

RE & DFA

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Regular Expression (RE)

❑ Definition

- A sequence of characters matching (or describing) a pattern in a string

❑ Syntax

- RE is composed of characters and metacharacters
- Metacharacters: Characters having special meanings
- Examples of metacharacters
 - Grouping: ()
 - Quantifier: * (occurring zero or more times)
 - Alternative: |

Regular Expression (RE)



□ Practice

- Binary strings of length-2
- Binary strings of length-3
- Binary strings starting with '0'
- Strings of 'a' and 'b' ending with 'a'
- Strings of 'a' and 'b' that include "aa" at least once
- Strings of 'a' and 'b' with an odd number of 'a'
- Strings of 'a' and 'b' with an even number of 'a'
- Strings of 'a' and 'b' that do not have "aa"

Regular Expression (RE)



□ More Practice

- DNA sequences starting with “TA” and ending with “AA”
- DNA sequences that include only one ‘T’
- DNA sequences that include at least one ‘G’
- DNA sequences that do not have “AA”

Regular Expression in Python



❑ Metacharacters

- `.` (any character), `\n`, `\t`, `\s` (whitespace),
- `\w` (any alphabetic or numeric character), `\W` (not alphabetic nor numeric character)
- `\d` (decimal digit), `\D` (no decimal digit)
- Grouping and back-reference:
e.g., `'(.)aa\1\2'`
- Quantifier: `*`, `+`, `?`, `{ }`
e.g., `'ct.*g'`, `'ct.+g'`, `'ct.?g'`, `'ct{2}g'`, `'ct{2,5}g'`
- Alternative: `|`
e.g., `'(ct|ca)'`
- Character set: `[]`
e.g., `'[acgt]'`, `'[a-zA-Z]'`
- Anchors: `^` (the start of the string), `$` (the end of the string)
e.g., `'^tata'`, `'aa$'`



Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA)

□ Definition

- A finite-state machine matching (or describing) a pattern in an input string
 - DFA accepts the input string if it contains the pattern
 - DFA rejects the input string if it does not contain the pattern

□ Syntax

- DFA is composed of $(Q, q_0, A, \Sigma, \delta)$
 - Q : a finite set of states
 - q_0 : a start state
 - A : a set of accepting states
 - Σ : a finite set of input characters in a domain
 - δ : transition functions from $(Q \times \Sigma)$ to Q

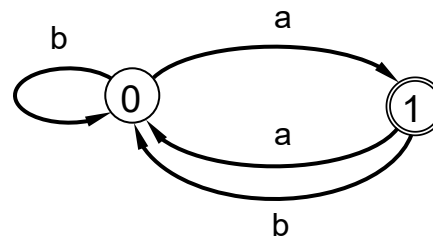
Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA)

Application

- Read each character of the input string and move on DFA, repeatedly
 - DFA accepts the input string if it ends up in an accepting state
 - DFA rejects the input string if it doesn't end up in an accepting state

Example

- Verifying inputs
- Q ?
- q_0 ?
- A ?
- Σ ?
- δ ?



“aba” ?

“babb” ?

Example

- Constructing automaton

$[a|b]^* a b$

Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA)



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Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA)



□ More Practice

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Questions?



- ❑ Lecture Slides on the Course Website, “<https://ads.yonsei.ac.kr/faculty/biocomputing>”

