

\* Two NP-complete problems useful for reducing to arithmetic (summing) problems:

(2-) Partition: given integers  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ , partition  $A$  into two sets  $A = A_1 \cup A_2$  of equal sum:  $\frac{\sum A}{2} = \sum A_1 = \sum A_2 = t$  [Karp 1972]

### Generalization: Subset Sum

given integers  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ , and a target integer  $t$ , find a subset  $S \subseteq A$  of sum  $\sum S = t$

3-Partition: given integers  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ , partition  $A$  into  $n/3$  sets  $A_i$  of equal sum,  $\sum A / (n/3) = \sum A_i = t$

- Can assume each  $a_i \in (t/4, t/2)$

$\Rightarrow$  each set  $A_i$  contains exactly 3 items

[Garey & Johnson - SICOMP 1975]

$\Rightarrow$  can make each  $a_i$  close to  $t/3$ :

add huge number ( $n^{100} \cdot \max A$ ) to each  $a_i$

Garey & Johnson [book] reduce

$3SAT \rightarrow 3DM \rightarrow 4\text{-partition} \rightarrow 3\text{-partition} \rightarrow$  numerical 3DM

## Variation: Numerical 3-dimensional matching

given integers  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ ,

$B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$ ,

$C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$

partition into  $n$  triples  $S_i \in A \times B \times C$   
of equal sum  $t = \sum(A \cup B \cup C) / n$

[Garey & Johnson - SICOMP 1975]

### Reduction to 3-partition: (so it's simpler)

- add  $\varepsilon \ll 1$  to each  $a_i$  e.g.  $\varepsilon = 1/4$
  - add  $S \ll \varepsilon$  to each  $b_i$   $S = 1/16$
  - subtract  $\varepsilon + S$  from each  $c_i$
  - scale back to integers  $\times 16$
  - in sum of 3,  $S$  never becomes  $\varepsilon$   
&  $\varepsilon$  never becomes 1
- $\Rightarrow \varepsilon$  &  $S$ s must cancel algebraically

cf. (2D) matching

## Generalization: 3-dimensional matching (3DM)

given a tripartite hypergraph with  
vertices  $A \cup B \cup C$ ,  $|A| = |B| = |C| = n$ ,

& hyperedges  $E \subseteq A \times B \times C$ ,

find  $n$  disjoint edges  $S \subseteq E$

(which must partition the vertices)

[Karp 1972]

## Generalization: Exact Cover by 3-sets (X3C)

given 3-uniform hypergraph  $(V, E)$ ,

$\forall e \in E: |e|=3 \leftarrow$  find  $|V|/3$  disjoint edges ( $\Rightarrow$  partition  $V$ )

\* Two types of NP-hardness for number problems:

involving integers, not just combinatorics ↴

Weakly NP-hard = NP-hard

- allow numbers to have value exponential in  $n$

- encoding length =  $\log(2^{nc}) = nc$  still polynomial

Strongly NP-hard = NP-hard even when restricted to  
numbers with value polynomial in  $n$   
(i.e. even if numbers encoded in unary)

\* Corresponding algorithmic notions:

Pseudopolynomial = polynomial in  $n$  & largest number

Weakly polynomial = polynomial = (unary encoding)

Polynomial in  $n$  &  $\log(\text{largest number})$

Strongly polynomial = polynomial in  $n$

↳ # numbers

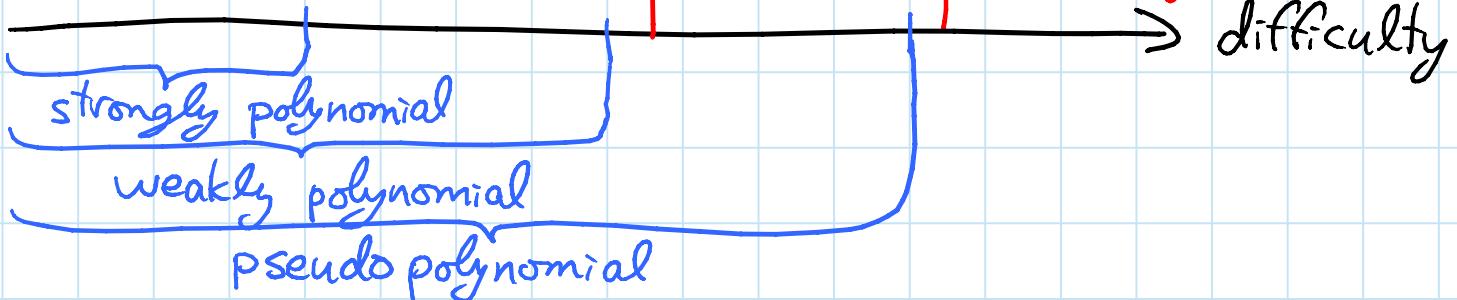
Weak NP-hardness precludes polynomial algorithm  
(assuming  $P \neq NP$ ) but leaves possible pseudopolynomial

