

# NP-Completeness

Yih-Kuen Tsay

Department of Information Management  
National Taiwan University

# P vs. NP

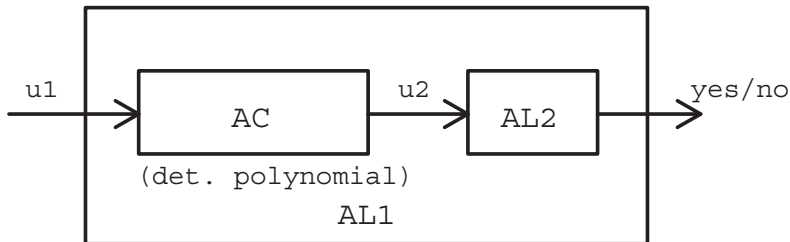
- 🌐 P denotes the class of all problems that can be solved by *deterministic* algorithms in *polynomial* time.
- 🌐 NP denotes the class of all problems that can be solved by *nondeterministic* algorithms in *polynomial* time.
- 🌐 A *nondeterministic* algorithm, when faced with a choice of several options, has the power to *guess* the right one (if there is any).
- 🌐 We will focus on *decision* problems, whose answer is either yes or no.

# Decision as Language Recognition

- 🌐 A *decision* problem can be viewed as a *language-recognition* problem.
- 🌐 Let  $U$  be the set of all possible inputs to the decision problem and  $L \subseteq U$  be the set of all inputs for which the answer to the problem is yes.
- 🌐 We call  $L$  the *language* corresponding to the problem.
- 🌐 The decision problem is to *recognize* whether a given input belongs to  $L$ .

# Polynomial-Time Reductions

- Let  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  be two languages from the input spaces  $U_1$  and  $U_2$ .
- We say that  $L_1$  is *polynomially reducible* to  $L_2$  if there exists a **conversion** algorithm  $AC$  satisfying the following conditions:
  - $AC$  runs in **polynomial time** (deterministically).
  - $u_1 \in L_1$  if and only if  $AC(u_1) = u_2 \in L_2$ .



# Polynomial-Time Reductions (cont.)

## Theorem (11.1)

*If  $L_1$  is polynomially reducible to  $L_2$  and there is a polynomial-time algorithm for  $L_2$ , then there is a polynomial-time algorithm for  $L_1$ .*

## Theorem (11.2: transitivity)

*If  $L_1$  is polynomially reducible to  $L_2$  and  $L_2$  is polynomially reducible to  $L_3$ , then  $L_1$  is polynomially reducible to  $L_3$ .*

# NP-Completeness

- 🌐 A problem  $X$  is called an **NP-hard** problem if every problem in NP is polynomially reducible to  $X$ .
- 🌐 A problem  $X$  is called an **NP-complete** problem if (1)  $X$  belongs to NP, and (2)  $X$  is NP-hard.

## Lemma (11.3)

*A problem  $X$  is an NP-complete problem if (1)  $X$  belongs to NP, and (2')  $Y$  is polynomially reducible to  $X$ , for some NP-complete problem  $Y$ .*

- 🌐 If there exists an efficient (polynomial-time) algorithm for any NP-complete problem, then there exist efficient algorithms for all NP-complete (and hence all NP) problems.

# The Satisfiability Problem (SAT)

## Problem

*Given a Boolean expression in conjunctive normal form, determine whether it is satisfiable.*

- 🌐 A Boolean expression is in *conjunctive normal form* (CNF) if it is the product of several sums, e.g.,  
 $(x + y + \bar{z}) \cdot (\bar{x} + y + z) \cdot (\bar{x} + \bar{y} + \bar{z})$ .
- 🌐 A Boolean expression is said to be *satisfiable* if there exists an assignment of 0s and 1s to its variables such that the value of the expression is 1.

