

# UMB CS 420

# NP-Completeness

Monday, May 8, 2023

MY HOBBY:  
EMBEDDING NP-COMPLETE PROBLEMS IN RESTAURANT ORDERS

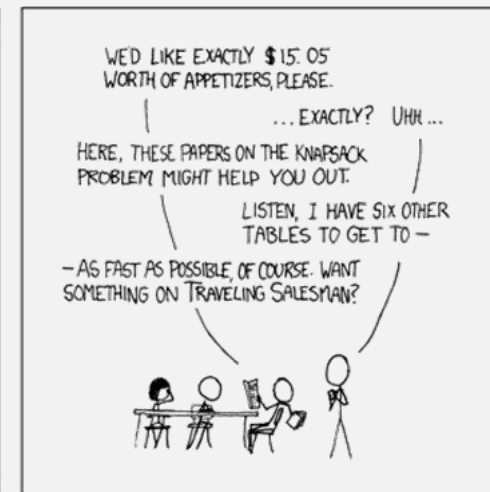
CHOTCHKIES RESTAURANT

APPETIZERS

MIXED FRUIT	2.15
FRENCH FRIES	2.75
SIDE SALAD	3.35
HOT WINGS	3.55
MOZZARELLA STICKS	4.20
SAMPLER PLATE	5.80

SANDWICHES

BARBECUE	6.55
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# Announcements

- **HW 12 out** (last hw)
  - Due Sunday 5/14 11:59pm
- **Fill out course evaluations!** (sent in email)

## Quiz Preview

Q1 Which of the following are needed to show that a language L is NP-Complete?

1 Point

(select all that apply)

it must be in P

it must be in NP

every language in NP must be poly-time reducible to L

L must be poly-time reducible to every other language in NP

# Last Time: Verifiers, Formally

$PATH = \{ \langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t \}$

Decider ...

A *verifier* for a language  $A$  is an algorithm  $V$ , where

$A = \{ w \mid V \text{ accepts } \langle w, c \rangle \text{ for some string } c \}$

We measure the time of a verifier only in terms of the length of  $w$ , so a *polynomial time verifier* runs in polynomial time in the length of  $w$ . A language  $A$  is *polynomially verifiable* if it has a polynomial time verifier.

A possible

... with extra argument:  
can be any string that helps  
to find a result in poly time  
(is often just a potential  
result itself)

*certificate, or proof*

- A certificate  $c$  has length at most  $n^k$ , where  $n = \text{length of } w$

# *Last Time:* The class **NP**

## DEFINITION

---

**NP** is the class of languages that have polynomial time verifiers.

2 ways to show that a language is in **NP**

## THEOREM

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A language is in **NP** iff it is decided by some nondeterministic polynomial time Turing machine.

## *Last Time:* **NP** VS **P**

**P**

The class of languages that have a **deterministic** poly time **decider**

I.e., the class of languages that can be solved “quickly”

