

Complexity Theory

NP Completeness

Daniel Borchmann, Markus Krötzsch

Computational Logic

2015-11-17

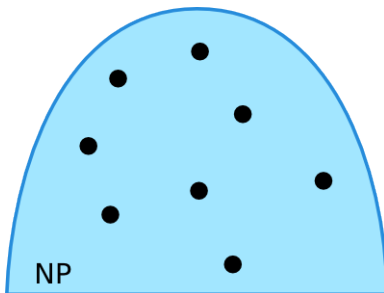


Review

Are NP Problems Hard?

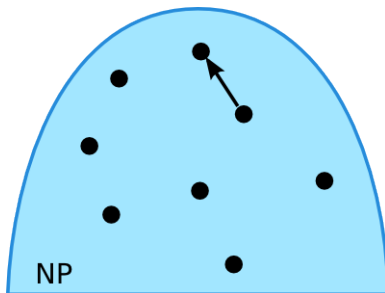
The Structure of NP

Idea: polynomial many-one reductions define an order on problems



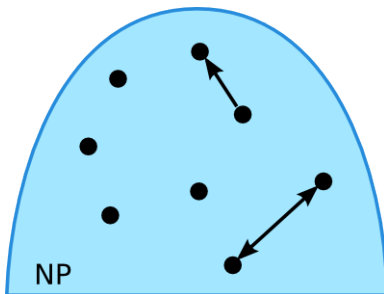
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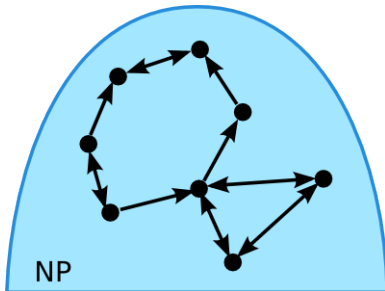
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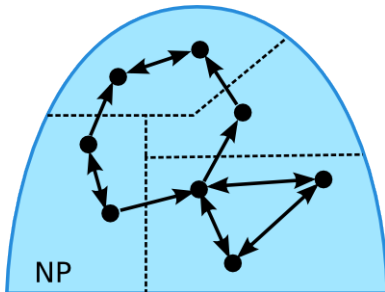
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NP-Hardness and NP-Completeness

Definition 8.1

- ▶ A language \mathcal{H} is **NP-hard**, if $\mathcal{L} \leq_p \mathcal{H}$ for every language $\mathcal{L} \in \text{NP}$.
- ▶ A language \mathcal{C} is **NP-complete**, if \mathcal{C} is NP-hard and $\mathcal{C} \in \text{NP}$.

NP-Completeness

- ▶ NP-complete problems are the **hardest** problems in NP.
- ▶ They constitute the maximal class (wrt. \leq_p) of problems within NP.
- ▶ They are all **equally** difficult – an efficient solution to one would solve them all.

Theorem 8.2

If \mathcal{L} is NP-hard and $\mathcal{L} \leq_p \mathcal{L}'$, then \mathcal{L}' is NP-hard as well.

Deterministic vs. Nondeterministic Time

Theorem 8.3

$P \subseteq NP$, and also $P \subseteq \text{coNP}$.

(Clear since DTMs are a special case of NTMs)

It is not known to date if the converse is true or not.

- ▶ Put differently: “If it is easy to check a candidate solution to a problem, is it also easy to find one?”
- ▶ Exaggerated: “Can creativity be automated?” (Wigderson, 2006)
- ▶ Unresolved since over 35 years of effort
- ▶ One of the major problems in computer science and math of our time
- ▶ 1,000,000 USD prize for resolving it (“Millenium Problem”)
(might not be much money at the time it is actually solved)

Status of P vs. NP

Many people believe that $P \neq NP$

- ▶ Main argument: “If $NP = P$, someone ought to have found some polynomial algorithm for an NP-complete problem by now.”
- ▶ “This is, in my opinion, a very weak argument. The space of algorithms is very large and we are only at the beginning of its exploration.” (Moshe Vardi, 2002)
- ▶ Another source of intuition: Humans find it hard to solve NP-problems, and hard to imagine how to make them simpler – possibly “human chauvinistic bravado” (Zeilenberger, 2006)
- ▶ There are better arguments, but none more than an intuition

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Many outcomes conceivable:

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- ▶ Even if $NP \neq P$, it is unclear if NP problems require exponential time in a strict sense – many super-polynomial functions exist . . .

