

Formal Languages and Automata Theory

② Hopcroft, Motwani

↳ studying + Video Lecture slides

Automata: self acting

deals with the study of various abstract and mathematical machines and also the problems that can be solved.

computing machines

Abstract machines, not used for energy conversion

→ you can compute as long as you want whether it's getting heated up.

finite or infinite set of strings of symbols → formal language



From a finite set
of symbols = alphabet

- Given a mathematical sentence, whether there is a method to validate the mathematical statement

David Hilbert • The Roots of Automata Theory

→ Work of Logicians in 1930s

→ Is a step by step solution (algorithm)

possible to determine the truth or falsity of any mathematical proposition expressed in 1st order predicate calculus applied to integers

→ In 1931, Kurt Gödel through his incompleteness theorem proved that no such algorithm could exist

Standard model of computation → came out/developed in 1930s

Turing Machine is the most important one.

↙
Alan Turing
Turing Machine is accepted as a theoretical model of a computer as per Church's hypothesis.

1930s

In 1950s, few more simpler machines (Finite Automata) were also developed - to model the human brain.

Value applied to computation problems Lexical Analysis: if you've named the variable in program using rules.

②

In 1950s, ~~he~~ Noam Chomsky developed formal language

Specific reasons to study automata theory:

→ Automata ~~are~~ essential for the study of limits of computation

→ Two important issues:

1. What can a computer do at all?

This study is called "decidability" and the problems that can be solved by computers are called "decidable"

2. What can a computer do efficiently?

This study is called "intractability" and the problems that are to be solved by a computer using no more time than some slowly growing function of ^{size of the} input are called "tractable"

Often we take all polynomial functions to be slowly growing.

What is our Ultimate Objective:

It was initiated to find the solution to a problem.

We'll study about the machines and the problems that can and cannot be solved on these machines.

Halting Problem: Is there any algorithm which when supplied with another algorithm and input can determine if the ^{end} algorithm will halt with that input.
↓

cannot be solved with available computing machine.

Travelling Salesman Problem: no efficient solution

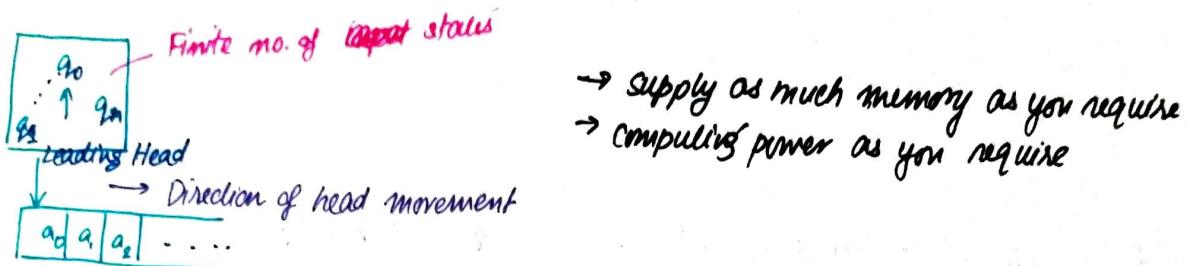
Automata (plural)

Automaton (~~singular~~ singular)

In what form, finite automata accept input?
String of symbols

(3)

Finite Automata



- Supply as much memory as you require
- Computing power as you require

Infinite Input Tape

Fig: A finite Automaton

- Is it possible to have an algorithm to determine the truth of an expression?
↳ you have to make the machine free from all constraints

Alphabet

An alphabet is any finite set of symbols

Example:

$\{0,1\}$: binary alphabet

$\{a,b,c\}$ etc

Strings

A string is a finite sequence of symbols chosen from some alphabet.

If Σ is an alphabet, we can express the ^{total} no. of all strings of certain length from that alphabet by using an exponential notation, e.g

Σ^k : the set of all strings of length k taken from Σ

$$\Sigma^0 = \{\epsilon\} \quad \text{(sometimes)}$$

$$\Sigma = \{0,1\}$$

$$\Sigma^1 = \{1,0\} \quad \Sigma^2 = \{00,01,10,11\}$$

$$\Sigma^0 \cup \Sigma^1 \cup \Sigma^2 \cup \dots$$

= set of all possible strings possible strings which can be formed with the symbols chosen from sigma.

