



27 Oct 2021

1. (a) Design a deterministic finite automaton that recognises the language

$$L = \{a^n \mid n \text{ is divisible by 2 or 3 (or both)}\}.$$

(The value 0 is considered to be divisible by any number.)

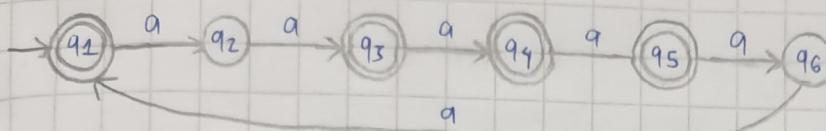
8 points

- (b) Give a regular expression that describes the language  $L$  in part (a).

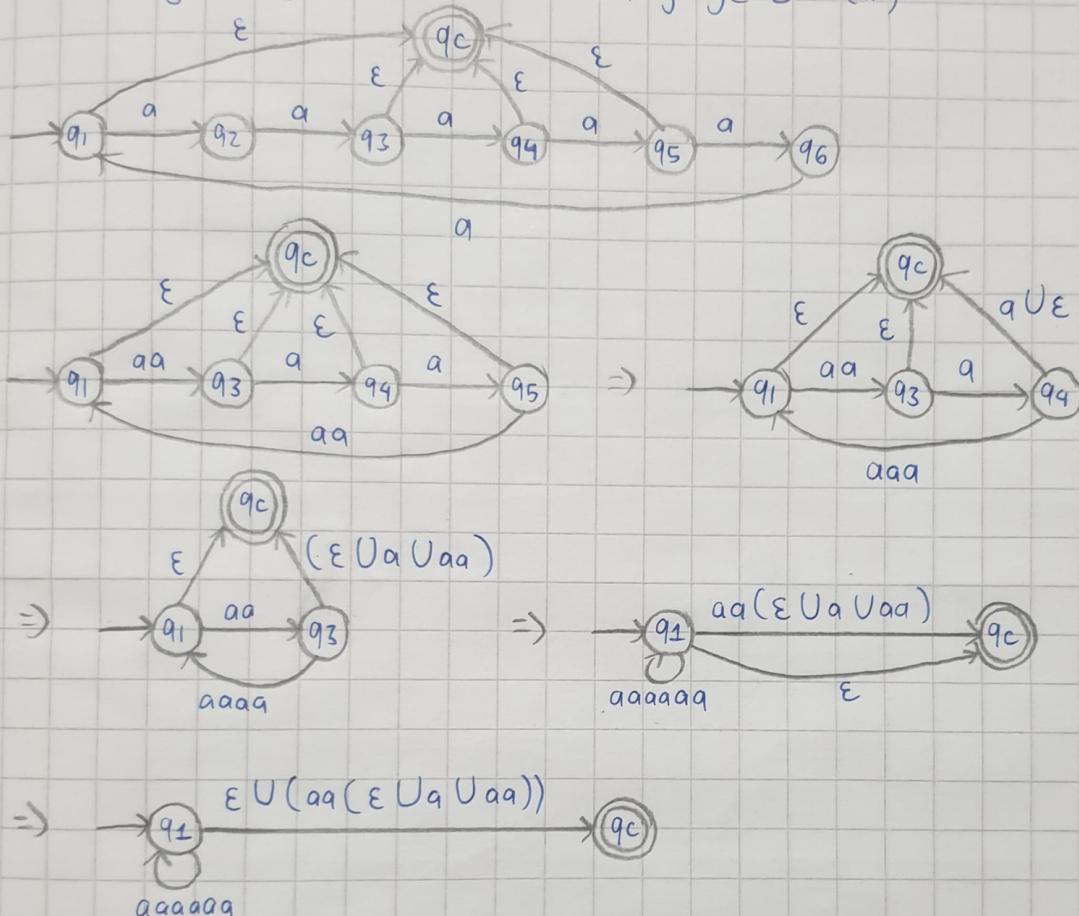
6 points

Exercise 1: Design DFA for

$$a) L = \{a^n \mid n \text{ is divisible by 2 or 3 or both}\}$$



b) Give a regular expression that describes language  $L$  in (a)



$\Rightarrow$  Regex of the language:  $(aaaaaa)^*(\epsilon \cup (aa(\epsilon \cup a \cup aa)))$   
 or  $(aaaaaa)^*(\epsilon \cup aa \cup aaa \cup aaaa)$

2. Is the language

$$L = \{0^m 1^n \mid m \leq n\}$$

- (a) regular, (b) context-free but nonregular, (c) decidable but not context-free, (d) undecidable?  
Give a precise justification for your answer.

