

**15-453**

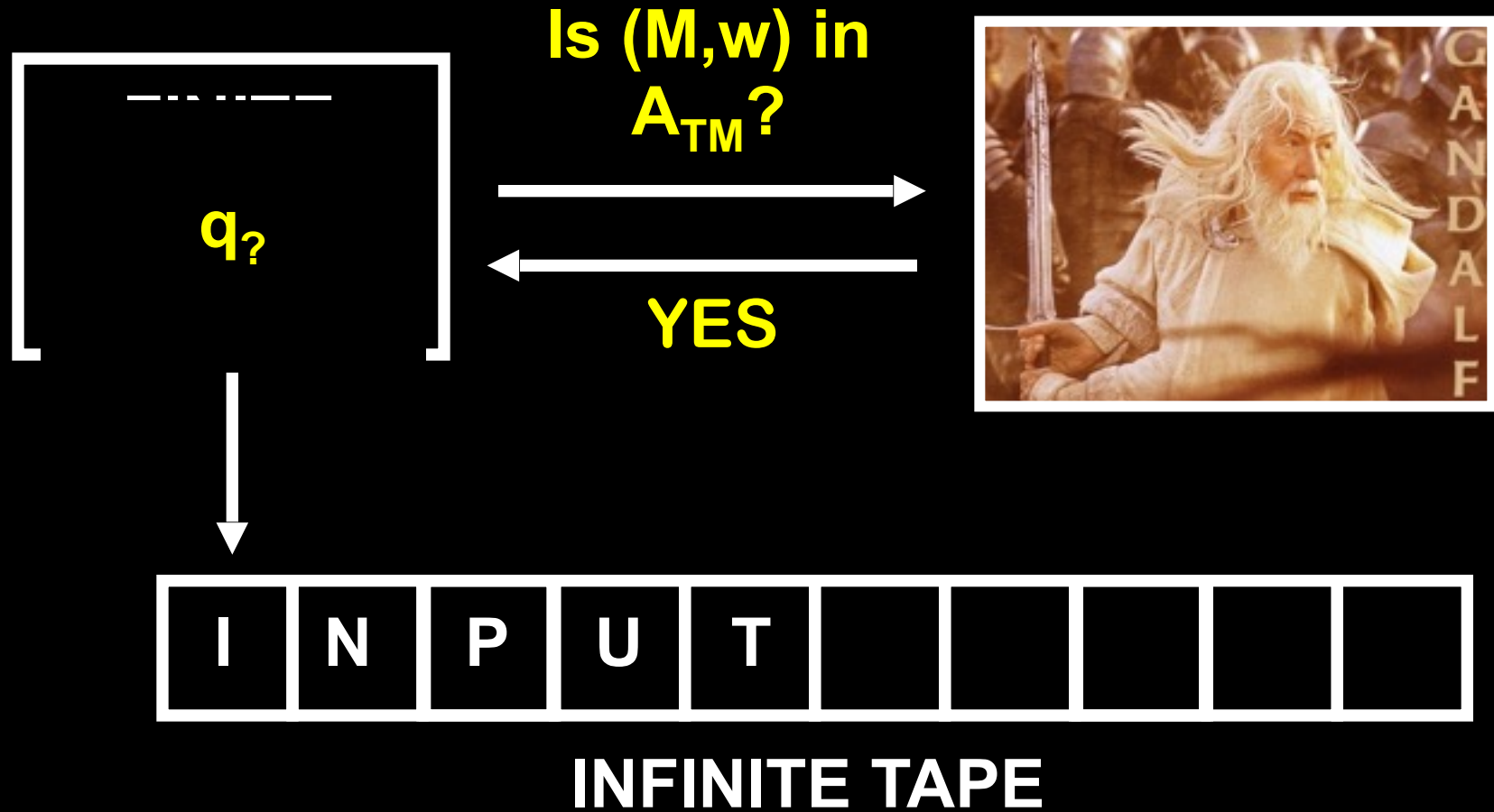
**FORMAL LANGUAGES,  
AUTOMATA AND  
COMPUTABILITY**

# **THE ARITHMETIC HIERARCHY**

**THURSDAY, MAR 6**

# ORACLE TMs

Oracle for  $A_{TM}$



# ORACLE MACHINES

An **ORACLE** is a set **B** to which the TM may pose membership questions “**Is w in B?**”

(formally: TM enters state  $q_?$ )

and the TM always receives a correct answer in one step

(formally: if the string on the “oracle tape” is in **B**, state  $q_?$  is changed to  $q_{\text{YES}}$ , otherwise  $q_{\text{NO}}$ )

This makes sense even if **B** is not decidable!

(We do not assume that the oracle **B** is a computable set!)

We say **A is semi-decidable in B**  
if there is an oracle TM **M** with oracle **B** that  
semi-decides **A**

We say **A is decidable in B**  
if there is an oracle TM **M** with oracle **B** that  
decides **A**

# Language A “Turing Reduces” to Language B

if **A** is decidable in **B**, ie if there is an oracle TM **M** with oracle **B** that decides **A**

$$A \leq_T B$$

# $\leq_T$ VERSUS $\leq_m$

**Theorem:** If  $A \leq_m B$  then  $A \leq_T B$

**Proof:**

If  $A \leq_m B$  then there is a computable function  $f : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , where for every  $w$ ,

$$w \in A \Leftrightarrow f(w) \in B$$

We can thus use an oracle for  $B$  to decide  $A$

**Theorem:**  $\neg AT_{TM} \leq_T AT_{TM}$

**Theorem:**  $\neg AT_{TM} \not\leq_m AT_{TM}$

# THE ARITHMETIC HIERARCHY

$$\Delta_1^0 = \{ \text{decidable sets} \} \quad (\text{sets} = \text{languages})$$

