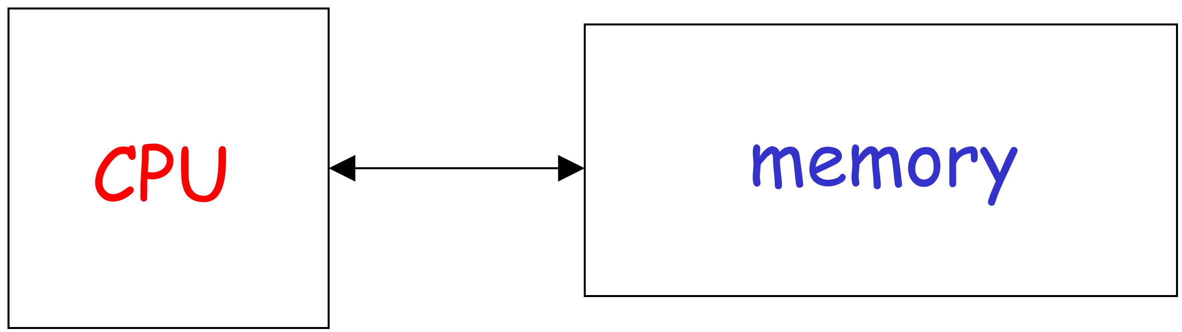
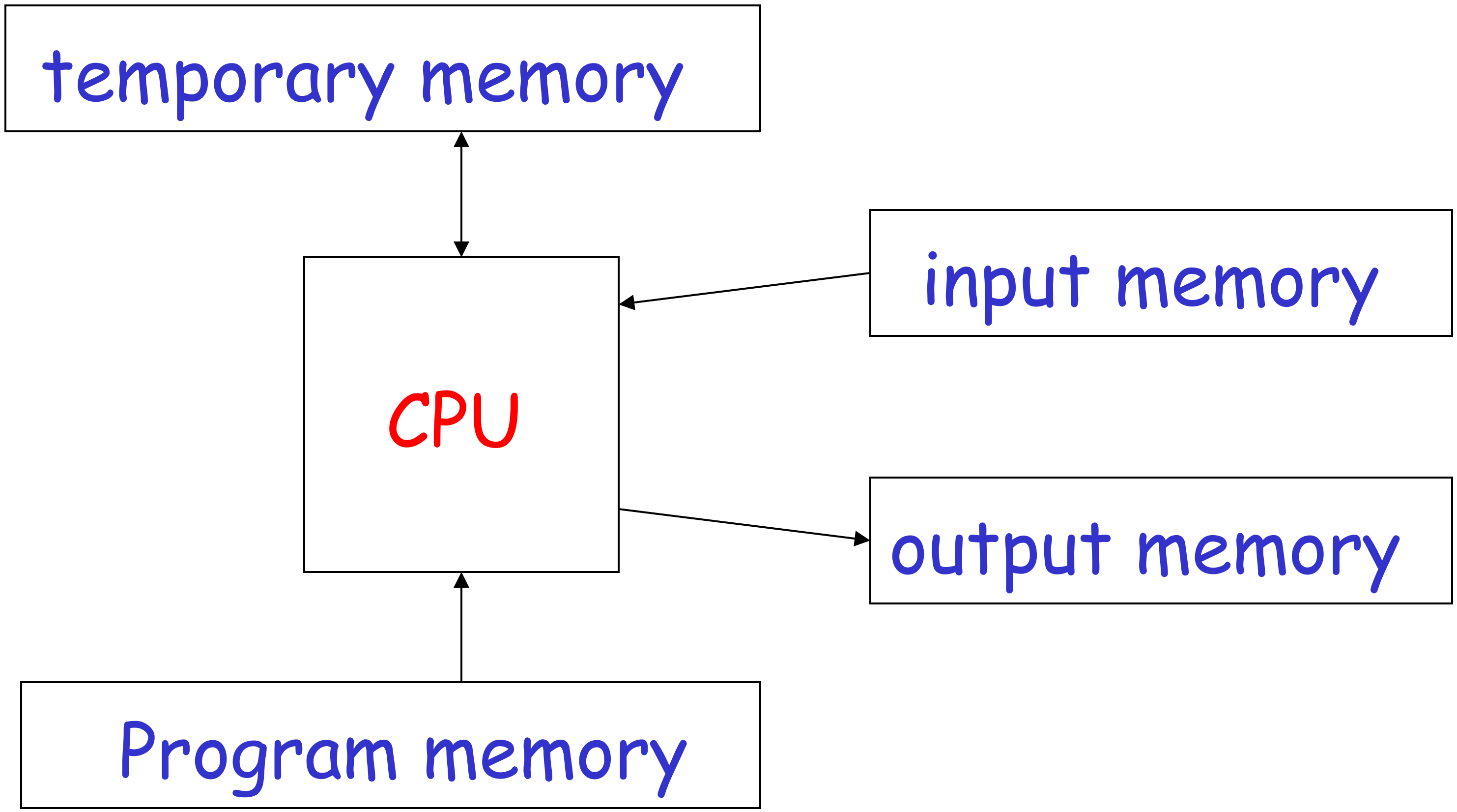
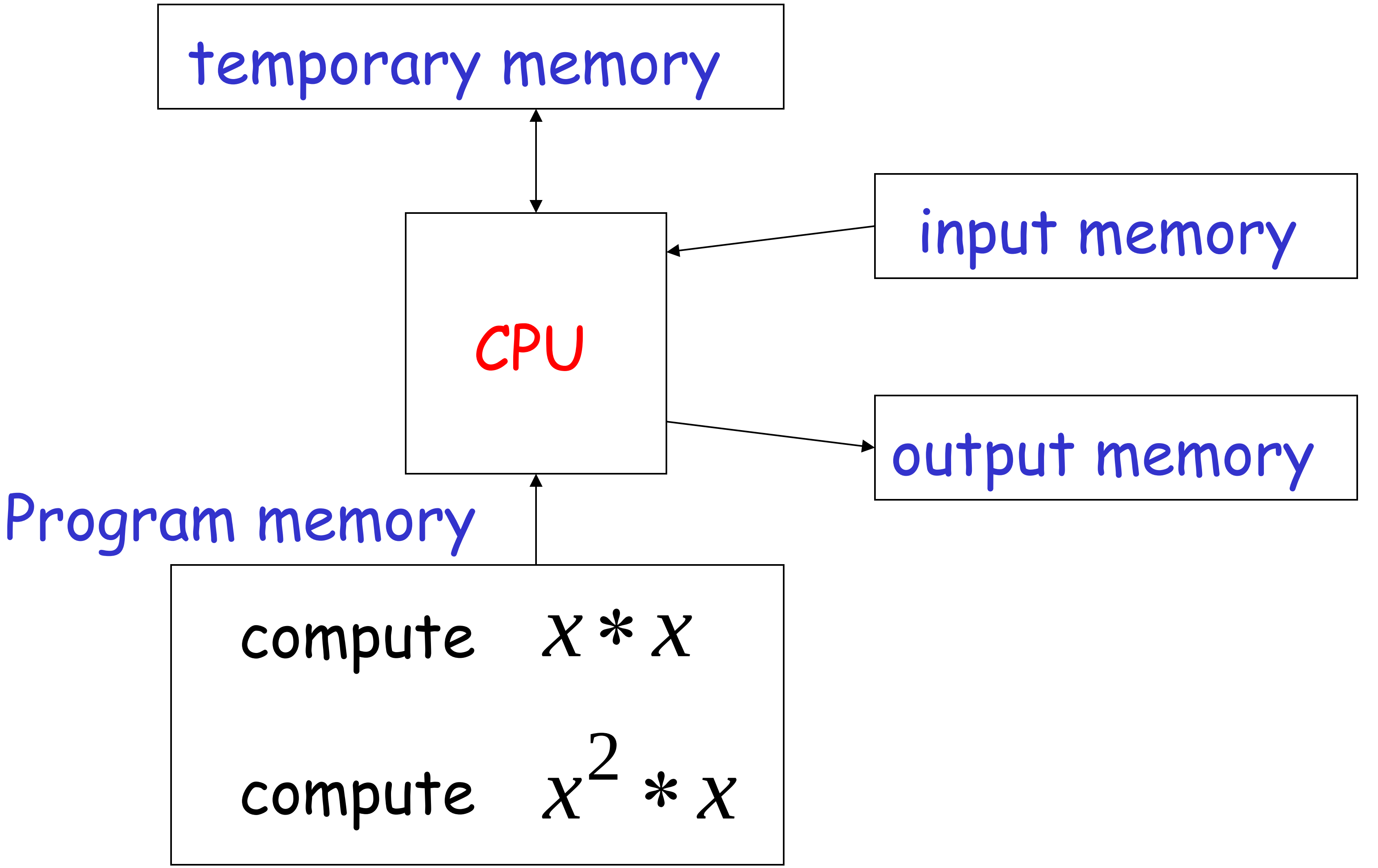
Formal Languages
Models of Computation

