

# Corrigendum: The complexity of counting graph homomorphisms

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## Abstract

We close a gap in the proof of Theorem 4.1 in our paper “The complexity of counting graph homomorphisms” [Random Structures and Algorithms **17** (2000), 260–289].

Our paper [2] analysed the complexity of counting graph homomorphisms from a given graph  $G$  into a fixed graph  $H$ . This problem was called  $\#H$ . A crucial step in our argument, Theorem 4.1, was to prove that the counting problem  $\#H$  is  $\#P$ -complete if  $H$  has a connected component  $H_\ell$  such that the counting problem  $\#H_\ell$  associated with  $H_\ell$  is  $\#P$ -complete. The first step of our proof claimed the existence of a positive integer  $r$  such that every entry of  $A_\ell^r$  was positive, where  $A_\ell$  is the adjacency matrix of  $H_\ell$ . However, as Leslie Goldberg has recently pointed out to us, no such  $r$  exists when  $H_\ell$  is bipartite. This claim was not used elsewhere in the paper, but its invalidity leaves a gap in the proof of Theorem 4.1. We give here an amended proof which shows how to deal with bipartite connected components of  $H$ .

Before presenting the proof we note that Bulatov and Grohe [1] have extended our result to the problem of computing a weighted sum of homomorphisms to a weighted graph  $H$ . This problem is equivalent to the problem of computing the partition function of a spin system from statistical physics, and to the problem of counting the solutions to a constraint satisfaction problem whose constraint language consists of two equivalence relations.

In the rest of the paper, the equation numbers correspond to those in [2]. The following interpolation result is well-known (a proof was given in [2]) and we state it again here for ease of reference.

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $w_1, \dots, w_r$  be known distinct nonzero constants. Suppose that we know values  $f_1, \dots, f_r$  such that*

$$f_s = \sum_{i=1}^r c_i w_i^s$$

for  $1 \leq s \leq r$ . The coefficients  $c_1, \dots, c_r$  can be evaluated in polynomial time.

Let  $[A^r]_{ij}$  denote the  $(i, j)$ th entry of the matrix  $A^r$ . The following is well-known but for completeness we provide a proof.

**Lemma 4.2** *Let  $H$  be a connected graph with adjacency matrix  $A$ . If  $H$  contains an odd cycle then there exists a positive even integer  $r$  such that every entry of  $A^r$  is positive. Otherwise  $H$  is bipartite and there exists a positive even integer  $r$  such that  $[A^r]_{ij}$  is positive whenever vertices  $i, j$  belong to the same side of the bipartition.*

**Proof.** Suppose that the vertex set of  $H$  is  $C = \{1, \dots, k\}$ . The value of  $[A^r]_{ij}$  counts the number of walks from  $i$  to  $j$  in  $H$  of length exactly  $r$ . First suppose that  $H$  contains an odd cycle of length  $\ell$ . Fix a vertex  $v$  in this odd cycle and let  $m_i$  be the length of the shortest path in  $H$  from vertex  $i$  to  $v$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k$ , define

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} m_i + m_j & \text{if } m_i + m_j \text{ is even,} \\ m_i + m_j + \ell & \text{if } m_i + m_j \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Then there is a walk from  $i$  to  $j$  of length  $m_{ij}$  in  $H$ . Note that  $m_{ij}$  is even and that there is a walk in  $H$  from  $i$  to  $j$  of length  $m_{ij} + 2s$  for all integers  $s \geq 0$ . So setting  $r = \max\{m_{ij}\}$  ensures that every entry of  $A^r$  is positive. (Of course this may also be true for some smaller value of  $r$ , which need not be even.)

