

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
CPSC 421/501: MIDTERM EXAMINATION – November 4, 2021

Full Name: _____ CS Ugrad ID: _____

Signature: _____ UBC Student #: _____

Important notes about this examination

1. You have 60 minutes to complete this exam.
2. The exam is closed book, and students can use one double-sided sheet of notes (8.5" x 11"), no calculators, no internet access, etc.
3. Good luck!

Student Conduct during Examinations

1. Each examination candidate must be prepared to produce, upon the request of the invigilator or examiner, his or her UBCcard for identification.
2. Examination candidates are not permitted to ask questions of the examiners or invigilators, except in cases of supposed errors or ambiguities in examination questions, illegible or missing material, or the like.
3. No examination candidate shall be permitted to enter the examination room after the expiration of one-half hour from the scheduled starting time, or to leave during the first half hour of the examination. Should the examination run forty-five (45) minutes or less, no examination candidate shall be permitted to enter the examination room once the examination has begun.
4. Examination candidates must conduct themselves honestly and in accordance with established rules for a given examination, which will be articulated by the examiner or invigilator prior to the examination commencing. Should dishonest behaviour be observed by the examiner(s) or invigilator(s), pleas of accident or forgetfulness shall not be received.
5. Examination candidates suspected of any of the following, or any other similar practices, may be immediately dismissed from the examination by the examiner/invigilator, and may be subject to disciplinary action:
 - i. speaking or communicating with other examination candidates, unless otherwise authorized;
 - ii. purposely exposing written papers to the view of other examination candidates or imaging devices;
 - iii. purposely viewing the written papers of other examination candidates;
 - iv. using or having visible at the place of writing any books, papers or other memory aid devices other than those authorized by the examiner(s); and,
 - v. using or operating electronic devices including but not limited to telephones, calculators, computers, or similar devices other than those authorized by the examiner(s)—(electronic devices other than those authorized by the examiner(s) must be completely powered down if present at the place of writing).
6. Examination candidates must not destroy or damage any examination material, must hand in all examination papers, and must not take any examination material from the examination room without permission of the examiner or invigilator.
7. Notwithstanding the above, for any mode of examination that does not fall into the traditional, paper-based method, examination candidates shall adhere to any special rules for conduct as established and articulated by the examiner.
8. Examination candidates must follow any additional examination rules or directions communicated by the examiner(s) or invigilator(s).



0. IDENTIFICATION

Please make sure that the following is your 5-character ugrad email id:

Your answer to each problem should be written on its page; if needed, you can use the back side of the page as well.

1. (10 POINTS, 2 POINTS PER CORRECT T/F ANSWER — NO PENALTY FOR INCORRECT RESPONSES)

Circle either T for true, or F for false, for each of the statements below. In these questions $L_1 \circ L_2$ denotes the concatenation of L_1 and L_2 .

For any regular languages L_1, L_2 , the language $L_1 \circ L_2$ is regular. T F

The set of regular languages over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ is countable. T F

The set of languages over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ is countable. T F

The language $\{a^{(n^4)} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \{a, a^{16}, a^{81}, a^{256}, \dots\}$ is regular. T F

The set of all maps $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{1, 2\}$ is countable. T F

2. (10 POINTS)

- (1) Build an NFA that recognizes the language $\{baa, bba\}$ (described by the regular expression $(baa \cup bba)$). (You do **not** need to explain how this NFA works.)
- (2) Based on your answer to part (1), build an NFA that recognizes the language $\{baa, bba\}^*$ (described by the regular expression $(baa \cup bba)^*$), and briefly explain how adding the $*$ operation changes your answer from part (1).

3. (15 POINTS)

Let

$$L = \{a^3, a^5, \dots\} = \{a^n \mid n \text{ is odd and } n \geq 3\}.$$

- (1) Use the Myhill-Nerode theorem to determine the minimum number of states of a DFA needed to recognize L over the alphabet $\Sigma = \{a\}$.
- (2) Write a formal description of this DFA (either by a diagram, table of δ values, or listing every value of a DFA).
- (3) Give an **NFA** to recognize L over the alphabet $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$, and briefly explain how your **NFA** works.

4. (10 POINTS)

Let $S = \{a, b, c\}$, and let $f: S \rightarrow \text{Power}(S)$ be any function with $f(c) = \{b, c\}$. Let $T = \{s \in S \mid s \notin f(s)\}$. Explain why it is impossible for $f(c)$ and T to be equal.