

# CS 121: Lecture 18

## Polynomial Time Reductions

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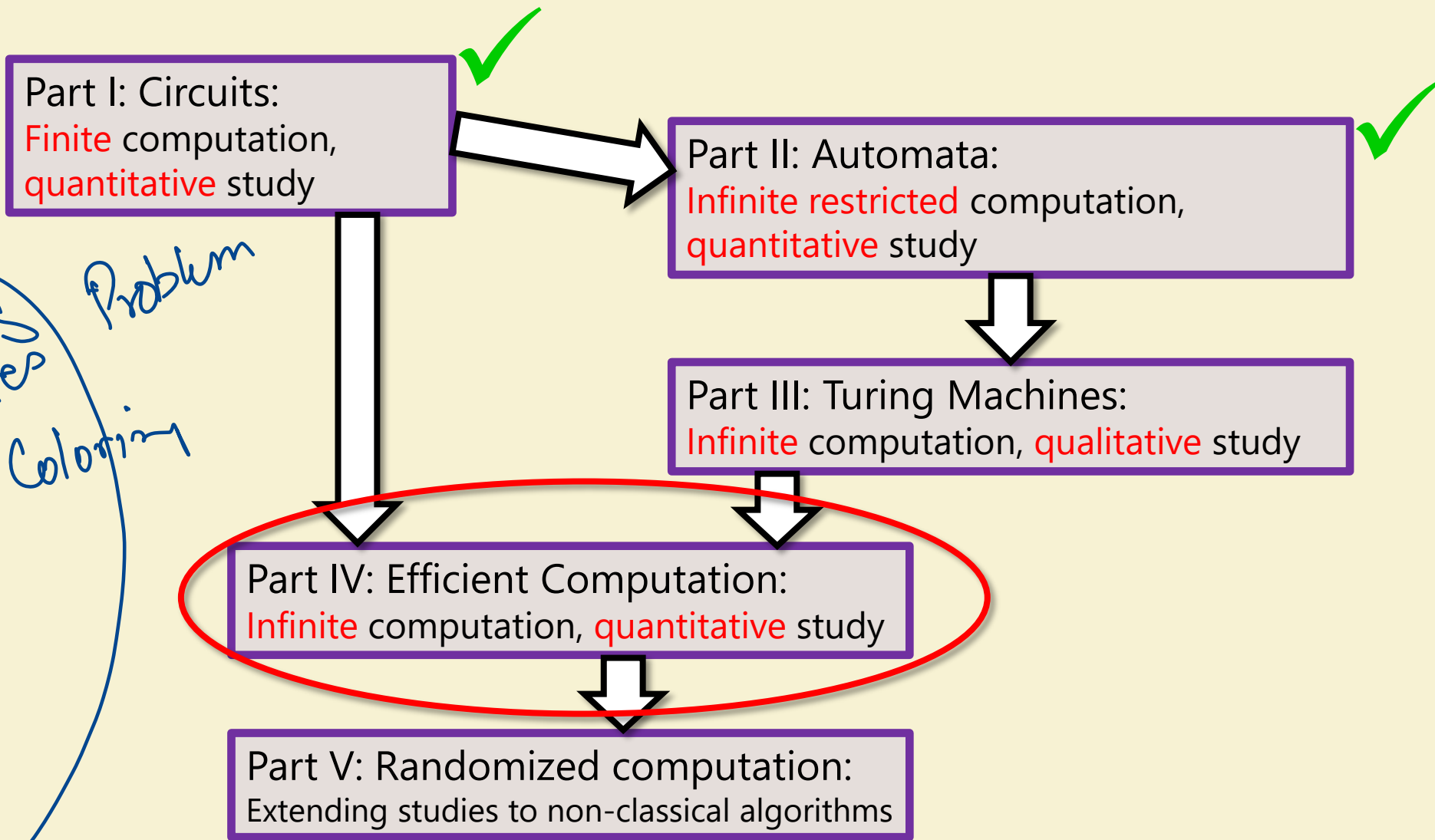
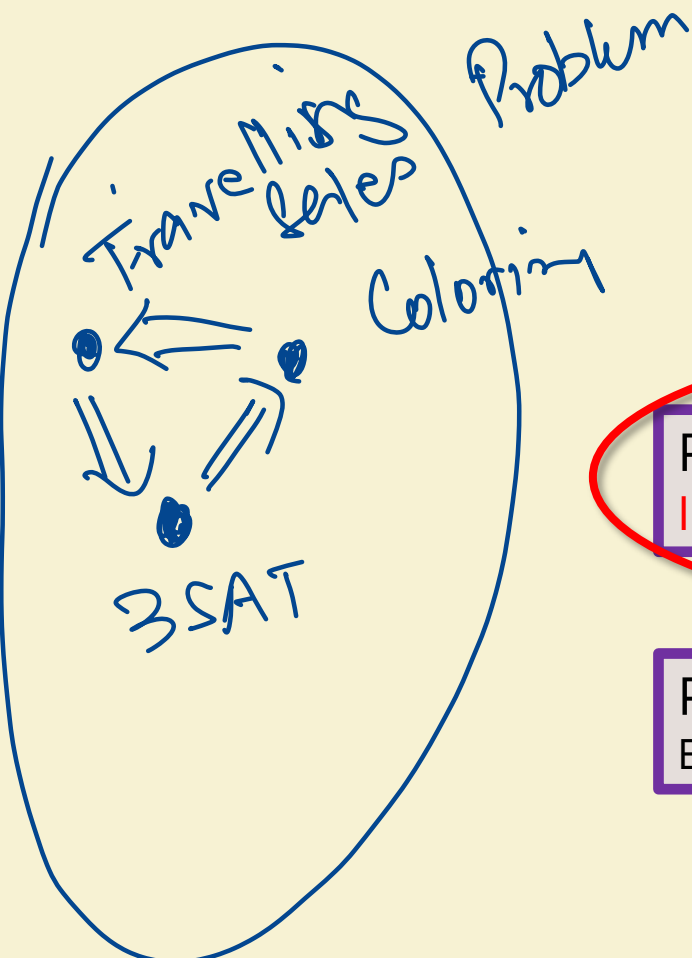
Book: <https://introtcs.org>

How to contact us { The whole staff (faster response): [CS 121 Piazza](#)  
Only the course heads (slower): [cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com](mailto:cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com)

# Announcements:

- Election Today!
- Midterm 2 in 2 weeks.
  - Same time format.
  - No collaboration on cheat sheets. Each person prepares their own.
  - Open book (Barak - searchable pdf).
- Sign up for active participation in Lectures.