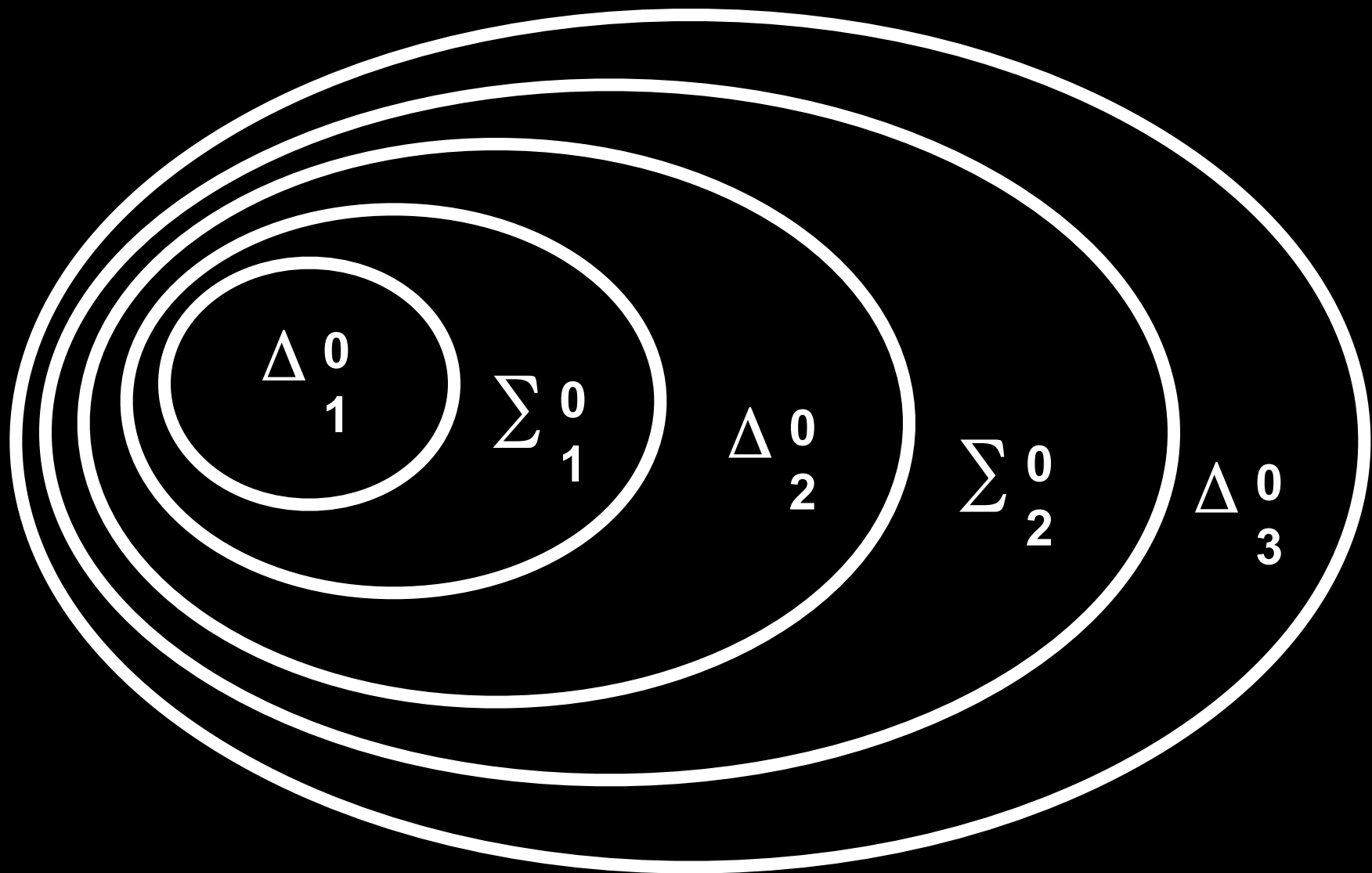
$$\Sigma_1^0 = \{ \text{semi-decidable sets} \}$$

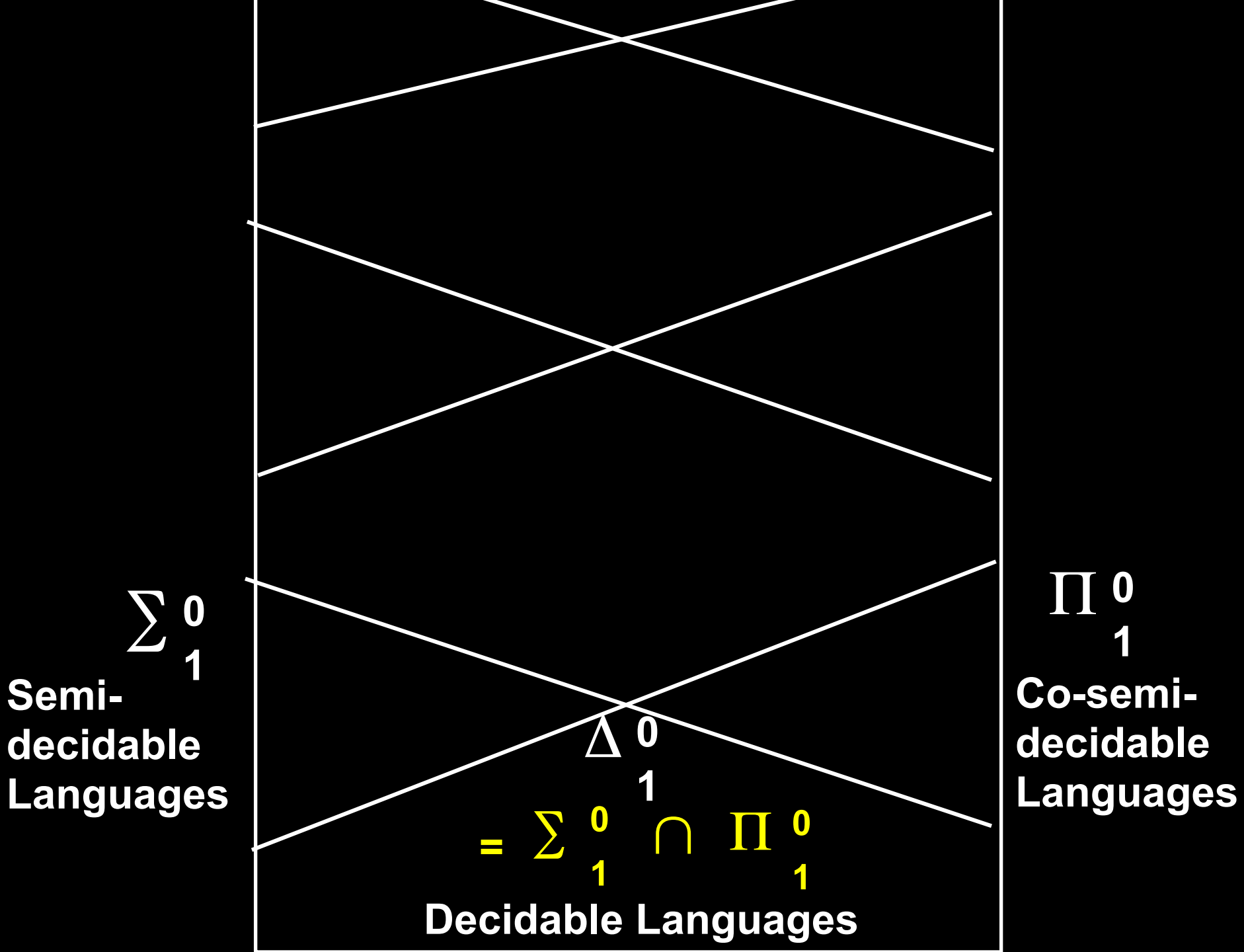
$$\Sigma_{n+1}^0 = \{ \text{sets semi-decidable in some } B \in \Sigma_n^0 \}$$

