

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. (From 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  $w_i = a^{m-k} (a^k)^i b^m$ .

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. ▀

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

$$w_i = a^{m-k} (a^k)^i a^{2^m-m}$$

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. ▀

