

Algebraic Recognition of Regular Functions

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Abstract: We consider regular string-to-string functions, i.e. functions that are recognized by copyless streaming string transducers, or any of their equivalent models, such as deterministic two-way automata. We give yet another characterization, which is very succinct: finiteness-preserving functors from the category of semi-groups to itself, together with a certain output function that is a natural transformation.

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