

# Algorithms for Data Processing

## Lecture VIII: Intractable Problems–NP Problems

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Alberto Montresor, Werner Nutt, Kevin Wayne, Jon Kleinberg, Eva Tardos.

# Problems and Algorithms – Decision Problems

The **Complexity Theory** considers so called **Decision Problems**.

## Decision Problem.

- Input encoded as a finite binary string  $s$ ;
- **Decision Problem  $X$** : Is conceived as a **set of strings** on which the answer to the decision problem  $X$  is “yes”;
- **Algorithm  $A$  for a decision problem  $X$**  receives an input string  $s$ , and

$$A(s) = \begin{cases} \text{yes} & \text{if } s \in X \\ \text{no} & \text{if } s \notin X \end{cases}$$

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**Definition.** **P** = set of decision problems for which there exists a poly-time algorithm.

## Towards NP — Efficient Verification

- The issue here is the contrast between **finding** a solution Vs. **checking** a proposed solution.
- Consider for example 3-SAT:
  - ▶ We do not know a polynomial-time algorithm to **find** solutions; but
  - ▶ **Checking** a proposed solution can be easily done in polynomial time (just plug 0/1 and check if it is a solution).

## Towards NP — Efficient Verification/2

Formalize the idea that a solution to a problem can be **checked efficiently**.

- **Checking Algorithm for a problem  $X$** : Checks whether  $t$  is a solution for a given input  $s$  of problem  $X$ ;
- $t$  is called the **certificate** or **witness** that contains the evidence that  $s$  is a “*yes*” instance of  $X$ .

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**Definition.** An algorithm  $C(s, t)$  is an **efficient certifier** for a problem  $X$  if:

- $C(s, t)$  runs in polynomial time, and
- For every string  $s$ , we have  $s \in X$  if there exists a string  $t$  (the certificate) such that  $|t| \leq p(|s|)$  ( $p()$  polynomial function), and  $C(s, t) = \text{yes}$ .

## Towards NP — Efficient Verification/3

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An **efficient certifier**  $C(s, t)$ :

- It is **not** deciding whether an input  $s$  belongs to  $X$ , but
- It is **efficiently evaluating** whether a given  $t$  is a *certificate* for  $s$  to belong to  $X$ .
- It can be used as an **exponential brute force** algorithm.

# The NP Class of Problems

Definition. NP = set of decision problems for which there exists an efficient certifier.

**Note:** NP stands for **Nondeterministic Polynomial** time.



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**Note:** NP stands for **Nondeterministic Polynomial** time.

We can observe immediately that:

**Theorem.**  $P \subseteq NP$ .

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be a polynomial time algorithm that solves  $X$ . Then, choose  $t = \epsilon$  and  $C(s, t) \equiv A(s)$ .

## Certifiers and certificates: satisfiability

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**SAT.** Given a CNF formula  $\Phi$ , does it have a satisfying truth assignment?

**3-SAT.** SAT where each clause contains exactly 3 literals.

**Certificate.** An assignment of truth values to the Boolean variables.

**Certifier.** Check that each clause in  $\Phi$  has at least one true literal.

**instance s**  $\Phi = (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$

**certificate t**  $x_1 = \text{true}, x_2 = \text{true}, x_3 = \text{false}, x_4 = \text{false}$

**Conclusions.** SAT  $\in$  NP, 3-SAT  $\in$  NP.

$$P \subseteq NP \subseteq \text{ExpTIME}$$

**P.** Decision problems for which there exists a poly-time algorithm.

**NP.** Decision problems for which there exists a poly-time certifier.

**ExpTIME.** Decision problems for which there exists an exponential-time algorithm.

Theorem.  $P \subseteq NP$ .

$$P \subseteq NP \subseteq \text{ExpTIME}$$

**P.** Decision problems for which there exists a poly-time algorithm.

**NP.** Decision problems for which there exists a poly-time certifier.

**ExpTIME.** Decision problems for which there exists an exponential-time algorithm.

Theorem.  $P \subseteq NP$ .

Theorem.  $NP \subseteq \text{ExpTIME}$ .

Proof. Consider any problem  $X \in NP$ .

- By definition, there exists a poly-time certifier  $C(s, t)$  for  $X$ , where  $|t| \leq p(|s|)$  for some polynomial  $p()$ ;
- To solve instance  $s$ , run  $C(s, t)$  on all strings  $t$  with  $|t| \leq p(|s|)$  (exponentially many).
- Return *yes* iff  $C(s, t)$  returns *yes* for at least one of these potential certificates.

# P Vs. NP

Facts.

