

TOPIC ONE: Non deterministic Machines

Question 1.

Ex. 2.17. Consider the problem of taking an arbitrary nondeterministic finite-state machine that accepts some language A and modifying the machine to accept the complement of A instead (i.e., all the strings that are not in A).

Does the following approach work: Make all rejecting states of the nondeterministic machine into accepting states and all accepting states into rejecting states?

Briefly explain your answer.

Question 2.

Ex. 2.18. For any $k \geq 0$ let L_k be the language of bitstrings whose first k bits equal their last k bits. How many states does a deterministic finite-state machine for L_k need? Same for a nondeterministic machine. How long is a regular expression for L_k ?

Question 3.

Ex. 2.19. Give three properties that are decidable for finite-state machines but undecidable for arbitrary programs.

TOPIC TWO: Cross- Product Construction

Question 1.

Ex. 2.21. Consider creating the cross-product machine of two given machines and choosing the accepting states such that the new machine accepts the intersection of the languages of the two old machines.

- (a) Give an example where the cross-product machine is minimal.
- (b) If the cross-product machine is minimal, does that imply that the two “factors” in the product had to be minimal? Give an argument or a counterexample.

Question 2.

Ex. 2.22. For any program p define L_p to be the set of input strings on which the program prints the word “Yes” and terminates. Is it decidable whether or not a program p has a regular language L_p ? Briefly justify your answer.

Question 3.

Ex. 2.23. Construct a finite-state machine for the language $\{x : x \in \{0,1\}^* \text{ and } x \notin \{000,001\}^*\}$. First construct a nondeterministic machine that is as small as possible, then apply the subset construction, then minimization.

Question 4.

Ex. 2.28. Formulate a stronger version of the pumping lemma, one that says not only that pumping occurs somewhere in a long enough string but that it occurs within every long enough substring. Use this stronger version to prove two languages from ⁸ Figure ?? not regular which cannot be proven not regular with the original weaker version.