

NP Completeness and Cook-Levin Theorem

Lecture 22

November 18, 2014

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.

Question: What is an algorithm? Depends on the model of computation!

What is our model of computation?

Formally speaking our model of computation is Turing Machines.

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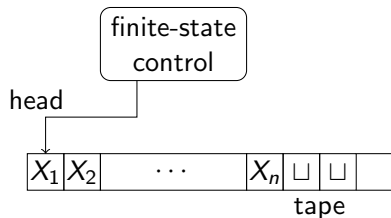
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Turing Machines: Recap



- 1 Infinite tape.
- 2 Finite state control.
- 3 Input at beginning of tape.
- 4 Special tape letter "blank" \square .
- 5 Head can move only one cell to left or right.

Turing Machines: Formally

A **TM** $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{\text{accept}}, q_{\text{reject}})$:

- 1 Q is set of states in finite control
- 2 q_0 start state, q_{accept} is accept state, q_{reject} is reject state
- 3 Σ is input alphabet, Γ is tape alphabet (includes \sqcup)
- 4 $\delta : Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow \{L, R\} \times \Gamma \times Q$ is transition function
 - 1 $\delta(q, a) = (q', b, L)$ means that M in state q and head seeing a on tape will move to state q' while replacing a on tape with b and head moves left.

$L(M)$: language accepted by M is set of all input strings s on which M accepts; that is:

- 1 **TM** is started in state q_0 .
- 2 Initially, the tape head is located at the first cell.
- 3 The tape contain s on the tape followed by blanks.
- 4 The **TM** halts in the state q_{accept} .

Definition

M is a polynomial time **TM** if there is some polynomial $p(\cdot)$ such that on all inputs w , **M** halts in $p(|w|)$ steps.

Definition

L is a language in **P** iff there is a polynomial time **TM** **M** such that $L = L(M)$.

Definition

L is an **NP** language iff there is a *non-deterministic* polynomial time **TM** M such that $L = L(M)$.

Non-deterministic TM: each step has a choice of moves

- 1 $\delta : Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R\})$.
 - 1 Example: $\delta(q, a) = \{(q_1, b, L), (q_2, c, R), (q_3, a, R)\}$ means that M can non-deterministically choose one of the three possible moves from (q, a) .
- 2 $L(M)$: set of all strings s on which there *exists* some sequence of valid choices at each step that lead from q_0 to q_{accept}

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Non-deterministic TMs vs certifiers

Two definition of NP:

- 1 L is in NP iff L has a polynomial time certifier $C(\cdot, \cdot)$.
- 2 L is in NP iff L is decided by a non-deterministic polynomial time TM M.

Claim

Two definitions are equivalent.

Why?

Informal proof idea: the certificate t for C corresponds to non-deterministic choices of M and vice-versa.

In other words L is in NP iff L is accepted by a NTM which first guesses a proof t of length poly in input $|s|$ and then acts as a deterministic TM.

Non-determinism, guessing and verification

- 1 A non-deterministic machine has choices at each step and accepts a string if there *exists* a set of choices which lead to a final state.
- 2 Equivalently the choices can be thought of as *guessing* a solution and then *verifying* that solution. In this view all the choices are made a priori and hence the verification can be deterministic. The “guess” is the “proof” and the “verifier” is the “certifier” .
- 3 We reemphasize the asymmetry inherent in the definition of non-determinism. Strings in the language can be easily verified. No easy way to verify that a string is not in the language.

Algorithms: TMs vs RAM Model

Why do we use TMs some times and RAM Model other times?

- 1 TMs are very simple: no complicated instruction set, no jumps/pointers, no explicit loops etc.
 - 1 Simplicity is useful in proofs.
 - 2 The “right” formal bare-bones model when dealing with subtleties.
- 2 RAM model is a closer approximation to the running time/space usage of realistic computers for reasonable problem sizes
 - 1 Not appropriate for certain kinds of formal proofs when algorithms can take super-polynomial time and space

“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**.

What is the hardest question in P ?

