transition that inputs a and outputs ε

a / ε

a / a

b

b
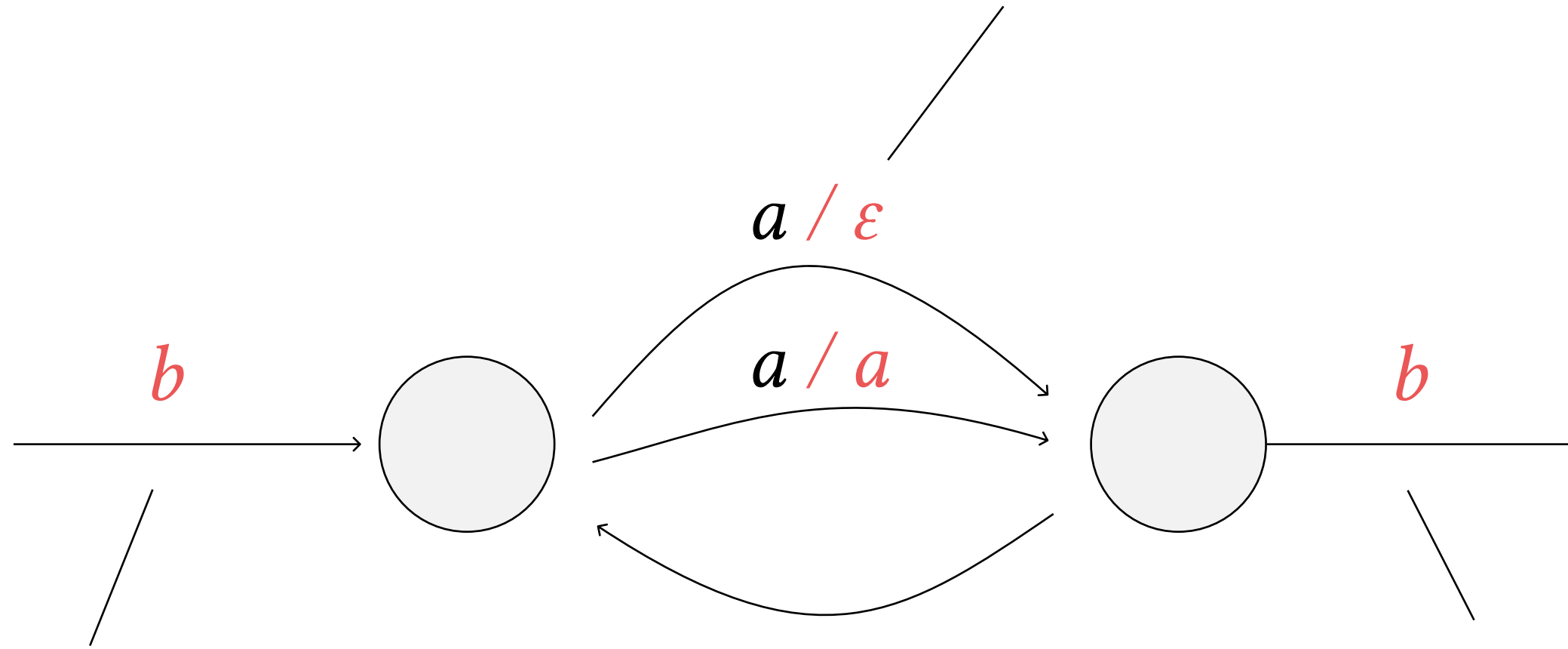
if the run begins in this initial state, then b is output

