

General Turing Reductions:

- P **Turing reduces** to Q if there exists an algorithm for P that uses an algorithm for Q as a “black box”. This is denoted as $P \leq_T Q$.

Halting Problem:

- Denoted as H.
- $H = \{\langle M, x \rangle \mid \text{TM } M \text{ halts on input } x\}$
H accepts the encodings of M and x if M halts on x, and rejects the encodings otherwise.
- **Theorem 4.1:** H is
 - a. recognizable but
 - b. not decidable.

Proof of a):

Use M_u to simulate M on input x.

If M_u halts (either accepts or rejects), then we say yes.

If M_u doesn't halt, then it's fine because H is a recognizer, not a decider.

Proof of b):

We will show that $U \leq H$.

U is the universal language. In theorem 3.5, we proved that U is recognizable but not decidable.

Given an H-decider TM M_1 , we will construct a U-decider TM M_2 .

M_2 on input $\langle M, x \rangle$ does the following:

1. Run M_1 on $\langle M, x \rangle$
2. If M_1 accepts, then
3. Run M_u on $\langle M, x \rangle$
4. If M_u accepts $\langle M, x \rangle$, then M_2 accepts
5. Else, M_2 rejects
6. Else, M_2 reject

M_2 accepts U.

First, it runs M_1 on $\langle M, x \rangle$.

If M_1 accepts, meaning that it halts on $\langle M, x \rangle$, then we run M_u on $\langle M, x \rangle$.

If M_u accepts $\langle M, x \rangle$, then M_2 accepts $\langle M, x \rangle$.

If M_u doesn't accept $\langle M, x \rangle$, then M_2 rejects $\langle M, x \rangle$.

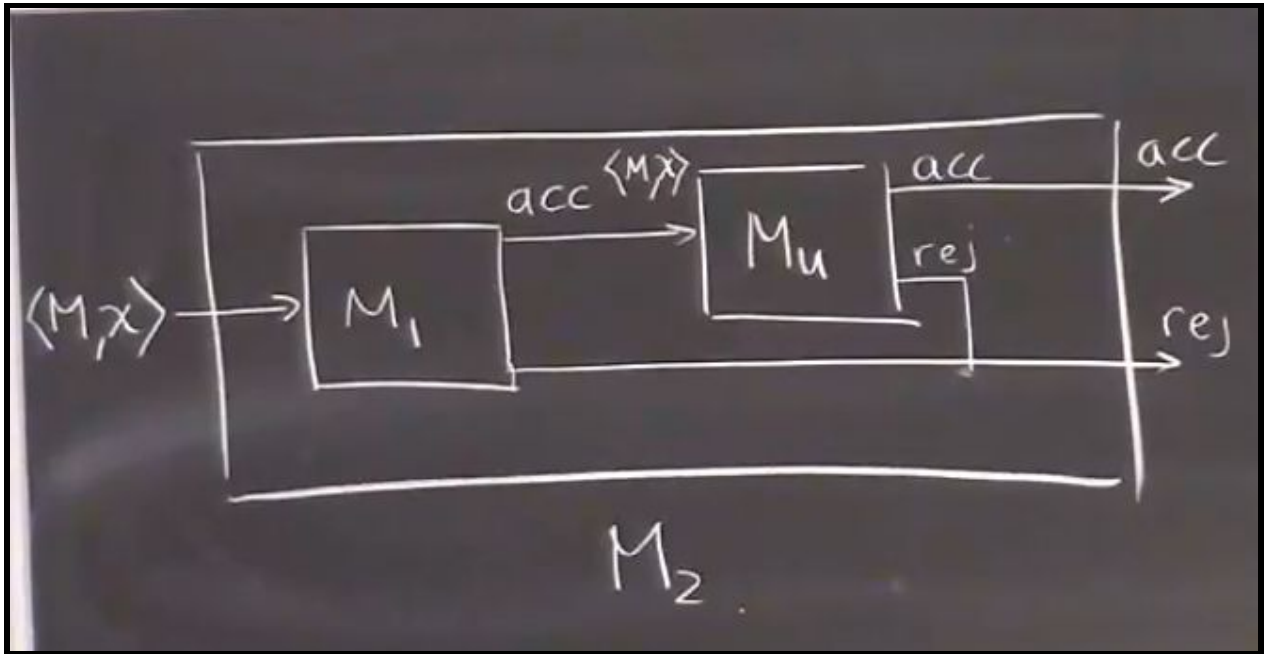
If M_1 doesn't accept $\langle M, x \rangle$, that means M_1 doesn't halt on $\langle M, x \rangle$, so M_2 rejects $\langle M, x \rangle$.

