

## CSC240 Winter 2021 Homework Assignment 10

due Tuesday April 6, 2021

For any language  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ , let

$$\text{mutate}(L) = \{x \cdot a \cdot y \cdot b \cdot z \mid x, y, z \in \Sigma^*, a, b \in \Sigma, a \neq b, \text{ and } x \cdot b \cdot y \cdot a \cdot z \in L\}$$

be the set of strings that can be obtained from strings in  $L$  by interchanging two different letters. For example, if  $L = \{0011\}$  then  $\text{mutate}(L) = \{1001, 1010, 0101, 0110\}$ .

Prove that, if  $L$  is a regular language, then  $\text{mutate}(L)$  is regular, as follows.

1. Given any deterministic finite automaton  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , explain how to construct a finite automaton  $M'$  such that  $L(M') = \text{mutate}(L(M))$ .
2. Briefly describe how  $M'$  works.
3. Prove that  $L(M') = \text{mutate}(L(M))$ .

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