Polynomial-Time Reduction

Algorithm Design Patterns and Anti-Patterns

Algorithm design patterns. Ex.

- Greedy. $O(n \log n)$ interval scheduling.
- Divide-and-conquer. $O(n \log n)$ FFT.
- Dynamic programming. $O(n^2)$ edit distance.
- Duality. $O(n^3)$ bipartite matching.
- Reductions.
- ...

Algorithm design anti-patterns.

- NP-completeness. $O(n^k)$ algorithm unlikely.
- Undecidability. No algorithm possible.

Decision vs Optimize Problems

Decision problem. Does there exist a vertex cover of size $\leq$ k?

Optimize problem. Find vertex cover of minimum cardinality.

Solve the optimization version using the decision version.

- (Binary) search for cardinality k* of min vertex cover.
- Find a vertex v such that $G - \{ v \}$ has a vertex cover of size $\leq$ k* - 1.
  - any vertex in any min vertex cover will have this property
- Include v in the vertex cover.
- Recursively find a min vertex cover in $G - \{ v \}$.

delete v and all incident edges

From now on, we just talk about decision problems.

Polynomial-Time Reductions

Classify Problems According to Computational Requirements

Q. Which problems will we be able to solve in practice?

A working definition. [von Neumann 1953, Godel 1956, Cobham 1964, Edmonds 1965, Rabin 1966]

Those with polynomial-time algorithms. (i.e. the running time is P(|x|) where |x| is the size of input x and P is a polynomial with a constant degree. Note x should be represented by binary code not unary code)

Yes	Probably no
Shortest path	Longest path
Matching	3D-matching
Min cut	Max cut
2-SAT	3-SAT
Planar 4-color	Planar 3-color
Bipartite vertex cover	Vertex cover

Primality testing	Factoring

Classify Problems

Desiderata. Classify problems according to those that can be solved in polynomial-time and those that cannot.

Frustrating news. Huge number of fundamental problems have defied classification for decades.

Here we show that these fundamental problems are "computationally equivalent" and appear to be different manifestations of one really hard problem.

Polynomial-Time Reduction

Desiderata'. Suppose we could solve X in polynomial-time. What else could we solve in polynomial time?

don't confuse with reduces from

Reduction. Problem X polynomial reduces to problem Y if any instance x of problem X can be transformed to an instance y of problem Y in polynomial time, we have the following properties
(i) If x is a yes instance of X, then y is a yes instance of Y as well,
(ii) If y is a yes instance of Y, then x is a yes instance of X as well.

Notation. $X \leq_P Y$.

Another definition (one-to-many). Problem X polynomial reduces to problem Y if arbitrary instances of problem X can be solved using:

- Polynomial number of standard computational steps, plus
- Polynomial number of calls to oracle that solves problem Y.

Polynomial-Time Reduction

Purpose. Classify problems according to relative difficulty.

Design algorithms. If $X \leq_P Y$ and Y can be solved in polynomial-time, then X can also be solved in polynomial time.

Establish intractability. If $X \leq_P Y$ and X cannot be solved in polynomial-time, then Y cannot be solved in polynomial time.

Establish equivalence. If $X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P X$, we use notation $X \equiv_P Y$.

up to cost of reduction

Reduction By Simple Equivalence

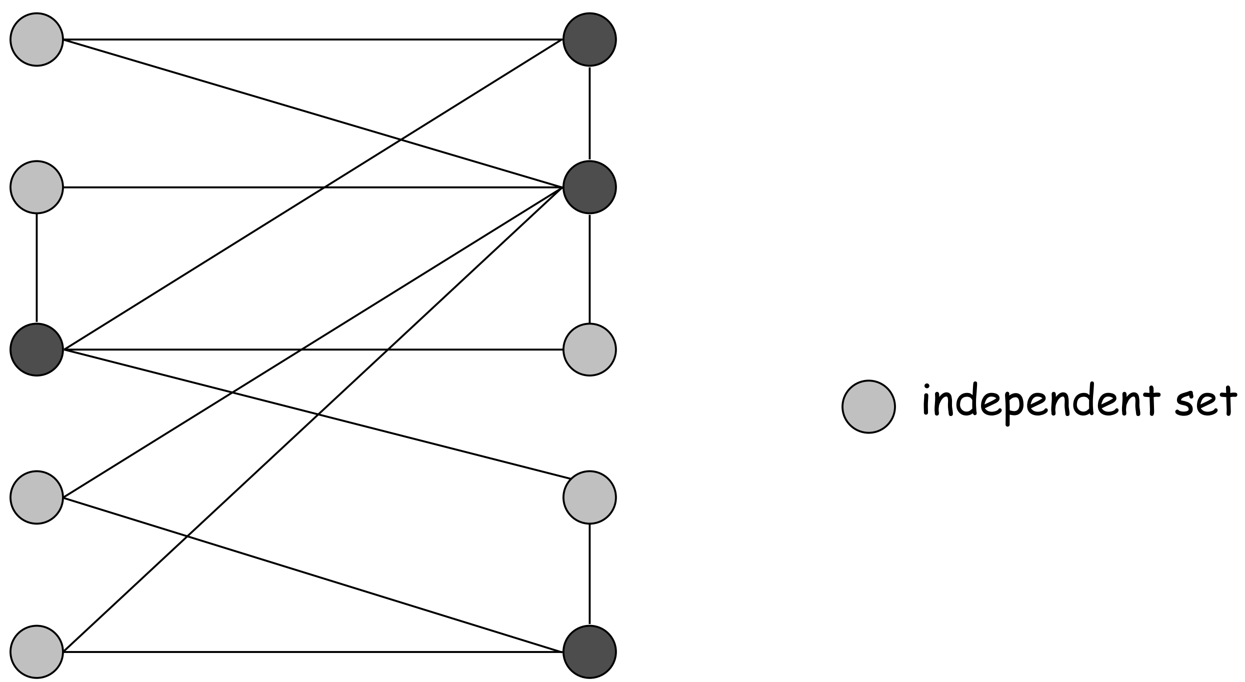
Basic reduction strategies.

- Reduction by simple equivalence.
- Reduction from special case to general case.
- Reduction by encoding with gadgets.

Independent Set

INDEPENDENT SET: Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer k, is there a subset of vertices $S \subseteq V$ such that $|S| \geq k$, and for each edge at most one of its endpoints is in S?

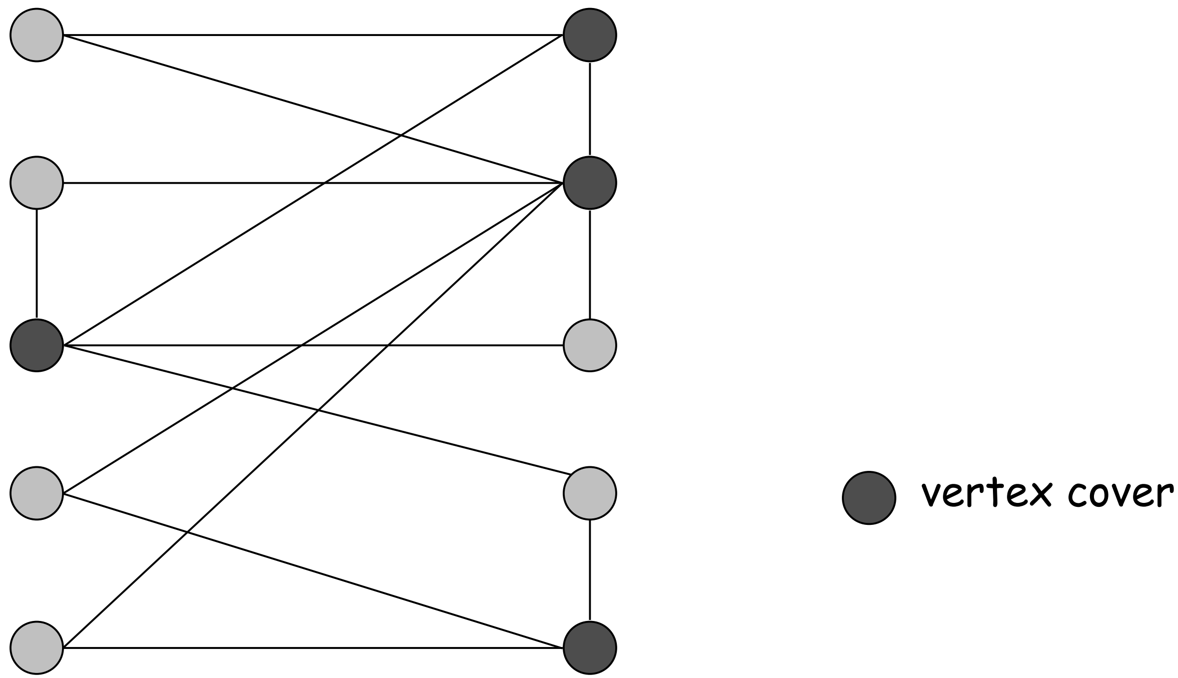
Ex. Is there an independent set of size ≥ 6? Yes.
Ex. Is there an independent set of size ≥ 7? No.



