

5


COMP3821/COMP9801 Workshop Week ~~1~~

Reductions and NP-completeness

Xueyi Chee and Jeremy Le

2025T3

Announcements

- Problem Set 3 Marks and Feedback on Thursday.
- Problem Set 4 Submission due on Friday Week 4. 
- Submissions on [Gradescope](#).
- Workshop 5 has no submissions. No workshop in Week 6.
- Midterm Exam in Friday Week 7.
- Project progress report due Sunday Week 7.
- Help sessions on Friday 11am - 1pm in K17 G05.

Recap: NP

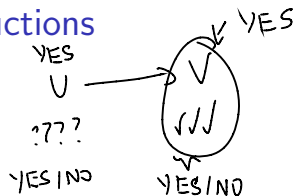
Definition: NP Decision Problem

A decision problem A is in the class NP (nondeterministic polynomial time, denoted $A \in \text{NP}$) if there exists a decision problem $B \in \text{P}$ such that, for every input x ,

$$A(x) \text{ is YES} \iff \exists y \text{ with } |y| \leq |x|^{O(1)} \text{ such that } B(x, y) \text{ is YES.}$$

Here, y is the *certificate* and B is the *certifier*.

Recap: Reductions



Definition: Karp Reduction

Let U and V be two decision problems. We say that U is polynomially reducible to V if there exists a function f such that:

- (a) f maps each instance x of U to an instance $f(x)$ of V ;
- (b) f preserves answers: $U(x) = \text{YES} \iff V(f(x)) = \text{YES}$;
- (c) $f(x)$ can be computed in polynomial time.

\Rightarrow

~~X~~ \rightarrow \checkmark
 \checkmark

~~YES~~ NO \rightarrow YES X

Recap: NP-hard and NP-complete

A NP-Hard

↓

B NP-Hard

sorting

↓

convex hull

$O(n \log n)$

$\Omega(n \log n)$

Definition: NP-hard

A decision problem V is NP-hard if every problem in NP is polynomially reducible to V .

Definition: NP-complete

A decision problem is NP-complete if it is both in NP and NP-hard.

Guided Problem 1

Guided Problem

Consider the following pair of problems.

- **INDSET**: Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer $1 \leq k \leq n$, does there exist a subset $S \subseteq V$ of at least k vertices such that any pair of vertices in S are not connected by a direct edge?
- **HIGHDEGREEINDSET**: Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer $1 \leq k \leq n$, does there exist a subset $S \subseteq V$ of at least k vertices such that S forms an independent set and each vertex in S has degree at least k in G ?

(a) Show that **HIGHDEGREEINDSET** is in NP. NP + NP-hard

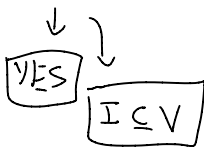
(b) It is known that **INDSET** is NP-complete. Show that **HIGHDEGREEINDSET** is NP-hard and hence conclude that **HIGHDEGREEINDSET** is NP-complete.

Guided Problem 1 Working

a) Certificate : $I \subseteq V$
1. independent set of size k ^{at least}
2. degree k ^{at least}
 \downarrow
 $O(n^2)$
 \downarrow
 $O(|E| + k)$

HDIS \in NP

HDIS (G, k)



$n = |V|$

Guided Problem 1 Working

b) ~~IndSet~~ \rightarrow HDIS
polynomial
time

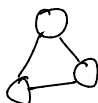
NP-Hard

NP-Hard

IndSet $(G, k) \leftarrow$

ADIS $(G', k') \rightarrow (G, 0)$

IndSet $k=3$



NO \rightarrow YES

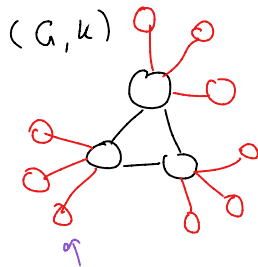
ADIS $k'=1$



$k=1$

Guided Problem 1 Working

$$\forall ES \text{ in ID} \Leftrightarrow \forall ES \text{ in ADIS}$$



(H, k)
ADIS

$$G = (V, E)$$

Claim G has an independent set of size k iff
 H has a ADIS of degree k

~~#~~ $H = (V', E')$

$$V' = V \cup \{u_{i,v} : 1 \leq i \leq k, v \in V\}$$

$$E' = E \cup \{ \{v, u_{i,v}\} : 1 \leq i \leq k, v \in V \}$$

Guided Problem 1 Working

(\Rightarrow) Suppose G has an independent set I

I ind. in H .

