

CS 341: ALGORITHMS

Lecture 19: Intractability I

Readings: see website

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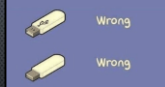
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THIS TIME

- Intractability (hardness of problems)
 - Decision problems
 - Complexity class P
 - Polynomial-time **Turing** reductions
 - Introductory reductions
 - Three flavours of the **traveling salesman** problem

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How to insert USB



INTRACTABILITY

Studying the **hardness** of problems

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Decision Problems

Decision Problem: Given a problem instance I , answer a certain question "yes" or "no".

Problem Instance: Input for the specified problem.

Problem Solution: Correct answer ("yes" or "no") for the specified problem instance. I is a **yes-instance** if the correct answer for the instance I is "yes". I is a **no-instance** if the correct answer for the instance I is "no".

Size of a problem instance: $Size(I)$ is the number of bits required to specify (or encode) the instance I .

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The Complexity Class P

Algorithm Solving a Decision Problem: An algorithm A is said to solve a decision problem Π provided that A finds the correct answer ("yes" or "no") for every instance I of Π in finite time.

Polynomial-time Algorithm: An algorithm A for a decision problem Π is said to be a **polynomial-time algorithm** provided that the complexity of A is $O(n^k)$, where k is a positive integer and $n = Size(I)$.

The Complexity Class P denotes the set of all decision problems that have polynomial-time algorithms solving them. We write $\Pi \in P$ if the decision problem Π is in the complexity class P.

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Knapsack Problems

Relative problem hardness?

Problem 7.3

0-1 Knapsack-Dec

Instance: a list of profits, $P = [p_1, \dots, p_n]$; a list of weights, $W = [w_1, \dots, w_n]$; a capacity, M ; and a target profit, T .

Question: Is there an n -tuple $[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] \in \{0, 1\}^n$ such that $\sum w_i x_i \leq M$ and $\sum p_i x_i \geq T$?



Problem 7.4

Rational Knapsack-Dec

Instance: a list of profits, $P = [p_1, \dots, p_n]$; a list of weights, $W = [w_1, \dots, w_n]$; a capacity, M ; and a target profit, T .

Question: Is there an n -tuple $[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] \in [0, 1]^n$ such that $\sum w_i x_i \leq M$ and $\sum p_i x_i \geq T$?



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Cycles in Graphs

Relative hardness?

Problem 7.1
Cycle
 Instance: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.
 Question: Does G contain a cycle?

Problem 7.2
Hamiltonian Cycle
 Instance: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.
 Question: Does G contain a hamiltonian cycle?

A **hamiltonian cycle** is a cycle that passes through every vertex in V exactly once.

Polynomial-time Turing Reductions

Example: all-pairs-shortest-paths easily reduces to single-source-shortest-path

Suppose Π_1 and Π_2 are problems (not necessarily decision problems). A (hypothetical) algorithm B to solve Π_2 is called an **oracle** for Π_2 . Suppose that A is an algorithm that solves Π_1 , assuming the existence of an oracle B for Π_2 . (B is used as a subroutine within the algorithm A .) Then we say that A is a **Turing reduction** from Π_1 to Π_2 , denoted $\Pi_1 \leq^T \Pi_2$.

A Turing reduction A is a **polynomial-time Turing reduction** if the running time of A is polynomial, under the assumption that the oracle B has **unit cost** running time.

If there is a polynomial-time Turing reduction from Π_1 to Π_2 , we write $\Pi_1 \leq_p^T \Pi_2$.

Informally: Existence of a polynomial-time Turing reduction means that if we can solve Π_2 in polynomial time, then we can solve Π_1 in polynomial time.

A reduction typically:
 1. transforms the larger problem's input so it can be fed to the oracle, and
 2. transforms the oracle's output into a solution to the larger problem.

Travelling Salesperson Problems

Problem 7.5
TSP-Optimization
 Instance: A graph G and edge weights $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$.
 Find: A hamiltonian cycle H in G such that $w(H) = \sum_{e \in H} w(e)$ is minimized.
 Return type: "a path/cycle H "

Problem 7.6
TSP-Optimal Value
 Instance: A graph G and edge weights $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$.
 Find: The minimum T such that there exists a hamiltonian cycle H in G with $w(H) = T$.
 Return type: "a positive integer T "

Problem 7.7
TSP-Decision
 Instance: A graph G , edge weights $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$, and a target T .
 Question: Does there exist a hamiltonian cycle H in G with $w(H) \leq T$?
 Return type: "yes/no"

Is $\text{TSP-Dec} \leq_p^T \text{TSP-Optimal Value}$?

