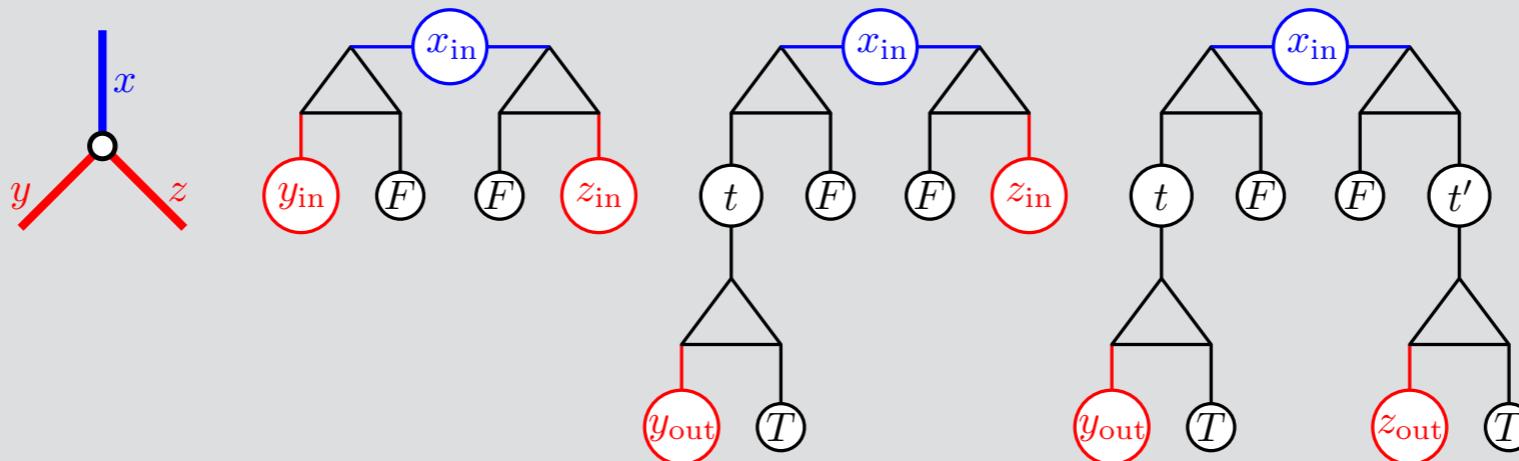


# Reconfiguration of Satisfying Assignments and Subset Sums: Easy to Find, Hard to Connect



Jean Cardinal, Erik Demaine, David Eppstein,  
Robert Hearn, Andrew Winslow

# Reconfiguration: a SAT Example

Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee F) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$

Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee F) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$

$\downarrow$  flip  $x_3$

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg T)$$

$$x_3 = T$$

Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee F) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$

$\Downarrow$  flip  $x_3$

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg T)$$

$$x_3 = T$$

$\Downarrow$  flip  $x_1$

$$x_1 = T$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (T \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg T \vee F \vee T) \wedge (\neg T \vee \neg F \vee \neg T)$$

$$x_3 = T$$

Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---

$x_1 = F$

$x_2 = F$   $(F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee F) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$

$x_3 = F$

$\downarrow$  flip  $x_3$

$x_1 = F$

$x_2 = F$   $(F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg T)$

$x_3 = T$

$\downarrow$  flip  $x_1$

$x_1 = T$

$x_2 = F$   $(T \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg T \vee F \vee T) \wedge (\neg T \vee \neg F \vee \neg T)$

$x_3 = T$

Keeping formula satisfied

Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee F) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$



$$x_1 = T$$

$$x_2 = T \quad (T \vee \neg T) \wedge (\neg T \vee T \vee F) \wedge (\neg T \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$

Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---

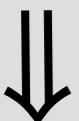
$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F \quad (F \vee \neg F) \wedge (\neg F \vee F \vee F) \wedge (\neg F \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$



Impossible



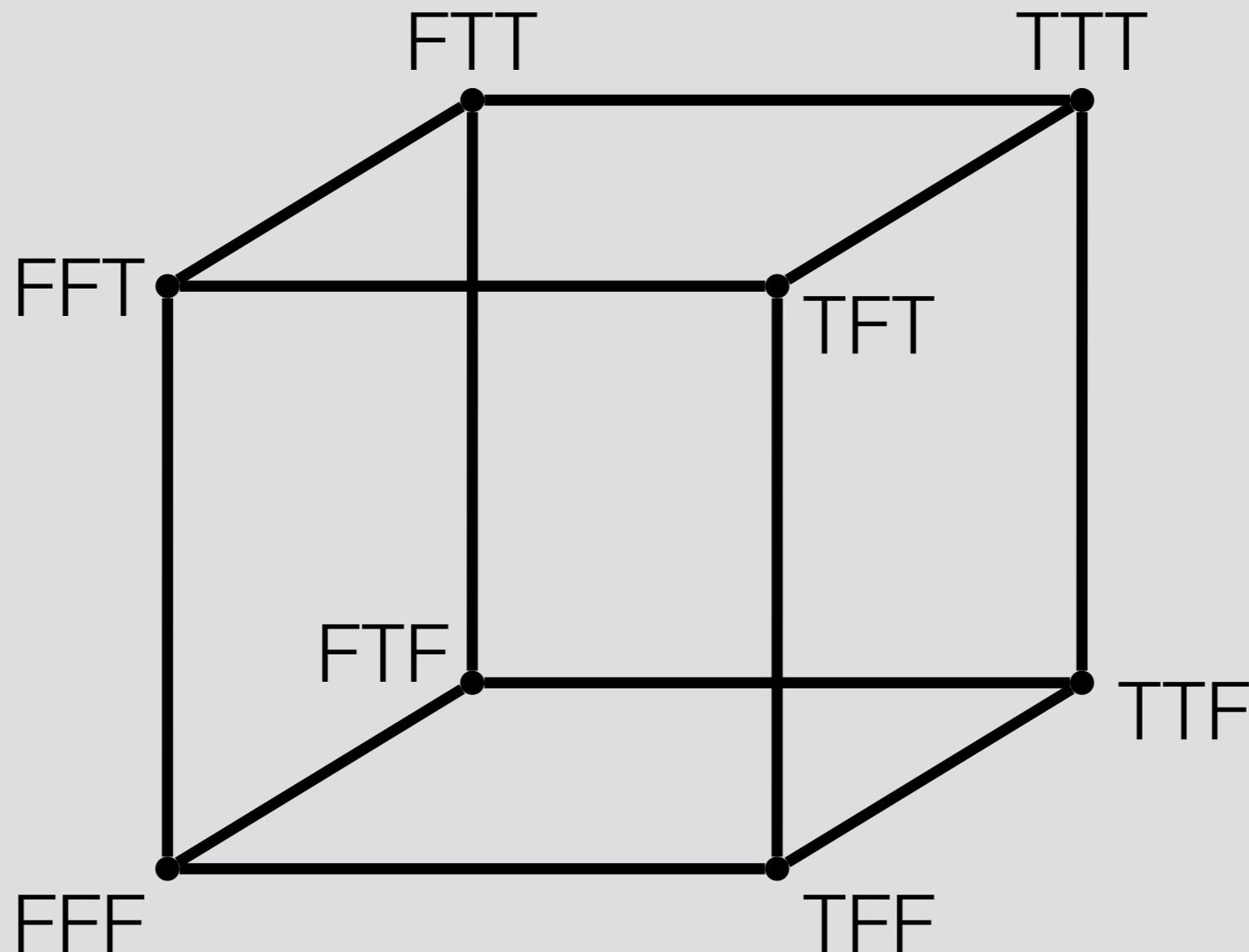
$$x_1 = T$$

$$x_2 = T \quad (T \vee \neg T) \wedge (\neg T \vee T \vee F) \wedge (\neg T \vee \neg F \vee \neg F)$$

