Grammars

Grammars

Grammars express languages

Example: the English language

$$\langle sentence \rangle \rightarrow \langle noun\_phrase \rangle \; \langle predicate \rangle$$

$$\langle noun\_phrase \rangle \rightarrow \langle article \rangle \; \langle noun \rangle$$

$$\langle predicate \rangle \rightarrow \langle verb \rangle$$

$$\langle article \rangle \rightarrow a$$

$$\langle article \rangle \rightarrow the$$

$$\langle noun \rangle \rightarrow boy$$

$$\langle noun \rangle \rightarrow dog$$

$$\langle verb \rangle \rightarrow runs$$

$$\langle verb \rangle \rightarrow walks$$

A derivation of "the boy walks":

$$\langle sentence \rangle \Rightarrow \langle noun\_phrase \rangle \; \langle predicate \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle noun\_phrase \rangle \; \langle verb \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle article \rangle \; \langle noun \rangle \; \langle verb \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow the \; \langle noun \rangle \; \langle verb \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow the \;\; boy \; \langle verb \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow the \;\; boy \;\; walks$$

A derivation of "a dog runs":

$$
\begin{aligned}
\langle sentence \rangle &\Rightarrow \langle noun\_phrase \rangle \ \langle predicate \rangle \\
&\Rightarrow \langle noun\_phrase \rangle \ \langle verb \rangle \\
&\Rightarrow \langle article \rangle \ \langle noun \rangle \ \langle verb \rangle \\
&\Rightarrow a \ \langle noun \rangle \ \langle verb \rangle \\
&\Rightarrow a \ dog \ \langle verb \rangle \\
&\Rightarrow a \ dog \ runs
\end{aligned}
$$

Language of the grammar:

L = { "a boy runs",
"a boy walks",
"the boy runs",
"the boy walks",
"a dog runs",
"a dog walks",
"the dog runs",
"the dog walks" }

Notation

$$\langle noun \rangle \rightarrow boy$$

$$\langle noun \rangle \rightarrow dog$$

Variable
or
Non-terminal

Production
rule

Terminal

Another Example

Grammar: $S \rightarrow aSb$

$S \rightarrow \lambda$

Derivation of sentence ab :

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow ab$$

$S \rightarrow aSb$ $\qquad$ $S \rightarrow \lambda$

Grammar: $S \to aSb$

$S \to \lambda$

Derivation of sentence $aabb$:

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aabb$$

$S \to aSb$ $\qquad$ $S \to \lambda$

Other derivations:

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aaaSbbb \Rightarrow aaabbb$$

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aaaSbbb$$
$$\Rightarrow aaaaSbbbb \Rightarrow aaaabbbb$$

Language of the grammar

$$S \to aSb$$

$$S \to \lambda$$

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

More Notation

Grammar $G = (V, T, S, P)$

$V:$ Set of variables

$T:$ Set of terminal symbols

$S:$ Start variable

$P:$ Set of Production rules

Example

Grammar G : $S \to aSb$

$S \to \lambda$

$$G = (V, T, S, P)$$

$V = \{S\}$ $T = \{a, b\}$

$P = \{S \to aSb,\ S \to \lambda\}$

More Notation

Sentential Form:

A sentence that contains variables and terminals

Example:

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aaaSbbb \Rightarrow aaabbb$$

Sentential Forms

sentence

We write: $S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aaabbb$

Instead of:

$$S \Rightarrow aSb \Rightarrow aaSbb \Rightarrow aaaSbbb \Rightarrow aaabbb$$

In general we write: $w_1 \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} w_n$

If: $w_1 \Rightarrow w_2 \Rightarrow w_3 \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow w_n$

By default: $$w \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w$$

Example

Grammar

$$S \to aSb$$

$$S \to \lambda$$

Derivations

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} \lambda$$

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} ab$$

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aabb$$

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aaabbb$$

Example

Grammar

$$S \rightarrow aSb$$

$$S \rightarrow \lambda$$

Derivations

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aaSbb$$

$$aaSbb \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aaaaaSbbbbb$$

Another Grammar Example

Grammar G : $S \to Ab$

$A \to aAb$

$A \to \lambda$

Derivations:

$$S \Rightarrow Ab \Rightarrow b$$

$$S \Rightarrow Ab \Rightarrow aAbb \Rightarrow abb$$

$$S \Rightarrow aAbb \Rightarrow aaAbbb \Rightarrow aabbb$$

More Derivations

$$S \Rightarrow Ab \Rightarrow aAbb \Rightarrow aaAbbb \Rightarrow aaaAbbbb$$

$$\Rightarrow aaaaAbbbbb \Rightarrow aaaabbbbb$$

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aaaabbbbb$$

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} aaaaaabbbbbbb$$

$$S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} a^n b^n b$$

Language of a Grammar

For a grammar G
with start variable S :

$$L(G) = \{w : \quad S \overset{*}{\Longrightarrow} w\}$$

String of terminals

Example

For grammar G : $S \rightarrow Ab$

$$A \rightarrow aAb$$

$$A \rightarrow \lambda$$

$$L(G) = \{a^n b^n b : \quad n \geq 0\}$$

Since: $S \overset{*}{\Rightarrow} a^n b^n b$

A Convenient Notation

$$A \to aAb$$
$$A \to \lambda$$
$$\Longrightarrow \quad A \to aAb \mid \lambda$$

$$\langle article \rangle \to a$$
$$\langle article \rangle \to the$$
$$\Longrightarrow \quad \langle article \rangle \to a \mid the$$

Linear Grammars

Linear Grammars

Grammars with
at most one variable at the right side
of a production

Examples:

$$S \to aSb$$
$$S \to \lambda$$

$$S \to Ab$$
$$A \to aAb$$
$$A \to \lambda$$

A Non-Linear Grammar

Grammar G :

$$S \to SS$$

$$S \to \lambda$$

$$S \to aSb$$

$$S \to bSa$$

$$L(G) = \{w: \quad n_a(w) = n_b(w)\}$$

Another Linear Grammar

Grammar G :

$$S \rightarrow A$$

$$A \rightarrow aB \mid \lambda$$

$$B \rightarrow Ab$$

$$L(G) = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$$

Right-Linear Grammars

All productions have form: $A \to xB$

or

$A \to x$

Example: $S \to abS$

$S \to a$

Left-Linear Grammars

All productions have form: $A \to Bx$

or

$A \to x$

Example:

$$S \to Aab$$

$$A \to Aab \mid B$$

$$B \to a$$

Regular Grammars

Regular Grammars

A regular grammar is any
right-linear or left-linear grammar

Examples:

G_1

$$S \to abS$$
$$S \to a$$

G_2

$$S \to Aab$$
$$A \to Aab \mid B$$
$$B \to a$$

Observation

Regular grammars generate regular languages

Examples:

$$G_1$$

$$S \rightarrow abS$$

$$S \rightarrow a$$

$$L(G_1) = (ab)^* a$$

$$G_2$$

$$S \rightarrow Aab$$

$$A \rightarrow Aab \mid B$$

$$B \rightarrow a$$

$$L(G_2) = aab(ab)^*$$

Regular Grammars Generate Regular Languages

Theorem

$$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Languages}\\ \text{Generated by}\\ \text{Regular Grammars}\end{array}\right\} = \left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Regular}\\ \text{Languages}\end{array}\right\}$$

Theorem - Part 1

$$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Languages}\\ \text{Generated by}\\ \text{Regular Grammars}\end{array}\right\} \subseteq \left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Regular}\\ \text{Languages}\end{array}\right\}$$

Any regular grammar generates a regular language

Theorem - Part 2

$$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Languages}\\\text{Generated by}\\\text{Regular Grammars}\end{array}\right\} \supseteq \left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Regular}\\\text{Languages}\end{array}\right\}$$

Any regular language is generated by a regular grammar

Proof – Part 1

$$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Languages} \\ \text{Generated by} \\ \text{Regular Grammars}\end{array}\right\} \subseteq \left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Regular} \\ \text{Languages}\end{array}\right\}$$

The language $L(G)$ generated by any regular grammar G is regular

The case of Right-Linear Grammars

Let G be a right-linear grammar

We will prove: $L(G)$ is regular

Proof idea: We will construct NFA M with $L(M) = L(G)$

Grammar G is right-linear

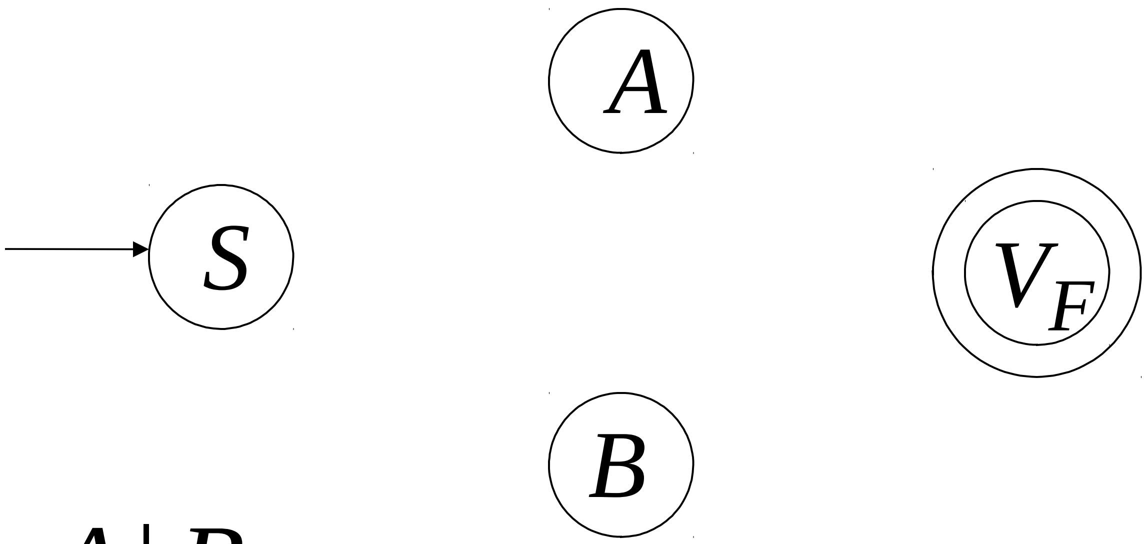
Example:

$$S \to aA \mid B$$

$$A \to aa\,B$$

$$B \to b\,B \mid a$$

Construct NFA M such that every state is a grammar variable:



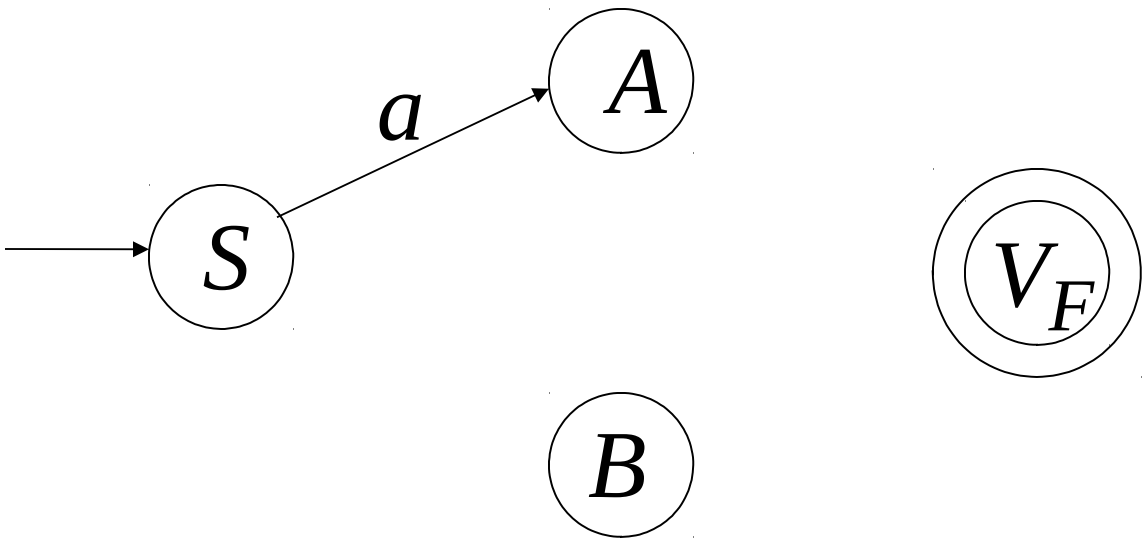
special final state

$$S \to aA \mid B$$

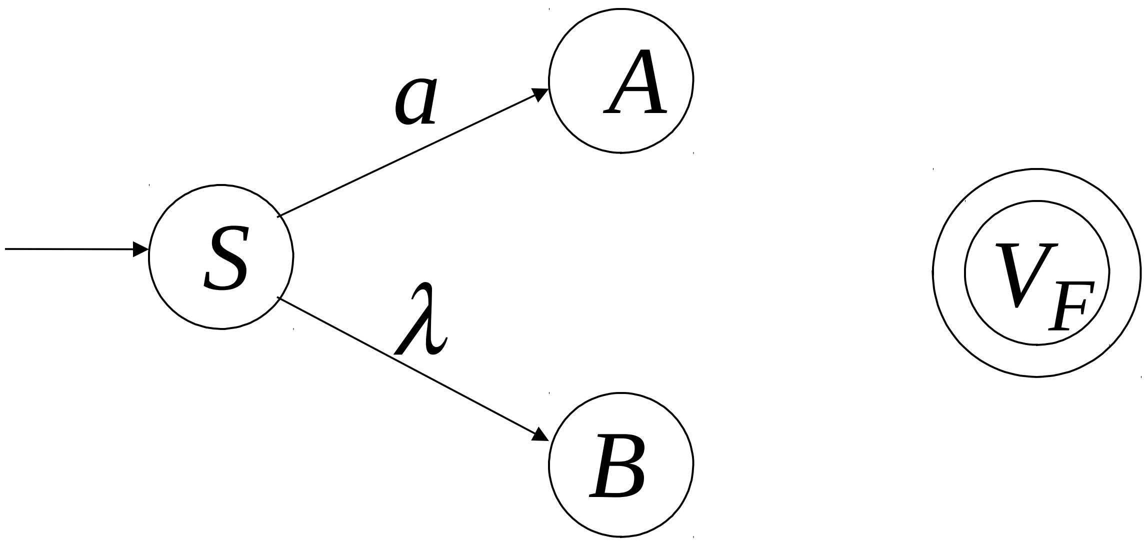
$$A \to aa\,B$$

$$B \to b\,B \mid a$$

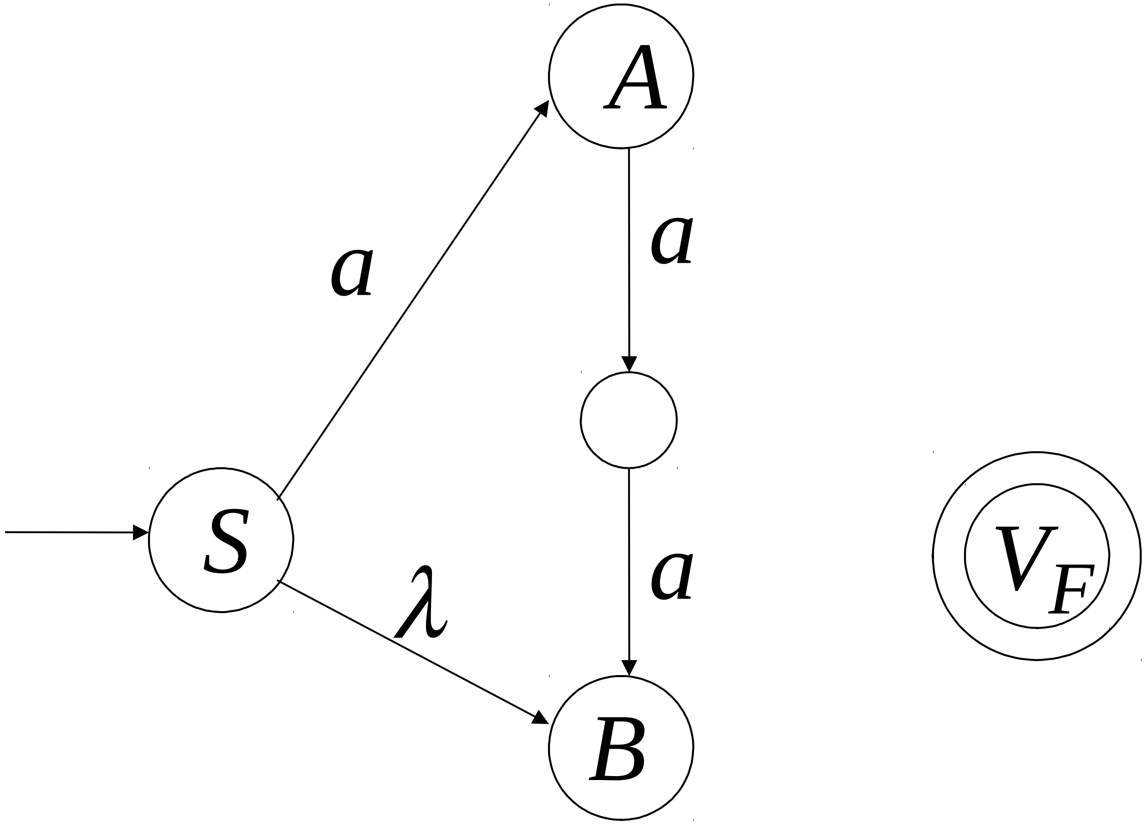
Add edges for each production:



$$S \to aA$$

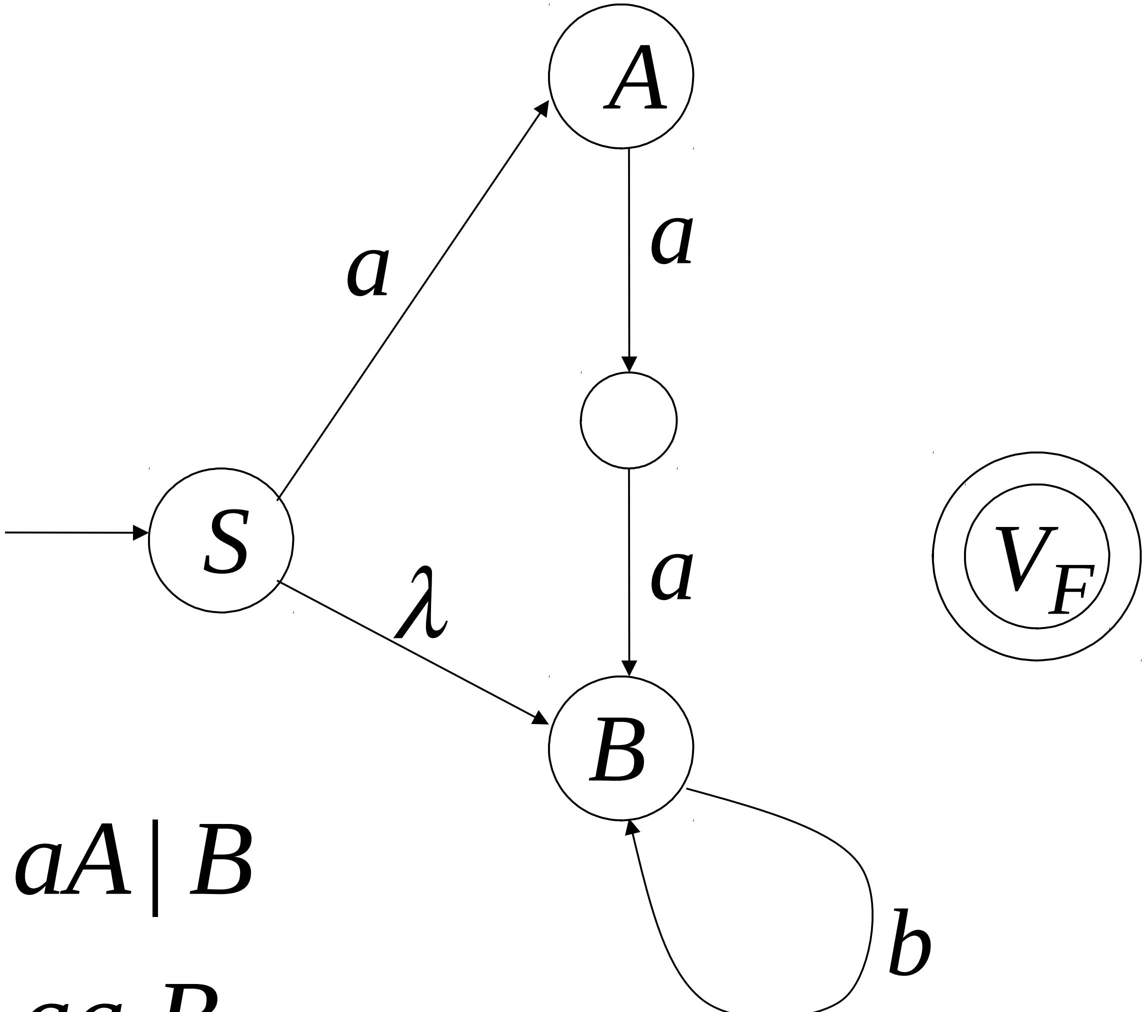


$$S \to aA \mid B$$



$$S \rightarrow aA \mid B$$

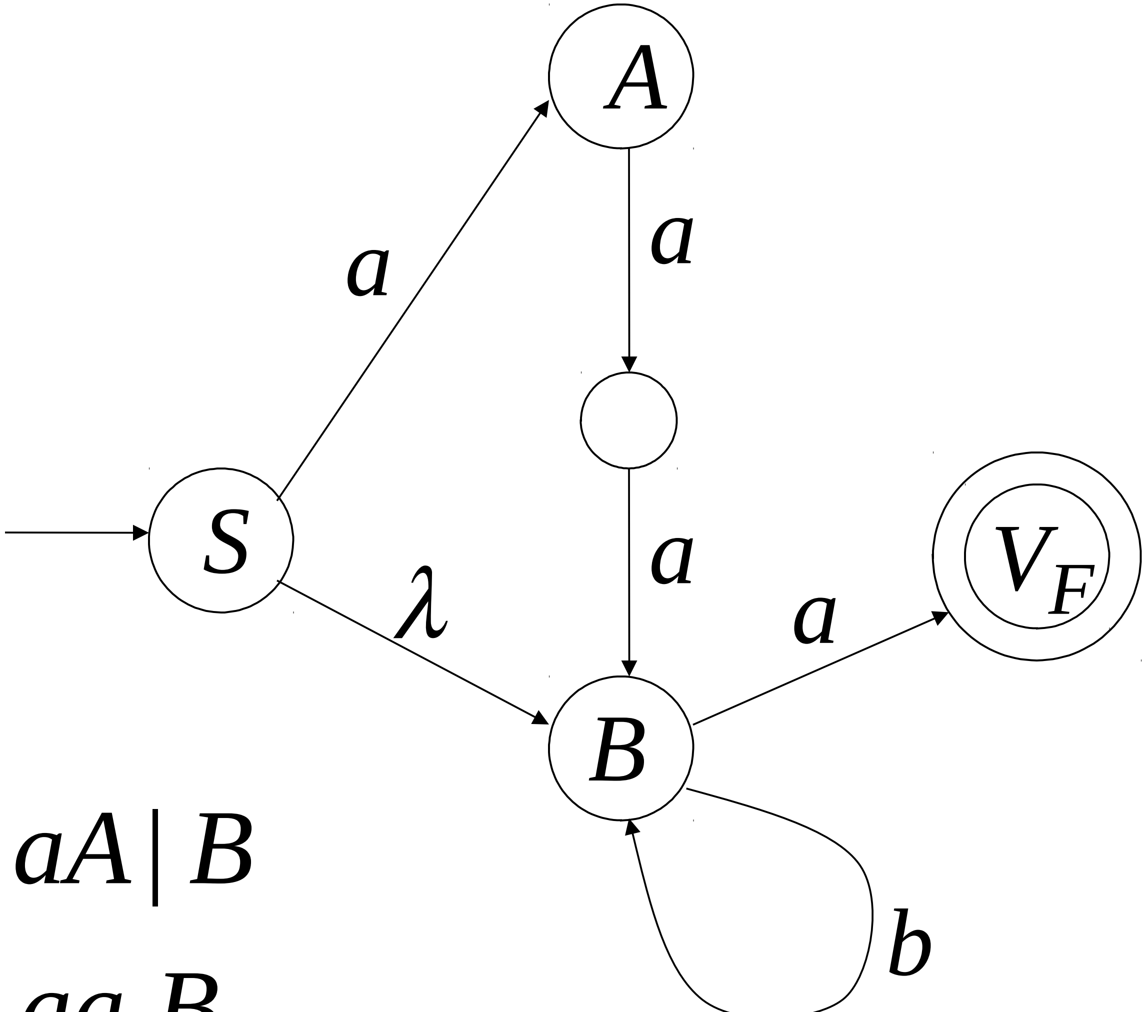
$$A \rightarrow aa\ B$$



$$S \to aA \mid B$$

$$A \to aa\ B$$

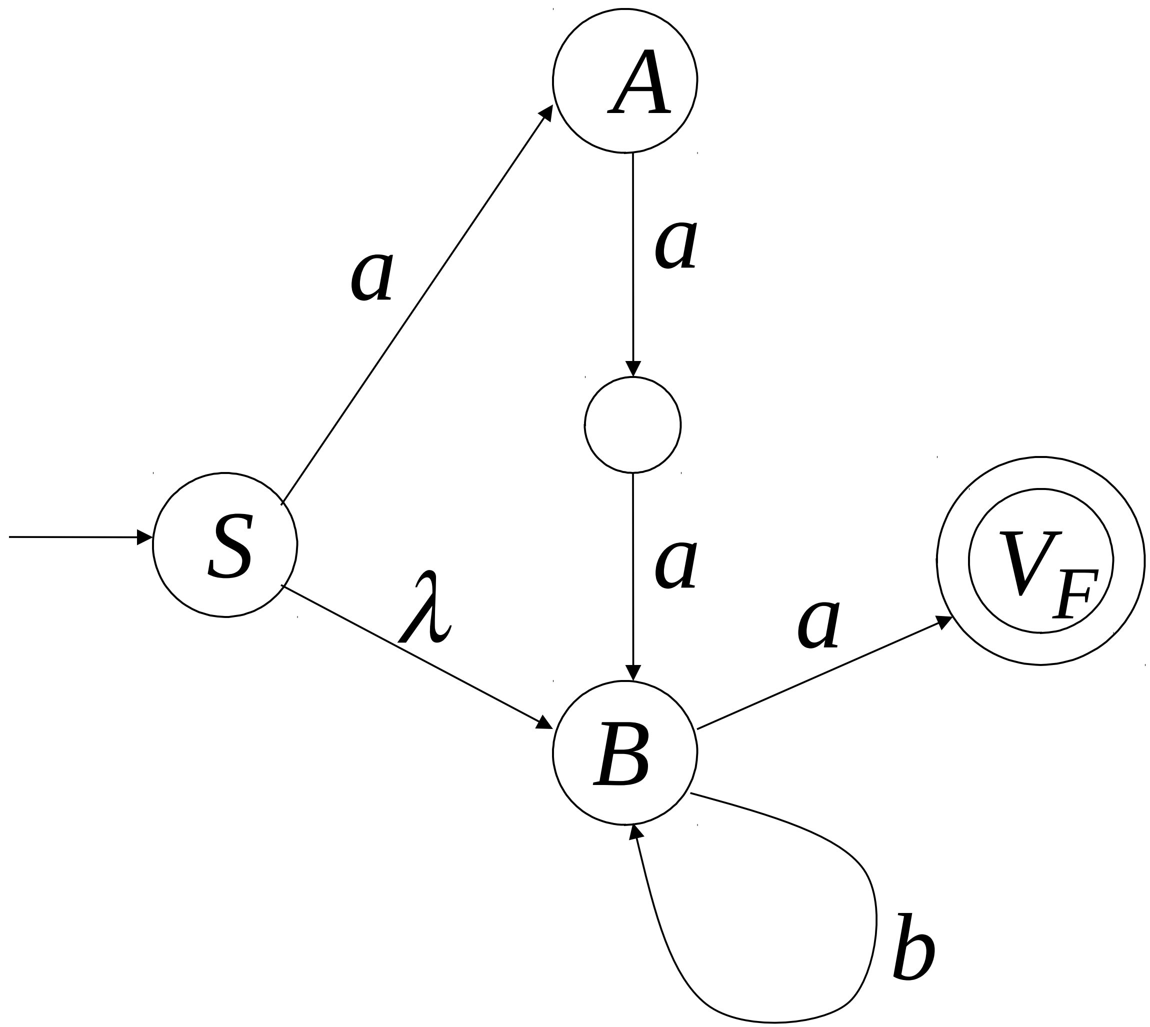
$$B \to bB$$



$$S \rightarrow aA \mid B$$

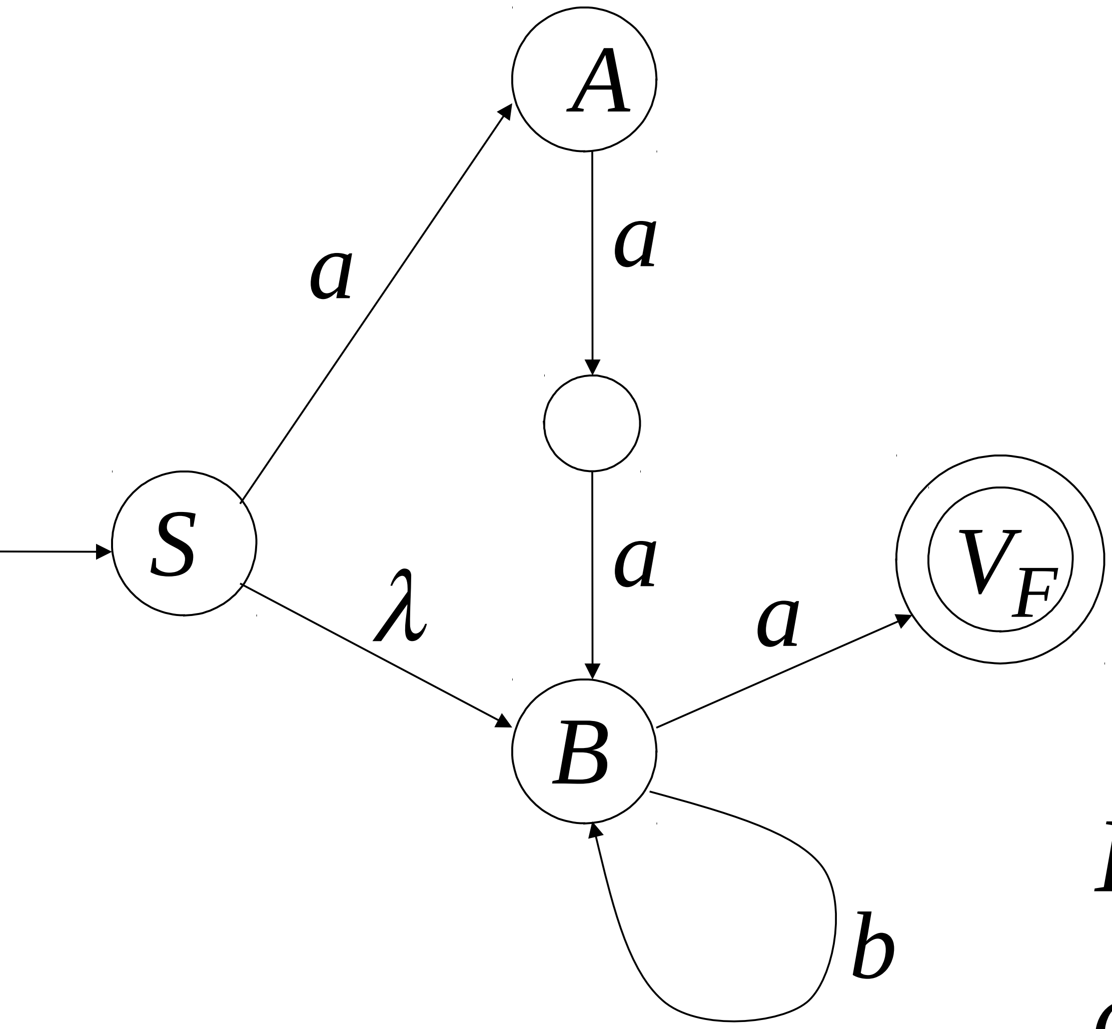
$$A \rightarrow aa\ B$$

$$B \rightarrow bB \mid a$$



$$S \Rightarrow aA \Rightarrow aaaB \Rightarrow aaabB \Rightarrow aaaba$$

NFA M



Grammar G

$$S \to aA \mid B$$

$$A \to aa\, B$$

$$B \to bB \mid a$$

$$L(M) = L(G) =$$

$$aaab^*a + b^*a$$

In General

A right-linear grammar G

has variables: $V_0, V_1, V_2, \ldots$

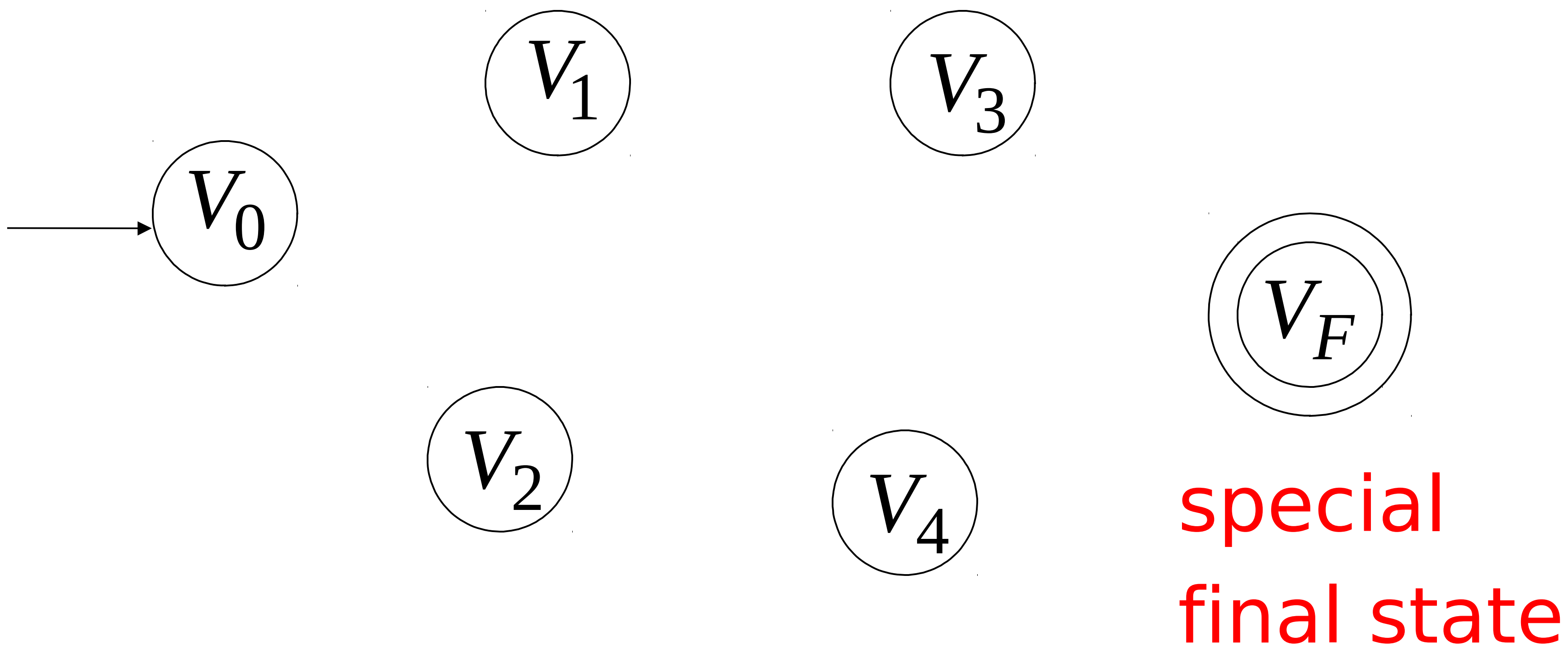
and productions: $V_i \rightarrow a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m V_j$

or

$$V_i \rightarrow a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m$$

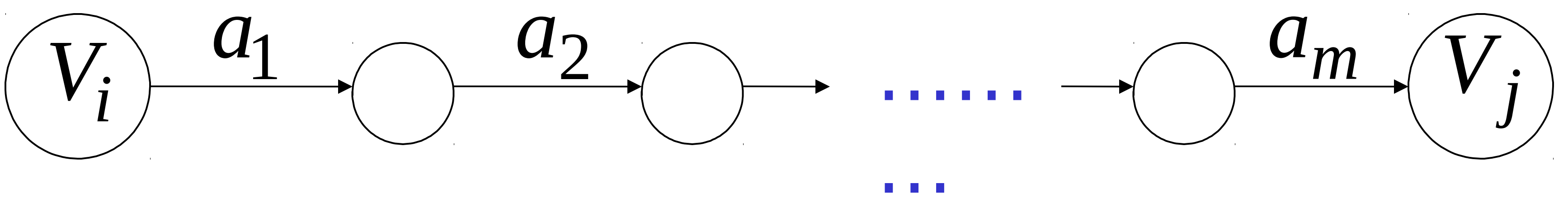
We construct the NFA M such that:

each variable V_i corresponds to a node:



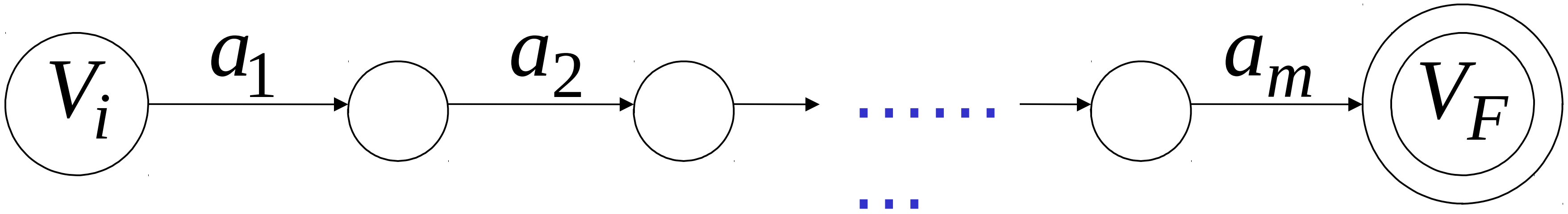
For each production: $V_i \to a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m V_j$

we add transitions and intermediate nodes

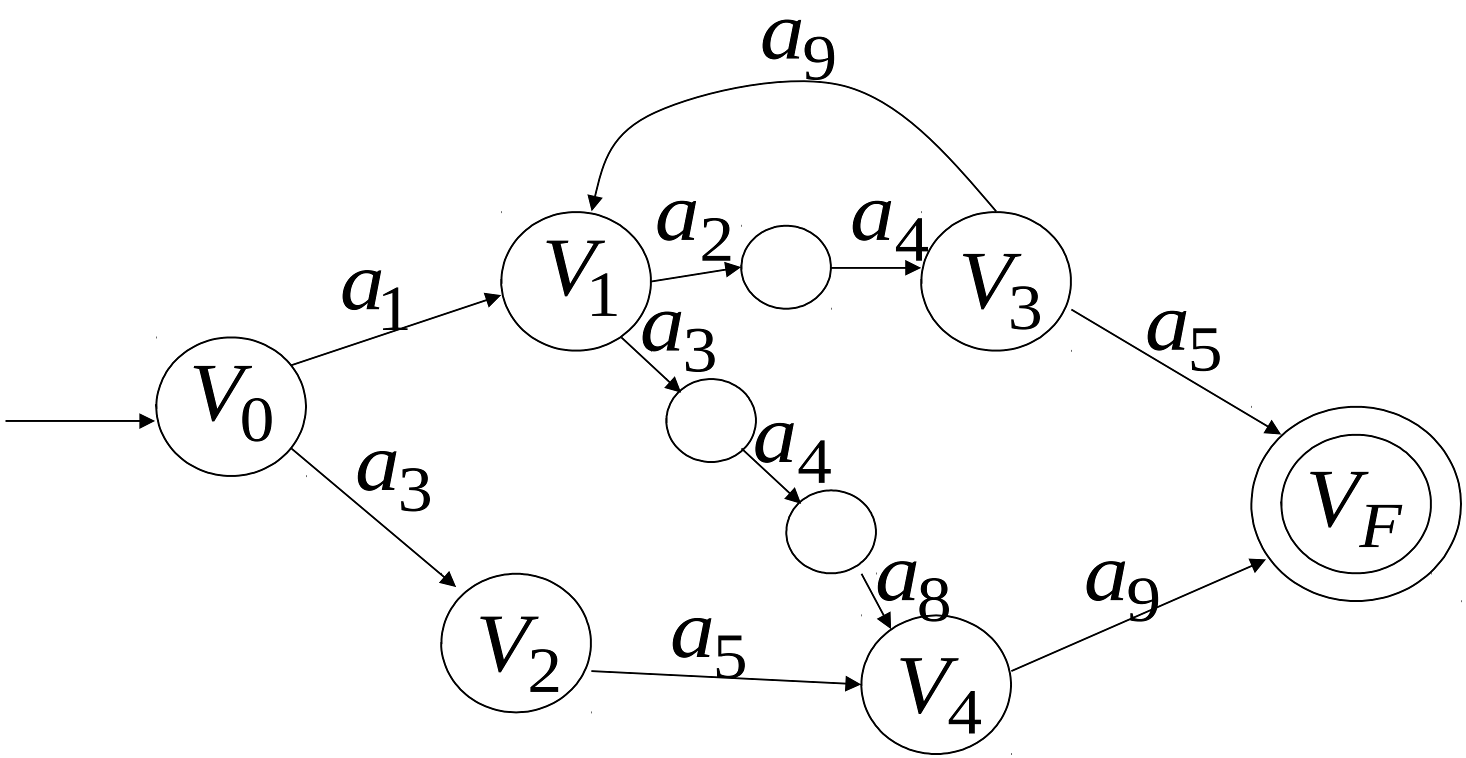


For each production: $V_i \to a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m$

we add transitions and intermediate nodes



Resulting NFA M looks like this:



It holds that: $L(G) = L(M)$

The case of Left-Linear Grammars

Let G be a left-linear grammar

We will prove: $L(G)$ is regular

Proof idea:

We will construct a right-linear grammar G' with $L(G) = L(G')^R$

Since G is left-linear grammar

the productions look like:

$$A \to B a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k$$

$$A \to a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k$$

Construct right-linear grammar G'

In G :

$$A \to Ba_1a_2 \cdots a_k$$

$$A \to vB$$

In G' :

$$A \to a_k \cdots a_2a_1B$$

$$A \to v^R B$$

Construct right-linear grammar G'

In G :

$$A \to a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k$$

$$A \to v$$

$$\Downarrow$$

In G' :

$$A \to a_k \cdots a_2 a_1$$

$$A \to v^R$$

It is easy to see that: $L(G) = L(G')^R$

Since G' is right-linear, we have:

$$L(G') \quad \Longrightarrow \quad L(G')^R \quad \Longrightarrow \quad L(G)$$

Regular Language	Regular Language	Regular Language

Proof - Part 2

$$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Languages} \\ \text{Generated by} \\ \text{Regular Grammars}\end{array}\right\} \supseteq \left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Regular} \\ \text{Languages}\end{array}\right\}$$

Any regular language L is generated by some regular grammar G

Any regular language L is generated by some regular grammar G

Proof idea:

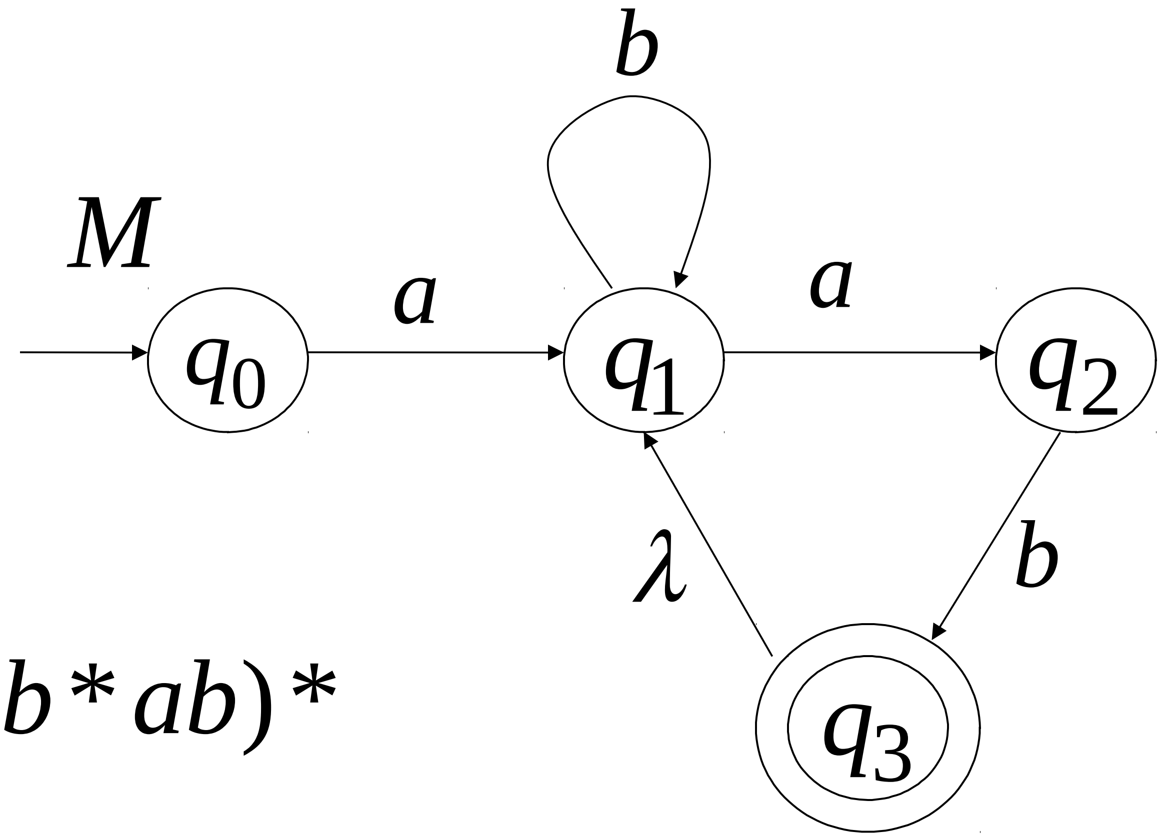
Let M be the NFA with $L = L(M)$.

Construct from M a regular grammar G such that $L(M) = L(G)$

Since L is regular

there is an NFA M such that $L = L(M)$

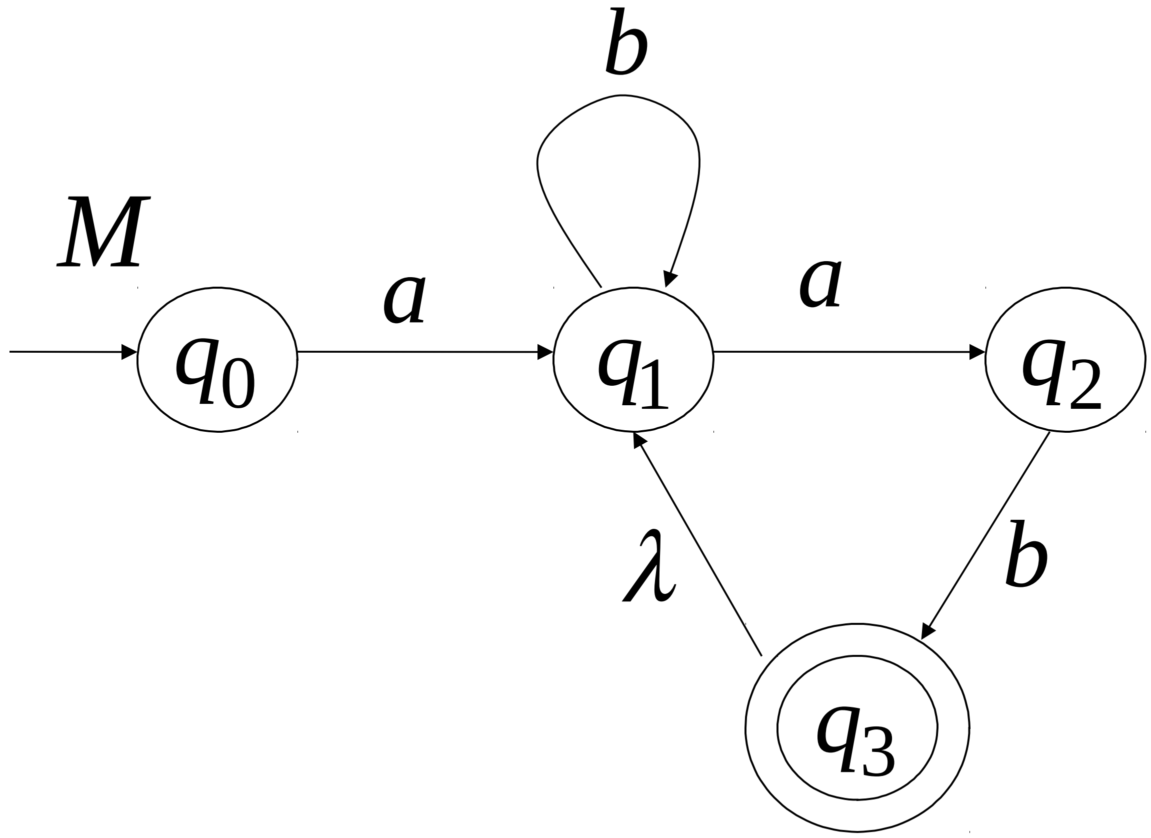
Example:



$L = ab^*ab(b^*ab)^*$

$L = L(M)$

Convert M to a right-linear grammar

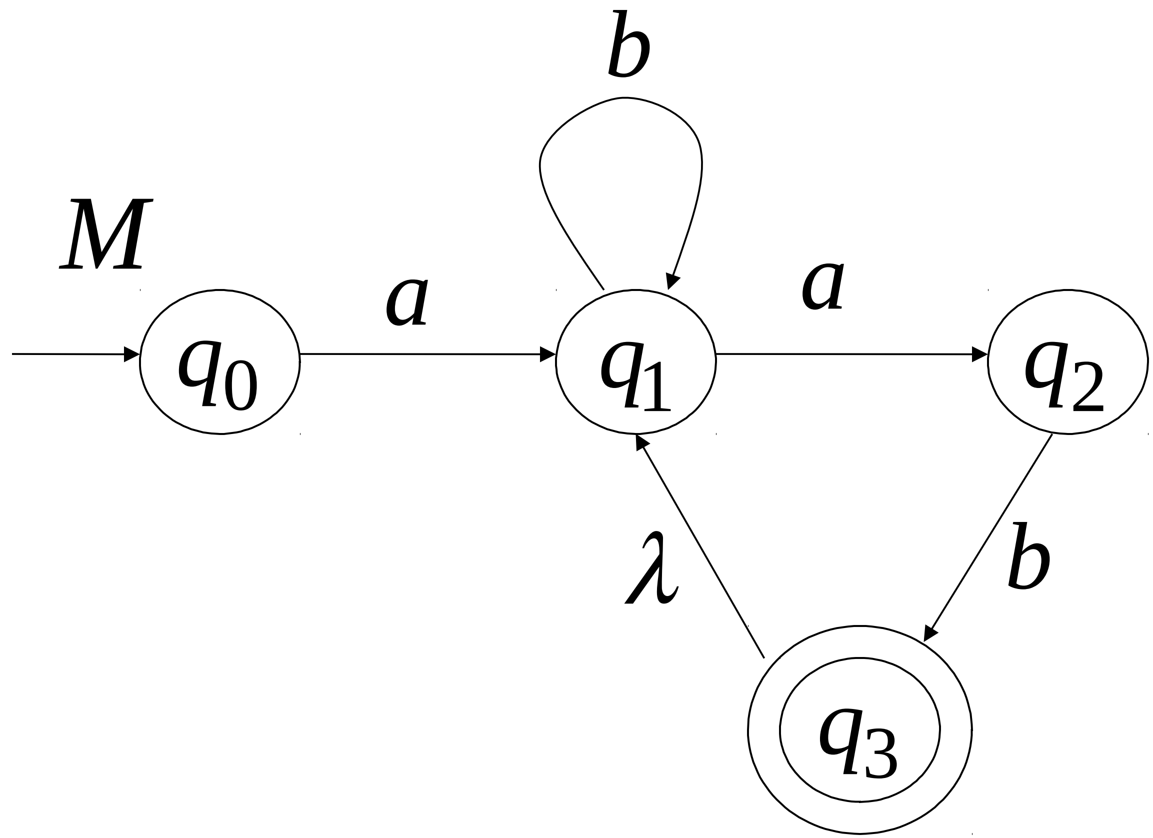


$$q_0 \to aq_1$$

$$q_0 \rightarrow aq_1$$

$$q_1 \rightarrow bq_1$$

$$q_1 \rightarrow aq_2$$

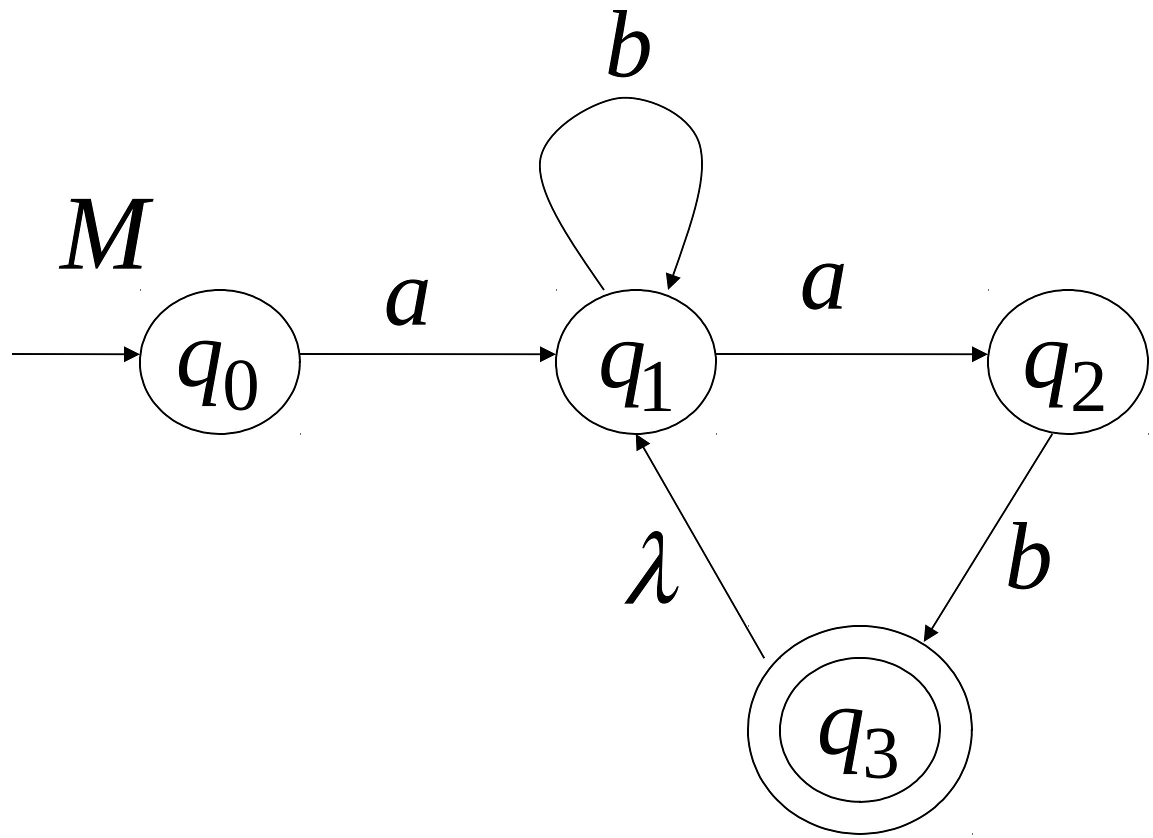


$$q_0 \to aq_1$$

$$q_1 \to bq_1$$

$$q_1 \to aq_2$$

$$q_2 \to bq_3$$



$$L(G) = L(M) = L$$

G

$$q_0 \to aq_1$$

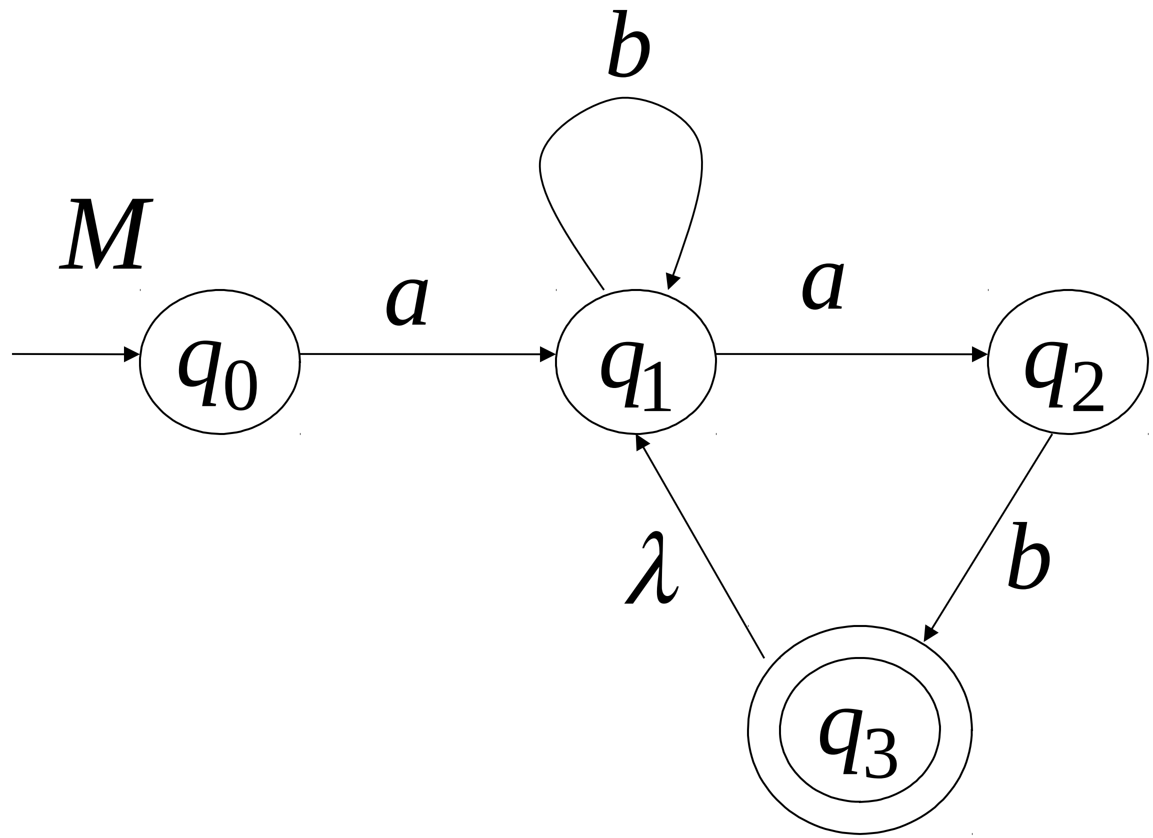
$$q_1 \to bq_1$$

$$q_1 \to aq_2$$

$$q_2 \to bq_3$$

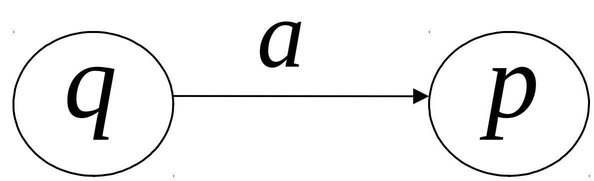
$$q_3 \to q_1$$

$$q_3 \to \lambda$$



In General

For any transition:



Add production:

$$q \to ap$$

variable terminal variable

For any final state: q_f

Add production: $q_f \rightarrow \lambda$

Since G is right-linear grammar

G is also a regular grammar

with $L(G) = L(M) = L$