

**KAIST**

School of  
Computing



*Unconventional  
Computing*

**Martin Ziegler**

**CS492A in Fall 2024**

## §2 *Asymptotic* ( $\approx \infty$ ) Computing

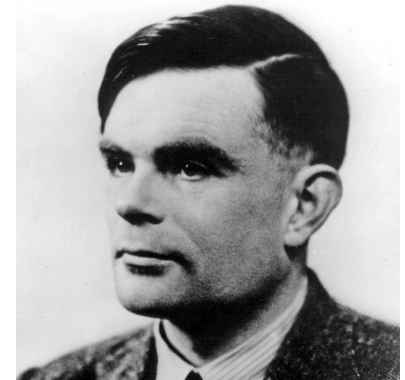
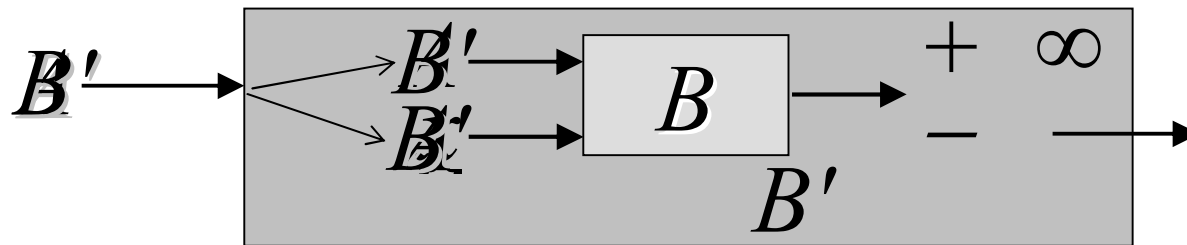
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- Motivation/Recap: Halting Problem
- (Relativistic) Zeno Machines
- Revising Computation, Shoenfield Lemma
- *Mechanical Asymptotic Computation*
- *Geometric Optical Asymptotic Computation*  
[doi:10.1007/BF02574009]
- (*Analog Zeno Machines: §3*)

# Alan M. Turing 1936

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- first scientific calculations on digital computers
- *What are its fundamental limitations?*



- Undecidable Halting Problem  $H$ : **No algorithm  $B$  can always correctly answer** ~~simulator/interpreter  $B$ ?~~ *Given  $\langle A, x \rangle$ , does algorithm  $A$  terminate on input  $x$ ?*

Proof by contradiction: Consider algorithm  $B'$  that, on input  $A$ , executes  $B$  on  $\langle A, A \rangle$  and, upon a positive answer, loops infinitely. How does  $B'$  behave on  $B'$ ?

# Approximating the "Halting Problem"

- ∃?** algorithm which, on input  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- i) stops with answer "**Yes**" in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \in H$   
and doesn't answer/stop in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \notin H$
  - ii) stops with answer "**No**" in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \notin H$   
and doesn't answer/stop in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \in H$
  - iii) always stops&answers **always** correct
  - v) always stops&answers, **infinitely** often correct
  - vi) always stops&answers, only **finitely** often **incorrect**

any non-trivial  
Markov property  
of a program  
(Rice Theorem)

$$H = \{ \langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} \text{ terminates on input } x \} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$

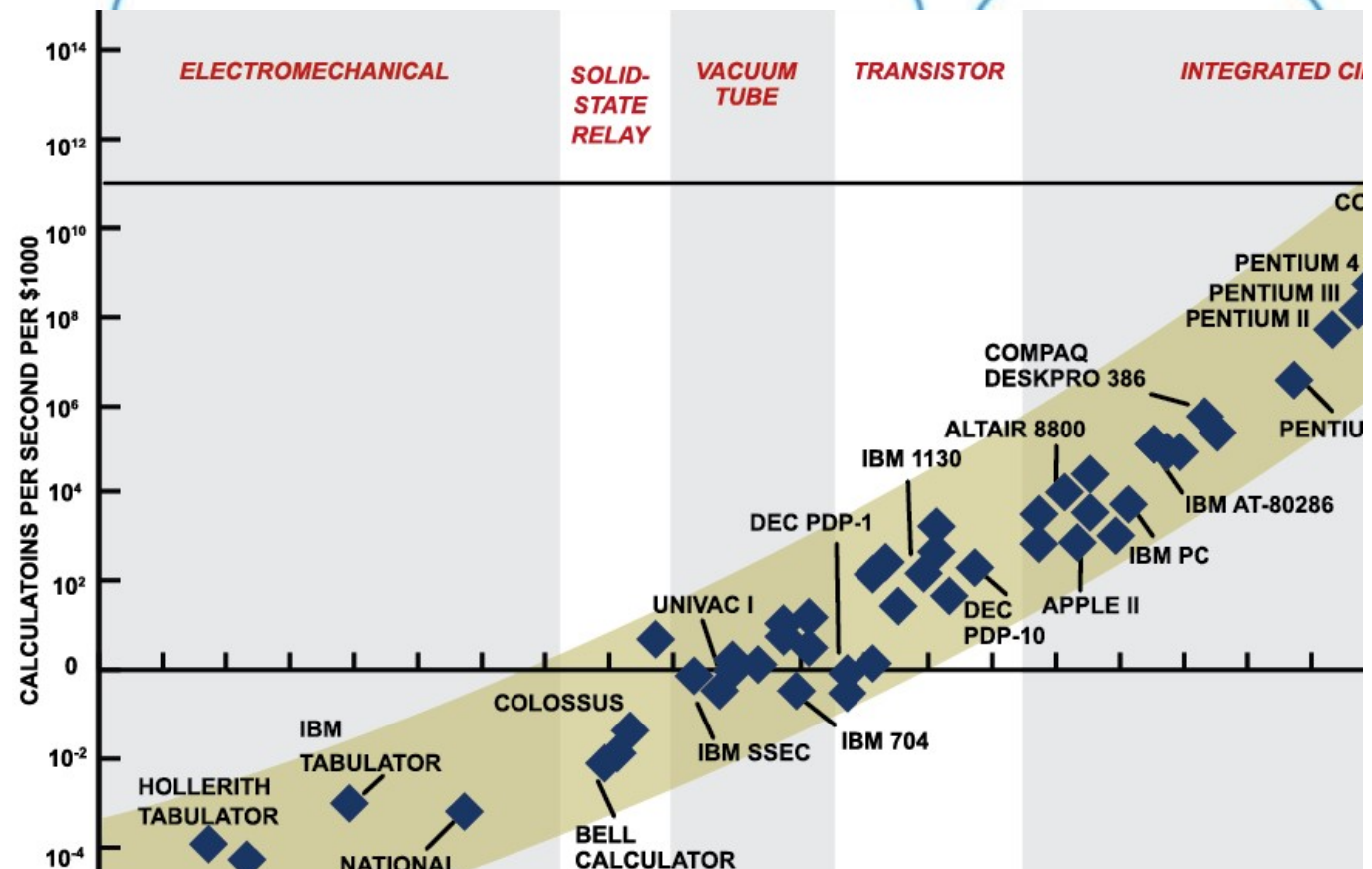
# §2 Accelerating/Zeno Machines

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*infinite #steps  
in finite time,  
asymptotically*

**accelerating  
computation**

**Recall:**  
Current PC only  
*approximates* a  
Turing machine  
with  $\infty$  tapes...

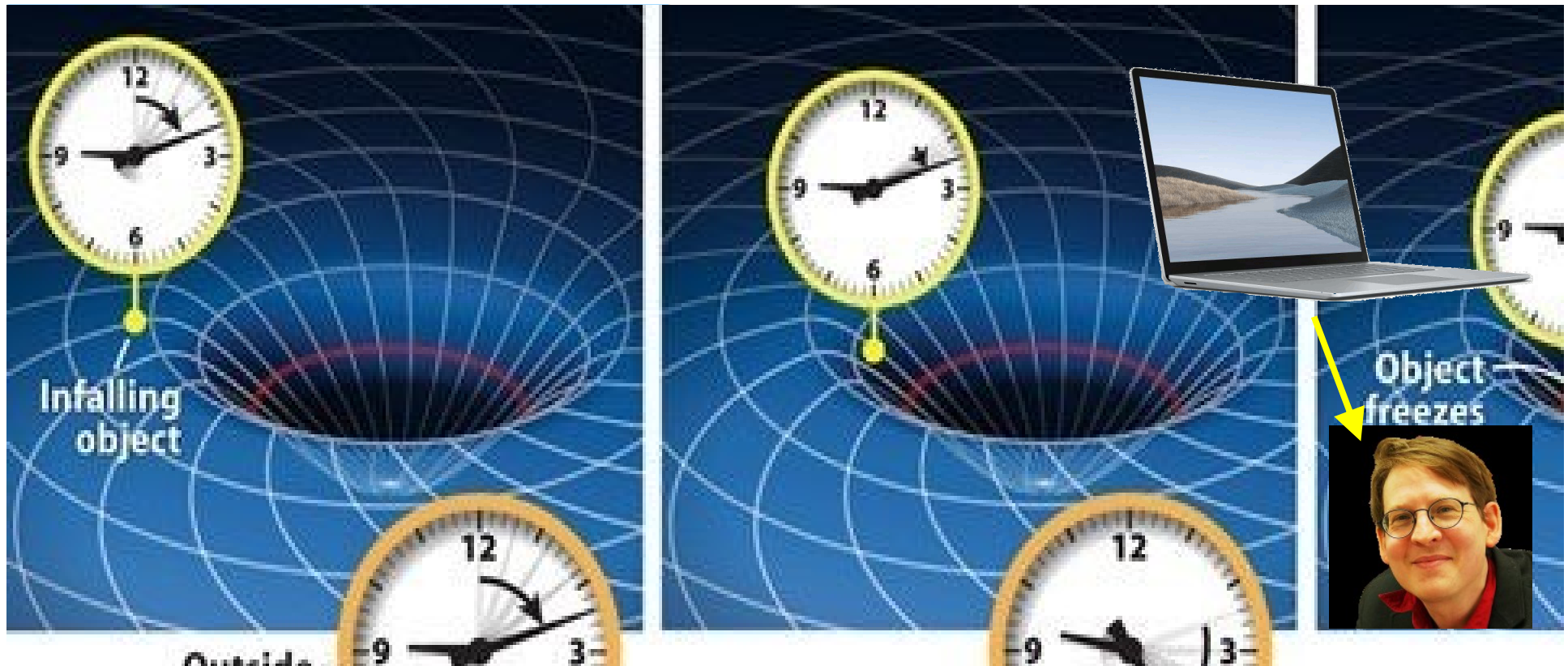


# §2 Relativistic Zeno Machines

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infinite #steps  
in finite time

"accelerating  
computation"





# §2 Relativistic Zeno Machines

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## §2 Terminating Computation

$\exists?$  algorithm which, on input  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

i) stops with answer "Yes" in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \in H$   
and doesn't answer/stop in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \notin H$  ✓

ii) stops with answer "No" in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \notin H$   
and doesn't answer/stop in case  $\langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle \in H$  ✗

iii) always stops & answers **always correct** ✗

v) always stops & answers,  
**infinitely often correct** ✓

vi) always stops & answers,  
only **finitely** often **incorrect** ✗

$$H = \{ \langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} \text{ terminates on input } x \} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$