$$x_3 = F$$

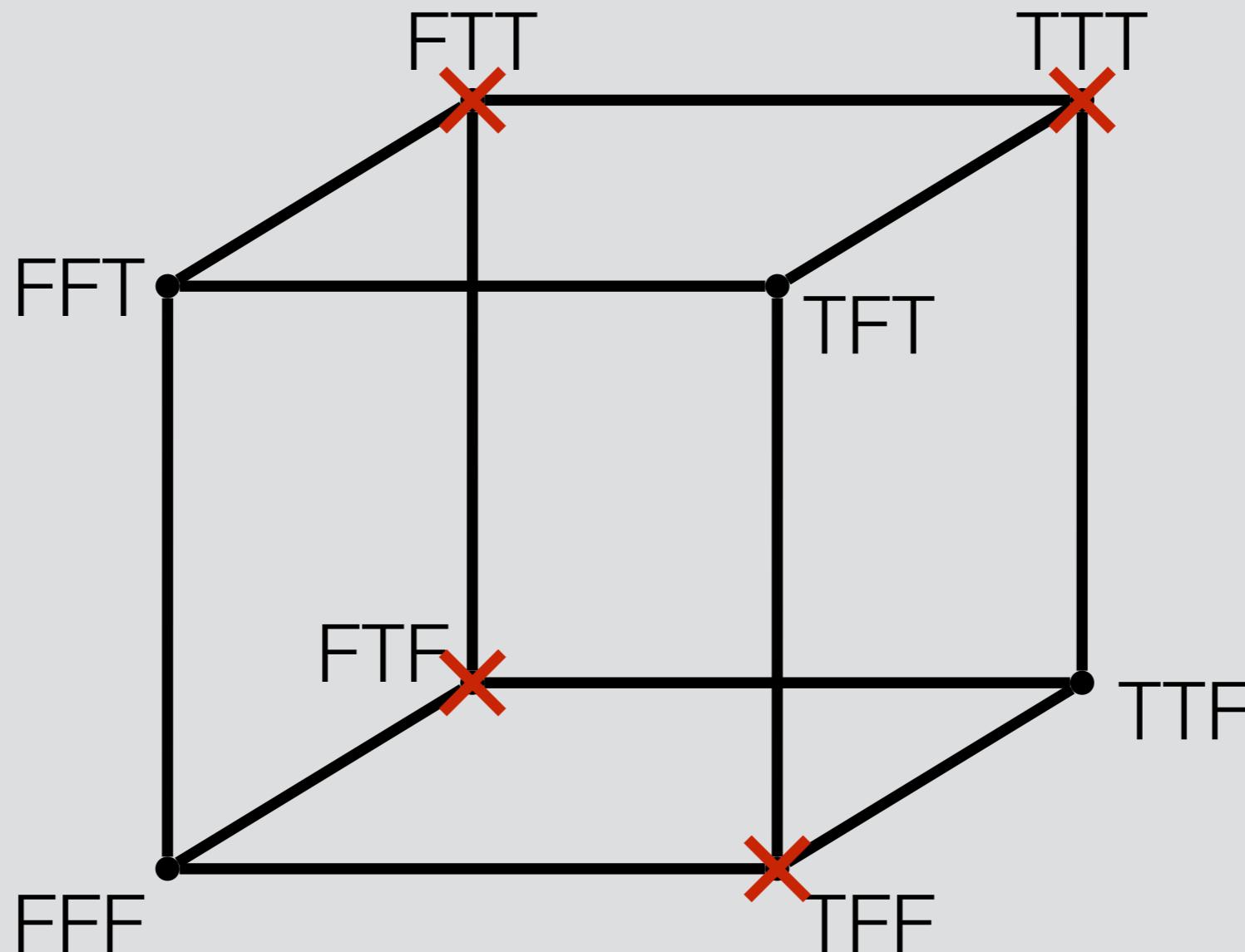
Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---



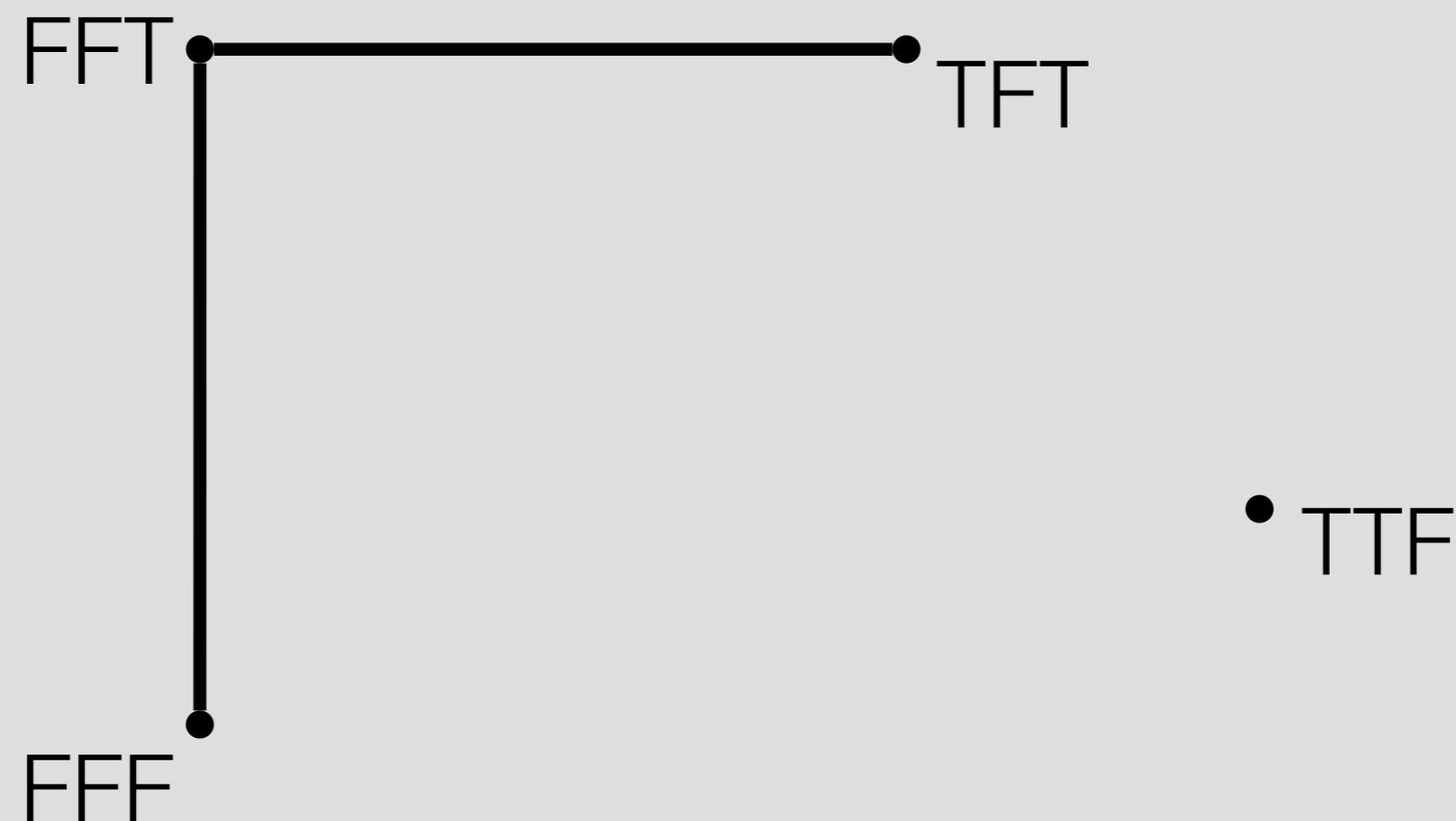
Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---



