CS 6041
Theory of Computation

Regular expression

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Outline

- Regular expression
  - Definition
  - Example

- Equivalence with DFA/NFA
  - Regular expression $\Rightarrow$ Regular language
  - Regular expression $\Leftarrow$ Regular language

Regular expression

- Regular expressions are those describing languages by using regular operations (*Union, Concatenation, Star, Complement, Boolean, etc*.)

- Example:

$(0\cup 1)0^*$

$= (\{0\}\cup\{1\})\{0\}^*$ //add bracket

$= \{0,1\}\{0\}^*$ //comma = union

Regular expression

- $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$
  - $(0\cup 1)^* = \{0,1\}^* = \Sigma^*$
- Σ is any alphabet
  - Σ describes the language consisting of all strings of length 1 over this alphabet
  - Σ^* describes the language consisting of all strings over that alphabet
  - Σ^*1 describes the language that contains all strings that end in a 1
  - $(0\Sigma^*)\cup(\Sigma^*1)$ describes all strings that start with a 0 or end with a 1

Definition of regular expression

- R is regular expression if R is
  - a, where $a \in \Sigma$, length is 1;
  - ε;
  - $\emptyset$;
  - Union: $(R_1 \cup R_2)$, where R_1 and R_2 are all regular expressions;
  - Concatenation: (R_1R_2), where R_1 and R_2 are all regular expressions;
  - Star: $(R_1{}^*)$, where R_1 is regular expression.

Priority:
$* > \circ > \cup$

- L(R): the language of R
  - $L(1\Sigma^*)$: language that starts with 1

Regular expression examples

- Let $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$
  - 0^*10^* = { w | w contains a single 1 }
  - $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$ = { w | w has at least one 1 }
  - $\Sigma^*001\Sigma^*$ = { w | w contains the substring 001 }
  - $(\Sigma\Sigma)^*$ = { w | w is a string of even length}
  - $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$ = { w | the length of w is a multiple of 3 }

Regular expression examples

- Let $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$
  - $01\cup10 = \{ 01, 10 \}$
  - $0\Sigma^*0 \cup 1\Sigma^*1 \cup 0 \cup 1 = \{ w \mid w$ starts and ends with the same symbol $\}$
  - $(0\cup\varepsilon)1^* = 01^*\cup1^*$
  - $(0\cup\varepsilon)(1\cup\varepsilon) = \{\varepsilon,0,1,01\}$

Some special regular expression

- Let $\Sigma=\{0,1\}$
  - $1^*\varnothing = \varnothing$
  - $\varnothing^* = \{\varepsilon\}$
  - $R\cup\varnothing = R$
  - $R\varnothing = \varnothing$
  - $R\cup\varepsilon = R\cup\{\varepsilon\}$
  - $R\varepsilon = R$

Regular expression for numbers

- $\{+,-,\varepsilon\}(D^* \cup D^*.D^*)$, where $D=\{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\}$
  - 72
  - 3.14159
  - +7.
  - -.01

Equivalence with DFA/NFA

- **Theorem: A language is regular if and only if some regular expression describes it.**

- Lemma1:

  Regular expression $\Rightarrow$ Regular language.

- Lemma2:

  Regular expression $\Leftarrow$ Regular language.

Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

  Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

Definition:

R is regular expression if R is

- a
- ε
- ∅
- $R_1 \cup R_2$
- $R_1 R_2$
- R_1^*

Create NFA for each case

Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

Case 1: a

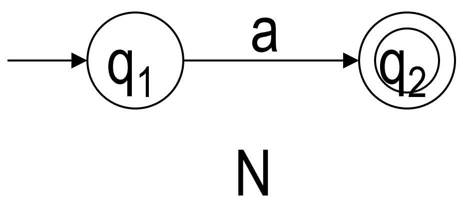
$R=a,\ a\in\Sigma.$

$L(\ R\ )=\{a\},$

$N=(\{q_1,q_2\},\Sigma,\delta,q_1,\{q_2\}),$

$\delta(q_1,a)=\{q_2\},$

$\delta(r,b)=\emptyset$, if $r\neq q_1$ or $b\neq a$.



Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

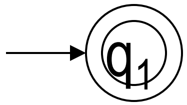
Case 2: ε

$R=\varepsilon$.

$L(R)=\{\varepsilon\}$,

$N=(\{q1\},\Sigma,\delta,q1,\{q1\})$,

$\forall r, \forall b,\ \delta(r,b)=\varnothing$.



N

Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

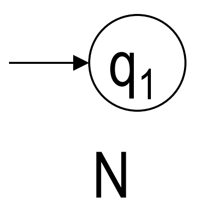
Case 3: empty set

$R=\emptyset$.

$L(\ R\ )=\emptyset$,

$N=(\{q_1\},\Sigma,\delta,q_1,\emptyset)$,

$\forall r, \forall b,\ \delta(r,b)=\emptyset$.

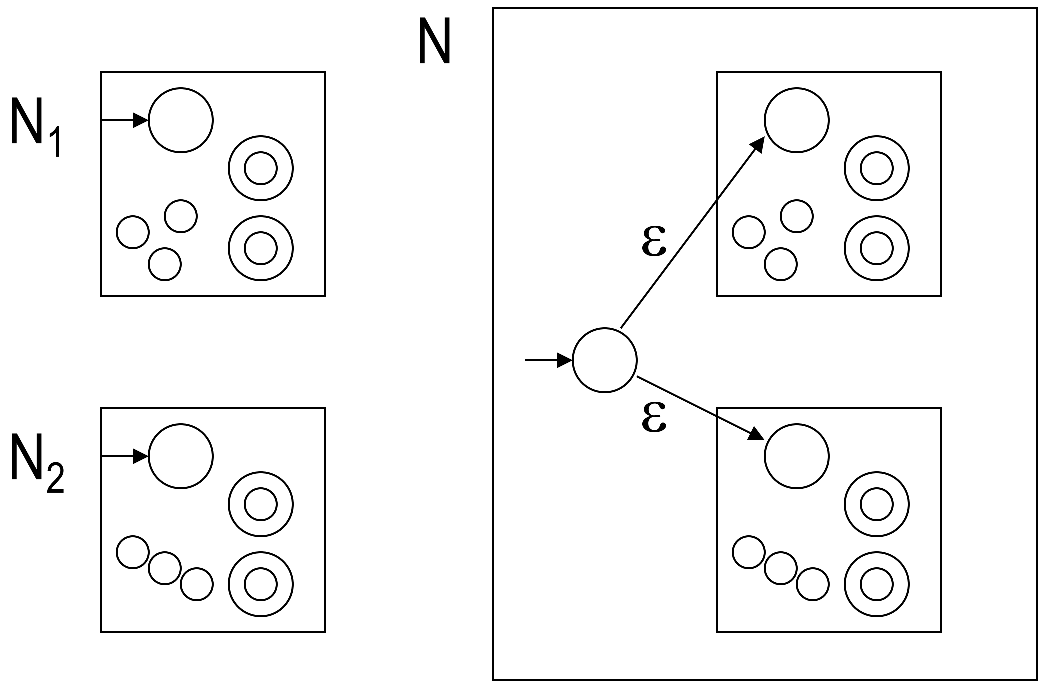


Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

Case 4: $R=(R_1 \cup R_2)$,

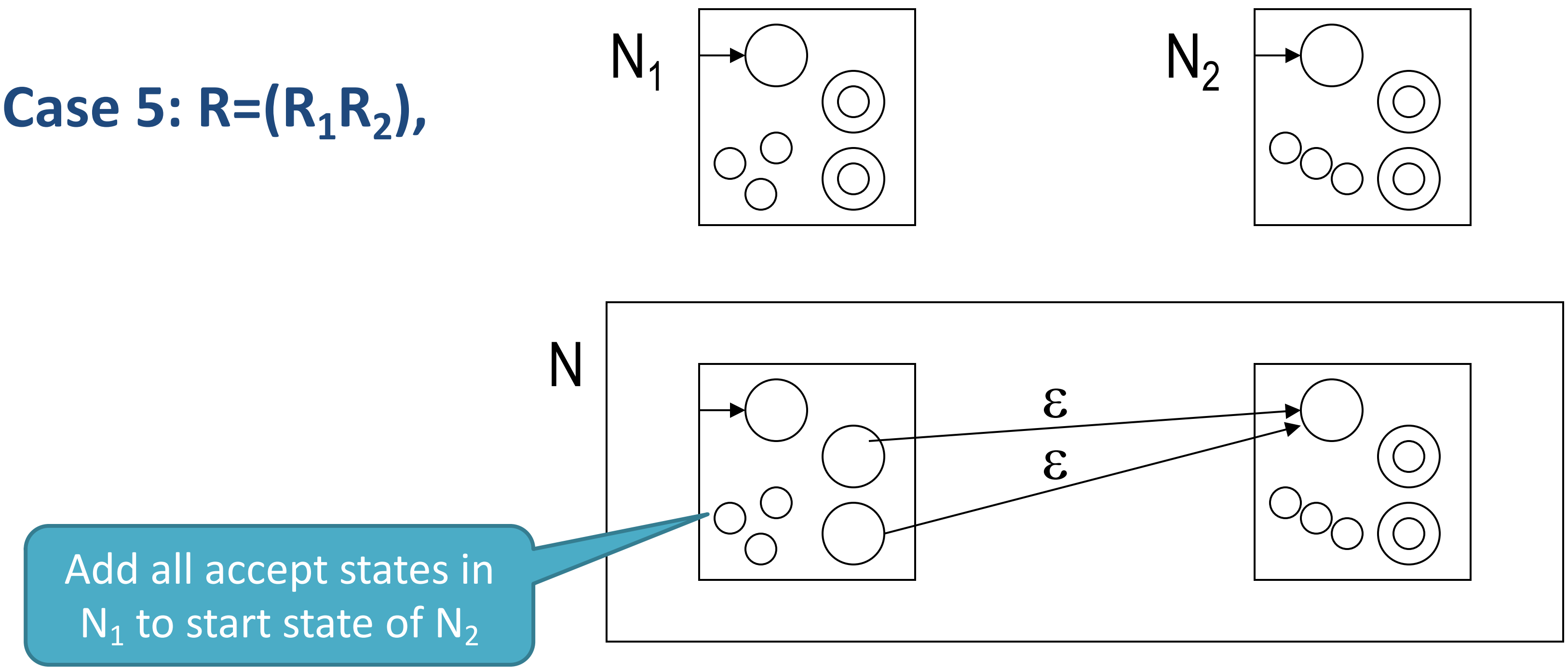


Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

Case 5: $R=(R_1R_2)$,

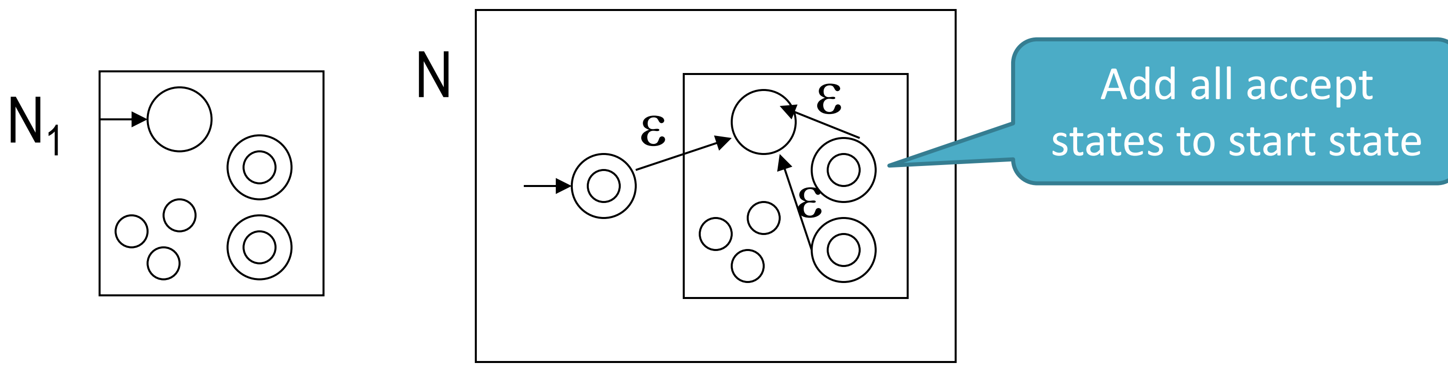


Regular expression ⇒ Regular language

- Proof

Create an equivalent NFA for regular expression

Case 6: $R=(R_1{}^*)$,



Equivalence with DFA/NFA

- **Theorem: A language is regular if and only if some regular expression describes it.**

- Lemma1: (**proved**)

  Regular expression $\Rightarrow$ Regular language (NFA).

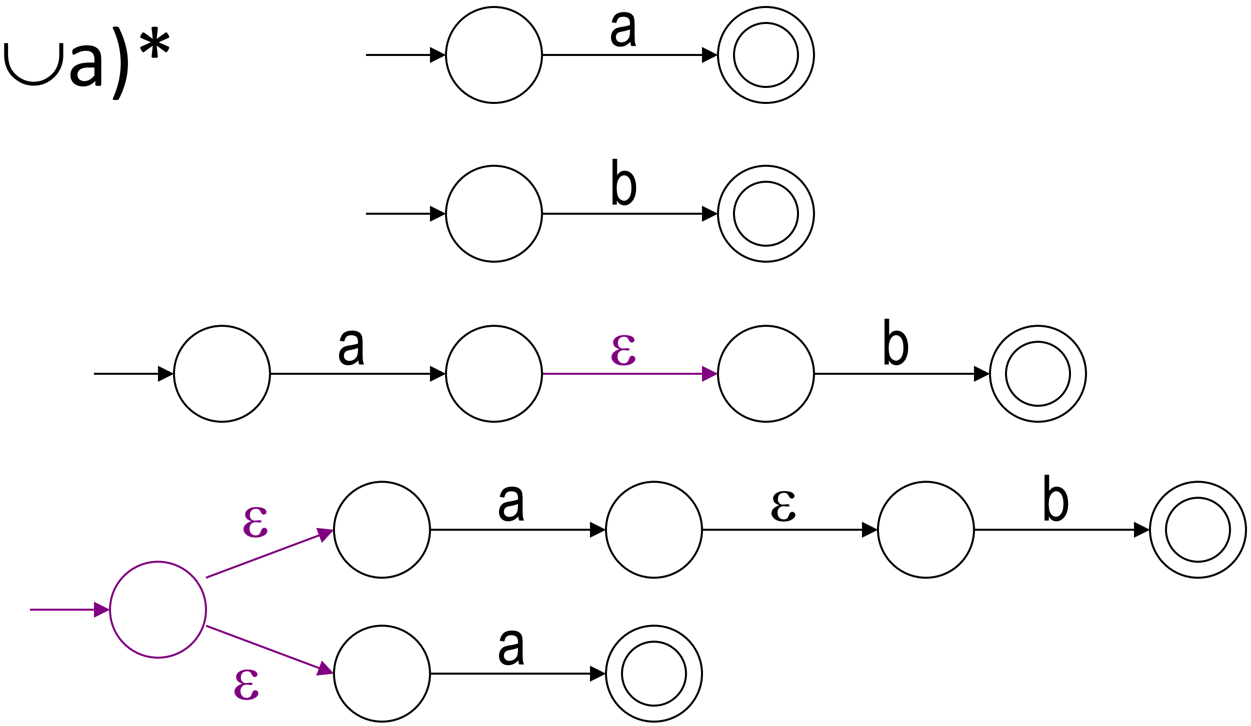
Lemma2:

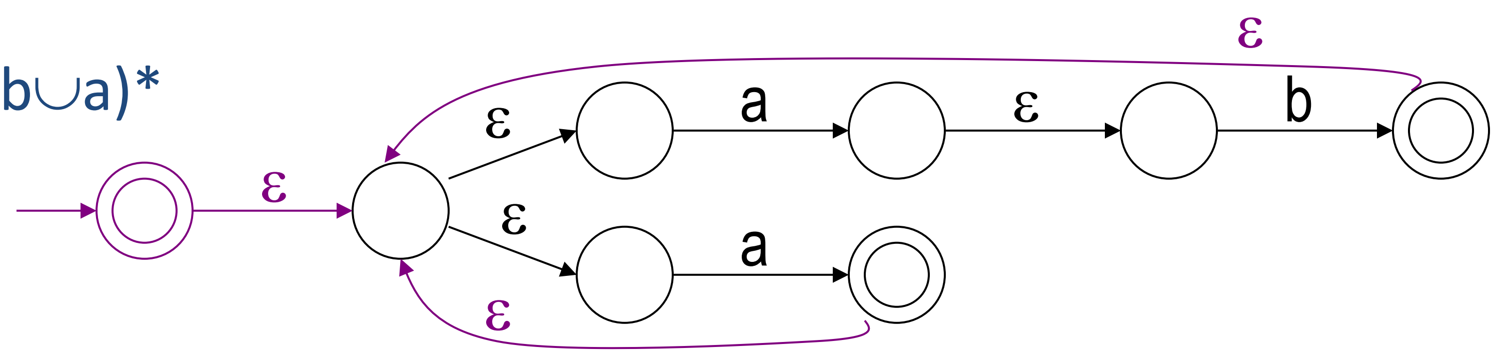
Regular expression $\Leftarrow$ Regular language.

Examples: create NFAs for regular expression

- Create (ab∪a)*

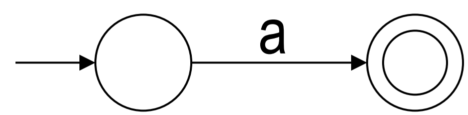
1. a
2. b
3. ab
4. ab∪a
5. (ab∪a)*

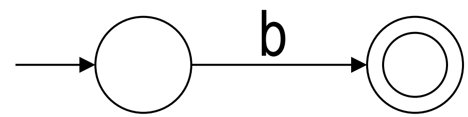




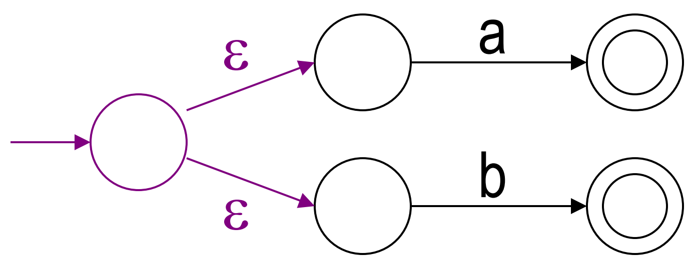
Examples: create NFAs for regular expression

- Create (a∪b)*aba
  - a

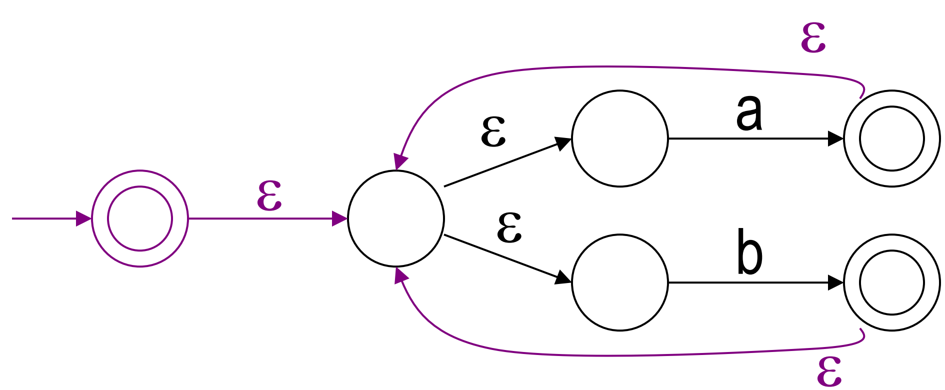




  - b



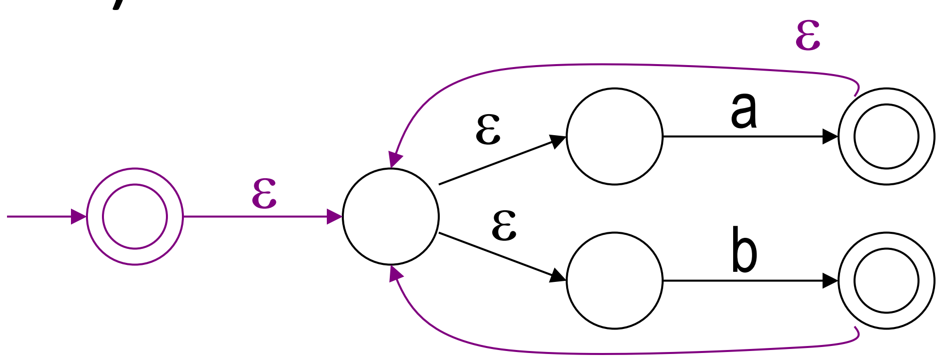
  - a∪b



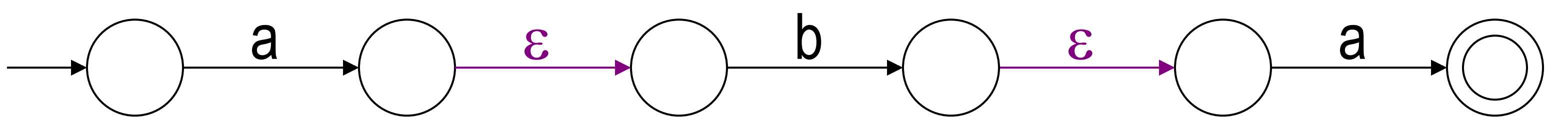
  - (a∪b)*

Examples: create NFAs for regular expression

- Create (a∪b)*aba
  - (a∪b)*

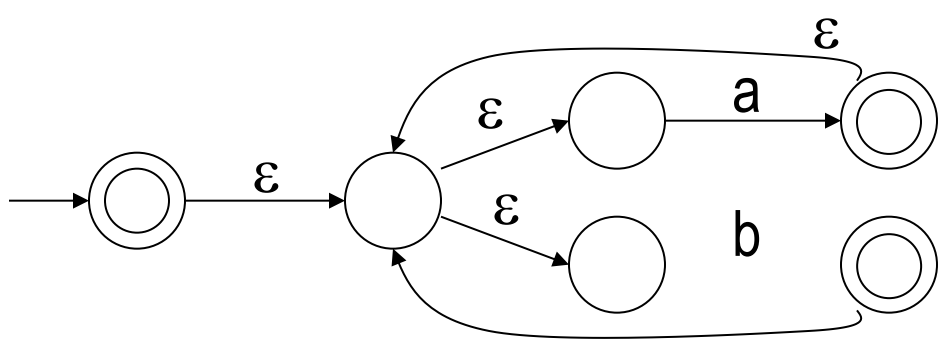


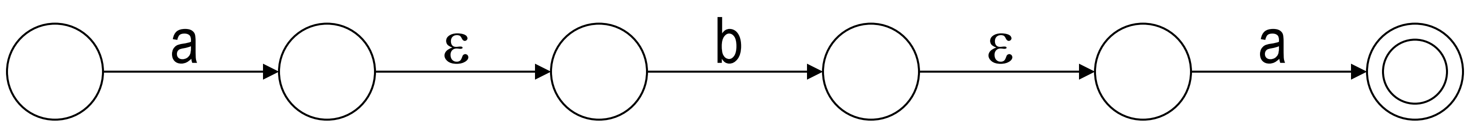
  - aba



Examples: create NFAs for regular expression

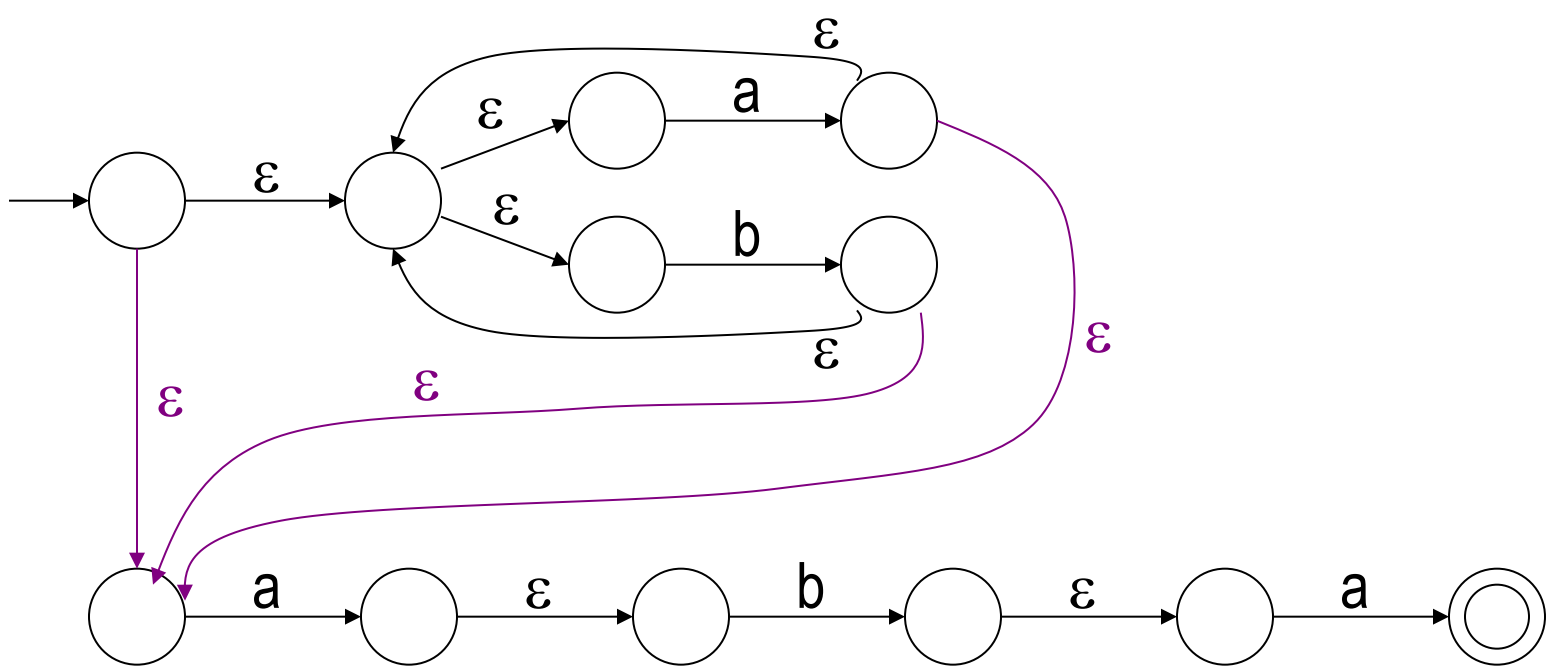
- Create (a∪b)*aba





Examples: create NFAs for regular expression

- Create (a∪b)*aba



Regular expression $\Leftarrow$ Regular language

- Proof

Definition a language is called a <u>regular language</u> if some <u>finite automaton (DFA/NFA)</u> recognizes it

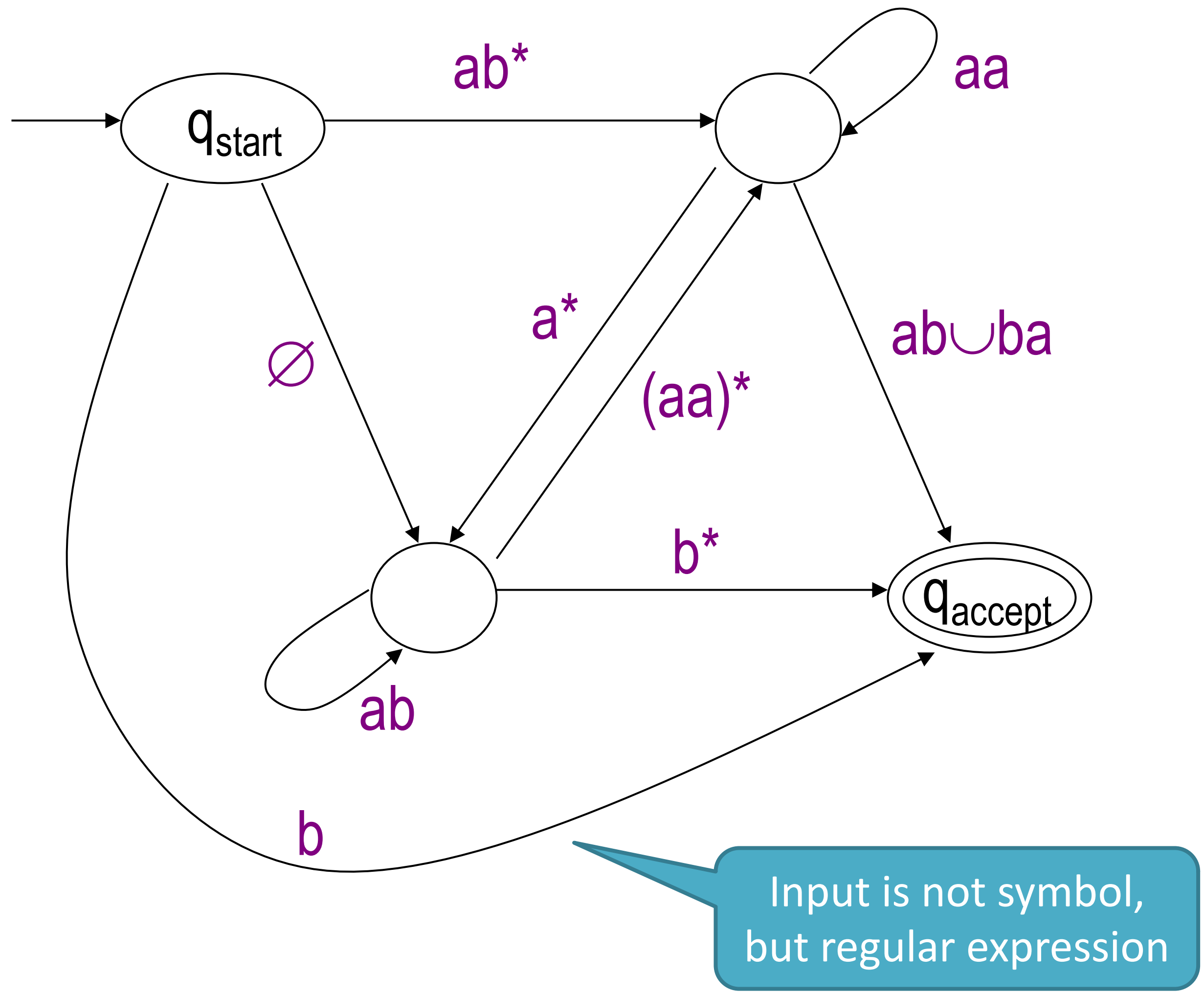
Idea: DFA/NFA $\Rightarrow$? $\Rightarrow$ Regular expression

Generalized nondeterministic finite automaton, GNFA

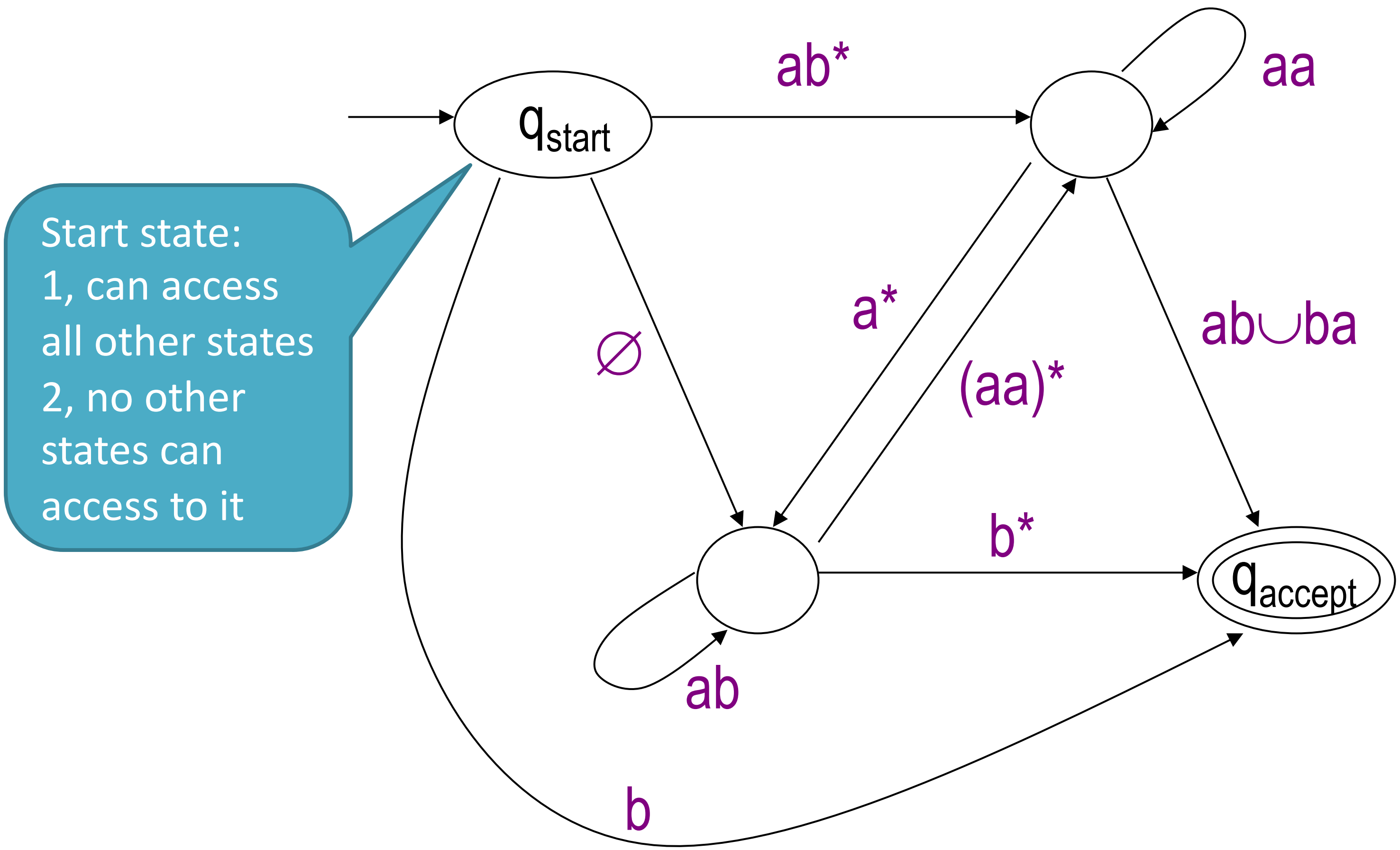
1, create an equivalent GNFA based on DFA

2, use GNFA to create an equivalent RE

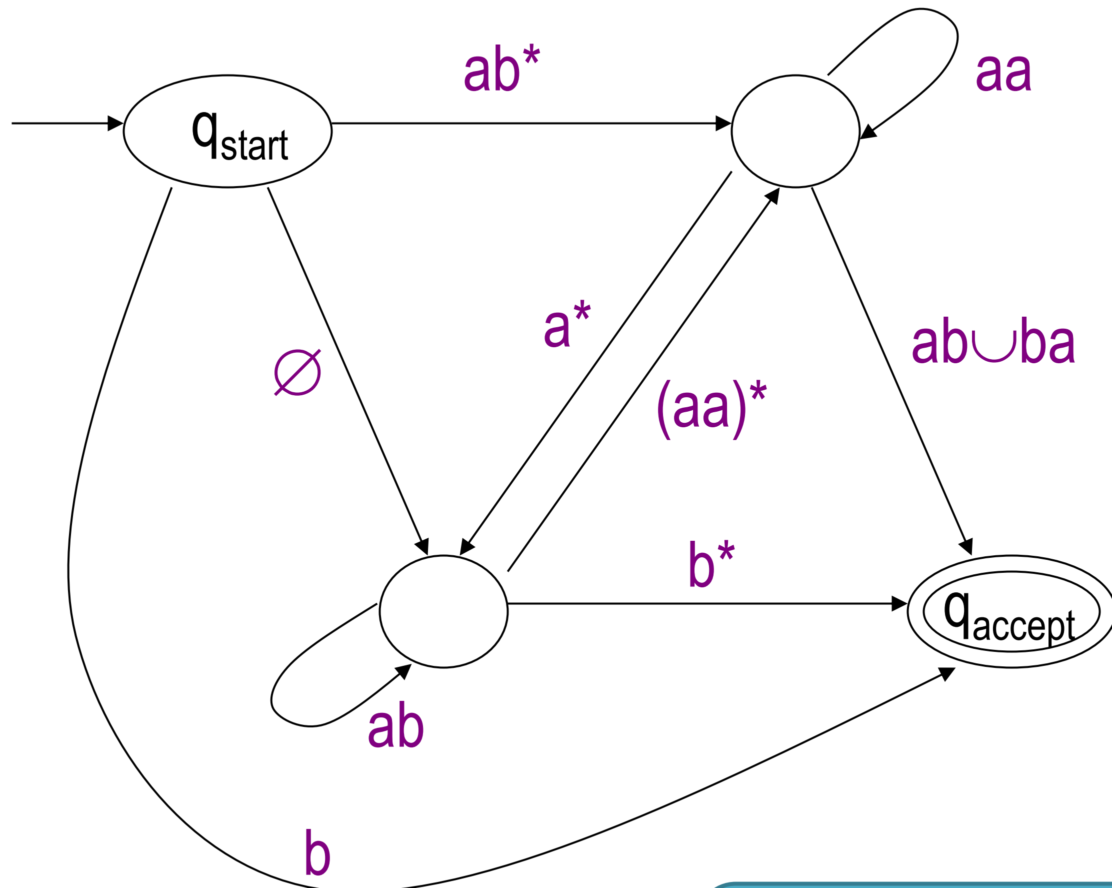
Generalized nondeterministic finite automaton



Generalized nondeterministic finite automaton

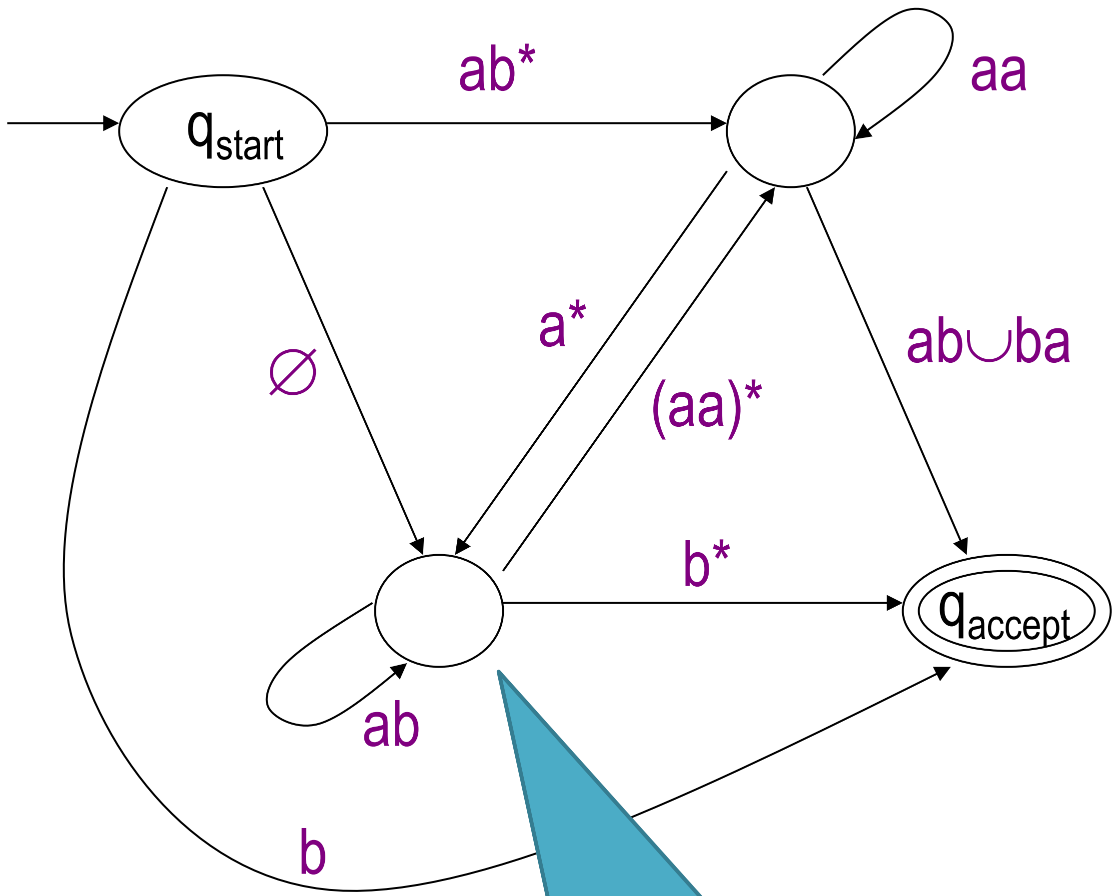


Generalized nondeterministic finite automaton



Accept state:
1, unique and different from start state
2, cannot access to other states
3, all other states can access to it

Generalized nondeterministic finite automaton



Other state:
has access to itself and other states

Definition of GNFA

- GNFA is a five tuple $(Q,\Sigma,\delta,q_{start},q_{accept})$
  - Q is finite set of states
  - Σ is input alphabet
  - $\delta:(Q-\{q_{accept}\})\times(Q-\{q_{start}\})\rightarrow R$

    is transition functions, means from $(Q-\{q_{accept}\})$ to $(Q-\{q_{start}\})$

    with input R
  - q_{start} is the start state
  - q_{accept} is the accept state

Computation on GNFA

- Input $w=w_1w_2\ldots w_k$, $\mathrm{w_i} \in \Sigma^*$

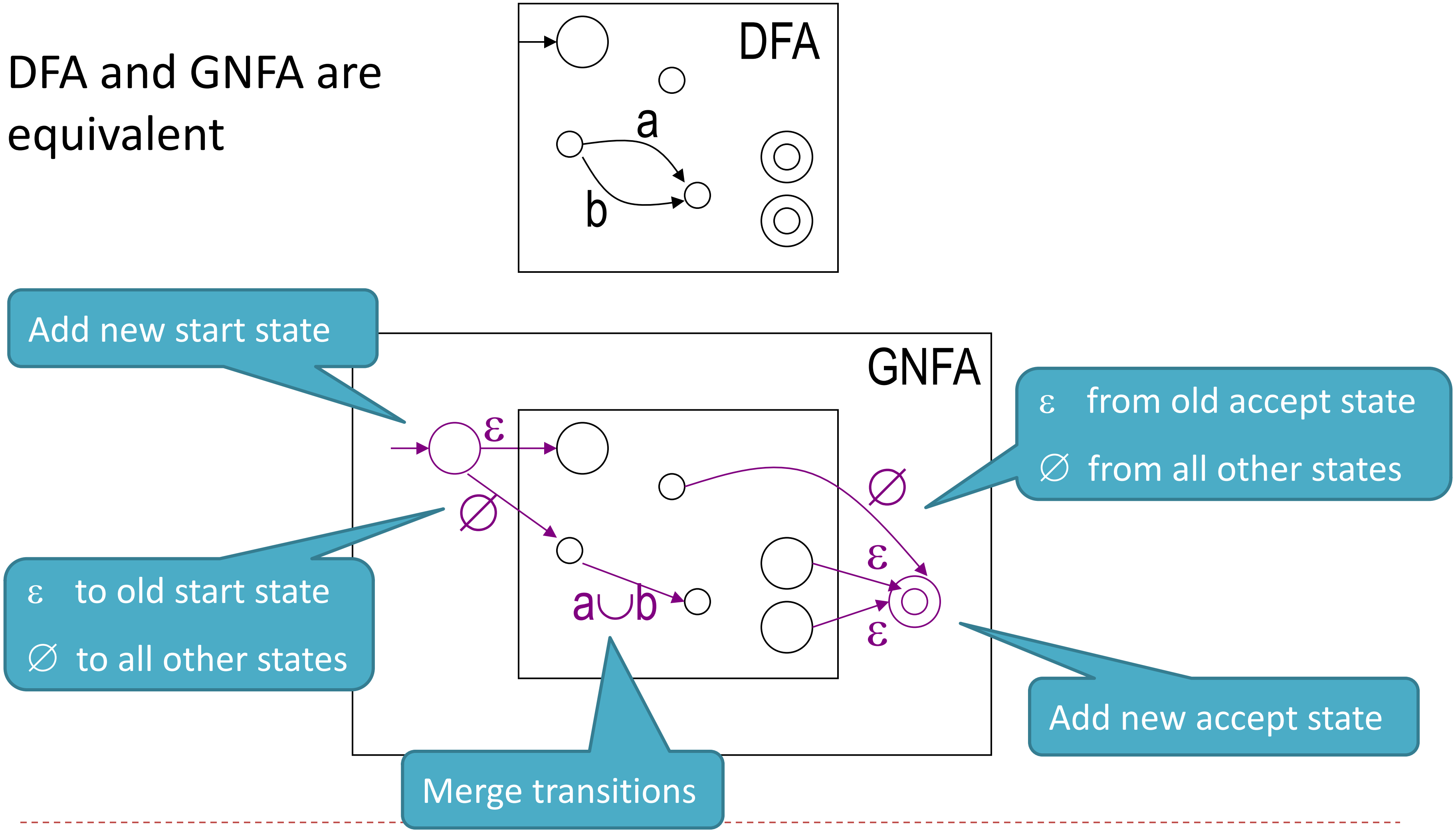
- Computation: for state sequence $q_0,q_1,\ldots,q_k$
  - $\mathrm{q_0=q_{start}}$ is the start state
  - $\forall \mathrm{i}$, $\mathrm{w_i} \in \mathrm{L(R_i)}$, $\mathrm{R_i=\delta(q_{i-1},q_i)}$

$\mathrm{R_i}$	1*0*
$\rotatebox{90}{$\in$}$	
$\mathrm{w_i}$	110

- Accept:
  - $\mathrm{q_k=q_{accept}}$ is accept state

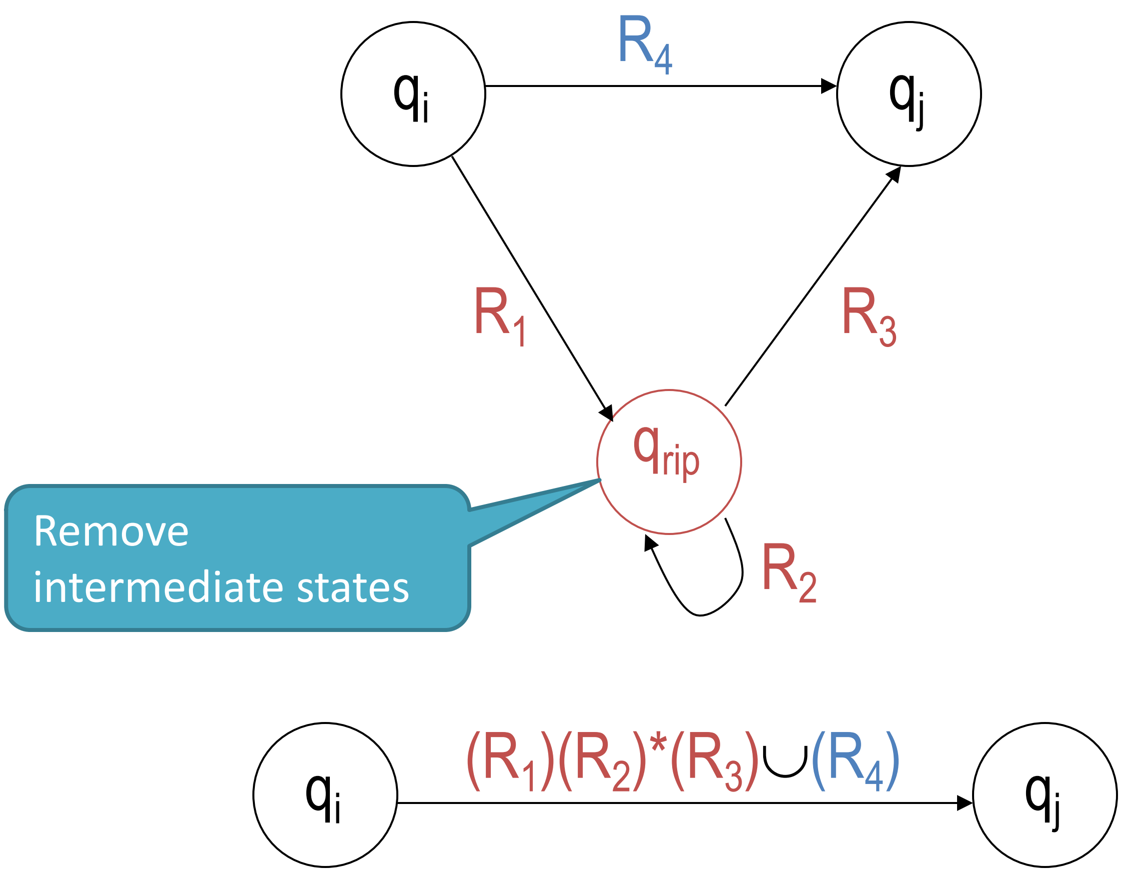
DFA/NFA ⇒ GNFA

DFA and GNFA are equivalent

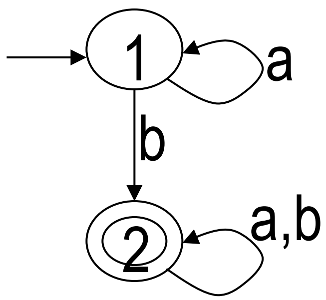


GNFA ⇒ Regular expression

- Change the number of states in GNFA to 1

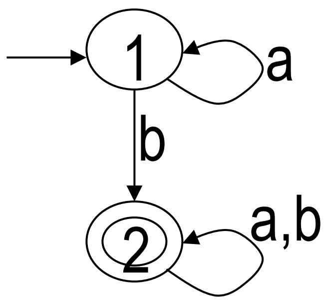


Example: DFA - -> Regular expression

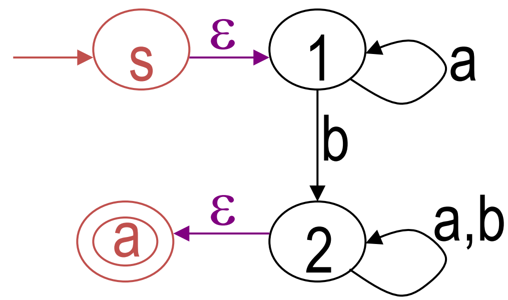


DFA

Example: DFA - -> Regular expression

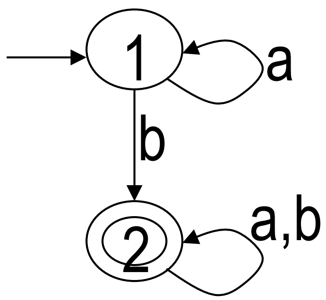


DFA

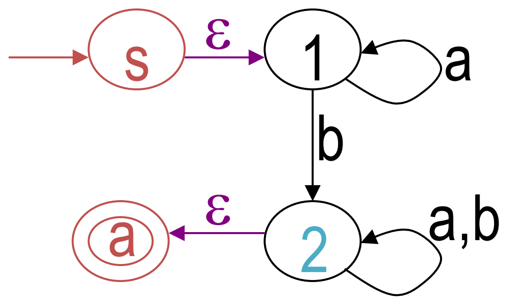


GNFA

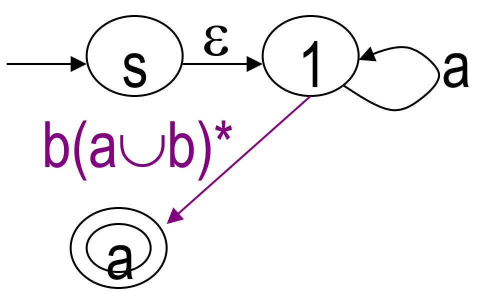
Example: DFA - -> Regular expression



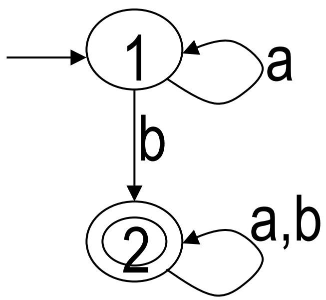
DFA



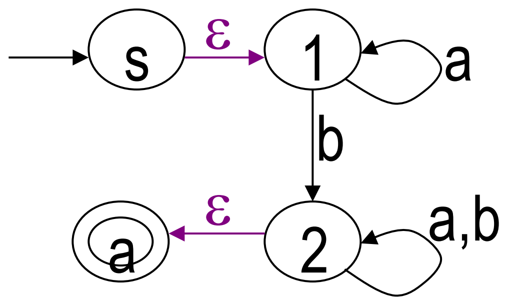
GNFA



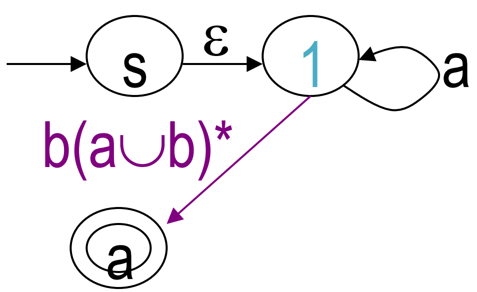
Example: DFA - -> Regular expression

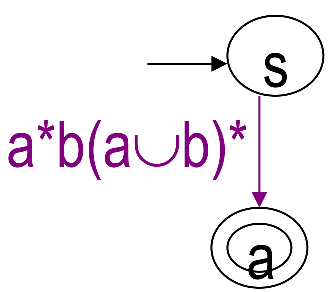


DFA

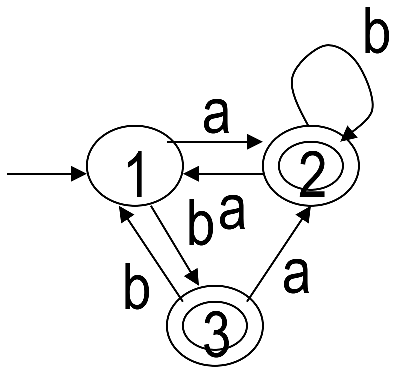


GNFA



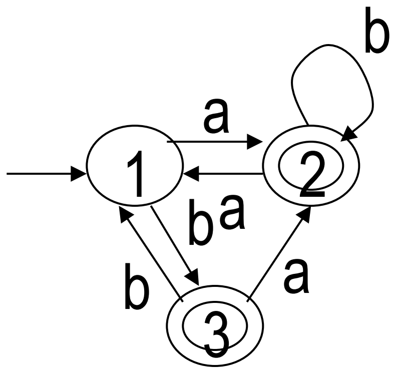


Example: DFA - -> Regular expression

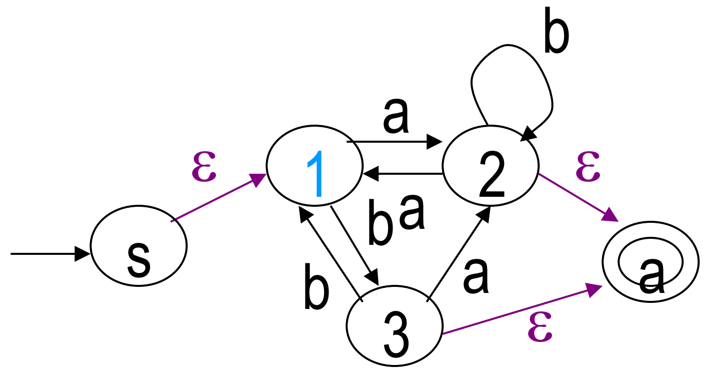


DFA

Example: DFA - -> Regular expression

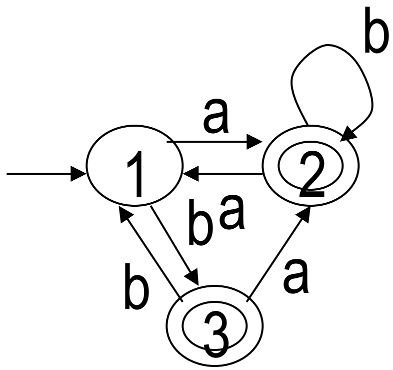


DFA

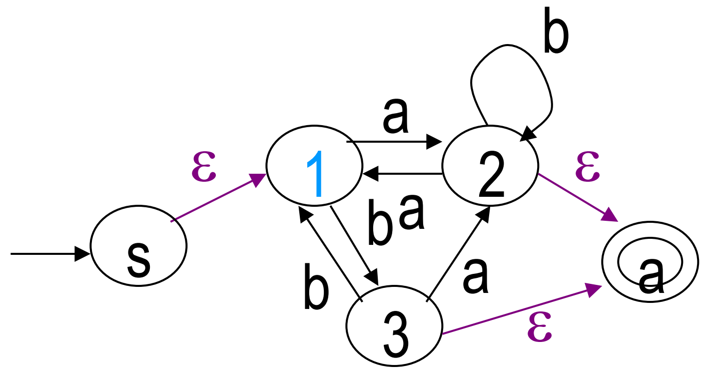


GNFA

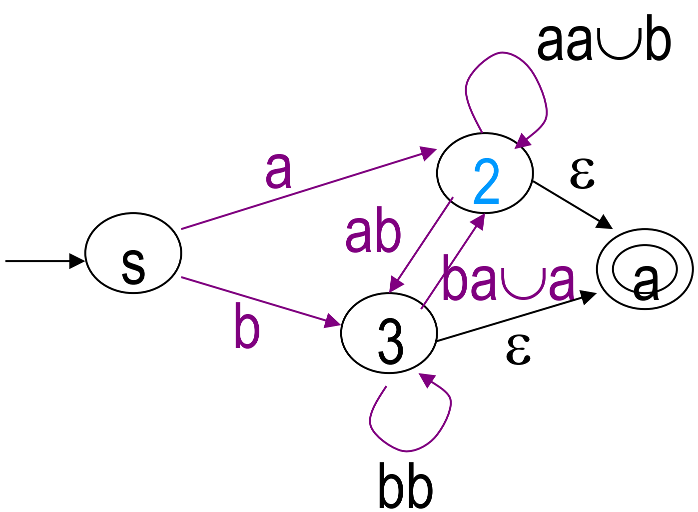
Example: DFA - -> Regular expression



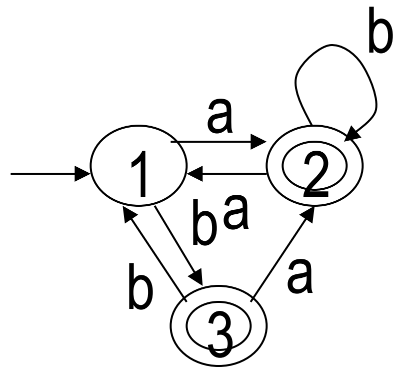
DFA



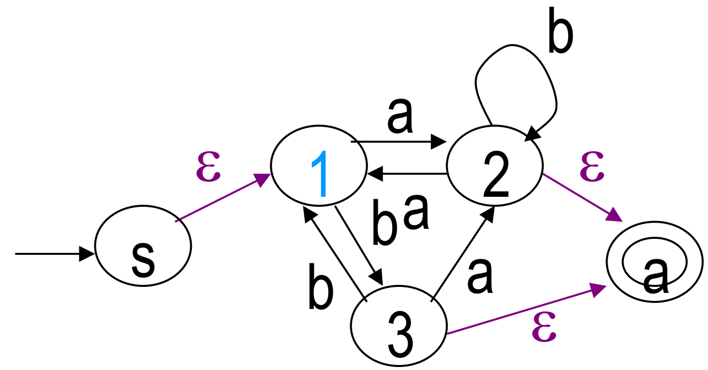
GNFA



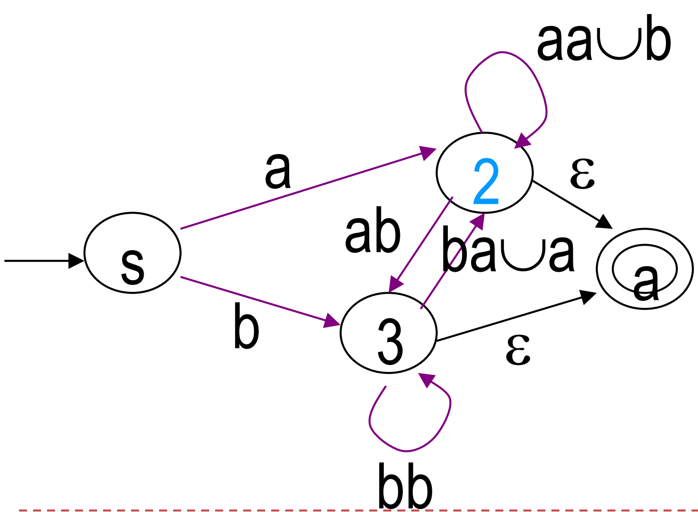
Example: DFA - -> Regular expression

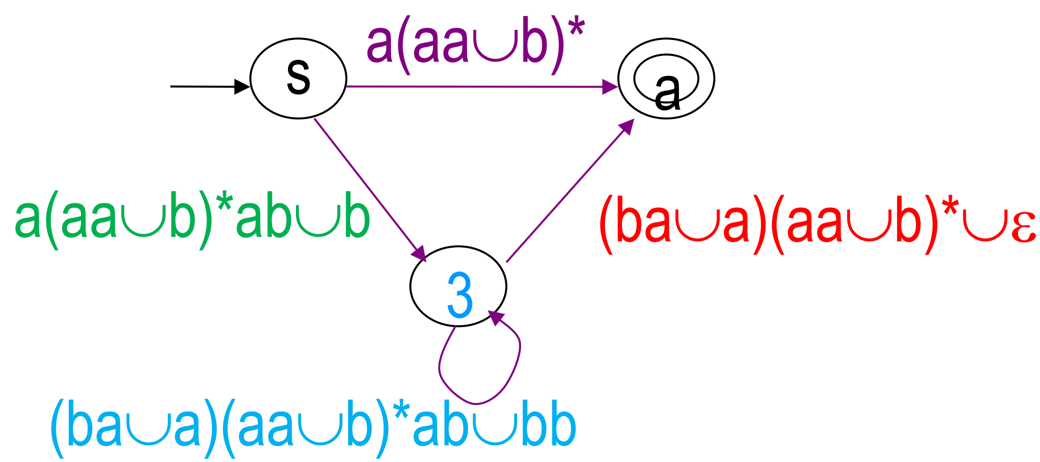


DFA

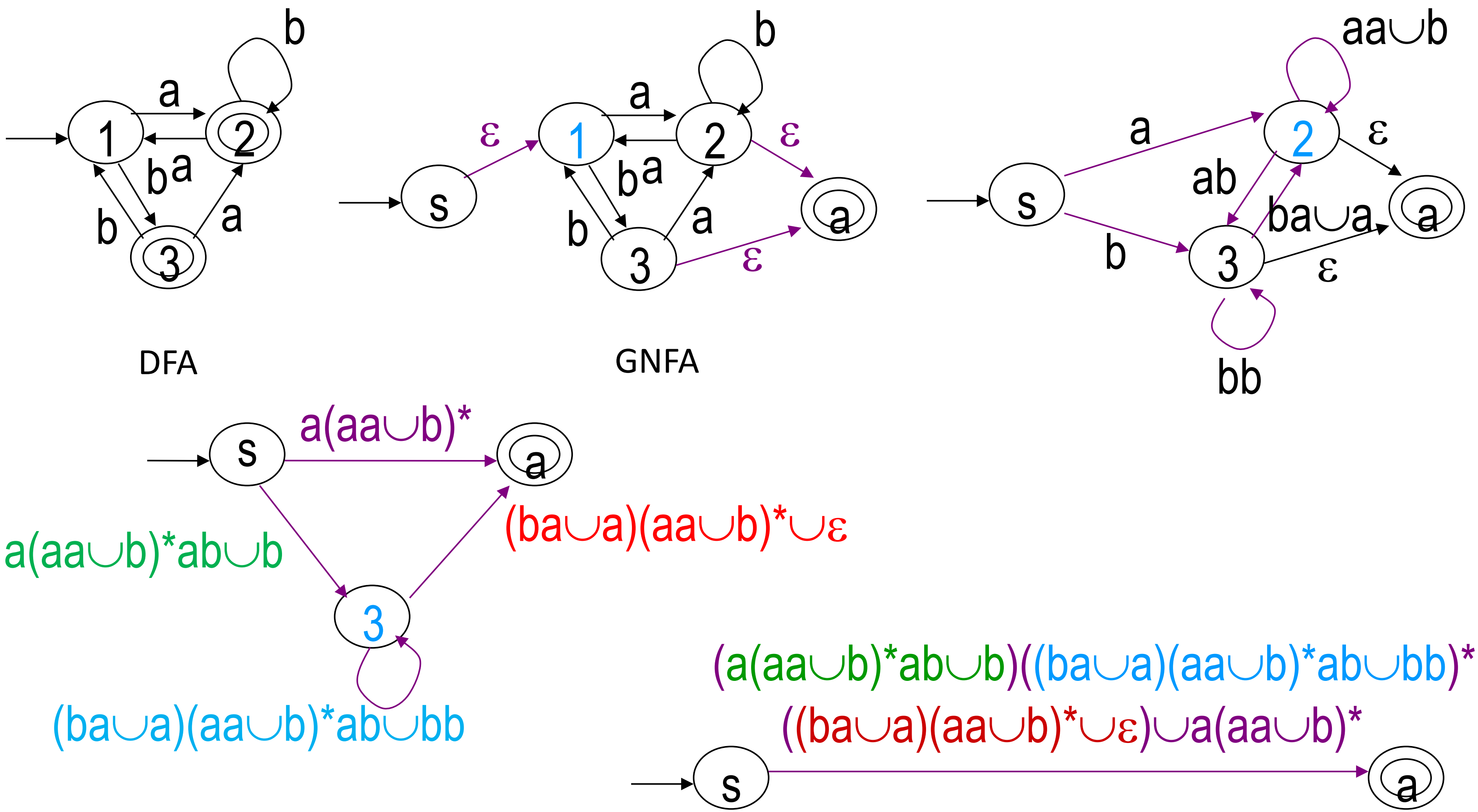


GNFA



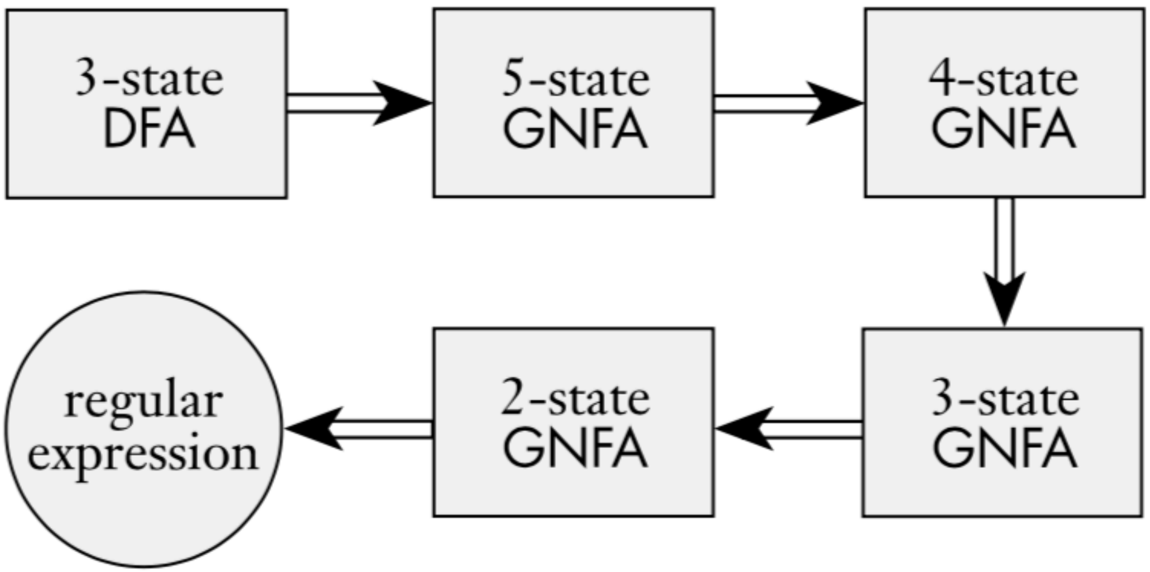


Example: DFA - -> Regular expression



DFA ⇒ GNFA ⇒ Regular expression

Add start/accept state

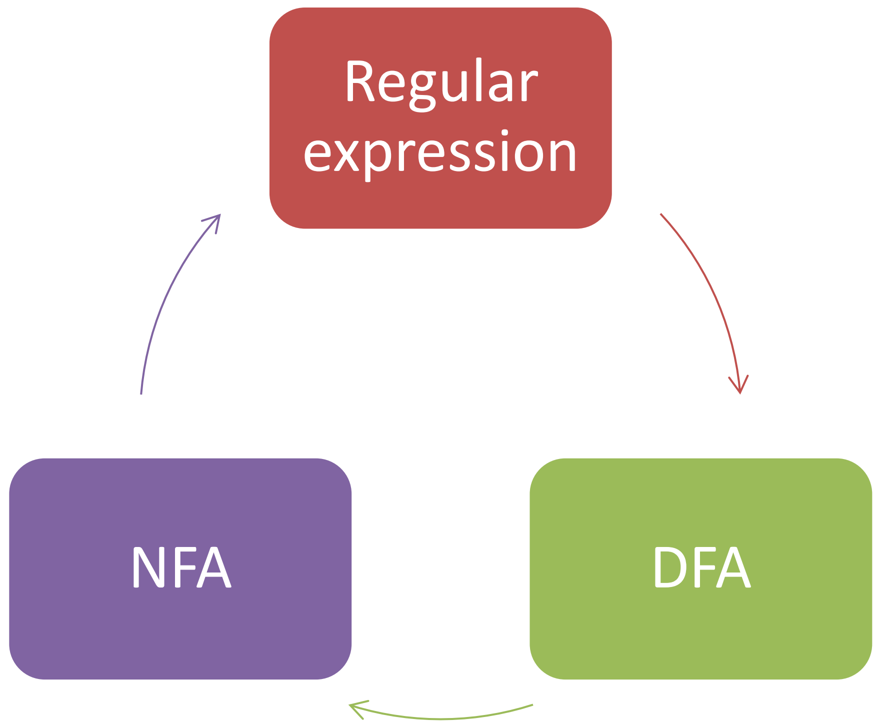


Regular language <==> Regular expression

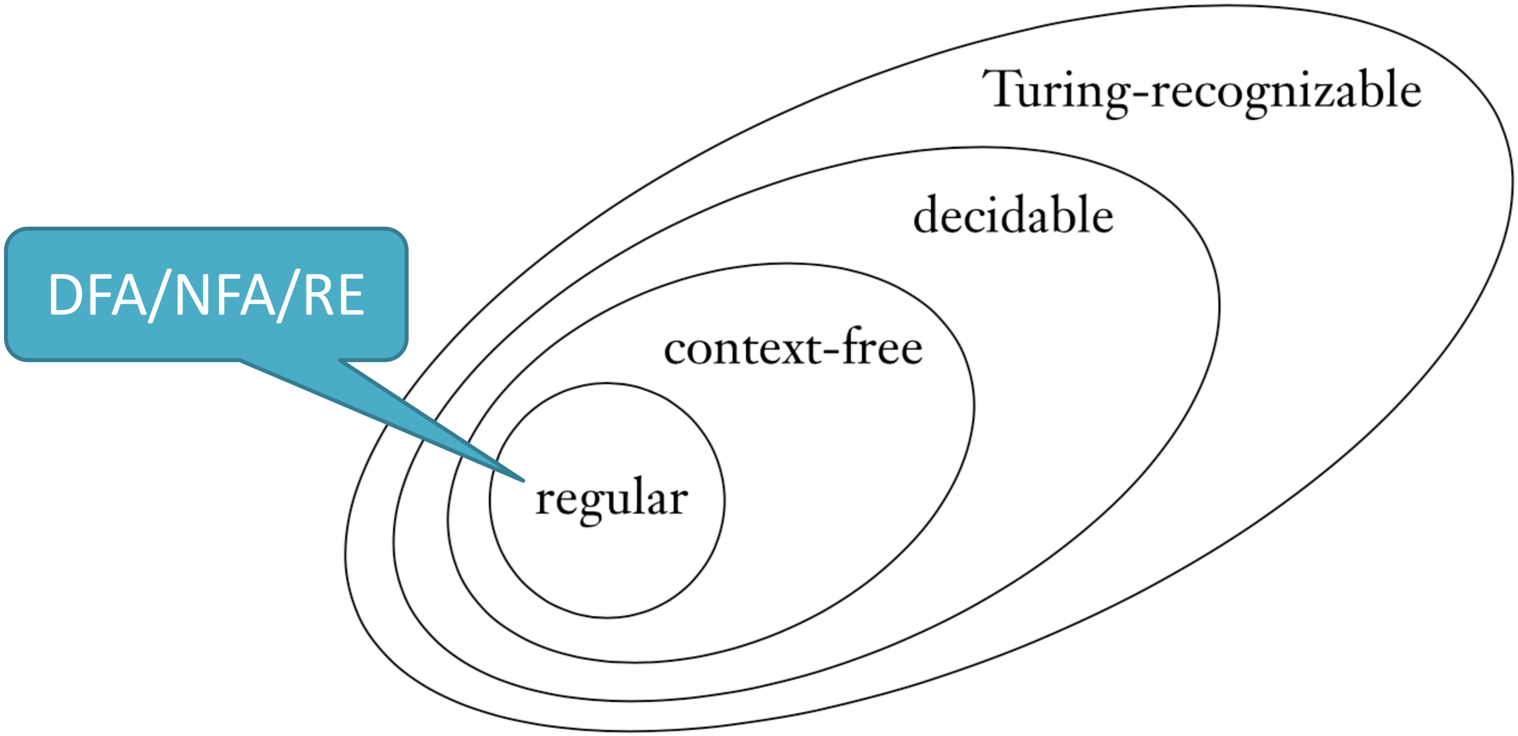
- **Theorem: A language is regular if and only if some regular expression describes it.**
- Regular language ==> Regular expression
- Regular language <== Regular expression

Regular language: DFA, NFA, Regular expression