Countably infinite set

$$= \Sigma^* \Rightarrow \Sigma^0 \cup \Sigma^+ = \{\epsilon\} \cup \Sigma^+$$

④ If you can enumerate strings of size n , someone can enumerate all strings of size $(n+1)$. \Rightarrow countably infinite

Σ^* : set of all strings made from alphabet excluding the empty string.

Language

A language is a subset of Σ^* for some alphabet Σ

Example:

The set of all strings of 0s and 1s with no two consecutive 1s

$$L = \{ \epsilon, 0, 1, 00, 01, 10, 000, 001, 010, 100, 101, 0000, \\ 0001, 0010, 0100, 0101, 1000, 1001, 1010, \dots \}$$

$$L \subseteq \Sigma^*$$

Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA)

A DFA M is a five tuple; ie; $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

$$\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$$

~~all binary strings which do not have two consecutive~~

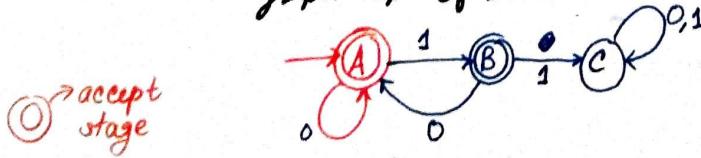


(Input symbol
& read, current state)

↓
FA makes a movement [sequential circuit design]

- With every state FA registers a particular event

graph rep of DFA



state diagram of
Deterministic FA which accepts
all inputs which have no
consecutive 1s

5 State Table
An alternative representation
State Transition Table

same string \Rightarrow gives same sequence of state transitions
↳ deterministic

state	Input	0	1
A*	A	B	
B*	A	C	
cc	C	C	

Formal definition of DFA

It is a five tuple $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

where

Q = a finite set of states

Σ = an input alphabet

δ = a transition function $\delta(q, a)$ = the state
that the DFA goes to when it is
in state q and input a is received

$q_0 \in Q$ = the start state

$F \subseteq Q$ = the set of final states

Extended Transition Function

- We describe the effect of a string of inputs on a DFA by extending δ to a state and a string
- Induction on length of string

Basis: $\delta(q, \epsilon) = q$

Induction: $\delta(q, wa) = \delta(\delta(q, w), a)$

where w = a string

a = an input symbol

Example: Extended Delta

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(B, 011) &= \delta(\delta(B, 01), 1) = \delta(\delta(\delta(B, 0), 1), 1) \\ &= \delta(\delta(A, 1), 1) \\ &= \delta(B, 1) \\ &= C \end{aligned}$$

Language of a DFA

for a DFA, $L(A)$ is the set of strings labelling paths from the start state to a final state

formally,

$L(A)$ = the set of strings w such that $\delta(q_0, w)$ is in F .

$F = \{A, B\}$

Example : string in a language, 101 is in $L(M)$?

$A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \rightarrow B$ $\in L(M)$

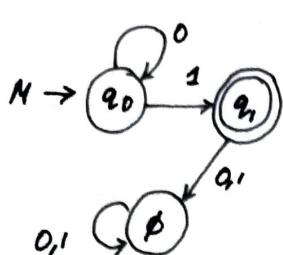
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EXERCISE

$L(M)$ = the language of DFA M

= $\{ w | w \text{ in } \{0,1\}^* \text{ and } w \text{ does not have two consecutive } 1's \}$

$$\Leftrightarrow \Sigma^*$$



$L(M)$ = language accepted by this DFA $M = S$

T = the set of all binary strings beginning any number of 0s followed by a single 1

Q. Prove $S = T$

1. $S \subseteq T$
2. $T \subseteq S$

First let us prove $S \subseteq T$

IH: Strings $1, 01, 001, \dots$ in S are also in T .

So for any string x , $|x| < m$, x in S is also in T .

That is, for any string x , $|x| < m$ if $\delta(q_0, x) = q_f$
then x is in T .

Let us consider a ax in S

$$\text{Now } \delta(q_0, ax) = \delta(\delta(q_0, a), x) = q_f$$

Since x is already accepted by M , $\delta(q_0, x) = q_f$

If $\delta(q_0, a) = q_0$ then a must be 0

$$\text{so } \delta(q_0, 0x) = q_f$$

Now $0x = a$ string beginning with one or more 0s
followed by a 1.

so $0x$ in T

Next let us prove $T \subseteq S$

IH: For x in T , $|x| < m$, x is in S

$$\text{That is, } \delta(q_0, x) = q_f$$

Consider a string ax in T

Since $|ax| = m > 1$, a must be 0

$$\text{For } a=0, \quad \delta(q_0, ax) = \delta(\delta(q_0, a), x) \\ = \delta(q_0, x) = q_f$$

Hence ax is in S

$$S \subseteq T$$

Finally we prove that $S = T$

Regular Languages

A language L is regular if it is the language accepted by some DFA.

