

# Automata Theory

## Fundamentele Informatica 2

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Bachelor Informatica  
Universiteit Leiden

Fall 2021



**Universiteit  
Leiden**

Leiden Institute of  
Advanced Computer Science

- hoorcollege: dinsdag, 11.15–13.00, Huygens 211-214 (+ weblecture)  
werkcollege: dinsdag, 14.15–16.00, Snellius 407-409 en 412  
van 7 september – 14 december 2021
- college gebaseerd op boek: John C. Martin, Introduction to Languages and the Theory of Computation, 4th edition (verkrijgbaar?)
- hoofdstuk 1–6 (deels)

- tentamens: donderdagochtend 23 december 2021  
donderdagochtend 3 februari 2022
- Vier huiswerkopgaven (individueel) (assistenten Femke Slangen, Amber van den Broek, Simone de Vos Burchart)

Niet verplicht, maar ...

$\text{eindcijfer} = 70\% * \text{tentamencijfer} + 30\% * \text{cijferhuiswerkopgave}$

als tentamencijfer  $\geq 5.5$ , dan eindcijfer  $\geq 5.5$

als tentamencijfer  $< 5.5$ , dan eindcijfer = tentamencijfer

## Website

<http://www.liacs.leidenuniv.nl/~vlietrvan1/automata/>

- slides (dank HJH)
- overzicht van behandelde stof
- antwoorden van bepaalde opgaven
- huiswerkopgaven
- errata

Brightspace

<https://brightspace.universiteitleiden.nl>

- cijfers
- inleveren huiswerkopgaven

- Foundations of Computer Science / Fundamentele Informatica 1
- Computability / Fundamentele Informatica 3
- (Compiler Construction)

- 1 Languages
- 2 (Deterministic) Finite Automata

edit 2021-09-07

# Section 1

## Languages



- 1 Languages
  - Origins
  - Letter, alphabet, string, language
  - Chomsky hierarchy

Possibilities / limitations of computer / algorithms

Model

Computer receives input, performs 'computation', gives output

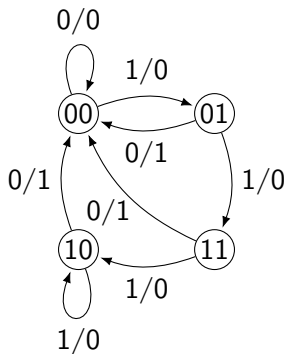
- Given instance of Nim. Who wins?
- Given sequence of numbers. Sort
- Given edge-weighted graph.  
Give shortest route from  $A$  to  $B$

Dealing with languages / sets of instances

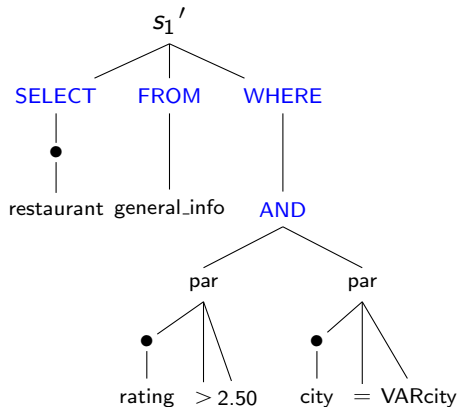
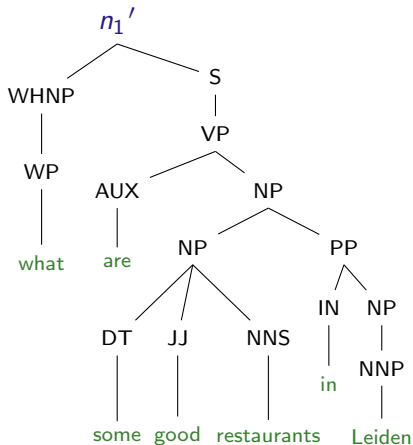
- ① Abstract machines to **accept** or to **recognize** languages
- ② Grammars to **generate** languages
- ③ Expressions to **describe** languages

- ① Logic and recursive-function theory    **Introduction to Logic**
- ② Switching circuit theory and logical design    **FDSD**
- ③ Modeling of biological systems, particularly developmental systems and brain activity
- ④ Mathematical and computational linguistics
- ⑤ Computer programming and the design of ALGOL and other problem-oriented languages

S.A. Greibach. Formal Languages: Origins and Directions.  
Annals of the History of Computing (1981) doi:[10.1109/MAHC.1981.10006](https://doi.org/10.1109/MAHC.1981.10006)



