

# Pumping Lemma for CFLs



- ◆ Intuition: If  $L$  is CF, then some CFG  $G$  produces strings in  $L$ 
  - ⇒ If some string in  $L$  is very long, it will have a very tall parse tree
  - ⇒ If a parse tree is taller than the number of distinct variables in  $G$ , then *some variable  $A$  repeats*  $\Rightarrow A$  will have at least two sub-trees
  - ⇒ We can pump up the original string by replacing  $A$ 's smaller sub-tree with larger, and pump down by replacing larger with smaller
- ◆ Pumping Lemma for CFLs in all its glory:
  - ⇒ If  $L$  is a CFL, then there is a number  $p$  (the “pumping length”) such that for all strings  $s$  in  $L$  such that  $|s| \geq p$ , there exist  $u, v, x, y$ , and  $z$  such that  $s = uvxyz$  and:
    1.  $uv^ixy^iz \in L$  for all  $i \geq 0$ , and
    2.  $|vy| \geq 1$ , and
    3.  $|vxy| \leq p$ .

# Why is the PL useful?



Yawn...yes,  
why indeed?

- ◆ Can use the pumping lemma to show a language  $L$  is *not context-free*
  - ⇒ 5 steps for a proof by contradiction:
    1. Assume  $L$  is a CFL.
    2. Let  $p$  be the pumping length for  $L$  given by the pumping lemma for CFLs.
    3. Choose cleverly an  $s$  in  $L$  of length at least  $p$ , such that
    4. For *all possible ways* of decomposing  $s$  into  $uvxyz$ , where  $|vy| \geq 1$  and  $|vxy| \leq p$ ,
    5. Choose an  $i \geq 0$  such that  $uv^i xy^i z$  is not in  $L$ .

# Example 1



Oh boy...  
Jolly good

- ◆ Show that  $L = \{0^n 1^n 0^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is not a CFL
    1. Assume  $L$  is a CFL.
    2. Let  $p$  be the pumping length for  $L$  given by the pumping lemma for CFLs.
    3. Let  $s = 0^p 1^p 0^p$  (note that  $|s| > p$ )
    4. For *all possible ways* of decomposing  $s = 0^p 1^p 0^p$  into  $uvxyz$ , where  $|vy| \geq 1$  and  $|vxy| \leq p$ ,
    5. We need  $i \geq 0$  such that  $uv^i xy^i z$  is not in  $L$ :
      - Case 1: Both  $v$  and  $y$  contain only 0s or only 1s
        - ⇒ Then  $uv^2 xy^2 z$  contains unequal no. of 0s, 1s, and 0s.
      - Case 2:  $v$  or  $y$  contain both 0 and 1
        - ⇒ Then  $uv^2 xy^2 z$  is not of the form  $0^* 1^* 0^*$ .
- In both cases,  $uv^2 xy^2 z$  is not in  $L$ , contradicting pumping lemma.  
Therefore  $L$  cannot be a CFL.

## Example 2



Prime time,  
baby!

- ◆ Show  $L = \{0^n \mid n \text{ is a prime number}\}$  is not a CFL
    1. Assume  $L$  is a CFL.
    2. Let  $p$  be the pumping length for  $L$  given by the pumping lemma for CFLs.
    3. Let  $s = 0^n$  where  $n$  is a prime  $\geq p$
    4. Consider *all possible ways* of decomposing  $s$  into  $uvxyz$ , where  $|vy| \geq 1$  and  $|vxy| \leq p$ .

Then,  $vy = 0^r$  and  $uxz = 0^q$  where  $r + q = n$  and  $r \geq 1$
    5. We need an  $i \geq 0$  such that  $uv^i xy^i z = 0^{ir+q}$  is not in  $L$ .

