## Turing Machines Part One

Are some problems inherently harder than others?

## Languages recognizable by any feasible computing machine

All Languages

## That same drawing, to scale.

All Languages

## The Problem

- Finite automata accept precisely the regular languages.
- We may need unbounded memory to recognize context-free languages.
- e.g. $\left\{\mathrm{a}^{n} \mathbf{b}^{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$ requires unbounded counting.
- How do we build an automaton with finitely many states but unbounded memory?


## A Better Memory Device

- A Turing machine is a finite automaton equipped with an infinite tape as its memory.
- The input is written on the tape when the computation begins, surrounded by infinitely many blank cells.
- Each transition depends on the current symbol under the tape head.


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$A X X A A A$


## The Turing Machine

- A Turing machine consists of three parts:
- A finite-state control that issues commands,
- an infinite tape for input and scratch space, and
- a tape head that can read and write a single tape cell.
- At each step, the Turing machine
- writes a symbol to the tape cell under the tape head,
- changes state, and
- moves the tape head to the left or to the right.


## Input and Tape Alphabets

- A Turing machine has two alphabets:
- An input alphabet $\Sigma$. All input strings are written in the input alphabet.
- A tape alphabet $\Gamma$, where $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$. The tape alphabet contains all symbols that can be written onto the tape.
- The tape alphabet $\Gamma$ can contain any number of symbols, but always contains at least one blank symbol, denoted $\square$. You are guaranteed $\square \notin \Sigma$.
- At startup, the Turing machine begins with an infinite tape of $\square$ symbols with the input written at some location. The tape head is positioned at the start of the input.


## A Simple Turing Machine



This special accept state causes the machine to immediately accept.

Each transition of the form

$$
x \rightarrow y, D
$$

means "upon reading $\boldsymbol{x}$, replace it with symbol $\boldsymbol{y}$ and move the tape head in direction $\mathbf{D}$ (which is either $\mathbf{L}$ or $\mathbf{R}$ ). The symbol $\square$ represents the blank symbol.

This special reject state causes the machine to immediately reject.

A Simple Turing Machine


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\begin{array}{llllll}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}
$$

A Simple Turing Machine


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\begin{array}{llllll}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}
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A Simple Turing Machine


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\begin{array}{llllll}
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A Simple Turing Machine


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A Simple Turing Machine


A Simple Turing Machine


## Accepting and Rejecting States

- Unlike DFAs, Turing machines do not stop processing the input when they finish reading it.
- Turing machines decide when (and if!) they will accept or reject their input.
- Turing machines can enter infinite loops and never accept or reject; more on that later...


## Designing Turing Machines

- Despite their simplicity, Turing machines are very powerful computing devices.
- Today's lecture explores how to design Turing machines for various languages.


## Designing Turing Machines

- Let $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$ and consider the language $L=\left\{0^{n} 1^{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$.
- We know that $L$ is context-free.
- How might we build a Turing machine for it?


## $L=\left\{0^{n} 1^{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$



| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



## A Recursive Approach

- The string $\varepsilon$ is in $L$.
- The string $0 w 1$ is in $L$ iff $w$ is in $L$.
- Any string starting with 1 is not in $L$.
- Any string ending with 0 is not in $L$.


## A Sketch of the TM



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## $\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 1\end{array}$

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\begin{gathered}
\substack{0 \\
\mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}, \mathrm{~L} \\
\hline}
\end{gathered}
$$

## $\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 1\end{array}$

...



| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
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\square \rightarrow \square, \mathbf{R}
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## 01 <br> 0

$\square \rightarrow \square, \mathbf{R}$


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\mathbf{0} & \rightarrow \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{R}
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
\square & \rightarrow \square, \mathbf{R} \\
\mathbf{0} & \rightarrow \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{R}
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
\square & \rightarrow \square, \mathbf{R} \\
\mathbf{0} & \rightarrow \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{R}
\end{aligned}
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$$
\begin{aligned}
\square & \rightarrow \square, \mathbf{R} \\
\mathbf{0} & \rightarrow \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{R}
\end{aligned}
$$



## Another TM Design

- We've designed a TM for $\left\{0^{n} 1^{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$.
- Consider this language over $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$ :

$$
\begin{gathered}
L=\left\{w \in \Sigma^{*} \left\lvert\, \begin{array}{c}
w \text { has the same number } \\
\text { of 0s and 1s }\}
\end{array}\right.\right.
\end{gathered}
$$

- This language is also not regular, but it is context-free.
- How might we design a TM for it?


## A Caveat



## A Caveat



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## A Caveat

## $0 \quad 1 \quad 110$

How do we know that this blank isn't one of the infinitely many
blanks after our input string?

## A Caveat



## A Caveat



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How do we know that this blank isn't one of the infinitely many blanks after our input string?

A Caveat


## A Caveat



How do we know that this blank isn't one of the infinitely many blanks after our input string?

## The Solution



## The Solution



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## The Solution




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\begin{array}{lllllllll}
0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0
\end{array}
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\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|lll|l|l|l|l|}
\hline \cdots & & & \times & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0
\end{array}\right)
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$\times \times \times \times 1100$


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| $\ldots$ |  | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
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| $\ldots$ |  |  | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
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| $\ldots$ |  | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
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| $\ldots$ |  | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |  |
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Going forward, we'll ignore the missing transitions and pretend they implicitly reject.


## Constant Storage

- Sometimes, a TM needs to remember some additional information that can't be put on the tape.
- In this case, you can use similar techniques from DFAs and introduce extra states into the TM's finite-state control.
- The finite-state control can only remember one of finitely many things, but that might be all that you need!


## Time-Out for Announcements!

## Problem Set Six

- Problem Set Five was due at the start of lecture today.
- Due Tuesday with one late day and Wednesday with two late days.
- Problem Set Six goes out now, is due at the start of next Monday's lecture.
- Play around with nonregular languages, the MyhillNerode theorem, and context-free grammars!
- The second midterm is a week from Thursday. We do not recommend using late days on Problem Set Six.


## Your Questions

## "What do you think about entrepreneurship? Have you ever considered becoming an entrepreneur? Why or why not?"

I had a brilliant idea for a startup in my freshman year, but then Google did it. :)

It's a mixed bag! I think the entrepreneurial spirit is great in that it challenges people to just go fix the problems they see. I think it's a bit unhealthy in that people feel pressured to make startups when they honestly should just keep studying and learning more about the world.
"How are you working towards making CS a factor in making the lives of the less fortunate better when all it seems that CS, outside of academia, can do is solve problems for the rich?"

I guarantee you I'm not doing enough. I can talk about some of the things that I'm currently doing / hoping to do.

Computing gives people a chance to climb up the economic ladder and can empower the weak and vulnerable if used correctly. I hope that I'm giving people the tools to help make this happen.
"If I did poorly on the midterm (failed) and well on the problem sets, what is my standing in the class? Am i at risk of failing?"

Here's full disclosure on how I compute grades:

1. I compute raw scores weighted by the amounts I said I was going to weight everything by (each problem set has a weight printed on the front, the midterms are $15 \%$ each, and the final is $30 \%$ 。
2. I compute a grading curve. I never curve down: a $90 \%$ is always an $A-$, an $80 \%$ is always a $B-$, etc. I usually put the median as the cutoff between $B / B+$ and usually put the $25^{\text {th }}$ percentile as the $C+/ B$ - cutoff. The $B=/ A-$ cutoff fluctuates a bit, but it's usually around the $60^{\text {th }}$ percentile mark. I always do a follow-up check to make sure that I can explain all the grades I'm giving. I also leave out extra credit when designing the curve, but leave it in when assigning letter grades.

You can definitely pass the class if you failed the first exam - you can pass even if you didn't take it: Just try to avoid having two bad exams - that will really hurt your grade.

Back to CS103!

## Another TM Design

- Consider the following language over $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
L=\left\{0^{n} 1^{m}\right. & \mid n, m \in \mathbb{N} \text { and } \\
& m \text { is a multiple of } n\}
\end{aligned}
$$

- Is this language regular?
- How might we design a TM for this language?


## An Observation

- We can recursively describe when one number $m$ is a multiple of $n$ :
- If $m=0$, then $m$ is a multiple of $n$.
- Otherwise, $m$ is a multiple of $n$ iff $m-n$ is a multiple of $n$.
- Idea: Repeatedly subtract $n$ from $m$ until $m$ becomes zero (good!) or drops below zero (bad!)


## The Challenge



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution



## One Solution

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |$|$

## One Solution



## One Solution



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