

Mapping Reductions

Announcements

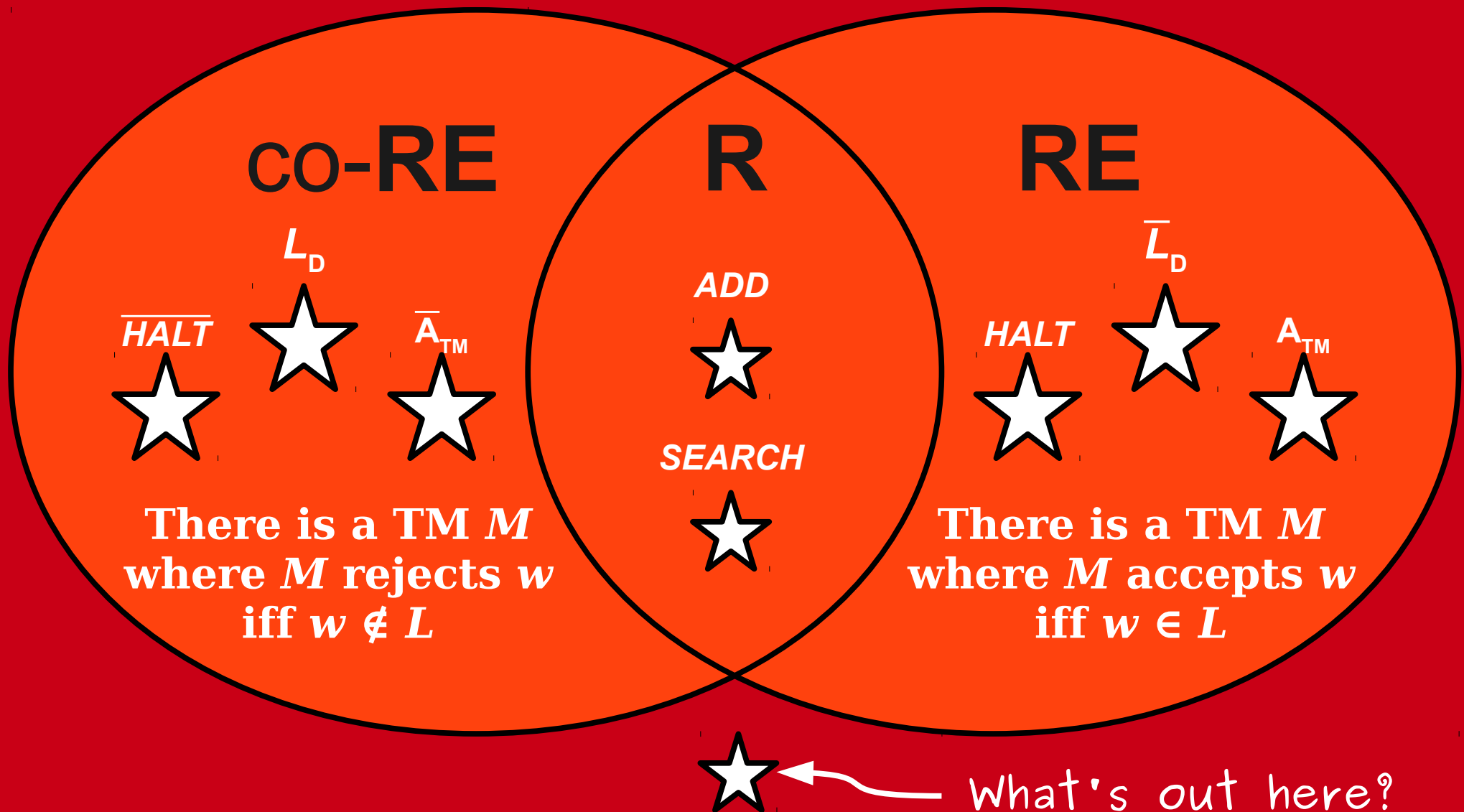
- Casual CS Dinner for Women Studying Computer Science: **Thursday, March 7** at **6PM** in **Gates 219**!
- RSVP through the email link sent out earlier today.

Announcements

- All Problem Set 6's are graded, will be returned at end of lecture.
- Problem Set 7 due right now, or due at Thursday at 12:50PM with a late day.
 - **Please submit no later than 12:50PM**; we're hoping to get solutions posted then. This is a hard deadline.
- Problem Set 8 out, due next Monday, March 11 at 12:50PM.
 - Explore the limits of computation!

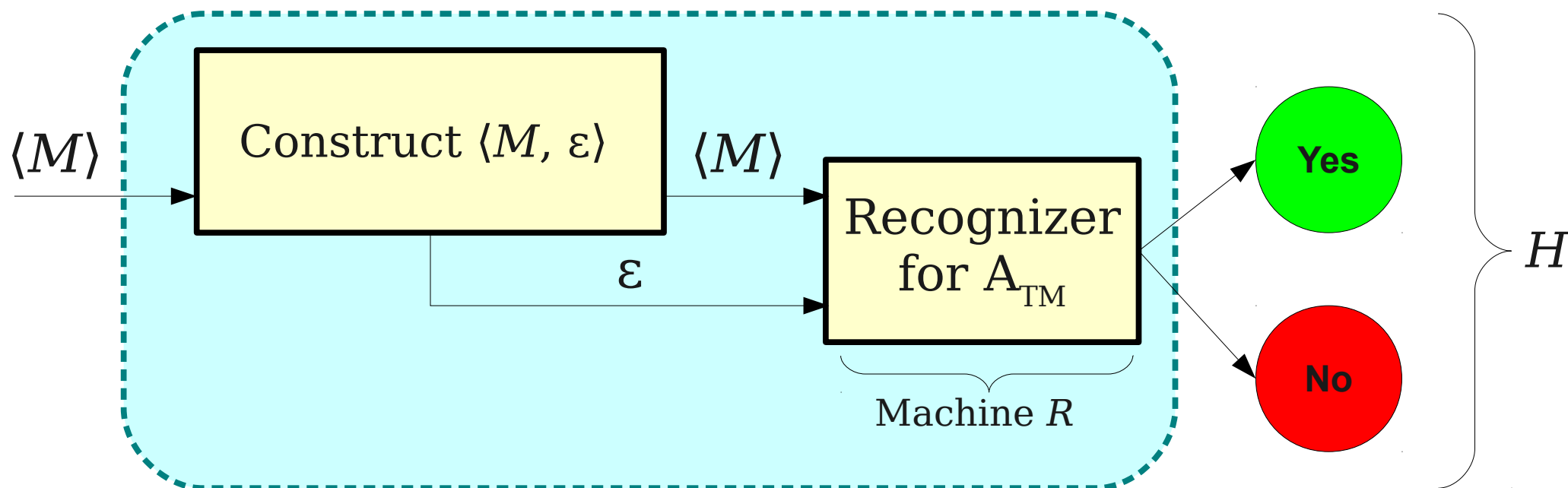
Recap from Last Time

The Limits of Computability



A Repeating Pattern

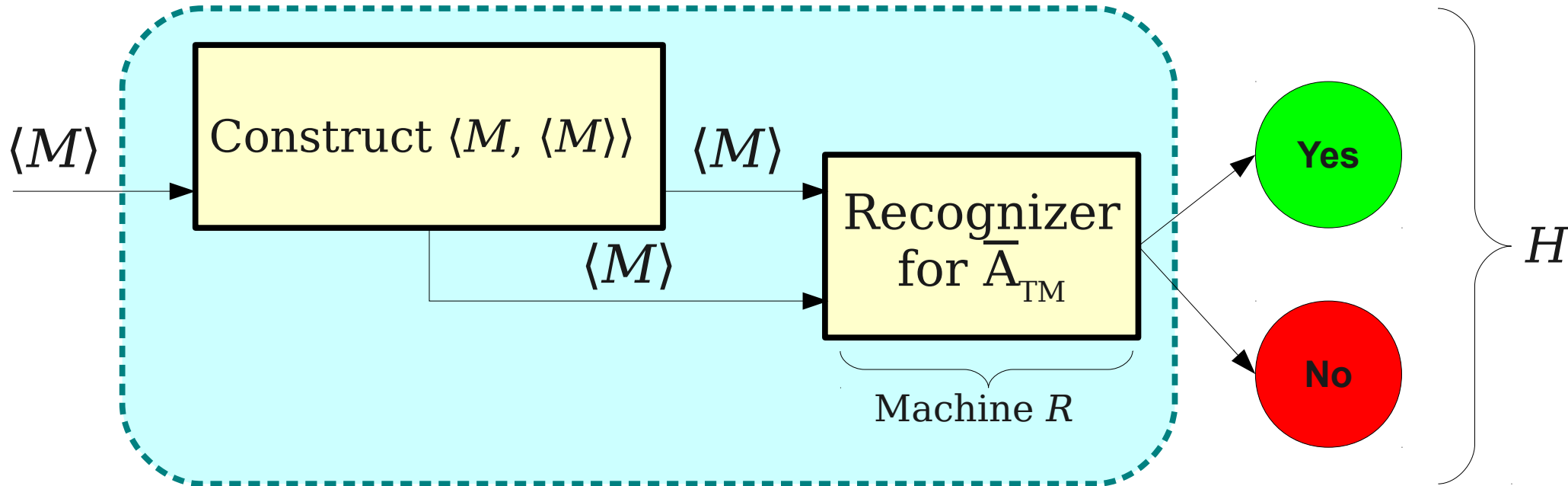
$$L = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that accepts } \varepsilon \}$$



H = "On input $\langle M \rangle$:

- Construct the string $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$.
- Run R on $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$.
- If R accepts $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$, then H accepts $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$.
- If R rejects $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$, then H rejects $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$."