Consider the class P . The hardest problem in P is:

- (A) **Max-Flow**.
- (B) **Linear programming**.
- (C) **SAT**.
- (D) All problems in P are easy.
- (E) All problems in P are hard.

NP-Complete Problems

Definition

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

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

Solving **NP-Complete** Problems

Proposition

Suppose **X** is **NP-Complete**. Then **X** can be solved in polynomial time if and only if **P = NP**.

Proof.

⇒ Suppose **X** can be solved in polynomial time

- ① Let **Y** ∈ **NP**. We know **Y** ≤_P **X**.
- ② We showed that if **Y** ≤_P **X** and **X** can be solved in polynomial time, then **Y** can be solved in polynomial time.
- ③ Thus, every problem **Y** ∈ **NP** is such that **Y** ∈ **P**; **NP** ⊆ **P**.
- ④ Since **P** ⊆ **NP**, we have **P = NP**.

⇐ Since **P = NP**, and **X** ∈ **NP**, we have a polynomial time algorithm for **X**. □

NP-Hard Problems

Definition

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

- 1 (Hardness) For any $Y \in \text{NP}$, 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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NP-Complete Problems

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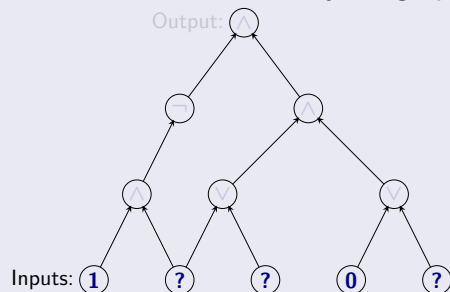
Are there any problems that are **NP-Complete**?

Answer

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

Definition

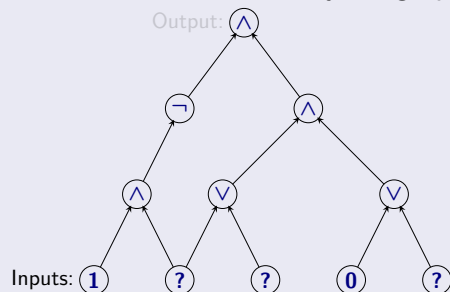
A circuit is a directed *acyclic* graph with



- 1 **Input** vertices (without incoming edges) labelled with **0**, **1** or a distinct variable.
- 2 Every other vertex is labelled \vee , \wedge or \neg .
- 3 Single node **output** vertex with no outgoing edges.

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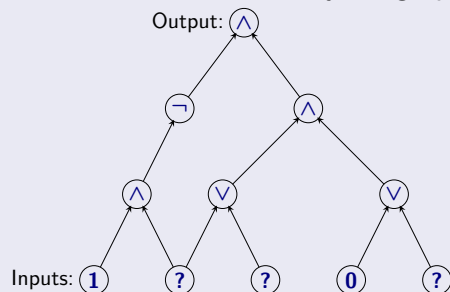
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Cook-Levin Theorem

Definition (Circuit Satisfaction (**CSAT**).)

Given a circuit as input, is there an assignment to the input variables that causes the output to get value **1**?

Theorem (Cook-Levin)

CSAT is **NP-Complete**.

Need to show

- 1 **CSAT** is in **NP**.
- 2 every **NP** problem **X** reduces to **CSAT**.

Monotone CSAT?

Consider an instance of **CSAT** of size n , that does not contain any negations. This problem **Monotone CSAT** is

- (A) **NP-Hard**.
- (B) **NP-Complete**.
- (C) **P**.
- (D) Solvable in linear time.
- (E) Solvable in **$O(2^n)$** time.

CSAT: Circuit Satisfaction

Claim

CSAT is in **NP**.

- 1 **Certificate:** Assignment to input variables.
- 2 **Certifier:** Evaluate the value of each gate in a topological sort of DAG and check the output gate value.

CSAT: Circuit Satisfaction

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Converting into circuit...

Assume any polynomial time algorithm can be converted into a boolean circuit in polynomial time. Then

- (A) A certifier $C(s, t)$ is a polynomial algorithm, and as such there a boolean circuit of polynomial size that implements it.
- (B) A certifier $C(s, t)$ can not be implemented as a circuit since t (the certificate) is not known.
- (C) There are some certifiers (but not all) that can be implemented as a boolean circuit.
- (D) Only certifiers for problems in P are convertible into circuits.

CSAT is NP-hard: Idea

Need to show that every NP problem X reduces to CSAT.

What does it mean that $X \in \text{NP}$?

$X \in \text{NP}$ implies that there are polynomials $p()$ and $q()$ and certifier/verifier program C such that for every string s the following is true:

- 1 If s is a YES instance ($s \in X$) then there is a *proof* t of length $p(|s|)$ such that $C(s, t)$ says YES.
- 2 If s is a NO instance ($s \notin X$) then for every string t of length at $p(|s|)$, $C(s, t)$ says NO.
- 3 $C(s, t)$ runs in time $q(|s| + |t|)$ time (hence polynomial time).

Reducing **X** to **CSAT**

X is in **NP** means we have access to $\mathbf{p}()$, $\mathbf{q}()$, $\mathbf{C}(\cdot, \cdot)$.

What is $\mathbf{C}(\cdot, \cdot)$? It is a program or equivalently a Turing Machine!

How are $\mathbf{p}()$ and $\mathbf{q}()$ given? As numbers.

Example: if **3** is given then $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{n}^3$.

Thus an **NP** problem is essentially a three tuple $\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{C} \rangle$ where \mathbf{C} is either a program or a **TM**.

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Problem X: Given string **s**, is $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbf{X}$?

Same as the following: is there a proof **t** of length $\mathbf{p}(|\mathbf{s}|)$ such that $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ says YES.

How do we reduce **X** to **CSAT**? Need an algorithm **A** that

- 1 takes **s** (and $\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{C} \rangle$) and creates a circuit **G** in polynomial time in $|\mathbf{s}|$ (note that $\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{C} \rangle$ are fixed).
- 2 **G** is satisfiable if and only if there is a proof **t** such that $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ says YES.

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Simple but Big Idea: Programs are essentially the same as Circuits!

- 1 Convert $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ into a circuit \mathbf{G} with \mathbf{t} as unknown inputs (rest is known including \mathbf{s})
- 2 We know that $|\mathbf{t}| = \mathbf{p}(|\mathbf{s}|)$ so express boolean string \mathbf{t} as $\mathbf{p}(|\mathbf{s}|)$ variables $\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_2, \dots, \mathbf{t}_k$ where $k = \mathbf{p}(|\mathbf{s}|)$.
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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.

Formally, why is **Independent Set** in **NP**?

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Formally why is **Independent Set** in **NP**?

① Input:

$\langle n, y_{1,1}, y_{1,2}, \dots, y_{1,n}, y_{2,1}, \dots, y_{2,n}, \dots, y_{n,1}, \dots, y_{n,n}, k \rangle$
encodes $\langle G, k \rangle$.

① n is number of vertices in G

② $y_{i,j}$ is a bit which is 1 if edge (i, j) is in G and 0 otherwise
(adjacency matrix representation)

③ k is size of independent set.

② Certificate: $t = t_1 t_2 \dots t_n$. Interpretation is that t_i is 1 if vertex i is in the independent set, 0 otherwise.

Certifier for **Independent Set**

Certifier **C(s, t)** for **Independent Set**:

```
if ( $t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n < k$ ) then
    return NO
else
    for each (i, j) do
        if ( $t_i \wedge t_j \wedge y_{i,j}$ ) then
            return NO

return YES
```


