

Algorithms - Spring '25

NP-Hardness
(cont):
3SAT + graphs

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):

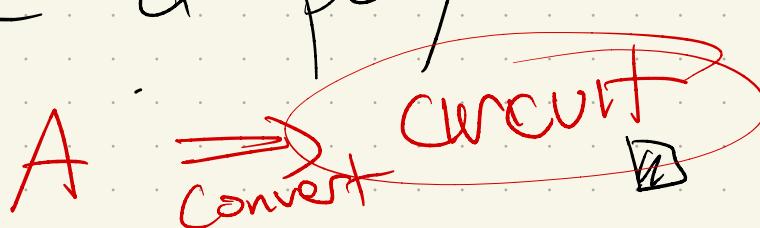
Suppose I have an algorithm CIRCUIT-SAT. in poly time.
to solve

Take any problem in NP, A.

Reduce A to CIRCUIT-SAT.

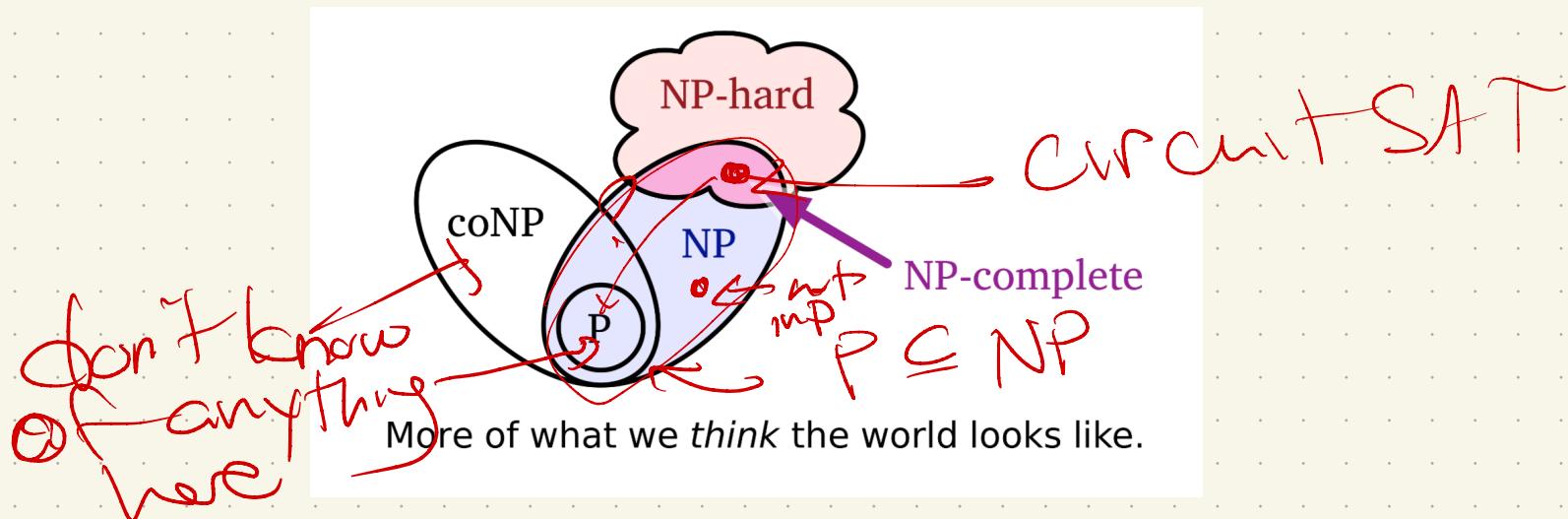
in polynomial time: build circuit.

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

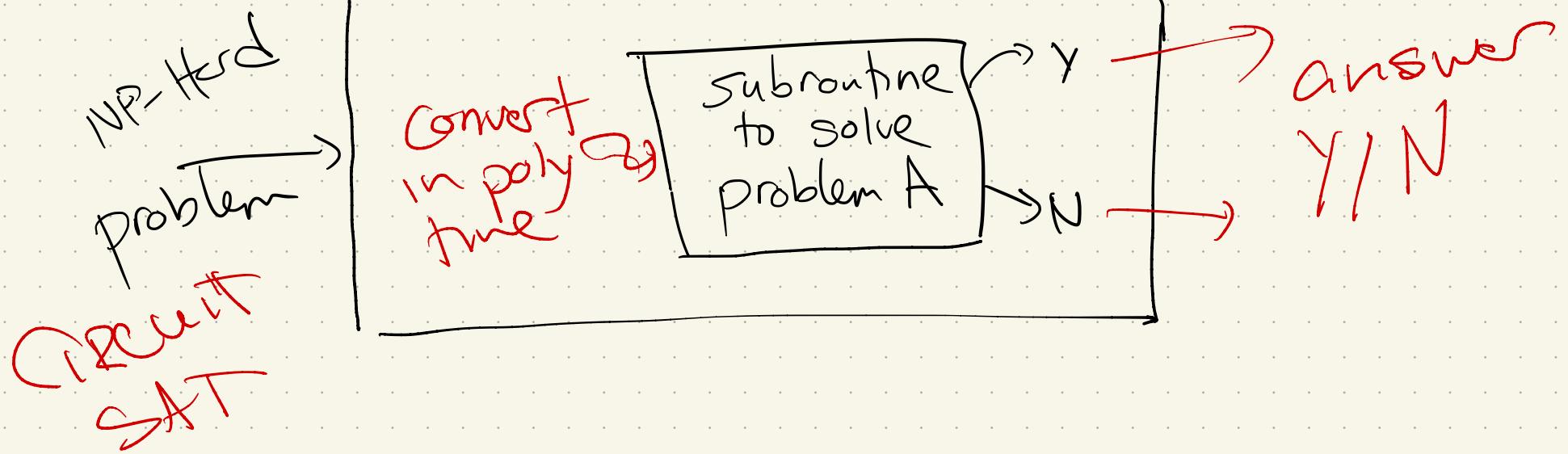
To prove NP-Hardness of A:

Reduce a known NP-Hard problem to A.

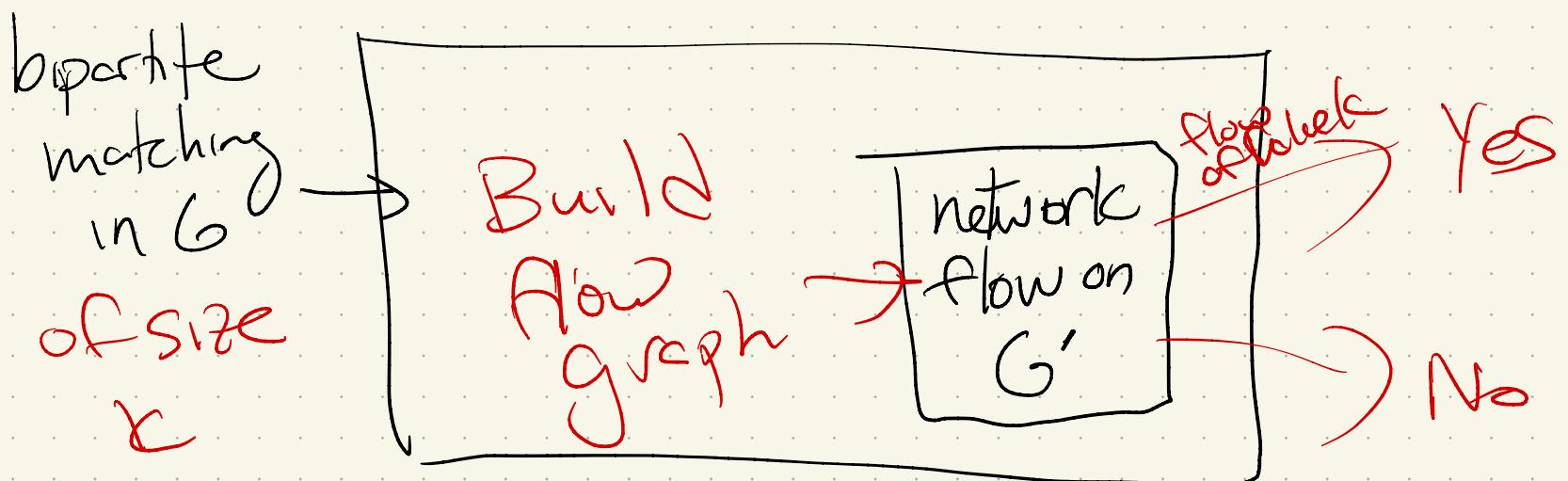
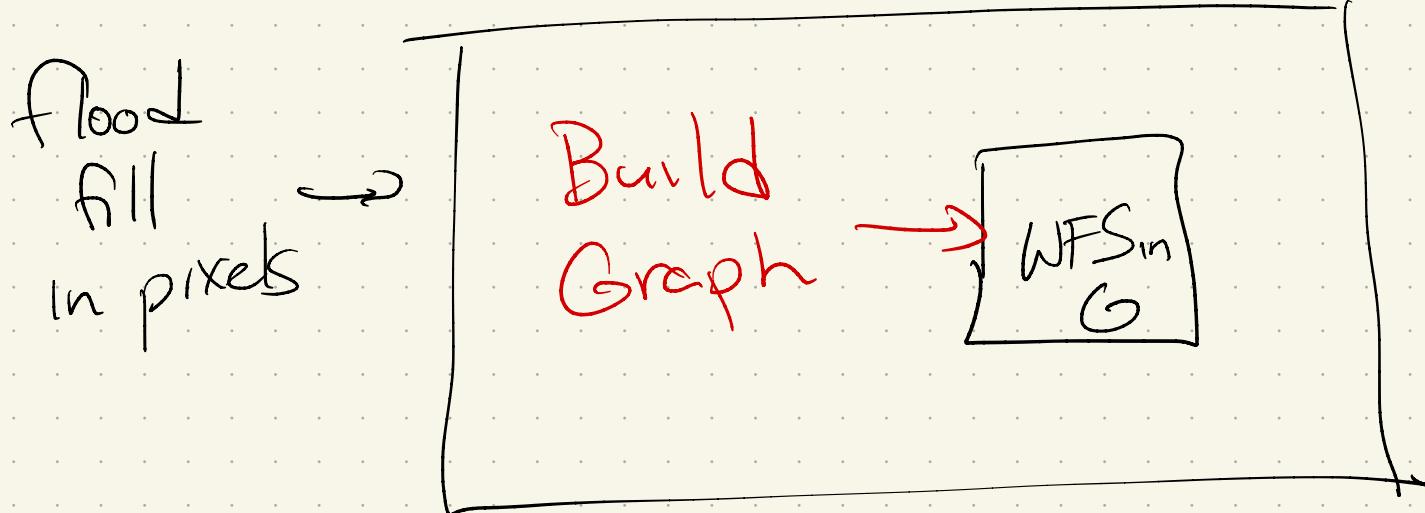
(Alternative is to show any problem in NP can be turned into A, like

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:

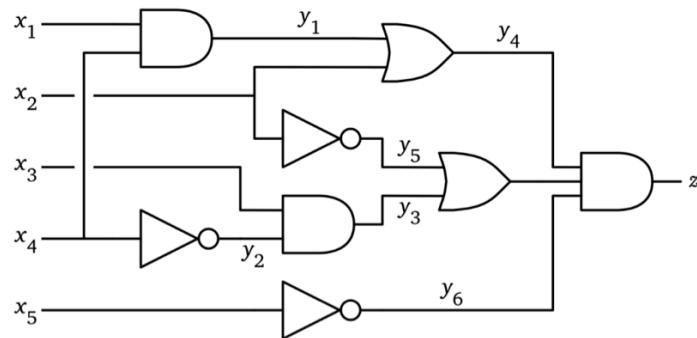
$$(a \vee b \vee c \vee \bar{d}) \Leftrightarrow ((b \wedge \bar{c}) \vee \overline{\bar{a} \Rightarrow d}) \vee (c \neq a \wedge b),$$

n variables, m clauses

First: in NP?

Thm: SAT is NP-Hard.

Pf: Reduce CIRCUIT SAT to SAT:



Input: CIRCUIT

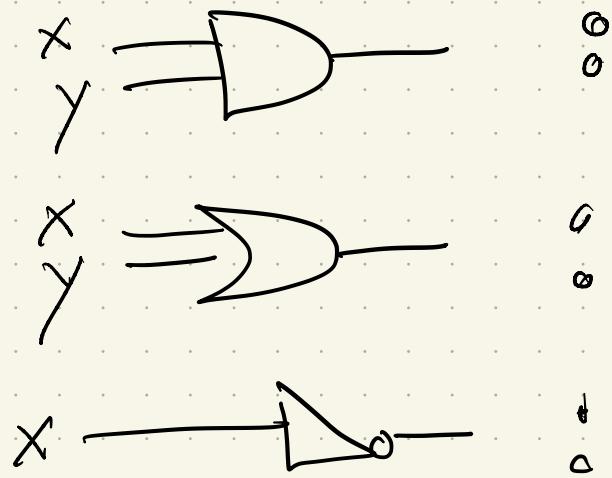
$$(y_1 = x_1 \wedge x_4) \wedge (y_2 = \overline{x_4}) \wedge (y_3 = x_3 \wedge y_2) \wedge (y_4 = y_1 \vee x_2) \wedge \\ (y_5 = \overline{x_2}) \wedge (y_6 = \overline{x_5}) \wedge (y_7 = y_3 \vee y_5) \wedge (z = y_4 \wedge y_7 \wedge y_6) \wedge z$$

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

Convert in poly time to clauses:

More carefully:

1) For any gate, can transform:



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

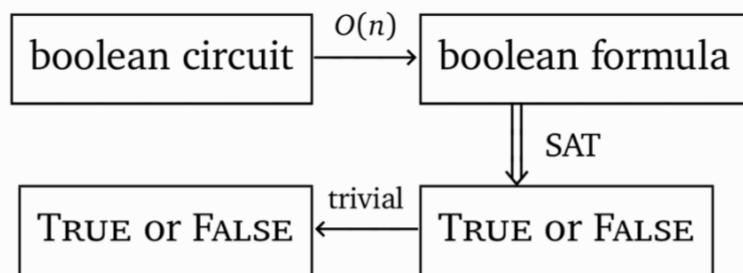
Is this poly-size?

Given n inputs + m gates:

Variables:

Clauses:

So our reduction:



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

3SAT: 3CNF formulas!

Thm: 3SAT is NP-Hard

Pf: Reduce circuitSAT to 3SAT:

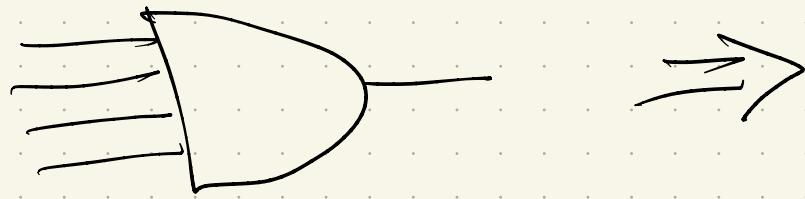
Need to show any circuit can be transformed
to 3CNF form

(so last reduction fails)

Instead →

Given a circuit!

