

CS 7800: Advanced Algorithms

Class 15: More Intractability

- NP-Completeness
- More hardness: knapsack, hamiltonian path

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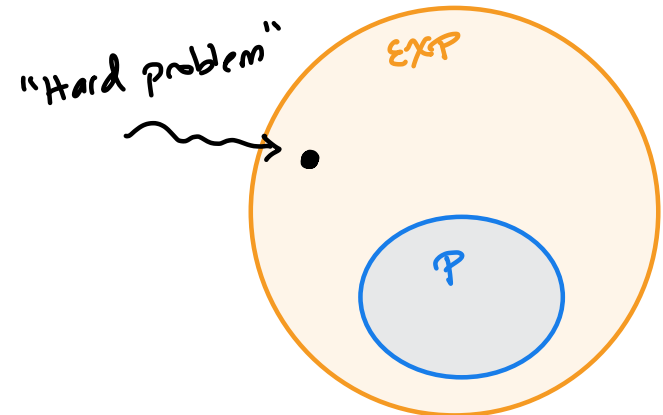
October 24, 2025

Tractable and Intractable Problems

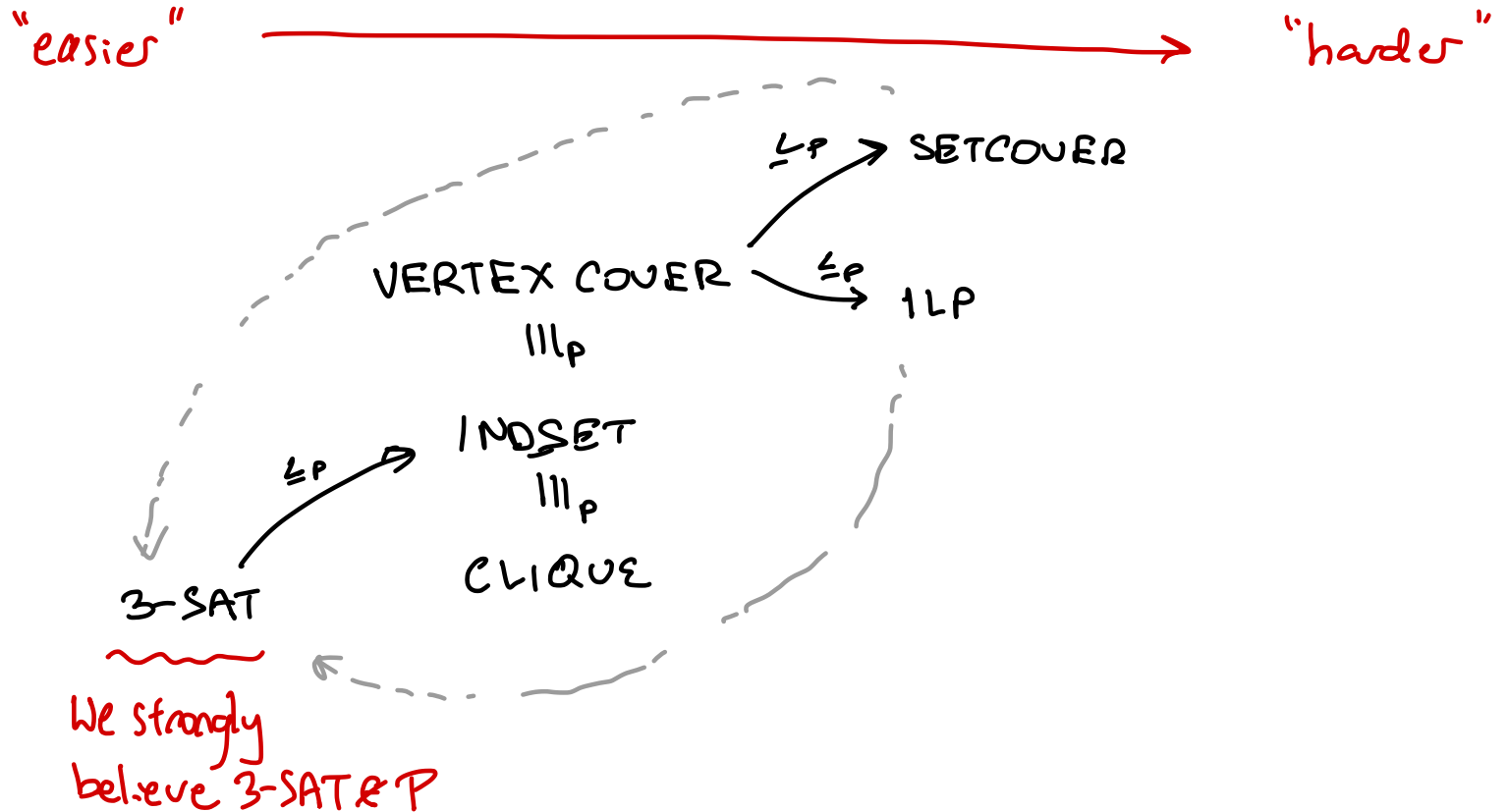
- **Definition:** \mathcal{P} is the set of **decision problems** that can be solved in polynomial time

