

Automata-Based String Analysis

Model Counting

Tevfik Bultan, Abdulbaki Aydin, Lucas Bang



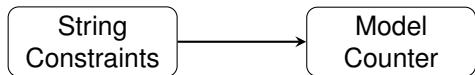
Verification Laboratory
<http://vlab.cs.ucsb.edu>
Department of Computer Science

Overview

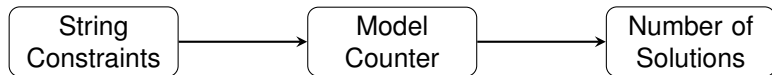
Overview

String
Constraints

Overview



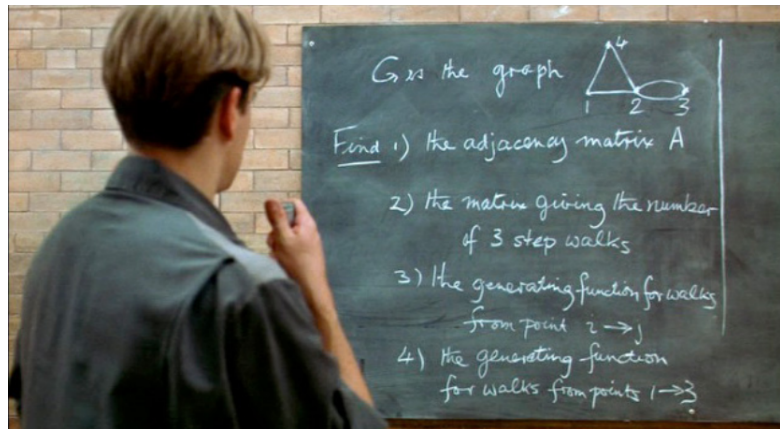
Overview



Can you solve it, Will Hunting?



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Outline

- ▶ Motivation and Background
- ▶ Model Counting Boolean Formulas
- ▶ String Model Counting
 - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
 - ▶ Non-Automata-Based Method
- ▶ String Model Counting Benchmarks

A Motivating Example

An adversary learns a password. User must select a new password.

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Policy for selecting a new password.

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```
1 public Boolean NewPWCheck(String new_p, old_p) {
2     if( old_p.contains(new_p)           || ...
3         new_p.contains(old_p)           || ...
4         old_p.reverse().contains(new_p) || ...
5         new_p.contains(old_p.reverse())   ) {
6         System.out.println("Too similar.");
7         return false;
8     } else
9         return true;
10 }
```

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Constraints on possible values of `NEW_P`

```
(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "abc-16"))  
(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "61-cba"))  
(not (contains "abc-16" (toLower NEW_P)))  
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If password length = n , then there are $|\Sigma|^n$ possible passwords.

If adversary knows `old_p` and the policy ...

- ▶ how much is the reduction in search space?
- ▶ what is the probability of guessing the new password?

Motivation

In general, we want to answer questions regarding

- ▶ probability of program behaviors,
- ▶ number of inputs that cause an error,
- ▶ amount of information flow,
- ▶ information leakage,
- ▶ other, as yet unforeseen, applications...

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These are **quantitative** questions which require **model counting**.

Techniques for model counting for other theories

Boolean Logic Formulas

- ▶ DPLL
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Linear Integer Arithmetic:

- ▶ LattE
- ▶ Barvinok

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String manipulating programs are pervasive

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- ▶ server side sanitization functions,
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Software for string constraint model counting

- ▶ Automata-Based Model Counter (ABC) [Aydin, et. al. CAV 2015]
- ▶ String Model Counter (SMC) [Luu, et. al. PLDI 2014]
- ▶ S3# [Trinh, et. al. CAV 2017]

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Recall the classic (boolean) SAT problem

Given a formula ϕ from propositional logic, is it possible to assign all variables the values T (true) or F (false) so that the formula is true?

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A satisfying assignment is called a **model** for ϕ .

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The **model counting problem**

Given a formula ϕ over some theory (Boolean, LIA, Strings, ...)

how many models are there for ϕ ?

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Difficulty of Model Counting

Model counting is “at least as hard” as satisfiability check.

$$|\phi| > 0 \iff \phi \text{ is satisfiable}$$

Model Counting Boolean SAT

x	y	z	w	v	F
F	F	F	F	F	F
:	:	:	:	:	:
T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
T	F	T	F	T	T
T	F	T	T	F	F
T	F	T	T	T	T
T	T	F	F	F	F
T	T	F	F	T	F
T	T	F	T	F	F
T	T	F	T	T	F
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T	T	T	F	T	T
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Model Counting Boolean SAT

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F	F	F	F	F	F
:	:	:	:	:	:
T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
T	F	T	F	T	T
T	F	T	T	F	F
T	F	T	T	T	T
T	T	F	F	F	F
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ϕ has 6 models.

Model Counting Boolean SAT

x	y	z	w	v	F
F	F	F	F	F	F
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
T	F	T	F	T	T
T	F	T	T	F	F
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Truth table method is $\theta(2^n)$.

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F	F	F	F	F	F
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
T	F	F	T	T	F
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Truth table method is $\theta(2^n)$.

DPLL method is $O(2^n)$, but is faster in practice.¹

[1] Birnbaum, et. al. The good old Davis-Putnam procedure helps counting models. JAIR 1999.

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$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

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k	X	a_k
0	ϵ	1

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1	0	1
2	11	1

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k	X	a_k
0	ε	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1

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k	X	a_k
0	ε	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3

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5	10010, 10101, 11000, 11011, 11110	5

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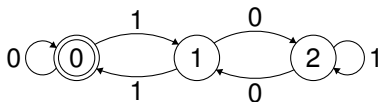
Deterministic Finite Automata

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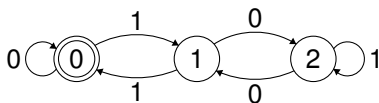
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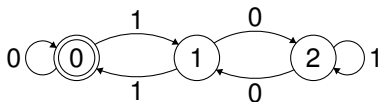
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Deterministic Finite Automata

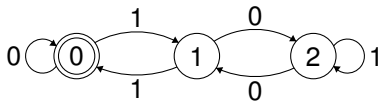
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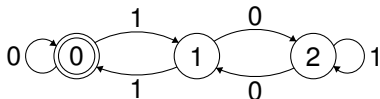
String Counting \equiv Path Counting

Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length k ?

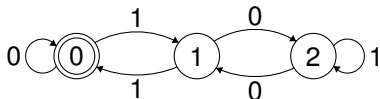
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Dynamic Programming

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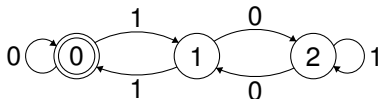


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Dynamic Programming

a_k

Deterministic Finite Automata



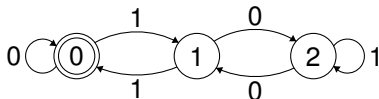
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Dynamic Programming



$$a_k(s) =$$

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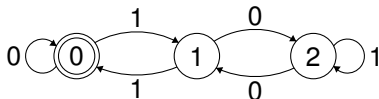


How to count paths of length k ?
Dynamic Programming



$$a_k(s) = a_{k-1}(s')$$

Deterministic Finite Automata

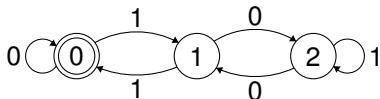


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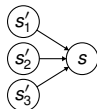


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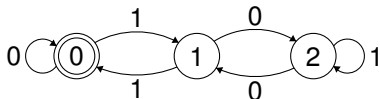


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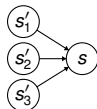


$$a_k(s) = \sum_{s'} a_{k-1}(s')$$

Deterministic Finite Automata

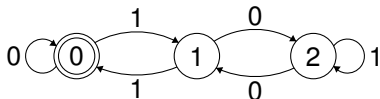


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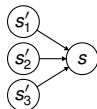
$$a_k(s) = \sum_{s' \rightarrow s} a_{k-1}(s')$$

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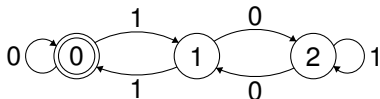
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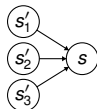
Initial Conditions

$$a_k(s) = \sum_{s' \rightarrow s} a_{k-1}(s')$$

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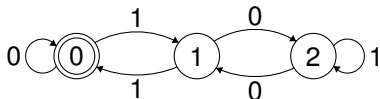


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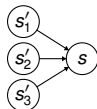
$$a_0(0) = 1$$

$$a_k(s) = \sum_{s' \rightarrow s} a_{k-1}(s')$$

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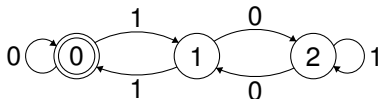


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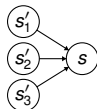
$$a_0(0) = 1, a_0(1) = 0, a_0(2) = 0$$

