

# Announcements

- Wednesday OH canceled
- Today's section split into class/OH
- We're almost there! You got this!
- The final is Saturday. **Start studying now!**
  - Will cover all topics
  - Practice exams are up now
- Review Session Thursday 1-3pm (location TBA, but likely LATHROP 298)

# Verifiers

A TM  $V$  is a **verifier** for a language  $L$  if:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{V \text{ halts on all inputs, and}} \\ & \forall w \in \Sigma^*. (w \in L \leftrightarrow \exists c \in \Sigma^*. V \text{ accepts } \langle w, c \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

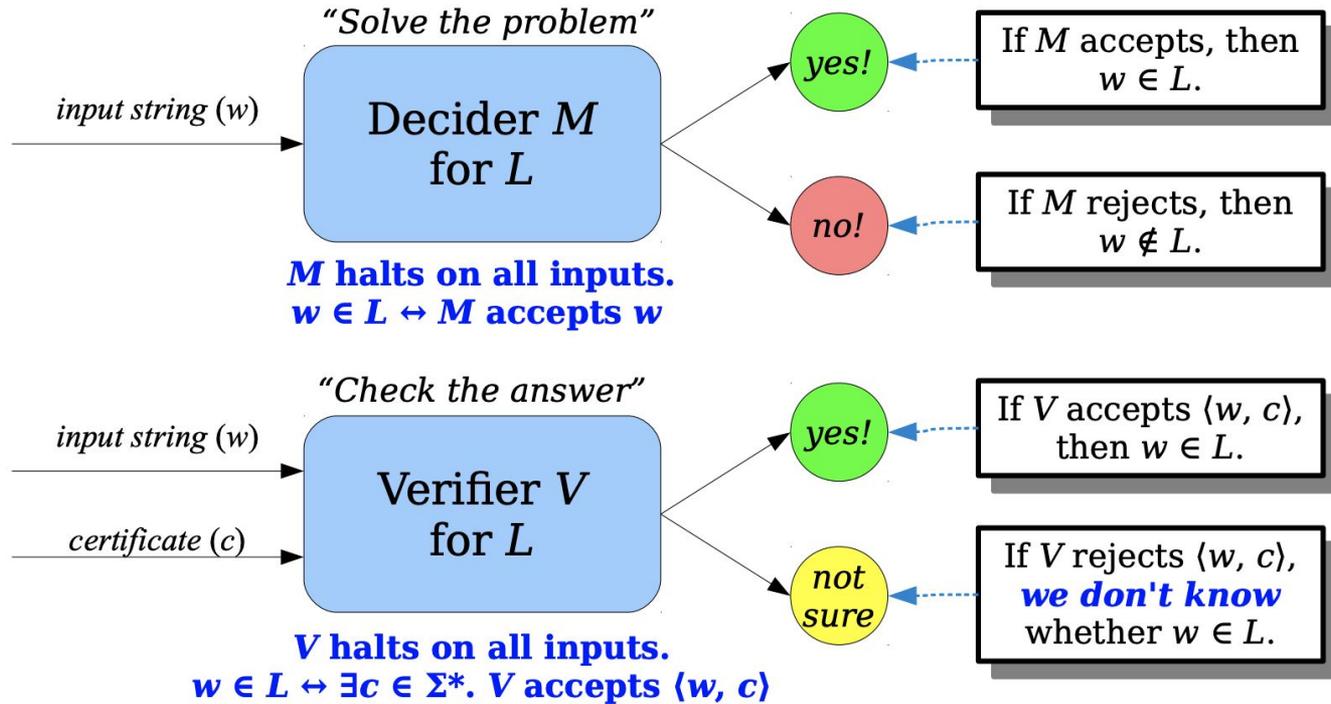
Here is an equivalent definition:

$$\begin{aligned} & \forall w \in \Sigma^*. (w \in L \rightarrow \exists c \in \Sigma^*. V \text{ accepts } \langle w, c \rangle), \text{ and} \\ & \forall w \in \Sigma^*. (w \notin L \rightarrow \forall c \in \Sigma^*. V \text{ rejects } \langle w, c \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

How do we prove or argue something is a verifier?

