University of Central Florida  
School of Computer Science  
COT 4210       Spring 2004

Prof. Rene Peralta  
sample questions T1

1. Consider integers written in base 3 with no leading 0s. Let $L_1$ be the set of such strings representing numbers that are congruent to 3 mod 4.

   (a) Construct a DFA that accepts $L_1$.
   (b) Construct a left-linear grammar for $L_1$.

   **answer:** we have done this type of exercise ad nauseum, so I won’t write an answer here

2. Write a regular expression for the set of strings over $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ which have an odd number of 1’s.

   **answer:** note you do not need to go through the entire DFA $\rightarrow$ grammar $\rightarrow$ regular expression sequence. “Odd number of 1’s” means “one 1 plus an even number of 1’s”, so $\rightarrow 0^*10^*(0^*10^*)^*$. This is not the most compact representation, but we don’t care about that here.

3. Describe the four types of grammars in the Chomsky Hierarchy.

   **answer:** something like i) unrestricted, ii) $|LHS| \leq |RHS|$, iii) $|LHS| = 1$; iv) right-linear.

4. Outline the argument that uses Cantor’s diagonalization technique to show the set of subsets of $\mathbb{N}$ is not countable.

   **answer:** It is a proof by contradiction: i) there is a bijection between infinite binary strings and subsets of $\mathbb{N}$, so we count the former instead; ii) assume, for a contradiction, that the set of infinite binary strings is countable; iii) the strings can thus be arranged in a list $s(1), s(2), s(3), \ldots$ iv) Let $b(i)$ be the complement of the $i^{th}$ bit of $s(i)$; v) Then $\bar{b}$ is a string which is not in the list, contradiction.

5. Show, using the pumping lemma for regular languages, that the set $T$ consisting of binary string with more 1s than 0s is not regular.

   **answer:** By contradiction. Assume the set is regular and let $\alpha$ be the “pumping constant” given by the pumping lemma. Let $\omega = 11^\alpha0^\alpha$. Then $\omega \in T$. The pumping lemma implies we can “erase” a (non-empty) substring from the prefix $11^\alpha$ with the resulting string still being in $T$. But this clearly cannot be done, contradiction.