15 points

- (a) The language is not regular

Justification:

Exercise 2:  $L = \{0^m 1^n \mid m \leq n\}$

(a) is  $L$  regular language?

Suppose that  $L$  were regular. By pumping lemma, there is some  $p \geq 1$  so all strings in  $L$  have at least  $p$  symbols that can be pumped

Let  $x = 0^p 1^{p+1}$ , with  $p \geq 1 \Rightarrow x \in L$  since  $p < p+1$

Find  $x = uvw$  so that  $|uv| \leq p$  and  $|v| \geq 1$

Let  $u = 0^m$ ,  $v = 0^n$ ,  $w = 0^{p-m-n} 1^{p+1}$ ,  $m+n \leq p$ ,  $n \geq 1$

Pump  $v$  3 times, we have

$$uv^3w = 0^m 0^{3n} 0^{p-m-n} 1^{p+1} = 0^{p+2n} 1^{p+1} \notin L \text{ since } n \geq 1$$

$$\Rightarrow p+2n \geq p+2 > p+1, \text{ contradicts } m \leq n \text{ and of } L$$

$\Rightarrow L$  is not regular

- (b) True. We can devise a context free grammar for the problem above and we have already proved in a that it is not regular

The CFG for the language

$$S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid S1 \mid e$$

- (c) False. This problem is both decidable and context-free

- (d) False. Since there exists a CFG that can generates the language in (b), we know for sure that it is a decidable problem

3. A language class  $\mathcal{C}$  is said to be *closed under complement*, if for every  $L \in \mathcal{C}$  also  $\bar{L} \in \mathcal{C}$ .

- (a) Show that the class of regular languages is closed under complement. 7 points
- (b) Show that the class of context-free languages is not closed under complement. (Hint: You may use the information from the course that the language  $L = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is not context-free.) 8 points

- (a) The class of regular languages is closed under complement proof

**Proposition 3.** Regular Languages are closed under complementation, i.e., if  $L$  is regular then  $\bar{L} = \Sigma^* \setminus L$  is also regular.

*Proof.* • If  $L$  is regular, then there is a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  such that  $L = L(M)$ .

- Then,  $\bar{M} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, Q \setminus F)$  (i.e., switch accept and non-accept states) accepts  $\bar{L}$ . □

- (b) The class of context-free languages is not closed under complement

4. Which of the following claims are true and which are false? (No proofs are needed, just indicate your choice by the letter T or F.)

- (a) The union of any two regular languages is context-free.
- (b) Every language that can be recognised by a nondeterministic pushdown automaton can be generated by a context-free grammar.
- (c) Every language that can be recognised by a deterministic pushdown automaton can be described by a regular expression.
- (d) There exist undecidable context-free languages.
- (e) Nondeterministic Turing machines recognise ("semidecide") exactly the recursively enumerable languages.
- (f) The language  $\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  can be recognised by a nondeterministic finite automaton.
- (g) The complement of every decidable languages is semidecidable.
- (h) The computation of a deterministic Turing machine terminates on every input.

