# CS 341: ALGORITHMS

Lecture 22: intractability IV – poly transformations, NP completeness

Readings: see website

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# POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

commonly used for NP-completeness and impossibility results

# POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

For a decision problem  $\Pi$ , let  $\mathcal{I}(\Pi)$  denote the set of all instances of  $\Pi$ . Let  $\mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi)$  and  $\mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi)$  denote the set of all yes-instances and no-instances (respectively) of  $\Pi$ .

Suppose that  $\Pi_1$  and  $\Pi_2$  are decision problems. We say that there is a **polynomial transformation** from  $\Pi_1$  to  $\Pi_2$  (denoted  $\Pi_1 \leq_P \Pi_2$ ) if there exists a function  $f : \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1) \to \mathcal{I}(\Pi_2)$  such that the following properties are satisfied:

f(I) is computable in polynomial time (as a function of size(I), where  $I \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1)$ )

if  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_1)$ , then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_2)$ if  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi_1)$ , then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi_2)$ 

[Mechanics] to give a polynomial transformation, you must:

specify f(I),
show it runs in poly-time, and

3. show I is a yes-instance of Π<sub>1</sub> IFF f(I) is a yes-instance of Π<sub>2</sub>.

### POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATIONS (CONT.)

A polynomial transformation can be thought of as a (simple) special case of a polynomial-time Turing reduction, i.e., if  $\Pi_1 \leq_P \Pi_2$ , then  $\Pi_1 \leq_P^T \Pi_2$ .

Given a polynomial transformation f from  $\Pi_1$  to  $\Pi_2$ , the corresponding Turing reduction is as follows:

Given  $I \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1)$ , construct  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_2)$ . Given an oracle for  $\Pi_2$ , say A, run A(f(I)).

We transform the instance, and then make a single call to the oracle. Very important point: We do not know whether I is a yes-instance or a no-instance of  $\Pi_1$  when we transform it to an instance f(I) of  $\Pi_2$ . To prove the implication "if  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi_1)$ , then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi_2)$ ", we usually prove the contrapositive statement "if  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_2)$ , then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_1)$ .

> The contrapositive can help when it is hard to precisely characterize certificates for no-instances (or when such certificates don't prove much)

Also known as Karp reductions and many-one reductions

We saw one instance where a contrapositive was easier to prove when we discussed Hamiltonian cycles

### **SUMMARIZING** THE MORE CONVENIENT DEFINITION • Let $\Pi_1$ and $\Pi_2$ be decision problems • $\Pi_1 \leq_P \Pi_2$ iff there exists $f : \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1) \to \mathcal{I}(\Pi_2)$ such that:

- f(I) is computable in poly-time, for all  $I \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1)$
- If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_1)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_2)$
- If  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_2)$  then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_1)$

This is the contrapositive. Was previously (2 slides ago): If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi_1)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{no}(\Pi_2)$  Note: this is the same as saying  $(I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_1)) \Leftrightarrow (f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\Pi_2))$ 

This property justifies correctness for the following generic **poly-time Karp reduction:** 

P1toP2KarpReduction(I)
fI = f(I)
return OracleForP2(fI)

### EXAMPLE POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATION

#### Problem 7.8

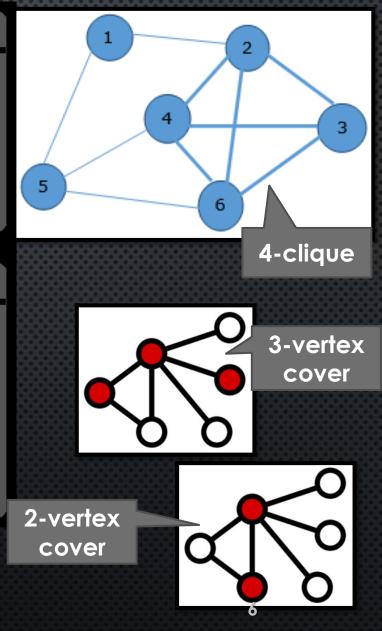
#### Clique

**Instance:** An undirected graph G = (V, E) and an integer k, where  $1 \le k \le |V|$ .

**Question:** Does G contain a clique of size  $\geq k$ ? (A clique is a subset of vertices  $W \subseteq V$  such that  $uv \in E$  for all  $u, v \in W$ ,  $u \neq v$ .)

