CS11921 - Fall 2023 Design & Analysis of Algorithms

P, NP, NP-Complete and NP-Hard Problems Ibrahim Albluwi

A **reduction** from problem *X* to problem *Y*: An algorithm for solving problem *X* that includes a solver of problem *Y* as a subroutine. *X* **polytime-reduces** *Y* (denoted as $X \leq_p Y$) : *X* can be solved using a solver for *Y* in addition to polytime amount of work.



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A **Turing Reduction** from *X* to *Y*:

- Allows calling *Y*s solver multiple times.
- Allows post-processing the output of *Y*'s solver.

A **Karp Reduction** from *X* to *Y*:

- Allows calling Y's solver only once.
- Does not allow post-processing the output of *Y*'s solver.

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Example.

SELECT Given a list of elements, find the k^{th} largest element.

SORT Given a list of elements, order the elements in non-decreasing order.

SORT reduces to **SELECT**

Sort the elements by repeatedly using SELECT to find the next largest element.

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A **Karp Reduction** from *X* to *Y*:

- Allows calling Y's solver only once.
- Does not allow post-processing the output of Y's solver.

Also called a **many-to-one** reduction:

Input to *X* is preprocessed such that every YES instance of *X* maps to a YES answer in *Y* and every NO instance of *X* maps to a NO answer in *Y*.

Example.

TOTALITY reduces to EQUIVALENCE

See the slides on Reductions discussed before.

Quiz # 1 (déjà vu!)

Suppose there is a proof that problem *X* is *difficult* to solve. How can we prove that a problem *Y* is also *difficult* to solve?

- A. Show that *X* reduces *easily* to *Y*.
- **B.** Show that *Y* reduces *easily* to *X*.

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B. Show that *Y* reduces *easily* to *X*.

Explanation.

We know that $X \notin EASY$ and we want to use this information to show that $Y \notin EASY$. I.e. we want to show that $X \notin EASY \implies Y \notin EASY$. We can achieve this by showing that the following contrapositive statement holds:

 $Y \in \mathsf{EASY} \implies X \in \mathsf{EASY}$

- If *X* reduces easily to *Y* and $Y \in EASY$ then $X \in EASY$.
- Since it is known that $X \notin EASY$, then $Y \in EASY$ must be false! (otherwise, there will be a contradiction)

NEVER FORGET

- If A is hard to solve and
 - A easily reduces to B $(A \leq_p B)$,
- Then **B** is also hard to solve!

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What does it mean for a problem to be hard anyway?

\bigcirc	Shortest Paths on unweighted graphs			O(E+V)	using	BFS
\bigcirc	Shortest Paths on weighted DAGs	-O(E+V)	using	Τοροιο	gical	sort
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XX	Longest Paths on weighted graphs NO KNOWN POLYNOMTAL TIME ALGORITHM!
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VS.



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Direct solution: True if and only if each vertex has an even degree!



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Does a graph *G* contain a Hamiltonian Cycle? (a cycle that visits all the *vertices* in *G* exactly once)





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NO KNOWN POLYNOMIAL TIME ALGORITHM!





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Does a graph *G* contain a Hamiltonian Cycle? (a cycle that visits all the *vertices* in *G* exactly once)

NO KNOWN POLYNOMIAL TIME ALGORITHM!







Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP)

Given a complete weighted graph, what is the *shortest Hamiltonian Cycle*?

NO KNOWN POLYNOMIAL TIME ALGORITHM!

Is a graph 2-Colorable?

(can the vertices be colored using 2 colors, such that no two adjacent vertices have the same color?)

Direct solution: True if there is no cycle of odd length (can be checked using BFT)



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Is a graph *k*-Colorable?

(can the vertices be colored using *k* colors or less, such that no two adjacent vertices have the same color?)

NO KNOWN POLYNOMIAL TIME ALGORITHM!



Bin Packing

Given an unlimited number of bins (each with capacity *C*), and *n* objects with sizes s_1, \ldots, s_n where $0 < s_i \le C$, find the *minimum* number of bins needed to pack all objects.



9

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Subset Sum

Given a multiset *S* of integers and an integer *k*, find a *minimum* subset of *S* whose elements sum up to exactly *k*.

Example. $S = \{1, 1, 1, 4, 4, 5, 6\}, k = 8$ Possible Subsets: $\{1, 1, 1, 5\}, \{1, 1, 6\}, \{4, 4\} \longleftarrow \text{min subset}$

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Subset Partition

Given a multiset *S* of integers, can *S* be partitioned into 2 subsets of the same sum?

```
Example. S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}
YES: \{1, 4\} and \{2, 3\}
S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}
No
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(3) Each of them poly-time reduces to all the other problems! I.e. Finding a polynomial time solution to any of them means that all of them have polynomial time solutions!

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(4) You will get \$1,000,000 from the Clay Mathematics Institute if you find a polynomial time solution for any of them or prove that any of them can't have a polynomial time solution!



Welcome to the

P vs NP Problem

Optimization problem:

Find the *best* solution among a set of feasible solutions.

Decision problem: Requires a **yes/no** answer.

Definitions

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Examples Traveling Salesman Problem

Optimization problem:

Given a complete weighted graph *G*, find a simple circuit *C* that visits each node in *G* exactly once such that the total cost of the edges in *C* is *minimum*.



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Decision problem:

Given a complete weighted graph *G*, does *G* contain a simple circuit *C* that visits each node exactly once such that the total cost of the edges in *C* is *less than or equal to some threshold T*?



Definitions

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Examples

Bin-Packing

Optimization problem:

Given an unlimited number of bins (each with capacity *C*), and *n* objects with sizes s_1, \ldots, s_n where $0 < s_i \le C$, find the *minimum* number of bins needed to pack all objects


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Given an unlimited number of bins (each with capacity *C*), and *n* objects with sizes s_1, \ldots, s_n where $0 < s_i \le C$, find the *minimum* number of bins needed to pack all objects

Decision problem:

Can the objects fit in *less than k bins* ?



Optimization problem:

Find the *best* solution among a set of feasible solutions.

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Examples

Graph Coloring

Optimization problem:

Find the *minimum* number of colors such that adjacent vertices are not assigned the same color.



Optimization problem:

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Examples

Graph Coloring

Optimization problem:

Find the *minimum* number of colors such that adjacent vertices are not assigned the same color.

Decision problem:

Can the vertices be properly colored *in K or fewer* colors such that adjacent vertices are not assigned the same color?



Optimization problem:

Find the *best* solution among a set of feasible solutions.

Decision problem:

Requires a **yes/no** answer.

Examples Subset Sum

Optimization problem:

Given a multi-set S of integers and an integer k, find a *minimum* subset of S whose elements sum up to exactly k.

Example. $S = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 4, 4, 5, 6\}, k = 8$ Possible Subsets: $\{1, 1, 1, 5\}$ $\{1, 1, 6\}$ $\{4, 4\} \leftarrow minimum$

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Examples Subset Sum

Optimization problem:

Given a multi-set S of integers and an integer k, find a *minimum* subset of S whose elements sum up to exactly k.

Decision problem: Does S contain a subset whose elements sum up to exactly k?

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Examples Hamiltonian Cycle

Decision problem: Is there a cycle that visits each vertex in the graph once?



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Examples

Decision problem:

Given a set *S* of integers, Can we partition *S* into two subsets of exactly the same size?

Subset Partition

Example.
$$S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

YES: $\{1, 4\}$ and $\{2, 3\}$
 $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
No

Given a solver for the optimization version of TSP, how can we solve the decision version?

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Answer. If we know the length of the shortest tour *L*, we can very easily answer the question *Is there a tour of length less than T* as follows:

If $L \ge T$: There is no tour of length less than *T*. If L < T: There is a tour of length less than *T*.