- Want search problems to be in here ... but they often are not

**NP**

The class of languages that have a **deterministic** poly time **verifier**

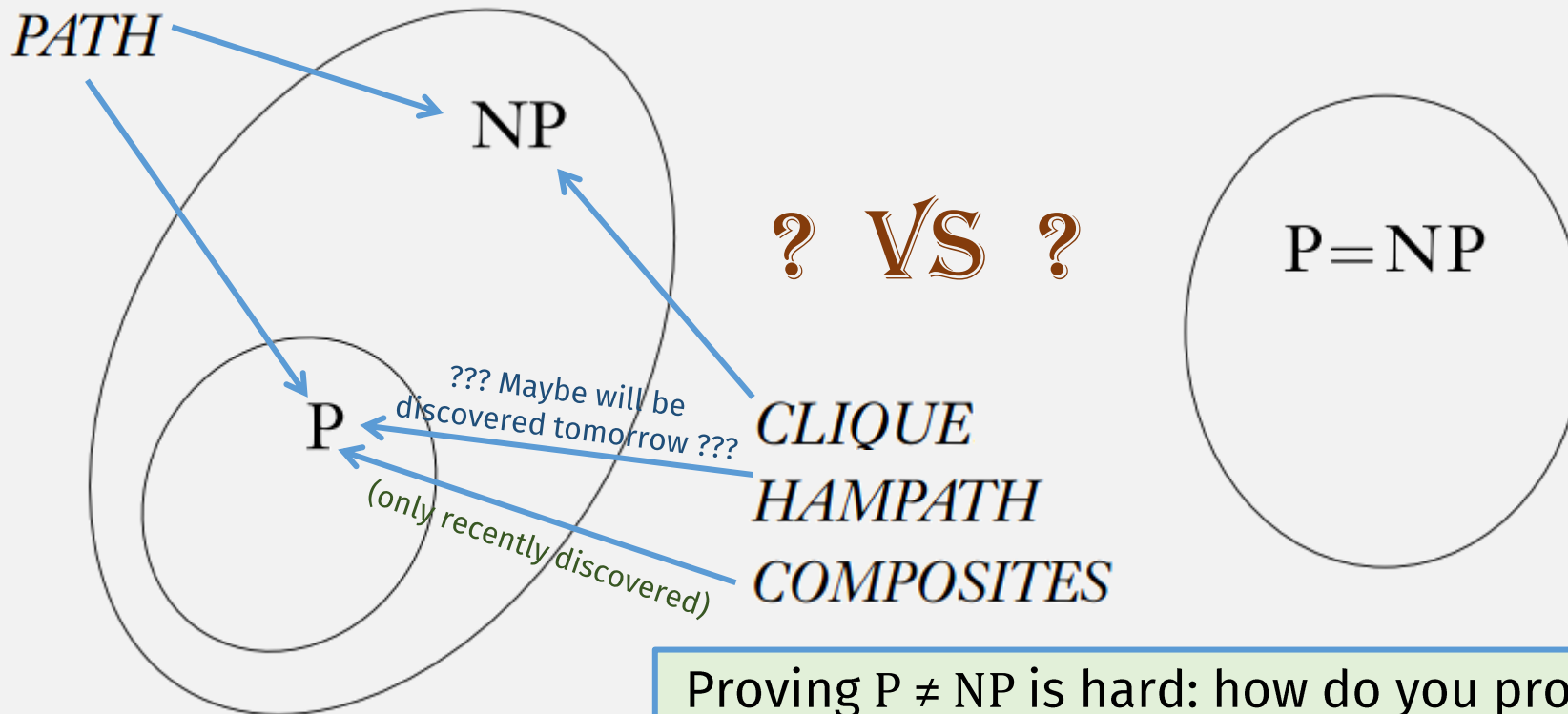
Also, the class of languages that have a **nondeterministic** poly time **decider**

I.e., the class of language that can be verified “quickly”

- Actual search problems (even those not in **P**) are often in here

One of the Greatest unsolved

~~HW~~ Question: Does  $P = NP$ ?



Proving  $P \neq NP$  is hard: how do you prove that an algorithm won't ever have a poly time solution?  
(in general, it's hard to prove that something doesn't exist)

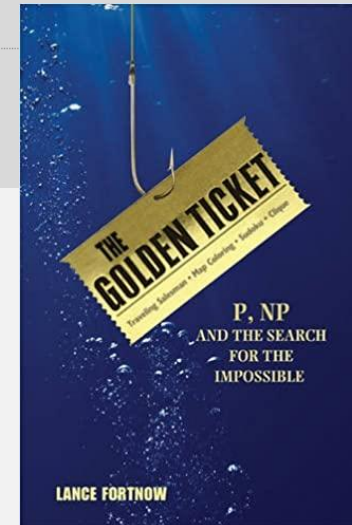
# Not Much Progress on whether $P = NP$ ?

## The Status of the P Versus NP Problem

By Lance Fortnow

Communications of the ACM, September 2009, Vol. 52 No. 9, Pages 78-86

10.1145/1562164.1562186



- One important concept:
  - NP-Completeness

# NP-Completeness

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is *NP-complete* if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and **easy**
2. **every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .** **hard????**

Must prove for all langs, not just a single language

What's this?



# Flashback: Mapping Reducibility

Language  $A$  is *mapping reducible* to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_m B$ , if there is a **computable function**  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , where for every  $w$ ,

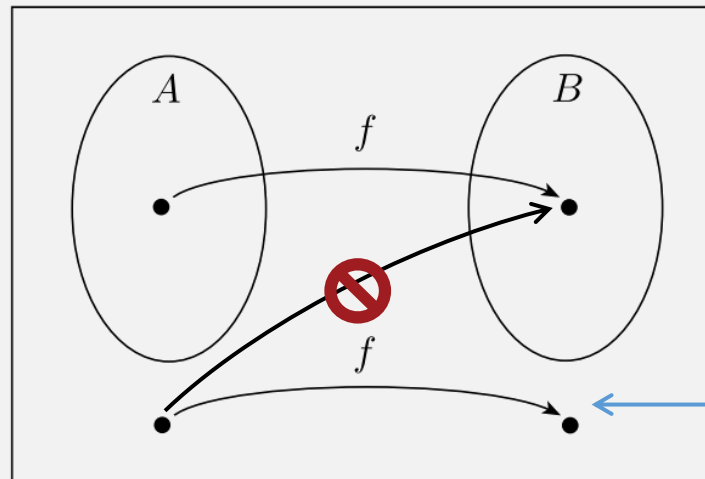
$$w \in A \iff f(w) \in B.$$

**IMPORTANT:** “if and only if” ...

The function  $f$  is called the *reduction* from  $A$  to  $B$ .

