3. Introduction to computer science

3.1 Models for computation

Turing machines

Hilbert: Can all problems in mathematics be solved by an algorithm? (*entscheidungsproblem*)



Alan Turing 1912-1954

Turing & Church: What is a mathematical definition of an algorithm?
I) Invent a theoretical algorithm "machine" – Turing machine
II) Postulate/conjecture/show:

Church-Turing thesis: Functions computable on a Turing machine are functions that we regard as functions computable by an algorithm.

III) Answer to Hilbert (reformulating Gödel): Not all mathematical problems are computable by an algorithm. Example: Halting problem.

IV) Laying foundation to modern theory of computer science.

Turing machine

Four elementary building blocks



Internal states of finite state control: $q_s, q_1, ..., q_m, q_h$

• Four element language: *s*, 0, 1, *b*

b is blank

• Internal states: q_s, q_1, q_h

Starting with: Tape written, finite state control in Q_s



• Four element language: *s*, 0, 1, *b*

b is blank

• Internal states: q_s, q_1, q_h

Starting with: Tape written, finite state control in Q_s



Execute program: 1) Go through lines top to bottom.2) Find match to FSC + tape (*if not found, stop run*).

• Four element language: *s*, 0, 1, *b*

b is blank

• Internal states: q_s, q_1, q_h

Starting with: Tape written, finite state control in Q_s



Execute program: 3) Change FSC + tape.

• Four element language: *s*, 0, 1, *b*

b is blank

• Internal states: q_s, q_1, q_h

Starting with: Tape written, finite state control in Q_s



Execute program: 3) Change FSC + tape. 4) Move head.

• Four element language: *s*, 0, 1, *b*

b is blank

• Internal states: q_s, q_1, q_h

Starting with: Tape written, finite state control in Q_s



Execute program: 1) Go through lines top to bottom.2) Find match to FSC + tape.

• Four element language: *s*, 0, 1, *b*

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Starting with: Tape written, finite state control in Q_s



FSC is in q_h : run ends. Output on tape.



a	С
0	1
1	0



a	b	С
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a \\ b \end{array} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{ccc} c = a \\ OR \end{array} b$$



a	b	С
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0





Additional operations



Universal computation

Any function $f:\{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$ can be calculated using

- 1) Wires
- 2) Ancilla bits
- 3) FANOUT operations
- 4) CROSSOVER operations
- 5) AND, XOR and NOT gates

Exercise 3.8: Show that 1), 2), 3), 4) and NAND are also universal.