



CS/ECE374A Midterm 1

Regular languages and context free languages



Disclaimer and logistics



- This is being recorded. Recording will be on HKU website.
- Slides will be available on EdStem and HKU website later.
- Some of us are CAs, but we have not seen the exam. We have no idea what the questions are. However, we've reviewed the practice exams, and taken the course, so we have *suspensions* as to what the questions will be like.
- Slides that contain information that's not on your cheatsheet will be indicated as such!

Regular expressions



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- Regular expressions must use a *finite* number of these operators

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- Explain, in English, each part of your regular expression with a short sentence. Does the explanation match the language?

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 - The first is wrong with counterexample 001. The second is correct. 1010, 0101, 0110, 1001 are all the strings of length 4 in $(01 + 10)^*$

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- Final answer: $((11)^*10^+)^* + (11)^*1$

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- How do we know this? Think of NFA/DFA transformations from Thompson’s algorithm and product construction (we did a special case of set difference earlier!)
- Regular languages are closed only under *finite* applications of these operations – this stems from the fact that a DFA must have a finite number of states, so we can’t do an infinite product construction.
 - Note: sometimes an infinite sequence of these operations *will* result in a language that’s still regular, but *not always*!

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 - Note that we can set $y = \epsilon$ so then $L = \{xz : x, z \in \Sigma^*\} = \Sigma^*$ so L is regular!

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 - Yes! If L was regular, then L^* would be regular.
- If L_1 is not regular and L_2 is regular, then must $L_1 L_2$ be irregular?
 - No. Consider $L_1 = \{0^{2^n} : n \geq 1\} \cup \{\epsilon\}$ and $L_2 = 0^*$. Then, $L_1 L_2 = 0^*$, which is regular.

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 - And, make sure your set of states is finite!

Practice building an NFA/DFA



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$$Q = \{0, \dots, |z|\}$$

$$s = 0$$

$$A = \{|z|\}$$

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Combine with Thompson's Algorithm



Note: not all of this is not on your cheatsheet! You should make sure you remember it, just in case.

Language	Expr.	NFA
\emptyset	\emptyset	
$\{w\}$	w	
$L_1 \cup L_2$	$r_1 + r_2$	
$L_1 \cdot L_2$	$r_1 r_2$	
L_1^*	r_1^*	

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- Create a DFA/NFA for L using the following *rough* format:
 - $Q = Q_1 \times \dots \times Q_n$
 - $\delta'(q_1, \dots, q_n) = (\delta_1(q_1), \dots, \delta_2(q_2))$
 - $s = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$
 - $A' = \{\text{convert } f \text{ into a set expression}\}$

Practice product construction



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 - $A' = (Q_{373} \setminus A_{373}) \times A_{374}$

Language transformations



- Skip something: ex $\text{Half}(L) = \{\text{cut}(w) : w \in L\}$ where cut removes characters at odd indices (strings are 1-indexed, $\text{cut}(\text{hi}) = \text{i}$)

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- Intuition: when you need to keep track of unbounded information (i.e. occurrences of a character), the language is probably irregular

Practice fooling sets



- Find the size (or, a rough bound on it) of the largest fooling set for each language. Which is regular?
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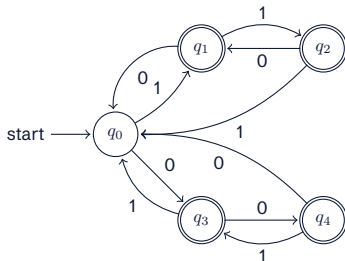


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 - We can write a DFA for L_2 with 5 states, so $|F| \leq 5$



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- Both ways to think about CFLs are completely fine!

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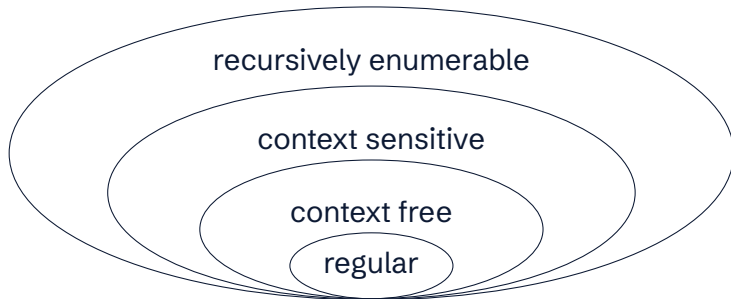


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The Chomsky Hierarchy



- Remember, all regular languages are context-free!
- You'll learn about other classes of languages later in the course.



