

Unary finite automata

Below, $H(n)$ represents the function $e^{\sqrt{n \log(n)}}$

These are some statements related to unary finite automata

- Each unary n -state 2dfa can be simulated by a 1dfa with $O(H(n))$ states.
- For each n there is a unary n -state 2dfa A such that each 1dfa recognizing $L(A)$ requires $\Omega(H(n))$ states.

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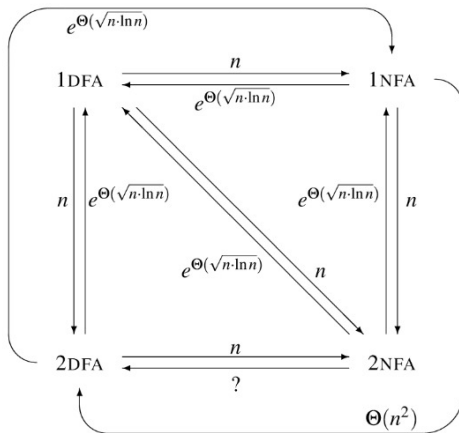
- For each n there is a unary n -state 2dfa A such that each 1nfa recognizing $L(A)$ requires $\Omega(H(n))$
- Each unary n -state 1nfa A can be simulated by a 2dfa B with $O(n^2)$ states.
- For each n there is a unary n -state 1nfa A such that each 2dfa recognizing $L(A)$ requires $\Omega(n^2)$ states.

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Informally speaking we can see that 2dfa's are hard to simulate by 1dfa's, even if we consider only unary languages.

Also, for unary languages, two-way motion is more powerful, in a sense, because we can simulate unary 1nfa's by 2dfa's increasing the number of states only polynomially, which is not possible the other way round.

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1nfa to 2dfa

Lemma A: If $\gcd(a,b)=1$, then the greatest number such that the equation $ax + by = c$ has no solutions in natural numbers is $(a-1)(b-1)-1$.

Theorem: For each n there is a unary n -state 1nfa A such that each 2dfa recognizing $L(A)$ requires $\Omega(n^2)$ states.

Proof: Let $L = \{x \mid x = nx_1 + (n-1)x_2 \text{ for } x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{N}\}$. L can be recognized by a 1nfa A with n states. $A = (Q, q_0, E, F)$ is defined as follows: $Q = q_0, \dots, q_{n-1}$, $E = \{(q_i, q_{i+1}) \mid i = 0, \dots, n-1\} \cup (q_1, q_0)$ (the addition is mod n) and $F = q_0$. Let $m = \max(\mathbb{N} - L)$. By Lemma A, $m = O(n^2)$. Consider a 2dfa B recognizing L and its computation on m . Suppose that, in all passes on m , B enters a cycle and let y_1, \dots, y_k be the lengths of these cycles. Then B would reject also $m' = m + \text{lcm}(y_1, \dots, y_k)$, which contradicts the fact that $m' \in L$. Therefore, there is a pass. of B on m without a cycle and the theorem follows.