

# CS21 Decidability and Tractability

---

Lecture 20  
February 21,  
2024



# Outline

- NP-complete problems: independent set, vertex cover, clique...
- NP-complete problems: Hamilton path and cycle, Traveling Salesperson Problem
- NP-complete problems: Subset Sum
- NP-complete problems: NAE-3-SAT, max cut

# Search vs. Decision

- Definition: given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , an **independent set** in  $G$  is a subset  $V' \subseteq V$  such that for all  $u, w \in V'$   $(u, w) \notin E$
- A problem:  
given  $G$ , find the **largest** independent set
- This is called a **search problem**
  - searching for *optimal* object of some type
  - comes up frequently

# Search vs. Decision

- We want to talk about languages (or **decision problems**)
- Most search problems have a natural, related decision problem by adding a bound “k”; for example:
  - **search problem**: given  $G$ , find the **largest** independent set
  - **decision problem**: given  $(G, k)$ , is there an independent set of size *at least*  $k$

# Ind. Set is NP-complete

**Theorem**: the following language is NP-complete:

$$IS = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has an IS of size } \geq k\}.$$

- Proof:
  - Part 1:  $IS \in NP$ . Proof?
  - Part 2: IS is NP-hard.
    - reduce from 3-SAT

# Ind. Set is NP-complete

- We are reducing **from the language:**

$3SAT = \{ \varphi : \varphi \text{ is a 3-CNF formula that has a satisfying assignment} \}$

**to the language:**

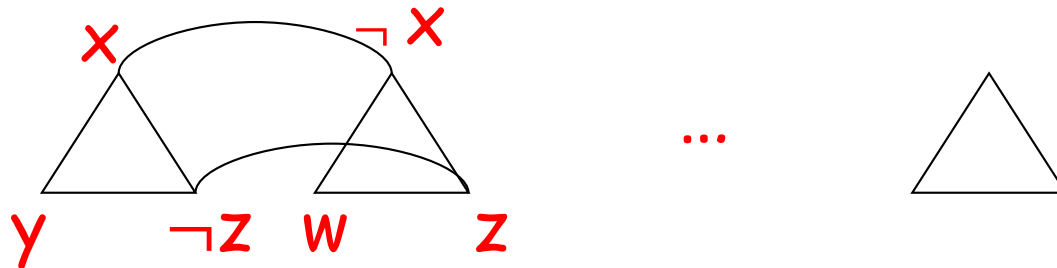
$IS = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has an IS of size } \geq k\}.$

# Ind. Set is NP-complete

The reduction  $f$ : given

$$\varphi = (x \vee y \vee \neg z) \wedge (\neg x \vee w \vee z) \wedge \dots \wedge (\dots)$$

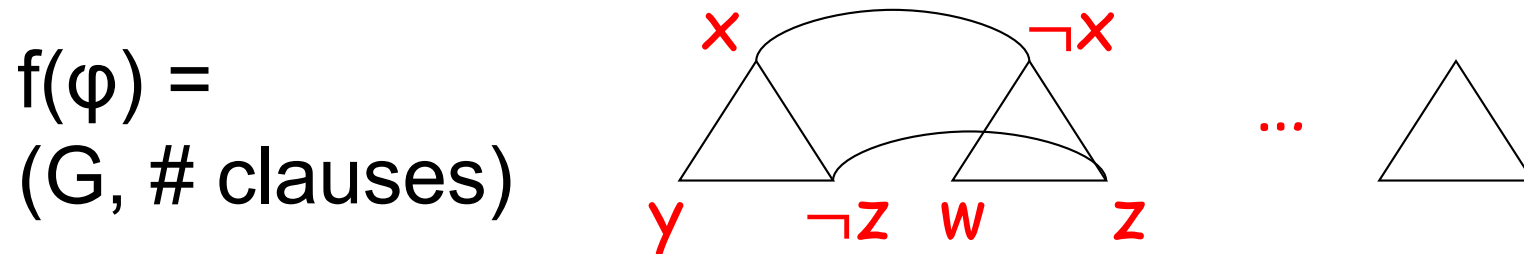
we produce graph  $G_\varphi$ :



- one triangle for each of  $m$  clauses
- edge between every pair of contradictory literals
- set  $k = m$

# Ind. Set is NP-complete

$$\varphi = (x \vee y \vee \neg z) \wedge (\neg x \vee w \vee z) \wedge \dots \wedge (\dots)$$

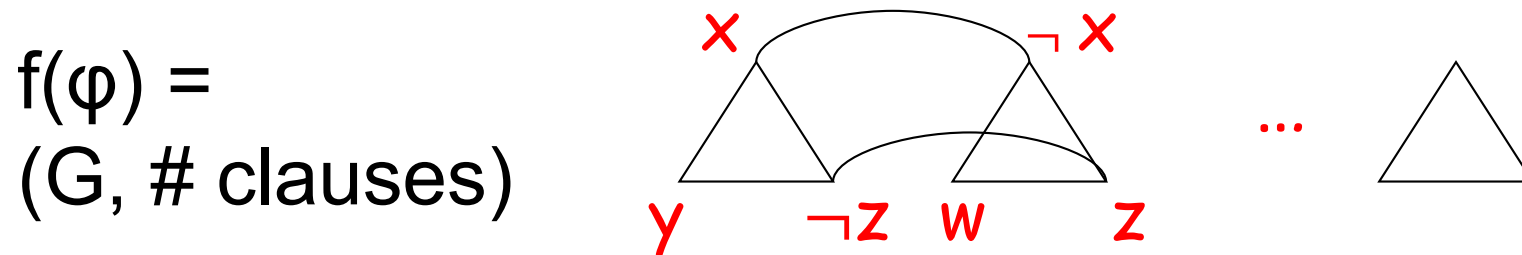


- Is  $f$  poly-time computable?
- YES maps to YES?
  - 1 true literal per clause in satisfying assign.  $A$
  - choose corresponding vertices (1 per triangle)
  - IS, since no contradictory literals in  $A$



# Ind. Set is NP-complete

$$\varphi = (x \vee y \vee \neg z) \wedge (\neg x \vee w \vee z) \wedge \dots \wedge (\dots)$$



- NO maps to NO?
  - IS can have at most 1 vertex per triangle
  - IS of size  $\geq$  # clauses must have exactly 1 per
  - since IS, no contradictory vertices
  - can produce satisfying assignment by setting these literals to true

# Vertex cover

- Definition: given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **vertex cover** in  $G$  is a subset  $V' \subseteq V$  such that for all  $(u, w) \in E$ ,  $u \in V'$  or  $w \in V'$
- A search problem:  
given  $G$ , find the **smallest** vertex cover
- corresponding language (decision problem):  
 $VC = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has a VC of size } \leq k\}$ .

# Vertex Cover is NP-complete

**Theorem**: the following language is NP-complete:

$$VC = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has a VC of size } \leq k\}.$$

- Proof:
  - Part 1:  $VC \in NP$ . Proof?
  - Part 2: VC is NP-hard.
    - reduce from?

# Vertex Cover is NP-complete

- We are reducing **from the language:**

$$\text{IS} = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has an IS of size } \geq k\}$$

**to the language:**

$$\text{VC} = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has a VC of size } \leq k\}.$$

# Vertex Cover is NP-complete

- How are IS, VC related?
- Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with  $n$  nodes
  - if  $V' \subseteq V$  is an independent set of size  $k$
  - then  $V - V'$  is a vertex cover of size  $n - k$
- Proof:
  - suppose not. Then there is some edge with neither endpoint in  $V - V'$ . But then both endpoints are in  $V'$ . contradiction.

# Vertex Cover is NP-complete

- How are IS, VC related?
- Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with  $n$  nodes
  - if  $V' \subseteq V$  is a vertex cover of size  $k$
  - then  $V - V'$  is an independent set of size  $n - k$
- Proof:
  - suppose not. Then there is some edge with both endpoints in  $V - V'$ . But then neither endpoint is in  $V'$ . contradiction.

# Vertex Cover is NP-complete

The reduction:

- given an instance of IS:  $(G, k)$   $f$  produces the pair  $(G, n-k)$
- $f$  poly-time computable?
- YES maps to YES?
  - IS of size  $\geq k$  in  $G \Rightarrow$  VC of size  $\leq n-k$  in  $G$
- NO maps to NO?
  - VC of size  $\leq n-k$  in  $G \Rightarrow$  IS of size  $\geq k$  in  $G$

# Clique

- Definition: given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **clique** in  $G$  is a subset  $V' \subseteq V$  such that for all  $u, v \in V'$ ,  $(u, v) \in E$
- A search problem:  
    given  $G$ , find the **largest** clique
- corresponding language (decision problem):  
     $\text{CLIQUE} = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has a clique of size } \geq k\}$ .



# Clique is NP-complete

**Theorem**: the following language is NP-complete:

CLIQUE =  $\{(G, k) : G \text{ has a clique of size } \geq k\}$

- Proof:
  - Part 1: CLIQUE  $\in$  NP. Proof?
  - Part 2: CLIQUE is NP-hard.
    - reduce from?

# Clique is NP-complete

- We are reducing **from the language:**

$$\text{IS} = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has an IS of size } \geq k\}$$

**to the language:**

$$\text{CLIQUE} = \{(G, k) : G \text{ has a CLIQUE of size } \geq k\}.$$

# Clique is NP-complete

- How are IS, CLIQUE related?
- Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , define its **complement**  $G' = (V, E' = \{(u,v) : (u,v) \notin E\})$ 
  - if  $V' \subseteq V$  is an independent set in  $G$  of size  $k$
  - then  $V'$  is a clique in  $G'$  of size  $k$
- Proof:
  - *Every* pair of vertices  $u, v \in V'$  has no edge between them in  $G$ . Therefore they have an edge between them in  $G'$ .

# Clique is NP-complete

- How are IS, CLIQUE related?
- Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , define its **complement**  $G' = (V, E' = \{(u,v) : (u,v) \notin E\})$ 
  - if  $V' \subseteq V$  is a clique in  $G'$  of size  $k$
  - then  $V'$  is an independent set in  $G$  of size  $k$
- Proof:
  - *Every* pair of vertices  $u, v \in V'$  has an edge between them in  $G'$ . Therefore they have no edge between them in  $G$ .

# Clique is NP-complete

The reduction:

- given an instance of IS:  $(G, k)$   $f$  produces the pair  $(G', k)$
- $f$  poly-time computable?
- YES maps to YES?
  - IS of size  $\geq k$  in  $G \Rightarrow$  CLIQUE of size  $\geq k$  in  $G'$
- NO maps to NO?
  - CLIQUE of size  $\geq k$  in  $G' \Rightarrow$  IS of size  $\geq k$  in  $G$

# Hamilton Path

- Definition: given a directed graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **Hamilton path** in  $G$  is a directed path that touches every node exactly once.
- A language (decision problem):  
HAMPATH =  $\{(G, s, t) : G \text{ has a Hamilton path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

# HAMPATH is NP-complete

**Theorem**: the following language is NP-complete:

HAMPATH =  $\{(G, s, t) : G \text{ has a Hamilton path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

- Proof:
  - Part 1: HAMPATH  $\in$  NP. Proof?
  - Part 2: HAMPATH is NP-hard.
    - reduce from?

# HAMPATH is NP-complete

- We are reducing **from the language:**

$3SAT = \{ \varphi : \varphi \text{ is a 3-CNF formula that has a satisfying assignment} \}$

**to the language:**

$HAMPATH = \{(G, s, t) : G \text{ has a Hamilton path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

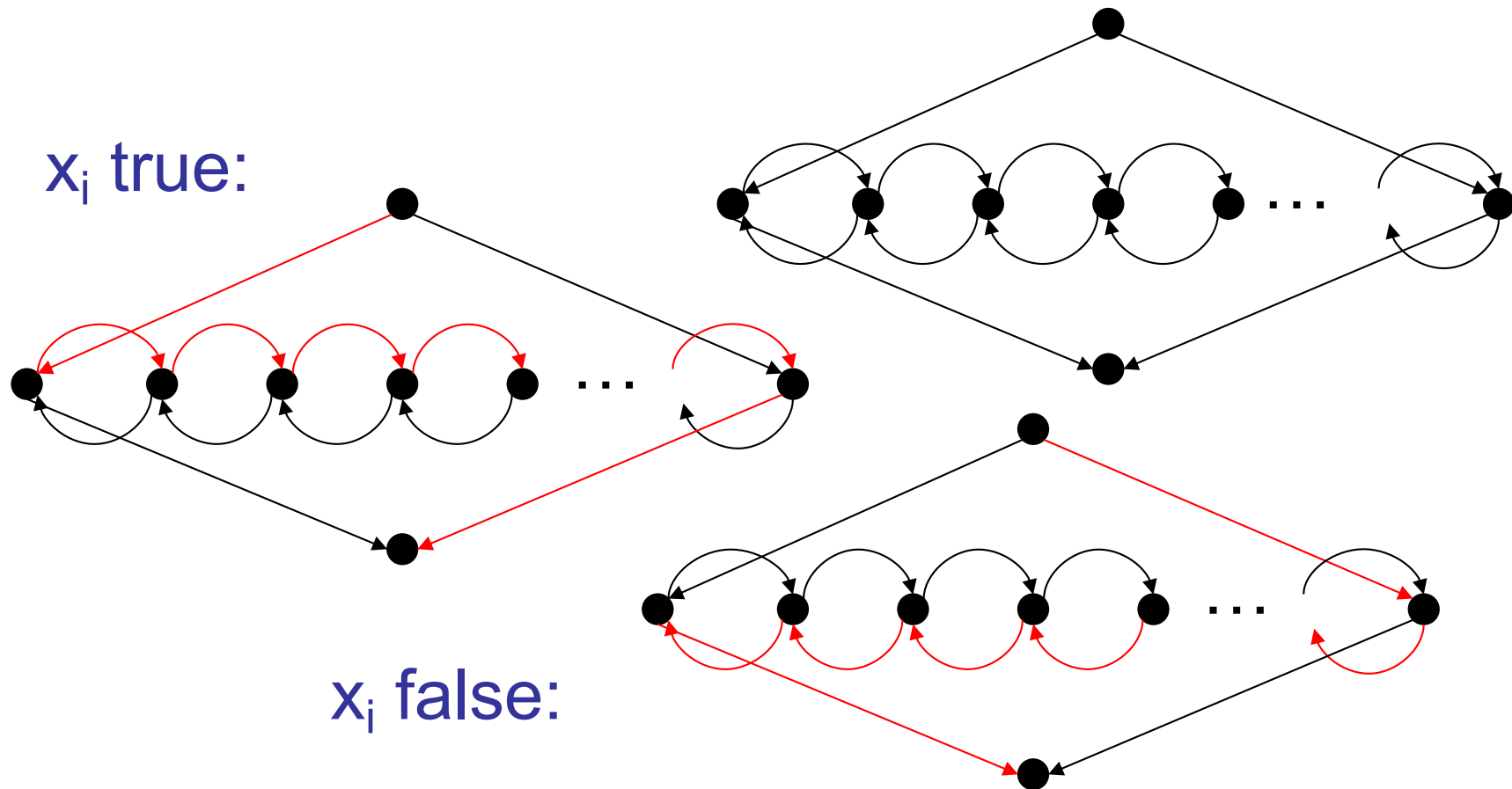


# HAMPATH is NP-complete

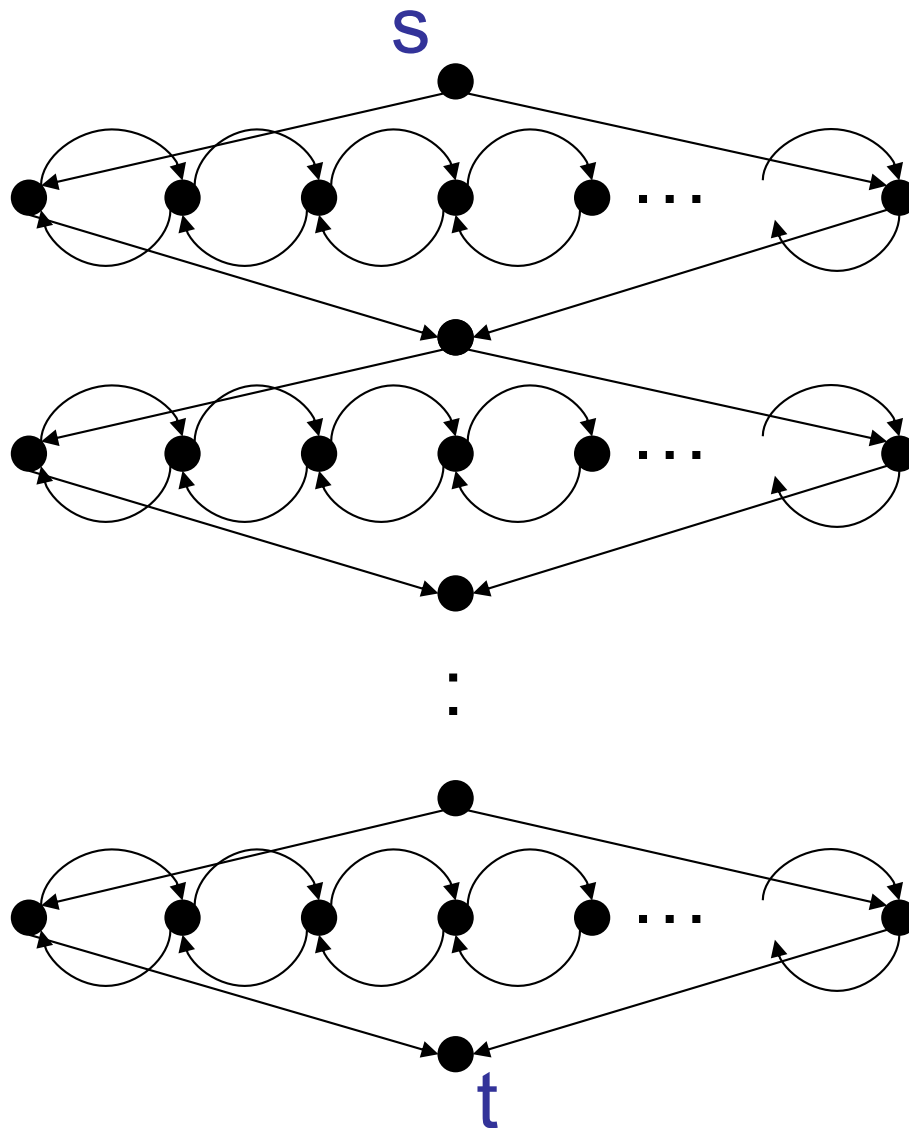
- We want to construct a graph from  $\varphi$  with the following properties:
  - a satisfying assignment to  $\varphi$  translates into a Hamilton Path from  $s$  to  $t$
  - a Hamilton Path from  $s$  to  $t$  can be translated into a satisfying assignment for  $\varphi$
- We will build the graph up from pieces called **gadgets** that “simulate” the clauses and variables of  $\varphi$ .

# HAMPATH is NP-complete

- The variable gadget (one for each  $x_i$ ):



# HAMPATH is NP-complete



“ $x_1$ ”

- path from  $s$  to  $t$  translates into a truth assignment to  $x_1 \dots x_m$

“ $x_2$ ”

- why must the path be of this form?

“ $x_m$ ”

# HAMPATH is NP-complete

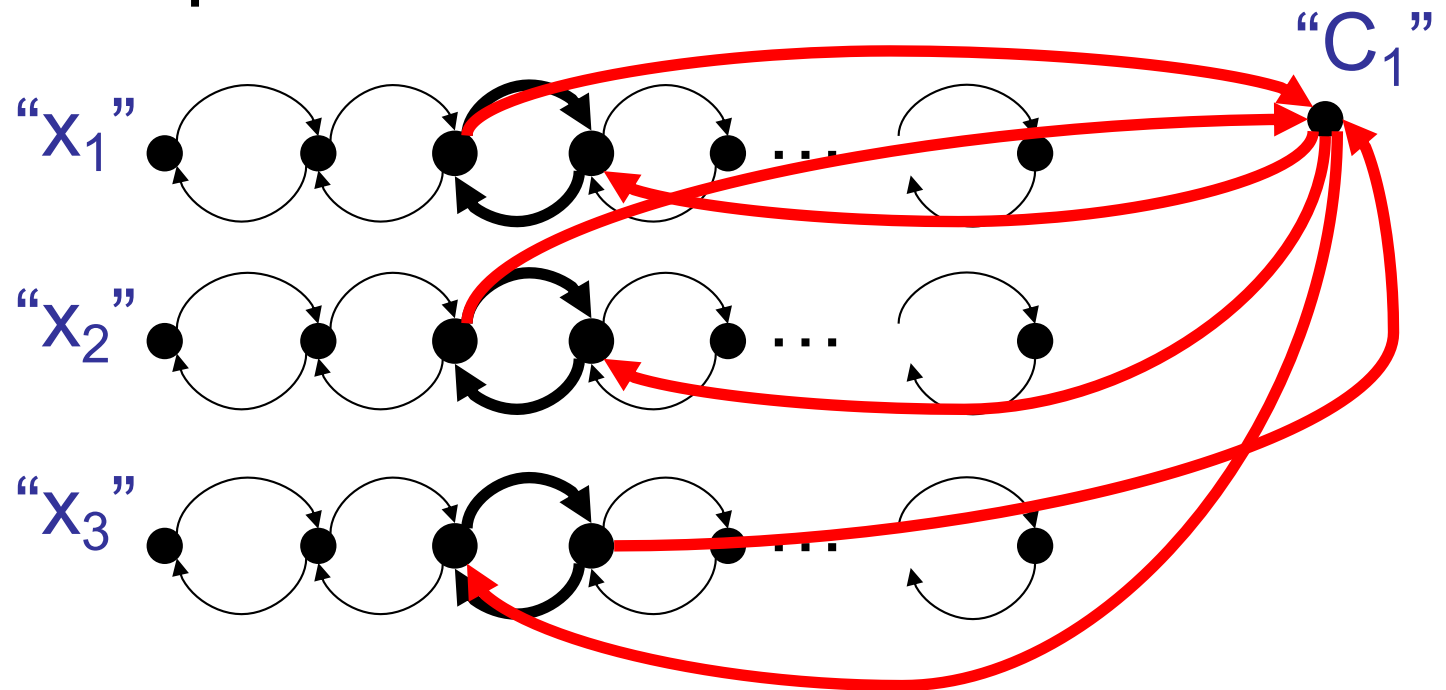
$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \wedge \dots \wedge (\dots)$$

- How to ensure that all  $k$  clauses are satisfied?
- need to add nodes
  - can be visited in path if the clause is satisfied
  - if visited in path, implies clause is satisfied by the assignment given by path through variable gadgets

# HAMPATH is NP-complete

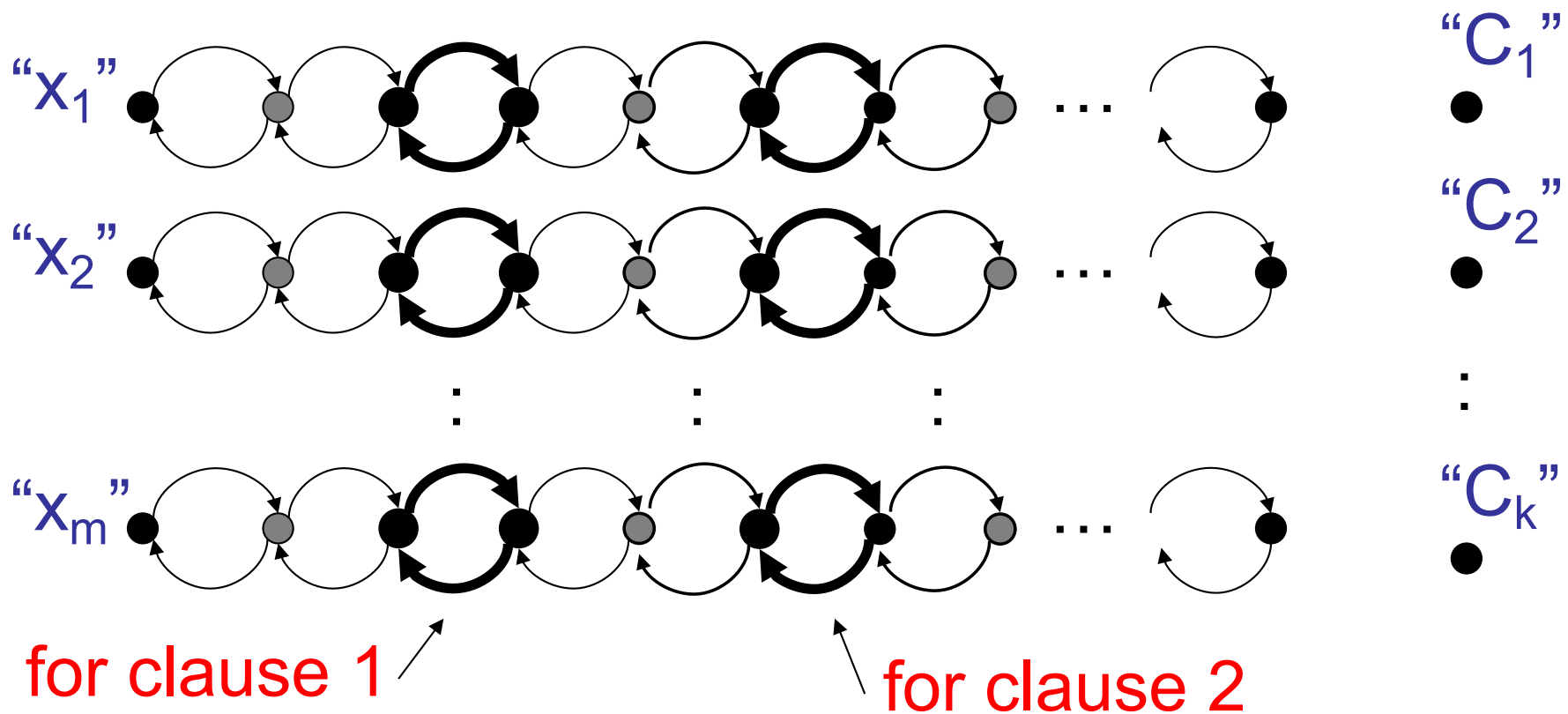
$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \wedge \dots \wedge (\dots)$$

- Clause gadget allows “detour” from “assignment path” for each true literal in clause



