# CMPSC 465 Data Structures and Algorithms Spring 2022

Instructor: Chunhao Wang

# NP and Computational Hardness

## **NP and Computational Hardness**

Polynomial-time reduction (Kleinberg-Tardos, Section 8.1, 8.2)

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Is Problem B really hard? How do we prove hardness?

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Tool: polynomial-time reduction

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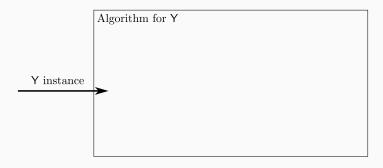
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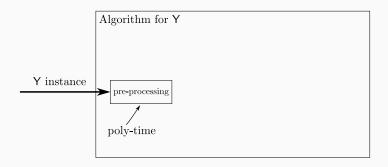
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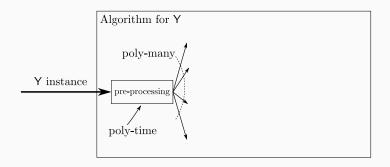
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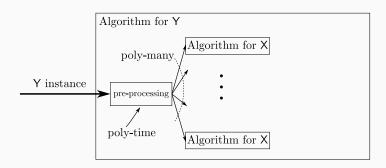
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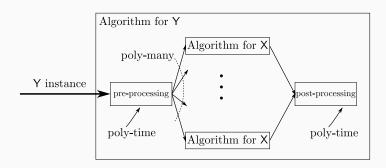
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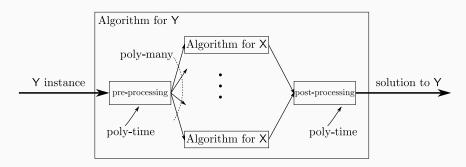
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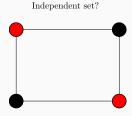
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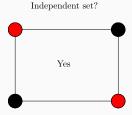
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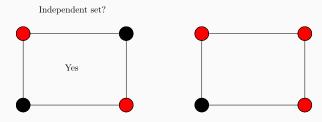
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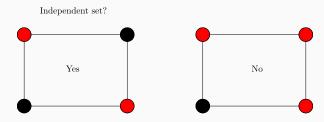
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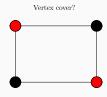
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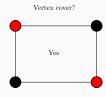
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- Optimization version  $\leq_P$  decision version (binary search)

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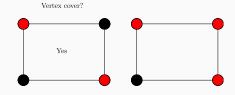
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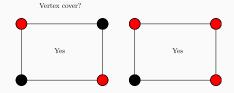
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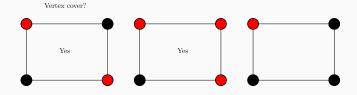
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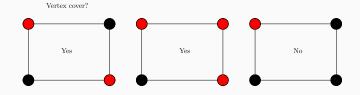


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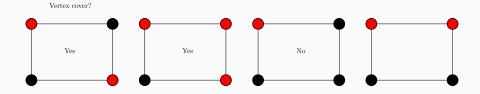
#### **Definition**

A set of vertices is said to be a **vertex cover** if every edge has at least one end in it

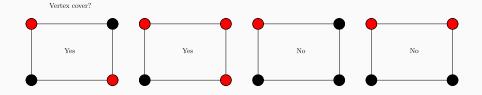


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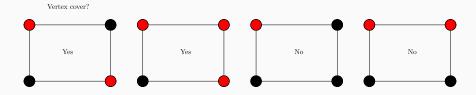


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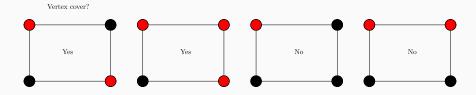
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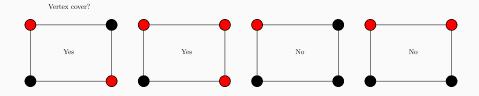


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## The Minimum Vertex Cover Problem (Decision version)

**Instance:** a graph G, a number k

**Objective:** Decide if G contains a vertex cover of size k?

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Let G = (V, E) be a graph. Then S is an independent set if and only if its complement V - S is a vertex cover

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• "only if": Suppose S is an independent set. Consider an arbitrary edge e = (u, v). We know u, v cannot be both in S — one of them must be in V - S.

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• "only if": Suppose S is an independent set. Consider an arbitrary edge e = (u, v). We know u, v cannot be both in S — one of them must be in V - S. So every edge has at least one end in V - S. So V - S is a vertex cover

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- "if": Suppose V S is a vertex cover. Consider any two vertices u, v in S.

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- "if": Suppose V S is a vertex cover. Consider any two vertices u, v in S. If u, v were joined by an edge, then neither of u, v would be in V S, contradicting the assumption that V S is a vertex cover.

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- "only if": Suppose S is an independent set. Consider an arbitrary edge e = (u, v). We know u, v cannot be both in S one of them must be in V S. So every edge has at least one end in V S. So V S is a vertex cover
- "if": Suppose V − S is a vertex cover. Consider any two vertices u, v in S. If u, v were joined by an edge, then neither of u, v would be in V − S, contradicting the assumption that V − S is a vertex cover. So no two vertices in S are jointed by an edge.

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- "only if": Suppose S is an independent set. Consider an arbitrary edge e = (u, v). We know u, v cannot be both in S — one of them must be in V-S. So every edge has at least one end in V-S. So V-S is a vertex cover
- "if": Suppose V-S is a vertex cover. Consider any two vertices u, vin S. If u, v were joined by an edge, then neither of u, v would be in V-S, contradicting the assumption that V-S is a vertex cover. So no two vertices in S are jointed by an edge. So S is an independent set

#### **Theorem**

• Independent Set  $\leq_P$  Vertex Cover

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