

Theory of Algorithms I

NP Problems

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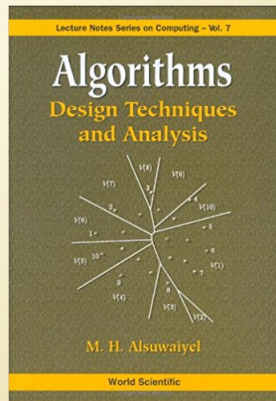
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- Office hour: Wed. 13:30-15:00 @ Software Building 1212 (**need reserve!**)

Text Book

- **Algorithms: Design Techniques and Analysis**
 - M. H. Alsuwaiyel
 - World Scientific Publishing, 1999.



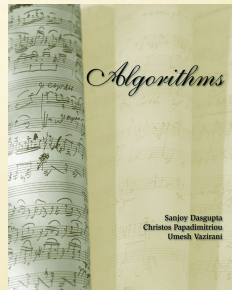
Text Book

- **Algorithms**

- Sanjoy Dasgupta
University of California
- San Diego Christos Papadimitriou
University of California at Berkeley
- Umesh Vazirani
University of California at Berkeley
- McGraw-Hill, 2007.

- Available at:

<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~vazirani/algorithms.html>



Which one comes first, computer or algorithms?

Al Khwarizmi



Al Khwarizmi (780 - 850)

Al Khwarizmi



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In the 12th century, Latin translations of his work on the Indian numerals, introduced the decimal system to the Western world. (Source: Wikipedia)

Algorithms

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 - adding,
 - multiplying,
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Algorithms

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 - adding,
 - multiplying,
 - dividing numbers,
 - extracting square roots,
 - calculating digits of π .
- These procedures were precise, unambiguous, mechanical, efficient, correct.
- They were **algorithms**, a term coined to honor the wise man after the decimal system was finally adopted in Europe, many centuries later.

Efficient Algorithms

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Efficient Algorithms

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 - Finding shortest paths in graphs,
 - Minimum spanning trees in graphs,
 - Matchings in bipartite graphs,
 - Maximum increasing subsequences,
 - Maximum flows in networks,
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 -
- All these algorithms are **efficient**, because in each case their time requirement grows as a **polynomial function** (such as n , n^2 , or n^3) of the size of the input.

Exponential Search Space

- A solution (path, tree, matching) is searched from among an **exponential** population of possibilities.

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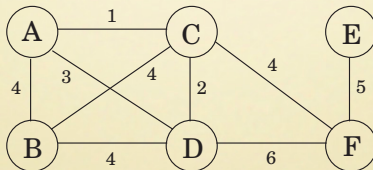
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- Be solved in **exponential time** by checking through all candidate solutions.
- An algorithm with running time 2^n , or worse, is useless in practice.
- **Efficient algorithms** is about finding clever ways to bypass this process of **exhaustive search**, dramatically narrowing down the search space.

Minimum Spanning Trees

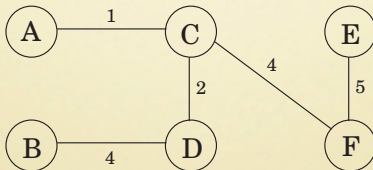
Build a Network

- Suppose you are asked to **network** a collection of computers by linking selected pairs of them.
- This translates into a graph problem in which
 - nodes are computers,
 - undirected edges are potential links, each with a **maintenance cost**.



Build a Network

- The goal is to
 - pick enough of these edges that the nodes are **connected**,
 - the total maintenance cost is **minimum**.
- One immediate observation is that the optimal set of edges cannot contain a **cycle**.



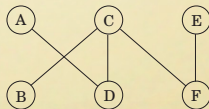
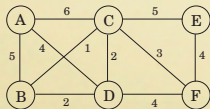
A Greedy Approach

- **Kruskal**'s minimum spanning tree algorithm starts with the **empty graph** and then selects edges from ***E*** according to the following rule.
- **Repeatedly add the next lightest edge that doesn't produce a cycle.**

Example:

Starting with an empty graph and then attempt to add edges in increasing order of weight

B - C; C - D; B - D; C - F; D - F; E - F; A - D; A - B; C - E; A - C



A General Kruskal's Algorithm

$X = \{ \};$

repeat until $|X| = |V| - 1;$

 pick a set $S \subset V$ for which X has no edges between S and $V - S;$

 let $e \in E$ be the minimum-weight edge between S and $V - S;$

$X = X \cup \{e\};$

Prim's Algorithm

- A popular alternative to **Kruskal's** algorithm is **Prim's**, in which the intermediate set of edges X always forms a subtree, and S is chosen to be the set of this tree's vertices.
- On each iteration, the subtree defined by X grows by one edge, namely, the lightest edge between a vertex in S and a vertex outside S . We can equivalently think of S as growing to include the vertex $v \notin S$ of smallest cost :

$$\text{cost}(v) = \min_{u \in S} w(u, v)$$

A Little Change of the MST

What if the tree is not allowed to **branch**?

Satisfiability Problem

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- A satisfying truth assignment is an assignment of **false** or **true** to each variable so that every clause contains a literal whose value is **true**.

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 - a literal is either a Boolean variable (such as x) or the negation of one (such as \bar{x}).
- A satisfying truth assignment is an assignment of **false** or **true** to each variable so that every clause contains a literal whose value is **true**.
- **Given a Boolean formula in conjunctive normal form, either find a satisfying truth assignment or else report that none exists.**

2-SAT

Given a set of clauses, where each clause is the disjunction of two literals.

$$(x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_4)$$

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Given an instance I of 2-Sat with n variables and m clauses, construct a directed graph $G_I = (V, E)$ as follows.

- G_I has $2n$ nodes, one for each **variable** and its negation.
- G_I has $2m$ edges: for each clause $(\alpha \vee \beta)$ of I , G_I has an edge from the negation of α to β , and one from the negation of β to α .

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Show that if G_I has a strongly connected component containing both x and \bar{x} for some variable x , then I has no satisfying assignment.

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Conclude that there is a linear-time algorithm for solving 2-SAT.

A Little Extension of 2-SAT

How about 3-SAT, n-SAT?

Tractable and Intractable Problems

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Tractable Problems: can be solved in polynomial time

Intractable Problems: unlikely to be solved in polynomial time

Decision Problem

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An algorithm that solves a **decision problem** can be easily modified to solve its corresponding **optimization problem**.

Element Uniqueness

Decision problem: Element Uniqueness

Input: A sequence of integers

Question: Are there two elements in S that are equal?

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Input: A sequence of integers

Question: Are there two elements in S that are equal?

Optimization Problem: Element Count

Input: A sequence of integers

Question: An element in S of highest frequency?

Clique

Decision problem: Clique

Input: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive integer k

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Input: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive integer k

Question: Does G have a clique of size k ?

Optimization Problem: Max-Clique

Input: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$

Question: The maximum clique size of G ?

Coloring

Decision problem: Coloring

Input: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive integer k

Question: Is G k -colorable?

Coloring

Decision problem: Coloring

Input: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive integer k

Question: Is G k -colorable?

Optimization Problem: Chromatic Number

Input: An undirected graph $G = (V, E)$

Question: The chromatic number $\chi(G)$ of G ?

The Class P

Let A be an algorithm to solve a problem Π . We say that A is *deterministic* if, when presented with an instance of the problem Π , it has only one choice in each step throughout its execution. Thus, if A is run again and again on the same input instance, its output never changes.

The Class P

The **class** of decision problems P consists of those decision problems whose *yes/no* solution can be obtained using a **deterministic algorithm** that runs in polynomial number of steps, i.e., in $O(n^k)$ steps, for some nonnegative integer k , where n is the input size.

The Class P

Some problems in P: 2-Coloring, 2-Sat, 2-DM

The Closure Property of P

The class P is closed under complement.

Nondeterministic Algorithm

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- The **guessing phase**. An arbitrary string of characters y is generated in $O(|x|^i)$ time for some positive integer i . The y may or may not be a solution; it may or may not be in proper format of a solution. It may differ from one run to another.

Nondeterministic Algorithm

On input x , a nondeterministic algorithm consists of two phases:

- The **guessing phase**. An arbitrary string of characters y is generated in $O(|x|^i)$ time for some positive integer i . The y may or may not be a solution; it may or may not be in proper format of a solution. It may differ from one run to another.
- The **verification phase**. A **deterministic** algorithm **verifies** two things in $O(|x|^j)$ time for some positive integer j : It checks if y is in proper format. If not then answer **no**; otherwise it checks if y is a solution to the instance x . If y is a solution to the instance x then answer **yes**, otherwise answer **no**.

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Let A be a nondeterministic algorithm for a problem Π . We say that A accepts an instance I of Π iff on input I there is a guess that leads to a *yes* answer.

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Running time: $O(|x|^i) + O(|x|^j)$

The Class NP

The **class** of decision problem NP consists of those decision problems for which there exists a **nondeterministic** algorithm that run in polynomial time.

Example

The problem **Coloring** is in NP.

Argument:

An algorithm **A** does two things: (i) **A** guesses a solution by generating an arbitrary assignment of the colors to the vertexes. (ii) **A** verifies if the guess is a valid assignment.

P and NP

P is the class of decision problems that we can **decide** or **solve** using a deterministic algorithm that runs in polynomial time.

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Solution Searching vs. Solution Checking.

Polynomial Time Reduction

Let Π and Π' be two decision problems. We say that Π **reduces to** Π' **in polynomial time**, symbolized as $\Pi \propto_{poly} \Pi'$, if there exists a **deterministic** algorithm A that behaves as follows. When A is presented with an instance I of problem Π , it transforms it into an instance I' of problem Π' such that the answer to I is **yes** if the answer to I' is **yes**. Moreover this transformation must be achieved in polynomial time.

NP-Complete Problem

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A decision problem Π is said to be **NP-complete** if the following two properties hold:

- ① Π is in NP, and
- ② for every problem Π' in NP, $\Pi' \propto_{poly} \Pi$.

The Satisfiability Problem

Conjunctive normal form

$$f = (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_3 \vee x_4 \vee \overline{x_5}) \wedge (x_1 \vee \overline{x_3} \vee x_4)$$

A formula is said to be **satisfiable** if there is a truth assignment to its variables that makes it **true**.

The Satisfiability Problem

Decision Problem: Satisfiability

Input: A CNF boolean formula f .

Question: Is f satisfiable?

SAT: the First NP-Complete Problem

Cook's Theorem. Satisfiability is NP-Complete.

Establish NP-Completeness Result

Theorem.

Let Π , Π' and Π'' be three decision problems such that $\Pi \propto_{poly} \Pi'$ and $\Pi' \propto_{poly} \Pi''$. Then $\Pi \propto_{poly} \Pi''$.

Establish NP-Completeness Result

Theorem.

Let Π , Π' and Π'' be three decision problems such that $\Pi \propto_{poly} \Pi'$ and $\Pi' \propto_{poly} \Pi''$. Then $\Pi \propto_{poly} \Pi''$.

Corollary.

If Π and Π' are two problems in **NP** such that $\Pi' \propto_{poly} \Pi$, and Π' is **NP-complete**, then Π is **NP-complete**.

An Example

Hamiltonian Cycle: Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, does it have a Hamiltonian cycle, i.e., a cycle that visits each vertex exactly once?

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Traveling Salesman: Given a set of n cities with their intercity distances, and an integer k , does there exist a *tour* of length at most k ? Here a tour is a cycle that visits each city exactly once.

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Traveling Salesman: Given a set of n cities with their intercity distances, and an integer k , does there exist a *tour* of length at most k ? Here a tour is a cycle that visits each city exactly once.