- ① Rewrite so each gate has ≤ 2 inputs:



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

$$y = a \vee b$$

$$y = a \wedge b$$

$$y = \overline{a}$$

③ Now, change to CNF:
go back to truth tables

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

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

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

④ Now, need 3 per clause!

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

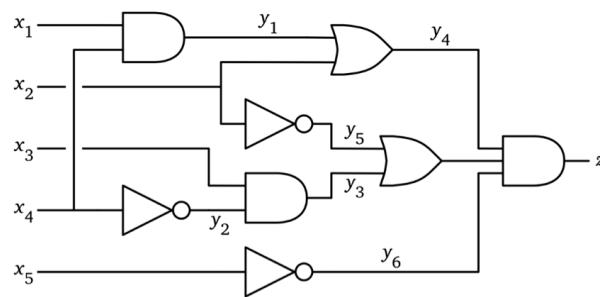
$$a \vee b \rightarrow (a \vee b \vee x) \wedge (a \vee b \vee \bar{x})$$

Note : Bigger!

How much

bigger?

(need polynomial)



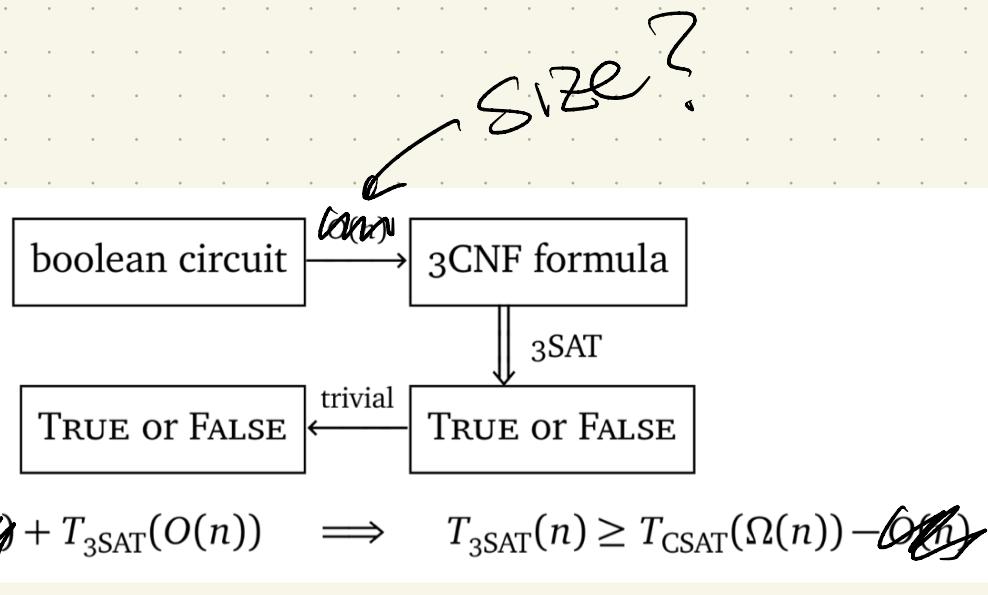
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A boolean circuit with gate variables added, and an equivalent boolean formula.



$$(y_1 \vee \overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee x_1 \vee z_1) \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee x_1 \vee \overline{z_1}) \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee x_4 \vee z_2) \wedge (\overline{y_1} \vee x_4 \vee \overline{z_2}) \\ \wedge (y_2 \vee x_4 \vee z_3) \wedge (y_2 \vee x_4 \vee \overline{z_3}) \wedge (\overline{y_2} \vee \overline{x_4} \vee z_4) \wedge (\overline{y_2} \vee \overline{x_4} \vee \overline{z_4}) \\ \wedge (y_3 \vee \overline{x_3} \vee \overline{y_2}) \wedge (\overline{y_3} \vee x_3 \vee z_5) \wedge (\overline{y_3} \vee x_3 \vee \overline{z_5}) \wedge (\overline{y_3} \vee y_2 \vee z_6) \wedge (\overline{y_3} \vee y_2 \vee \overline{z_6}) \\ \wedge (\overline{y_4} \vee y_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (y_4 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee z_7) \wedge (y_4 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{z_7}) \wedge (y_4 \vee \overline{y_1} \vee z_8) \wedge (y_4 \vee \overline{y_1} \vee \overline{z_8}) \\ \wedge (y_5 \vee x_2 \vee z_9) \wedge (y_5 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{z_9}) \wedge (\overline{y_5} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee z_{10}) \wedge (\overline{y_5} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{z_{10}}) \\ \wedge (y_6 \vee x_5 \vee z_{11}) \wedge (y_6 \vee x_5 \vee \overline{z_{11}}) \wedge (\overline{y_6} \vee \overline{x_5} \vee z_{12}) \wedge (\overline{y_6} \vee \overline{x_5} \vee \overline{z_{12}}) \\ \wedge (\overline{y_7} \vee y_3 \vee y_5) \wedge (y_7 \vee \overline{y_3} \vee z_{13}) \wedge (y_7 \vee \overline{y_3} \vee \overline{z_{13}}) \wedge (y_7 \vee \overline{y_5} \vee z_{14}) \wedge (y_7 \vee \overline{y_5} \vee \overline{z_{14}}) \\ \wedge (y_8 \vee \overline{y_4} \vee \overline{y_7}) \wedge (\overline{y_8} \vee y_4 \vee z_{15}) \wedge (\overline{y_8} \vee y_4 \vee \overline{z_{15}}) \wedge (\overline{y_8} \vee y_7 \vee z_{16}) \wedge (\overline{y_8} \vee y_7 \vee \overline{z_{16}}) \\ \wedge (y_9 \vee \overline{y_8} \vee \overline{y_6}) \wedge (\overline{y_9} \vee y_8 \vee z_{17}) \wedge (\overline{y_9} \vee y_8 \vee \overline{z_{17}}) \wedge (\overline{y_9} \vee y_6 \vee z_{18}) \wedge (\overline{y_9} \vee y_6 \vee \overline{z_{18}}) \\ \wedge (y_9 \vee z_{19} \vee z_{20}) \wedge (y_9 \vee \overline{z_{19}} \vee z_{20}) \wedge (y_9 \vee z_{19} \vee \overline{z_{20}}) \wedge (y_9 \vee \overline{z_{19}} \vee \overline{z_{20}})$$

