L90: Overview of Natural Language Processing

Lecture 2: Morphology and Finite State Techniques

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Michaelmas 2020/21

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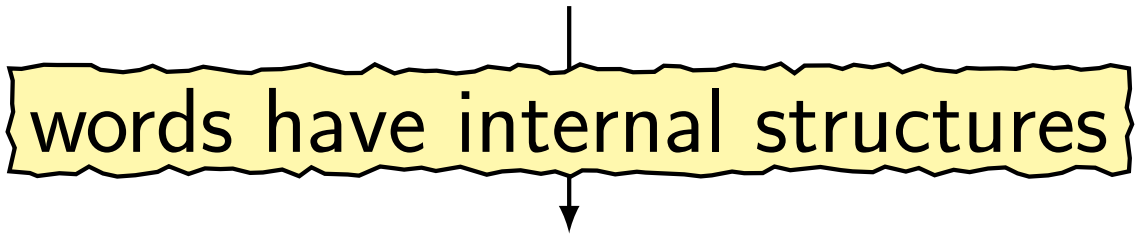

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Lecture 2: Morphology and Finite State Techniques

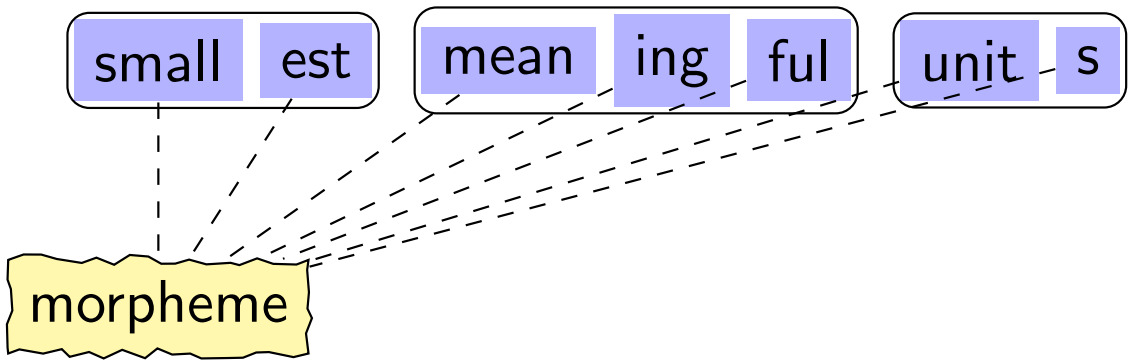
1. A brief introduction to morphology
2. Using morphology in NLP
3. Aspects of morphological processing
4. Finite state techniques

materials
mostly by
Ann Copestake

Morphology

Morpheme

Morphemes are the *smallest meaningful units* of language. Words are composed of morpheme(s).



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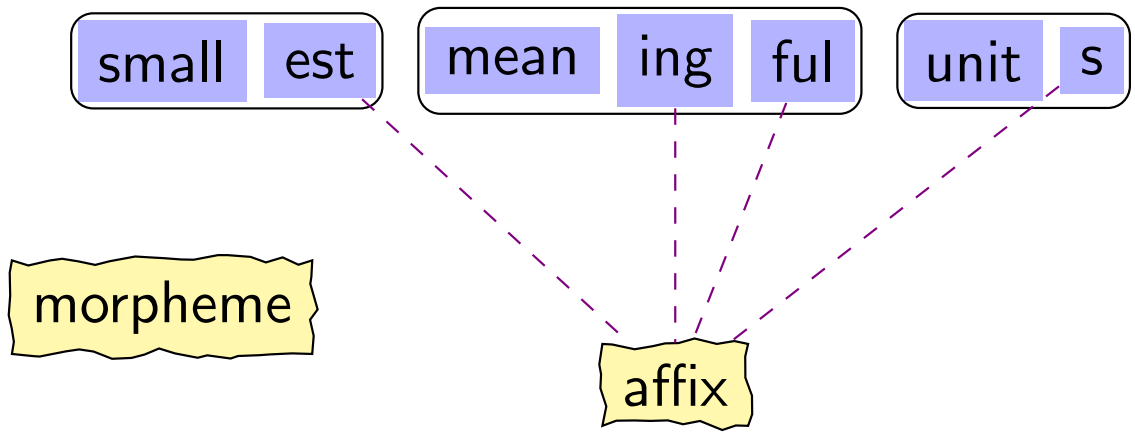

Affix: morpheme which only occurs in conjunction with other morphemes.

- suffix (unit*s*), prefix (*in*complete), infix, circumfix

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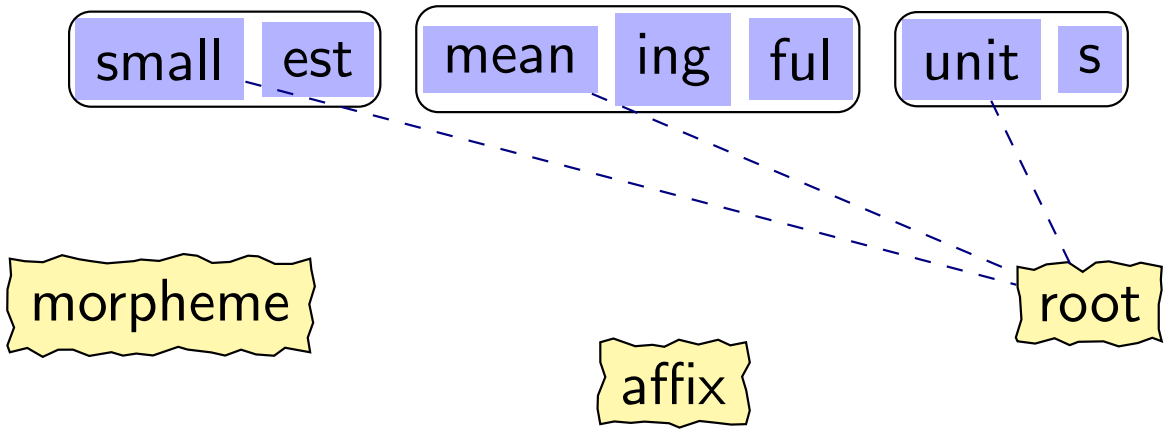

Affix: morpheme which only occurs in conjunction with other morphemes.

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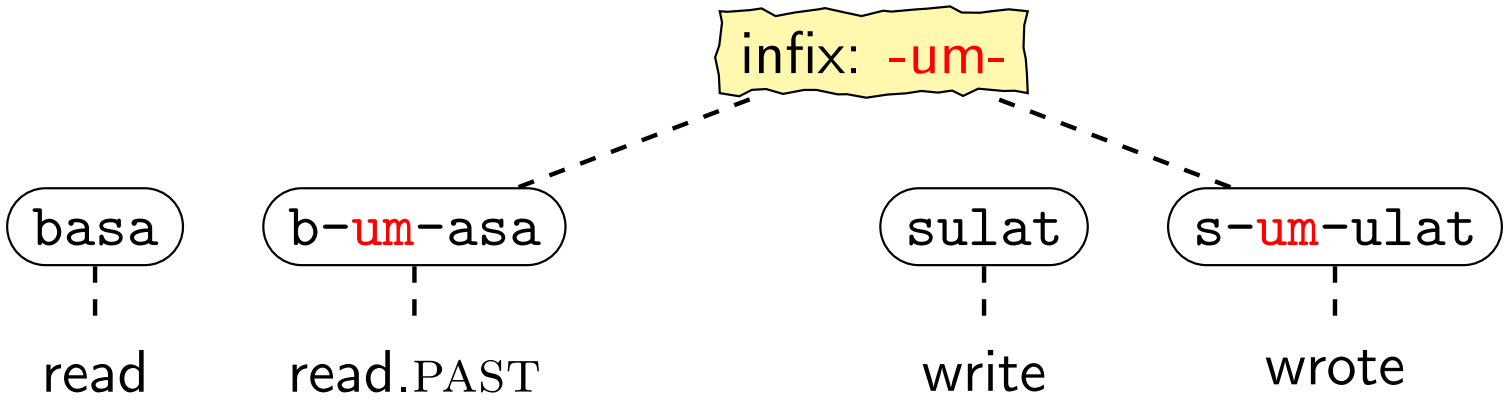
Root: nucleus of the word that affixes attach too.

Infix

Tagalog (Philippines)



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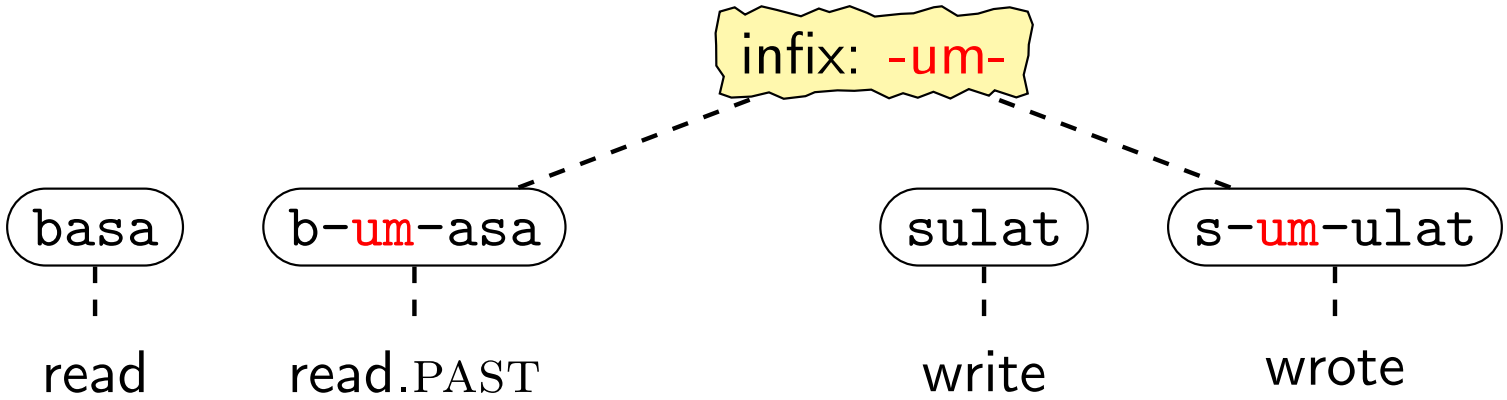
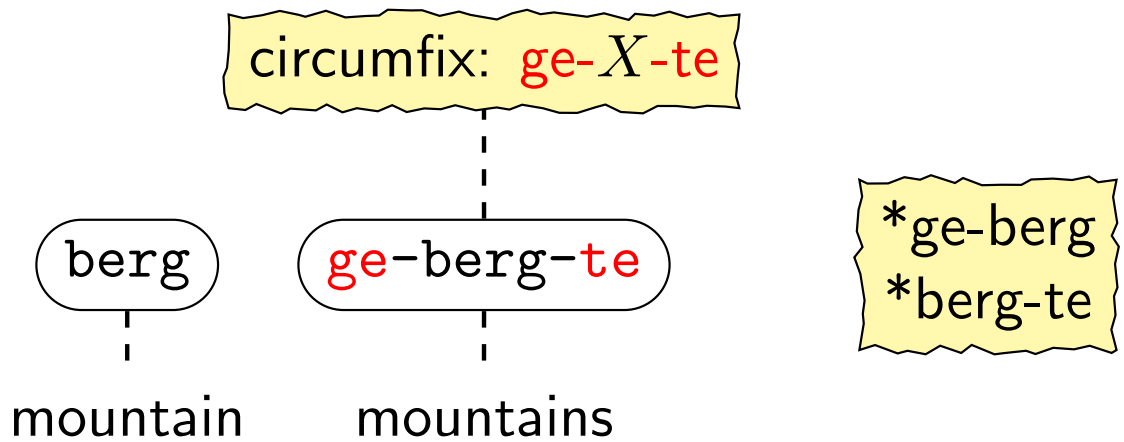


