NP and Computational Intractability

Polynomial-Time Reduction

Desiderata'. Suppose we could solve X in polynomial-time. What else could we solve in polynomial time?

don't confuse with reduces from

Reduction. Problem X polynomial reduces to problem Y if arbitrary instances of problem X can be solved using:

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

computational model supplemented by special piece of hardware that solves instances of Y in a single step

Notation. $X \leq_P Y$.

Remarks.

- We pay for time to write down instances sent to black box $\Rightarrow$ instances of Y must be of polynomial size.
- Note: Cook reducibility.

in contrast to Karp reductions

Polynomial-Time Reduction

Purpose. Classify problems according to relative difficulty.

Design algorithms. If $X \leq_P Y$ and Y can be solved in polynomial-time, then X can also 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 $X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P X$, we use notation $X \equiv_P Y$.

up to cost of reduction

8.2 Reductions via "Gadgets"

Basic reduction strategies.

- Reduction by simple equivalence.
- Reduction from special case to general case.
- Reduction via "gadgets."

Satisfiability

Literal: A Boolean variable or its negation. x_i or $\overline{x_i}$

Clause: A disjunction of literals. $C_j = x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3$

Conjunctive normal form: A propositional formula Φ that is the conjunction of clauses. $\Phi = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3 \wedge C_4$

SAT: Given CNF formula Φ, does it have a satisfying truth assignment?

3-SAT: SAT where each clause contains exactly 3 literals.

each corresponds to a different variable

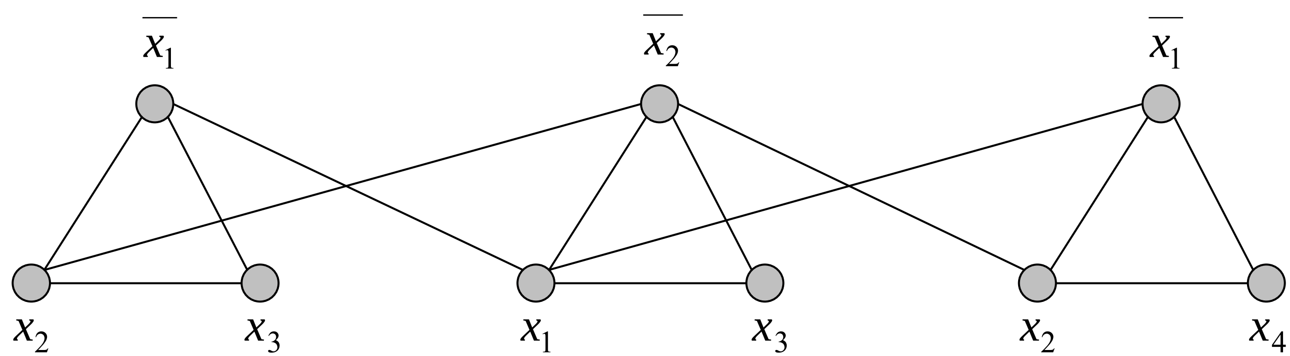
Ex: $\left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}\right)$

Yes: x_1 = true, x_2 = true x_3 = false.

3 Satisfiability Reduces to Independent Set

Claim. 3-SAT $\leq_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET.
Pf. Given an instance Φ of 3-SAT, we construct an instance (G, k) of INDEPENDENT-SET that has an independent set of size k iff Φ is satisfiable.

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



k = 3

$$\Phi = \left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_4\right)$$

3 Satisfiability Reduces to Independent Set

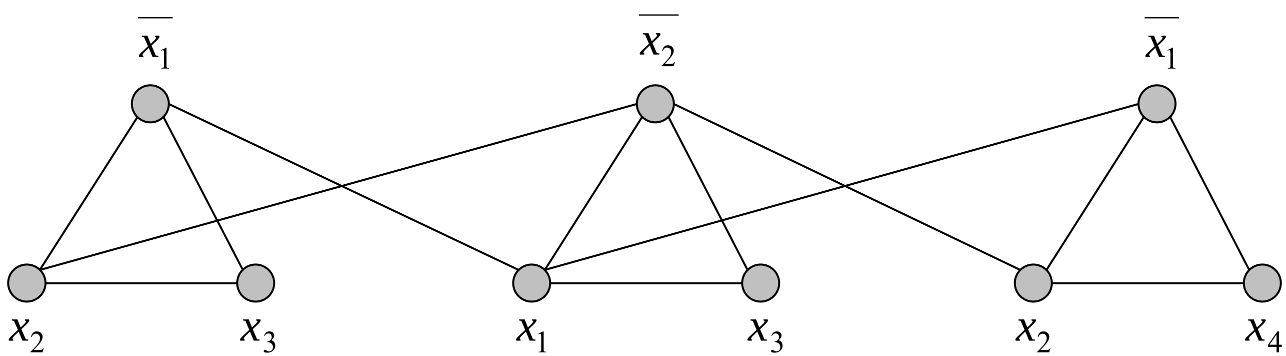
Claim. G contains independent set of size k = $|\Phi|$ iff Φ is satisfiable.

