

## UNIT 2

*Syllabus: Regular Expressions, Finite Automata and Regular Expressions, Applications of Regular Expressions, Algebraic Laws for Regular Expressions, Properties of Regular Languages- Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages, Applications of the Pumping Lemma, Closure Properties of Regular Languages, Decision Properties of Regular Languages, Equivalence and Minimization of Automata.*

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**Regular Expression** can be recursively defined as follows:

1.  $\epsilon$  is a Regular Expression indicates the language containing an empty string. ( $L(\epsilon) = \{\epsilon\}$ )
2.  $\phi$  is a Regular Expression denoting an empty language. ( $L(\phi) = \{ \}$ )
3.  $x$  is a Regular Expression where  $L = \{x\}$
4. If  $X$  is a Regular Expression denoting the language  $L(X)$  and  $Y$  is a Regular Expression denoting the language  $L(Y)$ , then

(a)  $X + Y$  is a Regular Expression corresponding to the language  $L(X) \cup L(Y)$  where  $L(X+Y) = L(X) \cup L(Y)$ .

$X \cdot Y$  is a Regular Expression corresponding to the language  $L(X) \cdot L(Y)$  where  $L(X \cdot Y) = L(X) \cdot L(Y)$

(b)  $R^*$  is a Regular Expression corresponding to the language  $L(R^*)$  where  $L(R^*) = (L(R))^*$

5. If we apply any of the rules several times from 1 to 5, they are Regular Expressions.

### Some RE Examples

Regular Expression	Regular Set
$(0+10^*)$	$L = \{ 0, 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10000, \dots \}$

$(0^*10^*)$	$L = \{1, 01, 10, 010, 0010, \dots\}$
$(0+\epsilon)(1+\epsilon)$	$L = \{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$
$(a+b)^*$	Set of strings of a's and b's of any length including the null string. So $L = \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, bb, ba, aaa, \dots\}$
$(a+b)^*abb$	Set of strings of a's and b's ending with the string abb. So $L = \{abb, aabb, babb, aaabb, ababb, \dots\}$
$(11)^*$	Set consisting of even number of 1's including empty string,

	So $L = \{\epsilon, 11, 1111, 111111, \dots\}$
$(aa)^*(bb)^*b$	Set of strings consisting of even number of a's followed by odd number of b's, so $L = \{b, aab, aabbb, aabbbb, aaaab, aaaabbb, \dots\}$
$(aa + ab + ba + bb)^*$	String of a's and b's of even length can be obtained by concatenating any combination of the strings aa, ab, ba and bb including null, so $L = \{aa, ab, ba, bb, aaab, aaba, \dots\}$

## Regular Sets

Any set that represents the value of the Regular Expression is called a Regular Set.

### Properties of Regular Sets/ Regular Languages

**Property 1** *The union of two regular set is regular.*

Proof:

Let us take two regular expressions

RE1 =  $a(aa)^*$  and RE2 =  $(aa)^*$

So,  $L1 = \{a, aaa, aaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of odd length excluding Null) and

$L2 = \{\epsilon, aa, aaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of even length including Null)  $L1 \cup L2 = \{\epsilon, a, aa, aaa, aaaa, aaaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$   
(Strings of all possible lengths including Null)

RE ( $L1 \cup L2$ ) =  $a^*$  (which is a regular expression itself)

Hence, proved.

**Property 2** *The intersection of two regular set is regular.*

Proof:

Let us take two regular expressions

RE1 =  $a(a^*)$  and RE2 =  $(aa)^*$  So,

$L1 = \{a, aa, aaa, aaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of all possible lengths excluding Null)  $L2 = \{\epsilon, aa, aaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of even length including Null)

$L1 \cap L2 = \{aa, aaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of even length excluding Null)

RE ( $L1 \cap L2$ ) =  $aa(aa)^*$  which is a regular expression itself.

Hence, proved.

**Property 3** *The complement of a regular set is regular.*

Proof: Let us take a regular expression: RE =  $(aa)^*$

So,  $L = \{\epsilon, aa, aaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of even length including Null)

Complement of L is all the strings that is not in L.

So,  $L' = \{a, aaa, aaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of odd length excluding Null)

RE ( $L'$ ) =  $a(aa)^*$  which is a regular expression itself.

Hence, proved.

**Property 4** *The difference of two regular set is regular.*

**Proof:**

Let us take two regular expressions:

RE1 =  $a(a^*)$  and RE2 =  $(aa)^*$  So,

$L1 = \{a, aa, aaa, aaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of all possible lengths excluding Null)

$L2 = \{\epsilon, aa, aaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of even length including Null)

$L1 - L2 = \{a, aaa, aaaaa, aaaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of all odd lengths excluding Null)

RE ( $L1 - L2$ ) =  $a(aa)^*$  which is a regular expression.

Hence, proved.

**Property 5** *The reversal of a regular set is regular.*

**Proof:**

We have to prove  $L^R$  is also regular if L is a regular set. Let,

$L = \{01, 10, 11\}$

RE (L) =  $01 + 10 + 11$

$L^R = \{10, 01, 11\}$

RE ( $L^R$ ) =  $10 + 01 + 11$  which is regular

Hence, proved.

**Property 6** *The closure of a regular set is regular.*

Proof:

If  $L = \{a, aaa, aaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of odd length excluding Null) i.e.,  $RE (L) = a(aa)^*$

$L^* = \{a, aa, aaa, aaaa, aaaaa, \dots\}$  (Strings of all lengths excluding Null)

$RE (L^*) = a(a)^*$

Hence, proved.

**Property 7** *The concatenation of two regular sets is regular.*

Proof:

Let  $RE1 = (0+1)^*0$  and  $RE2 = 01(0+1)^*$

Here,  $L1 = \{0, 00, 10, 000, 010, \dots\}$  (Set of strings ending in 0)

$L2 = \{01, 010, 011, \dots\}$  (Set of strings beginning with 01) Then,

$L1 L2 = \{010, 0100, 0110, 0110, 011110, 011000, 010010, \dots\}$

Set of strings containing 010 as a substring which can be represented by an

RE:  $01(0+1)^*0$

Hence, proved.

### **Identities Related to Regular Expressions**

Given R, P, L, Q as regular expressions, the following identities hold:

1.  $\emptyset^* = \epsilon$

2.  $\epsilon^* = \epsilon$

3.  $RR^* = R^*R$

4.  $R^*R^* = R^*$

5.  $(R^*)^* = R^*$

6.  $RR^* = R^*R$

$$7. (PQ)^*P = P(QP)^*$$

$$8. (a+b)^* = (a^*b^*)^* = (a^*+b^*)^* = (a+b^*)^* = a^*(ba^*)^*$$

$$9. R + \emptyset = \emptyset + R = R \text{ (The identity for union)}$$

$$10. R\varepsilon = \varepsilon R = R \quad \text{(The identity for concatenation)}$$

$$11. \emptyset L = L\emptyset = \emptyset \quad \text{(The annihilator for concatenation)}$$

$$12. R + R = R \text{ (Idempotent law)}$$

$$13. L (M + N) = LM + LN \quad \text{(Left distributive law)}$$

$$14. (M + N) L = LM + LN \quad \text{(Right distributive law)}$$

$$15. \varepsilon + RR^* = \varepsilon + R^*R = R^*$$

### Arden's Theorem

In order to find out a regular expression of a Finite Automaton, we use Arden's Theorem along with the properties of regular expressions.

