

Approximate Computing in Formal Languages

Petr Dvořáček

Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Information Technology
Božetěchova 1/2, 612 66 Brno - Královo Pole
[idvoracek@fit.vutbr.cz](mailto:dvoracek@fit.vutbr.cz)



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Approximate computing

- Motivation
- Usage

Approximate computing in formal languages

- Cover languages and automata
- Regular expression approximation
- FSM covering L_2 , L_1 , and languages beyond L_0
- Solving NP-complete problem with DTM in polynomial time

Conclusion

Definition

- Tradeoff between quality of result and efficiency.
- A common characteristic: a perfect result is not necessary and an approximate or less-than-optimal result is sufficient

Definition

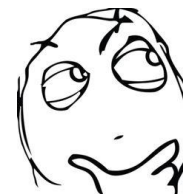
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Kaushik Roy's energy task

$$\frac{923}{21} > 1.75$$



$$\frac{923}{21} > 45.27$$



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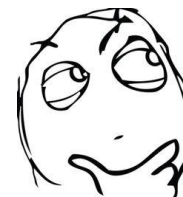
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Approximations are **natural!**

- Signal and image processing
- Text search
- Clustering
- Data analysis
- Robotics
- Classification
- Neural networks
- Probabilistic computing
- Networking
- Hardware (cache)

The list is endless.

- Signal and image processing – human perception is limited
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} Perfect result is not always possible



The list is endless.

Reference Language – L

Approximate Language – LA such as $|LA \cap L| \geq 1$

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Error Language

Lets have two languages L and LA.

$$E = L \text{ xor } LA = (L - LA) \cup (LA - L)$$

Error language contains only unique strings.

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Cover Languages

We can create LA to accept all words from language L and other strings. Thus we say LA covers L .

Because $L - LA = \emptyset$ then $|L| < |LA|$.

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Finite Languages

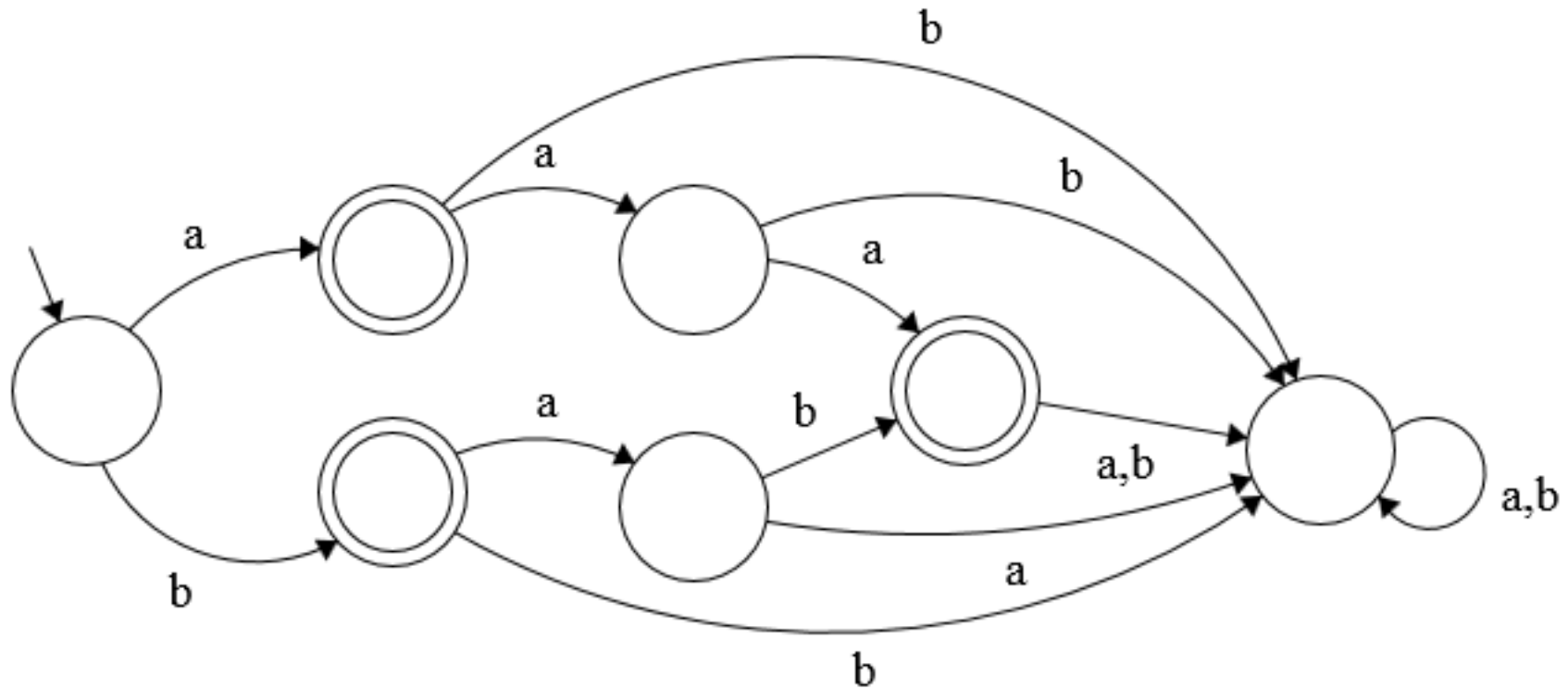
Creation of approximate **finite** language from the reference language L which is infinite.