Note: the DFA must accept only the strings in L , no other

Some languages are not regular

Intuitively, regular languages cannot count to arbitrarily high integers.

Example: A non regular language

$$L_1 = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 1\}$$

$$L_2 = \{w/w \text{ in } \{(1, 0)\}^* \text{ and } w \text{ is balanced}\}$$

e.g., (1) , $((1))$, $(1)(1)$, $((1)(1))$, ...

Example: A Regular Language

$$L_3 = \{w/w \text{ in } \{0, 1\}^* \text{ and } w, \text{ viewed as a binary integer divisible by 5}\}$$

↓

0, 101, 1010

The DFA has 5 states named as 0, 1, 2, 3, 4

*Start and only final state is named 0

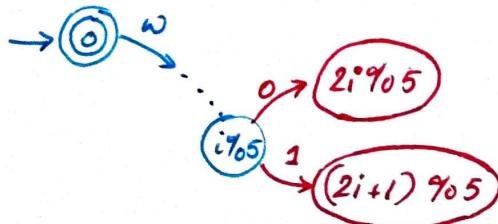
④ If string w represents an integer i then assume $\delta(0, w) = i$

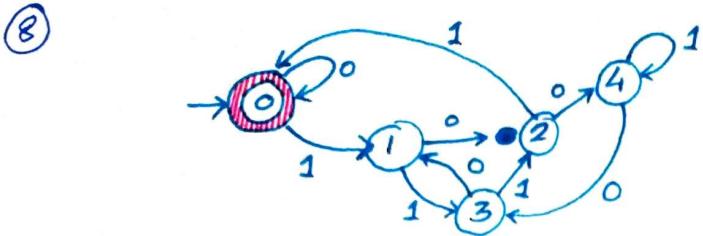
④ w represents $2i$

$$\text{So we want } \delta(i \% 5, 0) = 2i \% 5$$

④ w represents $(2i+1)$

$$\text{So we want } \delta(i \% 5, 1) = (2i+1) \% 5$$





Non Deterministic Finite Automata (NFA)

- ① An NFA has the ability to be in several states at once.
- ② Transition from a state on an input symbol can be to any set of states
- ③ An NFA starts in one start state
- ④ It accepts if any sequence of choices leads to a final state.

Example : Chessboard

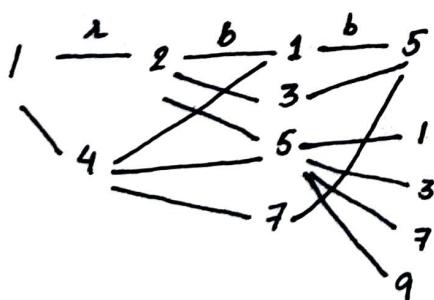
Notes on a chessboard

→ States = squares

→ Inputs = r (move to an adjacent red square)

and b (move to an adjacent black square)

→ Start state, final state are in opposite corners

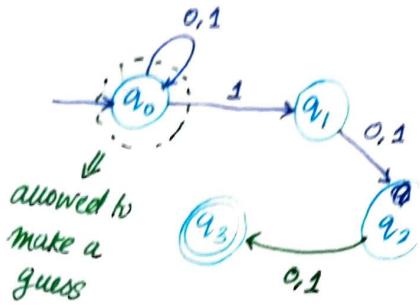


State	Input	Transitions
→ 1 →	r	2, 4
→ 1 →	b	5
→ 2 →	r	4, 6
→ 2 →	b	1, 5
→ 3 →	r	2, 6
→ 3 →	b	5
→ 4 →	r	2, 8
→ 4 →	b	5, 7
→ 5 →	r	2, 4, 6,
→ 5 →	b	1, 3,
→ 6 →	r	8
→ 6 →	b	7, 9
→ 7 →	r	2, 8
→ 7 →	b	3, 5, 9
→ 8 →	r	4, 8
→ 8 →	b	5
→ 9 → *	r	4, 6
→ 9 → *	b	7, 5, 9
		6, 8 5
		accepted state

⑨ Example give an NFA accepting all binary strings containing a 1 in the third position from the end.

Fond
 000 100 w
 001 100 w
 111 011 x
 00 010 x

Formal NFA



for example:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(1, ab) &= \delta(2, b) \cup (\emptyset, b) \\ &= \{1, 3, 5\} \cup \{1, 5, 7\} \\ &= \{1, 3, 5, 7\} \end{aligned}$$



String of only b's.

Odd bs \Rightarrow won't be accepted
 even bs \Rightarrow will be accepted

- ⑩ In certain it is better to design an NFA instead of a DFA because in NFA you can make a guess, if the guess fails you can guess again. However this does not mean NFA is more powerful than DFA.

- ① A finite set of states typically Q .
- ② An input alphabet typically Σ
- ③ A transition function, typically δ
- ④ A start state in Q , typically q_0
- ⑤ A set of final states $F \subseteq Q$
- \Rightarrow ⑥ Transition Function of an NFA
 - ⑦ $\delta(q, a)$ is a set of states
 - ⑧ Extended to strings as follows
 - ⑨ Basic: $\delta(q, \epsilon) = \{q\}$
 - ⑩ Induction: $\delta(q, wa) = \underbrace{\text{string symbol}}_{\text{over}} \underbrace{\delta(q, w)}_{\text{all states } p \text{ in}} \cup \delta(p, a)$

Language of a NFA

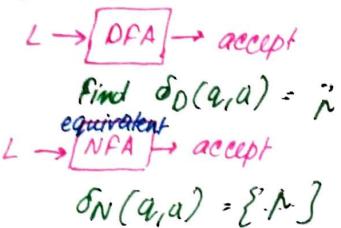
A string w is accepted if $\delta(q_0, w)$ contains at least one final state

The language of an NFA is the set of strings it accepts.

(10) Equivalence of DFA's, NFA's

- ④ A DFA can be turned into an NFA that accepts the same language.
- ⑤ If $\delta_D(q, a) = r$, let the NFA have $\delta_N(q, a) = \{r\}$
- ⑥ Then the NFA is always in a set containing exactly one state - the state the DFA is in after reading the same input.

Given



Subset Construction

- Given an NFA with states Q , input alphabet Σ , transition function δ_N , start state q_0 , and a ~~or~~ set of final states F . Let us construct an equivalent DFA with :

- ~~state~~ → states 2^Q (set of subsets of Q)
- Input alphabet Σ
- Start state $\{q_0\}$
- Final states - all those with a member of F

- The DFA states have names that are ~~sets~~ sets of NFA states.
- But as a DFA state an expression like $\{p, q\}$ must be read as a ~~single~~ symbol not a set.

δ_N known; $\delta_D = ?$

- The transition function δ_D is defined by $\delta_D(\{q_1, \dots, q_k\}, a)$ is the union over all $i = 1, \dots, k$ of $\delta_N(q_i, a)$

Example : We'll construct the DFA equivalent to our "chessboard" NFA.

state	Input	
	r	b
$\{q_1\}$	$\{2, 4\}$	$\{5\}$
$\{2, 4\}$	$\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$	$\{1, 3, 5, 7\}$
$\{5\}$	$\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$	$\{1, 3, 7, 9\}$
$\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$	$\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$	$\{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$
$\{1, 3, 5, 7\}$	$\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$	$\{5\}$
$\{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$	$\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$	$\{1, 3, 5, 7, 9\}$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\{2, 4, 6, 8\}, a) &= \{4, 6, 3 \cup \{2, 8\} \\ &= \{2, 4, 6, 8\} \end{aligned}$$

(11) Proof of Equivalence : ~~by~~ Subset construction

Let us show by induction on $|w|$ that

$$\delta_N(q_0, w) = \delta_0(\{q_0\}, w)$$

Basis : For $w = \epsilon$, $\delta_N(q_0, \epsilon) = \delta_0(\{q_0\}, \epsilon) = \{q_0\}$

Assume Induction Hypothesis for strings shorter than w

Let $\bullet w = xa$, Induction Hypothesis for x

$$\delta_N(q_0, x) = \delta_0(\{q_0\}, x) = s // \delta_0(\{q_0\}, xa) = \dots$$

Let $\tau =$ the union over all states n in s of $\delta_N(n, a)$

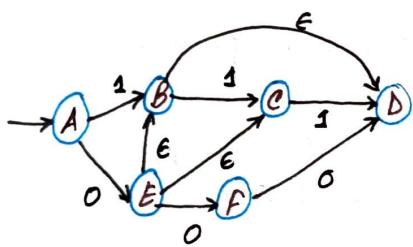
$$\text{Then } \delta_N(q_0, w) = \delta_0(\{q_0\}, w) = \tau$$

Every DFA can be converted to a DFA.

