

pp. 201-210. **Undecidability** (Sec. 4.2)

- Remember  $A_{DFA} = \{ \langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ a DFA that accepts } w \}$ 
  - We proved it is decidable
  - I.e. Given any  $\langle B, w \rangle$  some TM can
    - Decide if B accepts w, or not!
    - And the TM always halts
- \*Consider  **$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$** 
  - If  $A_{TM}$  is decidable, then
    - we can take ANY program and ANY input,
    - and determine yes/no if M accepts w in finite time
    - Good for doing automatic program verification
- Question: is this possible?
- **KEY:** we can write a *recognizer* U, *but not a decider*
  - U interprets M executing with w (i.e. your TM project)
  - If M stops, U stops
  - Thus if M accepts w, so does U
- This section: prove we cannot write a TM decider
  - Cannot write a TM U that always stops with correct answer when M does not halt

- (p. 202)\* **Theorem 4.11  $A_{TM}$  is undecidable**
  - First, simpler version of proof than book's
  - **ASSUME a TM H exists which decides  $A_{TM}$**
  - Imagine following (large) table
    - $i$ th row for all possible machines  $M_i$ 
      - Ordered by “size” of  $\langle M \rangle$
    - one column for each possible string  $w$ 
      - Ordered by length of  $w$
    - Entry  $(i,j)$  has accept or reject in it, depending on what  $M_i$  does with string  $w_j$

	w0	w1	w2	w3	...
M1	reject	accept	reject	accept	
M2	reject	accept	reject	reject	
M3	accept	reject	reject	reject	
M4	reject	reject	accept	accept	
...					

- H should be able to compute this, one  $(M,w)$  entry at a time, notionally in a “diagonal” order

- If H always stops with accept/reject, then can define D
  - D accepts when H rejects and vice versa
    - Given  $\langle M_i, w_j \rangle$
    - Run H on  $\langle M_i, w_j \rangle$
    - If H accepts, D rejects and if H rejects then D accepts
  - If D is a TM, then it corresponds to some row in table
    - i.e. gives accept/reject for each  $w_j$
    - So H applied to  $\langle D, w_j \rangle$  gives what D returns
- **BUT D SUPPOSED TO GIVE OPPOSITE OF WHAT H DOES**
- So assumption that H exists must be false

	w0	w1	w2	w3	...
M1	reject	accept	reject	accept	
M2	reject	accept	reject	reject	
D	accept	reject	reject	reject	
M4	reject	reject	accept	accept	
...					

- (p. 202) Book's Proof **Theorem 4.11  $A_{TM}$  is undecidable**
  - Definitions: Assume sets A & B, & function  $f:A \rightarrow B$ 
    - f is **one-to-one (or injective)** if  $f(a) \neq f(b)$  when  $a \neq b$ .
    - f is **onto (or surjective)** if for all b, there is an a:  $f(a)=b$
    - f is a **correspondences (or bijective)** if both
      - Equivalent to pairing each a with exactly one b
  - (p. 202) Step 1: **The diagonalization method**
    - Discovered by Cantor in 1873 to compare infinite sets
    - If there is some correspondence between 2 infinite sets, then they are "same size"
    - E.g.  $N = \{1,2,3,4,\dots\}$   $E = \{2,4,6,8,\dots\}$  are the same size
      - For any n in N, pair up with  $f(n) = 2n$  in E
  - (p. 203) Set A is **countable** if finite or same size as N
    - i.e. each element of A matchable to an integer
  - Now consider  $Q = \{m/n \mid m,n \text{ in } N\}$  (**Rationals**)
    - Q seems much larger than N, but *not so*
    - See p. 204 Fig. 4.16 for correspondence with N
      - i'th row contains all rationals with i as numerator
      - j'th column has all rationals with j as denominator
      - Count diagonally
      - Skip any i/j that reduces to an earlier #
    - Q has same size as N!

