

## Lecture 3

### Reducibility:

- $HALT_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ halts on input } w \}$  is undecidable.

Proof:- Assume for contradiction that  $HALT_{TM}$  is decidable. Let  $R$

be a decider for  $HALT_{TM}$ . Let

$S =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Run TM  $R$  on input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ .
2. If  $R$  rejects, reject.
3. If  $R$  accepts, simulate  $M$  on  $w$  until it halts.
4. If  $M$  has accepted, accept; if  $M$  has rejected, reject."

$S$  decides  $A_{TM}$ . Contradiction  $\square$ .

- $E_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset \}$  is undecidable.

Proof: For TM  $M$  and string  $w$ , let:

$M_{(w)}$  = " On input  $x$ :

- 1) If  $x \neq w$  reject.
- 2) Otherwise run  $M$  on input  $w$ .
- 3) Accept if  $M$  accepts."

Note that  $L(M_{(w)}) \neq \emptyset \iff M$  accepts  $w$ .

Assume for contradiction that  $E_{TM}$  is decidable. Let  $R$  be a decider for  $E_{TM}$ . Let

$S =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

- 1 Construct description  $\langle M_{(w)} \rangle$  of TM machine  $M_{(w)}$ .
2. Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M_{(w)} \rangle$
3. If  $R$  accepts, reject ; if  $R$  rejects, accept."

$S$  decides  $A_{TM}$ . Contradiction  $\square$ .

- $REGULAR_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a regular language} \}$  is undecidable.

Proof:- Assume for contradiction that  $R$  decides  $REGULAR_{TM}$ . Let

$S =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Construct the following TM  $M_1$ .

$M_1 =$  " On input  $x$ :

1. If  $x$  has the form  $0^n 1^n$ , accept.

2. Otherwise run  $M$  on input  $w$ . Accept if  $M$  accepts  $w$ ."

2. Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M_1 \rangle$ .

3. If  $R$  accepts, accept; if  $R$  rejects, reject."

$S$  decides  $ATM$ . Contradiction  $\square$ .

Def: **Property** of languages: Property  $P$  in the language consisting of TM descriptions. Such that

$$\forall M_1, M_2 : (L(M_1) = L(M_2)) \implies (\langle M_1 \rangle \in P \iff \langle M_2 \rangle \in P).$$

Property  $P$  is **non-trivial** if it contains some and not all TM descriptions

**Rice's Theorem**:- Every non-trivial property of languages is undecidable

Proof:- Let  $P$  be a non-trivial property. Assume for contradiction that  $R_P$  decides  $P$ .

Let  $T_P$  be a TM that always rejects, hence  $L(T_P) = \emptyset$ .

Assume without loss of generality (w.l.o.g.) that  $\langle T_P \rangle \notin P$  (otherwise work with  $\bar{P}$ ).

Since  $P$  is non-trivial assume  $\langle T \rangle \in P$ .

Let  $S =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Construct description  $\langle M_w \rangle$  of the following TM  $M_w$ :

$M_w =$  " On input  $x$ :

1. Simulate  $M$  on  $w$ . If it halts and rejects, reject.  
If it accepts, go to stage 2.

2. Simulate  $T$  on  $x$ . If  $T$  accepts  $x$ , accept."

2. Run  $R_P$  on input  $\langle M_w \rangle$ . If  $R_P$  accepts, accept. If  $R_P$  rejects, reject."

Note that  $M_w$  simulates  $T$  if  $M$  accepts  $w$ . Hence  $L(M_w) = L(T)$  if  $M$  accepts  $w$  and

$L(M_w) = \emptyset$  otherwise. Therefore  $\langle M_w \rangle \in P \iff (M \text{ accepts } w)$ .

Hence  $S$  decides  $ATM$ . Contradiction  $\square$ .

•  $EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle : M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$  is undecidable.

Proof:- Assume for contradiction that  $R$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ .

Let  $S =$  " On input  $\langle M \rangle$ :

1. I.e.  $M$  has a TM such that  $L(M) = \emptyset$

1. Let  $M_1$  be a TM such that  $L(M_1) = \emptyset$ .

Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M, M_1 \rangle$ .

