

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of thin, light-blue lines and small circles, resembling a circuit board or a complex graph structure.

# COMPLEXITY THEORY

DISCRETE MATHEMATICS AND THEORY 2

MARK FLORYAN

# GOALS!

1. Measuring Time and Space complexity of algorithms on Turing Machines (You already know a lot of this!)
2. Introducing the most famous complexity classes (P, NP, NP-Hard, etc.)
3. Showing how a difficult a problem is through the use of mapping reductions (you've already seen some of this in DSA2)!

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural network connections. These include straight lines, right-angle turns, and small circles at the ends of the lines.

# PART 1: INTRODUCTION!

# OVERVIEW OF THEORY OF COMPUTATION

## *Defining Computation*

Input



Computing Machine /  
Program / Algorithm



Output

## *Computational Models*

Circuits

<

Finite  
Automata

<

Pushdown  
Automata

<

Turing  
Machine

=

RAM  
Model

## *Computational Complexity*

Decidability

P, NP, NP-Hard

P-Space, Co-NP,  
etc

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks. These elements consist of thin lines connecting small circles, some of which are larger than others, creating a sense of connectivity and complexity.

# PART 1: MEASURING TIME AND SPACE COMPLEXITY

# TIME COMPLEXITY

Let  $M$  be a deterministic Turing machine that halts on all inputs. The running time or time complexity of  $M$  is the function  $T_M$ , where  $T_M(n)$  is the maximum number of steps that  $M$  uses on any input of length  $n$ . If  $T_M$  is the running time of  $M$ , we say that  $M$  runs in time  $T_M$  and that  $M$  is an  $T_M$  time Turing machine. Customarily we use  $n$  to represent the length of the input.

*You should already be familiar with this definition / concept*

*Short version:  $T_M(n)$  is the worst case runtime for machine  $M$  as a function of input size  $n$ .*

# REVIEW: TIME COMPLEXITY

*The following items, you should already know from previous courses.*

$$O(f(n)),$$

*Asymptotic upper bounds*

$$\Omega(f(n)),$$

*Asymptotic lower bounds*

$$\Theta(f(n))$$

*Asymptotic tight bound*

$$1, \log(n), n, n \log(n), n^2, n^3$$

*Some common complexity classes*

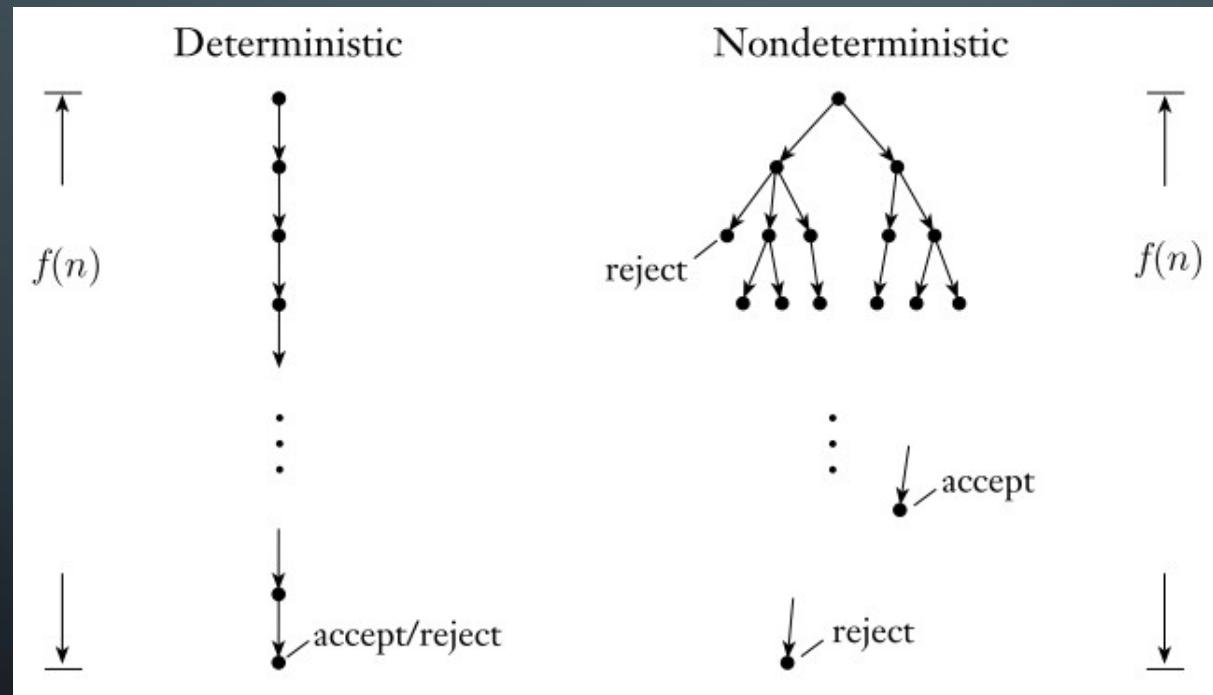
$$\log_a n \in o(n^b) \in o(c^n)$$

*Every log is bounded by any polynomial is bounded by any exponential*

# QUICK NOTE ON NON-DETERMINISTIC TIME

What about **non-deterministic** Turing machines (NTMs)? How do we measure running time of such a device?

*With deterministic computation, we simply look at longest the one branch of computation can possibly be.*



*For non-deterministic deciders (does not loop forever), we measure the length of the longest branch of computation*



# QUICK NOTE ON NON-DETERMINISTIC TIME

**Theorem**: Every NTM that runs in time  $T(n)$  has an equivalent DTM that runs in time  $O(T(n)^2)$ .

# COMPARING NTM AND DTM

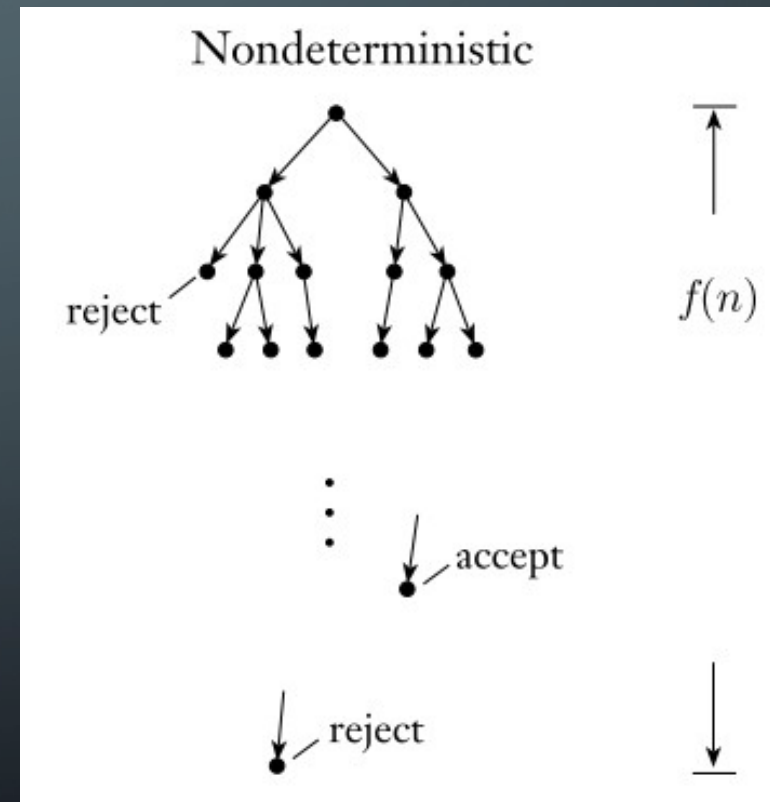
**Theorem:** Every NTM that runs in time  $f(n)$  has an equivalent DTM that runs in time  $f(n)^2$

let  $b$  be the maximum number of branches this computation can have

The computation tree has at most  $b^{f(n)}$  leaves and each branch to each node has length at most  $f(n)$

Construct a DTM with three tapes that simulates this NTM as we did in the Turing Machine section earlier. This machine manually computes / simulates each branch individually.

Thus, this machine simulates  $b^{f(n)}$  branches at time  $f(n)$  each for total time  $f(n)^2$



Here, is the longest branch of computation

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks. These elements consist of thin lines connecting small circles, some of which are larger than others. The lines are mostly vertical and horizontal, with some diagonal segments. The circles are also white, with some having a slight glow or shadow.

# PART 1: COMPLEXITY CLASSES

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles.

# PROBLEM TYPES

# PROBLEM TYPES

Given a problem we want to solve, there are three important variations of that problem

**Traveling Salesperson Problem:** Given a weighted graph  $G$  and start node  $s$ , find the minimum weight path starting and ending at  $s$  that visits every node exactly once.

## **Function Problem:**

Return the actual solution

Given  $G$  and  $s$ , return the weight of the path  $P$  (or maybe the list of nodes to visit) that minimizes the sum of the weights of the edges along  $P$ .

## **Decision Problem:**

Convert problem to have Boolean output

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , and integer  $k$ , can you find a valid path with total weight less than or equal to  $k$ ?

## **Verification Problem:**

Given a solution, verify if it works

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , path  $P$ , and integer  $k$

Is path  $P$  valid and is its weight less than  $k$ ?

# WHY DO THESE MATTER?

## Function Problem:

Return the actual solution

Given  $G$  and  $s$ , return the weight of the path  $P$  (list of nodes to visit in order) that minimizes the sum of the weights of the edges along  $P$ .

## Decision Problem:

Convert problem to have Boolean output

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , and integer  $k$ , can you find a valid path with total weight less than  $k$ ?

## Verification Problem:

Given a solution, verify if it works

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , path  $P$ , and integer  $k$   
  
Is path  $P$  valid and is its weight less than  $k$ ?

If you can solve the decision problem you can also solve the function problem Why?

Because if you can solve the decision problem, you can repeatedly invoke it with lower values of  $k$  until the Yes responses change to No

# WHY DO THESE MATTER?

## Function Problem:

Return the actual solution

Given  $G$  and  $s$ , return the weight of the path  $P$  (list of nodes to visit in order) that minimizes the sum of the weights of the edges along  $P$ .

## Decision Problem:

Convert problem to have Boolean output

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , and integer  $k$ , can you find a valid path with total weight less than  $k$ ?

## Verification Problem:

Given a solution, verify if it works

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , path  $P$ , and integer  $k$   
  
Is path  $P$  valid and is its weight less than  $k$ ?

Answer: Yes! If verifier exists, we can call the verifier over and over again with possible paths until we get a Yes response. We will see soon though that this is usually NOT efficient

If you can solve the verification problem, does it help you solve the decision problem?

# WHY DO THESE MATTER?

## Function Problem:

Return the actual solution

Given  $G$  and  $s$ , return the weight of the path  $P$  (list of nodes to visit in order) that minimizes the sum of the weights of the edges along  $P$ .

## Decision Problem:

Convert problem to have Boolean output

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , and integer  $k$ , can you find a valid path with total weight less than  $k$ ?

## Verification Problem:

Given a solution, verify if it works

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , path  $P$ , and integer  $k$   
  
Is path  $P$  valid and is its weight less than  $k$ ?

We will focus on these two from now on because Turing machines return Yes/No answers.



# A NOTE ON VERIFICATION

Verification is technically more general than “given a solution, verify it if works”.

**Formal Definition:** Given a string  $w$  and certificate  $c$ , use  $c$  as proof to verify that  $w$  is in the language.

Given a language  $A$ , a verifier  $V$  is correct if and only if  $V$  accepts

## **Verification Problem:**

Given a solution, verify if it works

Given  $G$ ,  $s$ , path  $P$ , and integer  $k$

Is path  $P$  valid and is its weight less than  $k$ ?

# COMPARING NTM AND DTM

**Theorem**: A problem  $P$  is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM if and only if it is solvable (decision problem) in polynomial time by an NTM

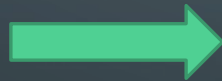
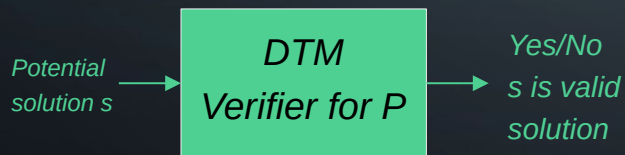
*Here, polynomial time  
means the runtime of  
the machine is worst-  
case for*

# COMPARING NTM AND DTM

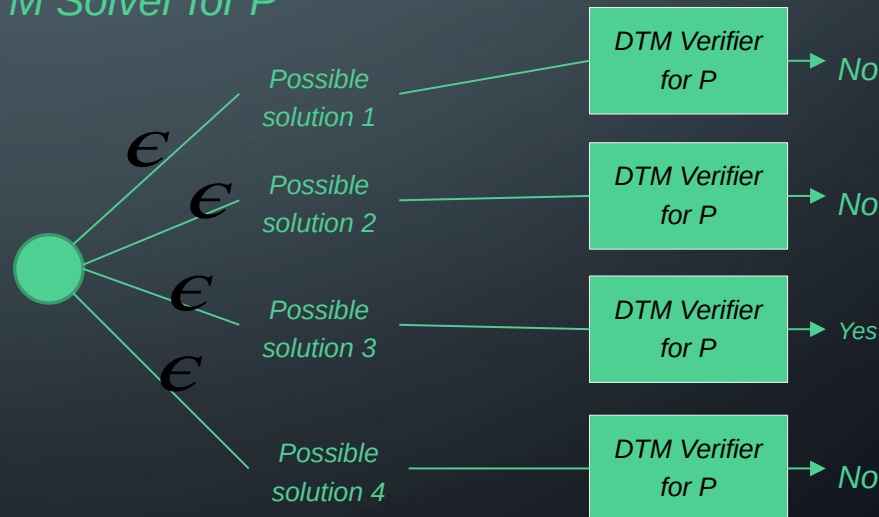
**Theorem**: A problem  $P$  is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM if and only if it is solvable (decision problem) in polynomial time by an NTM

**Direction 1**: If a problem is verifiable by a DTM in polynomial time, then it is solvable in polynomial time by an NTM.

Given:  $P$  is verifiable by a DTM. Thus, the DTM that verifies instances of this problem exists



NTM Solver for  $P$

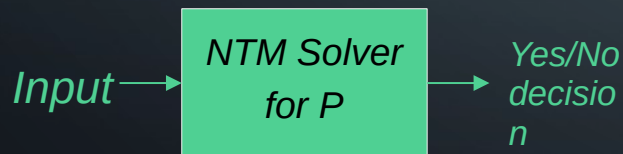


# COMPARING NTM AND DTM

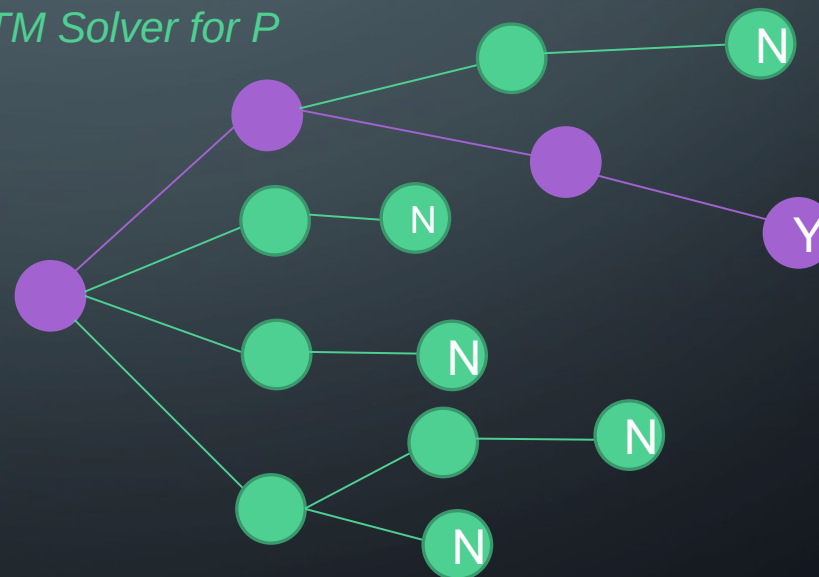
**Theorem**: A problem  $P$  is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM if and only if it is solvable (decision problem) in polynomial time by an NTM

**Direction 2 (Harder)**: If a problem is solvable by an NTM in polynomial time, then it is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM.

Given:  $P$  is solvable by an NTM. Thus, the NTM that exists



NTM Solver for  $P$



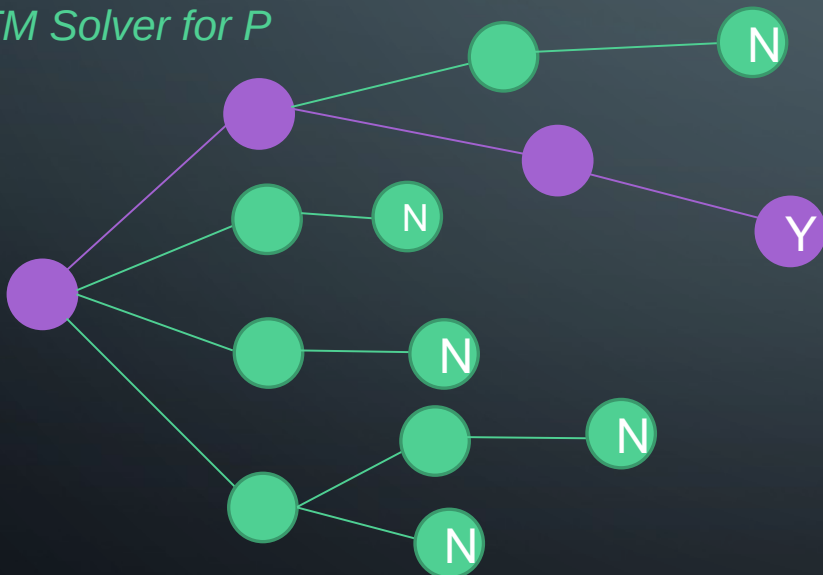
Purple path that leads to Yes is a certificate for  $P$ . Why?

# COMPARING NTM AND DTM

**Theorem**: A problem  $P$  is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM if and only if it is solvable (decision problem) in polynomial time by an NTM

**Direction 2 (Harder)**: *If a problem is solvable by an NTM in polynomial time, then it is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM.*

*NTM Solver for  $P$*



**Verifier for this language:**

*Given  $w$  (input) and  $c$  (list of which branch to take at each step)*

*Simulate  $P$*

*At each step, check  $c$  to see which branch to take*

*Accept iff  $P$  accepts*

# COMPARING NTM AND DTM

**Theorem**: A problem  $P$  is verifiable in polynomial time by a DTM if and only if it is solvable (decision problem) in polynomial time by an NTM

*This theorem is critical to remember! It will be very important in a moment.*

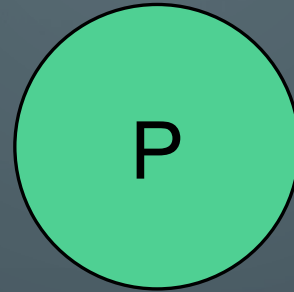
The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles.

# COMPLEXITY CLASSES (FINALLY!)



# THE CLASS P

Important: *P* is a set of problems (not solutions, not algorithms)



**Example problems in this set include:**

*Sorting a list of numbers*  
*Inserting into a binary tree*  
*Computing the average of a list of numbers*  
*Printing "hello world"*  
*Find() in a hash table*  
*...and many more*

The class P is the set of all problems that can be solved by a deterministic Turing machine in time such that



# THE CLASS NP

**Remember:** We also showed that any NTM solver has an equivalent exponential time DTM. So all problems in NP are solvable in exponential time.

**Example problems in this set include:**

Everything in P (will prove shortly)  
Traveling Salesperson Problem  
Circuit Satisfiability  
Vertex Cover  
Independent Set  
Subset Sum  
...and many more

NP

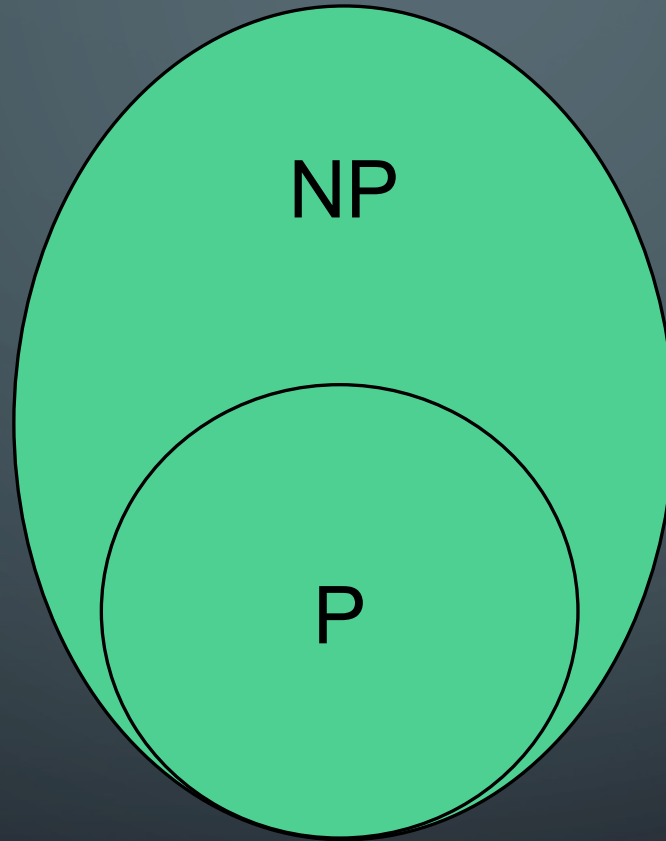
**Equivalent Definition:** By our recently proved theorem, this also means these problems can be verified in polynomial time using a deterministic Turing machine!

The class NP is the set of all problems that can be solved by a **non-deterministic** Turing machine in time such that

# $P \subseteq NP$

*Proof:*

*Everything in  $P$  can be solved in polynomial time by a DTM, so it can definitely be verified as well (just solve it and then verify the solution)*



*Hard Problems*

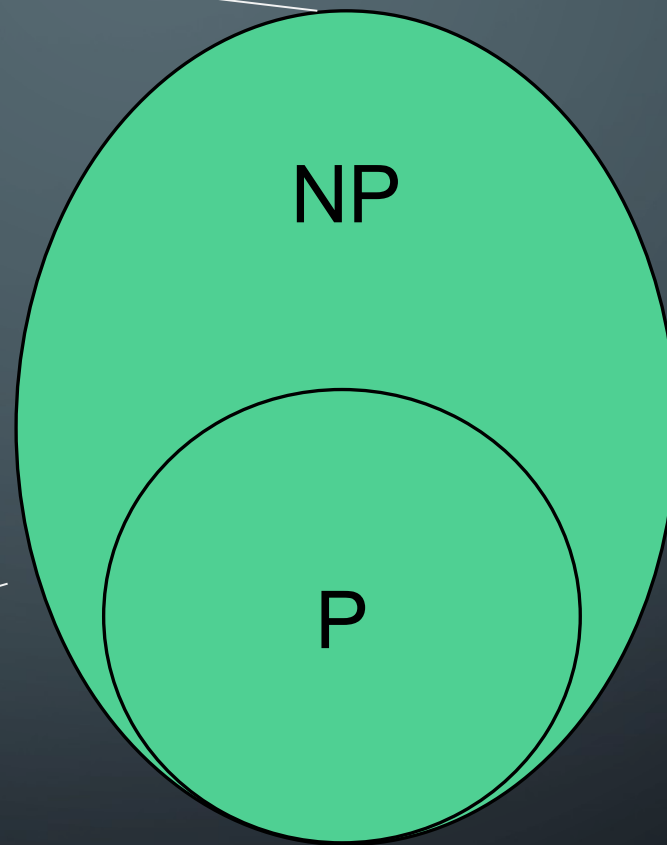
*Easy Problems*

Is ? This is still unknown today!

$$P \subset NP$$

*We are interested in finding the hardest problem in NP (at the VERY top of the bubble). Why? It is the MOST likely to not be in P if*

*It is true that we DO NOT know if there are actually any unique problems in NP (that are not also in P).*



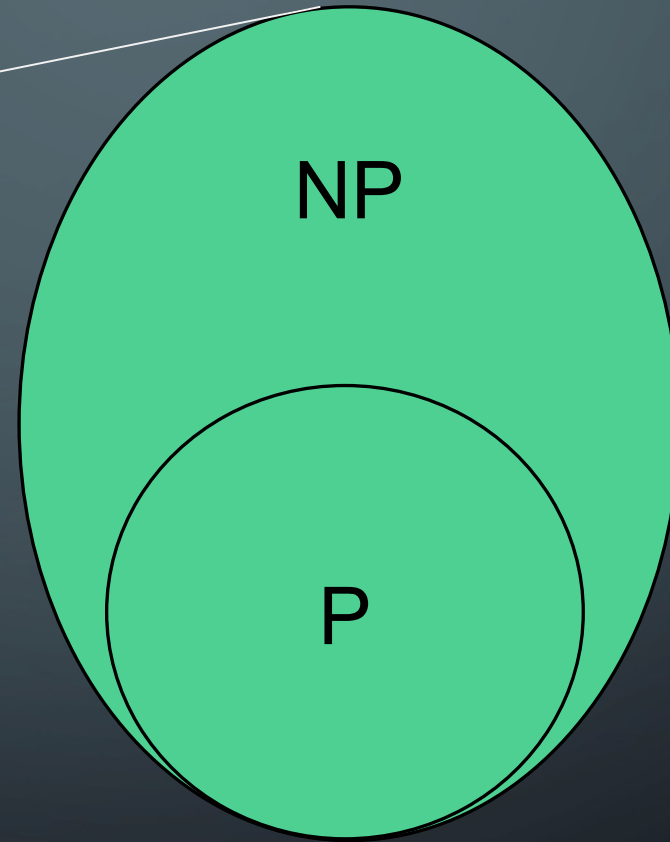
**Hard Problems**

**Easy Problems**

# NP-HARD

*Suppose we have find the  
hardest problem in NP*

*NP-Hard problems are defined to  
be all problems that are this hard  
OR harder.*

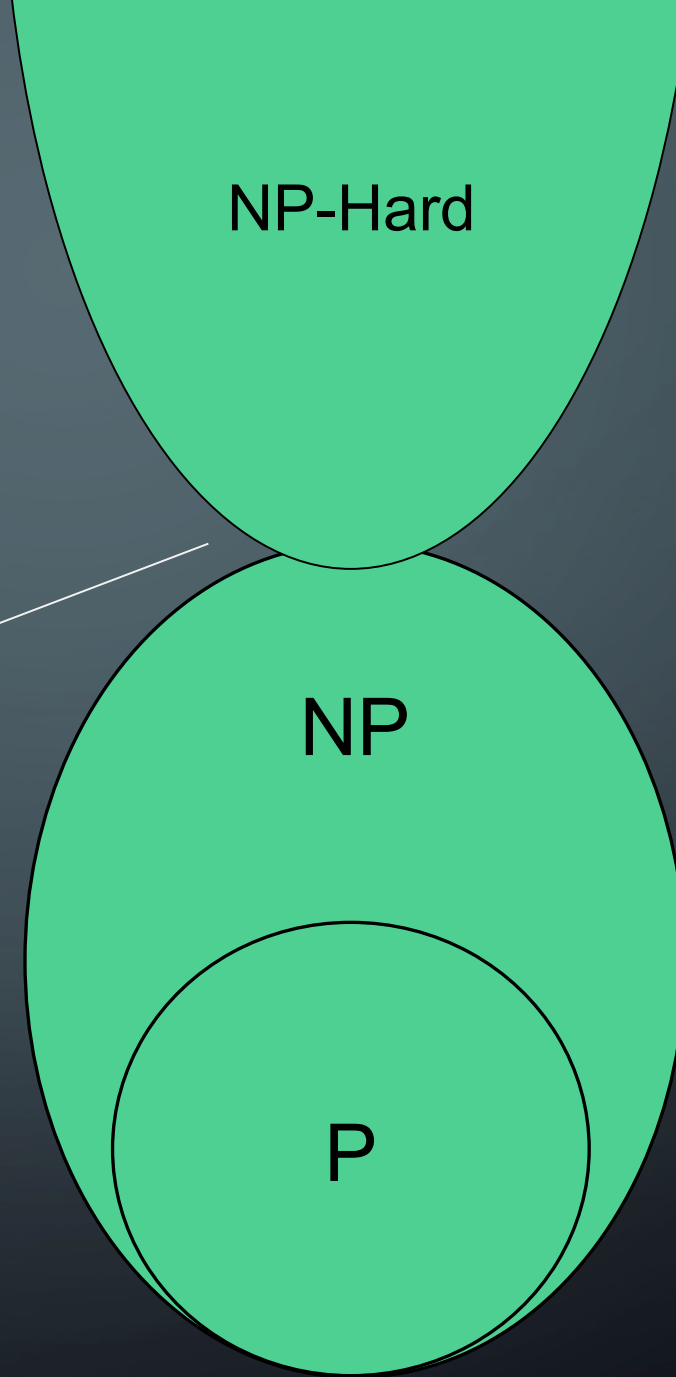


*Hard Problems*

*Easy Problems*

*Goes up to  
indefinite difficulty.*

*Note that NP-Hard and NP  
intersect here. Problems in  
this intersection are the  
hardest problems in NP*



NP-Hard

NP

P

NP-HARD

Hard Problems

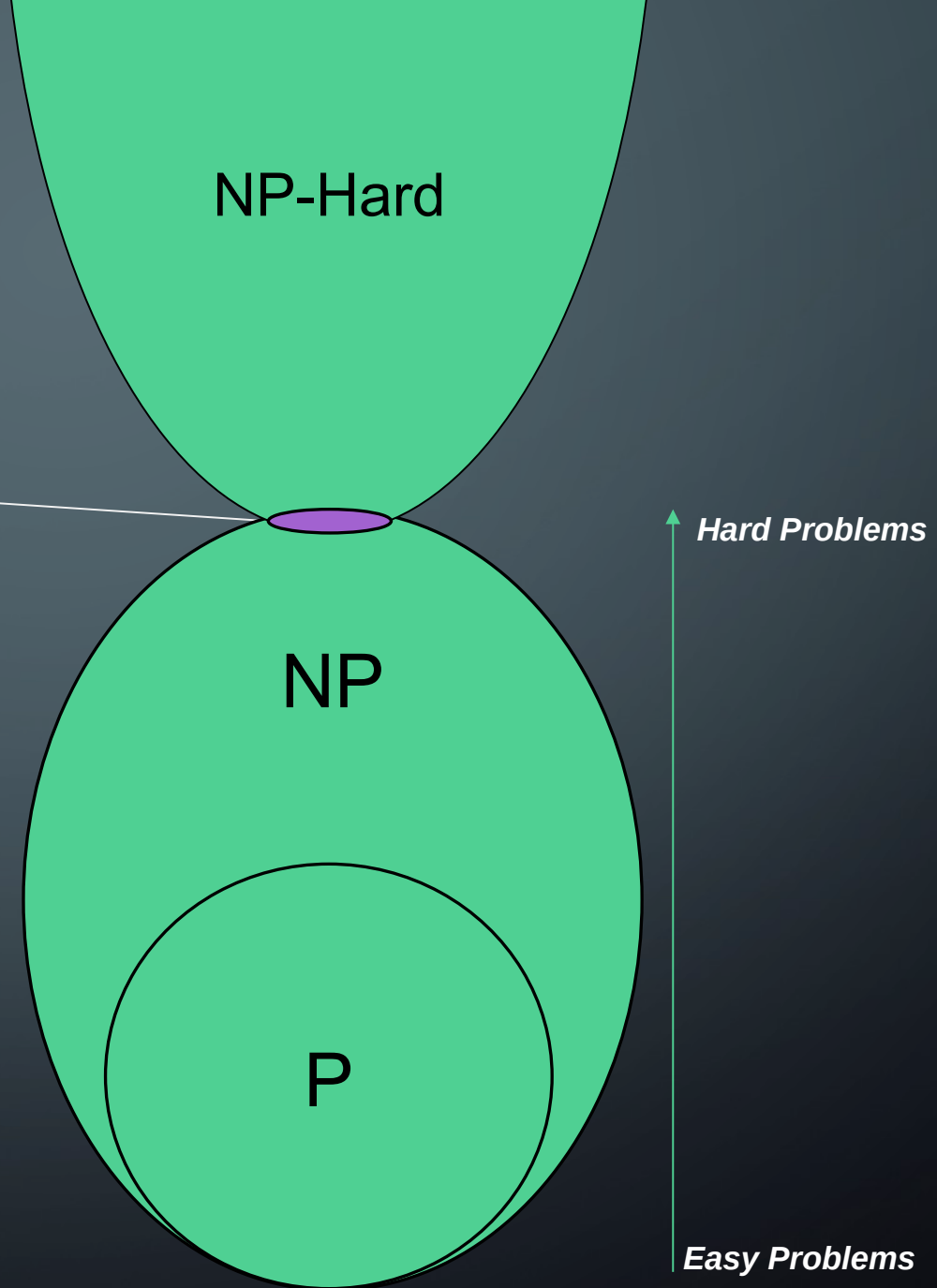
Easy Problems

# NP-COMPLETE

*This section (purple) is the set of NP-Complete problems. The hardest problems in NP*

**Definition:** A problem is **NP-Complete** if and only if the problem:

1. Is in NP
2. Is NP-Hard

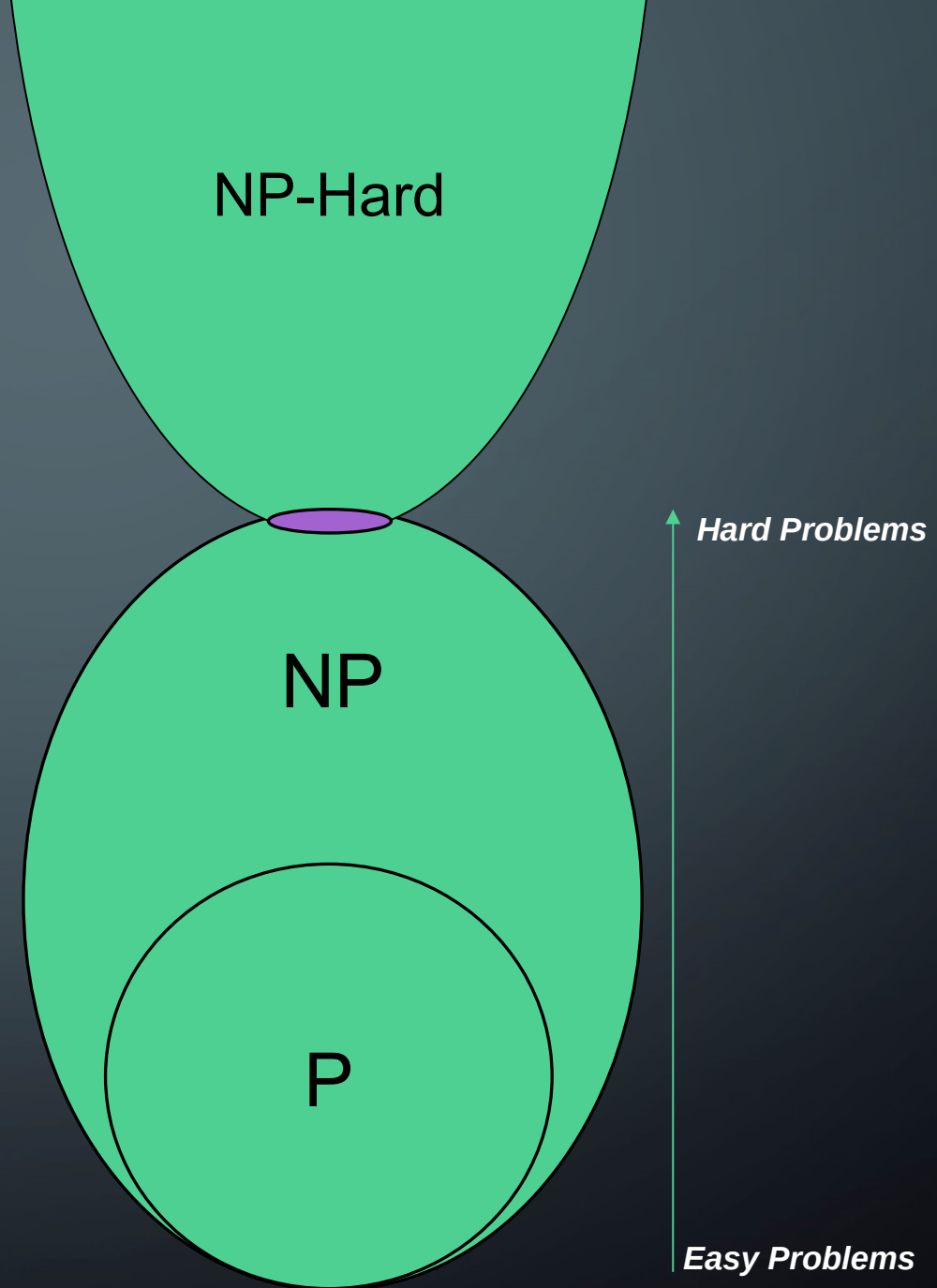


# NP-COMPLETE

*A different definition of NP-Complete*

**Definition:** A problem A is **NP-Complete** if and only if

*means that problem A is harder than problem B, shown through a **reduction**, which we will see in a moment.*



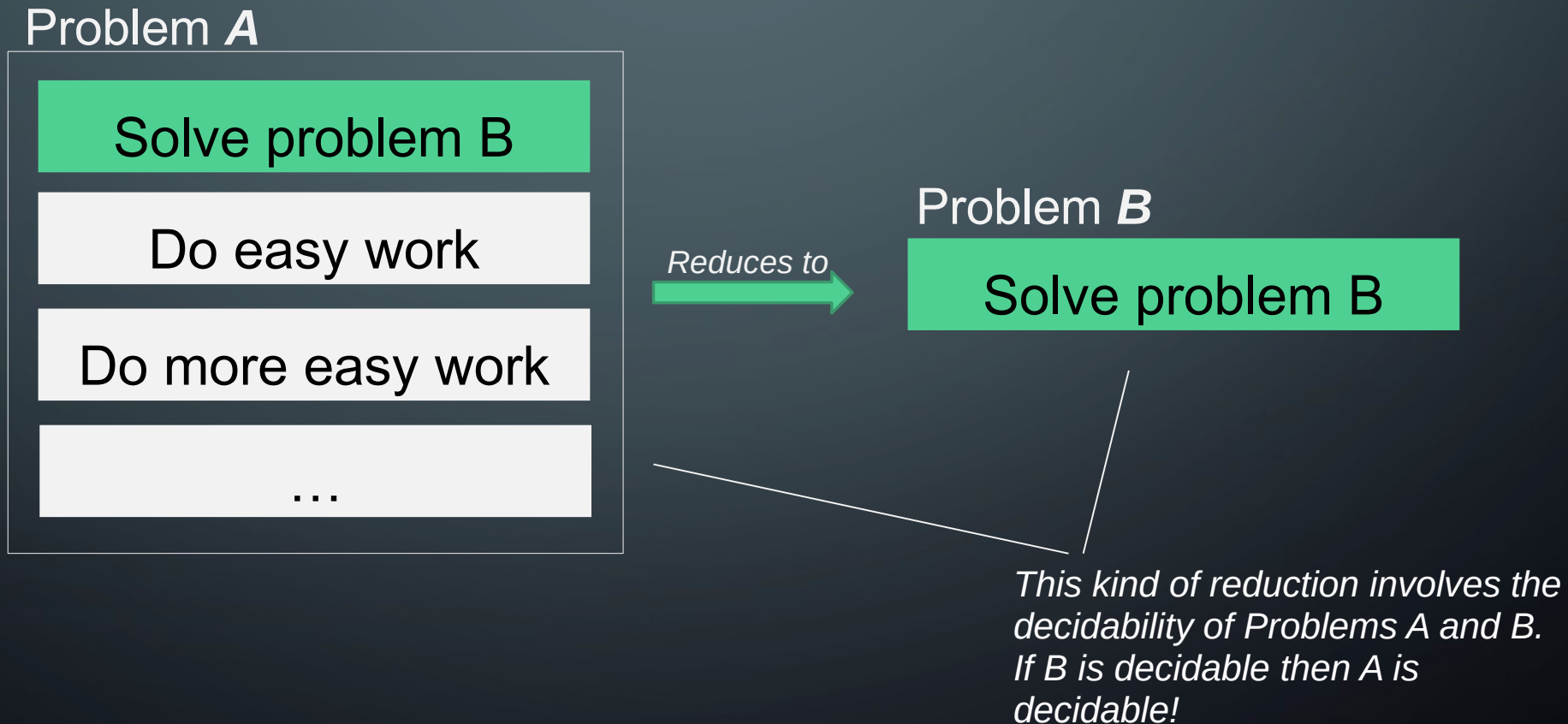
The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural network connections. These elements consist of thin lines that branch out and terminate in small circles, creating a symmetrical, abstract pattern in each corner.

# MORE ON REDUCTIONS: MAPPING REDUCTIONS



# WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN

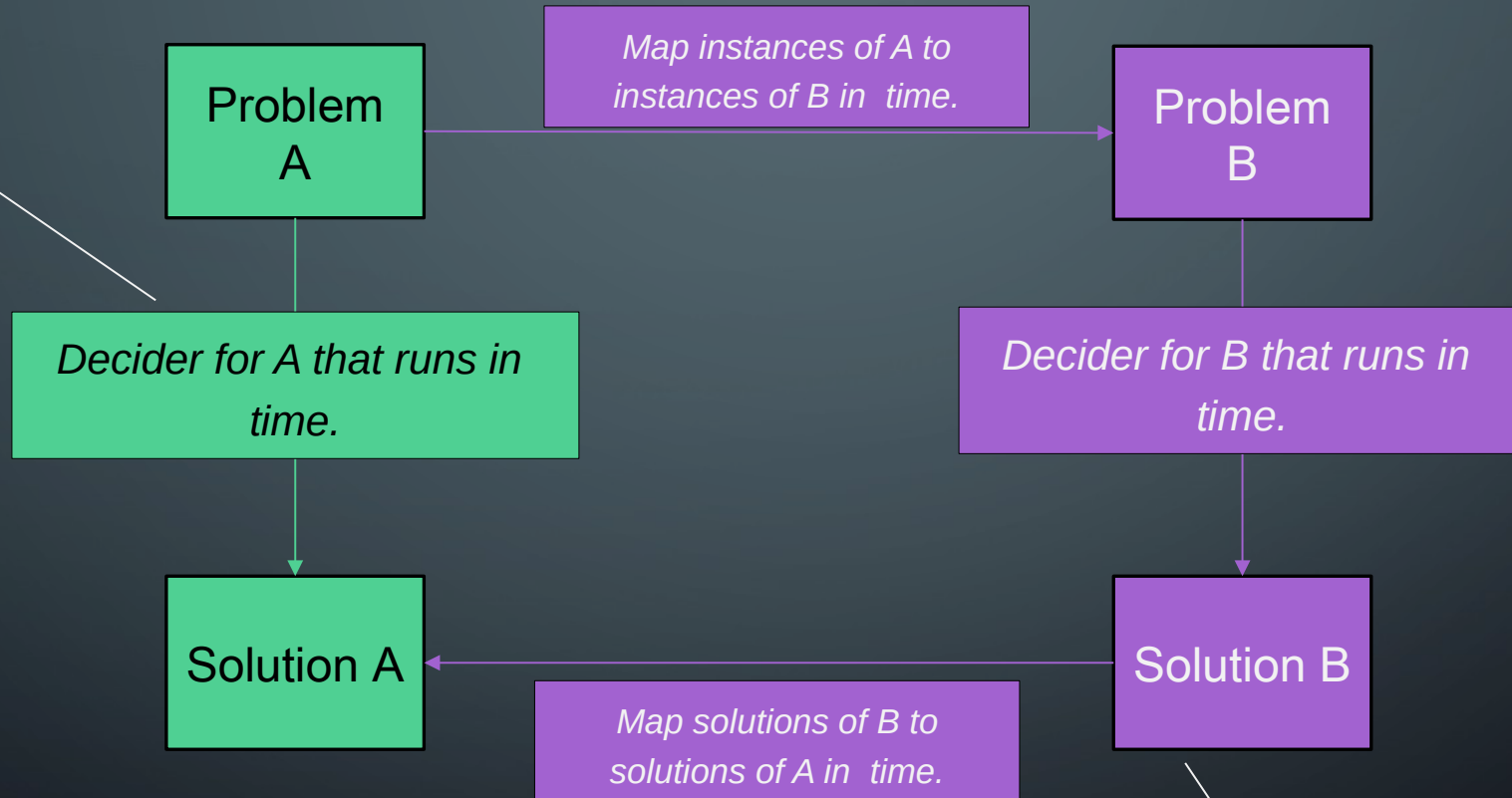
**Reduction**: A reduction exists between problems **A** and **B** if a solution to **B** can be used to develop a solution for **A**.