16 points

Total 60 points

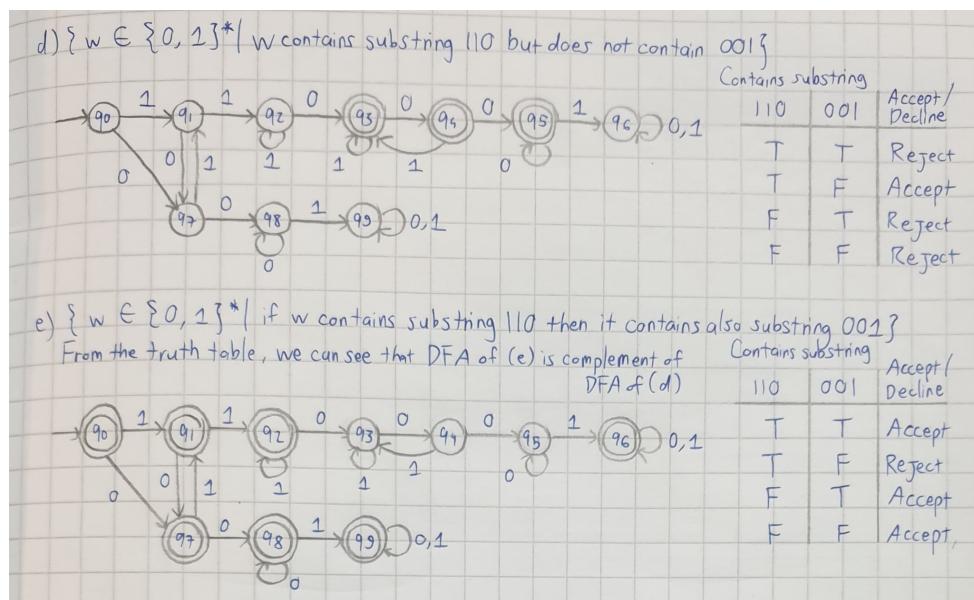
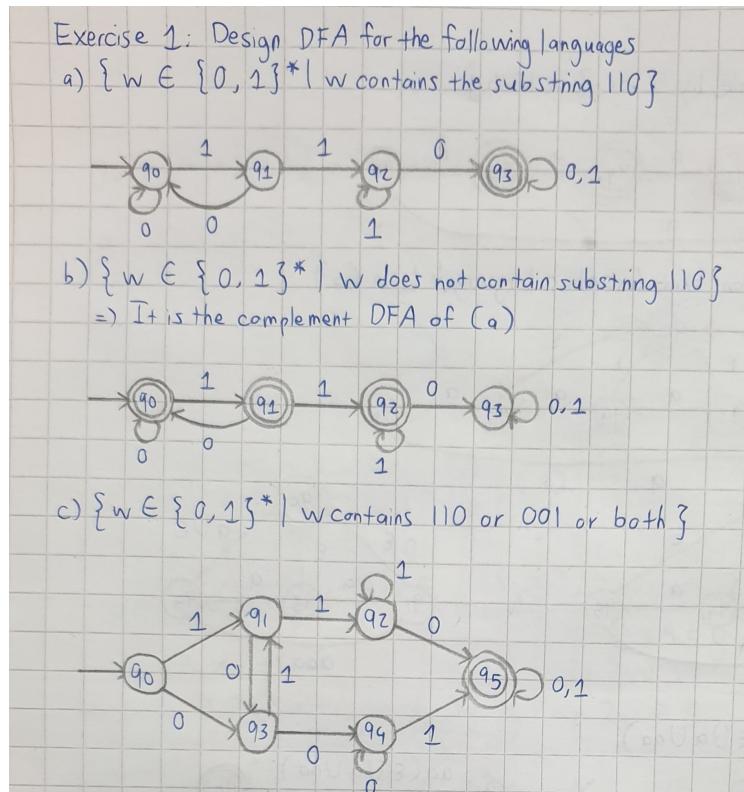
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- (g) The complement of every decidable languages is semidecidable
- (h) The computation of a deterministic Turing machine terminates on every input.

## 14 April 2021

1. Design deterministic finite automata for recognising the following languages:

- $\{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ contains the substring } 110\}$ ,
- $\{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ does not contain the substring } 001\}$ ,
- $\{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ contains the substring } 110 \text{ or contains the substring } 001 \text{ (or both)}\}$ ,
- $\{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ contains the substring } 110 \text{ but does not contain the substring } 001\}$ ,
- $\{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid \text{if } w \text{ contains the substring } 110 \text{ then it contains also the substring } 001\}$ .

15 points



2. For a string  $w \in \{a, b\}^*$ , let us denote by  $n_a(w)$  the number of  $a$ 's in  $w$  and by  $n_b(w)$  the number of  $b$ 's in  $w$ . Design context-free grammars for the following three languages:

- (a)  $L_-=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) = n_b(w)\}$ ,
- (b)  $L_>=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) > n_b(w)\}$ ,
- (c)  $L_{\neq}=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) \neq n_b(w)\}$ .

