
The answers must be the original work of the author. While discussion with others is permitted and encouraged, the final work should be done individually. You are not allowed to work in groups. You are allowed to build on the material supplied in the class. Any other source must be specified clearly.

1. (20 points) For each of the following regular expressions over $\{a, b\}$, give the minimal length (shortest) string that is **not** in the language defined by the expression.

- (a) $a^*(ba)^* \cup b \cup ab \cup aab$
- (b) $(a^* \cup b^*)(a^* \cup b^*)(a^* \cup b^*)$

2. (30 points) Let L over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ be the language where every string contains at least one 'b' and has an even number of 'a's before the first 'b'. Take zero as an even number.

- (a) Give a recursive definition for L .
- (b) Give a regular set for L .
- (c) Give a regular expression for L .

3. (50 points) Give a regular expression for the following languages.

- (a) The set of strings over $\{1, 2, 3, a, b, c\}$ that start and end with a number. Consider only strings with length greater than 1.
- (b) The set of strings over $\{1, 2, 3, a, b, c\}$ that start with an alphabetical character and contain substring 123.
- (c) The set of strings over $\{1, 2, 3, a, b, c\}$ that contain exactly two numbers and the sum of the numbers is even.
- (d) The set of strings over $\{1, 2, 3, a\}$ that do not begin with 123.
- (e) The set of strings over $\{a, b, c\}$ in which all the a 's precede the b 's, which in turn precede the c 's. It is possible that there are no a 's, or b 's, or c 's, but λ is not in the language.