

A vintage painting depicting a bicycle race. In the foreground, several cyclists are shown in various stages of pedaling on a dirt track. A jockey in a brown suit and hat stands on the right, looking at a clipboard. In the background, a large crowd of spectators in period clothing watches from a balcony. The scene is set outdoors under a cloudy sky.

Syntax and Semantics of Homomorphism Indistinguishability

ad hoc workshop

10 July 2023

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Research Training Group –
Uncertainty and Randomness
in Algorithms, Verification,
and Logic

RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY

DFG

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

Homomorphism Indistinguishability

graph class \mathcal{F}	relation $\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$	
all graphs	isomorphism	Lovász (1967)
planar graphs	quantum isomorphism	Mančinska and Roberson (2020)
treewidth $\leq k$	C^{k+1} -equivalence	Dvořák (2010)
treedepth $\leq d$	C_d -equivalence	Grohe (2020)
...	...	

When is an equivalence relation between graphs a homomorphism indistinguishability relation?

Observation ($\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$ is preserved under categorical products)

If $G_1 \equiv_{\mathcal{F}} H_1$ and $G_2 \equiv_{\mathcal{F}} H_2$ then $G_1 \times G_2 \equiv_{\mathcal{F}} H_1 \times H_2$.

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For every graph F ,

$$\text{hom}(F, G_1 \times G_2) = \text{hom}(F, G_1) \text{hom}(F, G_2).$$

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Theorem (S. (2023))

For every homomorphism distinguishing closed graph class \mathcal{F} , tfae:

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summands	disjoint unions	$(G, H) \mapsto G + H$
subgraphs	full complements	$G \mapsto \hat{G}$
induced subgraphs	left lexicographic products	$H \mapsto G[H]$ for every G
contracting edges	right lexicographic products	$G \mapsto G[H]$ for every H .

Proof Idea

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$$\text{cl}(\mathcal{F}) := \{F \text{ graph} \mid \forall G, H. G \equiv_{\mathcal{F}} H \implies \text{hom}(F, G) = \text{hom}(F, H)\}.$$

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Lemma (Curticapean et al. (2017))

Suppose for all G, H ,

$$G \equiv_{\mathcal{F}} H \implies \sum_{i \in [n]} \alpha_i \text{hom}(K_i, G) = \sum_{i \in [n]} \alpha_i \text{hom}(K_i, H)$$

then $K_1, \dots, K_n \in \text{cl}(\mathcal{F})$.

Claim: $\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$ preserved under complements $\implies \text{cl}(\mathcal{F})$ closed under minors.

$$\text{hom}(F, \bar{G}) = \sum_{\substack{F' \subseteq F \\ V(F')=V(F)}} (-1)^{|E(F')|} \sum_{L \subseteq E(F')} \text{hom}(F' \otimes L, G).$$

Coefficients of all minors of F are non-zero.

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- Feasibility of integer programming relaxations for graph isomorphism
Graphs are encoded via atomic types of vertex tuples
- **Self-complementary logics** (L, \models)
For every sentence $\varphi \in L$, there is $\bar{\varphi} \in L$ such that $G \models \varphi \iff \bar{G} \models \bar{\varphi}$.
E.g., replace Exy by $\neg Exy \wedge (x \neq y)$.

Ruling out Homomorphism Indistinguishability Relations

Corollary (Atserias et al. (2021))

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Suppose $\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$ characterises FO^k -equivalence. Wlog \mathcal{F} is minor-closed.

$K_k \equiv_{FO^k} K_{k+1}$ but $\text{hom}(K_1, K_k) \neq \text{hom}(K_1, K_{k+1})$, so $K_1 \notin \mathcal{F}$, contradiction!

Graph Minor Theory rules out Homomorphism Indistinguishability

Theorem (Robertson and Seymour (1986))

For a minor-closed graph class \mathcal{F} , tfae:

- *\mathcal{F} has unbounded treewidth,*
- *\mathcal{F} contains all planar graphs.*

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Let L be a self-complementary logic. Suppose that

- *L -equivalence is homomorphism indistinguishability relation,*

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Then all L -equivalent graphs are quantum isomorphic.

Theorem (Lichter, Pago, S. (2023+))

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Roberson (2022): CFI-like graphs over planar base graph are not quantum isomorphic

Theorem

$$G \mapsto \overline{G}$$

$$(G, H) \mapsto G + H$$

$$G \mapsto \widehat{G}$$

$$H \mapsto G[H] \text{ for every } G$$

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Polymorphisms

A *polymorphism* of a relation \equiv is a map f such that

$$G_1 \equiv H_1, \dots, G_k \equiv H_k \implies f(G_1, \dots, G_k) \equiv f(H_1, \dots, H_k).$$

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What about

- complexity of $\text{HOMIND}(\mathcal{F})$?
- treewidth of \mathcal{F} ?

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Conclusion

- Closure properties of \mathcal{F} correspond to preservation properties of $\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$.
- Self-complementary logics have homomorphism indistinguishability characterisations over minor-closed graph classes (if at all).
- When is an equivalence relation between graphs a homomorphism indistinguishability relation?
- Check out [arXiv:2302.11290](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.11290)!



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Pictures:

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