

**FIT2014 Theory of Computation**  
**Solutions for Tutorial 2**  
**Regular Languages, Inductive Definitions and Finite Automata**

Although you may not need to do all the many exercises in this Tutorial Sheet, it is still important that you attempt all the main questions and a selection of the Supplementary Exercises.

Even for those Supplementary Exercises that you do not attempt seriously, you should still give some thought to how to do them before reading the solutions.

**1.**

(i) Inductive basis:  $H_1 = 1 = \log_e e > \log_e 2$ , using the fact that  $e > 2$ .

(ii) Our inductive hypothesis is that  $H_n \geq \log_e(n+1)$  is true for  $n$ . We need to use this to show that  $n$  can be replaced by  $n+1$  in this inequality, i.e.,  $H_{n+1} \geq \log_e((n+1)+1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} H_{n+1} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n+1} && \text{First, we need to relate this to } H_n. \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{n+1} \\ &= H_n + \frac{1}{n+1} && \text{We've now expressed } H_{n+1} \text{ in terms of } H_n. \\ &\geq \log_e(n+1) + \frac{1}{n+1} && \text{So we can apply the Inductive Hypothesis.} \\ &\geq \log_e(n+1) + \log_e\left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right) && \text{by the Inductive Hypothesis} \\ &= \log_e(n+1) + \log_e\left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right) && \text{using } \log_e(1+x) \leq x, \text{ with } x = \frac{1}{n+1} \\ &= \log_e\left((n+1) \cdot \frac{n+2}{n+1}\right) \\ &= \log_e(n+2) \\ &= \log_e((n+1)+1). \end{aligned}$$

So, we've shown that, if the claimed inequality holds for  $n$ , then it holds for  $n+1$ .

(iii) By the Principle of Mathematical Induction, the claimed inequality must hold for all  $n$ .

Further properties of the harmonic numbers, and their applications in computer science, may be found in:

- Donald E. Knuth, *The Art of Computer Programming. Volume 1: Fundamental Algorithms. Third Edition.* Addison-Wesley, Reading, Ma., USA, 1997. See Section 1.2.7, pp. 75–79.

**2.**     abab, baab, abaaab, abbbab, baaaab, babbab, abaaaaab, abaabbab, abbbbaab, abbbbbbab, baaaaaab, baaabbab, babbaaab, babbbbab

3.

- (i)  $(a \cup b)(a \cup b)$  or  $aa \cup ab \cup ba \cup bb$
- (ii)  $a^*ba^*ba^* \cup a^*ba^*ba^*ba^*$
- (iii)  $(a \cup b)^*(aa \cup bb)$
- (iv)  $(a \cup b)^*(ab \cup ba) \cup a \cup b \cup \epsilon$
- (v)  $(b \cup \epsilon)(ab)^*aa(ba)^*(b \cup \epsilon) \cup (a \cup \epsilon)(ba)^*bb(ab)^*(a \cup \epsilon)$
- (vi)  $(aa \cup ab \cup ba \cup bb)^*$
- (vii)  $a^*((b \cup bb)aa^*)^*(b \cup bb \cup \epsilon)$

4.

The extended regular expression  $(a^*)b \setminus 1$  matches the language  $\{a^nba^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ , but this is not regular, by the Pumping Lemma.

5.

If we drop 3(i),(ii), then no grouping or concatenation is possible.

So our regular expressions can be constructed from letters (and empty strings) just using alternatives and Kleene \*. Because no grouping is possible, the Kleene \* can only be applied to a single letter. (Note that, if  $R$  is any regular expression, then  $R^{**} = R^*$ .) So in this case the only regular expressions we get are unions of expressions of the form  $x^*$  and  $y$ , where  $x, y$  are single letters from our alphabet. For example, we could have  $a^* \cup b$ . The only languages that match such expressions are those in which, firstly, no string has a mix of letters, and secondly, for any letter, we either have all strings consisting just of repetitions of that letter, or just the one-letter string with that letter alone.

For the Challenge: it would be a big task to investigate all these possibilities. We just give one, as an illustration.

Suppose we drop just 3(ii). So we forbid concatenation but allow grouping, alternatives and Kleene \*.

Firstly, observe that, if  $R$  and  $S$  are regular expressions, then the regular expression  $(R^* \cup S)^*$  may be simplified to  $(R \cup S)^*$ .

