Problem Set 1

Warren Kim

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Question 1

For languages A and B, let the **perfect shuffle** of A and B be the the language

$$\{w: w = a_1b_1 \cdots a_kb_k, where a_1 \cdots a_k \in A, b_1 \cdots b_k \in B, \text{ each } a_i, b_i \in \Sigma\}$$

Show that the class of regular languages is closed under perfect shuffle.

Response

Let $D_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1), D_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$ be two DFA's that recognize A and B respectively. Now, let $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ be the NFA recognizing **perfect shuffle** and be constructed as:

$$\begin{split} Q &= Q_1 \times Q_2 \times \{odd, even\} \\ \Sigma &= \Sigma \\ q_0 &= \{(q_1, q_2, odd)\} \\ F &= F_1 \times F_2 \times \{odd\} \\ \delta &= \begin{cases} \{\delta_1(q, \sigma)\} & q \in Q_2 \setminus F_2, \sigma \in \Sigma \\ \{\delta_2(q, \sigma)\} & q \in Q_1 \setminus F_1, \sigma \in \Sigma \\ \emptyset & otherwise \\ \end{cases} \end{split}$$