- **Uncountable** if no correspondence with  $\mathbb{N}$
- (p. 205) **Theorem 4.17: Reals  $\mathbb{R}$  is uncountable**
  - Proof by contradiction
  - Suppose bijective function  $f$  between  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ 
    - i.e. can map each integer into a real and v.v.
  - Show that such an  $f$  always misses at least 1 number  $x$ 
    - Suppose  $f$  exists
      - Then  $f(1) = \dots, f(2) = \dots$  for some numbers like  $\pi$
      - Construct an  $x$  not in correspondence
        - Let 1<sup>st</sup> digit of  $x$  be anything different from 1<sup>st</sup> digit of fraction of  $f(1)$  – thus  $x \neq f(1)$
        - Let 2<sup>nd</sup> digit of  $x$  be anything different from 2<sup>nd</sup> digit of fraction of  $f(2)$  – thus  $x \neq f(2)$
        - ...
        - Thus  $x$  is different from  $f(n)$  **for any  $n$**  because it differs in  $n$ th digit!
        - Thus  $f$  is not a correspondence
- (p. 206) **Aside: define  $\mathbb{B} = \text{Infinite Binary Sequences}$ :**  
unending sequence of 0s & 1s
  - $\mathbb{B}$  is uncountable using similar proof as for  $\mathbb{R}$

- (p. 206) Corollary 4.18 **Some languages are not Turing Recognizable**

- Proof:

- **Set of all TMs is countable**

- Each TM has an encoding into finite string  $\langle M \rangle$
- If we omit all illegal encodings, we get set of all TMs
- Each encoding can be converted into an integer

- Now define  $L =$  set of all languages over  $\Sigma$

- $|L|$  is infinite – but what about its size?
- Let  $\Sigma^* = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots\}$  = set of strings;  $\Sigma$  is finite

- Question:  is this set countable? Yes

- Each language  $A$  in  $L$  has a unique **binary sequence** from  $B =$  set of unending sequence of 1s and 0s

- $i$ th bit is 1 if  $s_i$  is in  $A$ , and 0 if not
- set of bits called its **characteristic sequence**
- See page 206 for example
- Function  $f:L \rightarrow B$  where  $f(A)$  is its characteristic sequence &  $B$  is set of binary sequences
  - Clearly one-to-one and onto
  - Thus  $B$  and  $L$  are same size
- Since  $B$  is uncountable, so must  $L$

- **Which means there are more languages than TMs!**

- (p. 207) Now re-consider  $A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \}$ .
  - Assume  $A_{TM}$  is decidable by TM H
  - On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ 
    - H halts and accepts  $\langle M, w \rangle$  if M accepts w
    - H halts and rejects if M **fails to accept** w
  - Now construct TM D with input  $\langle M \rangle$  as follows
    - D calls H to determine what M does given its own description  $\langle D \rangle$  as its input string
    - i.e. look at language  $\{ \langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle \}$
    - Whatever H does, D does the opposite
    - D = “On input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where M is a TM
      - Run H on input  $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$
      - Output the opposite of what H does
  - Note:  $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$  is like a compiler compiling itself
  - Thus  $D(\langle M \rangle)$ 
    - = accepts if M does not accept  $\langle M \rangle$
    - = rejects if M accepts  $\langle M \rangle$
  - Now run D on  $\langle D \rangle$ :
    - $D(\langle D \rangle)$  **accepts** if D **rejects**  $\langle D \rangle$ !
    - $D(\langle D \rangle)$  **rejects** if D **accepts**  $\langle D \rangle$ !
- No matter what D does, it must do opposite.
- **THUS neither D nor H can exist!**

- See Fig. 4.19 – 4.21 for how diagonalization comes into play
- THUS  $A_{TM}$  is undecidable! (but it is TM recognizable)
- \*Define L is **co-Turing-recognizable** if it is complement of a Turing-recognizable language
- (p. 209)\* **Theorem 4.22. A is decidable iff it is both Turing recognizable and co-Turing recognizable.**
  - $\Rightarrow$ : if A is decidable then clearly it is both recognizable and co-recognizable
  - $\Leftarrow$ : Construct M from M1 for recognizer and M2 for co-recognizer. Then
    - Run machines in parallel on same input
    - If M1 accepts, accept; if M2 accepts, reject
  - Every string is either in A or not(A)
  - Thus one machine halts
  - Thus M is a decider, and thus A is decidable
- (p. 210) **Corollary 4.23  $\text{not}(A_{TM})$  is not Turing recognizable**
  - If it were then  $A_{TM}$  would be decidable
  - But  $A_{TM}$  is not decidable
  - Then  $\text{not}(A_{TM})$  cannot be recognizable