

CS320: Problems for Day 11, Winter 2023

Problem 1 You are given two Turing machines, M_1 and M_2 , such that M_1 *accepts* language L_1 and M_2 *decides* language L_2 .

Is $L_1 \setminus L_2$ a recursively enumerable language?

If your answer is “yes”, prove it by describing an appropriate Turing machine. If your answer is “no”, prove it by showing that such a Turing machine does not exist.

Problem 2 You are given two Turing machines, M_1 and M_2 , such that M_1 *accepts* language L_1 and M_2 *accepts* language L_2 .

Is $L_1 \cup L_2$ a recursively enumerable language?

If your answer is “yes”, prove it by describing an appropriate Turing machine. If your answer is “no”, prove it by showing why such a Turing machine does not exist.

Problem 3 Let:

$$L = \{(R(M), n) \mid M \text{ halts on blank tape after } \leq n \text{ steps}\}$$

where $R(M)$ is a representation of Turing machine M and n is a natural number. Describe a Turing machine M' that accepts L . If such M' does not exist, explain why.

Problem 4 Let L be a non-recursive language, accepted by a Turing machine M , and let k be a natural number. Describe a Turing machine M' , such that on input w , M' writes *error* on its tape and halts if and only if M does not accept w within the first k computation steps. If such M' does not exist, explain why.