

# CS 420 / CS 620

## The Cook-Levin Theorem

Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
UMass Boston Computer Science

Last lecture!

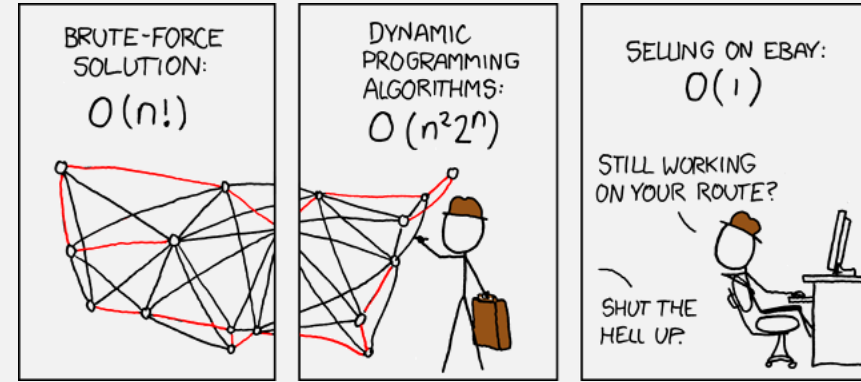


# Announcements

- HW 13 Last HW
  - ~~Out: Fri 12/5 12pm (noon)~~
  - Due: Fri 12/12 12pm (noon) (classes end)
  - Late due: Mon 12/15 12pm (noon) (exams start)
    - Nothing accepted after this (please don't ask)



# Last Time: P vs NP



- **P** = class of languages that can be decided “quickly”
  - i.e., “solvable” with a deterministic TM Want search problems to be in P ... but they mostly are not
- **NP** = class of languages that can be verified “quickly”
  - or, “solvable” with a nondeterministic TM Most search problems are in NP ...

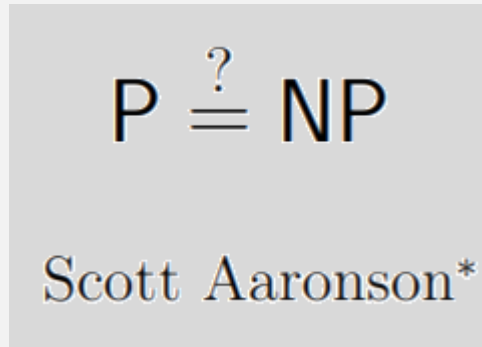
- Does **P = NP** ? (brute force becomes solvable!)
  - Problem first posed by John Nash



- It's a difficult problem because how do you prove: “we'll never find a poly time algorithm for X”?

# Progress on whether $P = NP$ ?

- Some, but still not close

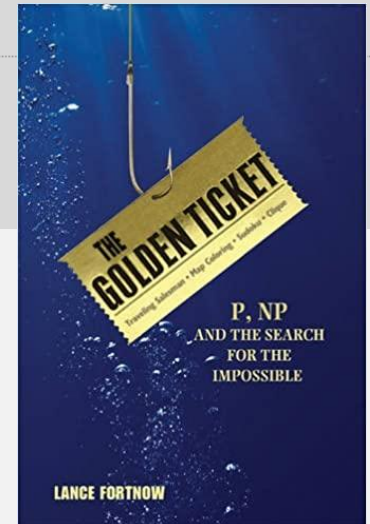


## The Status of the P Versus NP Problem

By Lance Fortnow

Communications of the ACM, September 2009, Vol. 52 No. 9, Pages 78-86

10.1145/1562164.1562186



- One important concept discovered:
  - NP-Completeness

# NP-Completeness

Must prove for all langs, not just a single lang

## DEFINITION

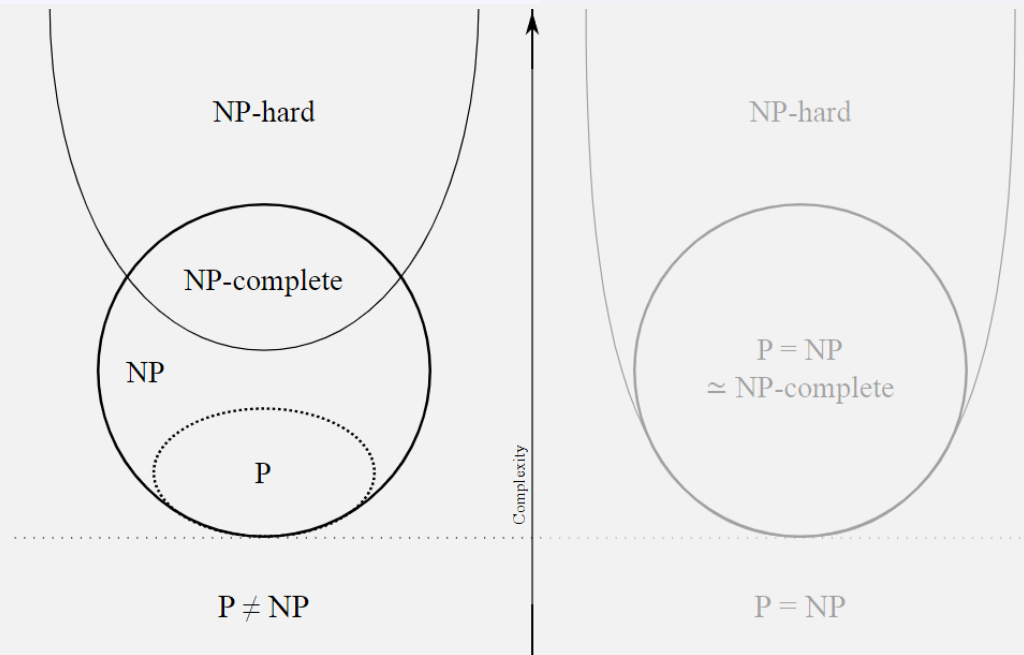
A language  $B$  is **NP-complete** if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and **easy**

hard????

2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

**“NP-hard”**



# NP-Completeness

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is *NP-complete* if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and
2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

- How does this **help** the **P = NP** problem?

## THEOREM

.....

If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \in P$ , then  $P = NP$ .

So to prove **P = NP**, we only need to find a poly-time algorithm for one NP-Complete problem!

# An **NP**-Complete Language?

$SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$

So to prove **P = NP**, we only need to find a poly-time algorithm for one **NP**-Complete problem!

