

Lecture 7: DFA Minimization and Non-regular Languages

CSC 320: Foundations of Computer Science

Quinton Yong

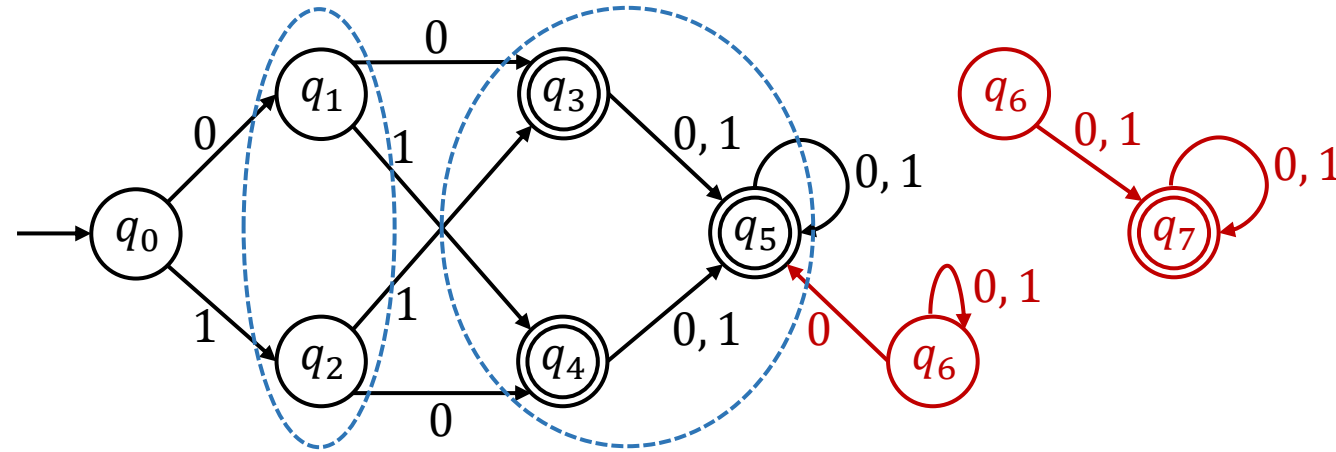
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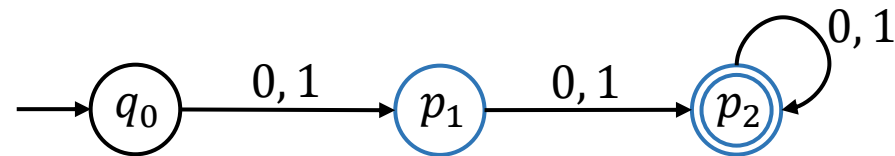
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of Victoria**

DFA State Minimization

- Given a DFA D , **reduce the number of states** without changing the language recognized by D



- Remove unreachable states**
- Identify and **collapse equivalent states** (while still maintaining DFA rules)



DFA State Minimization

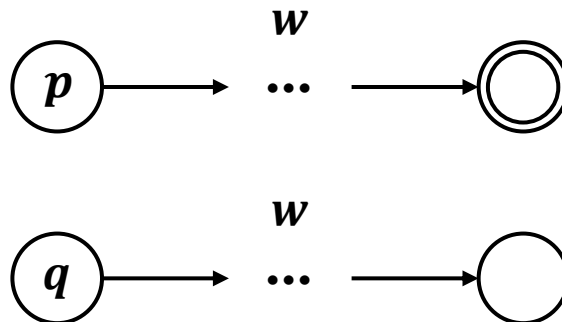
Which states **cannot** be collapsed?

- Clearly, an **accept** and a **non-accept** state are not equivalent / collapsible



In general, we **cannot collapse** states p and q if there is any string w such that:

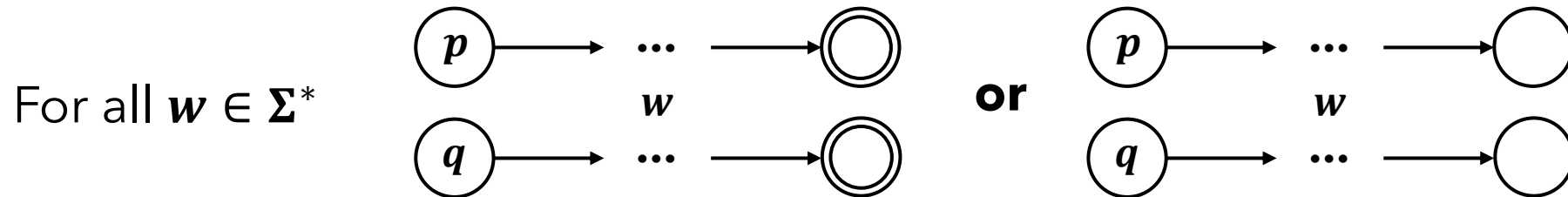
- when w is processed starting at p , we yield **acceptance**
- when w is processed starting at q , we yield **non-acceptance**



DFA State Equivalence

Two states p and q of a **DFA** are **equivalent** (denoted $p \sim q$) **if and only if** **for all** $w \in \Sigma^*$:

- computation of w starting at state p yields **acceptance** **if and only if**
- computation of w starting at q yields **acceptance**



In other words, p and q have **exactly the same role** in the DFA in terms of accepting and not accepting strings

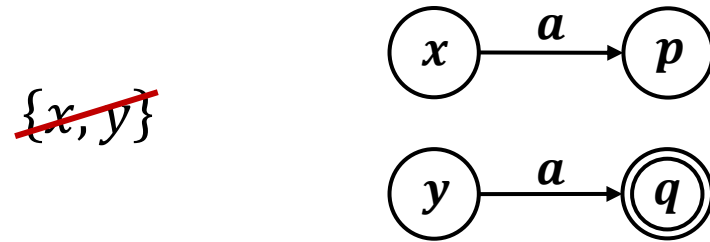
DFA State Minimization Algorithm

We work backwards, and **mark** which pairs of states **cannot be equivalent**

- **Accept** and **non-accept states** are not equivalent

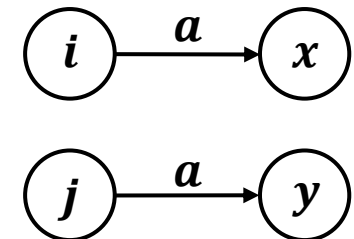


- If a pair of states x and y have a transition for the same symbol a **to non-equivalent states**, they also cannot be equivalent



- Continue **until no more changes occur**

~~$\{i, j\}$~~



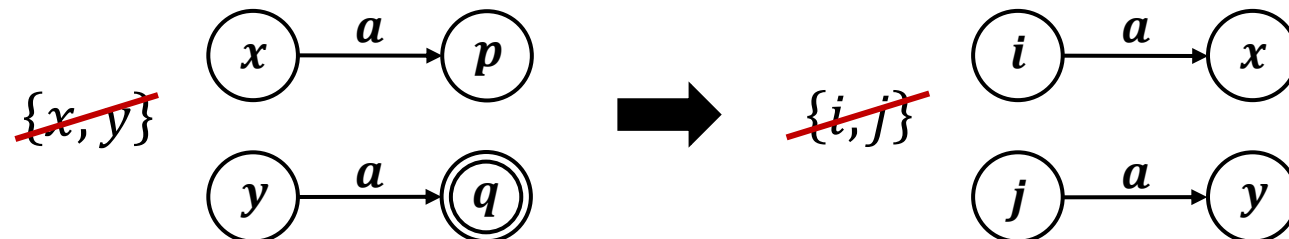
DFA State Minimization Algorithm

Let M be a DFA with **no inaccessible states** (first remove unreachable states)

1. Write down all unordered pairs $\{p, q\}$ of states in M
2. Mark each pair $\{p, q\}$ where $p \in F$ and $q \notin F$ (or vice versa)

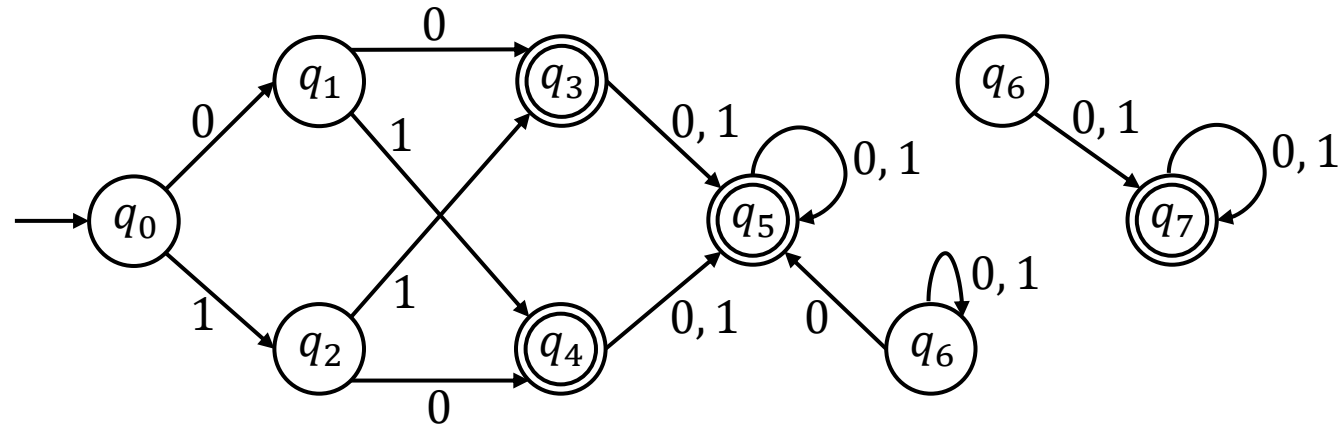


3. Repeat the following **until no changes occur**:
 If there exists an unmarked pair $\{i, j\}$ such that:
 - $\{\delta(i, a), \delta(j, a)\}$ is marked for some $a \in \Sigma$
 - then mark $\{i, j\}$



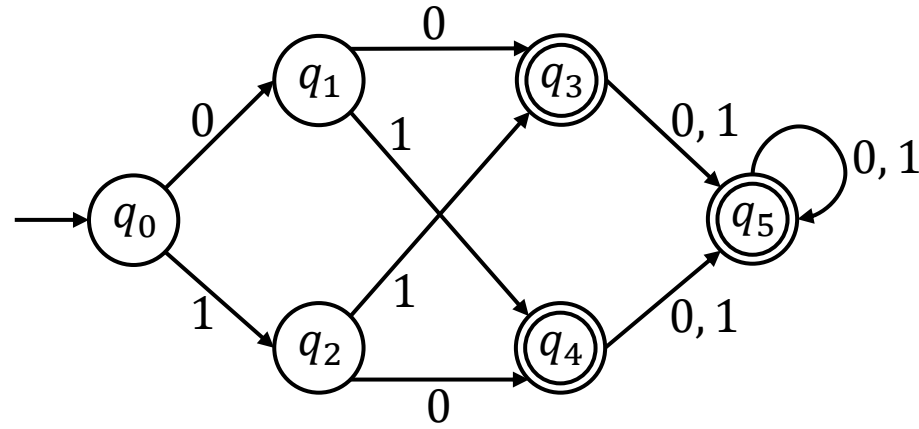
This algorithm produces state equivalence: $\{p, q\}$ unmarked if and only if $p \sim q$

DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



Remove **unreachable** states

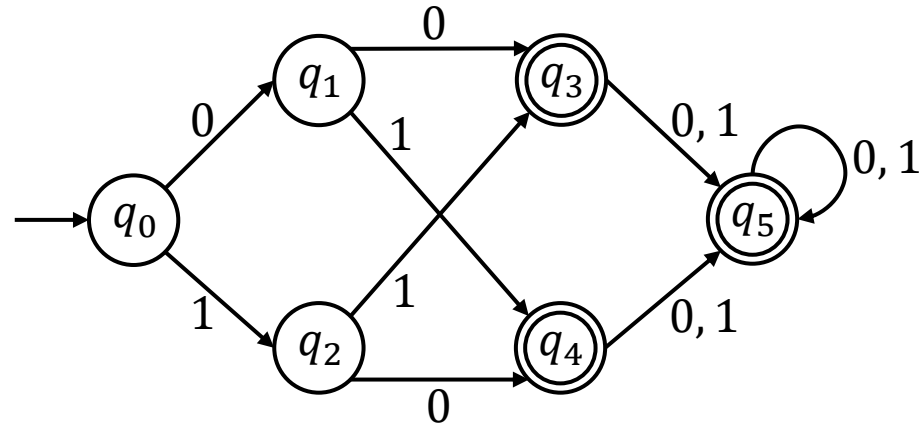
DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



Write down all unordered pairs $\{p, q\}$ of states in M

$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_1, q_2\}$	$\{q_2, q_3\}$	$\{q_3, q_4\}$	$\{q_4, q_5\}$
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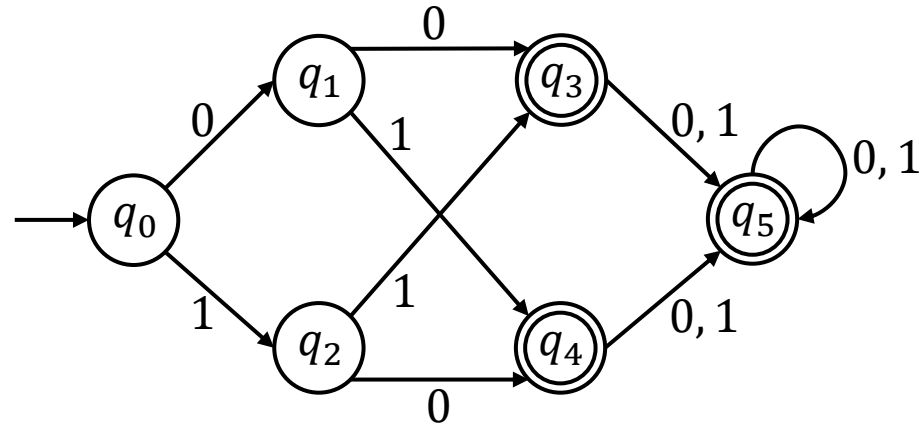
DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



Mark each pair $\{p, q\}$ where $p \in F$
and $q \notin F$ (or vice versa)

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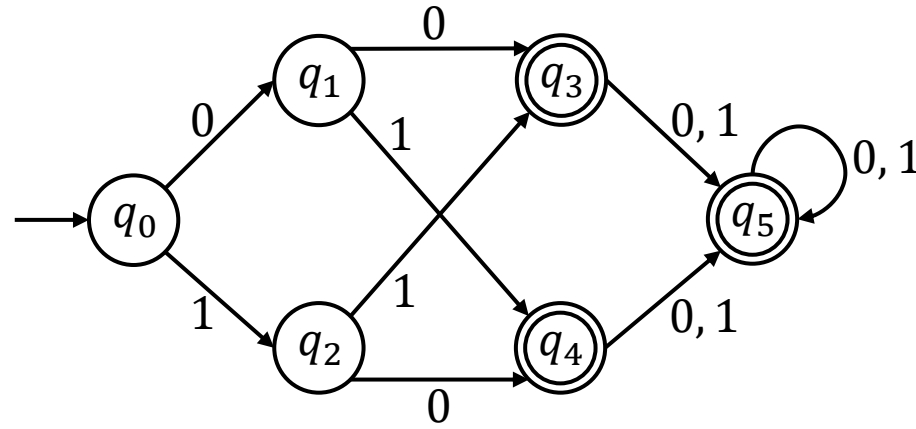
DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



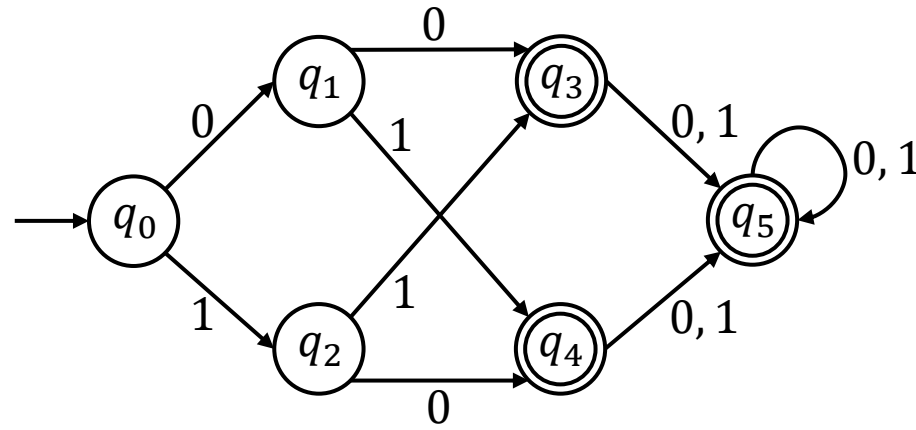
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If there exists an unmarked pair $\{i, j\}$ such that:

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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_0, 0), \delta(q_1, 0)\} = \{q_1, q_3\}$$

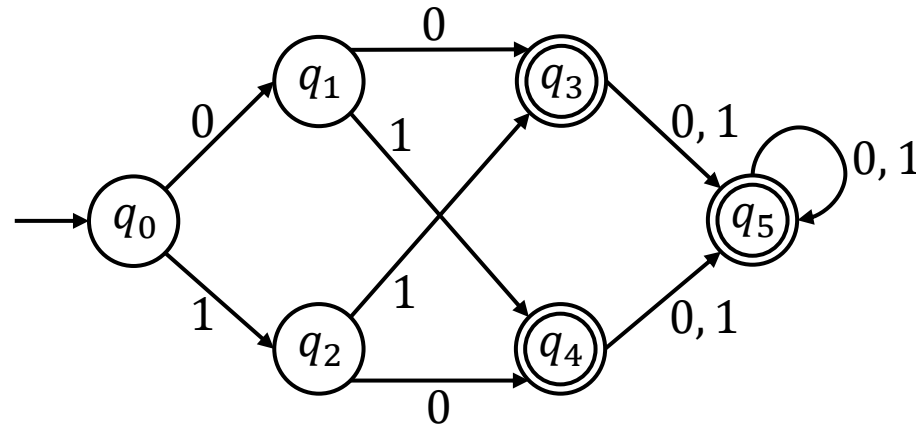
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_0, 0), \delta(q_2, 0)\} = \{q_1, q_4\}$$

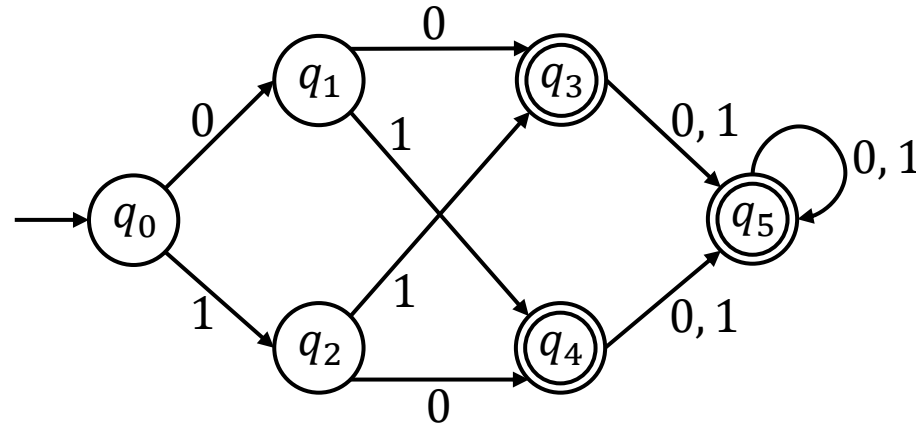
Repeat the **until no changes occur**:

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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_1, 0), \delta(q_2, 0)\} = \{q_3, q_4\}$$

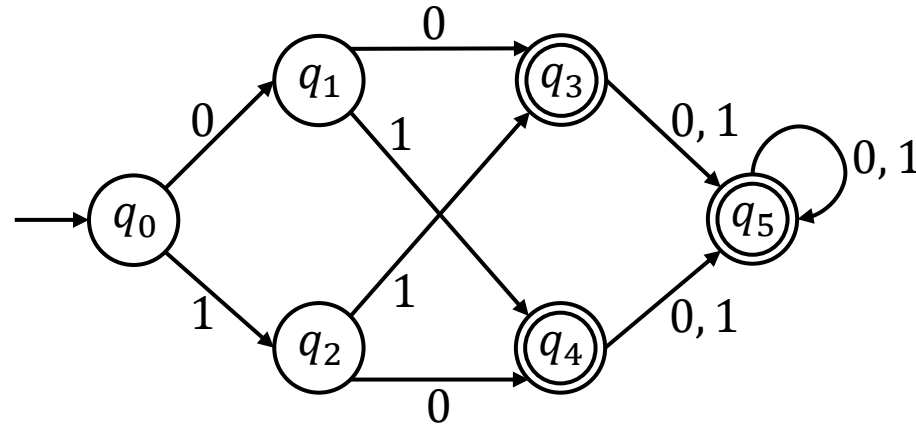
Repeat the **until no changes occur**:

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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_1, 1), \delta(q_2, 1)\} = \{q_4, q_3\}$$

