

Sipser pp. 216-220.

Known:  $A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that accepts } w \}$   
 $E_{TM} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that doesn't accept any string.} \}$  / undecidable.

Prop.  $EQ_{TM} = \{ \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid M_1, M_2 \text{ are TMs and } L(M_1) = L(M_2) \}$ ,  
is undecidable.

Proof. We'll assume that some decider  $T$  decides  $EQ_{TM}$ .

Given  $T$ , we'll build a machine  $S$  that decides  $E_{TM}$  as follows:

$S$ : "On input  $\langle M \rangle$ .

1.  $S$  writes down  $\langle M_{No} \rangle$ ,  $M_{No}$  is a simple TM that rejects all strings.
2.  $S$  runs  $T(\langle M, M_{No} \rangle)$ .

If  $T(\langle M, M_{No} \rangle)$  accepts, then accept.  
Otherwise, reject."

Contradiction, because  $E_{TM}$  is not decidable. Thus our assumption is false —  $EQ_{TM}$  is undecidable.

Prop.  $LOOP = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that runs forever on } w \}$ .

Proof. We assume there exists a recognizer  $R$  for  $LOOP$  and use it to build a decider for  $A_{TM}$ .

Given  $R$ ,

$S$ : "On input  $\langle M, w \rangle$ ,

—simulate  $M(w)$  and  $R(\langle M, w \rangle)$  in parallel, alternating steps until one machine accepts.

— If  $M(w)$  accepts, accept. If  $R(\langle M, w \rangle)$  accepts, reject."  
If  $M(w)$  rejects, reject.

$S$  decides  $\bar{A}_{TM}$  (and halts on all input.).  $A_{TM}$  is not decidable  
so this is a contradiction. □