To show mapping reducibility:

1. create **computable fn**
2. and then show **forward direction**
3. and **reverse direction**  
(or **contrapositive of reverse direction**)



... means  $\overline{A} \leq_m \overline{B}$

A function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  is a *computable function* if some Turing machine  $M$ , on every input  $w$ , halts with just  $f(w)$  on its tape.

# Polynomial Time Mapping Reducibility

Language  $A$  is *mapping reducible* to language  $B$  if there is a computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ ,

$$w \in A \iff f(w) \in B.$$

The function  $f$  is called the *reduction* from  $A$  to  $B$ .

To show **poly time mapping reducibility**:

1. create **computable fn**
2. **show computable fn runs in poly time**
3. then show **forward direction**
4. and show **reverse direction**  
(or **contrapositive of reverse direction**)

Language  $A$  is *polynomial time mapping reducible*, or simply *polynomial time reducible*, to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_P B$ , if a **polynomial time computable function**  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  exists, where for every  $w$ ,

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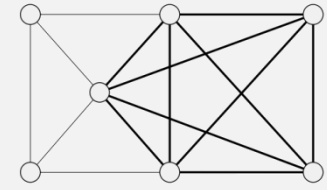
The function  $f$  is called the *polynomial time reduction* of  $A$  to  $B$ .

A function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  is a **poly time** *computable function* if some Turing machine  $M$ , on every input  $w$ , halts with just  $f(w)$  on its tape. **poly time**

Theorem:  $3SAT$  is polynomial time reducible to  $CLIQUE$ .

Last Time:

# CLIQUE is in NP



$CLIQUE = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph with a } k\text{-clique}\}$

**PROOF IDEA** The clique is the certificate.

**PROOF** The following is a verifier  $V$  for  $CLIQUE$ .

$V =$  “On input  $\langle \langle G, k \rangle, c \rangle$ :

1. Test whether  $c$  is a subgraph with  $k$  nodes in  $G$ .
2. Test whether  $G$  contains all edges connecting nodes in  $c$ .
3. If both pass, *accept*; otherwise, *reject*.”

Theorem:  $3SAT$  is polynomial time reducible to  $CLIQUE$ .

??



# Boolean Formulas

A Boolean _____	Is ...	Example:
Value	TRUE or FALSE (or 1 or 0)	TRUE, FALSE

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Formula $\phi$	Combines <b>vars</b> and <b>operations</b>	$(\bar{x} \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge \bar{z})$

# Boolean Satisfiability

- A **Boolean formula is satisfiable** if ...
- ... there is some **assignment** of TRUE or FALSE (1 or 0) to its variables that makes the entire formula TRUE
- Is  $(\bar{x} \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge \bar{z})$  satisfiable?
  - Yes
  - $x = \text{FALSE}$ ,  
 $y = \text{TRUE}$ ,  
 $z = \text{FALSE}$

# The Boolean Satisfiability Problem

$$SAT = \{ \langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula} \}$$

Theorem: *SAT* is in **NP**:

- Let  $n$  = the number of variables in the formula

Verifier:

On input  $\langle \phi, c \rangle$ , where  $c$  is a possible assignment of variables in  $\phi$  to values:

- Plug values from  $c$  into  $\phi$ , **Accept** if result is TRUE

Running Time:  $O(n)$

Non-deterministic Decider:

On input  $\langle \phi \rangle$ , where  $\phi$  is a boolean formula:

- Non-deterministically try all possible assignments in parallel
- **Accept** if any satisfy  $\phi$

Running Time: Checking each assignment takes time  $O(n)$

Theorem:  $3SAT$  is polynomial time reducible to *CLIQUE*.

??

# More Boolean Formulas

A Boolean _____	Is ...	Example:
Value	TRUE or FALSE (or 1 or 0)	TRUE, FALSE
Variable	Represents a Boolean value	x, y, z
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<b>Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)</b>	<b>Clauses</b> ANDed together	$(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_3 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee x_6)$

$\wedge$  = AND = "Conjunction"  
 $\vee$  = OR = "Disjunction"  
 $\neg$  = NOT = "Negation"



# More Boolean Formulas

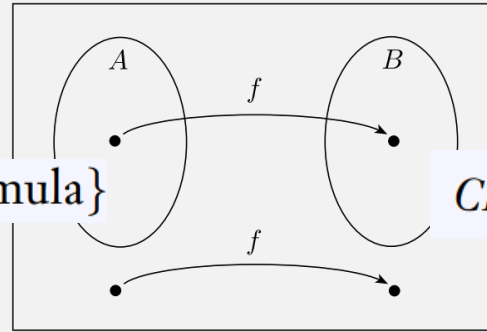
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<b>3CNF Formula</b>	Three <b>literals</b> in each <b>clause</b>	$(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (x_3 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (x_3 \vee \bar{x}_6 \vee x_4)$

