

# Algorithms - Spring '25

NP-Hardness  
(cont):  
3SAT + graphs

# Recap

- HW Due today
- Reading due Wed.

Def: NP-Hard

$X$  is NP-Hard



If  $X$  could be solved in polynomial time,  
then  $P=NP$ .

So if any NP-Hard problem could be solved in polynomial time, then all of NP could be.

Note: Not at all obvious any such problem exists!

## Cook-Levine Thm:

Circuit SAT is NP-Hard.

Proof (sketch):

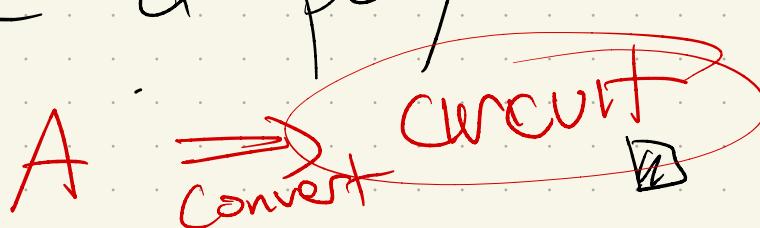
Suppose I have an algorithm CIRCUIT-SAT. in poly time.  
to solve

Take any problem in NP, A.

Reduce A to CIRCUIT-SAT.

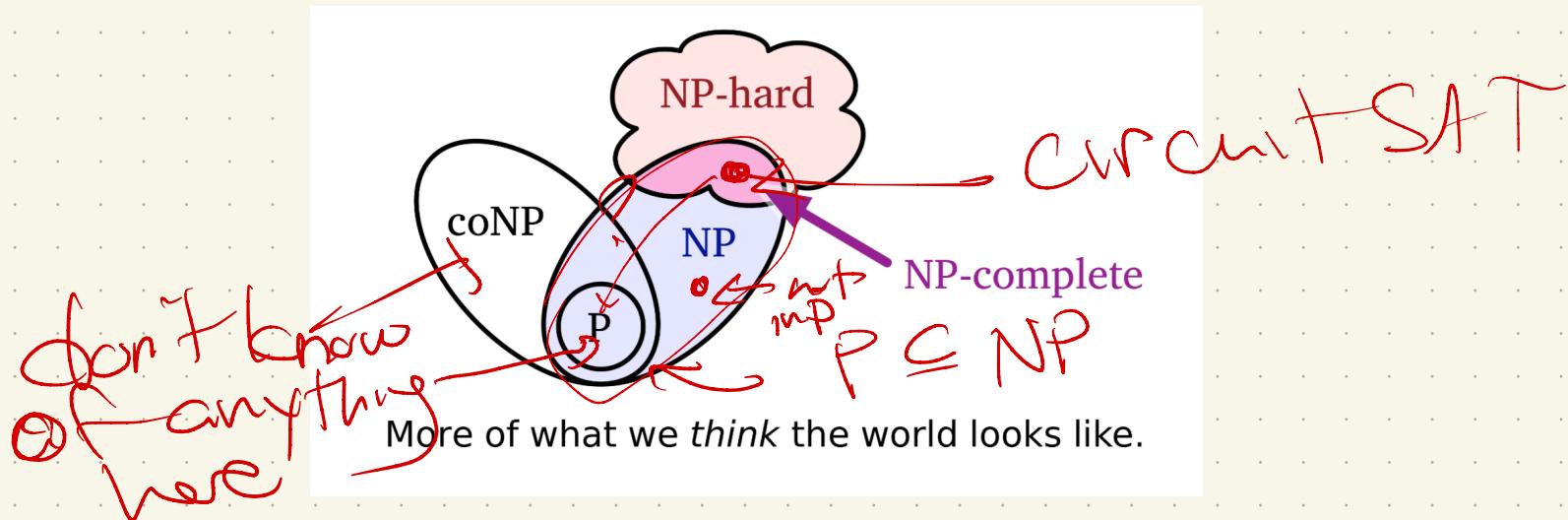
in polynomial time: build circuit.

Therefore, I have a poly time alg  
for A,



So, there is at least one problem that is NP-Hard, & in NP, but which we don't think is in P:

IS  $P=NP$ ?



NP-Complete: NP-Hard & in NP

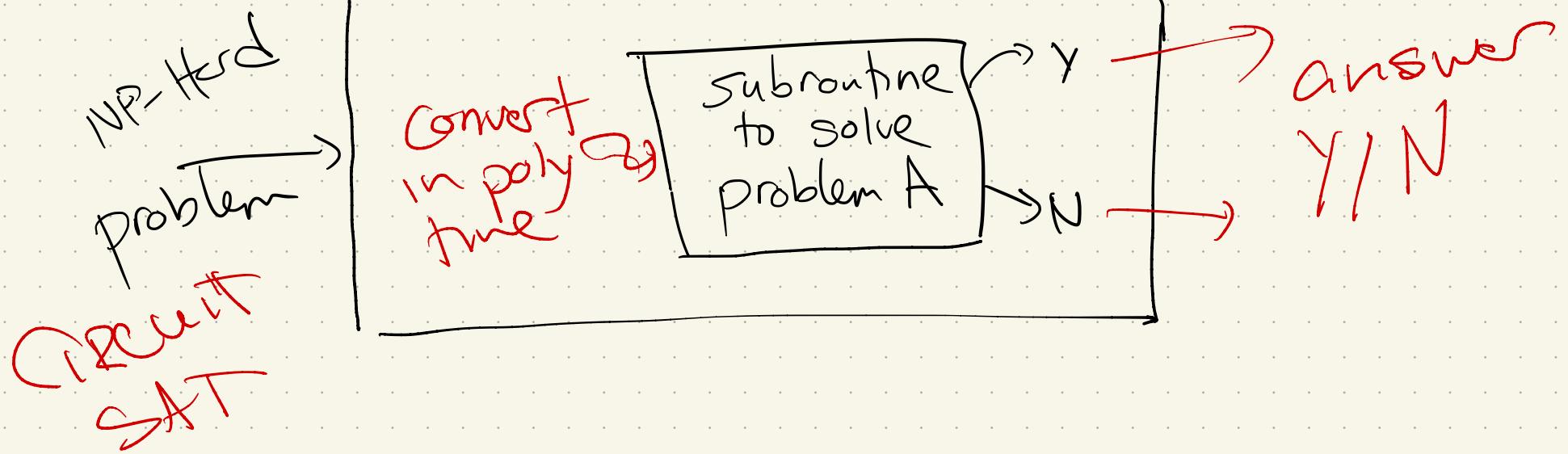
To prove NP-Hardness of A:

Reduce a known NP-Hard problem to A.

