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Ans: Let, $TSP :=$ Travelling salesman Problem -

We have to show that,

i) $TSP \in NP$

and ii) $TSP \in NP\text{-hard}$

For checking a tour for credibility, we check that the tour contains each vertex once. Then we sum the total cost of the edges and finally check if the cost is minimum. This

can be verified in polynomial time. So,

$TSP \in NP$

[(i) Proved]

We prove the second one using the knowledge that Hamiltonian cycle is NP-complete. We will show that,

$Hamiltonian\ Cycle \leq_p TSP$

by reducing HCP to TSP which yields TSP is at least hard as HCP.

For this, we change our given graph $G(V, E)$ for HCP to a complete graph $G'(V, E')$.

We define a cost function to be,

$$c(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1; & \text{if } (i, j) \in E \\ \infty; & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If there exists a hamiltonian cycle, the min cost of TSP will be n (as cycle will contain n edges, each having cost of 1). Thus, if graph G has Hamiltonian cycle, then graph G' has traveling salesman cost of n , only using the edges with cost 1.

So, we have proven that G has hamiltonian cycle iff G' has a tour of cost at most n .

So, TSP \in NP-hard. (atleast as hard as hamiltonian cycle problem)

\therefore TSP \in NP-Complete.