*Proof:*

( $\Leftarrow$ ) This implication is clear, since  $R$  is a special case of  $R^*$ .

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $w$  be a string that matches  $(R^* \cup S)^*$ . We must show that it also matches  $(R \cup S)^*$ . If  $w = \epsilon$ , then we are done, since the empty string matches  $(R \cup S)^*$  using zero repetitions for the Kleene \*. So assume  $w \neq \epsilon$ . Then  $w$  may be partitioned into consecutive substrings,  $w = w_1 \cdots w_k$ , such that each  $w_i$  matches  $R^* \cup S$ . If  $w_i$  matches  $R^*$ , then it may be partitioned into consecutive substrings,  $w_i = w_{i1} \cdots w_{il_i}$ , such that each  $w_{ij}$  matches  $R$ . (Here,  $l_i$  is just the number of such substrings into which  $w_i$  is partitioned.) If, on the other hand,  $w_i$  matches  $S$ , then put  $w_{i1} = w$  and  $l_i = 1$ . Then, in any case, we see that we can partition  $w$  into strings  $w_{ij}$ ,

$$w = w_{11} \cdots w_{1l_1} w_{21} \cdots w_{2l_2} \cdots \cdots w_{k1} \cdots w_{kl_k},$$

such that each  $w_{ij}$  matches  $R \cup S$ . This establishes that  $w$  matches  $(R \cup S)^*$ .

So any string that matches  $(R^* \cup S)^*$  must also match  $(R \cup S)^*$ .

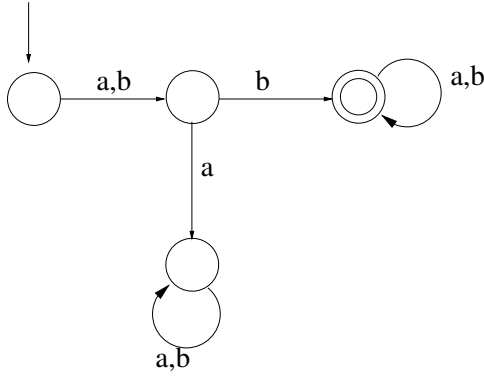
We have proved the implication in both directions. So, a string matches  $(R^* \cup S)^*$  if and only if it matches  $(R \cup S)^*$ . Hence  $(R^* \cup S)^*$  may be simplified to  $(R \cup S)^*$ . Q.E.D.

If the last operation applied in the expression is a Kleene  $*$ , then it has the form  $(R_1 \cup \dots \cup R_k)^*$ . By the above observation, we may assume that none of the  $R_i$  has the Kleene  $*$  as its last operation. We may also assume that none of them has grouping or  $\cup$  as its last operation, since then we could just have listed the alternatives in the sequence  $R_1, \dots, R_k$ . So the  $R_i$  must just be single letters or the empty string. Let  $L$  be the set of single letters that appear in the  $R_i$ . Then the expression is matched by any string which consists solely of letters from  $L$ , and by the empty string.

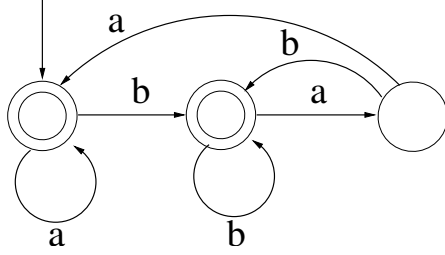
If the last operation applied in the expression is alternatives, say we have  $R_1 \cup \dots \cup R_k$ , then we may suppose that each  $R_i$  is either the empty string or a single letter, or its last operation is the  $*$ . If the latter, then we are back in the situation of the previous paragraph.

In conclusion, the regular expressions that don't need concatenation in their construction are those formed from alternatives which are each either single letters or arbitrary repetitions of letters from some subset of the alphabet. (These subsets may be different for the different alternatives.)

6.



7.



