

Theory of Computation
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SUBSET-SUM is NP-Complete

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SUBSET-SUM

$$\text{SUBSET-SUM} = \{ \langle S, t \rangle \mid S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}, \\ \exists T \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, k\}, \text{ s.t. } \sum_{i \in T} x_i = t \}$$

Given a set S and a target sum t , is there a subset of S , whose elements add up to t ?

Let $S = \{6, 20, 52, 16, 9\}$.

Then $\langle S, 94 \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$
 $\langle S, 42 \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$
 $\langle S, 34 \rangle \notin \text{SUBSET-SUM}$




Theorem 7.96: SUBSET-SUM is NP-complete.

Proof: We need to show two things

1) SUBSET-SUM \in NP and 2) 3-SAT \leq_p SUB-SUM.

SUBSET-SUM \in NP. Already shown in lecture 46.

On input $\langle S, t \rangle$:

1. Non-deterministically select/reject each of x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k . $\rightarrow O(k)$ time
2. Add all the selected x_i and verify if they add up to t . $\rightarrow O(k)$




2. Add all the selected x_i and verify if they add up to t . $\rightarrow O(k)$

3. If $\text{sum} = t$, then accept. Else, reject.

Now we focus on $3\text{-SAT} \leq_p \text{SUBSET-SUM}$.

Given a 3-CNF formula Φ , we need to construct S, t such that

$$\langle \Phi \rangle \in 3\text{-SAT} \iff \langle S, t \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}.$$

Let Φ be a formula with n variables and m clauses. We build the SUBSET-SUM instance as follows:

construct S, t such that

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Let Φ be a formula with n variables and m clauses. We build the SUBSET-SUM instance as follows:

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$$

We construct S with $2(n+m)$ numbers.

Each variable x_i in Φ corresponds to two numbers in S — y_i and z_i .

Each clause C_j corresponds to two numbers — g_j and h_j .

	y_1	z_1	y_2	z_2	y_3	z_3	\dots	y_n	z_n	g_1	h_1	g_2	h_2	g_3	h_3	\dots	g_m	h_m	
S	1	0	0	0	...	0	1	0	0	...	0	1	0	...	0	1	0	...	0



Hello and welcome to lecture 54 of the course Theory of Computation. In the previous lectures, we have seen a few NP-complete languages. We first saw that SAT, 3-SAT, and CNF SAT were NP-complete, which are based on Boolean formulas. Then we saw that clique was NP-complete, vertex cover was NP-complete, and Hamiltonian path was NP-complete; these problems were focused on certain types of structures in graphs.

In this lecture, we are going to see another problem that is NP-complete, which is subset sum. As you will see, this problem has a different flavor compared to the other two types. One was Boolean formula-based, and one was graph-based. This is a different type of problem. In fact, we have already seen this problem when we introduced NP, but let us go over it again.

Subset sum is the problem of, given a set S and a number t (a set S of numbers and a target number t), determining if the set S has a subset that sums to the target sum. For example, if the set S is $\{6, 20, 32, 16, \text{ and } 5\}$, S and 54 is in subset sum because there is a subset that sums to 54. The subset is 32, 16, and 6. Another example is S and 42, which is also a member of subset sum because 6, 20, and 16 add up to 42. However, S and 34 is not a member of subset sum because there is no subset that adds up to 34.

The question is: Is there a subset that adds up to the given value? There is no subset that adds up to 1. So, given a set S and a target sum t , is there a subset of S that sums to t ? As you see, it is a completely different type of problem. There are no graphs or Boolean formulas involved. All you have is a set S and a number t . Is there a subset of the set S that adds up to the number t ? This problem is NP-complete.

By following the approach we used in previous lectures, we need to do two things: show that this problem is in NP and show that a known NP-complete language reduces to subset sum. Showing that it is in NP is something we have already done in lecture 46. We do the standard guess and verify method. We non-deterministically select a subset of S by picking or not picking each element. Let's say S has k elements. We pick or not pick each element, get a subset of S , and then verify whether the selected subset adds up to t . This is straightforward.

We use non-deterministic guessing followed by verification. If the selected subset adds up to t , we accept; otherwise, we reject. If there is a subset, it will accept, and if there is no subset, it will reject. This is a valid non-deterministic algorithm and runs in polynomial time. Hence, subset sum is in NP.

Now, let us focus on the main part, which is to show that an NP-complete language reduces to subset sum. We show that 3-SAT reduces to subset sum. Like in many other cases before, we show that 3-SAT reduces to subset sum. What do we have to do? Given a Boolean formula or a 3-CNF formula ϕ , we construct a set S and a number t such that ϕ is satisfiable if and only if

S contains a subset that sums to t . ϕ is in 3-SAT if and only if S, t is a "yes" instance of subset sum.

Let ϕ be a formula with n variables and m clauses. It is a 3-CNF formula, meaning it is an AND of m clauses, where each clause is an OR of 3 literals. There are n variables. Let the n variables be X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n . We have an AND of clauses, where each clause is an OR of 3 literals. The literals could be of the form X_i or X_i complement. Now, we will construct the subset sum instance.

We should produce a set S and number t such that if ϕ is satisfiable, the set should have a subset that sums to t . If ϕ is not satisfiable, the set should not have any subset that sums to t . We construct S with 2 times $(n + m)$ numbers, where n is the number of variables and m is the number of clauses.

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Each clause C_j corresponds to two numbers
 — g_j and h_j .

	C_1	C_2	C_3	C_m
	1	2	3	...
h_1	1	0	0	...
z_1	0	1	0	...
h_2	1	0	0	...
z_2	0	1	0	...
h_3	1	0	0	...
z_3	0	1	0	...
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
h_m	1	0	0	...
z_m	0	1	0	...
g_1	1	0	0	...
h_1	0	1	0	...
g_2	0	1	0	...
h_2	0	0	1	...
g_3	0	0	1	...
h_3	0	0	1	...
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
g_m	0	0	0	...
h_m	0	0	0	...

$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i$	$\sum_{j=1}^m b_j$	0	0	0	...	1
0	0	0	0	0	...	1

$t = \underbrace{1 \ 1 \ 1 \ \dots \ 1}_n \ 3 \ 3 \ 3 \ \dots \ 3_m$



In the top right quadrant, we choose the entries in the following manner.

- If x_i is in C_j , put 1 against y_i and C_j
- If \bar{x}_i is in C_j , put 1 against z_i and C_j
- 0's in all the other cells of the top right quadrant.

Important: All the numbers are to be read as decimal numbers.

$a \leftarrow \dots \dots \dots 1 \dots \dots \dots ?$

decimal numbers.



$$S = \{ y_i, z_i, q_j, h_j \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m \}.$$

The table has $2(n+m)^2$ entries. So the construction of S is in polynomial time.

Now we need to show that:

$$\phi \text{ is satisfiable} \Leftrightarrow S \text{ has a subset that sums to } t.$$

(\Rightarrow) Suppose $\phi \in \text{3-SAT}$. This means that there is a way to assign True/False to the



(\Rightarrow) Suppose $\phi \in \text{3-SAT}$. This means that there is a way to assign True/False to the variables x_i such that each clause is satisfied.