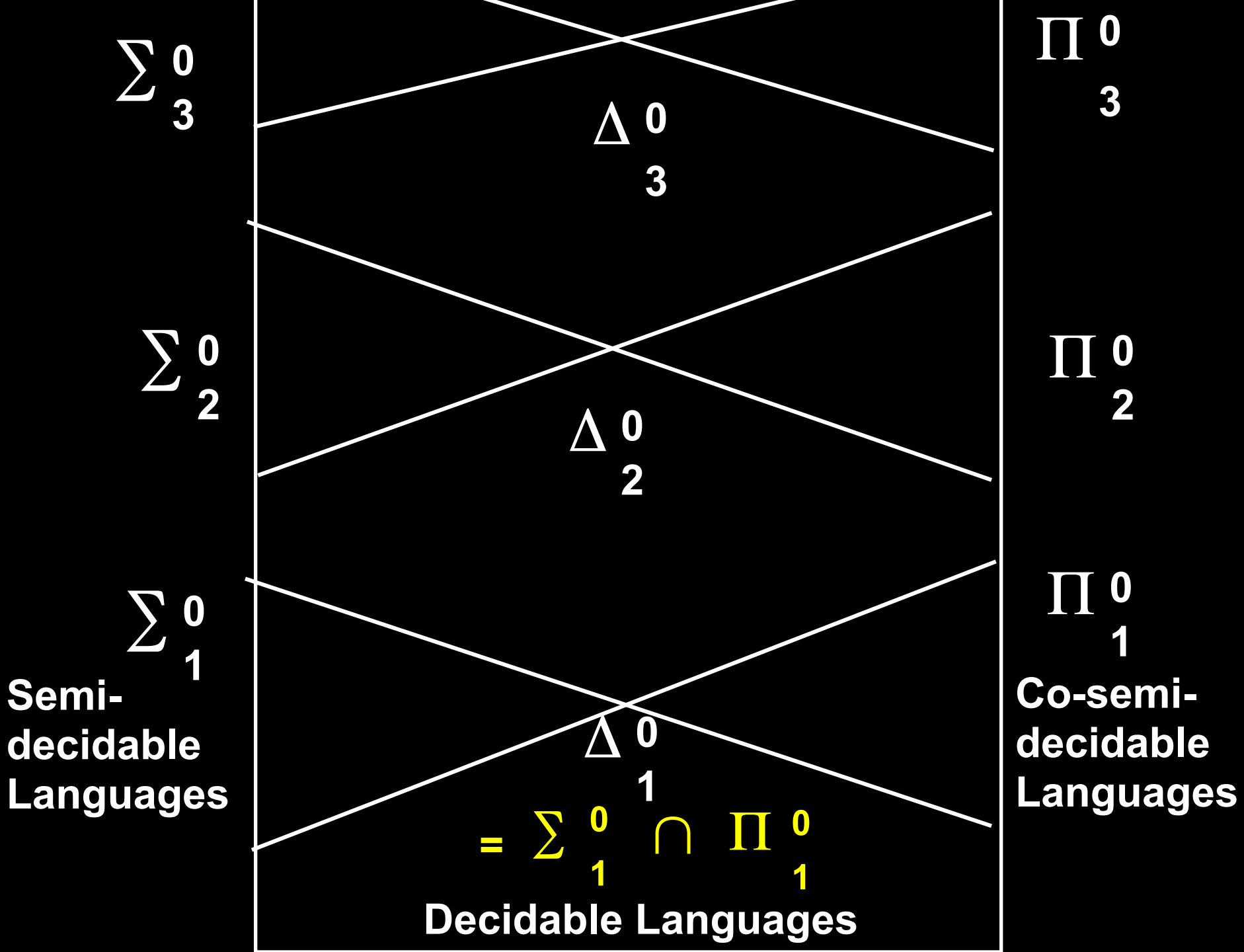
$$\Delta_{n+1}^0 = \{ \text{sets decidable in some } B \in \Sigma_n^0 \}$$

$$\Pi_n^0 = \{ \text{complements of sets in } \Sigma_n^0 \}$$









# Theorem

$$\Sigma_1^0 = \{ \text{semi-decidable sets} \}$$

$$= \text{languages of the form } \{ x \mid \exists y R(x,y) \}$$

$$\Pi_1^0 = \{ \text{complements of semi-decidable sets} \}$$

$$= \text{languages of the form } \{ x \mid \forall y R(x,y) \}$$

$$\Delta_1^0 = \{ \text{decidable sets} \}$$

$$= \Sigma_1^0 \cap \Pi_1^0$$

**Where R is a decidable predicate**

# Theorem

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_2^0 &= \{ \text{sets semi-decidable in some semi-dec. B} \} \\ &= \text{languages of the form } \{ x \mid \exists y_1 \forall y_2 R(x, y_1, y_2) \}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_2^0 &= \{ \text{complements of } \Sigma_2^0 \text{ sets} \} \\ &= \text{languages of the form } \{ x \mid \forall y_1 \exists y_2 R(x, y_1, y_2) \}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta_2^0 = \Sigma_2^0 \cap \Pi_2^0$$

**Where R is a decidable predicate**

# Theorem

$$\Sigma_n^0 = \text{languages } \{ x \mid \exists y_1 \forall y_2 \exists y_3 \dots Q y_n R(x, y_1, \dots, y_n) \}$$

$$\Pi_n^0 = \text{languages } \{ x \mid \forall y_1 \exists y_2 \forall y_3 \dots Q y_n R(x, y_1, \dots, y_n) \}$$

$$\Delta_n^0 = \Sigma_n^0 \cap \Pi_n^0$$

**Where R is a decidable predicate**

# Example

## Decidable predicate

$\Sigma_1^0$  = languages of the form  $\{ x \mid \exists y R(x,y) \}$

We know that  $A_{TM}$  is in  $\Sigma_1^0$  Why?

Show it can be described in this form:

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle (M,w) \rangle \mid \exists t [M \text{ accepts } w \text{ in } t \text{ steps}] \}$$

decidable predicate

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle (M,w) \rangle \mid \exists t T(\langle M \rangle, w, t) \}$$

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle (M,w) \rangle \mid \exists v (v \text{ is an accepting computation history of } M \text{ on } w) \}$$

**Definition:** A decidable predicate  $R(x,y)$  is some proposition about  $x$  and  $y^1$ , where there is a TM  $M$  such that

for all  $x, y$ ,  $R(x,y)$  is TRUE  $\Rightarrow M(x,y)$  accepts  
 $R(x,y)$  is FALSE  $\Rightarrow M(x,y)$  rejects

We say  $M$  “decides” the predicate  $R$ .

### **EXAMPLES:**

$R(x,y) = “x + y$  is less than 100”

$R(\langle N \rangle, y) = “N$  halts on  $y$  in at most 100 steps”

**Kleene’s T predicate,  $T(\langle M \rangle, x, y)$ :  $M$  accepts  $x$  in  $y$  steps**

1.  $x, y$  are positive integers or elements of  $\Sigma^*$



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### EXAMPLES:

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**Kleene’s T predicate**,  $T(\langle M \rangle, x, y)$ :  $M$  accepts  $x$  in  $y$  steps

**Note:**  $A$  is decidable  $\Leftrightarrow A = \{x \mid R(x,\varepsilon)\}$ ,  
for some decidable predicate  $R$ .

# Theorem

$$\Sigma_n^0 = \text{languages } \{ x \mid \exists y_1 \forall y_2 \exists y_3 \dots Q y_n R(x, y_1, \dots, y_n) \}$$

$$\Pi_n^0 = \text{languages } \{ x \mid \forall y_1 \exists y_2 \forall y_3 \dots Q y_n R(x, y_1, \dots, y_n) \}$$

$$\Delta_n^0 = \Sigma_n^0 \cap \Pi_n^0$$

**Where R is a decidable predicate**

**Theorem:** A language  $A$  is semi-decidable if and only if there is a **decidable predicate**  $R(x, y)$  such that:  $A = \{ x \mid \exists y R(x, y) \}$

**Proof:**

(1) If  $A = \{ x \mid \exists y R(x, y) \}$  then  $A$  is semi-decidable  
**Because we can enumerate over all  $y$ 's**

(2) If  $A$  is semi-decidable, then  $A = \{ x \mid \exists y R(x, y) \}$

Let  $M$  semi-decide  $A$

Then,  $A = \{ x \mid \exists y T(\langle M \rangle, x, y) \}$  (Here  $M$  is fixed.)

where

**Kleene's  $T$  predicate**,  $T(\langle M \rangle, x, y)$ :  $M$  accepts  $x$  in  $y$  steps.

# THE PAIRING FUNCTION

**Theorem.** There is a 1-1 and onto computable function  $\langle , \rangle : \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  and computable functions  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2 : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  such that

$$z = \langle w, t \rangle \Rightarrow \pi_1(z) = w \text{ and } \pi_2(z) = t$$

**Proof:** Let  $w = w_1 \dots w_n \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $t \in \Sigma^*$ .

Let  $a, b \in \Sigma$ ,  $a \neq b$ .

