

# CSE 211 (Theory of Computation)

## Regular Languages

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Professor

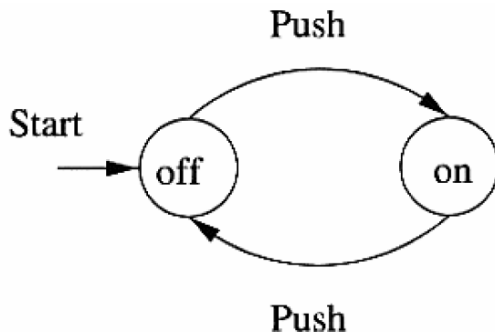
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# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Figure 1.1, p-3*

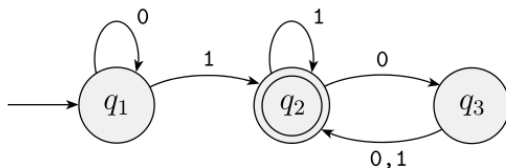


A finite automaton modeling an on/off switch



# Finite Automata

Sipser, Figure 1.4, p-34



**FIGURE 1.4**

A finite automaton called  $M_1$  that has three states



# Finite Automata

*Sipser, 1.1, p-34*

- state diagram
- states
- start state
- accept state
- transitions



# Finite Automata

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 2.2, p-45*

- deterministic finite automaton
- deterministic
- nondeterministic
- DFA



# Formal Definition of a Finite Automaton

Sipser, Definition 1.5, p-35

## DEFINITION 1.5

A *finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set called the *states*,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite set called the *alphabet*,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the *transition function*,<sup>1</sup>
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the *start state*, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the *set of accept states*.<sup>2</sup>

Final state



# Formal Definition of a Finite Automaton

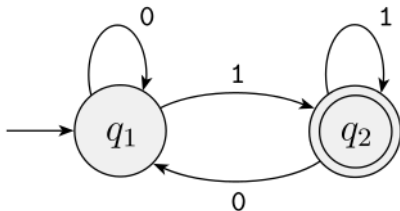
Sipser, 1.1, p-35

- $A$  is the set of all strings that machine  $M$  accepts.
- We say that  $A$  is the language of machine  $M$ .
- Write  $L(M) = A$ .
- We say that  $M$  recognizes  $A$  or that  $M$  accepts  $A$ .



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.7, p-37*



**FIGURE 1.8**

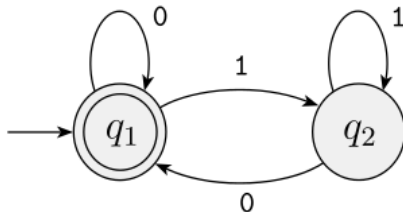
State diagram of the two-state finite automaton  $M_2$





# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.9, p-38*



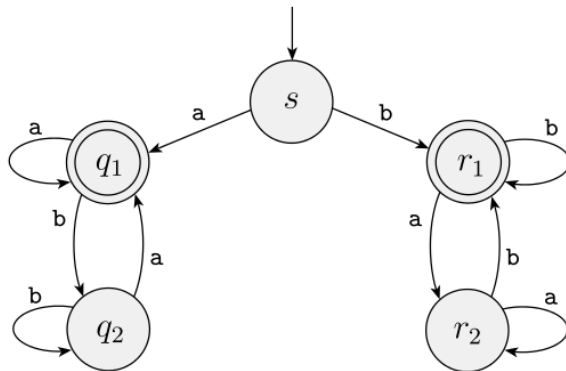
**FIGURE 1.10**

State diagram of the two-state finite automaton  $M_3$



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.11, p-38

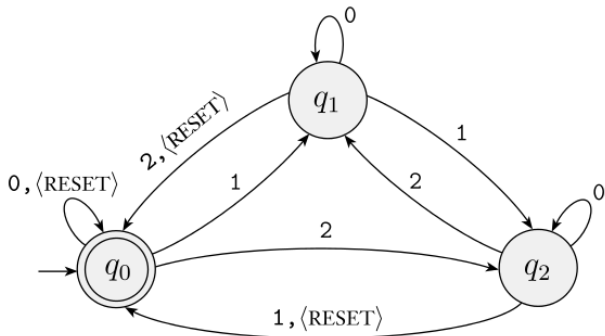


**FIGURE 1.12**  
Finite automaton  $M_4$



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.13, p-39



**FIGURE 1.14**  
Finite automaton  $M_5$



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.15, p-40*

- A generalization of Example 1.13.
- Same four-symbol alphabet  $\Sigma$ .
- For each  $i \geq 1$  let  $A_i$  be the language of all strings where the sum of the numbers is a multiple of  $i$ .
- Except that the sum is reset to 0 whenever the symbol `<RESET>` appears.
- For each  $A_i$  we give a finite automaton  $B_i$ , recognizing  $A_i$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.15, p-40*

- We describe the machine  $B_i$  formally as follows.
- $B_i = (Q_i, \Sigma, \delta_i, q_0, \{q_0\})$ , where  $Q_i$  is the set of  $i$  states  $\{q_0, q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{i-1}\}$ .
- We design the transition function  $\delta_i$  so that for each  $j$ , if  $B_i$  is in  $q_j$ .
- The running sum is  $j$ , modulo  $i$ .



# Example — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.15, p-40

- For each  $q_j$  let,

$$\delta_i(q_j, 0) = q_j,$$

$$\delta_i(q_j, 1) = q_k, \text{ where } k = j + 1 \text{ modulo } i,$$

$$\delta_i(q_j, 2) = q_k, \text{ where } k = j + 2 \text{ modulo } i, \text{ and}$$

$$\delta_i(q_j, \langle \text{RESET} \rangle) = q_0$$



# Formal Definition of Computation

*Sipser, 1.1, p-40*

- Let  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  be a finite automaton.
- Let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n$  be a string where each  $w_i$  is a member of the alphabet  $\Sigma$ .



# Formal Definition of Computation — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-40

- Then  $M$  accepts  $w$  if a sequence of states  $r_0, r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$  in  $Q$  exists with three conditions:

- 1  $r_0 = q_0$ ,
- 2  $\delta(r_i, w_{i+1}) = r_{i+1}$ , for  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$ , and
- 3  $r_n \in F$ .





# Formal Definition of Computation — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-40

- Then  $M$  accepts  $w$  if a sequence of states  $r_0, r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$  in  $Q$  exists with three conditions:
  - 1  $r_0 = q_0$ ,
  - 2  $\delta(r_i, w_{i+1}) = r_{i+1}$ , for  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$ , and
  - 3  $r_n \in F$ .
- Condition 1 says that the machine starts in the start state.
- Condition 2 says that the machine goes from state to state according to the transition function.
- Condition 3 says that the machine accepts its input if it ends up in an accept state.
- We say that  $M$  recognizes language  $A$  if  $A = \{w \mid M \text{ accepts } w\}$ .



# Formal Definition of Computation

Sipser, Definition 1.16, p-40

## DEFINITION 1.16

A language is called a *regular language* if some finite automaton recognizes it.



# Designing Finite Automata

*Sipser, 1.1, p-41*

- You have to figure out what you need to remember about the string as you are reading it.



# Designing Finite Automata

*Sipser, 1.1, p-41*

- Suppose that the alphabet is  $\{0, 1\}$  and that the language consists of all strings with an odd number of 1s.
- You want to construct a finite automaton  $E_1$  to recognize this language.



# Designing Finite Automata

*Sipser, Figure 1.18, p-42*



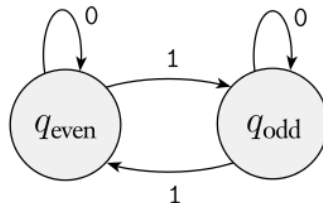
**FIGURE 1.18**

The two states  $q_{\text{even}}$  and  $q_{\text{odd}}$



# Designing Finite Automata

Sipser, Figure 1.19, p-42



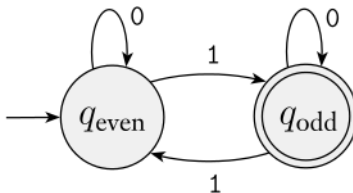
**FIGURE 1.19**

Transitions telling how the possibilities rearrange



# Designing Finite Automata

Sipser, Figure 1.20, p-43



**FIGURE 1.20**

Adding the start and accept states



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.21, p-43*

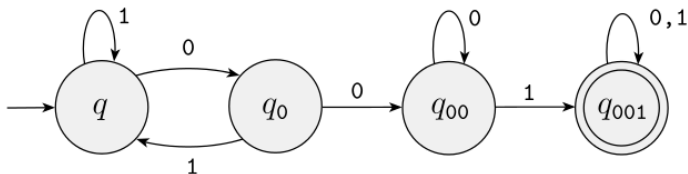
- Design a finite automaton  $E_2$  to recognize the regular language of all strings that contain the string 001 as a substring.
- For example, 0010, 1001, 001, and 11111110011111 are all in the language, but 11 and 0000 are not.





# Example — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.21, p-44



**FIGURE 1.22**

Accepts strings containing 001



# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.1, p-46*

- Let us formally specify a DFA that accepts all and only the strings of 0's and 1's that have the sequence 01 somewhere in the string.



# Example — *continued*

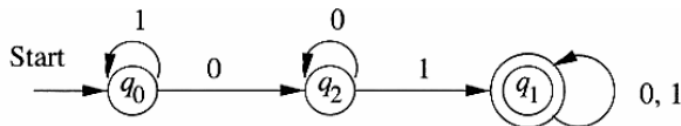
Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.1, p-46

- We can write this language  $L$  as:  
 $\{w \mid w \text{ is of the form } x01y \text{ for some strings } x \text{ and } y \text{ consisting of 0's and 1's only.}\}$
- Another equivalent description, using parameters  $x$  and  $y$  to the left of the vertical bar, is:  
 $\{x01y \mid x \text{ and } y \text{ are any strings of 0's and 1's}\}$



## Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.1, p-46



The transition diagram for the DFA accepting all strings with a substring 01



# Transition Tables

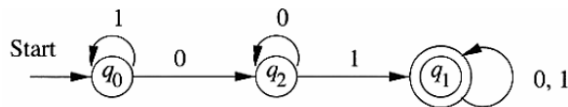
*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 2.2.3, p-48*

- A transition table is a conventional, tabular representation of a function like  $\delta$  that takes two arguments and returns a value.
- The rows of the table correspond to the states.
- The columns correspond to the inputs.
- The entry for the row corresponding to state  $q$  and the column corresponding to input  $a$  is the state  $\delta(q, a)$ .



# Example

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.2.3, p-48



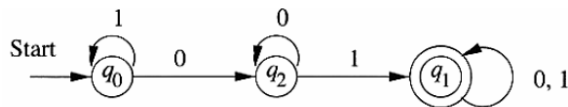
The transition diagram for the DFA accepting all strings with a substring 01

- The start state is marked with an arrow.
- The accepting states are marked with a star.



# Example

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.2.3, p-48



The transition diagram for the DFA accepting all strings with a substring 01

- We can deduce the sets of states and input symbols by looking at the row and column heads.
- We can now read from the transition table all the information we need to specify the finite automaton uniquely.



# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.4, p-51*

- Design a DFA to accept the language  $L = \{w \mid w \text{ has both an even number of 0's and an even number of 1's}\}$





## Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.4, p-51

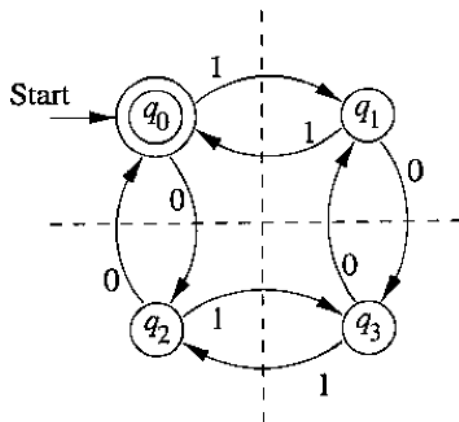
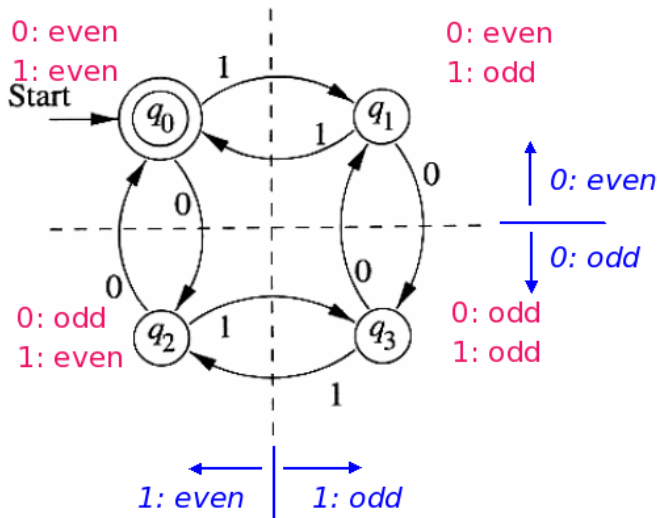


Figure 2.6: Transition diagram for the DFA of Example 2.4



# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.4, p-51



# Example

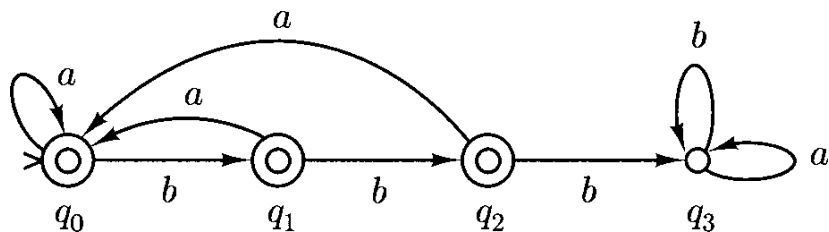
*Lewis and Papadimitriou, Example 2.1.2, p-59*

- Design a deterministic finite automaton  $M$  that accepts the language  
 $L(M) = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* :$   
 $w$  does not contain three consecutive  $b$ 's}.



# Example — *continued*

Lewis and Papadimitriou, Example 2.1.2, p-59



# Example

<http://math.stackexchange.com/questions/140283/why-does-this-fsm-accept-binary-numbers-divisible-by-three>

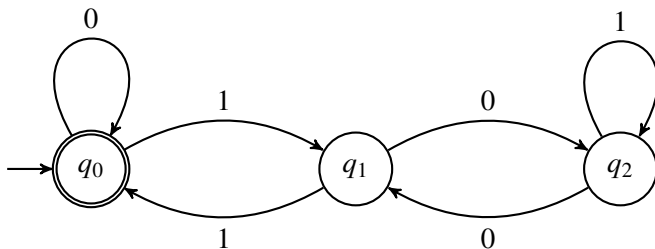
- Design a DFA that accepts binary numbers that are divisible by three.



