

Fundamental Computer Science

Giorgio Lucarelli (revisited by Denis Trystram)

2019

Organization

Classes

- ▶ 30 hours in total
- ▶ Theory: 50%
- ▶ Exercises: 50%

Evaluation

- ▶ Exams: 70%
- ▶ Tests during Exercises sessions: 30%

References

1. Harry R. Lewis and Christos H. Papadimitriou, *Elements of the Theory of Computation*, Prentice-Hall
2. Christos H. Papadimitriou, *Computational Complexity*, Pearson
3. S. Arora and B. Barak, *Computational complexity – a modern approach*, Cambridge
4. Vijay V. Vazirani, *Approximation Algorithms*, Springer

What is an *Algorithm* ?

Informally: a procedure composed by a set of steps that solves a problem

Desired properties

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Desired properties

- ▶ clearly defined steps (formalization)
- ▶ efficiency (complexity - how many steps?)
- ▶ termination

History

- ▶ Etymology:
 - ▶ Al-Khwārizmī – a Persian mathematician of the 9th century
 - ▶ *αριθμός* – the Greek word that means “number”
- ▶ Euclid's algorithm for computing the *greatest common divisor* (3rd century BC)
- ▶ End of 19th century - beginning of 20th century: mathematical formalizations (proof systems, axioms, etc). Is there an algorithm for any problem?
- ▶ Entscheidungsproblem (a challenge proposed by David Hilbert 1928): create an algorithm which is able to decide if a mathematical statement is true in a finite number of operations
- ▶ Church-Turing thesis (1930's): provides a formal definition of an algorithm (λ -calculus, Turing machine) and show that a solution to Entscheidungsproblem does not exist

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 - $L = \{w \in \Sigma^* : w \text{ has some property } P\}$
 - $L = \{w \in \Sigma^* : w = w^R\}$ ($w^R = \text{reverse of } w$)
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 - $L = \{w \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : w \text{ is a permutation of } \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
corresponding to a Hamiltonian Path}

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- ▶ **decision version:** Given a graph $G = (V, E)$, two vertices $s, t \in V$, an integer distance $d(e)$ for each $e \in E$ **and an integer D** , **is there** a path p between s and t such that the sum of distances of the edges in p is **at most D** ?

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In most of these lectures we will deal with **decision problems**

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A decision problem is defined by the **input** and the **yes/no question**

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- ▶ Given a set of numbers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$
- ▶ Given a graph $G = (V, E)$
- ▶ Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and a positive weight $w(e)$ for each $e \in E$

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 - ▶ $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$
 - ▶ \langle adjacency matrix of $G \rangle$
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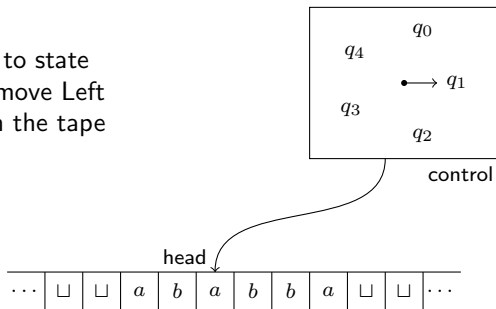
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- ▶ $|I|$: size of the input (in binary)
- ▶ $\log_2 a_1 + \log_2 a_2 + \dots + \log_2 a_n$
 - ▶ $|V|^2$
 - ▶ $|V|^2 + \sum_{e \in E} \log_2 w(e)$

Turing machine

- ▶ memory: an infinite tape
 - ▶ initially, it contains the input string
 - ▶ move the head left or right
 - ▶ read and/or write to current cell
- ▶ control states
 - ▶ finite number of them
 - ▶ one current state
- ▶ At each step:
 - move from state to state
 - read or write or move Left or move Right in the tape



Turing machine: formal definition

A Turing Machine (M) is a sextuple $(K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, H)$, where

