

NP and NP Completeness

Lecture 23

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

23.1

NP-Completeness: Cook-Levin Theorem

23.1.1

Completeness

NP: Non-deterministic polynomial

Definition 23.1.

A decision problem is in **NP**, if it has a polynomial time certifier, for all the all the YES instances.

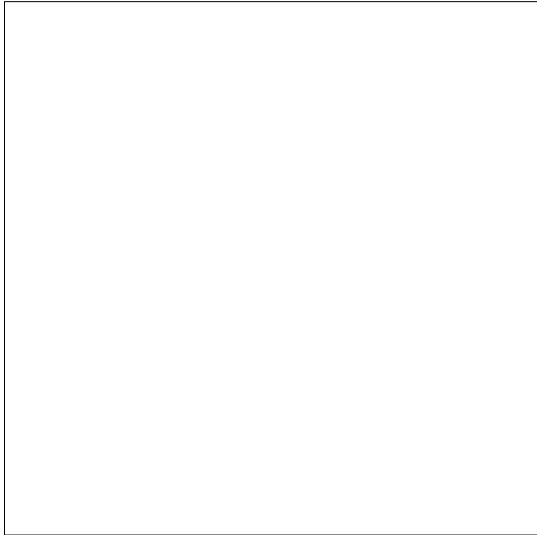
Definition 23.2.

A decision problem is in **co-NP**, if it has a polynomial time certifier, for all the all the NO instances.

Example 23.3.

1. **3SAT** is in **NP**.
2. But **Not3SAT** is in **co-NP**.

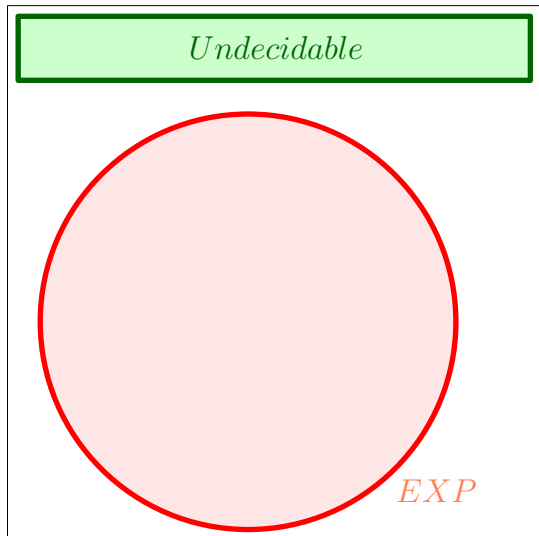
In the beginning...



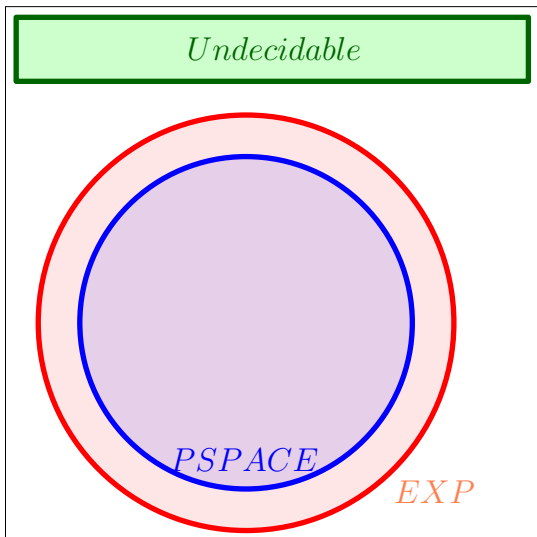
In the beginning...

Undecidable

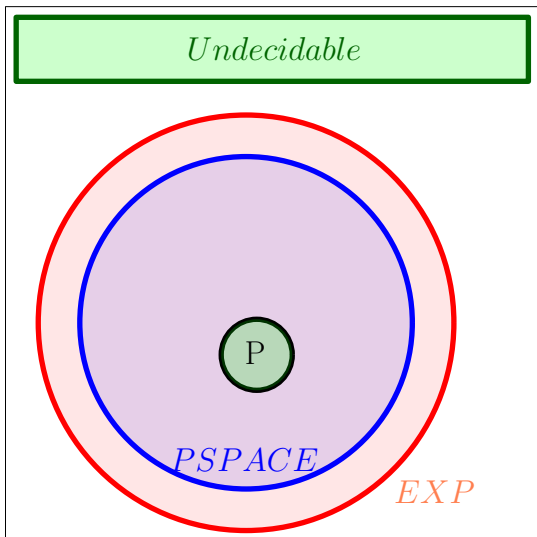
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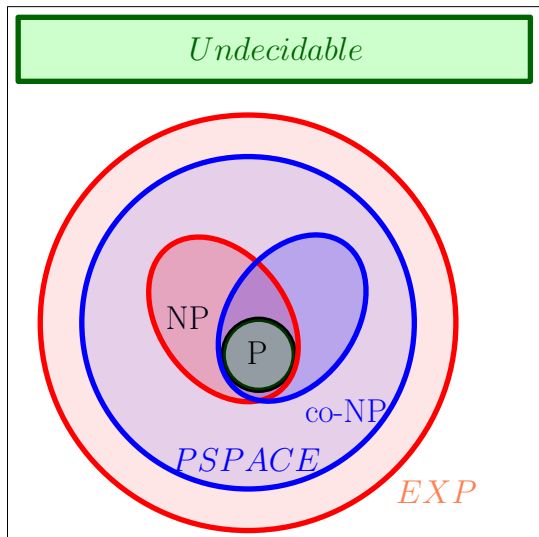
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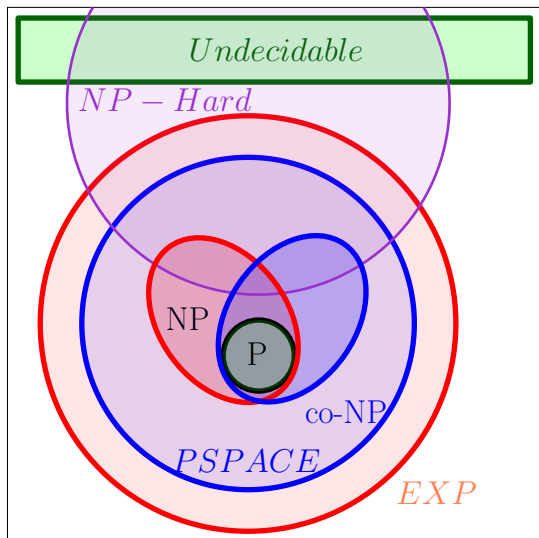
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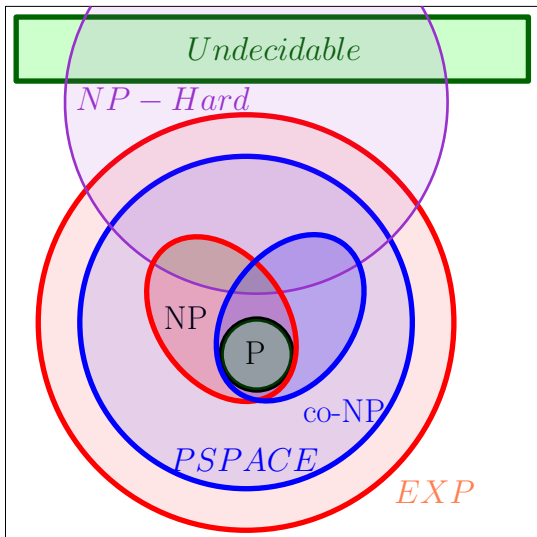
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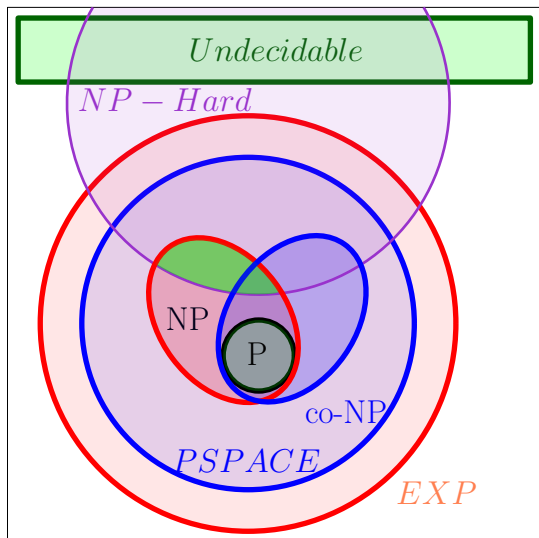
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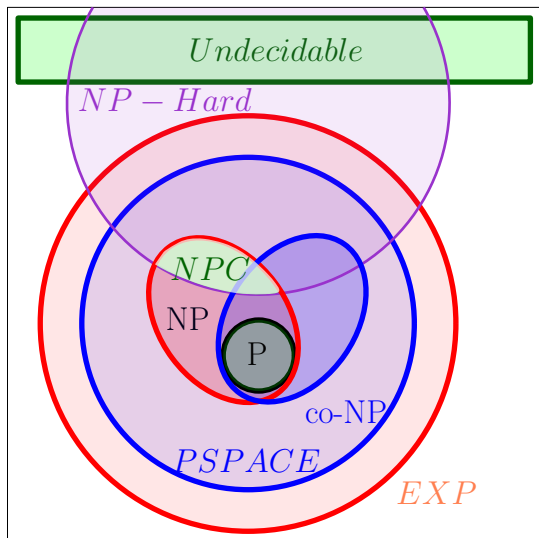
In the beginning...



In the beginning...



In the beginning...



“Hardest” Problems

Question

What is the hardest problem in **NP**? How do we define it?

Towards a definition

1. Hardest problem must be in **NP**.
2. Hardest problem must be at least as “difficult” as every other problem in **NP**.

NP-Complete Problems

Definition 23.4.

A problem X is said to be **NP-Complete** if

1. $X \in \mathbf{NP}$, and
2. (**Hardness**) For any $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$, $Y \leq_P X$.

Solving NP-Complete Problems

Proposition 23.5.

Suppose X is NP-Complete. Then X can be solved in polynomial time \iff $P = NP$.

Proof.

\Rightarrow Suppose X can be solved in polynomial time

0.1 Let $Y \in NP$. We know $Y \leq_P X$.

0.2 We showed that if $Y \leq_P X$ and X can be solved in polynomial time, then Y can be solved in polynomial time.

0.3 Thus, every problem $Y \in NP$ is such that $Y \in P$.

0.4 $\implies NP \subseteq P$.

0.5 Since $P \subseteq NP$, we have $P = NP$.

\Leftarrow Since $P = NP$, and $X \in NP$, we have a polynomial time algorithm for X . \square

NP-Hard Problems

Definition 23.6.

A problem X is said to be **NP-Hard** if

1. (**Hardness**) For any $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$, we have that $Y \leq_P X$.

An **NP-Hard** problem need not be in **NP**!

Example: Halting problem is **NP-Hard** (why?) but not **NP-Complete**.

Consequences of proving **NP-Completeness**

If **X** is **NP-Complete**

1. Since we believe **P** \neq **NP**,
2. and solving **X** implies **P** = **NP**.

X is **unlikely** to be efficiently solvable.

At the very least, many smart people before you have failed to find an efficient algorithm for **X**.

(This is proof by mob opinion — take with a grain of salt.)

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23.1.2

SAT is NP-Complete

NP-Complete Problems

Question

Are there any problems that are **NP-Complete**?

Answer

Yes! Many, many problems are **NP-Complete**.

Cook-Levin Theorem

Theorem 23.7 (Cook-Levin).

SAT is **NP-Complete**.

Need to show

1. **SAT** is in **NP**.
2. every **NP** problem **X** reduces in polynomial time to **SAT**.

Might see proof later...

Steve Cook won the Turing award for his theorem.

23.1.3

Other NP Complete Problems

Proving that a problem **X** is **NP-Complete**

To prove **X** is **NP-Complete**, show

1. Show that **X** is in **NP**.
2. Give a polynomial-time reduction from a known **NP-Complete** problem such as **SAT** to **X**

SAT \leq_P **X** implies that every **NP** problem **Y** \leq_P **X**. Why?

Transitivity of reductions:

Y \leq_P **SAT** and **SAT** \leq_P **X** and hence **Y** \leq_P **X**.

3-SAT is NP-Complete

- ▶ 3-SAT is in *NP*
- ▶ $\text{SAT} \leq_P \text{3-SAT}$ as we saw

NP-Completeness via Reductions

1. **SAT** is **NP-Complete** due to Cook-Levin theorem
2. **SAT** \leq_P **3-SAT**
3. **3-SAT** \leq_P **Independent Set**
4. **Independent Set** \leq_P **Vertex Cover**
5. **Independent Set** \leq_P **Clique**
6. **3-SAT** \leq_P **3-Color**
7. **3-SAT** \leq_P **Hamiltonian Cycle**

Hundreds and thousands of different problems from many areas of science and engineering have been shown to be **NP-Complete**.

A surprisingly frequent phenomenon!

23.2

Reducing **3-SAT** to Independent Set

Independent Set

Problem: Independent Set

Instance: A graph G , integer k .

Question: Is there an independent set in G of size k ?

Lemma 23.1.

Independent set *is in* **NP**.

3SAT \leq_P Independent Set

The reduction 3SAT \leq_P Independent Set

Input: Given a 3CNF formula φ

Goal: Construct a graph G_φ and number k such that G_φ has an independent set of size k if and only if φ is satisfiable.

G_φ should be constructable in time polynomial in size of φ

Importance of reduction: Although 3SAT is much more expressive, it can be reduced to a seemingly specialized Independent Set problem.

Notice: We handle only 3CNF formulas – reduction would not work for other kinds of boolean formulas.

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Interpreting 3SAT

There are two ways to think about **3SAT**

1. Find a way to assign 0/1 (false/true) to the variables such that the formula evaluates to true, that is each clause evaluates to true.
2. Pick a literal from each clause and find a truth assignment to make all of them true. You will fail if two of the literals you pick are in conflict, i.e., you pick x_i and $\neg x_i$.

We will take the second view of **3SAT** to construct the reduction.

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The Reduction

1. G_φ will have one vertex for each literal in a clause
2. Connect the 3 literals in a clause to form a triangle; the independent set will pick at most one vertex from each clause, which will correspond to the literal to be set to true
3. Connect 2 vertices if they label complementary literals; this ensures that the literals corresponding to the independent set do not have a conflict
4. Take k to be the number of clauses

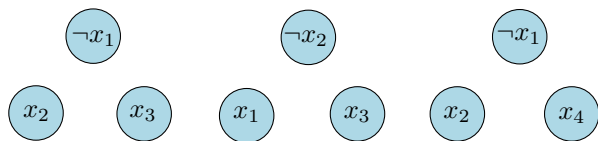


Figure: Graph for $\varphi = (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$

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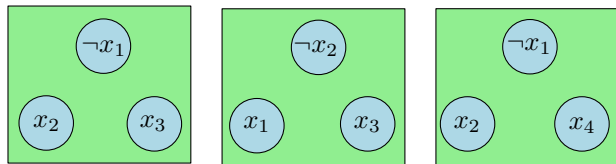


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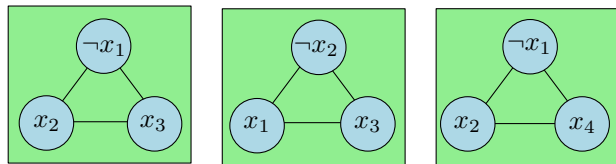


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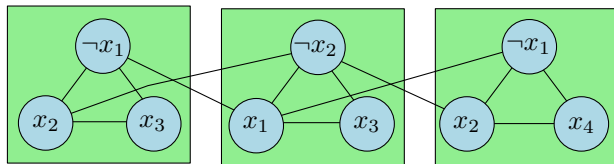


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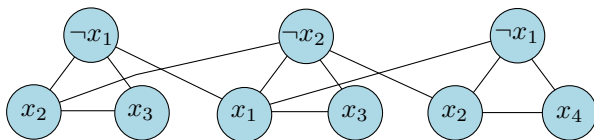


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Correctness

Proposition 23.2.

φ is satisfiable iff G_φ has an independent set of size k (= number of clauses in φ).

Proof.

\Rightarrow Let \mathbf{a} be the truth assignment satisfying φ

- ▶ Pick one of the vertices, corresponding to true literals under \mathbf{a} , from each triangle. This is an independent set of the appropriate size. Why?



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Proof.

\Leftarrow Let S be an independent set of size k

1. S must contain exactly one vertex from each clause
2. S cannot contain vertices labeled by conflicting literals
3. Thus, it is possible to obtain a truth assignment that makes in the literals in S true; such an assignment satisfies one literal in every clause □

Summary

Theorem 23.3.

Independent set is **NP-Complete** (i.e., **NPC**).

23.3

NP-Completeness of Hamiltonian Cycle

23.3.1

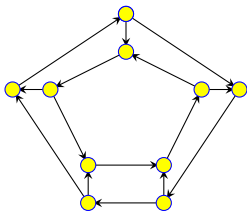
Reduction from 3SAT to Hamiltonian Cycle: Basic idea

Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Input Given a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ with n vertices

Goal Does G have a **Hamiltonian cycle**?

- ▶ A Hamiltonian cycle is a cycle in the graph that visits every vertex in G exactly once

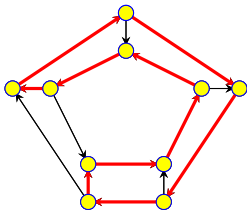


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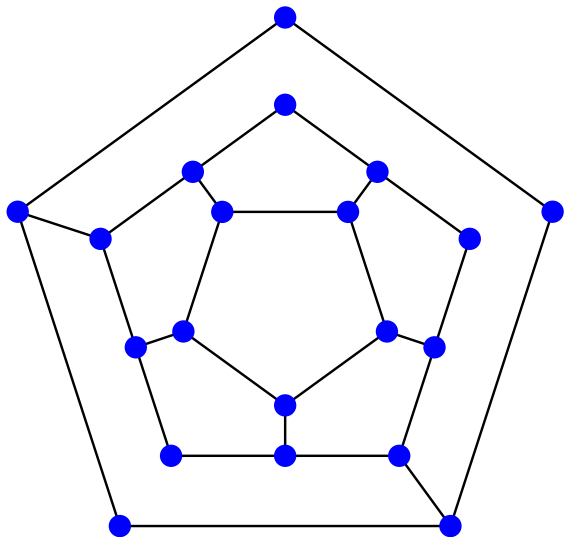
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Is the following graph Hamiltonian?



(A) Yes.

(B) No.

Directed Hamiltonian Cycle is **NP-Complete**

- ▶ Directed Hamiltonian Cycle is in *NP*: exercise
- ▶ **Hardness:** We will show $3SAT \leq_P \text{Directed Hamiltonian Cycle}$.

Reduction construction

From 3SAT to Hamiltonian cycle in directed graph

1. To show reduction, we next describe an algorithm:
 - ▶ Input: **3SAT** formula φ
 - ▶ Output: A graph G_φ .
 - ▶ Running time is polynomial.
 - ▶ Requirement: φ is satisfiable $\iff G_\varphi$ is Hamiltonian.
2. Given **3SAT** formula φ create a graph G_φ such that
 - ▶ G_φ has a Hamiltonian cycle if and only if φ is satisfiable
 - ▶ G_φ should be constructible from φ by a polynomial time algorithm \mathcal{A}
3. **Notation:** φ has n variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and m clauses C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m .

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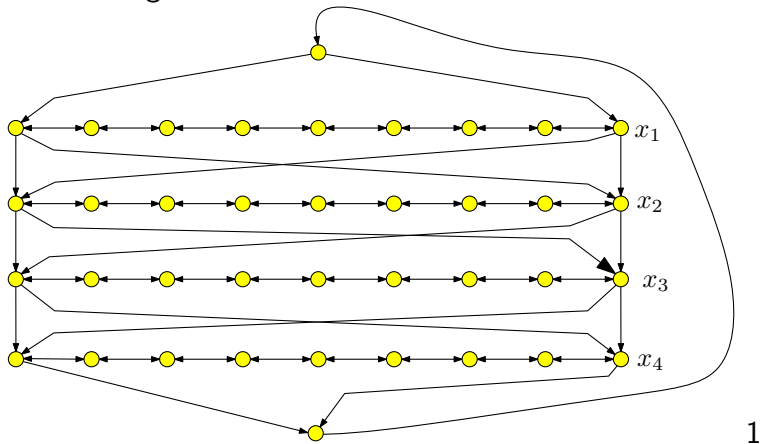
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Encoding assignments

Converting φ to a graph

Given a formula with n variables, we need a graph with 2^n different Hamiltonian paths, that can encode their assignments.



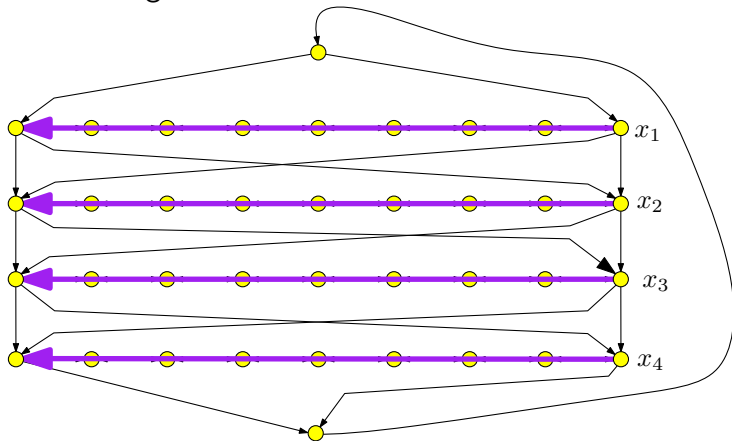
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1

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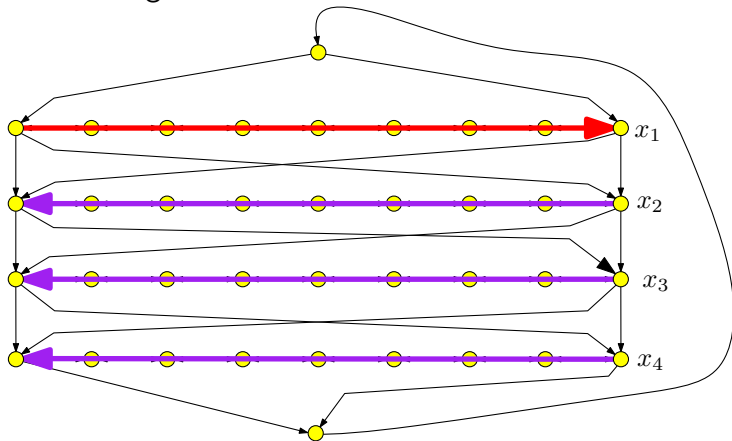
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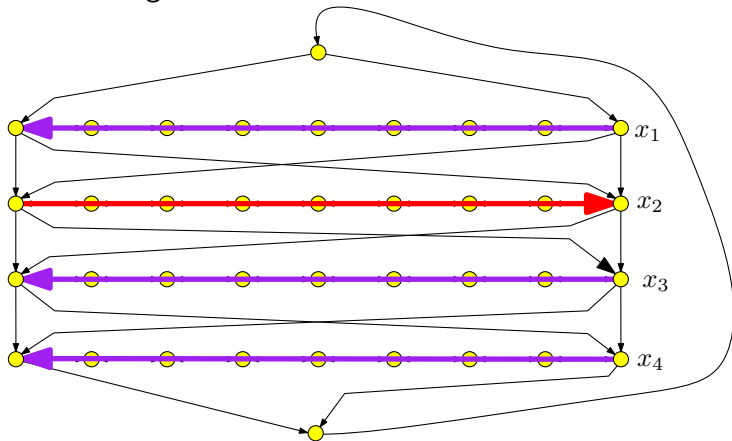
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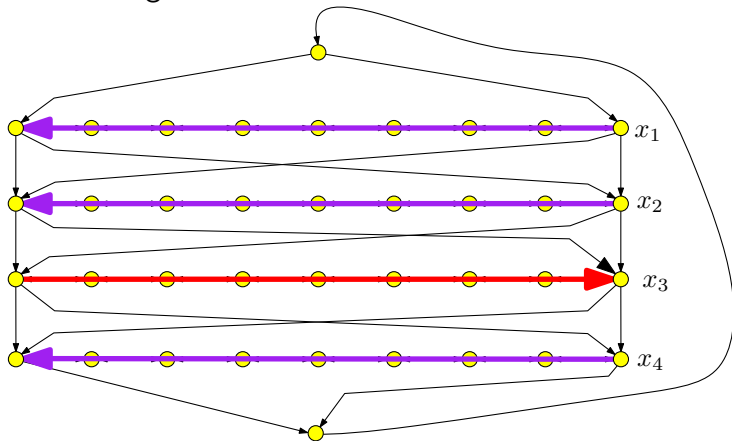
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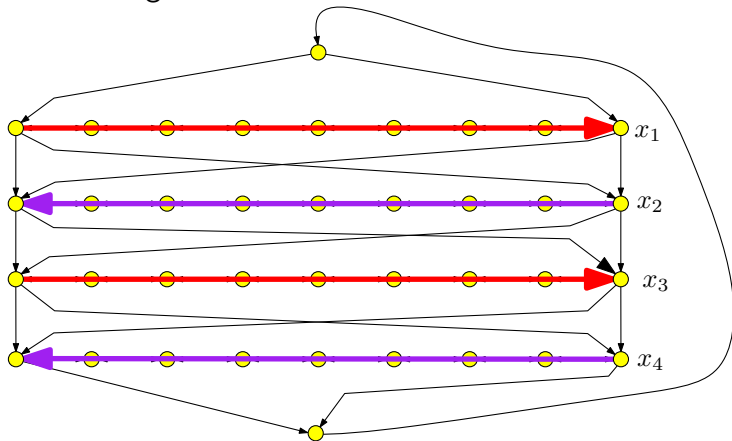
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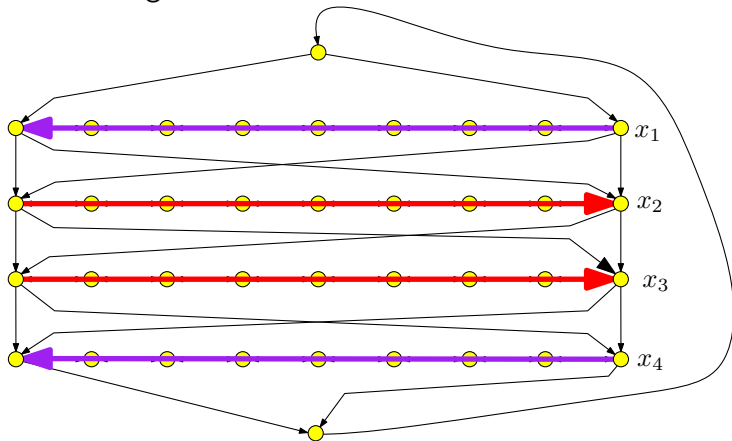
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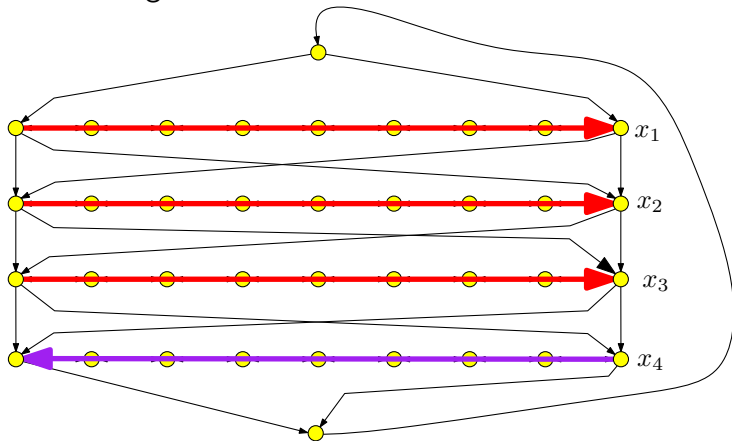
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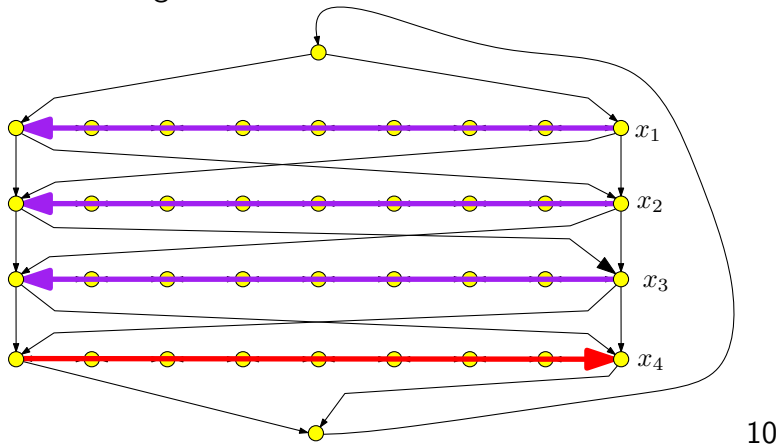
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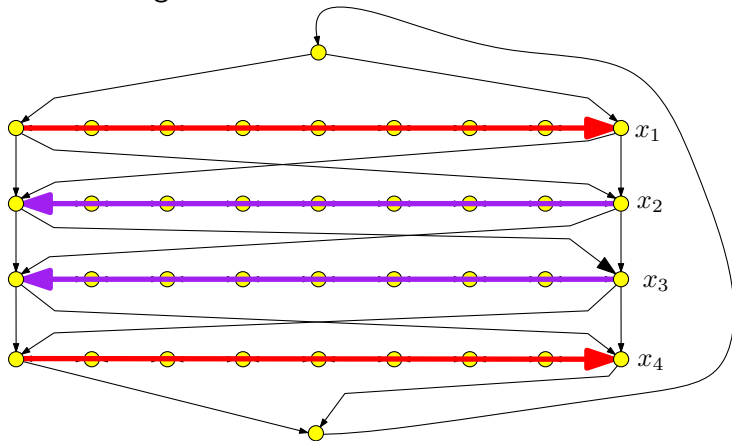


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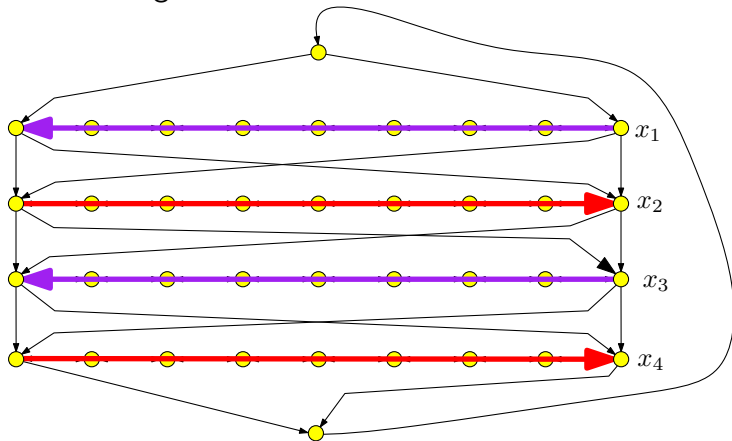
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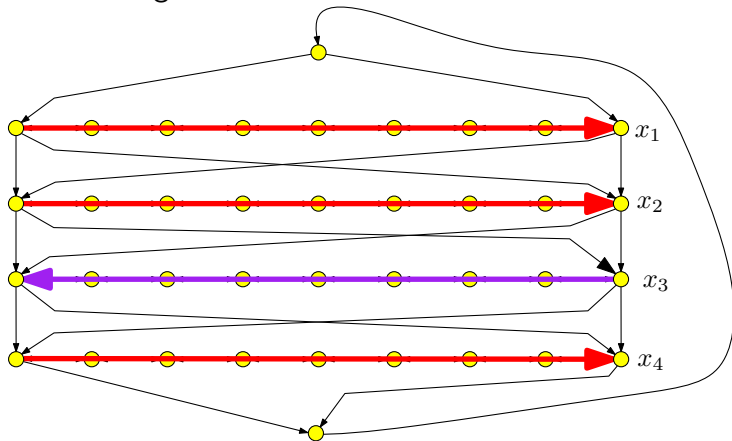
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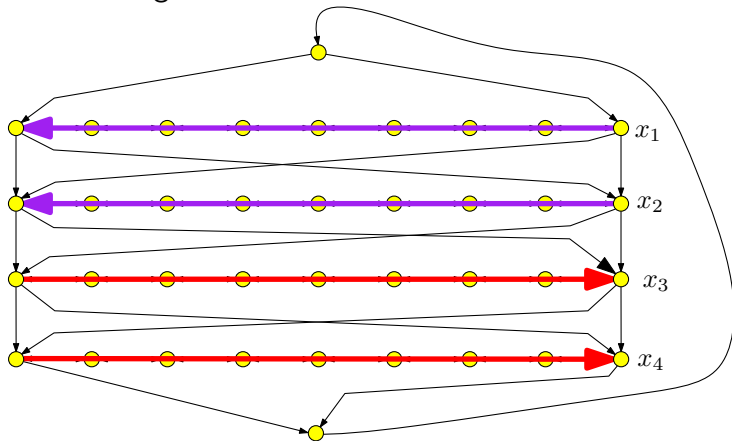
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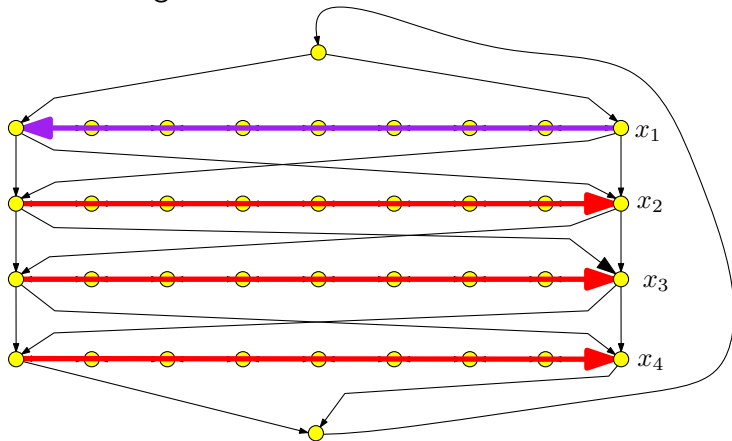
14

$$x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1, x_4 = 1$$

Encoding assignments

Converting φ to a graph

Given a formula with n variables, we need a graph with 2^n different Hamiltonian paths, that can encode their assignments.



5

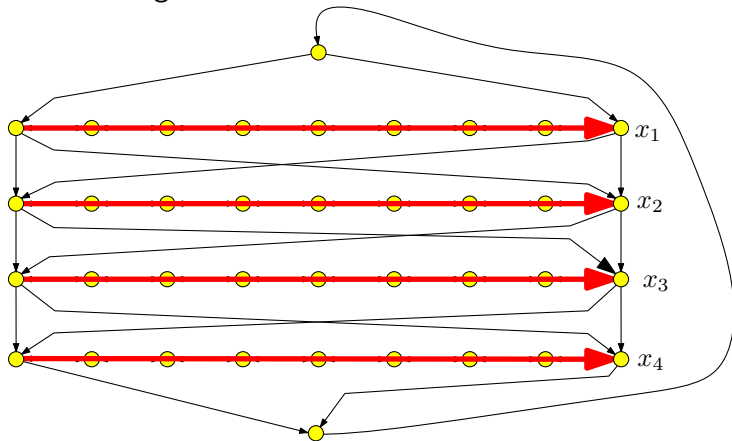
16

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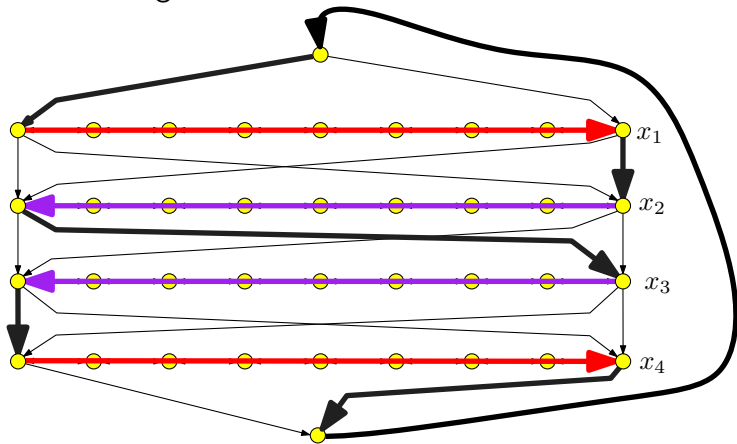
17

$$x_1 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 1, x_4 = 1$$

Encoding assignments

Converting φ to a graph

Given a formula with n variables, we need a graph with 2^n different Hamiltonian paths, that can encode their assignments.



23.3.2

The reduction: Encoding the formula constraints

3SAT \leq_P Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Input: φ formula.

Output: Graph G_φ .

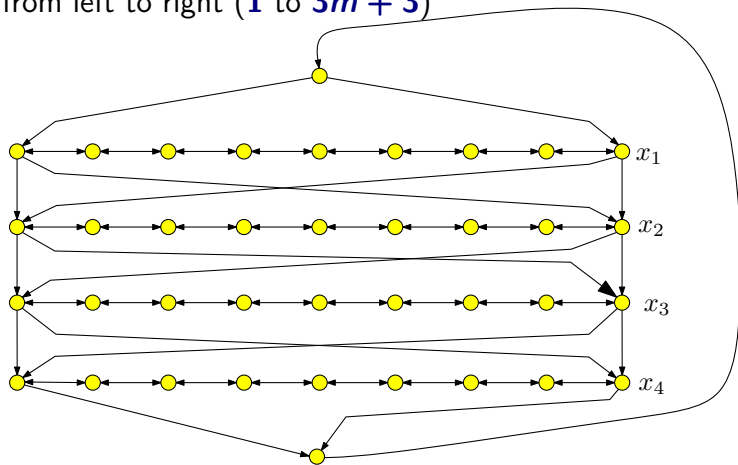
Saw: How to encode assignments...

Now need to encode constraints of φ .

The reduction algorithm: Phase I

Converting φ to a graph

- ▶ Traverse path i from left to right iff x_i is set to true
- ▶ Each path has $3(m + 1)$ nodes where m is number of clauses in φ ; nodes numbered from left to right (1 to $3m + 3$)

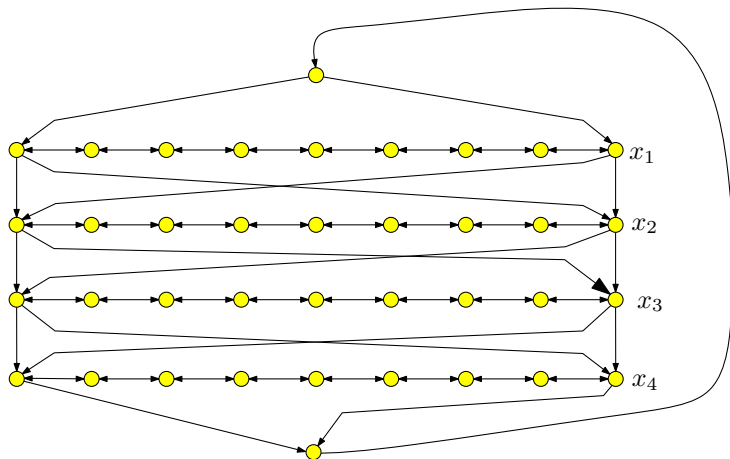


The Reduction algorithm: Phase II

- ▶ Add vertex c_j for clause C_j . c_j has edge from vertex $3j$ and to vertex $3j + 1$ on path i if x_i appears in clause C_j , and has edge from vertex $3j + 1$ and to vertex $3j$ if $\neg x_i$ appears in C_j .

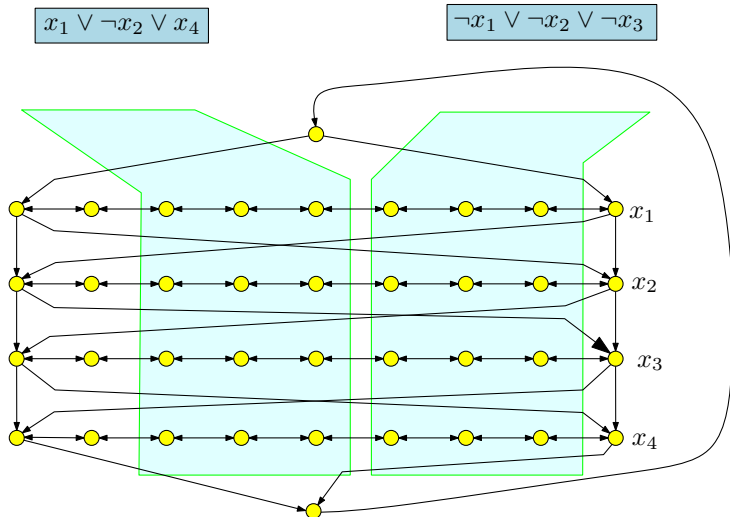
$$x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4$$

$$\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3$$



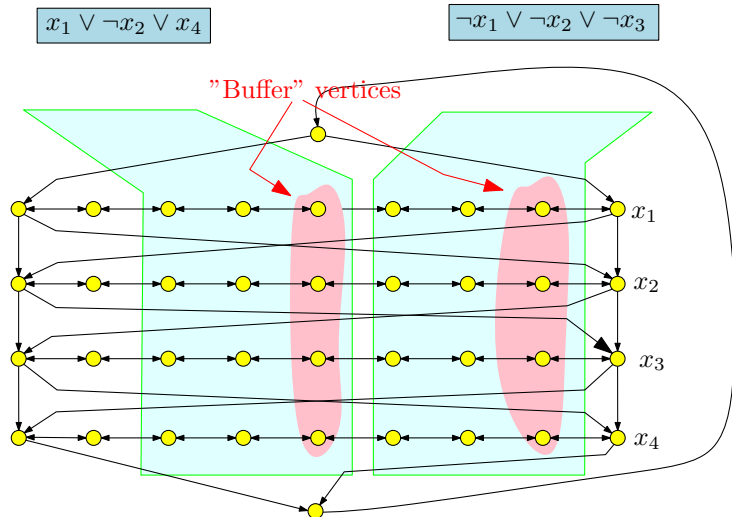
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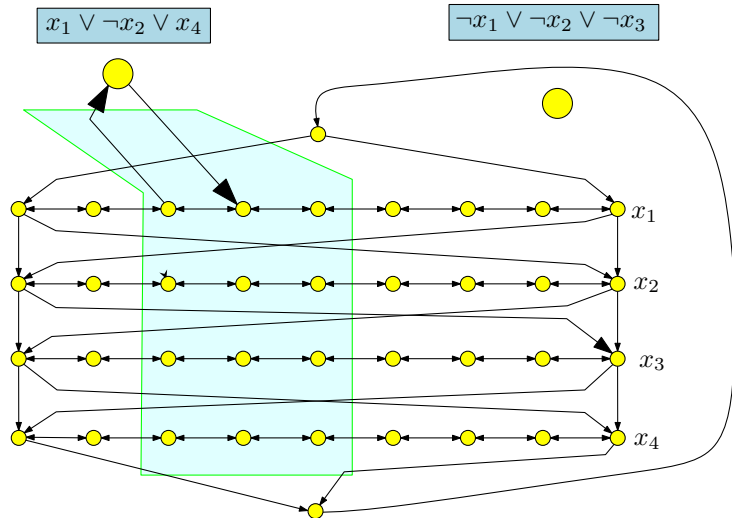
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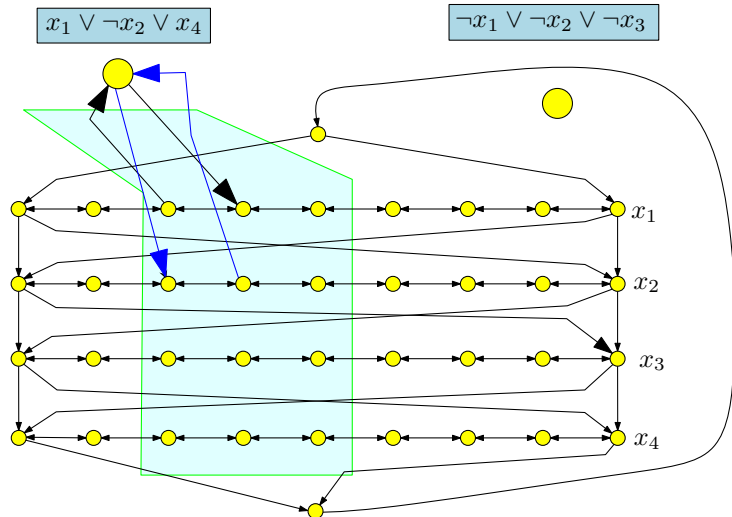
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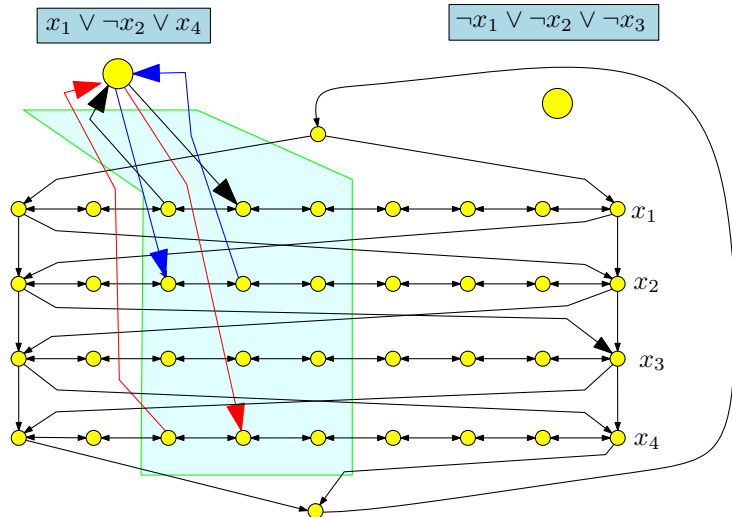
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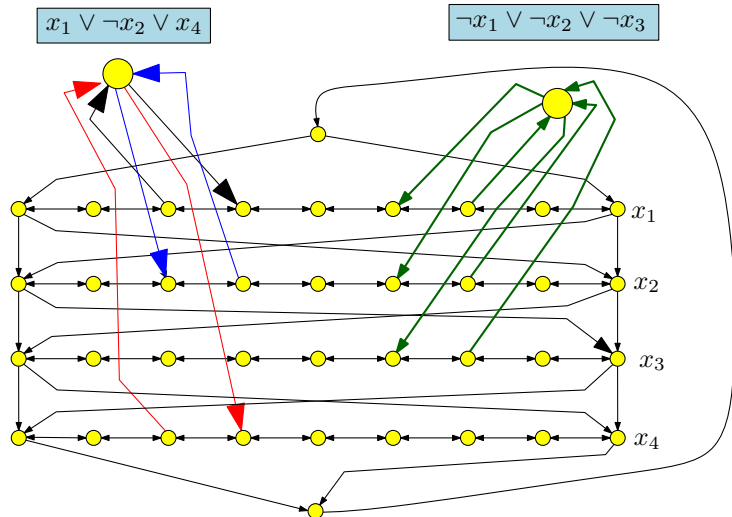
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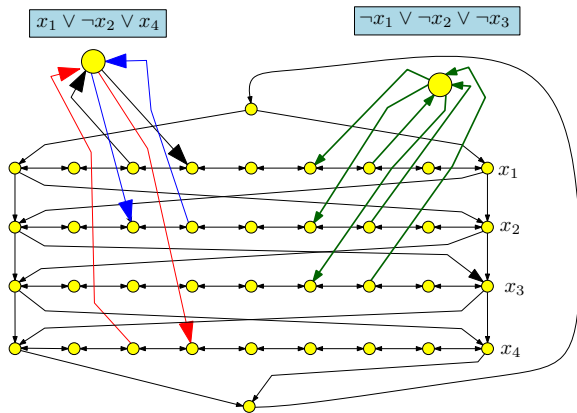
23.3.3

If there is a satisfying assignment, then there is a Hamiltonian cycle

From satisfying assignment to Hamiltonian cycle: By figure

3SAT formula φ :

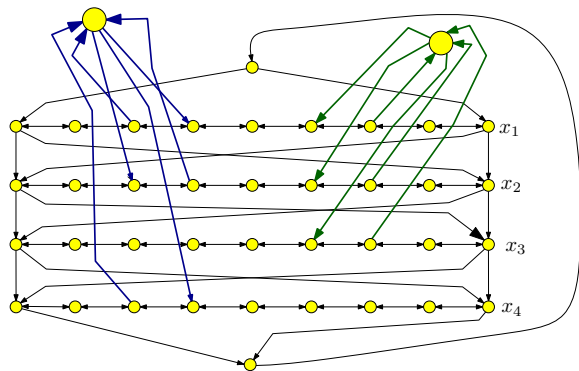
$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$$



From satisfying assignment to Hamiltonian cycle: By figure

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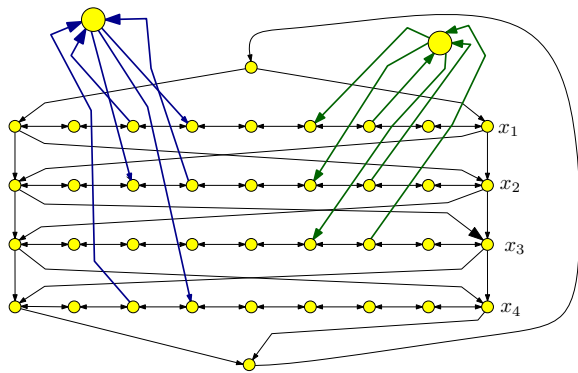
From satisfying assignment to Hamiltonian cycle: By figure

3SAT formula φ :

$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$$

A satisfying assignment:

$$x_1 = \mathbf{0}, x_2 = \mathbf{1}, x_3 = \mathbf{0}, x_4 = \mathbf{1}$$



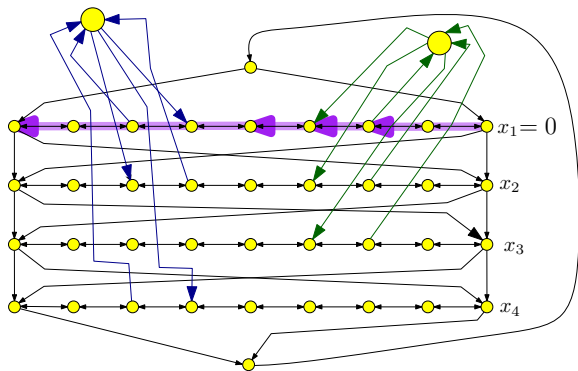
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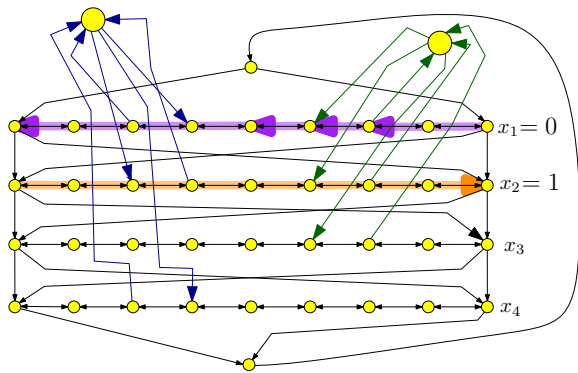
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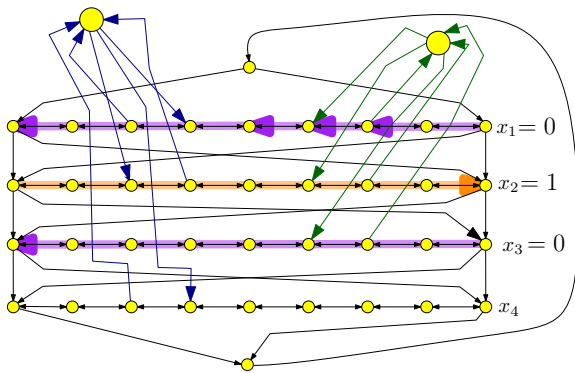
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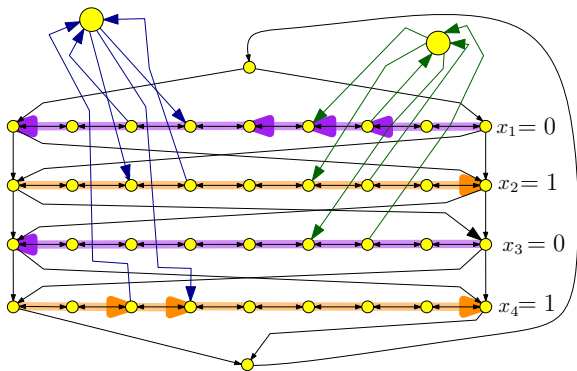
From satisfying assignment to Hamiltonian cycle: By figure

3SAT formula φ :

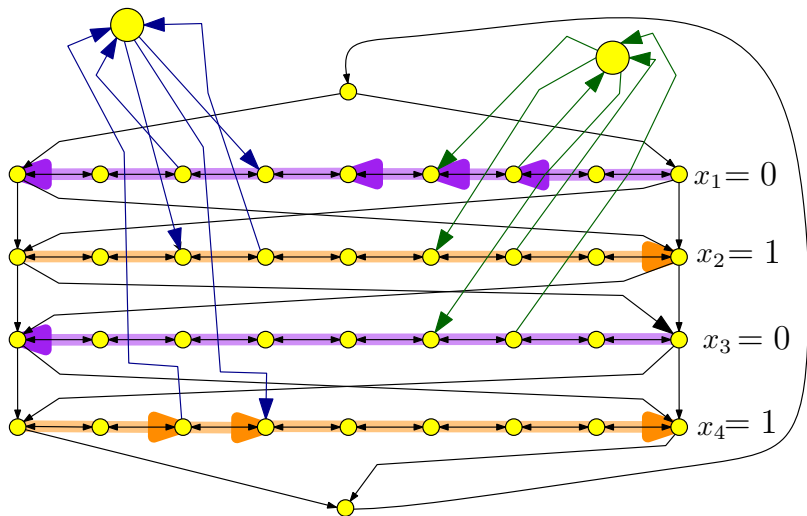
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A satisfying assignment:

$$x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0, x_4 = 1$$



Reduction: Satisfying assignment \Rightarrow Hamiltonian cycle

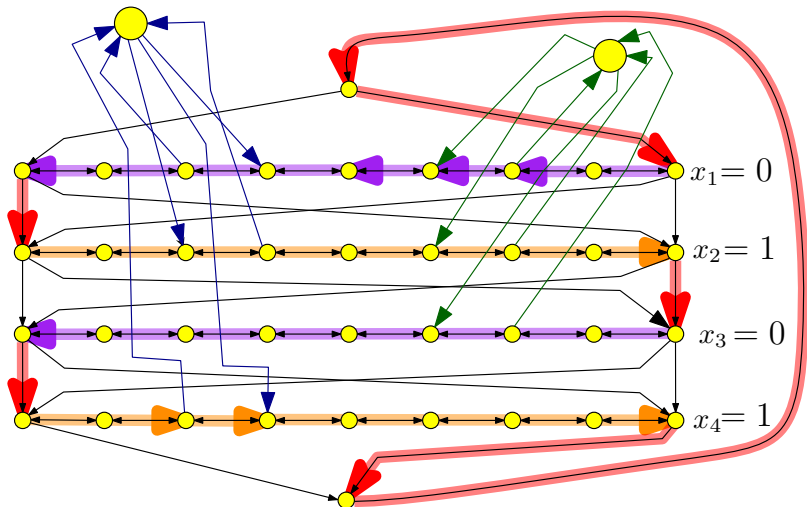


Satisfying assignment: $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 0, x_4 = 1$