Computation

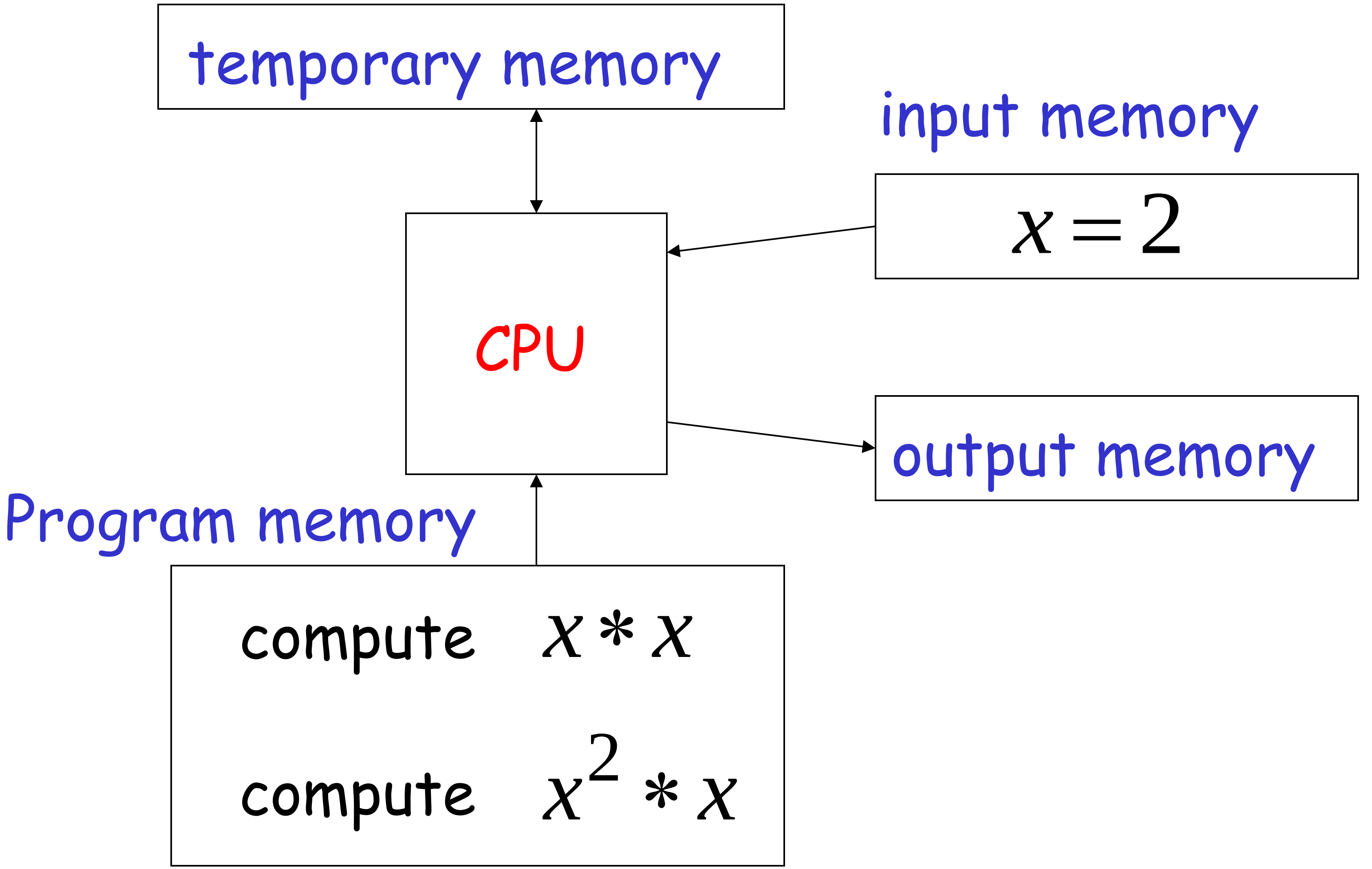



temporary memory
input memory
CPU
output memory
Program memory

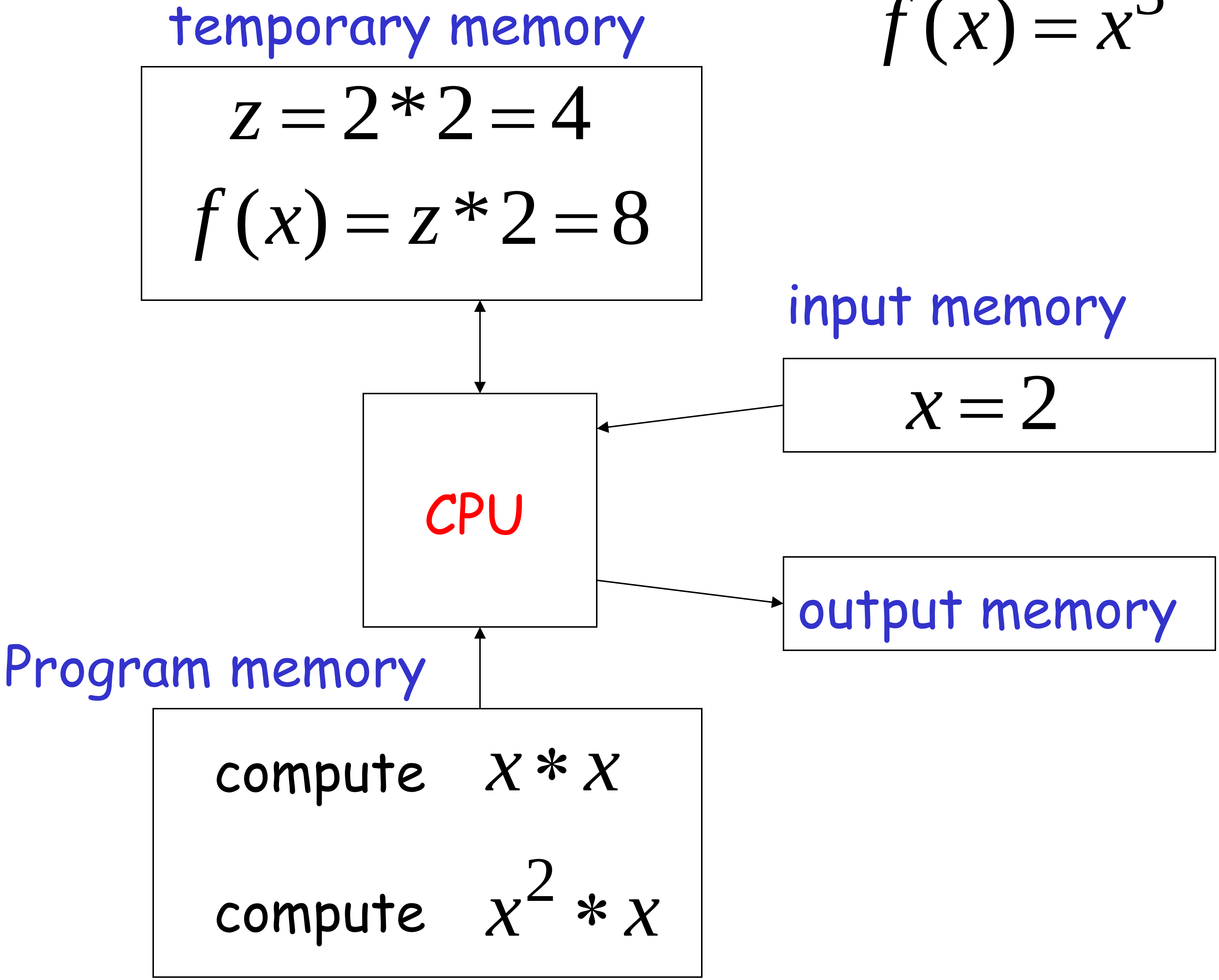
Example: $f(x) = x^3$