8. (a)  $\ell_{B,1} = 0, \ell_{W,1} = 0, \ell_{U,1} = 1, a_{B,1} = 1, a_{W,1} = 1$ .  
(b)

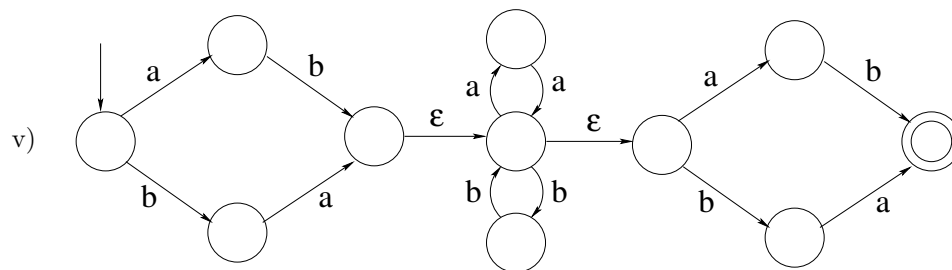
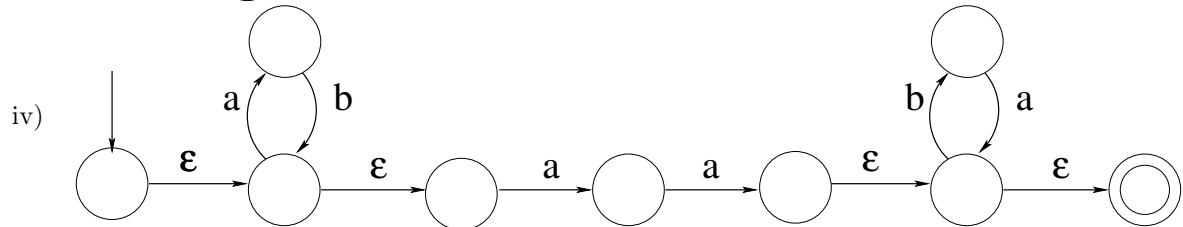
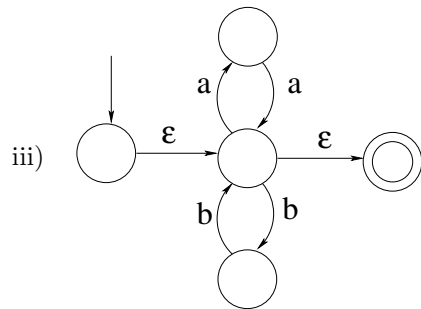
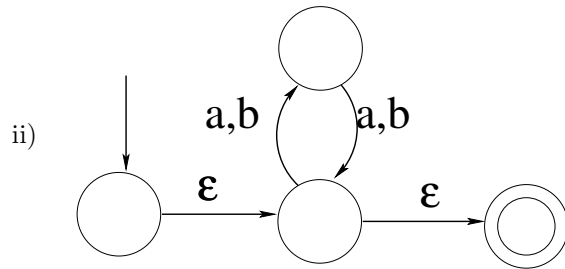
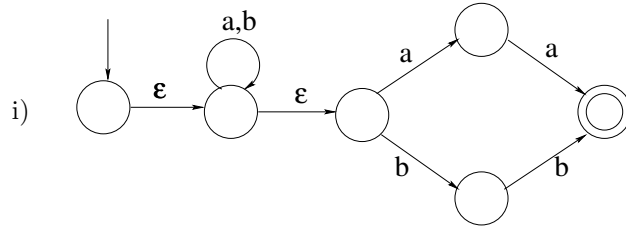
$$\begin{aligned}\ell_{B,n+1} &= \ell_{B,n} + \ell_{U,n} \\ \ell_{W,n+1} &= \ell_{W,n} + \ell_{U,n} \\ \ell_{U,n+1} &= \ell_{B,n} + \ell_{W,n} + \ell_{U,n} + a_{B,n} + a_{W,n} \\ a_{B,n+1} &= \ell_{W,n} + a_{B,n} \\ a_{W,n+1} &= \ell_{B,n} + a_{W,n}\end{aligned}$$

(c) Observe that, by symmetry,  $\ell_{B,n} = \ell_{W,n}$  and  $a_{B,n} = a_{W,n}$ . So, if you want to work out the total number of legal positions on a path graph of some size, then it's enough to work out three quantities for each  $n$  from 1 up to the desired size:  $\ell_{B,n}$  (equivalently,  $\ell_{W,n}$ );  $\ell_{U,n}$ ; and  $a_{B,n}$  (equivalently,  $a_{W,n}$ ).

