

The following table gives the number of respondents who obtained each score.

score	14	13	12	11	10
number	3	10	9	3	4

The numbers in parentheses below show the number of people who missed each question.

Tell whether the following sets are regular or nonregular.

- $\{a^n b^m \mid n = 2m\}$  **nonregular (0)**
- $\{a^n b^{2m} \mid n \geq 0 \text{ and } m \geq 0\}$  **regular (4)**
- $\{a^n b^m c^n \mid n \geq 0 \text{ and } m \geq 0\}$  **nonregular (7)**
- $\{x \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid x \text{ contains more 0's than 1's}\}$  **nonregular (1)**
- $\{a^n b^m \mid n \neq m\}$  **nonregular (1)**
- $\{a^n b^{n+4810} \mid n \geq 0\}$  **nonregular (4)**

True or false? Every equivalence relation is

- reflexive **true (0)**
- symmetric **true (0)**
- antisymmetric **false (2)**
- transitive **true (0)**
- a partial order **false (4)**
- a homomorphism **false (7)**
- refined by the identity relation **true (8)**

Here is a tricky one!

- One of the following subsets of  $\{a, b, c\}^*$  is regular and the other is nonregular. Which is which? **(15)**
  - $\{xy \mid x, y \in \{a, b\}^*, \#a(x) = \#b(y)\}$
  - $\{xcy \mid x, y \in \{a, b\}^*, \#a(x) = \#b(y)\}$

The set (ii) is nonregular: if you intersect with  $a^*cb^*$ , then delete the  $c$ 's with a homomorphism  $h(a) = a$ ,  $h(b) = b$ ,  $h(c) = \varepsilon$ , you get your favorite nonregular set  $\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ .

The set (i) is regular, and in fact is just  $\{a, b\}^*$ . That is, every string  $z \in \{a, b\}^*$  can be expressed as  $xy$  with  $\#a(x) = \#b(y)$  for some  $x, y$ . Suppose  $|z| = n$ . Let  $f(i) = \#a(x_i) - \#b(y_i)$ , where  $z = x_i y_i$  with  $|x_i| = i$  and  $|y_i| = n - i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n$ . Then  $f(0) = \#a(\varepsilon) - \#b(z) \leq 0$ ,  $f(n) = \#a(z) - \#b(\varepsilon) \geq 0$ , and  $f(i+1) = f(i) + 1$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . There must be an  $i$  such that  $f(i) = 0$ , i.e.  $\#a(x_i) = \#b(y_i)$ .