Give also parse trees in your grammars for the following strings: (a)  $abba \in L_a$ , (b)  $baaba \in L_>$ , (c)  $bbaba \in L_{\neq}$ . (Hints: In part (b), it might be helpful to first design a grammar for the language  $L_{\geq}=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) \geq n_b(w)\}$ . In part (c), notice that for any two integers  $k$  and  $l$ ,  $k \neq l$  if and only if  $k > l$  or  $l > k$ .)

15 points

Exercise 2: Design CFG for the following languages

(a)  $L=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) = n_b(w)\}$   
 $S \rightarrow SS \mid aSb \mid bSa \mid \epsilon$

Another complicated answer:  $S \rightarrow aSb \mid bSa \mid aBa \mid bAb \mid \epsilon$   
 $B \rightarrow aBb \mid bBa \mid bSb$   
 $A \rightarrow aAb \mid bAa \mid aSa$

Parsed trees for  $abba \in L_a$ :  $S \rightarrow SS \rightarrow aSb bSa \rightarrow a \epsilon bba \rightarrow abba$  (1<sup>st</sup> sol)  
 $S \rightarrow aBa \rightarrow abSba \rightarrow ab \epsilon ba \rightarrow abba$  (2<sup>nd</sup> sol)

(b)  $L=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) > n_b(w)\}$   
 $S \rightarrow Aa \mid MS \mid SMA$   
 $A \rightarrow Aa \mid \epsilon$   
 $M \rightarrow \epsilon \mid MM \mid bMa \mid aMb$

Parsed trees for  $baaba \in L_>$ :  $S \rightarrow MS \rightarrow MAa \rightarrow Ma \rightarrow MMa \rightarrow bMa a \rightarrow b \epsilon aa \epsilon ba \rightarrow baaba$

(c)  $L_{\neq}=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w) \neq n_b(w)\}$   
 $L \rightarrow L_a \mid L_b$   
 $L_a \rightarrow L_a \mid aL_a \mid L_a \mid aL_a$   
 $L_b \rightarrow L_b \mid bL_b \mid L_b \mid bL_b$   
 $L_a \rightarrow aL_a \mid bL_b \mid bL_b \mid aL_a \mid \epsilon$

Parsed trees for  $bbaba \in L_{\neq}$ :  $L \rightarrow L_b \rightarrow L_b \rightarrow bL_b \rightarrow \epsilon bL_b \rightarrow bbL_b \rightarrow aL_a \rightarrow bb \epsilon a \epsilon bL_b \rightarrow bbab \epsilon a \epsilon \rightarrow bbaba$

3. For a string  $w \in \{a, b, c\}^*$ , let us denote by  $n_a(w)$  the number of  $a$ 's in  $w$ , by  $n_b(w)$  the number of  $b$ 's in  $w$ , and by  $n_c(w)$  the number of  $c$ 's in  $w$ .

- (a) Design a general (unrestricted) grammar for the language

$$L_{abc}=\{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(w)=n_b(w)=n_c(w)\}.$$

Give a derivation in your grammar for the string  $cabacb \in L_{abc}$ .

- (b) Prove (precisely!) that the language  $L_{abc}$  is not context-free.

15 points

a) Design the general unrestricted grammar

Wednesday, 30 March 2022 10.21

**C11.2** Design an unrestricted grammar that generates the language  
 $\{w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \mid w \text{ contains equally many } a's, b's \text{ and } c's\}$ .

With unrestricted grammars,  
 we can always "swap"  
 the position of two "capital variables"

$$S \xrightarrow{*} ABC \xrightarrow{*} SAC \xrightarrow{*} BCA$$

$$\begin{array}{l} AB \rightarrow BA \\ AC \rightarrow CA \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} ABC \xrightarrow{*} ACB \\ | \\ ABC \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} AA \xrightarrow{*} B CCC \\ | \\ AAB \end{array}$$

