

Poly-Time Reductions II

Lecture 23

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Part I

Review: Polynomial reductions

Polynomial-time Reduction

Definition

$X \leq_P Y$: *polynomial time reduction* from a *decision* problem X to a *decision* problem Y is an *algorithm* \mathcal{A} such that:

- 1 Given an instance I_X of X , \mathcal{A} produces an instance I_Y of Y .
- 2 \mathcal{A} runs in time polynomial in $|I_X|$. ($|I_Y| = \text{size of } I_Y$).
- 3 Answer to I_X YES \iff answer to I_Y is YES.

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This is a **Karp reduction**.

Composing polynomials...

A quick reminder

① f and g monotone increasing. Assume that:

① $f(n) \leq a * n^b$ (i.e., $f(n) = O(n^b)$)

② $g(n) \leq c * n^d$ (i.e., $g(n) = O(n^d)$)

a, b, c, d : constants.

② $g(f(n)) \leq g(a * n^b) \leq c * (a * n^b)^d \leq c * a^d * n^{bd}$

③ $\implies g(f(n)) = O(n^{bd})$ is a polynomial.

④ **Conclusion:** Composition of two polynomials, is a polynomial.

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Transitivity of Reductions

Proposition

$X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P Z$ implies that $X \leq_P Z$.

- 1 **Note:** $X \leq_P Y$ does not imply that $Y \leq_P X$ and hence it is very important to know the FROM and TO in a reduction.
- 2 To prove $X \leq_P Y$ you need to show a reduction FROM X TO Y
- 3 ...show that an algorithm for Y implies an algorithm for X .

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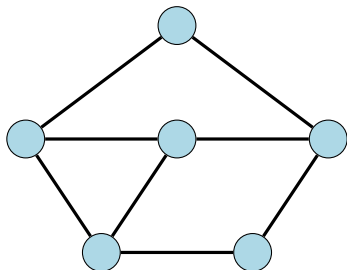
Part II

Independent Set and Vertex Cover

Vertex Cover

Given a graph $G = (V, E)$, a set of vertices S is:

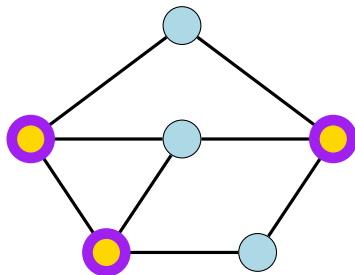
- 1 **vertex cover** if every $e \in E$ has at least one endpoint in S .



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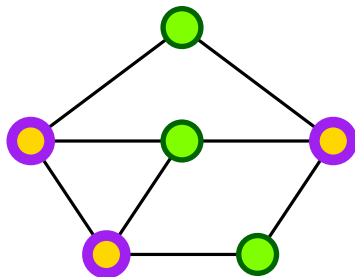
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The **Vertex Cover** Problem

Problem (**Vertex Cover**)

Input: A graph G and integer k .

Goal: Is there a vertex cover of size $\leq k$ in G ?

Can we relate **Independent Set** and **Vertex Cover**?

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Relationship between...

Vertex Cover and Independent Set

Proposition

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph.

$S \subseteq V$ is independent set $\iff V \setminus S$ is vertex cover.

Proof.

(\implies) Let S be an independent set

- 1 Consider any edge $uv \in E$.
- 2 Since S is an independent set, either $u \notin S$ or $v \notin S$.
- 3 Thus, either $u \in V \setminus S$ or $v \in V \setminus S$.
- 4 $V \setminus S$ is a vertex cover.

(\impliedby) Let $V \setminus S$ be some vertex cover:

- 1 Consider $u, v \in S$
- 2 uv is not an edge of G , as otherwise $V \setminus S$ does not cover uv .
- 3 $\implies S$ is thus an independent set. □

Independent Set \leq_P Vertex Cover

- 1 G : graph with n vertices, and an integer k be an instance of the **Independent Set** problem.
- 2 G has an independent set of size $\geq k$ iff G has a vertex cover of size $\leq n - k$
- 3 (G, k) : instance of **Independent Set**
 $(G, n - k)$: instance of **Vertex Cover** with the same answer.
- 4 \implies **Independent Set \leq_P Vertex Cover.**
- 5 Same argument in reverse...
- 6 \implies **Vertex Cover \leq_P Independent Set.**

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Polynomial time reduction...

