

# Converting Fancy Turing Machines: Problems for Week 7

**Important Note: All Turing machines in your solutions must run in polynomial time.**

**Exercise 1** Design a two-tape Turing machine for stretching a given input over the alphabet  $\{a, b, \sqcup\}$ . For example, the input block  $\dot{a}bab$  will be stretched to  $\dot{a}abbaabb$ . Initially, you can assume that all other cells on the main tape are blank (except for the given input), and the auxiliary tape is also blank. At the end of execution, the auxiliary tape should be blank, with the head position at the same location it started at.

**Exercise 2** Review the single tape Turing machine given in the handout<sup>1</sup>, which makes a space at the current head position e.g. given the input  $\dot{a}bab$  it results in the output  $\sqcup abab$ . Now extend this Turing machine to stretch the input  $\dot{a}bab$  over the alphabet  $\{a, b, \sqcup\}$  to  $\dot{a}abbaabb$ . You can assume that all other cells on the input tape are initially blank, except for the given input.

## Exercise 3

- (a) Convert the following configurations of a fancy TM using Auxiliary characters into simple configurations using the following relation (different from the relation shown in the handout):

Character on Fancy tape	Represented on Simple tape
a	aa
b	ab
c	ba
d	bb
$\sqcup$	$\sqcup\sqcup$

Note that, on the simple tape configuration, the head should appear on the leftmost of the two characters corresponding to the head position of the fancy tape configuration.

Fancy TM Configurations using Aux. Chars	Simple TM Configurations using Basic Chars
$\dot{a}\sqcup b\sqcup c\sqcup d\sqcup$	
$a\dot{d}\dot{c}b\dot{a}d\dot{b}c$	
$d\dot{a}d\dot{a}b\dot{b}\dot{c}c$	

- (b) Using the process explained in the handout<sup>2</sup>, convert the following configurations of a two-tape Turing machine for the alphabet  $\{a, b, \sqcup\}$  into single tape machine configurations using the following extended alphabet:

$\{a, b, \sqcup, L, R, H\}$ .

Two-tape TM Configurations		Single-tape TM Configurations
Main Tape Contents	Auxiliary Tape Contents	
$\dot{a}babbb$	$\sqcup aa\sqcup b$	
$bb\sqcup aa\sqcup$	$\sqcup b\dot{a}\sqcup ba$	
$\dot{b}\sqcup a\sqcup b$	$a\sqcup b\dot{\sqcup} b\sqcup a$	

<sup>1</sup>Handout 7: *Converting Fancy Turing Machines to Simple Machines*, Section 2.2: *Converting Initial Configurations – The Setting-up Program*

<sup>2</sup>Handout 7: *Converting Fancy Turing Machines to Simple Machines*, Section 3: *Two-tape Turing machine*

- Exercise 4** (a) Write a single-tape simulating program using the extended alphabet  $\{a, b, \sqcup, L, R, H\}$  that corresponds to the instruction “Write Aux a” on a two-tape machine using  $\{a, b, \sqcup\}$ .
- (b) Write a single-tape simulating program using the extended alphabet  $\{a, b, \sqcup, L, R, H\}$  that corresponds to the instruction “Right Main” on a two-tape machine using  $\{a, b, \sqcup\}$ .

**Exercise 5** (a) Given the following two-tape Turing machine configuration as simulated by a single-tape TM, *perform* each of the two-tape TM steps mentioned below in the table and show the corresponding single-tape configurations.

Two-tape TM Steps	Single-tape Simulating TM Configurations (The starting single-tape configuration is given below)
	$\bar{L} \sqcup \sqcup a \sqcup b H \sqcup \sqcup a \sqcup a H b \sqcup b \sqcup b \sqcup R$
Write Main a	
Right Main	
Write Aux b	
Left Aux	
Read Main	

- (b) Given the following 2-Dimensional Turing machine configuration as simulated by a single-tape TM, *perform* each of the 2D-TM steps mentioned below in the table and show the corresponding single-tape configurations.

2-Dimensional TM Steps	Single-tape Simulating TM Configurations (The starting single-tape configuration is given below)
	$TLx \sqcup \sqcup RL \sqcup \sqcup \sqcup RL \sqcup \sqcup \bar{o} RB$
Left	
Left	
Up	
Write x	
Down	
Write o	
Right	
Write x	
Up	

**Exercise 6** Consider that you have a fancy Turing machine with the input alphabet  $\{0, 1, \sqcup\}$  and the auxiliary alphabet including  $\{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  symbols. In order to represent the fancy TM’s tape configuration as a simple TM’s tape configuration, we define the following relation:

Symbol on Fancy tape	Represented on Simple tape
0	000
1	001
2	010
3	011
4	100
5	101
6	110
7	111
$\sqcup$	$\sqcup \sqcup \sqcup$

Using the above relation, show how the simple TM will simulate:

- (a) the *Left* and *Right* steps of the fancy TM.
- (b) the *Write 1* and *Write 6* instructions.
- (c) the *Read* instruction, which should cover all possible values that can be read by the fancy TM.