

# Theory of Computation

## (Algorithmically Hard Problems)

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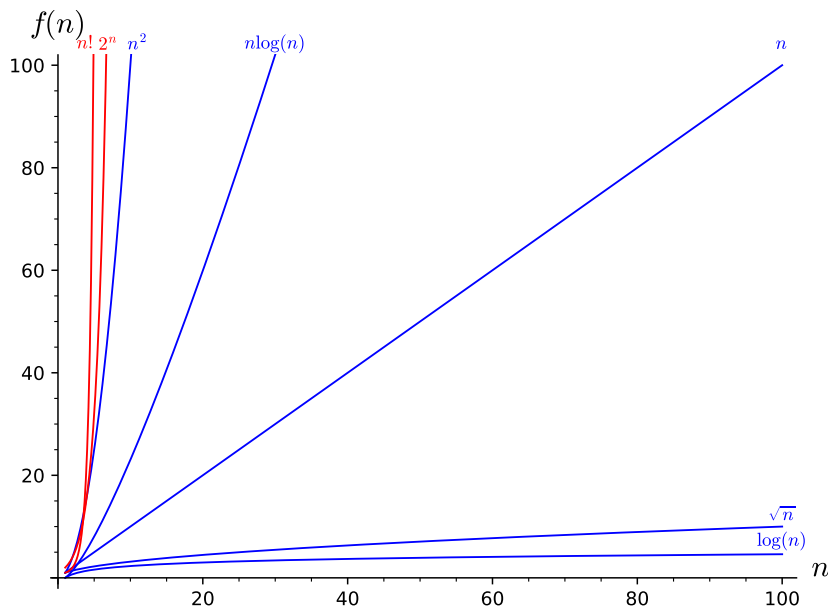
# Algorithmically unsolvable problems

| Problem                        | Running time |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Simulate problem               | $\infty$     |
| Halting problem                | $\infty$     |
| Program correctness            | $\infty$     |
| Program equivalence            | $\infty$     |
| Integral roots of a polynomial | $\infty$     |
| Goodstein's theorem            | $\infty$     |
| Generalized $(3n + 1)$ problem | $\infty$     |
| Post correspondence problem    | $\infty$     |

# Algorithmically solvable problems

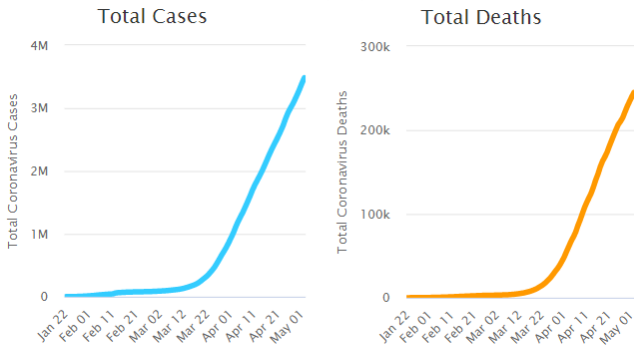
| Problem                       | Running time                 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Search in a sorted array      | $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$        |
| Search in an unsorted array   | $\mathcal{O}(n)$             |
| Integer addition              | $\mathcal{O}(n)$             |
| Generate primes               | $\mathcal{O}(n \log \log n)$ |
| Sorting                       | $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$      |
| Fast Fourier transform        | $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$      |
| Integer multiplication        | $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$           |
| Matrix multiplication         | $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$           |
| Linear programming            | $\mathcal{O}(n^{3.5})$       |
| Primality test                | $\mathcal{O}(n^{10})$        |
| Satisfiability problem        | $\mathcal{O}(2^n)$           |
| Traveling salesperson problem | $\mathcal{O}((n-1)!)$        |
| Sudoku, chess, checkers, go   | expo. class                  |

# Polynomial and exponential functions



# Exponential functions

- Moore's law (Doubling of computing power every 18 months)
- Compound interest in banks
- Coronavirus



Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

# Goal

## Goal

- Our goal is to solve all computational problems **efficiently**
- An **efficient/fast** algorithm is one that solves a problem in polynomial time

# Polynomial-time algorithm

## Definition

- A **polynomial-time** algorithm is an algorithm whose worst-case time complexity is bounded above by a polynomial function in input size.
- If  $n$  is the input size, then there exists a polynomial  $p(n)$  such that

$$T(n) \in \mathcal{O}(p(n))$$

## Analysis

- $n \log n$  is not polynomial in  $n$  but  $n \log n \in \mathcal{O}(n^2)$   
Hence, algorithm with this complexity is a polynomial-time algorithm

# Input and output sizes

## Definition

- For a given algorithm, the input and output sizes are defined as the **number of characters** required to write/encode/specify the input and output, respectively, using a reasonable encoding method.
- Reasonable encodings: base 2, base 16, base 10, base  $b \geq 2$   
Unreasonable encoding: base 1 (i.e., unary encoding)