$$\langle w, t \rangle := a w_1 \dots a w_n b t$$

$\pi_1(z) :=$  “if  $z$  has the form  $a w_1 \dots a w_n b t$ , then output  $w_1 \dots w_n$ , else output  $\varepsilon$ ”

$\pi_2(z) :=$  “if  $z$  has the form  $a w_1 \dots a w_n b t$ , then output  $t$ , else output  $\varepsilon$ ”

# Theorem

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$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_2^0 &= \{ \text{sets semi-decidable in some semi-dec. B} \} \\ &= \text{languages of the form } \{ x \mid \exists y_1 \forall y_2 R(x, y_1, y_2) \}\end{aligned}$$

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## Decidable predicate

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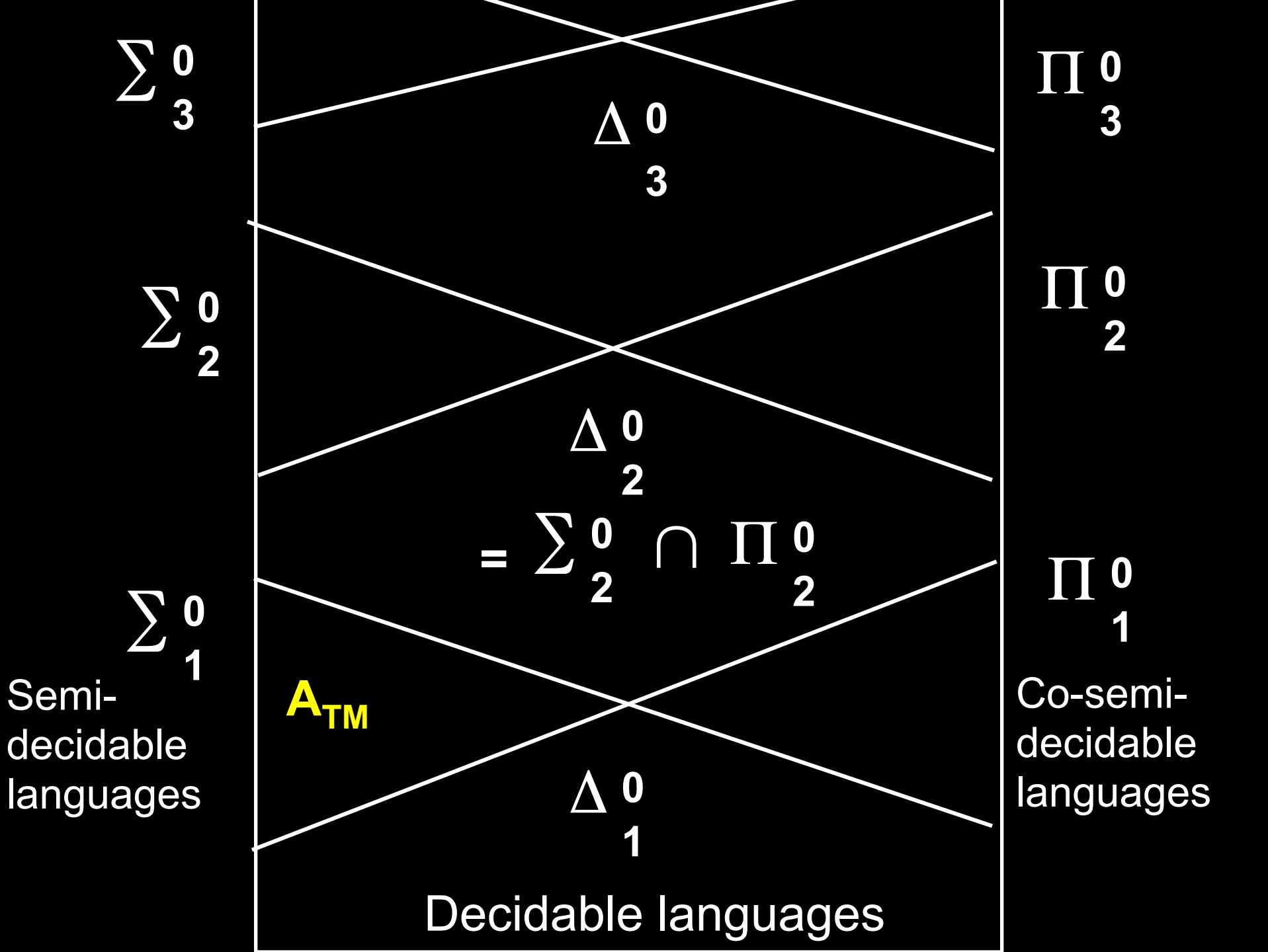
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$\Pi_1^0$  = languages of the form  $\{ x \mid \forall y R(x,y) \}$

Show that **EMPTY** (ie,  $E_{TM}$ ) =  $\{ M \mid L(M) = \emptyset \}$  is in  $\Pi_1^0$

**EMPTY** =  $\{ M \mid \forall w \forall t [M \text{ doesn't accept } w \text{ in } t \text{ steps}] \}$

two quantifiers??

decidable predicate

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Show that **EMPTY** (ie,  $E_{TM}$ ) =  $\{ M \mid L(M) = \emptyset \}$  is in  $\Pi_1^0$

$$\text{EMPTY} = \{ M \mid \forall w \forall t [ \neg T(\langle M \rangle, w, t) ] \}$$

two quantifiers??

decidable predicate

# THE PAIRING FUNCTION

**Theorem.** There is a 1-1 and onto computable function  $\langle , \rangle : \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  and computable functions  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2 : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  such that

$$z = \langle w, t \rangle \Rightarrow \pi_1(z) = w \text{ and } \pi_2(z) = t$$

EMPTY = { M |  $\forall w \forall t$  [M doesn't accept w in t steps] }

EMPTY = { M |  $\forall z$  [M doesn't accept  $\pi_1(z)$  in  $\pi_2(z)$  steps] }

EMPTY = { M |  $\forall z$  [  $\neg T(\langle M \rangle, \pi_1(z), \pi_2(z))$  ] }

