transition that inputs *a* and outputs ε

$a \, / \, \varepsilon$

$a \, / \, a$

b

b

$a \, / \, \varepsilon$
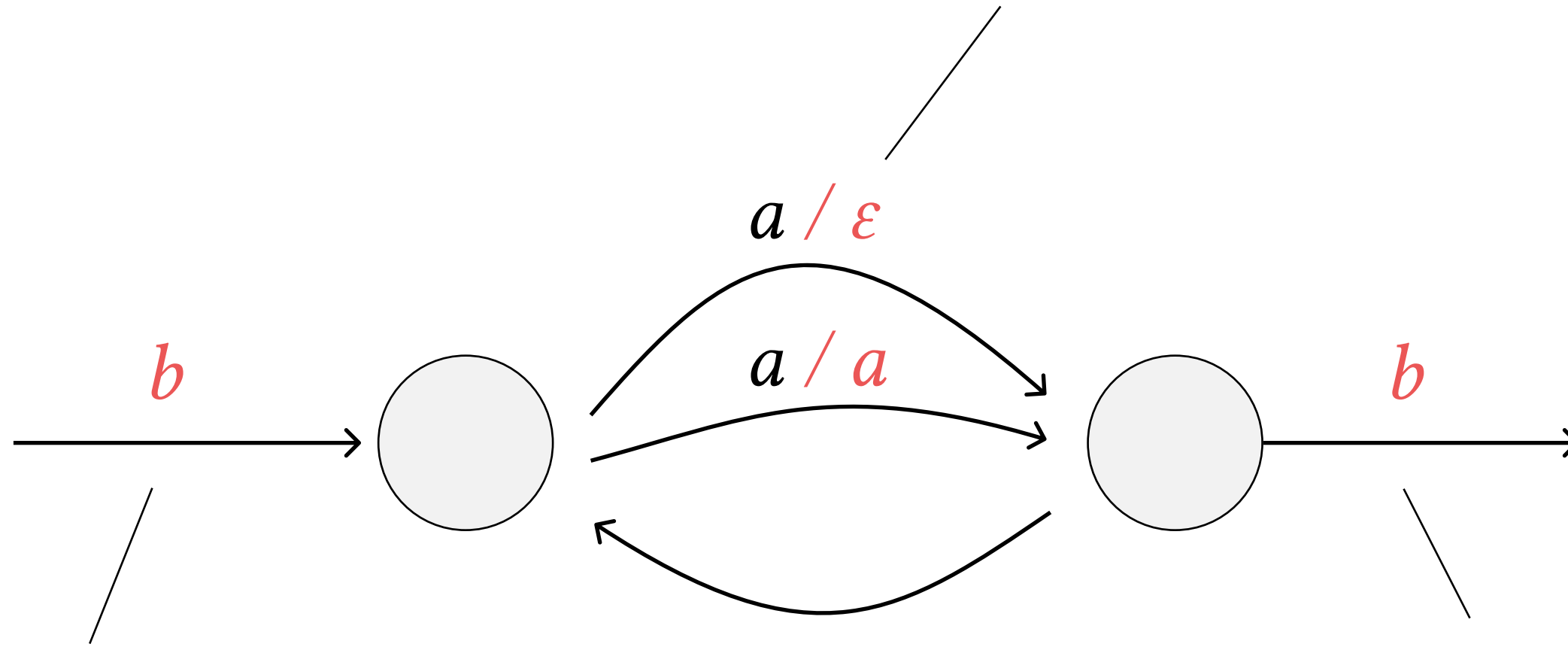
if the run begins in
this initial state,
then *b* is output

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

@ ———————— application

concat   [ ]

[ ]   [ ]   [ ]   [ ]

