

CS 3530: Assignment 3c

Fall 2014

Problems

Problem 1.54 (20 points)

Problem

Consider the language $F = \{a^i b^j c^k : i, j, k \geq 0 \text{ and if } i = 1 \text{ then } j = k\}$.

- Show that F is not regular.
- Show that F acts like a regular language in the pumping lemma. In other words, give a pumping length p and demonstrate that F satisfies the three conditions of the pumping lemma for this value of p .
- Explain why parts (a) and (b) do not contradict the pumping lemma.

Solution a

Assume F is regular

string $s = ab^p c^p$

split s into $s = xyz$ where:

- $xy^i z \in F$ (for each $i \geq 0$)
- $|y| > 0$
- $|xy| \leq p$

If we make $x=ab^p$ and $y = c^p$ and $z = \varepsilon$ for some $i \leq p - 1$ then $xy^i z = ab^p c^{p+i} \notin F$.

Solution b

Assume F is regular

string $s = ab^p c^p$

split s into $s = xyz$ where:

- $xy^i z \in F$ (for each $i \geq 0$)
- $|y| > 0$
- $|xy| \leq p$

If we make $x = a$ and $y = b^p c^p$ and $z = \varepsilon$ then $s \in F$.

Solution c

Solution a gives strings $\notin F$ while solution b gives strings $\in F$. This proves that languages that are pumped do not necessarily have to be regular even though all regular languages can be pumped.