

COMPLEXITY THEORY

Lecture 8: NP-Complete Problems

Markus Krötzsch

Knowledge-Based Systems

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More recent versions of this slide deck might be available.
For the most current version of this course, see
https://iccl.inf.tu-dresden.de/web/Complexity_Theory/en

Towards More NP-Complete Problems

Starting with **SAT**, one can readily show more problems **P** to be NP-complete, each time performing two steps:

- (1) Show that **P** \in NP
- (2) Find a known NP-complete problem **P'** and reduce **P'** \leq_p **P**

Thousands of problem have now been shown to be NP-complete.
(See Garey and Johnson for an early survey)

In this course:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \leq_p \text{ CLIQUE} & \leq_p \text{ INDEPENDENT SET} \\ \text{SAT} \leq_p \text{ 3-SAT} & \leq_p \text{ DIR. HAMILTONIAN PATH} \\ \leq_p \text{ SUBSET SUM} & \leq_p \text{ KNAPSACK} \end{array}$$

3-Sat, Hamiltonian Path, and Subset Sum

NP-Completeness of **3-SAT**

3-SAT: Satisfiability of formulae in CNF with ≤ 3 literals per clause

Theorem 8.1: 3-SAT is NP-complete.

Proof: Hardness by reduction **SAT** \leq_p **3-SAT**:

- Given: φ in CNF
- Construct φ' by replacing clauses $C_i = (L_1 \vee \dots \vee L_k)$ with $k > 3$ by

$$C'_i := (L_1 \vee Y_1) \wedge (\neg Y_1 \vee L_2 \vee Y_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (\neg Y_{k-1} \vee L_k)$$

Here, the Y_j are fresh variables for each clause.

- **Claim:** φ is satisfiable iff φ' is satisfiable.

Example

Let $\varphi := (X_1 \vee X_2 \vee \neg X_3 \vee X_4) \wedge (\neg X_4 \vee \neg X_2 \vee X_5 \vee \neg X_1)$

Then $\varphi' := (X_1 \vee Y_1) \wedge$

$(\neg Y_1 \vee X_2 \vee Y_2) \wedge$

$(\neg Y_2 \vee \neg X_3 \vee Y_3) \wedge$

$(\neg Y_3 \vee X_4) \wedge$

$(\neg X_4 \vee Z_1) \wedge$

$(\neg Z_1 \vee \neg X_2 \vee Z_2) \wedge$

$(\neg Z_2 \vee X_5 \vee Z_3) \wedge$

$(\neg Z_3 \vee \neg X_1)$

Proving NP-Completeness of **3-SAT**

“ \Rightarrow ” Given $\varphi := \bigwedge_{i=1}^m C_i$ with clauses C_i , show that if φ is satisfiable then φ' is satisfiable

For a satisfying assignment β for φ , define an assignment β' for φ' :

For each $C := (L_1 \vee \dots \vee L_k)$, with $k > 3$, in φ there is

$$C' = (L_1 \vee Y_1) \wedge (\neg Y_1 \vee L_2 \vee Y_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (\neg Y_{k-1} \vee L_k) \text{ in } \varphi'$$

As β satisfies φ , there is $i \leq k$ s.th. $\beta(L_i) = 1$ i.e. $\beta(X) = 1$ if $L_i = X$
 $\beta(X) = 0$ if $L_i = \neg X$

$$\beta'(Y_j) = 1 \quad \text{for } j < i$$

Set $\beta'(Y_j) = 0 \quad \text{for } j \geq i$

$$\beta'(X) = \beta(X) \quad \text{for all variables in } \varphi$$

This is a satisfying assignment for φ'

Proving NP-Completeness of 3-SAT

“ \Leftarrow ” Show that if φ' is satisfiable then so is φ

Suppose β is a satisfying assignment for φ' – then β satisfies φ :

Let $C := (L_1 \vee \dots \vee L_k)$ be a clause of φ

(1) If $k \leq 3$ then C is a clause of φ'

(2) If $k > 3$ then

$$C' = (L_1 \vee Y_1) \wedge (\neg Y_1 \vee L_2 \vee Y_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (\neg Y_{k-1} \vee L_k) \text{ in } \varphi'$$

β must satisfy at least one L_i , $1 \leq i \leq k$

Case (2) follows since, if $\beta(L_i) = 0$ for all $i \leq k$ then C' can be reduced to

$$\begin{aligned} C' &= (Y_1) \wedge (\neg Y_1 \vee Y_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (\neg Y_{k-1}) \\ &\equiv Y_1 \wedge (Y_1 \rightarrow Y_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (Y_{k-2} \rightarrow Y_{k-1}) \wedge \neg Y_{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

which is not satisfiable. □

NP-Completeness of **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**

DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH

Input: A directed graph G .

