Automata and formal language theory

Academic Year: (2022 / 2023) **Review date: 31-05-2022**

Department assigned to the subject: Computer Science and Engineering Department

Coordinating teacher: SANCHIS DE MIGUEL, MARIA ARACELI

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 1

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Programming (Course: 1 - Semester: 1)
Algorithms and Data Structures (Course: 1 - Semester: 2)

SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

¿ Know the types of grammars and automata and to correctly consider the phases of the construction of a language recogniser.
¿ Know the fundamentals and types of the Turing machine and be able to determine the order of complexity of an algorithm, an automaton and a Turing machine.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1.Introduction to the theory of automata and formal languages.
- 1.1. Why study Automata Theory. History and Origins
- 1.2. Relationship with others Areas of Knowledge
- 1.3. Machines, Languages and Algorithms.

2.- Automata Theory
- 2.1 Introduction and Definitions.
- 2.2 Mathematical model of an automaton
- 2.3 Automata and algorithms.
- 2.4 Discrete, continuous, and hybrid automata. Classes of automata.

3.Finite Automata
- 3.1 Definition and Representation of Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA)
- 3.2. DFA as Recognition Device
- 3.3. Equivalence and Minimization of DFA
- 3.4. Theorems of DFA
- 3.5. Definition and Representation of Nondeterministic Finite Automata (NDFA)
- 3.6. The Language of a NDFA
- 3.7. Equivalence of DFA and NDFA

4.Languages and Formal Grammars.
- 4.1. Operations with Words. Operations with Languages. Derivations.
- 4.2 Concept of Grammar. Formal Grammar.
- 4.3. Chomsky Hierarchy and Equivalent Grammar
- 4.4 Context-Free Grammar
- 4.5. Language of a Context-Free Grammar. Parse Tree
- 4.6. Well-Formed Grammar
- 4.7. Chomsky Normal Form. Greibach Normal Form

5.Regular Languages.
- 5.1. Definition of Regular Languages
- 5.2. DFA for a Regular Grammar
- 5.3. Equivalence of Regular Expressions
- 5.4. Kleene's Theorem
- 5.5. Characteristic equations
- 5.6. Synthesis Problem: Recursive Algorithm
- 5.7. Derivatives of Regular Expressions

6.Pushdown Automata.

6.1. Definition of Pushdown Automata (PDA).
6.2. Transitions, Movement and Instantaneous Description in PDA.
6.3. Acceptance by Empty Stack. Acceptance by Final State.
6.4. Language Accepted by a PDA.
Equivalence of PDA by Empty Stack and PDA by Final State.
6.5. From Context-Free Grammar to Push-Down Automata.
6.6. From Pushdown Automata to Context-Free Grammar.

7.Turing Machine.
5.1. Definition if Turing Machine.
5.2. Variations of Turing Machine.
5.3. Universal Turing Machine.

8. Compilers
8.1. Syntactic Analysis
8.2. Code generation

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

THEORETICAL-PRACTICAL CLASSES (theoretical content): 3.5 ECTS.
The knowledge to be acquired by the students will be presented. They will receive the class notes and will have basic reference texts to facilitate the follow-up of the classes and the development of the subsequent work. Exercises will be solved by the student that will serve as self-evaluation and to acquire the necessary skills. Classes of problems, in which the problems proposed to the students will be developed and discussed.

WORKSHOPS AND/OR LABORATORY PRACTICES. 1.5 ECTS.
Developed with or without the presence of the teacher, they aim to complete and integrate the development of all the specific and transversal competences, in the resolution of two practical cases where the approach to the problem, the choice of the resolution method, the results obtained and their interpretation are well documented.

FINAL EXAM. 0,5 ECTS
The knowledge, skills and abilities acquired throughout the course will be globally assessed.

TUTORIALS. 0,5 ECTS
Individualized assistance (individual tutorials) or in group (collective tutorials) to the students by the professor.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The evaluation will consist in continuous assessment and a final exam.

The aim of continuous assessment is to help the students keep track of their learning progress, obtaining continous feedback about the competences acquired during the semester. This way,mid-term exams and practices are intended to be both learning and evaluation activities.

The aim of the final exam is to assess the extent to which the students have acquired the cognitive and procedural competences.

The continuous assessment will sum up 50% of the final grade. The continuous assessment will consist of:
- Three mid-term exams (test questions, short questions and problems),and
- Four practical assignments using JFLAP software tool (http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/jflap/).

Each mid-term exam will sum up 12% of the final grade and the practical assessments 14% of the final grade.

The final exam (50 % of grade) will consist in theoretical questions as well as practical exercises.

More than 4 points in the final exam will be required to sum continuous assessment.

% end-of-term-examination:	50
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	50

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Enrique Alfonseca Cubero, Manuel Alfonseca Cubero, Roberto Moriyón Salomón. Teoría de autómatas y lenguajes formales., McGraw-Hill (2007)..
- John E. Hopcroft, Rajeev Motwani, Jeffrey D.Ullman. Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation (Third Edition), Pearson Education, Pearson Addison Wesley.
- Manuel Alfonseca, Justo Sancho, Miguel Martínez Orga. Teoría de lenguajes, gramáticas y autómatas., Publicaciones R.A.E.C. ISBN: 8460560929. 1997..
- Pedro Isasi, Paloma Martínez y Daniel Borrajo. Lenguajes, Gramáticas y Autómatas. Un enfoque práctico., Addison-Wesley, (1997).
- Susan H. Rodger and Thomas W. Finley. JFLAP: An Interactive Formal Languages and Automata Package. 2006, Jones & Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, MA. ISBN 0763738344.

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brookshear, J. Glenn. Teoría de la computación : lenguajes formales, autómatas y complejidad., Addison Wesley Iberoamericana. 1993. ISBN: 9684443846.
- Jeffrey Shallit. A Second Course in Formal Languages and Automata Theory., Cambridge University Press, September 30 2008..
- Michael Sipser. Introduction to the Theory of Computation (2nd Edition) 2006, Thomson Course Technology..
- Peter Linz An Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata. Third Edition, Jones and Bartlett Publishers. ISBN: 0763714224..
- R. Penrose La Nueva Mente del Emperador, Mondadori, 1991..