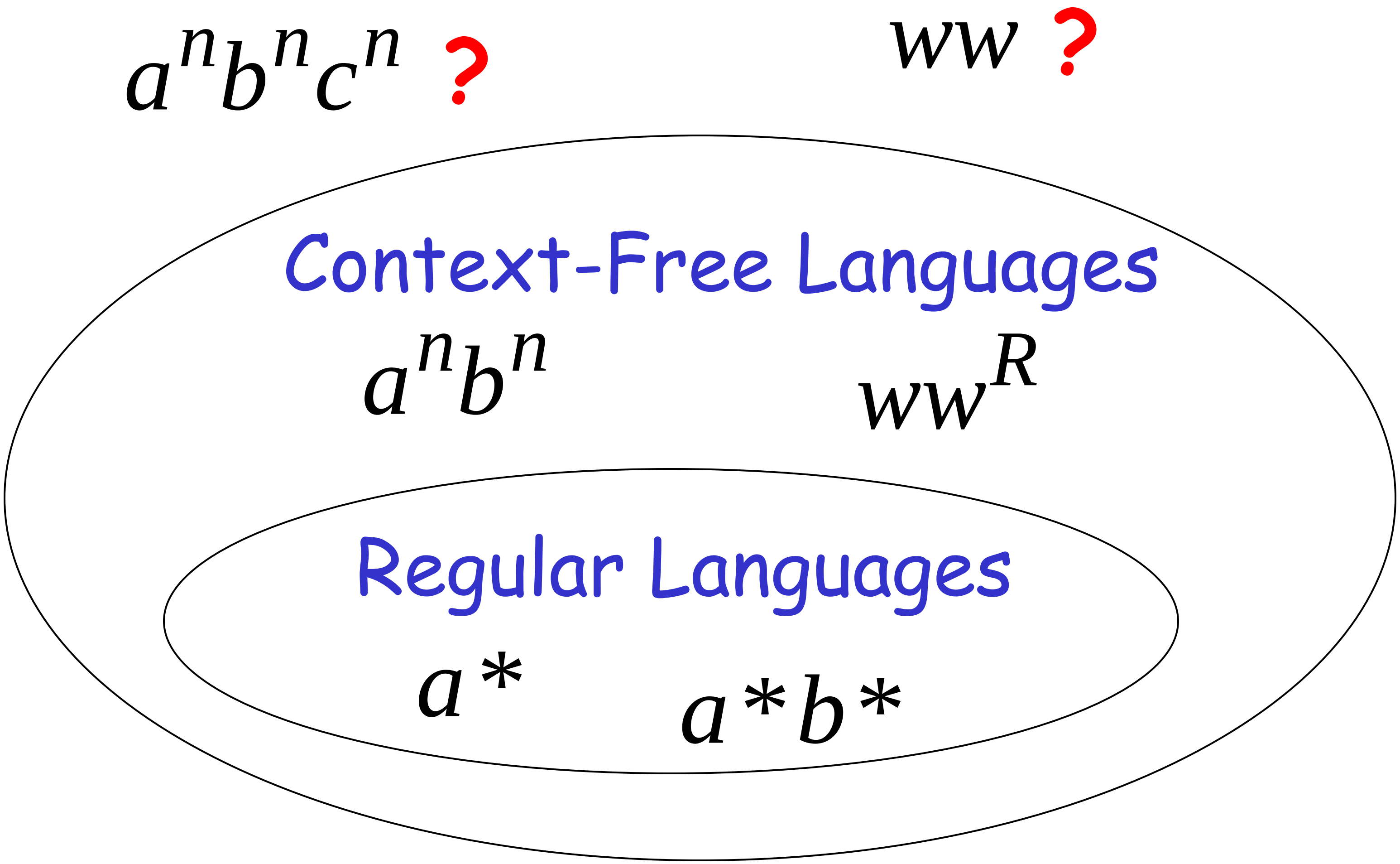
