

1.

Assume L_1 and L_2 are regular languages.

Then, L_1 and L_2 are closed under union, intersection, complement, concatenation, and star-closure by Theorem 4.1 in textbook.

As the symmetric difference of two sets is a new set that contains every elements in either set except the elements in both sets, the symmetric difference of L_1 and L_2 can be denoted as $(L_1 - L_2) \cup (L_2 - L_1)$.

$L_1 - L_2 = L_1 \cap \bar{L}_2$. Since L_1 and L_2 are closure under intersection and complement, \bar{L}_2 is regular so that $L_1 \cap \bar{L}_2$ is regular.

$L_2 - L_1 = L_2 \cap \bar{L}_1$. Since L_1 and L_2 are closure under intersection and complement, \bar{L}_1 is regular so that $L_2 \cap \bar{L}_1$ is regular.

As $(L_1 \cap \bar{L}_2)$ and $(L_2 \cap \bar{L}_1)$ are regular, $(L_1 \cap \bar{L}_2)$ and $(L_2 \cap \bar{L}_1)$ are closed under union, intersection, complement, concatenation, and star-closure.

Thus, $(L_1 \cap \bar{L}_2) \cup (L_2 \cap \bar{L}_1)$ is regular.

We proved that symmetric difference of regular languages is regular with regular languages L_1 and L_2 .

Therefore, the family of regular languages is closed under symmetric difference. ■

2.

Assume L is regular language. We're given m .

Let's pick $w = a^m b^m$. Suppose $|xy| \leq m$, $|y| \geq 1$, and $|y| = k$ ($1 \leq k \leq m$).

Let $xy = a^m$, $y = a^k$. Then $w = xyz = a^{m-k} a^k b^m$ so that $w_i = a^{m-k} (a^k)^i b^m$ by Theorem 4.8.

If we choose $i=0$, $w_0 = a^{m-k} b^m$. Since $1 \leq k \leq m$, $m-k \neq m$ so that $w_0 \notin L$.

Thus, we have successfully pumped the string out of the language.

$\therefore L$ is not regular. ■

3.

Assume L is regular language and we're given m .

Let's pick $w = a^{2^m}$. Suppose $|xy| \leq m$, $|y| \geq 1$, and $|y| = k$ ($1 \leq k \leq m$).

Let $xy = a^m$ and $y = a^k$. Then $w = xyz = a^{m-k} a^k a^{2^m-m}$ so that

$w_i = a^{m-k} (a^k)^i a^{2^m-m}$ by Theorem 4.8 in textbook.

If we choose $i=0$, $w_0 = a^{2^m-k}$.

Since $1 \leq k \leq m$, $2^m - k > 2^{(m-1)}$ so that $w_0 \notin L$.

Thus, we have successfully pumped the string out of the language.

$\therefore L$ is not regular. ■