Reduction: Satisfying assignment \Rightarrow Hamiltonian cycle

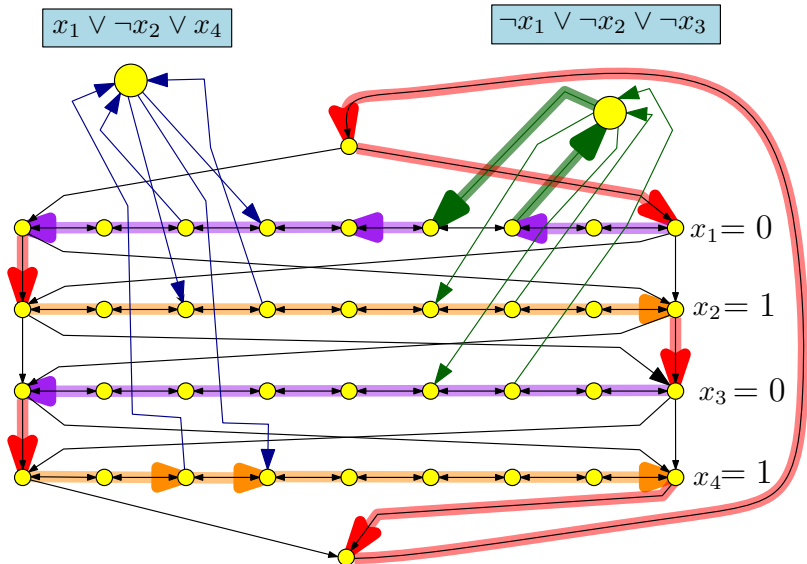
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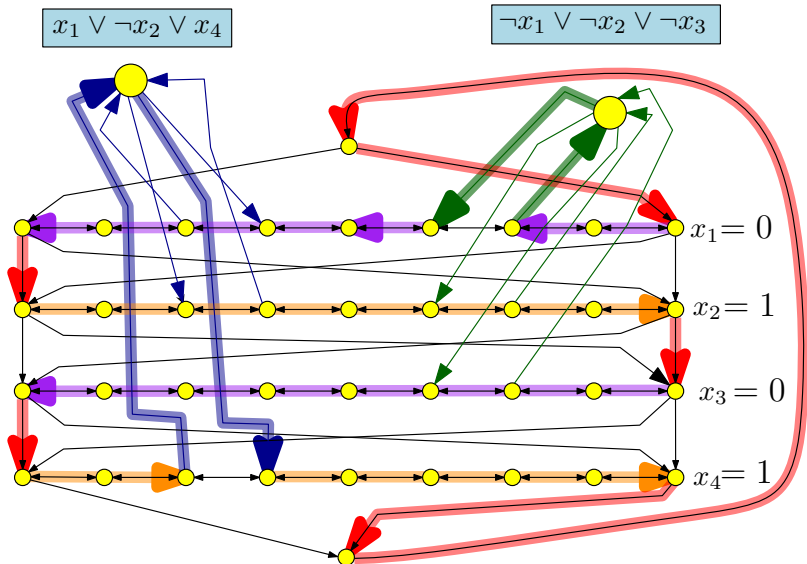
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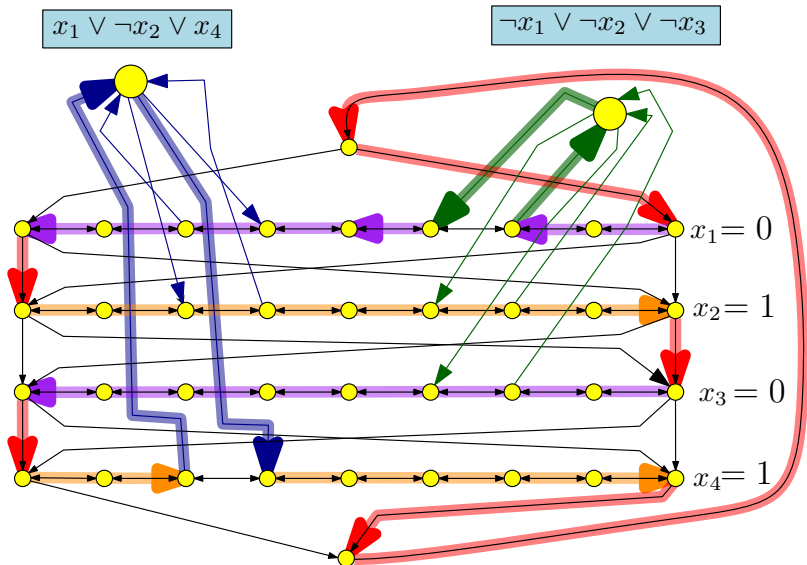
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Reduction: Satisfying assignment \Rightarrow Hamiltonian cycle



Satisfying assignment: $x_1 = 0$, $x_2 = 1$, $x_3 = 0$, $x_4 = 1$

Conclude: If φ has a satisfying assignment then there is an Hamiltonian cycle in G_φ .

Correctness Proof

Lemma 23.1.

φ has a satisfying assignment $\alpha \implies G_\varphi$ has a Hamiltonian cycle.

Proof.

Let \mathbf{a} be the satisfying assignment for φ . Define Hamiltonian cycle as follows

- ▶ If $\alpha(x_i) = \mathbf{1}$ then traverse path i from left to right
- ▶ If $\alpha(x_i) = \mathbf{0}$ then traverse path i from right to left
- ▶ For each clause, path of at least one variable is in the “right” direction to splice in the node corresponding to clause
- ▶ Clearly, resulting cycle is Hamiltonian. □

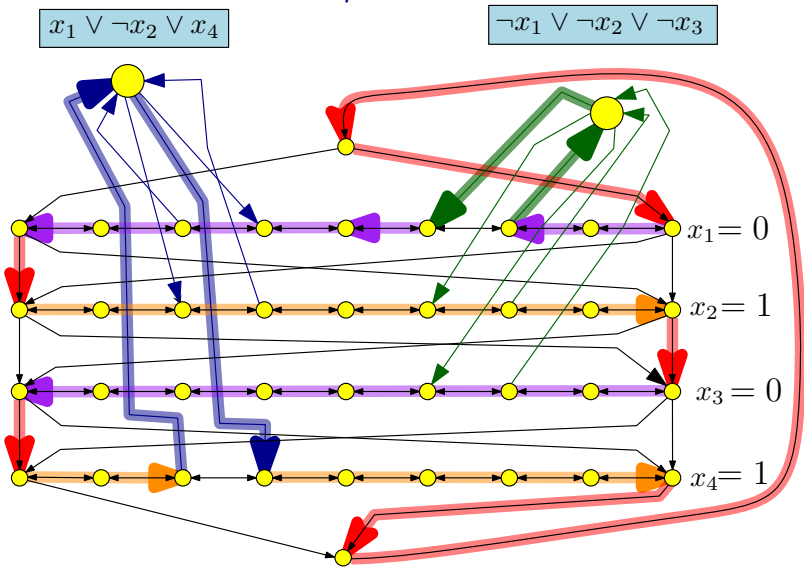
23.3.4

If there is a Hamiltonian cycle \implies

\exists satisfying assignment

Reduction: Hamiltonian cycle $\implies \exists$ satisfying assignment

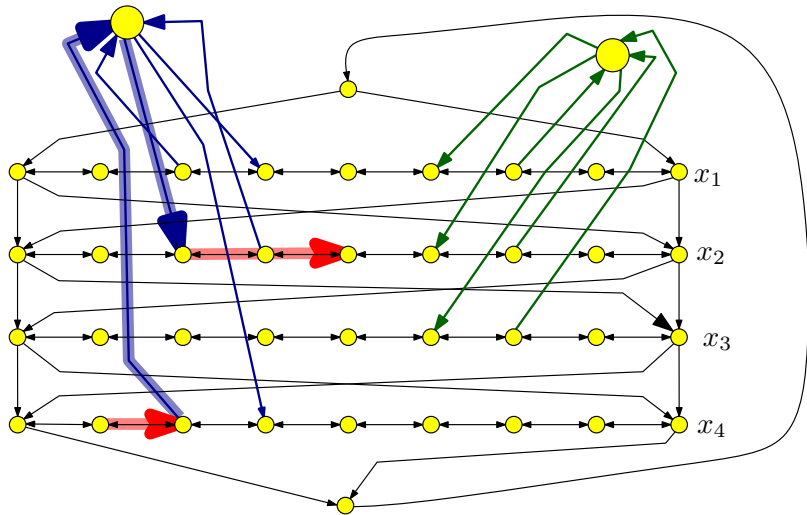
We are given a Hamiltonian cycle in G_φ :



Want to extract satisfying assignment...

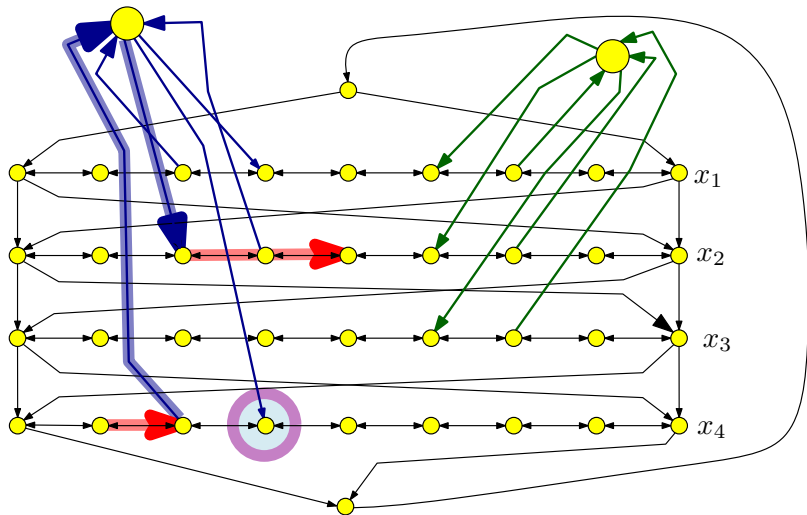
Reduction: Hamiltonian cycle $\implies \exists$ satisfying assignment

No shenanigan: Hamiltonian cycle can not leave a row in the middle



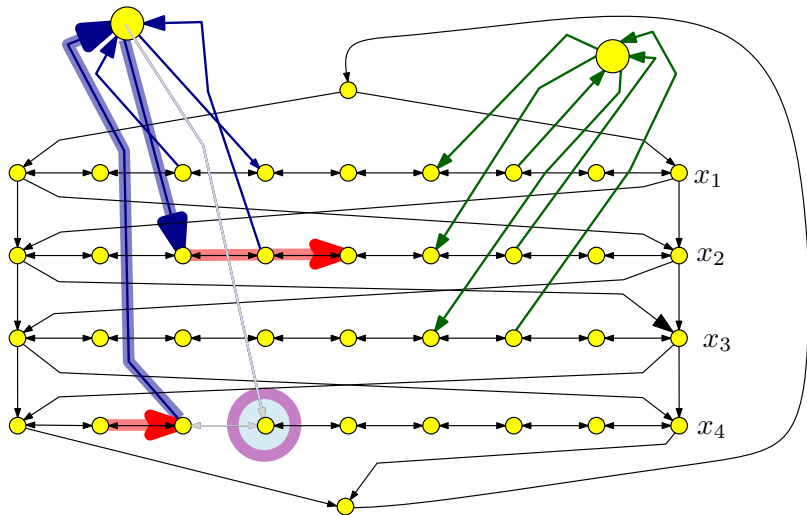
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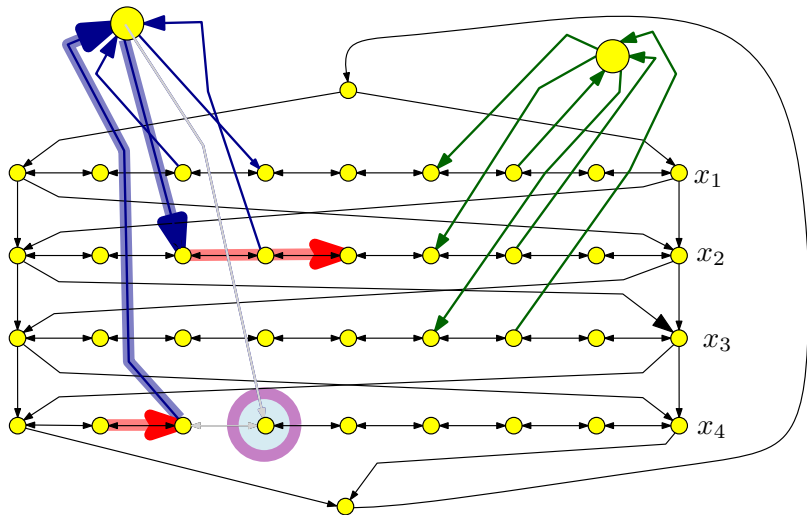
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Reduction: Hamiltonian cycle $\implies \exists$ satisfying assignment

No shenanigan: Hamiltonian cycle can not leave a row in the middle



Conclude: Hamiltonian cycle must go through each row completely from left to right, or right to left. As such, can be interpreted as a valid assignment.

Hamiltonian Cycle \Rightarrow Satisfying assignment

Suppose Π is a Hamiltonian cycle in G_φ

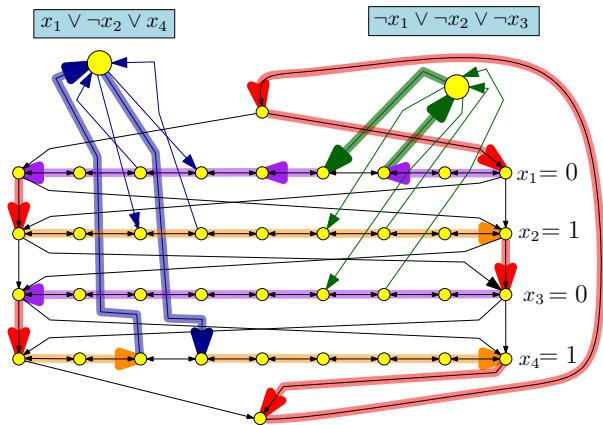
- ▶ If Π enters c_j (vertex for clause C_j) from vertex $3j$ on path i then it must leave the clause vertex on edge to $3j + 1$ on the same path i
 - ▶ If not, then only unvisited neighbor of $3j + 1$ on path i is $3j + 2$
 - ▶ Thus, we don't have two unvisited neighbors (one to enter from, and the other to leave) to have a Hamiltonian Cycle
- ▶ Similarly, if Π enters c_j from vertex $3j + 1$ on path i then it must leave the clause vertex c_j on edge to $3j$ on path i

Hamiltonian Cycle \implies Satisfying assignment (contd)

- ▶ Thus, vertices visited immediately before and after C_i are connected by an edge
- ▶ We can remove C_j from cycle, and get Hamiltonian cycle in $G - C_j$
- ▶ Consider Hamiltonian cycle in $G - \{C_1, \dots, C_m\}$; it traverses each path in only one direction, which determines the truth assignment

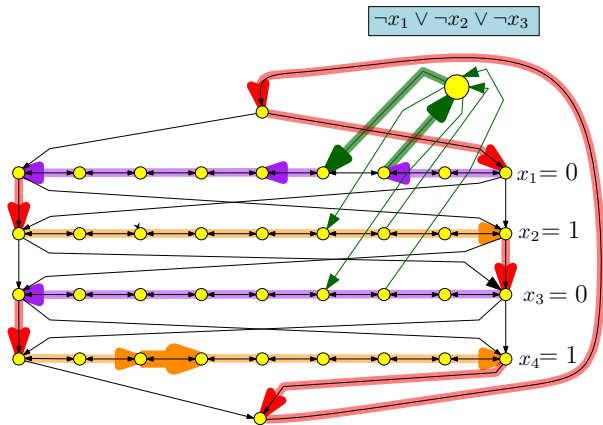
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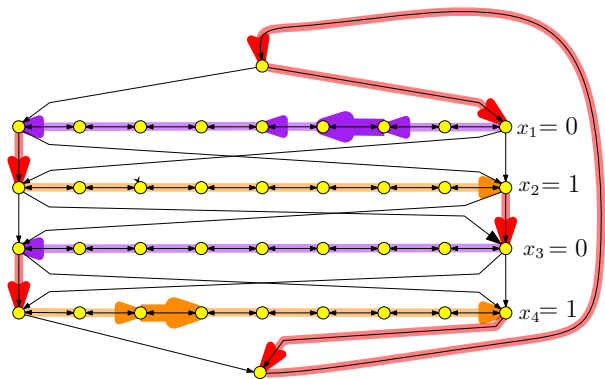
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Correctness Proof

We just proved:

Lemma 23.2.

G_φ has a Hamiltonian cycle $\implies \varphi$ has a satisfying assignment α .

Lemma 23.3.

φ has a satisfying assignment iff G_φ has a Hamiltonian cycle.

Proof.

Follows from **Lemma 23.1** and **Lemma 23.2** . □

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Summary

What we did:

1. Showed that **Directed Hamiltonian Cycle** is in **NP**.
2. Provided a polynomial time reduction from **3SAT** to **Directed Hamiltonian Cycle**.
3. Proved that φ satisfiable $\iff G_\varphi$ is Hamiltonian.

Theorem 23.4.

*The problem **Hamiltonian Cycle** in directed graphs is **NP-Complete**.*

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What we did:

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Theorem 23.4.

*The problem **Hamiltonian Cycle** in directed graphs is **NP-Complete**.*

23.4

Hamiltonian cycle in undirected graph

Hamiltonian Cycle

Problem 23.1.

Input Given *undirected* graph $G = (V, E)$

Goal Does G have a Hamiltonian cycle? That is, is there a cycle that visits every vertex exactly one (except start and end vertex)?

NP-Completeness

Theorem 23.2.

Hamiltonian cycle problem for undirected graphs is **NP-Complete**.

Proof.

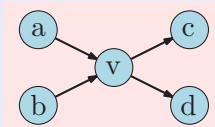
- ▶ The problem is in **NP**; proof left as exercise.
- ▶ Hardness proved by reducing Directed Hamiltonian Cycle to this problem □

Reduction Sketch

Goal: Given directed graph G , need to construct undirected graph G' such that G has Hamiltonian Path iff G' has Hamiltonian path

Reduction

- ▶ Replace each vertex v by 3 vertices: v_{in} , v , and v_{out}
- ▶ A directed edge (a, b) is replaced by edge (a_{out}, b_{in})

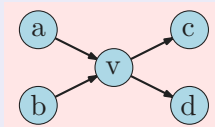


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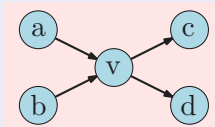


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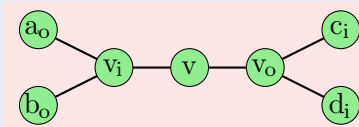
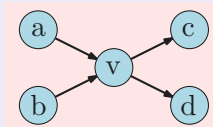


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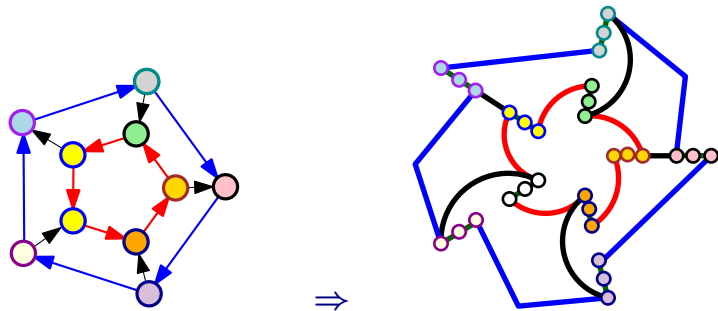
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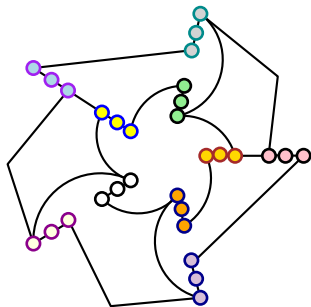
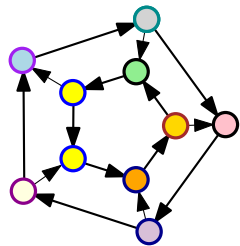
Hamiltonian cycle reduction

Undirected to directed case



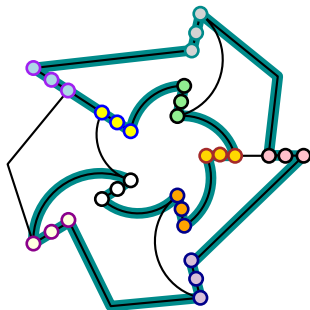
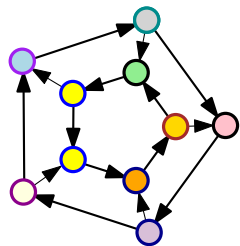
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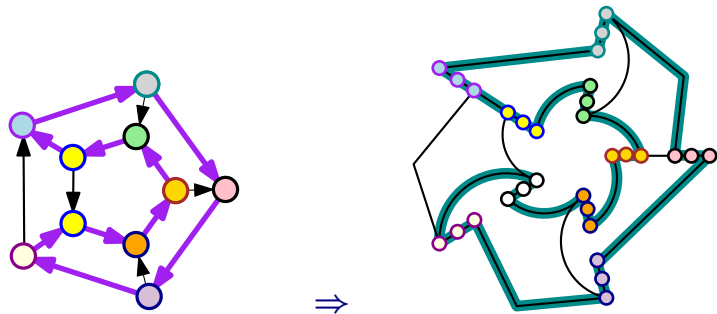
Hamiltonian cycle reduction

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Hamiltonian cycle reduction

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Reduction: Wrap-up

- ▶ The reduction is polynomial time (exercise)
- ▶ The reduction is correct (exercise)