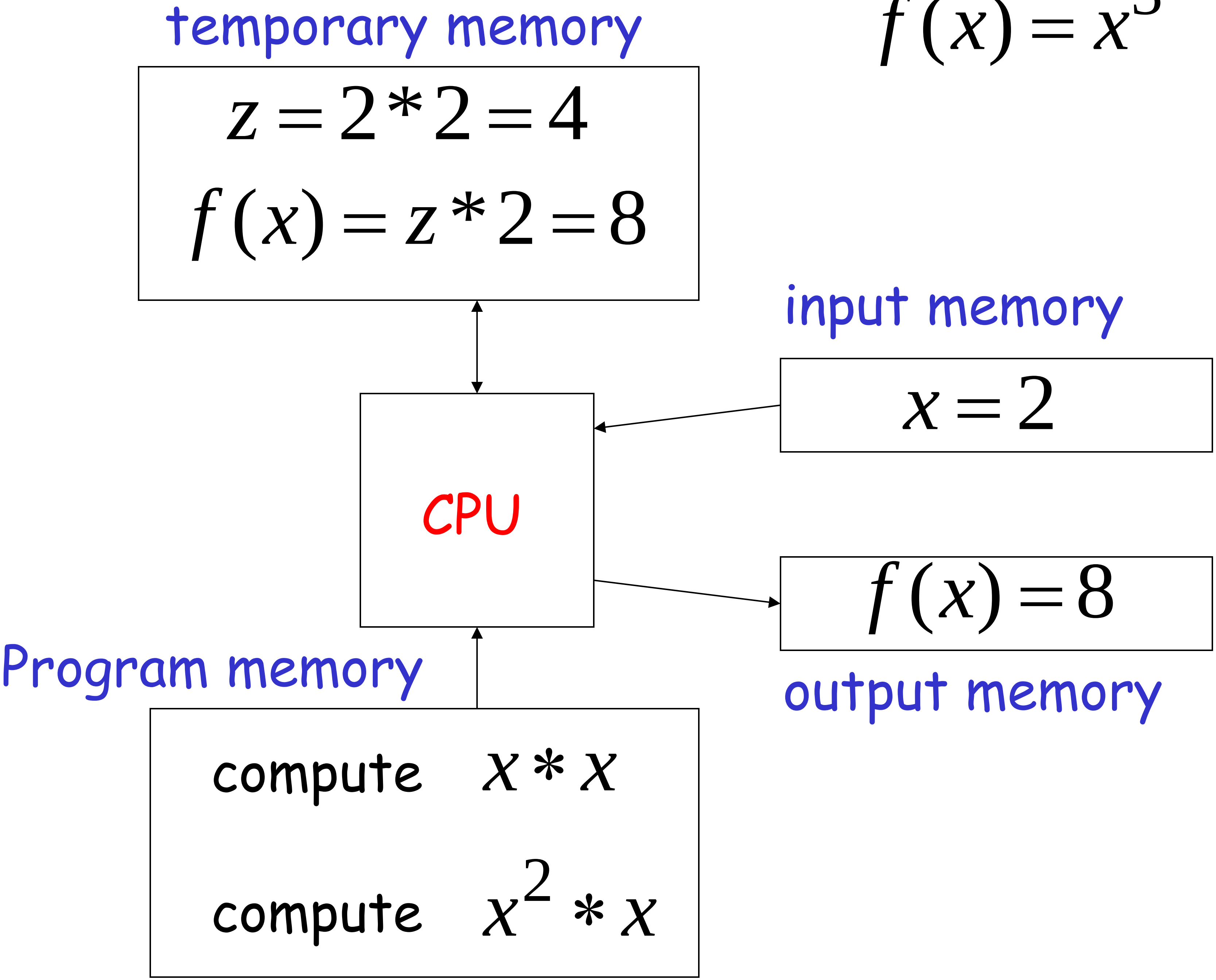
$$f(x) = x^3$$


temporary memory
input memory
$x = 2$
CPU
output memory
Program memory
compute $x * x$
compute $x^2 * x$

