

Homework 8

Worked with: _____

Consulted: _____

#1. Show the following are decidable or undecidable. Show why.

a) $L = \{ (M,w) \mid M \text{ is a dfa and on input } w \text{ visits each one of its states} \}$
decidable

b) $L = \{ (M,w) \mid M \text{ is a TM and on input } w \text{ makes an odd number of transitions} \}$

L is not decidable. To prove this, we will show that if L is decidable, then HALT is decidable.

(Since we know HALT is not decidable, we will conclude that L is not either.)

Assume that L is decidable, and let M_L be a TM that decides it. Construct the following TM M_H (which will ultimately decide HALT) :

M_H on input M,w :

Construct a TM M' by modifying M so that M' makes an extra transition at the start. (Do this by adding a new start state s_0 , and make each transition from s_0 go to the old start state without changing the tape.) Note that M halts on w iff (M,w) OR (M',w) are in L (i.e., M makes an odd number of transitions on w or M' does)

c) $L = \{ n \mid n \text{ is prime} \}$

It may seem that this is undecidable since they are always discovering new primes, but there are plenty of algorithms for deciding if a number is prime. Maybe n is so large, the program doesn't finish, but that doesn't mean it's undecidable.

#2. Given 2 dfa's M_1 and M_2 , Consider the question EQ_{dfa} : "Is $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$?"

a) **State this as a language problem**
 $EQ_{dfa} = \{ (M_1, M_2) \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are dfa's and } (L(M_1) \cap \sim L(M_2)) \cup (\sim L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)) = \emptyset \}$

b) **Show EQ_{dfa} is decidable or undecidable**

It is certainly decidable whether M_1 , and M_2 are dfa's and all the operations are decidable.

#3. Prove or disprove: Given a grammar in CNF and a string $w \in L(G)$ with derivation tree T , if $\text{depth}(T) = n$, then $|w| \leq 2n-1$

#4. Given an arbitrary turing machine, M , and an arbitrary state $q \in M$, show that it is undecidable whether M ever enters state q . Do not use Rice's Theorem.

#5. A property, P , of re languages is a mapping:

$P: \{\text{re languages over } S^*\} \rightarrow \{T, F\}$

A property P is *trivial* if it is true of *all* re languages or *no* re language

- a) Name a non-trivial property of re languages
- b) Name a trivial property of re languages

(Note: You may research this: just say where you got your answer from)

- a) $P_{\text{regular}}: \{L \mid L \text{ is regular}\}$
 $P_{\text{empty}}: \{L \mid L \text{ is empty}\}$ (not to be confused with the empty property)

b) There are exactly 2 trivial properties: $P_{\text{none}}: \{L \mid P \text{ false for no re language } L\}$ and $P_{\text{all}}: \{L \mid P \text{ true for all re languages}\}$.

i.e. $P_{\text{none}}: \emptyset$
and $P_{\text{all}}: \{L \mid L \text{ is an re language}\}$

The TM for P_{none} immediately rejects

The TM for P_{all} decides whether the input is a legal encoding of some TM.