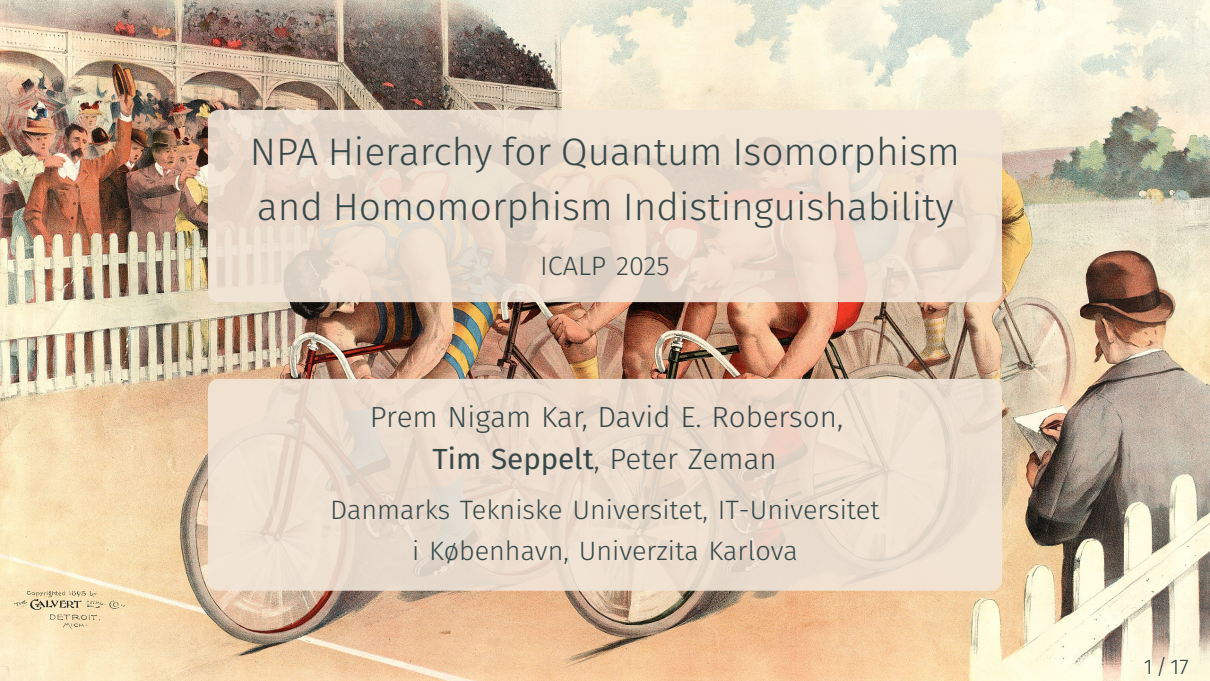


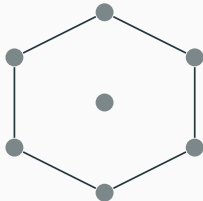
A vintage illustration of a bicycle race. In the foreground, several cyclists are shown in various colored jerseys (blue and yellow, red, yellow) leaning forward on their handlebars. A jockey in a grey suit and brown bowler hat stands on the right, holding a clipboard. In the background, a large crowd of spectators in early 20th-century attire watches from behind a white picket fence. The scene is set outdoors with a cloudy sky and some trees in the distance.

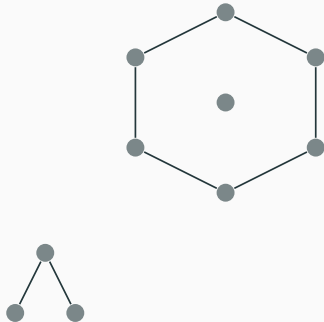
NPA Hierarchy for Quantum Isomorphism and Homomorphism Indistinguishability

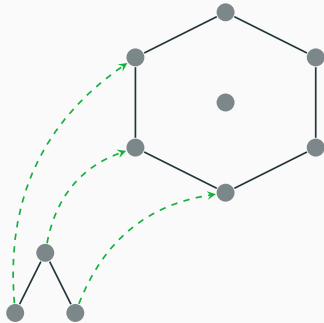
ICALP 2025

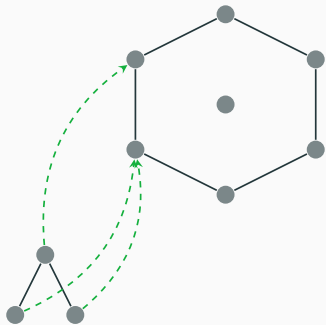
Prem Nigam Kar, David E. Roberson,
Tim Seppelt, Peter Zeman

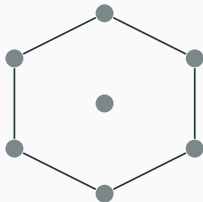
Danmarks Tekniske Universitet, IT-Universitet
i København, Univerzita Karlova



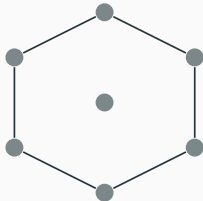








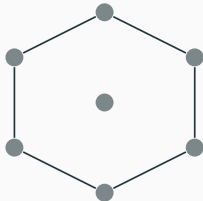
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24



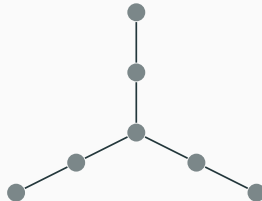
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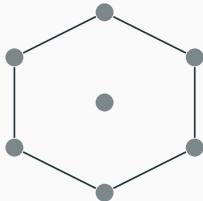


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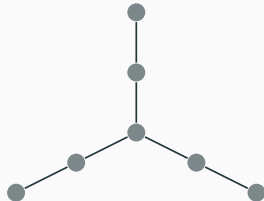
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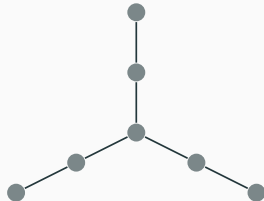
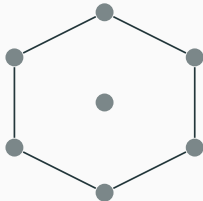
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24



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24

36

The graphs  and  are homomorphism indistinguishable over $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} , \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ | \quad | \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} \right\}$.

graph class $\mathcal{F}$ relation $\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$
all graphs isomorphism

Lovász (1967)

graph class $\mathcal{F}$	relation $\equiv_{\mathcal{F}}$
all graphs	isomorphism
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Lovász (1967)

Folklore

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Folklore

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	Graph Neural Networks	Xu, Hu, Leskovec, & Jegelka (2018); Morris, Ritzert, Fey, Hamilton, Lenssen, Rattan, & Grohe (2019)

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- The emerging theory of homomorphism indistinguishability describes the distinguishing power and complexity of these relations in terms of properties of the corresponding graph classes.



Homomorphism Indistinguishability Zoo

`tseppelt.github.io/homind-database`

Graph classes and their homomorphism indistinguishability properties.

Theorem (Mančinska & Roberson (2020))

Two graphs are *quantum isomorphic* if, and only if, they are homomorphism indistinguishable over all *planar graphs*.

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- Proof relies on Woronowicz's Tannaka–Krein duality for compact matrix quantum groups.

‘Needless to say, the quantum groups [...] don’t exist as concrete objects.’—Banica, Bichon, & Collins (2007)

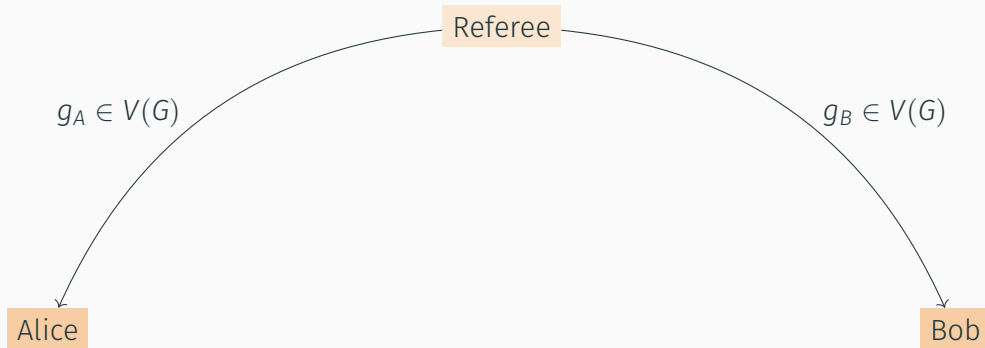
Two-player game in which Alice and Bob seek to convince a referee that $G \cong H$.

Referee

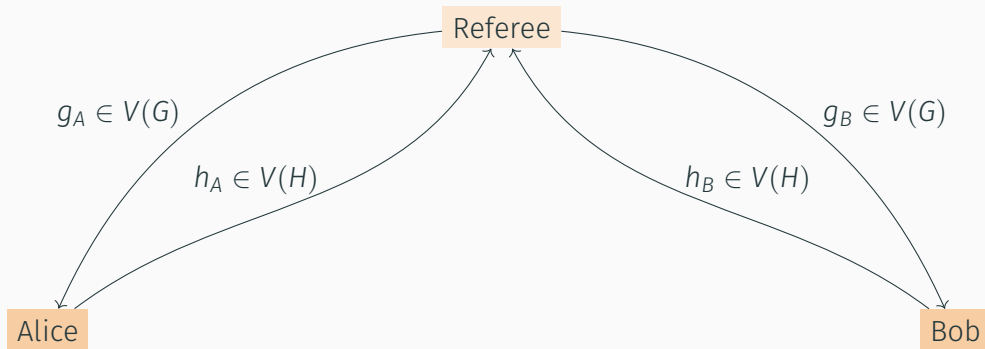
Alice

Bob

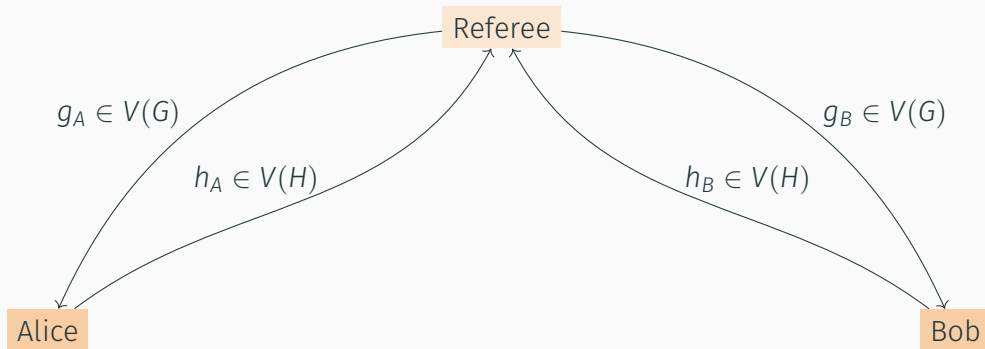
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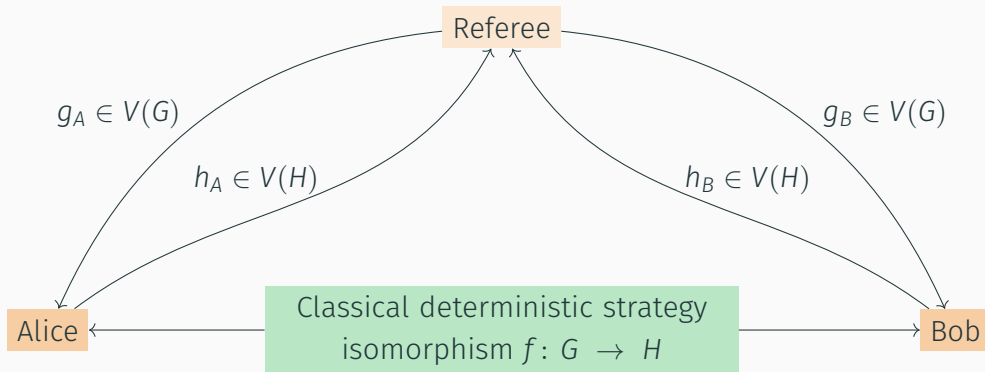


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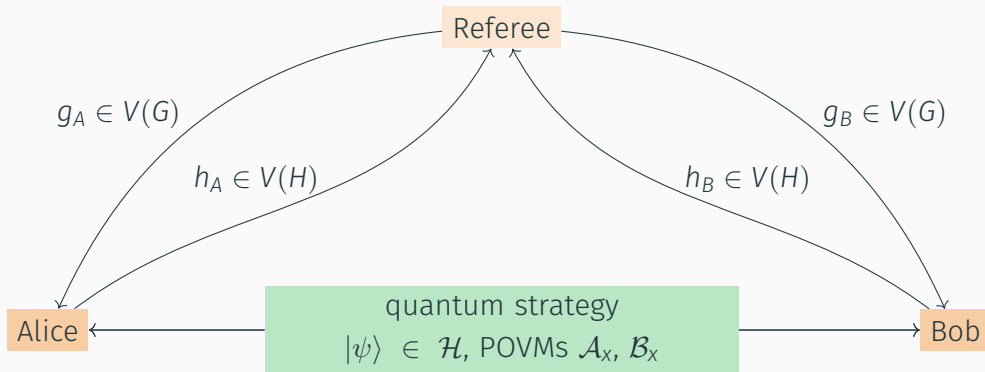
Alice and Bob win if $g_A = g_B \iff h_A = h_B$ and $g_A g_B \in E(G) \iff h_A h_B \in E(H)$.

