

# Solution to Introduction to the Theory of Computation

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# 1 Regular Languages

## 2 Context-Free Languages

### 3 The Church–Turing Thesis

## 4 Decidability

- 4.10 *Refer to the textbook.*
- 4.11 By the pumping lemma,  $L(M)$  is an infinite language  $\iff L(M)$  includes a string of length  $p$ . Since  $R = \Sigma^p \Sigma^*$  is a regular language, it is easy to design a PDA  $P$  recognizing  $L(M) \cap R$ . Then use  $E_{\text{PDA}}$ 's decider to decide whether  $L(M) \cap R = \emptyset$ .
- 4.12 *Refer to the textbook.*
- 4.13  $L(R) \subseteq L(S) \iff L(R) \cup L(S) = L(S)$ , which can be decided by  $EQ_{\text{DFA}}$ 's decider.
- 4.14 *Refer to the textbook.*
- \*4.15 By the pumping lemma,  $1^k \in L(G) \implies 1^{k+p!} \in L(G)$  for every  $k \geq p$ . Therefore  $1^* \subseteq L(G) \iff \{1^k \mid k \leq p + p!\} \subseteq L(G)$ , which can be easily checked by a TM in finite time.
- 4.16 Since  $A = \{\langle R \rangle \mid R \text{ is a regular expression, } R \cap \Sigma^* 111 \Sigma^* \neq \emptyset\}$ , we only need an  $E_{\text{DFA}}$ 's decider.
- 4.17 Suppose we have two DFAs  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Let  $D$  be a DFA recognizing  $L(D_1) \oplus L(D_2)$ , where  $\oplus$  means symmetric difference. By the pumping lemma,  $L(D) \cap (\Sigma \cup \epsilon)^p = \emptyset \implies L(D) = \emptyset$ , thus  $p$  can be the required length.
- \*4.18  $\Leftarrow$ : It is enough to design a TM, which recognizes  $C$  by checking whether  $\langle x, y \rangle \in D$  for all possible  $y$  one by one.  
 $\Rightarrow$ : Suppose TM  $M$  recognizes  $C$ . Let  $D = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \in C \text{ and } y \text{ is the computation history of } M \text{ on input } x\}$ , which is obviously decidable.
- \*4.19 Let  $C$  be a recognizable but undecidable language, e.g.,  $A_{\text{TM}}$ . Construct  $D$  provided by problem 4.18. Letting homomorphism  $f$  satisfy  $f(\langle x, y \rangle) = x$  for every  $x, y$  we obtain  $f(D) = C$ .
- 4.20 Let  $M$  be a TM which runs both  $\bar{A}$ 's recognizer and  $\bar{B}$ 's recognizer on its own input.  $M$  accepts when  $\bar{B}$ 's recognizer accepts and rejects when  $\bar{A}$ 's recognizer accepts. Clearly  $C = L(M)$  separates  $A$  and  $B$ .
- 4.21  $M$  is a DFA that accepts  $w^{\mathcal{R}}$  whenever it accepts  $w \iff L(M) = L(M)^{\mathcal{R}}$ , which can be decided by  $EQ_{\text{DFA}}$ 's decider.
- 4.22 In order to determine whether  $L(R)$  is prefix-free, it suffices to check whether the DFA recognizing  $L(R)$  has the property that from a reachable accept state we could arrive an accept state again by several transitions.
- \*4.23 *Refer to the textbook.*
- 4.24 A PDA  $P = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$  has an useless state  $q \in Q$  if and only if PDA  $P' = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, \{q\})$  recognizes  $\emptyset$ . Therefore we can use  $E_{\text{PDA}}$ 's decider to solve it.
- \*4.25 *Refer to the textbook.*
- \*4.26  $M$  is a DFA that accepts some palindrome  $\iff \text{CFL } \{w \mid w = w^{\mathcal{R}}\} \cap L(M) \text{ is not empty, which can be decided by } E_{\text{PDA}} \text{'s decider.}$
- \*4.27 Refer to the solution to problem 4.26.
- 4.28  $x$  is a substring of some  $y \in L(G) \iff L(G) \cap \Sigma^* x \Sigma^* \neq \emptyset$ , which can be decided by  $E_{\text{PDA}}$ 's decider.
- 4.29 *Need a solution.*
- 4.30 *Need a solution.*
- 4.31 *Need a solution.*
- 4.32 *Need a solution.*

## 5 Reducibility