Circumfix: occur on both sides

Dutch collectives



Source: J Hana & A Feldman. *ESSLLI 2013: Computational Morphology*.

http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/~hana/teaching/2013-esslli/

Productivity

Productivity: whether affix applies generally, whether it applies to new words

- s*i*ng, s*a*ng, s*u*ng
- r*i*ng, r*a*ng, r*u*ng

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- s*i*ng, s*a*ng, s*u*ng
- r*i*ng, r*a*ng, r*u*ng

- But, *ping*, ping*ed*, ping*ed*

This infixation pattern is not productive: *sing*, *ring* are *irregular*

Inflection and derivation

Inflection creates new forms of the same word

- e.g. *bring*, *brought*, *brings*, *bringing*
- generally fully productive (modulo irregular forms)
- tends to affect only its *syntactic function*

Derivation creates new words

- e.g. *logic*, *logical*, *illogical*, *illogicality*, *logician*, etc.
- generally semi-productive: e.g., *escapee*, *textee*, *?dropee*, *?snoree*, **cricketee* (* and ?)
- tends to be more irregular; the meaning is more idiosyncratic and less compositional.
- tends to affects the *meaning* of the word, and may change part-of-speech

Compound and multiword expression

Root: nucleus of the word that affixes attach too.

Compounds contain more than one root.

(1) a. railway

b. beam-width

c. sunset

Multiword expression: combinations of two or more words that exhibit syntactic and semantic idiosyncratic behavior.

Fixed		**(Syntactically) flexible**
by and large		*put on the clothes* *put the clothes on*
Non-compositional	**Semi-compositional**	**Compositional**
kick the bucket	*spill the beans* (reveal the secret)	*strong tea*

Stem: word without its inflectional affixes = root + all derivational affixes.

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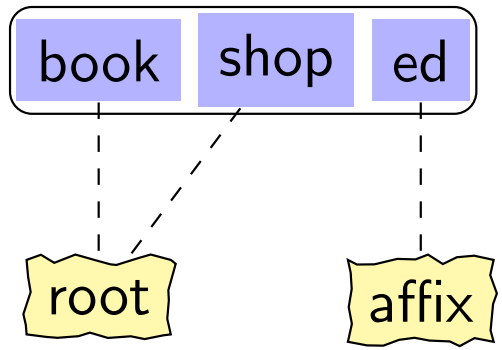
bookshopped



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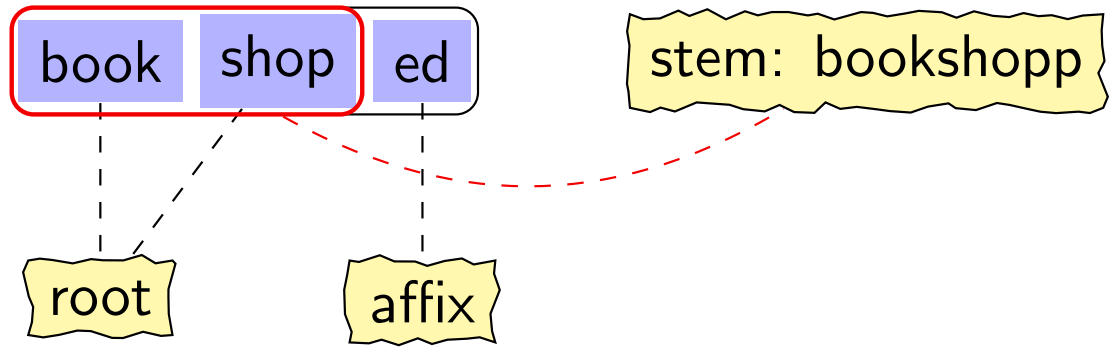

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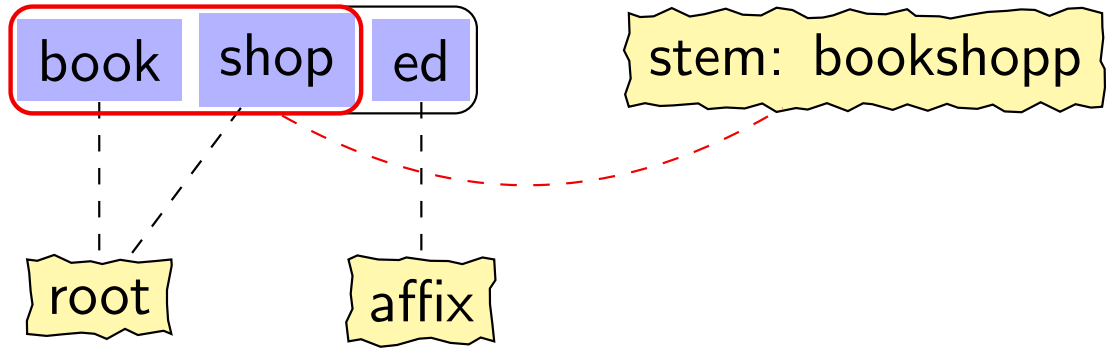


Lexeme: the set of all forms related by inflection (but not derivation).

{*bookshops*, *bookshopped*, *bookshopping*, . . . }

Lemma: the *canonical/base/dictionary/citation* form of a lexeme chosen by convention.

bookshop (cf. the stem—*bookshopp*)

Etymology

slither, *slide*, *slip* etc have some what similar meanings; but *sl-* is not a morpheme.

slith, *slid* and *slip* are historically related.

See `www.etymonline.com/word/slide`

Internal structure: order

The order of morphemes matters

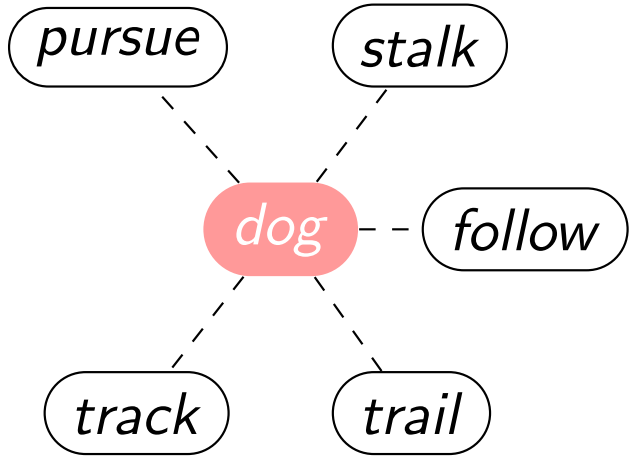
- talk-ed $\neq$ *ed-talk
- re-write $\neq$ *write-re
- un-kind-ly $\neq$ *kind-un-ly

Suffixing is more frequent than prefixing and far more frequent than infixing/circumfixing

- Postpositional and head-final languages use suffixes and no prefixes. cf. harmonic order: $\langle VO, PO \rangle$, $\langle OV, OP \rangle$
- Prepositional and head-initial languages use not only prefixes but also suffixes.
- Many languages use exclusively suffixes and no prefixes
- Very few languages use only prefixes and no suffixes

Internal structure: ambiguity

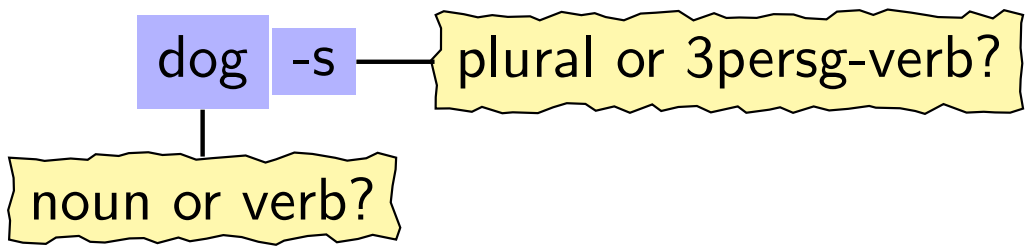
dog



Source of photo: `commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=73851814`

Morpheme ambiguity: stems and affixes may be individually ambiguous.

