

## Rebutting the Sipser Halting Problem Proof V2

A simulating halt decider correctly predicts what the behavior of its input would be if this simulated input never had its simulation aborted. It does this by correctly recognizing several non-halting behavior patterns in a finite number of steps of correct simulation.

When simulating halt decider H correctly predicts that directly executed D(D) would continue to run forever unless H aborts its simulation of D this directly applies to the halting theorem because H correctly determines:

“from a description of an arbitrary computer program and an input, whether the program will finish running, or continue to run forever”.

For any program H that might determine whether programs halt, a "pathological" program D, called with some input, can pass its own source and its input to H and then specifically do the opposite of what H predicts D will do. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halting\\_problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halting_problem)

### **\*That (a) proves (b) is a tautology\***

(a) If simulating halt decider H correctly simulates its input D until H correctly determines that its simulated D would never stop running unless aborted then

(b) H can abort its simulation of D and correctly report that D specifies a non-halting sequence of configurations.

### **\*To make the details 100% concrete Sipser D and H are encoded as C\* functions. The exact same rebuttal equally applies to Turing machines\***

```
int Sipser_D(int (*M)())
{
    int DoesHalt = H(M, M); // *Rejects when Sipser_D fails to accept*
    if (DoesHalt)
        return 0;
    return 1;
}

int main()
{
    // *never stops running unless H aborts its simulation*
    Sipser_D(Sipser_D);
}
```

When Sipser\_D calls H to simulate itself this comparable to calling H to call itself and can result in something like infinite recursion. Because there are no control flow instructions in Sipser\_D to stop this the recursive simulation continues until H aborts it.

When the simulation of D is aborted this is comparable to a divide by zero error thus is not construed as D halting. **Entire system available:** <https://github.com/plolcott/x86utm>

### **This exact same principle works on all Turing machine based halting theorem proofs**

**Sipser, Michael 1997.** Introduction to the Theory of Computation. Boston: PWS Publishing Company (165-167)

## Applying a simulating halt decider to the Linz halting problem proof

A simulating halt decider correctly predicts what the behavior of its input would be if this simulated input never had its simulation aborted. It does this by correctly recognizing several non-halting behavior patterns in a finite number of steps of correct simulation.

The Linz text indicates that  $\hat{H}$  is defined on the basis of prepending and appending states to the original Linz  $H$ , thus is named `embedded_H`.

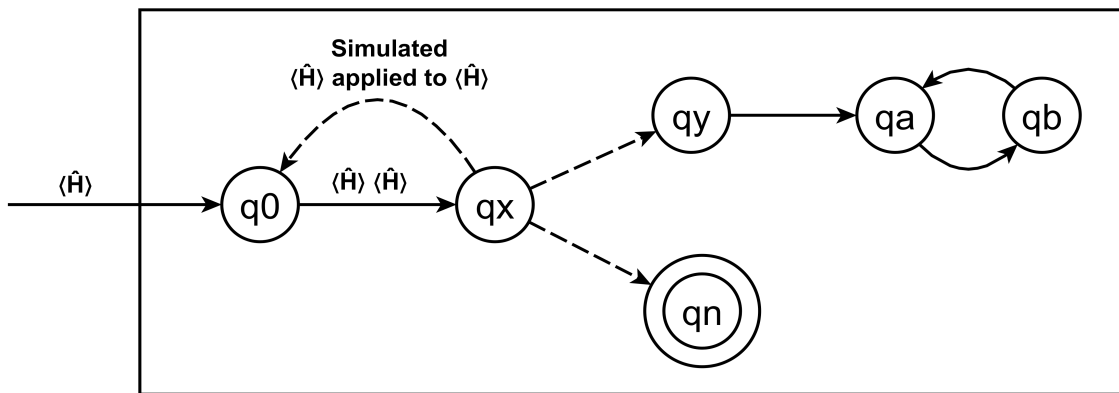
$(q_0)$  is prepended to  $H$  to copy the  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$  input of  $\hat{H}$ . The transition from  $(q_a)$  to  $(q_b)$  is the conventional infinite loop appended to the  $(q_y)$  accept state of `embedded_H`.

$\vdash^*$  indicates an arbitrary number of moves such as: `change_state / tape_head_action`.

$\hat{H}$  is applied to its own machine description  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$ .

$\hat{H}.q_0 \langle \hat{H} \rangle \vdash^* \text{embedded\_H} \langle \hat{H} \rangle \langle \hat{H} \rangle \vdash^* \hat{H}.q_y \infty$

$\hat{H}.q_0 \langle \hat{H} \rangle \vdash^* \text{embedded\_H} \langle \hat{H} \rangle \langle \hat{H} \rangle \vdash^* \hat{H}.q_n$



When  $\hat{H}$  is applied to  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$

$(q_0)$  The input  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$  is copied then transitions to  $(q_x)$

$(q_x)$  `embedded_H` is applied to  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle \langle \hat{H} \rangle$  (input and copy)

which simulates  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle \langle \hat{H} \rangle$  then transitions back to  $(q_0)$  to repeat the process.

This process continues to repeat until `embedded_H` recognizes the repeating pattern and aborts its simulation of  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle \langle \hat{H} \rangle$ .

`embedded_H` is correct to abort its simulation and transition to  $\hat{H}.q_n$  because it correctly predicts that  $\hat{H}$  applied to  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$  would never stop running unless `embedded_H` aborts its simulation of  $\langle \hat{H} \rangle \langle \hat{H} \rangle$ .

**Linz, Peter 1990.** An Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata. Lexington/Toronto: D. C. Heath and Company. (317-320)

A proof must connect an expression  $x$  of language  $L$  to its premises in  $L$  using only truth preserving operations or this "proof" diverges from correct reasoning. VALID DEDUCTION CORRECTED

$\text{True}(L, x)$  applies only truth preserving operations to expression  $x$  of language  $L$  to connect  $x$  to expressions of  $L$  that are stipulated to be true. SOUND DEDUCTION CORRECTED

Within the above self-evidently correct definitions  $x$  cannot possibly be true in  $L$  and unprovable in  $L$ .