

# CSE 311: Foundations of Computing

## Lecture 18: Structural Induction, Regular expressions

OH:  
CSE 668



Midterm  
37-99  
Median  
81

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90's 65  
80's 75  
70's 69  
60's 39  
<60 20

# Recursive Definitions of Sets: General Form

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## Recursive definition

- **Basis step:** Some specific elements are in  $S$
- **Recursive step:** Given some existing named elements in  $S$  some new objects constructed from these named elements are also in  $S$ .
- **Exclusion rule:** Every element in  $S$  follows from the basis step and a finite number of recursive steps

Basis  
Recursive  
step

$0 \in \mathbb{N}$   
If  $k \in \mathbb{N}$   
then  
 $k+1 \in \mathbb{N}$

# Structural Induction

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How to prove  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$  is true:

**Base Case:** Show that  $P(u)$  is true for all specific elements  $u$  of  $S$  mentioned in the *Basis step*  $P(u)$

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P$  is true for some arbitrary values of each of the existing named elements mentioned in the *Recursive step*  $P(u)$

**Inductive Step:** Prove that  $P(w)$  holds for each of the new elements  $w$  constructed in the *Recursive step* using the named elements mentioned in the Inductive Hypothesis  $P(k+1)$

**Conclude** that  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$

# Strings

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- An *alphabet*  $\Sigma$  is any finite set of characters
- The set  $\Sigma^*$  of *strings* over the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is defined by
  - **Basis:**  $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^*$  ( $\varepsilon$  is the empty string w/ no chars)
  - **Recursive:** if  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $a \in \Sigma$ , then  $wa \in \Sigma^*$

# Functions on Recursively Defined Sets (on $\Sigma^*$ )

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**Length:**

$$\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$$

$$\text{len}(wa) = 1 + \text{len}(w) \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

**Reversal:**

$$\varepsilon^R = \varepsilon$$

$$(wa)^R = aw^R \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

**Concatenation:**

$$x \bullet \varepsilon = x \text{ for } x \in \Sigma^*$$

$$x \bullet wa = (x \bullet w)a \text{ for } x \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

**Number of  $c$ 's in a string:**

$$\#_c(\varepsilon) = 0$$

$$\#_c(wc) = \#_c(w) + 1 \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*$$

$$\#_c(wa) = \#_c(w) \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma, a \neq c$$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$

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Let  $P(y)$  be “ $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ”.

We prove  $P(y)$  for all  $y \in \Sigma^*$  by structural induction.

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$

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We prove  $P(y)$  for all  $y \in \Sigma^*$  by structural induction.

**Base Case:**  $y = \varepsilon$ . For any  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $\text{len}(x \bullet \varepsilon) = \text{len}(x) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(\varepsilon)$   
since  $\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$ . Therefore  $P(\varepsilon)$  is true

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since  $\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$ . Therefore  $P(\varepsilon)$  is true

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(w)$  is true for some arbitrary  
 $w \in \Sigma^*$  ←

**Inductive Step:** Goal: Show that  $P(wa)$  is true for every  $a \in \Sigma$

let  $a \in \Sigma$   
no arbitrary

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(x \bullet wa) &= \text{len}((x \bullet w) a) && \text{def of } \bullet \\ &= \text{len}(x \bullet w) + 1 && \text{by def of len} \\ &= \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(w) + 1 && \text{by IH} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(wa) \quad \text{by def of len}$$



**Claim:**  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$

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Let  $P(y)$  be “ $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ”.

We prove  $P(y)$  for all  $y \in \Sigma^*$  by structural induction.

**Base Case:**  $y = \varepsilon$ . For any  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $\text{len}(x \bullet \varepsilon) = \text{len}(x) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(\varepsilon)$   
since  $\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$ . Therefore  $P(\varepsilon)$  is true

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(w)$  is true for some arbitrary  
 $w \in \Sigma^*$

**Inductive Step:** Goal: Show that  $P(wa)$  is true for every  $a \in \Sigma$

Let  $a \in \Sigma$ . Let  $x \in \Sigma^*$ . Then  $\text{len}(x \bullet wa) = \text{len}((x \bullet w)a)$  by defn of  $\bullet$   
 $= \text{len}(x \bullet w) + 1$  by defn of  $\text{len}$   
 $= \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(w) + 1$  by I.H.  
 $= \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(wa)$  by defn of  $\text{len}$

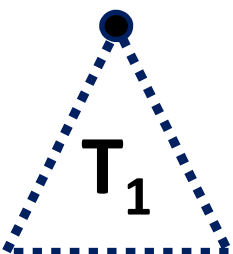
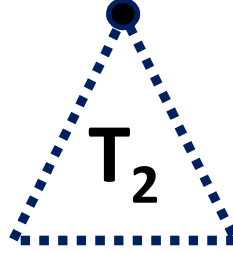
Therefore  $\text{len}(x \bullet wa) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(wa)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ , so  $P(wa)$  is true.

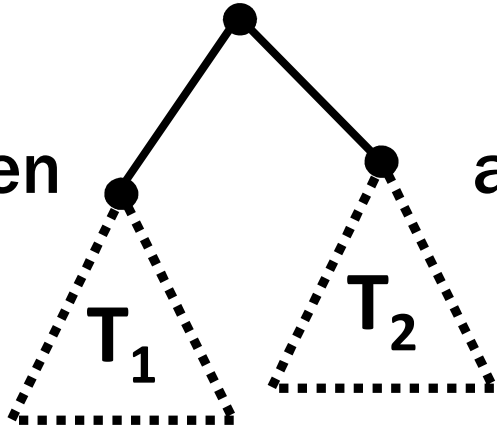
So, by induction  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$

# Rooted Binary Trees

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- **Basis:** • is a rooted binary tree
- **Recursive step:**

If   $T_1$  and   $T_2$  are rooted binary trees,

then  also is a rooted binary tree.

# Defining Functions on Rooted Binary Trees

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- $\text{size}(\bullet) = 1$

- $\text{size} \left( \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{T}_1 \quad \text{T}_2 \end{array} \right) = 1 + \text{size}(\text{T}_1) + \text{size}(\text{T}_2)$

- $\text{height}(\bullet) = 0$

- $\text{height} \left( \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{T}_1 \quad \text{T}_2 \end{array} \right) = 1 + \max\{\text{height}(\text{T}_1), \text{height}(\text{T}_2)\}$

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T) + 1} - 1$

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$n(T)$

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$

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1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet)=1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet)=0$  and  $1=2^1-1=2^{0+1}-1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T) + 1} - 1$

---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1}-1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet)=1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet)=0$  and  $1=2^1-1=2^{0+1}-1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that  $P(T_1)$  and  $P(T_2)$  are true for some rooted binary trees  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .

4. Inductive Step:

Goal: Prove  $P(\text{ } \begin{array}{c} \triangle \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle \quad \triangle \\ T_1 \quad T_2 \end{array} \text{ } )$ .

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$

---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be " $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$ ". We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet) = 1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet) = 0$  and  $1 = 2^1 - 1 = 2^{0+1} - 1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that  $P(T_1)$  and  $P(T_2)$  are true for some rooted binary trees  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .

4. Inductive Step:

Goal: Prove  $P(\text{tree})$ .

By defn,  $\text{size}(\text{tree}) = 1 + \text{size}(T_1) + \text{size}(T_2)$  *by defn of size*

$$\leq 1 + \underbrace{2^{\text{height}(T_1)+1} - 1}_{\text{by IH for } T_1} + \underbrace{2^{\text{height}(T_2)+1} - 1}_{\text{by IH for } T_2}$$

$$= 2^{\text{height}(T_1)+1} + 2^{\text{height}(T_2)+1} - 1$$

$\leq 2^{\max(\text{height}(T_1), \text{height}(T_2))+1} - 1$   $\leftarrow$

$$= 2(2^{\text{height}(\text{tree})}) - 1 = 2^{\text{height}(\text{tree})+1} - 1$$

which is what we wanted to show.

5. So, the  $P(T)$  is true for all rooted bin. trees by structural induction.

# Languages: Sets of Strings

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- Sets of strings that satisfy special properties are called *languages*. Examples:
  - English sentences
  - Syntactically correct Java/C/C++ programs
  - $\Sigma^*$  = All strings over alphabet  $\Sigma$
  - Palindromes over  $\Sigma$
  - Binary strings that don't have a 0 after a 1
  - Legal variable names. keywords in Java/C/C++
  - Binary strings with an equal # of 0's and 1's



# Regular Expressions

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## Regular expressions over $\Sigma$

- **Basis:**

$\emptyset$ ,  $\varepsilon$  are regular expressions

$a$  is a regular expression for any  $a \in \Sigma$

$\{\varepsilon\}$   
 $\Sigma^0$

- **Recursive step:**

– If **A** and **B** are regular expressions then so are:

**(A  $\cup$  B)**

**(AB)**

**A\***

# Each Regular Expression is a “pattern”

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$\epsilon$  matches the **empty string**

$a$  matches the one character string  $a$

$(A \cup B)$  matches all strings that either  $A$  matches or  $B$  matches (or both)

$(AB)$  matches all strings that have a first part that  $A$  matches followed by a second part that  $B$  matches

$((aa) \cup a)b$       $\{ab, aab\}$

$A^*$  matches all strings that have any number of strings (even 0) that  $A$  matches, one after another

# Examples

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**001\***

{ $\epsilon$ , 001, 0011, 00111, ... }

**0\*1\***

{ $\epsilon$ , 0, 1, 011, 0011, ... }

# Examples

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**$001^*$**

{00, 001, 0011, 00111, ...}

**$0^*1^*$**

Any number of 0's followed by any number of 1's

# Examples

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$(0 \cup 1) 0 (0 \cup 1) 0$

$\{0000, 0010, 1000, 1010\}$

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

All binary strings

# Examples

---

$(0 \cup 1) 0 (0 \cup 1) 0$

{0000, 0010, 1000, 1010}

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

All binary strings

# Examples

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$(0 \cup 1)^* 0110 (0 \cup 1)^*$

All binary strings with 0110 in them.

$(00 \cup 11)^* (01010 \cup 10001) (0 \cup 1)^*$

# Examples

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$(0 \cup 1)^* 0110 (0 \cup 1)^*$

Binary strings that contain “0110”

$(00 \cup 11)^* (01010 \cup 10001) (0 \cup 1)^*$

Binary strings that begin with pairs of characters followed by “01010” or “10001”



# Regular Expressions in Practice

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- Used to define the “tokens”: e.g., legal variable names, keywords in programming languages and compilers
- Used in **grep**, a program that does pattern matching searches in UNIX/LINUX
- Pattern matching using regular expressions is an essential feature of PHP, JavaScript
- We can use regular expressions in programs to process strings!

# Regular Expressions in Java

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- Pattern p = Pattern.compile("a\*b");
- Matcher m = p.matcher("aaaaab");
- boolean b = m.matches();

[01] a 0 or a 1    ^ start of string    \$ end of string

[0-9] any single digit    \. period    \, comma    \- minus

. any single character

ab a followed by b    **(AB)**

(a|b) a or b    **(A ∪ B)**

a? zero or one of a    **(A ∪ ε)**

a\* zero or more of a    **A\***

a+ one or more of a    **AA\***

- e.g. `^[\-+]?[0-9]*(\.|[,])?[0-9]+$`

General form of decimal number e.g. 9.12 or -9,8 (Europe)