CS 254: Computability and Complexity

Problem Set #01

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1. Prove the operation star is closed under recognizable languages:

For a recognizeable language L, we can create a nondeterministic turing machine M that recognizes L^* .

We will non-deterministically cut input string w into parts $w_1, w_2, ..., w_n$ and run w_i on M. Since the input is finite we can try every possible cut. If M halts or rejects for any i, then reject. Otherwise, if for every i, M accepts w_i then accept.

If there is a way to partition w into strings such that $w_1, w_2, ..., w_n$ where $w_i \in L$ then there will be a branch that M will accept.

Therefore L^* is closed under recognizable languages.