

**CSC236H**  
**Introduction to the Theory of Computation**

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Fall 2019 – Week 4

## Language Recognition Problem:

- Given language  $L$  and string  $s$ , does  $s$  belong to  $L$ ?

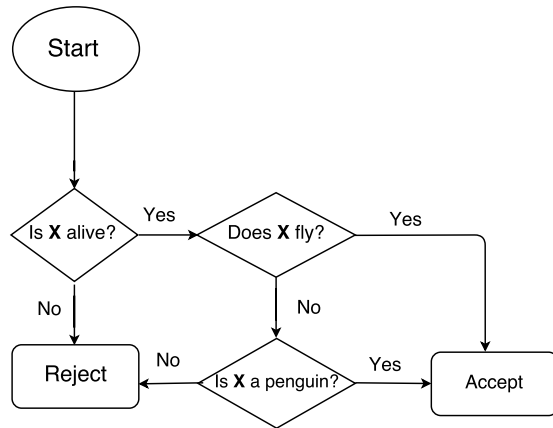
Many problems can be reduced to a recognition problem about formal languages.

## Examples:

- [Syntax Checking](#) for Mathematical Formulas and [Parsing](#).
- [Lexical Analysis](#) in Program Compilation.
- [Pattern Recognition](#).

## Language Recognition Problem – An analogy

**Bird Recognition:** Is the given object, **X**, a bird?

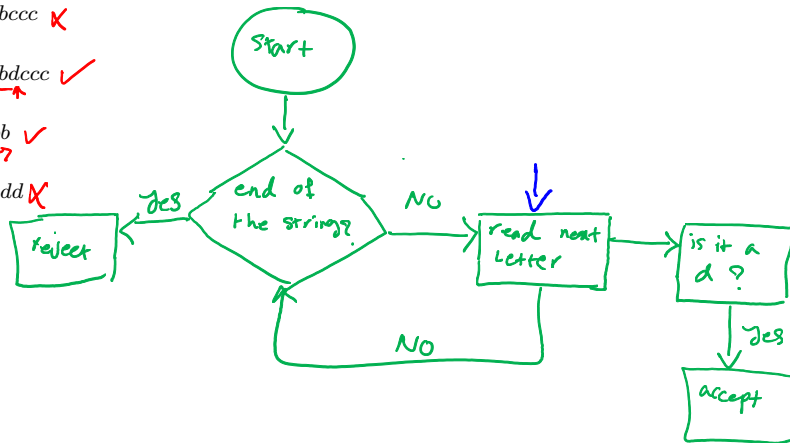


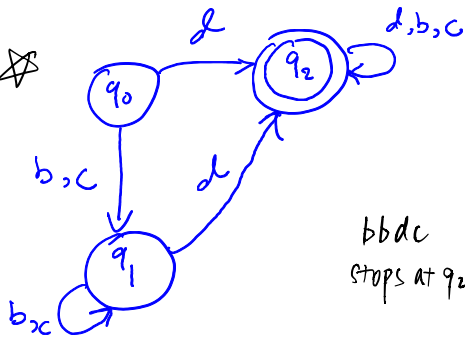
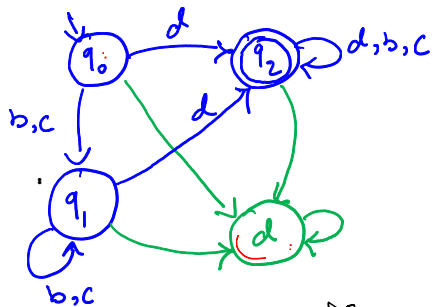
## Language Recognition – Example

Let  $L = \{s \in \{b, c, d\}^* : s \text{ includes at least one } d\}$ .

Among the following strings, determine those that are members of  $L$ .

- ~~bbbcc~~ ✗
- bbbdccc ✓
- dbb ✓
- ~~b1dd~~ ✗





bbdc  
 stops at  $q_2$ . accept.

# Deterministic Finite State Automata (DFA)

- Very informally, a **Deterministic Finite State Automaton (DFSA or DFA)** is a mathematical model of a machine which takes an **input string**  $x$ , and **accepts** or **rejects** it.
- A DFA consists of
  - a set of **states**;
  - a set of rules (called **transition rules**) for transition **between** states based on the input.
  - A designated **initial state**.
  - A set of designated **accepting states**.

A language is **regular** iff a **Finite State Automata (FSA)** can be used to recognize its strings.

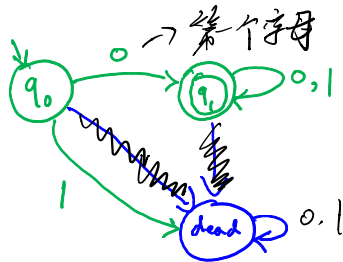
# Deterministic Finite State Automata (DFA)

- A DFA is **started** in its **initial state**;
- **Reads** a string **one letter** at a time, from **left to right**.
- Depending on the present state of the DFA and the symbol it read, the DFA **enters a new state**.
- The DFA **stops** when it has processed the **entire input string** in this manner:  
When stops, if it is in an **accepting state**, it **accepts** the input;  
otherwise, it **rejects** the input.