# Where we are:



# Review of last lecture

$$P \subseteq EXP$$

- Defined time complexity measure
- Defined classes:  $\text{TIME}(t(n))$ ,  $P$ ,  $EXP$ 
  - Watch out for category error: All the above are sets of functions, not algorithms!
- Stated+Proved: TIME Hierarchy theorem.
  - $\Rightarrow P \neq EXP$
- Stated:
  - $\text{RAM-TIME} \approx \text{TM-TIME}$  (up to polynomial factors)
  - $\text{SIZE} \leq \approx \text{TM TIME}$  (up to polynomial factors)
  - Extended Turing-Church Thesis

# Today

- Some problems in  $P$  and  $EXP$
- Polytime Reductions  $\leq_P$  : Relate problems of unknown complexity
- Specific example:  $SAT \leq_P ISET$

# Some example problems

- Warning: Will flash lots of slides quickly!
  - Don't have to know individual definitions/problems ... just get a flavor of variety.

# Solving Linear Equations

**Input:**  $n$  linear equations in  $n$  variables:  $Ax = b$ , with  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Output:** "No solution" or assignment satisfying equations.

**Notation:** Equations are  $\langle A_i, x \rangle = b_i$  where  $A_i$  is  $i$ -th row of  $A$ , and  $\langle u, v \rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} u_i v_i$

## Gaussian elimination Algorithm:

- If  $n = 1$ : trivial
- Rearrange equations, variables, so that  $A_0^0 \neq 0$   
(first equation involves first variable)
- Change equation from  $\langle A^0, x \rangle = b_0$  to  $\frac{1}{A_0^0} \langle A_0^0, x \rangle = \frac{b_0}{A_0^0}$  to get

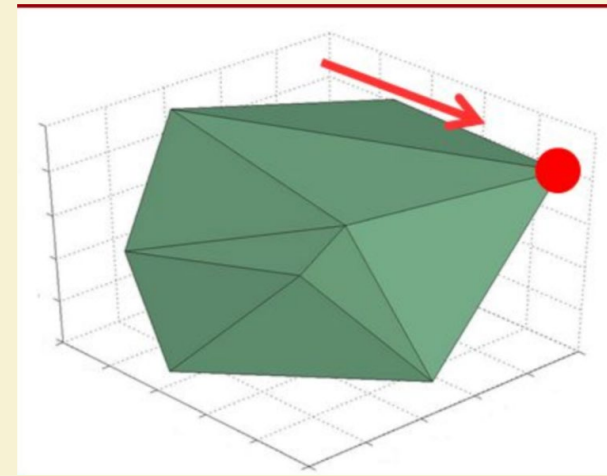
$$x_0 = \frac{b_0}{A_0^0} - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} v_j x_j \quad \text{where} \quad v_j = \frac{A_j^0}{A_0^0} \quad (*)$$

- Replace  $x_0$  with RHS of (\*) in equations  $1, \dots, n-1$ .
- Now have  $n-1$  equations with  $n-1$  variables! Repeat.

## Analysis:

- Let  $T(n)$  denotes number of arithmetic operations
- Then  $T(n) = T(n-1) + O(n^2)$
- Yields  $T(n) = O(n^3)$
- Counts #arithmetic operations. Should multiply by cost of arithmetic. (poly(#bits) per number).
- Summary: Linear equations can be solved in polynomial time.

# Linear Programming



Compute  $\min_{x \in \mathbb{K}} f(x)$  where  $f$  is *linear* and  $\mathbb{K}$  is *polytope*:

$$\mathbb{K} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax \leq b\}$$

**Example:** Startup resource allocation:

- *Business customer*: yields  $r$  revenue while costing  $a$  developer hours and  $b$  customer support hours.
- *End user*: yields  $r'$  revenue while costing  $a'$  dev hours and  $b'$  support hours.
- Maximize revenue subject to  $A$  total dev hours and  $B$  total support hours:
- Aside: Max, not Min! Still LP?

$$\begin{array}{lll} \max_{x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{R}} & r \cdot x_0 & + r' \cdot x_1 & \text{s. t.} \\ & a \cdot x_0 & + a' \cdot x_1 & \leq A \\ & b \cdot x_0 & + b' \cdot x_1 & \leq B \end{array}$$

**Thm:** (*Khachiyan 79, Karmakar 84*) There is  $\text{poly}(n)$  time algorithm for linear programming on  $n$  variables.

