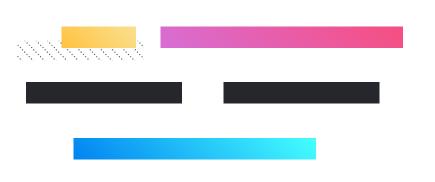
### **Theory of Computing:**

## 4. Regular Expressions



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### **Outline:**



- Nondeterministic
- Converting NFA to DFA
- Minimizing DFA
- Regular Expressions
- Building FA from Regular Expressions
- Regular Expressions for text processing



# Nondeterministic Finite Automata

#### Nondeterministic Finite Automata (NFA)

- For each state there can be zero, one, two, or more transitions corresponding to a particular symbol.
- O Why:
  - Because it is easier, compared to the conditions imposed by DFA
    - To construct
    - To understand
  - To simulate scenarios in real life (but computers are deterministic machines)

### Nondeterministic Finite Automata

#### DFA vs NFA:

	DFA	NFA
Transition with the same label from a state	Strictly one	Multiple
Transition with the empty string	Does not exist	It exists
Trap State for missing transitions	Obligatory	Optional

### **Converting NFA to DFA**

#### Algorithm to convert NFA to DFA:

- It is called conversion by subset construction :
- States are represented as sets from the power set : 2<sup>Q</sup>
  - 1. Determine the initial Start State
    - It is the set containing the original start state union all other states reached from the original state by  $\pmb{\varepsilon}$  ( directly or indirectly)
  - 2. Determine the Accept States
    - Any State set containing at least an original accept state
  - 3. For each possible state created from 2<sup>Q</sup>, find the possible transitions
    - If there is missing transition, create a dead state
  - 4. Draw the state diagram
  - 5. Remove any state without **incoming** transitions
- Another Strategy: Use the Transition Tables to facilitate the conversion

### Minimization of Finite Automata

- Simpler version of the algorithm in plain English:
  - Group "equivalent" states into a single "region" or set:
  - Equivalent =
    - States equivalent if they lead to the same "region"
    - Region = set of equivalent states.
  - If elements in a grouped set/region are not equivalent:
    - We create a separate "region" for them.
  - We keep splitting regions until we are no able to split = all elements in each region are equivalent.

#### Finite Automata

- Abstract machines to represent a language
- It is mostly a graphical representation
- Is there a different representation that :
  - People can understand?
  - Machine can compile and interpret?

#### Definition

- o For this course:
  - A textual representation of regular languages using the three operators: union, concatenation and the star
  - Originated from the work of the mathematician: Stephen Cole Kleene in 1951
- For text processing :
  - A sequence of characters or operators to represent a particular pattern of strings

#### Definition

- Regular expressions are usually compact representations and human readable.
- Regular expressions are abbreviated as: Regex or RE
- There are variations in the notations depending on the textbook,
   programming language ( Example for the union : **U** vs vs | )

- Operation : Union
  - Notation:
    - **■** | U +
  - o Examples for words:
    - (aUb)
      - a or b
  - For languages:
    - $\blacksquare$  {a,b,c} U {1,2,3} = {a,b,c,1,2,3}

- Operation : Concatenation
  - Notation:
    - ab
    - a∘b
  - Explanation :
    - Attach the first part to the second part.

#### Operation : Concatenation

- Given languages  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ , we define their concatenation to be the language  $L_1 \circ L_2 = \{xy \mid x \in L_1, y \in L_2\}$
- Examples:
  - {a,b,c}∘ {1,2,3} = {a1,a2,a3,b1,b2,b3,c1,c2,c3}
  - $L_1$  = {hello} and  $L_2$  = {world} then  $L_1 \circ L_2$  = {helloworld}

- Operation : Star
  - Notation
    - a\*
  - Example for words :
    - $\blacksquare$  a\* = { $\epsilon$ , a,aa,aaa,aaaa,...}
  - For languages :
    - {a,b}\* ={ $\epsilon$ , a, b, ab,ba,aab, ... all words composed by a and b}

- Operation : Star
  - More examples:
    - L={ ma, xy, bc }
    - L\* = { ε, ma, xy, maxy, xyma, mabc, bcma, maxymc, ..... }

#### Formal Definition

- Regular expressions can be in of the following forms:
  - lacksquare a for some a in the alphabet  $\Sigma$
  - **■** E
  - Ø
- $\circ$  In addition to (provided that  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are regular expressions:)
  - $\blacksquare$  R<sub>1</sub> U R<sub>2</sub>
  - $\blacksquare$   $R_1 \circ R_2$
  - R<sub>1</sub>\*

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - 01 U 10

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - 01 U 10
  - L= {01,10}

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - $\blacksquare$  (0 U  $\epsilon$ )(1 U  $\epsilon$ )

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - $\blacksquare$  (0 U  $\epsilon$ )(1 U  $\epsilon$ )
  - **L={ε**, 0, 1, 01}

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - ∑\* 001∑\*

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - ∑\* 001∑\*
  - L = { w | w contains 001 as a substring}

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (0 U 1)\* 001 (0 U 1)\*

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (0 U 1)\* 001 (0 U 1)\*
  - It is the same as :  $\Sigma$ \* 001 $\Sigma$ \*
  - L = { w | w contains 001 as a substring}

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - 0\*10\*

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - **1**\*

- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - $\blacksquare$  1\* = { $\epsilon$ , 1, 11,111,111.....}

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - **■** (O1)\*

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - $\blacksquare$  (01)\* = { $\epsilon$ ,01, 0101,010101,}

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (O\*| 1\*)

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - **(11 | 01)**\*

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (11 | 01)\* = {ε,11, 01, 1101,0111, 111111,010101,..... Any word composed from 11 and 01 in any way}

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0.1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - 0\*10\*
  - L = {w| w contains a single 1}.

