

# Unsolvable Problems

# Finding Non-**RE** Languages

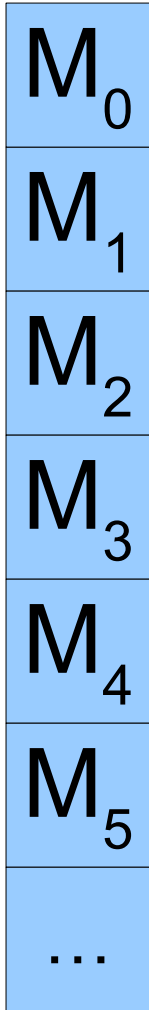
# Finding Non-**RE** Languages

- Remember **RE** but non-**R** (undecidable) languages are those where we can reliably identify strings in the language, but cannot readily identify strings that are *not* in the language.
- Non-**RE** languages will be those where we cannot even readily identify strings that *are* in the language!
- How might we find an example of a non-**RE** language?

# Languages, TMs, and TM Encodings

- What happens if we list off all Turing machines, looking at how those TMs behave when given other TM codes (as strings, so various  $\langle M_x \rangle$  strings) as input?

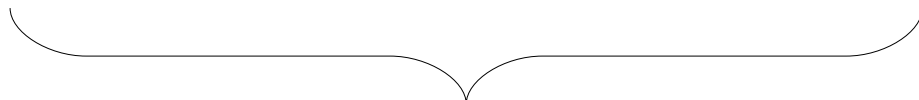
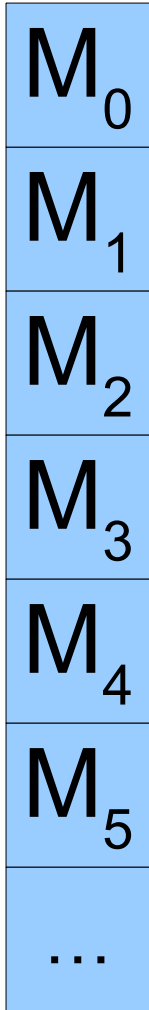
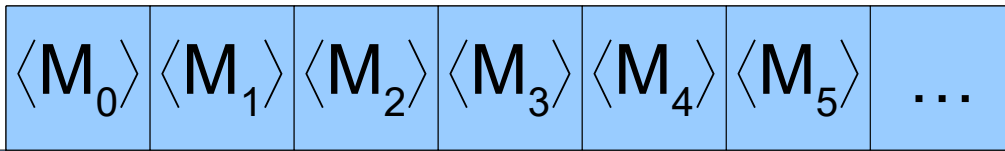
$M_0$
$M_1$
$M_2$
$M_3$
$M_4$
$M_5$
...



All Turing machines, listed  
in some order.

$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----

$M_0$
$M_1$
$M_2$
$M_3$
$M_4$
$M_5$
...



All files/strings of TMs' code, listed in the same order.

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$							
$M_2$							
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$							
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc		
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

What is  $\mathcal{L}(M_0)$ ?

- A.  $\Sigma^*$
- B.  $\{\langle M_0 \rangle, \langle M_3 \rangle, \langle M_4 \rangle, \dots\}$
- C.  $\{\langle M_0 \rangle\}$
- D.  $\{\langle M_0 \rangle, \langle M_1 \rangle, \langle M_2 \rangle, \langle M_3 \rangle, \dots\}$
- E. Something else.

Answer at [PollEv.com/cs103](https://www.pollEv.com/cs103) or  
text **CS103** to **22333** once to join, then **A - E**.

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

$$\mathcal{L}(M_0) = \{ \langle M_0 \rangle, \langle M_3 \rangle, \langle M_4 \rangle, \dots \}.$$

And we can't see the rest of the table for  $M_2$ , but it accepts everything so far, so it's at least possible that its language is  $\mathcal{L}(M_2) = \Sigma^*$ .