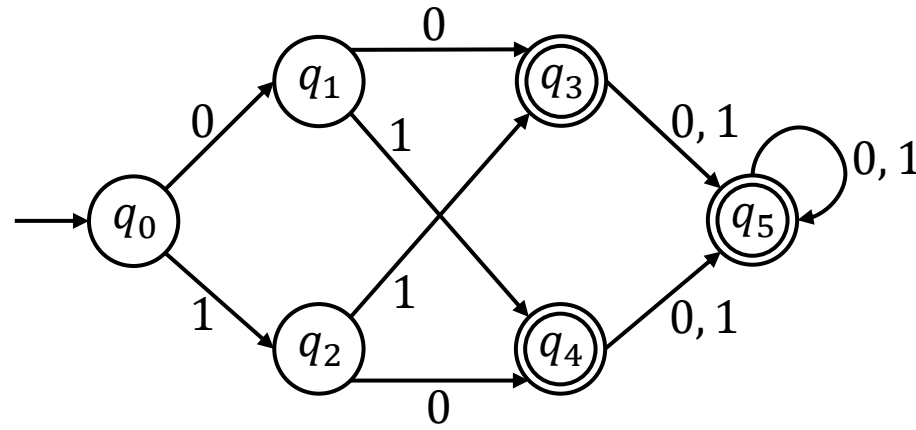
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_3, 0), \delta(q_4, 0)\} = \{q_5, q_5\}$$

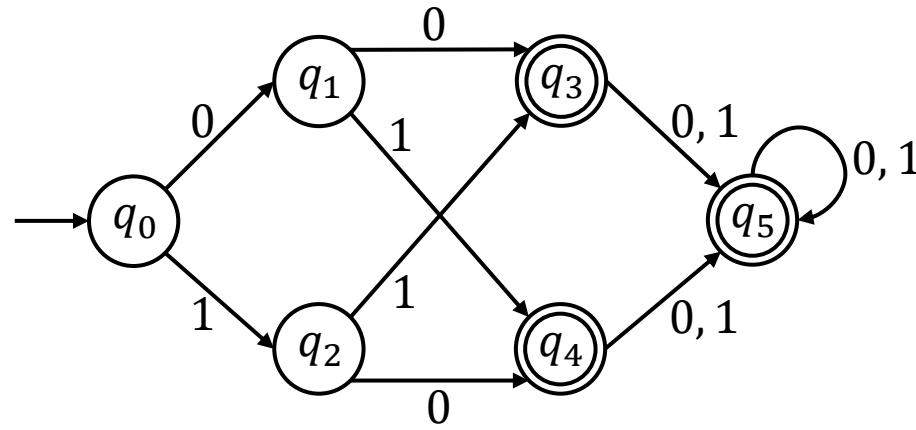
Repeat the **until no changes occur**:

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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_3, 1), \delta(q_4, 1)\} = \{q_5, q_5\}$$

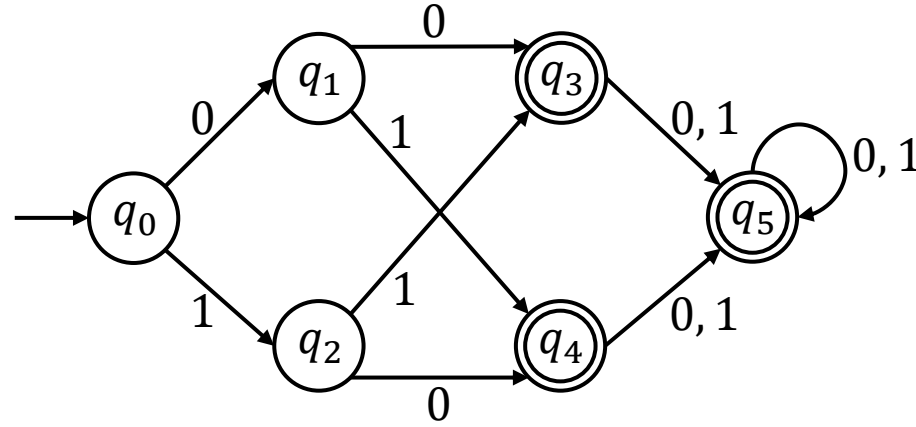
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_3, 0), \delta(q_5, 0)\} = \{q_5, q_5\}$$

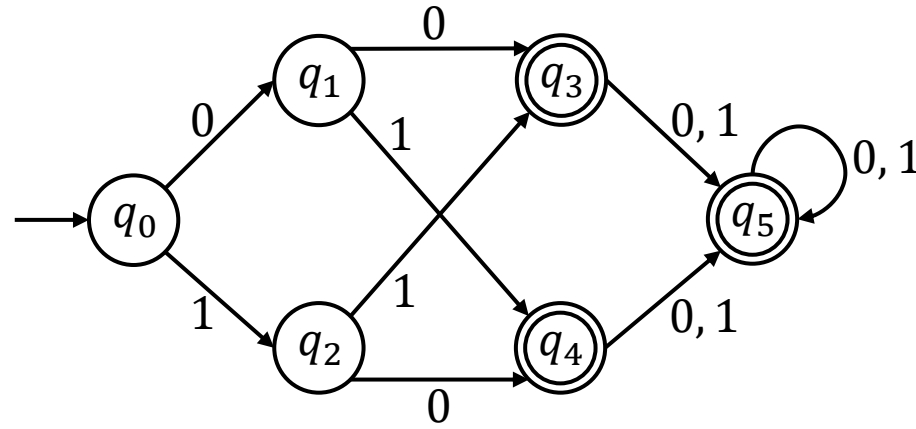
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_3, 1), \delta(q_5, 1)\} = \{q_5, q_5\}$$

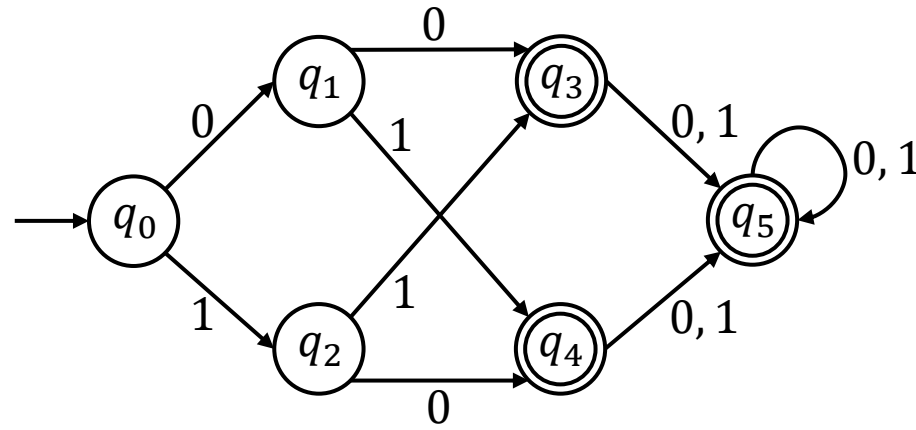
Repeat the **until no changes occur**:

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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_4, 0), \delta(q_5, 0)\} = \{q_5, q_5\}$$

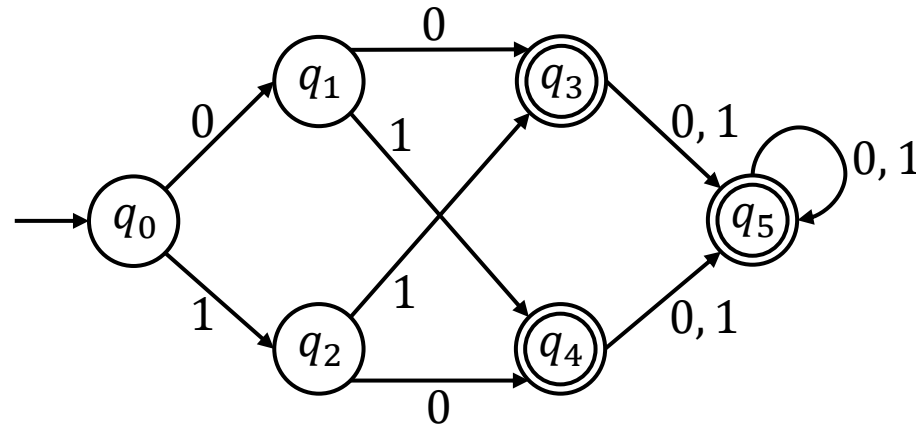
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



$$\{\delta(q_4, 1), \delta(q_5, 1)\} = \{q_5, q_5\}$$

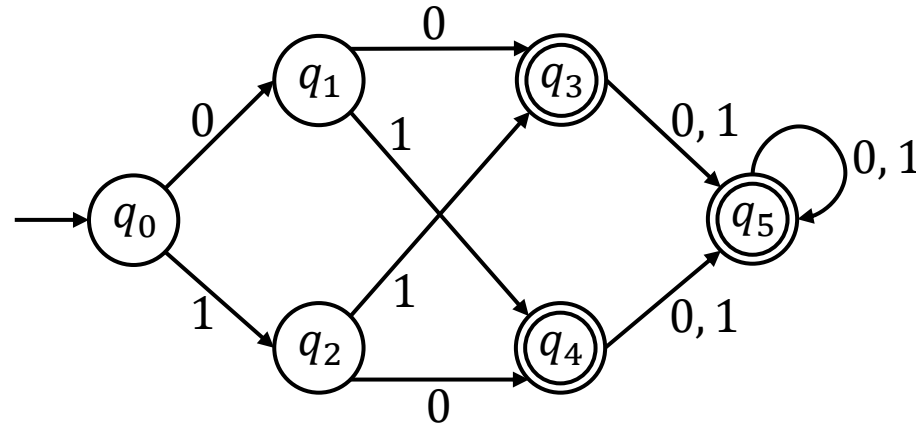
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



Repeat process again, but no changes occur

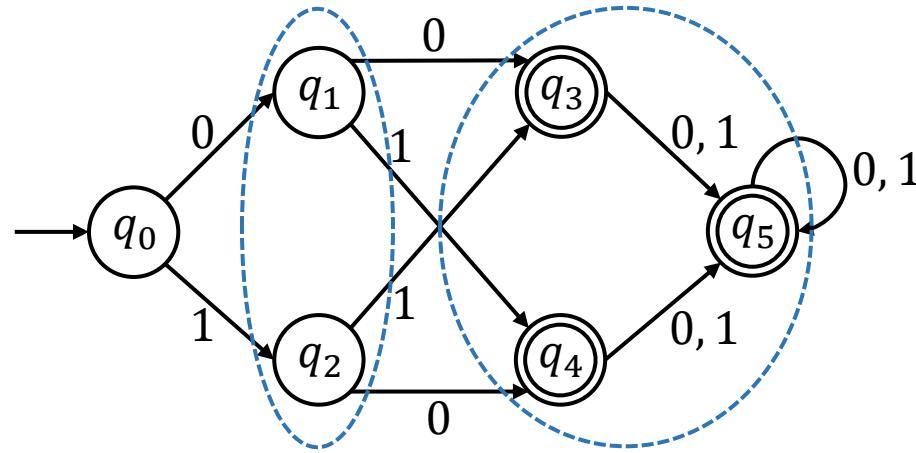
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example



Equivalent:

$p_1 : q_1 \sim q_2$

$p_2 : q_3 \sim q_4 \sim q_5$

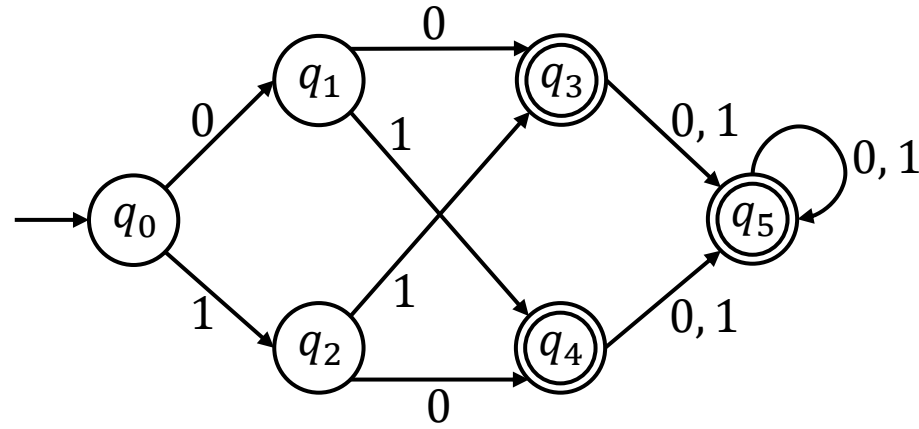
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DFA State Minimization Algorithm Example

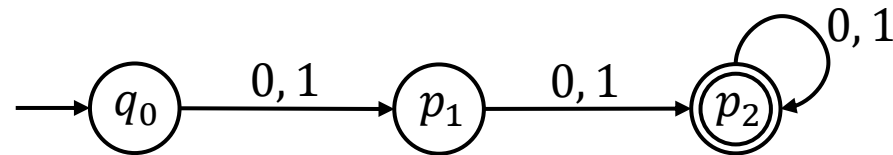
Equivalent:

$p_1 : q_1 \sim q_2$

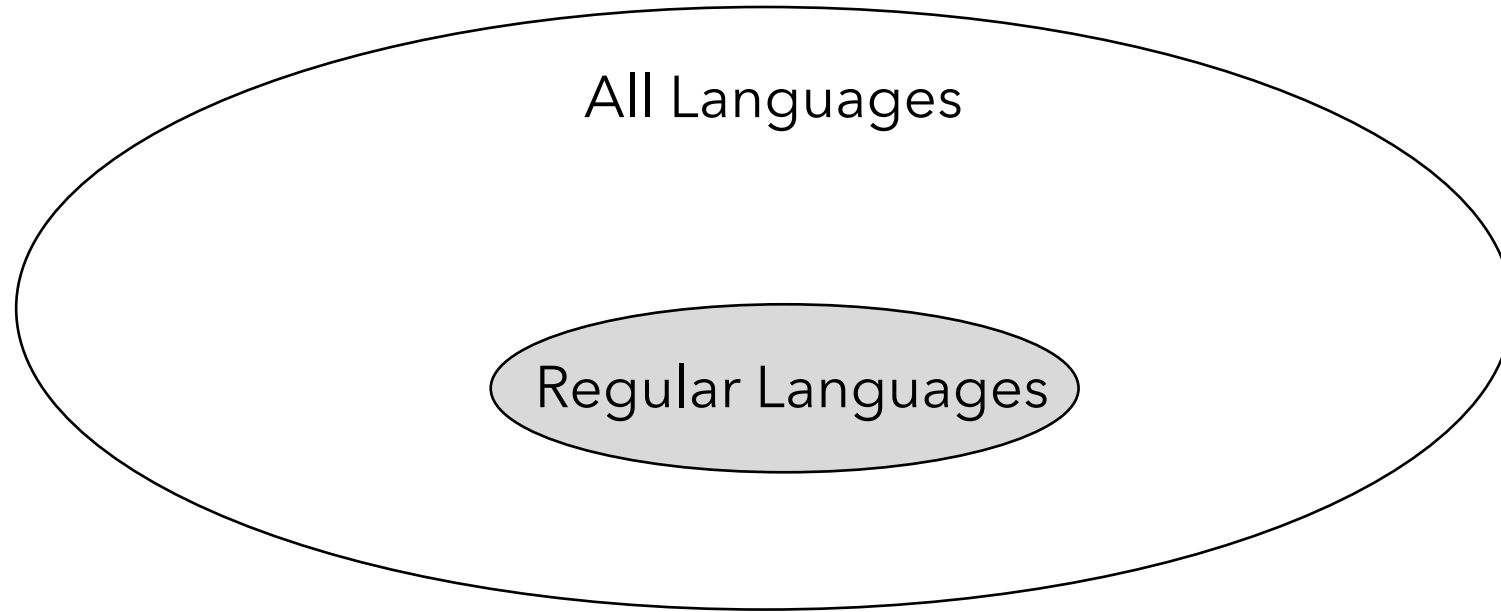
$p_2 : q_3 \sim q_4 \sim q_5$



DFA State Minimization



Non-regular Languages



- The set of **regular languages** is the set of all languages recognized by **DFAs**, **NFAs**, and **regular expressions**
- There also exist languages which cannot be recognized by DFAs, NFAs, nor regular expressions...

Exercise

Consider the following language:

$$L = \{ w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has an equal number of occurrences of } 01 \text{ and } 10 \}$$

Is L a regular language?

Exercise

Are the following languages L_1 , L_2 , or L_3 regular?

- $L_1 = \{ w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has an equal number of 0s and 1s} \}$

?

- $L_2 = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$

?

- $L_3 = \{ 0^3 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$

Yes. $L_3 = L(R)$ with $R = 0001^*$

Non-Regular Languages

- Given a language L , if there exists a finite automaton M with $L(M) = L$, then L is a **regular language**
- A language is **non-regular** if there exists **no finite automaton** that recognizes it
 - i.e. Not possible to create a finite automaton which **accepts** on every string **in the language** and **not accept** on every string **not in the language**
- Technique for proving that languages are non-regular: **the pumping lemma**

Pumping Lemma

If L is a regular language, then there is a **natural number p** (pumping length of L) such that for **every string $s \in L$** of **length at least p** , s can be **divided into $s = xyz$** satisfying the following:

1. $|y| > 0$ (i.e. $y \neq \varepsilon$)
2. $|xy| \leq p$
3. $xy^iz \in L$ for each $i \geq 0$

Notes:

- y^i means concatenation of i copies of substring y
- Conditions 1 to 3 hold **for all strings** in L that are of length at least p
- We only use the pumping lemma to prove that languages are **non-regular**

Using the Pumping Lemma

Let $L = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$. Prove that L is non-regular.

Proof by contradiction using the pumping lemma:

- Assume for a contradiction that L is regular.
- Then all the properties of the pumping lemma must hold for L :
 - There is some natural number p
 - For every $s \in L$ and $|s| \geq p$, then there is a way to rewrite $s = xyz$ such that
 1. $|y| > 0$ (i.e. $y \neq \epsilon$)
 2. $|xy| \leq p$
 3. $xy^i z \in L$ for each $i \geq 0$

Using the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

Proof continued:

- Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma
 - We don't actually know the value of p
 - In fact, there is no such p since **(spoiler)** L is not a regular language
 - We must work with the variable p and come up with a contradiction
- The PL states that conditions must hold **for every** $s \in L$ and $|s| \geq p$
 - For a contradiction, we just need to **choose one string** $\in L$ which contradicts the conditions of the PL
 - Since $|s| \geq p$, p needs to appear somewhere in our chosen string
- Choose $s = 0^p 1^p$

Using the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

- Choose $s = 0^p 1^p$
- Since $s \in L$ and $|s| \geq p$, the PL guarantees that s can be rewritten as $s = xyz$ with
 1. $|y| > 0$ (i.e. $y \neq \epsilon$)
 2. $|xy| \leq p$
 3. $xy^i z \in L$ for each $i \geq 0$
- To derive a contradiction, we need to show that **there is no possible way** to write $s = xyz$ such that the properties hold
- For the PL to be satisfied, there just needs to be **one** rewriting of s
- So, we need to consider **all ways of rewriting s** and show that **all of them break**

Using the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

- Choose $s = 0^p 1^p$
- Since $s \in L$ and $|s| \geq p$, the PL guarantees that s can be rewritten as $s = xyz$ with

1. $|y| > 0$ (i.e. $y \neq \epsilon$)
2. $|xy| \leq p$
3. $xy^i z \in L$ for each $i \geq 0$

- Because of **property 1**, $y \neq \epsilon$, therefore y can be the following:

$$\begin{array}{c} xyz \\ \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_p \underbrace{1 \dots 1}_p \end{array}$$

- Case 1: y consists of only 0's
- Case 2: y consists of only 1's
- Case 3: y consists of both 0's and 1's

Using the Pumping Lemma

$$L = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

Case 1: y consists of only 0's

- The string $xyyz$ has more 0's than 1's, therefore $xyyz \notin L$
- This violates **property 3** of the PL

Case 2: y consists of only 1's

- The string $xyyz$ has more 1's than 0's, therefore $xyyz \notin L$
- This violates **property 3** of the PL

Case 3: y consists of both 0's and 1's

- The string $xyyz$ has 0's and 1's out of order, therefore $xyyz \notin L$
- This violates **property 3** of the PL

Since no case of y is possible, **we cannot rewrite s as xyz** satisfying the properties of the pumping lemma. Therefore, **L is not regular.**

Pumping Lemma Example 2

Prove that $L = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has an equal number of } 0\text{s and } 1\text{s}\}$ is not regular.

Proof:

- Assume for a contradiction that L is regular
- Let p be the pumping length given by the pumping lemma.
- We choose $s = 1^p 0^p$.
- Since $s \in L$ and $|s| \geq p$, according to the PL, we can rewrite $s = xyz$ satisfying
 1. $|y| > 0$ (i.e. $y \neq \epsilon$)
 2. $|xy| \leq p$
 3. $xy^i z \in L$ for each $i \geq 0$

Pumping Lemma Example 2

$$L = \{ w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has an equal number of 0s and 1s} \}$$

- We choose $s = 1^p 0^p$.
 - Since $s \in L$ and $|s| \geq p$, according to the PL, we can rewrite $s = xyz$ satisfying
 1. $|y| > 0$ (i.e. $y \neq \epsilon$)
 2. $|xy| \leq p$
 3. $xy^i z \in L$ for each $i \geq 0$
- xy

$\underbrace{1 \dots 1}_p \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_p$
- By **property 2**, xy must consist of only 1's
 - By **property 1**, y must consist of at least one 1 (since $y \neq \epsilon$)
 - Consider $xy^0 z = xz$. The string $xz \notin L$ since it contains less 1's than 0's
 - We cannot rewrite $s = xyz$ satisfying all properties, so we have a contradiction.
- Therefore, **L is not regular.**

Exercises

1. Show that $L = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i > j \}$ is non-regular
2. Show that $L = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i < j \}$ is non-regular
3. Show that $L = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i \leq j \}$ is non-regular
4. Explain why $L = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i \leq j < 121 \}$ is regular