Formal Language & Automata Theory

Module 1: Introduction

Alphabet, languages and grammars, productions and derivation, Chomsky hierarchy of languages.

Module 2:

Regular languages and finite automata:

Regular expressions and languages, deterministic finite automata (DFA) and equivalence with regular expressions, nondeterministic finite automata (NFA) and equivalence with DFA, regular grammars and equivalence with finite automata, properties of regular languages, pumping lemma for regular languages, minimization of finite automata.

Module 3:

Context-free languages and pushdown automata

Context-free grammars (CFG) and languages (CFL), Chomsky and Greibach normal forms, nondeterministic pushdown automata (PDA) and equivalence with CFG, parse trees, ambiguity in CFG, pumping lemma for context-free languages, deterministic pushdown automata, closure properties of CFLs

Module 4: Context-sensitive languages

Context-sensitive grammars (CSG) and languages, linear bounded automata and equivalence with CSG.

Module 5: Turing machines

The basic model for Turing machines (TM), Turing recognizable (recursively enumerable) and Turingdecidable (recursive) languages and their closure properties, variants of Turing machines, nondeterministic TMs and equivalence with deterministic TMs, unrestricted grammars and equivalence with Turing machines, TMs as enumerators.

Module 6: Undecidability & Intractablity:

Church-Turing thesis, universal Turing machine, the universal and diagonalization languages, reduction between languages and Rice s theorem, undecidable problems about languages. Intractablity: Notion of tractability/feasibility. The classes NP and co-NP, their importance. Polynomial time many-one reduction. Completeness under this reduction. Cook-Levin theorem: NP-completeness of propositional satisfiability, other variants of satisfiability. NP-complete problems from other domains: graphs (clique, vertex cover, independent sets, Hamiltonian cycle), number problem (partition), set cover