

“Machines take me by surprise with great frequency.” – Alan Turing

1. Given below is a list of operations on two languages  $L_1, L_2$ . For each of them, comment if regular languages are closed under the operation.

(a)

$$L_1 \setminus |L_2| = \{w \mid \exists x, wx \in L_1, \exists u \in L_2, |u| = |x|\}$$

(b)

$$\text{alt}(L_1, L_2) = \{\text{alt}(w, x) \mid |w| = |x|, w \in L_1, x \in L_2\}$$

where, for two words of equal length  $w = a_1a_2 \dots a_n$  and  $x = b_1b_2 \dots b_n$

$$\text{alt}(w, x) = a_1b_1a_2b_2 \dots a_nb_n$$

- (c) We saw the *shuffle* operator in Problem Set 2. We shall now add an additional constraint to it. Recall

$$\text{shuffle}(L_1, L_2) = \{w \in \text{shuffle}(u, v) \mid u \in L_1, v \in L_2\}$$

where, for two words  $u, v$

$$\text{shuffle}(u, v) = \{u_1v_1 \dots u_nv_n \mid u = u_1 \dots u_n, v = v_1 \dots v_n, u_i, v_i \in \Sigma^*\}$$

Adding our additional constraint, we get

$$\text{shuffle\_equals}(L_1, L_2) = \{w \in \text{shuffle}(u, v) \mid u \in L_1, v \in L_2, |u| = |v|\}$$

2. A homomorphism  $h : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Gamma^*$  is *injective* when

$$\forall u, v \in \Sigma^*, h(u) = h(v) \Rightarrow u = v$$

i.e. no two words in  $\Sigma^*$  have the same image in  $\Gamma^*$  under  $h$ .

Construct an algorithm to check if a given homomorphism  $h$  is injective.

3. Consider the following operations that can be performed on a finite automaton  $A = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, Q_0, F)$ :

- The *trim* of  $A$  is defined as:

$$\text{trim}(A) = (\hat{Q}, \Sigma, \hat{\Delta}, \hat{Q}_0, \hat{F})$$

where

$$\hat{Q} = \{q \in Q \mid \exists \text{ a path } q_0 \rightsquigarrow q \rightsquigarrow q_f, q_0 \in Q_0, q_f \in F\}$$

$$\hat{\Delta} = \Delta \cap (\hat{Q} \times \Sigma \times \hat{Q})$$

$$\hat{Q}_0 = Q_0 \cap \hat{Q}$$

$$\hat{F} = F \cap \hat{Q}$$

i.e. we remove states that cannot be part of an accepting path.

- The *reverse* of  $A$  is defined as:

$$\text{rev}(A) = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, F, \{q_0\})$$

$$(q, a, q') \in \Delta \iff \delta(q', a) = q$$

- $\text{det}(A)$  is defined to be the output of the subset construction algorithm on  $A$ . Of course if  $A$  is a DFA, then  $A = \text{det}(A)$ .

Given a regular language  $L$  and a finite automaton  $A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  that accepts  $L$ , show that the following procedure:

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{trim}} A_1 \xrightarrow{\text{rev}} A_2 \xrightarrow{\text{det}} A_3 \xrightarrow{\text{trim}} A_4 \xrightarrow{\text{rev}} A_5 \xrightarrow{\text{det}} A_6 \xrightarrow{\text{trim}} A_7 = B$$

results in  $B$  being the minimal DFA that accepts  $L$ .

4.  $L$  be the set of binary representations of prime numbers (leading zeroes allowed). Is  $L$  regular? Prove your assertion.