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc			
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc			
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

*Aside:* we aren't really worrying about the existence of other strings that aren't TM code right now, but you could also think of it including those strings, so  $\mathcal{L}(M_0) = \{\langle M_0 \rangle, \langle M_3 \rangle, \langle M_4 \rangle, \dots\} \cup \{w \mid w \text{ is a string that isn't a TM's code, and } M_0 \text{ accepts } w\}$

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...							

**Quick check:**  
 How many of the TMs on this chart so far do NOT accept their own code as a string?  
 (Enter a number.)

Answer at [PollEv.com/cs103](https://www.pollEv.com/cs103) or text **CS103** to **22333** once to join, then a **number**.



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

What are we going to do next?

Answer at [Pollev.com/cs103](https://Pollev.com/cs103) or  
text **CS103** to **22333** once to join, then **your answer**.



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Acc Acc Acc No Acc No ...

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Flip all "accept" to "no" and vice-versa

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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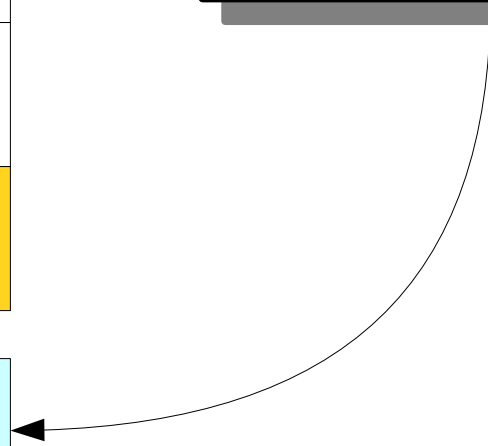
	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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What TM has this behavior?



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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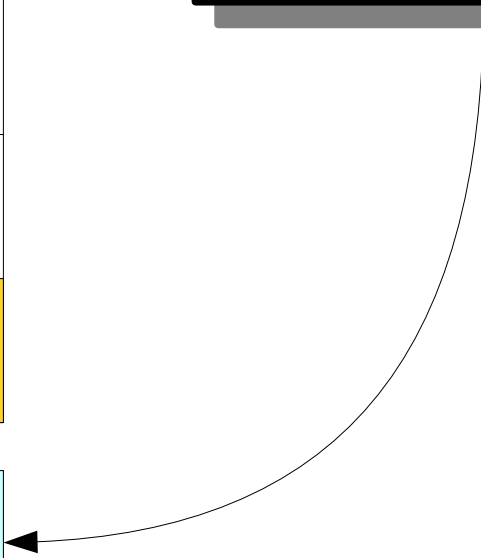
	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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No TM has this behavior!



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**“The language of all TMs that do not accept their own description.”**

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**$\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that does not accept } \langle M \rangle \}$**

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**$\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$**

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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# Diagonalization Revisited

- The ***diagonalization language***, which we denote  $L_D$ , is defined as

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

- That is,  $L_D$  is the set of descriptions of Turing machines that do not accept themselves.

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ .

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Because  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that a string belongs to one set if and only if it belongs to the other.

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We've replaced the left-hand side of this biconditional with an equivalent statement.

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A nice consequence of a universally-quantified statement is that it should work in all cases.

