

# Computational complexity of problems in 3-dimensional topology

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**[Novikov 1962]** *For  $n \geq 5$ , there does not exist an algorithm which solves:*

**IsSphere:** Given a triangulated  $M^n$  is it homeomorphic to  $S^n$ ?

**Thm** (Geometrization + many results)

*There is an algorithm to decide if two compact 3-mflds are homeomorphic.*

**Today:** How hard are these 3-manifold questions? How quickly can we solve them?

**Decision Problems:** Yes or no answer.

**Sorted:** Given a list of integers, is it sorted?

**SAT:** Given  $p_1, \dots, p_n \in \mathbb{F}_2[x_1, \dots, x_k]$  is there  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^k$  with  $p_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  for all  $i$ ?

**Unknotted:** Given a planar diagram for  $K$  in  $S^3$  is  $K$  the unknot?

**Invertible:** Given  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z})$  does it have an inverse in  $M_n(\mathbb{Z})$ ?

**P:** Decision problems which can be solved in polynomial time in the input size.

**Sorted:**  $O(\text{length of list})$

**Invertible:**  $O\left(n^{3.5} \log(\text{largest entry})^{1.1}\right)$

**NP:** Yes answers have proofs that can be checked in polynomial time.

**SAT:** Given  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^k$ , can check all  $p_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  in linear time.

**Unknotted:** A diagram of the unknot with  $c$  crossings can be unknotted in  $O(c^{11})$  Reidemeister moves. [Lackenby 2013]

**coNP:** No answers can be checked in polynomial time.

**Unknotted:** Yes, assuming the GRH [Kuperberg 2011].

**Conj: Unknotted** is in **P**.