

# Efficient Sequential Algorithms, Comp309

University of Liverpool

2010–2011

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## Part 4: NP-Completeness

References: T. H. Cormen, C. E. Leiserson, R. L. Rivest  
**Introduction to Algorithms**, Second Edition. MIT Press  
(2001). "NP-completeness"

C.H. Papadimitriou, **Computational Complexity**  
Addison-Wesley (1993).

# Revision from Comp202

A **decision problem** is a computational problem for which the output is either **yes** or **no**.

The input to a computational problem is encoded as a finite binary string  $s$  of length  $|s|$ .

For a decision problem  $X$ ,  $L(X)$  denotes the set of (binary) strings (inputs) for which the algorithm should output “yes”. We refer to  $L(X)$  as a **language**. We say that an algorithm  $A$  **accepts** a language  $L(X)$  if  $A$  outputs “yes” for each  $s \in L(X)$  and outputs “no” for every other input.

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The complexity class **P** is the set of all decision problems  $X$  (or languages  $L(X)$ ) that can be solved in polynomial time.

That is, there is an algorithm  $A$  that accepts language  $L(X)$ .

The amount of time that algorithm  $A$  takes on input  $s$  is at most  $p(|s|)$  where  $p(n)$  is of the form  $p(n) = n^k$  for a some constant  $k$ . ( $p(n)$  is a **polynomial** in  $n$ ).

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**PSPACE** is the set of all decision problems  $X$  (or languages  $L(X)$ ) that can be solved in polynomial **space**.

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## More revision: Nondeterministic computation

An algorithm that **guesses** some number of **non-deterministic bits** during its execution is called a **non-deterministic algorithm**.

We say that a non-deterministic algorithm  $A$  accepts a string  $s$  if **there exists a choice of non-deterministic bits** that causes algorithm  $A$  to output “yes” with input  $s$ . Otherwise, we say that  $A$  does not accept  $s$ .

We say that a non-deterministic algorithm  $A$  **accepts** a language  $L(X)$  if  $A$  accepts every string  $s \in L(X)$  and no other strings.

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The complexity class **NP** is the set of all decision problems  $X$  (or languages  $L(X)$ ) that can be non-deterministically accepted in polynomial time.

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It is easy to see that  $P \subseteq NP$

If  $L(X)$  is accepted by a polynomial-time algorithm  $A$  then it is also accepted by a non-deterministic algorithm in polynomial time.

The non-deterministic algorithm doesn't have to make non-deterministic choices — it can just simulate algorithm  $A$ .

## Polynomial-time reducibility

We say that a language  $L$ , defining some decision problem, is **polynomial-time reducible** to a language  $M$  (written  $L \xrightarrow{\text{poly}} M$ ) if there is a polynomial-time-computable function  $f$  that takes as input a binary string  $s$  and outputs a binary string  $f(s)$  so that  $s \in L$  iff  $f(s) \in M$ .

As you saw in Comp202, if  $L_1 \xrightarrow{\text{poly}} L_2$  and  $L_2 \xrightarrow{\text{poly}} L_3$  then  $L_1 \xrightarrow{\text{poly}} L_3$ .

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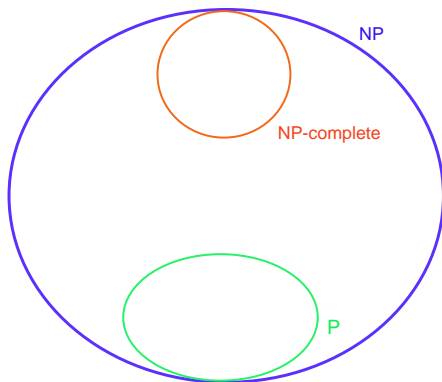
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# NP-completeness

We say that a language  $M$ , defining some decision problem, is **NP-hard** if **every** language  $L \in \text{NP}$  is polynomial-time reducible to  $M$ .

We say that a language  $M$  is **NP-complete** if  $M$  is in NP and  $M$  is NP-hard.



The Cook-Levin Theorem is that the problem SAT is NP-complete.

**Name:** SAT **Instance:** A Boolean formula  $F$

**Question:** Does  $F$  have a satisfying assignment?

Recall that a **Boolean formula** is an expression like

$$(x_{25} \wedge x_{12}) \vee \neg(\neg x_{70} \vee (\neg x_3 \wedge x_{34}))$$

made up of the constants *true* and *false*, propositional variables  $x_i$ , parentheses and the connectives  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\neg$ ,  $\Rightarrow$ ,  $\Leftrightarrow$ . An assignment of the *truth-values* true and false to the variables is **satisfying** if it makes the formula evaluate to true.