Pf. $\Rightarrow$ Let S be independent set of size k.

- S must contain exactly one vertex in each triangle.
- Set these literals to true. $\longleftarrow$ and any other variables in a consistent way
- Truth assignment is consistent and all clauses are satisfied.

Pf $\Leftarrow$ Given satisfying assignment, select one true literal from each triangle. This is an independent set of size k. ▪

G



k = 3

$$\Phi = \left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3\right) \wedge \left(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_4\right)$$

Review

Basic reduction strategies.

- Simple equivalence: INDEPENDENT-SET $\equiv_P$ VERTEX-COVER.
- Special case to general case: VERTEX-COVER $\leq_P$ SET-COVER.
- Encoding with gadgets: 3-SAT $\leq_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET.

Transitivity. If $X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P Z$, then $X \leq_P Z$.
Pf idea. Compose the two algorithms.

Ex: 3-SAT $\leq_P$ INDEPENDENT-SET $\leq_P$ VERTEX-COVER $\leq_P$ SET-COVER.

Self-Reducibility

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

Self-reducibility. Search problem $\leq_P$ decision version.

- Applies to all (NP-complete) problems in this chapter.
- Justifies our focus on decision problems.

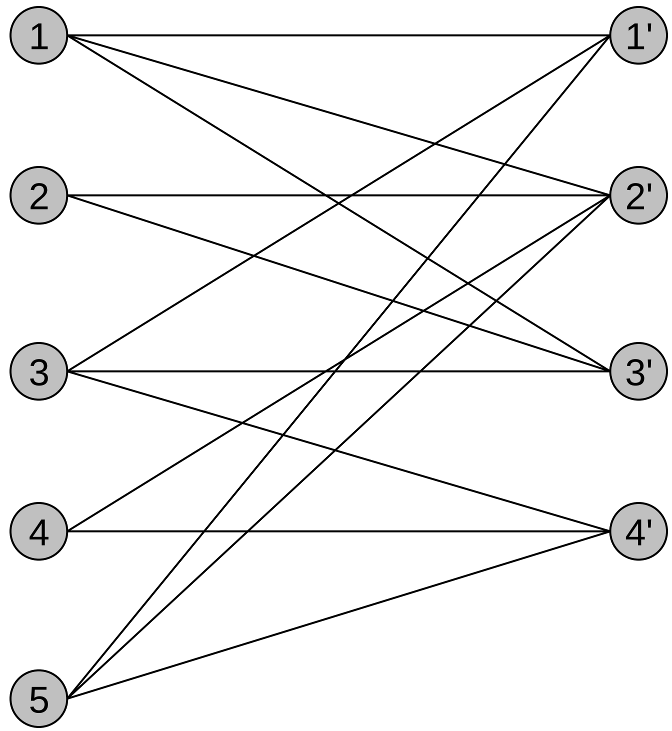
Ex: to find min cardinality vertex cover.

- (Binary) search for cardinality k* of min vertex cover.
- Find a vertex v such that $G - \{ v \}$ has a vertex cover of size $\leq$ k* - 1.
  - any vertex in any min vertex cover will have this property
- Include v in the vertex cover.
- Recursively find a min vertex cover in $G - \{ v \}$.

delete v and all incident edges

Hamiltonian Cycle

HAM-CYCLE: given an undirected graph G = (V, E), does there exist a simple cycle Γ that contains every node in V.