## Example — *continued*

<http://math.stackexchange.com/questions/140283/>

why-does-this-fsm-accept-binary-numbers-divisible-by-three



# Example

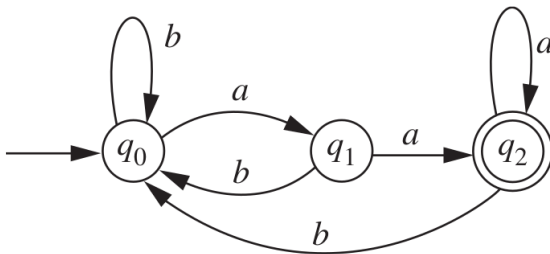
*John Martin, Example 2.1, p-47*

- A finite automaton accepting the language of strings ending with  $aa$ .



# Example — *continued*

John Martin, Example 2.1, p-47



**Figure 2.2 |**

An FA accepting the strings ending with  $aa$ .





# Example

*Peter Linz, Example 2.2*

- A finite automaton accepting the language:

$$L = \{a^n b \mid n \geq 0\}.$$



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 2.2



FIGURE 2.2



# The Regular Operations

Sipser, 1.1, p-44

## DEFINITION 1.23

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be languages. We define the regular operations *union*, *concatenation*, and *star* as follows:

- **Union:**  $A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$ .
- **Concatenation:**  $A \circ B = \{xy \mid x \in A \text{ and } y \in B\}$ .
- **Star:**  $A^* = \{x_1x_2 \dots x_k \mid k \geq 0 \text{ and each } x_i \in A\}$ .



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.24, p-45*

- Alphabet  $\Sigma$  be the standard 26 letters  $\{a, b, \dots, z\}$ .
- $A = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}\}$  and  $B = \{\text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$ .



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.24, p-45*

- Alphabet  $\Sigma$  be the standard 26 letters  $\{a, b, \dots, z\}$ .
- $A = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}\}$  and  $B = \{\text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$ .
- $A \cup B = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}, \text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.24, p-45*

- Alphabet  $\Sigma$  be the standard 26 letters  $\{a, b, \dots, z\}$ .
- $A = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}\}$  and  $B = \{\text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$ .
- $A \cup B = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}, \text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$
- $A \circ B = \{\text{goodboy}, \text{goodgirl}, \text{badboy}, \text{badgirl}\}$



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.24, p-45*

- Alphabet  $\Sigma$  be the standard 26 letters  $\{a, b, \dots, z\}$ .
- $A = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}\}$  and  $B = \{\text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$ .
- $A \cup B = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}, \text{boy}, \text{girl}\}$
- $A \circ B = \{\text{goodboy}, \text{goodgirl}, \text{badboy}, \text{badgirl}\}$

■

$$A^* = \{\epsilon, \text{good}, \text{bad}, \text{goodgood}, \text{goodbad}, \text{badgood}, \text{badbad}, \\ \text{goodgoodgood}, \text{goodgoodbad}, \text{goodbadgood}, \\ \text{goodbadbad}, \dots\}$$



# The Regular Operations

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- $\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  be the set of natural numbers.
- We say that  $\mathcal{N}$  is closed under multiplication.
- We mean that for any  $x$  and  $y$  in  $\mathcal{N}$ , the product  $x \times y$  also is in  $\mathcal{N}$ .
- In contrast,  $\mathcal{N}$  is *not* closed under division.
- 1 and 2 are in  $\mathcal{N}$  but  $1/2$  is not.





# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- Generally speaking, a collection of objects is closed under some operation if applying that operation to members of the collection returns an object still in the collection.
- We show that the collection of regular languages is closed under all three of the regular operations.



# The Regular Operations

*Sipser, 1.1, p-45*

## **THEOREM 1.25** .....

The class of regular languages is closed under the union operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages, so is  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .



# Example

Formulated

- $\Sigma = \{a\}$
- $L_1 = \{\text{contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$   
 $L_2 = \{aa\}$
- Design automata  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  for  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  and then construct  $M$  which recognizes  $L_1 \cup L_2$



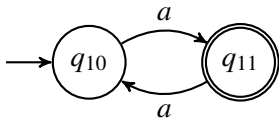
■  $L_1 = \{\text{contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$

$L_2 = \{aa\}$

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$L_2 = \{aa\}$

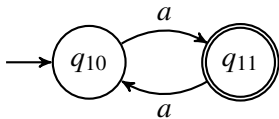
$M_1$



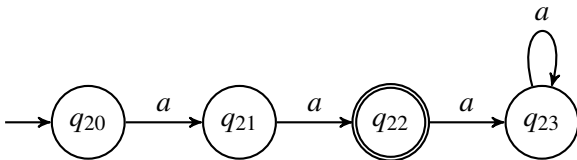
■  $L_1 = \{\text{contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$

$L_2 = \{aa\}$

$M_1$



$M_2$



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

## PROOF IDEA

- We have regular languages  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  and want to show that  $A_1 \cup A_2$  also is regular.
- Because  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular, we know that some finite automaton  $M_1$  recognizes  $A_1$  and some finite automaton  $M_2$  recognizes  $A_2$ .
- To prove that  $A_1 \cup A_2$  is regular, we demonstrate a finite automaton, call it  $M$ , that recognizes  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- This is a proof by construction.
- We construct  $M$  from  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .
- Machine  $M$  must accept its input exactly when either  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  would accept it in order to recognize the union language.





# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- It works by simulating both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and accepting if either of the simulations accept.
- How can we make machine  $M$  simulate  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ?
- Perhaps it first simulates  $M_1$  on the input and then simulates  $M_2$  on the input.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- But we must be careful here!
- Once the symbols of the input have been read and used to simulate  $M_1$ , we can't "rewind the input tape" to try the simulation on  $M_2$ .
- We need another approach.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- Pretend that you are  $M$ .
- As the input symbols arrive one by one, you simulate both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  simultaneously.
- That way, only one pass through the input is necessary.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- But can you keep track of both simulations with finite memory?
- All you need to remember is the state that each machine would be in if it had read up to this point in the input.
- Therefore, you need to remember a pair of states.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- How many possible pairs are there?
- If  $M_1$  has  $k_1$  states and  $M_2$  has  $k_2$  states, the number of pairs of states, one from  $M_1$  and the other from  $M_2$ , is the product  $k_1 \times k_2$ .
- This product will be the number of states in  $M$ , one for each pair.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

- The transitions of  $M$  go from pair to pair, updating the current state for both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .
- The accept states of  $M$  are those pairs wherein either  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  is in an accept state.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

## PROOF

- $M_1$  recognize  $A_1$ , where  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$ .
- $M_2$  recognize  $A_2$ , where  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$ .
- Construct  $M$  to recognize  $A_1 \cup A_2$ , where  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

1.  $Q = \{(r_1, r_2) \mid r_1 \in Q_1 \text{ and } r_2 \in Q_2\}$ .
  - This set is the Cartesian product of sets  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  and is written  $Q_1 \times Q_2$ .
  - It is the set of all pairs of states, the first from  $Q_1$  and the second from  $Q_2$ .





# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

2.  $\Sigma$ , the alphabet, is the same as in  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ .
  - In this theorem and in all subsequent similar theorems, we assume for simplicity that both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have the same input alphabet  $\Sigma$ .
  - The theorem remains true if they have different alphabets,  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$ .
  - We would then modify the proof to let  $\Sigma = \Sigma_1 \cup \Sigma_2$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

3.  $\delta$ , the transition function, is defined as follows.

- For each  $(r_1, r_2) \in Q$  and each  $a \in \Sigma$ , let

$$\delta((r_1, r_2), a) = (\delta_1(r_1, a), \delta_2(r_2, a)).$$

- Hence  $\delta$  gets a state of  $M$  (which actually is a pair of states from  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ), together with an input symbol, and returns  $M$ 's next state.



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

4.  $q_0$  is the pair  $(q_1, q_2)$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

5.  $F$  is the set of pairs in which either member is an accept state of  $M_1$  or  $M_2$ .
- We can write it as  $F = \{(r_1, r_2) \mid r_1 \in F_1 \text{ or } r_2 \in F_2\}$ .
  - This expression is the same as  $F = (F_1 \times Q_2) \cup (Q_1 \times F_2)$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-45

5.  $F$  is the set of pairs in which either member is an accept state of  $M_1$  or  $M_2$ .
- We can write it as  $F = \{(r_1, r_2) \mid r_1 \in F_1 \text{ or } r_2 \in F_2\}$ .
  - This expression is the same as  $F = (F_1 \times Q_2) \cup (Q_1 \times F_2)$ .
  - Note that it is not the same as  $F = F_1 \times F_2$ .



# The Regular Operations

*Sipser, 1.1, p-47*

## THEOREM 1.26

The class of regular languages is closed under the concatenation operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages then so is  $A_1 \circ A_2$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-47

- To prove this theorem, let's try something along the lines of the proof of the union case.
- As before, we can start with finite automata  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  recognizing the regular languages  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .



# The Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.1, p-47

- But now, instead of constructing automaton  $M$  to accept its input if either  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  accept, it must accept if its input can be broken into two pieces, where  $M_1$  accepts the first piece and  $M_2$  accepts the second piece.
- The problem is that  $M$  doesn't know where to break its input (i.e., where the first part ends and the second begins).





# Nondeterministic Finite Automata

Lewis and Papadimitriou, 2.2, p-63

- Nondeterminism is an *inessential feature* of finite automata.
- Every nondeterministic finite automaton is equivalent to a deterministic finite automaton.
- Thus we shall profit from the powerful notation of nondeterministic finite automata.
- But we always know that, if we must, we can always go back and redo everything in terms of the lower-level language of ordinary, down-to-earth deterministic automata.



■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

- $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$
- As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.
- $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

- $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$
- As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.
- $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$
- $ab$

- $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$
- As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.
- $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$
- $ab$  *belongs*

- $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$
- As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.
- $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$
- $ab$  *belongs*
- $aba$

- $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$
- As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.
- $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$
- $ab$  *belongs*
- $aba$  *belongs*

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$



■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

■  $abab$

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

■  $abab$  *belongs*

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

■  $abab$  *belongs*

■  $\epsilon$

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

■  $abab$  *belongs*

■  $\epsilon$  *belongs*

■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

■  $abab$  *belongs*

■  $\epsilon$  *belongs*

■  $abababba$



■  $L = (ab \cup aba)^*$

■ As many as  $(ab \cup aba)$ 's you like.

■  $(ab \cup aba)^* =$   
 $(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba)(ab \cup aba) \dots (ab \cup aba)$

■  $ab$  *belongs*

■  $aba$  *belongs*

■  $ababa$  *belongs*

■  $abaab$  *belongs*

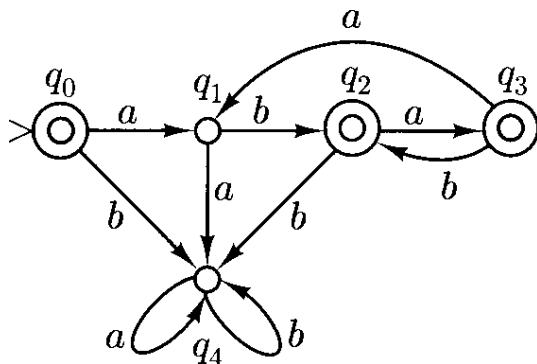
■  $abab$  *belongs*

■  $\epsilon$  *belongs*

■  $abababba$  *does not belong*

# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

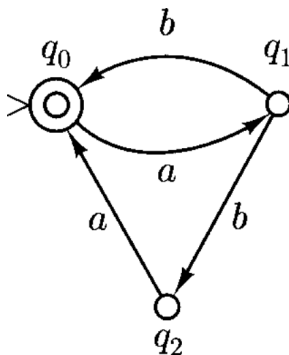
Lewis and Papadimitriou, Figure 2.4, p-64



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

Lewis and Papadimitriou, Figure 2.5, p-65

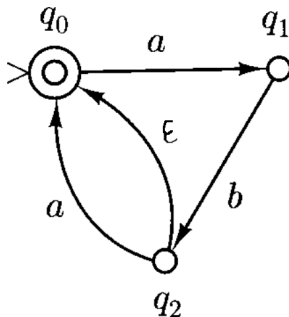
$$L = (ab \cup aba)^*$$



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

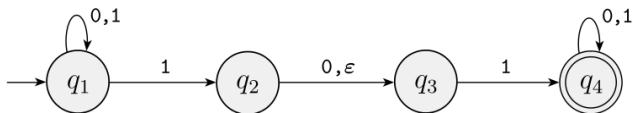
Lewis and Papadimitriou, Figure 2.6, p-65

$$L = (ab \cup aba)^*$$



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, Figure 1.27, p-48



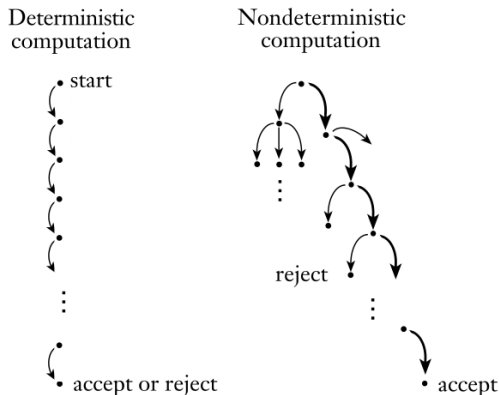
**FIGURE 1.27**

The nondeterministic finite automaton  $N_1$



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, Figure 1.28, p-49



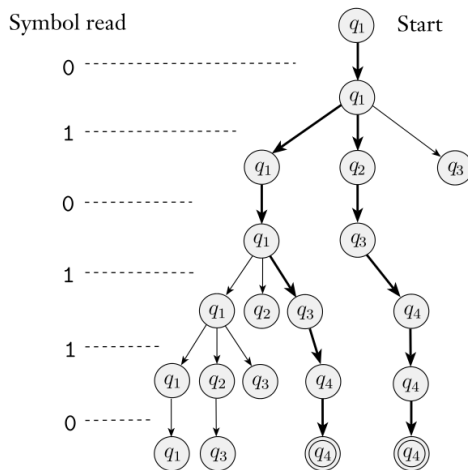
**FIGURE 1.28**

Deterministic and nondeterministic computations with an accepting branch



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, Figure 1.29, p-49



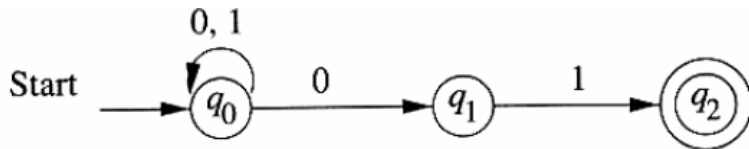
**FIGURE 1.29**

The computation of  $N_1$  on input 010110

# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.6, p-56*

- Job of this automaton is to accept all and only the strings of 0's and 1's that end in 01.



