CS 121: Lecture 11
More on Turing Machines

Madhu Sudan

https://madhu.seas.Harvard.edu/courses/Fall2020

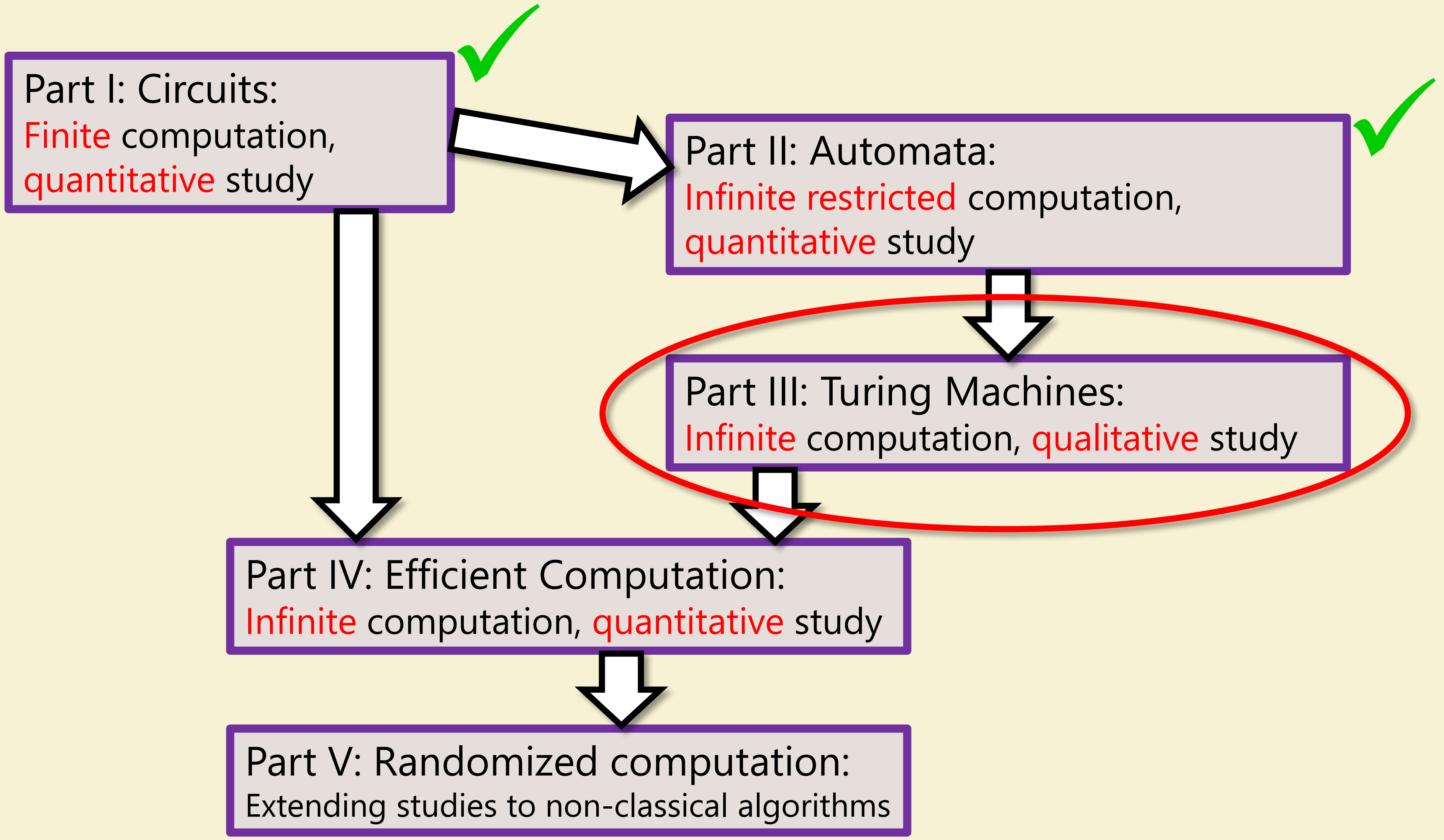
Book: https://introtcs.org

How to contact us
- The whole staff (faster response): CS 121 Piazza
- Only the course heads (slower): cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com

Announcements:

- Advanced Sections: Christina Ilvento on Differential Privacy!
- Homework 3 due today.
- Sample midterm available for tech/TeX/rules.
- Actual Midterm:
  - Pick up on Canvas;
  - TeX your answers ;
  - Submit on Gradescope-submit your answers like a problem set.
- Section: no video this week; review for midterm.
  - Section on Turing Machines: next week.
- Midterm review materials:
  - Diego/Joanna's handout
  - Past midterms: two on finite automata without solutions; several from Boaz with solutions.

