

Design Turing machines  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, \text{start}, \text{accept}, \text{reject})$  for each of the following tasks, either by listing the states  $Q$ , the tape alphabet  $\Gamma$ , and the transition function  $\delta$  (in a table), or by drawing the corresponding labeled graph.

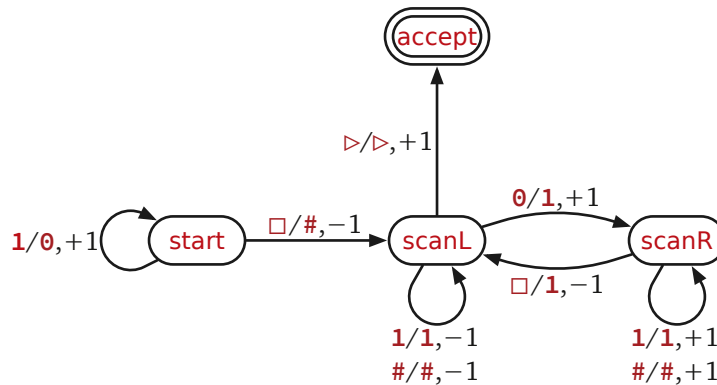
Each of these machines uses the input alphabet  $\Sigma = \{1, \#\}$ ; the tape alphabet  $\Gamma$  can be any superset of  $\{1, \#, \square, \triangleright\}$  where  $\square$  is the blank symbol and  $\triangleright$  is a special symbol marking the left end of the tape. Each machine should **reject** any input not in the form specified below.

- On input  $1^n$ , for any non-negative integer  $n$ , write  $1^n\#1^n$  on the tape and **accept**.

**Solution:** Our Turing machine uses the tape alphabet  $\Gamma = \{0, 1, \#, \square, \triangleright\}$  and the following states, in addition to **accept** and **reject**:

- start** — Initialize the tape by replacing every **1** with **0**. When we find a blank, write **#** and start scanning left.
- scanL** — Scan left for the rightmost **0**. If we find it, replace it with **1** and start scanning right. If we find  $\triangleright$  instead, we're done; halt and accept.
- scanR** — Scan right for the leftmost blank. When we find it, write **1** and start scanning left again.

Here is the transition graph of the machine. To simplify the drawing, we omit all transitions into the hidden **reject** state.



Here is the transition function; again, all unspecified transitions lead to the **reject** state.

$\delta(p, a) = (q, b, \Delta)$	explanation
$\delta(\text{start}, 1) = (\text{start}, 0, +1)$	init phase: replace <b>1</b> s with <b>0</b> s
$\delta(\text{start}, \square) = (\text{scanL}, \#, -1)$	finished init phase; write <b>#</b> and start scanning left
$\delta(\text{scanL}, 1) = (\text{scanL}, 1, -1)$	scan left to rightmost <b>0</b>
$\delta(\text{scanL}, \#) = (\text{scanL}, \#, -1)$	
$\delta(\text{scanL}, 0) = (\text{scanR}, 1, +1)$	found it; write <b>1</b> and start scanning right
$\delta(\text{scanL}, \triangleright) = (\text{accept}, \triangleright, +1)$	found start of tape instead; we're done!
$\delta(\text{scanR}, 1) = (\text{scanR}, 1, +1)$	main loop: scan right to leftmost $\square$
$\delta(\text{scanR}, \#) = (\text{scanR}, \#, +1)$	
$\delta(\text{scanR}, \square) = (\text{scanL}, 1, -1)$	found it; write <b>1</b> and start scanning left



2. On input  $\#^n \mathbf{1}^m$ , for any non-negative integers  $m$  and  $n$ , write  $\mathbf{1}^m$  on the tape and **accept**. In other words, delete all the  $\#$ s and shift the  $\mathbf{1}$ s to the start of the tape.
  3. On input  $\#\mathbf{1}^n$ , for any non-negative integer  $n$ , write  $\#\mathbf{1}^{2n}$  on the tape and **accept**. [*Hint: Modify the Turing machine from problem 1.*]
  4. On input  $\mathbf{1}^n$ , for any non-negative integer  $n$ , write  $\mathbf{1}^{2^n}$  on the tape and **accept**. [*Hint: Use the three previous Turing machines as subroutines.*]
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**Questions to ponder:**

- Think of a simple problem for which a 2-tape TM seems to offer much better efficiency than a 1-tape TM. Can you argue that 2-tape machine can be simulated by a 1-tape machine with only a quadratic slow down?
- Can you think about why having more than 2 tapes does not buy a lot of speed up? Can you argue why a  $k$ -tape TM can be simulated by a 2-tape TM with a slow down that has only a poly-logarithmic overhead?
- How many bits does each *word* in your laptop/desktop have? How many bits did a desktop have 10 years ago, 20 years ago and 30 years ago? How does it limit the data you can work with?
- Suppose you want to multiply two  $n$  bit integers where  $n = 10,000$ . How would you write a program for it? What would be the time complexity?
- You may know about cryptography and RSA. The current RSA public key is 512 bits. Can you think of an algorithm to check if a given 512 bit number is a prime number? How many steps will it take?
- How can a RAM model with say 64 bits per word be simulated by a  $k$ -tape TM? What would be the slow down?