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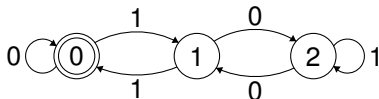
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System of Recurrences

$$a_k(0) = a_{k-1}(0) + a_{k-1}(1)$$

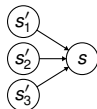
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Dynamic Programming



Initial Conditions

$$a_0(0) = 1, a_0(1) = 0, a_0(2) = 0$$

System of Recurrences

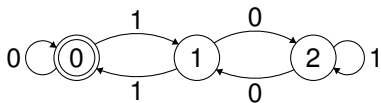
$$a_k(0) = a_{k-1}(0) + a_{k-1}(1)$$

$$a_k(1) = a_{k-1}(0) + a_{k-1}(2)$$

$$a_k(2) = a_{k-1}(1) + a_{k-1}(2)$$

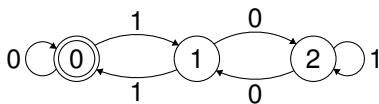
$$a_k(s) = \sum_{s' \rightarrow s} a_{k-1}(s')$$

Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length k ?

Deterministic Finite Automata



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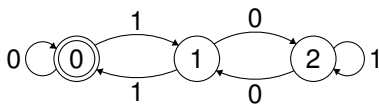
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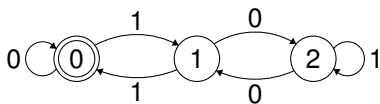
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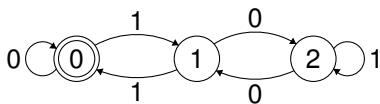
Matrix Exponentiation

System of Recurrences

$$\begin{aligned} a_k(0) &= a_{k-1}(0) + a_{k-1}(1) \\ a_k(1) &= a_{k-1}(0) + a_{k-1}(2) \\ a_k(2) &= a_{k-1}(1) + a_{k-1}(2) \end{aligned} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_0(k) \\ a_1(k) \\ a_2(k) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^k \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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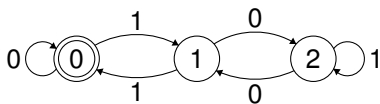
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$$a_4 = (A^4)_{0,0} = 3$$

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Sequence element a_k is the k^{th} Taylor series coefficient of $g(z)$.

The Taylor series of a function $g(z)$ that is differentiable at 0 is the power series

$$g(0) + \frac{g'(0)}{1!}x + \frac{g''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{g'''(0)}{3!}x^3 + \dots .$$

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which can be written in the more compact sigma notation as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x - a)^n$$

where $n!$ denotes the factorial of n and $g^{(n)}(a)$ denotes the n -th derivative of f evaluated at the point a .

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

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A generating function for language \mathcal{L} encodes

$$a_k = |\{s : s \in \mathcal{L}, \text{len}(s) = k\}|$$

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k	X	a_k
0	ϵ	1

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k	X	a_k
0	ε	1
1	0	1

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k	X	a_k
0	ϵ	1
1	0	1
2	11	1

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k	X	a_k
0	ϵ	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1

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A generating function for language \mathcal{L} encodes

$$a_k = |\{s : s \in \mathcal{L}, \text{len}(s) = k\}|$$

$$g(z) = 1z^0 + 1z^1 + 1z^2 + 1z^3 + 3z^4$$

k	X	a_k
0	ε	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3

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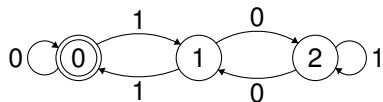
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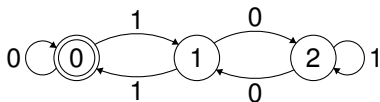
k	X	a_k
0	ϵ	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3
5	10010, 10101, 11000, 11011, 11110	5

Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length k ?

Deterministic Finite Automata



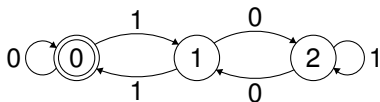
How to count paths of length k ?

Generating Functions

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g(z) = \frac{\det(I - zA : i, j)}{(-1)^n \det(I - zA)}$$

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How to count paths of length k ?

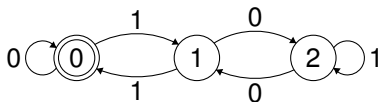
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$$g(z) = \frac{1 - z - z^2}{(z - 1)(2z^2 + z - 1)}$$

Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length k ?