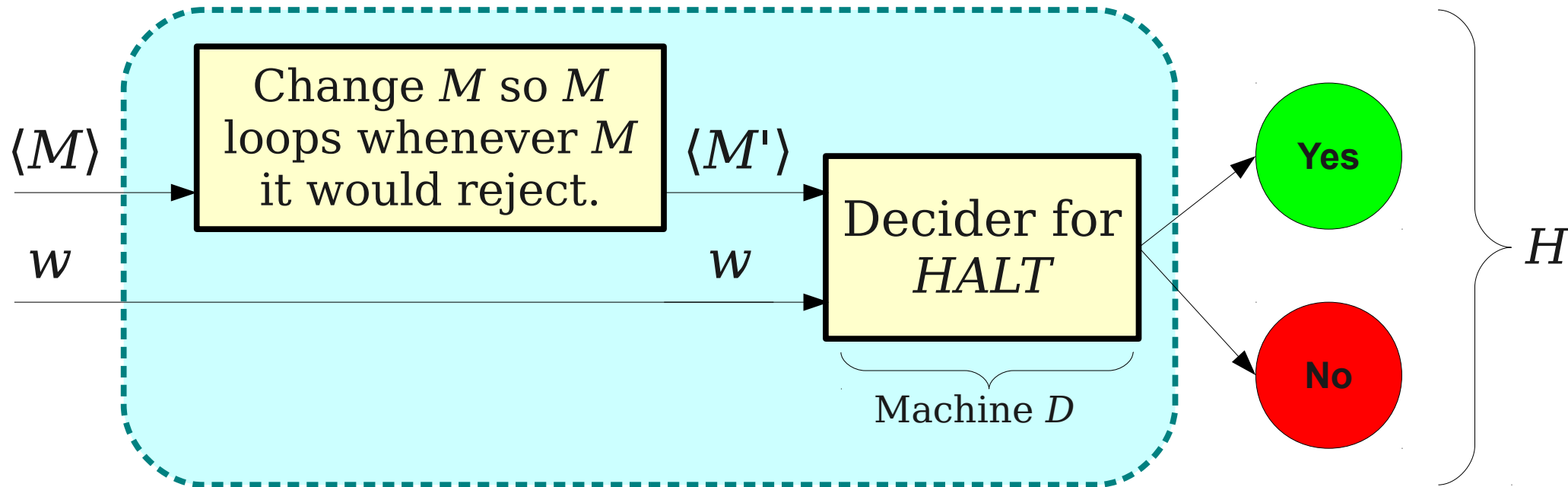
From \bar{A}_{TM} to L_D



H = "On input $\langle M \rangle$:

- Construct the string $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$.
- Run R on $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$.
- If R accepts $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, then H accepts $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$.
- If R rejects $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, then H rejects $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$."

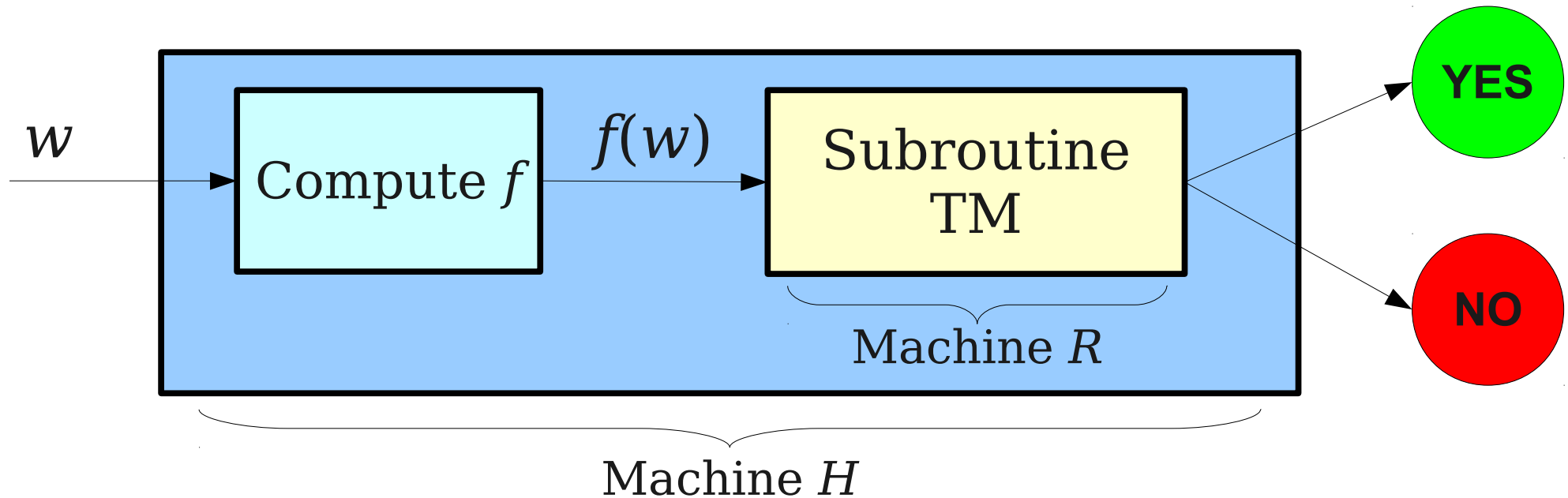
From $HALT$ to A_{TM}



H = "On input $\langle M, w \rangle$:

- Build M into M' so M' loops when M rejects.
- Run D on $\langle M', w \rangle$.
- If D accepts $\langle M', w \rangle$, then H accepts $\langle M, w \rangle$.
- If D rejects $\langle M', w \rangle$, then H rejects $\langle M, w \rangle$."

The General Pattern

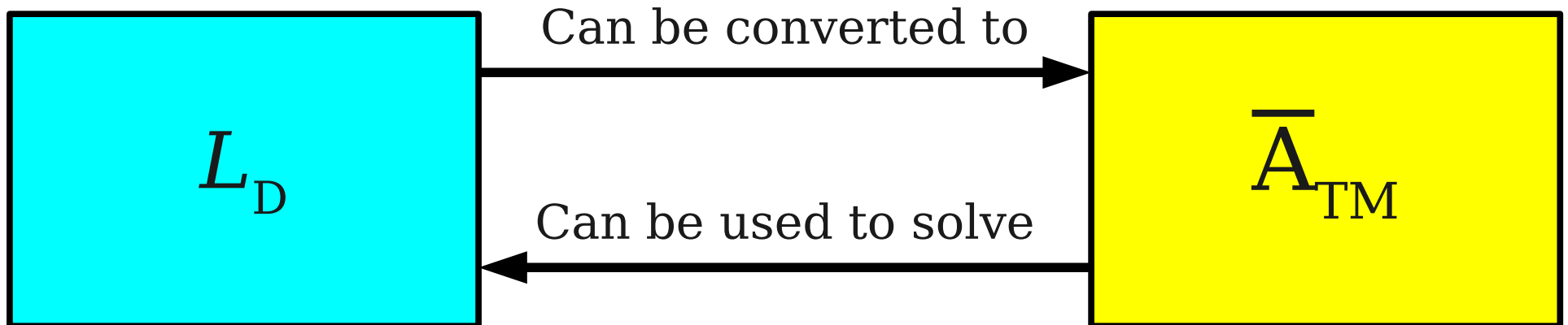


H = "On input w :

- Transform the input w into $f(w)$.
- Run machine R on $f(w)$.
- If R accepts $f(w)$, then H accepts w .
- If R rejects $f(w)$, then H rejects w ."

