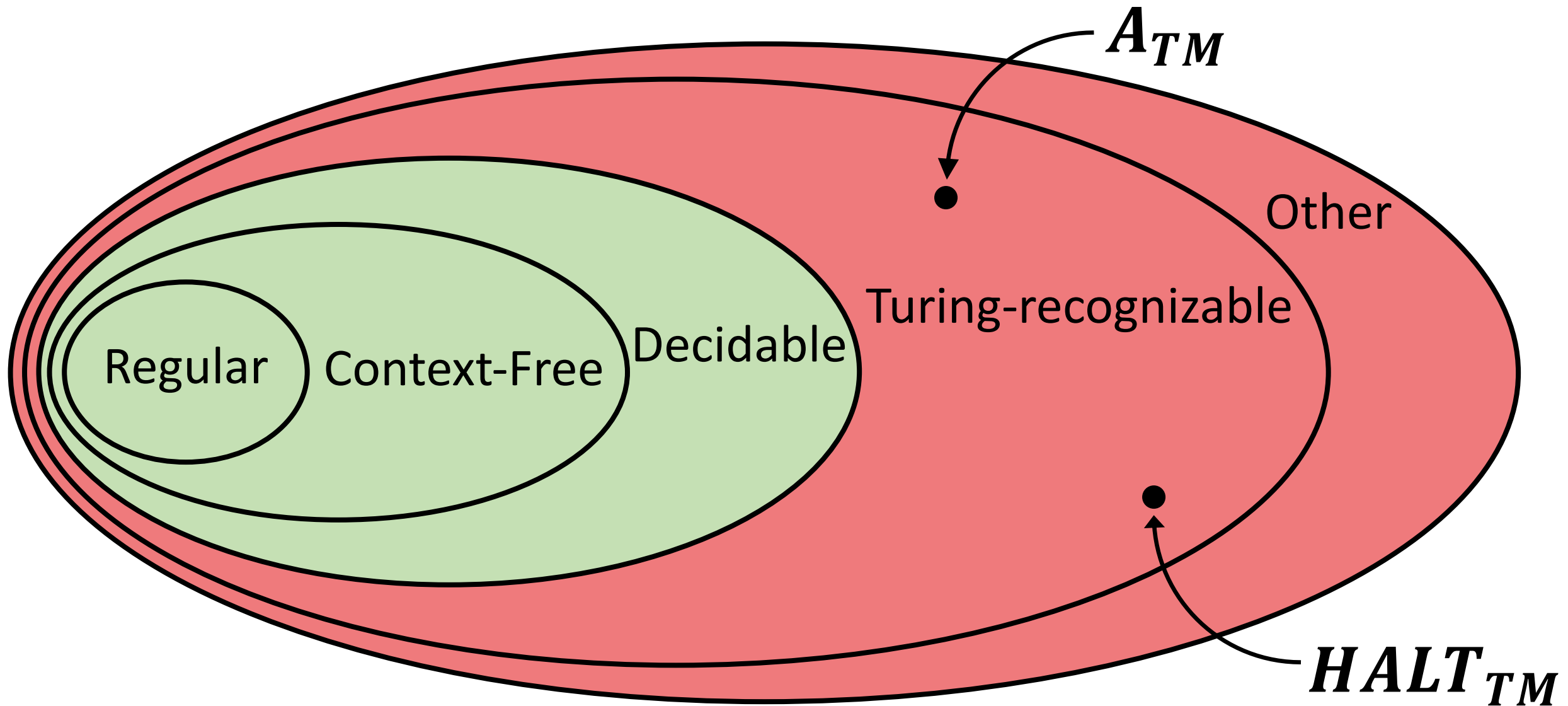


# Undecidability

## CSCI 338

# Computability Hierarchy



# $A_{TM}$

Claim:  $A_{TM} = \{\langle M, \omega \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } \omega\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $A_{TM}$  is decidable. Let TM  $H$  be its decider:

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

Make a new TM  $D$ :

$D$  = on input  $\langle N \rangle$ , for TM  $N$

1. Run  $H$  on  $\langle N, \langle N \rangle \rangle$ .
2. If  $H$  accepts, reject. If  $H$  rejects, accept.

What happens with  $D(\langle D \rangle)$ ?  $D(\langle D \rangle) = \begin{cases} \text{accept, if } D \text{ does not accept } \langle D \rangle \\ \text{reject, if } D \text{ accepts } \langle D \rangle \end{cases}$

$D$  accepts  $\langle D \rangle$ , so long as  $D$  does not accept  $\langle D \rangle$ .