$$f(x) = x^3$$

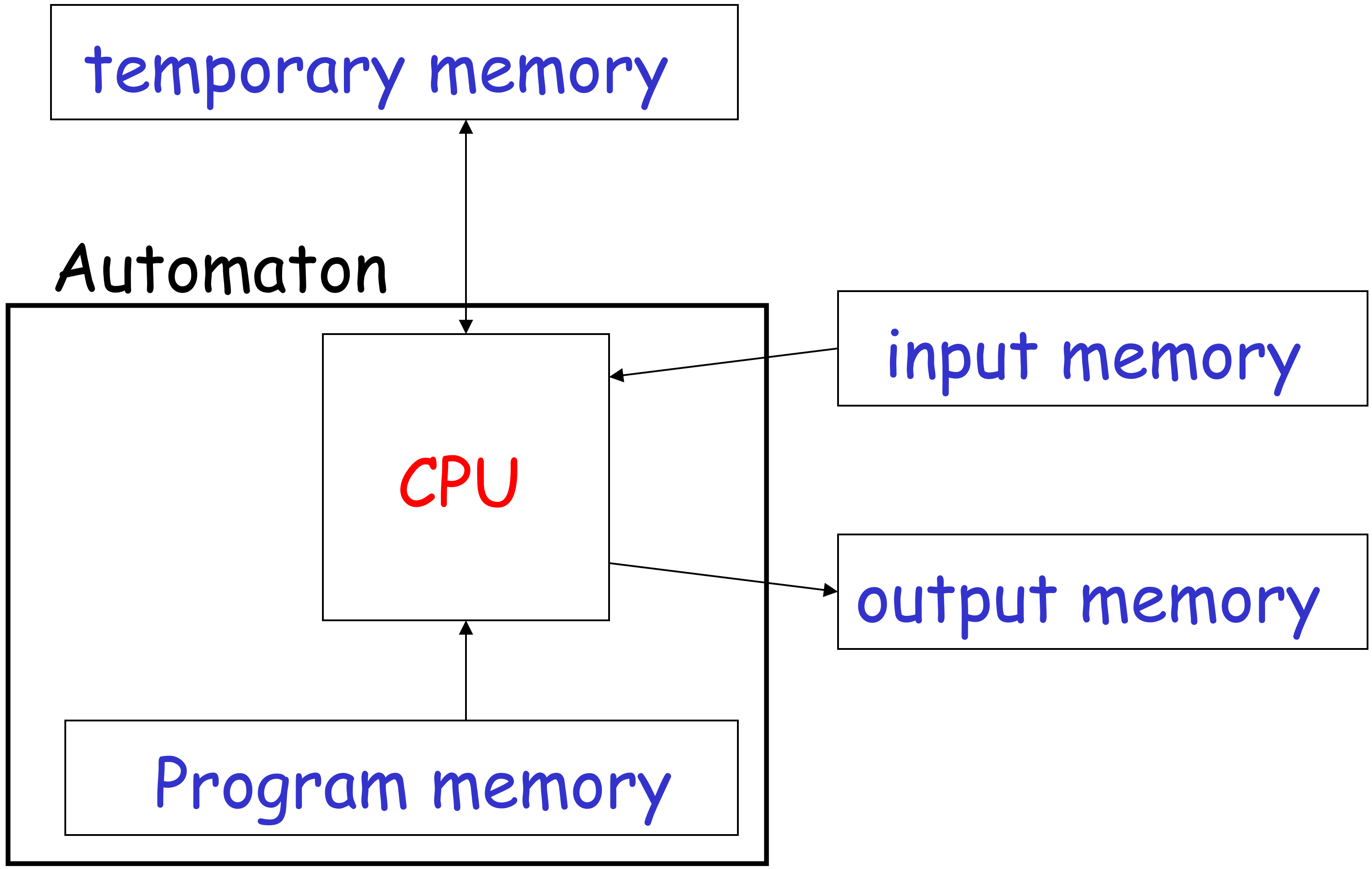

temporary memory
$z = 2*2 = 4$
$f(x) = z*2 = 8$
input memory
$x = 2$
CPU
output memory
Program memory
compute $x*x$
compute x^2*x

$$f(x) = x^3$$



temporary memory
$z = 2 * 2 = 4$
$f(x) = z * 2 = 8$
input memory
$x = 2$
CPU
$f(x) = 8$
output memory
Program memory
compute $x * x$
compute $x^2 * x$

Automaton

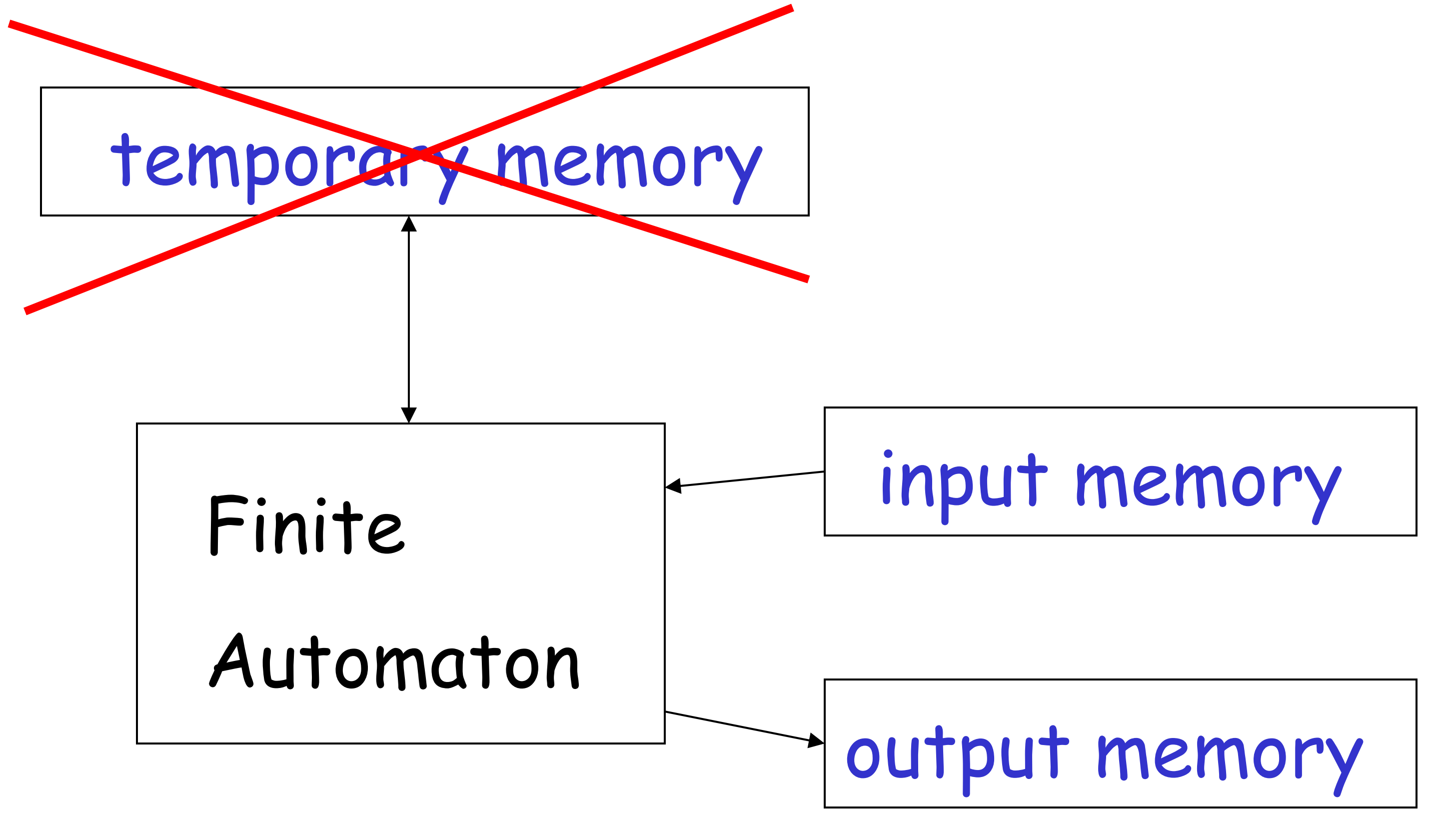

temporary memory
Automaton
CPU
input memory
output memory
Program memory

Different Kinds of Automata

Automata are distinguished by the temporary memory

- **Finite Automata:** no temporary memory
- **Pushdown Automata:** stack
- **Turing Machines:** random access memory