# Boolean Satisfiability

- A **Boolean formula** is **satisfiable** if ...
- ... there is **some assignment** of TRUE or FALSE (1 or 0) to its **variables** that makes the entire formula TRUE
- Is  $(\bar{x} \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge \bar{z})$  satisfiable?
  - Yes
  - $x = \text{FALSE}$ ,  
 $y = \text{TRUE}$ ,  
 $z = \text{FALSE}$



# The Boolean Satisfiability Problem

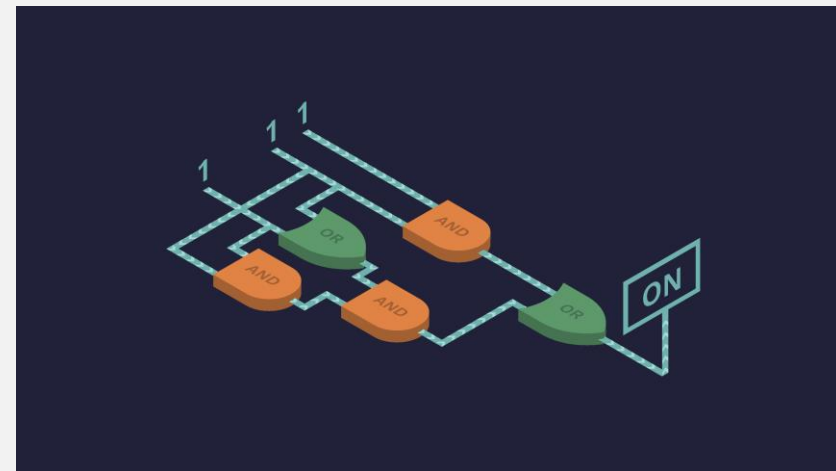
$SAT = \{ \langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula} \}$

Theorem:  $SAT$  is **NP**-complete

The first **NP**-  
Complete  
problem

It sort of makes sense that every  
problem can be reduced to it ...

**PROOF**: The Cook-Levin Theorem



(Then it'll be much easier to find other **NP**-Complete problems!)

**THEOREM** .....

If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

# The Cook-Levin Theorem

**THEOREM** .....  
*SAT* is NP-complete.

The Complexity of Theorem-Proving Procedures

Stephen A. Cook  
University of Toronto

1971

## Summary

It is shown that any recognition problem solved by a polynomial time-bounded nondeterministic Turing machine can be "reduced" to the problem of determining whether a given propositional formula is a tautology. Here "reduced" means, roughly speaking, that the first problem can be solved deterministically in polynomial time provided an oracle is available for solving the second. From this notion of reducible, polynomial degrees of difficulty are defined, and it is shown that the problem of determining tautologyhood has the same polynomial degree as the

certain recursive set of strings on this alphabet, and we are interested in the problem of finding a good lower bound on its possible recognition times. We provide no such lower bound here, but theorem 1 will give evidence that {tautologies} is a difficult set to recognize, since many apparently difficult problems can be reduced to determining tautologyhood. By reduced we mean, roughly speaking, that if tautologyhood could be decided instantly (by an "oracle") then these problems could be decided in polynomial time. In order to make this notion precise, we introduce query machines, which are like Turing machines with oracles

КРАТКИЕ СООБЩЕНИЯ

"Universal Search Problems"

УДК 519.14

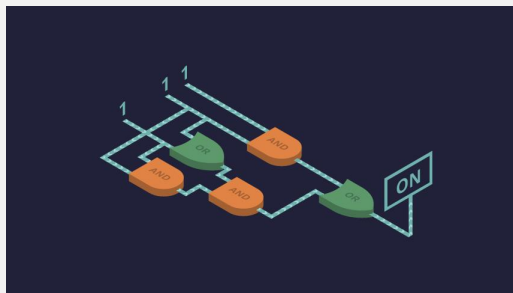
1973

УНИВЕРСАЛЬНЫЕ ЗАДАЧИ ПЕРЕБОРА

Л. А. Левин Leonid Levin

В статье рассматривается несколько известных массовых задач «переборного типа» и доказывается, что эти задачи можно решать лишь за такое время, за которое можно решать вообще любые задачи указанного типа.

После уточнения понятия алгоритма была доказана алгоритмическая неразрешимость ряда классических массовых проблем (например, проблем тождества элементов группы, гомеоморфности многообразий, разрешимости диофантовых уравнений и других). Тем самым был снят вопрос о нахождении практического способа их решения. Однако существование алгоритмов для решения других задач не снимает для них аналогичного вопроса из-за фантастически большого объема работы, предписываемого этими алгоритмами. Такова ситуация с так называемыми переборными задачами: минимизации булевых функций, поиска доказательств ограниченной длины, выяснения изоморфности графов и другими. Все эти задачи решаются тривиальными алгоритмами, состоящими в переборе всех возможностей. Однако эти алгоритмы требуют экспоненциального времени работы и у математиков сложилось убеждение, что



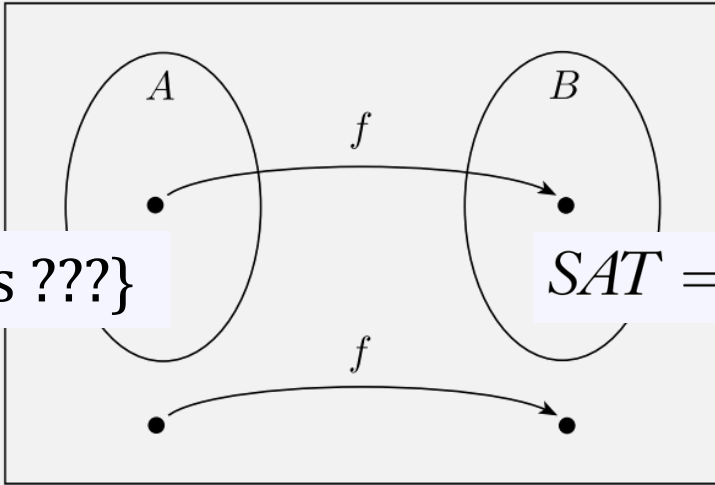
Hard part

## DEFINITION

A language  $B$  is *NP-complete* if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in NP, and
2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

# Reducing every **NP** language to SAT



Some **NP** lang =  $\{w \mid w \text{ is } ???\}$

$SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$

How can we convert a string  $w$  to a Boolean formula if we don't know  $w$ ???

# Proving theorems about an entire class of langs?

We can still use general facts about the languages!

E.g., “**Prove that every regular language is in P**”

- Even though we don't know what the language is ...
- ... we do know that every regular lang has an **DFA** accepting it

E.g., “**Prove that every CFL is decidable**”

- Even though we don't know what the language is ...
- ... we do know that every CFL has a **CFG** representation ...
- ... and every CFG has a **Chomsky Normal Form**

# What do we know about **NP** languages?

They are:

1. **Verified** by a deterministic poly time verifier
2. **Decided** by a nondeterministic poly time decider (NTM)

Let's use this one

# Nondeterministic TMs

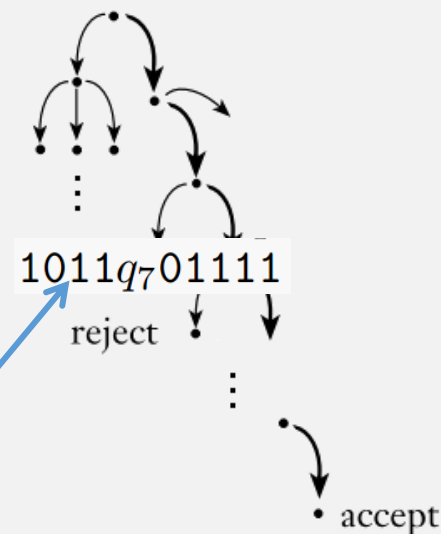
- Formally defined with states, transitions, alphabet ...

