Learning with queries

About L* algorithm

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Overview

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Minimally Adequate Teacher

Minimally Adequate Teacher (MAT) is an Oracle answering two types of queries:

- membership queries (MQ)
- equivalence queries (EQ)

```
\mathsf{QUERY} = \{\mathsf{MQ}, \mathsf{EQ}\}
```

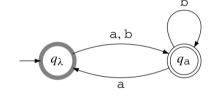
General idea

- find a consistent observation table
- construct DFA and submit equivalence query to the Oracle
- use the counter-example to update the table
- submit membership queries to make the table closed and complete
- repeat until Oracle tells us that that the correct language has been reached

Observation table

An observation table is a specific tabular representation of an automaton

	λ	a
λ	0	1
a	1	0
b	1	0
aa	0	1
ab	1	0



(a) An observation table.

(b) The corresponding automaton.

Fig. 13.1. The observation table and the corresponding automaton.

Observation table

Definition

An observation table is a triple (STA, EXP, OT):

- $STA = Red \cup Blue$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{Red} \subset \Sigma^*$
- EXP $\subset \Sigma^*$
- Blue = $Red \cdot \Sigma \backslash Red$
- OT : STA \times EXP \rightarrow {0, 1, *}:

$$\mathsf{OT}[r][c] = egin{cases} 1 & \mathsf{if} \ \mathit{rc} \in L \\ 2 & \mathsf{if} \ \mathit{rc} \notin L \\ * & \mathsf{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

	λ	a
λ	0	1
a	1	0
b	1	0
aa	0	1
ab	1	0

(a) An observation table.

Holes and completeness

Holes

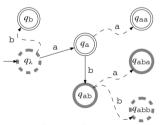
A hole in a table $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$ is a pair (r, c) such that OT[r][c] = *

Completeness

A table is complete if it has no Holes

	λ	a	b
λ		1	1
a	1	1	0
ab	0	0	
b	1		1
aa	1	1	
aba	0	1	0
abb			1

(a) An incomplete table.



(b) The corresponding automaton.

Fig. 13.2. The automaton corresponding to an incomplete table.

Closed table

We consider here the case where there are no holes in the table

Equivalent prefixes/rows

Two prefixes r and r' are equivalent if OT[r] = OT[r']

We will denote this by $r \equiv_{\mathsf{EXP}} r'$

Closed table

A table $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$ is **closed** if given any row r of *Blue* there is some row r' in *Red* such that $r \equiv_{EXP} r'$

Closed table

It's easy to check if table is closed. But what can the algorithm do if it's not? Let r be the row from Blue that does not appear in Red. Add r to Red and $\forall a \in \Sigma$ add ra to Blue

We can repeat this until the table is **closed** (notice that the number of iterations is bounded by the size of the automaton)

Closed table

Examples

Row ab does not appear in Red, so we add it there. Then for all $a \in \Sigma$ (a, b) we add new strings to Blue. Additionally, all known observations are filled.

	λ	a
λ	0	1
a	1	0
b	1	0
aa	0	1
ab	1	1

⁽a) A table that is not closed, because of row ab.

	λ	a
λ	0	1
a	1	0
ab	1	1
b	1	0
aa	0	1
aba	1	
abb		

(b) Closing the table.

Fig. 13.4. Closing a table.

Build DFA from table

We can build DFA from observation table, if:

- The set of strings marking the states in STA must be prefix-closed
- The set EXP is suffix-closed
- The table must be complete (have no holes)
- The table must be closed (no 'unique' blue rows)

Build DFA from table

Algorithm 13.1: LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON.

```
Input: a closed and complete observation table (STA, EXP, OT)

Output: DFA \langle \Sigma, Q, q_{\lambda}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta \rangle

Q \leftarrow \{q_u : u \in \text{RED} \land \forall v < u \text{ OT}[v] \neq \text{OT}[u]\};

\mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}} \leftarrow \{q_u \in Q : \text{OT}[u][\lambda] = 1\};

\mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}} \leftarrow \{q_u \in Q : \text{OT}[u][\lambda] = 0\};

for q_u \in Q do

| for a \in \Sigma do \delta(q_u, a) \leftarrow q_w \in Q : \text{OT}[ua] = \text{OT}[w]

end

return \langle \Sigma, Q, q_{\lambda}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta \rangle
```

After applying construction from algorithm on given table, we obtain $Q = \{q_{\lambda}, q_{a}\}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}} = q_{a}, \mathbb{F}\mathbb{R} = q_{\lambda} \text{ and } \delta \text{ given by the transition table}$

Algorithm 13.1: LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON.

Input: a closed and complete observation table (STA, EXP, OT)

Output: DFA $\langle \Sigma, Q, q_{\lambda}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta \rangle$

$$Q \leftarrow \{q_u : u \in \text{RED} \land \forall v < u \text{ OT}[v] \neq \text{OT}[u]\};$$

 $\mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}} \leftarrow \{q_u \in Q : \mathrm{OT}[u][\lambda] = 1\};$

$$\mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}} \leftarrow \{q_u \in Q : \mathrm{OT}[u][\lambda] = 0\};$$

for $q_u \in O$ do

for
$$a \in \Sigma$$
 do $\delta(q_u, a) \leftarrow q_w \in Q : OT[ua] = OT[w]$

end

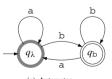
return $\langle \Sigma, Q, q_{\lambda}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta \rangle$

	λ	а
λ	0	0
a	0	0
aa	0	0
aab	1	0
b	1	0
ab	1	0
aaba	0	0
aabb	1	0

(a)	The	observation
table	e.	

	a	b
q_{λ}	q_{λ}	$q_{\mathtt{b}}$
$q_{ m b}$	q_{λ}	$q_{ m b}$

(b) The transition table.



(c) Automaton.

Consistency

Consistent table (with automaton)

Given an automaton \mathcal{A} and an observation table $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$, \mathcal{A} is **consistent** with table when the following holds:

- ullet OT[r][c] $=1\Longrightarrow rc\in \mathbb{L}_{\mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}}(\mathcal{A})$
- $\mathsf{OT}[r][c] = 0 \Longrightarrow rc \in \mathbb{L}_{\mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}}(\mathcal{A})$

Theorem (Consistency)

Let $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$ be an observation table (closed and complete). If STA is prefix-closed and EXP is suffix-closed then LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON($\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$) is consistent with the data in $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$

Proof:

LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON($\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$) is built from the data from $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle$

Row consistency

Consistent table

A table is consistent if every equivalent pair of rows in *Red* remains equivalent in STA after appending any symbol

$$\mathsf{OT}[\mathit{r}_1] = \mathsf{OT}[\mathit{r}_2] \Longrightarrow \forall a \in \Sigma, \mathsf{OT}[\mathit{r}_1a] = \mathsf{OT}[\mathit{r}_2a]$$

If table is inconsistent, then let $a \in \Sigma$ be the symbol for which the implication fails, and e the experiment for which the inconsistency has been found $(\mathsf{OT}[r_1a][e] \neq \mathsf{OT}[r_2a][e])$ Then by adding experiment ae to the table, rows r_1 and r_2 are no longer equivalent $(\mathsf{OT}[r_1][ae] \neq \mathsf{OT}[r_2][ae])$

Notice that experiments remain suffix-closed

Row consistency

Examples

Table (a) is inconsistent: rows a and ab look the same, but, upon experiment a, rows aa and aba are different. Column aa is added, resulting in table (b) Table (c) is consistent, since we have not only OT[a] = OT[ab], but also OT[aa] = OT[aba] and OT[ab] = OT[abb]

	λ	a
λ	0	1
a	1	0
ab	1	0
b	1	0
aa	0	1
aba	0	0
abb	1	0

⁽a) An inconsistent table (because of a and ab).