Fundamentals of Digital Systems Design by Todor Stefanov, Leiden University



A. Giordani and A. Moschitti. Corpora for Automatically Learning to Map Natural Language Questions into SQL Queries (LREC 2010)

*inductive definition* (of set of strings over  $\{ (, ) \}$ )

## Example

- $\Lambda \in \textit{Balanced}$  *basis*
- for every  $x, y \in \textit{Balanced}$ , also  $xy \in \textit{Balanced}$  *induction:1*
- for every  $x \in \textit{Balanced}$ , also  $(x) \in \textit{Balanced}$  *:2*
- no other strings in *Balanced* *closure*

strings

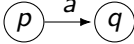
basis  $\Lambda$     ind:2  $(\Lambda) = ()$     ind:1  $()()$     ind:2  $(( ))$   
 ind:1  $()()(), ()(), (())(),$     ind:2  $((())), ((( )))$

grammar

rules:  $S \rightarrow \Lambda \mid SS \mid (S)$

rewriting:  $S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S(S) \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow ()(S) \Rightarrow ()((S)) \Rightarrow ()(())$

[M] E 1.19    see [Dyck language](#), [Catalan numbers](#)

TYPE	grammar	automaton
3	regular $A \rightarrow aB$	regular finite automaton 
2	$A \rightarrow \alpha$	context-free pushdown (+lifo stack)
1	$(\beta_l, A, \beta_r) \rightarrow \alpha$ $\alpha \rightarrow \beta \quad  \beta  \geq  \alpha $ monotone	context-sensitive linear bounded
0	$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$	recursively enumerable turing machine

[M] Table 8.21



*letter*, symbol  $\sigma$   $0, 1$   $a, b, c$

*alphabet*  $\Sigma$   $\{a, b, c\}$

(finite, nonempty)

*string*, word  $w$  **finite**

$w = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$ ,  $a_i \in \Sigma$  *abbabb*

empty string  $\lambda, \Lambda, \varepsilon$

length  $|x|$   $|\Lambda| = 0$   $|xy| = |x| + |y|$

concatenation  $a_1 \dots a_m \cdot b_1 \dots b_n$  *ab · babb*

$w\Lambda = \Lambda w = w$   $(xy)z = x(yz)$

*string*  $w \in \Sigma^*$

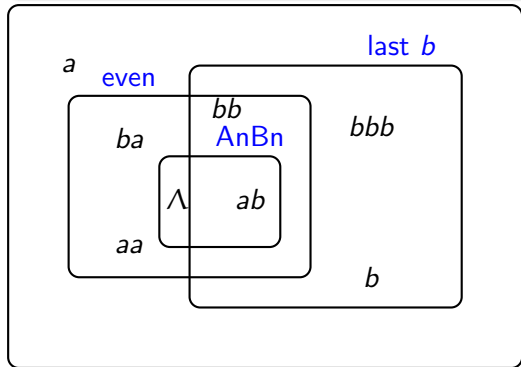
$\Sigma^* = \{\Lambda, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \dots\}$  *canonical order*

**infinite set of finite strings**

*language*  $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$

## Example

- $\{a, b\}^*$  all strings over  $\{a, b\}$   $\Lambda, baa, aaaaa$
- all strings of even length  $\Lambda, babbbba$
- all strings with last letter  $b$   $bbb, aabb$
- $AnBn = \{a^n b^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$   $\Lambda, aaabbb$  ( $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ )



$\{a, b\}^*$

$\Lambda$  vs.  $\{\Lambda\}$  vs.  $\emptyset$

commutativity	$A \cup B = B \cup A$	...
associativity	$(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C)$	
distributivity	$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$	
idempotency	$A \cup A = A$	$A \cap A = A$
De Morgan	$(A \cup B)^c = A^c \cap B^c$	
unit	$A \cup \emptyset = A$	$A \cap U = A$
	$A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$	$A \cup U = U$
involution	$(A^c)^c = A$	
complement	$A \cap A^c = \emptyset$	

duality

brackets

priority  $^c$  before  $\cup, \cap$

$K \cap L \cup M$  ??

