

Computer Science & Engineering 423/823 Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Lecture 08 — NP-Completeness (Chapter 34)

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(Adapted from Vinodchandran N. Variyam)

Introduction

- So far, we have focused on problems with “efficient” algorithms
- I.e. problems with algorithms that run in polynomial time: $O(n^c)$ for some constant c
 - Side note: We call it efficient even if c is large, since it is likely that another, even more efficient, algorithm exists
- But, for some problems, the fastest known algorithms require time that is **superpolynomial**
 - Includes sub-exponential time (e.g. $2^{n^{1/3}}$), exponential time (e.g. 2^n), doubly exponential time (e.g. 2^{2^n}), etc.
 - There are even problems that cannot be solved in *any* amount of time (e.g. the “halting problem”)

P vs. NP

- Our focus will be on the **complexity classes** called P and NP
- Centers on the notion of a **Turing machine** (TM), which is a finite state machine with an infinitely long tape for storage
 - Anything a computer can do, a TM can do, and vice-versa
 - More on this in CSCE 428/828 and CSCE 424/824
- P = “deterministic polynomial time” = the set of problems that can be solved by a deterministic TM (deterministic algorithm) in polynomial time
- NP = “nondeterministic polynomial time” = the set of problems that can be solved by a nondeterministic TM in polynomial time
 - Can loosely think of a nondeterministic TM as one that can explore many, many possible paths of computation at once
 - Equivalently, NP is the set of problems whose solutions, if given, can be **verified** in polynomial time

P vs. NP Example

- Problem HAM-CYCLE: Does a graph $G = (V, E)$ contain a **hamiltonian cycle**, i.e. a simple cycle that visits every vertex in V exactly once?
 - This problem is in NP, since if we were given a specific G plus the answer to the question plus a **certificate**, we can verify a “yes” answer in polynomial time using the certificate
 - What would be an appropriate certificate?
 - Not known if HAM-CYCLE \in P

P vs. NP Example (2)

- Problem EULER: Does a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ contain an **Euler tour**, i.e. a cycle that visits every edge in E exactly once and can visit vertices multiple times?
 - This problem is in P, since we can answer the question in polynomial time by checking if each vertex's in-degree equals its out-degree
 - Does that mean that the problem is also in NP? If so, what is the certificate?

NP-Completeness

- Any problem in P is also in NP, since if we can efficiently solve the problem, we get the poly-time verification for free
 $\Rightarrow P \subseteq NP$
- Not known if $P \subset NP$, i.e. unknown if there a problem in NP that's not in P
- A subset of the problems in NP is the set of **NP-complete** (NPC) problems
 - Every problem in NPC is at least as hard as all others in NP
 - These problems are believed to be intractable (no efficient algorithm), but not yet proven to be so
 - If any NPC problem is in P, then $P = NP$ and life is glorious 😊

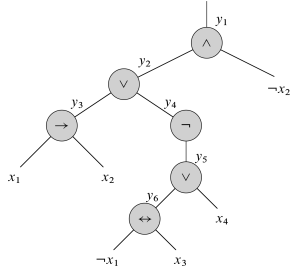
Building the Parse Tree

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$$\phi = ((x_1 \rightarrow x_2) \vee \neg((\neg x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3) \vee x_4)) \wedge \neg x_2$$



Might need to parenthesize ϕ to put at most two children per node

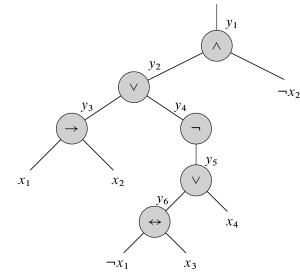
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Assign Variables to wires

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$$\phi' = y_1 \wedge (y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2)) \wedge (y_2 \leftrightarrow (y_3 \vee y_4)) \wedge (y_3 \leftrightarrow (x_1 \rightarrow x_2)) \wedge (y_4 \leftrightarrow \neg y_5) \wedge (y_5 \leftrightarrow (y_6 \vee x_4)) \wedge (y_6 \leftrightarrow (\neg x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3))$$

