

P (stands for “Polynomial”)

The set of all decision problems that have an algorithm that runs in time $O(n^k)$ for some constant k .

NP (stands for “nondeterministic polynomial”)

The set of all decision problems such that if the answer is YES, there is a proof of that which can be verified in polynomial time.

NP-hard

The problem B is NP-hard if for all problems A in NP, A reduces to B.

NP-Complete

The problem B is NP-complete if B is in NP and B is NP-hard

What's 3-SAT?

Input: A list of Boolean variables x_1, \dots, x_n

A list of constraints, all of which must be met.

Each constraint is of the form:

$((x_i == \langle T, F \rangle) \ || \ (x_j == \langle T, F \rangle) \ || \ (x_k == \langle T/F \rangle))$

Ored together, always exactly three variables, you can choose T/F independently for each.

Output: true if there is a setting of the variables where all constraints are met, false otherwise.

Why is it called 3-SAT? 3 because you have 3 variables per constraint
SAT is short for “satisfiability” can you satisfy all of the constraints?

Correctness

If the reduction returns YES, then G was 3-colorable.

Hamilton

On a directed graph G :

A Hamiltonian Path is a path that visits every vertex exactly once.

A Hamiltonian Cycle is a Hamiltonian Path with an extra edge connecting the first vertex to the last vertex.

Assume that Hamiltonian Path is NP-hard (it is)

Use that to prove Hamiltonian Cycle is NP-hard.

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