A cover automaton for a **finite** language L is a FSM that accepts all words in L and possibly other words that are longer than any word in L .

$$L = \{a, b, aa, aaa, bab\}$$

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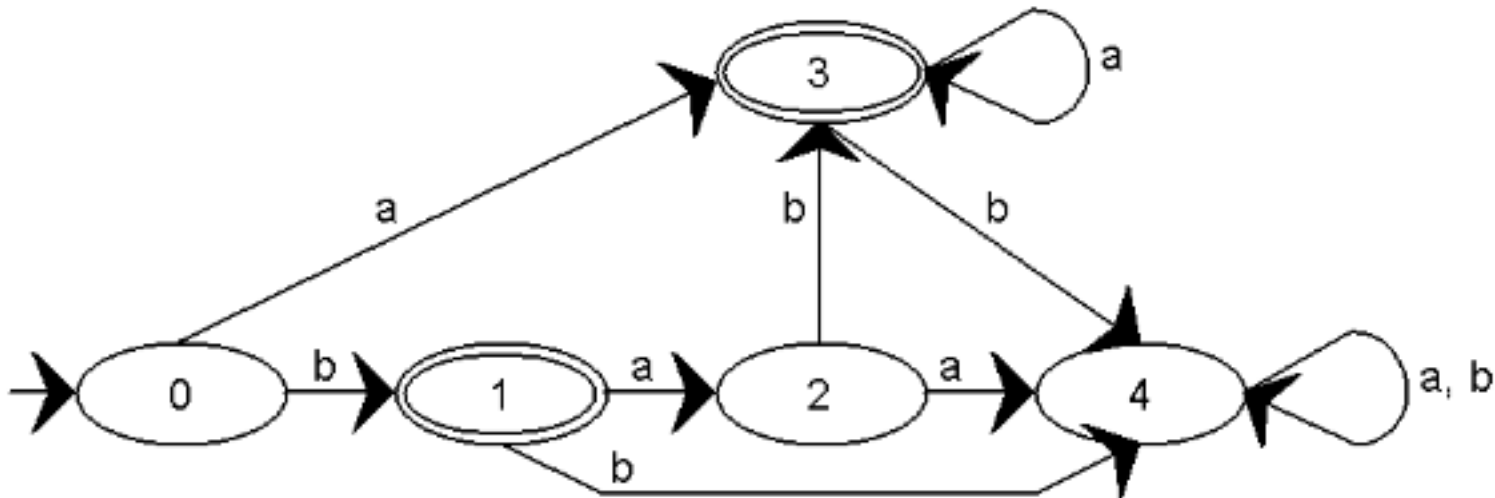
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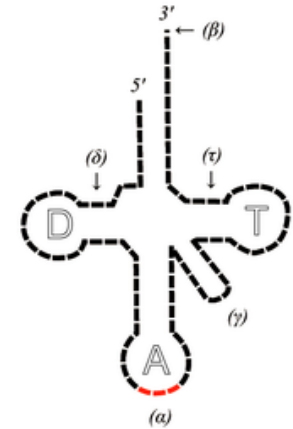
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$$LA = \{aa^*, b, baba^*\}$$



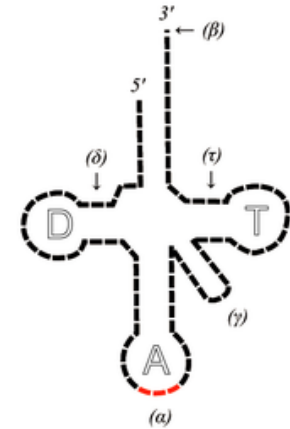
Task Find all the tRNA genes in DNA of bacterium e. coli.



Task Find all the ~~tRNA genes~~ in ~~DNA of bacterium e. coli.~~

substrings

string



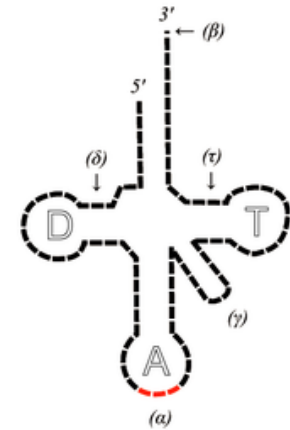
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Substrings can be found by the RE:

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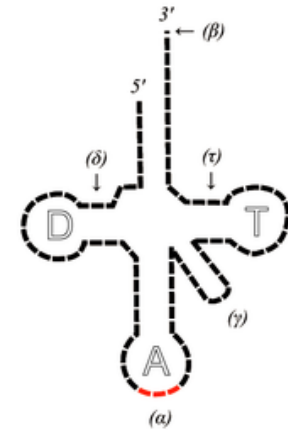
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Experiment

Found

Filtered

a) Fully functional RE

94

85

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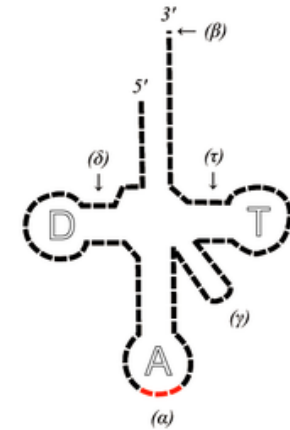
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b) Let . replace all brackets

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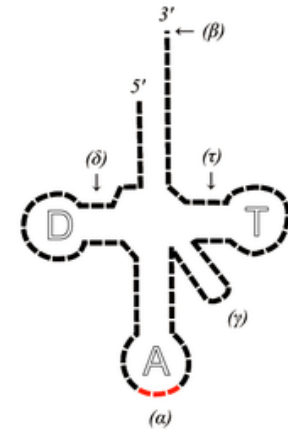
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<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Filtered</i>
a) Fully functional RE	94	85
b) Let . replace all brackets	118	85
c) Let make var. loop shorter	80	70

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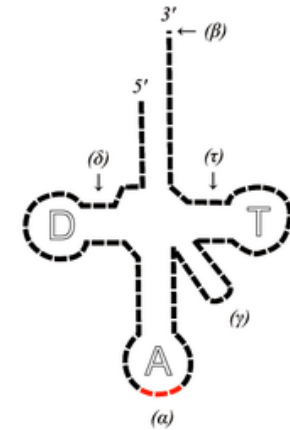
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d) Combination of b, c	109	70

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Approximating with a Finite-State Calculus (principle)

Construct a grammar G of L .

$$S \rightarrow aSb \quad [1]$$

$$\rightarrow \varepsilon \quad [2]$$

In G find all cycling rules ($S \rightarrow aS$, $S \rightarrow Sb$) by using right-hand-rule, seven formulae, and dotted rules.

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Final cover language

$$LA = \{a^+ b^+ \mid \varepsilon\}$$

Cons: We can find better approximation: $\{aa^+ bb^+ \mid ab \mid \varepsilon\}$

Syntax analysis

Let have context free grammar G1

$$\begin{aligned} E &\rightarrow (E) \\ &\rightarrow E * E \\ &\rightarrow E + E \\ &\rightarrow i \end{aligned}$$

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We don't use infinite number of parenthesis.

Syntax analysis

Let have context free grammar G1

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 E &\rightarrow (E) \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

G1 can be covered with G2

$$\begin{array}{lllll}
 A \rightarrow (B & \bar{A} \rightarrow + A & B \rightarrow (C & \bar{B} \rightarrow +B & C \rightarrow \dots \\
 \rightarrow i\bar{A} & \rightarrow * A & \rightarrow i)\bar{A} & \rightarrow * B & \\
 & \rightarrow \varepsilon & \rightarrow i\bar{B} & &
 \end{array}$$

Cons: Breaks syntax tree – no priorities given.

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$$\begin{aligned}
 LA = & L_2 \cup L_3 \cup L_5 \cup L_7 \cup L_{11} \cup L_{13} \\
 & \cup \left(\{aa^+\} \setminus \left(\overline{L_2} \cup \overline{L_3} \cup \overline{L_5} \cup \overline{L_7} \cup \overline{L_{11}} \cup \overline{L_{13}} \right) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

We can construct FSM that accept approximated language.

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Experiment 8-bit numbers

Maximal number is 255. Then $\sqrt{255} = 16$. LA covers all primes to 16. Thus LA covers all primes to 255.

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Experiment 16-bit numbers

Maximal number is 65 535 and there is 6 542 primes.

LA covers them all. It also contains 6 032 numbers which are not primes. The rest is rejected.