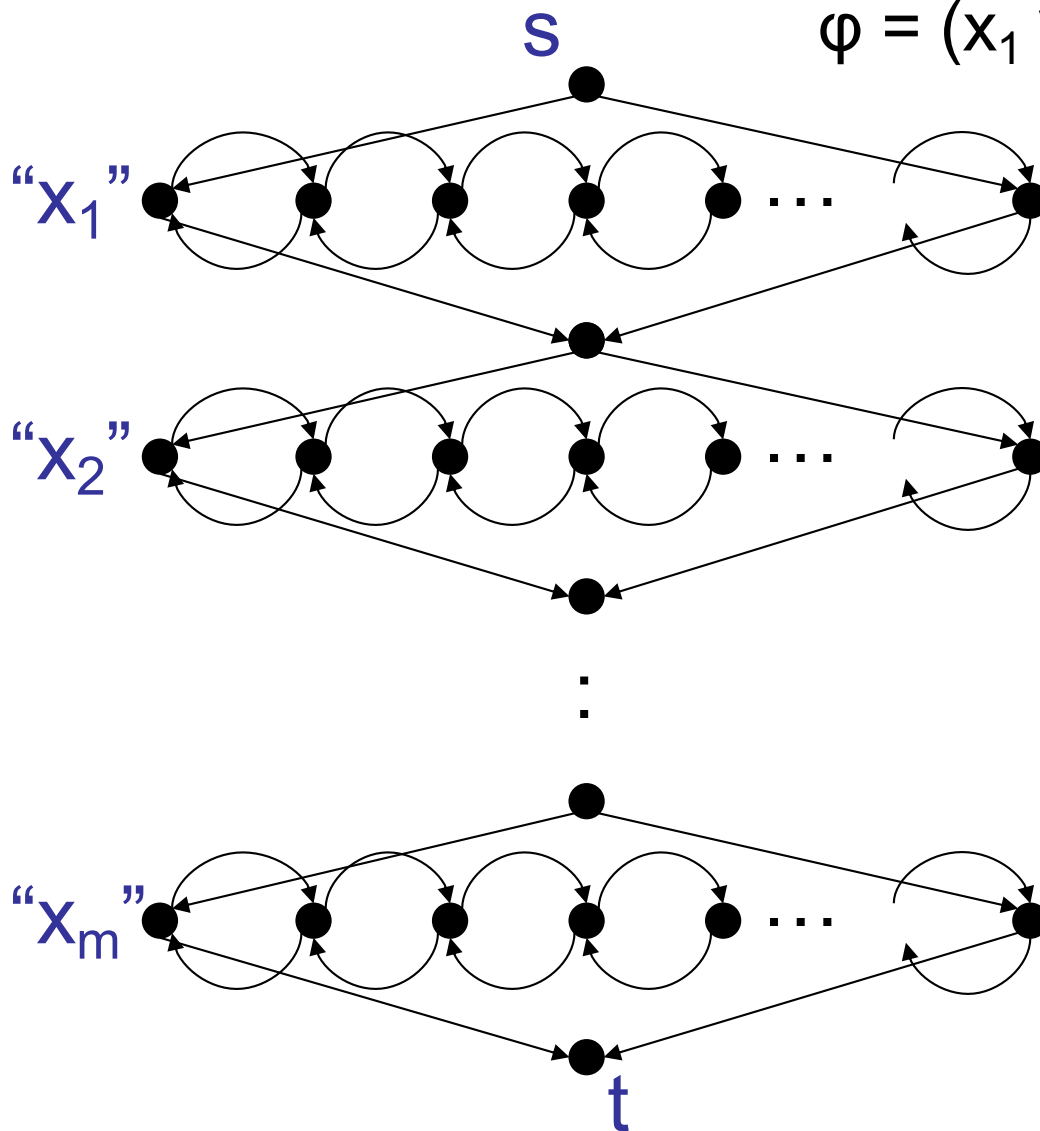
# HAMPATH is NP-complete

- One clause gadget for each of  $k$  clauses:



# HAMPATH is NP-complete

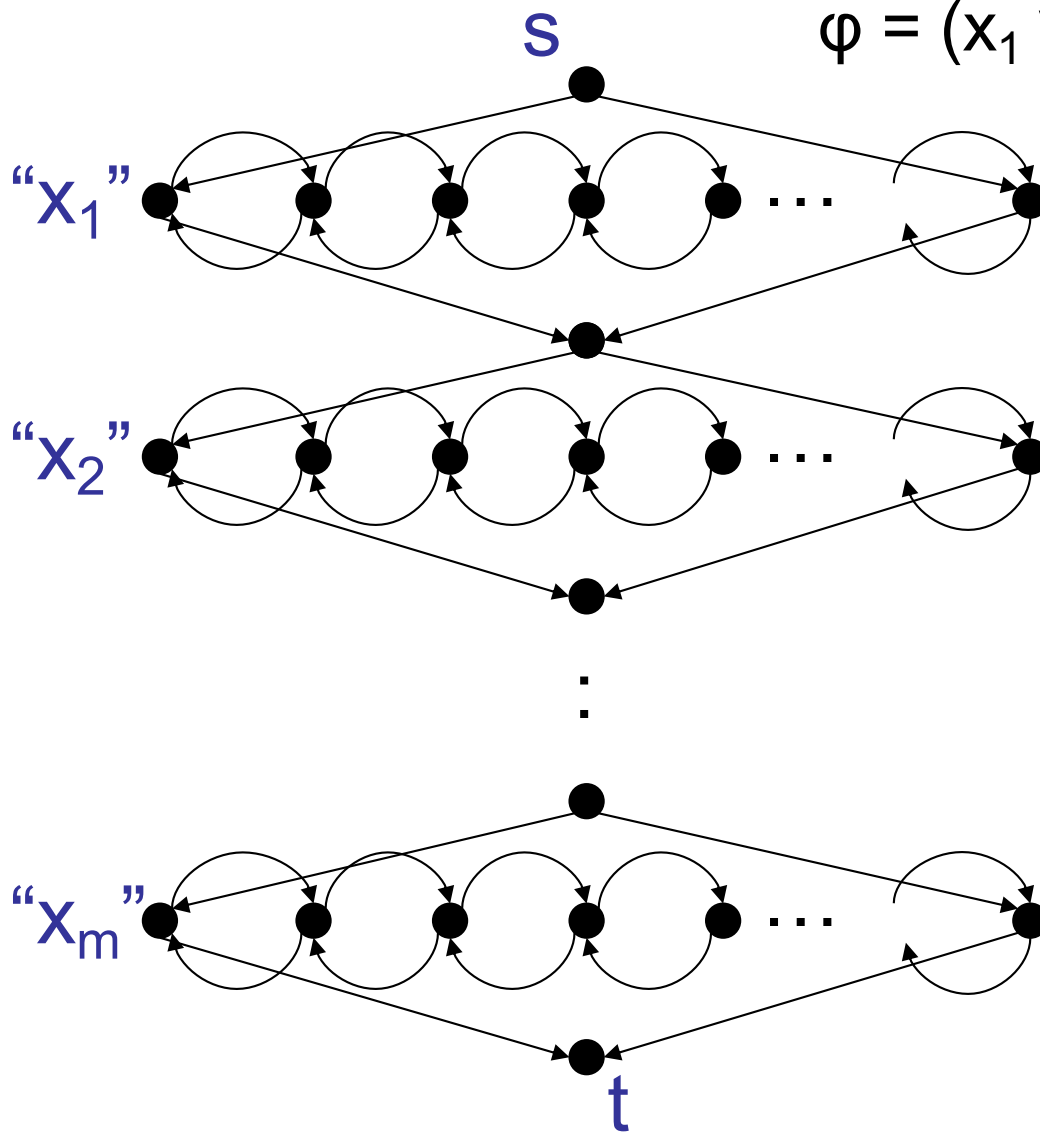
$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \dots$$



- “C<sub>1</sub>” • f(φ) is this graph (edges to/from clause nodes not pictured)
- “C<sub>2</sub>”
- ⋮
- “C<sub>k</sub>” • f poly-time computable?
- # nodes = O(km)

# HAMPATH is NP-complete

$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \dots$$



“ $C_1$ ” • YES maps to  
• YES?

