

Another Undecidability Example

Let \mathcal{L}_{101} be the set of encodings of TMs that accept the string 101 and no other string. Is \mathcal{L}_{101} Recursively Enumerable?

Answer: No. Reduce complement of \mathcal{L}_u to it.

Given (M, w) we create M' . M' takes input x . If x is 101, M' accepts x . If x is not 101 M' ignores x and simulates M on w , accepting x if M accepts w .

If M accepts w , M' accepts all strings. If M does not accept w , M' accepts only 101.

A recognizer for \mathcal{L}_{101} will recognize if M does not accept w . Thus, a recognizer for \mathcal{L}_{101} creates a recognizer for the complement of \mathcal{L}_u , and we know that can't exist.