- ①  $P \subseteq NP \subseteq \text{ExpTIME}$ ;
- ②  $P \neq \text{ExpTIME}$ , then:

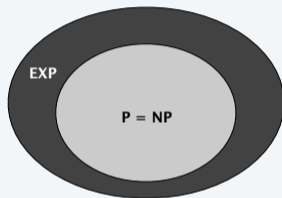
either  $P \neq NP$ , or  $NP \neq \text{ExpTIME}$ , or both.

## The main question: P vs. NP

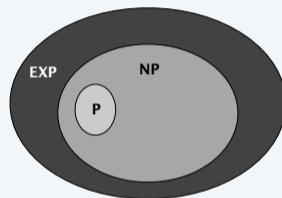
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Does  $P = NP$ ? [Cook 1971, Edmonds, Levin, Yablonski, Gödel]

Is the decision problem as easy as the certification problem?



If  $P = NP$



If  $P \neq NP$

If yes... Efficient algorithms for 3-SAT, TSP, VERTEX-COVER, FACTOR, ...

If no... No efficient algorithms possible for 3-SAT, TSP, VERTEX-COVER, ...

Consensus opinion. Probably no.

### $P \neq NP$

*“ I conjecture that there is no good algorithm for the traveling salesman problem. My reasons are the same as for any mathematical conjecture:  
(i) It is a legitimate mathematical possibility and (ii) I do not know.”*

— *Jack Edmonds 1966*



*“ In my view, there is no way to even make intelligent guesses about the answer to any of these questions. If I had to bet now, I would bet that  $P$  is not equal to  $NP$ . I estimate the half-life of this problem at 25–50 more years, but I wouldn’t bet on it being solved before 2100. ”*

— *Bob Tarjan (2002)*



### P = NP

*“ I think that in this respect I am on the loony fringe of the mathematical community: I think (not too strongly!) that  $P=NP$  and this will be proved within twenty years. Some years ago, Charles Read and I worked on it quite bit, and we even had a celebratory dinner in a good restaurant before we found an absolutely fatal mistake. ”*

— *Béla Bollobás (2002)*



*“ In my opinion this shouldn't really be a hard problem; it's just that we came late to this theory, and haven't yet developed any techniques for proving computations to be hard. Eventually, it will just be a footnote in the books. ”*


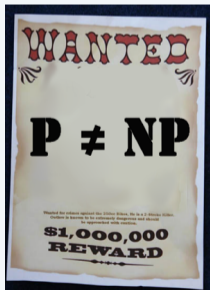
— *John Conway*





# Millennium prize

Millennium prize. \$1 million for resolution of  $P \neq NP$  problem.



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### Millennium Problems

In order to celebrate mathematics in the new millennium, The Clay Mathematics Institute of Cambridge, Massachusetts (CMI) has named seven *Prize Problems*. The Scientific Advisory Board of CMI selected these problems, focusing on important classic questions that have resisted solution over the years. The Board of Directors of CMI designated a \$7 million prize fund for the solution to these problems, with \$1 million allocated to each. During the [Millennium Meeting](#) held on May 24, 2000 at the Collège de France, Timothy Gowers presented a lecture entitled *The Importance of Mathematics*, aimed for the general public, while John Tate and Michael Atiyah spoke on the problems. The CMI invited specialists to formulate each problem.

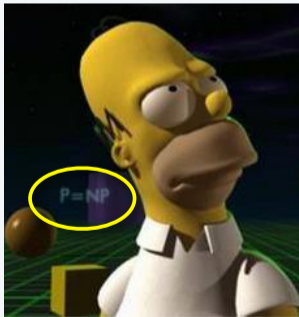
- [Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture](#)
- [Hodge Conjecture](#)
- [Navier-Stokes Equations](#)
- [P vs NP](#)
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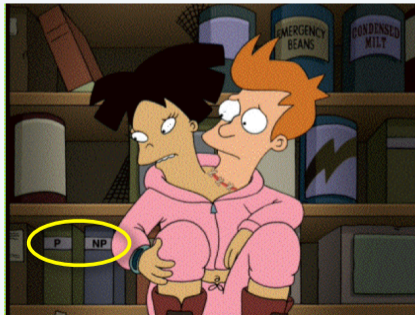
# NP-completeness and pop culture

## Some writers for the Simpsons and Futurama.

- J. Stewart Burns. *M.S. in mathematics (Berkeley '93)*.
- David X. Cohen. *M.S. in computer science (Berkeley '92)*.
- Al Jean. *B.S. in mathematics. (Harvard '81)*.
- Ken Keeler. *Ph.D. in applied mathematics (Harvard '90)*.
- Jeff Westbrook. *Ph.D. in computer science (Princeton '89)*.



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# NP-complete Problems

Fundamental Question: What are the **hardest** problems in NP?

