

Proving that a language  $L$  is undecidable by reduction requires several steps:

- Choose a language  $L'$  that you already know is undecidable. Typical choices for  $L'$  include:

$$\text{ACCEPT} := \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

$$\text{REJECT} := \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ rejects } w \}$$

$$\text{HALT} := \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ halts on } w \}$$

$$\text{DIVERGE} := \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ diverges on } w \}$$

$$\text{NEVERACCEPT} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \text{ACCEPT}(M) = \emptyset \}$$

$$\text{NEVERREJECT} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \text{REJECT}(M) = \emptyset \}$$

$$\text{NEVERHALT} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \text{HALT}(M) = \emptyset \}$$

$$\text{NEVERDIVERGE} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid \text{DIVERGE}(M) = \emptyset \}$$

- Describe an algorithm (really a Turing machine)  $M'$  that decides  $L'$ , using a Turing machine  $M$  that decides  $L$  as a black box. Typically this algorithm has the following form:

Given a string  $w$ , transform it into another string  $x$ ,  
such that  $M$  accepts  $x$  if and only if  $w \in L'$ .

- Prove that your Turing machine is correct. This almost always requires two separate steps:
  - Prove that if  $M$  accepts  $w$  then  $w \in L'$ .
  - Prove that if  $M$  rejects  $w$  then  $w \notin L'$ .

Prove that the following languages are undecidable:

1.  $\text{ACCEPTILLINI} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts the string } \text{ILLINI} \}$
2.  $\text{ACCEPTTHREE} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts exactly three strings} \}$
3.  $\text{ACCEPTPALINDROME} := \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ accepts at least one palindrome} \}$