

Some of these problems are from the book. The letters correspond to the section of the book: the [H]omeworks starting page 301, and [M]iscellaneous [E]xercises starting page 315. For example, H1.2 denotes Homework 1, problem 2.

1. Problems completed on Automata Tutor

2. Product construction

H1.2

| | | a | b |
|-----|------|----|----|
| (a) | 11 | 21 | 32 |
| | 21 | 31 | 12 |
| | 31 | 11 | 22 |
| | 12 | 21 | 32 |
| | 22 | 31 | 12 |
| | 32 F | 11 | 22 |

| | | a | b |
|-----|------|----|----|
| (b) | 11 | 21 | 32 |
| | 21 | 31 | 12 |
| | 31 F | 11 | 22 |
| | 12 F | 21 | 32 |
| | 22 F | 31 | 12 |
| | 32 F | 11 | 22 |

3. Induction on strings

H1.3

Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$ be an arbitrary DFA. Prove by induction on $|y|$ that for all strings $x, y \in \Sigma^*$ and $q \in Q$,

$$\hat{\delta}(q, xy) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), y),$$

where $\hat{\delta}$ is the extended version of δ defined on all strings described in Lecture 3.

Base Case:

Consider the case where $|y| = 0$. This is equivalent to $y = \epsilon$.

By definition, the null string ϵ serves as an identity for string concatenation.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\delta}(q, xy) &= \hat{\delta}(q, x\epsilon) && \text{by substituting } \epsilon \text{ in for } y \\ &= \hat{\delta}(q, x) && \text{by definition of } \epsilon \\ &= \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), \epsilon) && \text{by definition of } \hat{\delta} \text{ in lecture 3 (3.1)} \\ &= \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), y) && \text{by substituting } y \text{ in for } \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

Inductive Hypothesis:

Assume that for $|y| = k$, where $k \geq 1$, $\hat{\delta}(q, xy) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), y)$.

Inductive Step:

Let $|y| = k + 1$, so $y \neq \epsilon$. Therefore, y can be represented as the concatenation za where $z \in \Sigma^*$ and $a \in \Sigma$.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\delta}(q, xy) &= \hat{\delta}(q, xza) && \text{by substituting } za \text{ in for } y \\ &= \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, xz), a) && \text{by definition of } \hat{\delta} \text{ in lecture 3 (3.2, page 16)} \\ &= \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), z), a) && \text{by Inductive Hypothesis} \\ &= \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), za) && \text{by definition of } \hat{\delta} \text{ in lecture 3 (3.2, page 16)} \\ &= \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, x), y) && \text{by substituting } y \text{ in for } za \end{aligned}$$

4. Subset construction
 ME.3

(a) abbbb

| | state | a | b |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | \emptyset | \emptyset | \emptyset |
| (b) | $\{s\}$ | $\{s,t,u,v\}$ | \emptyset |
| | $\{s,t\}$ | $\{s\}$ | $\{s\}$ |
| | $\{s,t,u\}$ | $\{s\}$ | $\{s,t\}$ |
| | $\{s,t,u,v\}$ | $\{s\}$ | $\{s,t,u\}$ |

5. Novel construction, proof
H2.2

Construction:

For the construction of the DFA/NFA accepting $\text{rev}(A)$, let us start with the DFA/NFA accepting A , called M_1 . We will first switch the start and final states, then we will reverse the direction of the edges (effectively reversing each transition $a \rightarrow b$ to become $b \rightarrow a$). Let us call this new DFA/NFA M_2 . For the desired proof, we will induct on the length of an arbitrary string $x \in A$ from the original language A .

Base Case:

Let $|x| = 1$. If such a string were to be accepted by M_1 , there would be a one-step path from a start state to an end state ($q_1 \rightarrow f_1$). In the creation of M_2 , this path would still exist, but be pointing in the opposite direction ($q_2 \rightarrow f_2$). The reverse of a string of length one is simply that same string, so it would be accepted by M_2 .

Inductive Hypothesis:

Assume that for $|x| = k$, where $k \geq 1$, if x is accepted by M_1 , $\text{rev}(x)$ is accepted by M_2 .

Inductive Step:

Let $|x| = k + 1$. x can therefore be seen as za , where $z \in \Sigma^*$ and $a \in \Sigma$. By the definition of $\text{rev}()$ on strings, $\text{rev}(x) = \text{rev}(za) = az$. We need to show that if za is accepted by M_1 , az is accepted by M_2 .

By our inductive hypothesis, if z is accepted by M_1 , $\text{rev}(z)$ is accepted by M_2 . So, we must inspect the relation between the acceptance of a as the last character of za , and a as the first character of az .

In M_1 , the acceptance of a can be represented by the edge between $\hat{\delta}(q_1, z)$ and f_1 (note: $q_1, f_1 = f_2, q_2$, as defined in the **Construction** step). In the creation of M_2 , this edge is reversed, now spanning from q_2 to $\hat{\delta}(q_1, z)$ (this specific node is effectively the same in M_1 and M_2 , simply changing from being connected to an accept state in M_1 to being connected to a start state in M_2). In this ‘final’ edge’s existence in M_1 , a guarantee is established that the equivalent reversed edge will exist in M_2 . This reversed edge means that the acceptance of a as the last character of za guarantees the acceptance of a as the first character of az .

Therefore, if za is accepted by M_1 , az is accepted by M_2 . If A is regular, $\text{rev}(A)$ must also be regular.