# THE PAIRING FUNCTION

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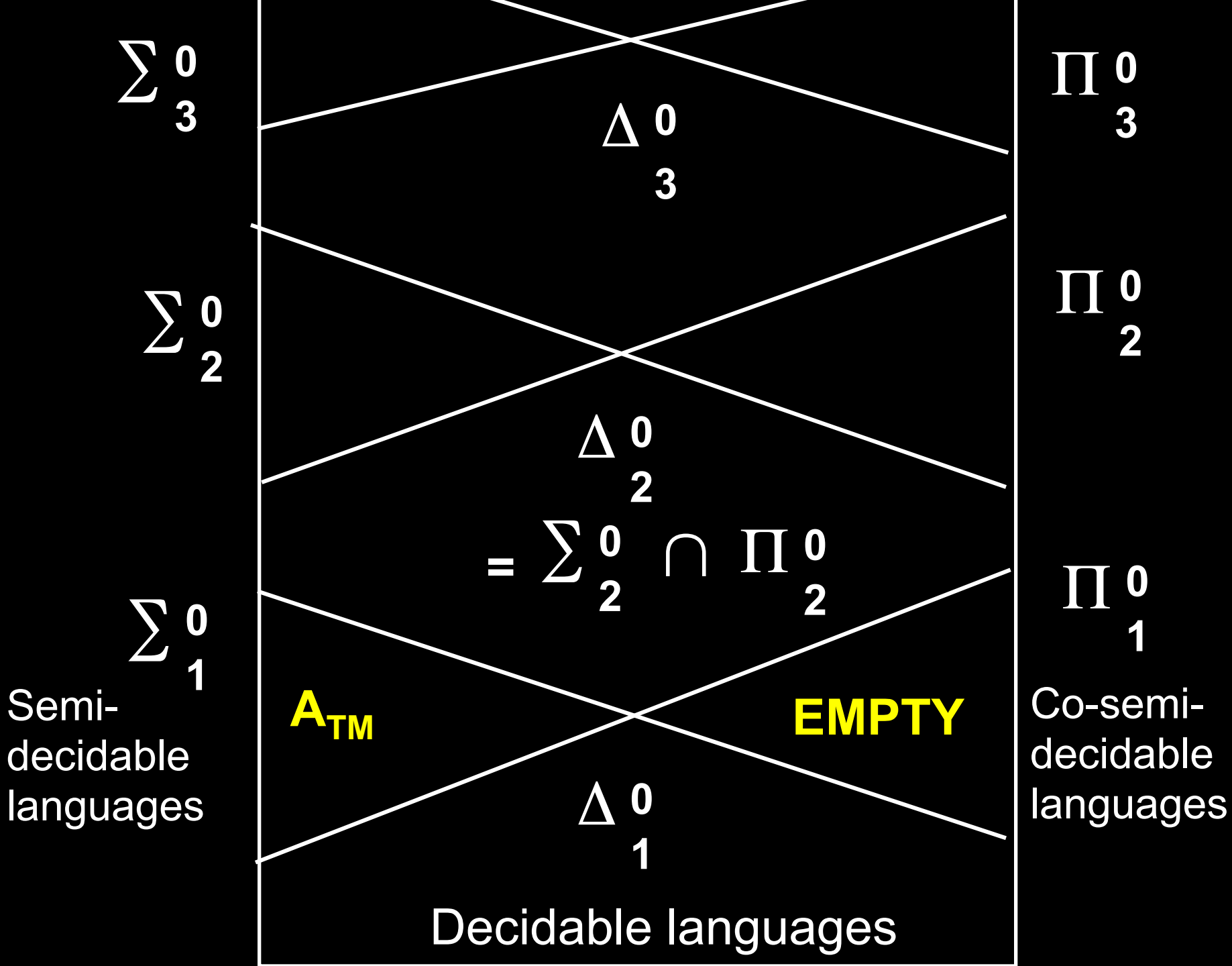
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$\Pi_2^0$  = languages of the form  $\{ x \mid \forall y \exists z R(x,y,z) \}$

Show that **TOTAL** =  $\{ M \mid M \text{ halts on all inputs} \}$

is in  $\Pi_2^0$

**TOTAL** =  $\{ M \mid \forall w \exists t [M \text{ halts on } w \text{ in } t \text{ steps}] \}$

decidable predicate

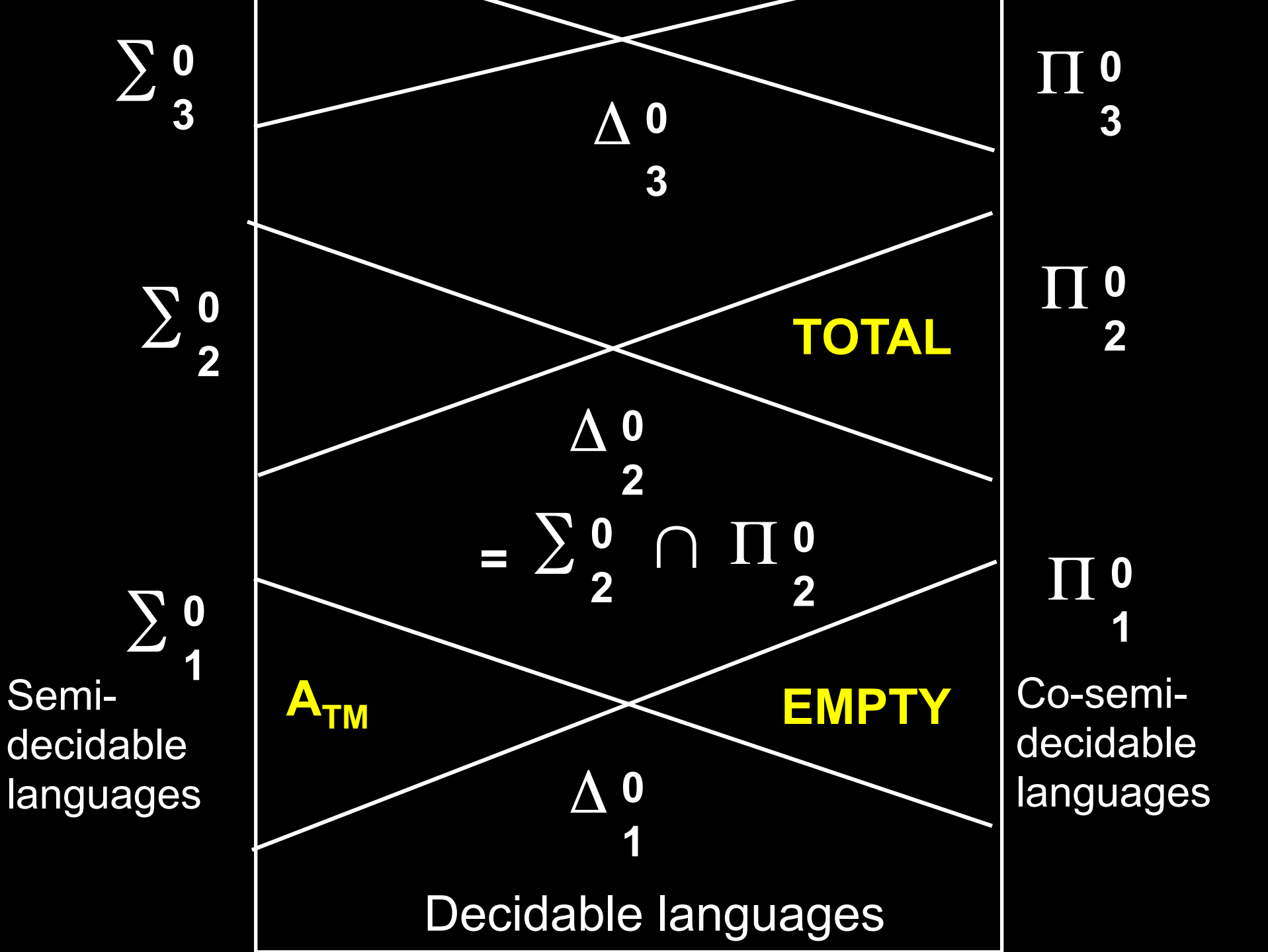
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**TOTAL** =  $\{ M \mid \forall w \exists t [ \underline{T(\langle M \rangle, w, t)} ] \}$

