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Fall'19 CSCE 629

Analysis of Algorithms

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Lecture 28

- P, NP, NPC

Credit: based on slides by A. Smith & K. Wayne

Reflection on reductions

■ Basic reduction strategies

- Reduction by simple equivalence
- Reduction from special case to general case
- Reduction by encoding with gadgets

Transitivity. If $X \leq_P Y$ and $Y \leq_P Z$, then $X \leq_P Z$

Proof idea. Compose two reduction algorithms



$3\text{-SAT} \leq_P \text{INDEPENDENT-SET} \leq_P \text{VERTEX-COVER} \leq_P \text{SET-COVER}$

Central ideas in complexity

- Poly-time as “feasible”

- Most natural problems either are easy (e.g., n^3) or no poly-time alg. known

- Reduction : relating hardness ($A \leq B \Rightarrow A$ no harder than B)

- Classify problems by “hardness”

Self reducibility

Decision problem. Does there exist a vertex cover of size $\leq k$?

Search problem. Find vertex cover of minimum cardinality.

Self-reducibility. Search problem \leq_p decision version

- Applies to all (NP-complete) problems in this chapter
- Justifies our focus on decision problems
- Ex. Recall HW 1 on 3-SAT

Definition of class P

P. Decision problems for which there is a poly-time algorithm

Problem	Description	Algorithm	YES instance	No instance
Multiple	Is x a multiple of y ?	Grade school	51,17	52,17
RELPRIME	Are x and y relatively prime?	Euclid (300 BCE)	34,39	34,51
PRIMES	Is x a prime?	AKS 2002	53	51
EDIT-DISTANCE	Is the edit distance between x and y less than 5?	Dynamic programming	neither either	algorithm quantum

Definition of class NP

NP. Decision problems for which there is a poly-time **certifier**

Idea of certifier

- Certifier checks a proposed proof/certificate t that $s \in X$
 - Need not determine whether $s \in X$ on its own
- N.B. $|t| = p(|s|)$ for some polynomial $p()$

Def. Algorithm $C(s, t)$ is a **certifier** for problem X if for every string s , $s \in X$ iff there exists a string t such that $C(s, t) = \text{yes}$

Equivalent def. NP = **nondeterministic** polynomial-time
not ~~X~~ polynomial-time

Certifiers and certificates: Composite

COMPOSITES. Given an integer s , is s composite?

- **Certificate:** A non-trivial factor t of s .
- **Certifier.**

- **Instance.** $s = 437,669$
 - **Certificate.** $t = 541$ or 809 . $437,669 = 541 \times 809$

```
CompositesCertifier(s,t)
  If ( $t \leq 1$  or  $t \geq s$ )
    Return false
  Else if ( $s$  is a multiple of  $t$ )
    Return true
  Else
    Return false
```

Conclusion. COMPOSITES \in NP

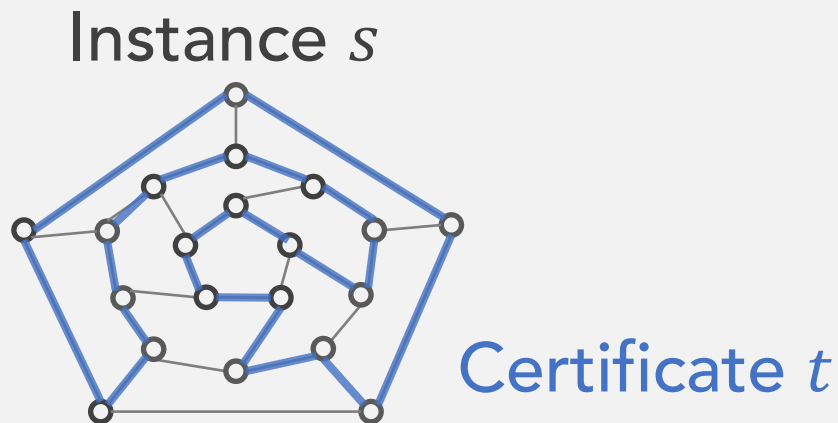
Certifiers and certificates: Hamiltonian cycle

HAM-CYCLE. Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, does there exist a **simple cycle** that visits **every node**?

