

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.

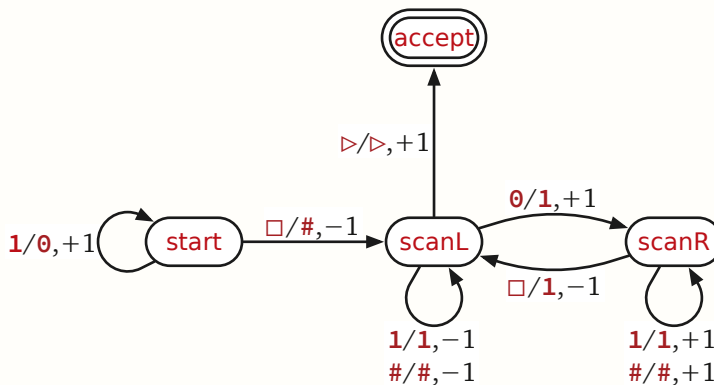
**The solutions below describe single-tape, single-head Turing machines. There are arguably simpler Turing machines that multiple tapes and/or multiple heads.**

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

**Solution:** Our Turing machine  $M_1$  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.

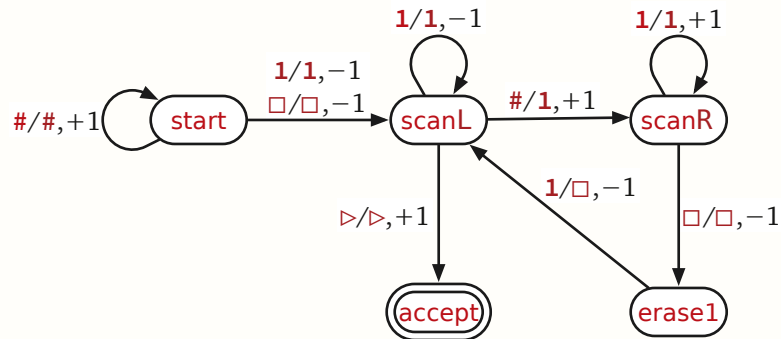
$\delta(p, a) = (q, b, \Delta)$	explanation
$\delta(\text{start}, \mathbf{1}) = (\text{start}, \mathbf{0}, +1)$	init phase: replace <b>1</b> s with <b>0</b> s
$\delta(\text{start}, \square) = (\text{scanL}, \#, -1)$	finished init phase; write <b>#</b> and start scanning left
$\delta(\text{scanL}, \mathbf{1})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

2. On input  $\#^n 1^m$ , for any non-negative integers  $m$  and  $n$ , write  $1^m$  on the tape and **accept**. In other words, delete all the  $\#$ s, thereby shifting the  $1$ s to the start of the tape.

**Solution:** Our machine  $M_2$  repeatedly scans for the last  $\#$  and replaces it with  $1$ , then scans for the rightmost  $1$  and replaces it with a blank, until the search for the last  $\#$  fails. We use the minimal tape alphabet  $\Gamma = \{1, \#, \square, \triangleright\}$  and the following states, in addition to **accept** and **reject**:

- **start** — Scan right past all  $\#$ s
- **scanL** — Scan left to the rightmost  $\#$  or  $\triangleright$ . If we find  $\#$ , replace it with  $1$ ; if we find  $\triangleright$ , we're done!
- **scanR** — Scan right to the leftmost  $\square$  (just after the rightmost  $1$ , if any).
- **erase1** — Replace the rightmost  $1$  with  $\square$ .

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



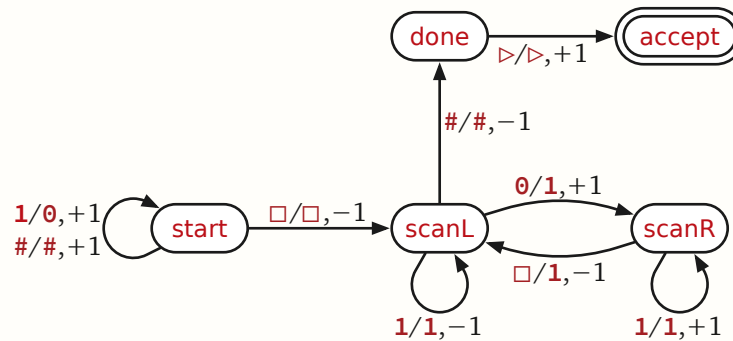
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3. On input  $\#1^n$ , for any non-negative integer  $n$ , write  $\#1^{2n}$  on the tape and **accept**. [Hint: Modify the Turing machine from problem 1.]

**Solution:** Our machine  $M_3$  mirrors  $M_1$  with a few minor changes. First, we won't both writing a second  $\#$  between the first and second copies of the input string; second, we treat the initial  $\#$  as the de-facto beginning of the tape. Here are the states:

- **start** — Scan right for first blank, replacing **1**s with **0**s
- **scanL** — Scan left for rightmost **0**, replace with **1**
- **scanR** — Scan right for leftmost blank, replace with **1**
- **done** — Found the initial  $\#$ ; reset the head to the start position and accept

And here is the transition graph, as usual omitting transitions to **reject**.



■

4. On input  $1^n$ , for any non-negative integer  $n$ , write  $1^{2^n}$  on the tape and **accept**. [Hint: Use the three previous Turing machines as subroutines.]

**Solution:** Our machine  $M_4$  works in several phases:

- Write **#1** at the end of the input string
- Repeatedly transform  $1^a \# 1^b$  into  $1^{a-1} \# 1^{b+1}$  using a small modification of  $M_3$  (which uses  $M_1$  as a subroutine).
- When the initial string of **1s** is empty, remove all **#s** using  $M_2$ .

So here are the states:

- **start**: Scan right for a blank, and write **#**
- **write1**: Write **1** after **#** and start main loop
- three states from  $M_3$  to double the number **1s** to the right of **#s**
- **scanL1**: scan left for rightmost **1** left of **#s**, replace with **#** and repeat main loop
- four states from  $M_2$  to delete the **#s**

