

Learning a DFA

- game

ATLANTA → T

SYNEDOCHE → Y

TARHEEL → T

PEACH → P

CHRIS → S

MEMBERSHIP $x \in L$?
 YES

is M the DFA ?
 YES
 No, counterexample.

observation Table

$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$

- rows labeled by strings, candidate states
 prefix closed

$T(s, e) = \begin{cases} 1 & s \in L \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

- columns query strings
 suffix closed.

	e		
S	0	1	0
S.A	1	0	0
S.A.A	0	0	0

(1) closed $row(s) \in S \Rightarrow \forall a \in \Sigma$

$row(s.a) \in S \Leftrightarrow \forall t \in S, \exists s \in S, row(t) = row(s)$

(2) consistent

$\forall s_1, s_2 \quad row(s_1) = row(s_2)$

$\Rightarrow \forall a \in \Sigma \quad row(s_1.a) = row(s_2.a)$

	e
S	
S.A	

Algorithm

start with $S = E = \{\epsilon\} \quad T(\epsilon)$

$S, \Sigma = \{0, 1\} \quad T(0), T(1).$

If not consistent, i.e. $\exists a \in \Sigma$

st. $row(s_1) = row(s_2)$ but $row(s_1.a) \neq row(s_2.a)$

i.e. $\exists e \in E$ st. $T(s_1.a.e) \neq T(s_2.a.e)$

add a.e to E and all suffixes. Complete Table

If not closed, i.e. $\exists t \in S, \Sigma$ st. $row(t) \neq row(s)$
 $\forall s \in S.$

add t to S. Complete Table

While not closed & consistent

If closed & consistent. propose a DFA.

$Q = \{row(s) : s \in S\}$

$q_0 = row(\epsilon)$

$F = \{row(s) : T(s) = 1\}$

$\delta(row(s), a) = row(s.a)$

If counterexample X

11... 1 all before 0 & t c

$$\delta(\text{row}(A), u) = \text{rows } u^{-1}$$

If counterexample X

add X and all prefixes of X to S .

Complete

else done

Lemma 1. DFA $M(T)$ is consistent with table T
and is the smallest such DFA.

Pf. (1) $\delta(q_0, s) = \text{row}(s)$

(2) $\delta(q_0, s.e) \in F$ iff $T(s.e) = 1$

induction on $|s|$. $\delta(q_0, \epsilon) = \text{row}(\epsilon)$ $\Delta = \delta_1.a$

base:

assume (1) for $|s| = k$. $a \in \Sigma$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(q_0, s) &= \delta(q_0, s_1.a) \\ &= \delta(\delta(q_0, s_1), a) \\ &= \delta(\text{row}(s_1), a) \\ &= \text{row}(s_1.a) = \text{row}(s) \end{aligned}$$

Any DFA consistent with T must have distinct states
corresponding to distinct rows of S .

Lemma 2. At most $n-1$ conjectures + not closed or
not consistent

Time complexity Target n states, alphabet size k

longest counterexample m

$$\text{poly}(n, m, k)$$

$$mnk$$

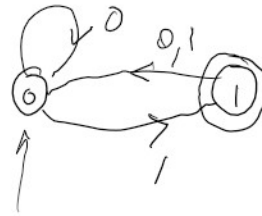
$$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$$

	ϵ
ϵ	0
0	0
1	1

closed?

	ϵ
ϵ	0
1	1
0	0
01	0
11	0

closed? consistent?



$$(0^* 1 \{0,1\}^* 0^* 1)$$

Counterexample

$01 \notin L$

	ϵ	1	0
ϵ	0	1	0
1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
01	0	0	1
10	0	0	1
11	0	1	0
00	0	1	0
010	1	0	0
011	0	0	0

closed ✓
consistent ✓

