

# Theory of Computation

## Undecidable Languages

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# Undecidability Proofs

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**Technique:** Use reducibility to prove that a language is decidable

1. AFSOC  $B$  is decidable
2. Show that  $A \leq_T B$   
“If we can decide  $B$  we can also decide  $A$ ”
3. But  $A$  is known to be undecidable
  - ▶ This is a contradiction!
4. We conclude that  $B$  was never decidable in the first place



# The language $E_{TM}$

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- ▶ We receive a TM description  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
- ▶ We want to determine whether  $M$  is capable of accepting any strings or not
- ▶ We accept  $\langle M \rangle$  if  $M$  rejects or loops on every string; otherwise we reject  $\langle M \rangle$

# $E_{TM}$ is undecidable

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- ▶ Hint 1: Reduce from  $A_{TM}$
- ▶ Hint 2: Your solution will involve constructing a machine  $P$  at runtime

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If  $s \neq w$ , reject

$M$  and  $w$  are hard-coded constants

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If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \{w\}$

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If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \{w\}$

If  $M$  doesn't accept  $w$  then  $L(P) = \emptyset$

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If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \{w\}$

If  $M$  doesn't accept  $w$  then  $L(P) = \emptyset$

$\langle P \rangle \in E_{TM} \Leftrightarrow \langle M, w \rangle \notin A_{TM}$

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If  $s \neq w$ , reject  
 $M$  and  $w$  are hard-coded constants
3. Use  $M_E$  to check if  $\langle P \rangle \in E_{TM}$



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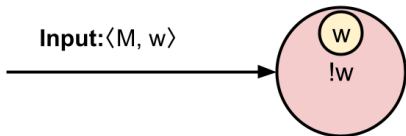
# $E_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

● Accept

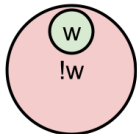
● Reject/loop

● Simulate M

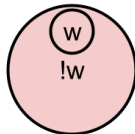
Create machine P:  
Reject if input  $\neq w$ , otherwise simulate M



**Case 1:** M accepts w  
Then  $L(P) \neq \emptyset$



**Case 2:** M doesn't accept w  
Then  $L(P) = \emptyset$

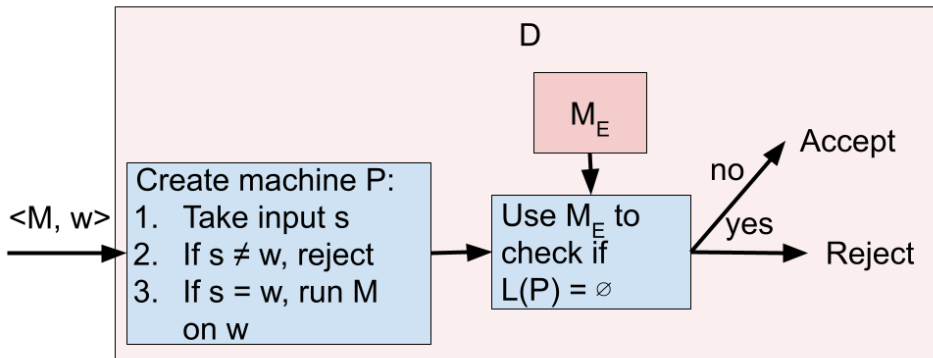


If we can check if  $L(P) = \emptyset$ , we can infer whether M accepts w

# $E_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

$$E_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \emptyset \}$$



If we can decide  $E_{TM}$ , we can decide  $A_{TM}$

## $E_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $E_{TM}$  is undecidable

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If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \Sigma^*$

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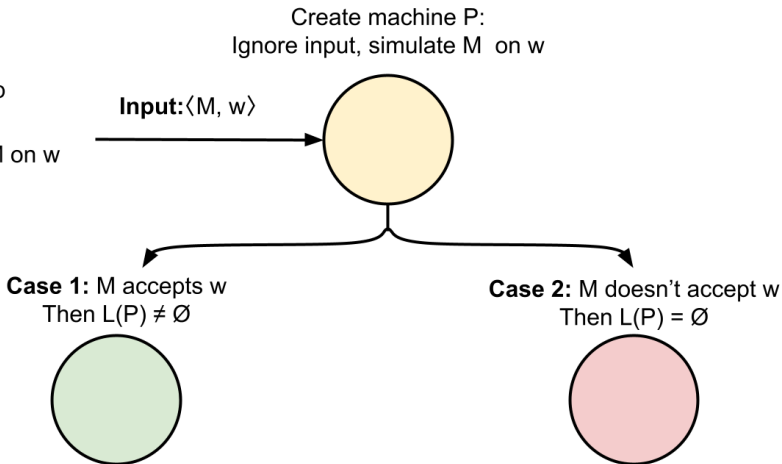


# $E_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

● Accept

● Reject/loop

● Simulate M on w

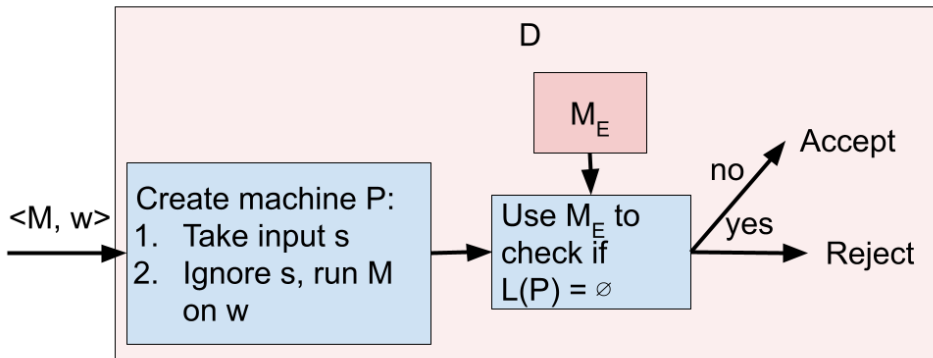


If we can check if  $L(P) = \emptyset$ , we can infer whether M accepts w

## $E_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

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If we can decide  $E_{TM}$ , we can decide  $A_{TM}$

# The language $ALL_{TM}$

Consider the following language

$$ALL_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^*\}$$

We receive a TM description as input, and want to figure out if that TM accepts everything

# $ALL_{TM}$ is undecidable

Let's prove that  $ALL_{TM}$  is undecidable

$$ALL_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing Machine, } L(M) = \Sigma^* \}$$

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AFSOC machine  $M_A$  decides  $ALL_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $A_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M, w \rangle$  as input

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2. Create a new machine  $P$



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# $ALL_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that  $ALL_{TM}$  is undecidable

$$ALL_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing Machine, } L(M) = \Sigma^* \}$$

AFSOC machine  $M_A$  decides  $ALL_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $A_{TM}$

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What is  $L(P)$ ?

If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \Sigma^*$

If  $M$  doesn't accept  $w$  then  $L(P) = \Sigma^* \setminus \{w\}$

# ALL<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that ALL<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

ALL<sub>TM</sub> = {⟨M⟩ | M is a Turing Machine, L(M) = Σ\*}

AFSOC machine  $M_A$  decides ALL<sub>TM</sub>. We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide A<sub>TM</sub>

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⟨P⟩ ∈ ALL<sub>TM</sub> ⇔ ⟨M, w⟩ ∈ A<sub>TM</sub>

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Let's prove that  $ALL_{TM}$  is undecidable

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3. Use  $M_A$  to check if  $\langle P \rangle \in ALL_{TM}$

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 $M$  and  $w$  are hard-coded constants
3. Use  $M_A$  to check if  $\langle P \rangle \in ALL_{TM}$ 
  - 3.1 If  $M_A$  accepts  $\langle P \rangle$ ,  $D$  accepts  $\langle M, w \rangle$



# ALL<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that ALL<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{ALL}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a Turing Machine, } L(M) = \Sigma^* \}$$

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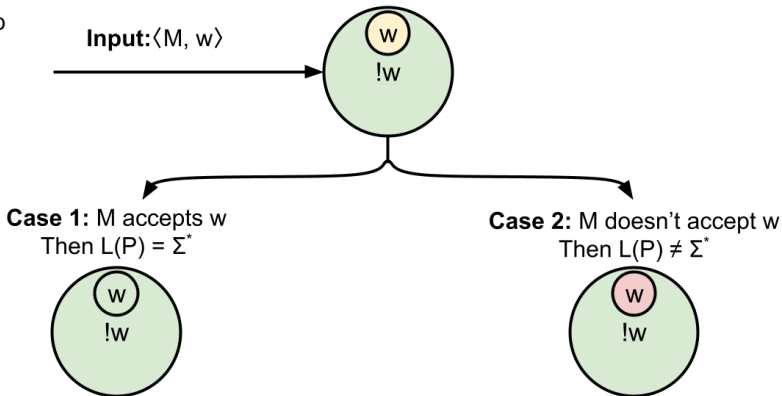
# $ALL_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

● Accept

● Reject/loop

● Simulate M

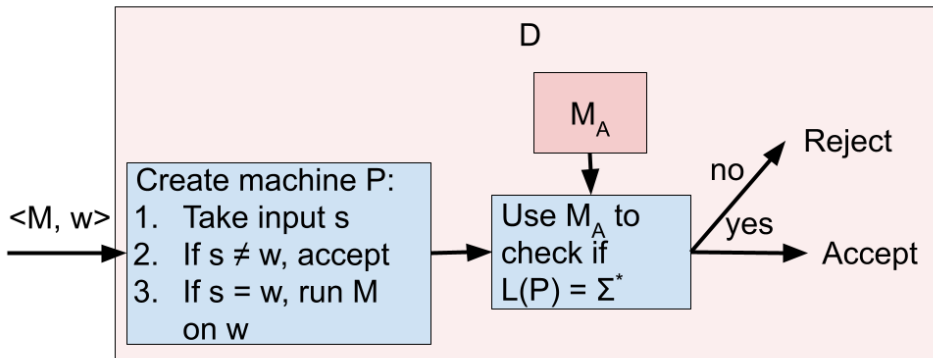
Create machine P:  
Accept if input  $\neq w$ , otherwise simulate M



If we can check if  $L(P) = \Sigma^*$ , we can infer whether M accepts w

# $ALL_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$$
$$ALL_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^* \}$$



If we can decide  $ALL_{TM}$ , we can decide  $A_{TM}$

# $ALL_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $ALL_{TM}$  is undecidable

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What is  $L(P)$ ?

If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \Sigma^*$

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What is  $L(P)$ ?

If  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $L(P) = \Sigma^*$

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$\langle P \rangle \in ALL_{TM} \Leftrightarrow \langle M, w \rangle \in A_{TM}$

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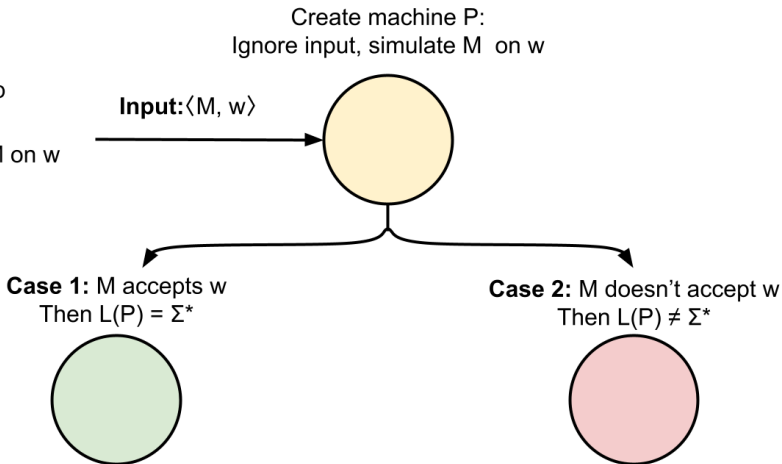
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# $ALL_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

● Accept

● Reject/loop

● Simulate M on w

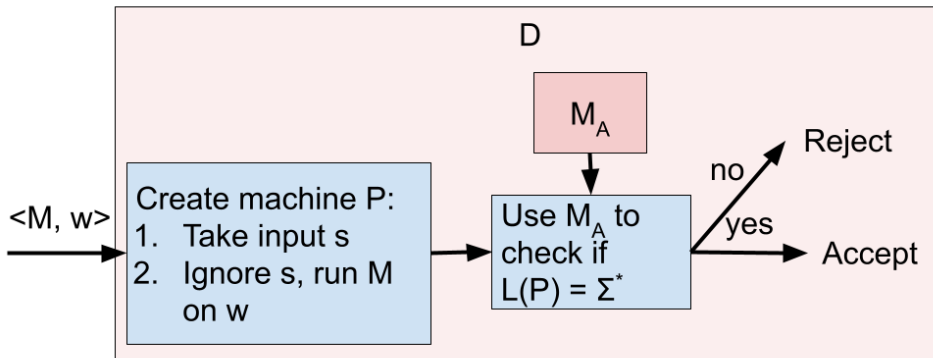


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If we can decide  $ALL_{TM}$ , we can decide  $A_{TM}$

# The language $EQ_{TM}$

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

We receive two Turing machine descriptions, and we want to determine out if the two machines are equivalent

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- ▶ Can we write a script to check that your programming assignment submissions are equivalent to my solution code?

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- ▶ Can we write a script to check that your programming assignment submissions are equivalent to my solution code?
  - ▶ “equivalent” as in “the EXACT same output on ALL (possible) test cases”

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

We will reduce from each of the following languages

$$A_{TM} = \{\langle M, w \rangle \mid w \in L(M)\}$$

$$E_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \emptyset\}$$

$$ALL_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^*\}$$

# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from  $A_{TM}$ :** AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $A_{TM}$

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2. Create a new machine  $M_2$



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$$L(M) = L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow M \text{ accepts } w$$

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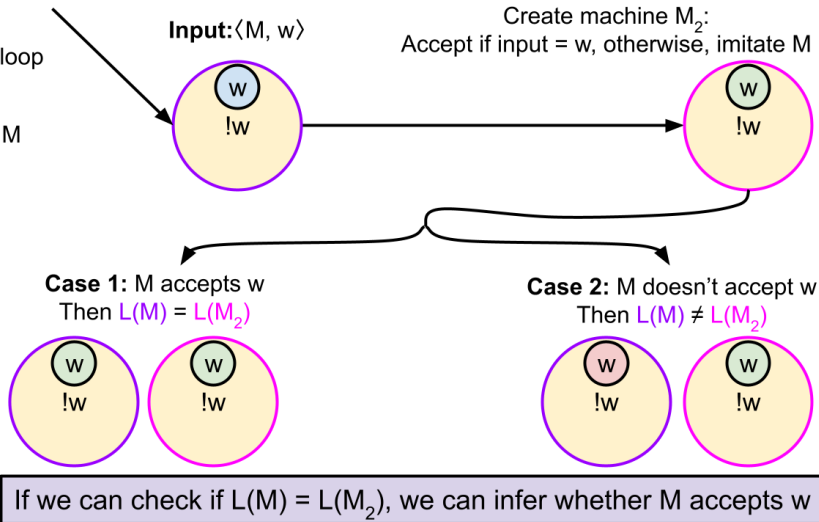
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  - 2.1  $M_2$  receives  $s$  as input
  - 2.2 If  $s = w$ ,  $M_2$  accepts. Otherwise,  $M_2$  runs  $M$  on  $s$
3. Use  $M_{EQ}$  to check if  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in EQ_{TM}$ 
  - 3.1 If  $M_{EQ}$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M, w \rangle$
  - 3.2 Otherwise  $D$  rejects  $\langle M, w \rangle$

# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

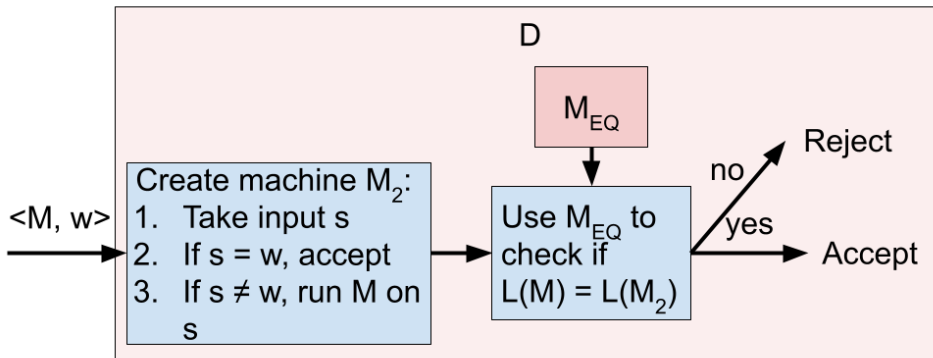
- Accept
- Reject/loop
- TBD
- Imitate M
- $L(M)$
- $L(M_2)$





# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$$
$$EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$$



If we can decide  $EQ_{TM}$ , we can decide  $A_{TM}$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from  $E_{TM}$ :** AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $E_{TM}$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from  $E_{TM}$ :** AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $E_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from  $E_{TM}$ :** AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $E_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Create a new machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

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1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Create a new machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

When are  $M$  and  $M_2$  equivalent?

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

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2. Create a new machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

When are  $M$  and  $M_2$  equivalent?

$$L(M) = L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow L(M) = \emptyset$$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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3. Use  $M_{EQ}$  to check if  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in EQ_{TM}$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

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2. Create a new machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$
3. Use  $M_{EQ}$  to check if  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in EQ_{TM}$ 
  - 3.1 If  $M_{EQ}$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M \rangle$



## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

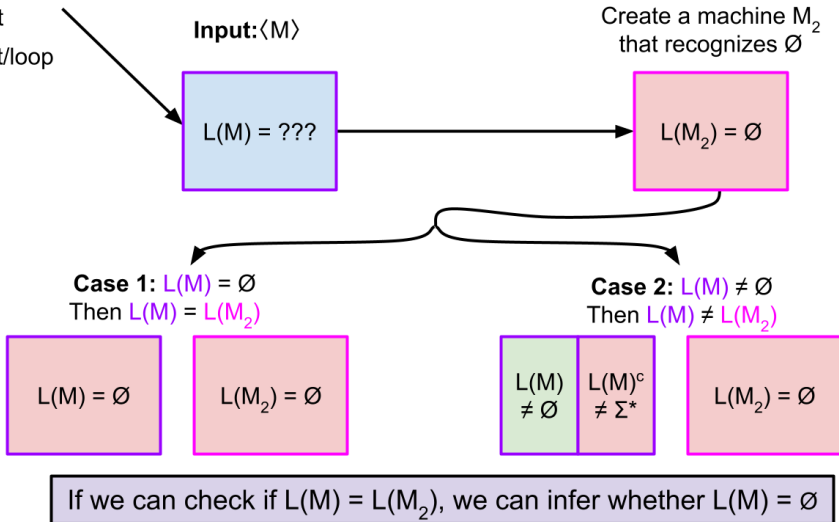
$$EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$$

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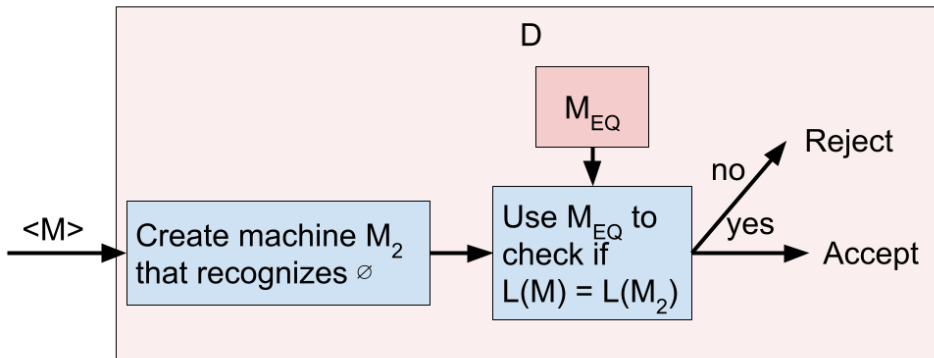
# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

- Accept
- Reject/loop
- TBD
- $L(M)$
- $L(M_2)$



# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

$$E_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \emptyset \}$$
$$EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$$



If we can decide  $EQ_{TM}$ , we can decide  $E_{TM}$

# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from**  $ALL_{TM}$ : AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $ALL_{TM}$

# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from**  $ALL_{TM}$ : AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $ALL_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input

# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from**  $ALL_{TM}$ : AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $ALL_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Create a new machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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

**Reduce from**  $ALL_{TM}$ : AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $ALL_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
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When are  $M$  and  $M_2$  equivalent?

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When are  $M$  and  $M_2$  equivalent?

$$L(M) = L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow L(M) = \Sigma^*$$



## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

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3. Use  $M_{EQ}$  to check if  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in EQ_{TM}$ 
  - 3.1 If  $M_{EQ}$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M \rangle$

## $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable

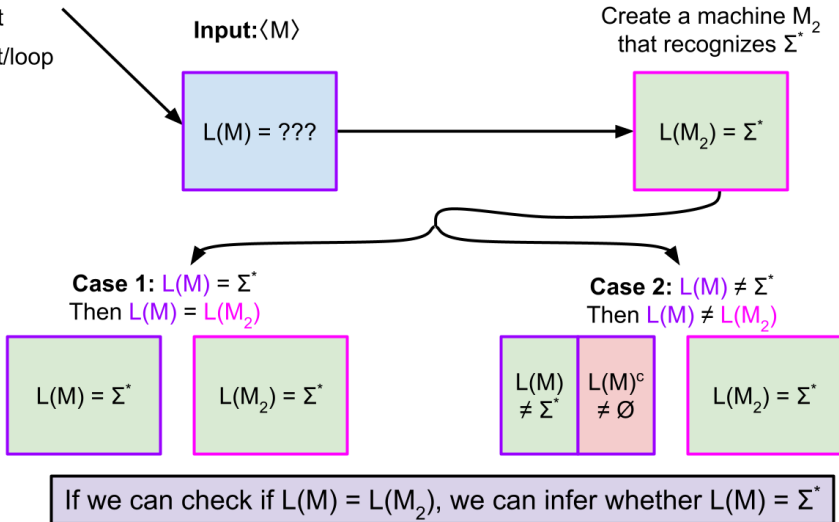
$$EQ_{TM} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$$

**Reduce from**  $ALL_{TM}$ : AFSOC machine  $M_{EQ}$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $ALL_{TM}$

1.  $D$  receives  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Create a new machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$
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  - 3.1 If  $M_{EQ}$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M \rangle$
  - 3.2 Otherwise  $D$  rejects  $\langle M \rangle$

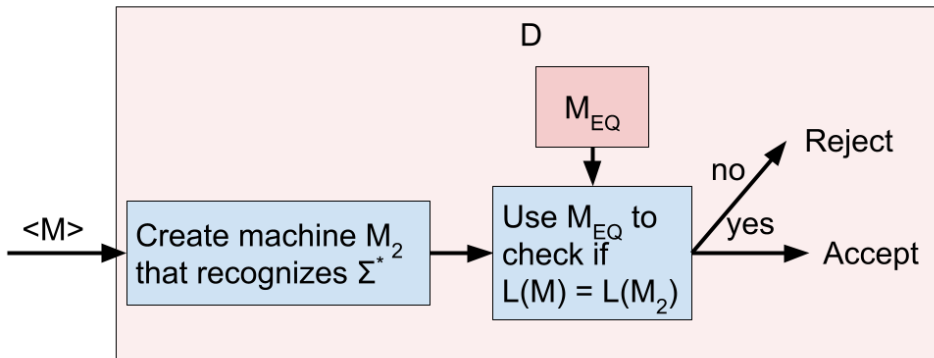
# $EQ_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

- Accept
- Reject/loop
- TBD
- $L(M)$
- $L(M_2)$



$EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable (approach 3)

$$ALL_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^* \}$$
$$EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$$



If we can decide  $EQ_{TM}$ , we can decide  $ALL_{TM}$

# The language $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$

Consider the following language

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

We receive two machines  $M_1, M_2$  as input. We want to determine if  $M_1$  is contained within  $M_2$

# $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$ is undecidable

Let's prove that  $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

We will reduce from each of the following languages

$$\text{E}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \emptyset\}$$

$$\text{ALL}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^*\}$$

$$\text{EQ}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2)\}$$



# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

**Reduce from** E<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

**Reduce from** E<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

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**Reduce from** E<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from** E<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

When does  $M_2$  contain  $M$ ?

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from** E<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

When does  $M_2$  contain  $M$ ?

$$L(M) \subseteq L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow L(M) \subseteq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow L(M) = \emptyset$$

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from E<sub>TM</sub>:** AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$

When does  $M_2$  contain  $M$ ?

$$L(M) \subseteq L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow L(M) \subseteq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow L(M) = \emptyset$$

$$\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} \Leftrightarrow \langle M \rangle \in \text{E}_{\text{TM}}$$

# $SUB_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that  $SUB_{TM}$  is undecidable

$$SUB_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from  $E_{TM}$ :** AFSOC  $SUB_{TM}$  is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $E_{TM}$  as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$
3. Use  $M_S$  to check if  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in SUB_{TM}$   
“Is  $M$  contained within a machine that accepts nothing?”

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from** E<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\emptyset$
3. Use  $M_S$  to check if  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$   
“Is  $M$  contained within a machine that accepts nothing?”
  - 3.1 If  $M_S$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M \rangle$



# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

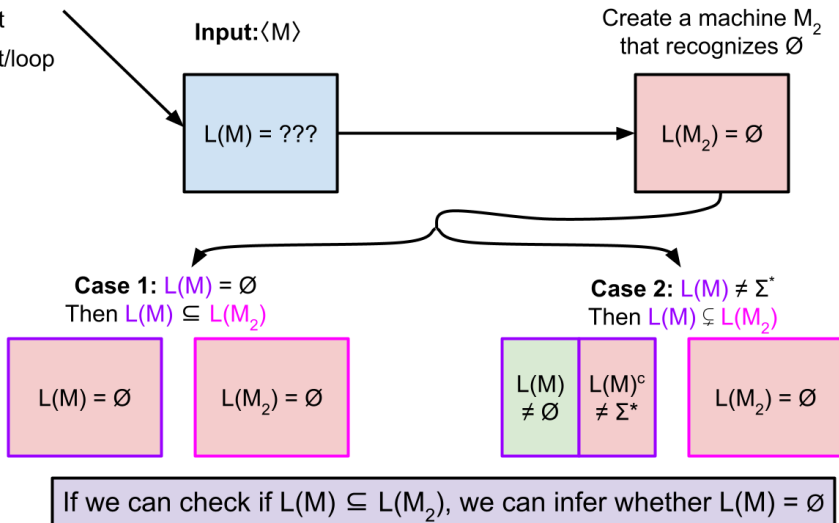
$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from E<sub>TM</sub>:** AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide E<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

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“Is  $M$  contained within a machine that accepts nothing?”
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  - 3.2 Otherwise,  $D$  rejects  $\langle M \rangle$

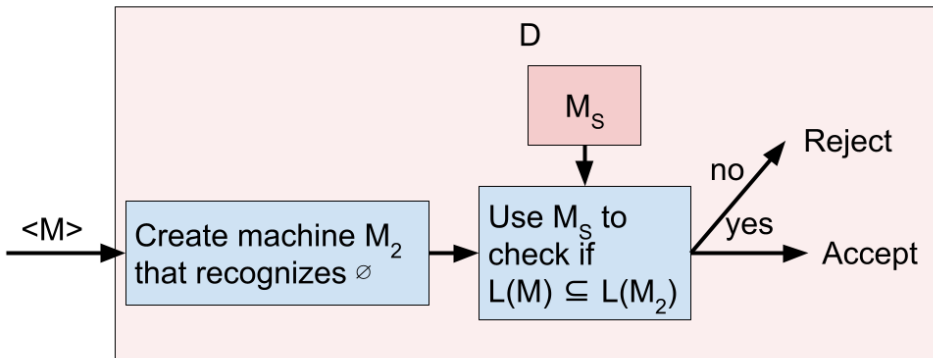
# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 1)

- Accept
- Reject/loop
- TBD
- $L(M)$
- $L(M_2)$



# $SUB_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 1)

$$E_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid L(M) = \emptyset \}$$
$$SUB_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$



If we can decide  $SUB_{TM}$ , we can decide  $E_{TM}$

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

**Reduce from** ALL<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide ALL<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

**Reduce from** ALL<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide ALL<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

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2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

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2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$

When does  $M$  contain  $M_2$ ?

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

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2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$

When does  $M$  contain  $M_2$ ?

$$L(M_2) \subseteq L(M) \Leftrightarrow \Sigma^* \subseteq L(M) \Leftrightarrow L(M) = \Sigma^*$$



## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

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When does  $M$  contain  $M_2$ ?

$$L(M_2) \subseteq L(M) \Leftrightarrow \Sigma^* \subseteq L(M) \Leftrightarrow L(M) = \Sigma^*$$

$$\langle M_2, M \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} \Leftrightarrow \langle M \rangle \in \text{ALL}_{\text{TM}}$$

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from** ALL<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide ALL<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$
3. Use  $M_S$  to check if  $\langle M_2, M \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$   
“Does  $M$  contain a machine that accepts everything?”

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

**Reduce from** ALL<sub>TM</sub>: AFSOC SUB<sub>TM</sub> is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide ALL<sub>TM</sub> as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M \rangle$  as input
2. Construct a machine  $M_2$  that recognizes  $\Sigma^*$
3. Use  $M_S$  to check if  $\langle M_2, M \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$   
“Does  $M$  contain a machine that accepts everything?”
  - 3.1 If  $M_S$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M \rangle$

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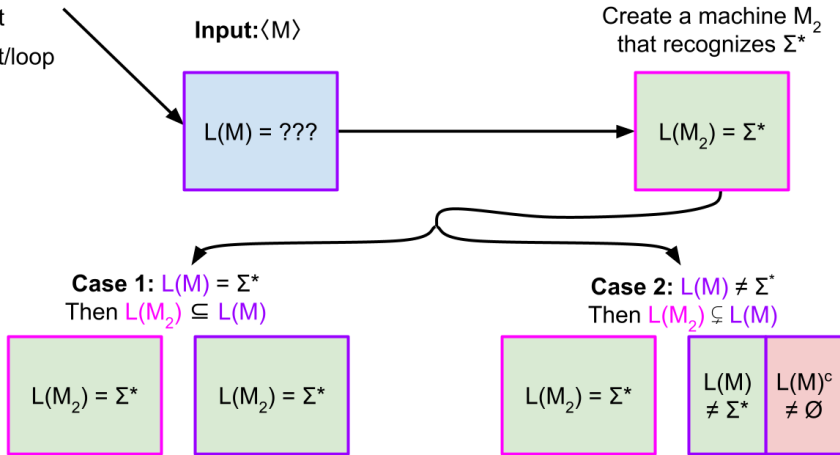
$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

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“Does  $M$  contain a machine that accepts everything?”
  - 3.1 If  $M_S$  accepts  $\langle M, M_2 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M \rangle$
  - 3.2 Otherwise,  $D$  rejects  $\langle M \rangle$

# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 2)

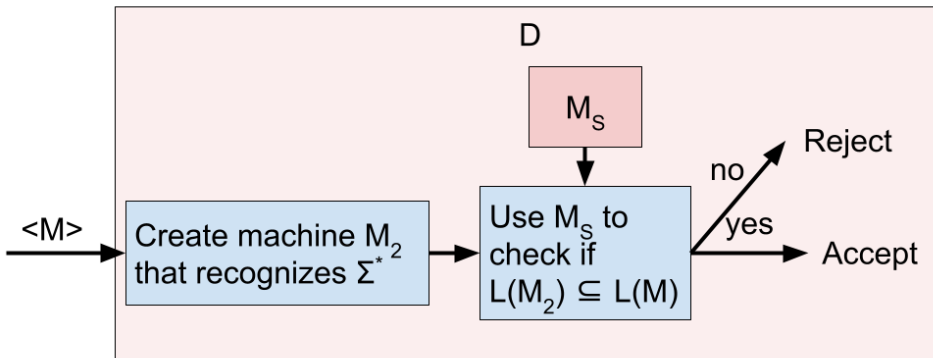
- Accept
- Reject/loop
- TBD
- L(M)
- L(M<sub>2</sub>)



