## INF2080

## Turing Machines

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## Finite state machine



A Turing machine is a finite state machine that has access to an infinite tape

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- $\sqcup$ is the blank symbol: represents that the cell on tape does not contain any value


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- Cross off first non-crossed off symbol, move to first non-crossed off symbol after \#
- If no non-crossed off symbols after \# remain or next symbol is not the same, reject. Else, cross off if equal to the last crossed off symbol


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- A Turing machine's head's view:

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- Multiple options:
- write a special symbol at the beginning to encode the beginning of the tape


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Other option:

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- High-level: "Compare words before and after \# and accept if equal, reject if not equal"
- Implementation level: giving the formal definition of a Turing machine, with all states and transitions (we'll go through some examples tomorrow)


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(3) $q_{0} \in Q$ is the start state,
(6) $q_{\text {accept }} \in Q$ is the accept state, and
(3) $q_{\text {reject }} \in Q$ is the reject state.

## Configurations

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Notation: uqv encodes that the machine is in state $q$, pointing at the first symbol in $v$. Example:


Notation: $x x x \# q x x 1$

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A configuration $C_{1}$ yields $C_{2}$ if TM can legally go from $C_{1}$ to $C_{2}$ in a single step: - $u a q_{i} b v$ yields $u q_{j} a c v$ if $\delta\left(q_{i}, b\right)=\left(q_{j}, c, L\right)$.

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## Definition

A language is called Turing-recognizable [recursively enumerable] if some Turing machine recognizes it.

- A Turing machine can either halt (accept, reject) on a given input, or loop (never accept or reject...for example: head always moves to the right, never enters $q_{\text {accept }}$ or $q_{\text {reject }}$ ).
- A Turing machine decides a language $A$ if it accepts all words $w \in A$ and rejects all words $w \notin A$. $\rightarrow$ it halts on all inputs!


## Definition

A language is Turing-decidable [decidable, recursive] if there is a Turing machine that decides it.

## Example

Previous example of language $\left\{w \# w \mid w \in\{0,1\}^{*}\right\}$ was recognized by machine:
$\mathrm{M}=$ on input $w$ :
(1) Zig-zag across the tape to corresponding positions on either side of $\#$, checking whether these positions contain the same symbol. If they do not, reject. Cross off corresponding symbols if equal
(2) When all symbols before \# have been crossed off, scan symbols after \# to see if any uncrossed symbols remain. If yes, reject, if no, accept.

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It was, in fact, decided by $M$ !

## Example 2

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A=\left\{0^{2^{n}} \mid n \geq 0\right\} . \text { Want to construct a TM that recognizes (decides?) it. }
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- words: $0,00,0000,00000000$, etc.
- all words except 0 have length divisble by 0 .
- idea: if length=1, accept (if input symbol is correct), otherwise divide length by 2. Repeat How to divide length by 2 ?


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$A=\left\{0^{2^{n}} \mid n \geq 0\right\}$. Want to construct a TM that recognizes (decides?) it. $\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{on}$ input $w$ :
(1) replace first 0 with blank symbol U .

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$\rightarrow M$ decides $A!$

## Alternative Turing machines

- Not surprisingly, Turing machines are very powerful!


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- Can we make it even more expressive by, e.g., allowing the machine to also stay put , i.e., not move left or right?


## Definition

A $L R S$ Turing machine is a Turing machine with a transition function is defined as

$$
\delta: Q \backslash\left\{q_{\text {accept }}, q_{\text {reject }}\right\} \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times\{L, R, S\}
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## LRS TM

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So, equally expressive as a normal TM!

## Alternative Turing machines

- Can we make it even more expressive by, e.g., adding more tapes?


## Definition

A multitape Turing machine is a turing machine with $k \geq 2$ tapes, i.e., its transition function is defined as

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\delta: Q \backslash\left\{q_{\text {accept }}, q_{\text {reject }}\right\} \times \Gamma^{k} \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma^{k} \times\{L, R\}
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- Can this be modelled on a single tape? Yes!
- Idea: encode content of each tape on one tape, using a symbol (\#) to separate the different tapes
- in each tape block (space between two $\#$ ), one symbol is marked (represents where the head is on that tape)



## Multitape Turing Machines

More formally:
S = on input $w$ :
(1) Put $S$ into the following format to model $k$ tapes:

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## Theorem

A language is Turing recognizable [decidable] if and only if some multitape Turing machine recognizes [decides] it.

## Turing Machine alternatives

OK...what about nondeterministic Turing machines? Do they let us do anything a deterministic TM cannot?

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A nondeterministic Turing machine has a transition function of the form

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- simulation tape: "where the magic happens"...tape simulating current computational branch in $N$;
- address tape: tells us which choices to make in the computational tree of $N$


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- Then a string over $\{1, \ldots b\}$ represents a sequence of choices; e.g., 143 represents that we choose Option 1 after start configuration, then Option 4, then Option 3.
- To ensure that we do not loop before reaching a possible accept configuration, we parse the computational tree with breadth first search:
- we order the addresses (strings over $\{1, \ldots b\}$ ) as follows (lexicographic ordering): $1,2, \ldots, b, 11,12,13, \ldots, 1 b, 21,22, \ldots, b b, 111, \ldots$


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(9) Replace address tape's contents with next address according to our ordering. Go to 2 .

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A little extra work needed for decidability result! $\rightarrow$ Exercise 3.3 in book!

## Enumerators



- An enumerator is a slightly altered Turing machine:
- It has a working tape and an attached printer
- initializes with an empty working tape, taking no input
- throughout its computation, it can output strings using the printer
- If the enumerator does not halt, it can potentially output infinitely many strings


## Enumerators

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Proof:

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$A=$ On input $w$

1. Run $E$. Every time $E$ prints a string, compare to $w$.
2. If $w$ appears in the output of $E$, accept.

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- Now, let $A$ be a Turing machine. We want to construct an enumerator that enumerates $L(A)$.
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- Le $\Sigma$ be the alphabet of $L(A)$. Then we can order all strings in $\Sigma^{*}$ (first list all strings of length 1 , then of length 2 , etc). Label them $s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}, \ldots$. Then we can construct an enumerator:

$$
E=\text { Ingore input }
$$

1. Repeat for $i=1,2,3, \ldots$.
2. Run $A$ on $s_{1}, \ldots, s_{i}$ for $i$ steps.
3. If any computation accepts, print corresponding $s_{j}$.
