

# Review

## CSCI 338

# Test 2 Logistics

1. During class on Wednesday 3/27.
2. You can bring your book and any notes you would like, but no electronic devices.
3. You may assume anything proven in class or on homeworks.
4. Four questions:
  - 1) Show a language is decidable (5 points).
  - 2) Show a language is not decidable (10 points).
  - 3) Show a language is not decidable (5 points).
  - 4) Show a language is not decidable (1-2 points).

Claim:  $FINITE_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and accepts a finite number of strings}\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $FINITE_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, reject. If  $H$  rejects, accept.

$L(M_2)$  is infinite

$\Updownarrow$

$N$  accepts  $\omega$

If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \Sigma^*$  (infinite) and  $S$  accepts. If  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \emptyset$  (finite) and  $S$  rejects. Therefore,  $S$  is a decider for  $A_{TM}$ , which is a contradiction, so  $FINITE_{TM}$  is undecidable.

Claim:  $EVEN_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ contains all even length strings}\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $EVEN_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. If  $x$  has odd length, reject.

2. If  $x$  has even length, run  $N$  on  $\omega$ .

3. If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ , accept. If  $N$  rejects  $\omega$ , reject.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

$L(M_2)$  contains all  
even length strings



$N$  accepts  $\omega$

Claim:  $EVEN_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ contains all even length strings}\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $EVEN_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. If  $x$  has odd length, reject. **accept**

2. If  $x$  has even length, run  $N$  on  $\omega$ .

3. If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ , accept. If  $N$  rejects  $\omega$ , reject.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

$L(M_2)$  contains all  
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3. If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ , accept. If  $N$  rejects  $\omega$ , reject.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

$L(M_2)$  contains all  
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Claim:  $EVEN_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ contains all even length strings}\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $EVEN_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

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2. If  $x$  has even length, run  $N$  on  $\omega$ .

3. If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ , accept. If  $N$  rejects  $\omega$ , reject.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

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Claim:  $EVEN_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \text{ contains all even length strings}\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $EVEN_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, accept. If  $H$  rejects, reject.

If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \Sigma^*$  (contains all even length strings) and  $S$  accepts.  
If  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \emptyset$  (does not contain all even length strings) and  $S$  rejects. Thus,  $S$  is a decider for  $A_{TM}$ , which is a contradiction, so  $EVEN_{TM}$  is undecidable.

$L(M_2)$  contains all  
even length strings



$N$  accepts  $\omega$



Claim:  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and halts on empty input (i.e. } \varepsilon)\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

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2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, accept. If  $H$  rejects, reject.

$M_2$ halts on $\varepsilon$ $\Updownarrow$ $N$ accepts $\omega$
--

If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ ,  $M_2$  halts on  $\varepsilon$  and  $S$  accepts. If  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ ,  $M_2$  does not halt on  $\varepsilon$  and  $S$  rejects. Therefore,  $S$  is a decider for  $A_{TM}$ , which is a contradiction, so  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM}$  is undecidable.

Claim:  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and halts on empty input (i.e. } \varepsilon)\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

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1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. If  $x \neq \varepsilon$ , reject.

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1. If  $x \neq \varepsilon$ , ~~reject~~. **accept**

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$M_2$  halts on  $\varepsilon$



$N$  accepts  $\omega$

rejects

**Doesn't work!  $N$  not accepting  
is not the same as  $N$  rejecting!**

Claim:  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and halts on empty input (i.e. } \varepsilon)\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  **$HALT_{TM}$** :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

$M_2$  halts on  $\varepsilon$

$\Updownarrow$

$N$  halts on  $\omega$



Claim:  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and halts on empty input (i.e. } \varepsilon)\}$  is undecidable.

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Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $HALT_{TM}$ :

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1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

$M_2$  halts on  $\varepsilon$



$N$  halts on  $\omega$

**Doesn't work!  $M_2$  does not  
(always) halt when  $N$  halts on  $\omega$ !**

Claim:  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and halts on empty input (i.e. } \varepsilon)\}$  is undecidable.

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$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$ .

2. Accept if  $N$  accepts and reject if  $N$  rejects.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, accept. If  $H$  rejects, reject.

$M_2$  halts on  $\varepsilon$



$N$  halts on  $\omega$

Claim:  $HALT - \varepsilon_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and halts on empty input (i.e. } \varepsilon)\}$  is undecidable.

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1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

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2. reject.

