

There are three required problems and one optional problem.

Recall that a *property of recognizable languages* is a set  $A$  of Turing machine encodings  $\langle M \rangle$  such that, for any two Turing machines  $M$  and  $N$  with  $L(M) = L(N)$ , either  $\langle M \rangle$  and  $\langle N \rangle$  are both elements of  $A$  or neither  $\langle M \rangle$  nor  $\langle N \rangle$  is an element of  $A$ . In other words, whether a given Turing machine encoding  $\langle M \rangle$  is an element of  $A$  depends only on the language  $L(M)$  rather than some other aspect of  $M$ . There are two trivial properties:

- $\{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a Turing machine and } M \text{ is a Turing machine}\}$ , and
- $\{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a Turing machine and } M \text{ is not a Turing machine}\}$ .

The second trivial property is decided by a Turing machine that simply rejects all of its inputs. The first trivial property is decided by a Turing machine that accepts all valid Turing machine encodings and rejects all other inputs. So those two properties are decidable. Rice's theorem says: Every non-trivial property of recognizable languages is undecidable.

A. Exactly where does the proof given in class break, if  $A$  is not a property of recognizable languages, but merely some set of Turing machine encodings  $\langle M \rangle$ ?

Consider Problems 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.32a, 5.32b. In each of these seven problems, you are asked to prove that a language is undecidable.

B. Which of these seven undecidability results is an immediate consequence of Rice's theorem? (I am not asking you to prove the other ones.)

Here's a problem unrelated to Rice's theorem. We could have done a while ago, but we didn't. I think that it's kind of fun.

C. Do Problem 4.20, about separating two languages. (Hint: First design a decider. Then think about what its language is.)

Problem D below is optional. Let  $Z$  be a Turing machine such that  $L(Z) = \emptyset$ . In class we proved Rice's theorem under the assumption that  $\langle Z \rangle \notin A$ . I asserted that the other case, where  $\langle Z \rangle \in A$ , can be proved similarly.

D. Prove Rice's theorem for the case where  $\langle Z \rangle \in A$ .