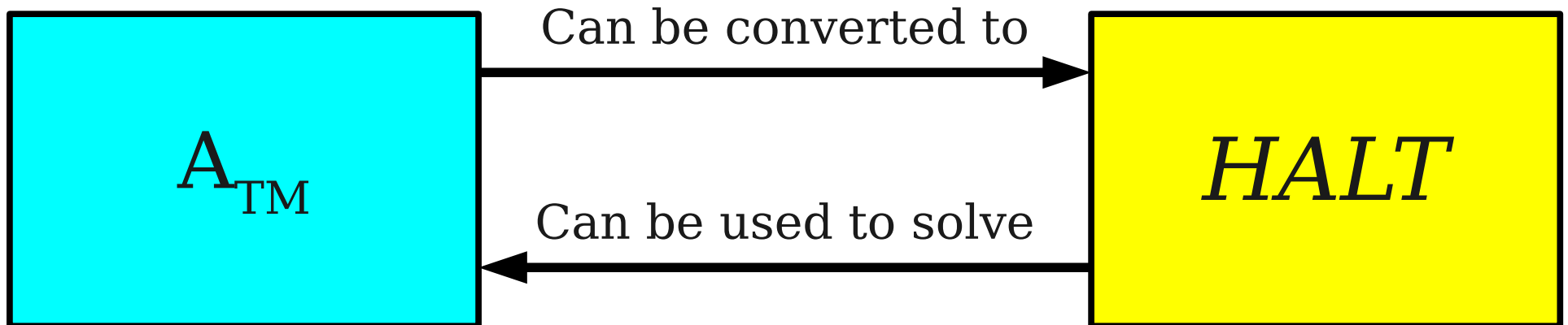
Reductions

- Intuitively, problem A **reduces** to problem B iff a solver for B can be used to solve problem A .



Reductions

- Intuitively, problem A **reduces** to problem B iff a solver for B can be used to solve problem A .



Reductions

- Intuitively, problem A **reduces** to problem B iff a solver for B can be used to solve problem A .
- Reductions can be used to show certain problems are “solvable:”

**If A reduces to B and B is “solvable,”
then A is “solvable.”**

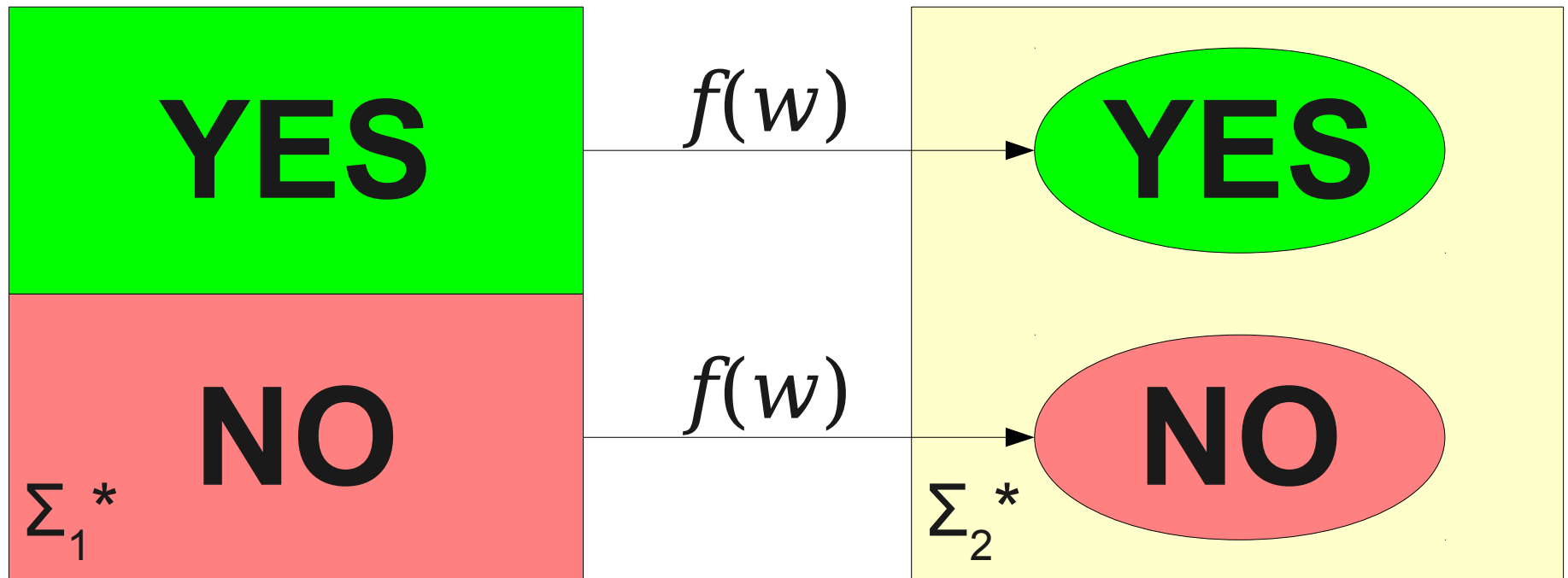
- Reductions can be used to show certain problems are “*unsolvable*:”

**If A reduces to B and A is “unsolvable,”
then B is “unsolvable.”**

Defining Reductions

- A **reduction** from A to B is a function $f : \Sigma_1^* \rightarrow \Sigma_2^*$ such that

For any $w \in \Sigma_1^*$, $w \in A$ iff $f(w) \in B$



Defining Reductions

- A **reduction** from A to B is a function $f : \Sigma_1^* \rightarrow \Sigma_2^*$ such that

For any $w \in \Sigma_1^*$, $w \in A$ iff $f(w) \in B$

- Every $w \in A$ maps to some $f(w) \in B$.
- Every $w \notin A$ maps to some $f(w) \notin B$.
- f does not have to be injective or surjective.

Computable Functions

- Not all mathematical functions can be computed by Turing machines.
- A function $f : \Sigma_1^* \rightarrow \Sigma_2^*$ is called a **computable function** if there is some TM M with the following behavior:

“On input w :

Compute $f(w)$ and write it on the tape.

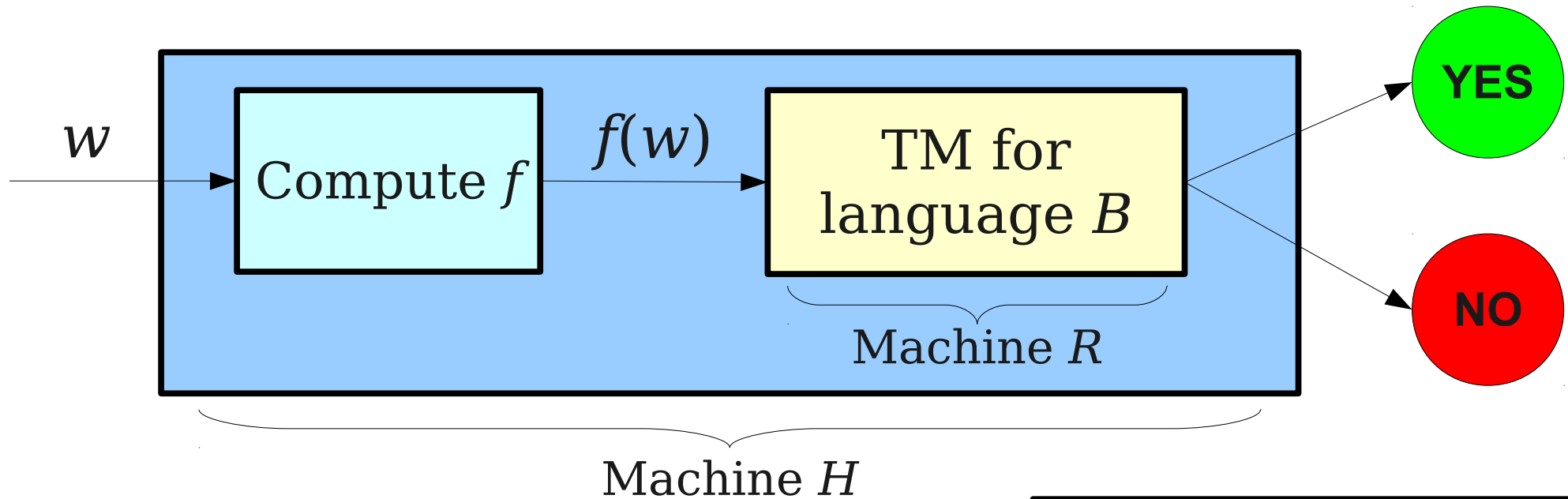
Move the tape head to the start of $f(w)$.