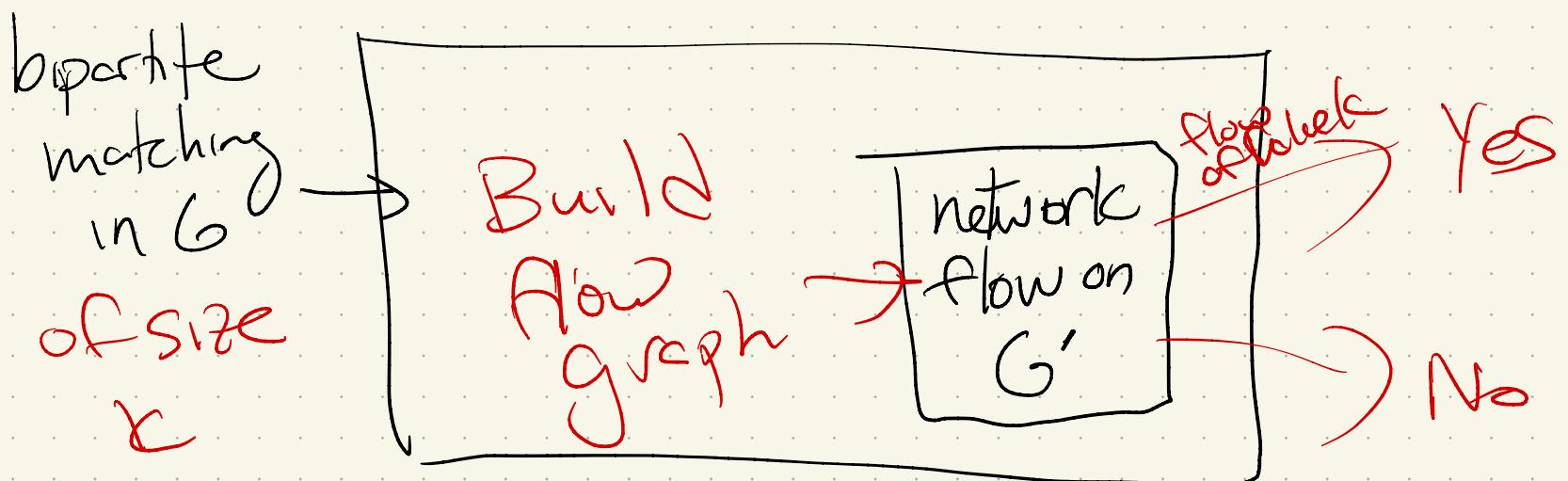
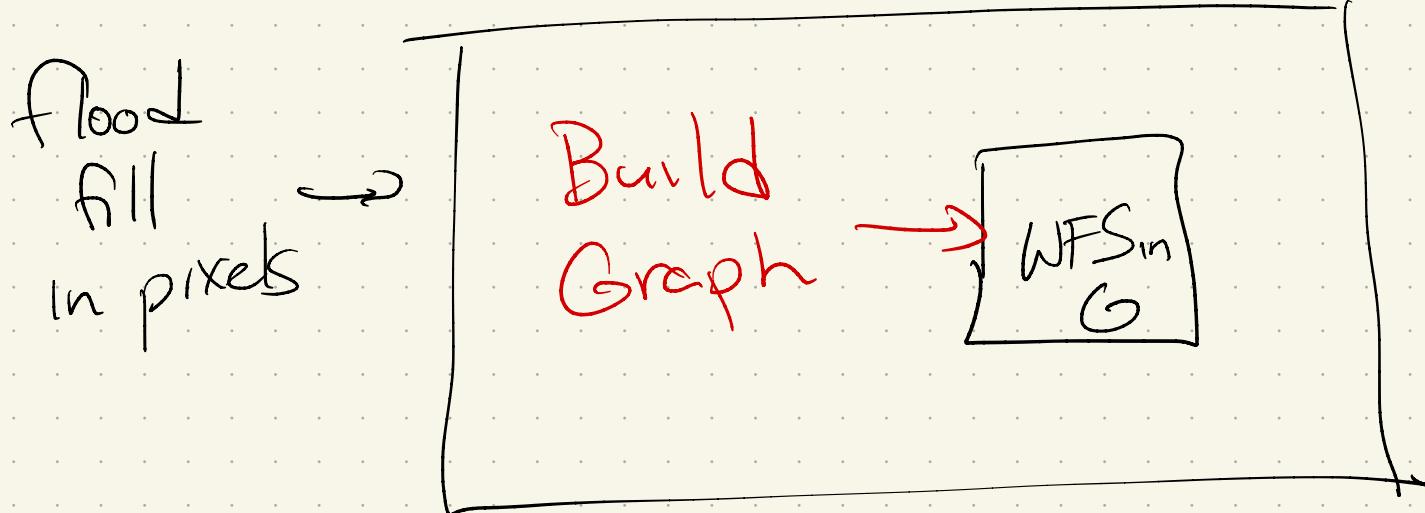
(Alternative is to show any problem in NP can be turned into A, like

Cook.)

~~Cook~~



We've seen reductions!  
But used them to solve problems!



This will feel odd, though:

To prove a new problem is hard,  
we'll show how we could solve a  
known hard problem using new  
problem as a subroutine.

Why? Just like halting problem!

