

*Two NP-complete problems useful for reducing to arithmetic (summing) problems:

(2-)Partition: given integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$,
partition A into two sets $A = A_1 \dot{\cup} A_2$
of equal sum: $\frac{\sum A}{2} = \sum A_1 = \sum A_2 = t$
[Karp 1972]

Generalization: Subset Sum

$$t = \frac{\sum A}{2}$$

given integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$,
and a target integer t ,
find a subset $S \subseteq A$ of sum $\sum S = t$

3-Partition: given integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$,
partition A into $n/3$ sets A_i
of equal sum, $\sum A / (n/3) = \sum A_i = t$

- can assume each $a_i \in (t/4, t/2)$

\Rightarrow each set A_i contains exactly 3 items

[Garey & Johnson - SICOMP 1975]

\Rightarrow can make each a_i close to $t/3$:

add huge number ($n^{100} \cdot \max A$) to each a_i

Garey & Johnson [book] reduce

3SAT \rightarrow 3DM \rightarrow 4-partition \rightarrow 3-partition

\rightarrow numerical 3DM

Variation: Numerical 3-dimensional matching

given integers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$,

$B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$,

$C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$

partition into n triples $S_i \in A \times B \times C$
of equal sum $t = \sum(A \cup B \cup C) / n$

[Garey & Johnson - SICOMP 1975]

Reduction to 3-partition: (so it's simpler)

- add $\varepsilon \ll 1$ to each a_i e.g. $\varepsilon = 1/4$

- add $\delta \ll \varepsilon$ to each b_i $\delta = 1/16$

- subtract $\varepsilon + \delta$ from each c_i

- scale back to integers $\times 16$

- in sum of 3, δ never becomes ε
& ε never becomes 1

$\Rightarrow \varepsilon$ & δ s must cancel algebraically

\rightarrow cf. (2D) matching

Generalization: 3-dimensional matching (3DM)

given a tripartite hypergraph with
vertices $A \cup B \cup C$, $|A| = |B| = |C| = n$,

& hyperedges $E \subseteq A \times B \times C$,

find n disjoint edges $S \subseteq E$

(which must partition the vertices)

[Karp 1972]

Generalization: Exact Cover by 3-sets (X3C)

given 3-uniform hypergraph (V, E) ,

$\forall e \in E: |e| = 3 \leftarrow$ find $|V|/3$ disjoint edges (\Rightarrow partition V)

* Two types of NP-hardness for number problems:
 involving integers, not just combinatorics ↙

Weakly NP-hard = NP-hard

- allow numbers to have value exponential in n
- encoding length = $\log(2^{n^c}) = n^c$ still polynomial

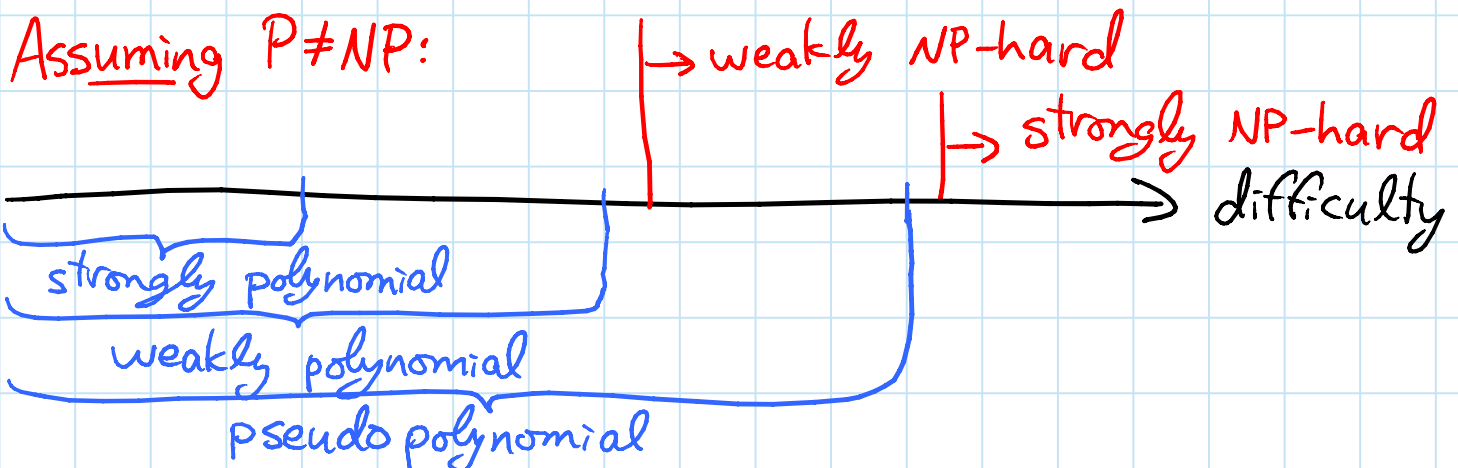
Strongly NP-hard = NP-hard even when restricted to numbers with value polynomial in n
 (i.e. even if numbers encoded in unary)

* Corresponding algorithmic notions:

Pseudopolynomial = polynomial in n & largest number ↘
 (unary encoding)
Weakly polynomial = polynomial =
 polynomial in n & $\log(\text{largest number})$

Strongly polynomial = polynomial in n
 ↘ # numbers

Weak NP-hardness precludes polynomial algorithm (assuming $P \neq NP$) but leaves possible pseudopolynomial



Multiprocessor scheduling: [Garey & Johnson - SICOMP 1975]

- given n jobs with processing times a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n
- given p processors (each sequential & identical)
- assign jobs to processors to minimize maximum completion time (makespan)
- decision version: can all processors finish by $\leq t$?
- NP certificate: job \rightarrow processor mapping
(a_i as is)

Reduction from Partition: $p = 2 \Rightarrow$ weakly NP-hard

Reduction from 3-Partition: $p = n/3 \Rightarrow$ strongly NP-hard

(This was Garey & Johnson's motivation for introducing 3-partition in 1975.)

Claim: jobs finishable in makespan t \rightarrow target sum
 \Leftrightarrow (3-Partition instance has a solution)

Rectangle packing:

- given n rectangles $\rightarrow A$ & target rectangle $\rightarrow B$
- can you pack former into latter?
 \hookrightarrow rotate & translate to fit without overlap
- **OPEN**: $\in NP$?
- special case: exact packing - no gaps
 \hookrightarrow hardness result is stronger theorem
- rotation $\in \{0, 90^\circ, 180^\circ, 270^\circ\}$, translation integral
(proof by induction: consider corner, repeat)
- NP certificate: translations & rotations

Reduction from Partition: $A = \overbrace{\boxed{a_1}} \overbrace{\boxed{a_2}} \dots \overbrace{\boxed{a_n}} \varepsilon$
 $B = \boxed{\quad\quad\quad} 2\varepsilon \ll 1$
 $t = \sum a_i / 2$ \swarrow avoid rotation

Reduction from 3-Partition: $B = \boxed{\quad\quad\quad} \left[\frac{n}{3} \varepsilon \ll 1 \right]$
 $t = \sum a_i / (n/3)$

Scaling trick to make all dimensions integral:

$$A = \left\{ \overbrace{\boxed{n a_i}} 1 \right\}, B = \boxed{\quad\quad\quad} \frac{n}{3}$$

$n t$

Here, just adding $n/3$ to each a_i suffices:

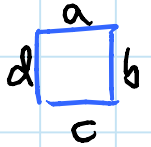
$$A = \left\{ \overbrace{\boxed{\frac{n}{3} + a_i}} 1 \right\}, B = \boxed{\quad\quad\quad} \frac{n}{3}$$

$t + n$

[Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

Edge-matching puzzles: [Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

- given unit square tiles, each side labeled with a "color"
- given target rectangle
- goal: put tiles in target such that tiles sharing an edge have matching colors



No numbers \Rightarrow can't use Partition!

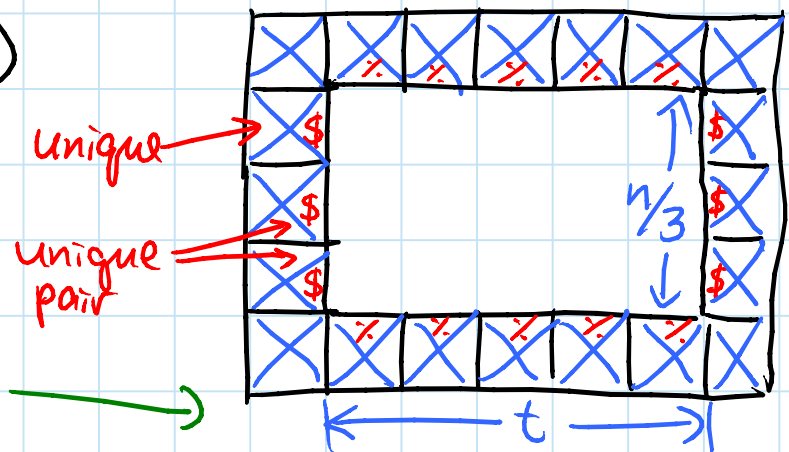
Reduction from 3-Partition: (like rect. packing)

- a_i gadget: \leftarrow effectively unary encoding!
 \leftarrow prevents rotation

- if i colors go together, forced to make this
- but some could go on boundary...

- frame gadget: ("infrastructure")

add more rows to make target square \rightarrow

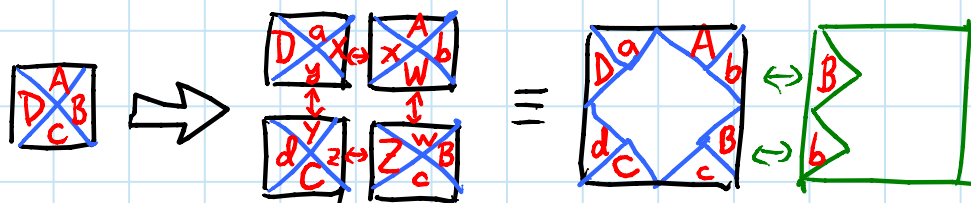


- unique colors forced on boundary \Rightarrow frame construction forced
- target shape: $(n/3 + 2) \times (t + 2)$ $\Rightarrow a_i$ construction forced (no boundary left) \Rightarrow effectively rectangle packing

Signed edge-matching puzzles: (lizards etc.)

- colors come in matching pairs:
a & A, b & B, etc.
- color does not match itself ~ only its mate

Reduction from unsigned edge-matching puzzles:



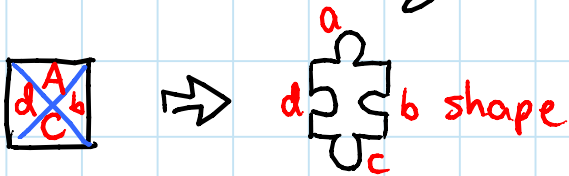
- interior colors (x, y, z, w) are unique pairs
- ⇒ must assemble 2x2
(assuming frame to prevent boundary use)
- ⇒ acts like unsigned tile

Jigsaw puzzles:

[Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

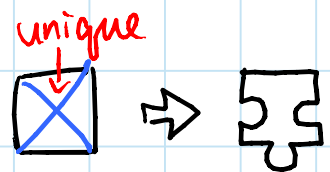
- no guiding picture
- ambiguous mates (fitting \nrightarrow correct)

Reduction from signed edge-matching puzzles:



lower case \rightarrow pocket
upper case \rightarrow tab

- for rectangular boundary:
 \hookrightarrow even square



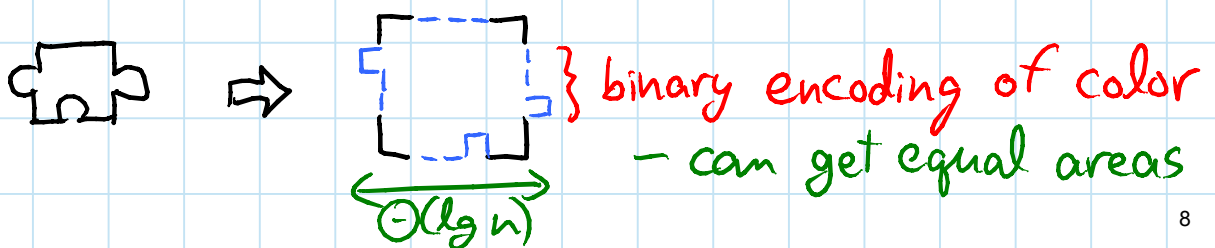
Polyomino packing:

[Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]

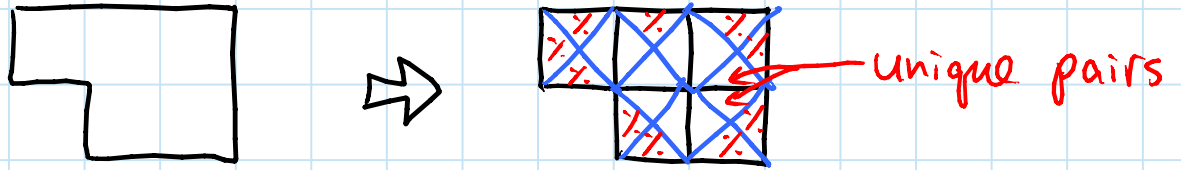
- given polyominoes = edge-to-edge joinings of unit squares (like Tetris)
- given target rectangle
- goal: exact pack former into latter

- rectangle packing is a special case \Rightarrow done
- but piece areas are $> n$
- what if areas are polylog?
- OPEN: logarithmic area

Reduction from jigsaw puzzles:



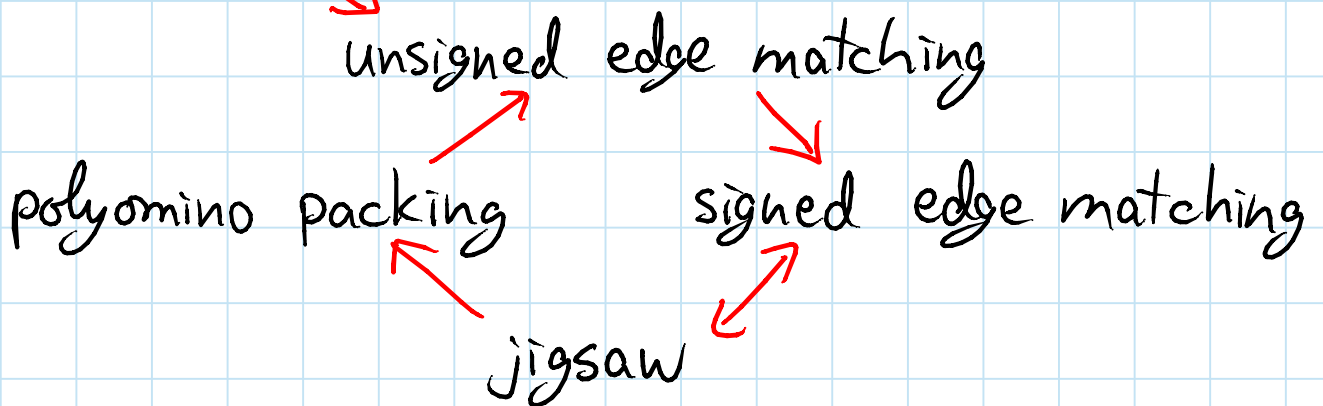
Closing the loop: [Demaine & Demaine - G&C 2007]
reduction from polyomino packing
to unsigned edge-matching puzzles



- use frame, but with $\# = \%$

So: all 4 puzzle types are NP-complete
& constant-factor equivalent: can convert
one to the other with $O(1)$ factor blowup

3-partition



(exact)

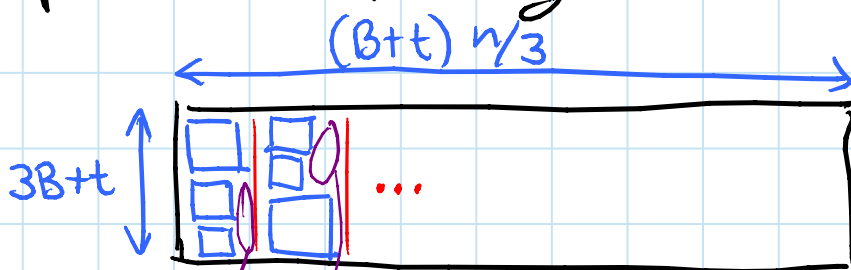
Packing squares into a square: strongly NP-complete

[Leung, Tam, Wong, Young, Chin - JPD 1990]

- motivation: scheduling square jobs on grid supercomputer

Rectangle target:

- squares of dimension $a_i + B$ ← huge $\Rightarrow \approx B$
- pack into rectangle of height $\approx 3B$:



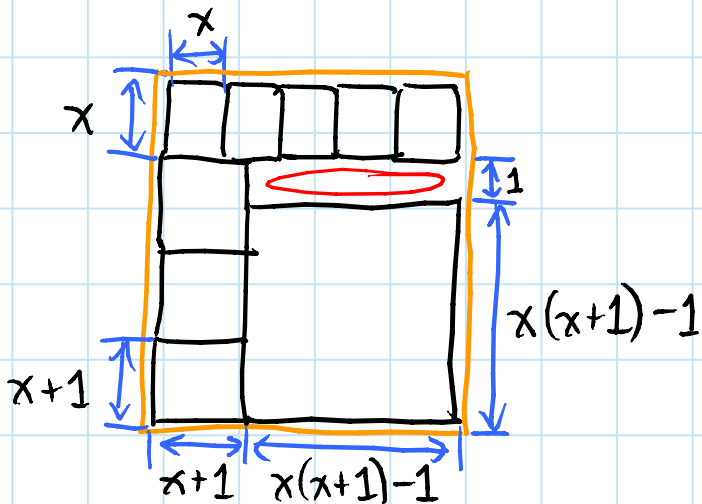
- total slop $\leq (3B+t) \cdot (t \cdot \frac{1}{3})$
 $< B^2 < \text{one square}$

if $B > tn$
 \Rightarrow "doesn't help"

Exact packing: add 1×1 squares to fill extra area

Square target:

- infrastructure to build rectangular space



- scale by $3B+t$
- set x large enough to get enough width
- pad excess with $B \times B$ squares

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