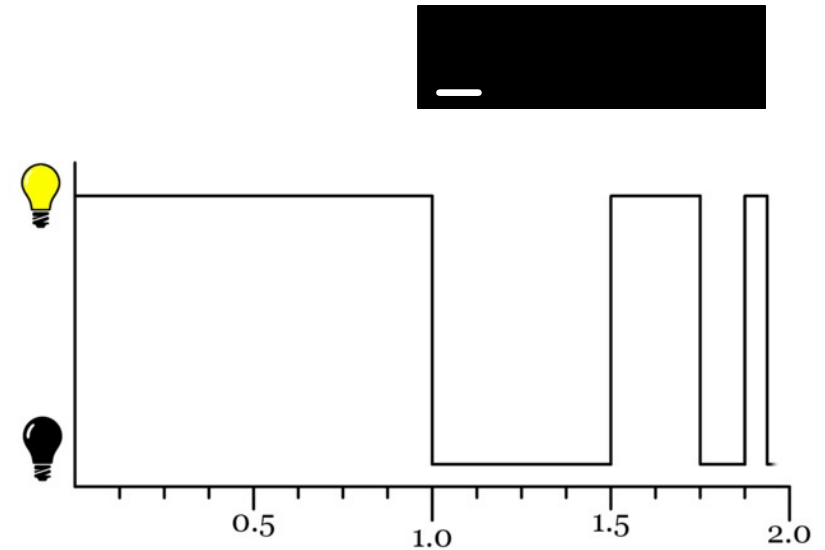
# §2 Revising Computation

Algorithms which (produce output but which) **don't** stop

Output may be *revised*:

- a) ~~precisely once~~
- b) at most once e.g.  $H, \bar{H}$
- c) ~~precisely twice~~
- d) at most twice
- e) ...
- f) finitely often
- g) ~~infinitely often~~

always stops & answers



Thomson's Lamp



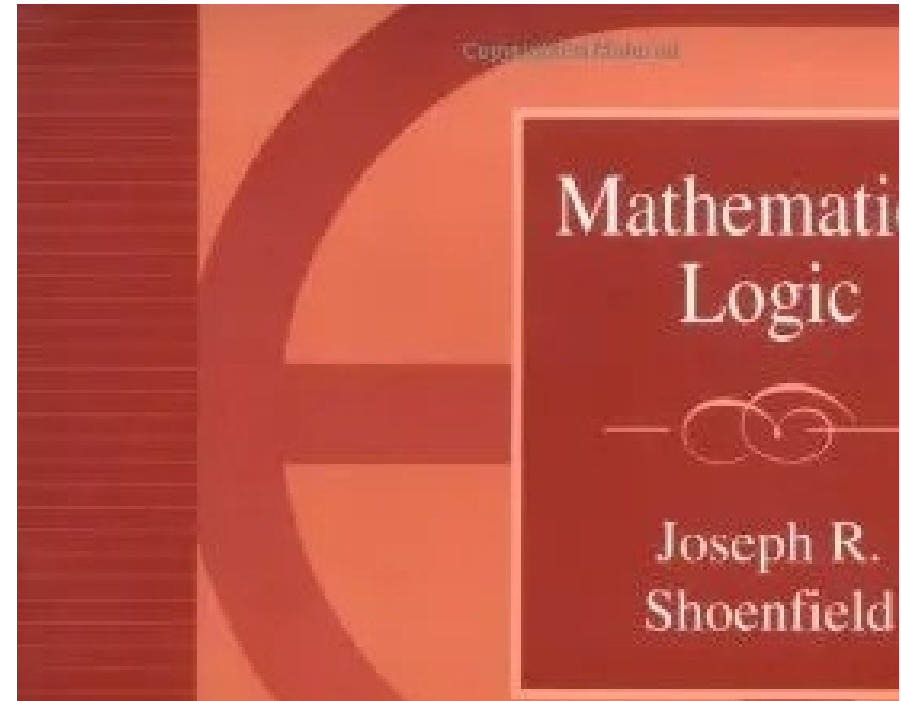
$$H = \{ \langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} \text{ terminates on input } x \} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$

## §2 *Shoenfield* Lemma

Algorithms which (produce output but which) **don't** stop

Output may be *revised*:

- a) ~~precisely once~~
- b) at most once
- c) ~~precisely twice~~
- d) at most twice
- e) ...
- f) finitely often



**Lemma** (Joseph Shoenfield): A *non*-stopping algorithm, allowed to *revise* its output  $\leq k$  times, is equivalent to a stopping algorithm allowed  $k$  queries to oracle  $H$ .

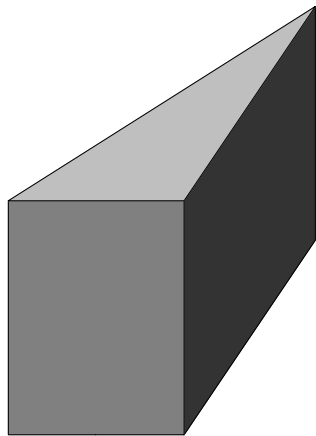
$$H = \{ \langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} \text{ terminates on input } x \} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$

# §2 *Finite Mechanical Comb Oracle*

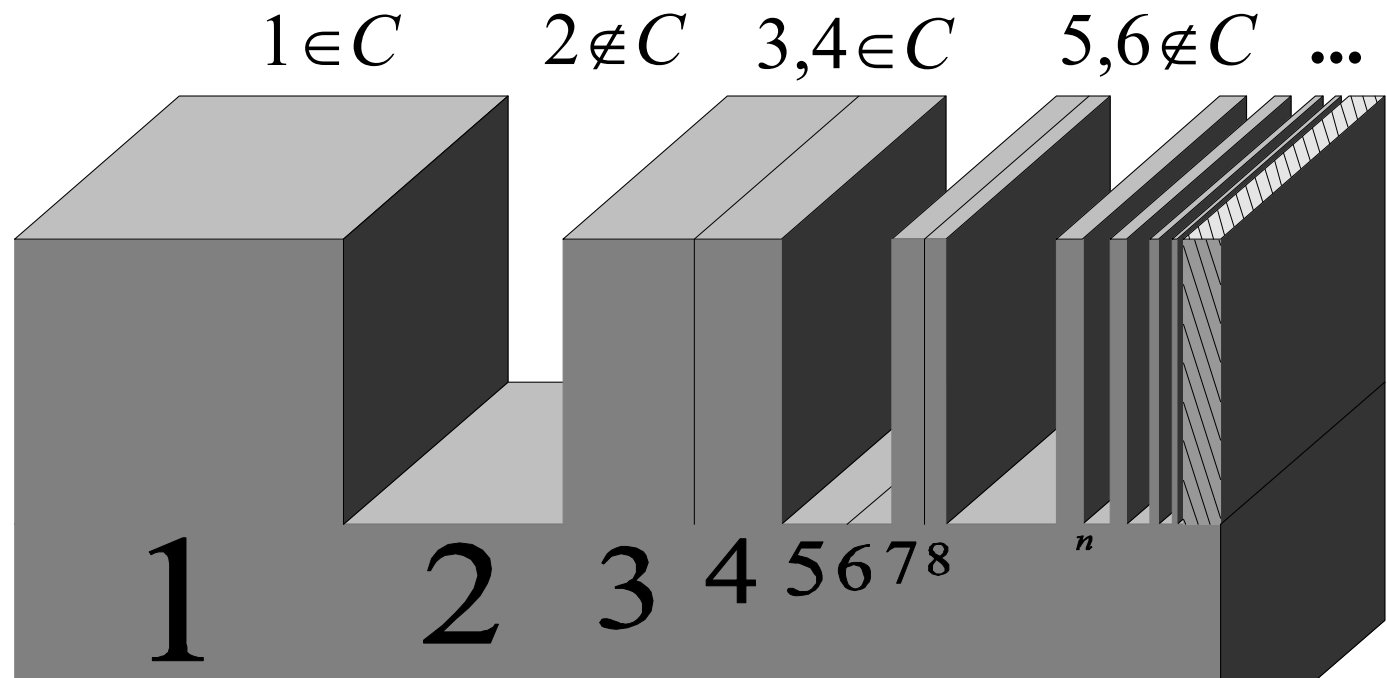
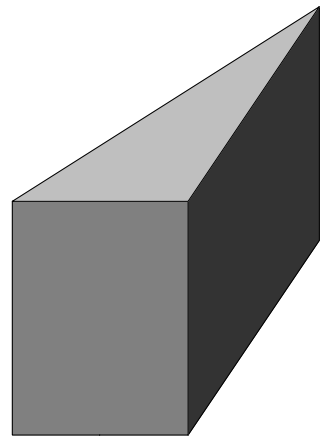
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$1 \in C$      $2 \notin C$      $3, 4 \in C$      $5, 6 \notin C$     ...



## §2 Zeno's Comb as Mechanical Oracle



$$C := H = \{ \langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} \text{ terminates on input } x \} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$



## §2 Un/computable Real Constants

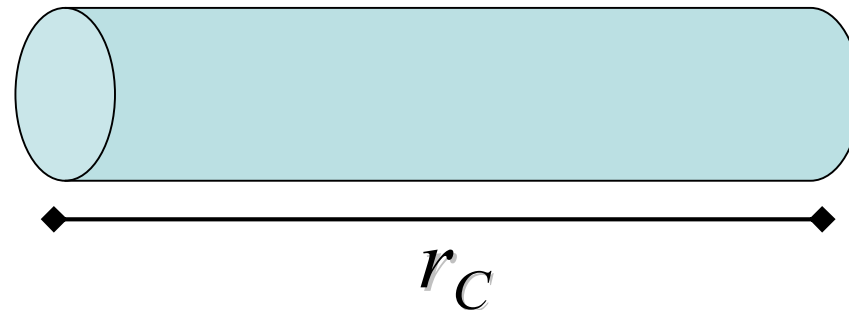
**Definition:** Call  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  *computable*  
if  $r$  has a decidable binary expansion.

**Fact: a)** Every  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is *computable*.

**b)** If  $r$  is computable, then so are:  $\sin(r)$ ,  $\cos(r)$ ,  $\text{atan}(r)$ , ...

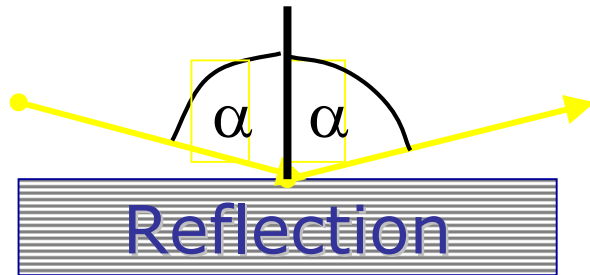
$$1 \in C \quad 2 \notin C \quad 3, 4 \in C \quad 5, 6 \notin C \quad \dots$$

$$r_C := \sum_{n \in C} 2^{-n}$$



$$C := H = \{ \langle \mathcal{A}, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} \text{ terminates on input } x \} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$$

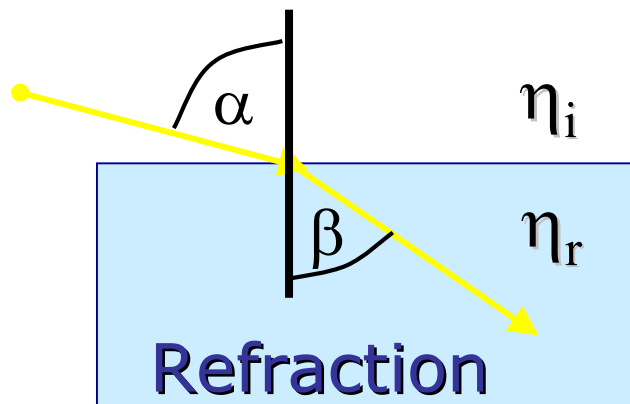
# §2 Geometric Optics (*reversible*)



No aberrations:

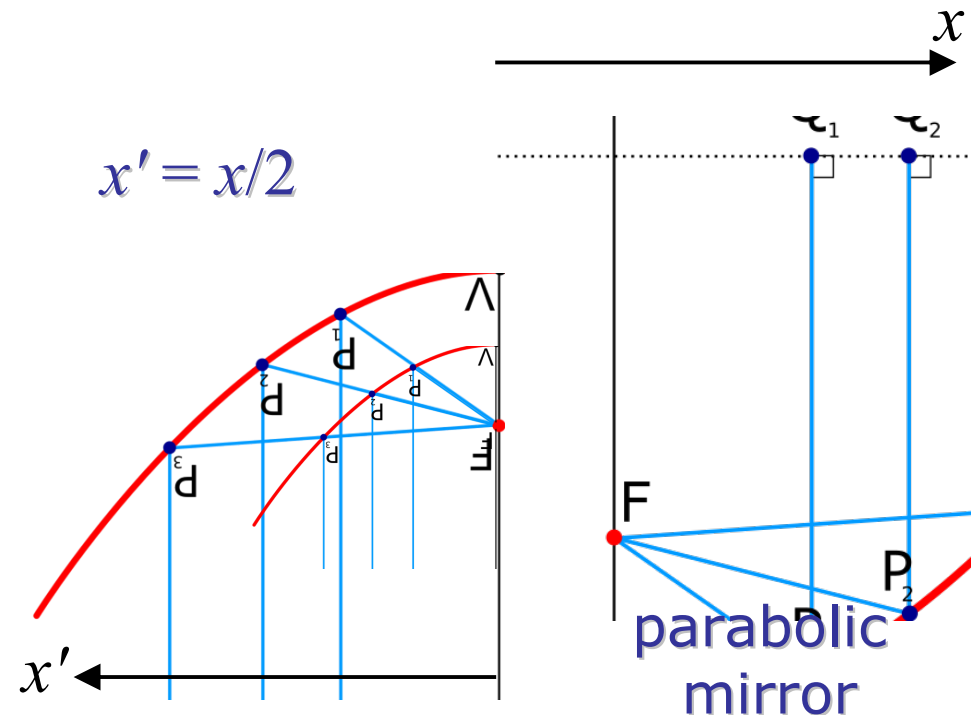
No uncomputable coordinates /directions!

- chromatic
- defocus/attenuation
- coma
- wave/particle



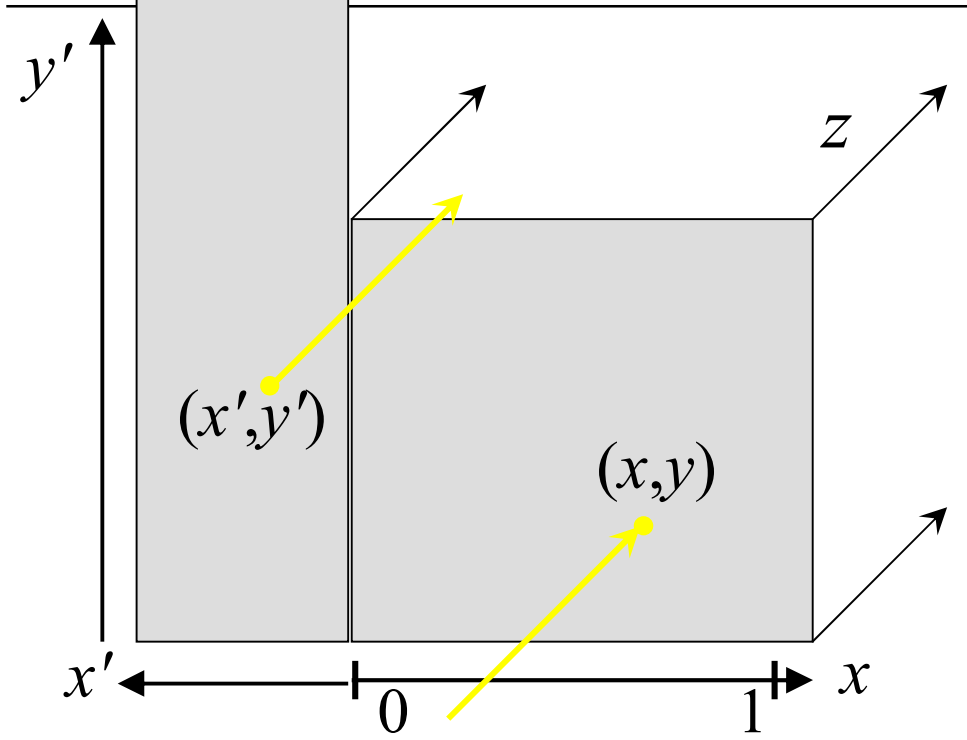
$$\eta_i \cdot \sin \alpha = \eta_r \cdot \sin \beta$$

(Snell's Law)