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If a language  $M$  is NP-hard and  $M \xrightarrow{\text{poly}} L$  then  $L$  is NP-hard.

Thus, to show that a language  $L$  is NP-complete, we do the following.

- 1 Show that  $L$  is in NP, and
- 2 Take some NP-hard problem  $M$  and find a polynomial-time reduction from  $M$  to  $L$ .

Make sure you don't go the wrong direction!

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### 3-Conjunctive Normal Form Satisfiability (3-CNF)

- **Input:** A boolean formula  $F$  expressed as an AND of clauses in which each clause is the OR of exactly three distinct literals.
- **Output:** Is there an assignment of boolean values to the variables which causes  $F$  to evaluate to *true*?

$$F = (\neg y_1 \vee \neg x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee x_1 \vee \neg y_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee x_1 \vee y_2)$$

Note that  $y_1$  and  $\neg y_1$  are distinct literals.

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We will show that there is a polynomial-time computable function  $f$  that takes as input an input  $F$  of SAT and outputs an input  $f(F)$  of 3-CNF so that  $f(F)$  is a “yes” instance of 3-CNF iff  $F$  is a “yes” instance of SAT.

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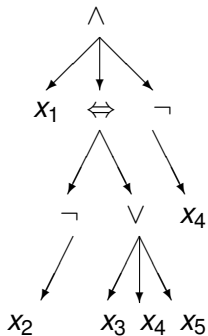
## The transformation from $F$ to $f(F)$

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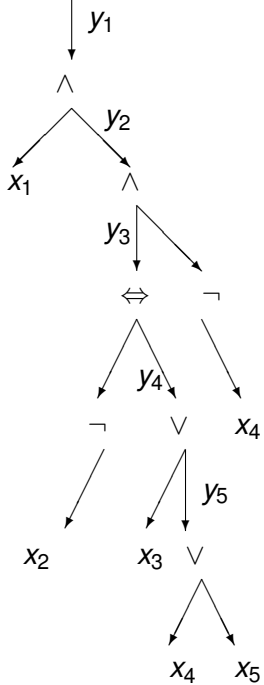
First, parse  $F$

$$F = x_1 \wedge (\neg x_2 \Leftrightarrow (x_3 \vee x_4 \vee x_5)) \wedge \neg x_4$$

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Now use the associativity of  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$  to form an equivalent tree in which every node has at most 2 children.



Now label the parent-edge out of every internal node (on the previous slide) by a new variable.

Rewrite the formula as an equation.

$$\begin{aligned} F' = & y_1 \wedge (y_1 \Leftrightarrow (x_1 \wedge y_2)) \\ & \wedge (y_2 \Leftrightarrow (y_3 \wedge \neg x_4)) \\ & \wedge (y_3 \Leftrightarrow (\neg x_2 \Leftrightarrow y_4)) \\ & \wedge (y_4 \Leftrightarrow (x_3 \vee y_5)) \\ & \wedge (y_5 \Leftrightarrow (x_4 \vee x_5)) \end{aligned}$$

We have now transformed  $F$  into a formula  $F'$  which is the AND of clauses, each of which has at most 3 literals.  $F'$  is satisfiable iff  $F$  is.

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Note that the transformation from  $F$  to  $F'$  can be implemented in polynomial time. Each connective in  $F$  introduces at most one variable and one clause to  $F'$  to  $|F'|$  is at most a polynomial in  $|F|$ .

## The transformation from $F$ to $f(F)$

**Step 2:** Transform  $F'$  into a formula  $F''$  which is the AND of clauses, each of which is the OR of at most 3 literals.

We will use a truth table to transform each clause of  $F'$  to the AND of at most 8 clauses which are algebraically equivalent.

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For example, take this clause of  $F'$ :  $y_1 \Leftrightarrow (x_1 \wedge y_2)$

$y_1$	$x_1$	$y_2$	result
1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1

The first 0 in the result column of the truth table says you can't have  $y_1 x_1 \neg y_2$  so insert the first clause below.

$$\begin{aligned} &(\neg y_1 \vee \neg x_1 \vee y_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee x_1 \vee \neg y_2) \wedge \\ &(\neg y_1 \vee x_1 \vee y_2) \wedge (y_1 \vee \neg x_1 \vee \neg y_2) \end{aligned}$$

Having done steps 1 and 2 we have now shown how to transform  $F$  into a formula  $F''$  which is the AND of clauses, each of which is the OR of **at most 3** literals.

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**Step 3:** Transform  $F''$  into a formula  $F'''$  which is the AND of clauses, each of which is the OR of **exactly 3** literals. Let  $f(F) = F'''$ .

Transform a 2-literal clause like this, using a new variable  $p$ .

$$(x \vee y) \Rightarrow (x \vee y \vee p) \wedge (x \vee y \vee \neg p)$$

Transform a 1-literal clause like this, using new variables  $p$  and  $q$ .

$$x \Rightarrow (x \vee p \vee q) \wedge (x \vee p \vee \neg q) \wedge (x \vee \neg p \vee q) \wedge (x \vee \neg p \vee \neg q)$$



We have shown that there is a polynomial-time computable function  $f$  that takes as input an input  $F$  of SAT and outputs an input  $f(F)$  of 3-CNF so that  $f(F)$  is a “yes” instance of 3-CNF iff  $F$  is a “yes” instance of SAT.

This is a polynomial-time reduction from SAT to 3-CNF.

Since SAT is NP-hard, we conclude that 3-CNF is NP-hard.

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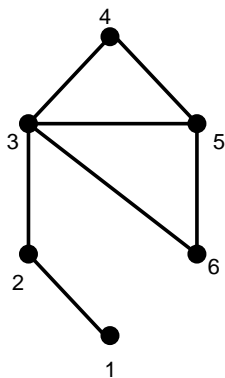
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# Another computational problem

## Clique

- **Input:** An undirected graph  $G$  and an integer  $j$
- **Output:** Is there a set of  $j$  vertices of  $G$ , each pair of which is connected by an edge?



## Clique is in NP

The non-deterministic algorithm “guesses” a set of  $j$  vertices then checks in polynomial time to see whether each pair is connected by an edge.

## 3-CNF $\xrightarrow{\text{poly}}$ Clique

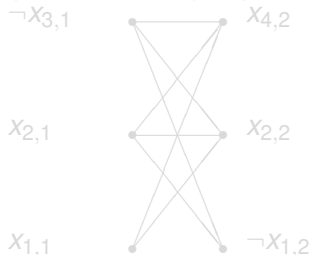
Let  $F$  be an input to 3-CNF. We show how to transform it to into an input  $(G, j)$  of Clique such that  $G$  has a  $j$ -clique iff  $F$  is satisfiable.

Let  $j =$  number of clauses in  $F$ . For every clause

$C_r = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$ , introduce vertices  $x_{1,r}$ ,  $x_{2,r}$  and  $\neg x_{3,r}$ .

Introduce edges *between* vertices in different clauses, **unless** they are the negation of each other. For example...

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$



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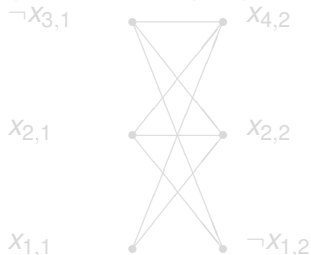
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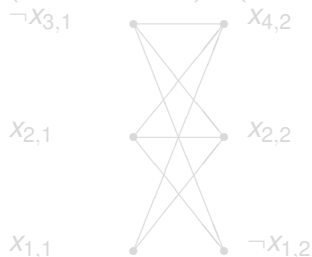
Let  $F$  be an input to 3-CNF. We show how to transform it to into an input  $(G, j)$  of Clique such that  $G$  has a  $j$ -clique iff  $F$  is satisfiable.

Let  $j =$  number of clauses in  $F$ . For every clause

$C_r = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$ , introduce vertices  $x_{1,r}$ ,  $x_{2,r}$  and  $\neg x_{3,r}$ .

Introduce edges *between* vertices in different clauses, **unless** they are the negation of each other. For example...

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$



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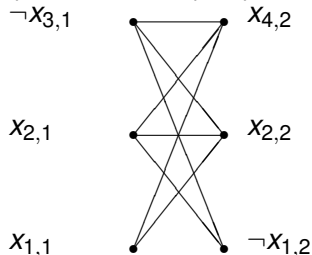
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Suppose we have a satisfying assignment. We can choose one “true” literal from each of the  $j$  clauses, and that gives us a clique.