#### Statement:

Let P and Q be two regular expressions.

If P does not contain null string, then  $R = Q + RP$  has a unique solution that is  $R = QP^*$

#### Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} R &= Q + (Q + RP)P \quad \text{[After putting the value } R = Q + RP\text{]} \\ &= Q + QP + RPP \end{aligned}$$

When we put the value of **R** recursively again and again, we get the following equation:

$$R = Q + QP + QP^2 + QP^3 \dots R = Q (\epsilon + P + P^2 + P^3 + \dots)$$

$$R = QP^*[As P^* represents (\epsilon + P + P^2 + P^3 + \dots)] \text{ Hence, proved.}$$

### Assumptions for Applying Arden's Theorem

1. The transition diagram must not have NULL transitions
2. It must have only one initial state

### Method

**Step 1:** Create equations as the following form for all the states of the DFA having

**n** states with initial state  $q_1$ .

$$q_1 = q_1R_{11} + q_2R_{21} + \dots + q_nR_{n1} + \epsilon \quad q_2 = q_1R_{12} + q_2R_{22} + \dots + q_nR_{n2}$$

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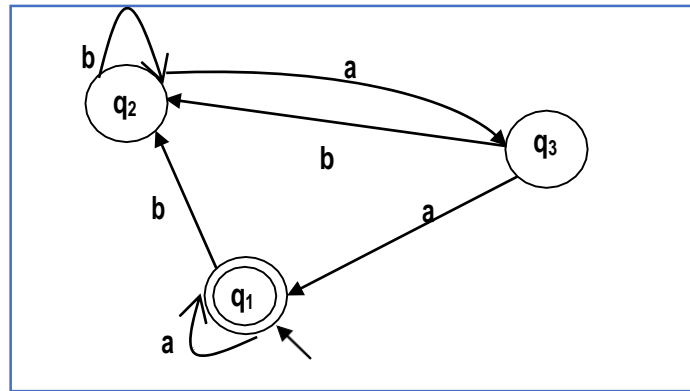
$$q_n = q_1R_{1n} + q_2R_{2n} + \dots + q_nR_{nn}$$

**R<sub>ij</sub>** represents the set of labels of edges from **q<sub>i</sub>** to **q<sub>j</sub>**, if no such edge exists, then **R<sub>ij</sub> = ∅**

**Step 2:** Solve these equations to get the equation for the final state in terms of **R<sub>ij</sub>**

### Problem

Construct a regular expression corresponding to the automata given below:



Finite automata

### Solution

Here the initial state is **q2** and the final state is **q1**.

The equations for the three states q1, q2, and q3 are as follows:

$$q1 = q1a + q3a + \epsilon \quad (\epsilon \text{ move is because } q1 \text{ is the initial state})$$

$$q2 = q1b + q2b + q3b$$

$$q3 = q2a$$

Now, we will solve these three equations:

$$q2 = q1b + q2b + q3b$$

$$= q1b + q2b + (q2a)b \quad (\text{Substituting value of } q3)$$

$$= q1b + q2(b + ab)$$

$$= q1b (b + ab)^* \quad (\text{Applying Arden's Theorem})$$

$$q1 = q1a + q3a + \epsilon$$

$$= q1a + q2aa + \epsilon \quad (\text{Substituting value of } q3)$$

$$= q1a + q1b(b + ab^*)aa + \epsilon \quad (\text{Substituting value of } q2)$$

$$= q1(a + b(b + ab)^*aa) + \epsilon$$



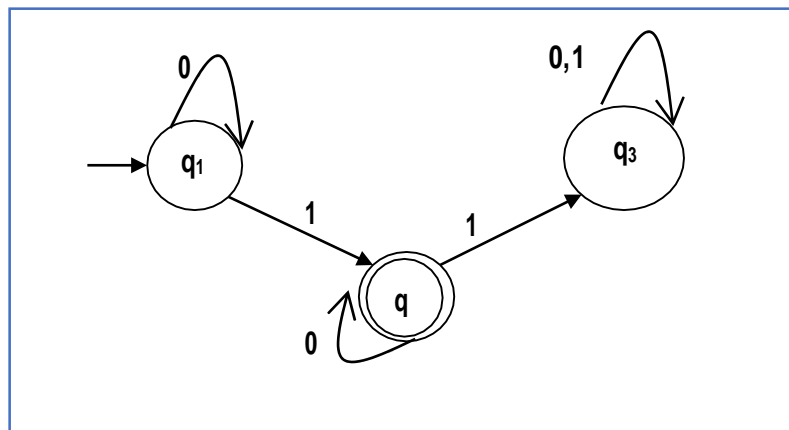
$$= \epsilon (a + b(b + ab)^*aa)^*$$

$$= (a + b(b + ab)^*aa)^*$$

Hence, the regular expression is  $(a + b(b + ab)^*aa)^*$ .

### Problem

Construct a regular expression corresponding to the automata given below:



Finite automata

**Solution** Here the initial state is  $q_1$  and the final state is  $q_2$ . Now we write down the equations:

$$q_1 = q_10 + \epsilon q_2 = q_11 + q_20$$

$$q_3 = q_21 + q_30 + q_31$$

Now, we will solve these three equations:  $q_1 = \epsilon 0^*$  [As,  $\epsilon R = R$ ]

$$\text{So, } q_1 = 0^*$$

$$q_2 = 0^*1 + q_20$$

$$\text{So, } q_2 = 0^*1(0)^* \text{ [By Arden's theorem]}$$

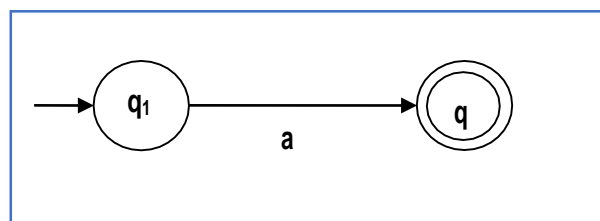
Hence, the regular expression is  $0^*10^*$ .

## Construction of a FA from an RE

We can use Thompson's Construction to find out a Finite Automaton from a Regular Expression. We will reduce the regular expression into smallest regular expressions and converting these to NFA and finally to DFA.

