

# CS622

# Reducibility

Wednesday, April 24, 2024



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I described some of the most beautiful and famous mathematical theorems to Midjourney.

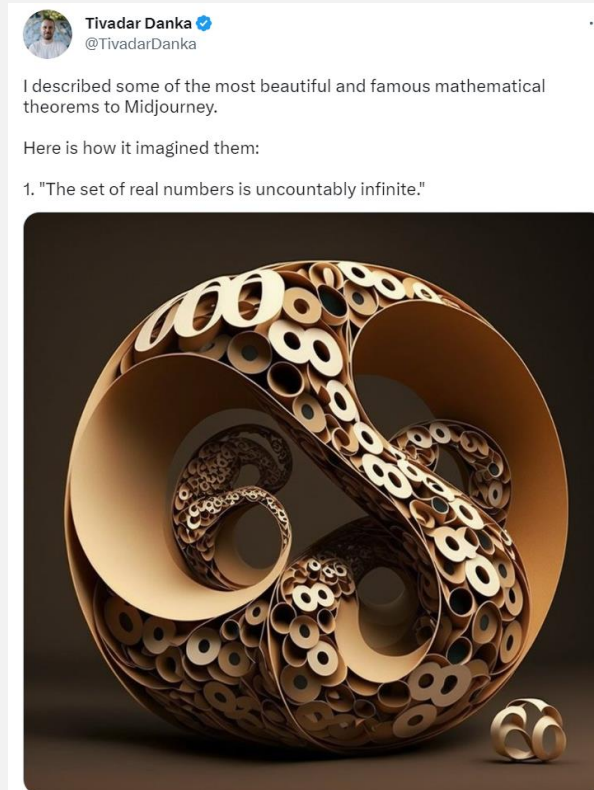
Here is how it imagined them:

1. "The set of real numbers is uncountably infinite."



# Announcements

- HW 9 in
  - ~~Due Wed 4/24 12pm noon~~
- HW 10 out
  - Due Wed 5/1 12pm noon



Thm:  $A_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable

$$A_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

Proof by contradiction:

1. Assume  $A_{\text{TM}}$  is decidable. So there exists a decider  $H$  for it:

$$H(\langle M, w \rangle) = \begin{cases} \text{accept} & \text{if } M \text{ accepts } w \\ \text{reject} & \text{if } M \text{ does not accept } w \end{cases}$$

Using Examples (Tables) to understand these kinds of problems are critical!

2. Use  $H$  in another TM ... the impossible “opposite” machine:

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

$D$  result with input  $\langle D \rangle$ ?

- If  $D$  accepts  $\langle D \rangle$ , then  $D$  rejects  $\langle D \rangle$
- If  $D$  rejects  $\langle D \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle D \rangle$

1. Run  $H$  on input  $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$ .
2. Output the opposite of what  $H$  outputs. That is, if  $H$  accepts, *reject*; and if  $H$  rejects, *accept*.”

$H$  computes:  $M$ 's result with  $\langle M \rangle$  as input

$D$  returns opposite of  $H$

Thm:  $A_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable

$$A_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

Proof by contradiction:

This cannot be true

1. Assume  $A_{\text{TM}}$  is decidable. So there exists a decider  $H$  for it:

$$H(\langle M, w \rangle) = \begin{cases} \text{accept} & \text{if } M \text{ accepts } w \\ \text{reject} & \text{if } M \text{ does not accept } w \end{cases}$$

2. Use  $H$  in another TM ... the impossible “opposite” machine:

~~$D =$  “On input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a TM:~~

1. ~~Run  $H$  on input  $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$ .~~
2. ~~Output the opposite of what  $H$  outputs. That is, if  $H$  accepts, *reject*; and if  $H$  rejects, *accept*.”~~

3. So  $D$  does not exist! Contradiction! So the assumption is false.

# Easier Undecidability Proofs

- We proved  $A_{TM} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w\}$  undecidable ...
- ... by contradiction:
  - Use hypothetical  $A_{TM}$  decider to create an impossible decider “ $D$ ”!

reduce “ $D$  problem” to  $A_{TM}$

- Step # 1: coming up with “ $D$ ” --- hard!
  - Need to invent **diagonalization**

Known undecidable lang!

