



CS/ECE374^BA 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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- Built inductively on three operators:
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$0 \rightarrow \epsilon, 0, 00, \dots$

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$$L(r_1 r_2) = \{xy : x \in L_1, y \in L_2\}$$
- Precedence: first $()$, then $*$, then concatenation, then $+$
- Regular expressions must use a *finite* number of these operators

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- Can you decompose the given language into a combination of smaller languages?
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- Explain, in English, each part of your regular expression with a short sentence. Does the explanation match the language?

Practice with regular expressions



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0110

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$$(01+10)^*(1+0+\epsilon)$$

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- Exercise: which, if any, of the following are also correct:
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 $(01 + 10 + \cancel{1010 + 0101 + 0110 + 1001})^*(\epsilon + 0 + 1)$ ✓

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 $(01 + 10 + 1010 + 0101 + 0110 + 1001)^*(\epsilon + 0 + 1)$
 - 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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$$0^* \left(1 (11)^* 00^* \right)^* \left(\epsilon + 1 (11)^* \right)$$

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

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- The set of all regular languages is closed under the following:
 - Union (\cup), intersection (\cap), concatenation (\cdot), kleene star ($*$), complement (C), set difference (\setminus), and reverse (R)
- 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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 - Intuition about palindromes: When a palindrome has a *minimum* length, but no maximum, language is irregular. Why? If minimum but no maximum, we need $O(n)$ memory to keep track of what might be in the palindrome.

$$L_Y = (00 + 01)^*$$
$$L_Y L_Y^R$$

010000

00001000

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

Short answer regular languages 2



- If L is not regular, then is L^* also not regular?

$$L = 0^p \text{ p prime} \quad L^* = 00^*, \text{ reg.}$$
$$L = 1 + 0 + L \xrightarrow{\text{bad}} L^* = (1 + 0)^*$$

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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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- Validate your DFA/NFA. If asked, make sure to define **all five** elements of the tuple $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$! This is an easy way to lose points!



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- Validate your DFA/NFA. If asked, make sure to define **all five** elements of the tuple $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$! This is an easy way to lose points!
 - And, make sure your set of states is finite!

Practice building an NFA/DFA



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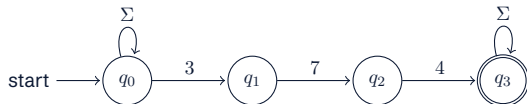


- What about the missing transitions?

Practice building an NFA/DFA



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- What about the missing transitions? Simply write “all missing transitions lead to reject”!

Practice building an NFA/DFA 2



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Practice building an NFA/DFA 2



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

$$s = 0$$

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

$$\delta(i, z_{i+1}) = i + 1 \text{ for } i < |z|$$

$$\delta(|z|, x) = |z| \quad \forall x$$

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bacon
↑
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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^*	

Combine with product construction



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 - For example, L is the set of strings in L_1 and not in L_2
- 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



- Let L be the set of strings that contain the substring 374 and not the substring 373. Create a DFA for L .

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- We already know these two languages are regular, so we'll skip the process of creating machines M_{374} and M_{373} (but you should show this on the exam!)



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3 5 7 374

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 - $Q = Q_{373} \times Q_{374}$
 - $\delta((q_1, q_2), x) = (\delta_{373}(x), \delta_{374}(x))$
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 - $s = (s_{373}, s_{374})$
- Now, what is A ? We accept when M_{373} is *not* in an accept state, **and** when M_{374} is in an accept state:

Practice product construction



- Let L be the set of strings that contain the substring 374 and not the substring 373. Create a DFA for L .
- We already know these two languages are regular, so we'll skip the process of creating machines M_{374} and M_{373} (but you should show this on the exam!)
- Let's set up the machinery to run M_{373} and M_{374} in parallel:
 - $Q = Q_{373} \times Q_{374}$
 - $\delta((q_1, q_2), x) = (\delta_{373}(x), \delta_{374}(x))$
 - $s = (s_{373}, s_{374})$
- Now, what is A ? We accept when M_{373} is *not* in an accept state, **and** when M_{374} is in an accept state:

$$A' = \{ (q_1, q_2) \mid q_1 \notin A_{373} \text{ and } q_2 \in A_{374} \}$$

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 - Example: we need to change Hi. to Hi! , and Bye. stays the

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- Why did we need an NFA here? Usually we have to consider multiple options, and an NFA is the easiest way to do this.

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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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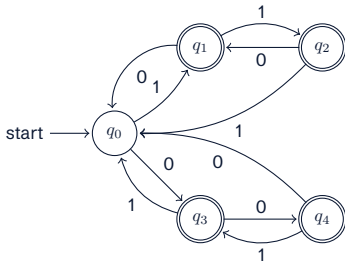


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 - We can write a DFA for L_2 with 5 states, so $|F| \leq 5$



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$$S \rightarrow \dots S \dots$$

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↓
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- Both ways to think about CFLs are completely fine!