Well, if a poly time algorithm  
existed, than you'd also be able to  
solve the hard problem!

(Therefore, "can't" be any such alg)

# Other NP-Hard Problems:

SAT: Given a boolean formula, is there a way to assign inputs so result is 1?

Ex:  $(a \vee b \vee c \vee \bar{d}) \Leftrightarrow ((b \wedge \bar{c}) \vee \overline{\bar{a} \Rightarrow d}) \vee (c \neq a \wedge b)$ , 

n variables, m clauses

First: in NP?

I claim answer is yes,

Certificate: assignment (T/F) to each variable

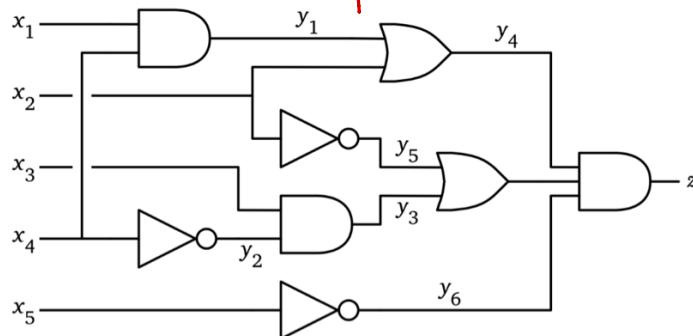
 size n

Can check in  $O(n \cdot m) \rightarrow$  truth tables!

Thm: SAT is NP-Hard.

Pf: Reduce CIRCUIT SAT to SAT:

n inputs, m gates



Input: CIRCUIT

$$(y_1 = x_1 \wedge x_4) \wedge (y_2 = \overline{x_4}) \wedge (y_3 = x_3 \wedge y_2) \wedge (y_4 = y_1 \vee x_2) \wedge \\ (y_5 = \overline{x_2}) \wedge (y_6 = \overline{x_5}) \wedge (y_7 = y_3 \vee y_5) \wedge (z = y_4 \wedge y_7 \wedge y_6) \wedge z$$

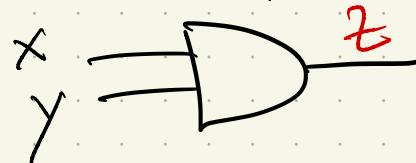
A boolean circuit with gate variables added, and an equivalent boolean formula.

Convert in poly time to clauses:

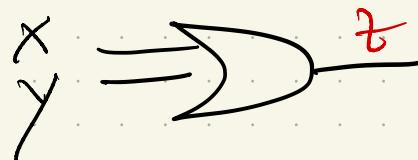
→ build a formula that is equivalent

More carefully:

1) For any gate, can transform:



$$z = x \wedge y$$



$$z = x \vee y$$



$$z = \neg x$$

2) "And" these together, & want final output true:

$m+1$  clauses

$n$  variables

$O(mn)$  time to build  
SAT formula

Is this poly-size?

Given  $n$  inputs +  $m$  gates:

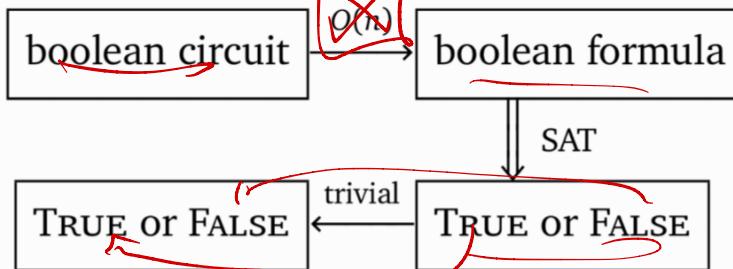
Variables:  $n$

Clauses:  $m+1$

$$\text{time spent} \leq m^n$$

So our reduction:

poly:  $O(mn)$



$$T_{CSAT}(n) \leq O(n) + T_{SAT}(O(n)) \implies T_{SAT}(n) \geq T_{CSAT}(\Omega(n)) - O(n)$$

3SAT: 3CNF formulas:

3 variables op-ed in each clause  
"and" the clauses together

Thm: 3SAT is NP-Hard

Pf: Reduce circuitSAT to 3SAT:

Need to show any circuit can be transformed  
to 3CNF form

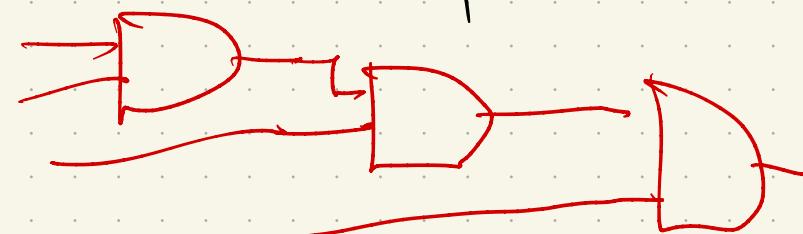
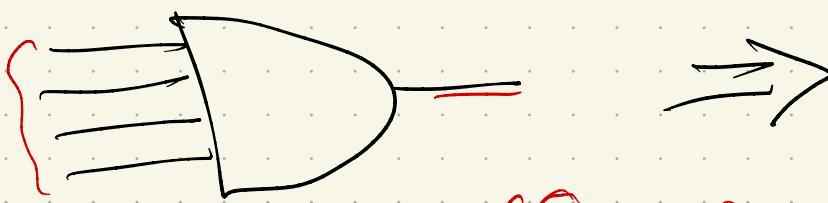
(so last reduction fails)

Instead →

Given a circuit!

$$z = x \wedge y \rightarrow d$$

- ① Rewrite so each gate has  $\leq 2$  inputs:



$$a \wedge b \wedge c \wedge d = ((a \wedge b) \wedge c) \wedge d$$

- ② Write formula, like SAT. Only 3 types!

$$\begin{aligned} y &= a \vee b \\ y &= a \wedge b \\ y &= \overline{a} \end{aligned}$$