Proving Correctness of Reductions

To prove that $X \leq_P Y$ you need to give an algorithm \mathcal{A} that:

- 1 Transforms an instance I_X of X into an instance I_Y of Y .
- 2 Satisfies the property that answer to I_X is YES iff I_Y is YES.
 - 1 typical easy direction to prove: answer to I_Y is YES if answer to I_X is YES
 - 2 **typical difficult direction to prove**: answer to I_X is YES if answer to I_Y is YES (equivalently answer to I_X is NO if answer to I_Y is NO).
- 3 Runs in *polynomial* time.

Polynomial time reduction...

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Part III

The Satisfiability Problem (SAT)

Propositional Formulas

Definition

Consider a set of boolean variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n .

① A **literal** is either a boolean variable x_i or its negation $\neg x_i$.

② A **clause** is a disjunction of literals.

For example, $x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4$ is a clause.

③ A **formula in conjunctive normal form (CNF)** is propositional formula which is a conjunction of clauses

① $(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge x_5$ is a **CNF** formula.

④ A formula φ is a **3CNF**:

A **CNF** formula such that every clause has **exactly** 3 literals.

① $(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_1)$ is a **3CNF** formula, but $(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge x_5$ is not.

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Problem: SAT

Instance: A CNF formula φ .

Question: Is there a truth assignment to the variable of φ such that φ evaluates to true?

Problem: 3SAT

Instance: A 3CNF formula φ .

Question: Is there a truth assignment to the variable of φ such that φ evaluates to true?

Satisfiability

SAT

Given a **CNF** formula φ , is there a truth assignment to variables such that φ evaluates to true?

Example

- 1 $(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge x_5$ is satisfiable; take x_1, x_2, \dots, x_5 to be all true
- 2 $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2)$ is not satisfiable.

3SAT

Given a **3CNF** formula φ , is there a truth assignment to variables such that φ evaluates to true?

(More on **2SAT** in a bit...)

Importance of **SAT** and **3SAT**

- ① **SAT** and **3SAT** are basic constraint satisfaction problems.
- ② Many different problems can be reduced to them because of the simple yet powerful expressiveness of logical constraints.
- ③ Arise naturally in many applications involving hardware and software verification and correctness.
- ④ As we will see, it is a fundamental problem in theory of **NP-Completeness**.

$$z = \bar{x}$$

Given two bits x, z which of the following **SAT** formulas is equivalent to the formula $z = \bar{x}$:

(A) $(\bar{z} \vee x) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x})$.

(B) $(z \vee x) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x})$.

(C) $(\bar{z} \vee x) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x}) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x})$.

(D) $z \oplus x$.

(E) $(z \vee x) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x}) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x}) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee x)$.

$$z = x \wedge y$$

Given three bits x, y, z which of the following **SAT** formulas is equivalent to the formula $z = x \wedge y$:

- (A) $(\bar{z} \vee x \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y})$.
- (B) $(\bar{z} \vee x \vee y) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y})$.
- (C) $(\bar{z} \vee x \vee y) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y})$.
- (D) $(z \vee x \vee y) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y})$.
- (E) $(z \vee x \vee y) \wedge (z \vee x \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee x \vee y) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee x \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y})$.

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y						
0	0	0						
0	0	1						
0	1	0						
0	1	1						
1	0	0						
1	0	1						
1	1	0						
1	1	1						

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$				
0	0	0	1				
0	0	1	1				
0	1	0	1				
0	1	1	0				
1	0	0	0				
1	0	1	0				
1	1	0	0				
1	1	1	1				

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$				
0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}$			
0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee y$		
0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
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1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee y$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee \bar{y}$	
0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
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0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
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1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee y$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee \bar{y}$	$\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee y$
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0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
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1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee y$	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee \bar{y}$	$\bar{z} \vee \bar{x} \vee y$
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0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
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Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

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$$(z = x \wedge y)$$

$$\equiv$$

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

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

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Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

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Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \wedge y$	clauses
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$$(z = x \wedge y)$$

$$\equiv$$

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

Converting $z = x \wedge y$ to 3SAT

Simplify further if you want to

① Using that $(x \vee y) \wedge (x \vee \bar{y}) = x$, we have that:

$$\textcircled{1} (\bar{z} \vee x \vee u) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee x \vee \bar{y}) = (\bar{z} \vee x)$$

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Lemma

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

$$z = x \vee y$$

Given three bits x, y, z which of the following **SAT** formulas is equivalent to the formula $z = x \vee y$:

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

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

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

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

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

Converting $z = x \vee y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y			
0	0	0			
0	0	1			
0	1	0			
0	1	1			
1	0	0			
1	0	1			
1	1	0			
1	1	1			

Converting $z = x \vee y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \vee y$		
0	0	0	1		
0	0	1	0		
0	1	0	0		
0	1	1	0		
1	0	0	0		
1	0	1	1		
1	1	0	1		
1	1	1	1		

Converting $z = x \vee y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \vee y$	clauses
0	0	0	1	
0	0	1	0	
0	1	0	0	
0	1	1	0	
1	0	0	0	
1	0	1	1	
1	1	0	1	
1	1	1	1	

Converting $z = x \vee y$ to 3SAT

z	x	y	$z = x \vee y$	clauses
0	0	0	1	
0	0	1	0	$z \vee x \vee \bar{y}$
0	1	0	0	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee y$
0	1	1	0	$z \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y}$
1	0	0	0	$\bar{z} \vee x \vee y$
1	0	1	1	
1	1	0	1	
1	1	1	1	

Converting $z = x \vee y$ to 3SAT

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$$(z = x \vee y)$$

\equiv

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

Converting $z = x \vee y$ to 3SAT

Simplify further if you want to

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

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② Using the above two observations, we have the following.

Lemma

The formula $z = x \vee y$ is equivalent to the CNF formula

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Simplify further if you want to

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SAT \leq_p 3SAT

How SAT is different from 3SAT?

In **SAT** clauses might have arbitrary length: **1, 2, 3, ...** variables:

$$(x \vee y \vee z \vee w \vee u) \wedge (\neg x \vee \neg y \vee \neg z \vee w \vee u) \wedge (\neg x)$$

In **3SAT** every clause must have **exactly 3** different literals.

To reduce from an instance of **SAT** to an instance of **3SAT**, we must make all clauses to have exactly **3** variables...

Basic idea

- 1 Pad short clauses so they have **3** literals.
- 2 Break long clauses into shorter clauses.
- 3 Repeat the above till we have a **3CNF**.

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3SAT \leq_P SAT

① 3SAT \leq_P SAT.

② Because...

A 3SAT instance is also an instance of SAT.

SAT \leq_P 3SAT

Claim

SAT \leq_P 3SAT.

Given φ a **SAT** formula we create a **3SAT** formula φ' such that

- ① φ is satisfiable iff φ' is satisfiable.
- ② φ' can be constructed from φ in time polynomial in $|\varphi|$.

Idea: if a clause of φ is not of length **3**, replace it with several clauses of length exactly **3**.

SAT \leq_P 3SAT

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Idea: if a clause of φ is not of length **3**, replace it with several clauses of length exactly **3**.

SAT \leq_p 3SAT

A clause with two literals

Reduction Ideas: clause with 2 literals

- 1 Case clause with 2 literals: Let $c = l_1 \vee l_2$. Let u be a new variable. Consider

$$c' = (l_1 \vee l_2 \vee u) \wedge (l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \neg u).$$

- 2 Suppose $\varphi = \psi \wedge c$. Then $\varphi' = \psi \wedge c'$ is satisfiable iff φ is satisfiable.

SAT \leq_p 3SAT

A clause with a single literal

Reduction Ideas: clause with 1 literal

- 1 Case clause with one literal: Let c be a clause with a single literal (i.e., $c = \ell$). Let u, v be new variables. Consider

$$c' = (\ell \vee u \vee v) \wedge (\ell \vee u \vee \neg v) \\ \wedge (\ell \vee \neg u \vee v) \wedge (\ell \vee \neg u \vee \neg v).$$

- 2 Suppose $\varphi = \psi \wedge c$. Then $\varphi' = \psi \wedge c'$ is satisfiable iff φ is satisfiable.

SAT \leq_p 3SAT

A clause with more than 3 literals

Reduction Ideas: clause with more than 3 literals

- 1 Case clause with five literals: Let $c = l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3 \vee l_4 \vee l_5$. Let u be a new variable. Consider

$$c' = (l_1 \vee l_2 \vee l_3 \vee u) \wedge (l_4 \vee l_5 \vee \neg u).$$

- 2 Suppose $\varphi = \psi \wedge c$. Then $\varphi' = \psi \wedge c'$ is satisfiable iff φ is satisfiable.