Generating Functions

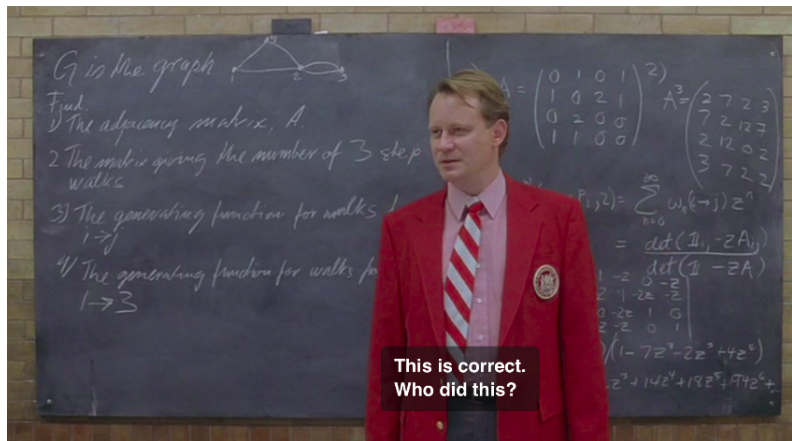
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

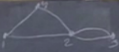
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Good job, Will Hunting!!!



G is the graph 

Find:

- 1) The adjacency matrix, A .
- 2) The matrix giving the number of 3 step walks
- 3) The generating function for walks $1 \rightarrow j$
- 4) The generating function for walks for $1 \rightarrow 3$

$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $A^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 7 & 2 & 3 \\ 7 & 2 & 12 & 7 \\ 2 & 12 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 7 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$P_{ij}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} w_n(i \rightarrow j) z^n$$

$$= \frac{\det(\mathbb{I}_i, -zA_{ij})}{\det(\mathbb{I} - zA)}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -z & 0 & -z \\ z & 1 & -2z & -z \\ 0 & -2z & 1 & 0 \\ z & -z & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(1 - 7z^2 - 2z^3 + 4z^4)$$

$$z^2 + 14z^4 + 18z^5 + 17z^6 + \dots$$

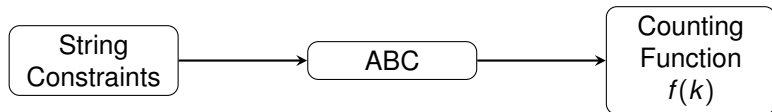
**This is correct.
Who did this?**

Automata-Based Model Counter (ABC)

CAV 2015: Automata-Based Model Counting for String Constraints.
Abdulbaki Aydin, Lucas Bang, Tevfik Bultan.

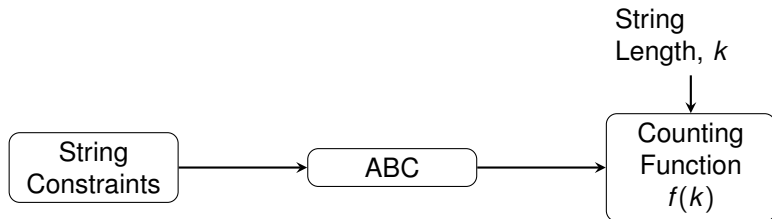
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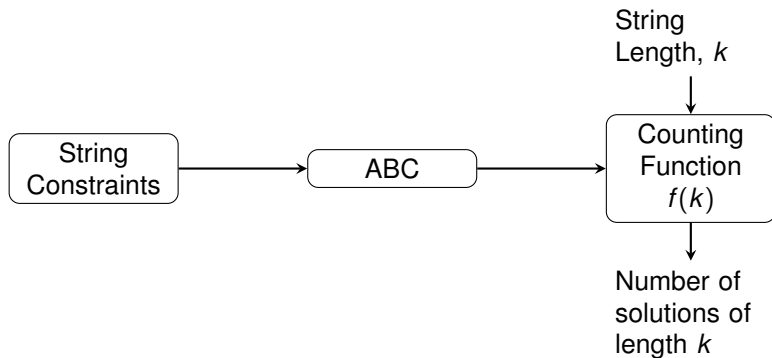
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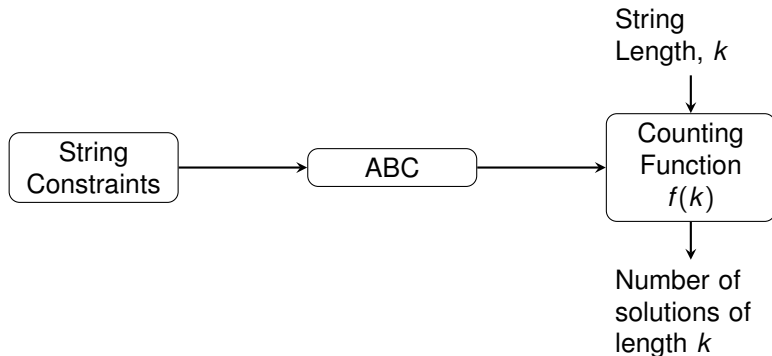
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Idea: Convert string constraints to DFA. Count paths in DFA.

