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Formal Languages

(Part 2)

Lecture 05
Day 05/31

CS 154
Formal Languages and Computability
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Agenda of Day 05

- Summary of Lecture 04
- Quiz 1
- Lecture 05: Teaching ...
 - Formal Languages (Part 2)

Summary of Lecture 04: We learned ...

Alphabets & Strings

- Alphabet is ...
 - ... a nonempty and finite set of symbols, denoted by Σ .
- String is ...
 - ... a finite sequence of symbols from the alphabet.
- Length of string w is ...
 - ... the number of symbols in the string, denoted by $|w|$.
- Empty string is ...
 - ... A string with no symbol, denoted by λ
 - $|\lambda| = 0$

Operations on Strings

- Concatenation of u and v is uv .
 - $\lambda w = w\lambda = w$ (neutral element)
- Reverse of w is denoted by w^R .
- Substring
- Prefix and Suffix
 - $w = uv$, u =prefix, v =suffix
 - λ is suffix and prefix of every string because: $w = \lambda w = w \lambda$
- Exponent operator
 - $w^n = w w w \dots w$
 - $w w^n = w^n w = w^{n+1}$
 - $w^0 = \lambda$

Summary of Lecture 04: We learned ...

Formal Languages

- Star operator: Σ^*
 - The set of all possible strings obtained by concatenating **zero or more** symbols from Σ .
 - **Universal set** of all strings over Σ .
- Plus operator: Σ^+
 - The set of all possible strings obtained by concatenating **one or more** symbols from Σ .
 - $\Sigma^+ = \Sigma^* - \{\lambda\}$
 - $\Sigma^* = \Sigma^+ \cup \{\lambda\}$
- **Formal language** is ...
 - ... any subset of Σ^*
- Special cases:
 - $\{ \}$ and $\{\lambda\}$

- Formal languages are sets, so, they have **all sets properties**.
- Formal languages can be **finite** or **infinite**.

U = All Formal Languages



Any question?

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TEST RECORD	
PART 1	123
PART 2	
TOTAL	



Quiz 1

Use Scantron

Operations on Languages

The Regular Set Operations

- Since languages are sets, we can apply all regular set operations on them.

Union

- $\{a, aa, ab\} \cup \{a, ab, bbb, bba, b\} = \{a, aa, ab, bbb, bba, b\}$

Intersection

- $\{a, aa, ab\} \cap \{a, ab, bbb, bba, b\} = \{a, ab\}$

Minus

- $\{a, aa, ab\} - \{a, ab, bbb, bba, b\} = \{aa\}$



Complement of Languages

Definition

- Let L be a language over a given alphabet Σ .
- Complement of L , denoted by \overline{L} , is defined as:

$$\overline{L} = U - L = \Sigma^* - L$$

Example 18

- Let $L = \{\lambda, b, aa, aab\}$ over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$; $\overline{L} = ?$
- $\overline{L} = \Sigma^* - L$
- $\Sigma^* = \{\lambda, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \dots\}$
- $\overline{L} = \{\cancel{\lambda}, a, \cancel{b}, \cancel{aa}, ab, ba, bb, aaa, \cancel{aab}, \dots\}$
 $= \{a, ab, ba, bb, aaa, \dots\}$



Homework

- Given the following languages over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$
 - a. Represent L by set builder
 - b. Find \overline{L} and represent it by set builder
- 1. Set of all strings that contains at least one a
- 2. Set of all strings that contains more than one a
- 3. Set of all strings that contains exactly one a

Reverse of Languages

Definition

- Let L be a language over a given alphabet Σ .
- Reverse of L , denoted by L^R , is defined as:

$$L^R = \{w : w^R \in L\}$$

Example 19

- Let $L = \{b, ab, aab, abab\}$; $L^R = ?$
- $L^R = \{b, ba, baa, baba\}$

Example 20



- Let $L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$; $L^R = ?$
- $L^R = \{b^n a^n : n \geq 0\}$

Concatenation of Languages

Definition

- Let L_1 and L_2 be two languages over two alphabets Σ_1 and Σ_2 .
- The concatenation of L_1 and L_2 , denoted by L_1L_2 , is defined as:

$$L_1L_2 = \{xy : x \in L_1, y \in L_2\} \text{ over } \Sigma = \Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2$$

Example 21

- Let $L_1 = \{a, ab\}$ and $L_2 = \{b, ba, baa\}$; $L_1L_2 = ?$
- $L_1L_2 = \{a, ab\} \{b, ba, baa\}$
 $= \{ab, aba, abaa, abb, abba, abbaa\}$



Concatenation Notes

1. The concatenation of two languages looks like Cartesian product of two sets.
 - Instead of ordered-pair, we concatenate two strings.
2. $\phi L = L \phi = \phi$ (prove it!)
 - ϕ has the same role as 0 (zero) for multiplication.
3. $\{\lambda\} L = L \{\lambda\} = L$
 - $\{\lambda\}$ has the same role as 1 (one) for multiplication.
 - $\{\lambda\}$ is the neutral language for concatenation operation of languages.

Exponential Operation

Definition

- For a language L and a natural number n , L^n is defined as:

$$L^n = \underbrace{L L \dots L}_{n \text{ times}}$$

Example 22

Let $L = \{a, ab\}$; $L^2 = ?$; $L^3 = ?$

$$L^2 = \{a, ab\} \{a, ab\}$$

$$= \{aa, aab, aba, abab\}$$

$$L^3 = L L^2 = \{a, ab\} \{aa, aab, aba, abab\}$$

$$= \{aaa, aaab, aaba, aabab, abaa, abaab, ababa, ababab\}$$



- In general: $L L^n = L^n L = L^{n+1}$
- Where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (natural numbers)

Exponential Operation

⚠ Example 23

- Let $L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$; $L^2 = ?$
- $L^2 = \{a^n b^n a^m b^m : n \geq 0, m \geq 0\}$
- Note that n and m are independent.
- For example $ab aabb$ ($n=1, m=2$) belongs to L^2 .
- How about $L^3 = ?$



Homework



⚠ Special cases

- $L^0 = ?$
- $L^0 = \{\lambda\}$ (prove it!)
- $\phi^0 = ?$

Optional

- For the following problems, we might use "prove by induction".
- $\{\lambda\}^n = \{\lambda\}$
- $\phi^n = ?$ for $n \geq 1$

Star-Closure Operation

Definition

- Let L be a language over a given alphabet Σ .
- Star-closure of L is defined as:

$$L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots$$

- Star-closure is also known as Kleene closure (pronounce it clay-knee) or Kleene star.
 - We prefer star-closure.
- The star-closure of a language L consists of all strings that can be formed by concatenating zero or more strings from L .

Star-Closure Operation

Example 24

- Let $L = \{a, ab\}$ over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$; $L^* = ?$
- $L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots$
- $L^0 = \{\lambda\}$
- $L^1 = \{a, ab\}$
- $L^2 = \{aa, aab, aba, abab\}$
- $L^3 = \{aaa, aaab, aaba, aabab, abaa, abaab, ababa, ababab\}$
- $L^4 = \dots$
- $L^* = \{\lambda, a, ab, aa, aab, aba, abab, aaa, aaab, aaba, aabab, abaa, abaab, ababa, ababab, \dots\}$

Positive-Closure Operation

Definition

- Let L be a language over a given alphabet.
- Positive-closure of L is defined as:

$$L^+ = L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots$$

- L^+ does not contain L^0 . So, if we add L^0 to L^+ , we get L^* :

$$L^* = L^0 \cup L^+$$

- Is the following statement correct?
- $L^+ = L \ L^*$
- How can you support your answer?





Homework

- Let $L = \{a, ab, bb\}$ over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$.
- $L^* = ?$
- $L^+ = ?$

- Let $L = \{\lambda, a, ab\}$ over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$.
- $L^* = ?$
- $L^+ = ?$

Special Cases

- $\phi^* = ?$
- $\{\lambda\}^* = ?$

Homework



- Enumerate at least 5 elements of the following languages:
 1. $L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^+\}$
 2. $L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^+ : |w| = 2k, K \geq 0\}$
 3. $L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^+ : |w| = 2k+1, K \geq 0\}$
 4. $L = \{1^{2k} : k \geq 1\}$ over $\Sigma = \{1\}$
 5. $L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^+ : n_a(w) = n_b(w)\}$ //number of a's = number of b's
 6. $L = \{a^n b^n c^n : n \geq 1\}$
 7. $L = \{a^n b^m c^{nm} : n, m \geq 1\}$
 8. $L = \{w\#w : w \in \{a, b\}^+\}$
 9. $L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^+ : |w| = 2k+1, K \geq 0, w \text{ contains at least one } a\}$
 10. $L = \{ww : w \in \{a, b\}^+\}$

Surprising Languages

Surprising Languages Examples

In computer
Science, all data
are strings!

Example 25 : Natural Numbers

- $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, \dots, 123, \dots, 456, \dots, 5908764, \dots\}$
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$

Example 26 : Binary⁺ Numbers

- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- $B = \{0, 1, \dots, 1010, \dots, 10000001, \dots, 111100001, \dots\}$



Example 27 : Unary Numbers

This is our celebrity numbers!

- $\Sigma = \{1\}$
- $A = \{1, 11, 111, 1111, 11111, \dots\}$
- Equivalent integer numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...

Surprising Languages Examples

Example 28: **Prime** Numbers

- $\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 9\}$
- $L = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, \dots\}$

Example 29: **Even and Odd** Numbers

- $\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 9\}$
- $L_1 = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\}$
- $L_2 = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$

Surprising Languages Examples

Example 30: Addition of Unary Numbers

- $\Sigma = \{1, +, =\}$
- $L = \{1^n + 1^m = 1^{n+m} : n \geq 1, m \geq 1\}$
- **Membership:** L contains strings such as:

$$1+11=111$$

$$11+111=11111$$

...

- **Not Membership:** L doesn't contain strings such as:

$$1+11=1 \notin L$$

$$11+111=11 \notin L$$



Homework

Square of Unary Numbers

- $\Sigma = \{1, \#, =\}$
- $L = \{1^n \# = 1^k : k = n^2, n \geq 1\}$
- **Membership:** L contains strings such as:
??
- **Not Membership:** L doesn't contain strings such as:
??

References

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