

# PLDI 2016 Tutorial

## Automata-Based String Analysis

### Model Counting

Tevfik Bultan, Abdalbaki Aydin, Lucas Bang



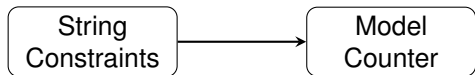
Verification Laboratory  
<http://vlab.cs.ucsb.edu>  
Department of Computer Science

# Overview

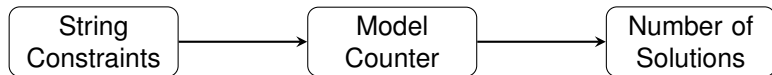
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String  
Constraints

# Overview



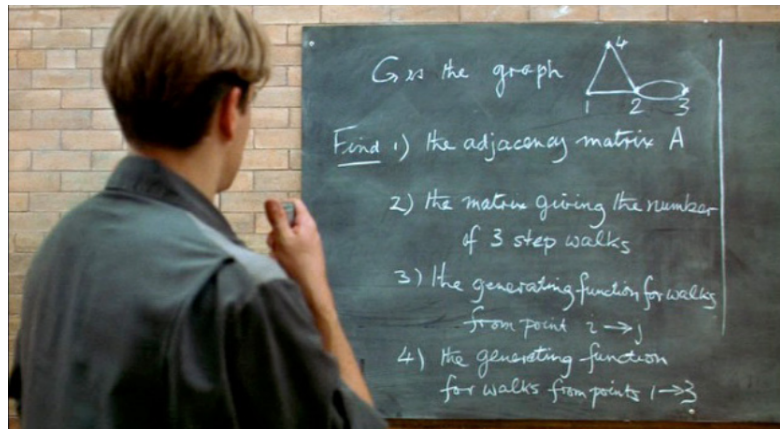
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Can you solve it, Will Hunting?



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# Outline

- ▶ Motivation and Background
- ▶ Model Counting Boolean Formulas
- ▶ String Model Counting
  - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
  - ▶ Non-Automata-Based Method
- ▶ String Model Counting Benchmarks



## A Motivating Example

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### Policy for selecting a new password.

```
1 public Boolean NewPWCheck(String new_p, old_p) {
2     if( old_p.contains(new_p)           || ...
3         new_p.contains(old_p)         || ...
4         old_p.reverse().contains(new_p) || ...
5         new_p.contains(old_p.reverse())    ) {
6         System.out.println("Too similar.");
7         return false;
8     } else
9         return true;
10 }
```

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### Constraints on possible values of `NEW_P`

```
(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "abc-16"))  
(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "61-cba"))  
(not (contains "abc-16" (toLower NEW_P)))  
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If password length =  $n$ , then there are  $|\Sigma|^n$  possible passwords.

If adversary knows `old_p` and the policy ...

- ▶ how much is the reduction in search space?
- ▶ what is the probability of guessing the new password?



# Motivation

In general, we want to answer questions regarding

- ▶ probability of program behaviors,
- ▶ number of inputs that cause an error,
- ▶ amount of information flow,
- ▶ information leakage,
- ▶ other, as yet unforeseen, applications...

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These are **quantitative** questions which require **model counting**.

## Techniques for model counting for other theories

### Boolean Logic Formulas

- ▶ DPLL
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- ▶ Approximations

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### Linear Integer Arithmetic:

- ▶ LattE
- ▶ Barvinok

# Motivation

## String manipulating programs are pervasive

- ▶ security critical functions,
- ▶ server side sanitization functions,
- ▶ databases,
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We need model counting for strings in order to make quantitative guarantees about these types of programs.

## Software for string constraint model counting

- ▶ Automata-Based Model Counter (ABC) [Aydin, et. al. CAV 2015]
- ▶ String Model Counter (SMC) [Luu, et. al. PLDI 2014 ]

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- ▶ **Model Counting Boolean Formulas**
- ▶ String Model Counting
  - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
  - ▶ Non-Automata-Based Method
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# Model Counting

Recall the classic (boolean) SAT problem

Given a formula  $\phi$  from propositional logic, is it possible to assign all variables the values  $T$  (true) or  $F$  (false) so that the formula is true?

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$$(x, y, z, w, v) = (T, F, T, F, T).$$

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A satisfying assignment is called a **model** for  $\phi$ .

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Given a formula  $\phi$  over some theory (Boolean, LIA, Strings, ...)

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Model counting is “at least as hard” as satisfiability check.

$$|\phi| > 0 \iff \phi \text{ is satisfiable}$$

# Model Counting Boolean SAT

x	y	z	w	v	F
F	F	F	F	F	F
:	:	:	:	:	:
T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
T	F	T	F	T	T
T	F	T	T	F	F
T	F	T	T	T	T
T	T	F	F	F	F
T	T	F	F	T	F
T	T	F	T	F	F
T	T	F	T	T	F
T	T	T	F	F	T
T	T	T	F	T	T
T	T	T	T	F	T
T	T	T	T	T	T

$$\phi = (x \vee y) \wedge (\neg x \vee z) \wedge (z \vee w) \wedge x \wedge (y \vee v)$$



# Model Counting Boolean SAT

x	y	z	w	v	F
F	F	F	F	F	F
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
T	F	T	T	F	F
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
T	T	F	F	F	F
T	T	F	F	T	F
T	T	F	T	F	F
T	T	F	T	T	F
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>

$$\phi = (x \vee y) \wedge (\neg x \vee z) \wedge (z \vee w) \wedge x \wedge (y \vee v)$$

$\phi$  has 6 models.

# Model Counting Boolean SAT

x	y	z	w	v	F
F	F	F	F	F	F
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
T	F	T	T	F	F
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
T	T	F	F	F	F
T	T	F	F	T	F
T	T	F	T	F	F
T	T	F	T	T	F
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
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Truth table method is  $\theta(2^n)$ .

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x	y	z	w	v	F
F	F	F	F	F	F
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T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
T	F	T	T	F	F
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
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$$\phi = (x \vee y) \wedge (\neg x \vee z) \wedge (z \vee w) \wedge x \wedge (y \vee v)$$

$\phi$  has 6 models.

Truth table method is  $\theta(2^n)$ .

DPLL method is  $O(2^n)$ , but is faster in practice.<sup>1</sup>

[1] Birnbaum, et. al. The good old Davis-Putnam procedure helps counting models. JAIR 1999.

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$$a_0 = 1$$

$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1



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$$a_0 = 1, a_1 = 1$$

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0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1

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$$a_0 = 1, a_1 = 1, a_2 = 1$$

$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1

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0	$\varepsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1

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$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\varepsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3

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$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\varepsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3
5	10010, 10101, 11000, 11011, 11110	5

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# Deterministic Finite Automata

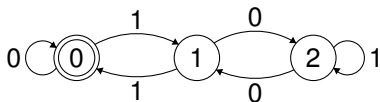
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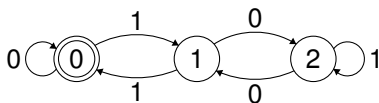
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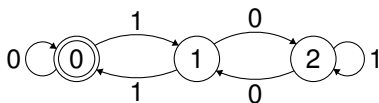
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$$|\{s : s \in \mathcal{L}, \text{len}(s) = k\}| \equiv |\{\pi : \pi \text{ is accepting path of length } k\}|$$

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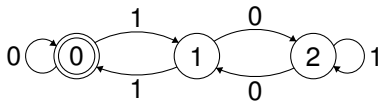
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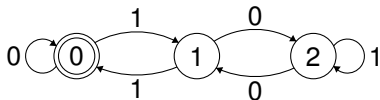
String Counting  $\equiv$  Path Counting

# Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length  $k$ ?

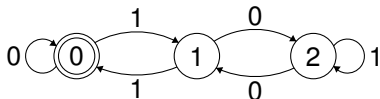
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**Dynamic Programming**

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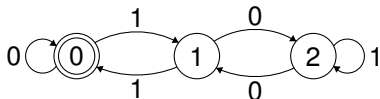


How to count paths of length  $k$ ?

**Dynamic Programming**

$a_k$

# Deterministic Finite Automata



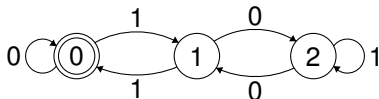
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**Dynamic Programming**

$s$

$$a_k(s) =$$

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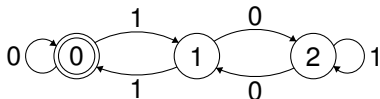
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$$a_k(s) = a_{k-1}(s')$$



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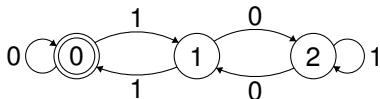


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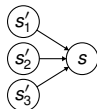


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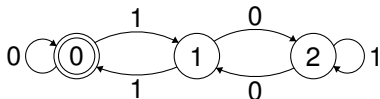


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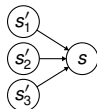


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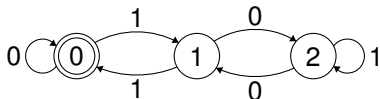


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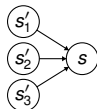


$$a_k(s) = \sum_{s' \rightarrow s} a_{k-1}(s')$$

# Deterministic Finite Automata



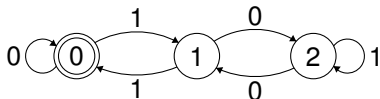
How to count paths of length  $k$ ?  
**Dynamic Programming**



Initial Conditions

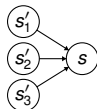
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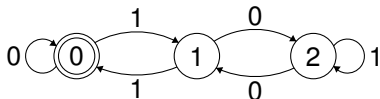


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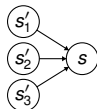
$$a_0(0) = 1$$

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# Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length  $k$ ?  
**Dynamic Programming**

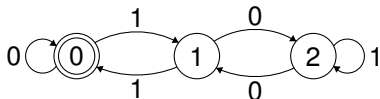


Initial Conditions

$$a_0(0) = 1, a_0(1) = 0, a_0(2) = 0$$

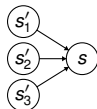
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# Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length  $k$ ?

## Dynamic Programming



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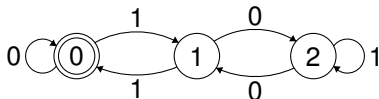
$$a_0(0) = 1, a_0(1) = 0, a_0(2) = 0$$

System of Recurrences

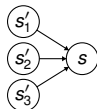
$$a_0(k) = a_0(k-1) + a_1(k-1)$$

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# Deterministic Finite Automata



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**Dynamic Programming**



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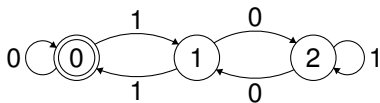
$$a_1(k) = a_0(k-1) + a_2(k-1)$$

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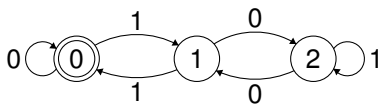


## Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length  $k$ ?

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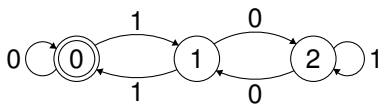
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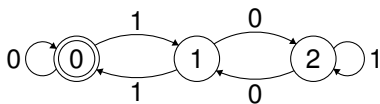
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# Deterministic Finite Automata



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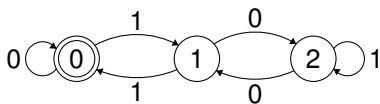
## Matrix Exponentiation

System of Recurrences

$$\begin{aligned} a_0(k) &= a_0(k-1) + a_1(k-1) \\ a_1(k) &= a_0(k-1) + a_2(k-1) \\ a_2(k) &= a_1(k-1) + a_2(k-1) \end{aligned} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_0(k) \\ a_1(k) \\ a_2(k) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^k \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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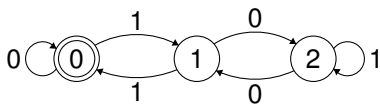
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$$a_4 = (A^4)_{0,0} = 3$$



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Sequence element  $a_k$  is the  $k^{\text{th}}$  Taylor series coefficient of  $g(z)$ .

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

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A generating function for language  $\mathcal{L}$  encodes

$$a_k = |\{s : s \in \mathcal{L}, \text{len}(s) = k\}|$$

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$$a_k = |\{s : s \in \mathcal{L}, \text{len}(s) = k\}|$$

$$g(z) = 1z^0$$

$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

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$$a_k = |\{s : s \in \mathcal{L}, \text{len}(s) = k\}|$$

$$g(z) = 1z^0 + 1z^1$$

$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

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$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1

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$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

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$$g(z) = 1z^0 + 1z^1 + 1z^2 + 1z^3 + 3z^4$$

$k$	$X$	$a_k$
0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1
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3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$

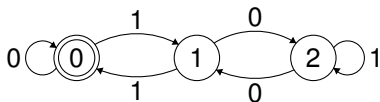
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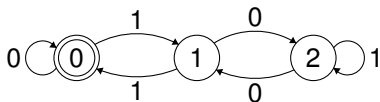
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0	$\epsilon$	1
1	0	1
2	11	1
3	110	1
4	1001, 1100, 1111	3
5	10010, 10101, 11000, 11011, 11110	5

# Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length  $k$ ?

# Deterministic Finite Automata



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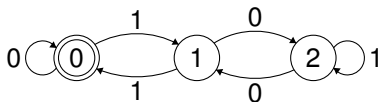
## Generating Functions

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g(z) = \frac{\det(I - zA : i, j)}{(-1)^n \det(I - zA)}$$



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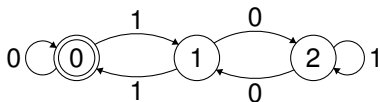
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# Deterministic Finite Automata



How to count paths of length  $k$ ?

## Generating Functions

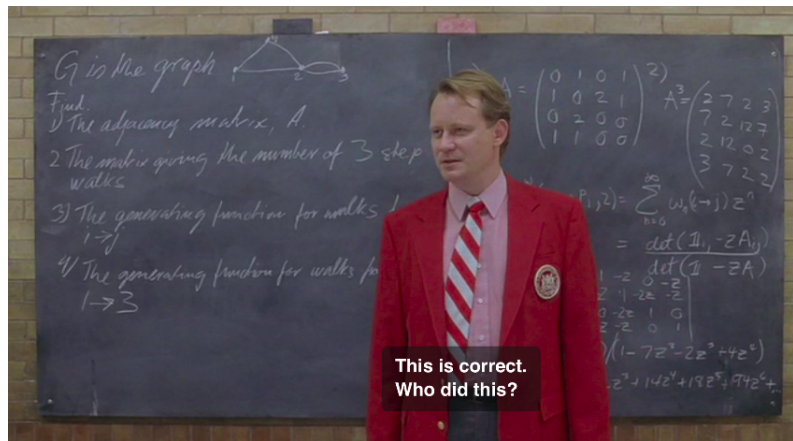
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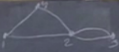
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$$g(z) = 1z^0 + 1z^1 + 1z^2 + 1z^3 + 3z^4 + 5z^5 + \dots$$

# Good job, Will Hunting!!!



$G$  is the graph 

Find:

- 1) The adjacency matrix,  $A$ .
- 2) The matrix giving the number of 3 step walks
- 3) The generating function for walks  $1 \rightarrow j$
- 4) The generating function for walks for  $1 \rightarrow 3$

$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$   $A^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 7 & 2 & 3 \\ 7 & 2 & 12 & 7 \\ 2 & 12 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 7 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$P_{ij}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} w_n(i \rightarrow j) z^n$   
 $= \frac{\det(\mathbb{I}_i, -zA_{ij})}{\det(\mathbb{I} - zA)}$

$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -z & 0 & -z \\ z & 1 & -2z & -z \\ 0 & -2z & 1 & 0 \\ z & -z & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $(1 - 7z^2 - 2z^3 + 4z^4)$   
 $z^2 + 14z^4 + 18z^5 + 17z^6 + \dots$

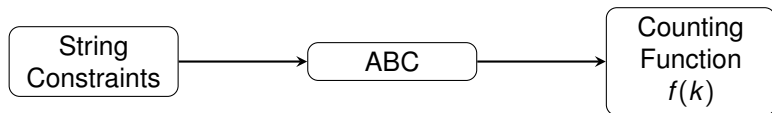
**This is correct.  
Who did this?**

# Automata-Based Model Counter (ABC)

CAV 2015: Automata-Based Model Counting for String Constraints.  
Abdulbaki Aydin, Lucas Bang, Tevfik Bultan:

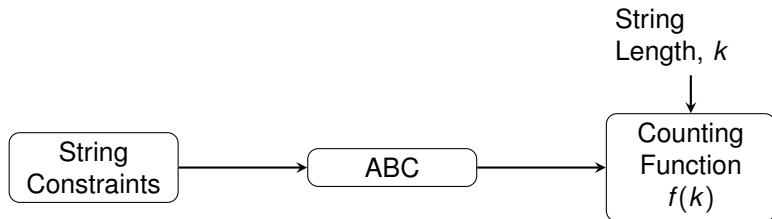
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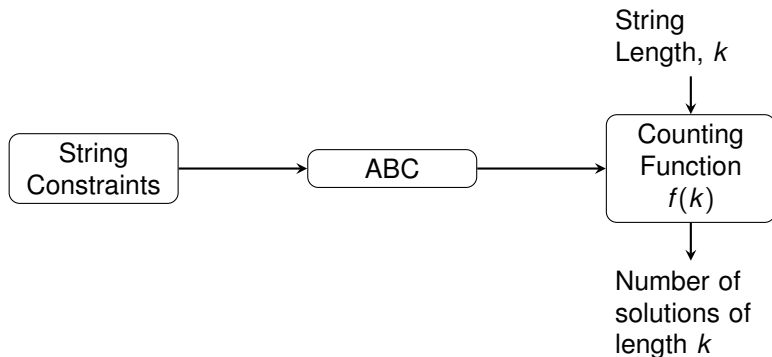
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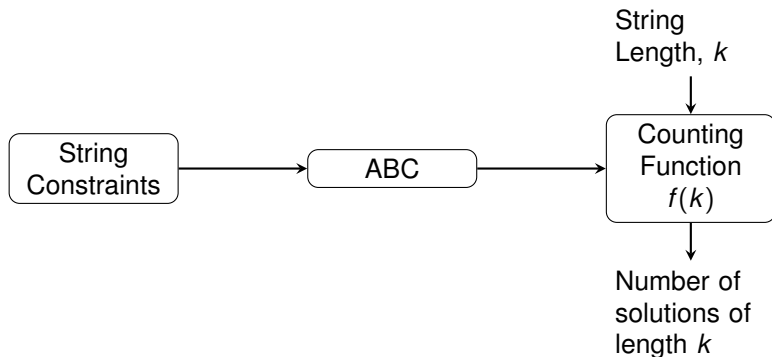
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## Automata-Based Model Counter (ABC)

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Abdulbaki Aydin, Lucas Bang, Tevfik Bultan:



Idea: Convert string constraints to DFA. Count paths in DFA.



# Password Changing Policy

## Constraint on NEW\_P

```
(declare-fun NEW_P () String)

(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "abc-16"))
(not (contains "abc-16" (toLower NEW_P)))
(not (contains (toLower NEW_P) "61-cba"))
(not (contains "61-cba" (toLower NEW_P)))

(check-sat)
(model-count)
```

# Password Changing Policy

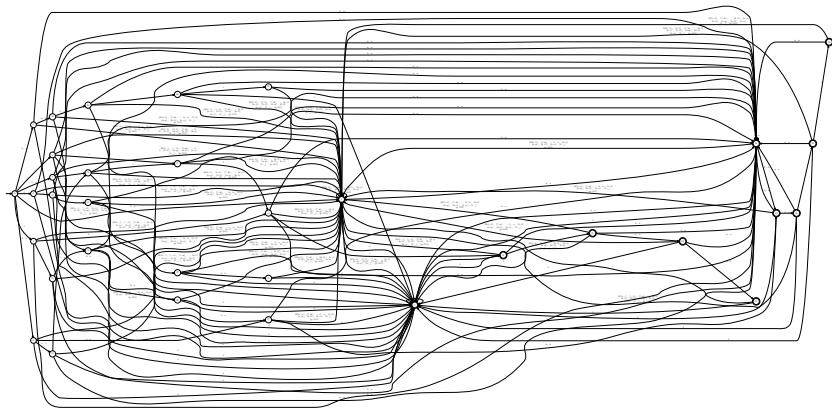


Figure : Solution DFA for all possible values of NEWP.



# Password Changing Policy

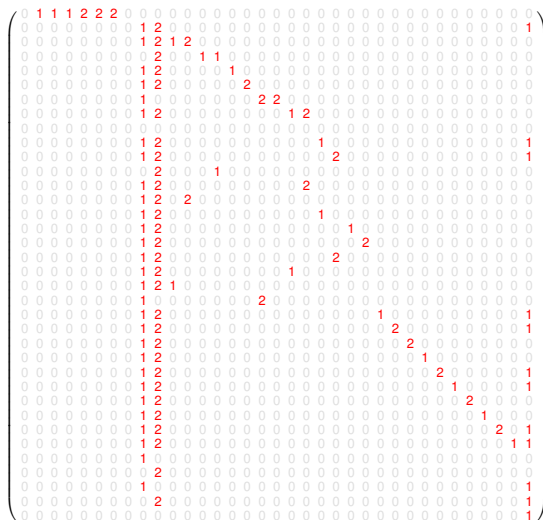


Figure : Transition matrix for DFA for all possible values of NEWP.

# Password Changing Policy

Generating function which enumerates NEW\_P:

$$g(z) = \frac{8096z^{12} - 8128z^{11} + 32z^{10} + 16z^7 - 16z^6 - 256z^2 + 257z - 1}{194304z^{17} + 225920z^{16} + 241984z^{15} + \dots + z^5 - 6114z^4 - 2280z^3 - 247z^2}$$

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$$g(z) = 247z^2 + 65759z^3 + 16842945z^4 + 4311810213z^5 + 1103823437965z^6 + \dots$$

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To answer our quantitative question:

- ▶ Brute force searching for password length = 6:  $256^6 = 2^{48}$  passwords.

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# Password Changing Policy

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- ▶ If adversary knows `old_p` and the policy:  $1103823437965 \approx 2^{40.0056}$  passwords.
- ▶ Reduces search space by about factor of  $2^{7.9944}$

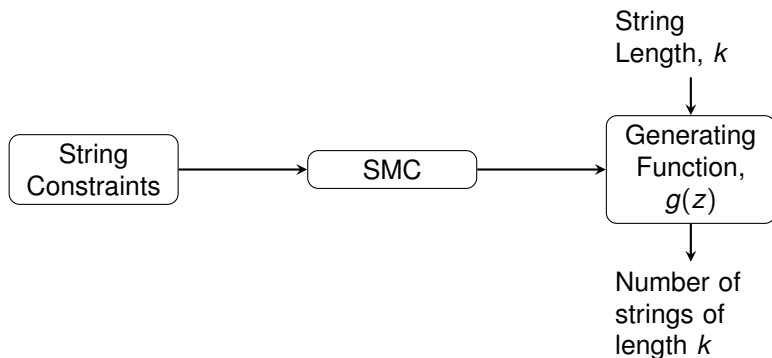
# Outline

- ▶ Motivation and Background
- ▶ Model Counting Boolean Formulas
- ▶ String Model Counting
  - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
  - ▶ **Non-Automata-Based Method**
- ▶ String Model Counting Benchmarks

# SMC Model Counting

PLDI 2014: A Model Counter For Constraints Over Unbounded Strings. Luu, Shinde, Saxena, Demsky.

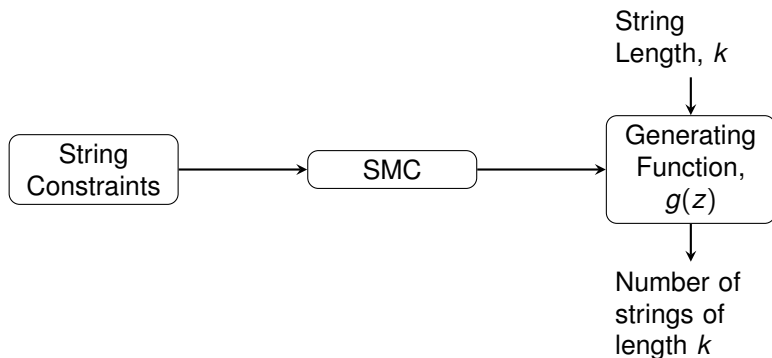
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Idea: go directly from constraints to  $g(z)$  using transformations.

## SMC Model Counting

For a regular expression constraint, generating function can be derived recursively.

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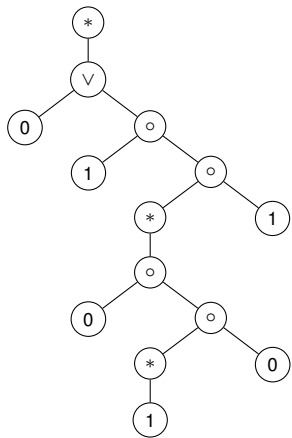
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$A B$	$\mapsto$	$A(z) + B(z)$
$A \circ B$	$\mapsto$	$A(z) \times B(z)$
$A^*$	$\mapsto$	$1/(1 - A(z))$

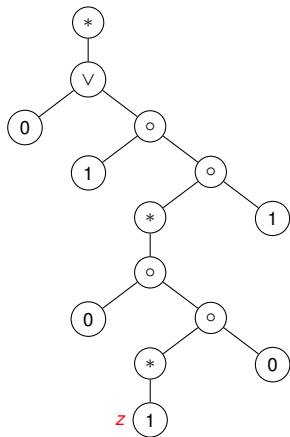
# Regular Expressions

$$X \in (0|(1(01^*0)^*1))^*$$



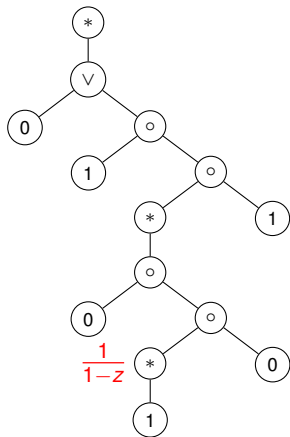
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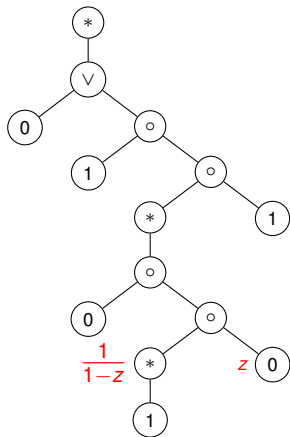
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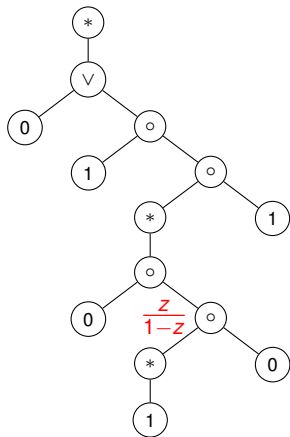
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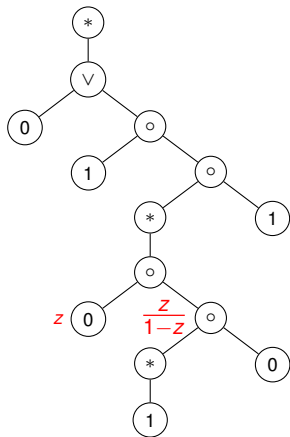
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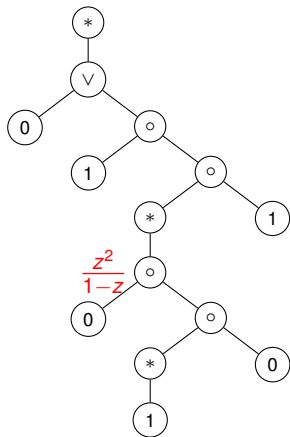
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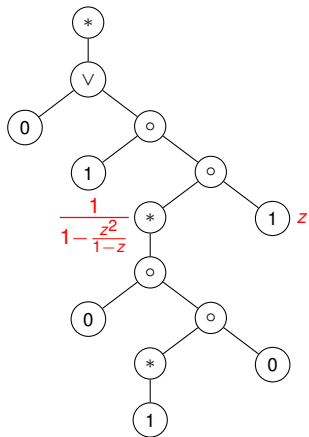
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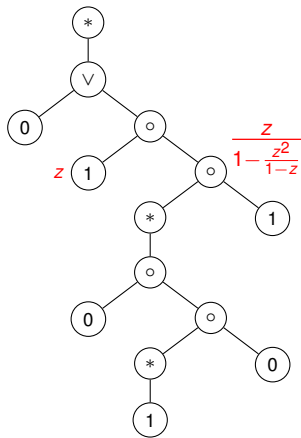
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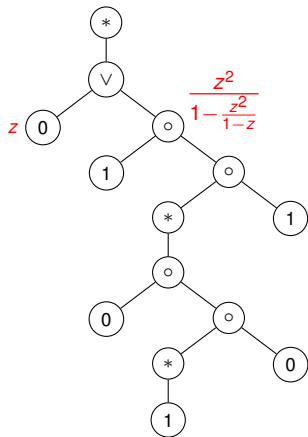
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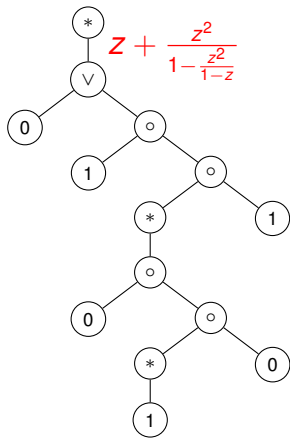
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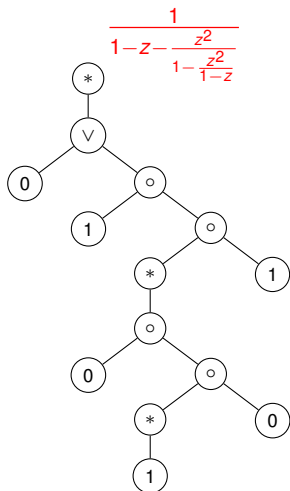
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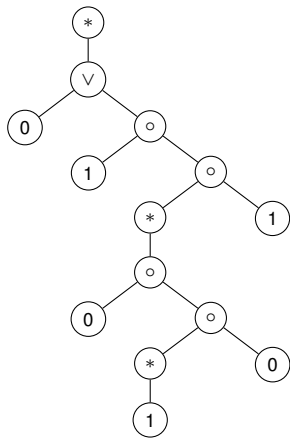
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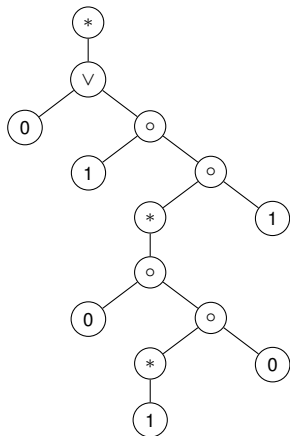


Generating Function:

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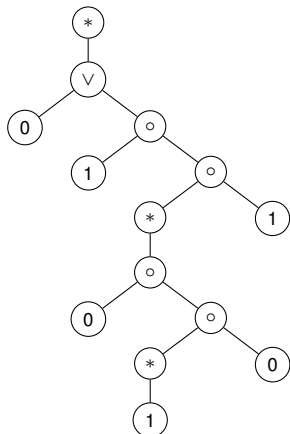
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$$g(z) = 1z^0 + 1z^1 + 1z^2 + 1z^3 + 3z^4 + 5z^5 + \dots$$

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Also handle substring, length, negation, conjunction, . . . ,  
with upper and lower bounds.

# Outline

- ▶ Motivation and Background
- ▶ Model Counting Boolean Formulas
- ▶ String Model Counting
  - ▶ Automata-Based Methods
  - ▶ Non-Automata-Based Method
