

Minor Exam

● Graded

Student

Abhinav Shripad

Total Points

48 / 50 pts

Question 1

Q1

6 / 6 pts

✓ + 4 pts Correct construction

✓ + 2 pts Justification or proof of equivalence of construction

+ 0 pts Incorrect

Question 2

Q2

■ 5 / 6 pts

✓ + 3.5 pts Mentioning that M accepts Σ^*

+ 1.5 pts Claiming that since δ is a total function, running any non-empty string s on M will lead to some state $q \in Q$
(Note that δ being a total function is important, else one cant really define the state reached after reading a string s .)

✓ + 1 pt Since any state is an accepting state, hence, any string s will be accepted.

+ 0 pts Totally Incorrect / Not Attempted

💬 + 0.5 pts Note that δ being a total function is important, else one cant really define the state reached after reading a string s .

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Should mention this exists since δ is total function

Question 3

Q3

13 / 14 pts

3.1

Q3. a)

3 / 4 pts

+ 4 pts Correct NFA

✓ + 3 pts Almost Correct, with very minor mistake

+ 0 pts Totally Incorrect / Not Attempted

Good Solution

2

Another reason for the contradiction can be that there is no r present in w . That case should be handled too.

3.2

Q3. b)

4 / 4 pts

✓ + 4 pts Correct NFA

+ 3 pts Almost correct, with very minor mistakes

+ 0 pts Totally Incorrect / Not Attempted

3.3

Q3. c)

6 / 6 pts

✓ + 6 pts Proved that Regex corresponds to Σ^* and hence, the DFA / NFA consist of just a single state (implying it is minimised)

+ 4.5 pts Correct equivalent DFA

- 2.5 pts Not showing any steps for making the equivalent DFA

+ 1.5 pts Correct Minimised DFA (will consist of just a single state)

+ 0 pts No marks if NFA in previous part was incorrect

+ 0 pts Totally Incorrect / Not Attempted

Question 4

Q4

14 / 14 pts

4.1

Q4. a)

8 / 8 pts

✓ + 8 pts Correct CFG

+ 0 pts incorrect

4.2

Q4. b)

6 / 6 pts

✓ + 1 pt Correct base case

✓ + 2 pts Correct Induction hypothesis

✓ + 3 pts Correct proof of Induction step

+ 0 pts Incorrect

Question 5

Q5

10 / 10 pts

5.1

Q5. a)

4 / 4 pts

+ 0 pts Incorrect

✓ + 2 pts Consider a k . Consider a string of the form $a^k b a^{k!+k}$, where $x = \epsilon$, $y = a^k$, and $z = b a^{k!+k}$.

✓ + 1 pt Given $u = a^p$, $v = a^q$, $w = a^r$ such that $uvw = a^k$ and $q \neq 0$.

✓ + 1 pt Need i such that $xuv^i w z$ is not a palindrome.

$$xuv^i w z = a^{p+qi+r} . b . a^{k!+k}.$$

$$p + q + r = k \text{ and } p + qi + r = k! + k$$

So $k + (i - 1)q = k! + k$, i.e. $(i - 1)q = k!$. Choose i to be $1 + (k!)/q$ (which must be an integer because $1 \leq q \leq k$, and so q divides $k!$).

5.2

Q5. b)

6 / 6 pts

+ 0 pts Incorrect

✓ + 2 pts PDA has two states and accepts by empty stack. First state: loop for the "first" part of palindrome, push down onto stack

✓ + 2 pts Guess and make a transition on ϵ , 0 and 1 without disturbing stack

✓ + 2 pts Move to second state: loop for the "later" part of the palindrome, pop off the stack as long as input letter matches the top of the stack

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Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

COL352: Introduction to Automata & Theory of Computation

MID-TERM EXAM

DATE: Tuesday the 25th of February 2025

DURATION: 2 hours

MAXIMUM MARKS: 50

Q1 (6)	Q2 (6)	Q3 (14)	Q4 (14)	Q5 (10)	Total (50)

Instructions: Write your name and entry number on each sheet (rough sheet also). Answer **only** in the given boxes. You can use the last sheet or ask for at most one rough sheet to work stuff out on before writing a clean solution here. If needed, make and state reasonable assumptions.

Attestation: I agree to abide by the Honour Code of IIT Delhi.

Signature: Abhinav

Q1. (6 marks) Define a 1NFA, which is an NFA with one initial state. A 1NFA is given by $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$, where Q is the set of states, $\Delta \subseteq (Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}) \times Q)$, $q_0 \in Q$ is the initial state, and F is the set of final states. A string $w \in \Sigma^*$ is accepted by M iff there is some path (according to the transitions in Δ) on w from q_0 to some $f \in F$ in M . Show that every NFA has an equivalent 1NFA.

