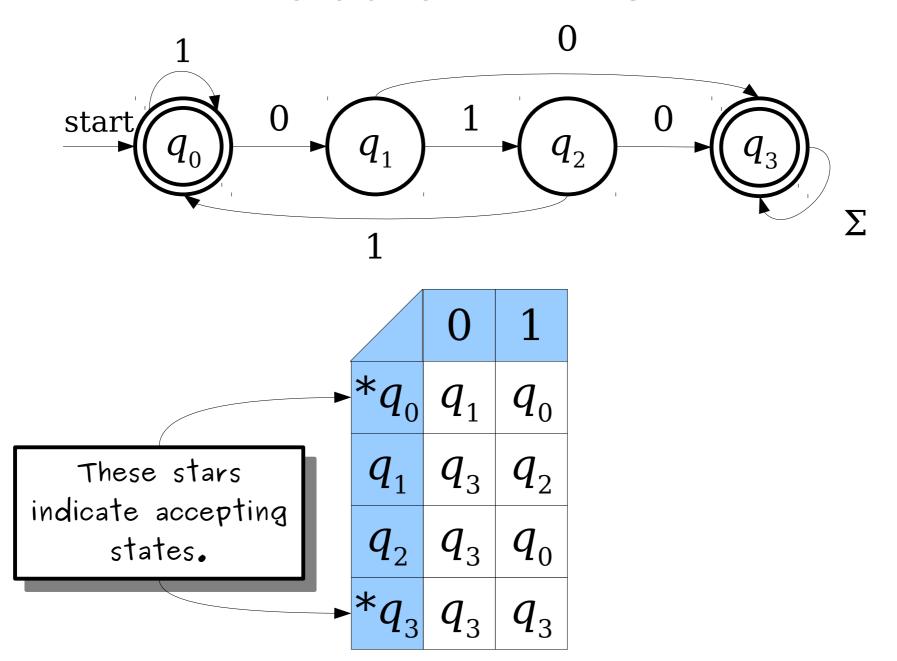
# Finite Automata

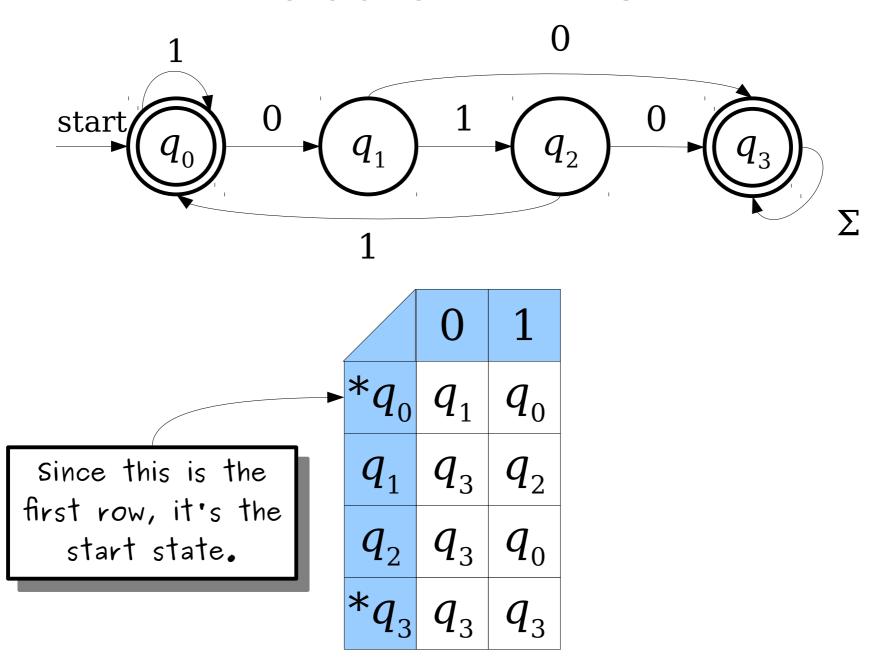
Part Three

Recap from Last Time

# Tabular DFAs



# Tabular DFAs



If D is a DFA, the **language** of D, denoted  $\mathcal{L}(D)$ , is  $\{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid D \text{ accepts } w \}$ .

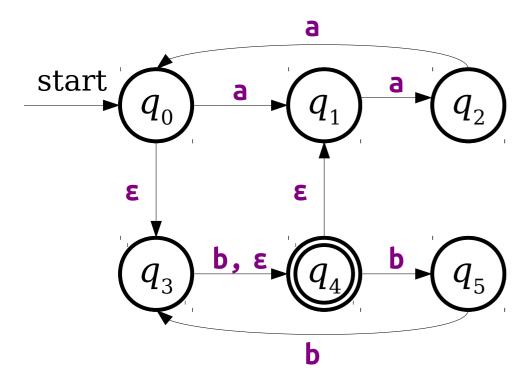
A language L is called a **regular language** if there exists a DFA D such that  $\mathcal{L}(D) = L$ .

#### **NFAs**

- An **NFA** is a
  - Nondeterministic
  - Finite
  - Automaton
- Can have missing transitions or multiple transitions defined on the same input symbol.
- Accepts if *any possible series of choices* leads to an accepting state.

#### ε-Transitions

- NFAs have a special type of transition called the ε-transition.
- An NFA may follow any number of ε-transitions at any time without consuming any input.



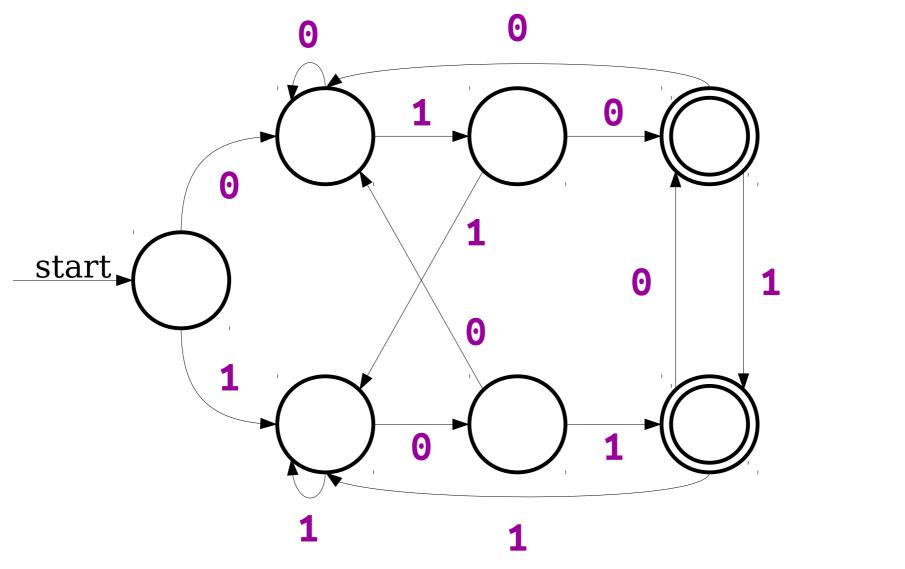
New Stuff!

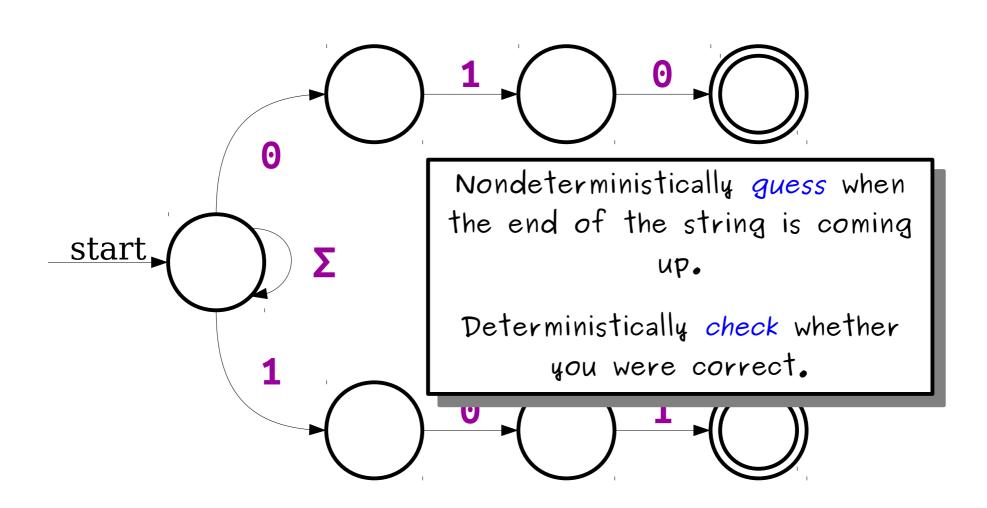
# Designing NFAs

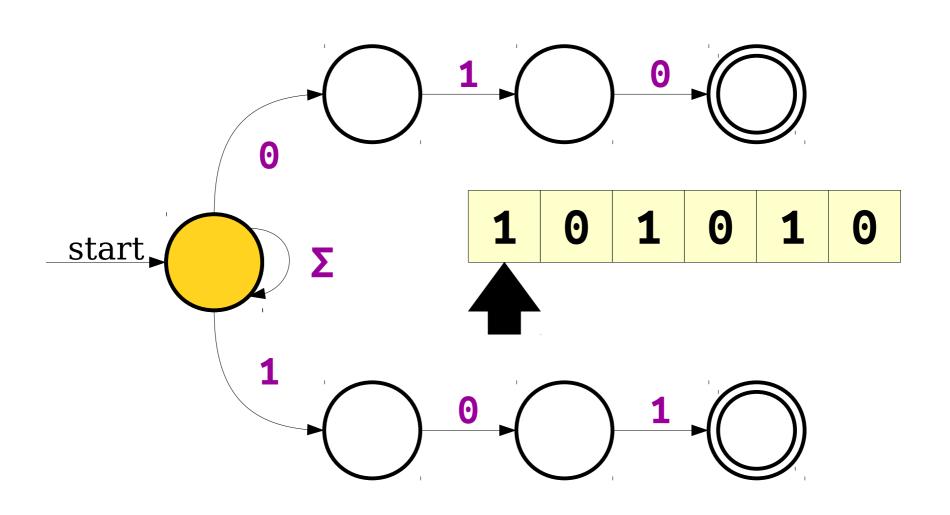
# Designing NFAs

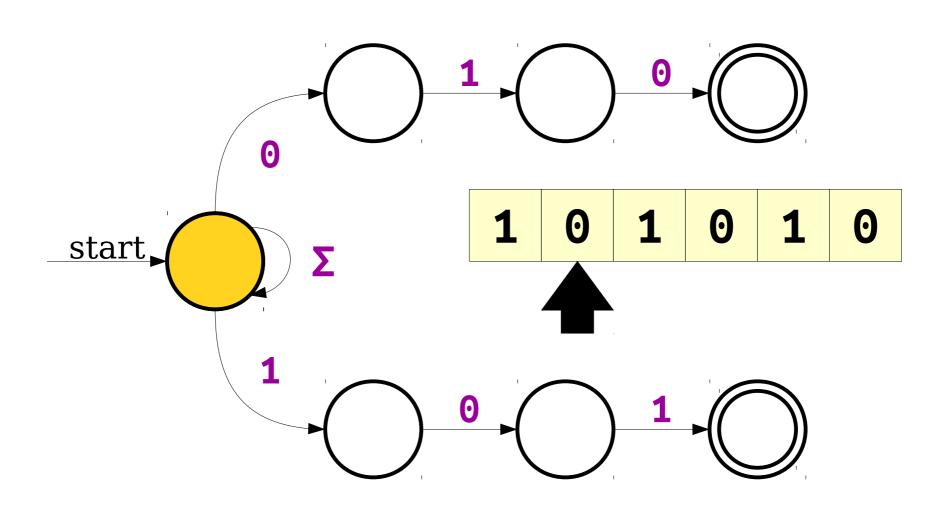
- Embrace the nondeterminism!
- Good model: **Guess-and-check**:
  - Is there some information that you'd really like to have? Have the machine *nondeterministically guess* that information.
  - Then, have the machine *deterministically check* that the choice was correct.
- The *guess* phase corresponds to trying lots of different options.
- The *check* phase corresponds to filtering out bad guesses or wrong options.

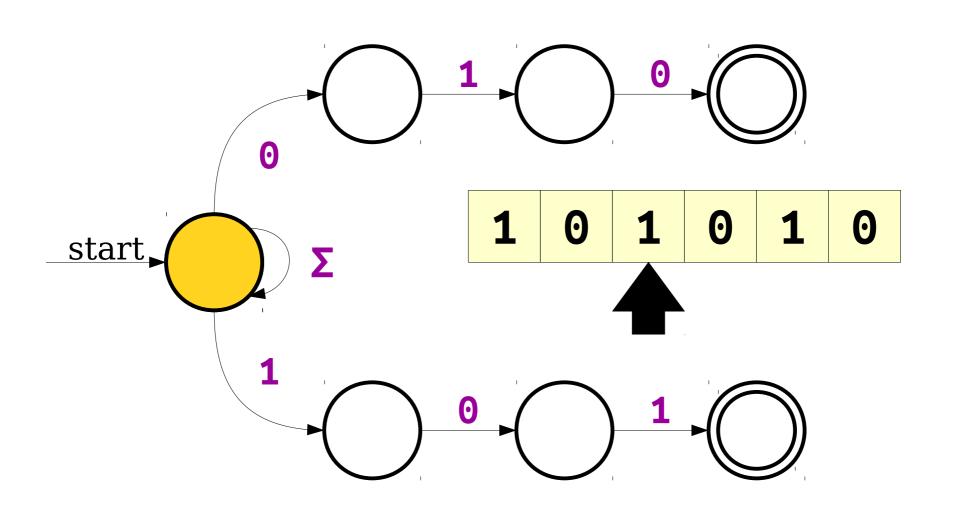
```
L = \{ w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ ends in 010 or 101} \}
```

