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# Regular Languages and Regular Expressions

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# Regular Expressions

It is a declarative way of representing a regular language.

- Algebraic representation of a regular language.
- In order to represent regular language using regular expression, some operators will be utilized.

It has applications in designing and development of compilers.

# Regular Language

- Regular Language (also known as Type 3 language) is a restricted formal language that can be denoted by the regular expression.

$$\mathbf{L1 = \{01, 001, 011, 0011, - - - -\}}$$

$$\mathbf{L2 = \{0^n 1^m \mid n, m \geq 1\}}$$

# Conditions for Formal Language to be Regular



- Conditions
  - Finite in Length
  - OR
  - Non-existence of Memory Element

Language	Identification (Regular or Non-Regular)
$L = \{a^n b^n \mid n \leq 1\}$	Regular
$L = \{a^n b^m c^k \mid n, m, k \geq 1\}$	Regular
$L = \{a^n b^m \mid n, m \geq 1, m > n\}$	Non-Regular
$L = \{a^n b^m c^{n+m} \mid n, m \geq 1\}$	Non-Regular

# Rules for Generating the Regular Expression



Regular Language	Pattern of the Language	Regular Expression
$L = \{ \epsilon \}$ ( <b>Epsilon</b> )	Null String	$\epsilon$
$L = \{ a \}$	Single Character	$a$
$L = \{ bb \}$	Single String	$b.b$ ( <b>Concatenation</b> )
$L = \{ a, b \}$	Two Characters	$a + b$ ( <b>Union</b> )
$L = \{ a, aa, aaa, aaaa, --- \}$	Repetition of a's	$a^+$ ( <b>Positive Closure</b> )
$L = \{ \epsilon, a, aa, aaa, aaaa, ---- \}$	Repetition of a's (including the null string i.e. $\epsilon$ )	$a^*$ ( <b>Kleene Closure</b> ) OR $\epsilon + a^+$
$L = \{ a, b, ab, ba, aa, aaa, aba, baab, aba---- \}$	Any combination of a's and b's	$(a + b)^+$
$L = \{ \epsilon, a, b, ab, ba, aa, aaa, aba, baab, aba, -- \}$	Any combination of a's and b's (including the null string i.e. $\epsilon$ )	$(a + b)^*$ OR $\epsilon + (a + b)^+$

# Regular Expressions

For every regular expression  $R$ , there is a unique language  $L(R)$  corresponding to it.

- It's converse is not true.
- We often drop this  $.$  (concatenation) operator symbol from the regular expression. ( $ab$  is also a regular expression).

Precedence of the operators of regular expression is from high to low.  $()$ , Kleene Closure/Positive Closure, Concatenation, Union.

- The language corresponding to the RE  $\phi^* = \{\epsilon\}$  Note that  $\phi$  is the regular expression for Null set  $\{\}$  (the empty set) and this set does not contain the epsilon.

# Designing of Regular Expression



- Design a regular expression that accepts all strings of 0's and 1's where each string starts with '0'.

Step 1

- $L = \{ 0, 01, 00, 010, \dots \}$

Step 2

- Minimal length String is '0'

Step 3

- $0 \cdot (0+1)^*$

# Designing of Regular Expression (Cont.....)



- Construct a regular expression that accepts all strings of 0's and 1's where each string starts and ends with different symbol.

Step 1

•  $L = \{ 01, 10, 011, 110, \dots \}$

Step 2

• Minimal length String is '01' and '10'

Step 3

•  $0. (0+1)^*. 1 + 1. (0+1)^*. 0$



# Designing of Regular Expression (Cont.....)



Construct a regular expression that accepts all strings of 0's and 1's where the length of the string is exactly three.

Step 1

- $L = \{ 000, 111, 010, 110, \dots \}$

Step 2

- Minimal Length String is Three

Step 3

- $((0 + 1) \cdot (0 + 1) \cdot (0 + 1))$

# Designing of Regular Expression (Cont.....)



Construct a regular expression that accepts all strings of 0's and 1's where the length of the string is exactly divisible by 3.

Step 1

- $L = \{ \epsilon, 010, 010101, \dots \}$

Step 2

- Minimal length String is Epsilon.

Step 3

- $((0 + 1) \cdot (0 + 1) \cdot (0 + 1))^*$
- **OR**
- $\epsilon + ((0 + 1) \cdot (0 + 1) \cdot (0 + 1))^+$