#### Problem 7.9

**Vertex Cover Instance:** An undirected graph G = (V, E) and an integer k, where  $1 \le k \le |V|$ . **Question:** Does G contain a vertex cover of size  $\le k$ ? (A vertex cover is a subset of vertices  $W \subseteq V$  such that  $\{u, v\} \cap W \ne \emptyset$  for all edges  $uv \in E$ .)



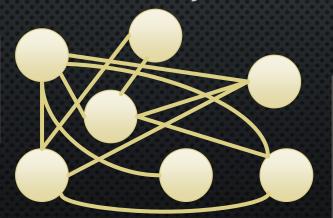
### CLIQUE $\leq_P$ VERTEX-COVER • Suppose I = (G, k) is an instance of Clique where $G = (V, E), V = \{v_1, ..., v_n\}$ and $1 \leq k \leq n$

Want to solve *Clique(G,k)* 

**Claim:** there is a *k*-clique in *G* iff there is an (n - k) Vertex-Cover in  $\overline{G}$ 

• **Construct** instance  $f(I) = (\overline{G}, n - k)$  of Vertex-Cover, where  $H = (V, \overline{E})$  and  $v_i v_j \in \overline{E} \Leftrightarrow v_i v_j \notin E$ 

Idea: reduce to  $VertexCover(\overline{G}, n-k)$ 



Consider the **complement graph**  $\overline{G}$  of G

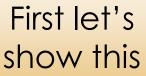
Every edge of Gis a non-edge of  $\overline{G}$ . Every non-edge of Gis an edge of  $\overline{G}$ .

Given an adjacency matrix for G, get  $\overline{G}$  by flipping 0's and 1's.

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### PROVING THIS IS A POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATION

- We denote Clique by CL and Vertex-Cover by VC
- $CL \leq_P VC$  iff there exists  $f : \mathcal{I}(CL) \to \mathcal{I}(VC)$  such that:
  - f(I) is computable in poly-time, for all  $I \in \mathcal{I}(CL)$  –
  - If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$
  - If  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$  then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$



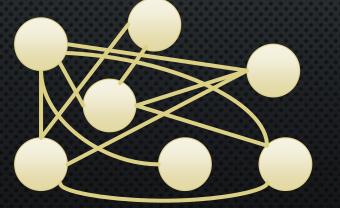
**COMPLEXITY OF THE TRANSFORMATION** • Suppose I = (G, k) is an instance of Clique where  $G = (V, E), V = \{v_1, ..., v_n\}$  and  $1 \le k \le n$ Constructing  $\overline{G}$  takes  $Q(n^2)$  time, and

Want to solve *Clique(G,k)*  Constructing  $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$  takes  $O(n^2)$  time, and computing n - k takes  $O(\log n)$  time.

So computing f(I) takes  $O(n^2)$  time, which is polynomial in Size(I).

• **Construct** instance  $f(I) = (\overline{G}, n - k)$  of Vertex-Cover, where  $\overline{G} = (V, \overline{E})$  and  $v_i v_j \in \overline{E} \Leftrightarrow v_i v_j \notin E$ 

Idea: reduce to  $VertexCover(\overline{G}, n-k)$ 



### PROVING THIS IS A POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATION

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- $CL \leq_P VC$  iff there exists  $f : \mathcal{I}(CL) \to \mathcal{I}(VC)$  such that:
  - f(I) is computable in poly-time, for all  $I \in \mathcal{I}(CL)$
  - If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$
  - If  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$  then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$

Now let's show this, i.e., if G contains a k-clique then  $\overline{G}$  contains an (n - k) vertex cover.