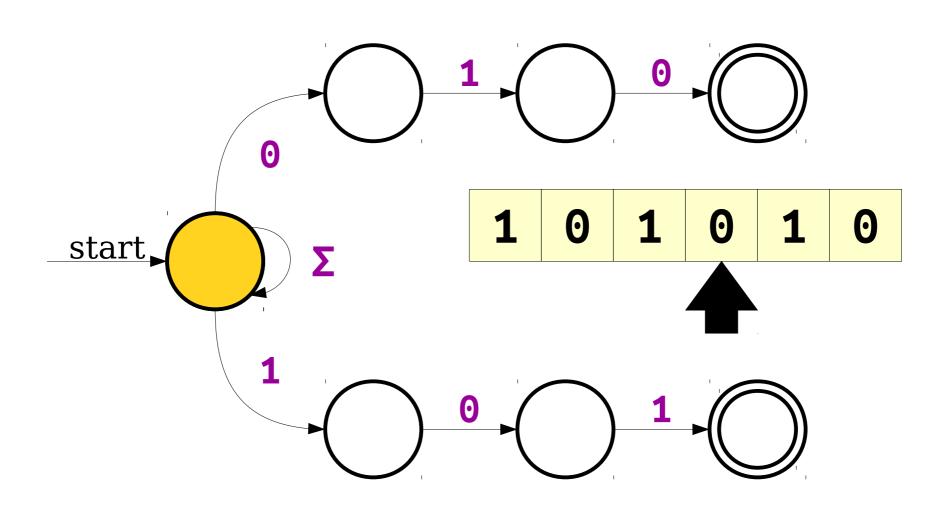


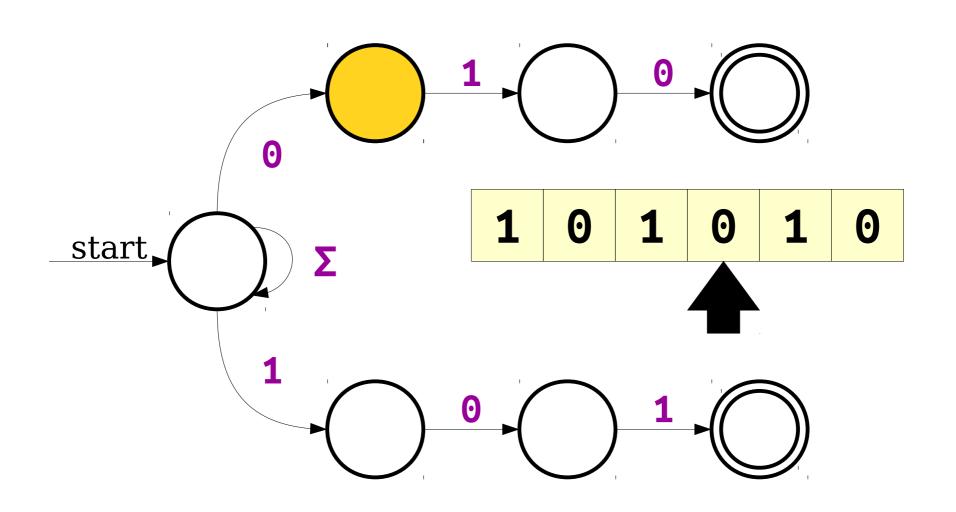


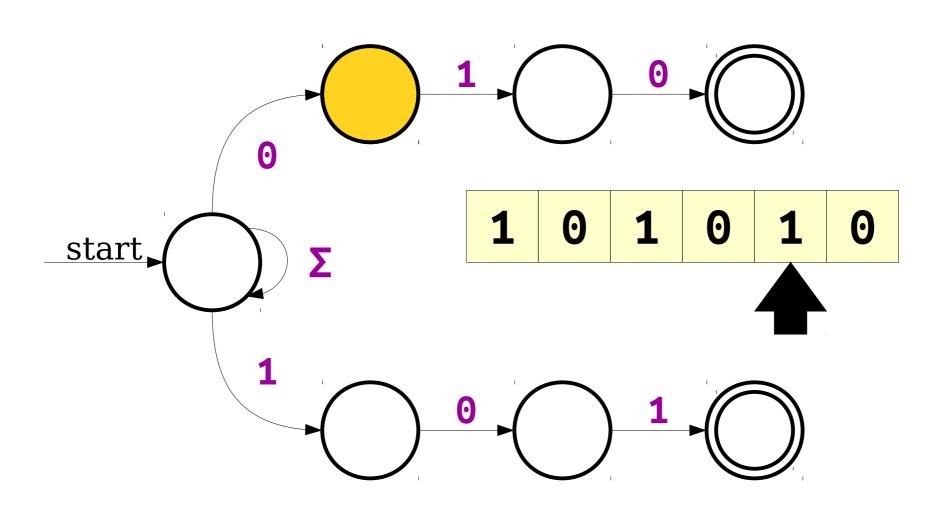


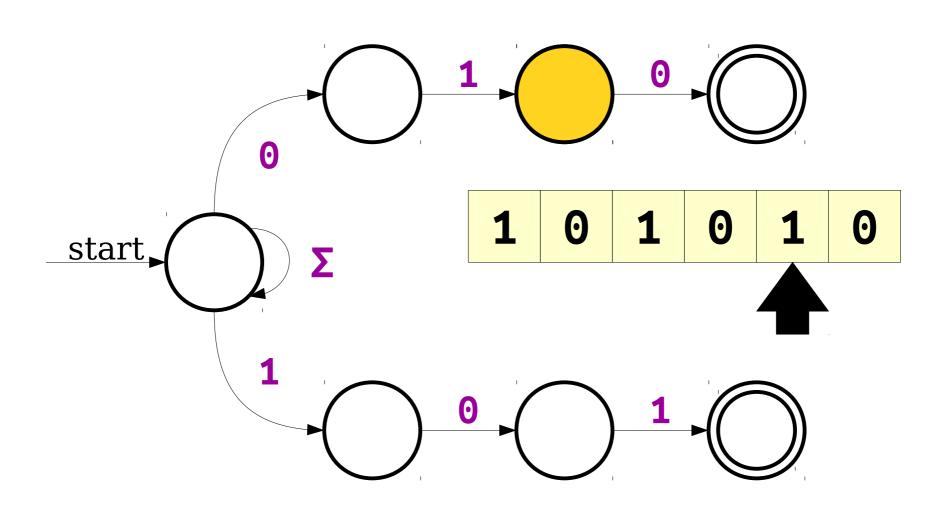


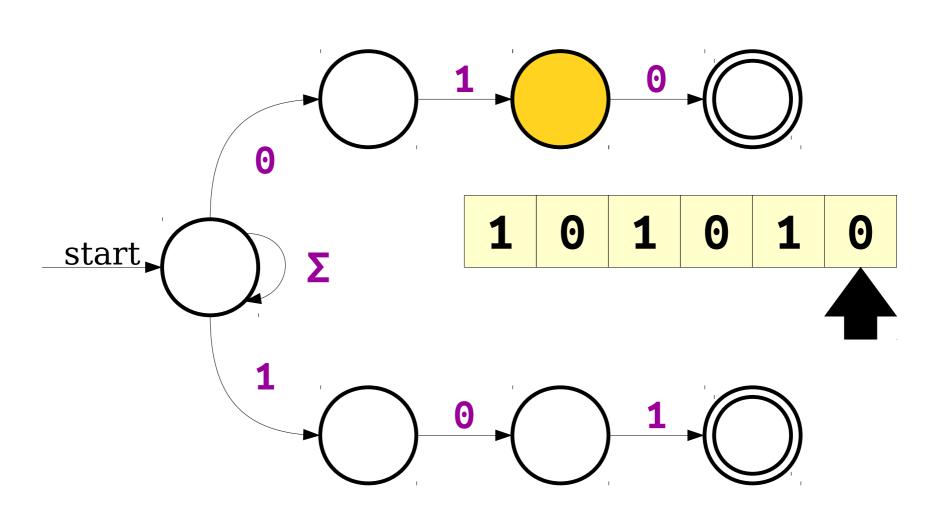


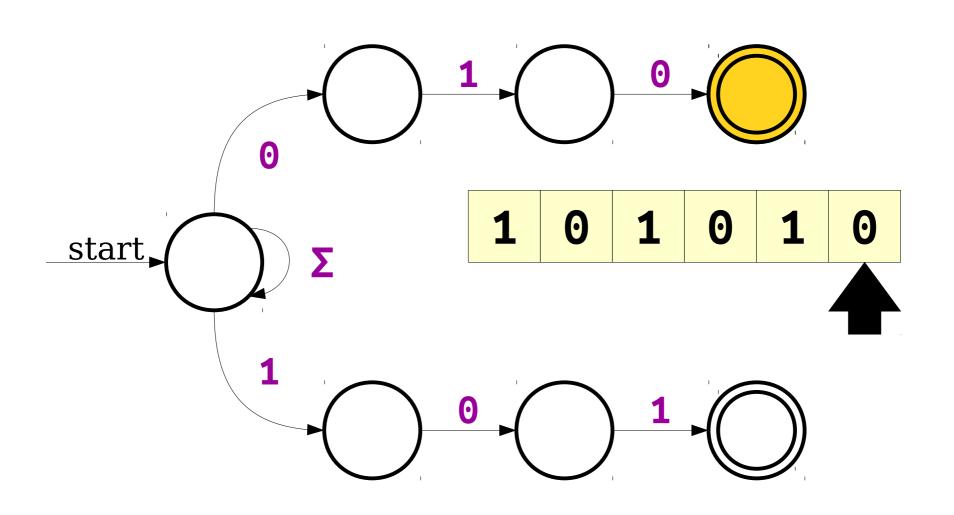


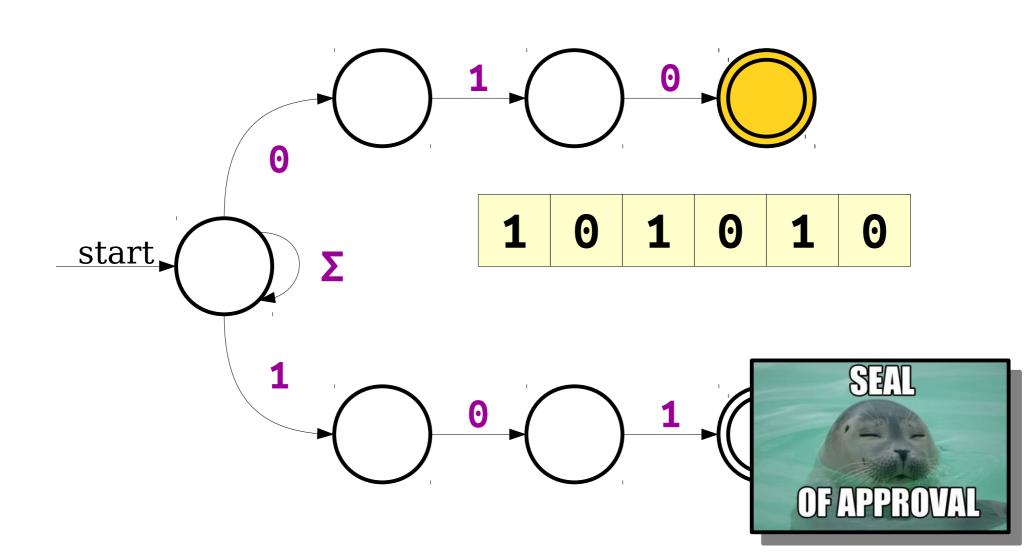




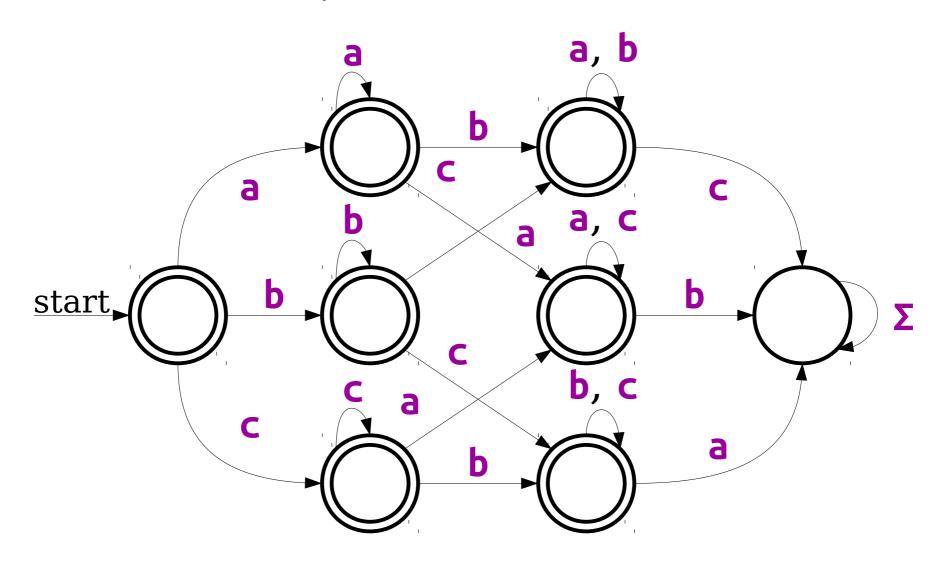




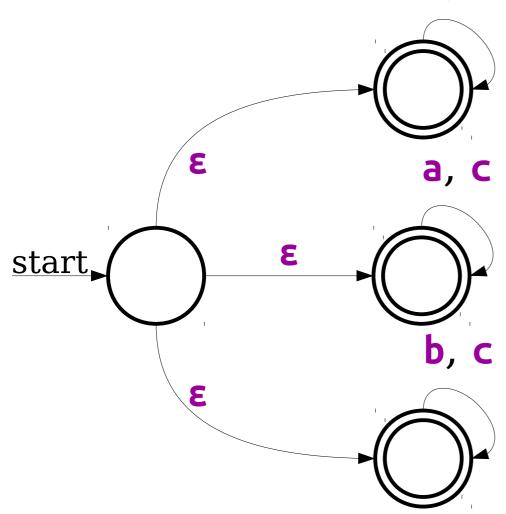




```
L = \{ w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \mid \text{at least one of } a, b, \text{ or } c \text{ is not in } w \}
```

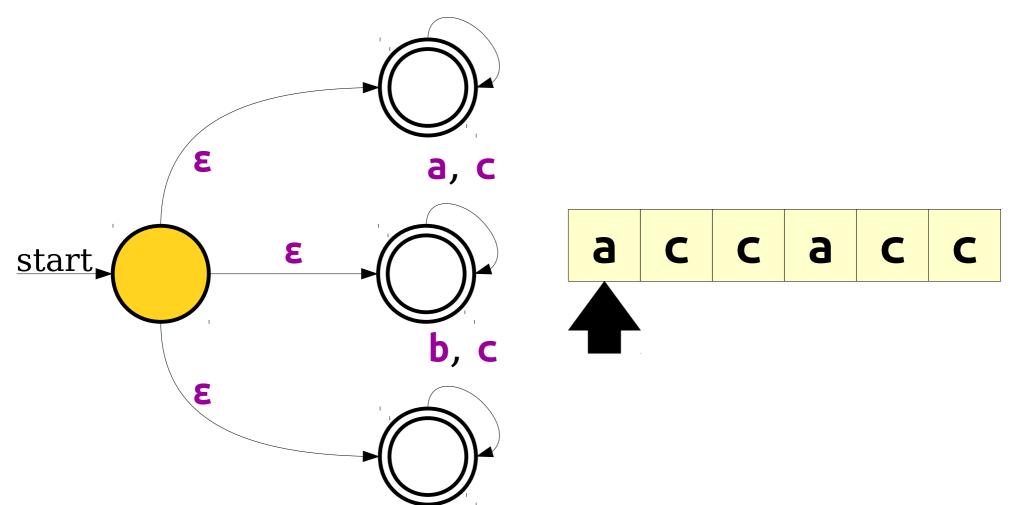


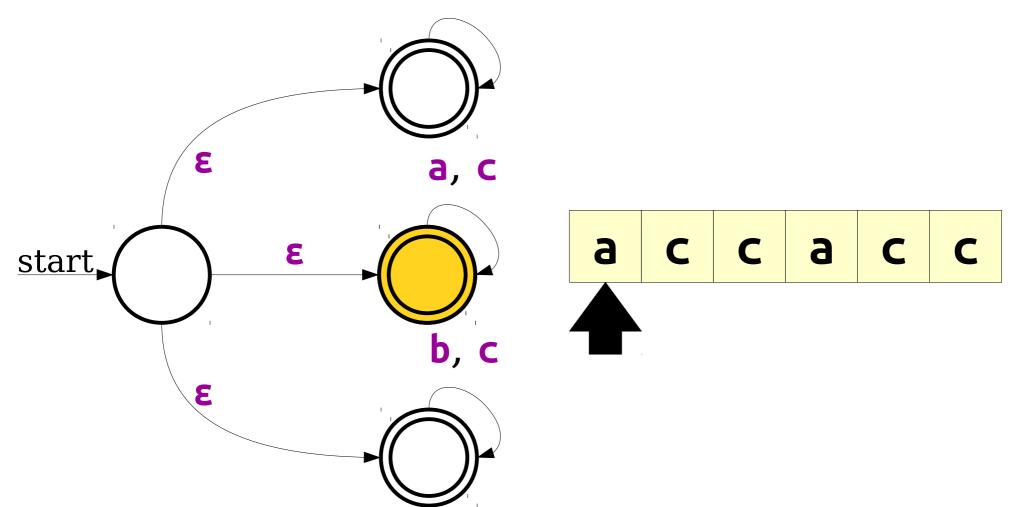
 $L = \{ w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \mid \text{at least one of } a, b, \text{ or } c \text{ is not in } w \}$ 

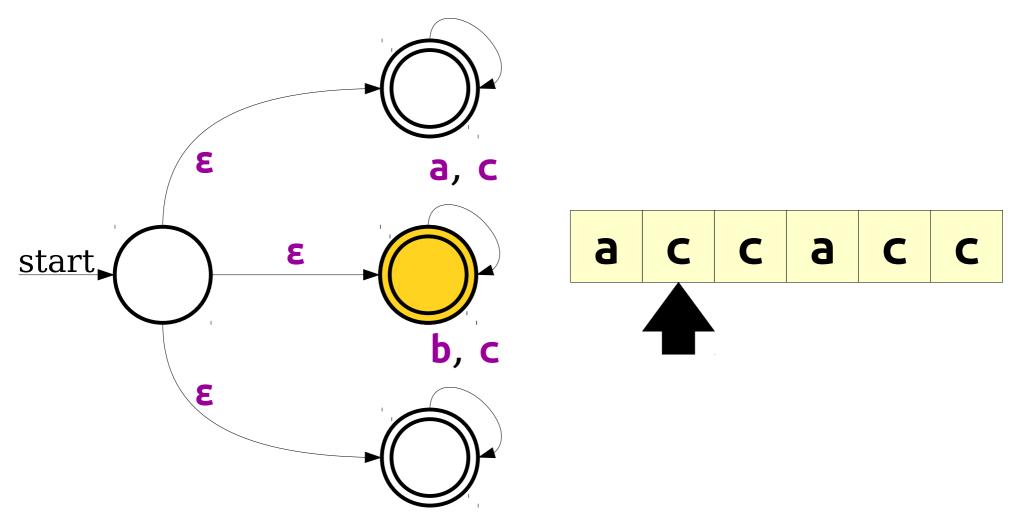


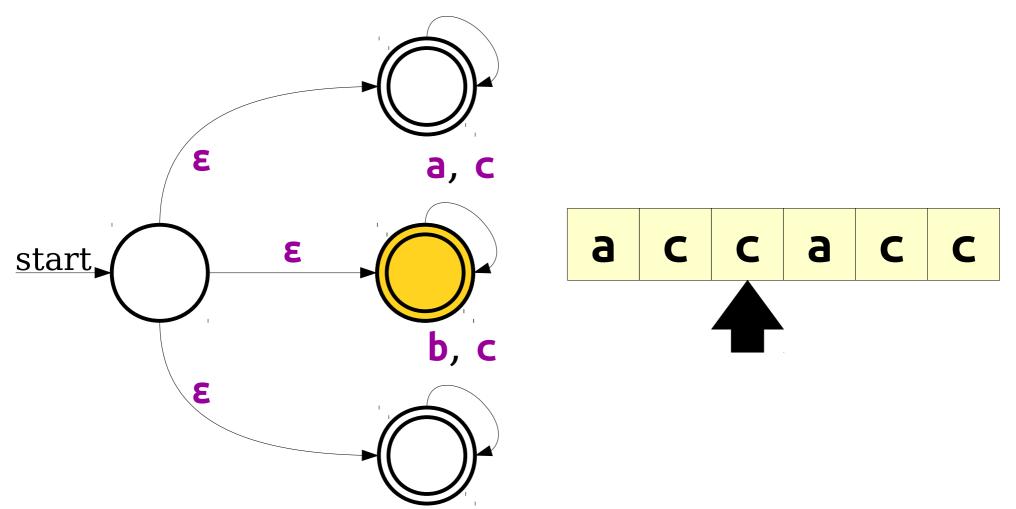
Nondeterministically guess which character is missing.

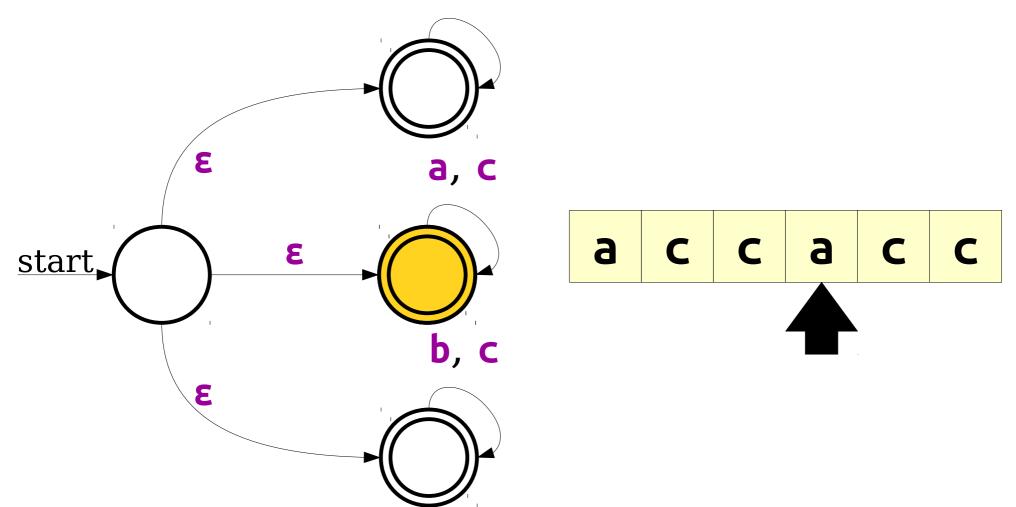
Deterministically check whether that character is indeed missing.

