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max planck institut  
informatik

**SIC** Saarland Informatics  
Campus

# **Techniques for Counting Problems, Lecture 8**

## **Limitations of Counting Dichotomies**

**Philip Wellnitz**

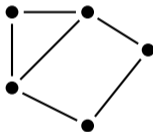
## Graph Homomorphism

Mapping from graph  $H$  to  $G$  that preserves edges;

Write  $\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow G)$  for the set of all graph hom's from  $H$  to  $G$ .



$H$



$G$

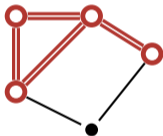
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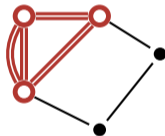
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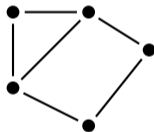
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$$\#\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow G) = 16$$

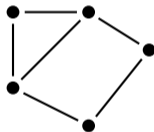
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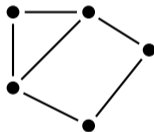
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$H$



$G$

No homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $G$ .

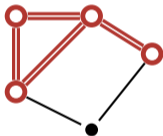
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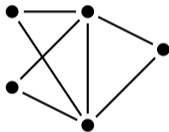
Finding (counting) homomorphisms is important for finding patterns in graphs



## Graph Homomorphism

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## Graph Homomorphism

Mapping from graph  $H$  to  $G$  that preserves edges;  
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$H$  ( $G$ -colored)



$G$

Finding (counting) homomorphisms generalizes graph coloring problems

## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

## Summary: Counting Graph Homomorphisms

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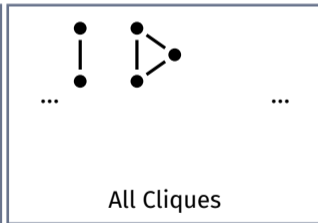
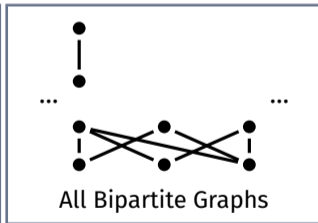
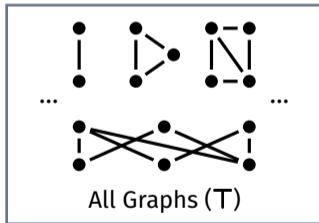
Graph classes

# Summary: Counting Graph Homomorphisms

$\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow G)$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbf{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbf{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

Graph classes



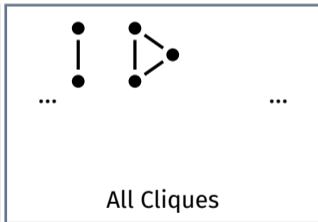
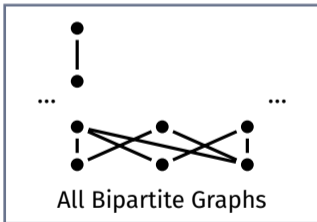
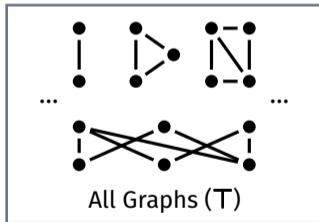
# Summary: Counting Graph Homomorphisms

$\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow G)$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbf{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbf{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

Graph classes

set of graphs



## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

## $\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow G)$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

NP-complete

$\text{Hom}(T \rightarrow T)$



## $\text{HOM}(H \rightarrow G)$

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$\text{HOM}(T \rightarrow T)$



3-COLORABLE

## $\text{HOM}(H \rightarrow G)$

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NP-complete

$\text{HOM}(T \rightarrow \{\triangle\})$



3-COLORABLE

## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

Are there fast algorithms for special cases of  $\text{HOM}(\mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T})$ ?

## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

What makes  $\text{HOM}(\mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T})$  hard?

## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

	poly-time solvable	NP-complete
$\text{HOM}(\mathbb{T} \rightarrow G)$	<p><math>G</math> contains only bipartite graphs [Hell, Nešetřil '90]</p>	<p><math>G</math> contains a non-bipartite graph [Hell, Nešetřil '90]</p>

## #HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , count all graph homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $G$ .

	poly-time solvable	#P-complete
#HOM( $T \rightarrow G$ )	(explicit criterion exists) [Dyer, Greenhill '00]	(explicit criterion exists) [Dyer, Greenhill '00]

## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

What about *the other side*,  $\text{HOM}(\mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{T})$ ?