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (0 U 1)\* 1 (00)\*00

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (0 U 1)\* 1 (00)\*00
  - L = {w| w ends with an even number of zeros}.

#### Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (0 U 1)\* 1 (00)\*00
  - L = {w | w ends with an even number of zeros}.
    - 00?

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
- What's the language for the following regular expression:
  - (0 U 1)\* 1 (00)\*00
  - L = {w| w ends with an even number of zeros}.
    - 00?
    - ( ((0|1)\*1 ) | e ) (00)\* 00 (e = epsilon)

### • Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$  |  $w \in S^*$  |

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- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
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11011100101 0000 11111011110011111

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- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
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- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$  |  $w \in \Sigma^*$  |

```
1*(0 | ε)1*

11110111

111111

0111

0
```

### • Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$  | w has only four symbols, |w|=4 }

### • Examples:

```
\circ \Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}
```

○ Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$  | w has only four symbols, |w|=4 }

```
(0|1)(0|1)(0|1)(0|1)
```

### Examples:

```
\circ \Sigma = \{0,1\}
```

Language L = { w ∈Σ\* | w has only four symbols, |w|=4 }

```
      (0|1)(0|1)(0|1)(0|1)
      (0|1)4

      0000
      0000

      1010
      1010

      1111
      1111

      1000
      1000
```

### • Examples:

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , w starts and ends with the same symbol}

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- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{ 0, 1 \}$
- $\circ$  Language L = { w  $\in \Sigma^*$  , w starts and ends with the same symbol and has a length of at least 2}

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
- Language L = { w ∈Σ\* , w starts and ends with the same symbol and has a length of at least 2}
- (οΣ\*ο) U (1Σ\*1)

- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , w is a string of even length}

### • Examples:

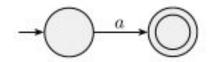
- $\circ$   $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- Language L = {  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , w is a string of even length}
- (ΣΣ)\*
- ((1 U o)(1 U o))\*

Regular Languages :

Any language which can be represented by a regular expression, it is a considered a regular language

- Converting to NFA:
  - R = a for some a  $\subseteq \Sigma$ . Then L(R) = {a}

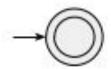
- Converting to NFA:
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### Converting to NFA:

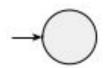
 $\circ$  R = ε. Then L(R) = {ε}

- Converting to NFA:
  - $\circ$  R = ε. Then L(R) = {ε}

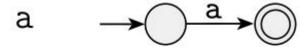


- Converting to NFA:
  - o R = Ø. Then L(R) = Ø

- Converting to NFA:
  - R = Ø. Then L(R) = Ø



- Given two simple regular expressions, already represented by their NFAs
- What's their union represented by an NFA?

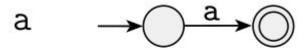


$$b \rightarrow b$$

- Given two simple regular expressions, already represented by their NFAs
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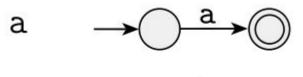
- Given two simple regular expressions, already represented by their NFAs
- How to represent their concatenation by an NFA?



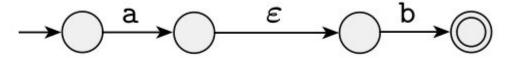
$$b \rightarrow b$$

- Converting to NFA:
  - Given two simple regular expressions, already represented by their NFAs
  - How to represent their concatenation by an NFA?
    - AB
      - Link Accepting States of A to Start state of B with epsilon transition
      - Convert all Accepting states of A to non-accepting

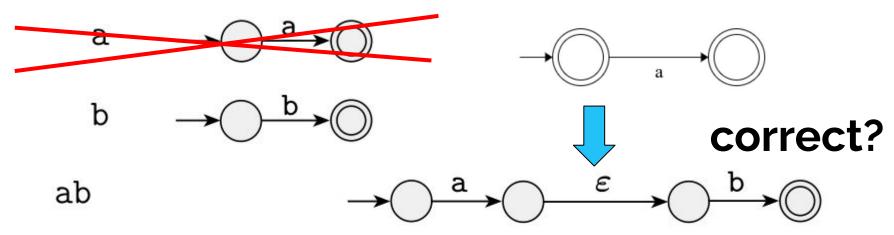
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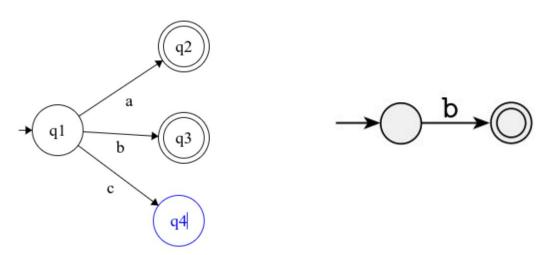
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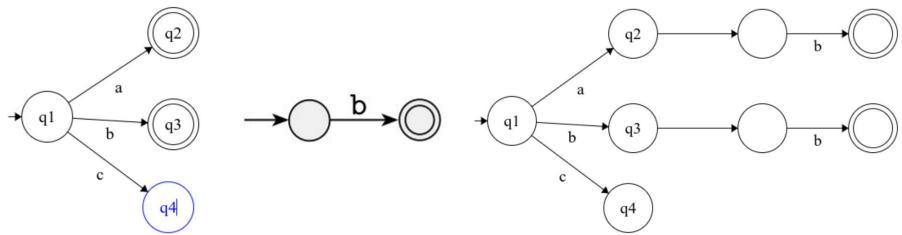
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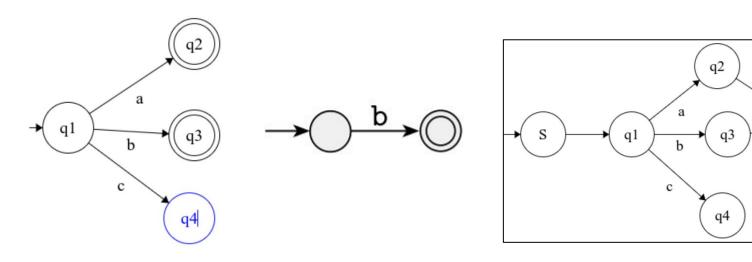


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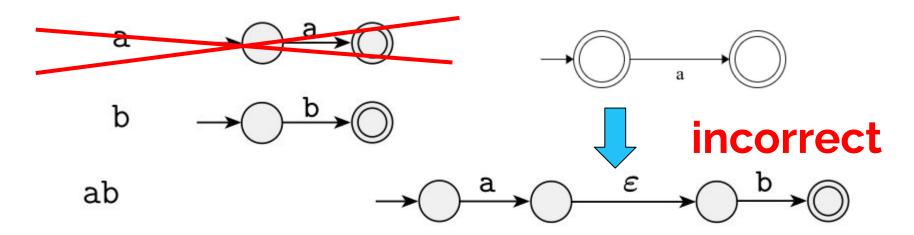
### • Converting to NFA:

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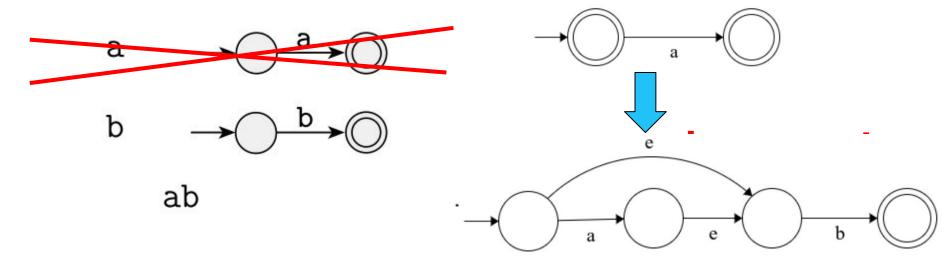


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- Given two simple regular expressions, already represented by their NFAs
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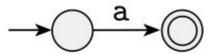


- o Given two simple regular expressions, already represented by their NFAs
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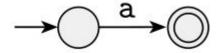
- Converting to NFA:
  - Given one simple regular expression, already represented by their NFA
  - How to represent the star by an NFA?
    - Example : a\* = { ε , a, aa,aaa }

a

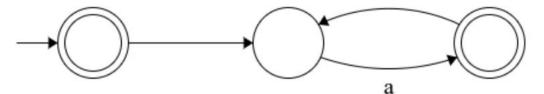


- Converting to NFA:
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    - **Example**: a\* = { ε, a, aa,aaa }

a



a\*



- Converting to NFA:
  - o Given one simple regular expression, already represented by their NFA
  - How to represent the star by an NFA?
    - A\*
      - Make a new start state as accepting
        - Link it with the previous start state with epsilon transition
      - Link all accepting states to the original start state with epsilon transition

#### Converting to NFA:

- o Given one simple regular expression, already represented by their NFA
- How to represent the star by an NFA?
  - (bUa)\*?

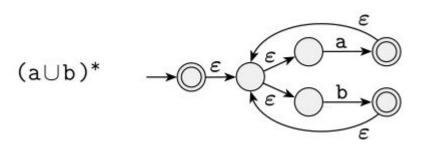
$$b \rightarrow b$$

#### Converting to NFA:

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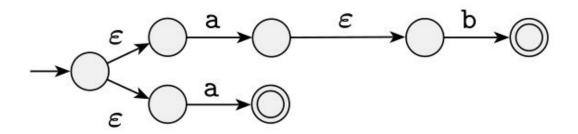
$$b \rightarrow b$$

$$a \cup b$$
  $\xrightarrow{\varepsilon}$   $\xrightarrow{a}$   $\xrightarrow{b}$ 

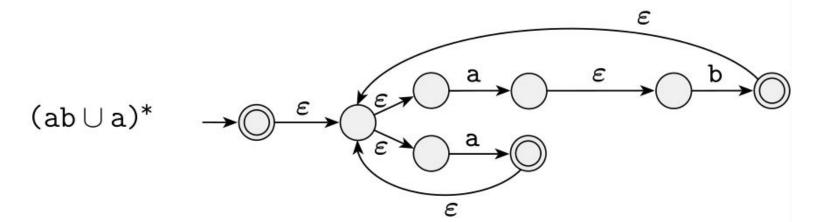


- Converting to NFA:
  - o Given one simple regular expression, already represented by their NFA
  - How to represent the star by an NFA?
    - (ab U a)\*?

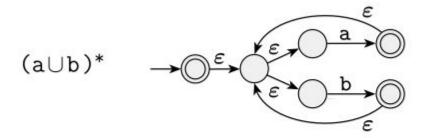
 $ab \cup a$ 

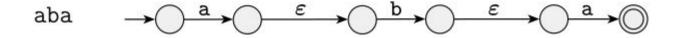


- Converting to NFA:
  - Given one simple regular expression, already represented by their NFA
  - How to represent the star by an NFA?
    - (abUa)\*?



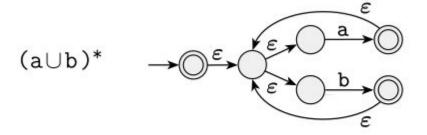
- Converting to NFA:
  - Given one simple regular expression, already represented by their NFA
  - How to represent the following expression:
    - (aUb)\* aba?





#### Converting to NFA:

- Given one simple regular express
- How to represent the following ex
  - (aUb)\* aba?



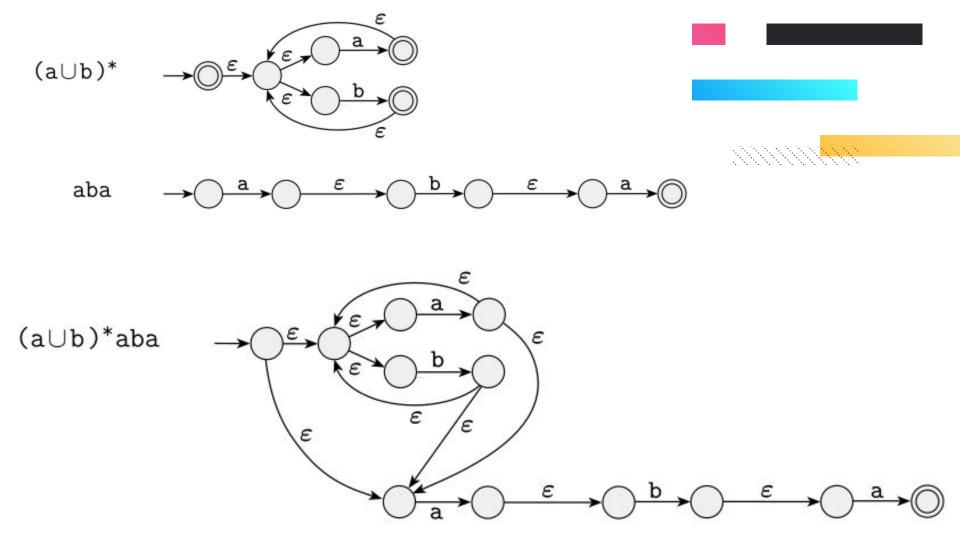
The state diagram for **aba** seems to have redundant epsilon transitions because:

We are following the simple and **safe** rules for concatenating NFAs of the language (a) and (b) and (a).

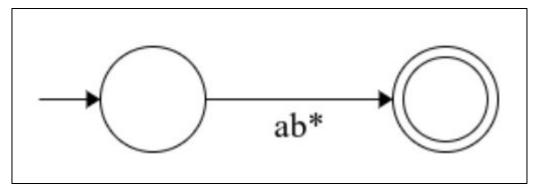
(Imagine you are given complex NFAs to concatenate, you must follow the rules)

Of course, you can later optimize and remove redundant transitions provided you are certain.

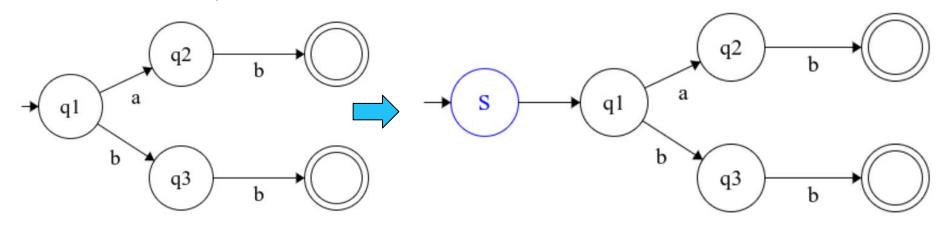




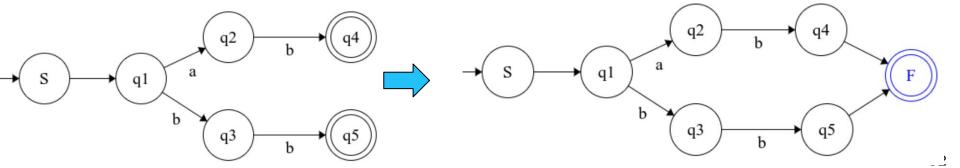
- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - If a language is regular, then it is described by a regular expression.
  - New type of finite automata called:
    - "Generalized nondeterministic finite automaton: GNFA"
    - Transition can be expressed by Regular Expression



- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - Step 1:
    - Create a new start state and link it to the previous original start state with epsilon

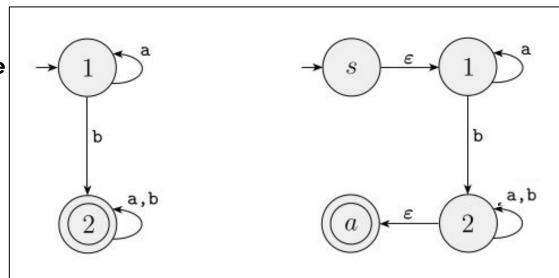


- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - Step 2:
    - Create a new single accept state, link it to the previous original accept states with epsilon and turn the original accept states as non-accept state

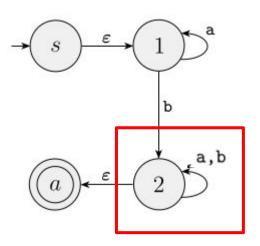


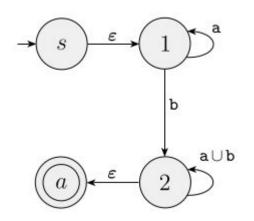
- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - Step 3:
    - Eliminate states and their transitions by observing possible patterns that you can make its regular expressions.

- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - Example:
    - Start State
    - End Accepting State

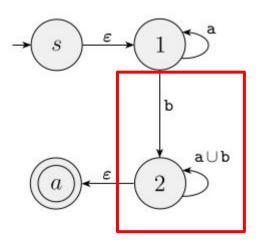


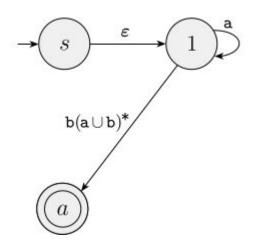
- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - o Example:



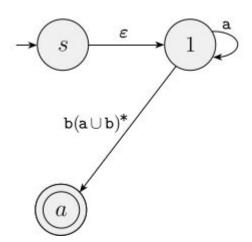


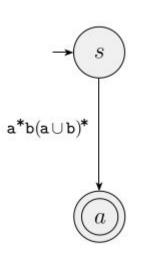
- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - Example:





- Converting NFA to Regular Expressions :
  - Example:





- RegEx on Linux or programming Languages :
  - o : Union
  - ?: Zero or more
  - o . : Any single character
  - +: One or more characters
  - ^: Start of the line
  - \$: End of the line
  - \s:Space
  - a{1,3}: The letter a: one or three times.
  - [a-z] : any letter from a to z
  - [0-9]: any digit

- RegEx on Linux or programming Languages :
  - | : Union
  - ?: Zero or more
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  - o [a-z] : any letter from a to z
  - [0-9]: any digit

Even though! is the negation for RegEx

For this course, forget that we have the negation.

- Useful websites to learn more regular expressions:
  - https://regexlearn.com/learn
  - https://regexone.com/
  - o <u>https://regexr.com/</u>

- How can we develop a system for a password strength checker?
  - At least 8 chars
  - At least 3 special characters (#, ?, @ ...)
  - At least one number
  - At least one capital letter

Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?

- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - Formulate the RegEx for the language which includes all words with the exception of the word a :

```
( \{a,b\}^* - a )
```

- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
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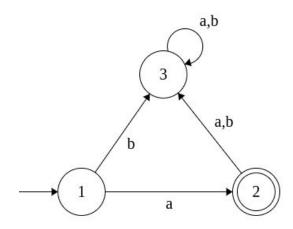
You can think really hard to come up with the RegEx, but it is a complex task.

- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - Formulate the RegEx for the language which includes all words with the exception of the word a :

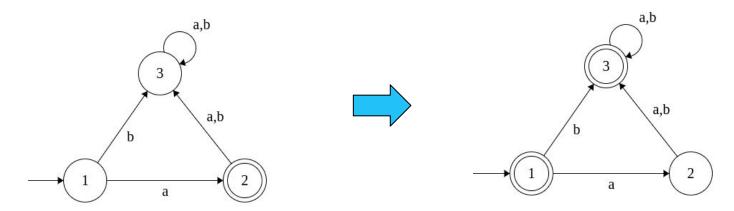
#### **Better solution:**

- Create the DFA for the easy language ( language = {a} )
- Infer the DFA for the complement of the easy language
- Convert to RegEx

- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - 1. Create the DFA for the easy language ( language = {a} )