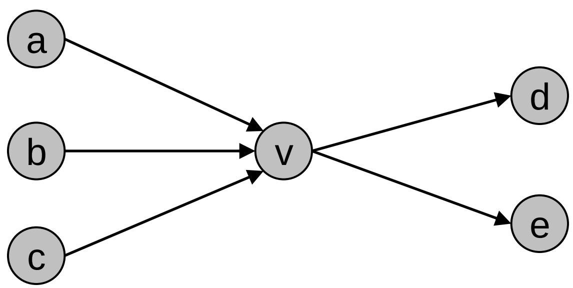


NO: bipartite graph with odd number of nodes.

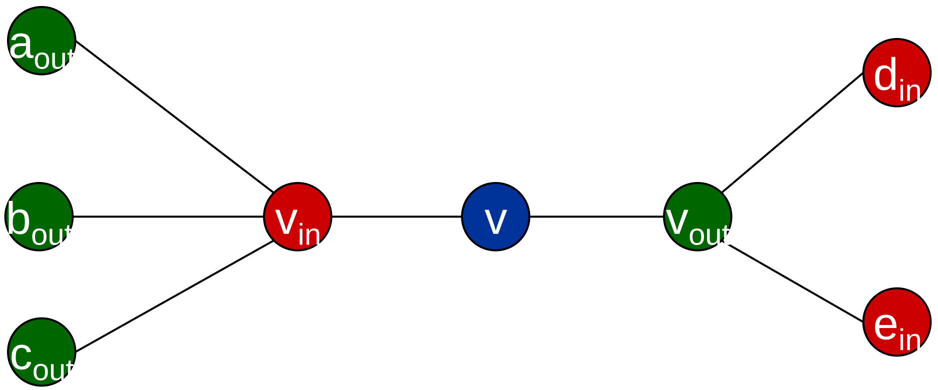
DIR-HAM-CYCLE: given a digraph $G = (V, E)$, does there exists a simple directed cycle Γ that contains every node in V?

Claim. DIR-HAM-CYCLE $\leq_P$ HAM-CYCLE.

Pf. Given a directed graph $G = (V, E)$, construct an undirected graph G' with 3n nodes.



G



G'

Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Claim. G has a Hamiltonian cycle iff G' does.

Pf. $\Rightarrow$

- Suppose G has a directed Hamiltonian cycle Γ.
- Then G' has an undirected Hamiltonian cycle (same order).

Pf. $\Leftarrow$

- Suppose G' has an undirected Hamiltonian cycle Γ'.
- Γ' must visit nodes in G' using one of following two orders:

  …, B, G, R, B, G, R, B, G, R, B, …

  …, B, R, G, B, R, G, B, R, G, B, …
- Blue nodes in Γ' make up directed Hamiltonian cycle Γ in G, or reverse of one. ▪

3-SAT Reduces to Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Claim. 3-SAT $\leq_P$ DIR-HAM-CYCLE.