	λ	a	aa
λ	0	1	0
a	1	0	1
ab	1	0	0
b	1	0	
aa	0	1	
aba	0	1	
abb	1	0	

(b)	The	table	has	become	con-
sist	ent.				

	λ	a
λ	0	1
a	1	0
ab	1	0
b	1	0
aa	0	1
aba	0	1
abb	1	0

(c) A consistent table.

Fig. 13.5. Consistency.

Algorithm concept

Once the learner has built a complete, closed and consistent table, it can construct the DFA using Algorithm LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON and make an equivalence query

If the Oracle returns a counterexample u, then the learner should add all prefixes of u as Red states, and complete the Blue section, with all strings pa ($a \in \Sigma$, p is a prefix of u but pa is not)

In this way, at least one new Red line has been added

Algorithm 13.2: LSTAR Learning Algorithm.

```
Input: –
Output: DFA \mathcal{A}
LSTAR-INITIALISE;
repeat
    while (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed or not consistent do
        if (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed then
        \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-CLOSE(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle);
        if (STA, EXP, OT) is not consistent then
        \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-CONSISTENT(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle)
    end
    Answer \leftarrow EQ(\langleSTA, EXP, OT\rangle);
    if Answer≠ YES then
    \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-USEEQ(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle, Answer)
until Answer= YES:
return LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON((STA, EXP, OT))
```

Algorithm 13.1: LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON.

```
Input: a closed and complete observation table (STA, EXP, OT) Output: DFA \langle \Sigma, Q, q_{\lambda}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta \rangle Q \leftarrow \{q_u : u \in \text{RED} \land \forall v < u \text{ OT}[v] \neq \text{OT}[u]\}; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}} \leftarrow \{q_u \in Q : \text{OT}[u][\lambda] = 1\}; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}} \leftarrow \{q_u \in Q : \text{OT}[u][\lambda] = 0\}; for q_u \in Q do | for a \in \Sigma do \delta(q_u, a) \leftarrow q_w \in Q : \text{OT}[ua] = \text{OT}[w] end return \langle \Sigma, Q, q_{\lambda}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta \rangle
```

Algorithm 13.3: LSTAR-INITIALISE.

```
Input: –
Output: table \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle
RED \leftarrow \{q_{\lambda}\};
BLUE \leftarrow \{q_a : a \in \Sigma\};
EXP \leftarrow \{\lambda\};
OT[\lambda][\lambda] \leftarrow MQ(\lambda);
for a \in \Sigma do OT[a][\lambda] \leftarrow MQ(a);
return \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle
```

Algorithm 13.4: LSTAR-CLOSE.

```
Input: a table (STA, EXP, OT)
Output: table (STA, EXP, OT) updated
for s \in BLUE such that \forall u \in RED \ OT[s] \neq OT[u] do
    RED \leftarrow RED \cup \{s\}:
    BLUE \leftarrow BLUE \ \{s\};
    for a \in \Sigma do Blue \leftarrow Blue \cup \{s \cdot a\}:
    for u, e \in \Sigma^* such that OT[u][e] is a hole do OT[u][e] \leftarrow MQ(ue)
end
return (STA, EXP, OT)
```

Algorithm 13.5: LSTAR-CONSISTENT.

```
Input: a table \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle

Output: table \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle updated

find s_1, s_2 \in RED, a \in \Sigma and e \in EXP such that OT[s_1] = OT[s_2] and OT[s_1 \cdot a][e] \neq OT[s_2 \cdot a][e];

EXP \leftarrow EXP \cup \{a \cdot e\};

for u, e \in \Sigma^* such that OT[u][e] is a hole do OT[u][e] \leftarrow MQ(ue);

return \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle
```