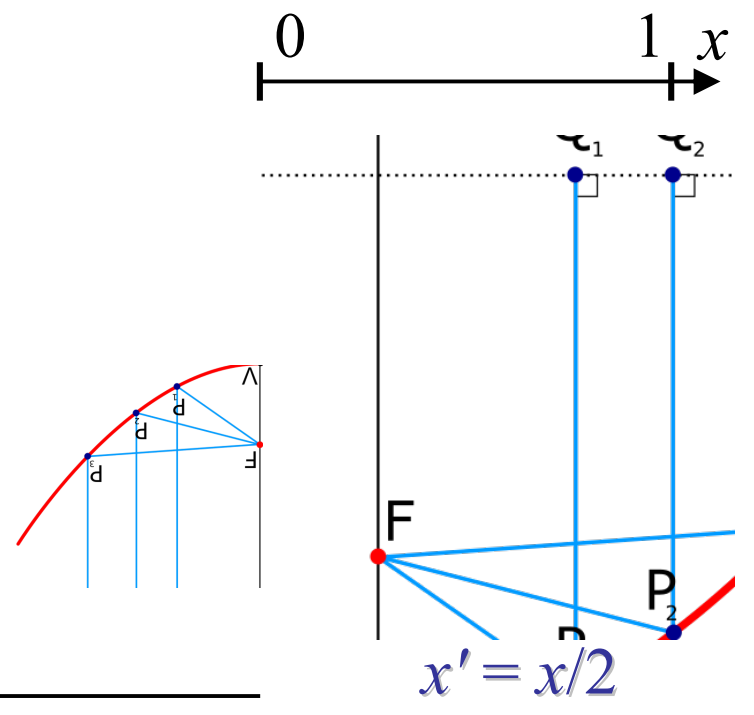
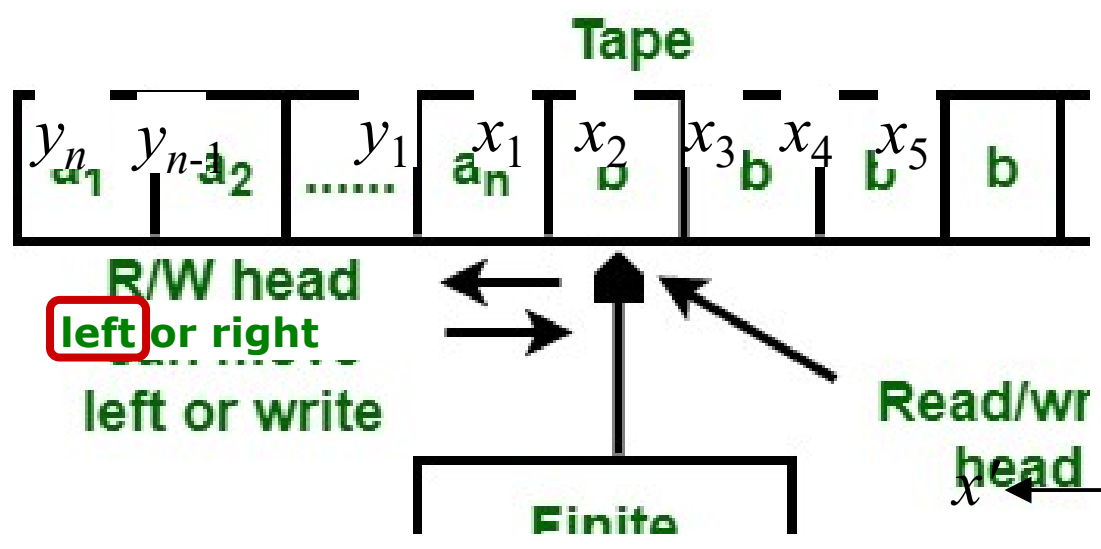
# §2 Geometric Optics (*reversible*)

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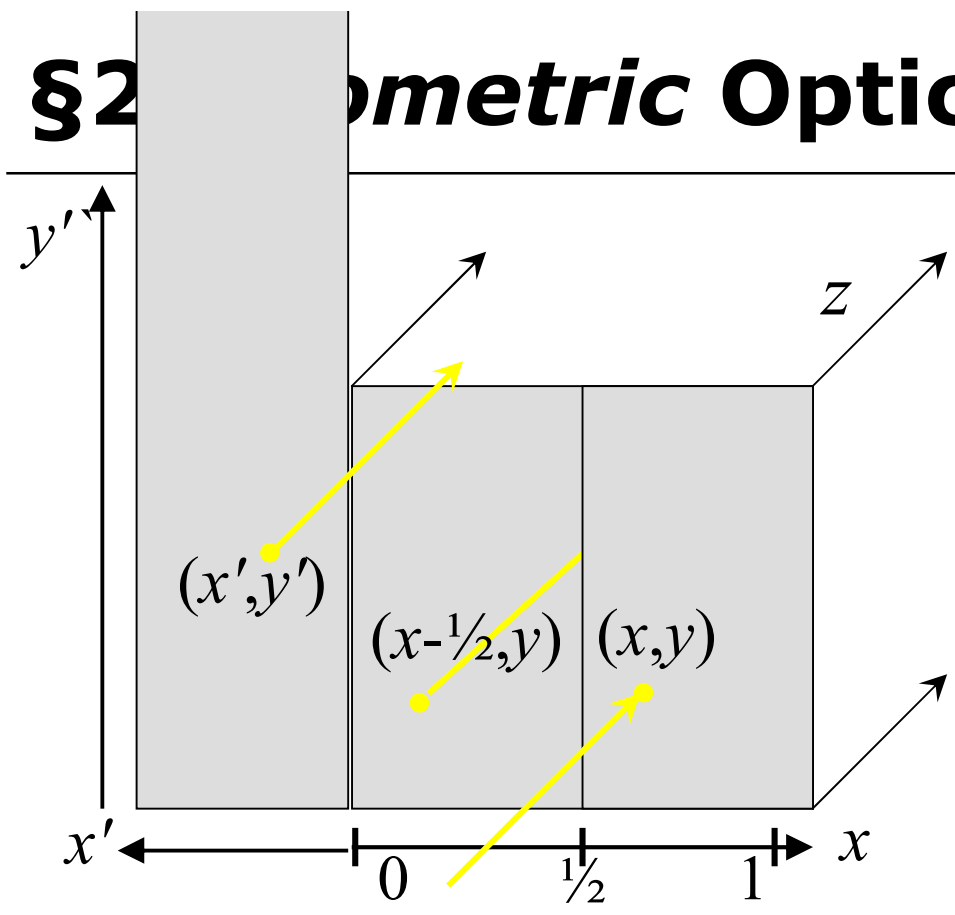
$$x = 0 . x_1 x_2 \dots x_m \dots$$

$$y = 0 . y_1 y_2 \dots y_n$$



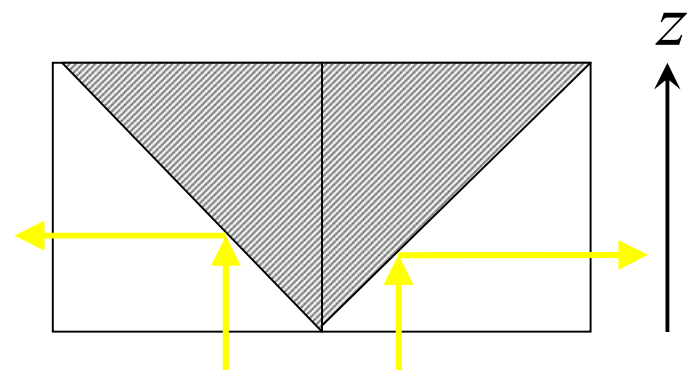
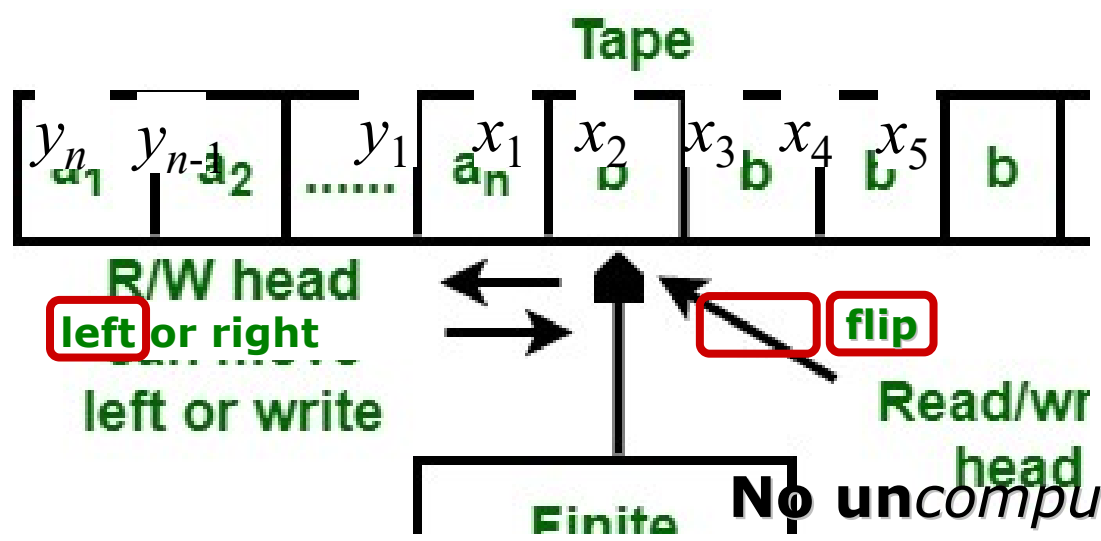
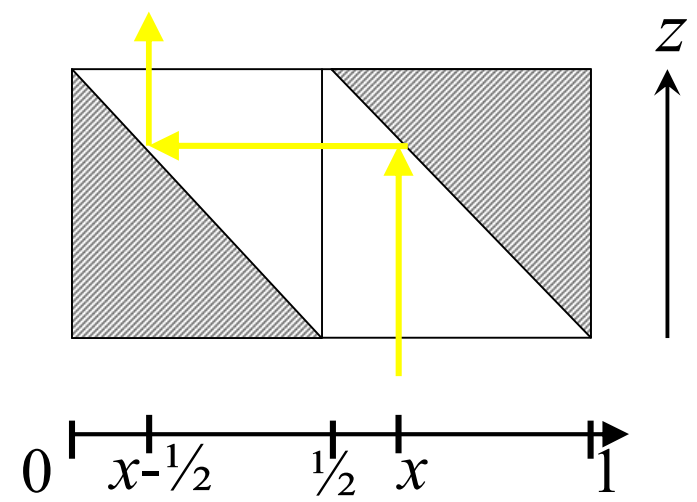
# §2 Geometric Optics (*reversible*)