- **Certificate:** A permutation of n nodes
- **Certifier.**

```
HAM-CYCLE-Certifier( $G, \sigma$ )  
If ( $\forall i, j, \sigma_i \neq \sigma_j$  &  $(\sigma_i, \sigma_{i+1}) \in E$ )  
Return true
```

Conclusion. HAM-Cycle \in NP



P, NP, EXP

P. Decision problems for which there is a **poly**-time algorithm

EXP. Decision problems for which \exists an **exponential**-time algorithm

i.e., runs in time $O(2^{p(|s|)})$ for some polynomial $p()$

NP. Decision problems for which there is a **poly**-time **certifier**

▪ Claim. $P \subseteq NP \subseteq EXP$

$P \subseteq NP$. Consider any $X \in P$,

- \exists poly-time A that solves X
- Certificate: $t = \epsilon$, certifier $C(s, t) = A(s)$

$NP \subseteq EXP$. Consider any $X \in NP$,

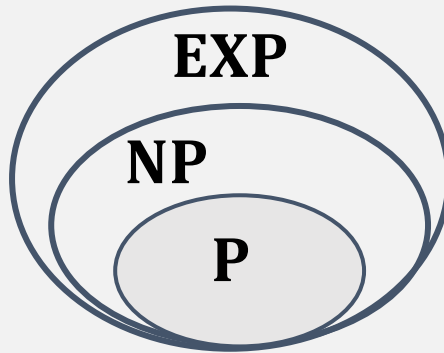
- \exists poly-time **certifier** $C(s, t)$
- To decide input s , run $C(s, t)$ on all strings t with $|t| \leq p(|s|)$.
- Return yes, if $C(s, t)$ ever says yes.

Open question: $P = NP?$



The Millennium prize problems

- \$1 million prize



- Consensus opinion on $P = NP?$ Probably no.

Eight Signs A Claimed $P \neq NP$ Proof Is Wrong

As of this writing, Vinay Deolalikar still hasn't retracted his $P \neq NP$ claim.

<https://www.scottaaronson.com/blog/?p=458>

Millennium Problems

Yang–Mills and Mass Gap

Experiment and computer simulations suggest the existence of a "mass gap" in the theory, but no proof of this property is known.

Riemann Hypothesis

The prime number theorem determines the average distribution of the primes. The Riemann hypothesis determines the error term in the average. Formulated in Riemann's 1859 paper, it asserts that all the 'non-obvious' zeros of the zeta function lie on the critical line.

P vs NP Problem

If it is easy to check that a solution to a problem is correct, is it also easy to solve the problem? The NP problems is that of the Hamiltonian Path Problem: given N cities to visit, how can I find a path that visits each city exactly once? If I have a solution, I can easily check that it is correct. But I cannot so easily find a solution.

Navier–Stokes Equation

This is the equation which governs the flow of fluids such as water and air. How can we solve these equations? Solutions exist, and are they unique? Why ask for a proof? Because a proof gives us a way to check that a solution is correct.

Hodge Conjecture

The answer to this conjecture determines how much of the topology of the solutions of algebraic equations. The Hodge conjecture is known in certain special cases, but in dimension four it is unknown.

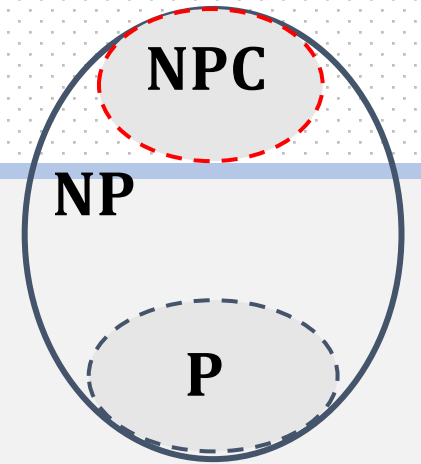
Poincaré Conjecture

In 1904 the French mathematician Henri Poincaré asked if the three dimensional sphere is a manifold. This question, the Poincaré conjecture, was a special case of Thurston's conjecture. The three manifold is built from a set of standard pieces, each with one of eight well-understood topologies.

Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture

Supported by much experimental evidence, this conjecture relates the number of rational solutions to an elliptic curve to the rank of the group of rational points.

NP-Completeness



Def. A problem Y is **NP-Complete** if

1. $Y \in \text{NP}$
2. $\forall X \in \text{NP}, X \leq_{P, \text{Karp}} Y$

Theorem. Suppose Y is **NP-Complete**, then Y is solvable in poly-time **iff**. $\text{P} = \text{NP}$

Pf.

- (\Leftarrow) If $\text{P} = \text{NP}$, then Y can be solved in poly-time since $Y \in \text{NP}$
- (\Rightarrow) If Y is solvable in poly-time, consider any $X \in \text{NP}$.

Since $X \leq_{P, \text{Karp}} Y$, X has a poly-time algorithm as well

I.e., $\text{NP} \subseteq \text{P} \rightarrow \text{P} = \text{NP}$

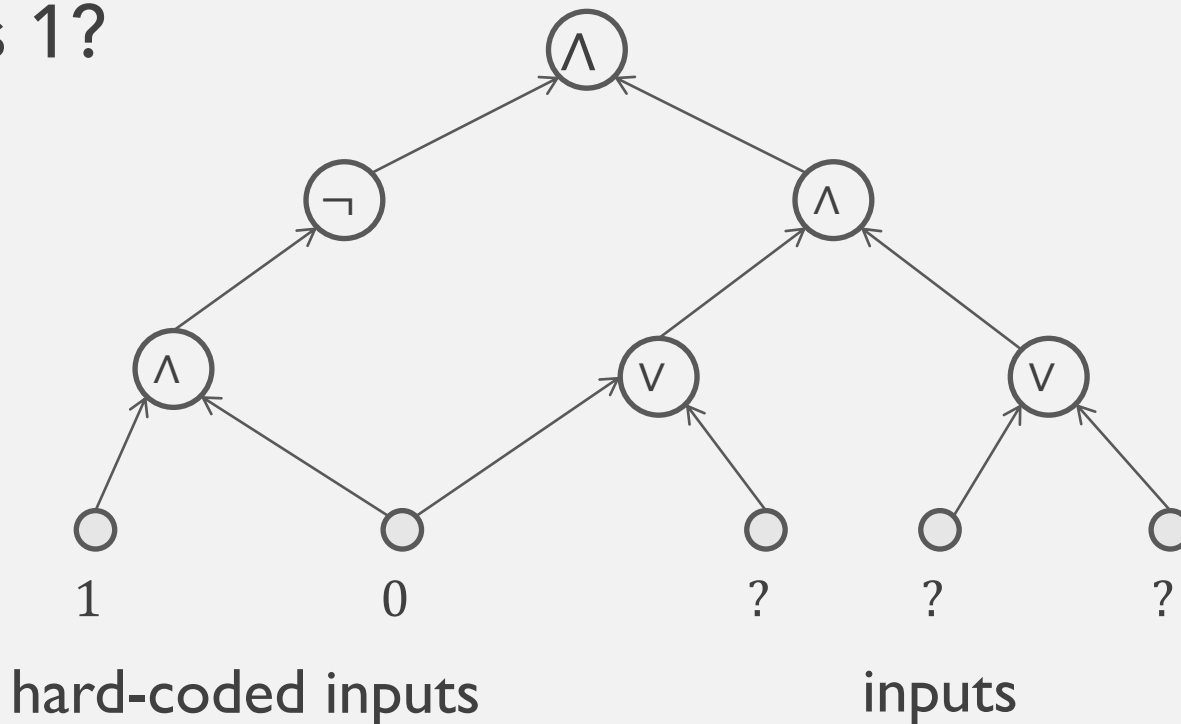
Fundamental question: Are there natural NP-complete problems?

The "first" NP-Complete problem

Theorem. Circuit-SAT is **NP-Complete** [Cook 1971, Levin 1973]

Input. A combinational circuit built out of **AND/OR/NOT** gates

Goal. Decide if there is a way to set the circuit inputs so that the output is 1?

