

Problem 1.46. Prove that the following languages are not regular. You may use the pumping lemma and the closure of the class of regular languages under union, intersection, and complement.

Part c. $\{w \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^* \text{ is not a palindrome}\}$

Proof. The proof is by contradiction. Assume A is a regular language. Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma. Let s be the string:

$$s = 0^p 10^{p+p!}$$

The string s is a member of A , and $|s| \geq p$, therefore the pumping lemma guarantees that s can be split into three pieces, $s = xyz$, where for any $i \geq 0$ the string $xy^i z \in A$. According to the condition 3 ($|xy| \leq p$) of the pumping lemma, y consists of 0s. Let $m + n = p$, where $0 \leq m < p$ and $1 \leq n \leq p$. Then

$$0^m [0^n]^i 10^{p+p!} \in A.$$

But for $i = 1 + \frac{p!}{n}$, the number of 0s on both sides of the 1 become the same and the resulting string is a palindrome, which is a contradiction. \square

Part d. $\{wtw \mid w, t \in \{0, 1\}^+\}$

Proof. The proof is by contradiction. Assume A is a regular language. Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma. Choose $w = 1^p 0$ and $t = 0$, so the string s is:

$$s = 1^p 001^p 0$$

The string s is a member of A , $|s| \geq p$, therefore the pumping lemma guarantees that the string s can be split into three pieces, $s = xyz$, where for any $i \geq 0$ the string $xy^i z \in A$. According to the condition 3 of the pumping lemma, y can only contain 1s. More specifically, y can contain any number of 1s from 1 to p . Also, it must be the case that w starts with 1 and ends with a 0. When $i > p$, there are more 1s at the start of s than the number of 1s before the last 0, so there is no way to pick a w . Therefore, $xy^{p+1}z \notin A$, which is a contradiction.

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \dots 1001 \dots 10 \\ \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} \qquad \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} \\ \text{more than} \qquad \qquad p \text{ 1s} \\ p \text{ 1s} \end{array}$$

When $i > p$, there are more 1s at the start of s .

\square