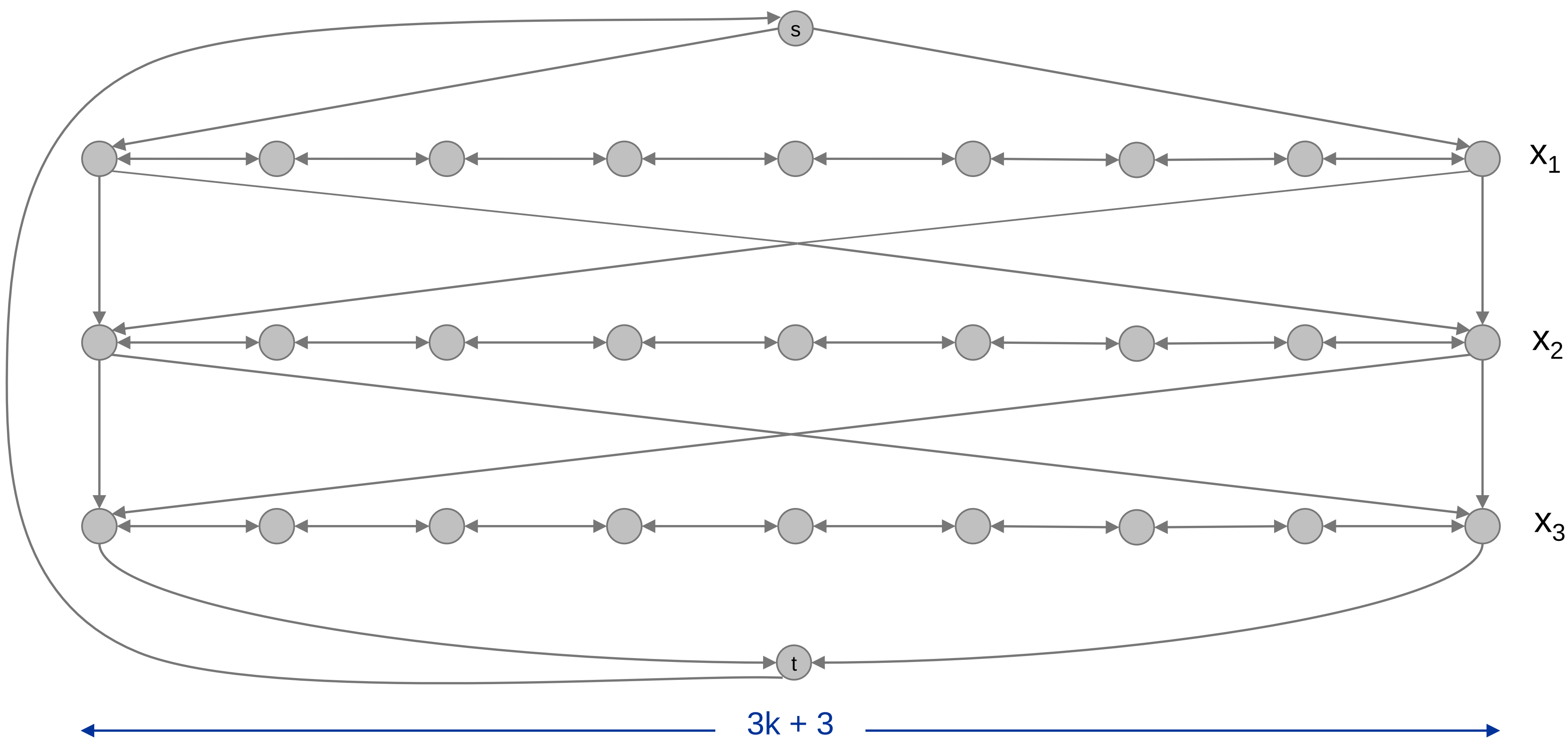
Pf. Given an instance Φ of 3-SAT, we construct an instance of DIR-HAM-CYCLE that has a Hamiltonian cycle iff Φ is satisfiable.

Construction. First, create graph that has 2^n Hamiltonian cycles which correspond in a natural way to 2^n possible truth assignments.