Assuming  $P \neq NP$ :

→ weakly NP-hard

→ strongly NP-hard

difficulty



## Multiprocessor scheduling: [Garey & Johnson - SICOMP 1975]

- given  $n$  jobs with processing times  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$
- given  $P$  processors (each sequential & identical)
- assign jobs to processors to minimize maximum completion time (make span)
- decision version: Can all processors finish by  $\leq t$ ?
- NP certificate: job  $\rightarrow$  processor mapping  
 $(a_i \text{ as is})$

Reduction from Partition:  $P = 2 \Rightarrow$  weakly NP-hard

Reduction from 3-Partition:  $P = n/3 \Rightarrow$  strongly NP-hard

(This was Garey & Johnson's motivation for introducing 3-partition in 1975.)

Claim: jobs finishable in makespan  $t$   $\xrightarrow{\text{target sum}}$   
 $\Leftrightarrow$  (3-)Partition instance has a solution

## Rectangle packing:

- given  $n$  rectangles & target rectangle  $\rightarrow A$
- can you pack former into latter?  
 $\hookrightarrow$  rotate & translate to fit without overlap  $\rightarrow B$
- OPEN:  $\in \text{NP?}$
- special case: exact packing — no gaps  
 $\hookrightarrow$  hardness result is stronger theorem
- rotation  $\in \{0, 90^\circ, 180^\circ, 270^\circ\}$ , translation integral  
(proof by induction: consider corner, repeat)
- NP certificate: translations & rotations

## Reduction from Partition:

$$A = [a_1 \quad a_2 \quad \dots \quad a_n] \varepsilon$$

$$B = [- - - -] 2\varepsilon \ll 1 \downarrow$$

$t = \sum a_i / 2$  avoid rotation

$$\text{Reduction from 3-Partition: } B = [ \frac{n}{3} \varepsilon \ll 1 ]$$

$t = \sum a_i / (n/3)$

## Scaling trick to make all dimensions integral:

$$A = \left\{ \frac{n a_i}{nt} + 1 \right\}, \quad B = \left[ \frac{n}{nt} \right] \frac{n}{3}$$

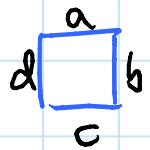
Here, just adding  $n/3$  to each  $a_i$  suffices:

$$A = \left\{ \frac{n/3 + a_i}{t+n} + 1 \right\}, \quad B = \left[ \frac{n}{t+n} \right] \frac{n}{3}$$

[Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

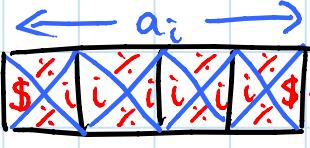
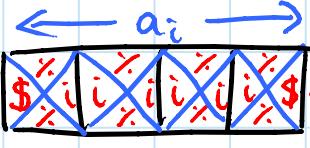
## Edge-matching puzzles: [Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

