Theory of Formal Languages and Automata Lecture 1

Mahdi Dolati

Sharif University of Technology

Fall 2025

February 8, 2025

→

Theory of Formal Languages and Automata

- Background:
 - Boolean Logic
 - Sets
 - Functions and Relations
 - Graphs

4 円

3

Theory of Formal Languages and Automata



- Mathematical system built around the two values True and False
- A foundation of digital electronics and computer design
- Boolean values: True and False
 - Representation: True by 1 and False by 0
 - Model two possibilities: High/low voltage, true/false statement, yes/no answer
- Boolean operations: Used for combining simple statements into more complex Boolean expressions
 - $\bullet\,$ Negation: NOT, designated with the symbol $\neg\,$
 - $\bullet\,$ Conjunction: AND, designated with the symbol $\wedge\,$
 - $\bullet\,$ Disjunction: OR, designated with the symbol $\vee\,$

Summary of Boolean operations:

$0 \wedge 0 = 0$	$0 \lor 0 = 0$	$\neg 0 = 1$
$0 \wedge 1 = 0$	$0 \lor 1 = 1$	$\neg 1 = 0$
$1 \wedge 0 = 0$	$1 \lor 0 = 1$	
$1 \wedge 1 = 1$	$1 \lor 1 = 1$	

Combining statements (P and Q are called the operands of the operation):

- $P \wedge Q$
- $P \lor Q$

3

More Boolean operations:

- $\bullet\,$ Exclusive or: XOR, designated with the symbol $\oplus\,$
- Equality: designated with the symbol \leftrightarrow
- \bullet Implication: designated with the symbol \rightarrow

$0 \oplus 0 = 0$	$0 \leftrightarrow 0 = 1$	$0 \rightarrow 0 = 1$
$0 \oplus 1 = 1$	$0 \leftrightarrow 1 = 0$	$0 \rightarrow 1 = 1$
$1 \oplus 0 = 1$	$1 \leftrightarrow 0 = 0$	$1 \rightarrow 0 = 0$
$1 \oplus 1 = 0$	$1 \leftrightarrow 1 = 1$	$1 \rightarrow 1 = 1$

Background: Boolean Logic

Can express all Boolean operations in torem of the AND and NOT operations

$$\begin{array}{lll} P \lor Q & \equiv & \neg(\neg P \land \neg Q) \\ P \to Q & \equiv & \neg P \lor Q \\ P \leftrightarrow Q & \equiv & (P \to Q) \land (Q \to P) \\ P \oplus Q & \equiv & \neg(P \leftrightarrow Q) \end{array}$$

Distribution law:

$$\begin{array}{lll} P \wedge (Q \lor R) & \equiv & (P \wedge Q) \lor (P \wedge R) \\ P \lor (Q \wedge R) & \equiv & (P \lor Q) \land (P \lor R) \end{array}$$

∃ ► < ∃ ►</p>

э

Background: Boolean Logic

- Quantifier:
 - Universal (for all):
 - Symbol: \forall
 - Example:

$$\forall x \ P(x) \to Q(x). \tag{1}$$

- Existential (there exists)
 - Symbol: ∃
 - Example:

$$\exists x \ P(x) \to Q(x). \tag{2}$$

Combinations:

$$\forall x \exists y \ P(y) > Q(x). \tag{3}$$

< A[™]

э

Background: Boolean Logic

• Quantifier: Negation

۹

۲

۲

$$\neg(\forall x \ P(x) \to Q(x)) = \exists x \ \neg(P(x) \to Q(x)) \tag{4}$$

$$= \exists x \ \neg(\neg P(x) \lor Q(x)) \tag{5}$$

$$= \exists x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x)) \tag{6}$$

 $\neg(\exists x \ P(x) \to Q(x)) = \forall x \ \neg(P(x) \to Q(x))$ (7) $= \forall x \ (P(x) \land \neg Q(x))$ (8)

$$\neg(\forall x \exists y \ P(y) > Q(x)) = \exists x \forall y \ \neg(P(y) > Q(x))$$
(9)
$$= \exists x \forall y \ P(y) \le Q(x)$$
(10)

February 8, 2025 9 / 43

3

< ロ > < 同 > < 三 > < 三 > <

Theory of Formal Languages and Automata



@PhysInHistory

Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.)