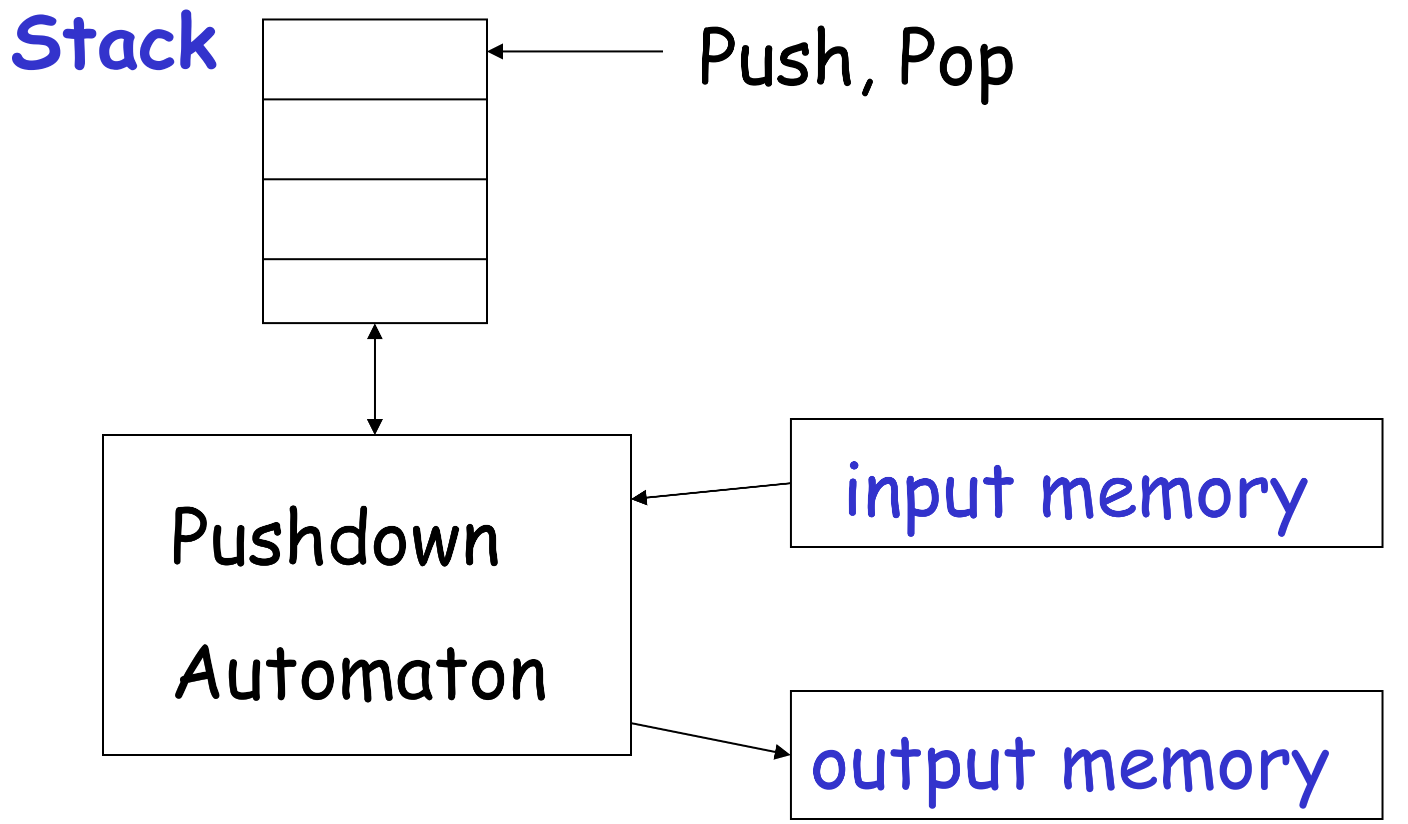
Finite Automaton



Example: Vending Machines

(small computing power)

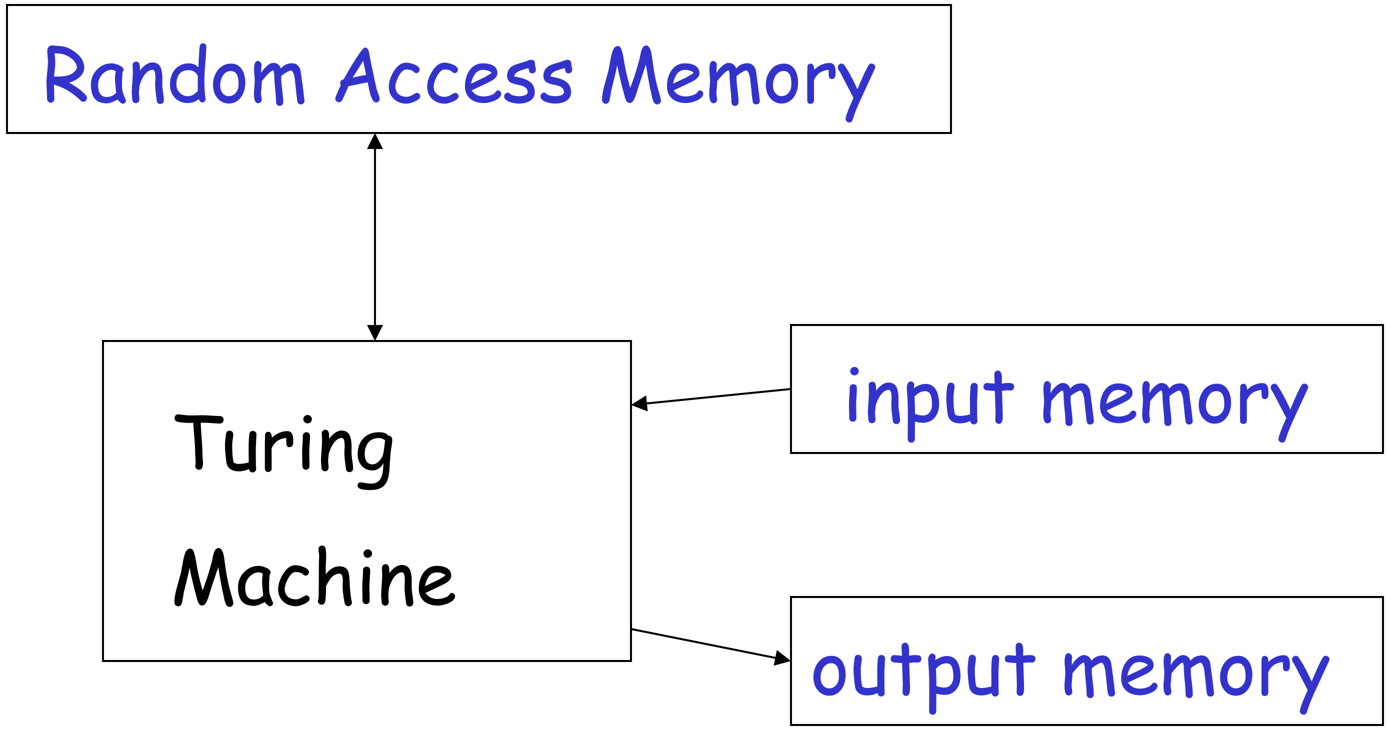
Pushdown Automaton



Example: Compilers for Programming Languages

(medium computing power)

Turing Machine



Examples: Any Algorithm

(highest computing power)

