

Contents

Preface

ix

1 Introduction to finite automata

1

1.1 Alphabets and strings	1
1.2 Languages	5
1.3 Language operations	7
1.4 Finite automata: motivation	11
1.5 Finite automata and their languages	14
1.6 Summary of Chapter 1	21
1.7 Remarks on Chapter 1	22

2 Recognisable languages

27

2.1 Designing automata	27
2.2 Incomplete automata	29
2.3 Automata that count	33
2.4 Automata that locate patterns	37
2.5 Boolean operations	40
2.6 The Pumping Lemma	45
2.7 Summary of Chapter 2	48
2.8 Remarks on Chapter 2	49

3 Non-deterministic automata

53

3.1 Accessible automata	53
3.2 Non-deterministic automata	60
3.3 Applications	67
3.4 Trim automata	72
3.5 Grammars	76
3.6 Summary of Chapter 3	83
3.7 Remarks on Chapter 3	83

4 ε -automata

85

4.1 Automata with ε -transitions	85
4.2 Applications of ε -automata	90

4.3 Summary of Chapter 4	95
4.4 Remarks on Chapter 4	95
5 Kleene's Theorem	97
5.1 Regular languages	97
5.2 Kleene's theorem: proof	103
5.3 Kleene's theorem: algorithms	106
5.4 Language equations	114
5.5 Summary of Chapter 5	125
5.6 Remarks on Chapter 5	125
6 Local languages	127
6.1 Myhill graphs	127
6.2 Linearisation	134
6.3 Summary of Chapter 6	139
6.4 Remarks on Chapter 6	139
7 Minimal automata	141
7.1 Partitions and equivalence relations	141
7.2 The indistinguishability relation	144
7.3 Isomorphisms of automata	152
7.4 The minimal automaton	155
7.5 The method of quotients	157
7.6 Summary of Chapter 7	168
7.7 Remarks on Chapter 7	168
8 The transition monoid	171
8.1 Functions on states	171
8.2 The extended transition table	176
8.3 The Cayley table of an automaton	183
8.4 Semigroups and monoids	185
8.5 Summary of Chapter 8	188
8.6 Remarks on Chapter 8	189
9 The syntactic monoid	191
9.1 Introduction to semigroups	191
9.2 Congruences	198
9.3 The transition monoid of an automaton	207
9.4 The syntactic monoid of a language	209
9.5 Summary of Chapter 9	213
9.6 Remarks on Chapter 9	214

10 Algebraic language theory	217
10.1 Finite semigroups	217
10.2 Recognisability by a monoid	224
10.3 Two counterexamples	231
10.4 Summary of Chapter 10	234
10.5 Remarks on Chapter 10	234
11 Star-free languages	235
11.1 Introduction	235
11.2 Groups	238
11.3 Aperiodic semigroups	249
11.4 Schützenberger's theorem	252
11.5 An example	258
11.6 Summary of Chapter 11	261
11.7 Remarks on Chapter 11	262
12 Varieties of languages	265
12.1 Pseudovarieties and varieties	265
12.2 Equations for pseudovarieties	273
12.3 Summary of Chapter 12	276
12.4 Remarks on Chapter 12	276
A Discrete mathematics	279
A.1 Logic and proofs	279
A.2 Set theory	281
A.3 Numbers and matrices	285
A.4 Graphs	287
A.5 Functions	288
A.6 Relations	290
Bibliography	293
Index	303