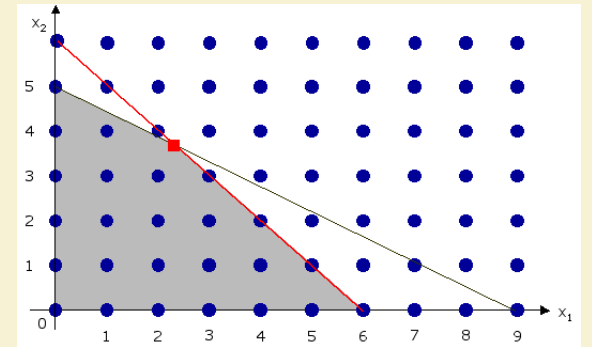


# Integer Programming

Compute  $\min_{x \in I} f(x)$  where  $f$  linear and  $I = \mathbb{K} \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ ;  $\mathbb{K} = \{x \mid Ax \leq b\}$

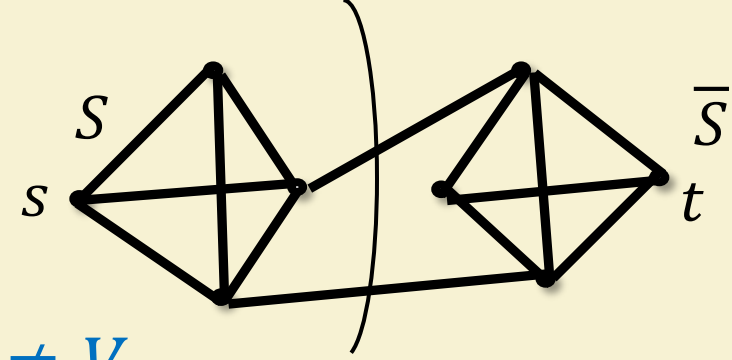
( $I$  integer points in polytope  $\mathbb{K}$ )

**Motivation:** Can't support half a client



**Depressing fact:** No known polynomial time algorithm for integer programming.

# Minimum s-t Cut Problem



**Def:** A *cut* in  $G = (V, E)$  is  $S \subseteq V$  with  $\emptyset \neq S \neq V$ .

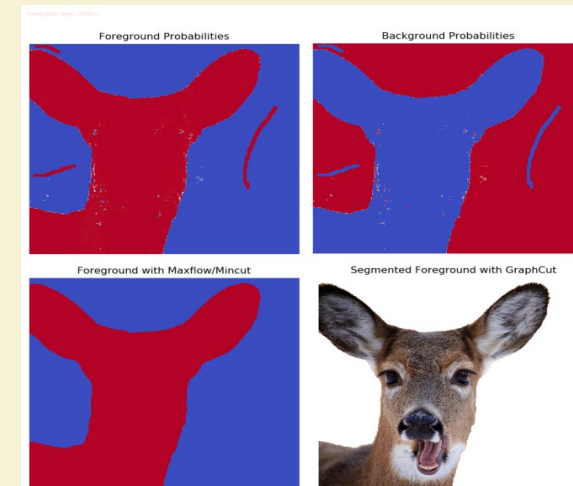
**Notation:** Edges cut by  $S$ ,  $E(S, \bar{S}) = \{(u, v) \in E \mid u \in S \Leftrightarrow v \notin S\}$

## Minimum s-t cut problem:

Minimize  $|E(S, \bar{S})|$  over all  $S \subseteq V$  s.t.  $s \in S$  and  $t \notin S$

(sample motivation: image segmentation)

**Good News:** Can be solved in time  $O(VE)$

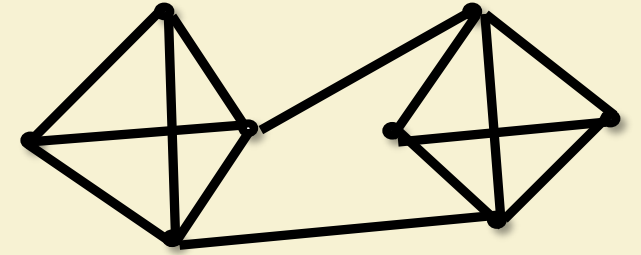


# Maximum Cut Problem

**Problem:** Find cut  $S$  that *maximizes*  $|E(S, \bar{S})|$ .

*Sample applications:*

- Register allocation in compilers,
- Ising model, X-ray crystallography, cryo-electron microscopy, more



**Depressing news:** Best known algorithms are *exponential* in the worst case.

# 3-SAT Problem

**Input:** A "3CNF formula"  $\phi = C_0 \wedge C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_{m-1}$  on  $n$  variables  $x_0 \dots x_{n-1}$

3CNF Formula = AND of  $m$  3-clauses ( $\phi = C_0 \wedge C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_{m-1}$ )

3-Clause = OR of 3 literals ( $C_j = \ell_1 \vee \ell_2 \vee \ell_3$ )

literal = variable or its negation ( $\ell = x_i$  or  $\ell = \bar{x}_i$ )

**Goal:** Output 1 if there is assignment  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$  that makes formula *true*.

Output 0 otherwise.

OR

AND

**Example:**  $(x_7 \vee \bar{x}_{17} \vee x_{29}) \wedge (\bar{x}_7 \vee x_{15} \vee x_{22}) \wedge (x_{22} \vee \bar{x}_{29} \vee x_{55})$

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

# 3-SAT Problem

**Input:** A "3CNF formula"  $\phi = C_0 \wedge C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_{m-1}$  on  $n$  variables  $x_0 \dots x_{n-1}$

**Goal:** Determine if there is assignment  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$  that makes formula *true*.

**Depressing news:** Best known algorithms require exponential time.

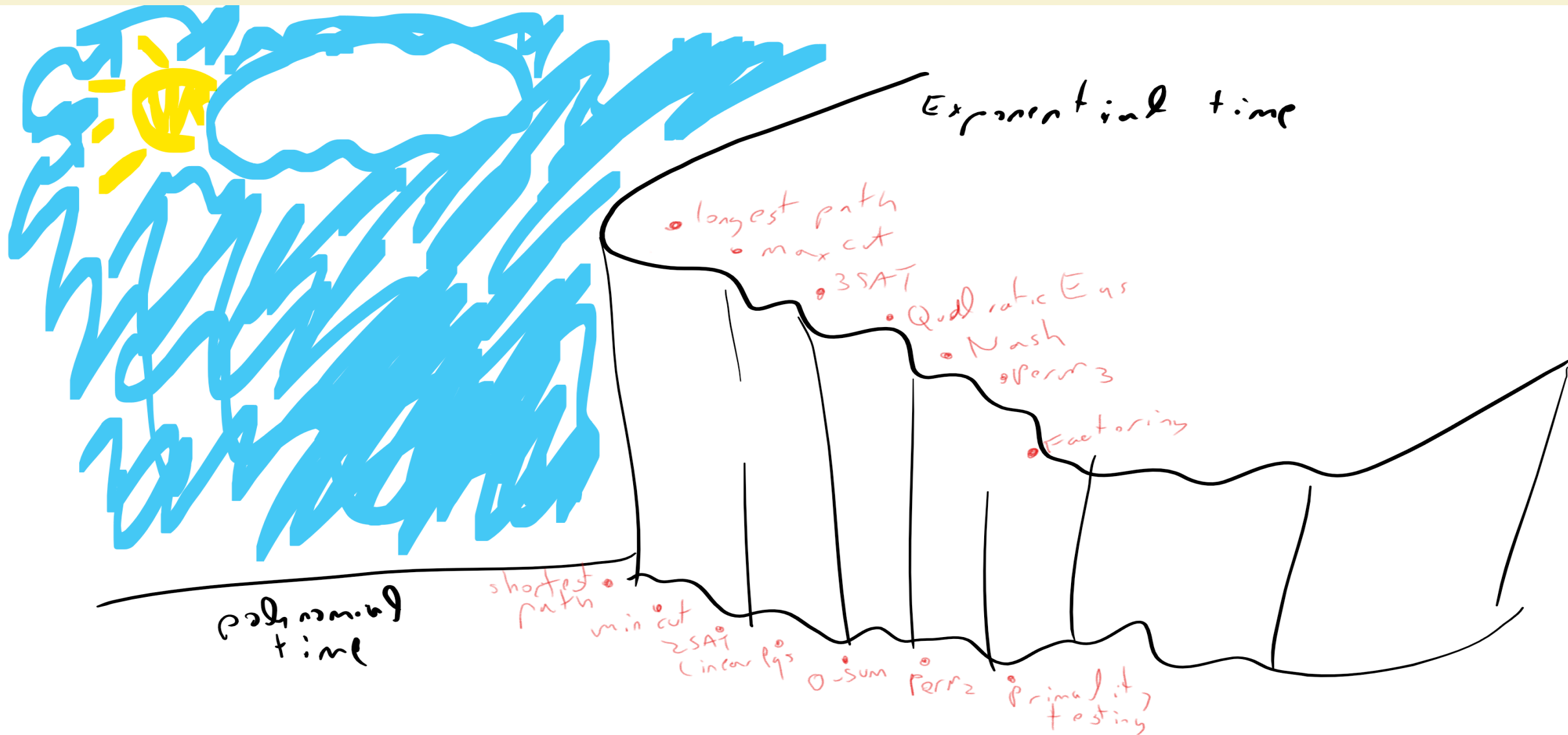
**Better news:** Exponent has improved, decent heuristic "SAT SOLVERS", *can* solve the 2SAT problem.

**Exercise:** Show "INTEGER PROGRAMMING can be solved in poly time  $\Rightarrow$  3SAT can be solved in poly time".

# Summary of problems:

- The following problems are in **P**
  - Does the **linear system**  $Ax = b$  have a solution?
  - Does the **linear program**  $Max \langle c, x \rangle s.t. Ax \leq b$  have a **real** solution of value  $\geq v$
  - Given  $G$  does  $G$  have a cut of value **at most**  $k$  (**min cut**)
  - Given a **2CNF** formula  $\phi = C_0 \wedge C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_{m-1}$  is there a satisfying  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$
- The following problems are in **EXP** but not known to be in **P**
  - Does **linear program**  $Max \langle c, x \rangle s.t. Ax \leq b$  have an **integer** solution of value  $\geq v$
  - Given  $G$  does  $G$  have a cut of value **at least**  $k$  (**max cut**)
  - Given a **3CNF** formula  $\phi = C_0 \wedge C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_{m-1}$  is there a satisfying  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$
- HALT is not in **P** or even **EXP** !
- $HALT_{2^n}$  is in **EXP** but not **P**.

# Artwork representing lecture thus far!



# Relating problems to each other?

- EXP seems to have many interesting problems we would like to solve.
- Questions: Which ones are in P?
  - Answer: "Don't know!"
- If we can't determine the answer to any of these questions, can we at least relate the answers?
  - Answer: Yes!
  - Tool: (Polynomial time) Reductions!



# Maximum Cut as Integer Program

FLASH

*Input:*  $G = (V, E)$  with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges

*Goal:* Find cut  $\emptyset \neq S \neq V$  maximizing  $|E(S, \bar{S})|$ .

**IP formulation:** Find  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n, y \in \mathbb{Z}^m$  maximizing  $\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j$  s.t.

$$0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \text{ for } i \in [n] \text{ (i.e., } x \in \{0,1\}^n \text{)}$$

$$0 \leq y_j \leq 1 \text{ for } j \in [m] \text{ (} y \in \{0,1\}^m \text{)}$$

For  $j$ th edge  $(u, v)$ :

$$y_j \leq x_u + x_v \quad (x_u = x_v = 0 \Rightarrow y_j = 0)$$

$$y_j \leq (1 - x_u) + (1 - x_v) \quad (x_u = x_v = 1 \Rightarrow y_j = 0)$$


# Reductions:

- Previous page was a reduction from X to Y.
  - $X = ?$ ,  $Y = ?$
  - Consequence:

$$\text{MAX CUT} \leq_p \text{IP}$$

Based on what we've shown  $\Rightarrow$  so far

Possible

	IP	In P?	Not in P?
MAX-CUT			
In P?		Possible	② 
Not in P?		① Not Possible?	Possible

Truth (though we didn't show it): ② is also not possible  
Can reduce  $\text{IP} \leq_p \text{MAX CUT}$

# Polynomial Time Reductions

computable

DEFINITION:

poly-time

- For Boolean functions  $F, G: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ ,  $F \leq_P G$  if there is a polynomial time algorithm  $R: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$  s.t. for every  $x \in \{0,1\}^*$ ,

function

$$F(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow G(R(x)) = 1$$



$$F(x) = G(R(x))$$

- In the example before:

- $F(H, k) = \text{MAXCUT}(H, k) = 1 \Leftrightarrow H$  has a cut of size  $\geq k$

- $G(A, b, c, v) = \text{IP}(A, b, c, v) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \exists x \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  s.t.  $c \cdot x \geq v$  and  $Ax \leq b$

- Reduction  $R(H, k) = (A, b, c, v) \dots$  (all the constraints and objective).