Nondeterministic

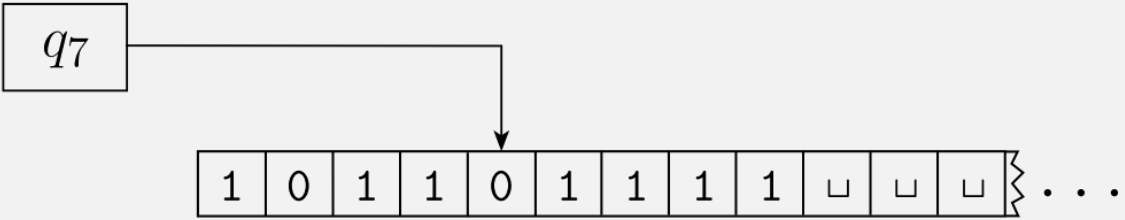
A **Turing machine** is a 7-tuple,  $(Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{\text{accept}}, q_{\text{reject}})$ , where  $Q, \Sigma, \Gamma$  are all finite sets and

- $Q$  is the set of states,
- $\Sigma$  is the input alphabet not containing the *blank symbol*  $\sqcup$ ,
- $\Gamma$  is the tape alphabet, where  $\sqcup \in \Gamma$  and  $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$ ,
- $\delta: Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q \times \Gamma \times \{\text{L}, \text{R}\})$  transition function,
- $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state,
- $q_{\text{accept}} \in Q$  is the accept state, and
- $q_{\text{reject}} \in Q$  is the reject state, where  $q_{\text{reject}} \neq q_{\text{accept}}$ .

- Computation can branch
- Each node in the tree represents a TM configuration



*Flashback:* TM Config = State + Head + Tape



1011 $q_7$ 01111

Textual representation of "configuration"

1<sup>st</sup> char after state is current head position

# Nondeterministic TMs

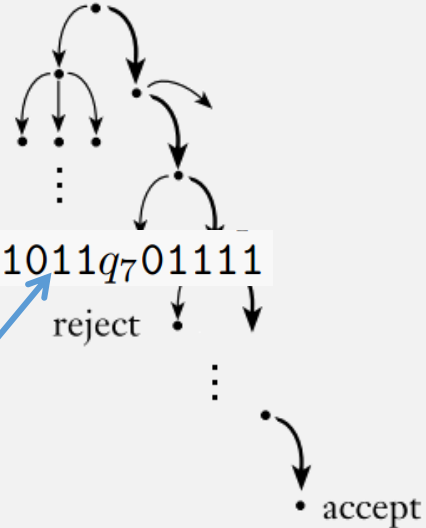
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Strings accepted by an NTM must have an **accepting sequence of configurations!**

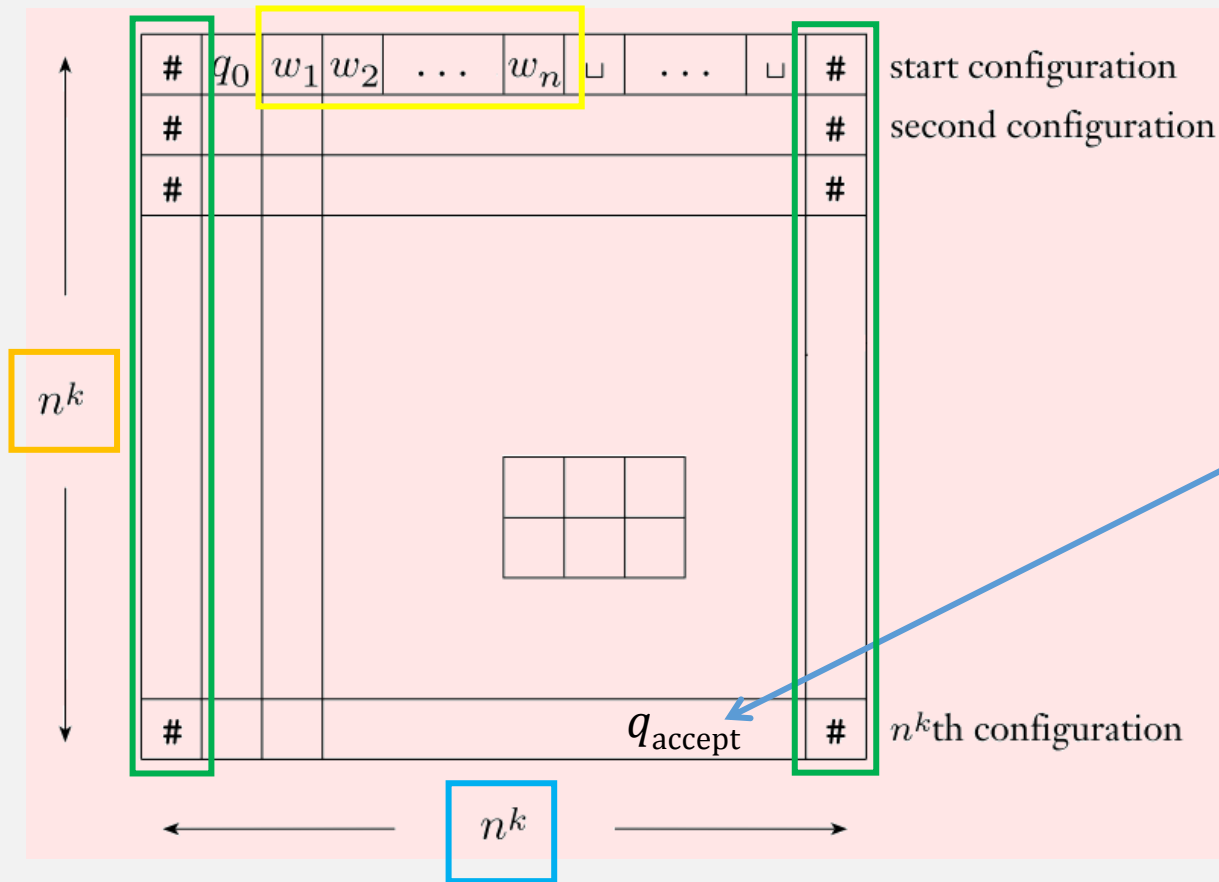
- Computation can branch
- Each node in the tree represents a TM configuration
- Transitions specify valid configuration sequences



$q_1 0000 \rightarrow \sqcup q_2 000 \rightarrow \sqcup x q_3 00 \rightarrow \sqcup x 0 q_4 0 \dots \rightarrow \sqcup XXX \sqcup q_{\text{accept}}$