- Step # 2: **reduce** “ $D$ ” problem to  $A_{TM}$  --- easier!

	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	...	$\langle D \rangle$
$M_1$	<u>accept</u>	reject	accept	reject		accept
$M_2$	accept	<u>accept</u>	accept	accept	...	accept
$M_3$	reject	reject	<u>reject</u>	reject		reject
$M_4$	accept	accept	reject	<u>reject</u>		accept
$\vdots$			$\vdots$		$\ddots$	
$D$	reject	reject	accept	accept		<u>?</u>

- From now on: undecidability proofs only need step # 2!
  - And we now have two “impossible” problems to choose from

# The Halting Problem

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

Thm:  $HALT_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume:  $HALT_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

Examples Table(s) are critical for these kinds of problems!

Let  $\langle M, w \rangle$  be a string where:

- $M$  is some TM and
- $w$  is some string

Example Table for  $R$

String	$M$ on $w$	$R$ on $\langle M, w \rangle$	In lang $HALT_{TM}$ ?
$\langle M, w \rangle$	(halt and) Accept	Accept	Yes
$\langle M, w \rangle$	(halt and) Reject	Accept	Yes
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Loop	Reject	No

# The Halting Problem

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

Thm:  $HALT_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume:  $HALT_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

reduce (from known undecidable)  $A_{TM}$  to  $HALT_{TM}$

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

- ...

contradiction

- But  $A_{TM}$  is undecidable and has no decider!

# The Halting Problem

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

Thm:  $HALT_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction: Using our hypothetical  $HALT_{TM}$  decider  $R$

- Assume:  $HALT_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

1. Run TM  $R$  on input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ .
2. If  $R$  rejects, *reject*. ← If  $R$  rejects  $\langle M, w \rangle$ ,  $M$  loops on input  $w$ , so  $S$  rejects
3. If  $R$  accepts, simulate  $M$  on  $w$  until it halts. ← This step always halts
4. If  $M$  has accepted, *accept*; if  $M$  has rejected, *reject*.”

Examples Table??

Termination argument:

**Step 1:**  $R$  is a decider so always halts

**Step 3:**  $M$  always halts because  $R$  said so



# The Halting Problem

These must match (like before)

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

String	$M$ on $w$	$HALT_{TM}$ decider $R$ on $\langle M, w \rangle$	$A_{TM}$ decider $S$ on $\langle M, w \rangle$	In lang $A_{TM}$ ?
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Accept	Accept	Accept	Yes
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Reject	Accept	Reject	No
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Loop	Reject	Reject	No

Example Table for  $A_{TM}$  decider  $S$

Let  $\langle M, w \rangle$  be a string where:  
 -  $M$  is some TM and  
 -  $w$  is some string

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

$S =$  "On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

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*."

Now these must (sometimes) match

Because we are using  $R$  ( $HALT_{TM}$ ) to help decide  $A_{TM}$ !!

Examples Table??

Undecidability Proof Technique #1:  
**Reduce** from known undecidable language (by creating its decider)

# The Halting Problem

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

Thm:  $HALT_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume:  $HALT_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

~~$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :~~

- ~~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*.”~~

Now we have three known undecidable langs, i.e., three “impossible” deciders, to choose from

- But  $A_{TM}$  is undecidable (has no decider)! I.e., this decider does not exist!
  - So  $HALT_{TM}$  is also undecidable!

# The Halting Problem ... As Statements / Justifications

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

(Proof by contradiction)

## Statements

1.  $HALT_{TM}$  is decidable
2.  $HALT_{TM}$  has decider  $R$
3. Construct decider  $S$  using  $R$  ("see below")
4. Decider  $S$  decides  $A_{TM}$
5.  $A_{TM}$  is undecidable (i.e, it has no decider)
6.  $HALT_{TM}$  is undecidable


## Justifications

1. Opposite of statement to prove
2. Definition of decidable langs
3. Definition of TMs and deciders (incl termination argument)
4. See Examples Table
5. Theorem from last lecture (Sipser Theorem 4.11)
6. Contradiction of Stmts #4 & #5

# *Interlude:* Reducing from $HALT_{TM}$

A practical thought experiment ...  
... about compiler optimizations

Your compiler changes your program!

