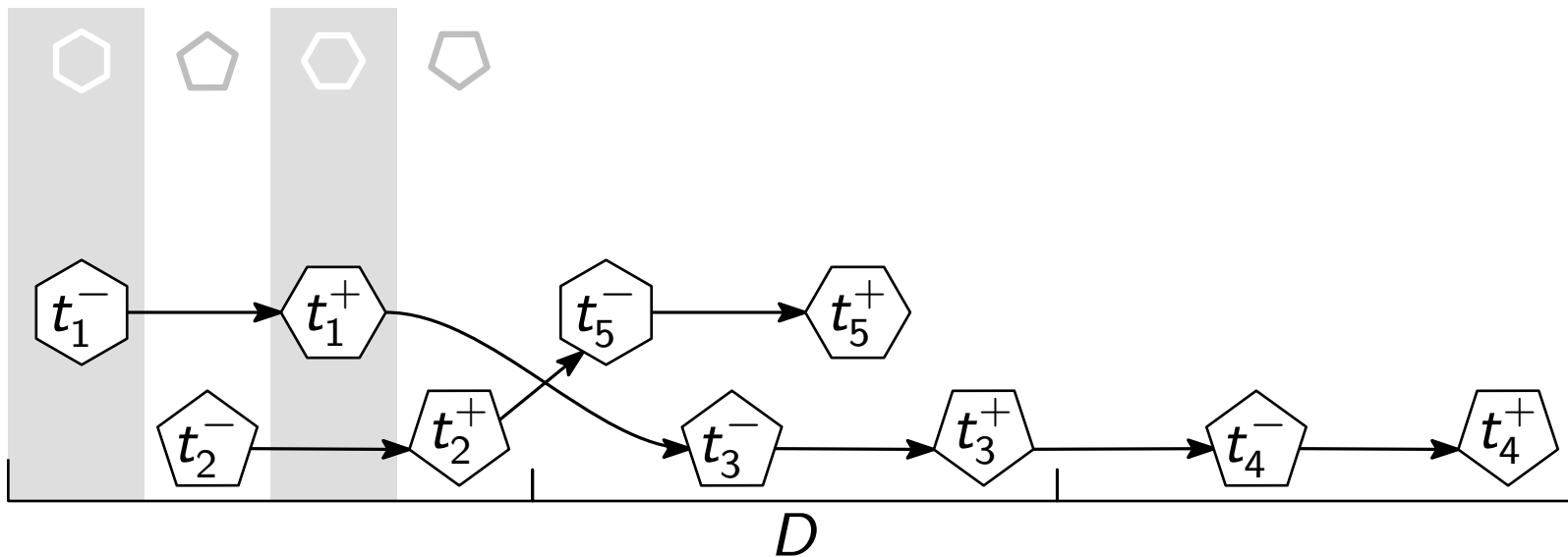
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
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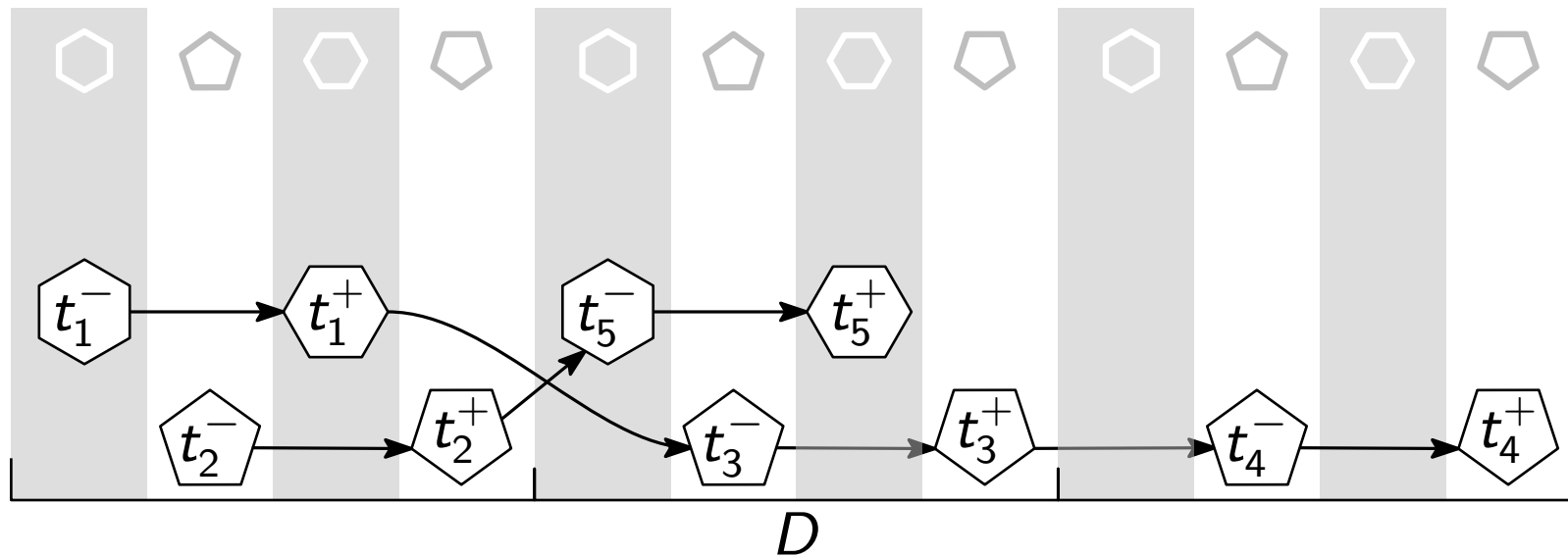
$$T_{\square} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

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$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

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$$D = 3$$



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
  - ◆ four colors per time unit

$$T_{\hexagon} = \{t_1, t_5\}$$

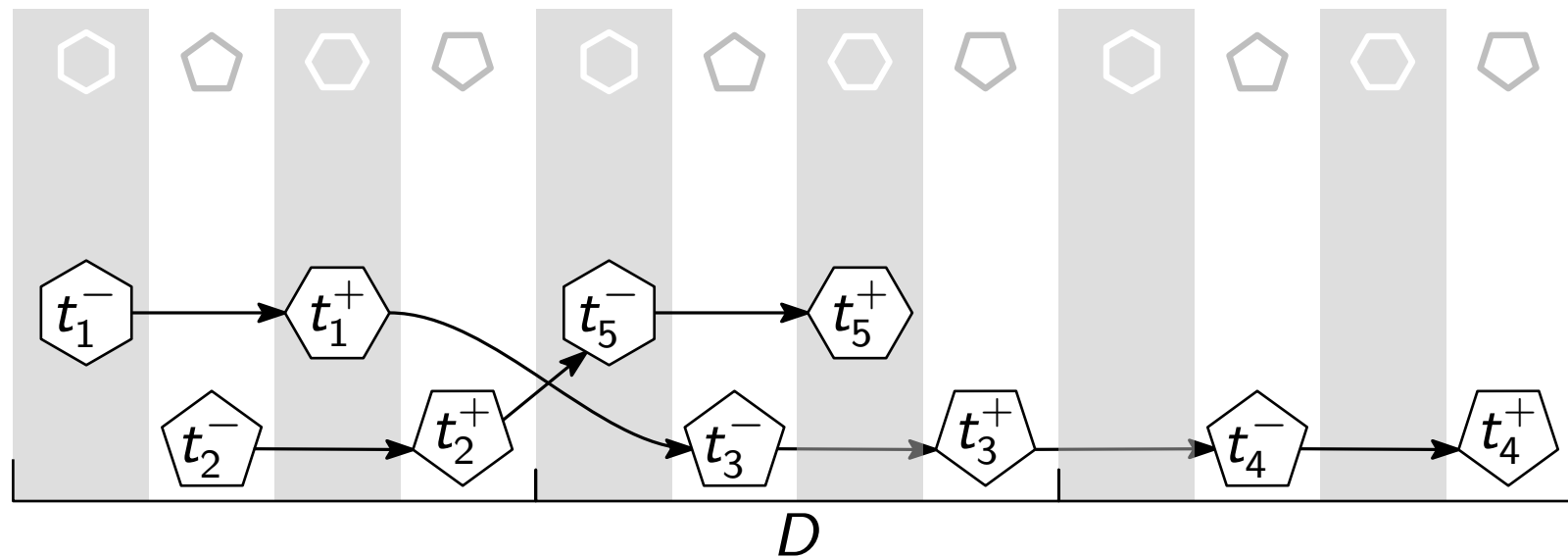
$$T_{\pentagon} = \{t_2, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$t_1 \prec t_3 \prec t_4$$

$$t_2 \prec t_5$$

$$D = 3$$

4D-colors in total



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
  - ◆ four colors per time unit
  - ◆ colors enforced by directed path of length  $4D$

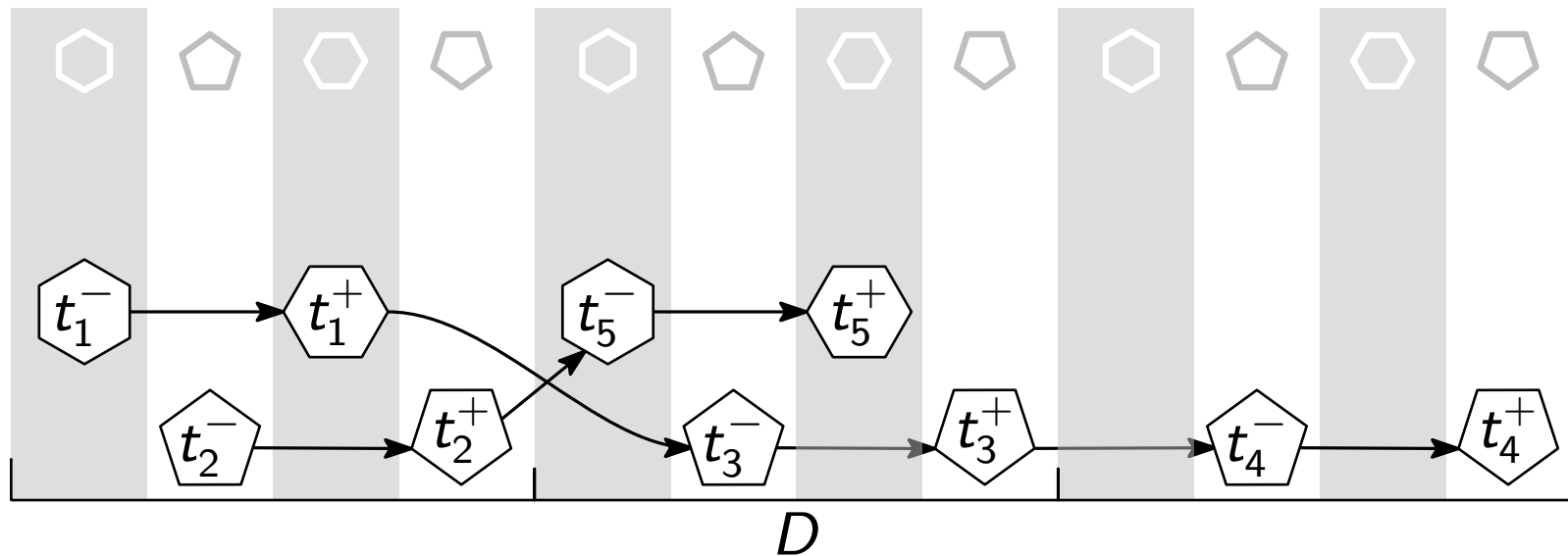
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

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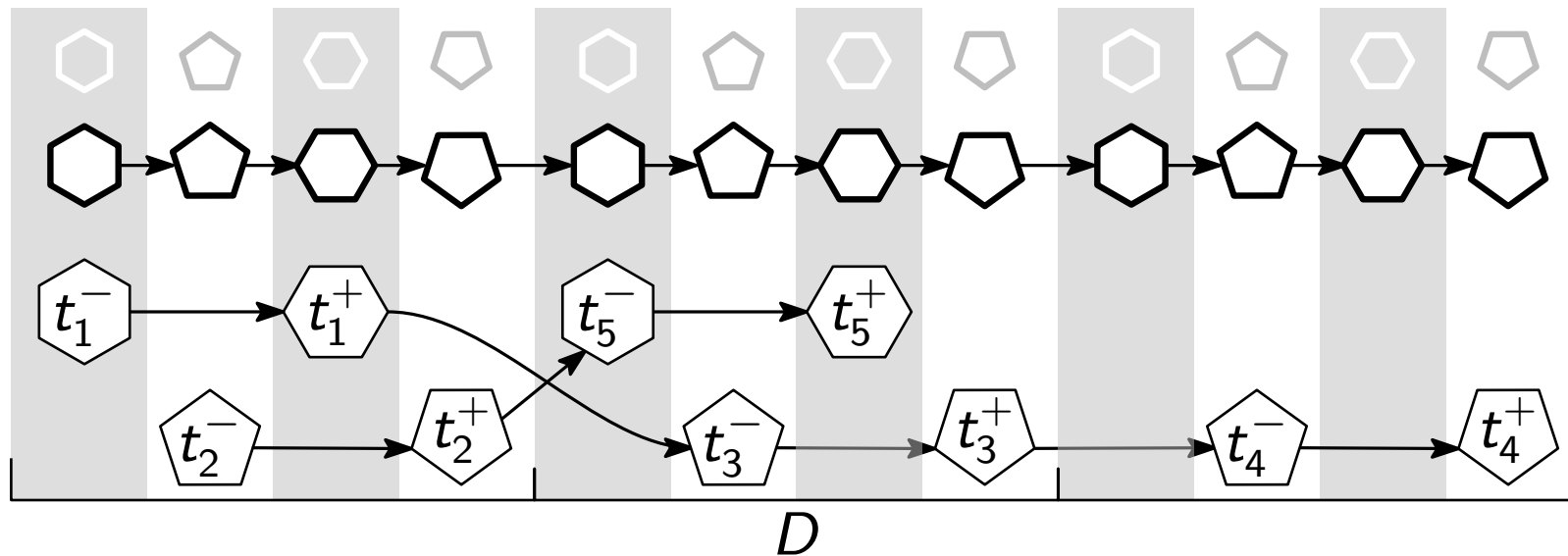
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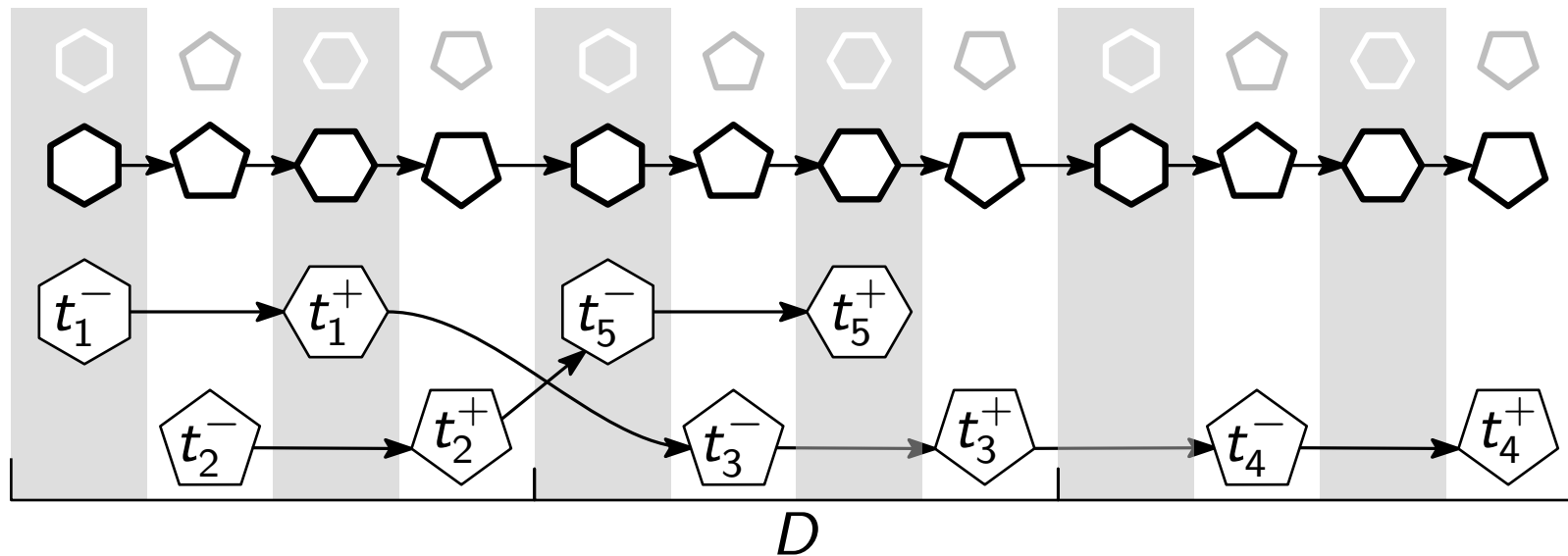
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$$t_2 \prec t_5$$

$$D = 3$$

unique  $4D$ -coloring



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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- timeslots as colors
  - ◆ four colors per time unit
  - ◆ colors enforced by directed path of length  $4D$

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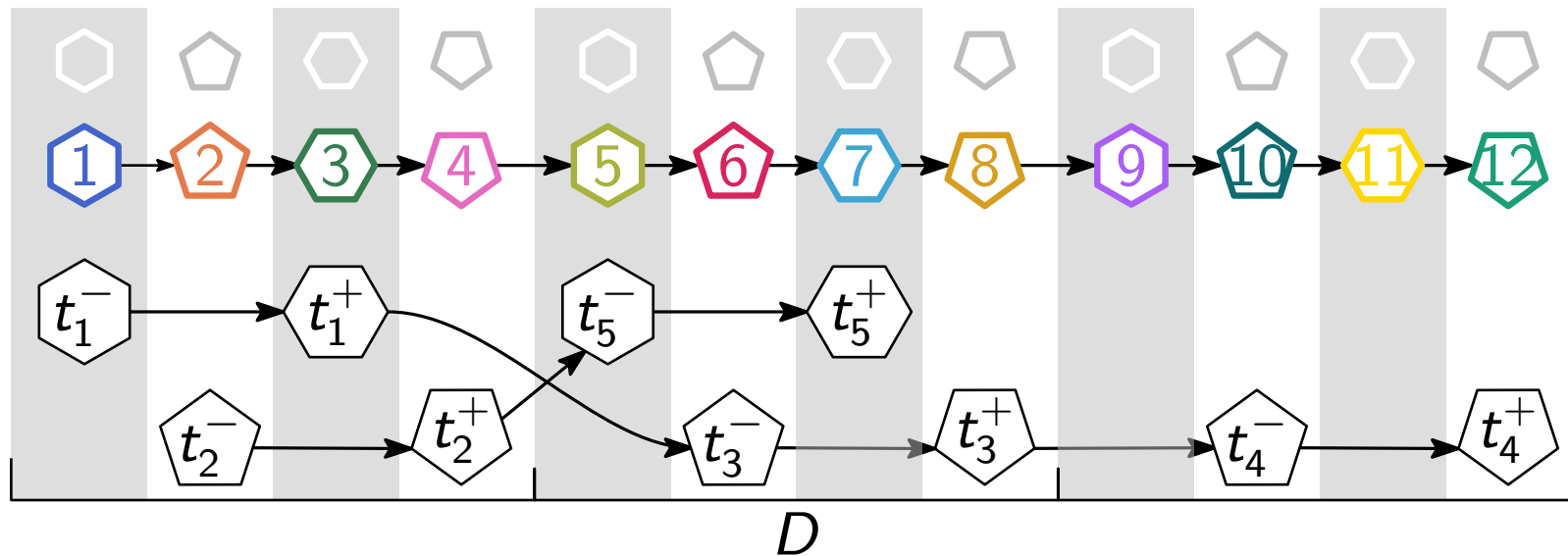
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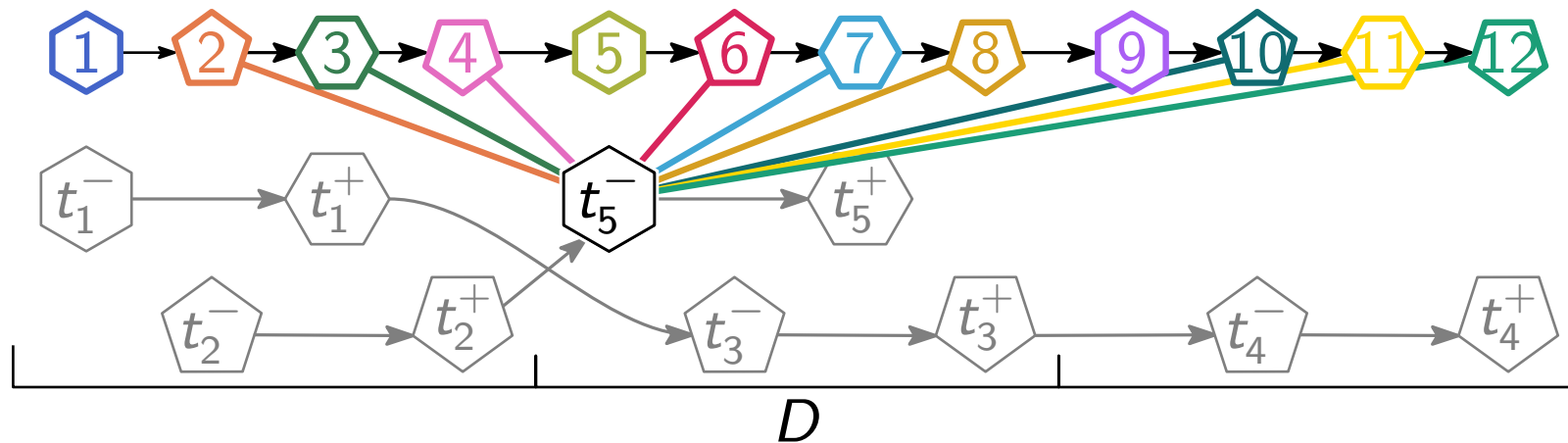
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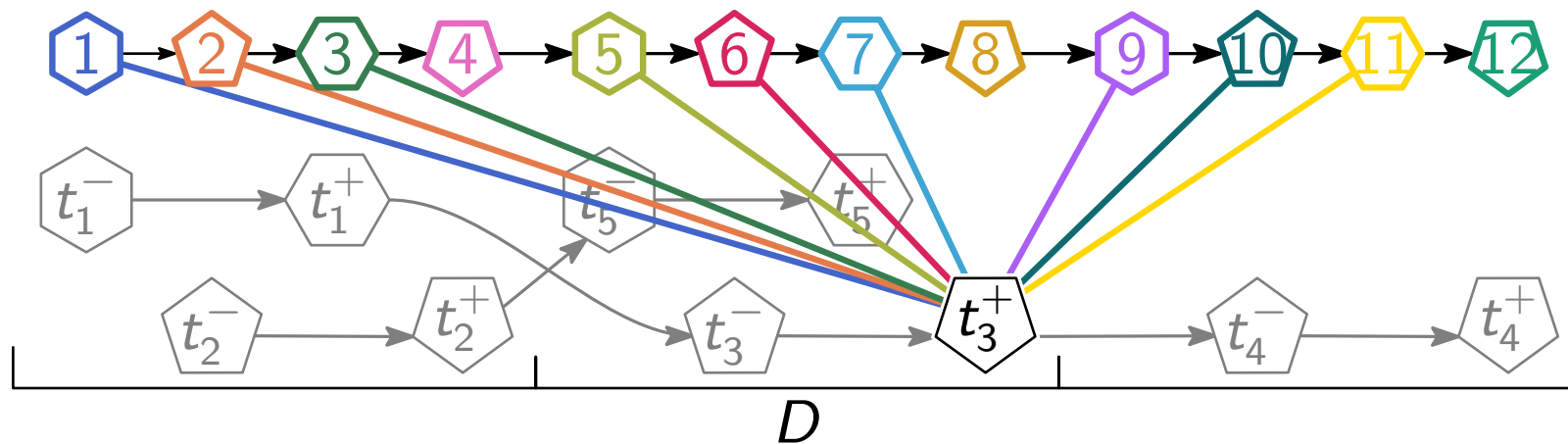
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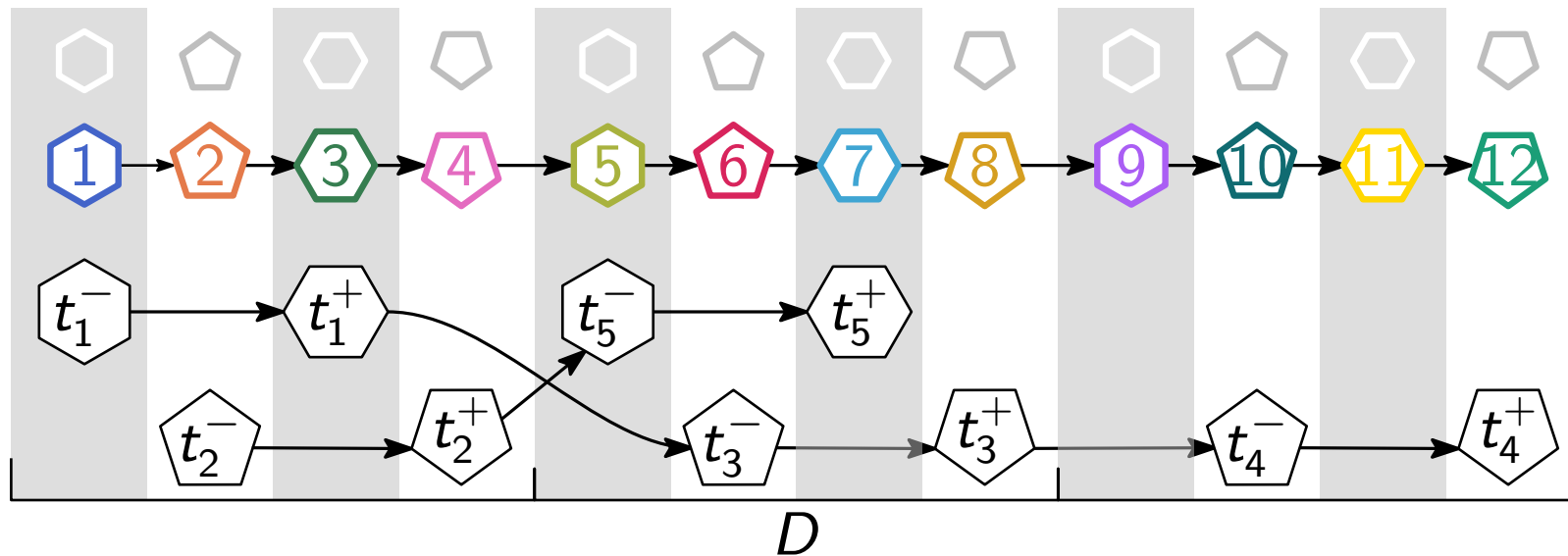
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
  - ◆ four colors per time unit
  - ◆ colors enforced by directed path of length  $4D$
  - ◆ task vertices pairwise connected

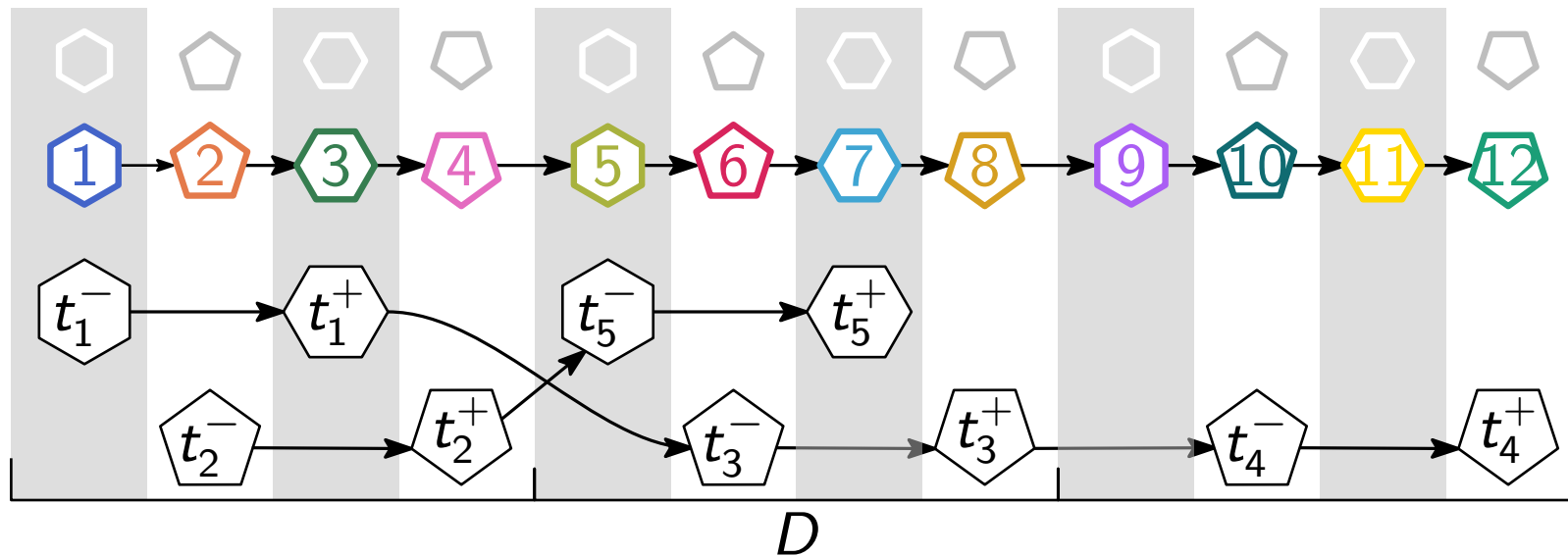
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
  - ◆ four colors per time unit
  - ◆ colors enforced by directed path of length  $4D$
  - ◆ task vertices pairwise connected
  - ◆ vertices of directed path pairwise connected

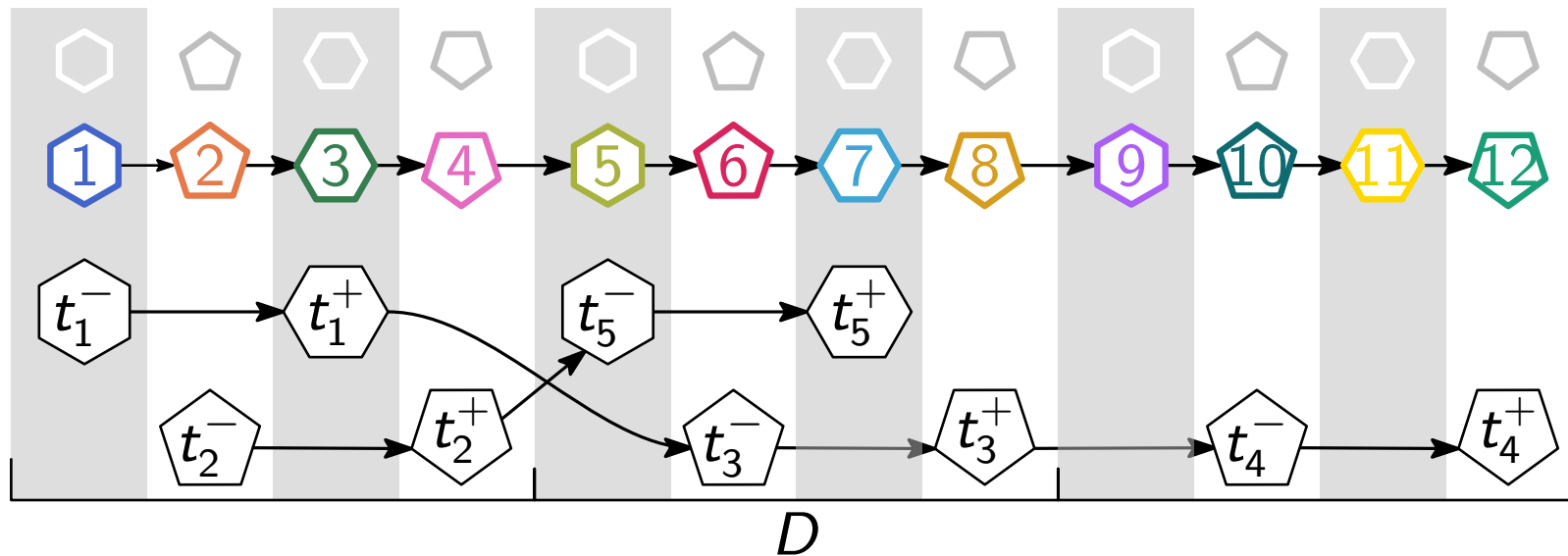
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors

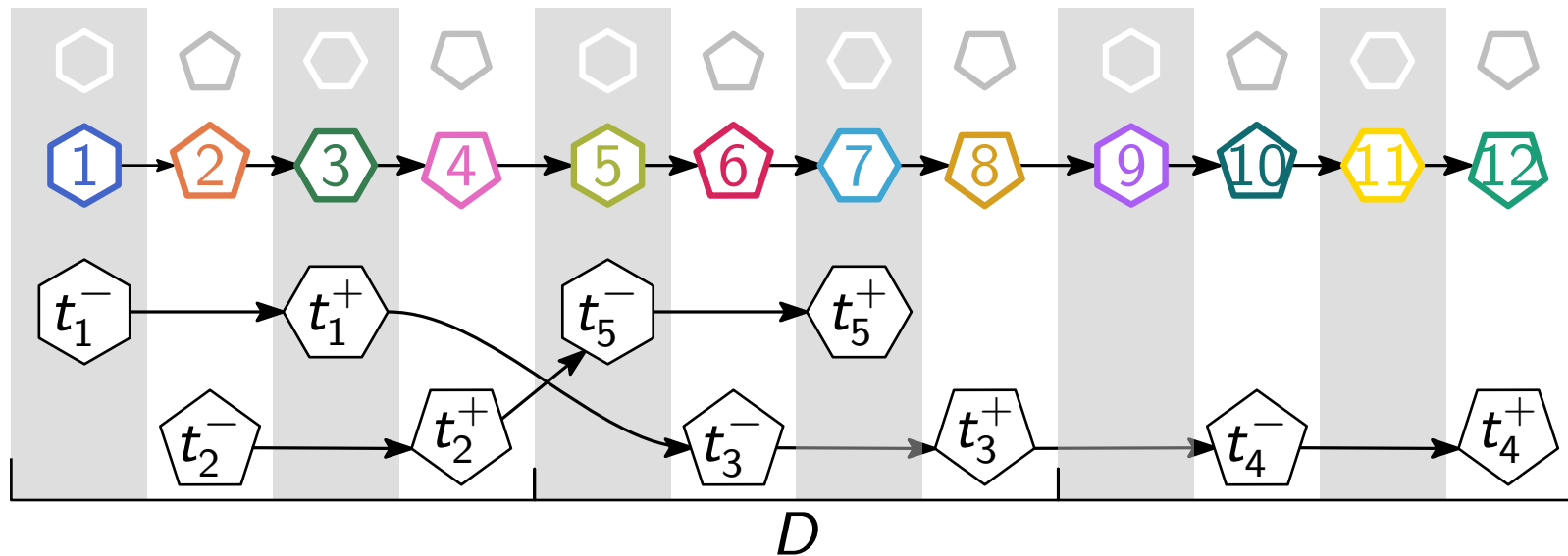
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$$D = 3$$



# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
- constant neighborhood diversity

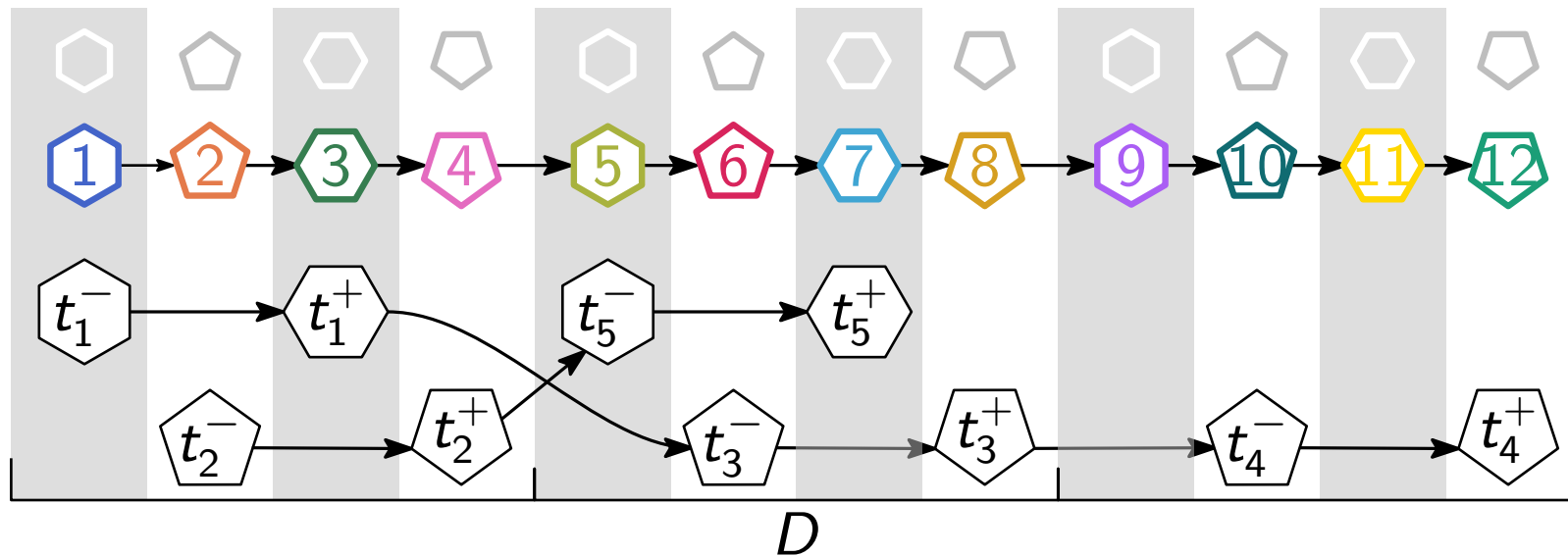
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
- constant neighborhood diversity
  - ◆ 4 types of task vertices

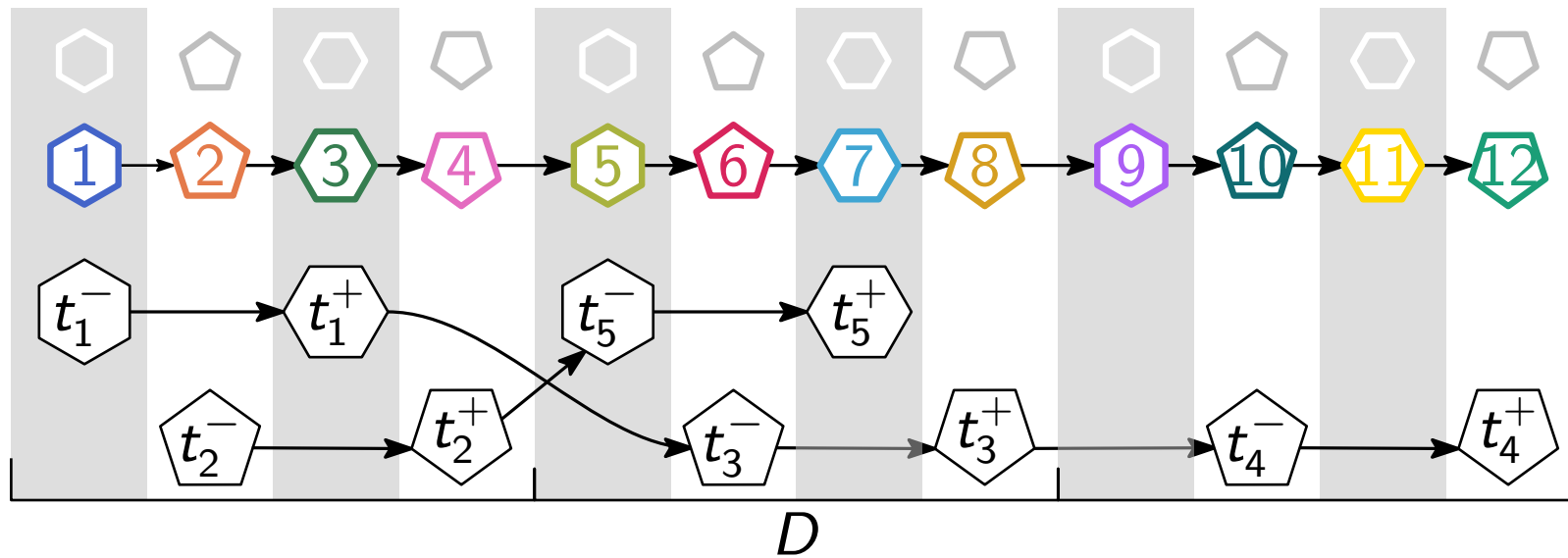
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

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  - ◆ 4 types of task vertices
  - ◆ 4 types of path vertices

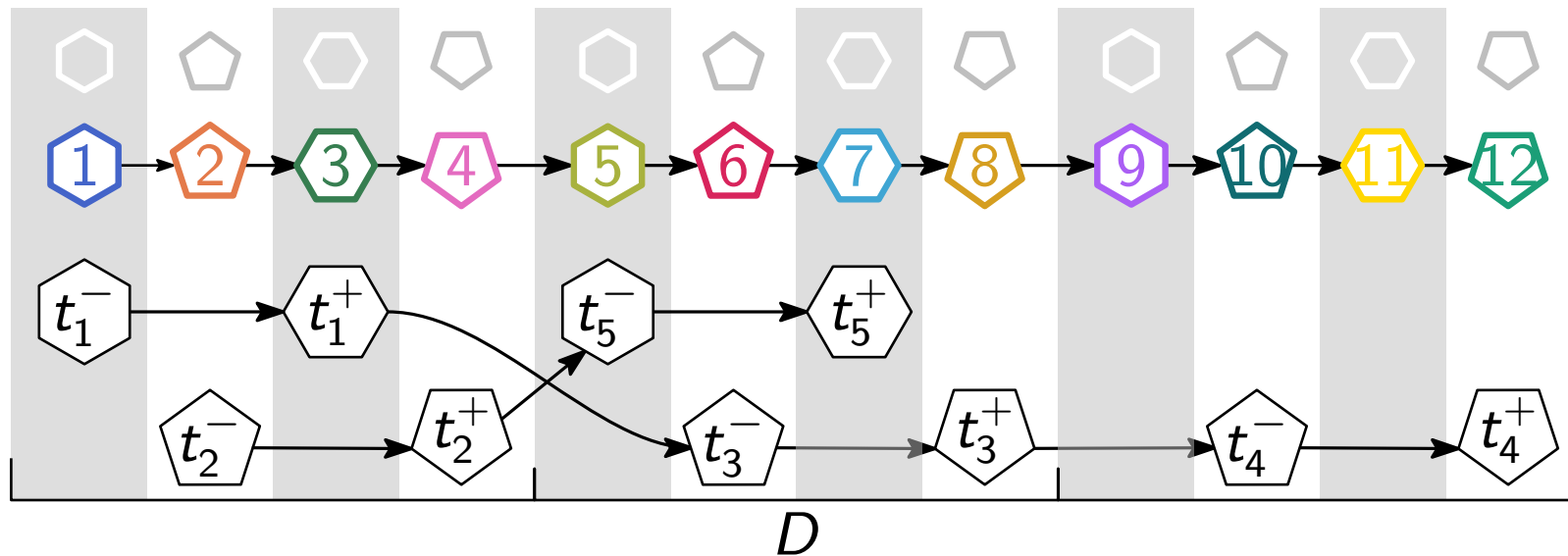
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
- constant neighborhood diversity
- graph has proper  $4D$ -coloring  $\Leftrightarrow$  exists feasible schedule of length  $D$

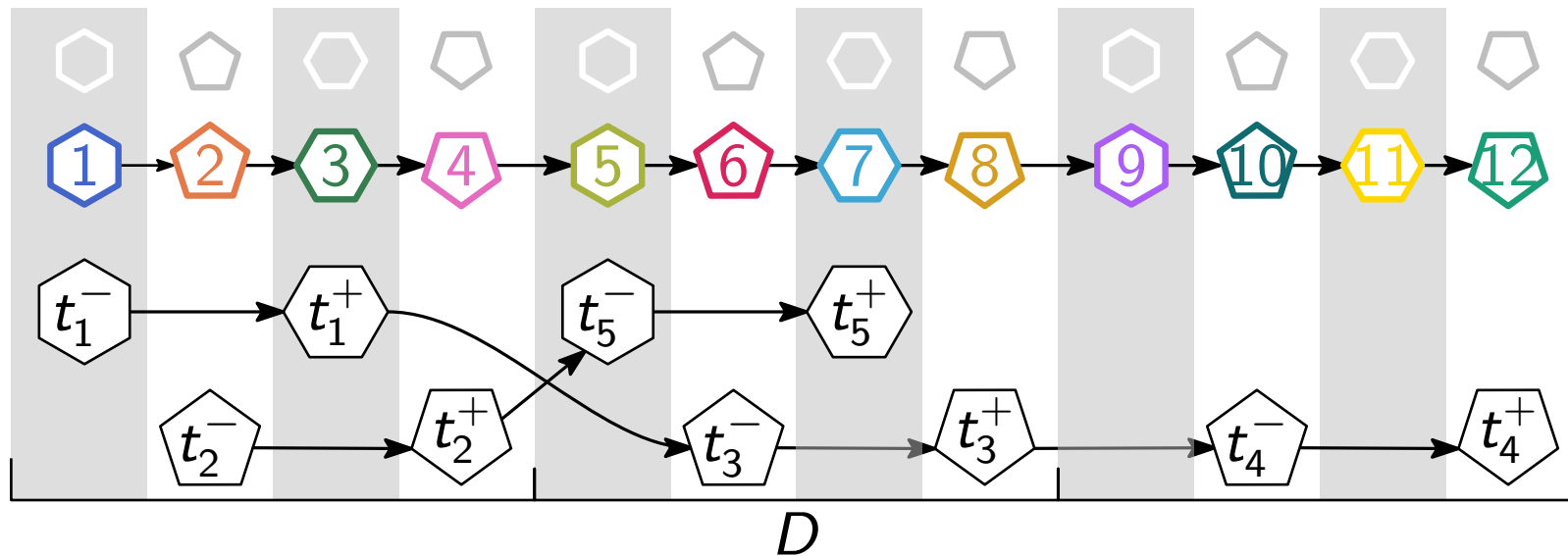
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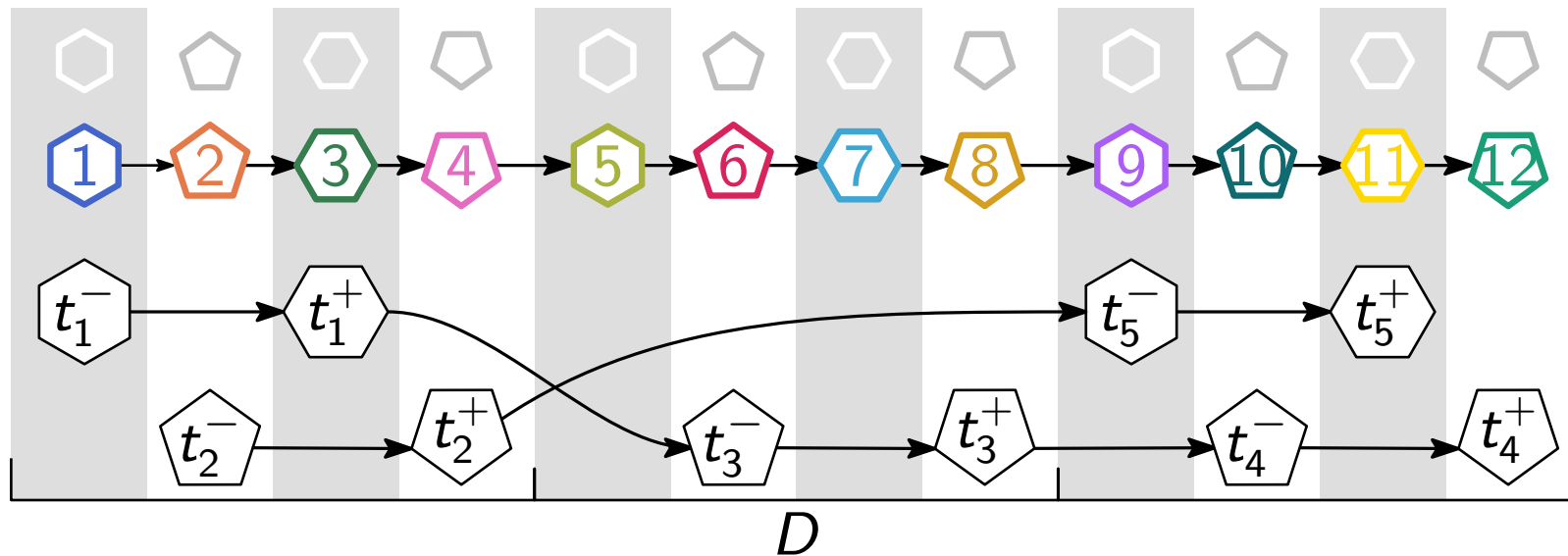
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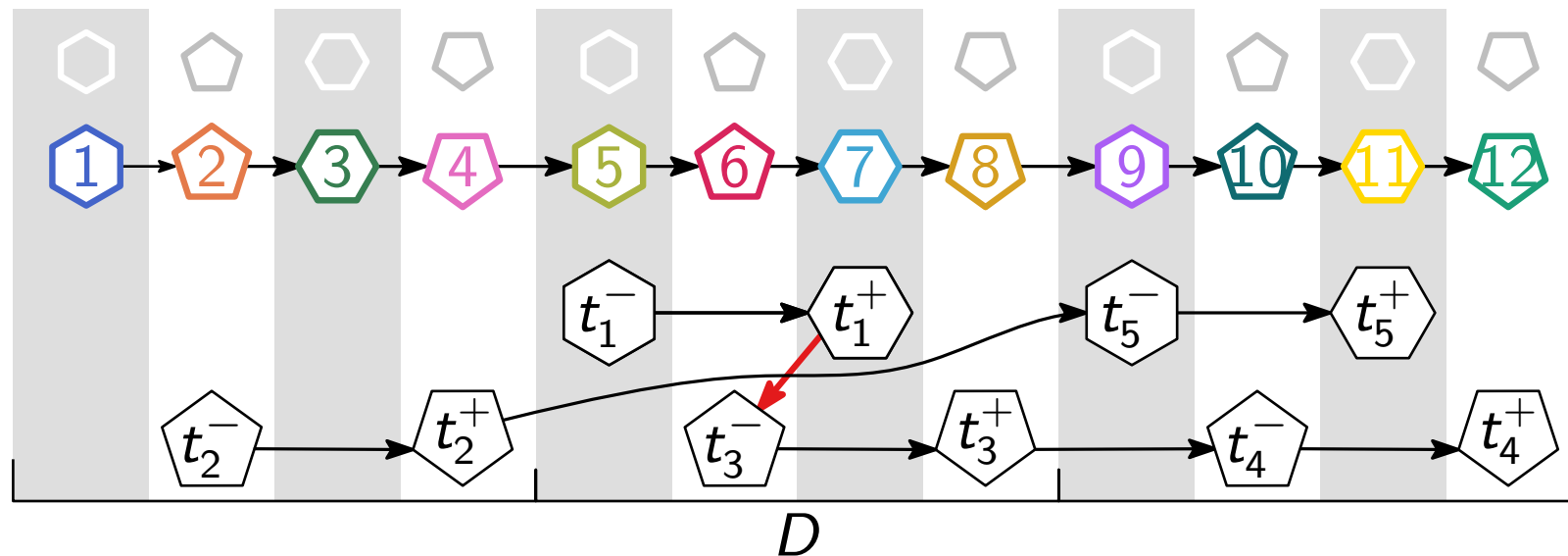
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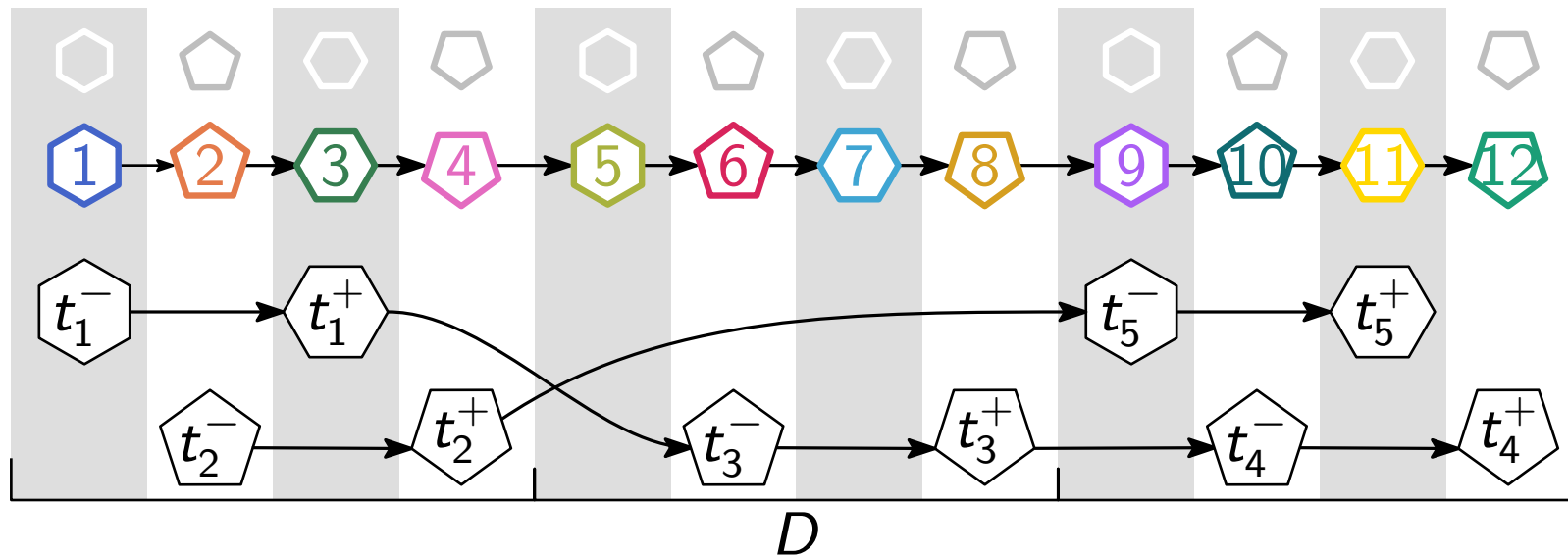
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# paraNP-Hardness Neighborhood Diversity