- $\mathsf{PROVING}: I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL) \Rightarrow f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$
- Suppose I = (G, k) is a **yes**-instance of Clique
- Then there is a set W of k vertices in a clique (with all-to-all edges)
- Define  $\overline{W} = V \setminus W$ . Clearly  $|\overline{W}| = n k$ .
- We claim  $\overline{W}$  is a vertex cover of  $\overline{G}$
- Consider any edge  $(u, v) \in \overline{G}$
- If either u or v is in  $\overline{W}$ , then we are done, so assume  $u, v \notin \overline{W}$  to obtain a contradiction
- Then  $u, v \in W$ , and W is a clique in G, so  $(u, v) \in G$
- But  $(u, v) \in \overline{\mathbf{G}}$  implies  $(u, v) \notin G$ . Contradiction!



 $\overline{W}$ 

Graph  $\overline{G}$ 

Graph G

W

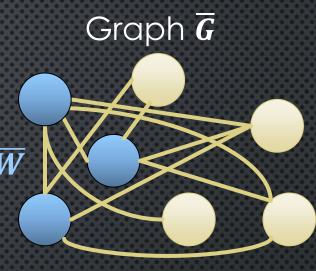
### PROVING THIS IS A POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATION

- We denote Clique by CL and Vertex-Cover by VC
- $CL \leq_P VC$  iff there exists  $f : \mathcal{I}(CL) \to \mathcal{I}(VC)$  such that:
  - f(I) is computable in poly-time, for all  $I \in \mathcal{I}(CL)$
  - If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$
  - If  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC)$  then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$

Now let's show this, i.e., if  $\overline{G}$  contains an (n - k) vertex cover, then G contains a k-clique  $\mathsf{PROVING}: f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(VC) \Rightarrow I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(CL)$ 

- Suppose  $f(I) = (\overline{\mathbf{G}}, n k)$  is a **yes**-instance of VC
- Then there is a set of n k vertices  $\overline{W}$  that is a vertex cover of  $\overline{G}$
- Define  $W = V \setminus \overline{W}$ . Clearly |W| = k.
- We claim W is a clique in G
- Since  $\overline{W}$  is a vertex cover of  $\overline{G}$ , every edge in  $\overline{G}$  has at least one endpoint in  $\overline{W}$
- Therefore, **no edge** in  $\overline{G}$  has two endpoints in W
- So, in *G*, there are edges between all pairs of nodes in *W*. So, *W* is a clique in *G*.

So, we have demonstrated a polynomial transformation from CLIQUE to VERTEX-COVER <sup>13</sup>



Graph G

### COMPLEXITY CLASS NP-COMPLETE

### COMPLEXITY CLASS NP-COMPLETE (NPC)

The complexity class **NPC** denotes the set of all decision problems  $\Pi$  that satisfy the following two properties:

 $\Pi \in \mathbf{NP}$ For all  $\Pi' \in \mathbf{NP}$ ,  $\Pi' \leq_P \Pi$ .

#### NPC is an abbreviation for NP-complete.

Note that the definition does not imply that NP-complete problems exist!

### Satisfiability and the Cook-Levin Theorem

We will just call it the **SAT** problem

Challenging and powerful result! How to prove **any NP problem** anyone will **ever** come up with is **solved** by a reduction to SAT?

#### Problem 7.13

#### **CNF-Satisfiability**

#### **Example:** $(p \lor q) \land (\neg p \lor r) \land (\neg r \lor \neg p \lor s \lor \neg s)$

**Instance:** A boolean formula F in n boolean variables  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ , such that F is the conjunction (logical "and") of m clauses, where each clause is the disjunction (logical "or") of literals. (A literal is a boolean variable or its negation.)

**Question:** Is there a truth assignment such that F evaluates to **true**?

Variable:p, qLiteral: $p, \neg q$ Clause: $(p \lor q)$ 

Theorem 7.14 (Cook-Levin Theorem)

 $SAT \in NPC$ .

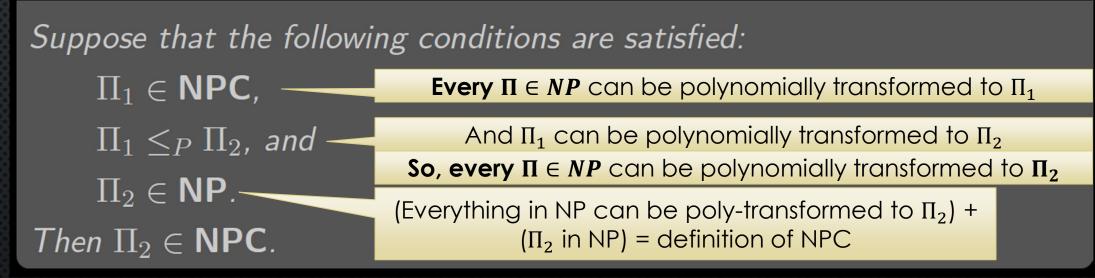
Real-world problem people care about! For example, used **extensively** to argue correctness for new processor designs.