SAT \leq_p 3SAT

A clause with more than 3 literals

Reduction Ideas: clause with more than 3 literals

- 1 Case clause with $k > 3$ literals: Let $c = l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \dots \vee l_k$. Let u be a new variable. Consider

$$c' = (l_1 \vee l_2 \dots l_{k-2} \vee u) \wedge (l_{k-1} \vee l_k \vee \neg u).$$

- 2 Suppose $\varphi = \psi \wedge c$. Then $\varphi' = \psi \wedge c'$ is satisfiable iff φ is satisfiable.

Breaking a clause

Lemma

For any boolean formulas X and Y and z a new boolean variable.
Then

$X \vee Y$ is satisfiable

if and only if, z can be assigned a value such that

$(X \vee z) \wedge (Y \vee \neg z)$ is satisfiable

(with the same assignment to the variables appearing in X and Y).

$SAT \leq_p 3SAT$ (contd)

Clauses with more than 3 literals

Let $c = l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_k$. Let u_1, \dots, u_{k-3} be new variables. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} c' = & (l_1 \vee l_2 \vee u_1) \wedge (l_3 \vee \neg u_1 \vee u_2) \\ & \wedge (l_4 \vee \neg u_2 \vee u_3) \wedge \\ & \dots \wedge (l_{k-2} \vee \neg u_{k-4} \vee u_{k-3}) \wedge (l_{k-1} \vee l_k \vee \neg u_{k-3}). \end{aligned}$$

Claim

$\varphi = \psi \wedge c$ is satisfiable iff $\varphi' = \psi \wedge c'$ is satisfiable.

Another way to see it — reduce size of clause by one:

$$c' = (l_1 \vee l_2 \dots \vee l_{k-2} \vee u_{k-3}) \wedge (l_{k-1} \vee l_k \vee \neg u_{k-3}).$$

An Example

Example

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi = & \left(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3 \right) \\ & \wedge \left(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_1 \right) \wedge \left(x_1 \right).\end{aligned}$$

Equivalent form:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi = & \left(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee z \right) \wedge \left(\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_4 \vee \neg z \right) \\ & \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3 \right) \\ & \wedge \left(\neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3 \vee y_1 \right) \wedge \left(x_4 \vee x_1 \vee \neg y_1 \right) \\ & \wedge \left(x_1 \vee u \vee v \right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee u \vee \neg v \right) \\ & \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \neg u \vee v \right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \neg u \vee \neg v \right).\end{aligned}$$

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Equivalent form:

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Overall Reduction Algorithm

Reduction from SAT to 3SAT

```
ReduceSATto3SAT( $\varphi$ ):
```

```
  //  $\varphi$ : CNF formula.
```

```
  for each clause  $c$  of  $\varphi$  do
```

```
    if  $c$  does not have exactly 3 literals then  
      construct  $c'$  as before
```

```
    else
```

```
       $c' = c$ 
```

```
   $\psi$  is conjunction of all  $c'$  constructed in loop
```

```
  return Solver3SAT( $\psi$ )
```

Correctness (informal)

φ is satisfiable iff ψ is satisfiable because for each clause c , the new 3CNF formula c' is logically equivalent to c .

What about **2SAT**?

2SAT can be solved in polynomial time! (specifically, linear time!)

No known polynomial time reduction from **SAT** (or **3SAT**) to **2SAT**. If there was, then **SAT** and **3SAT** would be solvable in polynomial time.

Why the reduction from **3SAT** to **2SAT** fails?

Consider a clause $(x \vee y \vee z)$. We need to reduce it to a collection of **2CNF** clauses. Introduce a fresh variable α , and rewrite this as

$$\begin{array}{ll} (x \vee y \vee \alpha) \wedge (\neg\alpha \vee z) & \text{(bad! clause with 3 vars)} \\ \text{or } (x \vee \alpha) \wedge (\neg\alpha \vee y \vee z) & \text{(bad! clause with 3 vars).} \end{array}$$

(In animal farm language: **2SAT** good, **3SAT** bad.)

What about **2SAT**?

A challenging exercise: Given a **2SAT** formula show to compute its satisfying assignment...

(Hint: Create a graph with two vertices for each variable (for a variable x there would be two vertices with labels $x = 0$ and $x = 1$). For every **2CNF** clause add two directed edges in the graph. The edges are implication edges: They state that if you decide to assign a certain value to a variable, then you must assign a certain value to some other variable.

Now compute the strong connected components in this graph, and continue from there...)

What do we know so far

- 1 **Independent Set \leq_P Clique**
Clique \leq_P Independent Set.
 \implies Clique \approx_P Independent Set.
- 2 Vertex Cover \leq_P Independent Set
Independent Set \leq_P Vertex Cover.
 \implies Independent Set \approx_P Vertex Cover.
- 3 3SAT \leq_P SAT
SAT \leq_P 3SAT.
 \implies 3SAT \approx_P SAT.
- 4 Clique \approx_P Independent Set \approx_P Vertex Cover
3SAT. \approx_P SAT.

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- 1 **Independent Set \leq_P Clique**
Clique \leq_P Independent Set.
 \implies **Clique \approx_P Independent Set.**
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SAT \leq_P 3SAT.
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What do we know so far

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Part IV

NP

P and NP and Turing Machines

- 1 **P**: set of decision problems that have polynomial time algorithms.
- 2 **NP**: set of decision problems that have polynomial time *non-deterministic* algorithms.
 - Many natural problems we would like to solve are in **NP**.
 - Every problem in **NP** has an exponential time algorithm
 - **P** \subseteq **NP**
 - Some problems in **NP** are in **P** (example, shortest path problem)

Big Question: Does every problem in **NP** have an efficient algorithm? Same as asking whether **P = NP**.

Problems with no known polynomial time algorithms

Problems

- 1 **Independent Set**
- 2 **Vertex Cover**
- 3 **Set Cover**
- 4 **SAT**
- 5 **3SAT**

There are of course undecidable problems (no algorithm at all!) but many problems that we want to solve are of similar flavor to the above.

Question: What is common to above problems?

Efficient Checkability

Above problems share the following feature:

Checkability

For any YES instance I_X of X there is a proof/certificate/solution that is of length $\text{poly}(|I_X|)$ such that given a proof one can efficiently check that I_X is indeed a YES instance.

Examples:

- 1 **SAT** formula φ : proof is a satisfying assignment.
- 2 **Independent Set** in graph G and k : a subset S of vertices.
- 3 **Homework**

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Sudoku

			2	5				
	3	6		4		8		
	4					1	6	
2								
7	6						1	9
								3
	1	5					7	
		9		8		2	4	
				3	7			

Given $n \times n$ sudoku puzzle, does it have a solution?

Solution to the Sudoku example...

1	8	7	2	5	6	9	3	4
9	3	6	7	4	1	8	5	2
5	4	2	8	9	3	1	6	7
2	9	1	3	7	4	6	8	5
7	6	3	5	2	8	4	1	9
8	5	4	6	1	9	7	2	3
4	1	5	9	6	2	3	7	8
3	7	9	1	8	5	2	4	6
6	2	8	4	3	7	5	9	1

Definition

An algorithm $C(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a *certifier* for problem X if the following two conditions hold:

- For every $s \in X$ there is some string t such that $C(s, t) = \text{"yes"}$
- If $s \notin X$, $C(s, t) = \text{"no"}$ for every t .

The string t is called a *certificate* or *proof* for s .

Efficient (polynomial time) Certifiers

Definition (Efficient Certifier.)

A certifier C is an *efficient certifier* for problem X if there is a polynomial $p(\cdot)$ such that the following conditions hold:

- For every $s \in X$ there is some string t such that $C(s, t) = \text{"yes"}$ and $|t| \leq p(|s|)$.
- If $s \notin X$, $C(s, t) = \text{"no"}$ for every t .
- $C(\cdot, \cdot)$ runs in polynomial time.

Example: Independent Set

- 1 **Problem:** Does $G = (V, E)$ have an independent set of size $\geq k$?
 - 1 **Certificate:** Set $S \subseteq V$.
 - 2 **Certifier:** Check $|S| \geq k$ and no pair of vertices in S is connected by an edge.

Example: Vertex Cover

- ① **Problem:** Does G have a vertex cover of size $\leq k$?
- ① **Certificate:** $S \subseteq V$.
- ② **Certifier:** Check $|S| \leq k$ and that for every edge at least one endpoint is in S .

Example: SAT

- 1 **Problem:** Does formula φ have a satisfying truth assignment?
 - 1 **Certificate:** Assignment a of **0/1** values to each variable.
 - 2 **Certifier:** Check each clause under a and say “yes” if all clauses are true.

Example: Composites

Problem: Composite

Instance: A number s .

Question: Is the number s a composite?

① Problem: Composite.

- ① **Certificate:** A factor $t \leq s$ such that $t \neq 1$ and $t \neq s$.
- ② **Certifier:** Check that t divides s .

Example: NFA Universality

Problem: NFA Universality

Instance: Description of a NFA M .

Question: Is $L(M) = \Sigma^*$, that is, does M accept all strings?

- 1 **Problem: NFA Universality.**
 - 1 **Certificate:** A DFA M' equivalent to M
 - 2 **Certifier:** Check that $L(M') = \Sigma^*$

Certifier is efficient but certificate is not necessarily short! We do not know if the problem is in NP .

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Example: A String Problem

Problem: PCP

Instance: Two sets of binary strings $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ and β_1, \dots, β_n

Question: Are there indices i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k such that $\alpha_{i_1} \alpha_{i_2} \dots \alpha_{i_k} = \beta_{i_1} \beta_{i_2} \dots \beta_{i_k}$

① Problem: PCP

① **Certificate:** A sequence of indices i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k

② **Certifier:** Check that $\alpha_{i_1} \alpha_{i_2} \dots \alpha_{i_k} = \beta_{i_1} \beta_{i_2} \dots \beta_{i_k}$

PCP = Posts Correspondence Problem and it is undecidable!
Implies no finite bound on length of certificate!

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Nondeterministic Polynomial Time

Definition

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Example

Independent Set, **Vertex Cover**, **Set Cover**, **SAT**, **3SAT**, and **Composite** are all examples of problems in **NP**.

Why is it called...

Nondeterministic Polynomial Time

A certifier is an algorithm $C(I, c)$ with two inputs:

- 1 I : instance.
- 2 c : proof/certificate that the instance is indeed a YES instance of the given problem.

One can think about C as an algorithm for the original problem, if:

- 1 Given I , the algorithm guesses (non-deterministically, and who knows how) a certificate c .
- 2 The algorithm now verifies the certificate c for the instance I .

NP can be equivalently described using Turing machines.

Asymmetry in Definition of NP

Note that only YES instances have a short proof/certificate. NO instances need not have a short certificate.

Example

SAT formula φ . No easy way to prove that φ is NOT satisfiable!

More on this and **co-NP** later on.

P versus NP

Proposition

$P \subseteq NP$.

For a problem in P no need for a certificate!

Proof.

Consider problem $X \in P$ with algorithm A . Need to demonstrate that X has an efficient certifier:

- 1 Certifier C on input s, t , runs $A(s)$ and returns the answer.
- 2 C runs in polynomial time.
- 3 If $s \in X$, then for every t , $C(s, t) = \text{"yes"}$.
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Exponential Time

Definition

Exponential Time (denoted **EXP**) is the collection of all problems that have an algorithm which on input s runs in exponential time, i.e., $O(2^{\text{poly}(|s|)})$.

Example: $O(2^n)$, $O(2^{n \log n})$, $O(2^{n^3})$, ...

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NP versus EXP

Proposition

NP \subseteq **EXP**.

Proof.

Let $X \in \mathbf{NP}$ with certifier C . Need to design an exponential time algorithm for X .

- 1 For every t , with $|t| \leq p(|s|)$ run $C(s, t)$; answer “yes” if any one of these calls returns “yes”.
- 2 The above algorithm correctly solves X (exercise).
- 3 Algorithm runs in $O(q(|s| + |p(s)|)2^{p(|s|)})$, where q is the running time of C . □

Examples

- ① **SAT**: try all possible truth assignment to variables.
- ② **Independent Set**: try all possible subsets of vertices.
- ③ **Vertex Cover**: try all possible subsets of vertices.

Is **NP** efficiently solvable?

We know **P** \subseteq **NP** \subseteq **EXP**.

Is **NP** efficiently solvable?

We know $\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{NP} \subseteq \mathbf{EXP}$.

Big Question

Is there are problem in **NP** that **does not** belong to **P**? Is $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$?

If $P = NP$. . .

Or: If pigs could fly then life would be sweet.

- 1 Many important optimization problems can be solved efficiently.
- 2 The **RSA** cryptosystem can be broken.
- 3 No security on the web.
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If $P = NP$ this implies that...

- (A) **Vertex Cover** can be solved in polynomial time.
- (B) $P = EXP$.
- (C) $EXP \subseteq P$.
- (D) All of the above.

P versus NP

Status

Relationship between **P** and **NP** remains one of the most important open problems in mathematics/computer science.

Consensus: Most people feel/believe $P \neq NP$.

Resolving **P** versus **NP** is a Clay Millennium Prize Problem. You can win a million dollars in addition to a Turing award and major fame!