

CS301 :: Homework 6

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Problem 1. A FINITE Language

Let $FINITE_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts a finite language}\}$.
Prove that $FINITE_{TM}$ is undecidable.

Solution ::

Suppose $FINITE_{TM}$ is decidable.

Therefore there is a TM C that decides it.

$A =$ "On input $\langle M, w \rangle$,
 construct $M' =$ "on input x ,
 Simulate M on input w .
 If M halts, reject, else accept."
 Pass M' to C .
 If C accepts M' , reject, else accept."

C decides similar to A_{TM} which is undecidable, a contradiction.

$\therefore FINITE_{TM}$ is undecidable.

Problem 2. There Can Only Be ONE

Let $ONE_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that accepts exactly 1 string}\}$.

Prove that ONE_{TM} is undecidable.

Solution ::

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that ONE_{TM} is decidable. Therefore a TM S decides it.

$A =$ "On input $\langle M, w \rangle$,
 Construct $M' =$ "On input x ,
 If $x \neq w$, reject,
 else, return $M(w)$."
 Pass M' to S . If S accepts M' , accept, else reject."

TM A decides A_{TM} which is undecidable, we have a contradiction.

$\therefore ONE_{TM}$ is undecidable.

Problem 3. A LENGTH-y Decision

Let $LENGTHK_{TM} =$

$\{\langle M, k \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that accepts all length-}k \text{ strings}\}$.

Prove that $LENGTHK_{TM}$ is undecidable.

Solution ::

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that $LENGTHK_{TM}$ is decidable.

Therefore a TM Z decides it.

$A =$ "On input $\langle M, w \rangle$,
 Construct $M' =$ "On input k ,
 If w does not have length k , reject.
 else, return $M(w)$."
 Pass $\langle M', k \rangle$ to Z and run this machine for $LENGTHK_{TM}$,
 if M' accepts, Z accepts, else Z rejects."

TM Z decides similar to A_{TM} which is undecidable, a contradiction.

$\therefore LENGTHK_{TM}$ is undecidable.