$\Rightarrow$  TM  $D$  cannot exist  $\Rightarrow$  TM  $H$  cannot exist  $\Rightarrow A_{TM}$  is undecidable

# Halting Problem

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

Proof: Suppose  $HALT_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle M, \omega \rangle$

1. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M, \omega \rangle$ .
2. If  $H$  rejects, reject (i.e.  $M$  does not halt on  $\omega$ ).
3. If  $H$  accepts, run  $M$  on  $\omega$  until it halts.
4. If  $M$  accepts, accept. If  $M$  rejects, reject.

$S$  is a decider for  $A_{TM}$ , which is a contradiction.

$\therefore HALT_{TM}$  is undecidable.

# Undecidability Proof Blueprint

Claim: *New\_Problem* is undecidable.

Proof:

*New\_Problem*: Problem we are trying to show is undecidable.

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Claim: *New\_Problem* is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose *New\_Problem* is decidable and let  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides *Old\_Problem*:

*New\_Problem*: Problem we are trying to show is undecidable.

*Old\_Problem*: Problem we already know to be undecidable.

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Proof: Suppose *New\_Problem* is decidable and let  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides *Old\_Problem*:

$S$  = on input  $\langle ? \rangle$

1. ...

⋮

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Input depends on the  
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Input depends on the  
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$S$  is a decider for *Old\_Problem*, which is a contradiction.

$\therefore$  *New\_Problem* is undecidable.

*New\_Problem*: Problem we are trying to show is undecidable.

*Old\_Problem*: Problem we already know to be undecidable.

$E_{TM}$

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

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Proof: Suppose  $E_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

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To show  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable,  
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To show  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable,  
use it to decide  $A_{TM}$ .

$L(?) \neq \emptyset \iff N \text{ accepts } \omega$

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Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

$N$  accepts  $\omega \iff L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

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

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$N \text{ accepts } \omega \iff L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. ?

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2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, ?.

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$N \text{ accepts } \omega \iff L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, ?.

If  $H$  accepts  $M_2$ , then...?

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2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts,  $\underline{?}$ .

If  $H$  accepts  $M_2$ , then  $L(M_2) = \emptyset$ , which means...?

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$N \text{ accepts } \omega \iff L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, ?.

**If  $H$  accepts  $M_2$ , then  $L(M_2) = \emptyset$ , which means that  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ .**

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2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, reject.

If  $H$  accepts  $M_2$ , then  $L(M_2) = \emptyset$ , which means that  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ .

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

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# $E_{TM}$

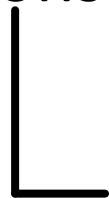
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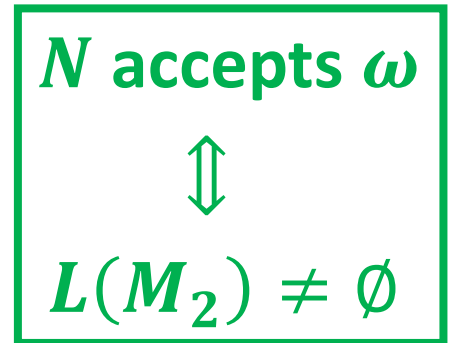
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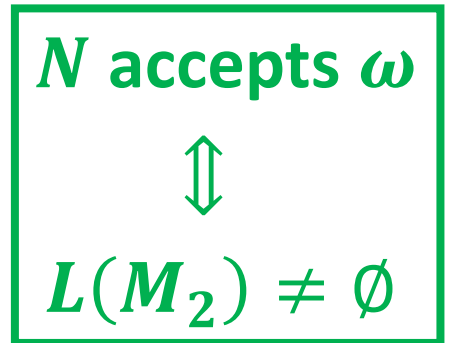
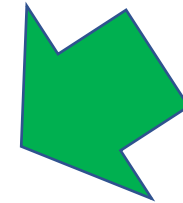
$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. If  $x \neq \omega$ , reject.

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3. If  $H$  accepts, reject. If  $H$  rejects, accept.



