

# CS 121: Lecture 11

## More on Turing Machines

Madhu Sudan

<https://madhu.seas.harvard.edu/courses/Fall2020>

Book: <https://introtcs.org>

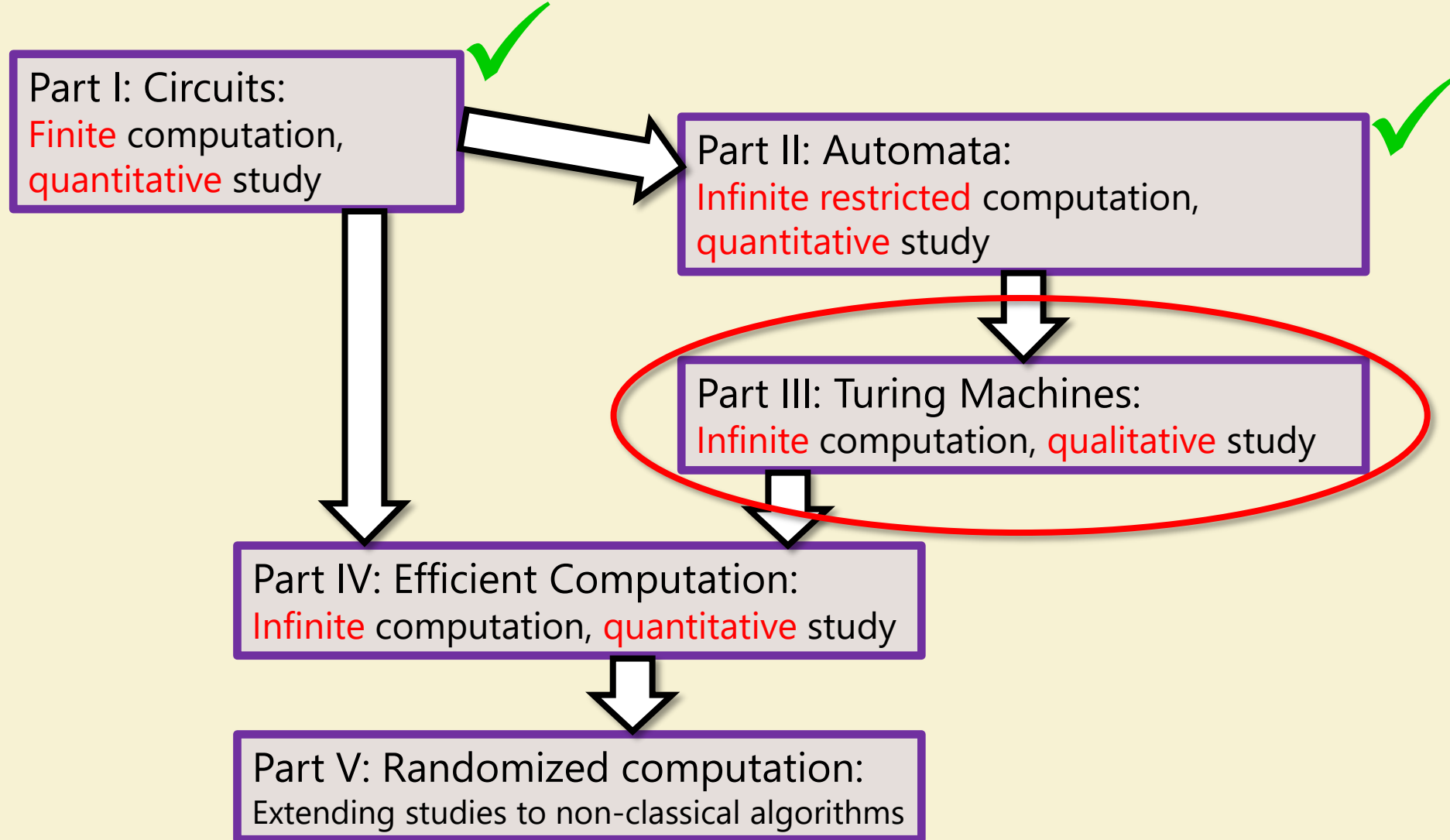
How to contact us { The whole staff (faster response): [CS 121 Piazza](#)  
Only the course heads (slower): [cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com](mailto:cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com)

# 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:

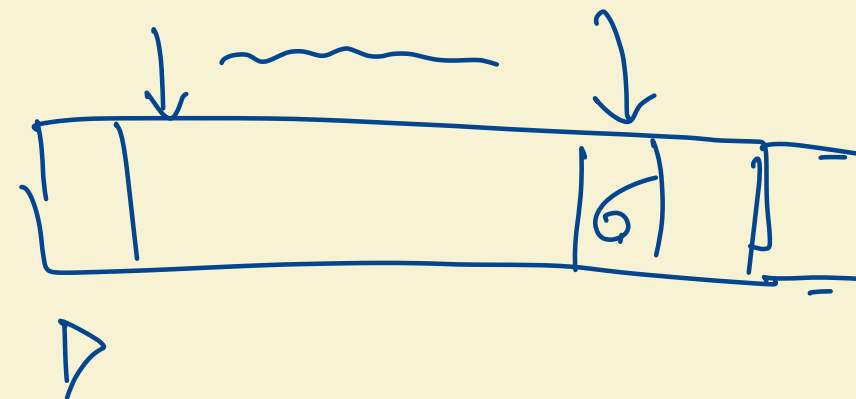
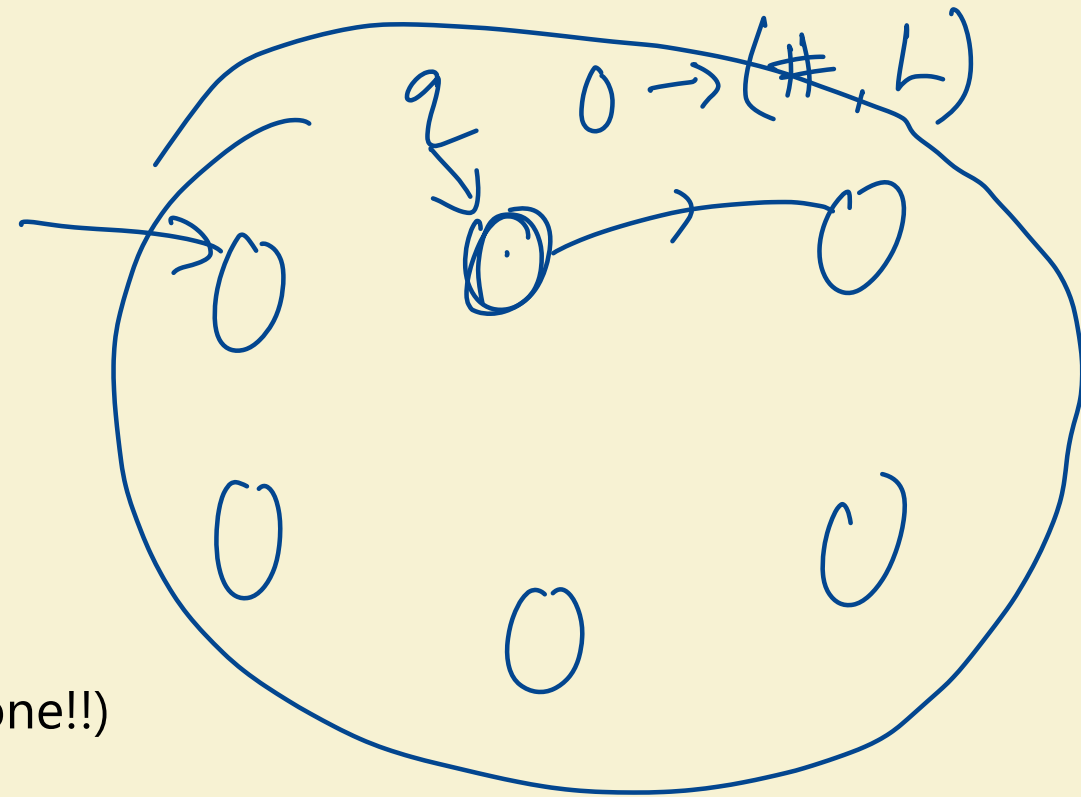


# Today:

- Part 1: More examples of Turing Machines
  - TM to compute  $PAL: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  where  $PAL(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x = x^R$
  - TM to compute  $h: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$ , 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  $\Leftrightarrow$  computable by TM
  - Equivalence with other computing & non-computing models: Multiple tapes, RAM,  $\lambda$ -calculus, polynomials ...

# Recall Turing Machines

- (Barak, Definition 7.1):
- TM on  $k$  states and alphabet  $\Sigma \supseteq \{0, 1, \triangleright, \phi\}$  is given by  $\delta: [k] \times \Sigma \rightarrow [k] \times \Sigma \times \text{Action}$ , 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  $T = \square x_0 \dots x_{n-1} \phi \phi \phi \dots$ , Head ( $i$ ) at  $x_0$
  - General step: current state  $q$ ; input symbol  $\sigma$ :  
Let  $\delta(q, \sigma) = (r, \tau, X) \Rightarrow$  Write  $\tau$  on tape (overwriting  $\sigma$ ); 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

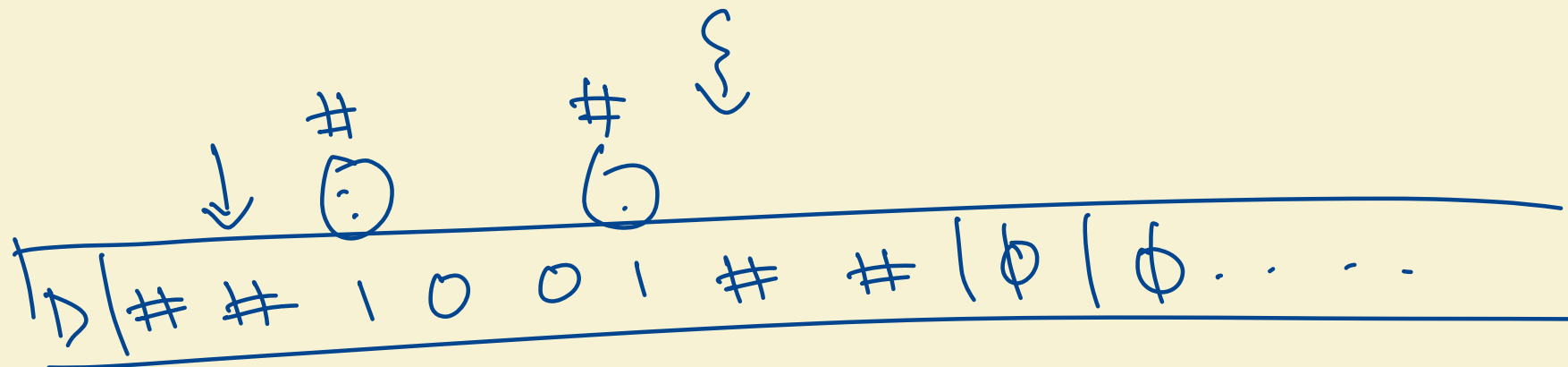
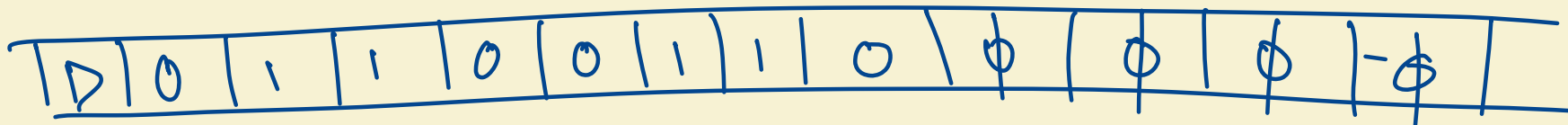
- $PAL: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  where  $PAL(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x = x^R$
- Overview/Idea:
  - Scan left to right between #s.
  - Replace extreme symbols by # if they match, Reject if they don't
  - Till middle region is empty.

→ LEVEL

→ 0110110

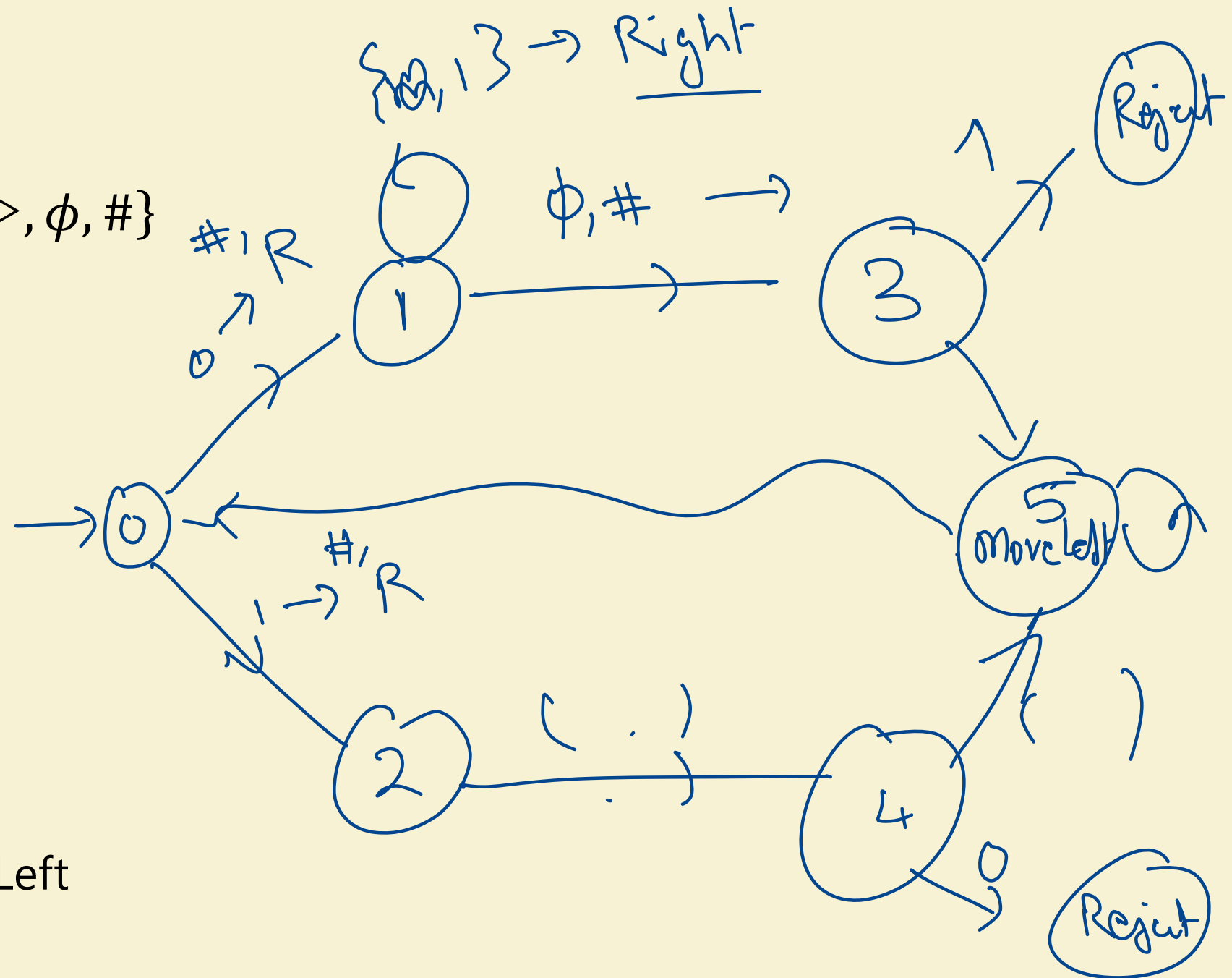
→ 0110

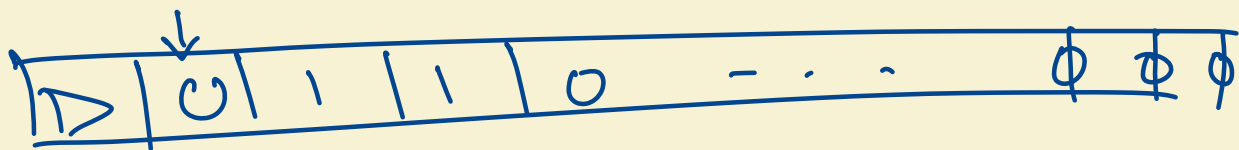
→ 001 ~~0~~



# 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	$\triangleright$	$0$	$1$	$\phi$	$\#$
0	invalid	$(1, \#, R)$	$(2, \#, R)$	$(-, 1, H)$	$(-, 1, H)$
1	invalid	$(1, 0, R)$	$(1, 1, R)$	$(3, \phi, L)$	$(3, \#, L)$
2	invalid				
3	invalid	$(5, \#, L)$	$(7, 0, L)$		
4	invalid				
5				invalid	
6	invalid				
7				invalid	

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



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

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

States:

0: Start

1: Scan Right 0

2: Scan Right 1

3: Check 0

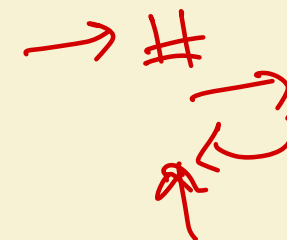
4: Check 1

5: Move Left

6: Accept and Halt

7: Reject and Clean Left

State/Input	$\triangleright$	0	1	$\phi$	#
0	invalid	(1,#,R)	(2,#,R)	(6,1,H)	(6,1,H)
1	invalid	(1,0,R)	(1,1,R)	(3, $\phi$ ,L)	(3, <del><math>\phi</math></del> ,L)
2	invalid	(2,0,R)	(2,1,R)	(4, $\phi$ ,L)	(4, <del><math>\phi</math></del> ,L)
3	invalid	(5,#,L)	(7,0,L)	invalid	(6,1,H)
4	invalid	(7,0,L)	(5,#,L)	invalid	(6,1,H)
5	invalid	(5,0,L)	(5,1,L)	invalid	(0,#,R)
6	invalid	-	-	-	-
7	(-, $\triangleright$ , H)	(7,#,L)	(7,#,L)	invalid	(-, -, H)



# 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

$\{ \triangleright, 0, 1, \phi, \#, \#_0, \#_1 \}$

4. Set up the states

5. Start thinking about key transitions

$$x = 0110101$$

$$y = 0110$$

$$z = 101$$

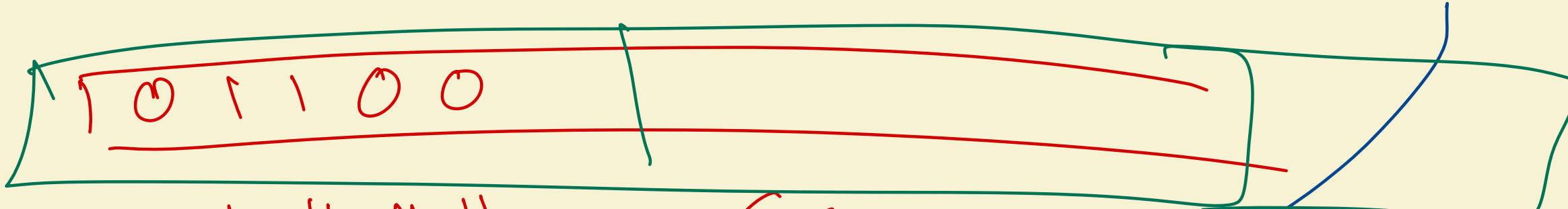
$$x = 000111$$

$$y = 000$$

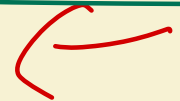
$$z = 111$$

# One solution:

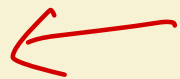
- Alphabet:  $\Sigma = \{0,1,\triangleright,\phi,\#, \#_0, \#_1\}$
- States:
  - 0: Start: Replace  $b$  by  $\#_b$
  - 1: Zig Right
  - 2. Erase last symbol
  - 3. Zag Left



# # # # #



0 1 1 # #



0 1 1 0 0  
 # 1 1 0 # 0  
 # # 1 # # # 0 1

0 1 1 0 0  
 # 1 1 0 #  
 0 # # # #  
 # # # # #

Alphabet:  $\Sigma = \{0,1,\triangleright,\phi,\#,\#_0,\#_1\}$

States:

0: Start: Replace  $b$  by  $\#_b$

1: Zig Right

2: Erase last symbol

3: Zag Left, Replace  $\#_b$  by  $b$ , go to start

State/In put	$\triangleright$	0	1	$\phi$	#	$\#_0$	$\#_1$
0	invalid	$(1,\#_0,R)$	$(1,\#_0,R)$	$(-,\phi,H)$	$(-,\#,H)$	invalid	invalid
1	invalid	$(1,0,R)$	$(1,1,R)$	$(2,\phi,L)$	$(2,\#,L)$	invalid	invalid
2	invalid	$(3,\#,L)$	$(3,\#,L)$	invalid	invalid	$(-,0,H)$	$(-,1,H)$
3	invalid	$(3,0,L)$	$(3,1,L)$	invalid	invalid	$(0,0,R)$	$(0,1,H)$

# Computable Functions

- **Definition (7.1 in Barak):** A function  $f: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$  is computable if and only if it is computable by a Turing Machine.
- **Warning:** Definition, not a Theorem!
- **Definition:**  $R = \{ f: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\} \mid f \text{ is computable} \}$ 
  - 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  $\text{Tape}[i]$  and then  $\text{Tape}[3i+25]$  in  $O(1)$  steps.
  - High-level programs – C++, Python ...
  - Rewrite systems;  $\lambda$ -Calculus ; Hilbert Problem
- **Universal** TMs: TM that takes other TMs as input and runs them!
- **Uncomputability** ... the bane of computing.