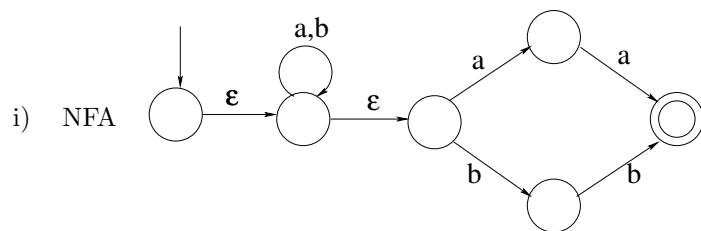
(d) Once you reach the desired value of  $n$ , the total number of legal positions is just  $\ell_{B,n} + \ell_{W,n} + \ell_{U,n}$ , which equals  $2\ell_{B,n} + \ell_{U,n}$ .

Note that  $a_{B,n}$  and  $a_{W,n}$  aren't part of this total. But you still need to use them, for smaller values of  $n$ , in the calculations leading up to the total.

9.

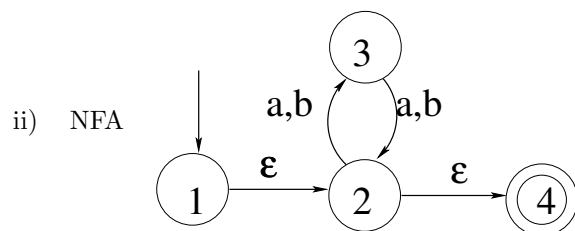


10.



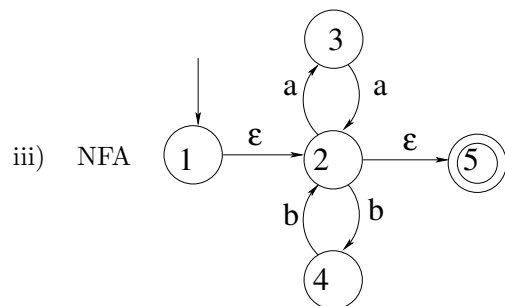
FA

		a	b
<b>Start</b>	$\{1,2,3\}$	$\{2,3,4\}$	$\{2,5,3\}$
	$\{2,3,4\}$	$\{2,3,4,6\}$	$\{2,3,5\}$
	$\{2,3,5\}$	$\{2,3,4\}$	$\{2,3,5,6\}$
<b>Final</b>	$\{2,3,4,6\}$	$\{2,3,4,6\}$	$\{2,3,5\}$
<b>Final</b>	$\{2,3,5,6\}$	$\{2,3,4\}$	$\{2,3,5,6\}$



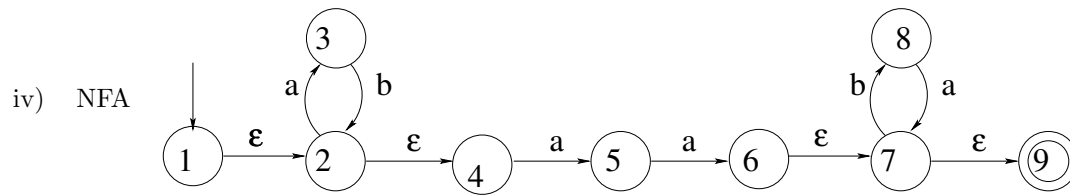
FA

		a	b
<b>Start, Final</b>	$\{1,2,4\}$	$\{3\}$	$\{3\}$
	$\{3\}$	$\{2,4\}$	$\{2,4\}$
<b>Final</b>	$\{2,4\}$	$\{3\}$	$\{3\}$



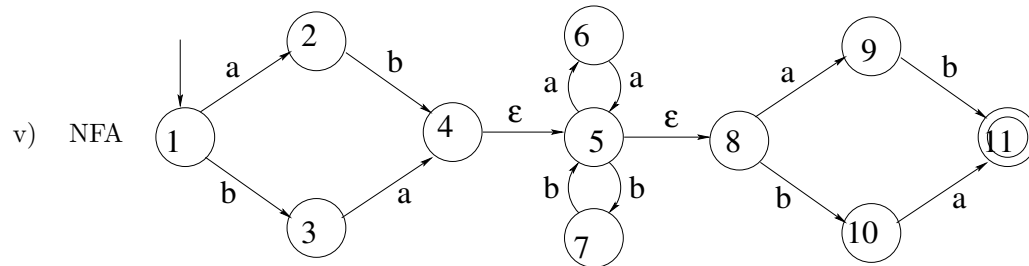
FA

		a	b
<b>Start</b>	$\{1,2,5\}$	$\{3\}$	$\{4\}$
	$\{3\}$	$\{2,5\}$	$\phi$
	$\{4\}$	$\phi$	$\{2,5\}$
<b>Final</b>	$\{2,5\}$	$\{3\}$	$\{4\}$
	$\phi$	$\phi$	$\phi$



