Rice's Theorem is a general statement about the decidability of a language. Informally, if a language asks a nontrivial question about languages, then $L \notin \text{DEC}$. Let's formalize this.

A property of languages (or an I/O property) is a set $P \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\Sigma^*)$.

Define the set

$$L_p = \{ <M> \mid L(M) \in P \}.$$

A property $P$ is trivial if $L_p = \emptyset$ or $L_p$ is the set of all TMs. $P$ is nontrivial if $L_p$ contains at least one TM but not all of them (i.e., not trivial).

A property $P$ is a property of the TM's language if for all TMs $M_1$ and $M_2$ for which $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$, $<M_1> \in L_p$ iff $<M_2> \in L_p$.

**Ex.**
- $P = \emptyset$ is trivial
- $P = \{\Sigma^*\}$ is trivial
- $P = \text{RE}$ is trivial ($L_p$ contains all TMs)
- $\overline{P}$ where $P$ is trivial is trivial
- $P = \{L \mid \exists \text{TM } M \text{ with } L(M) = L \text{ and } M \text{ has an even } \# \text{ of states} \}$ is not a property of the TM's language

**Obs.** Any trivial property $P$ has $L_p \in \text{DEC}$.

**Why?**
You either always accept or always reject.

**Obs.** All properties $P$ are properties of the TM's language.

**Thm.** (Rice's Theorem) For any nontrivial property $P$, $L_p \notin \text{DEC}$. 

We give a reduction from \( A_{TM} \) to \( L_\Phi \).
Assume \( \text{w.l.o.g.} \) that \( \emptyset \not\in \Phi \) (we get the same result from \( \Phi \) if so),
Since \( \emptyset \) is nontrivial, \( \exists L \in \Phi \) and \( \exists \langle N \rangle \in L_\Phi : L(N) = L \).

Now consider the TM \( D_{m,w} \).

\[ D_{m,w} = \text{"On input } \langle M, w \rangle \text{,} \]
   1) Run \( M(w) \).
   2) If \( M(w) \) does not accept, reject
   3) Run \( N(w) \) and accept if it does
   4) Reject.

Clearly, \( L(D_{m,w}) = \{ \langle M(w) \rangle \mid M(w) \) accepts \} \cup \{ \emptyset \mid M(w) \) does not accept \}.

This yields \( \langle D_{m,w} \rangle \in L_\Phi \) iff \( M(w) \) accepts. (\( \emptyset \not\in \Phi \), \( \Phi \) is a property of the TM's language).

Now assume \( L_\Phi \in \text{EDEC} \). Then there is a decider \( R \) with \( L(R) = L_\Phi \).

Consider the TM \( D \).

\[ D = \text{"On input } \langle M, w \rangle \text{,} \]
   1) Run \( R(\langle D_{m,w} \rangle) \).
   2) Accept if \( R(\langle D_{m,w} \rangle) \) accepts and reject otherwise.

Clearly, \( L(D) = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M(w) \) accepts \} = A_{TM} \), so \( D \) decides \( A_{TM} \).

\( \therefore \) \( L_\Phi \) is not decidable.

\[ \square \]

Ex) \( ALL_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^* \} \) is not decidable.

Not all TMs accept \( \Sigma^* \), so this is a nontrivial property.
Moreover, if \( L(M_1) = L(M_2) \) for TM \( M_1, M_2 \), then \( \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \in ALL_{TM} \)
iff \( L(M_1) = L(M_2) = \Sigma^* \), hence this is a property of the TM's language.
By Rice's Theorem, \( ALL_{TM} \) is undecidable.
Given a predicate $\phi : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$, we can determine if the language

$$L = \{ w \mid \phi(w) \}$$

has a nontrivial I/O property (which is a property of languages). If $\phi(w)$ for any $w$ for which $w$ is not the encoding of a TM, then $L$ is not an I/O property.

We can now rewrite $L$ as

$$L = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \phi(K_M) \}$$

for convenience. Then if $\phi$ satisfies for all $M_1, M_2$

$$L(M_1) = L(M_2) \Rightarrow \phi(\langle M_1 \rangle) = \phi(\langle M_2 \rangle),$$

then $\phi$ represents an I/O property.

To show that $\phi$ is nontrivial, it suffices to show that there is some $M_1$ and $M_2$ such that $\phi(\langle M_1 \rangle)$ and $\neg \phi(\langle M_2 \rangle)$.

In other words, there is a TM that satisfies $\phi$ and another TM which does not.

With this, we can rewrite Rice's Theorem as follows.

**Theorem (Rice's Theorem)**: Let $P$ be a language consisting of TM encodings, suppose $P$ satisfies the following properties.

i) $\exists M_1, M_2$ such that $\langle M_1 \rangle \in P$ and $\langle M_2 \rangle \notin P$.

ii) $\forall M_1, M_2$, $L(M_1) = L(M_2) \Rightarrow \langle M_1 \rangle \in P$ iff $\langle M_2 \rangle \in P$.

Then $P$ is undecidable.