

Clique Decision Problem: maximal sized clique
(complete graph)

① Proof that it belongs to NP.

Proof

1. Certificate: Let a set S be consisting of nodes in the clique and S is a subset of V .
 S is the certificate.

2. Verification:

First step: verifying numbers of nodes in $S = k$.

Takes $O(1)$ time.

Second step: Verifying whether each vertex has an outdegree of $(k-1)$ takes $O(k^2)$ time.

As total number of complete graph = $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$.

So, it takes $O(k^2) = O(n^2)$; which is polynomial.

As it's polynomial time verified, it belongs to NP.

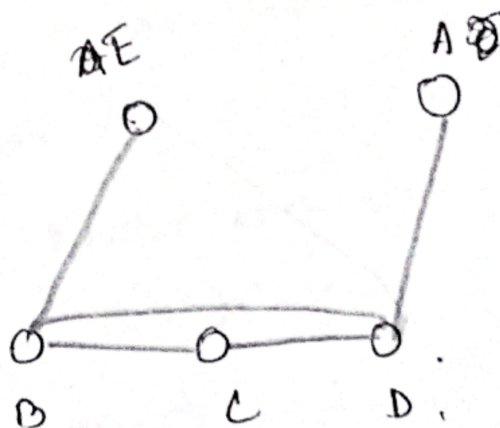
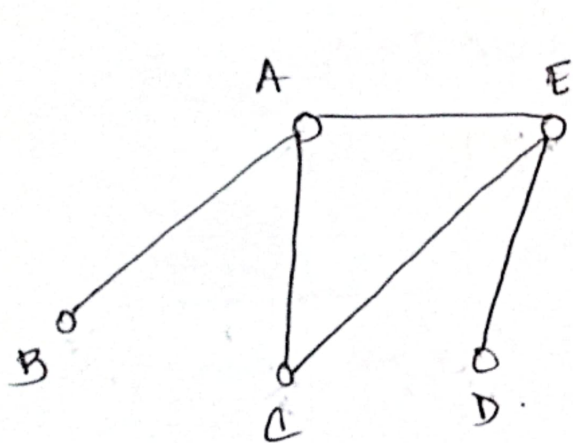
Independent Set Problem is a NP-Hard problem.

Every instance of Independent set problem, $G(V, E)$ and integer K can be converted to required graph for Clique problem, $G'(V', E'), K'$.

$V' = V$ for all vertices of G .

$E' = \text{Complement of } E$.

$G' = \text{complementary graph } G$.



- An Independent set of $K=3$ formed by $\{B, C, D\}$

A clique of $K=3$ formed by $\{B, C, D\}$

Time required to compute the complementary graph G' requires a traversal over all the vertices and edges. $\Rightarrow O(V+E)$

→ Let us assume G contains K sized clique. So, it implies that there are K vertices in G where each of vertices is connected by an edge with remaining vertices. As these edges are contained in G , they won't be in G' .

∴ These K vertices are not adjacent to each other in G' and form an Independent set of size K .

→ G' has an independent set of vertices of size K' . None of these vertices shares an edge with any other vertices. After complementing edges K' to K to achieve G , these K vertices will share an edge and hence become adjacent to each other.

∴ Graph G will have a clique of size K .

∴ There is a clique of size K in graph G if there is an independent set of size K' in G' (complement graph).

∴ Any instance of clique problem can be reduced to an instance of Independent set problem.

∴ Clique problem is NP-hard.