Formal Languages

Philippe de Groote

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Regular expressions and regular languages

- Definition
- Some algebraic properties
- From regular expressions to FSA
- From FSA to type-3 grammars
- From type-3 grammars to regular expressions

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The set of regular epressions over an alphabet Σ is inductively defined as follows:

- 0 is a regular expression;
- 1 is a regular expression;
- every symbol $a \in \Sigma$ is a regular expression;
- if α is a regular expression so is α^* ;
- if α and β are regular expressions so is $(\alpha \cdot \beta)$;
- if α and β are regular expressions so is $(\alpha + \beta)$;

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- if α and β are regular expressions so is $(\alpha \cdot \beta)$;
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We write $rexp(\Sigma)$ for the set of regular epressions over Σ .

Definition

Language defined by a regular epressions:

- $L(0) = \emptyset;$
- $L(1) = \{\epsilon\};$
- $L(a) = \{a\}$ for every $a \in \Sigma$;
- $L(\alpha^*) = L(\alpha)^*$;
- $L(\alpha \cdot \beta) = L(\alpha) \cdot L(\beta);$
- $L(\alpha + \beta) = L(\alpha) \cup L(\beta).$

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Some algebraic properties

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(\alpha + \beta) + \gamma = \alpha + (\beta + \gamma)
\alpha + 0 = \alpha
0 + \alpha = \alpha
\alpha + \beta = \beta + \alpha
\alpha + \alpha = \alpha
(\alpha \cdot \beta) \cdot \gamma = \alpha \cdot (\beta \cdot \gamma)
\alpha \cdot 1 = \alpha
1 \cdot \alpha = \alpha
\alpha \cdot 0 = 0
0 \cdot \alpha = 0
\alpha \cdot (\beta + \gamma) = \alpha \cdot \beta + \alpha \cdot \gamma
(\alpha + \beta) \cdot \gamma = \alpha \cdot \gamma + \beta \cdot \gamma
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Some algebraic properties

 $0^* = 1$ $1^* = 1$ $(\alpha^*)^* = \alpha^*$ $1 + \alpha \cdot (\alpha^*) = \alpha^*$ $1 + \alpha^* \cdot \alpha = \alpha^*$

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Automaton accepting L(0)



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From regular expressions to FSA



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Assuming we have an automaton accepting $L(\alpha)$:



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Assuming we have an automaton accepting $L(\alpha)$:



Automaton accepting $L(\alpha^*)$:



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Assuming we have automata accepting $L(\alpha)$ and $L(\beta)$:





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Assuming we have automata accepting $L(\alpha)$ and $L(\beta)$:



Automaton accepting $L(\alpha \cdot \beta)$:



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Assuming we have automata accepting $L(\alpha)$ and $L(\beta)$:





Automaton accepting $L(\alpha + \beta)$:



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Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$ be an DFSA. Define a type-3 grammar $G = \langle N, \Sigma_G, P, S \rangle$ as follows:

- $\bullet \ N = Q$
- $\Sigma_G = \Sigma$
- $\bullet \ P = \{A \mathop{\rightarrow} aB : \delta(A, a) = B\} \cup \{A \mathop{\rightarrow} \epsilon : A \in F\}$
- $S = q_0$

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•
$$S = q_0$$

Proposition L(A) = L(G).

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PROOF:

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PROOF:

We prove by induction on the length of α that $A \Rightarrow^* \alpha$ if and only if $\hat{\delta}(A, \alpha) \in F$.

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We prove by induction on the length of α that $A \Rightarrow^* \alpha$ if and only if $\hat{\delta}(A, \alpha) \in F$.

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We prove by induction on the length of α that $A \Rightarrow^* \alpha$ if and only if $\hat{\delta}(A, \alpha) \in F$.

Basis:

 $\begin{array}{l} A \Rightarrow^* \epsilon \text{ iff } A \Rightarrow \epsilon \\ \text{ iff } (A \!\rightarrow\! \epsilon) \in P \end{array}$

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Induction:

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Induction:

 $A \Rightarrow^* a\alpha'$ iff $A \Rightarrow aB \Rightarrow^* a\alpha'$, for some $(A \rightarrow aB) \in P$

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Induction:

 $\begin{array}{l} A \Rightarrow^{*} a\alpha' \text{ iff } A \Rightarrow aB \Rightarrow^{*} a\alpha', \text{ for some } (A \rightarrow aB) \in P\\ \\ \text{ iff } (A \rightarrow aB) \in P \text{ and } B \Rightarrow^{*} \alpha' \end{array}$