If TRUE then A else B  A

1 + 2 + 3  6

# Compiler Optimizations

## Optimization - [docs](#)

- -O0
  - No optimization, faster compilation time, better for debugging builds.
- -O2
- -O3
  - Higher level of optimization. Slower compile-time, better for production builds.
- -OFast
  - Enables higher level of optimization than (-O3). It enables lots of flags as can be seen [src](#) (-ffloat-store, -ffsast-math, -ffinite-math-only, -O3 ...)
- -finline-functions
- -m64
- -funroll-loops
- -fvectorize
- -fprofile-generate

## Types of optimization [\[ edit \]](#)

Techniques used in optimization can be broken up among various *scopes* which can affect anything from a single statement to the entire program. Generally speaking, locally scoped techniques are easier to implement than global ones but result in smaller gains. Some examples of scopes include:

### Peephole optimizations

These are usually performed late in the compilation process after [machine code](#) has been generated. This form of optimization examines a few adjacent instructions (like "looking through a peephole" at the code) to see whether they can be replaced by a single instruction or a shorter sequence of instructions.<sup>[2]</sup> For instance, a multiplication of a value by 2 might be more efficiently executed by [left-shifting](#) the value or by adding the value to itself (this example is also an instance of [strength reduction](#)).

### Local optimizations

These only consider information local to a [basic block](#).<sup>[3]</sup> Since basic blocks have no control flow, these optimizations need very little analysis, saving time and reducing storage requirements, but this also means that no information is preserved across jumps.

### Global optimizations

These are also called "intraprocedural methods" and act on whole functions.<sup>[3]</sup> This gives them more information to work with, but often makes expensive computations necessary. Worst case assumptions have to be made when function calls occur or global variables are accessed because little information about them is available.

### Loop optimizations

These act on the statements which make up a loop, such as a *for* loop, for example [loop-invariant code motion](#). Loop optimizations can have a significant impact because many programs spend a large percentage of their time inside loops.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Prescient store optimizations

These allow store operations to occur earlier than would otherwise be permitted in the context of [threads](#) and locks. The process needs some way of knowing ahead of time what value will be stored by the assignment that it should have followed. The purpose of this relaxation is to allow compiler optimization to perform certain kinds of code rearrangement that preserve the semantics of properly synchronized programs.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Interprocedural, whole-program or link-time optimization

These analyze all of a program's source code. The greater quantity of information extracted means that optimizations can be more effective compared to when they only have access to local information, i.e. within a single function. This kind of optimization can also allow new techniques to be performed. For instance, function [inlining](#), where a call to a function is replaced by a copy of the function body.

### Machine code optimization and object code optimizer

These analyze the executable task image of the program after all of an executable machine code has been [linked](#). Some of the techniques that can be applied in a more limited scope, such as macro compression which saves space by collapsing common sequences of instructions, are more effective when the entire executable task image is available for analysis.<sup>[6]</sup>

# The Optimal Optimizing Compiler

“Full Employment” Theorem

Thm: The Optimal (C++) Optimizing Compiler does not exist

Proof, by contradiction:

Assume: *OPT* is the Perfect Optimizing Compiler

Use it to create  $HALT_{TM}$  decider (accepts  $\langle M, w \rangle$  if  $M$  halts with  $w$ , else **rejects**):

$S =$  On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , where  $M$  is C++ program and  $w$  is string:

- If  $OPT(M) == \text{for}(;;)$ 
  - a) Then **Reject**
  - b) Else **Accept**

In computer science and mathematics, a **full employment theorem** is a term used, often humorously, to refer to a theorem which states that no algorithm can optimally perform a particular task done by some class of professionals. The name arises because such a theorem ensures that there is endless scope to keep discovering new techniques to improve the way at least some specific task is done.

For example, the *full employment theorem for compiler writers* states that there is no such thing as a provably perfect size-optimizing compiler, as such a proof for the compiler would have to **detect non-terminating computations** and reduce them to a one-instruction **infinite loop**. Thus, the existence of a provably perfect size-optimizing compiler would imply a solution to the **halting problem**, which cannot exist. This also implies that there may always be a better compiler since the proof that one has the best compiler cannot exist. Therefore, compiler writers will always be able to speculate that they have something to improve.

# Summary: The Limits of Algorithms

- $A_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a DFA that accepts input string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG that generates string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w\}$  **Undecidable**
- $HALT_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ halts on input } w\}$  **Undecidable**

Similar languages

It's straightforward to use hypothetical  $HALT_{\text{TM}}$  decider to create  $A_{\text{TM}}$  decider

# Summary: The Limits of Algorithms

- $A_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a DFA that accepts input string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG that generates string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w\}$  **Undecidable**
- $HALT_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ halts on input } w\}$  **Undecidable**
- $E_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \emptyset\}$  Decidable
- $E_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } L(G) = \emptyset\}$  Decidable
- $E_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$  **Undecidable**

Not as similar languages

next

How can we use a hypothetical  $E_{\text{TM}}$  decider to create  $A_{\text{TM}}$  or  $HALT_{\text{TM}}$  decider?



# Reducibility: Modifying the TM

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

Thm:  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume  $E_{TM}$  has *decider*  $R$ ; use it to create *decider* for  $A_{TM}$ :

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

- Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M \rangle$
- If  $R$  accepts, *reject* (because it means  $\langle M \rangle$  doesn't accept anything)
- if  $R$  rejects, then **???** ( $\langle M \rangle$  accepts something, but is it  $w$ ???)

Now these must match (sometimes), but ...?

These must match (like before)

Let  $\langle M, w \rangle$  be a string where:

- $M$  is some TM and
- $w$  is some string

String	$M$ on $w$	$R$ on $\langle M \rangle$	$S$ on $\langle M, w \rangle$	In lang $A_{TM}$ ?
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Accept	??	Accept	Yes
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Reject	??	Reject	No
$\langle M, w \rangle$	Loop	??	Reject	No

Example Table for  $A_{TM}$  decider  $S$

# Reducibility: Modifying the TM

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

Thm:  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume  $E_{TM}$  has *decider*  $R$ ; use it to create *decider* for  $A_{TM}$ :

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

- Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M \rangle$
- If  $R$  accepts, *reject* (because it means  $\langle M \rangle$  doesn't accept anything)
- if  $R$  rejects, then ??? ( $\langle M \rangle$  accepts something, but is it  $w$ ???)

$L(M_1)$  depends on  $M$  and  $w$ !  
If  $M$  accepts  $w$ ,  
 $L(M_1) = \{w\}$   
else  $L(M_1) = \emptyset$

- Idea: Wrap  $\langle M \rangle$  in a new TM that can only (maybe) accept  $w$ .

$M_1 =$  “On input  $x$ :

1. If  $x \neq w$ , *reject*. ← Input not  $w$ , always reject

Input is  $w$ , maybe accept →

2. If  $x = w$ , run  $M$  on input  $w$  and *accept* if  $M$  does.”

$M_1$  accepts  $w$  if  $M$  does

# Reducibility: Modifying the TM

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

Thm:  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction

Now opposites!

- Assume  $E_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

String $x$	$M$ on $w$	$R$ on $\langle M_1 \rangle$	$M_1$ on $x$	In lang $\{w\} \cap L(M)$ ?
$w$	Accept	Reject	Accept	Yes (lang = $\{w\}$ )
$w$	Reject	Accept	Reject	No (lang = $\{\}$ )
not $w$	-	-	Reject	No

Example Table for  $M_1$

$L(M_1)$  depends on  $M$  and  $w$ !  
 If  $M$  accepts  $w$ ,  
 $L(M_1) = \{w\}$   
 else  $L(M_1) = \{\}$

- Idea: Wrap  $\langle M \rangle$  in a new TM that can only (maybe) accept  $w$ .