3-SAT Reduces to Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

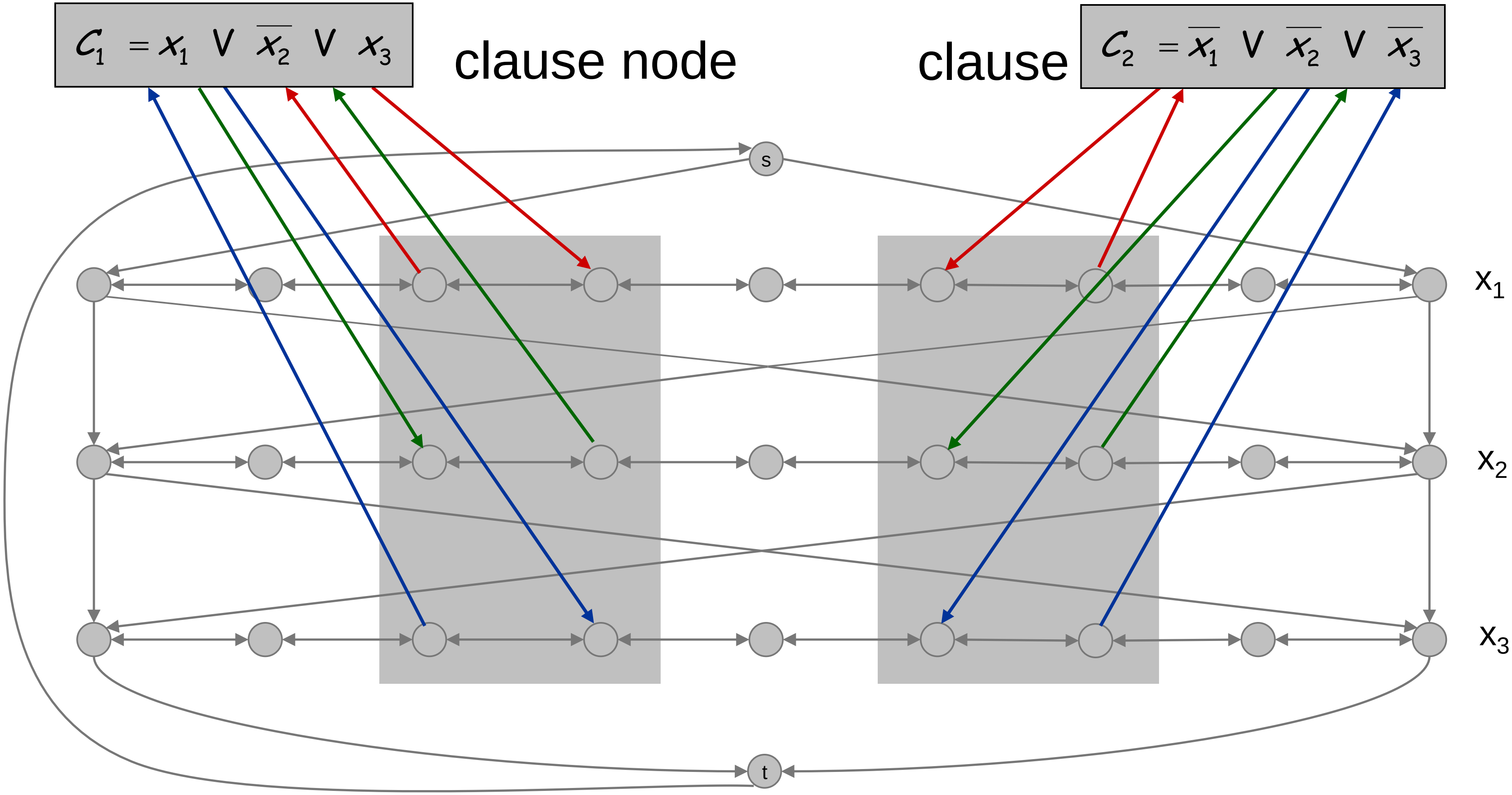
Construction. Given 3-SAT instance Φ with n variables x_i and k clauses.

- Construct G to have 2^n Hamiltonian cycles.
- Intuition: traverse path i from left to right $\Leftrightarrow$ set variable $x_i = 1$.



3-SAT Reduces to Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Construction. Given 3-SAT instance Φ with n variables x_i and k clauses.
- For each clause: add a node and 6 edges.



3-SAT Reduces to Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Claim. Φ is satisfiable iff G has a Hamiltonian cycle.

Pf. $\Rightarrow$

- Suppose 3-SAT instance has satisfying assignment x^*.
- Then, define Hamiltonian cycle in G as follows:
  - if $x^*_i = 1$, traverse row i from left to right
  - if $x^*_i = 0$, traverse row i from right to left
  - for each clause C_j , there will be at least one row i in which we are going in "correct" direction to splice node C_j into tour

3-SAT Reduces to Directed Hamiltonian Cycle

Claim. Φ is satisfiable iff G has a Hamiltonian cycle.

Pf. $\Leftarrow$

- Suppose G has a Hamiltonian cycle Γ.
- If Γ enters clause node C_j, it must depart on mate edge.
  - thus, nodes immediately before and after C_j are connected by an edge e in G
  - removing C_j from cycle, and replacing it with edge e yields Hamiltonian cycle on $G - \{ C_j \}$
- Continuing in this way, we are left with Hamiltonian cycle Γ' in $G - \{ C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_k \}$.
- Set $x^*_i = 1$ iff Γ' traverses row i left to right.
- Since Γ visits each clause node C_j, at least one of the paths is traversed in "correct" direction, and each clause is satisfied. ▪

Longest Path

SHORTEST-PATH. Given a digraph G = (V, E), does there exists a simple path of length at most k edges?