FA

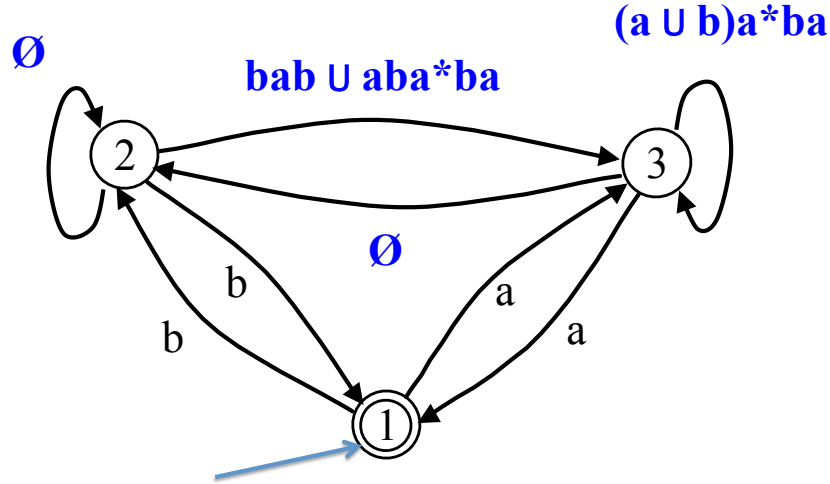
	a	b
<b>Start</b> {1,2,4}	{3,5}	$\phi$
{3,5}	{6,7,9}	{2,4}
<b>Final</b> {6,7,9}	$\phi$	{8}
{2,4}	{3,5}	$\phi$
{8}	{7,9}	$\phi$
<b>Final</b> {7,9}	$\phi$	{8}
$\phi$	$\phi$	$\phi$



FA

	a	b
<b>Start</b> {1}	{2}	{3}
{2}	$\phi$	{4,5,8}
{3}	{4,5,8}	$\phi$
{4,5,8}	{6,9}	{7,10}
{6,9}	{5,8}	{11}
{7,10}	{11}	{5,8}
{5,8}	{6,9}	{7,10}
<b>Final</b> {11}	$\phi$	$\phi$
$\phi$	$\phi$	$\phi$

11.



12.

Inductive basis:

When  $n = 1$ , the formula gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_1 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) - \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5} - 1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \cdot \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{2} \\
 &= 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

When  $n = 2$ , the formula gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^2 \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + 1 - \left( \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + 1 \right) \right) \\
 &\quad \text{(using the fact that, for } x = (1 \pm \sqrt{5})/2, \text{ we know } x^2 - x - 1 = 0, \text{ i.e., } x^2 = x + 1) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} - \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} + 1 - 1 \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5} - 1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \cdot \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{2} \\
 &= 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since we have dealt with the cases  $n \leq 2$ , we may now assume  $n \geq 3$ .

Inductive step:

Suppose that, *for all*  $m < n$ , the formula holds for  $F_m$ . This is our inductive hypothesis. (It is a stronger type of inductive hypothesis than just assuming the formula holds for  $F_m$  when  $m = n - 1$ . But that's ok.)

For convenience, write

$$x = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}, \quad y = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

Now consider  $F_n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_n &= F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \\ &\quad (\text{using the definition of } F_n \text{ for } n \geq 3) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^{n-1} - y^{n-1}) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^{n-2} - y^{n-2}) \\ &\quad (\text{by our inductive hypothesis, applied twice: once with } m = n - 1, \text{ and once with } m = n - 2) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^{n-1} - y^{n-1} + x^{n-2} - y^{n-2}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} - (y^{n-1} + y^{n-2})) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^{n-2}(x + 1) - y^{n-2}(y + 1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^{n-2}x^2 - y^{n-2}y^2) \\ &\quad (\text{using } x^2 = x + 1 \text{ and } y^2 = y + 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (x^n - y^n). \end{aligned}$$

So the formula holds for  $F_n$  as well.

In summary of the inductive step: we showed that, if the formula for  $F_m$  holds when  $m < n$ , then it holds for  $m = n$ .

Conclusion: by the Principle of Mathematical Induction, it follows that the formula is true for all values of  $n$ .