# MAPPING REDUCTION

A mapping reduction uses a reduction function  $R()$  to map instances of one problem (A) to instances of another problem (B) such that for any input string ,

One way (green route) to solve A is to use the decider in time



Another way to solve A is to use the purple path.  
Takes:

# REDUCTIONS YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN BEFORE!

*Reduction:*

*Max-Flow Min-Cut*

*Bi-Partite Matching Max-Flow*

*FindMedian Sorting*

*FindMin Sorting*

*Details:*

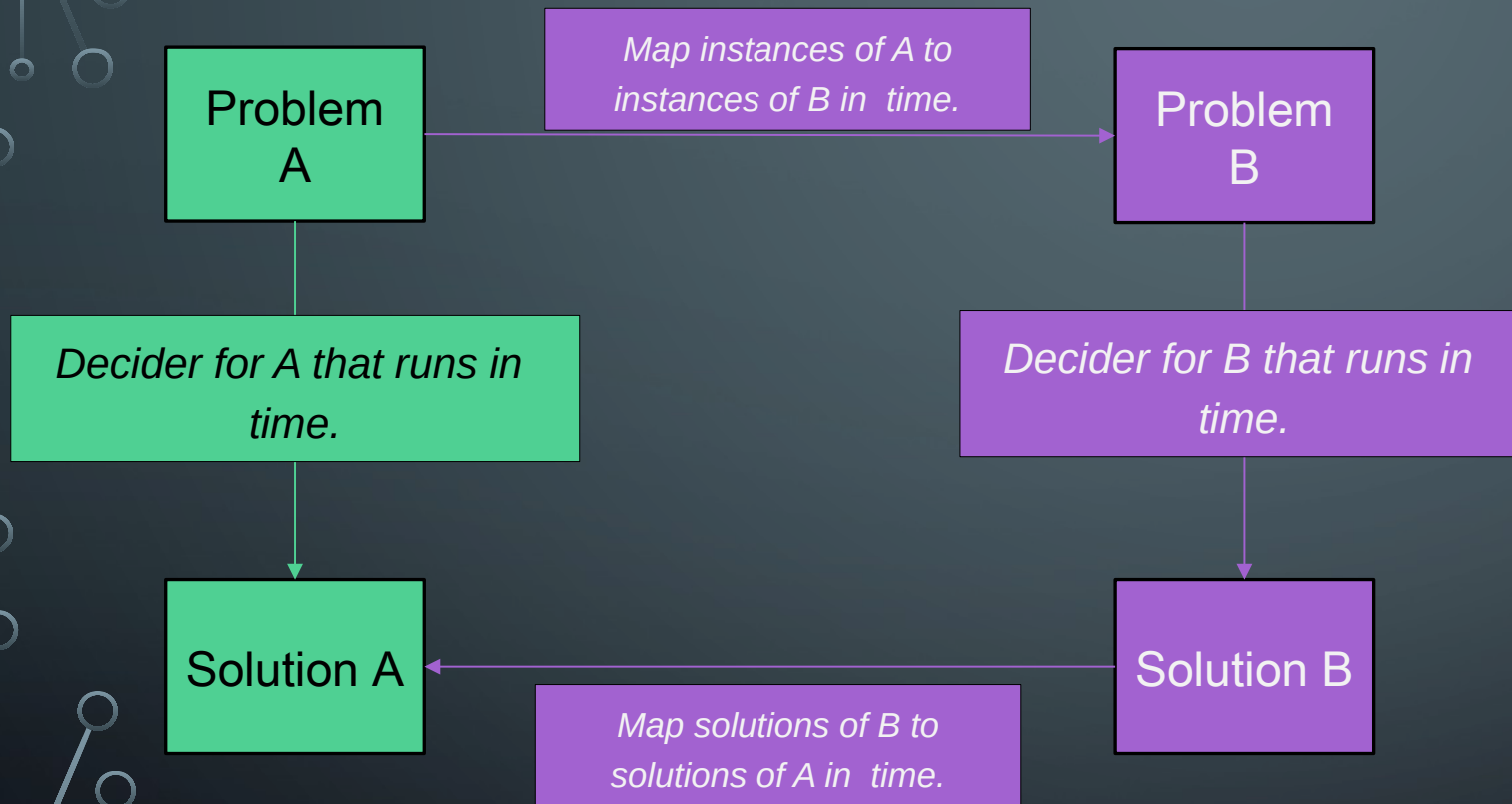
*No conversion necessary. Value of maximum flow is equal to capacity of minimum cut on the same, unaltered graph.*

*Conversion involved adding capacities to edges, adding source and sink node, adding edges to / from source / sink node, etc.*

*No conversion necessary. Sort the list, then pull out the middle element in the array.*

*No conversion necessary. Sort the list, then pull the first element in the array. Note that this one is a reduction to a HARDER problem. So won't be used in practice.*

# RUNTIME COMPARISON



Which Algorithm is faster?



$$R_{AB} + B_n + R S_{BA}$$

If , then this represents a **valid reduction** and

If , then this is the best algorithm for A (or equally the best)

# RUNTIME COMPARISON

*Which Algorithm is faster?*



$$R_{AB} + B_n + R S_{BA} \in \Theta(B_n)$$

*Not surprisingly, if these two algorithms have same overall runtime, then either can be used (they are equivalent).*

*Harder Problems  
(fastest algorithm has slower runtime)*

*Easy Problems  
(fastest algorithm has very fast runtime)*

# RUNTIME COMPARISON

Which Algorithm is faster?



$$R_{AB} + B_n + R_{S_{BA}} \in \Theta(B_n)$$

$B_n$

$A_n$

If solving A through reduction is SLOWER than directly solving A, this means problem B is simply harder than problem A (but the reduction is still valid)

Harder Problems  
(fastest algorithm has slower runtime)

Easy Problems  
(fastest algorithm has very fast runtime)

# RUNTIME COMPARISON

*Which Algorithm is faster?*



$$R_{AB} + B_n + R S_{BA} \in \Theta(B_n)$$

*If the reduction is FASTER than directly solving A, What does this mean? It means the reduction IS the best way to solve A (and this picture doesn't make sense)*

**$A_n$**

**$B_n$**

*Harder Problems  
(fastest algorithm has slower runtime)*

*Easy Problems  
(fastest algorithm has very fast runtime)*



# RUNTIME COMPARISON

*Which Algorithm is faster?*



$$R_{AB} + B_n + R S_{BA} \in \Theta(B_n)$$

$$A_n = B_n$$

*...and the direct algorithm for A is obsolete. The reduction through problem B is the direct way to solve A*

OLD

*Harder Problems  
(fastest algorithm has slower runtime)*

*Easy Problems  
(fastest algorithm has very fast runtime)*



# RUNTIME COMPARISON

Suppose time goes on, and somebody find a *FASTER* way to solve  $B$  in time, how will the picture to the right change as a result?

$A$  now has a faster algorithm also! So improving  $B$ 's algorithm improves  $A$ 's. They are linked in this direction!

$$A_n = B_n$$

$$A'_n = R_{AB} + B'_n + R S_{BA}$$

This is *ONLY* true if the reduction stays valid, meaning the conversion is still fast:

Harder Problems  
(fastest algorithm has slower runtime)

Easy Problems  
(fastest algorithm has very fast runtime)

# RUNTIME COMPARISON

*Now suppose time goes on and someone finds a VERY fast algorithm for A. What could happen?*

*Now, the reduction may still be valid, but we are back to B being strictly harder than A*

**$B'_n$**

**$A'_n$**

*Harder Problems  
(fastest algorithm has slower runtime)*

*Easy Problems  
(fastest algorithm has very fast runtime)*

# BIG PICTURE

*So, via reduction*

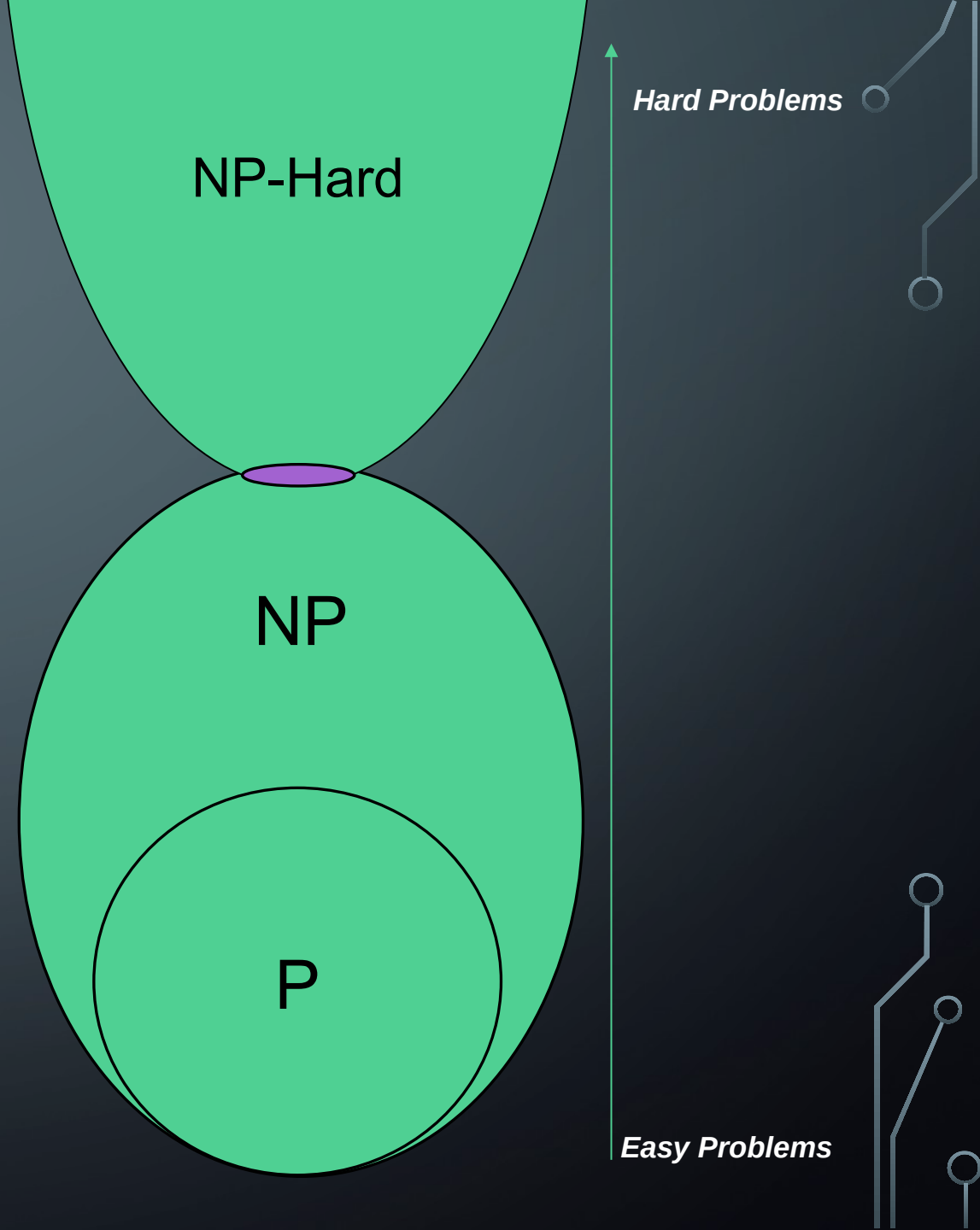
*A **valid** reduction establishes that  $B$  is at least as hard as  $A$*

*Some related facts!*

*If valid reductions exist in both directions:  $A \leq B$  and  $B \leq A$ , then the two problems are equally as hard*

*NP-Complete problems are the hardest in NP, so by definition there is a valid reduction from anything in NP to them.*

*How fast does a reduction between NP-Complete problems need to be? Just some polynomial. Why? We write this as*



# PROVING NP-COMPLETENESS

Usually we do the **bolded** ones

But for second step, we need a known NP-Complete problem. What was the first one?

To prove a problem A is NP-Complete, show that:

How? Either:

Solve in Polynomial time with an NTM

**Verify in Polynomial time with a DTM**

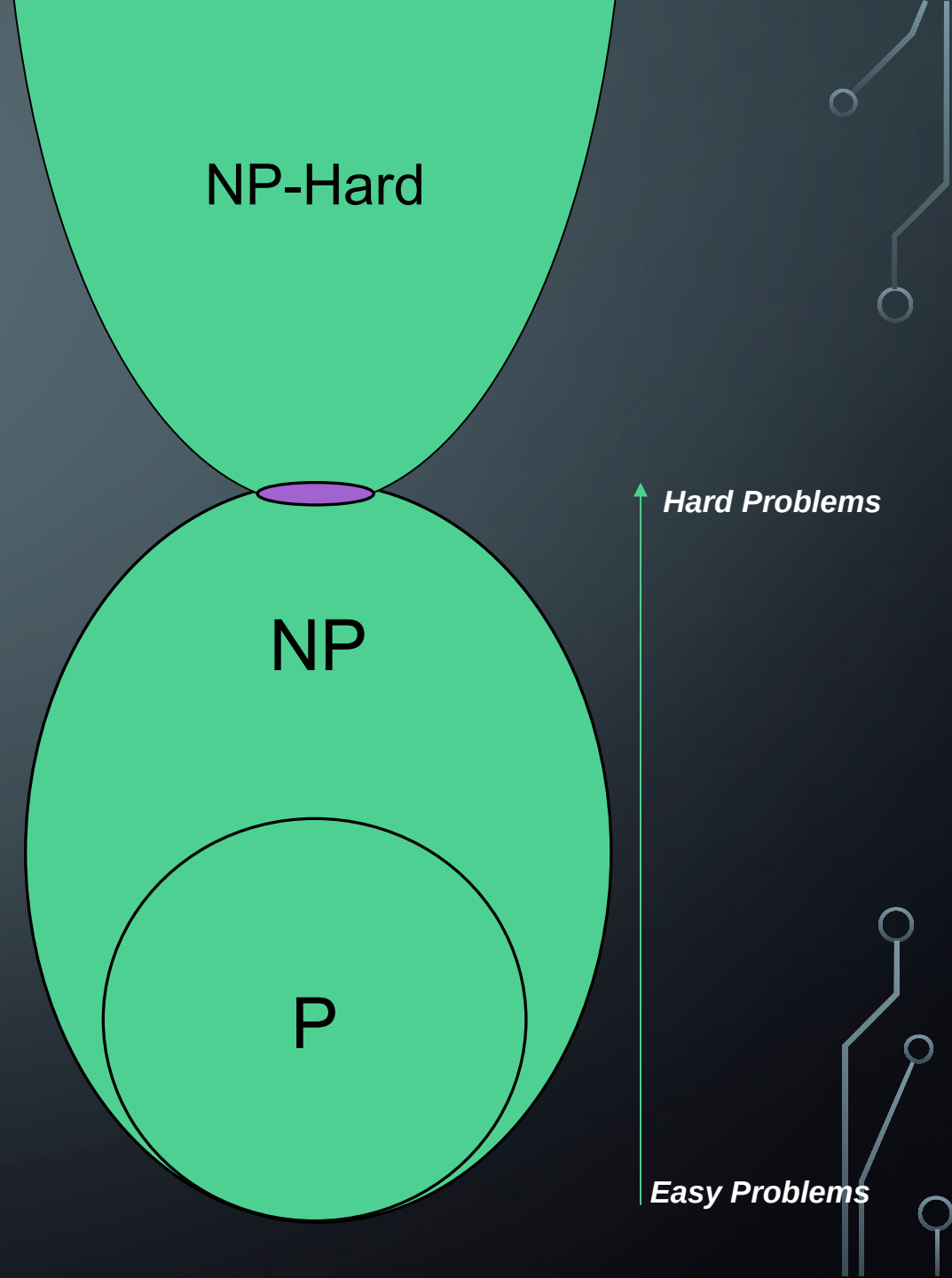
1. **Is NP-Hard**

How? Either:

Show that

**Pick known NP-Complete problem B and**

**show**



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# COOK-LEVIN THEOREM

# COOK-LEVIN THEOREM

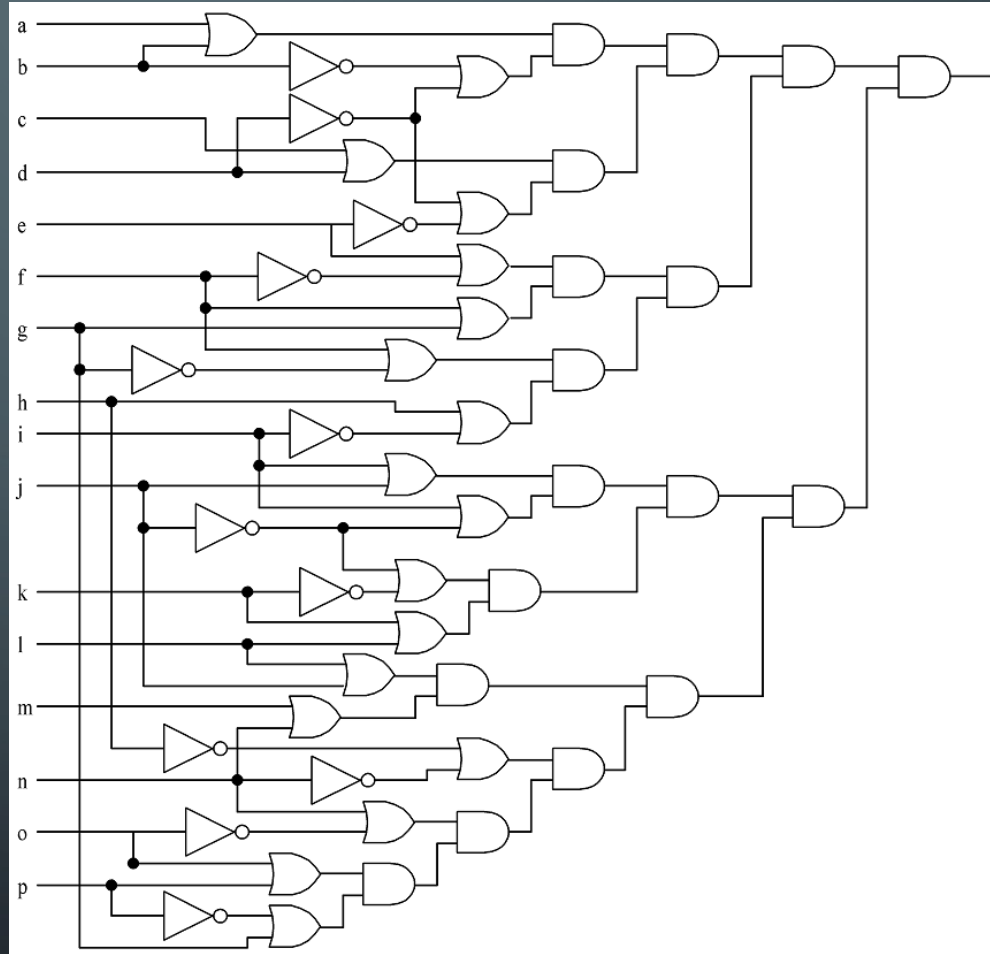
**Cook-Levin Theorem**: The Satisfiability (SAT) problem is NP-Complete

*Incredibly famous  
theorem.  
Established the first  
known NP-  
Complete problem!*

Developed  
independently by  
Stephen Cook (US) and  
Leonid Levin (USSR) in  
1971 & 1973

