

Context Free Grammars, Deterministic Finite Automata

CSE 311: Foundations of
Computing I
Lecture 20

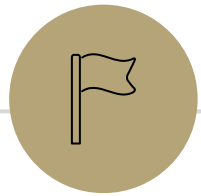
Announcements

- HW6 due Wednesday at 11:59pm on Gradescope.
- Midterm Corrections due Wednesday at 11:59pm on Gradescope.
 - $\text{midterm_grade} = 0.75 \cdot \text{original_grade} + 0.25 \cdot \max(\text{corrected_grade}, \text{original_grade})$
 - No Late Days permitted
 - More details posted on Assignments page

Recall: Languages

Binary Palindromes $(001)^*1$
X 11110111

- A language is a set of strings. L : Set of binary strings that end in 1
- A computer is said to recognize a language if it can distinguish which strings are in a language vs. which are not. $001 \in L$ $100 \notin L$
- Regular Languages: Languages that can be specified by a Regular Expression.
- Context Free Languages: Languages that can be generated by a Context Free Grammar

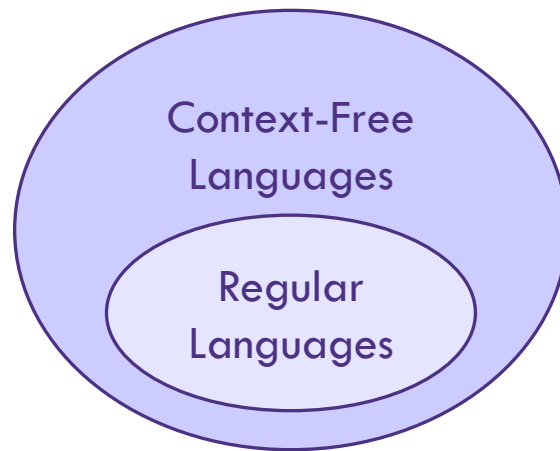


Context Free Grammars

Context-Free Languages

binary strings w/
same # of 0s & 1s

- Many languages are irregular, e.g. binary palindromes
- **Context-Free Languages** are a strictly larger class of languages



- Context-Free Languages are generated by Context-Free Grammars (just like Regular Languages are specified by Regular Expressions)

Example

$\{ \underline{c}, \underline{b}, \underline{ab}, \underline{aab}, \dots \}$

• Production Rules (2)

$$S \rightarrow Ab \mid c$$

$$A \rightarrow Aa \mid \epsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow \underline{Ab} \mid c$$

$$A \rightarrow \underline{Aa} \mid \underline{\epsilon}$$

"generating"

$$S \Rightarrow \underline{Ab} \Rightarrow \underline{Aab} \Rightarrow \underline{Aaab} \Rightarrow aab$$

$$c \cup a^*b$$

• Nonterminals (S, A, ...) (2)

S

A

"variables"

- Specific nonterminal that is the start nonterminal (S)

• Terminal (4)

a

c

b

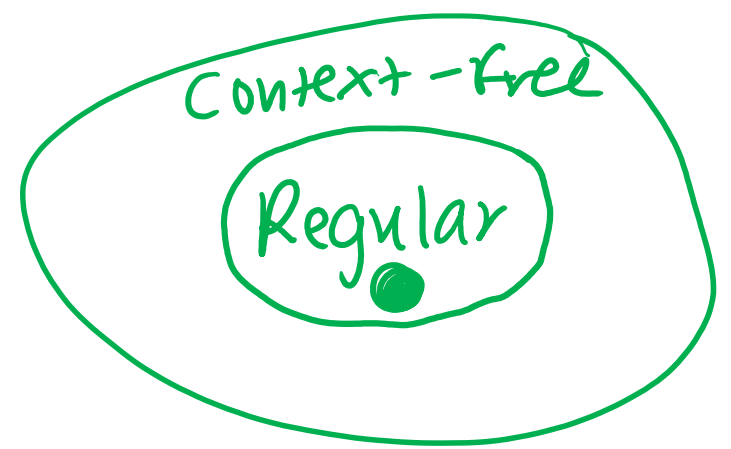
ϵ

Context-free

Regular

Example

0^*1^*



$S \rightarrow \underline{0S} \mid \underline{S1} \mid \underline{\epsilon}$

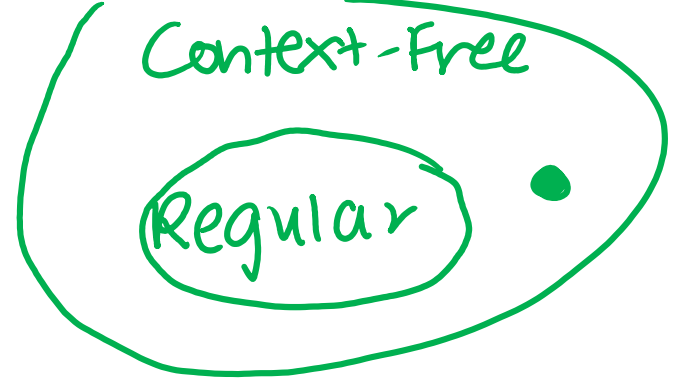
$S \Rightarrow \underline{0S} \Rightarrow \underline{0S1} \Rightarrow \underline{0S11} \Rightarrow 011$

Binary strings with 0s at the front
followed by 1s at the end.

All binary strings with any # of 0s followed
by any # of 1s

Example

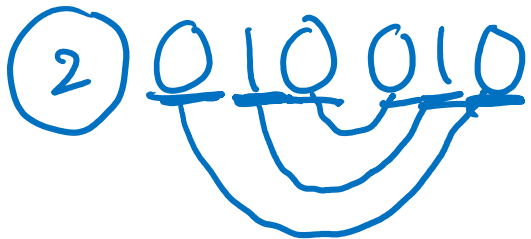
of 0 & 1 read the same
✓ forwards & backwards



The set of all binary palindromes.



odd length



even length

$\epsilon, 0, 1$
↑ ↑ ↑
even odd

$S \rightarrow \underline{0S0} \mid \underline{1S1} \mid \underline{\epsilon} \mid \underline{0} \mid \underline{1}$

$S \Rightarrow \underline{0S0} \Rightarrow 0\underline{1S1}0 \Rightarrow 01\underline{0S0}10 \Rightarrow 010010$

Example

n copies of 0 n copies of 1



CFG for the language $\{0^n 1^n : n \geq 0\}$ $\{\epsilon, 01, \underline{0011}, 000111, \dots\}$

$S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid \epsilon$

0011 ✓

$S \Rightarrow 0\underline{S}1 \Rightarrow 00\underline{S}11 \Rightarrow 0011$

Example

Tip: Break up into more production rules

CFG for the language $\{0^n 1^n 23 : n \geq 0\}$ $\{23, 0123, \underline{001123}, \dots\}$

$\times S \rightarrow 0S1 \mid 23$ $S \Rightarrow 0\underline{S}1 \Rightarrow 0\underline{23}1$

\checkmark $S \rightarrow A23$
 $A \rightarrow 0A1 \mid \epsilon$

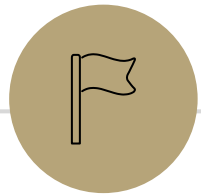
$S \Rightarrow \underline{A}23 \Rightarrow 0\underline{A}123$
 $\Rightarrow 00\underline{A}1123$
 $\Rightarrow 001123$

$0^n 1^n 23$
 $0^n 1^n$

Exercises

CFG for the set of binary strings with the same number of 0s as 1s.

CFG for the set of balanced parentheses. E.g. $((())())$



Deterministic Finite Automata

(DFA)

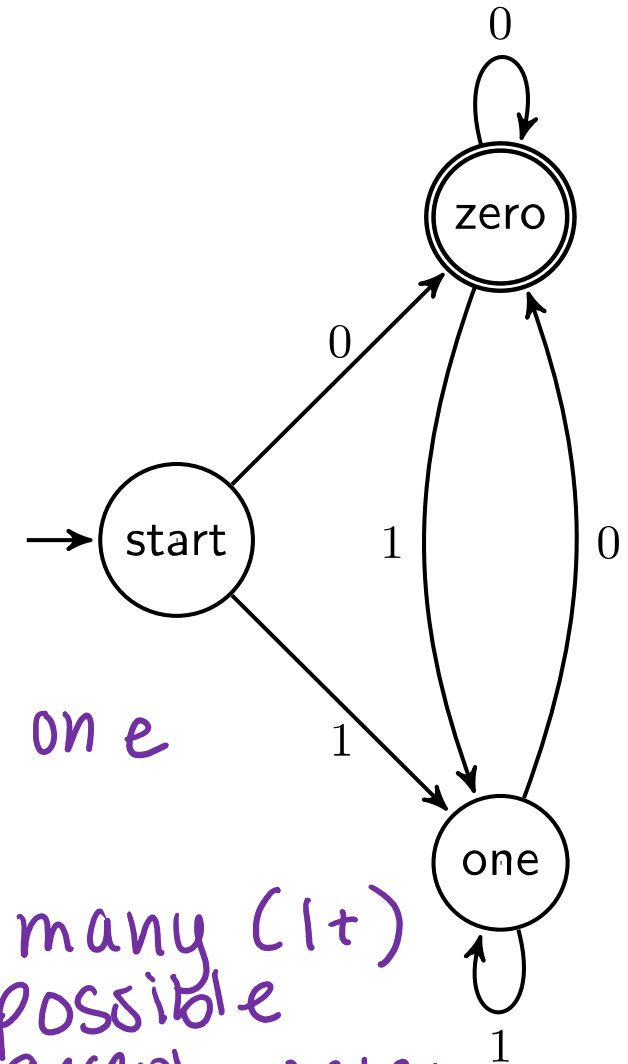
Model of Computation

- We want a mathematical model for a computer
- We'll focus on computers whose input is a string, and output is true/false on whether the input string is in a particular language
- The first model we'll study is called a Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA)

Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA)

$x \emptyset x x$
 $\bar{4}$ rejected

- Our machine will have a finite number of states.
- It will take a string as input. 1011
- It will read one character at a time and update "its state".
- When it reads the character it follows the arrow labeled with that character to its next state.
- Start at the "start state" (unlabeled, incoming arrow).
- After you've read the last character, accept the string if and only if you're in an "accept state" (double circle or bolded).



only one

many (1+) possible accept states

Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA)

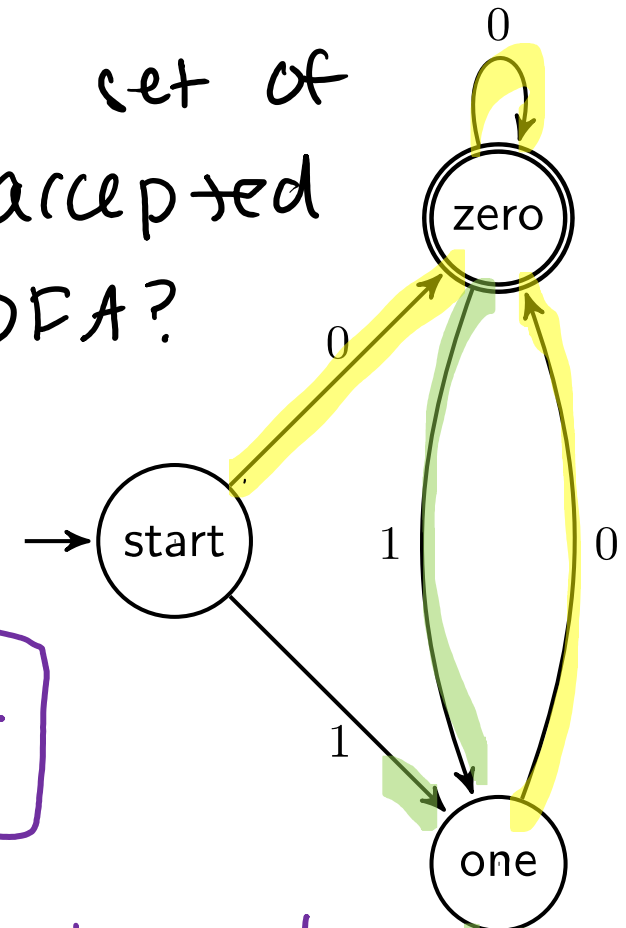
What language does this DFA recognize? i.e. which set of

strings are accepted by the DFA?

1011 - rejected

100 - accepted

All binary strings that end in 0.



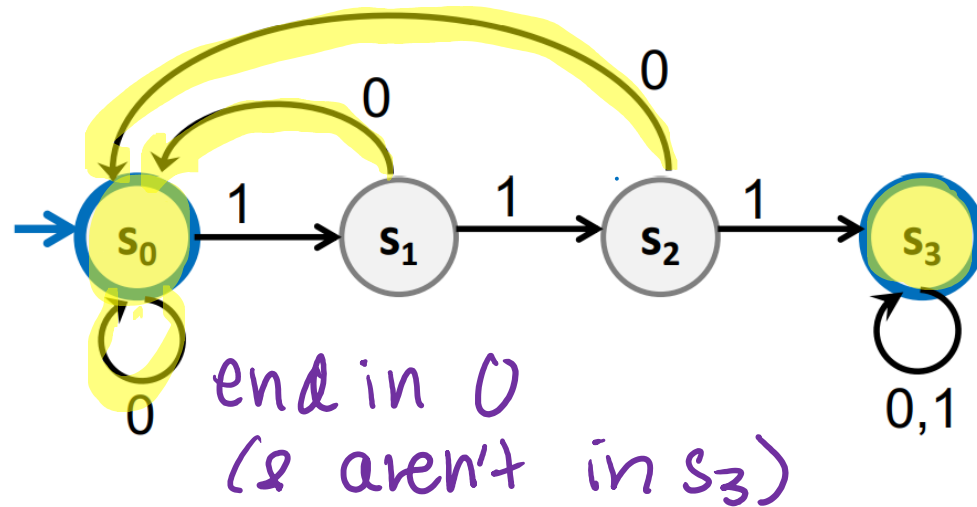
• states
accept \swarrow reject

- edges between states w/
labels (one for each char)

Example

What language does this DFA recognize?

inputs: binary strings



s_0, s_3 are
accept states

s_1, s_2 are
reject states

all binary strings
that contain 111.

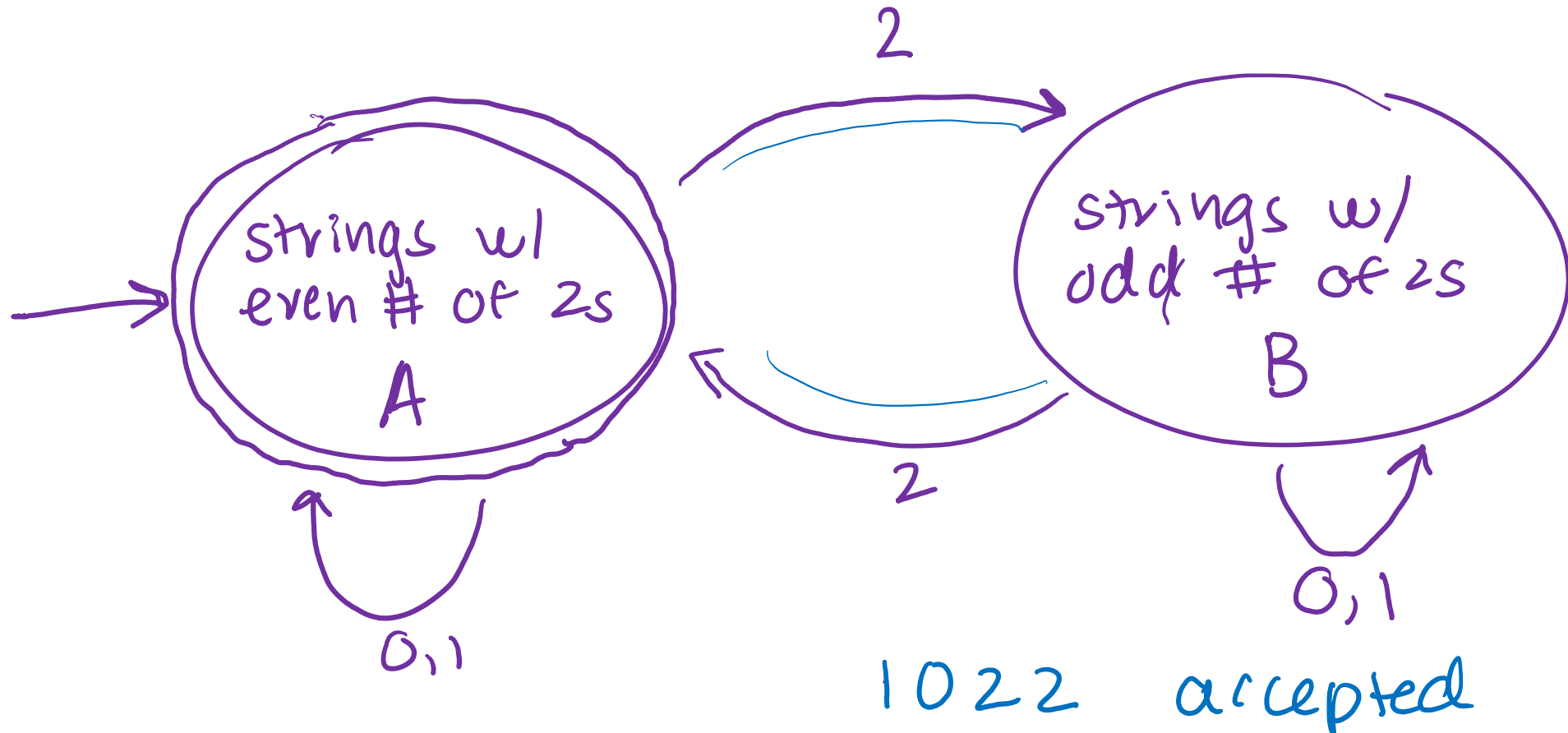
The set of all binary strings that contain 111
or end in 0.

Example

3. Connect states w/ edges

1. What states?
2. Which is the start state?
figure out where ϵ goes

Design a DFA that accepts the language of strings over $\{0, 1, 2\}$ with an even number of 2's.



Example

Design a DFA that accepts the language of strings over $\{0, 1, 2\}$ where the sum of digits mod 3 is 0.

Exercises

DFA for all binary strings of even length.

DFA for the set of binary strings with a **1** in the 3rd position from the start.