2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

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$N$  halts on  $\omega$

Prove that  $ALMOST\_ALL_{DFA} = \{\langle A, \omega \rangle : A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \Sigma^* \setminus \{\omega\}\}$  is decidable. Remember to show that your algorithm meets the requirements of a decider.

**You are allowed to use any deciders  
we learned in class or on homework!**

Prove that  $ANY_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \neq \emptyset\}$  is undecidable.

Prove that  $ALMOST\_ALL_{DFA} = \{\langle A, \omega \rangle : A \text{ is a DFA and } L(A) = \Sigma^* \setminus \{\omega\}\}$  is decidable. Remember to show that your algorithm meets the requirements of a decider.

Proof: Construct the following Turing machine to decide  $ALMOST\_ALL_{DFA}$ :  
 $M$  = on input  $\langle A, \omega \rangle$

1. Run  $A$  on  $\omega$  and reject if  $A$  accepts.
2. Construct DFA  $B$  that only accepts  $\omega$ .
3. Construct DFA  $C$  so that  $L(C) = L(A) \cup L(B)$ .
4. Run the decider for  $ALL_{DFA}$  on  $C$ .
5. If the decider accepts, accept. If it rejects, reject.

Every DFA is guaranteed to halt on all input so step 1 will halt. Constructing  $B$  and  $C$  will occur in finite time, and running a decider is guaranteed to halt. Thus,  $M$  is guaranteed to halt and is a decider.

Prove that  $ANY_{TM} = \{\langle M \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } L(M) \neq \emptyset\}$  is undecidable.

Proof: Suppose  $ANY_{TM}$  is decidable and let TM  $H$  be its decider.

Build a TM  $S$  that decides  $A_{TM}$ :

$S$  = on input  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$

1. Construct TM  $M_2$  on input  $\langle x \rangle$  :

    1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$  and accept if  $N$  does.

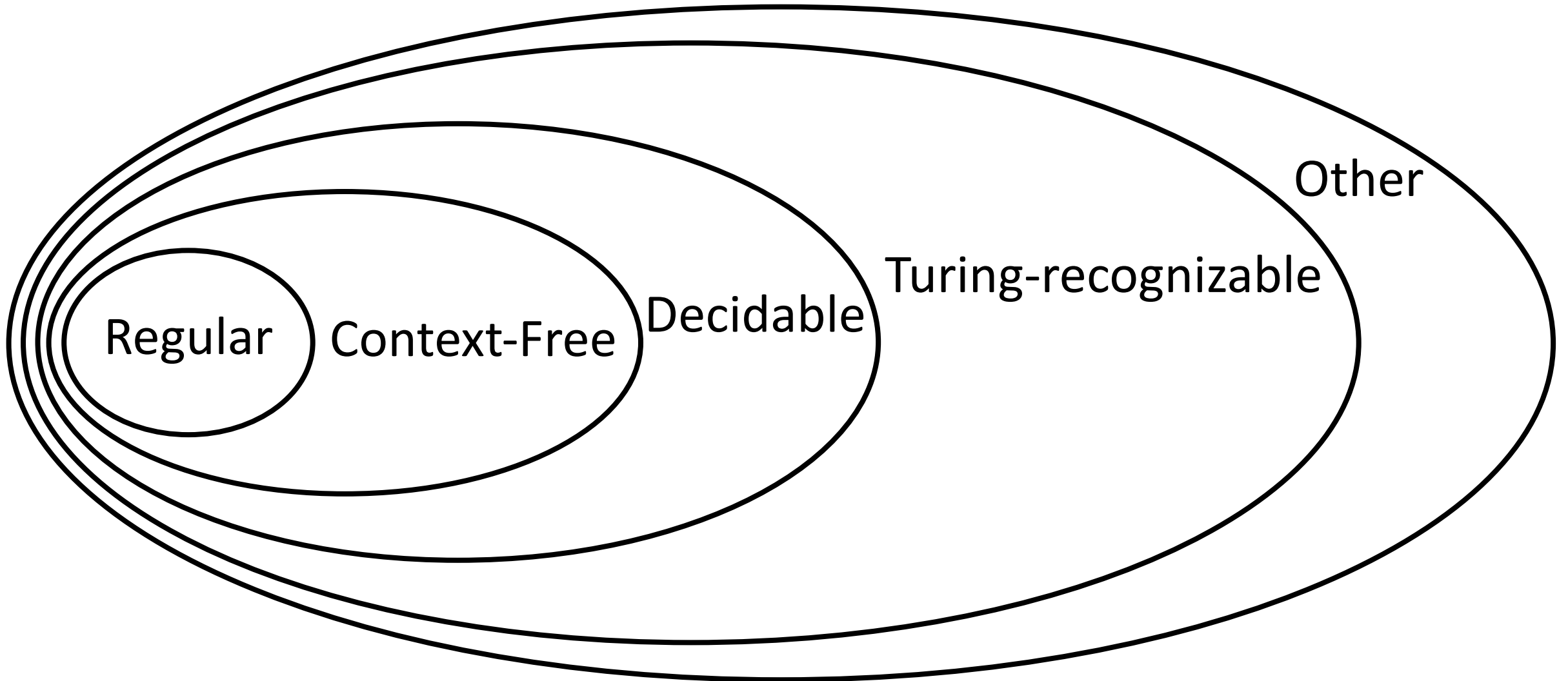
2. Run  $H$  on  $\langle M_2 \rangle$ .