$\wedge$  = AND = "Conjunction"  
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# The *3SAT* Problem

$3SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula}\}$

# Theorem: $3SAT$ is polynomial time reducible to $CLIQUE$ .



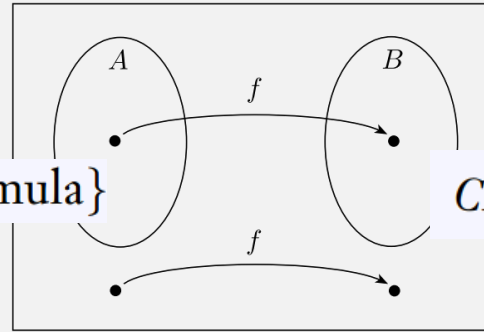
$3SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula}\}$

$CLIQUE = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph with a } k\text{-clique}\}$

To show poly time mapping reducibility:

1. create **computable fn**,
2. show that it **runs in poly time**,
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Need: poly time computable fn converting a 3cnf-formula ...

Example:

$$\phi = (x_1 \vee x_1 \vee \boxed{x_2}) \wedge (\boxed{\bar{x}_1} \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee \boxed{x_2})$$

• ... to a graph containing a clique:

- Each clause maps to a group of 3 nodes
- Connect all nodes except:
  - Contradictory nodes

Don't forget iff

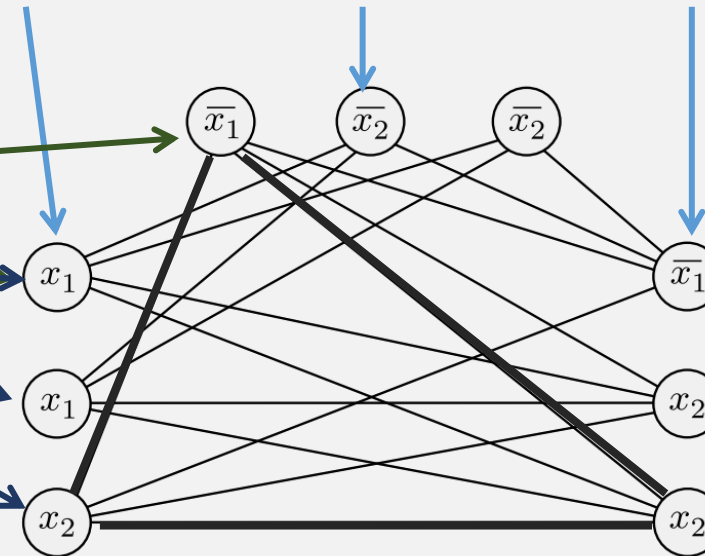
Nodes in the same group

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\phi \in 3SAT$

- Then each clause has a TRUE literal
  - Those are nodes in the 3-clique!
  - E.g.,  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1$

$\Leftarrow$  If  $\phi \notin 3SAT$

- Then for any assignment, some clause must have a contradiction with another clause
- Then in the graph, some clause's group of nodes won't be connected to another group, preventing the clique



Runs in poly time:

- # literals =  $O(n)$
- # nodes =  $O(n)$
- # edges poly in # nodes =  $O(n^2)$

# Polynomial Time Mapping Reducibility

Language  $A$  is *polynomial time mapping reducible*, or simply *polynomial time reducible*, to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_P B$ , if a polynomial time computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  exists, where for every  $w$ ,

$$w \in A \iff f(w) \in B.$$

The function  $f$  is called the *polynomial time reduction* of  $A$  to  $B$ .

What is this used for?

A function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  is a <sup>poly time</sup> *computable function* if some <sup>poly time</sup> Turing machine  $M$ , on every input  $w$ , halts with just  $f(w)$  on its tape.

Flashback: If  $A \leq_m B$  and  $B$  is decidable, then  $A$  is decidable.

