Computational Complexity / Decision Making (at Chess)

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6 September, 2016

¹Recent Students: Robert Surówka, Tamal Biswas, Michael Wehar, James Glayoac

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The **many thousands** of computational problems that have been studied in many disciplines, some for centuries, cluster into **barely over a dozen** equivalence classes under reducibility.

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The **many thousands** of computational problems that have been studied in many disciplines, some for centuries, cluster into **barely over a dozen** equivalence classes under reducibility.

• The biggest cluster is the class of **NP-complete** problems.

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- Example: Given a Boolean formula f like

$$f = (x_1 \lor (\neg x_2)) \land ((\neg x_1) \lor x_2 \lor x_3) \land ((\neg x_2) \lor (\neg x_3)),$$

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is there a way to make f true? Called *Satisfiability* (SAT).

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- Is NP-complete, so $NP = P \iff SAT$ belongs to P.
- We don't even know whether SAT can be solved in **linear** time!

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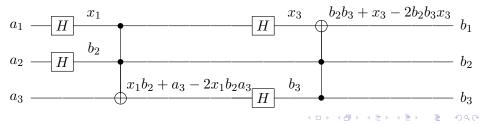
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Decision Making in Chess...

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Decision Making in Chess... and Tests

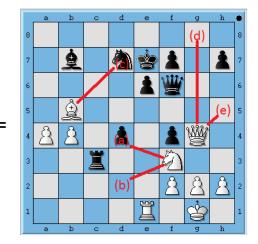
The _____ of drug-resistant strains of bacteria and viruses has _____ researchers' hopes that permanent victories against many diseases have been achieved.

- vigor . . corroborated
- b feebleness . . dashed

a

- proliferation . . blighted
- d destruction . . disputed
- e disappearance . . frustrated

(source: itunes.apple.com)



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- Obscover new scientific regularities of human thought processes.