

Lecture 6: Pumping Lemma

1.2a) Use the pumping lemma to show that the following languages are not regular

$$a.) A_1 = \{ 0^n 1^n 2^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

Consider A_1 is a regular language.

Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma. Choose s to be the string $0^p 1^p 2^p$. Because s is a member of A_1 , and $|s| > p$, the pumping lemma guarantees that s can be split into three pieces, $s = xyz$, where for any $i \geq 0$ the string $xy^i z$ is in A_1 . Now consider the two possibilities:

The string y consists only of 0's, only of 1's, or only of 2's. In these cases the string $xyy z$ will not have equal numbers of 0's, 1's, and 2's. Hence, $xyy z$ is not a member of A_1 , this is a contradiction.

The string y consists of more than 1 kind of symbol. In this case, $xyy z$ will have the 0's, 1's, or 2's out of order. Hence $xyy z$ is not a member of A_1 , this is a contradiction.

Either way we arrive at a contradiction. Therefore, A_1 is not regular.

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b.) $A_2 = \{www \mid w \in \{a,b\}^*\}$

Consider A_2 is a regular language.

Let p be pumping length given by the pumping lemma.

Let $s = a^p b a^p b a^p b \in A_2$.

By the pumping lemma, this string can be divided into three pieces xyz such that $|xy| \leq p$, $|y| > 0$, and $xy^i z \in A_2$, $\forall i \geq 0$.

So $s = a^p b a^p b a^p b = xyz$

Let $aabaabaab$ be the string that belongs to A_2 . The pumping length of the string is 2. To satisfy the conditions of the pumping lemma, $x=a$, $y=a$, $z=baabaab$.

$$s = aabaabaab = \frac{a}{x} \frac{a}{y} \frac{baabaab}{z}$$

Pump the middle part such that $xy^i z$ ($i \geq 0$). For $i=2$, the y becomes aa . The string after pumping is $aaabaabaab$.

$$s = (a)(a)^i(baabaab) = \frac{a}{x} \frac{aa}{y} \frac{baabaab}{z} \quad (\text{when } i=2)$$

The string $aaabaabaab \notin A_2$. It is a contradiction. So, the pumping lemma is violated.

Therefore A_2 is not a regular language.

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c.) $A_3 = \{a^{2^n} \mid n \geq 0\}$ (Here, a^2 means a string of 2^n a's.)

Consider that A_3 is regular. Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma. Let s be the string a^{2^p} . Because s is a member of A_3 and $|s| \geq p$, the pumping lemma guarantees that s can be split into three pieces, $s = xyz$, satisfying the three conditions of the pumping lemma.

The third condition tells us that $|xy| \leq p$. Furthermore $p \leq 2^p$ and so $|y| < 2^p$, therefore, $|xyyz| = |xyz| + |y| < 2^p + 2^p = 2^{p+1}$. The second condition requires $|y| > 0$ so $2^p < |xyyz| < 2^{p+1}$. The length of $xyyz$ cannot be a power of 2. Hence $xyyz$ is not a member of A_3 , this is a contradiction. Therefore, A_3 is not regular.