( $i = 0$  won't work because  $q$  could be prime: e.g.  $2 + 17 = 19$ )  
Choose  $i = (q + 2 + 2r)$ . Then,  $ir + q = qr + 2r + 2r^2 + q = q(r+1) + 2r(r+1) = (q+2r)(r+1) = \text{not prime (since } r \geq 1)$ .
- So,  $0^{ir+q}$  is not in  $L \Rightarrow$  contradicts pumping lemma.  $L$  is not a CFL.

# Closure properties of CFLs

---

- ◆ You showed in homework that CFLs are closed under union, concatenation and star.
- ◆ How about intersection?
- ◆ How about complement?



# Two surprising results about CFLs

◆ CFLs are not closed under intersection

⇒ **Proof:**  $L_1 = \{0^n 1^n 0^m \mid n, m \geq 0\}$  and  $L_2 = \{0^m 1^n 0^n \mid n, m \geq 0\}$  are both CFLs but  $L_1 \cap L_2 = \{0^n 1^n 0^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is not a CFL.

◆ CFLs are not closed under complement

⇒ **Proof by contradiction:**

Suppose CFLs are closed under complement.

Then, for  $L_1, L_2$  above,  $\overline{\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}}$  must be a CFL (since CFLs are closed under  $\cup$  - see this week's homework).

But,  $\overline{\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}} = L_1 \cap L_2$  (by de Morgan's law).

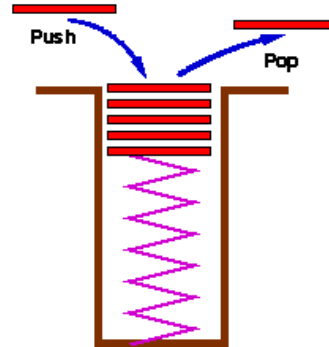
$L_1 \cap L_2 = \{0^n 1^n 0^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is not a CFL  $\Rightarrow$  contradiction.

Therefore CFLs are not closed under complement.