- ▶ **String Model Counting Benchmarks**

# Experimental Comparison

Table : Log scaled comparison between SMC and ABC

	bound	SMC lower bound	SMC upper bound	ABC count
nullhttpd	500	3752	3760	3760
ghttpd	620	4880	4896	4896
csplit	629	4852	4921	4921
grep	629	4676	4763	4763
wc	629	4281	4284	4281
obscure	6	0	3	2

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- ▶ Big Constraints (1,587):
  - ▶ ABC: 1,587 constraints, average 0.34 seconds per constraint
  - ▶ SMC: 1,342 constraints, average 5.29 seconds per constraint

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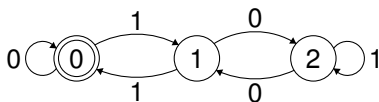
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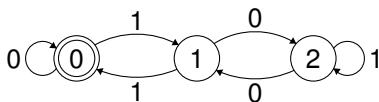


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**Idea:** DFA can represent (some) relations on sets of binary integers. We can use similar techniques that we used for #String to solve #LIA.

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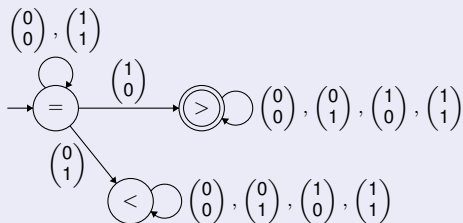
It is possible to represent the solutions to a set of LIA constraints as a binary multi-track DFA.

# Binary Multi-track DFA

## Solution DFA for LIA constraints.

- ▶ Read bits of  $x$  and  $y$  from most to least significant.
- ▶ Alphabet is a tuple of bits:  $\begin{pmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \end{pmatrix}$

## Solution DFA for the constraint $x > y$ .

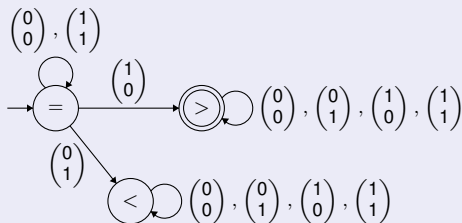


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Solutions of length  $n \equiv$  solutions within bound  $2^n$

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  - ▶ Binary Multi-track DFA



# Related work on model counting

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- ▶ Biere. Handbook of Satisfiability. Chapter 20: Model Counting. 2009
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- ▶ Phan. Model Counting Modulo Theories. PhD Thesis 2014.
- ▶ Birnbaum. The good old Davis-Putnam procedure helps counting models. JAIR 1999

Thank you.