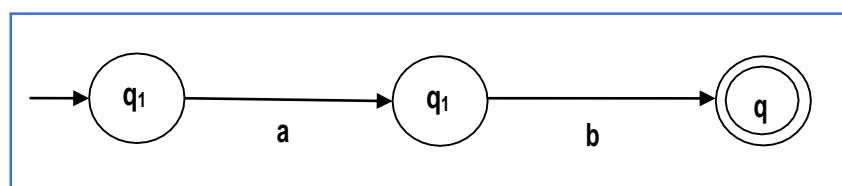
Some basic RA expressions are the following:

**Case 1:** For a regular expression 'a', we can construct the following FA:



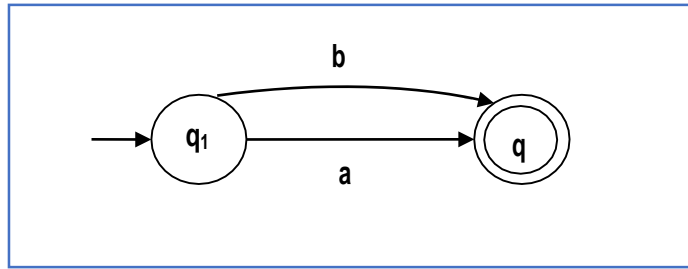
Finite automata for RE = a

**Case 2:** For a regular expression 'ab', we can construct the following FA:



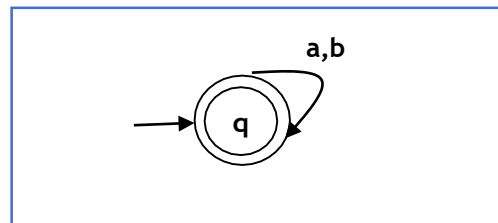
Finite automata for RE = ab

**Case 3:** For a regular expression (a+b), we can construct the following FA:



Finite automata for RE= (a+b)

**Case 4:** For a regular expression  $(a+b)^*$ , we can construct the following FA:



Finite automata for RE=  $(a+b)^*$

**Method:**

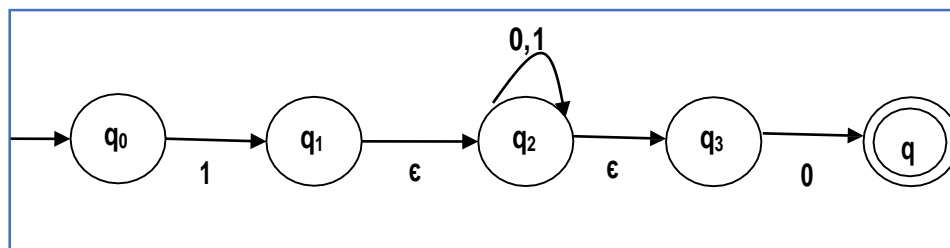
Step 1 Construct an NFA with Null moves from the given regular expression.

Step 2 Remove Null transition from the NFA and convert it into its equivalent DFA.

**Problem** Convert the following RA into its equivalent DFA:  $1(0 + 1)^* 0$

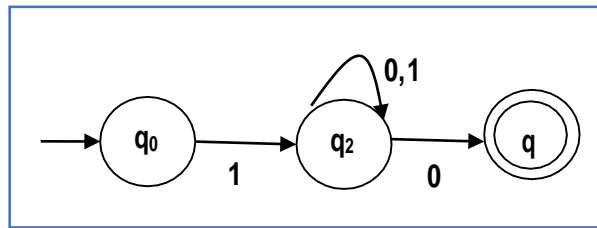
**Solution:**

We will concatenate three expressions "1", " $(0 + 1)^*$ " and "0"



NFA with NULL transition for RA:  $1(0 + 1)^* 0$

Now we will remove the  $\epsilon$  transitions. After we remove the  $\epsilon$  transitions from the NDFA, we get the following:



NDFA without NULL transition for RA:  $1(0 + 1)^* 0$

It is an NDFA corresponding to the RE:  $1(0 + 1)^* 0$ . If you want to convert it into a DFA, simply apply the method of converting NDFA to DFA discussed in Chapter 1.

**Properties of Regular Languages** The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages, Applications of the Pumping Lemma Closure Properties of Regular Languages, Decision Properties of Regular Languages, Equivalence and Minimization of Automata,

**Context-Free Grammars and Languages:** Definition of Context-Free Grammars, Derivations Using a Grammars Leftmost and Rightmost Derivations, The Languages of a Grammar,

**Parse Trees:** Constructing Parse Trees, The Yield of a Parse Tree, Inference Derivations, and Parse Trees, From Inferences to Trees, From Trees to Derivations, From Derivation to Recursive Inferences,

**Applications of Context-Free Grammars:** Parsers, Ambiguity in Grammars and Languages: Ambiguous Grammars, Removing Ambiguity From Grammars, Leftmost Derivations as a Way to Express Ambiguity, Inherent Ambiguity.

## Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

### Theorem

Let  $L$  be a regular language. Then there exists a constant ' $c$ ' such that for every string

$w$  in  $L$ :

$$|w| \geq c$$

We can break  $w$  into three strings,  $w = xyz$ , such that:

1.  $|y| > 0$
2.  $|xy| \leq c$
3. For all  $k \geq 0$ , the string  $xy^kz$  is also in  $L$ .

### Applications of Pumping Lemma

Pumping Lemma is to be applied to show that certain languages are not regular. It should never be used to show a language is regular.

1. If  $L$  is regular, it satisfies Pumping Lemma.
2. If  $L$  does not satisfy Pumping Lemma, it is non-regular.

### Method to prove that a language $L$ is not regular:

1. At first, we have to assume that  $L$  is regular.
2. So, the pumping lemma should hold for  $L$ .
3. Use the pumping lemma to obtain a contradiction:
  - a. Select  $w$  such that  $|w| \geq c$
  - b. Select  $y$  such that  $|y| \geq 1$
  - c. Select  $x$  such that  $|xy| \leq c$
  - d. Assign the remaining string to  $z$ .
  - e. Select  $k$  such that the resulting string is not in  $L$ .  $L$  is not regular.

### Problem

Prove that  $L = \{a^i b^i \mid i \geq 0\}$  is not regular.

Solution:

1. At first, we assume that  $L$  is regular and  $n$  is the number of states.
2. Let  $w = a^n b^n$ . Thus  $|w| = 2n \geq n$ .
3. By pumping lemma, let  $w = xyz$ , where  $|xy| \leq n$ .
4. Let  $x = a^p$ ,  $y = a^q$ , and  $z = a^r b^n$ , where  $p + q + r = n$ ,  $p \neq 0$ ,  $q \neq 0$ ,  $r \neq 0$ . Thus  $|y| \neq 0$ .
5. Let  $k = 2$ . Then  $xy^2z = a^p a^{2q} a^r b^n$ .
6. Number of  $a$ 's  $= (p + 2q + r) = (p + q + r) + q = n + q$
7. Hence,  $xy^2z = a^{n+q} b^n$ . Since  $q \neq 0$ ,  $xy^2z$  is not of the form  $a^n b^n$ .
8. Thus,  $xy^2z$  is not in  $L$ . Hence  $L$  is not regular.

