

# COL 352 Introduction to Automata and Theory of Computation

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March 30, 2023

Lecture 25: Undecidability

# Recap

- ▶ Turing machines - definition (single tape, deterministic), examples.
- ▶ Languages - Turing recognizable vs Turing decidable
- ▶ Robustness: TMs are extremely robust
- ▶ Variants: k-tapes, doubly infinite tapes, Enumerators, NTMs, Queue machines, 2 stacks, counter machines,...

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- ▶ Today: undecidability.

# Turing recognizability vs Decidability

## *Definition*

A language  $L$  is said to be Turing recognizable if there is a Turing machine  $M$  such that  $\forall w \in L$ ,  $M$  has at least one accepting run on  $w$ . For words not in  $L$

- ▶ the machine may run forever
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A language  $L$  is said to be Turing decidable if there is a Turing machine  $M$  such that for all  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $M$  halts on  $w$  and

- ▶ if  $w \in L$ ,  $M$  has an accepting run on  $w$ .
- ▶ if  $w \notin L$ , all runs of  $M$  on  $w$  are rejecting runs.

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- ▶ Reading exercise: Theorems 4.2-4.9 in Sipser's book.

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- ▶ Reading exercise: Theorems 4.2-4.9 in Sipser's book.
- ▶ Important: Encoding programs as data.

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Any encoding of TMs will have a null character, say 010101. Then for any string  $\alpha \in \{0,1\}^*$ , suppose it represents machine  $M$  then all strings of the form  $(010101)^*\alpha$  also represent the same machine  $M$ .

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# Cantor's diagonalisation

*Theorem (Cantor, 1891)*

*There is no bijection between  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  (set of all subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ ).*

*Proof.*

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there is a bijection, say  $f$ , between set of all subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$ .

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The inverted diagonal set does not belong to any of the existing sets! □

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- ▶ Therefore, set of all languages is uncountable.
- ▶ However, the set of all TMs is countable. ( $\{0,1\}^*$  is countable.)
- ▶ There must be a language which is not Turing recognizable.

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Is  $A_{TM}$  decidable?

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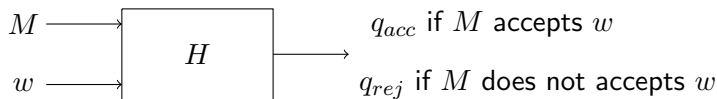
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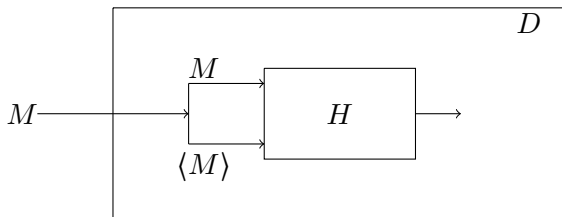
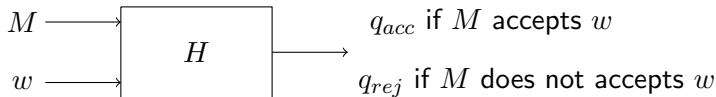


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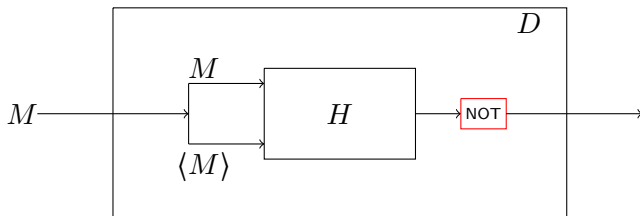
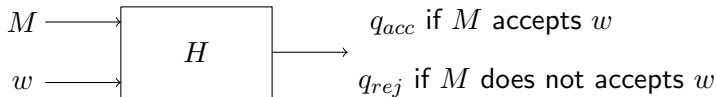


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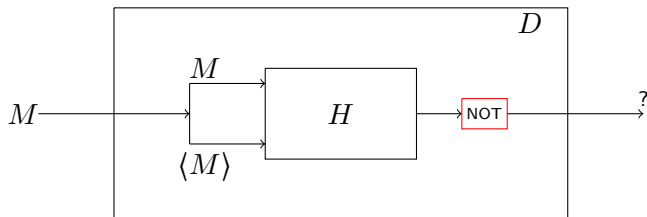
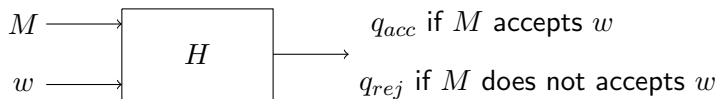


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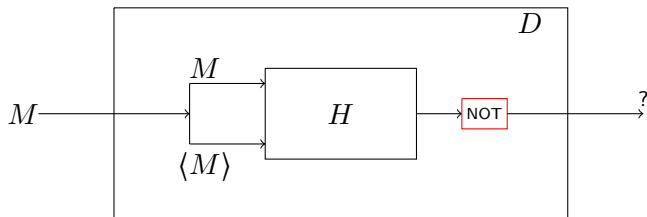
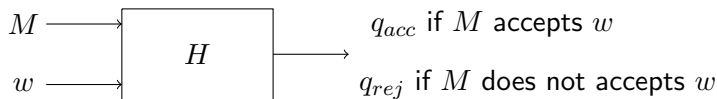


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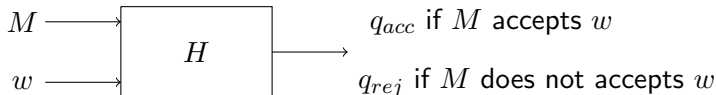


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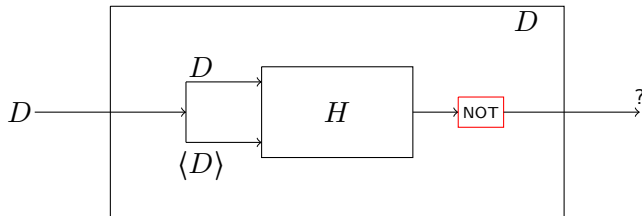
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What happens if we give  $D$  as input to itself?

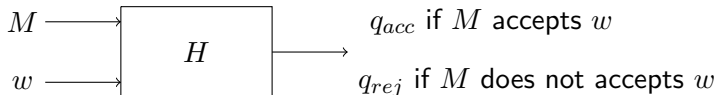


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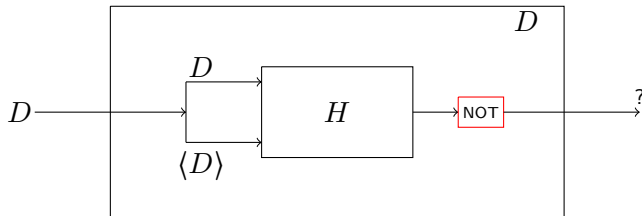
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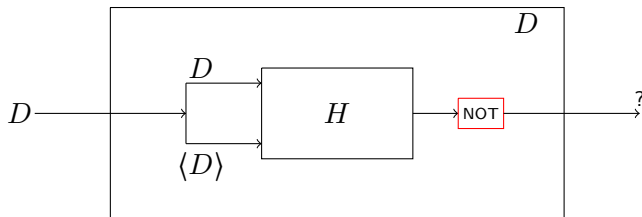
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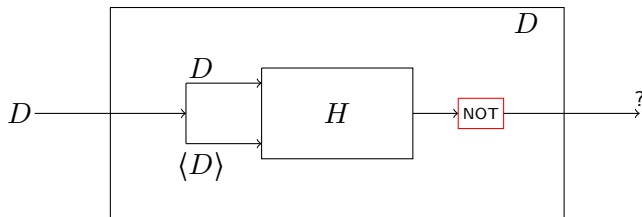
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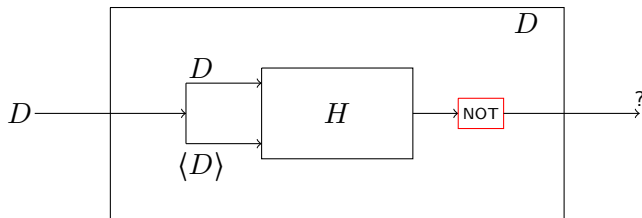
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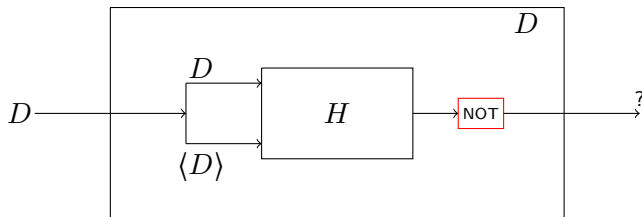


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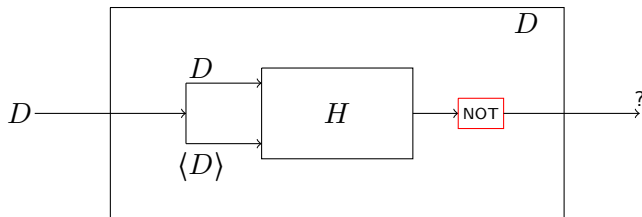
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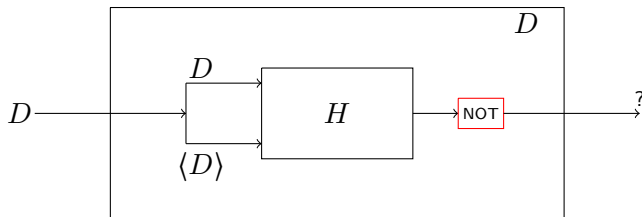
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# Diagonalization inside the proof

Behaviour of the machines.

	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	.....	.....
$M_1$	✓		✓	✓...	.....

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	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	.....	.....
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$M_2$	✓	×		×	... ✓ ... × ✓ ...

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Behaviour of the machines.

	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	.....	.....
$M_1$	✓		✓	✓ ...	.....
$M_2$	✓	×		×	... ✓ ... × ✓ ...
$M_3$	×	×	✓	... ×	✓ .....
⋮					
⋮					

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⋮					
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$M_3$	×	×	✓	... ×	✓ .....
⋮					
⋮					

# Diagonalization inside the proof

Behaviour of  $D$ .

	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	.....	.....
$M_1$	<del>✓</del> ✗	✗	✓	✓ ...	.....
$M_2$	✓	<del>✗</del> ✓	✗	✗ ...	✓ ... ✗ ✓ ...
$M_3$	✗	✗	<del>✓</del> ✗	... ✗	✓ .....
⋮					
⋮					

# Diagonalization inside the proof

Behaviour of  $D$  on itself.

	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\dots \langle D \rangle \dots$	$\dots$
$M_1$	<del>✓</del> ✗	✗	✓	✓ ...	$\dots$
$M_2$	✓	<del>✗</del> ✓	✗	✗ ...	✓ ... ✗ ✓ ...
$M_3$	✗	✗	<del>✓</del> ✗	$\dots$ ✗	✓ $\dots$
$\vdots$					
$\vdots$					
$D$				$\dots$ ? $\dots$	$\dots$

# Back to Comparing decidability and recognizability

## *Theorem*

*A language  $L$  is Turing decidable if and only if  $L$  and  $\overline{L}$  are both Turing recognizable.*



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## *Corollary*

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