# **ALGORITHMIC LOWER BOUNDS:** FUN WITH HARDNESS PROOFS

### Super Mario Bros.



Crossover gadget for NP-hardness



OR gadget for NP-hardness

## **Rush Hour**



AND gadget for PSPACE-hardness

# **Hardness Made Easy\***

Learn when to give up the search for efficient algorithms; see connections between computational problems; solve puzzles to prove theorems, solve open problems, and write papers.

Topics: NP, PSPACE, EXPTIME, EXPTIME, EXPSPACE, 3SUM, approximation, fixed parameter, games & puzzles, 3SUM, key problems, gadgets, and proof styles.



#### 6.890 taught by Professor Erik Demaine

Grad H, AUS, and Theoretical CS Concentration Tuesday & Thursday 3:30-5:00pm in room 2-105

http://courses.csail.mit.edu/6.890/ sign up for our mailing list to join the class

# Fall 2014

\* Easiness not guaranteed. Side effects such as open problems and a heightened sense of complexity may occur. Ask your advisor if 6.890 is right for you!

### **Minesweeper**