

# Computational Problems, Mapping Reduction

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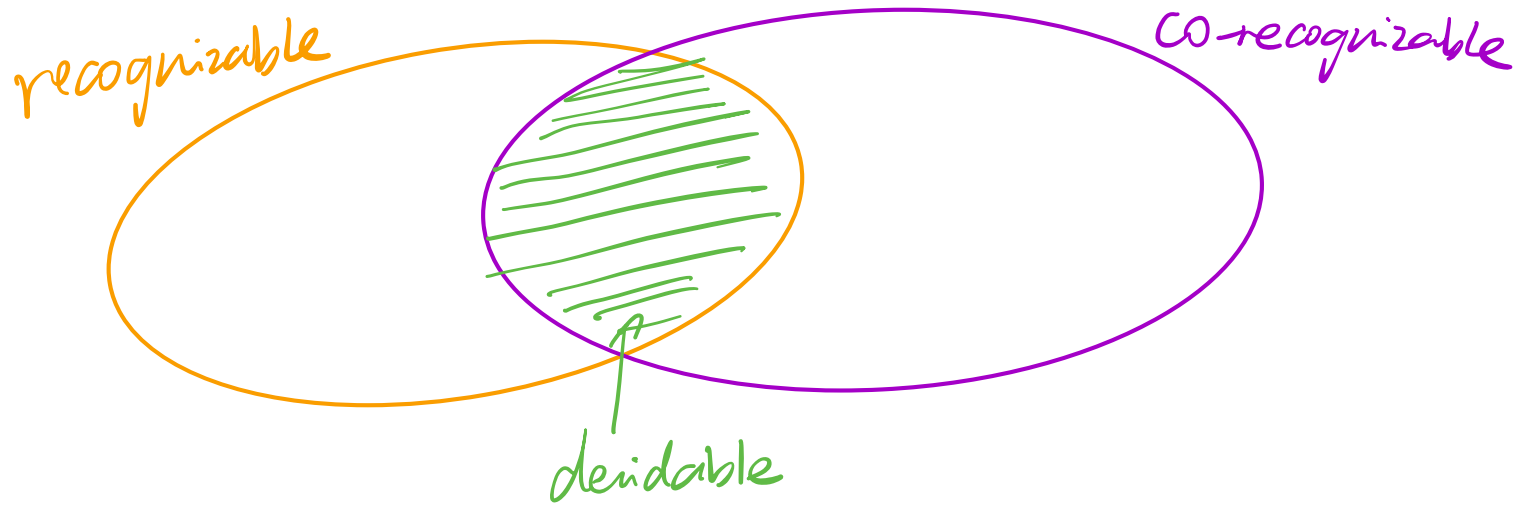
CSE 105 Week 8 Discussion

# Deadlines and Logistics

- Do review quizzes on [PrairieLearn](#)
- Test 2 attempt 1 in week 10
- HW 6 due 3/13/25 at 5pm, week 10

# Vocabulary check

Are all decidable languages recognizable?



# Computational Problems

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# Computational problems

## Acceptance problem

*decidable*

... for DFA	$A_{DFA}$	$\{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a DFA that accepts input string } w\}$
... for NFA	$A_{NFA}$	$\{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a NFA that accepts input string } w\}$
... for regular expressions	$A_{REX}$	$\{\langle R, w \rangle \mid R \text{ is a regular expression that generates input string } w\}$
... for CFG	$A_{CFG}$	$\{\langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a context-free grammar that generates input string } w\}$
... for PDA	$A_{PDA}$	$\{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a PDA that accepts input string } w\}$

## Language emptiness testing

... for DFA	$E_{DFA}$	$\{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \emptyset\}$
... for NFA	$E_{NFA}$	$\{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a NFA and } L(A) = \emptyset\}$
... for regular expressions	$E_{REX}$	$\{\langle R \rangle \mid R \text{ is a regular expression and } L(R) = \emptyset\}$
... for CFG	$E_{CFG}$	$\{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a context-free grammar and } L(G) = \emptyset\}$
... for PDA	$E_{PDA}$	$\{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a PDA and } L(A) = \emptyset\}$

## Language equality testing

... for DFA	$EQ_{DFA}$	$\{\langle A, B \rangle \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ are DFAs and } L(A) = L(B)\}$
... for NFA	$EQ_{NFA}$	$\{\langle A, B \rangle \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ are NFAs and } L(A) = L(B)\}$
... for regular expressions	$EQ_{REX}$	$\{\langle R, R' \rangle \mid R \text{ and } R' \text{ are regular expressions and } L(R) = L(R')\}$
... for CFG	$EQ_{CFG}$	$\{\langle G, G' \rangle \mid G \text{ and } G' \text{ are CFGs and } L(G) = L(G')\}$
... for PDA	$EQ_{PDA}$	$\{\langle A, B \rangle \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ are PDAs and } L(A) = L(B)\}$

*not decidable*

# Computational problems for Turing machines

## Acceptance problem

for Turing machines  $A_{TM}$   $\{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine that accepts input string } w\}$

## Language emptiness testing

for Turing machines  $E_{TM}$   $\{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$

## Language equality testing

for Turing machines  $EQ_{TM}$   $\{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are Turing machines and } L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$

What is  $A_{TM}$  ?

- A. A Turing machine whose input is codes of TMs and strings.
- B. A set of pairs of TMs and strings.
- ☒ C. A set of strings that encode TMs and strings.
- D. Not well defined.
- E. I don't know.

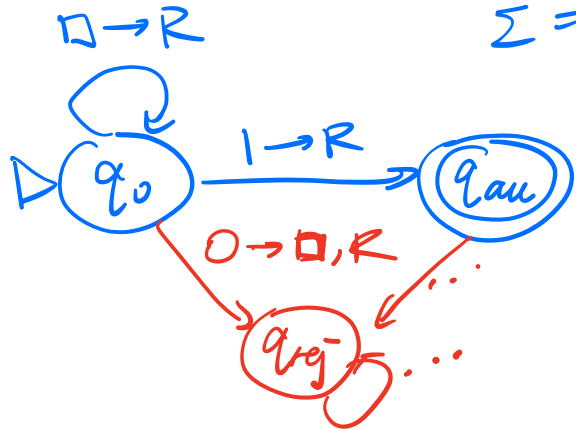
# Halting problem

$HALT_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine, } w \text{ is a string, and } M \text{ halts on } w \}$

accept / reject.

$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$     $\Gamma = \{0, 1, \sqcup\}$

$M_1$ :



$\langle M_1, 1 \rangle \in HALT_{TM}$

$\langle M_1, 0 \rangle \in HALT_{TM}$

$\langle M_1, \epsilon \rangle \notin HALT_{TM}$

# $A_{TM}$ is recognizable but undecidable

- $A_{TM}$  is Turing recognizable
  - We can define a Turing machine that recognizes  $A_{TM}$
- $A_{TM}$  is **not** Turing decidable
  - Proof by contradiction (diagonalization proof)

Define the TM  $N$  = "On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Simulate  $M$  on  $w$ . *→ if  $M$  loops on  $w$ ,  $N$  loops on  $\langle M, w \rangle$ .*
2. If  $M$  accepts, accept. If  $M$  rejects, reject."

Which of the following statements is true?

- ~~A.~~  $N$  decides  $A_{TM}$
- ~~C.~~  $N$  always halts
- ~~E.~~ I don't know
- B.**  $N$  recognizes  $A_{TM}$
- D. More than one of the above.



# $A_{TM}$ is recognizable but undecidable

- $A_{TM}$  is Turing recognizable
  - We can define a Turing machine that recognizes  $A_{TM}$
- $A_{TM}$  is **not** Turing decidable
  - Proof by contradiction (diagonalization proof)

**Proof:** Suppose **towards a contradiction** that there is a Turing machine that decides  $A_{TM}$ . We call this presumed machine  $M_{ATM}$ .

Define a **new** Turing machine using the high-level description:

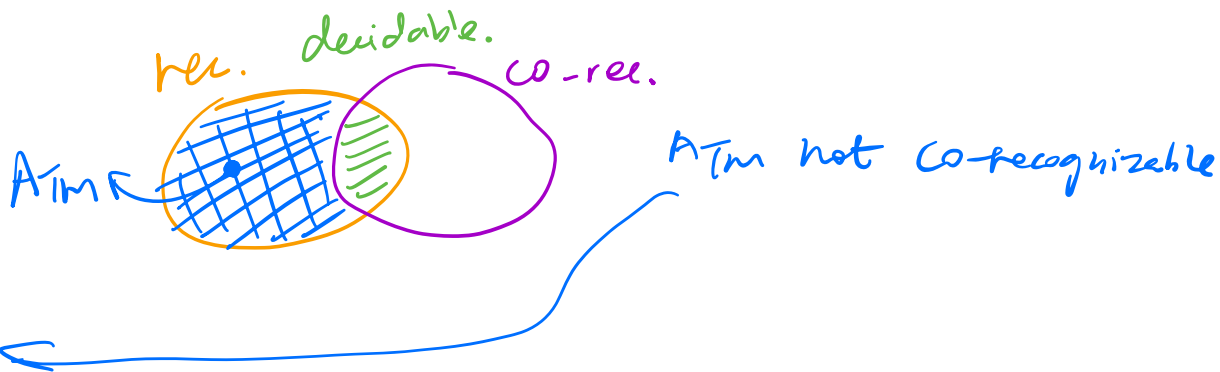
$D =$  “ On input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a Turing machine:

1. Run  $M_{ATM}$  on  $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$ .
2. If  $M_{ATM}$  accepts, reject; if  $M_{ATM}$  rejects, accept.”

What is the result of the computation of  $D$  on  $\langle D \rangle$ ?

# $A_{TM}$ is recognizable but undecidable

- $A_{TM}$  is recognizable.
- $A_{TM}$  is not decidable.
- $\overline{A_{TM}}$  is not recognizable.
- $\overline{A_{TM}}$  is not decidable.



# Closure claims

## Closure and nonclosure

Recall the definitions: A language  $L$  over an alphabet  $\Sigma$  is called **recognizable** if there is some Turing machine  $M$  such that  $L = L(M)$ . A language  $L$  over an alphabet  $\Sigma$  is called **co-recognizable** if its complement, defined as  $\Sigma^* \setminus L = \{x \in \Sigma^* \mid x \notin L\}$ , is Turing-recognizable. A language  $L$  over an alphabet  $\Sigma$  is called **unrecognizable** if there is no Turing machine that recognizes it.

Select all and only true statements below.

- ☐ The class of co-recognizable languages is closed under complementation. ATM  
 $\overline{ATM} = \overline{ATM}$  not co-recognizable
- ☐ The class of unrecognizable languages is closed under complementation. ATM  
 $\overline{ATM}$  is recognizable.
- ☒ The class of decidable languages is closed under complementation.
- ☐ The class of recognizable languages is closed under complementation. ATM  
 $\overline{ATM}$  not recognizable.

Select all possible options that apply.



ATM

ATM not recognizable.

# Mapping Reduction

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# Mapping reduction

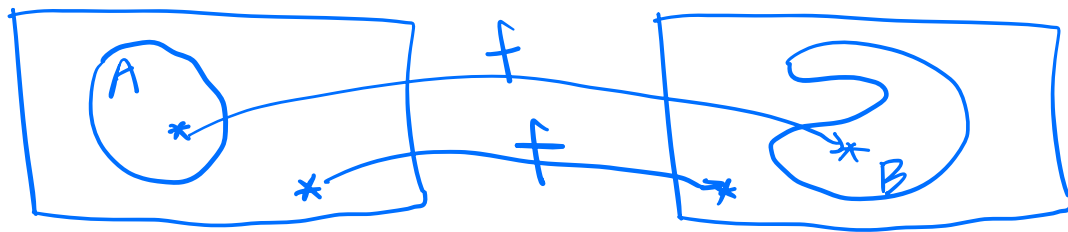
undecidable  
 $\hookrightarrow A_{TM} \leq_m B \Rightarrow$  undecidable.

## DEFINITION 5.20

$A$  is no harder than  $B$

Language  $A$  is **mapping reducible** to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_m B$ , if there is a computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , where for every  $w$ ,

$$w \in A \iff f(w) \in B.$$



if  $x \in A$ , then  $f(x) \in B$

if  $x \notin A$ , then  $f(x) \notin B$

convert the question about  $x$ 's membership in  $A$  into a question about  $f(x)$ 's membership in  $B$ .

- $f(x) \in B$ , then  $x \in A$
- $f(x) \notin B$ , then  $x \notin A$

# Computable function

## DEFINITION 5.17

A function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  is a **computable function** if some Turing machine  $M$ , on every input  $w$ , halts with just  $f(w)$  on its tape.

① defined for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$

② there exists an algorithm, take  $x$  as input, output  $f(x)$  without entering a loop.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \varepsilon & \text{if } x \notin \langle N \rangle \text{ for any NFA } N \\ \langle D \rangle & \text{if } x = \langle N \rangle \text{ for some NFA } N \\ & \text{and } L(N) = L(D) \text{ where } D \text{ is DFA.} \end{cases}$$

$M$ : "On input  $x$  :

1. if  $x \notin \langle N \rangle$  for any NFA  $N$ , output  $\varepsilon$ .
2. Otherwise,  $x = \langle N \rangle$ .  
Use macrostate build DFA  $D$  s.t.  $L(N) = L(D)$ . output  $\langle D \rangle$ .

# Mapping reduction

If problem X is no harder than problem Y  
...and if Y is **decidable**  
...then X must also be **decidable**

$$X \leq_m Y$$

If problem X is no harder than problem Y  
...and if X is **undecidable**  
...then Y must also be **undecidable**

# Mapping reduction practice

Fix  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$  throughout this question.

Is each of the stated mapping reductions witnessed by the given function?

☐  $\Sigma^* \leq_m \Sigma^*$  is witnessed by the function  $id : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  given by  $id(x) = x$  for all  $x$ .

☒  $\Sigma^* \leq_m \emptyset$  is witnessed by the function  $id : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  given by  $id(x) = x$  for all  $x$ .  
 *$x \in \Sigma^* \rightarrow f(x) \in \emptyset$  which is not possible!*

☐  $\emptyset \leq_m \{0\}$  is witnessed by the function  $id : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  given by  $id(x) = x$  for all  $x$ .

1. The mapping reduction relationship is true but the given function does not witness this mapping reduction.
2. This mapping reduction is witnessed by this computable function.
3. The mapping reduction relationship is not true.



# Mapping reduction practice

$\{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$

Prove that  $A_{TM} \leq_m EQ_{TM} \longrightarrow \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$

exists computable function  $f(x)$  s.t.

if  $x \in A_{TM}$ , then  $f(x) \in EQ_{TM}$

if  $x \notin A_{TM}$ , then  $f(x) \notin EQ_{TM}$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \langle M, M \rangle \\ \text{constant} \end{cases}$$

(constant  $\notin EQ_{TM}$ )

"cannot reliably know this in finite time"

if  $x = \langle M, w \rangle$ ,  $M$  accepts  $w$

otherwise

This function is not computable  
because the condition check is undecidable

# Mapping reduction practice

Prove that  $A_{TM} \leq_m EQ_{TM}$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \langle \text{start} \rightarrow q_{acc}, M_w \rangle & \text{if } x = \langle M, w \rangle \text{ for a Turing machine } M \text{ and string } w \\ \langle \text{start} \rightarrow q_{acc}, \text{start} \rightarrow q_{rej}, q_{acc} \rangle & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Where for each Turing machine  $M$ , we define

- $M_w =$  "On input  $y$
1. Simulate  $M$  on  $w$ .
  2. If it accepts, accept.
  3. If it rejects, reject."

$$L(M_w) = \emptyset$$

$$x = \langle M, w \rangle \in A_{TM} \Rightarrow M \text{ accepts } w$$

$$x = \langle M, w \rangle \notin A_{TM}$$

$\Rightarrow M$  rejects / loops on  $w$

if  $x = \langle M, w \rangle$  for a Turing machine  $M$  and string  $w$

otherwise.  $\leftarrow \notin A_{TM}$

if  $M$  accepts  $w$ ,  
 $M_w$  accepts all strings.