## CSE 135: Introduction to Theory of Computation Deterministic Finite Automata

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Given input, decide "yes" or "no"

- Examples: Is x an even number? Is x prime? Is there a path from s to t in graph G?
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# General Computational Problem

In contrast, typically a problem requires computing some non-boolean function, or carrying out interactive/reactive computation in a distributed environment

• Examples: Find the factors of x. Find the balance in account number x.

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- Examples: Find the factors of x. Find the balance in account number x.
- Example of reduction to a decision problem
  - ► Given a composite number x, find a factor greater than 1 and less than x.
  - Does x have a factor greater than y and less than z?
- In this course, we will study decision problems because aspects of computability are captured by this special class of problems

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- Often, takes more memory for larger problem instances
- But some programs do not need larger state for larger instances!

## Finite State Computation

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## Finite State Computation

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- Not enough memory to hold the entire input
  - "Streaming input": automaton runs (i.e., changes state) on seeing each bit of input

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Top view of Door



Top view of Door

Input: A stream of events <front>, <rear>, <both>, <neither> ...

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Top view of Door

State diagram of controller

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Input: A stream of events <front>, <rear>, <both>, <neither>...



Top view of Door

State diagram of controller

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- Input: A stream of events <front>, <rear>, <both>, <neither>...
- Controller has a single bit of state.

Details

Automaton A finite automaton has:



Transition Diagram of automaton

Details

#### Automaton

A finite automaton has: Finite set of states, with start/initial and accepting/final states;



Transition Diagram of automaton

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Details

#### Automaton

A finite automaton has: Finite set of states, with start/initial and accepting/final states; Transitions from one state to another on reading a symbol from the input.



Transition Diagram of automaton

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#### Computation

Start at the initial state; in each step, read the next symbol of the input, take the transition (edge) labeled by that symbol to a new state.



Transition Diagram of automaton

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#### Automaton

A finite automaton has: Finite set of states, with start/initial and accepting/final states; Transitions from one state to another on reading a symbol from the input.

#### Computation

Start at the initial state; in each step, read the next symbol of the input, take the transition (edge) labeled by that symbol to a new state. Acceptance/Rejection: If after reading the input w, the machine is in a final state then w is accepted; otherwise w is rejected.



Transition Diagram of automaton

## Example: Computation

On input 1001, the computation is

- 1. Start in state  $q_0$ . Read 1 and goto  $q_1$ .
- 2. Read 0 and goto  $q_1$ .
- 3. Read 0 and goto  $q_1$ .
- Read 1 and goto q<sub>0</sub>. Since q<sub>0</sub> is not a final state 1001 is rejected.



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- 3. Read 0 and goto  $q_1$ .
- Read 1 and goto q<sub>0</sub>. Since q<sub>0</sub> is not a final state 1001 is rejected.
- On input 010, the computation is
  - 1. Start in state  $q_0$ . Read 0 and goto  $q_0$ .
  - 2. Read 1 and goto  $q_1$ .
  - Read 0 and goto q<sub>1</sub>. Since q<sub>1</sub> is a final state 010 is accepted.



## Example I



## Example I



#### Automaton accepts all strings of 0s and 1s



## Example II



## Example II



#### Automaton accepts strings ending in $\boldsymbol{1}$

## Example III



## Example III



#### Automaton accepts strings having an odd number of 1s

## Example IV



## Example IV



Automaton accepts strings having an odd number of 1s and odd number of 0s

## Finite Automata in Practice

grep: Unix command. grep "word to find" "file name"

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- Thermostats
- Coke Machines
- Elevators
- Train Track Switches
- Security Properties
- Lexical Analyzers for Parsers

## Alphabet

#### Definition

An alphabet is any finite, non-empty set of symbols. We will usually denote it by  $\Sigma$ .

#### Example

Examples of alphabets include  $\{0, 1\}$  (binary alphabet);  $\{a, b, \ldots, z\}$  (English alphabet); the set of all ASCII characters;  $\{moveforward, moveback, rotate90\}$ .

## Strings

#### Definition

#### A string or word over alphabet $\Sigma$ is a (finite) sequence of symbols in $\Sigma$ . Examples are '0101001', 'string', ' $\langle moveback \rangle \langle rotate90 \rangle$ '

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  - Question: Is  $\epsilon$  a prefix of '*catnap*'?



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  - $L = \{1, 01, 11, 001\}$  is a language over  $\{0, 1\}$ .
    - A language L defines a decision problem: Inputs (strings) whose answer is 'yes' are exactly those belonging to L

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- L = {w ∈ {0,1}\* | there is a u such that wu = 10001} is the set of all prefixes of 10001.

To describe an automaton, we to need to specify

- What the alphabet is,
- What the states are,
- What the initial state is,
- What states are accepting/final, and
- What the transition from each state and input symbol is.

Thus, the above 5 things are part of the formal definition.

## Finite Automata

Formal Definition

## Definition

A finite automaton where

is 
$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$
,

- Q is the finite set of states
- Σ is the finite alphabet
- $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  "Next-state" transition function
- $q_0 \in Q$  initial state
- $F \subseteq Q$  final/accepting states

# Deterministic Finite Automata

Formal Definition

## Definition

A deterministic finite automaton (DFA) is  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

- Q is the finite set of states
- Σ is the finite alphabet
- $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  "Next-state" transition function
- $q_0 \in Q$  initial state
- $F \subseteq Q$  final/accepting states

Given a state and a symbol, the next state is "determined".

#### Definition

For a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , let us define a function  $\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \to Q$  such that  $\hat{\delta}(q, w)$  is *M*'s state after reading *w* from state *q*.

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$$\hat{\delta}(q,w) = \begin{cases} & \text{if } w = \epsilon \\ & \text{if } w = ua \end{cases}$$

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#### Definition

We say a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  accepts string  $w \in \Sigma^*$  iff  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F$ .

# Acceptance/Recognition

#### Definition

The language accepted or recognized by a DFA M over alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $L(M) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid M \text{ accepts } w\}.$ 

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Acceptance/Recognition and Regular Languages

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### Definition

A language L is regular if there is some DFA M such that L = L(M).

# Formal Example of DFA Example



Transition Diagram of DFA

Formally the automaton is  $M = (\{q_0, q_1\}, \{0, 1\}, \delta, q_0, \{q_1\})$  where

$$\delta(q_0, 0) = q_0$$
  $\delta(q_0, 1) = q_1$   
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# Formal Example of DFA Example





Transition Table representation

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## A Simple Observation about DFAs

#### Proposition

For a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , and any strings  $u, v \in \Sigma^*$  and state  $q \in Q$ ,  $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$ .

### But you can see that this is true by observing that $\hat{\delta}(q, u_1u_2u_3...u_k) = \delta(\delta(...(\delta(\delta(q, u_1), u_2), u_3), ...), u_{k-1}), u_k)$

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#### Proof.

By induction! Let's see ...

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- ► Line up *n* dominoes numbered 0, 1, ... n - 1 such that if we knock one the next one will fall
- If  $F_i$  denotes "*i*th domino falls", we have  $F_i \rightarrow F_{i+1}$



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Dominoes

# Plato's Infinite Domino Principle

#### Principle

Imagine one domino for each natural number  $0, 1, 2, \ldots$ , arranged in an infinite row. Knocking the 0th domino will knock them all.



Plato

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# Plato's Infinite Domino Principle

#### Principle

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#### "Proof"

Suppose they don't all fall. Let k > 0 be the smallest numbered domino that remains standing. This means domino k - 1 fell. But then k - 1 will knock k over. Therefore, k must fall and remain standing, which is a contradiction.

#### Plato's Infinite Domino Principle Formally

Mathematically we can say

- F<sub>i</sub>: ith domino falls
- Suppose for every natural number  $i, F_i \rightarrow F_{i+1}$

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- ► Suppose 0th domino is knocked over, i.e., F<sub>0</sub>
- ▶ Then all dominoes will fall, i.e.,  $\forall i.F_i$ .

Domino Principle

 Infinite sequence of dominoes

#### Induction Principle

• Infinite sequence of statements  $S_0, S_1, \ldots$ 

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#### Domino Principle

- Infinite sequence of dominoes
- Knock the 0th domino

#### Induction Principle

- Infinite sequence of statements  $S_0, S_1, \ldots$
- ▶ Prove *S*<sup>0</sup> is correct [Base Case]

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#### Domino Principle

- Infinite sequence of dominoes
- Knock the 0th domino
- Arrange dominoes such that knocking one will knock the next one

#### Induction Principle

- Infinite sequence of statements  $S_0, S_1, \ldots$
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- Infinite sequence of dominoes
- Knock the 0th domino
- Arrange dominoes such that knocking one will knock the next one
- Conclude all dominoes fall

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• Conclude  $\forall i. S_i$  is true

An Example

#### Proposition

For a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , and any strings  $u, v \in \Sigma^*$  and state  $q \in Q$ ,  $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$ .

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We will prove this by induction.

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#### Proof.

We will prove this by induction.

- Let  $S_i$  be " $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$  when |v| = i"
  - Observe that if  $S_i$  is true for all *i* then  $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$ for every *u* and *v*

#### Example Inductive Proof Base Case

#### Proof (contd).

To establish  $S_0$ , i.e., " $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$  when |v| = 0"

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#### Example Inductive Proof Base Case

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To establish  $S_0$ , i.e., " $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$  when |v| = 0"

- If |v| = 0 then  $v = \epsilon$
- Observe  $u\epsilon = u$
- Thus, LHS  $= \hat{\delta}(q, u\epsilon) = \hat{\delta}(q, u)$
- Observe by definition of  $\hat{\delta}(\cdot, \cdot)$ , for any q',  $\hat{\delta}(q', \epsilon) = q'$

 $\cdots \rightarrow$ 

• Thus,  $\mathsf{RHS} = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q,u),\epsilon) = \hat{\delta}(q,u)$ 

# Proof (contd). Assume $S_i$ , i.e., " $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$ when |v| = i". Need to establish $S_{i+1}$ .

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#### Proof (contd).

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• Consider v such that |v| = i + 1.

#### Proof (contd).

Assume  $S_i$ , i.e., " $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$  when |v| = i". Need to establish  $S_{i+1}$ .

• Consider v such that |v| = i + 1. WLOG, v = wa, where  $w \in \Sigma^*$  with |w| = n and  $a \in \Sigma$ 

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$$\hat{\delta}(q, \mathit{uwa}) = \delta(\hat{\delta}(q, \mathit{uw}), \mathit{a})$$
 defn. of  $\hat{\delta}$ 

Induction Step

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### Conventions in Inductive Proofs

#### Proposition

For a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , and any strings  $u, v \in \Sigma^*$  and state  $q \in Q$ ,  $\hat{\delta}(q, uv) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, u), v)$ .

#### Proof.

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# Conventions in Inductive Proofs

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#### Proof.

"We will prove by induction on |v|" is a short-hand for "We will prove the proposition by induction. Take  $S_i$  to be statement of the proposition restricted to strings v where |v| = i."

# Properties of $\hat{\delta}$

#### Corollary

For a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , and any string  $v \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $a \in \Sigma$  and state  $q \in Q$ ,  $\hat{\delta}(q, av) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, a), v)$ .

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From previous proposition we have,  $\hat{\delta}(q, av) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, a), v)$  (taking u = a).

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#### Proof.

From previous proposition we have,  $\hat{\delta}(q, av) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q, a), v)$  (taking u = a). Next,

$$egin{aligned} \hat{\delta}(q, a) &= \delta(\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon), a) & ext{defn. of } \hat{\delta} \ &= \delta(q, a) & ext{as } \hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = q \end{aligned}$$

# Language of $M_{\rm odd}$



Transition Diagram of  $M_{\rm odd}$ 

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## Language of $M_{\rm odd}$

# Proposition $L(M_{odd}) = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has an odd} number of 0s and an odd number of 1s\}.$



Transition Diagram of  $M_{
m odd}$ 

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# Proof about the language of $M_{ m odd}$

#### Proof.

We will prove by induction on |w| that  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F = \{q_2\}$  iff w has an odd number of 0s and an odd number of 1s.

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▶ Base Case: When  $w = \epsilon$ , w has an even number of 0s and an even number of 1s and  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, \epsilon) = q_0$  so the observation holds.

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- Induction Step w = 0u: The parity of the number of 1s in u and w is the same, and the parity of the number of 0s is opposite. And δ(q<sub>0</sub>, w) = δ(δ(q<sub>0</sub>, 0), u) = δ(q<sub>3</sub>, u)

# Proof about the language of $M_{\rm odd}$ It fails!

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- ▶ Induction Step w = 0u: The parity of the number of 1s in uand w is the same, and the parity of the number of 0s is opposite. And  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q_0, 0), u) = \hat{\delta}(q_3, u)$
- Need to know what strings are accepted from q<sub>3</sub>! Need to prove a stronger statement.

#### Proof.

We need to a stronger statement that asserts what strings are accepted from each state of the DFA. We will prove by induction on |w| that

(a) δ̂(q₀, w) ∈ F iff w has odd number of 0s & odd number of 1s
(b) δ̂(q₁, w) ∈ F iff
(c) δ̂(q₂, w) ∈ F iff

 $\cdots \rightarrow$ 

(d)  $\hat{\delta}(q_3, w) \in F$  iff

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(d)  $\hat{\delta}(q_3, w) \in F$  iff w has even number of 0s & odd number of 1s

 $\cdots \rightarrow$ 

Corrected Proof Base Case

> Proof (contd). Consider w such that |w| = 0. Then  $w = \epsilon$ .

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Base Case

#### Proof (contd).

Consider w such that |w| = 0. Then  $w = \epsilon$ .

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• For any 
$$q \in Q$$
,  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = q$ 

Base Case

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• For any 
$$q \in Q$$
,  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = q$ 

Thus, δ̂(q, w) ∈ F iff q = q<sub>3</sub>, and statements (a),(b),(c), and
(d) hold in the base case.

Induction Step: part (a)

### Proof (contd).

Suppose (a),(b),(c), and (d) hold for strings w of length n. Consider w = au, where  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $u \in \Sigma^*$  of length n.

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Suppose (a),(b),(c), and (d) hold for strings w of length n. Consider w = au, where  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $u \in \Sigma^*$  of length n. Recall that  $\hat{\delta}(q, au) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, a), u)$ .

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• Case  $q = q_0$ , a = 0:  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F$  iff

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► Case  $q = q_0$ , a = 0:  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F$  iff  $\hat{\delta}(q_3, u) \in F$  iff

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Suppose (a),(b),(c), and (d) hold for strings w of length n. Consider w = au, where  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $u \in \Sigma^*$  of length n. Recall that  $\hat{\delta}(q, au) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, a), u)$ .

Case q = q<sub>0</sub>, a = 0: δ̂(q<sub>0</sub>, w) ∈ F iff δ̂(q<sub>3</sub>, u) ∈ F iff u has even number of 0s and odd number of 1s (by ind. hyp. (d)) iff

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Suppose (a),(b),(c), and (d) hold for strings w of length n. Consider w = au, where  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $u \in \Sigma^*$  of length n. Recall that  $\hat{\delta}(q, au) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, a), u)$ .

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Suppose (a),(b),(c), and (d) hold for strings w of length n. Consider w = au, where  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $u \in \Sigma^*$  of length n. Recall that  $\hat{\delta}(q, au) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, a), u)$ .

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Suppose (a),(b),(c), and (d) hold for strings w of length n. Consider w = au, where  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $u \in \Sigma^*$  of length n. Recall that  $\hat{\delta}(q, au) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, a), u)$ .

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Induction Step: other parts

Proof (contd).

Case q = q<sub>1</sub>, a = 0: δ̂(q<sub>1</sub>, w) ∈ F iff δ̂(q<sub>2</sub>, u) ∈ F iff u has even number of 0s and even number of 1s (by ind. hyp. (c)) iff w has odd number of 0s and even number of 1s

Induction Step: other parts

#### Proof (contd).

- Case q = q<sub>1</sub>, a = 0: δ̂(q<sub>1</sub>, w) ∈ F iff δ̂(q<sub>2</sub>, u) ∈ F iff u has even number of 0s and even number of 1s (by ind. hyp. (c)) iff w has odd number of 0s and even number of 1s
- And so on for the other cases of  $q = q_1$  and a = 1,  $q = q_2$ and a = 0,  $q = q_2$  and a = 1,  $q = q_3$  and a = 0, and finally  $q = q_3$  and a = 1.

## Proving Correctness of a DFA

#### Proof Template

Given a DFA M having n states  $\{q_0, q_1, \ldots, q_{n-1}\}$  with initial state  $q_0$ , and final states F, to prove that L(M) = L, we do the following.

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1. Come up with languages  $L_0, L_1, \ldots, L_{n-1}$  such that  $L_0 = L$ 

## Proving Correctness of a DFA

### Proof Template

Given a DFA M having n states  $\{q_0, q_1, \ldots, q_{n-1}\}$  with initial state  $q_0$ , and final states F, to prove that L(M) = L, we do the following.

- 1. Come up with languages  $L_0, L_1, \ldots, L_{n-1}$  such that  $L_0 = L$
- 2. Prove by induction on |w|,  $\hat{\delta}(q_i, w) \in F$  if and only if  $w \in L_i$

## **Typical Problem**

### Problem Given a language L, design a DFA M that accepts L, i.e., L(M) = L.

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## **Typical Problem**

#### Problem Given a language L, design a DFA M that accepts L, i.e., L(M) = L. How does one go about it?

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## Methodology

Imagine yourself in the place of the machine, reading symbols of the input, and trying to determine if it should be accepted.

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Remember at any point you have only seen a part of the input, and you don't know when it ends.

## Methodology

- Imagine yourself in the place of the machine, reading symbols of the input, and trying to determine if it should be accepted.
- Remember at any point you have only seen a part of the input, and you don't know when it ends.
- Figure out what to keep in memory. It cannot be all the symbols seen so far: it must fit into a finite number of bits.

# Strings containing 0

#### Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings over  $\{0,1\}$  that contain at least one 0.

#### Solution

What do you need to remember?



# Strings containing 0

#### Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings over  $\{0,1\}$  that contain at least one 0.

#### Solution

What do you need to remember? Whether you have seen a 0 so far or not!



Automaton accepting strings with at least one 0.

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# Even length strings

#### Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings over  $\{0,1\}$  that have an even length.

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#### Solution

What do you need to remember?

# Even length strings

#### Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings over  $\{0,1\}$  that have an even length.

#### Solution

What do you need to remember? Whether you have seen an odd or an even number of symbols.



Automaton accepting strings of even length.

## Pattern Recognition

#### Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings over  $\{0,1\}$  that have 001 as a substring, where u is a substring of w if there are  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  such that  $w = w_1 u w_2$ .

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Solution What do you need to remember?

# Pattern Recognition

#### Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings over  $\{0,1\}$  that have 001 as a substring, where u is a substring of w if there are  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  such that  $w = w_1 u w_2$ .

#### Solution

What do you need to remember? Whether you

- haven't seen any symbols of the pattern
- have just seen 0
- have just seen 00
- have seen the entire pattern 001

## Pattern Recognition Automaton



Automaton accepting strings having 001 as substring.

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# grep Problem

Problem Given text T and string s, does s appear in T?

# grep Problem

Problem Given text T and string s, does s appear in T?

Solution



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# grep Problem

Problem Given text T and string s, does s appear in T?

Naïve Solution



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Running time = O(nt), where |T| = t and |s| = n.



• Build DFA *M* for  $L = \{w \mid \text{there are } u, v \text{ s.t. } w = usv\}$ 

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Run M on text T



• Build DFA *M* for  $L = \{w \mid \text{there are } u, v \ s.t. \ w = usv\}$ 

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Run M on text T

Time = time to build M + O(t)!



• Build DFA *M* for  $L = \{w \mid \text{there are } u, v \text{ s.t. } w = usv\}$ 

- Run M on text T
- Time = time to build M + O(t)!

#### Questions

- Is L regular no matter what s is?
- If yes, can M be built "efficiently"?



- Build DFA *M* for  $L = \{w \mid \text{there are } u, v \text{ s.t. } w = usv\}$
- Run M on text T
- Time = time to build M + O(t)!

#### Questions

- Is L regular no matter what s is?
- If yes, can M be built "efficiently"?

Knuth-Morris-Pratt (1977): Yes to both the above questions.

## Knuth-Morris-Pratt (1977)









(c)
## Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings w over  $\{0, 1\}$  such that w is the binary representation of a number that is a multiple of 5.

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## Solution

What must be remembered?

## Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings w over  $\{0, 1\}$  such that w is the binary representation of a number that is a multiple of 5.

### Solution

What must be remembered? The remainder when divided by 5.

## Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings w over  $\{0, 1\}$  such that w is the binary representation of a number that is a multiple of 5.

## Solution

What must be remembered? The remainder when divided by 5. How do you compute remainders?

## Problem

Design an automaton that accepts all strings w over  $\{0, 1\}$  such that w is the binary representation of a number that is a multiple of 5.

## Solution

What must be remembered? The remainder when divided by 5. How do you compute remainders?

- If w is the number n then w0 is 2n and w1 is 2n + 1.
- $(a.b+c) \mod 5 = (a.(b \mod 5) + c) \mod 5$

# Automaton for recognizing Multiples



Automaton recognizing binary numbers that are multiples of 5.

# A One *k*-positions from end

#### Problem

Design an automaton for the language  $L_k = \{w \mid k \text{th character} \ from end of $w$ is 1\}$ 

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#### Solution

What do you need to remember?

# A One *k*-positions from end

#### Problem

Design an automaton for the language  $L_k = \{w \mid k \text{th character} from end of w is 1\}$ 

#### Solution

What do you need to remember? The last k characters seen so far! Formally,  $M_k = (Q, \{0, 1\}, \delta, q_0, F)$ 

• States = 
$$Q = \{\langle w \rangle \mid w \in \{0,1\}^* \text{ and } |w| \le k\}$$
  
•  $\delta(\langle w \rangle, b) = \begin{cases} \langle wb \rangle & \text{if } |w| < k \\ \langle w_2w_3 \dots w_k b \rangle & \text{if } w = w_1w_2 \dots w_k \end{cases}$   
•  $q_0 = \langle \epsilon \rangle$   
•  $F = \{\langle 1w_2w_3 \dots w_k \rangle \mid w_i \in \{0,1\}\}$ 

# Lower Bound on DFA size

Proposition

Any DFA recognizing  $L_k$  has at least  $2^k$  states.

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# Lower Bound on DFA size

## Proposition

Any DFA recognizing  $L_k$  has at least  $2^k$  states.

#### Proof.

Let M, with initial state  $q_0$ , recognize  $L_k$  and assume (for contradiction) that M has  $< 2^k$  states.

# Lower Bound on DFA size

## Proposition

Any DFA recognizing  $L_k$  has at least  $2^k$  states.

Proof.

Let M, with initial state  $q_0$ , recognize  $L_k$  and assume (for contradiction) that M has  $< 2^k$  states.

- Number of strings of length  $k = 2^k$
- ▶ There must be two distinct string  $w_0$  and  $w_1$  of length k such that  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w_0) = \hat{\delta}(q_0, w_1)$ .

# Proof (contd)

## Proof (contd).

Let *i* be the first position where  $w_0$  and  $w_1$  differ. Without loss of generality assume that  $w_0$  has 0 in the *ith* position and  $w_1$  has 1.

 $\cdots \rightarrow$ 

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 $w_0 0^{i-1} \not\in L_k$  and  $w_1 0^{i-1} \in L_k$ . Thus, M cannot accept both  $w_0 0^{i-1}$  and  $w_1 0^{i-1}$ .



# Proof (contd). So far, $w_0 0^{i-1} \notin L_k$ , $w_1 0^{i-1} \in L_k$ , and $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w_0) = \hat{\delta}(q_0, w_1)$ .

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## Proof (contd) ...Almost there

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 $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w_0 0^{i-1}) = \hat{\delta}(\hat{\delta}(q_0, w_0), 0^{i-1})$  by Proposition proved

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Thus, *M* accepts or rejects both  $w_0 0^{i-1}$  and  $w_1 0^{i-1}$ . Contradiction!