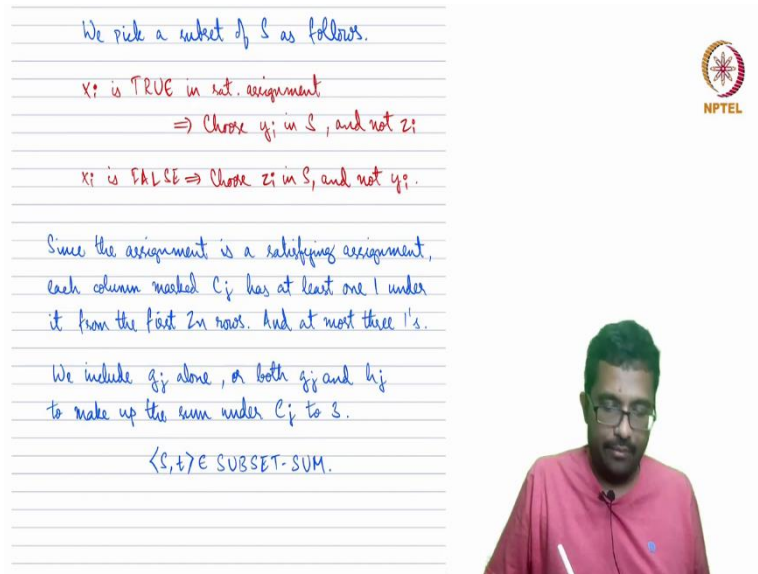
We pick a subset of S as follows.

x_i is TRUE in sat. assignment
 \Rightarrow Choose y_i in S , and not z_i

x_i is FALSE \Rightarrow Choose z_i in S , and not y_i .

Since the assignment is a satisfying assignment, each column marked C_j has at least one 1 under it. Hence the first n numbers add up to at least the 1's





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x_i is TRUE in sat. assignment
 \Rightarrow Choose y_i in S , and not z_i

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Since the assignment is a satisfying assignment, each column marked C_j has at least one 1 under it from the first $2n$ rows. And at most three 1's.

We include g_j alone, or both g_j and h_j to make up the sum under C_j to 3.

$\langle S, t \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$.

So, the way we build the instance is like this. Look at this table that we have. What we are going to do is, for each row in this table, which has 2 times $(m + n)$ rows, each row corresponds to one number in the set. Each entry is either 0 or 1, and we read the entries from left to right to get the number that this row corresponds to. Even though it consists of only 0s and 1s, we are going to read it as a decimal number, not a binary number. This is very important: we are interpreting these numbers as decimal numbers.

So, there are decimal numbers that consist of only the digits 0 and 1. These are going to be the numbers in the instance. Let us see how to build this table, and then I will again explain how to interpret it. This table has $(n + m)$ columns. The first n columns are indexed by 1 to n . The next m columns are indexed by the clauses, C_1 to C_m . So, we have n columns, followed by m columns.

The rows, $2(n + m)$ in total, each correspond to a number. The first row is labeled y_1 , the second row is labeled z_1 , then we have y_2 and z_2 , y_3 and z_3 , and so on, up to y_n and z_n . So that marks this boundary.

Next, let's fill in the table:

1. For the y_1 row, set the 1st column to 1 and the rest to 0.
2. For the z_1 row, set the 1st column to 0 and the rest to 0.
3. For the y_2 row, set the 2nd column to 1 and the rest to 0.
4. For the z_2 row, set the 2nd column to 0 and the rest to 0.
5. Continue this pattern for all y and z rows until y_n and z_n .

After the y and z rows, we have the clause rows:

6. For each clause row corresponding to C_i , set the corresponding clause column to 1 and the rest of the columns to 0. If a variable x_j appears in the clause C_i , set the j -th column to 1 for that row. If the complement of x_j appears in C_i , set the j -th column to 1 for that row.

Finally, the table will look like this:

- Columns: 1 to n , C_1 to C_m
- Rows: $y_1, z_1, y_2, z_2, \dots, y_n, z_n, \text{Clause}_1, \text{Clause}_2, \dots, \text{Clause}_m$

To build the instance, we need to look at this table. Each row in this table has 2 times $(m + n)$ rows, and each row corresponds to one number in the set. Each entry in the row is either 0 or 1, and we read the entries from left to right to get the number that this row corresponds to. Even though these entries consist only of 0s and 1s, we interpret them as decimal numbers, not binary numbers. This is crucial: these numbers are read as decimal numbers.

The table has $(n + m)$ columns. The first n columns are indexed by 1 to n , and the next m columns are indexed by the clauses, C_1 to C_m . Therefore, we have n columns followed by m columns. The rows, totaling $2(n + m)$, each correspond to a number. The first row is labeled y_1 , the second row is labeled z_1 , then we have y_2 and z_2 , y_3 and z_3 , and so on, up to y_n and z_n .

We then move on to the clause rows, labeled g_1, h_1, g_2, h_2 , and so on, up to g_m and h_m . For convenience, we divide this table or matrix into sections, which will help us easily figure out the entries. Constructing the set involves finding the numbers, but these numbers are simply read from this table or matrix from left to right.

The numbers in the set are $y_1, z_1, y_2, z_2, y_3, z_3$, up to y_n, z_n , followed by $g_1, h_1, g_2, h_2, g_3, h_3$, up to g_m, h_m . This gives us $2n$ rows followed by $2m$ rows. Each number is derived by reading the row from left to right. For example, y_1 is read as 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 up to the n th place, followed by 1, 0, 0, 0.

Filling the table starts with focusing on the first quadrant, which has the first $2n$ rows and the first n columns. It is simple: y_1 and z_1 start with 1, followed by all 0s. The rows y_1 and z_1

are identical in this part, and this pattern continues for y_2, z_2, y_3, z_3 , and so on. They will differ in the sections that follow.

So, for y_1 , the first column is 1, and the rest are 0s. For z_1 , the first column is 0, and the rest are 0s. For y_2 , the second column is 1, and the rest are 0s. For z_2 , the second column is 0, and the rest are 0s. This pattern continues for all y and z rows up to y_n and z_n .

For the clause rows, if a variable x_j appears in clause C_i , the corresponding clause column is set to 1 for that row. If the complement of x_j appears in C_i , the j -th column is set to 1 for that row. Interpret each row as a decimal number. This set of numbers, along with the target sum, forms the instance for the subset sum problem. The target sum t will be constructed based on the satisfiability of the formula ϕ . If ϕ is satisfiable, the set should have a subset that sums to t . If ϕ is not satisfiable, the set should not have any subset that sums to t .

So in this part, y_1 and z_1 have a 1 under the first column, and the rest are 0s. y_2 and z_2 have a 1 under the second column, and the rest are 0s. y_3 and z_3 have a 1 under the third column, and the rest are 0s, and so on, until y_n and z_n , which have all 0s except for a 1 at the n th position. Although I could have filled leading 0s here, as a leading 0 does not change the number, I have not done so. Thus, y_n and z_n have all 0s except for a 1 at the n th position. This is how we fill this part of the table.

Next, let's see how we fill the part corresponding to the clauses. The rows correspond to y_1, z_1, y_2, z_2 , and so on, while the columns correspond to the clauses C_1, C_2 , up to C_m . For example, if x_1 appears in clause C_1 , we put a 1 in the entry corresponding to y_1 and C_1 . Similarly, if x_2 appears in clause C_3 , we put a 1 in the entry corresponding to y_2 and C_3 , and if x_2 appears in clause C_m , we put a 1 in the entry corresponding to y_2 and C_m . For z_2 and C_2 , if x_2 complement appears in clause C_2 , we put a 1 in the entry corresponding to z_2 and C_2 .

To summarize: if x_i is in clause C_j , we put a 1 against y_i and C_j . If x_i complement is in clause C_j , we put a 1 against z_i and C_j , and everything else is 0. This indicates that x_1 appears in C_1 , x_2 appears in C_3 , and x_2 complement appears in C_2 . Each variable may appear in multiple clauses, so there could be many 1s in this part, but each clause contains only 3 literals. Therefore, under any clause in this part, we will find exactly 3 ones, because each clause contains exactly 3 literals.