problems with a yes/no answer

- **Definition:** \mathcal{EXP} is the set of decision problems that can be solved in exponential time
- **Theorem:** $\mathcal{P} \neq \mathcal{EXP}$

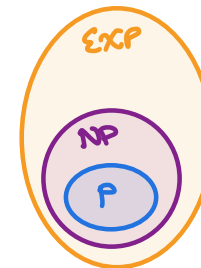


Allegedly Intractable Problems



Note: Reductions are transitive

The Class NP



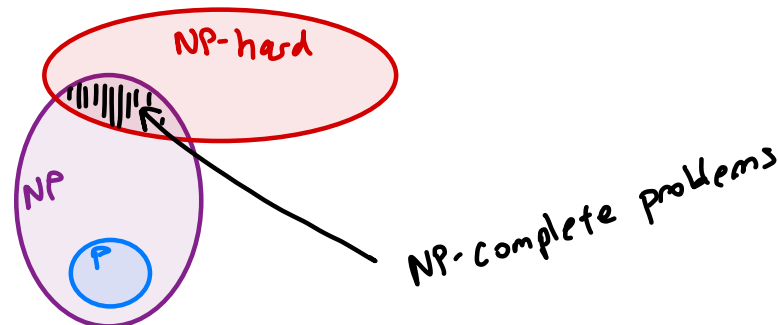
- **Definition:** \mathcal{NP} is the class of problems for which there is an efficient verifier for solutions
 - An algorithm V is an efficient verifier for problem A if
 - (1) V takes as input I and a solution S
 - (2) V is a polynomial-time algorithm
 - (3) $I \in A$ if and only if there exists a polynomial-size solution S such that $V(I, S) = \text{YES}$
- \mathcal{P} = easy to solve, \mathcal{NP} = easy to check solution
- Natural hard optimization problems are in \mathcal{NP}
 - 3-SAT, Vertex-Cover, Independent-Set...

If answer on
input I is YES

Does $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{NP}$?

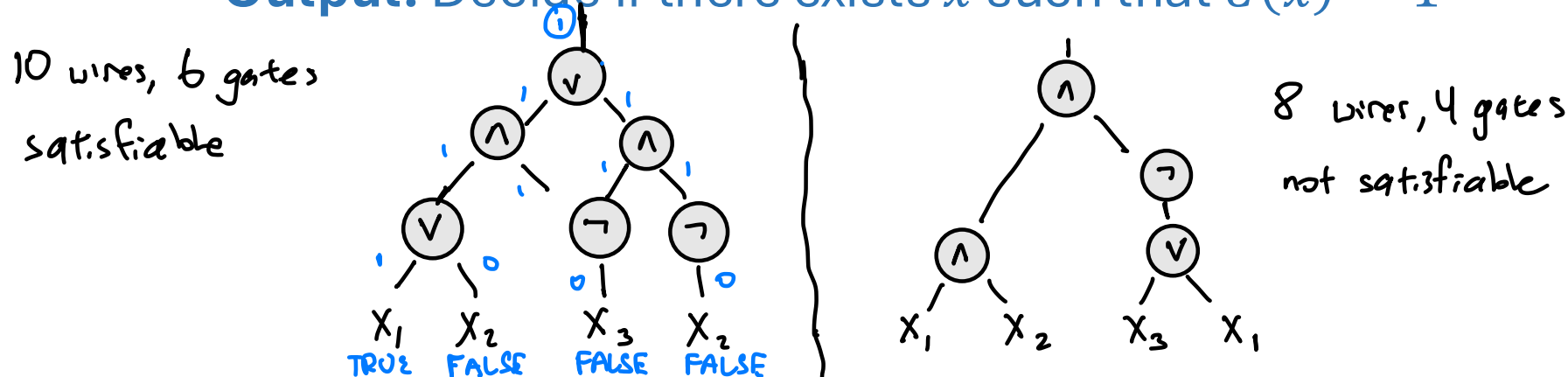
$\mathcal{P} \neq \mathcal{NP}$

- We do not know, but we believe ~~it~~ very strongly!
 - One of the Millenium Problems
- If we believe $\mathcal{P} \neq \mathcal{NP}$ what does that tell us about problems we care about?
 - **Def:** B is \mathcal{NP} -hard if for $A \in \mathcal{NP}$, $A \leq_p B$
 - **Def:** B is \mathcal{NP} -complete if $B \in \mathcal{NP}$ and B is \mathcal{NP} -hard
 - If B is \mathcal{NP} -hard and $B \in \mathcal{P}$ then $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{NP}$



What problems are \mathcal{NP} -complete?

- The Circuit Satisfiability Problem (CKT-SAT)
 - **Input:** Circuit C with n wires and AND/OR/NOT gates
 - **Output:** Decide if there exists x such that $C(x) = 1$



- **Thm:** CIRCUIT-SAT is \mathcal{NP} -complete
 ↳ Cook '71, Levin '73 Part 1

$A \in \mathcal{NP}$ with verifier V

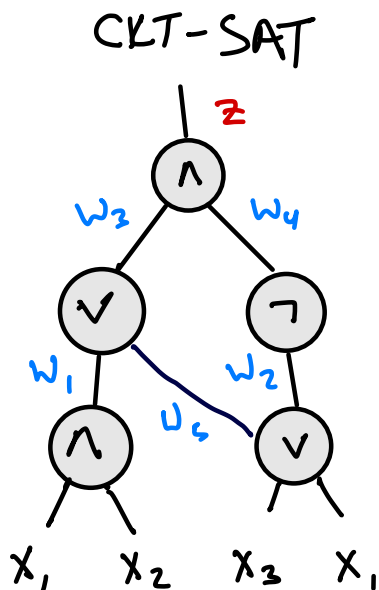
$V(I, \cdot)$

I be an input

What problems are \mathcal{NP} -complete?

(\Rightarrow 3 SAT is NPC)

- **Thm (Cook '71, Levin '73):** $\text{CKT-SAT} \leq_P \text{3-SAT}$



\leq_P

3-SAT

Variables: $\overbrace{x_1, \dots, x_m}^{\text{inputs}}, \overbrace{w_1, \dots, w_n}^{\text{wires}}, \overbrace{z}^{\text{output}}$

Idea: Does there exist $x_1, \dots, x_m, w_1, \dots, w_n, z$ s.t.

① $z = 1$

② w_1, \dots, w_n, z are the correct values for the wires on input x_1, \dots, x_m

Given a circuit with m wires and n variables, decide if there exists x such that $C(x) = 1$

Gadget for each of the three gates

AND $w = a \wedge b \rightarrow (w \vee \bar{a} \vee \bar{b}) \wedge (\bar{w} \vee a) \wedge (\bar{w} \vee b)$

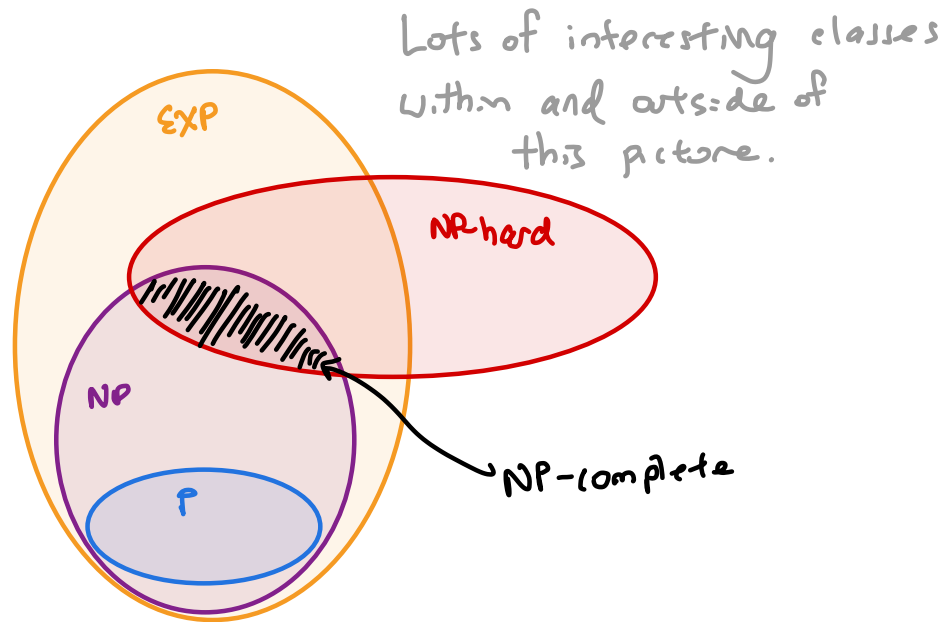
OR $w = a \vee b \rightarrow (\bar{w} \vee a \vee b) \wedge (w \vee \bar{a}) \wedge (w \vee \bar{b})$