**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
- timeslots as colors
- constant neighborhood diversity
- graph has proper  $4D$ -coloring  $\Leftrightarrow$  exists feasible schedule of length  $D$

$\Rightarrow$  MIXEDCOLORING NP-hard for constant neighborhood diversity

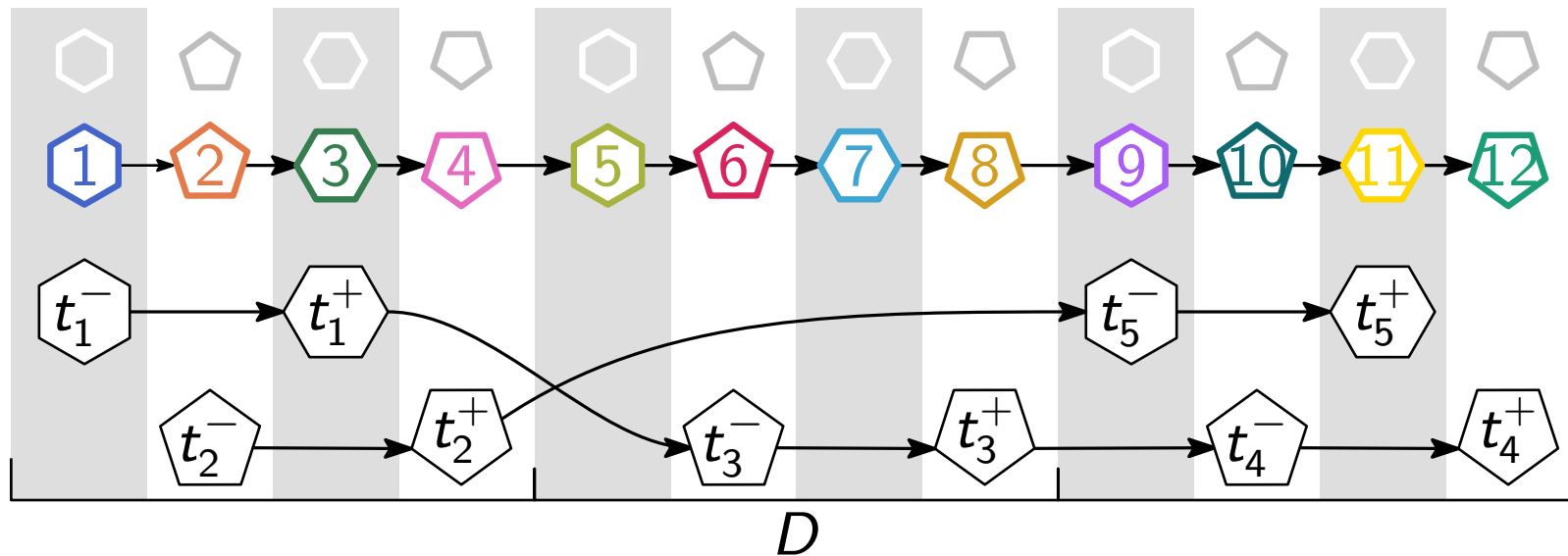
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**Goal:** show NP-hardness for constant neighborhood diversity

**Reduction:**

- tasks as vertices
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- constant neighborhood diversity
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$\Rightarrow$  MIXEDCOLORING paraNP-hard w.r.t. neighborhood diversity

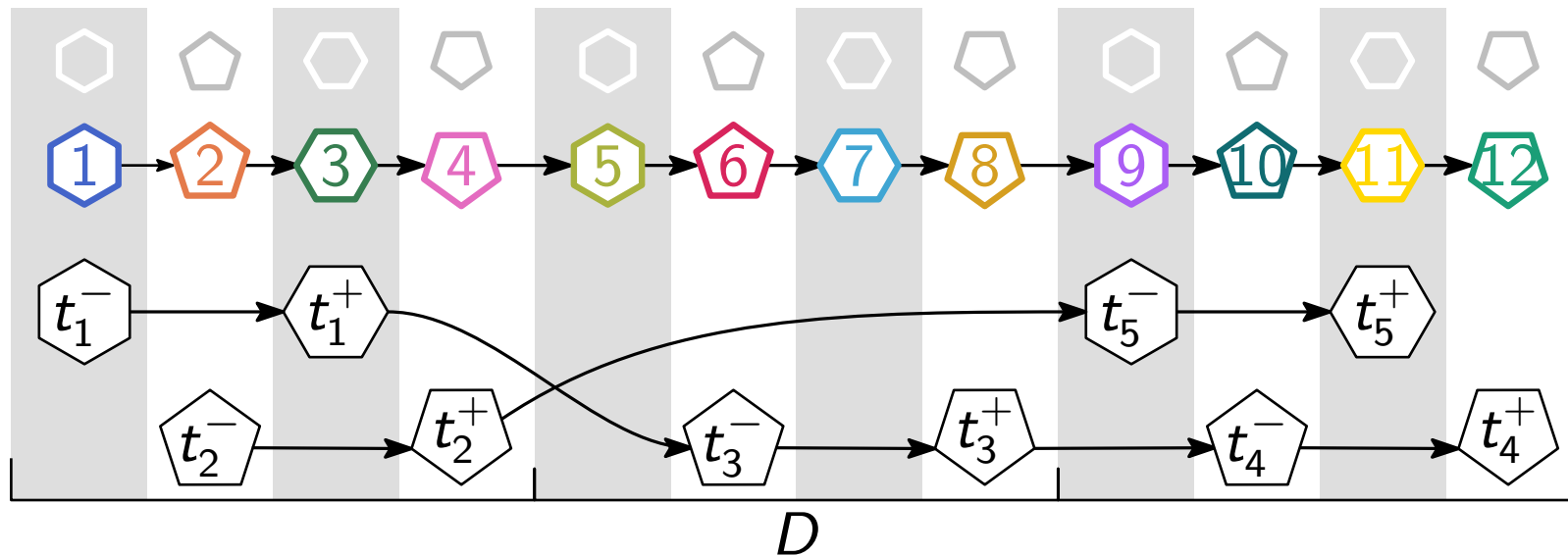
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# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

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## Theorem

MIXEDCOLORING is FPT w.r.t. mixed neighborhood diversity

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MIXEDCOLORING is FPT w.r.t. mixed neighborhood diversity

## Recall:

- ◆ vertices of each type induce clique or independent set
- ◆ vertices in type inducing independent set can receive same color

# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

## Theorem

MIXEDCOLORING is FPT w.r.t. mixed neighborhood diversity

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**Assumption:** each type induces clique

# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

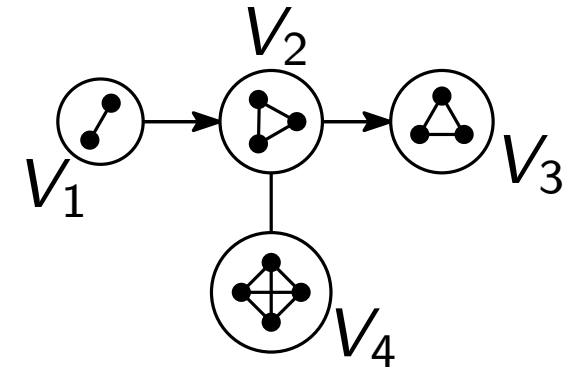
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# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

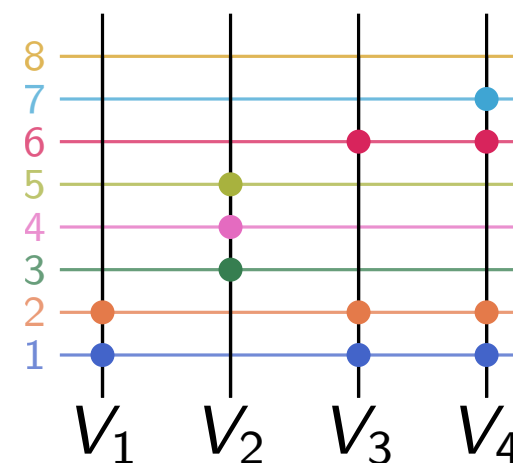
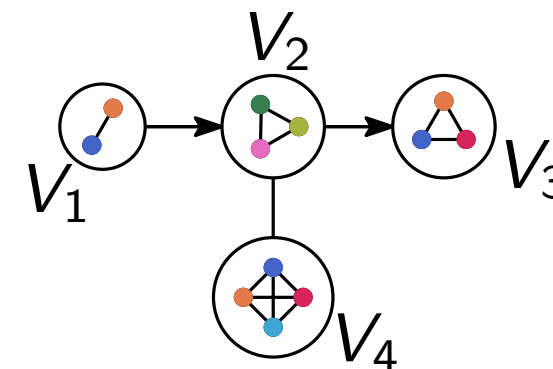
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# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

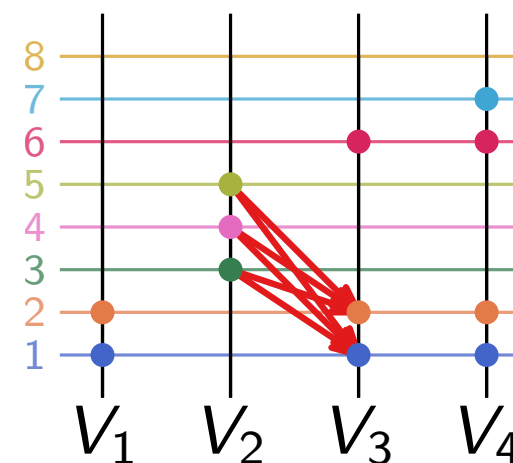
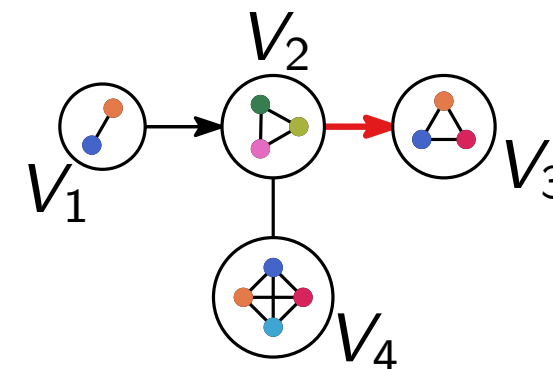
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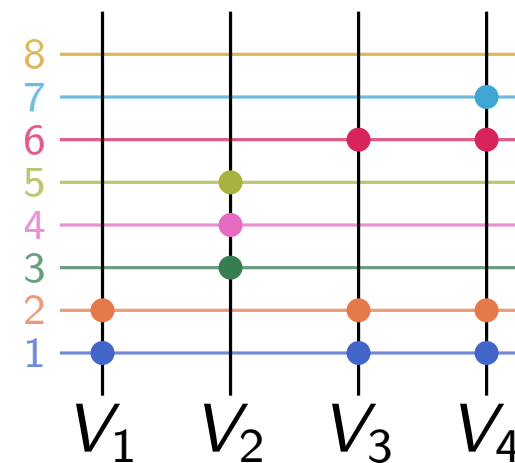
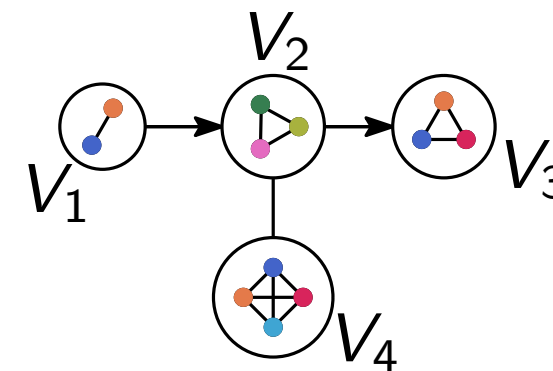
# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

## Theorem

MIXEDCOLORING is FPT w.r.t. mixed neighborhood diversity

## Lemma

coloring  $c$  respects arcs if  $\forall (V_i, V_j) \in A: c^+(V_i) \leq c^-(V_j)$



# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

## Theorem

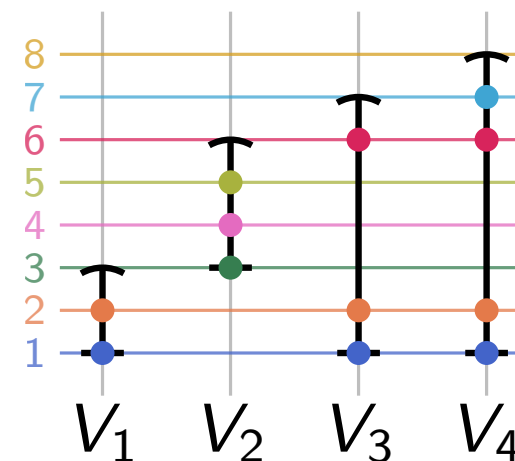
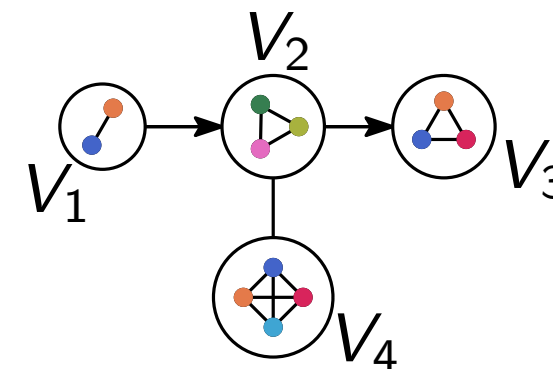
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largest color in  $V_i + 1$

smallest color in  $V_j$



# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

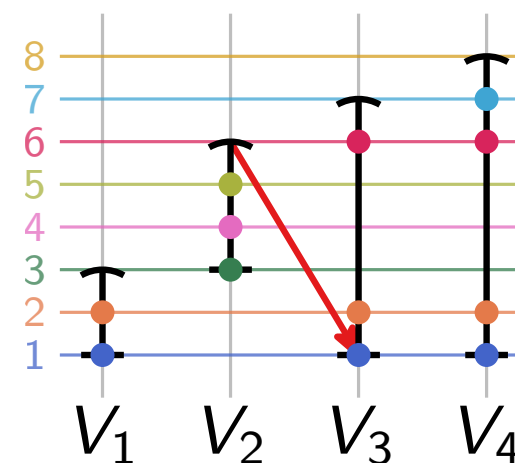
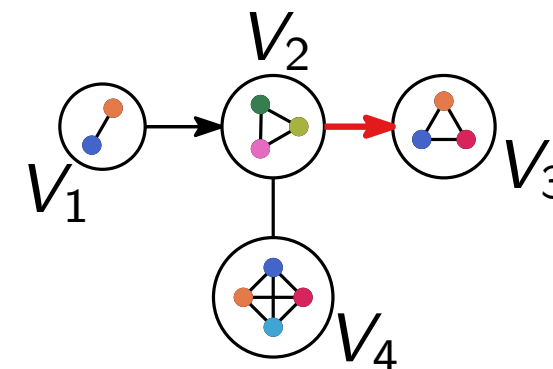
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largest color in  $V_i + 1$   $\nearrow$  smallest color in  $V_j$



# FPT Mixed Neighborhood Diversity

## Theorem

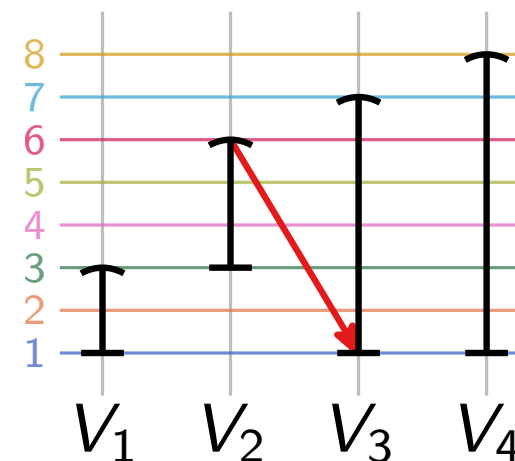
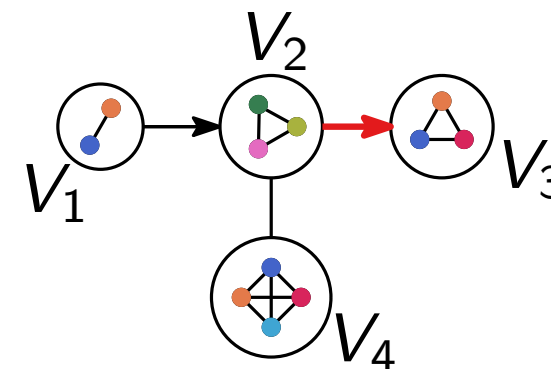
MIXEDCOLORING is FPT w.r.t. mixed neighborhood diversity

## Lemma

coloring  $c$  respects arcs if  $\forall (V_i, V_j) \in A: c^+(V_i) \leq c^-(V_j)$