# NP-complete Problems

**Fundamental Question:** What are the **hardest** problems in NP?

**Definition.** A problem  $X$  is said **NP-complete** if:

- ①  $X \in \text{NP}$ , and
- ② For **any**  $Y \in \text{NP}$ ,  $Y \leq_P X$ .

Thus,  $X$  is as hard as any other NP problem!

## Establishing NP-completeness

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**Remark.** Once we establish first “natural” **NP**-complete problem, others fall like dominoes.

**Recipe.** To prove that  $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$ -complete:

- Step 1. Show that  $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$ .
- Step 2. Choose an **NP**-complete problem  $X$ .
- Step 3. Prove that  $X \leq_p Y$ .

**Proposition.** If  $X \in \mathbf{NP}$ -complete,  $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$ , and  $X \leq_p Y$ , then  $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$ -complete.

**Pf.** Consider any problem  $W \in \mathbf{NP}$ . Then, both  $W \leq_p X$  and  $X \leq_p Y$ .

- By transitivity,  $W \leq_p Y$ .
- Hence  $Y \in \mathbf{NP}$ -complete. ■

↑  
by definition of  
**NP**-complete

↑  
by assumption

## NP-complete Problems/2

**Theorem.** Let  $X \in \text{NP-complete problems}$ . Then,  $X$  is solvable in polynomial time if and only if  $P = \text{NP}$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) If  $P = \text{NP}$ , then  $X \in P$  because  $X \in \text{NP}$ .

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $X$  be solvable in polynomial time. Since  $X$  is NP-complete, then

- For any  $Y \in \text{NP}$ ,  $Y \leq_P X$ , and thus  $Y$  is solvable in polynomial time, thus
- $\text{NP} \subseteq P$ , and since we already proved that  $P \subseteq \text{NP}$ , we finally obtain
- $P = \text{NP}$ .

# The "first" NP-complete problem

## Theorem. [Cook 1971, Levin 1973] SAT ∈ NP-complete.

The Complexity of Theorem-Proving Procedures

Stephen A. Cook

University of Toronto

### Summary

It is shown that any recognition problem solved by a polynomial time-bounded nondeterministic Turing machine can be "reduced" to the problem of determining whether a given propositional formula is a tautology. Here "reduced" means, roughly speaking, that the first problem can be solved deterministically in polynomial time provided an oracle is available for solving the second. From this notion of reducible, polynomial degrees of difficulty are defined, and it is shown that the problem of determining tautologyhood has the same polynomial degree as the problem of determining whether the first of two given graphs is isomorphic to a subgraph of the second. Other examples are discussed. A method of measuring the complexity of proof procedures for the predicate calculus is introduced and discussed.

Throughout this paper, a set of strings means a set of strings on some fixed, large, finite alphabet  $\Sigma$ . This alphabet is large enough to include symbols for all sets described here. All Turing machines are deterministic recognition devices, unless the contrary is explicitly stated.

### 1. Tautologies and Polynomial Reducibility.

Let us fix a formalism for the propositional calculus in which formulas are written as strings on  $\Sigma$ . Since we will require infinitely many proposition symbols ( $\alpha$ 's), each such symbol will consist of a member of  $\Sigma$  followed by a number in binary notation to distinguish  $M$  and a polynomial  $Q(n)$  such that for each input string  $w$ , can only have about  $n/Q(n)$  distinct function and predicate symbols. The logical connectives are  $\wedge$  (and),  $\vee$  (or), and  $\neg$  (not).

The set of tautologies (denoted by  $\{ \text{tautologies} \}$ ) is a

certain recursive set of strings on this alphabet, and we are interested in the problem of finding a good lower bound on its possible recognition times. We provide no such lower bound here, but theorem 1 will give evidence that  $\{ \text{tautologies} \}$  is a difficult set to recognize, since many apparently difficult problems can be reduced to determining tautologyhood. By reduced we mean, roughly speaking, that if tautologyhood could be decided instantly by an "oracle" then these problems could be decided in polynomial time. In order to make this notion precise, we introduce query machines, which are like Turing machines with oracles in [1].

A query machine is a multitape Turing machine with a distinguished tape called the query tape, and three distinguished states called the query state, yes state, and no state, respectively. If  $M$  is a query machine and  $\Gamma$  is a set of strings, then a  $\Gamma$ -computation of  $M$  is computation of  $M$  which initially  $M$  is in the initial state and has an input string  $w$  on its input tape, and each time  $M$  assumes the query state there is a string  $u$  on the query tape, and the next state  $M$  assumes is the yes state if  $u \in \Gamma$  and the no state if  $u \notin \Gamma$ . We think of an "oracle", which knows  $\Gamma$ , placing  $M$  in the yes state or no state.