# CIRCUIT SATISFIABILITY (CIRCUIT-SAT)

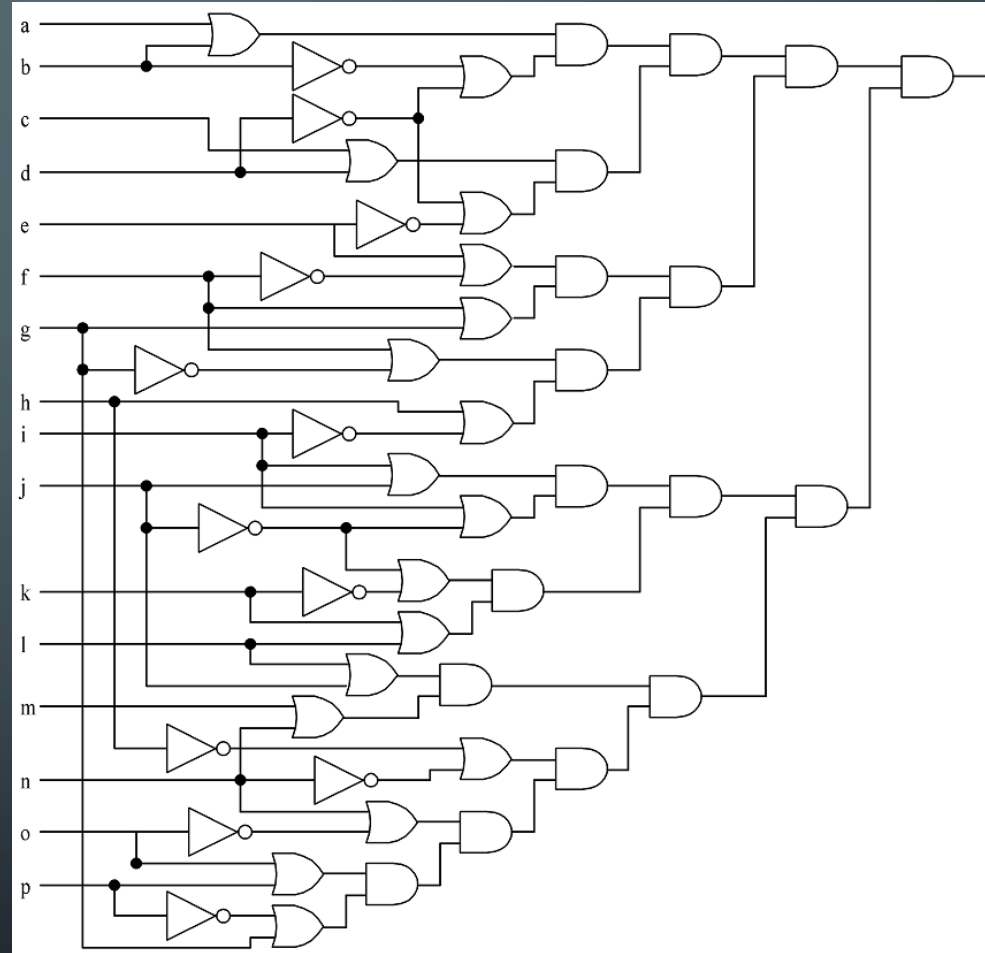
*Given a circuit with  
boolean inputs, AND,  
OR, and NOT gates...is  
it possible to assign  
values to the input such  
that the output is TRUE?*



# CIRCUIT SATISFIABILITY (CIRCUIT-SAT)

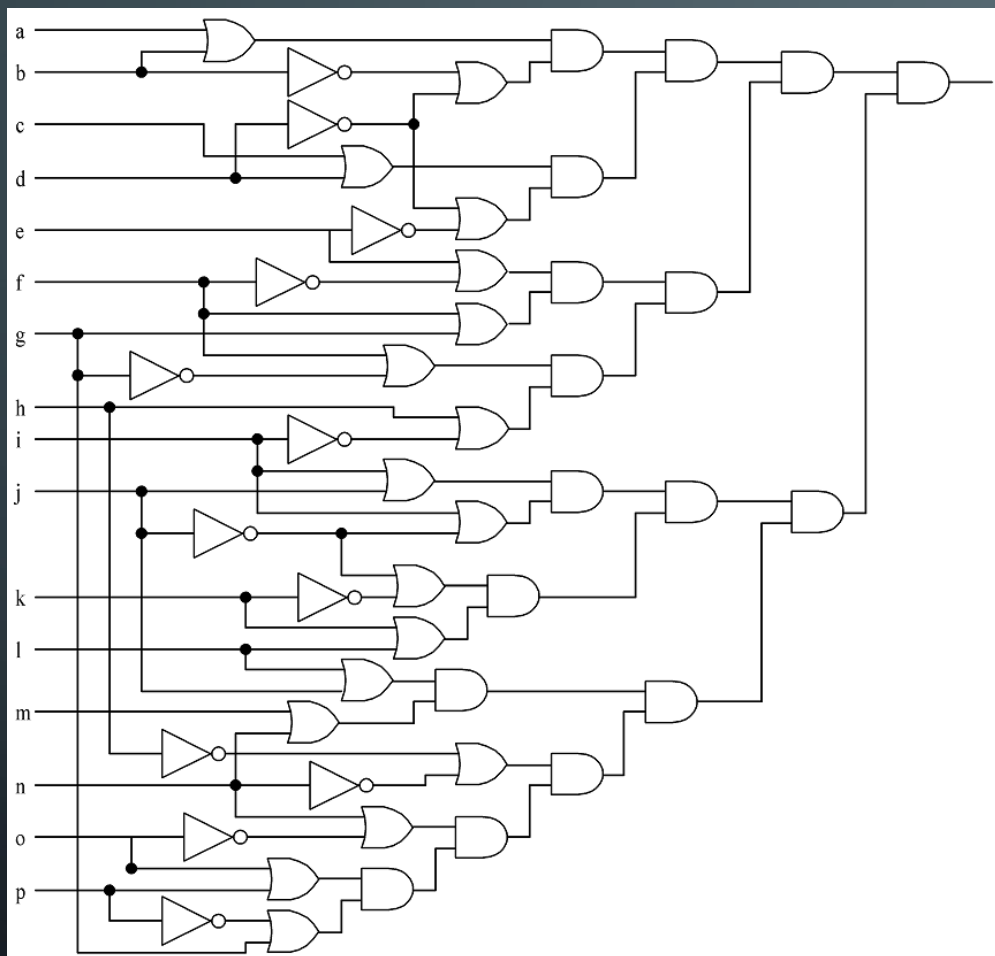
Solutions:

1110111110011001  
1010111111011001  
0110111111011001  
0110111110011001  
1110111111011001  
1010111110011001  
1010111111011001  
0110111111011001  
1110111111011001





# CIRCUIT-SAT VS SAT



```
(v[0] || v[1]) && (!v[1] || !  
v[3]) && (v[2] || v[3]) && (!  
v[3] || !v[4]) && (v[4] || !  
v[5]) && (v[5] || !v[6]) &&  
(v[5] || v[6]) && (v[6] || !  
v[15]) && (v[7] || !v[8]) && (!  
v[7] || !v[13]) && (v[8] ||  
v[9]) && (v[8] || !v[9]) && (!  
v[9] || !v[10]) && (v[9] ||  
v[11]) && (v[10] || v[11]) &&  
(v[12] || v[13]) && (v[13] || !  
v[14]) && (v[14] || v[15])
```

*These are two variations of the exact same problem. We will stick with the right side (SAT) from now on*

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# PROOF OF THE COOK-LEVIN THEOREM

# $SAT \in NPC$

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

Show that  
OR

*Here, we must use the  
second (bold) option  
because there are not any  
NPC problems that exist  
yet! Ugh!!*

# $SAT \in NPC$

Let's do this one first:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

*Needs to be  
polynomial  
runtime, is it? Yes!*

Verifier:

*Given variables  $V$ , formula  $F$ , and potential values for each variable  $V'$ :*

- 1. Scan over formula  $F$  for first operator ( $Op$ ) that should be applied (deepest in parens and/or lowest precedence)*
- 2. Find the two variables  $X$  and  $Y$  on each side of  $Op$ , this gives  $X Op Y$  (example:  $V1 AND V7$ )*
- 3. Apply operator  $Op$  to the values  $X$  and  $Y$  given by  $V'$  or by result of a previous operation and replace  $X Op Y$  with this Boolean result.*
- 4. Loop back to step 1 until only one Boolean remains. This Boolean is true if and only if the solution  $V'$  is verified.*

# $SAT \in NPC$

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

Show that  
OR

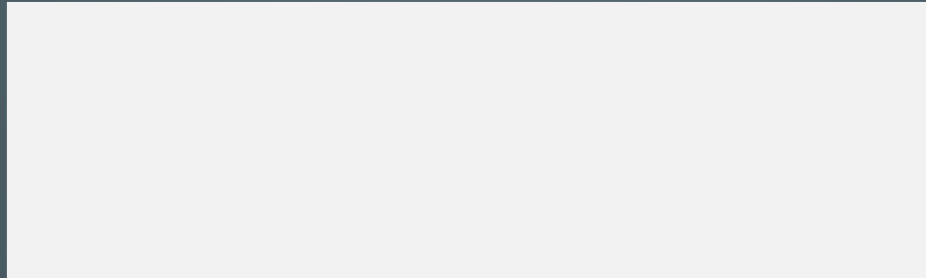
*This part is done!!*

# SAT IS NP-HARD

Show that  
OR

*As we stated before, we have to use  
the second option because there  
(when this proof was done) are no  
NP-Complete problems yet!*

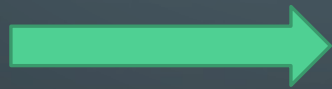
# SAT IS NP-HARD



*Choose arbitrary*

*NTM Decider  
for  $x$*

*Reduce problem  $x$*

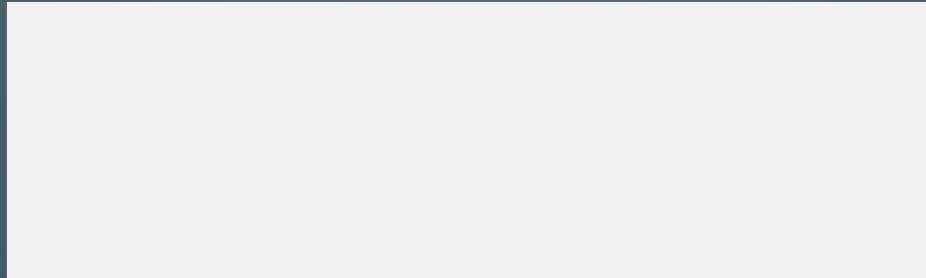


*To an instance of SAT*

$$x_1 \wedge \overline{x_2} \vee (\overline{x_3} \wedge x_2) \dots$$

*How are we going to do this?*

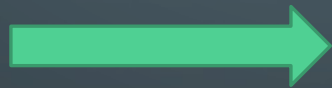
# SAT IS NP-HARD



*Choose arbitrary*

*NTM Decider  
for  $x$*

*Reduce problem  $x$*



*To an instance of SAT*

*Tape moved right AND 1 written to first cell of tape AND ...*

**IDEA**: For any generic problem  $x$  in NP, it has a decider NTM. Convert that NTM into a Boolean expression that describes the operation of the machine. Why is this a valid reduction?



# VARIABLES WE NEED

Variable	Meaning	How many
$T_{ijk}$	True if tape cell $i$ contains symbol $j$ at step $k$ of the computation	$O(p(n)^2)$
$H_{ik}$	True if the $M$ 's read/write head is at tape cell $i$ at step $k$ of the computation	$O(p(n)^2)$
$Q_{qk}$	True if $M$ is in state $q$ at step $k$ of the computation	$O(p(n))$

Some constraints:

$$q \in Q$$

Note that  $p(n)$  is the time  
the original NTM takes  
and

# CREATE A CONJUNCTION 'B' OF...

Expression	Conditions	Interpretation	How many
$T_{ij0}$	Tape cell i initially contains symbol J	Initial tape state; blank symbols above n	$O(p(n))$
$Q_{s0}$		Initial state of the NTM	1
$H_{00}$		Initial position of the read/write head	1
$T_{ijk} \rightarrow \neg T_{ij'k}$	$j \neq j'$	One symbol per tape cell	$O(p(n)^2)$
$T_{ijk} = T_{ij(k+1)} \vee H_{jk}$		Tape remains unchanged unless written	$O(p(n)^2)$
$Q_{qk} \rightarrow \neg Q_{q'k}$	$q \neq q'$	Only one state at a time	$O(p(n))$
$H_{jk} \rightarrow \neg H_{j'k}$	$i \neq i'$	Only one head position at a time	$O(p(n)^2)$
$(H_{ik} \wedge Q_{qk} \wedge T_{i\sigma k}) \rightarrow (H_{(i+d)(k+1)} \wedge Q_{q'(k+1)} \wedge T_{i\sigma'(k+1)})$	$(q, \sigma, q', \sigma', d) \in \delta$	Possible transitions at computation step k when head position is at position I	$O(p(n)^2)$

# IS THE REDUCTION VALID?

NTM for  $x$  accepts iff and only if SAT equation can be satisfied

If there is an accepting computation for the NTM on input  $I$ , then  $B$  is satisfiable by assigning  $T_{ijk}$ ,  $H_{jk}$ , and  $Q_{jk}$  their intended interpretations.

The time and space complexity of the reduction is polynomial

Yes!

The number of sub-expressions is:

$$2p(n) + 4p(n)^2 + 3 = O(p(n)^2)$$

and each is computed in less than that.

# $SAT \in NPC$

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

*Thus, it is proven!!*

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles connecting them.

# OTHER NP-COMPLETE PROBLEMS (REDUCTIONS)

The image features a dark blue gradient background. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit traces or a stylized city skyline. These elements include vertical and diagonal lines, some ending in small circles, creating a geometric, high-tech aesthetic.

3-SAT

# 3-SAT

3-SAT = Can a provided Boolean expression in 3-Conjunctive-Normal Form (3-CNF) be satisfied?

$$V = (v_1 \vee v_2 \vee \overline{v_3}) \wedge (v_4 \vee \overline{v_1} \vee v_2) \wedge (v_4 \vee \overline{v_3} \vee \overline{v_1}) \wedge \dots$$

*Each Clause contains a  
disjunction (OR) of exactly  
3 literals (or negated  
literals)*

*The expression must be  
a conjunction (AND) of  
multiple clauses*

*Is it easier to decide 3-SAT because the format is  
simpler?*

# SHOWING THAT

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

*This one, as  
usual, is not  
difficult.*

*This time we can reduce from a  
concrete, known, NPC  
problem. We only have SAT so  
far, so that is what we will  
choose!*



# SHOWING THAT

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

*This is trivial. The verifier we  
developed for SAT will also  
work for 3SAT.*

# SHOWING THAT



*Need to show 3SAT is at least as hard as SAT. How? Show a reduction.*

*Given a generic SAT input, can we convert it into an equivalent formula in 3SAT?*

*SAT input x:*

e.g.,  
$$\phi = ((x_1 \rightarrow x_2) \vee \neg((\neg x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3) \vee x_4)) \wedge \neg x_2$$



*Equivalent 3SAT formula:*

e.g.,  
$$\phi'_i = (\neg y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee x_2) \dots$$

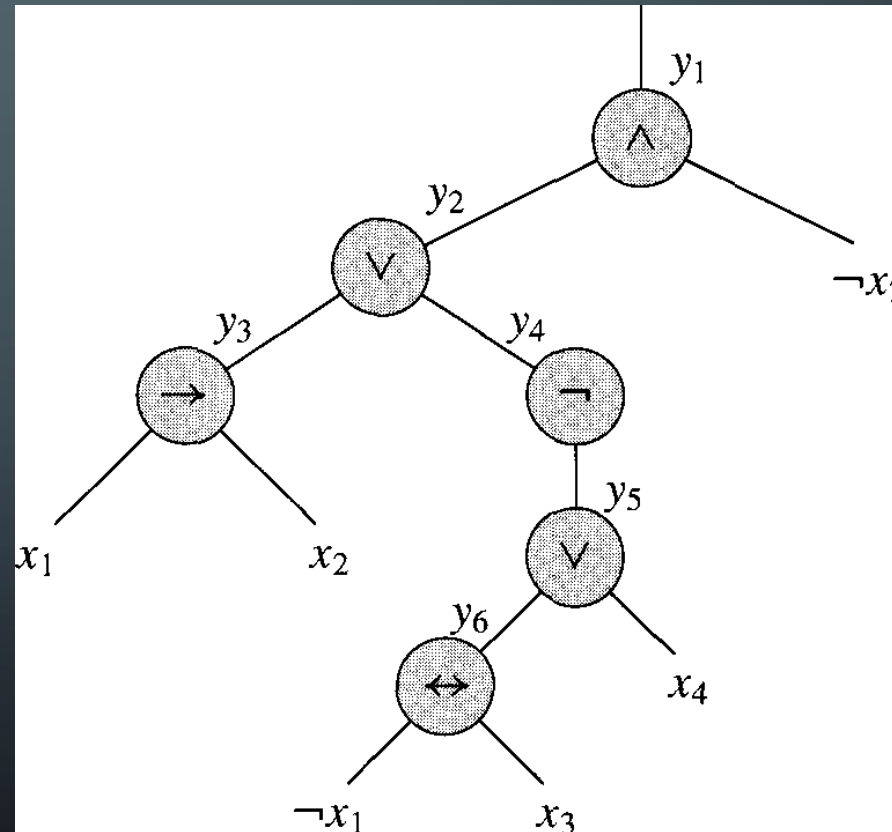
# CONVERTING SAT TO 3-SAT, STEP 1

Input:

$$\phi = ((x_1 \rightarrow x_2) \vee \neg((\neg x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3) \vee x_4)) \wedge \neg x_2$$



**Step 1:** Parse the expression into an expression tree

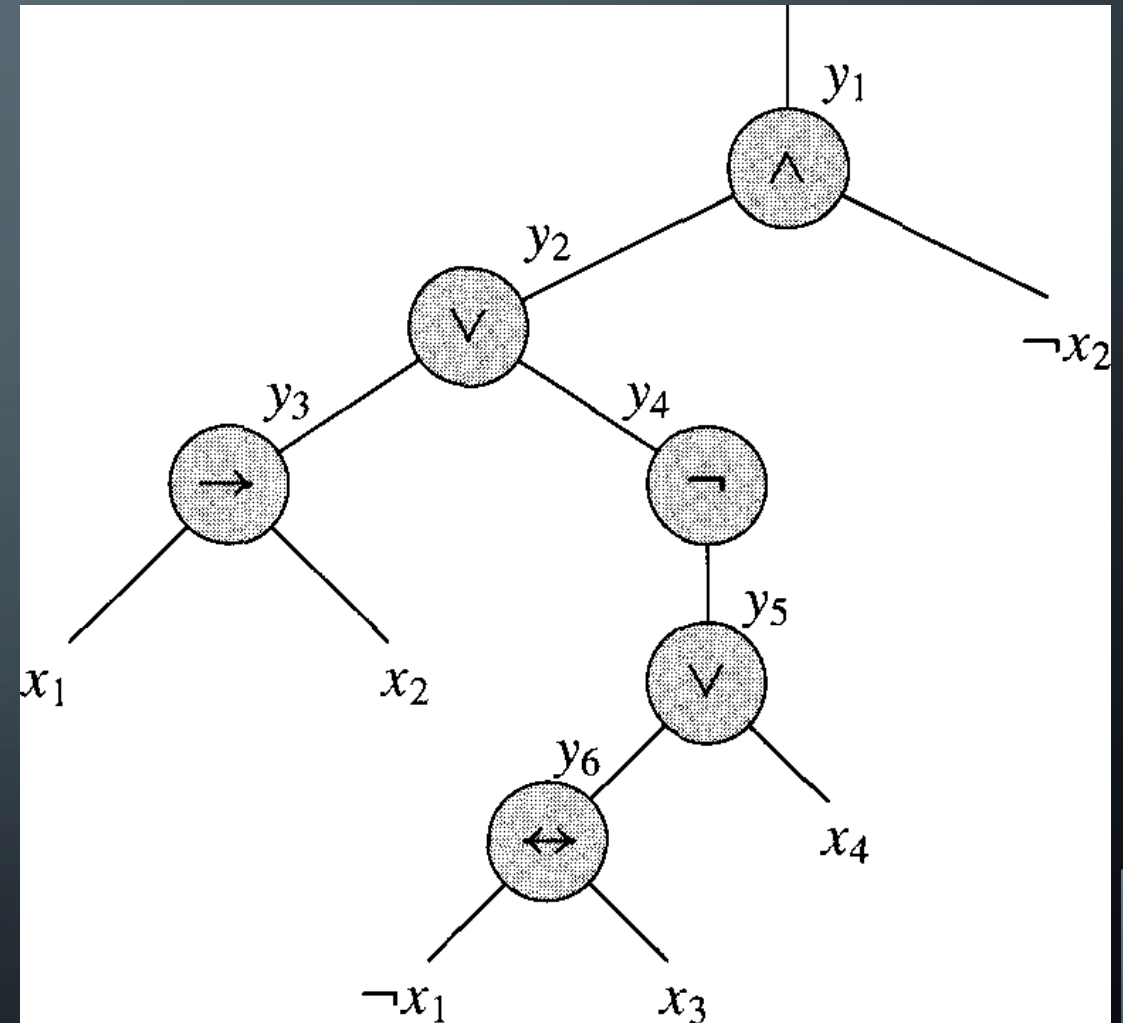


# CONVERTING SAT TO 3-SAT, STEP 2

**Step 2:** Introduce a variable for each internal node. This variable will represent whether or not that subtree expression evaluated to True or False

We can then re-write our expression:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi' = & y_1 \wedge (y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2)) \\ & \wedge (y_2 \leftrightarrow (y_3 \vee y_4)) \\ & \wedge (y_3 \leftrightarrow (x_1 \rightarrow x_2)) \\ & \wedge (y_4 \leftrightarrow \neg y_5) \\ & \wedge (y_5 \leftrightarrow (y_6 \vee x_4)) \\ & \wedge (y_6 \leftrightarrow (\neg x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3))\end{aligned}$$



# CONVERTING SAT TO 3-SAT, STEP 3

## Step 3:

Build a truth table for each clause  $\phi'_i$ :

- $\phi' = y_1 \wedge (y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2))$   
 $\wedge (y_2 \leftrightarrow (y_3 \vee y_4))$   
 $\wedge (y_3 \leftrightarrow (x_1 \rightarrow x_2))$   
 $\wedge (y_4 \leftrightarrow \neg y_5)$   
 $\wedge (y_5 \leftrightarrow (y_6 \vee x_4))$   
 $\wedge (y_6 \leftrightarrow (\neg x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3))$

y <sub>1</sub>	y <sub>2</sub>	x <sub>2</sub>	$(y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2))$
1	1	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0
0	1	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1

# CONVERTING SAT TO 3-SAT, STEP 4 / 5

**Step 4:** For each clause, construct a DNF (disjunctive normal form) for when it is False (based on truth table)

y <sub>1</sub>	y <sub>2</sub>	x <sub>2</sub>	$(y_1 \leftrightarrow (y_2 \wedge \neg x_2))$
1	1	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0
0	1	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1

$\neg\phi'_i =$

$(y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_2) \vee$

$(y_1 \wedge \neg y_2 \wedge x_2) \vee$

$(y_1 \wedge \neg y_2 \wedge \neg x_2) \vee$

$(\neg y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge \neg x_2)$

**Step 5:** Take this formula and negate it to get all the instances where the clause is true in CNF (conjunctive normal form).

$$\neg\phi'_i = (y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_2) \vee (y_1 \wedge \neg y_2 \wedge x_2) \vee (y_1 \wedge \neg y_2 \wedge \neg x_2) \vee (\neg y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge \neg x_2)$$

Negate formula

$$\phi'_i = (\neg y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee x_2)$$

# CONVERTING SAT TO 3-SAT, STEP 6

$$\phi'_i = (\neg y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee x_2)$$

**Step 6:** Almost done. This works but some clauses may have only 1 or 2 literals (3 are required for every single clause). Add dummy variables to force each clause to have three literals.