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Induction:

$$\begin{split} A \Rightarrow^* a\alpha' \text{ iff } A \Rightarrow aB \Rightarrow^* a\alpha', \text{ for some } (A \rightarrow aB) \in P \\ \text{ iff } (A \rightarrow aB) \in P \text{ and } B \Rightarrow^* \alpha' \\ \text{ iff } \delta(A, a) = B \text{ and } B \Rightarrow^* \alpha' \end{split}$$

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Consider $\alpha \in rexp(\Sigma)^*$. One defines $L(\alpha)$ as follows: • $L(\epsilon) = \{\epsilon\}$

• $L(e\alpha') = L(e) \cdot L(\alpha')$

We consider type-3 grammars whose set of terminal symbols is the set of regular expressions over some alphabet Σ :

 $G = \langle N, \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma), P, S \rangle$

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For such grammars, one may define:

$$L_E(G) = \bigcup_{e \in L(G)} L(e)$$

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Example:

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Example:

$$G = \begin{cases} S \to (a+b) S \\ S \to (c \cdot d) \end{cases}$$

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 $L(G) = \{ (c \cdot d), (a+b)(c \cdot d), (a+b)(a+b)(c \cdot d), (a+b)(a+b)(c \cdot d), \ldots \}$

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Remark:

Since $\Sigma \subset \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)$, every grammar over Σ may be seen as a grammar over $\operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)$, with $L_E(G) = L(G)$.

Elimination of non-recursive non-terminal symbols

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Elimination of non-recursive non-terminal symbols

Given a type-3 grammar G, one says that a rule is recursive if it is of the form $A \rightarrow aA$. A non-terminal symbol A is said to be recursive in case there is at least one recursive rule whose lefthand side is A.

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Let $P_A = \{A \rightarrow e_0 B_0, \dots, A \rightarrow e_{m-1} B_{m-1}, A \rightarrow f_0, \dots, A \rightarrow f_{n-1}\} \subset P_1$ be the set of all the production rules whose lefthand side is A.

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Let $Q_A = \{C_0 \rightarrow a_0 A, \dots, C_{l-1} \rightarrow a_{l-1}A\} \subset P_1$ be the set of all the production rules whose righthand side contains A.

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Define $R_A = \bigcup_{i \in l} ((\bigcup_{j \in m} \{C_i \to (a_i \cdot e_j)B_j\}) \cup (\bigcup_{j \in n} \{C_i \to (a_i \cdot f_j)\}))$

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One defines a new grammar $G_2 = \langle N_2, \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma), P_2, S_2 \rangle$ as follows:

- $N_2 = N_1 \setminus \{A\}$
- $P_2 = (P \setminus (P_A \cup Q_A)) \cup R_A$
- $S_2 = S_1$

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Proposition $L_E(G_1) = L_E(G_2)$.

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PROOF:

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We prove that $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$ and $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$.

From type-3 grammars to regular expressions

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PART 1: $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$

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We prove that $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$ and $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$.

PART 1: $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$

Let us write \Rightarrow_1 and \Rightarrow_2 for the generation relations of G_1 and G_2 , respectively. We prove that for every $B \in N_2$ and every $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$, there exists $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$ and $L(\alpha_1) = L(\alpha_2)$. The proof proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from Q_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$.

PROOF:

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PROOF:

We prove that $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$ and $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$.

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Basis:

There is no occurrence of any rule from Q_A in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$. Then, there is no occurrence of any rule from P_A either. Consequently, the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$ is also a derivation of G_2 , and we take $\alpha_2 = \alpha_1$.

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If there is at least one occurence of a rule from Q_A in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$, it must obey one of the two following forms:

(1)
$$B \Rightarrow_1^* \beta C_i \Rightarrow_1 \beta a_i A \Rightarrow_1 \beta a_i e_j B_j \Rightarrow_1^* \beta a_i e_j \gamma_1$$

(2) $B \Rightarrow_1^* \beta C_i \Rightarrow_1 \beta a_i A \Rightarrow_1 \beta a_i f_j$

where the occurrence of $(C_i \rightarrow a_i A) \in Q_A$ is the leftmost occurrence of a rule from Q_A . Consequently, $B \Rightarrow_1^* \beta C_i$ is also a derivation of G_2 .

