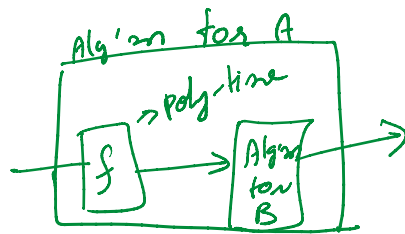


Q: How to show that a problem is hard to solve?  
Has no efficient/poly-time alg'm?

P: class/set of problems  
that have poly-time alg'm

How to show our-problem  $\notin$  P?

★ Reduction:  $A \xrightarrow{\text{reduces to}} B$  (eg. Finding closed walk  $\rightarrow$  Finding scc)



2 Consequences.

①  $\checkmark$  Alg'm for B gives  $\checkmark$  Alg'm for A.  
poly-time poly-time

② No Alg'm for A  $\Rightarrow$  No Alg'm for B.

So for, optimization Problems

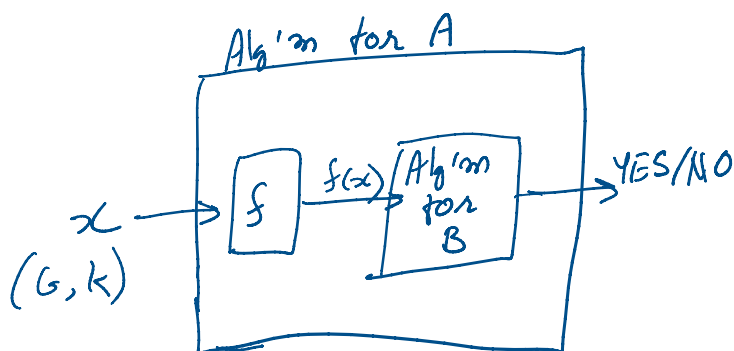
opt: Find max/min value / opt value.  
 $\uparrow$   $\downarrow$  /exe

Decision Problems :

check if opt sol'n w/ value  $\leq k$  exists?

output: YES/NO  
True/False

★ Reduction:  $A \leq_p B$  (A reduces to B) in poly-time  
(A & B are decision problems)



$f$  is a poly-time computable function.

$\equiv f$  is a " alg'm. Runs in  $O(\text{poly}(|x|))$

Composition of polynomials is a polynomial  
 $(P(\cdot) \& Q(\cdot)) \text{ poly} \Rightarrow P(Q(\cdot)) \text{ is a poly}$

⇓

Fact 1: poly-time Alg'm for B  $\Rightarrow$  poly-time Alg'm A.

$\neg (B \in P \Rightarrow A \in P)$

⇓

Fact 2:  $A \notin P \Rightarrow B \notin P$

(no poly-time alg'm for A  
 $\Rightarrow$  NO poly-time alg'm for B)

---

Ex 1: Vertex Cover  $\rightarrow$  Set Cover.  
(VC) (SC)

1 element: A set  $U$  of elements.

VC

(VC)

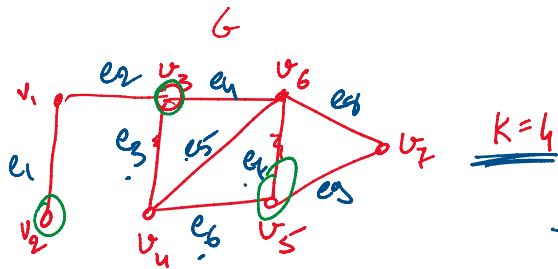
Input: Undirected graph  $G=(V,E)$   
+ integer  $k \geq 0$ .

Output: YES iff  $\exists$  VC of size  $\leq k$   
in  $G$

iff  $\exists S \subseteq V, |S| \leq k$

&  $(u,v) \in E \Rightarrow u \in S \text{ or } v \in S$

eg.



$k=4$

$k=4$   $\{v_7, v_6, v_1, v_4\}$

$k=3$   $\{ \}$

$\{v_2, v_3, v_5\}$  is an IS

OP  
YES.

NO

(SC)

Input: A set  $U$  of elements.  
& subsets  $A_1, \dots, A_m \subseteq U$ .  
& integer  $k' \geq 0$ .

Output: YES iff  $\exists$  a collection  
of size  $\leq k'$  that  
covers the universe

iff  $\exists I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}$  s.t.

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = U$$

eg.

$U = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8, e_9\}$

$A_1 = \{e_1, e_2\}, A_2 = \{e_1\}$

$A_3 = \{e_3, e_4, e_5\}, A_4 = \{e_3, e_5, e_6\}$

$A_5 = \{e_6, e_7, e_8\}, A_6 = \{e_4, e_5, e_7, e_8\}$

$A_7 = \{e_8, e_9\}$  &  $k' = k = 4$

Reduction: Vertex-cover  $\leq k$  Set cover

Given an instance of VC:  $G=(V,E)$  &  $k \geq 0$

Construct " " SC:  $U; A_1, \dots, A_m \subseteq U; k'$

where  $U = E$ .

for each  $v_i \in V$ ,

create  $A_i = \{e \mid e \text{ is incident on } v_i \text{ in } G\}$

&  $k' = k$ .

$f:$   
 $O(mn)$   
time

Correctness Pf:

$\exists \text{ VC of size } \leq k \iff \exists \text{ SC, } I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}$

Connectness Pf:

Claim:  $G$  has a VC  $S$  of size  $\leq k \iff \exists$  SC,  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$  of size  $\leq k'$

Pf:  $(\Rightarrow)$   $I = \{i \mid v_i \in S\}$

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcup_{i \in I} \{e \mid e \text{ incident on } v_i \text{ in } G\}$$

$$= \bigcup_{v_i \in S} \{e \mid e \text{ " " "}\}$$

$$= E = \underline{U}$$

$(\Leftarrow)$  Given  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow S' = \{v_i \mid i \in I\}$   
 sol'n of S.C.

$S'$  covers all edges.

$$\bigcup_{v_i \in S'} \{e \mid e \text{ incident on } v_i\}$$

$$= \bigcup_{i \in I} \{e \mid e \text{ " " "}\}$$

$$= \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = U = E$$

Ex 2: Independent set  $\subseteq_p$  Vertex cover.  
 IS: (IS)

Input: Given undirect graph  $G=(V, E)$ , int  $k \geq 0$

Output: YES iff  $\exists$  IS of size  $\geq k$  in  $G$ .

$$\text{iff } \exists S \subseteq V, |S| \geq k$$

$$\text{and } (\dots \text{ and } (v, w) \in E)$$

iff  $\exists S \subseteq V$ ,  $|S| = k$

$\wedge \neg (\forall u, v \in S \Rightarrow (u, v) \in E)$

iff  $\forall (u, v) \in E \Rightarrow u \notin S \text{ or } v \notin S$

$\Rightarrow u \in V \setminus S \text{ or } v \in V \setminus S$

$\Rightarrow V \setminus S$  is a VC.

Reduction:  $IS \leq_P VC$ .

Given i/p of IS:  $G = (V, E)$  &  $k \geq 0$

Construct " " VC:  $G' = (V', E')$  &  $k' \geq 0$

where  $G' = G$ .

$k' = (n - k)$

Claim:  $G$  has IS  $S$  of size  $\geq k \Leftrightarrow G'$  has VC  $S'$  of size  $\leq k' = (n - k)$

Pf:

$$S' = V \setminus S$$

$IS \leq_P VC \leq_P SC$

$\Downarrow$

$IS \leq_P SC$ ? YES!

How to find the first hard problem?