BU CS 332 – Theory of Computation

Lecture 8:

Test 1 Review

Mark Bun

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Test 1 Topics

Sets, Strings, Languages (0)

- Know the definition of a string and of a language (and the difference between them)
- Understand operations on strings: Concatenation, reverse
- Understand operations on languages: Union, intersection, concatenation, reverse, star, complement
- Know the difference between $\emptyset$ and ε

Deterministic FAs (1.1)

- Given an English or formal description of a language L, draw the state diagram of a DFA recognizing L (and vice versa)
- Know the formal definition of a DFA (A DFA is a 5 tuple…) and convert between state diagram and formal description
- Know the formal definition of how a DFA computes
- Construction for closure of regular languages under complement

Nondeterministic FAs (1.2)

- Given an English or formal description of a language L, draw the state diagram of an NFA recognizing L (and vice versa)
- Know the formal definition of an NFA
- Know the power set construction for converting an NFA to a DFA
- Proving closure properties: Know the constructions for union, concatenation, star
- Know how to prove your own closure properties

Regular Expressions (1.3)

- Given an English or formal description of a language L, construct a regex generating L (and vice versa)
- Formal definition of a regex
- Know how to convert a regex to an NFA
- Know how to convert a DFA/NFA to a regex

Non-regular Languages (Myhill-Nerode Note)

- Understand the statements of the distinguishing set method for proving DFA size lower bounds / non-regularity
- Understand the proof of why the distinguishing set method works, and be able to use it to prove similar statements
- Know how to apply the method to specific languages
- Know how to show languages are non-regular by combining distinguishing set method with closure properties

Test format

Half in-class (Thursday 9/30)

- "Check your type checker"

  E.g., Is aabba a string, language, or a regex?

  How about {ab} U {aab}?

- True/false with **justification**

  Either provide a convincing explanation or a specific counterexample

- Homework-style problems

Half take-home (due Tuesday, 10/5 11:59PM)

- More homework-style problems

Test tips

- You may cite without proof any result…
  - Stated in lecture
  - Stated and proved in the main body of the text (Ch. 0-1.4)
  - These include worked-out examples of state diagrams, regexes
- Not included above: homework problems, discussion problems, (solved) exercises/problems in the text

- Showing your work / explaining your answers will help us give you partial credit
- Make sure you're interpreting quantifiers (for all / there exists) correctly and in the correct order

Practice Problems

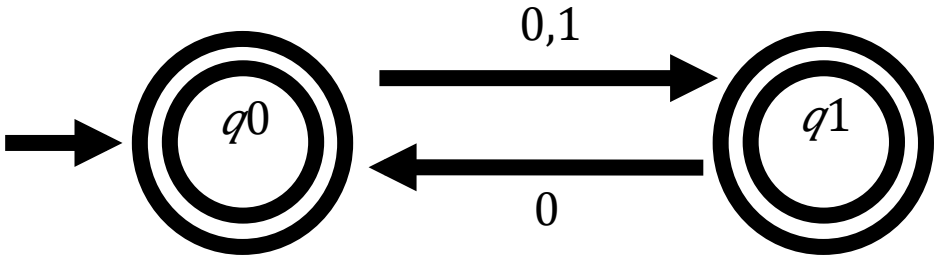
Name six operations under which the regular languages are closed

Prove or disprove: All finite languages are regular

Prove or disprove: The **non-**regular languages are closed under union

Give the state diagram of an NFA recognizing the language (01 U 10)*

Give an equivalent regular expression for the following NFA



Is the following language regular?
$\{a^n a^n \mid n \geq 0\}$

Is the following language regular?
$\{0^n1^n \mid 0 \leq n \leq 2021\}$

How many states does a DFA recognizing $\{0^n1^n \mid 0 \leq n \leq 2021\}$ require?