

(1) (10 points) Let  $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$  be a language, and let  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  be its complement, i.e. the set of all finite binary strings that don't belong to  $\mathcal{L}$ . Prove that  $\mathcal{L}$  is decidable if and only if both  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  are recognizable.

Claim:  $\mathcal{L}$  is decidable iff both  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  are recognizable.

Sub claim:  $\mathcal{L}$  is decidable if both  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  are recognizable.

Proof: Suppose  $\mathcal{L}$  is decidable. By definition, this means there exists some function  $M$  which can either reject or accept on every possible input  $x$  as being a member of  $\mathcal{L}$ .  $M$  cannot possibly fail to terminate in finite time by the definition of decidable. Using this same function  $M$ , it is clear that for all inputs which are elements of  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $M$  will accept  $x$ . Thus,  $M$  recognizes  $\mathcal{L}$ . Using a slightly modified  $M$  which switches the outputs (if  $M$  accepts  $x$  then  $x$  is not in the language and if  $M$  rejects  $x$  then  $x$  is a member of the language), then this modified  $M$  recognizes  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ . As both  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  are recognizable the subclaim holds.

Sub claim: if both  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  are recognizable, then  $\mathcal{L}$  is decidable.

Proof: Suppose that both  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  are recognizable. By definition of recognizable, we know there must exist some  $M$  which recognizes  $\mathcal{L}$  and some  $M'$  which recognizes  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ . Thus given some input  $x$  which is an element of  $\{0, 1\}^*$  we can run both  $M$  and  $M'$  on input  $x$ . If  $M$  accepts  $x$  then it is a member of  $\mathcal{L}$  and if  $x$  is accepted by  $M'$  then it is a member of  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  and thus not a member of  $\mathcal{L}$ . As both  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  are recognized by  $M$  and  $M'$  respectively, we know that  $M$  and  $M'$  must accept all members of their respective languages in finite time. Running  $M$  and  $M'$  together will always see at least one terminate in finite time as all inputs which are an element of  $\{0, 1\}^*$  are either an element of  $\mathcal{L}$  or  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ . Thus, on all possible inputs we can either accept or reject all inputs in finite time based on the outputs of  $M$  and  $M'$  running together as our function. As we can either accept or reject every input as either an element of  $\mathcal{L}$  or not an element of  $\mathcal{L}$  in finite time,  $\mathcal{L}$  is decidable.

Proof: As both sub claims hold, we can conclude that the original claim holds.