“ $C_2$ ”

• first form  
path from  
satisfying  
assign.

:

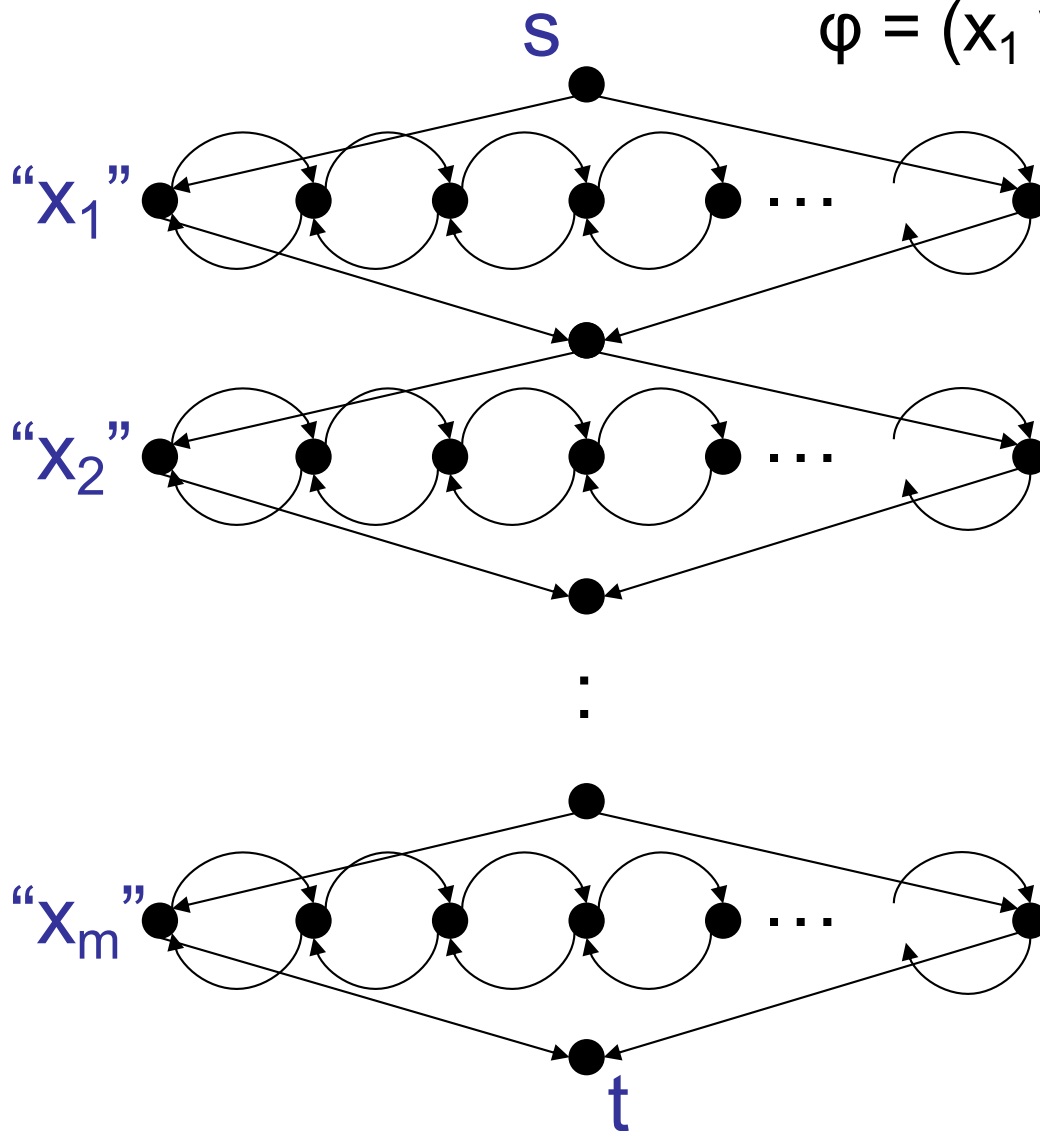
“ $C_k$ ”

• pick true  
literal in each  
clause and  
add detour



# HAMPATH is NP-complete

$$\varphi = (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_4 \vee x_3) \dots$$



- “ $C_1$ ” • NO maps to NO?
- “ $C_2$ ” • try to translate path into satisfying assignment
- “ $C_k$ ” • if path has “intended” form, OK.