

On Logic and Computability

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Special lecture @ DIC course

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Bugs in programs can be costly!



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June 4, 1996 - Ariane 5 Flight 501.

"Working code for the Ariane 4 rocket is reused in the Ariane 5, but the Ariane 5's faster engines trigger a bug in an arithmetic routine inside the rocket's flight computer. The error is in the code that converts a 64-bit floating-point number to a 16-bit signed integer. The faster engines cause the 64-bit numbers to be larger in the Ariane 5 than in the Ariane 4, triggering an overflow condition that results in the flight computer crashing."

Source: Simson Garfinkel, Wired Magazine, 2005: <https://www.wired.com/2005/11/historys-worst-software-bugs/>

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1993-Intel Pentium floating point divide.

"A silicon error causes Intel's highly promoted Pentium chip to make mistakes when dividing floating-point numbers that occur within a specific range. For example, dividing 4195835.0/3145727.0 yields 1.33374 instead of 1.33382, an error of 0.006 percent... The bug ultimately costs Intel \$475 million."

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2005 - Toyota Prius Bug.

"Toyota announced a recall of 160,000 of its Prius hybrid vehicles following reports of vehicle warning lights illuminating for no reason, and cars' gasoline engines stalling unexpectedly. But unlike the large-scale auto recalls of years past, the root of the Prius issue wasn't a hardware problem - it was a programming error in the smart car's embedded code. The Prius had a software bug. "

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- ▶ Software testing not enough always...
- ▶ Need mathematically formal and rigorous guarantees.
- ▶ How do we formalize software/programs?

Let us start with an example

- ▶ What does this program do?

P1	$y := 1;$ $z := 0;$ $while (z \neq x) \{$ <i>inp x</i> $z := z + 1;$ <i>out y</i> $y := y * z;$ }
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Let us try out some runs

- ▶ If input $x = 1$, then output $y = 1$

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Let us try out some runs

- ▶ If input $x = 1$, then output $y = 1$
- ▶ If input $x = 2$, then output $y = 2$

Let us start with an example

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- ▶ If input $x = 1$, then output $y = 1$
- ▶ If input $x = 2$, then output $y = 2$
- ▶ If input $x = 3$, then output $y = 6$

Let us start with an example

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- ▶ If input $x = 1$, then output $y = 1$
- ▶ If input $x = 2$, then output $y = 2$
- ▶ If input $x = 3$, then output $y = 6$
- ▶ If input $x = 4$, then output $y = 24$

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▶ **P1** computes $x!$ and stores it in y .

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- ▶ But does it do exactly that?

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- ▶ But does it do exactly that?
- ▶ In fact, if $x \geq 0$, then **P1** computes $x!$ and stores it in y .
- ▶ How do we prove that?!

Proving programs correct

*When **P1** is run with any input x , if **P1** stops, we have $y = x!$.*

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A formal specification is important

- **Correctness** is a property relating the input and output values and the program.

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 - ▶ $(x \geq 0)$ is called the **Pre-condition** and $(y = x!)$ is called the **Post-condition**.

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- ▶ Mathematical expressions/(in)equalities over say integers: $x + 5 \leq 8 * y$, etc
- ▶ Boolean combinations
 - ▶ True, False
 - ▶ negation of an expression: $\neg(x = 0)$
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This defines what is called a “**logic**”.



Hoare Logic or Floyd-Hoare Logic

- ▶ Developed by Tony Hoare (based on Robert Floyd)
- ▶ Triples are called Hoare triples.
- ▶ Hoare won Turing Award in 1980, Floyd in 1978!

Building a proof of correctness bottom up

Consider a simple program

P2	{
<i>inp</i> \emptyset	$y := 4;$
<i>out</i> y	$x := y + 1;$
	}

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1. Thus, we can down write the program line by line

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True

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	}

$y := 4;$

$x := y + 1$

$\{x < 6\}$

1. Thus, we can down write the program line by line
2. Write down what must hold before and after as formula.

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Assignment

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3. Use “rules” to go backward! **Weakest Pre-condition**

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$\{y + 1 < 6\}$

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Building a proof of correctness bottom up

Consider a simple program

True

P2	{
inp \emptyset	$y := 4;$
out y	$x := y + 1;$
	}

$y := 4;$
 $\{y < 5\}$
 $\{y + 1 < 6\}$
 $x := y + 1$
 $\{x < 6\}$

Logically implies

Assignment

1. Thus, we can down write the program line by line
2. Write down what must hold before and after as formula.
3. Use “rules” to go backward! **Weakest Pre-condition**
4. Can also use simple reasoning over basic arithmetic.

Building a proof of correctness bottom up

Consider a simple program

P2	{
<i>inp</i> \emptyset	$y := 4;$
<i>out</i> y	$x := y + 1;$
	}

True

$\{4 < 5\}$

$y := 4;$

$\{y < 5\}$

$\{y + 1 < 6\}$

$x := y + 1$

$\{x < 6\}$

Assignment

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Logically implies

$y := 4;$

$\{y < 5\}$

Assignment

$\{y + 1 < 6\}$

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$x := y + 1$

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Using Logic for Program correctness

Main idea: Use logic to capture what must be true before and after a command.

- ▶ Break up the program into individual command lines.
- ▶ Reason about each command using a “rule”.
- ▶ Stitch them together to get a proof of desired specification.

Using Logic for Program correctness

Main idea: Use logic to capture what must be true before and after a command.

- ▶ Break up the program into individual command lines.
- ▶ Reason about each command using a “rule”.
- ▶ Stitch them together to get a proof of desired specification.
 - ▶ If $\{\varphi\}\text{Prog1}\{\psi\}$ and $\{\psi\}\text{Prog2}\{\xi\}$, then we can conclude $\{\varphi\}\text{Prog1; Prog2}\{\xi\}$.

The difficult part: the while loop!

P1

inp x

out y

```
y := 1;  
z := 0;  
while (z ≠ x){  
    z := z + 1;  
    y := y * z;  
}
```

- ▶ What must be true about the while loop?
- ▶ For it to be correct, before and after must be the same!
- ▶ This is called a **Loop invariant**
 - ▶ Starting with $x = 6$, write values of x, y, z before and after loop.

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Further we have:

- ▶ Pre-condn of while loop implies it: $(y = 1 \wedge z = 0) \implies (y = z!)$.
- ▶ Together with negation of guard, implies post-condn: $(y = z! \wedge x = z) \implies (y = x!)$ is valid.

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So, here is the full proof for the factorial program now!

The factorial example solved!

{True}

$y := 1;$

$z := 0;$

while ($z \neq x$) {

$z := z + 1;$

$y := y * z;$

P1

inp x

out y

$y := 1;$
 $z := 0;$
while ($z \neq x$) {
 $z := z + 1;$
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$z := z + 1$

$y := y * z$

}

{ $y = x!$ }

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inp x

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 $y := 1;$ 
 $z := 0;$ 
while ( $z \neq x$ ){
     $z := z + 1;$ 
     $y := y * z;$ 
}
```

$\{y = z!\} \quad$ Loop Inv. and Guard

$z := z + 1$

$y := y * z$
 $\{y = z!\}$
}

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while ($z \neq x$)
{ $y = z!$ \wedge $z \neq x$ }

Loop Inv. and Guard

$z := z + 1$
{ $y \cdot z = z!$ }

$y := y * z$
{ $y = z!$ }
}

Assignment

{ $y = x!$ }

The factorial example solved!

{True}

$y := 1;$

$z := 0;$

P1
inp x
out y

	$y := 1;$
	$z := 0;$
	$\text{while } (z \neq x) \{$
	$z := z + 1;$
	$y := y * z;$
	}

$\text{while } (z \neq x) \{$
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$z := z + 1$
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Implied

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Assignment

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 $while (z \neq x) {$
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 $z := z + 1$
 $\{y \cdot z = z!\}$ Assignment
 $y := y * z$
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}
 $\{y = z! \wedge \neg(z \neq x)\}$ Loop Inv. and Not of Guard
 $\{y = x!\}$

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{ $y = z!$ } Assignment
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{ $y = z! \wedge \neg(z \neq x)$ } Loop Inv. and Not of Guard
{ $y = x!$ } Implied

The factorial example solved!

P1	$y := 1;$
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	}

$\{True\}$

$\{1 = 0!\}$

$y := 1;$

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$\{y = z! \wedge z \neq x\}$ Loop Inv. and Guard

$\{y \cdot (z + 1) = (z + 1)!\}$ Implied

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What is a talk without some HomeWork?

Ex1 <i>inp</i> x, y <i>out</i> z	$a := 0;$ $z := 0;$ $while (a \neq y) {$ $z := z + x;$ $a := a + 1;$ }
--	---

Ex2	$r := x;$ $d := 0;$ $while (r \geq y) {$ $r := r - y;$ $d := d + 1;$ }
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Exercise Show correctness

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Exercise

1. What does the program *Ex2* do? Figure out Hoare triples and show correctness.

A few points to note

We “guessed” the loop invariant!

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- ▶ Difficult with more complicated programs \sim 1 Million lines of code!
- ▶ Can you automate it?

Can we automate program verification?

Can we write programs to get such proofs of correctness of other programs?

- ▶ Programmer still has to provide the “intended” loop invariant.
- ▶ But verifying if they are correct is easy and can be automated,
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But...



aints.

On the role of logic in CS

A whole zoo of logics depending on the application/system of interest.

- ▶ Propositional and predicate logic
- ▶ Temporal logic
- ▶ Much more.. see in CS 228.

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2. Socrates is a man

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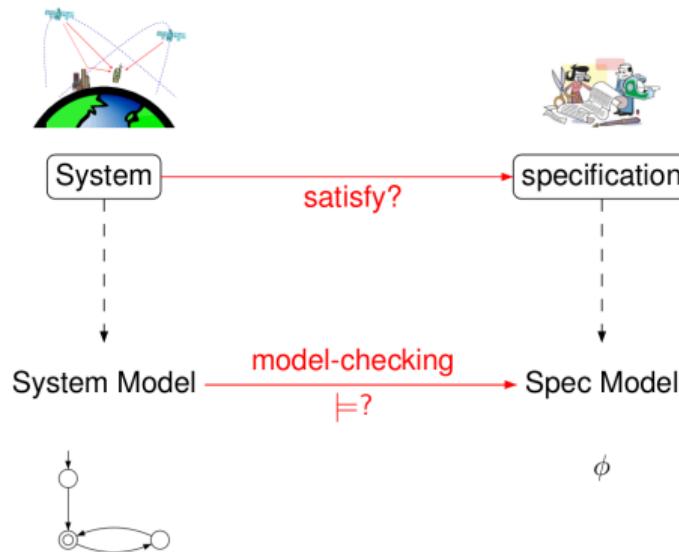
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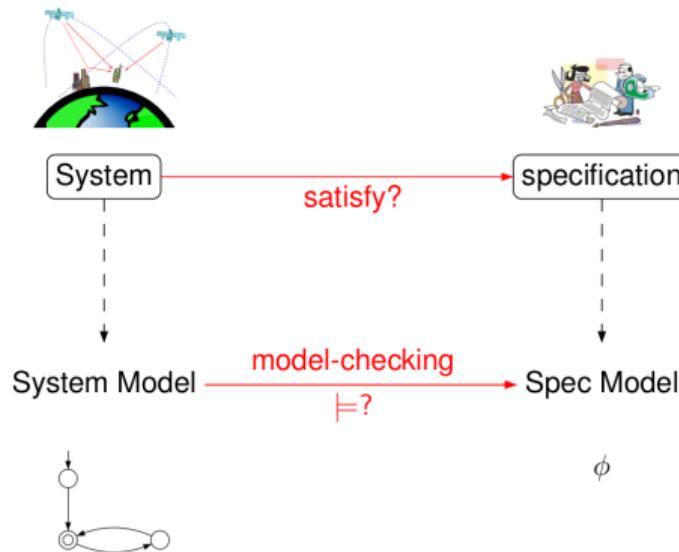
1. A barber shaves all those who don't shave themselves
2. The barber needs a shave

Who shaves the barber?

On the role of logic in CS: Model checking

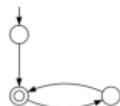
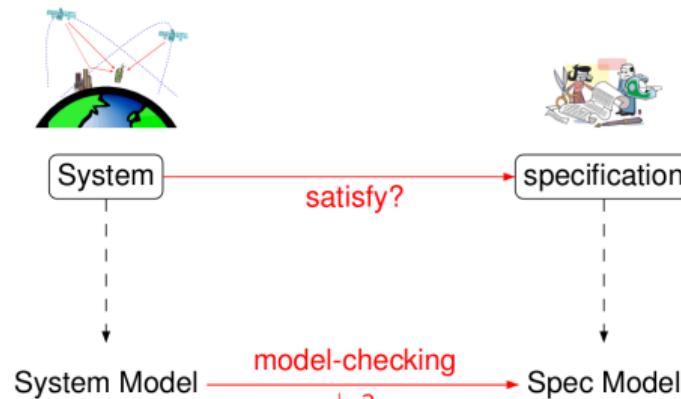


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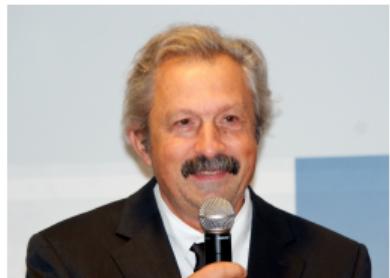


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ϕ



- ▶ Widely used in hardware and software verification
- ▶ More Turing awards:
 - ▶ Amir Pnueli in 1997
 - ▶ Ed Clarke, E. Allen Emerson, Joseph Sifakis in 2007

Part 2: Computability

Let's go back to our simple program

	$y := 1;$
	$z := 0;$
P1	$while (z \neq x) \{$
<i>inp x</i>	$z := z + 1;$
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Stopping matters

- ▶ Correctness: when it stops it satisfies the specification.
- ▶ Termination: it always stops and it satisfies the specification.

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E.g., $\{\text{True}\} \mathbf{P1} \{y = x!\}$ is correct; $\{x \geq 0\} \mathbf{P1} \{y = x!\}$ is correct and terminates.

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- ▶ for correctness of while loop, we have an **invariant**.
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 - ▶ hence, it can decrease only finitely many times and hence the loop terminates.
 - ▶ Such an expression is called a **variant**.

Revisiting the Factorial example

P1 <i>inp</i> x <i>out</i> y	$y := 1;$ $z := 0;$ $while (z \neq x) \{$ $z := z + 1;$ $y := y * z;$ }
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- ▶ Note that it is always nonnegative.
- ▶ When it is 0, the loop terminates!

Can we always get variants to show loop termination?

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Consider the program

P3 <i>inp x</i> <i>out c</i>	$c := x;$ <i>while</i> ($c \neq 1$) { <i>if</i> ($c \bmod 2 = 0$) { $c := c/2$ }; <i>else</i> { $c := 3 * c + 1$; } }
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Let us try our some runs:

- ▶ If input $x = 4$, then
- ▶ If input $x = 5$, then
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This is called the **Collatz function**.

- ▶ There is no known initial value $x > 0$ for which Collatz does not terminate.
- ▶ But there is no known proof that it always terminates!

So, how hard is Program Termination?

It is in fact impossible! But what does that even mean?

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An impossible program

- ▶ For any program P , can “we say” if program P halts?
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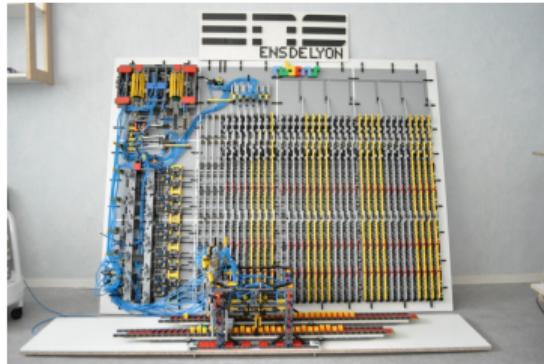
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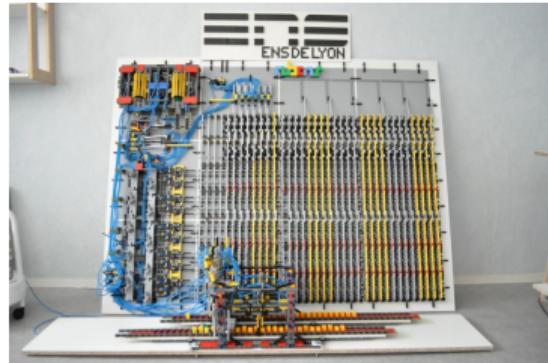
- ▶ The Church-Turing Hypothesis
- ▶ Capture our intuitive notion of an “algorithm”
- ▶ Foundation of modern computers and programs

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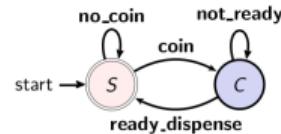
Formalizing computability: Turing machines



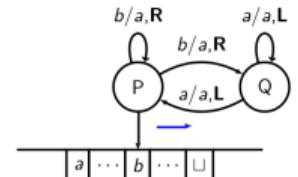
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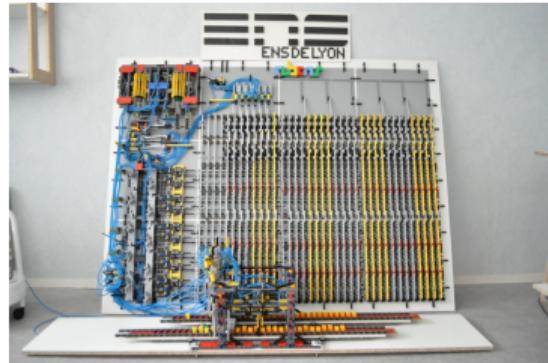
Finite instruction machine with finite memory (Finite State Automata)



Finite instruction machine with unbounded memory (Turing machine)



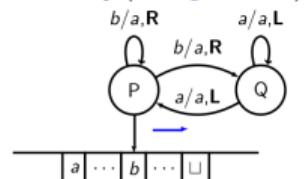
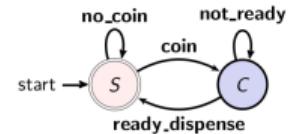
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- ▶ A theoretical model for computability
- ▶ Basis of modern computers and programs
- ▶ Much more about this in CS310: Automata theory course

An impossible program: a historical proof!

Correspondence

*To the Editor,
The Computer Journal.*

An impossible program

Sir,

A well-known piece of folk-lore among programmers holds that it is impossible to write a program which can examine any other program and tell, in every case, if it will terminate or get into a closed loop when it is run. I have never actually seen a proof of this in print, and though Alan Turing once gave me a verbal proof (in a railway carriage on the way to a Conference at the NPL in 1953), I unfortunately and promptly forgot the details. This left me with an uneasy feeling that the proof must be long or complicated, but in fact it is so short and simple that it may be of interest to casual readers. The version below uses CPL, but not in any essential way.

Suppose $T[R]$ is a Boolean function taking a routine (or program) R with no formal or free variables as its argument and that for all R , $T[R] = \text{True}$ if R terminates if run and that $T[R] = \text{False}$ if R does not terminate. Consider the routine P defined as follows

