

CSC 341 - Fall 2022

Problem Set 4 Solutions

Problem 1. Prove or disprove using the Myhill-Nerode theorem or Kolmogorov complexity that the language

$$A = \{0^i 1^j \mid i > j \geq 0\}$$

is regular where $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

Solution 1. We first prove this via the Myhill-Nerode theorem that A is irregular.

Consider the string $x_i = 0^i$ for some $i \geq 1$. If we pick $i' > i$ then $x_i \neq_A x_{i'}$. To see why, consider the string $y_i = 1^i$. Clearly, $x_i y_i \notin A$ but $x_{i'} y_i \in A$, so y_i is a distinguishing extension of x_i and $x_{i'}$, thus x_i and $x_{i'}$ lie in distinct equivalence classes. Since i and i' were arbitrary, there are an infinite number of equivalence classes with respect to $=_A$, hence A is irregular. \square

We now prove A is irregular via Kolmogorov complexity.

Let $x_i = 0^i$. Then

$$\chi_{x_i, A}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega = 0^j \wedge 0 \leq j < i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In other words, $\chi_{x_i, A}$ is a description of i ($\chi_{x_i, A}$ contains exactly i 1's). We thus have $K(\chi_{x_i, A} \mid n) \geq K(i)$ whenever n is at least large enough to encode all i 1's of $\chi_{x_i, A}$.

Since i is arbitrary here, there must be some i for which $K(i) \notin O(1)$. For this i , $K(\chi_{x_i, A} \mid n) \notin O(1)$ for sufficiently large n . Thus A is not regular. \square

Problem 2. Prove or disprove using the Myhill-Nerode theorem or Kolmogorov complexity that the language

$$B = \{\omega \in \Sigma^* \mid 3 \text{ divides } \omega\}$$

is regular where $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ and ω is interpreted as a base 2 number.

Solution 2. We first prove B is regular using Myhill-Nerode.

There are exactly 4 equivalence classes (here ϵ is treated as NaN). The first is $B_\epsilon = \{\epsilon\}$. The other three are $B_i = \{\omega \mid \omega \equiv i \pmod{3}\}$ for $i \in \mathbb{Z}_3$.

First note that clearly the union of all four sets is Σ^* and each set is disjoint. It suffices to show that there are at most 4 equivalence classes (hence the total number is finite), so we need only show that elements in each class are indistinguishable.

B_ϵ contains only 1 element, so this is trivially true for this class.

Now consider $x, y \in B_i$ such that $x \neq y$. Let $z \in \Sigma^*$ be an extension string (if $z = \epsilon$, then we define $z \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$). It suffices to show that xz and yz have the same residue mod 3. Since $x, y \in B_i$, they have the same residue mod 3,

$$\begin{aligned}
xz &\equiv x \cdot 2^{|z|} + z \pmod{3} \\
&\equiv y \cdot 2^{|z|} + z \pmod{3} \\
&\equiv yz \pmod{3}.
\end{aligned}$$

□

We now prove B is regular using Kolmogorov complexity. It suffices to show there are at most 4 distinct $\chi_{x,B}$.

If $x = \epsilon$,

$$\chi_{\epsilon,A}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & 3 \mid \omega \wedge \omega \neq \epsilon \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

If $x \equiv i \pmod{3}$ ($i = 0, 1, 2$),

$$\chi_{x,A}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \cdot 2^{|\omega|} + \omega \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since $\chi_{x,A}$ above clearly only depends on the residue of x modulo 3, there are only 3 distinct such characteristic sequences. Whether $\chi_{\epsilon,A}$ is distinct from all three of these sequences is irrelevant to our result. □

Problem 3. Prove or disprove using the Myhill-Nerode theorem or Kolmogorov complexity that the language

$$C = \{1^{p_0+p_1} \mid p_0, p_1 \text{ prime}\}$$

is regular where $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

Solution 3. Pick $p_0 = 2$. Then $C = \{111^p \mid p \text{ prime}\} = 11 \circ \{1^p \mid p \text{ prime}\}$. It suffices to show that $C' = \{1^p \mid p \text{ prime}\}$ is irregular.

Let $d(p) = p' - p$ where p' is the first prime larger than p . Since there are infinitely many primes, such a p' is guaranteed to exist.

We first prove C' is irregular via Myhill-Nerode.

Let $x_p = 1^p$. The first extension string $z_p \in \Sigma^*$ lexicographically for x_p for which $x_p z_p \in C'$ is $1^{d(p)}$.

Then if p_1, p_2 are primes for which $d(p_1) < d(p_2)$, z_{p_1} is a distinguishing string for x_{p_1} and x_{p_2} . Thus $x_{p_1} \not\equiv_{C'} x_{p_2}$. Moreover, the distance between successive primes grows unbounded (d takes infinitely many values), so there must be infinitely many equivalence classes. As such C' is irregular. □

We now prove C' is irregular via Kolmogorov complexity. Assume for the sake of contradiction that C' is regular.

Let p_k be the k^{th} prime and consider the string $x_k = 1^{p_k}$. Then the first string y of L_{x_k} lexicographically is $1^{d(p_k)}$. It follows that $K(y) \leq K(1) \in O(1)$.

On the other hand, $K(y) \geq K(k)$ since we need to know k to know y (as well as p_k). But k is arbitrary, so pick $k \notin O(1)$.

But then $K(y) \in O(1)$ and $K(y) \notin O(1)$, which is absurd, so C' is not regular. □

Problem 4. Prove or disprove using the Myhill-Nerode theorem or Kolmogorov complexity that the language

$$D = \{0^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

is regular where $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

Solution 4. We first prove D is regular via Myhill-Nerode.

It suffices to show that there are at most 3 equivalence classes. The first class is the singleton set $X = \{\epsilon\}$. The second class is $Y = \{\omega \mid \omega \text{ contains a } 1\}$. The last class is $Z = \{0^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

First, note that the union of X , Y , and Z is clearly all of Σ^* and each is pairwise disjoint. As it suffices to show that there are at most 3 equivalence classes, we need only show that the elements of each class are indistinguishable.

Clearly, this is the case for the singleton set X .

For Y , consider two strings $a, b \in Y$. Since both a and b contain a 1, any extension string results in $a \notin D$ and $b \notin D$. Thus $a =_D b$.

Lastly, consider $0^n, 0^m \in Z$ for $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $\omega \in \Sigma^*$ be an extension string. Then if $\omega = 0^p$ for $p \geq 0$, we have $0^n\omega \in D$ and $0^m\omega \in D$. If ω is any other string, we have $0^n\omega \notin D$ and $0^m\omega \notin D$. Thus $0^n =_D 0^m$. \square

We now prove D is regular via Kolmogorov complexity. It suffices to show there are at most 3 characteristic sequences $\chi_{x,D}$.

If $x = \epsilon$,

$$\chi_{\epsilon,D}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in 0^+ \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

If $x = 0^n$,

$$\chi_{x,D}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in 0^* \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

If x is any other string, $\chi_{x,D} = 0^\infty$. \square

Problem 5. Prove or disprove using the Myhill-Nerode theorem or Kolmogorov complexity that the language

$$E = \{0^{2^n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

is regular where $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

Solution 5. We first prove E is irregular via Myhill-Nerode. It suffices to show there are an infinite number of equivalence classes with respect to $=_E$.

Consider the strings $x_n = 0^{2^n}$. If we pick $l > k$, then x_k is a distinguishing extension of x_k and x_l . To see why, $x_k x_k = x_{k+1} \in E$. On the other hand, $x_l x_k = 0^{2^l + 2^k}$. Since $l \neq k$, $2^l + 2^k$ is not a power of 2. Thus $x_l x_k \notin E$. As such, $x_k \neq_E x_l$.

Since k is arbitrary and $l > k$ is otherwise arbitrary, it follows that there are an infinite number of equivalence classes. Therefore E is irregular. \square

We now prove E is irregular via Kolmogorov complexity.

Assume for the sake of contradiction that E is regular. Let $x_n = 0^{2^n}$. Then the first string lexicographically of L_{x_n} is x_n . To see why, $x_n x_n = 0^{2^n} 0^{2^n} = 0^{2^n+2^n} = 0^{2 \cdot 2^n} = 0^{2^{n+1}}$. It follows, then, that $K(x_n) \in O(1)$.

On the other hand, $K(x_n) \geq K(n)$. But n is arbitrary! If we pick n such that $K(n) \notin O(1)$, then we have $K(x_n) \in O(1)$ and $K(x_n) \notin O(1)$, which is absurd. Therefore E is not regular. \square