Password Changing Policy

Constraint on NEW_P

```
(declare-fun NEW_P () String)

(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "abc-16"))
(not (contains "abc-16" (toLower NEW_P)))
(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "61-cba"))
(not (contains "61-cba" (toLower NEW_P)))

(check-sat)
(model-count)
```

Password Changing Policy

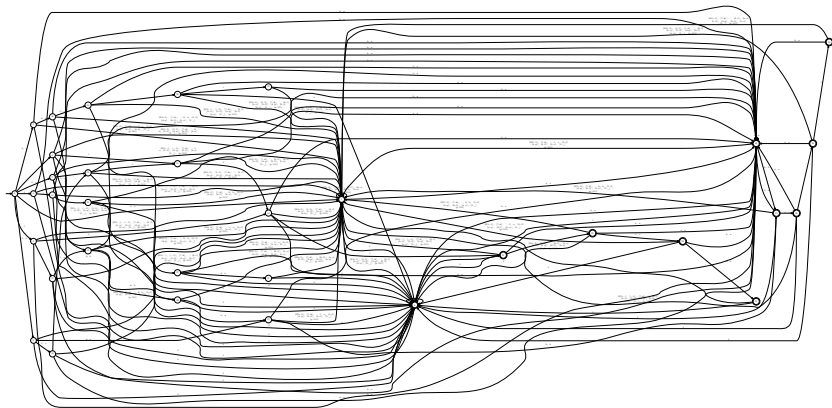


Figure: Solution DFA for all possible values of NEWP.

Password Changing Policy

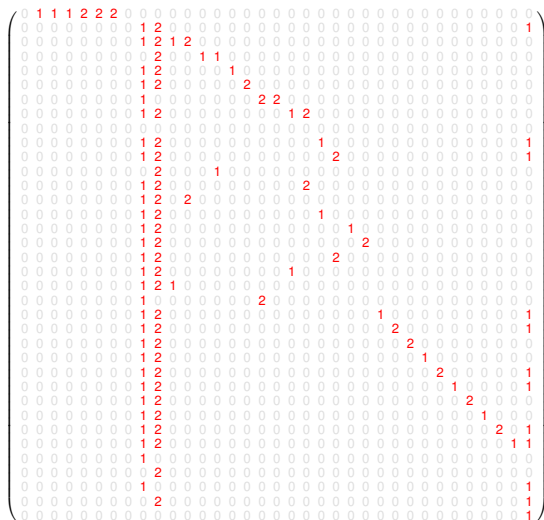


Figure: Transition matrix for DFA for all possible values of NEWP.

Password Changing Policy

Generating function which enumerates NEW_P:

$$g(z) = \frac{8096z^{12} - 8128z^{11} + 32z^{10} + 16z^7 - 16z^6 - 256z^2 + 257z - 1}{194304z^{17} + 225920z^{16} + 241984z^{15} + \dots + z^5 - 6114z^4 - 2280z^3 - 247z^2}$$

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$$g(z) = 247z^2 + 65759z^3 + 16842945z^4 + 4311810213z^5 + 1103823437965z^6 + \dots$$

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To answer our quantitative question:

- ▶ Brute force searching for password length = 6: $256^6 = 2^{48}$ passwords.

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- ▶ Brute force searching for password length = 6: $256^6 = 2^{48}$ passwords.
- ▶ If adversary knows `old_p` and the policy: $1103823437965 \approx 2^{40.0056}$ passwords.
- ▶ Reduces search space by about factor of $2^{7.9944}$

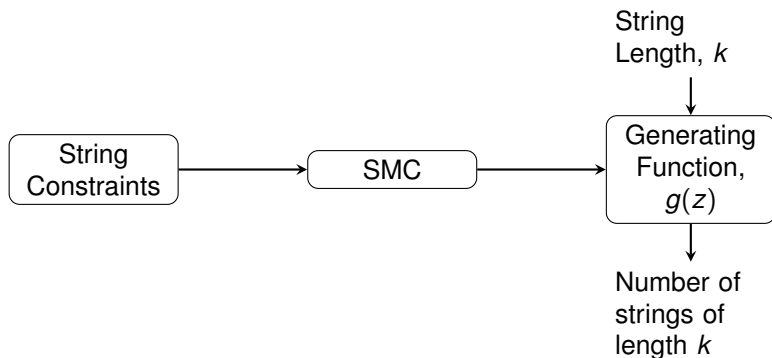
Outline

- ▶ Motivation and Background
- ▶ Model Counting Boolean Formulas
- ▶ String Model Counting
 - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
 - ▶ **Non-Automata-Based Method**
- ▶ String Model Counting Benchmarks

SMC Model Counting

PLDI 2014: A Model Counter For Constraints Over Unbounded Strings. Luu, Shinde, Saxena, Demsky.