Problem: Is there a directed path in G containing every vertex exactly once?

Theorem 8.2: **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH** is NP-complete.

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Proof:

- (1) **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH** \in NP:
Take the path to be the certificate.

Digression: How to design reductions

Task: Show that problem **P** (**DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**) is NP-hard.

- Arguably, the most important part is to decide *where to start from*.

That is, which problem to reduce to **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**?

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- Arguably, the most important part is to decide *where to start from*.

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- **Considerations:**

- Is there an NP-complete problem *similar* to **P**?
(for example, **CLIQUE** and **INDEPENDENT SET**)
- It is not always beneficial to choose a problem of the same type
(for example, reducing a graph problem to a graph problem)
 - For instance, **CLIQUE**, **INDEPENDENT SET** are “local” problems
(is there a set of vertices inducing some structure)
 - Hamiltonian Path is a global problem
(find a structure – the Hamiltonian path – containing all vertices)

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- Arguably, the most important part is to decide *where to start from*.

That is, which problem to reduce to **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**?

- **Considerations:**

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(for example, **CLIQUE** and **INDEPENDENT SET**)
- It is not always beneficial to choose a problem of the same type
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 - For instance, **CLIQUE**, **INDEPENDENT SET** are “local” problems
(is there a set of vertices inducing some structure)
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(find a structure – the Hamiltonian path – containing all vertices)

- **How to design the reduction:**

- Does your problem come from an optimisation problem?
If so: a maximisation problem? a minimisation problem?
- Learn from examples, have good ideas.

NP-Completeness of **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**

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Proof:

(1) **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH** \in NP:

Take the path to be the certificate.

(2) **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH** is NP-hard:

3-SAT \leq_p **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**

NP-Completeness of **DIRECTED HAMILTONIAN PATH**

Proof (Proof idea): (see blackboard for details)

Let $\varphi := \bigwedge_{i=1}^k C_i$ and $C_i := (L_{i,1} \vee L_{i,2} \vee L_{i,3})$

- For each variable X occurring in φ , we construct a directed graph (“gadget”) that allows only two Hamiltonian paths: “true” and “false”
- Gadgets for each variable are “chained” in a directed fashion, so that all variables must be assigned one value
- Clauses are represented by vertices that are connected to the gadgets in such a way that they can only be visited on a Hamiltonian path that corresponds to an assignment where they are true

Details are also given in [Sipser, Theorem 7.46].

Example 8.3: $\varphi := C_1 \wedge C_2$ where $C_1 := (X \vee \neg Y \vee Z)$ and $C_2 := (\neg X \vee Y \vee \neg Z)$
(see blackboard)

Towards More NP-Complete Problems

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NP-Completeness of **SUBSET SUM**

SUBSET SUM

Input: A collection¹ of positive integers

$S = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ and a target integer t .

Problem: Is there a subset $T \subseteq S$ such that $\sum_{a_i \in T} a_i = t$?

Theorem 8.4: **SUBSET SUM** is NP-complete.

Proof:

- (1) **SUBSET SUM** \in NP: Take T to be the certificate.
- (2) **SUBSET SUM** is NP-hard: **SAT** \leq_p **SUBSET SUM**

¹) This “collection” is supposed to be a multi-set, i.e., we allow the same number to occur several times. The solution “subset” can likewise use numbers multiple times, but not more often than they occurred in the given collection.

Example

$$(X_1 \vee X_2 \vee X_3) \wedge (\neg X_1 \vee \neg X_4) \wedge (X_4 \vee X_5 \vee \neg X_2 \vee \neg X_3)$$

		X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	C_1	C_2	C_3
t_1	=	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
f_1	=	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
t_2	=		1	0	0	0	1	0	0
f_2	=		1	0	0	0	0	0	1
t_3	=			1	0	0	1	0	0
f_3	=			1	0	0	0	0	1
t_4	=				1	0	0	0	1
f_4	=				1	0	0	1	0
t_5	=					1	0	0	1
f_5	=					1	0	0	0
$m_{1,1}$	=						1	0	0
$m_{1,2}$	=						1	0	0
$m_{2,1}$	=						0	1	0
$m_{3,1}$	=						0	0	1
$m_{3,2}$	=						0	0	1
$m_{3,3}$	=						0	0	1
t	=	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4

SAT \leq_p SUBSET SUM

Given: $\varphi := C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_k$ in conjunctive normal form.

