

Definition 2 (NP)

A language $L \in \text{NP}$ if there exists a polynomial time, **deterministic** verifier V (a Turing machine), s.t.

$[x \in L]$ There exists a proof string y , $|y| = \text{poly}(|x|)$,
s.t. $V(x, y) = \text{“accept”}$.

$[x \notin L]$ For any proof string y , $V(x, y) = \text{“reject”}$.

Note that requiring $|y| = \text{poly}(|x|)$ for $x \notin L$ does not make a difference (why?).

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Probabilistic Proof Verification

Definition 3 (IP)

In an **interactive proof system** a randomized polynomial-time **verifier** V (with private coin tosses) interacts with an all powerful **prover** P in polynomially many rounds. $L \in \text{IP}$ if

- $[x \in L]$ There exists a strategy for P s.t. V accepts with probability 1.
- $[x \notin L]$ Regardless of P 's strategy V accepts with probability at most $1/2$.

Probabilistic Checkable Proofs

Definition 4 (PCP)

A language $L \in \text{PCP}_{c(n),s(n)}(r(n),q(n))$ if there exists a polynomial time, non-adaptive, **randomized** verifier V (an **Oracle Turing Machine**), s.t.

[$x \in L$] There exists a proof string y , s.t. $V^{\pi y}(x) = \text{“accept”}$ with probability $\geq c(n)$.

[$x \notin L$] For any proof string y , $V^{\pi y}(x) = \text{“accept”}$ with probability $\leq s(n)$.

The verifier uses at most $r(n)$ random bits and makes at most $q(n)$ oracle queries.

Probabilistic Checkable Proofs

An **Oracle Turing Machine** M is a Turing machine that has access to an oracle.

Such an oracle allows M to solve some problem in a single step.

For example having access to a TSP-oracle π_{TSP} would allow M to write a TSP-instance x on a special oracle tape and obtain the answer (yes or no) in a single step.

For such TMs one looks in addition to running time also at **query complexity**, i.e., how often the machine queries the oracle.

For a proof string y , π_y is an oracle that upon given an index i returns the i -th character y_i of y .

$c(n)$ is called the **completeness**. If not specified otw. $c(n) = 1$.
Probability of accepting a correct proof.

$s(n) < c(n)$ is called the **soundness**. If not specified otw.
 $s(n) = 1/2$. Probability of accepting a wrong proof.

$r(n)$ is called the **randomness complexity**, i.e., how many random bits the (randomized) verifier uses.

$q(n)$ is the **query complexity** of the verifier.

$$\text{IP} \subseteq \text{PCP}_{1,1/2}(\text{poly}(n), \text{poly}(n))$$

We can view **non-adaptive** $\text{PCP}_{1,1/2}(\text{poly}(n), \text{poly}(n))$ as the version of IP in which the prover has written down his answers to all possible queries (beforehand).

This makes it harder for the prover to cheat.

The non-cheating prover does not lose power.

Note that the above is not a proof!

- ▶ $\text{PCP}(0, 0) = \text{P}$
- ▶ $\text{PCP}(\mathcal{O}(\log n), 0) = \text{P}$
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- ▶ $\text{PCP}(\mathcal{O}(\log n), \mathcal{O}(\text{poly}(n))) = \text{NP}$
- ▶ $\text{PCP}(\mathcal{O}(\text{poly}(n)), 0) = \text{coRP}$
randomized polynomial time with one sided error (positive probability of accepting a false statement)
- ▶ $\text{PCP}(\mathcal{O}(\log n), \mathcal{O}(1)) = \text{NP}$ (the PCP theorem)

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$NP \subseteq PCP(\text{poly}(n), 1)$

$PCP(\text{poly}(n), 1)$ means that we have a potentially **exponentially** long proof but we only read a constant number of bits from the proof.

The idea is to encode an NP-witness/proof (e.g. a satisfying assignment (say n bits)) by a code whose code-words have 2^n bits.

