

**Note:** To show that the language of a DFA (or NFA)  $M$  is  $L$ , you must show that for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $M$  accepts  $x$  **if and only if**  $x \in L$ . Alternatively, you can show that if  $x \in L$  then  $M$  accepts  $x$ , and if  $x \notin L$  then  $M$  does not accept  $L$  (this is equivalent).

- Draw the state/transition diagram for a DFA with a binary alphabet which recognizes the set of strings in which every sequence of three successive bits contains a 0. **Note:** the sequences of three successive characters in the string  $a_1a_2a_3a_4a_5 \dots$ , are  $a_1a_2a_3$ ,  $a_2a_3a_4$ ,  $a_3a_4a_5$  etc.
  - Explicitly write the five components of this DFA.
- Let language  $L$  be recognized by a DFA with  $n$  states. Prove that the language  $\Sigma^* \setminus L$  (the complement of  $L$ , containing all strings not in  $L$ ) is also recognized by some DFA with  $n$  states.
  - Does your construction from (a) work for NFAs as well? If not, give a counterexample.
  - Prove that if a language  $L$  is recognized by an NFA, then  $\Sigma^* \setminus L$  is recognizable by an NFA.
- Let language  $L$  be recognized by a DFA, and  $b$  be an arbitrary symbol of its alphabet. Prove that the following language is also recognized by a DFA:

$$\text{Spaced}(L) = \{a_1ba_2ba_3b \dots ba_n \mid a_1a_2a_3 \dots a_n \in L\}$$

**Note:** Strings with just one symbol remain unchanged after “spacing”.

- The *factorial* of a natural number  $n$ , written  $n!$ , is the number  $1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (n-1) \cdot n$ . Prove that the language  $L = \{a^{n!} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is not recognized by any finite automaton (Hint: prove and use the fact that for any  $n$ , there exists some  $k$  such that  $k! + n < (k+1)!$ ).