The Chomsky Hierarchy

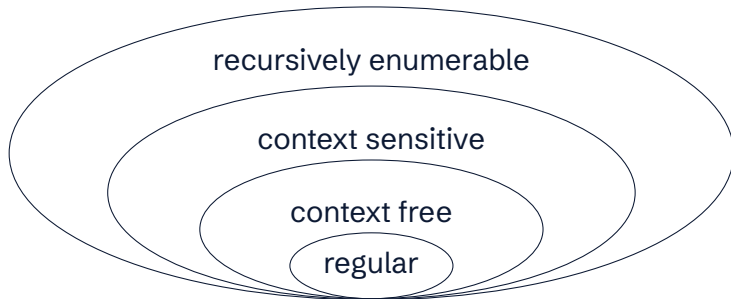


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The Chomsky Hierarchy



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



Practice with CFLs



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

$$\begin{aligned} i+j &< k \\ i+j &> k \end{aligned}$$

Practice with CFLs

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

$$S \rightarrow 0S0 | N$$

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

CFLs are NOT
closed under
negation
or
intersection



$A^m B^m C^n \in \text{CFL}$
 $A^m B^n C^n \in \text{CFL}$
 $A^n B^n C^n \notin \text{CFL}$

Practice with CFLs



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- What's wrong with this?

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|||

1...1 1 0...0
↑ ↑ ↑

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Practice with CFLs



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$$\underline{S} \rightarrow (\underline{N}) S | \varepsilon$$

$$N \rightarrow 0N1^m | 1N | 1$$

where $m < n$

$$S \rightarrow 0S0|N|L0|0G$$

$$L \rightarrow L0|N0$$

$$G \rightarrow 0G|0N$$

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

$\{0+1\}^*$ every run of 0s is followed by a larger run of 1s.

$$S \rightarrow \varepsilon | NS$$

$$N \rightarrow 1 | 0N1$$

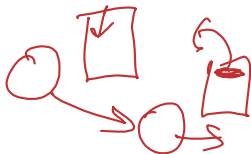
$$00111 \quad 01100011111$$

N N N N

Push Down Automata



DFA + Stack

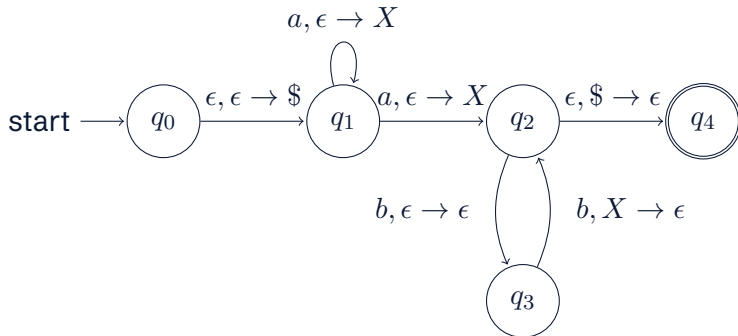


- Unlikely to be on exam, alternative to using a CFG to prove a language is context free.
- Adds a stack to a FSM, making it able to decide context free grammars.
- Each transition can interact with the stack by popping or pushing a character from the stack alphabet.
- In order to take a transition, 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



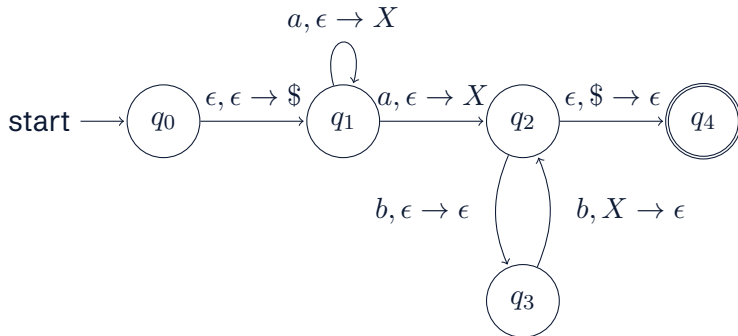
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Practice with PDAs



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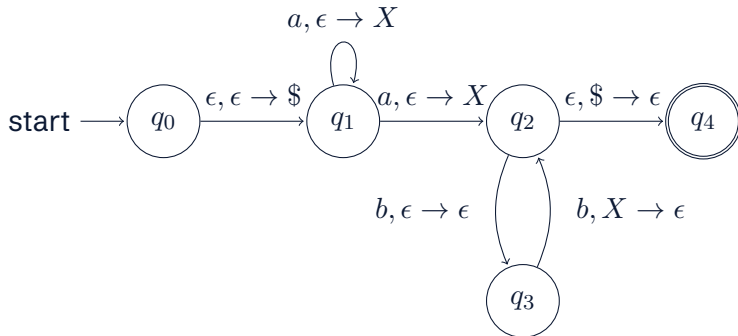


- $L = \{a^n b^{2n} \mid n \geq 1\}$

Practice with PDAs



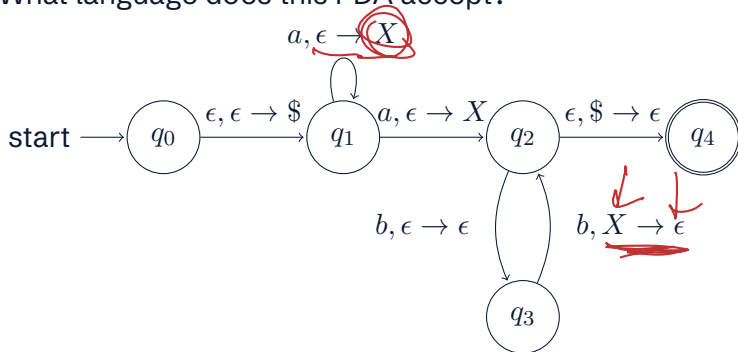
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- What happens if we change $q_1 \rightarrow q_2$ to $\epsilon, \epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon$?

Practice with PDAs

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- $L = \{a^n b^{2n} \mid n \geq 1\}$
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- $L = \{a^n b^{2n} \mid n \geq 0\}$

Advice and tips



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- When you see recursive definitions, you should almost always use induction!
- 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:

