

# Turing Machines and Decidability

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# I want to Begin With... J K Rowling's Quote

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default.

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A language is Turing-recognizable if some Turing machine recognizes it.

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- Looping may entail any simple or complex behavior that never leads to a halting state.



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- A **decider** that recognizes some language also is said to **decide** that language.

# Decidable

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- Every decidable language is Turing-recognizable.

# Multi-tape Turing Machine

## Theorem

Every multitape Turing machine has an equivalent single-tape Turing machine.

# Proof Sketch



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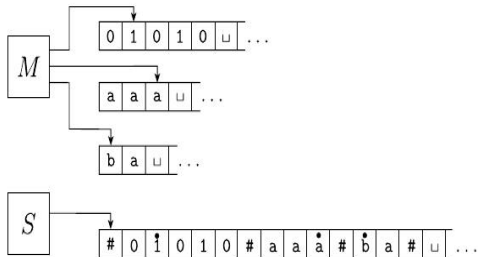
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- As before, the “dotted” tape symbols are simply new symbols that have been added to the tape alphabet.

# Representing three tapes with Single tape



# Proof Contd..

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  - ① First S puts its tape into the format that represents all  $k$  tapes of  $M$  .
  - ② The formatted tape contains

$$\# \overset{\bullet}{w_1} w_2 \dots w_n \# \overset{\bullet}{\sqcup} \overset{\bullet}{\sqcup} \# \dots \#.$$

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  - Then S makes a second pass
    - To update the tapes according to the way that M's transition function dictates.





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- So  $S$  writes a blank symbol on this tape cell and shifts the tape contents, from this cell until the rightmost  $\#$ , one unit to the right.
- Then it continues the simulation as before.

# Complexity

## Theorem

The time taken by the one-tape TM  $N$  to simulate  $n$  moves of the  $k$  – tape TM  $M$  is  $O(n^2)$ .

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## Proof

## Exercise

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- Ancient mathematical literature contains descriptions of algorithms for a variety of tasks,
  - Finding prime numbers and greatest common divisors.



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- Before that, mathematicians had an intuitive notion of what algorithms were.
- And relied upon that notion when using and describing them.
- But that intuitive notion was insufficient for gaining a deeper understanding of algorithms.

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- In 1900, mathematician David Hilbert delivered a now-famous address at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Paris.
- In his lecture, he identified **23 mathematical problems**
- And **posed** them as a challenge for the coming century.
- **The tenth problem on his list concerned algorithms.**



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  - Some polynomials have an integral root and some do not.

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  - Hilbert explicitly asked that an algorithm be “devised.”
  - Thus he apparently assumed that such an algorithm **must exist**.
  - Someone need only find it.

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- It was useless for showing that no algorithm exists for a particular task.
- Proving that an algorithm does not exist requires having a clear definition of algorithm.
- Progress on the tenth problem had to wait for that definition.

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- These two definitions were shown to be equivalent.
- This connection between the informal notion of algorithm and the precise definition has come to be called the **ChurchTuring thesis**.

# Church-Turing Thesis

<i>Intuitive notion of algorithms</i>	<i>equals</i>	<i>Turing machine algorithms</i>
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THANK YOU