If we can check if  $L(M_2) \subseteq L(M)$ , we can infer whether  $L(M) = \Sigma^*$

## $SUB_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 2)

$$ALL_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid L(M) = \Sigma^* \}$$
$$SUB_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$



If we can decide  $SUB_{TM}$ , we can decide  $ALL_{TM}$

# $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

**Reduce from  $\text{EQ}_{\text{TM}}$ :** AFSOC  $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$  is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $\text{EQ}_{\text{TM}}$  as follows:

# $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that  $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$  is undecidable

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**Reduce from  $\text{EQ}_{\text{TM}}$ :** AFSOC  $\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$  is decided by machine  $M_S$ . We will construct a machine  $D$  to decide  $\text{EQ}_{\text{TM}}$  as follows:

1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$  as input



## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 3)

Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)\}$$

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When does  $M_1$  equal  $M_2$ ?

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When does  $M_1$  equal  $M_2$ ?

$$L(M_1) = L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \wedge L(M_2) \subseteq L(M_1)$$

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When does  $M_1$  equal  $M_2$ ?

$$L(M_1) = L(M_2) \Leftrightarrow L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \wedge L(M_2) \subseteq L(M_1)$$

$$\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \in \text{EQ}_{\text{TM}} \Leftrightarrow \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle, \langle M_2, M_1 \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$$

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 3)

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1.  $D$  takes  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$  as input
2. Use  $M_S$  to check if  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$  and  $\langle M_2, M_1 \rangle \in \text{SUB}_{\text{TM}}$   
“Do  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  contain each other?”

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“Do  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  contain each other?”
  - 2.1 If  $M_S$  accepts  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$  and  $\langle M_2, M_1 \rangle$ , then  $D$  accepts  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$

## SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 3)

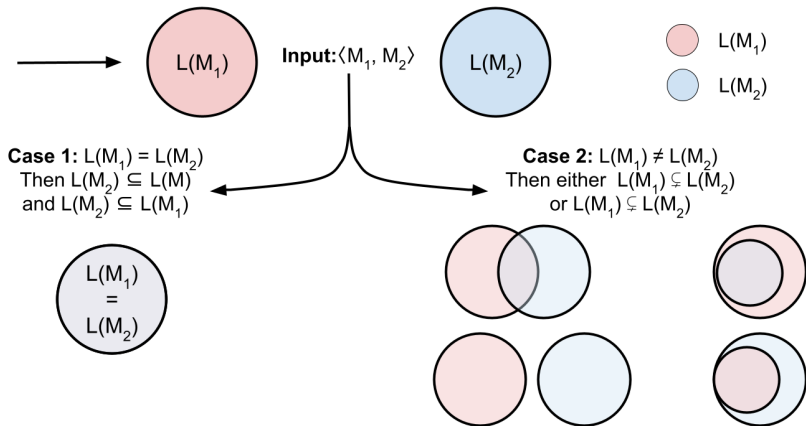
Let's prove that SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable

$$\text{SUB}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$

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“Do  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  contain each other?”
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  - 2.2 Otherwise,  $D$  rejects  $\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle$

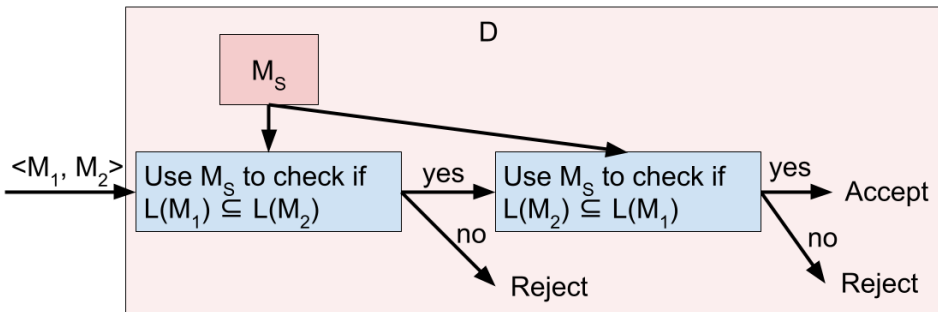
# SUB<sub>TM</sub> is undecidable (approach 3)



If we can check if  $L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2)$  (and vice versa), we can infer whether  $L(M_1) = L(M_2)$

# $SUB_{TM}$ is undecidable (approach 3)

$$EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$$
$$SUB_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid L(M_1) \subseteq L(M_2) \}$$



If we can decide  $SUB_{TM}$ , we can decide  $EQ_{TM}$



# Reducibility

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- ▶ We can use reducibility to prove undecidability
- ▶ If  $A \leq_T B$  and  $A$  is known to be undecidable, then  $B$  must also be undecidable