Case 1: Clause has 3 literals

$$(v_i \vee v_j \vee v_k)$$

Do nothing, already fine

$$(v_i \vee v_j \vee v_k)$$

Case 2: Clause has only 2 literals

$$(v_i \vee v_j)$$

Becomes:  
Introduce dummy variable p

$$(v_i \vee v_j \vee p) \wedge (v_i \vee v_j \vee \neg p)$$

Case 3: Clause has only 1 literal

$$(v_i)$$

Becomes:  
Introduce dummy variables p and q

$$(v_i \vee p \vee q) \wedge (v_i \vee \neg p \vee q) \vee (v_i \vee p \vee \neg q) \wedge (v_i \vee \neg p \vee \neg q)$$

# SHOWING THAT

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

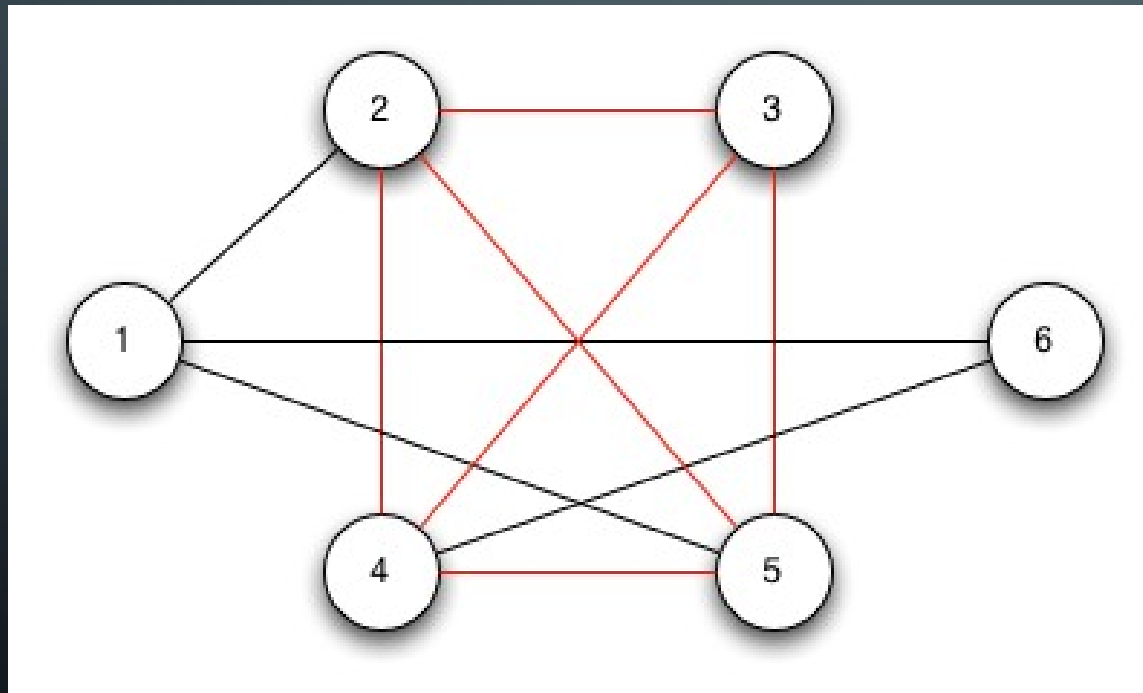
We are done!!



# CLIQUEES

# CLIQUE

A **Clique** in a graph  $G$  is a set of nodes such that each one is connected to each other in the set

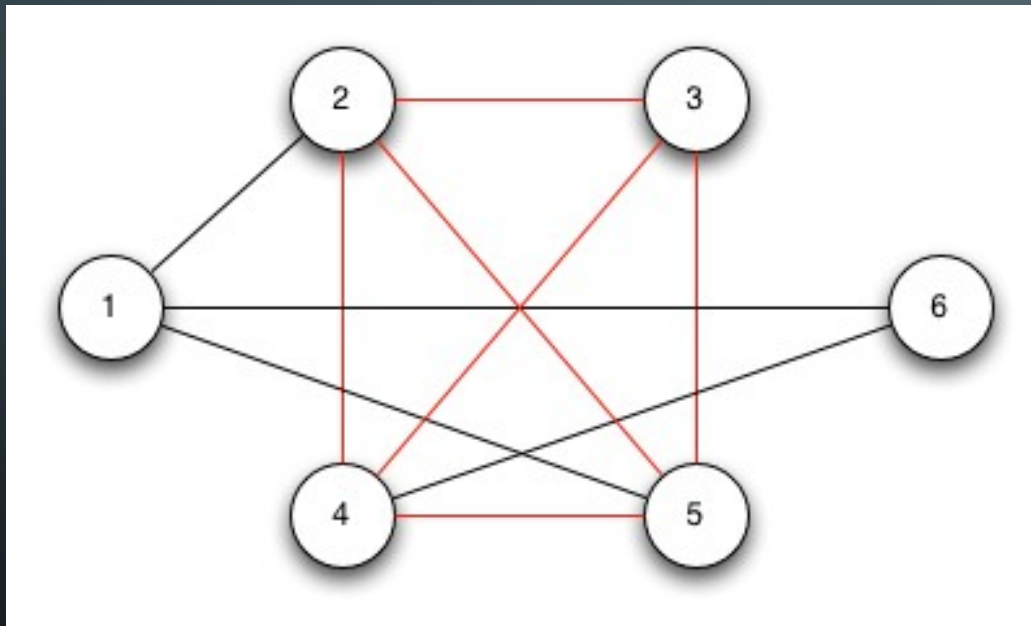


*In other words, it is a maximal sub-graph of  $G$*

*Problem: Find the maximum size clique in a graph  $G$*

# CLIQUE

A **Clique** in a graph  $G$  is a set of nodes such that each one is connected to each other in the set



Can we frame this as a **Decision Problem**?

Given a graph  $G$  and an integer  $k$ , return  
Yes iff  $G$  has a click of size  $k$  or larger.

# SHOWING THAT

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

As usual, this  
one is pretty  
simple

For this one, we can  
choose SAT or 3-  
SAT

# SHOWING THAT

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

## Verifier:

Given  $G$ ,  $k$ , and a subset of nodes

1. Verify that number of nodes in  $V'$  is  $k$  or larger
2. For each pair of nodes  $(p,q)$  in  $V'$ :
  1. check that edge  $p,q$  exists in  $G$
  2. If not, return **NO**
3. Return **YES**

# SHOWING THAT

3-SAT

We choose 3-SAT

**Goal:** Given a generic 3-SAT input, can we convert it into graph and integer  $k$  such that the 3-SAT formula is satisfiable IFF the graph has a click of at least size  $k$ ?

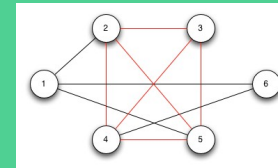
Input: 3SAT formula:

e.g.,

$$\phi'_i = (\neg y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee \neg x_2) \\ \wedge (\neg y_1 \vee y_2 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_1 \vee \neg y_2 \vee x_2) \dots$$



Graph  $G$  and integer  $k$



Converting a Boolean formula into a graph is strange, right? Let's see how it works!

# , INTUITION

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**TIP:** When doing a reduction, think about the “spirit” of how the problems relate to each other

With a 3-Sat formula, we have:

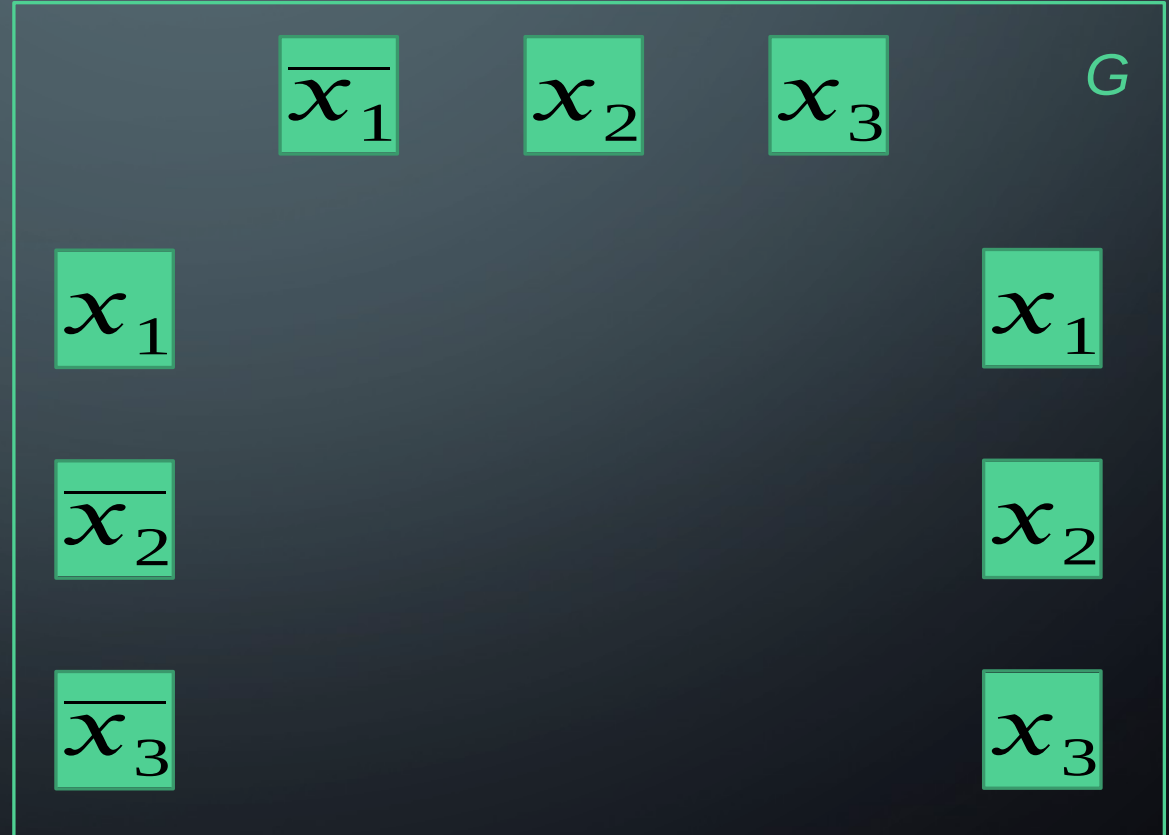
1. A bunch of “things” (variables)
2. Some can be assigned TRUE without issue (they are “connected”)
3. Each clause must have a TRUE item that is connected (valid) with the other items in the other clauses

# , STEP 1

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**Step 1**: Create a graph  $G$  with nodes where each variable in represents a node in  $G$



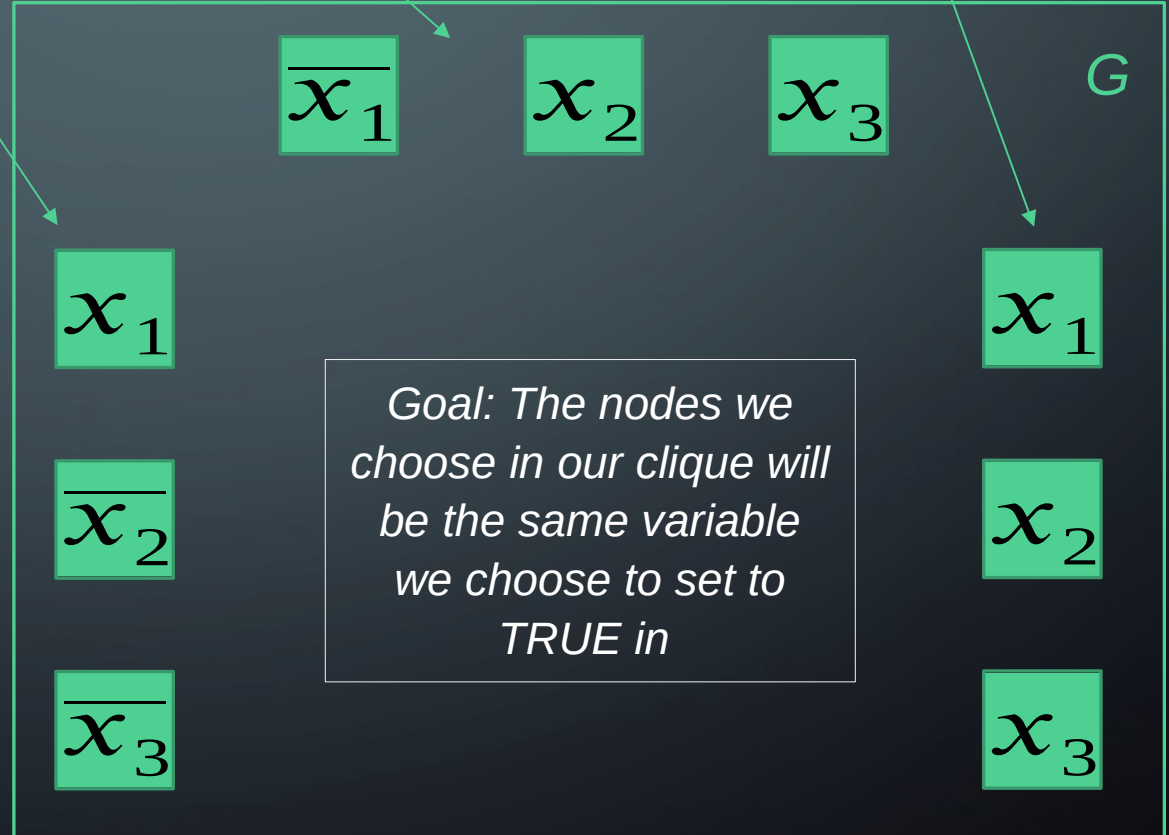


# , STEP 1

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**Step 1:** Create a graph  $G$  with nodes where each variable in represents a node in  $G$

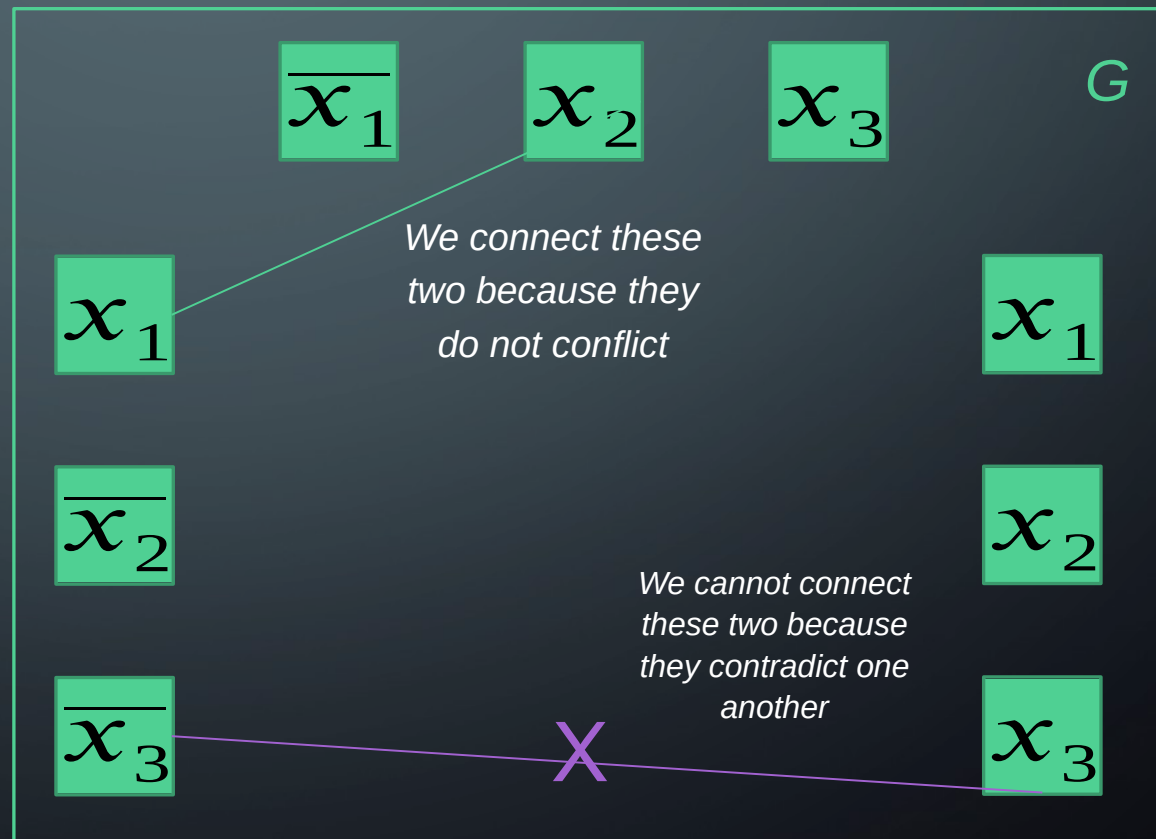


## , STEP 2

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**Step 2:** Connect any two nodes that are in different clauses AND can be set to true at the same time

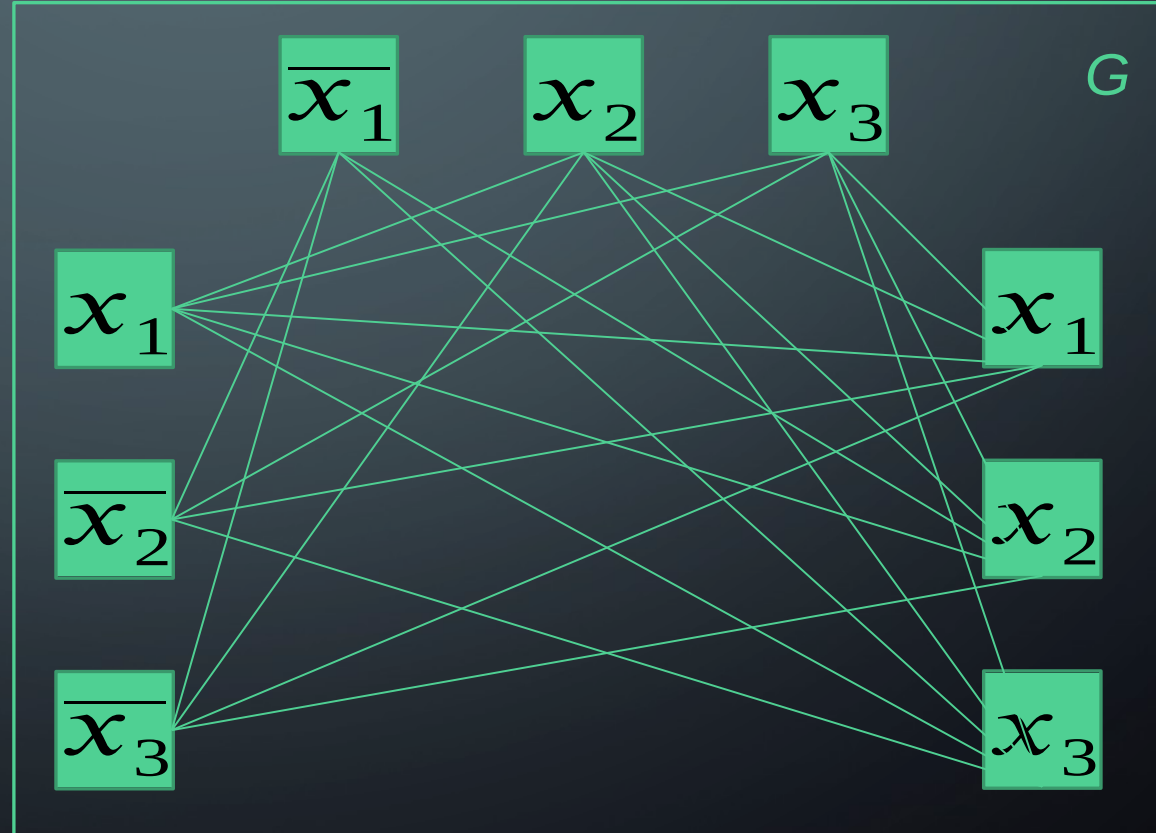


## , STEP 2

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**Step 2:** Connect any two nodes that are in different clauses AND can be set to true at the same time