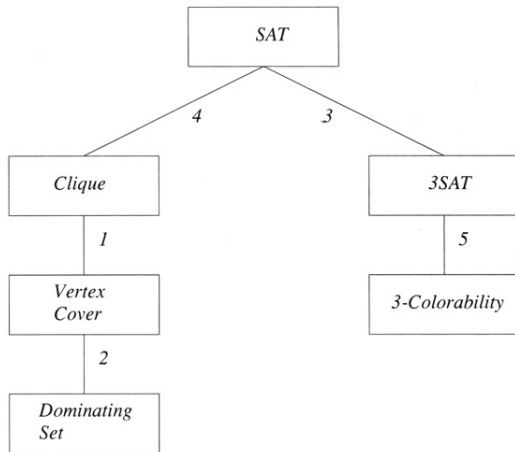
## Theorem (Cook's Theorem)

*The SAT problem is NP-complete.*

- 🌐 This is our starting point for showing the NP-completeness of some other problems.
- 🌐 Their NP-hardness will be proved by **reduction directly or indirectly from SAT**.



# NP-Complete Problems



**Figure 11.1** The order of NP-completeness proofs in the text.

Source: Manber 1989

# Vertex Cover

## Problem

Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  and an integer  $k$ , determine whether  $G$  has a vertex cover containing  $\leq k$  vertices.

A *vertex cover* of  $G$  is a set of vertices such that every edge in  $G$  is incident to at least one of these vertices.

## Theorem (11.4)

*The vertex-cover problem is NP-complete.*

By reduction from the *clique* problem.

# Dominating Set

## Problem

Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  and an integer  $k$ , determine whether  $G$  has a dominating set containing  $\leq k$  vertices.

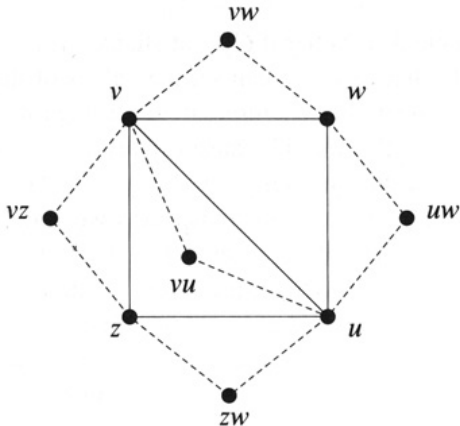
A *dominating set*  $D$  is a set of vertices such that every vertex of  $G$  is either in  $D$  or is adjacent to some vertex in  $D$ .

## Theorem (11.5)

*The dominating-set problem is NP-complete.*

By reduction from the *vertex-cover* problem.

# Dominating Set (cont.)



**Figure 11.2** The dominating-set reduction.

Source: Manber 1989

## Problem

*Given a Boolean expression in CNF such that each clause contains exactly three variables, determine whether it is satisfiable.*

## Theorem (11.6)

*The 3SAT problem is NP-complete.*

By reduction from the regular SAT problem.

# Clique

## Problem

Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  and an integer  $k$ , determine whether  $G$  contains a clique of size  $\geq k$ .

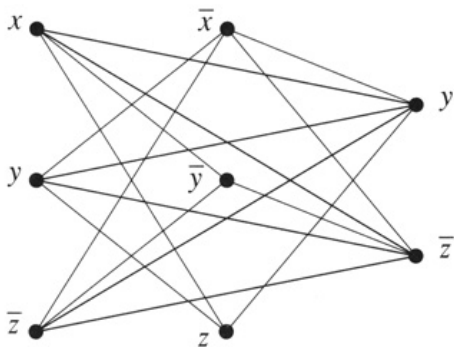
A *clique*  $C$  is a subgraph of  $G$  such that all vertices in  $C$  are adjacent to all other vertices in  $C$ .

## Theorem (11.7)

*The clique problem is NP-complete.*

By reduction from the SAT problem.

# Clique (cont.)



**Figure 11.3** An example of the clique reduction for the expression  $(x + y + \bar{z}) \cdot (\bar{x} + \bar{y} + z) \cdot (y + \bar{z})$ .