Fact: Hamiltonian Cycle \propto_{poly} Traveling Salesman

Vertex Cover, Independence Set, Clique Problems

Clique: Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive integer k , does G contain a clique of size k ?

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Independence Set: Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive integer k , is there a subset $S \subseteq V$ of k vertices such that for each pair of vertices $u, w \in S$, $(u, w) \notin E$?

Satisfiability \propto_{poly} Clique

Given an instance of Satisfiability $f = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$ with m clauses and n boolean variables x_1, \dots, x_n , we construct a graph $G = (V, E)$, where V is the set of all **occurrences** of the $2n$ literals, and

$$\{(x_i, x_j) \mid x_i, x_j \text{ are in two different clauses and } x_i \neq \bar{x}_j\}$$

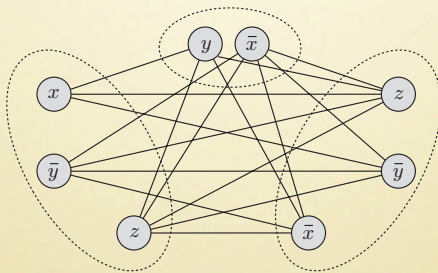
Fact: f is satisfiable iff G has a clique of size m .

Example

$$f = (x \vee \bar{y} \vee z) \wedge (\bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (\bar{x} \vee \bar{y} \vee z)$$

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Satisfiability \propto_{poly} Vertex Cover

Given an instance of Satisfiability $f = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$ with m clauses and n boolean variables x_1, \dots, x_n , we construct I' as follows:

- 1 For each boolean variable x_i in f , G contains a pair of vertices x_i and \bar{x}_i joined by an edge.
- 2 For each clause C_j containing n_j literals, G contains a clique C_j of size n_j .
- 3 For each vertex w in C_j , there is an edge connecting w to its corresponding literal in the vertex pairs (x_i, \bar{x}_i) constructed in part (1).
- 4 Let $k = n + \sum_{j=1}^m (n_j - 1)$.

Satisfiability \propto_{poly} Vertex Cover

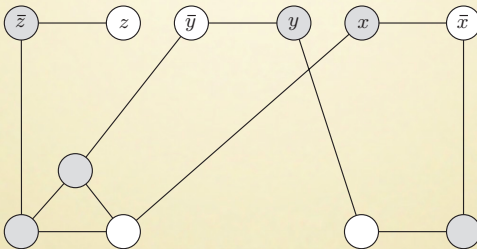
For instance

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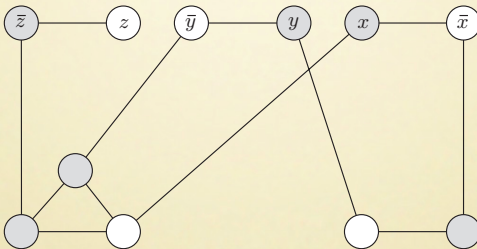
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Satisfiability \propto_{poly} Vertex Cover

For instance

$$f = (x \vee \bar{y} \vee \bar{z}) \wedge (\bar{x} \vee y)$$



Fact: f is satisfiable iff the constructed graph has a vertex cover of size k .

Vertex Cover \propto_{poly} Independence Set

Fact: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected undirected graph. Then $S \subseteq V$ is an independence set iff $V \setminus S$ is a vertex cover in G .

More NP-Complete Problems

1. **3-SAT**. Given a boolean formula f in conjunctive normal form such that each clause consists of three literals, is f satisfiable?
2. **3-Coloring**. Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, can G be colored using three colors?
3. **3-Dimensional Matching**. Let X, Y, Z be pairwise disjoint sets of size k each. Let W be the set of triples

$$\{(x, y, z) \mid x \in X, y \in Y, z \in Z\}$$

Does there exist a *perfect matching* M of W ? That is, does there exist a subset $M \subseteq W$ of size k such that no two triples in M agree in any coordinate?

More NP-Complete Problems

4. **Hamiltonian Path.** Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, does it contain a simple open path that visits each vertex exactly once?
5. **Longest Path.** Given a weighted graph $G = (V, E)$, two distinguished vertices $s, t \in V$ and a positive integer c , is there a *simple* path in G from s to t of length c or more?
6. **Partition.** Given a set S of n integers, is it possible to partition S into two subsets S_1 and S_2 so that the sum of the integers in S_1 is equal to the sum of the integers in S_2 ?

More NP-Complete Problems

7. **BinPacking**. Given n items with sizes s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n , a bin capacity C and a positive integer k , is it possible to pack the n items using at most k bins?
8. **SetCover**. Given a set X , a family \mathcal{F} of subsets of X and an integer k between 1 and $|\mathcal{F}|$, do there exist k subsets in \mathcal{F} whose union is X ?
9. **Knapsack**. Given n items with sizes s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n and values v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n , a knapsack capacity C and a constant integer k , is it possible to fill the knapsack with some of these items whose total size is at most C and whose total value is at least k ? This problem can be solved in time $\Theta(nC)$ using dynamic programming.

VertexCover \propto_{poly} SetCover

SetCover. Given a set X , a family \mathcal{F} of subsets of X and an integer k between 1 and $|\mathcal{F}|$, do there exist k subsets in \mathcal{F} whose union is X ?

$$\text{SAT} \propto_{poly} 3\text{SAT}$$

From SAT to 3SAT.

The Class co-NP

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It is highly unlikely that **co-NP=NP**. Consider for example the complement of Traveling Salesman and the complement of Satisfiability.

The Class co-NP

A problem Π is complete for the class **co-NP** if

- 1 Π is in **co-NP**, and
- 2 for every problem Π' in **co-NP**, $\Pi' \leq_{poly} \Pi$.

The Class co-NP

Theorem.

A problem Π is NP-complete iff its complement $\overline{\Pi}$ is complete for the class co-NP.

Fact: UnSat, or Tautology, is complete for co-NP.

- Tautology is in P iff co-NP=P
- Tautology is in NP iff co-NP=NP

The Class NPI

Theorem.

If a problem Π and its complement $\bar{\Pi}$ are NP-complete, then $\text{co-NP} = \text{NP}$.

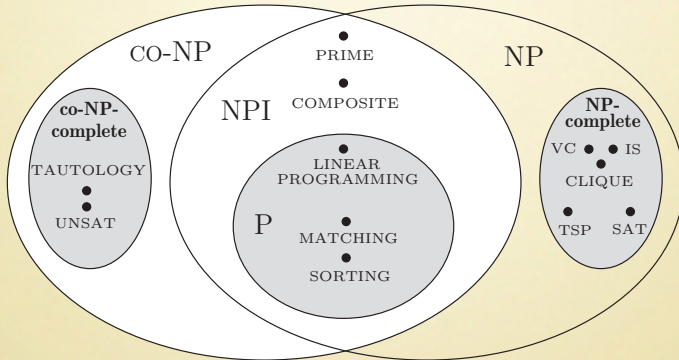
Fact: If $\text{co-NP} \neq \text{NP}$ then $\text{NP} \neq \text{P}$.

The Class NPI

Let $\text{NPI} = \text{co-NP} \cap \text{NP}$.

Clearly $\text{P} \subseteq \text{NPI}$. It is not known if the inclusion is strict.

A (Problematic) Graph



The Class NPI

Some potential candidates turn out to be in P.

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Prime Number: Given an integer $k \geq 2$, is k a prime number?

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A related problem is Factorization, which is not known if it is in P.

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Graph Isomorphism: Given two graphs, G_1, G_2 , are they isomorphism?

A related problem, Graph Sub-isomorphism, is known to be NP-complete.

Exercise

[DPV07] 8.3, 8.7

[Als99]. 10.3, 10.5, 10.9, 10.19, 10.22