February 8, 2025

- A group of objects.
 - Objects in a set are called its elements or members.
- Definition:
 - List

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}.$$
 (11)

• Dots (infinite set)

$$\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\},\tag{12}$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\},$$
 (13)

- Rule (using set-builder notation):
 - Defining sets by properties is also known as set comprehension and set abstraction.

$$B = \{n | n = m^2 \text{ and } m \text{ is an integer}\}.$$
 (14)

11/43

イロト イポト イヨト イヨト

• Set membership and nonmembership:

$$1 \in \{1, 2, 3\},$$
(15)
$$4 \notin \{1, 2, 3\},$$
(16)

Cardinality: the number of elements of the set. |A| = 3
Subset:

$$A \subseteq \mathcal{N} \equiv a \in A \to a \in \mathcal{N},\tag{17}$$

• Proper subset:

$$A \subsetneq \mathcal{N} \equiv A \subseteq \mathcal{N} \text{ and } A \text{ is not equal to } \mathcal{N}, \tag{18}$$

• Multiset: Number of occurrences is important.

$$\{5\}$$
 vs. $\{5,5\},$ (19)

→ ∃ >

12/43

February 8, 2025

Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.)

- Empty set: {}, \emptyset
- Singleton set: $\{10\}$
- Unordered pair: $\{10, 30\}$
- Union: $C = A \cup B$
- Intersection: $C = A \cap C$
- Difference: C = B A
- Complement: $C = \overline{B}$
- Venn diagram





• Empty set:

$$A \cup \emptyset = A$$
(20)

$$A \cap \emptyset = \emptyset$$
(21)

$$A - \emptyset = A$$
(22)

$$\emptyset - A = \emptyset$$
(23)

$$\overline{\emptyset} = U$$
(24)

• DeMorgan's Laws:

$$\overline{A \cup B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$$
(25)
$$\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$$
(26)
(27)

Image: A matrix

February 8, 2025

2

• Disjoint sets: $\emptyset = A \cap B$



3

15/43

イロト イヨト イヨト イヨト

- Powerset: Is is set of sets
- Powerset of A is the set of all the subsets of A: 2^A

Example

$$A = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$2^{A} = \mathcal{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, b, c\}\}$$

•
$$|2^A| = 2^{|A|}$$

•
$$\emptyset \in 2^A$$

Theorem (Cantor Theorem)

For any set A,

$$|A| < |\mathcal{P}(A)|.$$

(28)

э

Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.)

・ロト ・ 四ト ・ ヨト ・ ヨト

• Sequence: A list of objects in some order

$$D = (5, 3, 13), \tag{29}$$

- Order and repetition does matter in a sequence
- Tuple: A finite sequence
- *k*-tuple: A sequence with *k* elements
- 2-tuple: Ordered pair

Background: Cartesian Product

- Cartesian product or Cross product: $A \times B$
- $A \times B$: Set of all ordered pairs (a, b) such that $a \in A$ and $b \in B$
- Cartesian product of k sets: $A_1 \times \cdots \times A_k = \{(a_1, \dots, a_k) | a_i \in A_i\}$

Example

$$\begin{split} &A = \{1,2\} \\ &B = \{x,y,x\} \\ &A \times B = \{(1,x),(1,y),(1,z),(2,x),(2,y),(2,z)\} \\ &A \times B \times A = \{(1,x,1),(1,x,2),(1,y,1),(1,y,2),(1,z,1),(1,z,2), \\ &\qquad (2,x,1),(2,x,2),(2,y,1),(2,y,2),(2,z,1),(2,z,2)\} \end{split}$$

•
$$A^k = \underbrace{A \times \cdots \times A}_{\mathbf{k}}$$

Theory of Formal Languages and Automata

Background: **Functions and Relations @naderi** yeganeh Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.) TFLA February 8, 2025 20/43

• A function (mapping) is an object that sets up an input-output relationship

$$f(a) = b. \tag{30}$$

- f maps a to b
- Domain: Set of possible inputs
- Range: Set of possible outputs

$$f: D \to R. \tag{31}$$

• A function is onto the range if it uses all the elements of the range

Example			
Addition function: add:	$\mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{Z} o \mathcal{Z}$		
Absolute function: abs:	$\mathcal{Z} imes \mathcal{Z} o \mathcal{Z}$		
	4	ㅁ › ㆍ @ › ㆍ 홈 › ㆍ 홈 › ㆍ 홈	१ २००
Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.)	TFLA	February 8, 2025	21 / 43