### **Proving Problems NP-complete**

Now that we have one NP-complete problem...

given any NP-complete problem, say  $\Pi_1$ , other problems in **NP** can be proven to be NP-complete via polynomial transformations from  $\Pi_1$ , as stated in the following theorem:

Theorem 7.15



### **More Satisfiability Problems**

#### Problem 7.16

#### 3-SAT

**Instance:** A boolean formula F in n boolean variables, such that F is the conjunction of m clauses, where each clause is the disjunction of exactly **three** literals.

**Question:** Is there a truth assignment such that F evaluates to **true**?

#### Problem 7.17

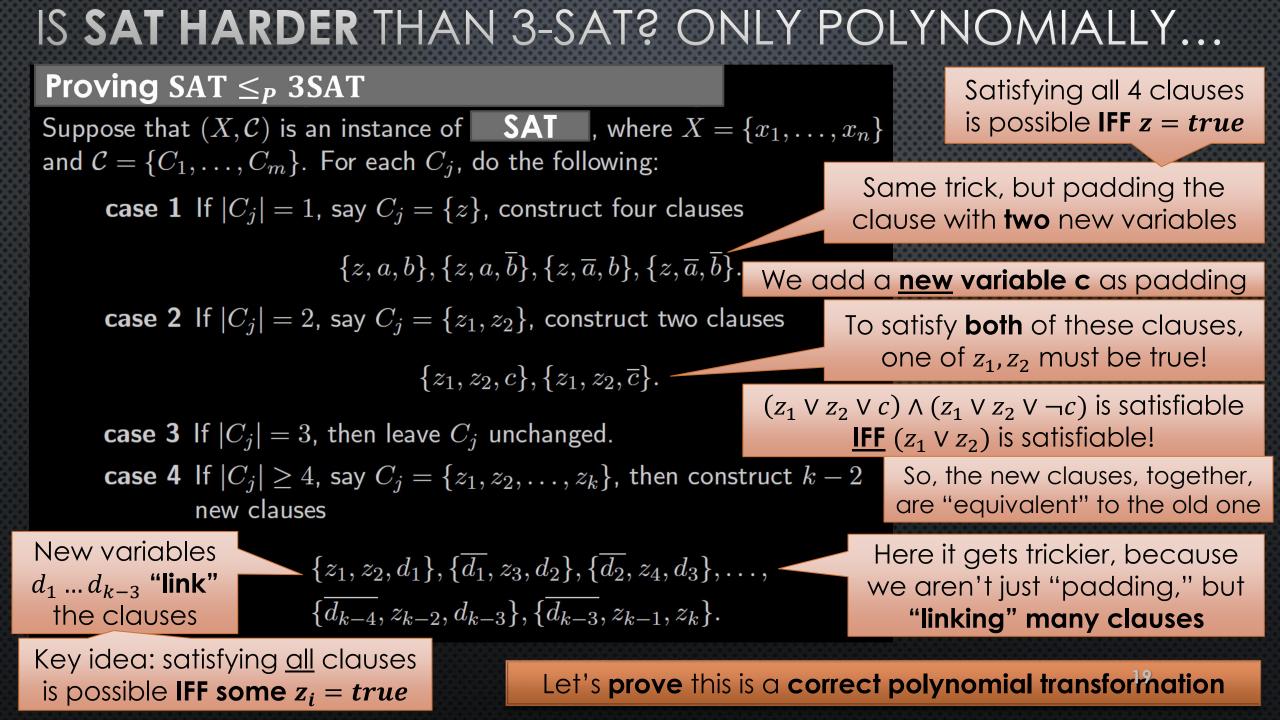
#### 2-SAT

**Instance:** A boolean formula F in n boolean variables, such that F is the conjunction of m clauses, where each clause is the disjunction of exactly **two** literals. **Question:** Is there a truth assignment such that F evaluates to **true**?