For instance, if clause C_3 contains x_2 , x_5 , and x_6 , then y_2 , y_5 , and y_6 will have a 1. Alternatively, if C_3 contains x_2 , x_5 complement, and x_6 complement, then y_2 , z_5 , and z_6 will have a 1. This ensures that each clause column in this part of the table has exactly 3 ones, representing the literals present in the clause.

So, for whichever 3 literals are in the clause, the rows corresponding to those literals will have a 1 under the respective clause. Each row may have multiple 1s, but each column will have exactly 3 1s. When I mention "here," I am referring to the top right part of the table. This part is the only section that depends on the Boolean formula. The other parts depend on the Boolean formula only for the number of variables, but this top right part actually looks at the formula and decides the entries based on it. The rest is straightforward.

The bottom left part of the table is very easy. This entire section is filled with 0s, representing nothing significant. It is just leading zeros for the numbers. Now, let's move on to the bottom right part, which is similar to the top right part.

In the bottom right part, the rows are indexed as $g_1, h_1, g_2, h_2, g_3, h_3$, and so on up to g_m, h_m . The columns are indexed from C_1 to C_m . There are $2m$ rows and n columns. The first two rows, g_1 and h_1 , have a 1 under C_1 and 0s following it. Similarly, g_2 and h_2 have a 1 under C_2 and 0s following it. This pattern continues with g_3 and h_3 having a 1 under C_3 and 0s following, and so on, until g_m and h_m have a 1 under C_m and 0s following it. This completes the bottom right part.

To summarize: in the top left part, y_1 and z_1 have a 1 under the first column, y_2 and z_2 have a 1 under the second column, y_3 and z_3 have a 1 under the third column, and y_n and z_n have a 1 under the n th column, with the rest being 0s. In the bottom right part, g_1 and h_1 have a 1 under C_1 , g_2 and h_2 have a 1 under C_2 , g_3 and h_3 have a 1 under C_3 , and so on up to g_m and h_m having a 1 under C_m , with the rest being 0s. The bottom left part is entirely 0s. Finally, in the top right part, if x_i appears in clause C_j , we put a 1 against y_i and C_j . If x_i complement appears in clause C_j , we put a 1 against z_i and C_j . This indicates, for example, that x_2 appears in C_3 and x_2 complement appears in C_2 . This is how we build the table.

Now we can read the entries accordingly, interpreting each row as a decimal number to form the set for the subset sum problem.

So y_1 is the number 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and then 1, 0, 0, 0. y_2 , for instance, is 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, and 1. For example, g_m and h_m are simply 1 because all the leading zeros at the end result in 1. Therefore, g_m is 1 and h_m is 1. g_1 is 1 followed by $m-1$ zeros, h_1 is 1 followed by $n-1$ zeros. Once again, all numbers are in decimal, not binary. This is very important to note. Finally, this gives you the set S . I have described the $2m + 2n$ numbers completely. This listing of numbers gives us the set S .

What is t ? t is simply this number: it is a number with n 1s followed by m 3s. I have aligned it with the table so that it is clear. It is n 1s followed by m 3s. There is no confusion with t because it is certainly not binary, as we have 3s as digits. So, t is also in decimal. Everything here is in decimal, even though the elements of S have digits 0 and 1; they are to be read in decimal. We have completed the construction and described it completely. Again, all the numbers are to be read as decimal numbers.

The construction is clearly in polynomial time because it mainly involves building this table, which has $2(m + n)$ rows and $(m + n)$ columns, resulting in $(2m + 2n)^2$ entries, which is polynomial in the size of the given formula. The construction is polynomial time.

What remains is to show the correspondence: the formula is satisfiable if and only if the set has a subset that sums to t . t is defined as the number with n 1s followed by m 3s. We need to show this correspondence in both directions. First, we will show the forward direction. We assume that the formula is satisfiable and then show that there is a subset that sums to t .

If the formula is satisfiable, there is a way to assign true or false to the variables such that each clause is satisfied. Now, how do we pick the subset of S ? From S , we need to pick a subset such that its sum is t . Each row corresponds to a number, and we need to achieve the sum defined by t . The first n positions in t are all 1s. These 1s must come from the top left section of the table, as the bottom left section contains all 0s.