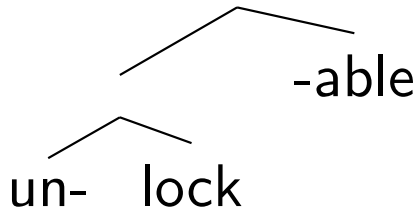
dogs



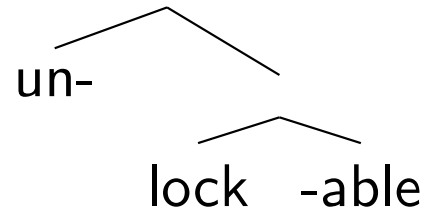
Internal structure: ambiguity

Structural ambiguity: different combinations of morphemes

unlockable



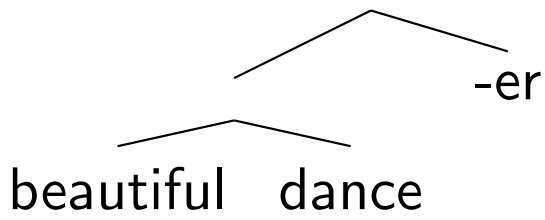
Capable of being unlocked.

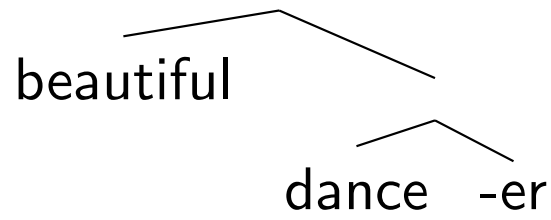


Not capable of being locked.

Cross word boundaries: syntax all the way down

beautiful dancer





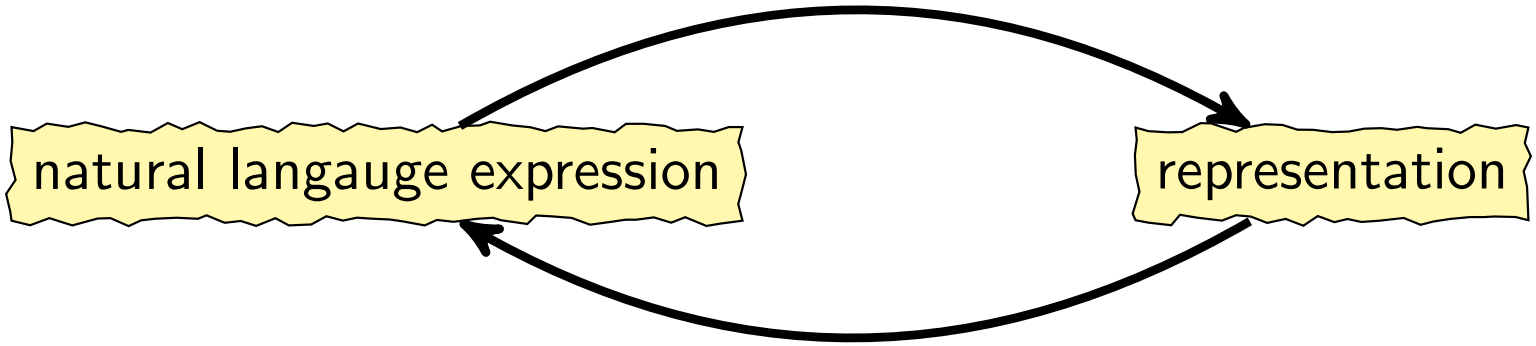
More about *beautiful dancer*: Larson (1998).

`semantics.uchicago.edu/kennedy/classes/f11/na/docs/larson08.pdf`

More about *unlockable*: `en.wiktionary.org/wiki/unlockable`

Using Morphology in NLP

Abstraction



Surface form → Abstraction

- Indefinite article: *an* orange, *a* building
- Negation: *un*happy, *in*complete, *im*possible, *ir*rational
- Irregular: *sing*, *sang*, *sung*

The same morpheme may have different variants, which are called *allomorphs*. Allomorphs have the same function but different forms.

Computational tasks

	natural langauge expression	representation $\mathcal{R}$
LEMMATIZATION →	word *saw*	lexeme {*see*, *saw*}
TAGGING →	contextualized word *saw @ J saw M*	contextualized tag ⟨*see*, VERB.PAST⟩
SEGMENTATION →	word *meaningful*	morphemes (subwords) *mean+ing+ful*
GENERATION ←	word *saw*	*abstract word* ⟨*see*, VERB.PAST⟩

compiling a full-form lexicon, stemming for Information Retrieval, preprocessing for parsing, . . .

Segmentation

antidisestablishmentarianism ⇒ anti- dis- e- stabl -ish -ment -arian -ism

antidisestablishmentarianism

anti	dis	establish	ment	arian	ism

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antidisestablishmentarianism

www.etymonline.com/word/antidisestablishmentarianism

bioinformatics

Text normalization

- Not using any punctuation at all
  Eh speak english mi malay not tt good (Eh, speak English! My Ma-lay is not that good.)
- Using spell-ing/punctuation for emphasis
  goooooood Sunday morning !!!!!! (Good Sunday morning!)
- Using phonetic spelling
  dat iz enuf (That is enough)
- Dropping vowel
  i hv cm to c my luv. (I have come to see my love.)
- Introducing local flavor
  yar lor where u go juz now (yes, where did you go just now?)
- Dropping verb
  I hv 2 go. Dinner w parents. (I have to go. Have dinner with parents.)

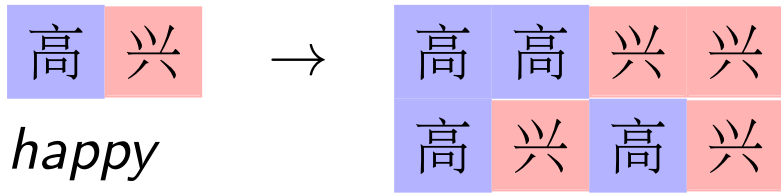
Examples are from Aw et al. (2005). `https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P06-2005.pdf`

More: `noisy-text.github.io/norm-shared-task.html`

Aspects of Morphological Processing

Cross-lingual variants

- English morphology is essentially concatenative
  cf. duplication in Chinese, e.g.



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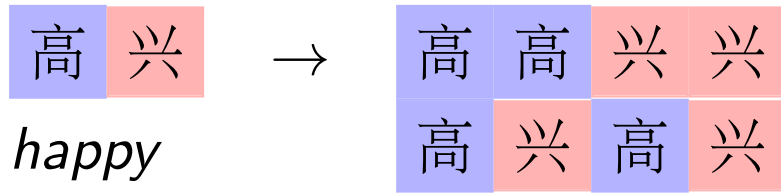


- The phones making up a morpheme don't have to be contiguous, e.g. in Hebrew,

Root	Pattern	PoS	Phonological Form	Gloss
ktb	**C**a**C**a**C**	v	katav	'wrote'
ktb	hi**CC**i**C**	v	hixtiv	'dictated'
ktb	mi**CC**a**C**	n	mixtav	'a letter'
ktb	**CC**a**C**	n	ktav	'writing, alphabet'

from E. Bender's tutorial (`faculty.washington.edu/ebender/papers/100things.pdf`)

Spelling rules

- Irregular morphology — inflectional forms have to be listed
- Regular phonological and spelling changes associated with affixation, e.g.
  - *-s* is pronounced differently with stem ending in *s*, *x* or *z*
  - spelling reflects this with the addition of an *e* (*boxes* etc)

  morphophonology
- In English, description is independent of particular stems/affixes

Lexical requirements for morphological processing

Knowledge

affixes, plus the associated information conveyed by the affix

-ed VERB.PAST

-ed VERB.PSP

-s NOUN.PLURAL

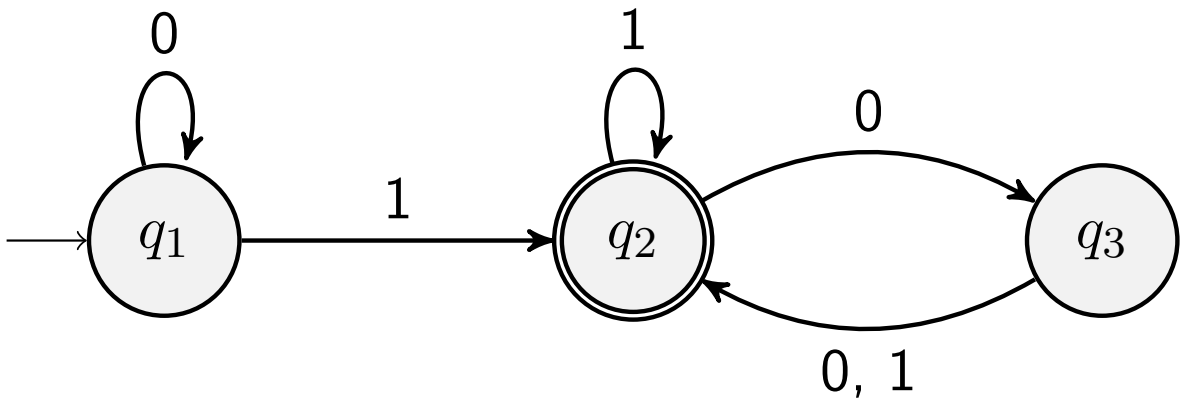
irregular forms, with associated information similar to that for affixes

began VERB.PAST begin

begun VERB.PSP begin

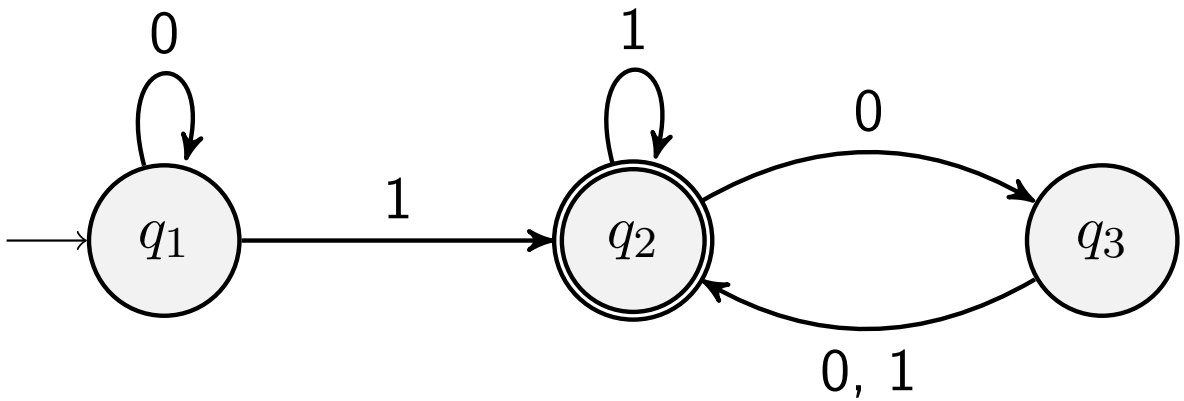
Finite State Techniques

Automata



- Circles are states of the automaton.
- Arrows are called transitions.
- The automaton changes states by following transitions.
- The double circle indicates that this state is an accepting state. The automaton accepts the string if it ends in an accepting state.

Automata



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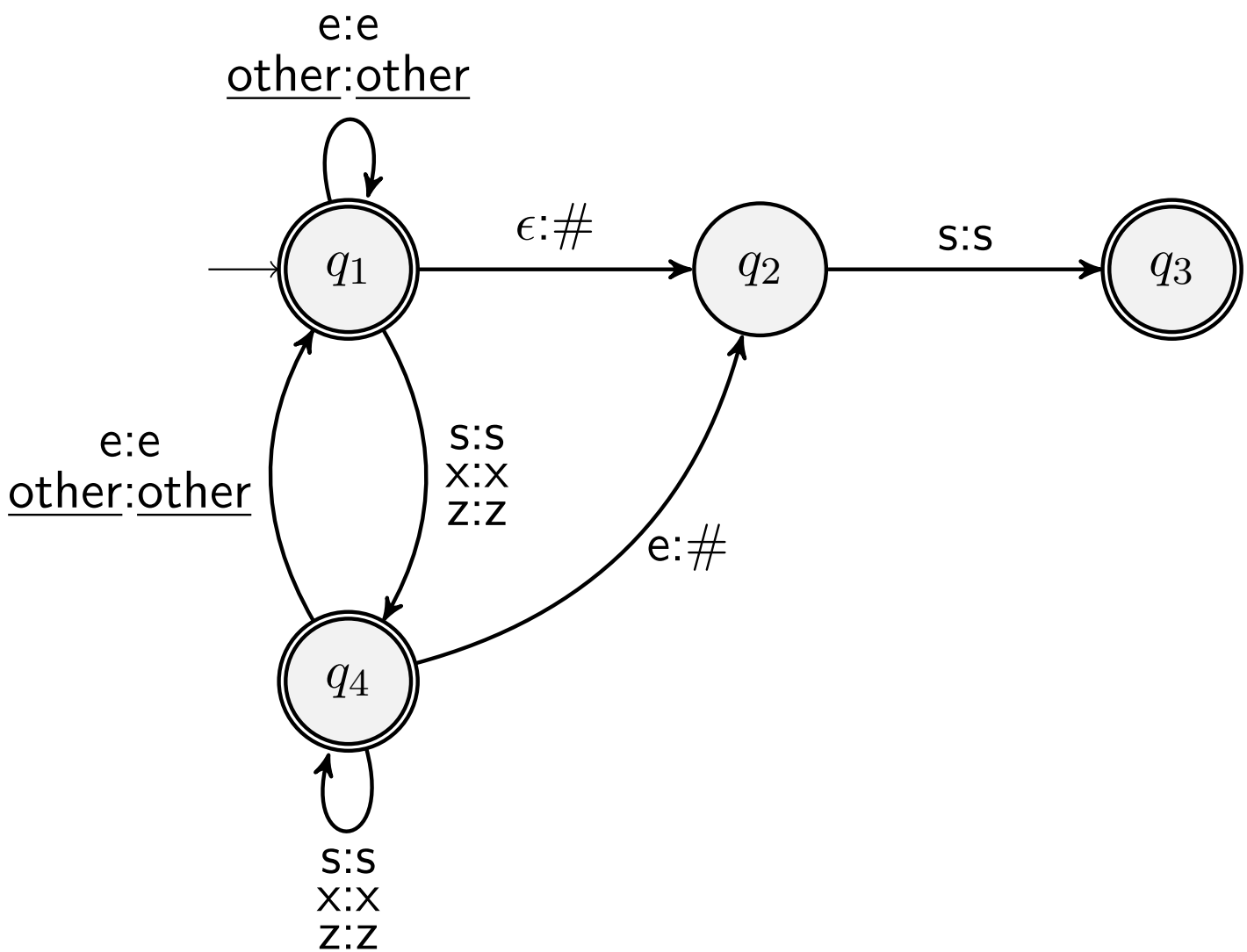
- **Form Transformation**: agumenting transitions