## Example

- Problem:  $\text{SORT}(a[1..n])$   
Input:  $n$  positive integers  
Output:  $n$  numbers in nondecreasing order. Then  
Suppose  $L = \max(a[1..n])$   
Input size:  $\Theta(n \log L)$   
Output size:  $\Theta(n \log L)$



# Input and output sizes

## ISPRIME( $n$ )

1.  $answer \leftarrow true$
2. for  $i \leftarrow 2$  to  $\lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor$  do
3.   if  $n$  is divisible by  $i$  then
4.      $answer \leftarrow false$
5.   break
6. return  $answer$

## Problem

- Time complexity of ISPRIME( $n$ ) is  $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$ .  
Is ISPRIME( $n$ ) a polynomial-time algorithm?

## Solution

- **No!**
- Input size:  $s = \log_2 n$  bits (to store value  $n$ )  
Output size: 1 bit (to store Boolean answer)  
Time complexity:  $\Omega(\sqrt{n}) = \Omega(2^{s/2})$  exponential  
But this does not prove that the problem cannot have any fast algorithm.

# Input and output sizes

## Problem

- Time complexity of FIBONACCI-DP( $n$ ) is  $\Theta(n^2)$ .  
Is FIBONACCI-DP( $n$ ) a polynomial-time algorithm?

## Solution

- **No!**
- Input size:  $s = \log_2 n$  bits (to store value  $n$ )  
Output size:  $\Theta(n)$  bits (as  $F_n$  requires  $\Theta(n)$  bits)  
Time complexity:  $\Theta(n^2) = \Omega(4^s)$  exponential  
There cannot be any polynomial-time algorithm for computing the  $n$ th Fibonacci number. Why?  
**Output size itself is exponential in the size of input.**

# Problems having exponential-sized output

## Problem

- Problem: Print all simple paths
- Input: Graph  $G$ , source vertex  $x$ , destination vertex  $y$
- Output: Print all simple paths from  $x$  to  $y$

## Analysis

- Output size: Worst-case exponential function of the input size  
Hence, polynomial-time algorithms don't exist
- We will not consider problems having exponential-sized output because no polynomial-time algorithms exist for such problems

# Intractable problems

## Definition

- A problem is **intractable** if an exponential amount of time is needed to discover its solution, given that the output size a polynomial function of the input size.

## Example

- Problem: Equivalence of two regular expressions  
Input: Two regular expressions  $R_1$  and  $R_2$   
Output: Yes/no if  $R_1$  is equivalent  $R_2$

## Analysis

- Output size: Polynomial function of input size
- **There does not exist polynomial-time algorithms**

# Types of problems

## Definitions

- A **decision problem** asks for a yes/no answer.
- A **search problem** asks for arbitrary string(s) as output.
- A **counting problem** asks for the number of solutions to a search problem.
- An **optimization problem** asks for the best possible solution to a search problem.
- A **function problem** asks for a unique output for every input.

## Examples

- Decision problem:  $\text{ISPRIME}(n)$
- Search problem:  $\text{FINDFACTORS}(n)$
- Counting problem:  $\text{COUNTFACTORS}(n)$
- Optimization problem:  $\text{TSP}(G, w)$
- Function problem:  $\text{TSP}(G, w)$

# Hardness of problems

## Types

- **Hard (or intractable):** Problems that can never be solved in polynomial time.
- **Easy:** Problems that can be solved in polynomial time.
- **Possibly hard (or possibly intractable):** Problems that have no known polynomial time algorithms.

## Examples

- **Hard:** Given two regular expressions  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , is  $R_1$  equivalent to  $R_2$ ?
- **Easy:** Is there a path from  $x$  to  $y$  with weight  $\leq M$ ?
- **Possibly hard:** Is there a path from  $x$  to  $y$  with weight  $\geq M$ ?

# Complexity class P

## Definition

- The complexity class **P** denotes the set of all decision problems that can be solved by deterministic algorithms in polynomial time.

## Examples

- Is a given array sorted?
- Is a given graph cyclic?
- Is a given graph connected?
- Does a given set contain a specific element?
- **Most problems we have seen have a corresponding decision version.**

# Complexity class NP

## Definition

- The complexity class **NP** denotes the set of all decision problems that can be solved by nondeterministic algorithms in polynomial time.

## Examples

- All problems in P, i.e.,  $P \subseteq NP$
- Problem: Decision version of TSP( $G, w, b$ )  
Input: Graph  $G$ , weight function  $w$ , length  $b$   
Output: Yes if there exists a sequence of vertices (starting from a vertex and visiting each vertex exactly once) with length at most  $b$ .



# Complexity class NP

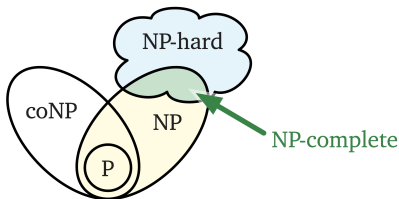
## Analysis

- A nondeterministic algorithm has two stages:
  - (1) **(Nondeterministic) Guessing stage:**  
Make all guesses simultaneously.  
(Analogous to parallel algorithm or parallel universe model)
  - (2) **(Deterministic) Verification stage:**  
Verify/check if the guess is a correct solution or not.
- Guessing stage takes  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  time  
Verification stage takes polynomial time

# Complexity class NP

## Definition

- A **polynomial-time nondeterministic algorithm** is a nondeterministic algorithm whose verification stage is a polynomial-time algorithm.
- The complexity class **NP** denotes the set of all decision problems that can be solved by polynomial-time nondeterministic algorithms.



Source: Jeff Erickson's Algorithms textbook

# Complexity class NP

## Definition

- The complexity class **NP** denotes the set of all decision problems with the following property: If the answer is yes, then there is a proof of this fact that can be checked in polynomial time.  
Intuitively, the complexity class **NP** denotes the set of all decision problems where we can **verify a yes answer quickly** if we have the solution in front of us.
- The complexity class **co-NP** denotes the set of all decision problems with the following property: If the answer is no, then there is a proof of this fact that can be checked in polynomial time.

# Is $P = NP$ ?

## Problem

- Is  $P = NP$ ?

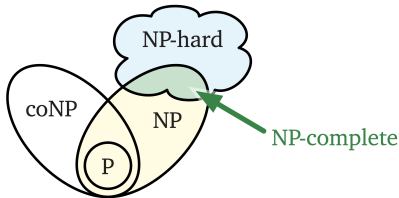
## Analysis

- This is the greatest question in theoretical computer science.
- That is:
  - Nobody knows if (deterministic) polynomial-time algorithms exist for solving all of NP problems.
  - Nobody knows if there is an NP problem that is not in P.
  - Nobody knows if NP is the same set as coNP.
- Most scientists believe that  $P \neq NP$ .
- It is most likely that Turing Award (i.e., the Nobel prize of computer science) will be given to the person who resolves the  $P \neq NP$  problem.

# Complexity classes NP-hard and NP-Complete

## Definition

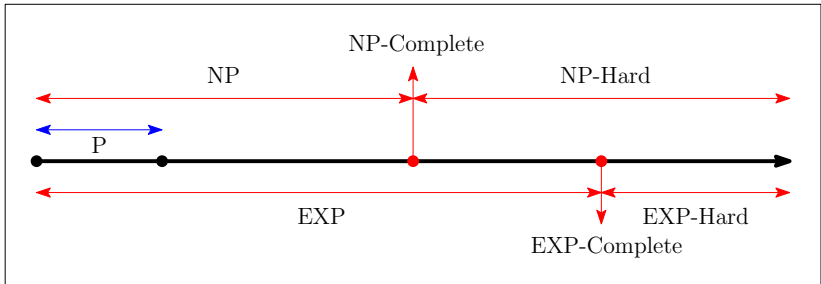
- **NP** = Problems solvable in poly time using **nondeterminism**  
= Problems with solutions that can be verified/checked in polynomial time.
- **NP-Hard** = Problems at least as hard as NP problems.  
Formally, a problem  $X$  is NP-Hard if every NP problem  $Y$  is polynomial-time reducible to  $X$ .
- **NP-Complete** = Hardest problems in NP.  
Formally, a problem  $X$  is NP-Complete if (i)  $X$  is in NP, and (ii)  $X$  is NP-Hard.



# Complexity classes NP-hard and NP-Complete

Less time

More time



# Easy problems and possibly hard problems

| Easy problems            | Possibly hard problems     |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shortest path            | Longest path               |
| Linear programming       | Integer linear programming |
| Minimum spanning tree    | Traveling salesperson      |
| 2-Satisfiability         | 3-Satisfiability           |
| Min cut                  | Max cut                    |
| Planar 4-colorability    | Planar 3-colorability      |
| Independent set on trees | Independent set            |

- The problems on the right have escaped efficient algorithms for decades to centuries. Why?
- The problems on the right seem hard for the same reason – they are all **related**.
- Each pair of those problems can be **reduced** to each other.

