

Problem 7:

A configuration σ of the LPA M consists of

- the current state of M
- contents of all tape cells
- position of the tape head

Idea: An LPA has finitely many configurations, so if we check for repetition of any configuration, we can stop it from running forever and reject the input.

For input w

$$\text{let } |w| = n$$

Q be the finite states of M

Γ be the tape alphabet of M

Total number of possible configurations is at most $|Q| \times n \times |\Gamma|^n$

By pigeonhole principle, if M runs for more than ~~more than~~ these many steps, then some configuration must repeat, causing it to loop forever.

Construct a decider D , which on input $\langle M, w \rangle$

- compute $\text{MAX} = |Q| \times n \times |\Gamma|^n$
- simulate M on input w for at most MAX steps
- If M accepts w within MAX steps, accept
- Reject in all other cases.