

# Formal Languages

## The Pumping Lemma (2)

# The Pumping Lemma:

- Given a infinite regular language  $L$
- there exists an integer  $m$
- for any string  $w \in L$  with length  $|w| \geq m$
- we can write  $w = x y z$
- with  $|x y| \leq m$  and  $|y| \geq 1$
- such that:  $x y^i z \in L \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Non-regular languages

$$L = \{vv^R : v \in \Sigma^*\}$$



Regular languages

**Theorem:** The language

$$L = \{vv^R : v \in \Sigma^*\} \quad \Sigma = \{a,b\}$$

is not regular

**Proof:** Use the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{vv^R : v \in \Sigma^*\}$$

Assume for contradiction  
that  $L$  is a regular language

Since  $L$  is infinite  
we can apply the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{vv^R : v \in \Sigma^*\}$$

Let  $m$  be the integer in the Pumping Lemma

Pick a string  $w$  such that:  $w \in L$  and

$$\text{length } |w| \geq m$$

We pick  $w = a^m b^m b^m a^m$

Write  $a^m b^m b^m a^m = x y z$

From the Pumping Lemma

it must be that length  $|x y| \leq m, |y| \geq 1$

$$xyz = \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m} \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m} \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m} \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m} \underbrace{ab \dots bb \dots ba \dots a}_{z}$$

$x$        $y$        $z$

Thus:  $y = a^k, k \geq 1$

$$x y z = a^m b^m b^m a^m$$

$$y = a^k, \quad k \geq 1$$

From the Pumping Lemma:  $x y^i z \in L$

$$i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus:  $x y^2 z \in L$



$$x y z = a^m b^m b^m a^m \quad y = a^k, \quad k \geq 1$$

From the Pumping Lemma:  $x y^2 z \in L$

$$xy^2z = \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m+k} \underbrace{a \dots a}_m \underbrace{a \dots a}_m \underbrace{a \dots a}_m \in L$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_x \quad \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_y \quad \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_y \quad \underbrace{\hspace{4.5cm}}_z$

Thus:  $a^{m+k} b^m b^m a^m \in L$

$$a^{m+k} b^m b^m a^m \in L \quad k \geq 1$$

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**BUT:**  $L = \{vv^R : v \in \Sigma^*\}$



$$a^{m+k} b^m b^m a^m \notin L$$

**CONTRADICTION!!!**

Therefore: Our assumption that  $L$   
is a regular language is not true

**Conclusion:**  $L$  is not a regular language

## Non-regular languages

$$L = \{a^n b^l c^{n+l} : n, l \geq 0\}$$

Regular languages

**Theorem:** The language

$$L = \{a^n b^l c^{n+l} : n, l \geq 0\}$$

is not regular

**Proof:** Use the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{a^n b^l c^{n+l} : n, l \geq 0\}$$

Assume for contradiction  
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Since  $L$  is infinite  
we can apply the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{a^n b^l c^{n+l} : n, l \geq 0\}$$

Let  $m$  be the integer in the Pumping Lemma

Pick a string  $w$  such that:  $w \in L$  and

$$\text{length } |w| \geq m$$

We pick  $w = a^m b^m c^{2m}$

Write  $a^m b^m c^{2m} = x y z$

From the Pumping Lemma

it must be that length  $|x y| \leq m, |y| \geq 1$

$$xyz = \underbrace{a \dots a}_{x} \underbrace{a \dots a}_{y} \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m} \underbrace{b \dots b}_{m} \underbrace{c \dots c}_{2m} \underbrace{c \dots c}_{z}$$

Thus:  $y = a^k, k \geq 1$



$$x y z = a^m b^m c^{2m} \quad y = a^k, \quad k \geq 1$$

From the Pumping Lemma:  $x y^i z \in L$   
 $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Thus:  $x y^0 z = xz \in L$

$$x y z = a^m b^m c^{2m} \quad y = a^k, \quad k \geq 1$$

From the Pumping Lemma:  $xz \in L$

$$xz = \underbrace{a \dots a}_{m-k} \underbrace{a \dots a}_m \underbrace{b \dots b}_m \underbrace{c \dots c}_{2m} \in L$$

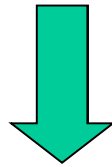
$$\underbrace{a \dots a}_{x} \underbrace{a \dots a b \dots b c \dots c}_{z}$$

Thus:  $a^{m-k} b^m c^{2m} \in L$

$$a^{m-k} b^m c^{2m} \in L \quad k \geq 1$$

---

**BUT:**  $L = \{a^n b^l c^{n+l} : n, l \geq 0\}$



$$a^{m-k} b^m c^{2m} \notin L$$

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Therefore: Our assumption that  $L$   
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Non-regular languages  $L = \{a^{n!} : n \geq 0\}$



Regular languages

**Theorem:** The language  $L = \{a^{n!} : n \geq 0\}$   
is not regular

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdots (n-1) \cdot n$$

**Proof:** Use the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{a^{n!} : n \geq 0\}$$

Assume for contradiction  
that  $L$  is a regular language

Since  $L$  is infinite  
we can apply the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{a^{n!} : n \geq 0\}$$

Let  $m$  be the integer in the Pumping Lemma

Pick a string  $w$  such that:  $w \in L$

length  $|w| \geq m$

We pick  $w = a^{m!}$



Write  $a^{m!} = x y z$

From the Pumping Lemma

it must be that length  $|x y| \leq m, |y| \geq 1$

$$xyz = a^{m!} = \overbrace{a \dots a}^m \overbrace{a \dots a}^{m! - m}$$

$x$     $y$     $z$

**Thus:**  $y = a^k, 1 \leq k \leq m$

$$x y z = a^m$$

$$y = a^k, \quad 1 \leq k \leq m$$

From the Pumping Lemma:  $x y^i z \in L$

$$i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus:  $x y^2 z \in L$

$$x y z = a^{m!} \quad y = a^k, \quad 1 \leq k \leq m$$

From the Pumping Lemma:  $x y^2 z \in L$

$$xy^2z = \overbrace{a \dots a}^{m+k} \overbrace{a \dots a}^{m!-m} \in L$$

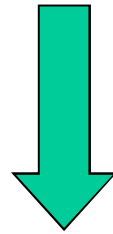
The diagram shows the string  $xy^2z$  represented as a sequence of  $a$ 's. A large bracket above the string is divided into two parts: the left part is labeled  $m+k$  and the right part is labeled  $m!-m$ . Below the string, four smaller brackets identify the segments: the first  $a$  is labeled  $x$ , the next two  $a$ 's are labeled  $y$ , the next two  $a$ 's are labeled  $y$ , and the remaining  $a$ 's are labeled  $z$ .

Thus:  $a^{m!+k} \in L$

$$a^{m!+k} \in L \quad 1 \leq k \leq m$$

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Since:  $L = \{a^{n!} : n \geq 0\}$



There must exist  $p$  such that:

$$m!+k = p!$$

However:

$$m!+k \leq m!+m \quad \text{for } m > 1$$

$$\leq m!+m!$$

$$< m!m + m!$$

$$= m!(m + 1)$$

$$= (m + 1)!$$



$$m!+k < (m + 1)!$$

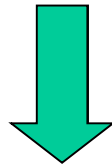


$$m!+k \neq p! \quad \text{for any } p$$

$$a^{m!+k} \in L \quad 1 \leq k \leq m$$

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**BUT:**  $L = \{a^{n!} : n \geq 0\}$



$$a^{m!+k} \notin L$$

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Therefore: Our assumption that  $L$   
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