## Equivalence of Regular Expressions and NFA- $\epsilon$

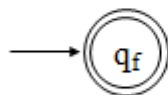
- **Note:** Throughout the following, keep in mind that a string is accepted by an NFA- $\epsilon$  if there exists a path from the start state to a final state.
- **Lemma 1:** Let  $r$  be a regular expression. Then there exists an NFA- $\epsilon$   $M$  such that  $L(M) = L(r)$ . Furthermore,  $M$  has exactly one final state with no transitions out of it.
- **Proof:** (by induction on the number of operators, denoted by  $OP(r)$ , in  $r$ ).
- **Basis:**  $OP(r) = 0$

Then  $r$  is either  $\emptyset$ ,  $\epsilon$ , or  $a$ , for some symbol  $a$  in  $\Sigma$

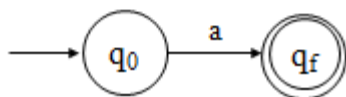
For  $\emptyset$ :



For  $\epsilon$ :



For  $a$ :



**Inductive Hypothesis:** Suppose there exists a  $k \geq 0$  such that for any regular expression  $r$  where  $0 \leq OP(r) \leq k$ , there exists an NFA- $\epsilon$  such that  $L(M) = L(r)$ . Furthermore, suppose that  $M$  has exactly one final state.

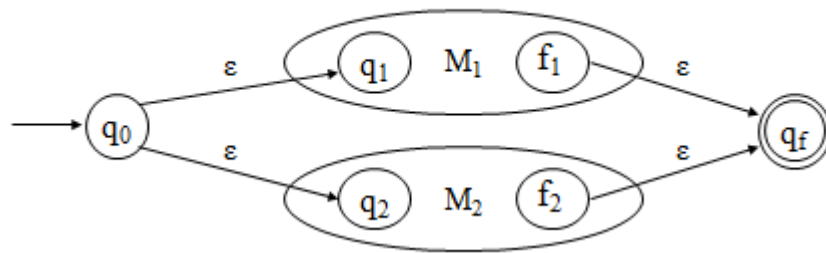
- **Inductive Step:** Let  $r$  be a regular expression with  $k + 1$  operators ( $OP(r) = k + 1$ ), where  $k + 1 \geq 1$ .

*Case 1)  $r = r_1 + r_2$*

Since  $OP(r) = k + 1$ , it follows that  $0 \leq OP(r_1), OP(r_2) \leq k$ .

By the inductive hypothesis there exist NFA- $\epsilon$  machines  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  such that  $L(M_1) = L(r_1)$  and  $L(M_2) = L(r_2)$ . Furthermore, both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have exactly one final state.

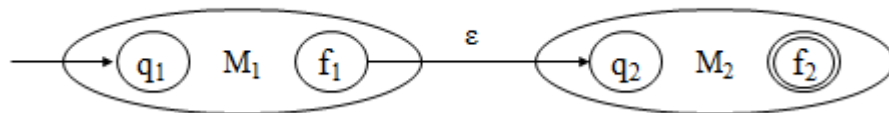
Construct M as:



Case 2)  $r = r_1 r_2$

Since  $OP(r) = k+1$ , it follows that  $0 \leq OP(r_1), OP(r_2) \leq k$ . By the inductive hypothesis there exist NFA- $\epsilon$  machines  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  such that  $L(M_1) = L(r_1)$  and  $L(M_2) = L(r_2)$ . Furthermore, both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have exactly one final state.

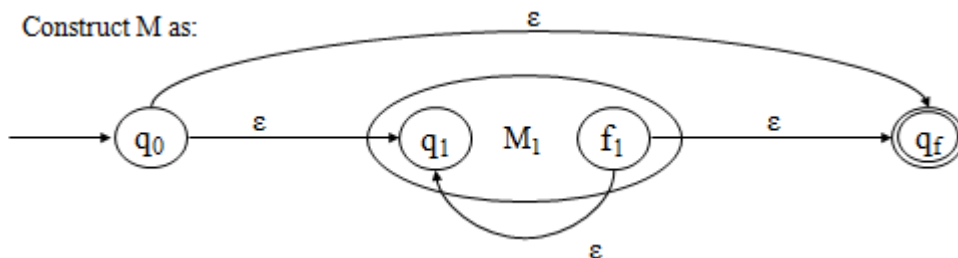
Construct M as:



Case 3)  $r = r_1^*$

Since  $OP(r) = k+1$ , it follows that  $0 \leq OP(r_1) \leq k$ . By the inductive hypothesis there exists an NFA- $\epsilon$  machine  $M_1$  such that  $L(M_1) = L(r_1)$ . Furthermore,  $M_1$  has exactly one final state.

Construct M as:



### • Example:

Problem: Construct FA equivalent to RE,  $r = 0(0+1)^*$

Solution:  $r = r_1 r_2$

$r_1 = 0$

$r_2 = (0+1)^*$

$r_2 = r_3^*$

$r_3 = 0+1$

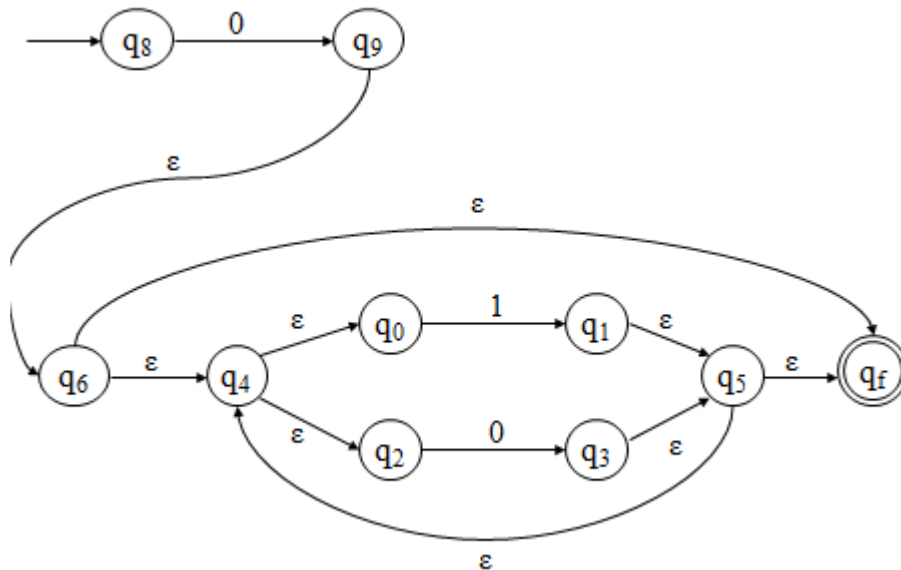
$r_3 = r_4 + r_5$



$r4 = 0$

$r5 = 1$

Transition graph:



### DFA Minimization using Equivalence Theorem

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two states in a DFA, we can combine these two states into  $\{X, Y\}$  if they are not distinguishable. Two states are distinguishable, if there is at least one string  $S$ , such that one of  $\delta(X, S)$  and  $\delta(Y, S)$  is accepting and another is not accepting. Hence, a DFA is minimal if and only if all the states are distinguishable.