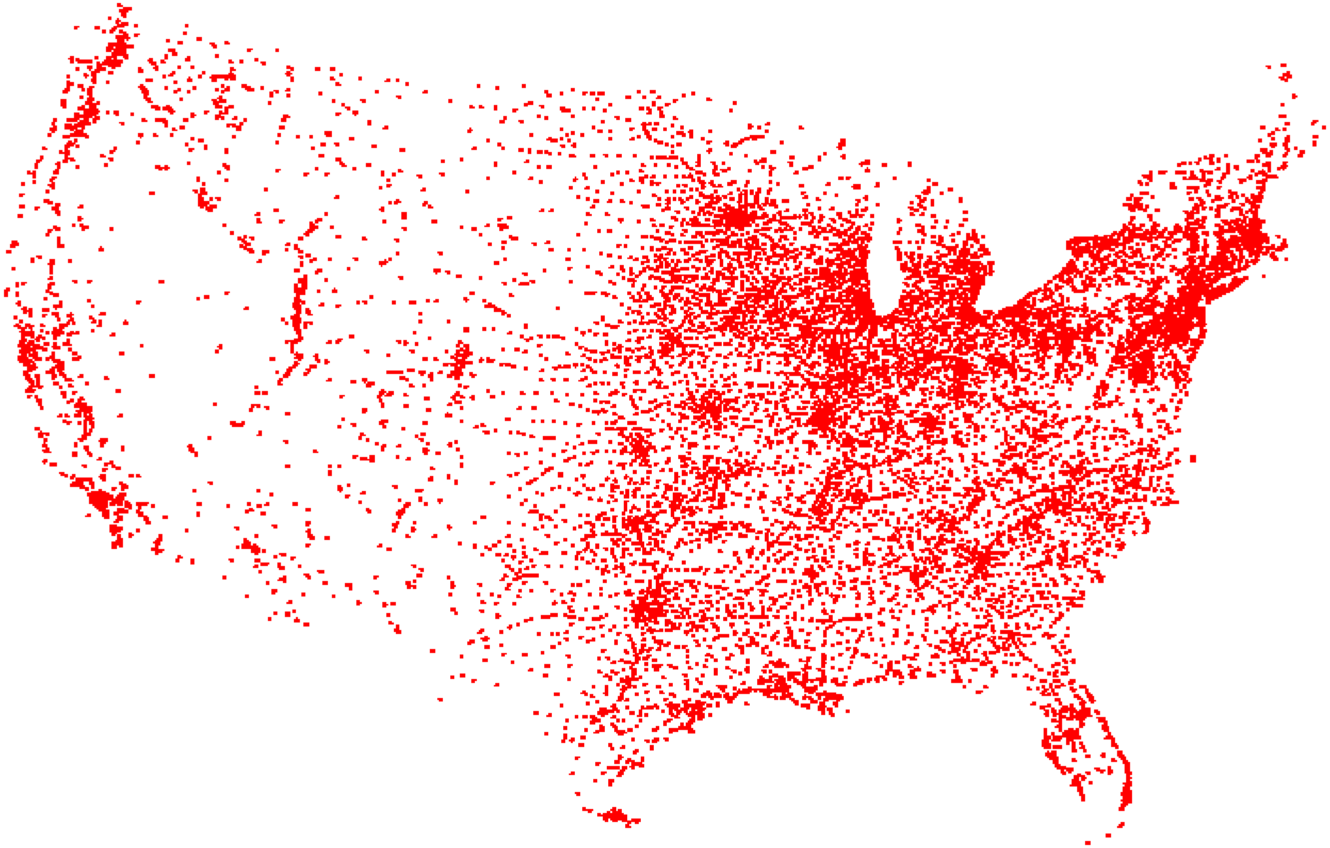
LONGEST-PATH. Given a digraph G = (V, E), does there exists a simple path of length at least k edges?

Claim. 3-SAT $\leq_P$ LONGEST-PATH.

Pf 1. Redo proof for DIR-HAM-CYCLE, ignoring back-edge from t to s.
Pf 2. Show HAM-CYCLE $\leq_P$ LONGEST-PATH.

