

Lecture #11: Nonregular Expressions, Part Two

Assumptions

- Preliminary material for this lecture has been reviewed.

Objective

Use one or more *closure properties* to prove that a given language is not regular.

Questions for Review

1. Say what a *closure property* is, and state at least four different properties, concerning regular languages, that have been proved in lectures or tutorial exercises.
2. Briefly describe a process — involving a closure property — that can be used to prove that a given language is *not* a regular language.
3. Why is it important that the Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages could *also* be used to prove that some languages are not regular?

Problem To Be Solved

Let $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$. Prove that the language

$$L = \{\omega \in \Sigma^* \mid \text{the number of a's in } \omega \text{ is equal to the number of b's in } \omega\}$$

is not regular.

Solution: