

To prove that LTFS is NP-Complete, it needs to satisfy two conditions:

- 1) Show that LTFS is in NP
- 2) Show that there exists a mapping reduction from an NP-Complete problem to LTFS

Claim 1: LTFS is in NP

Proof: Assume we have a subset S of Graph G with $size \geq k$. We can iterate each triple u, v, w in this subset S . And for each triple, we can very easily check if this particular triple has at least one absent edge. Then two possibility exist for each triple that we iterate:

- a) There EXISTS an absent edge among the three vertices \rightarrow continue iteration
- b) There DOESN'T EXIST an absent edge \rightarrow the subset S is not a LTFS

Explanation: The verifier for determining whether a subset S is LTFS is an exhaustive search, and it will guarantee to produce a result. And the algorithm will run in polynomial time, therefore LTFS is in NP.

(COMPLETE)

Claim 2: There is a mapping reduction

- 1) We can reduce Independent Set (IS) to LTFS. First, we need to build a mapping from an instance of $IS (G, k)$ to an instance of $LTFS (G_i, k_i)$. G has an independent set of $size \geq k$ if and only if G_i has a triangle-free subset of $size \geq k_i$.
- 2) Assume we have an instance (G, k) of IS where $G = (V, E)$ where $V = n$ and $E = m$.
The basic idea is that we will replace every edge in G with a triangle. Do the following:
 - a) Create new vertex v_{new} for every edge $e = (u, v) \in E$. Store all these new vertices to a set V_{new}
 - b) For every new vertex v_{new} , create two new edges e_{new1} and e_{new2} , where $e_{new1} = (u, v_{new})$ and $e_{new2} = (v, v_{new})$. Store all the new edges to a set E_{new}
 - c) Copy the content of G to G_i , and add all the new vertex set V_{new} and edge set E_{new} to G_i , and now $G_i = (V \cup V_{new}, E \cup E_{new})$
 - d) We need to update k_i as well. Set $k_i = m + k$. Now G_i is a triangle-free subset of $size \geq m + k$

We need to prove these two statements:

- 1) If G has an independent set with $size \geq k$, then G_i has a triangle-free subset with $size \geq m + k$.
- 2) If G_i has a triangle-free subset with $size \geq m + k$, then G has an independent set with $size \geq k$.

Proof of statement (1):

claim (a): S_{IS} is an independent set of G with $size \geq k \Rightarrow (1)$

Assume that there exists an independent set $S_{IS} \in G$ with $size \geq k$.

Claim (b): S_{IS} is an independent set of G_i and S_{IS} is triangle-free in $G_i \Rightarrow (2)$

Proof: Because S_{IS} is an independent set of G , and when we are building the G_i graph, we didn't add any edge between vertices in G . Then S_{IS} should be an independent set in G_i , in graph G_i , for any two vertices in S_{IS} , there will be no edge connecting the two.

Claim (c) : S_i is triangle-free subset in G_i with size $\geq m + k \Rightarrow (3)$

Proof: Since we know that V_{new} is the set that contains the new vertex for every edge in G , therefore, $|V_{new}| = m$. There should exist a $S_i = S_{IS} \cup V_{new}$, and because S_{IS} and V_{new} are disjoint sets, that is to say they are not connected by any edge, so $|S_i| \geq k + m$. S_i should also be triangle-free in G_i . The reason is as the following:

→ Because V_{new} has no edge between them, S_{IS} is triangle-free in G_i , and the fact that S_i is composed of the union of S_{IS} and V_{new} , S_i has 2 vertices from S_{IS} and 1 vertex from V_{new} . The addition of any vertex in V_{new} will not create a triangle. We know that for each vertex V_{new} with $e = (u, v)$, because S_{IS} is an independent set of G_i , u and v should not be both present in S_{IS} . If both u and v are not present in S_{IS} , then adding V_{new} to S_i will not create a triangle because that particular vertex is not connected to any vertices in S_{IS} . If one of u and v is present in S_{IS} , it will not create a triangle either because in order to create a triangle both u and v needs to be present in S_{IS} . Therefore S_i is also triangle-free in G_i with size $\geq m + k$!

Proof of statement (2):

Claim (a): G_i has a triangle-free subset S_i with size $\geq m + k \Rightarrow (4)$

Assume there exists some triangle-free subset S_i of graph G_i , with size $\geq m + k$, and we choose any triangle-free subset S_i from G_i with size $\geq m + k$.

Claim (b) : If $S_i = S_{some\ set} \cup V_{new}$ (S_i contains the whole set V_{new}), then that $S_{some\ set}$ is an independent set of G with size $\geq k \Rightarrow (5)$

Proof: If S_i contains the whole set V_{new} , then $S_{some\ set}$ should be an independent set of G_i . If $S_{some\ set}$ is not IS of G_i , there will be two vertices u and v that share an edge, then set S_i would end up with $\{u, v, V_{new}\}$ with their edges connected to each other, since previously we have shown that we are adding $e_{new1} = (u, v_{new})$ and $e_{new2} = (v, v_{new})$ to form G_i , if somehow vertex u and v are connected, the triple would form a triangle, which contradicts to our statement that S_i is a triangle-free subset of G_i . Therefore, $S_{some\ set}$ is an independent set of G with size $\geq |S_i| - |V_{new}| = k$.

Claim (c) : if $S_i \cap V_{some} \neq V_{new}$ (S_i doesn't contains the entire whole set V_{new}), then we will always find a set that $S_{another} = S_{some\ set} \cup V_{new}$, and then that $S_{some\ set}$ is an independent set of G with size $\geq k$

Proof: If S_i doesn't contains the entire whole set V_{new} , we can always find another triangle-free subset $S_{another}$ that contains the entire whole set of V_{new} with

$S_{another} = S_{some\ set} \cup V_{new}$. For every vertex $v_e \in V_{new}$ but $\notin S_i$ with $e = (u, v)$:

- 1) If at least one of the vertex u and v is absent from $S_i \rightarrow$ add v_e to S_i
- 2) If both u and v are present in S_i , \rightarrow remove u from S_i and add v_e to S_i

Using this method, we can always find add new vertices V_{new} into the S_i without creating a triangle, and when we get such a $S_{another}$ and add all the V_{new} , we can just use the rationale from claim (b) to show that $S_{some\ set}$ is an independent set of G with $size \geq k$

Conclusion: We made an reduction from an NP-Complete problem to LTFS problem in polynomial time, therefore, the LTFS problem is NP-Complete (COMPLETE)