- Worked because:

- $R$  polytime computable!

- $\text{IP}(A, b, c, v) = \text{MaxCut}(H, k)$

$\&$  cannot be exp. time computable.



# Example 2 $3\text{-SAT} \leq_P \text{IP}$ :

FLASH

**Input:** A 3CNF formula  $C_0 \wedge C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_{m-1}$  on  $n$  variables (where  $C_j$ 's are 3-clauses)

**Goal:** Find out if there is assignment  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$  that makes formula *true*.

**IP formulation:** Maximize over  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n, y \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ , the quantity  $\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} y_j$  subject to:

$$0 \leq x_i \leq 1, 0 \leq y_j \leq 1$$

For  $j$ th clause, say  $C_j = (\bar{x}_{17} \vee x_{55} \vee x_{22})$ :

$$(x_{17} = 1 \text{ and } x_{55} = 0 \text{ and } x_{22} = 0 \Rightarrow y_j = 0)$$

$$y_j \leq (1 - x_{17}) + x_{55} + x_{22}$$

Claim:  $\phi$  satisfiable  
 $\Leftrightarrow \sum y_j = m$

**Surprising fact:** (Converse is also true) If you can solve 3SAT in poly time then you can solve INTEGER PROGRAMMING in poly time!

# Independent Set (ISET):

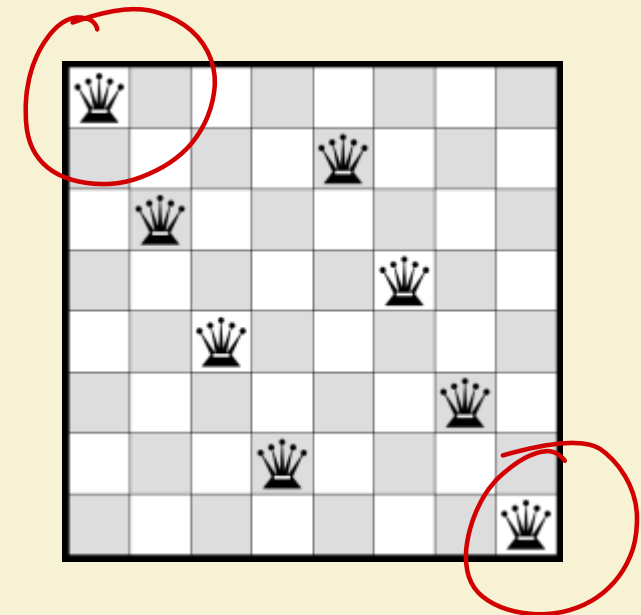
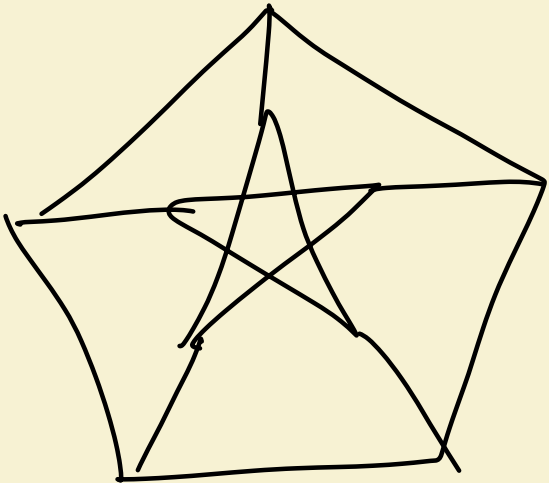
$$3SAT \leq_P ISET$$

Input:  $(G = (V, E), k)$

Question: Does there exist an independent set of size  $\geq k$  in  $G$

where  $S \subseteq V$  is independent if no edges within  $S$

$$(\forall u, v \in S, (u, v) \notin E)$$



$3SAT \leq_p ISET$

**Theorem:** Suppose that  $ISET \in P$  then  $3SAT \in P$

**Corollary:** Suppose that  $3SAT \notin P$  then  $ISET \notin P$

Why?

