

## 1. nLRA Problem (40 points)

Recall the definition of a *Lovesick Robot Automaton (LRA)*. A *Lovesick Robot Automaton* is a type of machine which takes a **finite** string as input, and generates an **infinite** pattern. We think of the LRA as starting at position 1 on an infinite tape and moving right in a sequence of steps, and at each step it decides to either mark the current cell on the tape with a  $\heartsuit$  or to not mark anything, i.e. it leaves a blank character, which we denote with  $\sqcup$ . The LRA has the following characteristics:

- Just as in the case of a DFA, a LRA is a five tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ . However, after a LRA has processed the last character of the input string, it goes back to the first character. So a LRA processes the string repeatedly in an infinite loop. Each step of the robot corresponds to a state transition.
- The set  $F$  is now called the set of *marking states*. At each step, if the new state is a marking state then the robot marks the new cell with a  $\heartsuit$ . Otherwise, the robot does not make a mark in this position, i.e. it leaves it blank ( $\sqcup$ )
- It is only after processing the first symbol of the input that the LRA either creates a mark  $\heartsuit$  or leaves a blank  $\sqcup$ , depending on what state the LRA enters after processing this first symbol.

Define a *New Lovesick Robot Automaton (nLRA)* to be an LRA which can decide at each step which direction to move on the infinite tape. In other words, the transition function is now defined as  $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q \times \{L, R\}$ . If  $\delta(q, a) = (q', R)$  then the robot moves **right** on the tape and leaves a  $\heartsuit$  if  $q'$  is a marking state. Likewise, if  $\delta(q, a) = (q', L)$  then the robot moves **left** on the tape and leaves a  $\heartsuit$  if  $q'$  is a marking state. (If the robot is at position 1 and tries to move left then it just stays at position 1.)

We will explore the question of using a Turing Machine to decide questions about nLRAs. To that end, denote by  $\langle\langle R \rangle\rangle$  an encoding of an nLRA  $R$ .

- (a) (20 points) Rigorously prove the following new “pumping lemma” for nLRAs:

**Lemma 1.** *For any nLRA  $M$  and any string  $s$ , there exist  $w, z \in \{L, R\}^*$  such that the **pattern of directions taken by the robot** when executing  $M(s)$  is of the form  $wzzzzz \dots$ .*

- (b) (20 points) Show the language

$$L = \{(\langle\langle R \rangle\rangle, s) \mid \text{For all } n \in \mathbb{N}, R(s) \text{ eventually visits the } n\text{-th cell on the infinite tape}\}$$

is decidable.

## 2. Libra Machines (85 points)

In this problem, we define a Turing machine variant called a Libra Machine (LM). A Libra Machine has a total of three tapes: in addition to its regular tape, it has two *machine tapes*. The LM can write to the three tapes in the ordinary way, but it has an extra trick up its sleeve. At any given moment, the LM can go into a special *query state* and perform a *language equality query*. Suppose an ordinary Turing Machine representation  $\langle M_1 \rangle$  is stored on the first machine tape of an LM  $T$ , and another ordinary Turing Machine representation  $\langle M_2 \rangle$  is stored on the second machine tape of  $T$ . If  $T$  enters the query state, then immediately  $T$  learns whether  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$ . In particular, if  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$ , then  $T$  enters a special state called the *yes state* without consuming any input or moving the tape. If  $L(M_1) \neq L(M_2)$  then  $T$  enters another special state called the *no state*. We say that a language  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$  is Libra recognizable (respectively, Libra decidable) if there exists an LM  $T$  recognizing (respectively, deciding)  $L$ .

**Note:** Throughout this problem,  $\langle M \rangle$  denotes a description of an *ordinary* Turing machine.

**Example:** A Libra machine can easily decide the language  $\{(\langle M_1 \rangle, \langle M_2 \rangle) \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$ . The machine simply writes  $\langle M_1 \rangle$  to the first machine tape and  $\langle M_2 \rangle$  to the second tape and enters the query state, and accepts if it enters the yes state.

- (a) (15 points). Show that the language

$$\text{HALT} = \{(\langle M \rangle, x) \mid M \text{ halts on input } x\}$$

is Libra decidable.

- (b) (20 points). Show that the language

$$\text{MINIMAL} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a minimal turing machine}\}$$

is Libra decidable. (This language is defined in Section 6.1 in Sipser.)

- (c) (20 points). Show that there exists a language  $L$  which is not Libra recognizable.

*Hint: Think about infinities.*

- (d) (30 points). Show that there exists a language  $L$  which is Libra recognizable but not Libra decidable.

### 3. Decidability and Recognizability (90 points)

Consider the following language:

$$\text{DISAGREE} = \{(\langle M_1 \rangle, \langle M_2 \rangle) \mid \text{there exists an } x \text{ such that } x \in L(M_1) \text{ but } x \notin L(M_2)\}$$

- (a) **(15 points)**. Show DISAGREE is undecidable.
- (b) **(15 points)**. Show DISAGREE is unrecognizable.

Now we define a machine called a *fibonacci enumerator*. A two-tape Turing Machine is a *fibonacci enumerator* if it runs forever and for any fibonacci number  $n$ , the binary representation of  $n$  is eventually written to the work tape.

Consider the following language:

$$\text{FIB} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a fibonacci enumerator}\}$$

- (c) **(25 points)**. Is FIB recognizable? Prove or disprove.

Finally, consider the language

$$\text{SMALLANDPICKY} = \{(\langle M \rangle, x) \mid M \text{ is a minimal Turing machine where } L(M) = \{x\}\}$$

- (d) **(10 points)**. Show that the set

$$\{\langle M \rangle \mid \text{there is some } x \text{ such that } (\langle M \rangle, x) \in \text{SMALLANDPICKY}\}$$

is infinite.

- (e) **(25 points)**. Show that SMALLANDPICKY is unrecognizable.

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4. **Language Properties (40 points)** In this problem we study variants of Rice's theorem.

- (a) **(20 points)**. Define a *strong nontrivial property of languages* to be a nontrivial property of languages  $P$  where  $P(\emptyset) = 1$ . Show that for any such  $P$  the language

$$L_P = \{\langle M \rangle \mid P(L(M)) = 1\}$$

is unrecognizable.

- (b) **(20 points)**. Define a *2-dimensional nontrivial property of languages* to be a function  $P : \mathcal{P}(\Sigma^*) \times \mathcal{P}(\Sigma^*) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , such that the following property holds:

- (i) There exist Turing Machines  $M, M_{\text{yes}}, M_{\text{no}}$  where  $P(L(M), L(M_{\text{yes}})) = 1$  but  $P(L(M), L(M_{\text{no}})) = 0$ .

Show that for any such  $P$ , the language

$$L_P = \{(\langle M_1 \rangle, \langle M_2 \rangle) \mid P(L(M_1), L(M_2)) = 1\}$$

is undecidable.

- (c) **(40 points extra credit)**. Now consider a variant of the previous problem where (i) is replaced by the following:

- (i) There exist Turing Machines  $M_1, M_2, M'_1, M'_2$  where  $P(L(M_1), L(M_2)) = 1$  but  $P(L(M'_1), L(M'_2)) = 0$ .

Show that it is still the case that for any such  $P$ , the language  $L_P$  is undecidable.

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