If  $H$  has no odd cycle then  $H$  is bipartite and clearly there does not exist an integer  $r > 0$  such that every entry of  $A^r$  is positive. Suppose that the vertex bipartition of  $H$  is  $C^{(1)} \cup C^{(2)}$ . Define  $m_{ij}$  to be the length of the shortest path from  $i$  to  $j$  for all pairs of vertices  $i, j \in C^{(t)}$  for  $t = 1, 2$ . Then  $m_{ij}$  is even and there exists a walk from  $i$  to  $j$  in  $H$  of length  $m_{ij} + 2s$ , for all integers  $s \geq 0$ . Setting  $r = \max\{m_{ij}\}$  ensures that  $[A^r]_{ij} > 0$  whenever  $i, j \in C^{(t)}$  for  $t = 1, 2$ , as required.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.1** *Suppose that  $H$  is a graph with connected components  $H_1, \dots, H_T$ . If  $\#H_\ell$  is  $\#P$ -complete for some  $\ell$  such that  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ , then  $\#H$  is  $\#P$ -complete.*

**Proof.** Let  $A, A_\ell$  be the adjacency matrix of  $H, H_\ell$  respectively, for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . We first assume that no component of  $H$  is bipartite, and subsequently we show how the proof must be modified to deal with bipartite components. Fix a positive integer  $r$  such that  $A_\ell^r$  has only positive entries, for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . The existence of  $r$  is guaranteed by applying Lemma 4.2 to each component of  $H$  and taking the maximum value of  $r$ . Note that  $r$  can be found in constant time. We show how to perform polynomial-time reductions from  $\text{EVAL}(A_\ell)$  to  $\text{EVAL}(A)$ , for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . This is sufficient, since at least one of the problems  $\text{EVAL}(A_\ell)$  is  $\#P$ -hard, by assumption, and  $\text{EVAL}(A)$  is clearly in  $\#P$ .

Let  $G$  be a given graph. We wish to calculate the values of  $Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  in polynomial time, for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . For  $1 \leq s \leq T$ , form the graph  $G_s$  with edge bipartition  $E' \cup E''$  from  $G$  as follows. Let  $v \in V$  be an arbitrary vertex of  $G$ . Take  $s$  copies of  $G$ , placing

all these edges in  $E'$ . Let  $\{v_i, v_j\} \in E''$  for  $1 \leq i < j \leq s$ , where  $v_i$  is the copy of  $v$  in the  $i$ th copy of  $G$ . These graphs can be formed from  $G$  in polynomial time. Now for  $1 \leq s \leq T$  and  $1 \leq p \leq s^{2k^2}$ , form the graph  $(S_r T_p)'' G_s$  by taking the  $p$ -thickening of each edge in  $E''$ , and then forming the  $r$ -stretch of each of these  $ps(s-1)/2$  edges. That is, between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  we have  $p$  copies of the path  $P_r$ , for  $1 \leq i < j \leq s$ . These graphs can be formed from  $G_s$  in polynomial time. Let  $Z_A(G, c)$  be defined by

$$Z_A(G, c) = |\{X \in \Omega_H(G) \mid X(v) = c\}|.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & Z_A((S_r T_p)'' G_s) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=1}^T \sum_{X: \{v_1, \dots, v_s\} \mapsto C_\ell} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq s} Z_{A_\ell}(G, X(v_i)) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq s} (A^r_{X(v_i)X(v_j)})^p \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

$$= \sum_{w \in \mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)} c_w w^p, \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A) = \left\{ \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq s} A^r_{X(v_i)X(v_j)} \mid X : \{v_1, \dots, v_s\} \mapsto C_\ell \text{ for some } \ell, 1 \leq \ell \leq T \right\} \setminus \{0\}.$$

The set  $\mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)$  can be formed explicitly in polynomial time. Arguing as in (7), the set  $\mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)$  has at most  $s^{2k^2}$  distinct elements, all of which are positive. Suppose that we knew the values of  $Z_A((S_r T_p)'' G_s)$  for  $1 \leq p \leq |\mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)|$ . Then, by Lemma 3.2, the values  $c_w$  for  $w \in \mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)$  can be found in polynomial time. Adding them, we obtain  $f_s = f_s(G) = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{W}^{(s)}(A)} c_w$ . This value is also obtained by putting  $p = 0$  in (13). Equating this to the value obtained by putting  $p = 0$  in (12), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} f_s &= \sum_{\ell=1}^T \sum_{X: \{v_1, \dots, v_s\} \mapsto C_\ell} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq s} Z_{A_\ell}(G, X(v_i)) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=1}^T Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s. \end{aligned}$$