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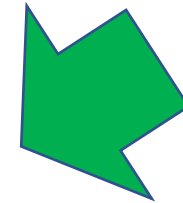
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$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
 $\Updownarrow$   
 $L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

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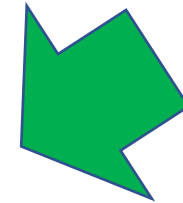
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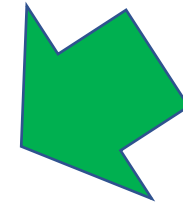
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$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
 $\Updownarrow$   
 $L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

$L(M_2) = \{\omega\} \text{ or } \emptyset$

# $E_{TM}$

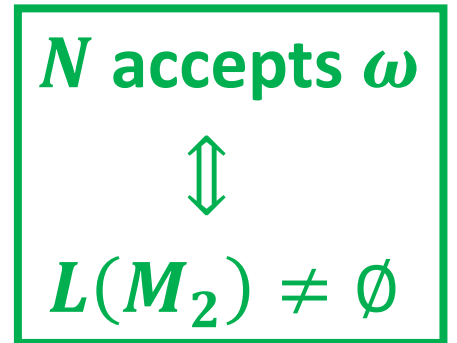
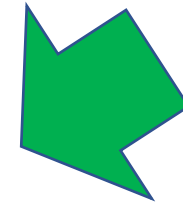
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 $L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

$L(M_2) = ??$



# $E_{TM}$

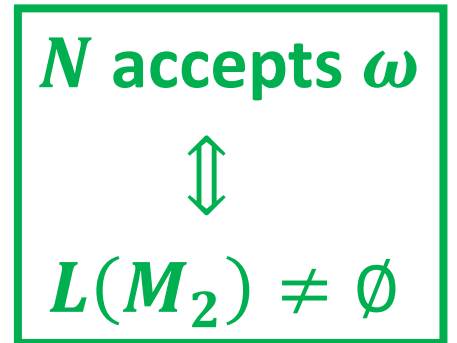
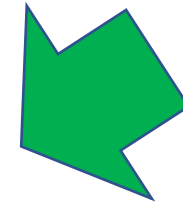
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$L(M_2) = \Sigma^* \text{ or } \emptyset$

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1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does **not**.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

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$N$  accepts  $\omega$



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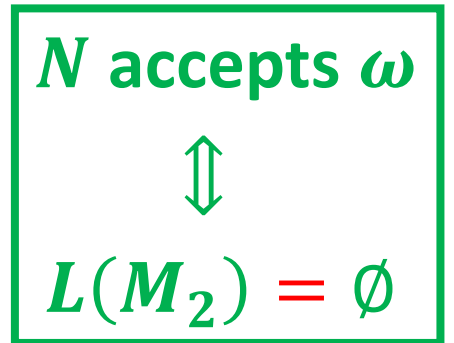
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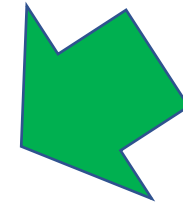
1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. If  $x \neq \omega$ , reject.

2. If  $x = \omega$  run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, reject. If  $H$  rejects, accept.



$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
 $\Updownarrow$   
 $L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

# $E_{TM}$

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

Proof: Suppose  $E_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

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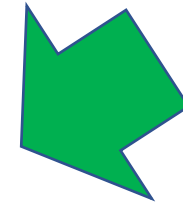
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1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

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3. If  $H$  accepts, reject. If  $H$  rejects, accept.

If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = ?$



$N$  accepts  $\omega$



$L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$



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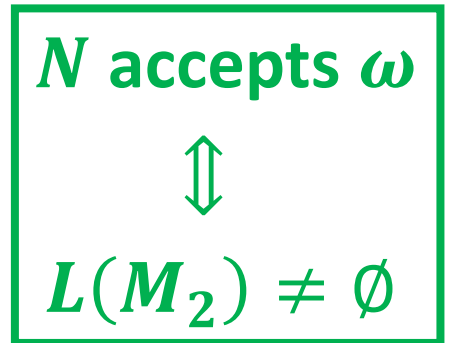
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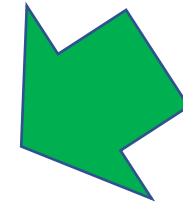
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If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \{\omega\}$ ,  $H$  will reject, and  $S$  will...?



$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
 $\Updownarrow$   
 $L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$

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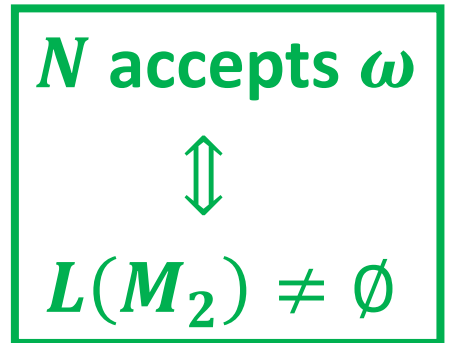
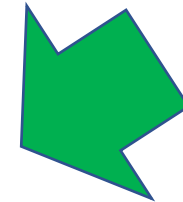
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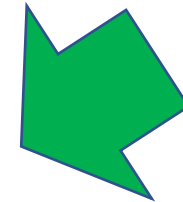
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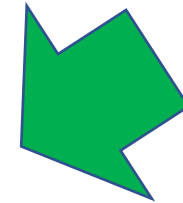
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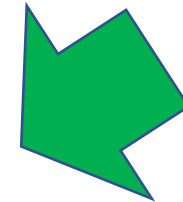
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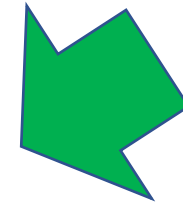
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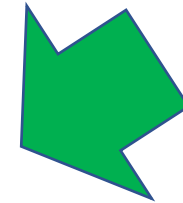
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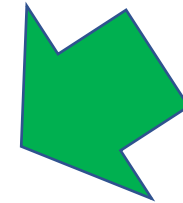
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 $\Rightarrow S$  decides  $A_{TM} \Rightarrow E_{TM}$  is undecidable.

