

Fundamentele Informatica 3

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- 7. Turing Machines
- 7.1. A General Model of Computation
- 7.2. Turing Machines as Language Acceptors
- 7.3. Turing Machines That Compute Partial Functions
- 7.4. Combining Turing Machines

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Example 7.5. A TM Accepting $XXX = \{xxx \mid x \in \{a, b\}^*\}$

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Definition 7.1. Turing machines

A Turing machine (TM) is a 5-tuple $T = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, \delta)$, where

Q is a finite set of states. The two *halt* states h_a and h_r are not elements of Q .

Σ , the input alphabet, and Γ , the tape alphabet, are both finite sets, with $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$. The *blank* symbol Δ is not an element of Γ .

q_0 , the initial state, is an element of Q .

δ is the transition function:

$$\delta : Q \times (\Gamma \cup \{\Delta\}) \rightarrow (Q \cup \{h_a, h_r\}) \times (\Gamma \cup \{\Delta\}) \times \{R, L, S\}$$

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Normally, TM starts with

- input string starting in square 1 and all other squares blank,
- and its tape head on square 0.

Tape always contains finite number of non-blanks.

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7.2. Turing Machines as Language Acceptors

Example 7.3. A TM Accepting a Regular Language

$$L = \{a, b\}^* \{ab\} \{a, b\}^* \cup \{a, b\}^* \{ba\}$$

First a finite automaton, then a Turing machine

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7.1. A General Model of Computation

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δ is the transition function: ...

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Interpretation of

$$\delta(p, X) = (q, Y, D)$$

If q is h_a or h_r , the move causes T to halt

What if $D = L$ and T is on square 0?

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Notation:

configuration...

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Notation:

description of tape contents: xzy or $x\bar{y}$

$x\bar{y}\bar{z} = x\bar{y}\Delta = x\bar{y}\bar{z}\Delta\Delta$
 if $y = \Lambda$, then $x\bar{\Delta}$

configuration $xqy = xqy\Delta = xqy\Delta\Delta$
 if $y = \Lambda$, then $xq\Delta$

move: $xqy \vdash_T zrw \quad xqy \vdash_T^* zrw$
 $xqy \vdash zrw \quad xqy \vdash^* zrw$

example: configuration $abbcq\Delta a$ and $\delta(q, a) = (r, \Delta, L)$

initial configuration corresponding to input x : $q_0\Delta^x$

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In the third edition of the book, a configuration is denoted as $(q, x\bar{y})$ or (q, xzy) instead of xqy or $xqz\bar{y}$. This old notation is also allowed for Fundamentele Informatika 3.

Definition 7.2. Acceptance by a TM

If $T = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, \delta)$ is a TM and $x \in \Sigma^*$, x is accepted by T if

$$q_0\Delta x \vdash_T^* w\bar{h}_a y$$

for some strings $w, y \in (\Gamma \cup \{\Delta\})^*$ (i.e., if, starting in the initial configuration corresponding to input x , T eventually halts in the accepting state).

N.B.: sequence of moves leading to h_a is unique

A language $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ is accepted by T if $T = L(T)$, where

$$L(T) = \{x \in \Sigma^* \mid x \text{ is accepted by } T\}$$

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7.3. Turing Machines That Compute Partial Functions

Definition 7.9. A Turing Machine Computing a Function

Let $T = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, \delta)$ be a Turing machine, k a natural number, and f a partial function on $(\Sigma^+)^k$ with values in Γ^* . We say that T computes f if for every (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) in the domain of f ,

$$q_0\Delta^x 1\Delta^{x_2}\Delta \dots \Delta x_k \vdash_T^* h_a \Delta f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$$

and no other input that is a k -tuple of strings is accepted by T .

A partial function $f : (\Sigma^+)^k \rightarrow \Gamma^*$ is Turing-computable, or simply computable, if there is a TM that computes f .

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Study this example yourself.

Example 7.10. The Reverse of a String

$\Delta a a b a a b$
 $\Delta \Lambda a b a b$
 $\Delta \Lambda a b a \Lambda$
 $\Delta B a b a \Lambda$
 $\Delta B \Lambda b \Lambda \Lambda$
 $\Delta B \Lambda b \Lambda \Lambda$
 $\Delta b a b a a$

Example 7.14. The Characteristic Function of a Set

$$\chi_L(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in L \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin L \end{cases}$$

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Example 7.12. The Quotient and Remainder Mod 2

Example 7.14. The Characteristic Function of a Set

$$\chi_L(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in L \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin L \end{cases}$$

From computing χ_L to accepting L

From accepting L to computing χ_L

7.4. Combining Turing Machines

Many notations

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Example 7.17. Finding the Next Blank or the Previous Blank

NB

PB

Example 7.18. Copying a String

Copy: from Δ^x to $\Delta^x\Delta^x$

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Example 7.20. Inserting and Deleting a Symbol

Delete: from $x\underline{a}y$ to $x\underline{_}y$

Insert(σ): from $x\underline{a}y$ to $x\underline{\sigma a}y$

N.B.: y does not contain blanks

Example 7.21. Erasing the Tape
from the current position to the right

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Example 7.24. Comparing Two Strings

Equal: accept $\Delta^x\Delta^y$ if $x = y$,
and reject if $x \neq y$

Example 7.25. Accepting the Language of Palindromes

Copy \rightarrow *NB* \rightarrow *R* \rightarrow *PB* \rightarrow *Equal*

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