

CompSci 162

Spring 2023 Lecture 20:

Introduction to Computational  
Complexity

2

TM  $M_1$  for  $L = \{a^k b^k : k \geq 0\}$

$n = \text{Size of input}$

1. Scan across and reject if any  $a$  right of a  $b$  }  $\Theta(n)$
2. Repeat while any  $a, b$  still on tape:
3. Scan across, cross off one  $a$ , one  $b$  }  $O(n)$  }  $O(n^2)$
4. If only one letter type remains, reject  
Otherwise, accept if neither  $a$  nor  $b$  remain }  $O(n)$

$O(n^2)$

TM  $M_2$  for  $L = \{a^k b^k : k \geq 0\}$

1. Scan across and reject if any  $a$  right of a  $b$  }  $O(n)$
2. Repeat as long as some of each remain: }  $O(n \lg n)$
3. If total  $a + b$  is odd, reject. }  $O(n)$
4. Cross off every other  $a$ , every other  $b$  }  $O(n)$
5. If none of each remain, accept. }  $O(n)$

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$O(n \lg n)$

TM  $M_3$  for  $L = \{a^k b^k : k \geq 0\}$ 

1. Scan across and reject if any  $a$  right of a  $b$  }  $O(n)$
2. Scan across the  $a$ s on **tape 1** until first  $b$ .  
While doing so, copy the  $a$ s onto **tape 2**. }  $O(n)$
3. Cross off  $a$  and  $b$ , 1 : 1 via two tapes  
If all  $a$  crossed off after and  $b$  remain, reject }  $O(n)$
4. If all  $a$  crossed off, accept. Else reject. }  $O(n)$

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 $O(n)$

# Non-deterministic Running Time

- ▶ Running time is maximum steps, any branch
- ▶ Not intended as model of real world computation
- ▶ Relationship deterministic and non-deterministic:

Every  $t(n)$  time nondeterministic single-tape Turing Machine has an equivalent  $2^{\mathcal{O}(t(n))}$  time deterministic single-tape Turing Machine

# The Class $\mathcal{P}$

$\mathcal{P}$ : languages that are decidable in polynomial time on a deterministic single-tape Turing machine.

$$\mathcal{P} = \bigcup_k \text{TIME}(n^k)$$

- ▶ Polynomial differences are not important?

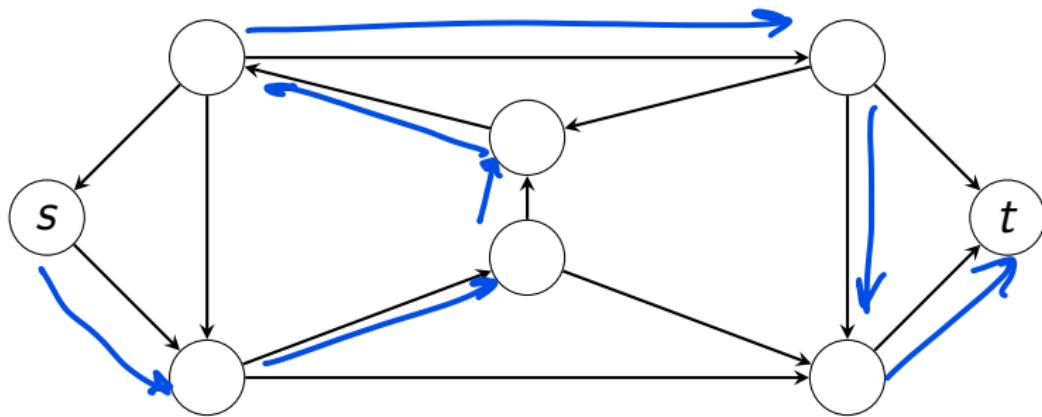
# The Class $\mathcal{P}$

$\mathcal{P}$ : languages that are decidable in polynomial time on a deterministic single-tape Turing machine.

$$\mathcal{P} = \bigcup_k \text{TIME}(n^k)$$

- ▶ Polynomial differences are not important?
  1.  $\mathcal{P}$  is invariant for all equivalent models
  2.  $\mathcal{P} \approx$  realistically solvable on a computer.

# HAMPATH



1. Best currently known algorithm's running time? *exp*
2. Anything related polynomial time solvable?

*Verifier*

# COMPOSITES

$$\text{COMPOSITES} = \{x : x = pq, p, q > 1, p, q \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

- ▶ Needed for verifier?