When in doubt use  $A_{TM}!!!$

$EQ_{TM}$

Claim:  $EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M, N \rangle : M, N \text{ are TMs and } L(M) = L(N)\}$  is undecidable.

Proof:

?

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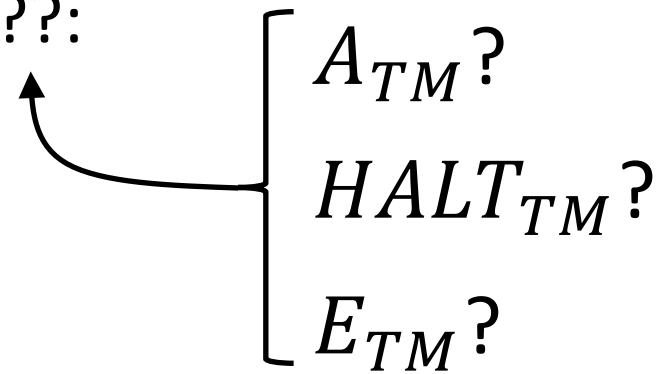
Build a TM  $S$  that decides ???:

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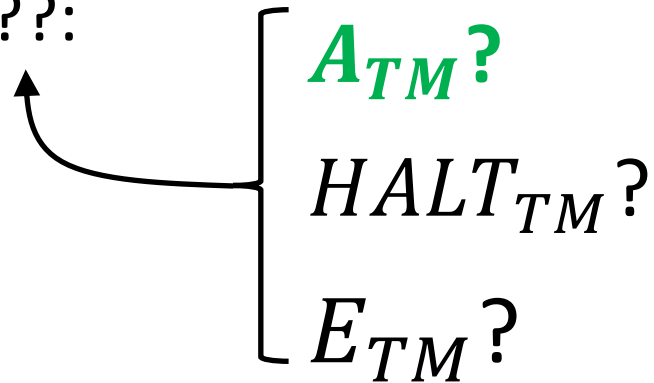


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Proof: Suppose  $EQ_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. ???

To show  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable,  
use it to decide  $A_{TM}$ .

# $EQ_{TM}$

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Proof: Suppose  $EQ_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. ???

We have a way ( $H$ ) to test if two TMs have the same language.

How could we use that to test if a TM's accepts some input?

Plan: ?

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Claim:  $EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M, N \rangle : M, N \text{ are TMs and } L(M) = L(N)\}$  is undecidable.

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We have a way ( $H$ ) to test if two TMs have the same language.

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Plan: Make two TMs that...?

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Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

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1. ???

We have a way ( $H$ ) to test if two TMs have the same language.

How could we use that to test if a TM's accepts some input?

Plan: Make two TMs that have the same language if and only if  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ .

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1. Construct TM  $M_1$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :  
    1. accept.


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1. Construct TM  $M_1$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :   $L(M_2) = ?$   
1. accept.

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  $L(M_2) = \Sigma^*$

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└ 1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

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$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
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    └ 1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.
3. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$ .
4. If  $H$  accepts, accept. If  $H$  rejects, reject.

$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
 $\Updownarrow$   
 $L(M_2) = \Sigma^*$

# $EQ_{TM}$

Claim:  $EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M, N \rangle : M, N \text{ are TMs and } L(M) = L(N)\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $EQ_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_1$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :  
    └ 1. accept.
2. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle y \rangle$  :  
    └ 1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.
3. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$ .
4. If  $H$  accepts, accept. If  $H$  rejects, reject.

$N$  accepts  $\omega$   
 $\Updownarrow$   
 $L(M_2) = \Sigma^*$

If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ , then  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have the same language ( $\Sigma^*$ ). If  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ , then they have different languages. Thus  $S$  decides  $A_{TM}$ . (bad!)