COL 352 Introduction to Automata and Theory of Computation

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Lecture 3: More on DFAs, Operations on Regular sets

Formal definition of DFA

Definition (DFA)

A deterministic finite state automaton (DFA) $A = (Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta)$, where

Q is a set of states,

Σ is the input alphabet,

$q_0 \in Q$ is the initial state,

$F \subseteq Q$ is the set of final states,

δ is a set of transitions, i.e. $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \to Q$ or
$\delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma \times Q$ such that
$\forall q \in Q, \forall a \in \Sigma,\ |\delta(q, a)| \leq 1.$

Acceptance by DFA

Definition (Run of a DFA, Acceptance by DFA)

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Let $A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ be a DFA. A run of A on word $w = a_1 \dots a_n$ is a sequence of states $q_0, \dots, q_n$ such that $q_i = \delta(q_{i-1}, a_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$.

A word w is accepted by DFA A if there is a run of A on word w that reaches (ends in) an accepting state.

Extended Transition Function

Let $\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \to Q$ be defined as:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \hat{\delta}(q, \varepsilon) & = & q \\ \hat{\delta}(q, wa) & = & \delta(\hat{\delta}(q, w), a) \end{array}$$

$$L(A) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F\}$$

L is a regular language if there exists some DFA A such that $L(A) = L$

String Theory

In physics, string theory is a theoretical framework in which the point-like particles of particle physics are replaced by one-dimensional objects called strings. String theory describes how these strings propagate through space and interact with each other. On distance scales larger than the string scale, a string looks just like an ordinary particle, with its mass, charge, and other properties determined by the vibrational state of the string. In string theory, one of the many vibrational states of the string corresponds to the graviton, a quantum mechanical particle that carries the gravitational force. Thus, string theory is a theory of quantum gravity.

String Theory of CS

String Theory of CS:Encodings objects as strings

- Numbers can be encoded as strings.
- Graphs can be encoded as strings.
- Programs (DFAs) can be encoded as strings!
- $A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ can be encoded as a finite length string.

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- Q requires $O(k \log k)$ bits, δ requires $O(k \log k)$ bits, q_0, F together require another $O(k \log k)$ bits. So overall $O(k \log k)$ bits are sufficient to encode a k-state DFA.

Theorem

There exists a language for which there is no DFA accepting it.

- Consider an enumeration of DFAs (they are countably infinite).
- Each DFA accepts a unique language over $\{0, 1\}^*$
- Number of languages $L \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ is uncountable $(= 2^{\Sigma^*} \equiv 2^{\mathbb{N}} \equiv \mathbb{R})$.

Finite state automata

Example 4

Input: $w \in \{0,1\}^*$

Finite state automata

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Idea 2: If you read a bit c at a state q then go to state $2q + c \pmod 3$.

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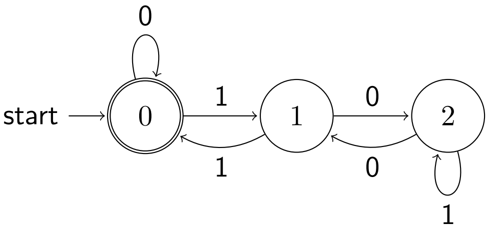

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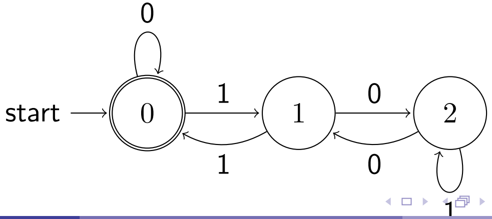
Prove: Automaton below exactly accepts the above language.



Proof of Correctness

Proof Idea: By induction on length of the input string.

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Let $\#x$:= number represented by string x in binary.

$$\begin{aligned}
\#\varepsilon &= 0 \\
\#0 &= 0 \\
\#11 &= 3 \\
\#100 &= 4
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of Correctness

Proof Idea: By induction on length of the input string.
For any string $x \in \{0,1\}^*$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\hat{\delta}(0,x) &= 0 \iff \#x = 0 \pmod 3 \\
\hat{\delta}(0,x) &= 1 \iff \#x = 1 \pmod 3 \\
\hat{\delta}(0,x) &= 2 \iff \#x = 2 \pmod 3
\end{aligned}
$$

Proof of Correctness

Proof Idea: By induction on length of the input string.
Induction hypothesis: For any string $x \in \{0,1\}^*$, $\hat{\delta}(0,x) = x \pmod 3$
Special case: For string $x \in L_3$, $\hat{\delta}(0,x) = 0 \pmod 3$

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\begin{aligned}
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\#(x1) &= 2(\#x) + 1
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$$\begin{aligned}\#(x0) &= 2(\#x) + 0 \\ \#(x1) &= 2(\#x) + 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q,0) &= 2q \pmod 3 \\ \delta(q,1) &= 2q + 1 \pmod 3\end{aligned}$$

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$$\hat{\delta}(0, xc) = \delta(\hat{\delta}(0, x), c)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\delta}(0,xc) &= \delta(\hat{\delta}(0,x),c)\\ &= \delta(\#x \mod 3, c)\end{aligned}$$

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Building complicated DFAs from simple ones

Example

Let $\Sigma = \{a\}$ for this example.