#### Algorithm 3

**Step 1:** All the states  $Q$  are divided in two partitions: **final states** and **non-final states** and are denoted by  $P_0$ . All the states in a partition are  $0^{\text{th}}$  equivalent. Take a counter  $k$  and initialize it with 0.

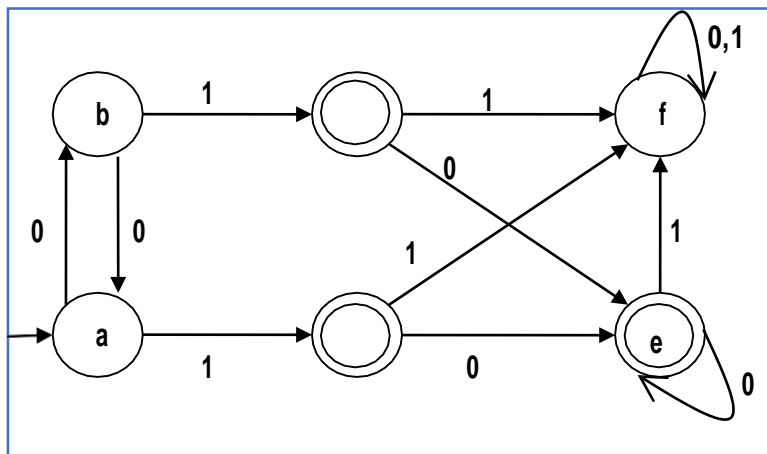
**Step 2:** Increment  $k$  by 1. For each partition in  $P_k$ , divide the states in  $P_k$  into two partitions if they are  $k$ -distinguishable. Two states within this partition  $X$  and  $Y$  are  $k$ -distinguishable if there is an input  $S$  such that  $\delta(X, S)$  and  $\delta(Y, S)$  are  $(k-1)$ -distinguishable.

**Step 3:** If  $P_k \neq P_{k-1}$ , repeat Step 2, otherwise go to Step 4.

**Step 4:** Combine  $k^{\text{th}}$  equivalent sets and make them the new states of the reduced DFA.

### Example

Let us consider the following DFA:



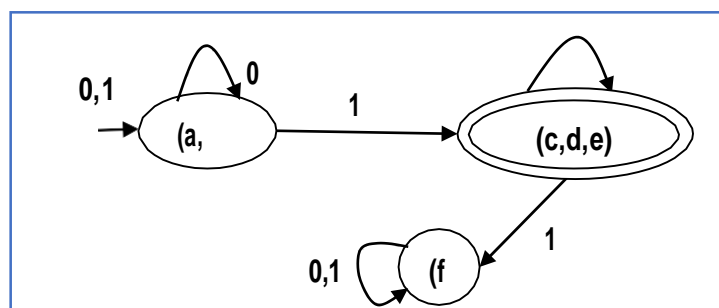
q	$\delta(q,0)$	$\delta(q,1)$
a	b	c
b	a	d
c	e	f
d	e	f
e	e	f
f	f	f

Let us apply the above algorithm to the above DFA:

- $P_0 = \{(c,d,e), (a,b,f)\}$
- $P_1 = \{(c,d,e), (a,b),(f)\}$
- $P_2 = \{(c,d,e), (a,b),(f)\}$  Hence,  $P_1 = P_2$ .

There are three states in the reduced DFA. The reduced DFA is as follows:

Q	$\delta(q,0)$	$\delta(q,1)$
(a, b)	(a, b)	(c,d,e)
(c,d,e)	(c,d,e)	(f)
(f)	(f)	(f)



State Table and State Diagram of Reduced DFA

## Closure Properties of Regular Languages

Union, Intersection, Difference, Concatenation, Kleene Closure, Reversal, Homomorphism, Inverse Homomorphism

Closure Properties Recall a closure property is a statement that a certain operation on languages, when applied to languages in a class (e.g., the regular languages), produces a result that is also in that class.

For regular languages, we can use any of its representations to prove a closure property.

Closure Under Union If  $L$  and  $M$  are regular languages, so is  $L \cup M$ .

Proof: Let  $L$  and  $M$  be the languages of regular expressions  $R$  and  $S$ , respectively.

Then  $R+S$  is a regular expression whose language is  $L \cup M$ .

Closure Under Concatenation and Kleene Closure

Same idea:

- $RS$  is a regular expression whose language is  $LM$ .
- $R^*$  is a regular expression whose language is  $L^*$ .

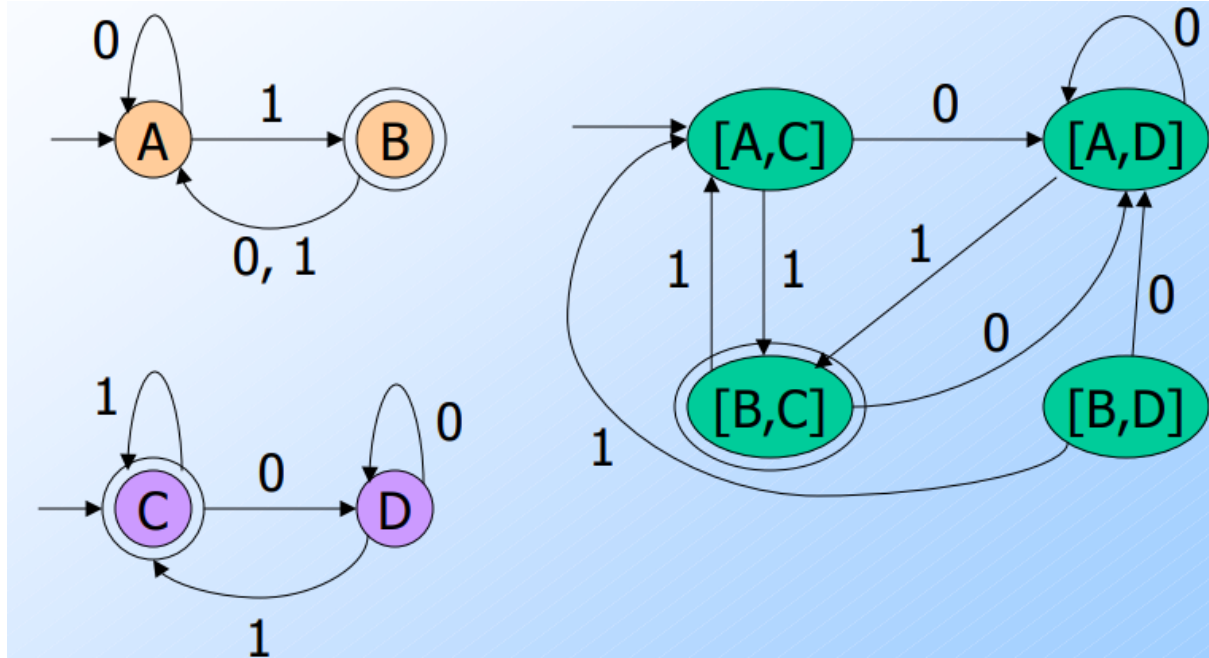
## Closure Under Intersection

If  $L$  and  $M$  are regular languages, then so is  $L \cap M$ .

- Proof: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be DFA's whose languages are  $L$  and  $M$ , respectively.
- Construct  $C$ , the product automaton of  $A$  and  $B$ .

- Make the final states of  $C$  be the pairs consisting of final states of both  $A$  and  $B$ .

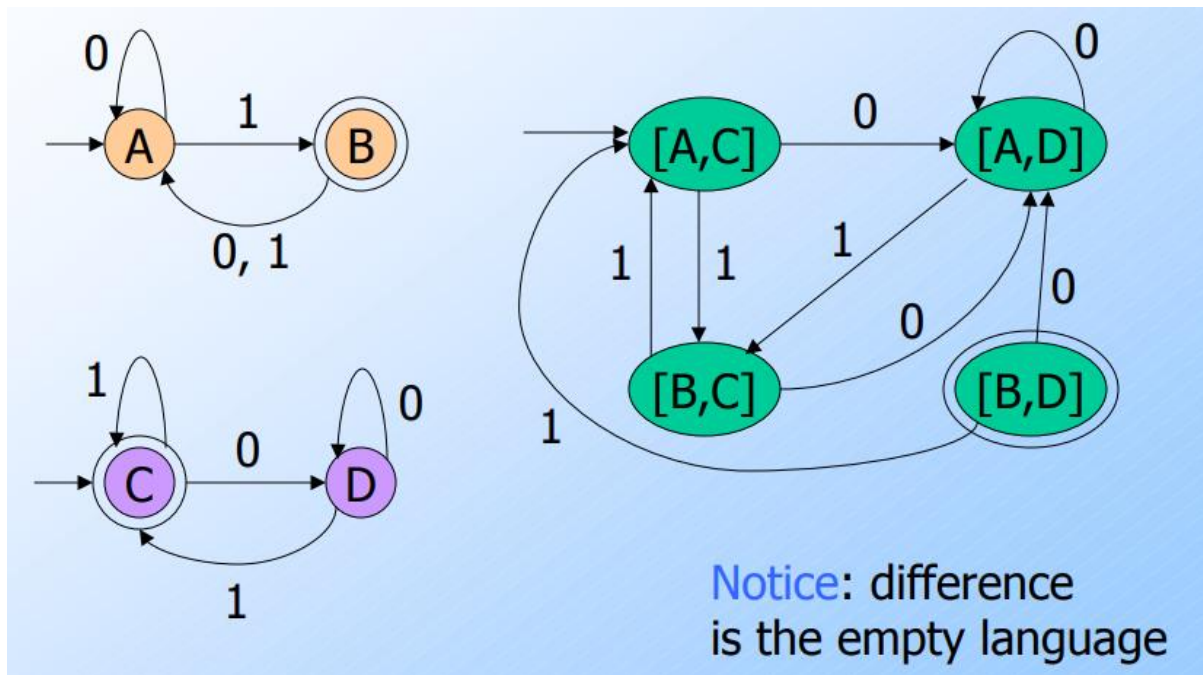
Example: Product DFA for Intersection



### Closure Under Difference

- If  $L$  and  $M$  are regular languages, then so is  $L - M = \text{strings in } L \text{ but not } M$ .
- Proof: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be DFA's whose languages are  $L$  and  $M$ , respectively.
- Construct  $C$ , the product automaton of  $A$  and  $B$ .
- Make the final states of  $C$  be the pairs where  $A$ -state is final but  $B$ -state is not.

Example: Product DFA for Difference



### Closure Under Complementation

- The complement of a language  $L$  (with respect to an alphabet  $\Sigma$  such that  $\Sigma^*$  contains  $L$ ) is  $\Sigma^* - L$ .
- Since  $\Sigma^*$  is surely regular, the complement of a regular language is always regular.

### Closure Under Reversal

- Recall example of a DFA that accepted the binary strings that, as integers were divisible by 23.
- We said that the language of binary strings whose reversal was divisible by 23 was also regular, but the DFA construction was very tricky.
- Good application of reversal-closure.

### Closure Under Reversal – (2)

Given language  $L$ ,  $L^R$  is the set of strings whose reversal is in  $L$ .

Example:  $L = \{0, 01, 100\}$ ;  $L^R = \{0, 10, 001\}$ .

Proof: Let  $E$  be a regular expression for  $L$ .

We show how to reverse  $E$ , to provide a regular expression  $E^R$  for  $L^R$ .

## Reversal of a Regular Expression

- Basis: If  $E$  is a symbol  $a$ ,  $\epsilon$ , or  $\emptyset$ , then  $E^R = E$ .
- Induction: If  $E$  is
  - I.  $F+G$ , then  $E^R = F^R + G^R$ .
  - II.  $FG$ , then  $E^R = G^R F^R$
  - III.  $F^*$ , then  $E^R = (F^R)^*$ .

Example: Reversal of a RE

Let  $E = 01^* + 10^*$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E^R &= (01^* + 10^*)^R = (01^*)^R + (10^*)^R \\ &= (1^*)^R 0^R + (0^*)^R 1^R \\ &= (1^R)^* 0 + (0^R)^* 1 \\ &= 1^* 0 + 0^* 1. \end{aligned}$$

## Homomorphisms

- A homomorphism on an alphabet is a function that gives a string for each symbol in that alphabet.
- Example:  $h(0) = ab$ ;  $h(1) = \epsilon$ .
- Extend to strings by  $h(a_1 a_2 \dots a_n) = h(a_1) h(a_2) \dots h(a_n)$ .
- Example:  $h(01010) = ababab$ .

## Closure Under Homomorphism

- If  $L$  is a regular language, and  $h$  is a homomorphism on its alphabet, then  $h(L) = \{h(w) \mid w \text{ is in } L\}$  is also a regular language.
- Proof: Let  $E$  be a regular expression for  $L$ .
- Apply  $h$  to each symbol in  $E$ .
- Language of resulting RE is  $h(L)$ .

## Decision Properties of Regular Languages

Language classes have two important kinds of properties: 1. Decision properties. 2. Closure properties.

- Representation of Languages Representations can be formal or informal.
- Example (formal): represent a language by a RE or DFA defining it.
- Example: (informal): a logical or prose statement about its strings:
  - 1).  $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \text{ is a non negative integer}\}$
  - 2). "The set of strings consisting of some number of 0's followed by the same number of 1's."

### Decision Properties

- A decision property for a class of languages is an algorithm that takes a formal description of a language (e.g., a DFA) and tells whether or not some property holds.
- Example: Is language L empty?

