



1. Prove, using the Pumping Lemma, that  $\{a^n b a^{2n} \mid n > 0\}$  is not regular.

Let  $N$  be the constant of the lemma. Let  $w$  be the word  $a^N b a^{2N}$ . By the lemma, there exist  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  such that  $w = xyz$ ,  $|xy| \leq N$ ,  $|y| > 0$ , and for all  $k$ ,  $xy^k z$  is in  $L$ . Since  $|xy| \leq N$ ,  $y$  consists entirely of  $a$ 's. Let  $|y| = m$ . By the lemma, the string  $xz$  is in  $L$ , and  $xz = a^{N-m} b a^{2N}$ . But  $2N \neq 2(N-m)$ , since  $m > 0$ , so this is a contradiction. Therefore, this language cannot be regular.

2. Let  $L = \{w a^{|w|} \mid w \in \{a,b,c\}^*\}$ . In other words,  $L$  consists of words  $w a^n$  where  $w$  contains  $a$ 's,  $b$ 's, and  $c$ 's and  $n$  is the length of  $w$ .

- i. Use the Myhill-Nerode Theorem to prove that  $L$  is not regular.

Consider the sequence of strings  $b, bb, bbb, \dots, b^k, \dots$  for all  $k > 0$ . Pick any two of them, say  $b^k$  and  $b^m$ , where  $k \neq m$ . Then the word  $b^k a^k$  is in  $L$  but  $b^m a^k$  is not in  $L$ . Therefore, no two of the words in this infinite sequence are in the same equivalence class, proving that  $L$  must have an infinite number of such classes. Therefore,  $L$  is not regular, by the Myhill-Nerode theorem.

- ii. Use the Pumping Lemma to prove  $L$  is not regular.

Let  $N$  be the constant of the lemma. Let  $w$  be the word  $b^N a^N$ .  $w$  is in  $L$ . By the lemma, there exist  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  such that  $w = xyz$ ,  $|xy| \leq N$ ,  $|y| > 0$ , and for all  $k$ ,  $xy^k z$  is in  $L$ . Since  $|xy| \leq N$ ,  $y$  consists entirely of  $b$ 's. Let  $|y| = m$ . By the lemma, the string  $xz$  is in  $L$ , and  $xz = b^{N-m} a^N$ . Since  $m > 0$ , this word cannot be in  $L$ , so this is a contradiction. Therefore, this language cannot be regular.

3. Let  $L = \{a^n \mid n \text{ is not a prime number}\}$ .

- i. Prove that  $L$  is not regular.

If  $L$  were regular, then its complement would be regular also, but the complement of  $L$  is the language we call  $\text{PRIME}$ , which we have already proved is not regular. Hence  $L$  is not regular.

- ii. Prove that  $L$  satisfies the Pumping Lemma.

Let  $N = 6$ . For any word  $w$  in  $L$  whose length is at least 6, we can write  $w = xyz$ , where  $x$  is the null string,  $y = aa$ , and  $z$  is the rest of  $w$ . Note that  $|xy| \leq 6$  and  $|y| = 2 > 0$ . Because  $w$  is in  $L$  and its length is not a prime number, its length is an even number. Since  $|y| = 2$ ,  $|xz|$  is an even number and cannot be 2, and for any  $k$ ,



$|xy^kz| = |w| + 2k$  must also be an even number, implying it is not a prime number and hence  $xy^kz$  is in  $L$ .

4. Give an example of a regular language  $R$  and a non-regular language  $L$  such that  $R + L$  is regular, and prove or justify that  $R + L$  is regular.

This is easy – let  $R$  be  $(a+b)^*$  and let  $L$  be any of the non-regular languages above. The union of  $R$  and  $L$  is  $R$ , since  $R$  contains all languages over  $\{a,b\}$ .

5. Give an example of a regular language  $R$  and a non-regular language  $L$  such that  $R + L$  is non-regular, and prove or justify that  $R + L$  is non-regular.

Let  $R$  be any finite language and let  $L$  be a language containing  $R$  that is not regular. Then  $R + L = L$  and  $L$  is not regular. As an example, let  $R = \{a^2, a^3\}$  and let  $L = \text{PRIME}$ .  $\text{PRIME}$  contains  $R$ .

6. Let  $L$  be a regular language over  $\Sigma = \{a,b\}$ . Define  $L' = \{x \mid \text{there exists } y \in \Sigma^* \text{ such that } xy \in L\}$ . Is  $L'$  regular? Either prove it is or give an example to show it may not always be.

$L'$  is regular. To see this, let  $M$  be a FA accepting  $L$ . Let it have states  $Q = \{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n\}$ . Let  $F$  be the set of final states of  $M$ . Let  $M'$  be a FA identical to  $M$  except for which states are final states. For each state  $q$  in  $Q$  for which there exists at least one word  $z$  such that  $\delta^*(q, z)$  is a final state in  $M$ , make  $q$  a final state in  $M'$ .

Let  $w$  be in  $L(M')$ . Then  $w$  reaches a final state of  $M'$ , which means that  $w$  is a word that reaches a state  $q$  in  $M$  such that there is a word  $y$  such that  $\delta^*(q, y)$  is in  $L$ . This implies that  $wy \in L$ . Therefore,  $w$  is in  $L'$ .

Conversely, let  $w$  be in  $L'$ . Then there is a  $y \in \Sigma^*$  such that  $wy$  is in  $L$ . Let  $q$  be the state in  $M$  that  $w$  reaches. Then  $\delta^*(q, y)$  is a final state in  $M$ , which means that  $q$  is a final state in  $M'$ , and hence  $w$  is in  $L(M')$ . This proves that  $M'$  accepts  $L'$ .