### Definition

A set  $S$  of strings is  $\Gamma$ -reducible (P for polynomial) to a set  $\Gamma$  of strings iff there is some query machine  $M$  and a polynomial  $Q(n)$  such that for each input string  $w$ , the  $\Gamma$ -computation of  $M$  with input  $w$  halts within  $Q(|w|)$  steps and  $w \in S$  iff the length of  $w$  and  $w$  end in an accepting state iff  $w \in S$ .

It is not hard to see that  $\Gamma$ -reducibility is a transitive relation. Thus the relation  $\in$  on

## ПРОБЛЕМЫ ПЕРЕДАЧИ ИНФОРМАЦИИ

Том IX

1978

Вып. 3

### БРАТКНЕ СООБЩЕНИЯ

#### УНИВЕРСАЛЬНЫЕ ЗАДАЧИ ПЕРЕБОРА

J. A. Jeavons

В статье рассматриваются несколько известных массовых задач перебора (или в дальнейшем, что эти задачи можно решить лишь за такое время, за которое можно решить любую задачу указанного типа).

После уточнения понятия алгоритма была доказана алгоритмическая неразрешимость ряда классических массовых проблем (например, проблем тождества элементов графов, гомоморфности множествовой, распознавания дефективных уравнений и других). Тем самым был снят вопрос о нахождении кратчайшего способа их решения. Однако существование алгоритмов для решения других задач не снимает для них аналитического вопроса из-за фантастически большого объема работы, предельного значения длины алгоритмов. Такова ситуация с так называемыми переборными задачами нахождения булевых функций, поиска доказательства ограниченной длины, выявления изоморфности графов и другими. Все эти задачи решаются тривиальными алгоритмами, состоящими в переборе всех возможностей. Однако эти алгоритмы требуют экспоненциального количества работы и у математиков сомнений. Убеждены, что более простые алгоритмы для них невозможны. Был получен ряд серьезных аргументов в пользу его справедливости (см [1-3]), однако доказать это удалось не удалось никому. (Например, до сих пор не доказано, что для нахождения минимальных доказательств нужно больше времени, чем для их проверки).

Однако если предположить, что вообще существует какой-нибудь (хотя бы искусственно встроивший) массовая задача переборного типа, неразрешенная простыми (в смысле объема вычислений) алгоритмами, то можно показать, что эти же свойства обладают и многие классические переборные задачи (в том числе задача удовлетворения, задача поиска доказательства и др.). В этом и состоит основное содержание статьи.

Функции  $f(x)$  и  $g(x)$  будем называть сравнимыми, если при некотором  $k$

$$f(x) \leq g(x) + 2^k \quad \text{и} \quad g(x) \leq f(x) + 2^k.$$

Аналогично будем говорить терции «меньше или сравнимо».

Образом  $u$  в  $\Sigma$ -языке переборного типа (или просто переборной задачей) будем называть задачу вида «по данному  $u$  найти элемент  $x$  из  $\Sigma$ , сравнимый с длиной  $u$ , такое, что выполняется  $A(x, u)$ , где  $A(x, u)$  — какое-нибудь свойство, проверяемое алгоритмом сложности  $O(n)$ , время работы которого сравнимо с длиной  $u$  (или некоторый адрес можно назвать, например, алгоритм Колмогорова — Успенского или машины Тьюринга, или нормальные алгоритмы,  $x, u$  — двоичные слова). Конечно, переборной задачей будем называть задачу, выполняющуюся на языке  $\Sigma$ .

Мы рассмотрим шесть задач этих типов. Рассмотрим также и них объекты перебора естественно образом и виде двоичных слов. При этом выбор оптимальной кодировки не существует, так как все они дают сравнимые длины слов.

Задача 1. Даны список конечной множестве  $S$  и переборно это 256-элементный двоичноязык. Найти минимальное значение множества (соответственно максимума, существует ли оно).

Задача 2. Даны две задачи частичной булевой функции. Найти заданное перебором джонстоновскую нормальную форму, реализующую эту функцию в области расширения (соответственно минимально существует ли она).

Задача 3. Выяснить, можно ли выразить данную формулу исчисления высказываний. (Или, что то же самое, равен ли конъюнкте данная булева формула).

Задача 4. Даны два графа. Найти гомоморфизм одного на другой (выполнить его существование).

Задача 5. Даны два графа. Найти изоморфизм одного на другой (или его часть).

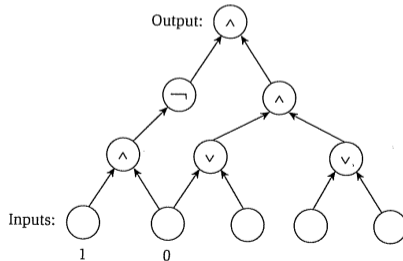
Задача 6. Рассматривается пример из числа чисел от 1 до  $10^6$  и некоторого указанного  $n$ , некое число  $k$  и их могут содержаться по вертикали и вдоль по горизонтали. Данные числа на границе и требуется продолжить их на все внутренне с соответствующим условием.

