

## Beyond the Regular world...

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- ◆ Are there languages that are *not* regular?
- ◆ **Idea:** If a language violates a property obeyed by all regular languages, it cannot be regular!
  - ⇒ **Pumping Lemma** for showing *non-regularity* of languages

I love ze pumping lemma!



## The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

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- ◆ **What is it?**
  - ⇒ A statement (“lemma”) that is true for all regular languages
- ◆ **Why is it useful?**
  - ⇒ Can be used to show that certain languages are *not regular*
  - ⇒ How? *By contradiction*: Assume the given language is regular and show that it does not satisfy the pumping lemma

## More about the Pumping Lemma

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### ◆ What is the idea behind it?

- ⇒ Any regular language  $L$  has a DFA  $M$  that recognizes it
- ⇒ If  $M$  has  **$p$  states** and accepts a **string of length  $\geq p$** , the sequence of states  $M$  goes through must contain a **cycle** (repetition of a state) due to the *pigeonhole principle*! Thus:
- ⇒ *All strings* that make  $M$  go through this cycle 0 or any number of times are also accepted by  $M$  and *should be in  $L$* .

## Formal Statement of the Pumping Lemma

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- ◆ **Pumping Lemma:** If  $L$  is regular, then  $\exists p$  such that  $\forall s$  in  $L$  with  $|s| \geq p$ ,  $\exists x, y, z$  with  $s = xyz$  and:
  1.  $xy^iz \in L \forall i \geq 0$ , and
  2.  $|y| \geq 1$ , and
  3.  $|xy| \leq p$ .
- ◆ We did the proof on board last time... (see also page 79 in textbook)
- ◆ Proved in 1961 by Bar-Hillel, Peries and Shamir

## Pumping Lemma in Plain English



That's more like it...

- ◆ Let  $L$  be a regular language and let  $p$  = “pumping length” = no. of states of a DFA accepting  $L$
- ◆ Then, any string  $s$  in  $L$  of length  $\geq p$  can be expressed as  $s = xyz$  where:
  - ⇒  $y$  is not null ( $y$  is the cycle)
  - ⇒  $|xy| \leq p$  (cycle occurs within  $p$  state transitions), and
  - ⇒ any “pumped” string  $xy^iz$  is also in  $L$  for all  $i \geq 0$  (go through the cycle 0 or more times)



I liked the formal statement better...

## Using The Pumping Lemma



Can't wait to use it...

- ◆ **In-Class Examples:** Using the pumping lemma to show a language  $L$  is *not regular*
  - ⇒ 5 steps for a proof by contradiction:
    1. Assume  $L$  is regular.
    2. Let  $p$  be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.
    3. Choose cleverly an  $s$  in  $L$  of length at least  $p$ , such that
    4. For *all ways* of decomposing  $s$  into  $xyz$ , where  $|xy| \leq p$  and  $y$  is not null,
    5. There is an  $i \geq 0$  such that  $xy^iz$  is not in  $L$ .

## Proving non-regularity as a Two-Person game



- ◆ An alternate view: Think of it as a *game between you and an opponent (JC)*:
  1. **You**: Assume  $L$  is regular
  2. **JC**: Chooses some value  $p$
  3. **You**: Choose cleverly an  $s$  in  $L$  of length  $\geq p$
  4. **JC**: Breaks  $s$  into some  $xyz$ , where  $|xy| \leq p$  and  $y$  is not null,
  5. **You**: Need to choose an  $i \geq 0$  such that  $xy^iz$  is not in  $L$  (in order to win (the prize of non-regularity)!)  
(Note: Your  $i$  should work for all  $xyz$  that JC chooses, given your  $s$ )

## Proving Non-Regularity using the Pumping Lemma

- ◆ On-Board Examples: Show the following are not regular
  - ⇨  $L_1 = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$  over the alphabet  $\{0, 1\}$
  - ⇨  $ADD = \{x=y+z \mid x, y, z \text{ are binary numbers and } x \text{ is the sum of } y \text{ and } z\}$  over the alphabet  $\{0, 1, =, +\}$
  - ⇨  $L_2 = \{0^p \mid p \text{ is prime}\}$  over the alphabet  $\{0\}$

## Da Pumpin' Lemma

(Orig. lyrics: Harry Mairson)



Hear it on my new album:  
Dig dat funky DFA

Any regular language  $L$  has a magic numba  $p$   
And any long-enuff word  $s$  in  $L$  has da followin' propa'ty:  
Amongst its first  $p$  symbols is a segment you can find  
Whose repetition or omission leaves  $s$  amongst its kind.

So if ya find a language  $L$  which fails dis acid test,  
And some long word you pump becomes distinct from all da rest,  
By contradiction you have shown dat language  $L$  is not  
A regular homie, resilient to the damage you have wrought.

But if, upon the other hand,  $s$  stays within its  $L$ ,  
Then either  $L$  is regular, or else you chose not well.  
For  $s$  is  $xyz$ , where  $y$  cannot be empty,  
And  $y$  must come before da  $p+1^{\text{th}}$  symbol is read.

## If $\{0^n1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ is not Regular, what is it?



Irregular??

Enter...the world of Grammars  
(after the Midterm)

Next Class: Midterm Review