3. If  $H$  accepts, accept. If  $H$  rejects, reject.

$L(M_2) \neq \emptyset$
$\Updownarrow$
$N \text{ accepts } \omega$

If  $N$  accepts  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \Sigma^*$  and  $S$  accepts. If  $N$  does not accept  $\omega$ ,  $L(M_2) = \emptyset$  and  $S$  rejects. Thus,  $S$  is a decider for  $A_{TM}$ , which is a contradiction, so  $ANY_{TM}$  is undecidable.

# Computability Hierarchy





# Unrecognizable Language

Claim:  $\overline{HALT_{TM}} = \{\langle M, \omega \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ does not halt on } \omega\}$  is not Turing-recognizable.

# Unrecognizable Language

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Proof: Suppose  $\overline{HALT_{TM}}$  was Turing-recognizable. Let  $T$  be its recognizer (i.e.,  $T$  will accept if a TM does **not** halt on some input).

# Unrecognizable Language

Claim:  $\overline{HALT_{TM}} = \{\langle M, \omega \rangle : M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ does not halt on } \omega\}$  is not Turing-recognizable.

Proof: Suppose  $\overline{HALT_{TM}}$  was Turing-recognizable. Let  $T$  be its recognizer (i.e.,  $T$  will accept if a TM does not halt on some input).

Consider  $S$  on  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$ :

1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$ .
2. accept.

}  **$HALT_{TM}$  recognizer!**

# Unrecognizable Language

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1. Run  $N$  on  $\omega$ .
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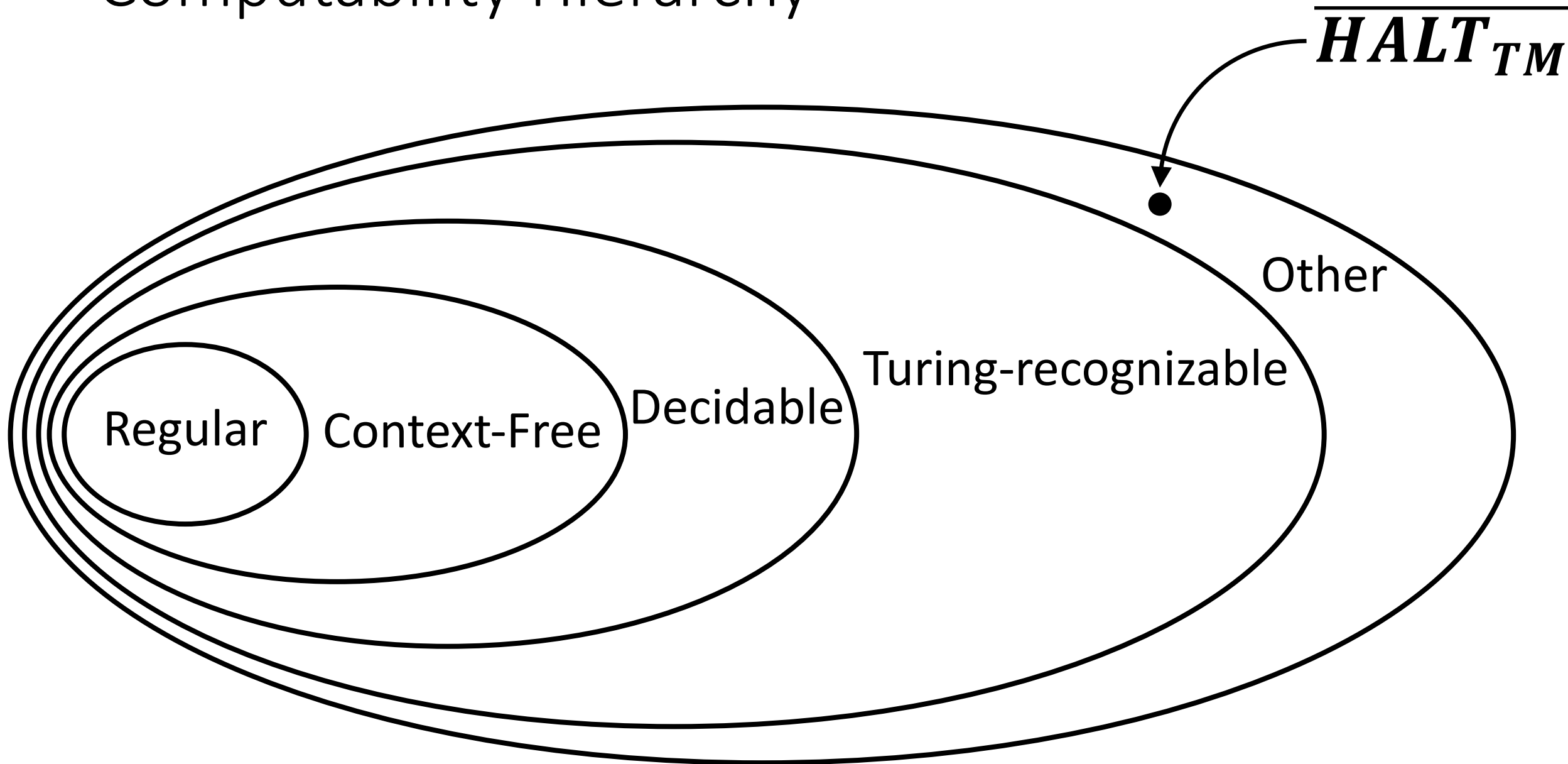
}  **$HALT_{TM}$  recognizer!**

Consider  $V$  on  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$ :

1. Run  $T$  on  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$  and run  $S$  on  $\langle N, \omega \rangle$  in parallel.
2. If  $T$  accepts, reject. If  $S$  accepts, accept.

}  **$HALT_{TM}$  decider!**

# Computability Hierarchy



# Unrecognizable Language

Claim: A language is decidable  $\Leftrightarrow$  it and its complement are Turing-recognizable.

Proof:  $\Rightarrow$  If a language is decidable, its complement is also decidable (just reverse accept/reject conditions) and decidable languages are recognizable.

$\Leftarrow$  If  $A$  and  $\bar{A}$  are both Turing-recognizable, let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be recognizers for  $A$  and  $\bar{A}$ . Consider the following TM:

$M$  = on input  $\omega$

1. Run both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  on  $\omega$  in parallel (alternate instructions).
2. If  $M_1$  accepts, accept. If  $M_2$  accepts, reject.

Since  $\omega \in A$  or  $\bar{A}$ ,  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  must accept (halts on input). Thus,  $M$  is a decider for  $A$ .

# Beyond Decidability

What if  $HALT_{TM}$  were “decidable”?

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Goldbach’s Conjecture:

- 280-year-old open problem.
- Every integer  $\geq 2$  is sum of two primes.



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- Every integer  $\geq 2$  is sum of two primes.

Consider  $G$  on  $\langle x \rangle$ :

1. For  $n = 2$ , check each pair of prime number  $< n$ .
2. If no pair sums to  $n$ , reject.
3. Increment  $n$  and loop to step 1.

# Beyond Decidability

```
public boolean G() {  
    int i = 2;  
    while (true) {  
        boolean found = false;  
        for (int n = 1; n < i; n++) {  
            for (int m = 1; m < i; m++) {  
                if (isPrime(n) && isPrime(m) && m + n = i) {  
                    found = true;  
                }  
            }  
        }  
        if (!found) {  
            return false;  
        }  
        i++;  
    }  
}
```

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What does it mean if  $G$  halts?

What does it mean if  $G$  does not halt?

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What does it mean if  $G$  halts? **Goldbach’s conjecture is false!**

What does it mean if  $G$  does not halt? **Goldbach’s conjecture is true!**

# Beyond Decidability

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What does it mean if  $G$  halts? **Goldbach’s conjecture is false!**

What does it mean if  $G$  does not halt? **Goldbach’s conjecture is true!**

Turns out you can do this for lots of open problems over natural numbers (twin prime conjecture,...)