

**1** A **Hamiltonian cycle** in a graph  $G$  is a cycle that goes through every vertex of  $G$  exactly once. Deciding whether an arbitrary graph contains a Hamiltonian cycle is **NP-HARD**.

A **tonian cycle** in a graph  $G$  is a cycle that goes through at least *half* of the vertices of  $G$ . Prove that deciding whether a graph contains a tonian cycle is **NP-HARD**.

### Solution:

[duplicate the graph] I will describe a polynomial-time reduction from **HamiltonianCycle**. Let  $G$  be an arbitrary graph (which is the given instance of **HamiltonianCycle**). Let  $H$  be a graph consisting of two disjoint copies of  $G$ , with no edges between them; call these copies  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . I claim that  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle if and only if  $H$  has a tonian cycle.

- ⇒ Suppose  $G$  has a Hamilton cycle  $C$ . Let  $C_1$  be the corresponding cycle in  $G_1$ .  $C_1$  contains exactly half of the vertices of  $H$ , and thus is a Hamiltonian cycle in  $H$ .
- ⇐ On the other hand, suppose  $H$  has a tonian cycle  $C$ . Because there are no edges between the subgraphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , this cycle must lie entirely within one of these two subgraphs.  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  each contain exactly half the vertices of  $H$ , so  $C$  must also contain exactly half the vertices of  $H$ , and thus is a *Hamiltonian* cycle in either  $G_1$  or  $G_2$ . But  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are just copies of  $G$ . We conclude that  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle.

Given  $G$ , we can construct  $H$  in polynomial time by brute force.

### Solution:

[add  $n$  new vertices] WE describe a polynomial-time reduction from **HamiltonianCycle**. Let  $G$  be an arbitrary graph, and suppose  $G$  has  $n$  vertices. Let  $H$  be a graph obtained by adding  $n$  new vertices to  $G$ , but no additional edges. The claim is that  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle ⇔  $H$  has a tonian cycle.

- ⇒ Suppose  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle  $C$ . Then  $C$  visits exactly half the vertices of  $H$ , and thus is a tonian cycle in  $H$ .
- ⇐ On the other hand, suppose  $H$  has a tonian cycle  $C$ . This cycle cannot visit any of the new vertices, so it must lie entirely within the subgraph  $G$ . Since  $G$  contains exactly half the vertices of  $H$ , the cycle  $C$  must visit every vertex of  $G$ , and thus is a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$ .

Given  $G$ , we can construct  $H$  in polynomial time by brute force.

**2** *Big Clique* is the following decision problem: given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , does  $G$  have a clique of size at least  $n/2$  where  $n = |V|$  is the number of nodes? Prove that *Big Clique* is NP-hard.

### Solution:

Recall that an instance of **CLIQUE** consists of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and integer  $k$ .  $(G, k)$  is a YES instance if  $G$  has a clique of size at least  $k$ , otherwise it is a NO instance. For simplicity we will assume  $n$  is an even number.

We describe a polynomial-time reduction from **CLIQUE** to **BIG CLIQUE**. We consider two cases depending on whether  $k \leq n/2$  or not. If  $k \leq n/2$  we obtain a graph  $G' = (V', E')$  as follows. We add a set

of  $X$  new vertices where  $|X| = n - 2k$ ; thus  $V' = V \uplus X$ . We make  $X$  a clique by adding all possible edges between vertices of  $X$ . In addition we connect each vertex  $v \in X$  to each vertex  $u \in V$ . In other words  $E' = E \cup \{(u, v) \mid u \in V, v \in X\} \cup \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in X\}$ . If  $k > n/2$  we let  $G' = (V', E')$  where  $V' = V \uplus X$  and  $E' = E$ , where  $|X| = 2k - n$ . In other words we add  $2k - n$  new vertices which are isolated and have no edges incident on them.

We make the following relatively easy claims that we leave as exercises.

**Claim 0.1.** Suppose  $k \leq n/2$ . Then for any clique  $S$  in  $G$ ,  $S \cup X$  is a clique in  $G'$ . For any clique  $S' \in G'$  the set  $S' \setminus X$  is a clique in  $G$ .

**Claim 0.2.** Suppose  $k > n/2$ . Then  $S$  is a clique in  $G'$  iff  $S \cap X = \emptyset$  and  $S$  is a clique in  $G$ .

Now we prove the correctness of the reduction. We need to show that  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$  if and only if  $G'$  has a clique of size  $n'/2$  where  $n'$  is the number of nodes in  $G'$ .

- ⇒ Suppose  $G$  has a clique  $S$  of size  $k$ . We consider two cases. If  $k > n/2$  then  $n' = n + 2k - n = 2k$ ; note that  $S$  is a clique in  $G'$  as well and hence  $S$  is a big clique in  $G'$  since  $|S| = k \geq n'/2$ . If  $k \leq n/2$ , by the first claim,  $S \cup X$  is a clique in  $G'$  of size  $k + |X| = k + n - 2k = n - k$ . Moreover,  $n' = n + n - 2k = 2n - 2k$  and hence  $S \cup X$  is a big clique in  $G'$ . Thus, in both cases  $G'$  has a big clique.
- ⇐ Suppose  $G'$  has a clique of size at least  $n'/2$  in  $G'$ . Let it be  $S'$ ;  $|S'| \geq n'/2$ . We consider two cases again. If  $k \leq n/2$ , we have  $n' = 2n - 2k$  and  $|S'| \geq n - k$ . By the first claim,  $S = S' \setminus X$  is a clique in  $G$ .  $|S| \geq |S'| - |X| \geq n - k - (n - 2k) \geq k$ . Hence  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$ . If  $k > n/2$ , by the second claim  $S'$  is a clique in  $G$  and  $|S'| \geq n'/2 = (n + 2k - n)/2 = k$ . Therefore, in this case as well  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$ .

**3** Recall the following  $k$ COLOR problem: Given an undirected graph  $G$ , can its vertices be colored with  $k$  colors, so that every edge touches vertices with two different colors?

**3.A.** Describe a direct polynomial-time reduction from 3COLOR to 4COLOR.

### Solution:

Suppose we are given an arbitrary graph  $G$ . Let  $H$  be the graph obtained from  $G$  by adding a new vertex  $a$  (called an *apex*) with edges to every vertex of  $G$ . I claim that  $G$  is 3-colorable if and only if  $H$  is 4-colorable.

- ⇒ Suppose  $G$  is 3-colorable. Fix an arbitrary 3-coloring of  $G$ , and call the colors “red”, “green”, and “blue”. Assign the new apex  $a$  the color “plaid”. Let  $uv$  be an arbitrary edge in  $H$ .
  - If both  $u$  and  $v$  are vertices in  $G$ , they have different colors.
  - Otherwise, one endpoint of  $uv$  is plaid and the other is not, so  $u$  and  $v$  have different colors.

We conclude that we have a valid 4-coloring of  $H$ , so  $H$  is 4-colorable.

- ⇐ Suppose  $H$  is 4-colorable. Fix an arbitrary 4-coloring; call the apex’s color “plaid” and the other three colors “red”, “green”, and “blue”. Each edge  $uv$  in  $G$  is also an edge of  $H$  and therefore has endpoints of two different colors. Each vertex  $v$  in  $G$  is adjacent to the apex and therefore cannot be plaid. We conclude that by deleting the apex, we obtain a valid 3-coloring of  $G$ , so  $G$  is 3-colorable.

We can easily transform  $G$  into  $H$  in polynomial time by brute force.

- 3.B. Prove that  $k$ COLOR problem is NP-hard for any  $k \geq 3$ .

### Solution:

[direct] The lecture notes include a proof that 3COLOR is NP-hard. For any integer  $k > 3$ , I will describe a direct polynomial-time reduction from 3COLOR to  $k$ COLOR.

Let  $G$  be an arbitrary graph. Let  $H$  be the graph obtained from  $G$  by adding  $k - 3$  new vertices  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-3}$ , each with edges to every other vertex in  $H$  (including the other  $a_i$ 's). I claim that  $G$  is 3-colorable if and only if  $H$  is  $k$ -colorable.

- ⇒ Suppose  $G$  is 3-colorable. Fix an arbitrary 3-coloring of  $G$ . Color the new vertices  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-3}$  with  $k - 3$  new distinct colors. Every edge in  $H$  is either an edge in  $G$  or uses at least one new vertex  $a_i$ ; in either case, the endpoints of the edge have different colors. We conclude that  $H$  is  $k$ -colorable.
- ⇐ Suppose  $H$  is  $k$ -colorable. Each vertex  $a_i$  is adjacent to every other vertex in  $H$ , and therefore is the only vertex of its color. Thus, the vertices of  $G$  use only three distinct colors. Every edge of  $G$  is also an edge of  $H$ , so its endpoints have different colors. We conclude that the induced coloring of  $G$  is a proper 3-coloring, so  $G$  is 3-colorable.

Given  $G$ , we can construct  $H$  in polynomial time by brute force.

### Solution:

[induction] Let  $k$  be an arbitrary integer with  $k \geq 3$ . Assume that  $j$ COLOR is NP-hard for any integer  $3 \leq j < k$ . There are two cases to consider.

- If  $k = 3$ , then  $k$ COLOR is NP-hard by the reduction from 3SAT in the lecture notes.
- Suppose  $k = 3$ . The reduction in part (a) directly generalizes to a polynomial-time reduction from  $(k-1)$ COLOR to  $k$ COLOR: To decide whether an arbitrary graph  $G$  is  $(k-1)$ -colorable, add an apex and ask whether the resulting graph is  $k$ -colorable. The induction hypothesis implies that  $(k-1)$ COLOR is NP-hard, so the reduction implies that  $k$ COLOR is NP-hard.

In both cases, we conclude that  $k$ COLOR is NP-hard.

### To think about later:

- 4 Let  $G$  be an undirected graph with weighted edges. A Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$  is **heavy** if the total weight of edges in the cycle is at least half of the total weight of all edges in  $G$ . Prove that deciding whether a graph contains a heavy Hamiltonian cycle is NP-hard.

### Solution:

[two new vertices] I will describe a polynomial-time reduction from the Hamiltonian **path** problem. Let  $G$  be an arbitrary undirected graph (without edge weights). Let  $H$  be the edge-weighted graph obtained from  $G$  as follows:

- Add two new vertices  $s$  and  $t$ .
- Add edges from  $s$  and  $t$  to all the other vertices (including each other).
- Assign weight 1 to the edge  $st$  and weight 0 to every other edge.

The total weight of all edges in  $H$  is 1. Thus, a Hamiltonian cycle in  $H$  is heavy if and only if it contains the edge  $st$ . I claim that  $H$  contains a heavy Hamiltonian cycle if and only if  $G$  contains a Hamiltonian path.

- ⇒ First, suppose  $G$  has a Hamiltonian path from vertex  $u$  to vertex  $v$ . By adding the edges  $vs$ ,  $st$ , and  $tu$  to this path, we obtain a Hamiltonian cycle in  $H$ . Moreover, this Hamiltonian cycle is heavy, because it contains the edge  $st$ .
- ⇐ On the other hand, suppose  $H$  has a heavy Hamiltonian cycle. This cycle must contain the edge  $st$ , and therefore must visit all the other vertices in  $H$  contiguously. Thus, deleting vertices  $s$  and  $t$  and their incident edges from the cycle leaves a Hamiltonian path in  $G$ .

Given  $G$ , we can easily construct  $H$  in polynomial time by brute force.

### Solution:

[smartass] I will describe a polynomial-time reduction from the standard Hamiltonian cycle problem. Let  $G$  be an arbitrary graph (without edge weights). Let  $H$  be the edge-weighted graph obtained from  $G$  by assigning each edge weight 0. I claim that  $H$  contains a heavy Hamiltonian cycle if and only if  $G$  contains a Hamiltonian path.

- ⇒ Suppose  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle  $C$ . The total weight of  $C$  is at least half the total weight of all edges in  $H$ , because  $0 \geq 0/2$ . So  $C$  is a heavy Hamiltonian cycle in  $H$ .
- ⇐ Suppose  $H$  has a heavy Hamiltonian cycle  $C$ . By definition,  $C$  is also a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$ .

Given  $G$ , we can easily construct  $H$  in polynomial time by brute force.