

Christiane Schmidt

**Design and Analysis of Algorithms Part 2 -  
Approximation and Online Algorithms  
Homework 2, January 13, 2023**

**Problem 1 (Planar 3SAT):**

Read the paper “PLANAR FORMULAE AND THEIR USES” bei David Lichtenstein<sup>1</sup>, and prepare a short presentation on the reduction presented.

**Problem 2 (Hamiltonian Paths):**

A Hamiltonian path, also called a Hamilton path, is a graph path between two vertices of a graph that visits each vertex exactly once. If a Hamiltonian path exists whose endpoints are adjacent, then the resulting graph cycle is called a Hamiltonian cycle, or Hamiltonian circuit. The following problems are NP-complete:

**Hamiltonian Path Problem**

Given: graph  $G = (V, E)$

Find: A Hamiltonian path, or determine that none exists.

**Hamiltonian Circuit Problem**

Given: graph  $G = (V, E)$

Find: A Hamiltonian circuit, or determine that none exists.

In the paper “Hamilton Paths in Grid Graphs”<sup>2</sup> Itai et al. showed that the problems remain NP-complete in grid graphs. Read the proof by Itai et al. and use the construction to show the following problems to be NP-hard:

(a) **Traveling Tourist Problem in Grid Graphs**

Given: a grid graph  $G$ .

Find: a shortest tour through the graph such that every vertex is either on the tour or is adjacent to a vertex on the tour.

Show: The Traveling Tourist Problem is NP-hard in Grid Graphs.

(b) **Lawn Mowing and Milling Problems.** We are given a planar region,  $R$ , that describes the grass to be mowed or the pocket to be machined. We are also given a cutter,  $\chi$ . We assume that  $\chi$  is either a circle or an axisaligned square. Without loss of generality, we scale our problem instance so that  $\chi$  is a unit circle (radius

---

<sup>1</sup><https://epubs.siam.org/doi/pdf/10.1137/0211025>

<sup>2</sup><https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=4d2abfc483c9ffa4187d43269a53ec37e64e1c5d>

1) or a unit square (side length 1). The reference point for the cutter  $\chi$  is its centerpoint. We let  $\chi(p)$  denote the placement of  $\chi$  at the point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$  (i.e., the unit circle/square with centerpoint at  $p$ ). A *lawn mower path/tour*  $\pi$  is a path/tour such that every point of the region  $R$  is covered by some placement of  $\chi$  along  $\pi$ ; i.e.,  $R \subseteq \cup_{p \in \pi} \chi(p)$ . A *milling path/tour*  $\pi$  is a path/tour such that every point of  $R$  is covered by some placement of  $\chi$  along  $\pi$ , and no placement of  $\chi$  along  $\pi$  ever hits a point outside of  $R$ ; i.e.,  $R = \cup_{p \in \pi} \chi(p)$ .

We consider two cases of allowed motions (translations) of the cutter: rectilinear (axis-parallel) and unrestricted (arbitrary translation). We measure the length of a path/tour of the cutter as its Euclidean ( $L_2$ ) length. In the case of rectilinear motion, measuring the Euclidean length amounts to the same thing as measuring the  $L_1$  length of the path/tour.

It is easy to see that, for any region  $R$ , there always exists a lawn mower path/tour; however, it may be that there exists no milling path/tour for a (connected) region  $R$ , as the cutter may not be able to fit into the "corners" of  $R$  or pass through the "bottlenecks" of  $R$ .

(b.1) Show: The lawn mowing problem for a connected polygonal region is NP-hard for the case of an aligned unit square cutter  $\chi$ .

(b.2) Show: The lawn mowing problem is NP-hard even for simple polygonal regions  $R$ .

(b.3) Show: The milling problem is NP-hard for the case of an aligned unit square cutter  $\chi$  and a multiply-connected polygonal region  $R$  (with holes).