So:



$O(n)$) \rightarrow

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!

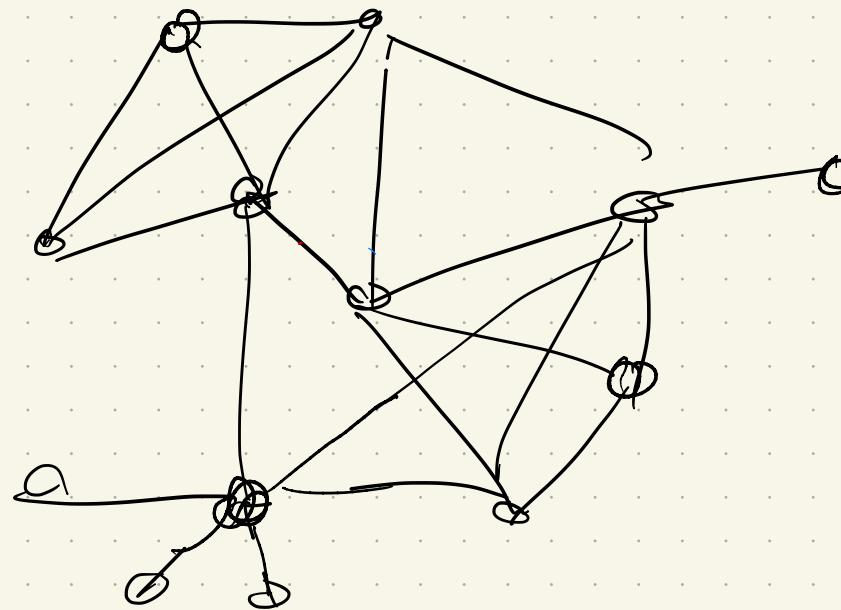
Can we do this with any
useful problems?

(Logic is all well + good..)

Maybe \rightarrow graphs?

Independent Set:

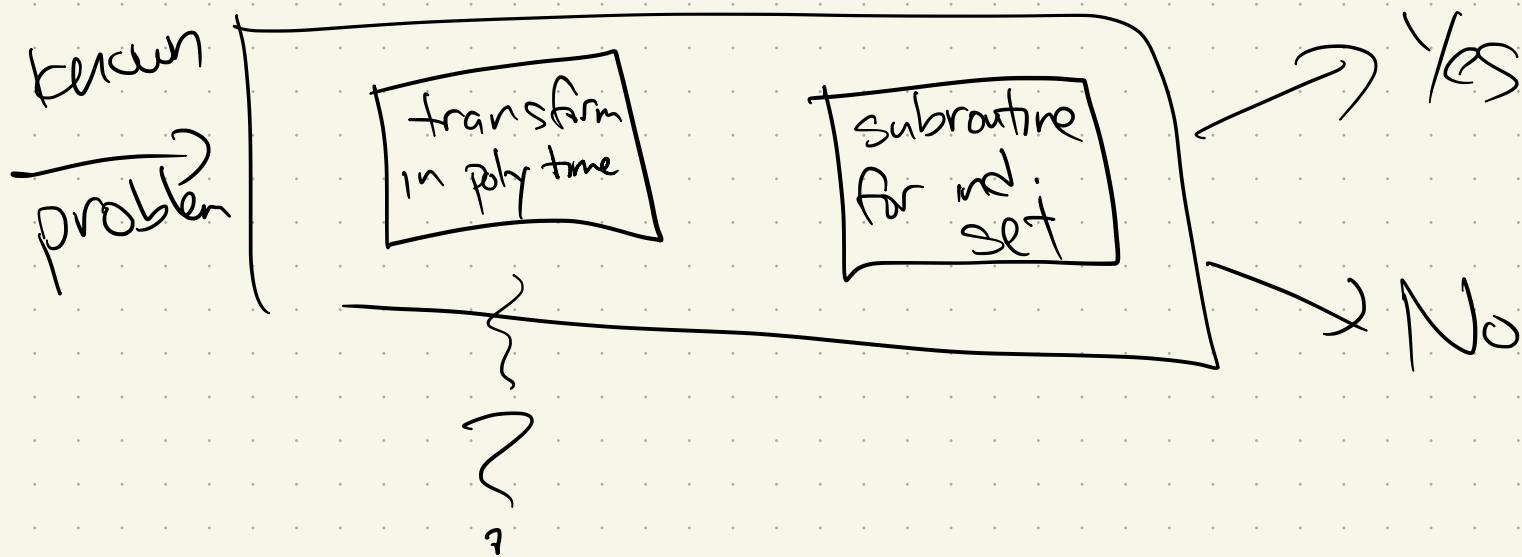
A set of vertices in a graph with no edges between them:



Decision version:

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:

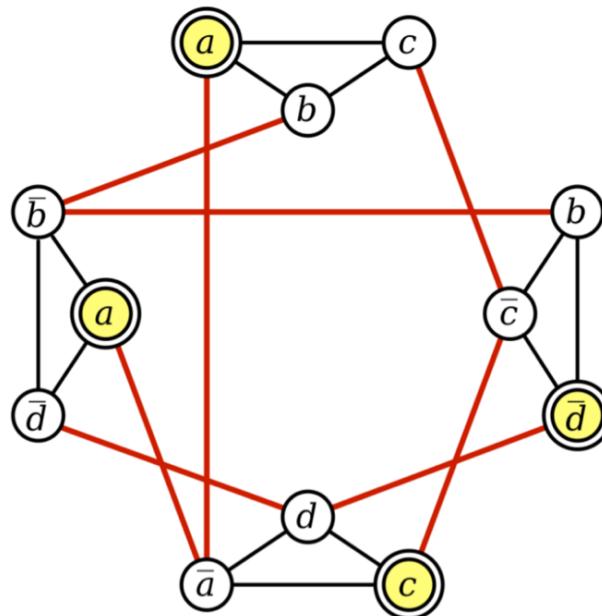
Input is 3CNF boolean formula

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

- 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 :

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



A graph derived from a 3CNF formula, and an independent set of size 4.

Claim:

formula is Satisfiable

\Leftrightarrow
G has independent set of size $\leq m$

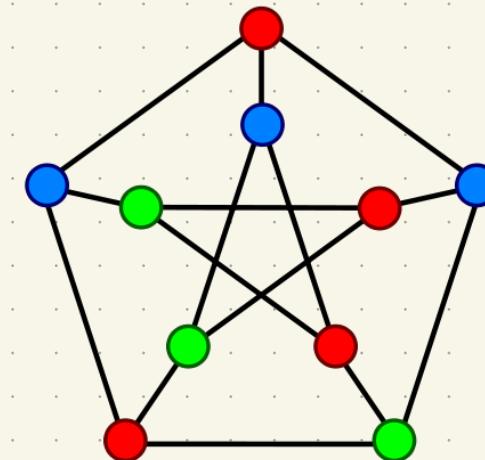
Next: Graph Coloring

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

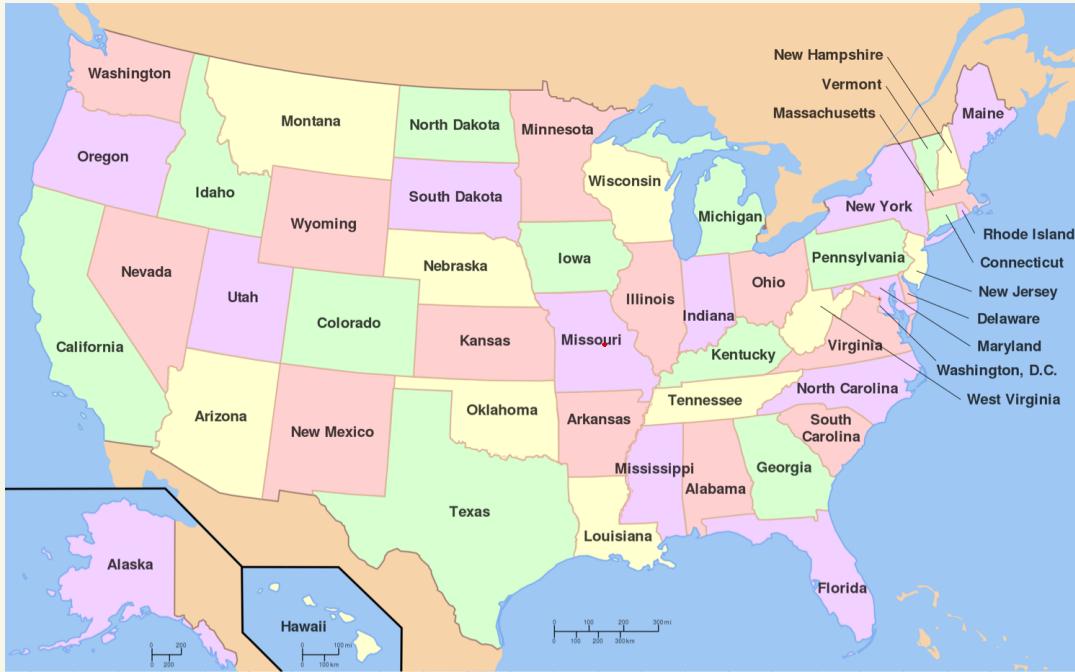
$$c: V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$$

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

Goal: Use few colors



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



Famous theorem

Thm: 3-colorability is NP-Complete.

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

In NP:

Certificate:

NP-Hard:

Reduction from 3SAT.

Given formula for 3SAT Φ ,
we'll make a graph G_{Φ} .

Φ will be satisfiable

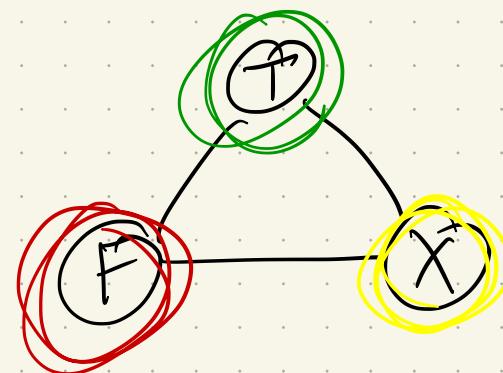
$\iff G_{\Phi}$ can be 3-colored.

Key notion: Build "gadgets".

① Truth gadget -

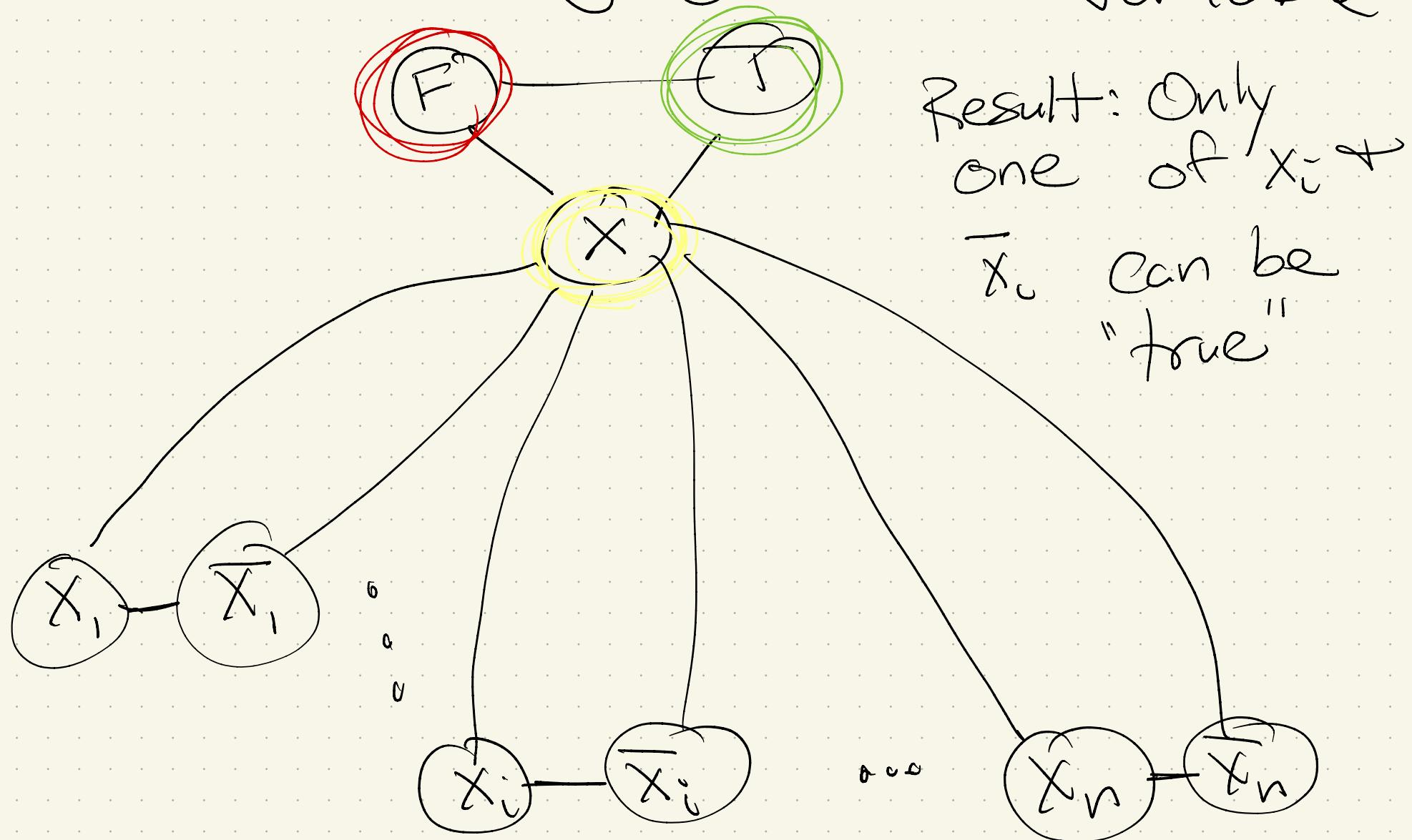
Must use 3 colors -

so establishes a "true" color.



