



# Pre-lecture brain teaser

Consider the problem of a  $n$ -input AND function. The input ( $x$ ) is a string  $n$ -digits long with  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$  and has an output ( $y$ ) which is the logical AND of all the elements of  $x$ .

Formulate a **language** that describes the above problem.

# ECE-374-B: Lecture 1 - Regular Languages

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Handwritten notes in blue ink defining the AND function and its truth table:

- $0 = 0$
- $0_1 = 0$
- $1 = 1$
- $\rightarrow \text{AND}_n$
- ...
- Truth table examples:
  - " $0 = 0$ "
  - " $0 \cdot 0 = 0$ "
  - " $0 \cdot 1 = 0$ "
  - " $1 \cdot 0 = 0$ "
  - " $1 \cdot 1 = 1$ "
  - ...
  - " $111 \dots 11$ "

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$$L_{AND_N} = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccc} 0|0, & 1|1, & & \\ 0 \cdot 0|0, & 0 \cdot 1|0, & 1 \cdot 0|0, & 1 \cdot 1|1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ (0 \cdot)^n|0, & (0 \cdot)^{n-1}1|0, & \dots & (1 \cdot)^n|1 \dots \end{array} \right\} \in L_{AND_n} \quad (1)$$

"0.0|1"

$\notin L_{AND_n}$

# Pre-lecture brain teaser

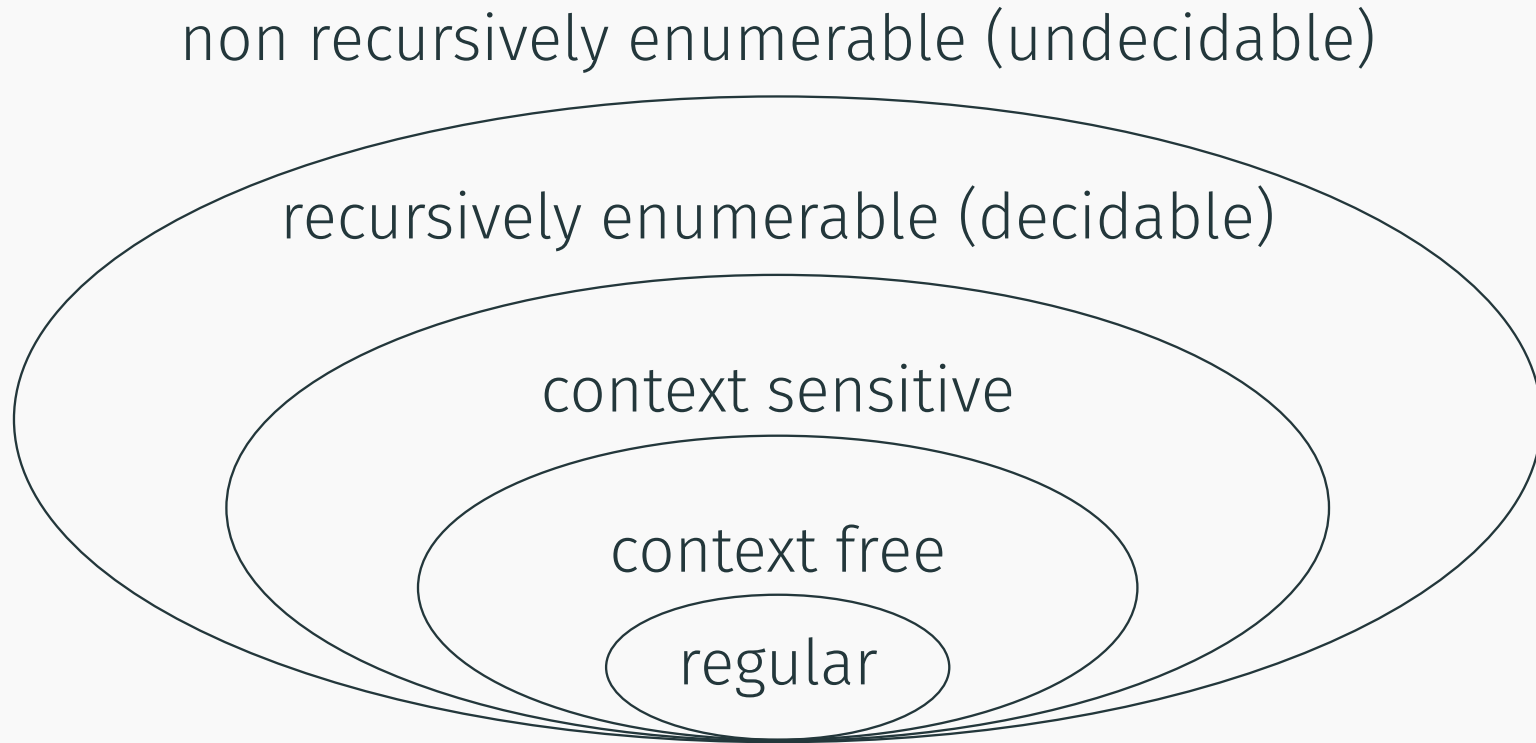
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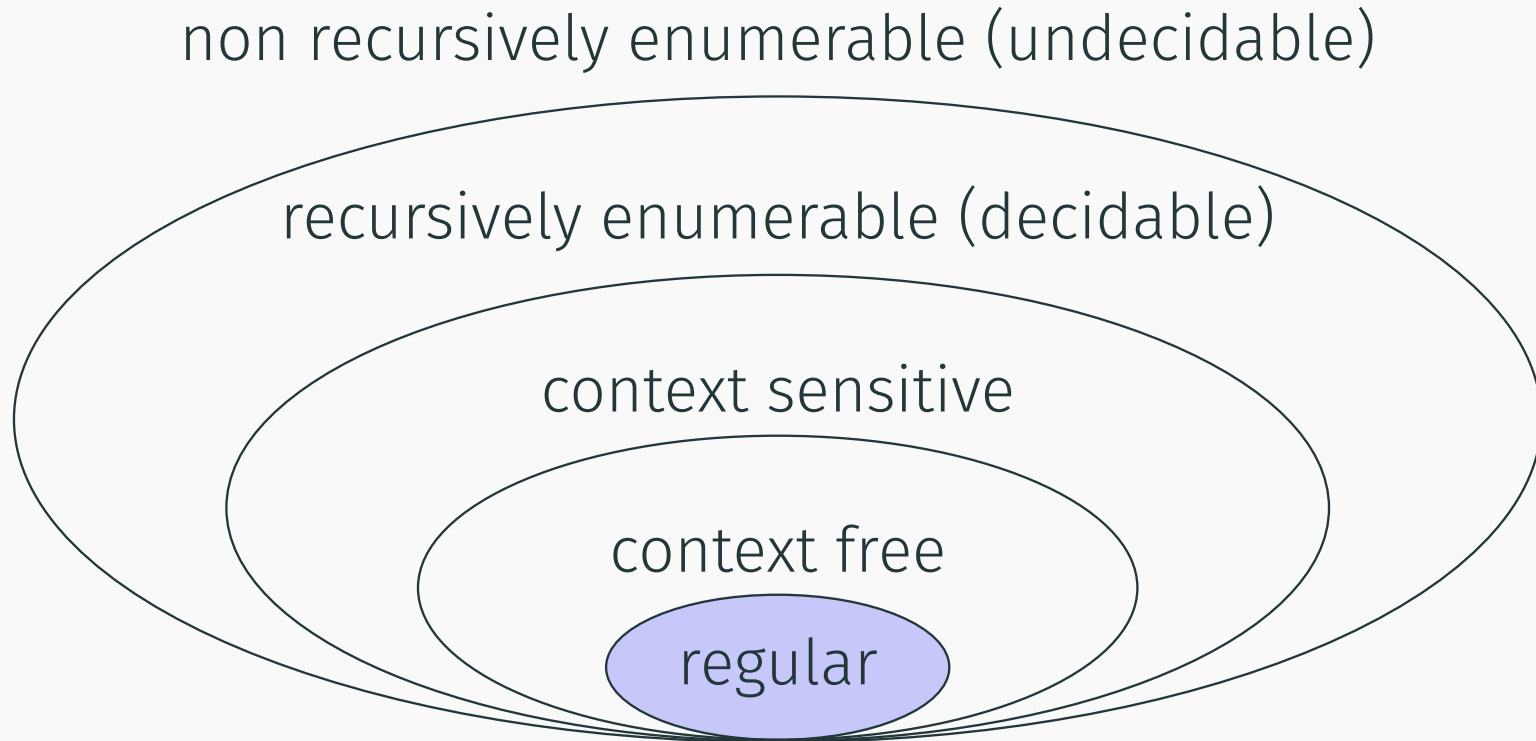
This is an example of a regular language which we'll be discussing today.

# Chomsky Hierarchy



$$L_{w_0} + L_{w_1} + L_{w_2} + \dots + L_{w_n} = L^i \quad \left| \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ i \end{array} \right\} \right| = \infty$$

# Chomsky Hierarchy





# Regular Languages

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# Regular Languages

## Theorem (Kleene's Theorem )

*A language is regular if and only if it can be obtained from finite languages by applying the three operations:*

- *Union*
- *Concatenation*
- *Repetition*

*a finite number of times.*

# Regular Languages

A class of simple but useful languages.

The set of **regular languages** over some alphabet  $\Sigma$  is defined inductively.


## Base Case

- $\emptyset$  is a regular language.
- $\{\epsilon\}$  is a regular language.
- $\{a\}$  is a regular language for each  $a \in \Sigma$ . Interpreting  $a$  as string of length 1.

# Regular Languages

## Inductive step:

We can build up languages using a few basic operations:

- If  $L_1, L_2$  are regular then  $L_1 \cup L_2$  is regular.
- If  $L_1, L_2$  are regular then  $L_1L_2$  is regular.
- If  $L$  is regular, then  $L^* = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} L^n$  is regular. 
- If  $L$  is regular, then so is  $\bar{L} = \Sigma^* \setminus L$ .

The  $*$  operator name is Kleene star.

$(0+1)^*$   
 $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   
 $(L_0 \cup L_1)^*$   
 $\{0,1\}$   $\{0,1\}$

Regular languages are **closed** under **operations** of union, concatenation and Kleene star.

$$\bigcup_{n > 0} L^n \quad \cup \quad \bigcup_{m > 0} L^m$$

# Some simple regular languages

## Lemma

If  $w$  is a string then  $L = \{w\}$  is regular.

Example:  $\{aba\}$  or  $\{abbabbab\}$ . Why?

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

Base:  $\emptyset$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{ \epsilon \} & \{ a \} & \{ b \} \\ & L_a & L_b \end{array} \longrightarrow \{ aba \}$$

$$L_{aba} = L_a \cdot L_b \cdot L_a$$

$$L_{abbabbab} = L_a \cdot L_b \cdot L_b \cdot L_a \cdot L_b \cdot L_b \cdot L_a \cdot L_b$$

# Some simple regular languages

## Lemma


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## Lemma

Every finite language  $L$  is regular.

Examples:  $L_3 = \{a, abaab, aba\}$ .  $L = \{w \mid |w| \leq 100\}$ . Why?


$$L_a \cup L_{abaab} \cup L_{aba} = L_3$$

# Regular Languages

Have basic operations to build regular languages.

**Important:** Any language generated by a finite sequence of such operations is regular.

## Lemma

*Let  $L_1, L_2, \dots$ , be regular languages over alphabet  $\Sigma$ . Then the language  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i$  is not necessarily regular.*



# Regular Languages

Have basic operations to build regular languages.

**Important:** Any language generated by a finite sequence of such operations is regular.

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*Let  $L_1, L_2, \dots$ , be regular languages over alphabet  $\Sigma$ . Then the language  $\cup_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i$  is not necessarily regular.*

**Note:** Kleene star (repetition) is a **single** operation!



# Regular Languages - Example

Example: The language  $L_{01} = \{0^i 1^j \mid \text{for all } i, j \geq 0\}$  is regular:

$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$   
 $\emptyset = \{\}$   
 $L_\epsilon = \{\epsilon\}$   
 $L_0 = \{0\}$   
 $L_1 = \{1\}$

$$L_{01} = L_0^* \cdot L_1^*$$

# Rapid-fire questions - regular languages

1.  $L_1 = \{0^i \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$ . The language  $L_1$  is regular. T/F?

$$L_1 = \underbrace{L_0^*}_{\text{circle}} = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} L_0^n$$
$$= L_0^0 \cup L_0^1 \cup L_0^2 \cup \dots$$

$$L^+ = L^* \cdot L^* L^* = \{\epsilon\} \cup \{0\} \cup \{00\} \cup \dots$$
$$= \{\epsilon, 0, 00, \dots\}$$

# Rapid-fire questions - regular languages

1.  $L_1 = \{0^i \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$ . The language  $L_1$  is regular. T/F?
2.  $L_2 = \{0^{17i} \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$ . The language  $L_2$  is regular. T/F?

$$L_2 = \underbrace{(L_0 \cdot L_0 \cdot \dots \cdot L_0)^*}_{17 \text{ times}}$$

# Rapid-fire questions - regular languages

1.  $L_1 = \{0^i \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$ . The language  $L_1$  is regular. T/F?

2.  $L_2 = \{0^{17i} \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$ . The language  $L_2$  is regular.  
T/F?

3.  $L_3 = \{0^i \mid i \text{ is divisible by 2, 3, or 5}\}$ .  $L_3$  is regular T/F?

$$L_{20's} = (L_0 \cdot L_0)^*$$

$$L_{30's} = (L_0 \cdot L_0 \cdot L_0)^*$$

$$L_{50's} = (L_0 \cdot L_0 \cdot L_0 \cdot L_0 \cdot L_0)^*$$

$$L_3 = L_{20's} \cup L_{30's} \cup L_{50's}$$

# Rapid-fire questions - regular languages

1.  $L_1 = \{0^i \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$ . The language  $L_1$  is regular. T/F?
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3.  $L_3 = \{0^i \mid i \text{ is divisible by } 2, 3, \text{ or } 5\}$ .  $L_3$  is regular. T/F?
4.  $L_4 = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has at most } 2 \text{ } 1\text{s}\}$ .  $L_4$  is regular T/F?

$$L_4 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} L_{0\text{'s}} = L_0^* \\ L_{1\text{'s}} = L_0^* L_1 L_0^* \\ L_{2\text{1's}} = L_0^* L_1 L_0^* L_1 L_0^* \end{array} \right.$$



# Regular Expressions

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# Regular Expressions

A way to denote regular languages

- simple **patterns** to describe related strings
- useful in
  - text search (editors, Unix/grep, emacs)
  - compilers: lexical analysis
  - compact way to represent interesting/useful languages
  - dates back to 50's: Stephen Kleene who has a star names after him <sup>1</sup>.

# Inductive Definition

A **regular expression**  $r$  over an alphabet  $\Sigma$  is one of the following:

**Base cases:**

- $\emptyset$  denotes the language  $\emptyset$
- $\epsilon$  denotes the language  $\{\epsilon\}$ .
- $a$  denote the language  $\{a\}$ .

**Inductive cases:** If  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are regular expressions denoting languages  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  respectively then,

- $(r_1 + r_2)$  denotes the language  $R_1 \cup R_2$
- $(r_1 \cdot r_2) = r_1 \cdot r_2 = (r_1 r_2)$  denotes the language  $R_1 R_2$
- $(r_1)^*$  denotes the language  $R_1^*$



# Regular Languages vs Regular Expressions

## Regular Languages

$\emptyset$  regular

$\{\epsilon\}$  regular

$\{a\}$  regular for  $a \in \Sigma$

$R_1 \cup R_2$  regular if both are

$R_1 R_2$  regular if both are

$R^*$  is regular if  $R$  is

$$L_1 = \{0^i \mid i > 0\}$$

$$r = 0^*$$

$$L(r) = L_1$$

## Regular Expressions

$\emptyset$  denotes  $\emptyset$

$\epsilon$  denotes  $\{\epsilon\}$

$a$  denote  $\{a\}$

$r_1 + r_2$  denotes  $R_1 \cup R_2$

$r_1 \cdot r_2$  denotes  $R_1 R_2$

$r^*$  denote  $R^*$

Regular expressions denote regular languages — they explicitly show the operations that were used to form the language

$$R_1 = L_a \cup L_b = \{a, b\} = a + b$$

# Notation and Parenthesis

- For a regular expression  $r$ ,  $L(r)$  is the language denoted by  $r$ . Multiple regular expressions can denote the same language!

**Example:**  $(0 + 1)$  and  $(1 + 0)$  denotes same language  $\{0, 1\}$

$$0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + \dots + 0 = \{0\} \cup \{0\} = \{0\}$$

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**Example:**  $r^*s + t = ((r^*)s) + t$

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- Omit parenthesis by associativity of each operation.

**Example:**  $rst = (rs)t = r(st)$ ,

$r + s + t = r + (s + t) = (r + s) + t$ .

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- **Superscript  $+$** . For convenience, define  $r^+ = rr^*$ . Hence if  $L(r) = R$  then  $L(r^+) = R^+$ .

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- **Superscript  $+$** . For convenience, define  $r^+ = rr^*$ . Hence if  $L(r) = R$  then  $L(r^+) = R^+$ .

- **Other notation:**  $r + s$ ,  $r \cup s$ ,  $r|s$  all denote union.  $rs$  is sometimes written as  $r \cdot s$ .

# Some examples of regular expressions

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# Creating regular expressions

1. All strings that end in 1011?

$(0+1)^*1011$

# Creating regular expressions

1. All strings that end in 1011?
2. All strings except 11?

$$(0+1)^* - 11$$

~~$$(0+1)^* 00 + (0+1)^* 01 + (0+1)^* 10$$~~

$$\epsilon + 0 + 1 + 00 + 01 + 10 + (0+1)^2 +$$

$$+ (0+1)(0+1)(0+1)^+$$

$$+ (0+1)(0+1)(0+1)(0+1)^*$$

# Creating regular expressions

1. All strings that end in 1011?
2. All strings except 11?
3. All strings that do not contain 000 as a subsequence?



$(1)^*(\epsilon + 0)(1)^*(\epsilon + 0)(1)^*$

$1^* + 1^*01^* + 1^*01^*01^*$

$(1)^*(0)(1^*)(0)(1^*)$

# Creating regular expressions

1. All strings that end in 1011?
2. All strings except 11?
3. All strings that do not contain 000 as a subsequence?
4. All strings that do not contain the substring 10?

# Interpreting regular expressions

1.  $(0 + 1)^*$ : All binary strings

# Interpreting regular expressions

1.  $(0 + 1)^*$ :

2.  $(0 + 1)^*001(0 + 1)^*$ :

All strings that

have 001 as a substring

# Interpreting regular expressions

1.  $(0 + 1)^*$ :

2.  $(0 + 1)^*001(0 + 1)^*$ :

3.  $0^* + (0^*10^*10^*10^*)^*$ :

All strings whose

# of 1's is divisible

by 3

# Interpreting regular expressions

1.  $(0 + 1)^*$ :
2.  $(0 + 1)^*001(0 + 1)^*$ :
3.  $0^* + (0^*10^*10^*10^*)^*$ :
4.  $(\epsilon + 1)(01)^*(\epsilon + 0)$ :

*Alternating*



# Tying everything together

Consider the problem of a  $n$ -input AND function. The input ( $x$ ) is a string  $n$ -digits long with an input alphabet  $\Sigma_i = \{0, 1\}$  and has an output ( $y$ ) which is the logical AND of all the elements of  $x$ . We know the language used to describe it is:

$$L_{AND_N} = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccc} 0 \cdot |0, & 1 \cdot |1, & & \\ 0 \cdot 0 \cdot |0, & 0 \cdot 1 \cdot |0, & 1 \cdot 0 \cdot |0, & 1 \cdot 1 \cdot |1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ (0 \cdot)^n |0, & (0 \cdot)^{n-1} 1 |0, & \dots & (1 \cdot)^n |1 \dots \end{array} \right\}$$

Formulate the regular expression which describes the above language:

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Consider the problem of a  $n$ -input AND function. The input ( $x$ ) is a string  $n$ -digits long with an input alphabet  $\Sigma_i = \{0, 1\}$  and has an output ( $y$ ) which is the logical AND of all the elements of  $x$ . We know the language used to describe it is:

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Formulate the regular expression which describes the above language:  $\Sigma = \{0, 1, '.', '|'\}$

$$r_{AND_N} = \underbrace{("0." + "1.")^* "0." ("0." + "1.")^* "|0"}_{\text{all output 0 instances}} + \underbrace{("1.")^* "|1"}_{\text{all output 1 instances}}$$

# Regular expressions in programming

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One last expression...

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Bit strings with odd number of 0s and 1s

# Bit strings with odd number of 0s and 1s

The regular expression is

$$(00 + 11)^*(01 + 10)$$

$$\left(00 + 11 + (01 + 10)(00 + 11)^*(01 + 10)\right)^*$$

# Bit strings with odd number of 0s and 1s

The regular expression is

$$(00 + 11)^*(01 + 10)$$
$$\left(00 + 11 + (01 + 10)(00 + 11)^*(01 + 10)\right)^*$$

(Solved using techniques to be presented in the following lectures...)