## $\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow G)$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

When is  $\text{Hom}(H \rightarrow T)$  easy?



## **HOM**( $H \rightarrow G$ )

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

When is  $\text{HOM}(H \rightarrow T)$  easy?

Always in time  $O(|V(G)|^{|V(H)|})$  (brute-force)  
(fast if  $|V(H)|$  bounded for all  $H \in \mathbb{H}$ , this is the boring case)

**HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )**

Parameter:  $|V(H)|$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

When is  $\text{HOM}(H \rightarrow \mathbb{T})$  fixed-parameter tractable?  
(in  $O(f(|V(H)|) \cdot \text{poly}(|V(G)|))$  time)

**HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )**

Parameter:  $|V(H)|$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathbb{H}$  and  $G \in \mathbb{G}$ , check if there is a graph hom from  $H$  to  $G$ .

	FPT ( $f( V(H) ) \cdot poly( V(G) )$ time)	W[1]-hard (not (much) faster than brute-force)
HOM( $H \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ )	<p>“<math>\mathbb{H}</math> contains only graphs with small treewidth” [Grohe '03]</p>	<p>“<math>\mathbb{H}</math> contains graphs with arbitrary large tw” [Grohe '03]</p>

**#HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )**

Parameter:  $|V(H)|$

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Parameter:  $|V(H)|$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , count all graph homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $G$ .

Complexity dichotomies when restricting either  $\mathcal{G}$  or  $\mathcal{H}$ .

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What if we restrict *both sides*?

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**This lecture.**

**#HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )**Parameter:  $|V(H)|$ 

Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , count all graph homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $G$ .

**Theorem**

For any problem  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$  (or  $W[1]$ ), there are graph classes  $\mathcal{H}_P$  and  $\mathcal{G}_P$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(\mathcal{H}_P \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_P)$  (or  $HOM(\mathcal{H}_P \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_P)$ ).



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- Cannot hope for clear categorization into FPT/ $W[1]$ -hard for all pairs  $(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{G})$   
(recall Ladner's Theorem: If  $P \neq NP$ , there are NP-intermediate problems;  
similar results by Downey and Fellows for FPT/ $W[1]$ )

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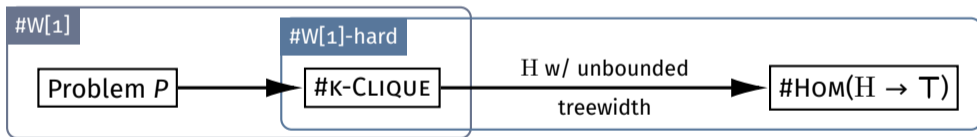
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Parameter:  $|V(H)|$

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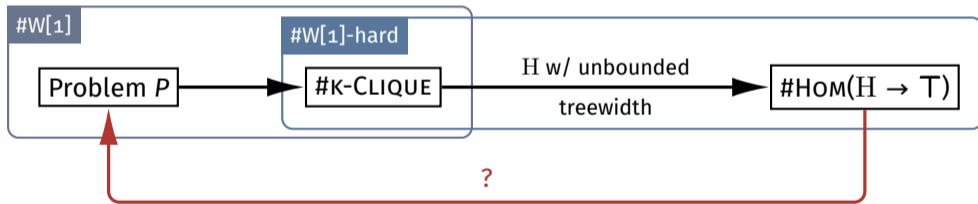
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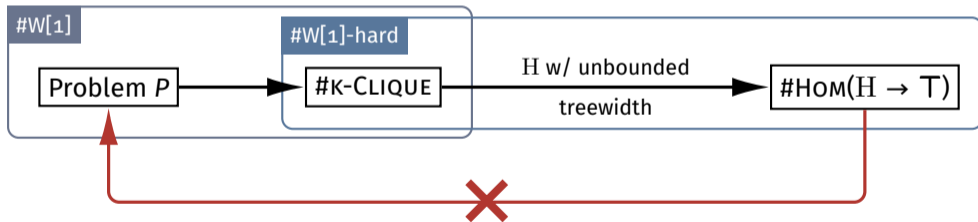
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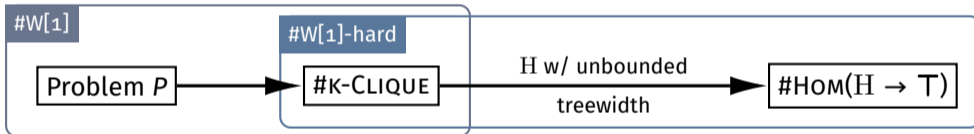
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Approach:

$$H_p := \{H_j \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$$

$$G_p := \{G_j \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$$

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Approach:  $H_p := \{H_j \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$   
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$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \checkmark$

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$$\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \stackrel{?}{\leq} P$$

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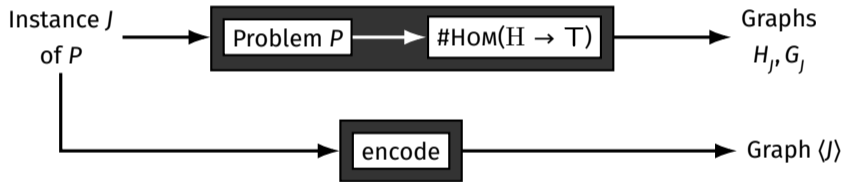
$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \checkmark$

$\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \not\leq P$

How do we obtain instance  $J$  from  $(H_j, G_j)$ ?

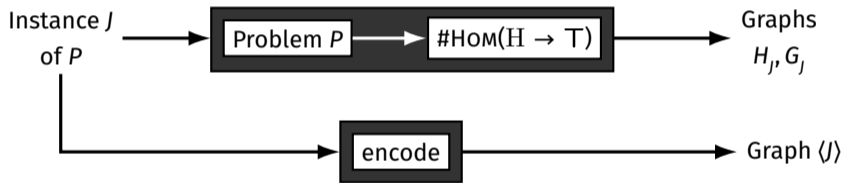
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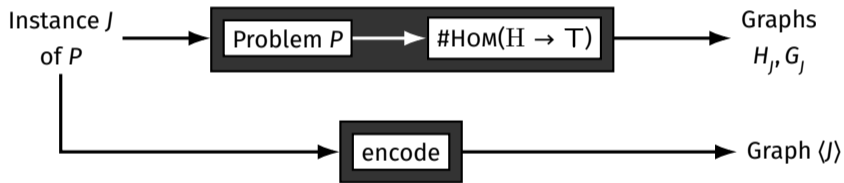
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**Theorem**

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#Hom(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .



Approach:

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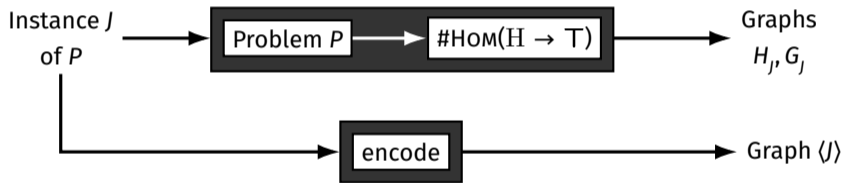
$$G_p := \{G_J \cup \langle J \rangle \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$$

$P \leq \#Hom(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$  ✓  
 (ensure  $\#Hom(H_J \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )



**Theorem**

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .



Approach:

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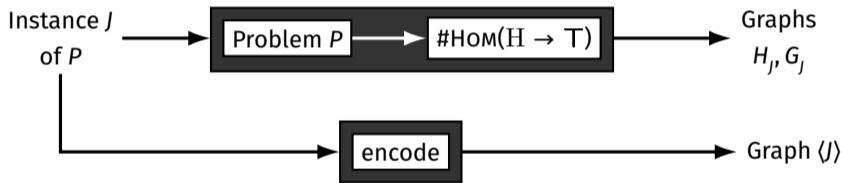
$$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \checkmark$$

(ensure  $\#Hom(H_J \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )

$$\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \stackrel{?}{\leq} P$$

**Theorem**

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .



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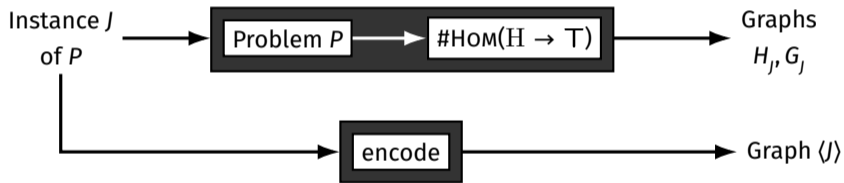
$$G_p := \{G_j \cup \langle J \rangle \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$$

$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$  ✓  
 (ensure  $\#Hom(H_j \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )

$\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \stackrel{?}{\leq} P$   
 How do we handle malformed input  $(H_j, G_L)$ ?

**Theorem**

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .



Approach:

$$H_p := \{H_J \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$$

$$G_p := \{G_J \cup \langle J \rangle \mid \text{instance } J \text{ of } P\}$$

$$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \checkmark$$

(ensure  $\#Hom(H_J \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = o$ )

$$\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \stackrel{?}{\leq} P$$

How do we ensure  $\#Hom(H_J \rightarrow G_L \cup \langle L \rangle) = o$ ?



## Theorem

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .

$$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$$

Can solve instance  $J$  with  $(H_j, G_j \cup \langle J \rangle)$  by  
computing  $\#HOM(H_j \rightarrow G_j \cup \langle J \rangle)$   
(ensuring  $\#HOM(H_j \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )

$$\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \leq P$$

Can extract instance  $J$  from pair  $(H_j, G_j \cup \langle J \rangle)$   
How do we ensure  $\#HOM(H_j \rightarrow G_L \cup \langle L \rangle) = 0$ ?

## Theorem

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .

$$P \leq \#HOM(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$$

Can solve instance  $J$  with  $(H_J, G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$  by  
computing  $\#HOM(H_J \rightarrow G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$   
(ensuring  $\#HOM(H_J \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )

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## Theorem

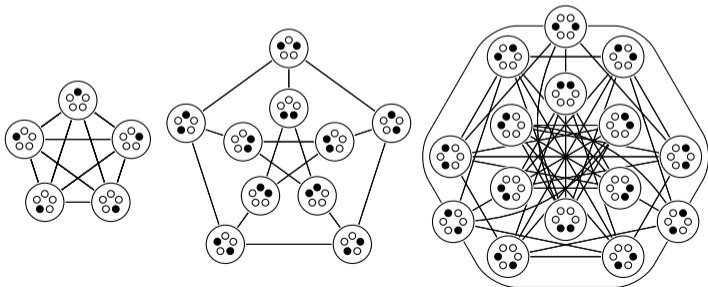
For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#\text{HOM}(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .

$$P \leq \#\text{HOM}(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$$

Can solve instance  $J$  with  $(H_J, G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$  by  
computing  $\#\text{Hom}(H_J \rightarrow G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$   
(ensuring  $\#\text{Hom}(H_J \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )

$$\#\text{HOM}(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \leq P$$

Can extract instance  $J$  from pair  $(H_J, G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$   
How do we ensure  $\#\text{Hom}(H_J \rightarrow G_L \cup \langle L \rangle) = 0$ ?



## Theorem

For any  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$ , there are  $H_p, G_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#\text{HOM}(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$ .

$$P \leq \#\text{HOM}(H_p \rightarrow G_p)$$

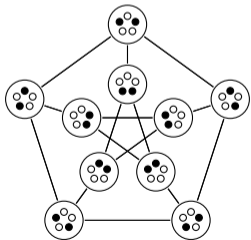
Can solve instance  $J$  with  $(H_J, G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$  by computing  $\#\text{HOM}(H_J \rightarrow G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$

(ensuring  $\#\text{HOM}(H_J \rightarrow \langle J \rangle) = 0$ )

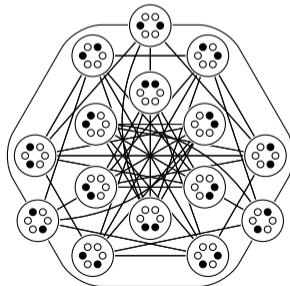
$$\#\text{HOM}(H_p \rightarrow G_p) \leq P$$