#### **Example:** $(p \lor q \lor r) \land (\neg p \lor r \lor q) \land (\neg r \lor \neg p \lor s)$



Satisfiable:  $p = 0, q = 1, r \in \{0, 1\}$ 



## CORRECTNESS

• Want to prove:  $SAT \leq_P 3SAT$ 

Sketch: let *L* be the number of **literals** in input *I*. In our transformed input, we construct at most *4L* clauses. Clearly this can be done in time *poly*(*4L*), which is in *poly*(*L*), which is in *poly*(*Size*(*I*)).

- I.e., our transformation function *f* satisfies:
  - f(I) is computable in poly-time, for all  $I \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1)$
  - If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(SAT)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(SAT)$  -
  - If  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(3SAT)$  then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(SAT)$

Let's do this direction

### **Correctness of the Transformation**

Suppose I is a yes-instance of SAT. We show that f(I) is a yes-instance of **3-SAT**. Fix a truth assignment for X in which every clause contains a true literal. We consider each clause  $C_j$  of the instance I.

If  $C_j = \{z\}$ , then z must be true. The corresponding four clauses in f(I) each contain z, so they are all satisfied.

If  $C_j = \{z_1, z_2\}$ , then at least one of the  $z_1$  or  $z_2$  is true. The corresponding two clauses in f(I) each contain  $z_1, z_2$ , so they are both satisfied.

If  $C_j = \{z_1, z_2, z_3\}$ , then  $C_j$  occurs unchanged in f(I).

Suppose  $C_j = \{z_1, z_2, z_3, \dots, z_k\}$  where k > 3 and suppose  $z_t \in C_j$  is a true literal. Define  $d_i =$ true for  $1 \le i \le t - 2$  and define  $d_i =$  false

for  $t-1 \leq i \leq k$ . It is straightforward to verify that the k-2corresponding clauses in f(I) each contain a true literal.  $\{\overline{d_1, z_2, d_1}, \{\overline{d_1, z_3, d_2}, \{\overline{d_2, z_4, d_3}, \dots, \{\overline{d_{k-4}, z_{k-2}, d_{k-3}}, \{\overline{d_{k-3}, z_{k-1}, z_k}\}.$ 

 $\{z, a, b\}, \{z, a, \overline{b}\}, \{z, \overline{a}, b\}, \{z, \overline{a}, \overline{b}\}$ 

 $\{z_1, z_2, c\}, \{z_1, z_2, \overline{c}\}$ 

## CORRECTNESS

- Want to prove:  $SAT \leq_P 3SAT$
- I.e., our transformation function *f* satisfies:
  - f(I) is computable in poly-time, for all  $I \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1)$
  - If  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(SAT)$  then  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(3SAT)$ .
  - If  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\mathsf{3SAT})$  then  $I \in \mathcal{I}_{yes}(\mathsf{SAT})$  -

We just showed this

Now let's show this

# Conversely, suppose f(I) is a yes-instance of **3-SAT**. We show that I is a yes-instance of **SAT**.

**Consider each clause** C **in the SAT input** I**.** We identify a corresponding set S of clauses in f(I), and we show C must be satisfied because of the clauses in S.

(1) Four clauses in f(I) having the form  $\{z, a, b\}$ ,  $\{z, a, \overline{b}\}$ ,  $\{z, \overline{a}, b\}$  $\{z, \overline{a}, \overline{b}\}$  are all satisfied if and only if z =**true**. Then the corresponding clause  $\{z\}$  in I is satisfied.

(2) Two clauses in f(I) having the form  $\{z_1, z_2, c\}$ ,  $\{z_1, z_2, \overline{c}\}$  are both satisfied if and only if at least one of  $z_1, z_2 =$ **true**. Then the

corresponding clause  $\{z_1, z_2\}$  in I is satisfied.

(3) If  $C_j = \{z_1, z_2, z_3\}$  is a clause in f(I), then  $C_j$  occurs unchanged in I.

### **Correctness of the Transformation**

 $\{z_1, z_2, d_1\}, \{\overline{d_1}, z_3, d_2\}, \{\overline{d_2}, z_4, d_3\}, \dots, \\\{\overline{d_{k-4}}, z_{k-2}, d_{k-3}\}, \{\overline{d_{k-3}}, z_{k-1}, z_k\}.$ 

(4) Finally, consider the k - 2 clauses in f(I) arising from a clause  $C_j = \{z_1, z_2, z_3, \dots, z_k\}$  in I, where k > 3. We show that at least one of  $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_k =$ true if all k - 2 of these clauses contain a true literal.

Assume all of  $z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k =$ **false**. In order for the first clause to contain a true literal,  $d_1 =$ **true**. Then, in order for the second clause to contain a true literal,  $d_2 =$ **true**. This pattern continues, and in order for the second last clause to contain a true literal,  $d_{k-3} =$ **true**.

But then the last clause contains no true literal, which is a contradiction. We have shown that at least one of  $z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k =$ **true**, which says that the clause  $\{z_1, z_2, z_3, \ldots, z_k\}$  contains a true literal, as required.

#### So, we have given a correct polynomial transformation from SAT to 3SAT.

So, if a problem II can be transformed into SAT in polytime, it can also be transformed into 3SAT in polytime.

But wait... SAT is NP-COMPLETE.

#### Have we shown 3SAT is NP-COMPLETE?

Still need to show  $3SAT \in NP!$ 

So every problem in NP can be transformed into 3SAT in polytime!

### PROVING 3SAT IS IN NP

- 1. Define desired YES-certificate
- 2. Design a poly-time verify(I,C) algorithm

3. Correctness proof

- Case 1: Let I be any yes-instance;
   Find C such that verify(I,C) = true
- Case 2: Let I be any no-instance, and C be any certificate;
   Prove verify(I,C) = false
- <u>Contrapositive</u> of case 2:
   Suppose verify(I,C) = true;
   Prove I is a yes-instance

**3SAT input** I = (Clauses[1..m], n): a list of *m* clauses, and the number *n* of variables. Each clause contains literals. Each literal is a pair (var, neg): a variable  $\in \{1..n\}$  & a negation bit

> 2 3

> > 4

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10 11 YES-certificate *C* = array with one bit per variable in {1..*n*} representing a **satisfying assignment** 

```
verify3SAT(I=(Clauses[1..m], n), C)
if C is not an array of n bits return false
numSat = 0
for each c in Clauses
for each literal (var, neg) in c
if (C[var] && !neg) or (!C[var] && neg)
numSat++
break
return (numSat == m)
```

This takes O(|Clauses|) time, which is polynomial in Size(*I*)

# MECHANICS OF SHOWING A PROBLEM IS IN NP

- 1. Define desired YES-certificate
- 2. Design a poly-time verify(I,C) algorithm

3. Correctness proof

- Case 1: Let I be any yes-instance;
   Find C such that verify(I,C) = true
- Case 2: Let I be any no-instance, and C be any certificate; Prove verify(I,C) = false
- <u>Contrapositive</u> of case 2:
   Suppose verify(I,C) = true;
   Prove I is a yes-instance

Let I be a yes-instance of 3SAT. Then it has a satisfying assignment  $A_s$ . And,  $verify(I, A_s)$  will see that each clause contains a literal satisfied by this assignment, so verify will see numSat = |Clauses| and return true.

