

1. Recall that $L_u = \{\langle M \rangle \# w \mid M(w) \text{ accepts}\}$ is not decidable. In class we showed reductions from L_u to various languages L to show that L was undecidable. One of the languages shown undecidable was the “halting language” $L_{halt} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ halts on blank input}\}$.

In order to show a language L is undecidable, it is often just as easy, or even easier, to show a reduction from L_{halt} to L .

Example: We show that $L_{1^*} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = 1^*\}$ is not decidable by showing $L_{halt} \leq L_{1^*}$

Reduction: We show how a decider for L_{1^*} could be used to decide L_{halt} . The reduction takes an instance of L_{halt} (i.e., a TM M that we’d like to know if it halts on blank input) and outputs an instance of M' for L_{1^*} .

We need the following to be true: M halts on blank input if and only if $L(M') = 1^*$.

Here is the (partial) code for M' . Fill in the blank, and then answer parts (a), (b), and (c).

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M'(x: string)
    run M until, if ever, it halts
    if M halted, then accept x iff x _____
    
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- (a) If M doesn’t halt when run on blank input, what is $L(M')$? _____
 - (b) If M halts when run on blank input, what is $L(M')$? _____
 - (c) Briefly argue that no decider for L_{1^*} can exist.
2. Let $L_{even} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \{w \mid |w| \text{ is even}\}\}$.
Prove that L_{even} is not decidable by showing that $L_{halt} \leq L_{even}$.
 3. Let $L_h = \{\langle M \rangle \# w \mid M(w) \text{ halts}\}$. Show how to use a decider for L_h to build a decider for L_u .