Lecture 8 – Closure Properties of Regular Languages
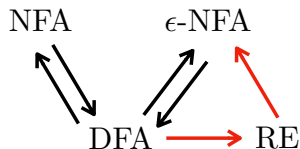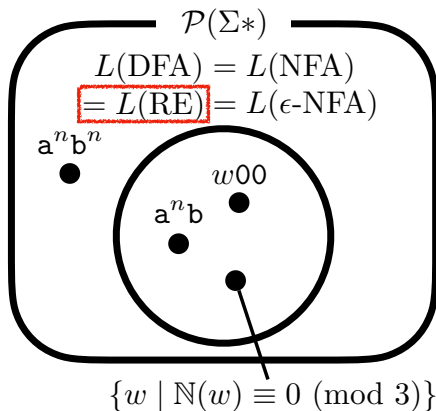### COSE215: Theory of Computation

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PLRG

2023 Spring

APLRG

- Regular Languages

Contents

Closure Properties of Regular Languages

Definition (Closure Properties)

The class of regular languages is **closed** under an *n*-ary operator op if and only if $op(L_1, \cdots, L_n)$ is regular for any regular languages $L_1, \cdots, L_n$. We say that such properties are **closure properties** of regular languages.

Closure Properties of Regular Languages

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$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\text{A language } L \text{ is regular} & \iff & \exists \text{ RE } R. \; L(R) = L \\
\text{A language } L \text{ is regular} & \iff & \exists \; \epsilon\text{-NFA } N_\epsilon. \; L(N_\epsilon) = L \\
\text{A language } L \text{ is regular} & \iff & \exists \text{ NFA } N. \; L(N) = L \\
\text{A language } L \text{ is regular} & \iff & \exists \text{ DFA } D. \; L(D) = L
\end{array}
$$

Closure Properties of Regular Languages

Definition (Closure Properties)

The class of regular languages is **closed** under an *n*-ary operator op if and only if $op(L_1, \cdots, L_n)$ is regular for any regular languages $L_1, \cdots, L_n$. We say that such properties are **closure properties** of regular languages.

A language L is regular $\iff \exists$ RE R. $L(R) = L$

A language L is regular $\iff \exists \epsilon$-NFA N_ϵ. $L(N_\epsilon) = L$

A language L is regular $\iff \exists$ NFA N. $L(N) = L$

A language L is regular $\iff \exists$ DFA D. $L(D) = L$

1 Construct a regular expression R such that $L(R) = op(L_1, \cdots, L_n)$ using the regular expressions $R_1, \cdots, R_n$ such that $L(R_i) = L_i$ for $i = 1, \cdots, n$.

2 Construct a finite automaton A such that $L(A) = op(L_1, \cdots, L_n)$ using the finite automata $A_1, \cdots, A_n$ such that $L(A_i) = L_i$ for $i = 1, \cdots, n$.

Closure under Union

Theorem (Closure under Union)

If L_1 and L_2 are regular languages, then so is $L_1 \cup L_2$.

Proof) Let R_1 and R_2 be the regular expressions such that $L(R_1) = L_1$ and $L(R_2) = L_2$, respectively. Consider the following regular expression:

$$R_1 \,|\, R_2$$

Then, by the definition of the union operator ($|$), $L(R_1 \,|\, R_2) = L_1 \cup L_2$. $\quad\square$

Closure under Concatenation and Kleene Star

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Theorem (Closure under Concatenation)

If L_1 and L_2 are regular languages, then so is $L_1 \cdot L_2$.

Proof) Let R_1 and R_2 be the regular expressions such that $L(R_1) = L_1$ and $L(R_2) = L_2$, respectively. Consider the following regular expression:

$$R_1 \cdot R_2$$

Then, by the definition of the concatenation operator $(\cdot)$,
$L(R_1 \cdot R_2) = L_1 \cdot L_2$. □
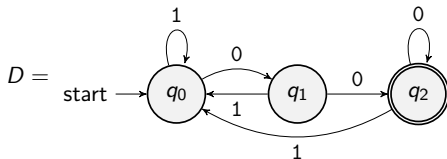
Theorem (Closure under Kleene Star)

If L is a regular language, then so is L^*.