③

Now, change to CNF:

go back to truth tables

a	b	c	
T	T	T	
T	T	F	
T	F	F	

$$a = b \wedge c$$

$$a = b \wedge c \rightarrow (a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{c}) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee b) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee c)$$

$$a = b \vee c \rightarrow (\bar{a} \vee b \vee c) \wedge (a \vee \bar{b}) \wedge (a \vee \bar{c})$$

$$a = \bar{b} \rightarrow (a \vee b) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee \bar{b})$$

④

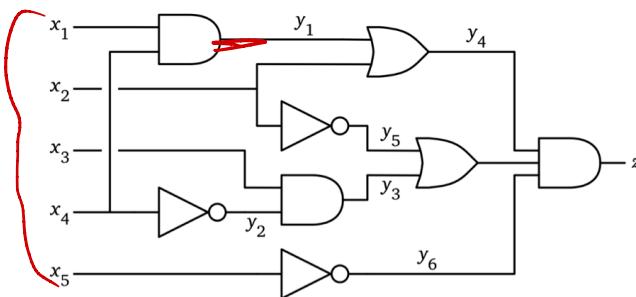
Now, need 3 per clause!

$$a \rightarrow (a \vee x \vee y) \wedge (a \vee \bar{x} \vee y) \wedge (a \vee x \vee \bar{y}) \wedge (a \vee \bar{x} \vee \bar{y})$$

$$a \vee b \rightarrow (a \vee b \vee x) \wedge (a \vee b \vee \bar{x})$$

a	x	y	
T	T	T	
T	T	F	

Note : Bigger!



$$(y_1 = x_1 \wedge x_4) \wedge (y_2 = \bar{x}_4) \wedge (y_3 = x_3 \wedge y_2) \wedge (y_4 = y_1 \vee x_2) \wedge \\ (y_5 = \bar{x}_2) \wedge (y_6 = \bar{x}_5) \wedge (y_7 = y_3 \vee y_5) \wedge (z = y_4 \wedge y_7 \wedge y_6) \wedge z$$

A boolean circuit with gate variables added, and an equivalent boolean formula.



$$(y_1 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge (\bar{y}_1 \vee x_1 \vee z_1) \wedge (\bar{y}_1 \vee x_1 \vee \bar{z}_1) \wedge (\bar{y}_1 \vee x_4 \vee z_2) \wedge (\bar{y}_1 \vee x_4 \vee \bar{z}_2) \\ \wedge (y_2 \vee x_4 \vee z_3) \wedge (y_2 \vee x_4 \vee \bar{z}_3) \wedge (\bar{y}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee z_4) \wedge (\bar{y}_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee \bar{z}_4) \\ \wedge (y_3 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{y}_2) \wedge (\bar{y}_3 \vee x_3 \vee z_5) \wedge (\bar{y}_3 \vee x_3 \vee \bar{z}_5) \wedge (\bar{y}_3 \vee y_2 \vee z_6) \wedge (\bar{y}_3 \vee y_2 \vee \bar{z}_6) \\ \wedge (\bar{y}_4 \vee y_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_4 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee z_7) \wedge (y_4 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{z}_7) \wedge (y_4 \vee \bar{y}_1 \vee z_8) \wedge (y_4 \vee \bar{y}_1 \vee \bar{z}_8) \\ \wedge (y_5 \vee x_2 \vee z_9) \wedge (y_5 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{z}_9) \wedge (\bar{y}_5 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee z_{10}) \wedge (\bar{y}_5 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{z}_{10}) \\ \wedge (y_6 \vee x_5 \vee z_{11}) \wedge (y_6 \vee x_5 \vee \bar{z}_{11}) \wedge (\bar{y}_6 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee z_{12}) \wedge (\bar{y}_6 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee \bar{z}_{12}) \\ \wedge (\bar{y}_7 \vee y_3 \vee y_5) \wedge (y_7 \vee \bar{y}_3 \vee z_{13}) \wedge (y_7 \vee \bar{y}_3 \vee \bar{z}_{13}) \wedge (y_7 \vee \bar{y}_5 \vee z_{14}) \wedge (y_7 \vee \bar{y}_5 \vee \bar{z}_{14}) \\ \wedge (y_8 \vee \bar{y}_4 \vee \bar{y}_7) \wedge (\bar{y}_8 \vee y_4 \vee z_{15}) \wedge (\bar{y}_8 \vee y_4 \vee \bar{z}_{15}) \wedge (\bar{y}_8 \vee y_7 \vee z_{16}) \wedge (\bar{y}_8 \vee y_7 \vee \bar{z}_{16}) \\ \wedge (y_9 \vee \bar{y}_8 \vee \bar{y}_6) \wedge (\bar{y}_9 \vee y_8 \vee z_{17}) \wedge (\bar{y}_9 \vee y_8 \vee \bar{z}_{17}) \wedge (\bar{y}_9 \vee y_6 \vee z_{18}) \wedge (\bar{y}_9 \vee y_6 \vee \bar{z}_{18}) \\ \wedge (y_9 \vee z_{19} \vee z_{20}) \wedge (y_9 \vee \bar{z}_{19} \vee z_{20}) \wedge (y_9 \vee z_{19} \vee \bar{z}_{20}) \wedge (y_9 \vee \bar{z}_{19} \vee \bar{z}_{20})$$

How much  
bigger?  
(need polynomial)

Each gate



$\leq 12$  clauses

m

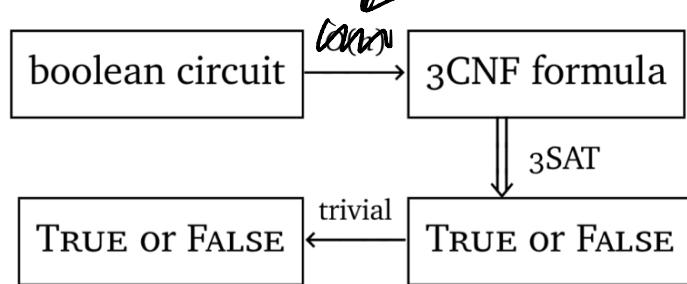
$\hookrightarrow 12m$   
clauses

3SAT variables: n variables  $\rightarrow n+m+2m$

So:

size?