Example: Independent Set

A certifier circuit for Independent Set

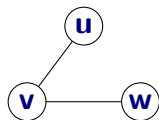
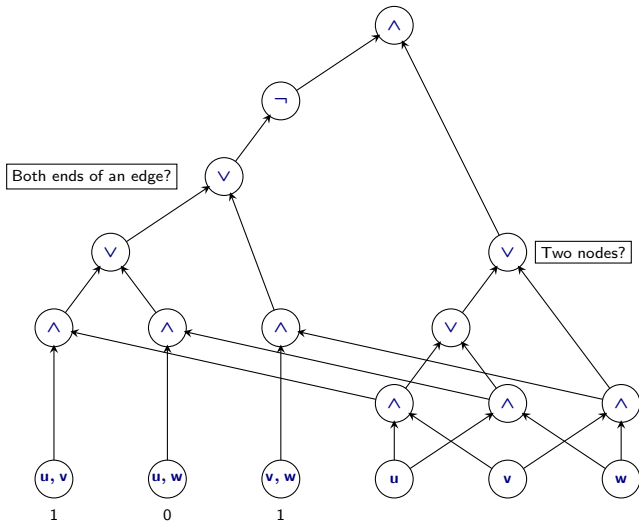


Figure : Graph G with $k = 2$



What does the following formula compute?

The formula

$$F(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \bigwedge_{i < j} (\bar{x}_i \vee \bar{x}_j).$$

is true if and only if

- (A) All the x_i s are one.
- (B) All the x_i s are zero.
- (C) There are exactly two ones in x_1, \dots, x_n .
- (D) There is at most one bit one in x_1, \dots, x_n .
- (E) There are at most two ones in x_1, \dots, x_n .

What does the following formula compute?

The formula

$$H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \left(\bigwedge_{i < j} (\bar{x}_i \vee \bar{x}_j) \right) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \dots \vee x_n).$$

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What does the following formula compute?

$\langle \mathbf{G} \rangle$: a vector of $\binom{n}{2}$ bits describing a graph with n vertices.

$I(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n, \langle \mathbf{G} \rangle)$ formula true $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ independent set in \mathbf{G} .

Input: $\langle \mathbf{x}_1^1, \mathbf{x}_1^2, \mathbf{x}_1^3, \mathbf{x}_2^1, \mathbf{x}_2^2, \mathbf{x}_2^3, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n^1, \mathbf{x}_n^2, \mathbf{x}_n^3, \mathbf{G} \rangle$.

The formula

$$\left(\bigwedge_{i=1}^n H(\mathbf{x}_i^1, \mathbf{x}_i^2, \mathbf{x}_i^3) \right) \wedge I(\mathbf{x}_1^1, \mathbf{x}_2^1, \mathbf{x}_3^1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n^1, \langle \mathbf{G} \rangle) \\ \wedge I(\mathbf{x}_1^2, \mathbf{x}_2^2, \mathbf{x}_3^2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n^2, \langle \mathbf{G} \rangle) \wedge I(\mathbf{x}_1^3, \mathbf{x}_2^3, \mathbf{x}_3^3, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n^3, \langle \mathbf{G} \rangle)$$

is satisfiable if and only if

- (A) The graph \mathbf{G} contains a clique.
- (B) The graph \mathbf{G} can be colored by two colors.
- (C) The graph \mathbf{G} can be colored by three colors.
- (D) The graph \mathbf{G} encodes a satisfiable instance of 3DM.
- (E) None of the above.

Programs, Turing Machines and Circuits

Consider “program” **A** that takes $f(|s|)$ steps on input string **s**.

Question: What computer is the program running on and what does *step* mean?

Real computers difficult to reason with mathematically because

- 1 instruction set is too rich
- 2 pointers and control flow jumps in one step
- 3 assumption that pointer to code fits in one word

Turing Machines

- 1 simpler model of computation to reason with
- 2 can simulate real computers with *polynomial* slow down
- 3 all moves are *local* (head moves only one cell)

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Certifiers that are TMs

Assume $C(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a (deterministic) Turing Machine M

Problem: Given M , input s , p , q decide if there is a proof t of length $p(|s|)$ such that M on s, t will halt in $q(|s|)$ time and say YES.

There is an algorithm \mathcal{A} that can reduce above problem to **CSAT** mechanically as follows.