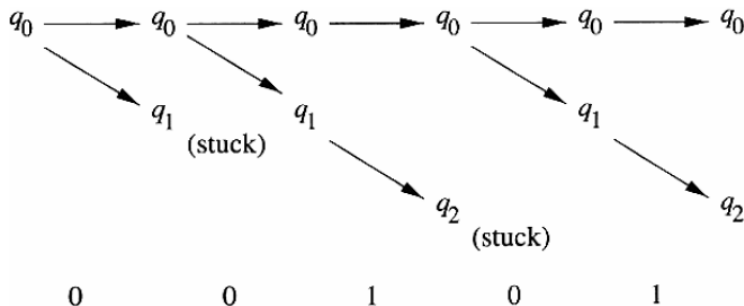
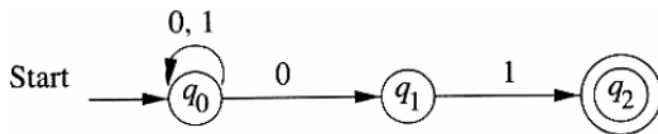
An NFA accepting all strings that end in 01





# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.6, p-56



# Example

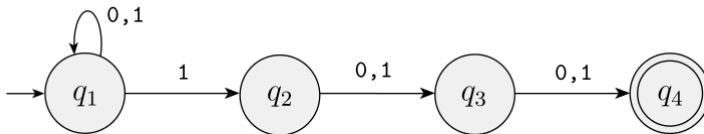
*Sipser, Example 1.30, p-51*

- Let  $A$  be the language consisting of all strings over  $\{0, 1\}$  containing a 1 in the third position from the end.
- 000100 is in  $A$  but 0011 is not.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.30, p-51*

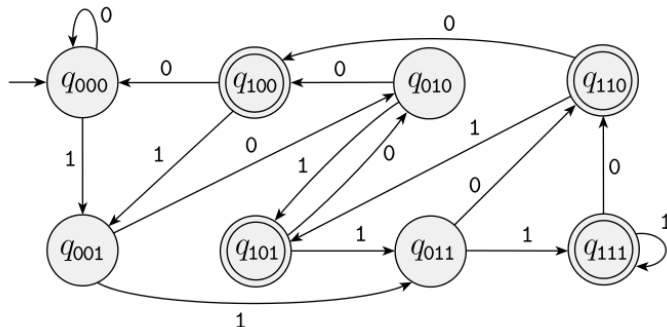


**FIGURE 1.31**

The NFA  $N_2$  recognizing  $A$



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*



**FIGURE 1.32**  
A DFA recognizing  $A$



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

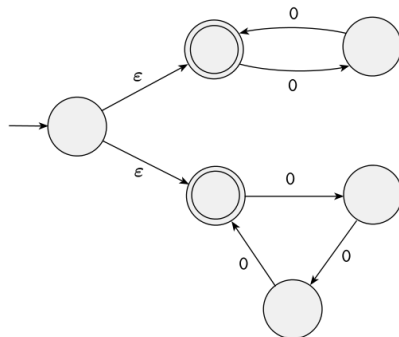
*Sipser, Example 1.33, p-52*

- Accepts all strings of the form  $0^k$  where  $k$  is a multiple of 2 or 3.
- $N_3$  accepts the strings  $\epsilon$ , 00, 000, 0000, and 000000, but not 0 or 00000.



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.33, p-52



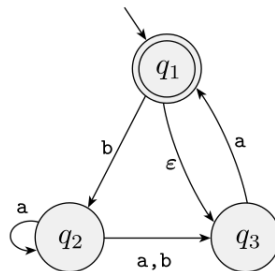
**FIGURE 1.34**

The NFA  $N_3$

- Has an input alphabet  $\{0\}$  consisting of a single symbol.
- An alphabet containing only one symbol is called a unary alphabet.

# Nondeterministic Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.35, p-52



**FIGURE 1.36**  
The NFA  $N_4$

- It accepts the strings  $\epsilon$ ,  $a$ ,  $baba$ , and  $baa$ .
- But that it doesn't accept the strings  $b$ ,  $bb$ , and  $babba$ .



# Formal Definition of a Nondeterministic Finite Automaton

Sipser, 1.2, p-53

## DEFINITION 1.37

A *nondeterministic finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

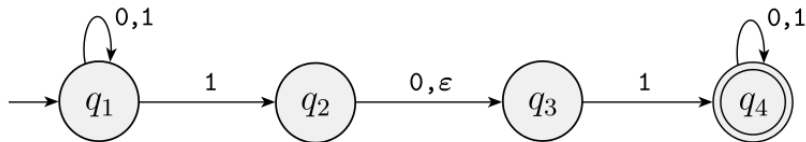
1.  $Q$  is a finite set of states,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$  is the transition function,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of accept states.





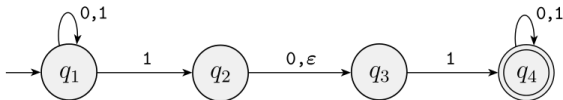
# Formal Definition of... — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.38, p-54



# Formal Definition of... — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.38, p-54



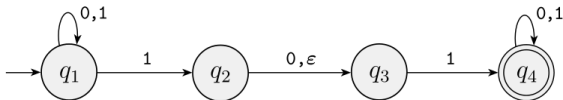
The formal description of  $N_1$  is  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where,

1.  $Q = \{q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$



# Formal Definition of... — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.38, p-54



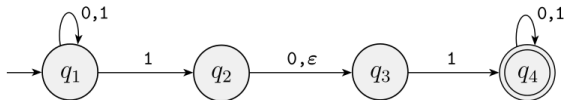
The formal description of  $N_1$  is  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where,

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



# Formal Definition of... — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.38, p-54



The formal description of  $N_1$  is  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where,

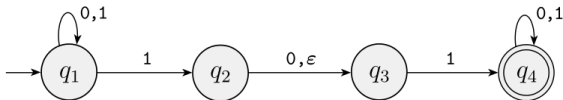
3.  $\delta$  is given as

	0	1	$\epsilon$
$q_1$	$\{q_1\}$	$\{q_1, q_2\}$	$\emptyset$
$q_2$	$\{q_3\}$	$\emptyset$	$\{q_3\}$
$q_3$	$\emptyset$	$\{q_4\}$	$\emptyset$
$q_4$	$\{q_4\}$	$\{q_4\}$	$\emptyset,$



# Formal Definition of... — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.38, p-54



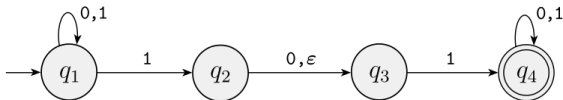
The formal description of  $N_1$  is  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where,

4.  $q_1$  is the start state.



# Formal Definition of... — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.38, p-54



The formal description of  $N_1$  is  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where,

5.  $F = \{q_4\}$ .



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs

*Sipser, 1.2, p-54*

- Deterministic and nondeterministic finite automata recognize the same class of languages.
- Such equivalence is both surprising and useful.
- It is surprising because NFAs appear to have more power than DFAs, so we might expect that NFAs recognize more languages.
- It is useful because describing an NFA for a given language sometimes is much easier than describing a DFA for that language.
- Say that two machines are equivalent if they recognize the same language.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs

*Sipser, 1.2, p-55*

## **THEOREM 1.39** .....

Every nondeterministic finite automaton has an equivalent deterministic finite automaton.





# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

*Sipser, 1.2, p-55*

## PROOF IDEA

- If a language is recognized by an NFA, then we must show the existence of a DFA that also recognizes it.
- The idea is to convert the NFA into an equivalent DFA that simulates the NFA.
- Recall the “reader as automaton” strategy for designing finite automata.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- How would you simulate the NFA if you were pretending to be a DFA?
- What do you need to keep track of as the input string is processed?
- In the examples of NFA's, you kept track of the various branches of the computation by placing a finger on each state that could be active at given points in the input.
- You updated the simulation by moving, adding, and removing fingers according to the way the NFA operates.
- All you needed to keep track of was the set of states having fingers on them.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- If  $k$  is the number of states of the NFA, it has  $2^k$  subsets of states.
- Each subset corresponds to one of the possibilities that the DFA must remember, so the DFA simulating the NFA will have  $2^k$  states.
- Now we need to figure out which will be the start state and accept states of the DFA.
- What will be its transition function.
- We can discuss this more easily after setting up some formal notation.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

## PROOF

- Let  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  be the NFA recognizing some language  $A$ .
- We construct a DFA  $M = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$  recognizing  $A$ .



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- Before doing the full construction, let's first consider the easier case wherein  $N$  has no  $\epsilon$  arrows.
- Later we take the  $\epsilon$  arrows into account.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

1.  $Q' = P(Q)$ .

- Every state of  $M$  is a set of states of  $N$ .
- Recall that  $P(Q)$  is the set of subsets of  $Q$ .



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

2. For  $R \in Q'$  and  $a \in \Sigma$ , let
- $$\delta'(R, a) = \{q \in Q \mid q \in \delta(r, a) \text{ for some } r \in R\}.$$
- If  $R$  is a state of  $M$ , it is also a set of states of  $N$ .
  - When  $M$  reads a symbol  $a$  in state  $R$ , it shows where  $a$  takes each state in  $R$ .
  - Because each state may go to a set of states, we take the union of all these sets.
  - Another way to write this expression is,

$$\delta'(R, a) = \bigcup_{r \in R} \delta(r, a).$$



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

3.  $q_0' = \{q_0\}$ .

- $M$  starts in the state corresponding to the collection containing just the start state of  $N$ .





# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

4.  $F' = \{R \in Q' \mid R \text{ contains an accept state of } N\}$ .
- The machine  $M$  accepts if one of the possible states that  $N$  could be in at this point is an accept state.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- Now we need to consider the  $\epsilon$  arrows.
- To do so, we set up an extra bit of notation.
- For any state  $R$  of  $M$ , we define  $E(R)$  to be the collection of states that can be reached from members of  $R$  by going only along  $\epsilon$  arrows, including the members of  $R$  themselves.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- Formally, for  $R \subseteq Q$  let

$$E(R) = \{q \mid q \text{ can be reached from } R \text{ by traveling along 0 or more } \epsilon \text{ arrows}\}.$$

- Then we modify the transition function of  $M$  to place additional fingers on all states that can be reached by going along  $\epsilon$  arrows after every step.
- Replacing  $\delta(r, a)$  by  $E(\delta(r, a))$  achieves this effect.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- Thus  $\delta'(R, a) = \{q \in Q \mid q \in E(\delta(r, a)) \text{ for some } r \in R\}$ .
- Additionally, we need to modify the start state of  $M$  to move the fingers initially to all possible states that can be reached from the start state of  $N$  along the  $\epsilon$  arrows.
- Changing  $q_0'$  to be  $E(\{q_0\})$  achieves this effect.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs — *continued*

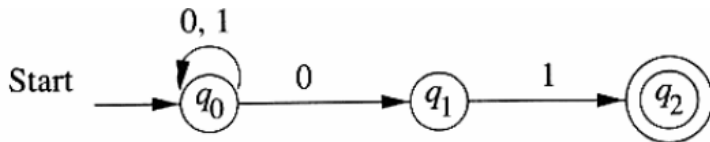
Sipser, 1.2, p-55

- We have now completed the construction of the DFA  $M$  that simulates the NFA  $N$ .
- The construction of  $M$  obviously works correctly.
- At every step in the computation of  $M$  on an input, it clearly enters a state that corresponds to the subset of states that  $N$  could be in at that point.
- Thus our proof is complete.



# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.10, p-61*



An NFA accepting all strings that end in 01



# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.10, p-61

	0	1
$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$\rightarrow \{q_0\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$
$\{q_1\}$	$\emptyset$	$\{q_2\}$
$*\{q_2\}$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0, q_2\}$
$*\{q_0, q_2\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$
$*\{q_1, q_2\}$	$\emptyset$	$\{q_2\}$
$*\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0, q_2\}$

Figure 2.12: The complete subset construction from Fig. 2.9



## Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.10, p-61

	0	1
$A$	$A$	$A$
$\rightarrow B$	$E$	$B$
$C$	$A$	$D$
$*D$	$A$	$A$
$E$	$E$	$F$
$*F$	$E$	$B$
$*G$	$A$	$D$
$*H$	$E$	$F$

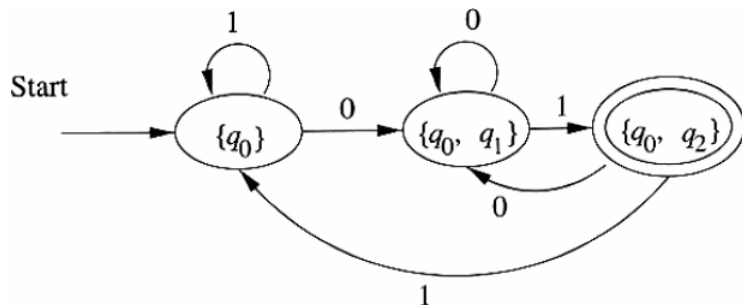
Renaming the states





# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 2.10, p-61

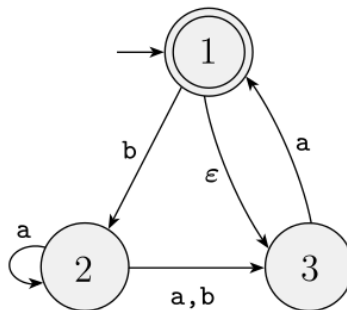


The DFA constructed from the NFA



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.41, p-56

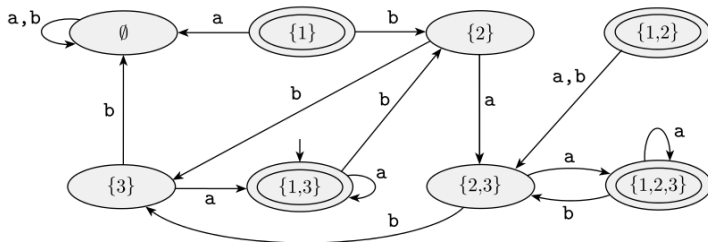


**FIGURE 1.42**  
The NFA  $N_4$



# Example — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.41, p-56



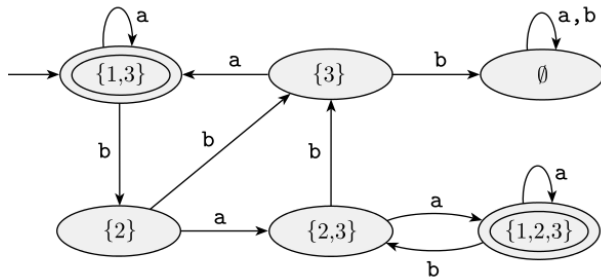
**FIGURE 1.43**

A DFA  $D$  that is equivalent to the NFA  $N_4$



# Example — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.41, p-56



**FIGURE 1.44**

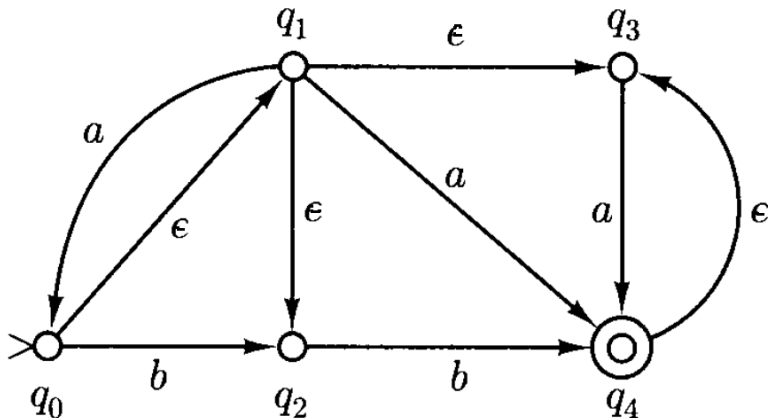
DFA  $D$  after removing unnecessary states



# Example

Lewis and Papadimitriou, Example 2.2.3, p-70

We find the DFA equivalent to the nondeterministic automaton.

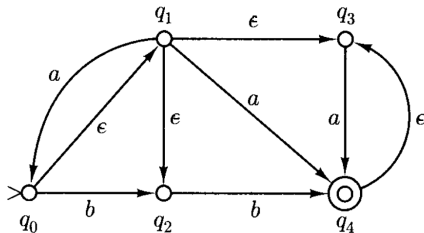


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

- $Q'$  is the power set of  $Q$ .



- Since  $N$  has 5 states,  $D$  will have  $2^5 = 32$  states.
- However, only a few of these states will be relevant to the operation of  $D$ .

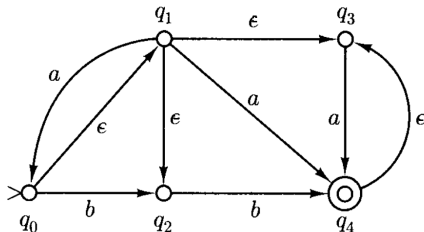


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

- $Q'$  is the power set of  $Q$ .



- Namely, those states that can be reached from state  $q_0'$  by reading some input string.
- Obviously, any state in  $D$  that is not reachable from  $q_0'$  is irrelevant to the operation of  $D$ .

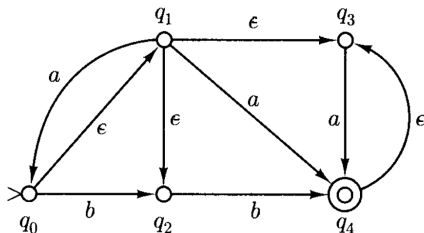


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

- $Q'$  is the power set of  $Q$ .



- We shall build this by *lazy evaluation* on the subsets.



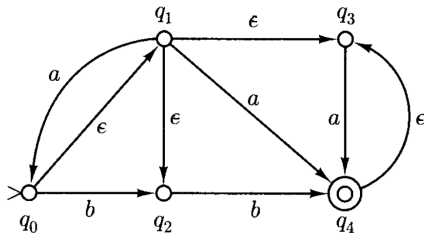


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

■  $q_0' = E(q_0)$ .



■  $q_0' = E(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

■  $q_0' = E(q_0).$

---

$$\succ \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}$$

■  $q_0' = E(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}.$

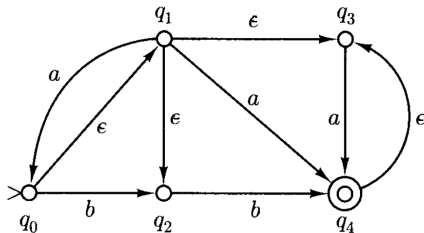
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## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



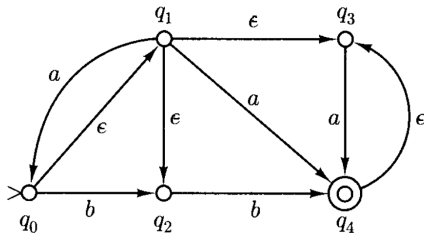
$$\blacksquare \delta(q_0, a) \cup \delta(q_1, a) \cup \delta(q_2, a) \cup \delta(q_3, a) = \emptyset \cup \{q_0, q_4\} \cup \emptyset \cup \{q_4\} = \{q_0, q_4\}$$



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



■  $E(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}$ , and  $E(q_4) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ .

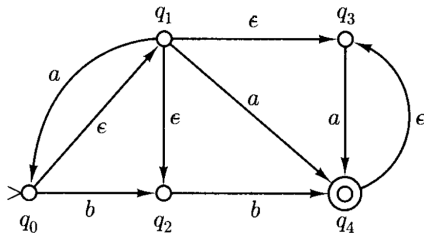
■  $\delta'(q_0', a) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\} \cup \{q_3, q_4\} = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



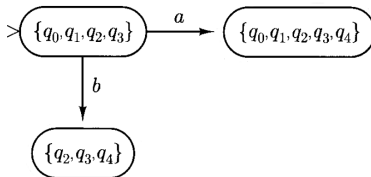
■ Similarly,  $\delta'(q_0', b) = \{q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



---

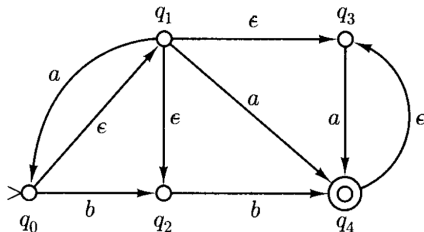
■ Similarly,  $\delta'(q_0', b) = \{q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



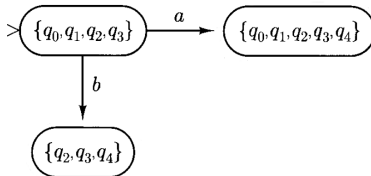
- We repeat the calculation for the newly introduced states.
- $\delta'(\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, b) = \{q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



- 
- We repeat the calculation for the newly introduced states.
  - $\delta'(\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ , and
  - $\delta'(\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, b) = \{q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ .

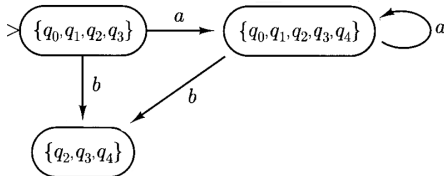




## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



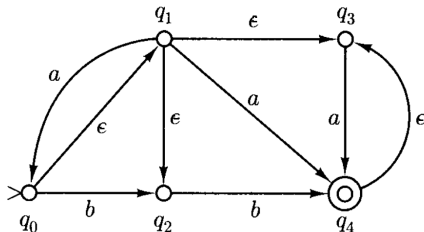
- We repeat the calculation for the newly introduced states.
- $\delta'(\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}, b) = \{q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



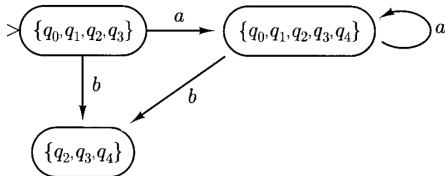
- Also we get.
- $\delta'(\{q_2, q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_2, q_3, q_4\}, b) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



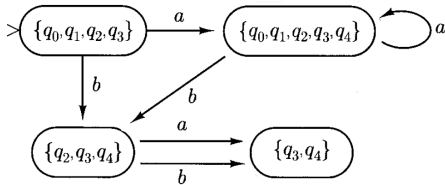
- Also we get.
- $\delta'(\{q_2, q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_2, q_3, q_4\}, b) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



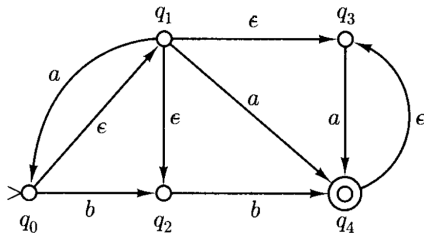
- Also we get.
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- $\delta'(\{q_2, q_3, q_4\}, b) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



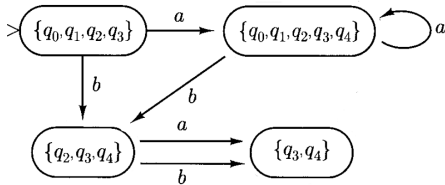
- Next we get.
- $\delta'(\{q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_3, q_4\}, b) = \emptyset$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



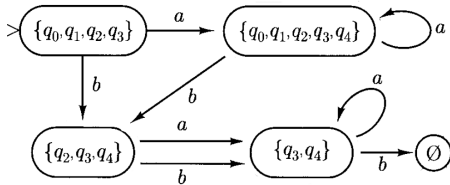
- Next we get.
- $\delta'(\{q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_3, q_4\}, b) = \emptyset$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



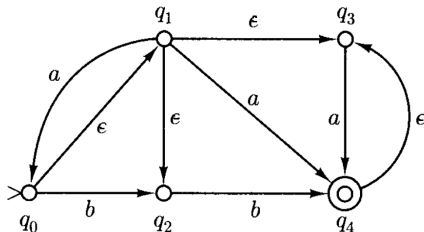
- Next we get.
- $\delta'(\{q_3, q_4\}, a) = \{q_3, q_4\}$ , and
- $\delta'(\{q_3, q_4\}, b) = \emptyset$ .



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



■ Finally, we get.

■  $\delta'(\emptyset, a) = \delta'(\emptyset, b) = \emptyset.$

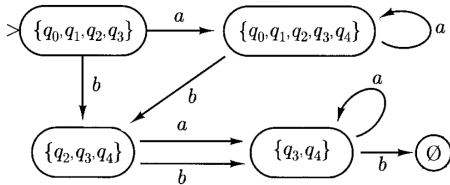




## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$



■ Finally, we get.

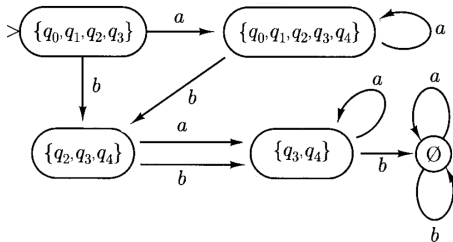
■  $\delta'(\emptyset, a) = \delta'(\emptyset, b) = \emptyset.$



## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

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■ Finally, we get.

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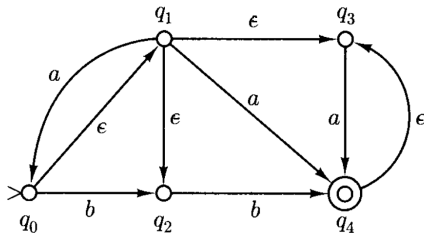


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

- $F'$  is those sets of states that contain at least one accepting state of  $N$ .



- $q_4$  is the sole member of  $F$ .
- The set of final states, contains each set of states of which  $q_4$  is a member.

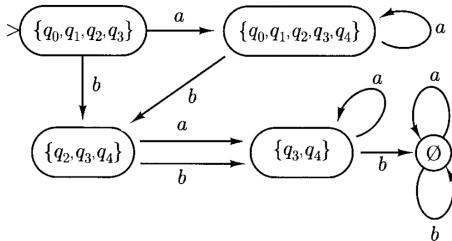


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

- $F'$  is those sets of states that contain at least one accepting state of  $N$ .



- $q_4$  is the sole member of  $F$ .
- The set of final states, contains each set of states of which  $q_4$  is a member.

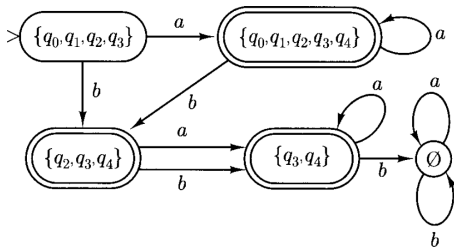


## Example — *continued*

$$N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$D = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$$

- $F'$  is those sets of states that contain at least one accepting state of  $N$ .



- The three states  $\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ ,  $\{q_2, q_3, q_4\}$ , and  $\{q_3, q_4\}$  are final.



# Equivalence of NFAs AND DFAs

*Sipser, 1.2, p-56*

## COROLLARY 1.40 .....

A language is regular if and only if some nondeterministic finite automaton recognizes it.



# Closure under the Regular Operations

*Sipser, 1.2, p-59*

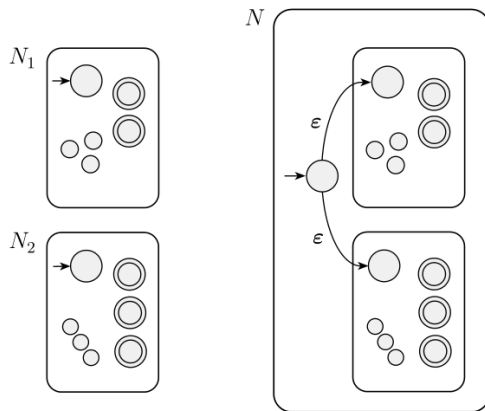
## THEOREM 1.45 .....

The class of regular languages is closed under the union operation.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-59



**FIGURE 1.46**

Construction of an NFA  $N$  to recognize  $A_1 \cup A_2$

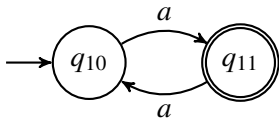




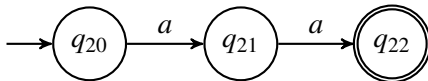
■  $L_1 = \{\text{contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$

$L_2 = \{aa\}$

$N_1$



$N_2$



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-59

## PROOF

- Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ .
- And  $N_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$ .
- Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-59

1.  $Q = \{q_0\} \cup Q_1 \cup Q_2$ .
  - The states of  $N$  are all the states of  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ , with the addition of a new start state  $q_0$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-59

2. The state  $q_0$  is the start state of  $N$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-59

3. The set of accept states  $F = F_1 \cup F_2$ .

- The accept states of  $N$  are all the accept states of  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ .
- That way,  $N$  accepts if either  $N_1$  accepts or  $N_2$  accepts.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-59

4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \\ \delta_2(q, a) & q \in Q_2 \\ \{q_1, q_2\} & q = q_0 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \emptyset & q = q_0 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \end{cases}$$



# Closure under the Regular Operations

*Sipser, 1.2, p-61*

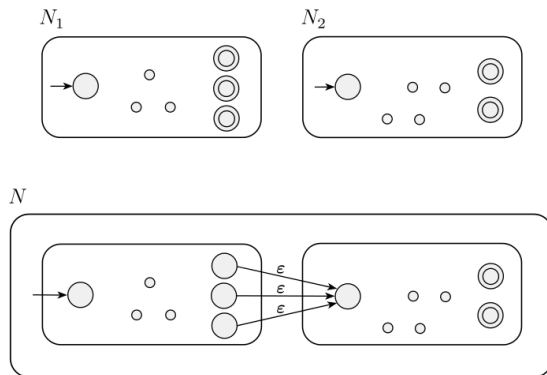
## THEOREM 1.47 .....

The class of regular languages is closed under the concatenation operation.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-61



**FIGURE 1.48**  
Construction of  $N$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$

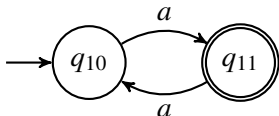




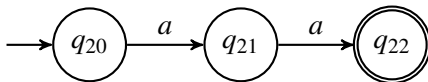
■  $L_1 = \{\text{contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$

$L_2 = \{aa\}$

$N_1$



$N_2$



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-61

## PROOF

- Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ .
- And  $N_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$ .
- Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-61

1.  $Q = Q_1 \cup Q_2$ .