Algorithm 13.6: LSTAR-USEEQ.

```
Input: a table \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle, string Answer

Output: table \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle updated

for p \in PREF(Answer) do

|RED \leftarrow RED \cup \{p\};

for a \in \Sigma : pa \notin PREF(Answer) do BLUE \leftarrow BLUE \cup \{pa\}

end

for u, e \in \Sigma^* such that OT[u][e] is a hole do OT[u][e] \leftarrow MQ(ue);

return \langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle
```

```
Algorithm 13.2: LSTAR Learning Algorithm.
```

```
Input: –
Output: DFA A
LSTAR-INITIALISE;
repeat
```

while ⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩ is not closed or not consistent do

if ⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩ is not closed then

⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩ ← LSTAR-CLOSE((STA, EXP, OT⟩);

if ⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩ is not consistent then

Answer \leftarrow EO(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle);

if Answer≠ YES then

| ⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩ ← LSTAR-USEEQ(⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩, Answer)
until Answer= YES:

return LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON((STA, EXP, OT))

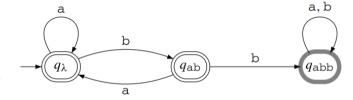


Fig. 13.8. Automaton after running LSTAR.

Algorithm 13.2: LSTAR Learning Algorithm.

Input:-

Output: DFA ${\cal A}$

LSTAR-INITIALISE;

repeat

while (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed or not consistent do if (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed then

 $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-CLOSE(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle);$

if (STA, EXP, OT) is not consistent then

 $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-CONSISTENT(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle)$

end Answer← EO(⟨STA, EXP, OT⟩);

if Answer≠ YES then

 $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-USEEQ(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle, Answer)$

 $\textbf{until} \; Answer = YES \; ;$

return LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON((STA, EXP, OT))

	λ
λ	1
a	1
b	1

(a) A consistent table.



(b) The automaton corresponding to the Table 13.6(a).

Fig. 13.6. Consistency.

return LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON((STA. EXP. OT))

	λ
λ	1
a	1
ab	
abb	0
b	1
aa	
aba	
abba	
abbb	

λ	1
a	1
ab	1
abb	0
b	1
aa	1
aba	1
abba	0
abbb	0

λ

	λ	b
λ	1	1
a	1	1
ab	1	0
abb	0	0
b	1	
aa	1	
aba	1	
abba	0	
abbb	0	

	λ	b
λ	1	1
a	1	1
ab	1	0
abb	0	0
b	1	0
aa	1	1
aba	1	1
abba	0	0
abbb	0	0

- (a) Table after equivalence query returned abb (as not in L).
- (b) Membership queries are made: Table is not closed.
- (c) Adding a column to make the table closed.
- (d) The table after filling the holes is closed and consistent.

Fig. 13.7. Running LSTAR.

Algorithm 13.2: LSTAR Learning Algorithm.

```
\begin{aligned} &\textbf{Input:} - \\ &\textbf{Output:} \ \text{DFA} \ \mathcal{A} \\ &\text{LSTAR-INITIALISE;} \end{aligned}
```

repeat
| while (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed or not consistent do
| if (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed then

 $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-CLOSE(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle);$

if (STA, EXP, OT) is not consistent then

 $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-CONSISTENT(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle)$

Answer \leftarrow EO(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle):

if Answer≠ YES then

 $\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle \leftarrow LSTAR-USEEQ(\langle STA, EXP, OT \rangle, Answer)$

 $\textbf{until} \; Answer = \; YES \; ;$

end

return LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON((STA, EXP, OT))

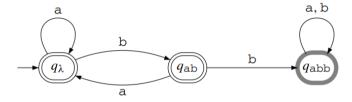


Fig. 13.8. Automaton after running LSTAR.