### Subtle Point: Representation Matters

- You might imagine that the language is described informally, so if my description is "the empty language" then yes, otherwise no.
- But the representation is a DFA (or a RE that you will convert to a DFA). for DFA A?  $\emptyset$
- Can you tell if  $L(A) = \emptyset$

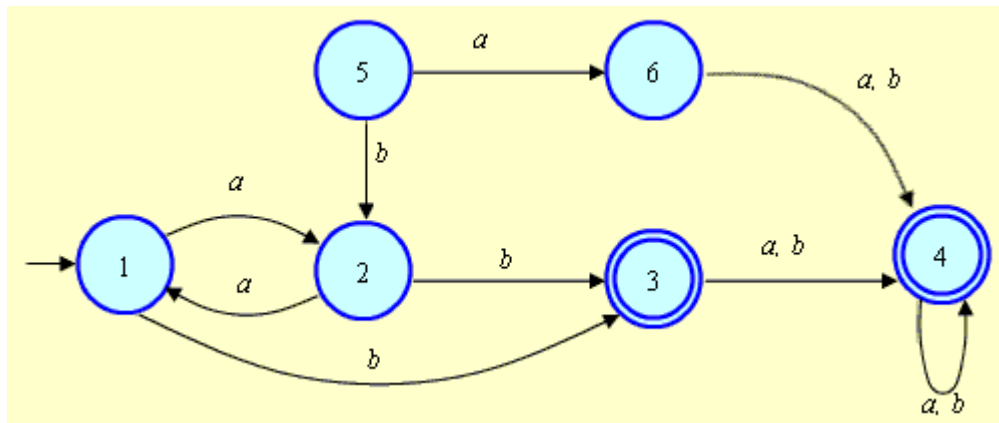
### Why Decision Properties?

- When we talked about protocols represented as DFA's, we noted that important properties of a good protocol were related to the language of the DFA.
- Example: "Does the protocol terminate?" = "Is the language finite?"
- Example: "Can the protocol fail?" = "Is the language nonempty?"
- We might want a "smallest" representation for a language, e.g., a minimum-state DFA or a shortest RE.
- If you can't decide "Are these two languages the same?"
  - I. I.e., do two DFA's define the same language?
  - II. You can't find a "smallest."

## Minimization of Automata

For any regular language  $L$  it may be possible to design different DFAs to accept  $L$ . The one with less number of states would be simpler than the other. So, given a DFA accepting a language, we further whether the DFA could further be simplified i.e. can we reduce the number of states accepting the same language.

Consider the following DFA  $M_1$ ,



We can understand that it accepts the language of the regular expression

$$a^*b(a+b)^*$$

The same language is accepted by the following simpler DFA  $M_2$  as well.

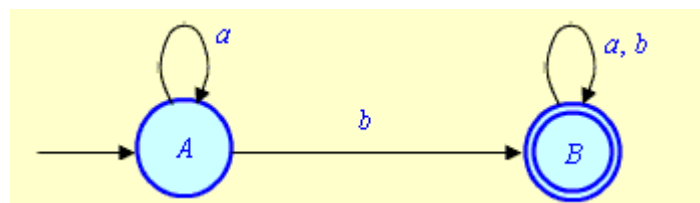


Figure 2

For any regular language  $L$  there is a unique minimal state DFA.

For any given DFA  $M$  accepting  $L$  we can construct the minimal state DFA accepting  $L$  by using an algorithm which uses following generic steps.

- First, remove all the states ( of the given DFA  $M$ ) which are **not** accessible from the start state i.e. sates  $P$  for which there is no string  $x \in \Sigma^*$  s.t.  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, x) = p$ .
- Removing these states will not change the language accepted by the DFA.



- Second, remove all the trap states, i.e. all states  $P$  from which there is no transition out of it.
- Finally, merge all states which are "equivalent" or "indistinguishable". We need to define formally what is meant by equivalent or indistinguishable states; but at this point we assume that merging these states would not change the accepted language.

In the example, states 5 and 6 are inaccessible and hence can be removed, states 1 and 2 are equivalent and can be merged. Similarly states 3 & 4 are also equivalent and can be merged together to have the minimal DFA  $M_2$  as produced above.

To construct the minimal DFA we need to see how to find out indistinguishable or equivalent states for merging.

we start with a definition and then proceed to find method to construct minimal state DFAs.

### Properties

i)  $(P, Q)$  are two states equivalent states if

$$* \delta(P, w) \in F \rightarrow \delta(Q, w) \in F$$

$$* \delta(P, w) \notin F \rightarrow \delta(Q, w) \notin F$$

Property 2:  $|w| = 0$ , it is 0 equivalent

$|w| = 1$ , it is 1 equivalent

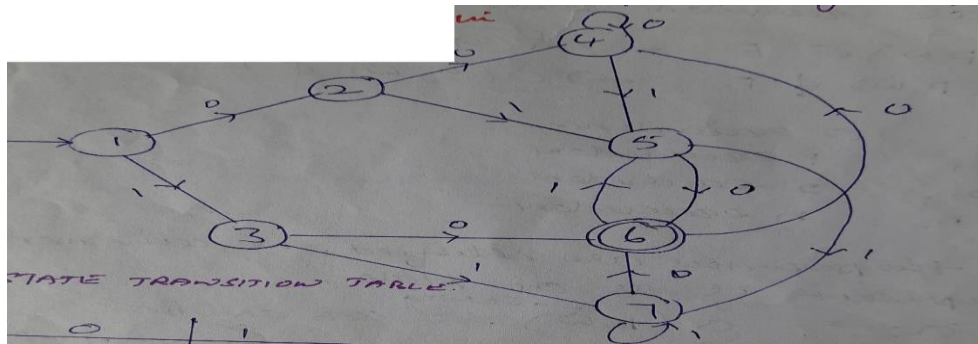
$|w| = 2$ , it is 2 equivalent

$|w| = n$ , it is  $n$  equivalent

If these properties are satisfied, we can merge  $P, Q$  states and represent it as a single state.