Traveling Salesperson Problem

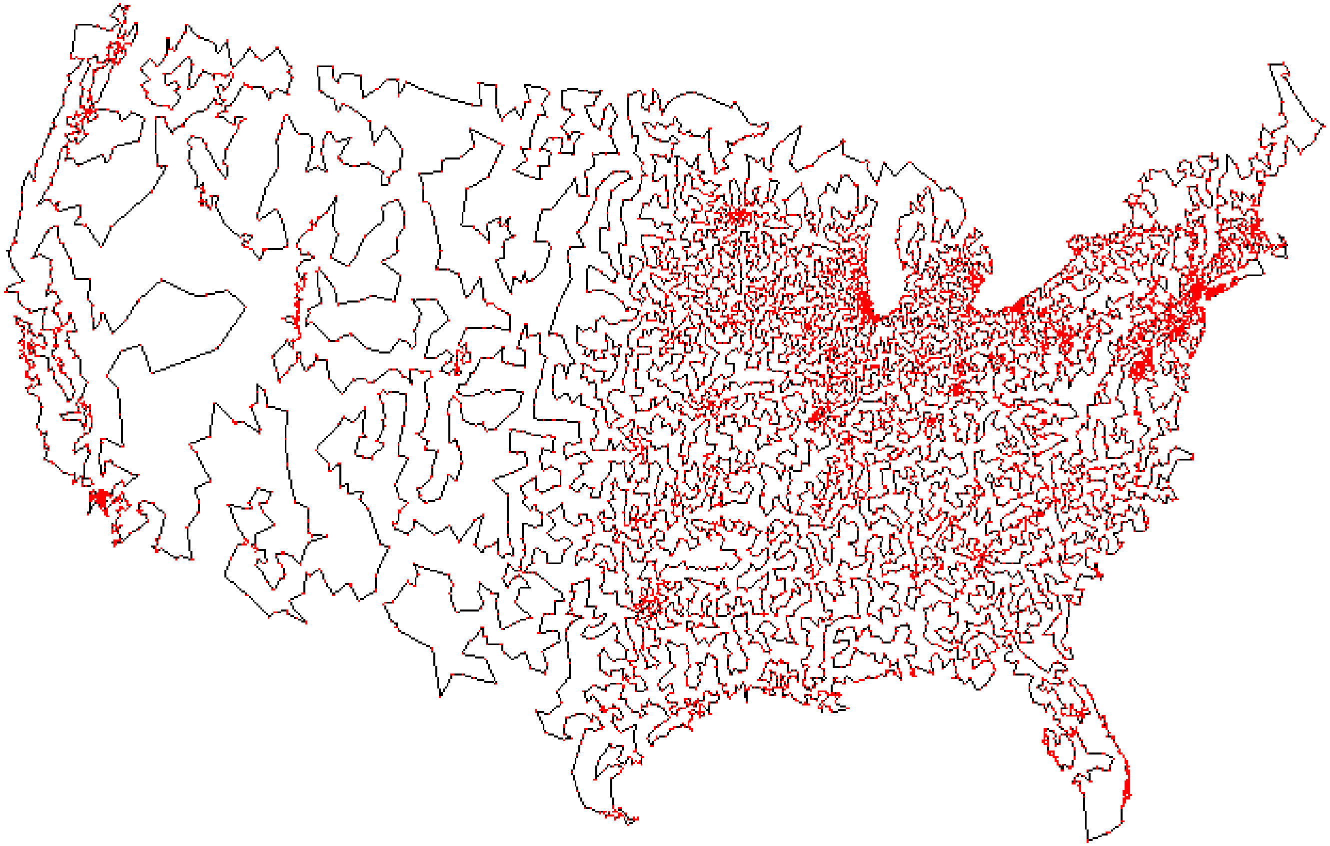
TSP. Given a set of n cities and a pairwise distance function d(u, v), is there a tour of length $\leq$ D?



All 13,509 cities in US with a population of at least 500
Reference: http://www.tsp.gatech.edu

Traveling Salesperson Problem

TSP. Given a set of n cities and a pairwise distance function d(u, v), is there a tour of length ≤ D?



Optimal TSP tour
Reference: http://www.tsp.gatech.edu

Traveling Salesperson Problem

TSP. Given a set of n cities and a pairwise distance function d(u, v), is there a tour of length $\leq$ D?