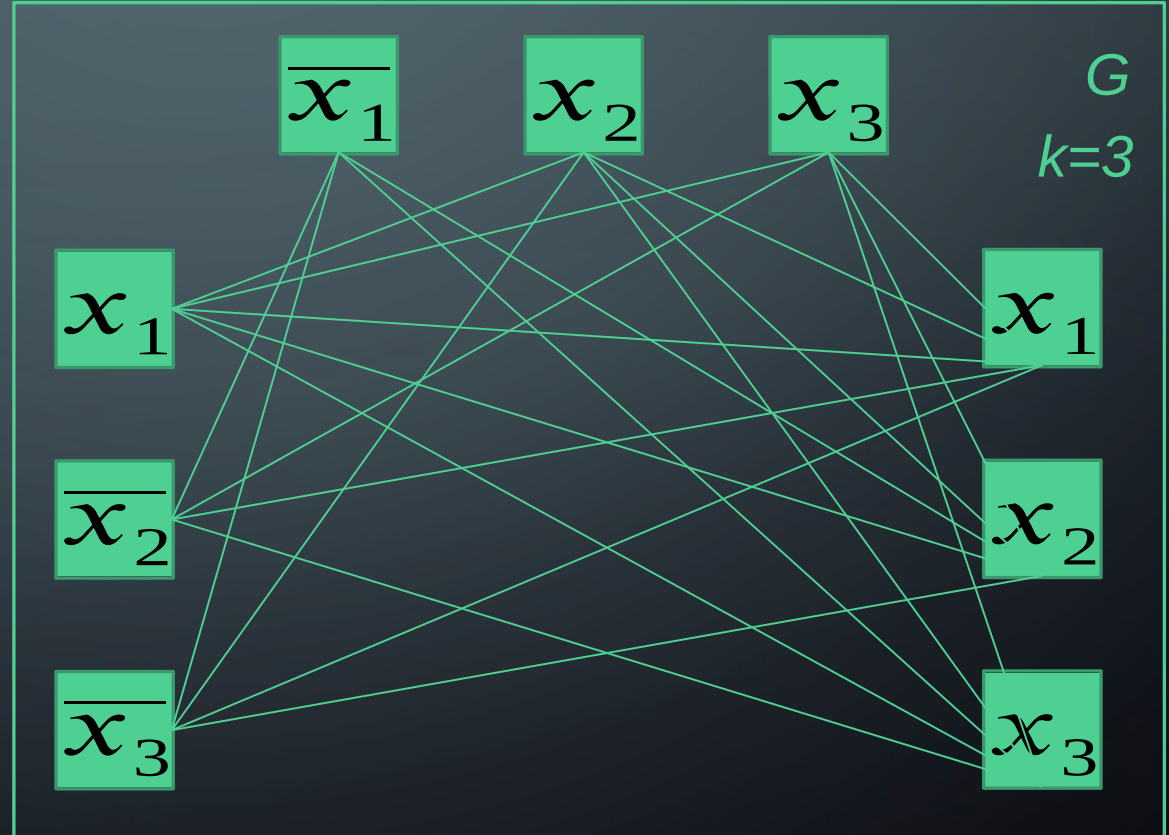


# , STEP 3

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**Step 3**: Set  $k$  equal to  
the number of clauses in



# , PROOF

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

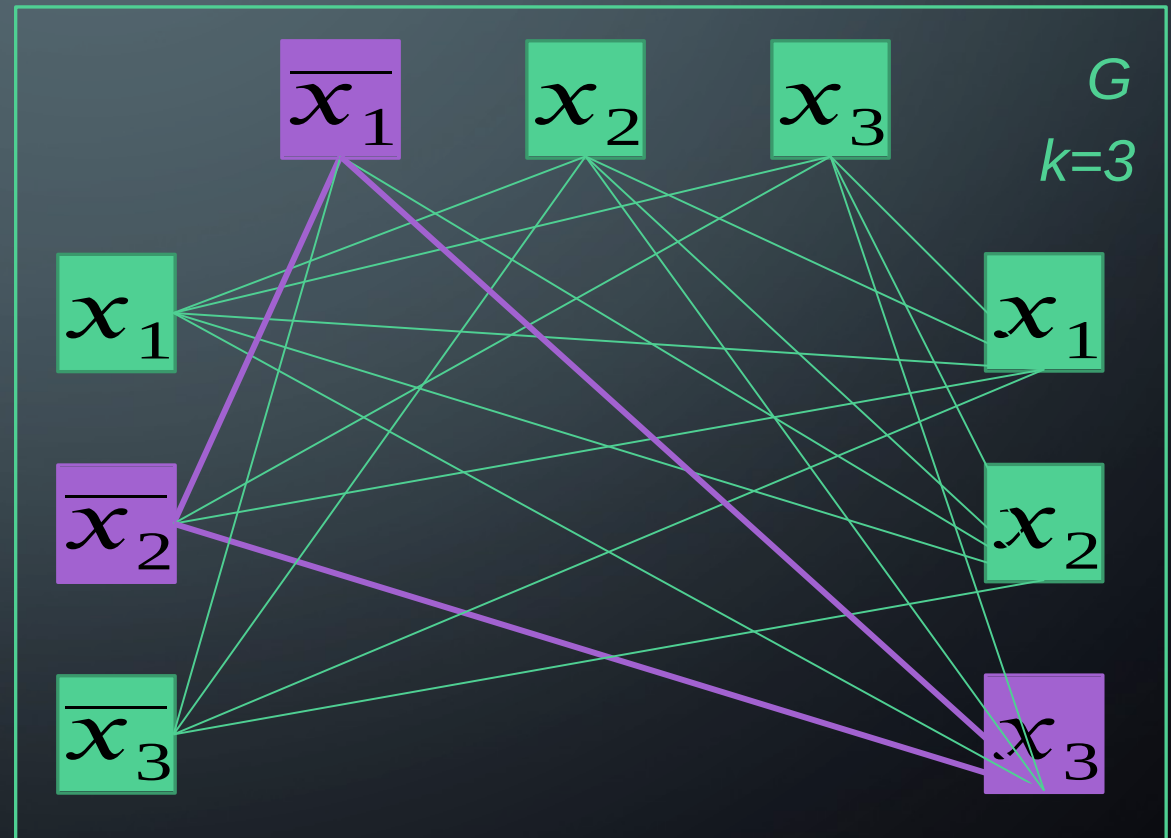
$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

**Claim:**

*is satisfiable IFF  $G$  contains a clique of size 3*

**Intuition:**

*One clique of size 3 is shown. The nodes in the clique represent three variables, one per clause, that can be set to TRUE without issue.*

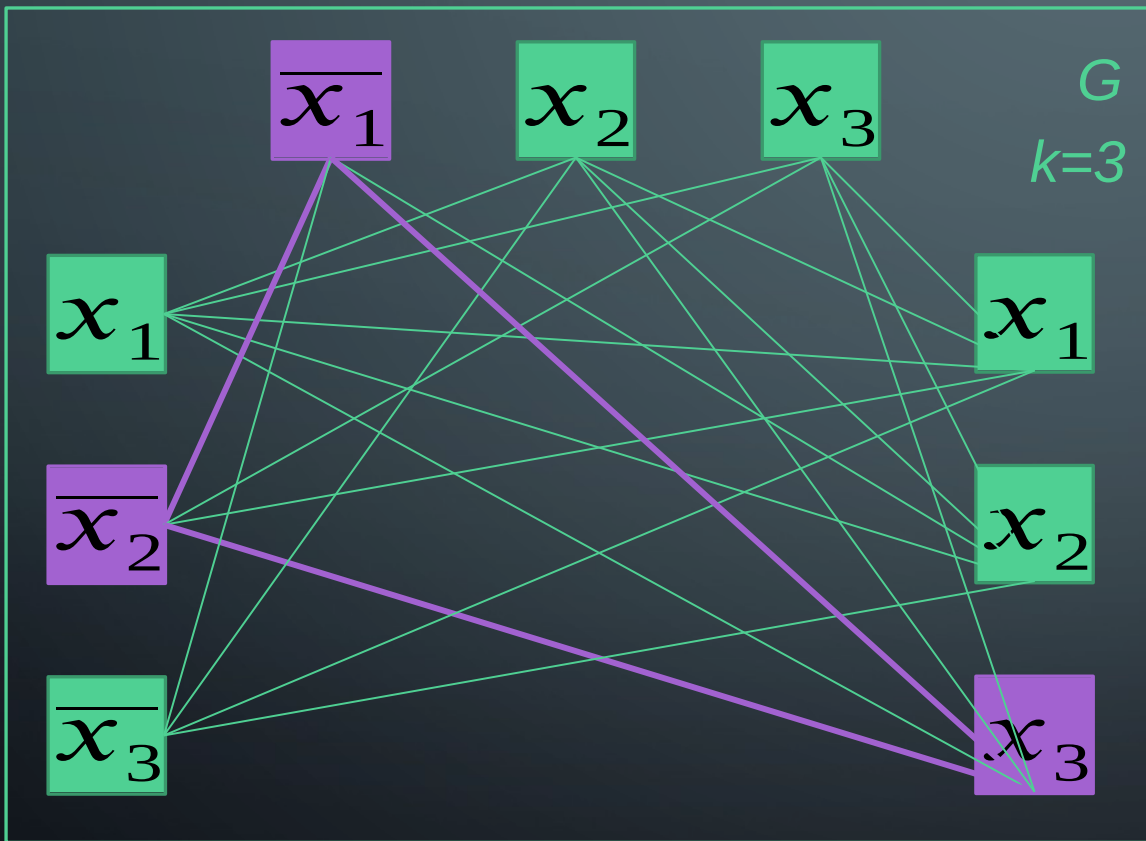


, PROOF

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \boxed{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \boxed{x_3})$$

**Direction 1:**  
is satisfiable  $\rightarrow G$   
contains a clique of size  
 $k$



**Proof:**

*is satisfiable*

*This means at least one variable is true in each clause*

Take one true variable from each clause ( $k$  total)

*Find their nodes in  $G$*

*These nodes MUST be a clique of size  $k$*

*Each of the  $k$  nodes is connected to each other:*

*They are in a different clause*

*They can both be assigned true*

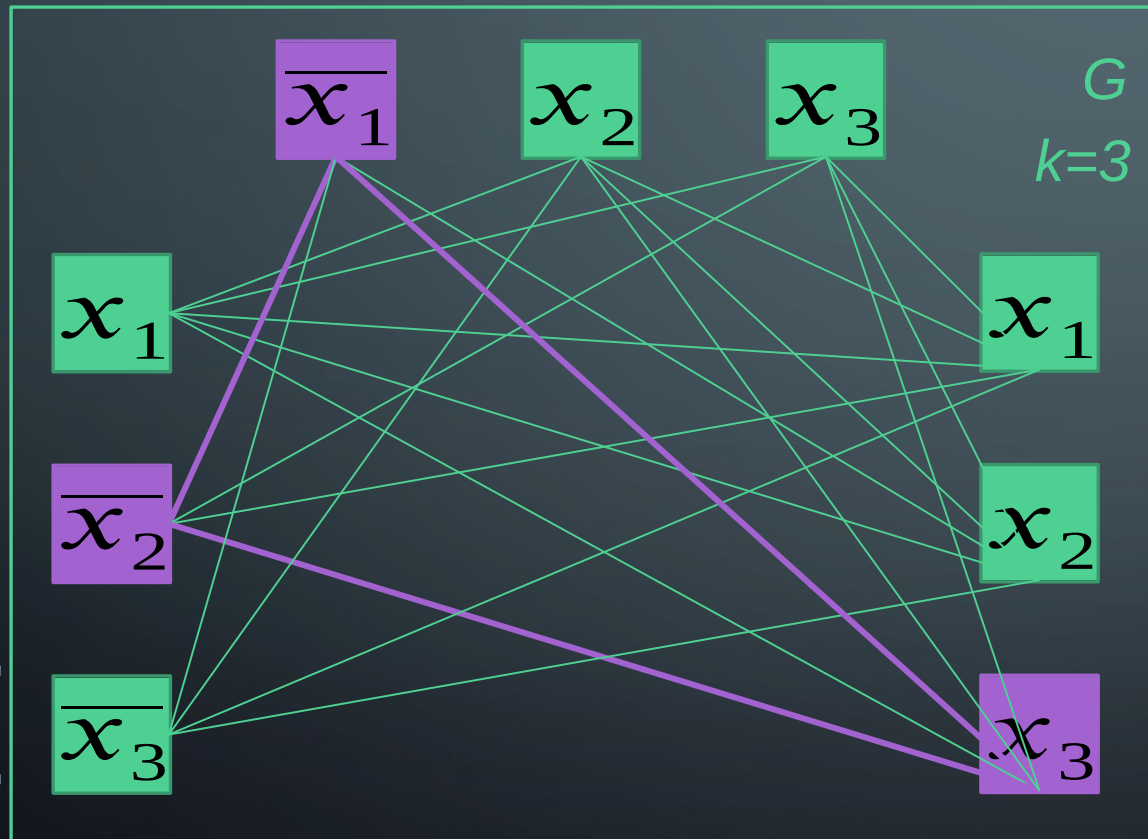
*Q.E.D.*



# , PROOF

Consider this 3-SAT formula:

$$\theta = (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$



## Direction 2:

$G$  contains a clique of size  $k \rightarrow$  is satisfiable

### Proof:

$G$  contains a clique of size  $k$

Select the  $k$  nodes

Find their respective variables in

Each of these variables must be in a different clause

By how  $G$  was constructed

Each variable can be set to TRUE without issue

By definition of how edges were added to  $G$

Thus, these variables must satisfy

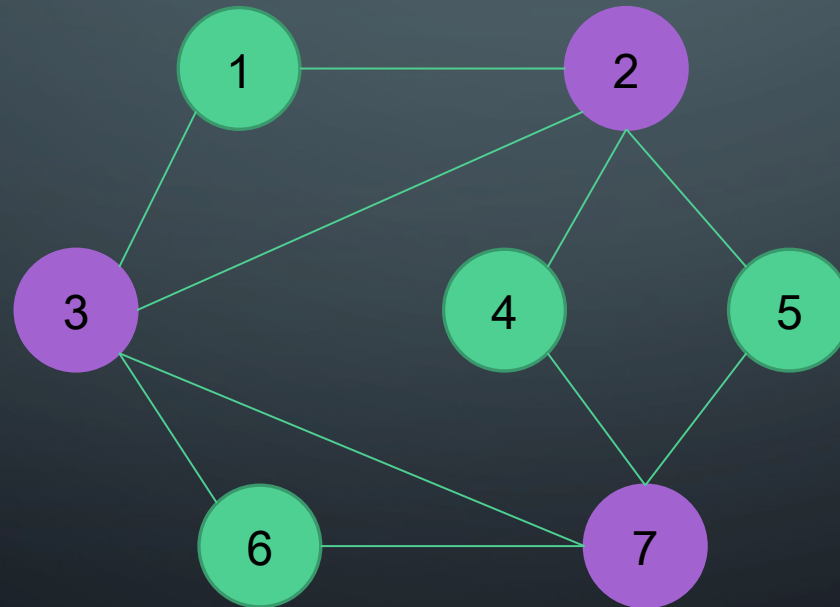
# VERTEX COVER



# VERTEX COVER

A **Vertex Cover (VC)** on a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a subset of vertices  $S \subseteq V$  such that every edge in the graph is connected to at least one vertex in  $S$

**Decision Problem:** Does a given graph  $G$  have a vertex cover of size  $k$  or smaller?



The purple nodes represent a vertex cover of size 3 on this graph. Notice that every edge touches one of these nodes

# SHOWING THAT

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

As usual, this  
one is pretty  
simple

Let's use Clique  
this time

# SHOWING THAT

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

***Given graph , integer  $k$  and subset :***

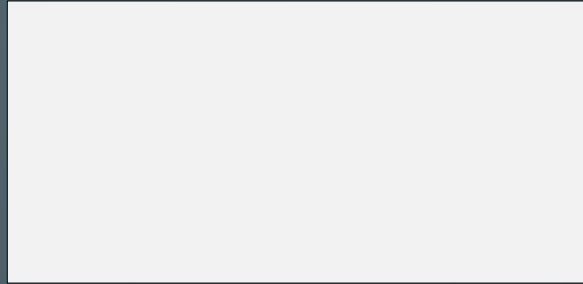
*Verify that , if not reject*

*For each edge*

*Check that , if not reject*

*else accept*

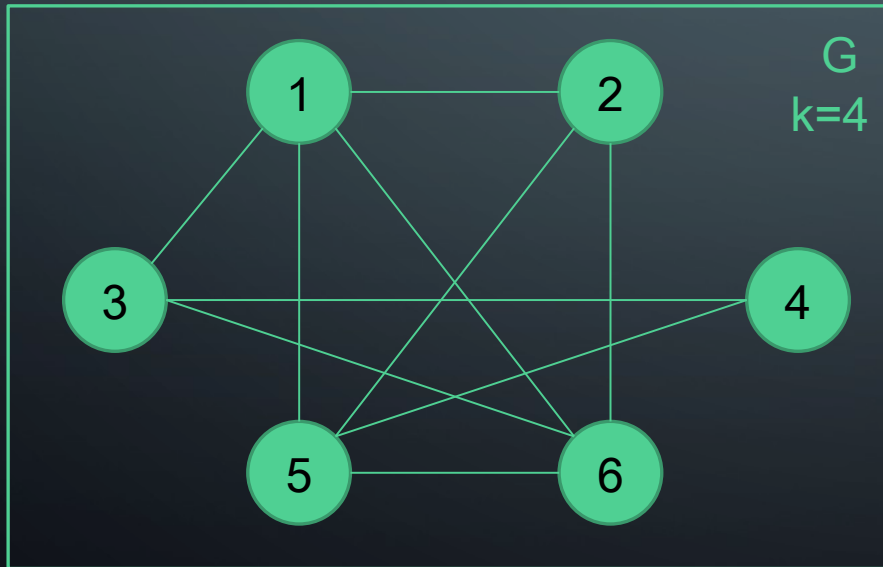
# SHOWING THAT



Given a graph  $G$ , integer  $k$ ,  
and looking for a clique of  
size  $k$



graph  $G'$ , integer  $k'$ , and  
looking for a vertex cover of  
size  $k'$



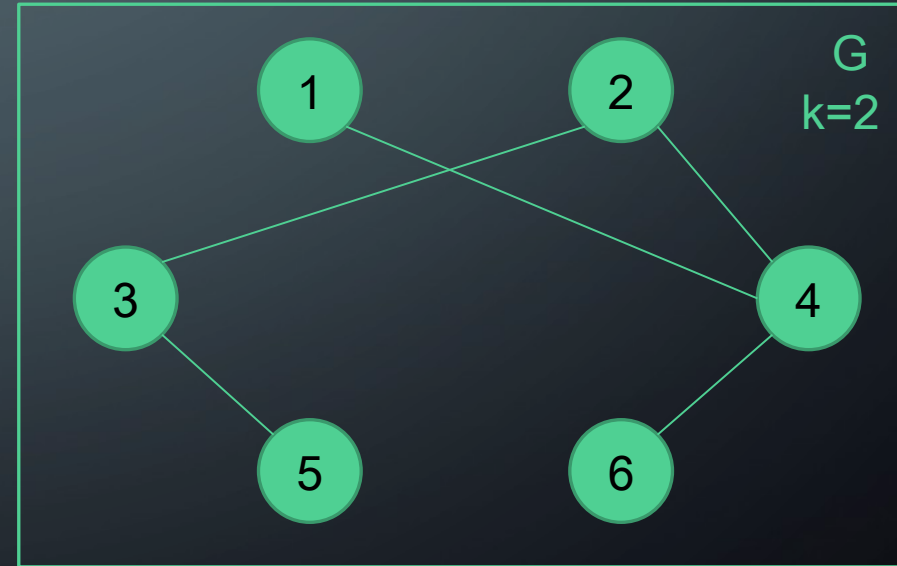
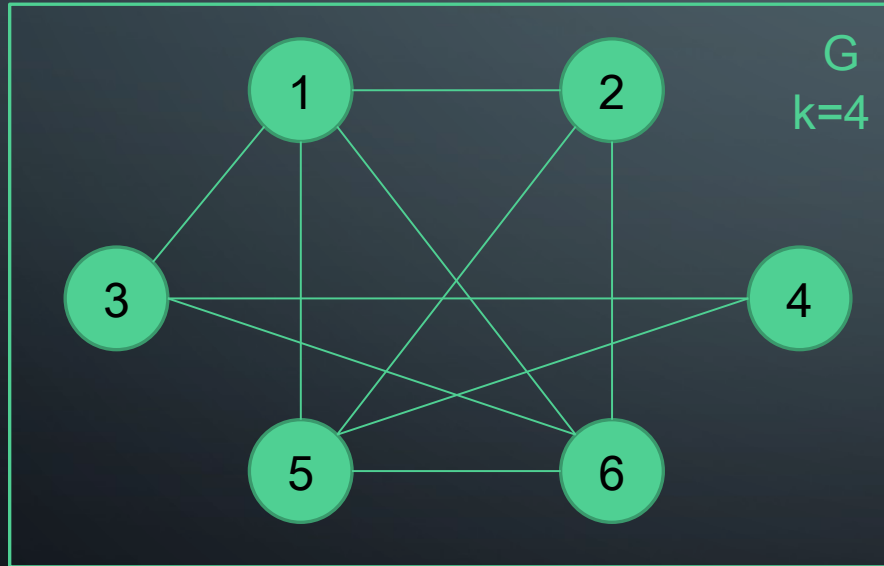
# SHOWING THAT

