Course Overview

COMP 455 – 002, Spring 2019

Course Website

▶ https://cs.unc.edu/~otternes/comp455/

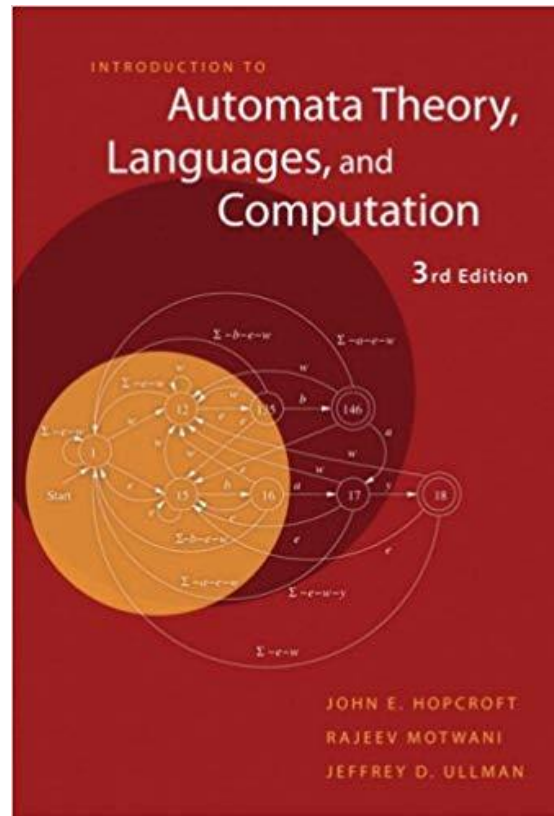▶ Check for reading and homework assignments

▶ Assignment dates may be updated

Instructor

► Nathan Otterness

► otternes@cs.unc.edu (include "COMP 455" in the subject)

► Tentative office hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00 AM Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM

► Office: SN 119

Textbook

- The textbook is *Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation*, 3rd Edition, by Hopcroft, Motwani and Ullman

- The second edition should be OK too, but not the first edition.

INTRODUCTION TO
Automata Theory,
Languages, and
Computation
3rd Edition

JOHN E. HOPCROFT
RAJEEV MOTWANI
JEFFREY D. ULLMAN

Class Etiquette

▶ No laptops or phones in class

▶ Arrive on time and don't leave early

▶ No conversations apart from class discussion

▶ Talk to me in advance if you need an exception!

Honor Code

▶ Homework must be completed individually

▶ Do not look for solutions online *or post assignments or solutions online!*

▶ Allowed resources (I must approve anything not on this list in advance, and in writing):

  ❖ The textbook

  ❖ Lecture slides on the course website

  ❖ Office hours

▶ The best way to get help is by attending office hours!

Grading

▶ Pop quizzes: 5%

▶ Homework: 30%

▶ Two midterms: 35%

▶ Final exam: 30%

Check the syllabus for more details!

Topics Covered

▶ Introduce traditional topics from "theoretical" computer science

▶ Practical applications:

❖ Formal proofs don't need to be intimidating!

❖ Advanced text processing (parsers and regular expressions)

❖ Understand the limitations of computing— "computability" and "tractability"