Formula:  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$

---



# Reconfiguration: a Subset Sum Example

Subset: {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Target sum: 12

---

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$$

Subset: {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Target sum: 12

---

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$$

$\Downarrow$  swap 2, 3 with 5

$$S = \{5, 7\}$$

$$5 + 7 = 12$$

Subset: {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Target sum: 12

---

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$$

$\Downarrow$  swap 2, 3 with 5

$$S = \{5, 7\}$$

$$5 + 7 = 12$$

$\Downarrow$  swap 7 with 3, 4

$$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$$

$$5 + 3 + 4 = 12$$

Subset: {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Target sum: 12

---

$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$

$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$

$\downarrow$  swap 2, 3 with 5

$S = \{5, 7\}$

Keeping sum  
 $5 + 7 = \underline{12}$   
equal to

$\downarrow$  swap 7 with 3, 4

$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$

target sum

$5 + 3 + 4 = 12$

Subset: {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Target sum: 12

$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$

$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$

$\Downarrow$  swap 2, 3 with 5

Keeping sum  
 $5 + 7 = \frac{12}{12}$   
equal to

$S = \{5, 7\}$

target sum

$\Downarrow$  swap 7 with 3, 4

$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$

$5 + 3 + 4 = 12$

$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$

$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$

$\Downarrow$

$\Downarrow$

$S = \{2, 4, 6\}$

$5 + 3 + 4 = 12$

Subset: {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Target sum: 12

$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$

$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$

$\Downarrow$  swap 2, 3 with 5

Keeping sum  
 $5 + 7 = \cancel{12}$   
equal to  
target sum

$S = \{5, 7\}$

$\Downarrow$  swap 7 with 3, 4

$5 + 3 + 4 = 12$

$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$

$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$

$2 + 3 + 7 = 12$



Impossible

$S = \{2, 4, 6\}$

$5 + 3 + 4 = 12$

# 3SAT Reconfiguration Problem

# 3SAT Reconfiguration Problem

Input:

- An instance of 3SAT  $\Phi$ .
- A satisfying assignment A of  $\Phi$ .
- A satisfying assignment B of  $\Phi$ .

Output:

Whether A can be reconfigured into B.

# SAT Reconfiguration Problem

Input:

- 3SAT formula  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$
- $x_1 = F, x_2 = F, x_3 = F.$
- $x_1 = T, x_2 = F, x_3 = T.$

Output: Yes (can be reconfigured).

Input:

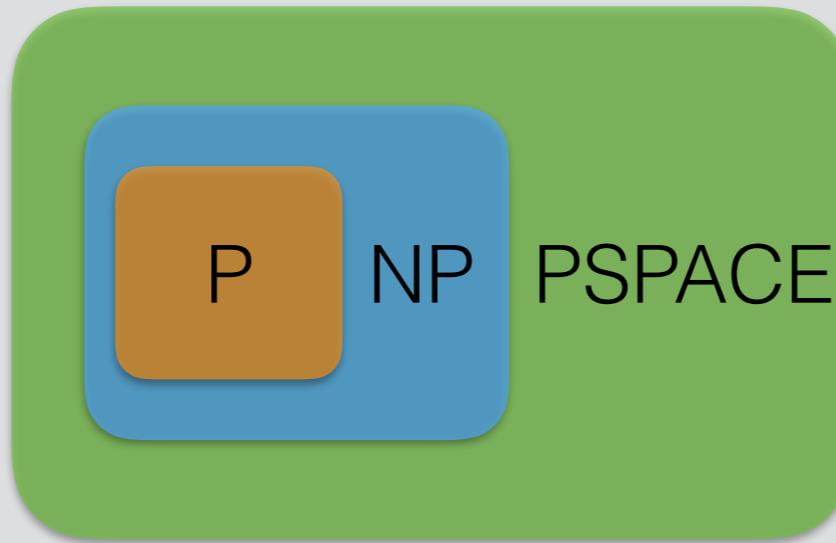
- 3SAT formula  $(x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$
- $x_1 = F, x_2 = F, x_3 = F.$
- $x_1 = T, x_2 = T, x_3 = F.$

Output: No (cannot be reconfigured).

# SAT Reconfiguration Problem

Theorem: the 3SAT reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete.

problems solvable  
in  $n^{O(1)}$  space



Corollary: some reconfigurations require *exponentially* many variable flips.

# SAT Variants

# 1-in-3SAT

One-in-three (1-in-3): satisfying assignment if 1 (but not 2 or 3) true literals per clause.

$$(x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)$$

$$x_1 = F$$

$$x_2 = F$$

$$x_3 = F$$

$$x_4 = T$$

$$(F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (F \vee F \vee T)$$

satisfied

satisfied

satisfied

$$x_1 = T$$

$$x_2 = F$$

$$x_3 = F$$

$$x_4 = T$$

$$(T \vee F \vee T) \wedge (F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (T \vee F \vee T)$$

not satisfied

satisfied

not satisfied

# SAT Reconfiguration Problems

Theorem: the 2SAT reconfiguration problem is in P. [Gopalan et al. 2009]

Theorem: the 1-in-3SAT reconfiguration problem is in P (always “No”).

Theorem: the 3SAT reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete.

# SAT Reconfiguration Problems

Theorem: the 2SAT reconfiguration problem is in P. [Gopalan et al. 2009]

Theorem: the 1-in-3SAT reconfiguration problem is in P (always “No”).

Theorem: the 3SAT reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete.

Is there a SAT variant whose:

- Solving problem (“Does a satisfying assignment exist?”) is in P.
- Reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete.

# SAT Reconfiguration Problems

Theorem: the 2SAT reconfiguration problem is in P. [Gopalan et al. 2009]

Theorem: the 1-in-3SAT reconfiguration problem is in P (always “No”).

Theorem: the 3SAT reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete.

Is there a SAT variant whose:

- Solving problem (“Does a satisfying assignment exist?”) is in P.
- Reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete.

Yes, monotone planar NAE 3SAT.

