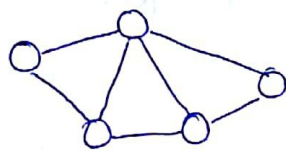


P: Decision problem that can be efficiently computed.

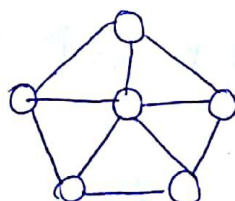
Problem $x \in P$. if there is poly-time alg A s.t.:

- s is a yes-instance of $x \iff A(s) = \text{yes}$
- s is a no-instance of $x \iff A(s) = \text{no}$
 ↓
 aka input

- Is this undirected graph 3-colorable?



yes instance



no instance

→ can assign 3 colors to nodes s.t. no two adjacent nodes are colored the same

non-deterministic polynomial time



NP Decision problems that can be efficiently verified
 ↳ for "yes" answer

Problem $x \in NP$ if there is a poly-time alg A taking arguments s and t such that:

↓
instances / input

↓
certificate / witness

(in example above, assignment of colors)

- s is a yes instance of $x \iff \exists t$ s.t. $A(s, t) = \text{yes}$
- s is a no-instance of $x \iff \forall t$ have $A(s, t) = \text{no}$.

$P \stackrel{?}{=} NP$

the most important problem in CS.

We can't prove $P \neq NP$, but at least we can identify the problems most likely to not be in P .

Identify the "hardest problems" in $NP \rightarrow$ NP-Complete

Specific Sense: If we could solve any of these problems in poly-time, then we can solve any problem in NP in poly-time.

If $X \in NP\text{-Complete}$ and $X \in P$, then $P = NP$.

Def: Polynomial time reduction

For problems X and Y we write $X \leq_p Y$

(x is polynomial time reducible to Y)

there is a poly-time alg R transforming instances of X to instances of Y s.t.

- S_x is a yes-instance of $X \Leftrightarrow R(S_x)$ is a yes-instance of Y
- S_x is a no-instance of $X \Leftrightarrow R(S_x)$ is a no-instance of Y

Claim: If $X \leq_p Y$ and $Y \in P$ then $X \in P$

Pf: If A is a poly-time algo for Y , then $A(R(\cdot))$ is a poly-time algo for X .

Def A problem X is NP-complete if

1. $X \in NP$

2. $\forall Z \in NP: Z \leq_p X$

Levin & Cook 1971: first NP-complete problem.

Circuit SAT: "Given a Boolean circuit represented as a graph, is there a way to set inputs so that the circuit's outputs 1?"
Intuition: Any algo can be "represented" as a logic circuit.

To show your problem X is NP-complete, it's enough:

1. $X \in NP$

2. $\underbrace{[\text{some known NP-complete Problem}] \leq_p X}_{Y} \quad \uparrow \text{transitive}$