

1. (20 points) Use the pumping lemma to prove that each language listed below is not regular. For each language, I state Σ the input alphabet.

(a) $A_1 = \{w \mid \text{the number of zeros in } w \text{ is less than the number of ones}\}$. $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

For example, 1, 011, and 10100111 are in this language but 0 and 100 are not.

Solution:

Let p be a proposed pumping lemma constant, and let $w = 0^p 1^{p+1} \in A_1$. For any $xyz = w$ with $1 \leq |y| \leq |xy| \leq p$, $y \in 0^+$. Therefore, $xy^2z = 0^{p+|y|} 1^{p+1}$ has at least as many 0s as 1s, and therefore is not in A_1 . It follows by the pumping lemma that A_1 is not regular.

(b) $A_2 = 1^{2^n}$. $\Sigma = \{1\}$.

For example, 1, 11 and 11111111 are in this language but 111 is not.

Solution:

Let p be a proposed pumping lemma constant, and let $w = 1^{2^p} \in A_2$. For any $xyz = w$ with $|xy| \leq p < 2^p$, $xy^2z = 1^{2^p+|y|}$ has length that is greater than 2^p and less than 2^{p+1} , i.e. $2^p < 2^p + |y| < 2^{p+1}$, which holds since $1 \leq |y| \leq p < 2^p$. It follows by the pumping lemma that A_2 is not regular.

2. (20 points) Let

$$\Sigma_3 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \dots, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Σ_3 contains all size 3 columns of 0s and 1s. A string of symbols in Σ_3 gives three rows of 0s and 1s. Consider each row to be a binary number with the most significant bit first. For example, let

$$w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The first row of w is the binary representation of 7, the second row corresponds to 5, and the third row corresponds to 12.

Let

$$B_+ = \{w \in \Sigma_3^* \mid \text{the bottom row of } w \text{ is the sum of the top two rows}\}.$$

Show that B is regular.

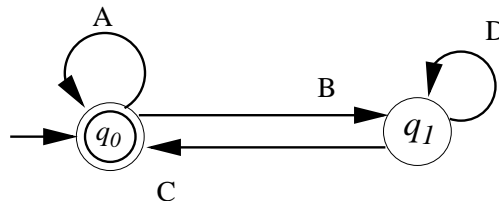


Figure 1: DFA for problem 3

Solution 1: I'll first present a NFA that recognize the reverse of B_+ , B_+^R . Figure 1 shows the NFA with

$$A = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

$$B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

$$C = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

$$D = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

This NFA basically checks the pencil-and-paper method for addition starting from the least-significant bit and working to the most significant bit. The machine is in state q_0 when the previous bit did not generate a carry, and state q_1 when the previous bit does generate a carry. For example, the symbol $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is in A

because $0 + 0 = 0$ with no carry in or carry out. Likewise, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is in A because $1 + 1$ produces a sum of 0 and a carry to the next bit of 1 when the carry in is 0. The symbols for which a state does not have an outgoing edge correspond to errors, which the NFA rejects.

The language B_+^R is regular because the NFA presented above recognizes it. As shown on homework 2, the regular languages are closed under reversal. Thus, B_+ is regular as well.

Solution 2: This time, we construct an NFA that processes the string from left-to-right. The approach is very similar to the right-to-left DFA; the only difference is that the states of the left-to-right DFA keep track of whether or not a carry is expected from the next less significant bit. In fact, the two machines are so similar, that we can use the same transition diagram with just a slight change to the labels.

The NFA shown in Figure 1 recognizes B_+ with labels A and D as before, and exchanging the definitions of sets B and C :

$$B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

$$C = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

3. (20 points) Let Σ_3 be defined as in question 2. Let

$$B_\times = \{w \in \Sigma_3^* \mid \text{the bottom row of } w \text{ is the product of the top two rows}\}.$$

Show that B is not regular.

Solution:

Let p be a proposed pumping lemma constant, and let

$$w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}^{p-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}^p.$$

This is a member of B_\times , because the first two rows correspond to integers 2^p , and $2^p \times 2^p = 2^{2p}$ which is an interger corresponding to the last row. For any $xyz = w$ with $|xy| \leq p$, xy^2z leaves the value of the first two rows unchanged, but changes the value of the last row, i.e. the last row represents some integer that is not 2^{2p} . Therefore $xy^2z \notin B_\times$ and B_\times is not regular by the pumping lemma.

4. (20 points) Consider the two languages described below:

$$C_1 = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid \exists x, y \in \Sigma^*. (w = xy) \wedge \#a(x) = \#b(y)\}$$

$$C_2 = \{w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \mid \exists x, y \in \Sigma^*. (w = x \cdot c \cdot y) \wedge \#a(x) = \#b(y)\}$$

One of these languages is regular and the other is not. Determine which is which and give short proofs for your conclusions.