a / ε

if the run ends in this final state, then b is output
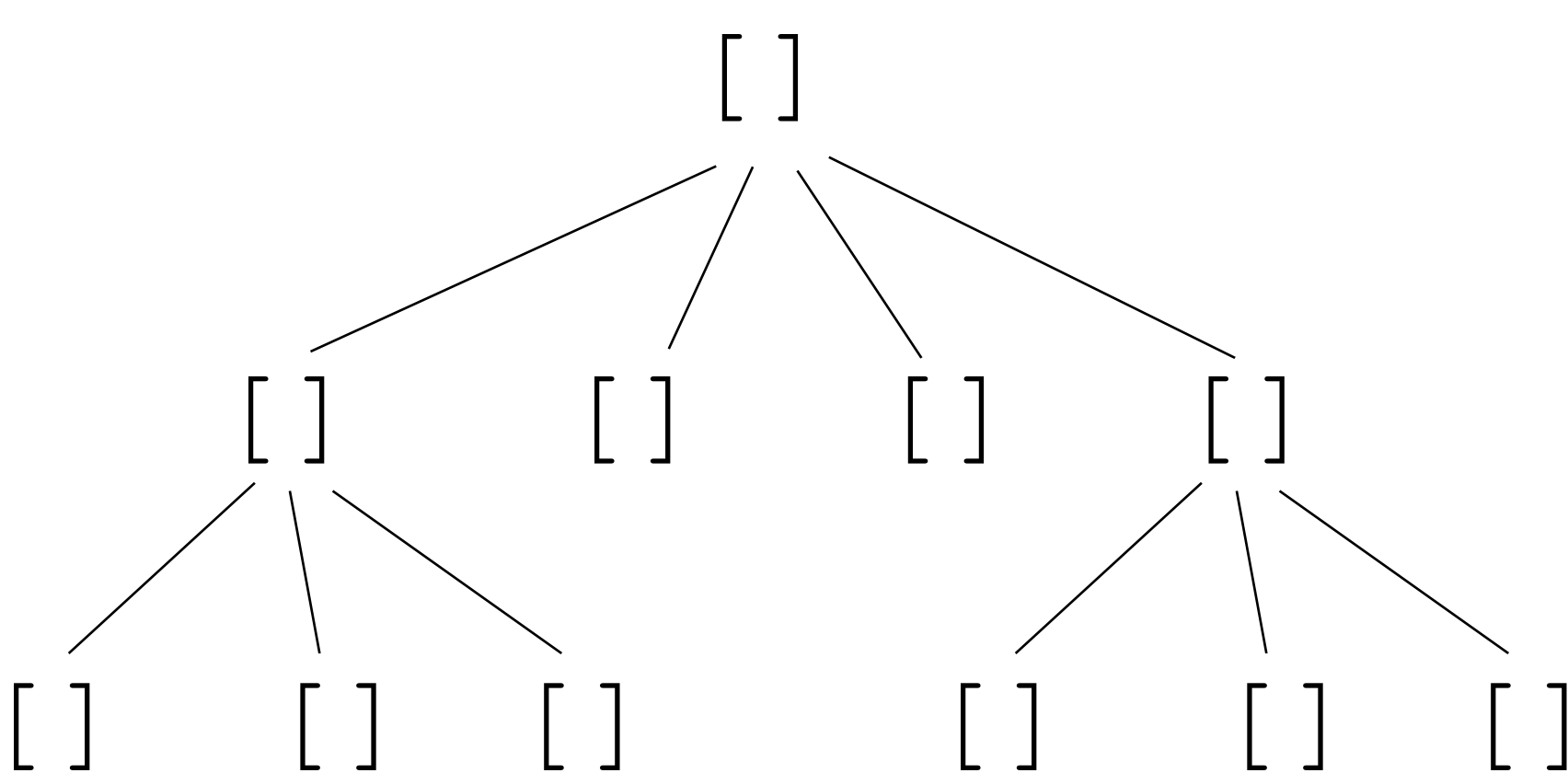
height 2

The height is the maximal number of edges on a root-to-leaf path

| $aaaabab\,babaabaab$ | $abababb$ | $abababbaa$ | $aabaabaaabbaababb$ |

start
before first separator, not including it

middle
between first and last separators, including the first but not the last one.

finish
after last separator, not including it