$O(mn)$



$$\underline{T_{CSAT}(n) \leq O(n)} + T_{3SAT}(O(n)) \implies \underline{T_{3SAT}(n) \geq T_{CSAT}(\Omega(n)) - O(n)}$$

Poly

—

So: If could solve 3CNF, could  
solve CIRCUITSAT in poly time.

Historical note:

Why boolean functions?

(Think like a computer engineer  
for a moment...)

Next!

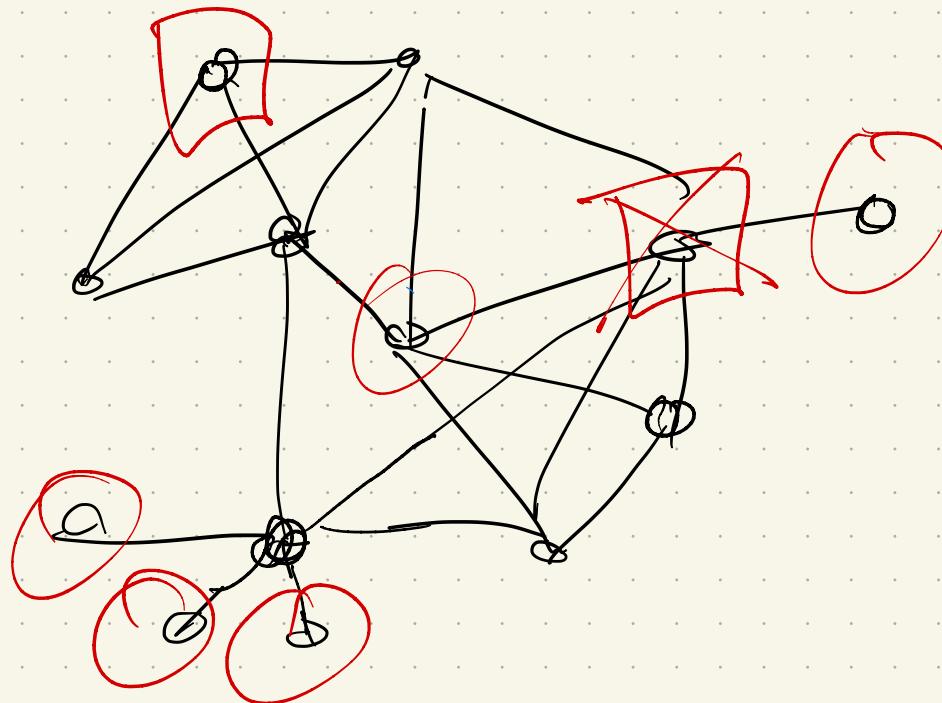
Can we do this with any  
useful problems?

(Logic is all well + good..)

Maybe  $\rightarrow$  graphs?

## Independent Set:

A set of vertices in a graph with no edges between them:

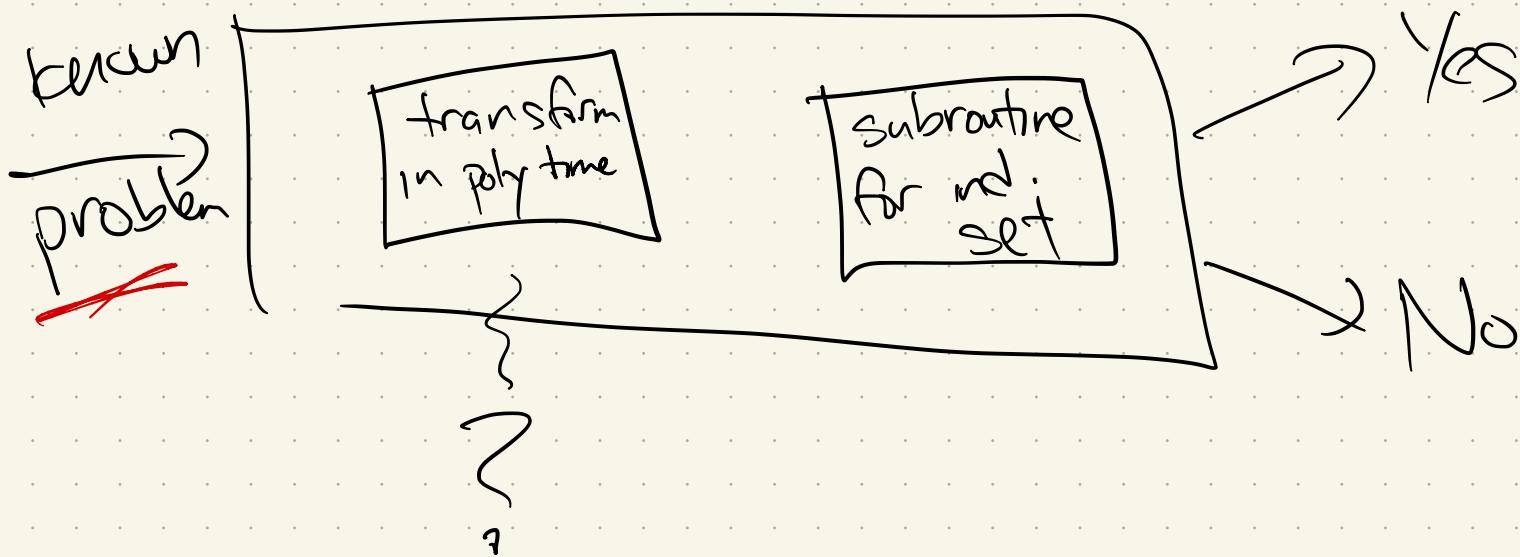


Decision version:

Given  $G$  &  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  does  $G$   
have indep set of size  $\geq k$ ?

Challenge: No booleans!

But reduction needs to take known NP-Hard problem + build a graph!



