Properties of Regular Languages

For regular languages L_1 and L_2 we will prove that:

$$\left.\begin{array}{rl} \text{Union:} & L_1 \cup L_2 \\ \text{Concatenation:} & L_1 L_2 \\ \text{Star:} & L_1 * \\ \text{Reversal:} & L_1^R \\ \text{Complement:} & \overline{L_1} \\ \text{Intersection:} & L_1 \cap L_2 \end{array}\right\} \text{Are regular Languages}$$

We say: Regular languages are **closed under**

Union: $L_1 \cup L_2$

Concatenation: $L_1 L_2$

Star: $L_1{}^*$

Reversal: $L_1{}^R$

Complement: $\overline{L_1}$

Intersection: $L_1 \cap L_2$

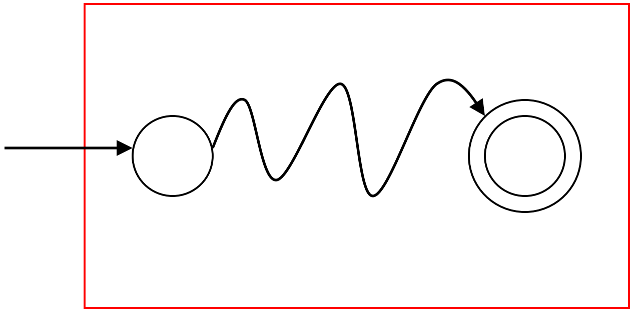
Regular language L_1

Regular language L_2

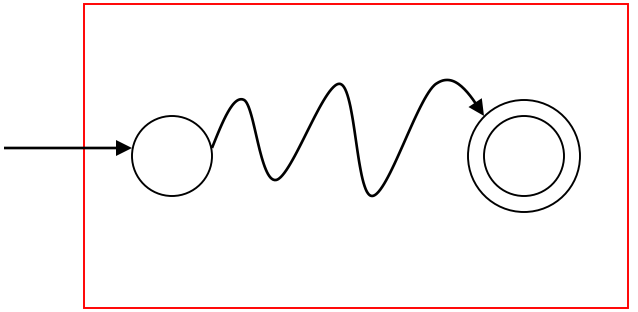
$L(M_1) = L_1$

$L(M_2) = L_2$

NFA M_1



NFA M_2



Single accepting state

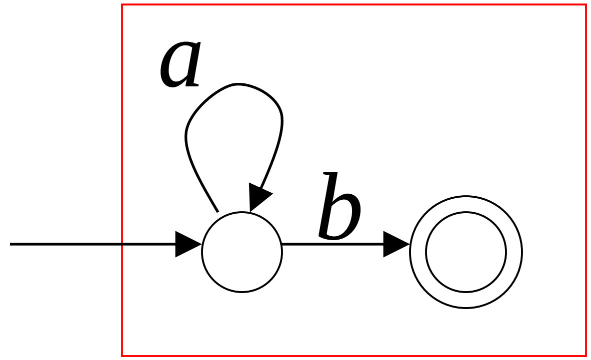
Single accepting state

Example

$n \geq 0$

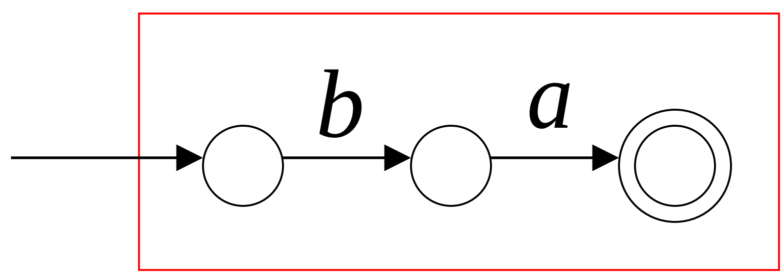
$L_1 = \{a^n b\}$

M_1



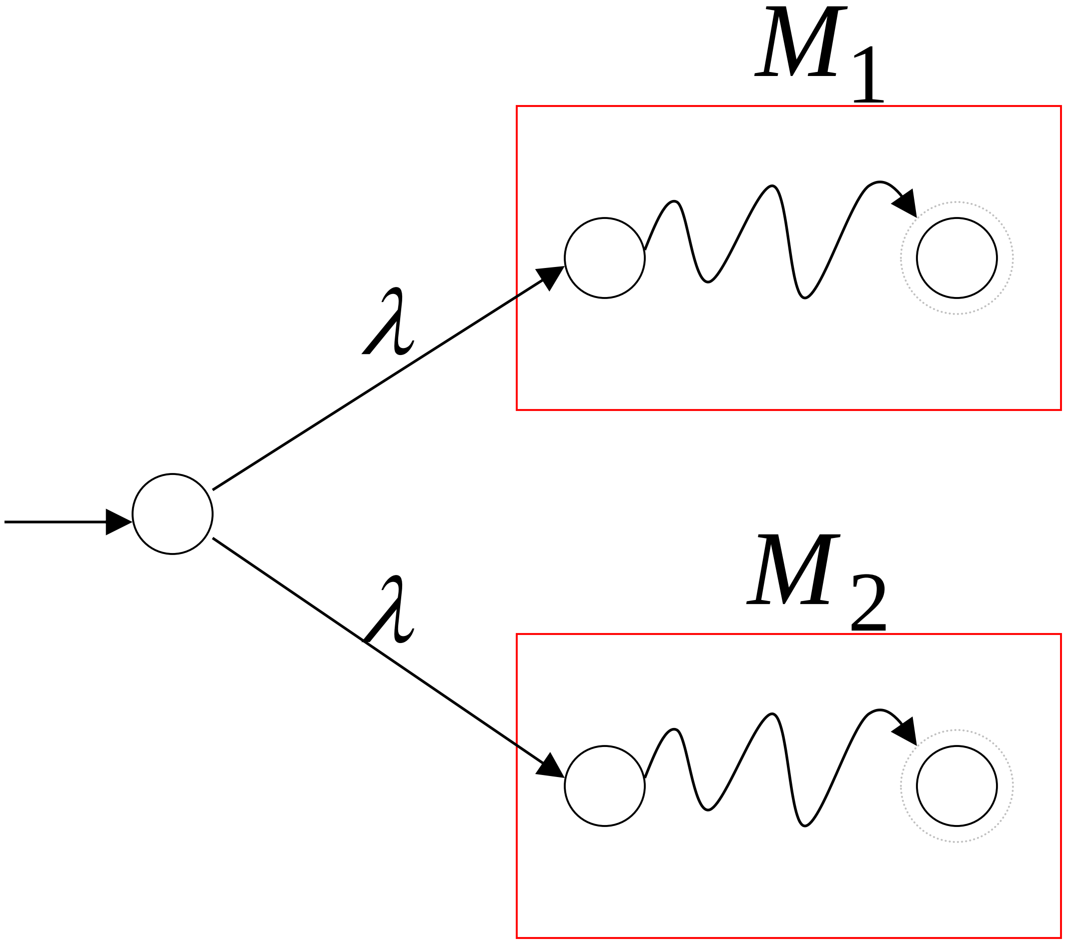
M_2

$L_2 = \{ba\}$



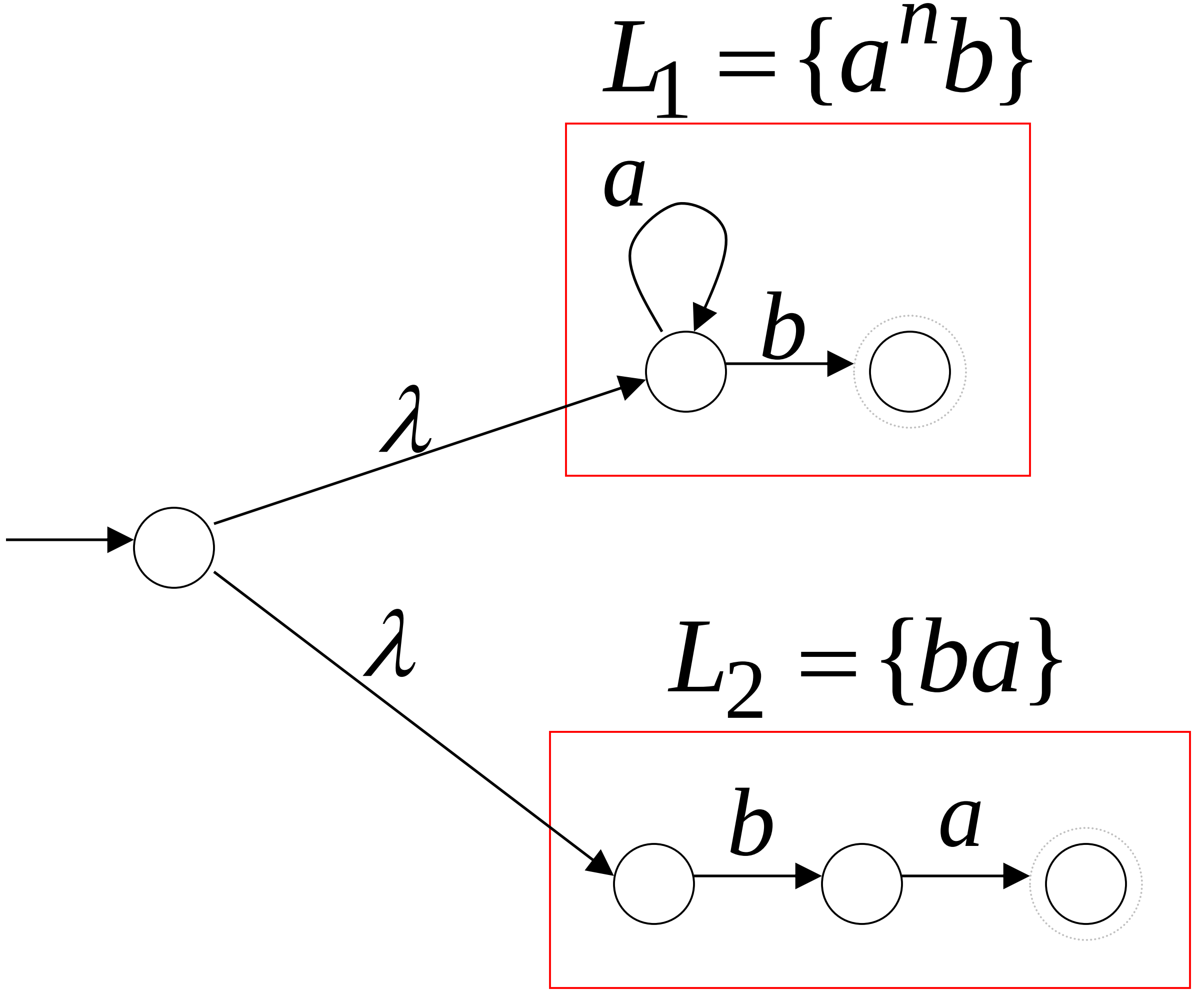
Union

NFA for $L_1 \cup L_2$



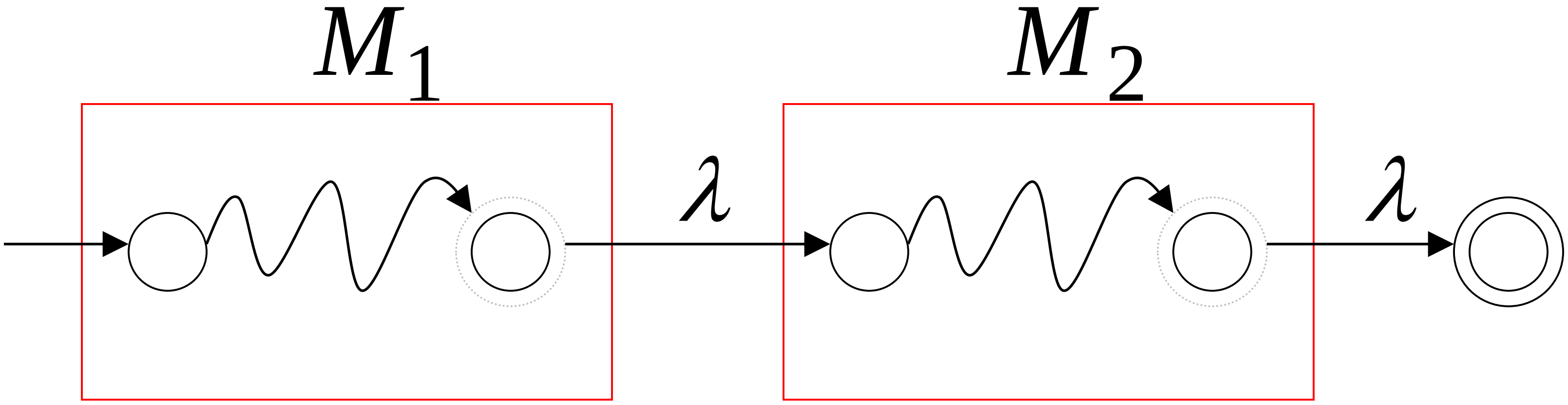
Example

NFA for $L_1 \cup L_2 = \{a^n b\} \cup \{ba\}$



Concatenation

NFA for $L_1 L_2$

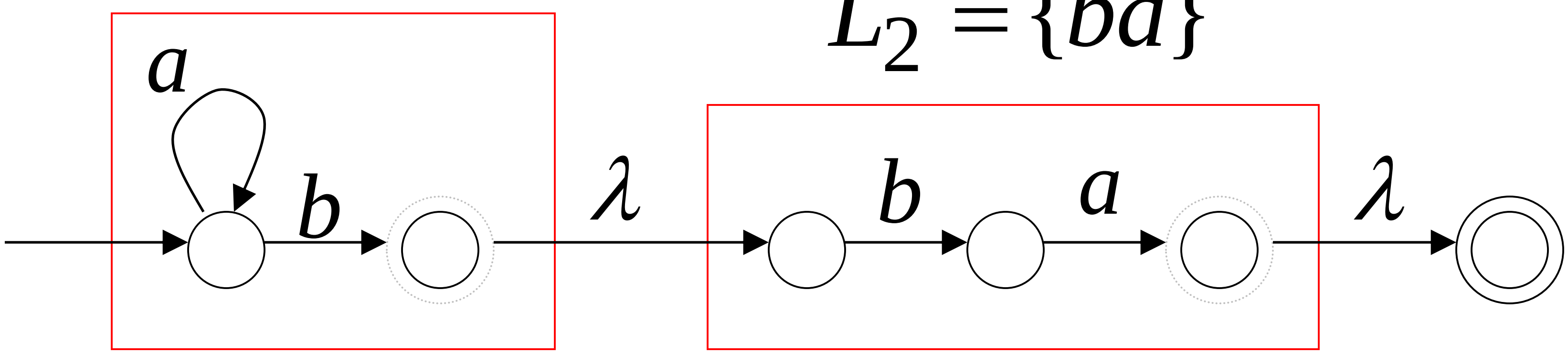


Example

NFA for $L_1 L_2 = \{a^n b\}\{ba\} = \{a^n bba\}$

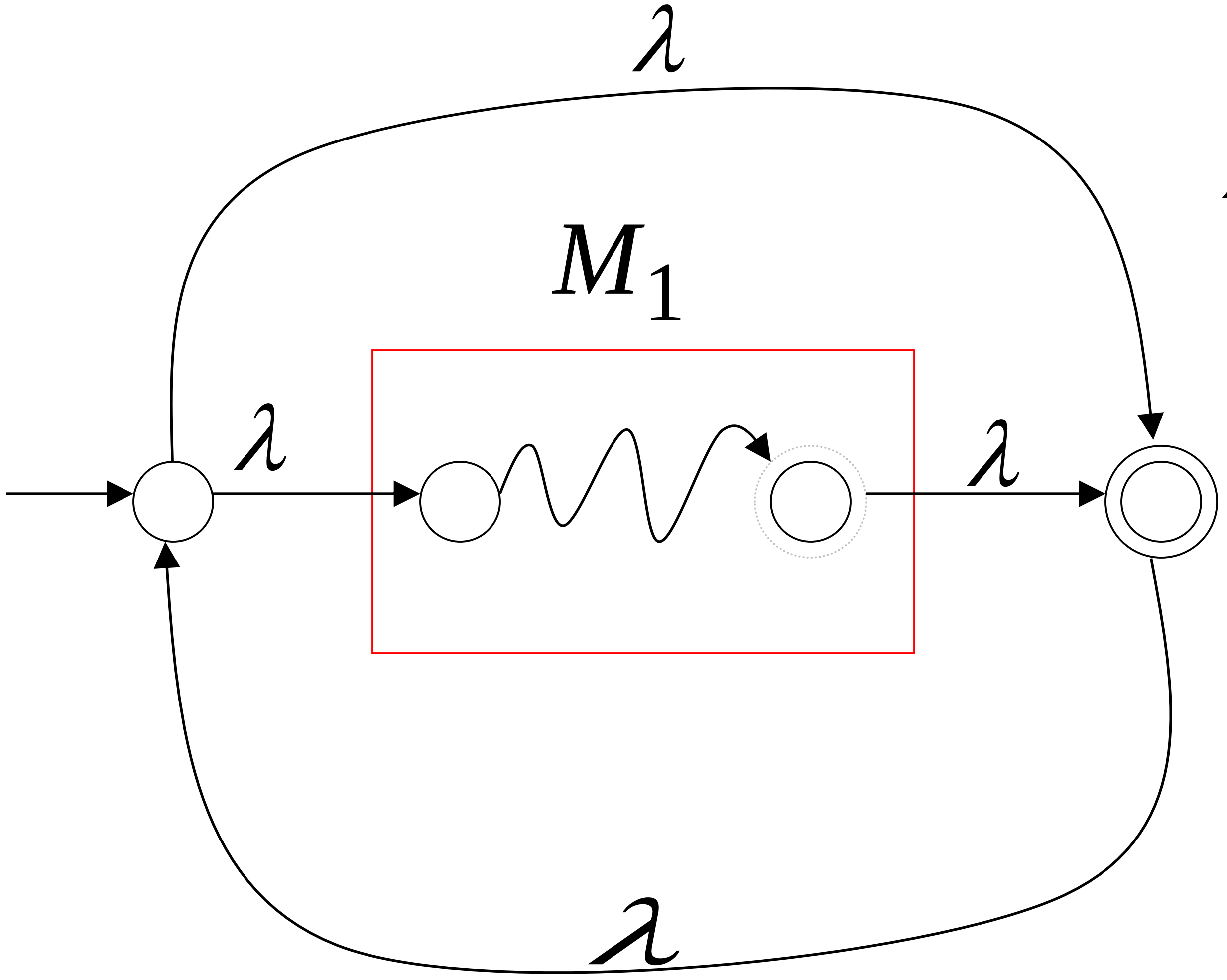
$L_1 = \{a^n b\}$

$L_2 = \{ba\}$



Star Operation

NFA for L_1*



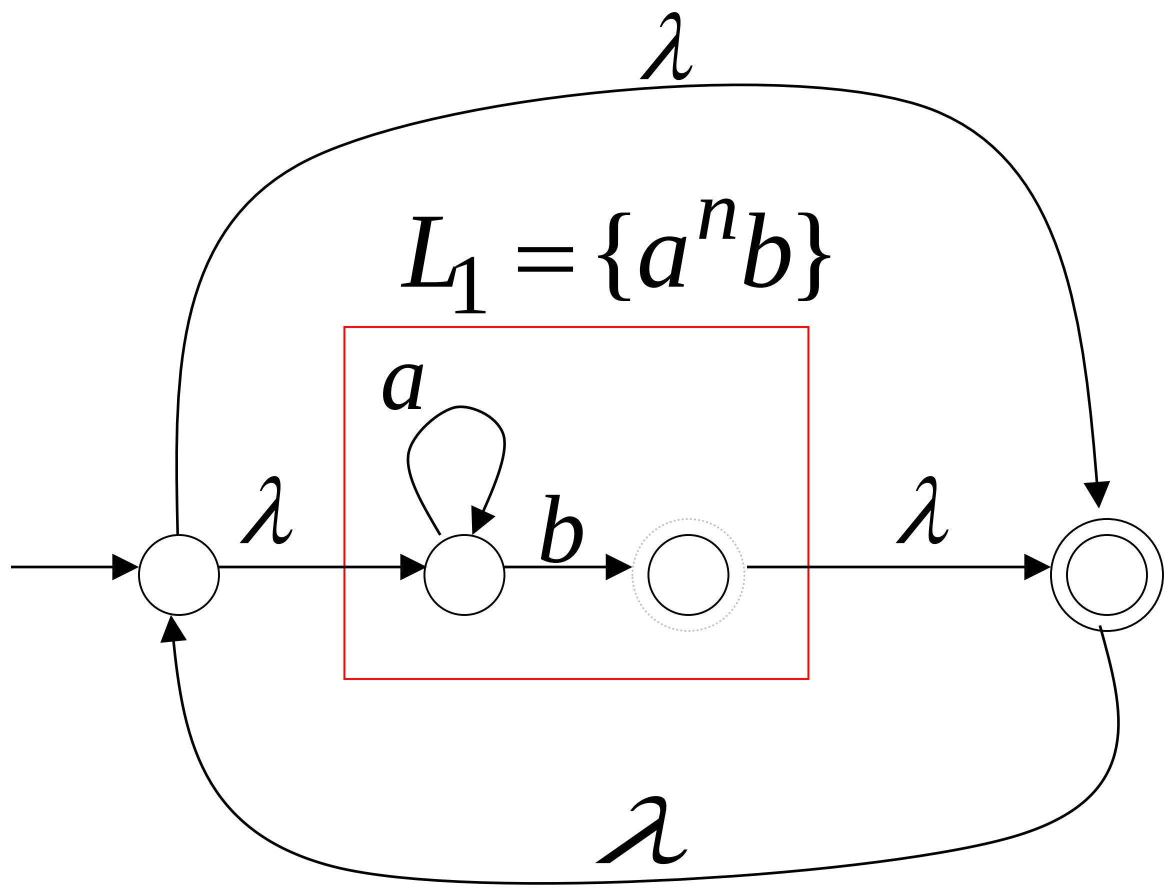
$\lambda \in L_1*$

Example

NFA for $L_1{}^* = \{a^n b\}^*$

$w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k$

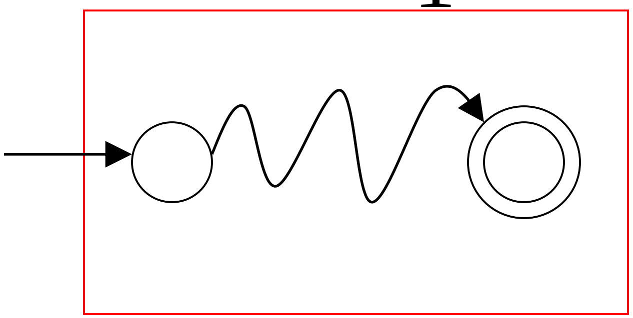
$w_i \in L_1$



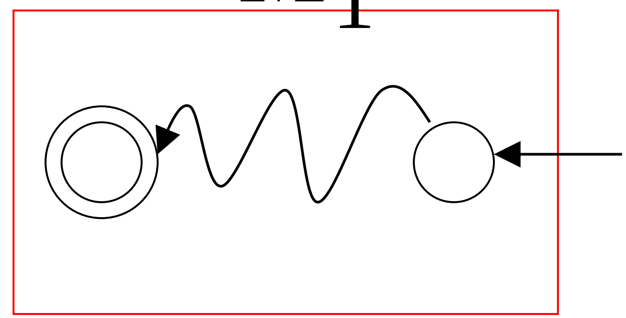
Reverse

NFA for L_1^R

L_1 M_1



M_1'