(w.l.o.g. at most 9 literals per clause)

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be the variables in φ . For each X_i let

$$t_i := a_1 \dots a_n c_1 \dots c_k \text{ where } a_j := \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases} \text{ and } c_j := \begin{cases} 1 & X_i \text{ occurs in } C_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f_i := a_1 \dots a_n c_1 \dots c_k \text{ where } a_j := \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases} \text{ and } c_j := \begin{cases} 1 & \neg X_i \text{ occurs in } C_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example

$$(X_1 \vee X_2 \vee X_3) \wedge (\neg X_1 \vee \neg X_4) \wedge (X_4 \vee X_5 \vee \neg X_2 \vee \neg X_3)$$

		X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	C_1	C_2	C_3
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t_2	=		1	0	0	0	1	0	0
f_2	=		1	0	0	0	0	0	1
t_3	=			1	0	0	1	0	0
f_3	=			1	0	0	0	0	1
t_4	=				1	0	0	0	1
f_4	=				1	0	0	1	0
t_5	=					1	0	0	1
f_5	=					1	0	0	0
$m_{1,1}$	=						1	0	0
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t	=	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4

SAT \leq_p SUBSET SUM

Further, for each clause C_i take $r := |C_i| - 1$ integers $m_{i,1}, \dots, m_{i,r}$

where $m_{i,j} := c_i \dots c_k$ with $c_\ell := \begin{cases} 1 & \ell = i \\ 0 & \ell \neq i \end{cases}$

Definition of S : Let

$$S := \{t_i, f_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{m_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i \leq k, \quad 1 \leq j \leq |C_i| - 1\}$$

Target: Finally, choose as target

$$t := a_1 \dots a_n c_1 \dots c_k \text{ where } a_i := 1 \text{ and } c_i := |C_i|$$

Claim: There is $T \subseteq S$ with $\sum_{a_i \in T} a_i = t$ iff φ is satisfiable.

Example

$$(X_1 \vee X_2 \vee X_3) \wedge (\neg X_1 \vee \neg X_4) \wedge (X_4 \vee X_5 \vee \neg X_2 \vee \neg X_3)$$

		X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	C_1	C_2	C_3
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f_3	=			1	0	0	0	0	1
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t	=	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4

NP-Completeness of **SUBSET SUM**

Let $\varphi := \bigwedge C_i$ C_i : clauses

Show: If φ is satisfiable, then there is $T \subseteq S$ with $\sum_{s \in T} s = t$.

Let β be a satisfying assignment for φ

Set $T_1 := \{t_i \mid \beta(X_i) = 1, 1 \leq i \leq m\} \cup$
 $\{f_i \mid \beta(X_i) = 0, 1 \leq i \leq m\}$

Further, for each clause C_i let r_i be the number of satisfied literals in C_i (with resp. to β).

Set $T_2 := \{m_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq |C_i| - r_i\}$

and define $T := T_1 \cup T_2$.

It follows: $\sum_{s \in T} s = t$

NP-Completeness of **SUBSET SUM**

Show: If there is $T \subseteq S$ with $\sum_{s \in T} s = t$, then φ is satisfiable.

Let $T \subseteq S$ such that $\sum_{s \in T} s = t$

$$\text{Define } \beta(X_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t_i \in T \\ 0 & \text{if } f_i \in T \end{cases}$$

This is well defined as for all i : $t_i \in T$ or $f_i \in T$ but not both.

Further, for each clause, there must be one literal set to 1 as for all i , the $m_{i,j} \in S$ do not sum up to the number of literals in the clause. □

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NP-completeness of **KNAPSACK**

KNAPSACK

Input: A set $I := \{1, \dots, n\}$ of items
each of value v_i and weight w_i for $1 \leq i \leq n$,
target value t and weight limit ℓ

Problem: Is there $T \subseteq I$ such that
 $\sum_{i \in T} v_i \geq t$ and $\sum_{i \in T} w_i \leq \ell$?