$I \subseteq V$ has degree at least k

I forms HDIS in H of degree at least k .

(\Leftarrow) Suppose H has a HDIS I' of degree at least k .

Vertices colored only have degree, cannot be part of I' .

$v \in I'$ is in G , I' is independent so I' is an ind. set in G .

- This polynomial time. Because indset is NP-Hard
HDIS is NP-Hard - NP + NP-Hard

Guided Problem 1 Working



Adding $k|V|$ vertices and $k|V|$ edges

$O(k|V|)$ time — polynomial

This shows HDIS is NP-Hard because we know IndSet is NP-Hard. Since HDIS is in NP and in NP-Hard then ~~HDIS~~ HDIS is in NP-C.

Guided Problem 1 Part (a) Solution

APIS is NP-C.

Given a set I of vertices, we check two conditions:

- I forms an independent set of size at least k . For every pair of vertices, $u, v \in I$ check that $\{u, v\} \notin E$. This takes $O(|V|^2)$ time, we can also keep track of the number of vertices in I .
- Every vertex in I has degree at least k . There are many ways to do this in polynomial time.

Guided Problem 1 Part (b) Solution

- Let $G = (V, E)$ be an arbitrary graph. Construct $H = (V', E')$ by attaching a *fan* of k vertices to each vertex of G .
- Formally, construct $H = (V', E')$ where

$$V' = V \cup \{u_{i,v} : 1 \leq i \leq k, v \in V\}$$

$$E' = E \cup \{\{v, u_{i,v}\} : 1 \leq i \leq k, v \in V\}$$

Guided Problem 1 Part (b) Solution

Claim. G has an independent set of size at least k if and only if H has a high-degree independent set of degree at least k .

- (\implies) Suppose G has an independent set I of size at least k . Then I forms an independent set in H of size at least k . Moreover, each vertex in I has degree at least k , by construction.
- (\impliedby) Suppose H has high-degree independent set I' of degree at least k . The vertices added all have degree 1, so cannot be part of I' . So I' only contains vertices from G , so I' forms an independent set of size at least k in G .
 - If $k = 1$, then there is always an independent set for $|V| \geq 1$. Similarly there will always be a high-degree independent set of degree at least k in our construction.

Guided Problem 1 Part (b) Solution

- The construction can be done in $O(k|V|)$ which is polynomial.
- Hence, since INDSET is NP-Hard, so is HIGHDEGREEINDSET .
- Together with part (a), this shows that HIGHDEGREEINDSET is NP-Complete.

NP-completeness Guided Problem II

Guided Problem

A *balloon* of size k is an undirected graph that consists of a simple cycle of length k and a simple path of size k , where the path has one endpoint lying on the cycle. Every other vertex on the cycle is disjoint from every other vertex on the path.

A balloon of size k therefore has $2k$ vertices: k vertices in the cycle and $k + 1$ vertices in the path (including the shared endpoint on the cycle).

Given an undirected graph G and an integer $1 \leq k \leq n$, prove that it is NP-complete to decide whether G contains a balloon of size at least k .

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Example

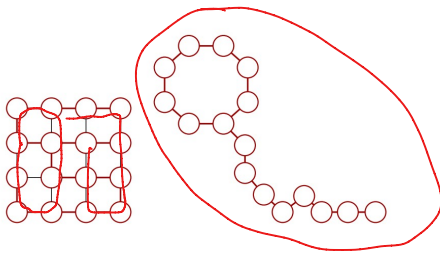


Figure: A balloon subgraph of size 8 on the 4×4 grid graph.