Practice with CFLs



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- Casework!

Practice with CFLs



- Let $L = \{0^j 1^i 0^k : i + j \neq k\}$
- First try:

$$S \rightarrow 0S0|N$$

$$N \rightarrow 1N0|1|0$$

- What's wrong with this? Forces $j = k$. How can we solve this?
- Casework! Create production rules L and G for when $j < k$ and $j > k$, respectively:

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Push Down Automata

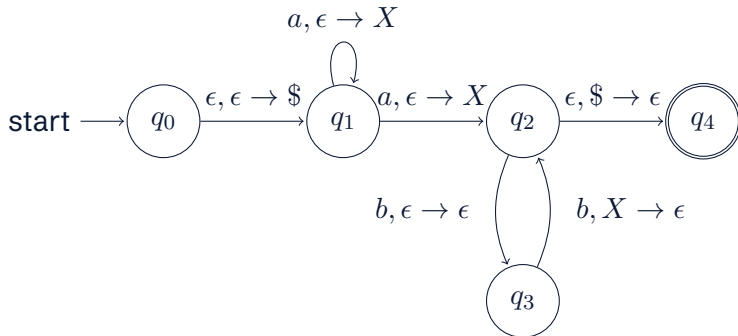


- Unlikely to be on exam, alternative to using a CFG to prove a language is context free.
- Adds a stack to a FSM, making it able to decide context free grammars.
- Each transition can interact with the stack by popping or pushing a character from the stack alphabet.
- In order to take a transition, the top of the stack and the input must match the transition rule. Unless they are ϵ .
- Formally defined as a 6-Tuple: $(Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, s, A, \delta)$

Practice with PDAs

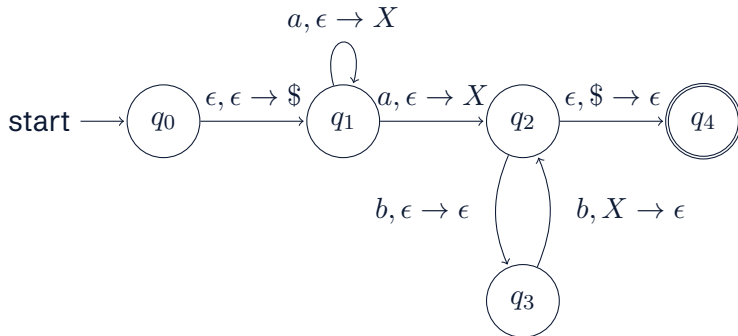


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Practice with PDAs

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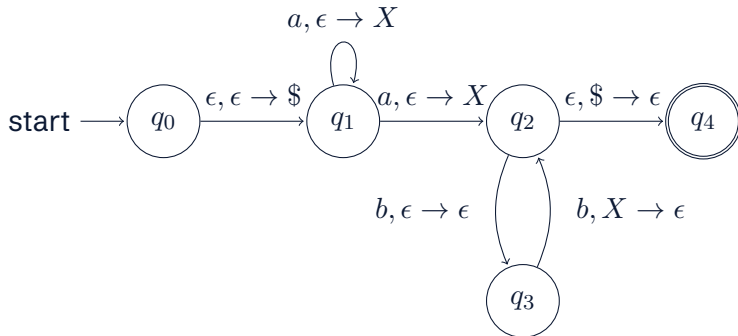


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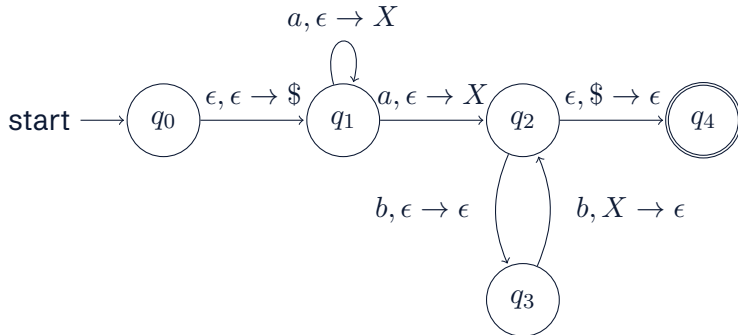


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Practice with PDAs



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- Writing something is better than nothing
- Go easiest to hardest
- Sanity check your answers (consider edge cases: strings of length 1 or 0)
- Practice until you could explain the concept to a friend

Closing Remarks



- Good luck on Midterm 1!
- Please fill out feedback form for this review session.
- Worksheet links and feedback form:

