

- can assume all guessing is done first
 \Rightarrow equivalent to polynomial-time verifier of polynomial-size certificates for YES answers
- note asymmetry between YES & NO
- problem X is
 - NP-complete if $X \in NP$ & X is NP-hard
 - NP-hard if every problem $Y \in NP$ reduces to X
 - if $P \neq NP$ then $X \notin P$ ($NP - P \rightarrow X$)
- reduction from problem A to problem $B =$ polynomial-time algorithm converting A inputs into equivalent B inputs $A \rightarrow B$
 - \hookrightarrow same YES/NO answer
 - if $B \in P$ then $A \in P$ $\leftarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{solve}$
 - if $B \in NP$ then $A \in NP$
 - if A is NP-hard then B is NP-hard

How to prove X is NP-complete:

- ① $X \in NP$ via nondeterministic algorithm or certificate + verifier
- ② reduce from known NP-complete problem Y to X

(\Rightarrow any $Z \in NP \rightarrow Y \rightarrow X \Rightarrow X$ is NP-hard)

- poly-time conversion from Y inputs to X inputs
- if Y answer is YES then X answer is YES
- if X answer is YES then Y answer is YES

3SAT: given Boolean formula of the form:

$$(x_1 \vee x_3 \vee \overline{x_6}) \wedge (\overline{x_2} \vee x_3 \vee \overline{x_7}) \wedge \dots$$

Annotations: "OR" points to the \vee operators; "NOT" points to the $\overline{}$ operators; "AND" points to the \wedge operators; "literals" points to the x_i and $\overline{x_i}$ terms; "clause" points to the entire expression in parentheses.

i.e. formula = AND of clauses
clause = OR of 3 literals
literal $\in \{x_i, \overline{x_i}\}$

occurrences of variable x_i

is there a variable $\rightarrow \{T, F\}$ assignment
such that formula = T (satisfying assignment)

- NP-complete [Cook 1971]
 - \in NP: guess x_1 is T or F
guess x_2 is T or F
 \vdots
- } $O(\# \text{variables})$
nondeterministic
- check formula - $O(\# \text{clauses})$

