

Problem 4.3

Let $ALL_{DFA} = \{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \Sigma^*\}$

Want to show that ALL_{DFA} is decidable.

Note: A language L is Turing Decidable (or just decidable in short) if there exists a halting TM M (decider) such that $L = L(M)$. L is decidable if there exists a decider that decides the language.

\Rightarrow Want to construct a TM M that decides ALL_{DFA}

Note: If D is a DFA and $L(D) = \Sigma^*$ then the complement of the language D can be obtained by converting all the accept states in D to reject states, and all the reject states to accept states. (Not true for NFAs)

Note: The complement of a language is defined in terms of set difference from Σ^* :

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{L} &= \Sigma^* - L \\ \Rightarrow \overline{L(D)} &= \Sigma^* - L(D) \\ &= \Sigma^* - \Sigma^* \\ &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

Given a DFA A and $L(A) = \Sigma^*$ we can construct the complement of the DFA A called DFA B with $L(B) = \emptyset$. Then we can use TM T from Theorem 4.4 on input $\langle B \rangle$ to check if $L(B) = \emptyset$. If T accepts, M accepts. If T rejects, M rejects.

The following TM M decides ALL_{DFA} :

$M =$ "On input $\langle A \rangle$ where A is a DFA and $L(A) = \Sigma^*$

1. Let B be the DFA obtained by swapping accept and reject states of A .
2. Run TM T from Theorem 4.4 on input $\langle B \rangle$ to see if $L(B) = \emptyset$.
3. If so accept, else reject."

$\Rightarrow ALL_{DFA}$ is decidable

Problem 4.4

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } ALL_{\epsilon CFG} &= \{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG that generates } \epsilon\} \\ &= \{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } \epsilon \in L(G)\} \end{aligned}$$

Want to show that $ALL_{\epsilon CFG}$ is decidable.

\Rightarrow Construct a halting TM M that decides $ALL_{\epsilon CFG}$

Note: Given the CFG G , we can convert it into an equivalent CFG $G' = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$ in Chomsky Normal Form. By definition since G' is in Chomsky Normal Form, we know that the only possible ϵ rule in G' will be $S \rightarrow \epsilon$ where S is the start variable.

If $S \rightarrow \epsilon$ is a rule in $R \Rightarrow \epsilon \in L(G')$

Else $\epsilon \notin L(G')$

The following TM M decides $ALL_{\epsilon CFG}$:

$M =$ "On input $\langle G \rangle$ where G is a CFG:

1. Convert G into an equivalent CFG G' in Chomsky Normal Form.
2. If G' includes the rule $S \rightarrow \epsilon$, accept. Else reject."

$\Rightarrow ALL_{\epsilon CFG}$ is decidable

Problem 4.8

$$\text{Let } T = \{(i, j, k) \mid i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

Note: A set A is countable if it is finite or has the same size as \mathbb{N} .
Want to show that the set T is countable

For each triple (i, j, k) where $i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $i + j + k$ be the sum S .
We can enumerate all triples in T since there are only a finite number of triples
whose sum equal to S such that $S = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$\Rightarrow T = \{(i, j, k) \mid i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is countable.

Problem 4.11

Let $INFINITE_{PDA} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a PDA and } L(M) \text{ is an infinite language}\}$

Want to show that $INFINITE_{PDA}$ is decidable.

\Rightarrow Construct a halting TM M that decides $INFINITE_{PDA}$

Note: Given the PDA M , we can convert it into an equivalent CFG.

We can then convert the CFG into an equivalent CFG G' in Chomsky Normal Form.

We can check CFG G' if there exists a derivation $A \Rightarrow uAv$ where $u, v \in \Sigma^*$

If $A \Rightarrow uAv$ is a derivation in CFG G' then $L(M)$ is an infinite language.

If $A \Rightarrow uAv$ is not a derivation in CFG G' then $L(M)$ is not an infinite language.

The following TM M decides $INFINITE_{PDA}$:

$M =$ "On input $\langle M \rangle$ where M is a PDA:

1. Convert M into an equivalent CFG G
2. Convert G into an equivalent CFG G' in Chomsky Normal Form.
3. If G' includes the derivation $A \Rightarrow uAv$, accept. Else, reject."

$\Rightarrow INFINITE_{PDA}$ is decidable

Problem 4.13

Construct a Turing machine T to show that A is decidable. First convert the regular expression R and S into DFA D_R and D_S . Then construct DFA D where $L(D) = \overline{L(D_S)} \cap \overline{L(D_R)}$. Run T on input $\langle D \rangle$. If DFA D accepts, T accepts. Else, reject.

Problem 4.21

Construct a Turing machine T to show that S is decidable. Let M^R be the DFA that accepts the reverse of strings that are accepted by M. Then, $L(M^R) = L(M)$. Now the Turing machine T constructs a DFA D on input $\langle M \rangle$ that accepts the reverse of strings accepted by M. T sends $\langle M, D \rangle$ as input to the decider. If DFA D accepts then T also accepts. Else, reject. T accepts M iff $L(M^R) = L(M)$. Since T decides S, S is decidable.

Problem 4.24

Let P be the set of all pushdown automata. Let $U = \{x \mid x \in P \text{ where } x \text{ has a useless state}\}$. To show that U is decidable we construct a Turing machine T that accepts strings that only belong to U. We use the fact whether a PDA having an empty language is decidable. We can reduce the problem (whether given state q is useless) by making q the only accepting state. The Turing machine can solve this question by performing this for each state.

Problem 4.29

Let $C_{CFG} = \{\langle G, k \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } L(G) \text{ contains exactly } k \text{ strings where } k \geq 0 \text{ or } k = \infty\}$

Consider a decider M that decides the following language:

$INFINITE_{CFG} = \{\langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a CFG and } L(G) \text{ is an infinite language}\}$

Want to show that C_{CFG} is decidable.

\Rightarrow Construct a decider T that decides C_{CFG} .

The following TM T decides C_{CFG} :

$T =$ "On input $\langle G, k \rangle$ where G is a CFG and k is string:

1. Check if $L(G)$ is infinite using decider M .
 - If $L(G)$ is infinite and $k = \infty$, accept.
 - If $L(G)$ is finite and $k \neq \infty$, reject.
 - If $L(G)$ is finite and $k = \infty$, reject.
 - If $L(G)$ is finite and $k \neq \infty$, continue.
2. Calculate the pumping length p for CFG G .
3. Let $Count = 0$
4. For $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$:
 - For all strings s with length i .
 - If $s \in L(G)$, $Count++$.
5. If $Count = k$, accept. If $Count \neq k$, reject."

First we check if the language of CFG G is infinite using decider T . If $L(G)$ is finite and $k \neq \infty$, then we need to check if $L(G)$ contains exactly k strings. Since we know that $L(G)$ is finite we know that none of the strings in $L(G)$ may have length greater than the pumping length p for grammar G .

$\Rightarrow C_{CFG}$ is decidable