Similarly, we can turn a clique into a satisfying assignment.

Note that the transformation takes polynomial time.

We have shown that Clique is NP-complete.

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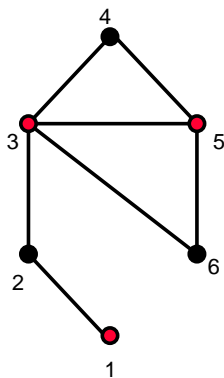
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# Another computational problem

## Vertex Cover

- **Input:** An undirected graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$
- **Output:** Is there a set  $U$  of  $k$  vertices of  $G$  such that for every edge  $(u, v)$  of  $G$ , at least one of  $u$  and  $v$  is in  $U$ ?



## Vertex Cover is in NP

The non-deterministic algorithm “guesses” a set of  $k$  vertices then checks in polynomial time to see whether every edge is covered.



# Clique $\xrightarrow{\text{poly}}$ Vertex Cover

Let  $G = (V, E)$  and  $j$  be an input to clique. We show how to transform it to into an input  $(G', k)$  of Vertex Cover such that  $G'$  has a vertex cover of size  $k$  iff  $G$  has a clique of size  $j$ .

Method: Let  $\bar{E} = \{(u, v) \mid (u, v) \notin E\}$  and  $G' = (V, \bar{E})$  and  $k = |V| - j$ .

If  $U$  is a clique then  $V - U$  covers all non-edges (and vice-versa).

This is a polynomial-time transformation, so we have shown that vertex cover is NP-complete.

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One last computational problem (this one is pretty tricky!)

## Subset Sum

- **Input:** A set  $S$  of non-negative integers and a non-negative integer  $t$ .
- **Output:** Is there a subset of  $S$  whose elements sum to  $t$ ?

Example:  $S = \{1, 3, 5\}$ . What about  $t = 4$ ? What about  $t = 2$ ?

## Subset Sum is in NP

The non-deterministic algorithm “guesses” the subset and checks that its elements sum to  $t$ .

# Vertex Cover $\xrightarrow{\text{poly}}$ Subset Sum

Let  $G = (V, E)$  and  $k$  be an input to vertex cover. We show how to transform it to an input  $S, t$  of subset sum such that  $G$  has a vertex cover of size  $k$  iff  $S$  has a subset that sums to  $t$ .

Notation: Let  $V = \{v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}\}$ . Let  $E = \{e_0, \dots, e_{m-1}\}$ .

The (polynomial-time) transformation:

For  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $n-1$

$$x_i \leftarrow 4^m$$

For  $j \leftarrow 0$  to  $m-1$

If  $e_j$  is incident on  $v_i$

$$x_i \leftarrow x_i + 4^j$$

For  $j \leftarrow 0$  to  $m-1$

$$y_j \leftarrow 4^j$$

$$\mathbf{S} \leftarrow \{x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}, y_0, \dots, y_{m-1}\}$$

$$t \leftarrow k4^m + \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} 2 \cdot 4^j$$

Return  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $t$



We claim that if  $G$  has a size- $k$  vertex cover then  $S$  has a subset that sums to  $t$ .

- Start with a size- $k$  vertex cover.
- Let  $S'$  contain  $x_i$ 's for vertices in the cover and  $y_j$ 's for edges incident **once** on cover.
- Sum of  $x_i$ 's in  $S'$  is  $k4^m$ .
- Edge incident twice on cover contributes  $2 \cdot 4^j$  to  $x$ 's
- Edge incident once on cover contributes  $4^j$  to  $x$ 's and  $4^j$  to  $y$ 's.
- Elements in  $S'$  sum to  $t$ .

We claim that if  $S$  has a subset that sums to  $t$  then  $G$  has a size- $k$  vertex cover.

- Start with  $S'$  which sums to  $t$ .
- Each  $e^j$  contributes at most  $2 \cdot 4^j$  to  $x_s$  and  $4^j$  to  $y_s$ .
- The  $e^j$ 's do not contribute to the  $k4^m$  in  $t$ .
- $S'$  has  $k$   $x_j$ 's.
- These  $k$  vertices are a vertex cover because each  $e_j$  contributes exactly  $2 \cdot 4^j$  to  $t$  but only  $4^j$  of this can come from  $y_j$  so it must be adjacent to one of the vertices in  $S'$ .

We have shown that Subset Sum is NP-complete.