

Formal Languages

Turing Machines

Module-5

TURING MACHINES AND OTHER MODELS OF TURING MACHINES:

The Standard Turing Machine, Nondeterministic Turing Machines, A Universal Turing Machine.

A HIERARCHY OF FORMAL LANGUAGES & AUTOMATA

Recursive and Recursively Enumerable Languages, Unrestricted grammars, Context-Sensitive Grammars and Languages, The Chomsky Hierarchy. - Self Study part

10 Hours

LIMITS OF ALGORITHMIC COMPUTATION

Some Problems That Cannot Be Solved by Turing Machines, The Post Correspondence Problem

Text Book 1: Chapter 9: 9.1, Chapter 10:10.3-10.4, Chapter 11: 11.1-11.4
Chapter 12: 12.1, 12.3

The Language Hierarchy

$a^n b^n c^n$?

ww ?

Context-Free Languages

$a^n b^n$

ww^R

Regular Languages

a^*

$a^* b^*$

The diagram consists of three concentric ellipses. The outermost ellipse is labeled 'Languages accepted by Turing Machines'. Inside it is an ellipse labeled 'Context-Free Languages'. Inside that is the innermost ellipse labeled 'Regular Languages'. Each level contains specific language examples.

Languages accepted by
Turing Machines

$a^n b^n c^n$

ww

Context-Free Languages

$a^n b^n$

ww^R

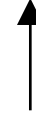
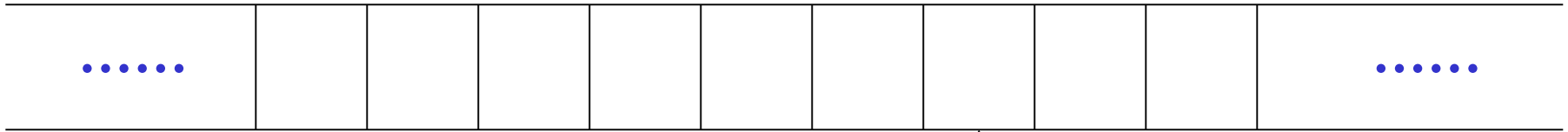
Regular Languages

a^*

$a^* b^*$

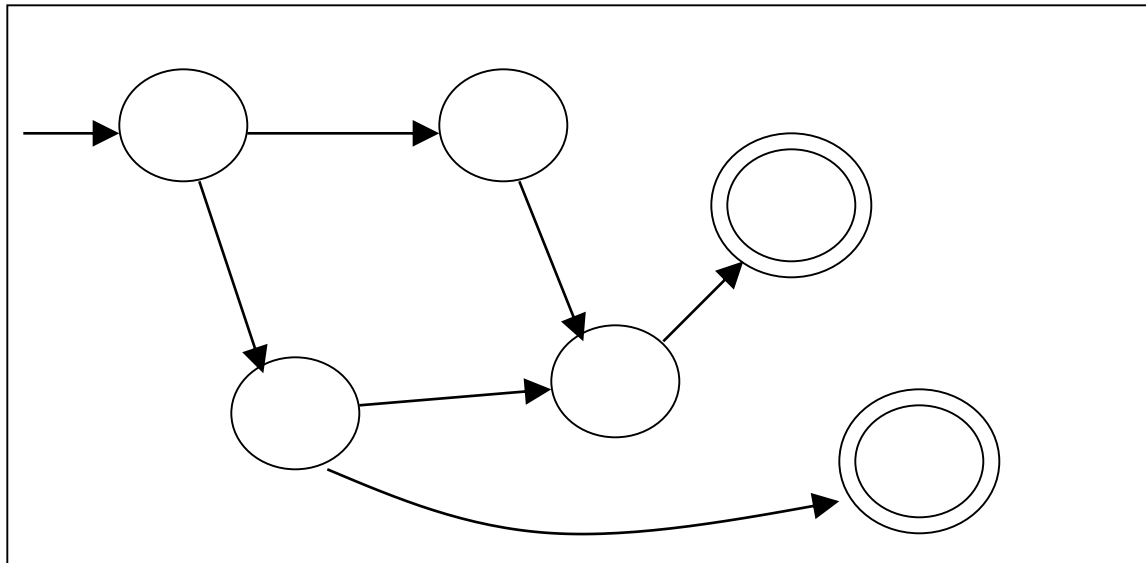
A Turing Machine

Tape



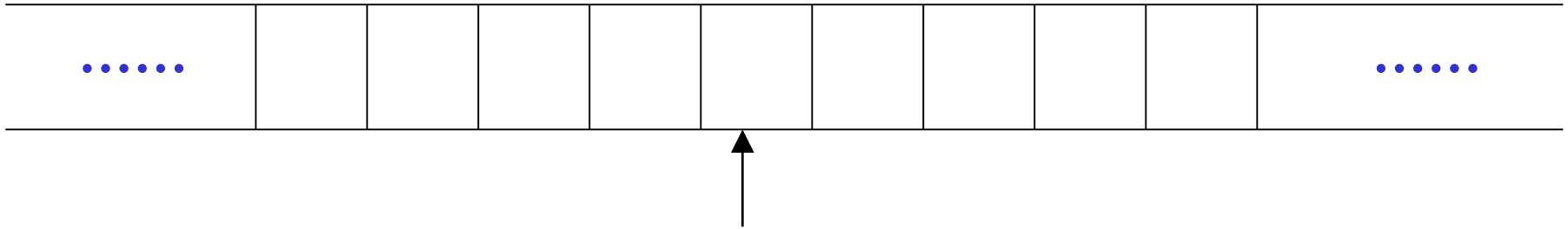
Read-Write head

Control Unit



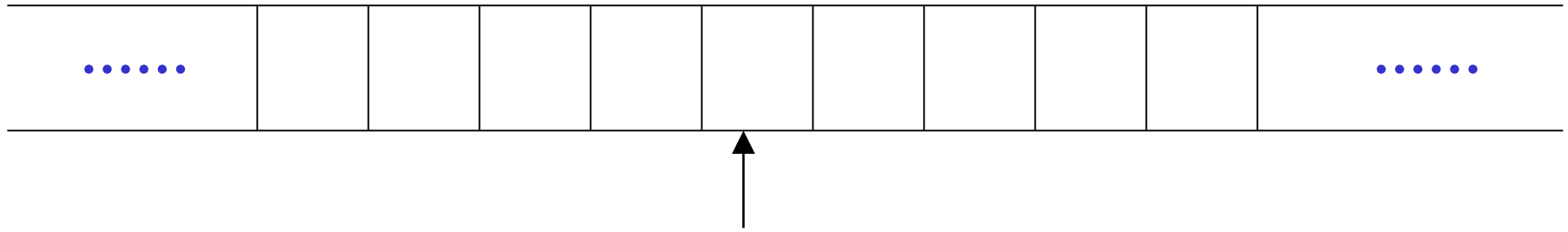
The Tape

No boundaries -- infinite length



Read-Write head

The head moves Left or Right



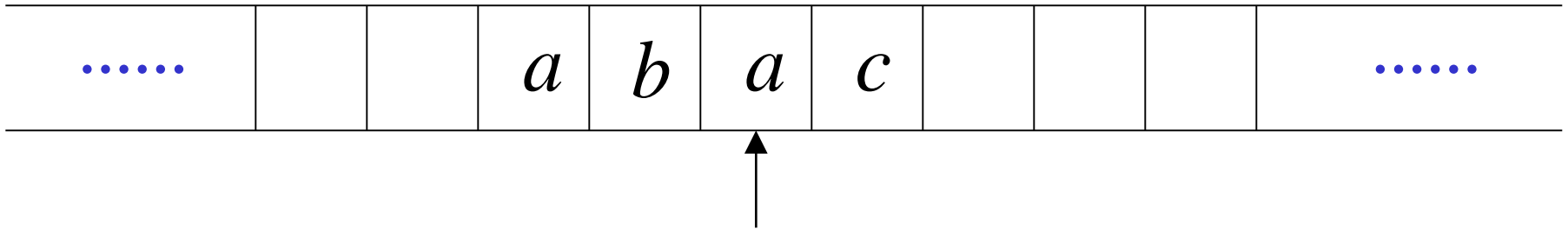
Read-Write head

The head at each time step:

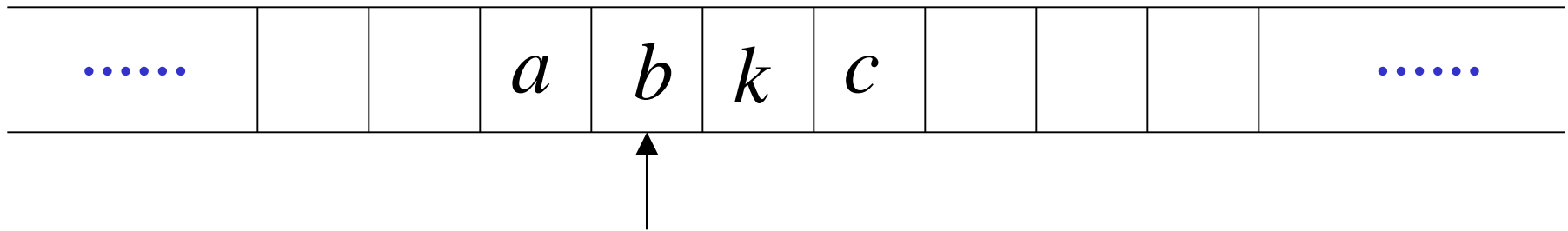
1. Reads a symbol
2. Writes a symbol
3. Moves Left or Right

Example:

Time 0



Time 1

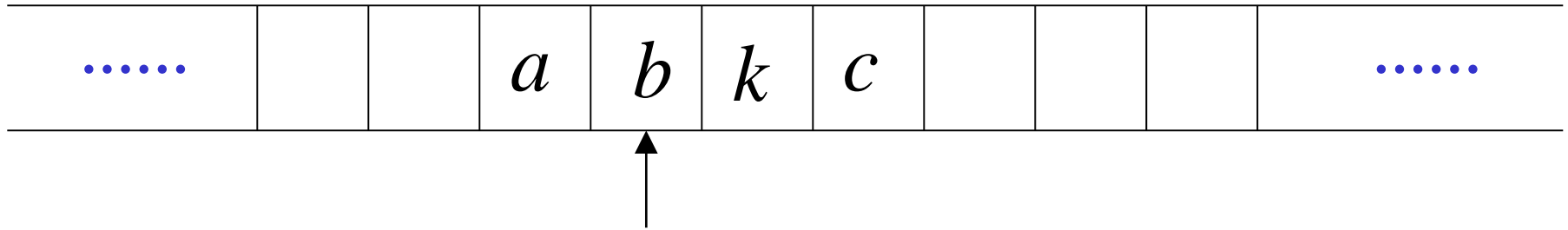


1. Reads *a*

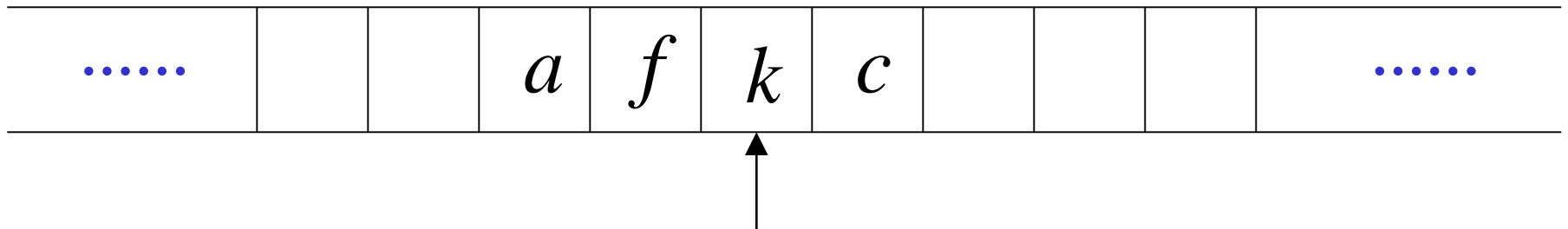
2. Writes *k*

3. Moves Left

Time 1

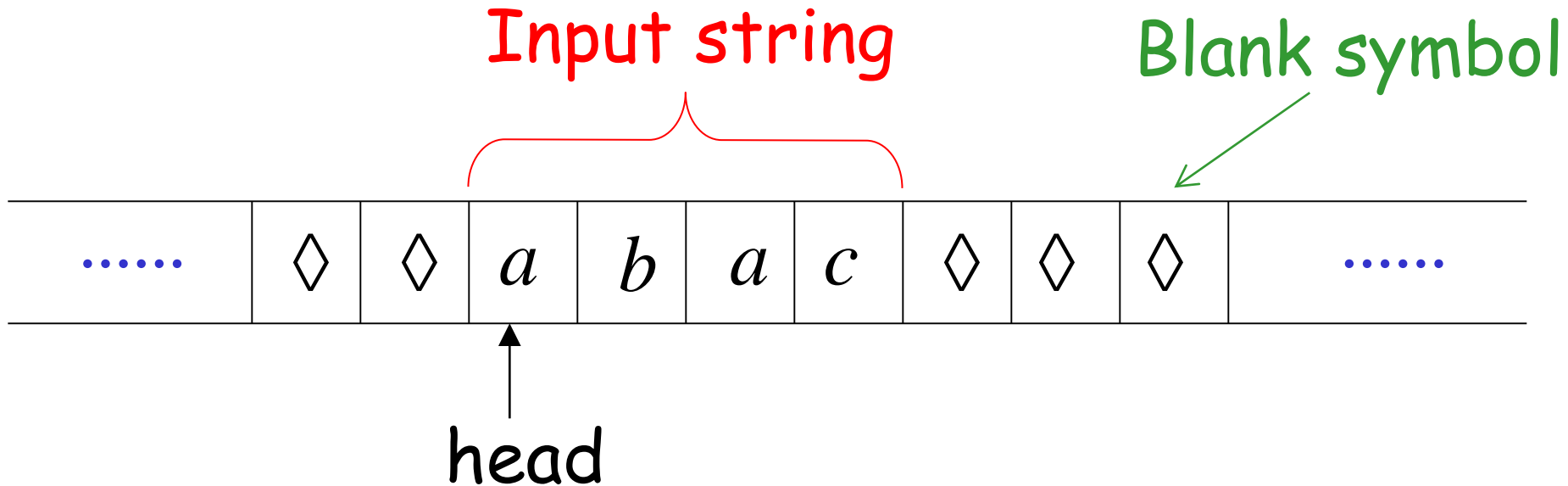


Time 2



1. Reads b
2. Writes f
3. Moves Right

The Input String



Head starts at the leftmost position
of the input string

Turing thesis, which maintains that any computational process, such as those carried out by present-day computers, can be done on a Turing machine.

The Standard Turing Machine

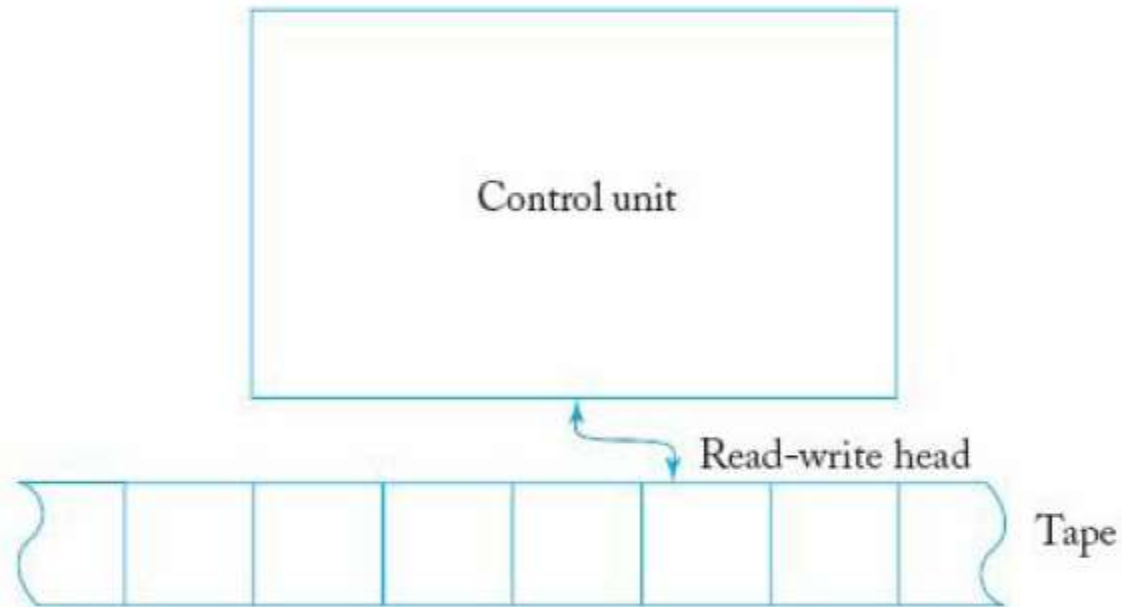
It can be visualized as

- a single, one-dimensional array of cells, each of which can hold a single symbol.
- This array extends indefinitely in both directions and is therefore capable of holding an unlimited amount of information.
- The information can be read and changed in any order.
- We will call such a storage device a **tape** because it is analogous to the magnetic tapes used in older computers.

Definition of a Turing Machine

- A Turing machine is an automaton whose temporary storage is a tape.
- This tape is divided into cells, each of which is capable of holding one symbol.
- Associated with the tape is a **read-write head** that can travel right or left on the tape and that can read and write a single symbol on each move.
- The automaton that we use as a Turing machine will have neither an input file nor any special output mechanism.
- Whatever input and output is necessary will be done on the machine's tape.

Turing Machine



A Turing machine M is defined by

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, \square, F),$$

where

Q is the set of internal states,

Σ is the input alphabet

Γ is the finite set of symbols called the **tape alphabet**,

δ is the transition function,

$\square \in \Gamma$ is a special symbol called the **blank**,

$q_0 \in Q$ is the initial state,

$F \subseteq Q$ is the set of final states.

we assume that $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma - \{\square\}$, that is, that the input alphabet is a subset of the tape alphabet, not including the blank.

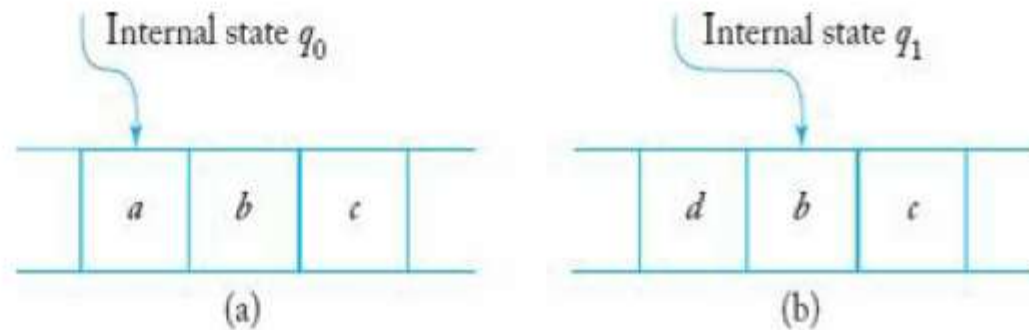
The transition function δ is defined as

$$\delta : Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R\}$$

Figure 9.2 shows the situation before and after the move

$$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_1, d, R).$$

Figure 9.2



The situation (a) before the move and (b) after the move.

- The whole process may terminate, which we achieve in a Turing machine by putting it into a **halt state**.
- A Turing machine is said to halt whenever it reaches a configuration for which δ is not defined.
- A Turing machine is said to halt whenever it reaches a configuration for which δ is defined or when string gets accepted.

Consider the Turing machine defined by

$$Q = \{q_0, q_1\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\},$$

$$\Gamma = \{a, b, \square\},$$

$$F = \{q_1\},$$

and

$$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_0, b, R),$$

$$\delta(q_0, b) = (q_0, b, R),$$

$$\delta(q_0, \square) = (q_1, \square, L),$$

- If this Turing machine is started in state q_0 with the symbol a under the read-write head, the applicable transition rule is $\delta(q_0, a) = (q_0, b, R)$.
- Therefore, the read-write head will replace the a with a 'b', then move right on the tape.
- The machine will remain in state q_0 .
- Any subsequent a will also be replaced with a 'b', but b's will not be modified.
- When the machine encounters the first blank, it will move left one cell, then halt in final state q_1 .

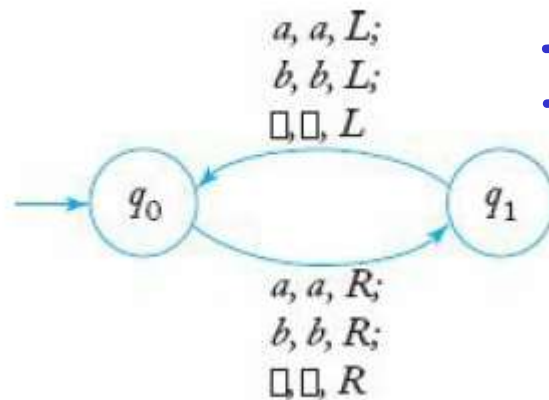


Sequence of moves

Transition Graph



Infinite Loop



In this TM does not halt

Summarize the main features of our model

1. The Turing machine has a tape that is unbounded in both directions, allowing any number of left and right moves.
2. The Turing machine is deterministic in the sense that δ defines at most one move for each configuration.
3. There is no special input file. We assume that at the initial time the tape has some specified content. Some of this may be considered input.
4. Similarly, there is no special output device. Whenever the machine halts, some or all of the contents of the tape may be viewed as output.

The pictures drawn in Figure 9.3 correspond to the sequence of instantaneous descriptions q_0aa , bq_0a , $bbq_0\Box$, bq_1b .

$q_0aa, bq_0a, bbq_0\Box, bq_1b$

$$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_0, b, R),$$

$$\delta(q_0, b) = (q_0, b, R),$$

$$\delta(q_0, \Box) = (q_1, \Box, L),$$



$$q_0aa \vdash bq_0a \vdash bbq_0\Box \vdash bq_1b$$

or

$$q_0aa \vdash^* bq_1b.$$

A move from one configuration to another will be denoted by \vdash . Thus, if

$$\delta(q_1, c) = (q_2, e, R),$$

then the move

$$abq_1cd \vdash abeq_2d$$

The symbol \vdash^* has the usual meaning of an arbitrary number of moves

The sequence of configurations leading to a halt state will be called a **computation**.

starting from the initial configuration x_1qx_2 , the machine goes into a loop and never halts.

$$x_1qx_2 \vdash^* \infty,$$

Turing Machines as Language Accepters

The machine is started in the initial state q_0 with the read write head positioned on the leftmost symbol of ω . If, after a sequence of moves, the Turing machine enters a final state and halts, then w is considered to be accepted.

Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta; q_0, \square, F)$ be a Turing machine. Then the language accepted by M is

$$L(M) = \left\{ w \in \Sigma^+ : q_0 w \vdash^* x_1 q_f x_2 \text{ for some } q_f \in F, x_1, x_2 \in \Gamma^* \right\}$$

The machine can halt in a non-final state or it can enter an infinite loop and never halt. Any string for which M does not halt is by definition not in $L(M)$.

Example 1:

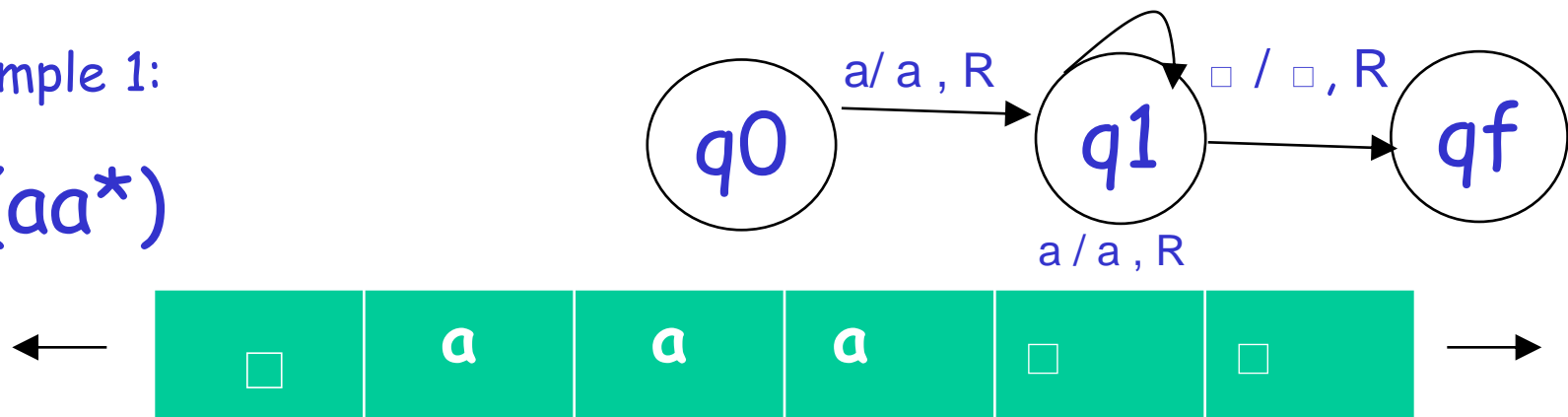
For $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$, design a Turing machine that accepts the language denoted by the regular expression 00^* .

- Starting at the left end of the input, we read each symbol and check that it is a 0.
- If it is, we continue by moving right.
- If we reach a blank without encountering anything but 0, we terminate and accept the string
- If the input contains a 1 anywhere, the string is not in $L(00^*)$, and we halt in a non-final state.
- To keep track of the computation, two internal states $Q = \{q_0, q_1\}$ and one final state $F = \{q_1\}$ can be assumed.

