

1. Prove that the following languages are not regular by providing a fooling set. You need to prove an infinite fooling set and also prove that it is a valid fooling set.
  - (a)  $L = \{0^k 1^k w w \mid 0 \leq k \leq 3, w \in \{0, 1\}^+\}$ .
  - (b) Recall that a block in a string is a maximal non-empty substring of identical symbols. Let  $L$  be the set of all strings in  $\{0, 1\}^*$  that contain two blocks of 0s of equal length. For example,  $L$  contains the strings **01101111** and **01001011100010** but does not contain the strings **000110011011** and **00000000111**.
  - (c)  $L = \{0^{n^3} \mid n \geq 0\}$ .
2. Suppose  $L$  is not regular. Show that  $L \cup L'$  is not regular for any finite language  $L'$ . Give a simple example to show that  $L \cup L'$  is regular when  $L'$  is infinite.

**Solution:**

1. (a) Let  $x, y$  be arbitrary distinct strings in  $011^*$ , then  $x = 011^i$ ,  $y = 011^j$ ,  $i \neq j$ . Then  $x, y$  are distinguished by suffix  $1^i$  because  $xz = 011^i 1^i \in L$  but  $yz = 011^j 1^i \notin L$ . We conclude that  $011^*$  is a fooling set for  $L$ . Since  $011^*$  is infinite,  $L$  is not regular.
- (b) Let  $x, y$  be arbitrary distinct strings in  $00^*10$ , then  $x = 00^i10$ ,  $y = 00^j10$ ,  $i \neq j$ . Then  $x, y$  are distinguished by suffix  $z = 0^i$  because  $xz \in L$  and  $yz \notin L$ . We conclude that  $00^*10$  is a fooling set of  $L$ . Since  $00^*10$  is infinite,  $L$  is not regular.
- (c) Let  $x, y$  be arbitrary distinct strings in  $\{0^{n^3-n} : n \leq 0\}$ , then  $x = 0^{i^3-i}$ ,  $y = 0^{j^3-j}$ ,  $i \neq j$ . Then  $x, y$  are distinguished by suffix  $0^i$  because  $xz = 0^{i^3} \in L$  and  $yz = 0^{j^3-j+i} \notin L$ . We conclude that  $\{0^{n^3-n} : n \leq 0\}$  is a fooling set for  $L$ . Since  $\{0^{n^3-n} : n \leq 0\}$  is infinite,  $L$  is not regular.

2. Since  $L$  is not regular, there is an infinite fooling set  $F$  that for all arbitrary  $x, y \in F$  there is a  $z$  that makes  $xz \in L$  and  $yz \notin L$ . Then for a finite language  $L'$ , if  $L \cup L'$  is regular, for all  $y \in F$ ,  $yz \in L'$ , which is impossible since  $F$  is infinite.

As a result, for all finite language  $L'$ ,  $L \cup L'$  cannot be regular.

An example of infinite language  $L'$  can be constructed as  $L' = \{yz : y \in F, z \in \{w : \forall x \in F, xw \in L\}\}$ .

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