

CNF - Satisfiability is hard problem

• It is known that 3-SATISFIABILITY is NP-complete.

(3-SATISFIABILITY \Rightarrow All clauses have exactly 3 literals).

• NP-complete \equiv $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Known exp. algorithm} \\ \text{No known polynomial algorithm} \end{array} \right.$
Given a guess solution can verify validity of it polynomially
Any NP problem polynomially transformable to this problem

• Pigeon-hole principle: $(n+1)$ -pigeons cannot be placed in n -holes.

• $P_{ij} = 1$ iff i th pigeon placed in j th hole

• For each $1 \leq i \leq n+1$, following clause should hold

$$C_i = P_{i1} \vee P_{i2} \dots \vee P_{in} \quad (\text{pigeon } i \text{ placed in one of the holes})$$

• For each $1 \leq i, j \leq n+1$, $1 \leq k \leq n$, following clause should hold

$$\bar{C}_{ijk} = \neg P_{ik} \vee \neg P_{jk} \quad (\text{pigeon } i \text{ and } j \text{ not in hole } k \text{ together})$$

• $f = (\wedge C_i \wedge \bar{C}_{ijk})$ has $(n+1) + \binom{n+1}{2}n = O(n^3)$ clauses

• Clearly f not satisfiable. But if we omit any single clause from f , it becomes satisfiable!