- A language is regular if some deterministic finite automaton recognizes it
- A language is regular if and only if some nondeterministic finite automaton recognizes it
- A language is regular if and only if some regular expression describes it



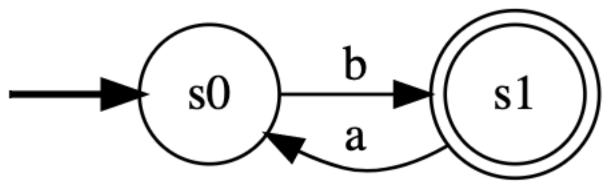
Regular language in big picture



DFA/NFA → RE web tool

- http://ivanzuzak.info/noam/webapps/fsm2regex/

#states
s0
s1
s2
#initial
s0
#accepting
s1
#alphabet
a
b
#transitions
s0:b>s1
s1:a>s0



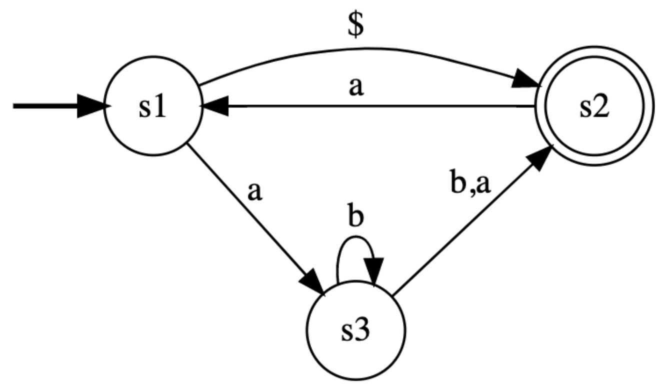
b+($+ba)(ba)*b

the $ character representing the empty string

DFA/NFA → RE web tool

- http://ivanzuzak.info/noam/webapps/fsm2regex/

#states
s1
s2
s3
#initial
s1
#accepting
s2
#alphabet
a
b
#transitions
s1:$>s2
s1:a>s3
s2:a>s1
s3:b>s3
s3:b>s2
s3:a>s2



$+aa*(b(b+aaa*b)*(a+a(a+aa*(a+$+b))+b+$)+a+$+b)+a

the $ character representing the empty string

Conclusion

- Regular expression
  - Definition
  - Example
- Equivalence with DFA/NFA
  - Regular expression ⇒ Regular language
  - Regular expression ⇐ Regular language