# Monotone Planar NAE 3SAT

Monotone: no negated variables.

Planar: graph of variables and clauses is planar.

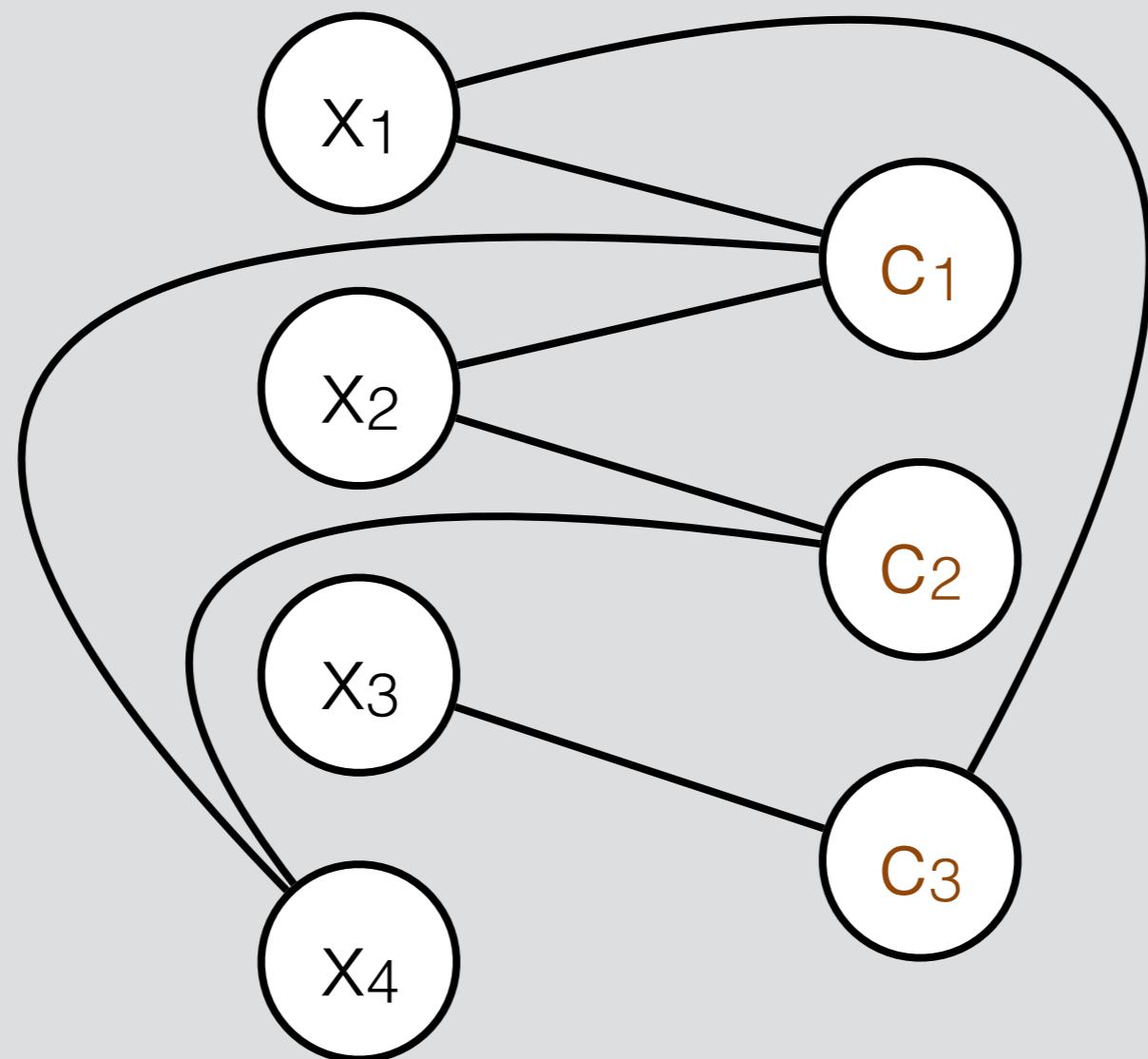
Not-All-Equal (NAE): satisfying assignment if 1 or 2 (but not 3) true literals per clause.

# Monotone Planar NAE 3SAT

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

# Monotone Planar NAE 3SAT

$$\frac{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)}{C_1 \qquad C_2 \qquad C_3}$$



# Monotone Planar NAE 3SAT

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_2 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)$$

$x_1 = T$			
$x_2 = F$	$(T \vee F \vee T) \wedge (F \vee F \vee T) \wedge (T \vee F \vee T)$		
$x_3 = T$	satisfied	satisfied	satisfied
$x_4 = T$			

$x_1 = T$			
$x_2 = T$	$(T \vee T \vee F) \wedge (T \vee T \vee F) \wedge (T \vee T \vee T)$		
$x_3 = T$	satisfied	satisfied	not satisfied
$x_4 = F$			

# Monotone Planar NAE 3SAT

Monotone planar NAE 3SAT solving is in P [Moret 1988]

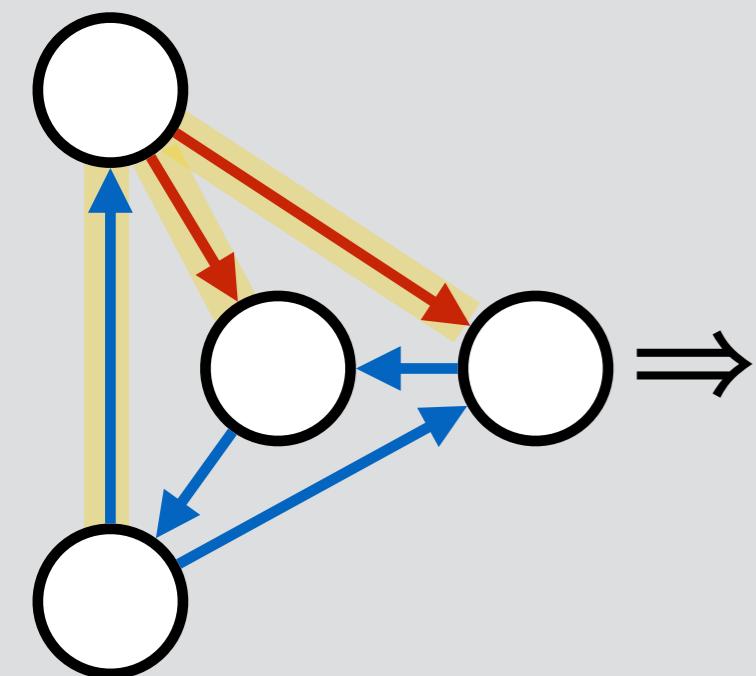
Theorem: monotone planar NAE 3SAT reconfiguration  
is PSPACE-complete.