Has a decider

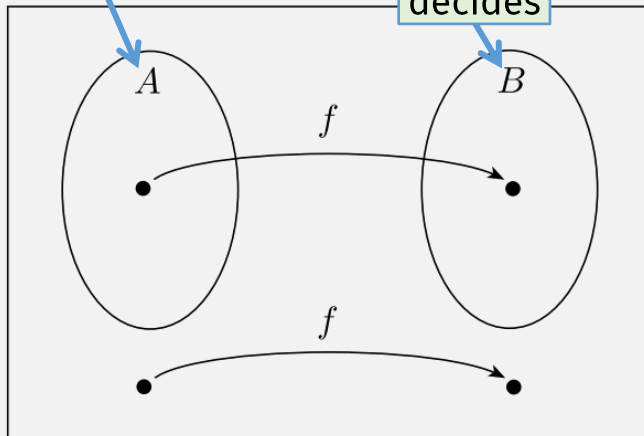
**PROOF** We let  $M$  be the decider for  $B$  and  $f$  be the reduction from  $A$  to  $B$ . We describe a decider  $N$  for  $A$  as follows.

$N =$  “On input  $w$ :

1. Compute  $f(w)$ .
2. Run  $M$  on input  $f(w)$  and output whatever  $M$  outputs.”

decides

decides



This proof only works because of the if-and-only-if requirement

Language  $A$  is *mapping reducible* to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_m B$ , if there is a computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , where for every  $w$ ,

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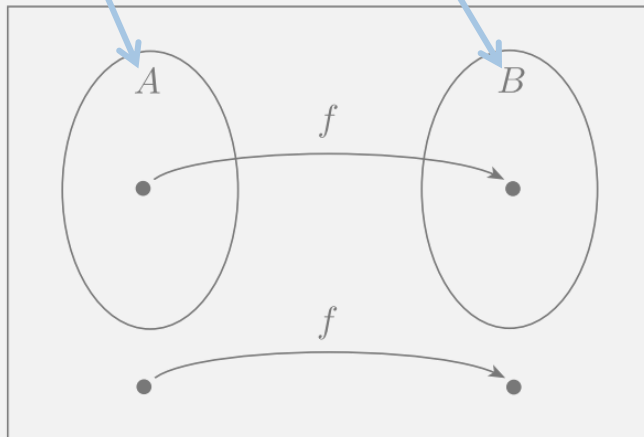
The function  $f$  is called the *reduction* from  $A$  to  $B$ .

Thm: If  $A \leq_m B$  and  $B \in P$  is ~~decidable~~, then  $A \in P$  is ~~decidable~~.

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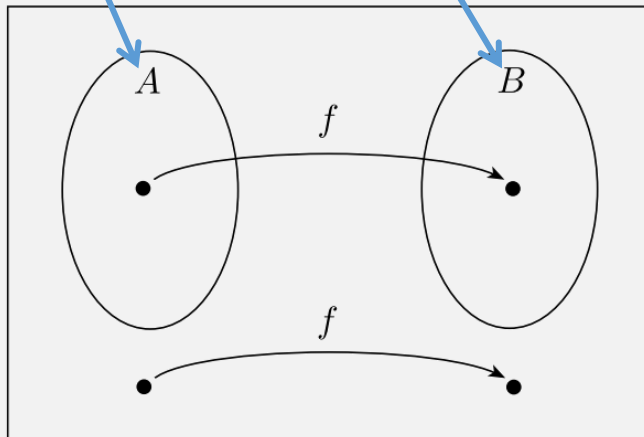
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Thm: If  $A \leq_m^P B$  and  $B \in P$  is decidable, then  $A \in P$  is decidable.

**PROOF** We let  $M$  be the decider for  $B$  and  $f$  be the reduction from  $A$  to  $B$ . We describe a decider  $N$  for  $A$  as follows.

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# NP-Completeness

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is *NP-complete* if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and
2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

- How does this help the  $P = NP$  problem?

## THEOREM

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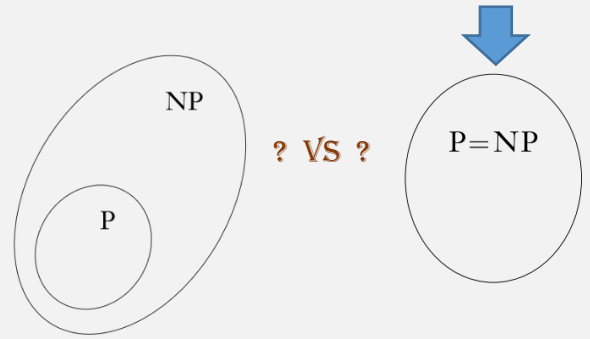
If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \in P$ , then  $P = NP$ .

assume

**THEOREM**

If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \in P$ , then  $P = NP$ .

Proof:



**DEFINITION**

A language  $B$  is *NP-complete* if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and  $A \leq_P B$
2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

for  $A \rightarrow$  verifier for  $A$  that ignores its certificate

2. If a language  $A \in NP$ , then  $A \in P$

- Given a language  $A \in NP$  ...
- ... can poly time mapping reduce  $A$  to  $B$  --- why?
  - because  $B$  is NP-Complete (assumption)
- Then  $A$  also  $\in P$  ...
  - Because  $A \leq_P B$  and  $B \in P$ , then  $A \in P$

(prev slide)

So to prove  $P = NP$ , we only need to find a poly-time algorithm for one NP-Complete problem!