- ▶ K is a finite set of states
- ▶ Σ is the input alphabet not containing the *blank* symbol \sqcup
- ▶ Γ is the tape alphabet, where $\sqcup \in \Gamma$ and $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$
- ▶ $s \in K$: the initial state
- ▶ $H \subseteq K$: the set of halting states
- ▶ δ : the transition function from $(K \setminus H) \times \Gamma$ to $K \times (\Gamma \cup \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow\})$

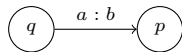
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In general, $\delta(q, a) = (p, b)$ means that when M is in the state q and reads a in the tape, it goes to the state p and

- if $b \in \Sigma$, writes b in the place of a
- if $b \in \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow\}$, moves the head either Left or Right



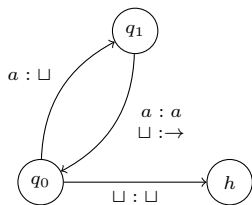
A first example

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$$K = \{q_0, q_1, h\}, \quad \Sigma = \{a\}, \quad \Gamma = \{a, \sqcup\}, \quad s = q_0, \quad H = \{h\},$$

and δ is given by the table. How does M proceed?

| q | σ | $\delta(q, \sigma)$ |
|-------|----------|----------------------|
| q_0 | a | (q_1, \sqcup) |
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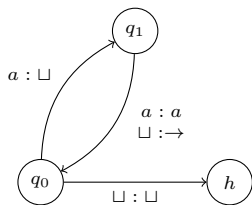
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$(q_0, \underline{a}aa)$

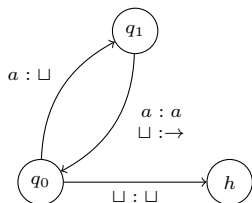
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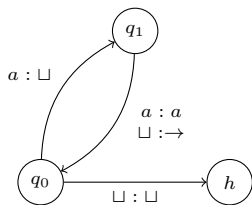
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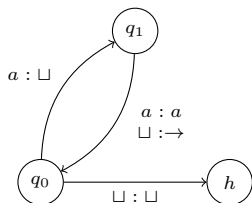
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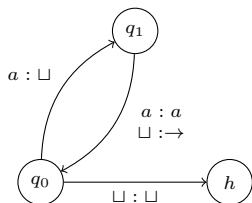
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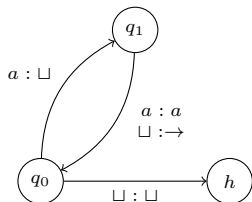
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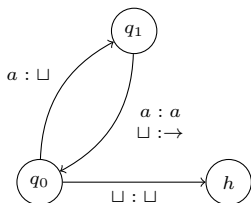
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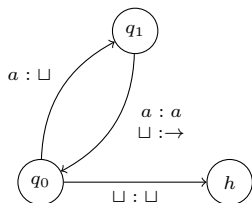
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Formalize the notation

Definition

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Initial configuration: (s, \underline{aw}) where $M = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, H)$ is a Turing Machine, $a \in \Sigma$, $w \in \Sigma^*$ and aw is the *input string*

Halted configuration: a configuration whose state belongs to H

- ▶ **example:** $(h, \sqcup \sqcup \sqcup \sqcup, \epsilon)$ or simply $(h, \sqcup \sqcup \sqcup \underline{\sqcup})$ or simply $(h, \underline{\sqcup})$

Formalize the notation

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Consider a Turing Machine M and two configurations C_1 and C_2 of M . If M can go from C_1 to C_2 in a *single step*, then we write