A wrong proof is either

- ▶ a code-word whose pre-image does not correspond to a satisfying assignment
- ▶ or, a sequence of bits that does not correspond to a code-word

We can detect both cases by querying a few positions.

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The Code

$u \in \{0, 1\}^n$ (satisfying assignment)

Walsh-Hadamard Code:

$\text{WH}_u : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}, x \mapsto x^T u$ (over $\text{GF}(2)$)

The code-word for u is WH_u . We identify this function by a bit-vector of length 2^n .

Lemma 5

If $u \neq u'$ then WH_u and $WH_{u'}$ differ in at least 2^{n-1} bits.

Suppose that $u - u' \neq 0$. Then

$$WH_u(x) \neq WH_{u'}(x) \iff (u - u')^T x \neq 0$$

This holds for 2^{n-1} different vectors x .

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Since the set of codewords is the set of all linear functions $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}$ we can check

$$f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$$

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Can we just check a constant number of positions?

Definition 6

Let $\rho \in [0, 1]$. We say that $f, g : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ are ρ -close if

$$\Pr_{x \in \{0, 1\}^n} [f(x) = g(x)] \geq \rho .$$

Theorem 7

Let $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ with

$$\Pr_{x, y \in \{0, 1\}^n} [f(x) + f(y) = f(x + y)] \geq \rho > \frac{1}{2} .$$

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Then there is a linear function \tilde{f} such that f and \tilde{f} are ρ -close.

We need $\mathcal{O}(1/\delta)$ trials to be sure that f is $(1 - \delta)$ -close to a linear function with (arbitrary) constant probability.

Suppose for $\delta < 1/4$ f is $(1 - \delta)$ -close to some linear function \tilde{f} .

\tilde{f} is uniquely defined by f , since linear functions differ on at least half their inputs.

Suppose we are given $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and access to f . Can we compute $\tilde{f}(x)$ using only constant number of queries?

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1. Choose $x' \in \{0, 1\}^n$ u.a.r.
2. Set $x'' := x + x'$.
3. Let $y' = f(x')$ and $y'' = f(x'')$.
4. Output $y' + y''$.

x' and x'' are uniformly distributed (albeit dependent). With probability at least $1 - 2\delta$ we have $f(x') = \tilde{f}(x')$ and $f(x'') = \tilde{f}(x'')$.

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We show that $QUADEQ \in PCP(\text{poly}(n), 1)$. The theorem follows since any PCP-class is closed under polynomial time reductions.

introduce $QUADEQ$...

prove NP-completeness...

Let A, b be an instance of QUADEQ. Let u be a satisfying assignment.

The correct PCP-proof will be the Walsh-Hadamard encodings of u and $u \otimes u$. **The verifier will accept such a proof with probability 1.**

We have to make sure that we reject proofs that do not correspond to codewords for vectors of the form u , and $u \otimes u$.

We also have to reject proofs that correspond to codewords for vectors of the form z , and $z \otimes z$, where z is not a satisfying assignment.

Step 1. Linearity Test.

The proof contains $2^n + 2^{n^2}$ bits. This is interpreted as a pair of functions $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ and $g : \{0, 1\}^{n^2} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$.

We do a 0.99-linearity test for both functions (requires a constant number of queries).

We also assume that the remaining constant number of (random) accesses only hit points where $f(x) = \tilde{f}(x)$.

Hence, our proof will only see \tilde{f} and therefore we use f for \tilde{f} , in the following (similar for g, \tilde{g}).

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Step 2. Verify that g encodes $u \otimes u$ where u is string encoded by f .

$f(r) = u^T r$ and $g(z) = w^T z$ since f, g are linear.

