

Let  $L$  be an arbitrary regular language over the alphabet  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ . Prove that the following languages are also regular. (You probably won't get to all of these.)

1.  $\text{FLIPODDS}(L) := \{\text{flipOdds}(w) \mid w \in L\}$ , where the function  $\text{flipOdds}$  inverts every odd-indexed bit in  $w$ . For example:

$$\text{flipOdds}(00001111010101) = 1010010111111111$$

**Solution:** Let  $M = (Q, s, A, \delta)$  be a DFA that accepts  $L$ . We construct a new DFA  $M' = (Q', s', A', \delta')$  that accepts  $\text{FLIPODDS}(L)$  as follows.

Intuitively,  $M'$  receives some string  $\text{flipOdds}(w)$  as input, restores every other bit to obtain  $w$ , and simulates  $M$  on the restored string  $w$ .

Each state  $(q, \text{flip})$  of  $M'$  indicates that  $M$  is in state  $q$ , and we need to flip the next input bit if  $\text{flip} = \text{TRUE}$

$$Q' = Q \times \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$$

$$s' = (s, \text{TRUE})$$

$$A' = A \times \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$$

$$\delta'((q, \text{flip}), a) = (\delta(q, a \oplus \text{flip}), \neg \text{flip})$$

Here I am treating 1 and 0 as synonyms for TRUE and FALSE, respectively. ■

2.  $\text{UNFLIPODD1S}(L) := \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \text{flipOdd1s}(w) \in L\}$ , where the function  $\text{flipOdd1}$  inverts every other 1 bit of its input string, starting with the first 1. For example:

$$\text{flipOdd1s}(00001111010101) = 0000010100010001$$

**Solution:** Let  $M = (Q, s, A, \delta)$  be a DFA that accepts  $L$ . We construct a new DFA  $M' = (Q', s', A', \delta')$  that accepts  $\text{UNFLIPODD1S}(L)$  as follows.

Intuitively,  $M'$  receives some string  $w$  as input, flips every other 1 bit, and simulates  $M$  on the transformed string.

Each state  $(q, \text{flip})$  of  $M'$  indicates that  $M$  is in state  $q$ , and we need to flip the next 1 bit of and only if  $\text{flip} = \text{TRUE}$ .

$$Q' = Q \times \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$$

$$s' = (s, \text{TRUE})$$

$$A' = A \times \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$$

$$\delta'((q, \text{flip}), a) = (\delta(q, \text{flip} \oplus a), \text{flip} \oplus a)$$

Again, I am treating 1 and 0 as synonyms for TRUE and FALSE, respectively. ■

3.  $\text{FLIPODD1S}(L) := \{\text{flipOdd1s}(w) \mid w \in L\}$ , where the function  $\text{flipOdd1}$  is defined as in the previous problem.

**Solution:** Let  $M = (Q, s, A, \delta)$  be a DFA that accepts  $L$ . We construct a new NFA  $M' = (Q', s', A', \delta')$  that accepts  $\text{FLIPODD1S}(L)$  as follows.

Intuitively,  $M'$  receives some string  $\text{flipOdd1s}(w)$  as input, **guesses** which  $0$  bits to restore to  $1$ s, and simulates  $M$  on the restored string  $w$ . No string in  $\text{FLIPODD1S}(L)$  has two  $1$ s in a row, so if  $M'$  ever sees  $11$ , it rejects.

Each state  $(q, \text{flip})$  of  $M'$  indicates that  $M$  is in state  $q$ , and we need to flip a  $0$  bit before the next  $1$  bit if and only if  $\text{flip} = \text{TRUE}$ .

$$Q' = Q \times \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$$

$$s' = (s, \text{TRUE})$$

$$A' = A \times \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$$

$$\delta'((q, \text{FALSE}), 0) = \{(\delta(q, 0), \text{FALSE})\}$$

$$\delta'((q, \text{TRUE}), 0) = \{(\delta(q, 0), \text{TRUE}), (\delta(q, 1), \text{FALSE})\}$$

$$\delta'((q, \text{FALSE}), 1) = \{(\delta(q, 1), \text{TRUE})\}$$

$$\delta'((q, \text{TRUE}), 1) = \emptyset$$

The last transition indicates that we waited too long to flip a  $0$  to a  $1$ , so we should kill the current execution thread. ■

4.  $\text{FARO}(L) := \{\text{faro}(w, x) \mid w, x \in L \text{ and } |w| = |x|\}$ , where the function  $\text{faro}$  is defined recursively as follows:

$$\text{faro}(w, x) := \begin{cases} x & \text{if } w = \varepsilon \\ a \cdot \text{faro}(x, y) & \text{if } w = ay \text{ for some } a \in \Sigma \text{ and some } y \in \Sigma^* \end{cases}$$

**Solution:** Let  $M = (Q, s, A, \delta)$  be a DFA that accepts  $L$ . We construct a DFA  $M' = (Q', s', A', \delta')$  that accepts  $\text{FARO}(L)$  as follows.

Intuitively,  $M'$  reads the string  $\text{faro}(w, x)$  as input, splits the string into the subsequences  $w$  and  $x$ , and passes each of those strings to an independent copy of  $M$ .

Each state  $(q_1, q_2, \text{next})$  indicates that the copy of  $M$  that gets  $w$  is in state  $q_1$ , the copy of  $M$  that gets  $x$  is in state  $q_2$ , and  $\text{next}$  indicates which copy gets the next input bit. Because of the constraint  $|w| = |x|$ , machine  $M'$  can accept only if  $\text{next} = 1$ .

$$Q' = Q \times Q \times \{1, 2\}$$

$$s' = (s, s, 1)$$

$$A' = \{(q_1, q_2, 1) \mid q_1, q_2 \in A\}$$

$$\delta'((q_1, q_2, \text{next}), a) = \begin{cases} (\delta(q_1, a), q_2, 2) & \text{if } \text{next} = 1 \\ (q_1, \delta(q_2, a), 1) & \text{if } \text{next} = 2 \end{cases}$$

■