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_0, 0) &= (q_0, 0, R), \\ \delta(q_0, \square) &= (q_1, \square, R).\end{aligned}$$

Example 1:

$L(aa^*)$



$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$

$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_f\}, \Sigma = \{a\}, \Gamma = \{a, \square\}, F = \{q_f\}$

$\delta = Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R\}$

$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_1, a, R)$

$\delta(q_1, a) = (q_1, a, R)$

$\delta(q_1, \square) = (q_f, \square, R)$

ID: $q_0 \ a \ a \ a \vdash a \ q_1 \ a \ a \vdash a \ a \ q_1 \ a \vdash a \ a \ a \ q_1 \ \square \vdash a \ a \ a \ \square \ q_f \ \square$

Example 2:

$L(a(a+b)^*)$ assume some string **aba**



$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$, $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$, $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$, $\Gamma = \{a, b, \square\}$, $F = \{q_2\}$, $\delta = Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R\}$

$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_1, a, R)$

$\delta(q_1, a) = (q_1, a, R)$

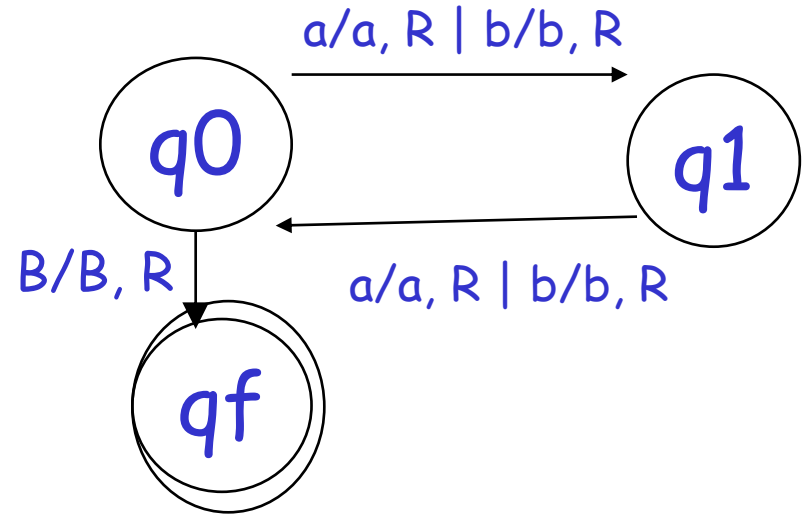
$\delta(q_1, b) = (q_1, b, R)$

$\delta(q_1, \square) = (q_2, \square, R)$

ID: **q0** a b a \vdash a **q1** b a \vdash a b **q1** a \vdash a b a **q1** \square \vdash a b a \square **q2** \square

Example 3:

$L = \{w \mid w \text{ is even and } \Sigma = \{a,b\}, \}$



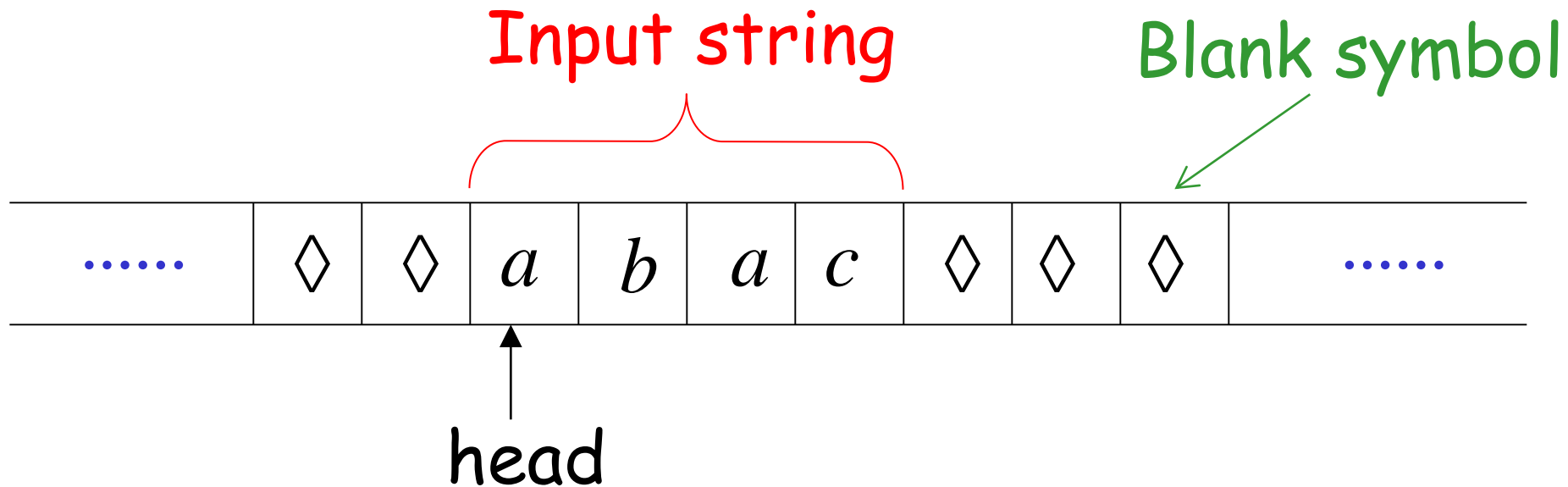
$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$, $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$, $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$, $\Gamma = \{a, b, \square\}$, $F = \{q_2\}$, $\delta = Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R\}$

$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_1, a, R)$ or $\delta(q_0, b) = (q_1, b, R)$

$\delta(q_1, a) = (q_0, a, R)$ or $\delta(q_1, b) = (q_0, b, R)$

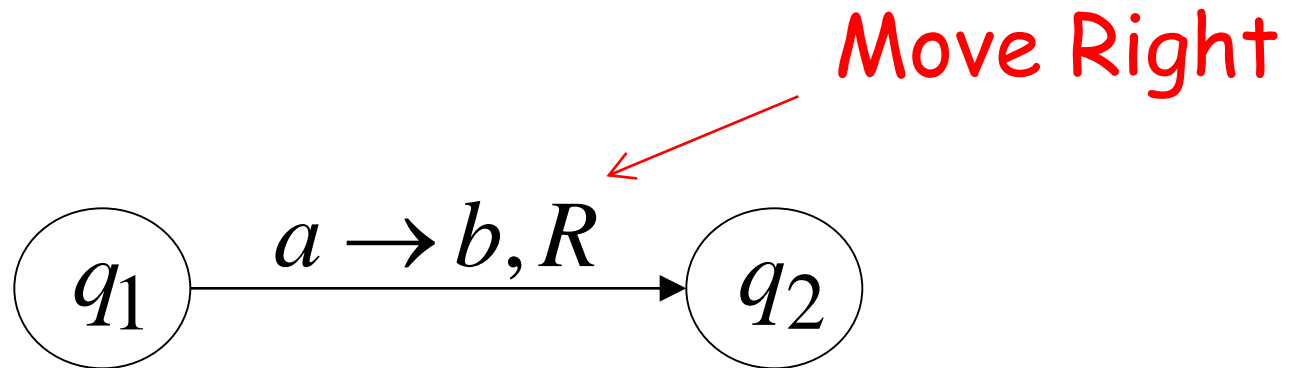
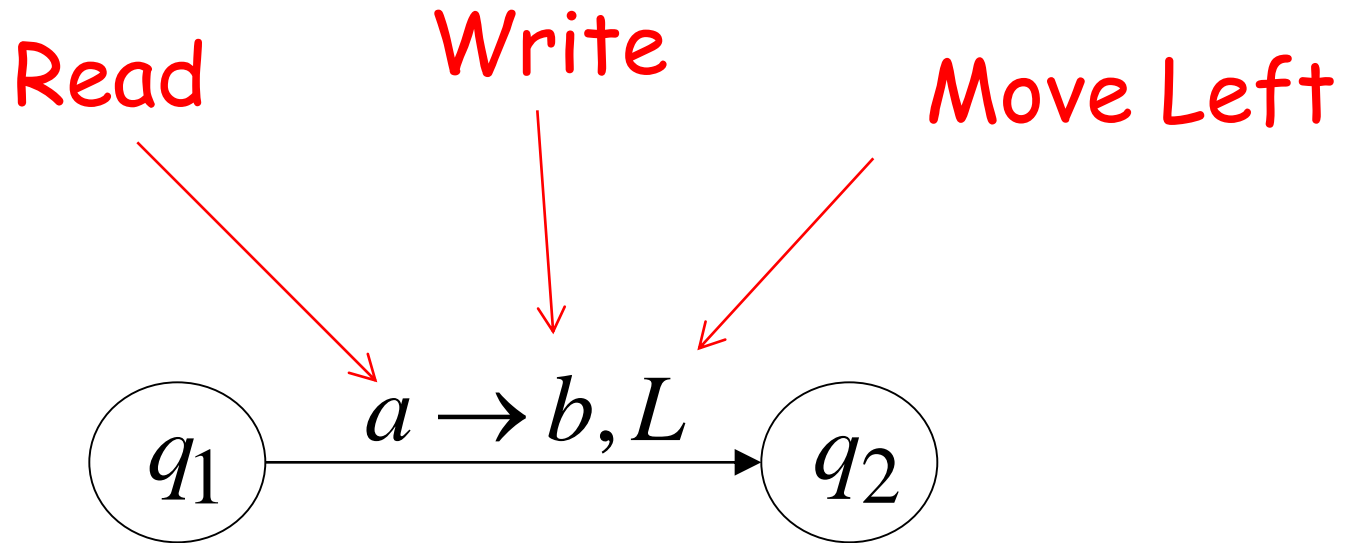
$\delta(q_0, \square) = (q_2, \square, R)$

ID: $q_0 a b a b \vdash a q_1 b a b \vdash a b q_0 a b \vdash a b a q_1 b \square \vdash a b a b q_0 \square \vdash a b a b \square q_2 \square$



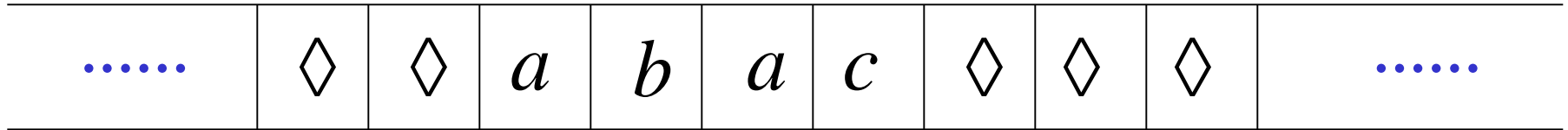
Remark: the input string is never empty

States & Transitions



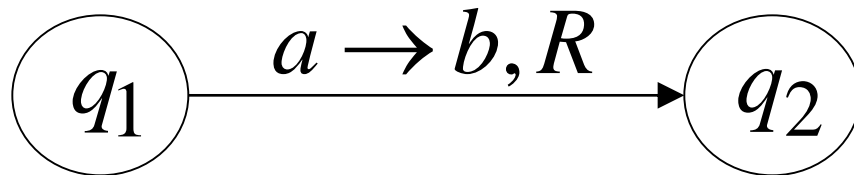
Example:

Time 1

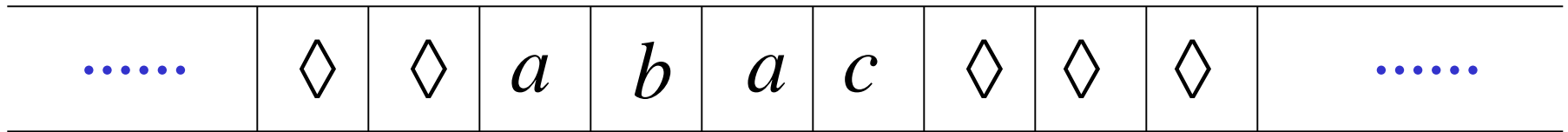


q_1

current state

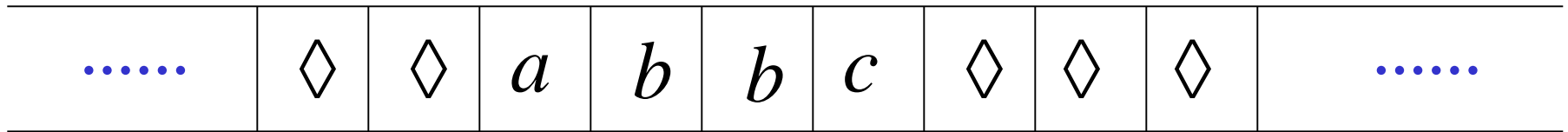


Time 1

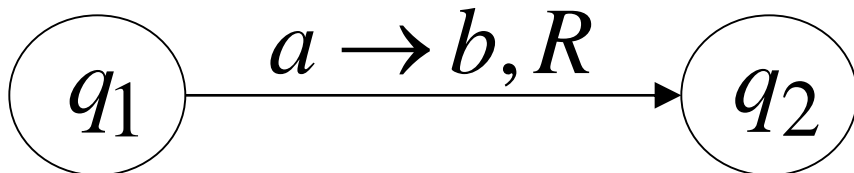


q_1

Time 2

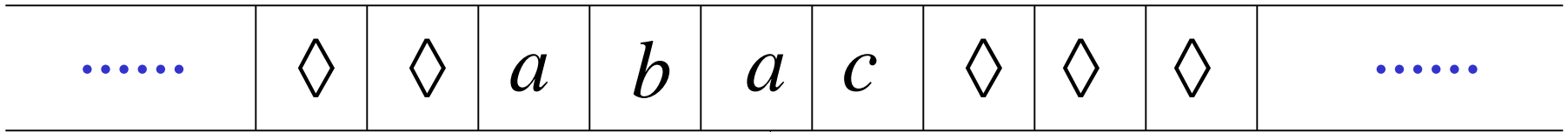


q_2



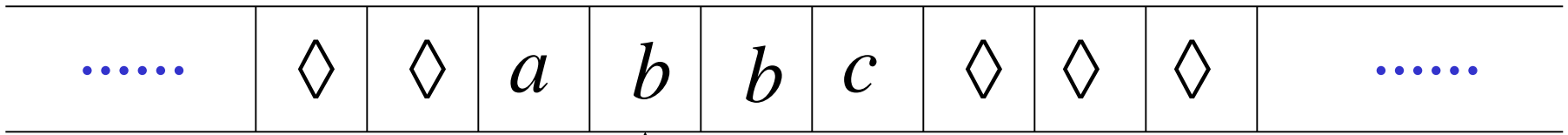
Example:

Time 1

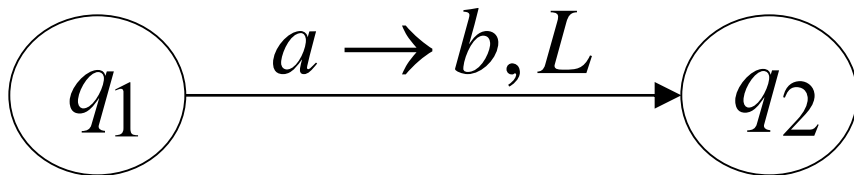


q_1

Time 2

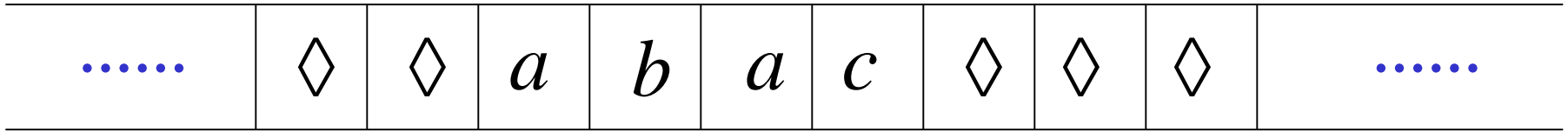


q_2



Example:

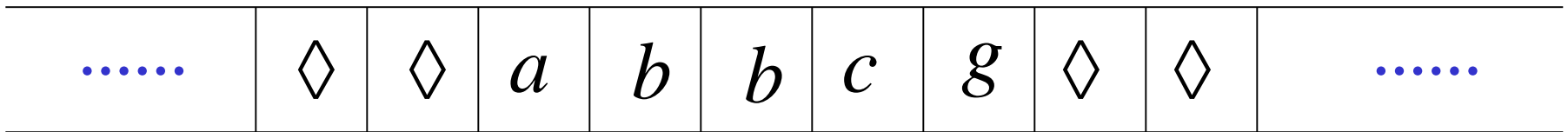
Time 1



q_1

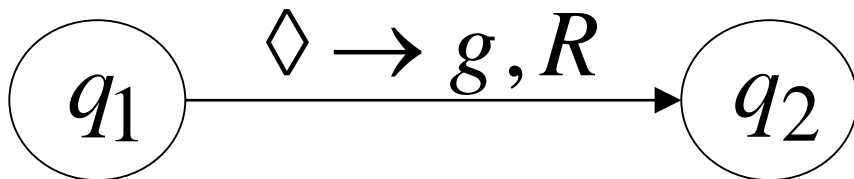
An upward-pointing arrow originates from the label q_1 and points to the diamond symbol in the 8th cell of the Time 1 memory array.

Time 2



q_2

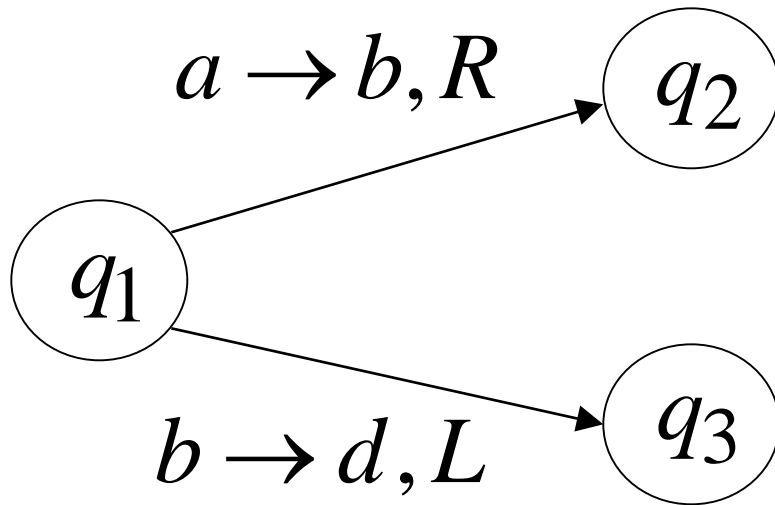
An upward-pointing arrow originates from the label q_2 and points to the diamond symbol in the 9th cell of the Time 2 memory array.



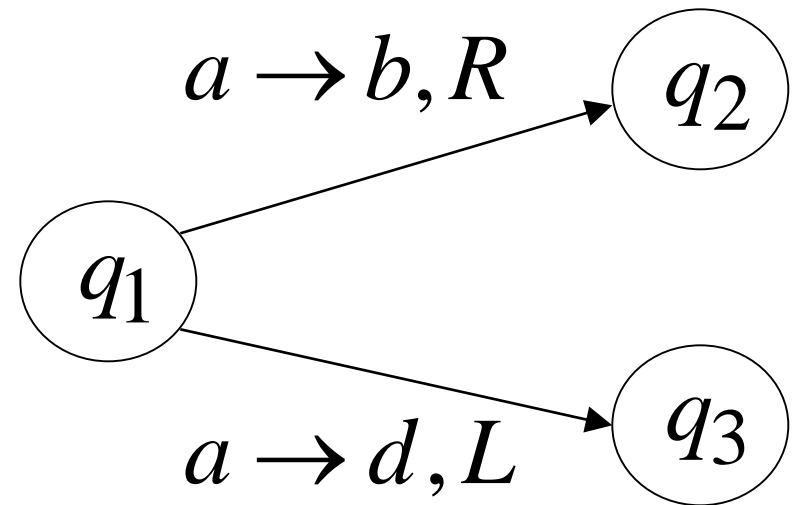
Determinism

Turing Machines are deterministic

Allowed



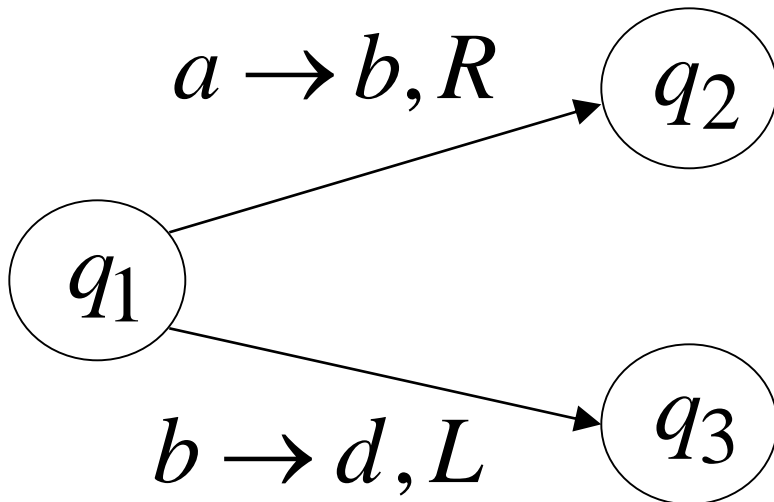
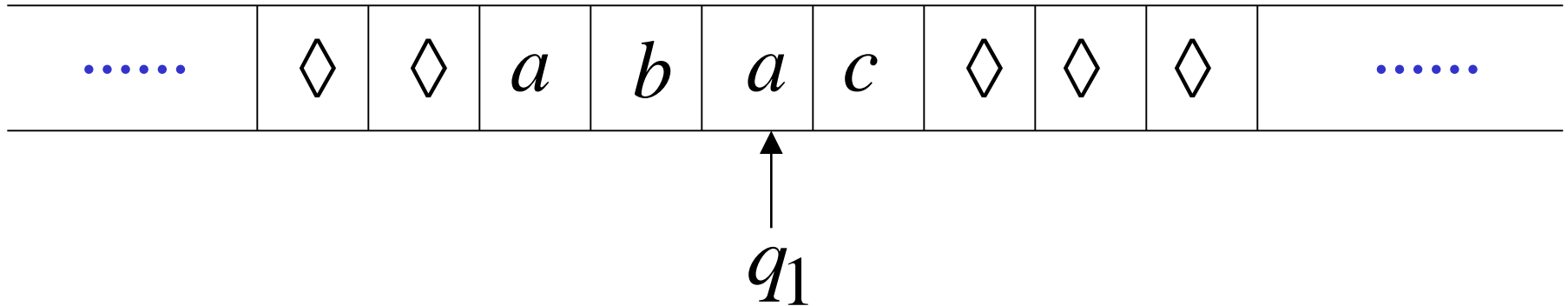
Not Allowed



No lambda transitions allowed

Partial Transition Function

Example:



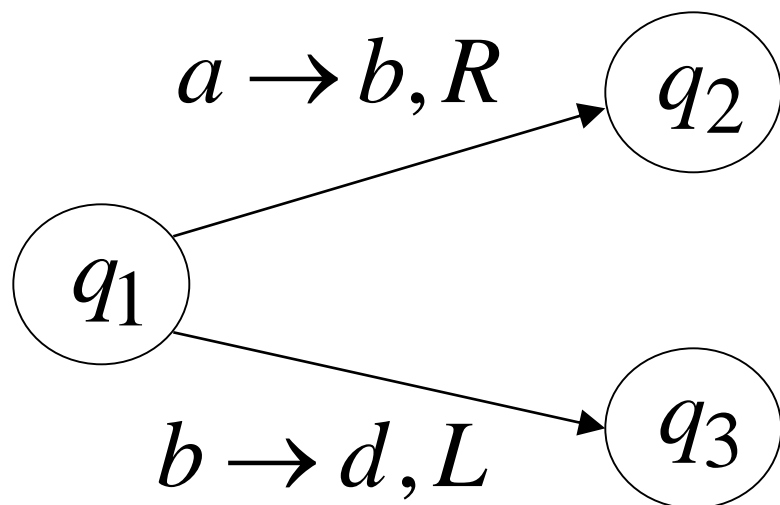
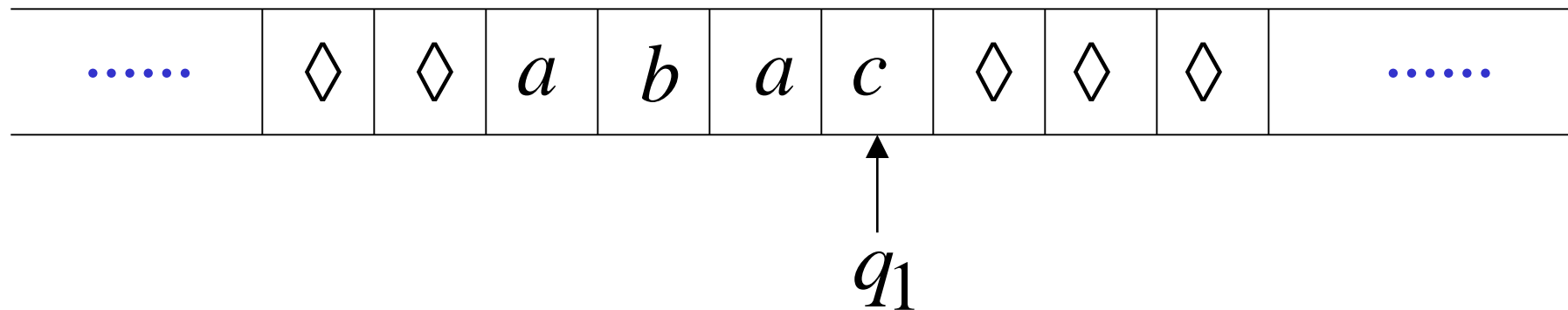
Allowed:

No transition
for input symbol c

Halting

The machine *halts* if there are
no possible transitions to follow

Example:



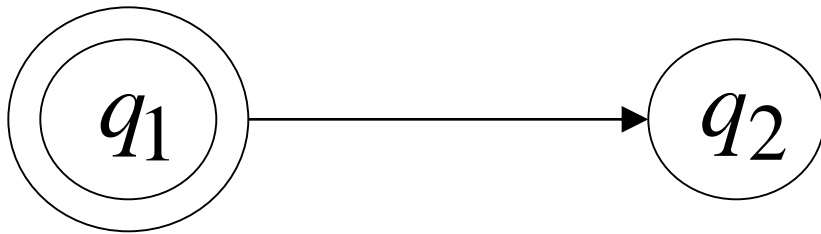
No possible transition

HALT!!!

Final States



Allowed



Not Allowed

- Final states have no outgoing transitions
- In a final state the machine halts

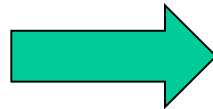
Acceptance

Accept Input



If machine halts
in a final state

Reject Input



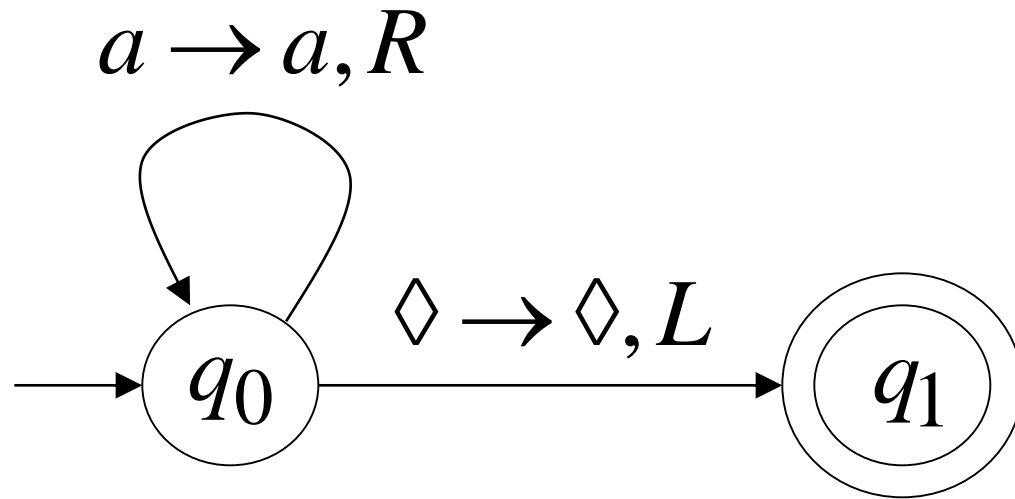
If machine halts
in a non-final state

or

If machine enters
an *infinite loop*

Turing Machine Example

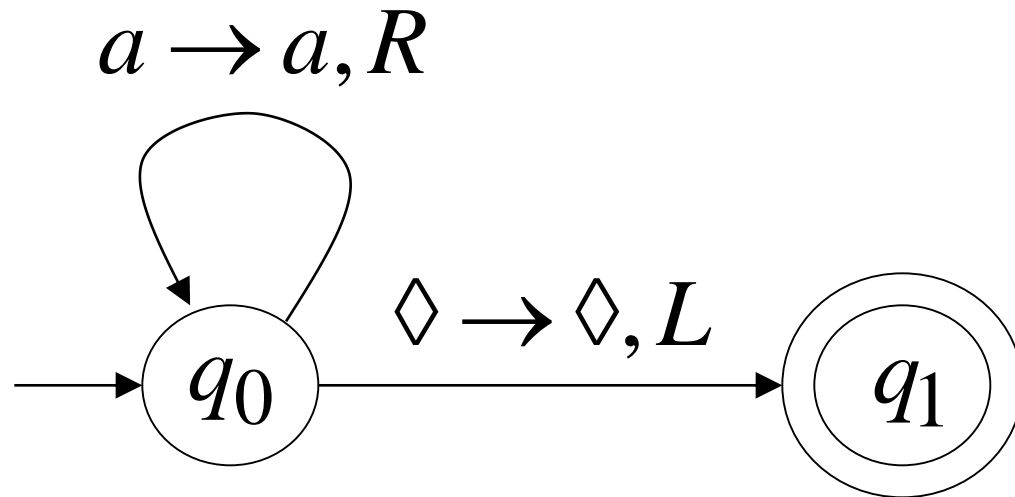
Language?



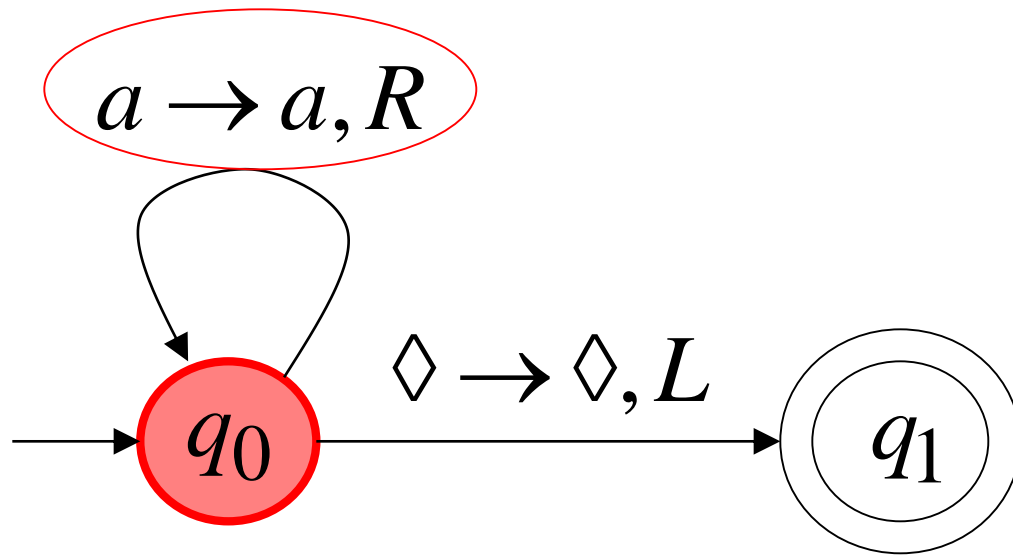
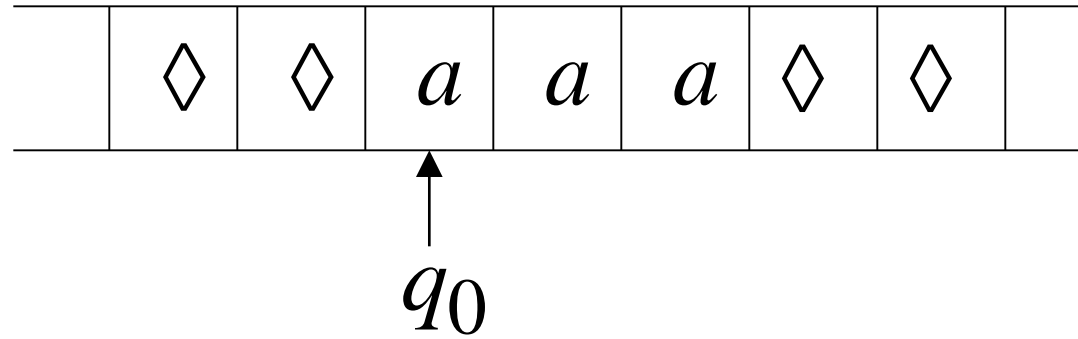
Turing Machine Example

A Turing machine that accepts the language:

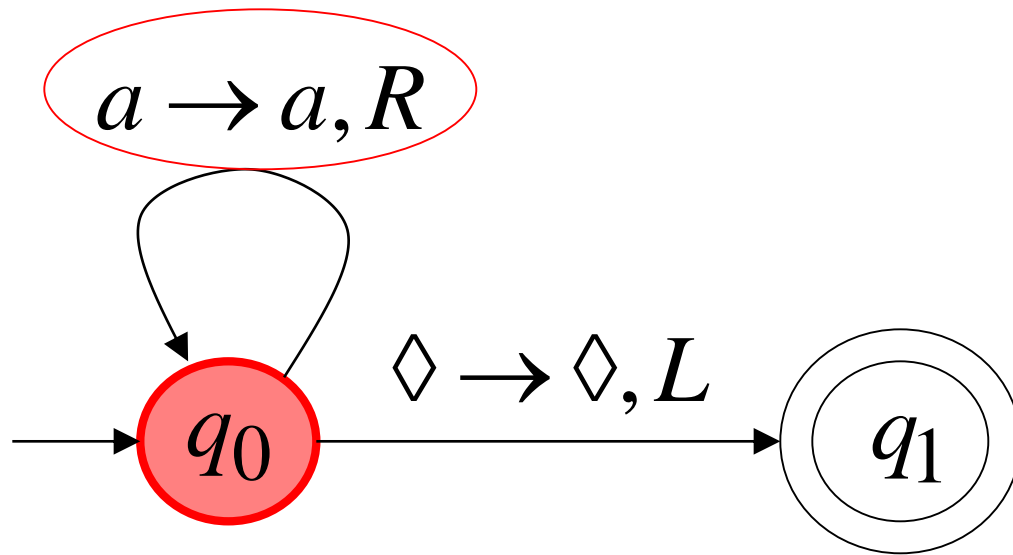
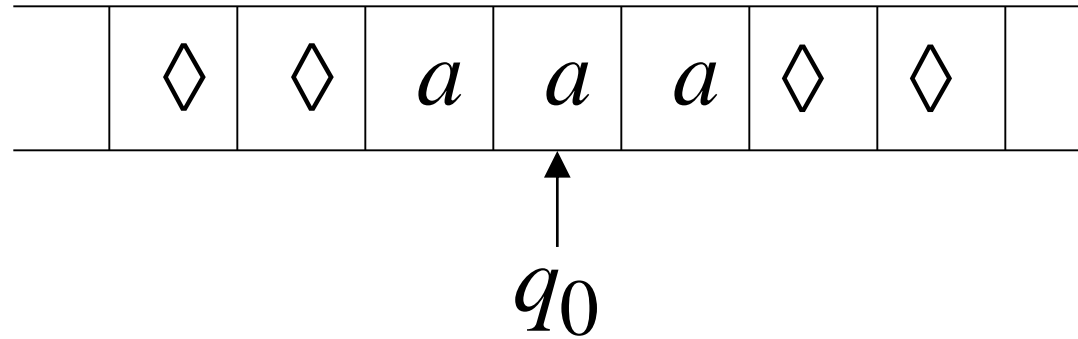
a^*



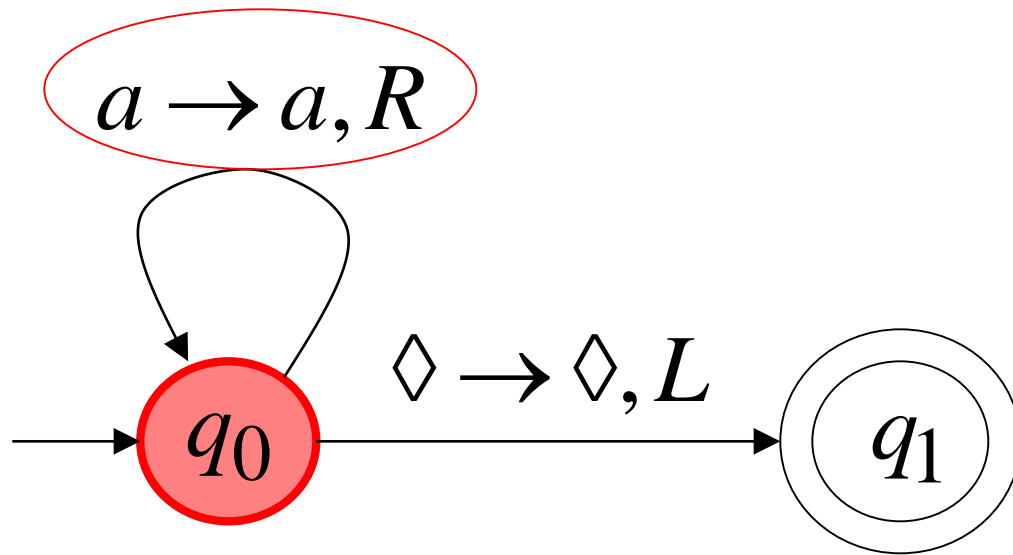
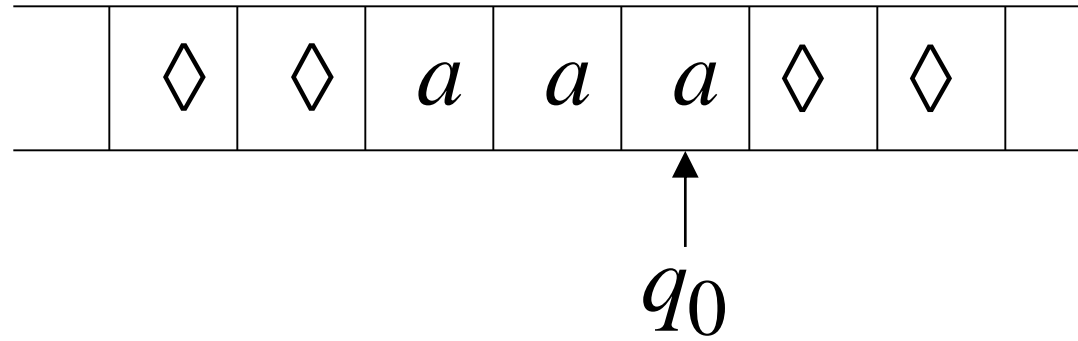
Time 0



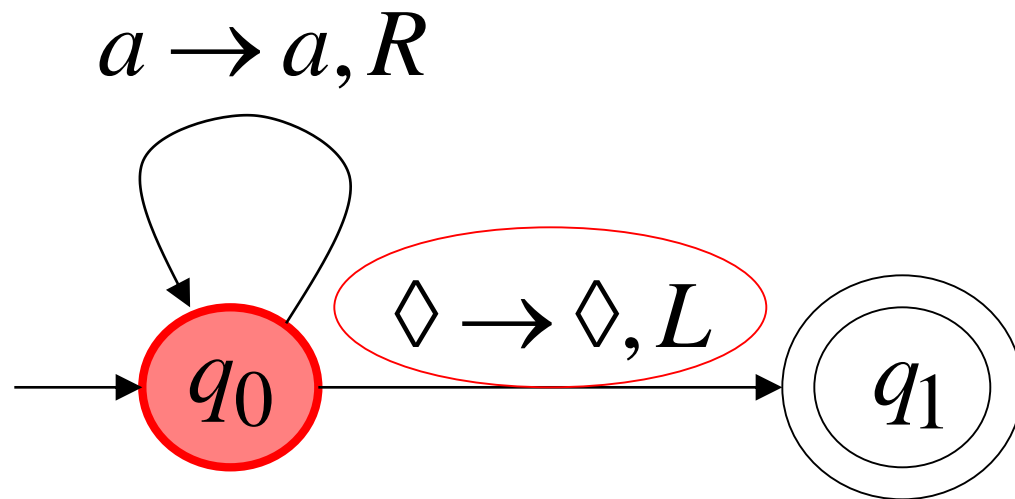
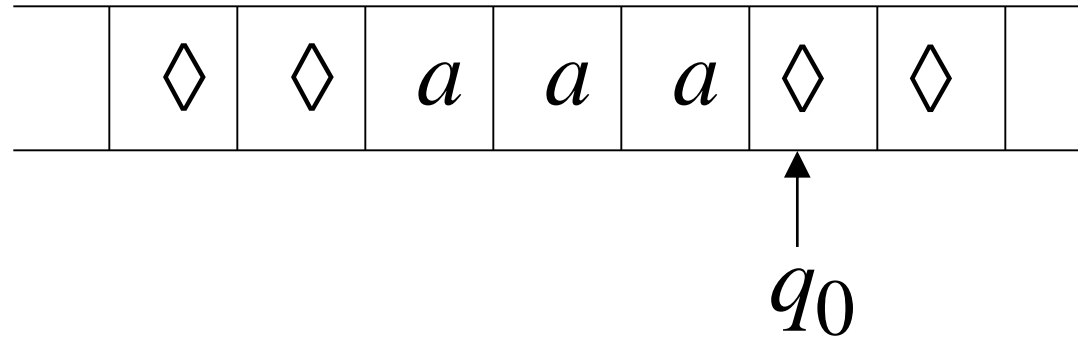
Time 1



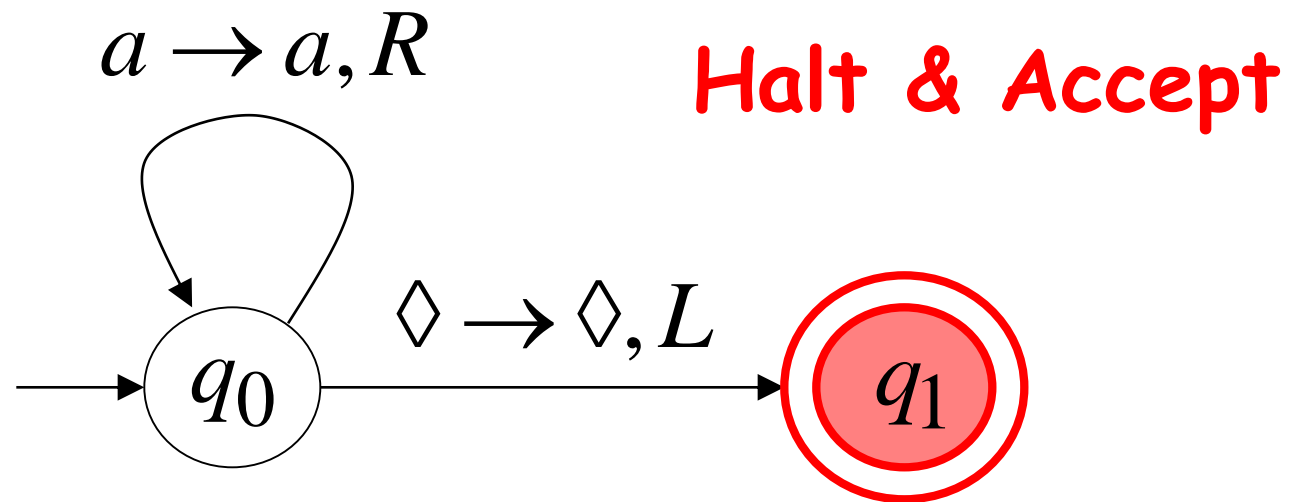
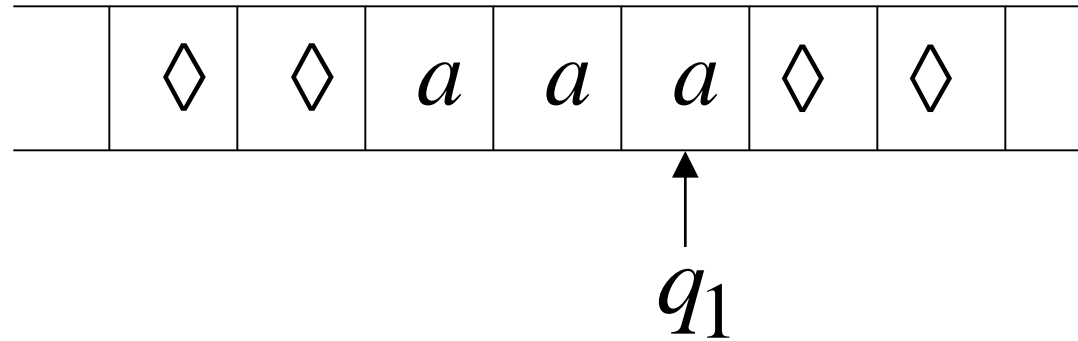
Time 2



Time 3

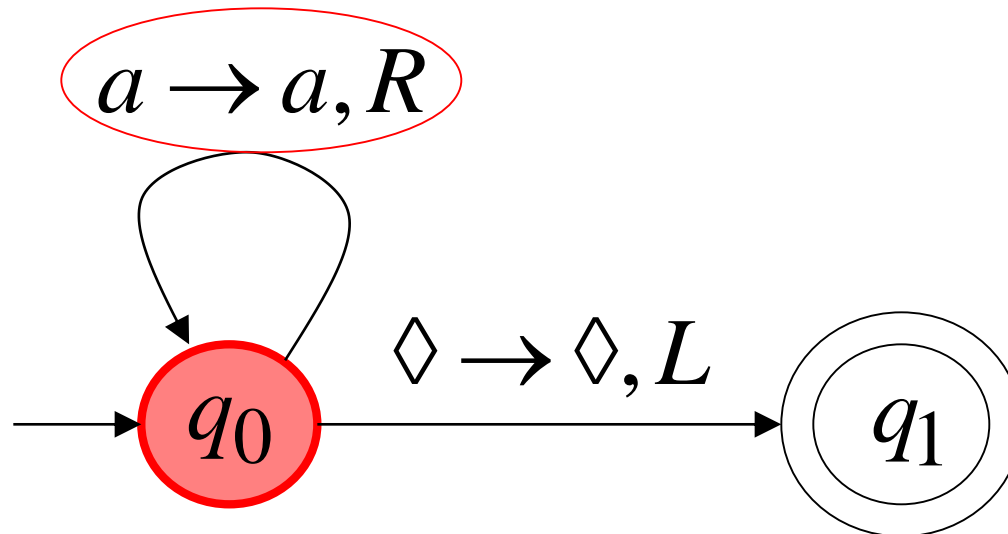
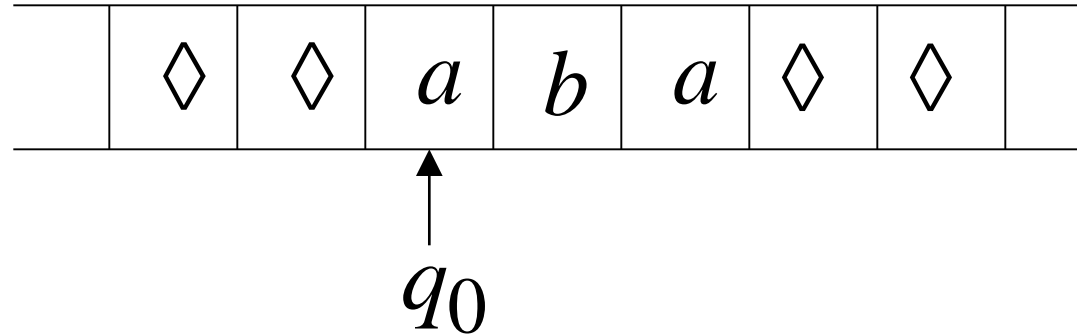


Time 4

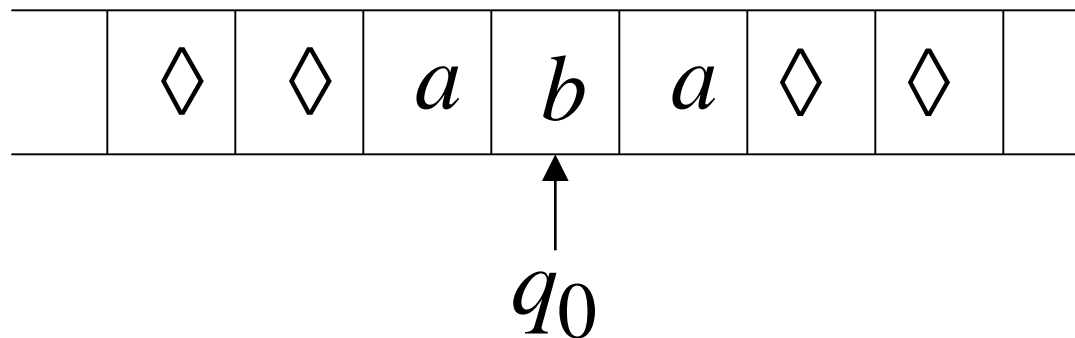


Rejection Example

Time 0

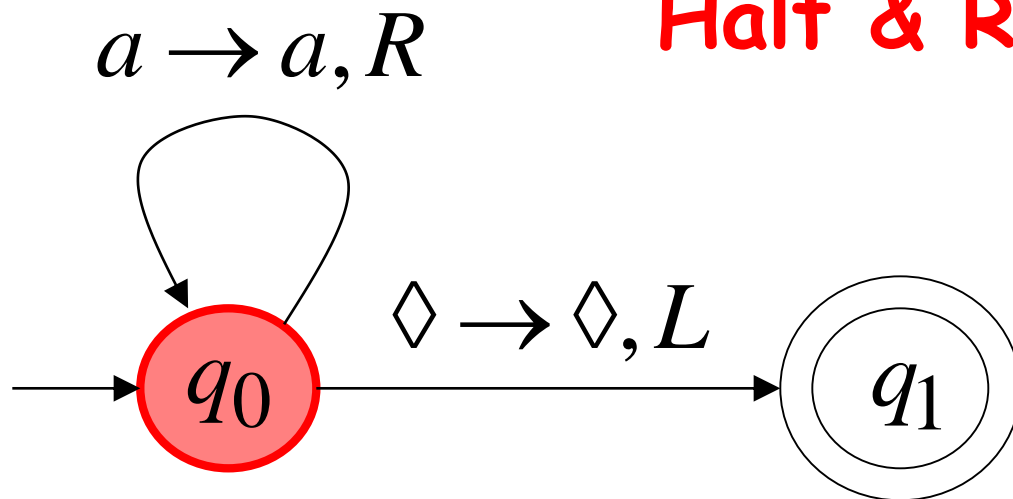


Time 1

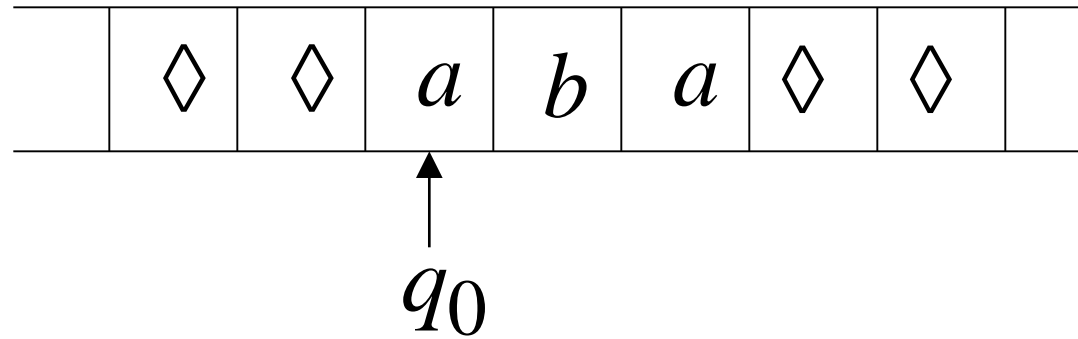


No possible Transition

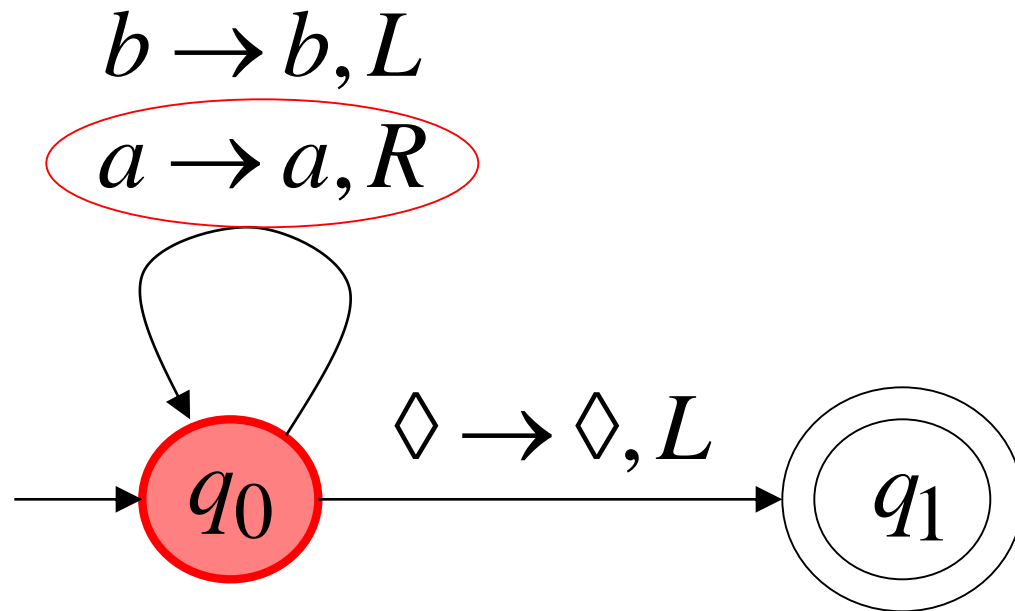
Halt & Reject



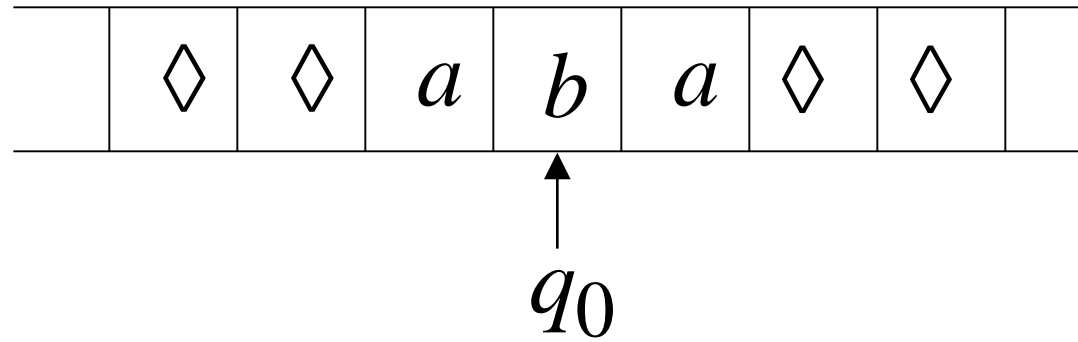
Time 0



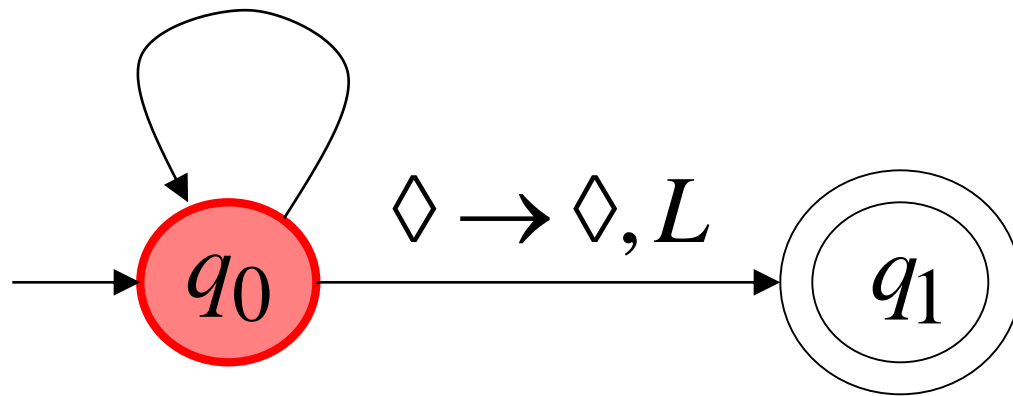
Another
Example



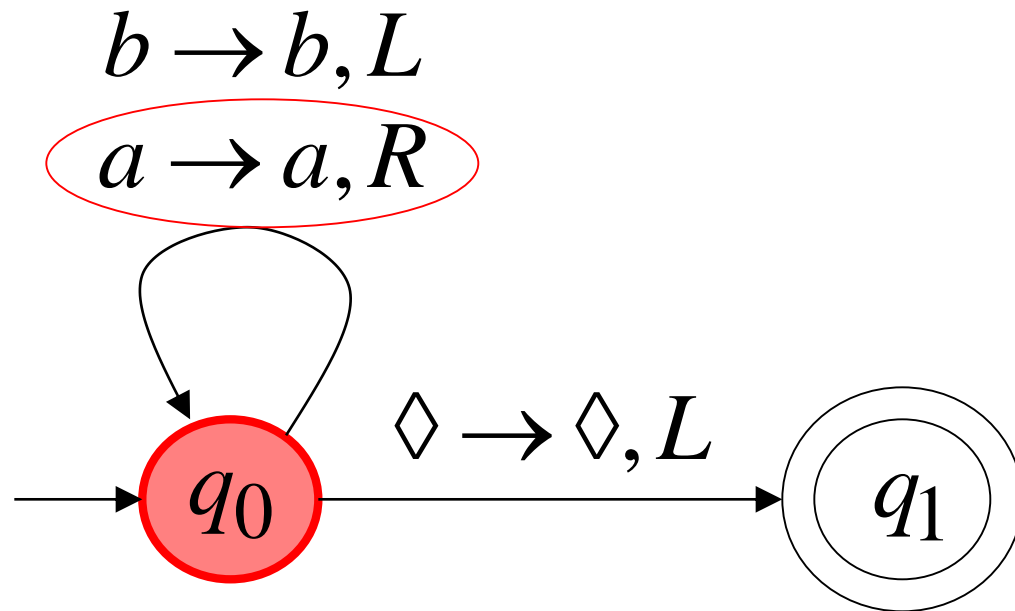
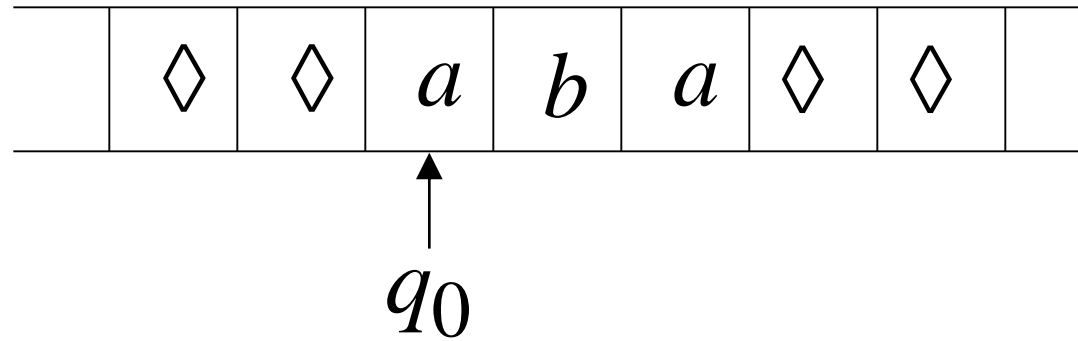
Time 1



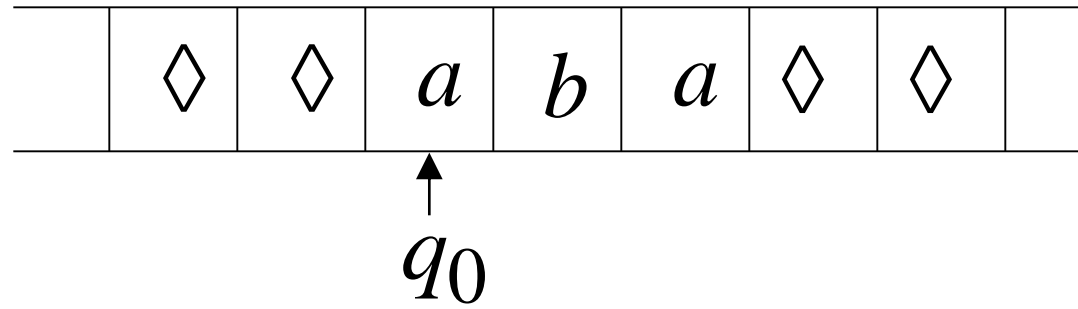
$b \rightarrow b, L$
 $a \rightarrow a, R$



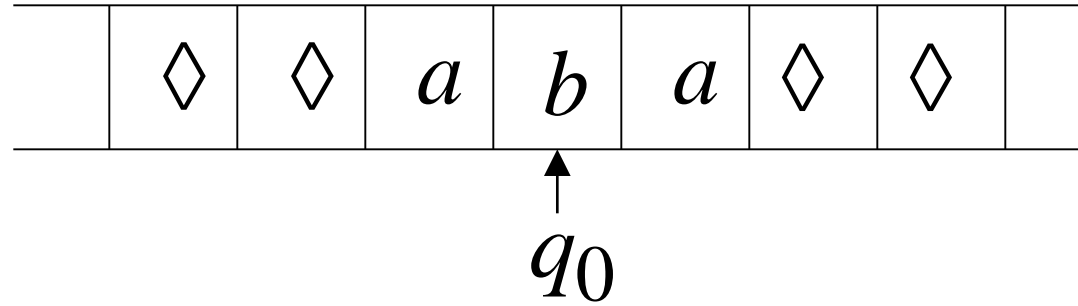
Time 2



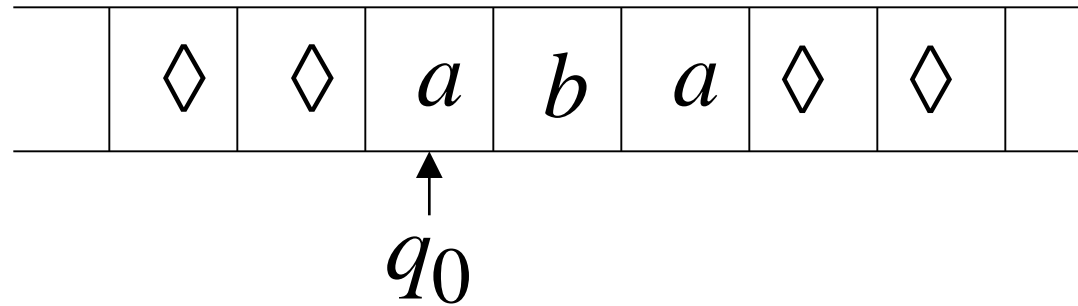
Time 2



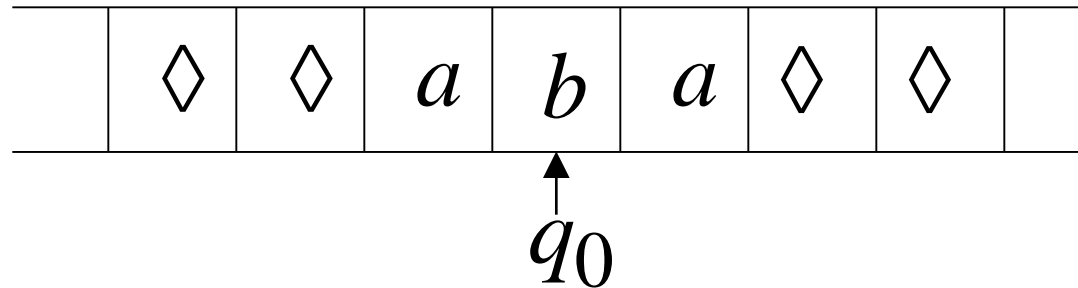
Time 3



Time 4



Time 5



Infinite loop

Because of the **infinite loop**:

- The final state cannot be reached
- The machine never halts
- The input is **not accepted**

For $\Sigma = \{a,b\}$, design a Turing machine that accepts

$$L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 1\}.$$

- Starting at the leftmost a , we check it off by replacing it with some symbol, say x .
- We then let the read-write head travel right to find the leftmost b , which in turn is checked off by replacing it with another symbol, say y .
- After that, we go left again to the leftmost a , replace it with an x , then move to the leftmost b and replace it with y , and so on.
- Traveling back and forth this way, we match each a with a corresponding b . If after some time no a 's or b 's remain, then the string must be in L .

$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, F = \{q_4\}, \Sigma = \{a, b\}, \Gamma = \{a, b, x, y\}.$

The transitions can be broken into several parts.

Phase 1:

$$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_1, x, R),$$

$$\delta(q_1, a) = (q_1, a, R),$$

$$\delta(q_1, y) = (q_1, y, R),$$

$$\delta(q_1, b) = (q_2, y, L),$$

- The set δ replaces the leftmost a with an x , then causes the read-write head to travel right to the first b , replacing it with a y .
- When the y is written, the machine enters a state q_2 , indicating that an a has been successfully paired with a b .

The next set of transitions reverses the direction until an x is encountered, repositions the read/write head over the leftmost a , and returns control to the initial state.

$$\delta(q_2, y) = (q_2, y, L),$$

$$\delta(q_2, a) = (q_2, a, L),$$

$$\delta(q_2, x) = (q_0, x, R),$$

We are now back in the initial state q_0 , ready to deal with the next a and b .

Final check.... is made to see if all a 's and b 's have been replaced (to detect input where an a follows a b)

$$\delta(q_0, y) = (q_3, y, R),$$

$$\delta(q_3, y) = (q_3, y, R),$$

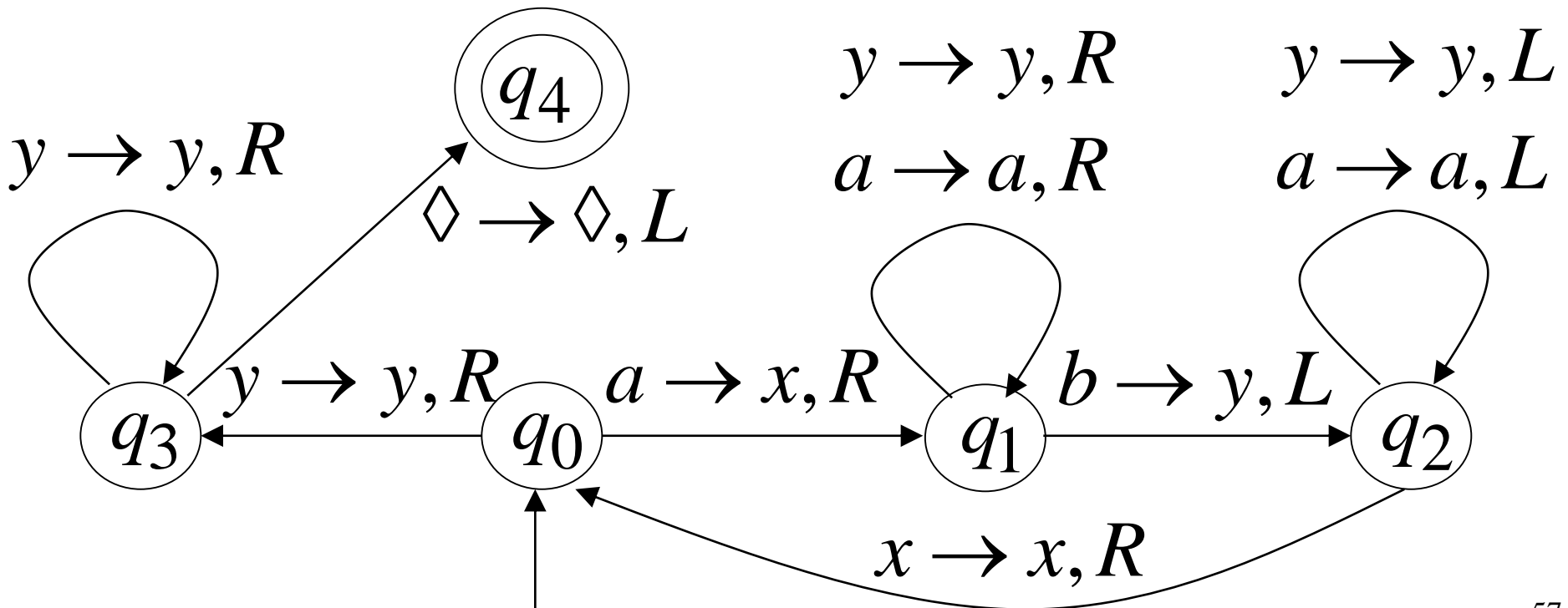
$$\delta(q_3, \square) = (q_4, \square, R),$$

The particular input $aabb$ gives the following successive instantaneous descriptions:

$$\begin{aligned} q_0 aabb &\vdash xq_1abb \vdash xaq_1bb \vdash xq_2ayb \\ &\vdash q_2xayb \vdash xq_0ayb \vdash xxq_1yb \\ &\vdash xxyq_1b \vdash xxq_2yy \vdash xq_2xyy \\ &\vdash xxq_0yy \vdash xxyq_3y \vdash xxyyq_3\Box \\ &\vdash xxyy\Box q_4\Box. \end{aligned}$$

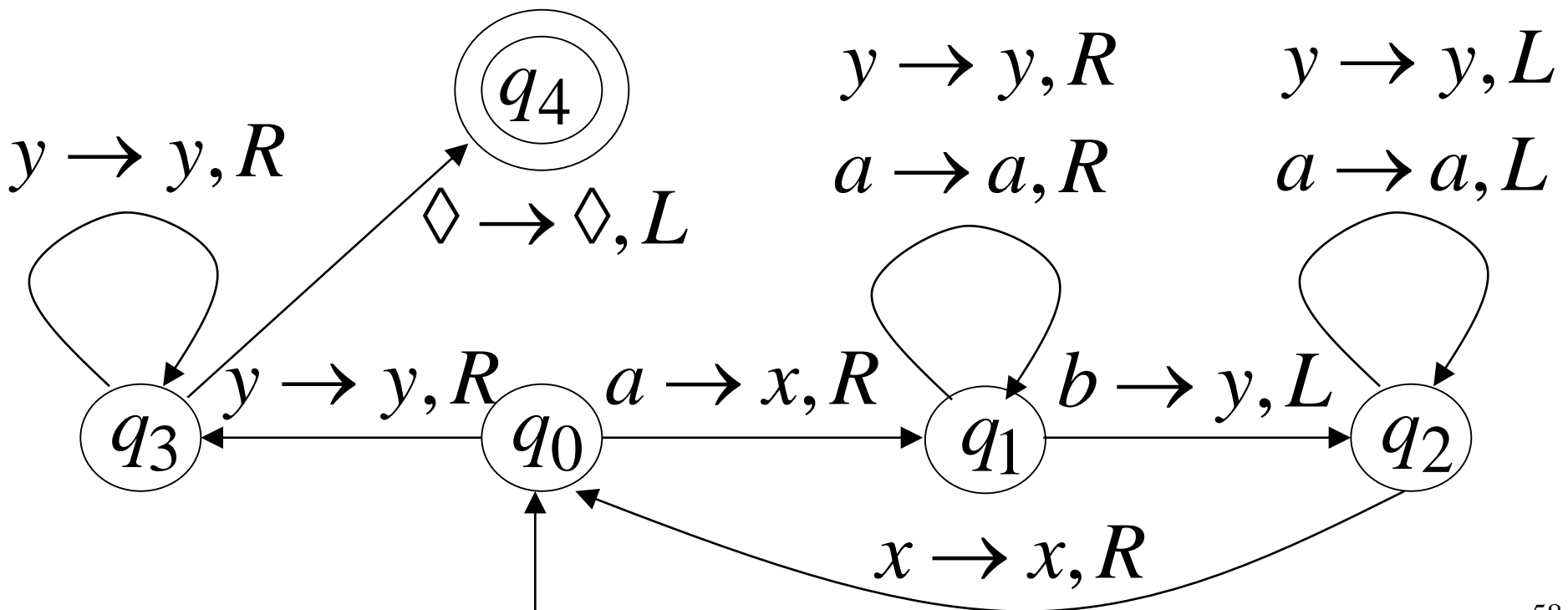
Another Turing Machine Example

Language?

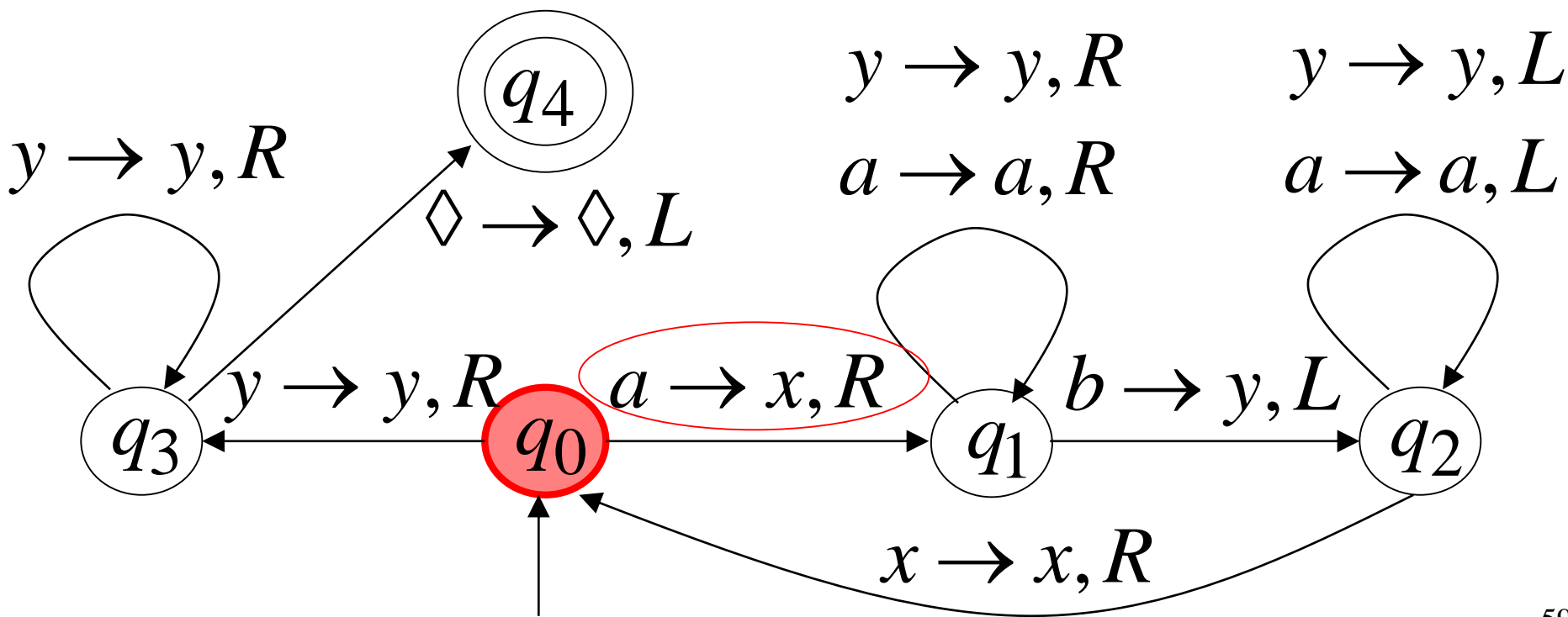
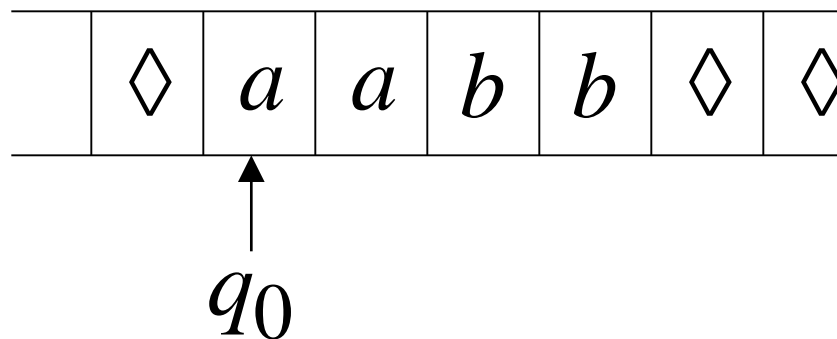


Another Turing Machine Example

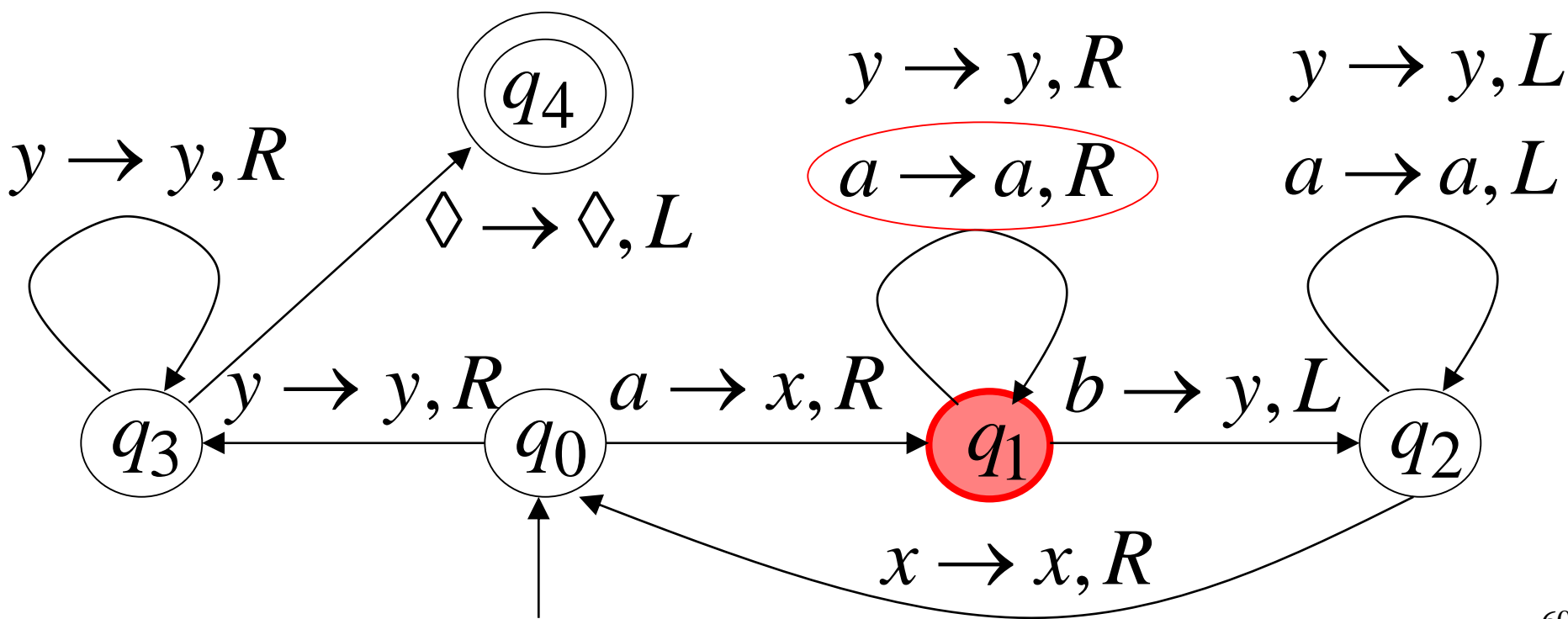
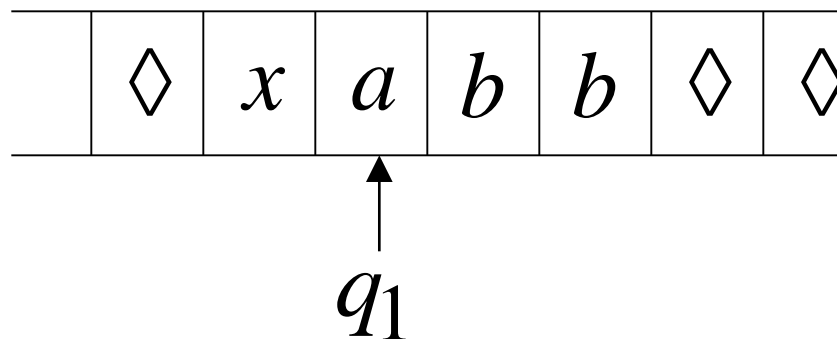
Turing machine for the language $\{a^n b^n\}$



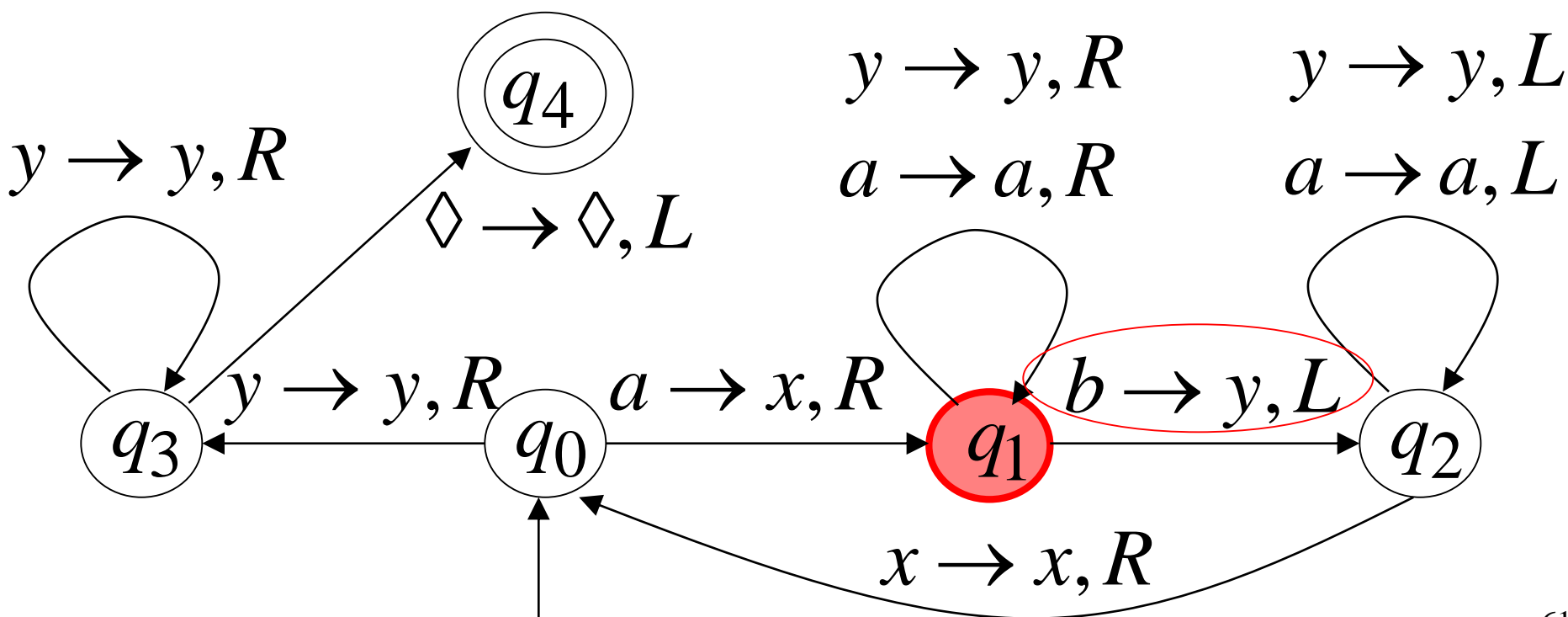
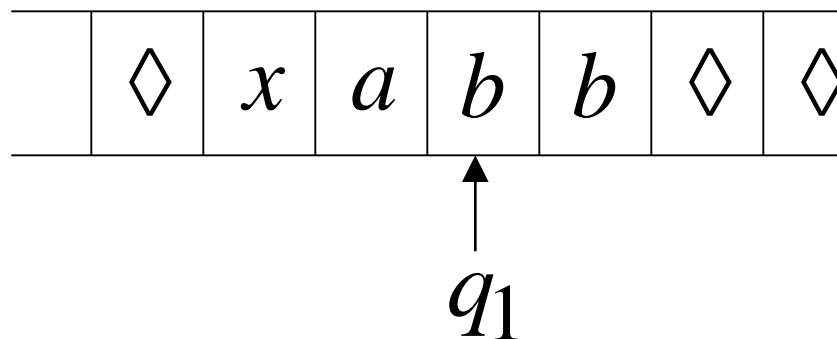
Time 0



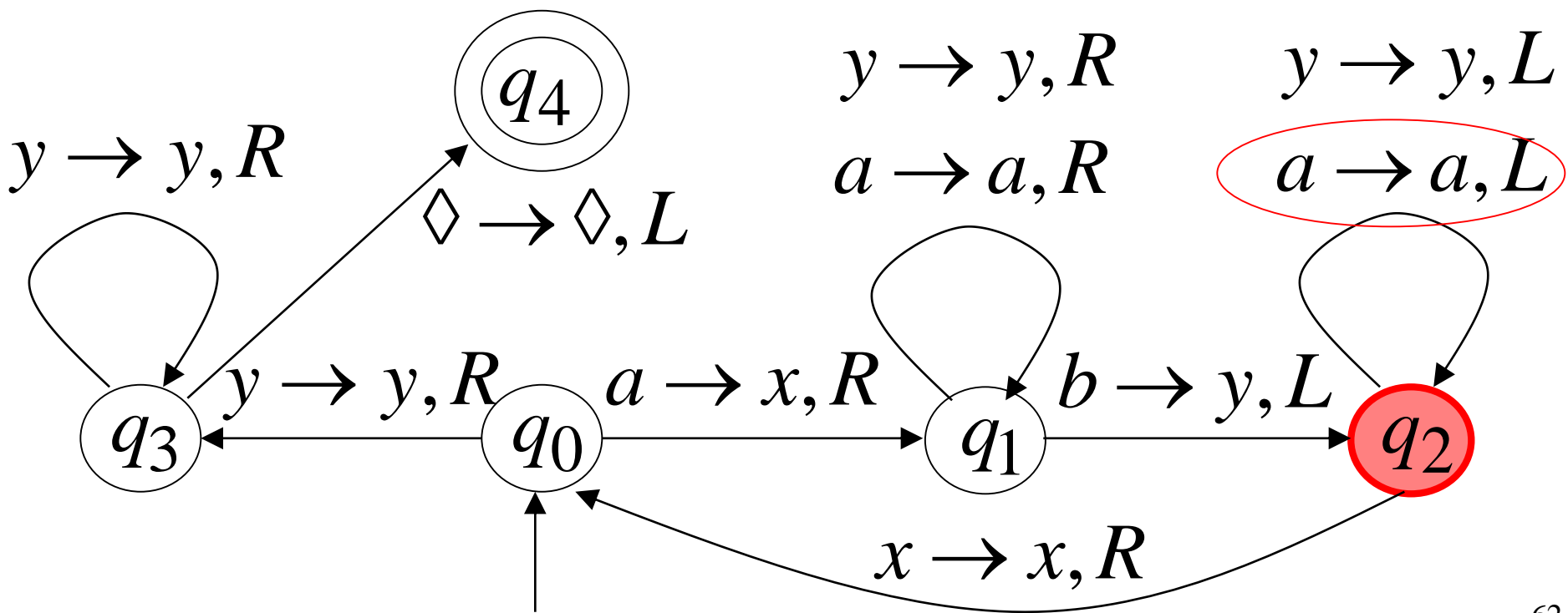
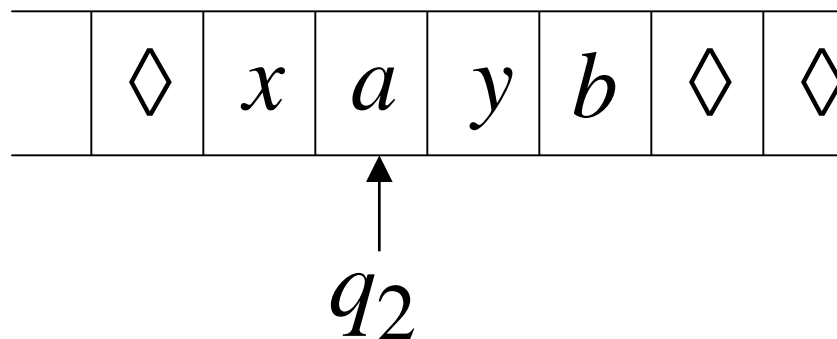
Time 1



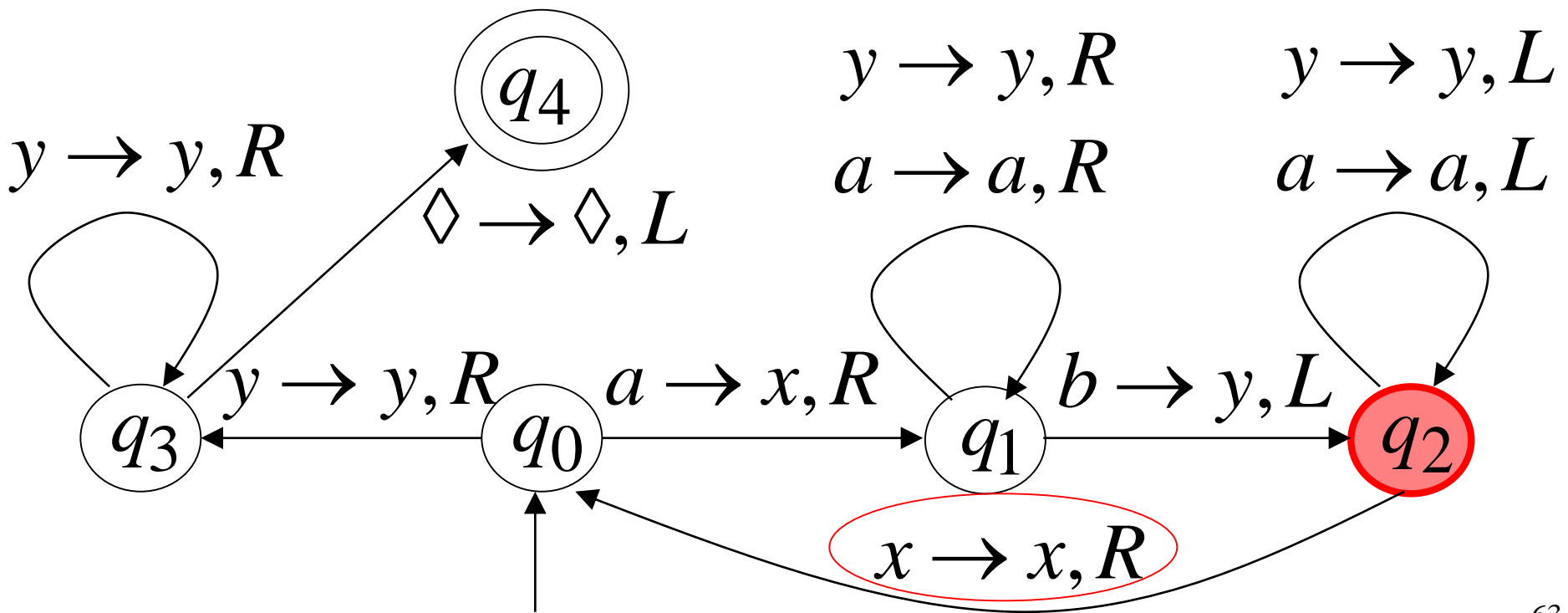
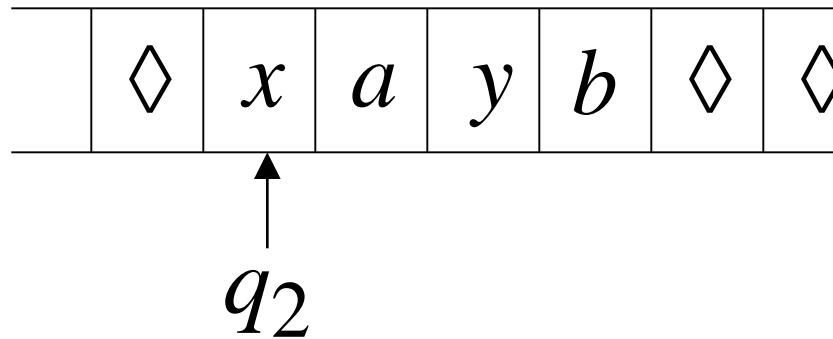
Time 2



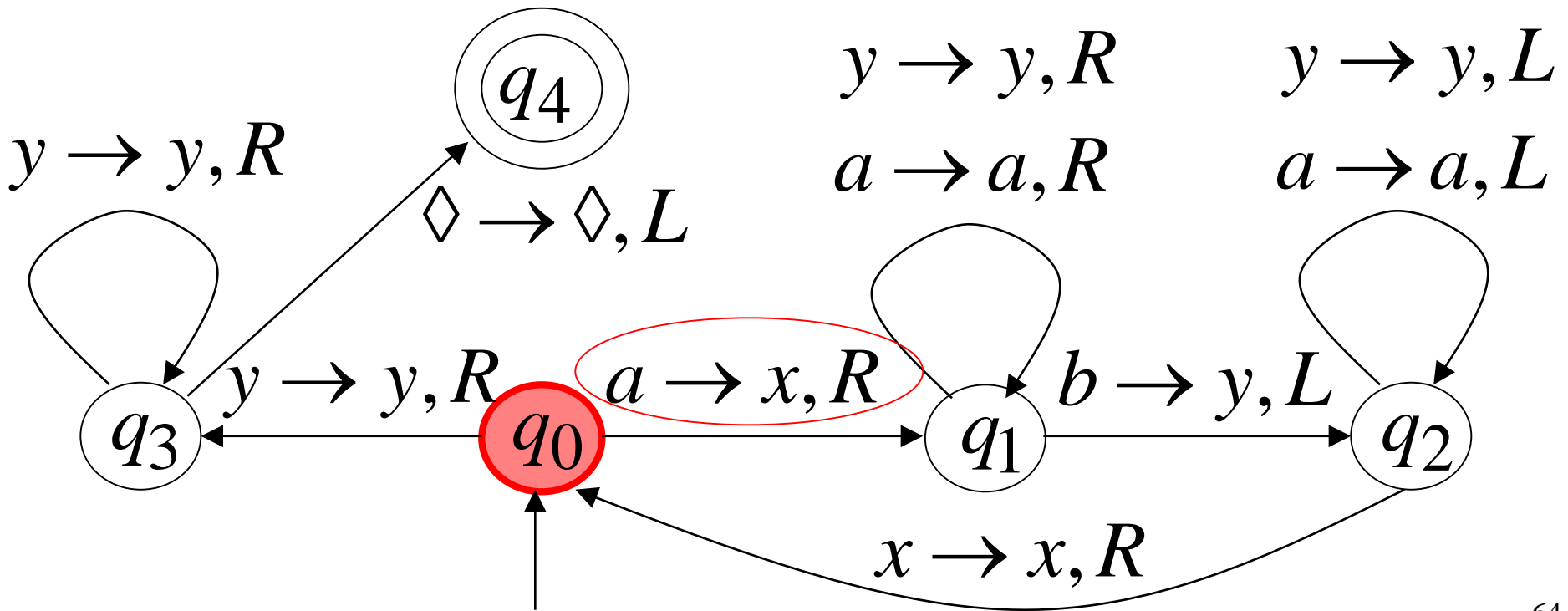
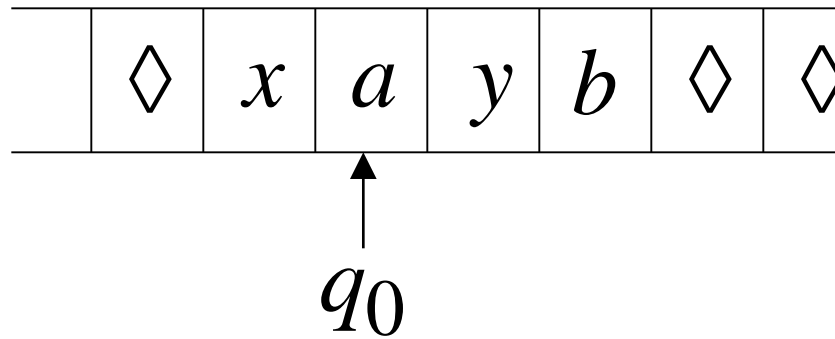
Time 3



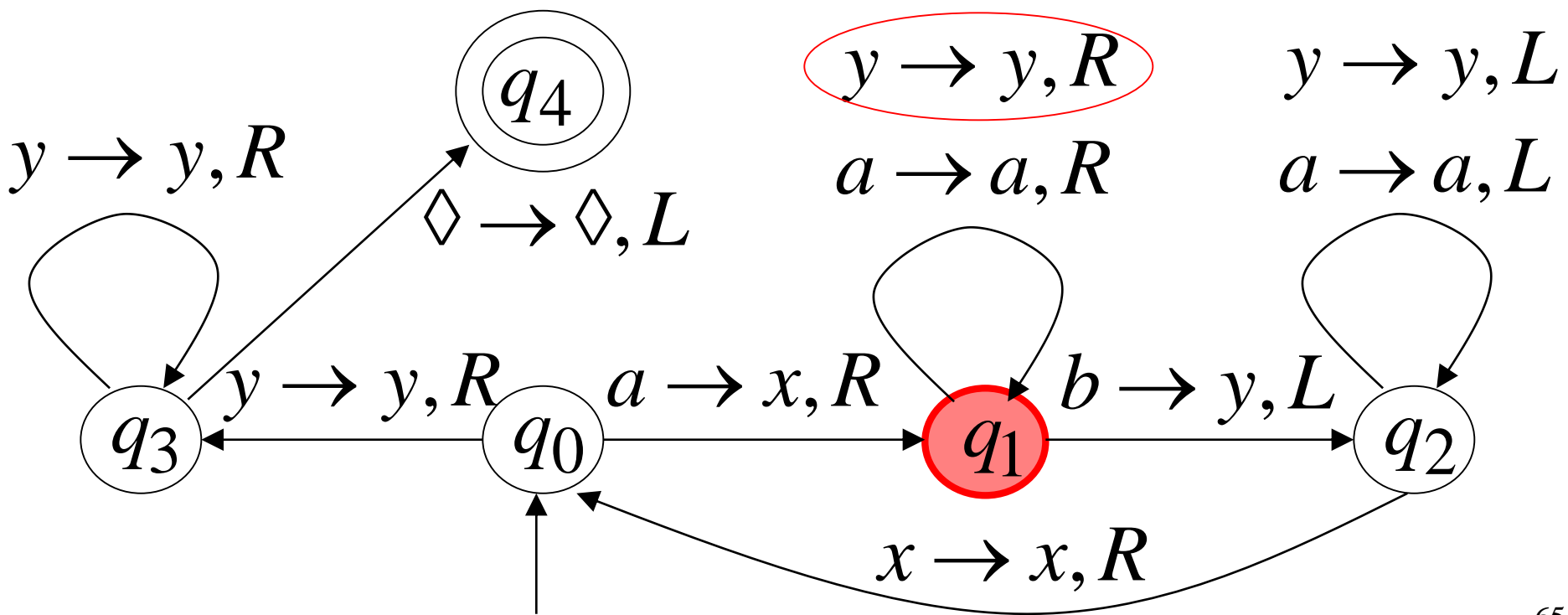
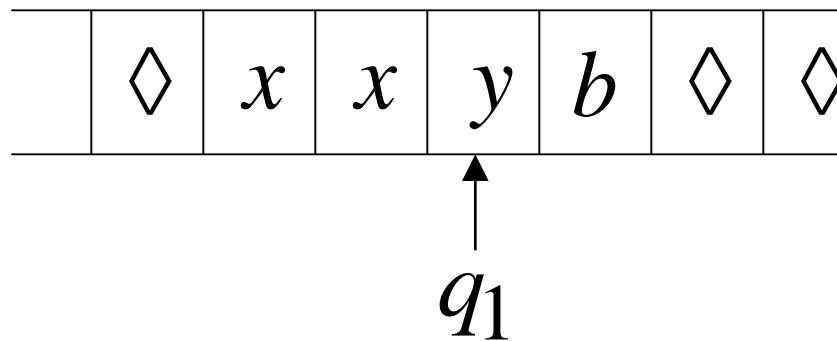
Time 4



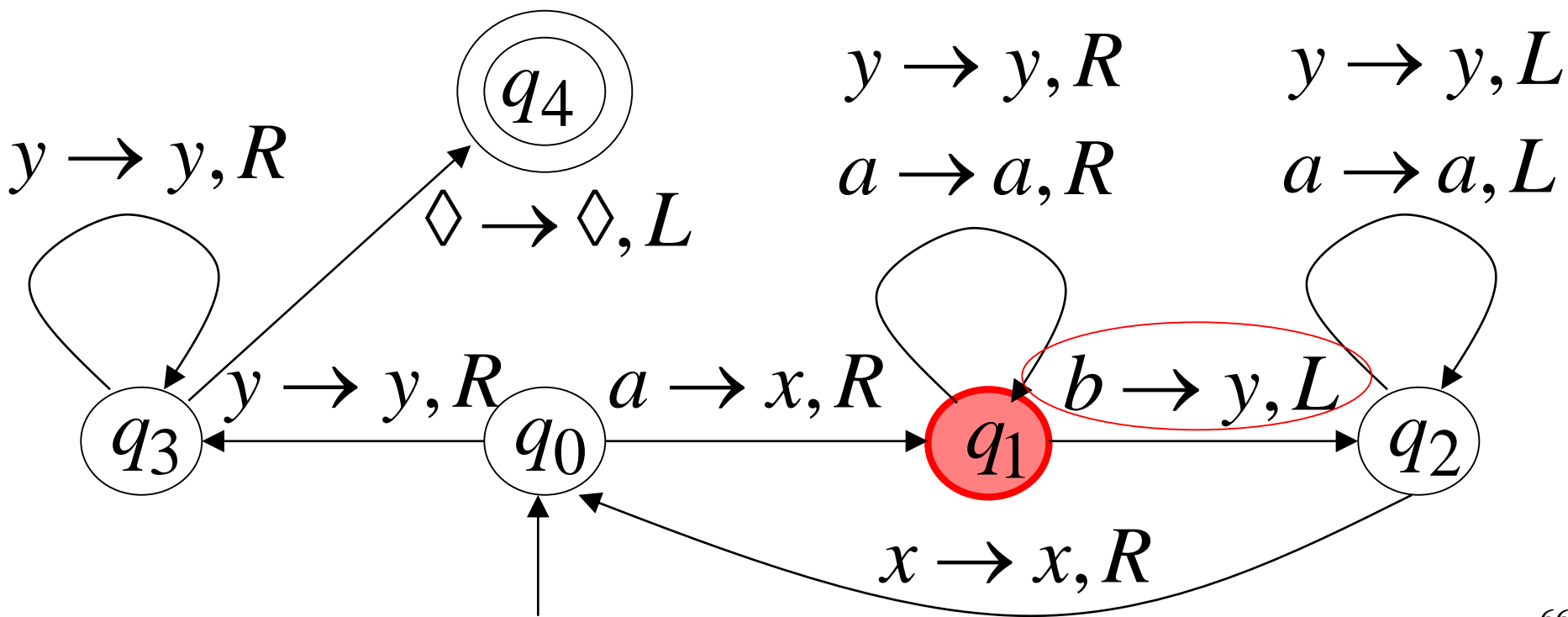
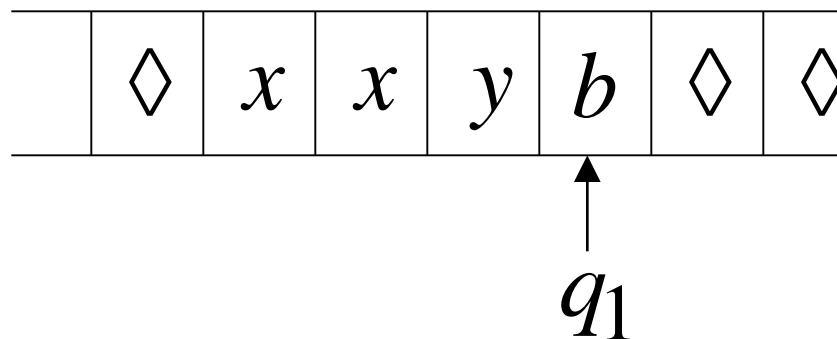
Time 5



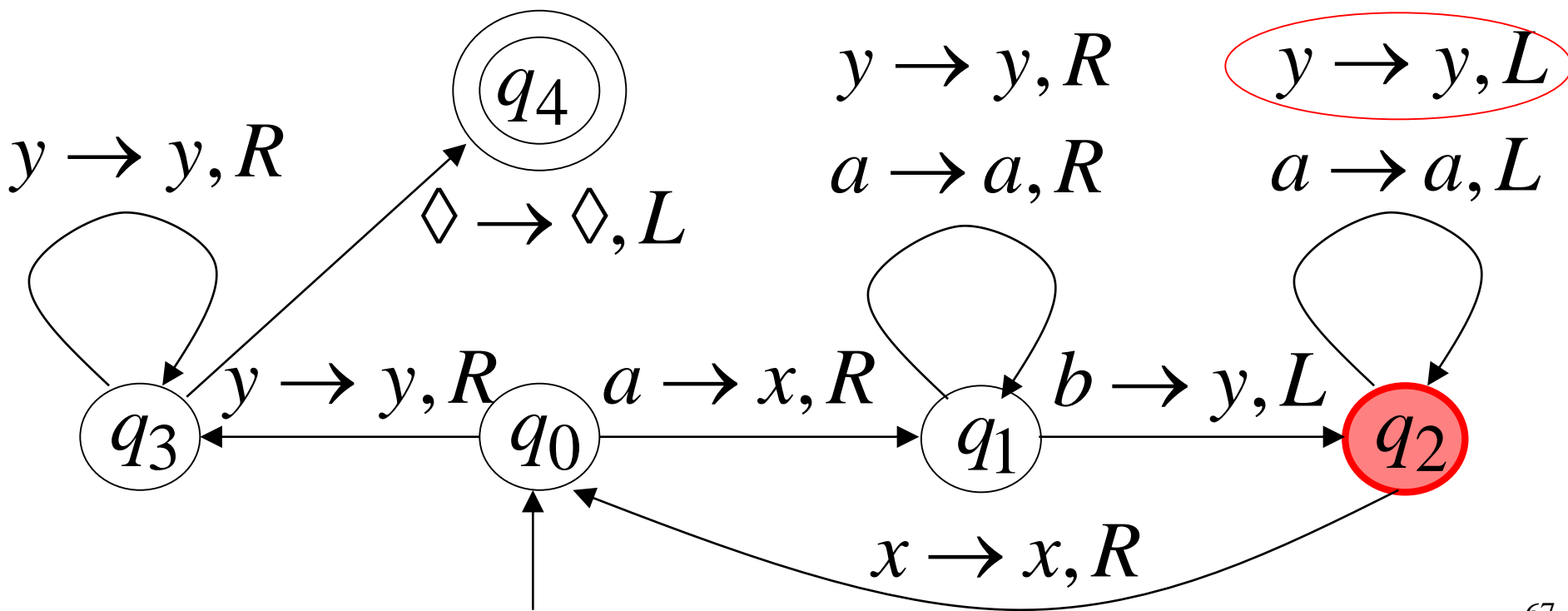
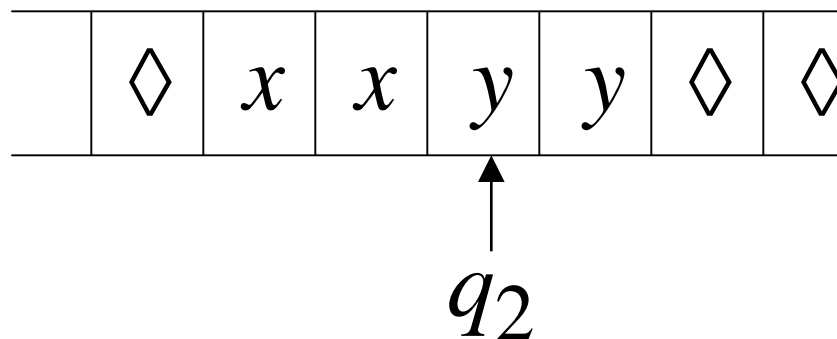
Time 6



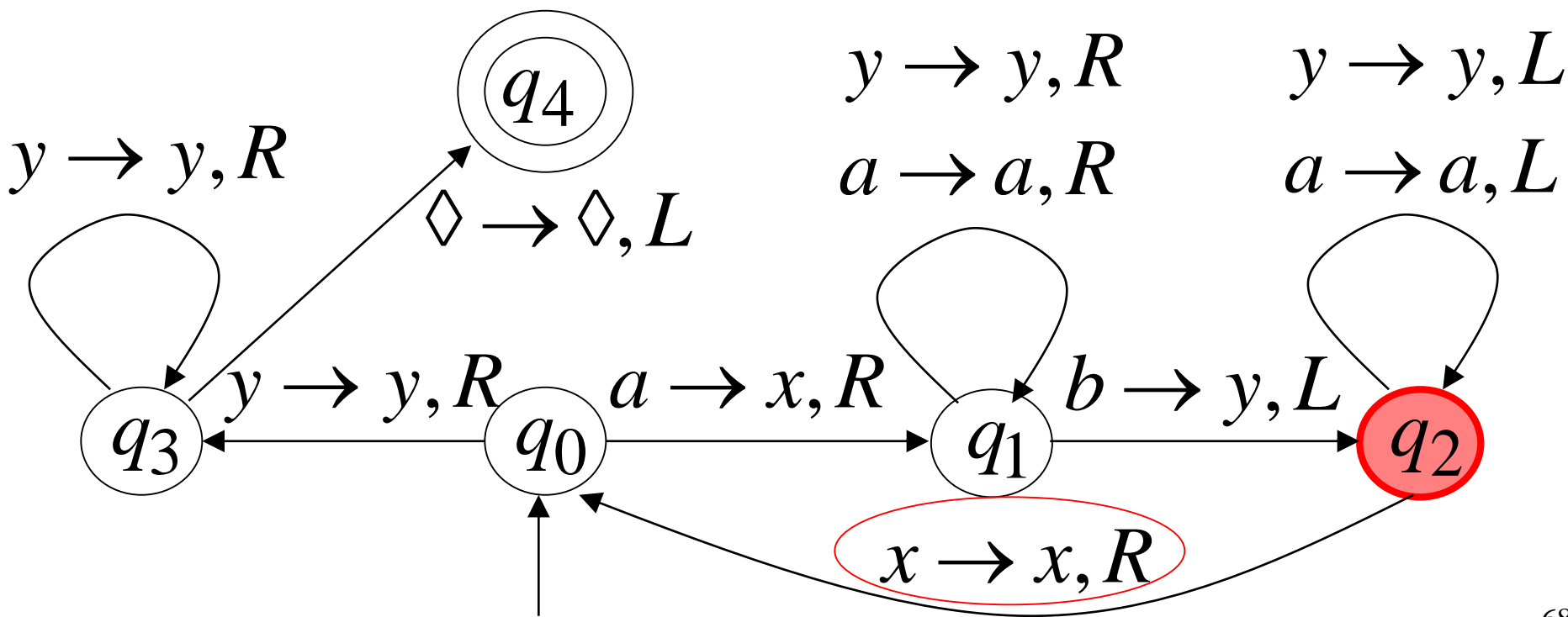
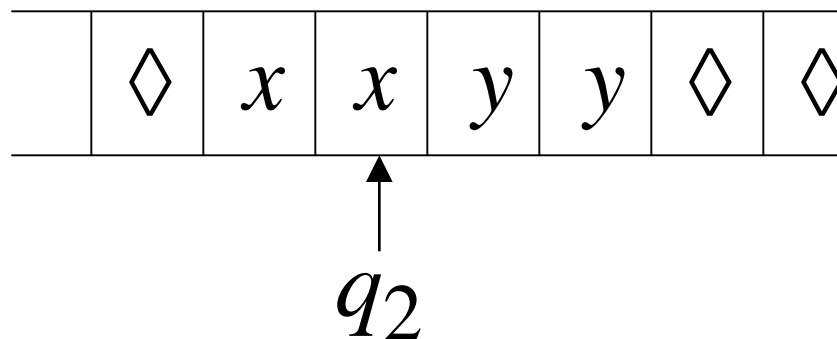
Time 7



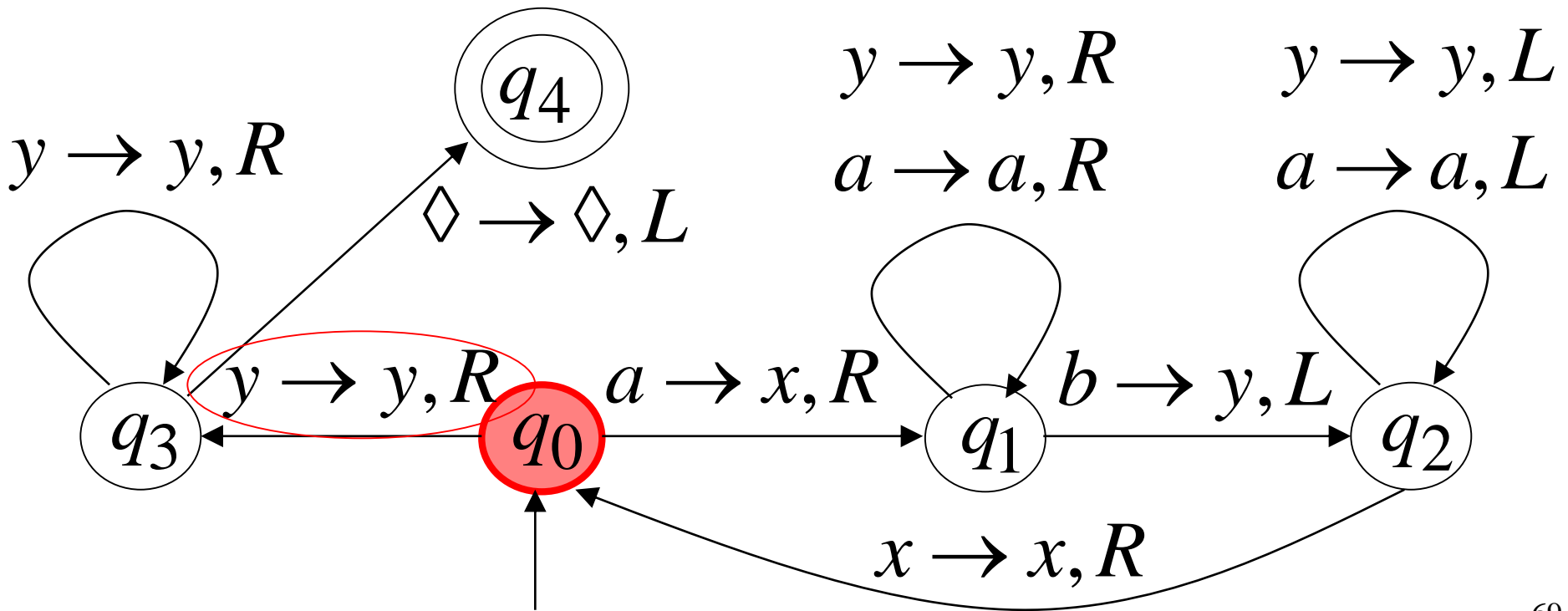
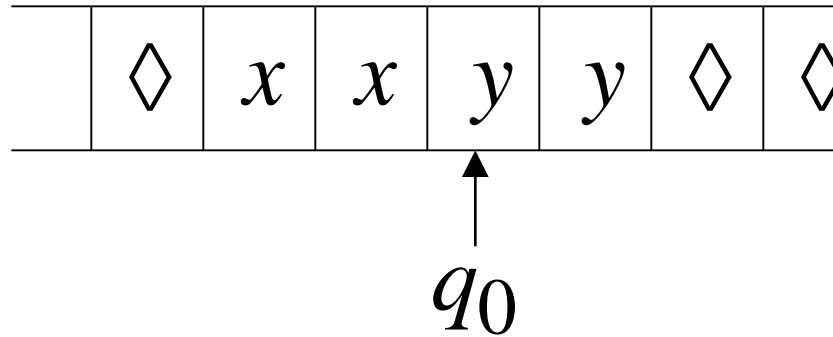
Time 8



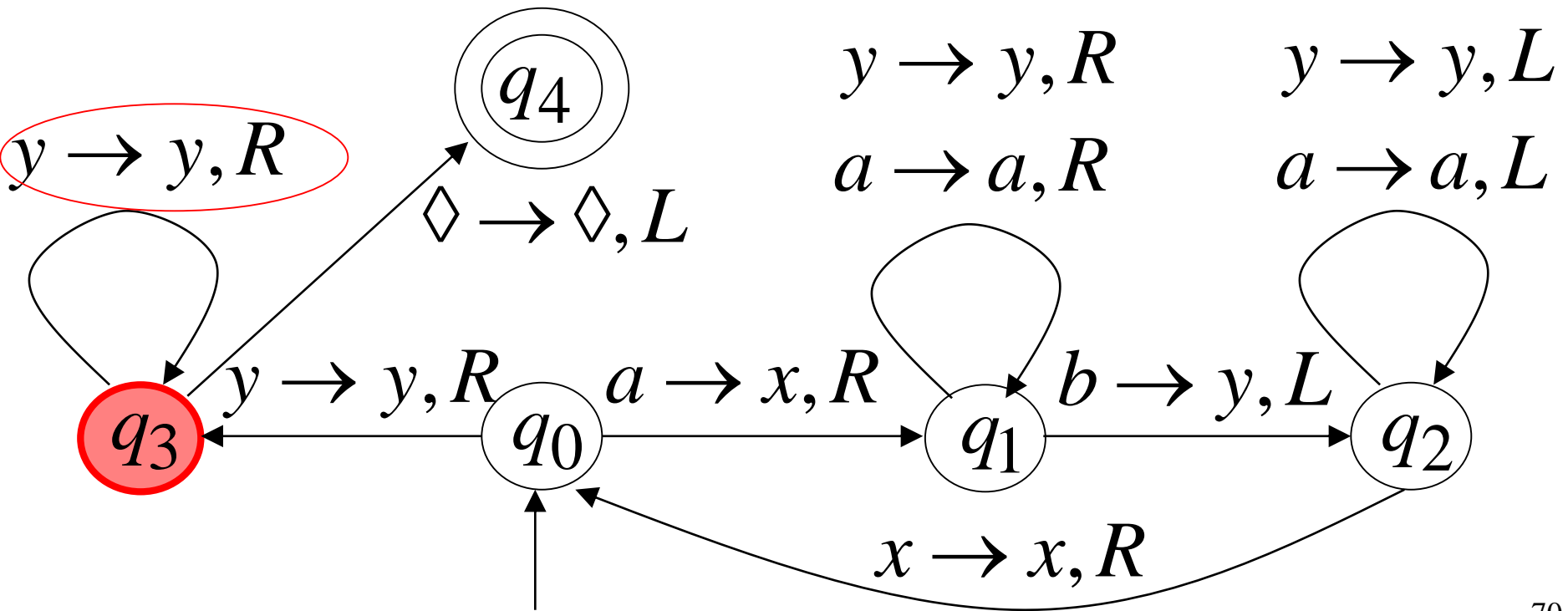
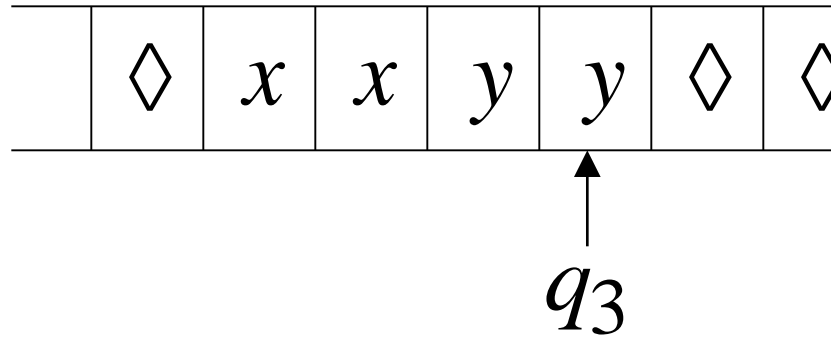
Time 9



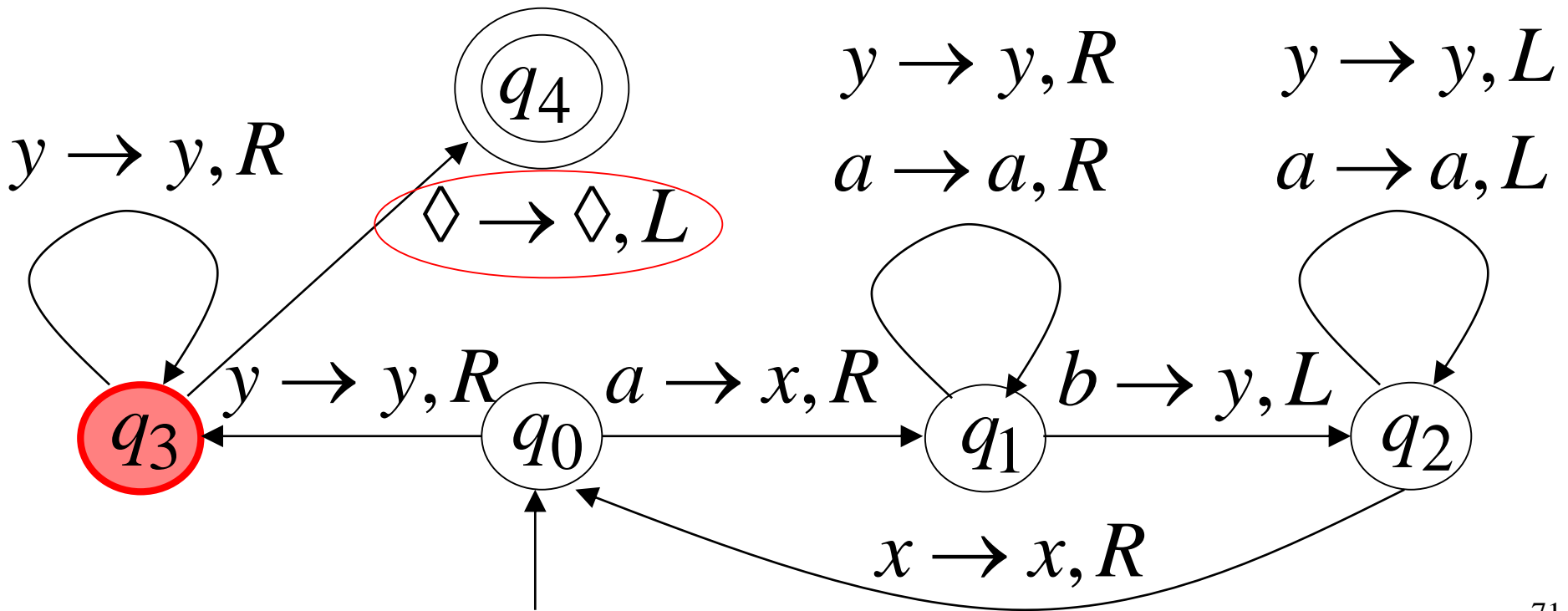
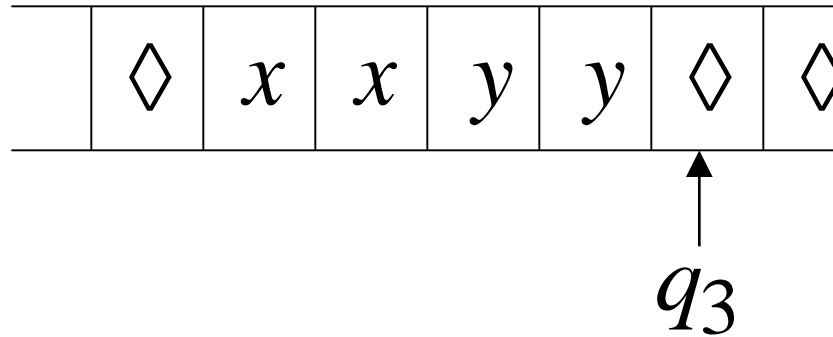
Time 10



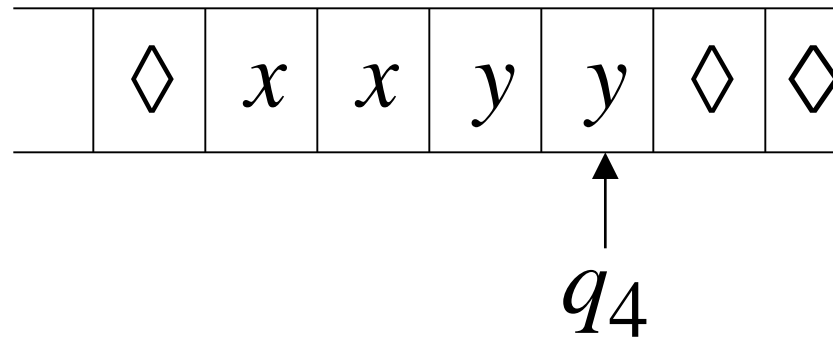
Time 11



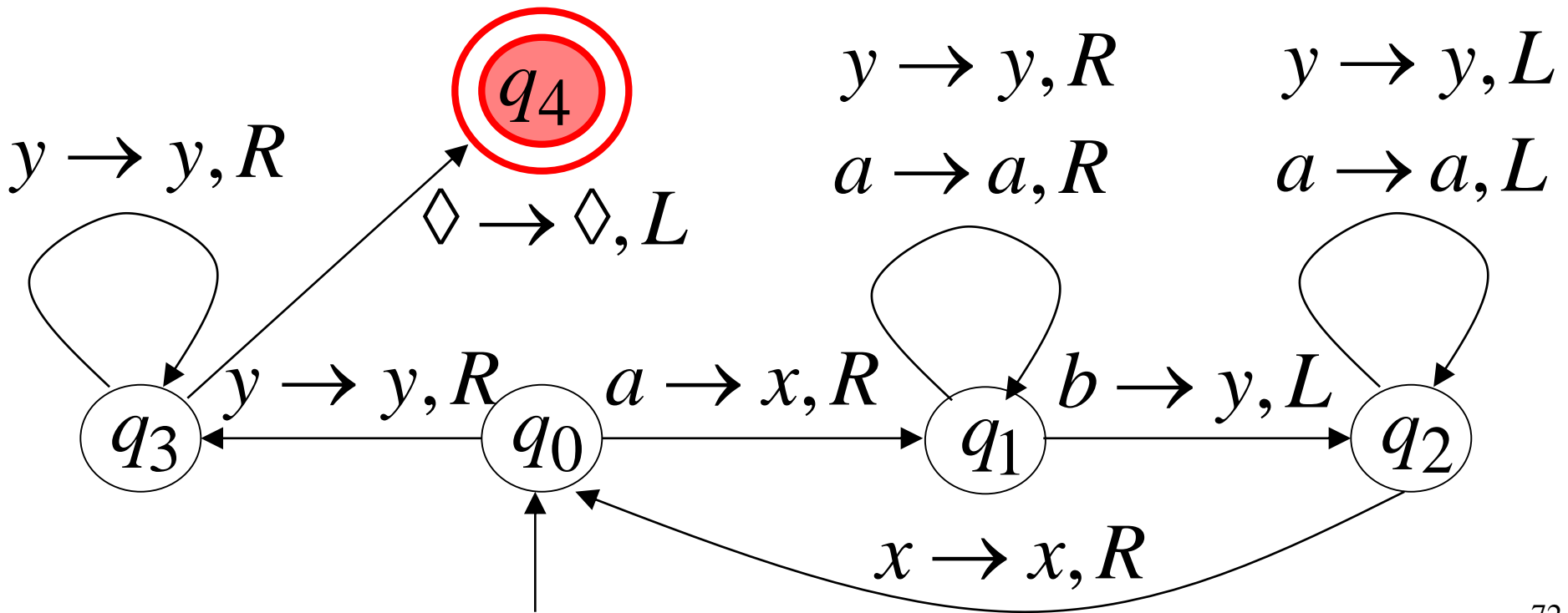
Time 12



Time 13



Halt & Accept



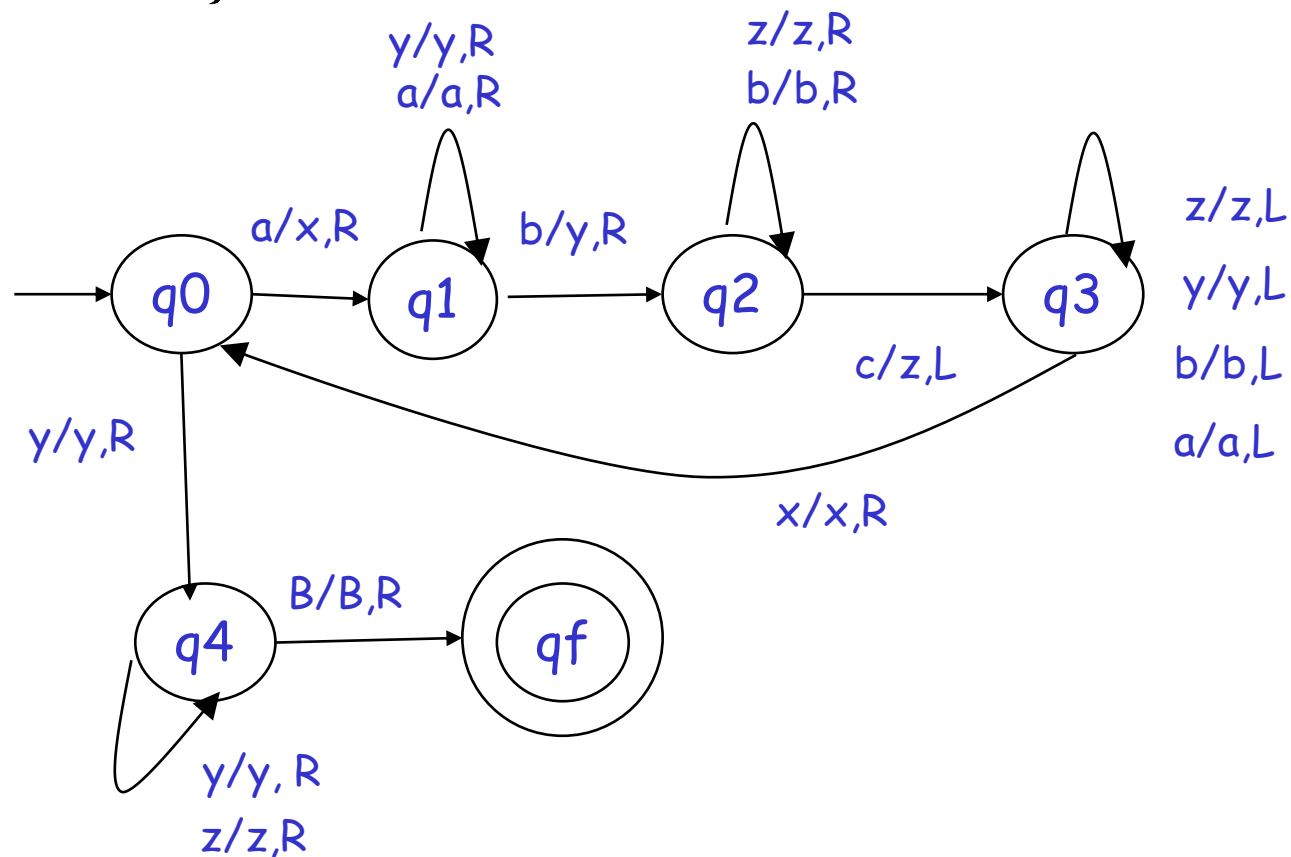
Observation:

If we modify the
machine for the language $\{a^n b^n\}$

we can easily construct
a machine for the language $\{a^n b^n c^n\}$

we can easily construct a machine for the language

$$\{a^n b^n c^n\}$$



Turing Machines as Transducers

Turing machine transducer M as an implementation of a function f defined by

$$\hat{w} = f(w),$$

provided that

$$q_0 w \vdash_M^* q_f \hat{w},$$

for some final state q_f .

Example 1:

Given two positive integers x and y , design a Turing machine that computes $x + y$.

- We will assume that $w(x)$ and $w(y)$ are on the tape in unary notation, separated by a single 0, with the read-write head on the leftmost symbol of $w(x)$.
- After the computation, $w(x + y)$ will be on the tape followed by a single 0, and the read-write head will be positioned at the left end of the result.

$$q_0 w(x) 0 w(y) \vdash_M^* q_f w(x + y) 0,$$

Integer Domain

Decimal: 5

Binary: 101

Unary: 11111

We prefer **unary** representation:

easier to manipulate with Turing machines

$$q_0 w(x) 0 w(y) \vdash^* q_f w(x+y) 0,$$

To achieve this, we construct $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, F)$, with $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$, $F = \{q_4\}$,

$$\delta(q_0, 1) = (q_0, 1, R),$$

$$\delta(q_0, 0) = (q_1, 1, R),$$

$$\delta(q_1, 1) = (q_1, 1, R),$$

$$\delta(q_1, \square) = (q_2, \square, L),$$

$$\delta(q_2, 1) = (q_3, 0, L),$$

$$\delta(q_3, 1) = (q_3, 1, L),$$

$$\delta(q_3, \square) = (q_4, \square, R),$$

Instantaneous Description

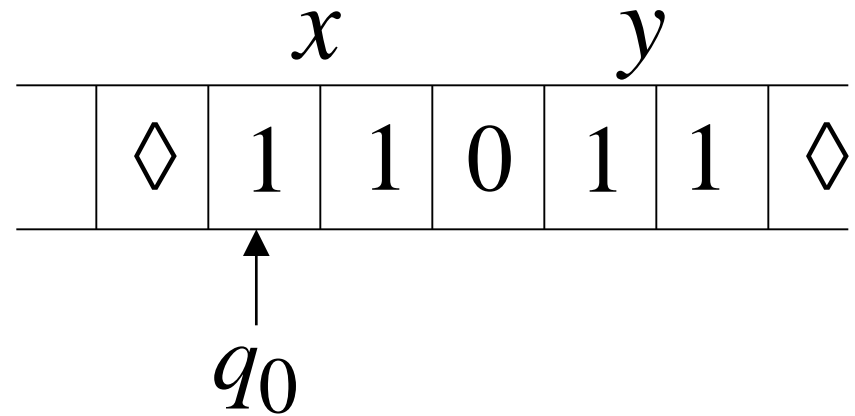
$$\begin{aligned} q_0 111011 &\vdash 1 q_0 11011 \vdash 11 q_0 1011 \vdash 111 q_0 011 \\ &\vdash 1111 q_1 11 \vdash 11111 q_1 1 \vdash 111111 q_1 \square \\ &\vdash 11111 q_2 1 \vdash 1111 q_3 10 \\ &\vdash^* q_3 \square 111110 \vdash q_4 111110. \end{aligned}$$

Execution Example:

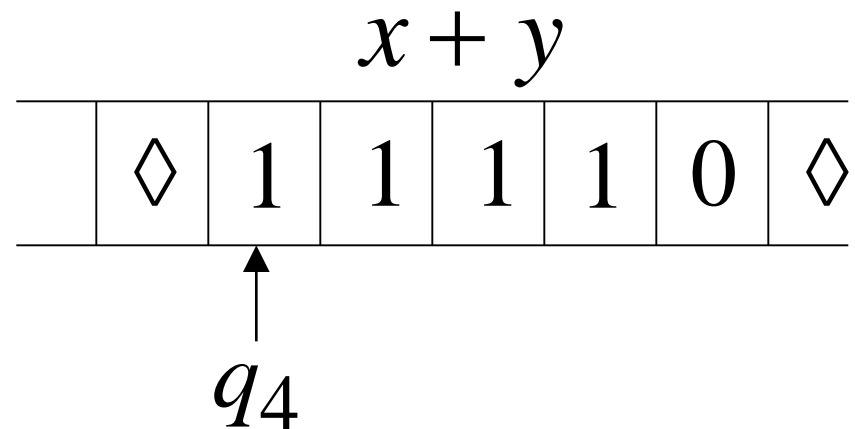
$$x = 11 \quad (2)$$

$$y = 11 \quad (2)$$

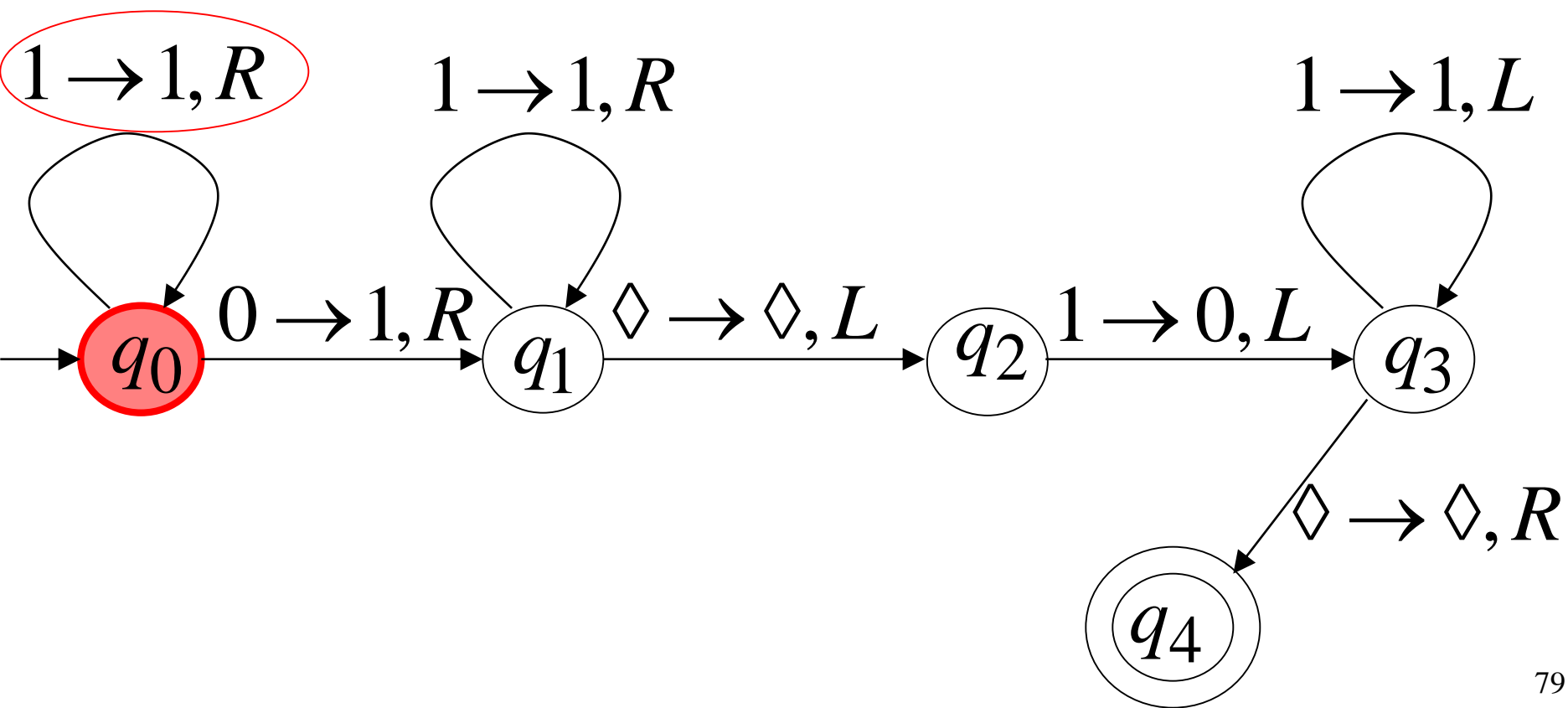
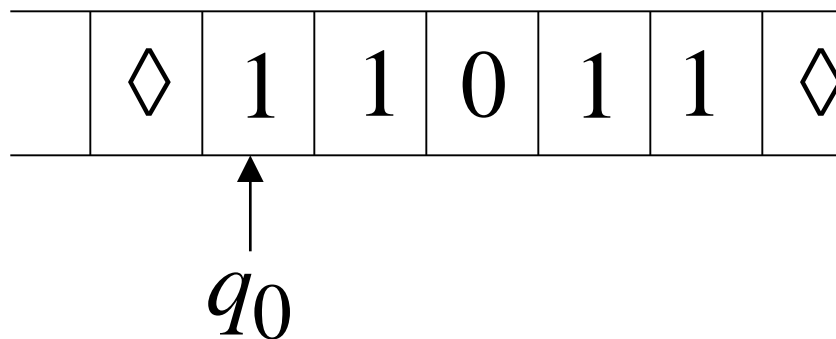
Time 0



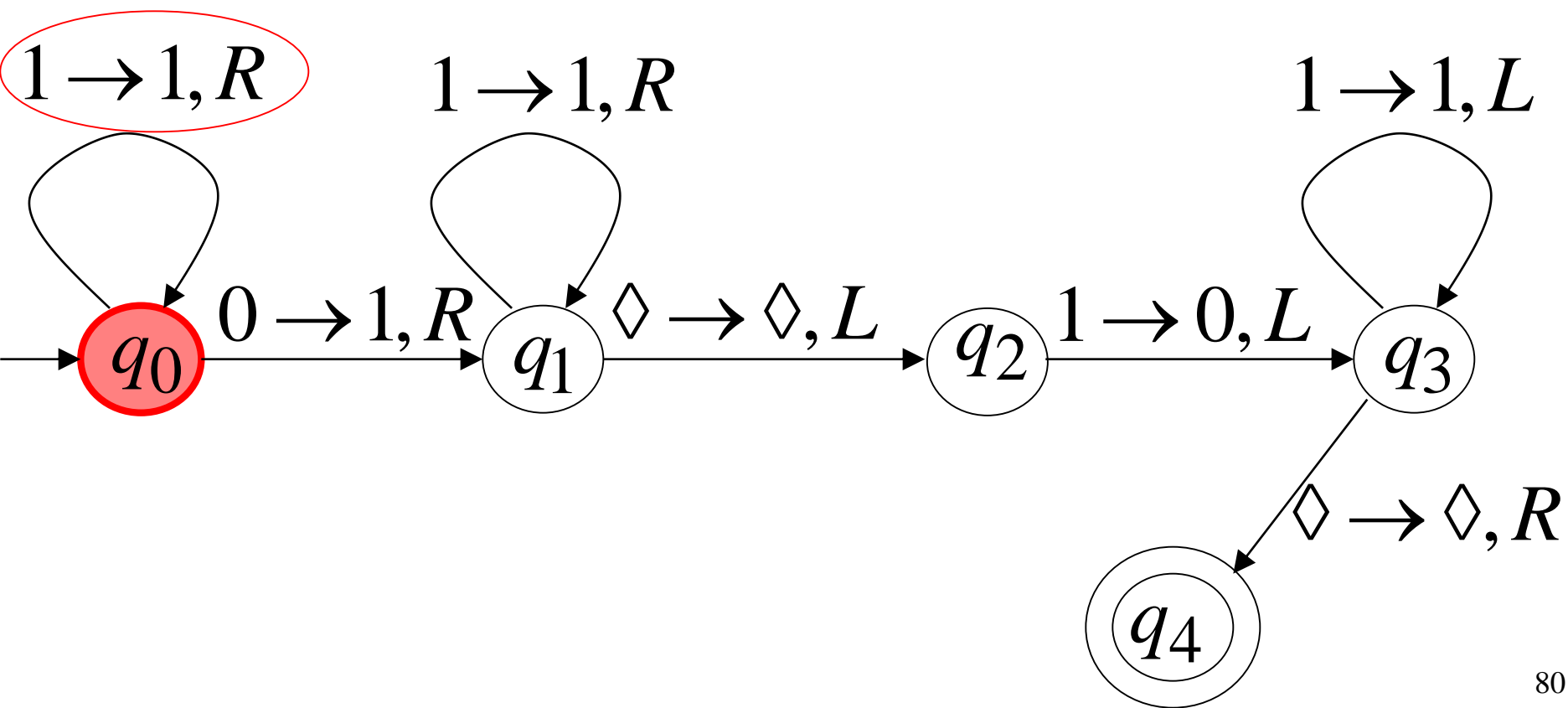
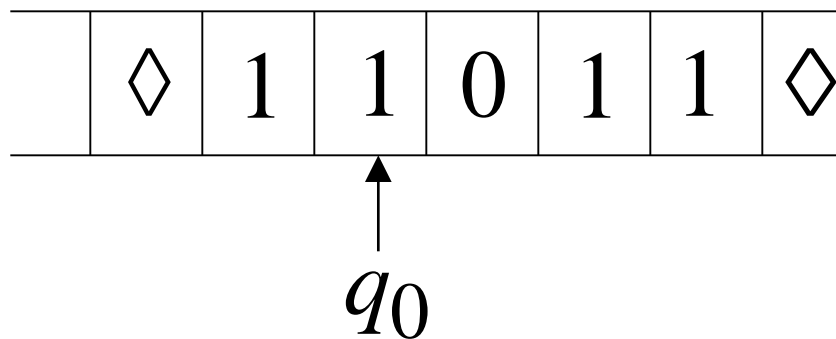
Final Result



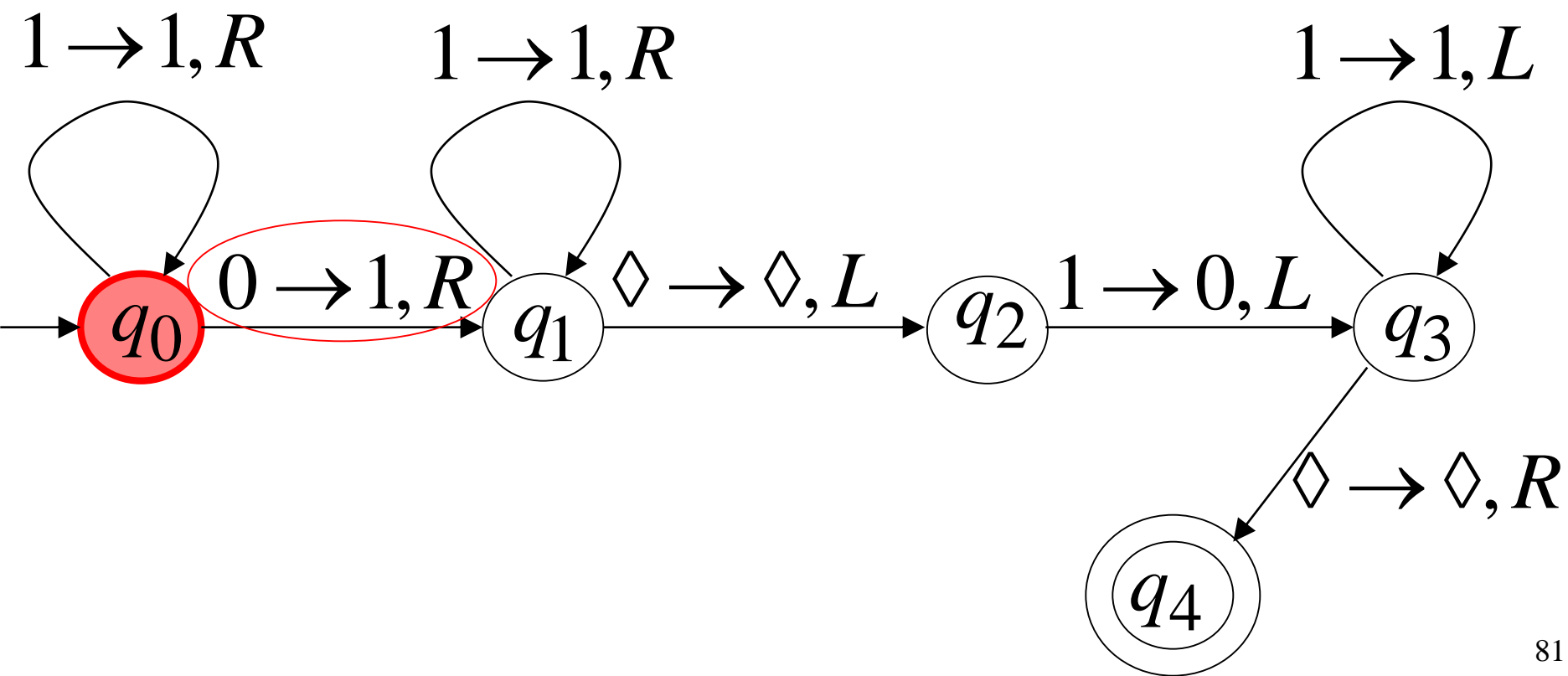
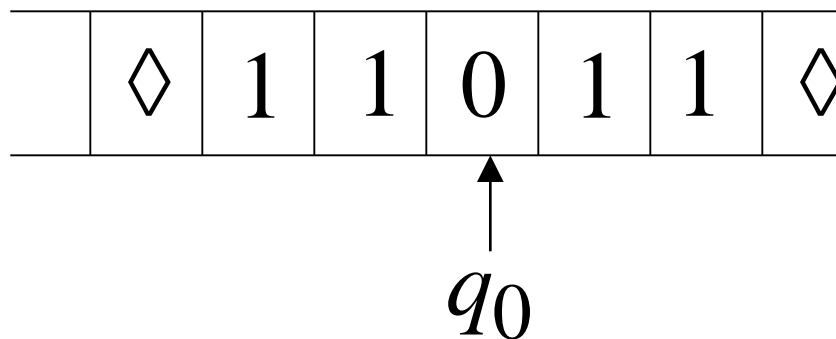
Time 0



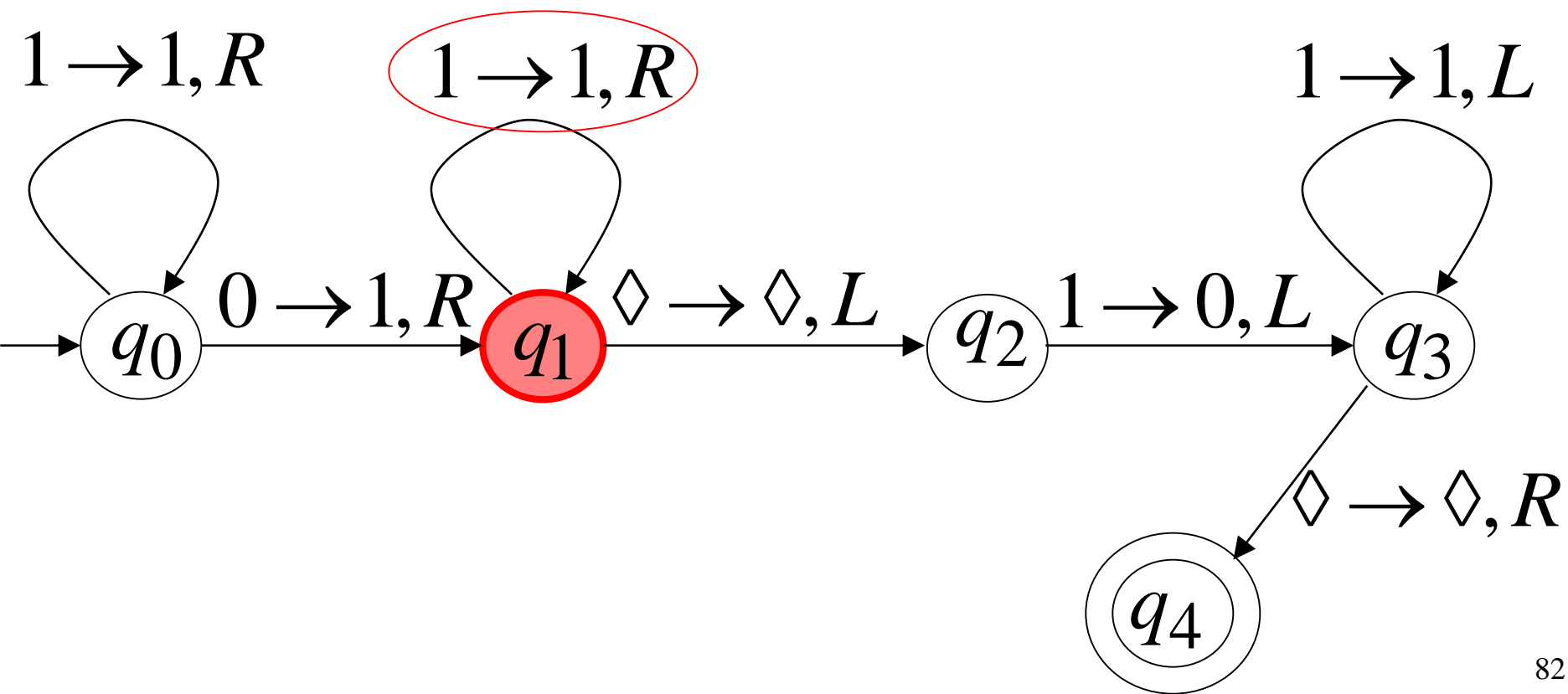
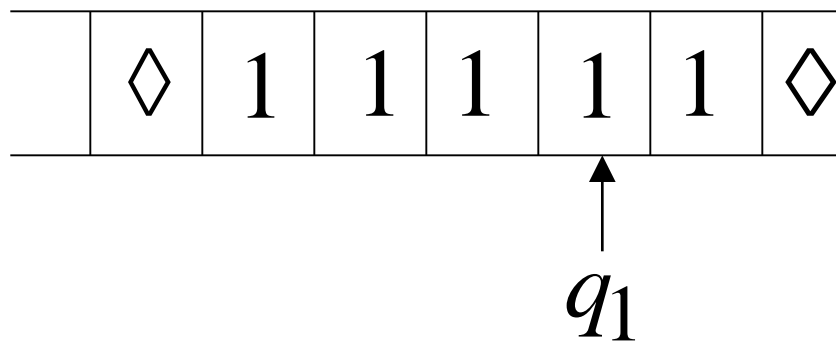
Time 1



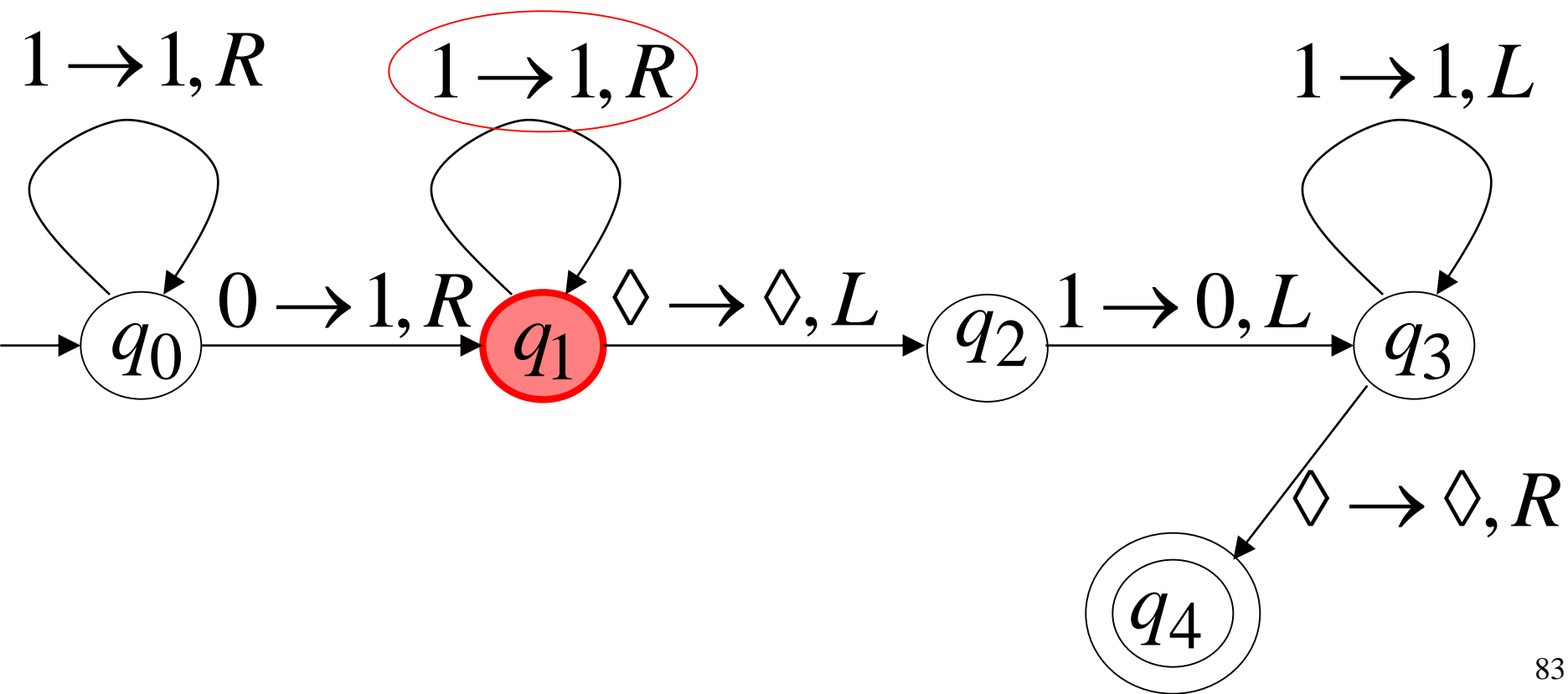
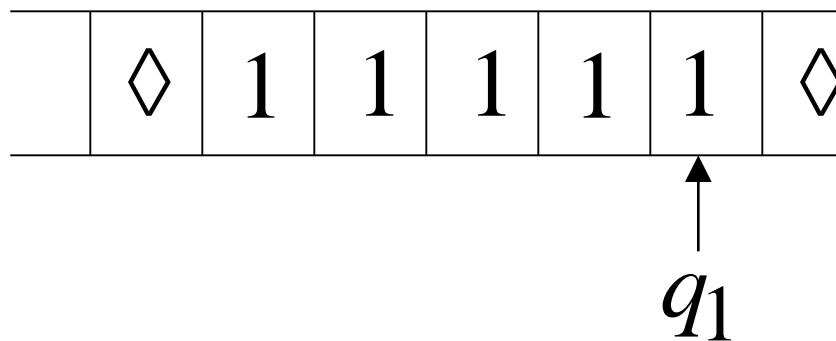
Time 2



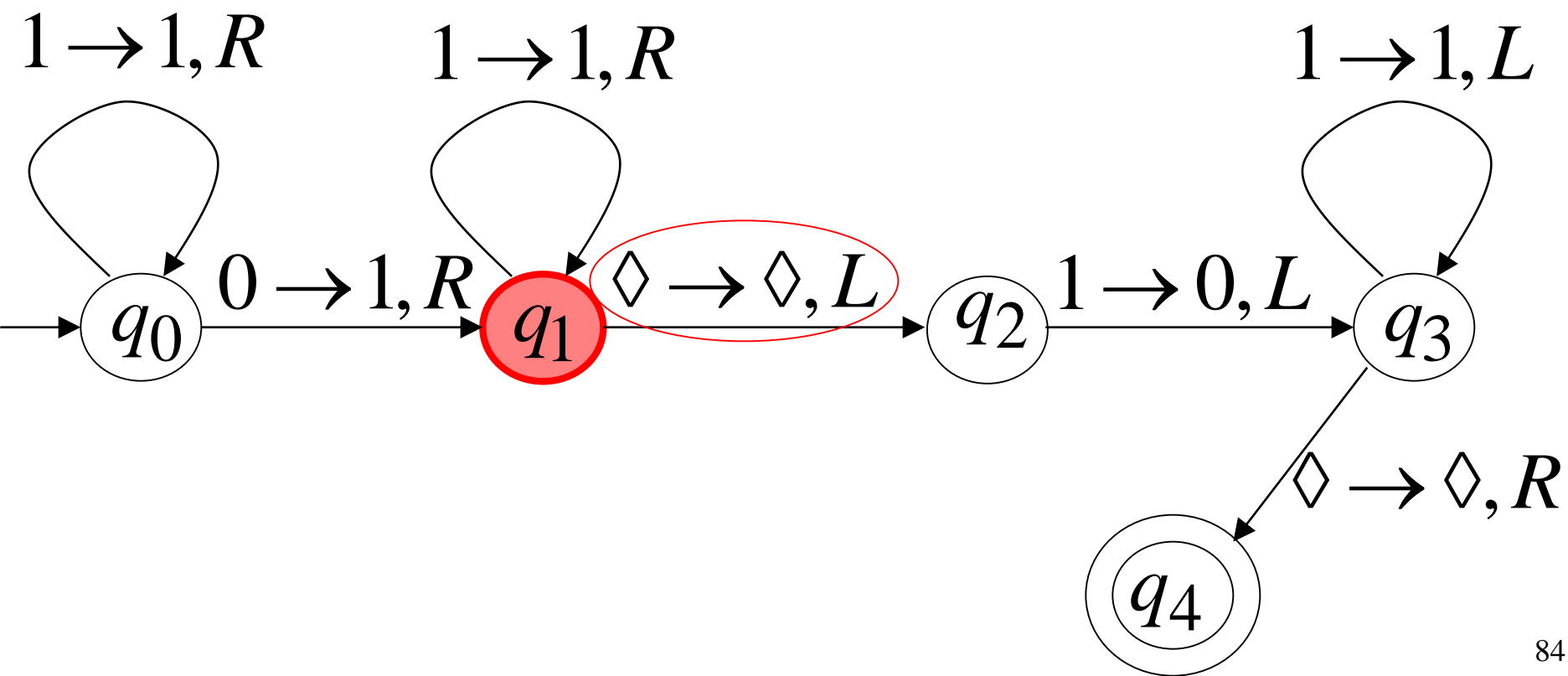
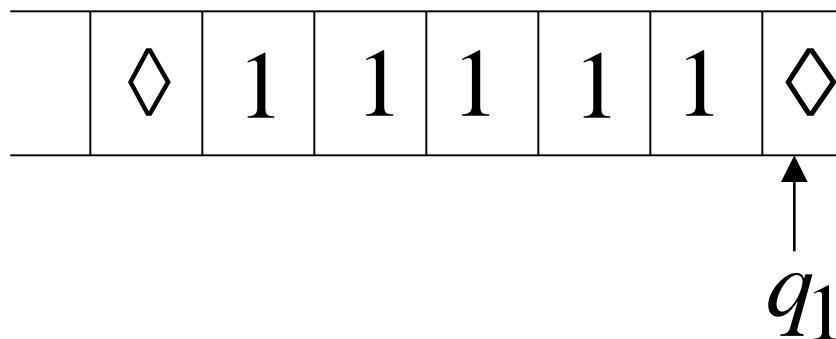
Time 3



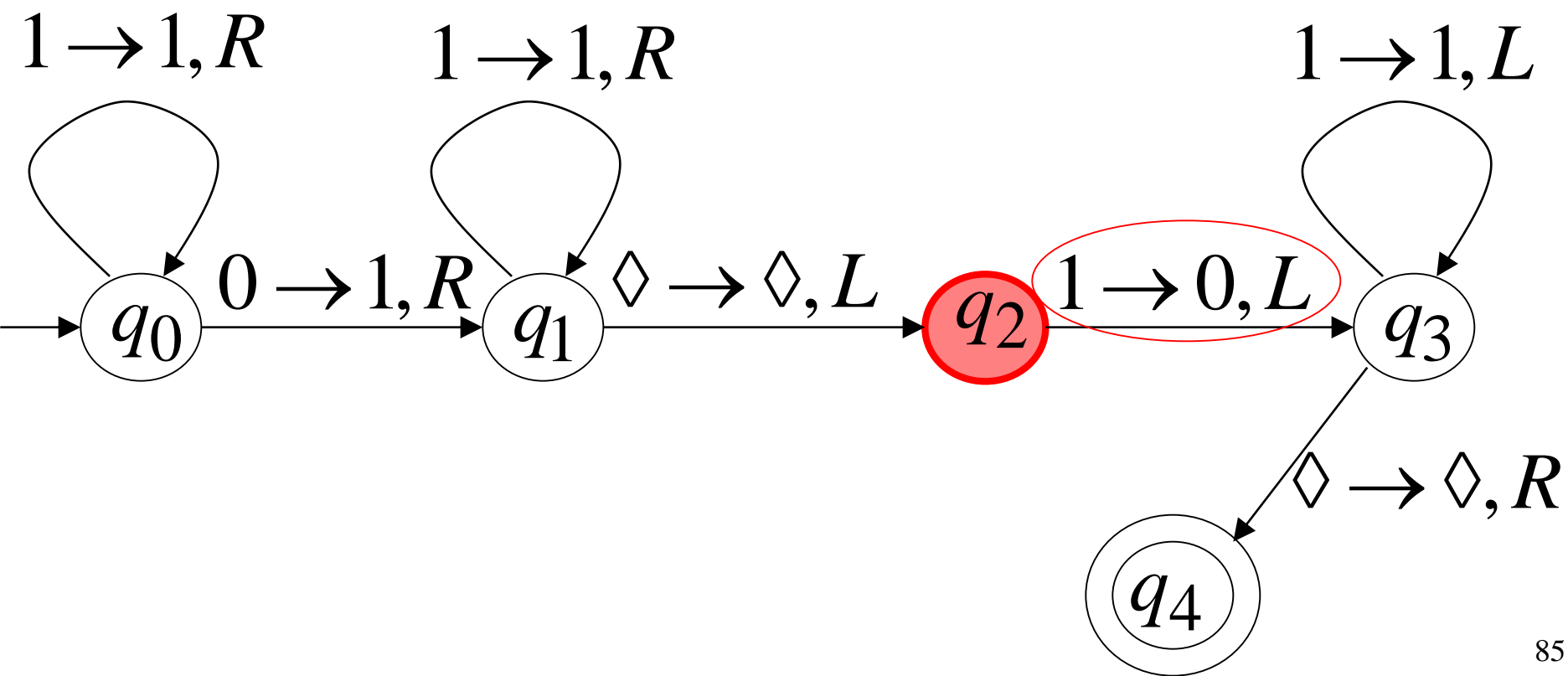
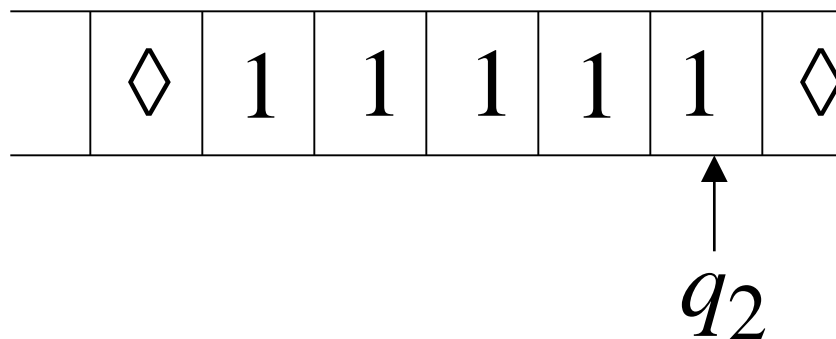
Time 4



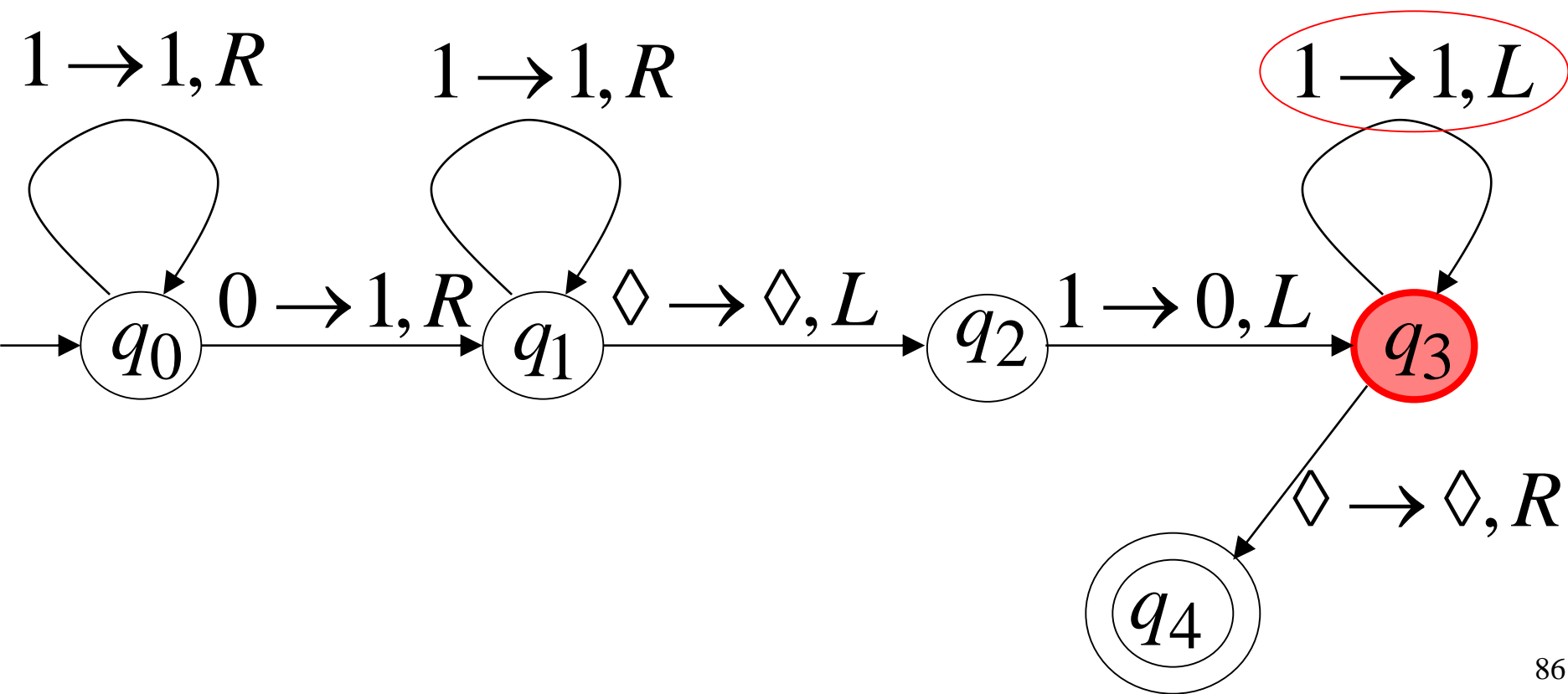
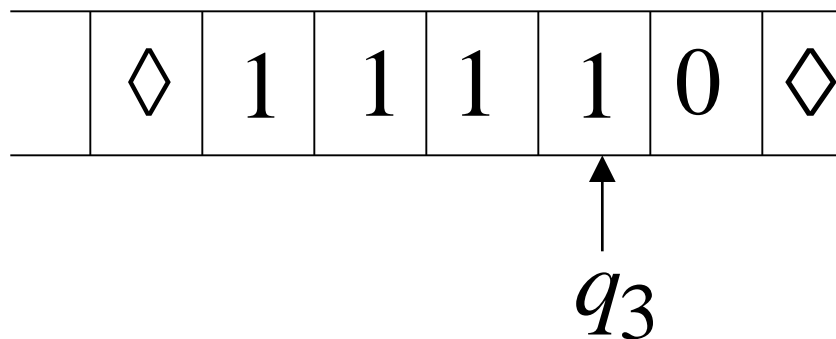
Time 5



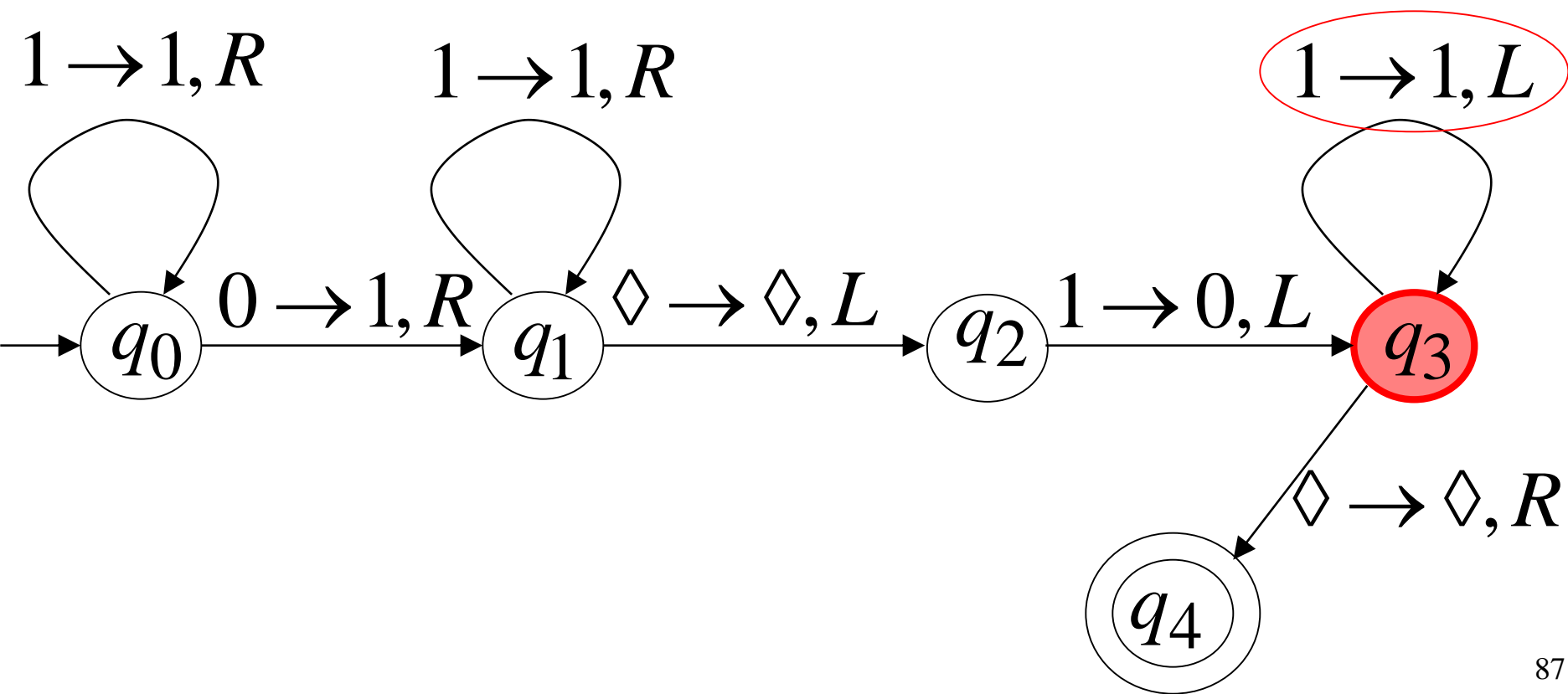
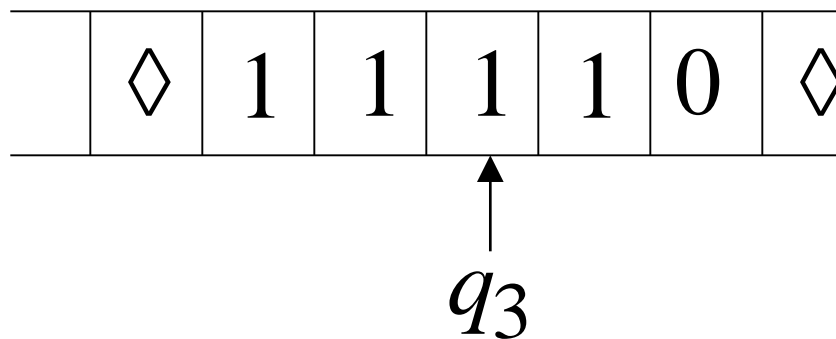
Time 6



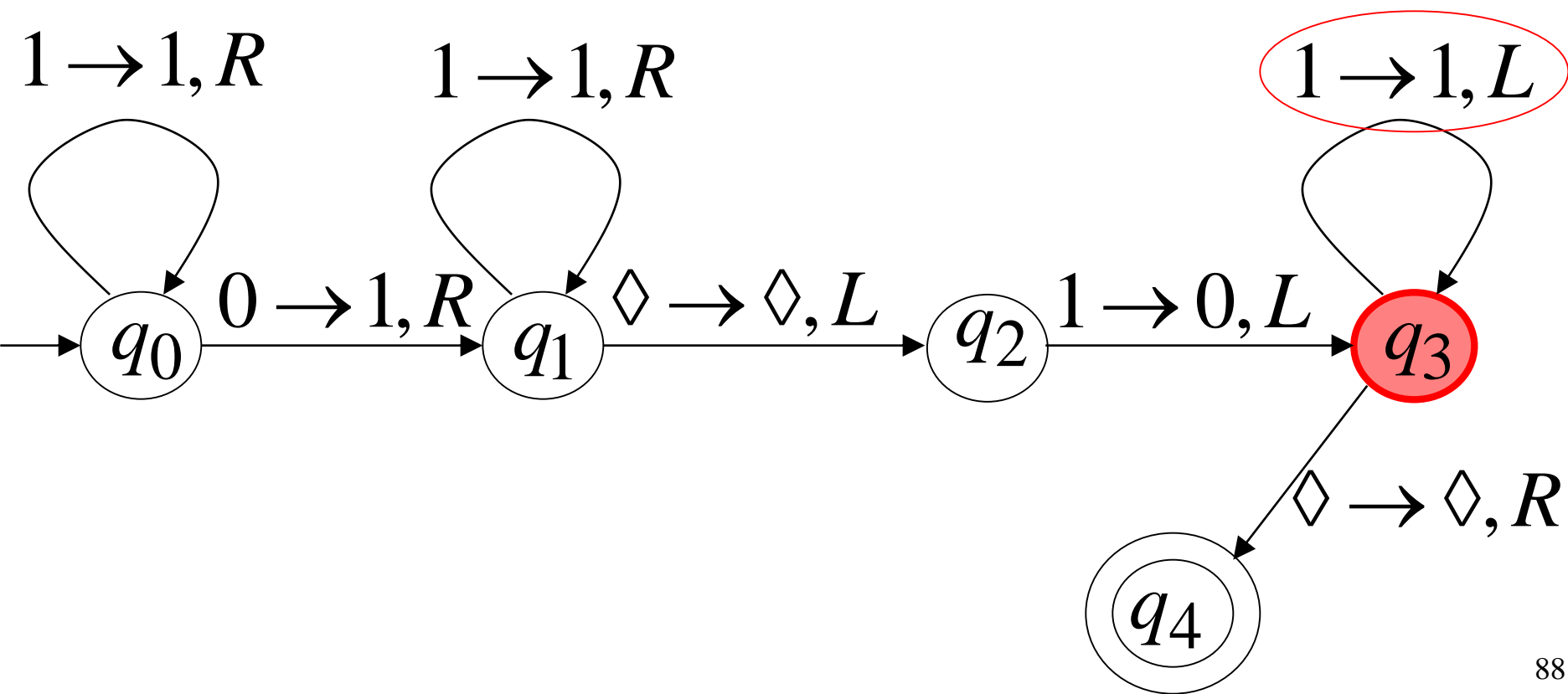
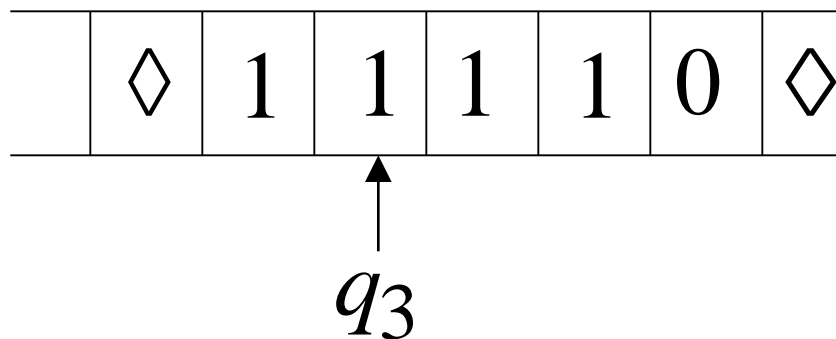
Time 7



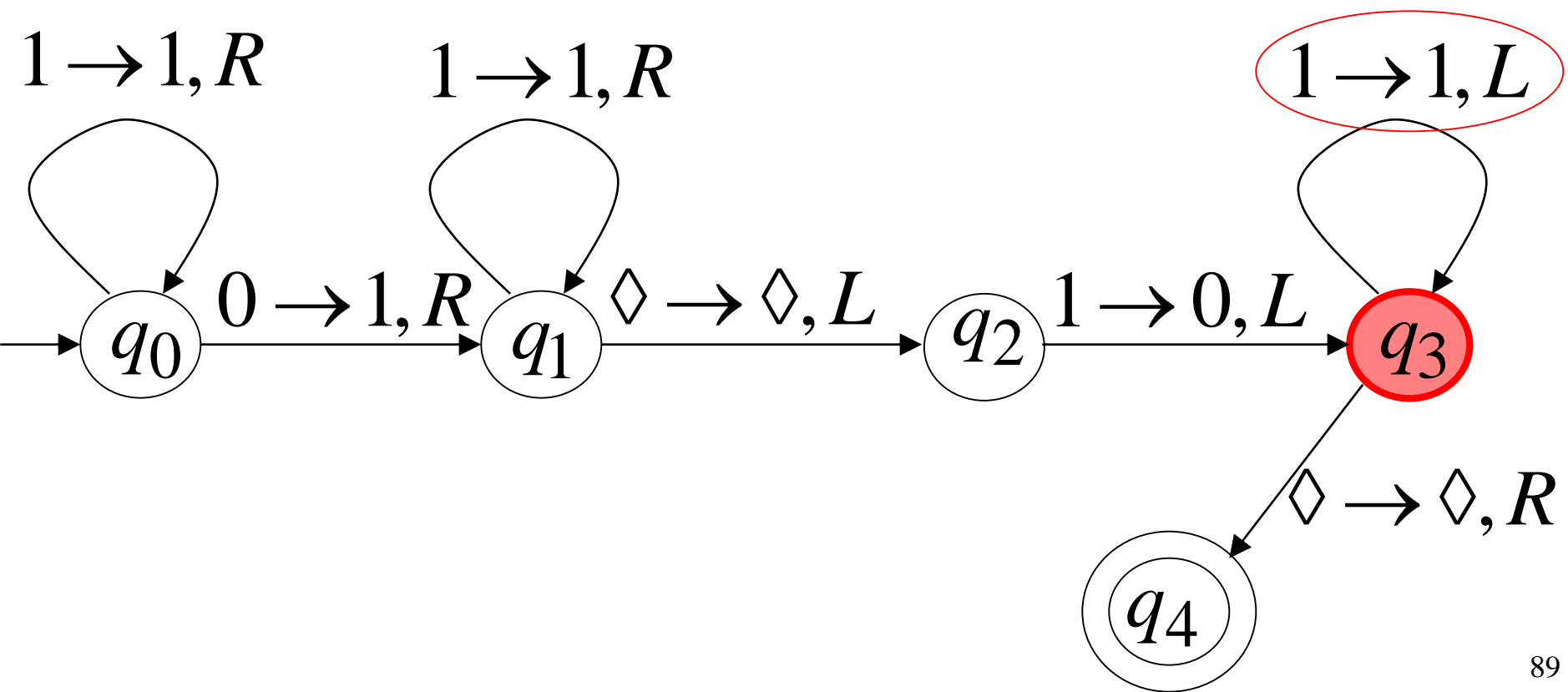
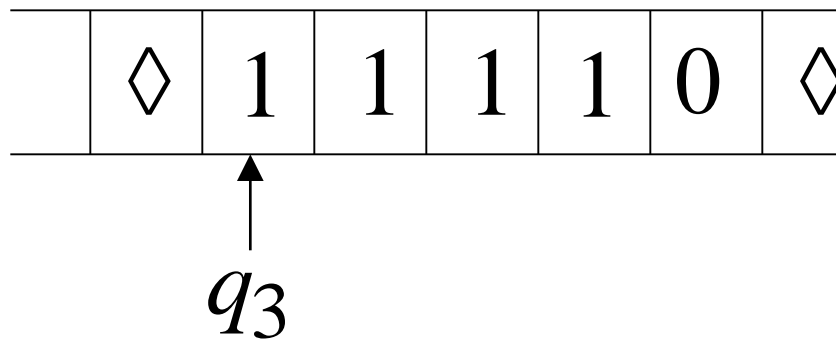
Time 8



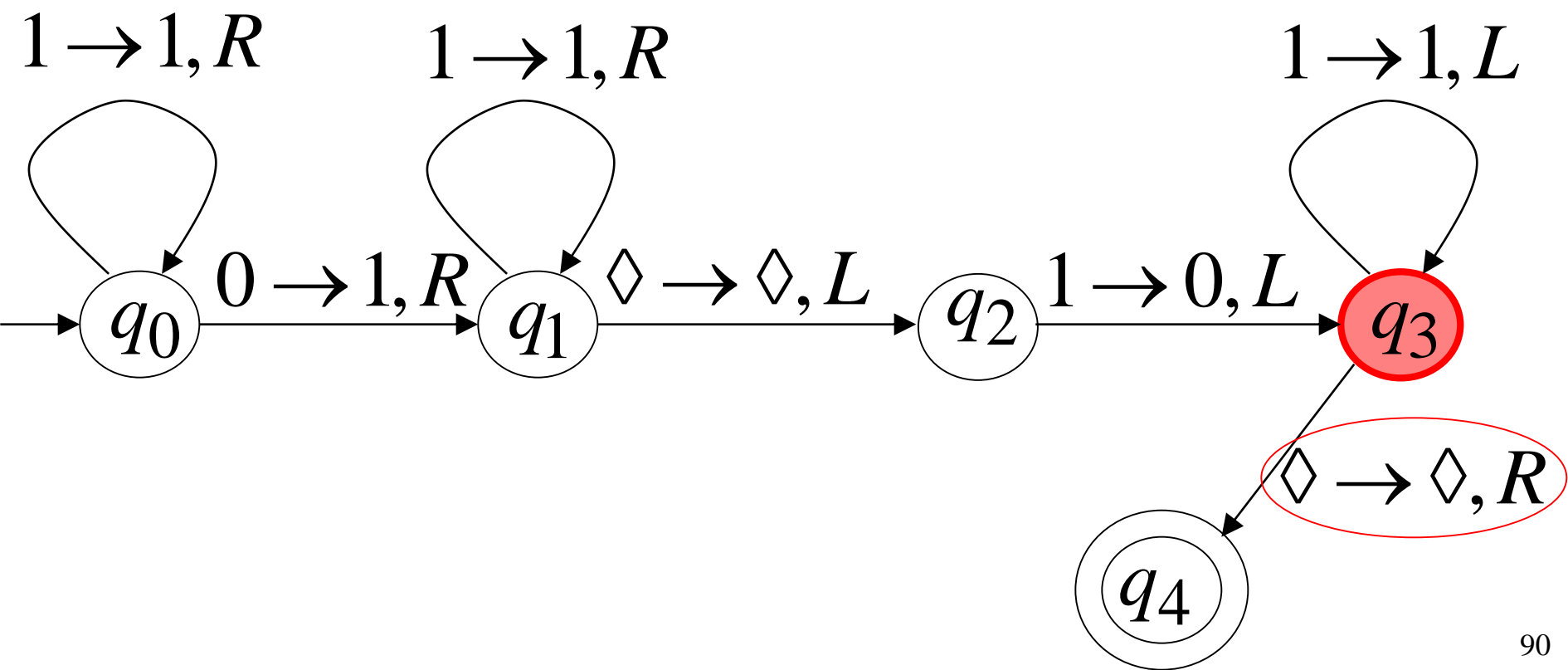
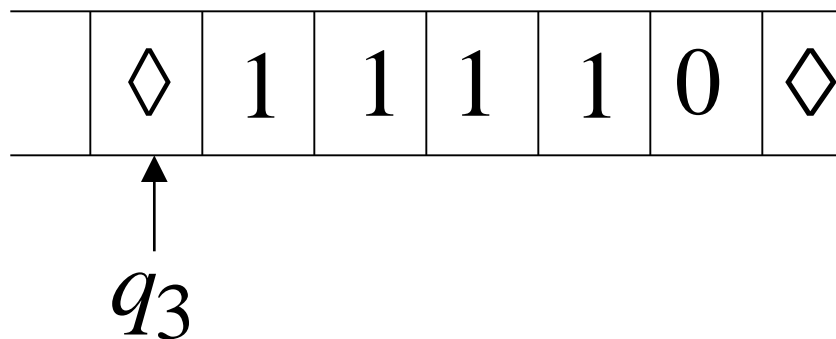
Time 9



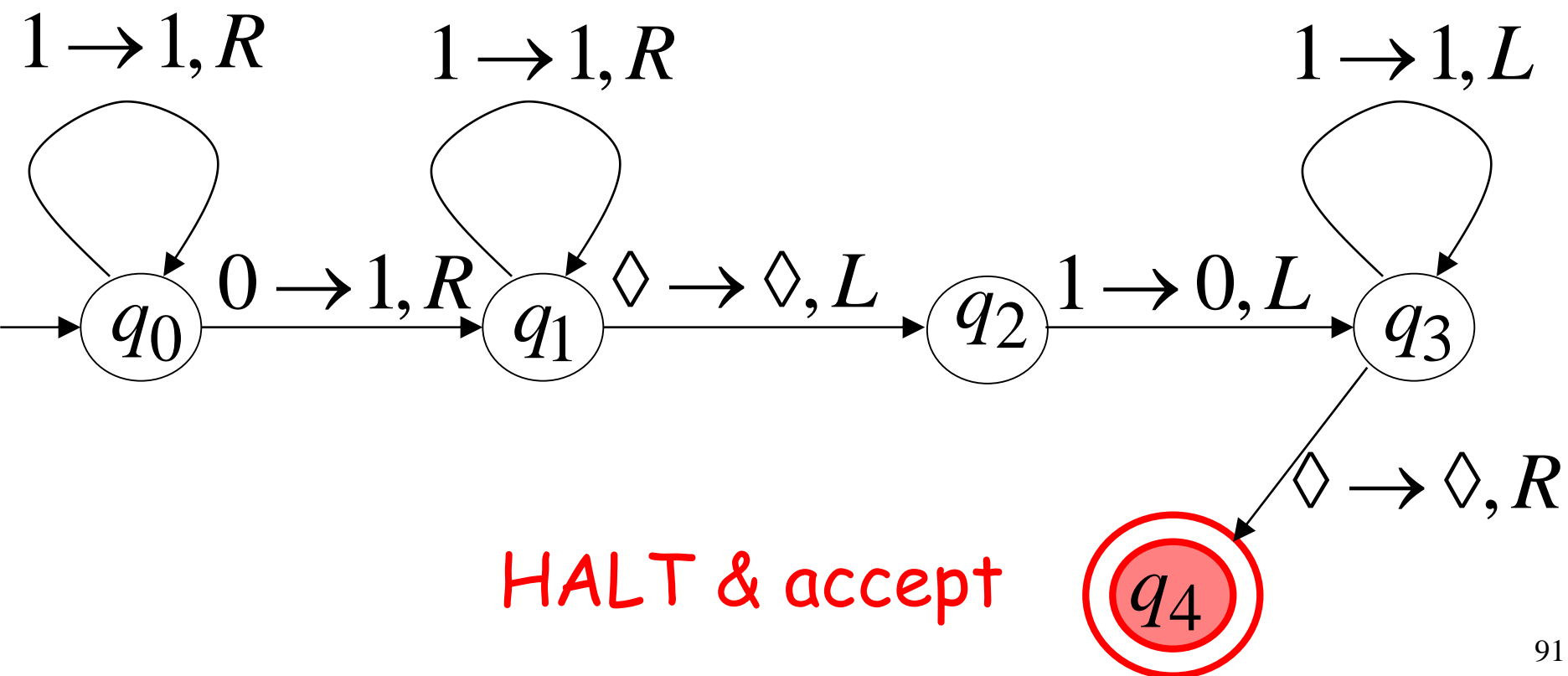
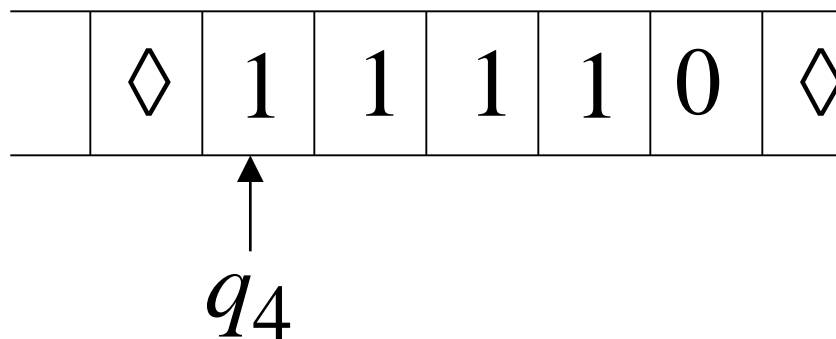
Time 10



Time 11



Time 12



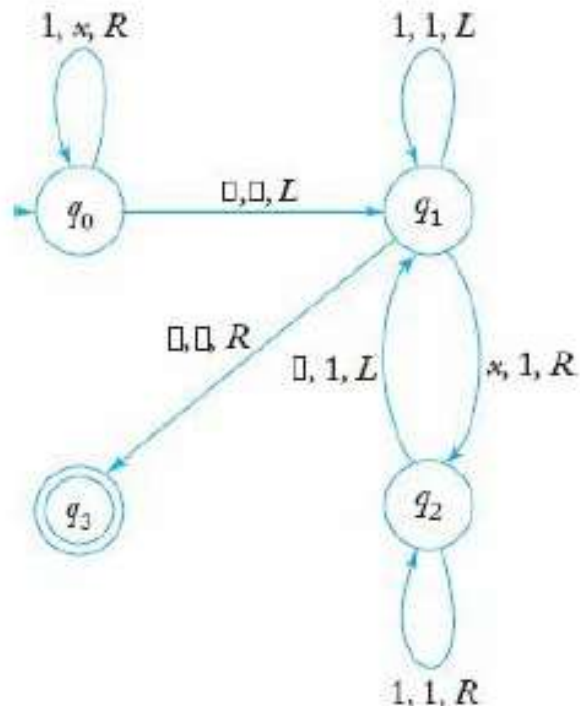
Design a Turing machine that copies strings of 1's. More precisely, find a machine that performs the computation

$$q_0 w \vdash^* q_f ww, \quad \text{for any } w \in \{1\}^+.$$

To solve the problem, we implement the following intuitive process:

1. Replace every 1 by an x.
2. Find the rightmost x and replace it with 1.
3. Travel to the right end of the current nonblank region and create a 1 there.
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until there are no more x's.

Transition Graph



Instantaneous Description

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_0 11 &\vdash x q_0 1 \vdash x x q_0 \square \vdash x q_1 x \\
 &\vdash x 1 q_2 \square \vdash x q_1 11 \vdash q_1 x 11 \\
 &\vdash 1 q_2 11 \vdash 11 q_2 1 \vdash 111 q_2 \square \\
 &\vdash 11 q_1 11 \vdash 1 q_1 111 \\
 &\vdash q_1 1111 \vdash q_1 \square 1111 \vdash q_3 1111.
 \end{aligned}$$

A function may have many parameters:

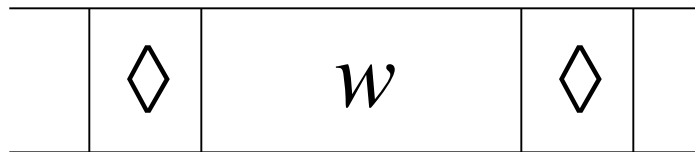
Example: Addition function

$$f(x, y) = x + y$$

Definition:

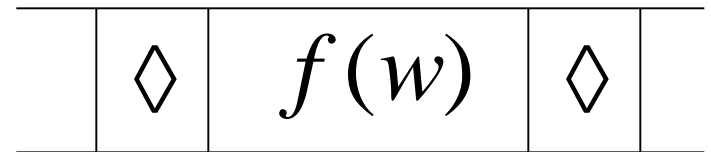
A function f is computable if
there is a Turing Machine M such that:

Initial configuration



q_0 initial state

Final configuration



q_f final state

For all $w \in D$ Domain

In other words:

A function f is computable if
there is a Turing Machine M such that:

$$q_0 w \xrightarrow{*} q_f f(w)$$

Initial

Configuration

Final

Configuration

For all $w \in D$ Domain

Example

The function $f(x, y) = x + y$ is computable

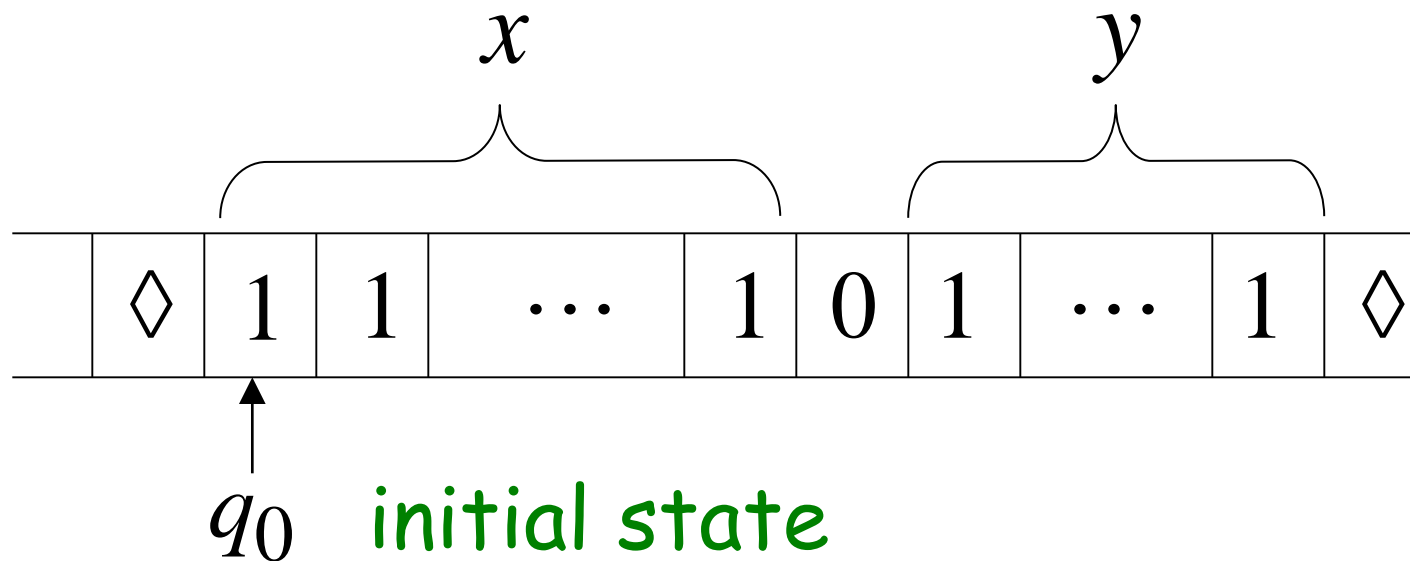
x, y are integers

Turing Machine:

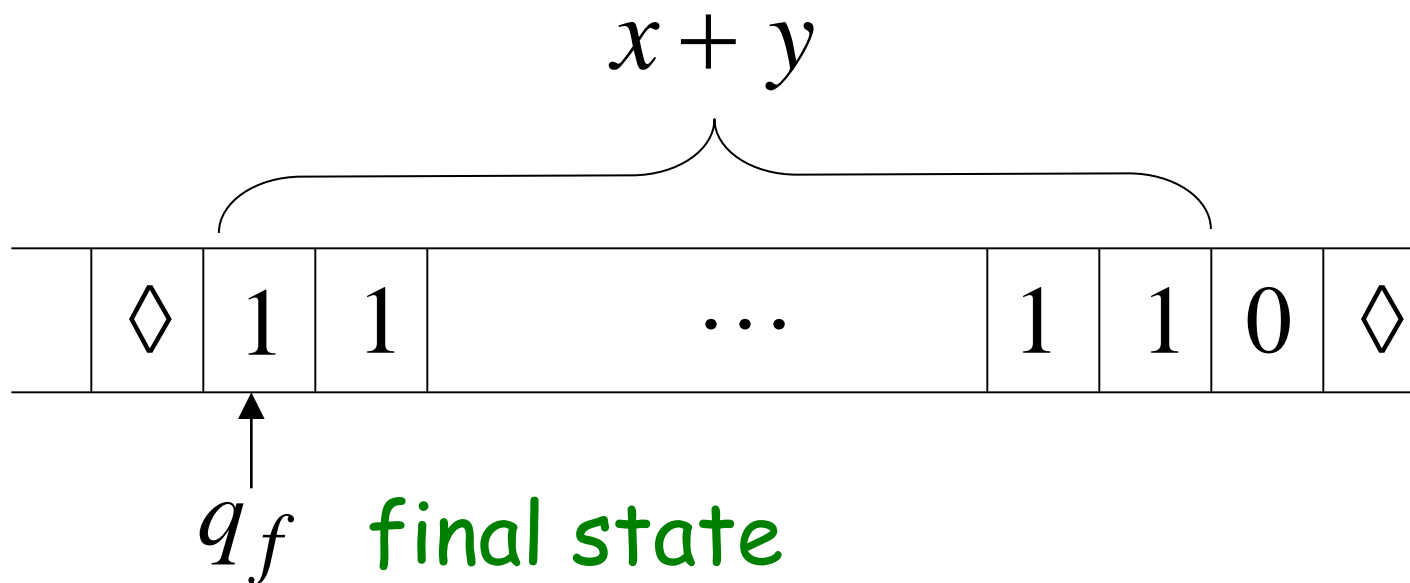
Input string: $x0y$ unary

Output string: $xy0$ unary

Start



Finish



Another Example

The function $f(x) = 2x$ is computable

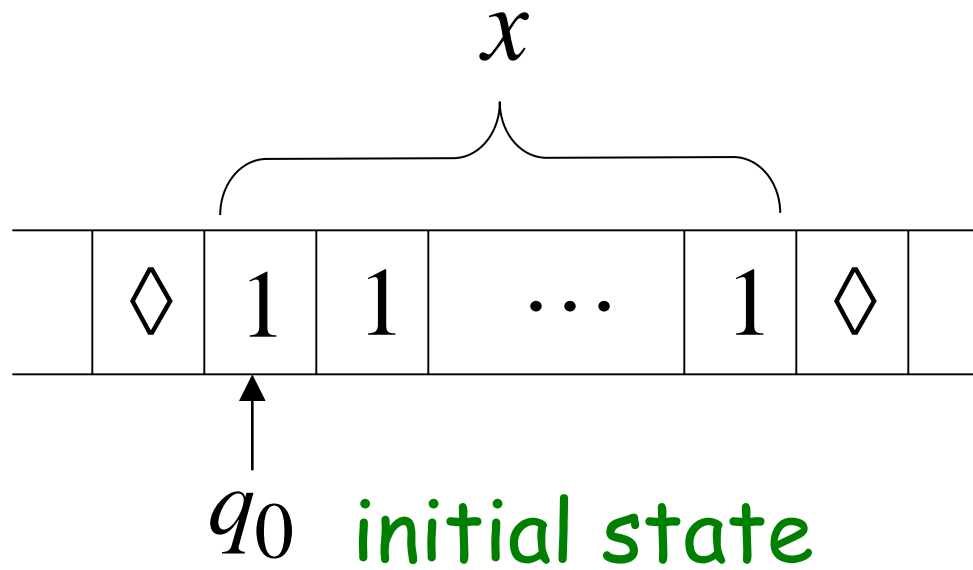
x is integer

Turing Machine:

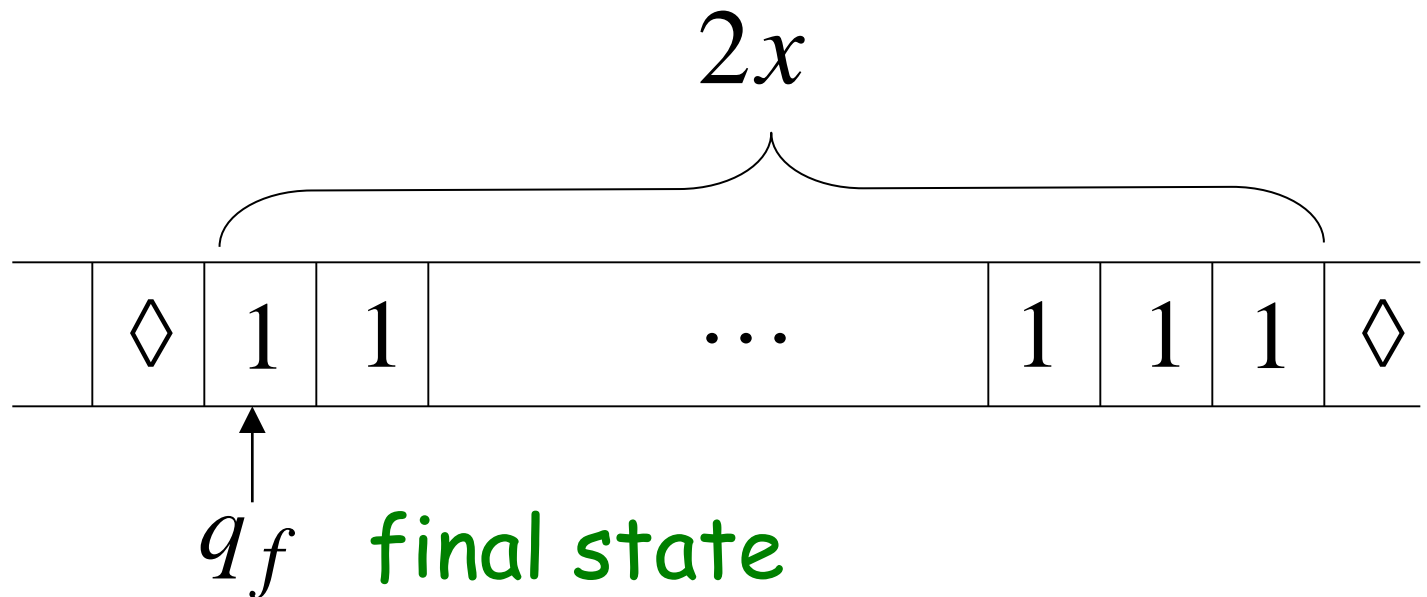
Input string: x unary

Output string: xx unary

Start



Finish

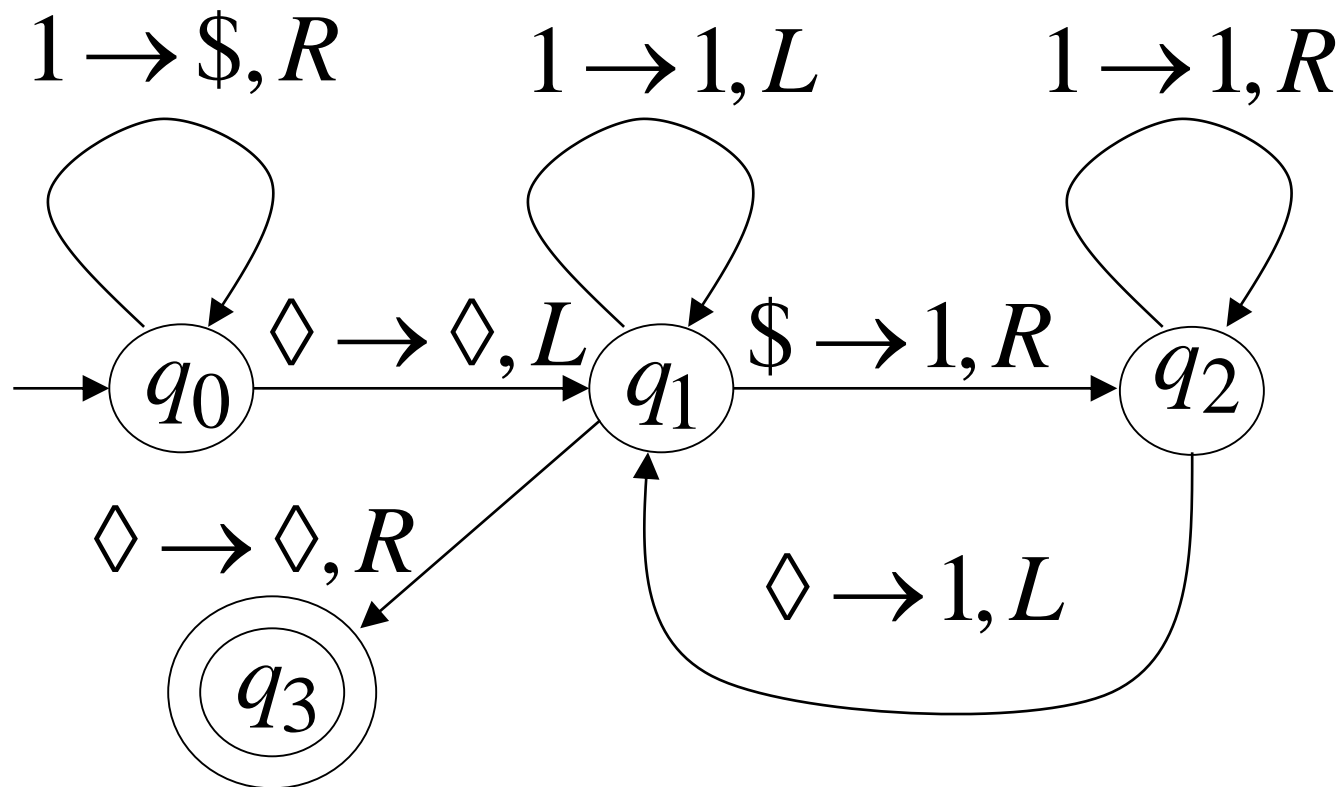


Turing Machine Pseudocode for $f(x) = 2x$

- Replace every 1 with \$
- Repeat:
 - Find rightmost \$, replace it with 1
 - Go to right end, insert 1

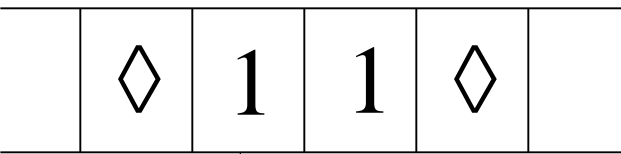
Until no more \$ remain

Turing Machine for $f(x) = 2x$



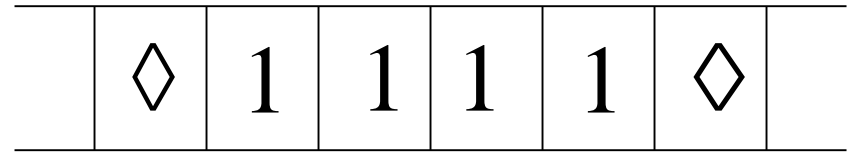
Example

Start



q_0

Finish



q_3