Solution:

C_1 is regular, and has the regular expression Σ^* , where Σ is the alphabet. We prove that all strings are in C_1 by induction:

Base case: $s = \epsilon$ Let $x = y = \epsilon$. Then $xy = \epsilon\epsilon = \epsilon = s$ and $\#a(x) = \#b(y) = 0$.

Induction step: $s = w \cdot c$ By the induction hypothesis, $w \in C_1$; thus we can find strings x and y with $xy = w$ and $\#a(x) = \#b(y)$. If $c \neq b$, then let $y' = yc$ and let $x' = x$. Then $w \cdot c = x'y'$ and

$$\#a(x') = \#a(x) = \#b(y) = \#b(y')$$

Thus, $s = w \cdot c \in C_1$ as required.

If $c = b$ and $y = \epsilon$, then $\#a(x) = \#b(y) = 0$. Choosing $x' = w \cdot c$ and $y' = \epsilon$ satisfies $w \cdot c = x'y'$ and

$$\#a(x') = \#a(x) = 0 = \#b(y) = \#b(y')$$

Thus, $s = w \cdot c \in C_1$ as required

If $c = b$ and $y \neq \epsilon$, let $y = d \cdot v$ for $d \in \Sigma$ and $v \in \Sigma^*$. If $d = a$, choose $x' = x \cdot a$ and $y' = v \cdot b$. We have $w \cdot c = x'y'$ and

$$\#a(x') = \#a(x) + 1 = \#b(y) + 1 = \#b(y')$$

Thus, $s = w \cdot c \in C_1$ as required.

If $d = b$, choose $x' = x \cdot b$ and $y' = v \cdot b$. We have $w \cdot c = x'y'$ and

$$\#a(x') = \#a(x) = \#b(y) = \#b(y')$$

Again, $s = w \cdot c \in C_1$ as required.

C_2 is not regular.

Let p be a proposed pumping lemma constant, and let $w = a^p c b^p \in C_2$. For any $xyz = w$ with $|xy| \leq p$ and $|y| \geq 1$, $xy^0z = a^{p-|y|} c b^p$ has fewer a's than b's (and contains only one c), and therefore is not in C_2 . It follows by the pumping lemma that C_2 is not regular.

5. (30 points, from Sipser, problem 2.6)

Give context free grammars generating the following languages:

(a) (10 points) $\{w \mid \exists n \geq 0. (w = a^n b^{2n}) \vee (w = a^{3n} b^n)\}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow T_{2b} \mid T_{3a} \\ T_{2b} &\rightarrow aT_1bb \\ T_{3a} &\rightarrow aaaT_2b \end{aligned}$$

(b) (10 points) The complement of $\{w \mid \exists n \geq 0. w = a^n b^n\}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &\rightarrow T_a \mid T_b \mid T_{ba} \\
 T_a &\rightarrow aT_0 \mid aT_a \\
 T_b &\rightarrow T_0b \mid T_b b \\
 T_0 &\rightarrow aT_0b \mid \epsilon \\
 T_{ba} &\rightarrow T_x b a T_x \\
 T_x &\rightarrow aT_x \mid bT_x \mid \epsilon
 \end{aligned}$$

Here's how it works. In the first step, the derivation "chooses" whether it will generate a string with more a's than b's (that's what T_a generates), a string with more b's than a's (that's what T_b generates), or a string that has a b before an a (that's what T_{ba} does).

Variable T_0 generates strings of the form $a^n b^n$. Variable T_a generates strings that have one or more a's preceding a string generated by T_0 ; in other words, these are strings of the form $a^n b^m$ with $n > m$. Likewise, T_b generates strings of the form $a^n b^m$ with $n < m$. Variable T_x generates any string in Σ^* (assuming $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$), and T_{ba} uses T_x to generate all strings in $\Sigma^* b a \Sigma^*$.

- (c) (10 points) $\{x_1 c x_2 c \cdots x_k \mid \text{each } x_i \in \{a, b\}^*, \text{ and for some } i \text{ and } j, x_i = x_j^R\}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &\rightarrow LMR \\
 M &\rightarrow aMa \mid bMb \mid cL \\
 L &\rightarrow T_x c L \mid \epsilon \\
 R &\rightarrow R c T_x \mid \epsilon \\
 T_x &\rightarrow aT_x \mid bT_x \mid \epsilon
 \end{aligned}$$

A derivation creates a "left part" (L), a "middle part" (M) and a "right part" (R). The middle part generates strings of the form $x_i c x_{i+1} c \cdots c x_i^R$, and the left and right parts generate the rest of the string.