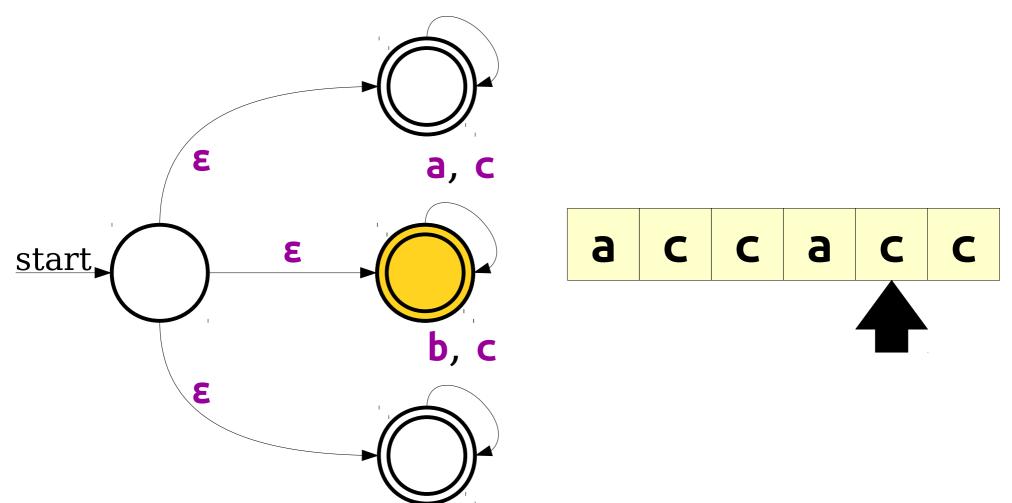


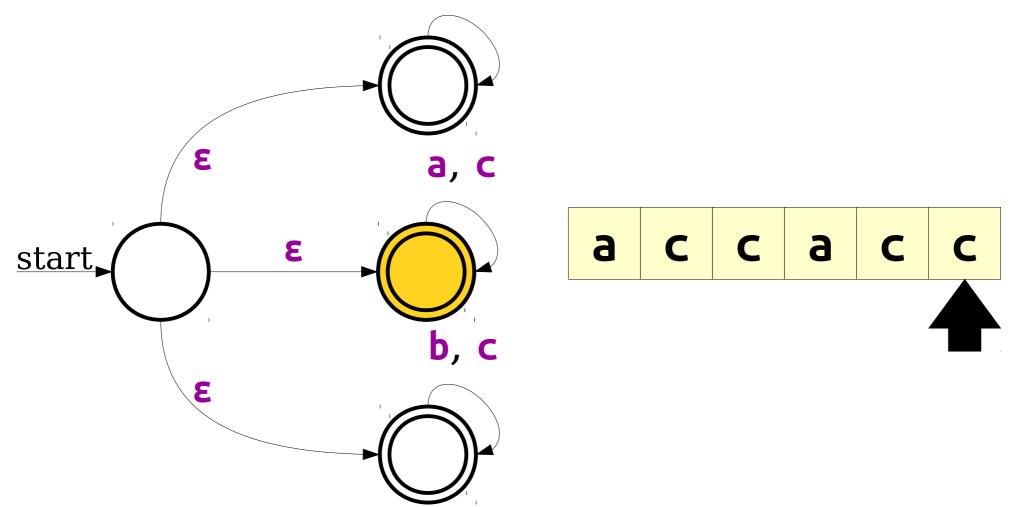


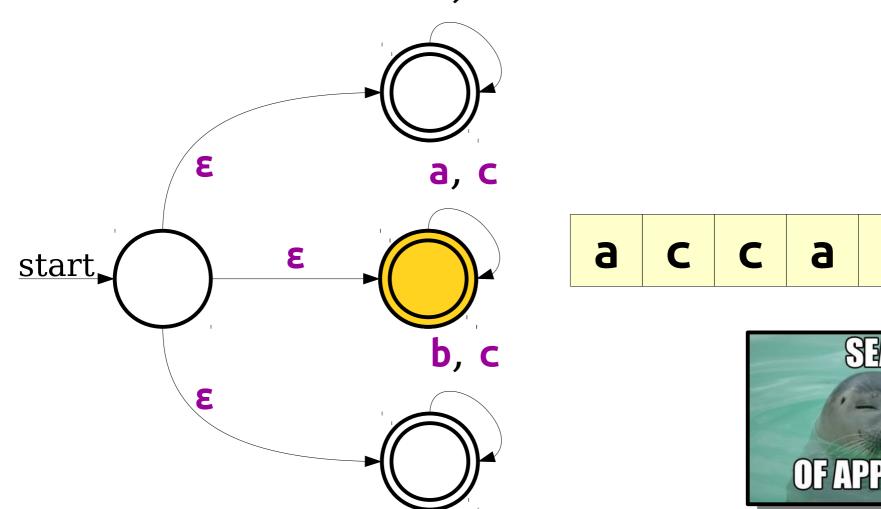










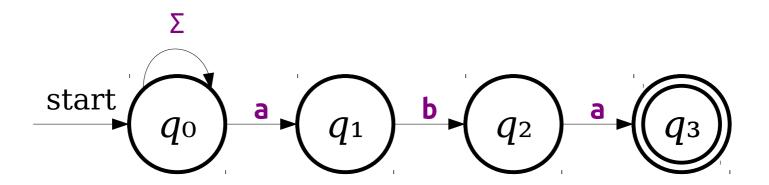


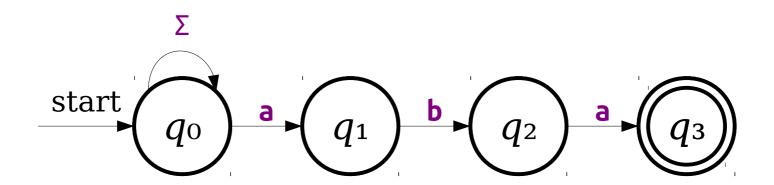
#### NFAs and DFAs

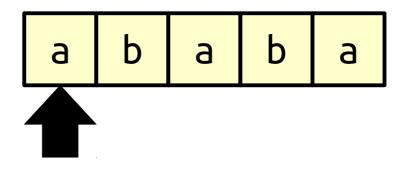
- Any language that can be accepted by a DFA can be accepted by an NFA.
- Why?
  - Every DFA essentially already is an NFA!
- Question: Can any language accepted by an NFA also be accepted by a DFA?
- Surprisingly, the answer is yes!

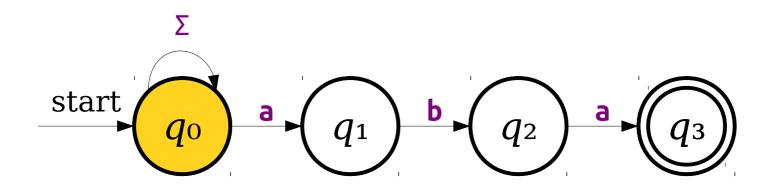
#### Thought Experiment:

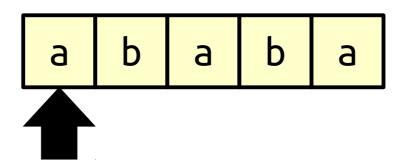
How would you simulate an NFA in software?

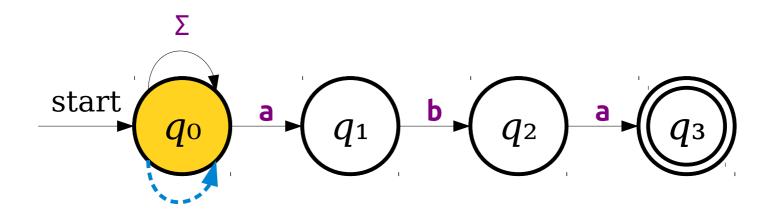


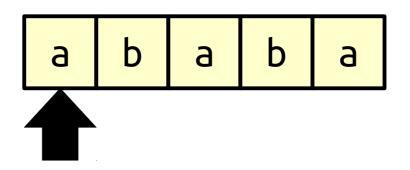


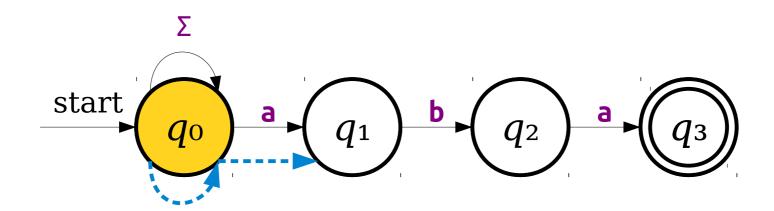


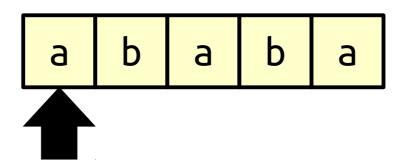


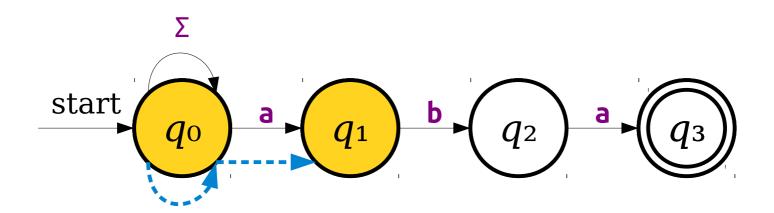


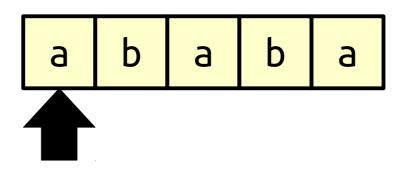


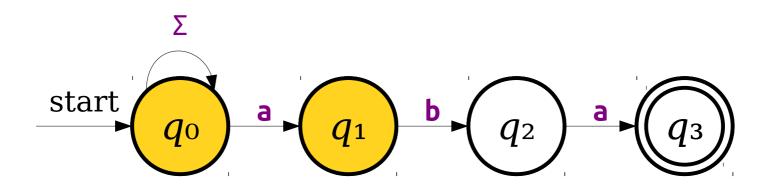


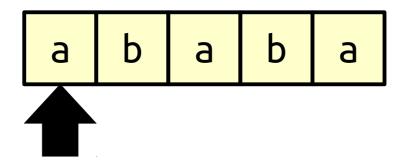


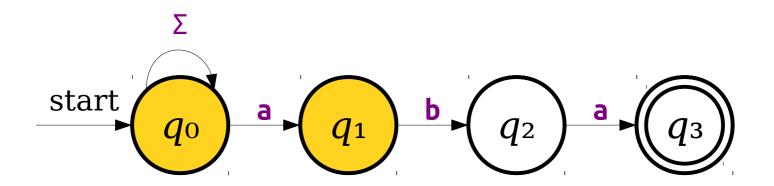


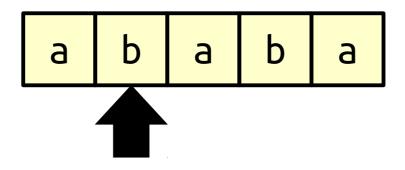


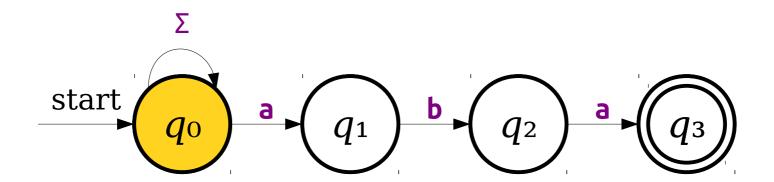




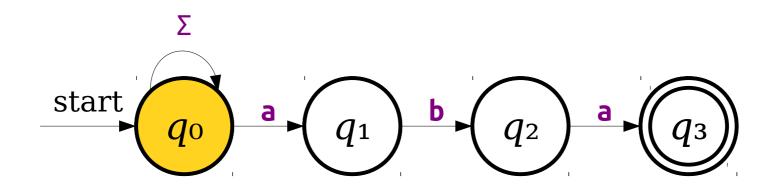


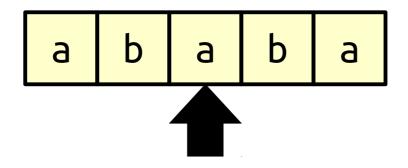


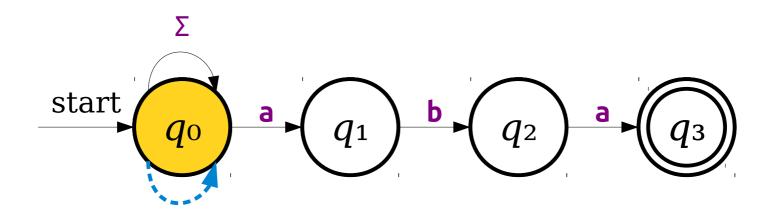


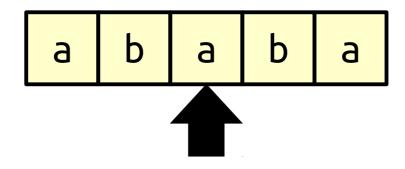


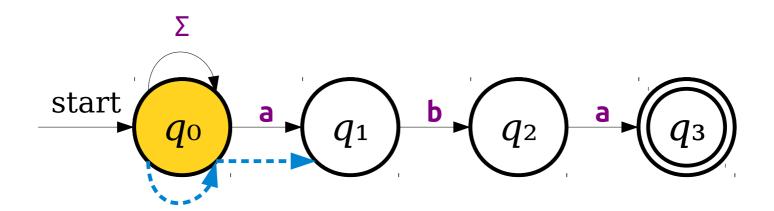
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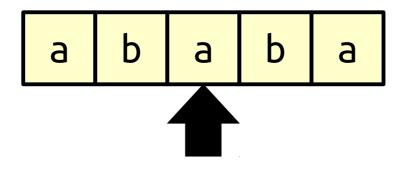


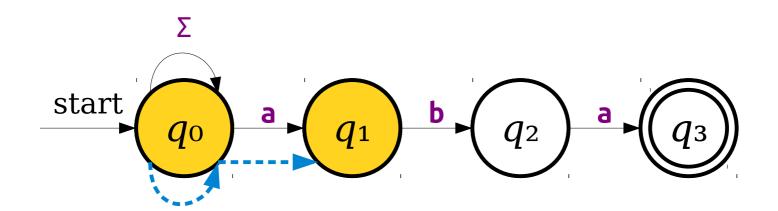


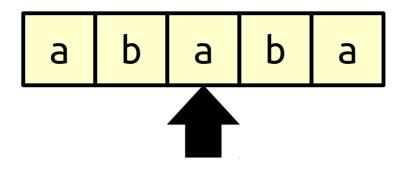


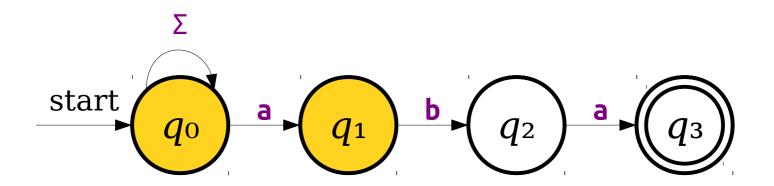


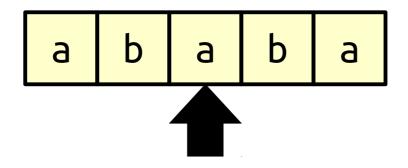


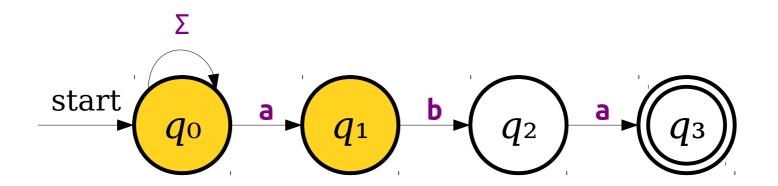


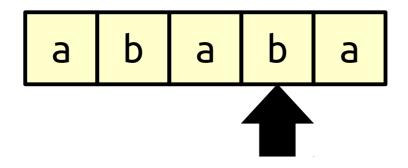


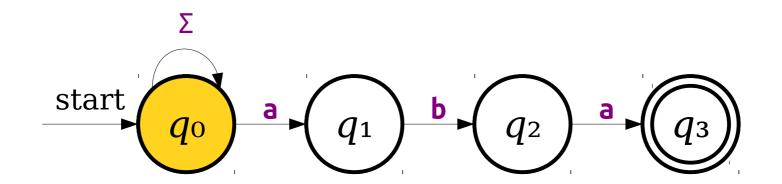


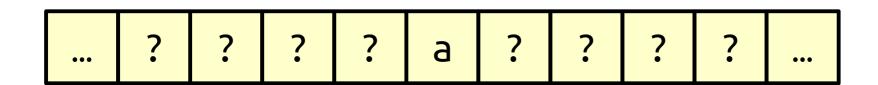


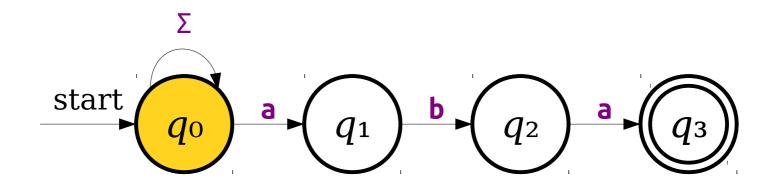


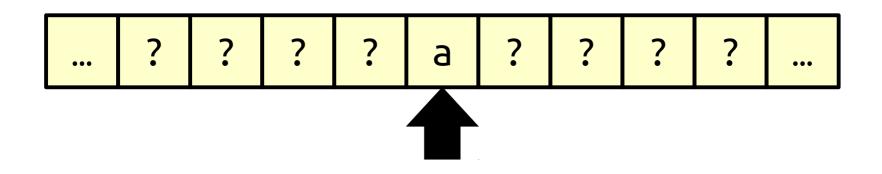


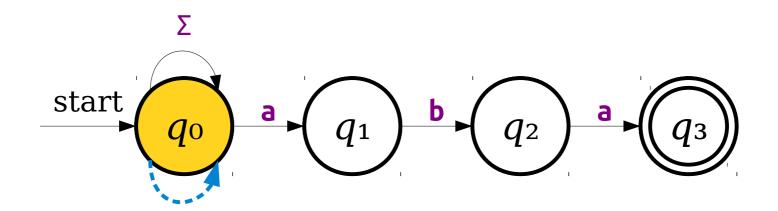


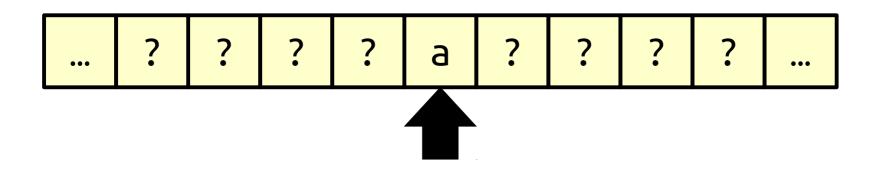


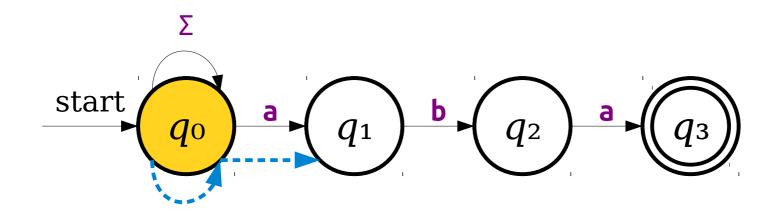


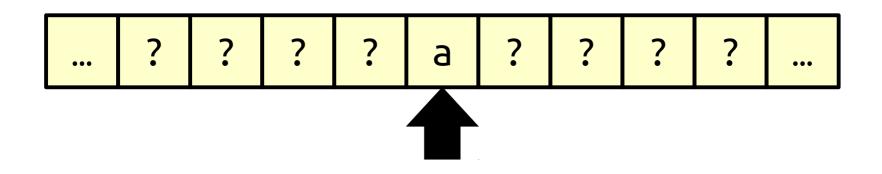


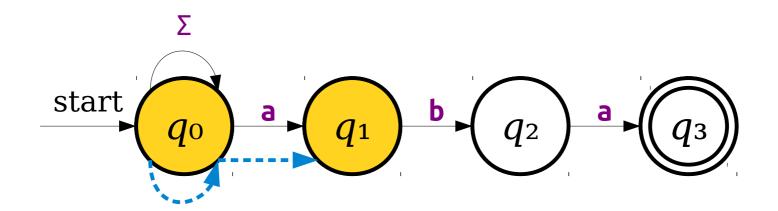


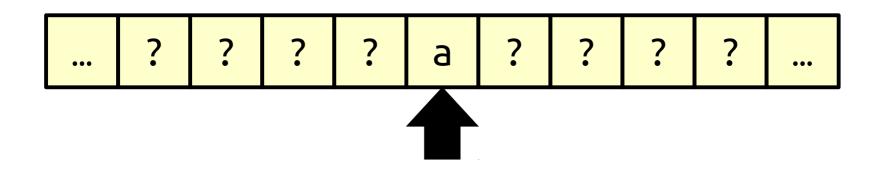


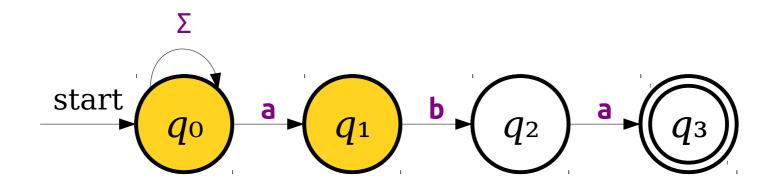


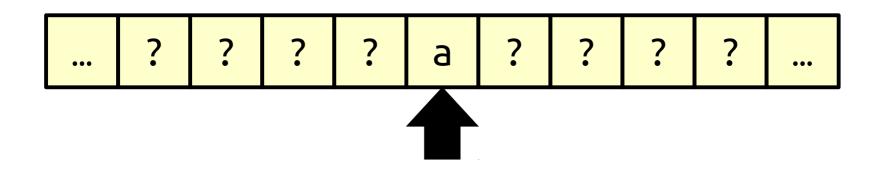


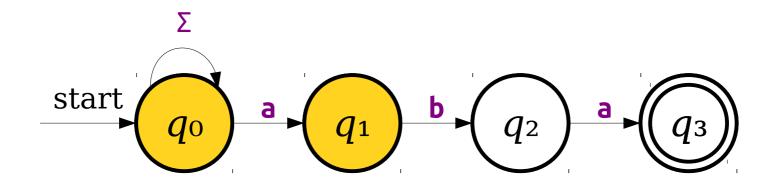


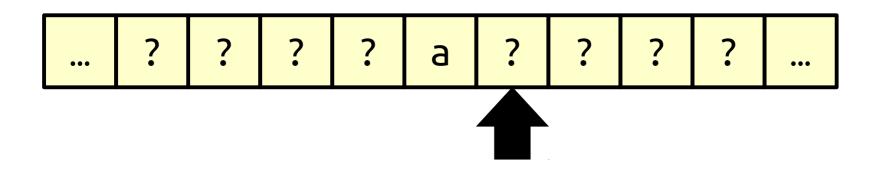


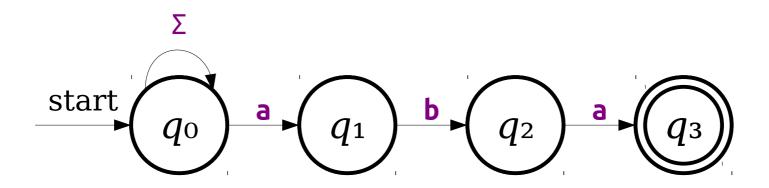




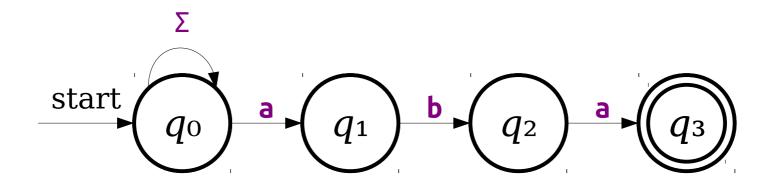




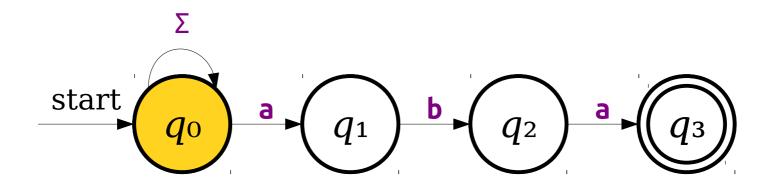




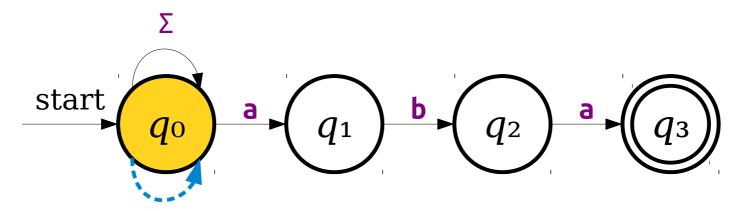
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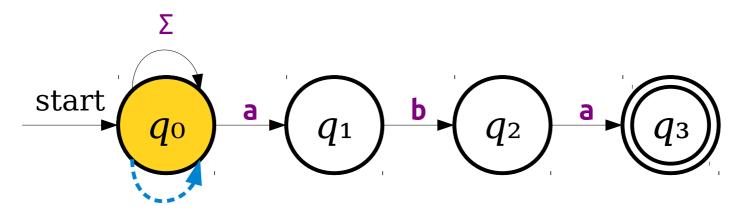
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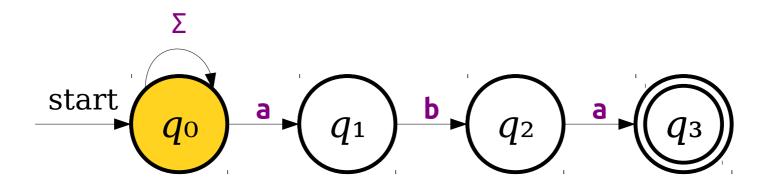
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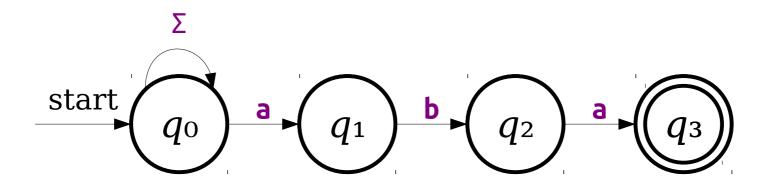
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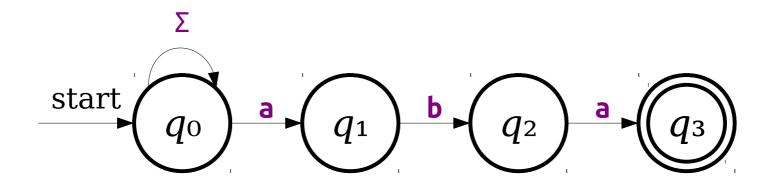
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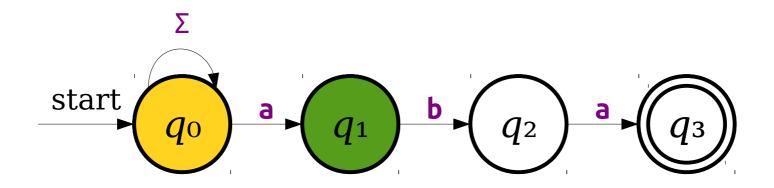
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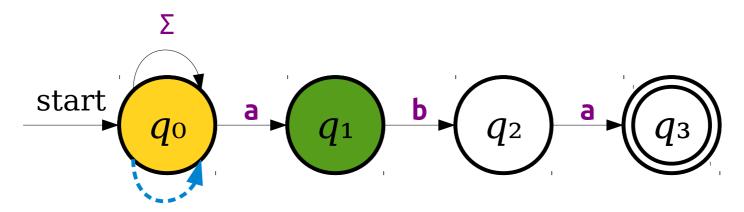
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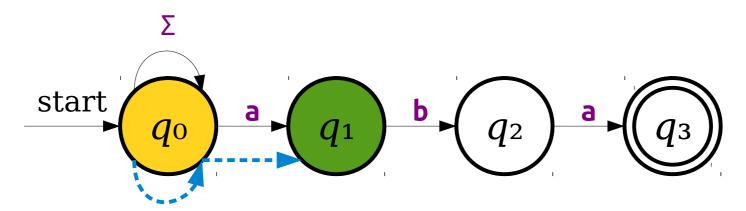
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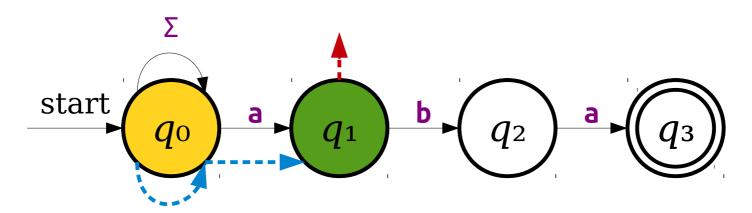
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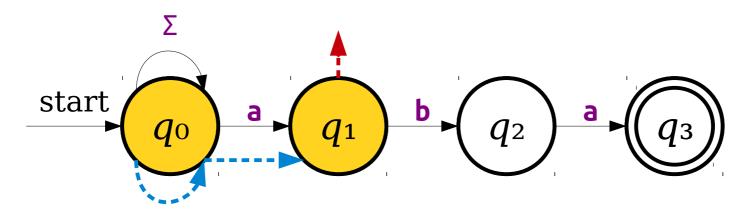
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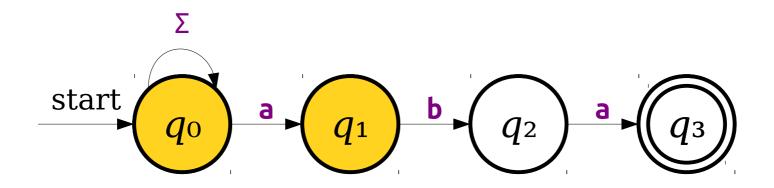
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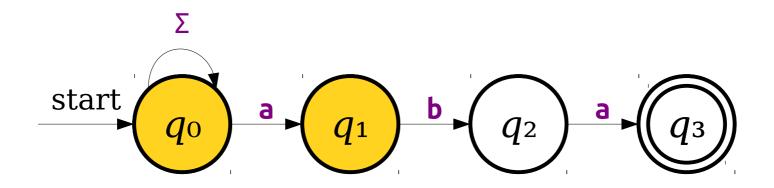
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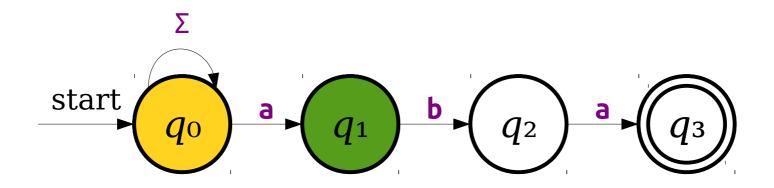
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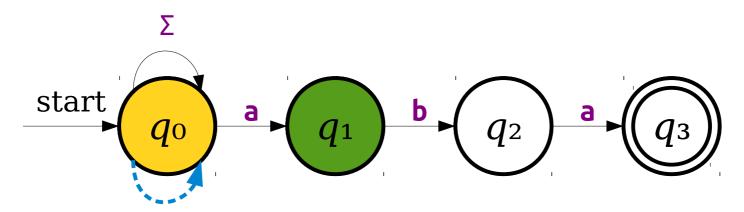
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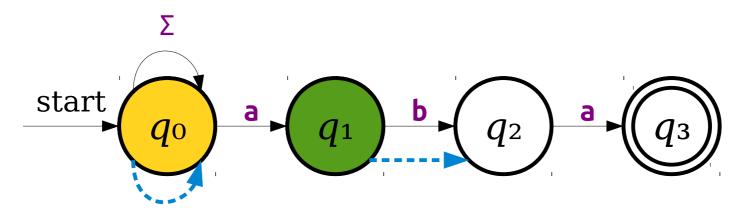
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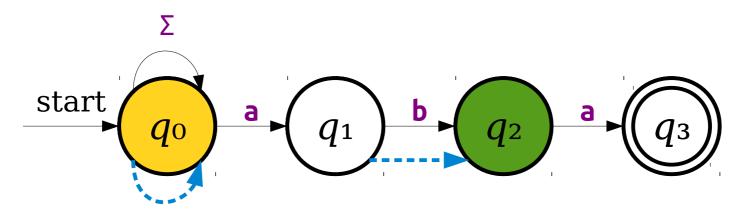
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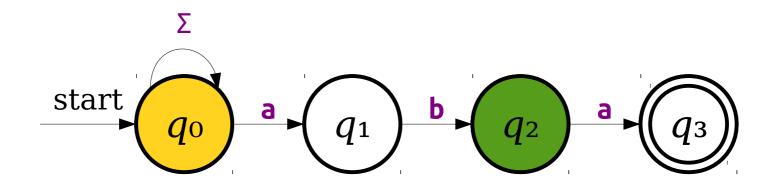
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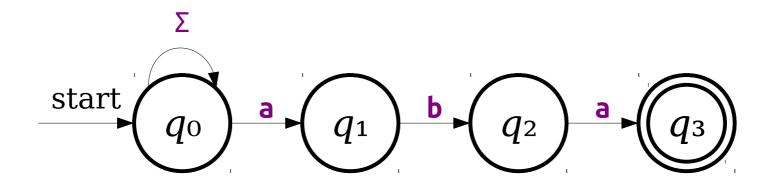
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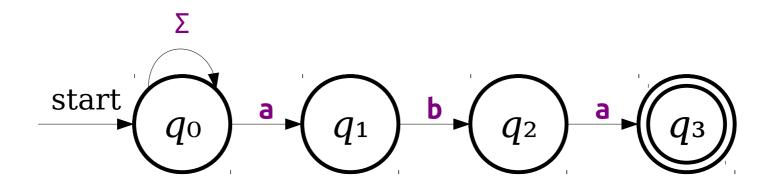
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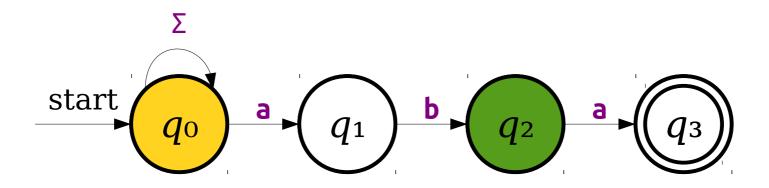
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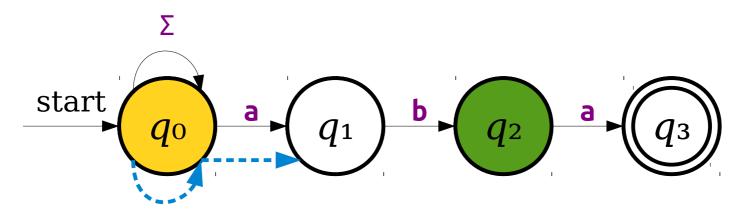
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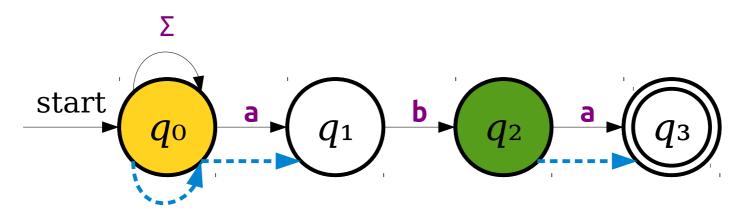
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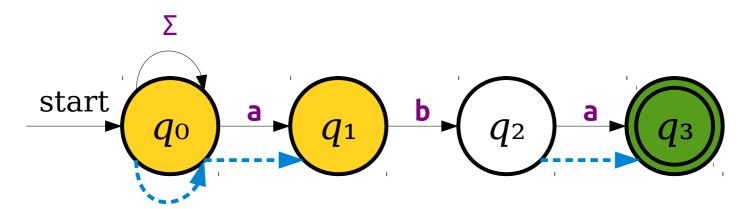
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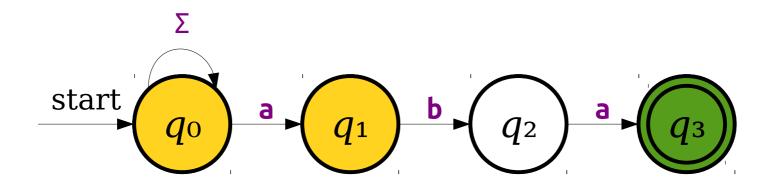
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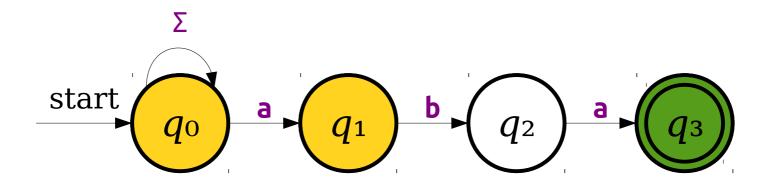
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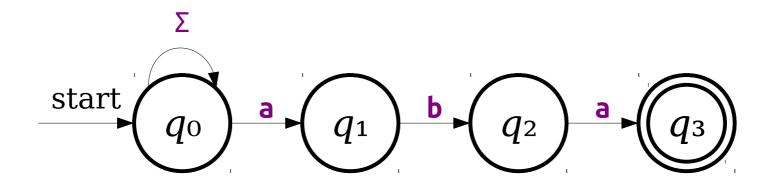
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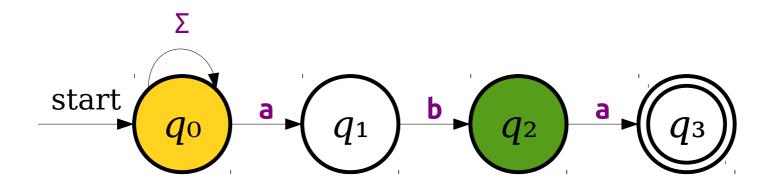
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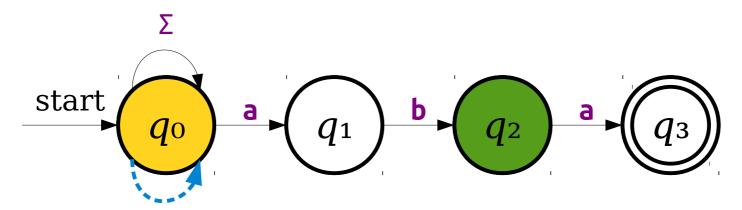
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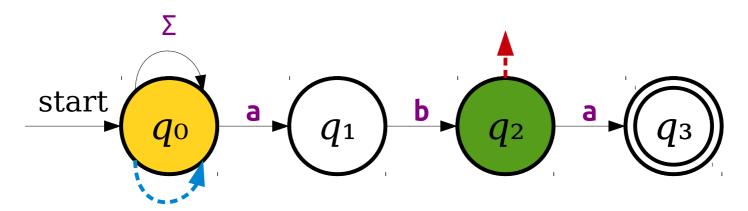
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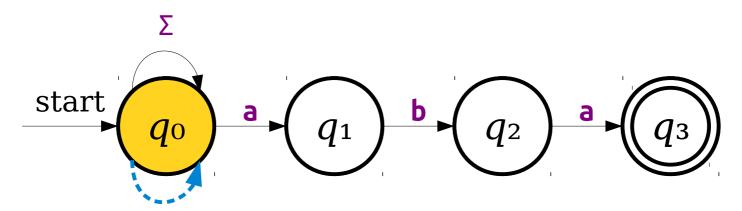
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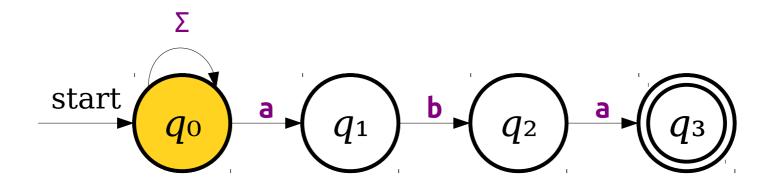
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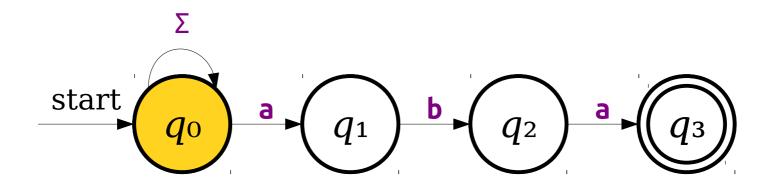
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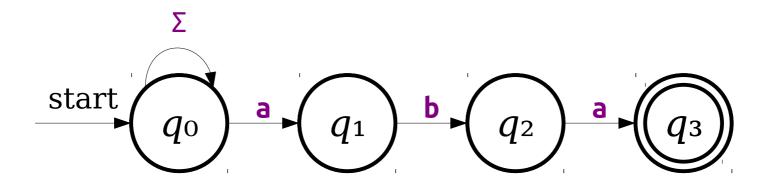
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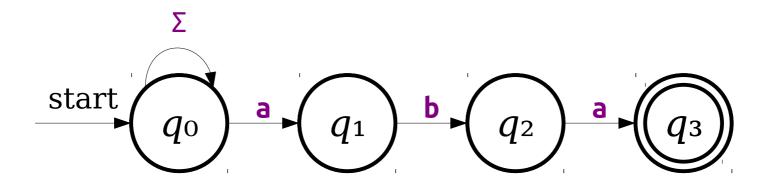
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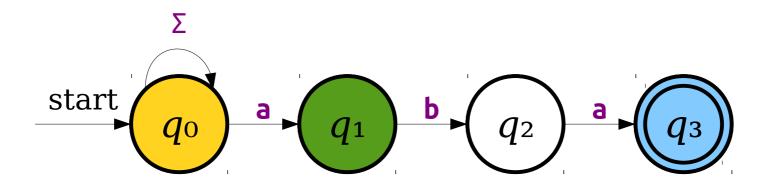
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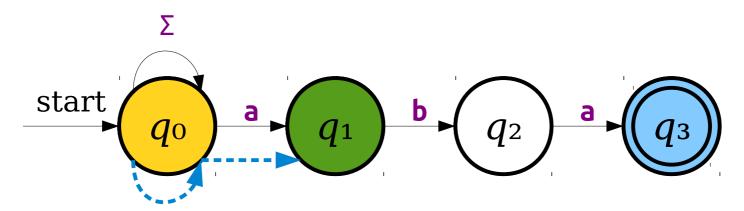
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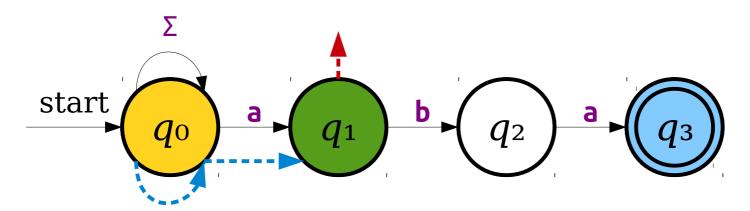
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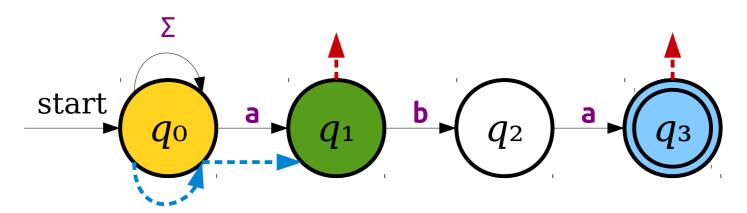
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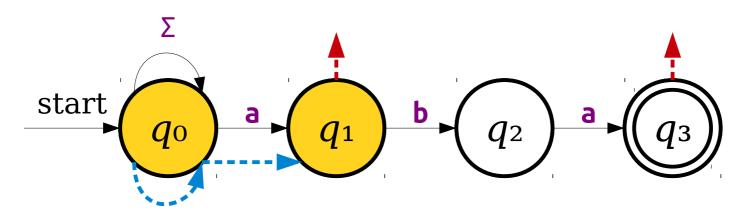
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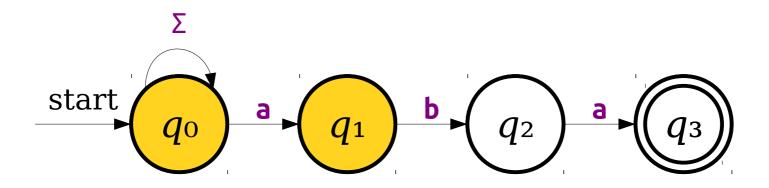
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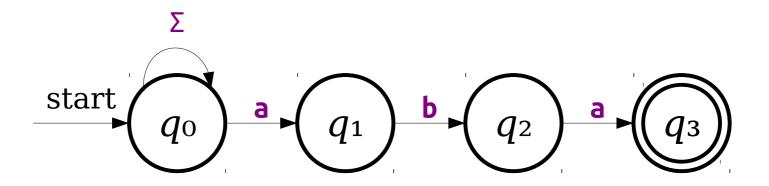
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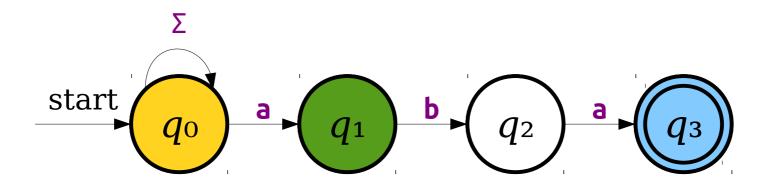
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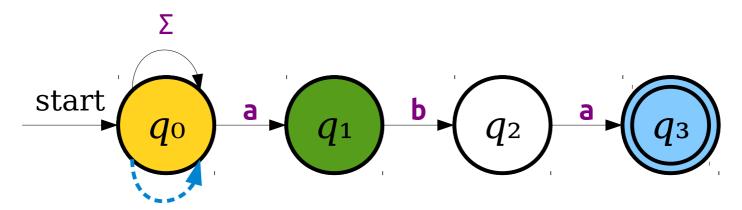
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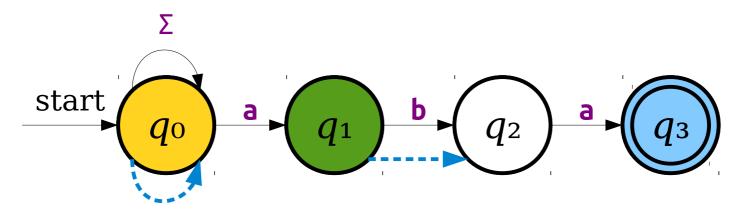
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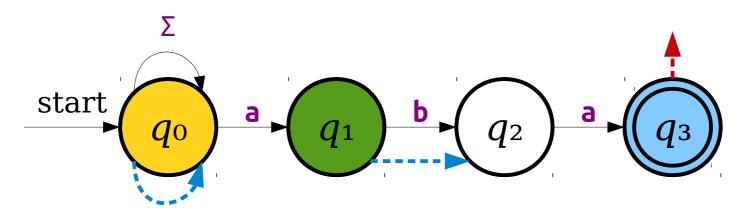
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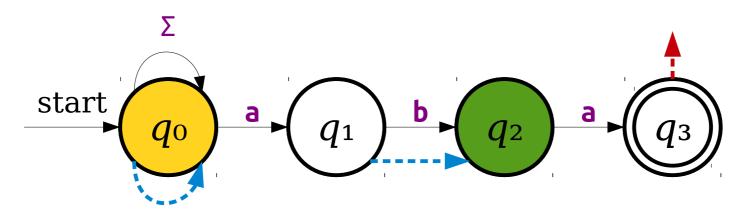
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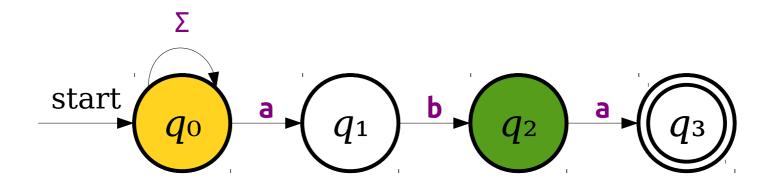
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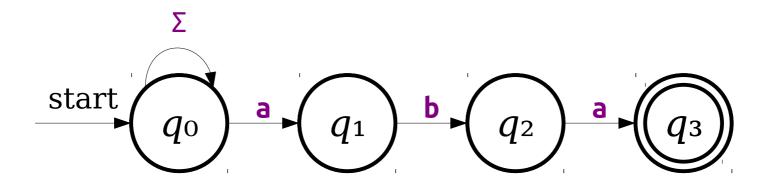
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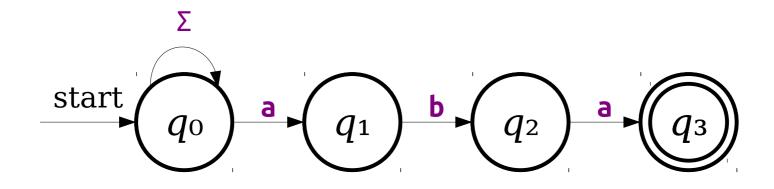
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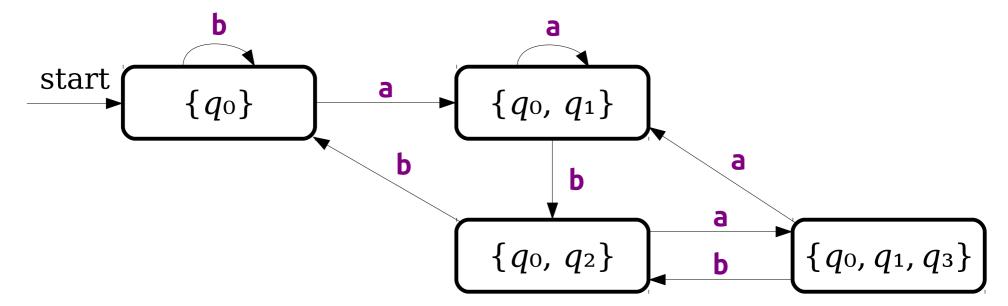
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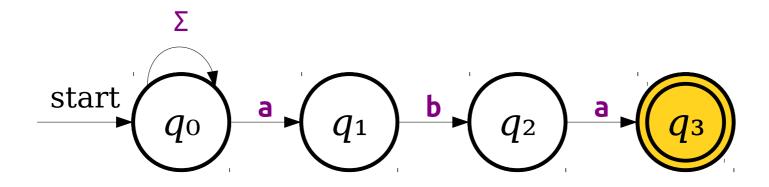