[alleged] divisor

- ▶ Polynomially verifiable?

do the division

- ▶ When was PRIMES known to be in  $\mathcal{P}$ ?

$O(\log^{12} x) \rightarrow O(\log^6 x)$

## What is a Verifier?

A **Verifier** for language  $A$  is an algorithm  $V$  such that  $A = \{w : V \text{ accepts } \langle w, c \rangle \text{ for some string } c\}$ . We measure the running time of a verifier as a function of the length of  $w$ .

- ▶  $c$  is the *certificate*

# The Class $\mathcal{NP}$

- ▶  $\mathcal{NP}$  languages with polynomial time verifiers.
- ▶  $\mathcal{NP}$ : “non-deterministic polynomial”

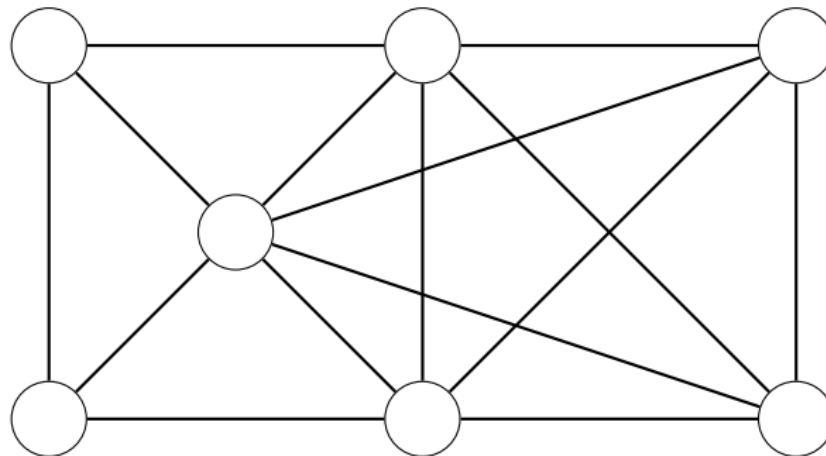
# HAMPATH is in $\mathcal{NP}$

via non-deterministic Turing Machine.

**Input:**  $\langle G, s, t, \rangle$ , where  $G$  is a directed graph with nodes  $s$  and  $t$

1. Write a list of  $m$  numbers,  $p_1, \dots, p_m$ , where  $m$  is the number of vertices in  $G$ .  
Each number in the list is nondeterministically selected to be between 1 and  $m$ .
2. Check for repetitions in the list. If any are found, reject.
3. Check whether  $s = p_1$  and  $t = p_m$ . If either fail, reject.
4. For each  $i$  between 1 and  $m - 1$ , check whether  $(p_i, p_{i+1})$  is an edge of  $G$ . If any are not, reject.
5. If we reach this line, all tests have passed, so accept.

# The CLIQUE Problem



# Boolean Satisfiability

$$\phi = (x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_4)(\overline{x_2} \vee x_3 \vee \overline{x_4})(\overline{x_1} \vee x_3 \vee x_5) \\ (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_5)(\overline{x_3} \vee x_4 \vee x_5)(\overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_4} \vee \overline{x_5}) \\ (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_5)(x_3 \vee \overline{x_4} \vee x_5)(x_1 \vee \overline{x_3} \vee \overline{x_5}) \\ (\overline{x_2} \vee x_4 \vee \overline{x_5})(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_4})(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \\ (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_5)(\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_4})$$

$x_1$	True	False
$x_2$	True	False
$x_3$	True	False
$x_4$	True	False
$x_5$	True	False

# Why care about Boolean Satisfiability?

- ▶ Some problems have an efficient solution
- ▶ Some problems are literally impossible
- ▶ Some do not have an efficient solution
  - ▶ i.e., list all subsets of a set
- ▶ Some do not have a *known* efficient solution

# Why care about Boolean Satisfiability?

- ▶ Some problems have an efficient solution
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- ▶ Some do not have an efficient solution
  - ▶ i.e., list all subsets of a set
- ▶ Some do not have a *known* efficient solution
- ▶ For every problem in  $\mathcal{NP}$ :
  - ▶ You *can* convert it to SAT
  - ▶ Size of  $\phi$  is polynomial of original
    - ▶ Details in “handout 4.2” (reading)
  - ▶ Therefore, a poly solution to SAT gives you ...
- ▶ This was discovered by Cook and Levin in 1971