However, we proved in theorem 3.5 that U is not decidable, so M_2 doesn't exist.

Since M_2 relies on the existence of M_1 , therefore, M_1 doesn't exist.

Therefore, H is undecidable.

Here's a diagram of the proof:



Alternative Proof of b):

Given an H-decider M_3 , we can construct a U-decider M_4 as follows:

M_4 on input $\langle M, x \rangle$ does the following:

1. Modify M to M' by changing every transition of M to the reject state into an infinite loop.
We know that M either accepts, rejects or loops on x .
If M accepts x , then M' accepts x .
If M rejects or loops on x , then M' loops on x .
2. Run M_3 on $\langle M', x \rangle$.
3. If M_3 accepts, then M_4 accepts.
4. Else, M_4 rejects.

M_4 accepts $\langle M, x \rangle$

$\leftrightarrow M_3$ accepts $\langle M', x \rangle$

$\leftrightarrow M'$ halts on x

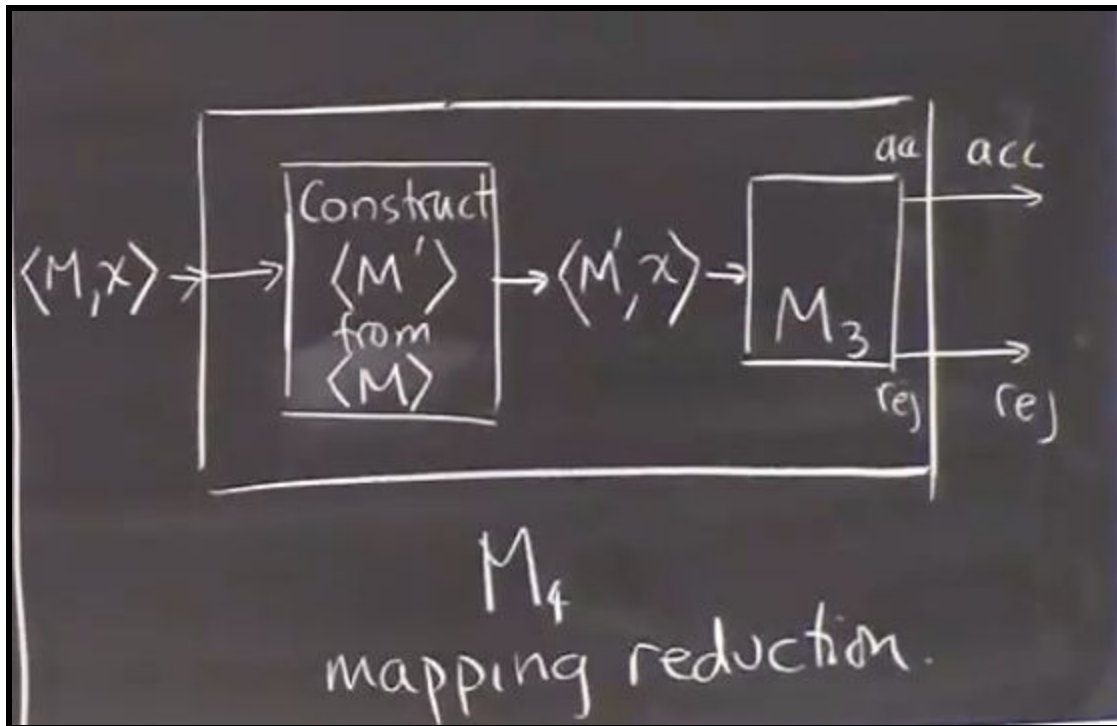
$\leftrightarrow M$ accepts x

Therefore, M_4 is a U-decider.

However, this contradicts theorem 3.5, which says that U is not decidable.

Therefore, we could not have been given an M_3 that solves the halting problem.

Here's a diagram of the proof:



- **Corollary 4.2:** $\neg H$, the complement of H , is unrecognizable.
 $\neg H = \{ \langle M, x \rangle \mid M \text{ doesn't halt on } x \}$

Proof:

Suppose by contradiction that $\neg H$ is recognizable.

Recall theorem 3.6 "If L and $\neg L$, the complement of L , are both recognizable, then L and $\neg L$ are decidable."

Since both H and $\neg H$ are recognizable, then both H and $\neg H$ are decidable.

However, we know that H is not decidable, which is a contradiction.

Hence, $\neg H$ is unrecognizable.

- If $X \leq Y$ and X is undecidable, then Y is also undecidable.
 However, if $X \leq Y$ and Y is undecidable, it doesn't tell us if X is undecidable or not.

Note: The direction in which we are reducing things is very important.

E.g.

When we did $U \leq H$, since we knew that U is undecidable, we could prove that H is undecidable.

However, if we did $H \leq U$, we know that U is undecidable, but we don't know if H is undecidable. We can't use this to prove that H is undecidable.

- If $X \leq Y$ and Y is decidable, then X is also decidable.

Mapping Reductions:

- **Definition:** Let P and $Q \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be languages. P is **mapping-reducible** to Q , denoted as $P \leq_m Q$, iff there exists a computable function, $f : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$, such that $x \in P$ iff $f(x) \in Q$.

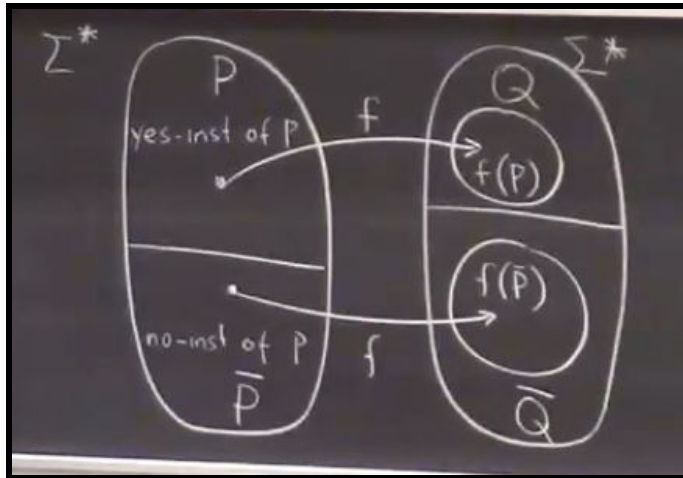
Note: The function, f , does not have to be, and is usually not, onto.

Note: The function, f , must be computable.

To demonstrate a computable function, we will typically write a little program or describe in English how to perform the transformation that f is supposed to do.

Note: f maps yes-instances of P to yes-instances of Q and no-instances of P to no-instances of Q .

Here is a diagram to show the definition of mapping-reducible:



Here, f maps the Yes-instances of P to a subset of the Yes-instances of Q and maps the No-instances of P to a subset of the No-instances of Q .

- E.g. Suppose that
 - $A = \{x \mid x \text{ is an even integer}\}$
 - $B = \{x \mid x \text{ is an odd integer}\}$
 - Then the function $f(x) = x + 1$ is a mapping reduction from A to B .
 - Notice that:
 - $x \in A \leftrightarrow x \text{ is even}$
 - $\leftrightarrow x + 1 \text{ is odd}$
 - $\leftrightarrow x + 1 \in B$
 - $\leftrightarrow f(x) \in B$
- All the reductions we've seen so far, with one exception, are mapping reductions.
 1. **First Reduction: Reduced $\neg D$ (D complement) to U (Universal language)**
 - $\neg D = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } \langle M \rangle\}$
 - $f: \langle M \rangle \rightarrow \langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$
 - Here is a description of f :
 - Take the encoding of M .
 - Make a pair of itself and another encoding of M in the following way: $\langle M \rangle \text{###} \langle M \rangle$ (The ### is used as a separator.)
 2. **Second Reduction: Reduce U to H (The Halting Problem)**
 - **Note:** This is for the "Alternative Proof of b)"
 - Given $\langle M, x \rangle$ we constructed $\langle M', x \rangle$ such that M accepts x iff M' halts on x .
 M accepts x simply means $\langle M, x \rangle \in U$ and M' halts on x simply means $\langle M', x \rangle \in H$.
 So, I mapped $\langle M, x \rangle$ to $\langle M', x \rangle$ such that Yes-instances go to Yes-instances and No-instances go to No-instances.
 - **Note:** The first proof we did to prove that U reduces to H is not a mapping reduction. The difference between the first and second proof is that with the first proof, we're taking the input, $\langle M, x \rangle$, and running it through 2 "black boxes", M_1 and M_u . Furthermore, after running the input through the first "black box", M_1 , there's a possibility that we're changing its output by running the output through the second "black box", M_u .

With the second proof, we're transforming $\langle M, x \rangle$ to $\langle M', x \rangle$, this is our function, and we're only running it through 1 TM, M_3 . In the second proof, we're using M_3 in a very restricted way. We are only making 1 call to the "black box" and we're using the output of the "black box" as it is, we can't change it.

- Hence, the first proof is a **Turing reduction** while the second proof is a **mapping reduction**.
- **Theorem 4.3:** Suppose that $P \leq_m Q$. If Q is decidable, then P is decidable. If P is undecidable, then Q is undecidable.

Proof of "If P is undecidable, then Q is undecidable":

Assume that $P \leq_m Q$ and P is undecidable.

Suppose for contradiction that Q is decidable.

Let D_Q be a decider for Q .

Since $P \leq_m Q$, there exists a computable function, f , such that $x \in P$ iff $f(x) \in Q$.

Then, the following algorithm is a decider for P :

D_P on input " x " does the following:

1. Computes $f(x)$
2. Run D_Q on $f(x)$.
3. If D_Q accepts, then D_P accepts.
4. Else, D_P rejects.

D_P halts on all inputs, so it's a decider.

D_P decides P because it accepts x iff D_Q accepts $f(x)$.

D_Q accepts $f(x)$ iff $f(x) \in Q$, because D_Q is a decider for Q .

$f(x) \in Q$ iff $x \in P$, because f is a mapping reduction of P to Q .

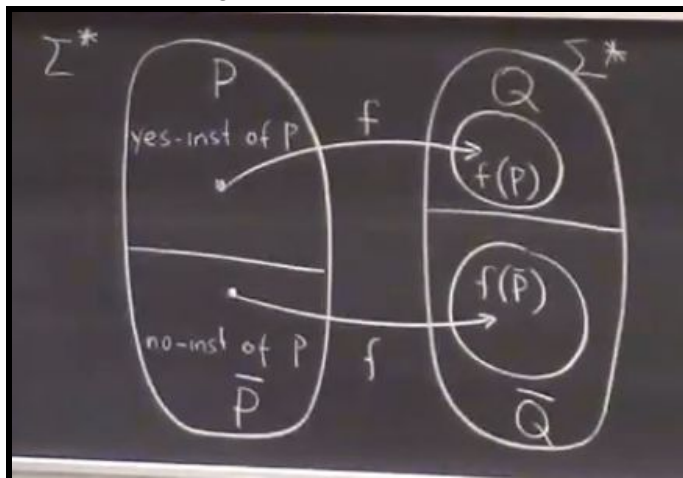
However, this contradicts our supposition that P is undecidable.