**Proof:** We will show poly-time  $R: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$

$R: \{3CNF \text{ formulas}\} \rightarrow \{(\text{graphs}, \text{numbers})\}$

s.t. for every 3CNF  $\varphi$ ,  $3SAT(\varphi) = ISET(R(\varphi))$

**Q:** Why is this enough?

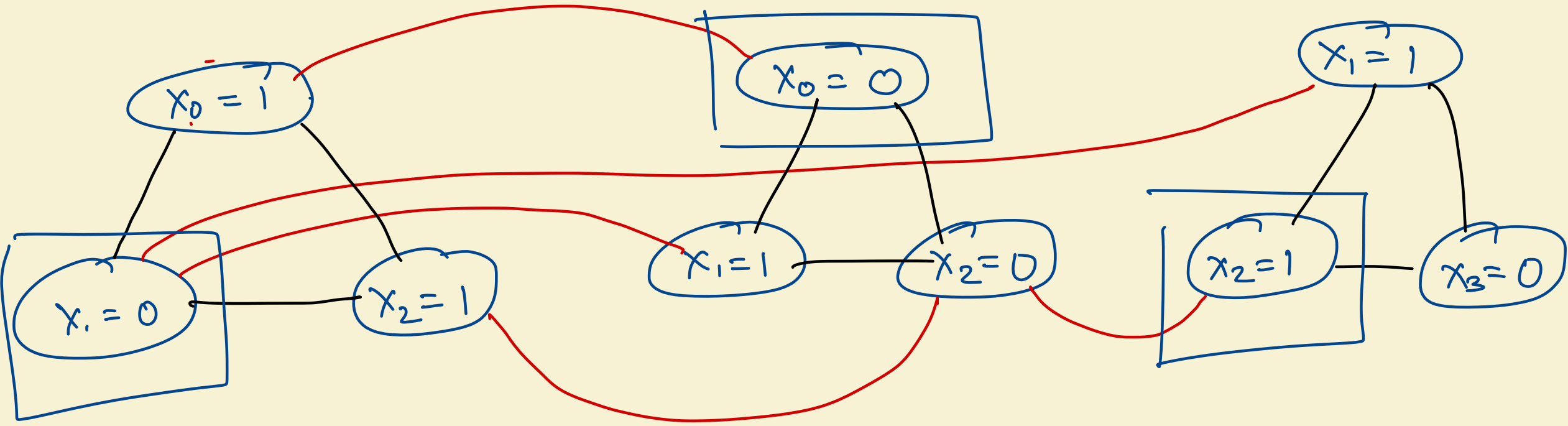
**Theorem:** Suppose that  $ISET \in P$  then  $3SAT \in P$      $3SAT(\emptyset) = 1$

**Proof:** We will show poly-time  $R: \{3CNF \text{ formulas}\} \rightarrow \{(\text{graphs}, \text{numbers})\}$

s.t. for every 3CNF  $\varphi$ ,  $3SAT(\varphi) = ISET(R(\varphi)) \iff G$  has

ind. set of size  $m$

**Example:**  $\varphi = (\overline{x_0} \vee \overline{x_1} \vee x_2) \wedge (\overline{x_0} \vee x_1 \vee \overline{x_2}) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_3})$   
 (has  $n = 4$  variables,  $m = 3$  clauses)



**Theorem:** Suppose that  $ISET \in P$  then  $3SAT \in P$

**Proof:** We will show poly-time  $R: \{3CNF \text{ formulas}\} \rightarrow \{(\text{graphs}, \text{numbers})\}$

s.t. for every 3CNF  $\varphi$ ,  $3SAT(\varphi) = ISET(R(\varphi))$

**Algorithm  $R$ :**

**Input:**  $\varphi$  – 3CNF with  $n$  variables and  $m$  clauses

1. Let  $G$  be graph with  $3m$  vertices we will name  $(j, 1), (j, 2), (j, 3)$  for  $j \in [m]$
2. For every  $j \in [m]$ , add edges  $(j, 1) - (j, 2)$ ,  $(j, 2) - (j, 3)$ ,  $(j, 3) - (j, 1)$
3. For every pair of clauses  $C_j$  and  $C_{j'}$  if literals  $(j, a)$  and  $(j', b)$  conflict (one negation of the other) then add the edge  $(j, a) - (j', b)$
4. Return  $(G, m)$

**Claim 1 (completeness):** If  $3SAT(\varphi) = 1$  then  $ISET(G, m) = 1$ .

**Claim 2 (soundness):** If  $ISET(G, m) = 1$  then  $3SAT(\varphi) = 1$ .  $\Leftrightarrow$  if  $3SAT(\varphi) = 0$  then  $ISET(\ ) = 0$



Existing system  
of Logic

completeness

New One

T is true

$\neg$  is true

T is false

soundness

$\neg$  T is false

$\sim \Rightarrow R$

$F(x) = 1$

completeness

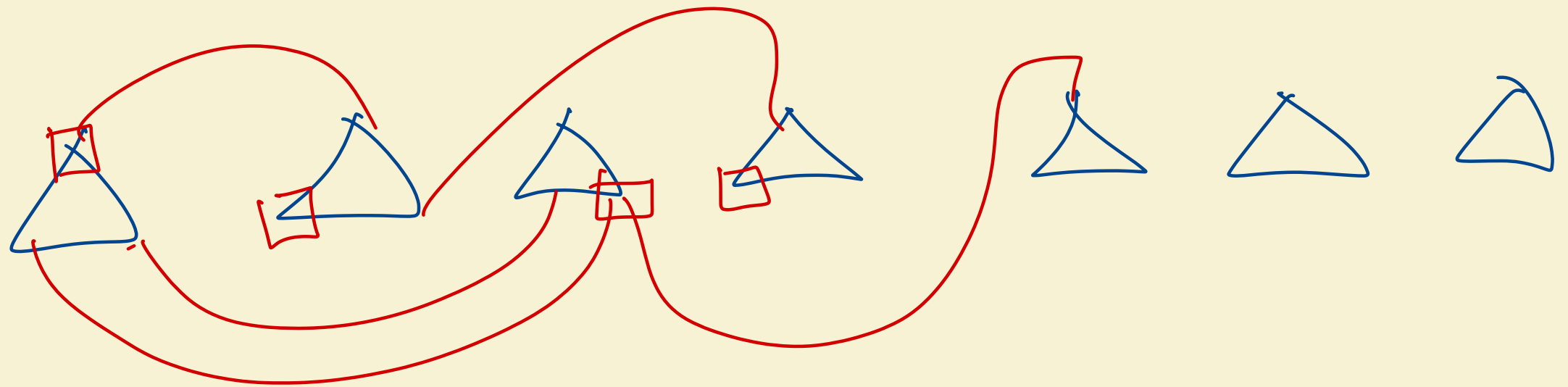
$G(R(x)) = 1$

$F(x) = 0$

soundness

$G(R(x)) = 0$

Given  $S \subseteq \dots$ ,  $S$  independent,  $|S| = m$



Can  $\downarrow$  get assignment to  $x_0 = -$   $x_1 = -$   $x_2 = \dots$   $x_{n-1} = -$   
s.t. every clause is satisfied.

