

# Decidability

Mridul Aanjaneya



Stanford University

August 09, 2012

# Binary Strings for TM's

- We shall restrict ourselves to TM's with input alphabet  $\{0,1\}$ .
- Assign positive integers to the three classes of elements involved in moves:
  - ① States:  $q_1$  (start state),  $q_2$  (final state),  $q_3, \dots$
  - ② Symbols  $X_1$  (0),  $X_2$  (1),  $X_3$  (blank),  $X_4, \dots$
  - ③ Directions  $D_1$  (L) and  $D_2$  (R).

# Binary Strings for TM's

- Suppose  $\delta(q_i, X_j) = (q_k, X_l, D_m)$ .
- Represent this rule by string  $0^i 1 0^j 1 0^k 1 0^l 1 0^m$ .
- **Key point:** Since integers  $i, j, \dots$  are all  $> 0$ , there **cannot** be two **consecutive 1**'s in these strings.

# Binary Strings for TM's

- Represent a TM by concatenating the codes for each of its moves, separated by **11** as **punctuation**.
  - That is:  $\text{Code}_111\text{Code}_211\text{Code}_311\dots$

# Enumerating TM's and Binary Strings

- We can **uniquely** encode binary strings as integers.
- Thus, it makes sense to talk about the ***i*th binary string** and about the ***i*th Turing machine**.
- **Note:** If ***i*** makes no sense as a TM, assume the ***i*th** TM accepts nothing.

# Table of Acceptance

		String j $\longrightarrow$						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	...
TM i $\downarrow$	1							
	2							
	3					x		
	4							
	5							
	6							
	$\vdots$							

x=0 means the  $i$ th TM does not accept the  $j$ th string; 1 means it does.

# Diagonalization Again

- whenever we have a table like the one on the previous slide, we can **diagonalize** it.
  - That is, construct a sequence  $D$  by **complementing** each bit along the major diagonal.
- Formally,  $D = a_1 a_2 \dots$ , where  $a_i = 0$  if the  $(i, i)$  table entry is **1**, and vice-versa.

# The Diagonalization Argument

- Could  $D$  be a row (representing the language accepted by a TM) of the table?
- Suppose it were the  $j$ th row.
- But  $D$  disagrees with the  $j$ th row at the  $j$ th column.
- Thus  $D$  is not a row.

# Diagonalization

- Consider the diagonalization language  $L_d = \{w \mid w \text{ is the } i\text{th string, and the } i\text{th TM does not accept } w\}$ .
- We have shown that  $L_d$  is **not** a recursively enumerable language, i.e., it has no TM.