

Step 1:  $\text{HAMPATH} \in \text{NP}$

CERTIFICATE: A sequence of vertices  $y$ .

VERIFICATION:  $a(\langle G, u, v \rangle, \langle y \rangle)$

- Check whether  $y$  has  $n$  vertices. If not, return 0.
- Check whether  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$  0; Repeated vertices; if so, return 0.
- Check whether  $(y_i, y_{i+1}) \in E$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n-1$  and whether  $\{y_n, y_1\} \in E$ . If some of the tests fail, then return 0.
- Check whether  $y_1 = u$  and  $y_n = v$ . If not, return 0; otherwise return 1.

A runs in Polynomial Time since

1. runs in  $O(n)$  steps
2. runs in  $O(n)$  steps
3. runs in  $O(n)$  steps
4. runs in  $O(n)$  steps

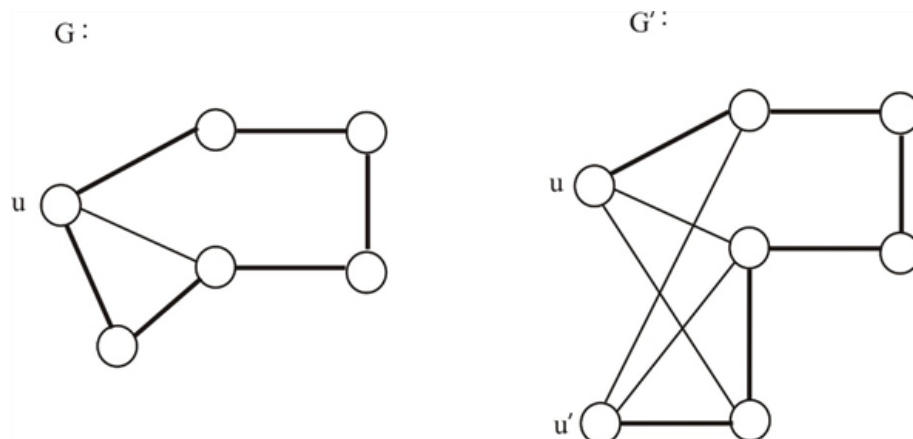
So, A runs in  $O(n)$  steps

It is easy to see A is a correct verification algorithm for HAMPATH.

Step 2:  $\text{HAMCYCLE} \leq_p \text{HAMPATH}$

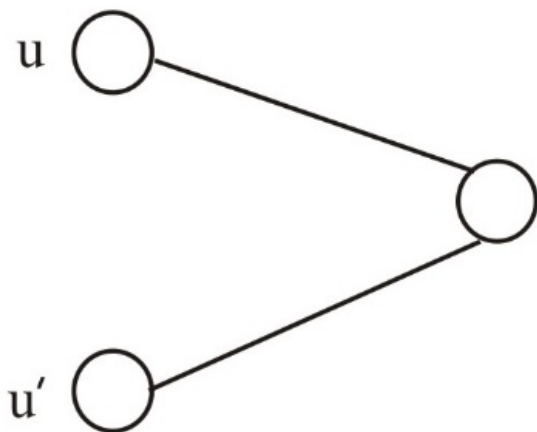
Idea for the reduction. Given  $G$ , pick an arbitrary vertex  $u$  and create a new vertex  $u'$  connected to all the neighbors of  $u$ , in the new graph  $G'$ . A Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$  corresponds to a Hamiltonian path from  $u$  to  $u'$  in  $G'$ .

Example:



The only case for which this reduction fails is  $G: u \neq v$  since  $G$  has no Hamiltonian cycles but has a Hamiltonian path between  $u$  and  $u'$

$G'$ :



Therefore, we treat the case  $(V) = 2$  separately in the algorithm.

Step 3: Reduction Algorithm

Algorithm  $F(<G>)$

Let  $G = (V, E)$ . If  $|V| = 2$ , then return  $<G' = (V' = \{u, v\}, E' = \emptyset) <G' = (V' = \{u, v\}, E' = \emptyset), \mu, V >$

Select a vertex  $u$  in  $G$   $E' \leftarrow E$ .

For each  $v$  in  $V$  do

If  $\{u, v\} \in E$  then  $E' \leftarrow E' \cup \{u'v\}$

Return  $<G' = (V', E'), u, u' >$ ;

Step 4:

• The reduction works that is  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle if and only if  $G'$  has a Hamiltonian path from  $u$  to  $u'$  ( $\Rightarrow$ ) let  $C = (V_1 = u, V_2, \dots, V_n)$  be a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$  ( we can assume  $V_i = u$  with loss of generality) it is easy to see that  $(V_1 = u, V_2, V_3, \dots, V_n, V_{n+1} = u')$  is a Hamiltonian path between  $u$  and  $u'$  in  $G'$  since  $(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)$  are distinct vertices in  $G$  so  $(V_1 = u, V_2, \dots, V_n, V_{n+1} = u')$  are distinct vertices in  $G'$ : more over if  $\{V_i, V_{i+1}\} \in E$   $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\{V_n, u\} \in E$  then  $\{V_i, V_{i+1}\} \in E'$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\{V_n, u'\} \in E'$  ( $\Leftarrow$ )

• Let  $P = (u = V_1, V_2, V_3, \dots, V_n, V_{n+1} = u')$  be a Hamiltonian path in  $G'$  then  $(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n, V_{n+1} = u')$  are distinct vertices in  $G'$ . So  $(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)$  are distinct in  $G$ . more over, since  $\{V_i, V_{i+1}\} \in E'$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\{u', V_n\} \in E'$  then we conclude  $\{V_i, V_{i+1}\} \in E$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\{u, V_1\} \in E'$ . Moreover, since  $n > 2$ , then  $\{V_1, V_2\} \neq \{V_n, V_1\}$  So,  $(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)$  is a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$ .

Step 5:  $F$  runs in Polynomial time

Copying  $G$  into  $G'$ , takes time  $O(n^2)$  where  $n = |V|$ . Creating  $u'$  and its incidence edges takes time in  $O(n)$ . Therefore,  $F$  runs in  $O(n^2)$ .