

Recall from lecture that a *regular expression* is compact notation for a language (that is, a set of strings). Formally, a regular language is one of the following:

- The symbol  $\emptyset$  (representing the empty set)
- Any string (representing the set containing only that string)
- $R + S$  for some regular expressions  $R$  and  $S$  (representing alternation / union)
- $R \cdot S$  or  $RS$  for some regular expressions  $R$  and  $S$  (representing concatenation)
- $R^*$  for some regular expression  $R$  (representing Kleene closure / unbounded repetition)

In the absence of parentheses, Kleene closure has highest precedence, followed by concatenation. For example,  $1+01^* = \{0, 1, 01, 011, 0111, \dots\}$ , but  $(1+01)^* = \{\epsilon, 1, 01, 11, 011, 101, 111, 0101, \dots\}$ .

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Give regular expressions for each of the following languages over the binary alphabet  $\{0, 1\}$ . (For extra practice, find multiple regular expressions for each language.)

- o. All strings.
1. All strings containing the substring  $000$ .
2. All strings *not* containing the substring  $000$ .
3. All strings in which every run of  $0$ s has length at least 3.
4. All strings in which every  $1$  appears before every substring  $000$ .
5. All strings containing at least three  $0$ s.
6. Every string except  $000$ . [Hint: Don't try to be clever.]

#### **More difficult problems to work on later:**

7. All strings  $w$  such that *in every prefix of  $w$* , the number of  $0$ s and  $1$ s differ by at most 1.
- \*8. All strings containing at least two  $0$ s and at least one  $1$ .
- \*9. All strings  $w$  such that *in every prefix of  $w$* , the number of  $0$ s and  $1$ s differ by at most 2.
10. All strings in which every run has odd length. (For example,  $0001$  and  $100000111$  and the empty string  $\epsilon$  are in this language, but  $000000$  and  $001000$  are not.)
- ★11. All strings in which the substring  $000$  appears an even number of times. (For example,  $01100$  and  $000000$  and the empty string  $\epsilon$  are in this language, but  $000000$  and  $001000$  are not.)