Proof) Let R be the regular expressions such that $L(R) = L$. Consider the following regular expression:

$$R^*$$

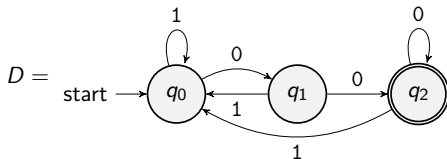Then, by the definition of the Kleene star operator $(^*)$, $L(R^*) = L^*$. □

Consider the following DFA D such that $L(D) = \{w00 \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*\}$.

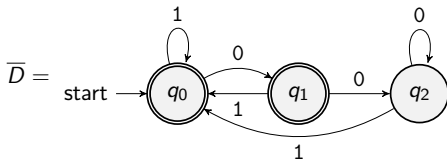How to construct a DFA $\overline{D}$ such that $L(\overline{D}) = \overline{L(D)}$?

Consider the following DFA D such that $L(D) = \{w00 \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*\}$.

How to construct a DFA $\overline{D}$ such that $L(\overline{D}) = \overline{L(D)}$?

Closure under Complement

Theorem (Closure under Complement)

If L is a regular language, then so is $\overline{L}$.

Proof) Let $D = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ be the DFA such that $L(D) = L$. Consider the following DFA:
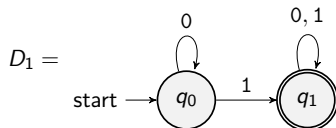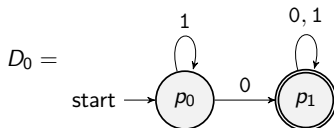
$$\overline{D} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, Q \setminus F).$$

Then,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\forall w \in \Sigma^*, \ w \in L(\overline{D}) &\iff \delta^*(q_0, w) \in Q \setminus F \\
&\iff \delta^*(q_0, w) \notin F \\
&\iff w \notin L(D) \\
&\iff w \notin L \\
&\iff w \in \overline{L}
\end{aligned}
$$

□

Closure under Intersection

Consider two DFA D_0 and D_1 such that $L(D_0) = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has } 0\}$ and $L(D_1) = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has } 1\}$, respectively.

$$D_0 = \quad \overset{\text{start}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{1}{\underset{p_0}{\circlearrowleft}} \overset{0}{\longrightarrow} \overset{0,1}{\underset{p_1}{\circlearrowleft}} \qquad\qquad D_1 = \quad \overset{\text{start}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{0}{\underset{q_0}{\circlearrowleft}} \overset{1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{0,1}{\underset{q_1}{\circlearrowleft}}$$

How to construct a DFA D such that $L(D) = L(D_0) \cap L(D_1)$?
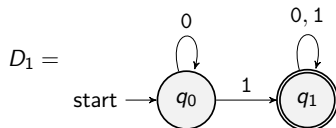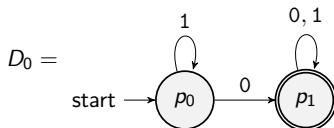
Closure under Intersection

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Consider two DFA D_0 and D_1 such that $L(D_0) = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has } 0\}$ and $L(D_1) = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has } 1\}$, respectively.
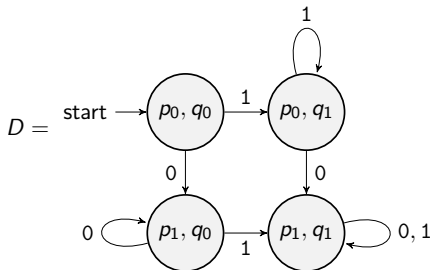
$$D_0 = \qquad\qquad D_1 =$$

How to construct a DFA D such that $L(D) = L(D_0) \cap L(D_1)$?

$$D =$$

Closure under Intersection

Theorem (Closure under Intersection)

If L_0 and L_1 are regular languages, then so is $L_0 \cap L_1$.

Proof) Let $D_0 = (Q_0, \Sigma, \delta_0, q_0, F_0)$ and $D_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$ be the DFA such that $L(D_0) = L_0$ and $L(D_1) = L_1$. Consider the following DFA:

$$D = (Q_0 \times Q_1, \Sigma, \delta, (q_0, q_1), F_0 \times F_1).$$

where $\forall q \in Q_0, q' \in Q_1, \mathtt{a} \in \Sigma. \ \delta((q, q'), \mathtt{a}) = (\delta_0(q, \mathtt{a}), \delta_1(q', \mathtt{a}))$.

