

# 03 Feb 2025 - Theory of Computation - Week 05

→ Solve exercises

deciding emptiness

Given an automaton  $M$ , is  $L(M) = \emptyset$ ?

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$$

if  $F = \emptyset$  then  $L(M) = \emptyset$

\* no path from start state to final state.

→ see FSM as a directed graph

→ run BFS from start node, if at least one  $f \in F$  is in the path,  $L(M) \neq \emptyset$

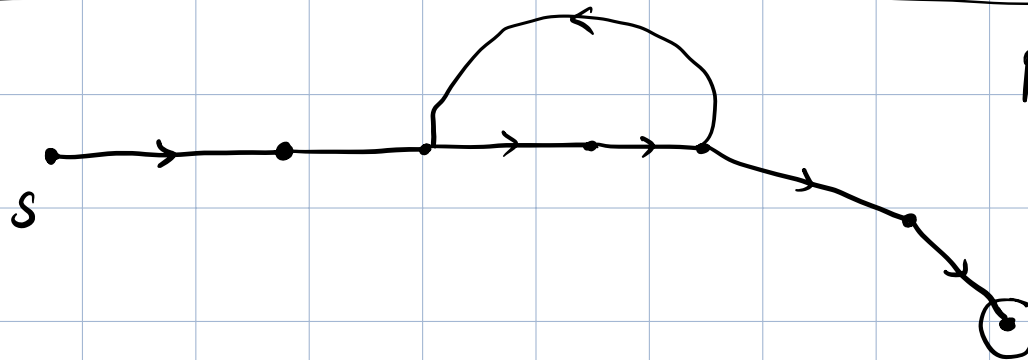
→ Given  $M$ , is the set  $L(M)$  finite or infinite?

Fact:  $L(M) \neq \emptyset$  iff  $\exists$  a string  $x$  of length at most  $k-1$  such that  $x \in L(M)$ , where  $k$  is # of states in  $M$

(exam problem)

→  
←

Pumping lemma



$$|x| \geq k ; x \in L(M)$$

$\Rightarrow L(M)$  is infinite (by Pumping Lemma)

Fact 2:  $L(M)$  is infinite iff there exists a string of length  
 $k \leq |x| < 2k$  s.t.  $x \in L(M)$

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) : Pumping lemma (pigeonhole principle)

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)

If  $L(M)$  is infinite  $\rightsquigarrow$  there cannot be an upper bound on  
the length of strings.

Choose  $x \in L(M)$  s.t. it has minimal length  $\geq k$

$$|x| = j$$

$j \geq k$   
↓  
no string in  
b/w

If  $|x| < 2k$  : we are done.

If not :  $|x| \geq 2k$

$$x = uvw$$

$$|v| \leq k$$

$$\forall i \geq 0$$

$$u(v)^i w \in L(M)$$

For  $i = 0$

$$k \leq \underbrace{|uv|}_{|v|=k} < \underbrace{|x|}_{v \neq \epsilon}$$

will be  
recognized

$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

}  $\rightarrow$  Contradiction to  $x$  being the  
shortest string of length  $\geq k$   
that is recognized by  $M$ .

This gives us an algorithm to check if an automaton accepts a language of infinite length. might take long, but will finish in finite time

→ not efficient, but works

??

How to check if two machines recognize the same language? Use above techniques

## Efficient automata

Relations: Recap

Fix  $X$  :

$R \subseteq X \times X$

$(a, b) \in R$

$\equiv$

$(a R b)$

$\equiv$

$(a \sim b)$

$\equiv$

$(a \equiv b)$

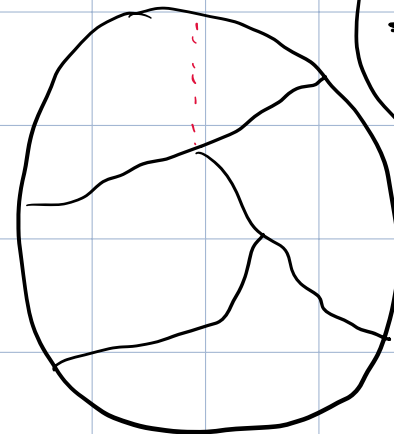
→ reflexive:  $(a, a) \in R \quad \forall a \in X$

→ symmetric:  $(a, b) \in R \Rightarrow (b, a) \in R$

→ transitive:  $(a, b) \in R$  and  $(b, c) \in R \Rightarrow (a, c) \in R$

→ equivalence relation: reflexive, symmetric, transitive.

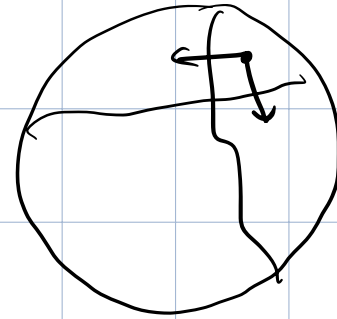
$$[a] = \{x \in X \mid (x, a) \in R\}$$



partition  
 $\Rightarrow$  totally overlap  
or totally disjoint

for  $b \neq c$ , either  $[b] = [c]$  or  $[b] \cap [c] = \emptyset$

• proof by contradiction



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Assume that  $[b] \neq [c]$

o proof

Suppose  $\exists z \in [b] \cap [c]$

Given a DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$ , define the following relation  $R_M$  on  $\Sigma^*$

for any  $(x, y) \in \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^*$

$$(x, y) \in R_M \iff \hat{\delta}(s, x) = \hat{\delta}(s, y)$$

- 1) reflexive  $\checkmark$   
 2) symmetric  $\checkmark$   
 3) transitive  $\checkmark$
- }  $R_M$  is an equivalence relation

→ No. of equivalence classes = no. of states in  $M$ .

Note:  $M$  is such that every state in  $M$  is reachable from  $s$ .

↑ why is this needed?

### Properties of $R_M$

① finite # of equivalence classes

Finite index

②  $\forall x, y \in \Sigma^*$  and  $\forall a \in \Sigma$

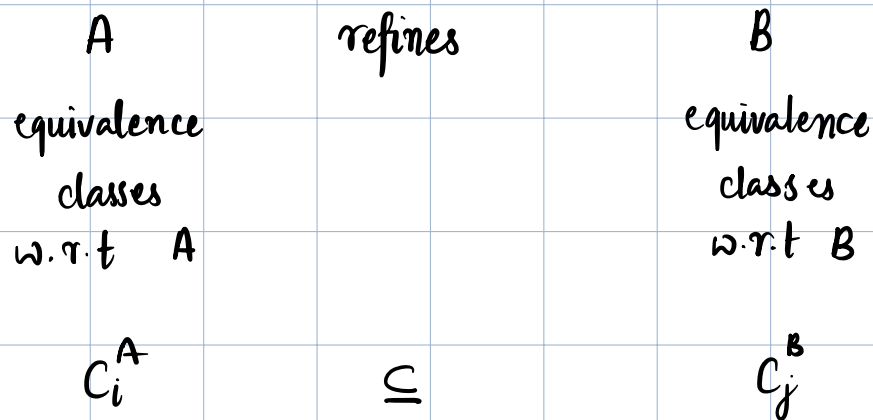
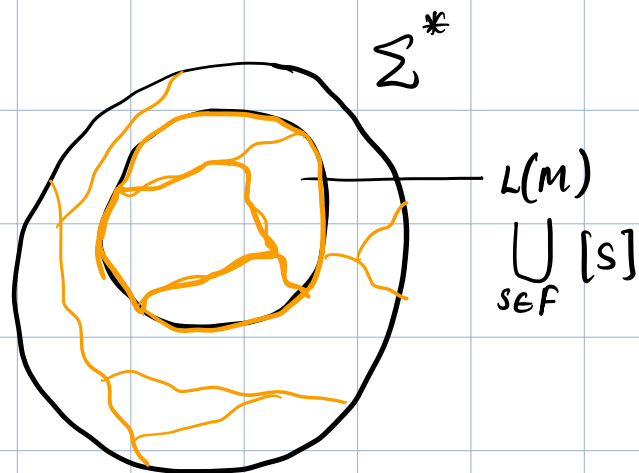
Right congruence

$(x, y) \in R_M \Rightarrow (xa, ya) \in R_M$



③  $R_M$  refines  $L(M)$   $\xrightarrow{\text{represents the relation}}$

$(x, y) \in R_M \Rightarrow$

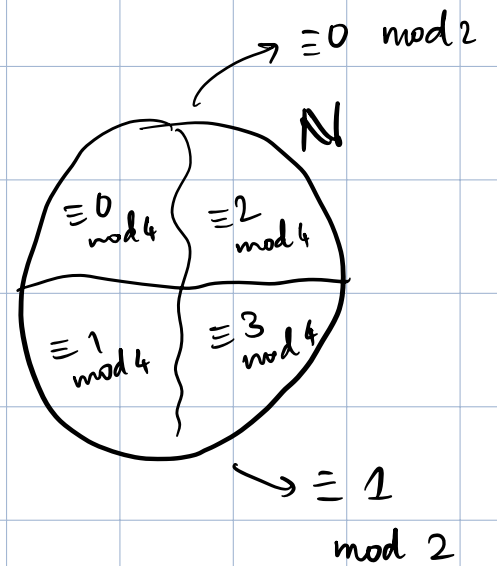


$$\text{relation } (L(M)) = \{ (x, y) \mid \text{both } x, y \in L(M) \}$$

mod 2  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$

$(x, y) \in \text{mod } 2$  iff

$$x \equiv y \pmod{2}$$



mod 4  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$

$(x, y) \in \text{mod } 4$  iff

$$x \equiv y \pmod{4}$$

## Myhill - Nerode relation on $L(M)$

→ finite index

→ right congruence

→ refinement

→ need not be regular

→ any language

→ automaton is not required

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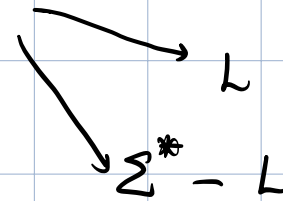
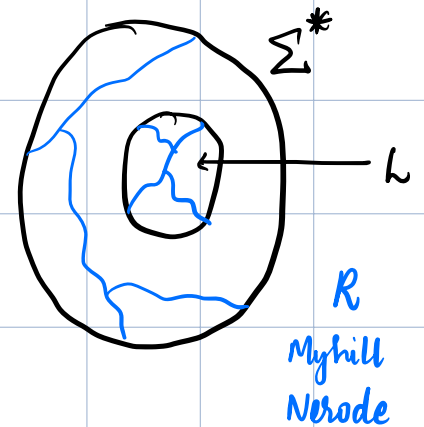
relation  $(L(M)) \rightarrow 2$  equivalence classes

$$\text{rel}(L) = \{ (x, y) \in \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \mid x \in L \Leftrightarrow y \in L \}$$

$$\text{index}(\text{rel}(L)) = 2$$

$\searrow$   
 $\neq \Sigma^*$

$$\text{index}(R) \geq \text{index}(\text{rel}(L))$$



## Canonical Relation for $L$ ( $R_L$ )

$$\forall x, y \in \Sigma^*$$

$$(x, y) \in R_L \iff \forall z \in \Sigma^*$$

$$(xz \in L \iff yz \in L)$$

cannot happen:

$$\exists z \in \Sigma^*$$

$$xz \in L \text{ and } yz \notin L$$

or vice-versa

\* reflexive (✓)

\* symmetric (✓)

\* transitive (✓)

satisfies:

- (i) right congruence
- (ii) ??
- (iii)  $R_L$  refines  $\text{rel}(L)$

$$\neq = \varepsilon$$

$$(x \in L \iff y \in L)$$

Claim: If  $L$  is regular, then the following holds:

- 1)  $R_L$  is of finite index.
- 2) Every Myhill - Nerode relation  $R$  for  $L$  refines  $R_L$

Compilers



→ check syntax

→ use regular language

→ automata that accepts a program.



→ build efficient one

2)  $\Rightarrow$  1)  $\rightsquigarrow$  Myhill Nerode  $\Rightarrow$  finite index  
refines  $R_L \Rightarrow \text{index}(R) \geq \text{index}(R_L)$   
 $\therefore \text{index}(R_L)$  is finite.

2)  $\Rightarrow$  size of the minimal automaton accepting  $L$  is  
at least  $\text{index}(R_L)$ .  
 $\downarrow$   
in fact, equal

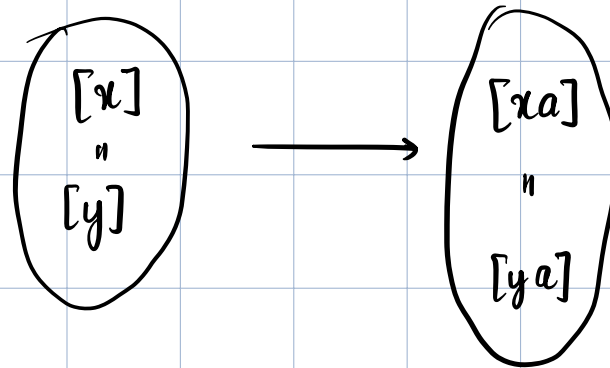
$$Q := \{ [x] \mid x \in \Sigma^* \}$$

$$s := [\epsilon]$$

$$F := \{ [x] \mid [x] \in L \}$$

$[x] :=$  equivalence class  
of  $x$  w.r.t  $R_L$

$$\delta([x], a) = [xa]$$



$$\text{If } \delta([x], a) \neq \delta([y], a)$$



$$[x] \neq [y]$$

$$\text{if } [x] = [y] \Rightarrow \delta([x], a)$$

$$= \delta([y], a)$$

by def<sup>n</sup> ( $z = \epsilon$ )

$\delta$ : Function  
one shouldn't  
map to  
2 things

$$\hat{\delta}([E], y) = [y] \in F$$

$$y \text{ is accepted} \iff [y] \in F$$

$$\iff y \in L$$

finite index claim  $\longrightarrow$  finite index only when  $L$  is regular

$$\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$$

$$[a^{k_1}] \neq [a^{k_2}] \quad \forall \quad k_1 \neq k_2$$