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Experiment 8-bit numbers *100% accuracy*

Maximal number is 255. Then $\sqrt{255} = 16$. *LA* covers all primes to 16. Thus *LA* covers all primes to 255.

Experiment 16-bit numbers *90% accuracy*

Maximal number is 65 535 and there is 6 542 primes.

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We can build FSM that covers **every** language.
(Even the languages beyond L_0 .)

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Proof

Let have $\Sigma = \{a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n\}$.

Then we can build FSM from RE: $(a_0^* a_1^* \dots a_n^*)^*$

This FSM accepts all strings – **accepts everything**.

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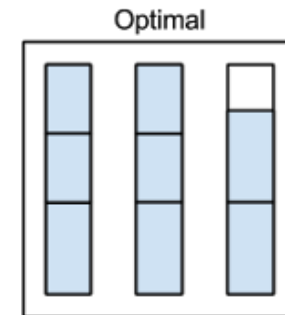
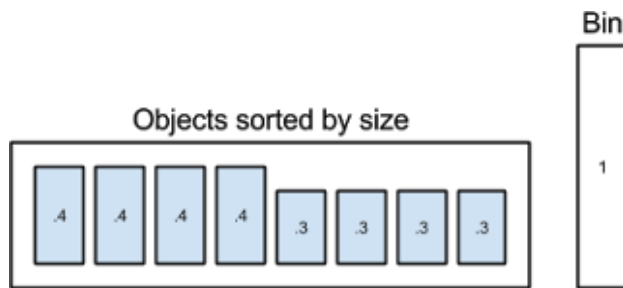
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This FSM accepts all strings – **accepts everything**.

However the error language can be really large.

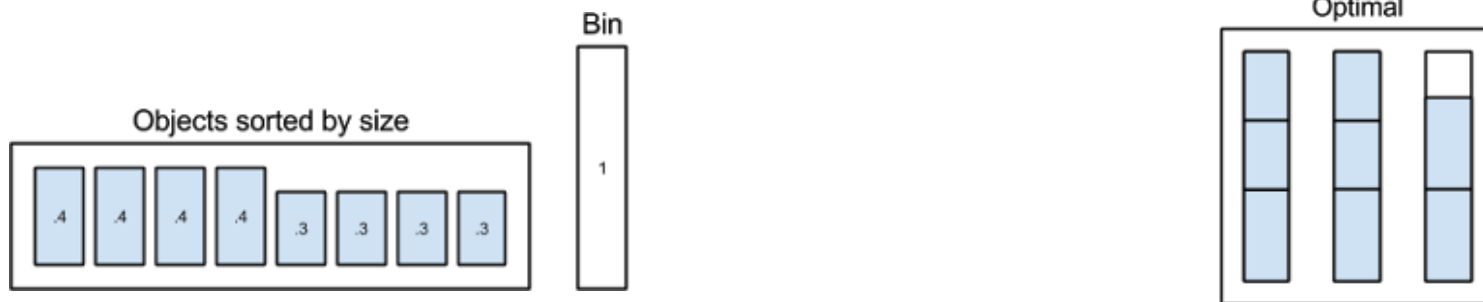
Bin-packing problem

- Pack all the stuff into as few bins as possible.
- NP complete problem



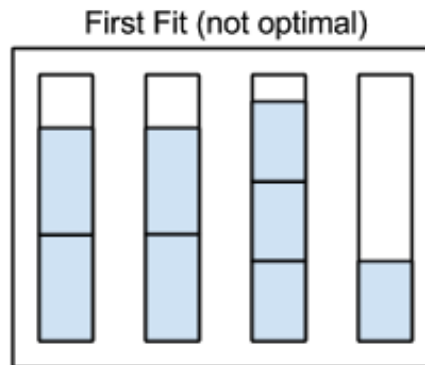
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Approximation – principle

- Put an item into the first bin where is space.



Approximation

- is natural
- makes our brains and machines faster
- can be used in text search (tRNA genes in DNA)

Less powerful machines can be used for approximation of more complex problems

- FSM can cover CFL $\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$
- FSM can cover CSL $\{a^n \mid n \text{ is prime}\}$
- FSM can cover all languages (but it is not wise)
- DTM solving NP-complete problem

Thank You For Your Attention !

- L. Liu, *Practicality of the Vector Packing Problem*
- Edmund Grimley Evans, *Approximating Context-Free Grammars with a Finite-State Calculus*, ACL 98
- K. Roy, *Approximate Computing: An Energy-Efficient Computing Technique for Error Resilient Applications*, 2015 IEEE Computer Society Annual Symposium on VLSI (ISVLSI)
- C. Campenau, N. Santeau, S. Yu, *Minimal cover-automata for finite languages*, Workshop on Implementing Automata '98