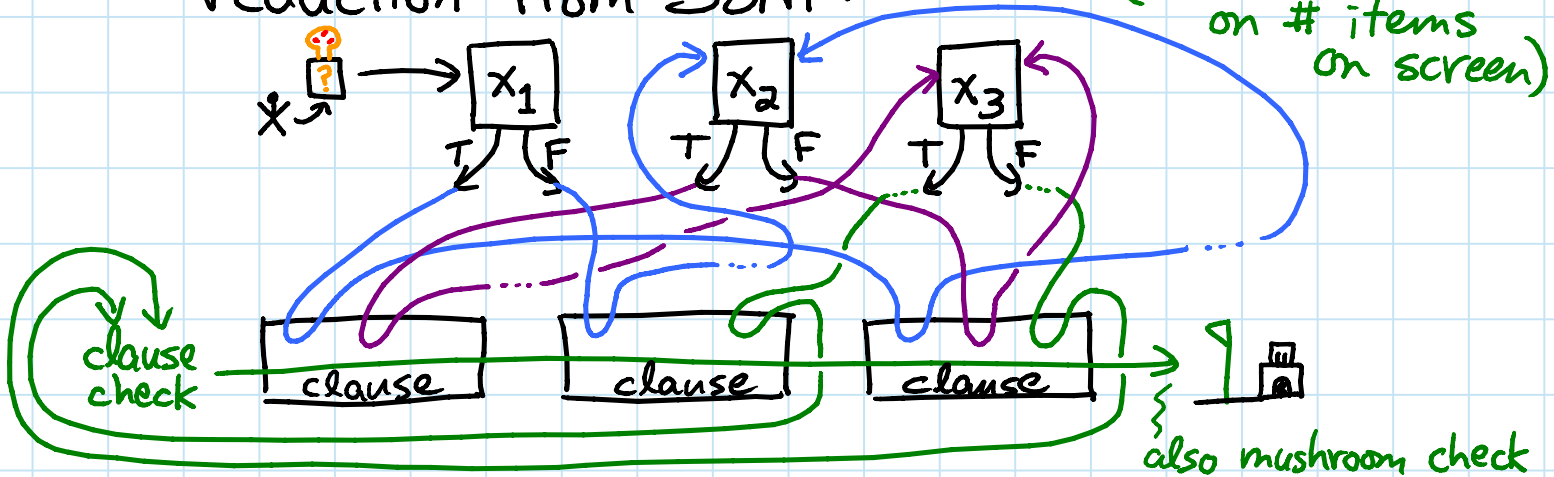
- NP-hard: intuition

- convert algorithm into a circuit
- convert circuit into a formula
- convert formula into 3CNF (as above)

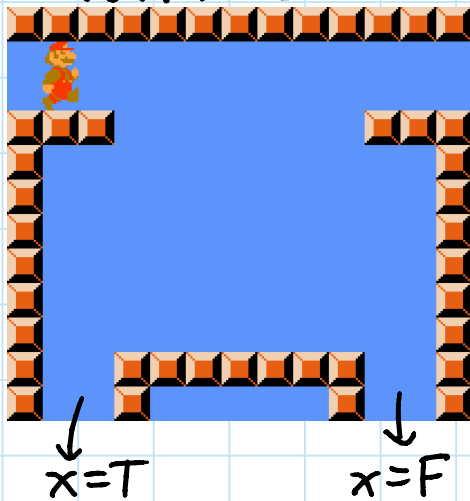
Super Mario Bros. is NP-hard

[Aloupis, Demaine, Guo, Viglietta 2014]

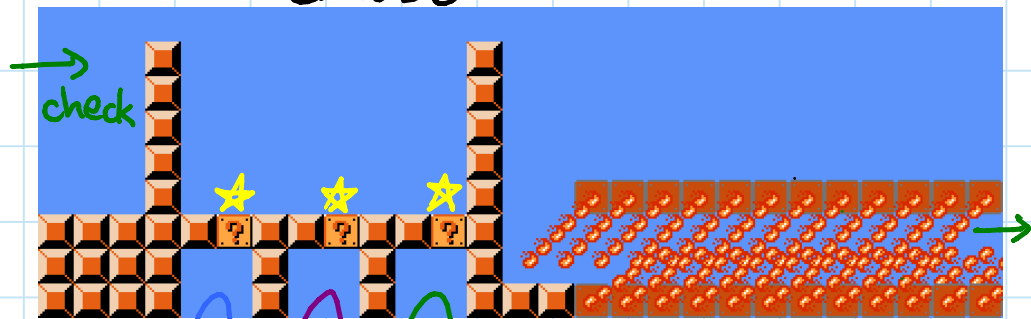
- generalized to arbitrary screen size ($n \times n$)
- reduction from 3SAT: (& remove limits on # items on screen)