NFA's with ϵ -transitions

In such NFA, state to state transitions with ϵ or zero length string are allowed

Example ϵ -NFA



Closure of sets

$$cl(q) = \text{set of states}$$

that the m/c can reach from state q following only arcs labelled ϵ .

following only arcs labelled ϵ .

$$cl(A) = \{A\}$$

$$cl(E) = \{B, C, D, E\}$$

State	Input		
	0	1	ϵ
$\rightarrow A$	$\{\epsilon\}$	$\{\epsilon\}$	\emptyset
B	\emptyset	$\{\epsilon\}$	$\{D\}$
C	\emptyset	$\{D\}$	$\{\emptyset\}$
D	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset
E	$\{F\}$	\emptyset	$\{\epsilon, B, C\}$
F	$\{D\}$	\emptyset	\emptyset

Closure of a set of states

= Union of the closure of each state

Extended Delta

- Basis : $\delta(q, \epsilon) = cl(q)$
- Induction : $\delta(q, xa)$ is computed as follows
 - Start with $\delta(q, x) = s$
 - Take the union of $cl(\delta(r, a))$ for all r in s

Intuitively $\delta(q, w)$ is the set of states where the machine can reach from following a path labelled w .

(10)

(12)

Example : Extended Delta

$$\delta(A, E) = \alpha(\{A\}) \\ = \{A\}$$

$$\hat{\delta}(A, 0) = \{E\} = \alpha(\{E\}) \\ = \{B, C, D, E\}$$

$$\delta(A, 1) = \{B\} = \alpha(\{B\}) \\ = \{D\}$$

$$\delta(A, 01) = \delta(\hat{\delta}(A, 0), 1) \\ = \alpha(\{C, D\}) \\ = \{C, D\}$$

Language of an ϵ -NFA is the set of strings such that $\delta(q_0, w)$ contains a final state

Equivalence of NFA, ϵ -NFA

- Every NFA is an ϵ -NFA
 - It just has no transitions on ϵ
- converse requires us to take an ϵ -NFA and construct an NFA that accepts the same language
- We do so by combining ϵ transitions with the next transition on a real input

NFAs with ϵ Transition
In such NFA, state to state 1

- Start with an ϵ -NFA with states Q , inputs Σ , start state q_0 , final state F and transition function δ_E .
- Construct an ordinary NFA with states Q , inputs Σ , start state q_0 , final states F' and transition function δ_N .

(compute $\delta_N(q, a)$ as follows :

1. let $S = \alpha(a)$

2. $\delta_N(q, a)$ is the union over all $r \in S$ of $\delta_E(r, a)$

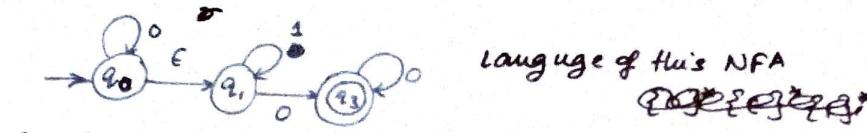
$F' =$ the set of states q such that $\alpha(q)$ contains a state of F .

$$\delta_E(E, 0) = \{F\}$$

$$\alpha(E) = \{E, B, C, D\} = \{F\}$$

(13)

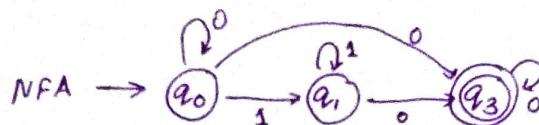
$$\delta_E(E, 0) \cup \delta_E(B, 0) \cup \delta_E(C, 0) \cup \delta_E(D, 0) = \{F\}$$