Thus, if a language  $B$  is NP-complete and in  $P$ , then  $P = NP$

# NP-Completeness

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- How does this help the  $P = NP$  problem?

## THEOREM

---

If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \in P$ , then  $P = NP$ .

But we still don't know any NP-Complete problems!

Figuring out the first one is hard!

(just like figuring out the first undecidable problem was hard!)

So to prove  $P = NP$ , we only need to find a poly-time algorithm for one NP-Complete problem!

# The Cook-Levin Theorem

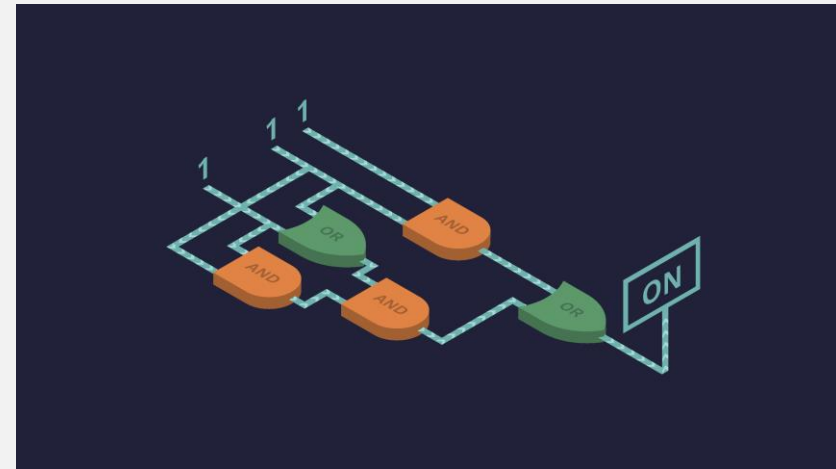
The first NP-Complete problem

**THEOREM** .....

*SAT* is NP-complete.

(complicated proof --- defer explaining for now)

It sort of makes sense that every problem can be reduced to it ...



After this, it'll be much easier to find other NP-Complete problems!

**THEOREM** .....

If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

## THEOREM

known

unknown

Key Thm: If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

To use this theorem,  
 $C$  must be in NP

### Proof:

- Need to show:  $C$  is **NP-complete**:

- it's in **NP** (given), and
- every lang  $A$  in **NP** reduces to  $C$  in poly time (must show)

- For every language  $A$  in **NP**, reduce  $A \rightarrow C$  by:

- First reduce  $A \rightarrow B$  in poly time
  - Can do this because  $B$  is NP-Complete
- Then reduce  $B \rightarrow C$  in poly time
  - This is given

- Total run time: Poly time + poly time = poly time

#### DEFINITION

A language  $B$  is **NP-complete** if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and
2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

## THEOREM

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Using: If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

3 steps to prove a language  $C$  is NP-complete:

1. Show  $C$  is in NP
2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from
3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $B$  to  $C$

To show poly time mapping reducibility:

1. create **computable fn**,
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### Example:

Let  $C = 3SAT$ , to prove  $3SAT$  is NP-Complete:

1. Show  $3SAT$  is in NP

Flashback: **3**SAT is in NP

**3**SAT =  $\{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$

Let  $n$  = the number of variables in the formula

Verifier:

On input  $\langle \phi, c \rangle$ , where  $c$  is a possible assignment of variables in  $\phi$  to values:

- Accept if  $c$  satisfies  $\phi$

Running Time:  $O(n)$

Non-deterministic Decider:

On input  $\langle \phi \rangle$ , where  $\phi$  is a boolean formula:

- Non-deterministically try all possible assignments in parallel
- Accept if any satisfy  $\phi$

Running Time: Checking each assignment takes time  $O(n)$



## THEOREM

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Using: If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

3 steps to prove a language is NP-complete:

1. Show  $C$  is in NP
2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from
3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $B$  to  $C$

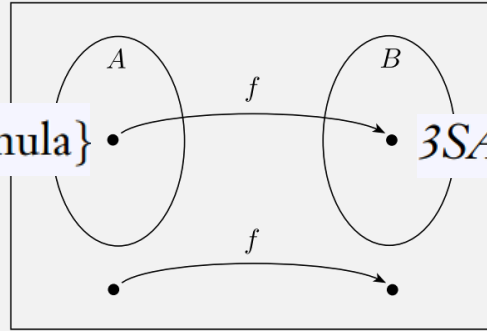
### Example:

Let  $C = 3SAT$ , to prove  $3SAT$  is NP-Complete:

1. Show  $3SAT$  is in NP
2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from:  $SAT$
3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $SAT$  to  $3SAT$

# Theorem: *SAT* is Poly Time Reducible to *3SAT*

$SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$



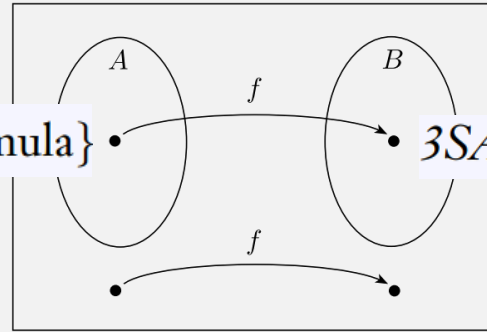
$3SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula}\}$

To show poly time mapping reducibility:

1. create **computable** fn  $f$ ,
2. show that it **runs in poly time**,
3. then show **forward direction** of mapping red.,  
 $\Rightarrow$  if  $\phi \in SAT$ , then  $f(\phi) \in 3SAT$
4. and **reverse direction**  
 $\Leftarrow$  if  $f(\phi) \in 3SAT$ , then  $\phi \in SAT$   
(or **contrapositive** of **reverse direction**)  
 $\Leftarrow$  (alternative) if  $\phi \notin SAT$ , then  $f(\phi) \notin 3SAT$

# Theorem: SAT is Poly Time Reducible to 3SAT

$SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$



$3SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula}\}$

Want: poly time computable fn converting a Boolean formula  $\phi$  to 3CNF:

1. Convert  $\phi$  to CNF (an AND of OR clauses)
  - a) Use DeMorgan's Law to push negations onto literals

$$\neg(P \vee Q) \iff (\neg P) \wedge (\neg Q) \qquad \neg(P \wedge Q) \iff (\neg P) \vee (\neg Q) \quad O(n)$$

- b) Distribute ORs to get ANDs outside of parens

$$(P \vee (Q \wedge R)) \iff ((P \vee Q) \wedge (P \vee R)) \quad O(n)$$

2. Convert to 3CNF by adding new variables

$$(a_1 \vee a_2 \vee a_3 \vee a_4) \iff (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee z) \wedge (\bar{z} \vee a_3 \vee a_4) \quad O(n)$$

Remaining step: show  
iff relation holds ...

... this thm is a special  
case, don't need to  
separate forward/reverse  
dir bc each step is  
already a known "law"

## THEOREM .....

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### Example:

Let  $C = 3SAT$ , to prove  $3SAT$  is NP-Complete:

1. Show  $3SAT$  is in NP
2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from:  $SAT$
3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $SAT$  to  $3SAT$

Each NP-complete problem we prove makes it easier to prove the next one!

## THEOREM .....

Using: If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

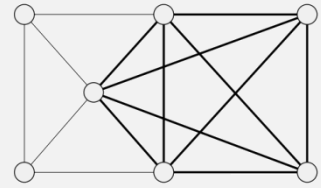
3 steps to prove a language is NP-complete:

1. Show  $C$  is in NP
2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from
3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $B$  to  $C$

### Example:

Let  $C = \exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$ , to prove  $\exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$  is NP-Complete:

- ? 1. Show  $\exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$  is in NP
- ? 2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from:  $\text{SAT-3SAT}$
- ? 3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $\text{3SAT}$  to  $\exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$



Flashback:

# CLIQUE is in NP

$CLIQUE = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph with a } k\text{-clique}\}$

**PROOF IDEA** The clique is the certificate.

Let  $n = \#$  nodes in  $G$

$c$  is at most  $n$

**PROOF** The following is a verifier  $V$  for  $CLIQUE$ .

$V =$  “On input  $\langle \langle G, k \rangle, c \rangle$ :

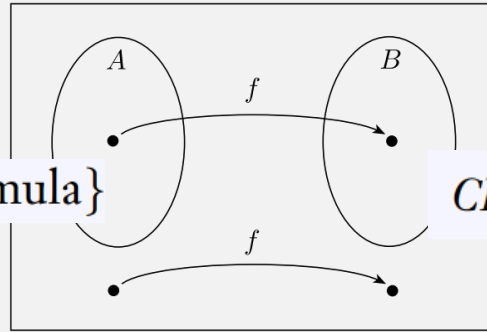
1. Test whether  $c$  is a subgraph with  $k$  nodes in  $G$ .
2. Test whether  $G$  contains all edges connecting nodes in  $c$ .
3. If both pass, *accept*; otherwise, *reject*.”

For each node in  $c$ , check whether it's in  $G$ :  $O(n)$

For each pair of nodes in  $c$ , check whether there's an edge in  $G$ :  $O(n^2)$

Flashback:

3SAT is polynomial time reducible to CLIQUE.