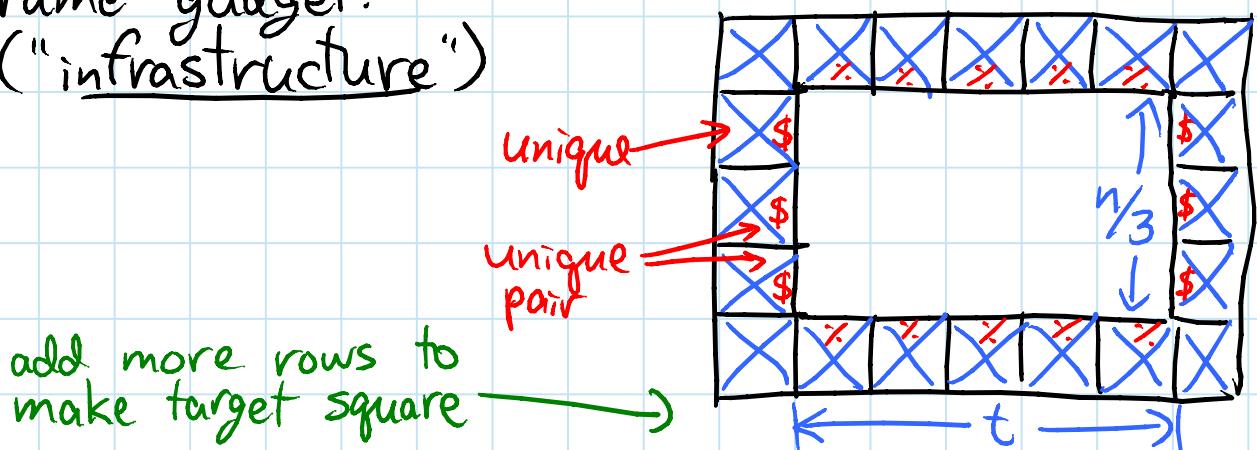
- given unit square tiles,  
each side labeled with a "color"
- given target rectangle
- goal: put tiles in target such that  
tiles sharing an edge have matching colors



No numbers  $\Rightarrow$  can't use Partition!

Reduction from 3-Partition: (like rect. packing)

- $a_i$  gadget:   $\leftarrow a_i \rightarrow$  ← effectively unary encoding!  
  
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$  
X X X X X  
X X X X X  
X X X X X  
X X X X X  
← prevents rotation
- if  $i$  colors go together, forced to make this
- but some could go on boundary...
- frame gadget:  
("infrastructure")

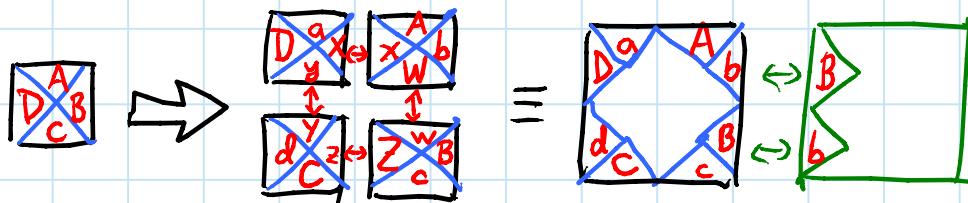


- unique colors forced on boundary  
 $\Rightarrow$  frame construction forced
- target shape:  $(n/3 + 2) \times (t + 2)$   
 $\Rightarrow$   $a_i$  construction forced (no boundary left)  
 $\Rightarrow$  effectively rectangle packing

## Signed edge-matching puzzles: (lizards etc.)

- colors come in matching pairs:  
a & A, b & B, etc.
- color does not match itself ~ only its mate

Reduction from unsigned edge-matching puzzles:



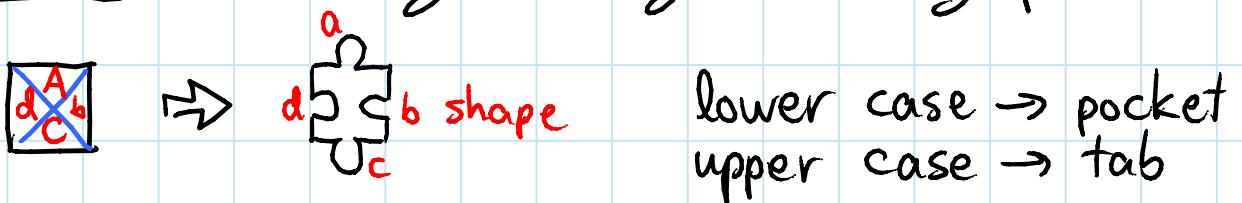
- interior colors ( $x, y, z, w$ ) are unique pairs  
 $\Rightarrow$  must assemble  $2 \times 2$   
(assuming frame to prevent boundary use)
- $\Rightarrow$  acts like unsigned tile

## Jigsaw puzzles:

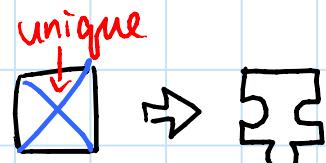
[Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

- no guiding picture
- ambiguous mates (fitting  $\not\Rightarrow$  correct)