2. If  $R$  accepts, accept; if  $R$  rejects, reject."

$S$  decides  $E_{TM}$ . Contradiction.  $\square$

### Reductions via Computation Histories:

Defn:- Let  $M$  be a Turing machine and  $w$  an input string. An **accepting configuration history** for

$M$  on  $w$  is a sequence of configurations  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k$ , where  $C_1$  is the

start configuration of  $M$  on input  $w$ ,  $C_k$  is an accepting configuration of  $M$ , and each  $C_i$  legally

follows from  $C_{i-1}$ , according to the rules of  $M$ . A **rejecting computation history** for  $M$  on  $w$

is defined similarly except that  $C_k$  is a rejecting configuration.

Defn: A **linear bounded automaton** is a Turing machine that does not use more space than the length of the input



Examples 1) Deciders for  $A_{DFA}$ ,  $A_{CFG}$ ,  $E_{PFA}$ ,  $E_{CFA}$ .

2) Every CFA can be decided by an LBA.

•  $A_{LBA} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle : M \text{ is an LBA and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$  is decidable.

Lemma: Let  $M$  be an LBA with  $q$  states and  $g$  symbols in the tape alphabet. There

are exactly  $qng^n$  distinct configurations of  $M$  for a tape of length  $n$ .

Proof: Easy to verify.  $\square$

Thm:  $A_{LBA}$  is decidable.

Proof:- Decider for  $A_{LBA}$

$S =$  "On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Simulate  $M$  on  $w$  for  $qng^n$  steps or until it halts. ( $n = |w|$ ).

2. If  $M$  accepts, accept. If  $M$  rejects, reject. If  $M$  has not halted reject."

•  $E_{LBA} = \{ \langle M \rangle : \langle M \rangle \text{ is LBA and } L(M) = \emptyset \}$  is undecidable.

Proof:- For TM  $M$  and string  $w$  consider language

$L_{(M,w)} = \{ \#C_1\#C_2\#\dots\#C_k\# : C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k \text{ is an accepting computation history of } M \text{ on input } w. \}$

Observe that for any  $(M,w)$ ,  $L_{(M,w)}$  is decidable language and can be decided by an LBA  $B_{(M,w)}$ .

Note also that  $(L_{(M,w)} \neq \emptyset) \iff (M \text{ accepts } w) \iff (M,w) \in A_{TM}$

Assume for contradiction that  $E_{LBA}$  is decidable. Construct TM  $S$  deciding  $A_{TM}$  as follows:

Assume for contradiction that  $E_{TM}$  is decidable. Construct TM  $S$  deciding  $A_{TM}$  as follows:

$S$ : " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Construct LBA  $B_{\langle M, w \rangle}$ .
2. Run  $T$  (decider for  $E_{LBA}$ ) on input  $B_{\langle M, w \rangle}$ .
3. If  $T$  accepts, reject; if  $T$  rejects, accept."

$S$  decides  $A_{TM}$ . Contradiction.  $\square$

- $ALL_{CFB} = \{ \langle G \rangle : G \text{ is a CFb and } L(G) = \Sigma^+ \}$  is undecidable.

Proof: For TM  $M$  and string  $w$ , let

$$L_{\langle M, w \rangle} = \{ \# G \# G_1 \# G_2 \# G_3 \# \dots \# G_n : (G, G_1, \dots, G_n \text{ is NOT an accepting configuration of } M \text{ on input } w) \}$$

Note that  $(L_{\langle M, w \rangle} = \Sigma^+) \iff (M \text{ does NOT accept } w) \iff (\langle M, w \rangle \notin A_{TM})$

Note also that for any  $\langle M, w \rangle$ ,  $L_{\langle M, w \rangle}$  is decidable language and in fact can be decided by a PDA  $B_{\langle M, w \rangle}$ .

Assume for contradiction that  $ALL_{CFB}$  is decidable. Let  $T$  be a decider for  $ALL_{CFB}$ .

Construct  $S$  deciding  $A_{TM}$  as follows:

$S$ : " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Construct PDA  $B_{\langle M, w \rangle}$  deciding  $L_{\langle M, w \rangle}$ .
2. Construct grammar  $G$  of  $B_{\langle M, w \rangle}$ .
3. Run  $T$  on input  $\langle G \rangle$ .
4. If  $T$  accepts, reject; if  $T$  rejects, accept."

$S$  decides  $A_{TM}$ . Contradiction  $\square$

### Mapping Reducibility:-

Defn (Computable function): 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.