УДК 519.14

# Circuit Satisfiability Problem

**Definition.** A **Circuit**  $C$  is a labeled, directed acyclic graph where:

- Nodes with no incoming edges (later called **inputs**) are labeled either with one of the constants 0 or 1, or with the name of a distinct variable;
- Internal nodes are labeled with one of the Boolean operators  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\neg$ ;
- There is a single node with no outgoing edges, representing the **output** (the result that is computed by the circuit.)



**Figure 8.4** A circuit with three inputs, two additional sources that have assigned truth values, and one output.



# Circuit Satisfiability: The First NP-Complete Problem

Theorem. [Cook 1971, Levin 1973] Circuit Satisfiability is NP-complete.

[Proof Sketch]

- Show that given an arbitrary problem  $X \in \text{NP}$ , then  $X \leq_P \text{Circuit Satisfiability}$ .
- **Main Idea:** Show that any algorithm that takes a fixed number  $n$  of bits as input and produces a yes/no answer can be represented by a circuit.
- This circuit should output 1 on precisely the inputs for which the algorithm outputs yes.
- If the algorithm takes  $p(n)$  steps, then the circuit has polynomial size.
- We are not showing this construction but we see how it can be used in the proof.

# Circuit Satisfiability: The First NP-Complete Problem/2

Theorem. [Cook 1971, Levin 1973] Circuit Satisfiability is NP-complete.

[Proof Sketch/2]

- Since  $X \in \text{NP}$  it has an efficient certifier, thus
- To determine whether  $s \in X$ , for some input  $s$  of size  $n$ , we need to answer the following question:
  - Is there a certificate  $t$  of length  $p(n)$  so that  $C(s, t) = \text{yes}$ ?
- We view  $C(s, t)$  as an algorithm on  $n + p(n)$  bits: the input  $s$  and the certificate  $t$ , and
- Convert it to a polynomial-size circuit  $C$  with  $n + p(n)$  sources.
- The first  $n$  sources will be hard-coded with the values of the bits in  $s$ , and
- The  $p(n)$  sources will be labeled with variables representing the bits of  $t$ ; these latter sources will be the inputs to  $C$ .
- $s \in X$  if and only if the circuit  $C$  is satisfiable.

# More hard computational problems

## Garey and Johnson. Computers and Intractability.

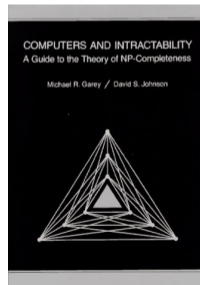
- Appendix includes over 300 **NP**-complete problems.
- Most cited reference in computer science literature.

### Most Cited Computer Science Citations

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## More hard computational problems

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**Aerospace engineering.** Optimal mesh partitioning for finite elements.

**Biology.** Phylogeny reconstruction.

**Chemical engineering.** Heat exchanger network synthesis.

**Chemistry.** Protein folding.

**Civil engineering.** Equilibrium of urban traffic flow.

**Economics.** Computation of arbitrage in financial markets with friction.

**Electrical engineering.** VLSI layout.

**Environmental engineering.** Optimal placement of contaminant sensors.

**Financial engineering.** Minimum risk portfolio of given return.

**Game theory.** Nash equilibrium that maximizes social welfare.

**Mathematics.** Given integer  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , compute  $\int_0^{2\pi} \cos(a_1\theta) \times \cos(a_2\theta) \times \dots \times \cos(a_n\theta) d\theta$

**Mechanical engineering.** Structure of turbulence in sheared flows.

**Medicine.** Reconstructing 3d shape from biplane angiogram.

**Operations research.** Traveling salesperson problem.

**Physics.** Partition function of 3d Ising model.

**Politics.** Shapley–Shubik voting power.

**Recreation.** Versions of Sudoku, Checkers, Minesweeper, Tetris, Rubik's Cube.

**Statistics.** Optimal experimental design.

# You NP-complete me

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# Graph k-Coloring

While 2-Coloring (Bipartite Graphs) is a P-Time problem, checking whether a graph is 3-colorable is a hard problem.

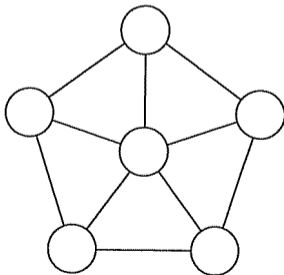
Graph k-colorability. Given a graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$  assign a color to each node of  $G$  so that if  $(u, v)$  is an edge, then  $u$  and  $v$  are assigned different colors from the  $k$  available colors.