# Can we make PDAs more powerful?

---

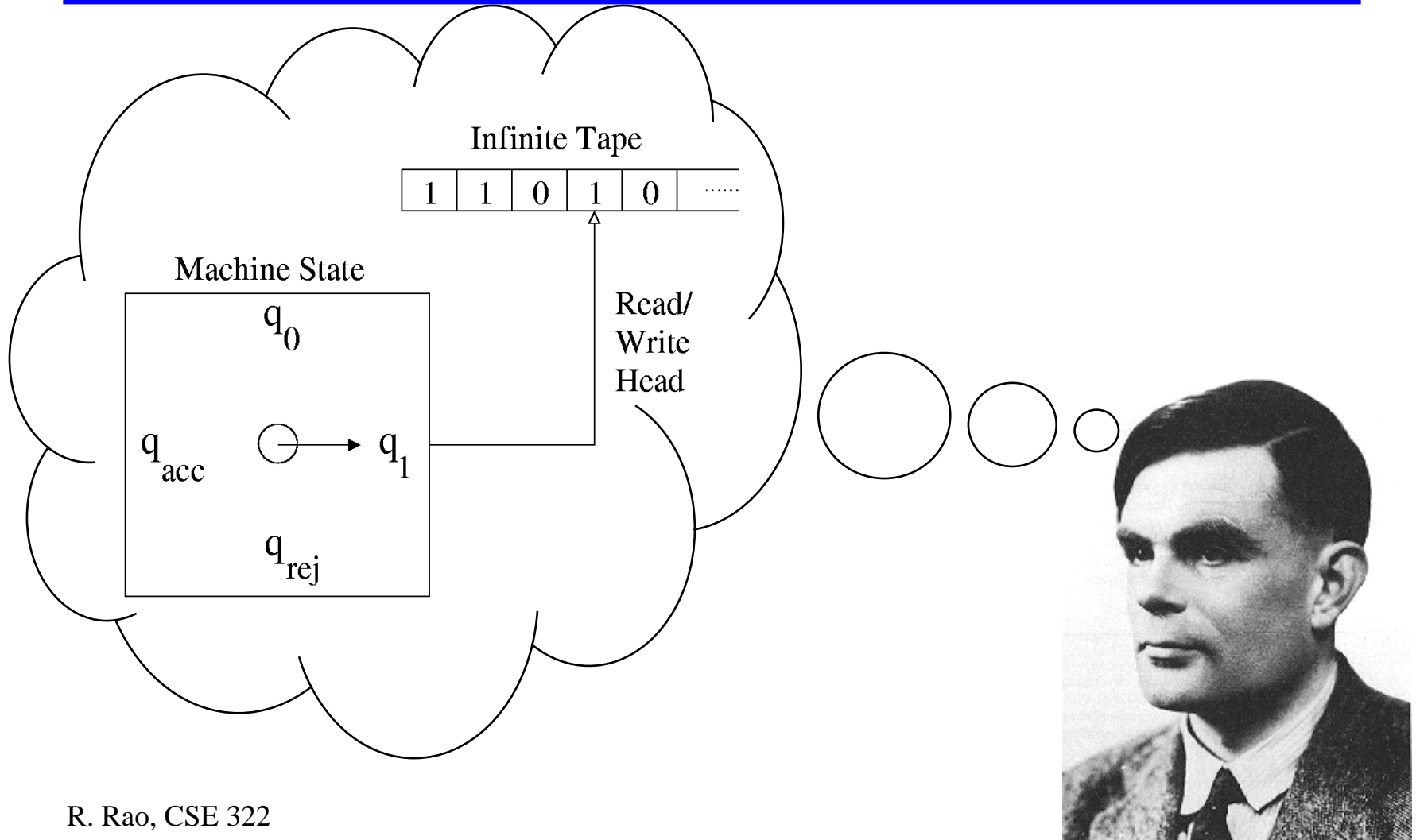
◆ PDA = NFA +



What if we allow arbitrary reads/writes to the stack instead of only push and pop?

# Enter...the Turing Machine

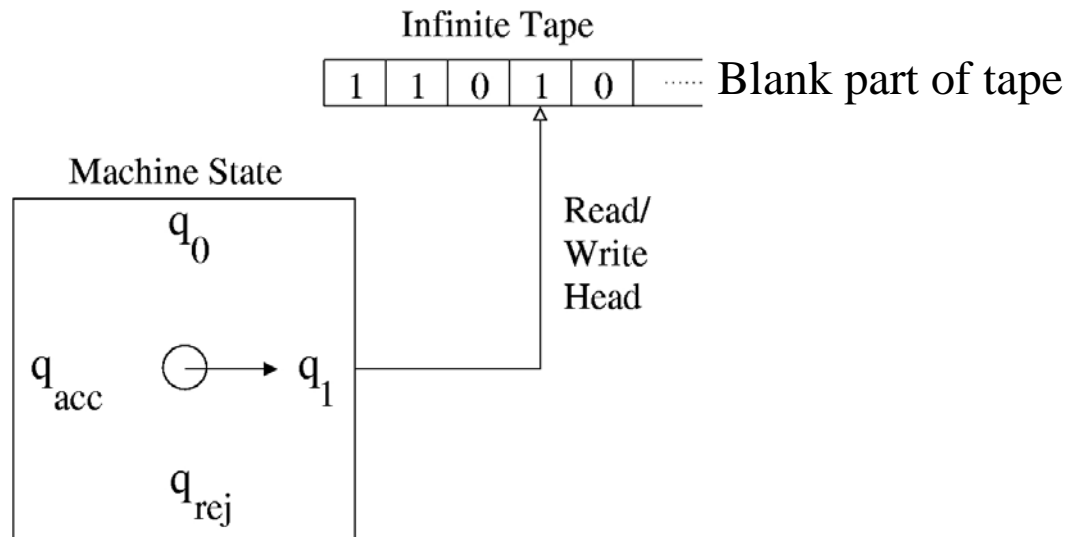
---





# Turing Machines

---



Just like a DFA except:

- ⇒ You have an infinite “tape” memory (or scratchpad) on which you receive your input and on which you can do your calculations
- ⇒ You can read one symbol at a time from a cell on the tape, write one symbol, then move the read/write pointer (head) left (L) or right (R)

# Who was Turing?

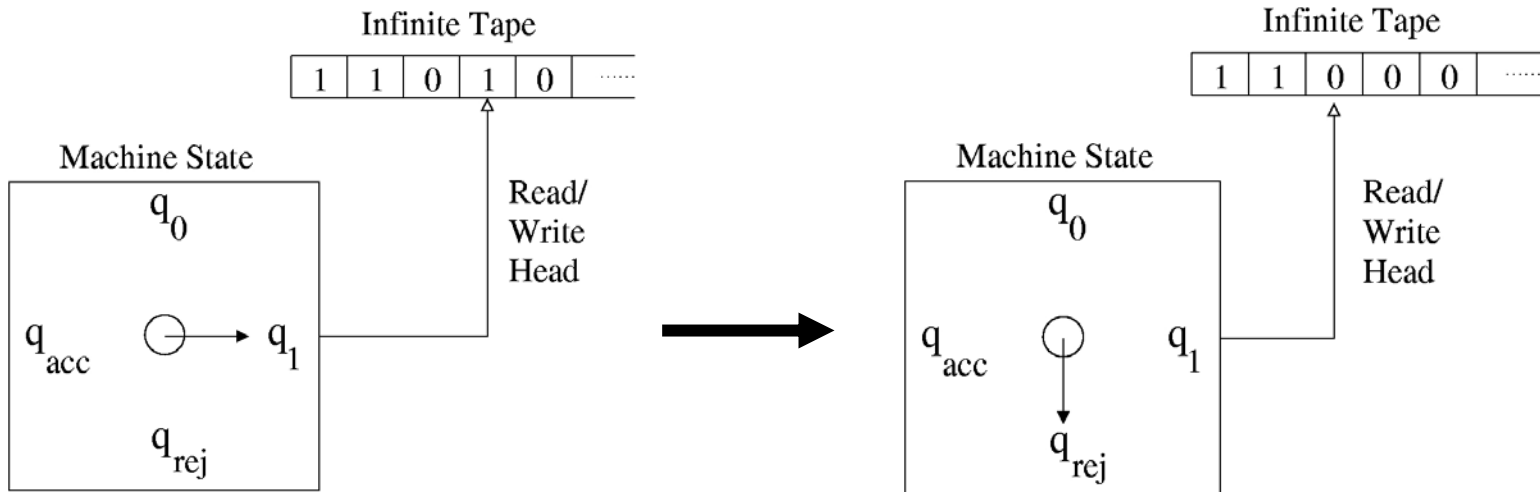
---



- ◆ Alan Turing (1912-1954): one of the most brilliant mathematicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (one of the “founding fathers” of computing)
- ◆ Click on “Theory Hall of Fame” link on class web under “Lectures”
- ◆ Introduced the Turing machine as a formal model of what it means to compute and solve a problem (i.e. an “algorithm”)
  - ⇒ Paper: On computable numbers, with an application to the Entscheidungsproblem, Proc. London Math. Soc. 42 (1936).

# How do Turing Machines compute?

- ◆  $\delta(\text{current state, symbol under the head}) = (\text{next state, symbol to write over current symbol, direction of head movement})$



- ◆ Diagram shows:  $\delta(q_1, 1) = (q_{rej}, 0, L)$  (R = right, L = left)
- ◆ In terms of “Configurations”:  $110q_1\underline{1}0 \Rightarrow 11q_{rej}\underline{0}00$

---

# Next Time: Turing-Recognizable versus Decidable Languages

How does a TM accept a string?

How can a TM reject a string?

What is a decider TM?