- e.g.
- Add:  $\langle m, n \rangle \rightarrow \langle m+n \rangle$
  - Multiply:  $\langle m, n \rangle \rightarrow \langle mn \rangle$
  - Divide:  $\langle m, n \rangle \rightarrow \langle \frac{m}{n} \rangle$  etc.

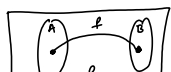
Defn: (Mapping reducible): Language  $A$  is mapping reducible to language  $B$ ,

written  $A \leq_m B$ , if there is a computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , such that for every  $w$ :

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

The function is called the reduction of  $A$  to  $B$ .

Mapping reduction is also called as 'Many-to-one reduction'.





Thm: If  $A \leq_m B$  then  $(B \text{ is decidable}) \Rightarrow (A \text{ is decidable})$

Proof: Let  $M$  be a decider for  $B$  and let  $f$  be a reduction from  $A$  to  $B$ .

Decider  $N$  for  $A$ :

$N =$  " On input  $w$ :

1. Compute  $f(w)$ .
2. Run  $M$  on  $f(w)$  and output whatever  $M$  outputs."  $\square$

Corollary: If  $A \leq_m B$  and  $A$  is undecidable, then  $B$  is undecidable.

Example: a)  $A_{TM} \leq_m \text{HALT}_{TM}$ .

$F =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

0. If input is not in correct form output the input.
1. Construct the following machine  $M'$ .

$M' =$  " On input  $x$ :

1. Run  $M$  on  $x$ .
2. If  $M$  accepts, accept.
3. If  $M$  rejects, enter a loop."

2. Output  $\langle M', w \rangle$ ."

b)  $E_{TM} \leq E_{Q_{TM}}$   $f: \langle M \rangle \rightarrow \langle M, M \rangle$  where  $M$  rejects all inputs.

c)  $A_{TM} \leq \overline{E_{TM}}$   $f: \langle M, w \rangle \rightarrow \langle M, w \rangle$  (as in the proof earlier)

Thm:- If  $A \leq_m B$  and  $B$  is Turing-recognizable then  $A$  is Turing-recognizable.

Corollary: If  $A \leq_m B$  and  $A$  is not Turing-recognizable then  $B$  is not Turing-recognizable.

Thm:  $A \leq_m B$  implies  $\overline{A} \leq_m \overline{B}$

Thm:  $E_{Q_{TM}}$  is neither Turing-recognizable nor co-Turing-recognizable.

Proof:  $A_{TM} \leq \overline{E_{Q_{TM}}}$ .

$F =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Construct following TMs  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .

$M_1 =$  " On input  $x$ :  
1- Reject."

$M_2 =$  " On input  $x$ :  
1. Run  $M$  on  $w$ . If it accepts, accept."

2. Output  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$ ."

$A_{TM} \leq E_{Q_{TM}}$

$G =$  " On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ :

1. Construct TMs  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .

$M_1 =$  " On input  $x$ :  
1. Accept."

$M_2 =$  " On input  $x$ :  
1. Run  $M$  on  $w$ .  
2. If  $M$  accepts, accept."

2. Output  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ .

□

### Post Correspondence Problem:

An instance of PCP is a collection of dominoes

$$P = \left\{ \left[ \begin{array}{c} t_1 \\ b_1 \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} t_2 \\ b_2 \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} t_3 \\ b_3 \end{array} \right], \dots, \left[ \begin{array}{c} t_n \\ b_n \end{array} \right] \right\}$$

A match is a sequence  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r$  such that  $t_{i_1} t_{i_2} \dots t_{i_r} = b_{i_1} b_{i_2} \dots b_{i_r}$ .

E.g.  $P = \left\{ \left[ \begin{array}{c} a \\ ca \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} a \\ ab \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} ca \\ a \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{c} abc \\ c \end{array} \right] \right\}$

A match  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} a \\ ca \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} a \\ ab \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} ca \\ a \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} abc \\ c \end{array} \right]$

Top string = Bottom string =  $abcaaac$ .

$$PCP = \{ \langle P \rangle : P \text{ is a collection of dominoes with a match} \}.$$

Thm: PCP is undecidable.

Proof: We show reduction from  $A_{TM}$  via accepting computation histories

For any TM  $M$  and string  $w$ , we construct instance  $P$  of PCP where a match is an accepting computation history for  $M$  on  $w$ .

Simplifying assumptions: 1)  $M$  on  $w$  never attempts to move its head off the left hand end of the tape.