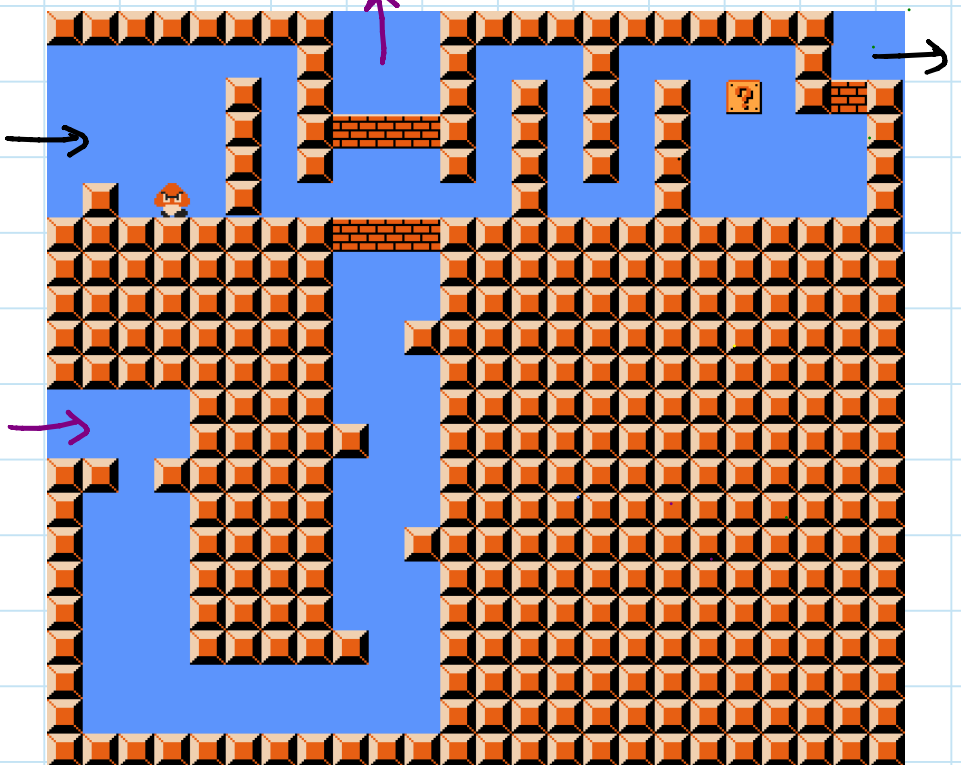
variable:



clause:



cross-over:



For many more cool examples, check out 6.890: "Fun with Hardness"

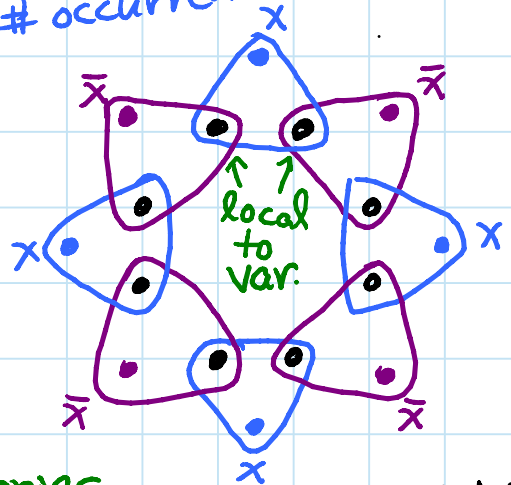
3-Dimensional Matching: (3DM)

given disjoint sets X, Y, Z each of n elements, & triples $T \subseteq X \times Y \times Z$, is there a subset $S \subseteq T$ such that each element $\in X \cup Y \cup Z$ is in exactly one $s \in S$?

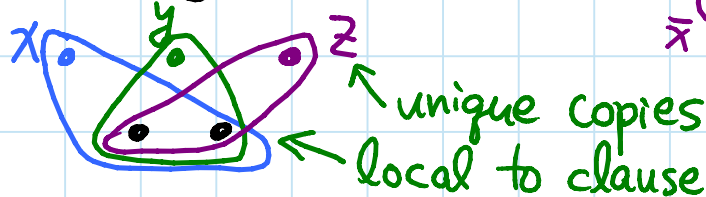
- $\in NP$: guess which triples $\in S$ - $O(T)$ nondet.
 check for exact coverage - $O(T)$

- NP-hard by reduction from 3SAT:
 [Garey & Johnson 1979 book] \rightarrow # occurrences of x or \bar{x}

- variable $x \rightarrow 2n_x$ chain:
 - exactly 2 solutions
 - either x 's or \bar{x} 's left



