

d) If L is the language $(1 + 02)^*$ what is $h(L)$?

* e) If L is the language $(ab + baa)^*bab$, what is $h^{-1}(L)$?

! f) If L is the language consisting of the single string $ababb$ what is $h^{-1}(L)$?

*! **Exercise 4.2.2:** If L is a language, and a is a symbol, then L/a , the *quotient* of L by a , is the set of strings w such that wa is in L . For example, if $L = \{a, aab, baa\}$, then $L/a = \{\epsilon, ba\}$. Prove that if L is regular, so is L/a . Hint: Start with a DFA for L and consider the set of accepting states.

! **Exercise 4.2.3:** If L is a language, and a is a symbol, then $a \setminus L$ is the set of strings w such that aw is in L . For example, if $L = \{a, aab, baa\}$, then $a \setminus L = \{\epsilon, ab\}$. Prove that if L is regular, so is $a \setminus L$. Hint: Remember that the regular languages are closed under reversal and under the quotient operation of Exercise 4.2.2.

! **Exercise 4.2.4:** Which of the following identities are true?

- a) $(L/a)a = L$ (the left side represents the concatenation of the languages L/a and $\{a\}$).
- b) $a(a \setminus L) = L$ (again, concatenation with $\{a\}$, this time on the left, is intended).
- c) $(La)/a = L$.
- d) $a \setminus (aL) = L$.

Exercise 4.2.5: The operation of Exercise 4.2.3 is sometimes viewed as a “derivative,” and $a \setminus L$ is written $\frac{dL}{da}$. These derivatives apply to regular expressions in a manner similar to the way ordinary derivatives apply to arithmetic expressions. Thus, if R is a regular expression, we shall use $\frac{dR}{da}$ to mean the same as $\frac{dL}{da}$, if $L = L(R)$.

a) Show that $\frac{d(R+S)}{da} = \frac{dR}{da} + \frac{dS}{da}$.

*! b) Give the rule for the “derivative” of RS . Hint: You need to consider two cases: if $L(R)$ does or does not contain ϵ . This rule is not quite the same as the “product rule” for ordinary derivatives, but is similar.

! c) Give the rule for the “derivative” of a closure, i.e., $\frac{d(R^*)}{da}$.

d) Use the rules (a), (b) and (c) to find the derivatives of regular expression $1(01 + 10)^*00$ with respect to 0 and 1.

* e) Characterize those languages for which $\frac{dL}{d0} = \epsilon$.

*! f) Characterize those languages for which $\frac{dL}{d1} = \{011\}$.

! Exercise 4.2.6: Show that the regular languages are closed under the following operations:

- $\min(L) = \{w \mid w \text{ is in } L, \text{ but no proper prefix of } w \text{ is in } L\}$.
- $\max(L) = \{w \mid w \text{ is in } L \text{ and for no } x \text{ other than } \epsilon \text{ is } wx \text{ in } L\}$.
- $\text{init}(L) = \{w \mid \text{for some } x, wx \text{ is in } L\}$.

Hint: Like Exercise 4.2.2, it is easiest to start with a DFA for L and perform a construction to get the desired language.

! Exercise 4.2.7: If $w = a_1a_2 \dots a_n$ and $x = b_1b_2 \dots b_m$ are strings of the same length, define $\text{alt}(w, x)$ to be the string in which the symbols of w and x alternate, starting with w , that is, $a_1b_1a_2b_2 \dots a_nb_n$. If L and M are languages, define $\text{alt}(L, M)$ to be the set of strings of the form $\text{alt}(w, x)$, where w is any string in L and x is any string in M of the same length. Prove that if L and M are regular, so is $\text{alt}(L, M)$.

***!! Exercise 4.2.8:** Let L be a language. Define $\text{half}(L)$ to be the set of first halves of strings in L , that is, $\{w \mid \text{for some } x \text{ such that } |x| = |w|, \text{ we have } wx \text{ in } L\}$. For example, if $L = \{\epsilon, 0010, 011, 010110\}$ then $\text{half}(L) = \{\epsilon, 00, 010\}$. Notice that odd-length strings do not contribute to $\text{half}(L)$. Prove that if L is a regular language, so is $\text{half}(L)$.

