Problem Set #08

November 7, 2019

1. Consider the lang XOR = $\{M, x, y | M \text{ is a TM that halts on precisely one of the strings x or y}\}$

Intuition: We can't determine if one of them is going to loop forever or will eventually halt.

Proof by mapping reduction:

Show that co- A_{TM} reduces to XOR. Assume for the sake of contradiction that TM R decides XOR. Then construct a TM S that uses R to decide co- A_{TM}

- S ="on input M, x, y:
 - 1. Simulate M on X

if M accepts or rejects x, have M loop forever on y

if M accepts or rejects y, have M loop forever on x

else: reject

- 2. Run R on M, x, y to determine if it accepts one and loops on the other.
- 3. if R accepts, M rejects, otherwise M accepts.

We know this properly maps because either x or y will halt and the other will loop forever. Therefore we we have built a recognizer for $co-A_{TM}$ which we know is not r.e. This is a contradiction, thus XOR is not r.e.

Now we can prove that co-A_{TM} maps to co-XOR.

Proof by mapping reduction:

Show that co- A_{TM} reduces to co-XOR. Assume for the sake of contradiction that TM R decides co-XOR. Then construct a TM S that uses R to recognize co- A_{TM}

- S = "on input M, x, y:
 - 1. Simulate M on x

if M accepts or rejects x, and accepts or rejects y, accept

else: loop

- 2. Run R on M, x, y to determine if it halts on both or loops on both.
- 3. if R accepts, M accepts,

We know this properly maps because either x and y will halt or both will loop forever. Therefore we have built a recognizer for $co-A_{TM}$ which we know is not r.e. This is a contradiction, thus co-XOR is not r.e.

Thus we have proven that XOR is neither r.e. or co-r.e.