- clause $x \vee y \vee z \rightarrow$



$\bullet \in X \cup Y$
 rest $\in Z$

- solvable if x or y or z 's left
 - garbage collection: all x_i & \bar{x}_i 's
 \uparrow shared (per repeat)

repeated $\sum_x n_x$ - # clauses times

x & \bar{x} 's left by vars. # covered by clauses

- can cover exactly all unused x_i 's & \bar{x}_i 's
 - satisfying assignment \rightarrow 3DM
 ($x=T \rightarrow$ leave x ; $x=F \rightarrow$ leave \bar{x} ; satisfy clauses;
 cover remaining with garbage collector)
 - 3DM \rightarrow satisfying assignment
 (x left $\rightarrow x=T$; \bar{x} left $\rightarrow x=F$; satisfy clauses)

Subset Sum: given n integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$
& a target sum t ,

is there a subset $S \subseteq A$
such that $\sum_{a \in S} a = t$?

- \in NP: guess S

- pseudopolynomial algorithm via DP (like knapsack)

↳ polynomial in n & sum of numbers (A)

- weakly NP-hard by reduction from 3DM

↳ hard when numbers exponential in n
(but still only polynomial number of bits)

- view numbers in base $b = 1 + \max_i n_{x_i}$

⇒ never overflow/carry # occurrences of x_i

- triple $(x_i, x_j, x_k) \rightarrow 000100100001000$

$= b^i + b^j + b^k$

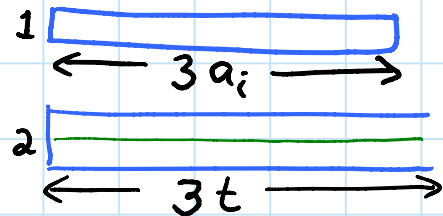
- $t = 11\dots 1 = \sum_i b^i$

Partition: given n positive integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$,
 is there a subset $S \subseteq A$
 with $\sum S = \sum(A \setminus S) = \frac{1}{2} \sum A$?

- special case of Subset Sum ($t = \frac{1}{2} \sum A$)
 $\Rightarrow \in NP$ & pseudopolynomial algorithm
- weakly NP-hard by reduction from Subset Sum
 - let $\sigma = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$
 - add $a_{n+1} = \sigma + t$ & $a_{n+2} = 2\sigma - t$
 \Rightarrow exactly one is $\in S$ (else 3σ vs. σ)
 - \Rightarrow partition must add t to a_{n+2}
 & add $\sigma - t$ to a_n

Rectangle packing: given n rectangles R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n
 & target rectangle T of area $\sum_i \text{area}(R_i)$
 can you pack R_i 's into T without overlap?

- $\in NP$ because areas match
 \Rightarrow can only rotate by int. $\times 90^\circ$
 \Rightarrow can guess rotation & integer translation
- weakly NP-hard by reduction from Partition:
 - $a_i \rightarrow 1 \times 3a_i$ rectangle R_i
 - $t \rightarrow 2 \times 3t$ rectangle T
 - $3 > 2 \Rightarrow$ can't rotate 90°
 \Rightarrow packing must find partition



4-Partition: given n integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$,
 is there a partition into $n/4$ subsets of 4
 each with the same sum $t = \sum A / (n/4)$?

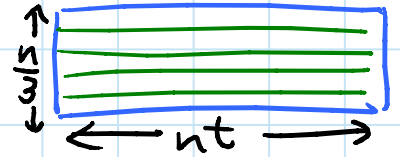
also works with 3

$\in (t/5, t/3)$

- $\in NP$: guess $A \rightarrow$ subset mapping
- strongly NP-hard by reduction from 3DM [G&J]
 - \hookrightarrow NP-hard even when number values polynomial in n
- write numbers in base $r = 100 \cdot \sum (X \cup Y \cup Z)$
- element $x_i \in X \rightarrow (10, i, 0, 0, 1) = 10r^4 + ir^3 + 1$
 & $(11, i, 0, 0, 1) \times (n_{x_i} - 1)$ copies
- element $y_j \in Y \rightarrow (10, 0, j, 0, 2)$
 & $(11, 0, j, 0, 2) \times (n_{y_j} - 1)$ copies
- element $z_k \in Z \rightarrow (10, 0, 0, k, 4)$
 & $(8, 0, 0, k, 4) \times (n_{z_k} - 1)$ copies
- triple $(x_i, y_j, z_k) \rightarrow (10, -i, -j, -k, 8)$
 = $10r^4 - ir^3 - jr^2 - kr^3 + 8$
- target sum $t = (40, 0, 0, 0, 15) = 40r^4 + 15$
- no carries (r large enough)
- mod $r \Rightarrow$ use one x_i , one y_j , one z_k , one triple
- $\lfloor \sum / r \rfloor \bmod r \Rightarrow z_k$ & triple match
- $\lfloor \sum / r^2 \rfloor \bmod r \Rightarrow y_j$ & triple match
- $\lfloor \sum / r^3 \rfloor \bmod r \Rightarrow x_i$ & triple match
- $\lfloor \sum / r^4 \rfloor \bmod r \Rightarrow 4 \cdot 10 \rightarrow$ chosen triple $\in S$
 or $11 + 11 + 8 + 10 \rightarrow$ unused triple $\notin S$
- primary (10) form of x_i (or y_j or z_k)
 must appear in exactly one chosen triple
 (and elements of triple must all match)

Rectangle packing:

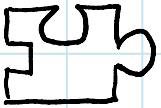
- strongly NP-hard by reduction from 4-Partition
- $a_i \rightarrow 1 \times n a_i$ rectangle R_i
- $t \rightarrow \frac{n}{3} \times n t$ rectangle T



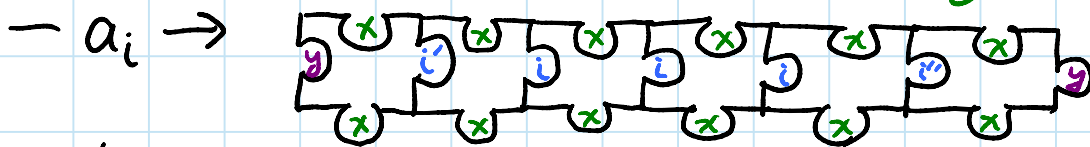
Jigsaw puzzles:

[Demaine & Demaine 2007]

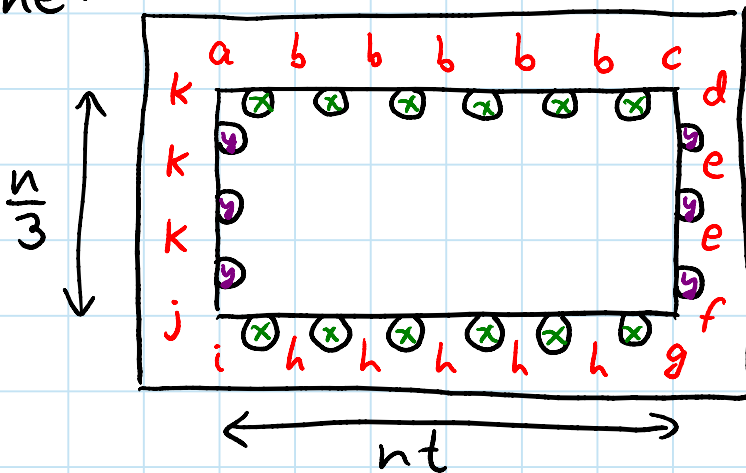
- model: square tiles (no pattern)
each side tab, pocket, or boundary
tabs & pockets must have matching shape
target rectangular shape



- NP-hard by reduction from 4-Partition:
(similar to reduction to Rectangle Packing)



- $t \rightarrow$ frame:



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