- 1 \mathcal{A} first computes $p(|s|)$ and $q(|s|)$.
- 2 Knows that M can use at most $q(|s|)$ memory/tape cells
- 3 Knows that M can run for at most $q(|s|)$ time
- 4 Simulates the evolution of the state of M and memory over time using a big circuit.

Simulation of Computation via Circuit

- 1 Think of M 's state at time ℓ as a string $x^\ell = x_1x_2 \dots x_k$ where each $x_i \in \{0, 1, B\} \times Q \cup \{q_{-1}\}$.
- 2 At time 0 the state of M consists of input string s a guess t (unknown variables) of length $p(|s|)$ and rest $q(|s|)$ blank symbols.
- 3 At time $q(|s|)$ we wish to know if M stops in q_{accept} with say all blanks on the tape.
- 4 We write a circuit C_ℓ which captures the transition of M from time ℓ to time $\ell + 1$.
- 5 Composition of the circuits for all times 0 to $q(|s|)$ gives a big (still poly) sized circuit C
- 6 The final output of C should be true if and only if the entire state of M at the end leads to an accept state.

NP-Hardness of Circuit Satisfaction

Key Ideas in reduction:

- 1 Use **TM**s as the code for certifier for simplicity
- 2 Since **p()** and **q()** are known to \mathcal{A} , it can set up all required memory and time steps in advance
- 3 Simulate computation of the **TM** from one time to the next as a circuit that only looks at three adjacent cells at a time

Note: Above reduction can be done to **SAT** as well. Reduction to **SAT** was the original proof of Steve Cook.

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To show NP-Completeness

Let X be a decision problem.

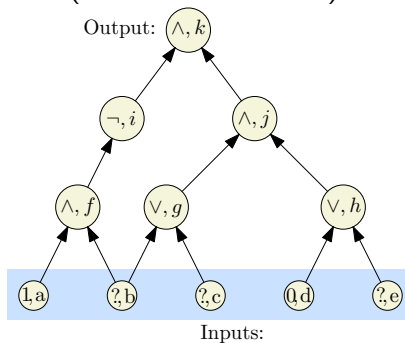
We know that $CSAT$ is NP-Complete.

To show that X is NP-Complete we need to:

- (A) Provide a polynomial time reduction from X to $CSAT$.
- (B) Provide a polynomial time reduction from X to $CSAT$ and show that $X \in NP$.
- (C) Provide a polynomial time reduction from $CSAT$ to X .
- (D) Provide a polynomial time reduction from $CSAT$ to X and show that $X \in NP$.
- (E) Provide a polynomial time reduction from $CSAT$ to X and show that $X \notin P$.

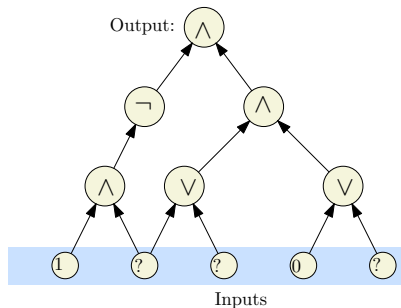
SAT is NP-Complete

- 1 We have seen that **SAT** \in **NP**
- 2 To show **NP-Hardness**, we will reduce Circuit Satisfiability (**CSAT**) to **SAT**
Instance of **CSAT** (we label each node):