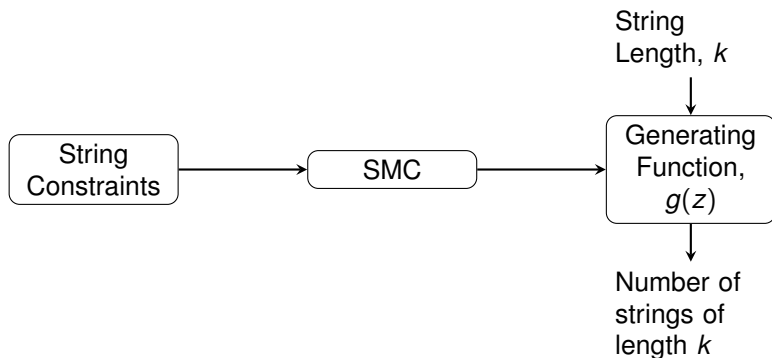
SMC Tool Online: <https://github.com/loiluu/smc>



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Idea: go directly from constraints to $g(z)$ using transformations.

SMC Model Counting

For a regular expression constraint, generating function can be derived recursively.

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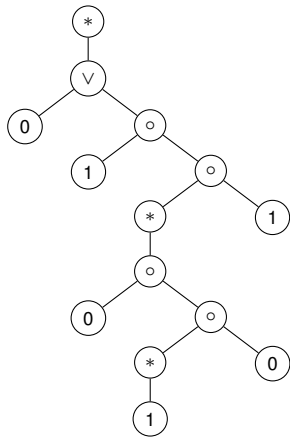
SMC Model Counting

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \varepsilon & \mapsto 1z^0 \\ \mathbf{c} & \mapsto 1z^1 \\ A|B & \mapsto A(z) + B(z) \\ A \circ B & \mapsto A(z) \times B(z) \\ A^* & \mapsto 1/(1 - A(z)) \end{array}$$

