



Consider the following languages on  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$  defined by the regular expressions.

$$L_1 : (\lambda^* \cup a \cup b \cup a^3 \cup b^3)^*$$

$$L_2 : \lambda \cup a \cup b \cup ((a \cup b)^3)^*$$

$$L_3 : \lambda \cup (a \cup b) \cup (a^* \cup b^*)^3$$

$$L_4 : \lambda \cup (a \cup b) \cup (a^3 \cup b^3)^*$$

$$L_5 : \lambda \cup (a \cup b) \cup (a^3)^* \cup (b^3)^*$$

1. (2 pts) Find two numbers  $i$  and  $j$  with  $L_i \subseteq L_j$  and  $L_j \not\subseteq L_i$ .
2. (2 pts) Find two numbers  $n$  and  $m$  with  $L_n = L_m$ .
3. (2 pts) List all  $L_i$ , if any, which contain only strings of finite length.
4. (2 pts) List all  $L_i$ , if any, which contain the string  $a^3b^3a^3b^3$ .
5. (2 pts) Pick any two distinct languages above and describe them set theoretically.

♣ Here are all the languages decoded

$$L_1 = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$$

$$L_2 = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid w \in \{a, b\} \text{ or } \text{length}(w) = 3k, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

$$L_3 = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid w \in \{a, b\} \text{ or } w = u_1u_2u_3, n_a(u_i)n_b(u_i) = 0\}$$

$$L_4 = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid w \in \{a, b\} \text{ or } w = u_1 \cdots u_k, k \geq 0, u_i \in \{a^3, b^3\}\}$$

$$L_5 = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid w \in \{a, b\} \text{ or } w = a^{3k}, \text{ or } w = b^{3k}, k \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

For  $L_1$  the first, fourth and fifth terms are redundant. For  $L_2$ ,  $(a \cup b)^3$  matches any string of length three, and with a  $*$  matches any strings a non-trivial multiple of 3. For  $L_3$ ,  $(a^* \cup b^*)$  matches any string consisting of only  $a$ 's or only  $b$ 's, so one of  $n_a$  and  $n_b$  must be zero, and cubing gives a product of three such strings, not necessarily the same one or type. For  $L_4$ ,  $(a^3 \cup b^3)$  matches either  $a^3$  or  $b^3$ , not much choice, and with the  $*$  gives a string of such elements. For  $L_5$ ,  $(a^3)^*$  matches matches any string of  $a$ 's of length divisibly by 3, similarly for  $(b^3)^*$ . Note that  $\lambda$  would have been in each language even if it wasn't specifically mentioned.

For 1, taking  $j = 1$  is a good move.

For 2, there is no answer. That was for a different draft. Sorry. If you said any two of these were the same, then I should take off, but I won't.

For 3, NOBODY should get this wrong. All strings are are of finite length. This is from the recursive definition of string. So you should list all 5.

For 4,  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_4$ .

For 5, examples above. ♣