We'll use 3SAT

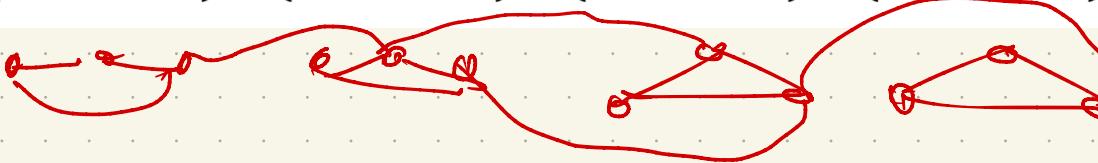
(but stop and marvel a bit first...)

## Reduction:

Input is 3CNF boolean formula

$$(a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (b \vee \bar{c} \vee \bar{d}) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee c \vee d) \wedge (a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{d})$$

✓:



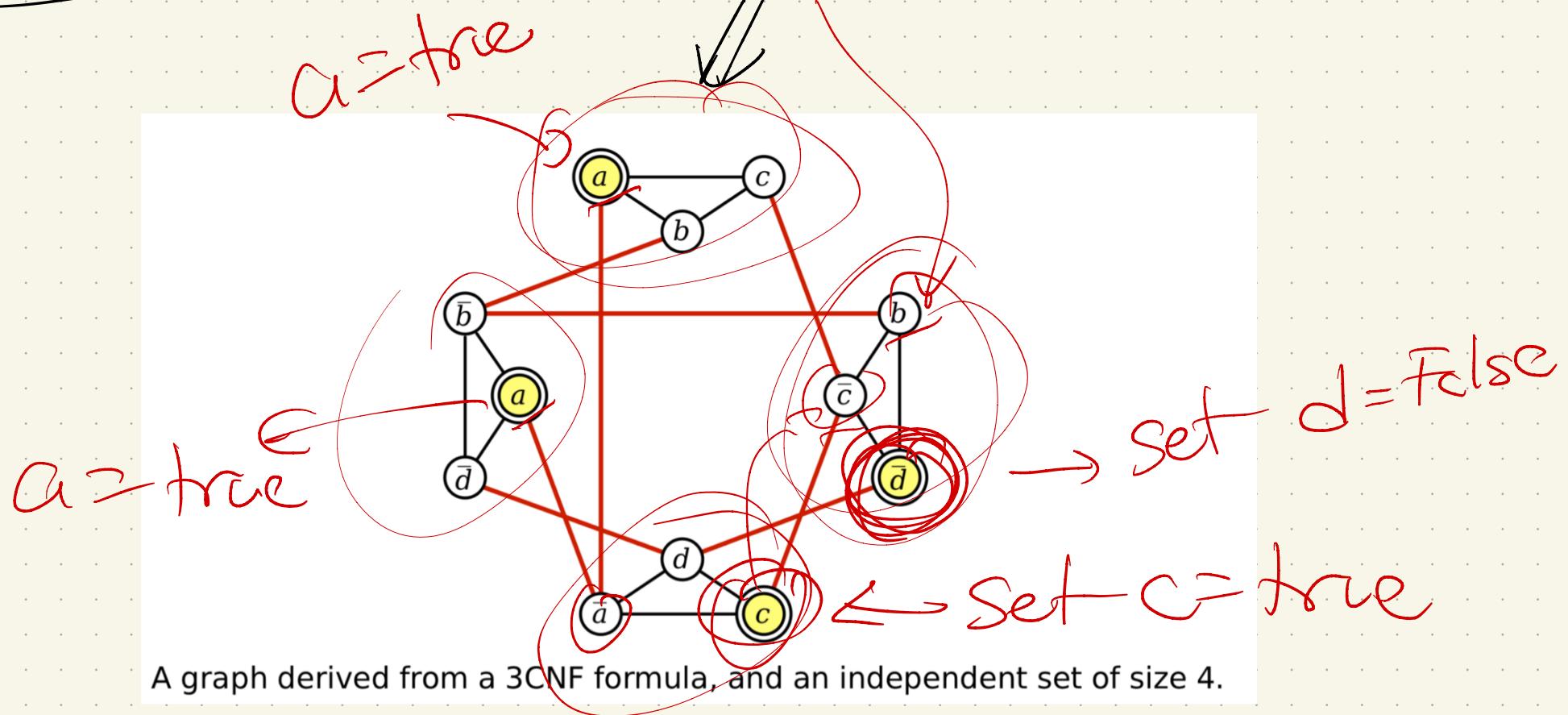
① Make a vertex for each literal  
in each clause

② Connect two vertices if:

- they are in some clause ✓
- they are a variable & its inverse

Example :

$$(a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (b \vee \bar{c} \vee \bar{d}) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee c \vee d) \wedge (a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{d})$$



Claim:

formula is satisfiable ?

G has independent set of size  $\geq m$

Sppos formula is satisfiable:

at least one variable per clause  
is true

$$(\neg i) \vee$$

Pick one

↳ add corresponding vertex to IS

One per clause

can't have edge b/w clause variables  
since such an edge would

mean both  $x$  &  $\bar{x}$  are true.

$\Rightarrow m$  vertices, no edges

$\hookrightarrow$  IS so  $G, \overline{m}$ 's true

$\Leftarrow$ : take IS in  $G$  of size  $\geq m$

Can have at most one vertex

per  (b/c pigeonhole)

so  $\Rightarrow$  exactly one vertex in IS

Set that variable = T.

(set negations = F)

Rest of variables  $\rightarrow$  either T/F.