$3SAT = \{ \langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula} \}$

$CLIQUE = \{ \langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph with a } k\text{-clique} \}$

Need: poly time computable fn converting a 3cnf-formula ...

Example:

$$\phi = (x_1 \vee x_1 \vee \boxed{x_2}) \wedge (\boxed{\bar{x}_1} \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee \boxed{x_2})$$

• ... to a graph containing a clique:

- Each clause maps to a group of 3 nodes
- Connect all nodes except:
  - Contradictory nodes

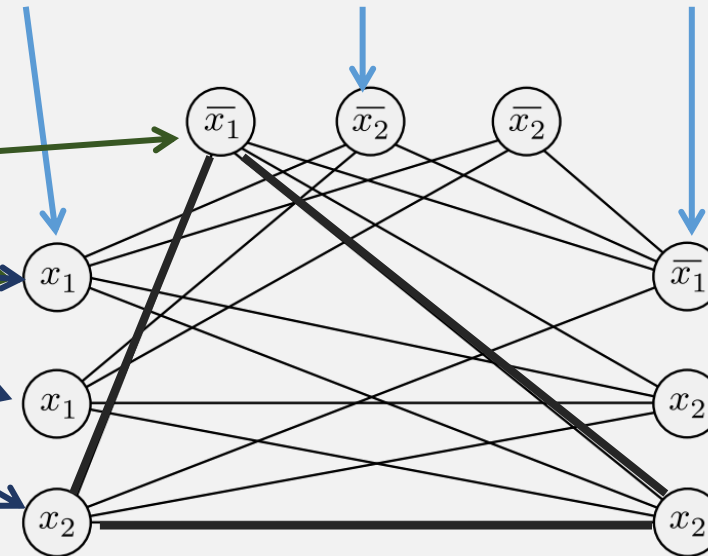
Don't forget iff Nodes in the same group

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\phi \in 3SAT$

- Then each clause has a TRUE literal
  - Those are nodes in the clique!
  - E.g.,  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1$

$\Leftarrow$  If  $\phi \notin 3SAT$

- For any assignment, some clause must have a contradiction with another clause
- Then in the graph, some clause's group of nodes won't be connected to another group, preventing the clique



Runs in poly time:

- # literals =  $O(n)$
- # nodes  $O(n)$
- # edges poly in # nodes  $O(n^2)$

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### Example:

Let  $C = \exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$ , to prove  $\exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$  is NP-Complete:

- ✓1. Show  $\exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$  is in NP
- ✓2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from:  $\text{SAT } \exists\text{SAT}$
- ✓3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $\exists\text{SAT}$  to  $\exists\text{SAT CLIQUE}$



# NP-Complete problems, so far

- $SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$  (haven't proven yet)
- $3SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula}\}$  (reduced  $SAT$  to  $3SAT$ )
- $CLIQUE = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph with a } k\text{-clique}\}$  (reduced  $3SAT$  to  $CLIQUE$ )

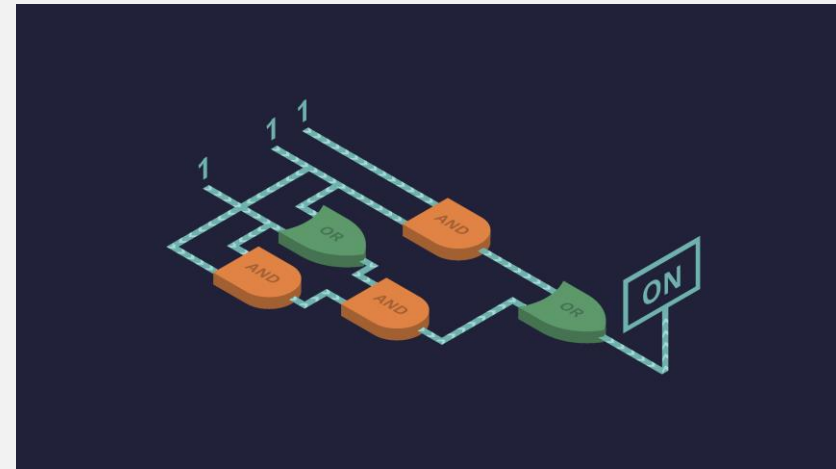
Each NP-complete problem we prove makes it easier to prove the next one!

# Next Time: The Cook-Levin Theorem

The first NP-Complete problem

**THEOREM** .....  
*SAT* is NP-complete.

It sort of makes sense that every problem can be reduced to it ...



After this, it'll be much easier to find other NP-Complete problems!

**THEOREM** .....  
If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

# Quiz 5/8

On gradescop