NOT $w = \neg a \rightarrow (\bar{w} \vee \bar{a}) \wedge (w \vee a)$

What problems are \mathcal{NP} -complete?

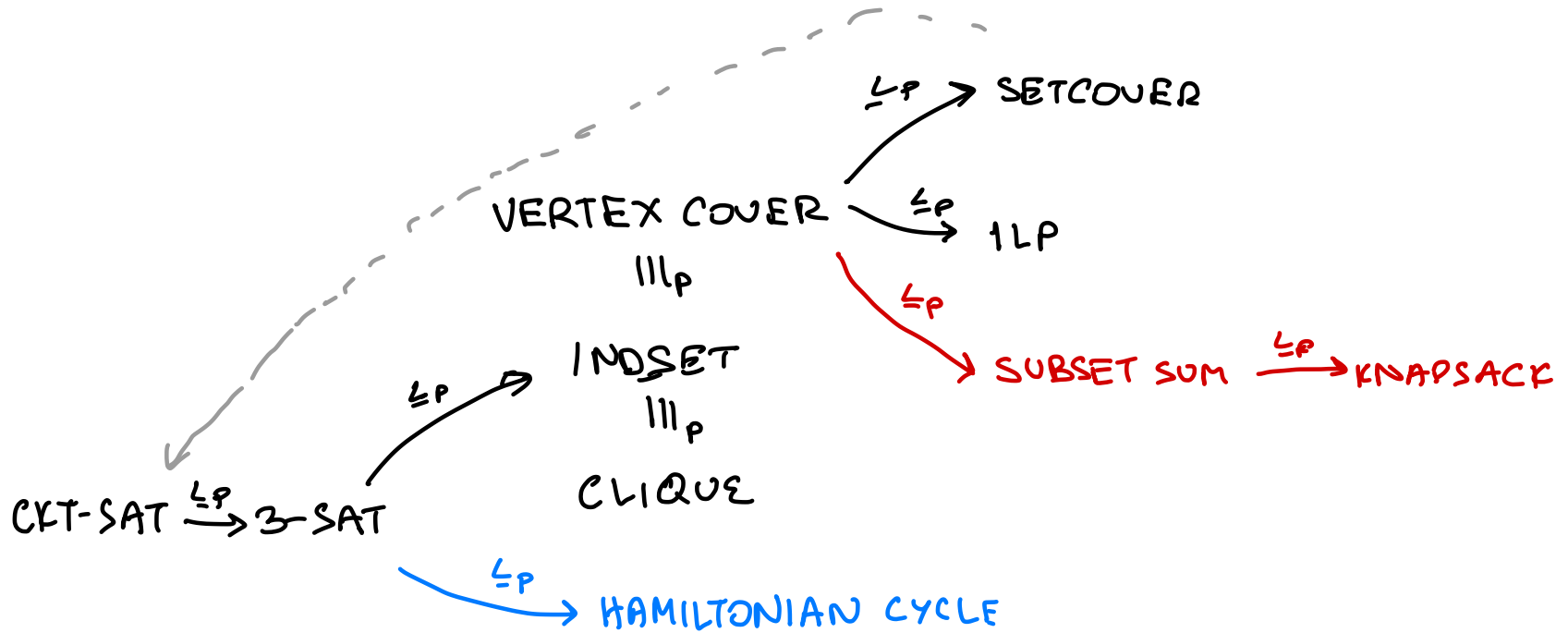
(\Rightarrow 3-SAT is NPC)

- **Thm (Cook '71, Levin '73):** $\text{CKT-SAT} \leq_P \text{3-SAT}$
 - Now we know IND-SET, CLIQUE, VERTEX-COVER, SET-COVER, IP, and 3-SAT are all \mathcal{NP} -complete
 - There are thousands more known \mathcal{NP} -complete problems in essentially every area within CS



NP-Complete Problems

~~Allegedly Intractable Problems~~



SUBSET-SUM / KNAPSACK

SUBSET-SUM:

Input: integers $z_1, \dots, z_n \geq 0$
target $T \geq 0$

Output: decide if
there exists $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$
such that $T = \sum_{i \in S} z_i$

- Special case of KNAPSACK

\Rightarrow Can solve in time $\underbrace{O(n2^n)}_{\text{brute force}}$ or time $\underbrace{O(nT)}_{\text{dynamic programming}}$

- Is SUBSET-SUM $\in P$? Not a P-time algorithm

#of bits is $(n+1)\log T$

VERTEX COVER \leq_P SUBSET SUM

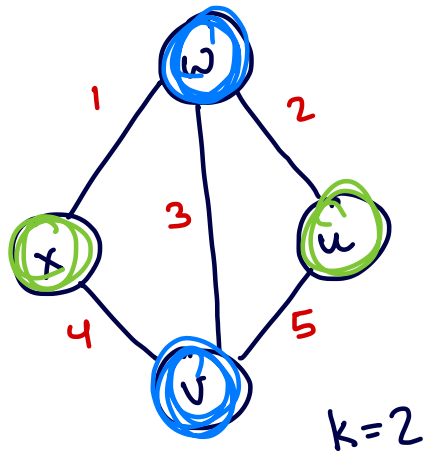
VERTEX COVER

\leq_P

SUBSET SUM

Graph $G=(V,E)$

Number k



Does G have a vertex cover of size exactly k

Ques. A set of numbers z_1, \dots, z_ℓ and T such that there is a subset summing to T iff there is a vertex cover

MSD \leftarrow Digits \rightarrow MSD

| | size | xw | wu | wv | xv | wv | |
|----------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| a_w | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 211011 |
| $\rightarrow a_v$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 211211 |
| $\rightarrow a_u$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 312212 |
| a_x | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| $\rightarrow b_{xw}$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| $\rightarrow b_{wu}$ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| b_{wv} | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| $\rightarrow b_{xv}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| $\rightarrow b_{wv}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |

blue $\rightarrow \#_5$
 $= \underbrace{2}_{\text{size}} 22222$

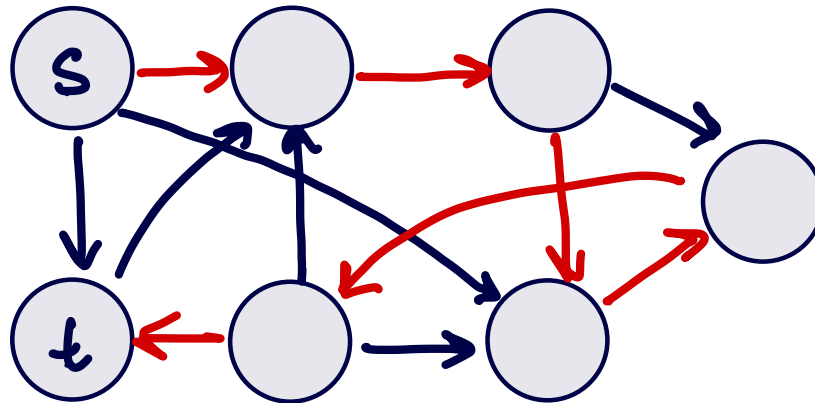
set $T = 222222$

HAMILTONIAN PATH

HAMP:

Input: A directed graph $G=(V,E)$ and nodes $s, t \in V$

Output: Decide if there is an s - t path that visits every node exactly once

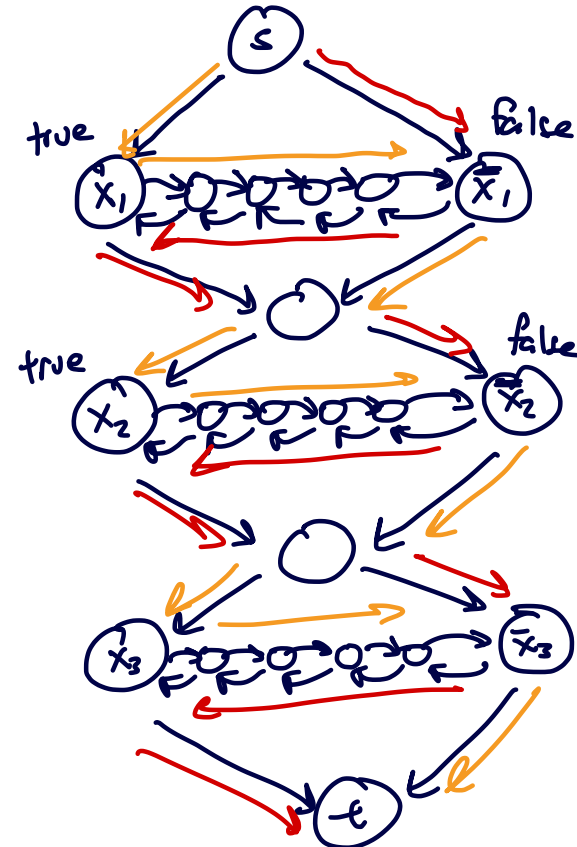


3-SAT \leq_P HAMP

3-SAT \leq_P HAMP

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) = & (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \\ & \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \\ & \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \end{aligned}$$

Variable gadgets



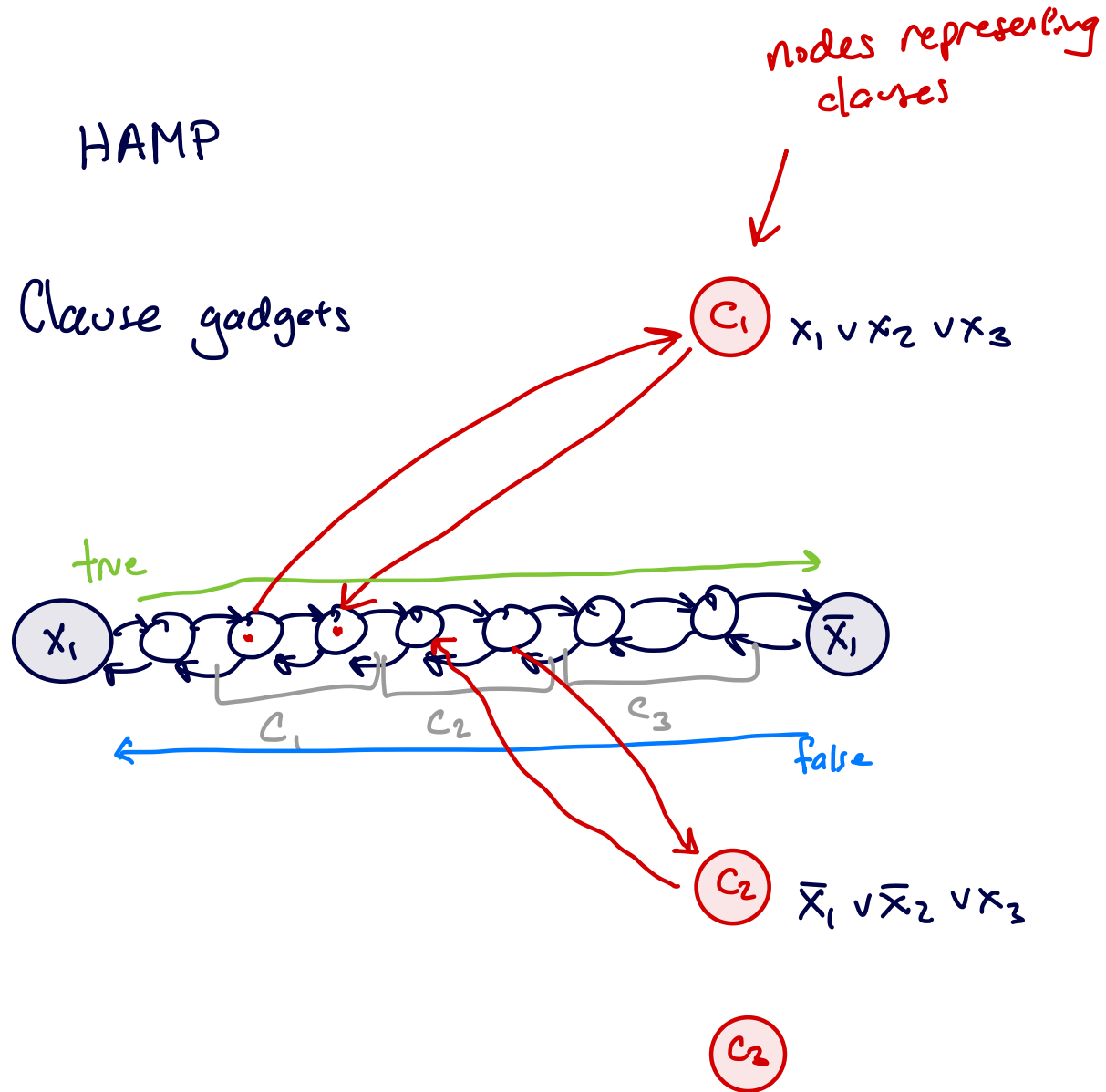
Any path traverses each variable
left-to-right (TRUE) or right-to-left (FALSE)

3-SAT \leq_P HAMP

3-SAT \leq_P HAMP

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) = & (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)^{c_1} \\ & \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)^{c_2} \\ & \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)^{c_3} \end{aligned}$$

Clause gadgets



3-SAT \leq_P HAMP

$$3\text{-SAT} \leq_P \text{HAMP}$$

$$\varphi(x) = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)^{c_1}$$

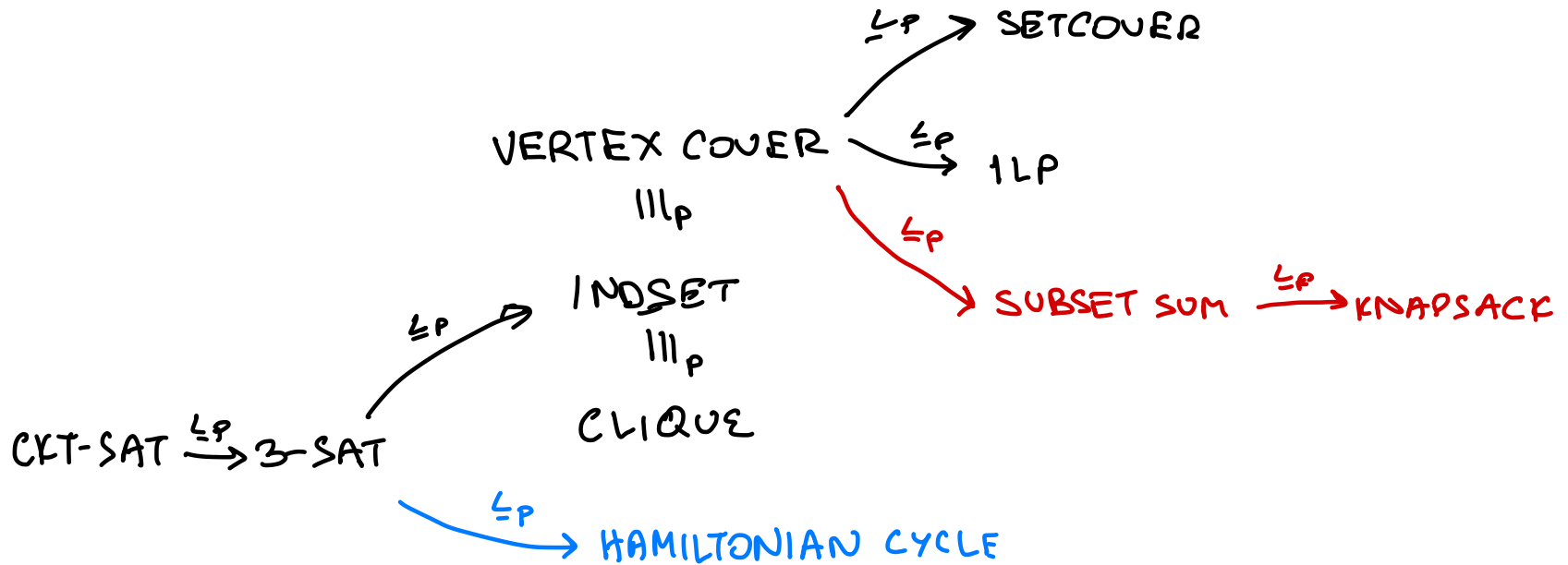
$$\wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)^{c_2}$$

$$\wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)^{c_3}$$

Clause gadgets

NP-Complete Problems

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What problems are \mathcal{NP} -complete?

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