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Navascués, Pironio, & Acín (2008)

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Extend arguments due to Roberson & Seppelt (2023); Grohe, Rattan, & Seppelt (2022); Mančinska, Roberson, & Varvitsiotis (2023).

Equations

homomorphism tensors,
algebraic operations

Graph Class

bilabelled graphs,
combinatorial operations

Equations
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Graph Class
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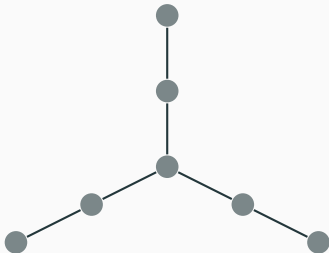
 $\mapsto$

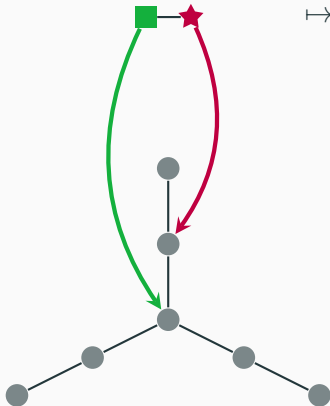
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \\ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \\ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \\ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \\ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \\ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \\ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \end{array} \right.$						
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$\mapsto$

0	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0





$\mapsto$

0	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0

series
composition



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=



series
composition



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↓

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right.$$

↓

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right.$$

↓

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right.$$

series
composition



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↓

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$

matrix
product
.

↓

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$

=

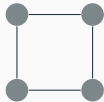
↓

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glue and
unlabel

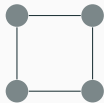




$\mapsto$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccccccc} 12 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 6 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 6 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right.$$

glue and
unlabel $\downarrow$

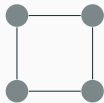



 $\mapsto$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccccccc} 12 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 6 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 6 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right.$$

glue and
unlabel $\Downarrow$

$\Downarrow$ trace


 $\mapsto$

36

Theorem

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Theorem (Specht (1940))

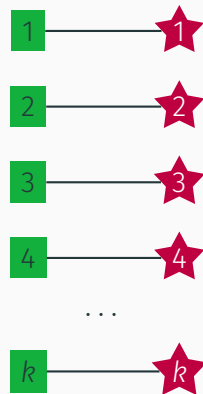
For symmetric matrices A and B , there is an *orthogonal* matrix X such that $XA = BX$ if, and only if, $\text{tr}(A^n) = \text{tr}(B^n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Equations
homomorphism tensors,
algebraic operations



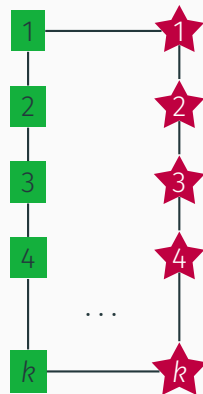
Graph Class
bilabelled graphs,
combinatorial operations

Let $\mathcal{M}_k$ denote the minors of the bilabelled k -matching.



Let $\mathcal{M}_k$ denote the minors of the bilabelled k -matching.

Let $\mathcal{C}_k$ denote the minors of the bilabelled $2k$ -cycle.

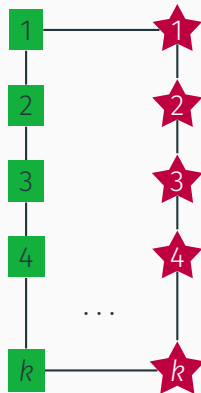


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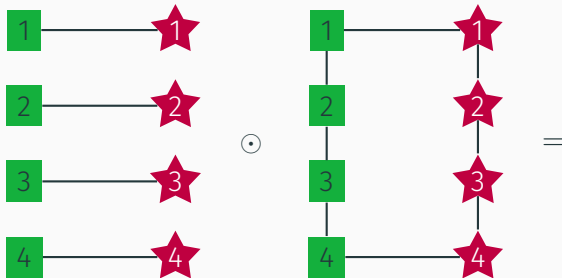
The class $\mathcal{P}_k$ is generated by $\mathcal{C}_k \cup \mathcal{M}_k$ under

- series composition,
- parallel composition with graphs in $\mathcal{C}_k$,
- cyclic permutations of labels,
- transposition.

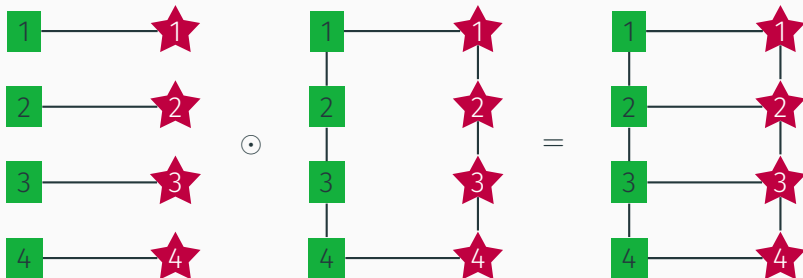


$\mathcal{P}_k$ is a minor-closed graph class of planar graphs containing the $k \times k$ grid.

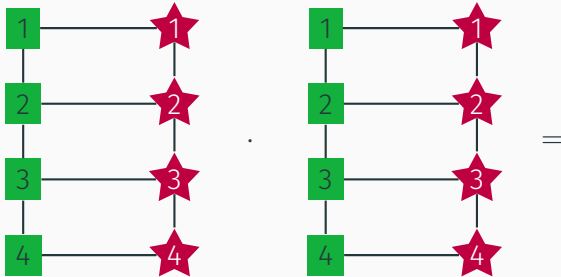
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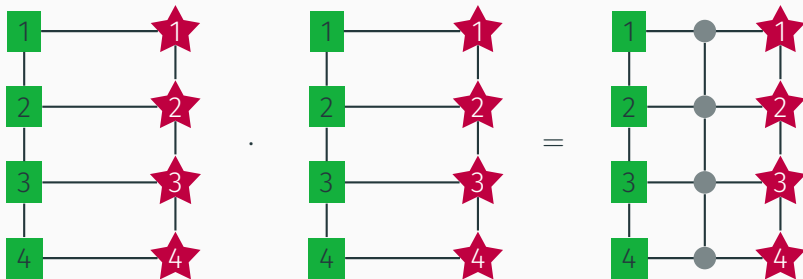
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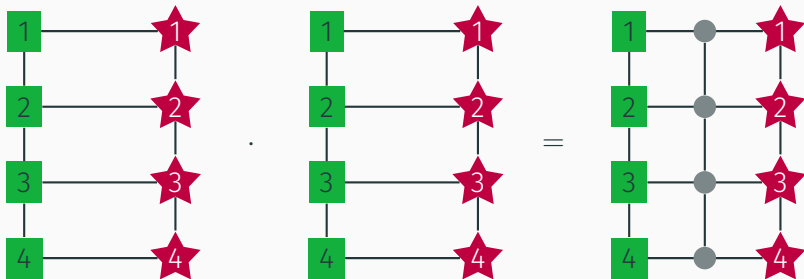
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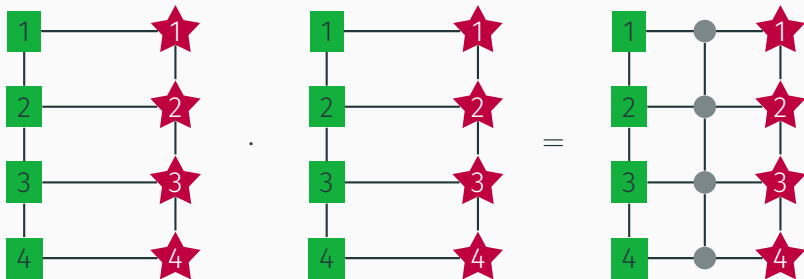


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$\mathcal{P}_k$ has treewidth $\leq 3k - 1$.

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Corollary (Complexity of NPA for quantum isomorphism)

Feasibility of the level- k NPA relaxation of quantum isomorphism is decided by a *randomised* algorithm in time $k^{O(1)}n^{O(k)}$ time.

Theorem

For $k \geq 1$, the *level- k NPA relaxation of quantum isomorphism* is feasible for two graphs if, and only if, they are homomorphism indistinguishable over $\mathcal{P}_k$.

Simpler proof of Mančinska & Roberson (2020) as corollary.

Corollary (Complexity of NPA for quantum isomorphism)

Feasibility of the level- k NPA relaxation of quantum isomorphism is decided by a *randomised* algorithm in time $k^{O(1)}n^{O(k)}$ time.

Corollary (Distinguishing Power of NPA for quantum isomorphism)

There are *non-quantum-isomorphic* graphs of size $72k^2$ for which the *level- k NPA relaxation* is feasible.

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