$M_1 =$  “On input  $x$ :

- If  $x \neq w$ , reject.
- If  $x = w$ , run  $M$  on input  $w$  and accept if  $M$  does.”

# Reducibility: Modifying the TM

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

Thm:  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume  $E_{TM}$  has *decider*  $R$ ; use it to create *decider* for  $A_{TM}$ :

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

First, construct  $M_1$

- Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M \rangle_1$  ← **Note:  $M_1$  is only used as arg to  $R$ ; it's never run (avoiding loop)!**
- If  $R$  accepts, *reject* (because it means  $\langle M \rangle$  doesn't accept  $w$ )
- if  $R$  rejects, then *accept* ( $\langle M \rangle$  accepts  $w$ )

$L(M_1)$  depends on  $M$  and  $w$ !  
If  $M$  accepts  $w$ ,  
 $L(M_1) = \{w\}$   
else  $L(M_1) = \{\}$

- Idea: Wrap  $\langle M \rangle$  in a new TM that can only (maybe) *accept*  $w$ .

$M_1 =$  “On input  $x$ :

1. If  $x \neq w$ , *reject*.
2. If  $x = w$ , run  $M$  on input  $w$  and *accept* if  $M$  does.”

# Reducibility: Modifying the TM

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

Thm:  $E_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable

Proof, by contradiction:

This decider for  $A_{\text{TM}}$  cannot exist!

- Assume  $E_{\text{TM}}$  has *decider*  $R$ ; use it to create *decider* for  $A_{\text{TM}}$ :

~~$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :~~

~~First, construct  $M_1$~~

- ~~• Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M \rangle$~~
- ~~• If  $R$  accepts, *reject* (because it means  $\langle M \rangle$  doesn't accept  $w$ )~~
- ~~• if  $R$  rejects, then *accept* ( $\langle M \rangle$  accepts  $w$ )~~

- Idea: Wrap  $\langle M \rangle$  in a new TM that can only (maybe) accept  $w$ :

$M_1 =$  “On input  $x$ :

1. If  $x \neq w$ , *reject*.
2. If  $x = w$ , run  $M$  on input  $w$  and *accept* if  $M$  does.”

# Summary: The Limits of Algorithms

- $A_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a DFA that accepts input string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG that generates string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w\}$  **Undecidable**
- $E_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \emptyset\}$  Decidable
- $E_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } L(G) = \emptyset\}$  Decidable
- $E_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$  **Undecidable**
- $EQ_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle A, B \rangle \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ are DFAs and } L(A) = L(B)\}$  Decidable
- $EQ_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G, H \rangle \mid G \text{ and } H \text{ are CFGs and } L(G) = L(H)\}$  **Undecidable**
- $EQ_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$  **Undecidable**

needs



next

# Reduce to something else: $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable

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

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume:  $EQ_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  ~~$A_{TM}$~~   $E_{TM}$ .
- $$E_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset \}$$

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a TM:

1. Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M, M_1 \rangle$ , where  $M_1$  is a TM that rejects all inputs.
2. If  $R$  accepts, *accept*; if  $R$  rejects, *reject*.”

# Reduce to something else: $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable

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

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume:  $EQ_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $E_{TM}$ :

$$= \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset \}$$

~~$S =$  “On input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a TM:~~

- ~~1. Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M, M_1 \rangle$ , where  $M_1$  is a TM that rejects all inputs.~~
- ~~2. If  $R$  accepts, *accept*; if  $R$  rejects, *reject*.”~~

- But  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable!