# What is polynomial-time reduction?

## Definition

- Reduction is a fantastic idea to solve one problem using the solution to another.
- Problem  $P_{\text{old}}$  poly.-time reduces to problem  $P_{\text{new}}$ , denoted by  $P_{\text{old}} \leq_p P_{\text{new}}$ , if the following transformation happens in polynomial time.
  - transform any input instance of  $P_{\text{old}}$  to an instance of  $P_{\text{new}}$
  - solve  $P_{\text{new}}$
  - transform output of  $P_{\text{new}}$  to output of  $P_{\text{old}}$
  - return output of  $P_{\text{old}}$

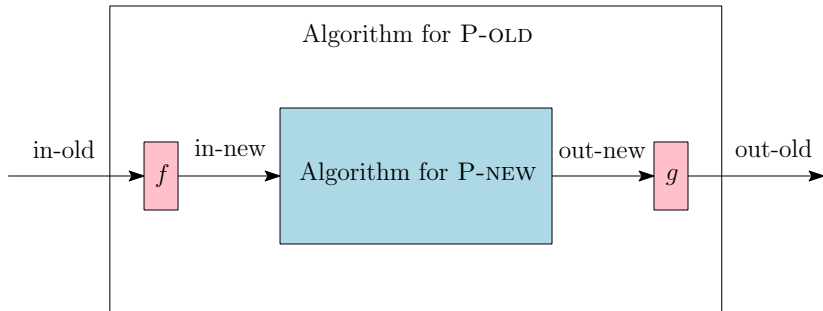


# What is polynomial-time reduction?

## Definition

- Reduction is a fantastic idea to solve one problem using the solution to another.
- Problem  $P_{\text{old}}$  poly.-time reduces to problem  $P_{\text{new}}$ , denoted by  $P_{\text{old}} \leq_p P_{\text{new}}$ , if any instance of problem  $P_{\text{old}}$  can be solved using the following:
  - (i) poly. number of standard computational steps.
  - (ii) poly. number of calls to function that solves problem  $P_{\text{new}}$ .
- $P_{\text{old}} \leq_p P_{\text{new}}$  means  $P_{\text{new}}$  is at least as hard as  $P_{\text{old}}$ .

# What is polynomial-time reduction?



PROBLEM-OLD(input-old)

$\triangleright P_{\text{old}} \leq_p P_{\text{new}}$

1.  $\text{input-new} \leftarrow f(\text{input-old})$   $\triangleright$  poly. time transformation
2.  $\text{output-new} \leftarrow \text{PROBLEM-NEW}(\text{input-new})$
3.  $\text{output-old} \leftarrow g(\text{output-new})$   $\triangleright$  poly. time transformation
4. return output-old

PROBLEM-OLD poly. time reduces to PROBLEM-NEW

# What is polynomial-time reduction?

Suppose  $P_{\text{old}} \leq_p P_{\text{new}}$

## Easy problems

- If  $P_{\text{new}}$  can be solved in polynomial time, then  $P_{\text{old}}$  can be solved in polynomial time.

## Hard problems

- If  $P_{\text{old}}$  cannot be solved in polynomial time, then  $P_{\text{new}}$  cannot be solved in polynomial time.

## Same complexity class

- If  $P_{\text{new}} \leq_p P_{\text{old}}$ , then  $P_{\text{old}}$  can be solved in polynomial time if and only if  $P_{\text{new}}$  can be solved in polynomial time.

# Reduction: Lower and upper bounds

Suppose  $P_{\text{old}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{O}(f(n))} P_{\text{new}}$

## Upper bound theorem

- If  $P_{\text{new}}$  is solvable in  $\mathcal{O}(g(n))$ ,  
then  $P_{\text{old}}$  is solvable in  $\mathcal{O}(f(n) + g(n))$

## Lower bound theorem

- If  $P_{\text{old}}$  is solvable in  $\Omega(g(n))$  and  $f(n) \in o(g(n))$ ,  
then  $P_{\text{new}}$  is solvable in  $\Omega(g(n))$

## Reduction: LCM $\rightarrow$ GCD

### Problem

- Problem: Least common multiple (LCM)

Input: Two integers  $a$  and  $b$ .

Output: Return the smallest integer  $m$  such that  $m$  is a multiple of  $a$  and  $m$  is also a multiple of  $b$ .

### Problem

- Problem: Greatest common divisor (GCD)

Input: Two integers  $a$  and  $b$ .

Output: Return the largest integer  $d$  such that  $d$  divides  $a$  and  $d$  divides  $b$ .

## Reduction: LCM $\rightarrow$ GCD

LCM( $a, b$ )

1. return  $\frac{a \times b}{\text{GCD}(a, b)}$

GCD is poly. time  $\Rightarrow$  LCM is poly. time

# Reduction: DecimalCalculator $\rightarrow$ BinaryCalculator

## Problem

- Problem: Arithmetic operations on decimal numbers

Input: Two decimal numbers  $a$  and  $b$ .

Output: Return the result of an arithmetic operation on  $a$  and  $b$  in the decimal system.

## Problem

- Problem: Arithmetic operations on binary numbers

Input: Two binary numbers  $a$  and  $b$ .

Output: Return the result of an arithmetic operation on  $a$  and  $b$  in the binary system.