```
rec routine P
    § L : if  $T[P]$  go to L
    Return §
```

If $T[P] = \text{True}$ the routine P will loop, and it will only terminate if $T[P] = \text{False}$. In each case $T[P]$ has exactly the wrong value, and this contradiction shows that the function T cannot exist.

Yours faithfully,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
C. STRACHEY.

Figure: From C. Strachey's letter to the editor, The Computer Journal, Volume 7, Issue 4, January 1965

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An impossible program

Sir,

A well-known piece of folk-lore among programmers holds that it is impossible to write a program which can examine any other program and tell, in every case, if it will terminate or get into a closed loop when it is run. I have never actually seen a proof of this in print, and though Alan Turing once gave me a verbal proof (in a railway carriage on the way to a Conference at the NPL in 1953), I unfortunately and promptly forgot the details. This left me with an uneasy feeling that the proof must be long or complicated, but in fact it is so short and simple that it may be of interest to casual readers. The version below uses CPL, but not in any essential way.

Suppose $T[R]$ is a Boolean function taking a routine (or program) R with no formal or free variables as its argument and that for all R , $T[R] = \text{True}$ if R terminates if run and that $T[R] = \text{False}$ if R does not terminate. Consider the routine P defined as follows

```
rec routine P
    § L : if  $T[P]$  go to L
    Return §
```

If $T[P] = \text{True}$ the routine P will loop, and it will only terminate if $T[P] = \text{False}$. In each case $T[P]$ has exactly the wrong value, and this contradiction shows that the function T cannot exist.

Yours faithfully,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
C. STRACHEY.

Figure: From C. Strachey's letter to the editor, The Computer Journal, Volume 7, Issue 4, January 1965

- ▶ A proof goes via “diagonalization”! (hint: can you show that real numbers are uncountable?)

Conclusion

To know what you can do, you must know what you can't!

A few take home points

- ▶ To solve a problem, you need to formalize it: to model and reason.
- ▶ Logic is a calculus for (automated) reasoning.
- ▶ Automata and Turing machines are models of computation.
- ▶ There are problems that are hard for a computer to solve .. and then there are problems that are impossible!
- ▶ From impossibility rises possibilities: what to do when faced with impossible problems?