Status of P vs. NP

Many outcomes conceivable:

- ▶ $P = NP$ could be shown with a non-constructive proof
- ▶ The question might be independent of standard mathematics (ZFC)
- ▶ Even if $NP \neq P$, it is unclear if NP problems require exponential time in a strict sense – many super-polynomial functions exist . . .
- ▶ The problem might never be solved

Status of P vs. NP

Current status in research:

- ▶ Results of a poll among 152 experts [Gasarch 2012]:
 - ▶ $P \neq NP$: 126 (83%)
 - ▶ $P = NP$: 12 (9%)
 - ▶ Don't know or don't care: 7 (4%)
 - ▶ Independent: 5 (3%)
 - ▶ And 1 person (0.6%) answered: "I don't *want* it to be equal."
- ▶ Experts have guessed wrongly in other major questions before
- ▶ Over 100 "proofs" show $P = NP$ to be true/false/both/neither:
<https://www.win.tue.nl/~gwoegi/P-versus-NP.htm>

Proving NP-Completeness

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How to show NP-completeness

To show that \mathcal{L} is NP-complete, we must show that **every** language in NP can be reduced to \mathcal{L} in polynomial time.

Alternative approach

Given an NP-complete language \mathcal{C} , we can show that another language \mathcal{L} is NP-complete just by showing that

- ▶ $\mathcal{C} \leq_p \mathcal{L}$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L} \in \text{NP}$

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However: Is there any NP-complete problem at all?

The First NP-Complete Problem

Is there any NP-complete problem at all?

Of course there is: the word problem for polynomial time NTMs!

POLYTIME NTM

Input: A polynomial p , a p -time bounded NTM \mathcal{M} ,
and an input word w .

Problem: Does \mathcal{M} accept w (in time $p(|w|)$)?

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Theorem 8.4

POLYTIME NTM is NP-complete.

Proof.

See exercise. □

Further NP-Complete Problem?

POLYTIME NTM is NP-complete, but not very interesting:

- ▶ not most convenient to work with
- ▶ not of much interest outside of complexity theory

Are there more natural NP-complete problems?

Yes, thousands of them!

The Cook-Levin Theorem

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Proof.

- ▶ $\text{SAT} \in \text{NP}$

Take satisfying assignments as polynomial certificates for the satisfiability of a formula.

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- ▶ $\text{SAT} \in \text{NP}$

Take satisfying assignments as polynomial certificates for the satisfiability of a formula.

- ▶ SAT is hard for NP

Proof by reduction from the word problem for NTMs.

Proving the Cook-Levin Theorem

Given:

- ▶ a polynomial p
- ▶ a p -time bounded 1-tape NTM $\mathcal{M} = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{\text{accept}})$
- ▶ a word w

Intended reduction

Define a propositional logic formula $\varphi_{p, \mathcal{M}, w}$ such that $\varphi_{p, \mathcal{M}, w}$ is satisfiable if and only if \mathcal{M} accepts w in time $p(|w|)$.

Note

On input w of length $n := |w|$, every computation path of \mathcal{M} is of length $\leq p(n)$ and uses $\leq p(n)$ tape cells.

Idea

Use logic to describe a run of \mathcal{M} on input w by a formula.

Proving Cook-Levin: Encoding Configurations

Use propositional variables for describing configurations:

Q_q for each $q \in Q$ means “ \mathcal{M} is in state $q \in Q$ ”

P_i for each $0 \leq i \leq p(n)$ means “the head is at Position i ”

$S_{a,i}$ for each $a \in \Gamma$ and $0 \leq i \leq p(n)$ means “tape cell i contains Symbol a ”

Represent configuration $(q, p, a_0 \dots a_{p(n)})$

by assigning truth values to variables from the set

$$\bar{C} := \{Q_q, P_i, S_{a,i} \mid q \in Q, a \in \Gamma, 0 \leq i < p(n)\}$$

using the truth assignment β defined as

$$\beta(Q_s) := \begin{cases} 1 & s = q \\ 0 & s \neq q \end{cases} \quad \beta(P_i) := \begin{cases} 1 & i = p \\ 0 & i \neq p \end{cases} \quad \beta(S_{a,i}) := \begin{cases} 1 & a = a_i \\ 0 & a \neq a_i \end{cases}$$

Proving Cook-Levin: Validating Configurations

We define a formula $\text{CONF}(\overline{C})$ for a set of configuration variables

$$\overline{C} = \{Q_q, P_i, S_{a,i} \mid q \in Q, a \in \Gamma, 0 \leq i < p(n)\}$$

as follows:

$$\text{CONF}(\overline{C}) :=$$

“the assignment is a valid configuration”:

$$\bigvee_{q \in Q} \left(Q_q \wedge \bigwedge_{q' \neq q} \neg Q_{q'} \right)$$

“TM in exactly one state $q \in Q$ ”

$$\wedge \bigvee_{p \leq p(n)} \left(P_p \wedge \bigwedge_{p' \neq p} \neg P_{p'} \right)$$

“head in exactly one position $p \leq p(n)$ ”

$$\wedge \bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq p(n)} \bigvee_{a \in \Gamma} \left(S_{a,i} \wedge \bigwedge_{b \neq a \in \Gamma} \neg S_{b,i} \right)$$

“exactly one $a \in \Gamma$ in each cell”

Proving Cook-Levin: Validating Configurations

For an assignment β defined on variables in \overline{C} define

$$\text{conf}(\overline{C}, \beta) := \left\{ (q, p, w_0 \dots w_{p(n)}) \mid \begin{array}{l} \beta(Q_q) = 1, \\ \beta(P_p) = 1, \\ \beta(S_{w_i, i}) = 1 \text{ for all } 0 \leq i \leq p(n) \end{array} \right\}$$

Note: β may be defined on other variables besides those in \overline{C} .