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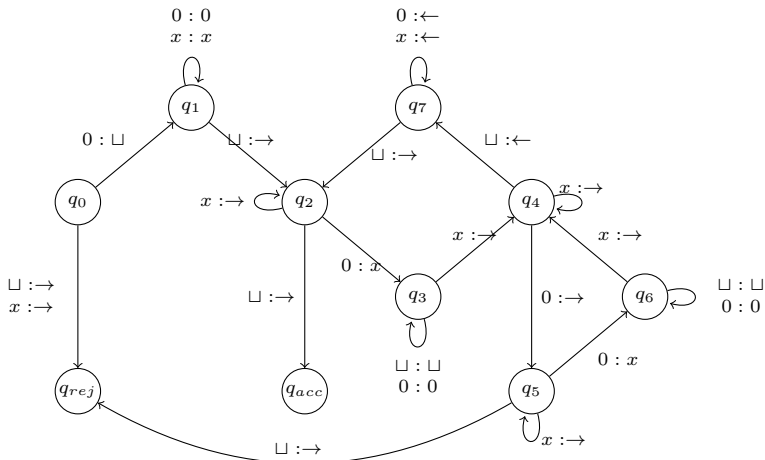
A **computation** of a Turing Machine M is a sequence of configurations C_0, C_1, \dots, C_n , for some $n \geq 0$, such that

$$C_0 \vdash_M C_1 \vdash_M C_2 \vdash_M \dots \vdash_M C_n$$

The **length** of the computation is n (or it performs n steps).

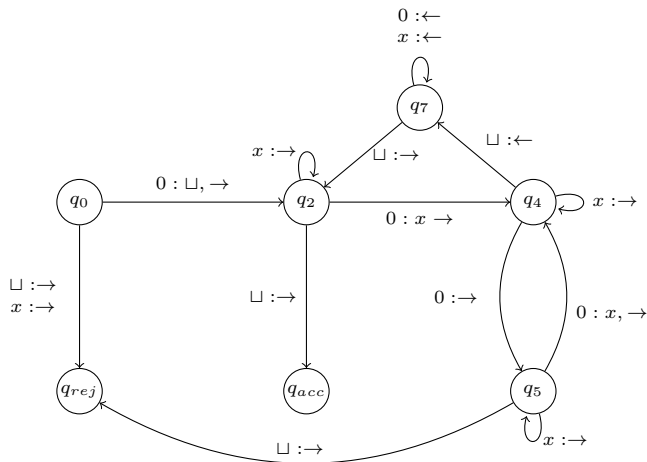
A second example

$$\Sigma = \{0\}, \quad \Gamma = \{0, x, \sqcup\}, \quad s = q_0, \quad H = \{q_{acc}, q_{rej}\}$$