# Reduction: DecimalCalculator $\rightarrow$ BinaryCalculator

DECIMALCALCULATOR( $a, b$ )

1.  $a_{\text{binary}} \leftarrow \text{DECIMALTOBINARY}(a)$
2.  $b_{\text{binary}} \leftarrow \text{DECIMALTOBINARY}(b)$
3.  $c_{\text{binary}} \leftarrow \text{BINARYCALCULATOR}(a_{\text{binary}}, b_{\text{binary}})$
4.  $c \leftarrow \text{BINARYTODECIMAL}(c_{\text{binary}})$
5. return  $c$

BINARYCALCULATOR is poly. time

$\Rightarrow$  DECIMALCALCULATOR is poly. time



# Reduction: ClosestPair $\rightarrow$ Sort

## Problem

- Problem: Closest pair

Input: A set  $S$  of  $n$  numbers, and threshold  $t$ .

Output: Is there a pair  $s_i, s_j \in S$  such that  $|s_i - s_j| \leq t$ ?

## CLOSESTPAIR( $S, t$ )

1. SORT( $S$ )
2. return  $(\min_{i \in [1, n-1]} |s_i - s_{i+1}|) \leq t$

**Sort is poly. time  $\Rightarrow$  ClosestPair is poly. time**

## Reduction: LIS $\rightarrow$ LCS

### Problem

- Problem: Longest increasing subsequence

Input: An integer or character sequence  $S$ .

Output: What is the longest sequence of integer positions  $\{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$  such that  $p_i < p_{i+1}$  and  $S_{p_i} < S_{p_{i+1}}$ ?

### Problem

- Problem: Longest common subsequence

Input: Integer or character sequences  $S$  and  $T$ .

Output: What is the longest subsequence that is common to both  $S$  to  $T$ ?

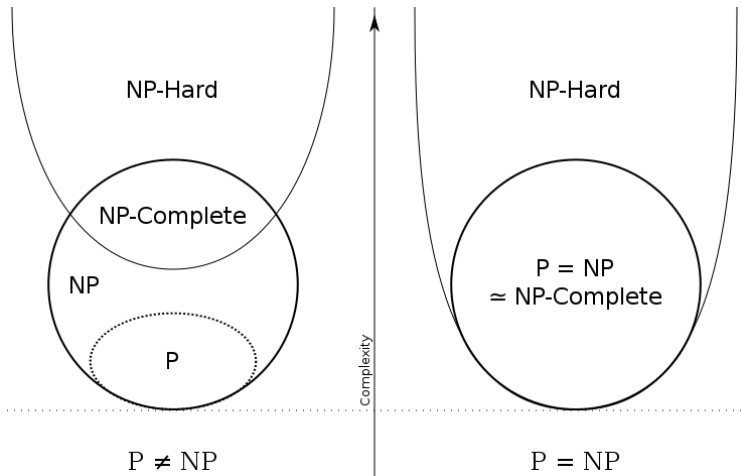
## Reduction: LIS $\rightarrow$ LCS

LIS( $S$ )

1.  $T \leftarrow \text{SORT}(S)$
2.  $lis \leftarrow \text{LCS}(S, T)$
3. return  $lis$

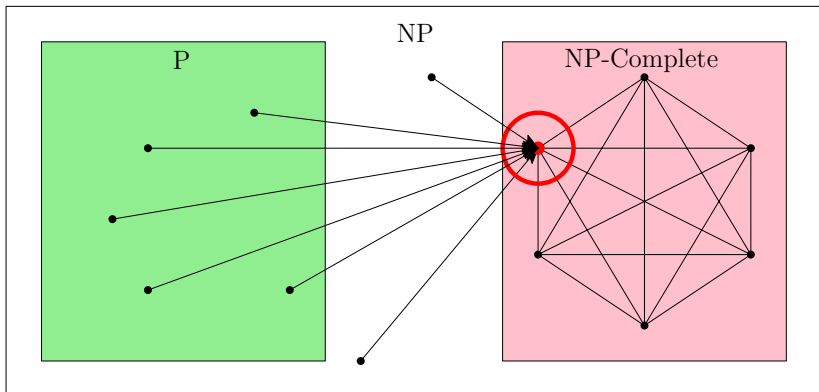
LCS is poly. time  
 $\Rightarrow$  LIS is poly. time

# Is $P = NP$ ?



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P\\_versus\\_NP\\_problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P_versus_NP_problem)

# NP-Completeness



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_NP-complete\\_problems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_NP-complete_problems)

**If any NP-Hard problem is solvable in poly-time, then every NP problem (1000s of them) is solvable in poly-time.**



**If any NP-Complete problem  
cannot be solved in poly-time,  
then every NP-hard problem  
(1000s of them) cannot be  
solved in poly-time.**



# Problem: Satisfiability (SAT)

## Problem

- Given a Boolean formula (or logical expression) in conjunctive normal form (CNF), find either a satisfying truth assignment or report that none exists.

- Examples.

$$(i) (x \vee y \vee z) \wedge (x \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (y \vee \bar{z}) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x}) \wedge (\bar{y} \vee \bar{y} \vee \bar{z})$$

No solution exists.

$$(ii) (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$

Solution is  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (T, T, F, F)$

- Applications.