**Applications.** Graph colorability is a problem that arises naturally whenever one is trying to allocate resources in the presence of conflicts.

- e.g., assign one of  $k$  transmitting wavelengths to each of  $n$  devices; but if two devices are sufficiently close to each other, then they need to be assigned different wavelengths to prevent interference.

## Graph k-Coloring/2

- Fact 1. There is not fixed constant  $k$  so that every graph is  $k$ -colorable.
  - ▶ For example, take a set of  $n$  nodes and join each pair of them by an edge, the resulting graph needs  $n$  colors.
- Fact 2. No simple efficient algorithm for the 3-Coloring Problem exists.
  - ▶ The following graph is not 3-colorable but does not have a cycle of 4 nodes mutually connected.



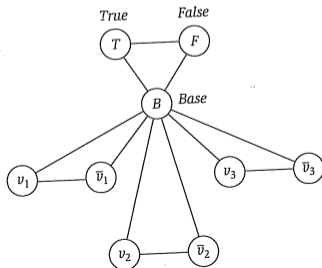
## 3-Coloring is NP-complete

Theorem. Graph 3-coloring is an NP-complete problem.

Graph 3-coloring is in NP. **Certificate:** a  $k$ -coloring of the graph. We can check in polynomial time whether  $k \leq 3$  and that every edge in the graph has endpoints with different colors.

Show that  $3\text{-SAT} \leq_P 3\text{-COLORING}$ .

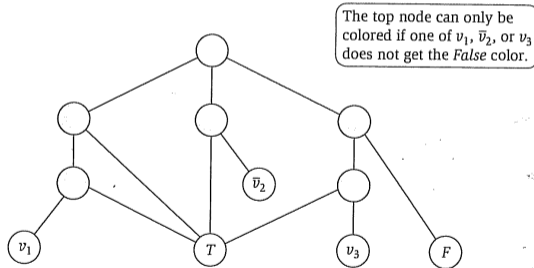
**Instance Construction.** We first construct the following graph  $G$  (here is the case with 3 variables):





## 3-Coloring is NP-complete/2

- Extend  $G$  so that there is a satisfying assignments if and only if the full graph is 3-colorable.
- To each set of 3 nodes in a Clause we attach a 6-node graph. For example, consider the clause  $C = x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3$



## 3-Coloring is NP-complete/3

- ( $\Leftarrow$ , **Soundness**) Suppose  $G$  is 3-colorable.
- Each node  $v_i$  is assigned either the *True* or the *False* color (see first graph);
- We set the assignment to  $x_i$  accordingly.
- As we said above, there must be in every clause at least one variable set to *True* for otherwise  $G$  is not 3-colorable (a contradiction).
- ( $\Rightarrow$ , **Completeness**) Let 3-SAT be satisfiable, then the resulting graph is 3-colorable.
- Can be showed by a case analysis and by setting to the True color the variable assigned to 1.

## P or NP-complete

There are Problems in NP which are not known to be in **P** nor in the class of **NP-complete** problems.

**Theorem [Ladner 1975]** Unless  $P = NP$ , there exist problems in NP that are in neither **P** nor **NP-complete**.

**NP-intermediate.** GRAPH-ISOMORPHISM, INTEGER-FACTORIZATION, etc.

# Asymmetry of NP

Observation. The definition of efficient certification, and hence of NP, is **asymmetric**.

- **YES instances.** An input string  $s$  is a **yes instance** if and only if **there exists** a polynomially bounded  $t$  so that  $C(s, t) = \text{yes}$ .

By negating the above statement we get:

- **NO instances.** An input string  $s$  is a **no instance** if and only if **for all** polynomially bounded  $t$ , it is the case that  $C(s, t) = \text{no}$ .
  - ▶ For a **no instance**, no **short proof** is guaranteed by the definition.

# Asymmetry of NP: SAT vs. UN-SAT

UN-SAT. Given a CNF formula  $\Phi$ , is there **NO** satisfying truth assignment?

## SAT vs. UN-SAT

- Can prove a CNF formula is satisfiable by specifying an assignment (certificate).
- How could we prove that a formula is not satisfiable?

# Complement Problems

**Definition.** Given a decision problem  $X$ , its **complement**, denoted as  $\bar{X}$ , is the same problem with the *yes* and *no* answers reversed.

The following are examples of complementary problems:

- SAT Vs. UN-SAT
- VERTEX-COVER Vs. NO-VERTEX-COVER
- etc.

co-NP. Complements of decision problems in NP.