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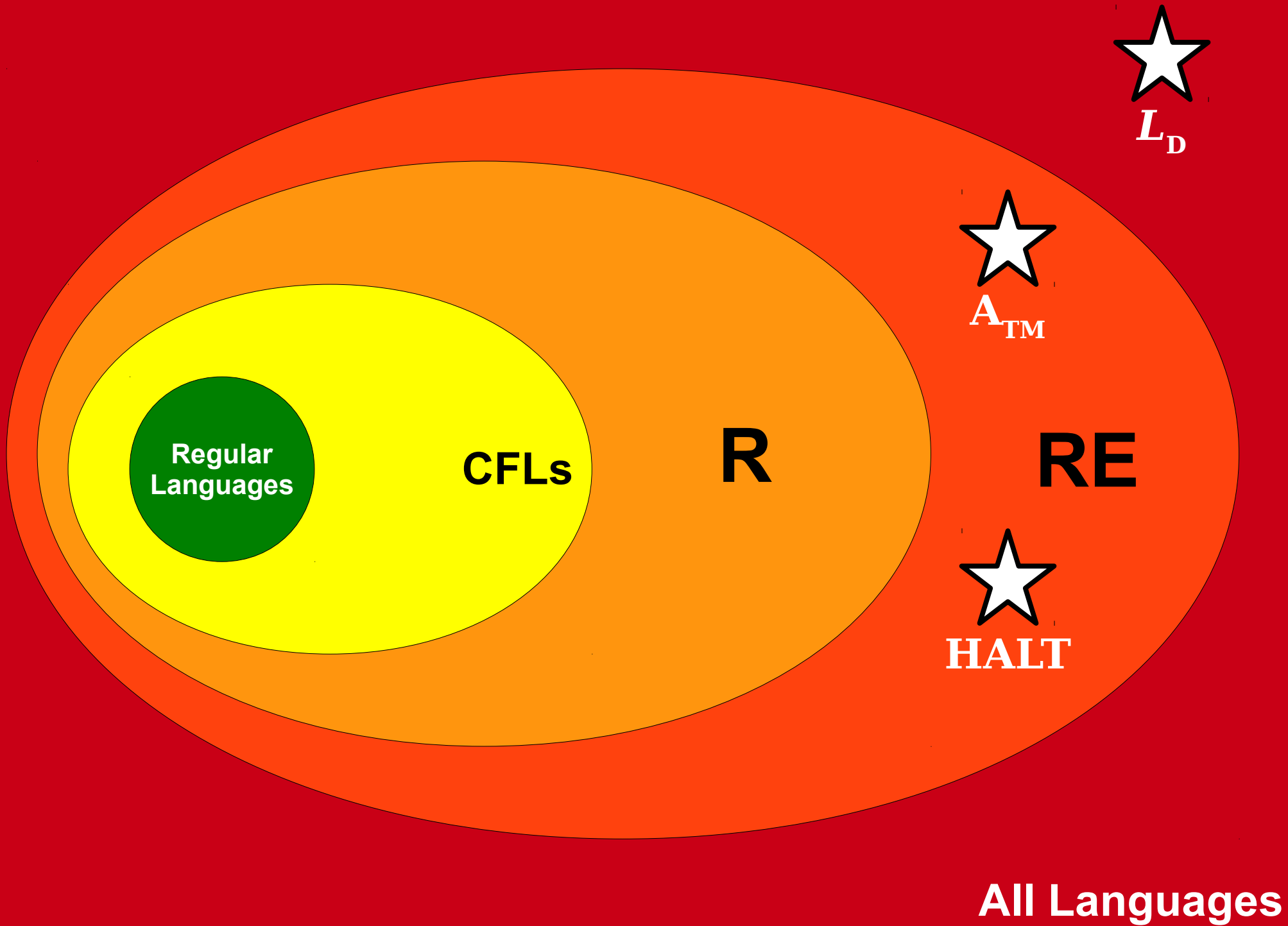
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# What This Means

- On a deeper philosophical level, the fact that non-**RE** languages exist supports the following claim:

***There are statements that are true but not provable.***

- Intuitively, given any non-**RE** language, there will be some string in the language that *cannot* be proven to be in the language.
- This result can be formalized as a result called ***Gödel's incompleteness theorem***, one of the most important mathematical results of all time.
- Want to learn more? Take Phil 152 or CS154!