Given a graph  $G$ , integer  $k$ ,  
and looking for a clique of  
size  $k$



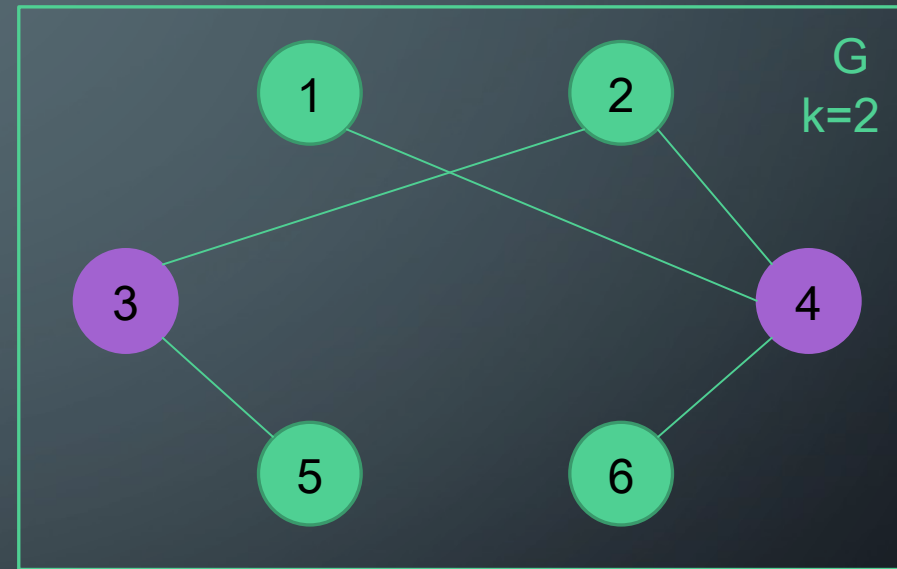
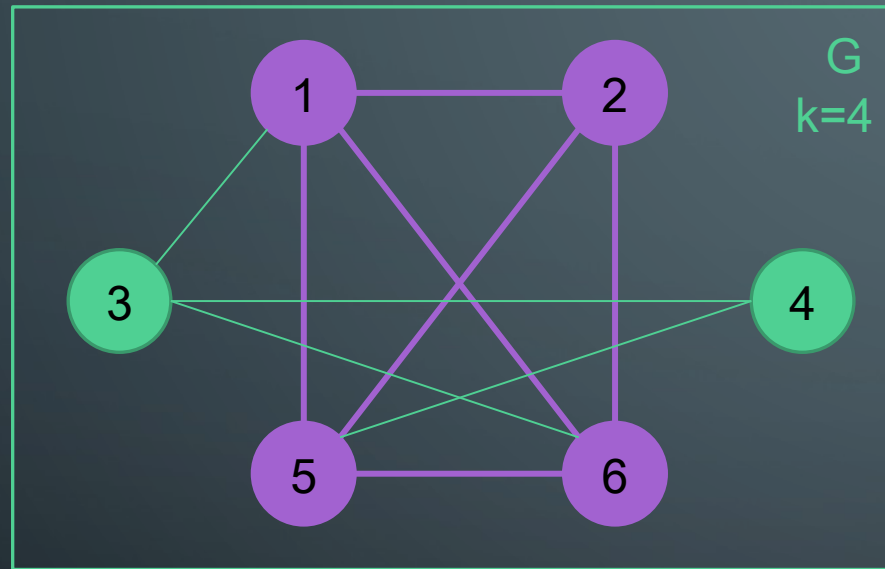
graph  $G'$ , integer  $k'$ , and  
looking for a vertex cover of  
size  $k'$

Simply flip the edges that exist in  $G$  and set  $k$  to



# SHOWING THAT

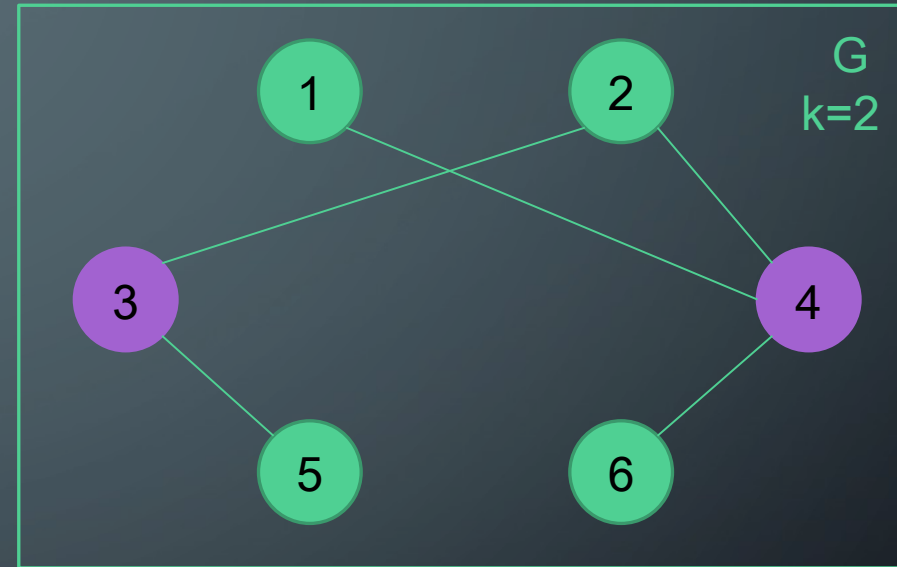
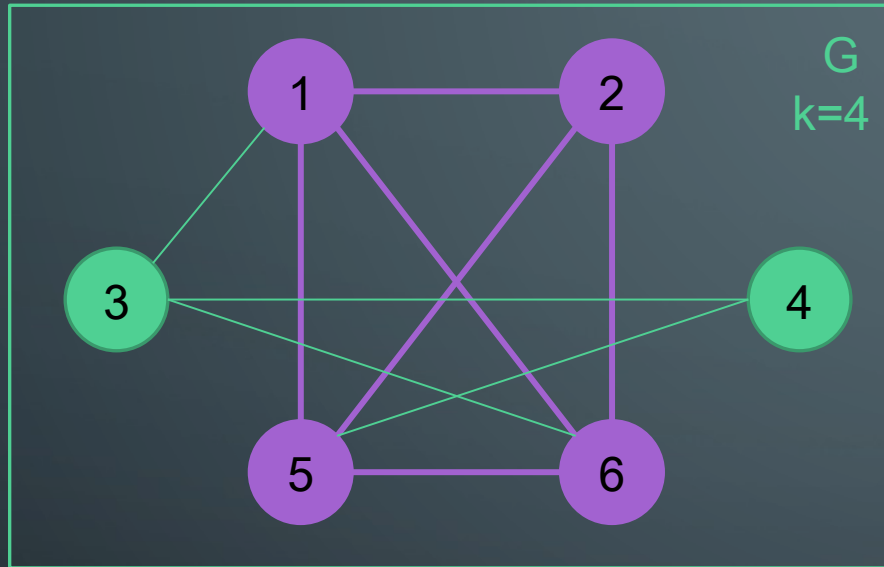
**Claim**:  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$  IFF  $G'$  has a VC of size



...and if the clique in  $G$  is nodes , then the cover in  $G'$  is exactly the nodes

# SHOWING THAT

**Claim**:  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$  IFF  $G'$  has a VC of size



*Proof Direction 1: Suppose  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$*

*Consider nodes in  $G'$*

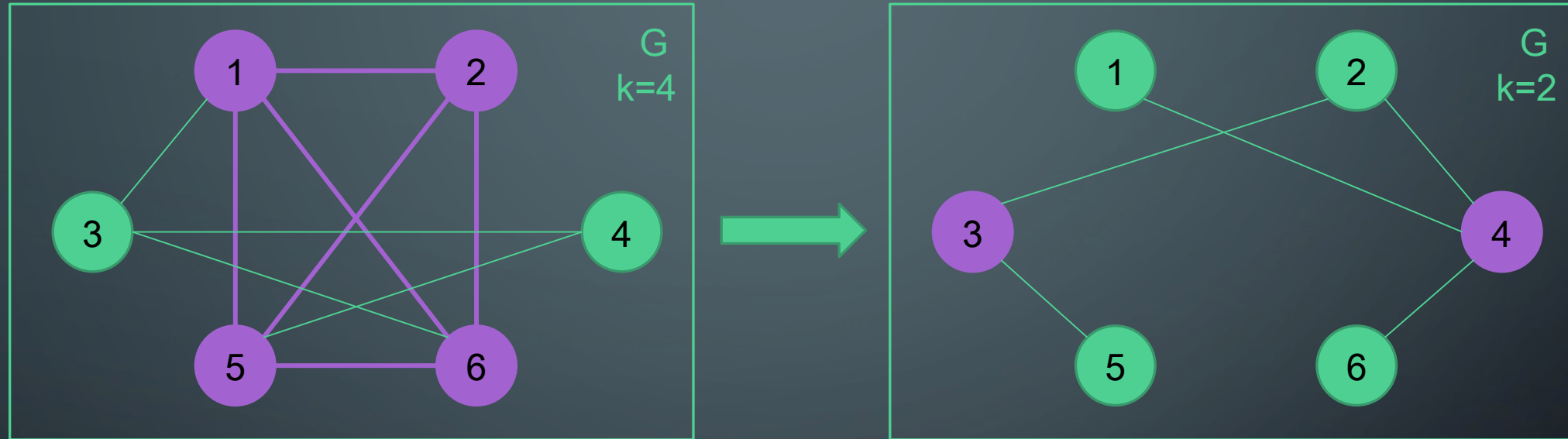
*In  $G$ , every edge between nodes in  $V'$  existed (clique), so none of these edges appear in  $G'$*

*Thus every edge in  $G'$  touches a node that was not in the clique, which is the exact set*

*Q.E.D.*

# SHOWING THAT

**Claim**:  $G$  has a clique of size  $k$  IFF  $G'$  has a VC of size



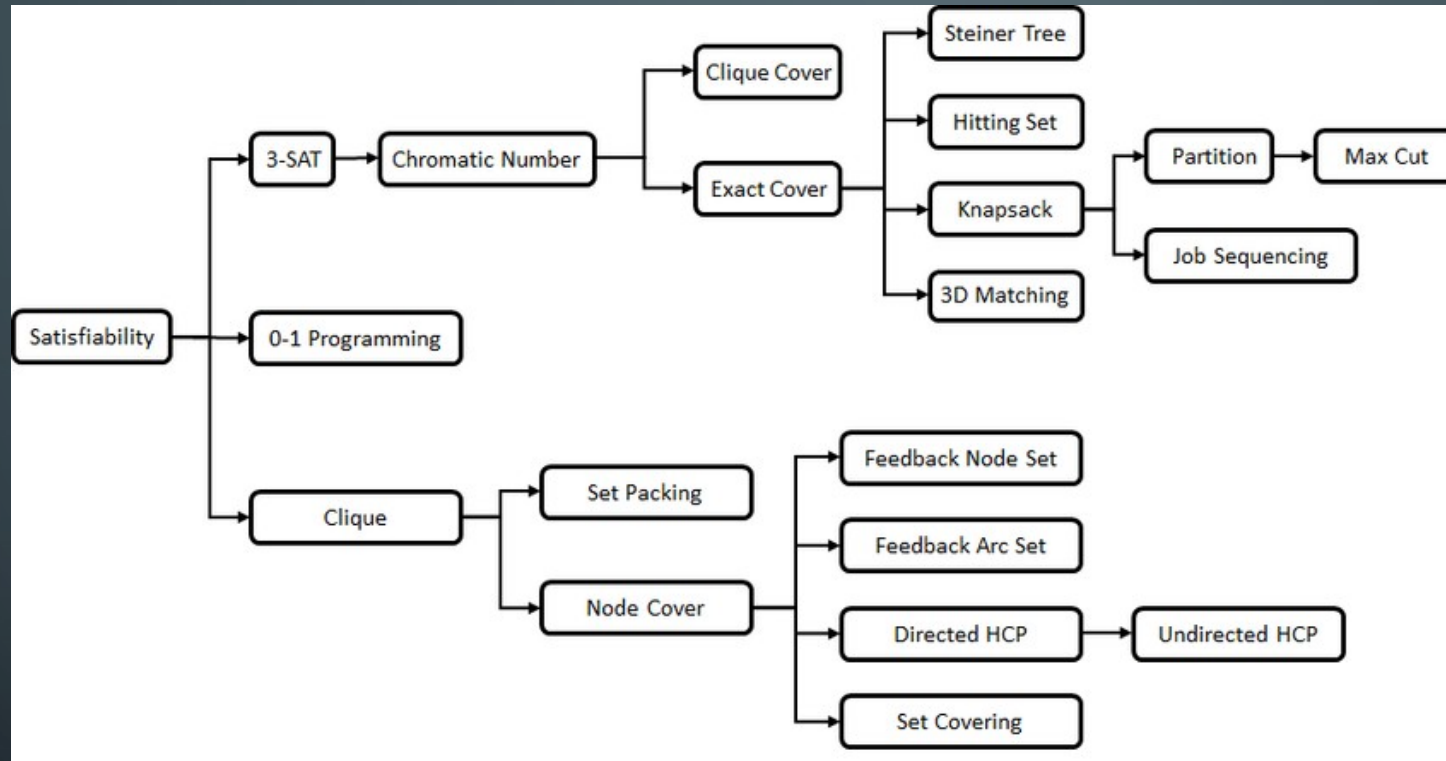
*Proof Direction 2: Suppose  $G'$  has a cover of size  $k$ .  
Consider the  $k$  nodes in  $G'$ .  
In  $G'$ , no edge between nodes in  $V''$  exists, otherwise  $V'$  would not be a vertex cover.  
Thus, in  $G$  every edge between nodes in  $V''$  exists. This is definition of a clique.  
Q.E.D.*



The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural network connections. These elements consist of thin lines that branch out and terminate in small circles, creating a symmetrical, abstract pattern in each corner.

# MORE ON REDUCTIONS

# MORE REDUCTIONS!



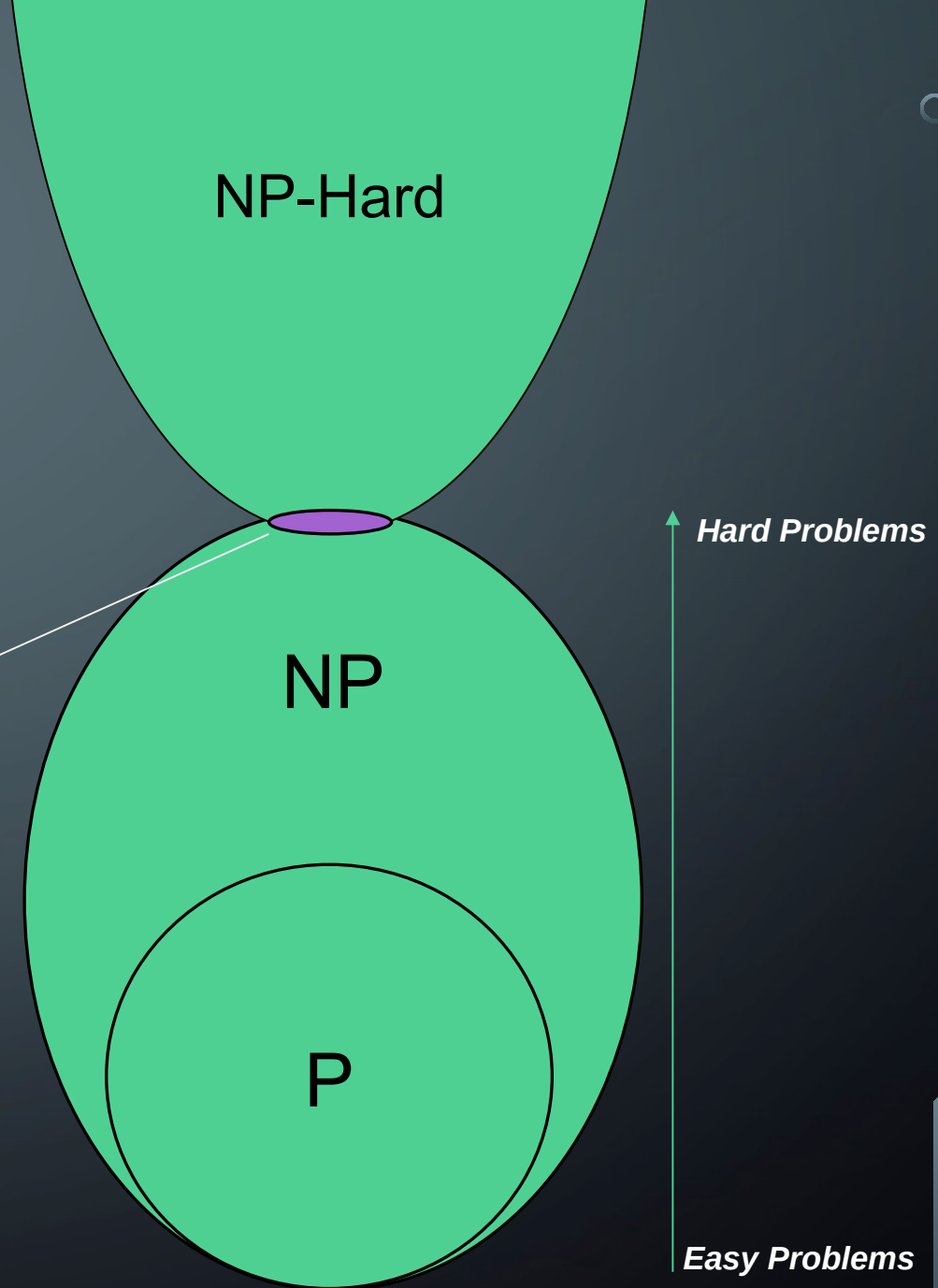
*In 1972, Richard Karp showed a number of problems were NP-complete*

The problems were known to be “hard”, but how “hard” was not really quantified until then

# DOES $P=NP$

To this day, we still do not know if  $P$  and  $NP$  are distinctly separate. But, we have a lot of known NP-Complete problems

What would happen if someone found an algorithm to solve one of these famous NP-Complete problems that ran in polynomial time?

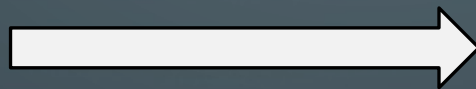


NP-Hard

NP

P

If someone finds a  
polynomial time  
algorithm to ANY np-  
complete problem,  
then



P-Hard  
NP-Hard

$P=NP$

Suddenly, through various reductions there is a  
fast (polynomial) algorithm for every NP  
problem!

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles.

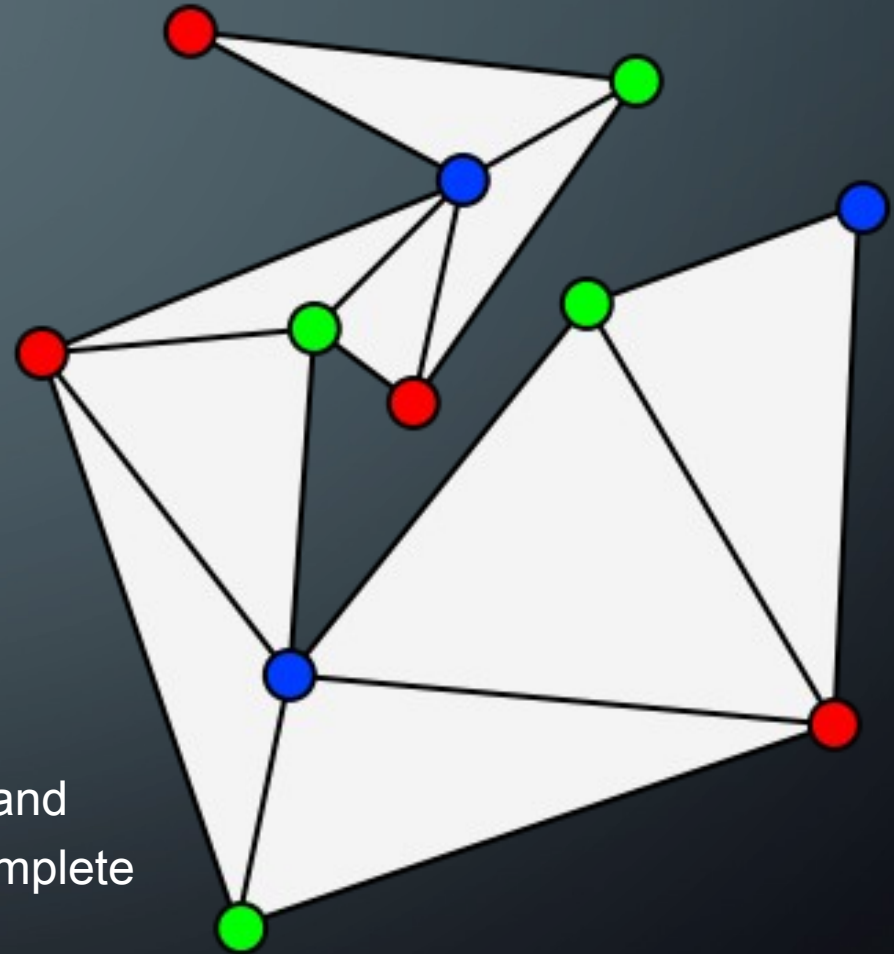
# ANOTHER REDUCTION: 3-COLORING

# 3-COLORING

**Problem Statement:**

Given graph  $G$ , and three colors  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  (not really given as input), can we color the graph with these colors such that no adjacent nodes have the same color.

Turns out that 3-Coloring is NP-Complete, and problems like this should start “feeling” NP-Complete to you.