Halt.”

Mapping Reductions

- A function $f : \Sigma_1^* \rightarrow \Sigma_2^*$ is called a **mapping reduction** from A to B iff
 - For any $w \in \Sigma_1^*$, $w \in A$ iff $f(w) \in B$.
 - f is a computable function.
- Intuitively, a mapping reduction from A to B says that a computer can transform any instance of A into an instance of B such that the answer to B is the answer to A .

$$w \in A \quad \text{iff} \quad f(w) \in B$$



H = “On input w :

- Transform the input w into $f(w)$.
- Run machine R on $f(w)$.
- If R accepts $f(w)$, then H accepts w .
- If R rejects $f(w)$, then H rejects w .”

H accepts w

iff

R accepts $f(w)$

iff

$f(w) \in B$

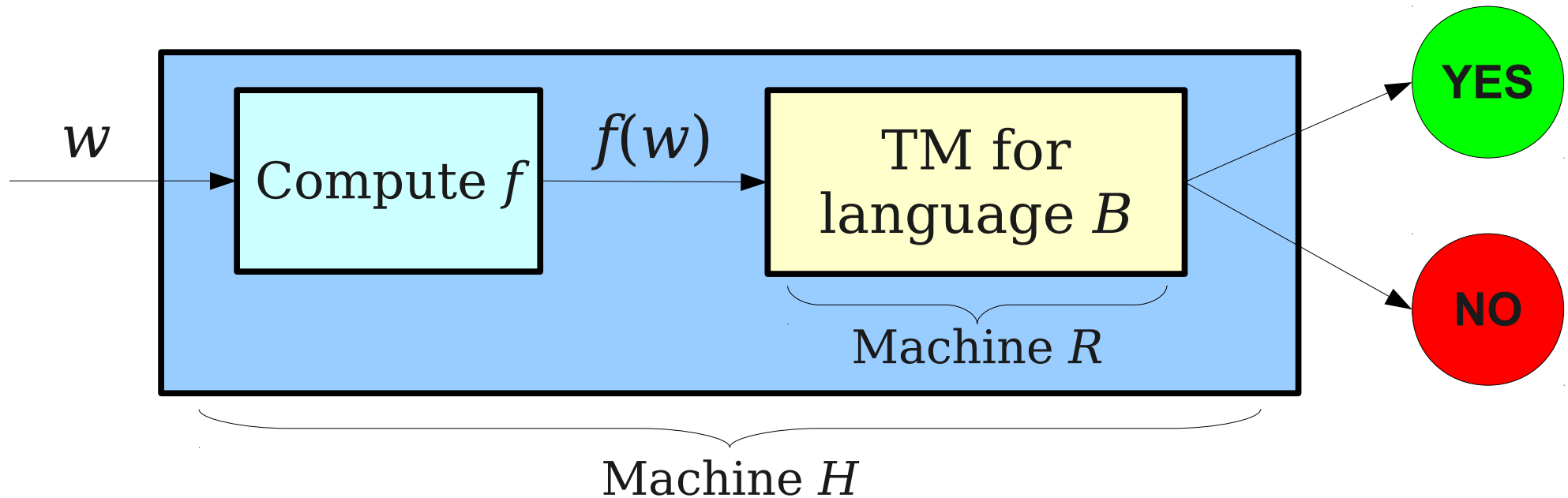
iff

$w \in A$

Mapping Reducibility

- If there is a mapping reduction from language A to language B , we say that language A is **mapping reducible** to language B .
- Notation: $A \leq_M B$ iff language A is mapping reducible to language B .
- Note that we reduce *languages*, not *machines*.
- Interesting exercise: Show \leq_M is reflexive and transitive, but not antisymmetric.

$$A \leq_M B$$



H = "On input w :

- Compute $f(w)$.
- Run machine R on $f(w)$.
- If R accepts $f(w)$, then H accepts w .
- If R rejects $f(w)$, then H rejects w ."

If R is a decider for B ,
then H is a decider for A .

If R is a recognizer for B ,
then H is a recognizer for A .

If R is a co-recognizer for B ,
then H is a co-recognizer for A .

Why Mapping Reducibility Matters

- **Theorem:** If $B \in \mathbf{R}$ and $A \leq_M B$, then $A \in \mathbf{R}$.
- **Theorem:** If $B \in \mathbf{RE}$ and $A \leq_M B$, then $A \in \mathbf{RE}$.
- **Theorem:** If $B \in \text{co-}\mathbf{RE}$ and $A \leq_M B$, then $A \in \text{co-}\mathbf{RE}$.
- *Intuitively:* $A \leq_M B$ means “A is not harder than B.”

Why Mapping Reducibility Matters

- **Theorem:** If $A \notin \mathbf{R}$ and $A \leq_M B$, then $B \notin \mathbf{R}$.
- **Theorem:** If $A \notin \mathbf{RE}$ and $A \leq_M B$, then $B \notin \mathbf{RE}$.
- **Theorem:** If $A \notin \text{co-}\mathbf{RE}$ and $A \leq_M B$, then $B \notin \text{co-}\mathbf{RE}$.
- *Intuitively:* $A \leq_M B$ means “ B is at least as hard as A .”

Why Mapping Reducibility Matters

If this one is "easy"
(R, RE, co-RE)...

$$A \leq_M B$$

... then this one is
"easy" (R, RE,
co-RE) too.

Why Mapping Reducibility Matters

If this one is "hard"
(not R , not RE , or not
 $co-RE$)...

$$A \leq_M B$$

... then this one is
"hard" (not R , not
 RE , or not $co-RE$)
too.

Using Mapping Reductions

Revisiting our Proofs

- Consider the language

$$L = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } \varepsilon \}$$

- We have already proven that this language is **RE** by building a TM for it.
- Let's repeat this proof using mapping reductions.
- Specifically, we will prove

$$L \leq_M A_{\text{TM}}$$

$$L = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } \varepsilon \}$$

- To prove $L \leq_M A_{\text{TM}}$, we will need to find a computable function f such that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L \quad \text{iff} \quad f(\langle M \rangle) \in A_{\text{TM}}$$

- Since A_{TM} is a language of TM/string pairs, let's assume $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle N, w \rangle$ for some TM N and string w (which we'll pick later):

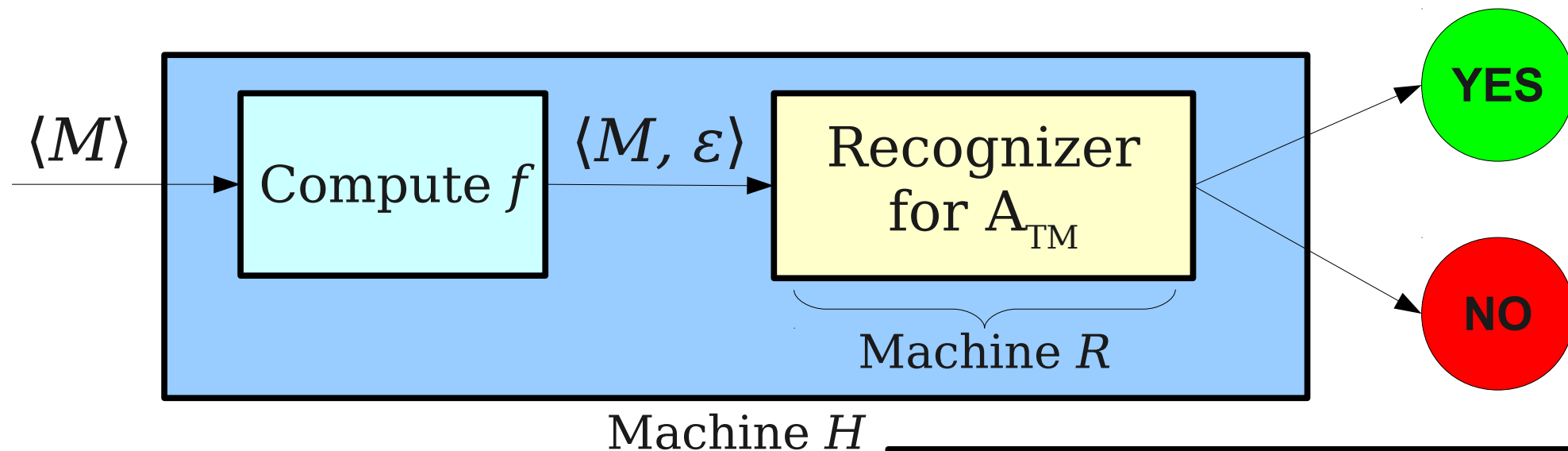
$$\langle M \rangle \in L \quad \text{iff} \quad \langle N, w \rangle \in A_{\text{TM}}$$

- Substituting definitions:

$$M \text{ accepts } \varepsilon \quad \text{iff} \quad N \text{ accepts } w$$

- Choose $N = M$, $w = \varepsilon$. So $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$.

One Interpretation of the Reduction



H = "On input $\langle M \rangle$:

- Run machine R on $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$.
- If R accepts $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$, then H accepts w .
- If R rejects $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$, then H rejects w ."

H accepts $\langle M \rangle$

iff

R accepts $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$

iff

M accepts ε

iff

$\langle M \rangle \in L$

$$L = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that accepts } \varepsilon \}$$

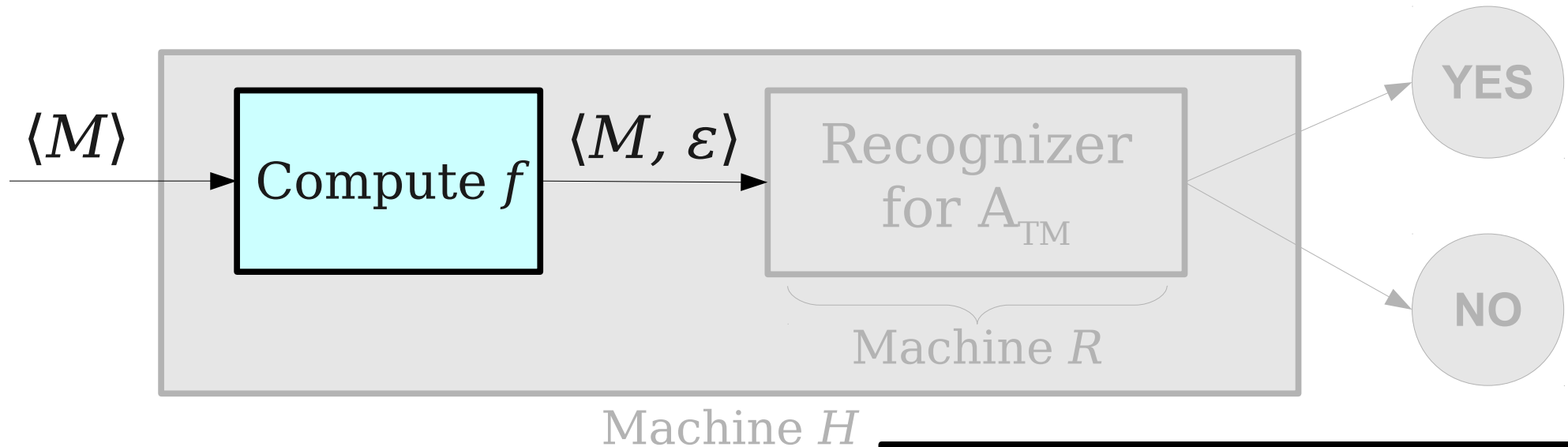
Theorem: $L \in \mathbf{RE}$.

Proof: We will prove that $L \leq_M A_{\text{TM}}$. Since $A_{\text{TM}} \in \mathbf{RE}$, this proves $L \in \mathbf{RE}$ as well.

Consider the function $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$. We state without proof that this function is computable and claim that f is a mapping reduction from L to A_{TM} . To see this, note that $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle M, \varepsilon \rangle \in A_{\text{TM}}$ iff M accepts ε iff $\langle M \rangle \in L$, so $\langle M \rangle \in L$ iff $f(\langle M \rangle) \in A_{\text{TM}}$.

Since f is a mapping reduction from L to A_{TM} , we have $L \leq_M A_{\text{TM}}$, and thus $L \in \mathbf{RE}$. ■

What Did We Prove?



H = "On input $\langle M \rangle$:

- Run machine R on $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$.
- If R accepts $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$, then H accepts w .
- If R rejects $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$, then H rejects w ."

H accepts $\langle M \rangle$

iff

R accepts $\langle M, \varepsilon \rangle$

iff

M accepts ε

iff

$\langle M \rangle \in L$

Interpreting Mapping Reductions

- If $A \leq_M B$, there is a known construction to turn a TM for B into a TM for A .
- When doing proofs with mapping reductions, you do *not* need to show the overall construction.
- You just need to prove that
 - f is a computable function, and
 - $w \in A$ iff $f(w) \in B$.

Another Mapping Reduction

L_D and \overline{A}_{TM}

- Earlier, we proved $\overline{A}_{TM} \notin \mathbf{RE}$ by proving that

If $\overline{A}_{TM} \in \mathbf{RE}$, then $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$.

- The proof constructed this TM, assuming R was a recognizer for \overline{A}_{TM} .

$H =$ “On input $\langle M \rangle$:

- Construct the string $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$.
- Run R on $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$.
- If R accepts $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, then H accepts $\langle M \rangle$.
- If R rejects $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, then H rejects $\langle M \rangle$.”

- Let's do another proof using mapping reductions.

$$L_D \leq_M \overline{A}_{TM}$$

- To prove that $\overline{A}_{TM} \notin \mathbf{RE}$, we will prove

$$L_D \leq_M \overline{A}_{TM}$$

- By our earlier theorem, since $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$, we have that $\overline{A}_{TM} \notin \mathbf{RE}$.
- *Intuitively:* \overline{A}_{TM} is “at least as hard” as L_D , and since $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$, this means $\overline{A}_{TM} \notin \mathbf{RE}$.

$$L_D \leq_M \overline{A}_{TM}$$

- Goal: Find a computable function f such that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \quad \text{iff} \quad f(\langle M \rangle) \in \overline{A}_{TM}$$

- Simplifying this using the definition of L_D

$$M \text{ does not accept } \langle M \rangle \quad \text{iff} \quad f(\langle M \rangle) \in \overline{A}_{TM}$$

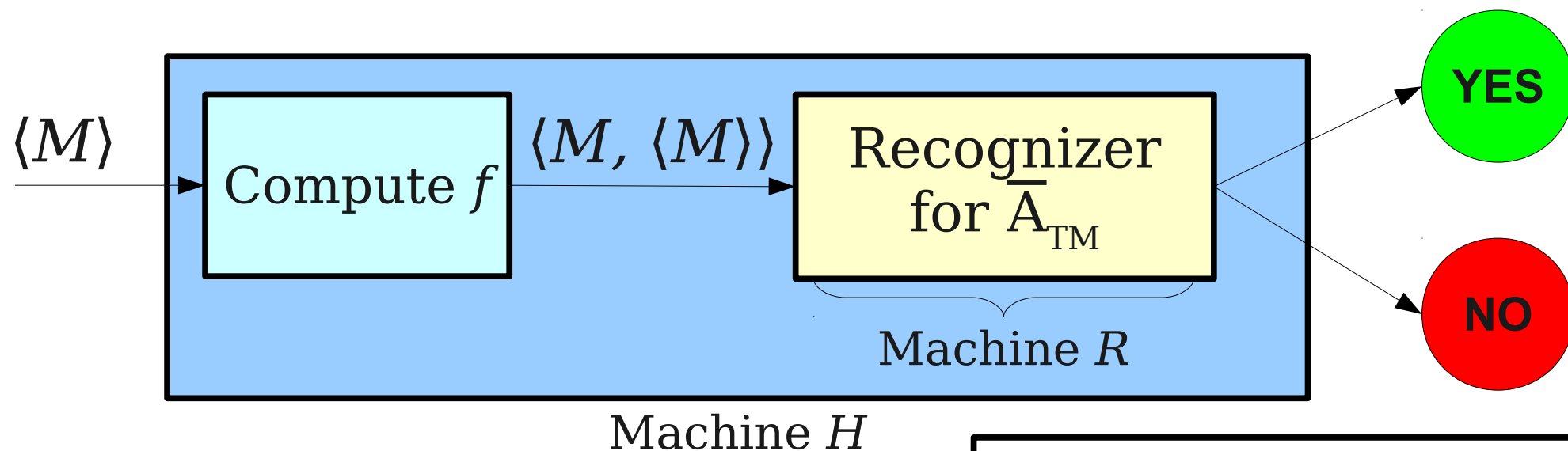
- Let's assume that $f(\langle M \rangle)$ has the form $\langle N, w \rangle$ for some TM N and string w . This means that

$$M \text{ does not accept } \langle M \rangle \quad \text{iff} \quad \langle N, w \rangle \in \overline{A}_{TM}$$

$$M \text{ does not accept } \langle M \rangle \quad \text{iff} \quad N \text{ does not accept } w$$

- If we can choose w and N such that the above is true, we will have our reduction from L_D to \overline{A}_{TM} .
- Choose $N = M$ and $w = \langle M \rangle$.

