CSE P 590B
Spring Quarter 2006
Assignment 2
Due Thursday, April 13, 2006

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

1. (10 points) In this problem you will show that the decidable languages are closed under Boolean operation. For this problem show how to design Turing machines to decide $L_1 \cup L_2$ and $\overline{L_1}$ given Turing machines to decide to decide L_1 and L_2. Use these results to show that the decidable languages are closed under intersection. 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. Given M_1 and M_2 that accept L_1 and L_2, respectively, your solutions should show the specific components of the machines that accept $L_1 \cup L_2$ and $\overline{L_1}$.

2. (10 points) In this problem you will practice doing a diagonal argument. Consider the language

$$H_{TM} = \{\langle M, w\rangle : M \text{ halts on input } w\}.$$

Use a diagonal argument to show that H_{TM} is undecidable. Explain why H_{TM} is Turing recognizable.

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. You do not have give the details of the nondeterministic machine, just describe its behavior.