- ▶ choose r, r' independently, u.a.r. from $\{0, 1\}^n$
- ▶ if $f(r)f(r') \neq g(r \otimes r')$ reject
- ▶ repeat 3 times

A correct proof survives the test

$$f(r) \cdot f(r')$$

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$$f(\mathbf{r}) \cdot f(\mathbf{r}') = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{r}'$$

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$$f(r) \cdot f(r') = u^T r \cdot u^T r' = \left(\sum_i u_i r_i \right) \cdot \left(\sum_j u_j r'_j \right)$$

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$$g(r \otimes r') = w^T(r \otimes r')$$

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$$f(r) f(r')$$

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If $U \neq W$ then $W r' \neq U r'$ with probability at least 1/2. Then $r^T W r' \neq r^T U r'$ with probability at least 1/4.

Step 3. Verify that f encodes satisfying assignment.

We need to check

$$A_k(u \otimes u) = b_k$$

where A_k is the k -th row of the constraint matrix. But the left hand side is just $g(A_k^T)$.

We can handle this by a single query but checking all constraints would take $\mathcal{O}(m)$ steps.

We compute rA , where $r \in_R \{0, 1\}^m$. If u is not a satisfying assignment then with probability $1/2$ the vector r will hit an odd number of violated constraint.

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We can handle this by a single query but checking all constraints would take $\mathcal{O}(m)$ steps.

We compute rA , where $r \in_R \{0, 1\}^m$. If u is not a satisfying assignment then with probability $1/2$ the vector r will hit an odd number of violated constraint.

In this case $rA(u \otimes u) \neq rb_k$. The left hand side is equal to $g(A^T r^T)$.

Theorem 7

Let $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ with

$$\Pr_{x, y \in \{0, 1\}^n} [f(x) + f(y) = f(x + y)] \geq \rho > \frac{1}{2} .$$

Then there is a linear function \tilde{f} such that f and \tilde{f} are ρ -close.

Fourier Transform over GF(2)

In the following we use $\{-1, 1\}$ instead of $\{0, 1\}$. We map $b \in \{0, 1\}$ to $(-1)^b$.

This turns summation into multiplication.

The set of function $f : \{-1, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ form a 2^n -dimensional **Hilbert space**.

Hilbert space

- ▶ addition $(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$
- ▶ scalar multiplication $(\alpha f)(x) = \alpha f(x)$
- ▶ inner product $\langle f, g \rangle = E_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} [f(x)g(x)]$
(bilinear, $\langle f, f \rangle \geq 0$, and $\langle f, f \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow f = 0$)
- ▶ **completeness**: any sequence x_k of vectors for which

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|x_k\| < \infty \text{ fulfills } \left\| L - \sum_{k=1}^N x_k \right\| \rightarrow 0$$

for some vector L .

standard basis

$$e_x(y) = \begin{cases} 1 & x = y \\ 0 & \text{otw.} \end{cases}$$

Then, $f(x) = \sum_x \alpha_x e_x$ where $\alpha_x = f(x)$, this means the functions e_x form a basis. This basis is orthonormal.

fourier basis

For $\alpha \subseteq [n]$ define

$$\chi_\alpha(x) = \prod_{i \in \alpha} x_i$$

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This means the χ_α 's also define an orthonormal basis. (since we have 2^n orthonormal vectors...)

A function χ_α multiplies a set of x_i 's. Back in the GF(2)-world this means summing a set of z_i 's where $x_i = (-1)^{z_i}$.

This means the function χ_α correspond to linear functions in the GF(2) world.

We can write any function $f : \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as

$$f = \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha} \chi_{\alpha}$$

We call \hat{f}_{α} the α^{th} Fourier coefficient.

Lemma 8

1. $\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha} \hat{g}_{\alpha}$
2. $\langle f, f \rangle = \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha}^2$

Note that for Boolean functions $f : \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$,
 $\langle f, f \rangle = 1$.

Linearity Test

GF(2)

We want to show that if $\Pr_{x,y}[f(x) + f(y) = f(x + y)]$ is large than f has a large agreement with a linear function.

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Hilbert space (we prove)

Suppose that $f : \{+1, -1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ satisfies

$\Pr_{x,y}[f(x)f(y) = f(xy)] \geq \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$. Then there is some $\alpha \subseteq [n]$, s.t. $\hat{f}_\alpha \geq 2\epsilon$.