One Interpretation of the Reduction



H = "On input $\langle M \rangle$:

- Run machine R on $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$.
- If R accepts $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, then H accepts w .
- If R rejects $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, then H rejects w ."

H accepts $\langle M \rangle$

iff

R accepts $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$

iff

M does not accept $\langle M \rangle$

iff

$\langle M \rangle \in L_D$

Theorem: $\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \notin \mathbf{RE}$.

Proof: We exhibit a mapping reduction f from L_D to \overline{A}_{TM} .

Consider the function f defined as follows:

$$f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$$

We claim that f can be computed by a TM and omit the details from this proof. We will prove that $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$ iff $f(\langle M \rangle) \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$. Note that $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle$, so $f(\langle M \rangle) \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$ iff $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$. By definition of \overline{A}_{TM} , $\langle M, \langle M \rangle \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$ iff $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$. Finally, note that $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ iff $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$. Thus $f(\langle M \rangle) \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$ iff $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$, so f is a mapping reduction from L_D to \overline{A}_{TM} .

Since f is a mapping reduction from L_D to \overline{A}_{TM} , we have $L_D \leq_M \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$. Since $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ and $L_D \leq_M \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$, this means $\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \notin \mathbf{RE}$, as required. ■

Another Example of Mapping Reductions

A More Elaborate Reduction

- Since $\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \notin \mathbf{RE}$, there is no algorithm for determining whether a TM will not accept a given string.
- Could we check instead whether a TM *never* accepts a string?
- Consider the language

$$L_e = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ never accepts } \}$$

- How “hard” is L_e ? Is it **R**, **RE**, co-**RE**, or none of these?

Building an Intuition

- Before we even try to prove how “hard” this language is, we should build an intuition for its difficulty.
- L_e is *probably* not in **RE**, since if we were convinced a TM never accepted, it would be hard to find positive evidence of this.
- L_e is *probably* in co-**RE**, since if we were convinced that a TM *did* accept some string, we could exhaustively search over all strings and try to find the string it accepts.
- Best guess: $L_e \in \text{co-RE} - \mathbf{R}$.

$$\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \leq_M L_e$$

- We will prove that $L_e \notin \mathbf{RE}$ by showing that $\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \leq_M L_e$.
(This also proves $L_e \notin \mathbf{R}$).

- We want to find a function f such that

$$\langle M, w \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \quad \text{iff} \quad f(\langle M, w \rangle) \in L_e$$

- Since L_e is a language of TM descriptions, let's assume $f(\langle M, w \rangle) = \langle N \rangle$ for some TM N . Then

$$\langle M, w \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \quad \text{iff} \quad \langle N \rangle \in L_e$$

- Expanding out definitions, we get

M doesn't accept w iff N doesn't accept any strings

- How do we pick the machine N ?

The Reduction

- Find a TM N such that N does not accept any strings iff M does not accept w .
- **Key idea:** Build N such that running N on any input runs M on w .
- Here is one choice of N :

$N =$ “On input x :

Ignore x .

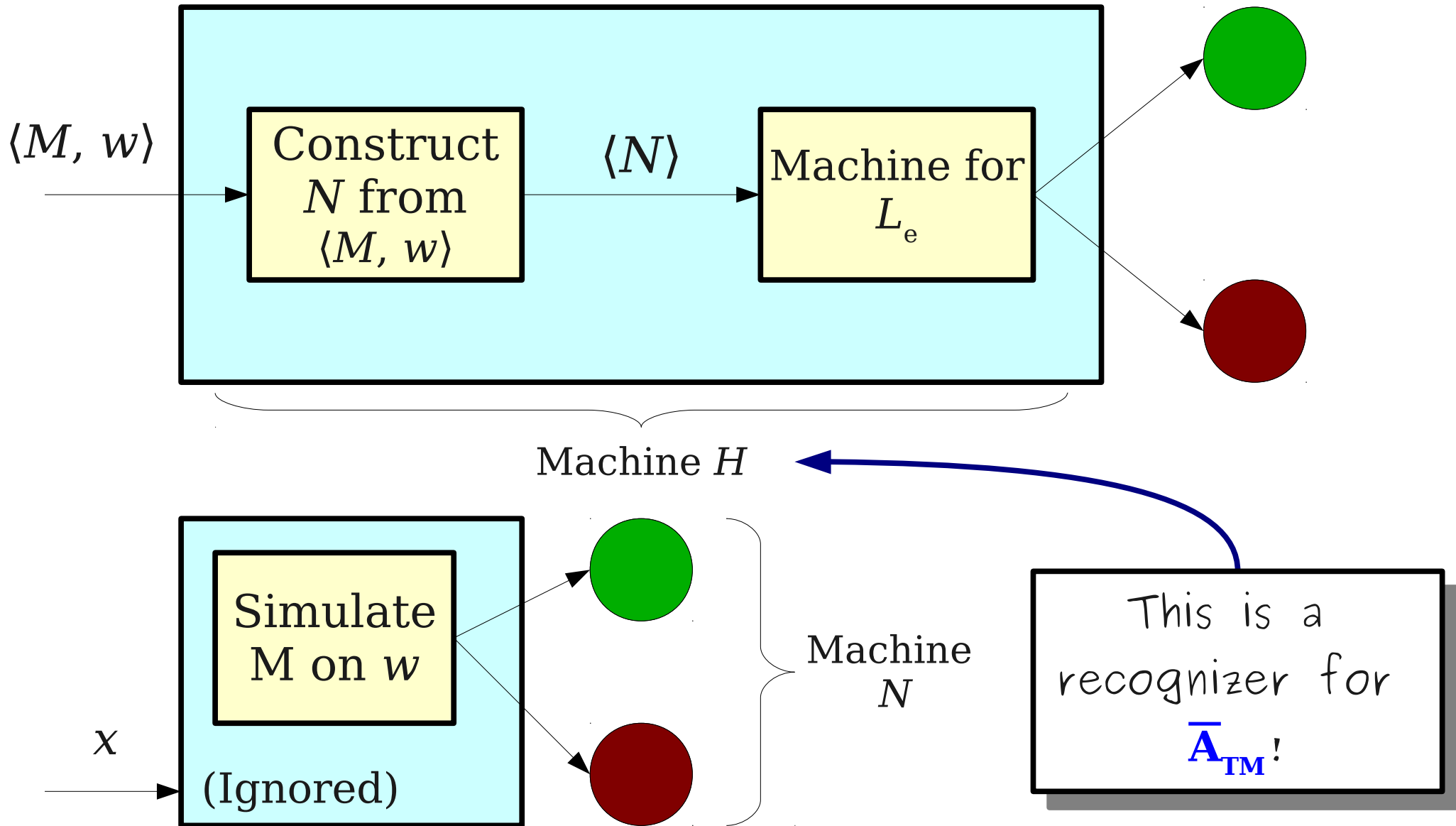
Run M on w .

If M accepts w , then N accepts x .

