

# Automata Theory Quiz 1

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1. Since the language contains only finitely many strings, we can construct a regex for it simply by connecting all the strings by the '+' operator.  
More concretely, if  $L = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ , then we can let  $R = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k$ , which makes  $L(R) = L$ .  
This shows that  $L$  is regular.

2. Consider the NFAs for  $B$  and  $C$ . Let them be called  $N_B$  and  $N_C$ .

First, construct a new NFA  $N_C'$ , which accepts all strings that have the same number of 1s as some string  $y \in C$ . This can be done by:

- leaving 1-transitions unchanged
- leaving  $\epsilon$ -transitions unchanged
- adding  $\epsilon$  to 0-transitions.

Now, construct a new NFA  $N$ , with states labelled  $(q_i, q_j)$ , where  $q_i \in Q_B$  and  $q_j \in Q_C$ , and

$$\delta((q_i, q_j), a) = \delta_B(q_i, a) \cap \delta_C(q_j, a)$$

$$\delta((q_i, q_j), a) = \{ (q_i', q_j') \mid q_i' \in \delta_A(q_i, a), q_j' \in \delta_B(q_j, a) \}.$$

Effectively, a string passed to  $N$  will be accepted if it is accepted by both  $N_A$  and  $N_B$ . Clearly, the set of such strings is  $B \cap C = B \stackrel{+}{\leftarrow} C$ . Thus, we have constructed an NFA for  $B \stackrel{+}{\leftarrow} C$ , and it is therefore regular, QED.

3. First, we eliminate  $A \rightarrow B$ .

$$S \rightarrow AB \mid BB$$

$$A \rightarrow a \mid Bb$$

$$B \rightarrow Bb.$$

Next, we eliminate  $A \rightarrow Bb$  and  $B \rightarrow Bb$ .

$$S \rightarrow AB \mid BB$$

$$A \rightarrow a \mid BX$$

$$B \rightarrow BX$$

$$X \rightarrow B.$$

This is the grammar's CNF. It has no redundant rules. The no. of rules is 6.

4. Consider the string  $aacbc \in L(G)$ . It can be derived by the 2 following leftmost-rule derivations:

$$S \rightarrow aSbS$$

$$\rightarrow aaSbS$$

$$\rightarrow aacbS$$

$$\rightarrow aacbc$$

$$S \rightarrow aS$$

$$\rightarrow aaSbS$$

$$\rightarrow aacbS$$

$$\rightarrow aacbcc.$$

Thus, the grammar  $G$  is ambiguous.



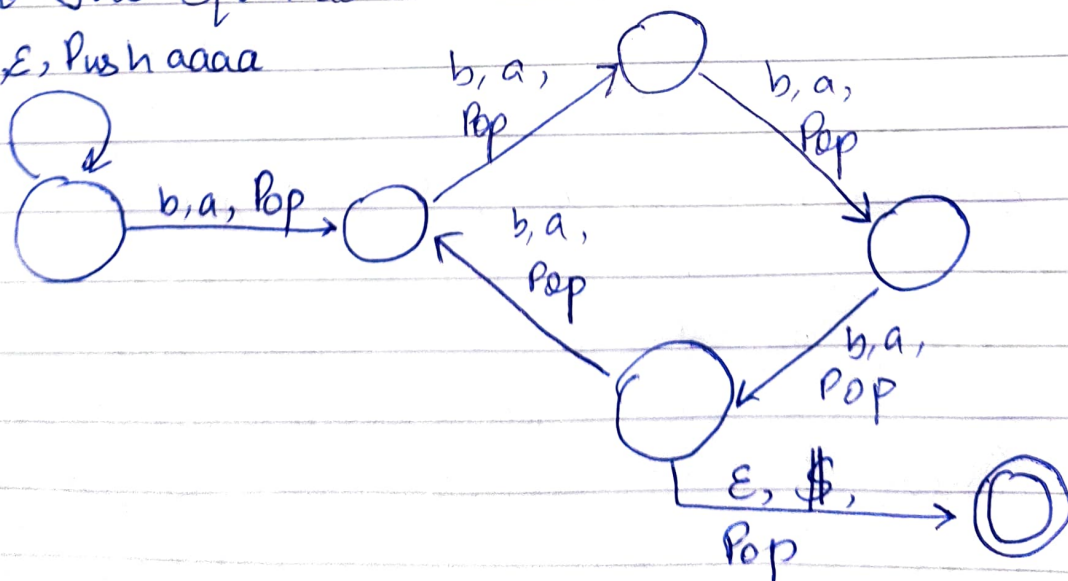
5.  $L = \{ w c w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^+ \}$  is a regular language.  
 Its equivalent regex is  $R = (a(a+b)(a+b)^*a) + (b(a+b)(a+b)^*b)$ .

This can be more concisely written as  
 $R = (a(a+b)^+a) + (b(a+b)^+b)$

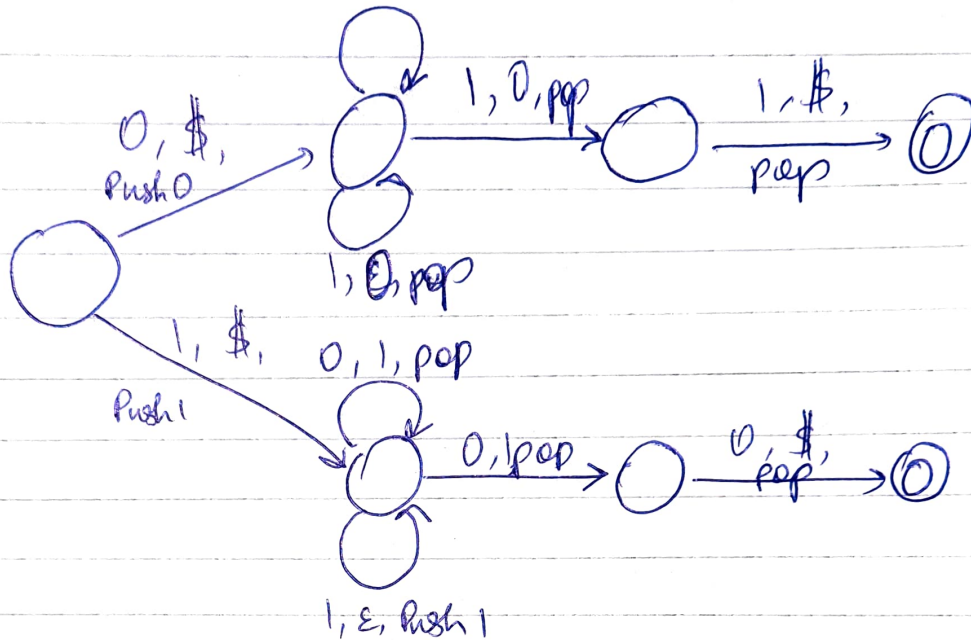
Clearly, all  $x \in L(R)$  also are in  $L$ , letting  $w = w^R = a$  or  $b$ , and  $c =$  the middle part.  
 Conversely, all  $x = w c w^R \in L$  are in  $L(R)$ , as they must have the same first & last characters ( $a$  or  $b$ ) and the middle part could be anything.

6. (i)  $S \rightarrow aSb \mid \epsilon$ .

(ii) The equivalent PDA is  
 $a, \epsilon, \text{Push } aaaa$



7. (i)  $L_1$  is context-free.  
PDA



(ii)  $L_2$  is context free.