CSE 431
Spring Quarter 2002
Assignment 2
Due Friday, April 19

All solutions should be neatly written or type set. All major steps in proofs and algorithms must be justified.

1. (10 points) Using implementation descriptions show that the class of decidable languages is closed under union, and complement. For this problem show how to design Turing machines a to decide $L_1 \cup L_2$ and $\overline{L_1}$ given Turing machines to decide to decide L_1 and L_2. Assume that the Turing machines to decide L_1 and L_2 are of the one tape variety. Your Turing machines can be of the multitape variety.

2. (10 points) Using high level descriptions show that the class of decidable languages is closed Kleene star. For this problem show how to design an algorithm to decide L^* given an algorithm to decide L. Hint: (i) the empty string is in L^* and (ii) if w is not empty, then $w \in L^*$ if and only if there is a non-empty string $u \in L$ and string $v \in L^*$ such that $w = uv$. The string v is shorter than than w. Use this hint to design a deterministic algorithm to decide if a string is in L^* given an algorithm for L.

3. (10 points) A special form of Boolean formulas is called *conjunctive normal form* or simply *CNF*. For example,
$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \neg x_2) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\neg x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \neg x_3)$$
is such a CNF formula. You will want to review pages 14-15 in the book. We say such a formula is *satisfiable* if there is some way to assign the Boolean variables to 1 (true) and 0 (false) so that the formula evaluates to true. For the example, the assignment $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 0$ satisfies the formula. So the formula is satisfiable. The following is called the CNF-SAT problem.

   - Input: A CNF formula F.
   - Property: F is satisfiable.

   (a) Design an encoding for CNF formulas in a finite alphabet.

   (b) Design a nondeterministic multitape Turing machine (using an implementation description, not a formal description) that accepts the set of encodings of satisfiable CNF formulas in your encoding. Use nondeterminism wisely to avoid having your Turing machine search through all possible assignments to find a satisfying one.