Source: Manber 1989

# 3-Coloring

## Problem

*Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ , determine whether  $G$  can be colored with three colors.*

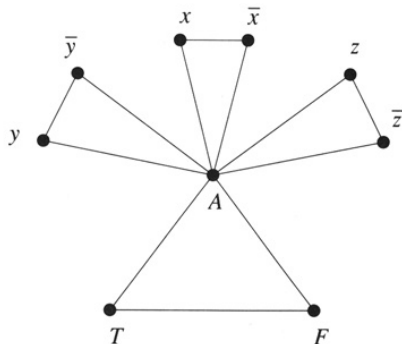
## Theorem (11.8)

*The 3-coloring problem is NP-complete.*

By reduction from the 3SAT problem.



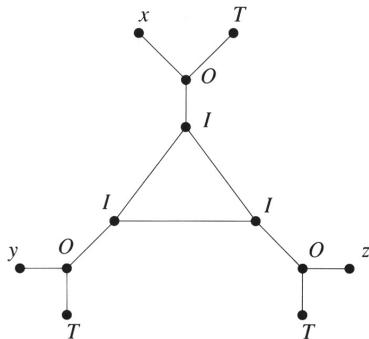
# 3-Coloring (cont.)



**Figure 11.4** The first part of the construction in the reduction of 3SAT to 3-coloring.

Source: Manber 1989

# 3-Coloring (cont.)



**Figure 11.5** The subgraphs corresponding to the clauses in the reduction of 3SAT to 3-coloring.

Source: Manber 1989

# 3-Coloring (cont.)

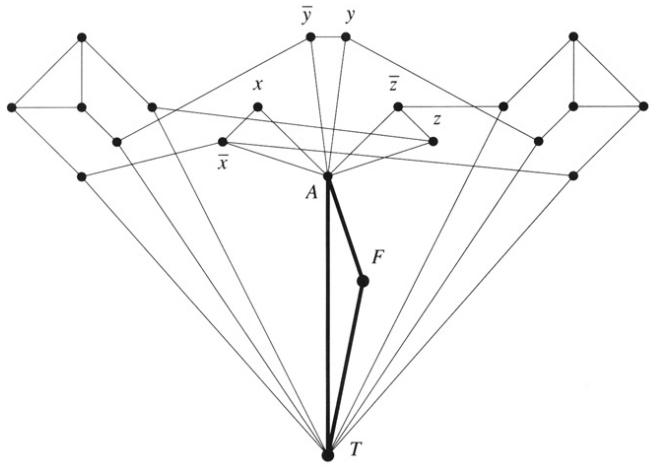


Figure 11.6 The graph corresponding to  $(\bar{x} + y + \bar{z}) \cdot (\bar{x} + \bar{y} + z)$ .

Source: Manber 1989

# More NP-Complete Problems

## **Independent set:**

An independent set in an undirected graph is a set of vertices no two of which are adjacent. The problem is to determine, given a graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$ , whether  $G$  contains an independent set with  $\geq k$  vertices.

## **Hamiltonian cycle:**

A Hamiltonian cycle in a graph is a (simple) cycle that contains each vertex exactly once. The problem is to determine whether a given graph contains a Hamiltonian cycle.

# More NP-Complete Problems (cont.)

## Travelling salesman:

The input includes a set of cities, the distances between all pairs of cities, and a number  $D$ . The problem is to determine whether there exists a (travelling-salesman) tour of all the cities having total length  $\leq D$ .

## Partition:

The input is a set  $X$  where each element  $x \in X$  has an associated size  $s(x)$ . The problem is to determine whether it is possible to partition the set into two subsets with exactly the same total size.

# More NP-Complete Problems (cont.)

## **Knapsack:**

The input is a set  $X$ , where each element  $x \in X$  has an associated size  $s(x)$  and value  $v(x)$ , and two other numbers  $S$  and  $V$ . The problem is to determine whether there is a subset  $B \subseteq X$  whose total size is  $\leq S$  and whose total value is  $\geq V$ .

## **Bin packing:**

The input is a set of numbers  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  and two other numbers  $b$  and  $k$ . The problem is to determine whether the set can be partitioned into  $k$  subsets such that the sum of numbers in each subset is  $\leq b$ .