## P Vs. co-P

**Theorem.** The class **P** is closed under complementation, i.e., **P = co-P**.

**Proof.** Let  $X \in P$  and  $A_X$  be a polynomial algorithm solving the decision problem  $X$ . Then, the algorithm  $\overline{A_X}$  that runs  $A$  and inverts the *yes/no* answers, is a polynomial algorithm for  $\overline{X}$ .

## NP Vs. co-NP

Observation. When  $X \in \text{NP}$  it is not so clear to see whether  $\bar{X} \in \text{NP}$ .

- $\bar{X}$  has a different nature: An input string  $s \in \bar{X}$  if and only if for all polynomially bounded  $t$ , it is the case that  $C(s, t) = \text{no}$ .
  - ▶ It is not enough to invert the answer of the efficient certifier  $C$  to get a certifier  $\bar{C}$  for  $\bar{X}$ .
  - ▶ The critical point is the shift from *there exists  $t$*  to *for all  $t$* .



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  - ▶ The critical point is the shift from *there exists  $t$*  to *for all  $t$* .

Open Question. Does  $\text{NP} = \text{co-NP}$ ?

- Consensus opinion: *no*.

## NP Vs. co-NP/2

Open Question. Does  $NP = co-NP$ ?

- Consensus opinion: *no*.

Theorem. If  $NP \neq co-NP$ , then  $P \neq NP$ .

Proof. We show the contrapositive, i.e., if  $P = NP$ , then,  $NP = co-NP$ .

- Since  $P$  is closed under complementation, then, if  $P = NP$ , then,  $NP$  would be closed under complementation as well.

# Good Characterizations: The Class $NP \cap co-NP$

Good Characterization. [Edmonds 1965]  $NP \cap co-NP$ .

- If problem  $X$  is in both  $NP$  and  $co-NP$ , then:
  - ▶ for a *yes* instance, there is a succinct certificate;
  - ▶ for a *no* instance, there is a succinct disqualifier.
- Problems for which there is always a nice certificate for the solution.

## Good Characterizations: The Class $NP \cap co-NP/2$

Observation.  $P \subseteq NP \cap co-NP$ .

Open Question. Does  $P = NP \cap co-NP$ ?

- Mixed opinions.
- Many examples where problem found to have a nontrivial *good characterization* but only years later discovered to be in  $P$ .

**Theorem.** [Pratt 1975]  $\text{PRIMES} \in \text{NP} \cap \text{co-NP}$ .

SIAM J. COMPUT.  
Vol. 4, No. 3, September 1975

## EVERY PRIME HAS A SUCCINCT CERTIFICATE\*

VAUGHAN R. PRATT†

**Abstract.** To prove that a number  $n$  is composite, it suffices to exhibit the working for the multiplication of a pair of factors. This working, represented as a string, is of length bounded by a polynomial in  $\log_2 n$ . We show that the same property holds for the primes. It is noteworthy that almost no other set is known to have the property that short proofs for membership or nonmembership exist for all candidates without being known to have the property that such proofs are easy to come by. It remains an open problem whether a prime  $n$  can be recognized in only  $\log_2^\alpha n$  operations of a Turing machine for any fixed  $\alpha$ .

The proof system used for certifying primes is as follows.

AXIOM.  $(x, y, 1)$ .

INFERENCE RULES.

$R_1$ :  $(p, x, a), q \vdash (p, x, qa)$  provided  $x^{(p-1)/q} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  and  $q|(p-1)$ .

$R_2$ :  $(p, x, p-1) \vdash p$  provided  $x^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

**THEOREM 1.**  $p$  is a theorem  $\equiv p$  is a prime.

**THEOREM 2.**  $p$  is a theorem  $\supset p$  has a proof of  $[4 \log_2 p]$  lines.

**Theorem.** [Agrawal–Kayal–Saxena 2004]  $\text{PRIMES} \in \mathbf{P}$ .

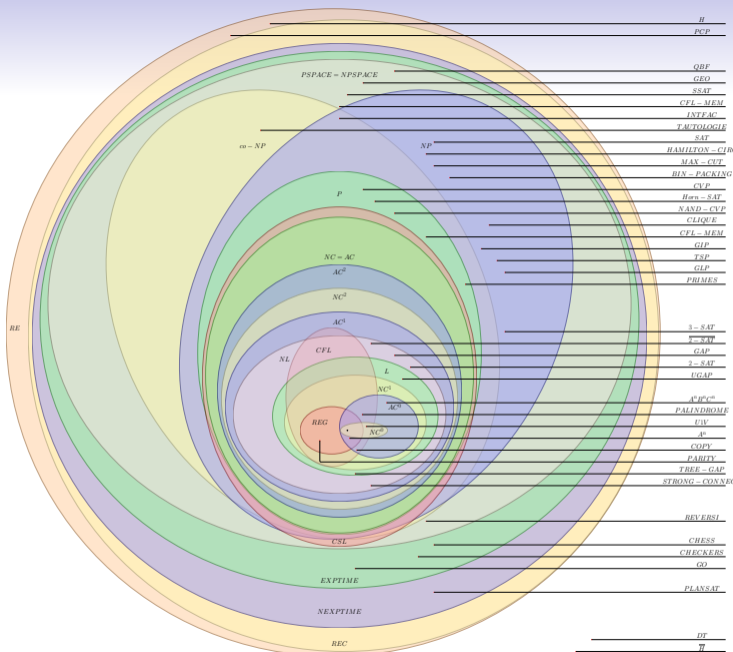
*Annals of Mathematics*, **160** (2004), 781–793

