

I shall prove 3-SAT is NP complete by proving $\text{SAT} \leq_p 3\text{-SAT}$. In order to do this, we are to provide an algorithm or effective procedure \mathcal{A} that is capable of constructing an instance of 3-SAT from an instance of SAT in polynomial time, and construct it in such a way that one is satisfiable if and only if the other one is satisfiable.

Let

$$B = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \{l_{i1} \vee \dots \vee l_{ir_i}\}$$

be an instance of SAT, where r_i is the number of literals in the i th term of B . We shall define the following effective procedure \mathcal{P} : For any arbitrary B_i , we shall construct E_i as follows:

- If $r_i = 1$,

$$E_i = (l_{i1} \vee y_1 \vee y_2) \wedge \{l_{i1} \vee \overline{y_1} \vee y_2\} \wedge (l_{i1} \vee y_1 \vee \overline{y_2}) \wedge (l_{i1} \vee \overline{y_1} \vee \overline{y_2})$$

- If $r_i = 2$,

$$E_i = (l_{i1} \vee l_{i2} \vee y_1) \wedge (l_{i1} \vee l_{i2} \vee \overline{y_1})$$

- If $r_i = 3$, $E_i = B_i$.

- If $r_i \geq 4$, then

$$\begin{aligned} E_i = & (l_{i1} \vee l_{i2} \vee y_1) \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee y_2 \vee l_{i3}) \wedge (\overline{y_2} \vee y_3 \vee l_{i4}) \\ & \wedge \dots \\ & \wedge (\overline{y_{(r-4)}} \vee y_{(r-3)} \vee l_{i(r-2)}) \wedge (\overline{y_{(r-3)}} \wedge l_{i(r-1)} \wedge l_{ir_i}) \end{aligned}$$

where each y_j are new variables. We shall prove $E = \bigwedge_{i=1}^{m'} E_i$ is satisfiable iff B is satisfiable.

(\Rightarrow) Assume (\vec{b}, \vec{u}) is an assignment for the x, y variables respectively s.t. $E(\vec{b}, \vec{u}) = 1$. Then, for any arbitrary E_i , there is at least some literal that evaluates to one under this assignment. Let us consider by cases.

(I : $r_i = 1$). Assume $B_i(\vec{b}) = 0$. Then $l_{i1}(\vec{b}) = 0$. But since $E_i(\vec{b}, \vec{u}) = 1$, we must have

$$(y_1 \vee y_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee \overline{y_2})(\vec{u}) = 1$$

But it is trivial to see that any of the possible assignments makes some terms true and others false simultaneously, which is a contradiction. So $B_i(\vec{b}) = 1$.

(2 : $r_i = 2$). Assume $B_i(\vec{b}) = 0$. Since $E_i(\vec{b}, \vec{u}) = 1$ we must have

$$[y_1 \wedge y_2](\vec{u}) = 1 \Rightarrow \perp$$

Then $B_i(\vec{b}) = 1$.

(3 : $r_i = 3$). Trivial.

(4 : $r_i \geq 4$). Assume $B(\vec{b}) = 0$. Then E_i is an expression of the form $y_1 \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee y_2) \wedge (\overline{y_2} \vee y_3) \wedge \dots \wedge \overline{y_{r_i-2}}$. Necessarily, y_1 must be true, which entails y_2 must be true, which inductively entails y_k is true for any k . But then the last term is false. (\perp)

In all possible cases, $B_i(\vec{b}) = 1$ for any i . Then $B(\vec{b}) = 1$.

(\Leftarrow) Assume \vec{b} is an assignment s.t. $B(\vec{b}) = 1$. Take an arbitrary B_i . Since it is true under \vec{b} , there is at least one fixed j_0 s.t. $l_{ij_0}(\vec{b}) = 1$. Let us define the assignment \vec{u} as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= u_2 = \dots = u_{j_0-2} = 1 \\ u_{j_0-1} &= u_{j_0} = \dots = u_k = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all k variables y_1, \dots, y_k . We shall prove this assignment makes $E(\vec{b}, \vec{u}) = 1$. For this to occur, suffices that $E_i(\vec{b}, \vec{u}) = 1$. There are four possible cases.

(1 : $r_i = 1$). In this case, each term in the series of conjunctions will either be anterior to the appearance of l_{ij_0} , posterior to it, or will be the term with l_{ij_0} . If it is the term with l_{ij_0} it will be true by assumption. If it is anterior it will contain at least one y_k , and by definition this will be true. If it is posterior it will contain at least one $\overline{y_{ik}}$ and it will be true.

(2 : $r_i = 2$). By def. of E_i , both terms contain all l_{ij} , so both terms will contain l_{ij_0} and will be true.

(3 : $r_i = 3$). Trivial.

(4 : $r_i \geq 4$). Observe that E_i will be of the form

$$\begin{aligned}
E_i &= (l_{i1} \vee l_{i2} \vee y_1) \\
&= (\overline{y_1} \vee y_2 \vee l_{i3})
\end{aligned}$$

\vdots

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (\overline{y_{(j_0-3)}} \vee y_{j_0-2} \vee l_{i(j_0-1)}) \\
&= (\overline{y_{(j_0-2)}} \vee y_{(j_0-1)} \vee l_{ij_0}) \\
&= (\overline{y_{(j_0-1)}} \vee y_{j_0} \vee l_{i(j_0+1)}) \\
&\vdots \\
&= (\overline{y_{r_i-2}} \vee l_{i(r_i-1)} \vee l_{ir})
\end{aligned}$$

all true.

$y_1(\vec{u}) = 1$ by def
True for the same reason