## DFA's – Example

Let  $L = \{0s : s \in \{0,1\}^*\}$ .

Give a DFA which **only accepts** strings in  $L$ .



D:



$$D = \langle Q, \Sigma, s, s, F \rangle$$

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

$$s = q_0$$

$$Q = \{q_0, q_1\}$$

$$F = \{q_1\}$$



$$\delta(q_0, 0) = q_1$$

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

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

		input	
		0	1
State	$q_0$	$q_1$	—
	$q_1$	$q_1$	$q_1$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_0 \quad \text{iff } w = \epsilon$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_1 \quad \text{iff } w = 0S$$

where  $S \in \{0, 1\}^*$

not on lec

A **Deterministic Finite State Automaton (DFA)**  $\mathcal{D}$  is a quintuple  $\mathcal{D} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F \rangle$  where:

- $Q$  is the **set of states** in  $\mathcal{D}$ ;
- $\Sigma$  is the **alphabet** of symbols used by  $\mathcal{D}$ ;
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the **transition function**;
- $s \in Q$  is the **initial state** of  $\mathcal{D}$ ;
- $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of **accepting states** of  $\mathcal{D}$ .

## Important Properties of DFA's

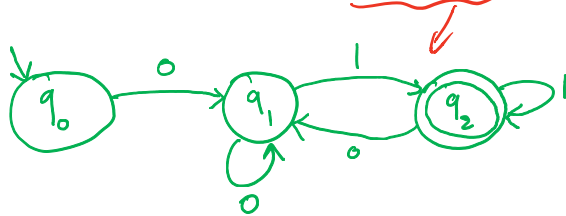
- In a DFA, at a particular state, there is **exactly one transition rule** for each symbol in the alphabet.
- **Dead states** are usually **not included** in the description of the DFA's; if there's **no transition rule** (arrow) for a letter at a state, by convention it's assumed that it take the DFA to a **dead state**.
- **Inputs** to DFAs can be of any **length**.
- DFA's **cannot go back** and reread previous letters.
- DFA's have a **finite amount of memory**, since they have a finite number of states.

## DFA's – Example

Let  $L = \{0s1 : s \in \{0,1\}^*\}$ .

Give a DFA which **only accepts** strings in  $L$ .

Present your DFA both by **a drawing** and by using formal notation.



symbolic  
notation:

$$D = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$$

$$\Sigma = \{0, 1\} \quad Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\} \quad F = \{q_2\}$$

$\delta$ :

	0	1
$q_0$	$q_1$	—
$q_1$	$q_1$	$q_2$
$q_2$	$q_1$	$q_2$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_0 \quad \text{iff} \quad w = \epsilon$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_1 \quad \text{iff} \quad w = 0s0 \quad \text{where } s \in \{0,1\}^*$$

$w = 0$

start with 0, end with 0

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad w = 0s1 \quad \text{where } s \in \{0,1\}^*$$

$$\delta(q, c)$$

- **Transition Function:** Takes a state  $q$  and a **letter**  $c$ .  
Denotes the state that  $\mathcal{D}$  is taken to when  $\mathcal{D}$  is at  $q$  and reads  $c$
- **Extended Transition Function:** Takes a state  $q$  and a **string**  $w$ . Denotes the state that  $\mathcal{D}$  is taken to when  $\mathcal{D}$  is at  $q$  and reads  $w$ .

$$\delta^*(q, w) = q_1$$



## DFA's – Extended Transition Function

Let  $\Sigma^*$  be the smallest set such that:

- $\epsilon \in \Sigma^*$ . *B.R.*
- If  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $s \in \Sigma$  then  $ws \in \Sigma^*$ . *R.L.*

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

$$\epsilon \in \Sigma^*$$

$$e.0 = 0 \in \Sigma^*$$

$$e.1 = 1 \in \Sigma^*$$

Let  $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  be the transition function of a DFA  $\mathcal{D}$ .

The **extended transition function** of the DFA is the function

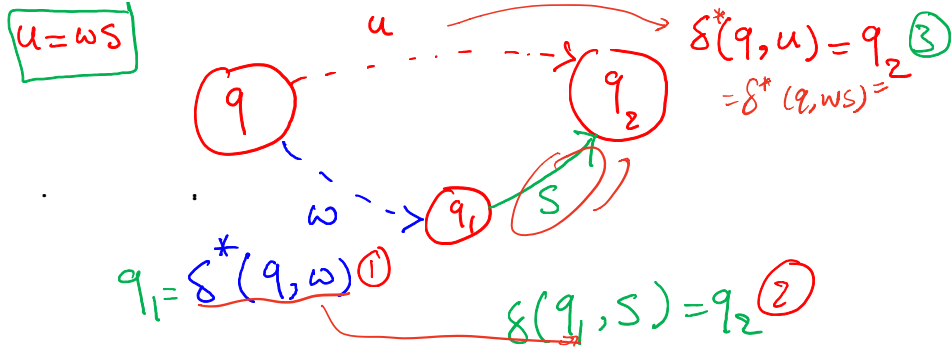
$$\delta^* : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow Q$$

defined recursively:

- $\delta^*(q, \epsilon) = q$ . *B.R.*
- For some  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $s \in \Sigma$ ,

$$\delta^*(q, ws) = \delta(\delta^*(q, w), s).$$

*R.L.*



$$\textcircled{1}, \textcircled{2} \Rightarrow \delta(\delta^*(q, w), s) = q_2$$

$$\textcircled{3} \Rightarrow \delta^*(q, \underline{u}) = \delta^*(q, \underline{ws}) = \delta(\delta^*(q, w), s)$$

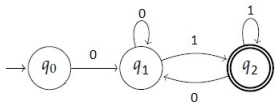


## Extended Transition Function – Example

Let  $L = \{0s1 : s \in \{0,1\}^*\}$ .

Give a DFA which **only accepts** strings in  $L$ .

$$\omega_1 = 001, \quad \delta^*(q_0, \omega_1)?$$



$$\begin{aligned} \omega_1 = 001 & \quad \delta^*(q_0, 001) = \delta(\delta^*(q_0, 00), 1) = \delta(q_1, 1) = q_2 \\ \delta^*(q_0, 00) &= \delta(\delta^*(q_0, 0), 0) = \delta(q_1, 0) = q_1 \\ \delta^*(q_0, 0) &= \delta(\delta^*(q_0, \epsilon), 0) = \delta(q_0, 0) = q_1 \\ \delta^*(q_0, \epsilon) &= q_0 \end{aligned}$$

- If  $\delta^*(q, w) = q'$ , we say that  $w$  takes the automaton  $\mathcal{D}$  from  $q$  to  $q'$ .
- A string  $w \in \Sigma^*$  is **accepted** by  $\mathcal{D}$ , if and only if  $w$  takes the automaton from the initial state  $q_0$  to an accepting state.

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) \in F.$$

- The language **accepted** (or **recognised**) by a DFA  $\mathcal{D}$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D})$ , is the set of all strings accepted by  $\mathcal{D}$ .

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \delta^*(q_0, w) \in F\}$$

$L(\mathcal{D})$

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}) = L$$

# State Invariants



- An **invariant** for  $q$  is a statement that **characterizes** all the strings that take the DFA from the initial state to  $q$ .

Formally, an **invariant** for a state  $q$  is a predicate  $I$  over the domain  $\Sigma^*$  such that for every string  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,

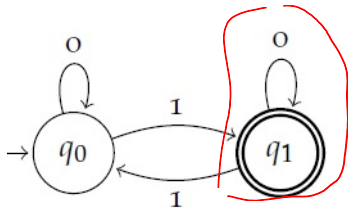
$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_1$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_2$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q \quad \text{iff} \quad I(w) \text{ holds.}$$

- The state invariants for a DFA should be **mutually exclusive**.   
No string should satisfy two different state invariants.
- The state invariants for a DFA should be **exhaustive**.   
Every string in  $\Sigma^*$ , including  $\epsilon$ , should satisfy one of the state invariants.

Describe the language that the following DFA accepts



$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_0 \quad \text{iff } w$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_1 \quad \text{iff } w =$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_0 \quad \text{iff } \underline{w \text{ has even number of 1's, } w \in \{0, 1\}^*}$$

$$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_1 \quad \text{iff } \underline{w \text{ has odd number of 1's, } w \in \{0, 1\}^*}$$

(accepted)

$$L(D) = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ has odd number of 1's}\}$$

$$w \in L(D) \text{ iff } \delta^*(q_0, w) \in F$$

- Identify required states (**State Invariants**).
- For each state, determine how each input symbol changes the state.
- The transition rules must preserve the state invariants

$\mathcal{L}(D)$

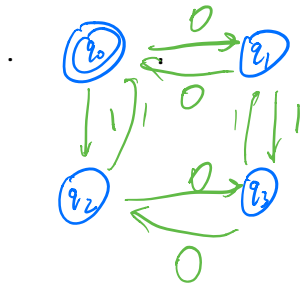
- **Example:**  $L = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* : w \text{ has even number of 0's, even number of 1's}\}.$

$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_0$  iff  $w \in \{0,1\}^*$  has even number of 0's, even number of 1's

$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_1$  iff  $w \in \{0,1\}^*$  has odd 0's and even 1's

$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_2$  iff  $w \in \{0,1\}^*$  has even 0's and odd 1's

$\delta^*(q_0, w) = q_3$  iff  $w \in \{0,1\}^+$  has odd 0's and odd 1's



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