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In the first case, we have $\alpha_1 = \beta a_i e_j \gamma_1$ and $B_j \Rightarrow_1^* \gamma_1$. By induction hypothesis, there exists $\gamma_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B_j \Rightarrow_2^* \gamma_2$ and $L(\gamma_1) = L(\gamma_2)$. Hence:

$$B \Rightarrow_2^* \beta C_i \Rightarrow_2 \beta(a_i \cdot e_j) B_j \Rightarrow_2^* \beta(a_i \cdot e_j) \gamma_2$$

Then, we take $\alpha_2 = \beta(a_i \cdot e_j)\gamma_2$. Indeed $L(\alpha_1) = L(\beta a_i e_j \gamma_1) = L(\beta)L(a_i)L(e_j)L(\gamma_1) = L(\beta)L(a_i \cdot e_j)L(\gamma_2) = L(\beta(a_i \cdot e_j)\gamma_2) = L(\alpha_2)$

In the second case, we have $\alpha_1 = \beta a_i f_j$. Then, we take $\alpha_2 = \beta (a_i \cdot f_j)$ Indeed, we have that

 $B \Rightarrow_2^* \beta C_i \Rightarrow_2 \beta(a_i \cdot f_j)$

and that $L(\beta a_i f_j) = L(\beta (a_i \cdot f_j)).$

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PART 2: $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$

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PART 2: $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$

We prove that for every $B \in N_2$ and every $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$, there exists $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$ and $L(\alpha_2) = L(\alpha_1)$. The proof, which proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from R_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$, is similar to the proof of Part 1.

Elimination of recursive rules

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Elimination of recursive rules

Let $G_1 = \langle N_1, \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma), P_1, S_1 \rangle$ be a type-3 grammar, and let $A \in N_1$ be a recursive non-terminal symbol different from S.

Elimination of recursive rules

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Let $P_A = \{A \rightarrow e_0 B_0, \dots, A \rightarrow e_{l-1} B_{l-1}, A \rightarrow f_0, \dots, A \rightarrow f_{m-1}\} \subset P_1$ be the set of all the non-recursive production rules whose lefthand side is A.

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Let $Q_A = \{A \rightarrow g_0 A, \dots, A \rightarrow g_{n-1}A\} \subset P_1$ be the set of all the recursive production rules whose lefthand side is A.

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Let $Q_A = \{A \rightarrow g_0 A, \dots, A \rightarrow g_{n-1}A\} \subset P_1$ be the set of all the recursive production rules whose lefthand side is A.

Define
$$R_A = (\bigcup_{i \in l} \{A \to ((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i)B_i\}) \cup (\bigcup_{i \in m} \{A \to ((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot f_i)\})$$

Philippe de Groote

One defines a new grammar $G_2 = \langle N_2, \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma), P_2, S_2 \rangle$ as follows:

- $N_2 = N_1$
- $P_2 = (P \setminus (P_A \cup Q_A)) \cup R_A$
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Proposition $L_E(G_1) = L_E(G_2)$.

PROOF:

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PART 1: $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$

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We prove that for every $B \in N_1$ and every $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$, there exists $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$ and $L(\alpha_1) \subset L(\alpha_2)$. The proof proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from P_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$.

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PROOF:

PART 1: $L_E(G_1) \subset L_E(G_2)$

We prove that for every $B \in N_1$ and every $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$, there exists $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$ and $L(\alpha_1) \subset L(\alpha_2)$. The proof proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from P_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$.

Basis:

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Basis:

There is no occurrence of any rule from P_A in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$. Then, there is no occurrence of any rule from Q_A either. Consequently, the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$ is also a derivation of G_2 , and we take $\alpha_2 = \alpha_1$.

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Induction:
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If there is at least one occurence of a rule from P_A in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$, it must obey one of the two following forms:

(1)
$$\begin{array}{l} B \Rightarrow_{1}^{*} \beta A \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} A \Rightarrow_{1} \cdots \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} \ldots g_{i_{k-1}} A \\ \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} \ldots g_{i_{k-1}} e_{i} B_{i} \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} \ldots g_{i_{k-1}} e_{i} \gamma_{1} \\ \end{array}$$
(2)
$$\begin{array}{l} B \Rightarrow_{1}^{*} \beta A \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} A \Rightarrow_{1} \cdots \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} \ldots g_{i_{k-1}} A \\ \Rightarrow_{1} \beta g_{i_{0}} \ldots g_{i_{k-1}} f_{i} \end{array}$$

where the occurrence of $(A \rightarrow e_i B_i) \in P_A$ (respectively, $(A \rightarrow f_i) \in P_A$) is the leftmost occurrence of a rule from P_A , and the occurrence of $(A \rightarrow g_{i_0} A) \in Q_A$ is the leftmost occurrence of a rule from Q_A . Consequently, $B \Rightarrow_1^* \beta A$ is also a derivation of G_2 .

Philippe de Groote

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In the first case, we have $\alpha_1 = \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} e_i \gamma_1$ and $B_i \Rightarrow_1^* \gamma_1$. By induction hypothesis, there exists $\gamma_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B_i \Rightarrow_2^* \gamma_2$ and $L(\gamma_1) \subset L(\gamma_2)$. Hence:

 $B \Rightarrow_2^* \beta A \Rightarrow_2 \beta((q_0 + \dots + q_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i) B_i \Rightarrow_2 \beta((q_0 + \dots + q_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i) \gamma_2$

Then, we take

$$\alpha_2 = \beta((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i)\gamma_2$$

Indeed

 $L(\alpha_1) \subset L(\alpha_2)$

because

 $L(q_{i_0} \dots q_{i_{k-1}}) \subset L((q_0 + \dots + q_{n-1})^*)$ and $L(\alpha_1) \subset L(\alpha_2)$

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Then, we take

$$\alpha_2 = \beta((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i)\gamma_2$$

Indeed

 $L(\alpha_1) \subset L(\alpha_2)$

because

$$L(g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}}) \subset L((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^*)$$
 and $L(\alpha_1) \subset L(\alpha_2)$

Similarly, in the second case, we have

$$B \Rightarrow_2^* \beta A \Rightarrow_2 \beta((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot f_i)$$

And, we take

$$\alpha_2 = \beta((g_0 + \dots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot f_i)$$

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PART 2: $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$

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PART 2: $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$

We prove that for every $B \in N_2$, every $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$, and every $\omega \in L(\alpha_2)$, there exists $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$ and $\omega \in L(\alpha_1)$. The proof proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from R_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$.

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We prove that for every $B \in N_2$, every $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$, and every $\omega \in L(\alpha_2)$, there exists $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$ and $\omega \in L(\alpha_1)$. The proof proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from R_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$.

Basis:

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PART 2: $L_E(G_2) \subset L_E(G_1)$

We prove that for every $B \in N_2$, every $\alpha_2 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$, and every $\omega \in L(\alpha_2)$, there exists $\alpha_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B \Rightarrow_1^* \alpha_1$ and $\omega \in L(\alpha_1)$. The proof proceed by induction on the number of occurences of rules from R_A that appear in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$.

Basis:

There is no occurence of any rule from R_A in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$. Consequently, the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$ is also a derivation of G_1 , and we take $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$.

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Induction:

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Induction:

If there is at least one occurence of a rule from R_A in the derivation $B \Rightarrow_2^* \alpha_2$, it must obey one of the two following forms:

(1) $B \Rightarrow_{2}^{*} \beta A \Rightarrow_{2} \beta((g_{0} + \dots + g_{n-1})^{*} \cdot e_{i})B_{i} \Rightarrow_{2} \beta((g_{0} + \dots + g_{n-1})^{*} \cdot e_{i})\gamma_{2}$ (2) $B \Rightarrow_{2}^{*} \beta A \Rightarrow_{2} \beta((g_{0} + \dots + g_{n-1})^{*} \cdot f_{i})$

where the occurrence of $(A \rightarrow ((g_0 + \cdots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i)B_i) \in R_A$ (respectively, $(A \rightarrow ((g_0 + \cdots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot f_i)) \in R_A$) is the leftmost occurrence of a rule from R_A . Consequently, $B \Rightarrow_2^* \beta A$ is also a derivation of G_1 .

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In the first case, we have $\alpha_2 = \beta((g_0 + \cdots + g_{n-1})^* \cdot e_i)\gamma_2$ and $B_i \Rightarrow_2^* \gamma_2$. Now, let $\omega \in L(\alpha_2)$. It must obey the following form:

 $\omega = \omega_1 g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} \omega_2 \omega_3$

where:

- $\omega_1 \in L(\beta);$
- the sequence of g_i 's is possibly empty;
- $\omega_2 \in L(e_i);$
- $\omega_3 \in L(\gamma_2).$

By induction hypothesis, there exists $\gamma_1 \in \operatorname{rexp}(\Sigma)^*$ such that $B_i \Rightarrow_1^* \gamma_1$ and $\omega_3 \in L(\gamma_1)$. Then, we take

$$\alpha_1 = \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} e_i \gamma_1$$

Indeed

$$B \Rightarrow_1^* \beta A \Rightarrow_1 \beta g_{i_0} A \Rightarrow_1 \dots \Rightarrow_1 \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} A$$
$$\Rightarrow_1 \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} e_i B_i \Rightarrow_1 \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} e_i \gamma_1$$

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Indeed

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$$\Rightarrow_1 \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} e_i B_i \Rightarrow_1 \beta g_{i_0} \dots g_{i_{k-1}} e_i \gamma_1$$

The second case, is similar.

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