
18.404 Recitation 4

— Sept 25, 2020 —

Today's Topics

- Re-explaining Non-CFL Language
 - $\{ a^i b^j c^k \mid i > j > k \}$
- Review: A_{TM} is Undecidable
- Proving Decidable
 - $\{ \langle R, S \rangle \mid R \text{ and } S \text{ are regular expressions and } L(R) \subseteq L(S) \}$
 - $\{ \langle R \rangle \mid R \text{ is a regular expression and } L(R) \text{ is prefix-free} \}$
 - $\{ \langle D \rangle \mid D \text{ is a DFA that accepts some palindrome} \}$
 - $\{ \langle D \rangle \mid D \text{ is a DFA that accepts } w^R \text{ whenever it accepts } w \}$
- Proving T-Recognizable
 - $\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM whose language is non-empty} \}$
- Recap
- Bonus (time-permitting)
 - $\{ \langle S \rangle \mid S \text{ is a TM whose language is empty} \}$ is T-unrecog
 - $2TAPE = \{ \{ M, w \} \mid M \text{ is a 2-tape TM that writes a non-blank symbol on 2}^{nd} \text{ tape on } w \}$
 - Prove it is T-recognizable, but not T-decidable

Example: Proving Non-CFL Languages

Prove that $\{ a^i b^j c^k \mid i > j > k \}$ is not a CFL

- $(\forall n \geq 0) (uv^n xy^n z \in L)$
- $|vy| \geq 1$
- $|vxy| \leq p$

$$s = a^{p+2} b^{p+1} c^p$$

Review: A_{TM} is Undecidable

(1/3)

Proof by Contradiction

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

- Assume TM H decides A_{TM}
 - H accepts $\langle M, w \rangle$ iff M accepts w
 - H rejects $\langle M, w \rangle$ iff M rejects or loops on w
- Will prove that H may never exist due to a contradiction

Review: A_{TM} is Undecidable

(2/3)

Recall assuming that H decides $A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$

Use H to construct a TM D

$D =$ "On input $\langle M \rangle$

1. Simulate H on input $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$ ie: $(\langle M, w \rangle$ where $w = \langle M \rangle)$
2. Reject if H accepts. Accept if H rejects."

D accepts $\langle M \rangle$ iff M does not accept $\langle M \rangle$

Contradiction: D accepts $\langle D \rangle$ iff $\langle D \rangle$ does not accept $\langle D \rangle$

Review: A_{TM} is Undecidable

(3/3)

All TMs ↓	All TM descriptions:					
	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	\dots	$\langle D \rangle$
M_1	acc	rej	acc	acc	\dots	
M_2	rej	rej	rej	rej		
M_3	acc	acc	acc	acc	\dots	
M_4	rej	rej	acc	acc		
\vdots			\vdots			
D	rej	acc	rej	rej		?????

Proving Decidable

$\{ \langle R, S \rangle \mid R \text{ and } S \text{ are regular expressions and } L(R) \subseteq L(S) \}$

D = "on input $\langle R, S \rangle$

1. Convert R and S into DFA R' and S' respectively
 2. Construct DFA $T = R' \text{ intersect } S'$
 3. Run EQ_DFA on $\langle R', T \rangle$ and return accordingly
- "

Proving Decidable

$\{ \langle R \rangle \mid R \text{ is a regular expression and } L(R) \text{ is prefix-free} \}$

NOT prefix free = $\{ \text{"Star Wars"}, \text{"b"}, \text{"ac"}, \text{"Star Wars is cool!"} \}$

D = "on input $\langle R \rangle$

1. Construct DFA R' from reg expr R
 2. Prune all out-going edges from accept states of R' to create DFA P
(this filters all suffixed strings out of $L(R')$)
 3. Run EQ_DFA on R and P . Accept if EQ_DFA accepts. Reject otherwise.
- "

Proving Decidable

$\{ \langle D \rangle \mid D \text{ is a DFA that accepts some palindrome} \}$ palindrome = $\{w + \text{rev}(w)\}$

D has a palindrome \rightarrow intersection of $L(D)$ and palindrome is non empty set

D has no palindrome \rightarrow intersection of $L(D)$ and palindrome is empty set

Use construction from HW 2, problem 0.2: regular language \cap CFL = CFL

F = "on input $\langle D \rangle$

1. Use construction from HW 2 to create PDA P that computes:
CFL = reg lang intersect palindrome
2. Run E_PDA on P. Accept if E_PDA rejects. Reject otherwise.

Proving Decidable

$\{ \langle D \rangle \mid D \text{ is a DFA that accepts } w^R \text{ whenever it accepts } w \}$

Proving T-Recognizable

$\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM whose language is non-empty} \}$

R = "on input $\langle M \rangle$

1. Simulate M on all inputs of Σ^* one by one
 2. If M accepts any of the inputs, then accept
- "

If M really has empty language then will iterate forever over Σ^* and never terminate. But this is OK for T-Recogn languages.

Recap

