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BLG311E – Formal Languages and Automata
Spring 2017
Quiz 3

For $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$, prove that $L = \{0^n 10^n \mid n > 0\}$ is not a regular language.

Duration: 20 mins.

Solution:

Remember: Pumping Lemma

If L is a regular language with unrestricted word length then in this language we can build any word longer than n using substrings u, v, w in following form: $x = uv^i w$. The following conditions should apply:

1. $|uv| \leq n$
2. $v \neq \Lambda$
3. $\forall x \in L \ x = uv^i w \wedge i \geq 0$

Assumptions:

- Suppose that there exists a finite automaton M having k states and accepting L .
- Choose $x = 0^k 10^k$ so $x \in L$ and $|x| \geq k$.

By pumping lemma:

- $x = uvw$, $|v| > 0$ and $|uv| \leq k$.
- For all possible splits that satisfy these rules: $v = 0^l$ where $1 \leq l \leq k$.
- Lemma states that for a regular language all $uv^i w$, $i \geq 0$ must belong to the language.
- Consider any string $uv^i w$ where $i \neq 1$.
- $(i = 0) \ uvw = 0^{k-l} 10^k \rightarrow$ The string does not belong to L since $k - l \neq k$.
- $(i > 1) \ uv^i w = 0^{k+(i-1)l} 10^k \rightarrow$ The string does not belong to L since $k + (i - 1)l \neq k$.
- This is a contradiction so L is not regular.