language of this NFA

~~001010101010101*~~

$$\{03^* \{ \epsilon \} \{ 1 \}^* \{ 0 \}^*\}$$



$$\delta_N(q_0, 0) = ? \quad \delta_N(q_0, 1) = ? \quad \{q_1, q_3\}$$

$$\alpha(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1\}$$

$$\delta_E(q_0, 0) = q_0 \quad \delta_E(q_0, 1) =$$

$$\delta_E(q_1, 0) =$$

$$\delta_E(q_0, 1) = \{q_1\}$$

④ $\alpha(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1\}$

$$\delta_E(q_0, 0) \cup \delta_E(q_1, 0) = \{q_0, q_3\}$$

$$\alpha(q_1) = \{q_1\}$$

$$\delta_N(q_1, 1) = q_1$$

$$\alpha(q_3) = \{q_3\}$$

$$\delta_N(q_3, 0) = \emptyset \quad \delta_N(q_3, 1) = \{q_3\}$$

$$\alpha(F) = \alpha(q_3) = \{q_3\}$$

q_3 will be the final state of the NFA

Regular Expressions (REs): Introduction

- Regular expressions are an algebraic way to describe languages
- They describe exactly the regular languages
- If E is a regular expression then $L(E)$ is the language it defines

⑤ RE's Definition:

Basis 1: If a is any symbol then a is a RE,
and $L(a) = \{a\}$

Basis 2: If E is a RE then $L(E) = \{E\}$

Basis 3: If \emptyset is a RE then $L(\emptyset) = \{\}$

(14)

Induction 1: If E_1 and E_2 are REs then $E_1 + E_2$ is a RE and $L(E_1 + E_2) = L(E_1) \cup L(E_2)$

Induction 2: If E_1 and E_2 are REs then $E_1 \cdot E_2$ is a RE and $L(E_1 \cdot E_2) = L(E_1) L(E_2)$

Concatenation: the set of strings wx such that w is in $L(E_1)$ and x is in $L(E_2)$

Induction 3: If E is a RE then E^* is a RE and $L(E^*) = (L(E))^*$

Closure or "~~Kleene~~^{Kleene} closure" = set of strings $w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$ for some $n \geq 0$ where each w_i is in $L(E)$

Precedence of Operators

()
 $*$
 \cdot
 $+$

Highest to lowest order of precedence

Examples : REs

$$L(01) = \{01\}$$

$$L(01 + 0) = \{01, 0\}$$

$$L(0(1+0)) = \{01, 00\}$$

$$L(0^*) = \{0, 00, 000, \dots\}$$

$L((0+10)^*(\epsilon+1))$ = all binary strings with 2 consecutive 1s out

④ Regular Expression and Automata are Equivalent

Converting a RE to an ϵ -NFA

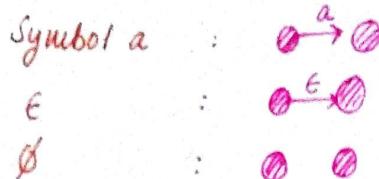
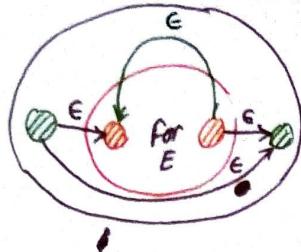
Here the proof is an induction on the number of operators (+, concatenating, *) in the RE

Assumed form of ϵ -NFA's constructed

start state
only state with external properties

Final state :
only state with external successor

(15)

RE to ϵ -NFA - BasisRE to ϵ -NFA: Induction 3 - Closure

For E^* = ~~∅~~ $(L(E))^*$

w is in $L(E^*)$

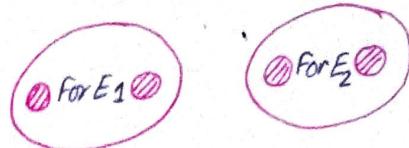
w = xy where

x is in $L(E)$ any

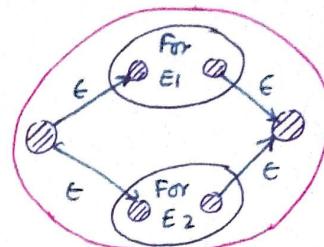
y is in $L(E)$

RE to ϵ -NFA:

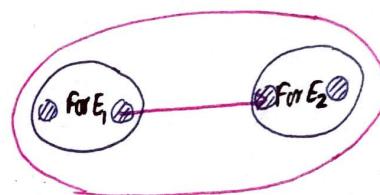
Induction 1 - Union



$$E_1 + E_2 = L(E_1) \cup L(E_2)$$



Induction 2 - Concatenation

For $E_1 \cdot E_2$ 

Ex:

Convert $(0+1)^*1(0+1)$ to an ϵ -NFAInput $\rightarrow x.y$

string

x in $L(E_1)$ & y in $L(E_2)$