# Accepting config sequence = "Tableau"

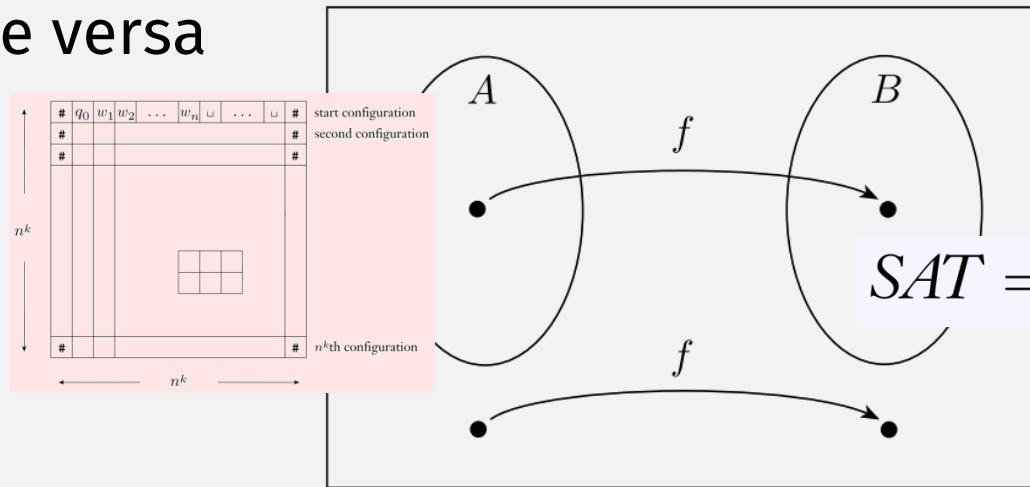


- input  $w = w_1 \dots w_n$
- Assume configs start/end with #
- Must have an accepting config
- At most  $n^k$  configs
  - (why?) NP langs have poly time NTMs
- Each config has length  $n^k$ 
  - (why?) Reading input must be poly time

# Theorem: *SAT* is NP-complete

Proof idea:

- Give an algorithm reducing accepting tableaus to satisfiable formulas
- Thus **every string** in the **NP** language (which has an accepting tableau) will be mapped to a satisfiable formula
  - and vice versa



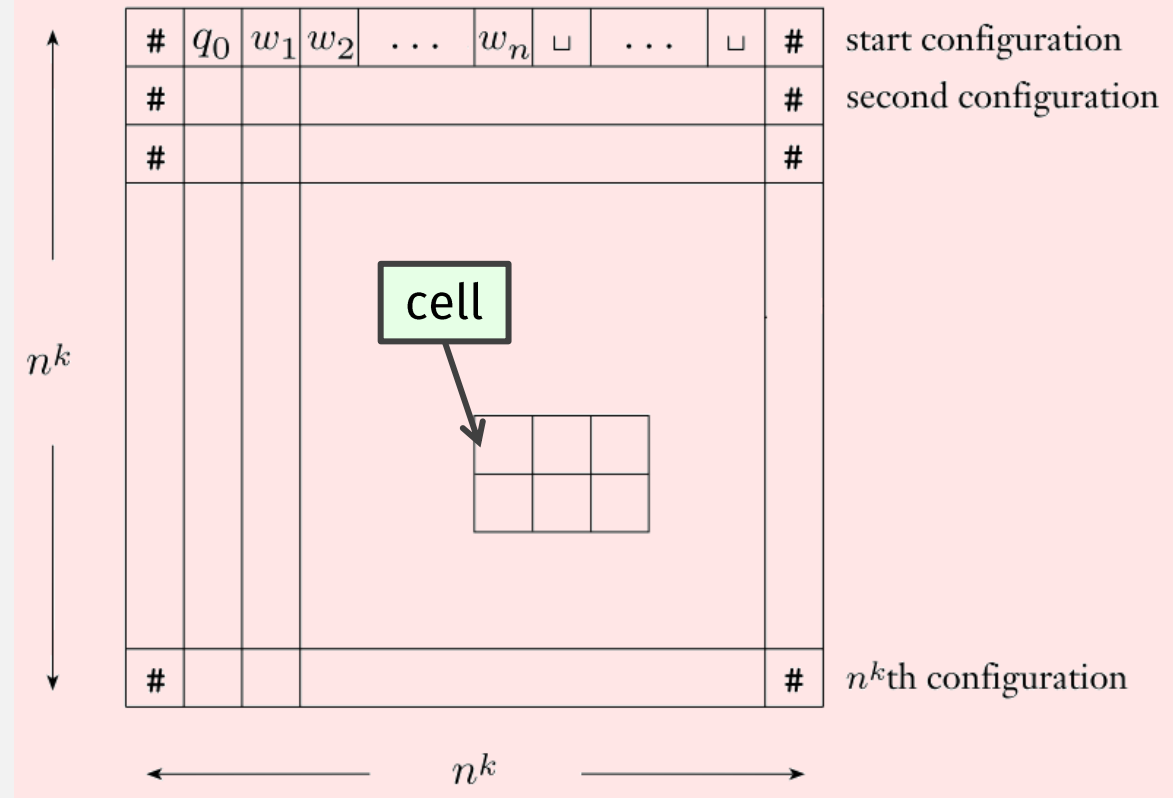
Resulting formulas will have four components:

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$

$$SAT = \{ \langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula} \}$$

# Tableau Terminology

- A tableau cell has coordinate  $i, j$
- A cell contains: state, tape char, or #  
 $s \in C = Q \cup \Gamma \cup \{\#\}$



A **Turing machine** is a 7-tuple,  $(Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{\text{accept}}, q_{\text{reject}})$ , where  $Q, \Sigma, \Gamma$  are all finite sets and

1.  $Q$  is the set of states,
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3.  $\Gamma$  is the tape alphabet. where  $\sqcup \in \Gamma$  and  $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$ ,
4.  $\delta: Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q \times \Gamma \times \{\text{L}, \text{R}\})$  transition function,
5.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state,
6.  $q_{\text{accept}} \in Q$  is the accept state, and
7.  $q_{\text{reject}} \in Q$  is the reject state, where  $q_{\text{reject}} \neq q_{\text{accept}}$ .

# Formula Variables

- A tableau cell has coordinate  $i, j$

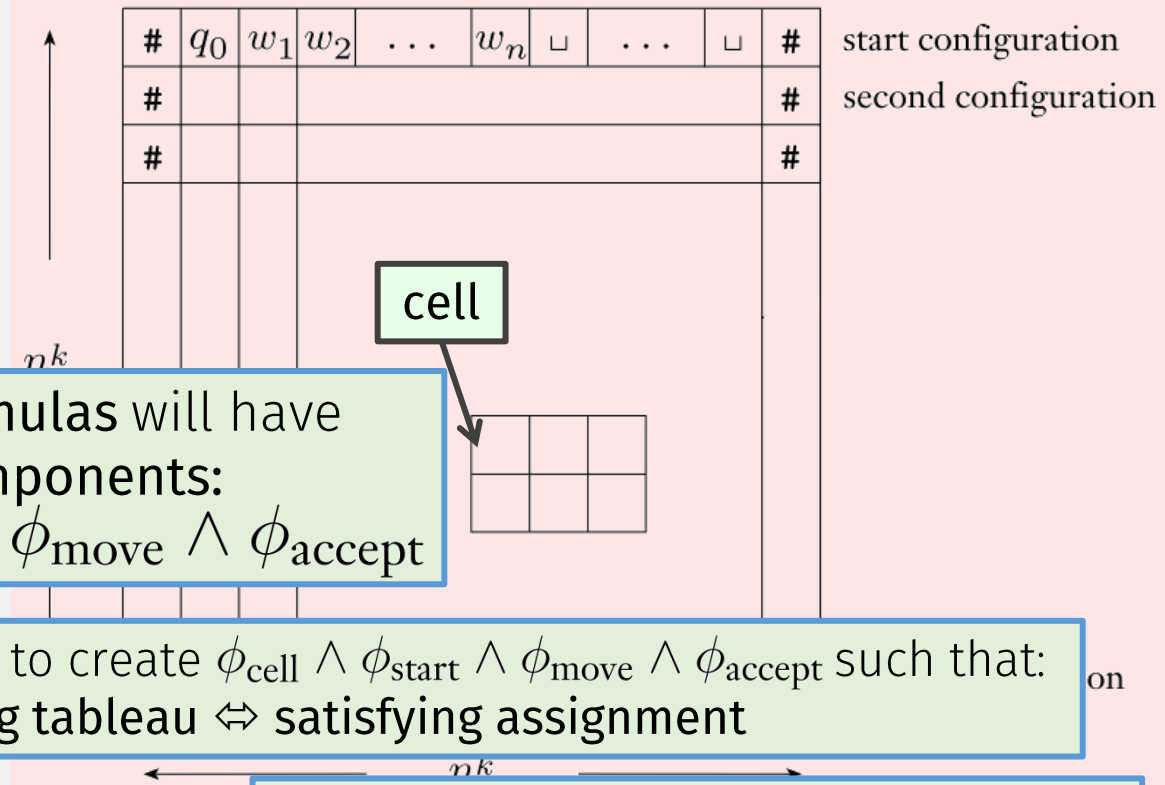
- A cell contains: state, tape symbol  
 $s \in C = Q \cup \Gamma \cup \{\#\}$

Resulting formulas will have four components:  
 $\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$

Use these variables to create  $\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$  such that:  
 accepting tableau  $\Leftrightarrow$  satisfying assignment

- For every  $i, j, s$  create variable  $x_{i,j,s}$ 
  - i.e., one var for every possible cell coordinate/content combination

- Total variables =
  - # cells  $\times$  # symbols =
  - $n^k \times n^k \times |C| = O(n^{2k})$



- A Turing machine  $M$  is defined by the tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{\text{accept}}, q_{\text{reject}})$  where
- $Q$  is the set of states
  - $\Sigma$  is the input alphabet
  - $\Gamma$  is the tape alphabet
  - $\delta: Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R, S\}$  is the transition function
  - $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state,
  - $q_{\text{accept}} \in Q$  is the accept state, and
  - $q_{\text{reject}} \in Q$  is the reject state, where  $q_{\text{reject}} \neq q_{\text{accept}}$ .

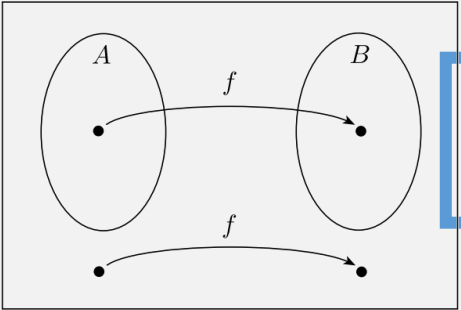
$\Rightarrow$  If input is accepting tableau, then output satisfiable  $\phi$ :

- all four parts** of  $\phi$  must be TRUE

$\Leftarrow$  If input is non-accepting tableau, then output unsatisfiable  $\phi$ :

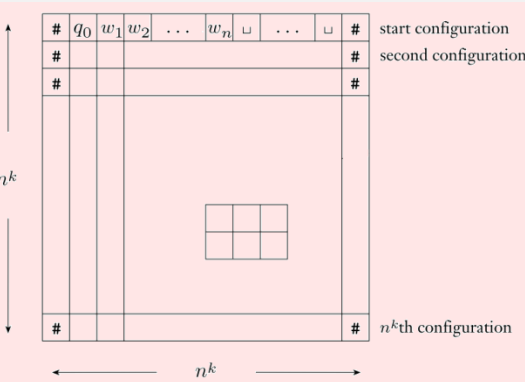
- only one part** of  $\phi$  must be FALSE

⇒ accepting tableau: **all four** must be TRUE  
 ⇐ nonaccepting tableau: **one** must be FALSE



$\phi_{\text{cell}}$

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$



$$\phi_{\text{cell}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} \left[ \left( \bigvee_{s \in C} x_{i,j,s} \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\substack{s, t \in C \\ s \neq t}} (\overline{x_{i,j,s}} \vee \overline{x_{i,j,t}}) \right) \right]$$

$C = Q \cup \Gamma \cup \{\#\}$

“The following must be TRUE for every cell  $i,j$ ”

“The variable for one  $s (\in C)$  must be TRUE”

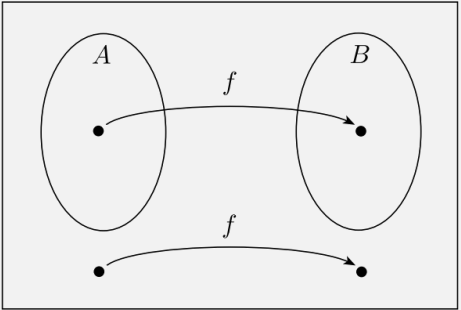
And only one variable for some  $s$  must be TRUE

i.e., **every cell has a valid character**

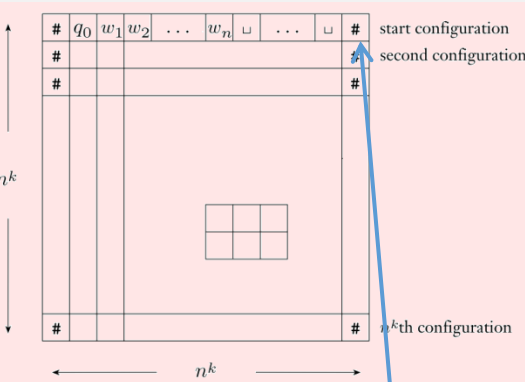
⇒ Does an accepting tableau correspond to a satisfiable (sub)formula?  
 • **Yes**, assign  $x_{i,j,s} = \text{TRUE}$  if it's in the tableau,  
 • and assign other vars = FALSE

⇐ Does a non-accepting tableau correspond to an unsatisfiable formula?  
 • **Not necessarily** (non-accepting sequence of configs can have all valid chars)

⇒ accepting tableau: **all four** must be TRUE  
 ⇐ nonaccepting tableau: **one** must be FALSE



$$\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$



For a string  $w$ , start config is always  $\#q_0w_1 \dots w_n \dots \#$

The variables in the start config, ANDed together

$$\phi_{\text{start}} = x_{1,1,\#} \wedge x_{1,2,q_0} \wedge x_{1,3,w_1} \wedge x_{1,4,w_2} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n+2,w_n} \wedge x_{1,n+3,\square} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n^k-1,\square} \wedge x_{1,n^k,\#}$$

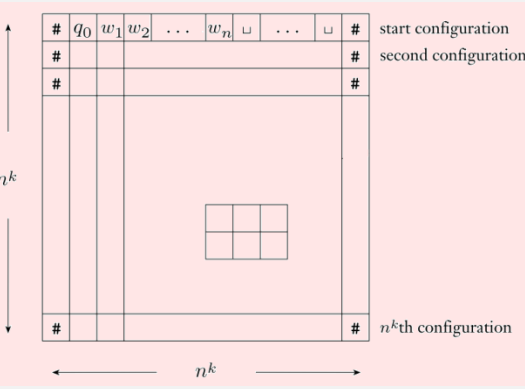
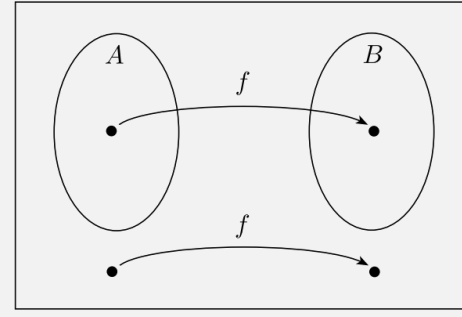
i.e., tableau has valid start config

⇒ Does an accepting tableau correspond to a satisfiable (sub)formula?  
 • **Yes**, assign  $x_{i,j,s} = \text{TRUE}$  if it's in the tableau,  
 • and assign other vars = FALSE

⇐ Does a non-accepting tableau correspond to an unsatisfiable formula?  
 • **Not necessarily** (non-accepting sequence of configs can have valid start config)

⇒ accepting tableau: **all four** must be TRUE  
 ⇐ nonaccepting tableau: **one** must be FALSE

$$\phi_{\text{cell}}^{\checkmark} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}}^{\checkmark} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$



$$\phi_{\text{accept}} = \bigvee_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} x_{i, j, q_{\text{accept}}}$$

The state  $q_{\text{accept}}$  must appear in some cell

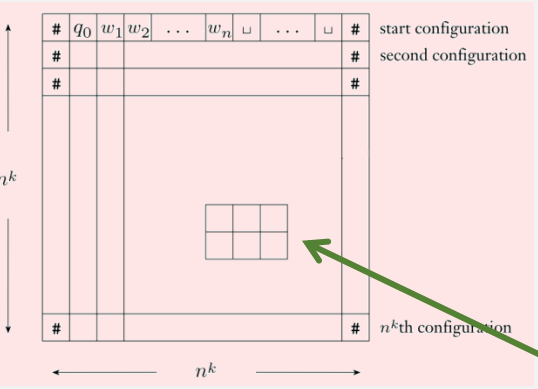
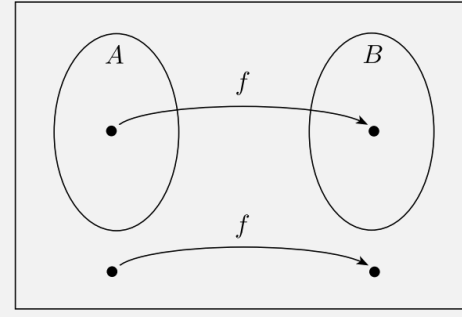
i.e., tableau has **valid accept config**

⇒ Does an accepting tableau correspond to a satisfiable (sub)formula?  
 • **Yes**, assign  $x_{i,j,s} = \text{TRUE}$  if it's in the tableau,  
 • and assign other vars = FALSE

⇐ Does a non-accepting tableau correspond to an unsatisfiable formula?  
 • **Yes**, because it won't have  $q_{\text{accept}}$

⇒ accepting tableau: **all four** must be TRUE  
 ⇐ nonaccepting tableau: **one** must be FALSE

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$

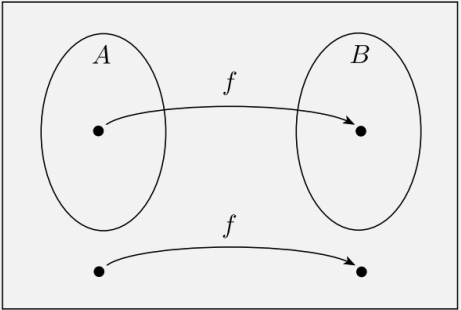


- Ensures that **every configuration** is legal according to the **previous configuration** and the TM's  $\delta$  transitions
- Only need to verify every  $2 \times 3$  "window"
  - Why?
    - Because in **one step**, only the **cell at the head** can change
- E.g., if  $\delta(q_1, b) = \{(q_2, c, L), (q_2, a, R)\}$ 
  - Which are legal?

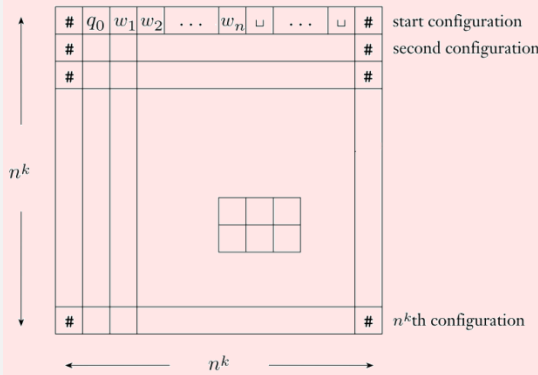
☺	(a) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>a</td><td><math>q_1</math></td><td>b</td></tr><tr><td><math>q_2</math></td><td>a</td><td>c</td></tr></table>	a	$q_1$	b	$q_2$	a	c	☺	(b) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>a</td><td><math>q_1</math></td><td>b</td></tr><tr><td>a</td><td>a</td><td><math>q_2</math></td></tr></table>	a	$q_1$	b	a	a	$q_2$	???	(c) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>a</td><td>a</td><td><math>q_1</math></td></tr><tr><td>a</td><td>a</td><td>b</td></tr></table>	a	a	$q_1$	a	a	b
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#	b	a																					
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⇒ accepting tableau: **all four** must be TRUE  
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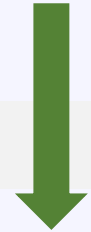
$$\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$



i.e., all transitions are legal, according to  $\delta$  fn

$$\phi_{\text{move}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i < n^k, 1 < j < n^k} (\text{the } (i, j)\text{-window is legal})$$

$i, j =$  upper center cell



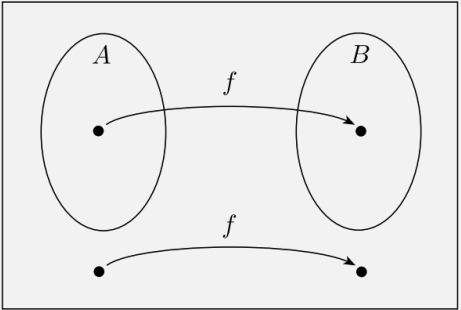
$$\bigvee_{a_1, \dots, a_6} (x_{i, j-1, a_1} \wedge x_{i, j, a_2} \wedge x_{i, j+1, a_3} \wedge x_{i+1, j-1, a_4} \wedge x_{i+1, j, a_5} \wedge x_{i+1, j+1, a_6})$$