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Let $L_1 = \{w \mid |w| \equiv 0 \pmod 2\}$

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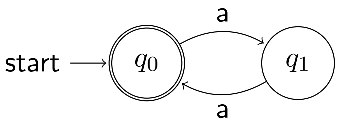

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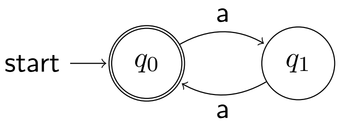

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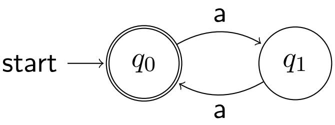

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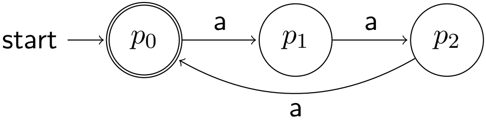

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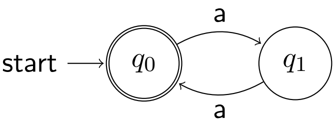

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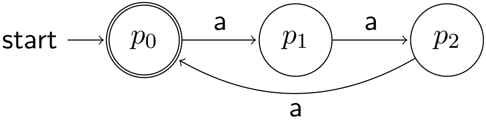

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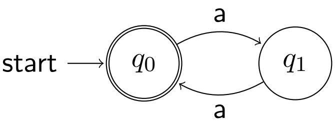

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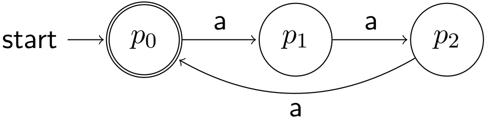

What is $L_1 \cap L_2$?

$L_1 \cap L_2 = \{w \mid |w| \equiv 0 \pmod 6\}$

Building complicated DFAs from simple ones

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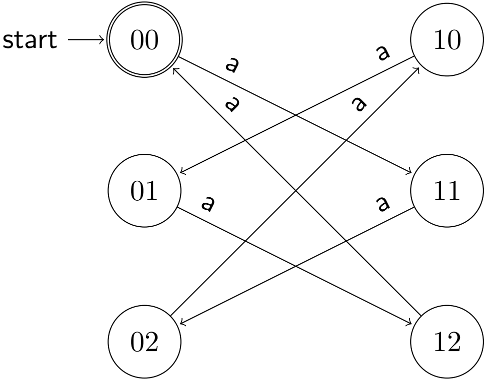

Intersection of two regular languages

$$L' = \{w \in \{a,b\}^* \mid w \text{ contains aa}\}$$
$$L_{odd} = \{w \in \{a,b\}^* \mid w \text{ contains odd number of a}\}$$

What about $L_{odd} \cap L'$

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Lemma

Let $L_1, L_2 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be two regular languages, then $L_1 \cap L_2$ is also a regular language.

Proof.

Product construction

Let $A_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, q_0^1, F_1, \delta_1)$ and $A_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, q_0^2, F_2, \delta_2)$ be the automata accepting L_1, L_2, respectively.

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Correctness

$\forall w \in \Sigma^*$, w is accepted by A iff w is accepted by both A_1 and A_2.

Building complicated DFAs from simple ones

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$$\begin{array}{lcl} Q & = & \{(q, q') \mid q \in Q_1, q' \in Q_2\} \\ q_0 & = & (q_0^1, q_0^2) \end{array}$$

Building complicated DFAs from simple ones

Lemma

Let $L_1, L_2 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be two regular languages, then $L_1 \cup L_2$ is also a regular language.

Proof.

Product construction

Let $A_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, q_0^1, F_1, \delta_1)$ and $A_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, q_0^2, F_2, \delta_2)$ be the automata accepting L_1, L_2, respectively.

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\delta((q, q'), a) & = & (\delta_1(q, a), \delta_2(q', a))
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Correctness

$\forall w \in \Sigma^*$, w is accepted by A iff w is accepted by either A_1 or A_2.

Closure under complement

Lemma

Let $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be a regular language, then $\overline{L} = \{w \mid w \notin L\}$ is also a regular language.

Proof.

Let $A = (Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta)$ be the automata accepting L.

Closure under complement

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Let A' be a finite state automaton $(Q', \Sigma', q_0', F', \delta')$ s.t.

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Proof.

Let $A = (Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta)$ be the automata accepting L.

Let A' be a finite state automaton $(Q', \Sigma', q_0', F', \delta')$ s.t.

$$Q' = Q$$

Closure under complement

Lemma

Let $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be a regular language, then $\overline{L} = \{w \mid w \notin L\}$ is also a regular language.

Proof.

Let $A = (Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta)$ be the automata accepting L.

Let A' be a finite state automaton $(Q', \Sigma', q'_0, F', \delta')$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} Q' &= Q \\ q'_0 &= q_0 \end{aligned}$$

Closure under complement

Lemma

Let $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be a regular language, then $\overline{L} = \{w \mid w \notin L\}$ is also a regular language.

Proof.

Let $A = (Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta)$ be the automata accepting L.

Let A' be a finite state automaton $(Q', \Sigma', q_0', F', \delta')$ s.t.

$$
\begin{aligned}
Q' &= Q \\
q_0' &= q_0 \\
F' &= \{q \in Q \mid q \notin F\}
\end{aligned}
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Let $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ be a regular language, then $\overline{L} = \{w \mid w \notin L\}$ is also a regular language.

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Correctness

$\forall w \in \Sigma^*$, w is accepted by A' iff w is not accepted by A.

□

Concatenation and Kleene star

Let $L_1, L_2, L \subseteq \Sigma^*$

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$$\begin{aligned} L^k &:= \{x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \mid x_i \in L\} \\ L^* &:= \bigcup_{k \geq 0} L^k \end{aligned}$$