For each variable i , we must pick either y_i or z_i , but not both, because picking both would change the sum. We will pick exactly one of y_i or z_i for each variable. Here's how we will decide which one to pick: if the variable x_i is assigned true, we pick y_i ; if x_i is assigned false, we pick z_i . This ensures that the sum of the selected subset matches the n 1s in the first n positions of t .

Next, we need to ensure that the sum also includes the m 3s. To do this, we use the rows corresponding to the clauses. For each clause, we add the numbers corresponding to the literals that satisfy the clause. If a literal appears positively in a clause and the corresponding variable is true, we include the number associated with that literal. If a literal appears negatively in a clause and the corresponding variable is false, we include the number associated with that literal's complement.

By selecting numbers in this way, we ensure that each 3 in t is accounted for by the numbers corresponding to the literals in the clauses. Since each clause is satisfied by the assignment, each clause column in the top right and bottom right sections of the table will have exactly 3 ones, ensuring the correct sum.

Thus, we have shown that if the formula is satisfiable, there exists a subset of S that sums to t .

So, we assume that the formula is satisfiable. If the satisfying assignment sets x_1 to true, we pick y_1 and not z_1 . If the satisfying assignment sets x_1 to false, we pick z_1 and not y_1 . Similarly, for y_2 and z_2 , if x_2 is true in the satisfying assignment, we pick y_2 and not z_2 . If x_2 is false in the satisfying assignment, we pick z_2 and not y_2 . This rule tells us how to pick y_i or z_i . For each i , we pick exactly one of y_i or z_i . This will handle the first part of t .

Now, to handle the part of t with the trailing 3s, we need to explain how to pick the remaining numbers from g_1, h_1, g_2, h_2 , and so on. Notice that each clause has a satisfying assignment, meaning each clause has at least one true literal. For example, consider clause 1. If x_1 is the true literal in the clause, and x_1 is set to true, we would have picked y_1 and not z_1 . Since x_1 appears in the clause, there will be a 1 contributed by y_1 in that column. Similarly, if x_2 complement is in clause 2 and satisfies it, x_2 is set to false, meaning we pick z_2 , and there will be a 1 under C_2 contributed by z_2 .

The point is that by the choice of y_1, z_1, y_2, z_2 , and so on, each clause already has at least one 1 under it. Because it is a satisfying assignment, under each clause there will be at least one 1, and at most three 1s, contributed by the rows in the top right part. If a clause has only one true literal, it will have one 1, and we need two more 1s to sum to 3. We can add g_1 and h_1 to contribute the additional 1s. If a clause has two true literals, we add g_2 but not h_2 to make the sum 3. If a clause already has three true literals, it will have three 1s, and we will not include either g_m or h_m .


By including or excluding each g and h appropriately, we ensure that the sum for each clause is exactly 3. This ensures that under each clause, the sum is 3. The choice of y and z rows ensures that the sum for the first part is 1. Since we are treating the numbers as decimals, there is no carryover or dependency between digits, and the sums are straightforward.


In summary, we choose y_i if x_i is true, and z_i if x_i is false. For each clause, depending on the number of 1s contributed by the chosen y_i or z_i , we include both g_j and h_j , only g_j , or neither, to make the sum under the clause equal to 3. This shows that the set S has a subset that sums to t when the formula is satisfiable. This completes the proof that if the formula ϕ is satisfiable, then there is a subset in S that sums to t .

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Each clause C_j corresponds to two numbers
 — g_j and h_j .

		C_1	C_2	C_3	...	C_m
		1	2	3	...	m
y_1	1	0	0	0	...	0
z_1	1	0	0	0	...	0
g_1	1	0	0	0	...	0
z_2	1	0	0	0	...	0
g_2	1	0	0	0	...	0
z_3	1	0	0	0	...	0
g_3	1	0	0	0	...	0
...						
z_m	1	0	0	0	...	0
g_m	1	0	0	0	...	0
h_1		0	1	0	...	0
h_2		0	1	0	...	0
h_3		0	1	0	...	0
h_m		0	0	0	...	1
d_m		0	0	0	...	1








$\langle S, t \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$.

(\Leftarrow) Suppose $\langle S, t \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$.

let us note the following:

- All the digits of the numbers in S are 0/1.
- Each column has at most five 1's.
So no carry is possible while adding the numbers.
- We have a sum 1 in the first n columns.
This means for each $i \leq n$, exactly one of y_i or z_i is in the subset.





q_3	()	0	0	1	...	0
q_2		0	0	1	...	0
\vdots						
q_m		0	0	0	...	1
p_m		0	0	0	...	1

$$t = \underbrace{1 \ 1 \ 1 \ \dots \ 1}_n \quad \underbrace{3 \ 3 \ 3 \ \dots \ 3}_m$$

In the top right quadrant, we choose the entries in the following manner.

- If x_i is in C_j , put 1 against y_i and C_j
- If \bar{x}_i is in C_j , put 1 against z_i and C_j
- 0's in all the other cells of the top right quadrant.

Important: All the numbers are to be read as

- all the digits of the numbers in \rightarrow are 0/1.
- Each column has at most five 1's.
So no carry is possible while adding the numbers.
- We have a sum 1 in the first n columns.
This means for each $i \leq n$, exactly one of y_i or z_i is in the subset.

We claim that the following is a satisfying assignment:

- If y_i is in the subset, set x_i to TRUE.
- If z_i is in the subset, set x_i to FALSE.

In the last m columns, we need the sum to be 3 each. The contribution from the last $2m$ rows can be at most 2. So for each C_j , there must be

In the last m columns, we need the sum to be 3 each. The contribution from the last $2m$ rows can be at most 2. So for each C_j , there must be a contribution of at least 1 from y_i or z_i .

→ If contribution from y_i , then x_i appears in that clause, and is set to TRUE.

→ If contribution from z_i , then \bar{x}_i appears in that clause, and x_i is set to FALSE.

In either case, the clause is satisfied.

Hence $\langle \Phi \rangle \in 3\text{-SAT}$.



decimal numbers



$$S = \{y_i, z_i, g_j, h_j \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m\}.$$

The table has $2(n+m)^2$ entries. So the construction of S is in polynomial time.

Now we need to show that:

$$\phi \text{ is satisfiable} \Leftrightarrow S \text{ has a subset that sums to } t.$$

(\Rightarrow) Suppose $\phi \in \text{3-SAT}$. This means that there is a way to assign True/False to the

Now, let's consider the other direction. Suppose there is a subset that sums to t . Let's understand some properties. For the leading n columns, there are only 2 ones in each column because the bottom part is all zeros, and the top part contributes exactly 2 ones. For the last m columns, the top part corresponds to the literals of a clause, contributing exactly 3 ones. The bottom part contributes 2 ones, making a total of 5 ones in each of these columns.

Since the sum in each column is no more than 5, even if all the numbers (y s and z s, and the g s and h s) are included, there will be no carry-over in the addition. This means that each column can be considered separately without affecting other columns. This lack of carry-over ensures a clean and independent summation of digits in each column.

Given that there is a subset that sums to t , and knowing there is no carry, we understand that from the first $2n$ rows (y s and z s), we can only have one of each pair (y_i or z_i). If both y_i and z_i were picked, we would not achieve the one in the target sum t for that column. Similarly, if neither were picked, the result would be zero for that column. Thus, we need exactly one of y_i or z_i for each i .

This gives us the assignment: if y_i is in the subset, set x_i to true; if z_i is in the subset, set x_i to false. This ensures that for each i , either y_i or z_i , but not both, is in the subset, thereby matching the requirement of having exactly one one in the leading columns of t .

Next, we need to show that this assignment satisfies the formula. Each clause must be satisfied. For the trailing m columns (the clause columns), the sum is 3, with contributions

from the top part (ys and zs) and the bottom part (gs and hs). The gs and hs can contribute at most 2 ones, meaning that the remaining one must come from the top part. If the contribution comes from y_i , it means x_i appears positively in the clause and is set to true. If the contribution comes from z_i , it means x_i complement appears in the clause and x_i is set to false.

By this method, we ensure that each clause has at least one true literal, satisfying the clause. Since the target sum t has 3s in the clause columns and the gs and hs can contribute at most 2, there must be a contribution from the top part for each clause, ensuring at least one true literal per clause.

In summary, for each i , we pick exactly one of y_i or z_i , setting x_i to true if y_i is in the subset and false if z_i is in the subset. This guarantees that the sum in the leading n columns matches the target. For the clause columns, the contribution from the gs and hs ensures that the sum is 3, with the remaining ones coming from the literals in the clauses, ensuring each clause is satisfied. Thus, if the set has a subset that sums to t , the formula is satisfiable.

This completes the proof that if there is a subset that sums to t , the formula is satisfiable. Hence, the set S has a subset that sums to t if and only if the formula is satisfiable, proving the NP-completeness of the subset sum problem.

(Refer Slide Time: 37:41)


SUBSET-SUM


$$\text{SUBSET-SUM} = \{ \langle S, t \rangle \mid S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}, \\ \exists T \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, k\}, \text{ s.t. } \sum_{i \in T} x_i = t \}$$

Given a set S and a target sum t , is there a subset of S , whose elements add up to t ?

Let $S = \{6, 20, 52, 16, 5\}$.

Then $\langle S, 54 \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$
 $\langle S, 42 \rangle \in \text{SUBSET-SUM}$
 $\langle S, 34 \rangle \notin \text{SUBSET-SUM}$





$\langle S, t \rangle$ & SUBSET-SUM.

Theorem 7.96: SUBSET-SUM is NP-complete.

Proof: We need to show two things

1) SUBSET-SUM \in NP and 2) 3-SAT \leq_p SUB-SUM.

SUBSET-SUM \in NP. Already shown in lecture 46.

On input $\langle S, t \rangle$:

1. Non-deterministically select/reject each of x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k . $\rightarrow O(k)$ time
2. Add all the selected x_i and verify if they add up to t . $\rightarrow O(k)$

	v					c			
	1	2	3	4	w	1	2	3	m
x_1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
x_2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
x_3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
x_4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
x_5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
x_6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
...
All not in decimal					1				
y_1						1	0	0	0
y_2						1	0	0	0
y_3						0	1	0	0
y_4						0	1	0	0
y_5						0	0	1	0
y_6						0	0	1	0
...									
y_m						0	0	0	1
y_{m+1}						0	0	0	1

$t = \underbrace{111\dots1}_n \underbrace{333\dots3}_m$



So there you go, you have yet another problem, which involves sets of numbers and finding a subset that achieves a target sum. It is entirely different from graphs with cliques or independent sets, or Boolean formulas. It is a different type of problem, but it is also NP-complete. To summarize, showing that it is in NP was easy using a standard guess and verify approach. To show that it is NP-complete, we reduced it from 3-SAT.

Given a 3-SAT instance, we built numbers whose digits are entirely 0s and 1s, but we view them as decimal numbers. There are $2n + 2m$ numbers, where m is the number of clauses in the formula, and n is the number of variables. The target sum is a number with n 1s followed by m 3s. We showed that if the formula is satisfiable, there exists a subset that sums to the target. Conversely, if there is a subset that sums to the target, the formula is satisfiable.

The construction is in polynomial time because the number of entries is polynomial in the size of the formula. This completes the proof.

That completes lecture number 54. In the next lecture, we will explore yet another NP-complete problem. Thank you.