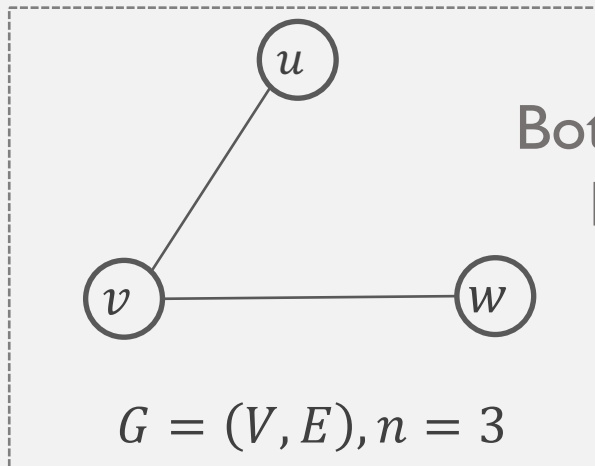


YES! 1 0 1

Example

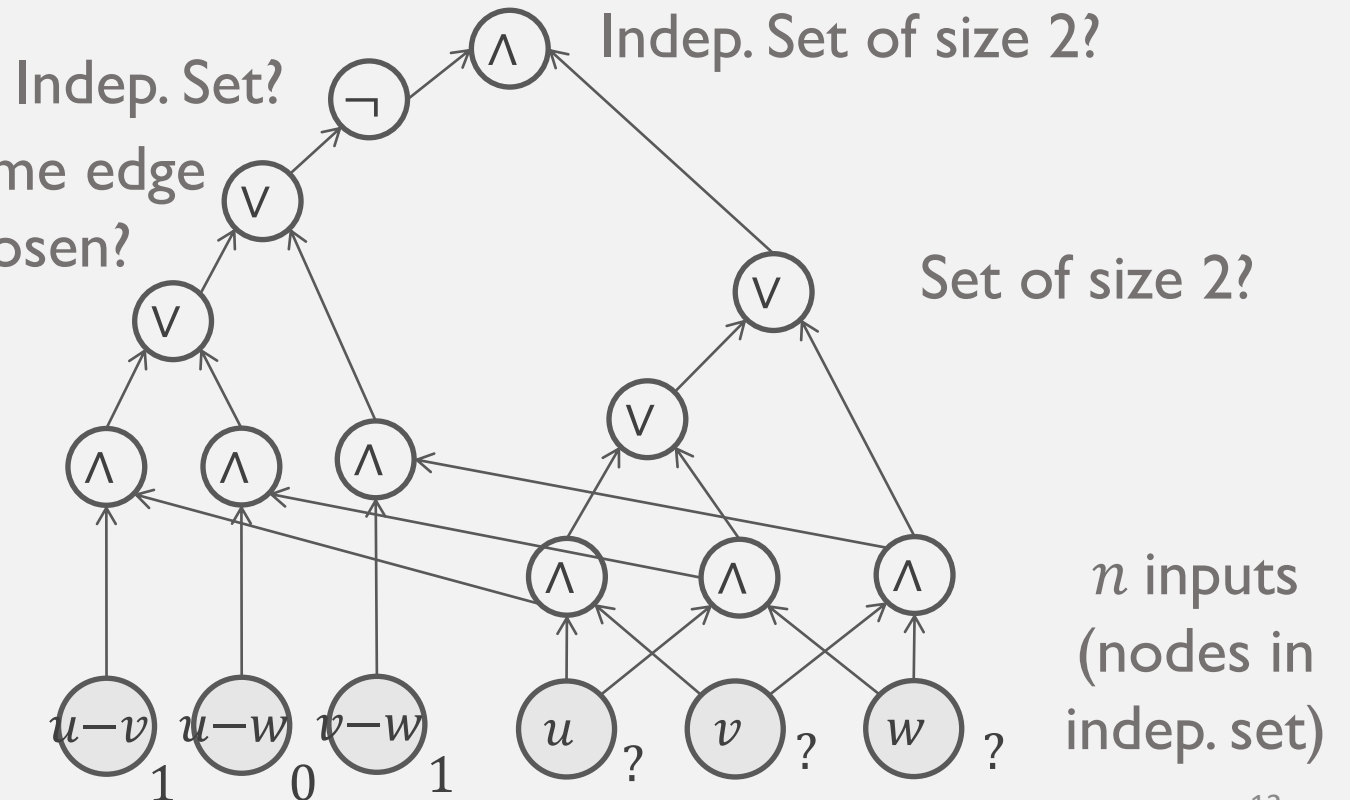
Given. Graph G

Construction. Circuit K whose inputs can be set so that K outputs true iff. graph G has an independent set of size 2



