

Limitations on regular languages

Pumping Lemma

If L is a regular language, then there exists an integer $p \geq 1$ such that for any $w \in L$ with $|w| \geq p$, w can be divided into 3 strings, $w = xyz$ such that:

1. $\forall i \geq 0, xy^i z \in L$
2. $|y| > 0$
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Since L is regular, \exists DFA M that recognizes L .

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Let p to be the number of states in M . For $w = w_1, \dots, w_n$, let q_0, \dots, q_n be the sequence of states that lead from start to accept on string w .

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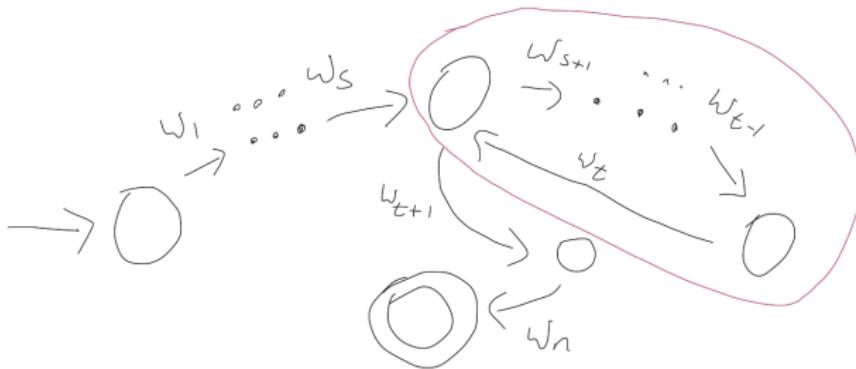
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To see that property 3 is satisfied: recall, t is the first repetition. If $t > p$, we must have more than p states.

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If property 3 is violated, we're done.

Suppose property 3 is not violated.

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Then $y \in \{aa^j\}_{j=0}^{p-1}$. $\forall i \geq 0 : xy^i z \notin L$.

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Examples of strings in the language: $((())())()$ and $()((())())$

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If L is a regular language, then there exists an integer $p \geq 1$ such that for any $w \in L$ with $|w| \geq p$, w can be divided into 3 strings, $w = xyz$ such that:

1. $\forall i \geq 0, xy^i z \in L$
2. $|y| > 0$
3. $|xy| \leq p$

Theorem

The language L of "balanced parenthesis" over $\Sigma = \{(')', ')\}$ is not regular.

We want to show:

$\forall p : \exists w \in L : |w| \geq p : \forall x, y, z \text{ s.t. NOT all 3 properties are satisfied}$

Assume $p \geq 1$ (towards \forall introduction)

Wrong answer:

Let $w = \underbrace{()()() \cdots ()()()}_{p \text{ times}}$

Claim: $\forall x, y, z, w$ violates (at least) one of the 3 properties.

Assume properties 2 and 3 are satisfied.

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$\neg \forall x, y, z : \forall i \geq 0 : xy^i z \notin L$.