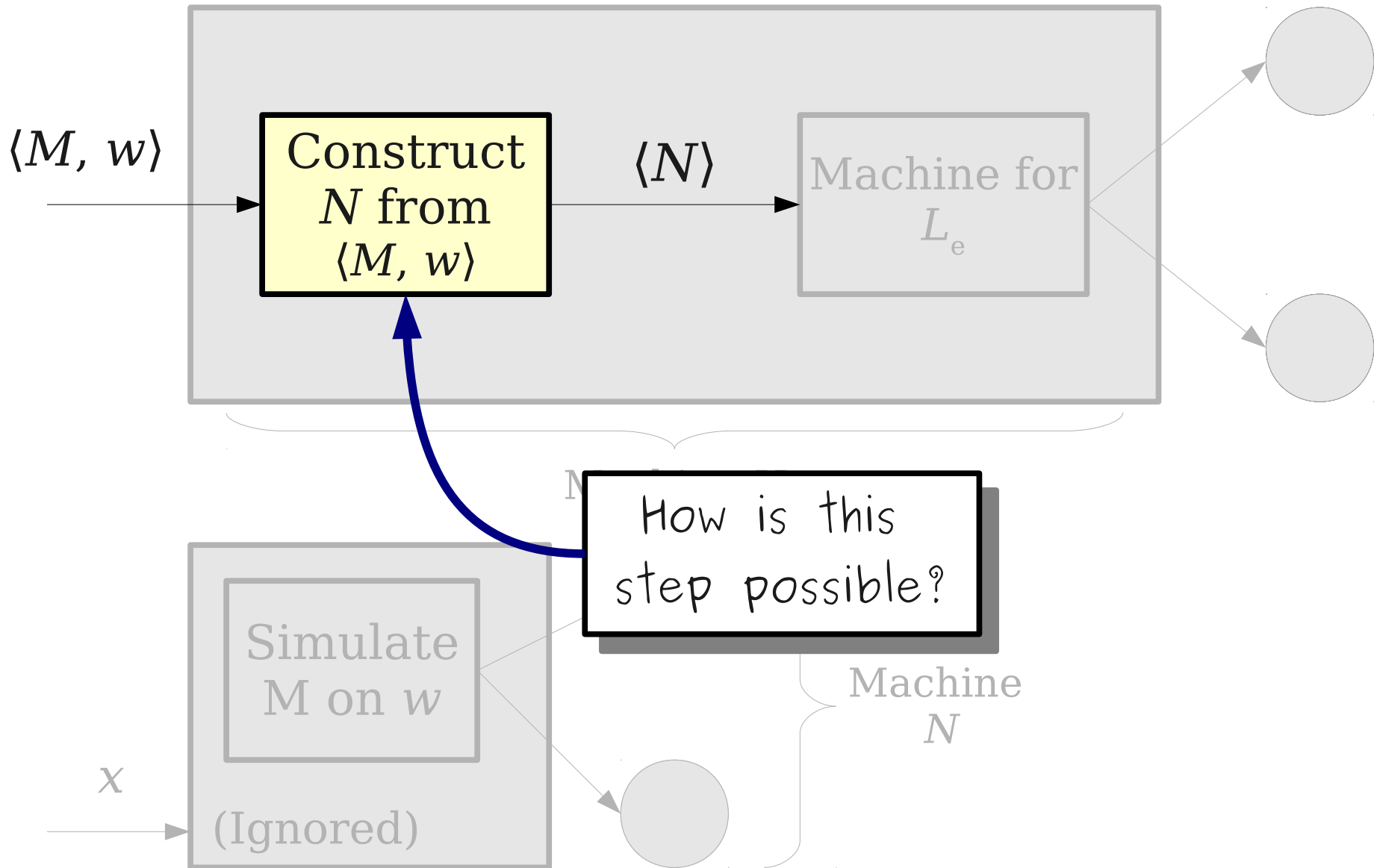
If M rejects w , then N rejects x .”

- Notice that N “amplifies” what M does on w :
 - If M does not accept w , N does not accept anything.
 - If M does accept w , N accepts everything.

The Reduction



The Reduction



Justifying N

- Notice that our machine N has the machine M and string w built into it!
- This is different from the machines we have constructed in the past.
- How do we justify that it's possible for some TM to construct a new TM at all?

N = “On input x :

Ignore x .

Run M on w .

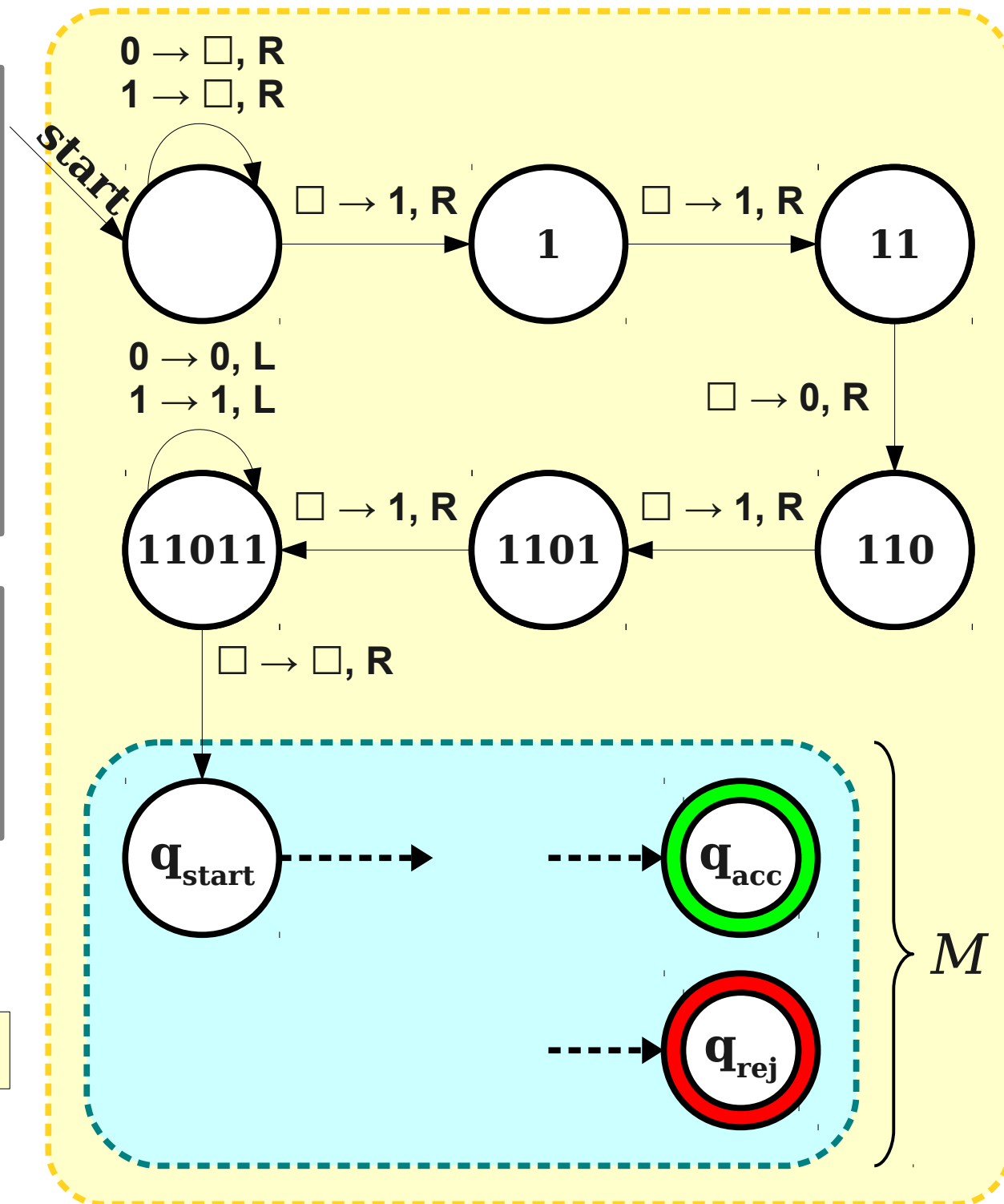
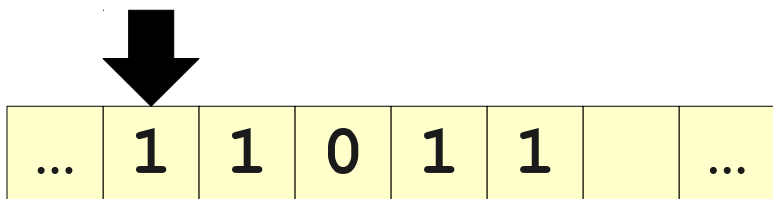
If M accepts w , accept.

If M rejects w , reject.”

N = "On input x :

- Ignore x .
- Run M on w .
- If M accepts w , then N accepts x .
- If M rejects w , then N rejects x ."

Hypothetically,
assume that w is the
string **11011**.



The Takeaway Point

- Turing machines can embed TMs inside of other TMs.
- TMs of the following form are legal:

$H =$ “On input $\langle M, w \rangle$, where M is a TM:

- Construct $N =$ “On input x :
 - Do something with x .
 - Run M on w .
 - ...”
- Do something with N .”

Theorem: $\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \leq_M L_e$.

Proof: We exhibit a mapping reduction from \overline{A}_{TM} to L_e .

For any TM/string pair $\langle M, w \rangle$, let $f(\langle M, w \rangle) = \langle N \rangle$, where $\langle N \rangle$ is defined in terms of M and w as follows:

$N =$ “On input x :

 Ignore x .