Vertex Cover

VERTEX COVER: Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer k, is there a subset of vertices $S \subseteq V$ such that $|S| \leq k$, and for each edge, at least one of its endpoints is in S?

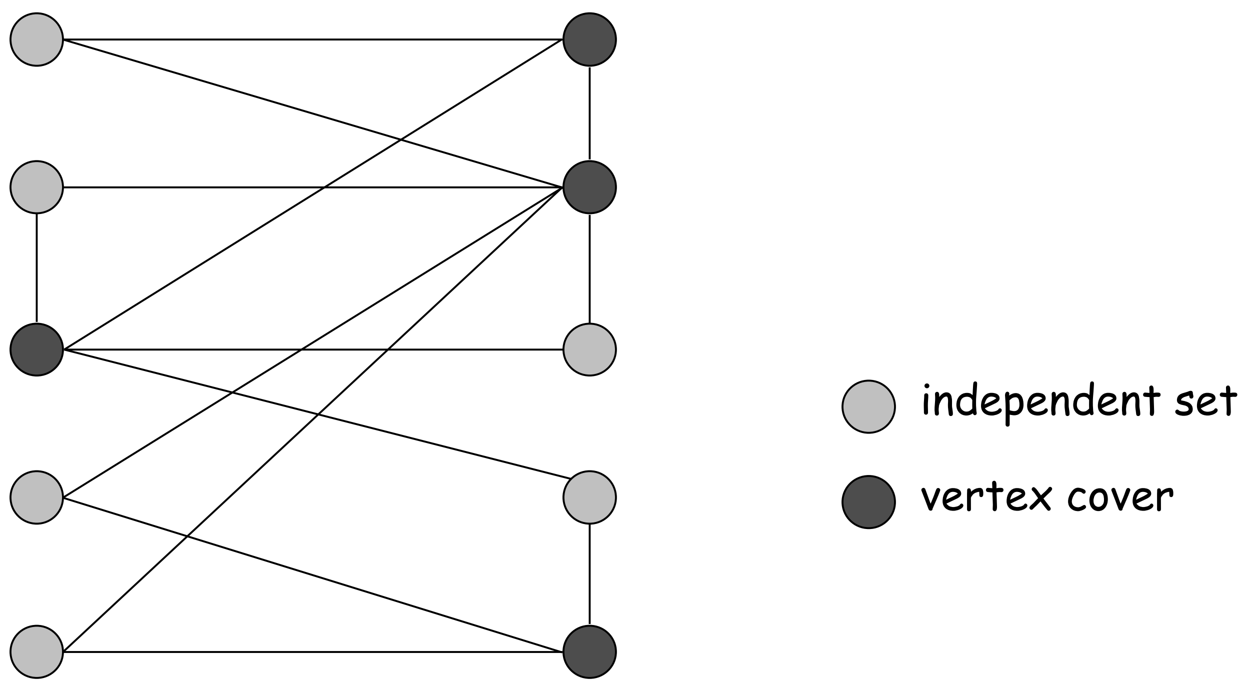
Ex. Is there a vertex cover of size ≤ 4? Yes.
Ex. Is there a vertex cover of size ≤ 3? No.



Vertex Cover and Independent Set

Claim. VERTEX-COVER $\equiv_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET.

Pf. We show S is an independent set iff V – S is a vertex cover.



Vertex Cover and Independent Set

Claim. VERTEX-COVER $\equiv_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET.

Pf. We show S is an independent set iff V – S is a vertex cover.

$\Rightarrow$

- Let S be any independent set.
- Consider an arbitrary edge (u, v).
- S independent $\Rightarrow$ u $\notin$ S or v $\notin$ S $\Rightarrow$ u $\in$ V – S or v $\in$ V – S.
- Thus, V – S covers (u, v).

$\Leftarrow$

- Let V – S be any vertex cover.
- Consider two nodes u $\in$ S and v $\in$ S.
- Observe that (u, v) $\notin$ E since V – S is a vertex cover.
- Thus, no two nodes in S are joined by an edge $\Rightarrow$ S independent set. ▪

Reduction from Special Case to General Case

Basic reduction strategies.

- Reduction by simple equivalence.
- Reduction from special case to general case.
- Reduction by encoding with gadgets.

Set Cover

SET COVER: Given a set U of elements, a collection $S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_m$ of subsets of U, and an integer k, does there exist a collection of $\leq k$ of these sets whose union is equal to U?

Sample application.

- m available pieces of software.
- Set U of n capabilities that we would like our system to have.
- The ith piece of software provides the set $S_i \subseteq U$ of capabilities.
- Goal: achieve all n capabilities using fewest pieces of software.

Ex:

$U = \{ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 \}$
$k = 2$

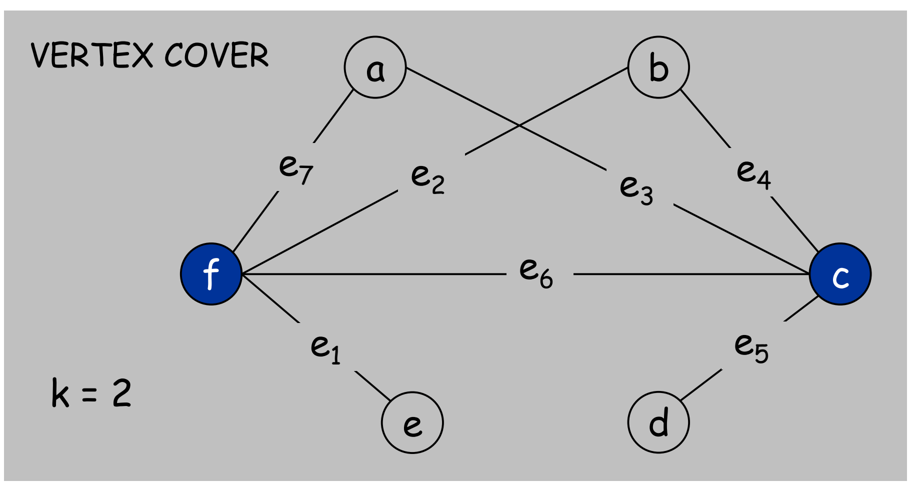
$S_1 = \{3, 7\}$	$S_4 = \{2, 4\}$
$S_2 = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$	$S_5 = \{5\}$
$S_3 = \{1\}$	$S_6 = \{1, 2, 6, 7\}$

Vertex Cover Reduces to Set Cover

Claim. VERTEX-COVER $\le_P$ SET-COVER.
Pf. Given a VERTEX-COVER instance $G = (V, E)$, k, we construct a set cover instance whose size equals the size of the vertex cover instance.

Construction.

- Create SET-COVER instance:
  - $k = k$, $U = E$, $S_v = \{e \in E : e \text{ incident to } v\}$
- Set-cover of size $\le k$ iff vertex cover of size $\le k$. ▪



SET COVER

$U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
$k = 2$
$S_a = \{3, 7\}$ $S_b = \{2, 4\}$
$S_c = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ $S_d = \{5\}$
$S_e = \{1\}$ $S_f = \{1, 2, 6, 7\}$

Polynomial-Time Reduction

Basic strategies.

- Reduction by simple equivalence.
- Reduction from special case to general case.
- Reduction by encoding with gadgets.

8.2 Reductions via "Gadgets"

Basic reduction strategies.

- Reduction by simple equivalence.
- Reduction from special case to general case.
- Reduction via "gadgets."

Satisfiability

Literal: A Boolean variable or its negation. x_i or $\overline{x_i}$

Clause: A disjunction of literals. $C_j = x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3$

Conjunctive normal form: A propositional formula Φ that is the conjunction of clauses. $\Phi = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3 \wedge C_4$

SAT: Given CNF formula Φ, does it have a satisfying truth assignment?

3-SAT: SAT where each clause contains exactly 3 literals.

each corresponds to a different variable

Ex: $\left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}\right)$

Yes: x_1 = true, x_2 = true x_3 = false.

3 Satisfiability Reduces to Independent Set

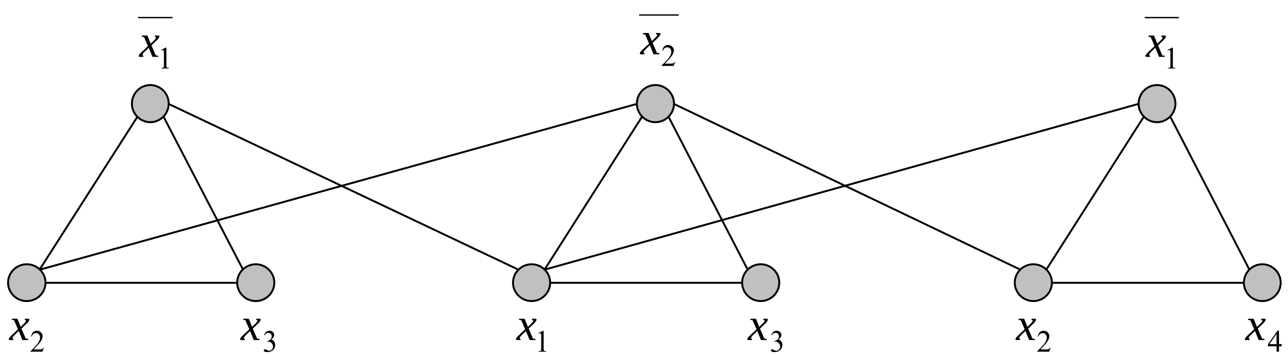
Claim. 3-SAT $\leq_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET.

Pf. Given an instance Φ of 3-SAT, we construct an instance (G, k) of INDEPENDENT-SET that has an independent set of size k iff Φ is satisfiable.

Construction.

- G contains 3 vertices for each clause, one for each literal.
- Connect 3 literals in a clause in a triangle.
- Connect literal to each of its negations.

G



k = 3

$$\Phi = \left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_4\right)$$

3 Satisfiability Reduces to Independent Set

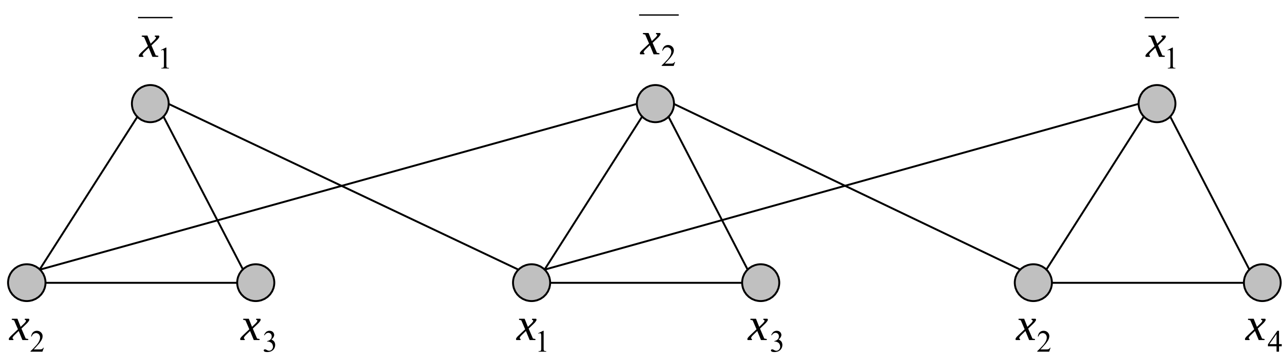
Claim. G contains independent set of size k = $|\Phi|$ iff Φ is satisfiable.

Pf. $\Rightarrow$ Let S be independent set of size k.

- S must contain exactly one vertex in each triangle.
- Set these literals to true. $\leftarrow$ and any other variables in a consistent way
- Truth assignment is consistent and all clauses are satisfied.

Pf $\Leftarrow$ Given satisfying assignment, select one true literal from each triangle. This is an independent set of size k. ▪

G



k = 3

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

Review

Basic reduction strategies.

- Simple equivalence: INDEPENDENT-SET $\equiv_P$ VERTEX-COVER.
- Special case to general case: VERTEX-COVER $\leq_P$ SET-COVER.
- Encoding with gadgets: 3-SAT $\leq_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET.

Transitivity. If $X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P Z$, then $X \leq_P Z$.
Pf idea. Compose the two algorithms.

Ex: 3-SAT $\leq_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET $\leq_P$ VERTEX-COVER $\leq_P$ SET-COVER.

References

References

- Sections 8.1-2 of the text book “algorithm design” by Jon Kleinberg and Eva Tardos
- The original slides were prepared by Kevin Wayne. The slides are distributed by Pearson Addison-Wesley.