Where we are:



✓
Part I: Circuits:
Finite computation,
quantitative study
✓
Part II: Automata:
Infinite restricted computation,
quantitative study
Part III: Turing Machines:
Infinite computation, qualitative study
Part IV: Efficient Computation:
Infinite computation, quantitative study
Part V: Randomized computation:
Extending studies to non-classical algorithms

Today:

- Part 1: More examples of Turing Machines
  - TM to compute $PAL: \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}$ where $PAL(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x = x^R$
  - TM to compute $h: \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^*$, where $h(x) = y$ where $x = yz$ and $|y| \in \{|z|, |z| + 1\}$
- Part 2: (Discussion) Looking to the future:
  - Computable functions.
    - Def (7.2 in Barak): Function computable ⇔ computable by TM
  - Equivalence with other computing & non-computing models: Multiple tapes, RAM, λ-calculus, polynomials …

Recall Turing Machines

- (Barak, Definition 7.1):
- TM on k states and alphabet $\Sigma \supseteq \{0,1,\triangleright,\phi\}$

  is given by $\delta: [k] \times \Sigma \to [k] \times \Sigma \times \text{Action}$,

  where $\text{Action} = \{L, R, S, H\}$
  - L=Left, R=Right, S=Stay (don't move), H=Halt (done!!)
- Operation:
  - Start in state 0, Tape $T =$ ⍰$x_0 \ldots x_{n-1}\phi\phi\phi \ldots$, Head (i) at x_0
  - General step: current state q ; input symbol σ:

    Let $\delta(q,\sigma) = (r,\tau,X) \Rightarrow$ Write τ on tape (overwriting σ) ; Move to state r;
    Move Head left ($i \leftarrow i - 1$) if $X = L$; right if $X = R$; don't move if $X = S$.
  - Repeat General step until $X = H$

Recognizing Palindromes

- $PAL: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ where $PAL(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x = x^R$
- Overview/Idea:
  - Scan left to right between #s.
  - Replace extreme symbols by # if they match, Reject if they don't
  - Till middle region is empty.

More details:

- Alphabet: $\Sigma = \{0, 1, \triangleright, \phi, \#\}$
- States:
  - 0: Start
  - 1: Scan Right 0
  - 2: Scan Right 1
  - 3: Check 0
  - 4: Check 1
  - 5: Move Left
  - 6: Accept and Halt
  - 7: Reject and Clean Left

State/Input	$\rhd$	0	1	ϕ	$\#$
0					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Alphabet: $\Sigma = \{0,1,\rhd,\phi,\#\}$

States:

0: Start

1: Scan Right 0

2: Scan Right 1

3: Check 0

4: Check 1

5: Move Left

6: Accept and Halt

7: Reject and Clean Left

Alphabet: $\Sigma = \{0,1,\triangleright,\phi,\#\}$

States:

0: Start

1: Scan Right 0

2: Scan Right 1

3: Check 0

4: Check 1

5: Move Left

6: Accept and Halt

7: Reject and Clean Left

Exercise Break 1

- Design TM to compute $h: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$, where $h(x) = y$ where $x = yz$ and $|y| \in \{|z|, |z| + 1\}$
  1. Formulate your plan
  2. Break from Break (Return from Break + Discuss Plan)
  3. Choose your alphabet
  4. Set up the states
  5. Start thinking about key transitions

Computable Functions

- **Definition (7.1 in Barak):** A function $f: \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^*$ is computable if and only if it is computable by a Turing Machine.
- **Warning:** Definition, not a Theorem!
- **Definition:** $R = \{\, f: \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\} \quad | \quad f$ is computable $\}$
  - Why R? ("Recursive")

- **Turing-Church Thesis:** f is computable by a physical process if and only if it is computable (by a Turing Machine).

In following lectures

- Turing Equivalence
  - Turing machines can simulate other Turing Machines
    - With multiple tapes
    - With accept/reject states
    - With 1 tape and multiple heads
  - RAM programs: (Main diff: Can read Tape[i] and then Tape[3i+25] in O(1) steps.
  - High-level programs – C++, Python …
  - Rewrite systems; Λ-Calculus ; Hilbert Problem
- **Universal** TMs: TM that takes other TMs as input and runs them!
- **Uncomputability** … the bane of computing.