[M] page 4 FDSD, FOCS

## Definition

$$K \cdot L = KL = \{ xy \mid x \in K, y \in L \}$$

$$\{a, ab\}\{a, ba\} = \{aa, aba, abba\}$$

one  $\{\Lambda\}L = L\{\Lambda\} = L$

zero  $\emptyset L = L\emptyset = \emptyset$

associative  $(KL)M = K(LM)$

$$L^0 = \{\Lambda\}, \text{ even if } L = \emptyset, \text{ c.f. } 0^0$$

$$L^1 = L, L^2 = LL, \dots$$

$$L^{n+1} = L^n L.$$

## Definition

$$L^* = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} L^n$$

$$L^n = \underbrace{L \cdot L \cdot \dots \cdot L}_{n \text{ times}}$$

$$L^n = \{ w_1 w_2 \dots w_n \mid w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n \in L \} \quad \text{fixed } n$$

$$L^* = \{ w_1 w_2 \dots w_n \mid w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n \in L, n \in \mathbb{N} \}$$

c.f.  $\Sigma^*$

### Example

$$\{a\}^* \cdot \{b\} = \{\Lambda, a, aa, aaa, \dots\} \cdot \{b\} = \{b, ab, aab, aaab, \dots\}$$

$$(\{a\}^* \cdot \{b\})^* = \{b, ab, aab, aaab, \dots\}^* = \\ \{\Lambda, b, ab, bb, aab, abb, bab, bbb, aaab, \dots\}$$

$$(\{a\}^* \cdot \{b\})^* = \{a, b\}^* \{b\} \cup \{\Lambda\}$$

*family* all languages that can be defined by

- type of automata  
(deterministic) finite aut. FA, NFA, pushdown aut. PDA
- type of grammar  
context-free grammar CFG, regular (aka right-linear)
- certain operations  
regular REG

Boolean operations:  $\cup, \cap, ^c$

Regular operations:  $\cup, \cdot, *$

family  $F$  *closed under* operation  $\nabla$ :

if  $K, L \in F$ , then  $K \nabla L \in F$ .

RECOGNIZING, algorithm

$$L_2 = \{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(x) > n_b(x) \}$$

count  $a$  and  $b$

deterministic [finite] automaton

GENERATING, description

regular expression

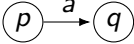
$$L_1 = (\{ab, bab\}^* \{b\})^* \{ab\} \cup \{b\} \{ba\}^* \{ab\}^*$$

recursive definition

$\hookrightarrow$  well-formed formulas

grammar



TYPE	grammar	automaton
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[M] Table 8.21

- clever idea, **intuition**
- formal **construction**, specification
- **show** it works, e.g., induction

once the idea is understood,  
the other parts might be boring

but essential to test **intuition**

**examples** help to get the message

$L_1, L_2, L_3$  are languages over some alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

For each pair of languages below, what is their relationship?

Are they always equal? If not, is one always a subset of the other?

①  $L_1(L_2 \cap L_3)$  vs.  $L_1L_2 \cap L_1L_3$

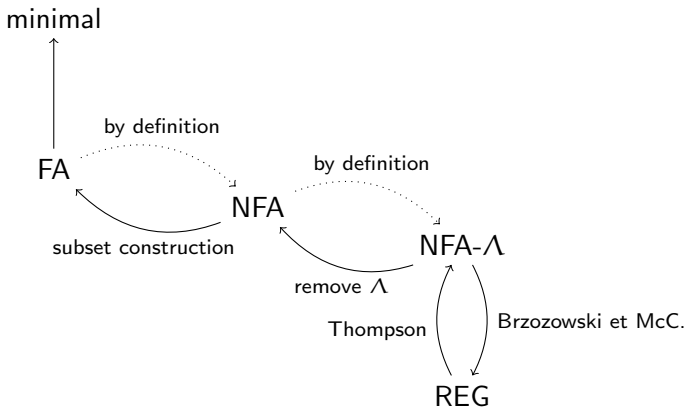
②  $L_1^* \cap L_2^*$  vs.  $(L_1 \cap L_2)^*$

③  $L_1^*L_2^*$  vs.  $(L_1L_2)^*$

[M] Exercise 1.37

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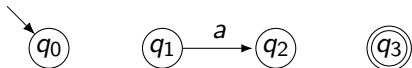
<sup>1</sup>A quiz is a brief assessment used in education to measure growth in knowledge, abilities, and/or skills. [Wikipedia](#)



## Section 2

# (Deterministic) Finite Automata

- 2 (Deterministic) Finite Automata
  - Examples

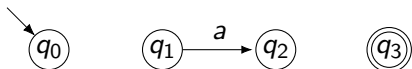


### Example

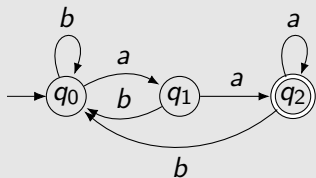
$L_1 = \{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid x \text{ ends with } aa \}$

...

[M] E. 2.1



## Example

$$L_1 = \{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid x \text{ ends with } aa \}$$


$\delta$	$a$	$b$
$q_0$	$q_1$	$q_0$
$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_0$
$q_2$	$q_2$	$q_0$

[M] E. 2.1



## Example

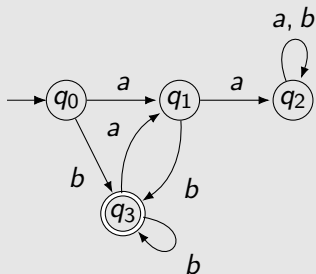
$L_2 = \{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid x \text{ ends with } b \text{ and does not contain } aa \}$

...

[M] E. 2.3

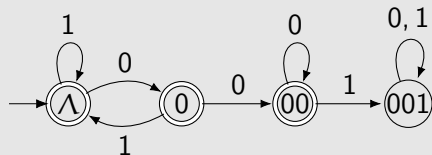
## Example

$L_2 = \{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid x \text{ ends with } b \text{ and does not contain } aa \}$



[M] E. 2.3

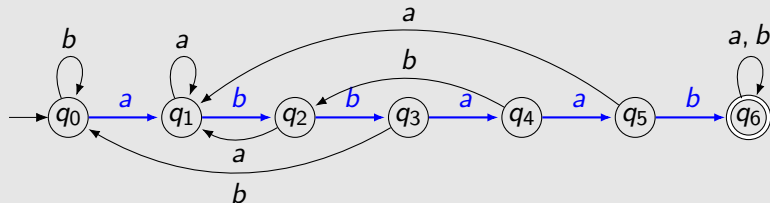
## Example (Strings not containing 001)



[L] E 2.4

Example (Similar to Knuth-Morris-Pratt string search)

$L_3 = \{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid x \text{ contains the substring } abbaab \}$



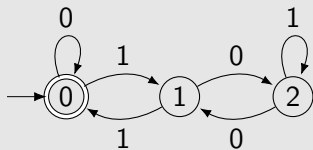
[M] E. 2.5

$w \in \{0, 1\}^* \longrightarrow \text{val}(w) \in \mathbb{N}$

$\text{val}(w0) = \dots$

$\text{val}(w1) = \dots$

## Example



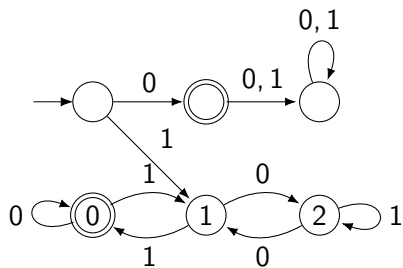
$\delta$	0	1
$x$	$2x$	$2x + 1$
0	0	1
1	2	0
2	1	2

$w \in \{0, 1\}^* \longrightarrow \text{val}(w) \in \mathbb{N}$

$\text{val}(w0) = 2 \cdot \text{val}(w)$

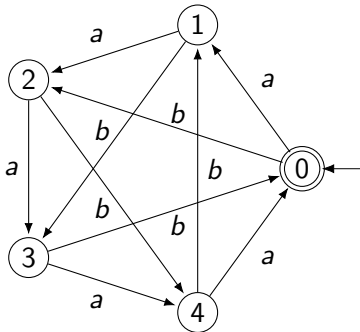
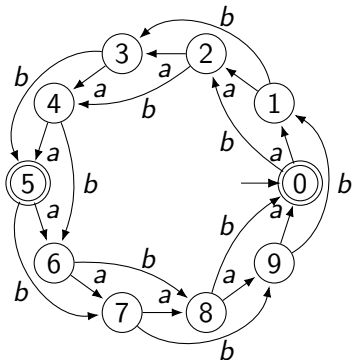
$\text{val}(w1) = 2 \cdot \text{val}(w) + 1$

states represent  $\text{val}(w)$  modulo 3



[M] E. 2.7

$$\{ x \in \{a, b\}^* \mid n_a(x) + 2n_b(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \}$$



☒cs.SE Planar regular languages



Een student vroeg of alle automaten zonder kruisende takken getekend konden worden. De automaat rechts heeft de vorm van  $K_5$  (de volledige graaf op vijf knopen) waarvan bekend is dat die niet planair is.

Dezelfde taal kan echter wel met een vlakke automaat verkregen worden (links). Er zijn talen zonder vlakke automaat.