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Lemma 8.6

If β satisfies $\text{CONF}(\overline{C})$ then $|\text{conf}(\overline{C}, \beta)| = 1$.

We can therefore write $\text{conf}(\overline{C}, \beta) = (q, p, w)$ to simplify notation.

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Observations:

- ▶ $\text{conf}(\bar{C}, \beta)$ is a potential configuration of \mathcal{M} , but it may not be reachable from the start configuration of \mathcal{M} on input w .
- ▶ Conversely, every configuration $(q, p, w_1 \dots w_{p(n)})$ induces a satisfying assignment β or which $\text{conf}(\bar{C}, \beta) = (q, p, w_1 \dots w_{p(n)})$.

Proving Cook-Levin: Transitions Between Configurations

Consider the following formula $\text{NEXT}(\bar{C}, \bar{C}')$ defined as

$$\text{CONF}(\bar{C}) \wedge \text{CONF}(\bar{C}') \wedge \text{NoCHANGE}(\bar{C}, \bar{C}') \wedge \text{CHANGE}(\bar{C}, \bar{C}').$$

$$\text{NoCHANGE} := \bigvee_{0 \leq p \leq p(n)} \left(P_p \wedge \bigwedge_{i \neq p, a \in \Gamma} (S_{a,i} \rightarrow S'_{a,i}) \right)$$

$$\text{CHANGE} := \bigvee_{0 \leq p \leq p(n)} \left(P_p \wedge \bigvee_{\substack{q \in Q \\ a \in \Gamma}} \left(Q_q \wedge S_{a,p} \wedge \bigvee_{(q', b, D) \in \delta(q, a)} (Q'_{q'} \wedge S'_{b,p} \wedge P'_{D(p)}) \right) \right)$$

where $D(p)$ is the position reached by moving in direction D from p .

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Lemma 8.7

For any assignment β defined on $\bar{C} \cup \bar{C}'$:

$$\beta \text{ satisfies } \text{NEXT}(\bar{C}, \bar{C}') \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \text{conf}(\bar{C}, \beta) \vdash_M \text{conf}(\bar{C}', \beta)$$

Proving Cook-Levin: Start and End

Defined so far:

- ▶ $\text{CONF}(\overline{C})$: \overline{C} describes a potential configuration
- ▶ $\text{NEXT}(\overline{C}, \overline{C}')$: $\text{conf}(\overline{C}, \beta) \vdash_{\mathcal{M}} \text{conf}(\overline{C}', \beta)$

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Start configuration: Let $w = w_0 \cdots w_{n-1} \in \Sigma^*$ be the input word

$$\text{START}_{\mathcal{M}, w}(\bar{C}) := \text{CONF}(\bar{C}) \wedge Q_{q_0} \wedge P_0 \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^{n-1} S_{w_i, i} \wedge \bigwedge_{i=n}^{p(n)} S_{\square, i}$$

Then an assignment β satisfies $\text{START}_{\mathcal{M}, w}(\bar{C})$ if and only if \bar{C} represents the start configuration of \mathcal{M} on input w .

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Accepting stop configuration:

$$\text{ACC-CONF}(\bar{C}) := \text{CONF}(\bar{C}) \wedge Q_{q_{\text{accept}}}$$

Then an assignment β satisfies $\text{ACC-CONF}(\bar{C})$ if and only if \bar{C} represents an accepting configuration of \mathcal{M} .

Proving Cook-Levin: Adding Time

Since \mathcal{M} is p -time bounded, each run may contain up to $p(n)$ steps
 \leadsto we need one set of configuration variables for each

Propositional variables

$Q_{q,t}$ for all $q \in Q$, $0 \leq t \leq p(n)$ means “at time t , \mathcal{M} is in state $q \in Q$ ”

$P_{i,t}$ for all $0 \leq i, t \leq p(n)$ means “at time t , the head is at position i ”

$S_{a,i,t}$ for all $a \in \Sigma \cup \{\square\}$ and $0 \leq i, t \leq p(n)$ means
 “at time t , tape cell i contains symbol a ”