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For Boolean functions $\langle f, g \rangle$ is the fraction of inputs on which f, g agree **minus** the fraction of inputs on which they disagree.

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$$2\epsilon \leq \hat{f}_\alpha$$

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$$2\epsilon \leq \hat{f}_\alpha = \langle f, \chi_\alpha \rangle = \text{agree} - \text{disagree} = 2\text{agree} - 1$$

This gives that the agreement between f and χ_α is at least $\frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$.

Linearity Test

$$\Pr_{x,y}[f(xy) = f(x)f(y)] \geq \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$$

is equivalent to

$$E_{x,y}[f(xy)f(x)f(y)] = \text{agreement} - \text{disagreement} \geq 2\epsilon$$

$$2\epsilon \leq E_{x,y} \left[f(xy) f(x) f(y) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\epsilon &\leq E_{x,y} \left[f(xy) f(x) f(y) \right] \\ &= E_{x,y} \left[\left(\sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha} \chi_{\alpha}(xy) \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{\beta} \hat{f}_{\beta} \chi_{\beta}(x) \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{\gamma} \hat{f}_{\gamma} \chi_{\gamma}(y) \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

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&= E_{x,y} \left[\sum_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} \hat{f}_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\beta} \hat{f}_{\gamma} \chi_{\alpha}(x) \chi_{\alpha}(y) \chi_{\beta}(x) \chi_{\gamma}(y) \right]
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&= \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha}^3
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&= \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha}^3 \\
&\leq \max_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha} \cdot \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha}^2 = \max_{\alpha} \hat{f}_{\alpha}
\end{aligned}$$

Probabilistic proof for Graph NonIsomorphism

GNI is the language of pairs of non-isomorphic graphs

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Verifier gets input (G_0, G_1) (two graphs with n -nodes)

Probabilistic proof for Graph NonIsomorphism

Verifier:

- ▶ choose $b \in \{0, 1\}$ at random
- ▶ take graph G_b and apply a random permutation to obtain a labeled graph H
- ▶ check whether $P[H] = b$

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If $G_0 \not\cong G_1$ then by using the obvious proof the verifier will always accept.

If $G_0 \cong G_1$ a proof only accepts with probability $1/2$.

- ▶ suppose $\pi(G_0) = G_1$
- ▶ if we accept for $b = 1$ and permutation π_{rand} we reject for permutation $b = 0$ and $\pi_{\text{rand}} \circ \pi$

How to show Harndess of Approximation?

Decision version of optimization problems:

Suppose we have some maximization problem.

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The corresponding **decision problem** equips each instance with a parameter k and asks whether we can obtain a solution value of at least k . (where infeasible solutions are assumed to have value $-\infty$)

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(Analogous for minimization problems.)

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(Analogous for minimization problems.)

This is the standard way to show that some optimization problem is e.g. NP-hard.

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Suppose we are given an instance I and a **promise** that either $\text{opt}(I) \geq \beta$ or $\text{opt}(I) \leq \alpha$. Can we differentiate between these two cases?

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An algorithm A has to output

- ▶ $A(I) = 1$ if $\text{opt}(I) \geq \beta$
- ▶ $A(I) = 0$ if $\text{opt}(I) \leq \alpha$
- ▶ $A(I) = \text{arbitrary, otw}$

An approximation algorithm with approximation guarantee $c \leq \beta/\alpha$ can solve an (α, β) -gap problem.

Constraint Satisfaction Problem

A q CSP ϕ consists of m n -ary Boolean functions ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_m (**constraints**), where each function only depends on q inputs. The goal is to maximize the number of satisfied constraints.

- ▶ $u \in \{0, 1\}^n$ **satisfies** constraint ϕ_i if $\phi_i(u) = 1$
- ▶ $r(u) := \sum_i \phi_i(u) / m$ is fraction of satisfied constraints
- ▶ $\text{value}(\phi) = \max_u r(u)$
- ▶ ϕ is **satisfiable** if $\text{value}(\phi) = 1$.