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$$\left(\mathsf{TSP}_{dec} \leq_p \mathsf{TSP}_{opt} \right)$$

If the decision version of a problem is hard, does this imply that the optimization version is also hard?

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Answer. Yes.

The decision version is no harder (as hard or easier) than the optimization version.

$$\mathsf{TSP}_{dec} \leq_p \mathsf{TSP}_{opt}$$

To discuss and prove hardness, we will consider only *decision problems*!

Class **P**.

A decision problem is in P if it is solvable in polynomial time (i.e. in $O(n^c)$, where *n* is the input size and *c* is a constant)

Class P.

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Examples

- Given a list of integers *L* and an integer *K*:
 - is *K* in *L*?
 - Is there an integer in *L* that is greater than *K*?
 - Do any two numbers in *L* sum to *K*?
- Given a permutation of elements *P*:
 - is *P* sorted in ascending order?
 - is *P* a palindrome?
- Given a graph *G*:
 - Is there a spanning tree whose sum of edge weights is less than *T*?
 - Is there a path between v and w in a graph G less than T?
 - Is there a cycle in the graph?
 - Is the graph connected?

etc.

Which of the following decision problems are *not* in **P** ?

- **A.** Traveling Salesman Problem.
- **B.** 0-1 Knapsack.
- **C.** Bin-Packing.
- **D**. All of the above.



I don't know.

Which of the following decision problems are *not* in **P** ?

- A. Traveling Salesman Problem.
- **B.** 0-1 Knapsack.
- C. Bin-Packing.
- **D**. All of the above.



A problem is in **P** if it has a polynomial time solution.

A problem is *not* in **P** if there is a proof that it does not have a polynomial time solution.

While we don't have polynomial time solutions for these problems, no one proved that these problems do not have polynomial time solutions!

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Class NP.

A decision problem is in NP if it is verifiable in polynomial time.

(Given an instance *I* for a problem *P* and a witness *W* for the solution, can we verify in polynomial time if *W* proves that the answer for *I* is yes?)

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ExampleIs there AHAMILTONIANCycle?

Given a graph G, and a path C (a witness), can we verify in polynomial time if C is a hamiltonian cycle?

Yes!

- 1. Check that the first and last vertices are the same.
- 2. Check that no other vertices repeat.
- 3. Check that the path has exactly *V* edges and that they are all in *G*.



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Example

TSP is in NP

Given a graph *G*, a length *L*, and a path *C* (a witness), can we verify in polynomial time if *C* is a hamiltonian cycle of length less than *L*?



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Given a graph *G*, a length *L*, and a path *C* (a witness), can we verify in polynomial time if *C* is a hamiltonian cycle of length less than *L*?

Yes!

- 1. Check that *C* is a Hamiltonian cycle.
- 2. Check that the sum of the edge weights is less than *L*.



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Example SUBSET-SUM is in NP

Given a multi-set *S*, two integers *K* and *L*, and a subset *H* of *S* (a witness), can we verify in polynomial time if $|H| \le K$ and that its elements sum to *L*?

Yes!

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Example

SUBSET-PARTITION

Given a multi-set *S*, two subsets H_1 and H_2 of *S* (a witness), can we verify in polynomial time if $|H_1| + |H_2| = |S|$ and that the sum of the elements in H_1 = the sum of the elements in H_2 ?

Every problem that is in **P** is also in **NP**.

- A. True.
- **B.** False.



We don't know.

Every problem that is in **P** is also in **NP**.



B. False.



We don't know.

If a problem is solvable in polynomial time, it is also verifiable in polynomial time.

We can always solve the problem to verify a given witness!

Every problem that is in **NP** is also in **P**.

- A. True.
- **B.** False.



We don't know.

Every problem that is in **NP** is also in **P**.



B. False.



Does easy verification imply that finding a solution is also easy?

- No one knows!
- No one yet found a problem that is in NP but is not in P !
- This is a \$1,000,000 question!



Two Possible World Views



No one knows which is true!

What are examples of problems that we do not know how to verify in polynomial time (hence, we are unable to place in NP)?

