

CS/ECE 374 A ✧ Spring 2026  
☞ Midterm 1 Practice 2 ☞  
February 20, 2026

Name:	
NetID:	

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- ***Don't panic!***
  - You have 120 minutes to answer five questions. The questions are described in more detail in a separate handout.
  - If you brought anything except your writing implements, your **hand-written** double-sided 8½" × 11" cheat sheet, and your university ID, please put it away for the duration of the exam. In particular, please turn off and put away *all* medically unnecessary electronic devices.
  - Please clearly print your name and your NetID in the boxes above.
  - Please also print your name at the top of every page of the answer booklet, except this cover page. We want to make sure that if a staple falls out, we can reassemble your answer booklet. (It doesn't happen often, but it does happen.)
  - Proofs or other justifications are required for full credit if and only if we explicitly ask for them, using the word ***prove*** or ***justify*** in bold italics.
  - **Do not write outside the black boxes on each page.** These indicate the area of the page that our scanners will actually scan. If the scanner can't see your work, we can't grade it.
  - If you run out of space for an answer, please use the overflow/scratch pages at the back of the answer booklet, but **please clearly indicate where we should look.** If we can't find your work, we can't grade it.
  - **Only work that is written into the stapled answer booklet will be graded.** In particular, you are welcome to detach scratch pages from the answer booklet, but any work on those detached pages will not be graded. Please let us know if you detach a page accidentally. We will provide additional scratch paper on request.
  - Please return ***all*** paper with your answer booklet: your question sheet, your cheat sheet, and all scratch paper. **Please put all loose paper *inside* your answer booklet.**
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Is between  
between is and between  
or between between and is  
or between and and or  
or between or and between  
or between between and and  
or between or and and  
or between or and or?

For each statement below, check “Yes” if the statement is always true and check “No” otherwise, and give a brief (one short sentence) explanation of your answer. Read these statements very carefully—small details matter!

(a) Every infinite language is regular.

 Yes No

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(b) The language  $(\emptyset + 1(01^*0)^*1)^*$  is not context-free.

 Yes No

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(c) Every subset of an irregular language is irregular.

 Yes No

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(d) The language  $\{0^a 1^b \mid a - b \text{ is divisible by } 374\}$  is regular.

 Yes No

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(e) If language  $L$  is not regular, then  $L$  has a finite fooling set.

 Yes No

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(f) If there is a DFA that rejects every string in language  $L$ , then  $L$  is regular.

 Yes No

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(g) If language  $L$  is accepted by an DFA with  $n$  states, then its complement  $\Sigma^* \setminus L$  is also accepted by a DFA with  $n$  states.

 Yes No

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(h)  $1^*0^*$  is a fooling set for the language  $\{1^i 0^{i+j} 1^j \mid i, j \geq 0\}$ .

 Yes No

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(i) Every regular language is accepted by a DFA with an odd number of accepting states.

 Yes No

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(j) The context-free grammar  $S \rightarrow \varepsilon \mid 0S1S \mid 1S0S$  generates all strings in which the number of 0s equals the number of 1s.

 Yes No

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For any non-empty string  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , let  $\text{Delete1st}(w)$  denote the string obtained by deleting the first run in  $w$ . Let  $L$  be an arbitrary regular language over the alphabet  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ . **Prove** that the following languages are also regular.

(a)  $\text{INSERT1ST}(L) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid w \neq \varepsilon \text{ and } \text{Delete1st}(w) \in L\}$

(b)  $\text{DELETE1ST}(L) = \{\text{Delete1st}(w) \mid w \neq \varepsilon \text{ and } w \in L\}$

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For any string  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , let  $\text{squish}(w)$  denote the string obtained by dividing  $w$  into pairs of symbols, replacing each pair with  $0$  if the symbols are equal and  $1$  otherwise, and keeping the last symbol if  $w$  has odd length. (See the question handout for a formal recursive definition.)

- (a) **Prove** that  $\#(1, \text{squish}(w)) \leq \#(1, w)$  for every string  $w$ .
- (b) **Prove** that  $\#(1, \text{squish}(w))$  is even if and only if  $\#(1, w)$  is even, for every string  $w$ .
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Let  $L$  be the set of all strings in  $\{0, 1\}^*$  in which every run of 0s is followed immediately by a *shorter* run of 1s.

- (a) **Prove** that  $L$  is *not* a regular language.
  - (b) Describe a context-free grammar for  $L$ .
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For each of the following languages  $L$  over the alphabet  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , describe a DFA that accepts  $L$  **and** give a regular expression that represents  $L$ . You do not need to justify your answers.

- (a) Strings that do not contain the subsequence  $01110$ .
- (b) Strings that contain at least two even-length runs of  $1$ s.

(scratch paper)

(scratch paper)

(scratch paper)