 Run M on w .

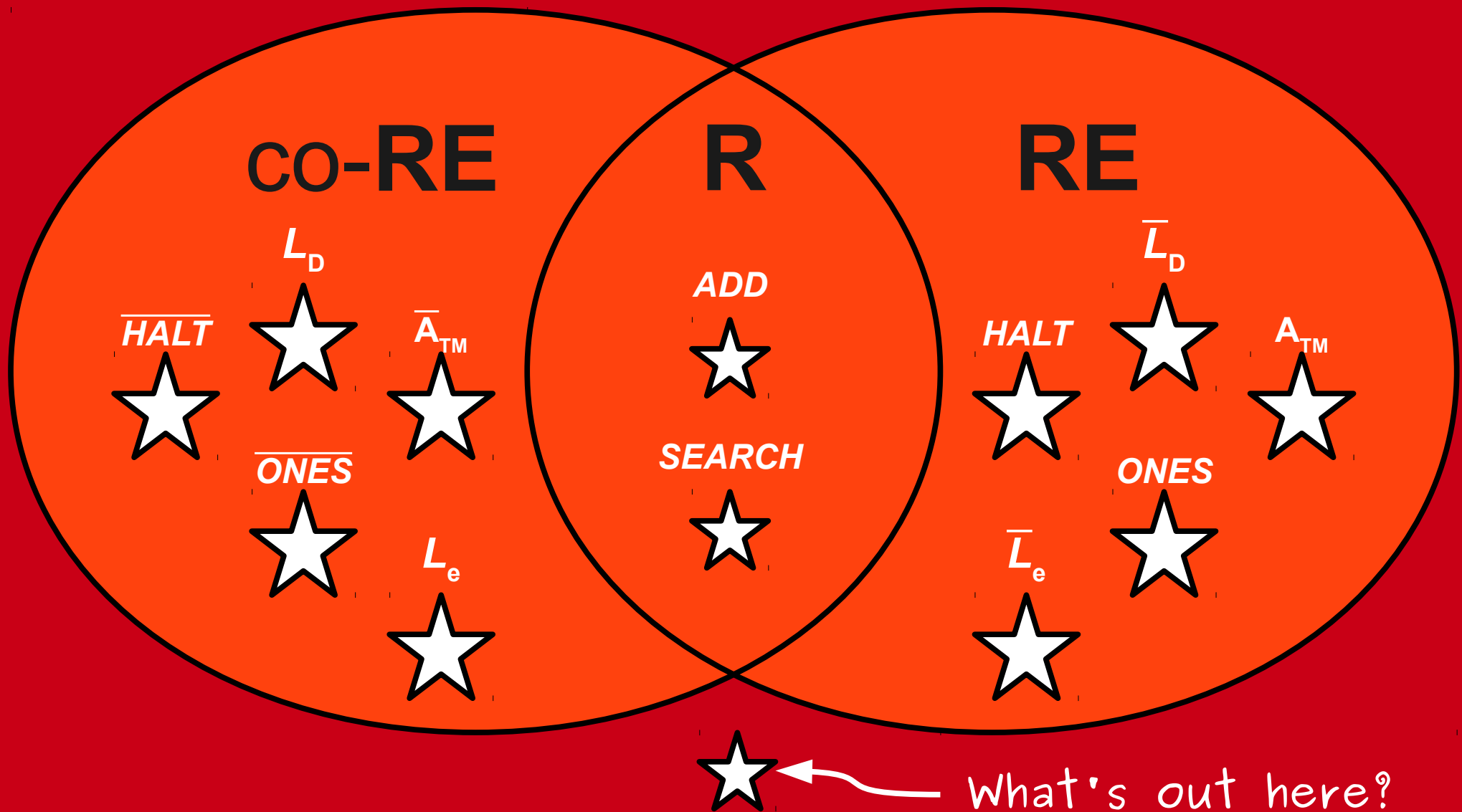
 If M accepts w , then N accepts x .

 If M rejects w , then N rejects x .”

We state without proof that N is computable. We further claim that $\langle M, w \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$ iff $f(\langle M, w \rangle) \in L_e$. To see this, note that $f(\langle M, w \rangle) = N \in L_e$ iff N does not accept any strings. We claim that N does not accept any strings iff M does not accept w . To see this, note that M does not accept w iff M loops on w or M rejects w . By construction, if M loops on w , then N loops on all strings, and if M rejects w , then N rejects all strings. Thus N does not accept any strings iff M does not accept w . Finally, M does not accept w iff $\langle M, w \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$. Thus $\langle M, w \rangle \in \overline{A}_{\text{TM}}$ iff $f(\langle M, w \rangle) \in L_e$, so f is a mapping reduction from \overline{A}_{TM} to L_e , and so $\overline{A}_{\text{TM}} \leq_M L_e$, as required. ■

Recitation Sections

The Limits of Computability



RE \cup co-**RE** is Not Everything

- Using the same reasoning as the first day of lecture, we can show that there must be problems that are neither **RE** nor co-**RE**.
- There are more sets of strings than TMs.
- There are more sets of strings than twice the number of TMs.
- What do these languages look like?

An Extremely Hard Problem

- Recall: All regular languages are also **RE**.
- This means that some TMs accept regular languages and some TMs do not.
- Let $\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$ be the language of all TM descriptions that accept regular languages:

$$\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ is regular} \}$$

- Is $\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}} \in \mathbf{R}$? How about **RE**? How about **co-RE**?

Building an Intuition

- If you were *convinced* that a TM had a regular language, how would you mechanically verify that?
- If you were *convinced* that a TM had a nonregular language, how would you mechanically verify that?
- Both of these seem difficult, if not impossible. Chances are $\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$ is neither **RE** nor co-**RE**.

$\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}} \notin \mathbf{RE}$

- It turns out that $\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$ is unrecognizable, meaning that there is no computer program that can confirm that another TM's language is regular!
- To do this, we'll do a reduction from L_D and prove that $L_D \leq_M \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$.

$$L_D \leq_M \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$$

- We want to find a computable function f such that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \quad \text{iff} \quad f(\langle M \rangle) \in \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}.$$

- We need to choose N such that $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle N \rangle$ for some TM N . Then

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \quad \text{iff} \quad f(\langle M \rangle) \in \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$$

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \quad \text{iff} \quad \langle N \rangle \in \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$$

$$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{L}(N) \text{ is regular.}$$

- Question: How do we pick N ?

$$L_D \leq_M \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$$

- We want to construct some N out of M such that
 - If $\langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}(N)$ is not regular.
 - If $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}(N)$ is regular.
- One option: choose two languages, one regular and one nonregular, then construct N so its language switches from regular to nonregular based on whether $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$.
 - If $\langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}(N) = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \}$
 - If $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}(N) = \emptyset$

The Reduction

- We want to build N from M such that
 - If $\langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}(N) = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \}$
 - If $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$, then $\mathcal{L}(N) = \emptyset$
- Here is one way to do this:

$N =$ “On input x :

If x does not have the form $0^n 1^n$, reject.

Run M on $\langle M \rangle$.

If M accepts, accept x .

If M rejects, reject x .”

Theorem: $L_D \leq_M \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$.

Proof: We exhibit a mapping reduction from L_D to $\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$.

For any TM M , let $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle N \rangle$, where N is defined in terms of M as follows:

$N =$ “On input x :

 If x does not have the form $0^n 1^n$, then N rejects x .

 Run M on $\langle M \rangle$.

 If M accepts $\langle M \rangle$, then N accepts x .

 If M rejects $\langle M \rangle$, then N rejects x .”

We claim f is computable and omit the details from this proof.

We further claim that $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$ iff $f(\langle M \rangle) \in \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$. To

see this, note that $f(\langle M \rangle) = \langle N \rangle \in \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$ iff $\mathcal{L}(N)$ is

regular. We claim that $\mathcal{L}(N)$ is regular iff $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$. To see

this, note that if $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$, then N never accepts any strings.

Thus $\mathcal{L}(N) = \emptyset$, which is regular. Otherwise, if $\langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(M)$,

then N accepts all strings of the form $0^n 1^n$, so we have that

$\mathcal{L}(N) = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \}$, which is not regular. Finally,

$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(\langle M \rangle)$ iff $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$. Thus $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$ iff $f(\langle M \rangle) \in \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$,

so f is a mapping reduction from L_D to $\text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$. Therefore,

$L_D \leq_M \text{REGULAR}_{\text{TM}}$. ■