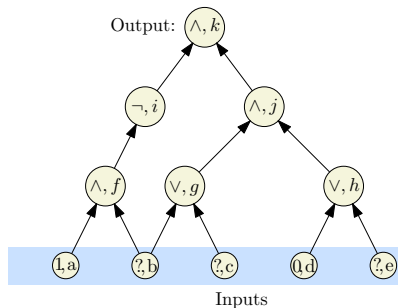


Converting a circuit into a CNF formula

Label the nodes



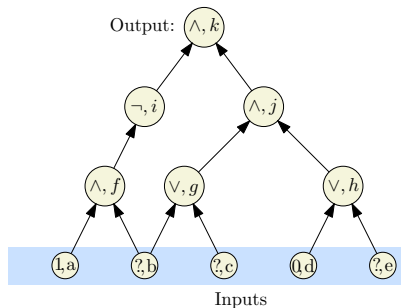
(A) Input circuit



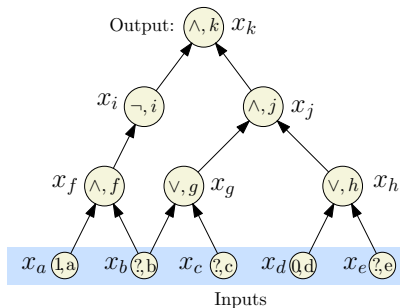
(B) Label the nodes.

Converting a circuit into a CNF formula

Introduce a variable for each node



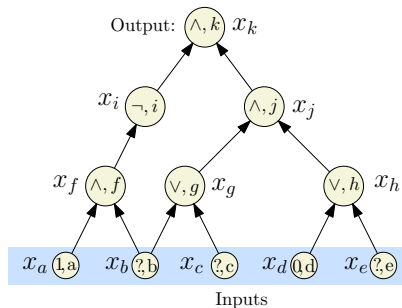
(B) Label the nodes.



(C) Introduce var for each node.

Converting a circuit into a CNF formula

Write a sub-formula for each variable that is true if the var is computed correctly.



(C) Introduce var for each node.

x_k (Demand a sat' assignment!)

$$x_k = x_i \wedge x_j$$

$$x_j = x_g \wedge x_h$$

$$x_i = \neg x_f$$

$$x_h = x_d \vee x_e$$

$$x_g = x_b \vee x_c$$

$$x_f = x_a \wedge x_b$$

$$x_d = 0$$

$$x_a = 1$$

(D) Write a sub-formula for each variable that is true if the var is computed correctly.

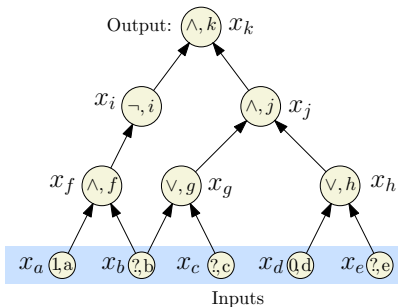
Converting a circuit into a CNF formula

Convert each sub-formula to an equivalent CNF formula

| x_k | x_k |
|------------------------|---|
| $x_k = x_i \wedge x_j$ | $(\neg x_k \vee x_i) \wedge (\neg x_k \vee x_j) \wedge (x_k \vee \neg x_i \vee \neg x_j)$ |
| $x_j = x_g \wedge x_h$ | $(\neg x_j \vee x_g) \wedge (\neg x_j \vee x_h) \wedge (x_j \vee \neg x_g \vee \neg x_h)$ |
| $x_i = \neg x_f$ | $(x_i \vee x_f) \wedge (\neg x_i \vee \neg x_f)$ |
| $x_h = x_d \vee x_e$ | $(x_h \vee \neg x_d) \wedge (x_h \vee \neg x_e) \wedge (\neg x_h \vee x_d \vee x_e)$ |
| $x_g = x_b \vee x_c$ | $(x_g \vee \neg x_b) \wedge (x_g \vee \neg x_c) \wedge (\neg x_g \vee x_b \vee x_c)$ |
| $x_f = x_a \wedge x_b$ | $(\neg x_f \vee x_a) \wedge (\neg x_f \vee x_b) \wedge (x_f \vee \neg x_a \vee \neg x_b)$ |
| $x_d = 0$ | $\neg x_d$ |
| $x_a = 1$ | x_a |

