Caio Brighenti COSC 304 - Computer Theory Fall 2019 Midterm Study Guide

1 Sets

Sets are collections of values of one type with no internal structure. Sets have no repeated items and order does not matter.

1.1 Set Operations

- Union $A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$
- Intersect $A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$
- Concatenation $AB = \{ab : a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$
- Cartesian Product $AxB = \{(a, b) : a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$
- Complement $A^c = \{x : x \notin A\}$
- Powerset $P(A) = \{A' : A' \subset A\}$

1.2 Finite and Infinite Sets

Set A is **finite** if it can be put in 1-to-1 correspondence with an initial segment of \mathbb{N} , or is the empty set \emptyset . More intuitively, a set is finite if we can list the elements of A in finite time.

Set A is **countably infinite** if it can be put in 1-to-1 correspondence with all of \mathbb{N} . Intuitively, a procedure can be devised to list all elements, but this procedure will never finish.

Set A is **uncountably infinite** if it is not countable.

1.3 Relations and Functions

A function can be defined as a binary operation between two sets that given an input in set A produces an output in set B. There are three types of functions:

- 1. Total function: $A \to B$ means for every input A there is exactly one output B
- 2. Partial function: $A \rightarrow B$ means for every input A there is at most one output B
- 3. Multi function: A B means for every input A there are 0, 1, or many outputs in B

We also define the **identity function** such that for any type A, f(A) = A.

1.4 Cardinality of Sets

The cardinality of a set A, or |A|, is the total number of elements in A.

- Union $|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| |A \cap B|$
- Intersect $|A \cap B| = |A| + |B| |A \cup B|$
- Concatenation -

- Cartesian Product |AxB| = |A|x|B|
- Powerset $P(A) = 2^{|A|}$
- Total function $|A \rightarrow B| = |B|^{|A|}$
- Partial function $|A B| = |B + 1|^{|A|}$
- Multi function $|A B| = |P(B)|^{|A|}$

2 Alphabets and Languages

Alphabet A is a set of single characters. Word w in alphabet A is a string of characters from A. A^* denotes the set of all words in alphabet A. This operation is called *Kleene star*.

2.1 Regular Languages

A language is **regular** if it can be defined as follows.

- \bullet The empty language \emptyset is regular
- For each $a \in \epsilon$ where ϵ is the alphabet in question, the singleton language $\{a\}$ is regular
- If A and B are regular, then $A \cup B$ is regular
- If A and B are regular, then $A \cdot B$ is regular
- If A is regular, then A^* is regular.

Regular languages can be expressed by **regular expressions**. For each rule above, we have a corresponding regular expression.

- $e \rightarrow \emptyset$
- $a \rightarrow \{a\}$
- $a \lor b \to \{a\} \cup \{a\} = \{a, b\}$
- $ab \rightarrow \{a\} \cdot \{b\} = \{ab\}$
- $a^* \to \{a\}^* = \{\emptyset, a, a^2, a^3 \cdots \}$

2.2 Pumping Lemma

All finite languages are regular. For infinite languages, we use the Pumping lemma to determine whether or not they are regular. Specifically, the Pumping lemma states that if L is regular and infinite, then there exists an N>0 such that for all words $\{w:w\in L \land |w|\geq N\}$, w can be decomposed into w=xyz such that

- $y \neq e$
- $|xy| \leq N$
- $wy^kz \in L$ for all $k \ge 0$

This is typically used to show something is *not* regular through proof by contradiction.¹

 $^{^1\}mathrm{See}$ worksheet problem 5 for an example.

3 Finite Automata

A deterministic finite automata consists of

- alphabet A
- set of states $S = S_0, S_1, S_2 \cdots S_n$
- transition function $f: S \times A \to S$

The transition function given a state S_i and input a changes the machine to state S_i . By adding

- start state S_0
- final states $F \subset S$

we create a f.a. that can be said to accept a language. The language accepted by a fa can be defined as $LM = \{w | S_0 \xrightarrow{w} \text{stops in final state}\}$

3.1 Deterministic versus Non-Deterministic

A deterministic fa is one where the number of arrows leaving each state is exactly equal to |A|. In a **non-deterministic** fa the number of arrows leaving a state is ≥ 0 . Additionally, the same word may lead to different states from the same state. In terms of functions, we consider the transition function as $f: S \times A \to S$ for a dfa and $f: S \times A \to S$ for a ndfa.

We describe a procedure for converting a ndfa into a dfa.²

- 1. List ES_0 , the set including the initial state and all states reachable without consuming any characters
- 2. For $a \in A$, list the set of states reachable from ES_0 by consuming a
- 3. Repeat 2. until no new sets are produced (including \emptyset)
- 4. Draw the new dfa by treating each unique set as a state, where E_S0 is the initial state and any set containing a final state from the ndfa is a final state

3.2 Regular Expressions to fa

The collection of languages accepted by fa is exactly equal to the regular languages. We can therefore define a simple fa for each of the regular expressions in section 2.1.

- e
- a
- a ∨ b
- ab
- a*

These can be used as building blocks to construct fa for more complex regular expressions. When two of these are chained together, a new state must be added where all final states can reach this new state using e.

3.3 Simplifying

3.4 Finding Language of fa

 $^{^2}$ See worksheet problem 7 for example.