Hamiltonian Cycle Problem

Definition: Hamiltonian Cycle

A Hamiltonian cycle in a graph G is a cycle that visits every vertex in G exactly once. It is known that deciding whether G has a Hamiltonian cycle is NP-complete.

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Working

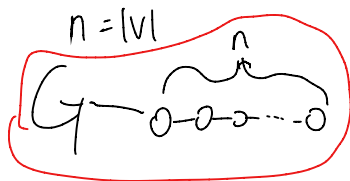
Certificate = G' k

1) path of size k

2) Single cycle k

HamCycle

G



yes

G'

Balloon problem

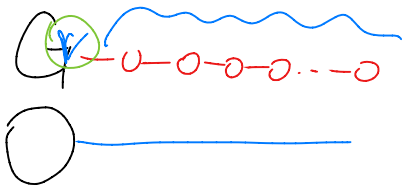
G'

yes

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Working

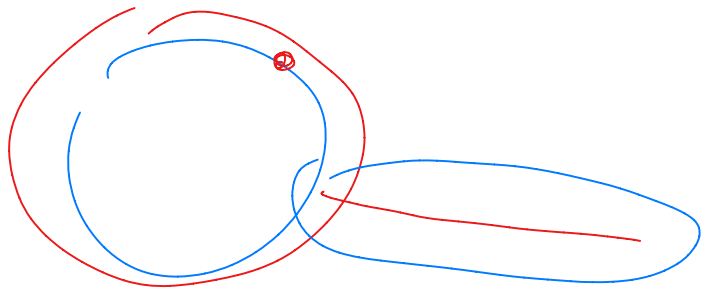
G has hamCycle $\Leftrightarrow G'$ has balloon of size n

$\Rightarrow G$ has hamCycle C
 $v \in C$

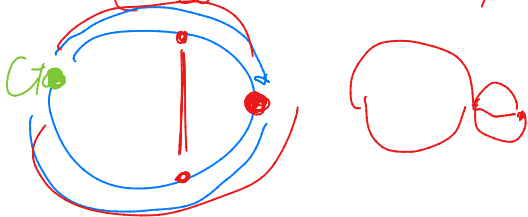


NP-completeness Guided Problem II Working

G' has a hamilton of size $n \Rightarrow G$ has ham Cycle

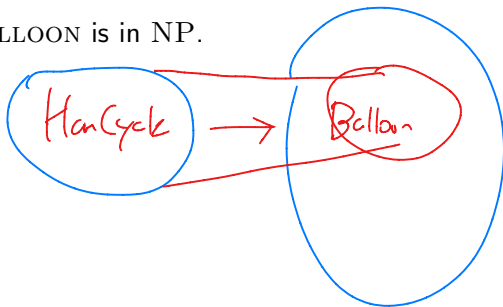


Claim (does not contain any of the added nodes



NP-completeness Guided Problem II Solution

Claim: BALLOON is in NP.



Balloon is in NP-hard

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Solution

Claim: BALLOON is in NP-hard

Reduce HAMCYCLE to BALLOON

- Let G be an undirected graph with n nodes.
- Construct G' by adding a new path P of n nodes to some arbitrary node v in G .

We claim that

G' has a balloon of size $n \Leftrightarrow G$ has a Hamiltonian Cycle

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Solution

G' has a balloon of size $n \Leftarrow G$ has a Hamiltonian Cycle

- Suppose that G has a Hamiltonian Cycle C
- C contains node v
- $C \cup P$ forms a balloon of size n in G' .

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Solution

G' has a balloon of size $n \Rightarrow G$ has a Hamiltonian Cycle

- Suppose that G' has a balloon of size n
- This balloon is the union of a path and a cycle C of length n
- C cannot contain any nodes in P , so it must lie entirely in the original graph
- Hence C is a Hamiltonian cycle.

NP-completeness Guided Problem II Solution

Reduction Time Complexity: