

COMP 3011
DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS
FALL 2024

Dynamic Programming & Polynomial-time Reductions

LI Bo
Department of Computing
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



Longest Common Subsequence

Longest Common Subsequence (LCS)

- **Subsequence:** A subsequence of a given sequence is just the given sequence with zero or more elements left out.
- Given a sequence $X = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$, another sequence $Z = \langle z_1, \dots, z_k \rangle$ is a subsequence of X if there exists a strictly increasing i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k of indices of X such that for all $j = 1, \dots, k$, we have $x_{i_j} = z_j$.
- E.g. $X = \langle A, B, C, B, D, A, B \rangle$
 $Z = \langle B, C, D, B \rangle$ with index sequence 2, 3, 5, 7.

3

- **Common Subsequence:** Given two sequences X and Y , we say that a sequence Z is a **common subsequence** of X and Y if Z is a subsequence of both X and Y .
- E.g. $X = \langle A, B, C, B, D, A, B \rangle$
 $Y = \langle B, D, C, A, B, A \rangle$
The sequence $\langle B, C, A \rangle$ is a common subsequence of both X and Y .
A **longer** common subsequence $\langle B, C, B, A \rangle$
- **Longest-Common-Subsequence (LCS):** Given two sequences $X = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$, and $Y = \langle y_1, \dots, y_n \rangle$, and wish to find a maximum length common subsequence of X and Y .

Longest Common Subsequence LCS

Prefix: Given $X = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$, $X_i = \langle x_1, \dots, x_i \rangle$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ is a **prefix** of X .

➤ E.g. $X = \langle A, B, C, B, D, A, B \rangle$

$X_4 = \langle A, B, C, B \rangle$ is a prefix.

➤ X_0 is the empty sequence.

Step 1: Optimal substructure of an LCS

Given $X = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$, $Y = \langle y_1, \dots, y_n \rangle$ and $Z = \langle z_1, \dots, z_k \rangle$ be any LCS of X and Y .

1. If $x_m = y_n$, then $z_k = x_m = y_n$, and Z_{k-1} is an LCS of X_{m-1} and Y_{n-1} .
2. If $x_m \neq y_n$, then $z_k \neq x_m$ implies Z_k is an LCS of X_{m-1} and Y .
3. If $x_m \neq y_n$, then $z_k \neq y_n$ implies Z_k is an LCS of X and Y_{n-1} .

If $x_m = y_n$, we must find an LCS of X_{m-1} and Y_{n-1} .

Appending $x_m = y_n$ to this LCS yields an LCS of X and Y .

If $x_m \neq y_n$, we must solve two subproblems: finding an LCS of X_{m-1} and Y and finding an LCS of X and Y_{n-1} .

Whichever of these two LCSs is longer is an LCS of X and Y

Longest Common Subsequence LCS

- If $x_m = y_n$, we must find an LCS of X_{m-1} and Y_{n-1} . ← Appending $x_m = y_n$ to this LCS yields an LCS of X and Y .
- If $x_m \neq y_n$, we must solve two subproblems: finding an LCS of X_{m-1} and Y and finding an LCS of X and Y_{n-1} . ← Whichever of these two LCSs is longer is an LCS of X and Y .

Step 2: A Recursive solution

- Define $c[i, j]$ to be the **length** of an LCS of the sequences X_i and Y_j
- If either $i = 0$ or $j = 0$, one of the sequences has length 0, and so the LCS has length 0.
- Else

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \text{ or } j = 0, \\ c[i - 1, j - 1] + 1 & \text{if } i, j > 0 \text{ and } x_i = y_j, \\ \max(c[i, j - 1], c[i - 1, j]) & \text{if } i, j > 0 \text{ and } x_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

Longest Common Subsequence LCS

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \text{ or } j = 0, \\ c[i - 1, j - 1] + 1 & \text{if } i, j > 0 \text{ and } x_i = y_j, \\ \max(c[i, j - 1], c[i - 1, j]) & \text{if } i, j > 0 \text{ and } x_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

Step 3: Computing the length of an LCS

LCS-LENGTH(X, Y)

help us construct/visualize an optimal solution.

```

1   $m = X.length$ 
2   $n = Y.length$ 
3  let  $b[1..m, 1..n]$  and  $c[0..m, 0..n]$  be new tables
4  for  $i = 1$  to  $m$ 
5       $c[i, 0] = 0$ 
6  for  $j = 0$  to  $n$ 
7       $c[0, j] = 0$ 
8  for  $i = 1$  to  $m$ 
9      for  $j = 1$  to  $n$ 
10         if  $x_i == y_j$ 
11              $c[i, j] = c[i - 1, j - 1] + 1$ 
12              $b[i, j] = "\nwarrow"$ 
13         elseif  $c[i - 1, j] \geq c[i, j - 1]$ 
14              $c[i, j] = c[i - 1, j]$ 
15              $b[i, j] = "\uparrow"$ 
16         else  $c[i, j] = c[i, j - 1]$ 
17              $b[i, j] = "\leftarrow"$ 
18  return  $c$  and  $b$ 
```

$c[i, j]$: length of an LCS of X_i and Y_j

Running time: $O(mn)$

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
				y_j	B	D	C	A	B	A
0	x_i		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	A		0	↑	↑	↑	↖	1	←	1
2	B		0	↖	1	←	1	↑	↖	2
3	C		0	↑	1	↖	2	←	2	↑
4	B		0	↖	1	↑	2	2	↖	3
5	D		0	↑	1	↖	2	2	↑	3
6	A		0	↑	1	2	2	↖	3	↖
7	B		0	↖	1	↑	↑	↑	4	↑

Longest Common Subsequence LCS

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \text{ or } j = 0, \\ c[i - 1, j - 1] + 1 & \text{if } i, j > 0 \text{ and } x_i = y_j, \\ \max(c[i, j - 1], c[i - 1, j]) & \text{if } i, j > 0 \text{ and } x_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

Step 3: Computing the length of an LCS

LCS-LENGTH(X, Y) help us construct/visualize an optimal solution.

```
1   $m = X.length$ 
2   $n = Y.length$ 
3  let  $b[1..m, 1..n]$  and  $c[0..m, 0..n]$  be new tables
```

```
4  for  $i = 1$  to  $m$ 
5       $c[i, 0] = 0$ 
6  for  $j = 0$  to  $n$ 
7       $c[0, j] = 0$ 
```

$c[i, j]$: length of an LCS of X_i and Y_j

```
8  for  $i = 1$  to  $m$ 
9      for  $j = 1$  to  $n$ 
10         if  $x_i == y_j$ 
11              $c[i, j] = c[i - 1, j - 1] + 1$ 
12              $b[i, j] = "\nwarrow"$ 
13         elseif  $c[i - 1, j] \geq c[i, j - 1]$ 
14              $c[i, j] = c[i - 1, j]$ 
15              $b[i, j] = "\uparrow"$ 
16         else  $c[i, j] = c[i, j - 1]$ 
17              $b[i, j] = "\leftarrow"$ 
18  return  $c$  and  $b$ 
```

Running time: $O(mn)$

$X = \text{ABCBDAB}$
 $Y = \text{BDCABA}$

Shortest Path in Graphs

Shortest Path in Graphs

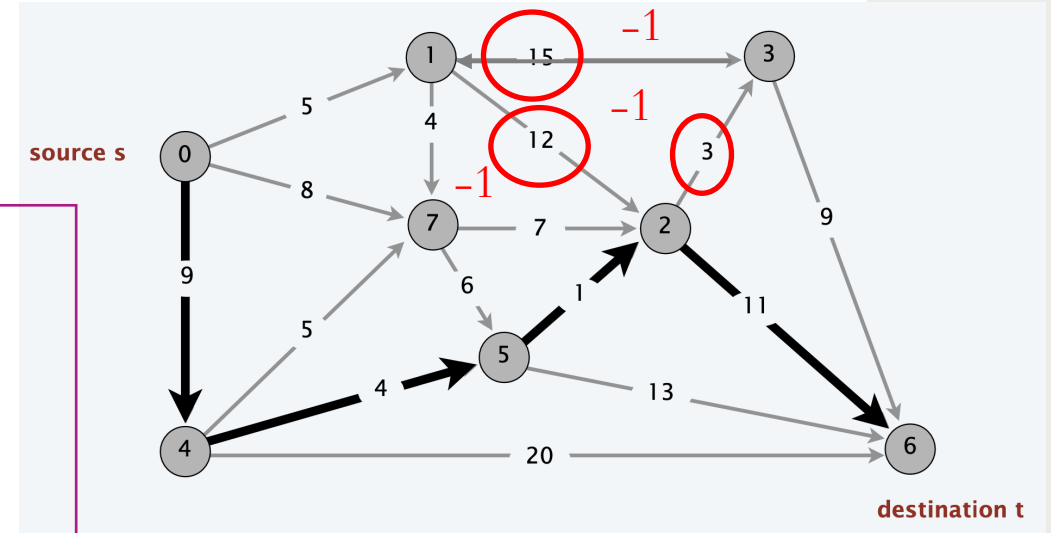
Let $G = (V, E)$ be a directed graph. Assume that each edge $(i, j) \in E$ has an associated weight c_{ij} , representing the cost for going directly from node i to node j in the graph.

Given the graph has **no negative cycles**, find a path P from an origin node s to a destination node t with minimum total cost:

$$\sum_{i \in P} c_{ij}$$

Assumption: there is no negative cycle -- that is, a directed cycle C such that

$$\sum_{i \in C} c_{ij} < 0.$$



More complex setting:
the costs may be negative!
(with application in
financial settings)

Remember **Dijkstra's Algorithm**?

Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Lemma. If G has no negative cycles, then there is a shortest path from s to t that is simple (i.e., does not repeat nodes), and hence has at most $n - 1$ edges.

Proof:

- Since every cycle has nonnegative cost, the shortest path P from s to t with the fewest number of edges does not repeat any vertex v .
- For if P did repeat a vertex v , we could remove the portion of P between consecutive visits to v , resulting in a path of no greater cost and fewer edges.

-
- Let $OPT(i, v)$ denote the minimum cost of a $v - t$ path using at most i edges.
 - Our problem is to compute $OPT(n - 1, s)$.

Case 1.

If the path P uses at most $i - 1$ edges, then

$$OPT(i, v) = OPT(i - 1, v).$$

Case 2.

If the path P uses i edges, and the first edge is (v, w) ,

$$OPT(i, v) = c_{vw} + OPT(i - 1, w).$$

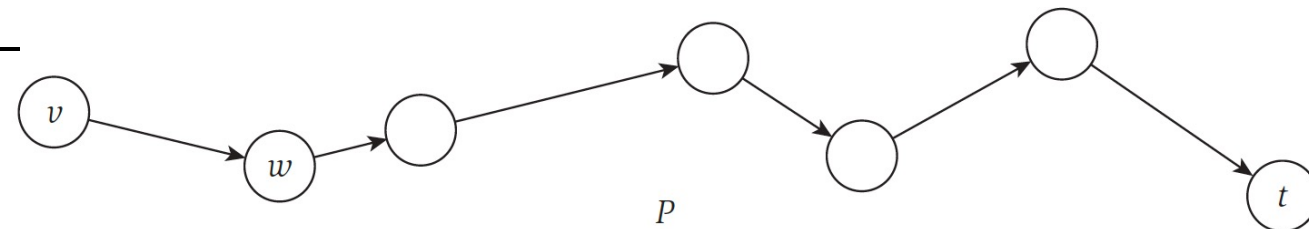
$$OPT(0, v) = \infty$$

$$OPT(0, t) = 0$$

If $i > 0$ then

$$OPT(i, v) = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} OPT(i - 1, v) \\ \min_{w \in V} (OPT(i - 1, w) + c_{vw}) \end{array} \right.$$

$O(n)$ subproblems



Bellman-Ford Algorithm

$$OPT(i, v) = \min \begin{cases} OPT(i-1, v) \\ \min_{w \in V} (OPT(i-1, w) + c_{vw}) \end{cases}$$

Shortest-Path(G, s, t)

n = number of nodes in G

Array $M[0 \dots n-1, V]$

Define $M[0, t] = 0$ and $M[0, v] = \infty$ for all other $v \in V$

For $i = 1, \dots, n-1$

For $v \in V$ in any order

Compute $M[i, v]$ using the above recurrence

Endfor

Endfor

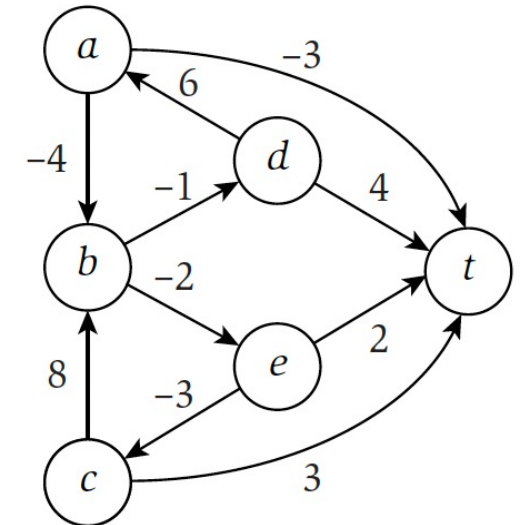
Return $M[n-1, s]$

containing the optimal
values of the subproblems

table M has n^2 entries

each entry needs $O(n)$ time

Theorem. The Shortest-Path method correctly computes the minimum cost of an s - t path in any graph that has no negative cycles, and runs in $O(n^3)$ time



	0	1	2	3	4	5
t	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	∞	-3	-3	-4	-6	-6
b	∞	∞	0	-2	-2	-2
c	∞	3	3	3	3	3
d	∞	4	3	3	2	0
e	∞	2	0	0	0	0

Elements of Dynamic Programming

Elements of Dynamic Programming

When should we look for a dynamic-programming solution to a problem?

Two key ingredients: optimal substructure and overlapping subproblems

Optimal Substructure

- Optimal substructure: An optimal solution to the problem contains within it optimal solutions to subproblems.
- In dynamic programming, we build an optimal solution to the problem from optimal solutions to subproblems.

We must take care to ensure that the **range of subproblems** we consider includes those used in an optimal solution.

E.g. weighted interval scheduling

$$OPT(j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j = 0 \\ \max \{ OPT(j-1), w_j + OPT(p(j)) \} & \text{if } j > 0 \end{cases}$$

Overlapping Subproblems

- The space of subproblems must be “small” in the sense that a recursive algorithm for the problem solves the same subproblems over and over, rather than always generating new subproblems.
- When a recursive algorithm revisits the same problem repeatedly, we say that the optimization problem has overlapping subproblems.

Divide-and-conquer approach is suitable usually generates brand-new problems

REDUCTIONS

REMEMBER FIBONACCI?

- **Leonardo Fibonacci** (Italian mathematician)
- But today Fibonacci is most widely known for his famous sequence of numbers

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...

- More formally, the Fibonacci numbers F_n are generated by the simple rule

$$F_n = \begin{cases} F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}, & n \geq 2 \\ 1, & n = 1 \\ 0, & n = 0 \end{cases}$$

- In fact, the Fibonacci numbers grow almost as fast as the powers of 2: for example, F_{30} is over a million, and F_{100} is already 21 digits long! In general, $F_n \approx 2^{0.694n}$.

A DIRECT ALGORITHM

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + 3 \text{ for } n > 1.$$

➤ By the recursive definition of F_n ,

$$T(n) \geq F_n \approx 2^{0.694n} ???$$

function $fib1(n)$

if $n = 0$: return 0 1 step

if $n = 1$: return 1 1 step

return $fib1(n-1) + fib1(n-2)$ $T(n-1) + T(n-2) + 1$ steps

} If $n \leq 1$, $T(n) \leq 2$

➤ Whenever we have an algorithm, there are three questions we always ask:

➤ 1. Is it correct? ✓

➤ 2. How much time does it take, as a function of n ?

➤ 3. And can we do better? ✓

A POLYNOMIAL ALGORITHM

- Why not **save** the known results?

function *fib2*(*n*)

if $n = 0$ return 0 1 step

create an array $f[0, 1, \dots, n]$ 1 step

$f[0] = 0, f[1] = 1$ 2 steps

for $i = 2, \dots, n$: $n - 1$ rounds

$f[i] = f[i - 1] + f[i - 2]$ 1 step

return $f[n]$ 1 step

} $n - 1$ steps

- In total $T(n) = n + 4$ steps.
polynomial steps!!!

Conclusion

- Fibonacci numbers can be computed efficiently.
- But we need to be very careful and work hard.

REMEMBER SATISFIABILITY?

Can we do better?

- **Literal**. A Boolean variable or its negation x_i or \bar{x}_i
- **Clause**. A disjunction of literals. $C_j = x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3$
- **Conjunctive normal form (CNF)**. A propositional formula Φ that is a conjunction of clauses.
- **SAT**. Given a CNF formula Φ , does it have a satisfying truth assignment?
- **3-SAT**. SAT where each clause contains exactly 3 literals (and each literal corresponds to a different variable).

Exhaustive search: try all 2^n truth assignments.

$$\Phi = (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$

yes instance: $x_1 = \text{true}$, $x_2 = \text{true}$, $x_3 = \text{false}$, $x_4 = \text{false}$

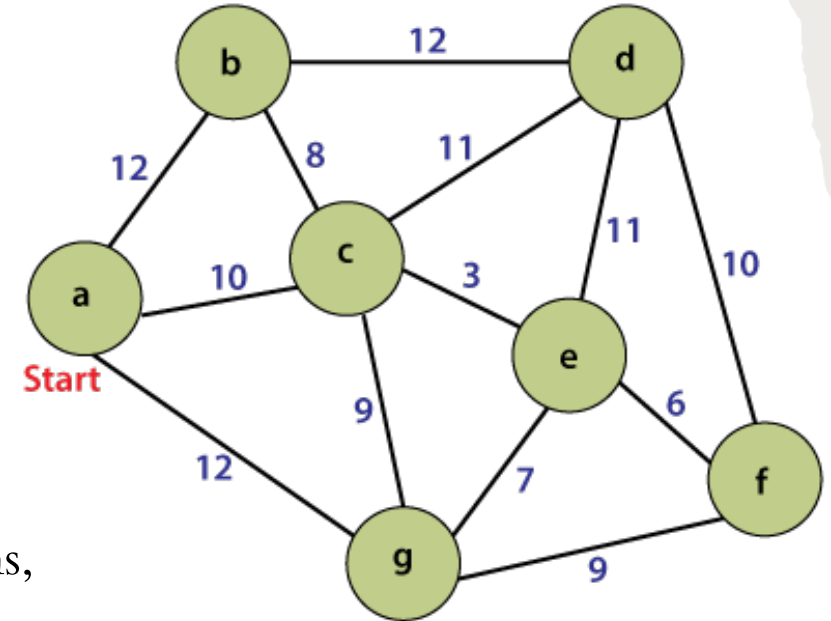
Travelling Salesman Problem (TSP)

We are given n cities $1, \dots, n$, and a nonnegative integer **distance** d_{ij} between any two cities i and j (assume that the distances are symmetric, that is, $d_{ij} = d_{ji}$ for all i and j).

We are asked to find the **shortest tour of the cities** -- that is, the permutation π such that $\sum_{i=1}^n d_{\pi(i), \pi(i+1)}$ (where by $\pi(n+1)$ we mean $\pi(1)$) is as small as possible.

- We can solve this problem by enumerating all possible solutions, computing the cost of each, and picking the best.
- This would take time proportional to $n!$ (there are $\frac{1}{2}(n-1)!$ tours to be considered), which is not a polynomial bound.

No known poly-time algorithm



Most outstanding and persistent failure.

ALGORITHM DESIGN PATTERNS

- Greedy.
- Divide and conquer.
- Dynamic programming.
- LP and Duality.
- Local search.
- Reductions.

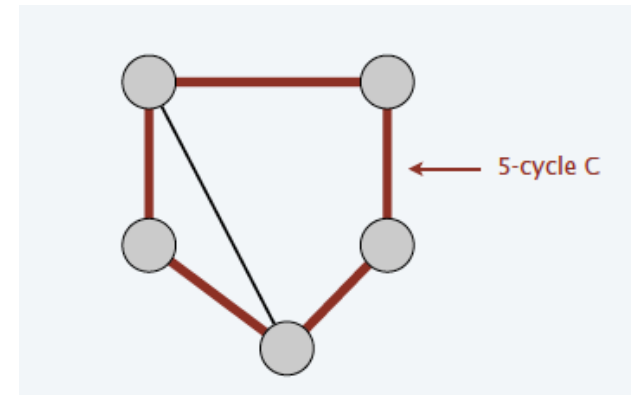
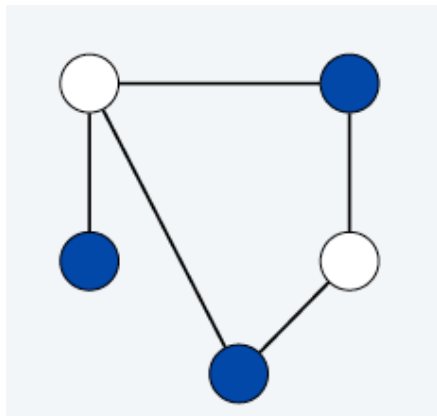
REDUCTIONS

BIPARTITE GRAPHS

Lemma. Let G be a connected graph, and let L_0, \dots, L_k be the layers produced by BFS starting at node s . **Exactly** one of the following holds.

- i. No edge of G joins two nodes of the same layer, and G is **bipartite**.
- ii. An edge of G joins two nodes of the same layer, and G contains an odd-length cycle (and hence is **not bipartite**).

Corollary. A graph G is bipartite **if and only if** it contains no odd-length cycle.



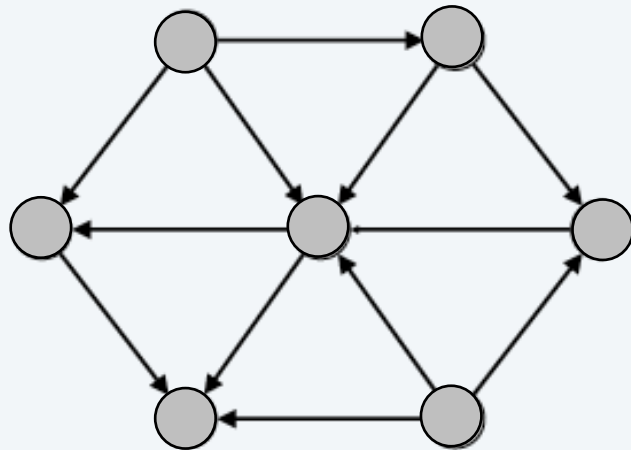
DIRECTED ACYCLIC GRAPHS

If the graph contains a cycle,
then no linear ordering is possible.

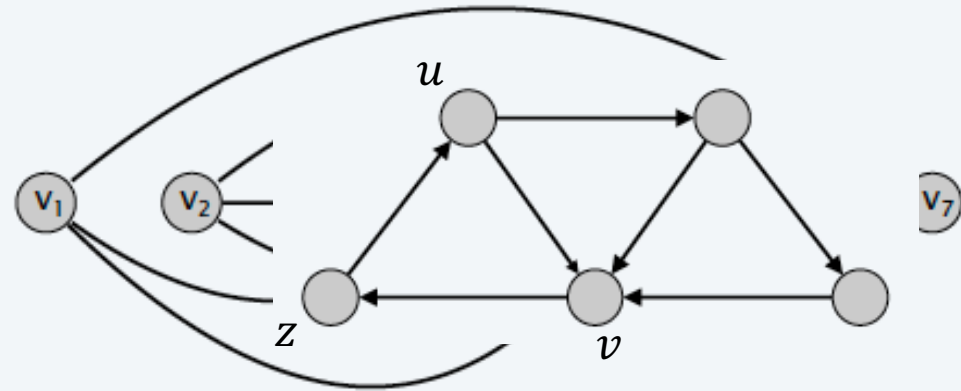
Definitions

An ordering of the nodes so that all edges point “forward”.

- A **directed acyclic graphs (DAG)** is a directed graph that contains no directed cycles.
- A **topological order** of a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ is an ordering of its nodes as v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n so that for every edge (v_i, v_j) we have $i < j$.



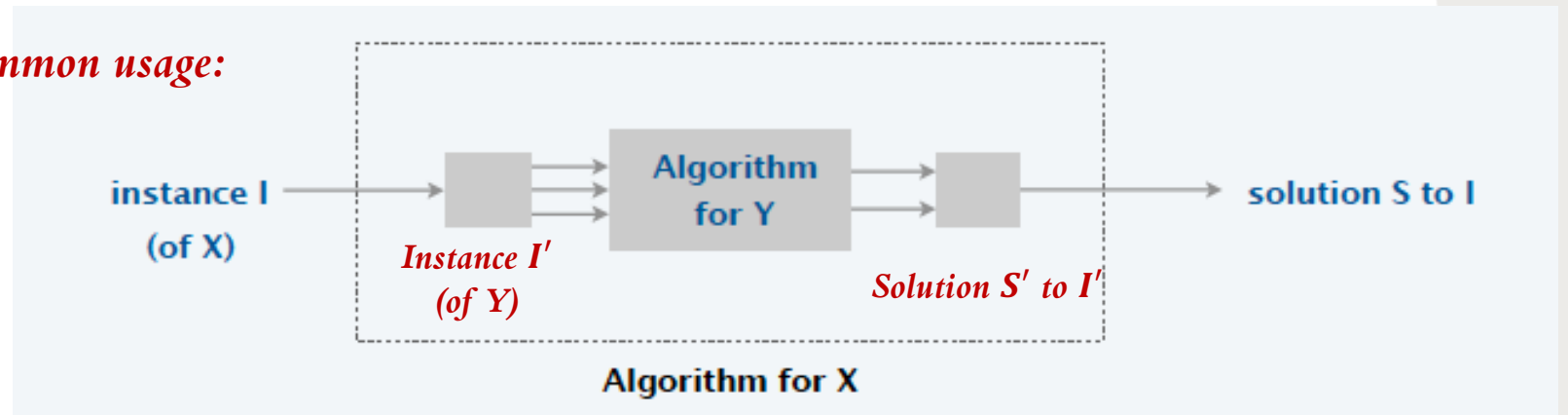
a DAG



a topological ordering

POLY-TIME REDUCTIONS

Common usage:



Desiderata. Suppose we could solve problem Y in polynomial time.

What else could we solve in polynomial time?

Reduction. Problem X polynomial-time reduces to problem Y ($X \leq_P Y$) if *arbitrary instances of problem X* can be solved using:

- Polynomial number of **standard computational steps**, and
- Polynomial number of calls to **oracle** that solves problem Y .

Each primitive operation takes a constant amount of time.

➤ Primitive Operations:

- Arithmetic (such as add, subtract, multiply, divide, remainder, floor, ceiling),
- Logic operations (and, or)
- Read/write memory

- Array indexing
- Following a pointer
- Data movement (load, store, copy)
- Control (conditional and unconditional branch, subroutine call and return)

POLY-TIME REDUCTIONS

Design algorithms.

If $X \leq_P Y$ and Y can be solved in polynomial time, then X can be solved in polynomial time.

Establish intractability.

If $X \leq_P Y$ and X cannot be solved in polynomial time, then Y cannot be solved in polynomial time.

Establish equivalence.

If both $X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P X$, we use notation $X \equiv_P Y$. In this case, X can be solved in polynomial time if and only if Y can be.

SET COVER AND VERTEX COVER

SET-COVER.