# Summary: Undecidability Proof Techniques

- Proof Technique #1:  $A_{TM} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w\}$ 
  - Use hypothetical decider to implement impossible  $A_{TM}$  decider ↓ Reduce
  - Example Proof:  $HALT_{TM} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ halts on input } w\}$

- Proof Technique #2:  $E_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$ 
  - Use hypothetical decider to implement impossible  $A_{TM}$  decider
  - But first modify the input  $M$
  - Example Proof:  $E_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$  ↓ Reduce

- Proof Technique #3:  $EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$ 
  - Use hypothetical decider to implement non- $A_{TM}$  impossible decider
  - Example Proof:  $EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$

Can also combine these techniques

# Summary: Decidability and Undecidability

- $A_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a DFA that accepts input string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G, w \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG that generates string } w\}$  Decidable
- $A_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w\}$  **Undecidable**
- $E_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \emptyset\}$  Decidable
- $E_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } L(G) = \emptyset\}$  Decidable
- $E_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$  **Undecidable**
- $EQ_{\text{DFA}} = \{\langle A, B \rangle \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ are DFAs and } L(A) = L(B)\}$  Decidable
- $EQ_{\text{CFG}} = \{\langle G, H \rangle \mid G \text{ and } H \text{ are CFGs and } L(G) = L(H)\}$  **Undecidable**
- $EQ_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$  **Undecidable**

# Also Undecidable ...

next

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

Thm:  $REGULAR_{TM}$  is undecidable

$$REGULAR_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a regular language} \}$$

Proof, by contradiction:

- Assume:  $REGULAR_{TM}$  has decider  $R$ ; use it to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , an encoding of a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ :

- First, construct  $M_2$  (??)
- Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M \rangle_2$
- If  $R$  accepts, *accept*; if  $R$  rejects, *reject*

Want:  $L(M_2) =$

- **regular**, if  $M$  accepts  $w$
- **nonregular**, if  $M$  does not accept  $w$

# Thm: $REGULAR_{TM}$ is undecidable (continued)

$REGULAR_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a regular language} \}$

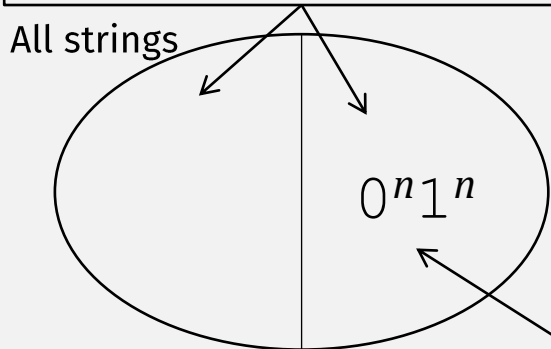
$M_2 =$  “On input  $x$ :

1. If  $x$  has the form  $0^n 1^n$ , *accept*.
2. If  $x$  does not have this form, run  $M$  on input  $w$  and *accept* if  $M$  accepts  $w$ .”

Always accept strings  $0^n 1^n$   
 $L(M_2) =$  nonregular, so far

If  $M$  accepts  $w$ ,  
accept everything else,  
so  $L(M_2) = \Sigma^* =$  regular

if  $M$  does not accept  $w$ ,  $M_2$  accepts all strings (regular lang)



Want:  $L(M_2) =$

- **regular**, if  $M$  accepts  $w$
- **nonregular**, if  $M$  does not accept  $w$

if  $M$  accepts  $w$ ,  $M_2$  accepts this nonregular lang

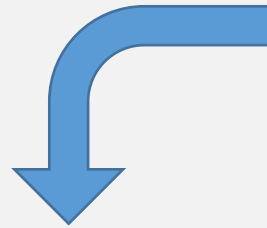
# Also Undecidable ...

Seems like no algorithm can compute  
**anything** about  
the language of a Turing Machine,  
i.e., about the runtime behavior of programs ...

- $REGULAR_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a regular language} \}$
- $CONTEXTFREE_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a CFL} \}$
- $DECIDABLE_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a decidable language} \}$
- $FINITE_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a finite language} \}$

# An Algorithm About Program Behavior?

```
main()
{
    printf("hello, world\n");
}
```



**Write a program that,**  
given another program as its argument,  
returns TRUE if that argument prints  
“Hello, World!”