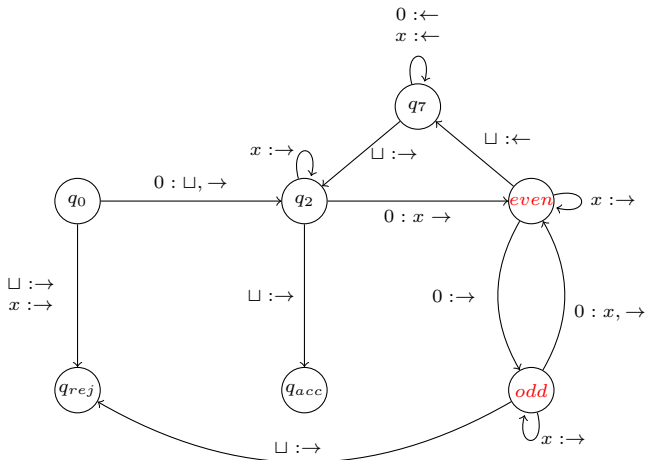
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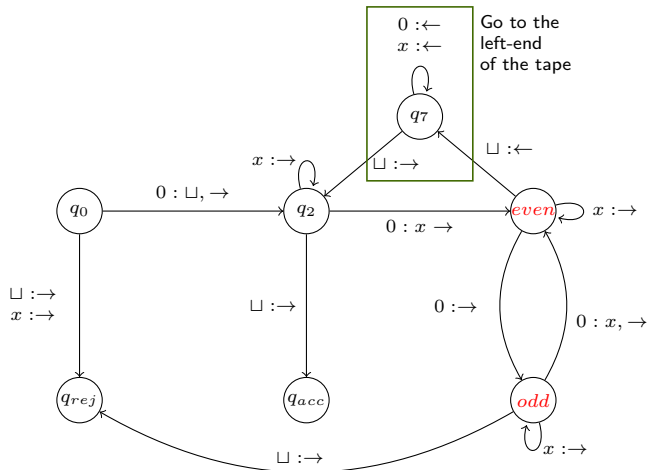
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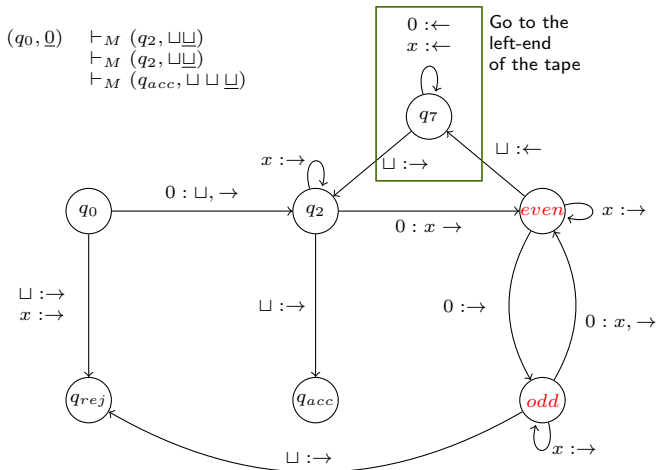
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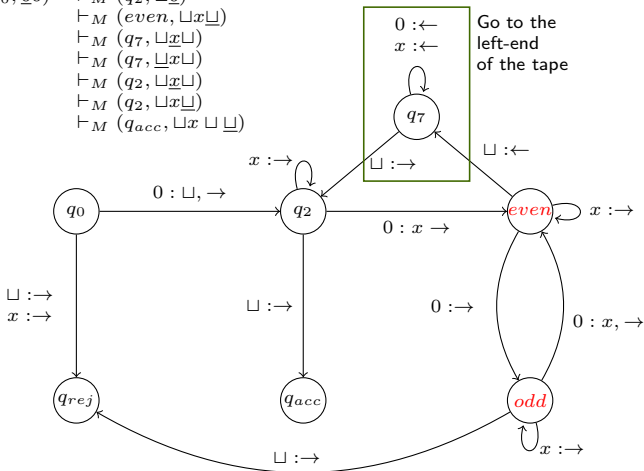
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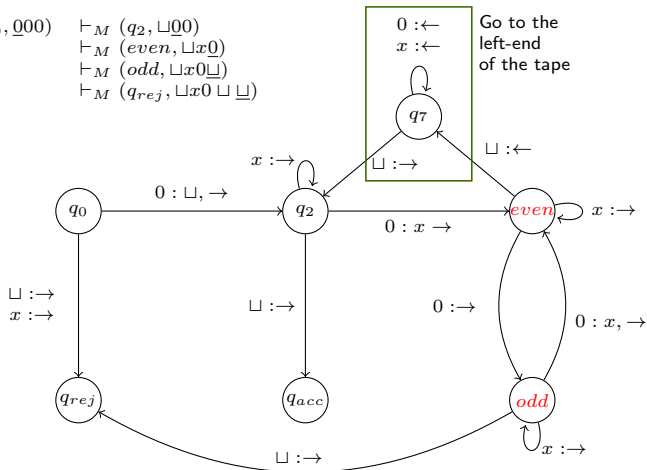
$(q_0, \underline{00}) \vdash_M (q_2, \sqcup \underline{0})$
 $\vdash_M (even, \sqcup x \sqcup)$
 $\vdash_M (q_7, \sqcup \underline{x} \sqcup)$
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 $\vdash_M (q_{acc}, \sqcup x \sqcup \sqcup)$