## Partitioning Method

**Question:** Find the minimum state FA for the given machine



### Step 1: Construct Transition table

$\delta$	0	1
$\rightarrow 1$	2	3
2	4	5
3	6	7
4	4	5
5	6	7
*6	4	5
7	6	7

### Step 2: Applying Partitioning algorithm

Partition  $P_1 = \{ \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7\}, \{6\} \}$

Construct  $P_2 =$  by partitioning  $P_1$  subsets

$$P_2 = \{ \{1, 2, 4\}, \{3, 5, 7\}, \{6\} \}$$

Construct  $P_3$  by partitioning  $P_2$  subsets

$$P_3 = \{ \{1, 2, 4\}, \{3, 5, 7\}, \{6\} \}$$

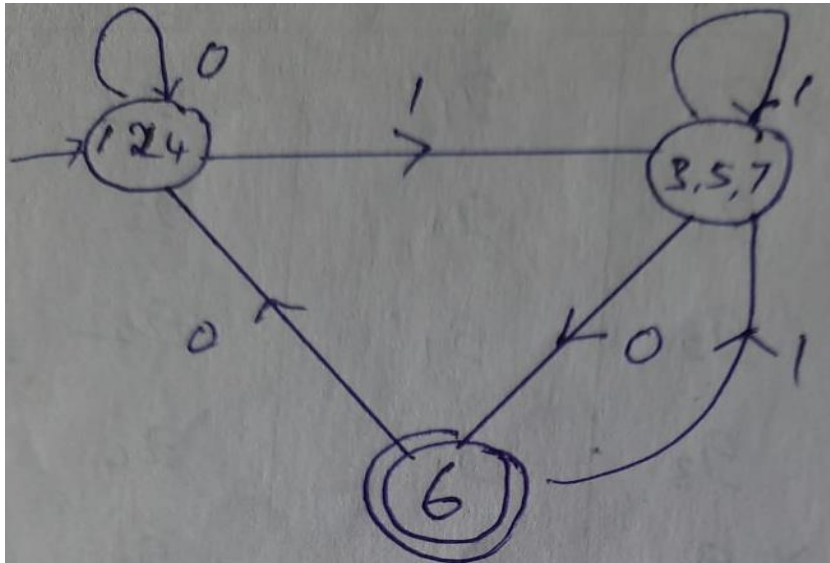
The process is stopped when  $p_i = p_{i-1}$ .

Here,  $P_2 = P_3$  so, Process is stopped.

### Step 3: New Transition Table

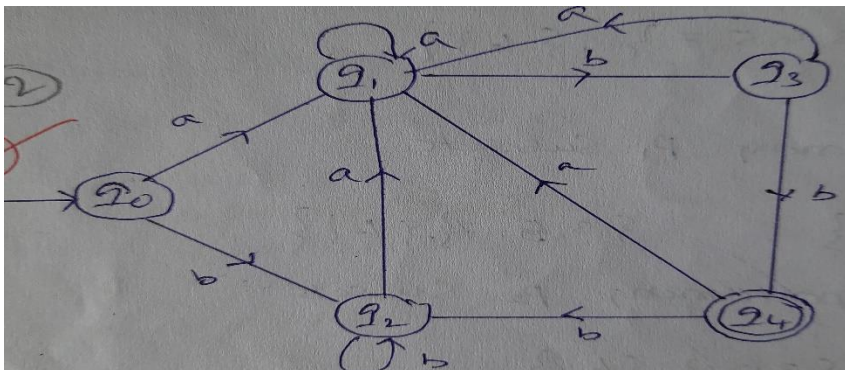
$\delta$	0	1
[124]	[124]	[357]
3	[6]	[357]
6	[124]	[357]

#### Step 4: Minimal DFA

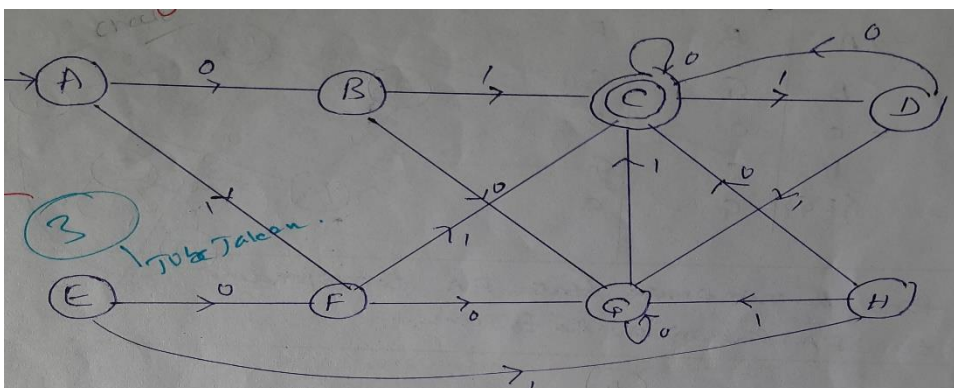


#### Exercise

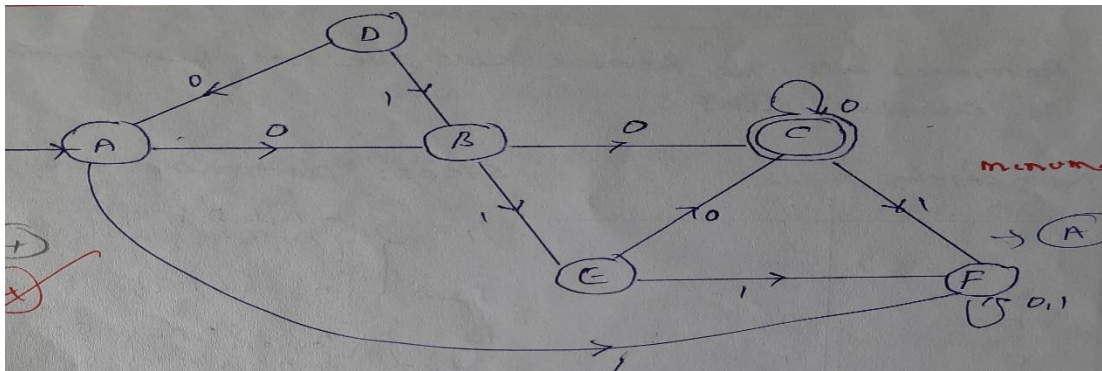
##### 2. Find the minimal DFA



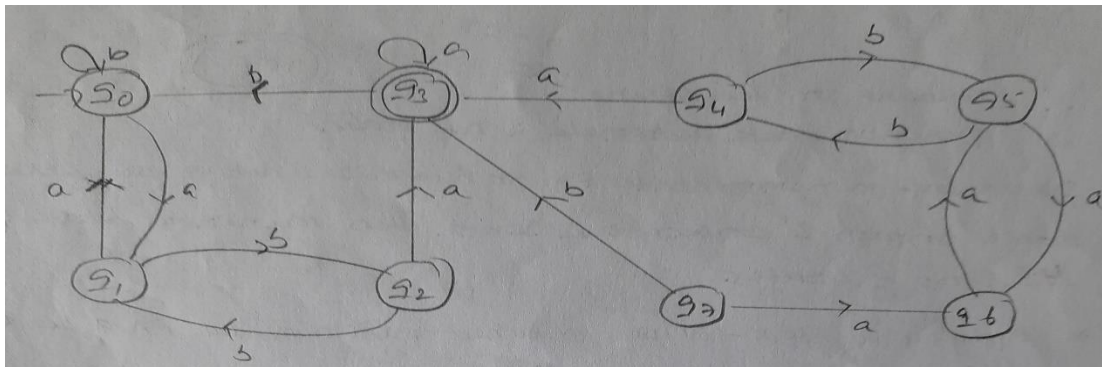
##### 3. Find the minimal DFA



4. Find the minimal DFA



5. Find the minimal DFA



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