3SAT is a constraint satisfaction problem with $q = 3$.

Constraint Satisfaction Problem

GAP version:

A ρ GAP q CSP ϕ consists of m n -ary Boolean functions ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_m (constraints), where each function only depends on q inputs. We know that either ϕ is satisfiable or $\text{value}(\phi) < \rho$, and want to differentiate between these cases.

ρ GAP q CSP is NP-hard if for any $L \in \text{NP}$ there is a polytime computable function f mapping strings to instances of q CSP s.t.

- ▶ $x \in L \implies \text{value}(f(x)) = 1$
- ▶ $x \notin L \implies \text{value}(f(x)) < \rho$

Theorem 9

There exists constants q, ρ such that ρ GAP q CSP is NP-hard.

We know that $\text{NP} \subseteq \text{PCP}(\log n, 1)$.

We reduce 3SAT to $\rho\text{GAP}q\text{CSP}$.

3SAT has a PCP system in which the verifier makes a constant number of queries (q), and uses $c \log n$ random bits (for some c).

For input x and $r \in \{0, 1\}^{c \log n}$ define

- ▶ $V_{x,r}$ as function that maps a proof π to the result (0/1) computed by the verifier when using proof π , instance x and random coins r .
- ▶ $V_{x,r}$ only depends on q bits of the proof

For any x the collection ϕ of the $V_{x,r}$'s over all r is polynomial size $q\text{CSP}$.

ϕ can be computed in polynomial time.

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This means that $\rho\text{GAP}q\text{CSP}$ is NP-hard.

Suppose that ρ GAP q CSP is NP-hard for some constants q, ρ ($\rho < 1$).

Suppose you get an input x , and have to decide whether $x \in L$.

We get a verifier as follows.

We use the reduction to map an input x into an instance ϕ of q CSP.

The proof is considered to be an assignment to the variables.

We can check a random constraint ϕ_i by making q queries. If $x \in L$ the verifier accepts with probability 1.

Otw. at most a ρ fraction of constraints are satisfied by the proof, and the verifier accepts with probability at most ρ .

Hence, $L \in \text{PCP}_{1,\rho}(\log_2 m, q)$, where m is the number of constraints.

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Suppose you get an input x , and have to decide whether $x \in L$.

We get a verifier as follows.

We use the reduction to map an input x into an instance ϕ of q CSP.

The proof is considered to be an assignment to the variables.

We can check a random constraint ϕ_i by making q queries. If $x \in L$ the verifier accepts with probability 1.

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Theorem 10

For any positive constants $\epsilon, \delta > 0$, it is the case that $\text{NP} \subseteq \text{PCP}_{1-\epsilon, 1/2+\delta}(\log n, 3)$, and the verifier is restricted to use only the functions odd and even.

It is NP-hard to approximate an ODD/EVEN constraint satisfaction problem by a factor better than $1/2 + \delta$, for any constant δ .

Theorem 11

For any positive constant $\delta > 0$, $\text{NP} \subseteq \text{PCP}_{1, 7/8+\delta}(\mathcal{O}(\log n), 3)$ and the verifier is restricted to use only functions that check the OR of three bits or their negations.

It is NP-hard to approximate 3SAT better than $7/8 + \delta$.

The following GAP-problem is NP-hard for any $\epsilon > 0$.

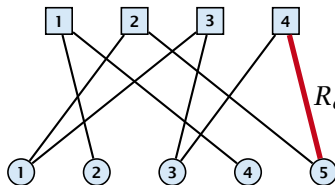
Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ composed of m independent sets of size 3 ($|V| = 3m$). Distinguish between

- ▶ the graph has a CLIQUE of size m
- ▶ the largest CLIQUE has size at most $(7/8 + \epsilon)m$

Label Cover

Input:

- ▶ bipartite graph $G = (V_1, V_2, E)$
- ▶ label sets L_1, L_2
- ▶ for every edge $(u, v) \in E$ a relation $R_{u,v} \subseteq L_1 \times L_2$ that describe assignments that make the edge *happy*.
- ▶ maximize number of happy edges



$$L_1 = \{\square, \blacksquare, \blacklozenge, \blacktriangle\}$$

$$R_e = \{(\square, \bullet), (\square, \bullet), (\blacksquare, \circ)\}$$

$$L_2 = \{\bullet, \bullet, \bullet, \bullet, \circ\}$$

Label Cover

- ▶ an instance of label cover is (d_1, d_2) -regular if every vertex in L_1 has degree d_1 and every vertex in L_2 has degree d_2 .
- ▶ if every vertex has the same degree d the instance is called d -regular

Minimization version:

- ▶ assign a set $L_x \subseteq L_1$ of labels to every node $x \in L_1$ and a set $L_y \subseteq L_2$ to every node $x \in L_2$
- ▶ make sure that for every edge (x, y) there is $\ell_x \in L_x$ and $\ell_y \in L_y$ s.t. $(\ell_x, \ell_y) \in R_{x,y}$
- ▶ minimize $\sum_{x \in L_1} |L_x| + \sum_{y \in L_2} |L_y|$ (total labels used)

MAX E3SAT via Label Cover

instance:

$$\Phi(x) = (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_4 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_4)$$

corresponding graph:



label sets: $L_1 = \{T, F\}^3, L_2 = \{T, F\}$ (T =true, F =false)

relation: $R_{C, x_i} = \{((u_i, u_j, u_k), u_i)\}$, where the clause C is over variables x_i, x_j, x_k and assignment (u_i, u_j, u_k) satisfies C

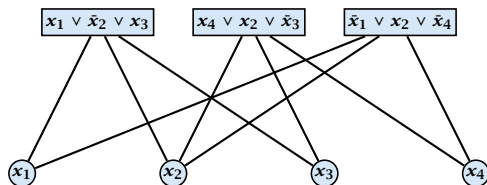
$$R = \{((F, F, F), F), ((F, T, F), F), ((F, F, T), T), ((F, T, T), T), \\ ((T, T, T), T), ((T, T, F), F), ((T, F, F), F)\}$$

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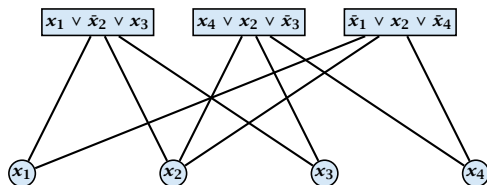
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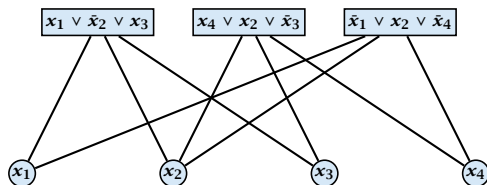
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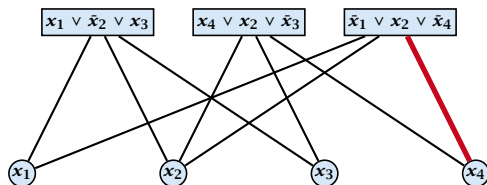
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MAX E3SAT via Label Cover

Lemma 12

If we can satisfy k out of m clauses in ϕ we can make at least $3k + 2(m - k)$ edges happy.

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Hardness for Label Cover

We cannot distinguish between the following two cases

- ▶ all $3m$ edges can be made happy
- ▶ at most $2m + (7/8 + \epsilon)m \approx (\frac{23}{8} + \epsilon)m$ out of the $3m$ edges can be made happy

Hence, we cannot obtain an approximation constant $\alpha > \frac{23}{24}$.

Here α is a constant!!! Maybe a guarantee of the form $\frac{23}{8} + \frac{1}{m}$ is possible.

