

6.890

Lecture 5

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NP-hardness reductions from 3SAT / 1-in-3SAT /  
NAE 3SAT:

Nintendo games:

- Super Mario Bros. & World
  - glitches
- Legend of Zelda
  - push-once blocks
  - hookshot (A Link to the Past)
- Metroid
- Donkey Kong Country
- Pokémon
  - weak trainer: player always wins
  - strong trainer: player always loses

## Phutball (Philosopher's Football) [Conway]

- one white stone (ball), many black stones (men)
- move = place new black stone  
OR "kick the ball" by jumping horizontally  
or vertically over black stones,  
immediately removing men, & repeat
- goal: reach opponent's side with ball
- PSPACE-hard [Dereniowski 2009]
- OPEN: EXPTIME-complete?
- NP-complete to decide mate-in-1:  
can you win in one move? (kick)
  - reduction from 3SAT [Demaine, Demaine, Eppstein 2000]

## Checkers:

- EXPTIME-complete [Fraenkel, Garey, Johnson, Schaefer, Yesha 1978]
- mate-in-1 is polynomial
  - jumps preserve  $x$  &  $y$  parity
  - ⇒ Euler path problem

## Cryptarithms / alphametics [Madachi 1979]

- given formula  $x+y=z$  with each number written in base  $b$  & encoded with "letters" by unknown bijection between  $\{0, 1, \dots, b-1\}$  & letters
- goal: feasible? / recover bijection
- strongly NP-complete [Eppstein 1987]

### Reduction from 3SAT:

- variable gadget:

$$- b_i = 2a_i$$

$$- v_i = 2b_i + C \quad C = \text{carry } (y_i + y_i) \in \{0, 1\}$$
$$= 4a_i + C \equiv C \pmod{4}$$

$$- d_i = 2c_i + C$$

$$- e_i = d_i + 1 + C$$
$$= 2c_i + 1 + 2C$$

$$- \bar{v}_i = d_i + e_i$$

$$= 4c_i + 1 + 3C$$

$$\equiv 3C + 1 \equiv 1 - C \pmod{4}$$

- clause gadget:

$$- g_i = 2f_i$$

$$- h_i = 2g_i + \{0, 1\}$$
$$= 4f_i + \{0, 1\}$$

$$- t_i = h_i + 1 + \{0, 1\}$$
$$= 4f_i + 1 + \{0, 1, 2\}$$
$$= 4f_i + \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$- v_a + v_b + v_c = t_i \equiv \{1, 2, 3\} \pmod{4}$$

## Simplified reduction from 1-in-3SAT:

- variable gadget: just  $v_i$ , no  $\bar{v}_i$  (monotone)
- clause gadget:
  - $g_i = 2f_i$
  - $h_i = 2g_i = 4f_i$
  - $t_i = h_i + 1 = 4f_i + 1$
  - $v_a + v_b + v_c = t_i = 4f_i + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$

## 3SAT solvable $\Rightarrow$ cryptarithm solvable:

- distinguish  $a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots$  by value mod 128
- e.g.  $v_i \equiv 8 \pmod{128}$  if true  
 $\equiv 9 \pmod{128}$  if false  
 $a_i \equiv \{2, 34, 66, 98\} \pmod{128}$   
 $\vdots$
- set  $\lfloor v_i / 128 \rfloor$  &  $\lfloor \bar{v}_i / 128 \rfloor \in [0, (2n)^3]$   
such that distinct sums of triples  
[Bose & Chowla 1959]
- easy proof of polynomial range: (based on fusion trees)
  - if  $< i$  set by induction,  $v_i$  must avoid  
 $v_j + v_k + v_l - v_m - v_p \sim < (2n)^5$  choices  
 $\Rightarrow (2n)^5$  suffices
- $\Rightarrow$  strongly NP-hard

## Origami: flat-foldable crease patterns

- ↳ each crease folded  $\pm 180^\circ$
- ↳ graph drawn in square with straight edges
- ↳ stacking order of overlapping faces

- strongly NP-hard [Bern & Hayes 1996]

### Reduction from NAE 3SAT:

- wire = pleat
- NAE clause  $\approx$  triangular twist
- splitter/negation (don't need negation)
- crossover

## Vertex-disjoint paths:

- in a graph [Lynch 1975]
  - in a planar graph [Lynch 1975]
  - in a rectangle with all spots filled  
[Adcock, Demaine, Demaine, O'Brien, Reidl, Sánchez Villaamil, Sullivan 2014]
  - use terminals as obstacles
  - neighboring terminal pairs can just connect  
OR fill some uncovered space
  - issue 1: must have even-parity fill regions
  - issue 2: clause path may be absent!  
→ more parity trouble → add row
  - issue 3: gadget width is odd parity  
→ won't connect to split → add column
  - issue 4: crossing true or false line gadgets
- = zig-zag Numberlink [Lloyd 1897; Nikoli]
- classic Numberlink also NP-complete  
[Kotsuma & Takenaga 2010]