Consider a generalized NFA $= (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, Q_0, F)$
 , create a equivalent 1NFA $= (Q \cup q_0, \Sigma, \Delta', q_0, F)$
 where $\Delta' = \Delta \cup \{ (q_0, \epsilon, q) \mid q \in Q_0 \}$.

Claim:- Language accepted by NFA is same as that accepted by 1NFA.

Consider arbitrary $w \in \Sigma^*$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta'(\{q_0\}, w) &= \Delta'(\{q_0\}, \epsilon \cdot w) \\ &= \Delta'(\Delta(q_0, \epsilon), w) \\ &= \Delta'(Q_0, w) = \Delta^0(Q_0, w) \end{aligned}$$

so states w end up in 1NFA is same as the states it end up in the NFA. Since set of accepting state is same, we have

$$\begin{aligned} w \in L(\text{NFA}) &\Leftrightarrow \Delta(Q_0, w) \cap F \neq \emptyset \\ &\Leftrightarrow \Delta'(q_0, w) \cap F \neq \emptyset \\ &\Leftrightarrow w \in L(\text{1NFA}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow L(\text{NFA}) = L(\text{1NFA})$$

Q2. (6 marks) A DFA is given by $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$, where Q is the set of states, δ is a total function from $Q \times \Sigma$ to Q , $q_0 \in Q$ is the initial state, and F is the set of final states. Consider a DFA M where $F = Q$. What language does M accept? Prove your answer formally.

$$L(M) = \Sigma^*$$

Since M is a DFA, $\forall w \in \Sigma^*$ has a valid run

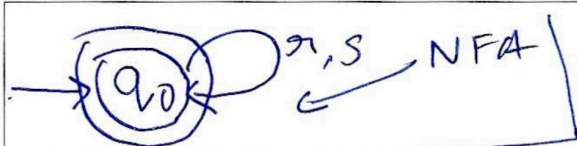
on it, thus

$$\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in Q = F \Rightarrow \hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F \quad \forall w$$

Since w was arbitrary $L(M) = \Sigma^*$

Q3. (14 marks) Consider the language L over $\Sigma = \{r, s\}$ described by $(r+s)^*rs(r+s)^* + s^*r^*$.

(a) (4 marks) Convert the regular expression into an NFA which accepts L .

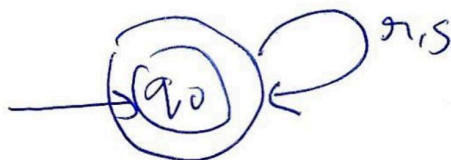


Claim: $L = \Sigma^*$
 Let $L_1 = (r+s)^*rs(r+s)^*$
 $L_2 = s^*r^*$


Claim: $L_1 = L_2$, consider $w \in L_1$. In w consider the first occurrence of "r". Now consider first "s" after this "r", This means it has a "s" followed by "r".

Continued on soln to Q3 (c)


(b) (4 marks) Draw an NFA recognizing L which has a single initial state and does not have any ϵ -transitions.



(c) (6 marks) Use the subset construction and obtain a DFA equivalent to the NFA in Q3.b. Minimize this DFA. Show all steps clearly.

Since NFA \Rightarrow 

It doesn't change in subset construction

DFA = 

It is clearly the minimum DFA.

Q3(a) continuation

$\Rightarrow w$ has 'rs' as substring $\Rightarrow w \in L_1$ as

$L_1 = \Sigma^* r s \Sigma^*$ contradiction.

\Rightarrow No 's' in w after the first 'r'.

\Rightarrow All 's' in w is before the first 'r'.

$\Rightarrow w = s^n r^m \Rightarrow \bar{L}_1 = s^* r^* = L_2$

Thus clearly $\bar{L}_1 = L_2 \Rightarrow L_1 + L_2 = \Sigma^*$

thus the NFA clearly accepts Σ^* .

Q4. (14 marks)

(a) (8 marks) Write a context-free grammar for the language $L \subseteq \{a, b\}^*$ defined as follows: $w \in L$ iff w contains an equal number of 'a's and 'b's, but does not contain the substring 'ab'. **Hint:** Construct a grammar with more than one non-terminal symbol.