Theorem 8.5: **KNAPSACK** is NP-complete.

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Theorem 8.5: **KNAPSACK** is NP-complete.

Proof:

- (1) **KNAPSACK** \in NP: Take T to be the certificate.
- (2) **KNAPSACK** is NP-hard: **SUBSET SUM** \leq_p **KNAPSACK**

SUBSET SUM \leq_p KNAPSACK

Given: $S := \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ collection of positive integers

Subset Sum: t target integer

Problem: Is there a subset $T \subseteq S$ such that $\sum_{a_i \in T} a_i = t$?

SUBSET SUM \leq_p KNAPSACK

Given: $S := \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ collection of positive integers

Subset Sum: t target integer

Problem: Is there a subset $T \subseteq S$ such that $\sum_{a_i \in T} a_i = t$?

Reduction: From this input to **SUBSET SUM** construct

- set of items $I := \{1, \dots, n\}$
- weights and values $v_i = w_i = a_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$
- target value $t' := t$ and weight limit $\ell := t$

SUBSET SUM \leq_p KNAPSACK

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Clearly: For every $T \subseteq S$

$$\sum_{a_i \in T} a_i = t \quad \text{iff} \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{a_i \in T} v_i \geq t' &= t \\ \sum_{a_i \in T} w_i \leq \ell &= t \end{aligned}$$

Hence: The reduction is correct and in polynomial time.

A Polynomial Time Algorithm for **KNAPSACK**

KNAPSACK can be solved in time $O(n\ell)$ using dynamic programming

Initialisation:

- Create an $(\ell + 1) \times (n + 1)$ matrix M
- Set $M(w, 0) := 0$ for all $1 \leq w \leq \ell$ and $M(0, i) := 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$

Example

Input $I = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with

Values: $v_1 = 1$ $v_2 = 3$ $v_3 = 4$ $v_4 = 2$

Weight: $w_1 = 1$ $w_2 = 1$ $w_3 = 3$ $w_4 = 2$

Weight limit: $\ell = 5$ Target value: $t = 7$

weight limit w	max. total value from first i items				
	$i = 0$	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
0					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Set $M(w, 0) := 0$ for all $1 \leq w \leq \ell$ and $M(0, i) := 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$

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Computation: Assign further $M(w, i)$ to be the largest total value obtainable by selecting from the first i items with weight limit w :

For $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ set $M(w, i + 1)$ as

$$M(w, i + 1) := \max \{M(w, i), M(w - w_{i+1}, i) + v_{i+1}\}$$

Here, if $w - w_{i+1} < 0$ we always take $M(w, i)$.

Acceptance: If M contains an entry $\geq t$, accept. Otherwise reject.

Example

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1	0				
2	0				
3	0				
4	0				
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For $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ set $M(w, i + 1) := \max \{M(w, i), M(w - w_{i+1}, i) + v_{i+1}\}$

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2	0	1			
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Values: $v_1 = 1$ $v_2 = 3$ $v_3 = 4$ $v_4 = 2$

Weight: $w_1 = 1$ $w_2 = 1$ $w_3 = 3$ $w_4 = 2$

Weight limit: $\ell = 5$ Target value: $t = 7$

weight limit w	max. total value from first i items				
	$i = 0$	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	3		
2	0	1	4		
3	0	1			
4	0	1			
5	0	1			

For $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ set $M(w, i + 1) := \max \{M(w, i), M(w - w_{i+1}, i) + v_{i+1}\}$

Example

Input $I = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with

Values: $v_1 = 1$ $v_2 = 3$ $v_3 = 4$ $v_4 = 2$

Weight: $w_1 = 1$ $w_2 = 1$ $w_3 = 3$ $w_4 = 2$

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1	0	1	3		
2	0	1	4		
3	0	1	4		
4	0	1			
5	0	1			

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1	0	1	3		
2	0	1	4		
3	0	1	4		
4	0	1	4		
5	0	1			

For $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ set $M(w, i + 1) := \max \{M(w, i), M(w - w_{i+1}, i) + v_{i+1}\}$

Example

Input $I = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with

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Weight limit: $\ell = 5$ Target value: $t = 7$

weight limit w	max. total value from first i items				
	$i = 0$	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	3		
2	0	1	4		
3	0	1	4		
4	0	1	4		
5	0	1	4		