Closure under Intersection

Theorem (Closure under Intersection)

If L_0 and L_1 are regular languages, then so is $L_0 \cap L_1$.

Proof) Let $D_0 = (Q_0, \Sigma, \delta_0, q_0, F_0)$ and $D_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$ be the DFA such that $L(D_0) = L_0$ and $L(D_1) = L_1$. Consider the following DFA:

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where $\forall q \in Q_0, q' \in Q_1, \mathtt{a} \in \Sigma. \; \delta((q, q'), \mathtt{a}) = (\delta_0(q, \mathtt{a}), \delta_1(q', \mathtt{a}))$. Then,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\forall w \in \Sigma^*, \; w \in L(D) \quad &\Longleftrightarrow \quad \delta^*((q_0, q_1), w) \in F_0 \times F_1 \\
&\Longleftrightarrow \quad \delta^*(q_0, w) \in F_0 \text{ and } \delta^*(q_1, w) \in F_1 \\
&\Longleftrightarrow \quad w \in L(D_0) \text{ and } w \in L(D_1) \\
&\Longleftrightarrow \quad w \in L(D_0) \cap L(D_1) \\
&\Longleftrightarrow \quad w \in L_0 \cap L_1
\end{aligned}
$$

$\square$

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Theorem (Closure under Intersection)

If L_0 and L_1 are regular languages, then so is $L_0 \cap L_1$.

Proof) Another proof is to use De Morgan's law:

$$L_0 \cap L_1 = \overline{\overline{L_0} \cup \overline{L_1}}$$

Since we already know that the regular languages are closed under complement and union, we are done. □

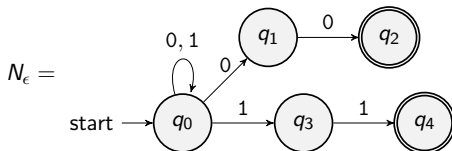## Theorem (Closure under Difference)

If L_0 and L_1 are regular languages, then so is $L_0 \setminus L_1$.

Proof) Similarly, we can use the following fact:
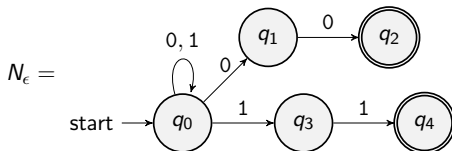
$$L_0 \setminus L_1 = L_0 \cap \overline{L_1}$$

Since we already know that the regular languages are closed under complement and intersection, we are done. $\quad\square$

Consider the following ϵ-NFA N_ϵ such that
$L(N_\epsilon) = \{w0 \text{ or } w1 \mid w \in \{0,1\}^*\}$:

How to construct an ϵ-NFA N_ϵ^R such that $L(N_\epsilon^R) = L(N_\epsilon)^R$?

Consider the following ϵ-NFA N_ϵ such that
$L(N_\epsilon) = \{w0 \text{ or } w1 \mid w \in \{0,1\}^*\}$:

$$N_\epsilon =$$

How to construct an ϵ-NFA $N_\epsilon{}^R$ such that $L(N_\epsilon{}^R) = L(N_\epsilon)^R$?

$$N_\epsilon{}^R =$$

Closure under Reversal

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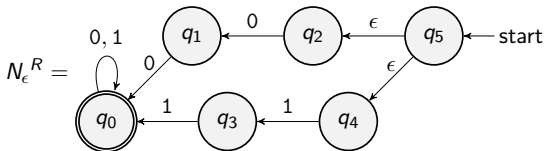
Theorem (Closure under Reversal)

If L is a regular language, then so is L^R.

Proof) Let $N_\epsilon = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ be the ϵ-NFA such that $L(N_\epsilon) = L$.
Consider the following

$$N_\epsilon{}^R = (Q \uplus \{q_s\}, \Sigma, \delta^R, q_s, \{q_0\})$$

where

$$\forall q \in Q.\ \forall a \in \Sigma.\ \delta^R(q, a) = \{q' \in Q \mid q \in \delta(q', a)\}$$
$$\forall q \in Q.\ \delta^R(q, \epsilon) = \{q' \in Q \mid q \in \delta(q', \epsilon)\}$$
$$\forall a \in \Sigma.\ \delta^R(q_s, a) = \varnothing$$
$$\delta^R(q_s, \epsilon) = F$$

$\square$

Theorem (Closure under Reversal)

If L is a regular language, then so is L^R.