Hence, Q is undecidable.

- **Theorem 4.4:** If $P \leq_m Q$ and Q is recognizable, then P is recognizable. If P is unrecognizable, then Q is unrecognizable.
- **Theorem 4.5:** If $P \leq_m Q$, then $\neg P \leq_m \neg Q$, where $\neg P$ is the complement of P and $\neg Q$ is the complement of Q .

Proof:

Consider the diagram below.



We know that f maps the Yes-instances of P to the Yes-instances of Q and the No-instances of P to the No-instances of Q .

However,

- The No-instances of P are the same as the Yes-instances of $\neg P$.
- The No-instances of Q are the same as the Yes-instances of $\neg Q$.
- The Yes-instances of P are the same as the No-instances of $\neg P$.
- The Yes-instances of Q are the same as the No-instances of $\neg Q$.

Hence, we can use the same function, f , as the computable function for $\neg P \leq_m \neg Q$.

- **Theorem 4.6:** If $P \leq_m Q$ and $Q \leq_m R$, then $P \leq_m R$.

Examples of Reductions:

- To prove that a language P is unrecognizable or undecidable, it suffices to prove that $U \leq_m P$, for undecidable, and $\neg U \leq_m P$, for unrecognizable. This is by theorem 4.3 and 3.4.
- **Theorem 4.7:** Consider the following language, $E = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \emptyset\}$. E is unrecognizable.

Proof:

It suffices to prove that $\neg U \leq_m E$.

Given $\langle M, x \rangle$, which is the input to $\neg U$, we want to construct $\langle M' \rangle$, which is the input to E , such that M does not accept x iff $L(M') = \emptyset$.

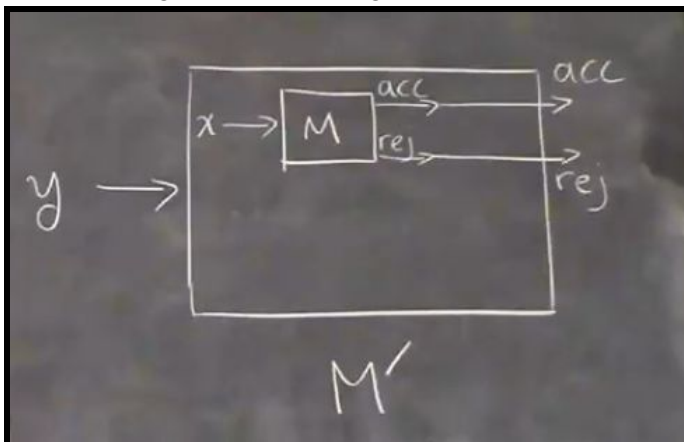
I.e. $\langle M, x \rangle \in \neg U$ iff $\langle M' \rangle \in E$.

We can build M' such that if M doesn't accept x , M' accepts no string, and if M accepts x , M' accepts every string.

f on input $\langle M, x \rangle$ does the following:

1. Define a machine M' that does the following on input y :
 - a. Run M on x
 - b. If M accepts, then M' accepts y .
 - c. Else, M' rejects y .
2. Return $\langle M' \rangle$

Here's a diagram showcasing the proof.



If M does not accept x , then $L(M') = \emptyset$.

If M accepts x , then $L(M') = \Sigma^*$.

Claim: f is a mapping reduction of $\neg U$ to E .

Proof:

To prove that f is a mapping reduction of $\neg U$ to E , we need to verify that

$\langle M, x \rangle \in \neg U$ iff $\langle M' \rangle \in E$.