  `input→input:output`

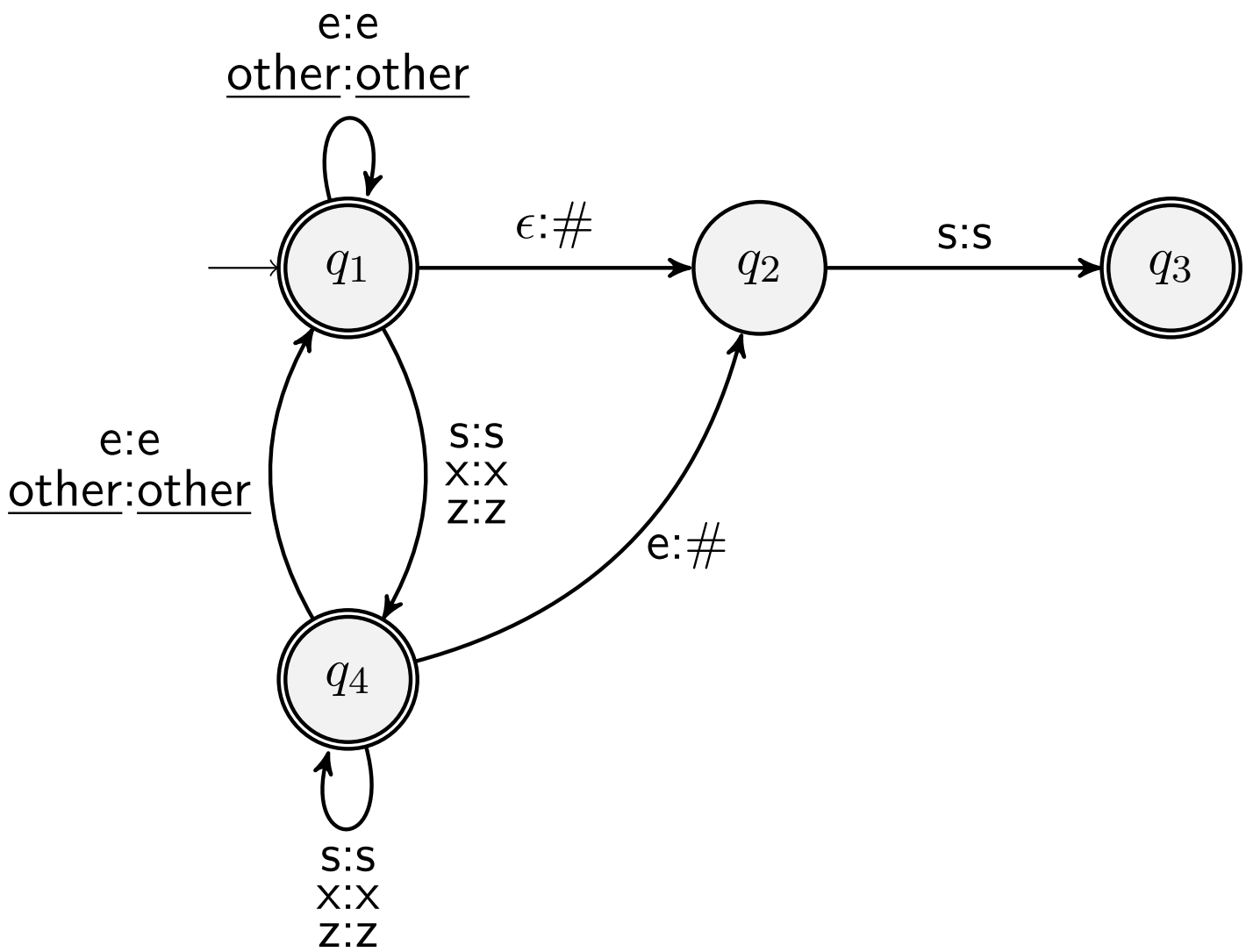
Finite state transducer

- *cakes* → *cake#s*
- *boxes* → *box#s*



Analysing *boxes*

OUTPUT					
INPUT	b	o	x	e	s



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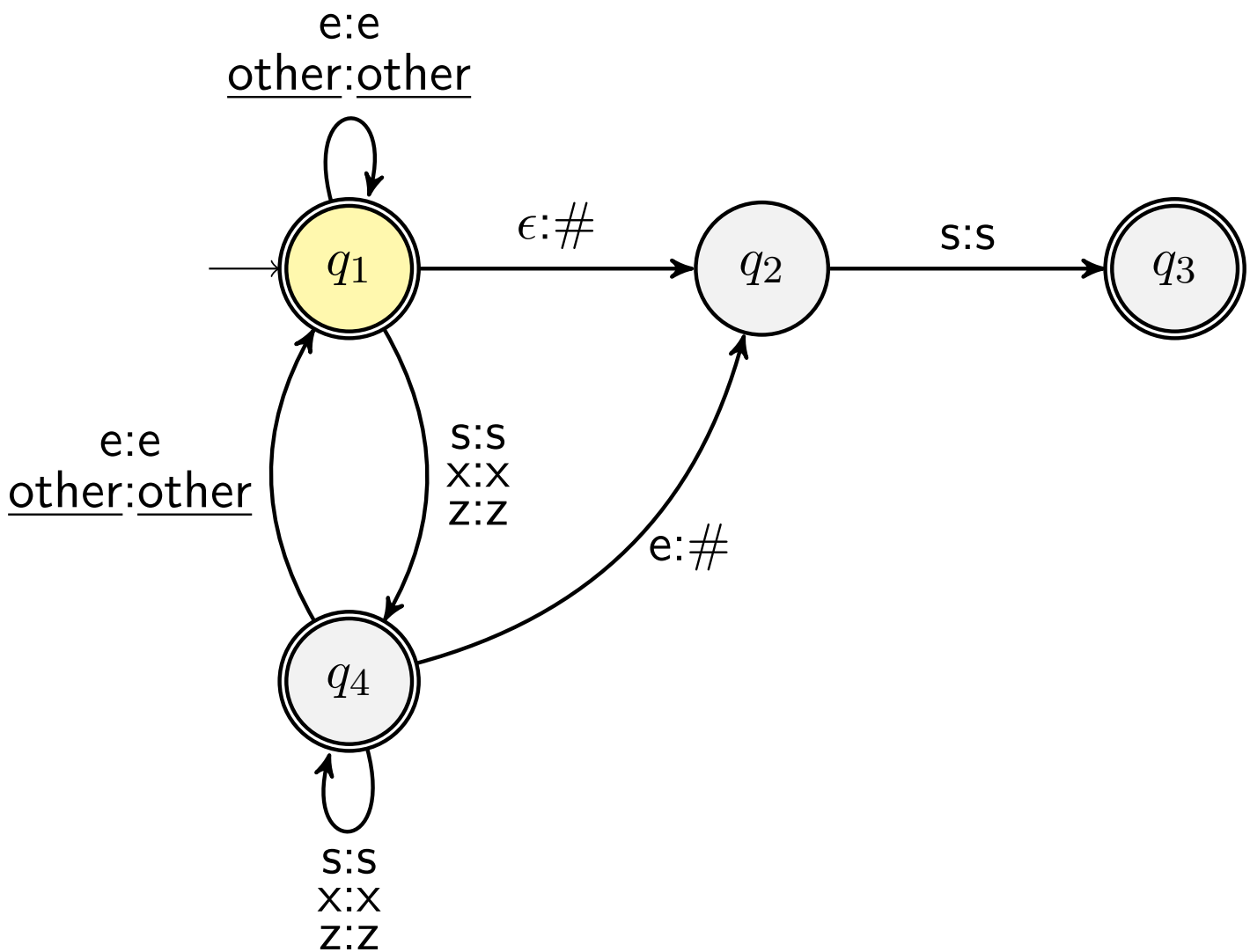

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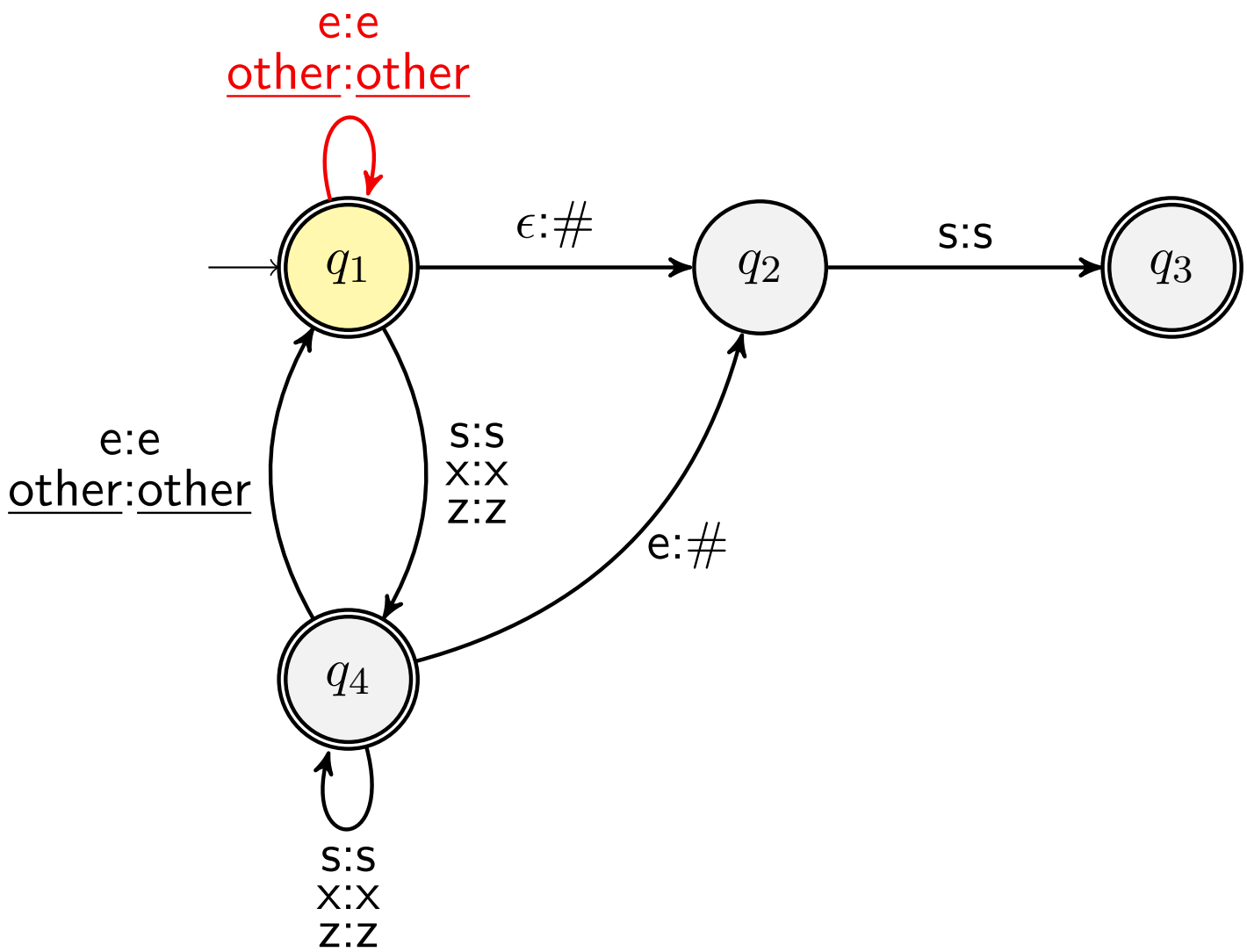

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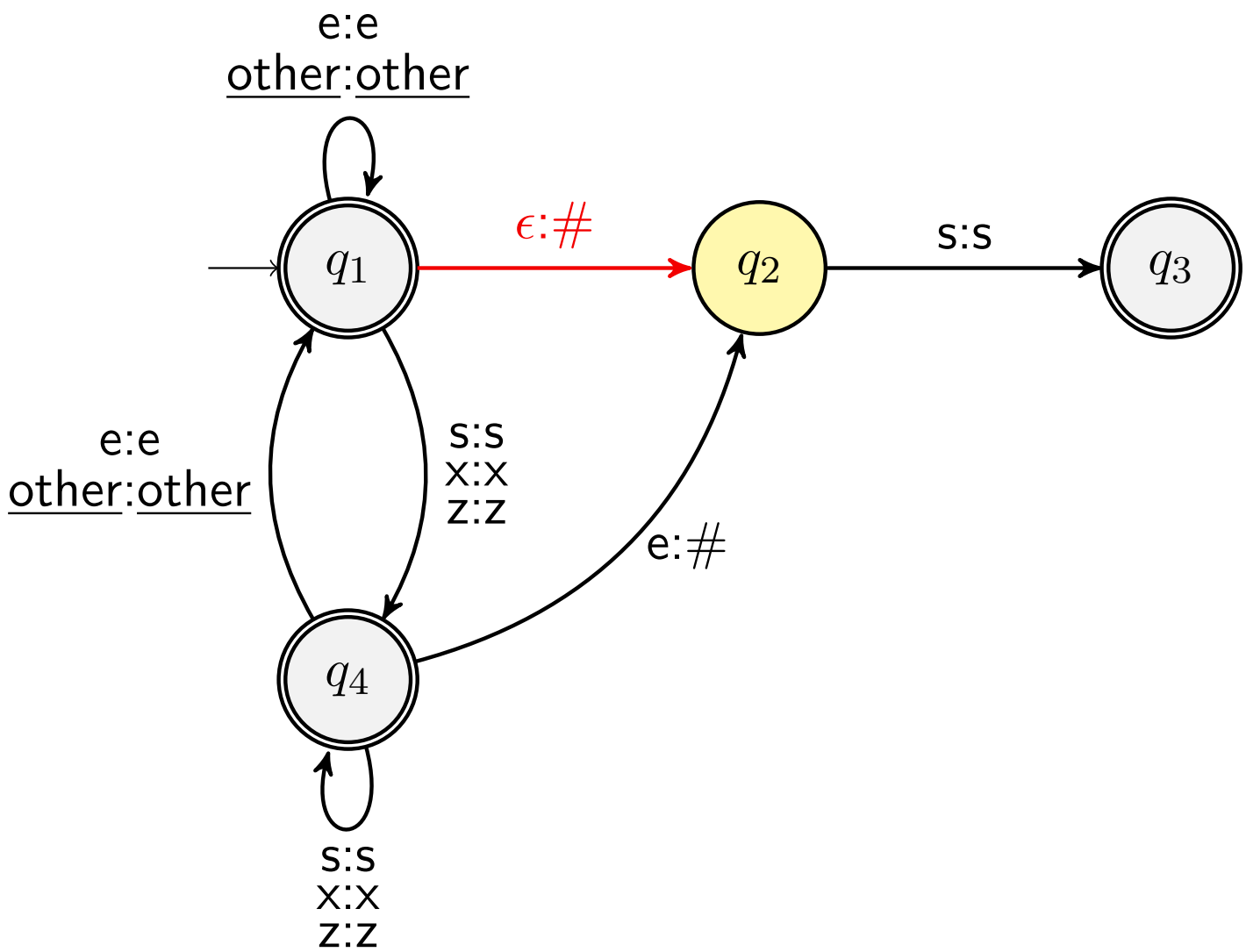

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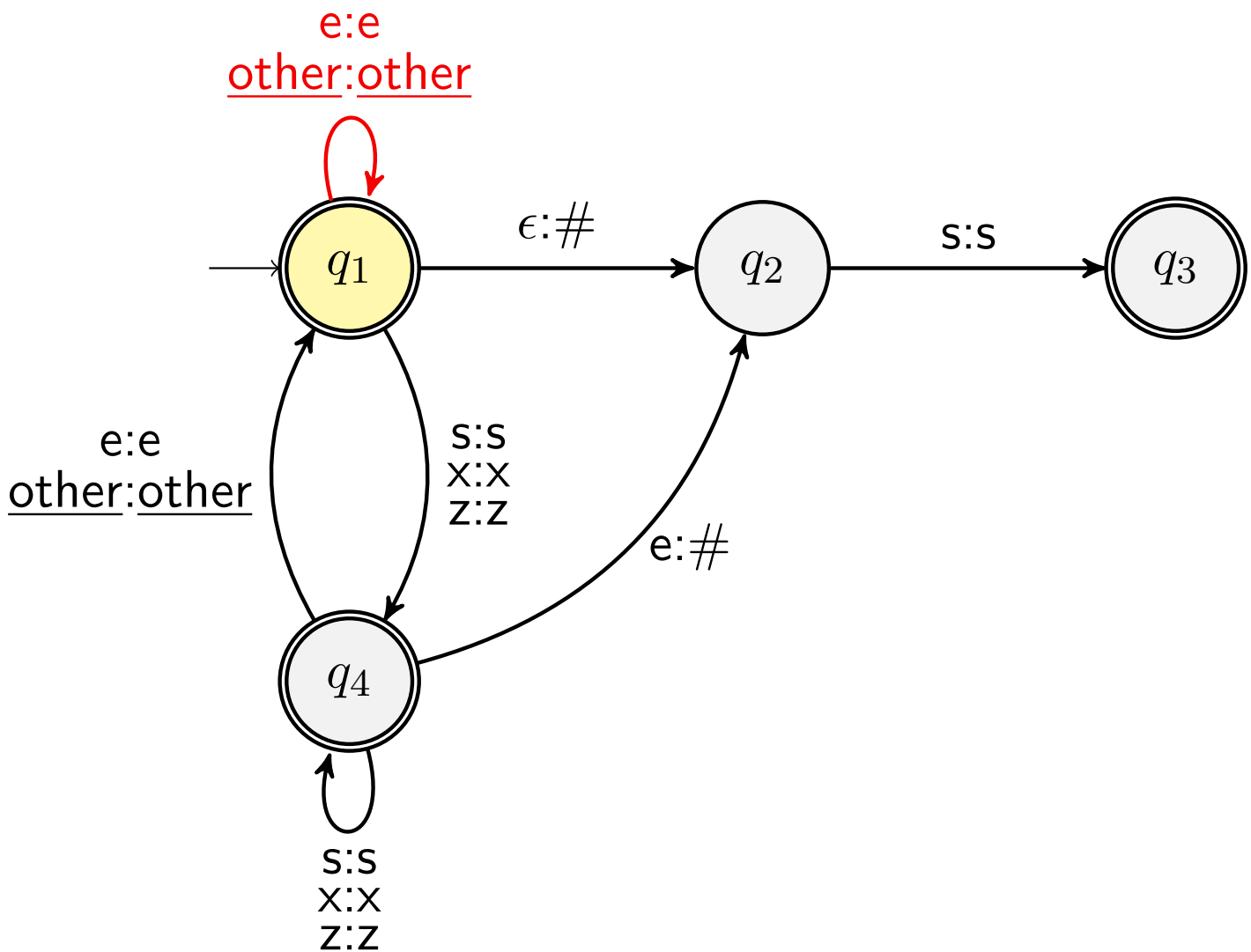

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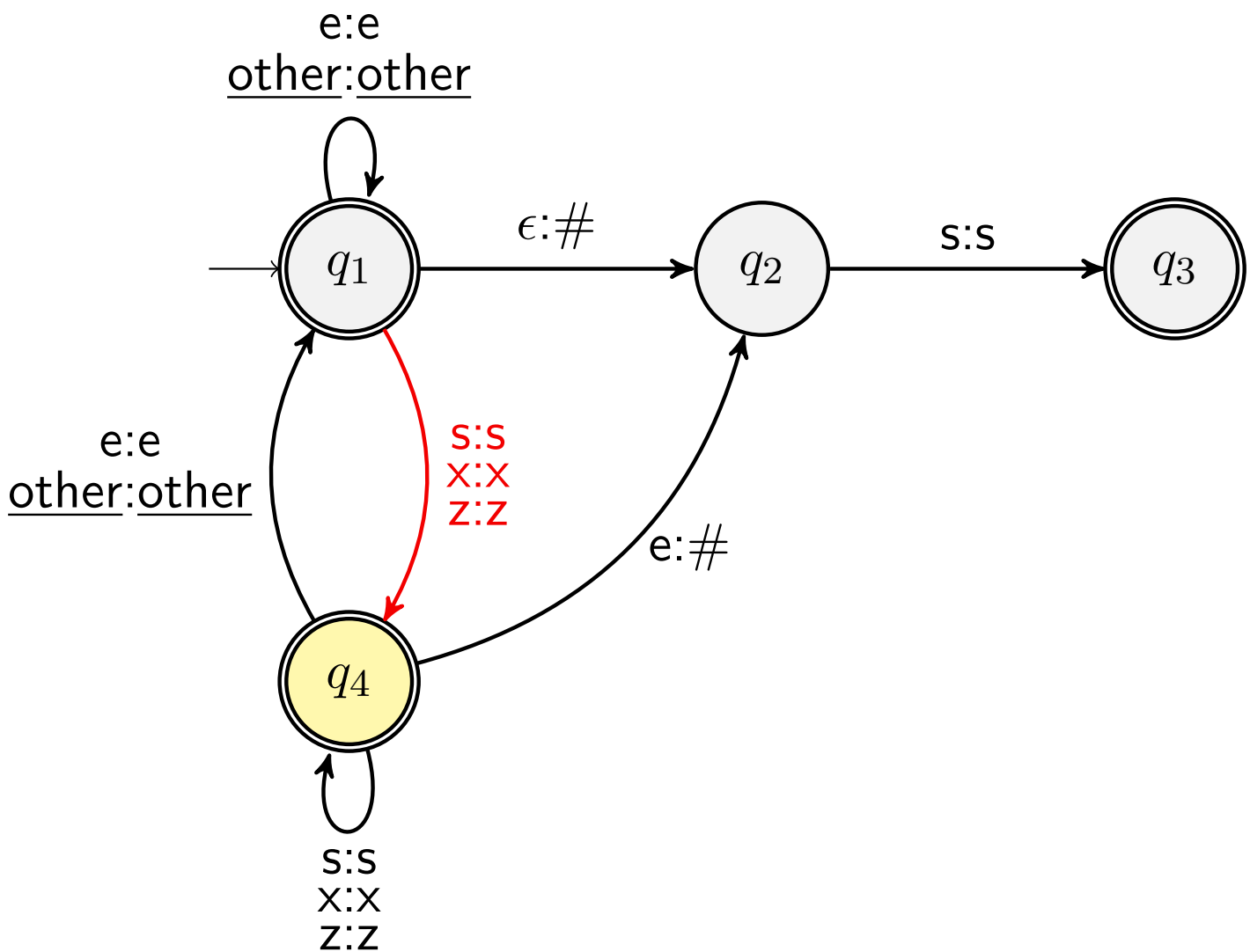

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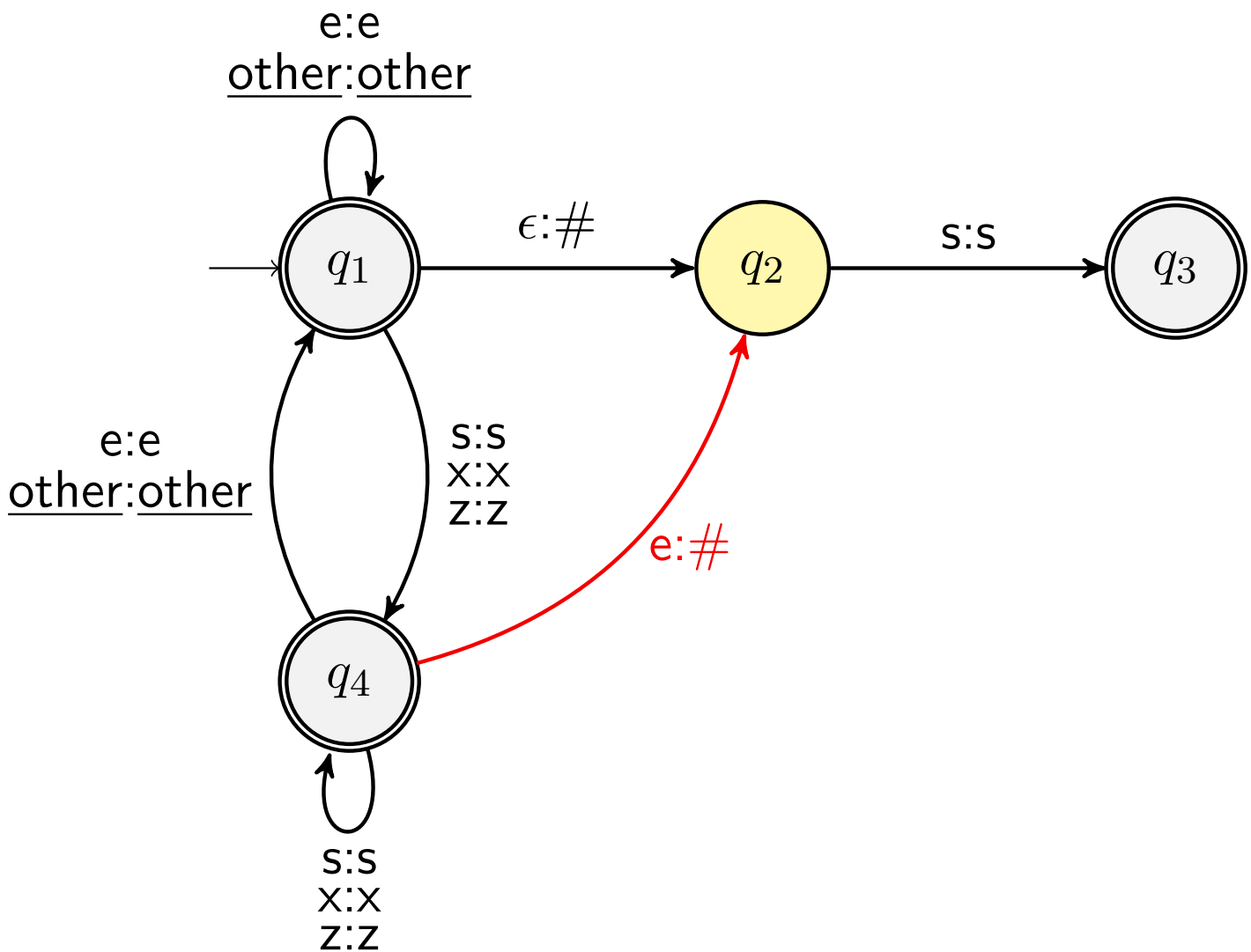