Both ends of some edge have been chosen?

$\binom{n}{2}$ hard-coded inputs
(graph description)



Establishing NP-Completeness

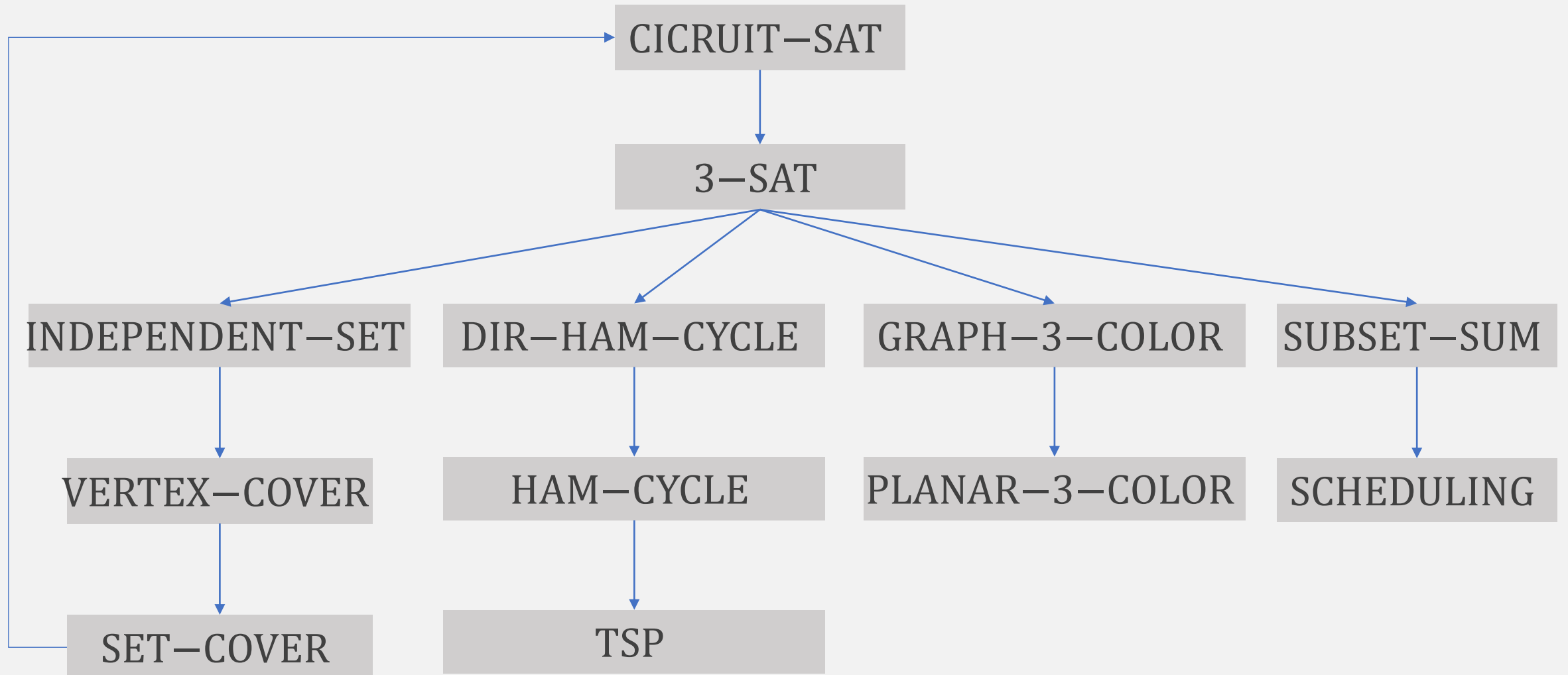
Once we establish **first** "natural" NP-complete problem, others fall like dominoes ...