## **PRIMES is in P**

By MANINDRA AGRAWAL, NEERAJ KAYAL, and NITIN SAXENA\*

### **Abstract**

We present an unconditional deterministic polynomial-time algorithm that determines whether an input number is prime or composite.



### COMPLEXITY DIAGRAM

- Definitions**
- The Complexity Classes**
- **REG** - Regular languages
  - **L** - Linear space complexity
  - **P** - Polynomial time complexity
  - **NC** - Non-deterministic Logarithmic time complexity
  - **AC** - Logarithmic time complexity with constant number of processors
  - **CFL** - Context-Free Languages
  - **NL** - Non-deterministic Logarithmic space complexity
  - **PSPACE = NPSpace** - Polynomial space complexity
  - **NP** - Non-deterministic Polynomial time complexity
  - **T.M.TOLOGIE** - Time and Space Complexity
  - **SAT** - Satisfiability
  - **HAMILTON - CIRC** - Hamiltonian Cycle
  - **MAX - CUT** - Maximum Cut
  - **BIN - PACKING** - Bin Packing
  - **CVP** - Circuit Value Problem
  - **Horn - SAT** - Horn Satisfiability
  - **NAND - CVP** - NAND Circuit Value Problem
  - **CLIQUE** - Clique
  - **CFL - MEM** - Context-Free Language Membership
  - **GIP** - Graph Isomorphism Problem
  - **TSP** - Traveling Salesman Problem
  - **GLP** - Graph Labeling Problem
  - **PRIMES** - Primality Testing
  - **3 - SAT** - 3-Satisfiability
  - **2 - SAT** - 2-Satisfiability
  - **GAP** - Graph Automorphism Problem
  - **2 - SAT** - 2-Satisfiability
  - **UGAP** - Uniform Graph Automorphism Problem
  - **A<sup>0</sup>B<sup>0</sup>C<sup>0</sup>** - Elementary Recursive
  - **PALINDROME** - Palindrome
  - **UV** - Unary vs. Binary
  - **COPY** - Copying
  - **PARITY** - Parity
  - **TREE - GAP** - Tree Graph Automorphism Problem
  - **STRONG - CONNECT** - Strongly Connected Components
  - **REVERSI** - Reversi
  - **CHESS** - Chess
  - **CHECKERS** - Checkers
  - **GO** - Go
  - **EXPTIME** - Exponential Time
  - **PLANSAT** - Planar Satisfiability
  - **NEXPTIME** - Non-deterministic Exponential Time
  - **REC** - Recursive
- Some Missing Classes**
- **EXPSPACE**
  - **EXP**
  - **NP**
  - **CO-NP**
  - **P/POLY**
  - **EXP**
  - **EXPSPACE**
  - **EXP**
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  - **CO-NP**
- The Languages**
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- Relations**
- **REG**  $\subseteq$  **L**  $\subseteq$  **P**  $\subseteq$  **NC**  $\subseteq$  **AC**  $\subseteq$  **CFL**  $\subseteq$  **NL**  $\subseteq$  **PSPACE = NPSpace**  $\subseteq$  **NP**  $\subseteq$  **EXPTIME**
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- Known Subsets**
- **REG**  $\subseteq$  **L**  $\subseteq$  **P**  $\subseteq$  **NC**  $\subseteq$  **AC**  $\subseteq$  **CFL**  $\subseteq$  **NL**  $\subseteq$  **PSPACE = NPSpace**  $\subseteq$  **NP**  $\subseteq$  **EXPTIME**
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- Savitch's Theorem**
- For any function  $f(n)$ ,  $NP^{f(n)} \subseteq PSPACE^{O(f(n))}$ .
- Other Notes**
- **REG**  $\subseteq$  **L**  $\subseteq$  **P**  $\subseteq$  **NC**  $\subseteq$  **AC**  $\subseteq$  **CFL**  $\subseteq$  **NL**  $\subseteq$  **PSPACE = NPSpace**  $\subseteq$  **NP**  $\subseteq$  **EXPTIME**
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**Thank You!**