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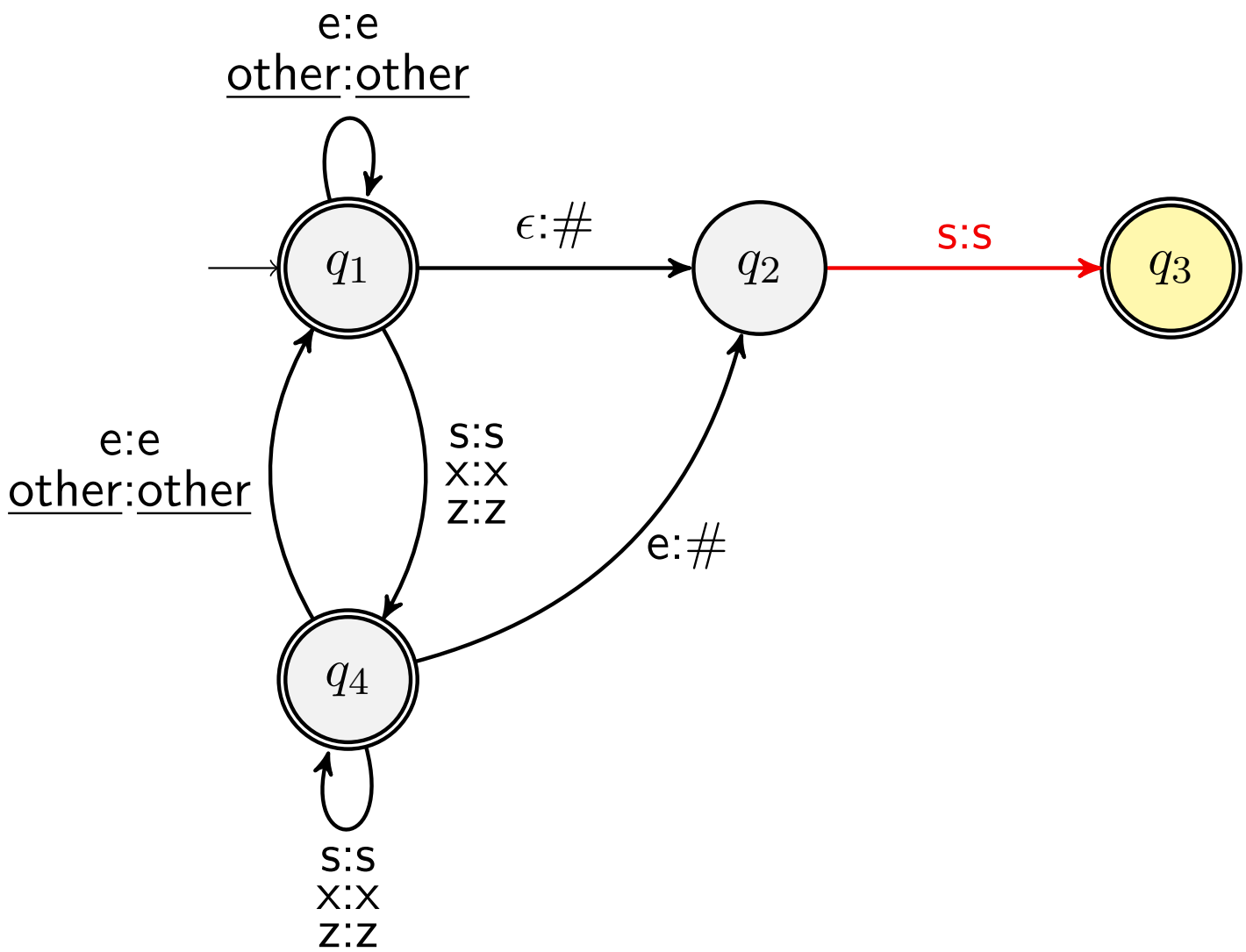
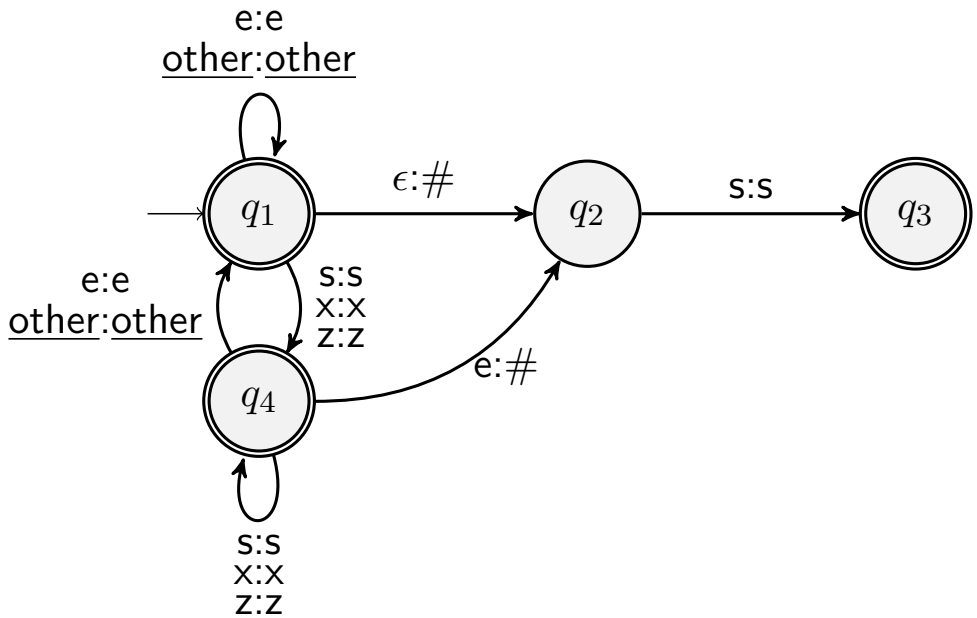
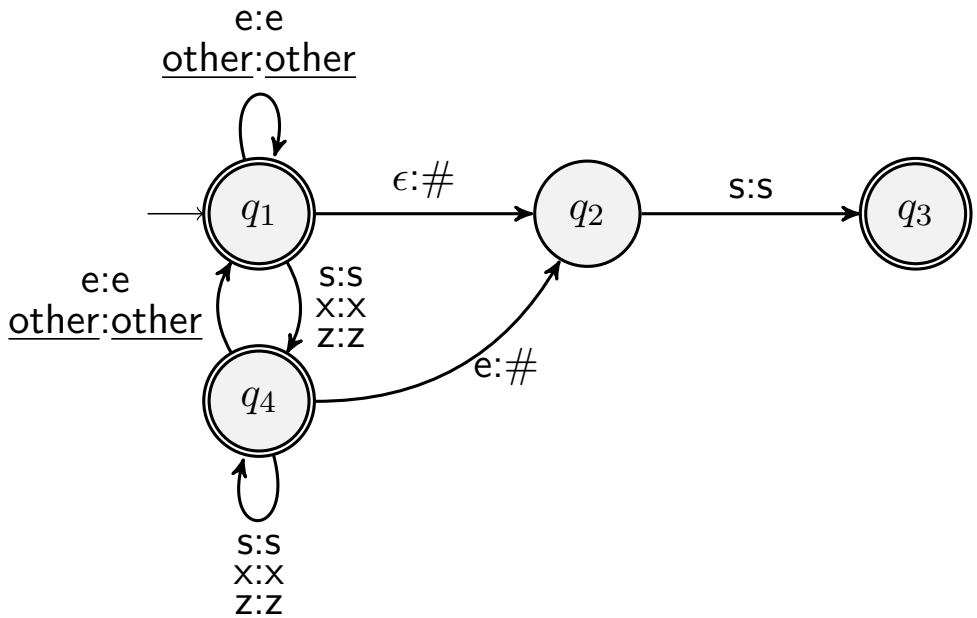


Finite-state machine



- A symbolic system that can recognize or transform forms.

Finite-state machine



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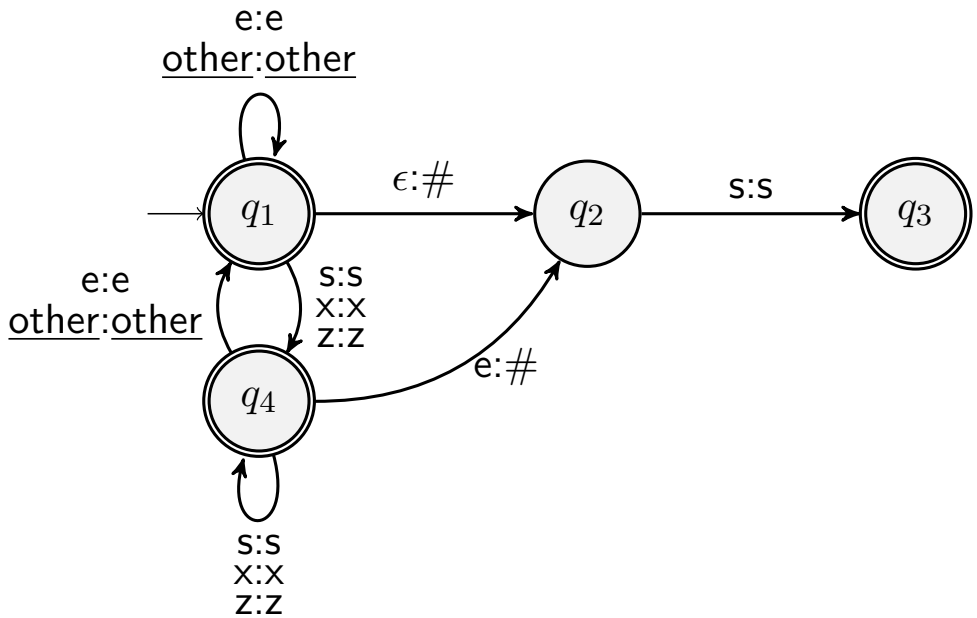
- An automaton remembers only a finite amount of information.