largest color in  $V_i + 1$

smallest color in  $V_j$



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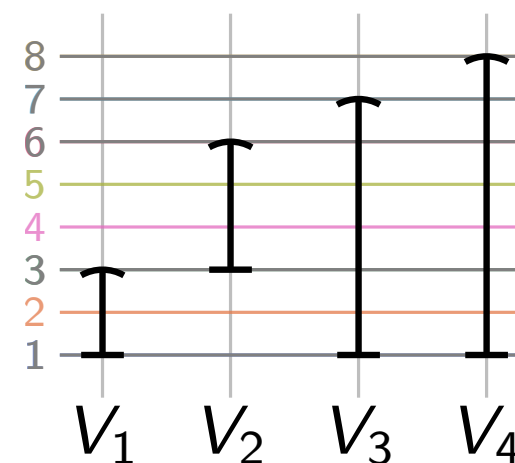
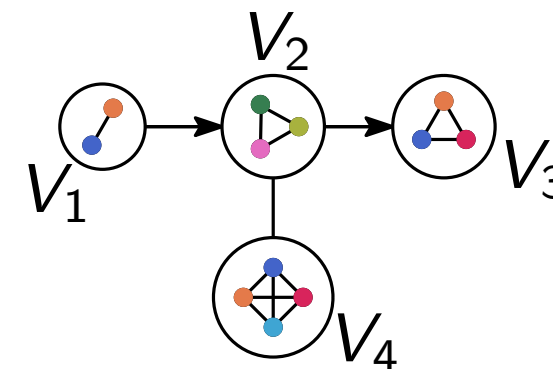
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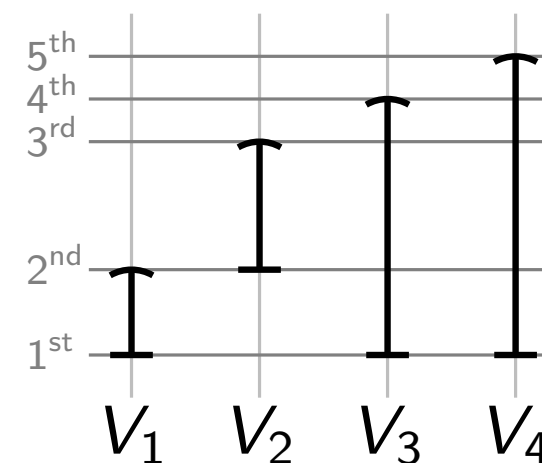
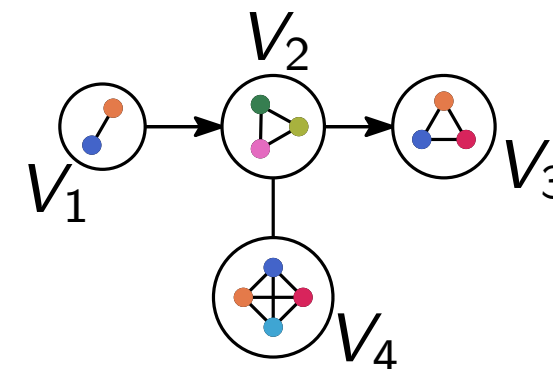
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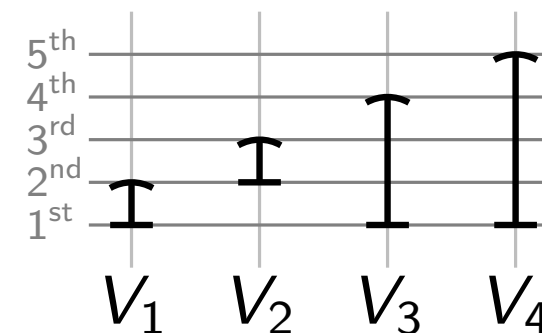
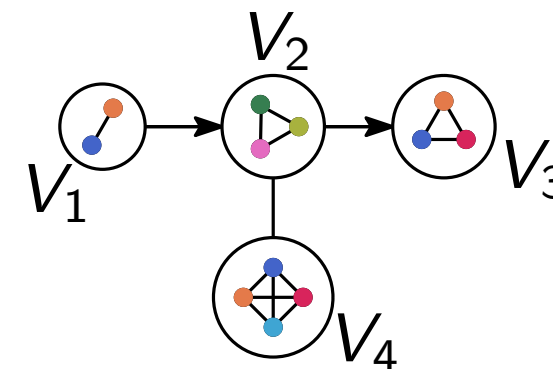
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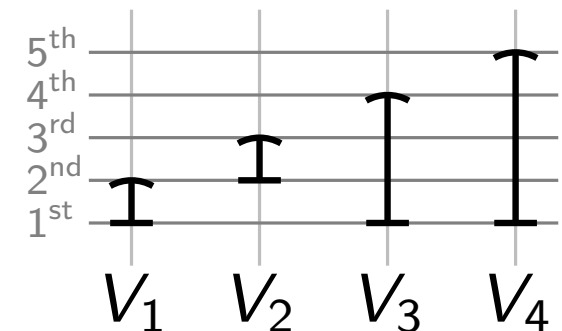
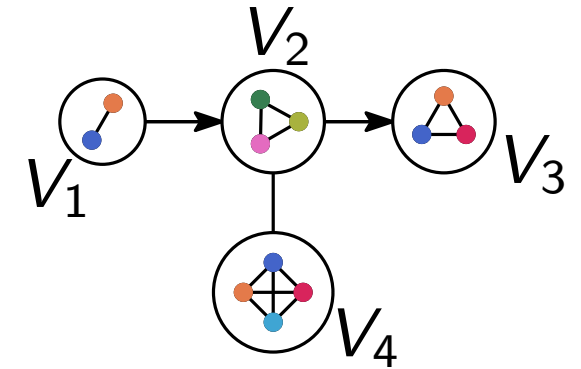
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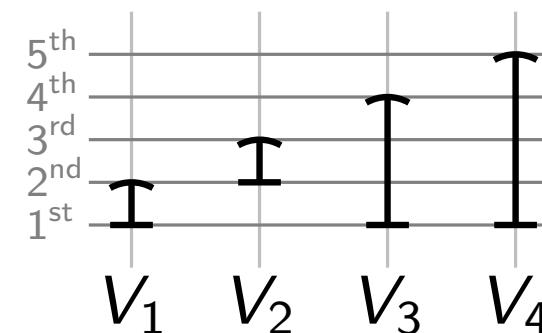
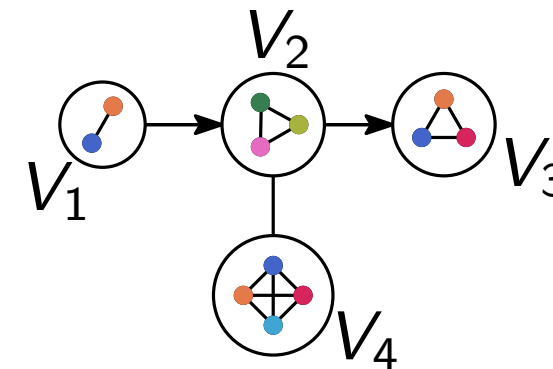
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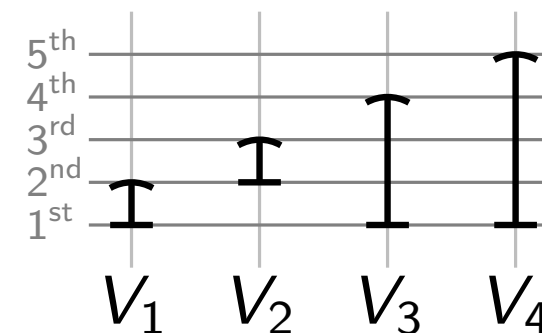
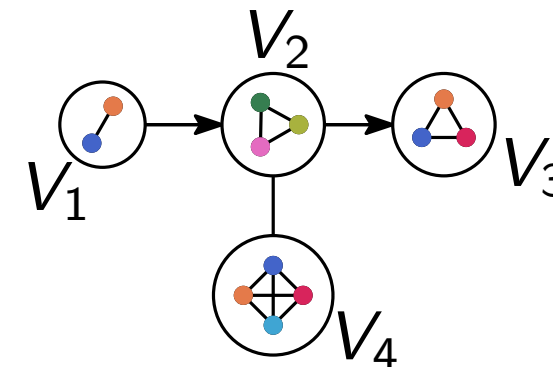
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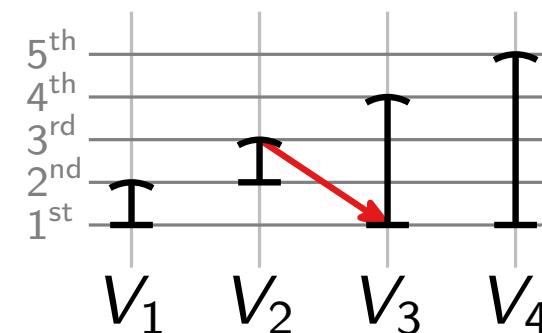
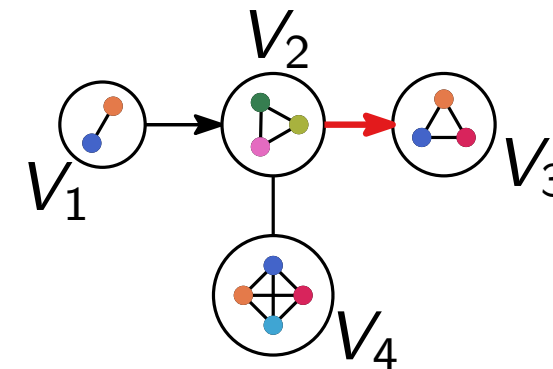
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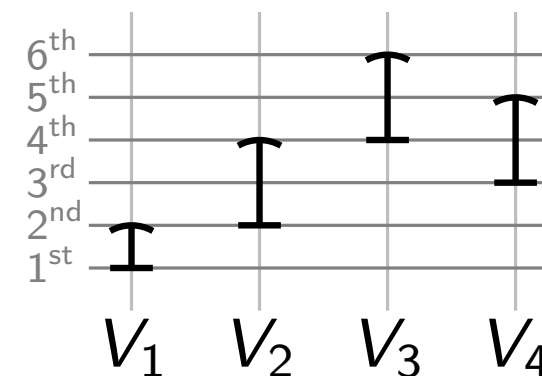
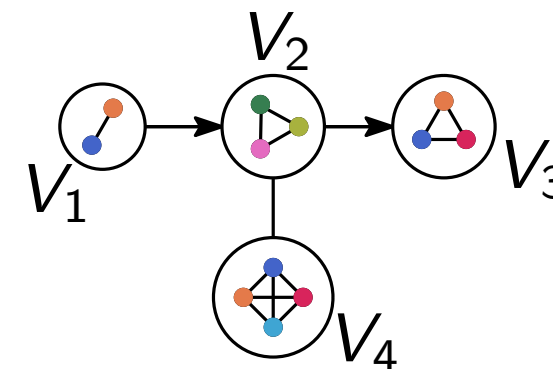
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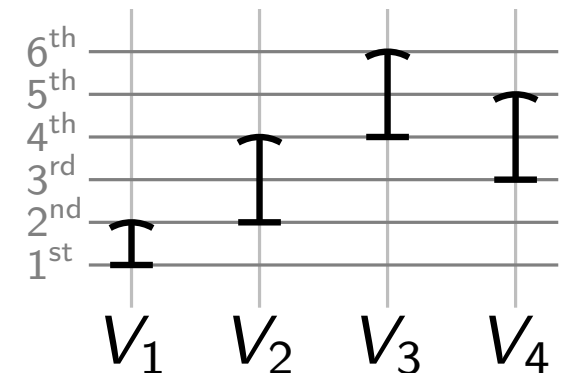
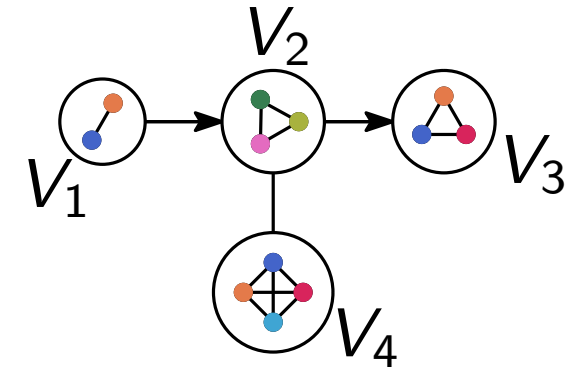
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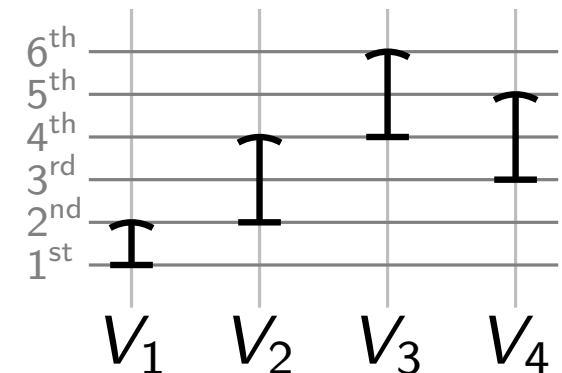
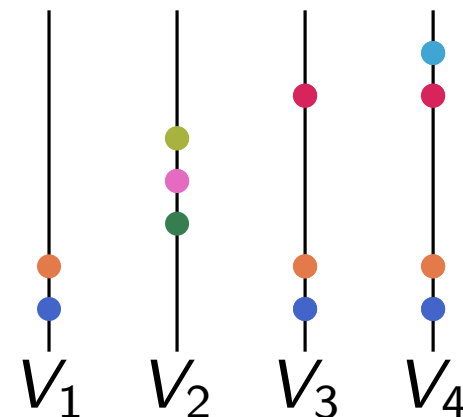
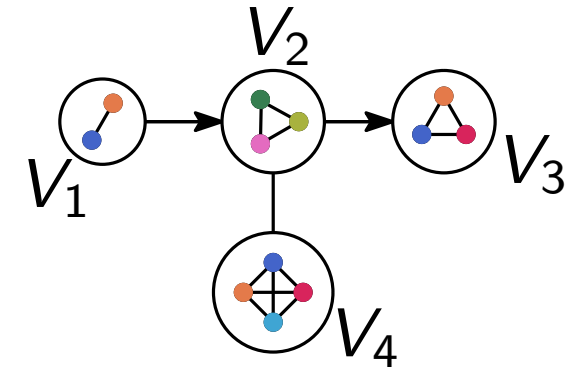
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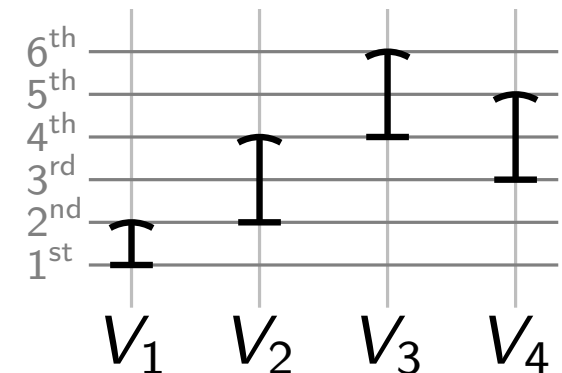
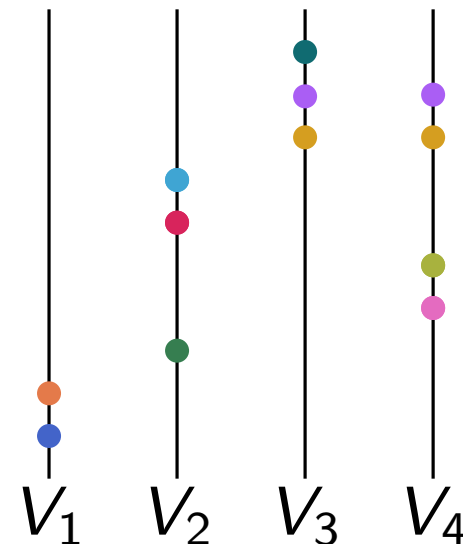
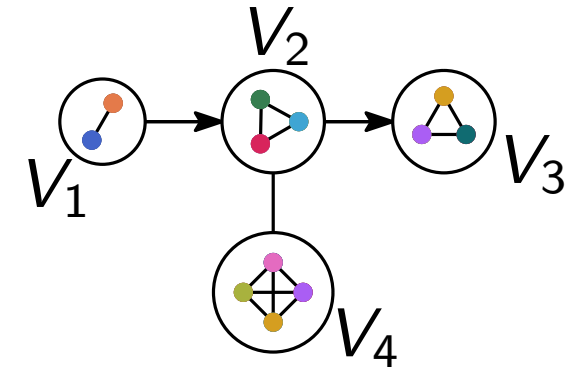
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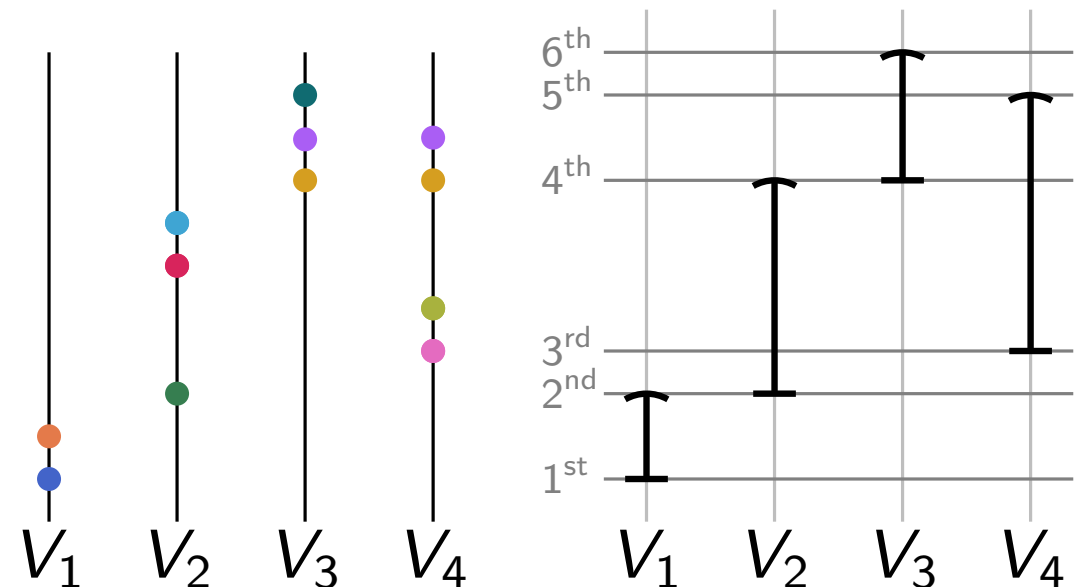
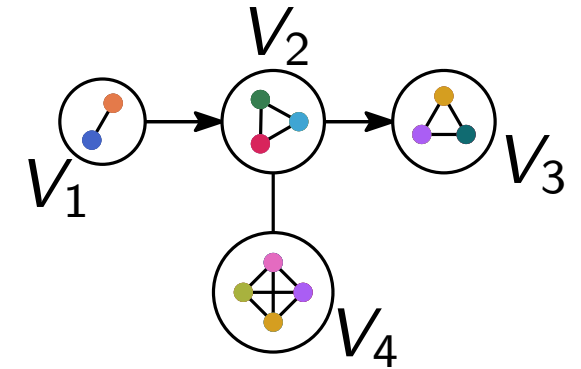
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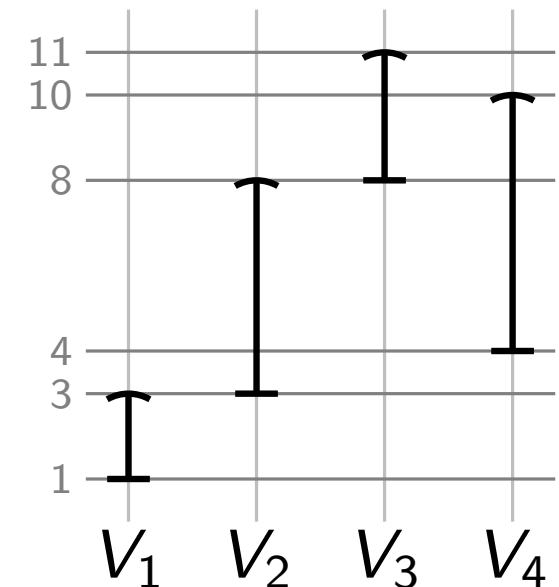
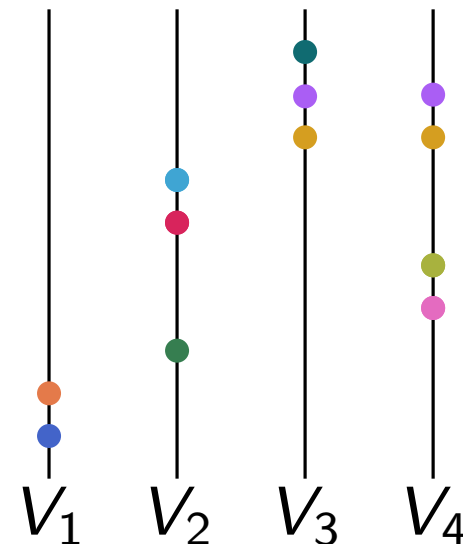
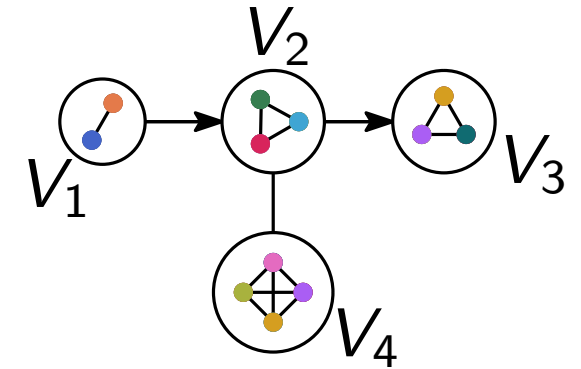
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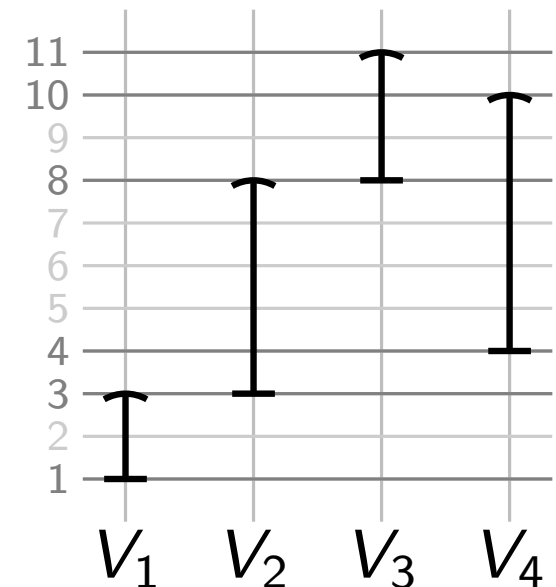
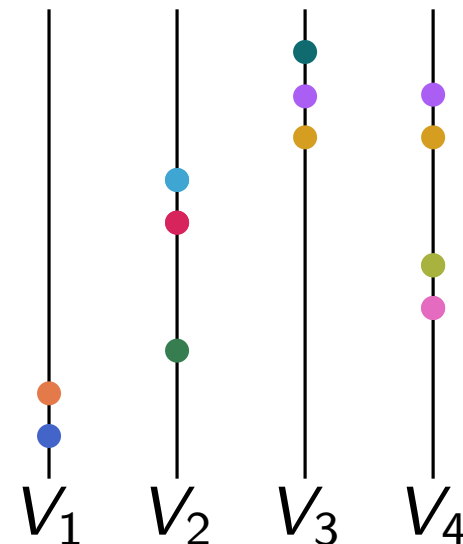
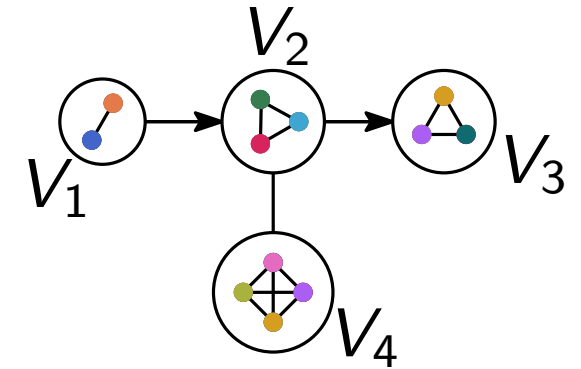
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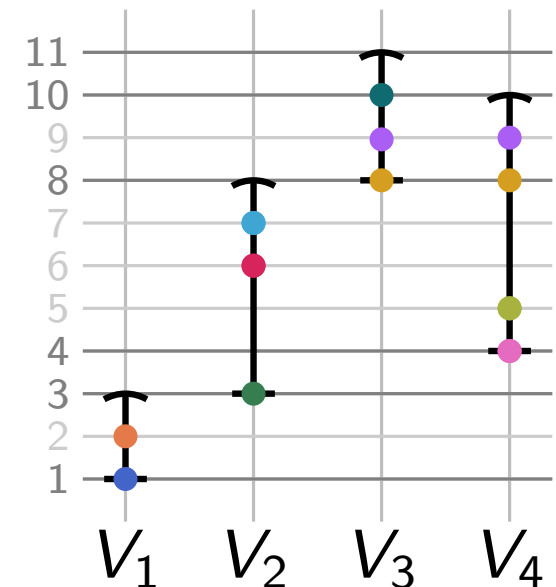
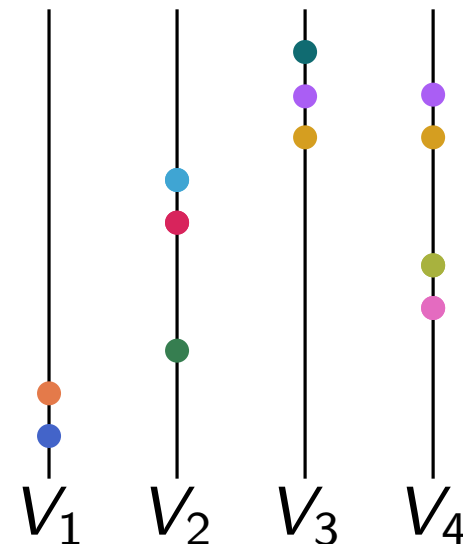
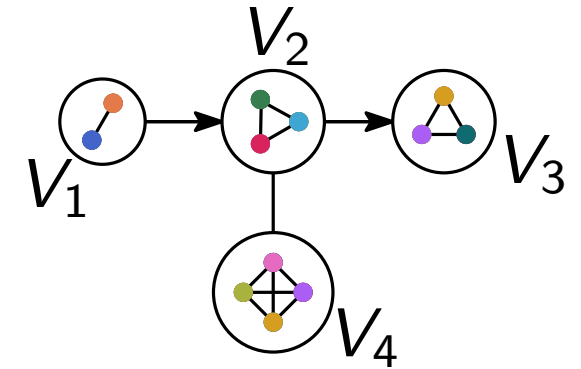
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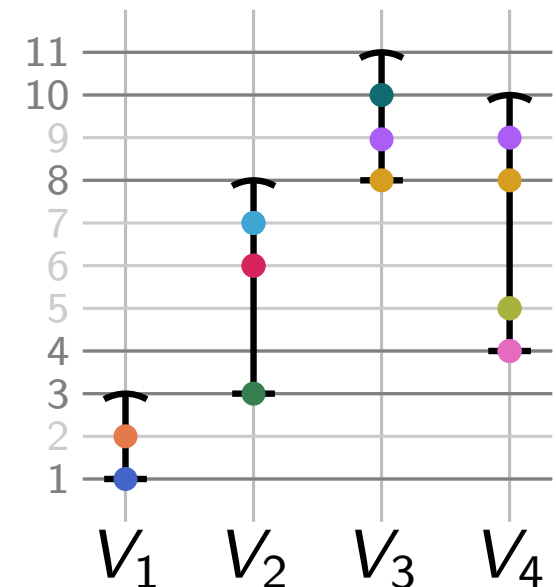
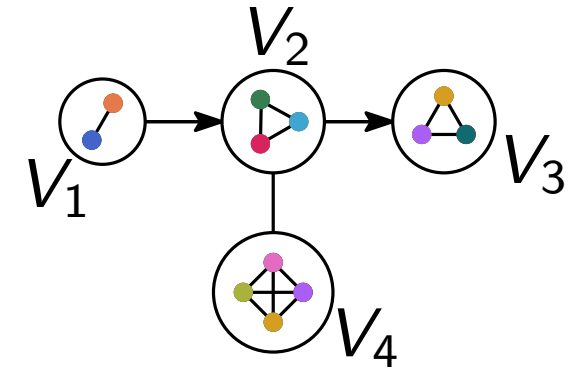
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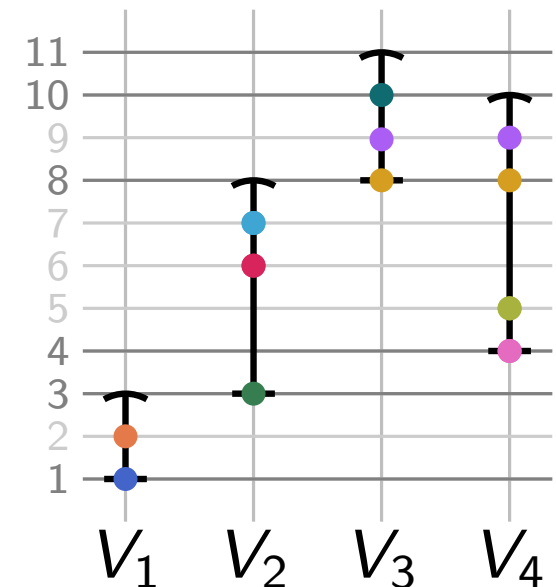
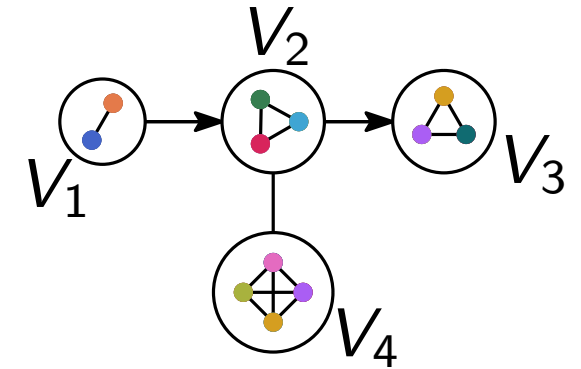
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## Lemma

- ◆ coloring corresponding to proper preorder respects arcs
- ◆ each proper coloring corresponds to at least one proper preorder



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MIXEDCOLORING is FPT w.r.t. mixed neighborhood diversity

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$2^{\mathcal{O}(\text{mnd} \log \text{mnd})}$

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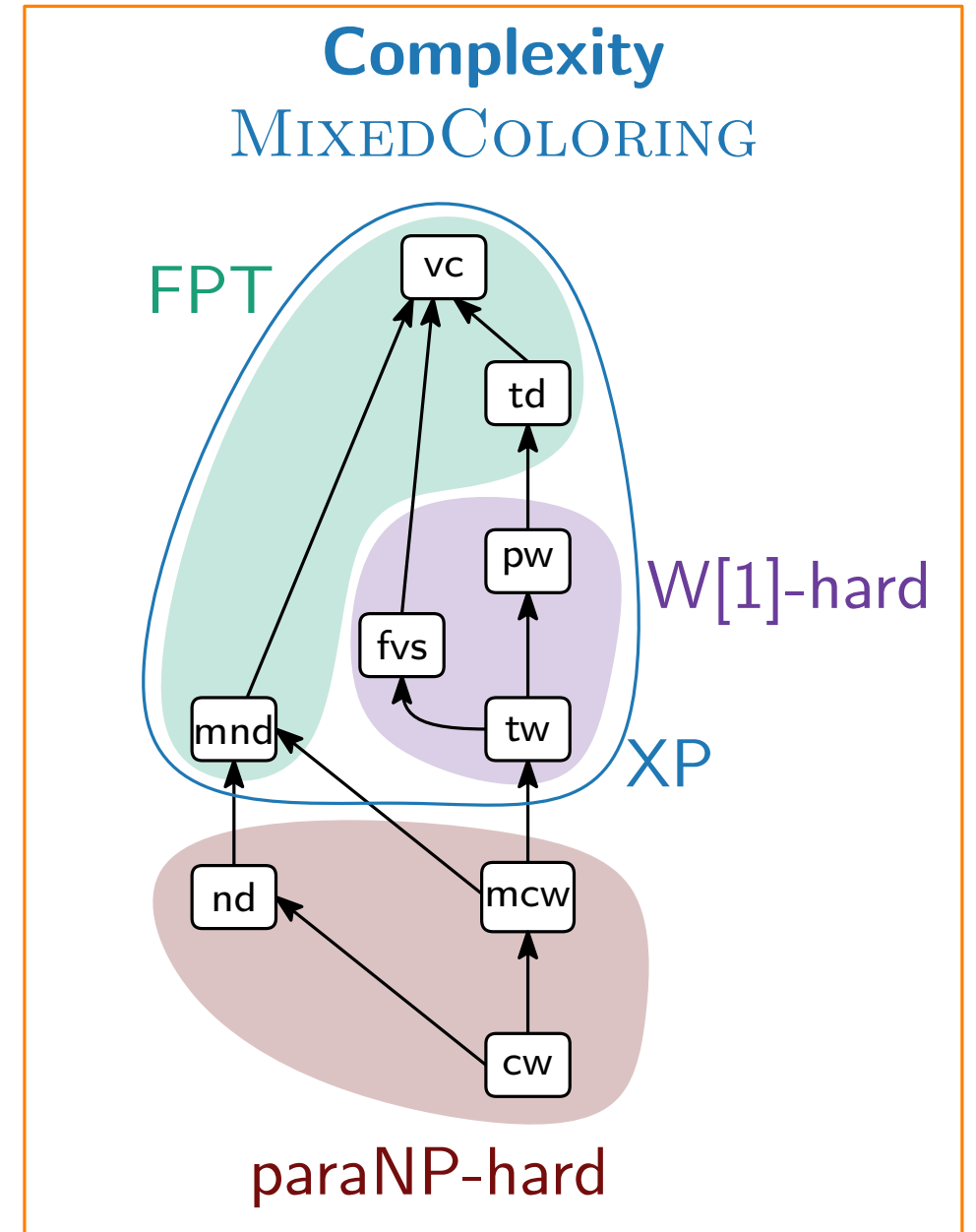
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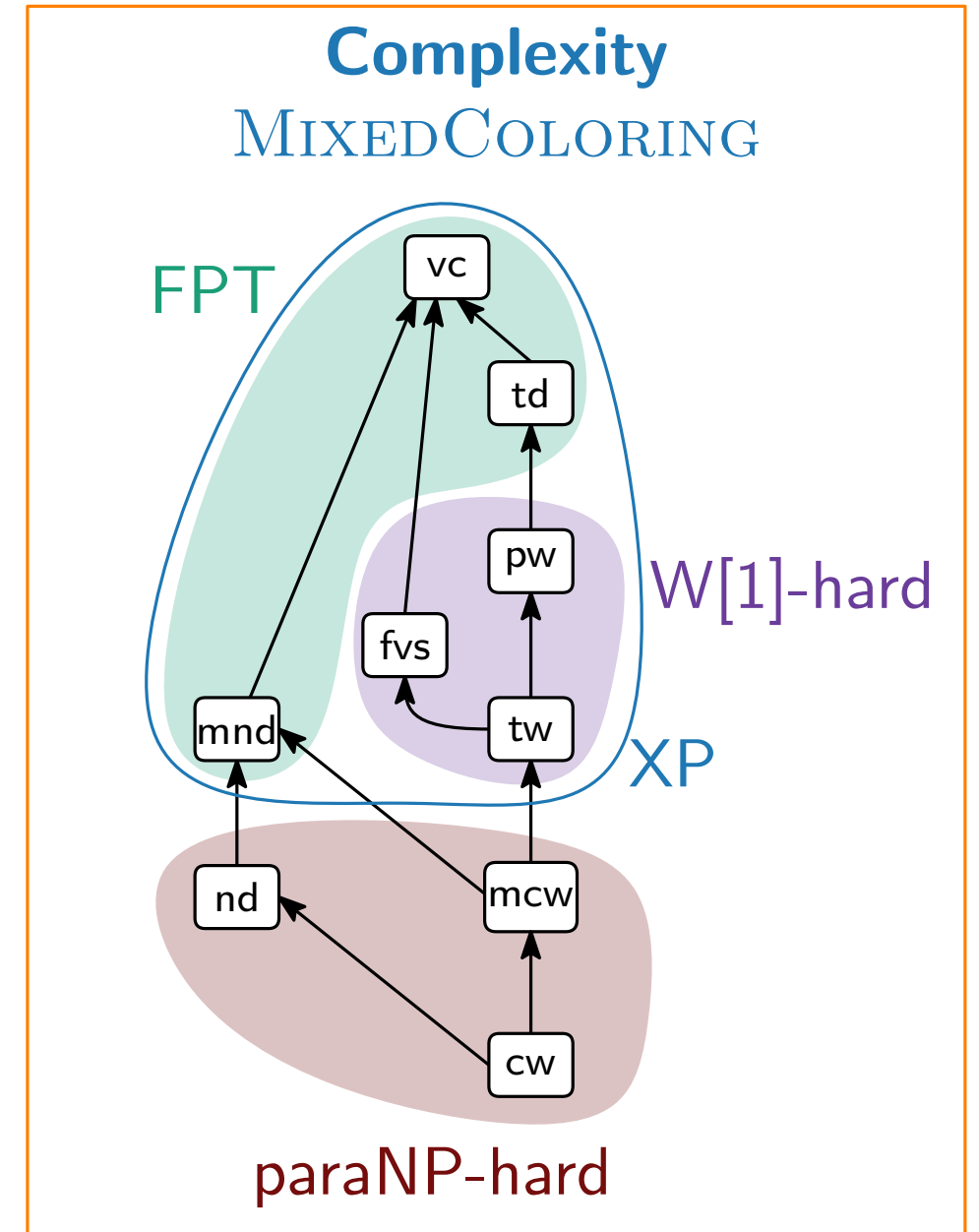
- ◆ arcs no longer relevant
- ◆ similar approach as FPT-Algo w.r.t. neighborhood diversity for COLORING

# Conclusion



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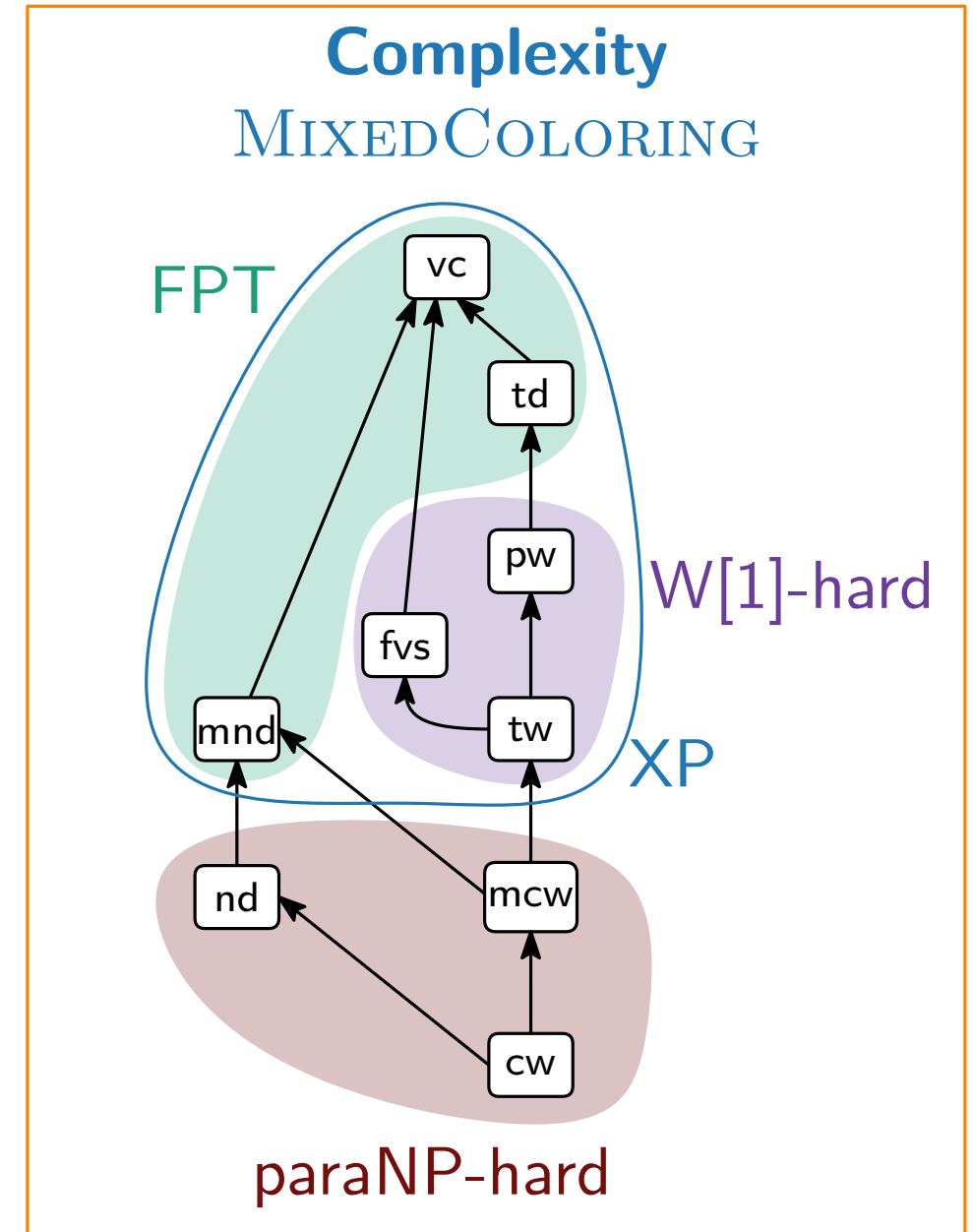
## Open Problems



# Conclusion

## Open Problems

Further Parameters

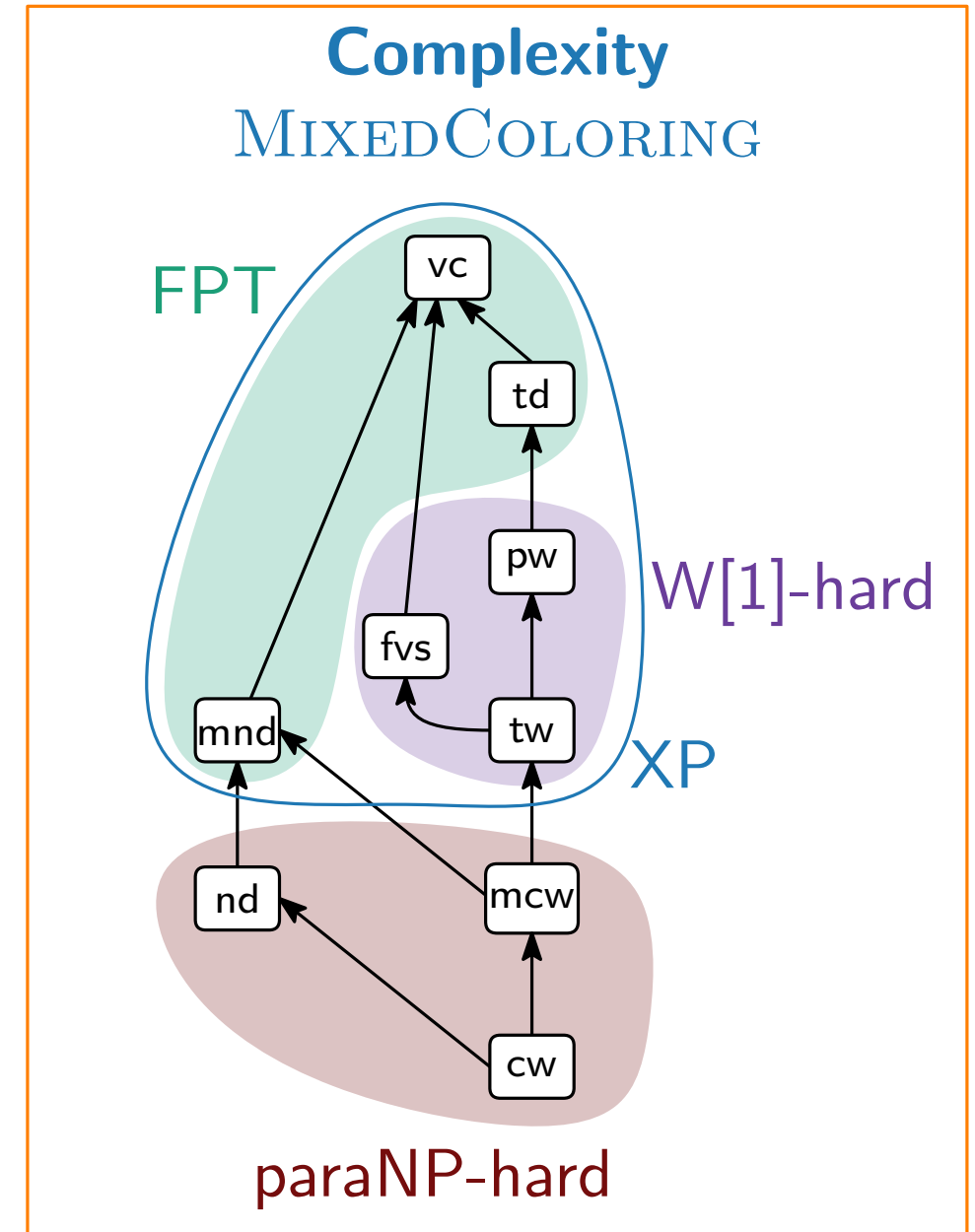


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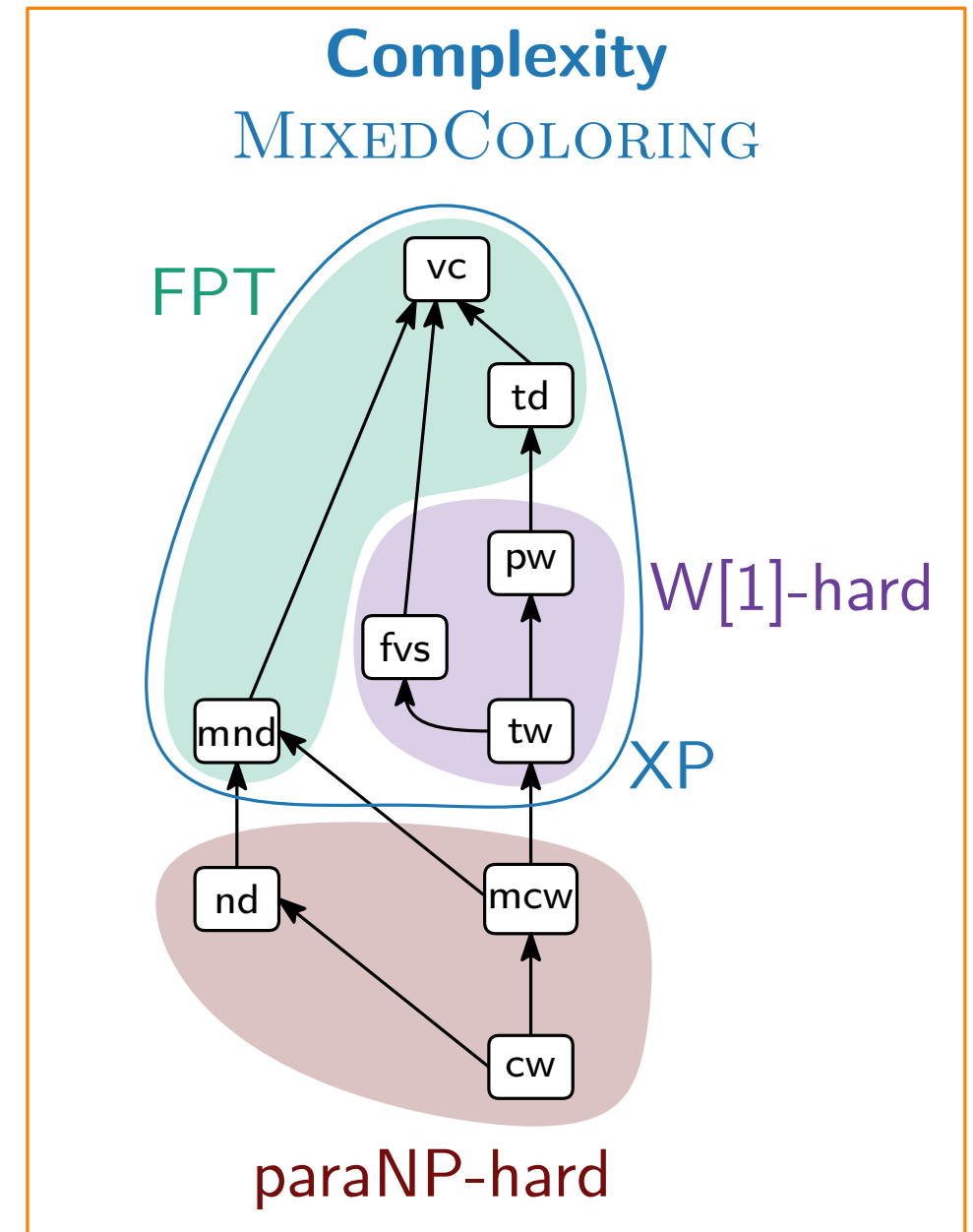


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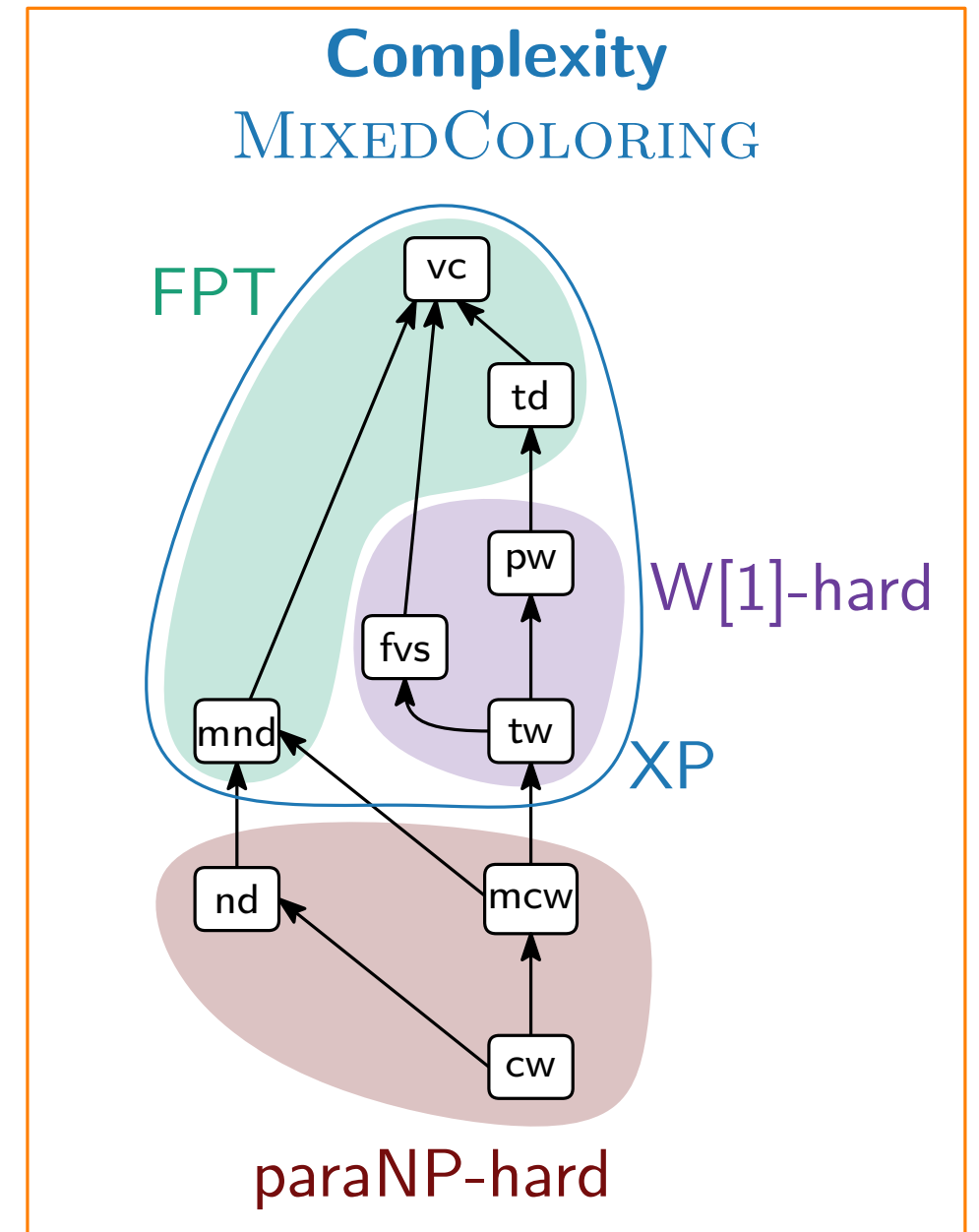
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## Open Problems

### Further Parameters

- ◆ mixed variants
- ◆ complexity

### Meta Theorems



# Conclusion

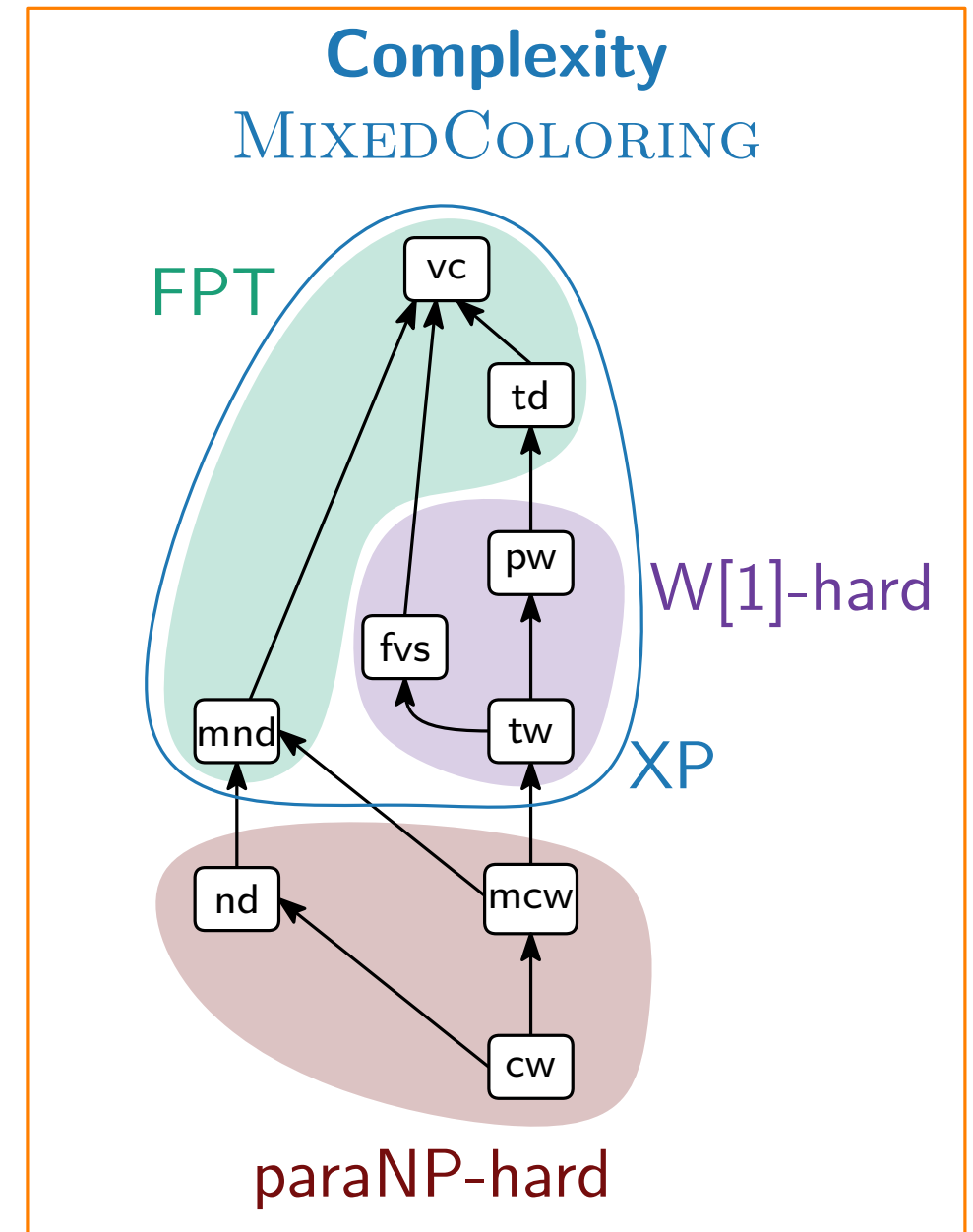
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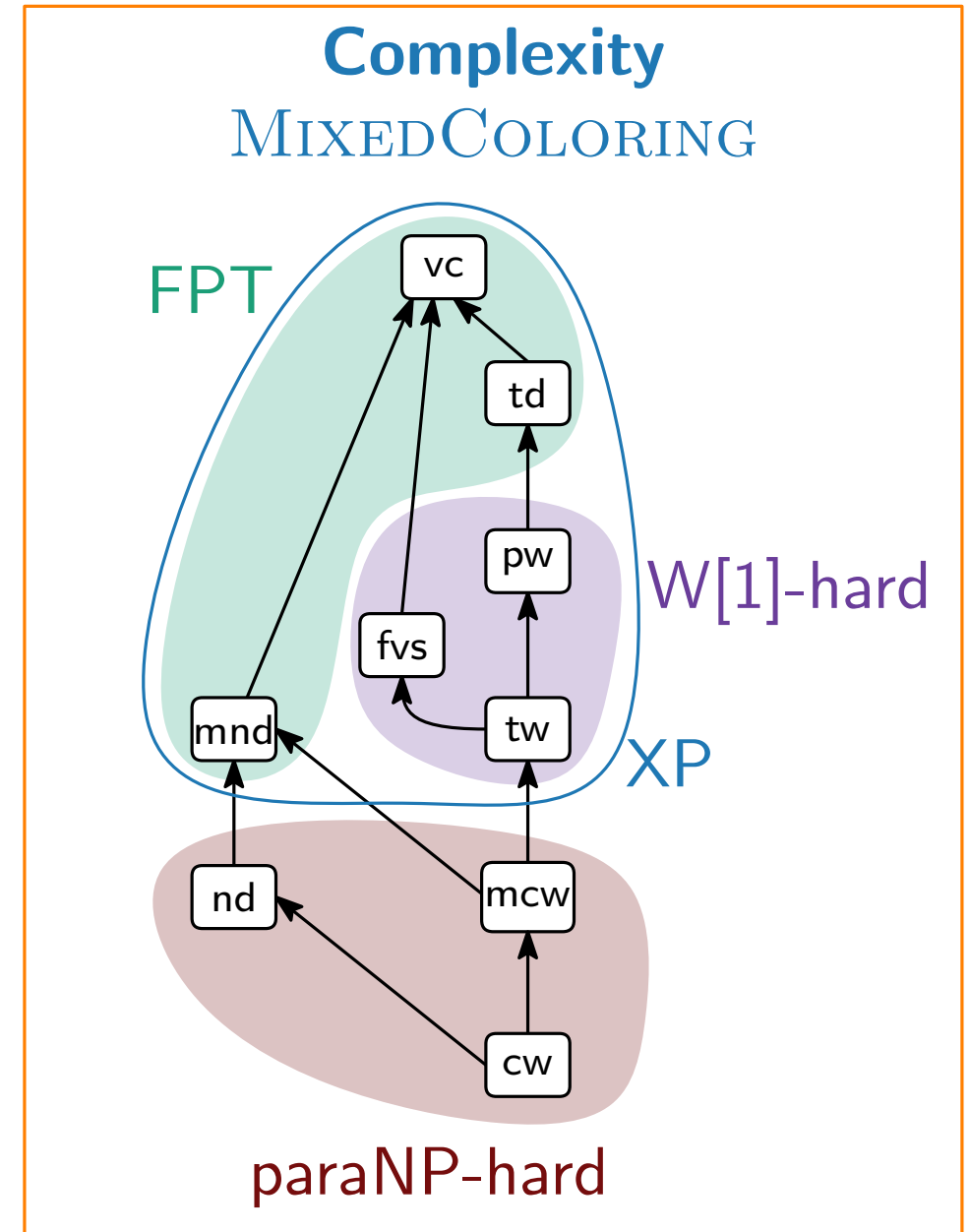
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### Variants of Coloring



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### Variants of Coloring

- ◆ LISTCOLORING