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$$x = 0 . \boxed{x_1} x_2 \dots x_m \dots$$

$$y = 0 . y_1 y_2 \dots y_n$$

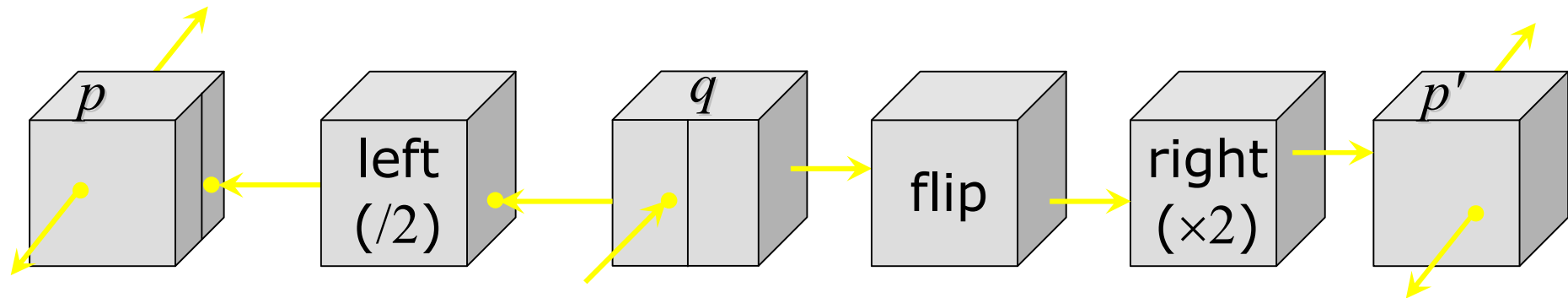


**No uncomputable coordinates/directions!**



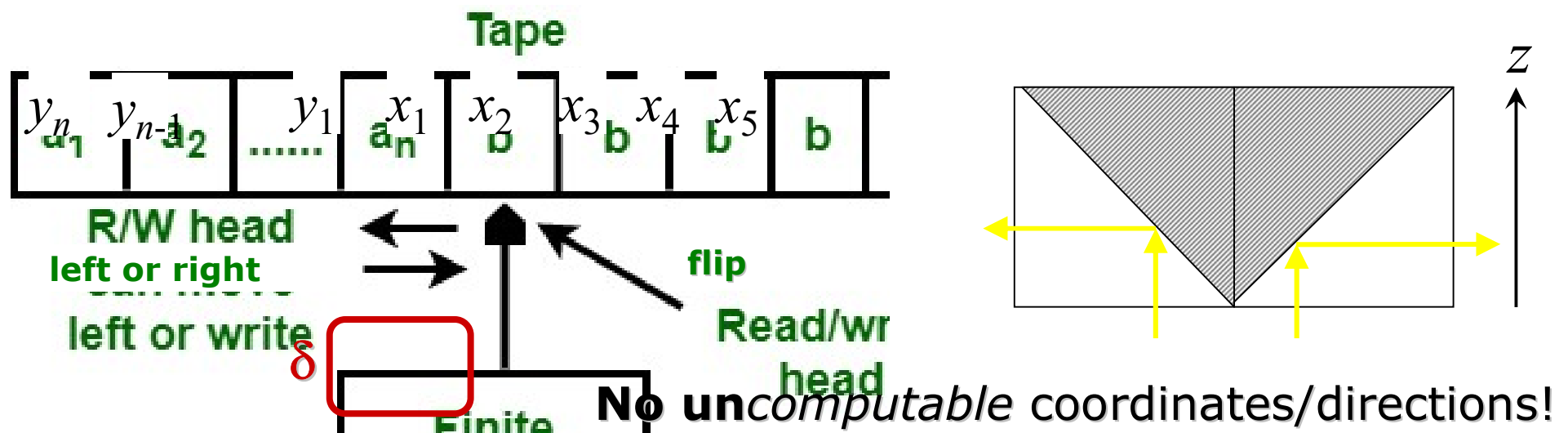
# §2 Geometric Optics (*reversible*)

**Fact:** Every Turing machine can be made reversible!



$$\delta(q,0) = (0, \mathbf{L}, p)$$

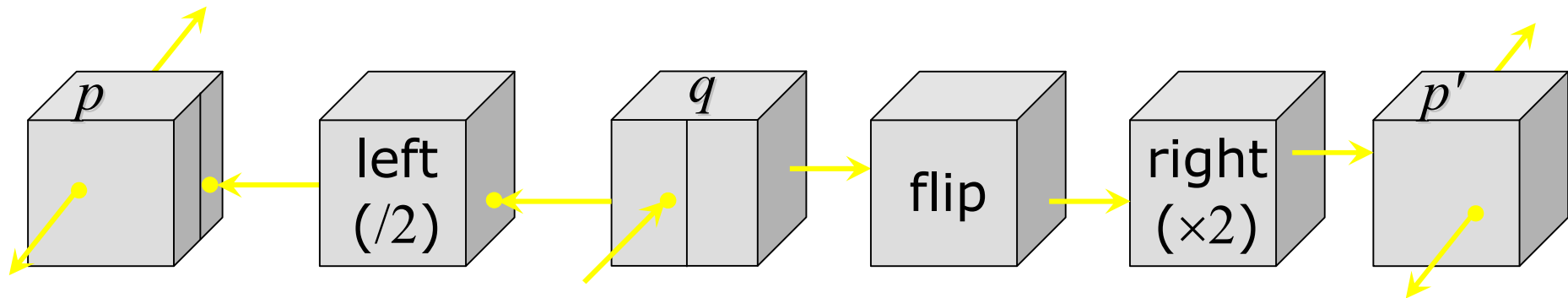
$$\delta(q,1) = (0, \mathbf{R}, p')$$



# "Computability and Complexity of Ray Tracing"

John H. Reif, J. Doug Tygar, Akitoshi Yoshida

*Discrete & Computational Geometry* 11 (1994)



- Questions:**
- How does this *Geometric Optical Computing* differ from *Photonic Computing*?
  - How much *physical* time does it take asymptotically to simulate a Turing machine making  $t(n)$  steps?
  - How much *physical* space does it take asymptotically to simulate a Turing machine using  $s(n)$  cells?
  - When is this theoretical simulation im/practical?

## §2 *Asymptotic* ( $\approx \infty$ ) Computing

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