TRUE

**Fermat's Last Theorem**  
(unknown for ~350 years,  
solved in 1990s)

```
main()  
{  
  If  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ , for any integer  $n > 2$   
  printf("hello, world\n");  
}
```

**Write a program that,**  
given another program as its argument,  
returns ~~TRUE~~ if that argument prints  
"Hello, World!"

?????



# Also Undecidable ...

Seems like no algorithm can compute  
**anything** about  
the language of a Turing Machine,  
i.e., about the runtime behavior of programs ...

- $REGULAR_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a regular language} \}$
- $CONTEXTFREE_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a CFL} \}$
- $DECIDABLE_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a decidable language} \}$
- $FINITE_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is a finite language} \}$
- ...

Rice's Theorem

- $ANYTHING_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and "... anything ..." about } L(M) \}$

# Rice's Theorem: *ANYTHING*<sub>TM</sub> is Undecidable

*ANYTHING*<sub>TM</sub> = { $\langle M \rangle$  |  $M$  is a TM and ... **anything** ... about  $L(M)$ }

- “... **Anything** ...”, more precisely:
  - For any  $M_1, M_2$ ,
  - if  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$
  - then  $M_1 \in ANYTHING_{TM} \Leftrightarrow M_2 \in ANYTHING_{TM}$
- Also, “... **Anything** ...” must be “non-trivial”:
  - $ANYTHING_{TM} \neq \{\}$
  - $ANYTHING_{TM} \neq$  set of all TMs

# Rice's Theorem: $ANYTHING_{TM}$ is Undecidable

$ANYTHING_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \dots \text{ anything } \dots \text{ about } L(M) \}$

Proof by contradiction

- Assume some language satisfying  $ANYTHING_{TM}$  has a decider  $R$ .
  - Since  $ANYTHING_{TM}$  is non-trivial, then there exists  $M_{ANY} \in ANYTHING_{TM}$
  - Where  $R$  accepts  $M_{ANY}$
- Use  $R$  to create decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

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

- Create  $M_w$ :
  - $M_w =$  on input  $x$ :
    - Run  $M$  on  $w$
    - If  $M$  rejects  $w$ : reject  $x$
    - If  $M$  accepts  $w$ :
      - Run  $M_{ANY}$  on  $x$  and accept if it accepts, else reject

If  $M$  accepts  $w$ :  $M_w = M_{ANY}$   
If  $M$  doesn't accept  $w$ :  $M_w$  accepts nothing

These two cases must be different, (so  $R$  can distinguish when  $M$  accepts  $w$ )

Wait! What if the TM that accepts nothing is in  $ANYTHING_{TM}$ !

- Run  $R$  on  $M_w$ 
  - If it accepts, then  $M_w = M_{ANY}$ , so  $M$  accepts  $w$ , so accept
  - Else reject

Proof still works! Just use the complement of  $ANYTHING_{TM}$  instead!

# Rice's Theorem Implication

$\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that installs malware} \}$

**Undecidable!**  
(by Rice's Theorem)

```
function check(n)
{ // check if the number n is a prime
  var factor; // if the checked number is not a prime, this is its first factor
  var c;
  factor = 0;
  // try to divide the checked number by all numbers till its square root
  for (c=2; (c <= Math.sqrt(n)); c++)
  {
    if (n%c == 0) // is n divisible by c ?
      { factor = c; break }
  }
  return (factor);
} // end of check function

function communicate()
{ // communicate with the user
  var i; // i is the checked number
  var factor; // if the checked number is not a prime, this is its first factor
  i = document.primeset.number.value; // get the checked number
  // is it a valid input
  if ((isNaN(i)) || (i <= 0) || (Math.floor(i) != i))
  { alert ("The checked object should be a whole positive number") ;
  }
  else
  {
    factor = check (i);
    if (factor == 0)
      { alert (i + " is a prime") ;
    }
    else
      { alert (i + " is not a prime, " + i + "=" + factor + "X" + i/factor) ;
    }
  }
} // end of communicate function
```