# SHOWING THAT

To show that , we must show both that:

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

As usual, this  
one is pretty  
simple

3

Let's use 3-SAT  
this time

# SHOWING THAT

Provide a verifier TM that runs in  
Polynomial Time

***Given graph  $G$ , and color assignments  $C$  for each node in  $V$ :***

*Verify that only 3 unique colors exist in  $C$ , if not reject*

*Verify that each node was assigned exactly one color in  $C$ , if not reject*

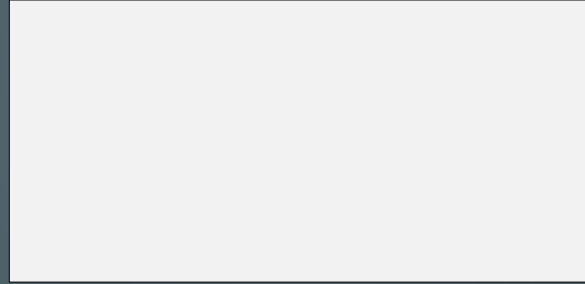
*For each edge*

*Check that  $C(u) \neq C(v)$ , if not reject*

*else accept*



$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

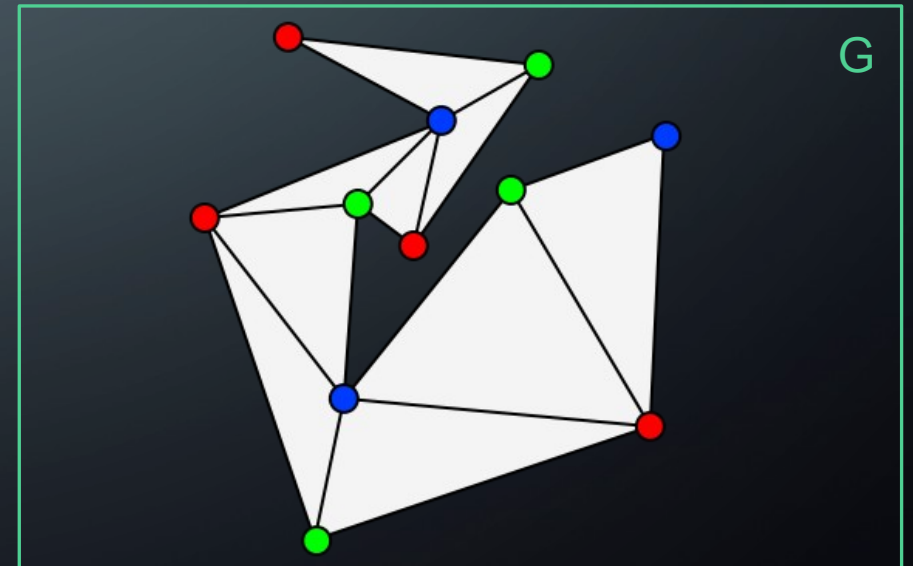


Given a boolean formula in 3-CNF that we want to test satisfiability on



graph  $G$  that is 3-Colorable if and only if is satisfiable

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$



A decorative background featuring a light blue circuit board pattern with various lines, nodes, and circular components, primarily concentrated along the left and right edges of the slide.
$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

The graph we construct needs to:

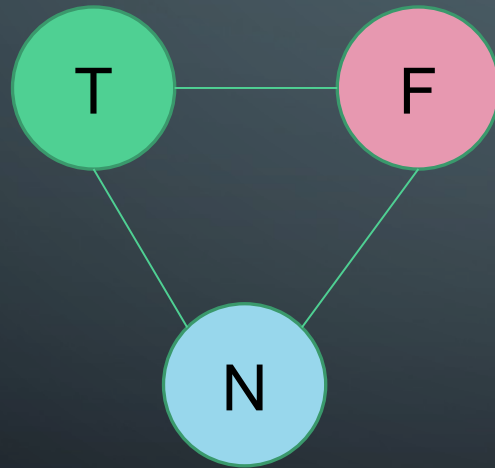
- Model the fact that variables can only be set to True and False.
- Model the variables and the fact that each variable XOR its negation can be True.
- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.

$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

The graph we construct needs to:

- Model the fact that variables can only be set to True and False.
- Model the variables and the fact that each variable XOR its negation can be True.
- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.



Whatever color these top two nodes are assigned will represent True / False for the remainder of the coloring.

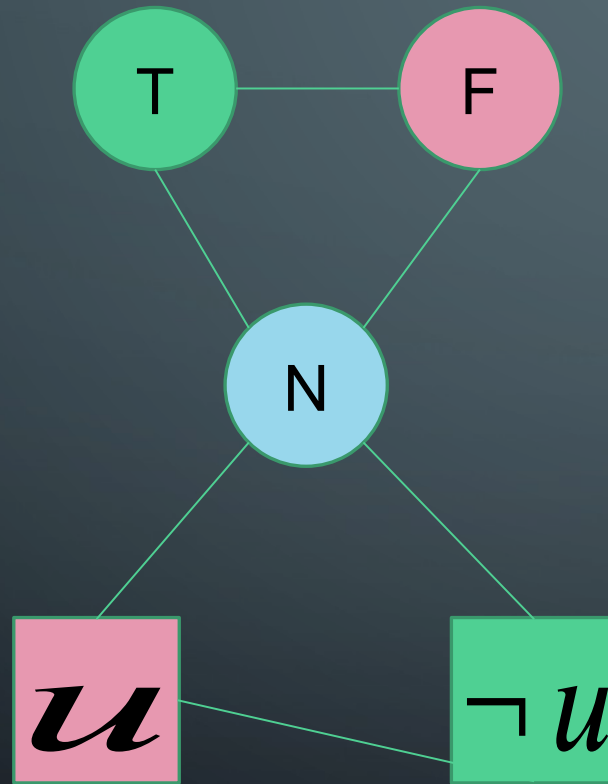
Notice that if we connect a variable (node) to this Neutral node, then that variable MUST take on the color assigned to True or False

$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

The graph we construct needs to:

- Model the variables and the fact that each variable XOR its negation can be True.
- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.

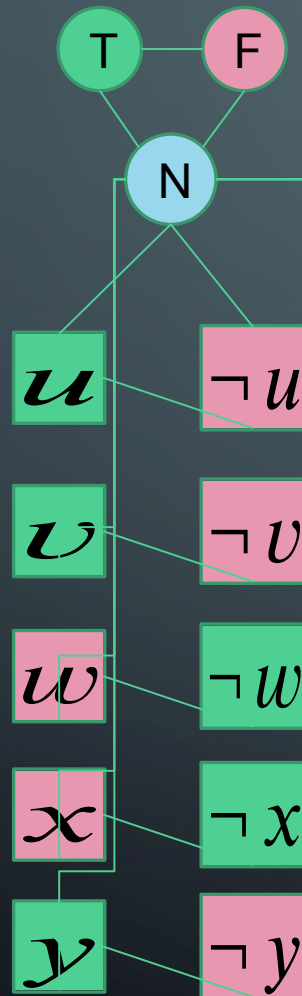


This variable cannot take the Neutral color so it must be the opposite of whatever  $u$  took. One is true, the other is false.

This variable is connect to the Neutral, so it MUST take the True color or the false color.

$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$



The graph we construct needs to:

- Model the variables and the fact that each variable XOR its negation can be True.

- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.

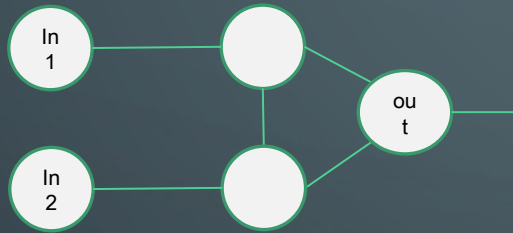
So far, so good. By assigning every node one of three colors, we can effectively choose which variables to set to True / False!

$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

The graph we construct needs to:

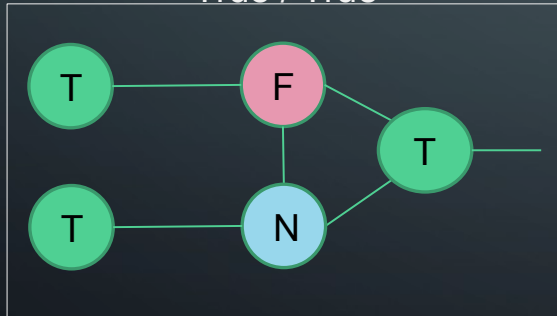
- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.



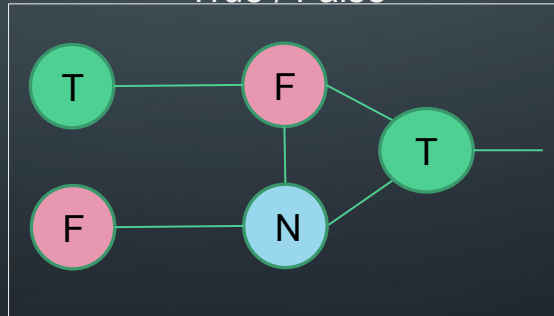
**Claim:**

Three fully-connected nodes can act as an OR gate. The output node can be colored with the True color IFF at least one of the input nodes is colored with the true color.

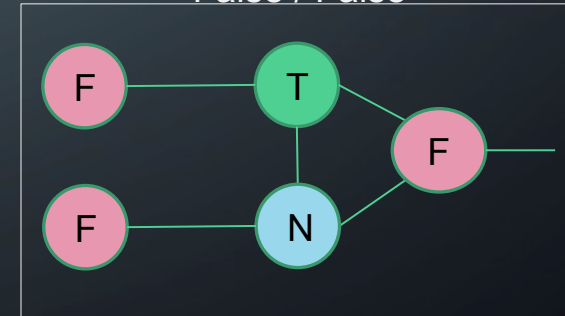
True / True



True / False



False / False



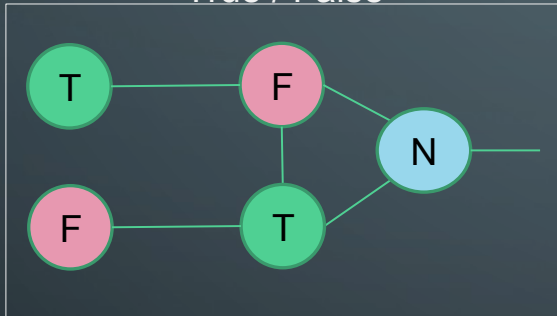
$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

The graph we construct needs to:

- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.

True / False



Quick Aside:

Notice that in some cases, we can color the output to the neutral color. We will handle this issue in a moment.

But, it is still the case that we CAN color the output True if and only if one of the input nodes is colored True.

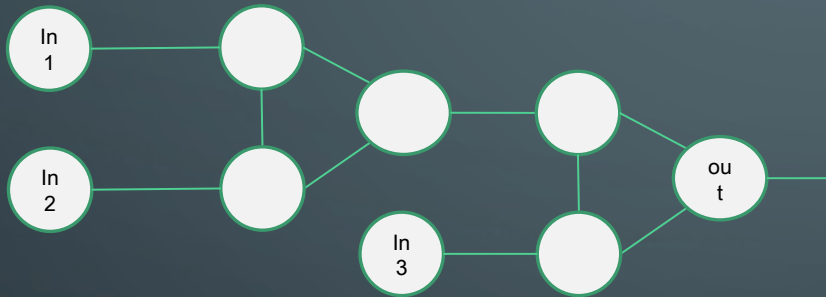


$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

The graph we construct needs to:

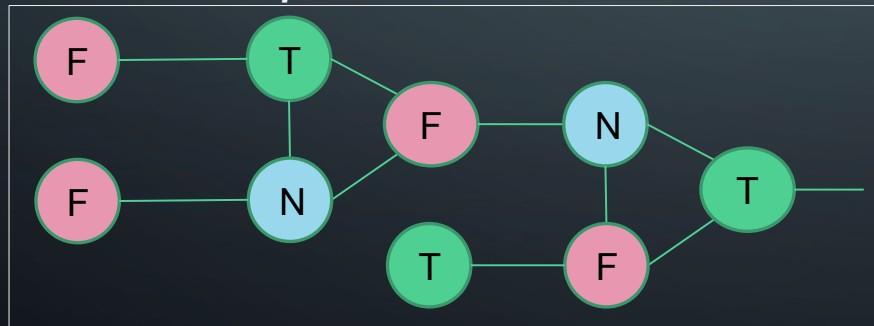
- Model the fact that at least one variable per clause must be chosen.



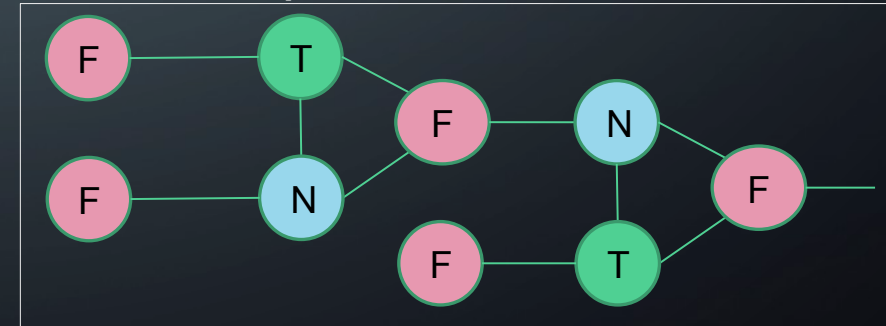
**Corollary:**

We can combine two of these widgets to produce an OR gate across three variables. The output is colorable as TRUE if and only if one of the three inputs is colored TRUE

**Example 1:** False / False / True



**Example 2:** False / False / False

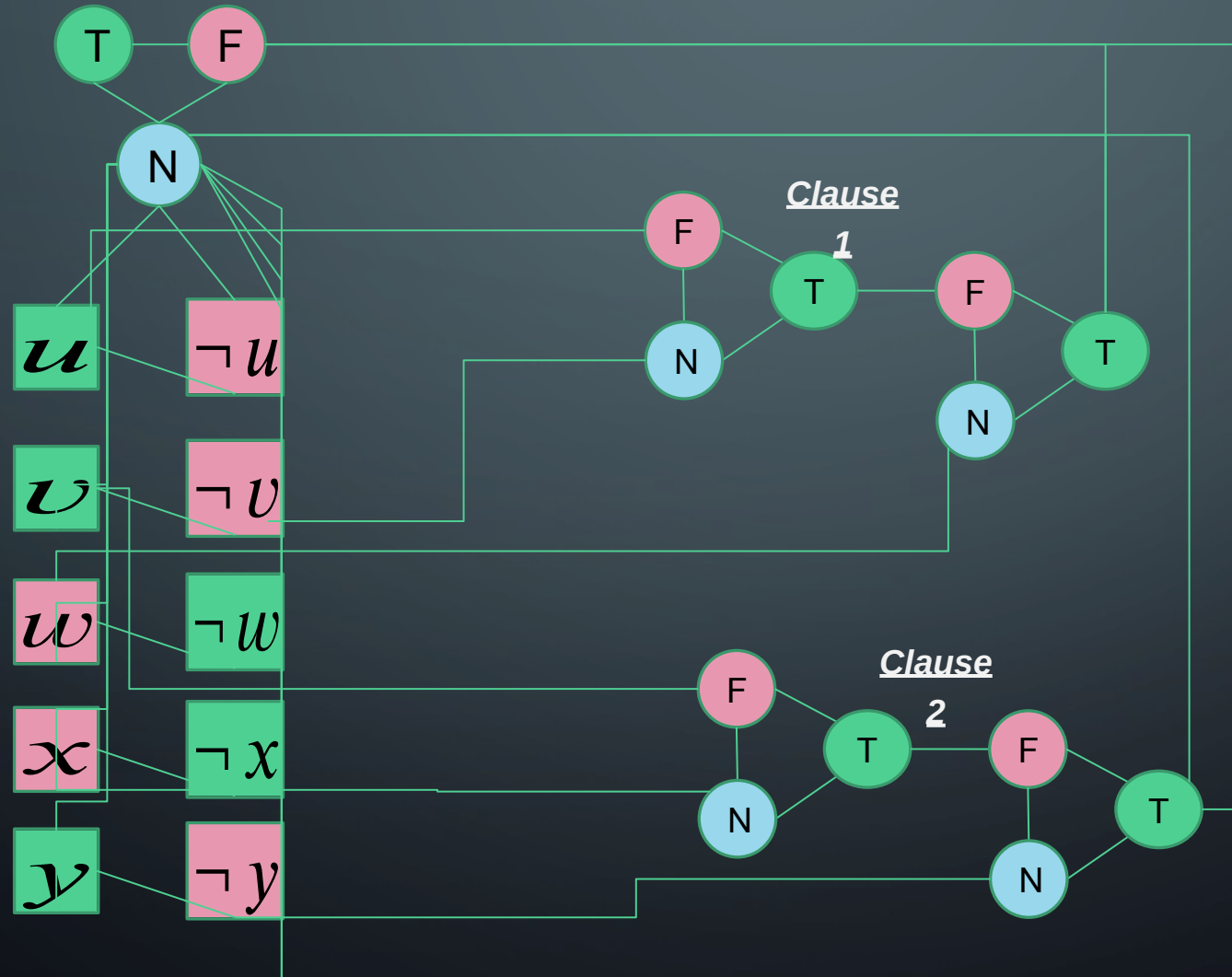




$$3SAT \leq_p 3C$$

$$\theta = (u \vee \neg v \vee w) \wedge (v \vee x \vee \neg y)$$

Notice that the outputs of the gates are connected to the False and Neutral terminals. This is because we NEED the output of each clause to be colored True!



# (VERY INFORMAL) PROOF OF REDUCTION

- $\text{Sat}(\Phi) \rightarrow G \text{ is 3-Colorable}$ 
  - Assume  $\Phi$  is satisfiable
  - 3 colors (true, false, base)
  - Color B,T,F with these colors
  - Color variable nodes with T and F depending on their satisfying values for  $\Phi$
  - Or gates always colorable so that they represent correct OR (output is true iff one or more inputs true)
  - Thus  $G$  is 3-Colorable
- $G \text{ is 3-Colorable} \rightarrow \text{Sat}(\Phi)$ 
  - Assume  $G$  is 3-Colorable
  - Color the graph
  - Let the colors of the B,T,F nodes represent base, true, and false respectively.
  - Re-arrange OR gate colors slightly if necessary so output is always T or F
  - Let variable assignments be the color they were given
  - These assignments satisfy  $\Phi$

The image features a dark blue gradient background. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural network connections, with small circles at the end of the lines.

# CONCLUSIONS / OTHER COMPLEXITY CLASSES

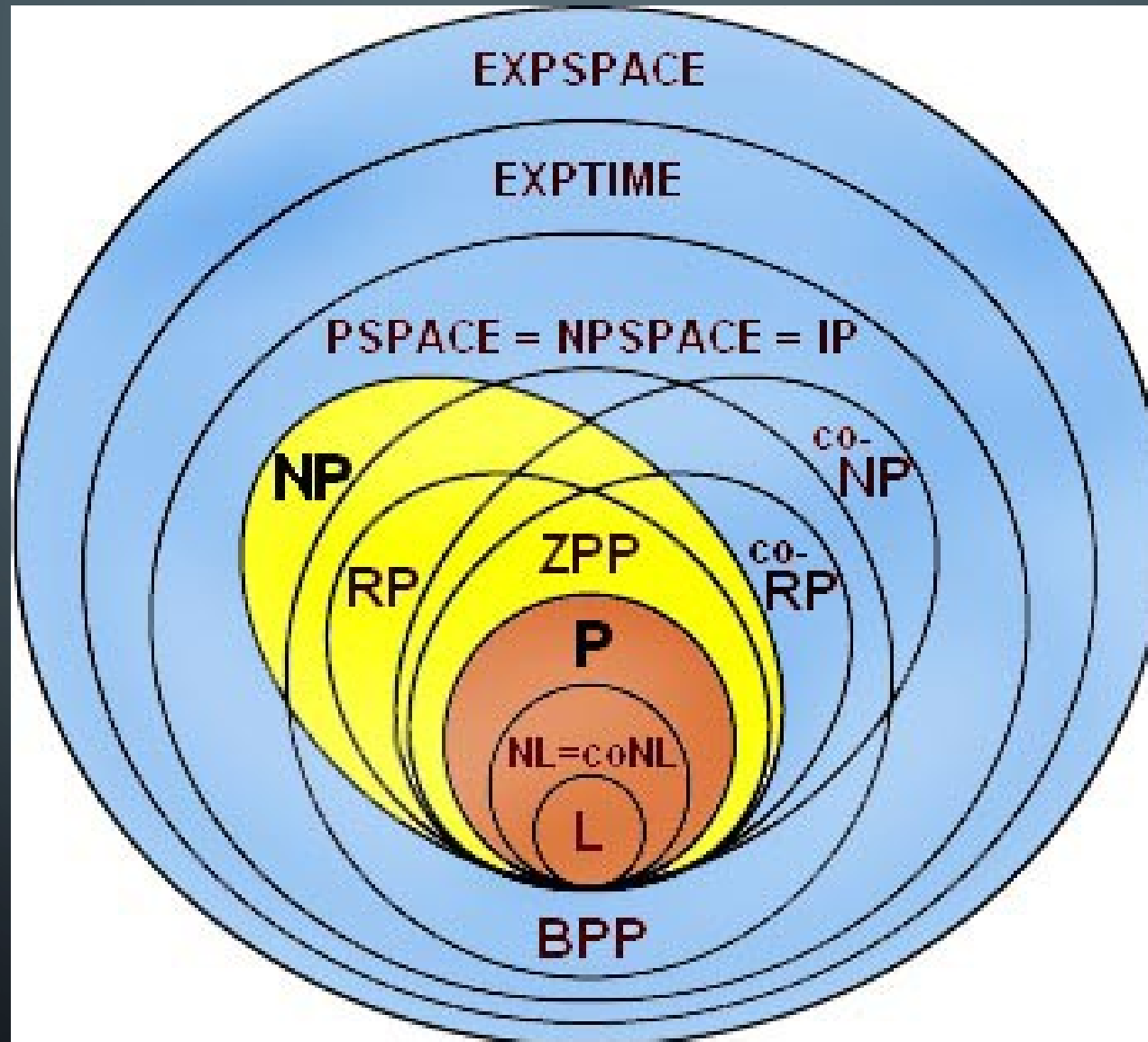
# A COUPLE COMPLEXITY CLASSES WE WON'T SEE:

- EXPTIME
  - Deterministic exponential time
- NEXPTIME
  - Non-Deterministic exponential time
- PSPACE
  - Deterministic Polynomial Space
- NPSPACE
  - Non-Deterministic Polynomial Space
- EXPSPACE
  - Deterministic Exponential Space
- NEXPSPACE
  - Non-Deterministic Exponential Space

$PSPACE = NPSPACE$  and  $EXPSPACE = NEXPSPACE$

(WOAH! That's pretty cool!)

# COMPLEXITY CLASS DIAGRAM



# CONCLUSIONS!

In this module, we learned:

1. Problem types (function, decision, verification), runtimes of DTMs and NTMs, relationships between DTM and NTM runtimes for types of problems.
2. The basic complexity classes (P, NP, NP-Hard, NPC) and how they relate to one another.
3. What a reduction is and how it is used to compare the difficulty of two different problems.
4. How to prove that a problem is NP-Complete.