

# **Simulating Turing Machines in DATR**

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## **Abstract**

In this paper we show how an arbitrary Turing machine can be simulated in DATR, and show that the computational complexity of DATR is Turing equivalent – and hence termination of query evaluation is undecidable.

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## 2 The Hopcroft & Ullman Turing machine

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To simulate a Turing machine we require representations of an infinite tape, a finite-state control, and each of the elements of the ordered tuple  $M$ . The simulated Turing machine uses the path to represent the tape, or more precisely as a path prefix; and the control we represent as a combination of a path prefix and an inheritance specification. An ID  $\alpha_1 q \alpha_2$  is represented as a three-argument list:

```
<x0 x1 x2 ... xi-1 ; q ; xi xi+1 ... xn ;>
```

where  $\alpha_1 = x_0 x_1 x_2 \dots x_{i-1}$ ,  $\alpha_2 = x_i x_{i+1} \dots x_n$ , and  $x_i$  is the current symbol. Using techniques presented in Moser (1992a) to treat the path as an argument list, we will access the path as a stack accessed from the left side. We define a main node, say  $M$ , such that the value of a path (representing an ID) at that node is the value which Turing machine  $M$  would compute if started from that ID. We do this using two mutually recursive nodes,  $M$  and `Apply_delta`. A step of computation from  $ID_i$  to  $ID_{i+1}$  requires two cycles through  $M$  and one through `Apply_delta`. The first cycle through  $M$  computes the value of  $\delta(q, \gamma)$  (a triple) and pushes it (as a path prefix), prefaced by the atom `delta`. The second cycle through  $M$  tests whether  $\delta$  returned a value or is undefined. If it is not defined, then  $M$  evaluates to either `accept` or `reject` depending on whether  $q$  is a final state. If  $\delta(q, \gamma)$  is defined, then  $M$  inherits from `Apply_delta`, which pops  $\delta(q, \gamma)$  (as a matched prefix), applies it to the current  $ID_i$ , and inherits from  $M:<ID_{i+1}>$ . Figure 3 outlines the mutual recursion through which the computation of  $M$  is simulated, where the last step of computation could be either `accept`, as shown, or `reject`.

$M:<ID_1>$	$= M:<\text{delta } \delta(q, \gamma) \text{ ID}_1>$
	$= \text{Apply\_delta}:<\delta(q, \gamma) \text{ ID}_1>$
	$= M:<ID_2>$
	$= M:<\text{delta } \delta(q, \gamma) \text{ ID}_2>$
	$= \text{Apply\_delta}:<\delta(q, \gamma) \text{ ID}_2>$
	$= M:<ID_3>$
	$\vdots \quad \vdots$
	$= M:<ID_n>$
	$= M:<\text{delta undef ID}_n>$
	$= \text{accept}$

Figure 3: Computation via mutual recursion of  $M$  and `Apply_delta`

We now present the DATR translation of TM  $M = (Q,$

```
#vars $terminal: q0 q1 q2 q3 q4 0 1 x y b l r.
```

Under the path-as-argument-list interpretation,  $\alpha_1$ ,  $q$ , and  $\alpha_2$  are the first, second and third arguments, respectively, so we define several nodes which function as argument extractors:

```
Alpha1:<> == Arg1.
Curq:<> == Arg2.
Alpha2:<> == Arg3.
```

The transition function  $\delta$  is simply a table look-up.  $\delta(q, \gamma) = (q', \gamma', d)$ , or in our DATR notation  $\text{Delta}:<q g> == (q' ; g' ; d)$ , where  $q$  and  $g$  are the current state and tape symbol being scanned,  $q'$ ,  $g'$ , and  $d$  are the new state, the symbol replacing  $g$  on the tape, and the direction in which the head moves, respectively. Noting that this particular transition table is a sparse matrix, we define a default of `undef` and the specify the value of  $\delta$  for the pairs for which it is defined:

```
Delta: <> == undef
      <q0 0> == (q1 ; x ; r ;)
      <q0 y> == (q3 ; y ; r ;)
      <q1 0> == (q1 ; 0 ; r ;)
      <q1 1> == (q2 ; y ; l ;)
      <q1 y> == (q1 ; y ; r ;)
      <q2 0> == (q2 ; 0 ; l ;)
      <q2 x> == (q0 ; x ; r ;)
      <q2 y> == (q2 ; y ; l ;)
      <q3 y> == (q3 ; y ; r ;)
      <q3 b> == (q4 ; b ; r ;).
```

Testing membership in the set of final states requires one non-default statement for each node in  $F$ , as shown in node `Final`.<sup>1</sup>

```
Final: <> == false
      <q4> == true.
```

The current symbol scanned by the read/write head of  $M$  is the leftmost symbol of  $\alpha_2$ , unless  $\alpha_2$  is nil, in which case the current symbol is the blank. Node `Cursym` evaluates to the current symbol using negative path extension: the statement prefixed by `<nil ;>` will be matched when the value of `Alpha2` is the empty list; otherwise the statement prefixed by `<nil>` will be matched:

```
Cursym:<> == <nil Alpha2 ;>
      <nil ;> == b
      <nil> == First:<>.
```

The effect of evaluating an ID at `Cursym` yields the first symbol of  $\alpha_2$ . In the second theorem below,  $\alpha_2$  is the empty string:

```
Cursym: <; q0 ; 0 0 1 1 ;> = 0
      <x x y y ; q3 ; ;> = b.
```

Before presenting the definition of `M` we first introduce a new primitive, `Last`, which evaluates to the last atom in an argument, or the empty list if the argument is nil. This will be used to simulate moving the read/write head to the left; the rightmost symbol of  $\alpha_1$  needs to be removed from  $\alpha_1$  and inserted to the right of the current state  $q$ .

---

<sup>1</sup> Moser (1992c) discusses the representation of disjunction in DATR at length.

```
Last:<$terminal ;> == $terminal
<;> == ()
<$terminal> == <>.
```

We now present the definition of  $M$  such that  $M:<ID> = \text{accept}$ , or  $M:<ID> = \text{reject}$ , where  $ID$  is of the form  $<x_0 \ x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_{i-1} ; q ;>$

The number of statements comprising node `Apply_delta` is  $|Q| \times |\Gamma| \times |\{$

---

```
| = M:< x x y y b ;
```

```

% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %
% File:          turing.dtr
% Purpose:       Simulate a Turing machine.
% Author:        Lionel Moser, June 1992
% Documentation: HELP *datr
% Related Files: lib datr; args.dtr; arglogic.dtr;
% Version:       2.00
% Copyright (c) University of Sussex 1992. All rights reserved.
% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %

% This theory simulates a Turing machine which recognises the language
% L={0^n 1^n | n >= 1}, taken from Hopcroft & Ullman (1979:147-150).
% The DATR theory simulates a TM defined by the ordered tuple
% M=(Q,Sigma,Gamma,Delta,q0,B,F).

#vars $state: q0 q1 q2 q3 q4.      % Q
#vars $move: l r.                  % {L,R}

% Tape symbols: 0, 1, x, y, b      % B = b
#vars $gamma: 0 1 x y b.          % Gamma
#vars $sigma: 0 1.                % Sigma

#vars $final: q4.                 % F

#vars $terminal: q0 q1 q2 q3 q4 l r 0 1 x y b.

#load 'args.dtr'.           % The required extract of these
#load 'arglogic.dtr'.        % files follows in primitives.dtr

% An instantaneous description (ID) is a string
% <Alpha1 q Alpha2>
% where Alpha1 and Alpha2 are strings over the tape alphabet.
% We represent this as a 3-argument list:
% <X0 X1 X2 ... Xi-1 ; q ; Xi ... Xn ;>

Alpha1:<> == Arg1.    % X0 X1 ... Xi-1
Curq:<> == Arg2.      % current state q
Alpha2:<> == Arg3.    % Xi Xi+1 ... Xn

% Current symbol is Xi, or b (blank) if Alpha2 is the empty string.
Cursym:<> == <nil Alpha2 ;>
<nil ;> == b
<nil> == First:<>.

```

```

% Final states (= {q4} in this example)
Final: <> == false
      <$final> == true.

% The Delta function (a partial function) is stored as a look-up table.
% Delta:<q a> == (q' ; a' ; {r/l} ;)
Delta:
<> == undef

<q0 0> == (q1 ; x ; r ;)
<q0 y> == (q3 ; y ; r ;)

<q1 0> == (q1 ; 0 ; r ;)
<q1 1> == (q2 ; y ; l ;)
<q1 y> == (q1 ; y ; r ;)

<q2 0> == (q2 ; 0 ; l ;)
<q2 x> == (q0 ; x ; r ;)
<q2 y> == (q2 ; y ; l ;)

<q3 y> == (q3 ; y ; r ;)
<q3 b> == (q4 ; b ; r ;).

% Last is the last symbol in an argument, or nil if the arg is nil.
Last:<$terminal ;> == $terminal
     <;> == ()
     <$terminal> == <>.

% M:<ID>
% M:<X0 ... Xi-1 ; q ; Xi Xi+1 ... Xn ;>
M:<> == <delta Delta:<Curq Cursym>>
    <delta undef> == <If:<Final:<Curq:<>> > >
        <then> == accept
        <else> == reject
    <delta> == Apply_delta:<>.

% Apply_delta:<Delta(IDi) IDi> == M:<IDi+1>
% Apply_delta<q1 ; X ; R ; X0 ... Xi-1 ; q ; Xi Xi+1 ... Xn ;>
Apply_delta:
    % M:<X0 ... Xi-1 Xi' ; q' ; Xi+1 ... Xn ;>
    <$state ; $gamma ; r ;> == M:< Alpha1:<> $gamma ;
                                $state ;
                                Rest:<Alpha2:<> ;> ;
                                !
    % M:<X0 ... Xi-2 ; q' ; Xi Xi' Xi+1 ... Xn ;>
    <$state ; $gamma ; l ;> == M:< Remove_last:<Alpha1:<> ;> ;
                                $state ;
                                Last:<Alpha1:<> ;> $gamma Rest:<Alpha2:<> ;> ;
                                !

```

```
% Some theorems -----
% M: < ; q0 ; 0 ;> = reject
%     < ; q0 ; 1 ;> = reject
%     < ; q0 ; 0 1 ;> = accept
%     < ; q0 ; 0 0 1 ;> = reject
%     < ; q0 ; 0 1 1 ;> = reject
%     < ; q0 ; 0 0 1 1 ;> = accept
%     < ; q0 ; 0 0 0 1 1 ;> = reject
%     < ; q0 ; 0 0 0 1 1 1 ;> = accept
%     < ; q0 ; 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 ;> = reject.
```

```

% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %
% File: primitives.dtr %
% Purpose: Primitives used by Turing.dtr %
% Authors: Lionel Moser, June 1992. %
% Version: 5.00 %
% Copyright (c) University of Sussex 1992. All rights reserved. %

Arg1: <!> == ()
    <;> == ()
    <$terminal> == ($terminal <>).

Arg2: <> == Arg1:<Pop_arg>.

Arg3: <> == Arg1:<Pop_arg:<Pop_arg>>.

First: <$terminal> == $terminal.

Second: <$terminal> == First:<>.

Pop_arg: <!> == ()
    <;> == Arglist:<>
    <$terminal> == <>.

Pv: <> == ()
    <!> == ()
    <;> == (; <>)
    <$terminal> == ($terminal <>).

Arglist:<> == Pv.

Rest: <;> == ()
    <$terminal> == Pv_to_;<>.

Pv_to_;<> == ()
    <$terminal> == ($terminal <>).

Remove_last: <> == Reverse:<Rest:<Reverse ;> ;>.

Reverse: <;> == ()
    <$terminal> == (<> $terminal).

If: <true> == then
    <false> == else.

```