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Regex: Closure Properties

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(I am ignoring the * and it won't matter in the end since I will be using O-notation.)

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We will call this $2^{O(n)}$ from now on.

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However, we are curious which ones can be proven **easily** with regex's.

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You can do it. And you might on a later HW.

Regular Lang Closed Under Union

Easy The regex for $L(\alpha) \cup L(\beta)$ is $\alpha \cup \beta$.

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Hard Need to convert to NFA's and do it there and convert back. Might be on a HW or Exam.

Regex Closed Under Concatenation

Easy The regex for $L(\alpha) \cdot L(\beta)$ is $\alpha \cdot \beta$.

Regular Lang Closed Under *?

Easy The regex for $L(\alpha)^*$ is α^* .

Summary of Closure Properties and Proofs

X means Can't Prove Easily

 $n_1 + n_2$ (and similar) is number of states in new machine if L_i reg via n_i -state machine.

 $L_1 + L_2$ (and similar) is length of regex of L_i length of α_i .

Closure Property	DFA	NFA	Regex
$L_1 \cup L_2$	$n_1 n_2$	$n_1 + n_2$	$L_1 + L_2 + 1$
$L_1 \cap L_2$	$n_1 n_2$	$n_1 n_2$	X
$L_1 \cdot L_2$	X	$n_1 + n_2$	$L_1 + L_2$
\overline{L}	n	Х	X
L*	Χ	n+1	L+1

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