Notation

$$\overline{C}_t := \{Q_{q,t}, P_{i,t}, S_{a,i,t} \mid q \in Q, 0 \leq i \leq p(n), a \in \Gamma\}$$

Proving Cook-Levin: The Formula

Given:

- ▶ a polynomial p
- ▶ a p -time bounded 1-tape NTM $\mathcal{M} = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{\text{accept}})$
- ▶ a word w

We define the formula $\varphi_{p, \mathcal{M}, w}$ as follows:

$$\varphi_{p, \mathcal{M}, w} := \text{START}_{\mathcal{M}, w}(\overline{C}_0) \wedge \bigvee_{0 \leq t \leq p(n)} \left(\text{ACC-CONF}(\overline{C}_t) \wedge \bigwedge_{0 \leq i < t} \text{NEXT}(\overline{C}_i, \overline{C}_{i+1}) \right)$$

“ C_0 encodes the start configuration” and for some polynomial time t :

“ \mathcal{M} accepts after t steps” and “ $\overline{C}_0, \dots, \overline{C}_t$ encode a comp. path”

Lemma 8.8

$\varphi_{p, \mathcal{M}, w}$ is satisfiable if and only if \mathcal{M} accepts w in time $p(|w|)$.

Note that an accepting or rejecting stop configuration has no successor.

The Cook-Levin Theorem

Theorem 8.5 (Cook 1970, Levin 1973)

SAT is NP-complete.

Proof.

- ▶ $\text{SAT} \in \text{NP}$

Take satisfying assignments as polynomial certificates for the satisfiability of a formula.

- ▶ SAT is hard for NP

Proof by reduction from the word problem for NTMs.

Further NP-complete Problems

Towards More NP-Complete Problems

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

- (1) Show that $\mathcal{P} \in \text{NP}$
- (2) Find a known NP-complete problem \mathcal{P}' and reduce $\mathcal{P}' \leq_p \mathcal{P}$

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

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In this course:

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

NP-Completeness of CLIQUE

Theorem 8.9

CLIQUE is NP-complete.

CLIQUE: Given G, k , does G contain a clique of order $\geq k$?

Proof.

- ▶ CLIQUE \in NP

Take the vertex set of a clique of order k as a certificate.

- ▶ CLIQUE is NP-hard

We show $\text{SAT} \leq_p \text{CLIQUE}$

To every CNF-formula φ assign G_φ, k_φ such that

$$\varphi \text{ satisfiable} \iff G_\varphi \text{ contains clique of order } k_\varphi$$

SAT \leq_p CLIQUE

To every CNF-formula φ assign G_φ, k_φ such that

φ satisfiable if and only if G_φ contains clique of order k_φ

Given $\varphi = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_k$:

- ▶ Set $k_\varphi := k$
- ▶ For each clause C_j and literal $L \in C_j$ add a vertex $v_{L,j}$
- ▶ Add edge $\{u_{L,j}, v_{K,i}\}$ if $i \neq j$ and $L \wedge K$ is satisfiable
(that is: if $L \neq \neg K$ and $\neg L \neq K$)

Example 8.10

$$(X \vee Y \vee \neg Z) \wedge (X \vee \neg Y) \wedge (\neg X \vee Z)$$

See blackboard.

SAT \leq_p CLIQUE

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Correctness:

G_φ has clique of order k iff φ is satisfiable.

Complexity:

The reduction is clearly computable in polynomial time.

NP-Completeness of INDEPENDENT SET

INDEPENDENT SET

Input: An undirected graph G and a natural number k

Problem: Does G contain k vertices that share no edges (independent set)?

Theorem 8.11

INDEPENDENT SET is NP-complete.

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Proof.

Hardness by reduction $\text{CLIQUE} \leq_p \text{INDEPENDENT SET}$:

- ▶ Given $G := (V, E)$ construct $\bar{G} := (V, \{\{u, v\} \mid \{u, v\} \notin E \text{ and } u \neq v\})$

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Hardness by reduction $\text{CLIQUE} \leq_p \text{INDEPENDENT SET}$:

- ▶ Given $G := (V, E)$ construct $\bar{G} := (V, \{\{u, v\} \mid \{u, v\} \notin E \text{ and } u \neq v\})$
- ▶ A set $X \subseteq V$ induces a clique in G iff X induces an ind. set in \bar{G} .
- ▶ **Reduction:** G has a clique of order k iff \bar{G} has an ind. set of order k .

3-Sat, Hamiltonian Path and SubsetSum

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 \end{array}$$

NP-Completeness of 3-SAT

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

Theorem 8.12

3-SAT is NP-complete.

Proof.

Hardness by reduction $\text{SAT} \leq_p \text{3-SAT}$:

- ▶ 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.

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(X) &= 1 \text{ if } L_i = X \\ \beta(X) &= 0 \text{ if } L_i = \neg X \end{aligned}$$

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

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. □