**decidable predicate**





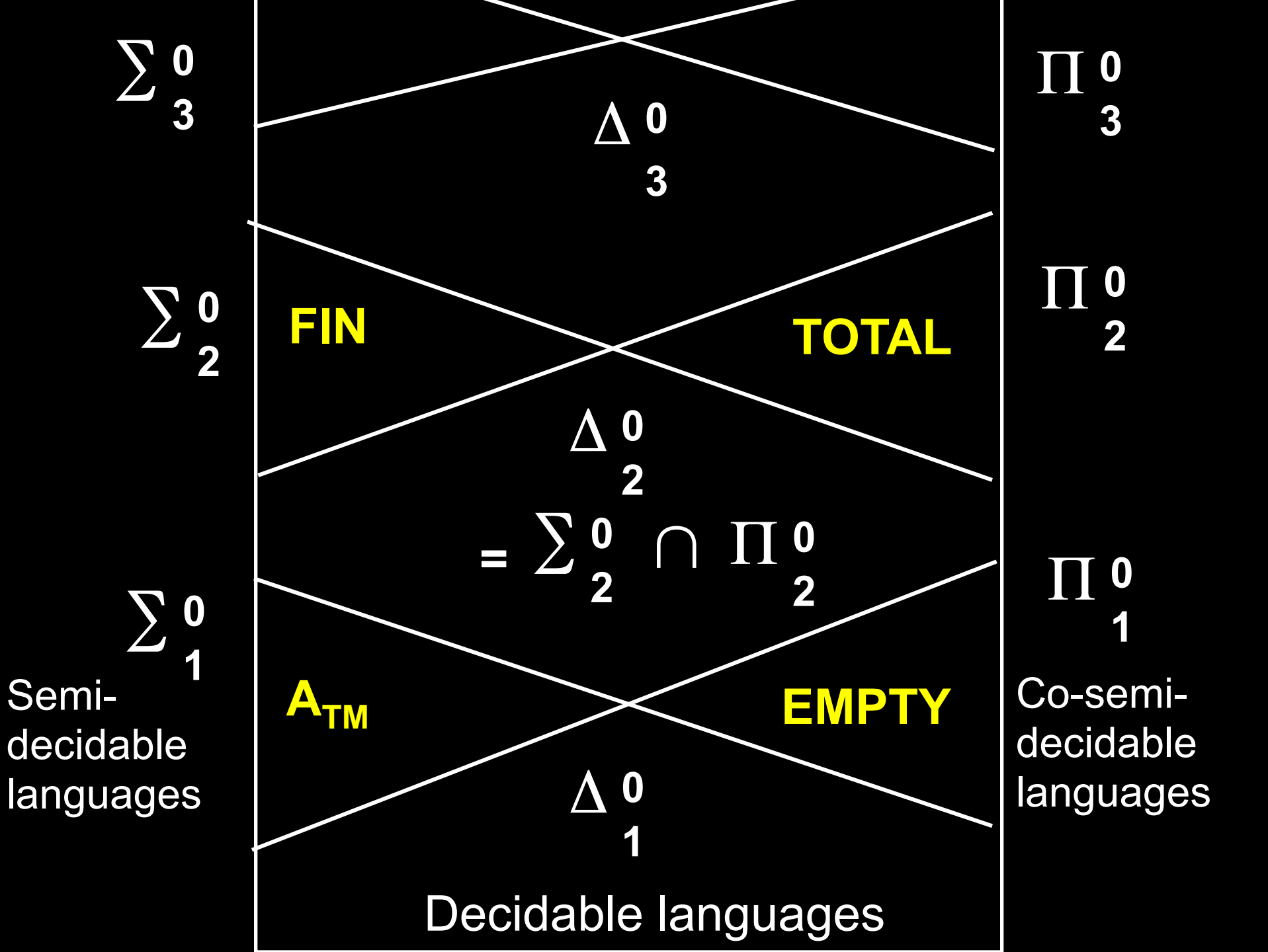
$\Sigma_2^0$  = languages of the form  $\{ x \mid \exists y \forall z R(x,y,z) \}$

Show that  $FIN = \{ M \mid L(M) \text{ is finite} \}$  is in  $\Sigma_2^0$

$FIN = \{ M \mid \exists n \forall w \forall t [ \text{Either } |w| < n, \text{ or } M \text{ doesn't accept } w \text{ in } t \text{ steps} ] \}$

$FIN = \{ M \mid \exists n \forall w \forall t ( |w| < n \vee \neg T(\langle M \rangle, w, t) ) \}$

  
decidable predicate



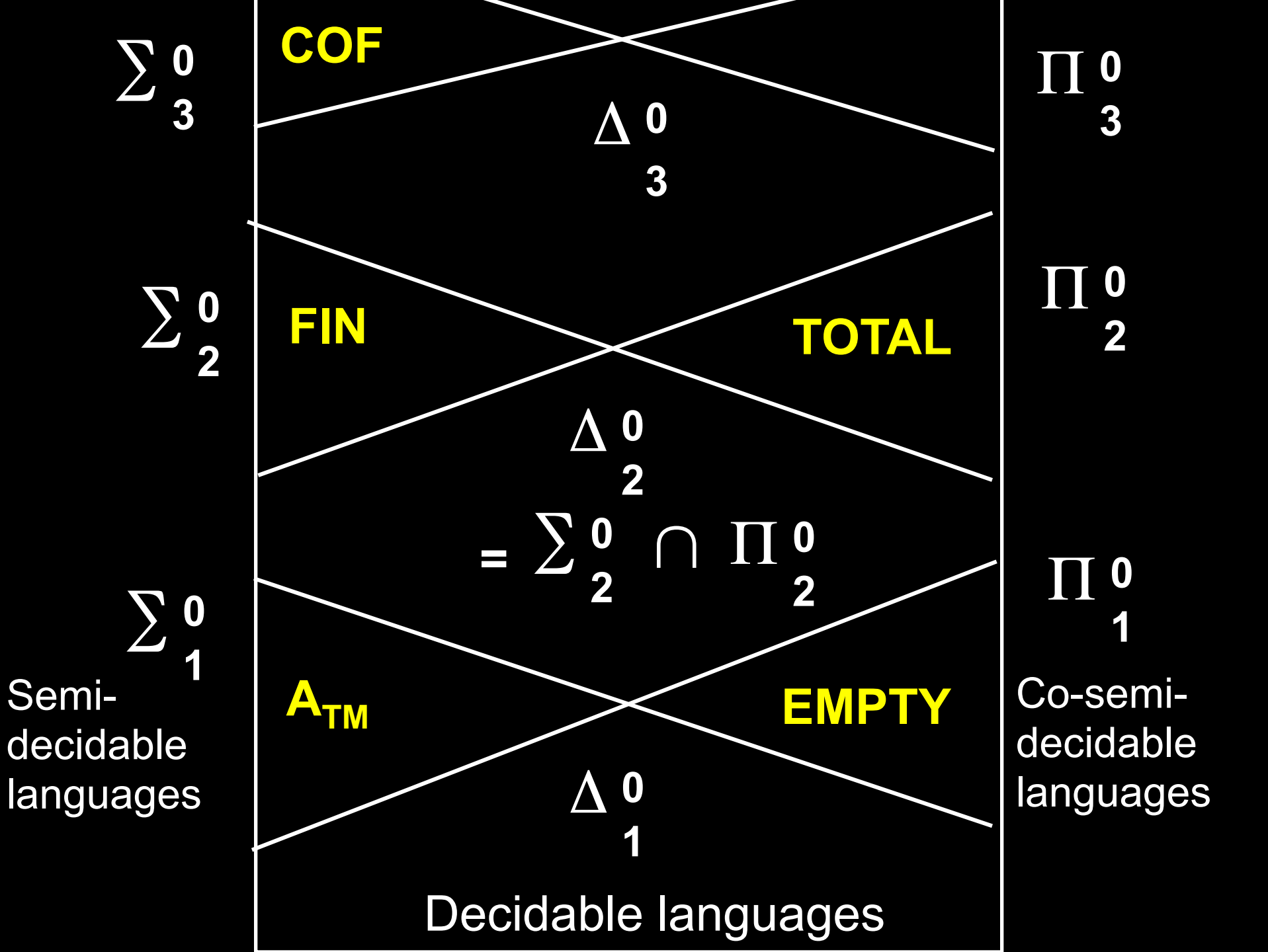
$\Sigma_3^0$  = languages of the form  $\{ x \mid \exists y \forall z \exists u R(x,y,z,u) \}$