Given a set U of elements, a collection S of subsets of U , and an integer k , are there $\leq k$ of these subsets whose union is equal to U ?

$$U = \{ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 \}$$

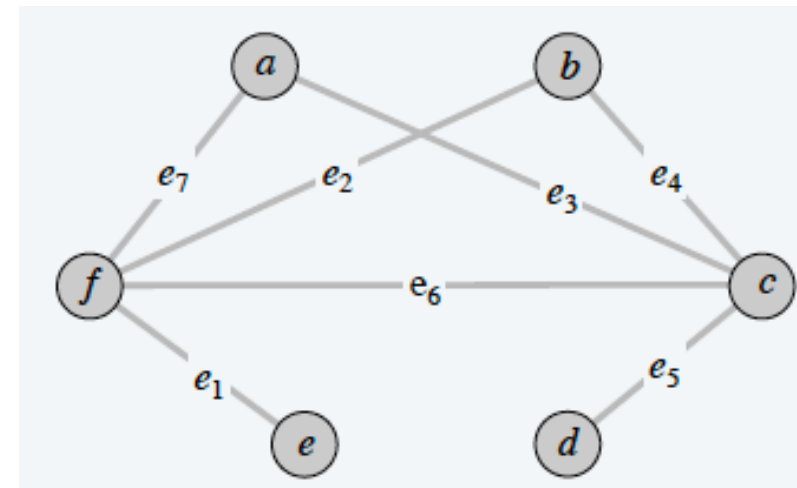
$$S_a = \{ 3, 7 \} \quad S_b = \{ 2, 4 \}$$

$$S_c = \{ 3, 4, 5, 6 \} \quad S_d = \{ 5 \}$$

$$S_e = \{ 1 \} \quad S_f = \{ 1, 2, 6, 7 \}$$

VERTEX-COVER.

Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer k , is there a subset of k (or fewer) vertices such that each edge is incident to at least one vertex in the subset?



SET COVER AND VERTEX COVER

Theorem. VERTEX-COVER \leq_p SET-COVER.

Proof.

Given a VERTEX-COVER instance $G = (V, E)$ and k , we construct a SET-COVER instance (U, S, k) that has a set cover of size k iff G has a vertex cover of size k .

Construction

- $U = E$.
- $S_v = \{e \in E : e \text{ incident to } v\}$ for each $v \in V$.

$$U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$$

$$S_a = \{3, 7\}$$

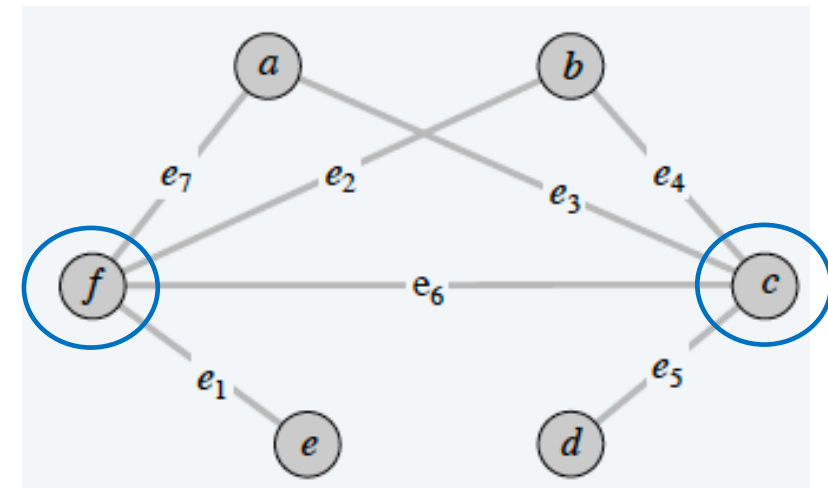
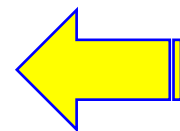
$$S_b = \{2, 4\}$$

$$S_c = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$S_d = \{5\}$$

$$S_e = \{1\}$$

$$S_f = \{1, 2, 6, 7\}$$



SET COVER AND VERTEX COVER

Lemma. (U, S, k) contains a set cover of size k iff $G = (V, E)$ contains a vertex cover of size k .

\Rightarrow

Let $Y \subseteq S$ be a set cover of size k in (U, S, k) .
Then $X = \{v : S_v \in Y\}$ is a vertex cover of size k in G .

\Leftarrow

Let $X \subseteq V$ be a vertex cover of size k in G .
Then $Y = \{S_v : v \in X\}$ is a set cover of size k .

$U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$

$S_a = \{3, 7\}$

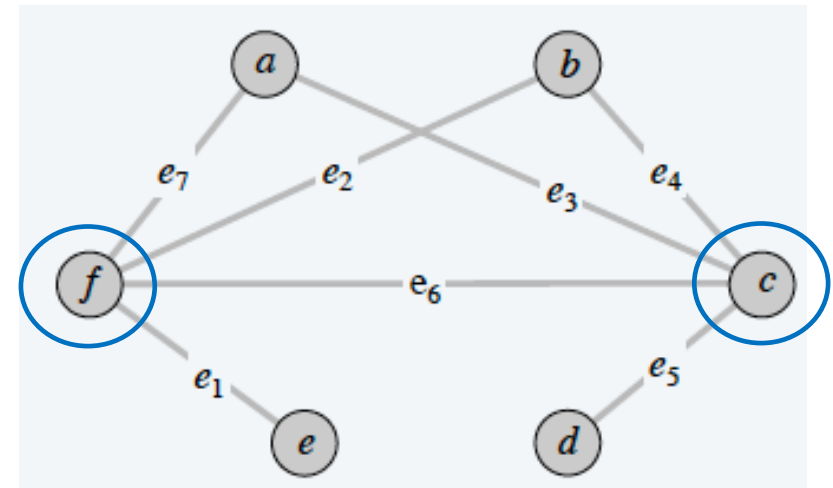
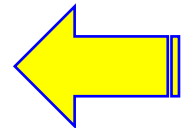
$S_b = \{2, 4\}$

$S_c = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$S_d = \{5\}$

$S_e = \{1\}$

$S_f = \{1, 2, 6, 7\}$



INDEPENDENT-SET & VERTEX-COVER

INDEPENDENT-SET.

Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer k , is there a subset of k (or more) vertices such that no two are adjacent?

VERTEX-COVER.

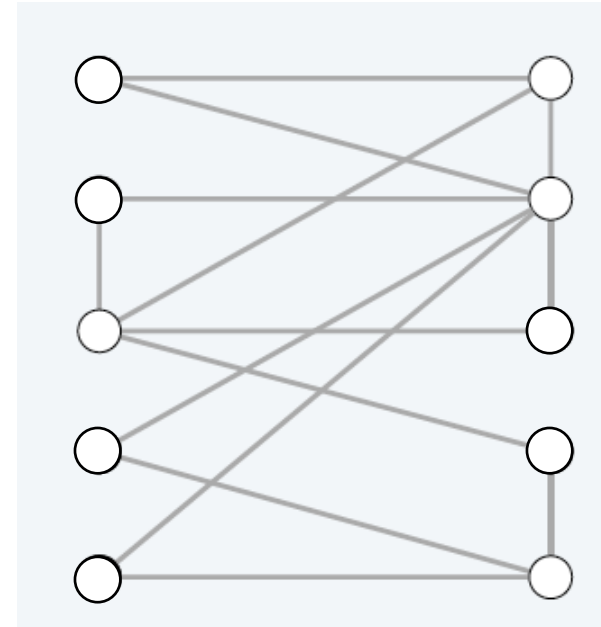
Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and an integer k , is there a subset of k (or fewer) vertices such that each edge is incident to at least one vertex in the subset?

Q: Is there an independent set of size ≥ 6 ?

Q: Is there an independent set of size ≥ 7 ?

Q: Is there a vertex cover of size ≤ 4 ?

Q: Is there a vertex cover of size ≤ 3 ?

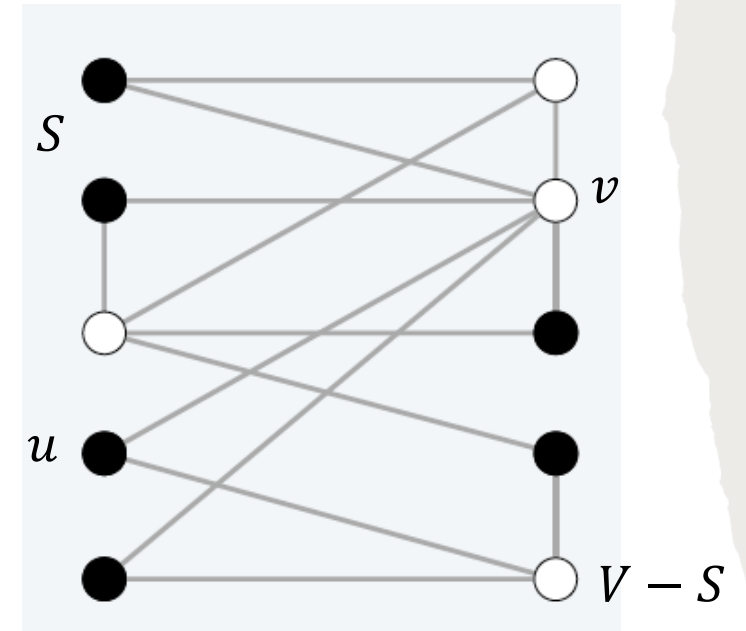


INDEPENDENT-SET & VERTEX-COVER

Theorem. $\text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \equiv_p \text{VERTEX-COVER}$.

Proof.

We show S is an independent set of size k **if and only if** $V - S$ is a vertex cover of size $n - k$.



\Rightarrow

- Let S be any independent set of size k .
- $V - S$ is of size $n - k$.
- Consider an arbitrary edge $(u, v) \in E$.
- S is independent
 - \Rightarrow either $u \notin S$, or $v \notin S$
 - \Rightarrow either $u \in V - S$, or $v \in V - S$
- Thus, $V - S$ covers (u, v)

\Leftarrow

- Let $V - S$ be any vertex cover of size $n - k$.
- S is of size k .
- Consider an arbitrary edge $(u, v) \in E$.

$\text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \leq_p \text{VERTEX-COVER}$

$\text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \geq_p \text{VERTEX-COVER}$

or $v \in V - S$, or both.
 $\notin S$, or both.
 dent set.

Basic reduction strategies:

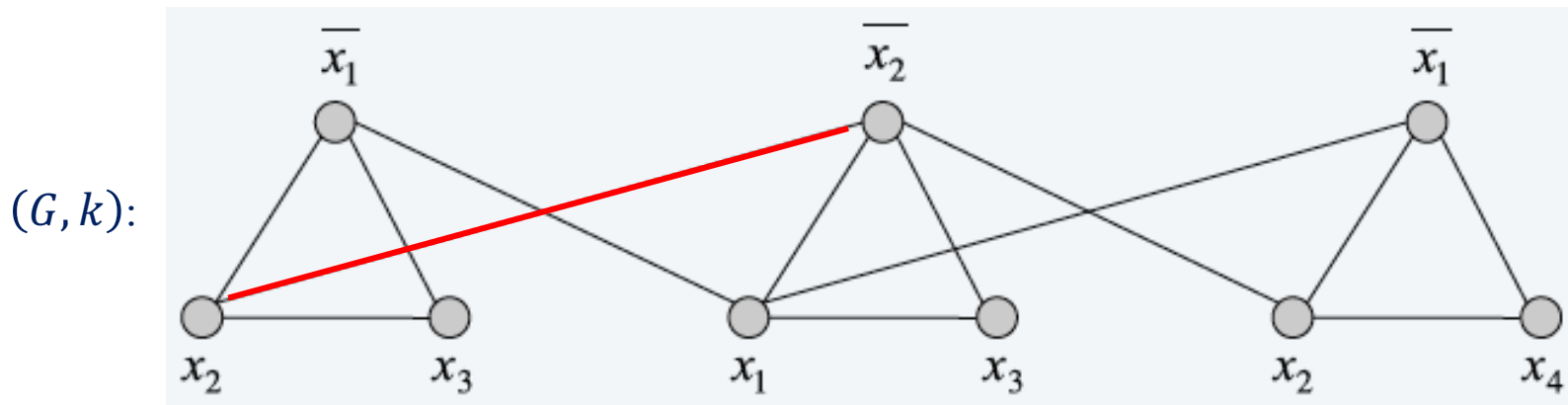
- Simple equivalence: $\text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \equiv_p \text{VERTEX-COVER}$.
- Special case to general case: $\text{VERTEX-COVER} \leq_p \text{SET-COVER}$.
- Encoding with gadgets: $3\text{-SAT} \leq_p \text{INDEPENDENT-SET}$.

Theorem. $3\text{-SAT} \leq_p \text{INDEPENDENT-SET}$.

Proof.

Given an instance Φ of 3-SAT, we construct an instance (G, k) of INDEPENDENT-SET that has an independent set of size $k = |\Phi|$ if and only if Φ is satisfiable.

$\Phi: (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$



At most one is in IS

At most one of x_i and \bar{x}_i is in IS

Construction

- G contains 3 nodes for each clause, one for each literal.
- Connect 3 literals in a clause in a triangle.
- Connect literal to each of its negations.

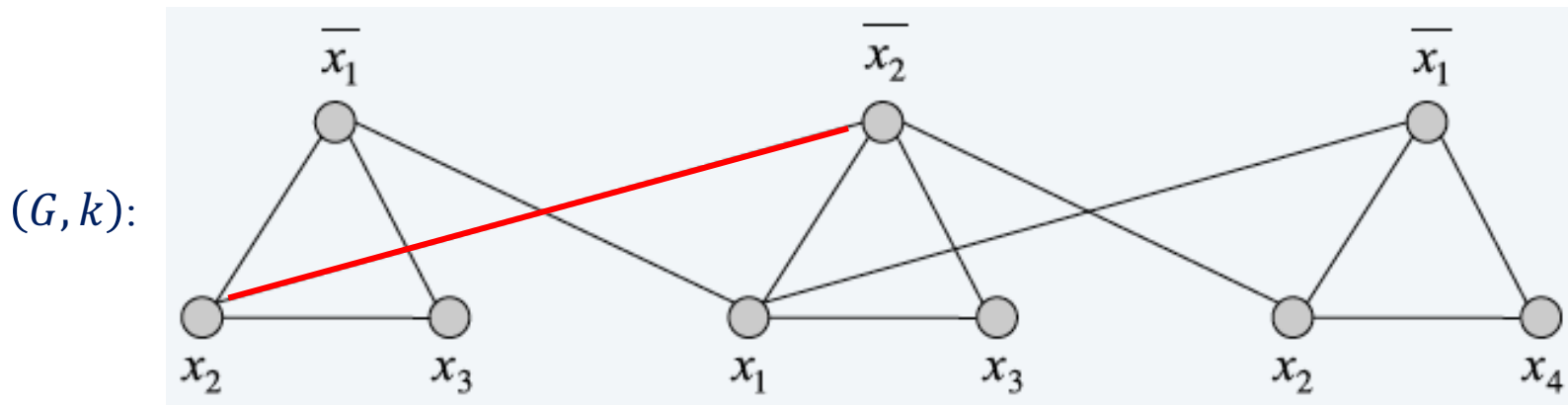
SAT \Rightarrow IS

- Consider any satisfying assignment for Φ .
- Select **one true literal from each clause**/triangle.
- This is an independent set of size $k = |\Phi|$.

SAT \Leftarrow IS

- Let S be independent set of size k .
- S must contain **exactly one node in each triangle**.
- Set these literals to *true* (and remaining literals consistently).
- All clauses in Φ are satisfied.

$$\Phi: (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$



At most one is in IS

At most one of x_i and \bar{x}_i is in IS

Construction

- G contains 3 nodes for each clause, one for each literal.
- Connect 3 literals in a clause in a triangle.
- Connect literal to each of its negations.

REVIEW

Basic reduction strategies:

- Simple equivalence: $\text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \equiv_p \text{VERTEX-COVER}$.
- Special case to general case: $\text{VERTEX-COVER} \leq_p \text{SET-COVER}$.
- Encoding with gadgets: $3\text{-SAT} \leq_p \text{INDEPENDENT-SET}$.

Properties (Transitivity):

If $X \leq_p Y$ and $Y \leq_p Z$, then $X \leq_p Z$.

Proof idea: Compose the two algorithms.

Example: $3\text{-SAT} \leq_p \text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \leq_p \text{VERTEX-COVER} \leq_p \text{SET-COVER}$.

Decision problem. Does there exist a vertex cover of size $\leq k$?

Search problem. Find a vertex cover of size $\leq k$.

Optimization problem. Find a vertex cover of minimum size.

Three problems poly-time
reduce to one another.

- **VERTEX-COVER.** Does there exist a vertex cover of size $\leq k$?
- **FIND-VERTEX-COVER.** Find a vertex cover of size $\leq k$.
- **FIND-MIN-VERTEX-COVER.** Find a vertex cover of minimum size.

33

Theorem.

$\text{VERTEX-COVER} \equiv_p \text{FIND-VERTEX-COVER}$

Theorem.

$\text{FIND-VERTEX-COVER} \equiv_p \text{FIND-MIN-VERTEX-COVER}$

\leq_p

Decision problem is a special case of search problem

\leq_p

Search problem is a special case of optimization problem.

\geq_p

To find a vertex cover of size $\leq k$:

- Determine if there exists a vertex cover of size $\leq k$.
- Find v s.t. $G - \{v\}$ has a cover of size $\leq k - 1$.
(any vertex in a vertex cover of size $\leq k$ satisfies).
- Include v in the vertex cover.
- Find a vertex cover of size $\leq k - 1$ in $G - \{v\}$.

\geq_p

To find vertex cover of minimum size:

- Binary search (or linear search) for size k^* of min vertex cover.
- Solve search problem for given k^* .