→ **it's a universal statement!**

# Verifiers vs Deciders



# Self-Reference

Proving that a language is not decidable by contradiction

General template:

- Assume for the sake of contradiction that  $L$  is decidable
- That means there is a decider for  $L$
- Construct a function using the decider that makes sure the decider gives the wrong answer about it

# When do we use Self-Reference

As a refresher, the language  $A_{TM}$  is

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}.$$

Given a TM  $M$  and a string  $w$ , a decider  $D$  for  $A_{TM}$  would need to have this behavior:

- If  $M$  accepts  $w$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M, w \rangle$ .
- If  $M$  rejects  $w$ , then  $D$  rejects  $\langle M, w \rangle$ .
- If  $M$  loops on  $w$ , then  $D$  rejects  $\langle M, w \rangle$ .

This is basically the same set of requirements as  $U_{TM}$ , except for what happens if  $M$  loops on  $w$ .

Our goal is to prove that there is no way to build a program that meets these requirements.

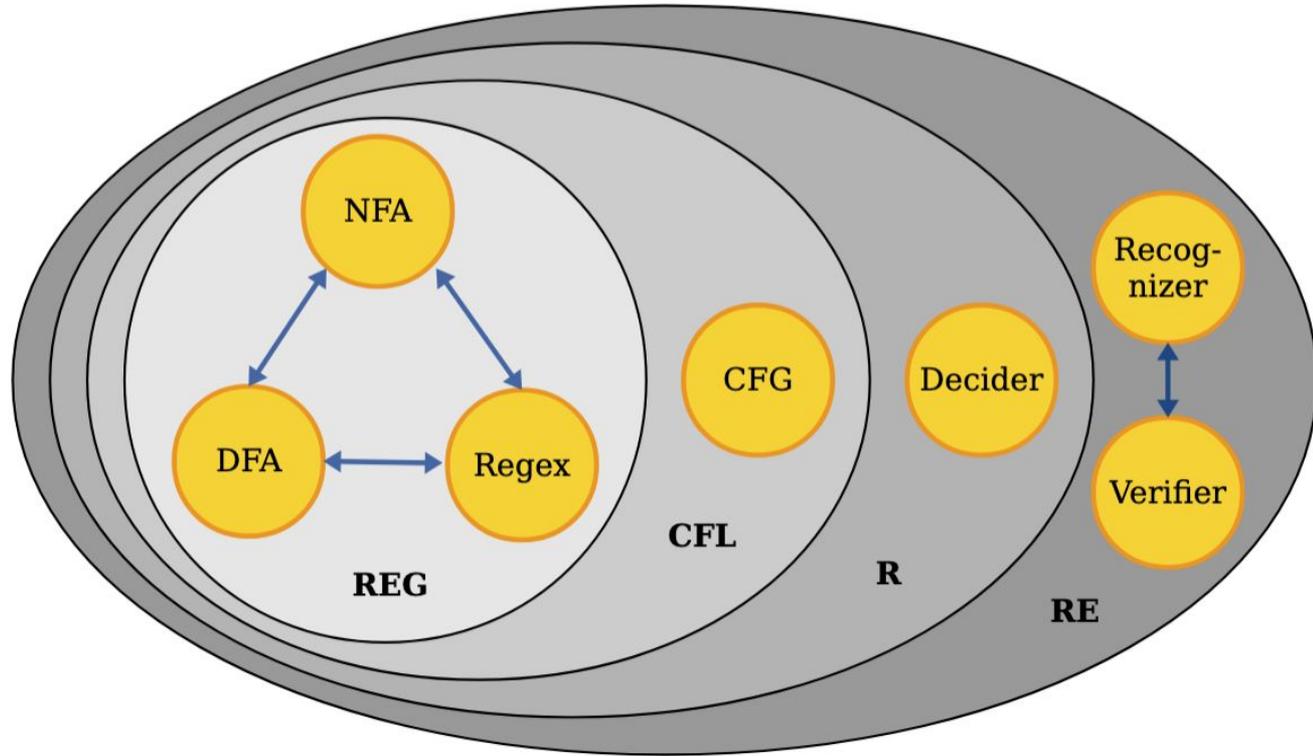
# The Lava Diagram

- **REG**, the regular languages (languages with a DFA, NFA, or regex) are a strict subset of
- **R**, the decidable languages (languages with a decider), which are a strict subset of
- **RE**, the recognizable languages (languages with a recognizer), which are a strict subset of
- **All languages**

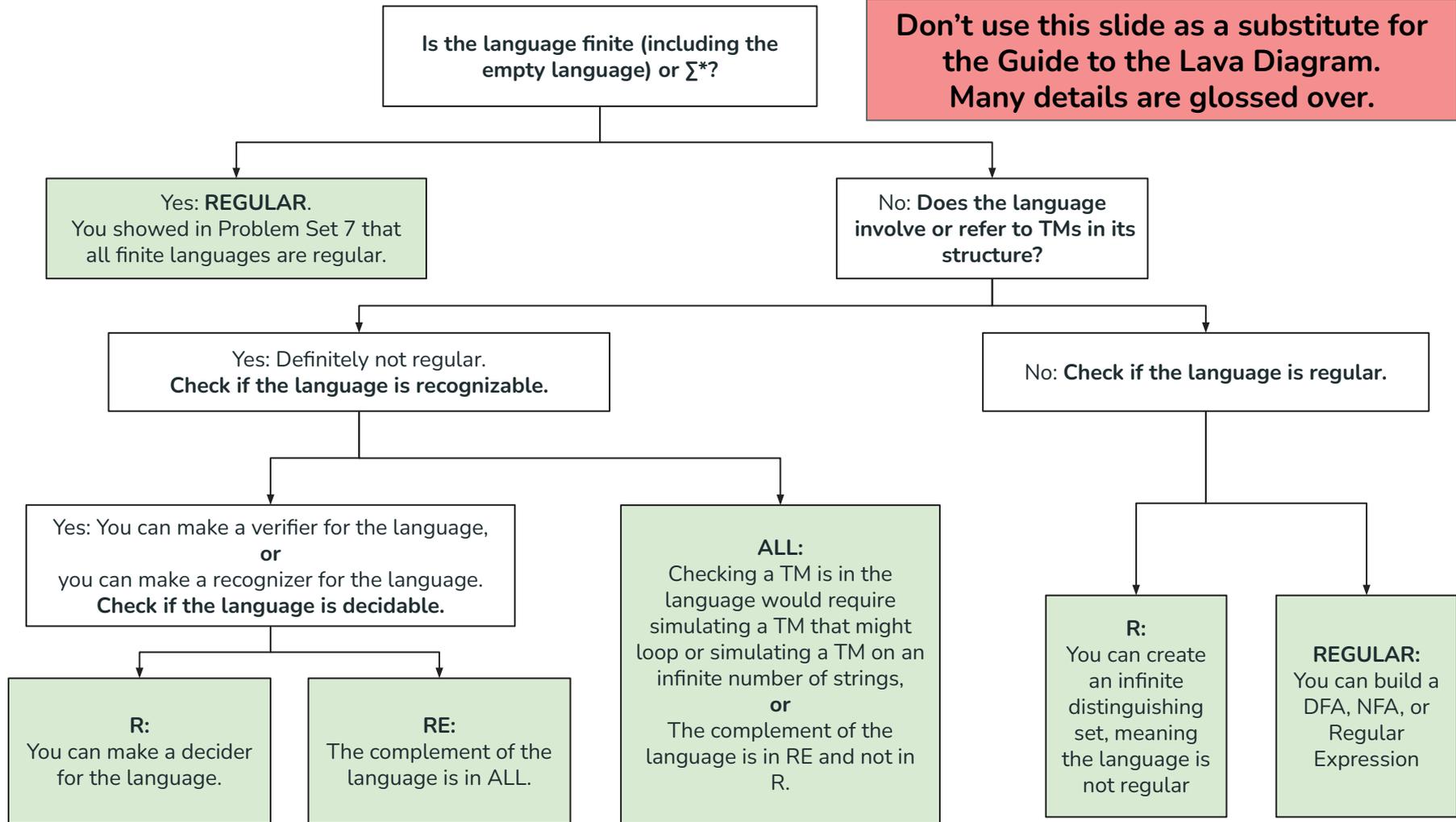
# The Lava Diagram Problems

Check out the properties of each of these computing devices!

Whichever is the **least** complex that can still represent that language will be its category.



**Don't use this slide as a substitute for the Guide to the Lava Diagram. Many details are glossed over.**



# CS103ACE: Lava Diagram “Cheat Sheet”

|            | A language $L$ is in this category if any of these are true  | A language $L$ is NOT in this category if any of these are true  |
|------------|--|--|
| <b>RE</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a verifier for <math>L</math> – intuitively, given any string in <math>L</math>, we can provide proof that it’s in <math>L</math></li> <li>• There is a recognizer for <math>L</math> – intuitively, given any string in <math>L</math>, we can certainly say that it is in <math>L</math> in a finite amount of time</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To determine that a string in <math>L</math> is actually in <math>L</math>, we have to check a TM’s result on infinitely many strings, or we have to check that a TM loops</li> <li>• <math>L</math> has no verifier – Intuitively, even if you know a string is in the language, you cannot convince anyone of this</li> </ul> <p>“Canonical” unrecognizable language: <math>L_D</math></p>  |
| <b>R</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>L</math> is in <b>RE</b> and <math>\bar{L}</math> is in <b>RE</b></li> <li>• There is a decider for <math>L</math> – intuitively, given any string at all, we can certainly say if it is in <math>L</math> or not in a finite amount of time</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\bar{L}</math> is not in <b>RE</b></li> <li>• A decider for <math>L</math> is impossible to build since we can trick it using self-reference (usually comes up when <math>L</math>’s input is a TM)</li> <li>• <math>L</math> is a “regulatory problem” about computer programs (usually – most, but not all, problems of the form “does program X have [behavior Y]” are undecidable)</li> </ul> <p>“Canonical” recognizable but undecidable languages: <math>A_{TM}</math>, <math>HALT</math></p> |
| <b>REG</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a DFA, NFA, or regex for <math>L</math></li> <li>• <math>\bar{L}</math> is regular</li> <li>• We only need to remember a finite amount of information to solve <math>L</math></li> <li>• <math>L</math> contains a finite number of strings (note: there are also infinite regular languages)</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>L</math> has an infinite distinguishing set (via Myhill-Nerode)</li> <li>• Intuitively, we can’t solve <math>L</math> while only keeping track of a finite amount of information/states</li> </ul> <p>“Canonical” decidable but nonregular languages: <math>\{a^n b^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}</math>, palindromes</p>   |

What about CFGs,  $P$ , and NP? **REG** is a strict subset of the CFLs, which are a strict subset of **P**, which is a strict subset of **R**. (**NP** is also a strict subset of **R**, but you don’t need to know this.) (“ $A$  is a strict subset of  $B$ ” means  $A \subseteq B$  and  $A \neq B$ .)

# Non-RE Languages are unsolvable

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.

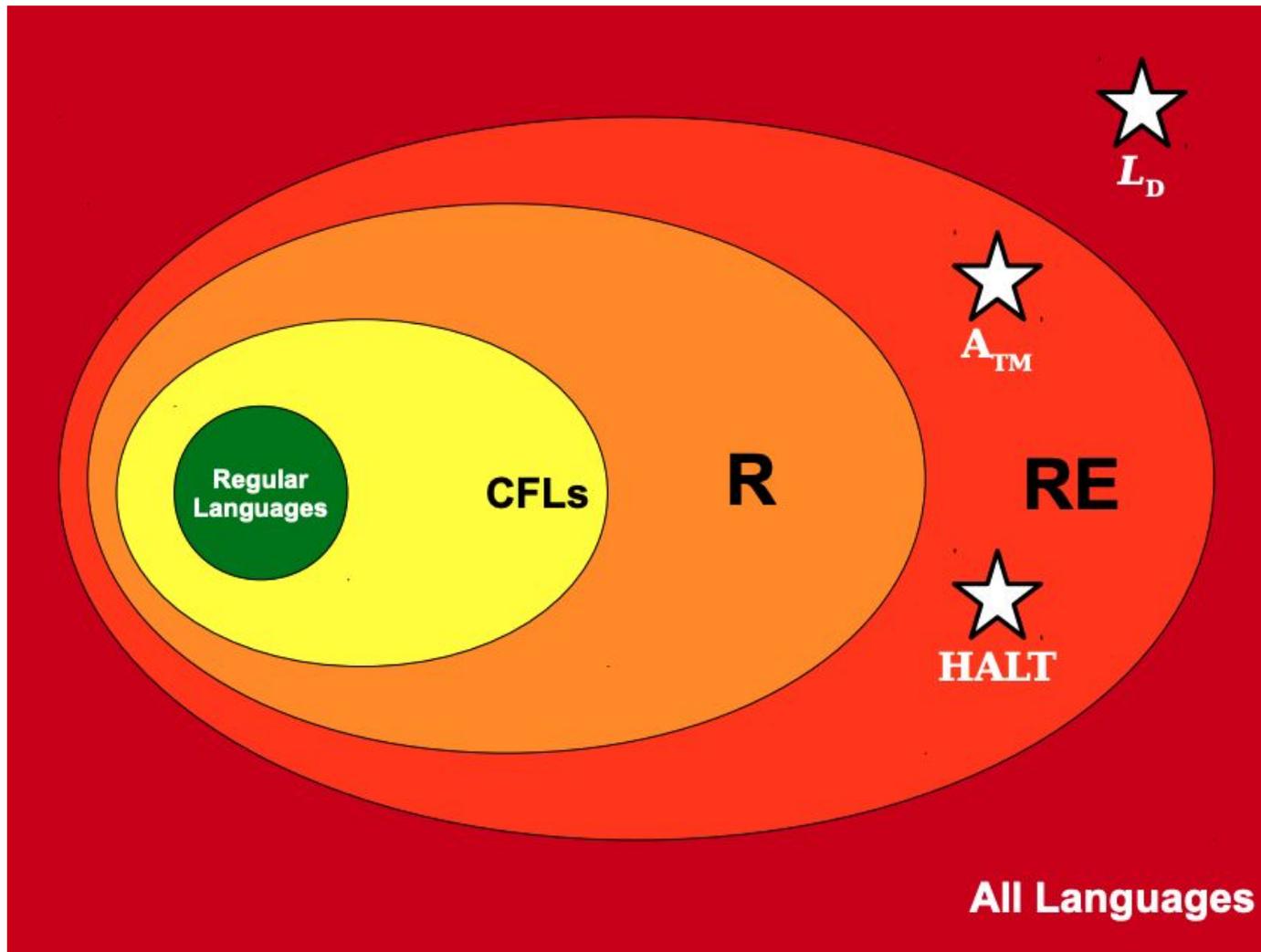
If you did build a TM for  $L_D$ , called  $M_{LD}$ , would  $M_{LD}$  accept  $\langle M_{LD} \rangle$ ?

This is a paradox! If  $M$  is not in  $L(M)$ , it must be in  $L_D$ , but  $L_D = L(M)$ , so this is impossible!

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



# Some things to remember from CS 103

- Mathematics
  - How mathematicians argue for truth using proofs
  - Using highly abstract concepts and formal definitions (sets, functions, graphs) to model important and cool things
  - Math is way more than just solving equations!
  - **You** can do interesting and rigorous math!
- Computability
  - Problems that can't be solved by computers
  - The P vs. NP problem

# Some things to remember from CS 103

- If you enjoyed parts of this class...
  - CS is a great place for you!
  - If you like computation theory, try CS 154
  - If you liked finite automata, try designing more in EE108
- If you did **NOT** enjoy this class
  - **CS is a great place for you!**
  - This is just one course in an extremely broad area
- 161 is a cool combination of 106B and 103