(\Rightarrow) If $\langle M, x \rangle \in \neg U$

$\rightarrow M$ does not accept x . (M either loops on x or M rejects x .)

$\rightarrow M'$ accepts no input.

$\rightarrow L(M') = \emptyset$

$\rightarrow \langle M' \rangle \in E$

(\Leftarrow) If $\langle M, x \rangle \notin \neg U$

$\rightarrow M$ accepts x .

$\rightarrow M'$ accepts all inputs.

$\rightarrow L(M') = \Sigma^* \neq \emptyset$

$\rightarrow \langle M' \rangle \notin E$

- **Theorem 4.8:** $\neg E$, the complement of E , is

a. undecidable, but

b. recognizable

$\neg E = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) \neq \emptyset\}$

Proof of a):

Suppose for contradiction that $\neg E$ is decidable.

Then, based on theorem 3.3, which states that

"If L is a decidable language, then its complement is also decidable.

I.e. The set of decidable languages is closed under complementation.",

then E is also decidable.

However, we just proved in theorem 4.7 that E is undecidable, which is a contradiction.

Hence, $\neg E$ is undecidable.

Proof of b):

The idea is to dovetail through all pairs (i, j) . When visiting pair (i, j) , run M on the i^{th} input for j steps. If it accepts, then we accept. Otherwise, visit the next pair.

If M doesn't accept or reject the i^{th} input for j steps, we simply continue the dovetailing process. This is fine because as a recognizer, it doesn't need to halt.

Note: The reason why you can't simply go down each input is because there might be an input that loops forever. Then, your machine would be stuck.

Another Proof of b):

A NTM recognizes $\neg E$ on input $\langle M \rangle$ as follows:

1. Nondeterministically guess a string x .
2. Use M_u , the universal TM, to run M on x .
3. If M accepts, accept.
4. Since there's a NTM that recognizes $\neg E$, there's also a TM that recognizes $\neg E$.

- **Theorem 4.9:** Consider the following language, $REG = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) \text{ is regular}\}$. REG is undecidable.

Proof:

It suffices to prove that $U \leq_M REG$.

Given an input, $\langle M, x \rangle$ to U , we want to construct a machine $\langle M' \rangle$, which is an input to REG such that M accepts x iff $L(M')$ is regular.

If M accepts x , then M' accepts a regular language.

If M does not accept x , then M does not accept a regular language.

f on input $\langle M, x \rangle$ does the following:

1. Define M' which on input y does the following:
 - a. If $y=0^n1^n$, then accept
 - b. Else, run M on x .
 - c. If M accepts x , then M' accepts y .
 - d. Else, M' rejects y .
2. Return $\langle M' \rangle$

Now, we need to verify that $\langle M, x \rangle \in U$ iff $\langle M' \rangle \in REG$.

(\Rightarrow)

If $\langle M, x \rangle \in U$ then

$\rightarrow M$ accepts x .

$\rightarrow M'$ accepts all inputs y . It does this in either line 1a. or line 1c. otherwise.

$\rightarrow L(M') = \Sigma^*$.

$\rightarrow \langle M' \rangle \in REG$.

(\Leftarrow)

If $\langle M, x \rangle \notin U$ then

$\rightarrow M$ does not accept x .

$\rightarrow M'$ accepts all and only strings of the form 0^n1^n .

$\rightarrow L(M')$ is not regular.

$\rightarrow \langle M' \rangle \notin REG$.

We have shown that $U \leq_M REG$, so REG is undecidable.

Note: Since $U \leq_M REG$, $\neg U \leq_M \neg REG$. This is by theorem 4.5.

Since $\neg U \leq_M \neg REG$, $\neg REG$ is unrecognizable.

Note: $U \leq_M \neg REG$, which means that $\neg U \leq_M REG$.

Since $\neg U \leq_M REG$, REG is unrecognizable.

Picture of Recognizable and Decidable Languages: