

(Aside:  $E_{DFA} = \{ \underbrace{(\{q_0\}, \{a,b\}, \{?, q_0, \emptyset\})}_{\text{one DFA that accepts no strings}}, \underbrace{(\{q_0\}, \{a,b\}, \dots)}_{\text{another one, ...}} \dots \}$ )

Decidability (cont'd)  $E_{DFA} = \{ \langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA, } L(A) = \emptyset \}$

Theorem:  $E_{DFA}$  is decidable.

Proof:  $E_{DFA}$  is decided by TM  $T$  where:

- $T =$  "on input  $\langle A \rangle$ , where  $A$  is a DFA:
1. Mark the start state of  $A$ .
  2. Until no new states get marked, do:
    - 2.1 Mark any unmarked state that has a transition into it from a marked state.
  3. If no accept state is marked, ACCEPT. Otherwise, REJECT.

terminates

The loop in step 2 will terminate  
 - # iterations cannot be greater than number of states in  $A$ .



Correctness

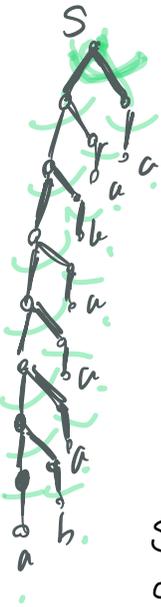
$\exists$  a string accepted by  $A \iff \exists$  a directed path from start state to an accept state in  $A$ .  
 $\iff$  an accept state gets marked by  $T$ .  $\square$

$EQ_{DFA} = \{ \langle A, B \rangle \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ are DFAs, and } L(A) = L(B) \}$

$$A_{CFG} = \{ \langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG, that generates string } w \}$$

Theorem 5.1.4:  $A_{CFG}$  is decidable.

Proof: The TM  $S$  decides  $A_{CFG}$ :



$S =$  " on input  $\langle G, w \rangle$  where  $G$  is a CFG and  $w$  a string:

1. Convert  $G$  to CNF.
2. List all derivations of length  $2n-1$  where  $|w|=n$  (or if  $w=\epsilon$ , where  $n=1$ ).
3. If any of the derivations derive  $w$ , ACCEPT. otherwise, REJECT. "

$S$  always halts because  $\exists$  a finite # of derivations of length  $2n-1$ . It is correct, because it only accepts if it finds a derivation of  $w$ .  $\square$

$$E_{CFG} = \{ \langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } L(G) = \emptyset \}$$

$\emptyset \neq \{\epsilon\}$

eg

$$\begin{aligned} D &\rightarrow ABC \\ A &\rightarrow Aa \mid BB \\ B &\rightarrow bB \mid b \\ C &\rightarrow Dc \end{aligned}$$

Theorem:  $E_{CFG}$  is decidable.

Proof:  $E_{CFG}$  is decided by TM  $R$  :

$R =$  " on input  $\langle G \rangle$ , where  $G$  is a CFG :

1. mark all terminals in  $G$  (on RHS of rules)

2. Repeat until no new variables are marked:

2.1 Mark any variable  $A$  where  $A$

has a rule  $A \rightarrow \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_n$

all marked.

3. If start symbol is not marked, ACCEPT.  
otherwise REJECT. "

we argued as to why this is correct;  
it terminates because at least one variable  
is marked at each iteration - we run out of  
variables in finite # of steps ] 

Eg  $R$  accepts  $(\{S\}, \{a,b\}, \{S \rightarrow SS\}, S)$

$R$  rejects  $(\{S\}, \{a\}, \{S \rightarrow a\}, S)$

$S \rightarrow AB$

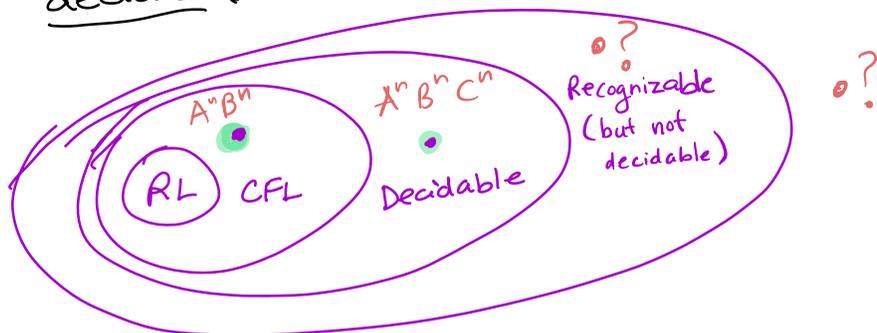
$A \rightarrow 01 \mid 0A$

$B \rightarrow 0A1 \mid 1A0$

Chapter 5.14... Undecidability

$\exists$ ? a problem/language that a computer (TM) cannot recognize?

$\exists$ ? a problem/language that a computer (TM) cannot decide?



Claim: The language  $TM_{encodings} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM over } \Sigma \}$  is countably infinite.

Proof: Sketch: 1. Each TM has an encoding over the

alphabet  $\gamma = \{ (, ), \circ, 0, 1, \{, \} \} \cup \Sigma$

2. The strings over  $\gamma$  are enumerable (eg in shortlex order)

3. Remove the strings that are NOT a TM encoding, and you are left with a loose enumeration of TM encodings.

Theoretically, we could enumerate all the TM encodings in shortlex order.  $\langle M_1 \rangle, \langle M_2 \rangle, \langle M_3 \rangle, \dots$

correspondingly we have a list

$M_1, M_2, M_3, \dots$

Claim: The set of languages over  $\Sigma$  is uncountable.

Proof:

Enum. of the languages over  $\Sigma$ .

	$\epsilon$	$a$	$b$	$aa$	$ab$	$ba$	$bb$	$\dots$
$L_1$	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
$L_2$	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
$L_3$	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
$L_4$								...
$\vdots$								

Shorter. enum. of strings over  $\Sigma$ .

inclusion vector



Corollary:  $\exists$  languages that are not Turing recognizable.

Do  $\exists$  languages that are recognizable but not decidable?

Let us define a table  $S$  "encoding acceptance"

TM	input $\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\dots$
$M_1$	0	1	0	0	...
$M_2$	1	0	1	1	1
$M_3$	0	0	1	0	0
$M_4$	1	0	1	1	0
$M_5$	1	0	0	...	

"0" here means  $M_3$  does not accept  $\langle M_2 \rangle$

← here, we are only interested in what TMs do when their input is the encoding of some TM!

Let  $D[i] = S[i][i]$

if  $\underline{D[i]} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{then } M_i \text{ accepts } \langle M_i \rangle \\ 0 & \text{then } M_i \text{ does not accept } \langle M_i \rangle \end{cases}$

$\text{SelfAcc} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that accepts } \underline{\langle M \rangle} \}$

SelfAcc is the language of TMencodings that are encodings of TMs that would halt-accept when run on their own encoding as input.

$\text{SelfNotAcc} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that does not accept } \langle M \rangle \}$

Note that  $\text{SelfNotAcc} = \overline{\text{SelfAcc}} \cap \text{TM encodings}$

We have seen that TMencodings is decidable.

The following theorem is useful:

**Theorem:** The class of decidable languages is closed under complement,  $\cap$ ,  $\cup$ .

Proof:  $\cup$ ,  $\cap$  left as an exercise.

Complement: let  $L$  be any decidable language, and let  $M$  be a TM that decides  $L$ . Then we can construct a new TM  $\bar{M}$  that decides  $\bar{L}$  as follows:

$\bar{M} =$  " on input  $\langle w \rangle$

1. Run  $M$  on  $\langle w \rangle$ ;

if  $M$  accepts, REJECT.

if  $M$  rejects, ACCEPT."

1 Always terminates.

2. Correct.

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Theorem: SelfNotAccept is not decidable

Proof: We have seen that the TM encodings are enumerable, for example in shortlex order.

Then we can construct the following table:

Table S

	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	$\langle M_6 \rangle$	$\langle M_7 \rangle$	...	$\langle M_{1059} \rangle$	...	$\langle M_{29467} \rangle$
$M_1$	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	...			
$M_2$	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	...			
$M_3$	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	...			
$M_4$				0				...			
...					1						
$M_{1059} = \text{SelfAcc}$	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	...	...	...	...
$M_{29467} = \text{Self Not Accept}$								...			

Each TM  $M_i$  can be fed input  $\langle M_j \rangle$ , and  $M_i$  either accepts or does not.

$$\text{SelfAcc} = \{ \langle M_i \rangle \mid S[i][i] = 1 \}$$



If  $X$  accepts  $\langle X \rangle$ , then

$\Rightarrow X$  is self-accepting

$\Rightarrow \langle X \rangle \notin \text{selfNotAccept}$

$\Rightarrow X$  does not accept  $\langle X \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

If  $X$  does not accept  $\langle X \rangle$

$\Rightarrow X$  is not self-accepting

$\Rightarrow \langle X \rangle \in \text{selfNotAccept}$

$\Rightarrow X$  accepts  $\langle X \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

Either way, there is a contradiction.

$\therefore X$  does not exist, and  $\text{selfNotAccept}$  is undecidable.  $\square$

Theorem: SelfAccept is not decidable.

Proof: BWOC.  $\exists$  SelfAccept is decided by some TM  $Y$ .

Then we can construct a TM  $X$  that decides SelfNotAccept as follows:

$X =$  " on input  $\langle M \rangle$  where  $M$  is a TM

1. Run  $Y$  on  $\langle M \rangle$

-if  $Y$  accepts, REJECT.

-if  $Y$  rejects, ACCEPT."

$X$  clearly returns the opposite answer to  $Y$ , accepting TM-encodings that reject themselves, and rejecting those that accept their own encodings — i.e.,  $X$  decides SelfNotAcceptance, which contradicts Thm 4, above. 

Note: we skipped the part where we reject the input if it is not a proper TM encoding. Perhaps it should read...

$X = "$  on input  $\langle w \rangle$  :

0. Run  $T$  on  $\langle w \rangle$ , where  $T$  is a TM that decides whether  $\langle w \rangle$  is a properly formatted TM-encoding.

If  $T$  rejects, REJECT.

otherwise, go to step 1.

1. Run  $Y$  on  $\langle w \rangle$ .

If  $Y$  accepts  $\langle w \rangle$ , REJECT.

If  $Y$  rejects  $\langle w \rangle$ , ACCEPT. "

It is our practice to just represent the above step 0 as " on input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a TM "