$$aaabbccc$$

Example:	
An unrestricted grammar for the non-context-free language $\{a^k b^k c^k \mid k \geq 0\}$ :	
$S \rightarrow LT \mid \epsilon$	$LA \rightarrow a$
$T \rightarrow ABCT \mid ABC$	$aA \rightarrow aa$
$BA \rightarrow AB$	$aB \rightarrow ab$
$CB \rightarrow BC$	$bB \rightarrow bb$
$CA \rightarrow AC$	$bC \rightarrow bc$
	$cC \rightarrow cc$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow ABCS \mid \epsilon \\ AB \rightarrow BA \\ BA \rightarrow AB \\ BC \rightarrow CB \\ CB \rightarrow BC \\ AC \rightarrow CA \\ AC \rightarrow CA \\ A \rightarrow a \\ B \rightarrow b \\ C \rightarrow c \end{array} \right\}$$

b) prove that the language in b is not context-free

**Theorem:** For any regular language  $L_0$  and CFL  $L_1$ , language  $L_0 \cap L_1$  must be a CFL.

Use this theorem, and the fact that  $\{a^i b^i c^i \mid i \geq 0\}$  is not context-free, to show that the following language is not context-free:

The set of all strings over  $\{a, b, c\}$  with an equal number of  $a$ 's,  $b$ 's and  $c$ 's.

3. Let  $L_0$  be the set of all strings over  $\{a, b, c\}$  with an equal number of  $a$ 's,  $b$ 's and  $c$ 's.

**Assume that  $L_0$  is context-free.** Let  $L_1 = a^* b^* c^*$ . Clearly  $L_1$  is regular. But

$L_0 \cap L_1 = \{a^i b^i c^i \mid i \geq 0\}$ , and by the theorem it must be context-free. But we already showed that  $\{a^i b^i c^i \mid i \geq 0\}$  is not context-free. So, **by contradiction**,  $L_0$  **can not be a CFL**.

4. Which of the following claims are true and which are false? Provide a brief justification for each of your answers, based on results introduced at the course. (For example if the claim was: “The complement of any decidable language is semidecidable”, your answer could be: “True. The complement of any decidable language is decidable (by switching the accepting and rejecting states in the recognising TM), and all decidable languages are by definition also semidecidable.”)
- (a) The complement of any regular language is context-free.
  - (b) The intersection of any two context-free languages is regular.
  - (c) The union of any two context-free languages is context-free.
  - (d) Nondeterministic Turing machines can recognise some undecidable languages.
  - (e) The intersection of any two semidecidable languages is decidable.

15 points

(a) The complement of any regular language is context-free

False. The complement of any regular language is also regular. Class of regular languages is closed under complement by switching accepting and non accepting states

(b) The intersection of any two context-free languages is regular

False. Intersection of languages in the chomsky hierarchy can only be recognized from the highest level. For example, intersection of type 1 and type 2 requires type 2 machine to recognize the intersection. Now, CFG is type 1, and their intersection would also be a CFL as well, which is not a regular language

(c) The union of any two context-free languages is context-free

True. The class of CFG is closed under union, concatenation and star operations

(d) Nondeterministic Turing machines can recognize some undecidable languages

False. A language that the nondeterministic TM recognizes is called Turing-recognizable or semi-decidable or recursively enumerable languages. There is no automata that can recognize undecidable languages, such as halting and non emptiness problem.

(e) The intersection of any two semidecidable languages is decidable

False. The intersection and union of any two semi-decidable languages is also semi-decidable

### C11.1 Prove that the following problems are undecidable:

- (i) Given a Turing machine  $M$ , does  $M$  recognise a regular language?
- (ii) Given a Turing machine  $M$ , does  $M$  accept exactly one input string?
- (iii) Given Turing machines  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ , is  $\mathcal{L}(M_1) \cap \mathcal{L}(M_2) = \emptyset$ ?

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Use Rice Theorem to prove all of them

**C11.3** Which of the following claims are true and which are false?

- (i) The computation of a deterministic Turing machine halts on every input.
- (ii) The complement of any decidable language is semidecidable.
- (iii) The intersection of any two semidecidable languages is decidable.
- (iv) The problem of determining if a Turing machine accepts at least 7 strings is undecidable.
- (v) The problem of determining if a Turing machine has at least 7 states is undecidable.
- (vi) The problem of determining if a Turing machine runs for at least 7 steps on all inputs of length  $|x| \leq 7$  is undecidable.

(i) The computation of a deterministic Turing machine halts on every input

True, since the Turing machine is deterministic, it has finite states and thus it will always halt

(ii) The complement of any decidable language is semidecidable.

False. The complement of decidable languages is also decidable. Decidable langs are closed under complement

(iii) The intersection of any two semidecidable languages is decidable.

False. The intersection union of any two semidecidable languages is also semi-decidable.

(iv) The problem of determining if a Turing machine accepts at least 7 strings is undecidable.

True, using Rice Theorem

(v) The problem of determining if a Turing machine has at least 7 states is undecidable.

False. The states of the Turing machine can be counted in a traditional fashion, and thus it is a decidable language

(vi) The problem of determining if a Turing machine runs for at least 7 steps on all inputs of length  $|x| \leq 7$  is undecidable.

True, using Rice Theorem

**H9.3** Are the following statements true or false? Justify your answers.

1. All regular languages are decidable.
2. The complement of any context-free language is decidable.
3. The complement of any language recognised by a deterministic Turing machine is decidable.
4. All languages recognised by nondeterministic Turing machines are semi-decidable.
5. If a language can be recognised by a deterministic pushdown automaton, then it is also decidable.
6. If a language is decidable, then it can be recognised by some non-deterministic pushdown automaton.

1. All regular languages are decidable.

True. We know that the problem is decideable because a DFA for the regular language always quits after n steps on an input of size n, so the simulation is guaranteed to halt. The automaton always halt => regular languages are decidable

2. The complement of any context-free language is decidable:

The complement of a context-free language can be context-free or not; the complement of a non-context free language can be context-free or not => CFL is not closed under complement. Decidable languages are closed under complement, and context-free languages are decidable, so therefore the complement of a context-free language is also decidable.

3. The complement of any language recognised by a deterministic Turing machine is decidable. Language is recognized by a deterministic Turing machine => it is decidable. Therefore, its complement will also be decidable as decidable languages are closed under complement

4. All languages recognised by nondeterministic Turing machines are semi-decidable.

True. Since it is recognized by a nondeterministic Turing machines, it will always halt on accepted string. But it is not sure to halt or loop forever for non-accepting strings => The accepted langs by nondeterministic Turing machines are semi-decidable

A semidecidable problem (or equivalently a recursively enumerable problem) could be:

- Decidable: If the problem and its complement are both semidecidable (or recursively enumerable), then the problem is decidable (recursive).
- Undecidable: If the problem is semidecidable and its complement is not semidecidable (that is, is not recursively enumerable).

Important note: a decidable (recursive) problem is also semidecidable (recursively enumerable). Conversely, if a problem is not recursively enumerable (semidecidable), then is not recursive (decidable).

5. If a language can be recognised by a deterministic pushdown automaton, then it is also decidable.

True, since PDA always halt after scanning the string => the language is decidable

6. If a language is decidable, then it can be recognised by some nondeterministic pushdown automaton.

True. If a language is decidable => it can be recognized by a deterministic Turing machine

Grammar	Languages	Automaton	Production rules (constraints)*	Examples <sup>[3]</sup>
Type-0	Recursively enumerable	Turing machine	$\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$ (no constraints)	$L = \{w   w \text{ describes a terminating Turing machine}\}$
Type-1	Context-sensitive	Linear-bounded non-deterministic Turing machine	$\alpha A\beta \rightarrow \alpha\gamma\beta$	$L = \{a^n b^n c^n   n > 0\}$
Type-2	Context-free	Non-deterministic pushdown automaton	$A \rightarrow \alpha$	$L = \{a^n b^n   n > 0\}$
Type-3	Regular	Finite state automaton	$A \rightarrow a$ and $A \rightarrow aB$	$L = \{a^n   n \geq 0\}$

\* Meaning of symbols:

- $a$  = terminal
- $A, B$  = non-terminal
- $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  = string of terminals and/or non-terminals
  - $\alpha, \beta$  = maybe empty
  - $\gamma$  = never empty

Note that the set of grammars corresponding to [recursive languages](#) is not a member of this hierarchy; these would be properly between Type-0 and Type-1.

Every regular language is context-free, every context-free language is context-sensitive, every context-sensitive language is recursive and every recursive language is recursively enumerable. These are all proper inclusions, meaning that there exist recursively enumerable languages that are not context-sensitive, context-sensitive languages that are not context-free and context-free languages that are not regular.<sup>[4]</sup>