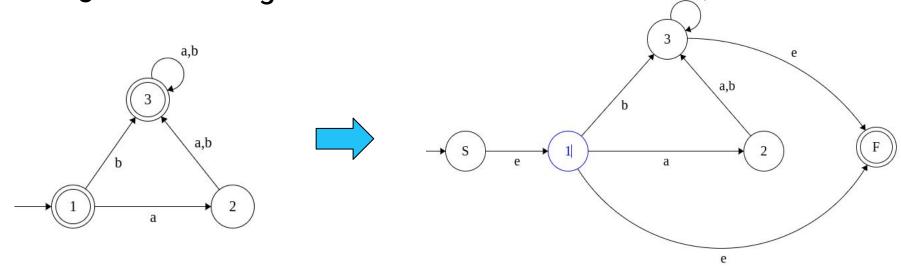


- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - 2. Infer the DFA for the complement of the easy language
     {a}, its complement All words {a}



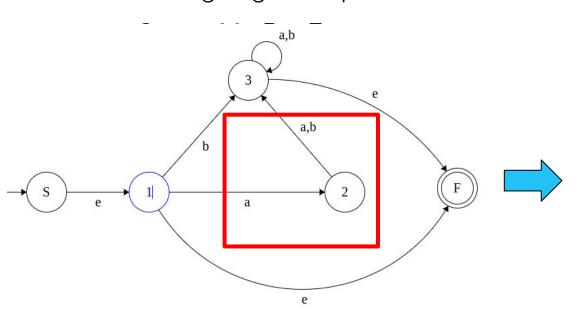
Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?

3. Convert to RegEx



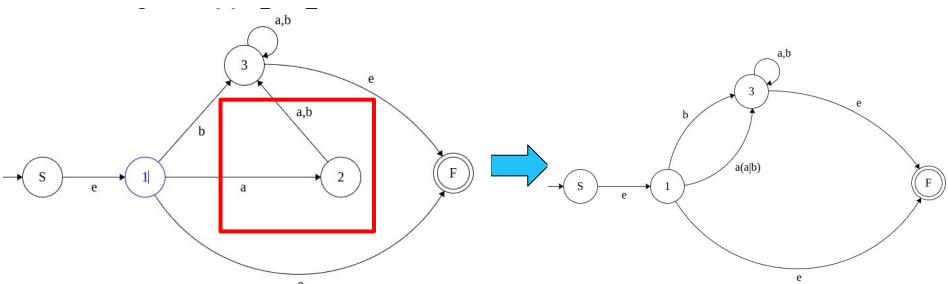
a,b

• Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?



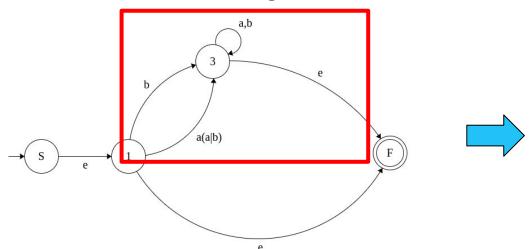
e : Epsilon

Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?

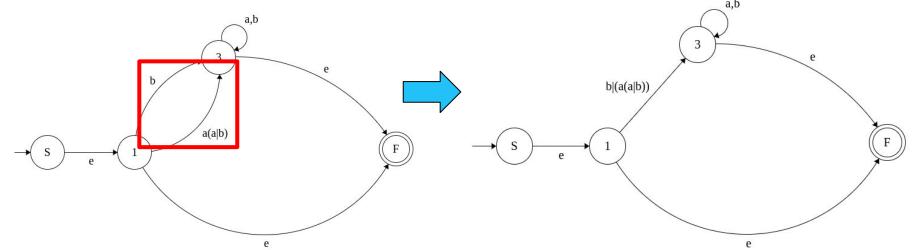


100

- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - o 3. Convert to RegEx



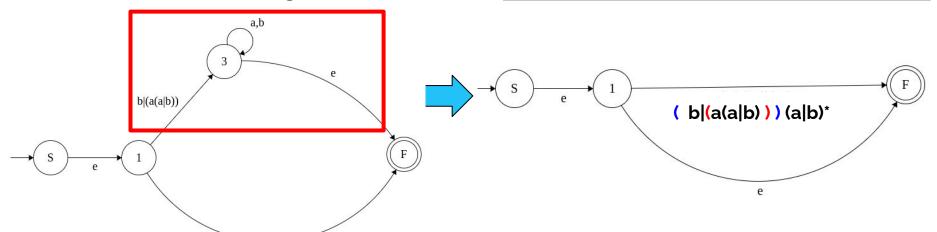
- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - 3. Convert to RegEx



Is formulating Regular Expressions easie

For Concatenation with Epsilon, we can drop Epsilon

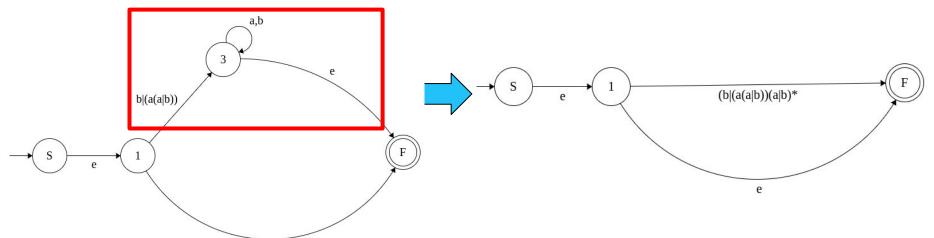
**○ 3. Convert to RegEx** 



Is formulating Regular Expressions easie

The use of well-colored parentheses is a must to have a readable syntax

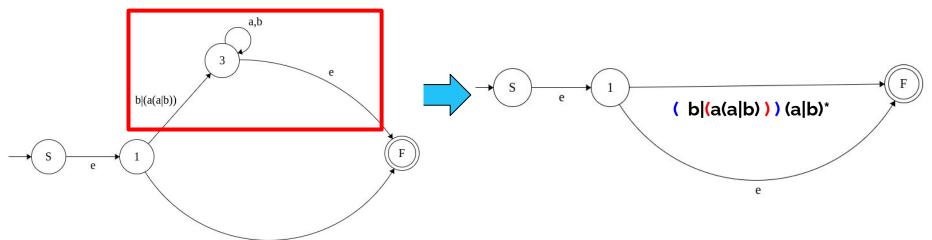
3. Convert to RegEx



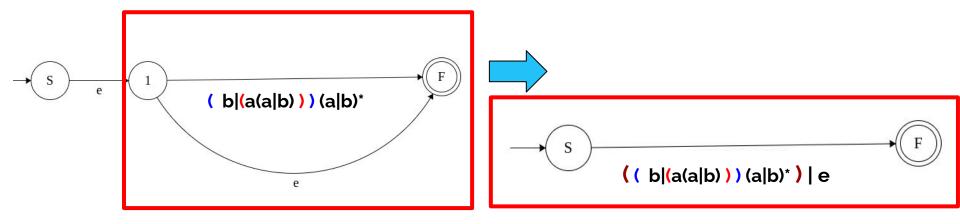
Is formulating Regular Expressions easie

The use of well-colored parentheses is a must to have a readable syntax

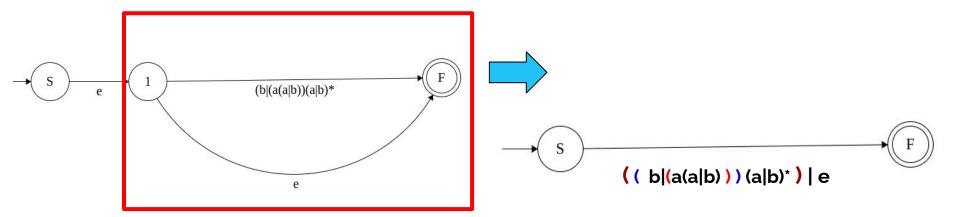
3. Convert to RegEx



- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - o 3. Convert to RegEx



- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - 3. Convert to RegEx : ( ( b|(a(a|b) ) ) (a|b)\* ) | e

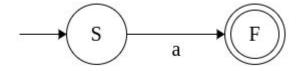


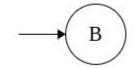
- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - $\circ$  3. Convert to RegEx :  $((b|(a(a|b)))(a|b)^*)|e$ 
    - Verify:
      - ε in the language + accepted by RegEx
      - a: not in the language + not accepted by regex
      - baaaaa ..: in the language + accepted.
      - **aa** : ok
      - baaaa : ??

- Is formulating Regular Expressions easier than NFAs and DFAs?
  - Formulate the RegEx for the language which includes all words with the exception of the words a and b ?

# **Questions by Students**

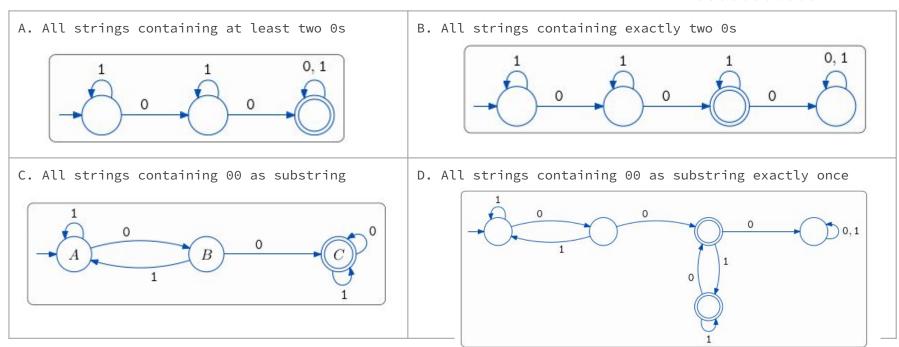
- For the concatenation:
  - How to concatenate :{a} with ø





## **Solutions: TD 2**

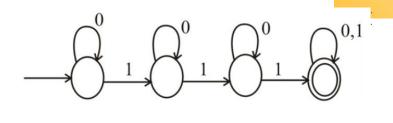
Ex 1: Do also the RegEx on the fly for these exercises:



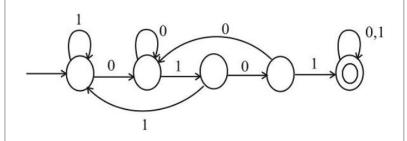
#### • Ex 2 (TD 2)

 $\{w \mid w \text{ begins with a 1 and ends with a 0}\}$ 

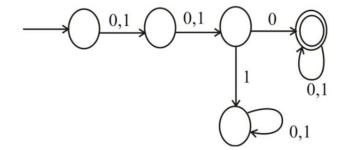
{w| w contains at least three 1s}



 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains the substring 0101 (i.e., } w = x0101y \text{ for some } x \text{ and } y)\}$ 

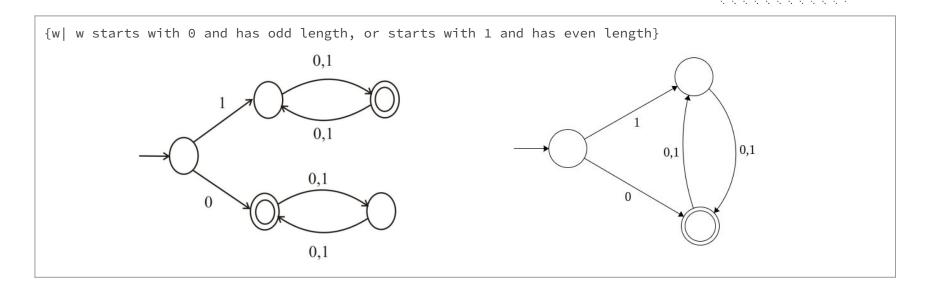


{w| w has length at least 3 and its third symbol is a 0}



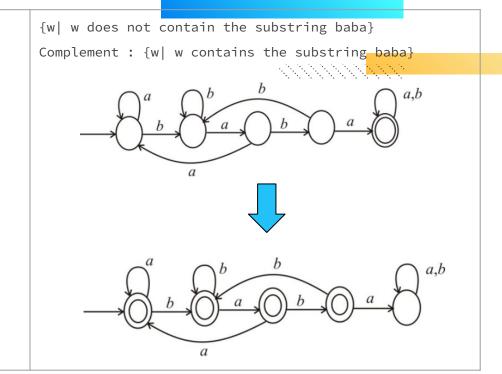
## Solutions: TD 2

#### • Ex 2



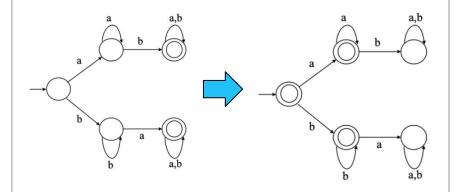
#### • Ex3(TD2)

{w| w does not contain the substring ab} Complement : {w| w contains the substring ab} a,b

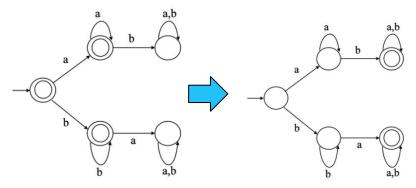


#### • Ex3(TD2)

 $\{w \mid w \text{ contains neither the substrings ab nor ba}\}$  Complement :  $\{w \mid w \text{ contains either the substrings ab or ba}\}$ 



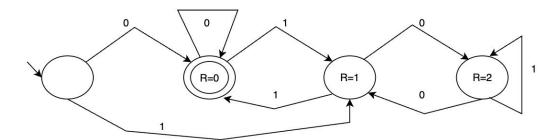
{w| w is any string not in a\* U b\* }
Complement: {w| w is any string in a\* U b\* }



# **Solutions: Assignment 1**

#### • Ex 1.a

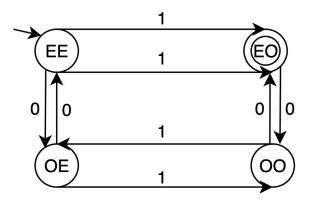
O L =  $\{w \mid w \text{ is a binary string that is multiple of 3}\}$ . (i.e.the binary number when converted to decimal, it is multiple of 3).



# **Solutions: Assignment 1**

• Ex 1.b

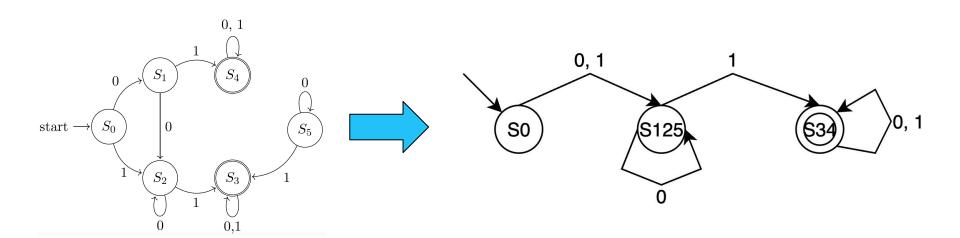
O L =  $\{w \mid w \text{ contains an even number of zeroes } and \text{ an odd number of ones} \}$ .



## **Solutions: Assignment 1**

#### • Ex 2

O Minimization of DFA



## **Midterm Skeleton**