One variable per clause

is now true

& no variable & its negation  
are both true

⇒ Formula is satisfied

# Next: Graph Coloring

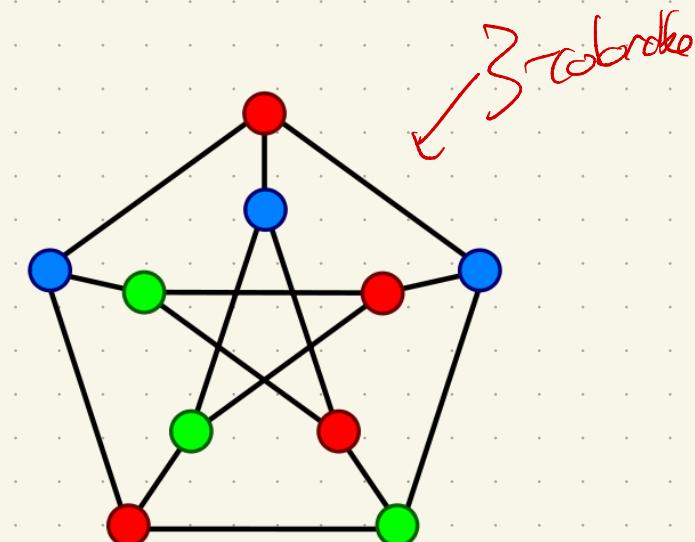
A  $k$ -coloring of a graph  $G$  is a map:

$$c: V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$$

that assigns one of  $k$  "colors" to each vertex so that every edge has 2 different colors at its endpoints

Goal: Use few colors

$k = V$  easy!



Aside: this is famous!  
Ever heard of map coloring?



Famous theorem: 4 color theorem

Thm: 3-colorability is NP-Complete.

(Decision version: Given  $G$  &  $k$ ,  
output yes/no)

In NP:

Certificate:

Color for each vertex

To check:

loop over every edge  
& verify endpoints have  
different colors

NP-Hard:

Reduction from 3SAT. ↗

Given formula for 3SAT  $\Phi$ ,  
we'll make a graph  $G_\Phi$ .

$\Phi$  will be satisfiable

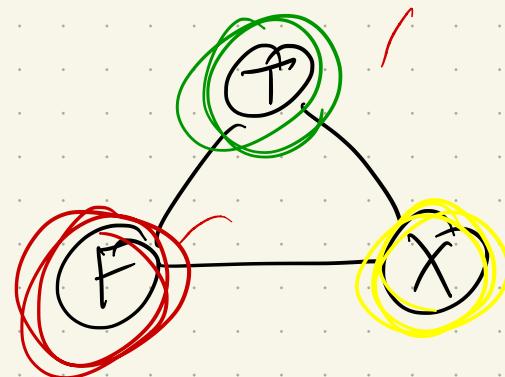
↔  $G_\Phi$  can be 3-colored.

Key notion: Build "gadgets".

① Truth gadget -

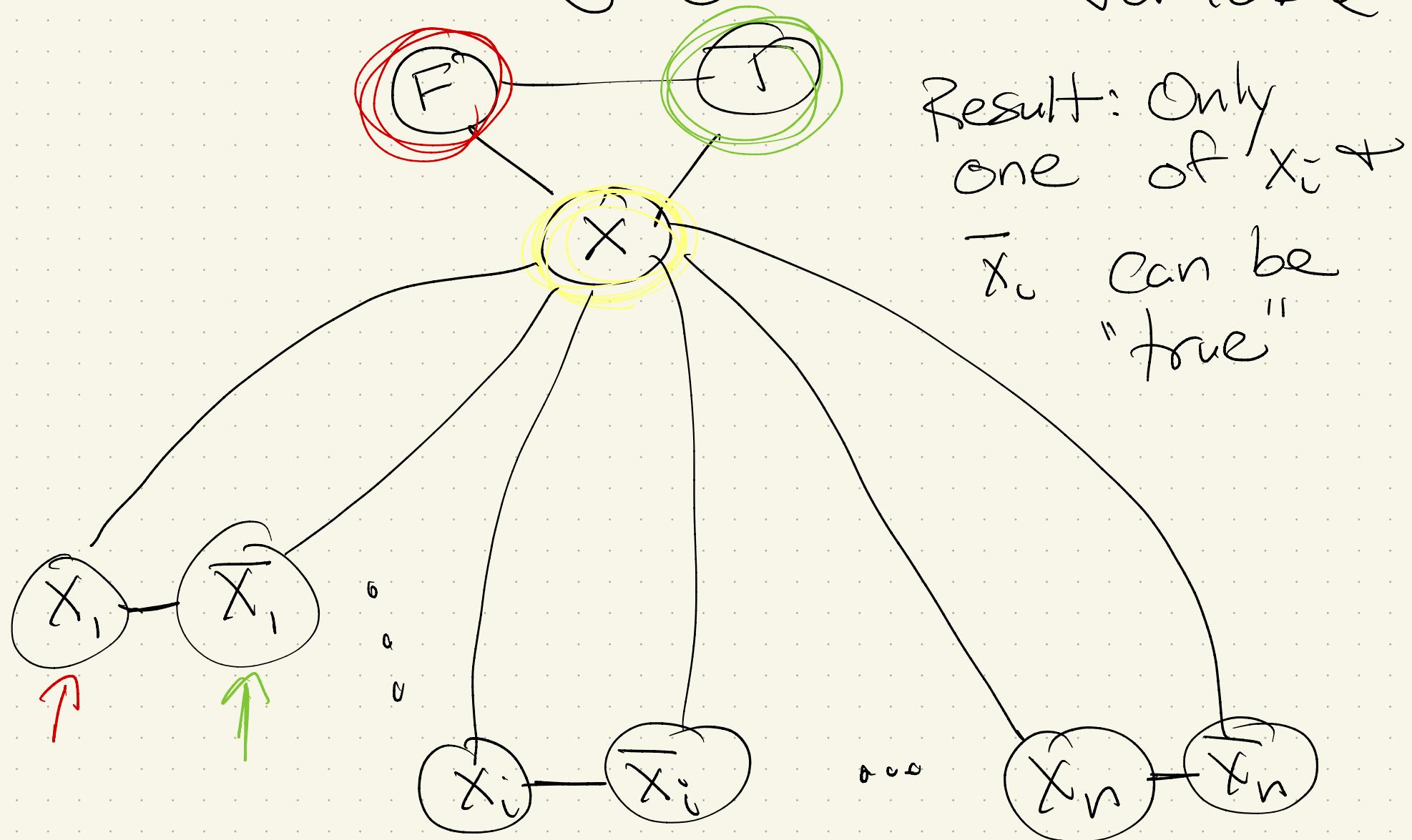
Must use 3 colors -

so establishes a "true" color.



2)

Variable gadget: one per variable



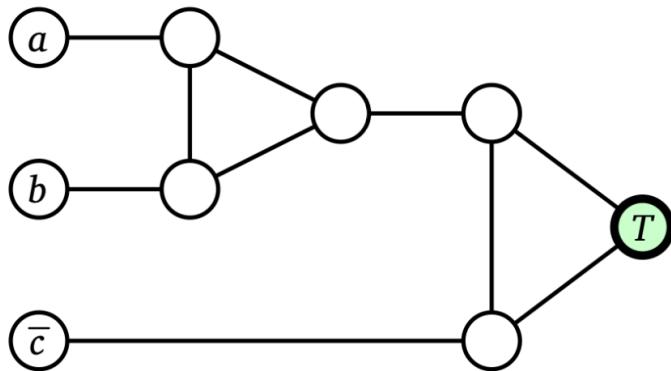
Result: Only  
one of  $x_i$  &  
 $\bar{x}_i$  can be  
"true"

③

### Clause gadget :

For each clause, join 3 of the variable vertices to the "true" vertex from the truth gadget.

Goal: If all 3 are false, no valid

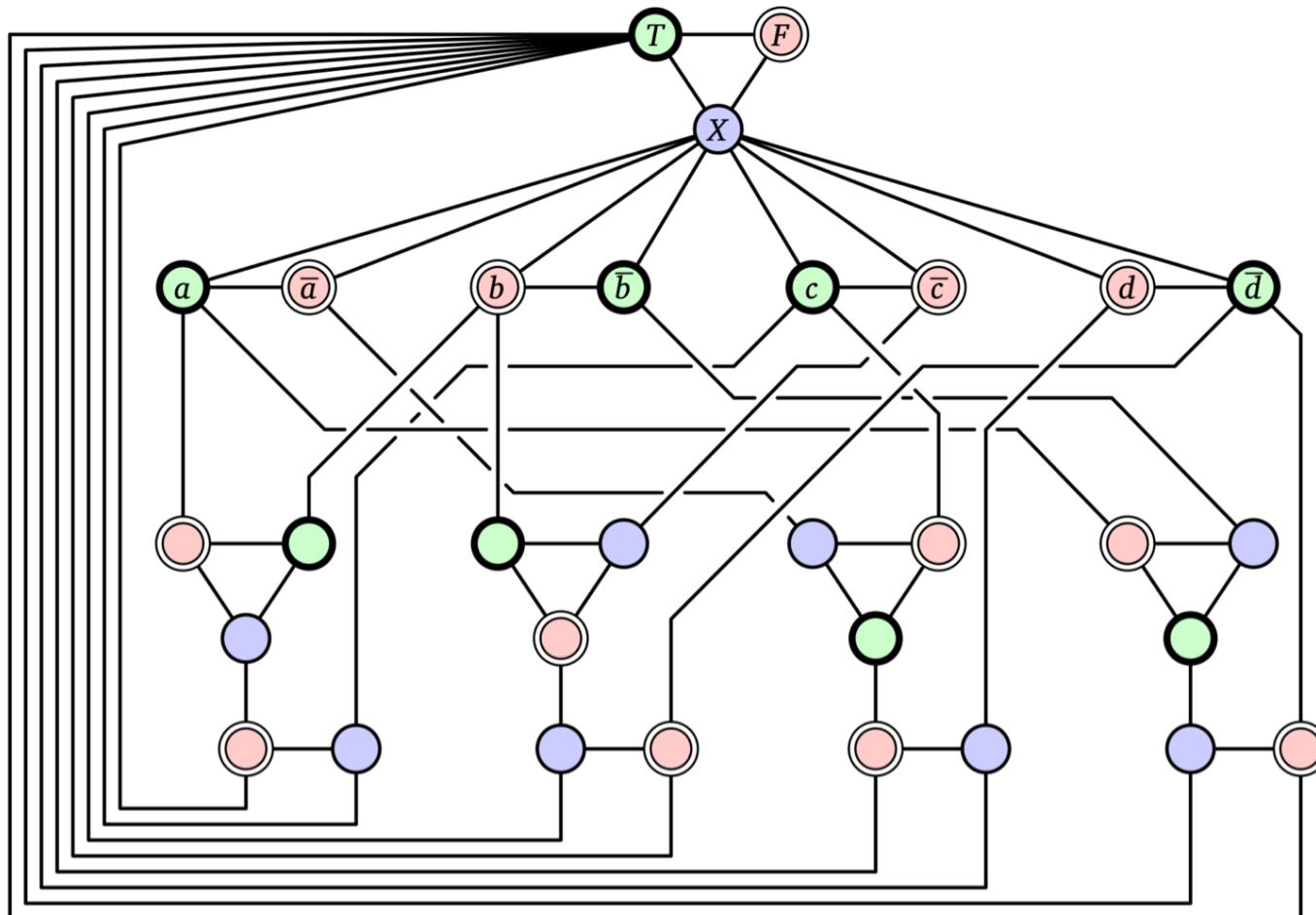


A clause gadget for  $(a \vee b \vee \bar{c})$ .

3-coloring

Why?? try to color all "false"

Final reduction image:



A 3-colorable graph derived from the satisfiable 3CNF formula  
 $(a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (b \vee \bar{c} \vee \bar{d}) \wedge (\bar{a} \vee c \vee d) \wedge (a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{d})$

Now, need reduction proof:

3 coloring of  $G^{\mathbb{F}}$   
→  $\frac{G^{\mathbb{F}}}{\emptyset}$  is satisfiable

Pf:

⇒ Consider a 3-coloring of  $G^{\mathbb{F}}$ :

← Consider a satisfying assignment  
to  $\Phi$ :