## Reduction from signed edge-matching puzzles:



- for rectangular boundary:
- ↳ even square

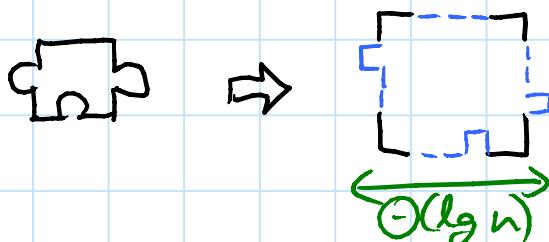


## Polyomino packing:

[Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

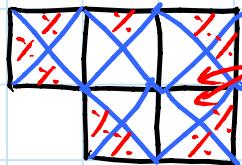
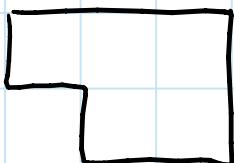
- given polyominoes = edge-to-edge joinings (like Tetris) of unit squares
- given target rectangle
- goal: exact pack former into latter
- rectangle packing is a special case  $\Rightarrow$  done
- but piece areas are  $>n$
- what if areas are polylog?
- OPEN: logarithmic area

## Reduction from jigsaw puzzles:



} binary encoding of color  
- can get equal areas

Closing the loop: [Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]  
reduction from polyomino packing  
to unsigned edge-matching puzzles



Unique pairs

- use frame, but with  $\$ = \%$ .

So: all 4 puzzle types are NP-complete  
& constant-factor equivalent: can convert  
one to the other with  $O(1)$  factor blowup

3-partition

unsigned edge matching

polyomino packing

signed edge matching

jigsaw

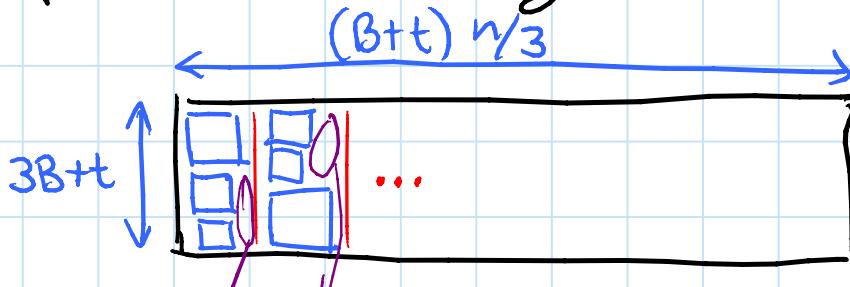
(exact)

## Packing squares into a square: strongly NP-complete [Leung, Tam, Wong, Young, Chin - JPDC 1990]

- motivation: scheduling square jobs on grid supercomputer

### Rectangle target:

- Squares of dimension  $a_i + B$   $\leftarrow$  huge  $\Rightarrow \approx B$
- Pack into rectangle of height  $\approx 3B$ :



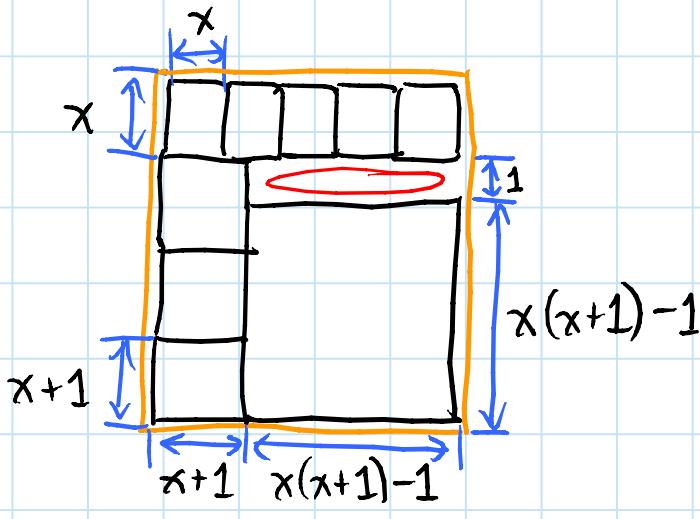
- total slop  $\leq (3B+t) \cdot (t n/3)$   
 $< B^2 <$  one square

if  $B > t n$   
 $\Rightarrow$  "doesn't help"

Exact packing: add  $1 \times 1$   $\square$ s to fill extra area

### Square target:

- infrastructure to build rectangular space



- scale by  $3B+t$
- set  $x$  large enough to get enough width
- pad excess with  $B \times B$  squares

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<http://ocw.mit.edu>

## 6.890 Algorithmic Lower Bounds: Fun with Hardness Proofs

Fall 2014

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