- The states of  $N$  are all the states of  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-61

2. The state  $q_1$  is the start state of  $N$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-61

3. The set of accept states  $F = F_2$ .

- The accept states  $F$  are the same as the accept states of  $N_2$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-61

4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \text{ and } q \notin F_1 \\ \delta_1(q, a) & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \\ \delta_1(q, a) \cup \{q_2\} & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \delta_2(q, a) & q \in Q_2 \end{cases}$$



# Closure under the Regular Operations

*Sipser, 1.2, p-62*

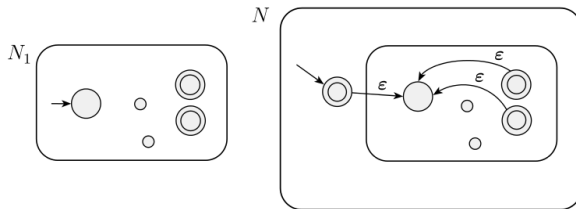
## THEOREM 1.49

.....  
The class of regular languages is closed under the star operation.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-62



**FIGURE 1.50**

Construction of  $N$  to recognize  $A^*$



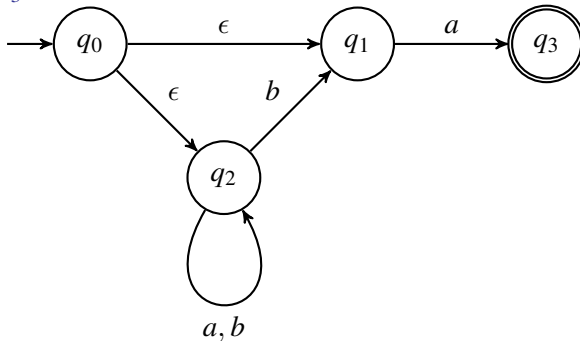


- $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ ,  $L_3 = \{\text{ends in exactly one } a \text{ at the end}\}$



- $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ ,  $L_3 = \{\text{ends in exactly one } a \text{ at the end}\}$

$M_3$



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-62

## PROOF

- Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ .
- Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1^*$ .



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-62

1.  $Q = \{q_0\} \cup Q_1.$

- The states of  $N$  are the states of  $N_1$  plus a new start state.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-62

2. The state  $q_0$  is the new start state.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-62

3.  $F = \{q_0\} \cup F_1.$

- The accept states are the old accept states plus the new start state.



# Closure under the Regular Operations — *continued*

Sipser, 1.2, p-62

4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \text{ and } q \notin F_1 \\ \delta_1(q, a) & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \\ \delta_1(q, a) \cup \{q_1\} & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \{q_1\} & q = q_0 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \emptyset & q = q_0 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \end{cases}$$



# Regular Expressions

*Sipser, 1.3, p-63*

- In arithmetic, we can use the operations  $+$  and  $\times$  to build up expressions such as  $(5 + 3) \times 4$ .
- Similarly, we can use the regular operations to build up expressions describing languages.
- These are called regular expressions.
- An example is:

$$(0 \cup 1)0^*$$





# Regular Expressions

Sipser, 1.3, p-64

## DEFINITION 1.52

Say that  $R$  is a *regular expression* if  $R$  is

1.  $a$  for some  $a$  in the alphabet  $\Sigma$ ,
2.  $\epsilon$ ,
3.  $\emptyset$ ,
4.  $(R_1 \cup R_2)$ , where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are regular expressions,
5.  $(R_1 \circ R_2)$ , where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are regular expressions, or
6.  $(R_1^*)$ , where  $R_1$  is a regular expression.

In items 1 and 2, the regular expressions  $a$  and  $\epsilon$  represent the languages  $\{a\}$  and  $\{\epsilon\}$ , respectively. In item 3, the regular expression  $\emptyset$  represents the empty language. In items 4, 5, and 6, the expressions represent the languages obtained by taking the union or concatenation of the languages  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , or the star of the language  $R_1$ , respectively.



# Kleene Star

Stephen Cole Kleene

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Cole\\_Kleene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Cole_Kleene)

- Stephen Cole Kleene (January 5, 1909 – January 25, 1994) was an American mathematician.



# Kleene Star

Stephen Cole Kleene

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Cole\\_Kleene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Cole_Kleene) — *continued*

- He was one of the students of Alonzo Church.
- Kleene, along with Rózsa Péter, Alan Turing, Emil Post, and others is known as a founder of the branch of mathematical logic known as recursion theory.
- This subsequently helped to provide the foundations of theoretical computer science.
- Kleene's work grounds the study of which functions are computable.



# Kleene Star

Stephen Cole Kleene

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Cole\\_Kleene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Cole_Kleene) — *continued*

- A number of mathematical concepts are named after him:
  - Kleene hierarchy,
  - Kleene algebra,
  - the Kleene star (Kleene closure),
  - Kleene's recursion theorem and
  - the Kleene fixpoint theorem.



# Kleene Star

Stephen Cole Kleene

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Cole\\_Kleene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Cole_Kleene) — *continued*

- He also invented regular expressions, and made significant contributions to the foundations of mathematical intuitionism.



# Kleene Star

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- In mathematical logic and computer science, the Kleene star (or Kleene operator or Kleene closure) is a unary operation, either on sets of strings or on sets of symbols or characters.
- The application of the Kleene star to a set  $V$  is written as  $V^*$ .
- It is widely used for regular expressions, which is the context in which it was introduced by Stephen Kleene to characterise certain automata, where it means “zero or more”.



# Kleene Star — *continued*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- If  $V$  is a set of strings, then  $V^*$  is defined as the smallest superset of  $V$  that contains the empty string  $\epsilon$  and is closed under the string concatenation operation.
- If  $V$  is a set of symbols or characters, then  $V^*$  is the set of all strings over symbols in  $V$ , including the empty string  $\epsilon$ .



# Kleene Star — *continued*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- The set  $V^*$  can also be described as the set of finite-length strings that can be generated by concatenating arbitrary elements of  $V$ , allowing the use of the same element multiple times.





# Kleene Star — *continued*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- If  $V$  is either the empty set  $\emptyset$  or the singleton set  $\{\epsilon\}$ , then  $V^* = \{\epsilon\}$ .
- If  $V$  is any other finite set, then  $V^*$  is a countably infinite set.



# Kleene Star — *continued*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- Given a set  $V$  define,

$V_0 = \{\epsilon\}$  (the language consisting only of the empty string),

$V_1 = V$ .

- And define recursively the set,

$V_{i+1} = \{wv : w \in V_i \text{ and } v \in V\}$  for each  $i > 0$ .



# Kleene Star — *continued*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- If  $V$  is a formal language, then  $V_i$ , the  $i$ -th power of the set  $V$ , is a shorthand for the concatenation of set  $V$  with itself  $i$  times.
- That is,  $V_i$  can be understood to be the set of all strings that can be represented as the concatenation of  $i$  strings in  $V$ .
- The definition of Kleene star on  $V$  is

$$V^* = \bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{N}} V_i = \{\epsilon\} \cup V \cup V_2 \cup V_3 \cup V_4 \cup \dots$$



# Kleene Star — *continued*

Kleene plus [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- In some formal language studies, a variation on the Kleene star operation called the Kleene plus is used.
- The Kleene plus omits the  $V_0$  term in the union.
- In other words, the Kleene plus on  $V$  is,

$$V^+ = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}} V_i = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3 \cup \dots$$



# Kleene Star — *continued*

Example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

## ■ Example of Kleene star applied to set of strings:

$$\{ab, c\}^* = \{\epsilon, ab, c, abab, abc, cab, cc, ababab, ababc, abcab, abcc, cabab, cabc, ccab, ccc, \dots\}.$$


# Kleene Star — *continued*

Example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- Example of Kleene star applied to set of characters:

$$\{a, b, c\}^* = \{\epsilon, a, b, c, aa, ab, ac, ba, bb, bc, ca, cb, cc, aaa, aab, \dots\}.$$



# Kleene Star — *continued*

Example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- Example of Kleene star applied to the empty set:

$$\emptyset^* =$$



# Kleene Star — *continued*

Example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- Example of Kleene star applied to the empty set:

$$\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}.$$





# Kleene Star — *continued*

Example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- Example of Kleene star applied to the empty set:

$$\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}.$$

- Example of Kleene plus applied to the empty set:

$$\emptyset^+ =$$



# Kleene Star — *continued*

Example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene\\_star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleene_star)

- Example of Kleene star applied to the empty set:

$$\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}.$$

- Example of Kleene plus applied to the empty set:

$$\emptyset^+ = \emptyset \emptyset^* = \{\} = \emptyset.$$



# Why is the Kleene star of a null set an empty string?

<https://math.stackexchange.com/q/908192/62254>

- How come a null set when taken zero times can give you an empty string?
- To begin with, a null set has only zero strings.
- But a set with an empty string has one string with zero length.



# Why is the Kleene star of a null... — *continued*

<https://math.stackexchange.com/q/908192/62254>

- By definition, the strings in  $X^*$  (for any language  $X$ , whether  $X = \emptyset$  or not) are those constructed by taking some finite number (possibly 0) of strings from  $X$  and concatenating them.
- If you take 0 strings and concatenate them, you get  $\epsilon$ .



# Why is the Kleene star of a null... — *continued*

<https://math.stackexchange.com/q/908192/62254>

- Note that this has nothing to do with whether  $X = \emptyset$  or not.
- The empty string  $\epsilon$  is *always* in  $X^*$  regardless of what  $X$  is.



# Why is the Kleene star of a null... — *continued*

<https://math.stackexchange.com/q/908192/62254>

- When  $X = \emptyset$ , there are no other strings in  $X^*$ , because you cannot take more than 0 strings from  $\emptyset$ .
- So the only string in  $\emptyset^*$  is  $\epsilon$ .
- Thus  $\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}$ .



# Why is the Kleene star of a null... — *continued*

<https://math.stackexchange.com/q/908192/62254>

- Now let  $X$  be some nonempty language, say  $X = \{a\}$ .
- Then  $X^* = \{\epsilon, a, aa, aaa, aaaa, \dots\}$ .
- Notice that  $\epsilon$  is still in  $X^*$ .
- But now there are other strings because I can concatenate one or more  $a$ 's together.
- The  $\epsilon$  is what I get by concatenating zero  $a$ 's.



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .
- 

1.  $0^*10^*$





# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

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1.  $0^*10^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .



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*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

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1.  $0^*10^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .

2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$



# Example

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$\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .

2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

- 
1.  $0^*10^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .
  2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .
  3.  $\Sigma^*001\Sigma^*$



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

1.  $0^*10^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .

2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .

3.  $\Sigma^*001\Sigma^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ contains the string } 001 \text{ as a substring}\}$ .



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

- 
1.  $0^*10^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .
  2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .
  3.  $\Sigma^*001\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains the string } 001 \text{ as a substring}\}$ .
  4.  $1^*(01^+)^*$



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

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2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$

$\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .

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$\{w \mid w \text{ contains the string } 001 \text{ as a substring}\}$ .

4.  $1^*(01^+)^*$

$\{w \mid \text{every } 0 \text{ in } w \text{ is followed by at least one } 1\}$ .



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

1.  $0^*10^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .
2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .
3.  $\Sigma^*001\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains the string } 001 \text{ as a substring}\}$ .
4.  $1^*(01^+)^*$   
 $\{w \mid \text{every } 0 \text{ in } w \text{ is followed by at least one } 1\}$ .
5.  $(\Sigma\Sigma)^*$





# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

1.  $0^*10^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains a single } 1\}$ .
2.  $\Sigma^*1\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ has at least one } 1\}$ .
3.  $\Sigma^*001\Sigma^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains the string } 001 \text{ as a substring}\}$ .
4.  $1^*(01^+)^*$   
 $\{w \mid \text{every } 0 \text{ in } w \text{ is followed by at least one } 1\}$ .
5.  $(\Sigma\Sigma)^*$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ is a string of even length}\}$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$

$\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$

$\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}$ .

7.  $01 \cup 10$



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

- 
6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$   
 $\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}$ .
  7.  $01 \cup 10$   
 $\{01, 10\}$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$

$\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}$ .

7.  $01 \cup 10$

$\{01, 10\}$ .

8.  $0\Sigma^*0 \cup 1\Sigma^*1 \cup 0 \cup 1$



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$

$\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}$ .

7.  $01 \cup 10$

$\{01, 10\}$ .

8.  $0\Sigma^*0 \cup 1\Sigma^*1 \cup 0 \cup 1$

$\{w \mid w \text{ starts and ends with the same symbol}\}$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

- 
6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$   
 $\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}.$
  7.  $01 \cup 10$   
 $\{01, 10\}.$
  8.  $0\Sigma^*0 \cup 1\Sigma^*1 \cup 0 \cup 1$   
 $\{w \mid w \text{ starts and ends with the same symbol}\}.$
  9.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)1^* = 01^* \cup 1^*$





# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

6.  $(\Sigma\Sigma\Sigma)^*$

$\{w \mid \text{the length of } w \text{ is a multiple of } 3\}$ .

7.  $01 \cup 10$

$\{01, 10\}$ .

8.  $0\Sigma^*0 \cup 1\Sigma^*1 \cup 0 \cup 1$

$\{w \mid w \text{ starts and ends with the same symbol}\}$ .

9.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)1^* = 01^* \cup 1^*$

The expression  $0 \cup \epsilon$  describes the language  $\{0, \epsilon\}$ , so the concatenation operation adds either 0 or  $\epsilon$  before every string in  $1^*$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$   
 $\{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$   
 $\{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$ .

11.  $1^*\emptyset = \emptyset$



## Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$   
 $\{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$ .

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Concatenating the empty set to any set yields the empty set.



# Example — *continued*

Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$   
 $\{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$ .

11.  $1^* \emptyset = \emptyset$

Concatenating the empty set to any set yields the empty set.

12.  $\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}$



## Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$   
 $\{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$ .

11.  $1^* \emptyset = \emptyset$

Concatenating the empty set to any set yields the empty set.

12.  $\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}$

The star operation puts together any number of strings from the language to get a string in the result.



## Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.53, p-65*

- In the following instances, we assume that the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is  $\{0, 1\}$ .

---

10.  $(0 \cup \epsilon)(1 \cup \epsilon)$   
 $\{\epsilon, 0, 1, 01\}$ .

11.  $1^* \emptyset = \emptyset$

Concatenating the empty set to any set yields the empty set.

12.  $\emptyset^* = \{\epsilon\}$

The star operation puts together any number of strings from the language to get a string in the result.

If the language is empty, the star operation can put together 0 strings, giving only the empty string.





# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 3.2, p-87*

- Let us write a regular expression for the set of strings that consist of alternating 0's and 1's.
- First, let us develop a regular expression for the language consisting of the single string 01.
- We can then use the star operator to get an expression for all strings of the form 0101...01.



# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 3.2, p-87*

- Let us write a regular expression for the set of strings that consist of **alternating 0's and 1's**.
- First, let us develop a regular expression for the language consisting of the single string 01.
- We can then use the star operator to get an expression for all strings of the form 0101...01.



### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- The basis rule for regular expressions tells us that 0 and 1 are expressions denoting the languages  $\{0\}$  and  $\{1\}$ , respectively.
- If we concatenate the two expressions, we get a regular expression for the language  $\{01\}$ .
- This expression is 01.



### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- As a general rule, if we want a regular expression for the language consisting of only the string  $w$ , we use  $w$  itself as the regular expression.



### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- To get all strings consisting of zero or more occurrences of 01; we use the regular expression  $(01)^*$ .
- We first put parentheses around 01, to avoid confusing with the expression  $01^*$ .
- Language of  $01^*$  is all strings consisting of a 0 and any number of 1's.
- The star takes precedence over dot.
- Therefore the argument of the star is selected before performing any concatenations.



### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- However,  $L((01)^*)$  is not exactly the language that we want.
- It includes only those strings of alternating 0's and 1's that begin with 0 and end with 1.
- We also need to consider the possibility that there is a 1 at the beginning and/or a 0 at the end.



## Example — *continued*

### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- One approach is to construct three more regular expressions that handle the other three possibilities.



### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- One approach is to construct three more regular expressions that handle the other three possibilities.
- $(10)^*$  represents those alternating strings that begin with 1 and end with 0.





### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- One approach is to construct three more regular expressions that handle the other three possibilities.
- $(10)^*$  represents those alternating strings that begin with 1 and end with 0.
- $0(10)^*$  can be used for strings that both begin and end with 0.



## Example — *continued*

### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- One approach is to construct three more regular expressions that handle the other three possibilities.
- $(10)^*$  represents those alternating strings that begin with 1 and end with 0.
- $0(10)^*$  can be used for strings that both begin and end with 0.
- $1(01)^*$  serves for strings that begin and end with 1.



## Example — *continued*

### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- One approach is to construct three more regular expressions that handle the other three possibilities.
- $(10)^*$  represents those alternating strings that begin with 1 and end with 0.
- $0(10)^*$  can be used for strings that both begin and end with 0.
- $1(01)^*$  serves for strings that begin and end with 1.
- The entire regular expression is

$$(01)^* + (10)^* + 0(10)^* + 1(01)^*$$



### alternating 0's and 1's

---

$$(01)^* + (10)^* + 0(10)^* + 1(01)^*$$

- Notice that we use the  $+$  operator to take the union of the four languages that together give us all the strings with alternating 0's and 1's.



## Example — *continued*

### alternating 0's and 1's

---

- However, there is another approach that yields a regular expression that looks rather different and is also somewhat more succinct.
- Start again with the expression  $(01)^*$ .
- We can add an optional 1 at the beginning if we concatenate on the left with the expression  $\epsilon + 1$ .
- Likewise, we add an optional 0 at the end with the expression  $\epsilon + 0$ .
- For instance, using the definition of the  $+$  operator:

$$L(\epsilon + 1) = L(\epsilon) \cup L(1) = \{\epsilon\} \cup \{1\} = \{\epsilon, 1\}$$



## Example — *continued*

### alternating 0's and 1's

---

$$L(\epsilon + 1) = L(\epsilon) \cup L(1) = \{\epsilon\} \cup \{1\} = \{\epsilon, 1\}$$

- If we concatenate this language with any other language  $L$ , the  $\epsilon$  choice gives us all the strings in  $L$ .
- Choice 1 gives us  $1w$  for every string  $w$  in  $L$ .
- Thus, another expression for the set of strings that alternate 0's and 1's is:

$$(\epsilon + 1)(01)^*(\epsilon + 0)$$

- Note that we need parentheses around each of the added expressions, to make sure the operators group properly.



# Precedence of Regular-Expression Operators

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 3.1.3, p-88*

- Like other algebras, the regular-expression operators have an assumed order of “precedence,”.
- Operators are associated with their operands in a particular order.
- We are familiar with the notion of precedence from ordinary arithmetic expressions.



# Precedence of ... Operators — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 3.1.3, p-88

- For instance, we know that  $xy + z$  groups the product  $xy$  before the sum.
- It is equivalent to the parenthesized expression  $(xy) + z$  and not to the expression  $x(y + z)$ .
- Similarly, we group two of the same operators from the left in arithmetic.
- So  $x - y - z$  is equivalent to  $(x - y) - z$ , and not to  $x - (y - z)$ .





# Precedence of ... Operators — *continued*

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 3.1.3, p-88*

For regular expressions, the following is the order of precedence for the operators:

1. The star operator is of highest precedence.
  - That is, it applies only to the smallest sequence of symbols to its left that is a well-formed regular expression.



# Precedence of ... Operators — *continued*

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 3.1.3, p-88*

For regular expressions, the following is the order of precedence for the operators:

2. Next in precedence comes the concatenation or “dot” operator.
  - After grouping all stars to their operands, we group concatenation operators to their operands.
  - That is, all expressions that are juxtaposed (adjacent, with no intervening operator) are grouped together.



# Precedence of ... Operators — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 3.1.3, p-88

For regular expressions, the following is the order of precedence for the operators:

3. Finally, all unions ( $+$  operators) are grouped with their operands.
  - Since union is also associative, it again matters little in which order consecutive unions are grouped.



# Precedence of ... Operators — *continued*

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, 3.1.3, p-88*

- Sometimes we do not want the grouping in a regular expression to be as required by the precedence of the operators.
- If so, we are free to use parentheses to group operands exactly as we choose.
- In addition, there is never anything wrong with putting parentheses around operands that you want to group.
- Even if the desired grouping is implied by the rules of precedence.



# Regular Expressions — *continued*

*Sipser, 1.3, p-63*

- If we let  $R$  be any regular expression, we have the following identities.



# Regular Expressions — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-63

- $R \cup \emptyset = R$ .
- Adding the empty language to any other language will not change it.



# Regular Expressions — *continued*

*Sipser, 1.3, p-63*

- $R \circ \epsilon = R$ .
- Joining the empty string to any string will not change it.



# Regular Expressions — *continued*

*Sipser, 1.3, p-63*

- However, exchanging  $\emptyset$  and  $\epsilon$  in the preceding identities may cause the equalities to fail.





# Regular Expressions — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-63

- $R \cup \epsilon$  may not equal  $R$ .
- For example, if  $R = 0$ , then  $L(R) = \{0\}$ .
- But  $L(R \cup \epsilon) = \{0, \epsilon\}$ .



# Regular Expressions — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-63

- $R \circ \emptyset$  may not equal  $R$ .
- For example, if  $R = 0$ , then  $L(R) = \{0\}$ .
- But  $L(R \circ \emptyset) = \emptyset$ .



# Equivalence with Finite Automata

*Sipser, 1.3, p-66*

- Regular expressions and finite automata are equivalent in their descriptive power.
- This fact is surprising because finite automata and regular expressions superficially appear to be rather different.
- However, any regular expression can be converted into a finite automaton that recognizes the language it describes, and vice versa.
- Recall that a regular language is one that is recognized by some finite automaton.



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

## THEOREM 1.54 .....

A language is regular if and only if some regular expression describes it.

- 
- This theorem has two directions.
  - We state and prove each direction as a separate lemma.



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

## LEMMA 1.55

If a language is described by a regular expression, then it is regular.

## PROOF IDEA

- Say that we have a regular expression  $R$  describing some language  $A$ .
- We show how to convert  $R$  into an NFA recognizing  $A$ .
- By Corollary 1.40, if an NFA recognizes  $A$  then  $A$  is regular.



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

## LEMMA 1.55

If a language is described by a regular expression, then it is regular.

---

## PROOF

- Let's convert  $R$  into an NFA  $N$ .
- We consider the six cases in the formal definition of regular expressions.



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

1.  $R = a$  for some  $a \in \Sigma$ .
  - Then  $L(R) = \{a\}$ .

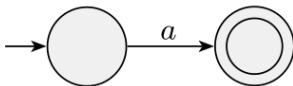


# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

1.  $R = a$  for some  $a \in \Sigma$ .

■ Then  $L(R) = \{a\}$ .





# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

2.  $R = \epsilon$ .

■ Then  $L(R) = \{\epsilon\}$ .

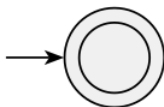


# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

2.  $R = \epsilon$ .

■ Then  $L(R) = \{\epsilon\}$ .



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

3.  $R = \emptyset$ .

■ Then  $L(R) = \emptyset$ .

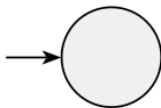


# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

3.  $R = \emptyset$ .

■ Then  $L(R) = \emptyset$ .



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

4.  $R = R_1 \cup R_2$ .

5.  $R = R_1 \circ R_2$ .

6.  $R = R_1^*$ .

- We use the constructions given in the proofs that the class of regular languages is closed under the regular operations.
- In other words, we construct the NFA for  $R$  from the NFA's for  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  (or just  $R_1$  in case 6) and the appropriate closure construction.

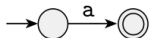


# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.56, p-68*

$$(ab \cup a)^*$$

a

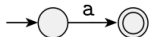


# Example

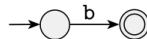
Sipser, Example 1.56, p-68

$$(ab \cup a)^*$$

a



b

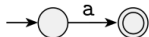


# Example

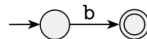
Sipser, Example 1.56, p-68

$$(ab \cup a)^*$$

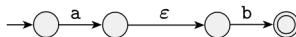
a



b



ab

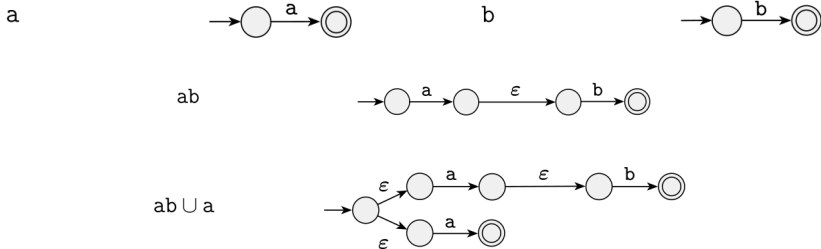




# Example

Sipser, Example 1.56, p-68

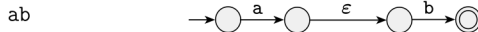
$$(ab \cup a)^*$$



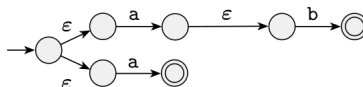
# Example

Sipser, Example 1.56, p-68

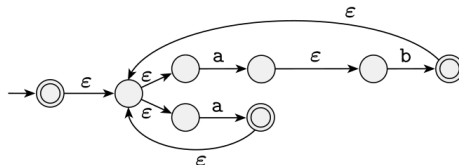
$(ab \cup a)^*$



$ab \cup a$



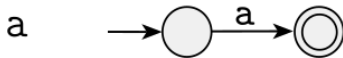
$(ab \cup a)^*$



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.59, p-69

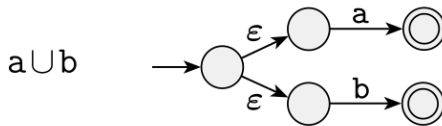
$(a \cup b)^* aba$



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.59, p-69

$(a \cup b)^* aba$

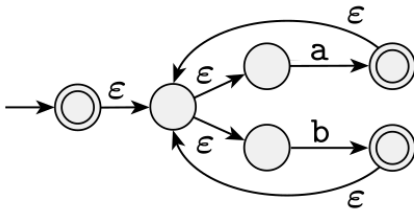


# Example

Sipser, Example 1.59, p-69

$(a \cup b)^* aba$

$(a \cup b)^*$



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.59, p-69

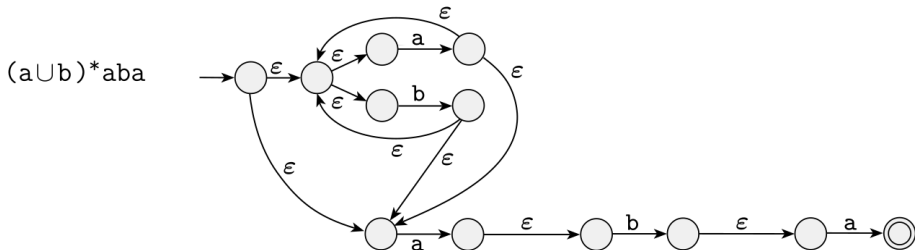
$(a \cup b)^* aba$



# Example

Sipser, Example 1.59, p-69

$$(a \cup b)^* aba$$



# Equivalence with Finite Automata — *continued*

Sipser, 1.3, p-66

## LEMMA 1.60

.....  
If a language is regular, then it is described by a regular expression.





# Nonregular Languages

*Sipser, 1.4, p-77*

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

$$C = \{w \mid w \text{ has an equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$$



# Nonregular Languages

*Sipser, 1.4, p-77*

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

$$C = \{w \mid w \text{ has an equal number of 0's and 1's}\}$$

$$D = \left\{ w \left| \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right. \right\}$$



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

---



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

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---

■ 0110



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

■ 0110

*belongs*



# Nonregular Languages

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Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

■ 0110

*belongs*

■ 01100



# Nonregular Languages

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Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

■ 0110

*belongs*

■ 01100

*belongs*



# Nonregular Languages

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$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

■ 0110

*belongs*

■ 01100

*belongs*

■ 1101110011





# Nonregular Languages

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$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

■ 0110

*belongs*

■ 01100

*belongs*

■ 1101110011

*belongs*



# Nonregular Languages

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$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

■ 0110

*belongs*

■ 01100

*belongs*

■ 1101110011

*belongs*

■  $\epsilon$



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
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$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| ■ 0110       | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ 01100      | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ 1101110011 | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ $\epsilon$ | <i>belongs</i> |



# Nonregular Languages

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- 
- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| ■ 0110       | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ 01100      | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ 1101110011 | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ $\epsilon$ | <i>belongs</i> |
| ■ 10         |                |



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- 0110 *belongs*
  - 01100 *belongs*
  - 1101110011 *belongs*
  - $\epsilon$  *belongs*
  - 10 *does not belong*



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- 0110 *belongs*
  - 01100 *belongs*
  - 1101110011 *belongs*
  - $\epsilon$  *belongs*
  - 10 *does not belong*
  - 110



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- 0110 *belongs*
  - 01100 *belongs*
  - 1101110011 *belongs*
  - $\epsilon$  *belongs*
  - 10 *does not belong*
  - 110 *does not belong*



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- 0110 *belongs*
  - 01100 *belongs*
  - 1101110011 *belongs*
  - $\epsilon$  *belongs*
  - 10 *does not belong*
  - 110 *does not belong*
  - 1101





# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| ■ 0110       | <i>belongs</i>         |
| ■ 01100      | <i>belongs</i>         |
| ■ 1101110011 | <i>belongs</i>         |
| ■ $\epsilon$ | <i>belongs</i>         |
| ■ 10         | <i>does not belong</i> |
| ■ 110        | <i>does not belong</i> |
| ■ 1101       | <i>belongs</i>         |



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$D = \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\}$$

- 
- 0110 *belongs*
  - 01100 *belongs*
  - 1101110011 *belongs*
  - $\epsilon$  *belongs*
  - 10 *does not belong*
  - 110 *does not belong*
  - 1101 *belongs*
- 
- $w$  should *toggle* between 0 and 1 an equal number of times.



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w = 1, w = 0, w = \epsilon \text{ or } w \text{ starts with a } 0 \text{ and} \\ \text{ends with a } 0 \text{ or } w \text{ starts with a } 1 \text{ and ends} \\ \text{with a } 1 \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$



# Nonregular Languages

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~sseshia/172/lectures/Slides3.pdf>,  
Slide 31

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \\ \text{and } 10 \text{ as substrings} \end{array} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ w \mid \begin{array}{l} w = 1, w = 0, w = \epsilon \text{ or } w \text{ starts with a } 0 \text{ and} \\ \text{ends with a } 0 \text{ or } w \text{ starts with a } 1 \text{ and ends} \\ \text{with a } 1 \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

---

$$\blacksquare \epsilon \cup 0 \cup 1 \cup (0\Sigma^*0) \cup (1\Sigma^*1)$$



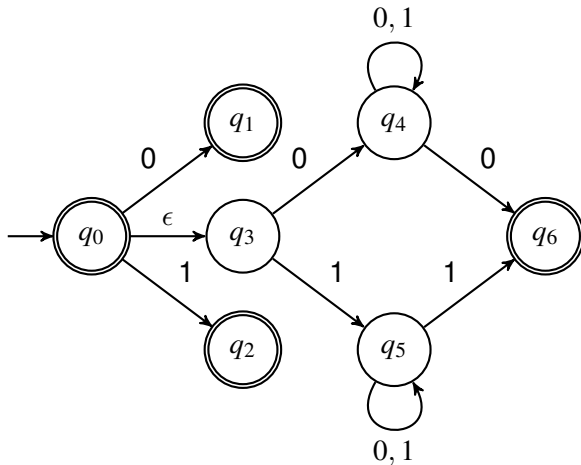
# Nonregular Languages

$$\epsilon \cup 0 \cup 1 \cup (0\Sigma^*0) \cup (1\Sigma^*1)$$



# Nonregular Languages

$$\epsilon \cup 0 \cup 1 \cup (0\Sigma^*0) \cup (1\Sigma^*1)$$



# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

## THEOREM 1.70

**Pumping lemma** If  $A$  is a regular language, then there is a number  $p$  (the pumping length) where if  $s$  is any string in  $A$  of length at least  $p$ , then  $s$  may be divided into three pieces,  $s = xyz$ , satisfying the following conditions:

1. for each  $i \geq 0$ ,  $xy^iz \in A$ ,
2.  $|y| > 0$ , and
3.  $|xy| \leq p$ .

- $|s|$  represents the length of string  $s$ .
- $y^i$  means that  $i$  copies of  $y$  are concatenated together.
- $y^0$  equals  $\epsilon$ .



# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

## THEOREM 1.70

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1. for each  $i \geq 0$ ,  $xy^iz \in A$ ,
2.  $|y| > 0$ , and
3.  $|xy| \leq p$ .

- When  $s$  is divided into  $xyz$ , either  $x$  or  $z$  may be  $\epsilon$ .
- But condition 2 says that  $y \neq \epsilon$ .
- Without condition 2 the theorem would be trivially true.





# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

## THEOREM 1.70

**Pumping lemma** If  $A$  is a regular language, then there is a number  $p$  (the pumping length) where if  $s$  is any string in  $A$  of length at least  $p$ , then  $s$  may be divided into three pieces,  $s = xyz$ , satisfying the following conditions:

1. for each  $i \geq 0$ ,  $xy^iz \in A$ ,
2.  $|y| > 0$ , and
3.  $|xy| \leq p$ .

- Condition 3 states that the pieces  $x$  and  $y$  together have length at most  $p$ .
- It is an extra technical condition that we occasionally find useful when proving certain languages to be nonregular.



# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

## PROOF IDEA

- Let  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$  be a DFA that recognizes  $A$ .
- We assign the pumping length  $p$  to be the number of states of  $M$ .
- We show that any string  $s$  in  $A$  of length at least  $p$  may be broken into the three pieces  $xyz$ , satisfying our three conditions.



# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages — *continued*

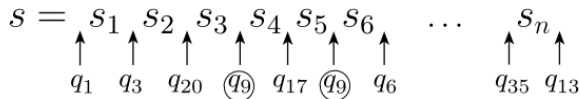
*Sipser, 1.4, p-77*

- What if no strings in  $A$  are of length at least  $p$ ?
- Then our task is even easier because the theorem becomes vacuously true.
- Obviously the three conditions hold for all strings of length at least  $p$  if there aren't any such strings.



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



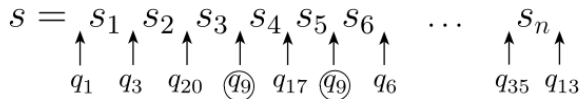
**FIGURE 1.71**

Example showing state  $q_9$  repeating when  $M$  reads  $s$

- If  $s$  in  $A$  has length at least  $p$ , consider the sequence of states that  $M$  goes through when computing with input  $s$ .
- It starts with  $q_1$  the start state, then goes to, say,  $q_3$ , then, say,  $q_{20}$ , then  $q_9$ , and so on, until it reaches the end of  $s$  in state  $q_{13}$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



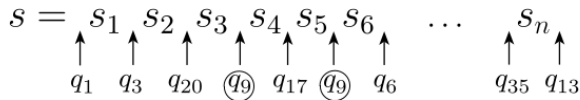
## FIGURE 1.71

Example showing state  $q_9$  repeating when  $M$  reads  $s$

- With  $s$  in  $A$ , we know that  $M$  accepts  $s$ , so  $q_{13}$  is an accept state.
- If we let  $n$  be the length of  $s$ , the sequence of states  $q_1, q_3, q_{20}, q_9, \dots, q_{13}$  has length  $n + 1$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



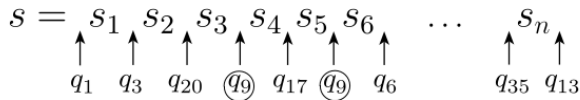
**FIGURE 1.71**

Example showing state  $q_9$  repeating when  $M$  reads  $s$

- Because  $n$  is at least  $p$ , we know that  $n+1$  is greater than  $p$ , the number of states of  $M$ .
- Therefore, the sequence must contain a repeated state.
- This result is an example of the pigeonhole principle.

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



## FIGURE 1.71

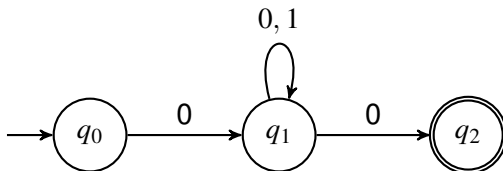
Example showing state  $q_9$  repeating when  $M$  reads  $s$

- State  $q_9$  is the one that repeats.

# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

$$L = \{w \mid w \text{ starts and ends with } 0, |w| \geq 2\}$$

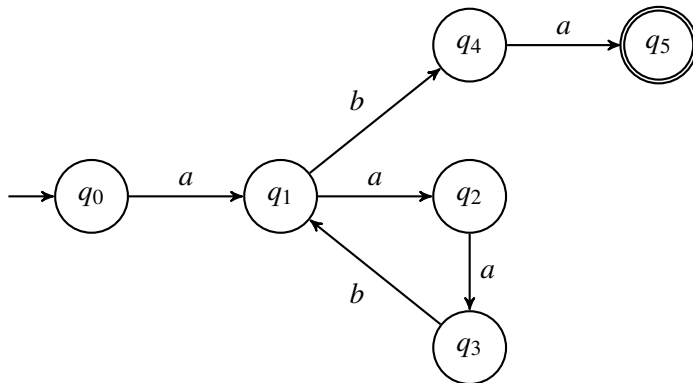
$$L = 0\Sigma^*0$$





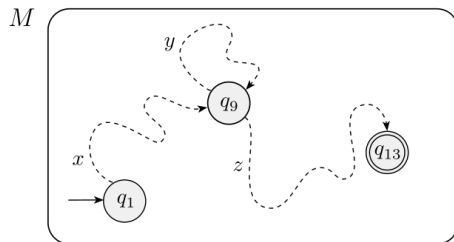
# The Pumping Lemma for Regular Languages

$$L = a(aab)^*ba$$



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



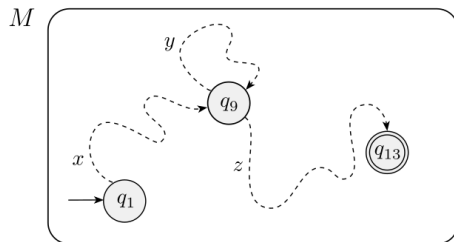
**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- Piece  $x$  is the part of  $s$  appearing before  $q_9$ .
- Piece  $y$  is the part between the two appearances of  $q_9$ .
- Piece  $z$  is the remaining part of  $s$ , coming after the second occurrence of  $q_9$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



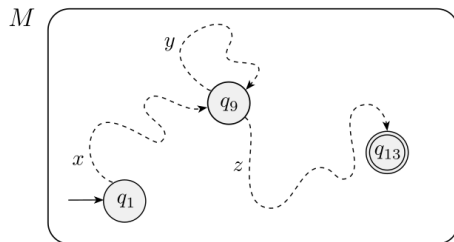
**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- $x$  takes  $M$  from the state  $q_1$  to  $q_9$ .
- $y$  takes  $M$  from  $q_9$  back to  $q_9$ .
- $z$  takes  $M$  from  $q_9$  to the accept state  $q_{13}$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



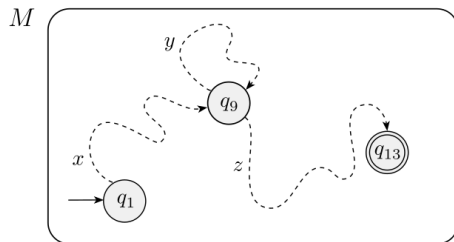
**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- Suppose that we run  $M$  on input  $xyyz$ .
- We know that  $x$  takes  $M$  from  $q_1$  to  $q_9$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



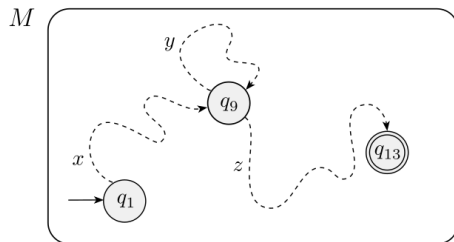
**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- Then the first  $y$  takes it from  $q_9$  back to  $q_9$ , as does the second  $y$ .
- Then  $z$  takes it to  $q_{13}$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



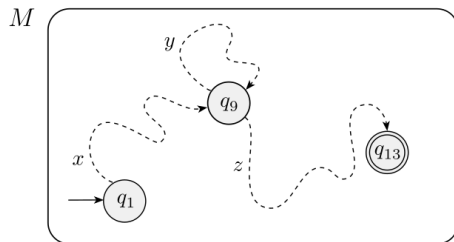
**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- With  $q_{13}$  being an accept state,  $M$  accepts input  $xyyz$ .
- Similarly, it will accept  $xy^iz$  for any  $i > 0$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



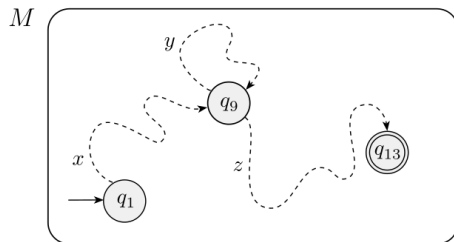
**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- For the case  $i = 0$ ,  $xy^iz = xz$ , which is accepted for similar reasons.
- That establishes condition 1.

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



**FIGURE 1.72**

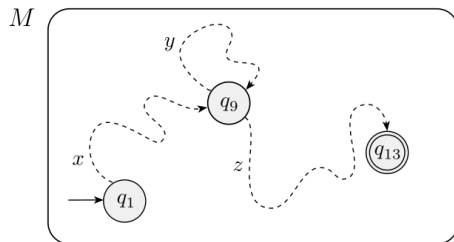
Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- Checking condition 2, we see that  $|y| > 0$ , as it was the part of  $s$  that occurred between two different occurrences of state  $q_9$ .



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77



**FIGURE 1.72**

Example showing how the strings  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  affect  $M$

- In order to get condition 3, we make sure that  $q_9$  is the first repetition in the sequence.
- By the pigeonhole principle, the first  $p + 1$  states in the sequence must contain a repetition.
- Therefore,  $|xy| \leq p$ .

# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

## PROOF

- Let  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$  be a DFA recognizing  $A$  and  $p$  be the number of states of  $M$ .
- Let  $s = s_1s_2 \dots s_n$  be a string in  $A$  of length  $n$ , where  $n \geq p$ .
- Let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{n+1}$  be the sequence of states that  $M$  enters while processing  $s$ .
- So  $r_{i+1} = \delta(r_i, s_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
- This sequence has length  $n + 1$ , which is at least  $p + 1$ .



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

- Among the first  $p + 1$  elements in the sequence, two must be the same state.
- By the pigeonhole principle, we call the first of these  $r_j$  and the second  $r_\ell$ .
- Because  $r_\ell$  occurs among the first  $p + 1$  places in a sequence starting at  $r_1$ , we have  $\ell \leq p + 1$ .



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

Let,

■  $x = s_1 \dots s_{j-1}.$

■  $y = s_j \dots s_{\ell-1}.$

■  $z = s_{\ell} \dots s_n.$



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

Let,

- $x = s_1 \dots s_{j-1}$ .
- $y = s_j \dots s_{\ell-1}$ .
- $z = s_{\ell} \dots s_n$ .
- $x$  takes  $M$  from  $r_1$  to  $r_j$ .
- $y$  takes  $M$  from  $r_j$  to  $r_{\ell}$ .
- $z$  takes  $M$  from  $r_{\ell}$  to  $r_{n+1}$ , which is an accept state,  $M$  must accept  $xy^iz$  for  $i \geq 0$ .



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-77

- We know that  $j \neq \ell$ , so  $|y| > 0$ .
- $\ell \leq p + 1$ , so  $|xy| \leq p$ .
- Thus we have satisfied all conditions of the pumping lemma.



# A Pumping Lemma

Peter Linz, 4.3

- We have given the pumping lemma only for infinite languages.
- Finite languages, although always regular, cannot be pumped since pumping automatically creates an infinite set.
- The theorem does hold for finite languages, but it is vacuous.
- The  $p$  in the pumping lemma becomes larger than the longest string, so that no string can be pumped.



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-80

- To use the pumping lemma to prove that a language  $B$  is not regular, first assume that  $B$  is regular in order to obtain a contradiction.
- Then use the pumping lemma to guarantee the existence of a pumping length  $p$  such that all strings of length  $p$  or greater in  $B$  can be pumped.





# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-80

- Next, find a string  $s$  in  $B$  that has length  $p$  or greater but that cannot be pumped.



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-80

- Finally, demonstrate that  $s$  cannot be pumped by considering all ways of dividing  $s$  into  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  (taking condition 3 of the pumping lemma into account if convenient).
- For each such division, find a value  $i$  where  $xy^iz \notin B$ .



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-80

- This final step often involves grouping the various ways of dividing  $s$  into several cases and analyzing them individually.
- The existence of  $s$  contradicts the pumping lemma if  $B$  were regular.
- Hence  $B$  cannot be regular.



# The Pumping Lemma... — *continued*

Sipser, 1.4, p-80

- Finding  $s$  sometimes takes a bit of creative thinking.
- You may need to hunt through several candidates for  $s$  before you discover one that works.
- Try members of  $B$  that seem to exhibit the “essence” of  $B$ ’s nonregularity.