Circuit design, image analysis, software engineering, artificial intelligence, and automatic theorem proving



## Problem: $k$ -Satisfiability ( $k$ -SAT)

### Problem

- The  $k$ -SAT problem is a restricted version of the SAT problem. in which each clause has at most  $k$  literals.
- Examples of 3-SAT.

$$(i) (x \vee y \vee z) \wedge (x \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (y \vee \bar{z}) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x}) \wedge (\bar{y} \vee \bar{y} \vee \bar{z})$$

No solution exists.

$$(ii) (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$

Solution is  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (T, T, F, F)$

# Proving a problem NP-Complete

## Proving the first problem SAT is NP-Complete

1. Show that SAT is in NP.
2. Reduce (in poly. time) every problem in NP to SAT.

## Proving a new problem $X$ is NP-Complete

1. Show that problem  $X$  is in NP.
2. Reduce (in poly. time) an existing NP-Complete problem to  $X$ .

# 3-SAT is in NP-Complete

## Problem

- Prove that 3-SAT is NP-Complete.

## Solution

1. Show that 3-SAT is in NP:

Suppose we are given a solution to the 3-CNF Boolean expression.

In polynomial time we can verify whether the given truth assignment is correct.

2. Show that  $\text{SAT} \rightarrow 3\text{-SAT}$ :  
?

## Reduction: SAT $\rightarrow$ 3-SAT

Let  $C = (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee A)$  where  $A = (a_3 \vee \cdots \vee a_k)$

Let  $C' = (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee y) \wedge (\bar{y} \vee A)$

### Proof

- [If  $C$  is satisfiable, then  $C'$  is satisfiable.]

[Case  $a_1 = 1$  or  $a_2 = 1$ .]  $C = 1$ .

Assign  $y = 0$  to get  $C' = (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee 0) \wedge (1 \vee A) = 1$ .

[Case  $A = 1$ .]  $C = 1$ .

Assign  $y = 1$  to get  $C' = (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee 1) \wedge (0 \vee A) = 1$ .

- [If  $C'$  is satisfiable, then  $C$  is satisfiable.]

$C' = 1 \Rightarrow (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee y = 1)$  and  $(\bar{y} \vee A) = 1$

[Case  $y = 0$ .] Then  $(a_1 \vee a_2) = 1 \Rightarrow C = 1$ .

[Case  $y = 1$ .] Then  $A = 1 \Rightarrow C = 1$ .

## Reduction: SAT $\rightarrow$ 3-SAT

SAT( $F$ )

1. for each clause  $C$  in  $F$  with  $k$  literals do
2. create  $k - 3$  tiny clauses of size 3; using a total of  $k - 3$  new variables;  
call this collection of tiny clauses  $C'$
3. let the obtained formula be called  $F'$
4. return 3-SAT( $F'$ )

SAT poly. time reduces to 3-SAT

# Problem: IndependentSet

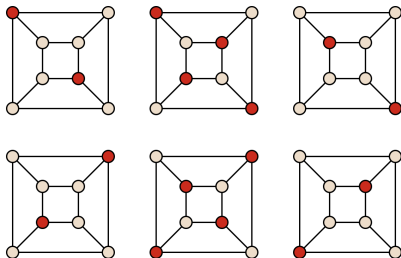
An **independent set** of a graph  $G$  is a subset of the vertices such that no two vertices in the subset represent an edge of  $G$ .

## Problem

- Problem: Independent set (decision version)

Input:  $G = (V, E)$  and an integer  $k$ .

Output: Is there a subset of vertices  $S \subseteq V$  such that  $|S| \geq k$ , and for each edge at most one of its endpoints is in  $S$ ?



Source: Wikipedia. Max. independent set size is 4.

# IndependentSet is in NP-Complete

## Problem

- Prove that INDEPENDENTSET is NP-Complete.

## Solution

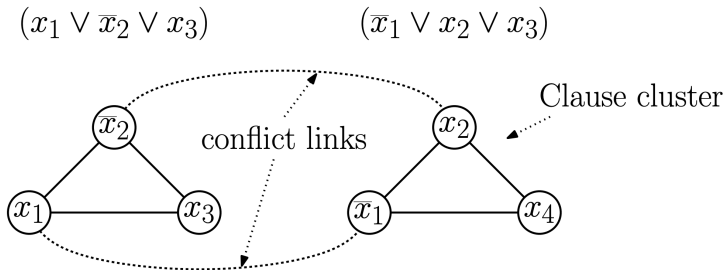
1. Show that INDEPENDENTSET is in NP:

Suppose we are given a subset  $S$  of the vertices in a graph.

In polynomial time we can verify that, for each pair of vertices in the set  $S$ , there is no edge between them.

