



# Reducibility

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# What we are going to discuss?

- Undecidable problems from language theory
  - Reductions via computation histories
- Mapping reducibility
  - Computable functions
  - Formal definition of mapping reducibility
- Post correspondence problem, or PCP

# Reduction

A way of converting one problem to another problem in such a way that a solution to the second problem can be used to solve the first problem.



$HALT_{TM} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and halts on input } w\}$



**Undecidable**

Theorem 5.1

$$E_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) = \emptyset\}$$



**Undecidable**

Theorem 5.2

$\text{Regular}_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ is regular}\}$



Undecidable

Theorem 5.3

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a TM and  $w$  is a string:

1. Construct the following TM  $M_2$ .

$M_2 =$  “On input  $x$ :

1. If  $x$  has the form  $0^n 1^n$ , *accept*.
2. If  $x$  does not have this form, run  $M$  on input  $w$  and *accept* if  $M$  accepts  $w$ .”

2. Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .
3. If  $R$  accepts, *accept*; if  $R$  rejects, *reject*.”

Exercise 5.28  
(Rice's theorem)

$$EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1 \text{ and } M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$$



Undecidable

Theorem 5.4

$S =$  “On input  $\langle M \rangle$ , where  $M$  is a TM:

1. Run  $R$  on input  $\langle M, M_1 \rangle$ , where  $M_1$  is a TM that rejects all inputs.
2. If  $R$  accepts, *accept*; if  $R$  rejects, *reject*.”