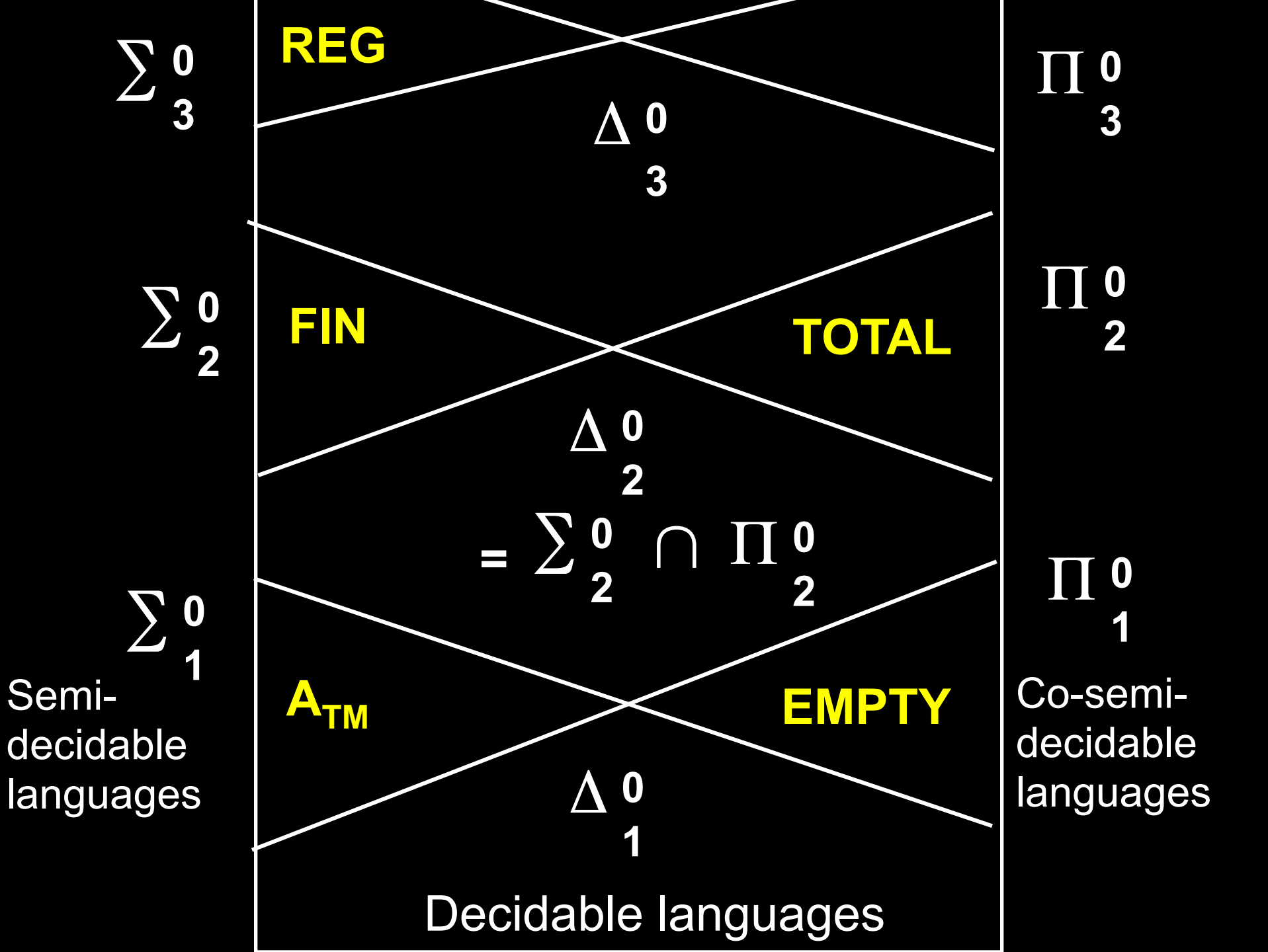
Show that  $\text{COF} = \{ M \mid L(M) \text{ is cofinite} \}$  is in  $\Sigma_2^0$

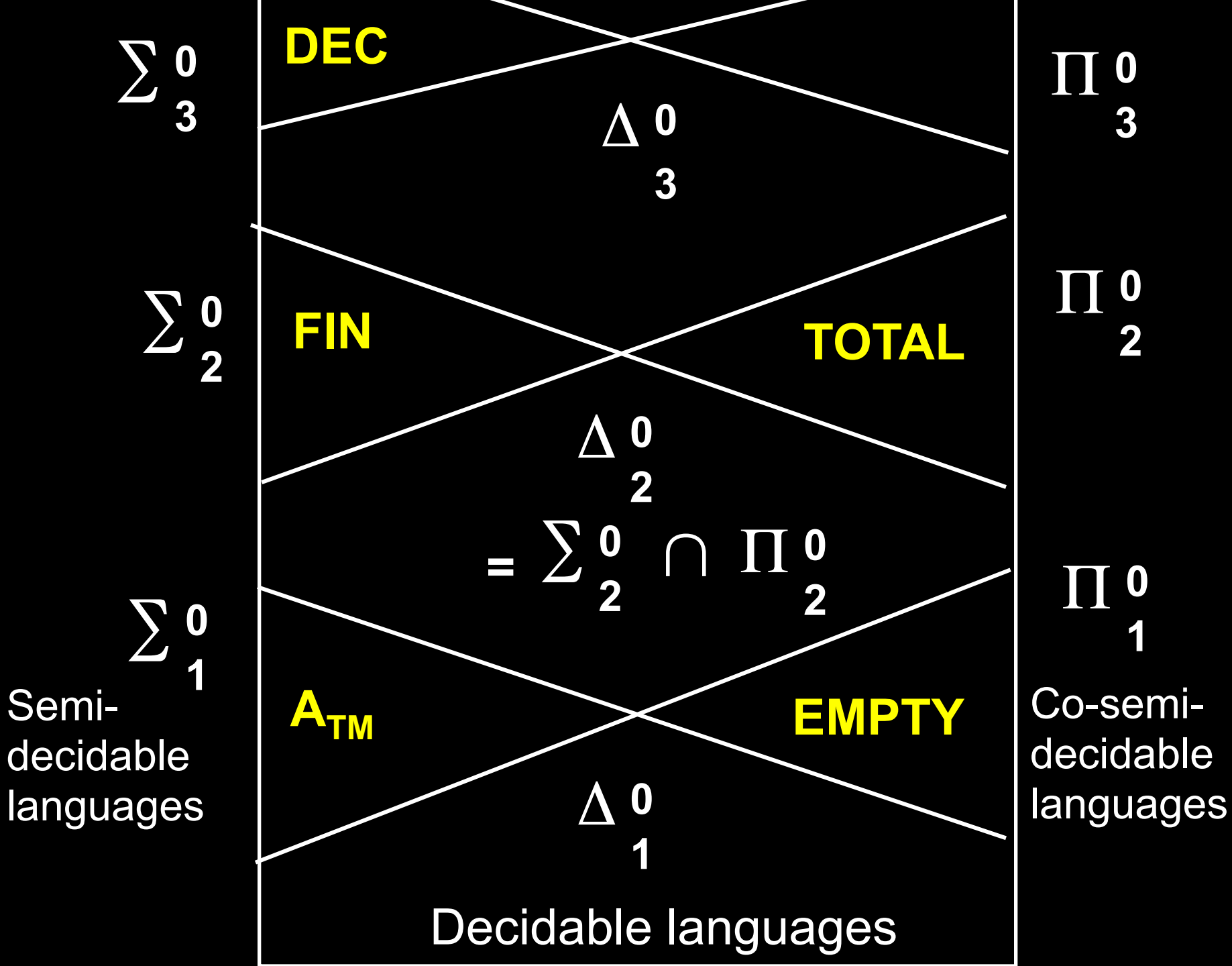
$\text{COF} = \{ M \mid \exists n \forall w \exists t [ |w| > n \Rightarrow M \text{ accept } w \text{ in } t \text{ steps} ] \}$

