

In a **nondeterministic Turing machine**, NTM for short, the transition function  $\delta$  is set-valued:

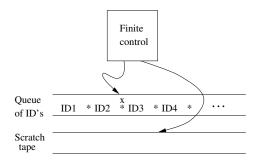
$$\delta(q,X) = \{(q_1, Y_1, D_1), (q_2, Y_2, D_2), \dots, (q_k, Y_k, D_k)\}\$$

At each step, the NTM chooses one of the triples as the next move

The NTM accepts an input w if there exists a sequence of choices that leads from the initial ID for w to an ID with an accepting state

**Theorem** For each NTM  $M_N$ , there exists a (deterministic) TM  $M_D$  such that  $L(M_N) = L(M_D)$ 

**Proof** (skecth) We specify  $M_D$  as a TM with two tapes



A single ID in the queue (first) tape is marked as being processed

 $M_D$  performs the following cycle

- copy the marked ID from the queue tape to the scratch (second) tape
- for each possible move of  $M_N$ , add a new ID at the end of queue tape
- move the marker in the queue tape to the next ID

Let m be the maximum number of choices for  $M_N$ . After n moves,  $M_N$  reaches a number of ID bounded by

$$1+m+m^2+\cdots+m^n \leq nm^n+1$$

 $M_D$  explores all the IDs reached by  $M_N$  in n steps before each ID reached in n+1 steps, as in a **breadth first** search

If there exists an accepting ID for  $M_N$  on w,  $M_D$  reaches this ID in a finite amount of time. Otherwise,  $M_D$  does not accept, and may not halt

We therefore conclude that 
$$L(M_N) = L(M_D)$$

Observe that the TM  $M_D$  in the previous theorem can take an amount of time exponentially larger than  $M_N$  to accept an input string

We do not know if this slowdown is necessary: this very important issue will be the subject of investigation in a next chapter

#### TM with restrictions

We impose some restrictions on the definition of TM / multi-tape TM:

- tape is unlimited only in one direction
- two tapes used in stack mode

We prove that these models are equivalent to TM

Think about the above definitions as normal forms

These models are especially useful in some proofs that we will present later on

#### In a TM with semi-infinite tape

- there are no cells to the left of the initial tape position
- a tape symbol can never be overwritten by the blank B

In a TM with semi-infinite tape each ID is a sequence of tape symbols other than B, i.e., there are no "holes"

We can simulate a TM by means of a TM with semi-infinite tape with two tracks

- the upper track represents the initial position X<sub>0</sub> and all tape cells to its right
- the lower track represents all tape cells to the left of  $X_0$ , in reverse order
- a special symbol \* is used to mark the initial position

$X_0$	<i>X</i> <sub>1</sub>	$X_2$	
*	X <sub>-1</sub>	X <sub>-2</sub>	

**Theorem** Each language accepted by a TM  $M_2$  is also accepted by a TM  $M_1$  with semi-infinite tape

**Proof** (sketch) First, we modify  $M_2$  in such a way that it uses a new tape symbol B' each time B is used to overwrite a tape symbol

Let  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \Gamma_2, \delta_2, q_2, B, F_2)$  be the modified TM. We define

$$M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma \times \{B\}, \Gamma_1, \delta_1, q_0, [B, B], F_1)$$

The states of  $M_1$  are  $Q_1 = \{q_0, q_1\} \cup (Q_2 \times \{U, L\})$ . Symbols U, L indicate whether  $M_1$  is visiting the upper or lower track

The input symbols of  $M_1$  are pairs [a, B] with a an input symbol of  $M_2$ 

The tape symbols  $\Gamma_1$  of  $M_1$  are pairs in  $\Gamma_2 \times \Gamma_2$  with the addition of pairs [X,\*] for each  $X \in \Gamma_2$ , where \* is used to mark the initial position of  $M_1$  tape

The accepting symbols of  $M_1$  are  $F_1 = F_2 \times \{U, L\}$ 

#### Transitions in $\delta_1$ implement the following moves

- place \* on the initial position, in the lower track, and restore the initial conditions of  $M_2$
- when  $M_1$  is not in the initial cell, the moves of  $M_2$  are simulated with
  - the same direction if *U* appears in the state
  - the reverse direction if L appears in the state
- upon reading \*
  - if  $M_2$  moves to the right,  $M_1$  simulates the same move
  - if  $M_2$  moves to the left,  $M_1$  simulates the same move but it

It can be shown by induction on the number of steps of a computation that the IDs of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  match, modulo

- the reversal of the L track of  $M_1$
- its concatenation on the left with the U track of  $M_1$
- the elimination of the \* marker

It follows that 
$$L(M_1) = L(M_2)$$



We apply to a multi-tape TM the restriction to use each tape in stack mode

- can only overwrite at the top
- can only insert at the top
- can only delete at the top

The resulting model accepts only recursively enumerable language, since it is a restriction of a multi tape TM

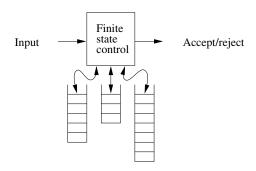
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### Multi-Stack machine

Let *M* be a multi-tape TM with tapes used in stack mode. We also assume that

- the input is provided in an external, read-only tape and with end-marker \$, and it can only be read from left to right
- M can perform  $\epsilon$ -moves, but these moves must not be in conflict with each other or with other reading moves (determinism)

M is called a **multi-stack machine**, and can be viewed as a generalization of the deterministic PDA



In a multi-stack machine with k stacks, a **transition rule** has the form

$$\delta(q, a, X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k) = (p, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_k)$$

In words, when the machine is in state q and reads input symbol  $a \in \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$ , and with  $X_i$  on top of the i-th stack,  $1 \le i \le k$ , it moves to state p and replaces each  $X_i$  with  $\gamma_i$ 

**Theorem** If a language *L* is accepted by a TM, then *L* is accepted by a multi-stack machine with two stacks

**Proof** (sketch) Let L = L(M) for a TM M. We construct a machine S with two stacks, having special symbols used as markers at the bottom of the stack

The basic idea is to

- simulate the tape to the left of the current position with the first stack
- simulate the tape starting from the current position and extending to the right with the second stack

The transition rules of S implement the following strategy

- copy the input w\$ into the first stack
- move the contents of the first stack into the second stack
- if M overwrites X with Y and moves to the right, S pushes Y
   on the first stack and pops X from the second stack
- if M overwrites X with Y and moves to the left, S pops the symbol Z from the first stack and replaces X with ZY in the second stack
- in addition, S employs some special moves to handle the case where M is located at the end points of the tape (one of the two stacks contains the bottom marker)
- S accepts whenever M accepts

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## TM and computer

**Theorem** If a language *L* is accepted by a modern computer, then *L* is accepted by a TM

**Proof** Omitted