

**Theorem:** Let  $G = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_{start}, q_{accept})$  be a GNFA and let  $G' = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_{start}, q_{accept})$  be the GNFA resulting from running CONVERT(G) for one iteration. Then,  $L(G) = L(G')$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Let  $w \in L(G)$ , then  $w = w_1 \cdots w_k$  such that there exists a sequence of states  $q_0, \dots, q_k$  where  $q_0 = q_{start}$ ,  $q_k = q_{accept}$ , and  $w_i \in L(R_i)$  where  $R_i = \delta(q_{i-1}, q_i)$ . Let  $q_t$  be the state removed from  $G$  to get  $G'$ . If none of the  $q_0, \dots, q_k$  are  $q_t$  then  $w \in L(G')$  since the rest of the states are untouched in  $G'$ .

If any of the  $q_0, \dots, q_k$  are  $q_t$ , then the sequence will look like the following

$$q_0, \dots, q_i, q_t, q_t, \dots, q_t, q_j, \dots, q_k$$

where there are one or more occurrences of  $q_t$  in a row. That means the string  $w$  looks as follows

$$w_1 \cdots w_i w_{i+1} w_{i+2} \cdots w_{j-1} w_j \cdots w_k$$

where  $w_i \in L(\delta(q_{i-1}, q_i))$ ,  $w_{i+1} \in L(\delta(q_i, q_t))$ ,  $w_{i+2} \in L(\delta(q_t, q_t))$ , ...,  $w_{j-1} \in L(\delta(q_t, q_t))$ , and  $w_j \in L(\delta(q_t, q_j))$ .

In  $G'$ ,  $\delta'(q_i, q_j) = (\delta(q_i, q_t))(\delta(q_t, q_t))^* (\delta(q_t, q_j)) \cup \delta(q_i, q_j)$ , which implies that  $w_{i+1} w_{i+2} \cdots w_{j-1} w_j \in L(\delta'(q_i, q_j))$  which implies that  $w \in L(G')$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Let  $w \in L(G')$ , then there exists a sequence of states  $q_0, \dots, q_k$  such that  $q_0 = q_{start}$ ,  $q_k = q_{accept}$ , and  $w_i \in L(R'_i)$  where  $R'_i = \delta'(q_{i-1}, q_i)$  for each  $w_i$  in  $w = w_1 \cdots w_k$ . For any  $\delta'(q_{i-1}, q_i)$  in  $G'$  if it equals  $\delta(q_{i-1}, q_i) = R_i$  in  $G$ , then  $w_i \in L(R_i)$ .

Otherwise, when processing  $w_i$  in  $G$  it must pass through the state that has been removed,  $q_t$ , one or more times when going from  $q_{i-1}$  to  $q_i$ . Thus,  $w_i$  can be subdivided into substrings

$w_{(i-1)t} w_{tt_1} w_{tt_2} \cdots w_{ti}$  such that  $w_{(i-1)t} \in L(\delta(q_{i-1}, q_t))$ ,  $w_{tt_j} \in L(\delta(q_t, q_t))$ , and  $w_{ti} \in L(\delta(q_t, q_i))$ .

This implies that  $w \in L(G)$  by definition of acceptance in a GNFA.