Another Variant of 3SAT

Proposition 42 3SAT *is NP-complete for expressions in which each variable is restricted to appear at most three times, and each literal at most twice. (*3SAT *here requires only that each clause has* at most *3 literals.)*

The Proof (continued)

- Consider a general 3SAT expression in which x appears k times.
- Replace the first occurrence of x by x_1, the second by x_2, and so on.
  - $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_k$ are k *new* variables.

The Proof (concluded)

- Add $(\neg x_1 \lor x_2) \land (\neg x_2 \lor x_3) \land \cdots \land (\neg x_k \lor x_1)$ to the expression.
  - It is logically equivalent to
$$x_1 \Rightarrow x_2 \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow x_k \Rightarrow x_1.$$
  - So it is necessary that $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_k$ assume an identical truth value to satisfy the whole expression.
- Note that each clause $\neg x_i \lor x_j$ above has only 2 literals.
- The resulting equivalent expression satisfies the conditions for x.

An Example

- Suppose we are given the following 3SAT expression

$$\cdots (\neg x \lor w \lor g) \land \cdots \land (x \lor y \lor z) \cdots .$$

- The transformed expression is

$$\cdots (\boxed{\neg x_1} \lor w \lor g) \land \cdots \land (\boxed{x_2} \lor y \lor z) \cdots (\boxed{\neg x_1} \lor \boxed{x_2}) \land (\boxed{\neg x_2} \lor \boxed{x_1}).$$

  - Variable x_1 appears 3 times.
  - Literal x_1 appears once.
  - Literal $\neg x_1$ appears 2 times.

2SAT Is in NL $\subseteq$ P

- Let ϕ be an instance of 2SAT: Each clause has 2 literals.
- NL is a subset of P.[a]
- Because coNL = NL,[b] we need to show only that recognizing *unsatisfiable* 2SAT expressions is in NL.
- See the textbook for the complete proof.

[a] Recall p. 255.
[b] Recall p. 269.

Generalized 2sat: max2sat

- Consider a 2sat formula.
- Let $K \in \mathbb{N}$.
- max2sat asks whether there is a truth assignment that satisfies at least K of the clauses.
  - max2sat becomes 2sat when K equals the number of clauses.

Generalized 2SAT: MAX2SAT (concluded)

- MAX2SAT can be used to solve the related optimization version.
  - With binary search, one can nail the maximum number of satisfiable clauses of 2SAT formulas.
- MAX2SAT $\in$ NP: Guess a truth assignment and verify the count.
- We now reduce 3SAT to MAX2SAT.

MAX2SAT Is NP-Complete[a]

- Consider the following 10 clauses:

$$(x) \wedge (y) \wedge (z) \wedge (w)$$
$$(\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge (\neg y \vee \neg z) \wedge (\neg z \vee \neg x)$$
$$(x \vee \neg w) \wedge (y \vee \neg w) \wedge (z \vee \neg w)$$

- Let the 2SAT formula $r(x, y, z, w)$ represent the conjunction of these clauses.
- The clauses are symmetric with respect to x, y, and z.
- How many clauses can we satisfy?

[a]Garey, Johnson, & Stockmeyer (1976).

The Proof (continued)

All of x, y, z are true: By setting w to true, we satisfy $4 + 0 + 3 = 7$ clauses, whereas by setting w to false, we satisfy only $3 + 0 + 3 = 6$ clauses.

Two of x, y, z are true: By setting w to true, we satisfy $3 + 2 + 2 = 7$ clauses, whereas by setting w to false, we satisfy $2 + 2 + 3 = 7$ clauses.

The Proof (continued)

One of x, y, z is true: By setting w to false, we satisfy $1 + 3 + 3 = 7$ clauses, whereas by setting w to true, we satisfy only $2 + 3 + 1 = 6$ clauses.

None of x, y, z is true: By setting w to false, we satisfy $0 + 3 + 3 = 6$ clauses, whereas by setting w to true, we satisfy only $1 + 3 + 0 = 4$ clauses.

The Proof (continued)

- A truth assignment that satisfies $x \vee y \vee z$ can be *extended* to satisfy 7 of the 10 clauses of $r(x, y, z, w)$, *and no more*.
- A truth assignment that does *not* satisfy $x \vee y \vee z$ can be extended to satisfy only 6 of them, *and no more*.
- The reduction from 3SAT ϕ to 2SAT $R(\phi)$:
  - For each clause $C_i = (\alpha \vee \beta \vee \gamma)$ of ϕ, add $r(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, w_i)$ to $R(\phi)$.
- If ϕ has m clauses, then $R(\phi)$ has $10m$ clauses.

The Proof (continued)

- Finally, set $K = 7m$.
- So the reduction transforms ϕ to $(R(\phi), 7m)$.
- We now show that K clauses of $R(\phi)$ can be satisfied if and only if ϕ is satisfiable.

The Proof (continued)

- Suppose $K = 7m$ clauses of $R(\phi)$ can be satisfied.
  - 7 clauses of each $r(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, w_i)$ must be satisfied because it can have at most 7 clauses satisfied.[a]
  - Hence each clause $C_i = (\alpha \lor \beta \lor \gamma)$ of ϕ is satisfied by the same truth assignment.
  - So ϕ is satisfied.

---

[a] If 70% of the world population are male and if at most 70% of each country's population are male, then each country must have exactly 70% male population.

The Proof (concluded)

- Suppose ϕ is satisfiable.
  - Let T satisfy all clauses of ϕ.
  - Each $r(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, w_i)$ can set its w_i appropriately to have 7 clauses satisfied.
  - So $K = 7m$ clauses are satisfied.

NAESAT

- The NAESAT (for "not-all-equal" SAT) is like 3SAT.
- But there must be a satisfying truth assignment under which no clauses have all three literals equal in truth value.
  - Equivalently, there is a truth assignment such that each clause has a literal assigned true and a literal assigned false.
  - Equivalently, there is a *satisfying* truth assignment under which each clause has a literal assigned false.

NAESAT (concluded)

- Take

$$\begin{aligned}\phi &= (\neg x_1 \lor \neg x_2 \lor \neg x_3) \land (\neg x_1 \lor x_2 \lor \neg x_3) \\ &\land \quad (x_1 \lor x_2 \lor x_3)\end{aligned}$$

  as an example.

- Then $\{ x_1 = \texttt{true}, x_2 = \texttt{false}, x_3 = \texttt{false} \}$ NAE-satisfies ϕ because

$$\begin{aligned}&(\boxed{\texttt{false}} \lor \texttt{true} \lor \texttt{true}) \land (\boxed{\texttt{false}} \lor \boxed{\texttt{false}} \lor \texttt{true}) \\ \land \quad &(\texttt{true} \lor \boxed{\texttt{false}} \lor \boxed{\texttt{false}}).\end{aligned}$$

NAESAT Is NP-Complete[a]

- Recall the reduction of CIRCUIT SAT to SAT on p. 293ff.
- It produced a CNF ϕ in which each clause had 1, 2, or 3 literals.
- Add the same variable z to all clauses with fewer than 3 literals to make it a 3SAT formula.
- Goal: The new formula $\phi(z)$ is NAE-satisfiable if and only if the original circuit is satisfiable.

[a] Schaefer (1978).

The Proof (continued)

- The following simple observation will be useful.
- Suppose T NAE-satisfies a boolean formula ϕ.
- Let $\bar{T}$ take the opposite truth value of T on every variable.
- Then $\bar{T}$ also NAE-satisfies ϕ.[a]

---

[a]Hesse's *Siddhartha* (1922), "The opposite of every truth is just as true!"

The Proof (continued)

- Suppose T NAE-satisfies $\phi(z)$.
  - $\bar{T}$ also NAE-satisfies $\phi(z)$.
  - Under T or $\bar{T}$, variable z takes the value false.
  - *This* truth assignment $\mathcal{T}$ must satisfy all the clauses of ϕ.
    * Because z is not the reason that makes $\phi(z)$ true under $\mathcal{T}$ anyway.
  - So $\mathcal{T} \models \phi$.
  - And the original circuit is satisfiable.

The Proof (concluded)

- Suppose there is a truth assignment that satisfies the circuit.
  - Then there is a truth assignment T that satisfies every clause of ϕ.
  - Extend T by adding $T(z) = \texttt{false}$ to obtain T'.
  - T' satisfies $\phi(z)$.
  - Clearly, in no clauses are all three literals false under T'.
  - In no clauses are all three literals true under T'.
    * Need to go over the detailed construction on pp. 294–296.

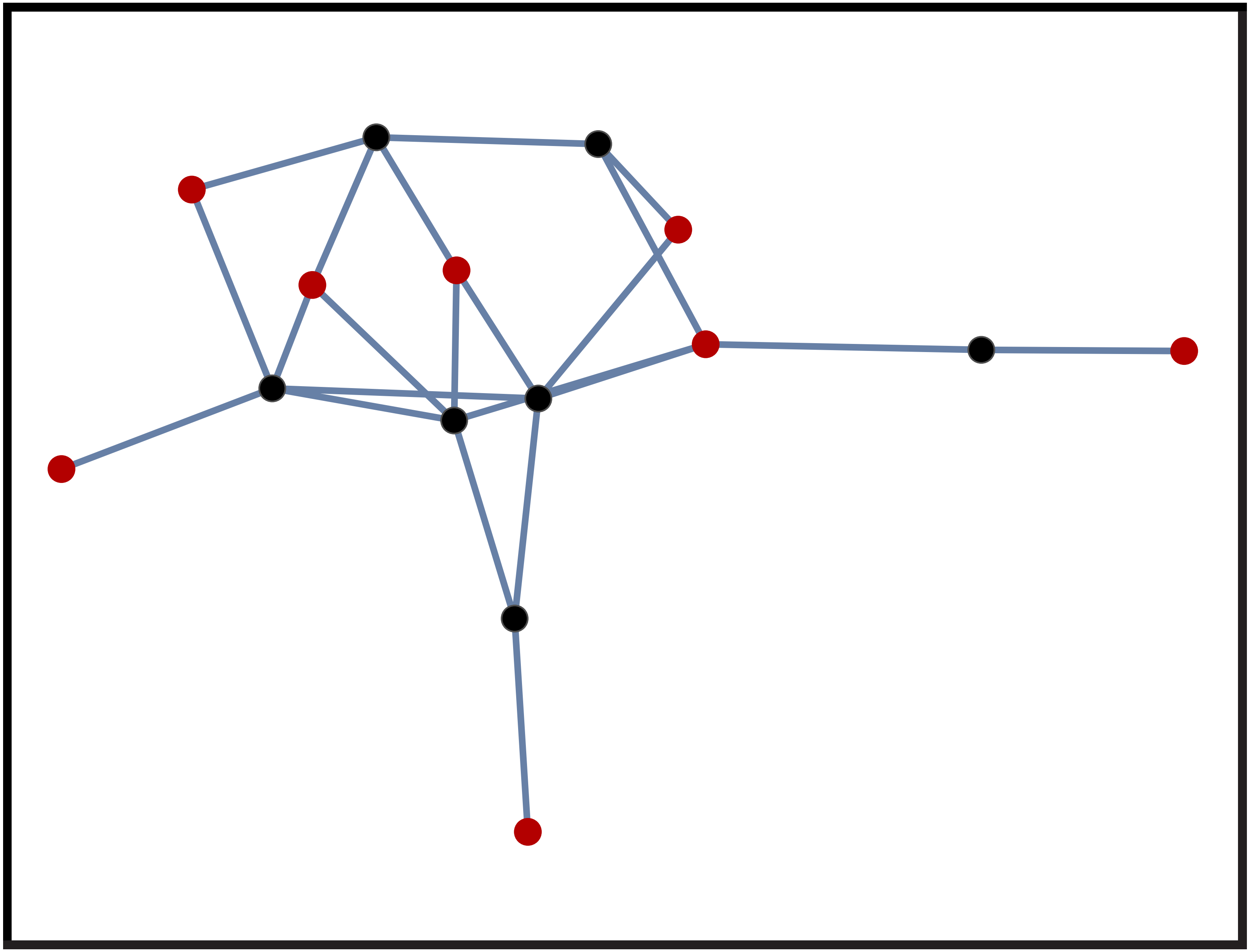
Undirected Graphs

- An **undirected graph** $G = (V, E)$ has a finite set of nodes, V, and a set of *undirected* edges, E.
- It is like a directed graph except that the edges have no directions and there are no self-loops.
- Use $[\, i, j \,]$ to mean there is an undirected edge between node i and node j.[a]

[a] An equally good notation is $\{\, i, j \,\}$.

Independent Sets

- Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected graph.
- $I \subseteq V$.
- I is **independent** if there is no edge between any two nodes $i, j \in I$.
- INDEPENDENT SET: Given an undirected graph and a goal K, is there an independent set of size K?
- Many applications.



INDEPENDENT SET Is NP-Complete

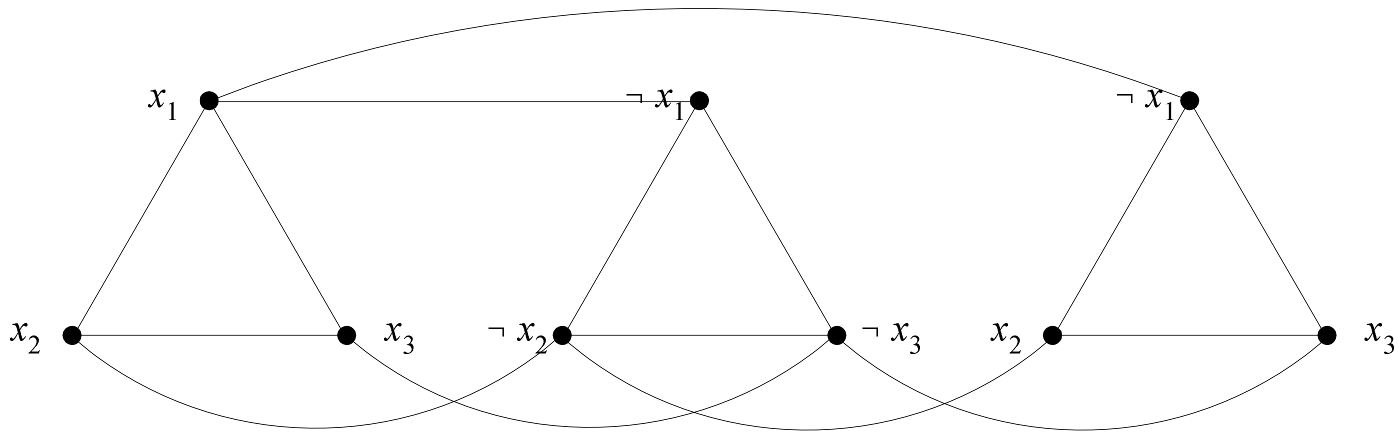
- This problem is in NP: Guess a set of nodes and verify that it is independent and meets the count.
- We will reduce 3SAT to INDEPENDENT SET.
- Note: If a graph contains a triangle, any independent set can contain at most one node of the triangle.
- The reduction will output graphs whose nodes can be partitioned into disjoint triangles, one for each clause.[a]

[a] Recall that a reduction does not have to be an onto function.

The Proof (continued)

- Let ϕ be a 3SAT formula with m clauses.
- We will construct graph G with $K = m$.
- Furthermore, ϕ is satisfiable if and only if G has an independent set of size K.
- Here is the reduction:
  - There is a triangle for each clause with the literals as the nodes' labels.
  - Add edges between x and $\neg x$ for every variable x.

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$



Identical literals that appear in the same clause or different clauses yield *distinct* nodes.

The Proof (continued)

- Suppose G has an independent set I of size $K = m$.
  - An independent set can contain at most m nodes, one from each triangle.
  - So I contains *exactly one* node from each triangle.
  - Truth assignment T assigns true to those literals in I.
  - T is consistent because contradictory literals are connected by an edge; hence both cannot be in I.
  - T satisfies ϕ because it has a node from every triangle, thus satisfying every clause.[a]

[a]The variables without a truth value can be assigned arbitrarily. Contributed by Mr. Chun-Yuan Chen (`R99922119`) on November 2, 2010.

The Proof (concluded)

- Suppose ϕ is satisfiable.
  - Let truth assignment T satisfy ϕ.
  - Collect one node from each triangle whose literal is true under T.
  - The choice is arbitrary if there is more than one true literal.
  - This set of m nodes must be independent by construction.
    * Because both literals x and $\neg x$ cannot be assigned true.

Other INDEPENDENT SET-Related NP-Complete Problems

Corollary 43 INDEPENDENT SET *is NP-complete for 4-degree graphs.*

Theorem 44 INDEPENDENT SET *is NP-complete for planar graphs.*

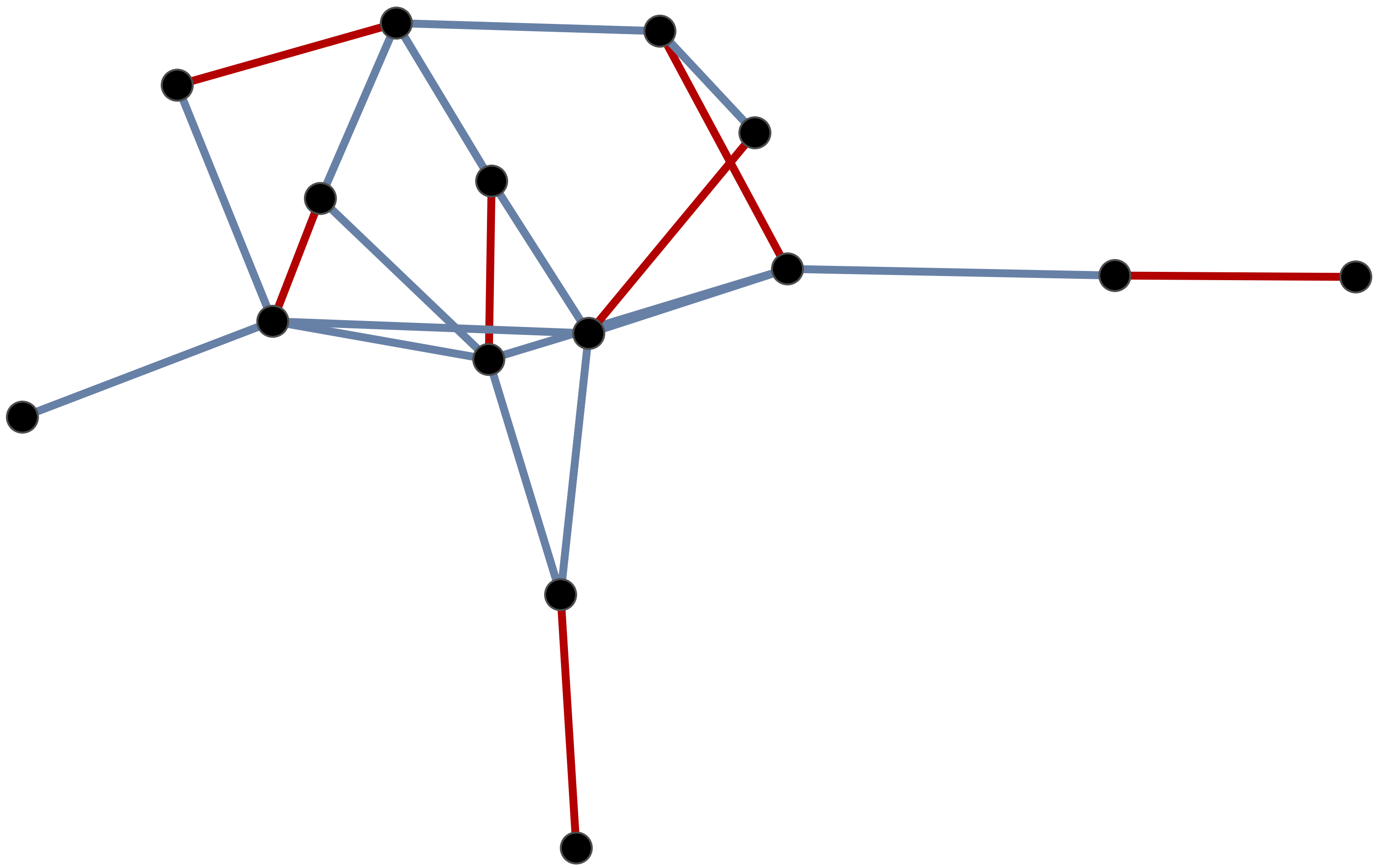
Theorem 45 (Garey & Johnson, 1977) INDEPENDENT SET *is NP-complete for 3-degree planar graphs.*

Is INDEPENDENT EDGE SET Also NP-Complete?

- INDEPENDENT EDGE SET: Given an undirected graph and a goal K, is there an independent *edge* set of size K?
- This problem is equivalent to maximum matching!
- Maximum matching can be solved in polynomial time.[a]

[a]Edmonds (1965); Micali & V. Vazirani (1980).

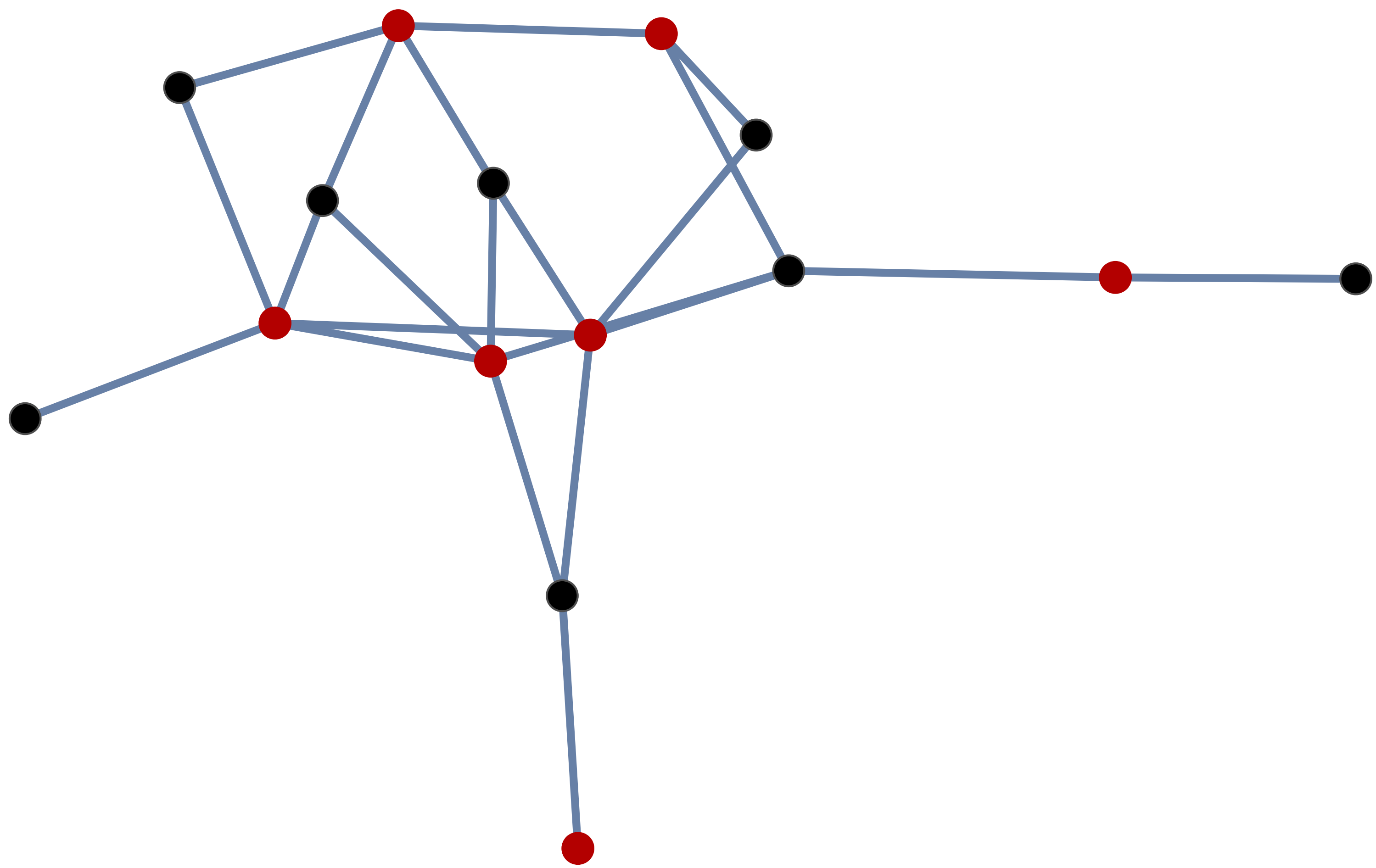
A Maximum Matching



NODE COVER

- We are given an undirected graph G and a goal K.
- NODE COVER: Is there a set C with K or fewer nodes such that each edge of G has at least one of its endpoints (i.e., incident nodes) in C?
- Many applications.

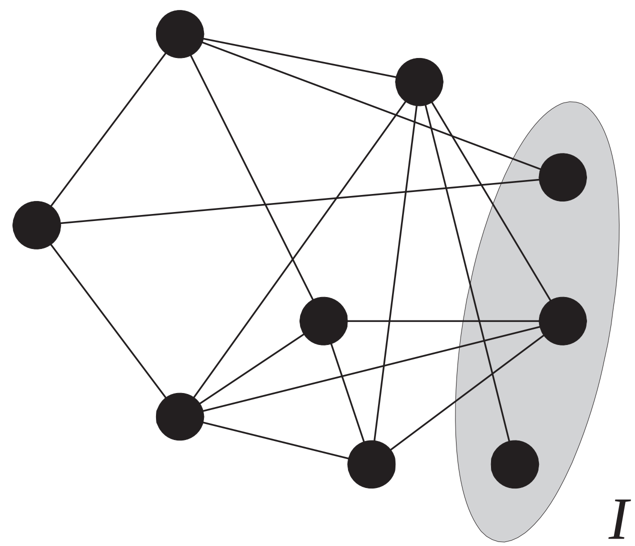
NODE COVER (concluded)



NODE COVER Is NP-Complete

Corollary 46 (Karp, 1972) NODE COVER *is NP-complete.*

- I is an independent set of $G = (V, E)$ if and only if $V - I$ is a node cover of G.[a]



[a] Finish the reduction!

Richard Karp[a] (1935–)

[a]Turing Award (1985).

Remarks[a]

- Are INDEPENDENT SET and NODE COVER in P if K is a constant?
  - Yes, because one can do an exhaustive search on all the possible node covers or independent sets (both $\binom{n}{K} = O(n^K)$ of them, a polynomial).[b]
- Are INDEPENDENT SET and NODE COVER NP-complete if K is a linear function of n?
  - INDEPENDENT SET with $K = n/3$ and NODE COVER with $K = 2n/3$ remain NP-complete by our reductions.

---

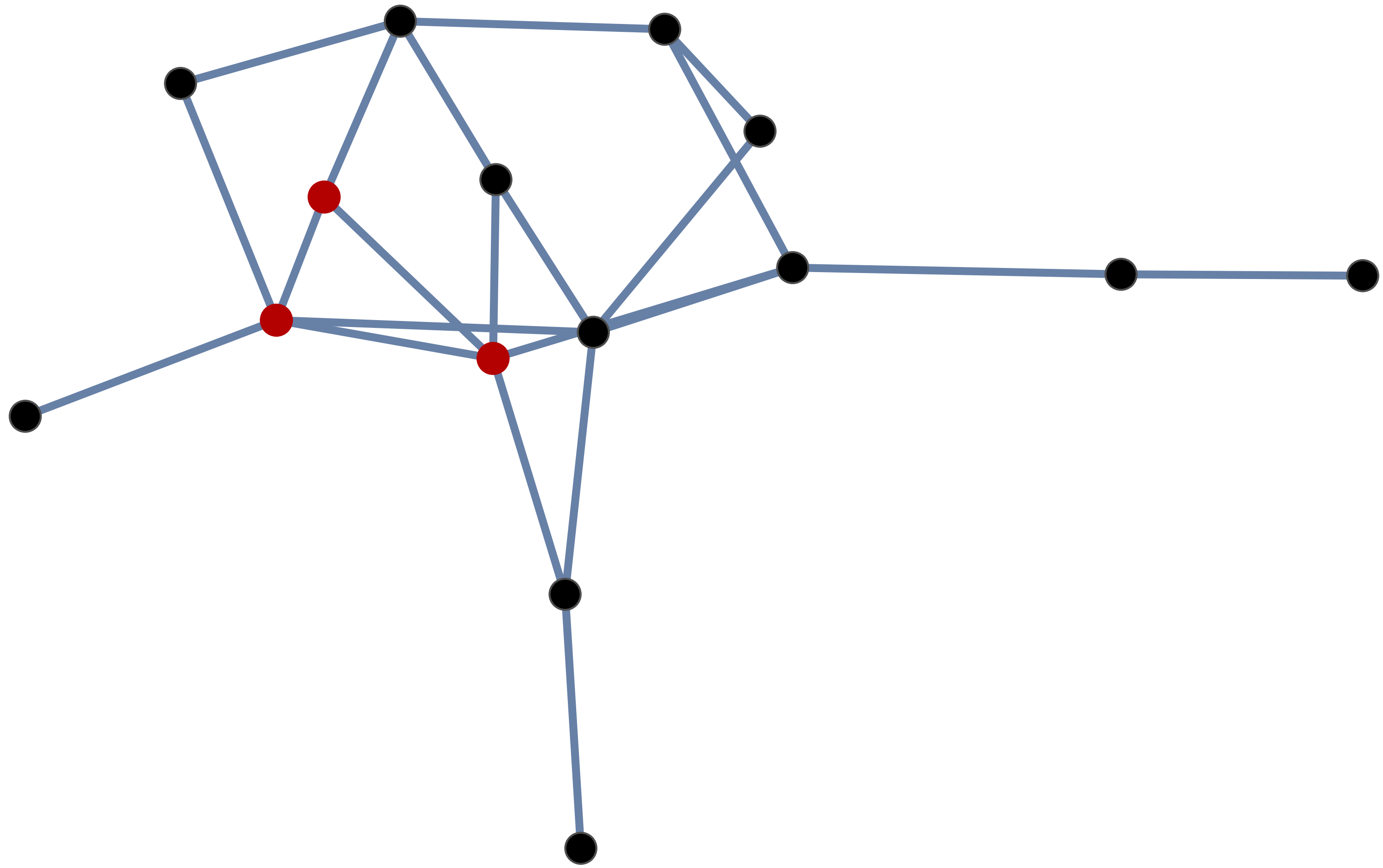
[a] Contributed by Mr. Ching-Hua Yu (D00921025) on October 30, 2012.

[b] $n = |V|$.

CLIQUE

- We are given an undirected graph G and a goal K.
- CLIQUE asks if there is a set C with K nodes such that there is an edge between any two nodes $i, j \in C$.
- Many applications.