This exercise illustrates that, although it may be hard to discover the correct formula for some quantity (...surely, the expression for  $F_n$  comes as a surprise when you first meet it, and you may wonder how anyone came up with it!), *once you have the formula*, induction is a powerful tool for proving it. In research, we often *discover* a “fact” by an unpredictable process of creative exploration, and then *prove* it by a different technique — often, by induction.

This exercise has also established the connection between the famous Fibonacci numbers and the equally famous “Golden Ratio”,  $\varphi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ .

Extra exercise to give more insight into this connection, for the curious or mathematically inclined: use the above result to prove that the ratio between two successive Fibonacci numbers tends to  $\varphi$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Among the many applications of Fibonacci numbers in computer science is the fact that the Euclidean algorithm, for computing GCD, takes longest when the two input numbers are successive Fibonacci numbers.

### 13.

(a) states 2 and 4.

(b)

Base case ( $n = 1$ ): We saw in (a) that **abba** can end up in State 4, which is the Final state. Therefore **abba** is accepted.



Inductive step: suppose  $n \geq 2$ , and that  $(\mathbf{abba})^{n-1}$  is accepted. Since  $(\mathbf{abba})^{n-1}$  is accepted (by Inductive Hypothesis), there is some path it can take through the NFA that ends at the Final State. We also see that, if we are in the Final State, and we then read  $\mathbf{abba}$ , then we can reach the Final State again, by following the path  $4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4$ . We can put these two paths together, to give a path for the string  $(\mathbf{abba})^{n-1}\mathbf{abba}$  that goes from the Initial State to the Final State. Therefore this string is accepted by our NFA. But this string is just  $(\mathbf{abba})^n$ . So  $(\mathbf{abba})^n$  is accepted.

Therefore, by the Principle of Mathematical Induction, the string  $(\mathbf{abba})^n$  is accepted for all  $n \geq 1$ .

## Supplementary exercises

14. aabaaa, aababb, aaabaa, aaabbb, bbaaaa, bbbabb, bbabaa, bbabbb
15. aaaaaa, aaaabb, aabbaa, aabbbb, bbaaaa, bbaabb, bbbbaa, bbbbbb
16. A valid date not described is 5/3/2002, and invalid date described is 99/02/2002.
17.  $H : M : S$ , where  $H = [0 - 9][01][0 - 9]2[0 - 3]$ ,  $M = [0 - 9][0 - 5][0 - 9]$ , and  $S = [0 - 9][0 - 5][0 - 9]$ .
18.  $(- | +)?(N | N. | N.N | .N)((e | E)(- | +)?N)?$ , where  $N = [0 - 9]^+$

19.

**Preamble** (which you can skip: to do so, go to ‘Solutions’ below):

The solutions given here use a particular file `/usr/share/dict/words` with 234,936 words, each on its own line. The file you use will quite likely be from a different source so the numbers may be somewhat different.

I decided to eliminate proper nouns first, for convenience, and put the result in `wordsFile`:

```
$ egrep '[a-z]' /usr/share/dict/words > wordsFile
```

Here, the line starts with a prompt, which we have represented as `$`. The text in blue is entered by the user. The regular expression is between the two forward quotes (apostrophes). This regular expression matches text at the beginning of the line consisting of any lower-case letter of the alphabet. The `egrep` command picks any *line* containing a match for the regular expression and outputs all these lines. The “`> wordsFile`” causes all these lines to be put into the file `wordsFile`.

This file now has 210,679 words, one per line:

```
$ wc wordsFile
210679 210679 2249128 wordsFile
```

In my `/usr/share/dict/words`, there are no words with nonalphabetic characters, and the only upper-case characters occurred at the starts of words. So all the words in `wordsFile` now consist only of lower-case letters.

You may find that things are a bit different on your system. The words file may have words with apostrophes, like “don’t”, or hyphens. You can filter these out using `egrep` too, if you wish.

### Solution:

Assume that your list of words is in a file called `wordsFile`, with each line consisting of one word (and nothing else).

Regular expression to match any vowel: `[aeiou]`

Regular expression to match any consonant: `[^aeiou]`, or `[b-df-hj-np-tv-z]`

Regular expression to match any word with no vowel: `^[^aeiou]+$`

This uses the fact that, in `wordsFile`, each word goes from the start of the line (matched by `^`) to the end of the line (matched by `$`). (In the more typical situation where words in a file are delimited by spaces, you could use `[^aeiou]+` with a space before and after it.)