Proof) Another proof is to use the structural induction on the regular expressions. Let R be a regular expression. Then, we define its reverse R^R as follows:

- If $R = \varnothing$, then $R^R = \varnothing$.
- If $R = \epsilon$, then $R^R = \epsilon$.
- If $R = \mathtt{a}$, then $R^R = \mathtt{a}$.
- If $R = R_0 \,|\, R_1$, then $R^R = R_0^R \,|\, R_1^R$.
- If $R = R_0 \cdot R_1$, then $R^R = R_1^R \cdot R_0^R$.
- If $R = R_0^*$, then $R^R = (R_0^R)^*$.
- If $R = (R_0)$, then $R^R = (R_0^R)$.

Theorem (Closure under Reversal)

If L is a regular language, then so is L^R.

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- If $R = \varnothing$, then $R^R = \varnothing$.
- If $R = \epsilon$, then $R^R = \epsilon$.
- If $R = \mathtt{a}$, then $R^R = \mathtt{a}$. $\qquad R = \mathtt{ab(cd)}^*\mathtt{|ef}$
- If $R = R_0 | R_1$, then $R^R = R_0^R | R_1^R$.
- If $R = R_0 \cdot R_1$, then $R^R = R_1^R \cdot R_0^R$.
- If $R = R_0^*$, then $R^R = (R_0^R)^*$. $\qquad R^R = \mathtt{(dc)}^*\mathtt{ba|fe}$
- If $R = (R_0)$, then $R^R = (R_0^R)$.

$\square$

Closure under Homomorphism

Definition (Homomorphism)

Suppose Σ and Γ are two finite sets of symbols. Then, a function

$$h : \Sigma \to \Gamma^*$$

is called a **homomorphism**. For a given word $w = \mathtt{a}_1 \mathtt{a}_2 \cdots \mathtt{a}_n$,

$$h(w) = h(\mathtt{a}_1) h(\mathtt{a}_2) \cdots h(\mathtt{a}_n)$$

For a language L,

$$h(L) = \{ h(w) \mid w \in L \}$$

Example (Homomorphism)

Let $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$, $\Gamma = \{\mathtt{a}, \mathtt{b}\}$, and $h(0) = \mathtt{ab}$, $h(1) = \mathtt{a}$. Then,

$$h(10) = \mathtt{aab} \qquad h(010) = \mathtt{abaab} \qquad h(1100) = \mathtt{aaabab}$$

Theorem (Closure under Homomorphism)

If h is a homomorphism and L is a regular language, then so is h(L).

Proof) Let R be the regular expression such that $L(R) = L$. Then, we define its homomorphic regular expression $h(R)$ as follows:

- If $R = \varnothing$, then $h(R) = \varnothing$.
- If $R = \epsilon$, then $h(R) = \epsilon$.
- If $R = \texttt{a}$, then $h(R) = h(\texttt{a})$.
- If $R = R_0 \,|\, R_1$, then $h(R) = h(R_0) \,|\, h(R_1)$.
- If $R = R_0 \cdot R_1$, then $h(R) = h(R_1) \cdot h(R_0)$.
- If $R = R_0^*$, then $h(R) = (h(R_0))^*$.
- If $R = (R_0)$, then $h(R) = (h(R_0))$.

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If h is a homomorphism and L is a regular language, then so is $h(L)$.

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- If $R = \mathtt{a}$, then $h(R) = h(\mathtt{a})$.
- If $R = R_0 \,|\, R_1$, then $h(R) = h(R_0) \,|\, h(R_1)$.
- If $R = R_0 \cdot R_1$, then $h(R) = h(R_1) \cdot h(R_0)$.
- If $R = R_0^*$, then $h(R) = (h(R_0))^*$.
- If $R = (R_0)$, then $h(R) = (h(R_0))$.

$$h(0) = \mathtt{ab}$$
$$h(1) = \mathtt{a}$$

$$R = 0(0\,|\,1)^*0^*$$

$$h(R) = (\mathtt{ab}(\mathtt{ab}\,|\,\mathtt{a})^*\mathtt{ab})^*$$

□

1. Closure Properties of Regular Languages
      Union
      Concatenation and Kleene Star
      Complement
      Intersection
      Difference
      Reversal
      Homomorphism

- The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

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