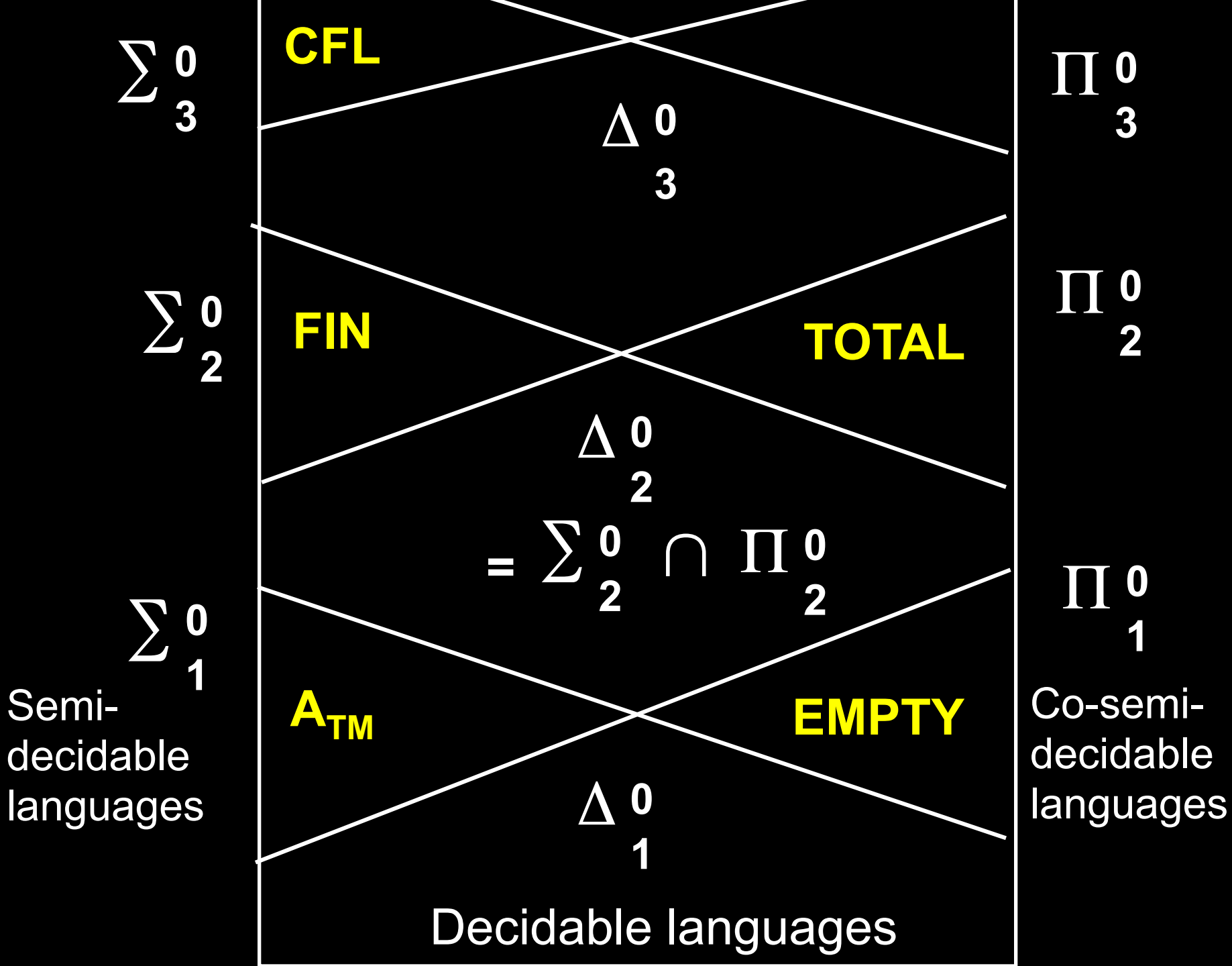
$\text{COF} = \{ M \mid \exists n \forall w \exists t ( |w| \leq n \vee T(\langle M \rangle, w, t) ) \}$

  
decidable predicate









Each is m-complete for its level in hierarchy and cannot go lower (by next Theorem, which shows the hierarchy does not collapse).

**L** is m-complete for class **C** if

- i) **L**  $\in$  **C** and
- ii) **L** is m-hard for **C**,

ie, for all **L'**  $\in$  **C** , **L'**  $\leq_m$  **L**



$A_{TM}$  is **m-complete** for class  $C = \Sigma_1^0$

i)  $A_{TM} \in C$

ii)  $A_{TM}$  is **m-hard** for  $C$ ,

Suppose  $L \in C$ . Show:  $L \leq_m A_{TM}$

Let  $M$  semi-decide  $L$ . Then Map  
 $\Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$

where  $w \rightarrow (M, w)$ .

Then,  $w \in L \Leftrightarrow (M, w) \in A_{TM}$  QED

**FIN** is **m-complete** for class  $\mathbf{C} = \Sigma_2^0$

i) **FIN**  $\in \mathbf{C}$

ii) **FIN** is **m-hard** for  $\mathbf{C}$ ,

Suppose  $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbf{C}$ . Show:  $\mathbf{L} \leq_m \mathbf{FIN}$

Suppose  $\mathbf{L} = \{ w \mid \exists y \forall z \mathbf{R}(w, y, z) \}$   
where  $\mathbf{R}$  is decided by some TM  $\mathbf{D}$

Map  $\Sigma^*$   $\rightarrow$   $\Sigma^*$   
where  $w \rightarrow \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{D}, w}$

Suppose  $L \in \Sigma_2^0$  i.e.  $L = \{ w \mid \exists y \forall z R(w, y, z) \}$   
where  $R$  is decided by some TM  $D$

Show:  $L \leq_m \text{FIN}$

Map  $\Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$   
where  $w \rightarrow N_{D,w}$

Define  $N_{D,w}$  On input  $s$ :

1. Write down all strings  $y$  of length  $|s|$
2. For each  $y$ , try to find a  $z$  such that  
 $\neg R(w, y, z)$  and accept if all are successful  
(here use  $D$  and  $w$ )

So,  $w \in L \Leftrightarrow N_{D,w} \in \text{FIN}$

# ORACLES not all powerful

The following problem cannot be decided, even by a TM with an oracle for the Halting Problem:

**SUPERHALT = { (M,x) | M, with an oracle for the Halting Problem, halts on x }**

Can use diagonalization here!

Suppose H decides SUPERHALT (with oracle)

Define **D(X) = “if H(X,X) accepts (with oracle) then LOOP, else ACCEPT.”**

**D(D) halts  $\Leftrightarrow$  H(D,D) accepts  $\Leftrightarrow$  D(D) loops...**

# ORACLES not all powerful

**Theorem:** The arithmetic hierarchy is strict.  
That is, the  $n$ th level contains a language that isn't in any of the levels below  $n$ .

**Proof IDEA:** Same idea as the previous slide.

**SUPERHALT<sup>0</sup> = HALT = { (M,x) | M halts on x }.**

**SUPERHALT<sup>1</sup> = { (M,x) | M, with an oracle for the Halting Problem, halts on x }**

**SUPERHALT<sup>n</sup> = { (M,x) | M, with an oracle for SUPERHALT<sup>n-1</sup>, halts on x }**

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**Read Chapter 6.4 for next time**