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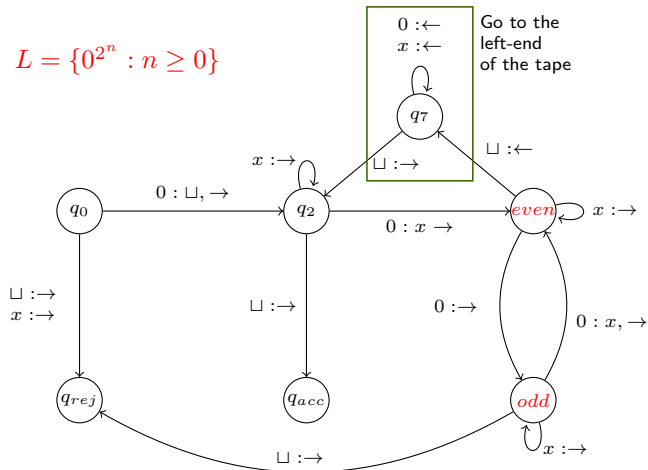
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A second example

$$\Sigma = \{0\}, \quad \Gamma = \{0, x, \sqcup\}, \quad s = q_0, \quad H = \{q_{acc}, q_{rej}\}$$

$$L = \{0^{2^n} : n \geq 0\}$$

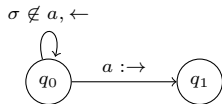


Exercise

Construct the Turing Machine that *accepts* the language

$$L = \{w\#w : w \in \{0,1\}^*\}$$

A more general notation for Turing Machines

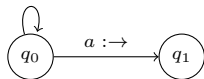


Turing Machine $L_a = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, H)$ where:

- $K = \{q_0, q_1\}$
- $a \in \Sigma$
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A more general notation for Turing Machines

$\sigma \notin a, \leftarrow$



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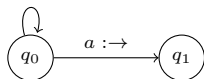
- $H = \{q_1\}$

► Define similar simple Turing Machines

► **examples:** $L, R, L_a, R_a, L^2, R^2, a, \sqcup$, etc

A more general notation for Turing Machines

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Turing Machine $L_a = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, H)$ where:

- $K = \{q_0, q_1\}$

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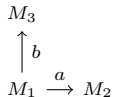
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- ▶ Define similar simple Turing Machines

- ▶ **examples:** $L, R, L_a, R_a, L^2, R^2, a, \sqcup$, etc

- ▶ Combine simple machines to construct more complicated ones



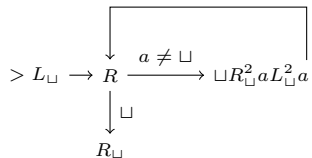
1. Run M_1

2. If M_1 finishes and the head reads a then run M_2 starting from this a

3. Else run M_3 starting from this b

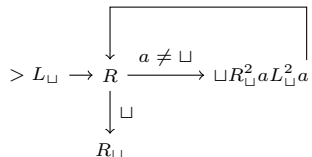
Example

What is the goal of the following Turing Machine?



Example

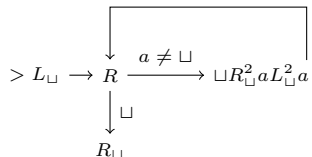
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$$(\sqcup abc \sqcup) \vdash_M^* (\sqcup abc \sqcup) \quad (L_{\sqcup})$$

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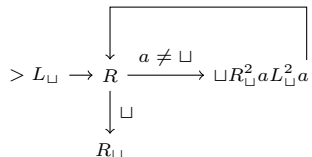
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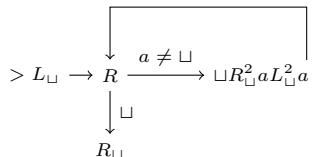
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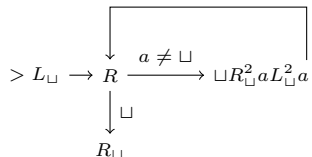
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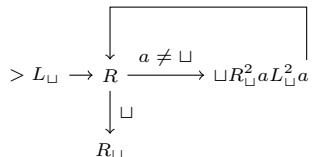
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| | \vdash_M | $(\sqcup \sqcup bc \sqcup \underline{a})$ | (a) |