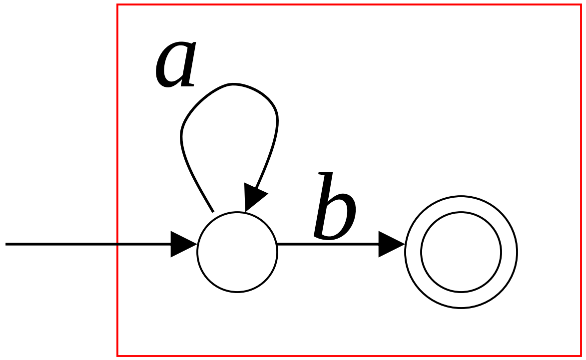
1. Reverse all transitions

2. Make initial state accepting state and vice versa

Example

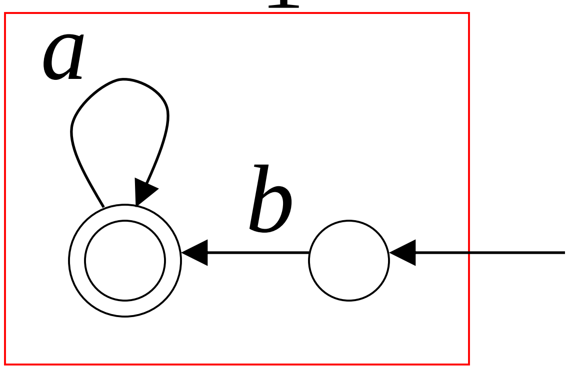
$$M_1$$

$$L_1 = \{a^n b\}$$

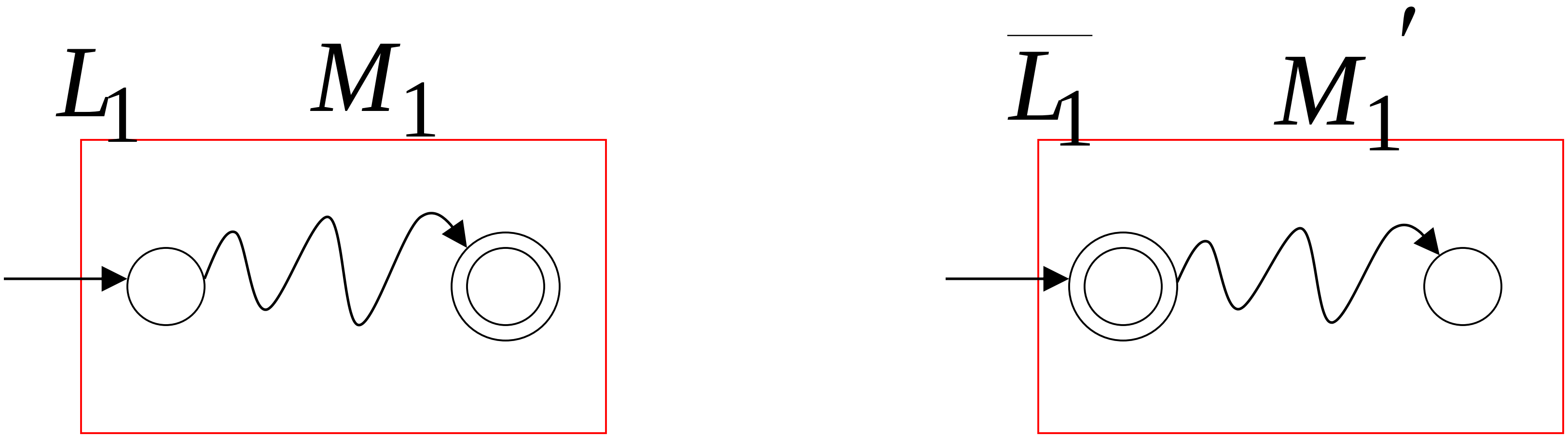


$$M_1'$$

$$L_1^R = \{ba^n\}$$



Complement

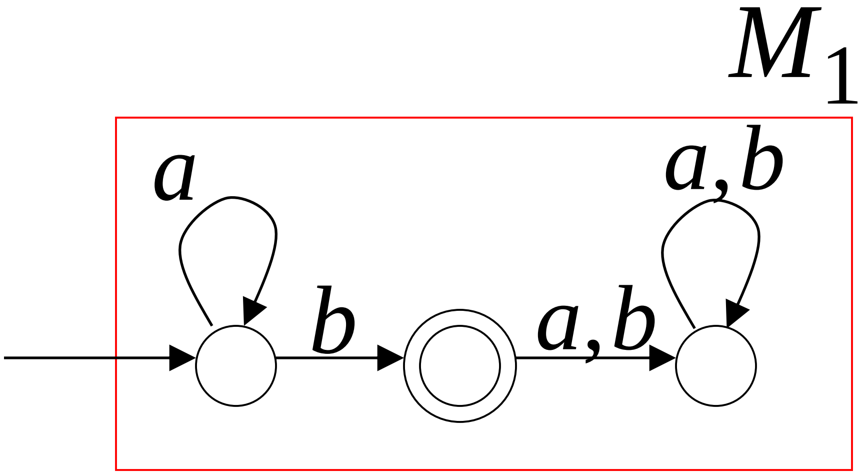


1. Take the **FA** that accepts L_1

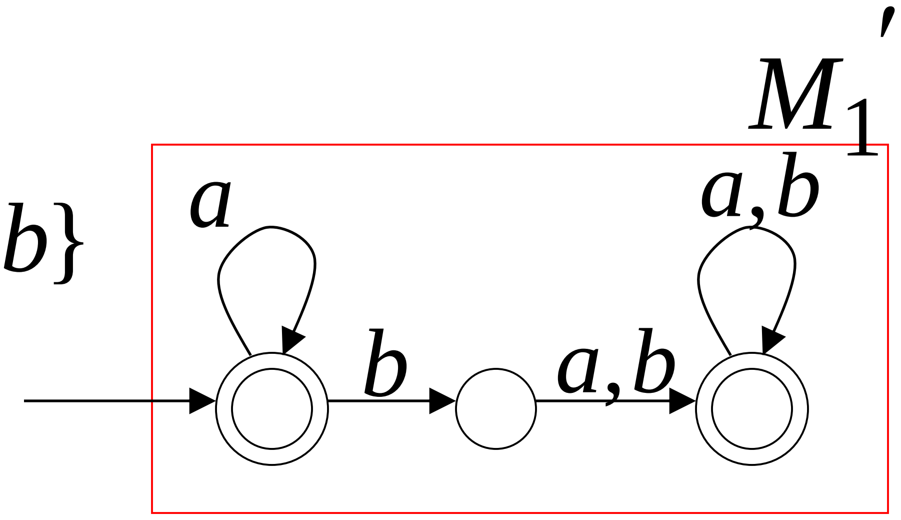
2. Make final states non-final,
   and vice-versa

Example

$$L_1 = \{a^n b\}$$



$$\overline{L_1} = \{a,b\}^* - \{a^n b\}$$



Intersection

L_1 regular

L_2 regular

We show

$L_1 \cap L_2$

regular

DeMorgan's Law: $$L_1 \cap L_2 = \overline{\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}}$$

$L_1 \,,\; L_2$ regular

$\Rightarrow$ $\overline{L_1} \,,\; \overline{L_2}$ regular

$\Rightarrow$ $\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}$ regular

$\Rightarrow$ $\overline{\overline{L_1} \cup \overline{L_2}}$ regular

$\Rightarrow$ $L_1 \cap L_2$ regular

Example

$$L_1 = \{a^n b\}$$ regular

$$L_2 = \{ab, ba\}$$ regular

$$\Rightarrow L_1 \cap L_2 = \{ab\}$$

regular

Another Proof for Intersection Closure

Machine M_1

FA for L_1

Machine M_2

FA for L_2

Construct a new FA M that accepts $L_1 \cap L_2$

M simulates in parallel M_1 and M_2

States in M

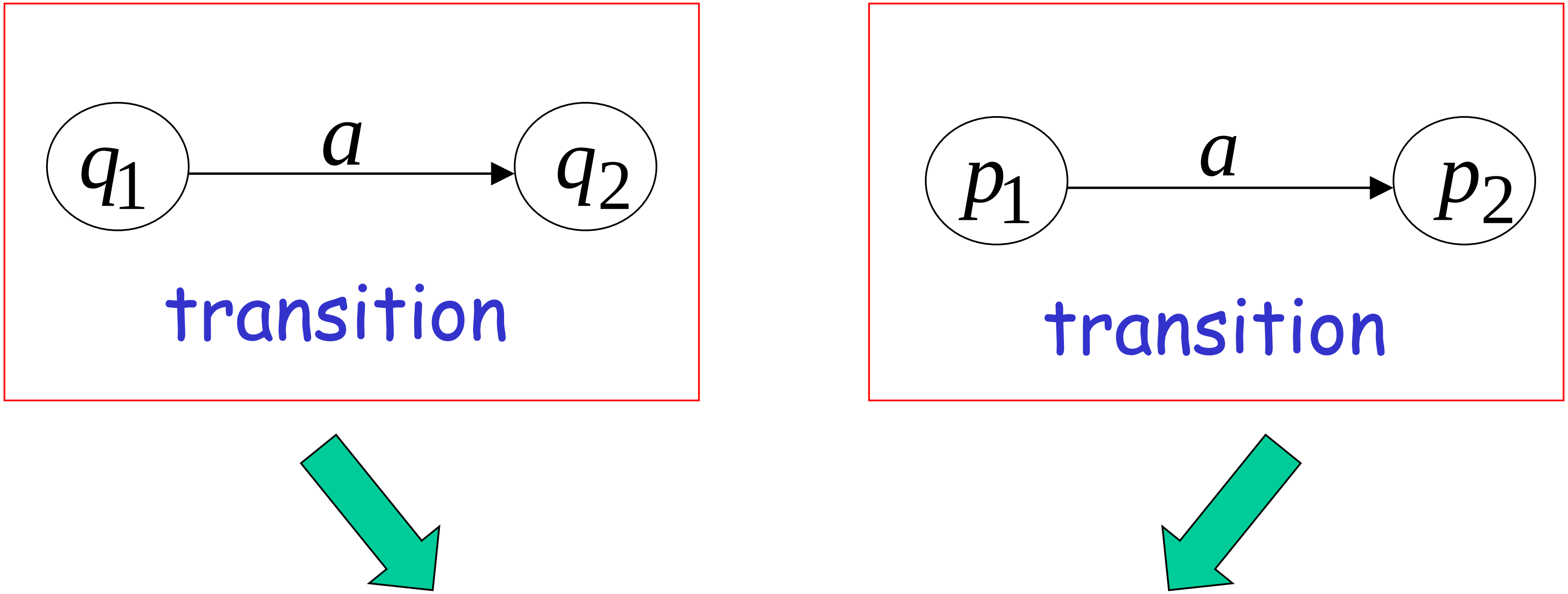
q_i, p_j

State in M_1

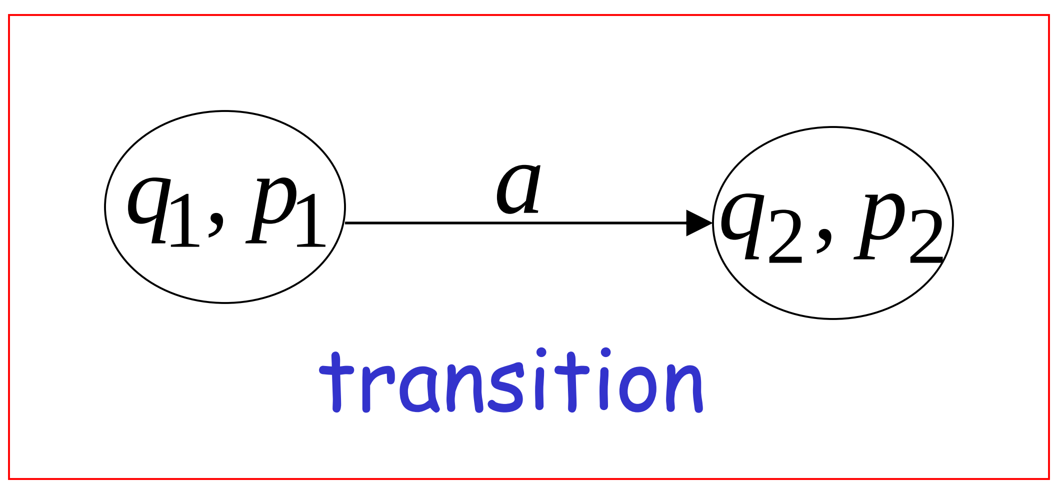
State in M_2

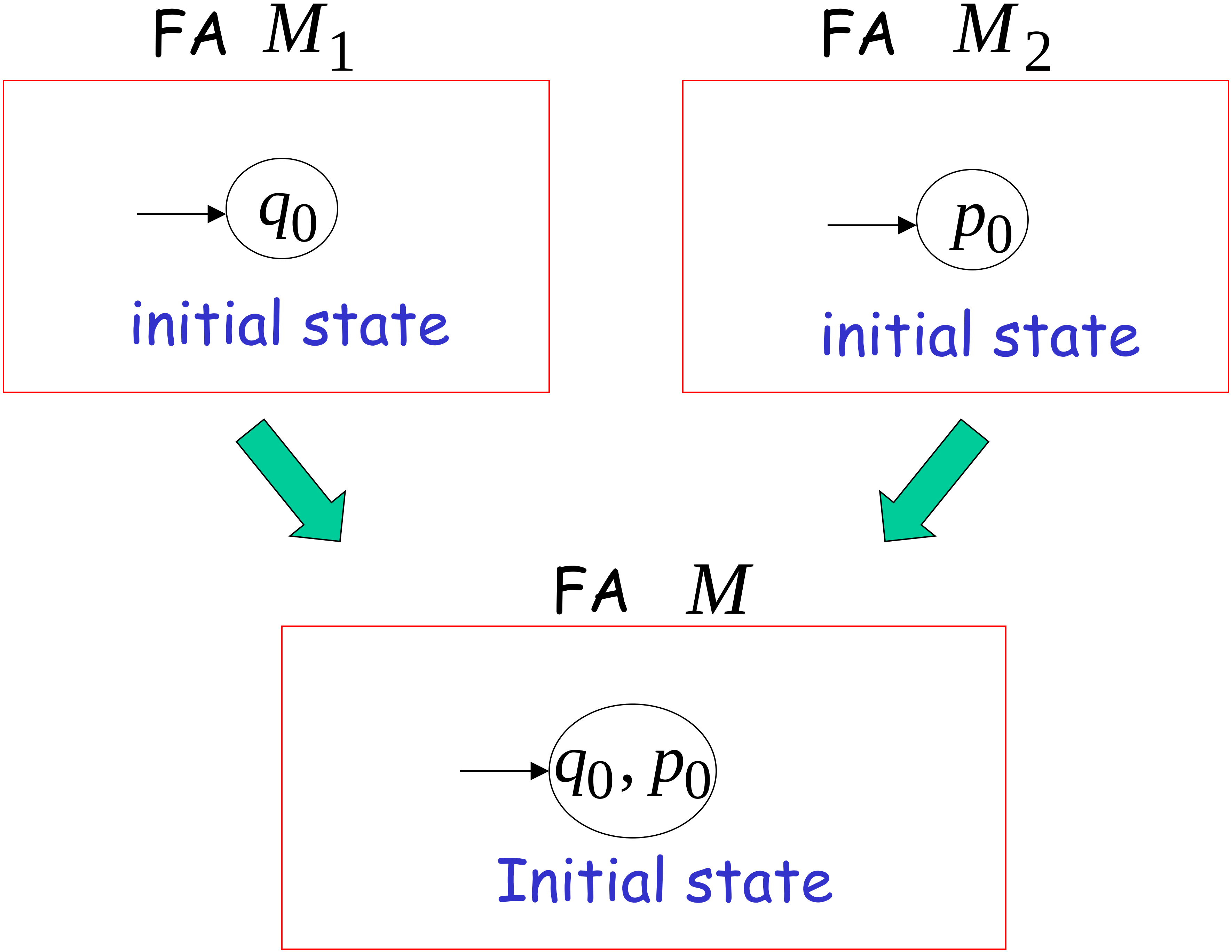
FA M_1

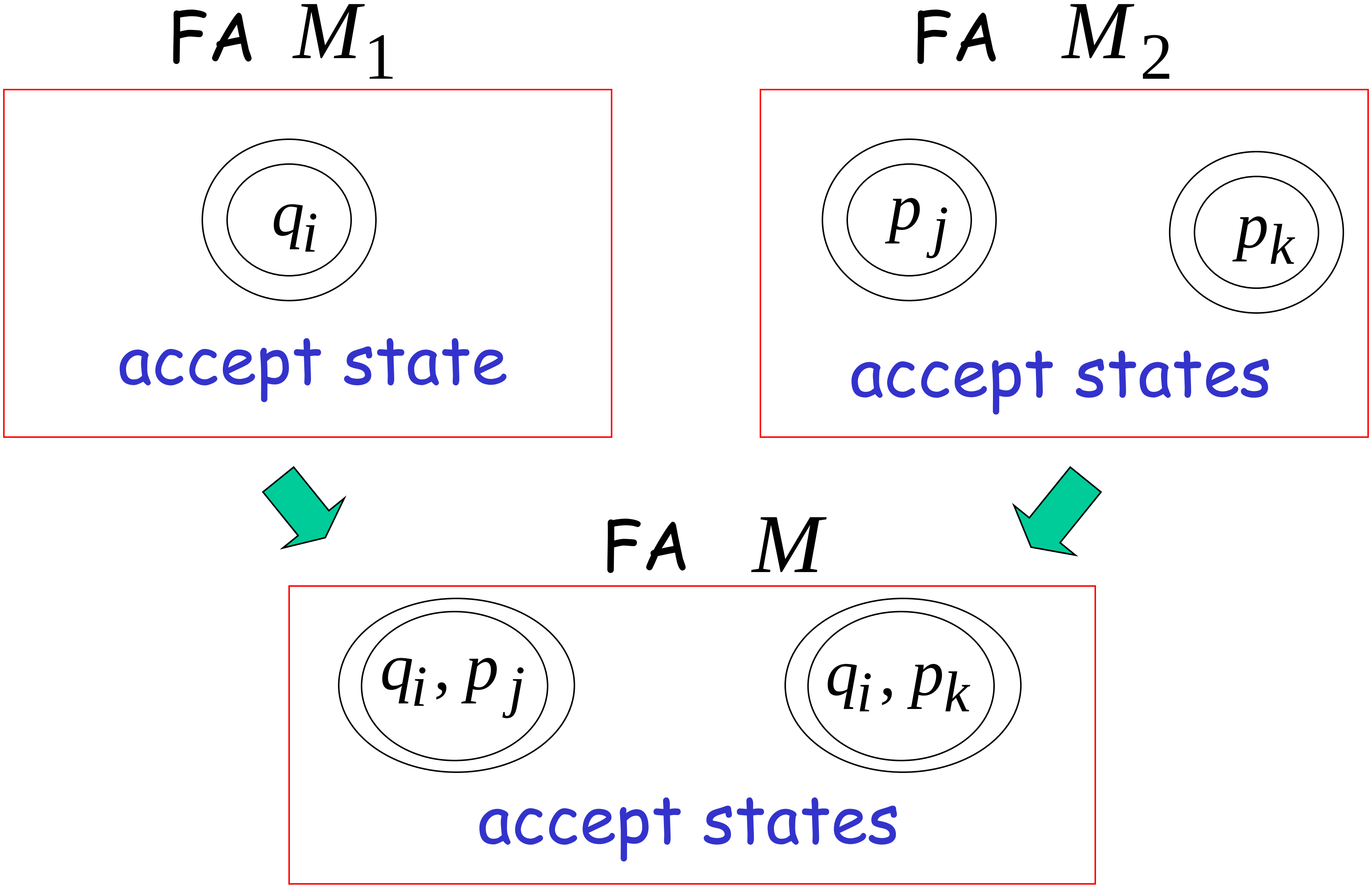
FA M_2



FA M




FA M_1
q_0
initial state
FA M_2
p_0
initial state
FA M
q_0, p_0
Initial state



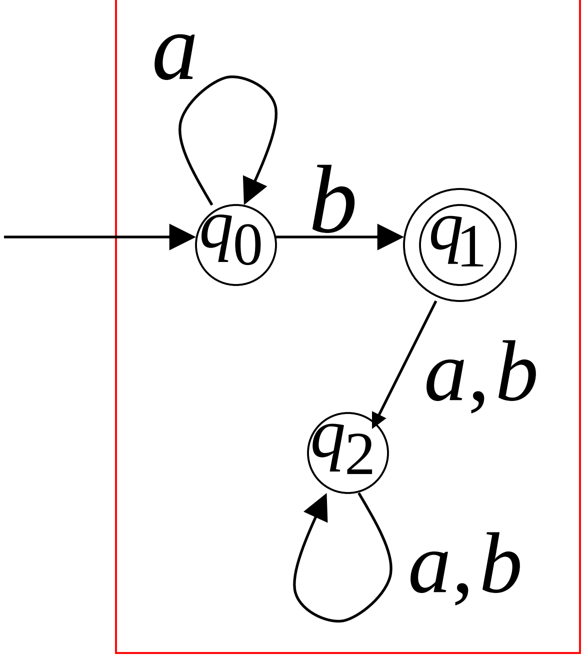
Both constituents must be accepting states

Example:

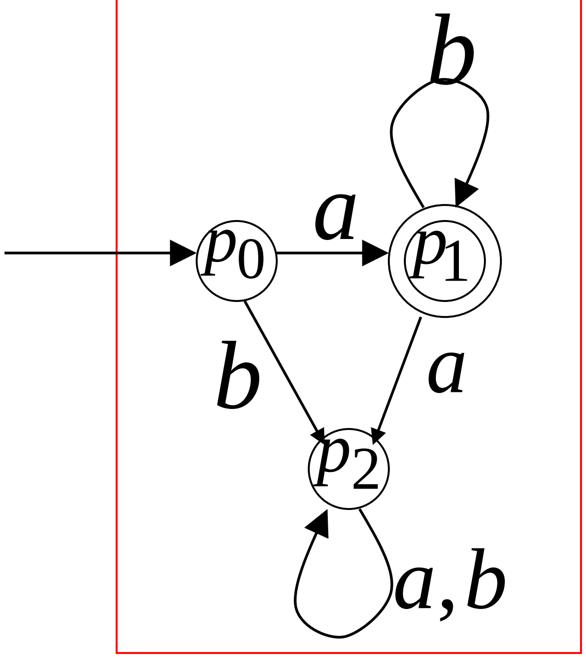
$$L_1 = \{a^n b\} \quad n \geq 0$$

$$L_2 = \{ab^m\} \quad m \geq 0$$

M_1

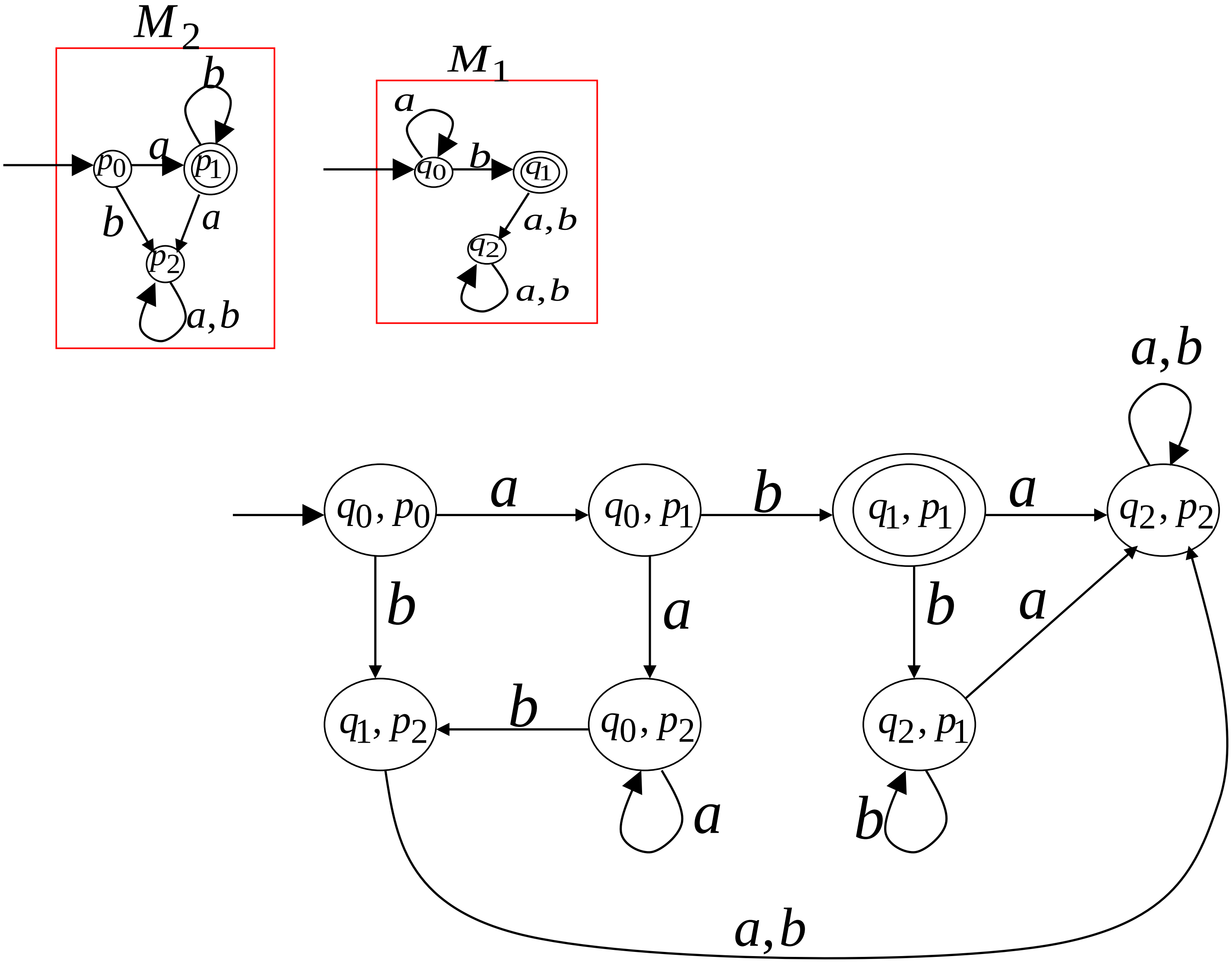


M_2



Automaton for intersection

$$L = \{a^n b\} \cap \{ab^n\} = \{ab\}$$



Question: Given regular languages L_1 and L_2

Is $L_1 - L_2$ regular?

Answer:

$$(L1 - L2) = (L1 \cap \overline{L2})$$