11,849 holes to drill in a programmed logic array
Reference: http://www.tsp.gatech.edu

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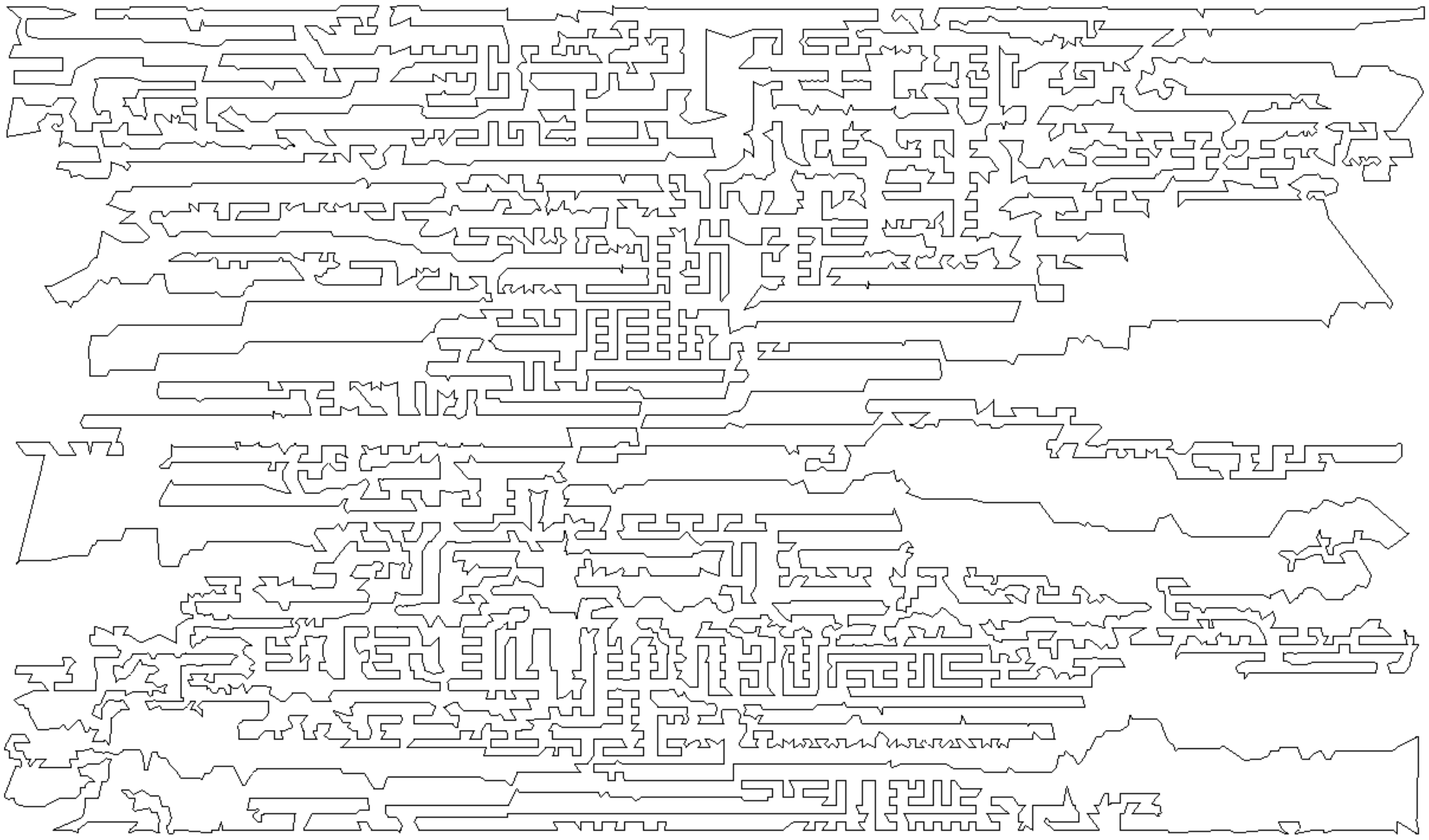

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Traveling Salesperson Problem

TSP. Given a set of n cities and a pairwise distance function d(u, v), is there a tour of length $\leq$ D?

HAM-CYCLE: given a graph G = (V, E), does there exists a simple cycle that contains every node in V?

Claim. HAM-CYCLE $\leq_P$ TSP.

Pf.

- Given instance G = (V, E) of HAM-CYCLE, create n cities with distance function

$$d(u, v) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (u, v) \in E \\ 2 & \text{if } (u, v) \notin E \end{cases}$$

- TSP instance has tour of length $\leq$ n iff G is Hamiltonian. ▪

Remark. TSP instance in reduction satisfies Δ-inequality.