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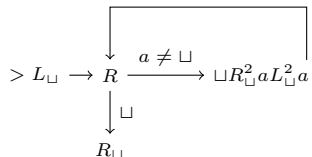
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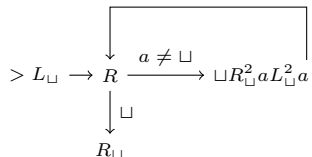
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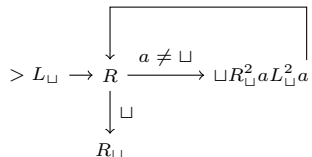
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| | \vdash_M | $(\sqcup abc \sqcup a)$ | (R) |

Solution:

transforms $\sqcup w \sqcup$ to $\sqcup w \sqcup w \sqcup$

Exercises

Construct the Turing Machines that implement the following operations

1. copy reversed (from $\sqcup w \sqcup$ to $\sqcup ww^R \sqcup$)
2. right shift (from $\sqcup w \sqcup$ to $\sqcup \sqcup w \sqcup$)
3. left shift (from $\sqcup w \sqcup$ to $w \sqcup$)
4. delete w (from $\sqcup w \sqcup$ to $\sqcup \sqcup$)

Generalize more the notation ...

High-level description

- ▶ give an algorithmic description of how the Turing Machine works in finite and discrete steps
- ▶ what is allowed?

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Example

$M =$ "On input w :

1. scan the input from left to right to be sure that is member of $a^*b^*c^*$ and *reject* if not
2. find the leftmost a in the tape and if such an a does not exist, then
 - ▶ scan the input for a c and if such a c exists then *reject* else *accept*
3. replace a by \hat{a}
4. scan the input for the leftmost b and if such a b does not exist, then restore all b 's (replace all \hat{b} by b) and goto 2
5. replace b by \hat{b}
6. scan to the right for the first c and if such a c does not exist, then *reject*
7. replace c by \hat{c} and goto 4"

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High-level description

- ▶ give an algorithmic description of how the Turing Machine works in finite and discrete steps
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Example

$$L = \{a^i b^j c^k : i \times j = k\}$$

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Exercise

Give the high-level description for a Turing Machine that accepts the following language

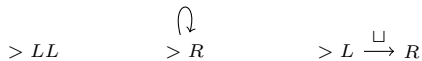
$$L = \{\#x_1\#x_2\#\dots\#x_\ell : \text{each } x_i \in \{0,1\}^* \text{ and } x_i \neq x_j \text{ for each } i \neq j\}$$

More exercises

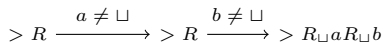
Ex. 1 Consider the Turing Machine $M = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, s, H)$ where $K = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, h\}$, $\Sigma = \{a\}$, $\Gamma = \{a, \sqcup, \#\}$, $s = q_0$, $H = \{h\}$ and δ is given by the following table. Let $n \geq 0$. Describe what M does when started in the configuration $(q_0, \#a^n a)$.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| q | q_0 | q_0 | q_0 | q_1 | q_1 | q_1 | q_2 | q_2 | q_2 |
| σ | a | \sqcup | $\#$ | a | \sqcup | $\#$ | a | \sqcup | $\#$ |
| $\delta(q, \sigma)$ | (q_1, \leftarrow) | (q_0, \sqcup) | (q_0, \rightarrow) | (q_2, \sqcup) | (h, \sqcup) | (q_1, \rightarrow) | (q_2, a) | (q_0, \leftarrow) | (q_2, \rightarrow) |

Ex. 2 Give the full details of the following three Turing Machines.



Ex. 3 Explain what the following Turing Machine does.



Ex. 4 Give the high-level definition of a Turing Machine that finds the maximum between three integers encoded in *unary*. Which is the length of the computation?

An application to draw and play with Turing Machines

<http://www.jflap.org/>