Converting a circuit into a CNF formula

Take the conjunction of all the CNF sub-formulas



$$\begin{aligned} & x_k \wedge (\neg x_k \vee x_i) \wedge (\neg x_k \vee x_j) \\ & \wedge (x_k \vee \neg x_i \vee \neg x_j) \wedge (\neg x_j \vee x_g) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_j \vee x_h) \wedge (x_j \vee \neg x_g \vee \neg x_h) \\ & \wedge (x_i \vee x_f) \wedge (\neg x_i \vee x_f) \\ & \wedge (x_h \vee \neg x_d) \wedge (x_h \vee \neg x_e) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_h \vee x_d \vee x_e) \wedge (x_g \vee \neg x_b) \\ & \wedge (x_g \vee \neg x_c) \wedge (\neg x_g \vee x_b \vee x_c) \\ & \wedge (\neg x_f \vee x_a) \wedge (\neg x_f \vee x_b) \\ & \wedge (x_f \vee \neg x_a \vee \neg x_b) \wedge (\neg x_d) \wedge x_a \end{aligned}$$

We got a **CNF** formula that is satisfiable if and only if the original circuit is satisfiable.

Reduction: $\text{CSAT} \leq_P \text{SAT}$

- 1 For each gate (vertex) v in the circuit, create a variable x_v
- 2 **Case** \neg : v is labeled \neg and has one incoming edge from u (so $x_v = \neg x_u$). In **SAT** formula generate, add clauses $(x_u \vee x_v)$, $(\neg x_u \vee \neg x_v)$. Observe that

$$x_v = \neg x_u \text{ is true} \iff \begin{array}{l} (x_u \vee x_v) \\ (\neg x_u \vee \neg x_v) \end{array} \text{ both true.}$$

Reduction: $\text{CSAT} \leq_P \text{SAT}$

Continued...

- ① **Case \vee :** So $x_v = x_u \vee x_w$. In **SAT** formula generated, add clauses $(x_v \vee \neg x_u)$, $(x_v \vee \neg x_w)$, and $(\neg x_v \vee x_u \vee x_w)$. Again, observe that

$$(x_v = x_u \vee x_w) \text{ is true} \iff \begin{array}{l} (x_v \vee \neg x_u), \\ (x_v \vee \neg x_w), \\ (\neg x_v \vee x_u \vee x_w) \end{array} \text{ all true.}$$

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- ① **Case \wedge :** So $x_v = x_u \wedge x_w$. In **SAT** formula generated, add clauses $(\neg x_v \vee x_u)$, $(\neg x_v \vee x_w)$, and $(x_v \vee \neg x_u \vee \neg x_w)$. Again observe that

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Reduction: $\text{CSAT} \leq_P \text{SAT}$

Continued...

- 1 If v is an input gate with a fixed value then we do the following.
If $x_v = 1$ add clause x_v . If $x_v = 0$ add clause $\neg x_v$
- 2 Add the clause x_v where v is the variable for the output gate

Correctness of Reduction

Need to show circuit C is satisfiable iff φ_C is satisfiable

\Rightarrow Consider a satisfying assignment \mathbf{a} for C

- 1 Find values of all gates in C under \mathbf{a}
- 2 Give value of gate v to variable x_v ; call this assignment \mathbf{a}'
- 3 \mathbf{a}' satisfies φ_C (exercise)

\Leftarrow Consider a satisfying assignment \mathbf{a} for φ_C

- 1 Let \mathbf{a}' be the restriction of \mathbf{a} to only the input variables
- 2 Value of gate v under \mathbf{a}' is the same as value of x_v in \mathbf{a}
- 3 Thus, \mathbf{a}' satisfies C

Theorem

SAT is **NP-Complete**.

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

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

- 1 Show **X** is in **NP**.
 - 1 certificate/proof of polynomial size in input
 - 2 polynomial time certifier **C(s, t)**
- 2 Reduction from a known **NP-Complete** problem such as **CSAT** or **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 $Y \leq_P X$.

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- 3 **SAT** \leq_P **3-SAT** and hence 3-SAT is **NP-Complete**.
- 4 **3-SAT** \leq_P **Independent Set** (which is in **NP**) and hence **Independent Set** is **NP-Complete**.
- 5 **Vertex Cover** is **NP-Complete**.
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Hundreds and thousands of different problems from many areas of science and engineering have been shown to be **NP-Complete**.

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