Finite-state machine



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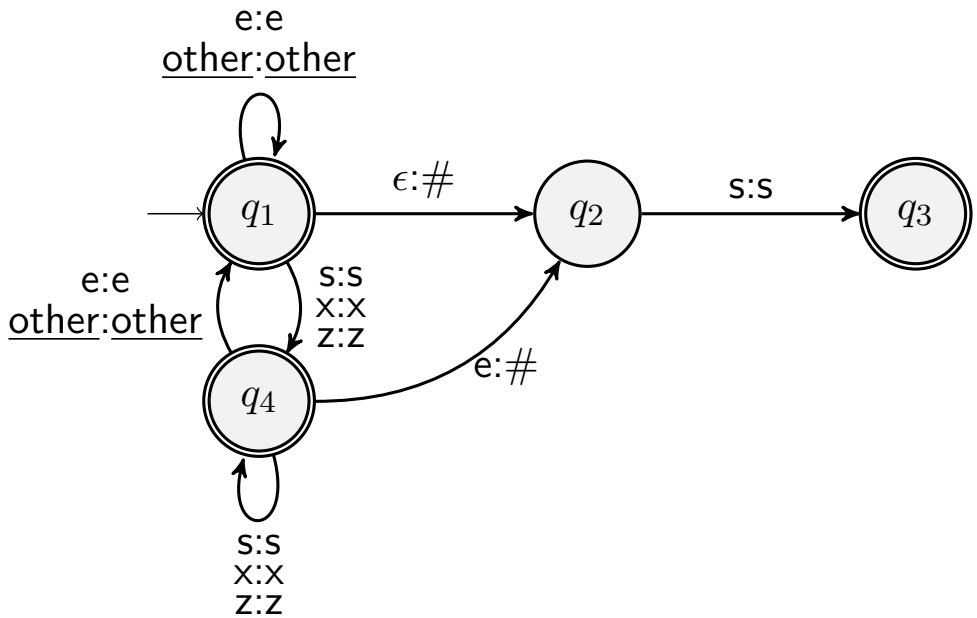
- An automaton remembers only a finite amount of information.
- Information is represented by its states.

Finite-state machine



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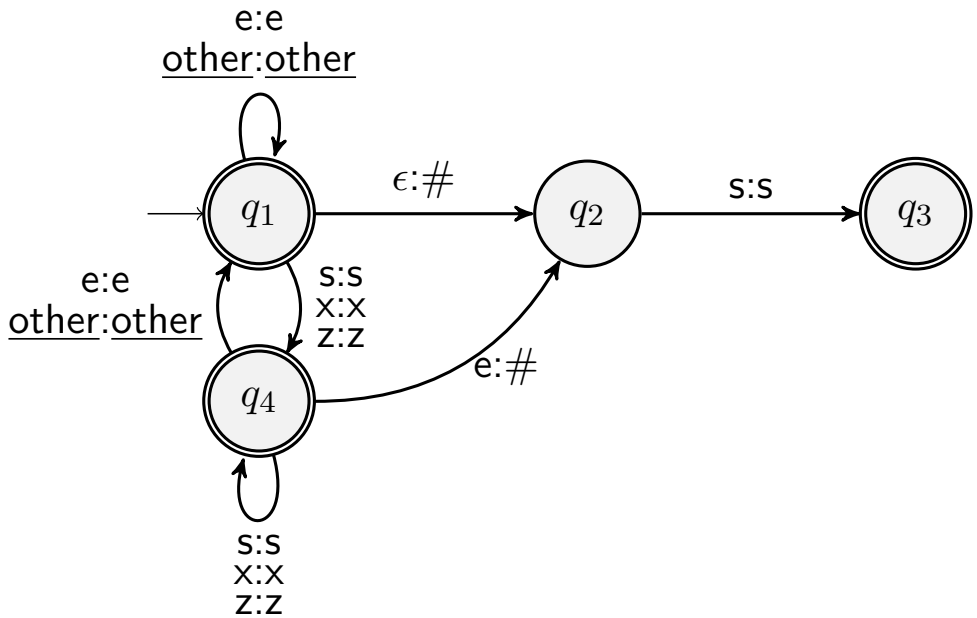

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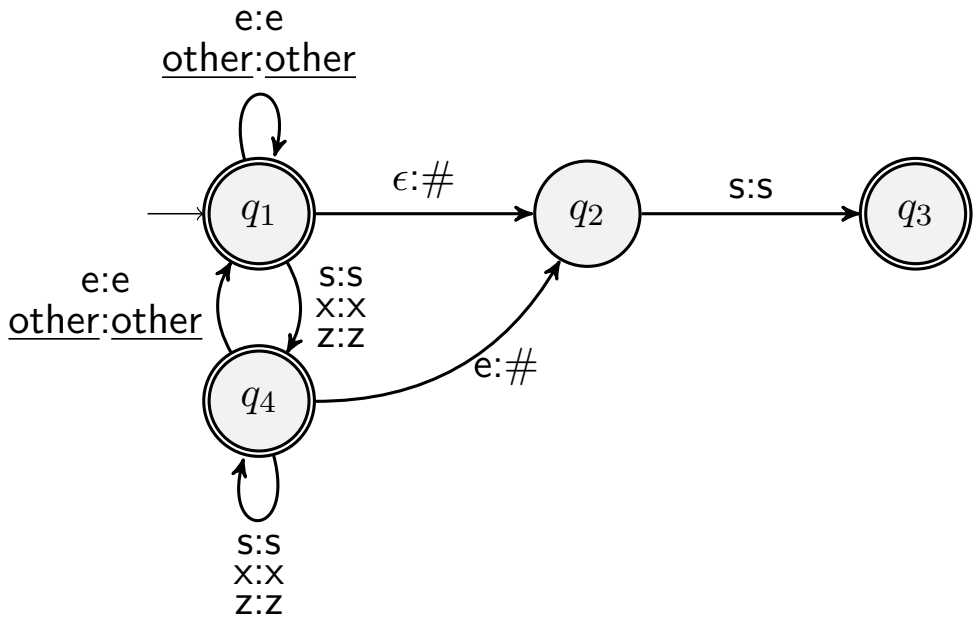

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- Information is represented by its states.
- State changes in response to inputs and may trigger outputs.
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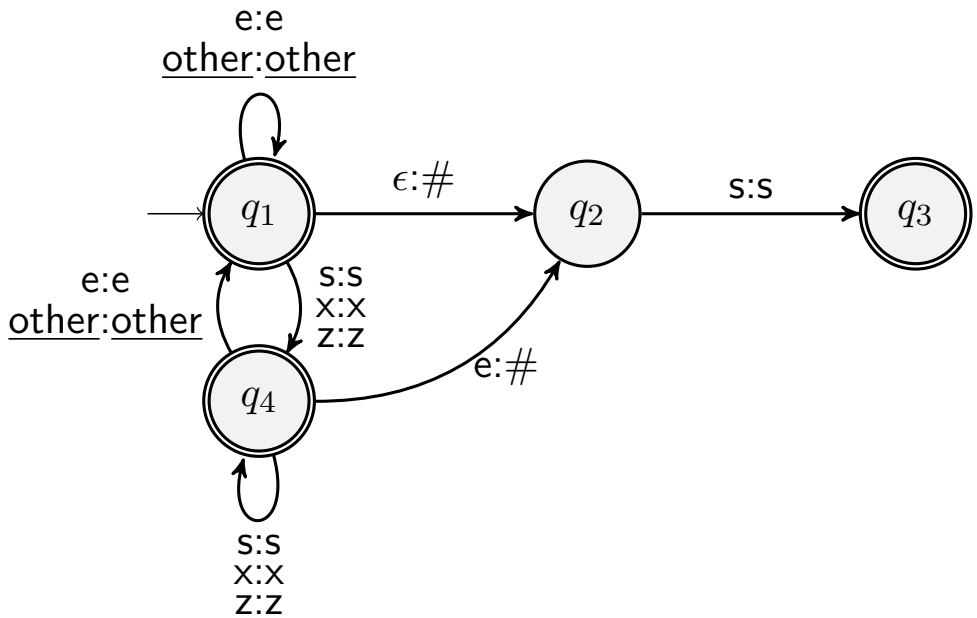
- Given a sequence of input symbols, a recognition process starts in the start state and follow the transitions in turn. Input is accepted if this process ends up in an accepting state.

Finite-state machine



- A symbolic system that can recognize or transform forms.
- An automaton remembers only a finite amount of information.
- Information is represented by its states.
- State changes in response to inputs and may trigger outputs.
- Transition rules define how the state changes in response to inputs.
- Given a sequence of input symbols, a recognition process starts in the start state and follow the transitions in turn. Input is accepted if this process ends up in an accepting state.
- Partial grammars for text preprocessing, tokenization, named entity recognition etc.

Readings

Required

- Ann's lecture notes. `https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/1920/NLP/materials.html`
- E. Bender. 100 Things You Always Wanted to Know about Linguistics But Were Afraid to Ask. NAACL-HLT 2012 tutorial. `faculty.washington.edu/ebender/papers/100things.pdf`

Optional

* J. Hana & A. Feldman. Computational Morphology. ESSLLI 2013 course. `ufal.mff.cuni.cz/~hana/teaching/2013-esslli/`
* M. Mohri. Finite-State Transducers in Language and Speech Processing. CL 1997 paper. `www.aclweb.org/anthology/J97-2003/`