!! Exercise 4.2.9: We can generalize Exercise 4.2.8 to a number of functions that determine how much of the string we take. If f is a function of integers, define $f(L)$ to be $\{w \mid \text{for some } x, \text{ with } |x| = f(|w|), \text{ we have } wx \text{ in } L\}$. For instance, the operation half corresponds to f being the identity function $f(n) = n$, since $\text{half}(L)$ is defined by having $|x| = |w|$. Show that if L is a regular language, then so is $f(L)$, if f is one of the following functions:

- $f(n) = 2n$ (i.e., take the first thirds of strings).
- $f(n) = n^2$ (i.e., the amount we take has length equal to the square root of what we do not take).
- $f(n) = 2^n$ (i.e., what we take has length equal to the logarithm of what we leave).

!! Exercise 4.2.10: Suppose that L is any language, not necessarily regular, whose alphabet is $\{0\}$; i.e., the strings of L consist of 0's only. Prove that L^* is regular.

Hint: At first, this theorem sounds preposterous. However, an example will help you see why it is true. Consider the language $L = \{0^i \mid i \text{ is prime}\}$, which we know is not regular by Example 4.3. Strings 00 and 000 are in L , since 2 and 3 are both primes. Thus, if $j \geq 2$, we can show 0^j is in L^* . If j is even, use $j/2$ copies of 00, and if j is odd, use one copy of 000 and $(j-3)/2$ copies of 00. Thus, $L^* = 000^*$.

!! Exercise 4.2.11: Show that the regular languages are closed under the following operation: $\text{cycle}(L) = \{w \mid \text{we can write } w \text{ as } w = xy, \text{ such that } yx \text{ is in } L\}$. For example, if $L = \{01, 011\}$, then $\text{cycle}(L) = \{01, 10, 011, 110, 101\}$. *Hint:* Start with a DFA for L and construct an ϵ -NFA for $\text{cycle}(L)$.

!! Exercise 4.2.12: Let $w_1 = a_0a_0a_1$, and $w_i = w_{i-1}w_{i-1}a_i$ for all $i > 1$. For instance, $w_3 = a_0a_0a_1a_0a_0a_1a_2a_0a_0a_1a_0a_0a_1a_2a_3$. The shortest regular expression for the language $L_n = \{w_n\}$, i.e., the language consisting of the one string w_n , is the string w_n itself, and the length of this expression is $2^{n+1} - 1$. However, if we allow the intersection operator, we can write an expression for L_n whose length is $O(n^2)$. Find such an expression. Hint: Find n languages, each with regular expressions of length $O(n)$, whose intersection is L_n .

! Exercise 4.2.13: We can use closure properties to help prove certain languages are not regular. Start with the fact that the language

$$L_{0n1n} = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$$

is not a regular set. Prove the following languages not to be regular by transforming them, using operations known to preserve regularity, to L_{0n1n} :

- * a) $\{0^i 1^j \mid i \neq j\}$.
- b) $\{0^n 1^m 2^{n-m} \mid n \geq m \geq 0\}$.

Exercise 4.2.14: In Section 4.2.2, we described the “product construction” which took two DFA’s and constructed another DFA whose language is the intersection of the first two. In a similar way we do a “union construction.”

- a) Modify the construction to find the union of two DFAs.
- ! b) Modify the construction to find the union of two NFAs.
- * c) Modify the construction to find the Symmetric difference of two DFAs.
- d) Modify the construction to find the union of two ϵ -NFAs.

Exercise 4.2.15: In the proof of Theorem 4.8, we claimed that it could be proved by induction on the length of w that

$$\hat{\delta}((q_L, q_M), w) = (\hat{\delta}_L(q_L, w), \hat{\delta}_M(q_M, w))$$

Give this inductive proof.

Exercise 4.2.16: Complete the proof of Theorem 4.14 by considering the cases where expression E is a concatenation of two subexpressions and where E is the closure of an expression.

Exercise 4.2.17: In Theorem 4.16, we omitted a proof by induction on the length of w that $\hat{\gamma}(q_0, w) = \hat{\delta}(q_0, h(w))$. Prove this statement.