

Sample Decidable/Undecidable proofs

1. **Problem 4.3:** Let $ALL_{DFA} = \{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA that recognizes } \Sigma^*\}$. Show that ALL_{DFA} is decidable.

Proof #1: The following TM decides ALL_{DFA} :

S = "On input $\langle A \rangle$, where A is a DFA:

1. Construct a DFA B such that $L(B)$ is the complement of $L(A)$.
2. Use the TM T from Thm 4.4 (deciding E_{DFA}) on input $\langle B \rangle$
3. Accept if T accepts, reject if T rejects."

Proof #2: The following TM decides ALL_{DFA} :

S = "On input $\langle A \rangle$, where A is a DFA:

1. Construct a DFA B such that $L(B) = \Sigma^*$.
2. Use the TM F from Thm 4.5 (deciding $E_{Q_{DFA}}$) on input $\langle A, B \rangle$
3. Accept if F accepts, reject if F rejects."

2. **Problem 5.9:** Prove that $T = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine that accepts } w^R \text{ whenever it accepts } w\}$ is undecidable.

Proof: Assume that T is decidable. Then some TM M decides T . We construct TM M' as follows

M' = "On input x :

1. If $x \neq 01$ and $x \neq 10$, reject.
2. If $x = 01$, accept.
3. If $x = 10$ simulate M on w .
4. If M accepts w , accept. If M halts and rejects, reject."

If $\langle M, w \rangle \in A_{TM}$ then M accepts w and $L(M') = \{01, 10\}$, so $M' \in T$.

On the other hand, if $\langle M, w \rangle \notin A_{TM}$ then $L(M') = \{01\}$, so $M' \notin T$.

Thus, $\langle M, w \rangle \in A_{TM}$ iff $M' \in T$, so $A_{TM} \leq_m T$. Therefore A_{TM} is decidable. Since A_{TM} is undecidable, it must be the case that our assumption that T is decidable is false, so T is undecidable.

3. **Problem 5.22:** Prove that A is Turing-recognizable iff $A \leq_m A_{TM}$.

Proof :

\Leftarrow Assume $A \leq_m A_{TM}$. According to Thm 4.11a (not in the book as theorem, but stated on page 174), A_{TM} is Turing-recognizable. Thus, by Thm 5.28, A is Turing-recognizable.

\Rightarrow Assume that A is Turing-recognizable. Then there is some TM M which recognizes A. Let $f(x) = \langle M, x \rangle$. First notice that f is easily computable. Second, notice that $x \in A$ iff M accepts x iff $\langle M, x \rangle \in A_{TM}$, so f is a mapping reduction. Thus, $A \leq_m A_{TM}$.