$$x_{i_1} \vee \neg x_{i_2} \vee x_{i_3}$$

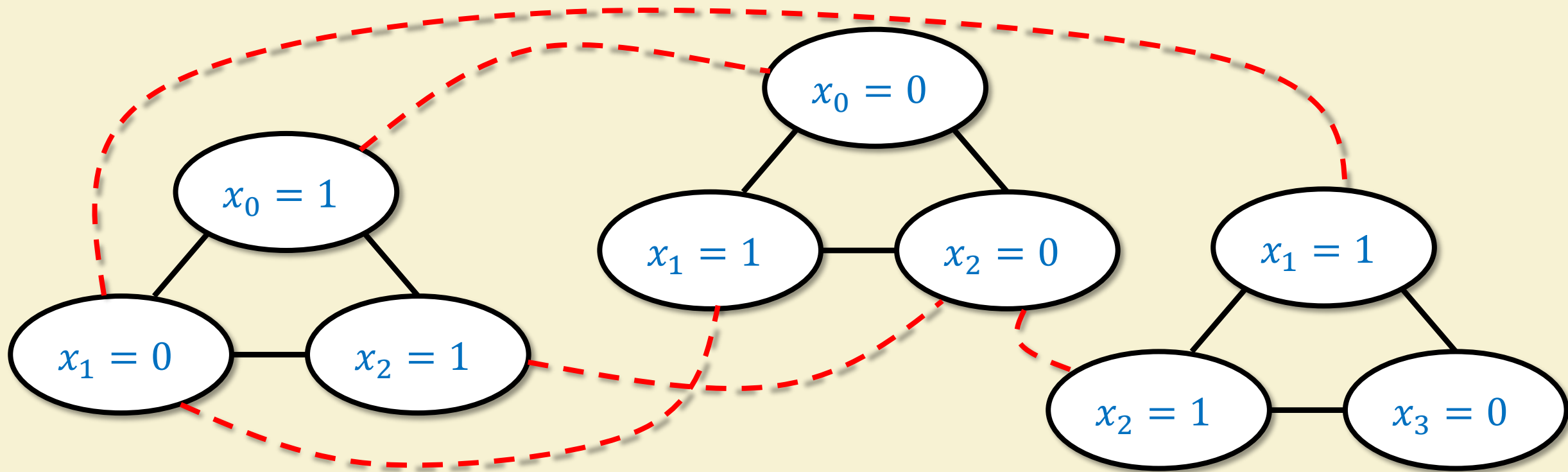
**Theorem:** Suppose that  $ISET \in P$  then  $3SAT \in P$

**Proof:** We will show poly-time  $R: \{3CNF \text{ formulas}\} \rightarrow \{(\text{graphs}, \text{numbers})\}$

s.t. for every 3CNF  $\varphi$ ,  $3SAT(\varphi) = ISET(R(\varphi))$

**Example:**  $\varphi = (x_0 \vee \bar{x}_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_0 \vee x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)$

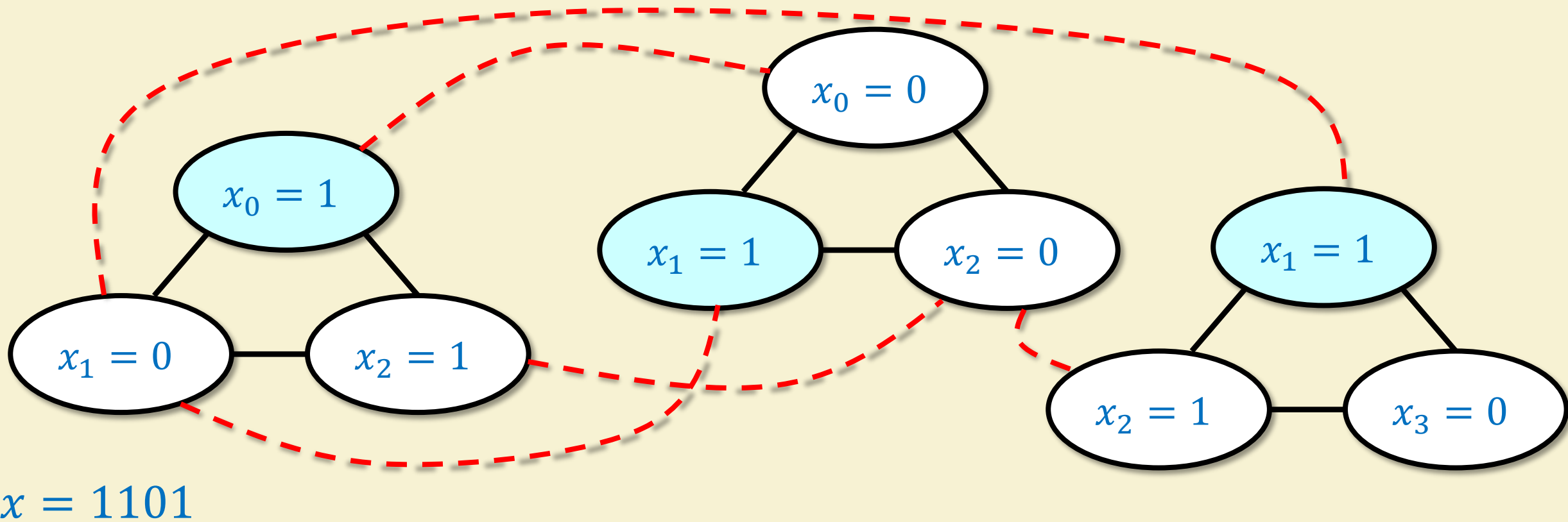
(has  $n = 4$  variables,  $m = 3$  clauses)