2)

Variable gadget: one per variable

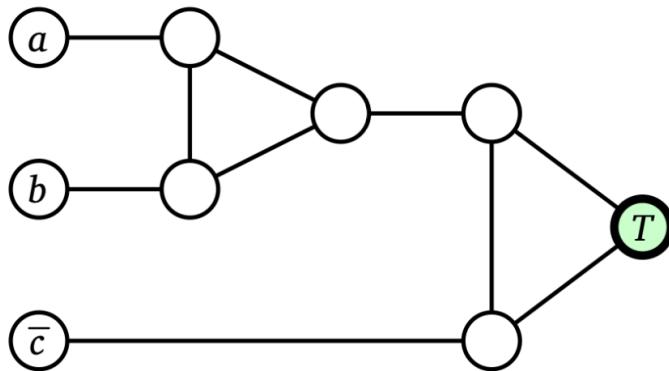


③

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

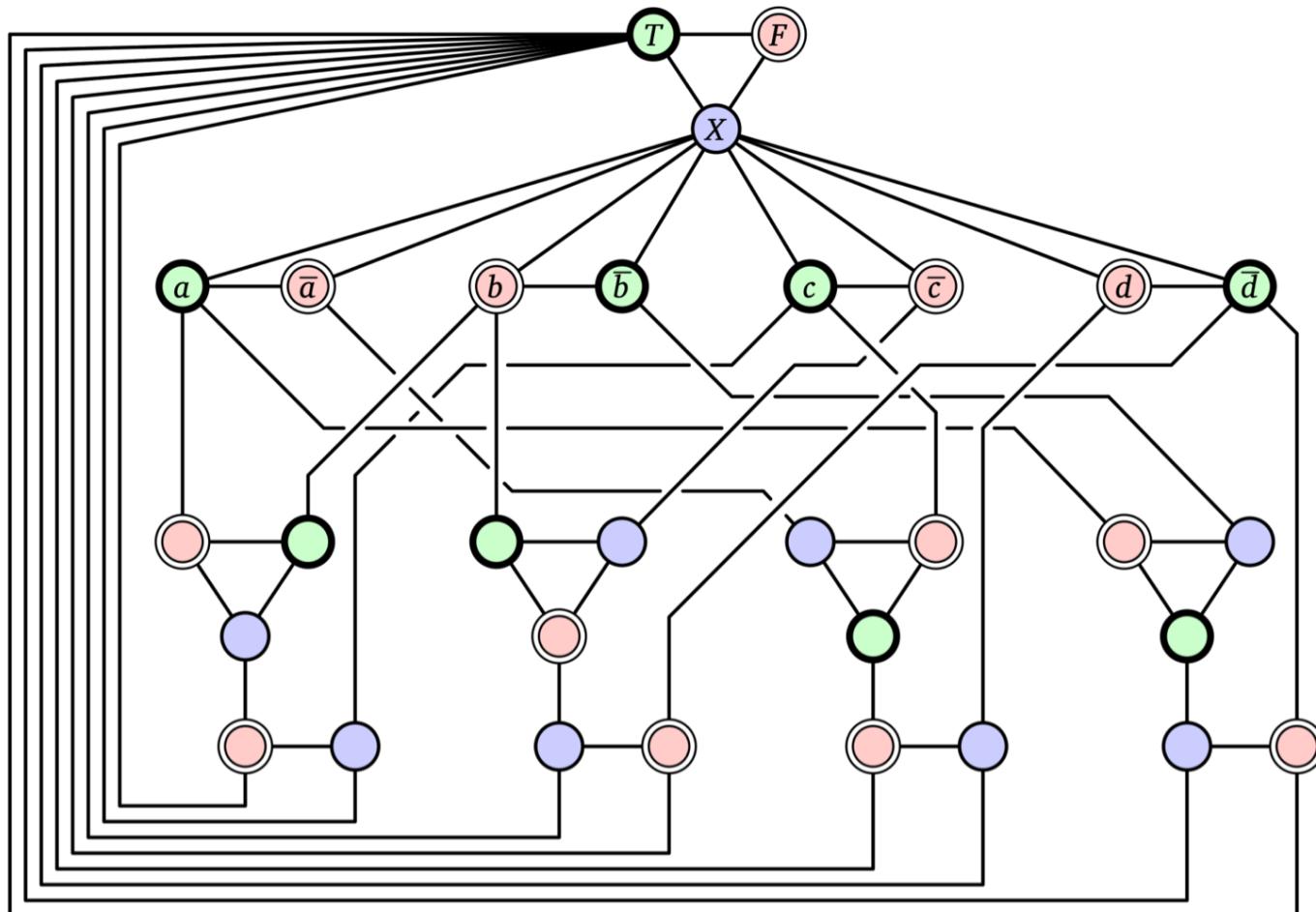


A clause gadget for $(a \vee b \vee \bar{c})$.

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 Φ :