For ease of notation, let  $x_\ell = Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . We know the values of  $f_s = \sum_{\ell=1}^T x_\ell^s$  for  $1 \leq s \leq T$ . Let  $\psi_s$  be the  $s$ th elementary symmetric polynomial in variables  $x_1, \dots, x_T$ , defined by

$$\psi_s = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_s \leq T} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_s}$$

for  $1 \leq s \leq T$ . Now

$$f_s - \psi_1 f_{s-1} + \cdots + (-1)^{s-1} f_1 \psi_{s-1} + (-1)^s s \psi_s = 0$$

for  $1 \leq s \leq T$  (this is Newton's Theorem, see for example [3, p. 12]). Using these equations, we can evaluate  $\psi_s$  for  $1 \leq s \leq T$  in polynomial time. But  $x_1, \dots, x_T$  are the roots of the polynomial

$$g(z) = z^T - \psi_1 z^{T-1} + \dots + (-1)^{T-1} \psi_{T-1} z + (-1)^T \psi_T.$$

Since this is a polynomial with integral coefficients, the roots can be found in polynomial time using the algorithm of Lenstra, Lenstra and Lovász [4]. Thus we obtain the set of values  $\{Z_{A_\ell}(G) \mid 1 \leq \ell \leq T\}$ .

Let  $N = |\{Z_{A_\ell}(G) \mid 1 \leq \ell \leq T\}|$ . If  $N = 1$  then all the values of  $Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  are equal. Thus we know the value of  $Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ , as required. Otherwise, search for a connected graph  $\Gamma$ , with the minimal number of vertices, such that  $|\{Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma) \mid 1 \leq \ell \leq T\}| = N$ . We know that  $\Gamma$  exists, since it is a minimal element of a nonempty set with a lower bound (the empty graph), using partial order on graphs defined by the number of vertices and inclusion. Moreover,  $\Gamma$  depends only on  $H$ . Therefore we can find  $\Gamma$  by exhaustive search, in constant time. (This constant may very well be huge, but we are not seeking a practical algorithm.) We also know the values  $Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma)$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . Let  $\sim$  be the equivalence relation on  $\{1, \dots, T\}$  such that  $Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma) = Z_{A_s}(\Gamma)$  if and only if  $\ell \sim s$ . Let  $\pi$  be the partition of  $\{1, \dots, T\}$  consisting of the equivalence classes of  $\sim$ . Write  $\pi = I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_N$  and let  $\mu_j = |I_j|$  for  $1 \leq j \leq N$ . Finally, let  $\mu = \max\{\mu_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq N\}$ . Assume without loss of generality that  $j \in I_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq N$ . That is, the first  $N$  values of  $Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma)$  form a transversal of the  $N$  equivalence classes.

We perform a second reduction, which is an adaptation of the one just described. For  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$  and  $1 \leq t \leq N$ , form the graph  $G_{(s,t)}$  with edge bipartition  $E' \cup E''$  as follows. Let  $w$  be an arbitrary vertex in  $\Gamma$ , and recall the distinguished vertex  $v$  in  $G$ . Take  $s$  copies of  $G$  and  $t$  copies of  $\Gamma$ , placing all these edges in  $E'$ . Let  $V^* = \{w_1, \dots, w_s\} \cup \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}$ , where  $w_i$  is the copy of  $w$  in the  $i$ th copy of  $\Gamma$  and  $v_j$  is the copy of  $v$  in the  $j$ th copy of  $G$ . Finally, let  $E''$  be the set of all possible edges between the vertices in  $V^*$ . Form the graph  $(S_r T_p)'' G_{(s,t)}$  for  $1 \leq p \leq (s+t)^{2k^2}$ ,  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$  and  $1 \leq t \leq N$ , by replacing each edge in  $E''$  by  $p$  copies of the path  $P_r$ . Arguing as in the first reduction, the values of  $Z_A((S_r T_p)'' G_{(s,t)})$  for  $1 \leq p \leq (s+t)^{2k^2}$  can be used to produce the values

$$f_{(s,t)}(G) = \sum_{\ell=1}^T Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma)^t \quad (14)$$

for  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$ ,  $1 \leq t \leq N$ , in polynomial time.