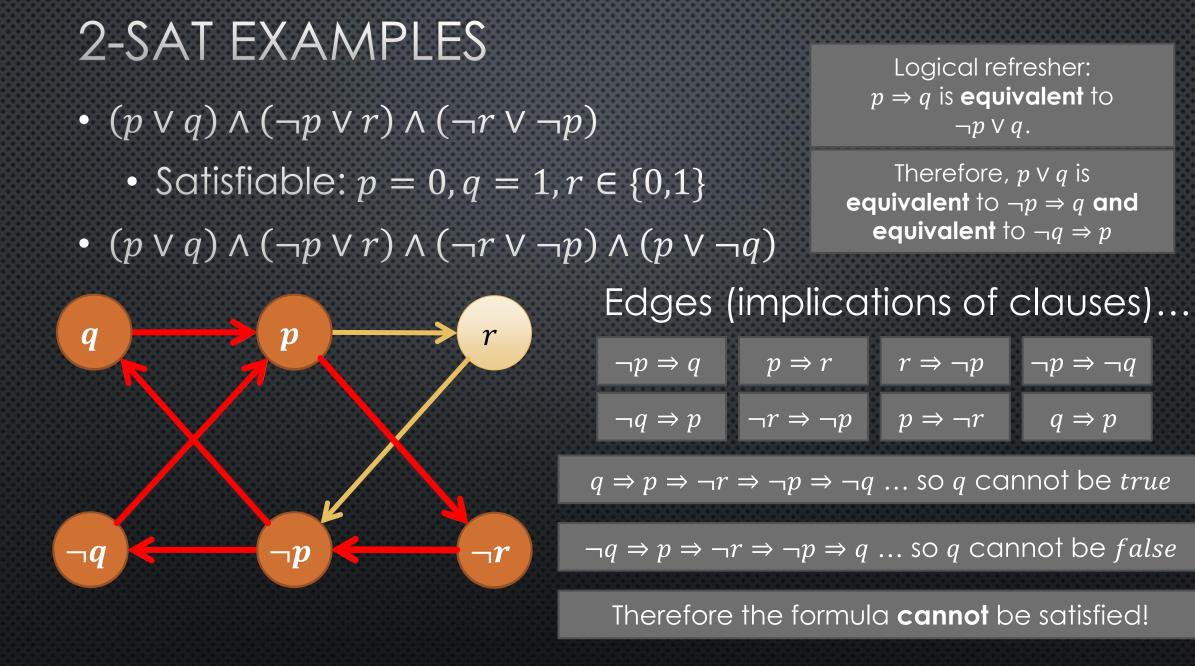
Suppose verify(I, C) returns true. Then numSat = |Clauses|, so numSat was incremented in each iteration of the loop over clauses, so each clause contains a satisfied literal, so the 3SAT formula in I is satisfied by C, so I is a yes-instance.

It follows that **3SAT is in NP.** Since we have already shown  $SAT \leq_P 3SAT$ , we now know that **3SAT is NP-COMPLETE**.

### RECAP

- To prove a problem Π is NP-COMPLETE
  - Show П is in NP, and
  - Give a polynomial transformation from some NP-COMPLETE problem to  $\Pi$ 
    - This involves an IFF correctness argument, and a polytime complexity argument
- When showing a problem is in NP,
   <u>or</u> proving correctness for a polynomial transformation,
  - Instead of proving statements about **no-instances**, it is usually easier to prove the **contrapositive**

### IS 2-SAT ALSO HARD?



# (variable names are integers in 1.. | X | )

**2-SAT** can be solved in polynomial time. Suppose we are given an instance I of **2-SAT** on a set of boolean variables  $X = \{1, |X|\}$ 

(1) For every clause  $x \lor y$  (where x and y are literals), construct two directed edges  $\overline{x}y$  and  $\overline{y}x$ . We get a directed graph on vertex set  $X \cup \overline{X}$ .

(2) Determine the strongly connected components of this directed graph.

(3) I is a yes-instance if and only if there is no strongly connected component containing x and  $\overline{x}$ , for any  $x \in X$ .

Suppose no variable x is in the same SCC as  $\bar{x}$ , then to get a satisfying assignment do the following: For each x, if  $\exists$  path from x to  $\bar{x}$ , then set x = false else set x = true.

### HOMEWORK SLIDES

### RETURNING TO ANOTHER FAMILIAR PROBLEM

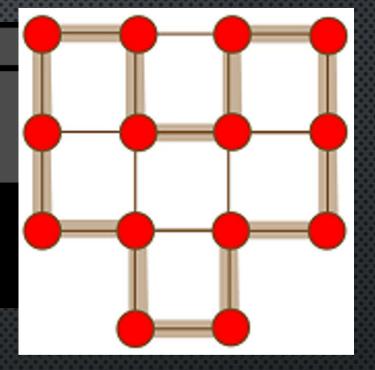
#### Problem 7.2

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.

