Define the set of all Turing machines to be $\mathcal{M}$. For a property $P : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$, define the language

$$L_P = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \in \mathcal{M} \text{ and } P(M)\}.$$  

Rice’s Theorem requires two facts to hold.

1. $P$ is nontrivial (i.e. $P$ is not always true or always false), and

2. $P$ is a property of the Turing machine’s language, that is for every pair of Turing machines $A$ and $B$ such that $L(A) = L(B)$, $P(A)$ if and only if $P(B)$ (i.e. $\langle A \rangle \in L_P$ if and only if $\langle B \rangle \in L_P$).

If both of these are true, then Rice’s Theorem tells us that $L_P \notin \text{DEC}$.

**Problem 1.** Prove that the following language is not decidable using Rice’s Theorem.

$$FIN = \{\langle M \rangle \mid |L(M)| < \infty\}$$

Here, $P(M) := |L(M)| < \infty$.

Recall that a language $A$ mapping reduces to a language $B$, written $A \leq_m B$, if there is a computable function $f$ such that for every $\omega \in \Sigma^*$, $\omega \in A$ if and only if $f(\omega) \in B$.

A mapping reduction transforms an input to $A$ into an input to $B$. In other words, $f$ makes $B$ do $A$’s job. In general, you can think of $A \leq_m B$ as meaning “$A$ is no harder than $B$” or “$B$ is at least as hard as $A$”. Put plainly, if you can “solve” $B$, then you can “solve” $A$. If you can’t solve $A$, then solving $B$ would solve $A$, so you can’t solve $B$ either.

This results in the following useful theorems when $A \leq_m B$.

- $B \in \text{RE} \implies A \in \text{RE}$
- $A \notin \text{RE} \implies B \notin \text{RE}$
- $B \in \text{co-RE} \implies A \in \text{co-RE}$
- $A \notin \text{co-RE} \implies B \notin \text{co-RE}$
- $B \in \text{DEC} \implies A \in \text{DEC}$
- $A \notin \text{DEC} \implies B \notin \text{DEC}$
Problem 2. In the chart below, the first two rows tell you if a language is in $RE$ or $co-RE$. Then in each cell below that, place an X if the row’s language mapping reduces to the column’s language. No proof is required.

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One lesson to take away from the previous problem is that like reduces to like (observe the $RE$ rows and the $co-RE$ rows). The other lesson is that there are problems that are simply so hard that they can solve every $RE$ and $co-RE$ problem (observe the $EQ_{TM}$ column).

Problem 3.

a) Give a utility Turing machine $U_{M,\omega}$ so that

$$L(U_{M,\omega}) = \begin{cases} \Sigma^* & M(\omega) \text{ halts} \\ \emptyset & M(\omega) \text{ does not halt.} \end{cases}$$

b) Show that $HALT_{TM} \leq_m FIN$.

c) Prove that $FIN \notin RE$.

Problem 4. Prove that if $A \in RE$ and $A \leq_M \overline{A}$, then $A \in DEC$. 

• $\overline{A} \leq_m B$