2. Show that  $3\text{-SAT} \rightarrow \text{INDEPENDENTSET}$ :  
?

# Reduction: 3-SAT $\rightarrow$ IndependentSet



Source: David Mount's notes

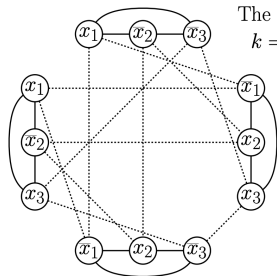
## Analysis

- A clause (of size at most 3) can be transformed to a clause cluster (of size at most 3)
- Add edges between  $x_i$  and all its complement vertices  $\bar{x}_i$

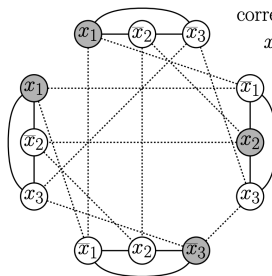


# Reduction: 3-SAT $\rightarrow$ IndependentSet

$$(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)$$



The reduction  
 $k = 4$



correctness

$$x_1 = x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0$$

Source: David Mount's notes

## Analysis

- Given a  $k$ , one needs to select at  $k$  vertices that satisfy the independent set property
- Select a vertex from each clause without violating the independent set property

# Reduction: 3-SAT $\rightarrow$ IndependentSet

3-SAT( $F$ )

[Transform the input: Boolean expression to graph]

1.  $k \leftarrow$  number of clauses in  $F$
2. for each clause  $(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$  in  $F$  do
3.   create a clause cluster consisting of three vertices labeled  $x_1, x_2, x_3$
4.   create edges  $(x_1, x_2), (x_2, x_3), (x_3, x_1)$  between all pairs of vertices in the cluster
5. for each vertex  $x_i$  do
6.   create edges between  $x_i$  and all its complement vertices  $\bar{x}_i$  (conflict links)
- .....

[Transform the output: Vertex set to truth assignment]

7. return INDEPENDENTSET( $G, k$ )

3-SAT poly. time reduces to INDEPENDENTSET

# Problem: VertexCover

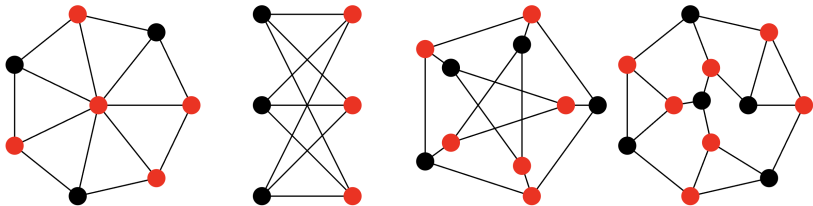
A **vertex cover** of a graph  $G$  is a subset of the vertices that touch/cover all edges of  $G$ .

## Problem

- Problem: Minimum vertex cover (decision version)

Input:  $G = (V, E)$  and a natural number  $k$ .

Output: Check if there exists a set of  $k$  vertices that cover all edges.



Source: Mathworld Wolfram.

# VertexCover is in NP-Complete

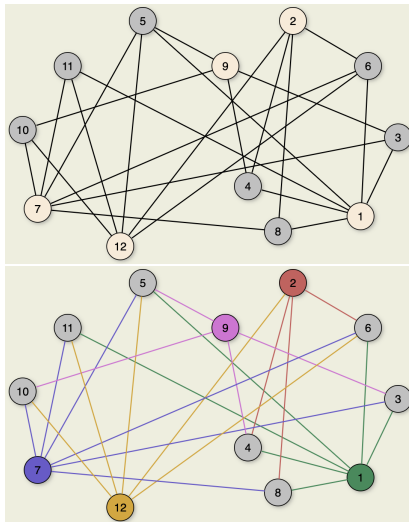
## Problem

- Prove that VERTEXCOVER is NP-Complete.

## Solution

1. Show that VERTEXCOVER is in NP:  
Suppose we are given a subset  $S$  of the vertices in a graph.  
In polynomial time we can verify that, for each vertex in the set  $S$ , the edges the vertex covers/touches.
2. Show that INDEPENDENTSET  $\rightarrow$  VERTEXCOVER:  
?

# Reduction: IndependentSet $\rightarrow$ VertexCover



Source: <https://opensa-server.cs.vt.edu/ODSA/Books/Everything/html/index.html>

$|V| = 12$ . Independent set size = 7. Vertex cover size = 5.

## Reduction: IndependentSet $\rightarrow$ VertexCover

In a graph  $G$ ,  $S$  is an independent set  $\Leftrightarrow (V - S)$  is a vertex cover

### Proof

- [If  $S$  is an independent set, then  $(V - S)$  is a vertex cover.]

If  $S$  is an independent set, there is no edge  $e = (u, v)$  in  $G$ , such that both  $u, v \in S$ . Hence for any edge  $e = (u, v)$ , at least one of  $u, v$  must lie in  $(V - S)$ .

$\implies (V - S)$  is a vertex cover in  $G$ .

- [If  $(V - S)$  is a vertex cover, then  $S$  is an independent set.]

If  $(V - S)$  is a vertex cover, between any pair of vertices  $(u, v) \in S$  if there exists an edge  $e$ , none of the endpoints of  $e$  would exist in  $(V - S)$  violating the definition of vertex cover. Hence, no pair of vertices in  $S$  can be connected by an edge.

$\implies S$  is an independent set in  $G$ .

## Reduction: IndependentSet $\rightarrow$ VertexCover

INDEPENDENTSET( $G, k$ )

1. return VERTEXCOVER( $G, |V| - k$ )

INDEPENDENTSET poly. time reduces to VERTEXCOVER

# TSP is in NP-Complete

## Problem

- Prove that TSP is in NP-Complete.

## Solution

1. Show that TSP is in NP:

Suppose we are given a tour in a graph and a natural number  $k$ .

In polynomial time we can verify if the given solution is really a tour (covers each vertex exactly once, except the last vertex) and if the total weight of the tour is less than or equal to  $k$ .

2. Show that  $\text{HAMILTONIANCYCLE} \rightarrow \text{TSP}$ :  
?



## Reduction: Hamiltonian Cycle $\rightarrow$ TSP

### Problem

- Problem: Hamiltonian cycle

Input:  $G = (V, E)$ .

Output: Check if the graph contains a Hamiltonian cycle, i.e., a cycle that passes through all the vertices of the graph exactly once.

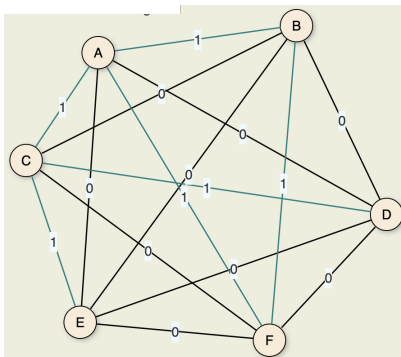
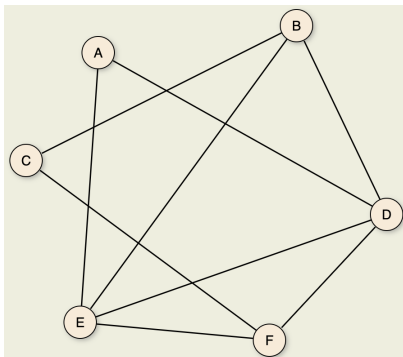
### Problem

- Problem: TSP

Input: Weighted graph  $G = (V, E)$  with nonnegative weights and a natural number  $k$ .

Output: Check if the graph contains a simple cycle of length  $\leq k$  (i.e., total weight cost) that passes through all the vertices of the graph exactly once.

# Reduction: HamiltonianCycle $\rightarrow$ TSP



Source: <https://opensa-server.cs.vt.edu/ODSA/Books/Everything/html/index.html>

Hamiltonian cycle in first graph  $\Leftrightarrow$  finding TSP of cost 0 is second graph.

## Reduction: HamiltonianCycle $\rightarrow$ TSP

### Transformation

For a given graph  $G = (V, E)$ , create the graph  $G' = (V', E')$  as follows:

- [vertices.]  $V' = V$
- [edges.]  $E' = \{(u, v)\}$  for unique vertices  $u, v$  in  $V'$
- [weights.] for each edge  $e$  in  $E'$ :
  - $w(e) = 0$  if  $e$  is in  $E$ ,
  - $w(e) = 1$  if  $e$  is not in  $E$

## Reduction: HamiltonianCycle $\rightarrow$ TSP

$$\text{HAMILTONIANCYCLE}(G) \Leftrightarrow \text{TSP}(G', 0)$$

### Reduction

- $[\text{HAMILTONIANCYCLE}(G) \Rightarrow \text{TSP}(G', 0).]$

If  $G$  contains a Hamiltonian cycle, it forms a cycle in  $G'$  with total cost 0 because the weights of all the edges is 0. Hence, there exists a TSP solution in  $G'$  with total cost  $\leq 0$ .

- $[\text{TSP}(G', 0) \Rightarrow \text{HAMILTONIANCYCLE}(G).]$

If  $G'$  contains a cycle that passes through all vertices exactly once, and has length  $\leq 0$ , then the cycle contains only the edges that were originally present in graph  $G$ . Hence, there exists a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$ .

# Reduction: HamiltonianCycle $\rightarrow$ TSP

HAMILTONIANCYCLE( $G = (V, E)$ )

1. construct complete graph  $G' = (V', E')$  such that  $V' = V$
2. for each edge  $e$  in  $E'$  do
3.   if  $e$  is in  $E$  then
4.      $w(e) \leftarrow 0$
5.   else
6.      $w(e) \leftarrow 1$
7. return TSP( $G', 0$ )

HAMILTONIANCYCLE poly. time reduces to TSP