Reduction is from non-deterministic constraint logic (NCL)

# Non-Deterministic Constraint Logic (NCL)

weight 1 →  
weight 2 →

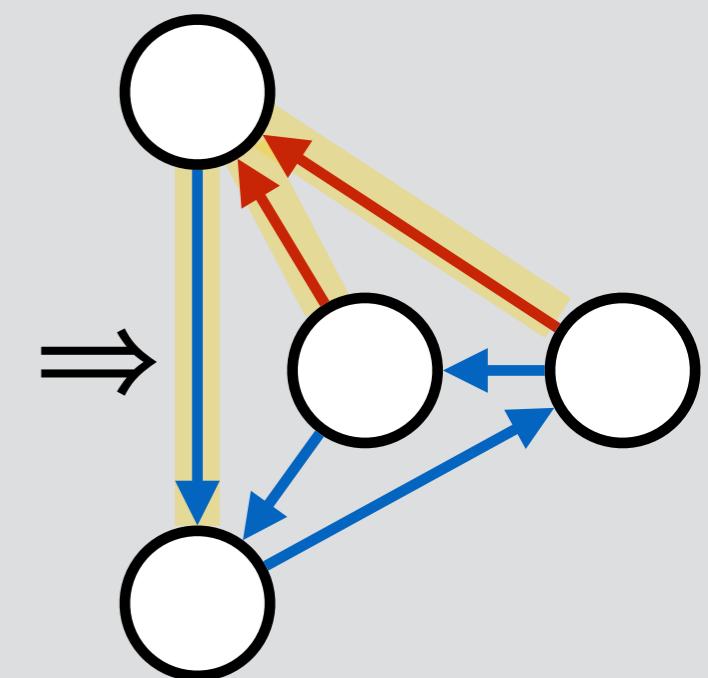
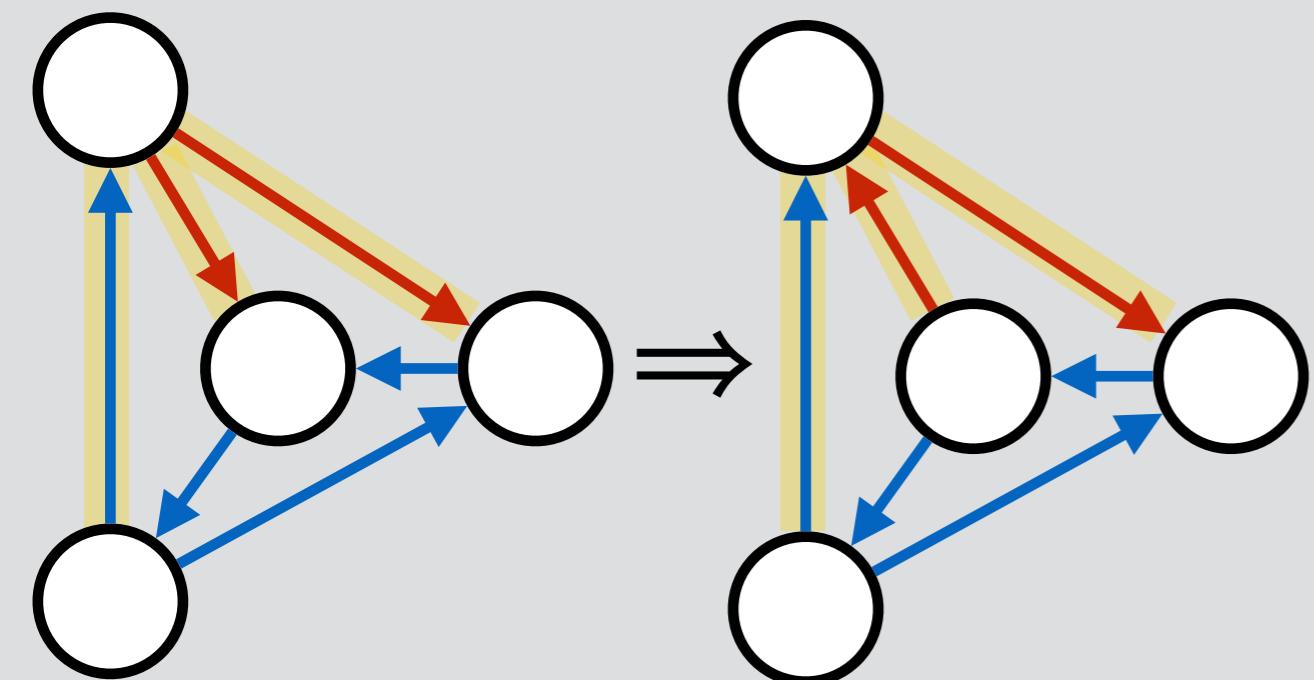
Each node needs  
incoming weight  $\geq 2$



# Non-Deterministic Constraint Logic (NCL)

weight 1 →  
weight 2 →

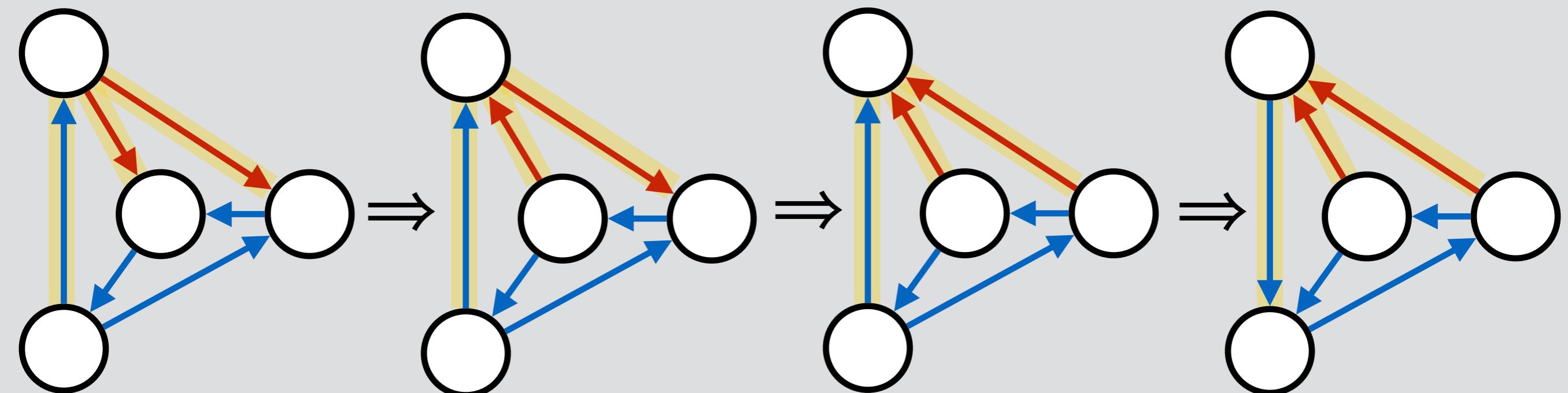
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# Non-Deterministic Constraint Logic (NCL)

weight 1 →  
weight 2 →

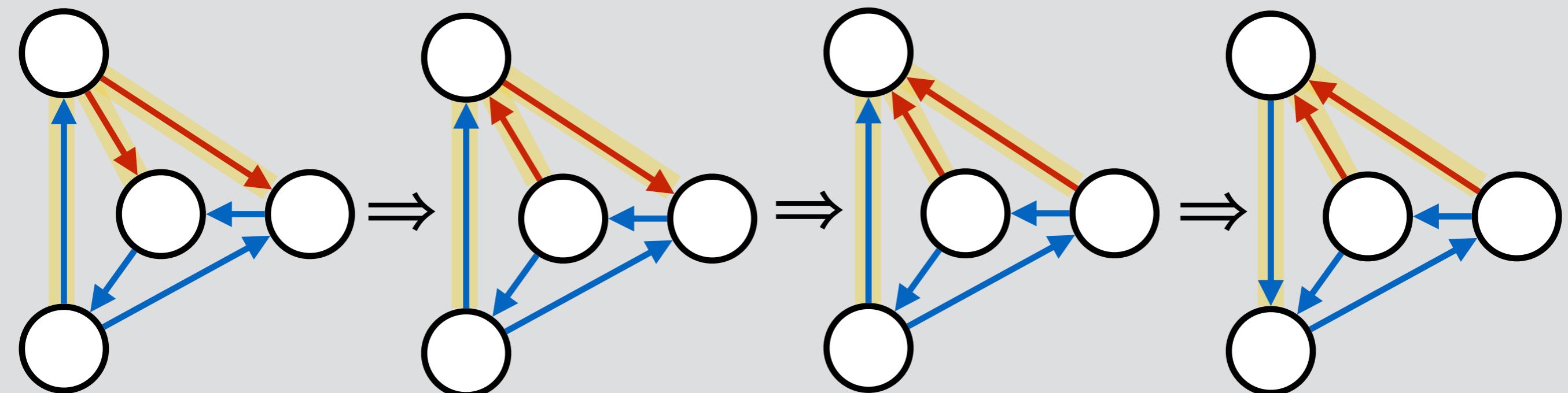
Each node needs  
incoming weight  $\geq 2$



# Non-Deterministic Constraint Logic (NCL)

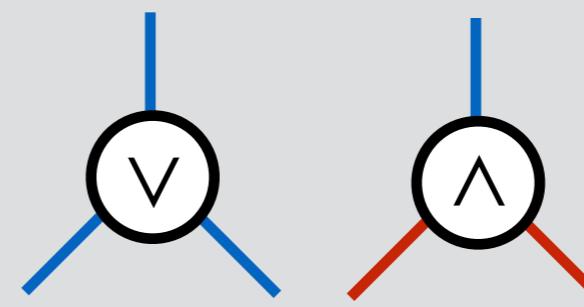
weight 1 →  
weight 2 →

Each node needs  
incoming weight  $\geq 2$



NCL reconfiguration is PSPACE-complete, even for:

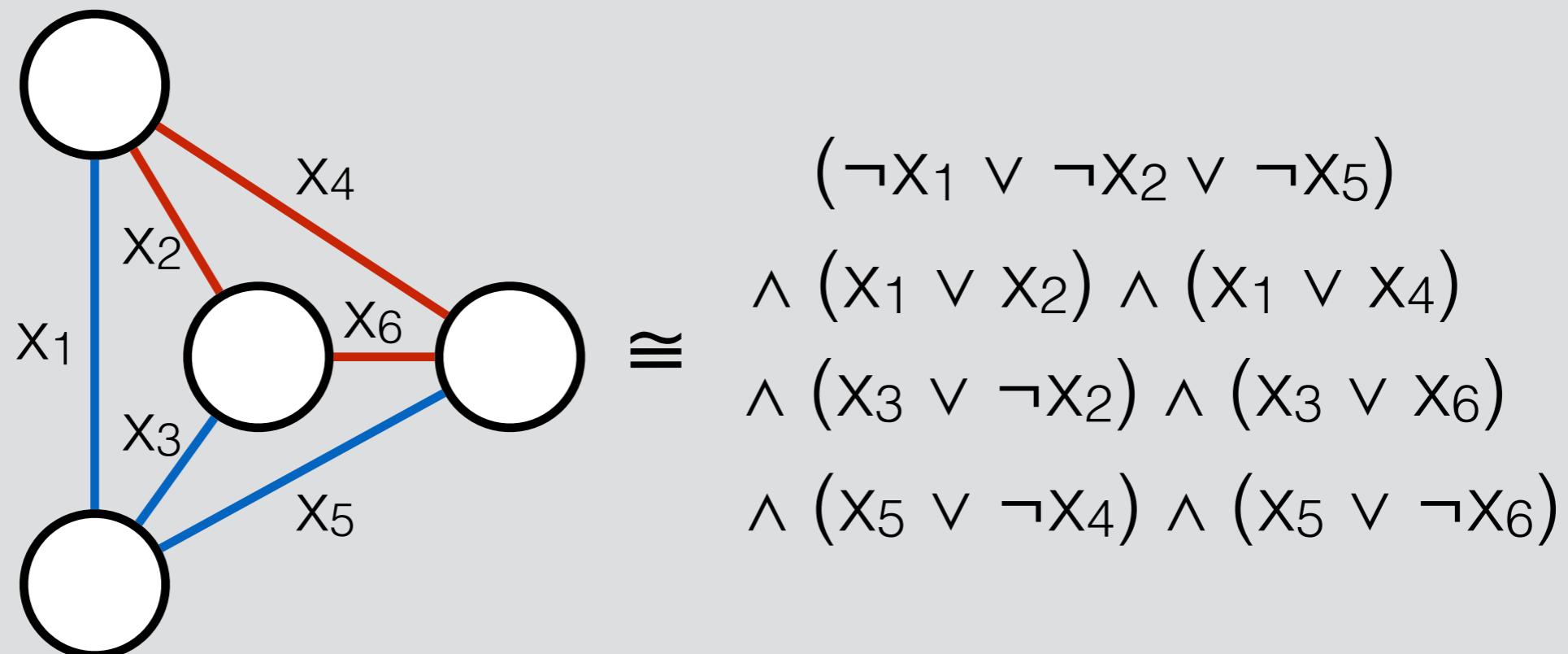
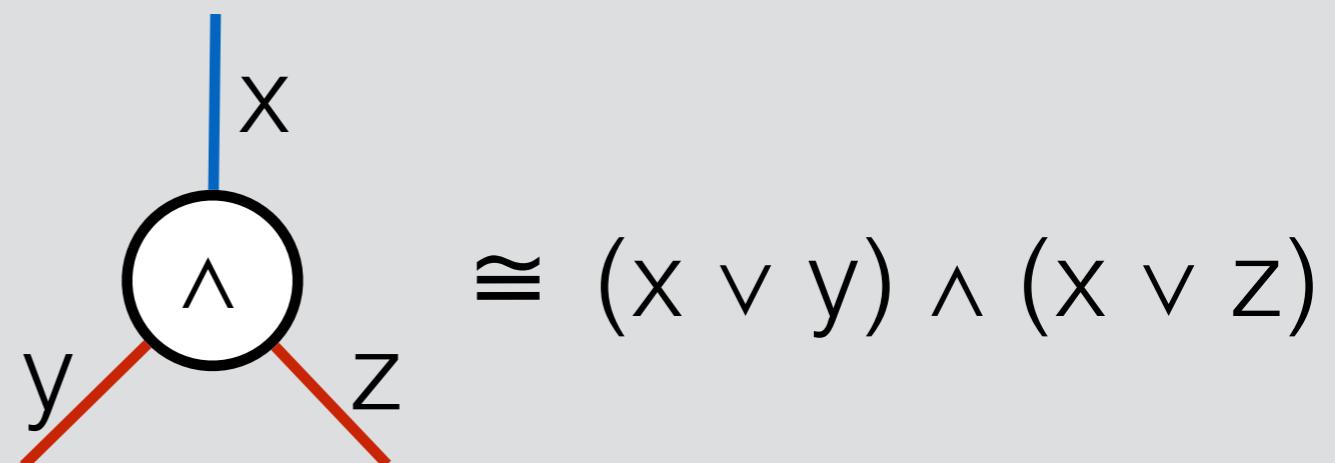
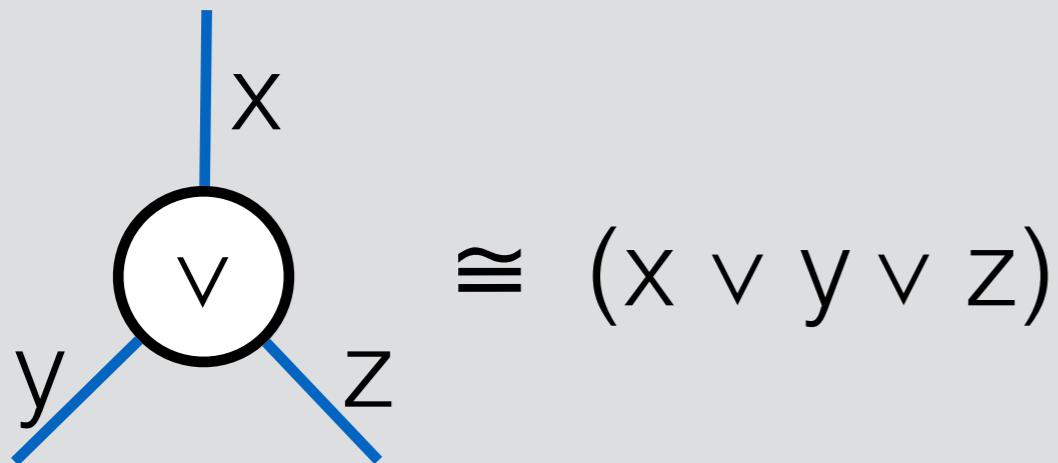
- Planar, degree-3 graphs.
- Only two types of nodes:
- Proved by [DH 2005]



# 3SAT Reconfiguration is PSPACE-hard

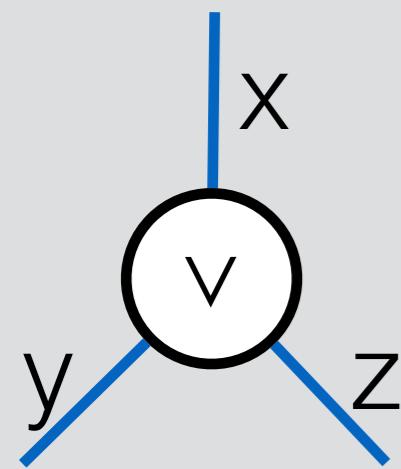
Create a variable for orientation of each edge.

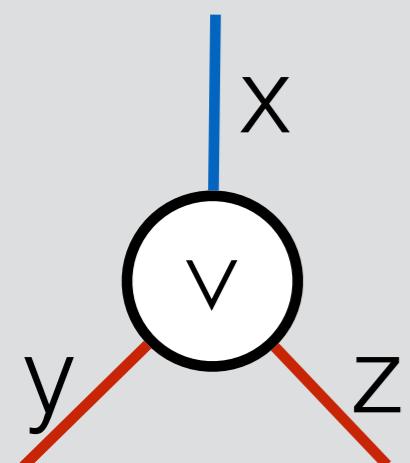
Create a clause set for each node.



Theorem: monotone planar NAE 3SAT reconfiguration  
is PSPACE-complete.

Reduction is from non-deterministic constraint logic (NCL).

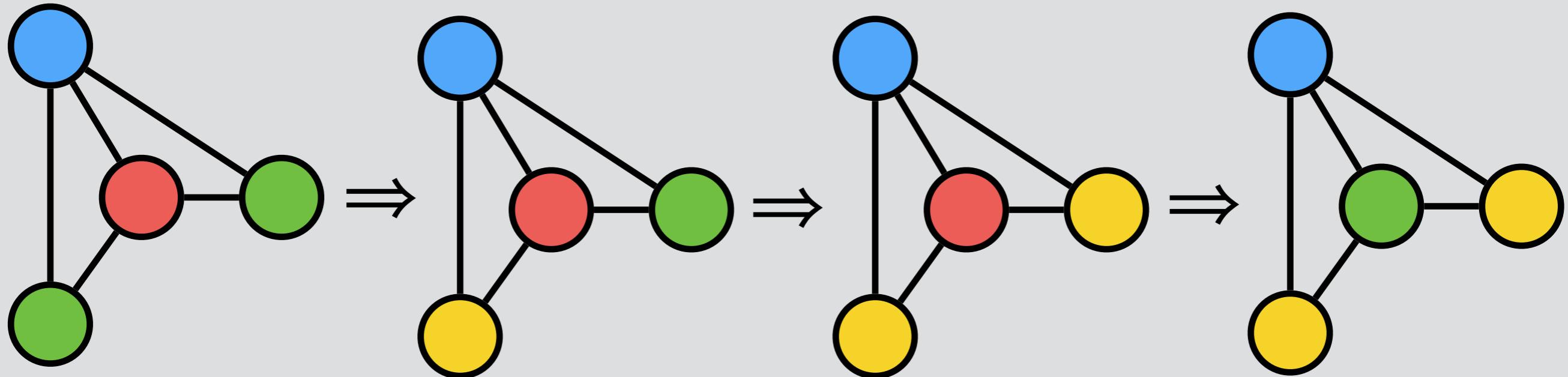

$$\text{v} \equiv (x \vee F \vee c) \wedge (a \vee b \vee c) \wedge (a \vee y \vee F) \wedge (b \vee z \vee F)$$


$$\text{v} \equiv (x \vee y \vee F) \wedge (x \vee z \vee F)$$

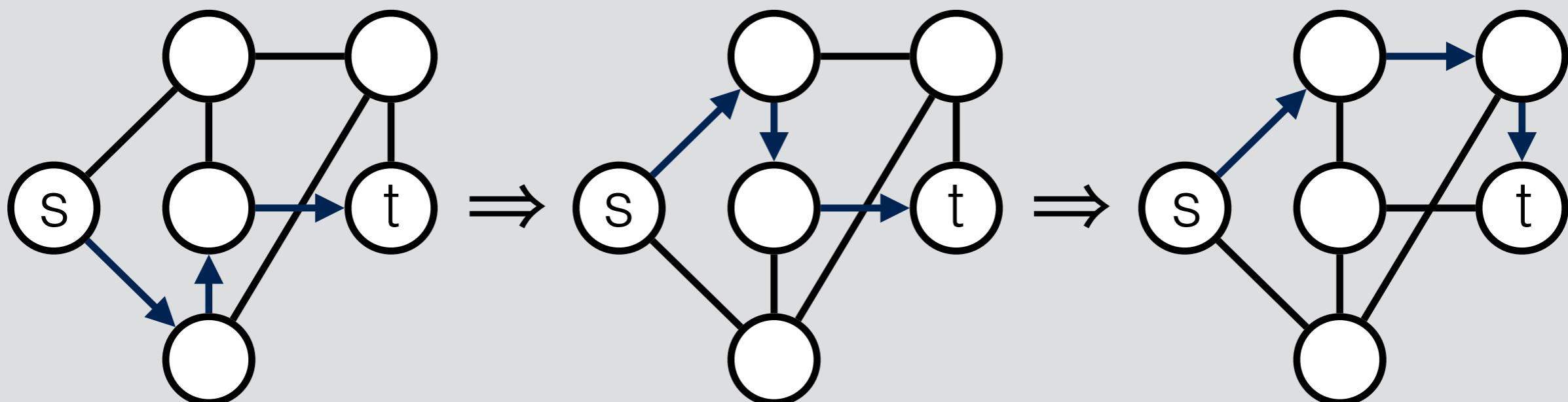
Other easy-to-solve,  
hard-to-connect problems

# Easy-to-Solve Hard-to-Connect Problems

Reconfiguring planar graph 4-colorings. [Bonsma, Cereceda 2009]



Reconfiguring shortest paths. [Bonsma 2013]



# Unary Input Subset Sum

Two options for subset sum reconfiguration:

1. Swap  $x, y$  and  $x+y$ , keep target sum.
2. Add/remove  $x$ , keep sum in target range.

## Option 1

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$\Downarrow$  swap 2, 3 with 5

$$S = \{5, 7\}$$

$\Downarrow$  swap 7 with 3, 4

$$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$$

## Option 2

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$\Downarrow$  remove 2

$$S = \{3, 7\}$$

$\Downarrow$  add 4

$$S = \{3, 4, 7\}$$

# Unary Input Subset Sum

Two options for subset sum reconfiguration:

1. Swap  $x, y$  and  $x+y$ , keep target sum.
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$$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$$

## Option 2

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$\Downarrow$  remove 2  
NP-hard

[Ito, Demaine 2014]

$\Downarrow$  add 4

$$S = \{3, 4, 7\}$$

# Unary Input Subset Sum

Two options for subset sum reconfiguration:

1. Swap  $x, y$  and  $x+y$ , keep target sum.
2. Add/remove  $x$ , keep sum in target range.

Option 1

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

PSPACE-complete

(This work)

↓ swap 2 with 5

$$S = \{5, 3, 4\}$$

Option 2

$$S = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

NP-hard

[Ito, Demaine 2014]

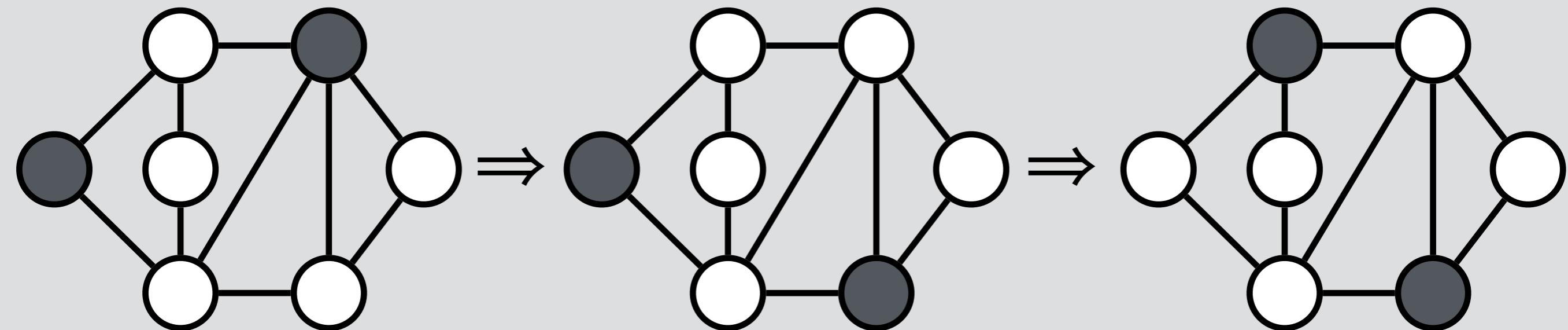
↓ add 4

$$S = \{3, 4, 7\}$$

# Subset Sum Reconfiguration

Theorem: subset sum reconfiguration via swapping  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $x+y$  is strongly PSPACE-complete.  
unary input

Reduction is from *token sliding*: reconfiguring independent sets via swapping adjacent vertices.



Reconfiguration problem is PSPACE-complete,  
even for 3-regular graphs [DH 2005]

# Conclusion

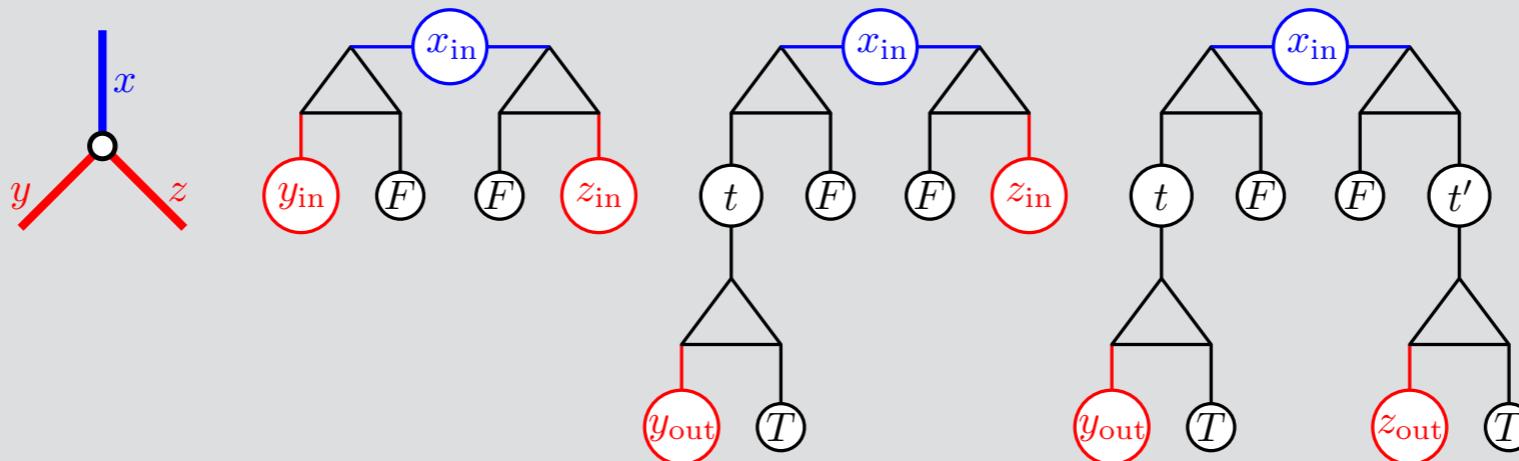
Two new “easy-to-solve, hard-to-connect” problems:

- monotone planar NAE 3SAT
- subset sum via swapping  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $x+y$ .

Open:

- PSPACE-hardness of subset sum via add/remove  $x$ ?
- Meta-theorems on reconfiguration for problems in P?
  - Dichotomy theorem for SAT [Gopalan et al. 2009]

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