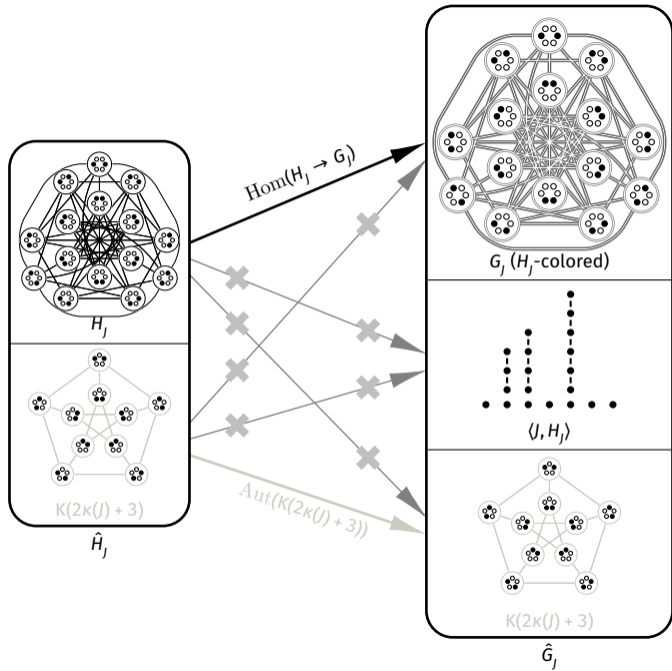
Can extract instance  $J$  from pair  $(H_J, G_J \cup \langle J \rangle)$

How do we ensure  $\#\text{HOM}(H_J \rightarrow G_L \cup \langle L \rangle) = 0$ ?



No homomorphisms







**#HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )**Parameter:  $|V(H)|$ Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , count all graph homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $G$ .**Theorem** ✓For any problem  $P$  in  $\#W[1]$  (or  $W[1]$ ), there are graph classes  $\mathcal{H}_p$  and  $\mathcal{G}_p$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to  $\#HOM(\mathcal{H}_p \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_p)$  (or  $HOM(\mathcal{H}_p \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_p)$ ).

- Cannot hope for clear categorization into FPT/ $W[1]$ -hard for all pairs  $(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{G})$

↪ Need to look at specific pairs of graph classes

## #HOM( $H \rightarrow G$ )

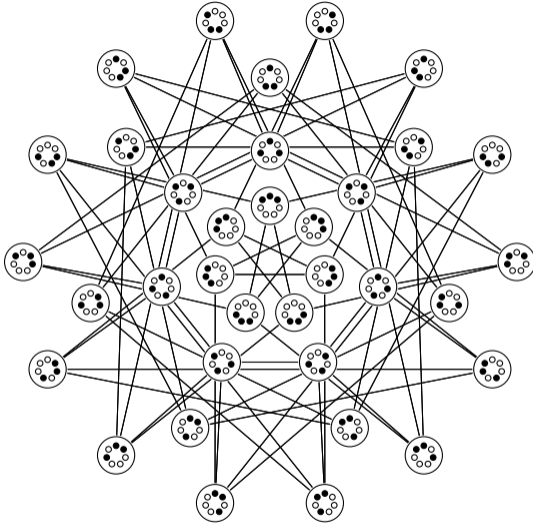
Parameter:  $|V(H)|$

Given graphs  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , count all graph homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $G$ .

## Theorem ✓

For any problem  $P$  in #W[1] (or W[1]), there are graph classes  $\mathcal{H}_P$  and  $\mathcal{G}_P$  such that  $P$  is equivalent to #HOM( $\mathcal{H}_P \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_P$ ) (or HOM( $\mathcal{H}_P \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_P$ )).

- Cannot hope for clear categorization into FPT/W[1]-hard for all pairs  $(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{G})$
- ↪ Need to look at specific pairs of graph classes



Thank you!

TikZ code for Kneser graphs available on GitHub  
[github.com/PH111P/tikz-kneser](https://github.com/PH111P/tikz-kneser)

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