Recipe to establish NP-Completeness of problem Y

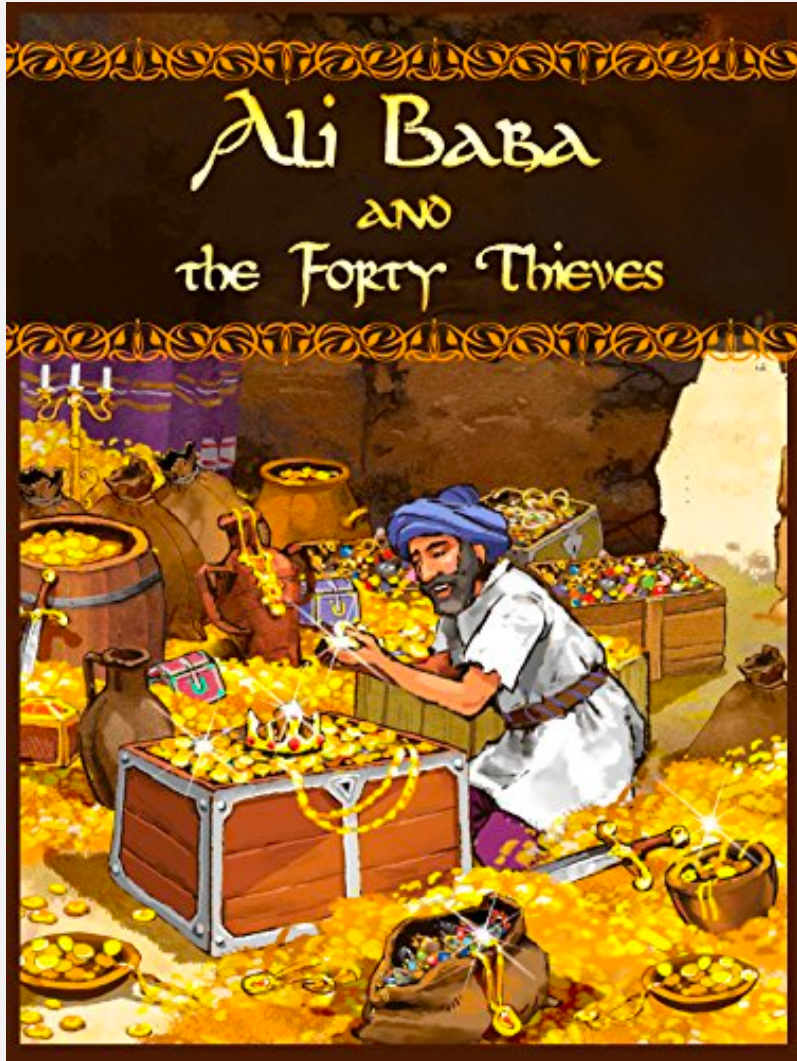
1. Show that $Y \in \text{NP}$
2. Choose an NP-complete problem X
3. Prove that $X \leq_{P, Karp} Y$

Justification. If X is an NP-complete problem, and Y is a problem in NP with the property that $X \leq_{P, Karp} Y$ then Y is NP-complete (by **transitivity**)

NP-Completeness



Alibaba's knapsack



<https://images.app.goo.gl/pwGFyw2pp6Xmx6CB8>

Modern Version



MY HOBBY: EMBEDDING NP-COMPLETE PROBLEMS IN RESTAURANT ORDERS

CHOTCHKIES RESTAURANT

~ APPETIZERS ~

MIXED FRUIT	2.15
FRENCH FRIES	2.75
SIDE SALAD	3.35
HOT WINGS	3.55
MOZZARELLA STICKS	4.20
SAMPLER PLATE	5.80

~ SANDWICHES ~

BARBECUE	6.55
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<https://xkcd.com/287/>