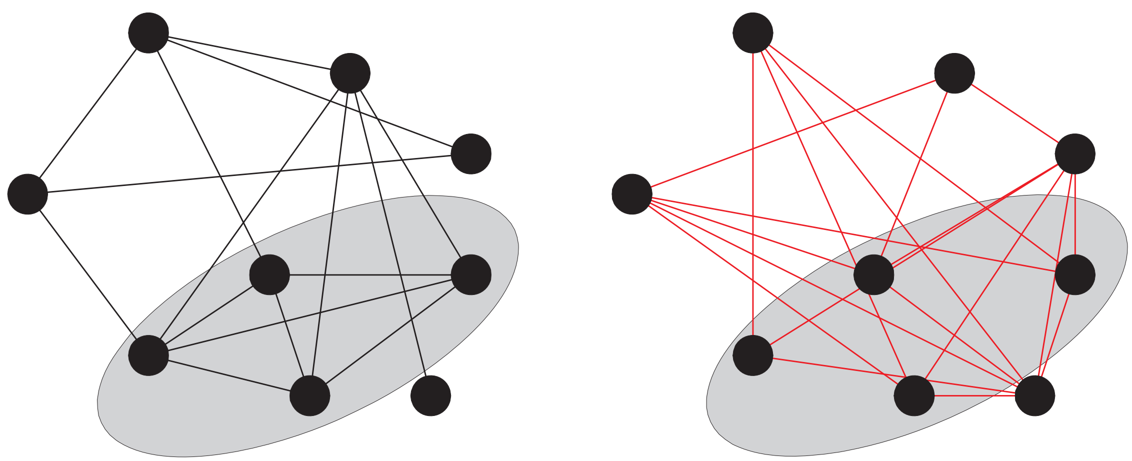
CLIQUE (concluded)



CLIQUE Is NP-Complete[a]

Corollary 47 CLIQUE *is NP-complete.*

- Let $\bar{G}$ be the **complement** of G, where $[\,x, y\,] \in \bar{G}$ if and only if $[\,x, y\,] \notin G$.
- I is a clique in $G \Leftrightarrow I$ is an independent set in $\bar{G}$.



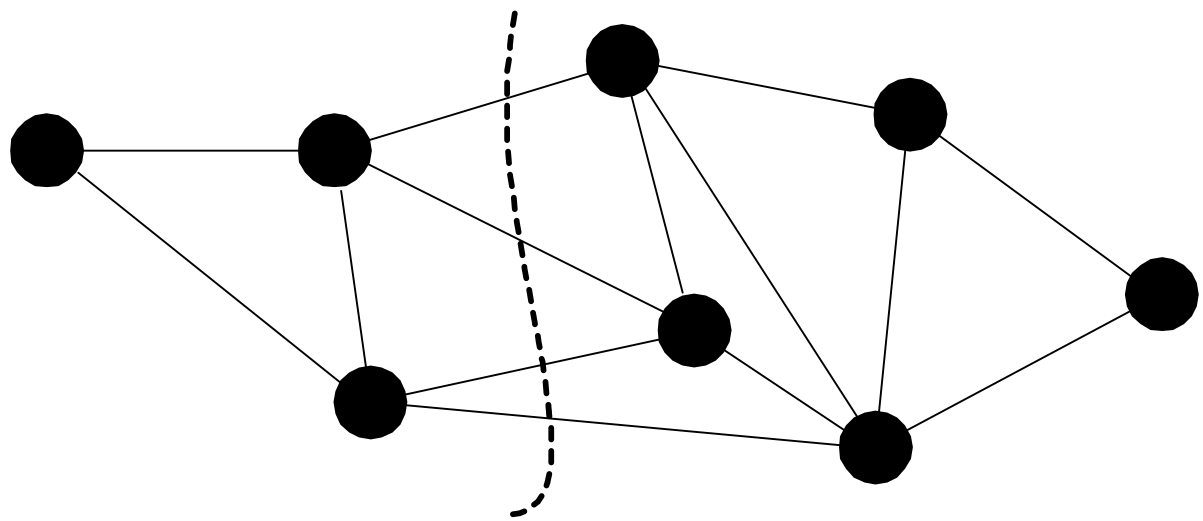
[a]Karp (1972).

MIN CUT and MAX CUT

- A **cut** in an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ is a partition of the nodes into two nonempty sets S and $V - S$.
- The size of a cut $(S, V - S)$ is the number of edges between S and $V - S$.
- MIN CUT asks for the minimum cut size.
- MIN CUT $\in$ P by the maxflow algorithm.[a]
- MAX CUT asks if there is a cut of size at least K.
  - K is part of the input.

[a] Ford & Fulkerson (1962); Orlin (2012) improves the running time to $O(|V| \cdot |E|)$.

A Cut of Size 4



MIN CUT and MAX CUT (concluded)

- MAX CUT has applications in circuit layout.
  - The minimum area of a VLSI layout of a graph is not less than the square of its maximum cut size.[a]

[a] Raspaud, Sýkora, & Vrťo (1995); Mak & Wong (2000).

MAX CUT Is NP-Complete[a]

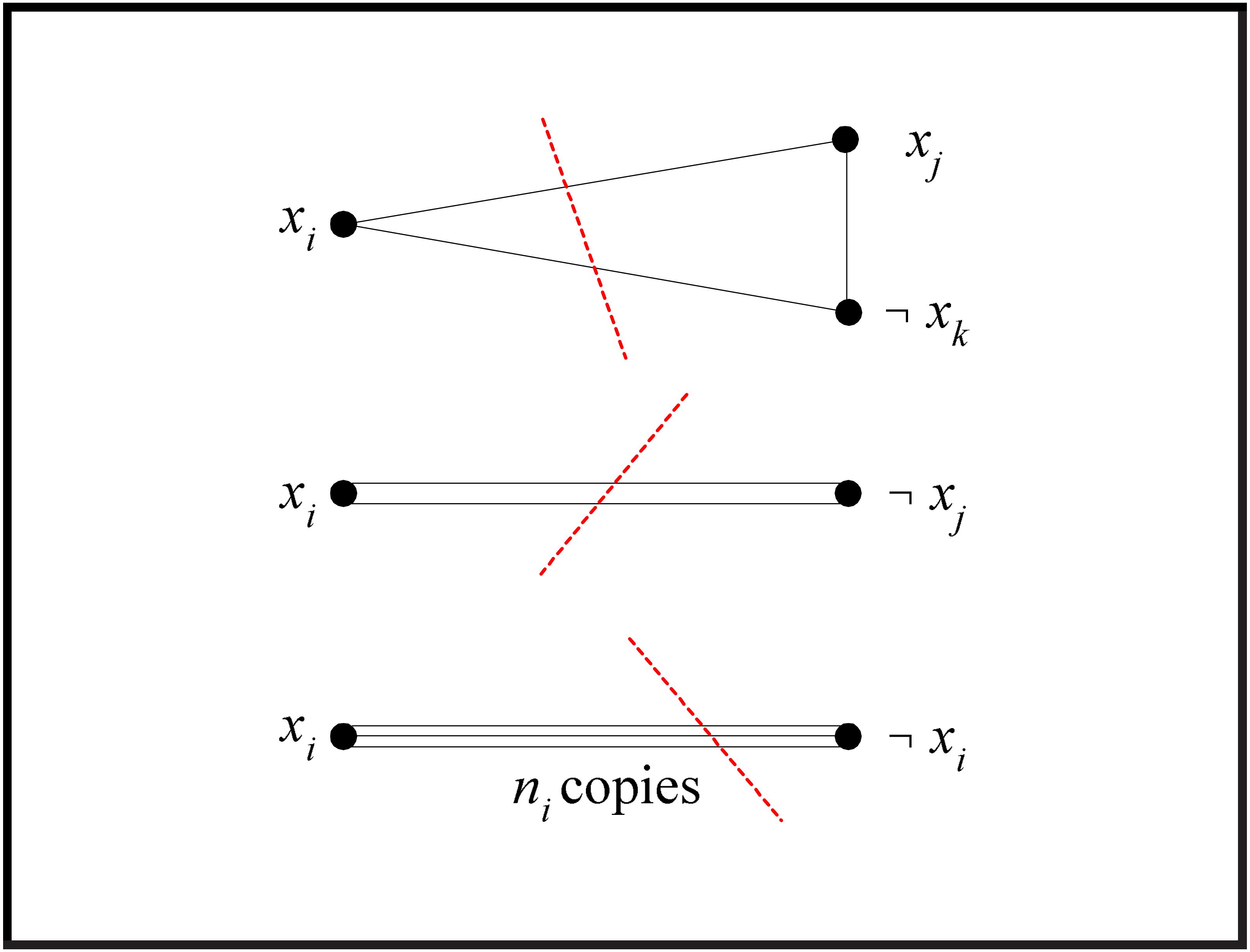
- We will reduce NAESAT to MAX CUT.
- Given a 3SAT formula ϕ with m clauses, we shall construct a graph $G = (V, E)$ and a goal K.
- Furthermore, there is a cut of size at least K if and only if ϕ is NAE-satisfiable.
- Our graph will have *multiple* edges between two nodes.
  - Each such edge contributes one to the cut if its nodes are separated.

---

[a]Karp (1972); Garey, Johnson, & Stockmeyer (1976). MAX CUT remains NP-complete even for graphs with maximum degree 3 (Makedon, Papadimitriou, & Sudborough, 1985).

The Proof

- Suppose ϕ's m clauses are $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_m$.
- The boolean variables are $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$.
- G has $2n$ nodes: $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n, \neg x_1, \neg x_2, \ldots, \neg x_n$.
- Each clause with 3 distinct literals makes a triangle in G.
- For each clause with two identical literals, there are two parallel edges between the two distinct literals.
  - Call it a degenerate triangle.


x_j
x_i
$\neg x_k$
x_i
$\neg x_j$
x_i
$\neg x_i$
n_i copies

The Proof (continued)

- Assume ϕ has no clauses with only one distinct literal (why?).
- Ignore clauses containing two opposite literals x_i and $\neg x_i$ (why?).
- For each variable x_i, add n_i copies of edge $[\, x_i, \neg x_i \,]$, where n_i is the number of occurrences of x_i and $\neg x_i$ in ϕ.
- Note that
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i = 3m.$$
  - The summation counts the number of literals in ϕ.

Take

$$(x_1 \lor x_2 \lor x_2) \land (x_1 \lor \neg x_3 \lor \neg x_3) \land (\neg x_1 \lor \neg x_2 \lor x_3).$$

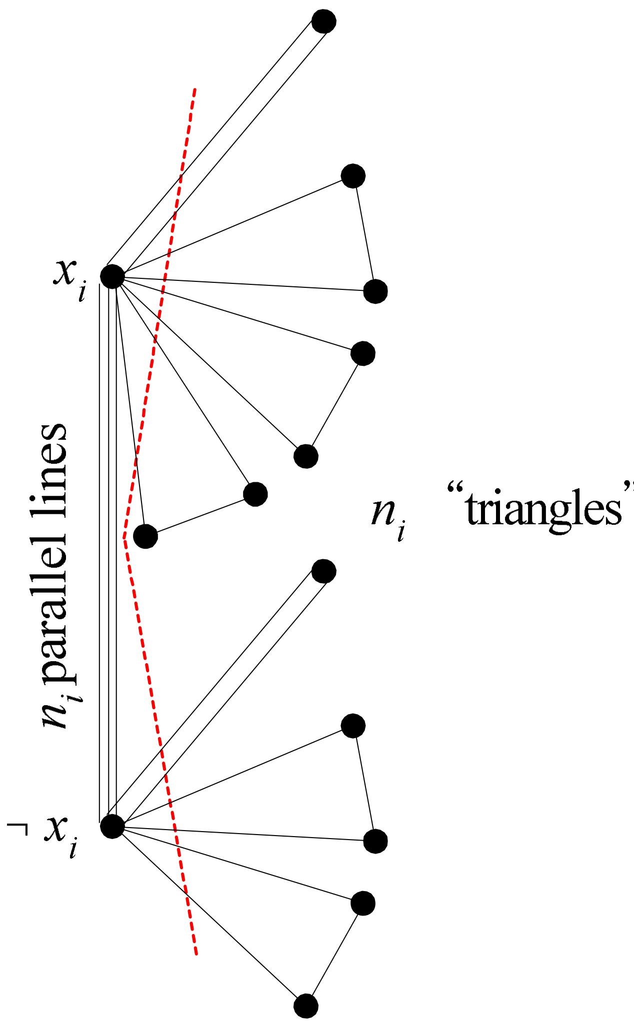
- Then $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 3$

The Proof (continued)

- Set $K = 5m$.
- Suppose there is a cut $(S, V - S)$ of size $5m$ or more.
- A clause (a triangle, i.e.) contributes at most 2 to a cut however you split it.[a]
- Suppose some x_i and $\neg x_i$ are on the *same* side of the cut.
- They *together* contribute at most $2n_i$ edges to the cut.
  - They appear in at most n_i different *clauses*.
  - A clause contributes at most 2 to a cut.

---

[a]See p. 402.


x_i
n_i parallel lines
$\neg\, x_i$
n_i "triangles"

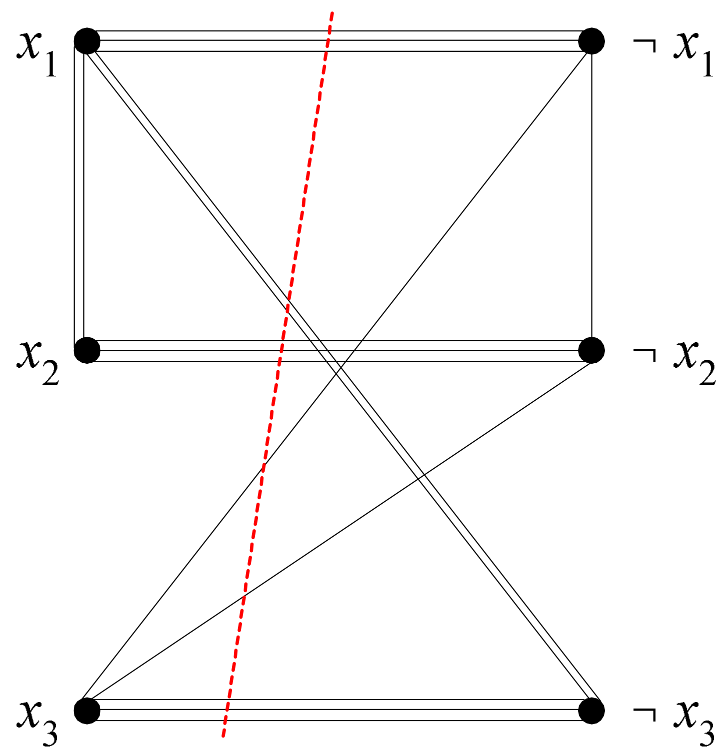
The Proof (continued)

- Either x_i or $\neg x_i$ contributes at most n_i to the cut by the pigeonhole principle.
- Changing the side of that literal does *not decrease* the size of the cut.
- Hence we assume variables are separated from their negations.
- The total number of edges in the cut that join opposite literals x_i and $\neg x_i$ is $\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i$.
- But we knew $\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i = 3m$.

The Proof (concluded)

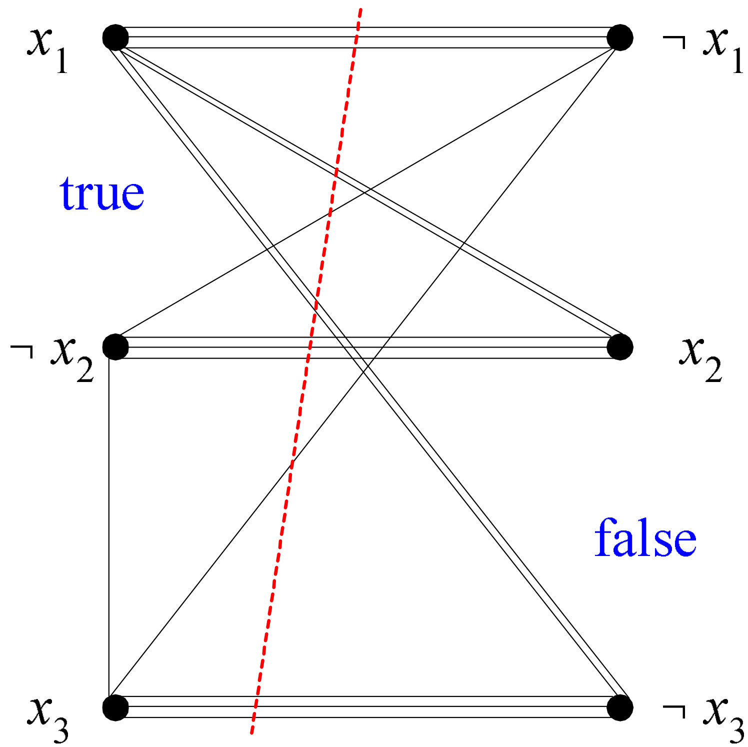
- The *remaining* $K - 3m \geq 2m$ edges in the cut must come from the m triangles that correspond to clauses.
- Each can contribute at most 2 to the cut.
- So all are split.
- A split clause means at least one of its literals is true and at least one false.
- The other direction is left as an exercise.

This Cut Does Not Meet the Goal $K = 5 \times 3 = 15$



- $(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_2) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_3)$.
- The cut size is $13 < 15$.

This Cut Meets the Goal $K = 5 \times 3 = 15$



- $(x_1 \lor x_2 \lor x_2) \land (x_1 \lor \neg x_3 \lor \neg x_3) \land (\neg x_1 \lor \neg x_2 \lor x_3)$.
- The cut size is now 15.

Remarks

- We had proved that MAX CUT is NP-complete for multigraphs.
- How about proving the same thing for simple graphs?[a]
- How to modify the proof to reduce 4SAT to MAX CUT?[b]
- All NP-complete problems are mutually reducible by definition.[c]
  - So they are equally hard in this sense.[d]

---

[a] Contributed by Mr. Tai-Dai Chou (J93922005) on June 2, 2005.
[b] Contributed by Mr. Chien-Lin Chen (J94922015) on June 8, 2006.
[c] Contributed by Mr. Ren-Shuo Liu (D98922016) on October 27, 2009.
[d] Contributed by Mr. Ren-Shuo Liu (D98922016) on October 27, 2009.

MAX BISECTION

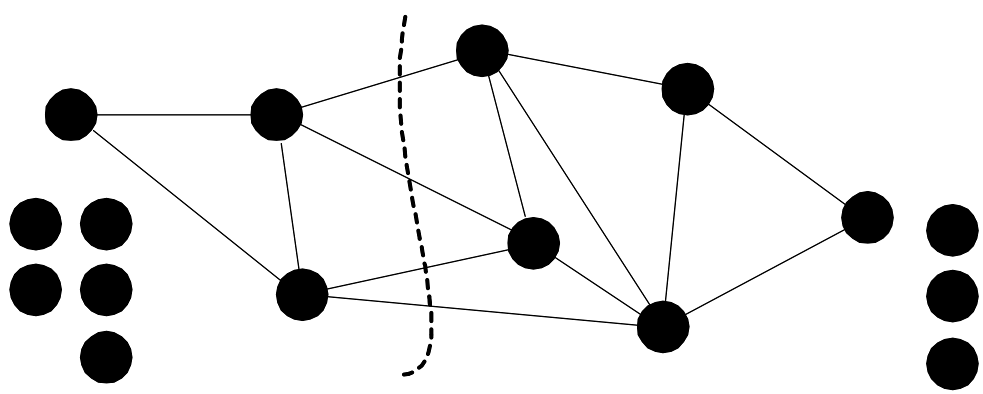
- MAX CUT becomes MAX BISECTION if we require that $|S| = |V - S|$.
- It has many applications, especially in VLSI layout.

MAX BISECTION Is NP-Complete

- We shall reduce the more general MAX CUT to MAX BISECTION.
- Add $|V| = n$ **isolated nodes** to G to yield G'.
- G' has $2n$ nodes.
- G''s goal K is identical to G's
  - As the new nodes have no edges, they contribute 0 to the cut.
- This completes the reduction.

The Proof (concluded)

- A cut $(S, V - S)$ can be made into a bisection by allocating the new nodes between S and $V - S$.
- Hence each cut of G can be made a cut of G' of the same size, and vice versa.



BISECTION WIDTH

- BISECTION WIDTH is like MAX BISECTION except that it asks if there is a bisection of size *at most* K (sort of MIN BISECTION).
- Unlike MIN CUT, BISECTION WIDTH is NP-complete.
- We reduce MAX BISECTION to BISECTION WIDTH.
- Given a graph $G = (V, E)$, where $|V|$ is even, we generate the complement[a] of G.
- Given a goal of K, we generate a goal of $n^2 - K$.[b]

---

[a] Recall p. 396.
[b] $|V| = 2n$.

The Proof (concluded)

- To show the reduction works, simply notice the following easily verifiable claims.
  - A graph $G = (V, E)$, where $|\, V \,| = 2n$, has a bisection of size K if and only if the complement of G has a bisection of size $n^2 - K$.
  - So G has a bisection of size $\geq K$ if and only if its complement has a bisection of size $\leq n^2 - K$.

HAMILTONIAN PATH Is NP-Complete[a]

Theorem 48 *Given an* undirected *graph, the question whether it has a Hamiltonian path is NP-complete.*

[a] Karp (1972).

A Hamiltonian Path at IKEA, Covina, California?

Random HAMILTONIAN CYCLE

- Consider a random graph where each pair of nodes are connected by an edge independently with probability 1/2.
- Then it contains a Hamiltonian cycle with probability $1 - o(1)$.[a]

[a] Frieze & Reed (1998).

TSP (D) Is NP-Complete

Corollary 49 TSP (D) *is NP-complete.*

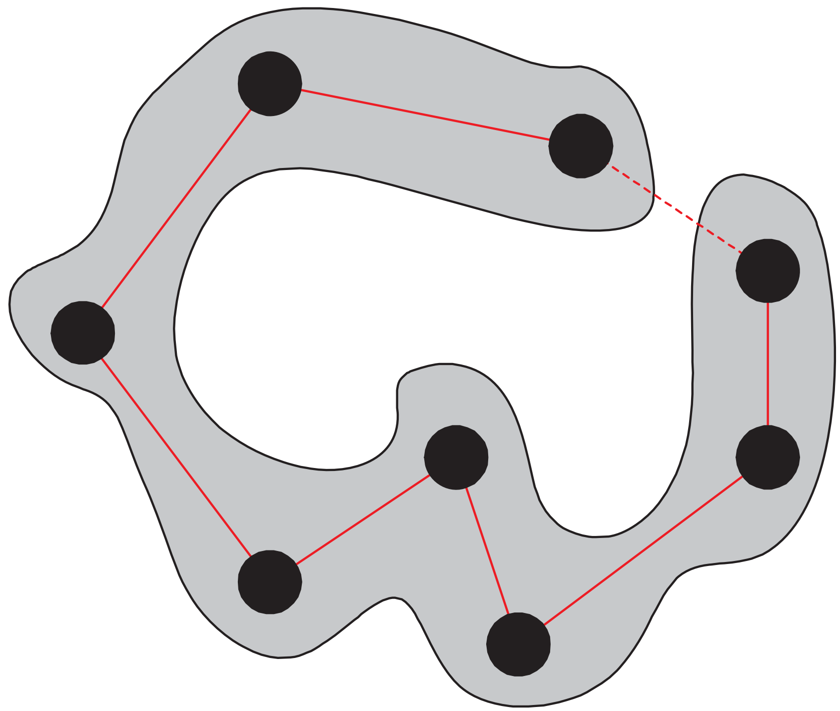
- We will reduce HAMILTONIAN PATH to TSP (D).
- Consider a graph G with n nodes.
- Create a weighted complete graph G' with the same nodes as G.
- Set $d_{ij} = 1$ on G' if $[\,i, j\,] \in G$ and $d_{ij} = 2$ on G' if $[\,i, j\,] \notin G$.
  - Note that G' is a complete graph.
- Set the budget $B = n + 1$.
- This completes the reduction.

TSP (D) Is NP-Complete (continued)

- Suppose G' has a tour[a] of distance at most $n + 1$.
- Then that tour on G' must contain at most one edge with weight 2.
- If a tour on G' contains one edge with weight 2, remove that edge to arrive at a Hamiltonian path for G.
- Suppose a tour on G' contains no edge with weight 2.
- Remove any edge to arrive at a Hamiltonian path for G.

---

[a] A tour is a cycle, not a path.



TSP (D) Is NP-Complete (concluded)

- On the other hand, suppose G has a Hamiltonian path.
- There is a tour on G' containing at most one edge with weight 2.
  - Start with a Hamiltonian path.
  - Insert the edge connecting the beginning and ending nodes to yield a tour.
- The total cost is then at most $(n-1)+2=n+1=B$.
- We conclude that there is a tour of length B or less on G' if and only if G has a Hamiltonian path.

Random TSP

- Suppose each distance d_{ij} is picked uniformly and independently from the interval $[\,0, 1\,]$.
- Then the total distance of the shortest tour has a mean value of $\beta\sqrt{n}$ for some positive β.[a]
- In fact, the total distance of the shortest tour deviates from the mean by more than t with probability at most $e^{-t^2/(4n)}$![b]

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[a] Beardwood, Halton, & Hammersley (1959).

[b] Rhee & Talagrand (1987); Dubhashi & Panconesi (2012).

Graph Coloring

- k-COLORING: Can the nodes of a graph be colored with $\leq k$ colors such that no two adjacent nodes have the same color?[a]
- 2-COLORING is in P (why?).
- But 3-COLORING is NP-complete (see next page).

[a] k is *not* part of the input; k is part of the problem statement.

3-COLORING Is NP-Complete[a]

- We will reduce NAESAT to 3-COLORING.
- We are given a set of clauses $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_m$ each with 3 literals.
- The boolean variables are $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$.
- We now construct a graph that can be colored with colors $\{ 0, 1, 2 \}$ if and only if all the clauses can be NAE-satisfied.

[a]Karp (1972).

The Proof (continued)

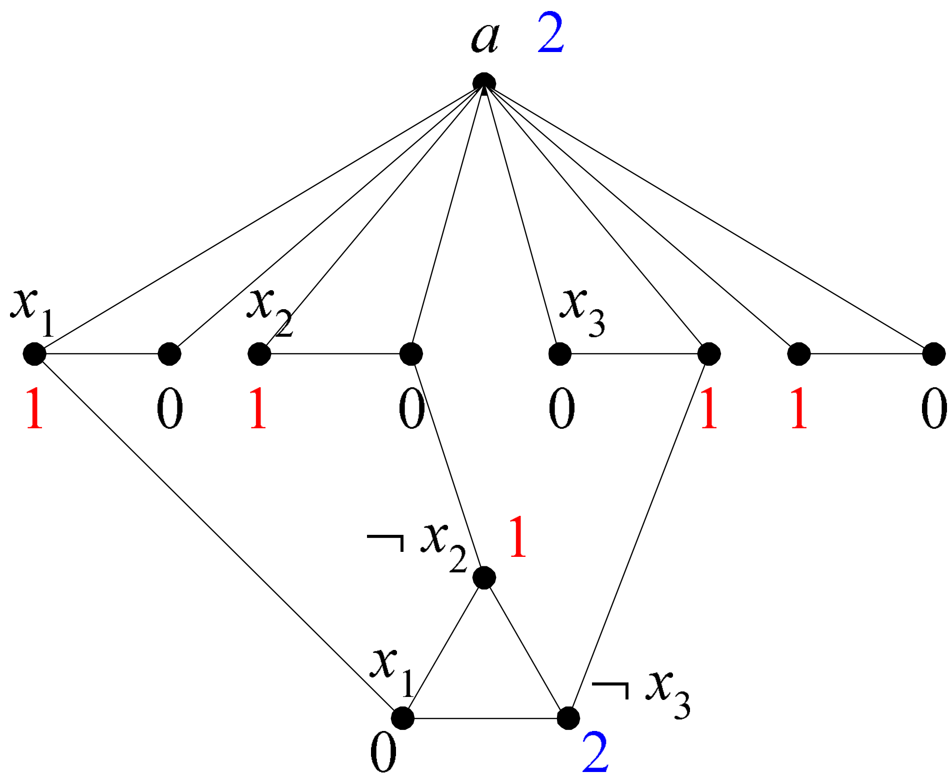
- Every variable x_i is involved in a triangle $[\,a, x_i, \neg x_i\,]$ with a common node a.
- Each clause $C_i = (c_{i1} \lor c_{i2} \lor c_{i3})$ is also represented by a triangle

$$[\,c_{i1}, c_{i2}, c_{i3}\,].$$

  - Node c_{ij} and a node in an a-triangle $[\,a, x_k, \neg x_k\,]$ with the same label represent *distinct* nodes.
- There is an edge between literal c_{ij} in the a-triangle and the node representing the jth literal of C_i.[a]

[a]Alternative proof: There is an edge between $\neg c_{ij}$ and the node that represents the jth literal of C_i. Contributed by Mr. Ren-Shuo Liu (`D98922016`) on October 27, 2009.

Construction for $\cdots \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge \cdots$



The Proof (continued)

Suppose the graph is 3-colorable.

- Assume without loss of generality that node a takes the color 2.
- A triangle must use up all 3 colors.
- As a result, one of x_i and $\neg x_i$ must take the color 0 and the other 1.

The Proof (continued)

- Treat 1 as **`true`** and 0 as **`false`**.[a]
  - We are dealing with the a-triangles here, not the clause triangles yet.
- The resulting truth assignment is clearly contradiction free.
- As each clause triangle contains one color 1 and one color 0, the clauses are NAE-satisfied.
  - Here, treat 0 as **`true`** and 1 as **`false`**.
  - Ignore 2's truth value as it is irrelevant now.

[a] The opposite also works.

The Proof (continued)

Suppose the clauses are NAE-satisfiable.

- For each a-triangle:
  - Color node a with color 2.
  - Color the nodes representing literals by their truth values (color 0 for `false` and color 1 for `true`).

The Proof (continued)

- For each clause triangle:
  - Pick any two literals with opposite truth values.[a]
  - Color the corresponding nodes with 0 if the literal is `true` and 1 if it is `false`.
  - Color the remaining node with color 2 regardless of its truth value.

[a] Break ties arbitrarily.

The Proof (concluded)

- The coloring is legitimate.
  - If literal w of a clause triangle has color 2, then its color will never be an issue.
  - If literal w of a clause triangle has color 1, then it must be connected up to literal w with color 0.
  - If literal w of a clause triangle has color 0, then it must be connected up to literal w with color 1.

More on 3-COLORING and the Chromatic Number

- 3-COLORING remains NP-complete for planar graphs.[a]
- Assume G is 3-colorable.
- There is a classic algorithm that finds a 3-coloring in time $O(3^{n/3}) = 1.4422^n$.[b]
- It can be improved to $O(1.3289^n)$.[c]

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[a] Garey, Johnson, & Stockmeyer (1976); Dailey (1980).
[b] Lawler (1976).
[c] Beigel & Eppstein (2000).

More on 3-COLORING and the Chromatic Number (concluded)

- The **chromatic number** $\chi(G)$ is the smallest number of colors needed to color a graph G.
- There is an algorithm to find $\chi(G)$ in time $O((4/3)^{n/3}) = 2.4422^n$.[a]
- It can be improved to $O((4/3 + 3^{4/3}/4)^n) = O(2.4150^n)$[b] and $2^n n^{O(1)}$.[c]
- Computing $\chi(G)$ cannot be easier than 3-COLORING.[d]

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[a]Lawler (1976).
[b]Eppstein (2003).
[c]Koivisto (2006).
[d]Contributed by Mr. Ching-Hua Yu (`D00921025`) on October 30, 2012.