

Arden's Theorem

The Arden's Theorem is useful for checking the equivalence of two regular expressions as well as in the conversion of DFA to a regular expression.

Let us see its use in the conversion of DFA to a regular expression.

Following algorithm is used to build the regular expression from given DFA.

1. Let q_1 be the initial state.

2. There are $q_2, q_3, q_4, \dots, q_n$ number of states. The final state may be some q_j where $j \leq n$.

3. Let α_{ji} represents the transition from q_j to q_i .

4. Calculate q_i such that

$$q_i = \alpha_{ji} * q_j$$

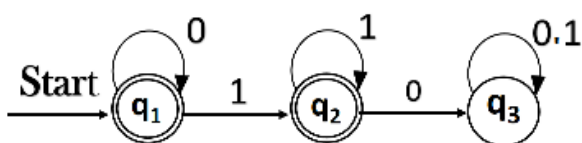
If q_j is a start state then we have:

$$q_i = \alpha_{ji} * q_j + \epsilon$$

5. Similarly, compute the final state which ultimately gives the regular expression 'r'.

Example:

Construct the regular expression for the given DFA



Solution:

Let us write down the equations

$$q_1 = q_1 \emptyset + \epsilon$$

Since q_1 is the start state, so ϵ will be added, and the input 0 is coming to q_1 from q_1 hence we write

State = source state of input \times input coming to it

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} q_2 &= q_1 1 + q_2 1 \\ q_3 &= q_2 \emptyset + q_3 (\emptyset+1) \end{aligned}$$

Since the final states are q_1 and q_2 , we are interested in solving q_1 and q_2 only. Let us see q_1 first

$$q_1 = q_1 \emptyset + \epsilon$$

We can re-write it as

$$q_1 = \epsilon + q_1 \emptyset$$

Which is similar to $R = Q + RP$, and gets reduced to $R = QP^*$.

Assuming $R = q_1$, $Q = \epsilon$, $P = \emptyset$

We get

$$\begin{aligned} q_1 &= \epsilon.(\emptyset)^* \\ q_1 &= \emptyset^* \quad (\epsilon.R^* = R^*) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the value into q_2 , we will get

$$q_2 = \emptyset^* 1 + q_2 1$$

$$q_2 = \emptyset^* 1 (1)^* \quad (R = Q + RP \rightarrow Q P^*)$$

The regular expression is given by

$$r = q_1 + q_2$$

$$= \emptyset^* + \emptyset^* 1.1^*$$

$$r = \emptyset^* + \emptyset^* 1^+ \quad (1.1^* = 1^+)$$

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