Is $\text{TSP-Dec} \leq_p^T \text{TSP-Optimization}$?

Positive edge weights

We will use polynomial-time Turing reductions to show that different versions of the TSP are polynomially equivalent: if one of them can be solved in polynomial time, then all of them can be solved in polynomial time. (However, it is believed that none of them can be solved in polynomial time.)

- We already know
 - $\text{TSP-Dec} \leq_p^T \text{TSP-Optimal Value}$
 - $\text{TSP-Dec} \leq_p^T \text{TSP-Optimization}$
- We show
 - $\text{TSP-Optimal Value} \leq_p^T \text{TSP-Dec}$
 - $\text{TSP-Optimization} \leq_p^T \text{TSP-Dec}$

TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p^T TSP-Dec

TSP-Optimal Value input: G, w

Problem 7.6
TSP-Optimal Value
 Instance: A graph G and edge weights $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$.
 Find: The minimum T such that there exists a hamiltonian cycle H in G with $w(H) = T$.

Problem 7.7
TSP-Decision
 Instance: A graph G , edge weights $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$, and a target T .
 Question: Does there exist a hamiltonian cycle H in G with $w(H) \leq T$?

TSP-Dec() also needs a target T
 What if we try **TSP-Dec($G, w, 100$)**?
 It returns true. But we don't learn optimal value... just that it's ≤ 100

How can we learn the exact optimal value by making such calls?

TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p^T TSP-Dec

Use **binary search**: How to define the starting range (lo, hi) to search?

Algorithm: $\text{TSP-OptimalValue-Solver}(G, w)$

```

external TSP-Dec-Solver
hi ← ∑_{e ∈ E} w(e)  // largest possible cycle could include every edge
lo ← 0  // 0 is smallest possible weight for any cycle
if not TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, hi) then return (∞)  // Maybe there is no Hamiltonian cycle, at all
while hi > lo
do {
    mid ← ⌊(hi+lo)/2⌋
    if TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, mid)
    then hi ← mid
    else lo ← mid + 1
}
return (hi)
    
```

Is this a "poly-time reduction"?

I.e., if we assume TSP-Dec-Solver runs in $O(1)$ time, is the runtime a **polynomial in the input size**?

Questions: (1) What's the input size?
 (2) What's the runtime?

This is a standard binary search technique.

What's the size of the input $I = (G, w)$?

$Size(I) = Size(G) + Size(w)$

But wait... G and w could be represented in many different ways.
 Could the choice of representation affect our complexity result?

Only for very inefficient representations (that are exponentially larger than optimal). For example if we store weights in unary.

We rule out such inefficient representations for the purpose of proving polynomial runtime.

Polynomial differences in size do not matter.
 Exercise: if $T \in poly(Size(I)^{10})$ then $T \in poly(Size(I))$

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What's the size of the input $I = (G, w)$?

$Size(I) = Size(G) + Size(w)$

So, suppose G is represented as an array of adjacency lists (one list for each vertex), with each list containing edges to neighbouring vertices, and an edge is represented by a weight and the name of the target vertex.

Bits to store weight of the edge (storing $w(e)$ takes $\log w(e) + 1$ bits)

Bits to store the name of the target vertex (in $1..|V|$)

$Size(I) = |V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1 + \log |V| + 1)$

Array of empty lists for all vertices v For all edges

Let's relate this to runtime... what's the runtime?

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TSP-Optimal Value $\leq \frac{T}{P}$ TSP-Dec

Let's assume $O(1)$ time for operations on weights. Later we'll see this isn't needed to show polytime.

Algorithm: TSP-OptimalValue-Solver(G, w)

external TSP-Dec-Solver

$hi \leftarrow \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$ $O(|E|)$

$lo \leftarrow 0$ $O(1)$

if not TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, hi) then return (∞)

while $hi > lo$ # iterations: $O(\log(hi - lo))$

do $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} mid \leftarrow \lfloor \frac{hi+lo}{2} \rfloor \\ \text{if TSP-Dec-Solver}(G, w, mid) \text{ then } hi \leftarrow mid \\ \text{else } lo \leftarrow mid + 1 \end{array} \right\} = \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$ $O(1)$

return (hi)

Runtime $T(I) \in O(|E| + \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e))$

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COMPARING $T(I)$ AND $Size(I)$

- $T(I) \in O(|E| + \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e))$
- $Size(I) = |V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1 + \log |V| + 1)$
 $= |V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) + \sum_{e \in E} (\log |V| + 1)$
 $= |V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) + \sum_{e \in E} (\log |V|) + |E|$
- Want to show $T(I) \in O(Size(I)^c)$ for some constant c (we show $c=1$)
 $O(|E| + \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)) \leq^c O(|V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) + \sum_{e \in E} \log |V| + |E|)$
 $\Leftrightarrow O(\log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)) \leq^c O(|V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) + \sum_{e \in E} \log |V|)$

How to compare $\log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$ and $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1)$?

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COMPARING $T(I)$ AND $Size(I)$

- How to compare $\log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$ and $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1)$?
- $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) = (\log w(e_1) + 1) + (\log w(e_2) + 1) + \dots + (\log w(e_{|E|}) + 1)$
- Can we combine these terms into one log using $\log x + \log y = \log xy$?
- $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) = (\log w(e_1) + \log 2) + \dots + (\log w(e_{|E|}) + \log 2)$
- $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) = \log 2w(e_1) 2w(e_2) \dots 2w(e_{|E|}) = \log \prod_{e \in E} 2w(e)$
- So how to compare $\log \prod_{e \in E} 2w(e)$ and $\log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$?
 - All $w(e)$ are positive integers, so $\prod_{e \in E} 2w(e) \geq \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$
 - Since log is increasing on \mathbb{Z}^+ , $\log \prod_{e \in E} 2w(e) \geq \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$

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COMPARING $T(I)$ AND $Size(I)$

- We in fact show $T(I) \in O(Size(I))$
- $O(\log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)) \leq^c O(|V| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) + \sum_{e \in E} \log |V|)$
- How to compare $\log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$ and $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1)$?
- We just saw $\sum_{e \in E} (\log w(e) + 1) = \log \prod_{e \in E} 2w(e) \geq \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$

So $T(I) \in O(Size(I)^c)$ where $c = 1$

So this reduction has runtime that is polynomial in the input size!

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TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p^T TSP-Dec

```

Algorithm: TSP-OptimalValue-Solver(G, w)
external TSP-Dec-Solver
hi ← ∑_{e∈E} w(e)
lo ← 0
if not TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, hi) then return (∞)
while hi > lo
  mid ← ⌊(hi+lo)/2⌋
  do
    if TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, mid)
      then hi ← mid
    else lo ← mid + 1
  return (hi)
    
```

Exercise: show the variant of this reduction where **linear search** is used instead of **binary search** is **not poly(Size(I))**

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REACHED THIS POINT

(but will recap the comparison of T(I) and Size(I) next time)

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TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p^T TSP-Dec

So TSP-OptimalValue-Solver is **polynomial**... But is it a **correct reduction** from TSP-Optimal Value to TSP-Dec?

```

Algorithm: TSP-OptimalValue-Solver(G, w)
external TSP-Dec-Solver
hi ← ∑_{e∈E} w(e)
lo ← 0
if not TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, hi) then return (∞)
while hi > lo
  mid ← ⌊(hi+lo)/2⌋
  do
    if TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, mid)
      then hi ← mid
    else lo ← mid + 1
  return (hi)
    
```

Need to prove:
 TSP-OptimalValue-Solver(G, w) returns the weight **W** of the **shortest Hamiltonian Cycle (HC)** in **G**

Sketch: We return ∞ iff there is **no HC**.
 Loop invariant: $W \in [lo, hi]$.
 So, at termination when $hi = lo$, we return exactly $hi = W$.

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TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p^T TSP-Dec

So, TSP-OptimalValue-Solver is **polynomial**, and is a **correct reduction**.

We have therefore shown:
TSP-Optimal Value is polynomial reducible to TSP-Dec

So, if an $\Theta(1)$ implementation of TSP-Dec-Solver exists, then we have a **polynomial** implementation of TSP-Optimal-Value-Solver!

In fact, TSP-OptimalValue-Solver remains **polynomial** even if the implementation of the **oracle runs in polynomial** instead of $O(1)$!

```

Algorithm: TSP-OptimalValue-Solver(G, w)
external TSP-Dec-Solver
hi ← ∑_{e∈E} w(e)
lo ← 0
if not TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, hi) then return (∞)
while hi > lo
  mid ← ⌊(hi+lo)/2⌋
  do
    if TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, mid)
      then hi ← mid
    else lo ← mid + 1
  return (hi)
    
```

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TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p^T TSP-Dec

TSP-OptimalValue-Solver remains **polynomial** even if the **oracle runs in polynomial** instead of $O(1)$!

The **key idea** is: Consider polynomials $P_R(s)$ and $P_O(s)$ representing the runtime of a reduction and its oracle respectively, on an input of size s .
Worst possible runtime happens if **every step** in the reduction is a call to the oracle.
 This is $P_R(s)P_O(s)$ --- **multiplication of polynomials**.

But **multiplying polynomials** of degrees d_1, d_2 results in a **polynomial** of degree $\leq d_1 + d_2$. **Example:**
 $P_1(x) = 5x^2 + 10x + 100$
 $P_2(x) = 20x^3 + 20$
 $P_1(x)P_2(x) = (5x^2 + 10x + 100)(20x^3 + 20)$
 $= 100x^5 + 200x^4 + 2000x^3 + 100x^2 + 200x + 2000$

```

Algorithm: TSP-OptimalValue-Solver(G, w)
external TSP-Dec-Solver
hi ← ∑_{e∈E} w(e)
lo ← 0
if not TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, hi) then return (∞)
while hi > lo
  mid ← ⌊(hi+lo)/2⌋
  do
    if TSP-Dec-Solver(G, w, mid)
      then hi ← mid
    else lo ← mid + 1
  return (hi)
    
```

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PROVING REDUCTIONS CORRECT

- In more **complex reductions** where we **transform the input** before calling the oracle, we will need a **more complex proof**:
- (A) If there is a(n optimal) solution in the input, our transformation will preserve that solution so the oracle can find it, and
- (B) Our transformation doesn't introduce new solutions that are **not** present in the original input
 - (i.e., if we find a solution in the transformed input, there was a corresponding solution in the original input)

More on this later...

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INPUT SIZE CHEAT SHEET

input I	Perfectly fine choices of $Size(I)$	Examples of BAD choices of $Size(I)$
int x	1 or $\log(x) + 1$ (can simplify to $\log(x) + 1$ or $\log x$)	x
Graph (V, E)	$ V $ or $ E $ or $ V ^2$ or $ V + E $ or $\sum_{e \in E} (\log(w(e)) + 1)$ or $\sum_{u,v \in V} (\log(w(u,v)) + 1)$ or any sum of terms above	$2^{ V }$ or $ V ^{ E }$ or $\sum_{e \in E} w(e)$
with weights W :		2^n or $\sum_i A[i]$
$A[1..n]$ of int	n or $\sum_i (\log(A[i]) + 1)$	
$n \times n$ matrix m	n^2 or $\sum_{i,j} (\log(m_{ij}) + 1)$	

Exponentially larger than optimal representation!

To write down $x=1$, need $\log(1)+1=1$ bit. For $x=2$ this is 2 bits. For $x=4$, 3 bits.

Pick any expression that makes your analysis easy

Pseudo-polynomial – no exponentiation of non-constant terms

Technically any pseudo-polynomial combination of these terms is fine. For example, the following is fine: $(|E|^{100} + |V|^2) \cdot \sum_{e \in E} (\log(w(e)) + 1)$

BONUS SLIDES

efficient vs inefficient input representations

What's the size of the input I ?

$Size(I) = Size(G) + Size(w)$

But wait... G and w could be represented in many different ways. **Could the choice of representation affect our complexity result?**

Representation 1: What if the entire graph is simply represented as a **weight matrix W** which contains a weight w_{uv} for each $u, v \in V$ (so if an edge does not exist consider weight $w_{uv} = 0$). It takes $\theta(\log w_{uv})$ bits $(\log(w_{uv}) + 1)$ to store this weight.

We would then have: $Size(R_1) = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in V} \log(w_{uv}) + 1$

What would it mean to have a **runtime T** that is **polynomial in $Size(R_1)$** ?

We say T is **polynomial in $Size(R_1)$** (denoted $T \in poly(Size(R_1))$) iff:

\exists constant c s.t. for all I , we have $T \in O(Size(R_1)^c)$

Representation 2: What if the graph were represented as an **array of adjacency lists** (one list for each vertex), with each list containing **edges** to neighbouring vertices, where an edge is represented by a **weight** and the **name** of the target vertex?

We would then have: $Size(R_2) = |V| + \sum_{(u,v) \in E} (\log(w_{uv}) + 1 + \log |V| + 1)$

Array with one list per vertex v Weight of the edge Name of the target vertex

Compare with representation 1: $Size(R_1) = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in V} \log(w_{uv}) + 1$

Representation 3: What if we were to represent the graph as a weight matrix W but write all weights in **unary**, instead of binary (so it takes w_{uv} bits to store weight w_{uv}).

For this (very stupid) representation, we would then have: $Size(R_3) = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in V} (w_{uv})$

Compare with representation 1: $Size(R_1) = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in V} (\log w_{uv}) + 1$

So, some algorithms could be **polynomial in $Size(R_3)$ but exponential in $Size(R_1)$**

We should **rule out this highly inefficient representation** for the purpose of proving polynomial runtime

Idea: determine whether runtime is polynomial in the size of the **optimal representation of the input**

For example, in a graph where there are $O(1)$ nodes and all edges have weight w : $Size(R_1) = \theta(\log_2 w)$ and $Size(R_3) = \theta(w)$. In this case, $Size(R_3) \in \theta(2^{Size(R_1)})$

Problem: it's not clear what the **optimal representation** is...

What if we can argue the runtime is polynomial in some **lower bound** on the size of the input?

LOWER BOUNDING $Size(I)$

The following are **valid** choices of $L(I)$ for various input types:

input I	$L(I)$
int x	1 or $\log(x) + 1$
Graph (V, E) possibly with weights W	1 or $ V $ or $ E $ or $\sum_{e \in E} (\log(w(e)) + 1)$
$A[1..n]$ of int	n or $\sum (\log(A[i]) + 1)$
$n \times n$ matrix m	n^2 or $\sum_{i,j} (\log(m_{ij}) + 1)$

Justifying **sloppy** analysis: **Polynomial differences** in choices of $L(I)$, such as $|V|$ vs $|V|^2$ vs $|E|$ vs $|V|^{10}$ don't matter. Such differences **cannot** change whether a runtime $T(I)$ is in $poly(L(I))$ or not.

- To prove that a reduction's runtime $T(I)$ on input I is **polynomial in the size of I** :
 - Define a **lower bound $L(I)$** on the size of I
 - For **every possible representation I_R of I** , $L(I) \leq Size(I_R)$ should hold
 - Can be proved with information theory, or ad-hoc; **outside the scope of the course**
 - In this course, we can be a bit **sloppy**, and just use the **table of valid choices** here to obtain a term for each variable in I
- Then, if we can show $T(I) \leq poly(L(I))$** , we have **actually shown $T(I) \leq poly(size(I))$**

Exercise: $T(I) \in poly(L(I)^{10})$ iff $T(I) \in poly(L(I))$

TSP-Optimal Value \leq_p **TSP-Dec**

Algorithm: *TSP-OptimalValue-Solver*(G, w)

```

external TSP-Dec-Solver
 $hi \leftarrow \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$ 
 $lo \leftarrow 0$ 
if not TSP-Dec-Solver( $G, w, hi$ ) then return ( $\infty$ )
while  $hi > lo$ 
do
   $mid \leftarrow \lfloor \frac{hi+lo}{2} \rfloor$ 
  if TSP-Dec-Solver( $G, w, mid$ )
  then  $hi \leftarrow mid$ 
  else  $lo \leftarrow mid + 1$ 
return ( $hi$ )

```

This is a standard binary search technique.

So what's a valid $L(I)$ for an input I to TSP-OptimalValue-Solver?

Input is a graph G with weight matrix w . From the table of valid $L(I)$ choices, we let $L(I) = |E| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log(w(e)) + 1)$.

What's the relationship between the reduction's runtime $T(I)$ and $L(I)$?

$T(I) = O(|E| + \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e))$
 $= \log \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$
and $L(I) = O(|E| + \sum_{e \in E} (\log(w(e)) + 1))$

Loop body: $O(1)$

As we argued earlier,
 $T(I) \in poly(L(I))$
And thus $T(I) \in poly(Size(I))$

So this reduction has runtime that is polynomial in the input size!

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