



Figure 1: A finite automaton  $M_1$  (on left) and a finite automaton  $M_2$  (on right).

1. Define  $A_{DFA} = \{ \langle B, w \rangle \mid B \text{ is a DFA that accepts input string } w \}$ ,

$$INCL_{DFA} = \{ \langle B, C \rangle \mid B, C \text{ are DFAs and } L(B) \subseteq L(C) \}.$$

Recall that DFA stands for “deterministic finite automaton”. Answer the following questions (for  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  given in the above figure) and give reasons for your answers.

- (a) Is  $\langle M_1, baab \rangle \in A_{DFA}$ ? *No.  $M_1$  does not accept baab.*
- (b) Is  $\langle M_1, abba \rangle \in A_{DFA}$ ? *Yes,  $M_1$  accepts abba.*
- (c) Is  $\langle M_2, aa \rangle \in A_{DFA}$ ? *Yes.  $M_2$  accepts aa.*
- (d) Is  $\langle M_2, aaba \rangle \in A_{DFA}$ ? *No.  $M_2$  does not accept aaba.*
- (e) Is  $\langle aaa \rangle \in A_{DFA}$ ? *No. Incorrect input format.*
- (f) Is  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \in INCL_{DFA}$ ? *No.  $ba \in L(M_1) - L(M_2)$ .*
- (g) Is  $\langle M_2, M_1 \rangle \in INCL_{DFA}$ ? *Yes.  $L(M_2) \subseteq L(M_1)$ .*
- (h) Is  $\langle M_2, M_2 \rangle \in INCL_{DFA}$ ? *Yes.  $L(M_2) \subseteq L(M_2)$ .*

2. Give an implementation-level description of a deterministic one tape Turing machine  $M$  that decides the language over the alphabet  $\Sigma = \{b, c\}$  consisting of all strings whose length is a power of two. That is,  $M$  decides the language:

$$A_{\text{power}} = \{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a power of two} \}.$$

Note: The first few powers of two are: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, .....

Decider for  $A_{\text{power}}$ :

Q = "On input  $w \in \Sigma^*$

1. Scan the tape and mark every second symbol.
2. If in stage 1 the tape contained exactly one unmarked symbol, accept.
3. If in stage 1 the tape contained  $x$  unmarked symbols where  $x > 1$  is odd, then reject.
4. Return tape head to left end of tape and continue from 1.

3. (a) Consider the language

$$A = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine, and,} \\ \text{no string of } L(M) \text{ contains string } 00010 \text{ as a substring} \}.$$

Is the language  $A$  decidable or undecidable? Justify your answer.

$A$  is undecidable. Two possible answers (one is sufficient)

- i)  $A$  is a non-trivial semantic property and undecidable by Rice's theorem.  
 ii) Reduce  $A_{TM}$  to  $A$ . Suppose TM  $Q$  decides  $A$ . Then construct decider for  $A_{TM}$ :

$P = "On input \langle M, w \rangle"$

1. Construct TM  $M_w = "On input x: 1. Run  $M$  on  $w$   
 2. If  $M$  accepts, accept.  
 If  $M$  rejects, reject"$

2. Run  $Q$  on input  $\langle M_w \rangle$ . If  $Q$  accepts, reject. If  $Q$  rejects, accept"

Note:  $\langle M, w \rangle \in A_{TM}$  implies  $L(M_w) = \Sigma^*$   
 $\langle M, w \rangle \notin A_{TM}$  implies  $L(M_w) = \emptyset$

(b) Consider the language

$$B = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine and there exists a DFA } C \text{ such that } L(M) \subseteq L(C) \}.$$

Recall that DFA stands for "deterministic finite automaton". Is the language  $B$  decidable or undecidable? Justify your answer.

$B$  is decidable. Since set of all strings  $\Sigma^*$  is regular, we note that

$$B = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing machine} \}$$

A decider for  $B$  just needs to check that the input is a correct encoding of a TM.

4. (a) (3 marks) Consider the function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by  $f(n) = (2 \cdot n) - 1$ . (Here  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  is the set of positive integers.) Answer the following questions and give reasons for your answers.

i. Is  $f$  onto? No. 2 is not an image of any number.

ii. Is  $f$  one-to-one? Yes.  $2x - 1 = 2y - 1$  implies  $x = y$ .

iii. Is  $f$  a correspondence? No because it is not onto.

- (b) (3 marks) Are the following sets countable? For each case circle the correct answer – no explanation needed. If you circle both YES and NO, it is considered a wrong answer.

• The set  $\{0, 1\}^*$ . YES NO

• The set of all subsets of  $\{0, 1\}^*$ . YES NO

• The set of all finite subsets of  $\{0, 1\}^*$ . YES NO

- (c) (4 marks) Let  $T = \{(i, k) \mid i, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Show that  $T$  is countable.

The following list contains all elements of  $T$ :

Stage 1: list pairs  $(i, k)$  where  $i + k = 2$

Stage 2: list pairs  $(i, k)$  where  $i + k = 3$

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Stage  $l$ : list pairs  $(i, k)$  where  $i + k = l + 1$

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5. Let  $\Sigma = \{b, c\}$  and define

$$\text{ODD}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a deterministic Turing machine and } L(M) \text{ consists of all strings over } \Sigma \text{ having odd length} \}$$

Without using Rice's theorem show that  $\text{ODD}_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable.

We reduce  $A_{\text{TM}}$  to  $\text{ODD}_{\text{TM}}$ . Suppose TM  $Q$  decides  $\text{ODD}_{\text{TM}}$ .  
Then following TM decides  $A_{\text{TM}}$ :

$P =$  "On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $R$ :

$R =$  "On input  $x$

1. If  $x$  has odd length, accept.  
2. Run  $M$  on  $w$ . If  $M$  accepts, accept. If  $M$  rejects, reject".

2. Run  $Q$  on  $\langle R \rangle$ . If  $Q$  accepts, reject.  
If  $Q$  rejects, accept"

This works because

$L(R) = \Sigma^*$  if  $M$  accepts  $w$

$L(R) = (\Sigma^2)^* \Sigma$  if  $M$  does not accept  $w$ .