For $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ set $M(w, i + 1) := \max \{M(w, i), M(w - w_{i+1}, i) + v_{i+1}\}$

Example

Input $I = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with

Values: $v_1 = 1$ $v_2 = 3$ $v_3 = 4$ $v_4 = 2$

Weight: $w_1 = 1$ $w_2 = 1$ $w_3 = 3$ $w_4 = 2$

Weight limit: $\ell = 5$ Target value: $t = 7$

weight limit w	max. total value from first i items				
	$i = 0$	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	3	3	3
2	0	1	4	4	4
3	0	1	4	4	5
4	0	1	4	7	7
5	0	1	4	8	8

For $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ set $M(w, i + 1) := \max \{M(w, i), M(w - w_{i+1}, i) + v_{i+1}\}$

Did we prove $P = NP$?

Summary:

- Theorem 8.5: **KNAPSACK** is NP-complete
- **KNAPSACK** can be solved in time $O(n\ell)$ using dynamic programming

What went wrong?

KNAPSACK

Input: A set $I := \{1, \dots, n\}$ of items
each of value v_i and weight w_i for $1 \leq i \leq n$,
target value t and weight limit ℓ

Problem: Is there $T \subseteq I$ such that
 $\sum_{i \in T} v_i \geq t$ and $\sum_{i \in T} w_i \leq \ell$?

Pseudo-Polynomial Time

The previous algorithm is **not** sufficient to show that **KNAPSACK** is in P

- The algorithm fills a $(\ell + 1) \times (n + 1)$ matrix M
- The size of the input to **KNAPSACK** is $O(n \log \ell)$

↪ the size of M is **not** bounded by a polynomial in the length of the input!

Pseudo-Polynomial Time

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- The algorithm fills a $(\ell + 1) \times (n + 1)$ matrix M
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↪ the size of M is **not** bounded by a polynomial in the length of the input!

Definition 8.6 (Pseudo-Polynomial Time): Problems decidable in time polynomial in the sum of the input length and the **value** of numbers occurring in the input.

Equivalently: Problems decidable in polynomial time when using **unary** encoding for all numbers in the input.

- If **KNAPSACK** is restricted to instances with $\ell \leq p(n)$ for a polynomial p , then we obtain a problem in P.
- **KNAPSACK** is in polynomial time for unary encoding of numbers.

Strong NP-completeness

Pseudo-Polynomial Time: Algorithms polynomial in the maximum of the input length and the value of numbers occurring in the input.

Examples:

- **KNAPSACK**
- **SUBSET SUM**

Strong NP-completeness: Problems which remain NP-complete even if all numbers are bounded by a polynomial in the input length (equivalently: even for unary coding of numbers).

Examples:

- **CLIQUE**
- **SAT**
- **HAMILTONIAN CYCLE**
- ...

Note: Showing **SAT** \leq_p **SUBSET SUM** required exponentially large numbers.

Beyond NP

The Class coNP

Recall that coNP is the complement class of NP.

Definition 8.7:

- For a language $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ let $\bar{L} := \Sigma^* \setminus L$ be its complement
- For a complexity class C , we define $\text{co}C := \{L \mid \bar{L} \in C\}$
- In particular $\text{coNP} = \{L \mid \bar{L} \in \text{NP}\}$

A problem belongs to coNP, if **no**-instances have short certificates.

Examples:

- **NO HAMILTONIAN PATH:** Does the graph G **not** have a Hamiltonian path?
- **TAUTOLOGY:** Is the propositional logic formula φ a tautology (true under all assignments)?
- ...

coNP-completeness

Definition 8.8: A language $C \in \text{coNP}$ is coNP-complete, if $L \leq_p C$ for all $L \in \text{coNP}$.

Theorem 8.9:

- (1) $P = \text{coP}$
- (2) Hence, $P \subseteq \text{NP} \cap \text{coNP}$

Open questions:

- $\text{NP} = \text{coNP}$?

Most people do not think so.

- $P = \text{NP} \cap \text{coNP}$?

Again, most people do not think so.

Summary and Outlook

3-SAT and **HAMILTONIAN PATH** are also NP-complete

So are **SUBSET SUM** and **KNAPSACK**, but only if numbers are encoded efficiently (pseudo-polynomial time)

There do not seem to be polynomial certificates for coNP instances; and for some problems there seem to be certificates neither for instances nor for non-instances

What's next?

- Space
- Games
- Relating complexity classes