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Convert Each Clause to CNF

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- Consider first clause $\phi'_1 = (y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2))$
- Truth table:

y_1	y_2	x_2	$(y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2))$
1	1	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0
0	1	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1

- Can now directly read off DNF of negation:

$$\neg \phi'_1 = (y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_2) \vee (y_1 \wedge \neg y_2 \wedge x_2) \vee (y_1 \wedge \neg y_2 \wedge \neg x_2) \vee (\neg y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge \neg x_2)$$

- And use DeMorgan's Law to convert it to CNF:

$$\phi''_1 = (\neg y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee x_2)$$

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Add Auxillary Variables

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- Based on our construction, $\phi = \phi'' = \bigwedge_i \phi''_i$, where each ϕ''_i is a CNF formula each with at most three literals per clause
- But we need to have *exactly* three per clause!
- Simple fix: For each clause C_i of ϕ'' ,
 - If C_i has three distinct literals, add it as a clause in ϕ'''
 - If $C_i = (\ell_1 \vee \ell_2)$ for distinct literals ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 , then add to ϕ''' $(\ell_1 \vee \ell_2 \vee p) \wedge (\ell_1 \vee \ell_2 \vee \neg p)$
 - If $C_i = (\ell)$, then add to ϕ''' $(\ell \vee p \vee q) \wedge (\ell \vee p \vee \neg q) \wedge (\ell \vee \neg p \vee q) \wedge (\ell \vee \neg p \vee \neg q)$
- p and q are **auxillary variables**, and the combinations in which they're added result in a logically equivalent expression to that of the original clause, regardless of the values of p and q

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Proof of Correctness of Reduction

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- ϕ has a satisfying assignment iff ϕ''' does
 - CIRCUIT-SAT reduction to SAT implies satisfiability preserved from ϕ to ϕ'
 - Use of truth tables and DeMorgan's Law ensures ϕ'' equivalent to ϕ'
 - Addition of auxillary variables ensures ϕ''' equivalent to ϕ''
- Constructing ϕ''' from ϕ takes polynomial time
 - ϕ' gets variables from ϕ , plus at most one variable and one table has at most 8 rows, so each clause in ϕ' yields at most 8 clauses in ϕ''
 - Since there are only two auxillary variables, each clause in ϕ'' yields at most 4 in ϕ'''
 - Thus size of ϕ''' is polynomial in size of ϕ , and each step easily done in polynomial time

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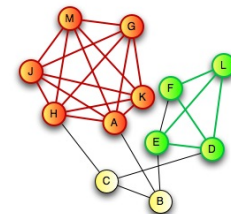
NPC Problem: Clique Finding (CLIQUE)

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- Given: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and value k
- Question: Does G contain a clique (complete subgraph) of size k ?



Has a clique of size $k = 6$, but not of size 7

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CLIQUE is NPC

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- CLIQUE is in NP: A list of vertices in the clique certifies that the answer is “yes” and this can be easily checked in polynomial time (how?)
- CLIQUE is NP-hard: Will show $3\text{-CNF-SAT} \leq_P \text{CLIQUE}$ by mapping any instance ϕ of 3-CNF-SAT to some instance $\langle G, k \rangle$ of CLIQUE
 - Seems strange to reduce a boolean formula to a graph, but we will show that ϕ has a satisfying assignment iff G has a clique of size k
 - Caveat: the reduction merely preserves the iff relationship; it does not try to directly solve either problem, nor does it assume it knows what the answer is

The Reduction

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- Let $\phi = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_k$ be a 3-CNF formula with k clauses
- For each clause $C_r = (\ell_1^r \vee \ell_2^r \vee \ell_3^r)$ put vertices v_1^r , v_2^r , and v_3^r into V
- Add edge (v_i^r, v_j^s) to E if:
 - ① $r \neq s$, i.e. v_i^r and v_j^s are in separate triples
 - ② ℓ_i^r is not the negation of ℓ_j^s
- Obviously can be done in polynomial time