( ) ( ) ( )   ( ) ( ) ( )
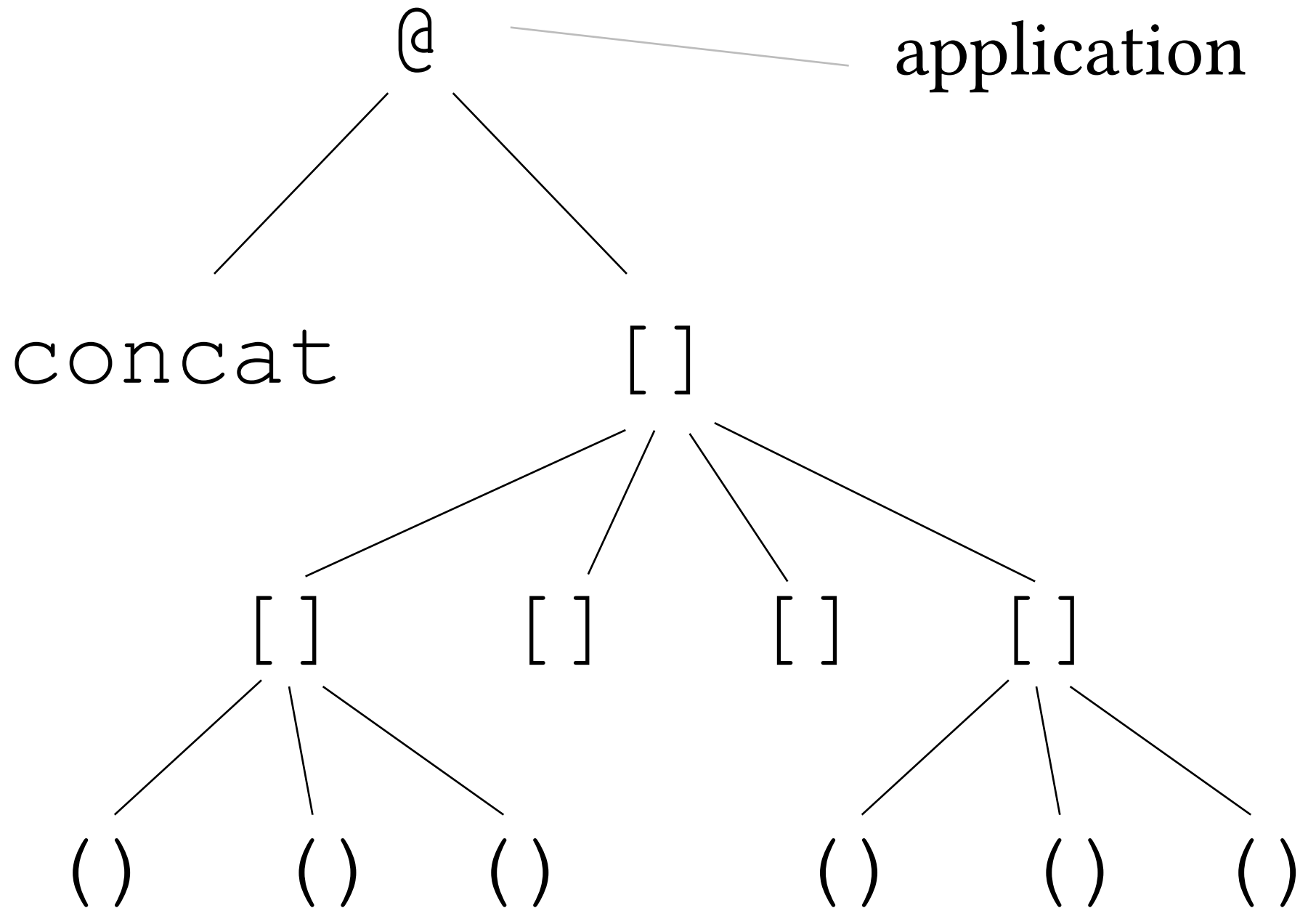
| $a\,a\,a\,a\,b\,a\,b\,b\,a\,a\,b\,a\,a\,b$ | $a\,b\,a\,b\,a\,b\,b$ | $a\,b\,a\,b\,a\,b\,b\,a\,a$ | $a\,a\,b\,a\,a\,b\,a\,a\,a\,b\,b\,a\,a\,b\,a\,b\,b$ |

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