We can rewrite (14) as

$$f_{(s,t)}(G) = \sum_{j=1}^N \left( \sum_{\ell \in I_j} Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s \right) Z_{A_j}(\Gamma)^t.$$

For each fixed value of  $s$ , we know the value  $f_{(s,t)}(G)$  for  $1 \leq t \leq N$ . First suppose that  $Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma) \neq 0$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . Using Lemma 3.2, we obtain the coefficients  $c_j^{(s)} =$

$\sum_{\ell \in I_j} Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s$ , for  $1 \leq j \leq N$ , in polynomial time. We can do this for  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$ . Now suppose without loss of generality that  $Z_{A_1}(G) = 0$ . Then Lemma 3.2 only guarantees that we can find  $c^{(s)}_j$  for  $2 \leq j \leq N$ , in polynomial time. However, we know the set  $\{Z_{A_\ell}(G) \mid 1 \leq \ell \leq T\}$ . Therefore we can form the value  $c^{(s)} = \sum_{\ell=1}^T Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s$  in polynomial time, for  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$ . Then

$$c^{(s)}_1 = \sum_{\ell \in I_1} Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s = c^{(s)} - \sum_{j=2}^N c^{(s)}_j.$$

Thus in both cases we can find the values of

$$c^{(s)}_j = \sum_{\ell \in I_j} Z_{A_\ell}(G)^s$$

for  $1 \leq j \leq N$  and  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$ , in polynomial time. Arguing as above, using Newton's Theorem, we can find the set of values  $\{Z_{A_\ell}(G) \mid \ell \in I_j\}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq N$  in polynomial time. If all these values are equal, then we know all the values  $Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  for  $\ell \in I_j$ . Otherwise, we perform the second reduction again, for the graph  $H_{I_j} = \cup_{\ell \in I_j} H_\ell$ . We obtain a tree of polynomial-time reductions, where each internal node has at least two children, and there are at most  $T$  leaves. (A leaf is obtained when all values  $Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  in the cell of the partition are equal, which will certainly happen when the cell is a singleton set.) There are at most  $T$  internal nodes in such a tree. That is, we must perform at most  $T + 1$  reductions in all. This guarantees that we can obtain all the values  $Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$  in polynomial time, as required.

We must now consider the case of bipartite components. Let us number the components of  $H$  so that  $H_\ell$  is non-bipartite for  $1 \leq \ell \leq \nu$  and  $H_\ell$  is bipartite for  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$ , with  $\nu < T$ . Suppose that  $H_\ell$  has vertex bipartition  $C_\ell^{(1)} \cup C_\ell^{(2)}$  for  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . Let  $r > 0$  be an even integer such that  $[A^r]_{ij} > 0$  for all  $i, j \in C_\ell$  when  $1 \leq \ell \leq \nu$ , and  $[A^r]_{ij} > 0$  for all  $i, j \in C_\ell^{(a)}$  for  $a = 1, 2$  and  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . The existence of such an  $r$  is guaranteed by applying Lemma 4.2 to each component of  $H$  and taking the maximum value of  $r$ . Note that  $r$  can be found in constant time.

We will assume that  $G$  is bipartite. Otherwise  $Z_{A_\ell}(G) = 0$  for  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$  and the problem reduces to the non-bipartite case. For every  $\ell$  let  $x_\ell = Z_{A_\ell}(G)$  as before. Let  $v$  be the distinguished vertex of  $G$ . For  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$  let  $x_{\ell,a}$  be the number of  $H_\ell$ -colourings  $X$  of  $G$  such that  $X(v) \in C_\ell^{(a)}$ , for  $a = 1, 2$ . Clearly  $Z_{A_\ell}(G) = x_\ell = x_{\ell,1} + x_{\ell,2}$  for  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$ .

Our first construction is now modified as follows. For  $1 \leq s \leq T$ , choose an integer  $\alpha$ , where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq s$ . We will form a graph  $G_s^{(\alpha)}$  with edge bipartition  $E' \cup E'' \cup E'''$ . Take  $s$  copies of  $G$ , where vertex  $v_i$  is the copy of vertex  $v$  in the  $i$ th copy of  $G$ . All these edges are in  $E'$ . Now for  $1 \leq i < j \leq s$  let

$$\begin{aligned} \{v_i, v_j\} &\in E'' && \text{if } i, j \leq \alpha \text{ or } \alpha + 1 \leq i, j, \\ \{v_i, v_j\} &\in E''' && \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

This gives the graph  $G_s^{(\alpha)}$ . These graphs (for  $1 \leq s \leq T$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha \leq s$ ) can be formed from  $G$  in polynomial time. Now for  $1 \leq p \leq s^{2k^2}$  replace each edge in  $E''$  by  $p$  copies of  $P_r$  and replace each edge in  $E'''$  by  $p$  copies of  $P_{r+1}$ , giving the graph  $B_{(s,p,\alpha)}$  (which can be formed in polynomial time). We now follow the same argument as that leading to the expression  $f_s = \sum_{\ell=1}^T x_\ell^s$  above, but with  $B_{(s,p,\alpha)}$  in place of  $(S_r T_p)'' G_s$ . It is easy to verify that the effect of our construction is to replace  $x_\ell^s$  in the expression for  $f_s$  by  $x_{\ell,1}^\alpha x_{\ell,2}^{s-\alpha} + x_{\ell,1}^{s-\alpha} x_{\ell,2}^\alpha$ , for  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . Thus we can compute all quantities

$$f_s^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\nu} x_\ell^s + \sum_{\ell=\nu+1}^T (x_{\ell,1}^\alpha x_{\ell,2}^{s-\alpha} + x_{\ell,1}^{s-\alpha} x_{\ell,2}^\alpha)$$

for  $0 \leq \alpha \leq s$  and  $1 \leq s \leq T$ , in polynomial time. We now take a weighted sum of these to give

$$f_s = \sum_{\alpha=0}^s \binom{s}{\alpha} f_s^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\nu} (2x_\ell)^s + 2 \sum_{\ell=\nu+1}^T x_\ell^s$$

for  $1 \leq s \leq T$ . Proceeding as before we can construct and solve, in polynomial time, a polynomial equation with roots

$$2x_1, 2x_2, \dots, 2x_\nu, x_{\nu+1}, x_{\nu+1}, x_{\nu+2}, x_{\nu+2}, \dots, x_T, x_T.$$

Again we will assume that there are  $N$  distinct roots. If  $N = 1$ , with root  $x$ , then we set  $x_\ell = x/2$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq \nu$  and  $x_\ell = x$  for  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$ , and we are done.

If  $N > 1$  then we modify the second construction. We search for the smallest *bipartite* graph  $\Gamma$  such that there are  $N$  distinct values among the set

$$\{2Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma) \mid 1 \leq \ell \leq \nu\} \cup \{Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma) \mid \nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T\}.$$

As before, such a graph  $\Gamma$  can be found in constant time. Let  $y_\ell = Z_{A_\ell}(\Gamma)$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq T$ . Define the equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $\{1, \dots, T\}$  by  $i \sim j$  if and only if  $\hat{y}_i = \hat{y}_j$ , where  $\hat{y}_\ell = 2y_\ell$  if  $1 \leq \ell \leq \nu$  and  $\hat{y}_\ell = y_\ell$  otherwise. Form the partition  $\pi = I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_N$  of  $\{1, \dots, T\}$  corresponding to this equivalence relation, as before. Let  $\Gamma$  have vertex bipartition  $\Lambda_1 \cup \Lambda_2$  such that the distinguished vertex  $w \in \Lambda_1$ . For  $\nu + 1 \leq \ell \leq T$  and  $a = 1, 2$ , define the quantity  $y_{\ell,a}$  for  $\Gamma$  similarly to  $x_{\ell,a}$  for  $G$ . Let  $\mu$  be the maximum of  $\mu_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq N$ , where

$$\mu_j = |I_j \cap \{1, \dots, \nu\}| + 2|I_j \cap \{\nu + 1, \dots, T\}|.$$

For  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$  and  $1 \leq t \leq N$ , choose integers  $\alpha, \beta$  with  $0 \leq \alpha \leq s$  and  $0 \leq \beta \leq t$ . Form the graph  $G_{(s,t)}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$  with edge bipartition  $E' \cup E'' \cup E'''$ , as follows. Start with the graph  $G_s^{(\alpha)}$  as described above. Then take  $t$  copies of  $\Gamma$ , adding all these edges into  $E'$  (and expanding the vertex set as well). Let  $v_i$  be the copy of  $v$  in the  $i$ th copy of  $G$  and let  $w_j$  be the copy of  $w$  in the  $j$ th copy of  $\Gamma$ . Finally, add extra edges to the sets  $E''$ ,  $E'''$  as follows: for  $1 \leq i < j \leq t$  let

$$\begin{aligned} \{w_i, w_j\} &\in E'' && \text{if } i, j \leq \beta \text{ or } \beta + 1 \leq i, j, \\ \{w_i, w_j\} &\in E''' && \text{otherwise,} \end{aligned}$$

and for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq t$  let

$$\begin{aligned} \{v_i, w_j\} &\in E'' && \text{if } i \leq \alpha \text{ and } j \leq \beta, \text{ or } \alpha + 1 \leq i \text{ and } \beta + 1 \leq j, \\ \{v_i, w_j\} &\in E''' && \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

This describes the graph  $G_{(s,t)}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ . These graphs (for  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$ ,  $1 \leq t \leq N$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha \leq s$ ,  $0 \leq \beta \leq t$ ) can be formed from  $G$  in polynomial time. Now for  $1 \leq p \leq (s+t)^{2k^2}$ , replace each edge in  $E''$  by  $p$  copies of  $P_r$  and replace each edge in  $E'''$  by  $p$  copies of  $P_{r+1}$  to produce the graph  $B_{(s,t,p)}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$  (in polynomial time). Now argue as before, but with  $B_{(s,t,p)}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$  in place of  $(S_r T_p)'' G_{(s,t)}$ , to find that we can compute all the quantities

$$f_{(s,t)}^{(\alpha,\beta)} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\nu} x_{\ell}^s y_{\ell}^t + \sum_{\ell=\nu+1}^T (x_{\ell,1}^{\alpha} x_{\ell,2}^{s-\alpha} y_{\ell,1}^{\beta} y_{\ell,2}^{t-\beta} + x_{\ell,1}^{s-\alpha} x_{\ell,2}^{\alpha} y_{\ell,1}^{t-\beta} y_{\ell,2}^{\beta})$$

for  $0 \leq \alpha \leq s$ ,  $0 \leq \beta \leq t$ , in polynomial time. Taking a weighted sum of these quantities gives

$$f_{(s,t)} = \sum_{\alpha=0}^s \sum_{\beta=0}^t \binom{s}{\alpha} \binom{t}{\beta} f_{(s,t)}^{(\alpha,\beta)} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\nu} (2x_{\ell})^s (2y_{\ell})^t + 2 \sum_{\ell=\nu+1}^T x_{\ell}^s y_{\ell}^t$$

for  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$  and  $1 \leq t \leq N$ . We now proceed as we did with (14), refining the partition in a constant number of steps until we are done. To give a bit more detail: the equation above can be rewritten as

$$f_{(s,t)} = \sum_{j=1}^N c^{(s)}_j z_j^t$$

where  $z_j$  is the common value of  $\hat{y}_{\ell}$  for all  $\ell \in I_j$  and

$$c^{(s)}_j = \sum_{\ell \in I_j \cap \{1, \dots, \nu\}} (2x_{\ell})^s + 2 \left( \sum_{\ell \in I_j \cap \{\nu+1, \dots, T\}} x_{\ell}^s \right).$$

So using Lemma 3.2 we can find  $c^{(s)}_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq N$ ,  $1 \leq s \leq \mu$ , in polynomial time. Then using Newton's theorem we can find the set

$$\{2Z_{A_{\ell}}(G) \mid \ell \in I_j \cap \{1, \dots, \nu\}\} \cup \{Z_{A_{\ell}}(G) \mid \ell \in I_j \cap \{\nu+1, \dots, T\}\}$$

in polynomial time. If all of these values are equal to some integer  $x$  then we know that  $Z_{A_{\ell}}(G) = x/2$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq \nu$  and  $Z_{A_{\ell}}(G) = x$  for  $\nu+1 \leq \ell \leq T$ , and we are done. If they are not all equal then we repeat the argument with  $H_{I_j} = \cup_{\ell \in I_j} H_{\ell}$  to continue to refine the partition.  $\square$

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