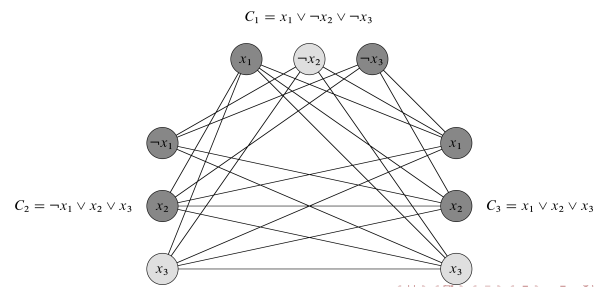
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The Reduction (2)

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$$\phi = (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

Satisfied by $x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1$



The Reduction (3)

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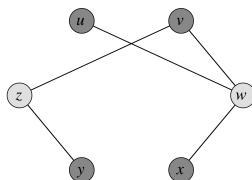
- ⇒ If ϕ has a satisfying assignment, then at least one literal in each clause is true
 - Picking corresponding vertex from a true literal from each clause yields a set V' of k vertices, each in a distinct triple
 - Since each vertex in V' is in a distinct triple and literals that are negations of each other cannot both be true in a satisfying assignment, there is an edge between each pair of vertices in V'
 - V' is a clique of size k
- ⇐ If G has a size- k clique V' , can assign 1 to corresponding literal of each vertex in V'
 - Each vertex in its own triple, so each clause has a literal set to 1
 - Will not try to set both a literal and its negation to 1
 - Get a satisfying assignment

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NPC Problem: Vertex Cover Finding (VERTEX-COVER)

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- A vertex in a graph is said to **cover** all edges incident to it
- A **vertex cover** of a graph is a set of vertices that covers all edges in the graph
- Given: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and value k
- Question: Does G contain a vertex cover of size k ?



Has a vertex cover of size $k = 2$, but not of size 1

VERTEX-COVER is NPC

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- VERTEX-COVER is in NP: A list of vertices in the vertex cover certifies that the answer is “yes” and this can be easily checked in poly time
- VERTEX-COVER is NP-hard: Will show $\text{CLIQUE} \leq_p \text{VERTEX-COVER}$ by mapping *any* instance $\langle G, k \rangle$ of CLIQUE to *some* instance $\langle G', k' \rangle$ of VERTEX-COVER
- Reduction is simple: Given instance $\langle G = (V, E), k \rangle$ of CLIQUE, instance of VERTEX-COVER is $\langle \overline{G}, |V| - k \rangle$, where $\overline{G} = (V, \overline{E})$ is G 's **complement**:

$$\overline{E} = \{(u, v) : u, v \in V, u \neq v, (u, v) \notin E\}$$

- Easily done in polynomial time

Proof of Correctness (2)

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- ⇐ In SUBSET-SUM solution S' , for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, exactly one of v_i and v'_i must be in S' , or sum won't match t
- If $v_i \in S'$, set $x_i = 1$ in satisfying assignment, otherwise we have $v'_i \in S'$ and set $x_i = 0$
 - To get a sum of 4 in clause-based digit C_j , S' must include a v_i or v'_i value that is 1 in that digit (since slack variables sum to at most 3)
 - Thus, if $v_i \in S'$ has a 1 in C_j 's position, then x_i is in C_j and we set $x_i = 1$, so C_j is satisfied (similar argument for $v'_i \in S'$ and setting $x_i = 0$)
 - This holds for all clauses, so ϕ is satisfied

In-Class Exercise

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- OK, everything perfectly clear?
- Want a shot at extra credit?
- Put away your books (keep your notes), split into groups, and get ready for an in-class exercise!