

Fundamentele Informatica 3

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<http://www.liacs.leidenuniv.nl/~vlietrvan1/fi3/>

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9. Undecidable Problems

9.5. Undecidable Problems

Involving Context-Free Languages

10. Computable Functions

10.1. Primitive Recursive Functions

A slide from lecture 9

Definition 9.6. Reducing One Decision Problem to Another, and Reducing One Language to Another

Suppose P_1 and P_2 are decision problems. We say P_1 is reducible to P_2 ($P_1 \leq P_2$)

- if there is an algorithm
- that finds, for an arbitrary instance I of P_1 , an instance $F(I)$ of P_2 ,
- such that
 - for every I the answers for the two instances are the same, or I is a yes-instance of P_1
 - if and only if $F(I)$ is a yes-instance of P_2 .

A slide from lecture 9

Theorem 9.7. Suppose $L_1 \subseteq \Sigma_1^*$, $L_2 \subseteq \Sigma_2^*$, and $L_1 \leq L_2$. If L_2 is recursive, then L_1 is recursive.

Suppose P_1 and P_2 are decision problems, and $P_1 \leq P_2$. If P_2 is decidable, then P_1 is decidable.

Proof...

A slide from lecture 10

9.4. Post's Correspondence Problem

Instance:

10	01	0	100	1
101	100	10	0	010

A slide from lecture 10

Instance:

10	01	0	100	1
101	100	10	0	010

Match:

10	1	01	0	100	100	0	100
101	010	100	10	0	0	10	0

A slide from lecture 10

Definition 9.14. Post's Correspondence Problem

An instance of Post's correspondence problem (*PCP*) is a set

$$\{(\alpha_1, \beta_1), (\alpha_2, \beta_2), \dots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)\}$$

of pairs, where $n \geq 1$ and the α_i 's and β_i 's are all nonnull strings over an alphabet Σ .

The decision problem is this:

Given an instance of this type, do there exist a positive integer k and a sequence of integers i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k , with each i_j satisfying $1 \leq i_j \leq n$, satisfying

$$\alpha_{i_1} \alpha_{i_2} \dots \alpha_{i_k} = \beta_{i_1} \beta_{i_2} \dots \beta_{i_k} \quad ?$$

i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k need not all be distinct.

A slide from lecture 10

Theorem 9.17.

Post's correspondence problem is undecidable.

9.5. Undecidable Problems Involving Context-Free Languages

For an instance

$$\{(\alpha_1, \beta_1), (\alpha_2, \beta_2), \dots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)\}$$

of *PCP*, let...

CFG G_α be defined by productions...

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$$\{(\alpha_1, \beta_1), (\alpha_2, \beta_2), \dots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)\}$$

of *PCP*, let...

CFG G_α be defined by productions

$$S_\alpha \rightarrow \alpha_i S_\alpha c_i \mid \alpha_i c_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq n)$$

Example derivation:

$$S_\alpha \Rightarrow \alpha_2 S_\alpha c_2 \Rightarrow \alpha_2 \alpha_5 S_\alpha c_5 c_2 \Rightarrow \alpha_2 \alpha_5 \alpha_1 S_\alpha c_1 c_5 c_2 \Rightarrow \alpha_2 \alpha_5 \alpha_1 \alpha_3 c_3 c_1 c_5 c_2$$

Unambiguous

For an instance

$$\{(\alpha_1, \beta_1), (\alpha_2, \beta_2), \dots, (\alpha_n, \beta_n)\}$$

of *PCP*, let...

CFG G_α be defined by productions

$$S_\alpha \rightarrow \alpha_i S_\alpha c_i \mid \alpha_i c_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq n)$$

CFG G_β be defined by productions

$$S_\beta \rightarrow \beta_i S_\beta c_i \mid \beta_i c_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq n)$$

Example.

Let I be the following instance of PCP:

10	01	0	100	1
101	100	10	0	010

G_α and $G_\beta \dots$

Theorem 9.20.

These two problems are undecidable:

1. *CFGNonEmptyIntersection*:

Given two CFGs G_1 and G_2 , is $L(G_1) \cap L(G_2)$ nonempty?

2. *IsAmbiguous*:

Given a CFG G , is G ambiguous?

Proof...

Theorem 9.20.

This problem is undecidable:

1. *CFGNonEmptyIntersection*:

Given two CFGs G_1 and G_2 , is $L(G_1) \cap L(G_2)$ nonempty?

Alternative proof...