Consider $G = (T = \{a, b\}, NT = \{S\}, R, S)$
 where $R = \{S \rightarrow \epsilon \mid bSa\}$

(b) (6 marks) Prove that this CFG generates L . Clearly state your induction hypothesis.

consider a $w \in L$. Consider the first occurrence of "a" in w . Now consider the first occurrence of "b" after this first "a". This would make a 'ab' substring.

\Rightarrow No "b" after first "a" \Rightarrow All "b" before first "a" $\Rightarrow w = b^m a^n$, since $\#b(w) = \#a(w)$
 $\Rightarrow m = n \Rightarrow L = \{b^n a^n \mid n \geq 0\}$.

Consider $w \in L(G)$ which is generated using n th step derivation. Since there is only 1 rule in G , it is

$S \xrightarrow{1} bSa \xrightarrow{2} bbSaa \rightarrow \dots \xrightarrow{n} b^n S a^n$
 $\downarrow n$
 $b^n \epsilon a^n$

$\Rightarrow w = b^n a^n \Rightarrow L \subseteq L(G)$

Now consider arbitrary $w \in L(G)$, ~~it is $b^n a^n$~~
 thus $w = b^n a^n$, clearly $w \in L$ as $\#b(w) = \#a(w)$
 and no 'ab' in w . $\Rightarrow L(G) \subseteq L$. Thus

$L(G) = L$.

Q5. (10 marks) Consider $L = \{w \mid w \text{ is a palindrome}\} \subseteq \{a, b\}^*$.

(a) (4 marks) Use the pumping lemma to show that $\bar{L} = \{w \mid w \text{ is not a palindrome}\} \subseteq \{a, b\}^*$ is not regular.

Adversary:- Choose $k \geq 0$

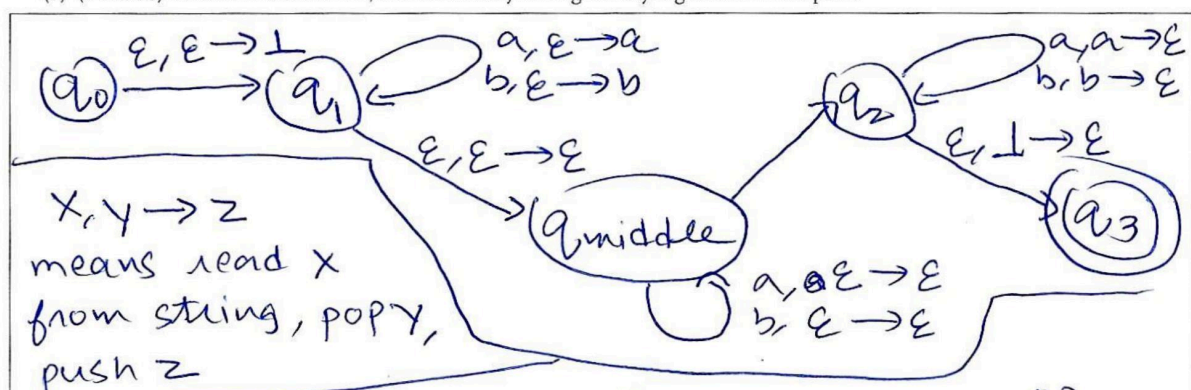
Me:- let $x = \epsilon$, $y = a^k$, $z = ba^{k+k!}$, clearly $xyz \in \bar{L}$

Adversary:- Choose $u = a^p$, $v = a^q$, $w = a^r$ where $p, q, r \geq 0$, and $p+q+r = k$, $q > 0$

Me:- ~~Choose~~ clearly $q \leq k$, choose $n = 1 + k!/q \in \mathbb{N}$ then $xu x^n w z = a^{k+k!} b a^{k+k!} \in \bar{L}$

I won the game. \bar{L} is not regular.

(b) (6 marks) Construct a PDA for L , and informally but rigorously argue that it accepts L .



Clearly $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in \Sigma^*\} \cup \{waw^R \mid w \in \Sigma^*\} \cup \{wbw^R \mid w \in \Sigma^*\}$

because all even length palindromes are of the form ww^R and all odd length are of the form waw^R or wbw^R . ww^R is accepted by M because

$(q_{\text{middle}}, S) \in \Delta(q_0, w, \epsilon)$ where $S = w^R$, $(q_3, \epsilon) \in \Delta(q_{\text{middle}}, w^R, w^R)$ because we pop exactly what we read thus $(q_3, \epsilon) \in \Delta(q_0, ww^R, \epsilon)$.

(We can argue for waw^R and wbw^R as the middle a, b is read and 'ignored' by q_{middle} .)

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This page will not be graded; do rough work here.