Turns out Hamiltonian Cycle is NP complete as well

> Compare to **Euler tour/circuit**: a cycle that passes through each <u>edge</u> exactly once can be found in **polytime**!



### THE P=NP QUESTION

Theorem 7.12

If  $\mathbf{P} \cap \mathbf{NPC} \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$ .

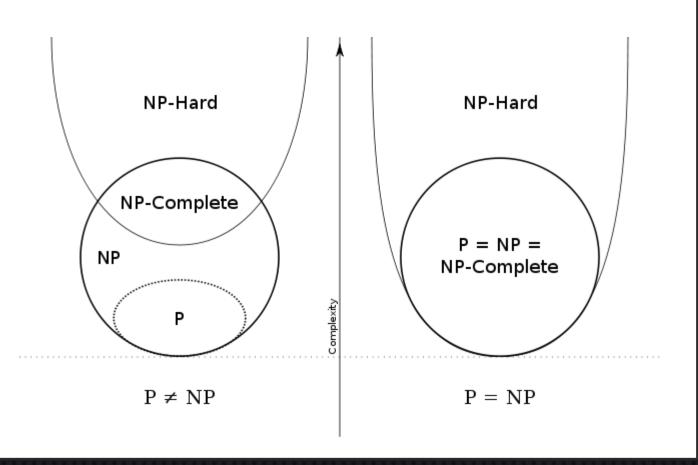
So, to win \$1,000,000 just need to find one problem in *NPC* that can be reduced to a problem in *P* 

#### Proof.

We know that  $\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{NP}$ , so it suffices to show that  $\mathbf{NP} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$ . Suppose  $\Pi \in \mathbf{P} \cap \mathbf{NPC}$  and let  $\Pi' \in \mathbf{NP}$ . We will show that  $\Pi' \in \mathbf{P}$ .

- <sup>1</sup> Since  $\Pi' \in \mathbf{NP}$  and  $\Pi \in \mathbf{NPC}$ , it follows that  $\Pi' \leq_P \Pi$  (definition of NP-completeness).
- <sup>2</sup> Since  $\Pi' \leq_P \Pi$  and  $\Pi \in \mathbf{P}$ , it follows that  $\Pi' \in \mathbf{P}$  (see last lecture)

### TWO POSSIBLE REALITIES...



#### If $\Pi_1$ and $\Pi_2$ are decision problems, $\Pi_1 \leq_P \Pi_2$ and $\Pi_2 \in \mathbf{P}$ , then $\Pi_1 \in \mathbf{P}$ .

#### Proof.

Suppose A is a poly-time algorithm for  $\Pi_2$ , having complexity  $O(m^{\ell})$  on an instance of size m. Suppose f is a transformation from  $\Pi_1$  to  $\Pi_2$  having complexity  $O(n^k)$  on an instance of size n. We solve  $\Pi_1$  as follows:

- <sup>1</sup> Given  $I \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_1)$ , construct  $f(I) \in \mathcal{I}(\Pi_2)$ .
- <sup>2</sup> Run A(f(I)).

It is clear that this yields the correct answer. We need to show that these two steps can be carried out in polynomial time as a function of n = Size(I). Step (1) can be executed in time  $O(n^k)$  and it yields an instance f(I) having size  $m \in O(n^k)$ . Step (2) takes time  $O(m^\ell)$ . Since  $m \in O(n^k)$ , the time for step (2) is  $O(n^{k\ell})$ , as is the total time to execute both steps.

#### PROPERTIES OF POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

#### Theorem 7.11

Suppose that  $\Pi_1, \Pi_2$  and  $\Pi_3$  are decision problems. If  $\Pi_1 \leq_P \Pi_2$  and  $\Pi_2 \leq_P \Pi_3$ , then  $\Pi_1 \leq_P \Pi_3$ .

### Proof.

We have a polynomial transformation f from  $\Pi_1$  to  $\Pi_2$ , and another polynomial transformation g from  $\Pi_2$  to  $\Pi_3$ . We define  $h = f \circ g$ , i.e., h(I) = g(f(I)) for all instances I of  $\Pi_1$ . (Exercise: fill in the details.)

#### PROPERTIES OF POLYNOMIAL TRANSFORMATIONS