Proof

We have to show that algorithm terminates, and that it returns correct automaton

Every regular language admits a unique DFA, so we can assume (wlg) that this is our target, and it has n states

Since any DFA consistent with a table has at least as many states as different Red rows, and construction of consistent DFA is unique, the algorithm has to end when it has n rows

- each closure failure adds different row to Red
- each inconsistency failure adds one experiment
- each counterexample adds at least one different row to Red

Thus, each time a table is inconsistent or we get a counterexample, at least one different *Red* row is introduced

Number of steps between any of these operations is bounded, so the entire running time is bounded

Complexity

- each experiment introduces new different *Red* row, number of which is limited by $n \Rightarrow |EXP| \leq n$
- for same reason at most *n* equivalence queries are made
- maximal size of observation table is n columns and $nm|\Sigma|$ rows (m is max length of counterexample thus it won't generate more than nm Red rows, thus there will be at most $nm|\Sigma|$ Blue rows)

Therefore we make at most $n^2m|\Sigma|$ MQ queries and n EQ queries

Implementation issues

There is an issue with handling redundancy. Instead of storing an entire observation table (which could be large and inefficient), we will store 3 association tables:

- MQ table
- Prefix (states) table
- Suffix (experiments) table

The actual observation table is simulated by a function OT(r, c) := MQ[rc]

Some more examples

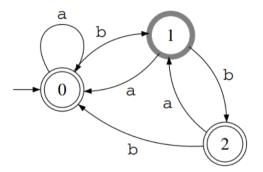


Fig. 13.9. A target automaton.

Some more examples

Algorithm 13.2: LSTAR Learning Algorithm.

```
Input: —
Output: DFA A
LETAR-INITIALISE;
repeat

while (STA, EXP, OT) is not closed or not consistent do

if (STA, EXP, OT) \leftarrow LSTAR-CLOSE(STA, EXP, OT));

if (STA, EXP, OT) \leftarrow LSTAR-CONSISTENT((STA, EXP, OT))

end

Answer \leftarrow EQ((STA, EXP, OT));

if Answer \neq Yes then

(STA, EXP, OT) \leftarrow LSTAR-USEEQ((STA, EXP, OT), Answer)

until Answer \neq Yes \leftarrow
```

return LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON((STA, EXP. OT))

Algorithm 13.4: LSTAR-CLOSE.

return (STA, EXP, OT)

```
Input: a table (STA, EXP, OT)
Output: table (STA, EXP, OT) updated
for s \in BLUE such that \forall u \in RED \ OT[s] \neq OT[u] \ do
RED \leftarrow RED \cup \{s\};
BLUE \leftarrow BLUE \setminus \{s\};
for \ a \in \Sigma \ do \ BLUE \leftarrow BLUE \cup \{s \cdot a\};
for \ u, e \in \Sigma^* \ such \ that \ OT[u][e] \ is \ a \ hole \ do \ OT[u][e] \leftarrow MQ(ue)
end
```

Algorithm 13.5: LSTAR-CONSISTENT.

```
Input: a table (STA, EXP, OT)
Output: table (STA, EXP, OT) updated
find s_1, s_2 \in \text{RED}, a \in \Sigma and e \in \text{EXP} such that OT[s_1] = OT[s_2] and
OT[s_1 \cdot a][e] \neq OT[s_2 \cdot a][e];
EXP \leftarrow EXP \cup \{a \cdot e\};
for u, e \in \Sigma^+ such that OT[u][e] is a hole do OT[u][e] \leftarrow MQ(ue);
return (STA, EXP, OT)
```

Algorithm 13.1: LSTAR-BUILDAUTOMATON.

```
Input: a closed and complete observation table (STA, EXP, OT) Output: DFA (\Sigma, \mathcal{Q}, q_\lambda, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta) Q \leftarrow [q_u : u \in \text{RED} \land \forall v < u \text{ OT}[v] \neq \text{OT}[u]]; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}} \leftarrow [q_u \in \mathcal{Q} : \text{OT}[u][\lambda] = 1]; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}} \leftarrow [q_u \in \mathcal{Q} : \text{OT}[u][\lambda] = 0]; for q_u \in \mathcal{Q} do | for a \in \Sigma do \delta(q_u, a) \leftarrow q_w \in \mathcal{Q} : \text{OT}[ua] = \text{OT}[w] end return (\Sigma, \mathcal{Q}, q_\lambda, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{A}}, \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}}, \delta)
```

Some more examples