$a_1, \dots, a_6$  is a legal window

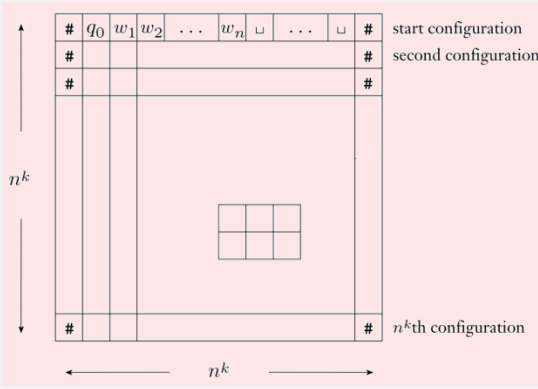
⇒ Does an accepting tableau correspond to a satisfiable (sub)formula?  
 • **Yes**, assign  $x_{i,j,s} = \text{TRUE}$  if it's in the tableau,  
 • and assign other vars = FALSE

⇐ Does a non-accepting tableau correspond to an unsatisfiable formula?  
 • **Not necessarily** (non-accepting sequence of configs can have all valid transitions)

⇒ accepting tableau: **all four** must be TRUE ✓  
 ⇐ nonaccepting tableau: **one** must be FALSE ✓



$$\phi_{\text{cell}}^{\checkmark} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}}^{\checkmark} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}}^{\checkmark} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}^{\checkmark}$$



$$\phi_{\text{move}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i < n^k, 1 < j < n^k} (\text{the } (i, j)\text{-window is legal})$$

$i, j =$  upper center cell

$$\bigvee_{a_1, \dots, a_6} (x_{i, j-1, a_1} \wedge x_{i, j, a_2} \wedge x_{i, j+1, a_3} \wedge x_{i+1, j-1, a_4} \wedge x_{i+1, j, a_5} \wedge x_{i+1, j+1, a_6})$$

is a legal window

⇒ Does an accepting tableau correspond to a satisfiable (sub)formula?  
 • **Yes**, assign  $x_{i,j,s} = \text{TRUE}$  if it's in the tableau,  
 • and assign other vars = FALSE

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# To Show Poly Time Mapping Reducibility ...

Language  $A$  is *polynomial time mapping reducible*, or simply *polynomial time reducible*, to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_P B$ , if a polynomial time computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  exists, where for every  $w$ ,

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The function  $f$  is called the *polynomial time reduction* of  $A$  to  $B$ .

## To show poly time mapping reducibility:

- ✓ 1. create **computable fn**,
- ➡ 2. show that it **runs in poly time**,
- ✓ 3. then show **forward direction** of mapping red.,
- 4. and **reverse direction**
- ✓ (or **contrapositive** of **reverse direction**)

# Time complexity of the reduction

- Number of cells =  $O(n^{2k})$

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} \left[ \left( \bigvee_{s \in C} x_{i,j,s} \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\substack{s, t \in C \\ s \neq t}} (\overline{x_{i,j,s}} \vee \overline{x_{i,j,t}}) \right) \right] \quad \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

“The following must be TRUE for every cell  $i, j$ ”

“The variable for one  $s$  must be TRUE”

And only one variable for some  $s$  must be TRUE

# Time complexity of the reduction

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$$\phi_{\text{cell}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} \left[ \left( \bigvee_{s \in C} x_{i,j,s} \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\substack{s, t \in C \\ s \neq t}} (\overline{x_{i,j,s}} \vee \overline{x_{i,j,t}}) \right) \right] \quad \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

$$\phi_{\text{start}} = x_{1,1,\#} \wedge x_{1,2,q_0} \wedge$$

$$x_{1,3,w_1} \wedge x_{1,4,w_2} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n+2,w_n} \wedge \\ x_{1,n+3,\sqcup} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n^k-1,\sqcup} \wedge x_{1,n^k,\#}$$

$$\boxed{O(n^k)}$$

The variables in the start config, ANDed together

# Time complexity of the reduction

- Number of cells =  $O(n^{2k})$

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} \left[ \left( \bigvee_{s \in C} x_{i,j,s} \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\substack{s, t \in C \\ s \neq t}} (\overline{x_{i,j,s}} \vee \overline{x_{i,j,t}}) \right) \right] \quad \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\text{start}} = & x_{1,1,\#} \wedge x_{1,2,q_0} \wedge \\ & x_{1,3,w_1} \wedge x_{1,4,w_2} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n+2,w_n} \wedge \quad \boxed{O(n^k)} \\ & x_{1,n+3,\sqcup} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n^k-1,\sqcup} \wedge x_{1,n^k,\#} \end{aligned}$$

$$\phi_{\text{accept}} = \bigvee_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} x_{i,j,q_{\text{accept}}} \quad \leftarrow \text{The state } q_{\text{accept}} \text{ must appear in some cell} \quad \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

# Time complexity of the reduction

- Number of cells =  $O(n^{2k})$

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} \left[ \left( \bigvee_{s \in C} x_{i,j,s} \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\substack{s, t \in C \\ s \neq t}} (\overline{x_{i,j,s}} \vee \overline{x_{i,j,t}}) \right) \right] \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

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$$\phi_{\text{accept}} = \bigvee_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} x_{i,j,q_{\text{accept}}} \quad \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

$$\phi_{\text{move}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i < n^k, 1 < j < n^k} (\text{the } (i, j)\text{-window is legal}) \quad \boxed{O(n^{2k})}$$

# Time complexity of the reduction

Total:  
 $O(n^{2k})$

- Number of cells =  $O(n^{2k})$

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} \left[ \left( \bigvee_{s \in C} x_{i,j,s} \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\substack{s, t \in C \\ s \neq t}} (\overline{x_{i,j,s}} \vee \overline{x_{i,j,t}}) \right) \right] \quad O(n^{2k})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\text{start}} = & x_{1,1,\#} \wedge x_{1,2,q_0} \wedge \\ & x_{1,3,w_1} \wedge x_{1,4,w_2} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n+2,w_n} \wedge \\ & x_{1,n+3,\sqcup} \wedge \dots \wedge x_{1,n^k-1,\sqcup} \wedge x_{1,n^k,\#} \end{aligned} \quad O(n^k)$$

$$\phi_{\text{accept}} = \bigvee_{1 \leq i, j \leq n^k} x_{i,j,q_{\text{accept}}} \quad O(n^{2k})$$

$$\phi_{\text{move}} = \bigwedge_{1 \leq i < n^k, 1 < j < n^k} (\text{the } (i, j)\text{-window is legal}) \quad O(n^{2k})$$



# To Show Poly Time Mapping Reducibility ...

Language  $A$  is *polynomial time mapping reducible*, or simply *polynomial time reducible*, to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_P B$ , if a polynomial time computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  exists, where for every  $w$ ,

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## To show poly time mapping reducibility:

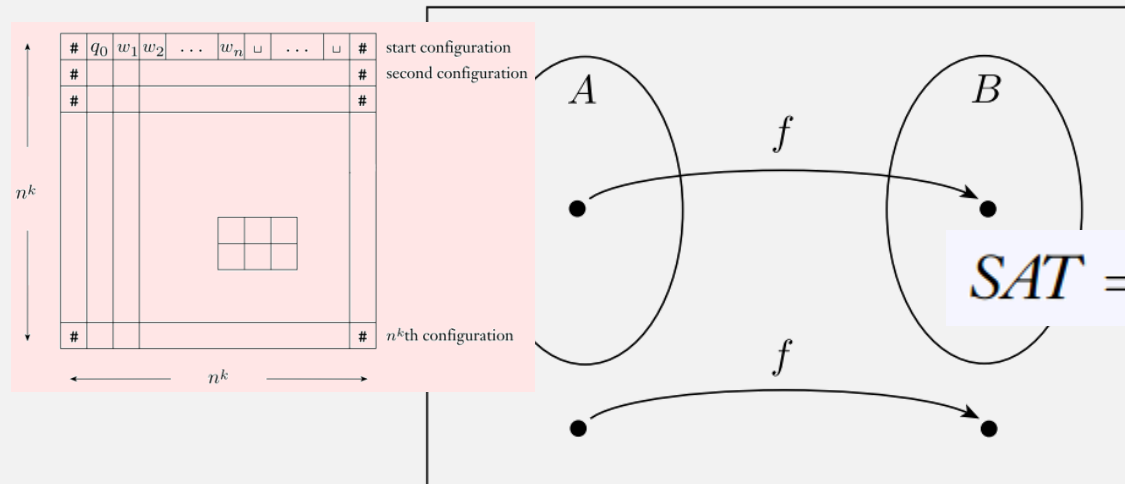
- ✓ 1. create **computable fn**,
- ✓ 2. show that it **runs in poly time**,
- ✓ 3. then show **forward direction** of mapping red.,
- 4. and **reverse direction**
- ✓ (or **contrapositive of forward direction**)

# QED: SAT is NP-complete

## DEFINITION

A language  $B$  is **NP-complete** if it satisfies two conditions:

- ✓ 1.  $B$  is in NP, and
- ✓ 2. every  $A$  in NP is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .



$$SAT = \{ \langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula} \}$$

$$\phi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \phi_{\text{start}} \wedge \phi_{\text{move}} \wedge \phi_{\text{accept}}$$

Now it will be much easier to prove that other languages are NP-complete!



## THEOREM

---

Using: If  $B$  is NP-complete and  $B \leq_P C$  for  $C$  in NP, then  $C$  is NP-complete.

3 steps to prove a language  $C$  is NP-complete:

1. Show  $C$  is in NP
2. Choose  $B$ , the NP-complete problem to reduce from
3. Show a poly time mapping reduction from  $B$  to  $C$

If you are not Stephen Cook or Leonid Levin,  
use this theorem to prove  
a language is NP-complete

To show poly time mapping reducibility:

1. create **computable fn**,
2. show that it **runs in poly time**,
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(or **contrapositive** of reverse direction)

# NP-Complete problems

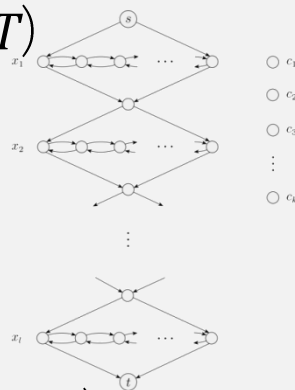
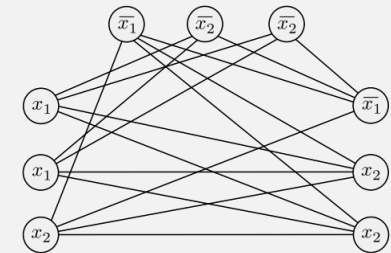
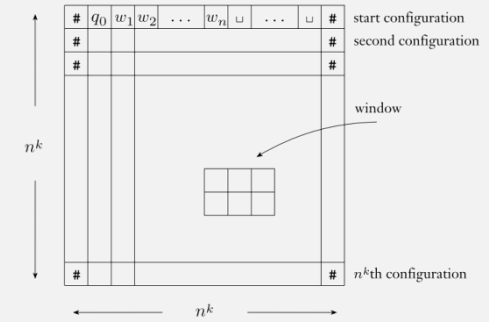
- $SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$  (Cook-Levin Theorem)

- $3SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable 3cnf-formula}\}$  (reduce from  $SAT$ )

- $CLIQUE = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph with a } k\text{-clique}\}$  (reduce from  $3SAT$ )

- $HAMPATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph with a Hamiltonian path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

- $UHAMPATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph with a Hamiltonian path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

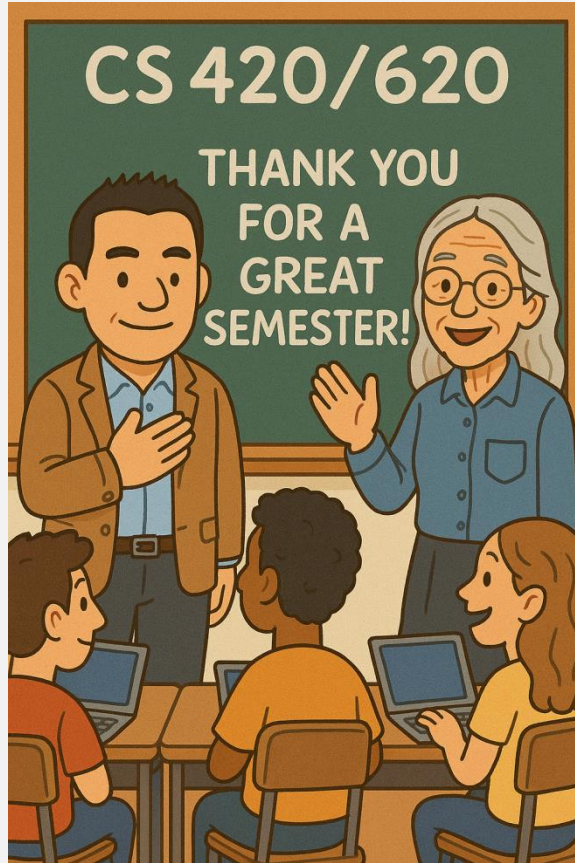


(reduce from  $3SAT$ )

(reduce from  $HAMPATH$ )

# More **NP**-Complete problems

- $SUBSET-SUM = \{\langle S, t \rangle \mid S = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}, \text{ and for some } \{y_1, \dots, y_l\} \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}, \text{ we have } \sum y_i = t\}$ 
  - (reduce from  $3SAT$ )
- $VERTEX-COVER = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is an undirected graph that has a } k\text{-node vertex cover}\}$ 
  - (reduce from  $3SAT$ )



*Thank you for a great semester!*