2) If  $w \in \epsilon$ , we use  $w = \perp$  in the construction of  $P$ .

3) We require that match starts with first domino  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} t_1 \\ b_1 \end{array} \right]$  in  $P$ .

$$MPCP = \{ \langle P \rangle : P \text{ is a collection of dominoes with a match that starts with the first domino.} \}$$

We first show  $A_{TM} \leq_m MPCP$ .

Let  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{accept}, q_{reject})$ . Let  $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$ .

Part 1: Put  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \# \\ \# w_1 w_2 \dots w_n \# \end{array} \right]$  as first domino in  $P$ .

Part 2: For  $a, b \in \Gamma$  and every  $q, r \in Q$  where  $q \neq q_{reject}$ ,

if  $\delta(q, a) = (r, b, R)$ , put  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} qa \\ br \end{array} \right]$  into  $P$ .

Part 3: For every  $a, b, c \in \Gamma$  and every  $q, r \in Q$ ,  $q \neq q_{reject}$ ,

if  $\delta(q, a) = (r, b, L)$ , put  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} cqa \\ rcb \end{array} \right]$  into  $P$ .

Part 4: For every  $a \in \Gamma$ , put  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} a \\ a \end{array} \right]$  into  $P$ .

Part 5: Put  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \# \\ \# \end{array} \right]$  and  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \# \\ \# \end{array} \right]$  into  $P$ .

Part 5: Put  $\left[ \frac{q_{11}}{q_{11}} \right]$  and  $\left[ \frac{q_{11}}{q_{11}} \right]$  into  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Part 6: For every  $a \in \Gamma$ , put

$$\left[ \frac{a q_{accept}}{q_{accept}} \right] \text{ and } \left[ \frac{q_{accept} a}{q_{accept}} \right] \text{ into } \mathcal{P}.$$

Part 7: Add  $\left[ \frac{q_{accept} \# \#}{\#} \right]$  into  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Match beginning, let  $w = 0100$ .

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \# \\ \# q_0 0 1 0 0 \# \end{array} \right]$$

Let  $\delta(q_0, 0) = (q_1, 2, R)$ , so we have domino  $\left[ \frac{q_0 0}{2 q_1} \right]$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ .

We also have  $\left[ \frac{0}{0} \right], \left[ \frac{1}{1} \right], \left[ \frac{2}{2} \right]$  and  $\left[ \frac{\#}{\#} \right]$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ .

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \# q_0 0 1 0 0 \# \\ \# q_0 0 1 0 0 \# \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} 2 q_1 1 0 0 \# \\ 2 q_1 1 0 0 \# \end{array} \right]$$

Let  $\delta(q_1, 1) = (q_2, 2, L)$ ; we have  $\left[ \frac{2 q_1 1}{q_2 2 2} \right]$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ .

$$\dots \left[ \begin{array}{c} \# 2 q_2 1 0 0 \# \\ \# 2 q_2 1 0 0 \# \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} 2 q_1 1 0 0 \# \\ 2 q_1 1 0 0 \# \end{array} \right]$$

Suppose we reach  $q_{accept}$

$$\dots \left[ \begin{array}{c} \# 2 1 q_{accept} 0 2 \# \\ \# 2 1 q_{accept} 0 2 \# \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} 2 q_1 1 0 0 \# \\ 2 q_1 1 0 0 \# \end{array} \right] \dots \left[ \begin{array}{c} \# \\ \# q_{accept} \# \end{array} \right]$$

Converting instance  $P$  of MPCP to instance  $P'$  of PCP

For string  $u = u_1 \dots u_n$ , let

$$*u = *u_1 *u_2 \dots *u_n; \quad u^* = u_1^* u_2^* \dots u_n^*; \quad *u^* = *u_1^* *u_2^* \dots *u_n^*.$$

Let  $P = \left\{ \left[ \frac{t_1}{b_1} \right], \left[ \frac{t_2}{b_2} \right], \dots, \left[ \frac{t_n}{b_n} \right] \right\}$  instance starting with  $\left[ \frac{t_1}{b_1} \right]$ .

Then let  $P' = \left\{ \left[ \frac{*t_1}{*b_1^*} \right], \left[ \frac{t_1^*}{b_1^*} \right], \left[ \frac{*t_2}{*b_2^*} \right], \dots, \left[ \frac{*t_n}{*b_n^*} \right], \left[ \frac{t_n^*}{b_n^*} \right] \right\}$ .