In particular, L generates strings of the form $((a \cup b)^* c)^*$, and R generates strings of the form $(c(a \cup b)^*)^*$. Note that an equivalent regular expression for L is $(\Sigma^* c)^*$. Thus, cL generates $c(\Sigma^* c)^*$ which matches the string between x_i and x_j : $c x_{i+1} c x_{i+1} c \cdots c$.

For parts (a) and (b), the alphabet is $\{a, b\}$. For part (c), the alphabet is $\{a, b, c\}$.

6. (20 points, Extra Credit) Consider the language below from the September 22 lecture notes:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Sigma &= \{a, b, c\} \\
 A &= (aa^*c)^n (bb^*c)^n \cup \Sigma^* c c \Sigma^*
 \end{aligned}$$

- (a) (10 points) Prove that A satisfies the conditions of the pumping lemma as stated in Sipser or the September 22 notes. In other words, show that you can find a constant $p > 0$ such that for any string $w \in A$ with $|w| > p$, you can find strings x, y and z such that $w = xyz$ and $xy^i z \in A$ for any $i \geq 0$.

Solution: Let $p = 3$, and let $w \in A$ with $|w| \geq p$. We consider five cases according to the first few symbols of w :

$$w = aa^u \text{ for some } u \in \Sigma^*:$$

Let $x = \epsilon, y = a$ and $z = au$. Thus, $xy^i z = a^{i+1}u$. If $w \in (aa^*c)^n (bb^*c)^n$ then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 u &\in (a^*c)(aa^*c)^{n-1}(bb^*c)^n \\
 \Rightarrow a^{i+1}u &\in (aa^*c)(aa^*c)^{n-1}(bb^*c)^n \\
 &= (aa^*c)^n (bb^*c)^n \\
 &\subseteq A
 \end{aligned}$$

Likewise, if $w \in \Sigma^* c c \Sigma^*$, then u and $a^{i+1}u$ are as well. In all cases, $xy^i z = a^{i+1}u \in A$ as required.

$w = acaau$ for some $u \in \Sigma^*$:

Let $x = ac$, $y = a$ and $z = au$. Then, $xy^iz \in A$ by arguments similar to those for the previous case.

$w = acacu$ for some $u \in \Sigma^*$:

Let $x = ac$, $y = a$ and $z = ac$. If $i > 0$, then $xy^iz \in A$ by arguments similar to those for the previous cases. Otherwise, $i = 0$, and

$$xy^iz = accu \in \Sigma^*cc\Sigma^{x*} \subseteq A$$

as required.

$w = acbu$ for some $u \in \Sigma^*$:

Let $x = ac$, $y = b$ and $z = u$. Then, we can show that $xy^iz \in A$ by considering whether w was in $(aa^*c)^n(bb^*c)^n$ or $\Sigma^*cc\Sigma^*$, and in the first case whether the first symbol of u is a b or c .

w does not start with aa , $acaa$, aca , or acb : Then, $w \notin (aa^*c)^n(bb^*c)^n$ which means that $w \in \Sigma^*cc\Sigma^*$. Let $x = \epsilon$, $y = a$, and $z = cu$.

$$xy^iz \in \Sigma^*cc\Sigma^{x*} \subseteq A$$

as required.

Thus, for any string w with $|w| > 3$, we can find string x , y and z that satisfy the conditions of the pumping lemma.

Prove that A is not regular.

Solution 1: Assume that A is recognized by DFA D with p states. There are $p + 1$ different strings of the form $(ac)^i$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, p, p + 1$. By the pigeon-hole principle, there exists r and q with $1 \leq r < q \leq p + 1$ such that D is in the same state after processing either of strings $(ac)^r$ and $(ac)^q$. However, this implies that D ends in the same state q on both of inputs $(ac)^r(ac)^r \in A$ and $(ac)^q(ac)^r \notin A$. This is a contradiction if q is an accepting state or if q is not an accepting state, therefore A is not regular.

Solution 2: Let

$$\begin{aligned} B &= (ac)^*(bc)^* \\ C &= A \cap B \\ &= (ac)^n(bc)^n \end{aligned}$$

We use the pumping lemma to show that C is not regular. Because B is regular and the regular languages are closed under intersection, this will show that A is not regular either.

Let p be a proposed pumping constant for C , and let $w = (ac)^p(bc)^p \in C$. Let x , y and z be any three strings such that $w = xyz$, $|xy| \leq p$ and $|y| \geq 1$. Note that xy must be a prefix of $(ac)^p$ because $|xy| \leq p < |(ac)^p| = 2p$. Thus, $xy^2z = u(bc)^p$ where $u \neq (ac)^n$, which shows that $xy^2z \notin C$. Therefore, C is not regular which shows that A cannot be regular either.