



Theory of Computation

Week 4

Much of the material on this slides comes from the recommended textbook by Elaine Rich

Announcement

Assignment 1 Released

❑ Due: 29/03/2020

March 16, 2020

COMP2270 - Semester 1 - 2020 | www.newcastle.edu.au

Detailed content

Weekly program

- ✓ Week 1 – Background knowledge revision: logic, sets, proof techniques
- ✓ Week 2 – Languages and strings. Hierarchies. Computation. Closure properties
- ✓ Week 3 – Finite State Machines: non-determinism vs. determinism

Week 4 – Regular languages: expressions and grammars

- ☐ Week 5 – Non regular languages: pumping lemma. Closure
- ☐ Week 6 – Context-free languages: grammars and parse trees
- ☐ Week 7 – Pushdown automata
- ☐ Week 8 – Non context-free languages: pumping lemma and decidability. Closure
- ☐ Week 9 – Decidable languages: Turing Machines
- ☐ Week 10 – Church-Turing thesis and the unsolvability of the Halting Problem
- ☐ Week 11 – Decidable, semi-decidable and undecidable languages (and proofs)
- ☐ Week 12 – Revision of the hierarchy. Safety-critical systems
- ☐ Week 13 – Extra revision (if needed)

DETERMINISTIC FSM

Definition

- A Finite State Machine M is a quintuple

$M = (K, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$, where:

- K is a finite set of states
- Σ is an alphabet
- δ is the transition function from $(K \times \Sigma)$ to K
- $s \in K$ is the initial state, and
- $A \subseteq K$ is the set of accepting states

NONDETERMINISTIC FSM

Definition

- A Finite State Machine M is a quintuple

$M = (K, \Sigma, \Delta, s, A)$, where:

- K is a finite set of states
- Σ is an alphabet
- Δ is the transition relation. It is a finite subset of $(K \times (\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}) \times K$
- $s \in K$ is the initial state, and
- $A \subseteq K$ is the set of accepting states

SUMMARY

- A language is **regular** iff it is accepted by some FSM
- Given any DFMSM M , there exists an algorithm *minDFSM* that constructs a minimal DFMSM that also accepts $L(M)$.
- Given any NDFSM M , there exists an algorithm *ndfsmtoDFSM* that constructs a DFMSM that also accepts $L(M)$.

Week 04 Videos

You already know

- ❑ Regular Expression
 - ❑ 8 rules for forming regular expression
 - ❑ How to read a regular expression
 - ❑ Relation of RE with language
- ❑ Regular Grammar
 - ❑ Formal Definition of Regular Grammar
 - ❑ What is rule in a regular grammar
 - ❑ Condition for rules in regular grammar
 - ❑ How strings are generated from regular grammar



Videos to watch before lecture



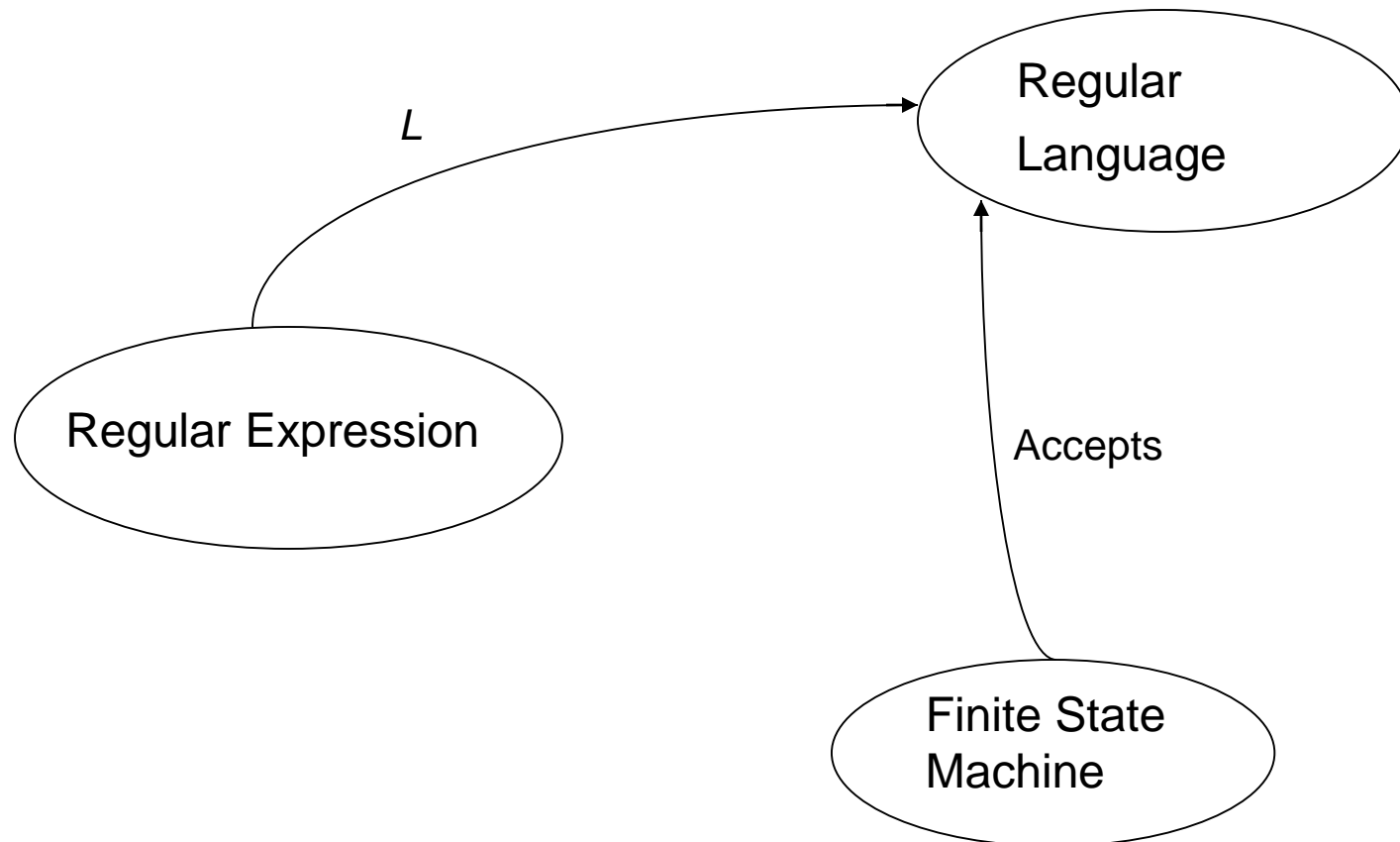
Additional videos to watch for this week

Week 04 Lecture Outline

Regular languages: expressions and grammars

- ☐ Regular Expression
- ☐ Kleene's theorem
- ☐ Regular Grammar
- ☐ Conversion between Regular Grammar and FSM
- ☐ Simplifying Regular Expression
- ☐ More on regular expression

REGULAR LANGUAGES





REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

The regular expressions over an alphabet Σ are all and only the strings that can be obtained as follows:

1. \emptyset is a regular expression.
2. ε is a regular expression.
3. Every element of Σ is a regular expression.
4. If α , β are regular expressions, then so is $\alpha\beta$.
5. If α , β are regular expressions, then so is $\alpha\cup\beta$.
6. If α is a regular expression, then so is α^* .
7. α is a regular expression, then so is α^+ .
8. If α is a regular expression, then so is (α) .



REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Examples

If $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$, the following are regular expressions:

\emptyset

ε

a

$(a \cup b)^*$

$abba \cup \varepsilon$



REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Rules

Define L , a **semantic interpretation function** for regular expressions:

1. $L(\emptyset) = \emptyset$.
2. $L(\varepsilon) = \{\varepsilon\}$.
3. $L(c)$, where $c \in \Sigma = \{c\}$.
4. $L(\alpha\beta) = L(\alpha) L(\beta)$.
5. $L(\alpha \cup \beta) = L(\alpha) \cup L(\beta)$.
6. $L(\alpha^*) = (L(\alpha))^*$.
7. $L(\alpha^+) = L(\alpha\alpha^*) = L(\alpha) (L(\alpha))^*$.

If $L(\alpha)$ is equal to \emptyset , then $L(\alpha^+)$ is also equal to \emptyset . Otherwise $L(\alpha^+)$ is the language that is formed by concatenating together one or more strings drawn from $L(\alpha)$.

8. $L((\alpha)) = L(\alpha)$.

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Rules

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- Rules 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 give the language its power to define sets.
- Rule 8 has as its only role grouping other operators.
- Rules 2 and 7 appear to add functionality to the regular expression language, but they don't.

2. ε is a regular expression.

7. α is a regular expression, then so is α^+ .

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Example

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$$\begin{aligned} L((a \cup b)^*b) &= L((a \cup b)^*) L(b) \\ &= (L((a \cup b)))^* L(b) \\ &= (L(a) \cup L(b))^* L(b) \\ &= (\{a\} \cup \{b\})^* \{b\} \\ &= \{a, b\}^* \{b\}. \end{aligned}$$

Go through a loop zero or more times, picking a single a or b each time.
Then concatenate b.

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

More examples

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$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: |w| \text{ is even}\}$$

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

More examples

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$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: |w| \text{ is even}\}$$

$$((a \cup b) (a \cup b))^*$$

$$(aa \cup ab \cup ba \cup bb)^*$$

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

More examples

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$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: |w| \text{ is even}\}$$

$$((a \cup b) (a \cup b))^*$$

$$(aa \cup ab \cup ba \cup bb)^*$$

$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: w \text{ contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$$

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

More examples

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$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: |w| \text{ is even}\}$$

$$((a \cup b) (a \cup b))^*$$

$$(aa \cup ab \cup ba \cup bb)^*$$

$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: w \text{ contains an odd number of } a\text{'s}\}$$

$$b^* (ab^*ab^*)^* a b^*$$

$$b^* a b^* (ab^*ab^*)^*$$

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Idioms

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$(\alpha \cup \varepsilon)$ \rightarrow is frequently read as “optional α ”

$(a \cup b)^*$ \rightarrow describes all possible strings composed of characters a and b

NOTE: $(a \cup b)^* \neq a^* \cup b^*$ and $(ab)^* \neq a^*b^*$

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Operator precedence

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Highest
↑
↓
Lowest

Regular Expressions

Kleene star

concatenation

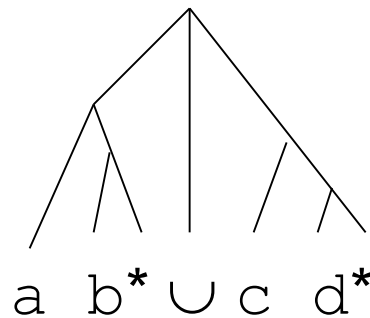
union

Arithmetic Expressions

exponentiation

multiplication

addition



$x y^2 + i j^2$

REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

Finite state machines and regular expressions define the same class of languages. To prove this, we must show:

Theorem 1: Any language that can be defined with a regular expression can be accepted by some FSM and so is regular.

Theorem 2: Every regular language (i.e., every language that can be accepted by some DFSA) can be defined with a regular expression.

REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

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Theorem 1: Any language that can be defined with a regular expression can be accepted by some FSM and so is regular.

Proof: By construction. We will show that given any regular expression α we can construct a FSM M which accepts the same language, i.e. $L(\alpha) = L(M)$

We must show how to build FSMs to accept languages defined by regular expressions

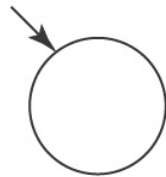
REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

23

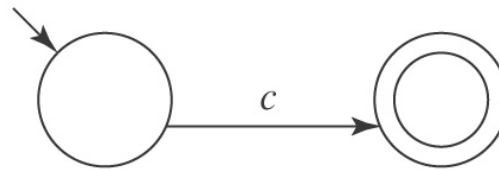
Theorem 1: Any language that can be defined with a regular expression can be accepted by some FSM and so is regular.

If $\alpha = \emptyset$:



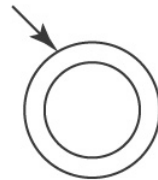
$$L(\emptyset) = \emptyset$$

If $\alpha = c \in \Sigma$:



$$L(c), \text{ where } c \in \Sigma = \{c\}$$

If $\alpha = \varepsilon$



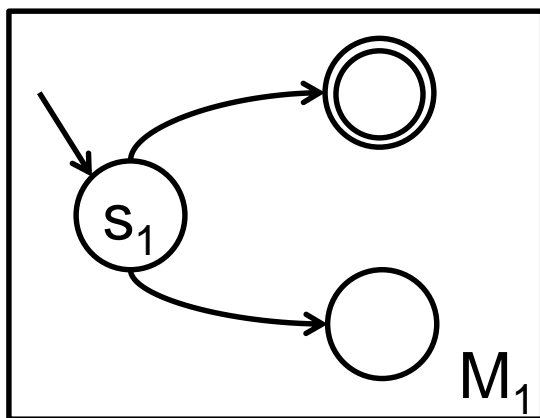
$$L(\varepsilon) = \{\varepsilon\}.$$

REs vs. FSMs

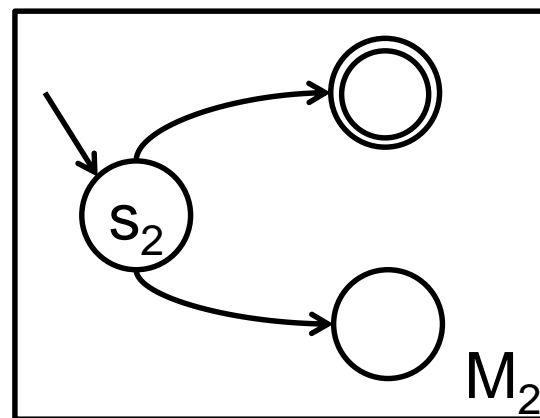
Kleene's theorem

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- β and γ be regular expression over Σ
- accepted by FSM M_1 and M_2



$$M1 = (K_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, s_1, A_1)$$



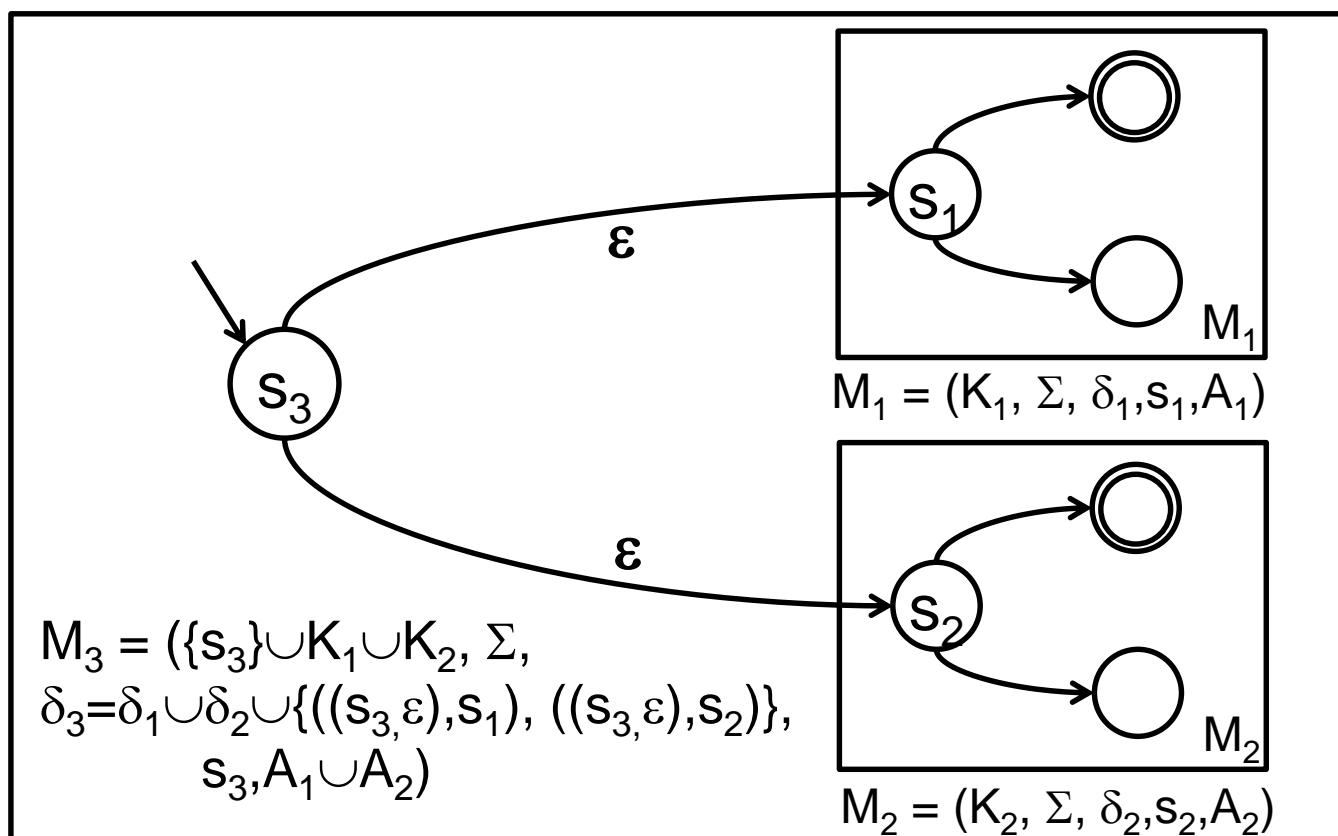
$$M2 = (K_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, s_2, A_2)$$

REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

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If α is the regular expression $\beta \cup \gamma$ and if both $L(\beta)$ and $L(\gamma)$ are regular, then we construct M_3 such that $L(M_3)=L(\alpha)=L(\beta) \cup L(\gamma)$:

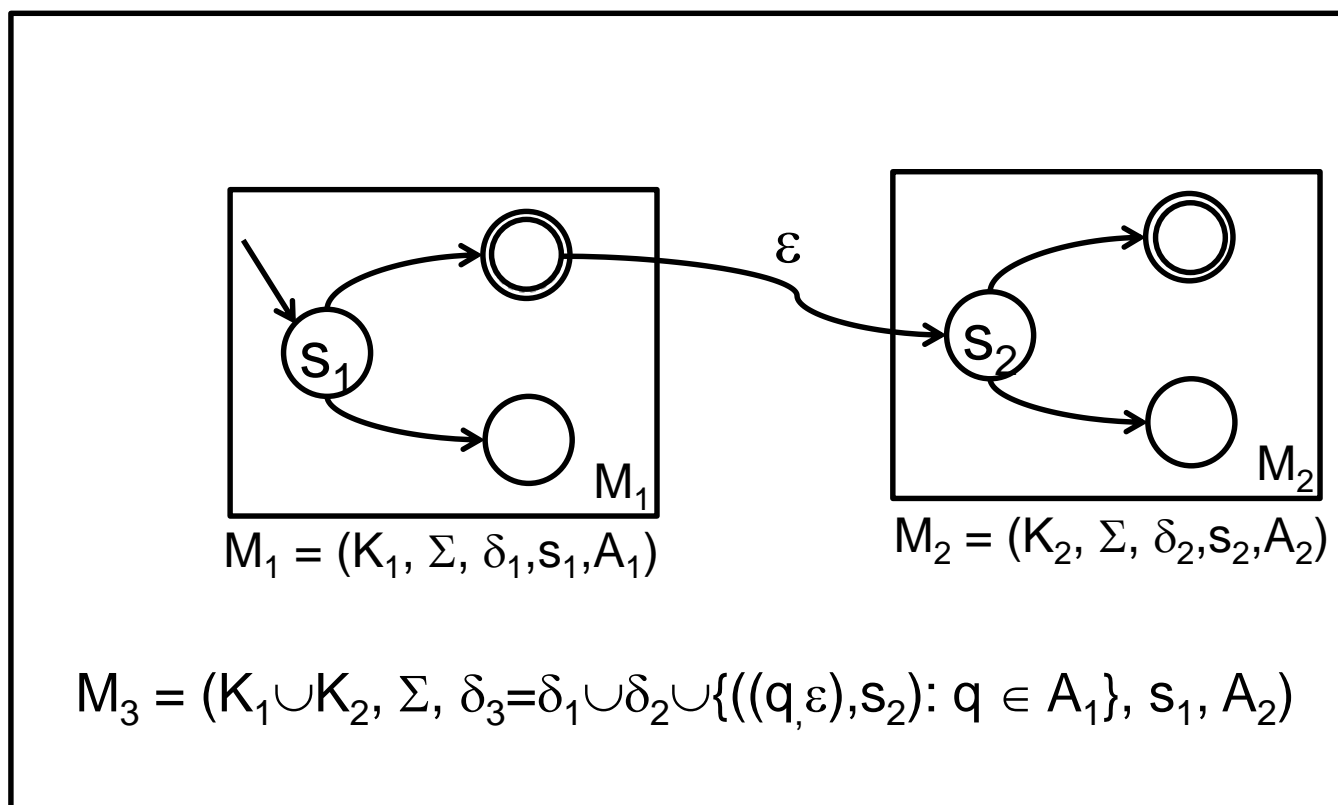


REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

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If α is the regular expression $\beta\gamma$ and if both $L(\beta)$ and $L(\gamma)$ are regular, then we construct M_3 such that $L(M_3)=L(\alpha)=L(\beta) L(\gamma)$:

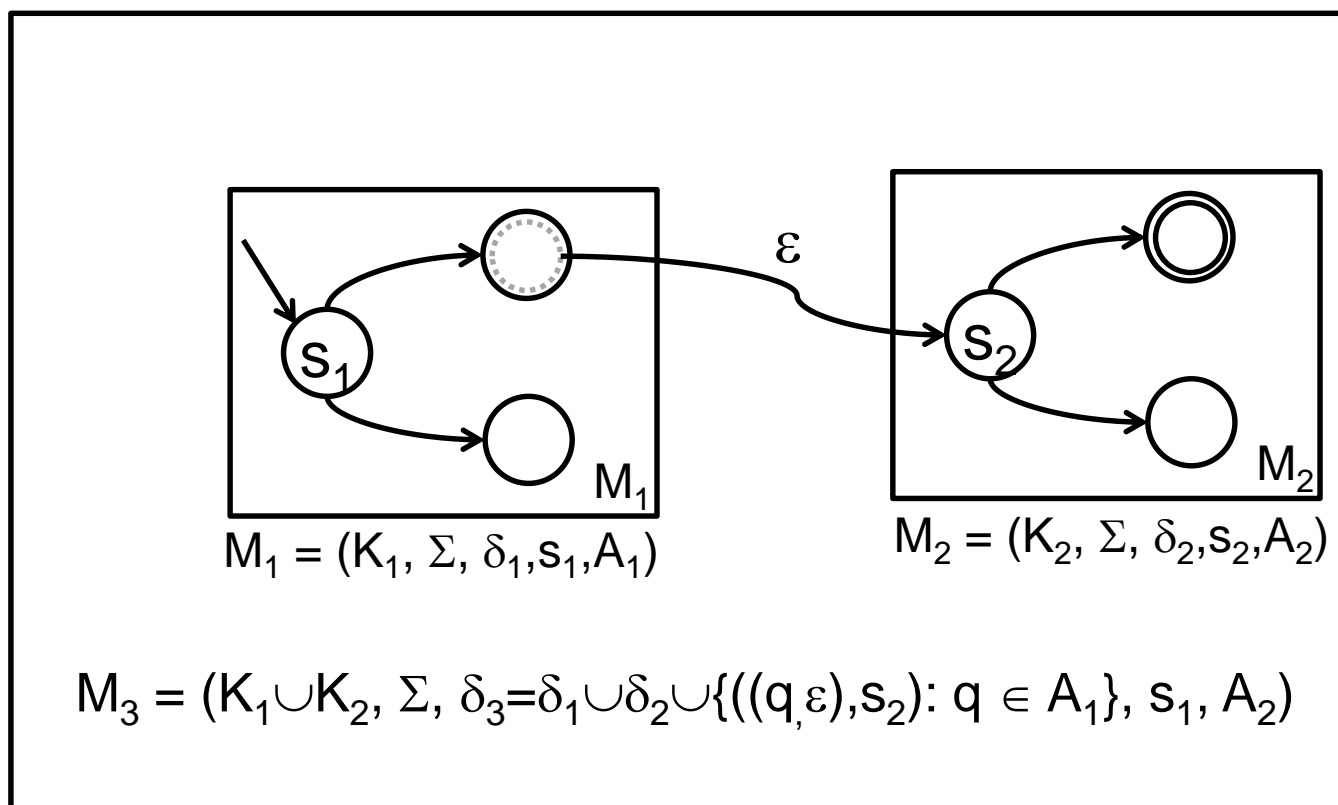


REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

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If α is the regular expression $\beta\gamma$ and if both $L(\beta)$ and $L(\gamma)$ are regular, then we construct M_3 such that $L(M_3)=L(\alpha)=L(\beta) L(\gamma)$:

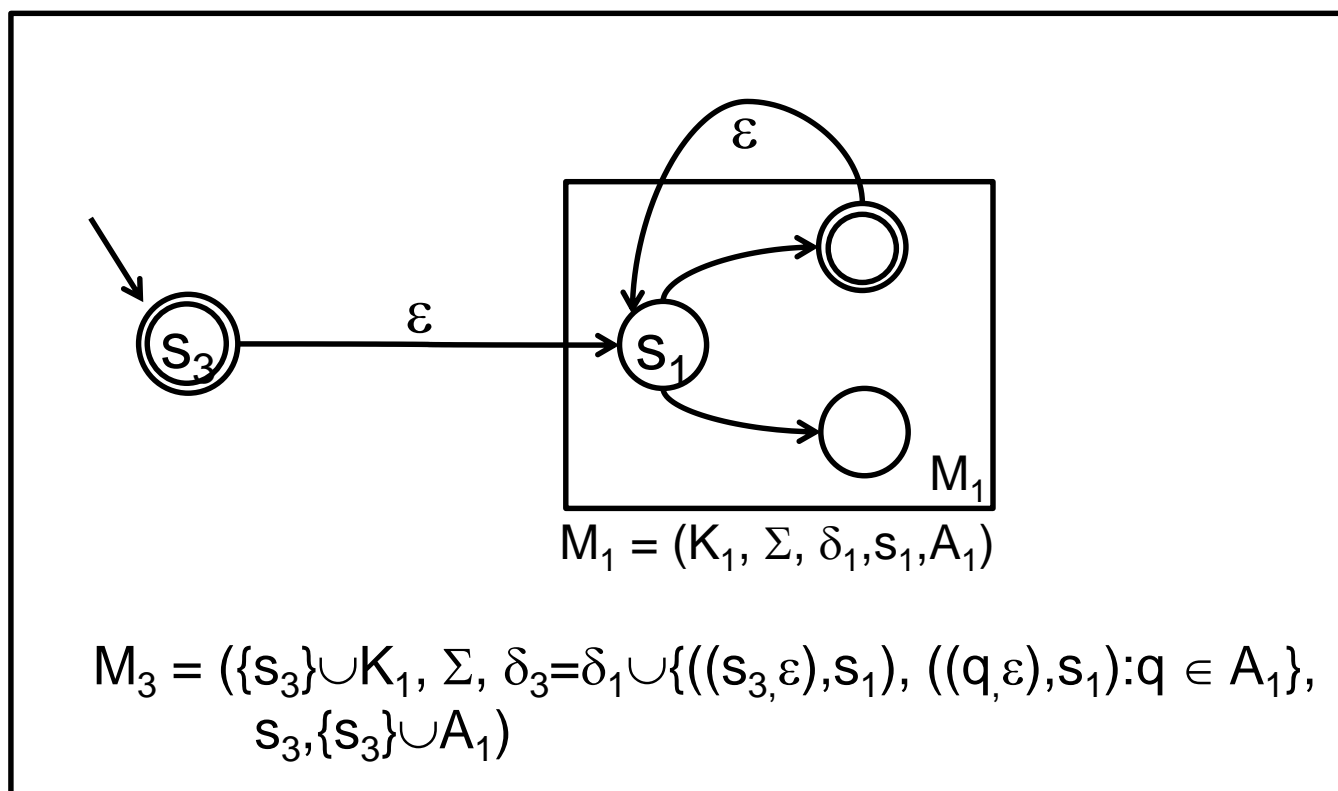


REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

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If α is the regular expression β^* and $L(\beta)$ is regular, then we construct M_3 such that $L(M_3)=L(\alpha)=L(\beta)^*$:



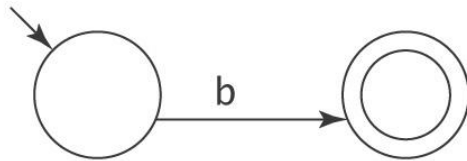
KLEENE'S THEOREM

Example

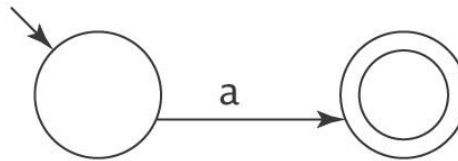
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$(b \cup ab)^*$

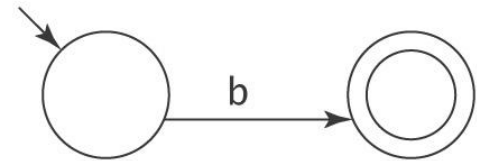
An FSM for b



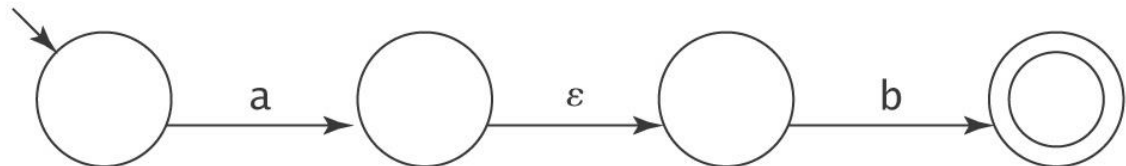
An FSM for a



An FSM for b



An FSM for ab :



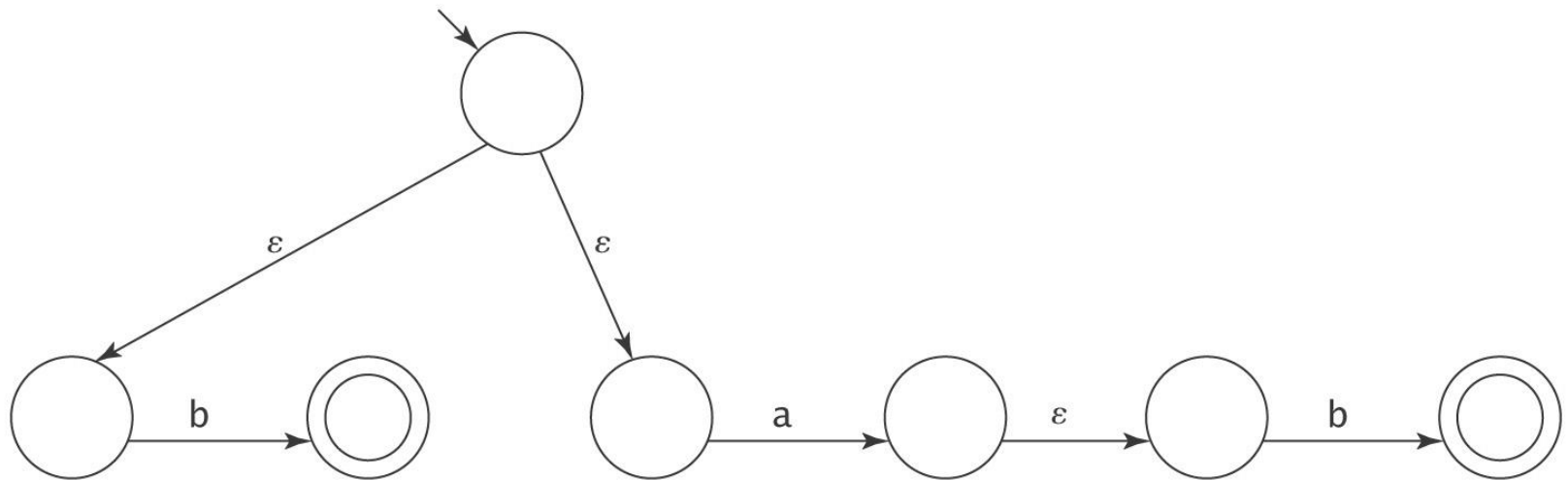
KLEENE'S THEOREM

Example

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$(b \cup ab)^*$

An FSM for $(b \cup ab)^*$:



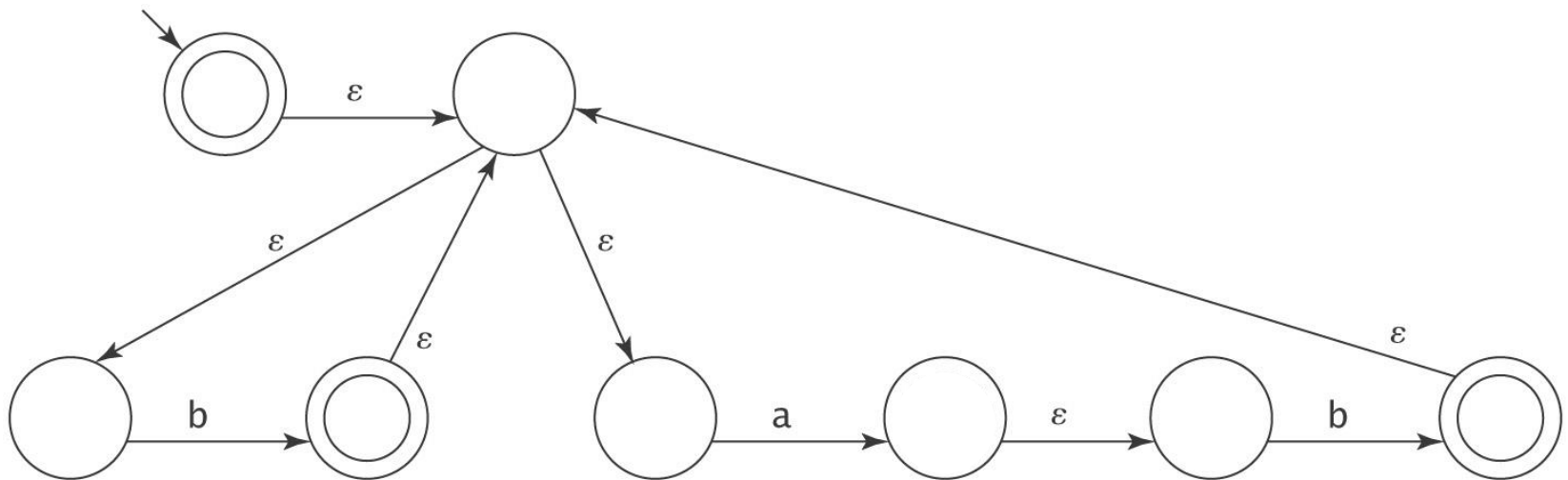
KLEENE'S THEOREM

Example

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$(b \cup ab)^*$

An FSM for $(b \cup ab)^*$:



REs vs. FSMs

Kleene's theorem

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Theorem 2: Every regular language can be defined with a regular expression.

Proof: This is equivalent to showing that for every FSM there is a corresponding regular express. We'll show this construction.

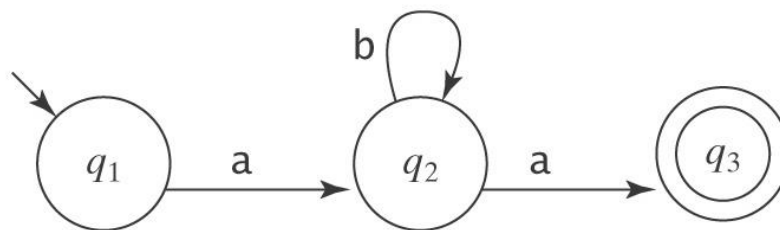
The key idea is that we'll allow arbitrary regular expressions to label the transitions of an FSM.

KLEENE'S THEOREM

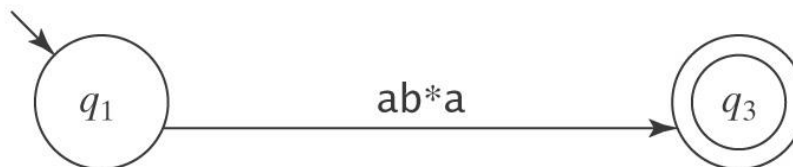
Tricks

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Let M be:



Suppose we rip out state 2:





fsmtoregexheuristic

fsmtoregexheuristic(M : FSM) =

1. Remove unreachable states from M .
2. If M has no accepting states then return \emptyset .
3. If the start state of M is part of a loop, create a new start state s and connect s to M 's start state via an ε -transition.
4. If there is more than one accepting state of M or there are any transitions out of any of them, create a new accepting state and connect each of M 's accepting states to it via an ε -transition. The old accepting states no longer accept.
5. If M has only one state then return ε .
6. Until only the start state and the accepting state remain do:
 - 6.1 Select *rip* (not s or an accepting state).
 - 6.2 Remove *rip* from M .
 - 6.3 *Modify the transitions among the remaining states so M accepts the same strings.
7. Return the regular expression that labels the one remaining transition from the start state to the accepting state.

fsmtoregex

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fsmtoregex(M : FSM) =

1. $M' = \text{standardize}(M$: FSM).
2. Return *buildregex*(M').

standardize(M : FSM) =

1. Remove unreachable states from M .
2. If necessary, create a new start state.
3. If necessary, create a new accepting state.
4. If there is more than one transition between states p and q , collapse them.
5. If any transitions are missing, create them with label \emptyset .

fsmtoregex

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buildregex(*M*: FSM) =

1. If *M* has no accepting states then return \emptyset .
2. If *M* has only one state, then return ε .
3. Until only the start and accepting states remain do:
 - 3.1 Select some state *rip* of *M*.
 - 3.2 For every transition from *p* to *q*, if both *p* and *q* are not *rip* then do
Compute the new label *R'* for the transition from *p* to *q*:

$$R'(p, q) = R(p, q) \cup R(p, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, q)$$

- 3.3 Remove *rip* and all transitions into and out of it.
4. Return the regular expression that labels the transition from the start state to the accepting state.

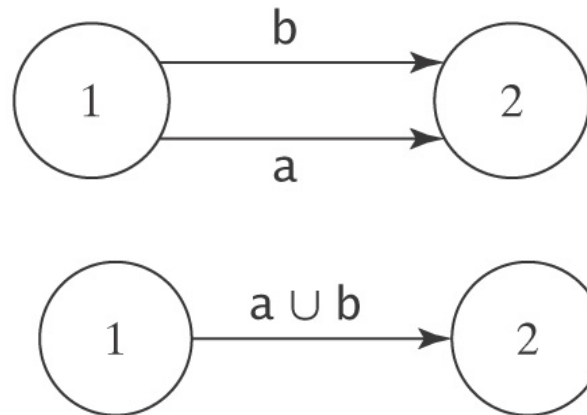
MODIFICATIONS TO M BEFORE WE START

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We require that, from every state other than the accepting state there must be exactly one transition to every state (including itself) except the start state. And into every state other than the start state there must be exactly one transition from every state (including itself) except the accepting state.

1. If there is more than one transition between states p and q , collapse them into a single transition:

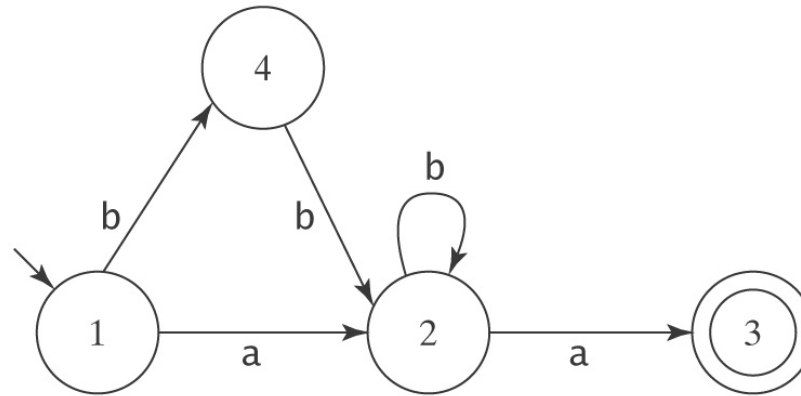
becomes:



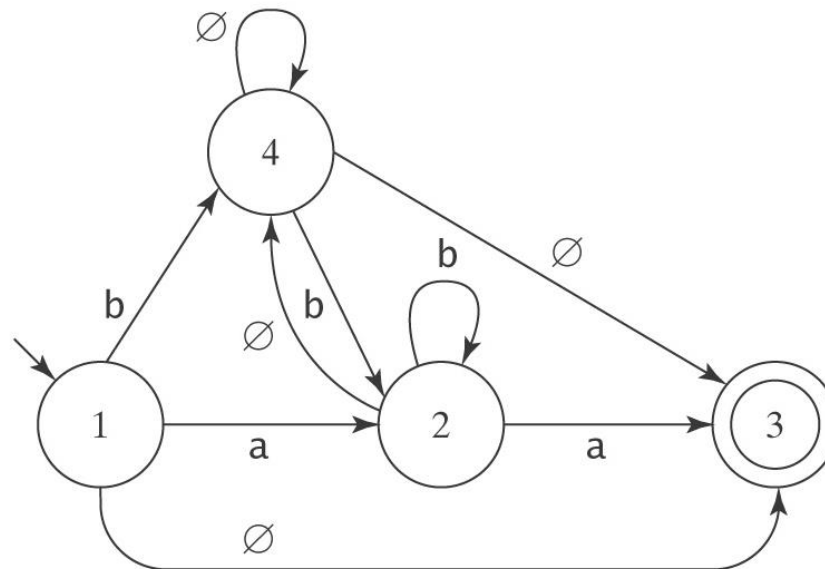
MODIFICATIONS TO M BEFORE WE START

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2. If any of the required transitions are missing, add them:



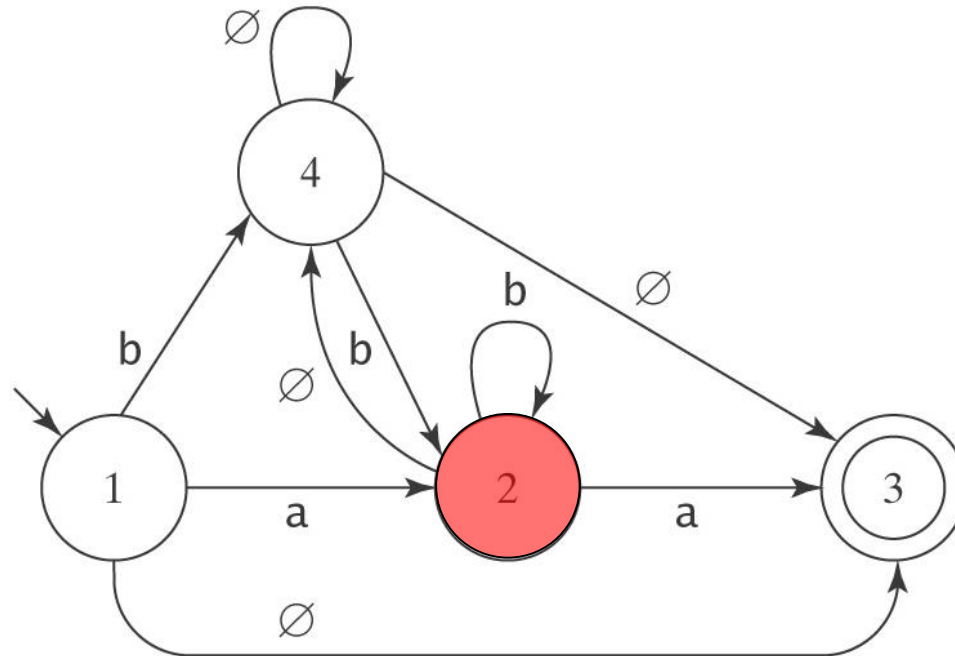
becomes:



MODIFICATIONS TO *M* BEFORE WE START

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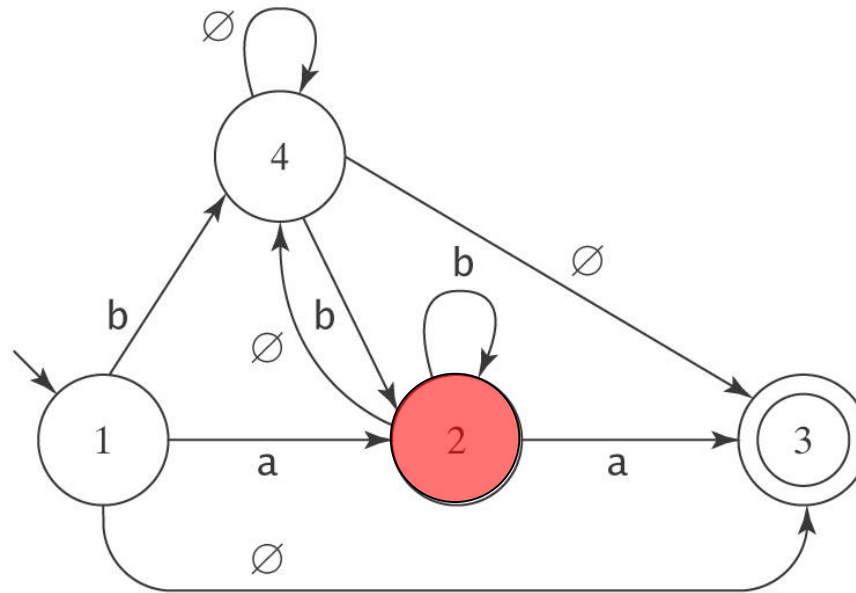
3. Choose a state. Rip it out. Restore functionality.



Suppose we rip state 2.

MODIFICATIONS TO M BEFORE WE START

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Consider any pair of states p and q . Once we remove rip , how can M get from p to q ?

- It can still take the transition that went directly from p to q , or
- It can take the transition from p to rip . Then, it can take the transition from rip back to itself zero or more times. Then it can take the transition from rip to q .

DEFINITION OF $R(p, q)$

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After removing *rip*, the new regular expression that should label the transition from p to q is:

$$\begin{array}{ll} R(p, q) & /* \text{ Go directly from } p \text{ to } q \\ \cup & /* \text{ or } \\ R(p, rip) & /* \text{ Go from } p \text{ to } rip, \text{ then} \\ R(rip, rip)^* & /* \text{ Go from } rip \text{ back to itself} \\ & \text{any number of times, then} \\ R(rip, q) & /* \text{ Go from } rip \text{ to } q \end{array}$$

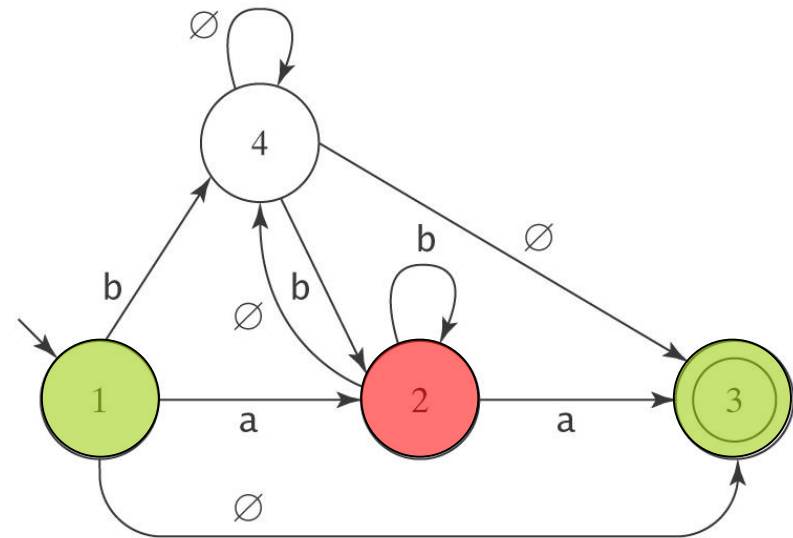
Without the comments, we have:

$$R' = R(p, q) \cup R(p, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, q)$$

KLEENE'S THEOREM

The harder example

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$$R' = R(p, q) \cup R(p, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, q)$$

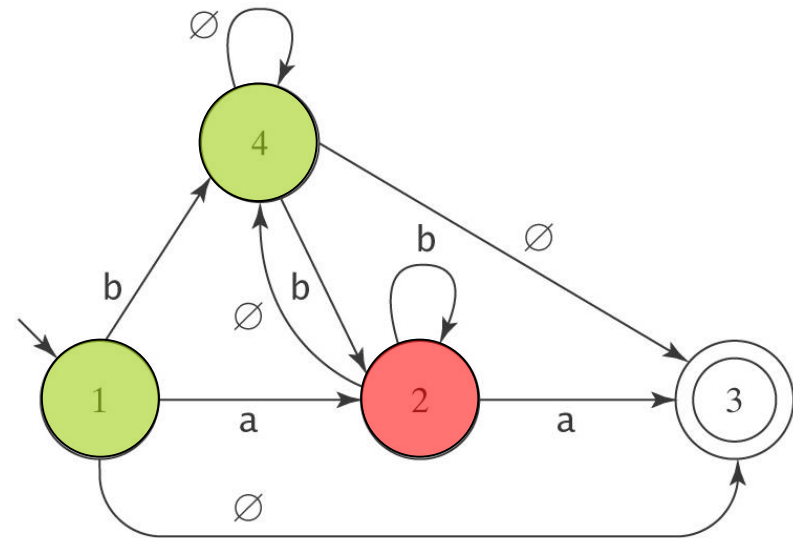
Let *rip* be state 2. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R'(1, 3) &= R(1, 3) \cup R(1, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, 3) \\
 &= R(1, 3) \cup R(1, 2) R(2, 2)^* R(2, 3) \\
 &= \emptyset \cup a \quad b^* \quad a \\
 &= ab^*a
 \end{aligned}$$

KLEENE'S THEOREM

The harder example

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$$R' = R(p, q) \cup R(p, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, q)$$

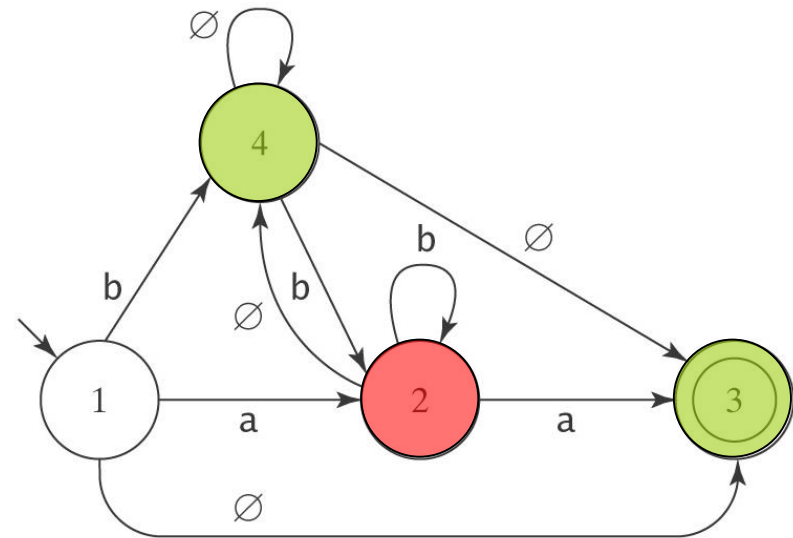
Let *rip* be state 2. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R'(1, 4) &= R(1, 4) \cup R(1, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, 4) \\
 &= R(1, 4) \cup R(1, 2) R(2, 2)^* R(2, 4) \\
 &= b \cup a b^* \emptyset \\
 &= b
 \end{aligned}$$

KLEENE'S THEOREM

The harder example

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$$R' = R(p, q) \cup R(p, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, q)$$

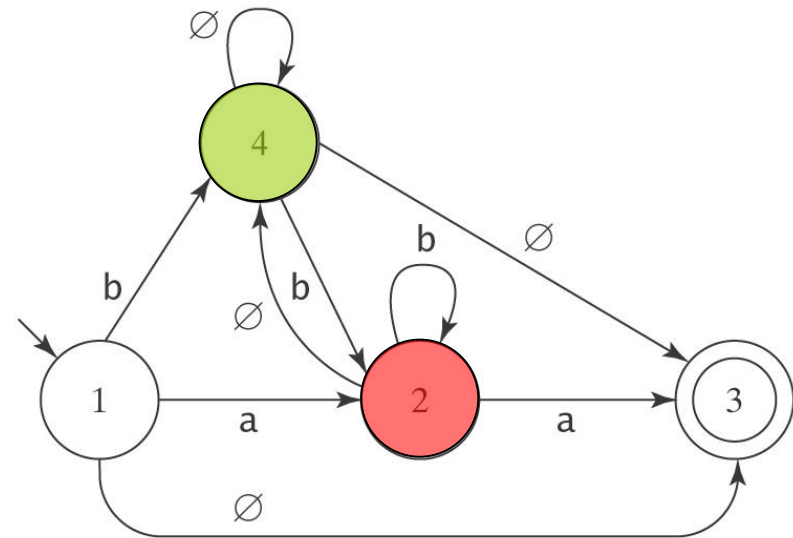
Let *rip* be state 2. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R'(4, 3) &= R(4, 3) \cup R(4, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, 3) \\
 &= R(4, 3) \cup R(4, 2) R(2, 2)^* R(2, 3) \\
 &= \emptyset \cup b \quad b^* \quad a \\
 &= bb^*a
 \end{aligned}$$

KLEENE'S THEOREM

The harder example

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$$R' = R(p, q) \cup R(p, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, q)$$

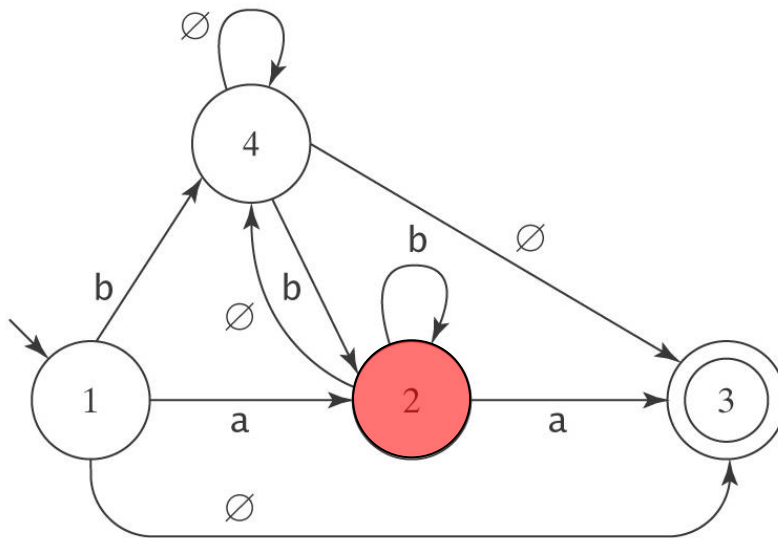
Let *rip* be state 2. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} R'(4, 4) &= R(4, 4) \cup R(4, rip) R(rip, rip)^* R(rip, 4) \\ &= R(4, 4) \cup R(4, 2) R(2, 2)^* R(2, 4) \\ &= \emptyset \cup b b^* \emptyset \\ &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

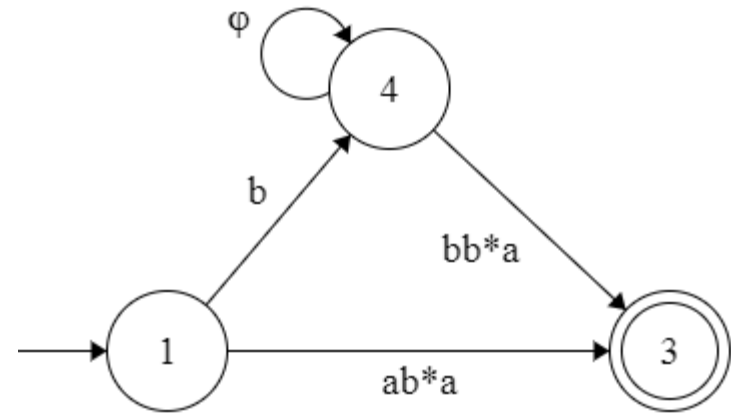
KLEENE'S THEOREM

The harder example

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State 2 ripped



Kleene's Theorem, RE and FSM

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- No difference in formal power of RE and FSM
- Practical difference in their effectiveness as problem solving tools
 - RE can specify the order in which a sequence of symbols must appear
 - e.g. phone number / email address
 - When order doesn't matter FSM is more effective
 - e.g. vending machine / parity checking

SIMPLIFYING REGULAR EXPRESSIONS



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Regex's describe sets:

- Union is commutative: $\alpha \cup \beta = \beta \cup \alpha$.
- Union is associative: $(\alpha \cup \beta) \cup \gamma = \alpha \cup (\beta \cup \gamma)$.
- \emptyset is the identity for union: $\alpha \cup \emptyset = \emptyset \cup \alpha = \alpha$.
- Union is idempotent: $\alpha \cup \alpha = \alpha$.

Concatenation:

- Concatenation is associative: $(\alpha\beta)\gamma = \alpha(\beta\gamma)$.
- ε is the identity for concatenation: $\alpha \varepsilon = \varepsilon \alpha = \alpha$.
- \emptyset is a zero for concatenation: $\alpha \emptyset = \emptyset \alpha = \emptyset$.

Concatenation distributes over union:

- $(\alpha \cup \beta) \gamma = (\alpha \gamma) \cup (\beta \gamma)$.
- $\gamma (\alpha \cup \beta) = (\gamma \alpha) \cup (\gamma \beta)$.

Kleene star:

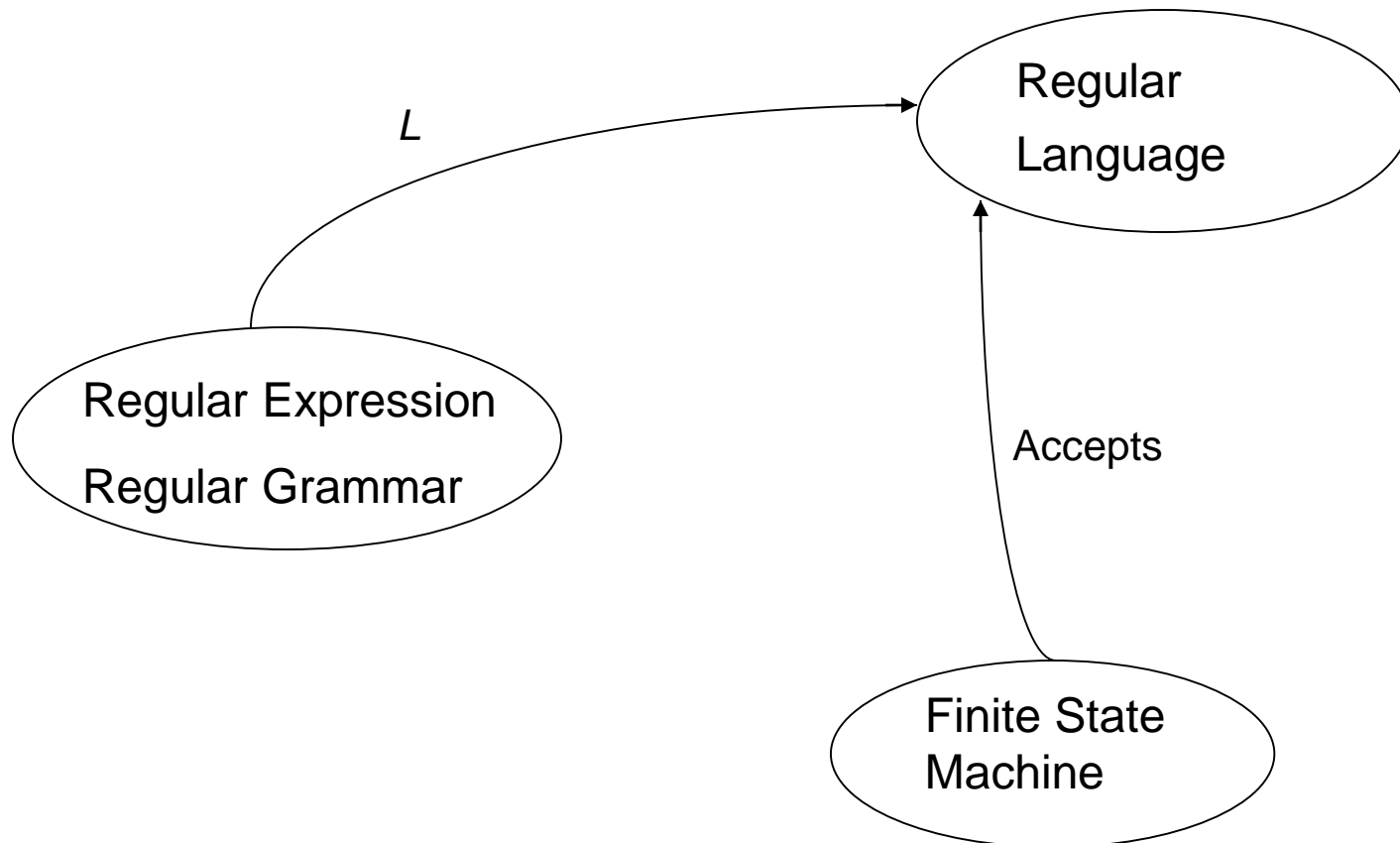
- $\emptyset^* = \varepsilon$.
- $\varepsilon^* = \varepsilon$.
- $(\alpha^*)^* = \alpha^*$.
- $\alpha^* \alpha^* = \alpha^*$.
- $(\alpha \cup \beta)^* = (\alpha^* \beta^*)^*$.

SUMMARY

- Regular Expressions (REs) are useful to define patterns
- For every RE there is an equivalent FSM
- For every FSM there is a equivalent RE
- The class of languages that can be defined with REs is exactly the class of regular languages
- REs can be simplified and in the simplified form they represent the language

REGULAR LANGUAGES

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REGULAR GRAMMARS



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A **regular grammar** G is a quadruple (V, Σ, R, S) , where:

- V is the rule alphabet, which contains **nonterminals** and **terminals**,
- Σ (the set of terminals) is a subset of V ,
- R (the set of rules) is a finite set of rules of the form:

$$X \rightarrow Y,$$

- S (the start symbol) is a nonterminal.



REGULAR GRAMMARS

In a regular grammar, all rules in R must:

- have a left hand side that is a single nonterminal
- have a right hand side that is:
 - ϵ , or
 - a single terminal, or
 - a single terminal followed by a single nonterminal.

Legal: $S \rightarrow a$, $S \rightarrow \epsilon$, and $T \rightarrow aS$

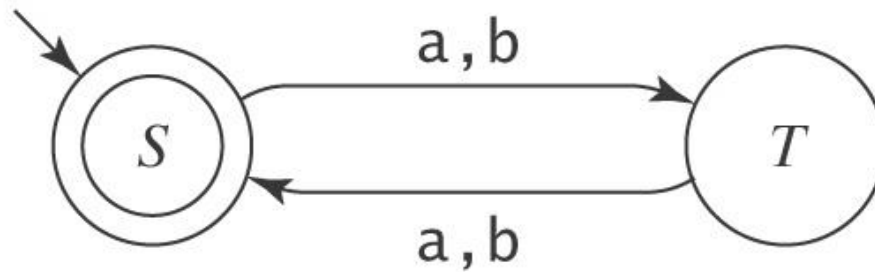
Not legal: $S \rightarrow aSa$ and $aSa \rightarrow T$



REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example

$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* : |w| \text{ is even}\} \quad ((aa) \cup (ab) \cup (ba) \cup (bb))^*$$

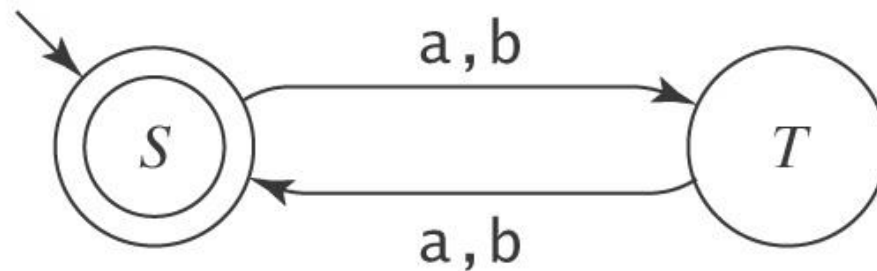




REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example

$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* : |w| \text{ is even}\} \quad ((aa) \cup (ab) \cup (ba) \cup (bb))^*$$


$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow \varepsilon \\ S &\rightarrow aT \\ S &\rightarrow bT \\ T &\rightarrow aS \\ T &\rightarrow bS \end{aligned}$$

REGULAR GRAMMARS

55

Theorem: The class of languages that can be defined with regular grammars is exactly the regular languages.

Proof: By two constructions.

REGULAR GRAMMARS

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Regular grammar \rightarrow FSM:

grammartofsm($G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$) =

1. Create in M a separate state for each nonterminal in V .
2. Start state is the state corresponding to S .
3. If there are any rules in R of the form $X \rightarrow a$, for some $a \in \Sigma$, create a new state labeled $\#$.
4. For each rule of the form $X \rightarrow a Y$, add a transition from X to Y labeled a .
5. For each rule of the form $X \rightarrow a$, add a transition from X to $\#$ labeled a .
6. For each rule of the form $X \rightarrow \varepsilon$, mark state X as accepting.
7. Mark state $\#$ as accepting.
8. Complete M if incomplete (see the textbook for details).

FSM \rightarrow Regular grammar: Similarly.

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REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example - Even Length Strings

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$$S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow aT$$

$$S \rightarrow bT$$

$$T \rightarrow a$$

$$T \rightarrow b$$

$$T \rightarrow aS$$

$$T \rightarrow bS$$

REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example – Strings that End in aaaa

58

$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* : w \text{ ends with the pattern } aaaa\}.$

$S \rightarrow aS$

$S \rightarrow bS$

$S \rightarrow aB$

$B \rightarrow aC$

$C \rightarrow aD$

$D \rightarrow a$

REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example – Strings that End in aaaa

59

$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* : w \text{ ends with the pattern } aaaa\}.$

$S \rightarrow aS$

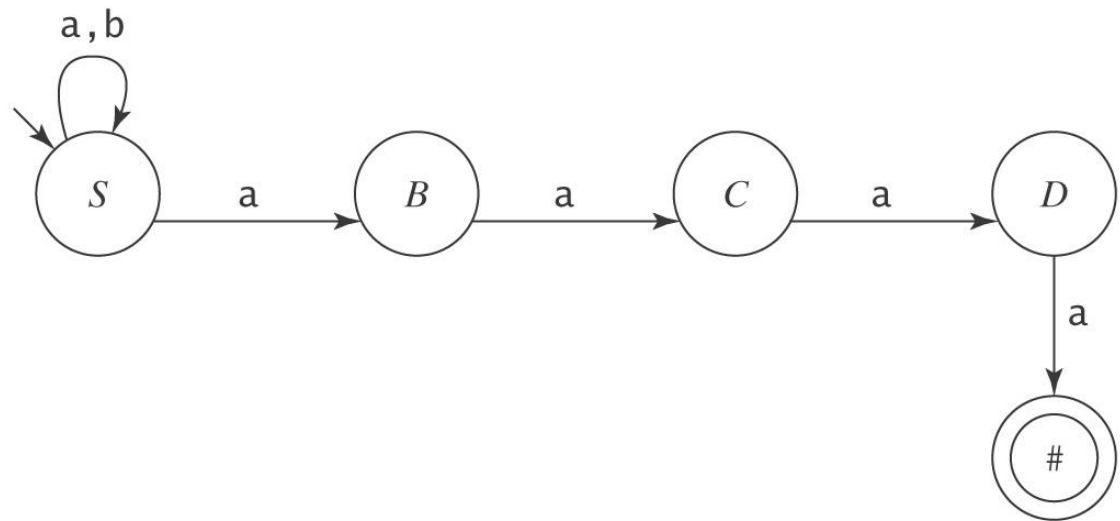
$S \rightarrow bS$

$S \rightarrow aB$

$B \rightarrow aC$

$C \rightarrow aD$

$D \rightarrow a$



REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example – One character missing

60

$$S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow aB$$

$$S \rightarrow aC$$

$$S \rightarrow bA$$

$$S \rightarrow bC$$

$$S \rightarrow cA$$

$$S \rightarrow cB$$

$$A \rightarrow bA$$

$$A \rightarrow cA$$

$$A \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$B \rightarrow aB$$

$$B \rightarrow cB$$

$$B \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$C \rightarrow aC$$

$$C \rightarrow bC$$

$$C \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

REGULAR GRAMMARS

Example – One character missing

61

$S \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$S \rightarrow aB$

$S \rightarrow aC$

$S \rightarrow bA$

$S \rightarrow bC$

$S \rightarrow cA$

$S \rightarrow cB$

$A \rightarrow bA$

$A \rightarrow cA$

$A \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$B \rightarrow aB$

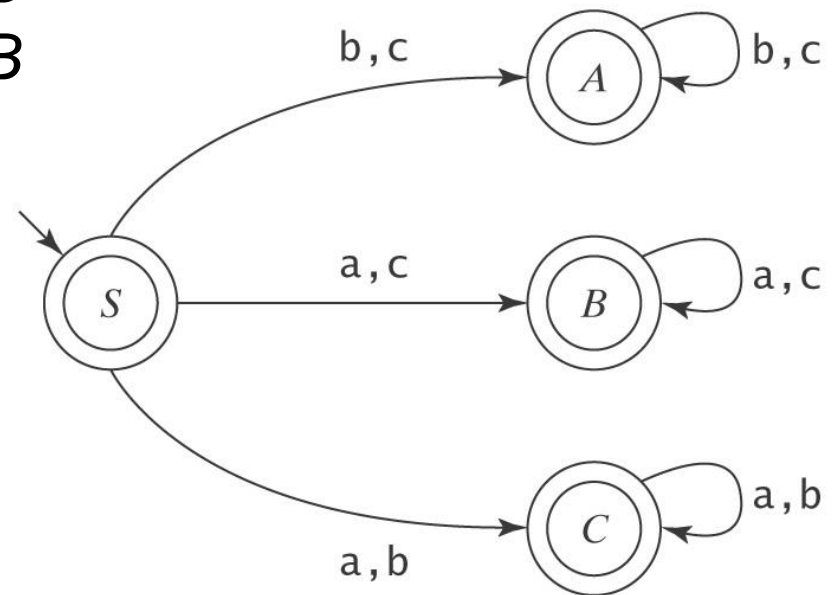
$B \rightarrow cB$

$B \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$C \rightarrow aC$

$C \rightarrow bC$

$C \rightarrow \varepsilon$



REGULAR GRAMMARS, REs and FSM

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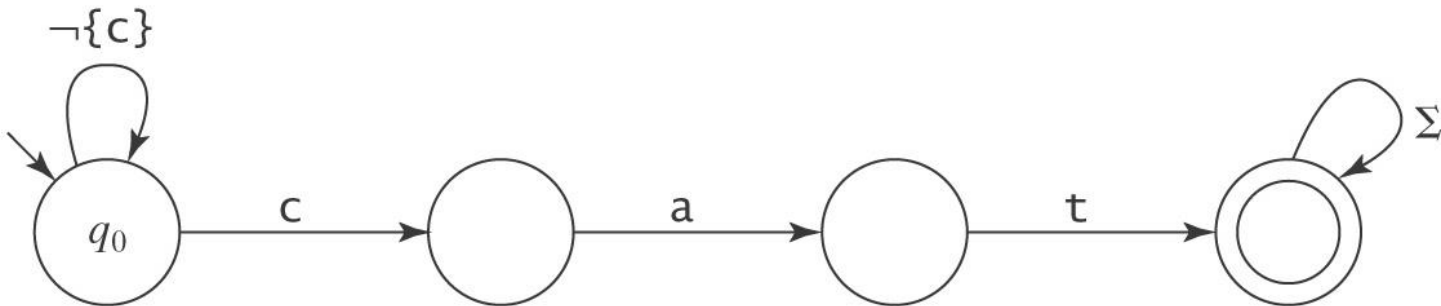
- Regular grammars define regular languages
- So equivalent to REs and FSM
- Regular grammars are used less frequently
 - FSM closely mirrors the structure of a regular language
 - Regular expressions are another useful representation

Building DFSM is sometimes easy

63

{cat, bat, cab}

The single keyword `cat`:



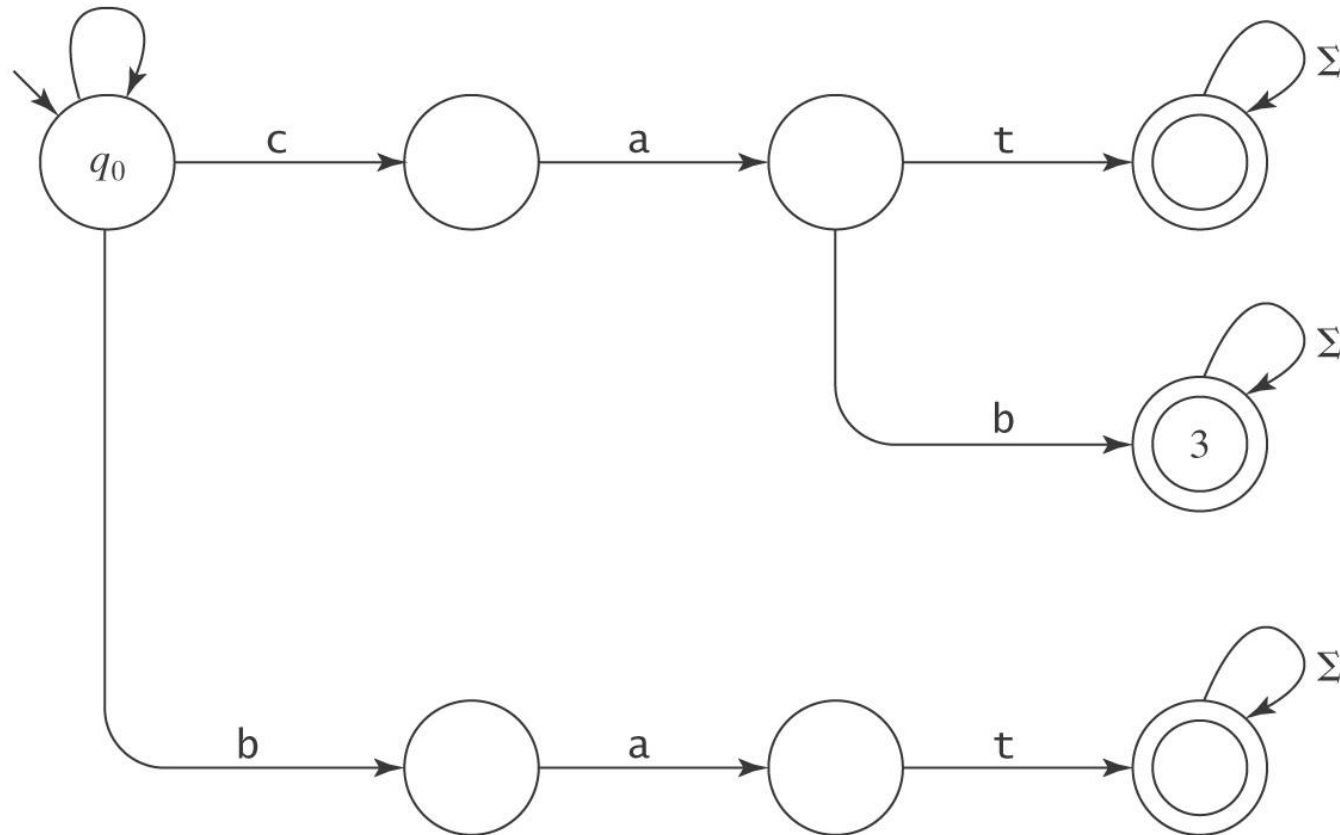
Building DFSM is sometimes easy

{cat, bat, cab}

64

Adding bat and cab:

$\neg\{c,b\}$

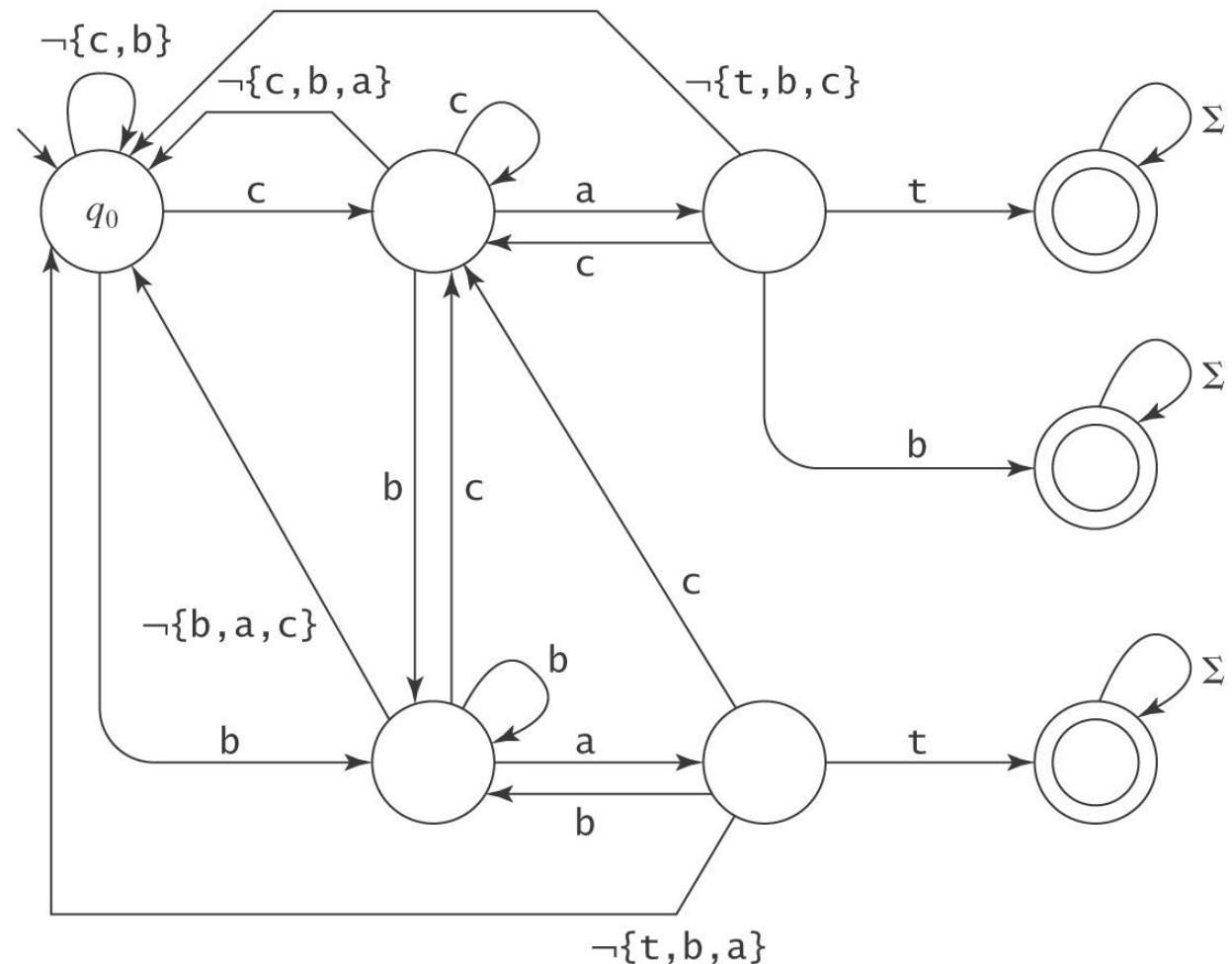


Building DFSM is sometimes easy

{cat, bat, cab}

65

All transitions in:



Building DFSA is sometimes easy

66

buildkeywordFSM(K :set of keywords) =

1. Create a start state q_0 .
2. For each element k of K do:
 Create a branch corresponding to k .
3. Create a set of transitions that describe what to do when a branch dies:
 - I. Because the complete pattern has been found OR
 - II. Because the next char is not correct to continue
4. Make the states at the end of each branch accepting

A Biology Example – BLAST

67

Given a protein or DNA sequence, find others that are likely to be evolutionarily close to it.

ESGHDTTTTYNKNRYPAGWNNHHDQMFFWV

Build a DFMS that can examine thousands of other sequences and find those that match any of the selected patterns.

Ref: Section K.3.1 (Page 971)

Regular Expressions in Perl

<i>Syntax</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>abc</i>	Concatenation	Matches <i>a</i> , then <i>b</i> , then <i>c</i> , where <i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , and <i>c</i> are any regexs
<i>a b c</i>	Union (Or)	Matches <i>a</i> or <i>b</i> or <i>c</i> , where <i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , and <i>c</i> are any regexs
<i>a*</i>	Kleene star	Matches 0 or more <i>a</i> 's, where <i>a</i> is any regex
<i>a+</i>	At least one	Matches 1 or more <i>a</i> 's, where <i>a</i> is any regex
<i>a?</i>		Matches 0 or 1 <i>a</i> 's, where <i>a</i> is any regex
<i>a{n, m}</i>	Replication	Matches at least <i>n</i> but no more than <i>m</i> <i>a</i> 's, where <i>a</i> is any regex
<i>a*?</i>	Parsimonious	Turns off greedy matching so the shortest match is selected
<i>a+?</i>	"	"
.	Wild card	Matches any character except newline
^	Left anchor	Anchors the match to the beginning of a line or string
\$	Right anchor	Anchors the match to the end of a line or string
[a-z]		Assuming a collating sequence, matches any single character in range
[^a-z]		Assuming a collating sequence, matches any single character not in range
\d	Digit	Matches any single digit, i.e., string in [0-9]
\D	Nondigit	Matches any single nondigit character, i.e., [^0-9]
\w	Alphanumeric	Matches any single "word" character, i.e., [a-zA-Z0-9_]
\W	Nonalphanumeric	Matches any character in [^a-zA-Z0-9_]
\s	White space	Matches any character in [space, tab, newline, etc.]

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Regular Expressions in Perl

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<i>Syntax</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
\S	Nonwhite space	Matches any character not matched by \s
\n	Newline	Matches newline
\r	Return	Matches return
\t	Tab	Matches tab
\f	Formfeed	Matches formfeed
\b	Backspace	Matches backspace inside []
\b	Word boundary	Matches a word boundary outside []
\B	Nonword boundary	Matches a non-word boundary
\0	Null	Matches a null character
\nnn	Octal	Matches an ASCII character with octal value <i>nnn</i>
\xnn	Hexadecimal	Matches an ASCII character with hexadecimal value <i>nn</i>
\cX	Control	Matches an ASCII control character
\char	Quote	Matches <i>char</i> ; used to quote symbols such as . and \
(a)	Store	Matches <i>a</i> , where <i>a</i> is any regex, and stores the matched string in the next variable
\1	Variable	Matches whatever the first parenthesized expression matched
\2		Matches whatever the second parenthesized expression matched
...		For all remaining variables

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- ❑ **Automata, Computability and Complexity. Theory and Applications**
 - By Elaine Rich
- ❑ Chapter 6, 7:
 - Page : 127-151, 155-161.