

Games, graphs, and machines



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Stars and cats

Alphabet $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

Languages $L = \{0\}$ and $M = \{1, 11, 111, 1111, \dots\}$.

1. $LM =$

2. $ML =$

3. $L^* =$

4. $M^* =$

5. $L^*M =$

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

A regular expression is a pattern that describes a set of strings. Regular expressions are constructed analogously to arithmetic expressions, by using various operators to combine smaller expressions...

Character Classes and Bracket Expressions

A bracket expression is a list of characters enclosed by [and]...

Anchoring

The caret ^ and the dollar sign \$ are meta-characters...

The Backslash Character and Special Expressions

The symbols \< and \> respectively match the empty string...

Repetition

A regular expression may be followed by one of several repetition operators:

- ? The preceding item is optional and matched at most once.
- *
- +
- {n} The preceding item is matched exactly n times.
- {n,} The preceding item is matched n or more times.
- {,m} The preceding item is matched at most m times. This is a GNU extension.
- {n,m} The preceding item is matched at least n times, but not more than m times.

Concatenation

Two regular expressions may be concatenated; ...

Alternation

Two regular expressions may be joined by the infix operator |;...

Our regexps

- \emptyset
 ϵ
0
1
- Concatenation ab
alternation $a|b$
star a^* .

Regular expressions

Explicitly write the language described by the regexp.

1. 01^*
2. $(0|1)^*$
3. $(01)^*$
4. 00^*10^*0

Building regexps

Find regular expressions that describe the following languages.

1. \emptyset
2. $\{\epsilon\}$
3. $\{0, 00, 000, \dots\}$
4. $\{w \mid w \text{ starts with } 0 \text{ and ends with } 1\}$

Building trickier regexps

Find regular expressions that describe the following languages.

1. $\{w \mid 0 \text{ and } 1 \text{ alternate in } w\}$
2. $\{w \mid \text{every } 0 \text{ in } w \text{ has } 1 \text{ on its left and on its right}\}.$
3. $\{w \mid w \text{ has an even number of } 0\text{s}\}$

Even trickier languages

Can you find regexps that describe the following languages?

1. $\{w \mid w \text{ has as many 0s as 1s}\}$.
2. $\{w \mid w \text{ is a palindrome}\}$.