Example

$f: \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} \to \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$	3,4}	
	$\begin{array}{c c c} n & f(n) \\ \hline 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 0 \\ \end{array}$	
$\mathcal{Z}_m = \{0, 1, \dots, (m-1)\}$ $f : \mathcal{Z}_5 \to \mathcal{Z}_5$ $f(n) \equiv (n+1) \mod 5$	4 0	

3

< ロ > < 同 > < 三 > < 三 > <

- Injective, one-to-one function:
 - $a_1 \neq a_2 \to f(a_1) \neq f(a_2).$

Example

$f: \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} \rightarrow$	$\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$			
n	f(n)	n	f(n)	
0	1	0	1	
1	2	1	2	
2	3	2	1	
3	4	3	2	
4	0	4	1	

3

23/43

< ロ > < 同 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ > < □ >

- Bijection, one-to-one correspondence, or invertible function:
 - Injective and onto

Example • $f: \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ f(n)f(n)nnf(n)n0 0 0 1 22 3 2 3 2 3 3 4 2 3 4 4 4 0 • When cardinality of the domain and range is not equal: • $f: \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ • $f: \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$

< □ > < 同 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 >

3

• Two sets A and B are of equal cardinality, written as

$$|A| = |B|, \tag{32}$$

if and only if there exists a bijective function $f:\ A\to B.$ \bullet We write

$$|A| \le |B|,\tag{33}$$

if there exists $C \subseteq B$ such that |C| = |A|.

We write

$$|A| < |B|, \tag{34}$$

February 8, 2025

25 / 43

if $|A| \leq |B|$ and $|A| \neq |B|$.

- Set A is finite if there is some integer $n \ge 0$ such that $|A| = |\{1, 2, \dots, n\}|.$
- Set A is infinite if it is not finite.
- Set A is denumerable if it can be put in a one-to-one correspondence with $\mathcal{N}.$
- Set A is countable if it is finite or denumeratble.
- Set A is uncountable if it is not countable.

Example

- Countable:
 - Positive integers: $1, 2, 3, \ldots$
 - Integers: $0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3, -3, \dots$
 - Pairs of positive integers:
 - Rational numbers between zero and one:
 - $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots$ • $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots$
- Uncountable:
 - The interval [0,1].

•
$$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{N})$$

• Set of all functions $f: \mathcal{N} \to \{0, 1\}.$



- Cardinality of sets:
 - Finite: Number elements in the set,
 - Infinite: A special object called transfinite cardinal number.
- First transfinite cardinal number $\aleph_0 \coloneqq |\mathcal{N}|$.
- Second transfinite cardinal number is ℵ₁ := |*R*| according to continuum hypothesis (CH):
 - First of Hilbert's 23 problems (presented in 1900),
 - Cantor, in 1874, proved that $\mathfrak{c} = |\mathbb{R}| = 2^{\aleph_0} > \aleph_0$,
 - Hypothesis: $\nexists S \aleph_0 < |S| < \mathfrak{c}$.
 - Cohen and Gödel proved that the answer to CH is independent of ZFC.

• k-ary function

- k: arity of the function
- Domain of f is $A_1 \times \ldots A_k$
- Input of f is a k-tuple $(a_1, \ldots a_k)$
- a_i is an argument to f
- unary function: k = 1
- binary function: k = 2
- Prefix notation: add(a, b)
- Infix notation: a + b

- Predicate or property
 - A function
 - Its range is $\{True, False\}$
 - Example: even(n). even(3)=False, even(6)=True.
- Relation, or k-ary relation or k-ary relation on A
 - A property
 - Its domain is a set of $k\text{-tuples }A\times \cdots \times A$
 - 2-ary relation: Binary relation
 - Use infix for binary relation: a < b, x = y
- The statement alone implies the True case:

$$aRb \equiv aRb = True \tag{35}$$

$$R(a_1,\ldots,a_k) \equiv R(a_1,\ldots,a_k) = True$$
(36)

- Describe predicates with sets
- $P: D \rightarrow \{True, False\}$
- (D,S), where $S = \{a \in D | P(a) = True\}$
- $\bullet~S$ is sufficient if D is obvious from the context

Example					
	beats	Scissors	Paper	Store	
	Scissors	False	True	False	
	Paper	False	False	True	
	Stone	True	False	False	
{ (Scissors, Paper), (Paper, Store), (Stone, Scissors) }					

Types of relations R on set A:
R is reflexive:

$$\forall x \in A \quad xRx. \tag{37}$$

2 R is symmetric:

$$\forall x, y \in A \quad xRy \to yRx. \tag{38}$$

 \bigcirc R is anti-symmetric:

$$\forall x, y \in A \quad xRy \text{ and } yRx \to x = y. \tag{39}$$

9 R is transitive:

$$\forall x, y, z \in A \quad xRy \text{ and } yRz \to xRz. \tag{40}$$

→ < ∃ →</p>

3

- Equivalence relation: Special type of binary relation
- Binary relation R is an equivalence relation if:
 - R is reflexive.
 - **2** R is symmetric.
 - 8 is transitive.

Example

Relation
$$\equiv_7: \mathcal{N}^2 \to \{True, False\}$$

$$\equiv_7 j$$
, if $(i-j)$ is a multiple of 7

() Reflexive:
$$i \equiv_7 i$$
, as $(i - i) = 0$ is a multiple of 7

Symmetric: $i \equiv_7 j$ implies $j \equiv_7 i$, as (j - i) is a multiple of 7 if (i - j) is a multiple of 7

3 Transitive:
$$i \equiv_7 j$$
 and $j \equiv_7 k$ implies $i \equiv_7 k$, as $i - k = (i - j) + (j - k)$ is the sum of two multiples of 7

33 / 43

(a)

- Partial ordering relation: Special type of binary relation
- Binary relation R is a partial ordering relation if:
 - R is reflexive.
 - 2 R is anti-symmetric.
 - It is transitive.

Example

- Each set is a subset of itself.
- If $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$, then A is equal to B.
- If $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq C$, then $A \subseteq C$.



34 / 43

(a)

Theory of Formal Languages and Automata

Background: Graphs

Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.)

S. Nich

Graph: A set of points with lines connecting some of the points Points: Nodes or vertices Lines: Edges



Degree: Number of edges at a node Only one edge between each pair of nodes Self-loop

February 8, 2025

- 4 ⊒ →

- G = (V, E)
- $(i, j) \in E$, where $i, j \in V$
- Undirected graph: (i, j) and (j, i) represent the same edge
 - Describe with unordered pairs $\{i, j\}$

Example



3

Examples:

- V=cities, E=connecting highways
- V=people, E=friendships between people

Labeled graph: label nodes and/or edges



3

Subgraph: G is a subgraph of H

- $\bullet\,$ Nodes of G are a subset of the nodes of H
- $\bullet\,$ Edges of G are the edges of H on the corresponding nodes

Example: G (shown darker) is a subgraph of H



- Path: A sequence of nodes connected by edges
- Simple path: A path that does not repeat any nodes
- Connected graph: There is a path between every pair of nodes
- Cycle: A path that starts and ends in the same node
- Simple Cycle: Has at least three nodes and only repeats the first and last nodes
- Tree: A connected graph that has no simple cycles
- Leave: Node of degree one
- Root: A designated node



(a) A path







A B b

- Directed graph: Has arrows instead of lines
- Outdegree: Arrows pointing from the node
- Indegree: Arrows pointing to the node
- Ordered pair (i, j): Edge from i to j

Example $\overbrace{(\{1,2,3,4,5,6\},\{(1,2),(1,5),(2,1),(2,4),(5,4),(5,6),(6,1),(6,3)\})}_{(42)}$

< □ > < 同 > < 回 > < 回 > < 回 >

- Directed path: A path in which all the arrows pint in the same direction as its steps
- Strongly connected: A directed path connects every two nodes

Can depict binary relations with directed graphs:

- Binary relation: R
- Domain: $D \times D$
- Directed graph: G = (D, E), $E = \{(x, y) | xRy \}$

Example

Relation beats



Mahdi Dolati (Sharif Univ. Tech.)