

Turing Machine Example

Write a TM that begins with a number in unary on the tape and doubles it.

Before:

111
^

After:

111111
^

Start with pseudocode

Algorithm design always comes before coding.

Think in terms of simple things a TM can do, like:

- Move right to next blank
- Replace 1 with 0
- Erase 1
- etc.

Each takes a few TM instructions.

Double unary number

High level idea:

- delete a 1 at source
- write two 1s at destination
- repeat until source empty

Double unary number

Low-level pseudocode:

Erase 1

Move right to next blank (end of source)

Move right to next blank (end of destination)

Write two 1s

Move left to next blank (end of source)

Move left

If blank

 Move right twice and exit (Done! Start of destination)

Else

 Move left to next blank

 Move right (to start of source) and goto beginning

Double unary number simulation

11

^

Erase 1

B1

^

Move right to next blank (end of source)

B1B

^

Double unary number simulation

B1B

^

Move right to next blank (end of destination)

B1BB

^

Write two 1s

B1B11

^

Double unary number simulation

B1B11

^

Move left to next blank (end of source)

B1B11

^

Move left

B1B11

^

Double unary number simulation

B1B11

^

If blank

Move right twice and exit (Done! Start of destination)

Else

Move left to next blank

Move right (to start of source) and goto beginning

B1B11

^

B1B11

^

Double unary number simulation

B1B11

^

Erase 1

BBB11

^

Move right to next blank (end of source)

BBB11

^

Double unary number simulation

BBB11

^

Move right to next blank (end of destination)

BBB11B

^

Write two 1s

BBB1111

^

Double unary number simulation

BBB1111

^

Move left to next blank (end of source)

BBB1111

^

Move left

BBB1111

^

Double unary number simulation

BBB1111

^

If blank

Move right twice and exit (Done! Start of destination)

Else

Move left to next blank

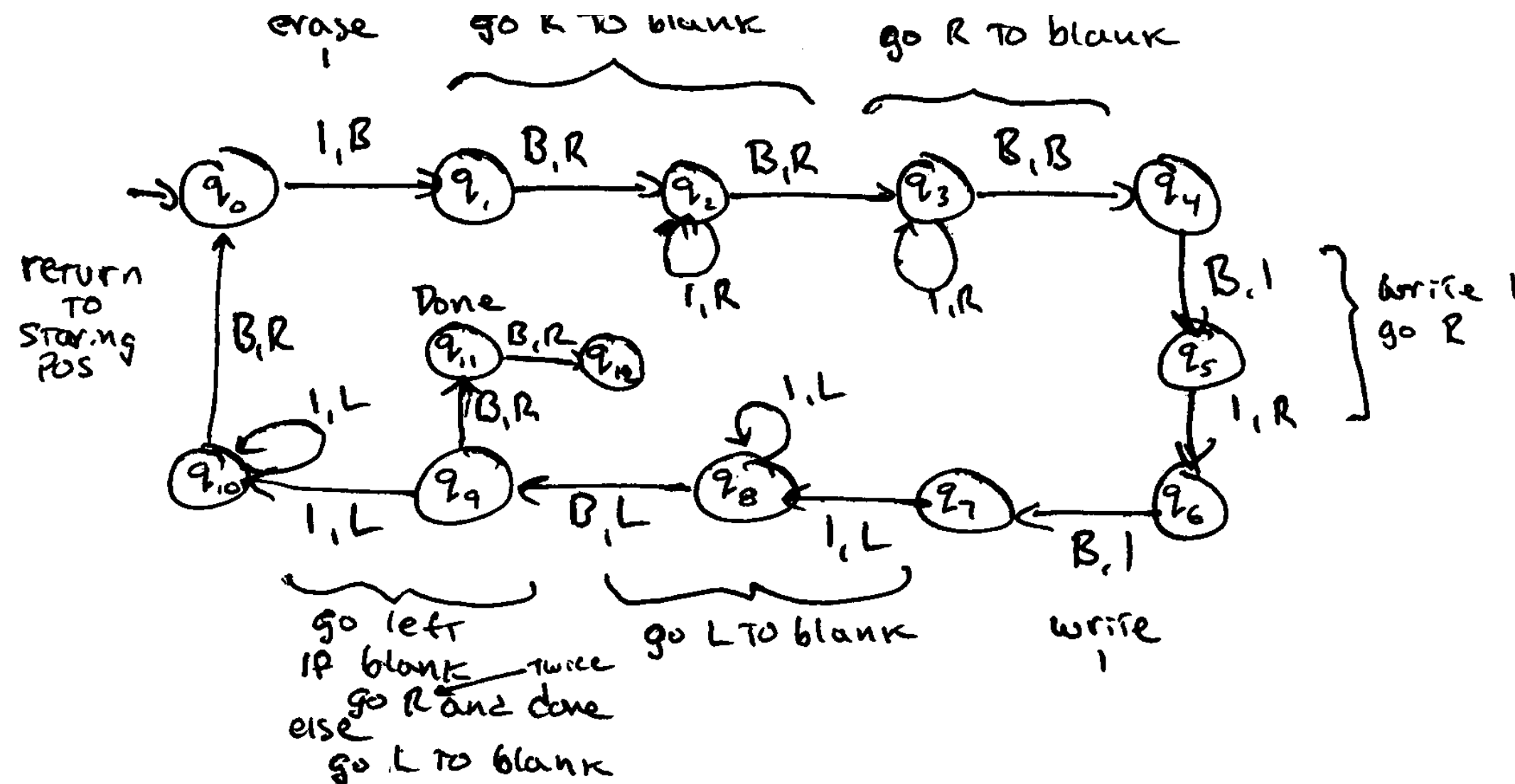
Move right (to start of source) and goto beginning

BBB1111

^

Double unary number TM

Turning each step into TM instructions:



Double unary number TM

Each arrow expressed as a TM instruction:

q0 1 B q1	q1 B R q2	q2 1 R q2
q2 B R q3	q3 1 R q3	q3 B B q4
q4 B 1 q5	q5 1 R q6	q6 B 1 q7
q7 1 L q8	q8 1 L q8	q8 B L q9
q9 1 L q10	q10 1 L q10	q10 B R q0
q9 B R q11	q11 B R q12	

If I ask you to give a text representation of a TM, do it this way.

Test

Be sure to give your TM some test inputs to ensure it works correctly.

- Edge cases: zero 1's and one 1.
- General case: two 1's.

Zero 1's

B
^

No instruction for this configuration.

Termination.

$0 \times 2 = 0$

Correct

One 1

1

^

Erase 1

B

^

Move right to next blank (end of source)

BB

^

Double unary number simulation

BB

^

Move right to next blank (end of destination)

BBB

^

Write two 1s

BB11

^

Double unary number simulation

BB11
^

Move left to next blank (end of source)

BB11
^

Move left

BB11
^

Double unary number simulation

BB11

^

If blank

Move right twice and exit (Done! Start of destination)

Else

Move left to next blank

Move right (to start of source) and goto beginning

BB11

^