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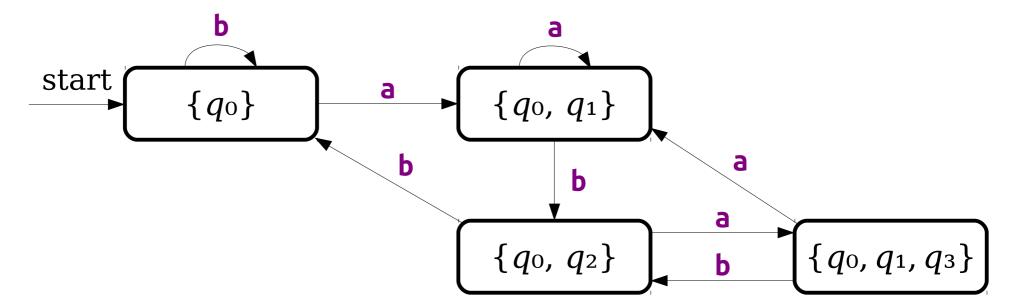


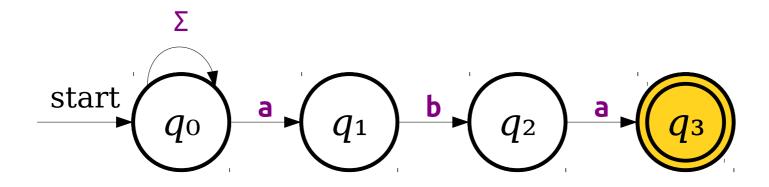
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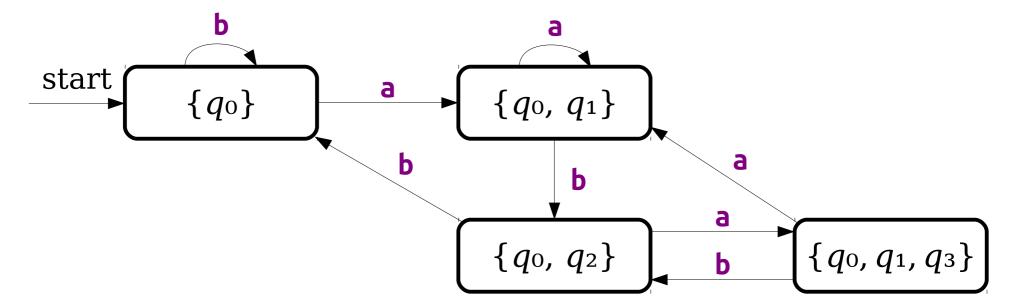


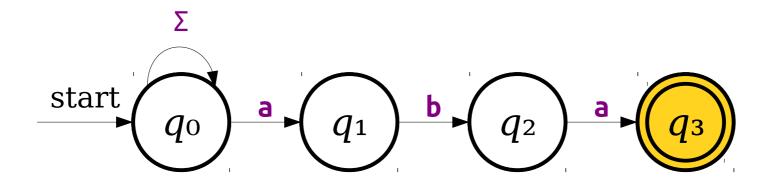
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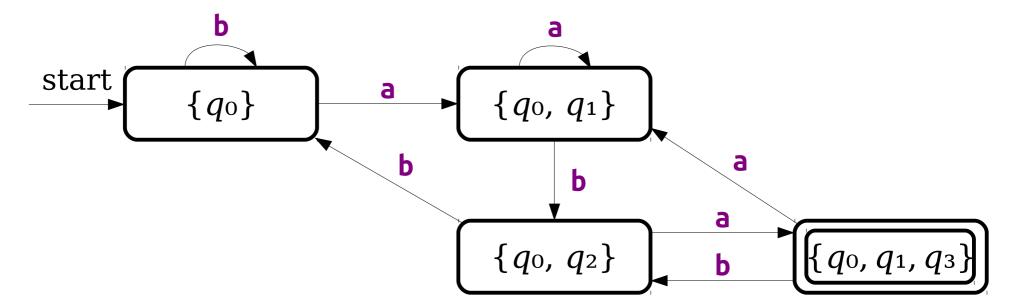


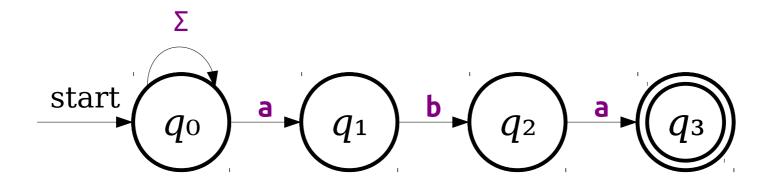
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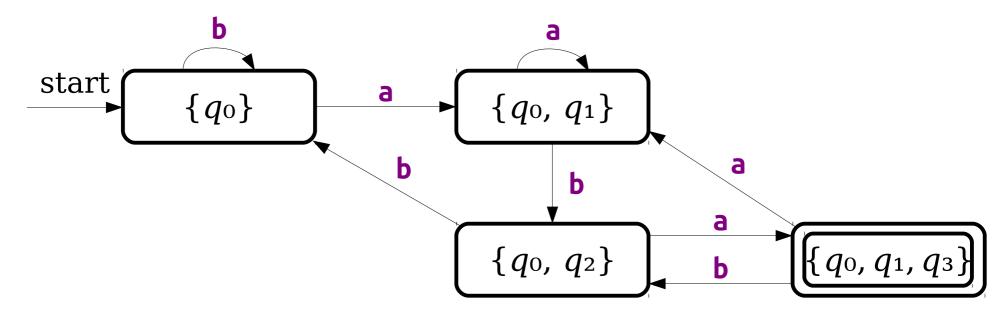


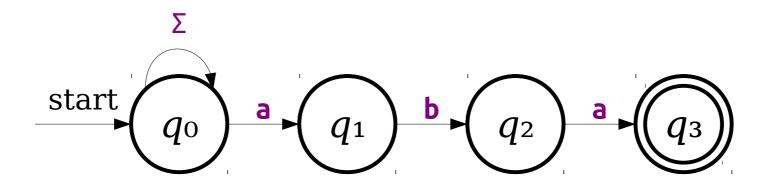
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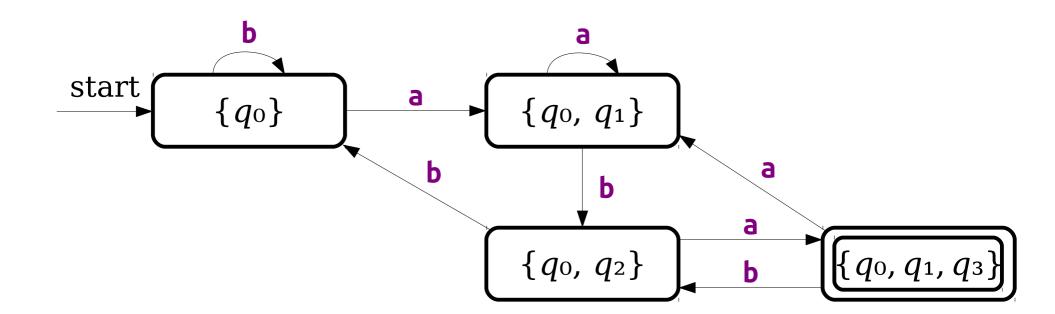


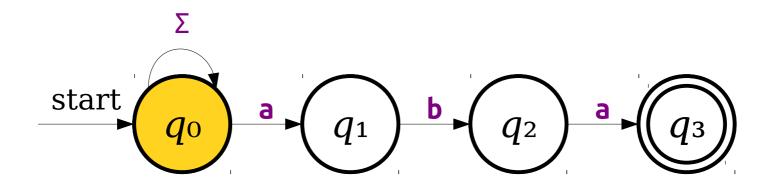
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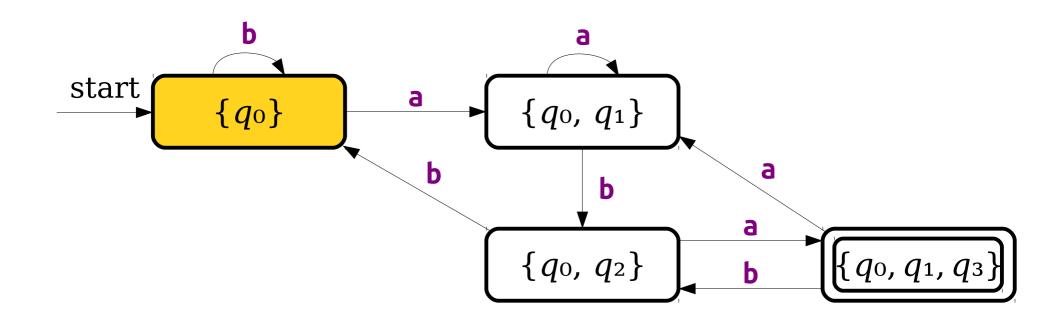


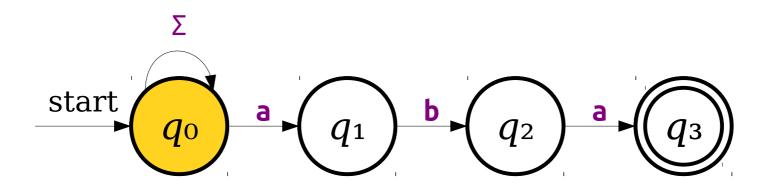
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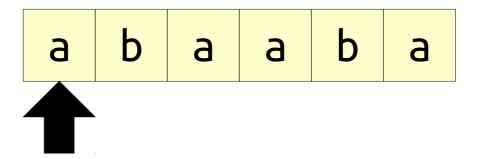


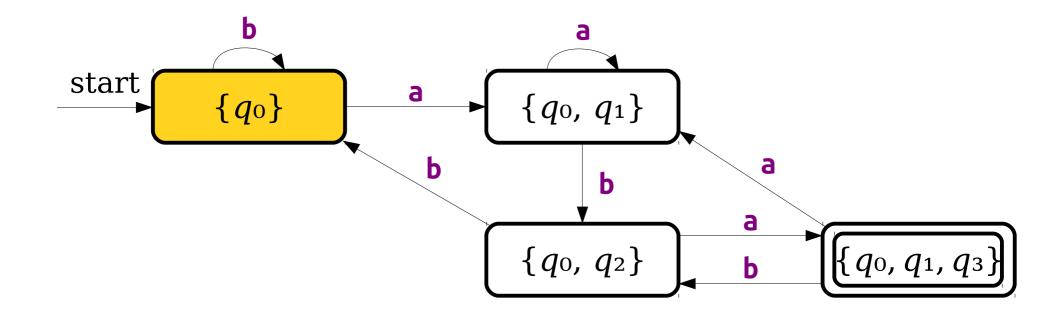


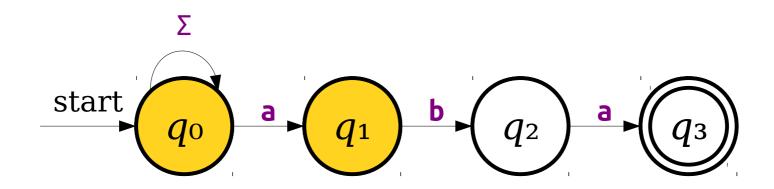
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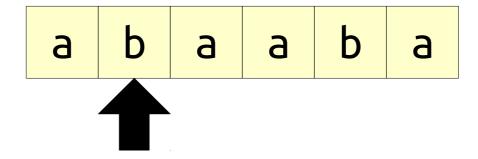


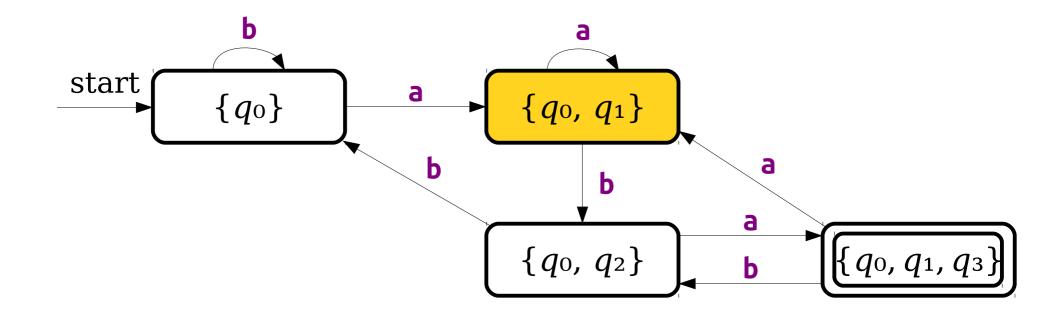


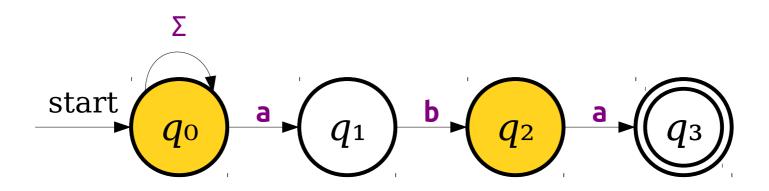


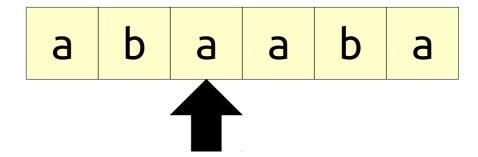


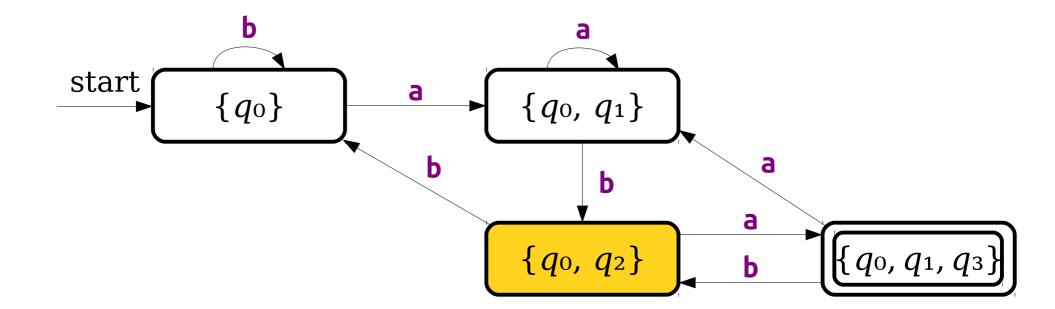


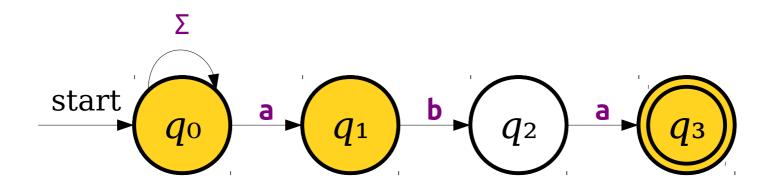


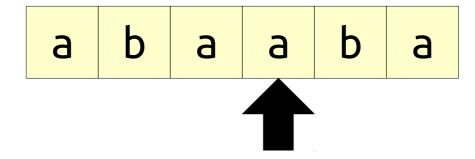


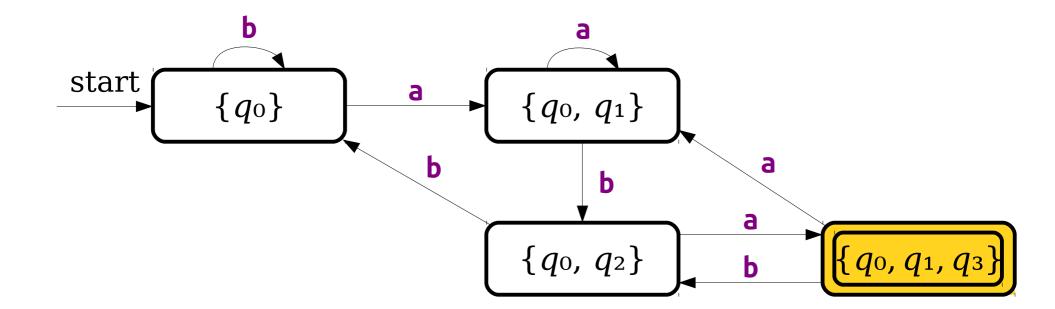


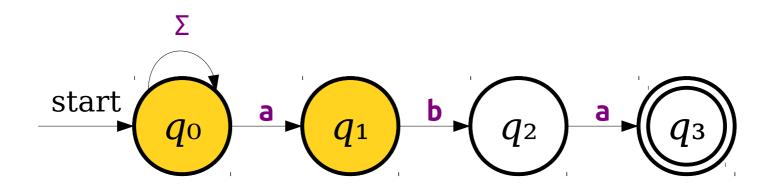


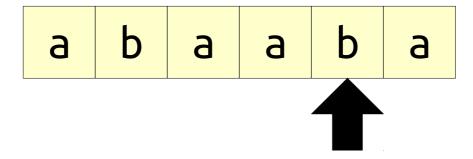


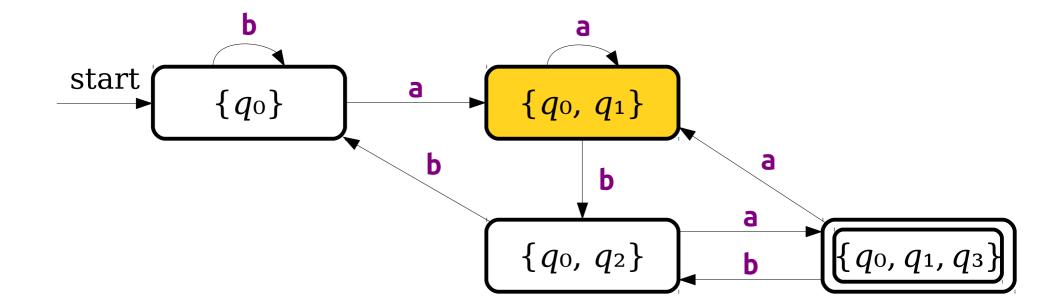


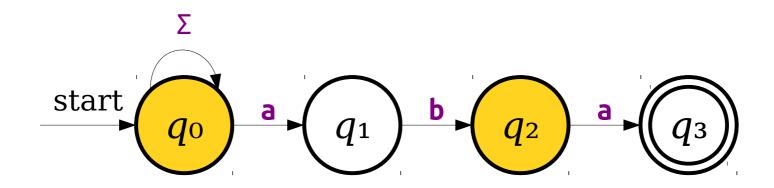


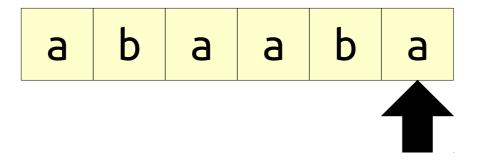


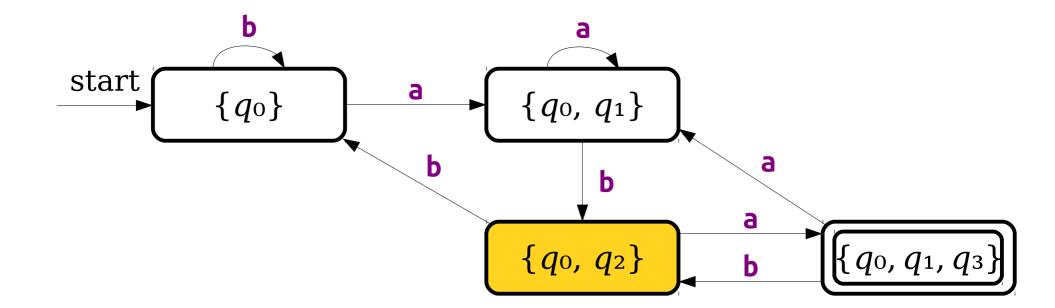


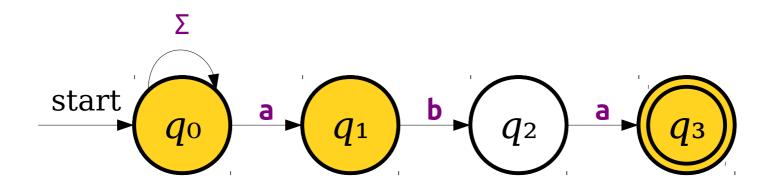




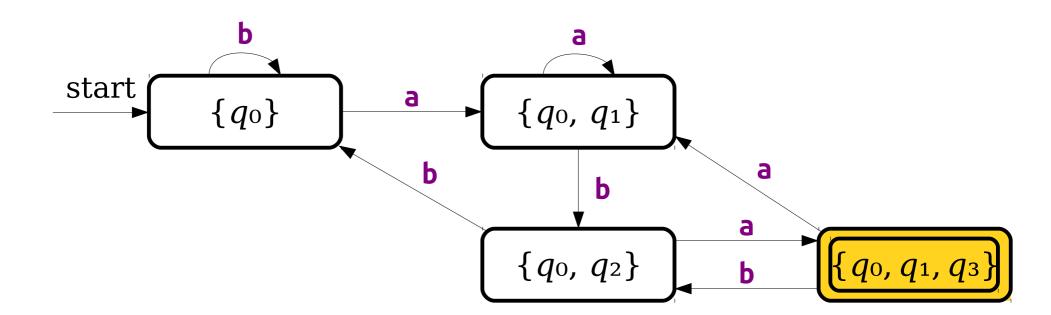








a b a a b a



#### The Subset Construction

- This procedure for turning an NFA for a language L into a DFA for a language L is called the **subset construction**.
  - It's sometimes called the *powerset construction*; it's different names for the same thing!
- Intuitively:
  - Each state in the DFA corresponds to a set of states from the NFA.
  - Each transition in the DFA corresponds to what transitions would be taken in the NFA when using the massive parallel intuition.
  - The accepting states in the DFA correspond to which sets of states would be considered accepting in the NFA when using the massive parallel intuition.
- There's an online *Guide to the Subset Construction* with a more elaborate example involving ε-transitions and cases where the NFA dies; check that for more details.

#### The Subset Construction

- In converting an NFA to a DFA, the DFA's states correspond to sets of NFA states.
- Useful fact:  $|\wp(S)| = 2^{|S|}$  for any finite set S.
- In the worst-case, the construction can result in a DFA that is *exponentially larger* than the original NFA.
- **Question to ponder:** Can you find a family of languages that have NFAs of size n, but no DFAs of size less than  $2^n$ ?

A language L is called a **regular language** if there exists a DFA D such that  $\mathcal{L}(D) = L$ .

# An Important Result

**Theorem:** A language L is regular if and only if there is some NFA N such that  $\mathcal{L}(N) = L$ .

**Proof Sketch:** Pick a language L. First, assume L is regular. That means there's a DFA D where  $\mathcal{L}(D) = L$ . Every DFA is "basically" an NFA, so there's an NFA (D) whose language is L.

Next, assume there's an NFA N such that  $\mathcal{L}(N) = L$ . Using the subset construction, we can build a DFA D where  $\mathcal{L}(N) = \mathcal{L}(D)$ . Then we have that  $\mathcal{L}(D) = L$ , so L is regular.  $\blacksquare$ -ish

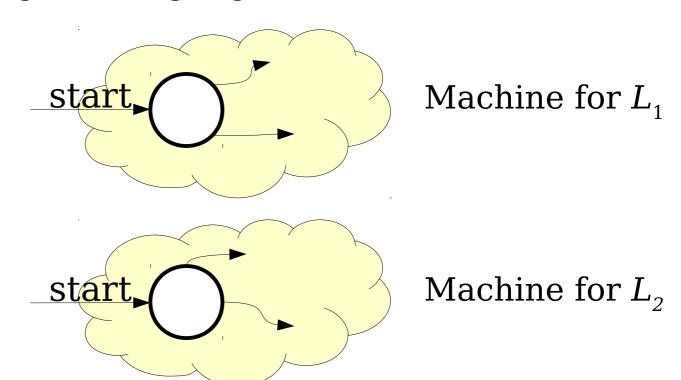
## Why This Matters

- We now have two perspectives on regular languages:
  - Regular languages are languages accepted by DFAs.
  - Regular languages are languages accepted by NFAs.
- We can now reason about the regular languages in two different ways.

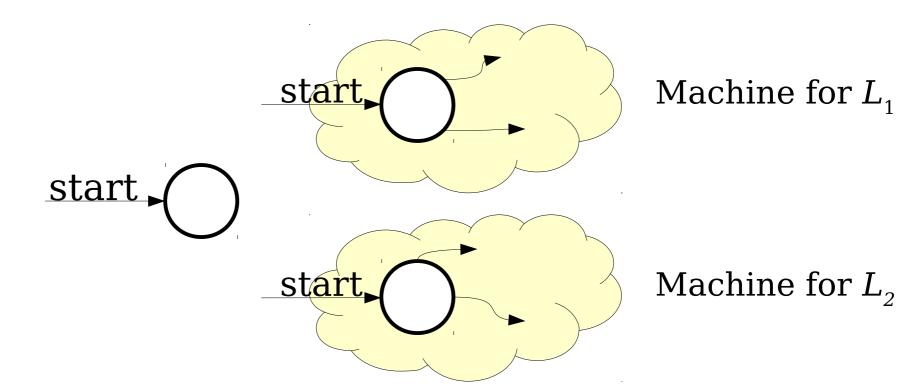
Properties of Regular Languages

- If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are languages over the alphabet  $\Sigma$ , the language  $L_1 \cup L_2$  is the language of all strings in at least one of the two languages.
- If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are regular languages, is  $L_1 \cup L_2$ ?

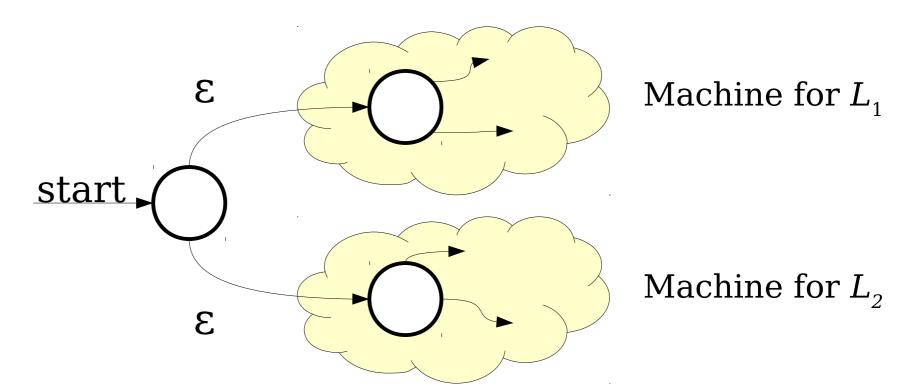
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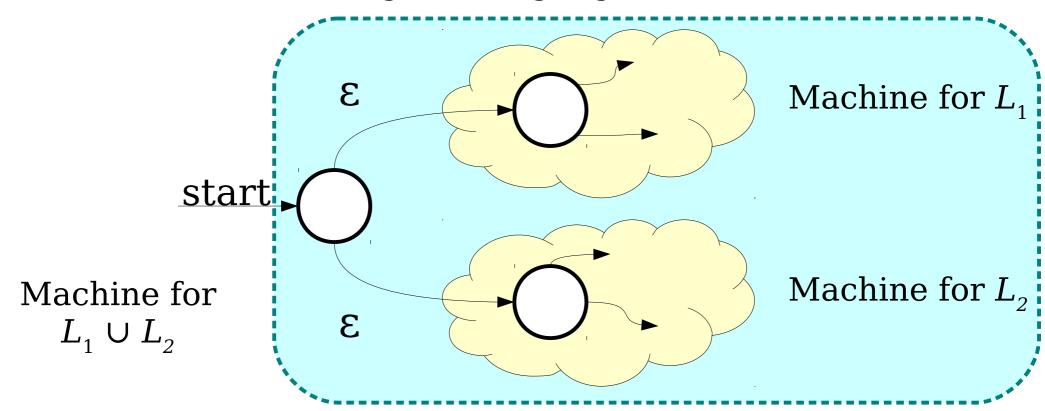
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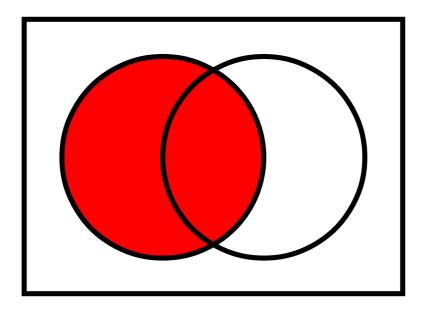


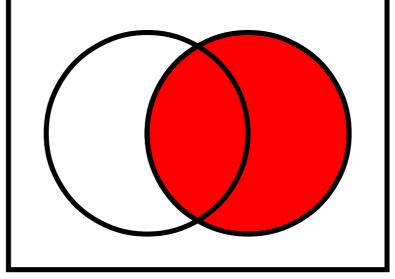
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- If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are languages over  $\Sigma$ , then  $L_1 \cap L_2$  is the language of strings in both  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ .
- Question: If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are regular, is  $L_1 \cap L_2$  regular as well?

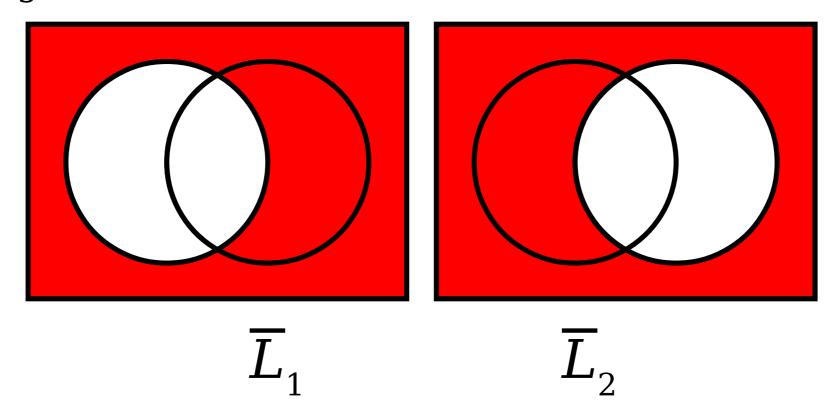
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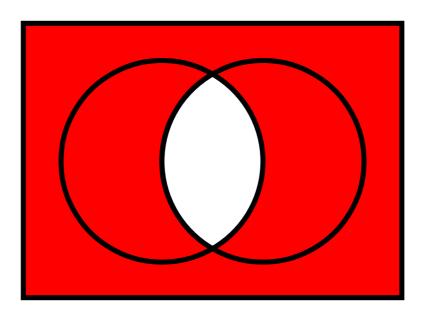


 $L_{_1}$ 

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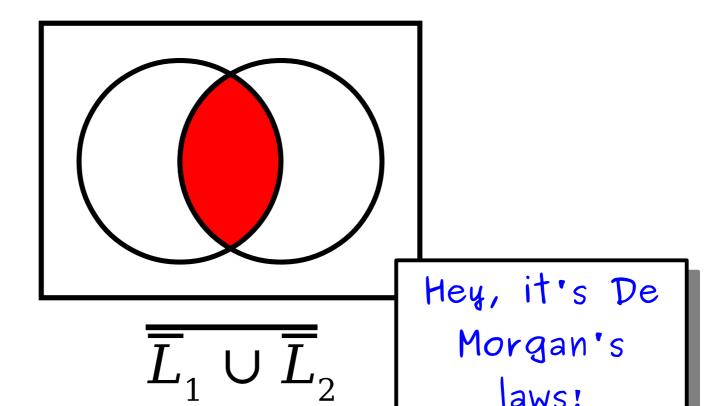


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$$\overline{L}_1 \cup \overline{L}_2$$

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#### Concatenation

## String Concatenation

- If  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $x \in \Sigma^*$ , the *concatenation* of w and x, denoted wx, is the string formed by tacking all the characters of x onto the end of w.
- Example: if w = quo and x = kka, the concatenation wx = quokka.
- This is analogous to the + operator for strings in many programming languages.
- Some facts about concatenation:
  - The empty string ε is the *identity element* for concatenation:

$$w\varepsilon = \varepsilon w = w$$

• Concatenation is *associative*:

$$wxy = w(xy) = (wx)y$$

#### Concatenation

• The *concatenation* of two languages  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  over the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is the language

```
L_1L_2 = \{ wx \in \Sigma^* \mid w \in L_1 \land x \in L_2 \}
```

## Concatenation Example

- Let  $\Sigma = \{$  a, b, ..., z, A, B, ..., Z  $\}$  and consider these languages over  $\Sigma$ :
  - **Noun** = { Puppy, Rainbow, Whale, ... }
  - **Verb** = { Hugs, Juggles, Loves, ... }
  - *The* = { The }
- The language *TheNounVerbTheNoun* is
  - ThePuppyHugsTheWhale, TheWhaleLovesTheRainbow, TheRainbowJugglesTheRainbow, ... }

#### Concatenation

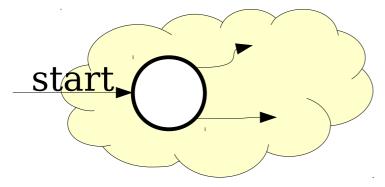
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$$L_1L_2 = \{ wx \in \Sigma^* \mid w \in L_1 \land x \in L_2 \}$$

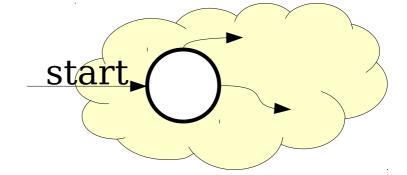
- Two views of  $L_1L_2$ :
  - The set of all strings that can be made by concatenating a string in  $L_1$  with a string in  $L_2$ .
  - The set of strings that can be split into two pieces: a piece from  $L_1$  and a piece from  $L_2$ .

- If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are regular languages, is  $L_1L_2$ ?
- Intuition can we split a string w into two strings xy such that  $x \in L_1$  and  $y \in L_2$ ?

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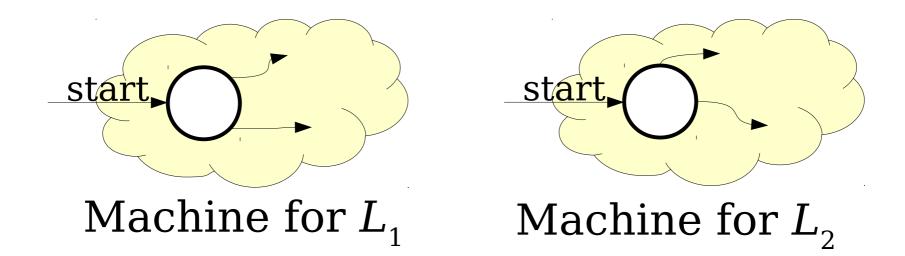


Machine for  $L_1$ 



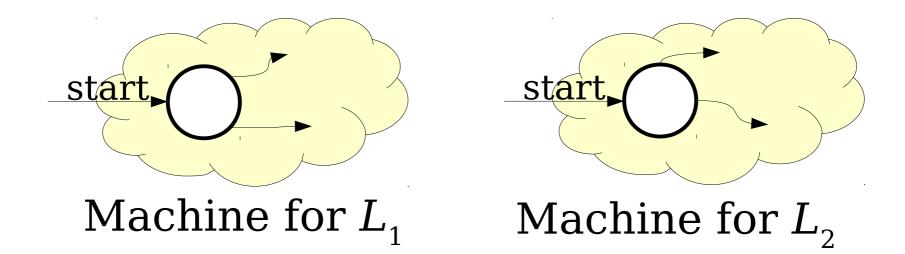
Machine for  $L_2$ 

- If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are regular languages, is  $L_1L_2$ ?
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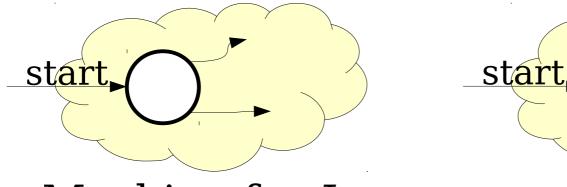
b o o k k e e p e r

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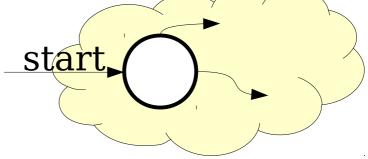


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Machine for  $L_1$ 



Machine for  $L_2$ 

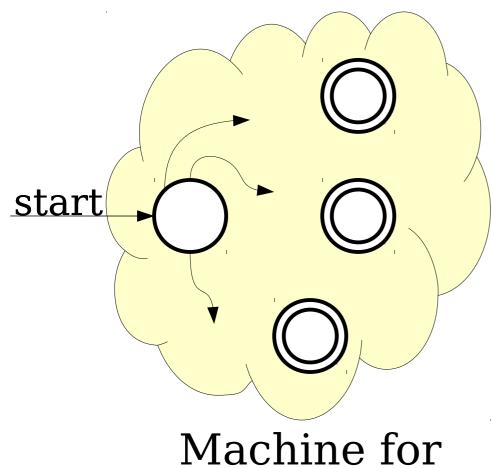
b	0	0	k
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k e e p e r

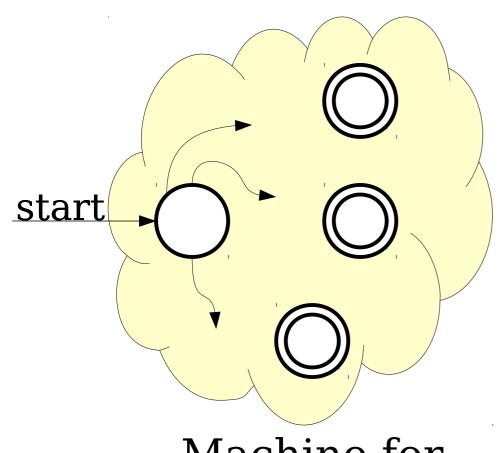
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- Intuition can we split a string w into two strings xy such that  $x \in L_1$  and  $y \in L_2$ ?

#### • *Idea*:

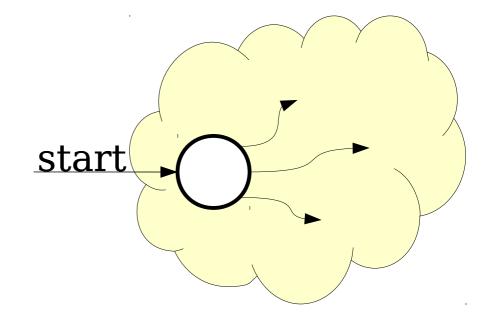
- Run a DFA/NFA for  $L_1$  on w.
- Whenever it reaches an accepting state, optionally hand the rest of w to a DFA/NFA for  $L_2$ .
- If the automaton for  $L_2$  accepts the rest,  $w \in L_1L_2$ .
- If the automaton for  $L_2$  rejects the remainder, the split was incorrect.



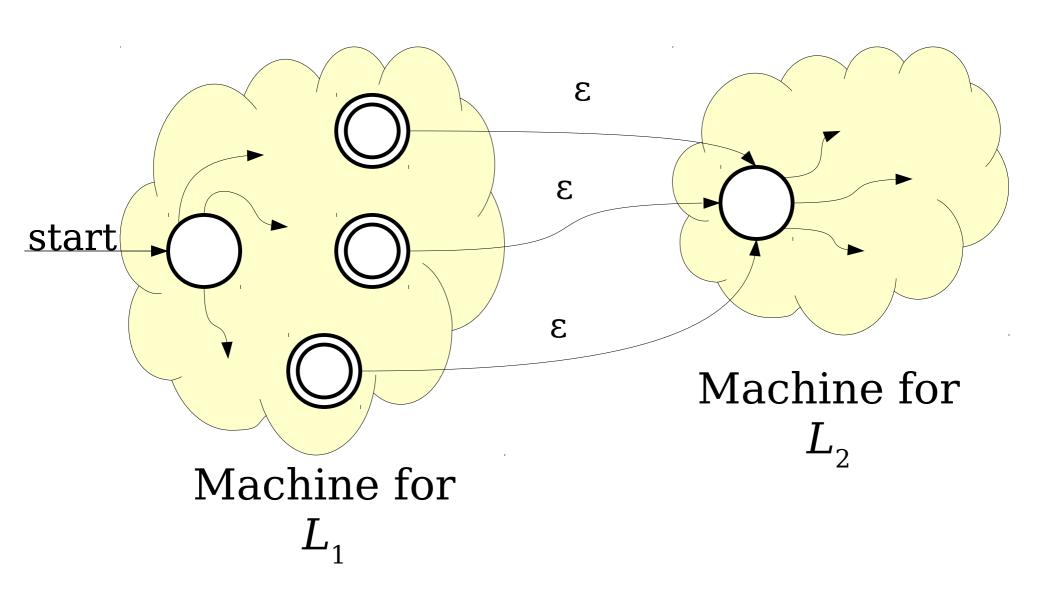
Machine for  $L_{\scriptscriptstyle 1}$ 

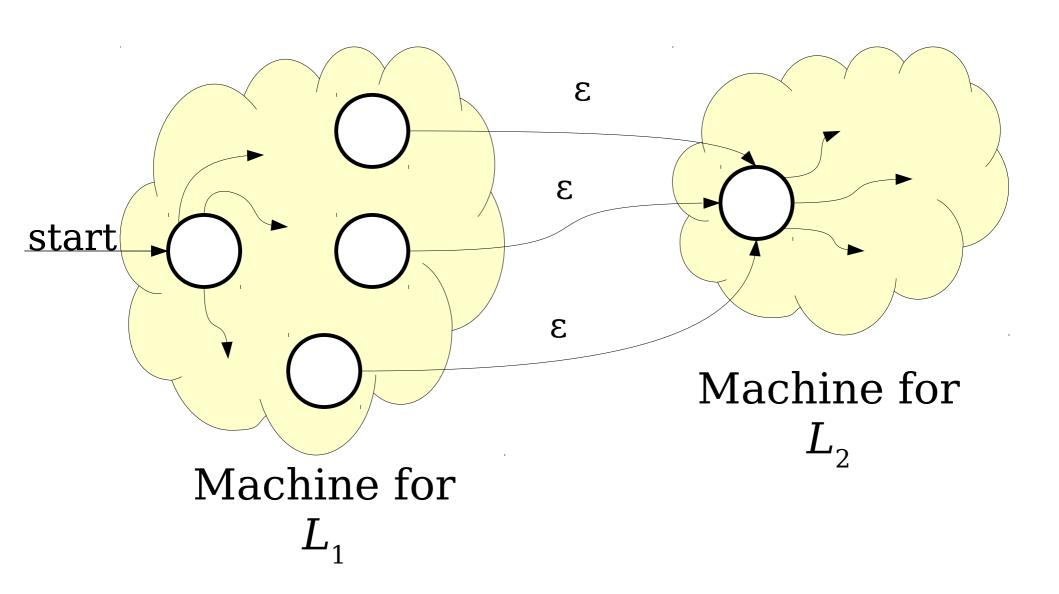


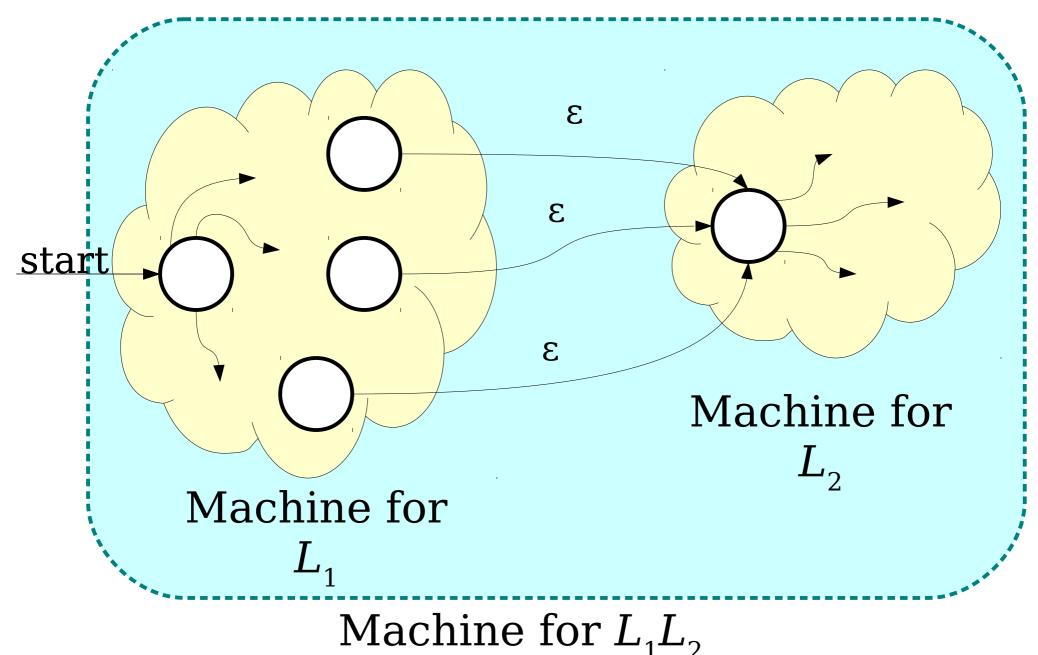
Machine for  $L_1$ 



Machine for  $L_2$ 







#### Lots and Lots of Concatenation

- Consider the language  $L = \{ aa, b \}$
- LL is the set of strings formed by concatenating pairs of strings in L.

```
{ aaaa, aab, baa, bb }
```

• LLL is the set of strings formed by concatenating triples of strings in L.

```
{ aaaaaa, aaaab, aabaa, aabb, baaaa, baab, bbaa, bbb}
```

• LLLL is the set of strings formed by concatenating quadruples of strings in L.

```
{ aaaaaaaa, aaaaaab, aaaabaa, aaaabb, aabaaaa, aabaab, aabbaa, aabbb, baaaaaa, baaaab, baabaa, baabb, bbaaaa, bbbb}
```

# Language Exponentiation

- We can define what it means to "exponentiate" a language as follows:
- $L_0 = \{ \epsilon \}$ 
  - Intuition: The only string you can form by gluing no strings together is the empty string.
  - Notice that  $\{\epsilon\} \neq \emptyset$ . Can you explain why?
- $I_{n+1} = I_{n}I_{n}$ 
  - Idea: Concatenating (n+1) strings together works by concatenating n strings, then concatenating one more.
- *Question to ponder:* Why define  $L^0 = \{\epsilon\}$ ?
- **Question to ponder:** What is Ø<sup>0</sup>?

#### The Kleene Closure

• An important operation on languages is the *Kleene Closure*, which is defined as

$$L^* = \{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid \exists n \in \mathbb{N}. \ w \in L^n \}$$

• Mathematically:

$$w \in L^* \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \exists n \in \mathbb{N}. \ w \in L^n$$

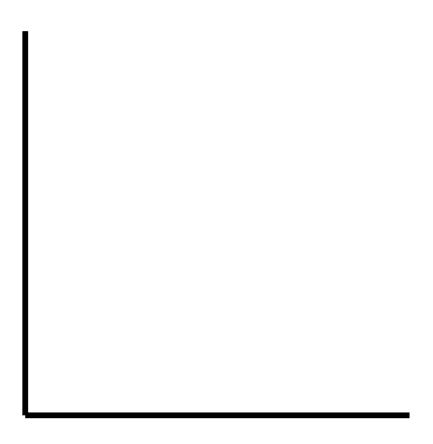
- Intuitively,  $L^*$  is the language all possible ways of concatenating zero or more strings in L together, possibly with repetition.
- **Question to ponder:** What is Ø\*?

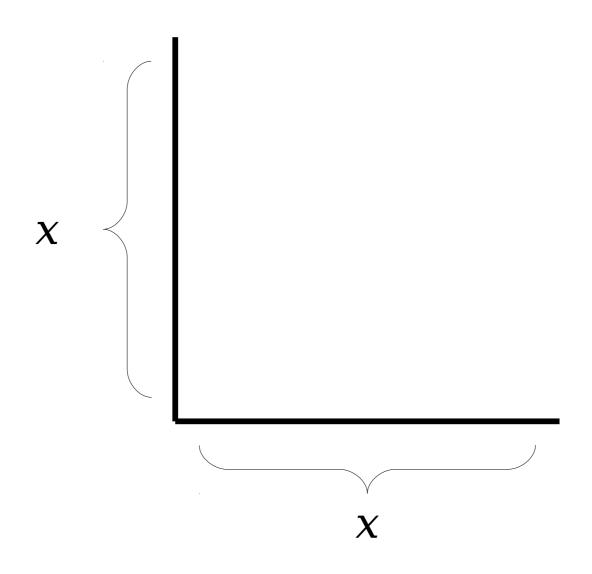
#### The Kleene Closure

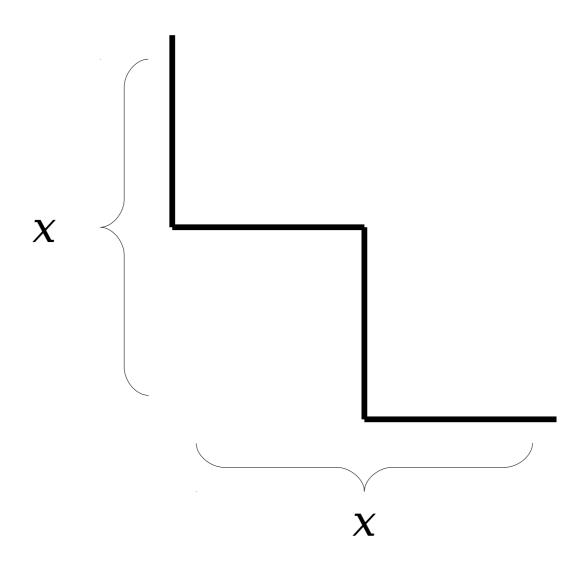
```
If L=\{ a, bb \}, then L*=\{ \epsilon, a, bb, aa, abb, bba, bbbb, aaa, aabb, abba, abbbb, bbaa, bbbbb, bbbbbb, ...
```

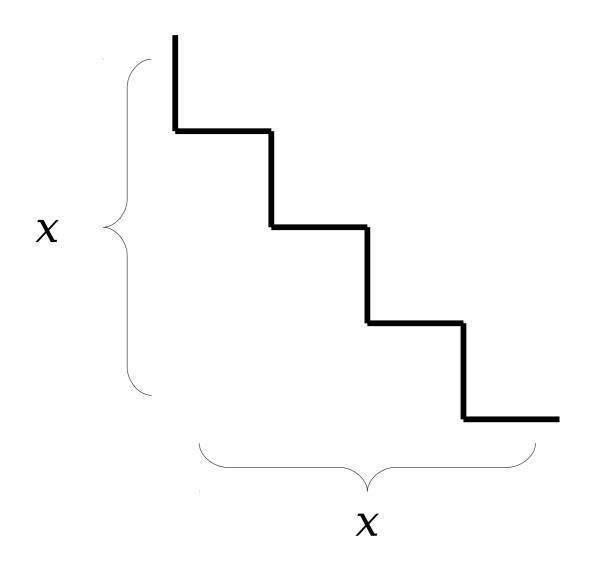
Think of L\* as the set of strings you can make if you have a collection of stamps - one for each string in L - and you form every possible string that can be made from those stamps.

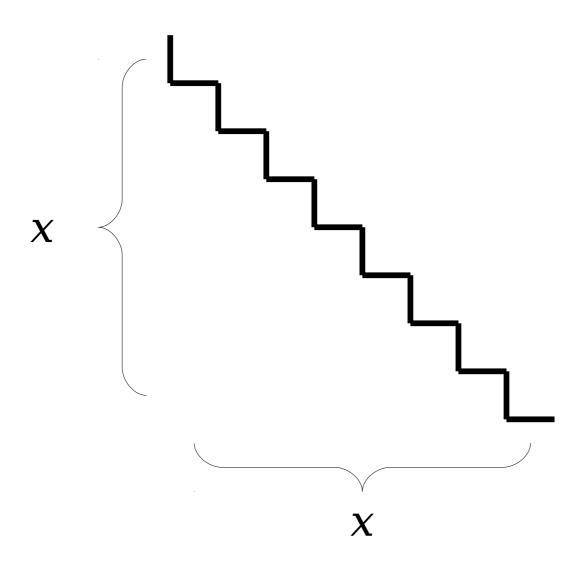
- If L is regular, is  $L^*$  necessarily regular?
- A Bad Line of Reasoning: A
  - $L^0 = \{ \epsilon \}$  is regular.
  - $L^1 = L$  is regular.
  - $L^2 = LL$  is regular
  - $L^3 = L(LL)$  is regular
  - •
  - Regular languages are closed under union.
  - So the union of all these languages is regular.

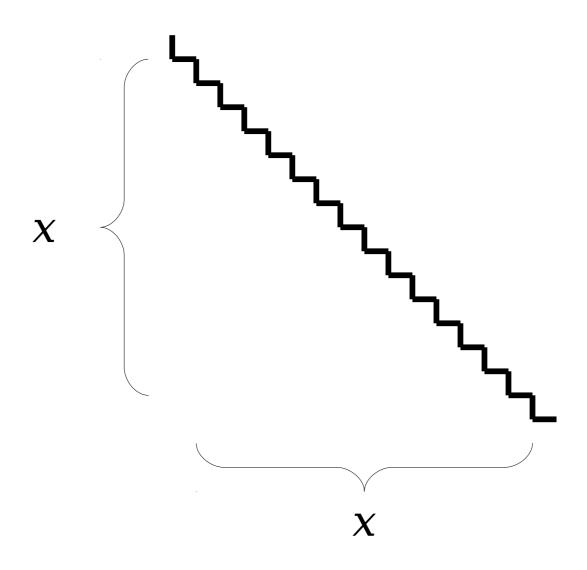


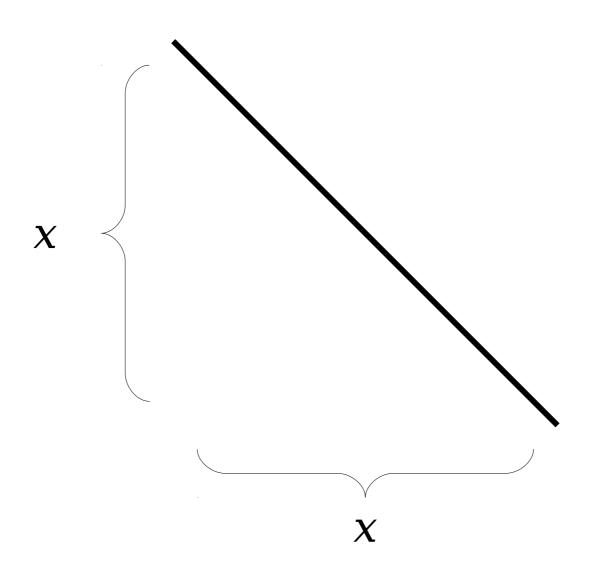


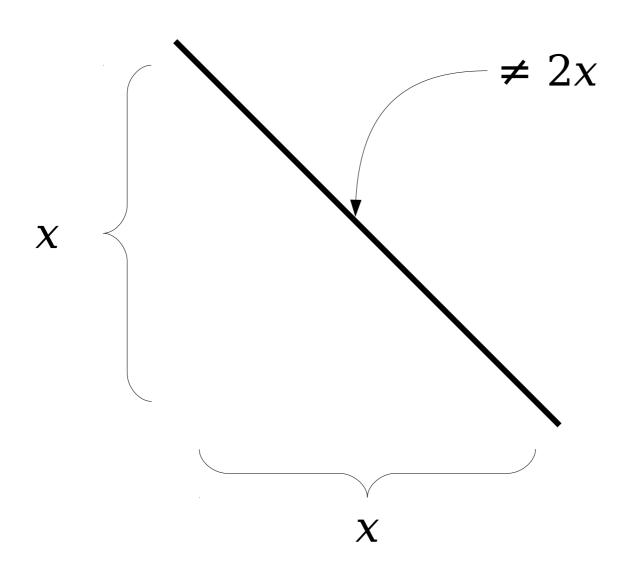








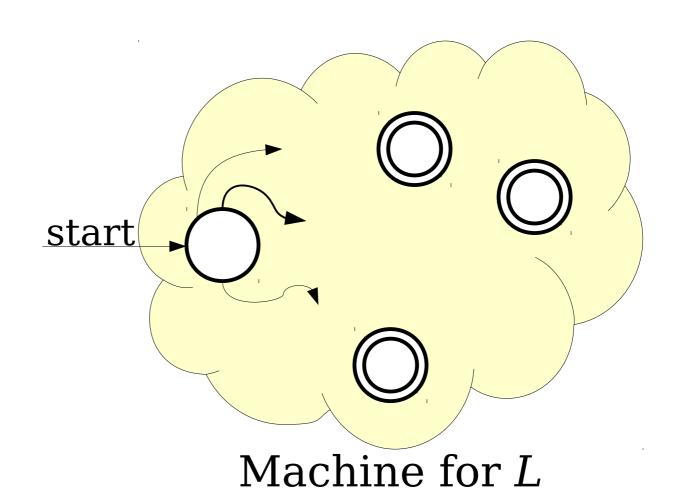


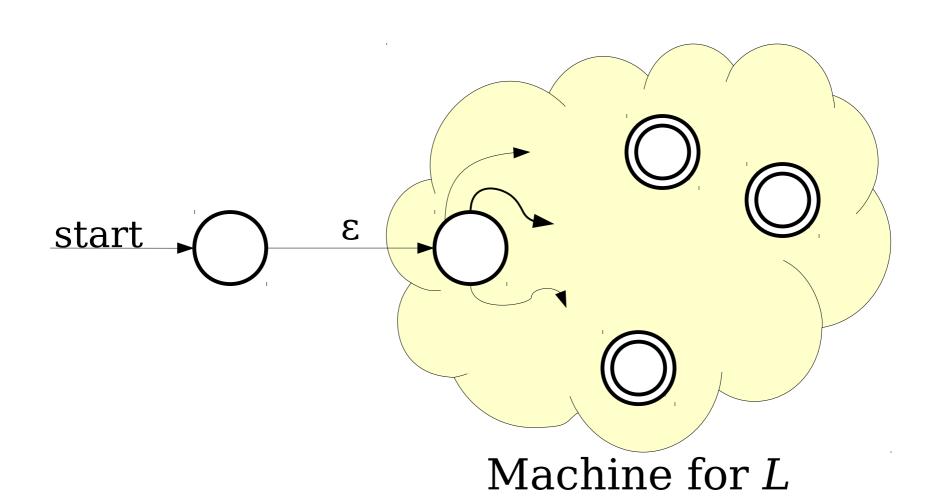


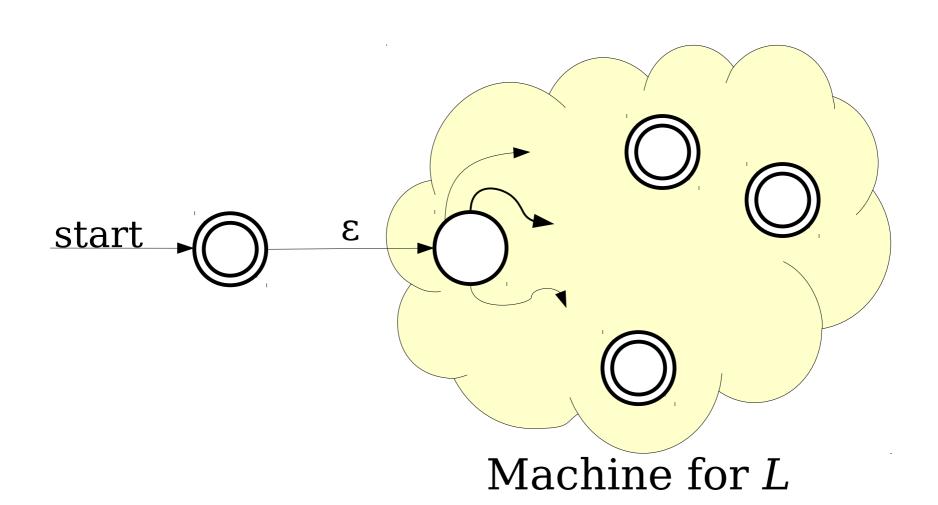
# Reasoning About the Infinite

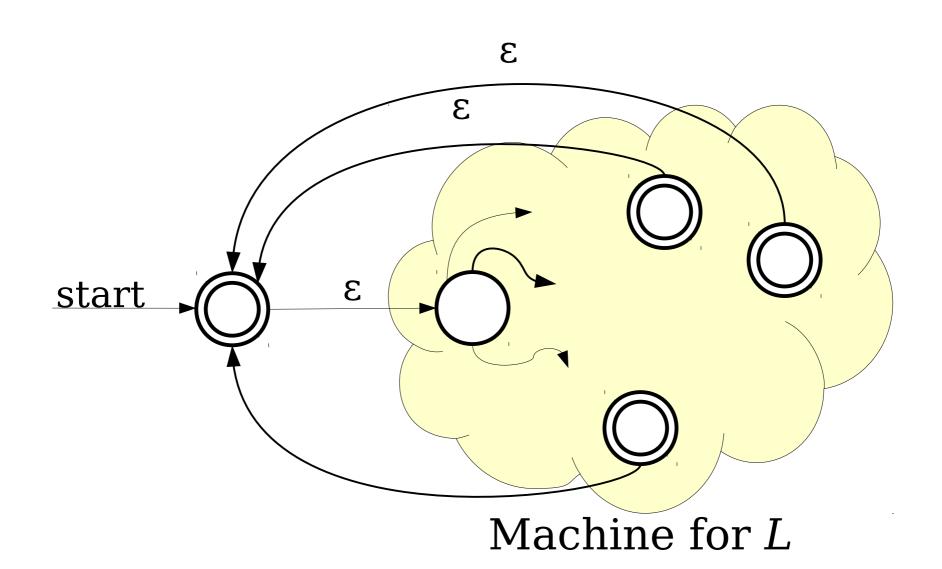
- If a series of finite objects all have some property, the "limit" of that process *does not* necessarily have that property.
- In general, it is not safe to conclude that some property that always holds in the finite case must hold in the infinite case.
  - (This is why calculus is interesting).
- So our earlier argument ( $L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup ...$ ) isn't going to work.
- We need a different line of reasoning.

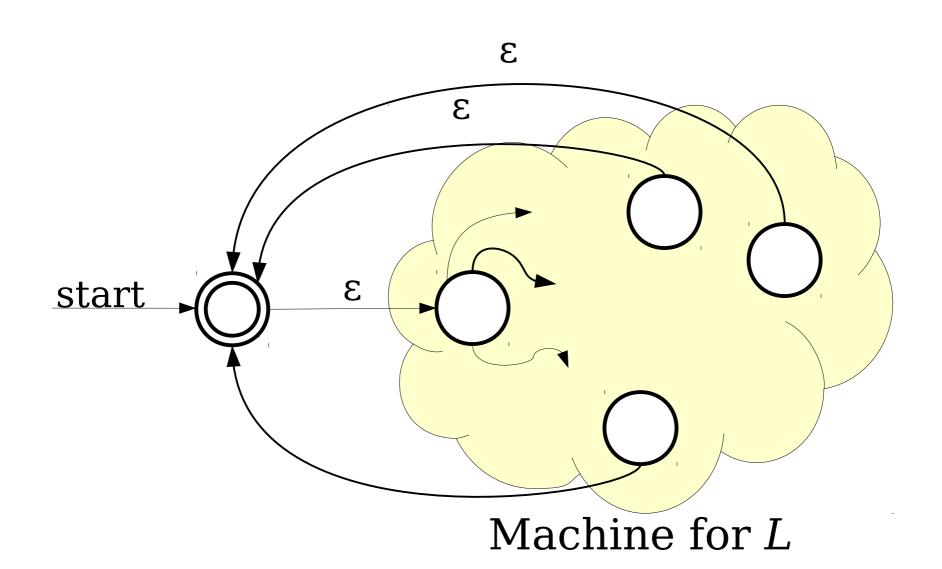
*Idea:* Can we directly convert an NFA for language L to an NFA for language  $L^*$ ?

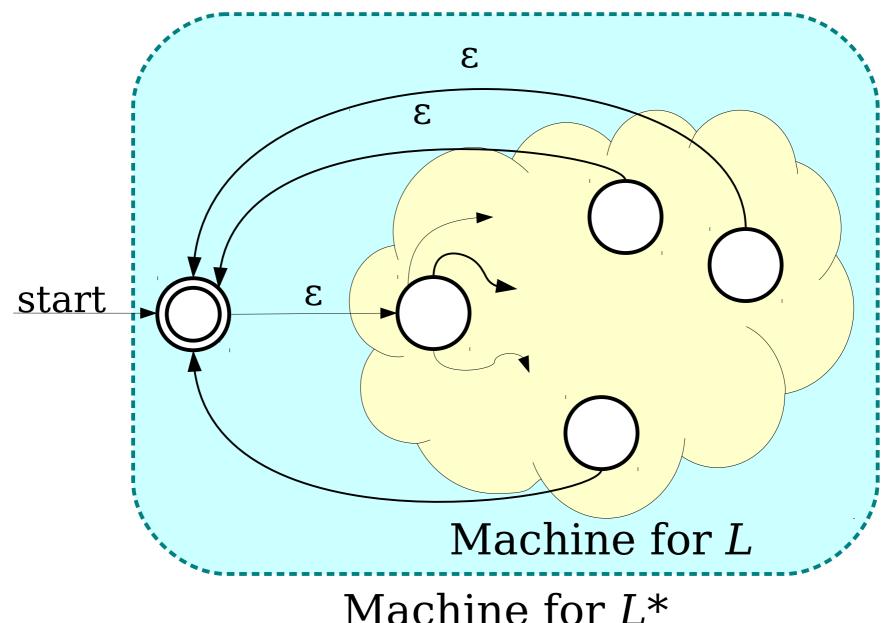




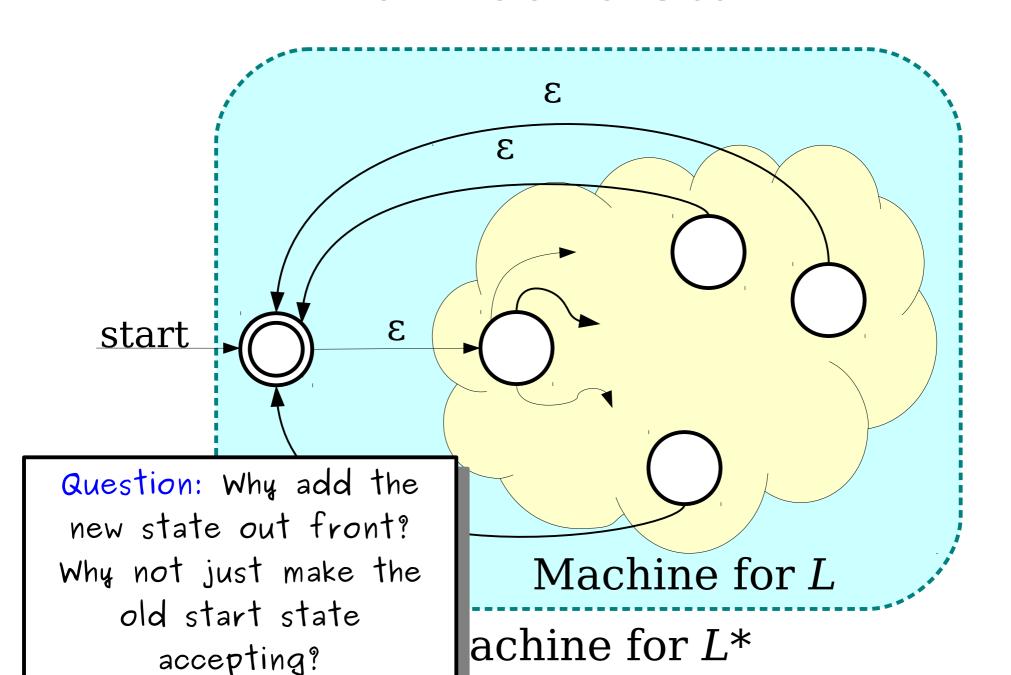








Machine for  $L^*$ 



# Closure Properties

- Theorem: If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are regular languages over an alphabet  $\Sigma$ , then so are the following languages:
  - $\overline{L}_1$
  - $L_1 \cup L_2$
  - $L_1 \cap L_2$
  - $L_1L_2$
  - *L*<sub>1</sub>\*
- These properties are called closure properties of the regular languages.

#### Next Time

- Regular Expressions
  - Building languages from the ground up!
- Thompson's Algorithm
  - A UNIX Programmer in Theoryland.
- Kleene's Theorem
  - From machines to programs!