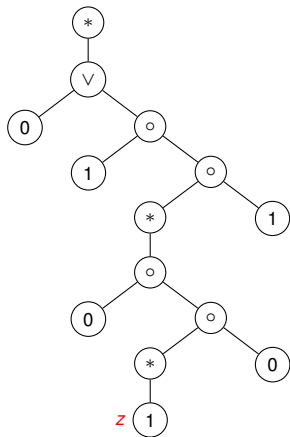
Regular Expressions

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$



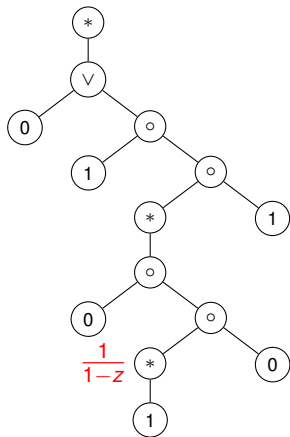
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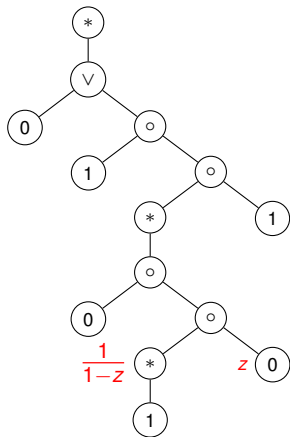
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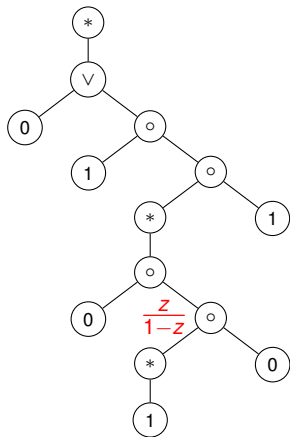
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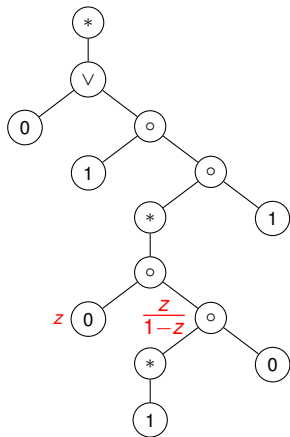
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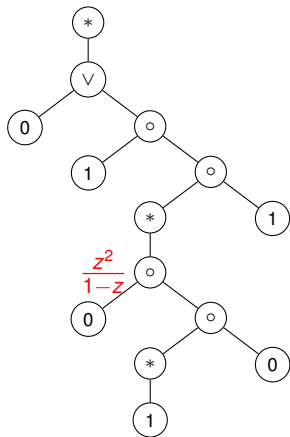
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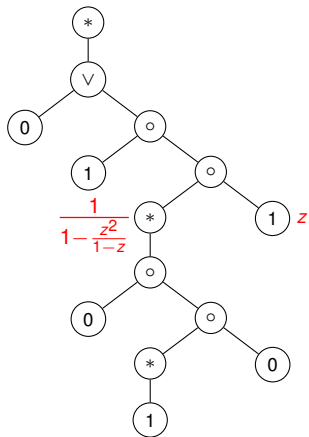
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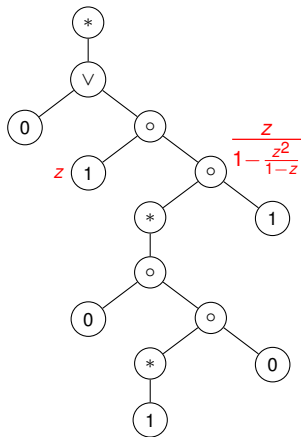
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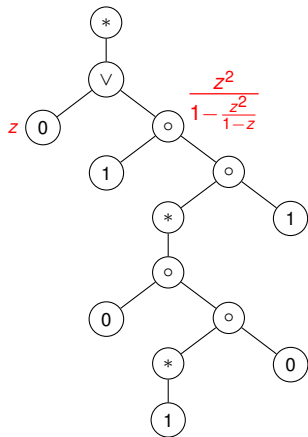
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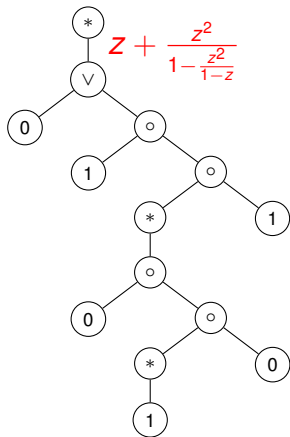
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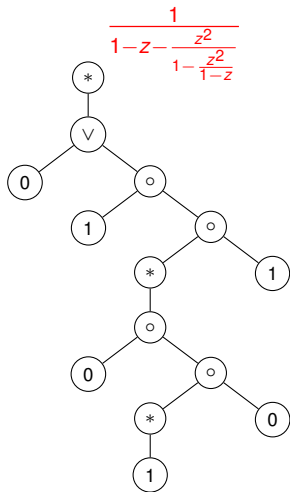
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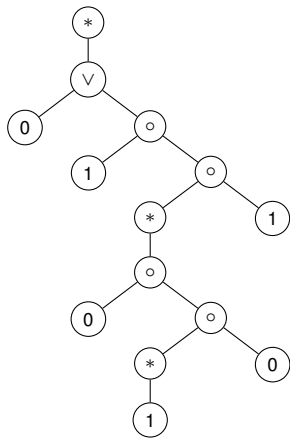
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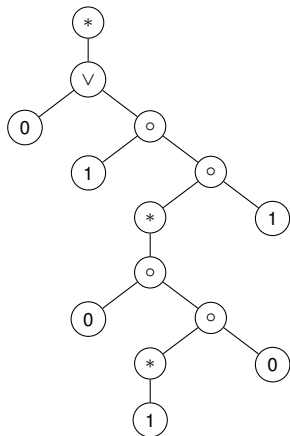


Generating Function:

$$g(z) = \frac{1}{1-z-\frac{z^2}{1-\frac{z^2}{1-z}}}$$

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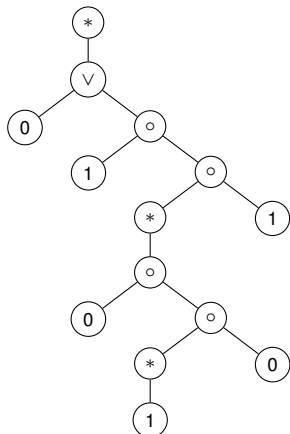


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$$g(z) = 1z^0 + 1z^1 + 1z^2 + 1z^3 + 3z^4 + 5z^5 + \dots$$

Other operations in SMC

Specialized transformations for other operations

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Also handle substring, length, negation, conjunction, . . . ,
with upper and lower bounds.

Outline

- ▶ Motivation and Background
- ▶ Model Counting Boolean Formulas
- ▶ String Model Counting
 - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
 - ▶ Non-Automata-Based Method
- ▶ **String Model Counting Benchmarks**

Experimental Comparison

Table: Log scaled comparison between SMC and ABC

	bound	SMC lower bound	SMC upper bound	ABC count
nullhttpd	500	3752	3760	3760
ghttpd	620	4880	4896	4896
csplit	629	4852	4921	4921
grep	629	4676	4763	4763
wc	629	4281	4284	4281
obscure	6	0	3	2

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JavaScript Benchmarks

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- ▶ Small Constraints (19,731):
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- ▶ Big Constraints (1,587):
 - ▶ ABC: 1,587 constraints, average 0.34 seconds per constraint
 - ▶ SMC: 1,342 constraints, average 5.29 seconds per constraint

ABC Bonus: Model Counting Linear Integer Arithmetic

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What is this language?

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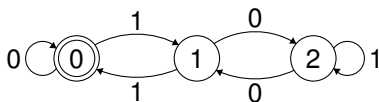
$$L(X) = \{s \mid s \text{ is a binary number divisible by } 3\}$$

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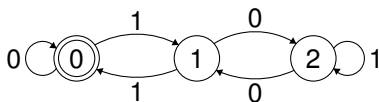


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Idea: DFA can represent (some) relations on sets of binary integers. We can use similar techniques that we used for #String to solve #LIA.

Model Counting Linear Integer Arithmetic

Quantifier-Free Linear Integer Arithmetic ($\mathbb{Z}, +, <$).

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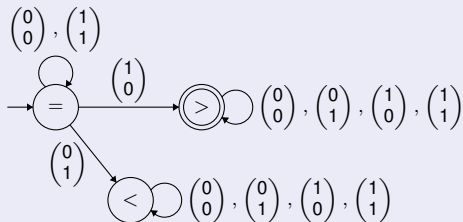
It is possible to represent the solutions to a set of LIA constraints as a binary multi-track DFA.

Binary Multi-track DFA

Solution DFA for LIA constraints.

- ▶ Read bits of x and y from most to least significant.
- ▶ Alphabet is a tuple of bits: $\begin{pmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \end{pmatrix}$

Solution DFA for the constraint $x > y$.

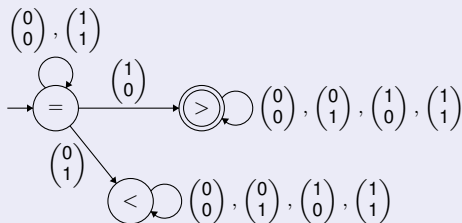


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Solutions of length $n \equiv$ solutions within bound 2^n

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Counting Techniques for Different Theories

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 - ▶ Regular Expression with GFs
- ▶ Linear Integer Arithmetic
 - ▶ Binary Multi-track DFA

Related work on model counting

- ▶ Stanley. Enumerative Combinatorics Chapter 4. 2004.
- ▶ Sedgwick. Analytic Combinatorics Chapter 5: Generating Functions. 2009
- ▶ Biere. Handbook of Satisfiability. Chapter 20: Model Counting. 2009
- ▶ Pugh. Counting Solutions to Presburger Formulas: How and Why. 1994
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- ▶ Barvinok. A polynomial time algorithm for counting integral points in polyhedra when the dimension is fixed. Mathematics of Operations Research 1994
- ▶ De Loerab. Effective lattice point counting in rational convex polytopes. JSC 2004
- ▶ Verdoolaege. Counting integer points in parametric polytopes using Barvinok's Rational Functions. 2007
- ▶ Kopf Symbolic Polytopes for Quantitative Interpolation and Verification. CAV 2015
- ▶ Luu. A Model Counter For Constraints Over Unbounded Strings. PLDI 2014
- ▶ Ravikumara. Weak minimization of DFA - an algorithm and applications. Implementation and Application of Automata 2004
- ▶ Chomsky. The Algebraic Theory of Context-Free Languages. 1963
- ▶ Phan. Model Counting Modulo Theories. PhD Thesis 2014.
- ▶ Birnbaum. The good old Davis-Putnam procedure helps counting models. JAIR 1999

Thank you.