Power of Automata

Finite Automata $<$ Pushdown Automata $<$ Turing Machine

Less power $\longrightarrow$ More power

Solve more computational problems

Languages

A language is a set of strings

String: A sequence of letters

Examples: "cat", "dog", "house", …

Defined over an alphabet:

$$\Sigma = \{a, b, c, \ldots, z\}$$

Alphabets and Strings

We will use small alphabets: $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$

Strings

a

ab $\qquad u = ab$

$abba$ $\qquad v = bbbaaa$

$baba$ $\qquad w = abba$

$aaabbbaabab$

String Operations

$$w = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \qquad abba$$

$$v = b_1 b_2 \cdots b_m \qquad bbbaaa$$

Concatenation

$$wv = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n b_1 b_2 \cdots b_m \qquad abbabbbaaa$$

$$w = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \qquad ababaaabbb$$

Reverse

$$w^R = a_n \cdots a_2 a_1 \qquad bbbaaababa$$

String Length

$$w = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$$

Length: $|w| = n$

Examples: $|abba| = 4$

$$|aa| = 2$$

$$|a| = 1$$

Length of Concatenation

$$|uv| = |u| + |v|$$

Example: $u = aab, \quad |u| = 3$

$v = abaab, \quad |v| = 5$

$$|uv| = |aababaab| = 8$$

$$|uv| = |u| + |v| = 3 + 5 = 8$$

Empty String

A string with no letters: λ

Observations: $|\lambda| = 0$

$$\lambda w = w\lambda = w$$

$$\lambda abba = abba\lambda = abba$$

Substring

Substring of string:

a subsequence of consecutive characters

String	Substring
$abbab$	ab
$abbab$	$abba$
$abbab$	b
$abbab$	$bbab$

Prefix and Suffix

$abbab$

Prefixes	Suffixes
λ	$abbab$
a	$bbab$
ab	bab
abb	ab
$abba$	b
$abbab$	λ

$w = uv$

prefix

suffix

Another Operation

$$w^n = \underbrace{ww\cdots w}_{n}$$

Example: $(abba)^2 = abbaabba$

Definition: $w^0 = \lambda$

$$(abba)^0 = \lambda$$

....end

The * Operation

$\Sigma *$: the set of all possible strings from alphabet Σ

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

$$\Sigma * = \{\lambda, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \ldots\}$$

The + Operation

Σ^{+} : the set of all possible strings from alphabet Σ except λ

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

$$\Sigma^* = \{\lambda, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \ldots\}$$

$$\Sigma^{+} = \Sigma^* - \lambda$$

$$\Sigma^{+} = \{a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \ldots\}$$

Languages

A language is any subset of Σ^*

Example: $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$

$$\Sigma^* = \{\lambda, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, \ldots\}$$

Languages: $\{\lambda\}$

$$\{a, aa, aab\}$$

$$\{\lambda, abba, baba, aa, ab, aaaaaa\}$$

Note that:

Sets $\emptyset = \{\ \} \neq \{\lambda\}$

Set size $|\{\ \}| = |\emptyset| = 0$

Set size $|\{\lambda\}| = 1$

String length $|\lambda| = 0$

Another Example

An infinite language $L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \lambda \\ ab \\ aabb \\ aaaaabbbbb \end{array}\right\} \in L \qquad abb \notin L$$

Operations on Languages

The usual set operations

$$\{a, ab, aaaa\} \cup \{bb, ab\} = \{a, ab, bb, aaaa\}$$

$$\{a, ab, aaaa\} \cap \{bb, ab\} = \{ab\}$$

$$\{a, ab, aaaa\} - \{bb, ab\} = \{a, aaaa\}$$

Complement: $\overline{L} = \Sigma^* - L$

$$\overline{\{a, ba\}} = \{\lambda, b, aa, ab, bb, aaa, \ldots\}$$

Reverse

Definition: $L^R = \{w^R : w \in L\}$

Examples: $\{ab, aab, baba\}^R = \{ba, baa, abab\}$

$$L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$$

$$L^R = \{b^n a^n : n \geq 0\}$$

Concatenation

Definition: $L_1 L_2 = \{xy : x \in L_1, y \in L_2\}$

Example: $\{a, ab, ba\}\{b, aa\}$

$$= \{ab, aaa, abb, abaa, bab, baaa\}$$

Another Operation

Definition: $$L^n = \underbrace{LL \cdots L}_{n}$$

$$\{a,b\}^3 = \{a,b\}\{a,b\}\{a,b\} =$$
$$\{aaa, aab, aba, abb, baa, bab, bba, bbb\}$$

Special case: $L^0 = \{\lambda\}$

$$\{a, bba, aaa\}^0 = \{\lambda\}$$

More Examples

$$L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$$

$$L^2 = \{a^n b^n a^m b^m : n, m \geq 0\}$$

$$aabbaaabbb \in L^2$$

Star-Closure (Kleene *)

Definition: $L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup L^2 \cdots$

Example:

$$\{a, bb\}^* = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda, \\ a, bb, \\ aa, abb, bba, bbbb, \\ aaa, aabb, abba, abbbb, \ldots \end{array} \right\}$$

Positive Closure

Definition: $$L^+ = L^1 \bigcup L^2 \bigcup \cdots$$
$$= L^* - \{\lambda\}$$

$$\{a, bb\}^+ = \left\{ \begin{matrix} a, bb, \\ aa, abb, bba, bbbb, \\ aaa, aabb, abba, abbbb, \ldots \end{matrix} \right\}$$