Words with no vowel:

```
$ egrep '^[^aeiou]+$' wordsFile
```

gives 132 such words.

Words with no vowel or ‘y’:

```
$ egrep '^[^aeiouy]+$' wordsFile
```

gives 30 such words, but some of these are single letters which are always counted as words, in their own right, in this list. We can exclude such, to find that there are ten such words in our file:

```
$ egrep '^[^aeiouy][^aeiouy]+$' wordsFile
```

```
cwm
grr
nth
```



The expression used with **egrep** here was chosen to be long enough to cover any word that might be a palindrome in English, and so it turned out to be, for this word list. But the  $\backslash n$  construct is usually only applicable when  $n$  is a *digit*, so  $n \leq 9$ . This means that this expression can be used to detect palindromes of up to  $2 \times 9 + 1 = 19$  letters. If a word list had palindromes that were longer than this, then this approach would not detect them.

20. The answers for (a) and (b) are not unique.

(a)  $((B^* \cup W^*)UU^*(B^* \cup W^*))^*$

(b)  $((B^* \cup W^*)UU^*(B^* \cup W^*))^*(B^* \cup W^*)UU^*((BB^*WW^*) \cup (WW^*BB^*))$

(c) Yes. We saw in (c) that there is a Finite Automaton to recognise this language, so by Kleene's Theorem there must be a regular expression for it as well.

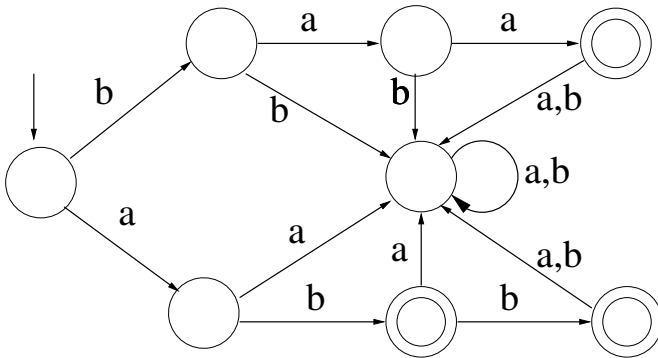
21.

1. All integers are arithmetic expressions.
2. If  $A$  and  $B$  are arithmetic expressions then so are:  $(A)$ ,  $A + B$ ,  $A - B$ ,  $A/B$ , and  $A*B$ .

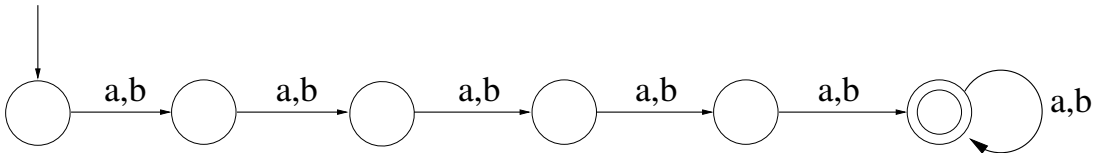
22.

1. The strings  $\epsilon$ ,  $\mathbf{a}$ , and  $\mathbf{b}$  are words in **PALINDROME**.
2. If  $S$  is a word in **PALINDROME** then so are:  $\mathbf{aSa}$  and  $\mathbf{bSb}$ .

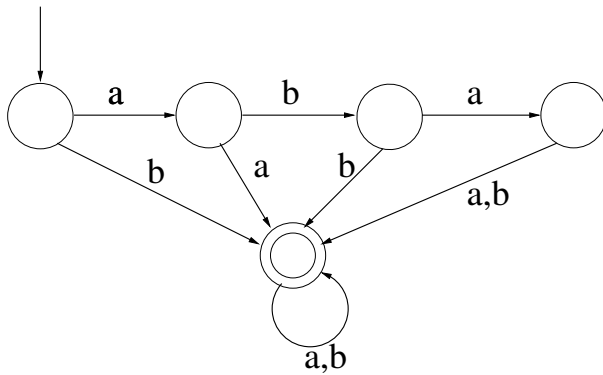
23.



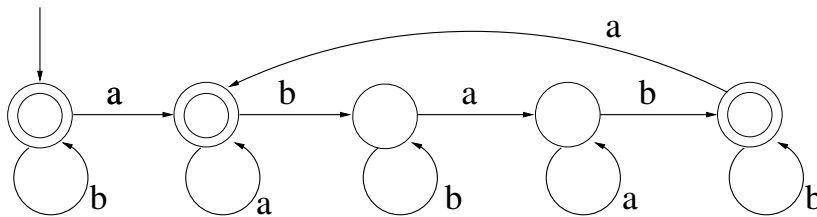
24.



25.



26.



27.

This uses the observation that a decimal number is divisible by 3 if and only if the sum of its digits is divisible by 3.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, we may take each digit mod 3 when we do this.

If we ignored the ban on leading 0s, the following FA would do the job. In the table, State 0 serves as both Start State and the sole Final State.

state	transitions		
	0,3,6,9	1,4,7	2,5,8
0	0	1	2
1	1	2	0
2	2	0	1

How do we deal with leading 0s? Since they are forbidden, every string starting with a 0 should be rejected, regardless of what the subsequent letters are. Apart from this, 0 is treated like any other multiple of 3 (as in the above table). So we modify the above table to obtain the FA in the following table. This time, the Start State is denoted by  $-$ . The sole Final State is still the one labelled 0. The new state labelled 'x' is one from which you can never escape. It represents the unrecoverable error that occurs if a string starts with a 0.

state	transitions			
	0	3,6,9	1,4,7	2,5,8
—	x	0	1	2
x	x	x	x	x
0	0	0	1	2
1	1	1	2	0
2	2	2	0	1

28.

This exercise is best suited to students who are also doing (or have done) FIT2004, but the matters raised are still worth thinking about and looking up even if you haven't done that unit.

<sup>1</sup>This trick does not work for divisibility testing in general. But it does work for 9 as well as for 3.

If the transitions from a state are stored at that state (as in an adjacency list representation of a graph, for FIT2004 students), then it would be simplest to look at all transitions going out of a state  $p$  at the time that state is visited, rather than revisit  $p$  for each new symbol in the alphabet. So, inside the  $w$ -loop, it would be better to iterate over  $p \in \text{endStates}(w)$ , and for each such  $p$ , iterate over  $x \in \{a, b\}$ . This means interchanging the order of the second and third loops (in slide 24).

To deal with empty string transitions: consider the graph formed just from the empty string transitions, and form its *transitive closure* (see FIT2004, or most introductory books on algorithms). This tells you which node (state) is reachable from which other states using empty string transitions. This easily gives you, for each state, the set of all other states reachable from it by empty string transitions. This should all be done as *preprocessing*, before you start the algorithm given in lectures.

The (worst-case) complexity will be dominated by a factor of  $2^n$ , where  $n$  is the number of states in the NFA, since the number of possible sets  $\text{endStates}(w)$  may be as large as  $2^n$ , but no worse. The complexity will also have a polynomial factor, which will depend on the data structures used and the details of the algorithm.

The transitive closure can be computed in time  $O(n^3)$  by the Floyd-Warshall algorithm. This is an additive contribution to the complexity (as it is pre-processing), so is swamped by the exponential term.

So the complexity is  $O(2^n \text{poly}(n))$ , for some polynomial  $\text{poly}(n)$ . A more precise bound could be given, with more detailed study of the algorithm.

29.

		.	-	[0-9]
<b>Start</b>	1	2	3	4
	2	6	6	5
	3	2	6	4
<b>Final</b>	4	5	6	4
<b>Final</b>	5	6	6	5
	6	6	6	6

30.

They all have the following minimum state finite automaton.

		a	b
<b>Start/Final</b>	1	1	1

31.

- (i) No simplification possible.
- (ii) Merge the two Final States (first and third rows).
- (iii) No simplification possible.
- (iv) Merge the two states  $\{1,2,4\}$  and  $\{2,4\}$ , and merge the two states  $\{6,7,9\}$  and  $\{7,9\}$ .
- (v) Merge the two states  $\{4,5,8\}$  and  $\{5,8\}$ .

32.

We just do (iii) as the others involve long computations.

First, turn it into a GNFA by adding a new Final State 3 and an  $\varepsilon$ -transition from the Start State to it. The Start State is no longer a Final State.

Similarly, a new Start State is added, with a new empty string transition from it to the old Start State.

Then, applying the algorithm, we obtain  $(aa \cup ab \cup ba \cup bb)^*$ . This is equivalent to the original regular expression  $((a \cup b)(a \cup b))^*$ , and describes the language of all strings of even length.