Algorithms & Models of Computation CS/ECE 374, Fall 2020

8.6 Why Turing Machine is a "real" computer?

- Add/multiply two numbers in binary representation.
- Ø Move input tape one position to the right.
- Simulate a TM with two tapes.
- Simulate a TM with many tapes.
- Stack.
- Subroutines.
- @ Compile say any C program into a ${
 m TM}.$
- O Conclusion: TM can do what a regular program can do.
- O Turing brilliant observation: A TM can simulate/modify another TM.
- Modern equivalent: An interpreter can run a program that might be the interpreter itself (you don't say).

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So what Turing Machines are good for?

- Simplest mathematical way to describe a computer/program.
- A good sandbox to argue about what programs can and can not do.
- A terrible counter-intuitive model, completely unlike real world programs.
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Universal Turing Machine

Turing Machine that simulates another Turing Machine

UTM: A Turing machine that can simulate another Turing machine.

- Programs can self replicate.
- Program can modify themselves (a big no no nowadays).
- Program can rewrite a program.
- Turing had created a Pandora box... ...which we will open in the next lecture.

THE END

(for now)

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