Let CFG G_1 be defined by productions

$$S_1 \rightarrow \alpha_i S_1 \beta_i^r \quad | \quad \alpha_i \# \beta_i^r \quad (1 \leq i \leq n)$$

Let CFG G_2 be defined by productions

$$S_2 \rightarrow a S_2 a \quad | \quad b S_2 b \quad | \quad a \# a \quad | \quad b \# b$$

Let T be TM, let x be string accepted by T , and let

$$z_0 \vdash z_1 \vdash z_2 \vdash z_3 \dots \vdash z_n$$

be 'successful computation' of T for x ,

i.e., $z_0 = q_0 \Delta x$

and z_n is accepting configuration.

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and z_n is accepting configuration.

Successive configurations z_i and z_{i+1} are almost identical;
hence the language

$$\{z \# z' \# \mid z \text{ and } z' \text{ are config's of } T \text{ for which } z \vdash z'\}$$

cannot be described by CFG,

cf. $XX = \{xx \mid x \in \{a, b\}^*\}$.

Let T be TM, let x be string accepted by T , and let

$$z_0 \vdash z_1 \vdash z_2 \vdash z_3 \dots \vdash z_n$$

be 'successful computation' of T for x ,

i.e., $z_0 = q_0 \Delta x$

and z_n is accepting configuration.

On the other hand, $z_i \# z_{i+1}^r$ is almost a palindrome, and palindromes *can* be described by CFG.

Lemma.

The language

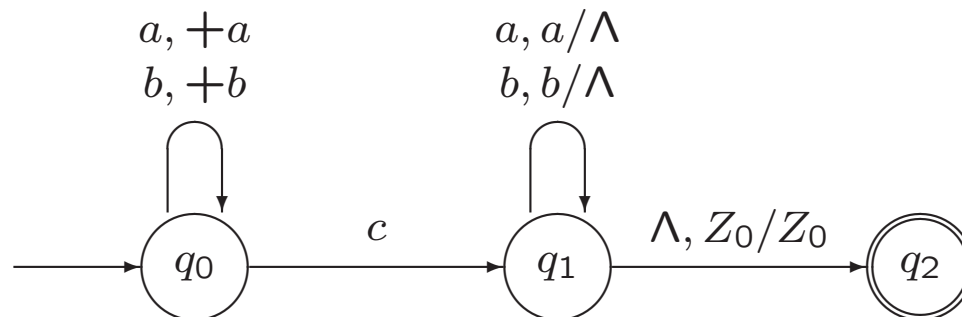
$L_1 = \{z\#(z')^r\# \mid z \text{ and } z' \text{ are config's of } T \text{ for which } z \vdash z'\}$
is context-free.

Proof...

A slide from lecture 1

Example 5.3. A Pushdown Automaton Accepting *SimplePal*

$$\text{SimplePal} = \{x c x^r \mid x \in \{a, b\}^*\}$$



Definition 9.21. Valid Computations of a TM

Let $T = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, \delta)$ be a Turing machine.

A *valid computation* of T is a string of the form

$$z_0 \# z_1^r \# z_2 \# z_3^r \dots \# z_n \#$$

if n is even, or

$$z_0 \# z_1^r \# z_2 \# z_3^r \dots \# z_n^r \#$$

if n is odd,

where in either case, $\#$ is a symbol not in Γ ,

and the strings z_i represent successive configurations of T on some input string x , starting with the initial configuration z_0 and ending with an accepting configuration.

The set of valid computations of T will be denoted by C_T .

Theorem 9.22.

For a TM $T = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, \delta)$,

- the set C_T of valid computations of T is the intersection of two context-free languages,
- and its complement C'_T is a context-free language.

Proof...

Theorem 9.22.

For a TM $T = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, \delta)$,

- the set C_T of valid computations of T is the intersection of two context-free languages,
- and its complement C'_T is a context-free language.

Proof. Let

$$L_1 = \{z\#(z')^r\# \mid z \text{ and } z' \text{ are config's of } T \text{ for which } z \vdash z'\}$$

$$L_2 = \{z^r\#z'\# \mid z \text{ and } z' \text{ are config's of } T \text{ for which } z \vdash z'\}$$

$$I = \{z\# \mid z \text{ is initial configuration of } T\}$$

$$A = \{z\# \mid z \text{ is accepting configuration of } T\}$$

$$A_1 = \{z^r\# \mid z \text{ is accepting configuration of } T\}$$

$$C_T = L_3 \cap L_4$$

where

$$L_3 = IL_2^*(A_1 \cup \{\Lambda\})$$

$$L_4 = L_1^*(A \cup \{\Lambda\})$$

for each of which we can algorithmically construct a CFG

If $x \in C'_T$ (i.e., $x \notin C_T$), then...

If $x \in C'_T$ (i.e., $x \notin C_T$), then

1. Either, x does not end with $\#$

Otherwise, let $x = z_0\#z_1\#\dots\#z_k\#$

(no reversed strings in this partitioning)

2. Or, for some even i , z_i is not configuration of T

3. Or, for some odd i , z_i^r is not configuration of T

4. Or z_0 is not initial configuration of T

5. Or z_k is neither accepting configuration, nor the reverse of one

6. Or, for some even i , $z_i \neq z_{i+1}^r$

7. Or, for some odd i , $z_i^r \neq z_{i+1}$

If $x \in C'_T$ (i.e., $x \notin C_T$), then

1. Either, x does not end with $\#$

Otherwise, let $x = z_0\#z_1\#\dots\#z_k\#$

2. Or, for some even i , z_i is not configuration of T

3. Or, for some odd i , z_i^r is not configuration of T

4. Or z_0 is not initial configuration of T

5. Or z_k is neither accepting configuration, nor the reverse of one

6. Or, for some even i , $z_i \not\prec z_{i+1}^r$

7. Or, for some odd i , $z_i^r \not\prec z_{i+1}$

Hence, C'_T is union of seven context-free languages,

for each of which we can algorithmically construct a CFG

Corollary.

The decision problem

CFGNonEmptyIntersection:

Given two CFGs G_1 and G_2 , is $L(G_1) \cap L(G_2)$ nonempty?

is undecidable (cf. Theorem 9.20(1)).

Proof.

Let

AcceptsSomething: Given a TM T , is $L(T) \neq \emptyset$?

Prove that *AcceptsSomething* \leq *CFGNonEmptyIntersection*

Study this result yourself.

Theorem 9.23. The decision problem

CFGGeneratesAll: Given a CFG G with terminal alphabet Σ , is $L(G) = \Sigma^*$?

is undecidable.

Proof.

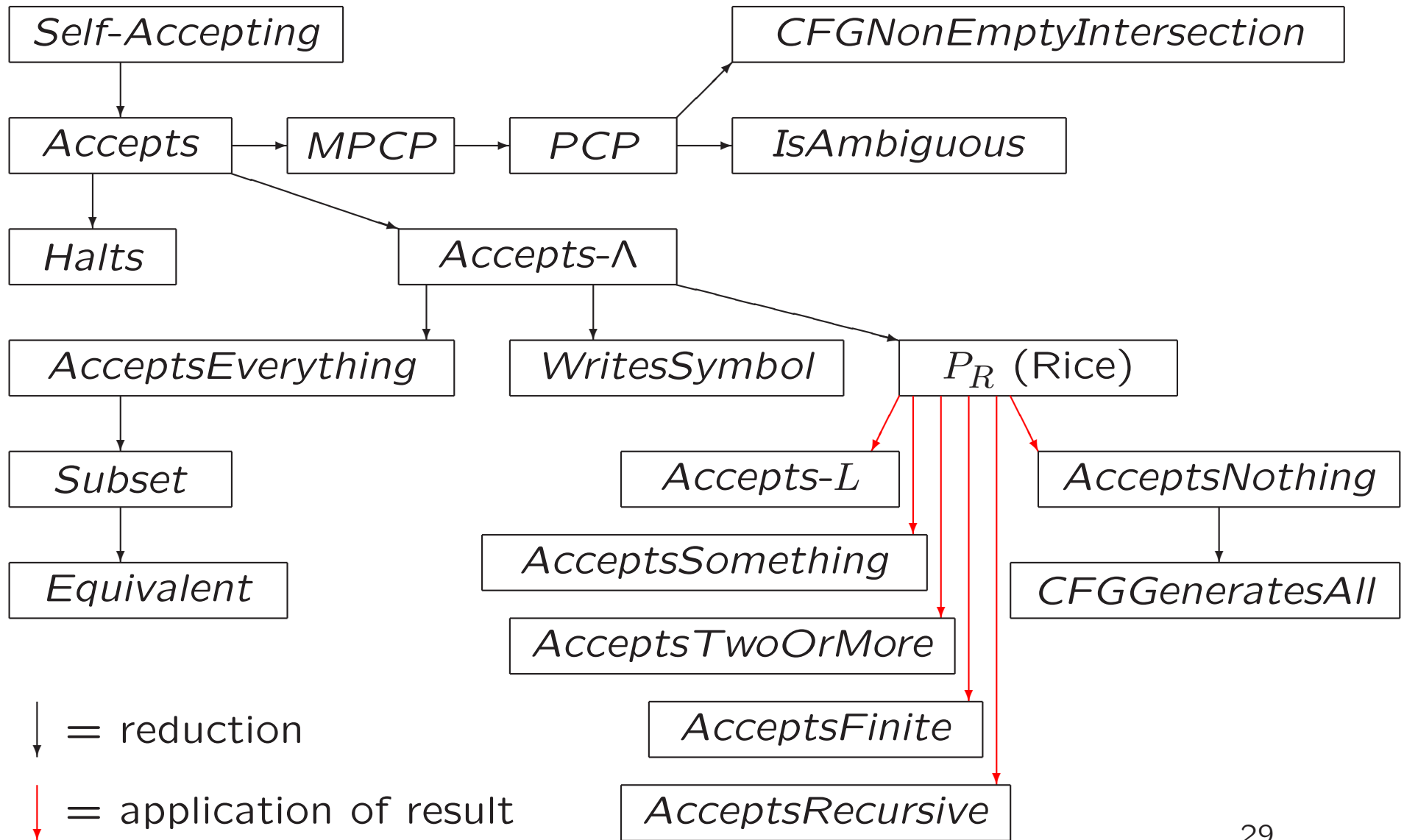
Let

AcceptsNothing: Given a TM T , is $L(T) = \emptyset$?

Prove that *AcceptsNothing* \leq *CFGGeneratesAll* . . .

Study this result yourself.

Undecidable Decision Problems (we have discussed)



10. Computable Functions

10.1. Primitive Recursive Functions

Definition 10.1. Initial Functions

The initial functions are the following:

1. *Constant* functions: For each $k \geq 0$ and each $a \geq 0$, the constant function $C_a^k : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined by the formula

$$C_a^k(X) = a \quad \text{for every } X \in \mathbb{N}^k$$

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2. The *successor* function $s : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined by the formula

$$s(x) = x + 1$$

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3. *Projection* functions: For each $k \geq 1$ and each i with $1 \leq i \leq k$, the projection function $p_i^k : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined by the formula

$$p_i^k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = x_i$$

Definition 10.2. The Operations of Composition and Primitive Recursion

1. Suppose f is a partial function from \mathbb{N}^k to \mathbb{N} , and for each i with $1 \leq i \leq k$, g_i is a partial function from \mathbb{N}^m to \mathbb{N} .

The partial function obtained from f and g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k by composition is the partial function h from \mathbb{N}^m to \mathbb{N} defined by the formula

$$h(X) = f(g_1(X), g_2(X), \dots, g_k(X)) \text{ for every } X \in \mathbb{N}^m$$

Definition 10.2. The Operations of Composition and Primitive Recursion (continued)

2. Suppose $n \geq 0$ and g and h are functions of n and $n + 2$ variables, respectively. (By “a function of 0 variables,” we mean simply a constant.)

The function obtained from g and h by the operation of *primitive recursion* is the function $f : \mathbb{N}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ defined by the formulas

$$\begin{aligned} f(X, 0) &= g(X) \\ f(X, k + 1) &= h(X, k, f(X, k)) \end{aligned}$$

for every $X \in \mathbb{N}^n$ and every $k \geq 0$.

Example 10.5. Addition, Multiplication and Subtraction

$$\textit{Add}(x, y) = x + y$$

Definition 10.3. Primitive Recursive Functions

The set PR of *primitive recursive* functions is defined as follows.

1. All initial functions are elements of PR .
2. For every $k \geq 0$ and $m \geq 0$, if $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k : \mathbb{N}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ are elements of PR , then the function $f(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k)$ obtained from f and g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k by composition is an element of PR .
3. For every $n \geq 0$, every function $g : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ in PR , and every function $h : \mathbb{N}^{n+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ in PR , the function $f : \mathbb{N}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ obtained from g and h by primitive recursion is in PR .

In other words, the set PR is the smallest set of functions that contains all the initial functions and is closed under the operations of composition and primitive recursion.

Example 10.5. Addition, Multiplication and Subtraction

$$\text{Mult}(x, y) = x * y$$

Example 10.5. Addition, Multiplication and Subtraction

$$\text{Sub}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x - y & \text{if } x \geq y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x \dot{-} y$$