

**CSc/Math 473**

**EXAMPLE final exam**

**Do eight (8) problems.** All problems have equal weight. Write all answers on this examination, and submit it in the envelope at the end of the exam.

**TIME = 2 hours.**

**You can do ONE additional problem for extra credit.** If you do so, *circle the extra credit problem* you attempted in the table below.

NAME											
Problem	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Σ
Maximum	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80+10
Score											

**1. Irregularity**

Let  $L$  be the following language over  $\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$ :

$$L = \{ucv \mid u, v \in \{a, b\}^* \text{ and } |u| = |v|\}$$

Show that  $L$  is not a regular language.

**2. True or False**

Be very careful to read what is actually asserted.

- (a)\_\_\_\_\_The Turing-recognizable languages are closed under complementation.
- (b)\_\_\_\_\_The Turing-decidable languages are closed under complementation.
- (c)\_\_\_\_\_The following problem is unsolvable: given context-free grammar  $G$ , determine whether or not  $L(G) = \emptyset$ .
- (d)\_\_\_\_\_Any language in  $\Sigma^*$  with a context-free complement is decidable.
- (e)\_\_\_\_\_The set  $\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM} \}$  is decidable.
- (f)\_\_\_\_\_The set  $\{ \langle M \rangle \mid \langle M \rangle \in L(M) \}$  is decidable.
- (g)\_\_\_\_\_It is decidable, given a TM  $M$  and configurations  $C_1 = uqav$  and  $C_2 = ua'q'v$ , whether  $C_1 \vdash_M C_2$ .
- (h)\_\_\_\_\_It is decidable, given a TM  $M$  and configurations  $C_1 = uqav$  and  $C_2 = q'\epsilon$ , whether  $C_1 \vdash_M^* C_2$ .
- (i)\_\_\_\_\_It is decidable, given a CF grammar  $G$  and a string  $w$ , whether  $w \in L(G)$ .
- (j)\_\_\_\_\_It is decidable, given a right-linear grammar  $G$  and a string  $w$ , whether  $w \in L(G)$ .

**3. Hierarchy**

In each part below, describe (using set notation) a specific language that has the given property. A response like " $A_{TM}$ " is not sufficient: you must define the set of strings precisely.

- (a) not Turing-recognizable but with a Turing-recognizable complement
  
- (b) Turing-recognizable but not Turing-decidable

(c) Context-free but not Regular

(d) Turing-recognizable but not Context-free

(e) Turing-recognizable with a non-Turing-recognizable complement

#### 4. Relational Calculus

Let  $R \subseteq A \times A$ .  $R$  is a *quasi-order* if it is both irreflexive ( $R \subseteq \overline{I_A}$ ) and transitive ( $R \circ R \subseteq R$ ).

Prove:  $R$  is a quasi-order if and only if  $R \cap R^{-1} = \emptyset$  and  $R = R^+$ .

#### 5. Determination

Construct a DFA equivalent to the NFA given below, using the Rabin-Scott algorithm. Show any intermediate work. Label all the DFA states appropriately. Here  $\varepsilon$  denotes the empty string.

#### 6. Unsolvable Problem

A TM is said to be *tidy* if, whenever it halts for some input, it halts with its tape completely blank.

Show that the following problem is unsolvable:

*Given:* A Turing Machine  $M$

*Question:* Is  $M$  a tidy TM?

#### 7. Incrementing by TM

Design a TM with tape alphabet  $\Sigma = \{0, 1, \#\}$  that, given a binary representation of a number, computes the binary representation of its successor. For example, if  $M$  is started in configuration

#s110101111#

then it halts in configuration

#11011000h#

(Here for emphasis the character scanned by the read/write head is designated by an underscore.)

You may give either a detailed TM diagram or an informal description of the TM at an appropriate level of detail. Comment your code to make clear what is intended.

## 8. Diagonalization

In this problem, you are asked to prove that the "diagonal language"

$$D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \langle M \rangle \notin L(M) \}$$

cannot be a Turing-recognizable language. (This is the language consisting of all TMs that do not recognize themselves!)

- (a) Proof by contradiction. Assume  $D$  is Turing-recognizable. Then there must be some particular TM that recognizes  $D$ . Call it  $M^*$ . Write down in symbols what the foregoing fact means in terms of  $L(M)$  and  $\langle M \rangle$  (this part has been done for you.)

$$D = L(M^*) = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \langle M \rangle \notin L(M) \}$$

- (b) Using the definition of  $D$ , write out exactly what is in the set  $L(M^*)$ :

$$L(M^*) = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid$$

- (c) Is  $\langle M^* \rangle$  a member of  $L(M^*)$ ? Don't answer yet. Let us explore this. First suppose that  $\langle M^* \rangle \in L(M^*)$ . What can we then conclude from the definition of  $L(M^*)$  in part (b)?

- (d) Next suppose that  $\langle M^* \rangle \notin L(M^*)$ . What can we now conclude from the definition of  $L(M^*)$  in part (b)?

- (e) Parts (c) and (d) together form a blatant contradiction. Explain why.

- (f) Given that a contradiction has been derived, what assumption that we made earlier *must* be false?

- (g) What is the overall conclusion that can be derived from this *reductio ad absurdum* argument?

## 9. State Diagram

Construct the state diagram of a DFA that accepts

$$L = (00 + 1)^* \cap ((000)^*(11)^*)$$

Explain each step in your construction in a short phrase that allows the reader to understand how your construction works, and why it is correct.

## 10. Decision Problem

Is there an algorithm to decide, given a Turing-recognizable set  $L$ , whether or not  $L \cap (01)^* \neq \emptyset$ ? If so describe the algorithm. If not, prove there is no such algorithm.