

inf2080 oppgave 4.22

kristora

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Given two disjoint co-Turing-recognizable languages there exists a decidable language separating them.

Let A and B be two disjoint co-Turing-recognizable languages so that $A \cap B = \emptyset$, $coTM_A$ recognizes \bar{A} and $coTM_B$ recognizes \bar{B} . We construct TM_C that decides C , a language separating A and B .

TM_C = “on input ω :

1. Simulate running $coTM_A$ on ω and $coTM_B$ on ω in parallel (alternating between $coTM_A$ and $coTM_B$).
2. If at any time $coTM_A$ accepts, *REJECT*. If at any time $coTM_B$ accepts, *ACCEPT*.”

C satisfies the criteria for separating A and B :

- $A \subseteq C$: On input $\omega \in A$ $coTM_A$ will loop or *REJECT*, $coTM_B$ will *ACCEPT* since $\omega \notin B$ and TM_C *ACCEPTS*.
- $B \subseteq \bar{C}$: On input $\omega \in B$ $coTM_B$ will loop or *REJECT*, $coTM_A$ will *ACCEPT* since $\omega \notin A$ and TM_C *REJECTS*.

TM_C is a decider: if $\omega \notin A \cup B$ then $coTM_A$ and $coTM_B$ will race. Both machines eventually accept, but the machine that finishes computation first decides whether TM_C accepts or rejects.