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(3, 5)-regular instances

Theorem 14

There is a constant ρ s.t. MAXE3SAT is hard to approximate with a factor of ρ even if restricted to instances where a variable appears in exactly 5 clauses.

Then our reduction has the following properties:

- ▶ the resulting Label Cover instance is (3, 5)-regular
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Regular instances

Theorem 15

If for a particular constant $\alpha < 1$ there is an α -approximation algorithm for Label Cover on 15-regular instances then $P=NP$.

Given a label ℓ_1 for $x \in V_1$ there is at most one label ℓ_2 for y that makes (x, y) happy. (**uniqueness property**)

Regular instances

proof...

Boosting

Given Label Cover instance I with $G = (V_1, V_2, E)$, label sets L_1 and L_2 we construct a new instance I' :

- ▶ $V'_1 = V_1^k = V_1 \times \dots \times V_1$
- ▶ $V'_2 = V_2^k = V_2 \times \dots \times V_2$
- ▶ $L'_1 = L_1^k = L_1 \times \dots \times L_1$
- ▶ $L'_2 = L_2^k = L_2 \times \dots \times L_2$
- ▶ $E' = E^k = E \times \dots \times E$

An edge $((x_1, \dots, x_k), (y_1, \dots, y_k))$ whose end-points are labelled by $(\ell_1^x, \dots, \ell_k^x)$ and $(\ell_1^y, \dots, \ell_k^y)$ is happy if $(\ell_i^x, \ell_i^y) \in R_{x_i, y_i}$ for all i .

Boosting

If I is regular than also I' .

If I has the uniqueness property than also I' .

Theorem 16

There is a constant $c > 0$ such if $\text{OPT}(I) = |E|(1 - \delta)$ then $\text{OPT}(I') \leq |E'|(1 - \delta)^{\frac{ck}{\log L}}$, where $L = |L_1| + |L_2|$ denotes total number of labels in I .

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Theorem 17

There are constants $c > 0$, $\delta < 1$ s.t. for any k we cannot distinguish regular instances for Label Cover in which either

- ▶ $\text{OPT}(I) = |E|$, or
- ▶ $\text{OPT}(I) = |E|(1 - \delta)^{\frac{ck}{\log 10}}$

unless each problem in NP has an algorithm running in time $\mathcal{O}(n^{\mathcal{O}(k)})$.

Corollary 18

There is no α -approximation for Label Cover for any constant α .

Theorem 19

There exist regular Label Cover instances s.t. we cannot distinguish whether

- ▶ *all edges are satisfiable, or*
- ▶ *at most a $1/\log^2(|L_2||E|)$ -fraction is satisfiable*

unless NP-problems have algorithms with running time $\mathcal{O}(n^{\mathcal{O}(\log \log n)})$.

choose $k = \frac{2\log 10}{c} \log_{1/(1-\delta)}(\log(|L_2||E|)) = \mathcal{O}(\log \log n)$.

Set Cover

Partition System (s, t, h)

- ▶ universe U of size s
- ▶ t pairs of sets $(A_1, \bar{A}_1), \dots, (A_t, \bar{A}_t)$;
 $A_i \subseteq U, \bar{A}_i = U \setminus A_i$
- ▶ choosing from any h pairs only one of A_i, \bar{A}_i we do not cover the whole set U

For any h, t with $h \leq t$ there exist systems with $s = |U| \leq 2^{2h+2}t^2$.

Set Cover

Given a Label Cover instance we construct a Set Cover instance;

The universe is $E \times U$, where U is the universe of some partition system; ($t = |L_2|$, $h = (\log |E| |L_2|)$)

for all $v \in V_2, j \in L_2$

$$S_{v,j} = \{(u,v), a \mid (u,v) \in E, a \in A_j\}$$

for all $u \in V_1, i \in L_1$

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Suppose that we can make all edges happy.

Choose sets $S_{u,i}$'s and $S_{v,j}$'s, where i is the label we assigned to u , and j the label for v . ($|V_1|+|V_2|$ sets)

For an edge (u,v) , $S_{v,j}$ contains $\{(u,v)\} \times A_j$. For a happy edge $S_{u,i}$ contains $\{(u,v)\} \times \bar{A}_j$.

Since all edges are happy we have covered the whole universe.

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Lemma 20

Given a solution to the set cover instance using at most $\frac{h}{8}(|V_1| + |V_2|)$ sets we can find a solution to the Label Cover instance satisfying at least $\frac{2}{h^2}|E|$ edges.

- ▶ n_u : number of $S_{u,i}$'s in cover
- ▶ n_v : number of $S_{v,j}$'s in cover
- ▶ at most $1/4$ of the vertices can have $n_u, n_v \geq h/2$; mark these vertices
- ▶ at least half of the edges have both end-points unmarked, as the graph is regular
- ▶ for such an edge (u, v) we must have chosen $S_{u,i}$ and a corresponding $S_{v,j}$, s.t. $(i, j) \in R_{u,v}$ (making (u, v) happy)
- ▶ we choose a random label for u from the (at most $h/2$) chosen $S_{u,i}$ -sets and a random label for v from the (at most $h/2$) $S_{v,j}$ -sets
- ▶ (u, v) gets happy with probability at least $4/h^2$
- ▶ hence we make an $2/h^2$ -fraction of edges happy

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- ▶ we choose a random label for u from the (at most $h/2$) chosen $S_{u,i}$ -sets and a random label for v from the (at most $h/2$) $S_{v,j}$ -sets
- ▶ (u, v) gets happy with probability at least $4/h^2$
- ▶ hence we make an $2/h^2$ -fraction of edges happy

- ▶ n_u : number of $S_{u,i}$'s in cover
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- ▶ at most $1/4$ of the vertices can have $n_u, n_v \geq h/2$; **mark these vertices**
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Theorem 21

There is no $\frac{1}{32} \log N$ -approximation for the unweighted Set Cover problem unless problems in NP can be solved in time $\mathcal{O}(n^{\mathcal{O}(\log \log n)})$.

Given label cover instance (V_1, V_2, E) , label sets L_1 and L_2 ;

Set $h = \log(|E||L_2|)$ and $t = |L_2|$; Size of partition system is

$$s = |U| = 2^{2h+2}t^2 = 4(|E||L_2|)^2|L_2|^2 = 4|E|^2|L_2|^4$$

The size of the ground set is then

$$N = |E||U| = 4|E|^3|L_2|^4 \leq (|E||L_2|)^4$$

for sufficiently large $|E|$. Then $h \geq \frac{1}{4} \log N$.

If we get an instance where all edges are satisfiable there exists a cover of size only $|V_1| + |V_2|$.

If we find a cover of size at most $\frac{h}{8}(|V_1| + |V_2|)$ we can use this to satisfy at least a fraction of $2/h^2 \geq 1/\log^2(|E||L_2|)$ of the edges. this is not possible...

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Partition Systems

Lemma 22

Given h and t there is a partition system of size $s = 2^h h \ln(4t) \leq 2^{2h+2} t^2$.

We pick t sets at random from the possible $2^{|U|}$ subsets of U .

Fix a choice of h of these sets, and a choice of h bits (whether we choose A_i or \bar{A}_i). There are $2^h \cdot \binom{t}{h}$ such choices.

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What is the probability that a given choice covers U ?

The probability that an element $u \in A_i$ is $1/2$ (same for \bar{A}_i).

The probability that u is covered is $1 - \frac{1}{2^h}$.

The probability that all u are covered is $(1 - \frac{1}{2^h})^s$

The probability that there exists a choice such that all u are covered is at most

$$\binom{t}{h} 2^h \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^h}\right)^s \leq (2t)^h e^{-s/2^h} = (2t)^h \cdot e^{-h \ln(4t)} \leq \frac{1}{2^h}$$

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