**Theorem:** Suppose that  $ISET \in P$  then  $3SAT \in P$

**Proof:** We will show poly-time  $R: \{3CNF \text{ formulas}\} \rightarrow \{(graphs, numbers)\}$   
s.t. for every 3CNF  $\varphi$ ,  $3SAT(\varphi) = ISET(R(\varphi))$

**Example:**  $\varphi = (x_0 \vee \overline{x_1} \vee x_2) \wedge (\overline{x_0} \vee x_1 \vee \overline{x_2}) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_3})$   
(has  $n = 4$  variables,  $m = 3$  clauses)



### Algorithm $R$ :

Input:  $\varphi$  – 3CNF with  $n$  variables and  $m$  clauses

1. Let  $G$  be graph with  $3m$  vertices we will name  $(j, 1), (j, 2), (j, 3)$  for  $j \in [m]$
2. For every  $j \in [m]$ , add edges  $(j, 1) - (j, 2)$ ,  $(j, 2) - (j, 3)$ ,  $(j, 3) - (j, 1)$
3. For every pair of clauses  $C_j$  and  $C_{j'}$  if literals  $(j, a)$  and  $(j', b)$  conflict (one negation of the other) then add the edge  $(j, a) - (j', b)$
4. Return  $(G, m)$

**Claim 1 (completeness):** If  $3SAT(\varphi) = 1$  then  $ISET(G, m) = 1$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $x$  satisfies  $\varphi$ . Then for every clause  $C_j$  there is a literal  $(j, a)$  satisfied.

add  $(j, a)$  to set  $S$ . The size of  $S$  is  $m$ .

We claim that  $S$  is an independent set:

- $S$  contains one vertex in each triangle so no “black” edges.
- If vertex tagged as “ $x_i = 0$ ” in  $S$  then “ $x_i = 1$ ” can’t be in  $S$  so no “red” edges.



### Algorithm $R$ :

Input:  $\varphi$  – 3CNF with  $n$  variables and  $m$  clauses

1. Let  $G$  be graph with  $3m$  vertices we will name  $(j, 1), (j, 2), (j, 3)$  for  $j \in [m]$
2. For every  $j \in [m]$ , add edges  $(j, 1) - (j, 2)$ ,  $(j, 2) - (j, 3)$ ,  $(j, 3) - (j, 1)$
3. For every pair of clauses  $C_j$  and  $C_{j'}$  if literals  $(j, a)$  and  $(j', b)$  conflict (one negation of the other) then add the edge  $(j, a) - (j', b)$
4. Return  $(G, m)$

**Claim 2 (soundness):** If  $ISET(G, m) = 1$  then  $3SAT(\varphi) = 1$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $S$  independent set of size  $m$  in  $G$ .

**Q:** Show that  $S$  contains exactly one vertex per triangle **Hint:**



Set  $x_i^* = 1$  if  $S$  contains vertex tagged " $x_i = 1$ " otherwise  $x_i = 0$ .

For every clause  $C_j$  there is vertex in  $S$  tagged " $x_i = b$ ". We claim  $x_i^* = b$

If  $b = 1$ : by definition.

If  $b = 0$ :  $S$  can't contain vertex tagged " $x_i = 1$ " since it's independent.

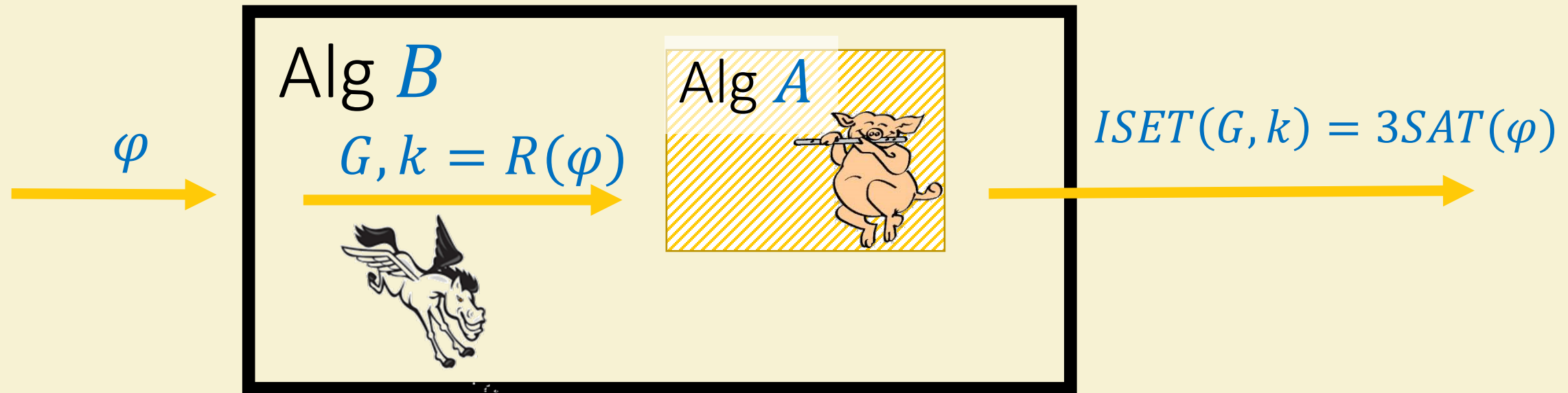


# Polynomial-time reductions



$$3SAT \leq_p ISET$$

We showed: Poly time  $A$  for  $ISET \Rightarrow$  Poly time  $B$  for  $3SAT$



**Def:** Let  $F, G: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ . We say  $F \leq_p G$  if  $\exists$  poly-time  $R: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$  s.t.  $\forall x \in \{0,1\}^* F(x) = G(R(x))$

**Q:** Prove that if  $F \leq_p G$  and  $G \leq_p H$  then  $F \leq_p H$

# Next Lecture:

More systematic exploration of the “hard” problems from today.

All share a common feature: What?

Leads us to NP and NP-completeness!