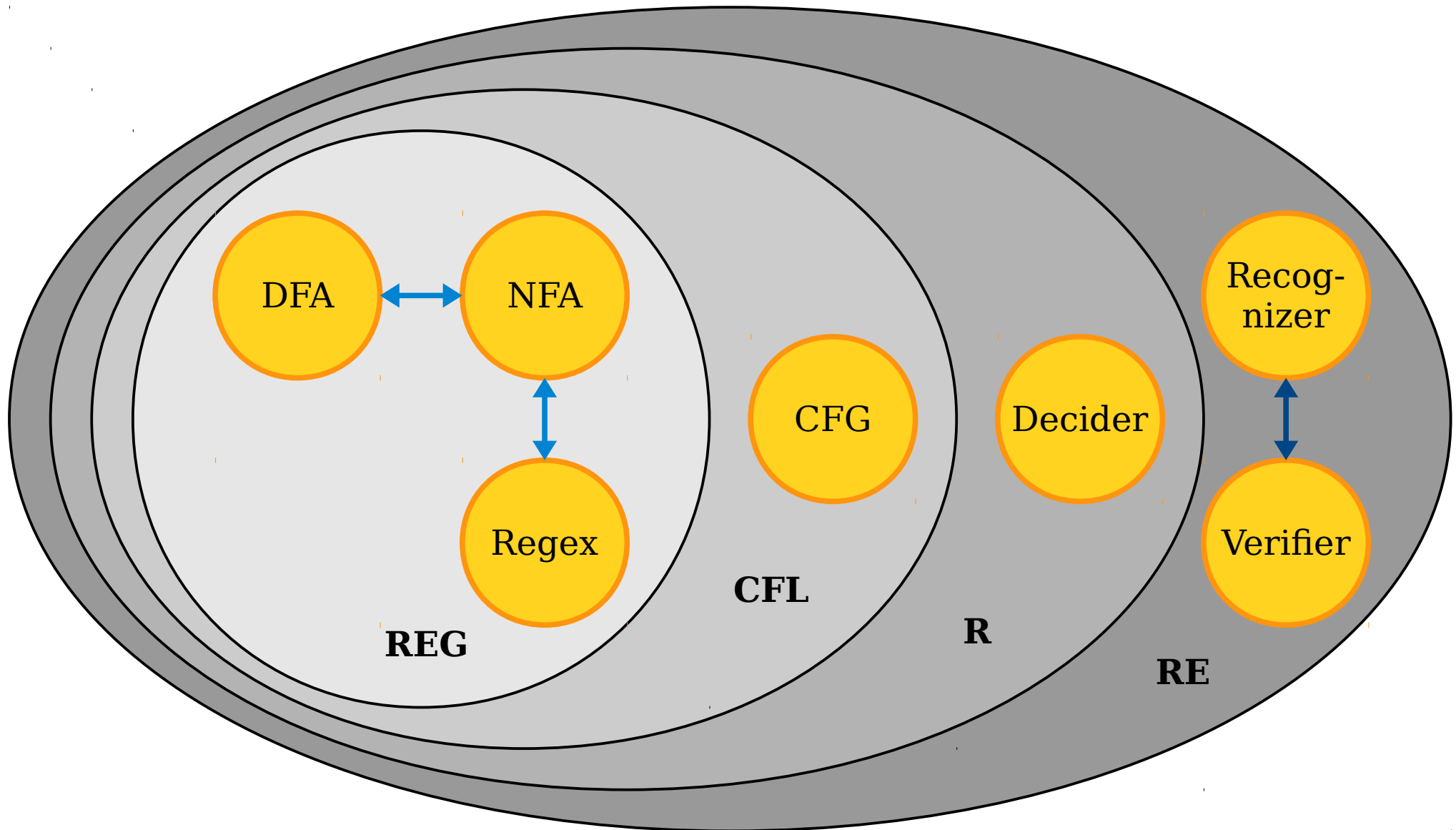
# What This Means

- On a more philosophical note, you could interpret the previous result in the following way:

***There are inherent limits about what mathematics can teach us.***

- There's no automatic way to do math. There are true statements that we can't prove.
- That doesn't mean that mathematics is worthless. It just means that we need to temper our expectations about it.

# The Big Picture



Up to this point:  
“*Can we solve this problem?*”  
(**Computability Theory**)

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Starting today:  
“Ok, even if we *can*, we need to consider  
whether the time/resources required  
actually make practical/feasible sense.”  
(**Complexity Theory**)

# Where We've Been

- The class **R** represents problems that can be solved by a computer.
- The class **RE** represents problems where “yes” answers can be verified by a computer.

# Where We're Going

- The class **P** represents problems that can be solved *efficiently* by a computer.
- The class **NP** represents problems where “yes” answers can be verified *efficiently* by a computer.