

## There are many sets which are NOT computable

What is NOT computable? The following set called ALAN (by Cohen, D. (1997)[ Introduction to Computer Theory (2nd ed.), New York: John Wiley ]) is NOT computable because there is no Turing Machine (TM) for the set.

ALAN = { TM code-words that are NOT accepted by their corresponding TMs }

ALAN = {  $\langle M_i \rangle$  |  $\langle M_i \rangle$  is NOT accepted by the  $M_i$  }

$\langle M_i \rangle$  is the code of  $M_i$

Proof Idea: Assume that ALAN is computable; it means that there is a TM,  $T$ , that accepts ALAN. Every TM can be coded; so,  $T$  can also be coded. Assume that  $\langle T \rangle$  is the code for  $T$ . The question we ask is: "Is  $\langle T \rangle$  in ALAN?" There are two possibilities:

**YES**

**CASE 1:  $\langle T \rangle$  is in ALAN (i.e. code(T) is in ALAN)**

CLAIM	REASON
1. $T$ accepts ALAN	1. Definition of $T$
2. $\langle T \rangle$ is in ALAN	2. Hypothesis: CASE 1
3. $T$ accepts $\langle T \rangle$	3. From 1 and 2
4. $T$ does NOT accept $\langle T \rangle$ (From the definition of ALAN) $\langle T \rangle$ is NOT accepted by $T$	4. Definition of ALAN
5. Contradiction	5. From 3 & 4

**NO**



**CASE 2:  $\langle T \rangle$  is NOT in ALAN**

CLAIM	REASON
1. $T$ accepts ALAN	1. Definition of $T$
2. $\langle T \rangle$ is NOT in ALAN	2. Hypothesis: CASE 2
3. $T$ does NOT accept $\langle T \rangle$	3. From 1 & 2 <i>(<math>T</math> accepts only the strings of ALAN (no other strings) because <math>T</math> was specifically built for ALAN. <math>T</math> does NOT accept <math>\langle T \rangle</math>, because <math>\langle T \rangle</math> is NOT in ALAN.)</i>
4. $\langle T \rangle$ is in ALAN	4. From 3 <i>(If <math>T</math> does NOT accept <math>\langle T \rangle</math>, then <math>\langle T \rangle</math> is in ALAN, according to the definition of ALAN)</i>
5. $\langle T \rangle$ is NOT in ALAN	5. Hypothesis: CASE 2
6. Contradiction	5. From 4 & 5

**ALAN is not computable because such an assumption leads to a contradiction.  
No TM exists for ALAN.**