# The Pumping Lemma

Pumping Lemma For Regular by Didem Yalcin

- If you are still uncomfortable on this topic, you may want to watch this presentation:

[Pumping Lemma For Regular by Didem Yalcin](#)



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- Let  $B$  be the language  $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ .
- We use the pumping lemma to prove that  $B$  is not regular.
- The proof is by contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- Assume to the contrary that  $B$  is regular.
- Let  $p$  be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- Choose  $s$  to be the string  $0^p 1^p$ .
- Because  $s$  is a member of  $B$  and  $s$  has length more than  $p$ , the pumping lemma guarantees that  $s$  can be split into three pieces,  $s = xyz$ .
- Where for any  $i \geq 0$  the string  $xy^i z$  is in  $B$ .





# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- We consider three cases to show that this result is impossible.
- 

1. The string  $y$  consists only of 0s.

- In this case, the string  $xyyz$  has more 0s than 1s and so is not a member of  $B$ , violating condition 1 of the pumping lemma.
- This case is a contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- We consider three cases to show that this result is impossible.
- 

2. The string  $y$  consists only of 1s.

- This case also gives a contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- We consider three cases to show that this result is impossible.
- 

3. The string  $y$  consists of both 0s and 1s.

- In this case, the string  $xyyz$  may have the same number of 0s and 1s, but they will be out of order with some 1s before 0s.
- Hence it is not a member of  $B$ , which is a contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- Thus a contradiction is unavoidable if we make the assumption that  $B$  is regular.
- So  $B$  is not regular.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.73, p-80*

- Note that we can simplify this argument by applying condition 3 of the pumping lemma to eliminate cases 2 and 3.



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.74, p-80*

- $C = \{w \mid w \text{ has an equal number of 0s and 1s}\}.$
- We use the pumping lemma to prove that  $C$  is not regular.
- The proof is by contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.74, p-80*

- Assume to the contrary that  $C$  is regular.
- Let  $p$  be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.
- Let  $s$  be the string  $0^p 1^p$ .
- With  $s$  being a member of  $C$  and having length more than  $p$ , the pumping lemma guarantees that  $s$  can be split into three pieces.
- $s = xyz$ , where for any  $i \geq 0$  the string  $xy^i z$  is in  $C$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.74, p-80*

- We would like to show that this outcome is impossible.





# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.74, p-80*

- But wait, it is possible!
- If we let  $x$  and  $z$  be the empty string and  $y$  be the string  $0^p 1^p$ , then  $xy^i z$  always has an equal number of 0s and 1s and hence is in  $C$ .
- So it seems that  $s$  can be pumped.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.74, p-80*

- Here condition 3 in the pumping lemma is useful.
- It stipulates that when pumping  $s$ , it must be divided so that  $|xy| \leq p$ .
- That restriction on the way that  $s$  may be divided makes it easier to show that the string  $s = 0^p 1^p$  we selected cannot be pumped.
- If  $|xy| \leq p$ , then  $y$  must consist only of 0s, so  $xyyz \notin C$ .
- Therefore,  $s$  cannot be pumped.
- That gives us the desired contradiction.



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.75, p-81*

- $F = \{ww \mid w \in \{0,1\}^*\}$ .
- We use the pumping lemma to prove that  $F$  is not regular.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.75, p-81*

- Assume to the contrary that  $F$  is regular.
- Let  $p$  be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.
- Let  $s$  be the string  $0^p 10^p 1$ .
- Because  $s$  is a member of  $F$  and  $s$  has length more than  $p$ , the pumping lemma guarantees that  $s$  can be split into three pieces,  $s = xyz$ , satisfying the three conditions of the lemma.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.75, p-81*

- We show that this outcome is impossible.
- Condition 3 is once again crucial because without it we could pump  $s$  if we let  $x$  and  $z$  be the empty string.
- With condition 3 the proof follows because  $y$  must consist only of 0's, so  $xyyz \notin F$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.75, p-81*

- Observe that we chose  $s = 0^p 10^p 1$  to be a string that exhibits the “essence” of the nonregularity of  $F$ , as opposed to, say, the string  $0^p 0^p$ .
- Even though  $0^p 0^p$  is a member of  $F$ , it fails to demonstrate a contradiction because it can be pumped.



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.76, p-82*

- We demonstrate a nonregular unary language.
- $D = \{1^{n^2} \mid n \geq 0\}$ .
- We use the pumping lemma to prove that  $D$  is not regular.
- The proof is by contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.76, p-82*

- Assume to the contrary that  $D$  is regular.
- Let  $p$  be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.





# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.76, p-82*

- Let  $s$  be the string  $1^{p^2}$ .
- Because  $s$  is a member of  $D$  and  $s$  has length at least  $p$ , the pumping lemma guarantees that  $s$  can be split into three pieces,  $s = xyz$ .
- Where for any  $i \geq 0$  the string  $xy^iz$  is in  $D$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.76, p-82*

- We show that this outcome is impossible.
- The sequence of perfect squares:

$0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, \dots$

- Note the growing gap between successive members of this sequence.
- Large members of this sequence cannot be near each other.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.76, p-82*

- Now consider the two strings  $xyz$  and  $xy^2z$ .
- These strings differ from each other by a single repetition of  $y$ .
- Consequently their lengths differ by the length of  $y$ .
- By condition 3 of the pumping lemma,  $|xy| \leq p$  and thus  $|y| \leq p$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.76, p-82*

- We have  $|xyz| = p^2$  and so  $|xy^2z| \leq p^2 + p$ .
- But  $p^2 + p < p^2 + 2p + 1 = (p + 1)^2$ .
- Moreover, condition 2 implies that  $y$  is not the empty string and so  $|xy^2z| > p^2$ .
- Therefore, the length of  $xy^2z$  lies strictly between the consecutive perfect squares  $p^2$  and  $(p + 1)^2$ .
- Hence this length cannot be a perfect square itself.
- So we arrive at the contradiction  $xy^2z \notin D$  and conclude that  $D$  is not regular.



# Example

*Sipser, Example 1.77, p-82*

- Let  $E$  be the language  $\{0^i 1^j \mid i > j\}$ .
- We use the pumping lemma to prove that  $E$  is not regular.
- The proof is by contradiction.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.77, p-82*

- Assume that  $E$  is regular.
- Let  $p$  be the pumping length for  $E$  given by the pumping lemma.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.77, p-82*

- Let  $s = 0^{p+1}1^p$ .
- Then  $s$  can be split into  $xyz$ , satisfying the conditions of the pumping lemma.
- By condition 3,  $y$  consists only of 0s.



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.77, p-82*

- Let's examine the string  $xyyz$  to see whether it can be in  $E$ .
- Adding an extra copy of  $y$  increases the number of 0s.
- But,  $E$  contains all strings in  $0^*1^*$  that have more 0s than 1s.
- So increasing the number of 0s will still give a string in  $E$ .
- No contradiction occurs.





# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.77, p-82*

- We need to try something else.
- The pumping lemma states that  $xy^iz \in E$  even when  $i = 0$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Sipser, Example 1.77, p-82*

- So let's consider the string  $xy^0z = xz$ .
- Removing string  $y$  decreases the number of 0s in  $s$ .
- Recall that  $s$  has just one more 0 than 1.
- Therefore,  $xz$  cannot have more 0s than 1s, so it cannot be a member of  $E$ .
- Thus we obtain a contradiction.



# Example

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 4.3, p-129*

- Let us show that the language  $L_{pr}$  consisting of all strings of 1's whose length is a prime is not a regular language.
- Suppose it were.
- Then there would be a constant  $p$  satisfying the conditions of the pumping Lemma.



# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 4.3, p-129

- Consider some prime  $n \geq p + 2$ .
- There must be such an  $n$ , since there are an infinity of primes.



# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 4.3, p-129

- Let  $w = 1^n$ .
- By the pumping lemma, we can break  $w = xyz$  such that  $y \neq \epsilon$  and  $|xy| \leq p$ .
- Let  $|y| = m$ .
- Then  $|xz| = n - m$ .



# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 4.3, p-129

- Now consider the string  $xy^{n-m}z$ .
- This must be in  $L_{pr}$  by the pumping lemma, if  $L_{pr}$  really is regular.
- However,

$$\begin{aligned}|xy^{n-m}z| &= |xz| + (n-m)|y| \\ &= n-m + (n-m)m \\ &= (m+1)(n-m)\end{aligned}$$

- It looks like  $|xy^{n-m}z|$  is not a prime, since it has two factors  $(m+1)$  and  $(n-m)$ .



# Example — *continued*

Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 4.3, p-129

- However, we must check that neither of these factors are 1.
- Since then  $(m + 1)(n - m)$  might be a prime after all.
- But  $m + 1 > 1$ , since  $y \neq \epsilon$  tells us  $m \geq 1$ .
- Also,  $n - m \geq 1$ , since  $n \geq p + 2$  was chosen, and  $m \leq p$  since

$$m = |y| \leq |xy| \leq p$$

- Thus,  $n - m \geq 2$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Hopcroft, Motwani, and Ullman, Example 4.3, p-129*

- Again we have started by assuming the language in question was regular.
- We derived a contradiction by showing that some string not in the language was required by the pumping lemma to be in the language.
- Thus, we conclude that  $L_{pr}$  is not a regular language.





# Example

*Peter Linz, Example 4.9*

- $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ .
- The language  $L = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid n_a(w) < n_b(w)\}$  is not regular.



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.9

- We pick  $w = a^p b^{p+1}$ .
- Now, because  $|xy|$  cannot be greater than  $p$ ,  $y$  will be all  $a$ 's.
- That is  $y = a^k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq p$ .



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.9

- We now pump up, using  $i = m$
- The resulting string,  $a^{p+mk}b^{p+1}$ ,  $1 \leq m$ , is not in  $L$ .
- Therefore, the pumping lemma is violated.
- $L$  is not regular.



# Example

*Peter Linz, Example 4.10*

- The language  $L = \{(ab)^n a^k \mid n > k, k \geq 0\}$  is not regular.
- We pick as our string  $w = (ab)^{p+1} a^p$ , which is in  $L$ .



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.10

- Because of the constraint  $|xy| \leq p$ , both  $x$  and  $y$  must be in the part of the string made up of  $ab$ 's.
- The choice of  $x$  does not affect the argument, so let us see what can be done with  $y$ .
- For  $y = a$ , we choose  $i = 0$  and get a string  $((ab)^*a^*)$  not in  $L$ .



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.10

- If we pick  $y = ab$ , we can choose  $i = 0$  again.
- Now we get the string  $(ab)^p a^p$ , which is not in  $L$ .
- In the same way, we can deal with any possible choice of  $y$ , thereby proving our claim.



# Example

*Peter Linz, Example 4.13*

- Show that the language  $L = \{a^n b^l \mid n \neq l\}$  is not regular.



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.13

- Here we need a bit of ingenuity to apply the pumping lemma directly.
- Choosing a string with,  $l = p + 1$ , or,  $l = p + 2$ , will not do.
- We can always choose a decomposition that will make it impossible to pump the string out of the language.
- That is, we can not pump it so that it does not always have an unequal number of  $a$ 's and  $b$ 's.





# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.13

- We must be more inventive.
- Let us take  $n = p!$  and  $l = (p + 1)!$ .
- We now choose  $y$  (by necessity consisting of all  $a$ 's) of length  $0 < k \leq p$ .
- In the string  $xy^iz$ , we will have  $(p! + (i - 1)k)$   $a$ 's.
- We can get a contradiction of the pumping lemma if we can pick  $i$  such that  $p! + (i - 1)k = (p + 1)!$



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.13



$$\begin{aligned}p! + (i - 1)k &= (p + 1)!, \\(i - 1)k &= (p + 1)! - p!, \\&= (p + 1)p! - p!, \\&= p!(p + 1 - 1), \\ik - k &= p!p, \\i &= 1 + \frac{p!p}{k}.\end{aligned}$$

- This is always possible since  $k \leq p$ .
- The right side is therefore an integer.
- We have succeeded in violating the conditions of the pumping lemma.



# Example — *continued*

Peter Linz, Example 4.13, comments added by the instructor

*What is wrong with starting with a string like  $a^{p+1}b^p$ ?*

- This string has a length  $\geq p$ .
- Also, it belongs to the given language,  $L = \{a^n b^l \mid n \neq l\}$ .
- Then, what is wrong with taking,  $y = a$ , pumping it out, and getting a string,  $a^p b^p \notin L$ ?
- Hence, show that  $L$  is not regular.



# Example — *continued*

*Peter Linz, Example 4.13, comments added by the instructor*

- The problem is, we have not tried *all* possible  $y$ 's, as we should always do.



# Example — *continued*

*Peter Linz, Example 4.13, comments added by the instructor*

- If we take,  $y = aa$ , we will observe that,  $xy^iz$  will always belong to  $L$ , for all values of  $i$ .



# Example — *continued*

*Peter Linz, Example 4.13, comments added by the instructor*

- So, our string was *not* chosen properly.



# A Pumping Lemma

*Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)*

- The pumping lemma is difficult to understand.
- It is easy to go astray when applying it.
- Here are some common pitfalls.
- Watch out for them.



# A Pumping Lemma — *continued*

Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)

- One mistake is to try using the pumping lemma to show that a language is regular.
- Even if you can show that all possible strings in  $L$  always obey the pumping lemma, you cannot conclude that  $L$  is regular.
- The pumping lemma can *only* be used to prove that a language is not regular.





# A Pumping Lemma — *continued*

Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)

- Another mistake is to start (usually inadvertently) with a string not in  $L$ .
- For example, suppose we try to show that  $L = \{a^n \mid n \text{ is a prime number}\}$  is not regular.
- An argument starts with “Given  $p$ , let  $w = a^p \dots$ ”.
- This is incorrect since  $p$  is not necessarily prime.



# A Pumping Lemma — *continued*

Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)

- To avoid this pitfall, we need to start with something like, “Given  $p$ , let  $w = a^M$ , where  $M$  is a prime number larger than  $p$ .”



# A Pumping Lemma — *continued*

Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)

- Finally, perhaps the most common mistake is to make some assumptions about the decomposition  $xyz$ .
- The only thing we can say about the decomposition is what the pumping lemma tells us, namely,
  - that  $y$  is not empty and
  - that  $|xy| \leq p$ , that is, that  $y$  must be within  $p$  symbols of the left end of the string.
- Anything else makes the argument invalid.



# A Pumping Lemma — *continued*

Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)

- But even if you master the technical difficulties of the pumping lemma, it may still be hard to see exactly how to use it.
- The pumping lemma is like a game with complicated rules.



# A Pumping Lemma — *continued*

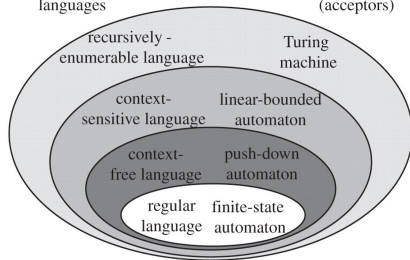
Peter Linz, 4.3 (adapted)

- Knowledge of the rules is essential, but that alone is not enough to play a good game.
- You also need a good strategy to win.



grammars (generators) and  
languages

automata  
(acceptors)



# End of Slides