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Given a chessboard and a certain move (a solution), we don't know how to verify in polynomial time if the move will guarantee black to win! (we can do exponential amount of work to check all possible black and white moves to see if black will win!)

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Another Example. Does graph *G* have a *unique* Hamiltonian cycle?

What is in a name?

What does **NP** stand for?

- A. Not Polynomial.
- **B.** No Pakeup Exam.
- C. No Problem.
- **D**. None of the aPove.

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NP stands for: **N**on-deterministically **P**olynomial. I.e. Can be solved using a non-deterministic machine in polynomial time.

Assume that TM is a machine that can guess and verify an infinite number of solutions all at the same time (call TM a *non-deterministic* machine).

If a problem is verifiable in polynomial time, TM can solve the problem by guessing all the possible solutions and verifying them at once (in polynomial time!)

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(Given an instance *I* or a problem *P* and a witness *W* for the solution, can we verify in polynomial time if *W* proves that the answer for *I* is yes?)

Class NP-Complete.

A decision problem is NP-Complete if:

- It is in NP.
- All problems in NP reduce to it in polynomial time.

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How do we show that *all* problems in **NP** reduce to a certain problem???

Cook-Levin Theorem (1971)



What is **SAT**?
Literal. A Boolean variable or its negation. x_i or x_i

Clause. A disjunction of literals.

$$C_j = x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3$$

Conjunctive normal form (CNF). A propositional formula Φ that is a conjunction of clauses.

 $\Phi = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3 \wedge C_4$

SAT. Given a CNF formula Φ , does it have a satisfying truth assignment? 3-SAT. SAT where each clause contains exactly 3 literals (and each literal corresponds to a different variable). Literal. A Boolean variable or its negation. x_i or x_i

Clause. A disjunction of literals.

$$C_j = x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3$$

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Example

What values for x_1 , x_2 , x_3 and x_4 satisfy the following formula?

$$\Phi = \left(\overline{x_1} \lor x_2 \lor x_3 \right) \land \left(x_1 \lor \overline{x_2} \lor x_3 \right) \land \left(\overline{x_1} \lor x_2 \lor x_4 \right)$$

Literal. A Boolean variable or its negation. x_i or x_i

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Answer. $x_1 = \text{TRUE}, x_2 = \text{TRUE}, x_3 = \text{FALSE}, x_4 = \text{FALSE}$

Boolean Satisfiability (SAT)

Key Facts.

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Given a formula and boolean values for the variables, it is easy to verify if these values satisfy the formula!

- It is not clear if SAT is also in P.
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• SAT is in NP.

Given a formula and boolean values for the variables, it is easy to verify if these values satisfy the formula!

- It is not clear if SAT is also in P.
 - We can try all possible 2^N boolean assignments.
 - We don't know if a polynomial time solution exists.
- All problems in NP reduce to SAT in polynomial time.
 - This is the Cook-Levin Theorem.
 - The details of the proof are beyond the scope of this course.
 - In a nutshell, Cook and Levin showed how any decision problem that is in NP can be converted (in polynomial time) to the problem of satisfying a boolean formula of a polynomial size).

(i.e. a digital circuit can be designed for it that has a polynomial number of gates)

Graph Coloring reduces to SAT in polynomial time.



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$$\neg (A_{red} \land B_{red}) \land \neg (A_{blue} \land B_{blue}) = \text{TRUE}$$

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The graph is 2-colorable if the above boolean expressions are satisfiable!



Can be converted to a CNF with $\Theta(E + V)$ clauses

How do we show that a problem other than SAT is NP-Complete?

- A. Be as clever as Cook and Levin and show how all problems in NP reduce to this new problem.
- **B.** No need! SAT is the only NP-Complete Problem!
- **C.** None of the above.

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To show that a problem is NP-Complete:

- 1. Show that it is in NP.
- 2. Show that an NP-Complete problem reduces to it in polynomial time!

If all problems in NP poly-time reduce to *A* and *A* poly-time reduces to *B*, then all problems in NP poly-time reduce to *B*!

SAT is not The Only NP-Complete Problem!



Key Finding. SAT poly-time reduces to many problems! Implication. All of these problems are NP-Complete!

SAT is not The Only NP-Complete Problem!

adapted from a slide by Kevin Wayne



World View if P != NP



Again ... Two Possible World Views



Are there problems that are in **NP** but are not in **P** and are not **NP**-Complete.

- A. Yes.
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- **C.** None of the above.

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Maybe if $\mathbf{P} \neq \mathbf{NP}$. No if $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$.

Are there problems that are in **NP** but are not in **P** and are not **NP**-Complete.

- A. Yes.
- B. No.

C. None of the above.

Maybe if $\mathbf{P} \neq \mathbf{NP}$.

No if $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$.

There are, however, problems in NP that we could not yet prove to be in P and could not also prove to be NP-Complete!

Examples. Integer Factoring and Graph Isomorphism.

ILP (binary Integer Linear Programming)
Given a set of inequalities, is there a 0-1 solution?

Task. Show that ILP is NP-Complete.

	$x_1 +$	X ₂ ≥	1
X 0	+	X ₂ ≥	1
x ₀ +	x ₁ +	X ₂ ≤	2

Example. A solution for the above is: $x_0 = 1$, $x_1 = 1$, $x_2 = 0$

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2. SAT poly-time reduces to ILP.

$\bar{x_1}$	V	x_2	V	x_3			= TRUE	$(1 - x_1) +$	-	x_2	+	<i>x</i> ₃		≥ 1
x_1	V	$\bar{x_2}$	V	x_3			= TRUE	<i>x</i> ₁ +	-	$(1 - x_2)$	+	<i>x</i> ₃		≥ 1
$\bar{x_1}$	V	$\bar{x_2}$	V	$\bar{x_3}$			= TRUE	$(1 - x_1) +$	-	$(1 - x_2)$	+	$(1 - x_3)$		≥ 1
$\bar{x_1}$	V	$\bar{x_2}$			V	x_4	= TRUE	$(1 - x_1) +$	-	$(1 - x_2)$			+	$x_4 \geq 1$
		$\bar{x_2}$	\vee	<i>x</i> ₃	\vee	x_4	= TRUE			$(1 - x_2)$	+	<i>x</i> ₃	+	$x_4 \geq 1$

Example SAT instance

Equivalent ILP instance.

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$\bar{x_1}$	V	$\bar{x_2}$	V	$\bar{x_3}$			= TRUE	$(1 - x_1) +$	$(1 - x_2)$	+	$(1 - x_3)$		≥ 1
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		$\bar{x_2}$	V	x_3	V	x_4	= TRUE		$(1 - x_2)$	+	<i>x</i> ₃	+	$x_4 \geq 1$

Example SAT instance

A clause is true iff any variable is true and is not negated or is false and is negated.

Equivalent ILP instance.

An inequality \geq 1 iff any variable is 1 and is not negated or is 0 and is negated.

Creating these inequalities is linear in the number of boolean clauses (i.e. this is a **polytime** reduction)



96



RICHARD M. KARP

96

CLIQUE Given a graph *G*, and an integer *m*, is there a complete subgraph of size *m* vertices?

Task. Show that CLIQUE is NP-Complete.



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1. CLIQUE is in NP.

Given a graph G and a subgraph of vertices S, we can check in polynomial time if the size of the set is m and every vertex in S is connected to every other vertex in S.

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Example

 $(x_1 \vee \bar{x_2} \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x_1} \vee x_2) \wedge (\bar{x_2} \vee x_3)$

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a clique of

size m=4

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 - A clique of size *m* corresponds to *m* literals being true (formula is satisfiable).

The clique contains exactly 1 vertex from each group (vertices in the same group are not connected) and a variable and its negation can't be in the clique.



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If the number of literals = N, the construction takes $O(N^2)$ time (i.e. this is a polytime reduction)



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Given a graph and an integer k, is there a subset of k vertices such that no two vertices are adjacent?

Task. Show that IS is NP-Complete.



Example. Black vertices form an independent set of size 5

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 x_1

 $\bar{x_2}$

 x_{2}

 $\overline{x_2}$

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The independent set contains only 1 vertex from each group. Two vertices in the same group can't be in the set and a variable and its negation can't be in the set (because these are connected with edges in the constructed graph)



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VERTEX-COVER (VC)

Given a graph and an integer *k*, is there a subset of *k* vertices such that each edge is incident to at least one vertex in the subset?

Task. Show that VC is NP-Complete.



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S is an independent set of size k iff V - S is a vertex cover of size |V| - k.



Vertex Cover of size 4



Independent Set of size 5

Vertex Cover and Independent Set

Claim. VERTEX-COVER \equiv_P INDEPENDENT-SET. Pf. We show S is an independent set iff V – S is a vertex cover.

\Rightarrow

- Let S be any independent set.
- Consider an arbitrary edge (u, v).
- S independent \Rightarrow u \notin S or v \notin S \Rightarrow u \in V S or v \in V S.
- Thus, V S covers (u, v).

⇐

- Let V S be any vertex cover.
- Consider two nodes $u \in S$ and $v \in S$.
- Observe that $(u, v) \notin E$ since V S is a vertex cover.
- Thus, no two nodes in S are joined by an edge \Rightarrow S independent set. •

TSP Given a complete weighted graph *G*, does *G* contain a simple circuit of *length* \leq *T* that visits each node exactly once?

HAMILTONIAN Given a graph *G*, does *G* contain a simple circuit that visits each node only once.

Task. Show that TSP is NP-Complete knowing that HAMILTONIAN is NP-Complete.

1. Show that TSP is in NP. **——** straight-forward

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G Input to HAMILTONIAN



G has a hamiltonian cycle iff *G*' has a tour of length *V* (If length > V then an edge that is not part of the original graph was used)

Input to TSP

Add edge (u, v) with weight **1** if (u, v) is in *G*. Add edge (u, v) with weight **2** if (u, v) is not in *G*.

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G



G'

Input to **TSP**

G has a hamiltonian cycle iff G' has a tour of length V (If length > V then an edge that is not part of the original graph was used)

This construction runs in $\Theta(V^2) = \text{polytime reduction}!$

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Class P.

A decision problem is in P if it is solvable in polynomial time (i.e. in $O(n^c)$, where *n* is the input size and *c* is a constant)

Class NP.

A decision problem is in NP if it is verifiable in polynomial time.

(Given an instance *I* or a problem *P* and a witness *W* for the solution, can we verify in polynomial time if *W* proves that the answer for *I* is yes?)

Class NP-Complete.

A decision problem is NP-Complete if:

- It is in NP.
- All problems in NP reduce to it in polynomial time.

Class NP-Hard.

A problem is NP-Hard if all problems in NP reduce to it in polynomial time. (*at least as hard as the hardest problems in* NP)

Class P.

A decision problem is in P if it is solvable in polynomial time (i.e. in $O(n^c)$, where *n* is the input size and *c* is a constant)

Class NP.

A decision problem is in NP if it is verifiable in polynomial time.

(Given an instance *I* or a problem *P* and a witness *W* for the solution, can we verify in polynomial time if *W* proves that the answer for *I* is yes?)

Examples.

- All NP-Complete Problems.
- TSP Optimization.
- Finding the Longest Simple Path.

Class NP-Complete.

A decision problem is NP-Complete if:

- It is in NP.
- All problems in NP reduce to it in polynomial time.

Class NP-Hard.

A problem is NP-Hard if all problems in NP reduce to it in polynomial time. (*at least as hard as the hardest problems in* NP)

Two Possible World Views



Living with Intractability

When you encounter an NP-complete problem

- \bullet It is safe to assume that it is intractable. \leftarrow
- What to do?

does not have an algorithm that solve all instances in polynomial time.

Four successful approaches

- Don't try to solve intractable problems.
- Try to solve real-world problem instances.
- Look for approximate solutions (not discussed in this lecture).
- Exploit intractability.

Living with Intractability: Don't Try To Solve It!



I can't find an efficient algorithm. I guess I'm just to dumb. Knows computability



I can't find an efficient algorithm, because no such algorithm is possible!



Knows intractability



I can't find an efficient algorithm, but neither can all these famous people!

Observations

- Worst-case inputs may not occur for practical problems.
- Instances that do occur in practice may be easier to solve.

Reasonable approach: relax the condition of *guaranteed* poly-time algorithms.

SAT

- *Chaff* solves real-world instances with 10,000+ variables.
- Princeton senior independent work (!) in 2000.

TSP

- Concorde routinely solves large real-world instances.
- 85.900-city instance solved in 2006.

ILP

- CPLEX routinely solves large real-world instances.
- Routinely used in scientific and commercial applications.

