

Weekly exercises on Undecidability

Exercise 1 Let \bar{A} denote the *complement* of A , that is, $\bar{A} = \{w \mid w \notin A\}$. Show that if A is a decidable language, then so is \bar{A} .

Exercise 2 For each language, show that it is undecidable by giving a reduction from *HALT*.

- a) $L_1 = \{\langle M \rangle \mid \text{TM } M \text{ writes a \$ on the tape on every input}\}$
- b) $L_2 = \{\langle M \rangle \mid \text{TM } M \text{ writes a \$ on the tape on input } 010\}$
- c) $L_3 = \{\langle M \rangle \mid \text{There is no } y \text{ such that TM } M \text{ writes a \$ on the tape on input } y\}$

Exercise 3 Let $L = \{\langle M \rangle \mid \text{TM } M \text{ writes a \$ on the tape, during the first 100 steps of computation, on every input}\}$.

Is L decidable? Prove your answer.

Exercise 4 Let $EQUAL = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$.

Is $EQUAL$ decidable? If yes, show a decider for $EQUAL$, if no, show a reduction from *HALT*.

Exercise 5 Let $PI = \{k \mid \text{There occurs } k \text{ consecutive } 0\text{'s in the decimal expansion of } \pi \}$.

Is PI a decidable language?

Challenge 1 Recall from the lecture Rice's theorem.

Theorem 1 (Rice's theorem) *Let R be a language consisting of Turing machine descriptions, such that R contains some, but not all Turing machine descriptions. Furthermore, let the membership in R for any Turing machine M_1 , depend solely on the language of M_1 , that is: $L(M_1) = L(M_2) \implies (\langle M_1 \rangle \in R \leftrightarrow \langle M_2 \rangle \in R)$. Then R is an undecidable language.*

Give a proof of Rice's theorem.

Hint: Show a reduction from *HALT* to R . Find a yes-instance and a no-instance of R , and create a *TM* that recognizes the one of those language depending on whether M halts on w or not. The result from Exercise 1, may come in handy.