

1 Pumping lemma

Let L be a regular language. Then there exists some positive integer n such that for every w in L with length at least N we can decompose w into 3 strings, $w = xyz$, such that :

- $y \neq \lambda$
- $|xy| \leq n$
- for every $k \geq 0$ the string xy^kz is also in L

1.1 Example

Consider : $L_{eq} = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has an equal number of 0s and 1s}\}$

Claim : L_{eq} is not regular

Proof : The proof is by contradiction. Assume that L_{eq} is regular and let n be the positive integer that exists according to the pumping lemma.

We pick a string w in L_{eq} , namely $w = 0^n 1^n$. Clearly $|w| \geq n$ so by the pumping lemma $w = xyz$ such that $|xy| \leq n$ and $y \neq \lambda$

We can deduce from this that xy is made up entirely of 0s, and hence y consists of one or more 0s.

By the pumping lemma xy^2 must be in the language but this equals $0^{p+1}1^n$, where $p > n$ so there are more 0s than 1s and therefore it isn't in the language and our assumption that L_{eq} is regular must be incorrect.

1.2 Boilerplate

Proof: The proof is by contradiction. Assume that L_{ww} is regular and let n be the positive integer that exists according to the pumping lemma.

We pick a string w in L_{ww} , namely $w = 0^n 1^n 0^n 1^n$. Clearly $|w| \geq n$ so by the pumping lemma $w = xyz$, such that $|xy| \leq n$ and $y \neq \lambda$

We can deduce from this that xy is $0^k 1^l$, and hence that y consists of $0^a 1^b$.

By the pumping lemma, xyz must be in the language but this equals $0^{n+a} 1^{n+b} 0^n 1^n$ and therefore isn't in the language.

Hence we have a contradiction and our assumption that L_{ww} is regular must be wrong.