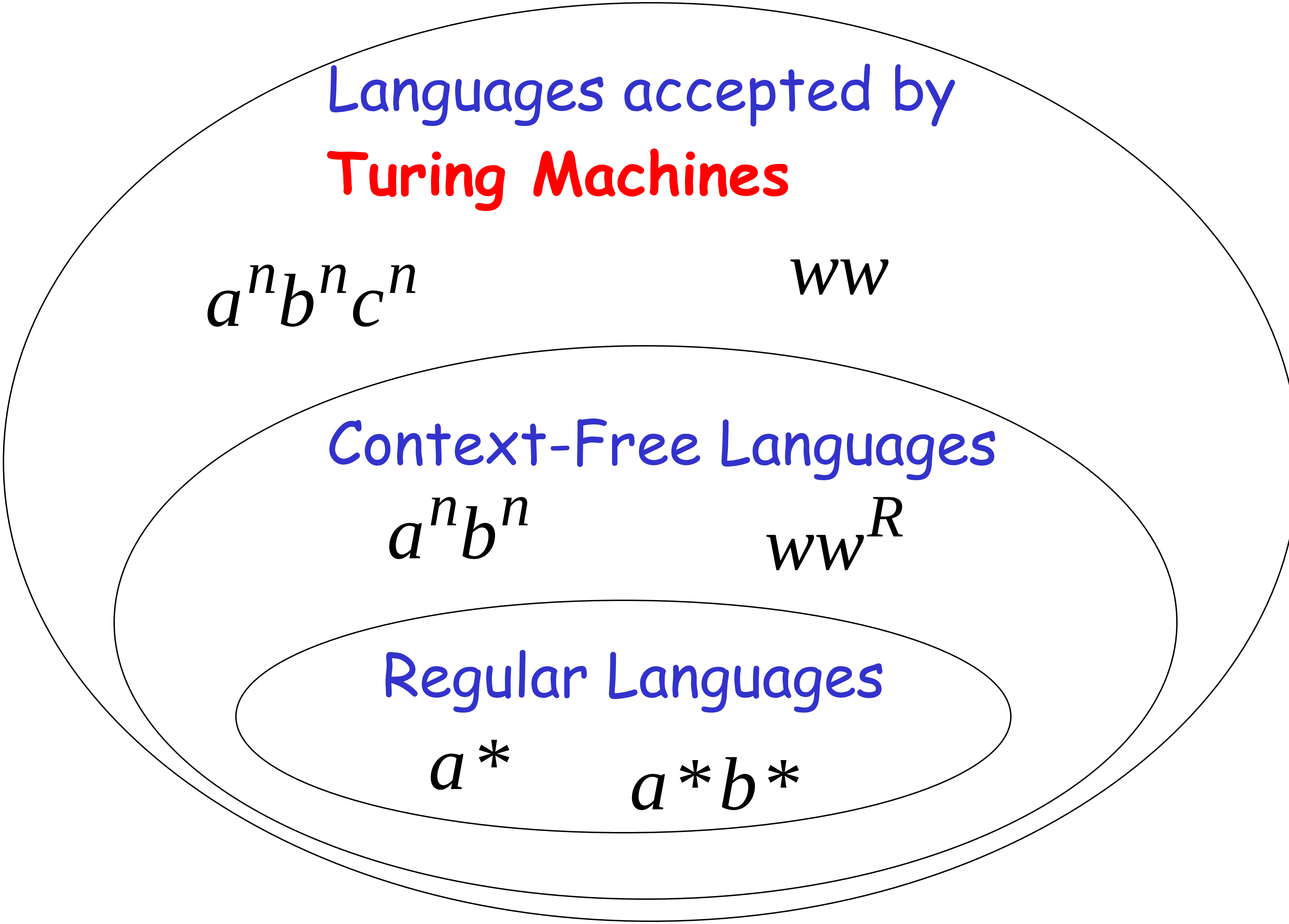
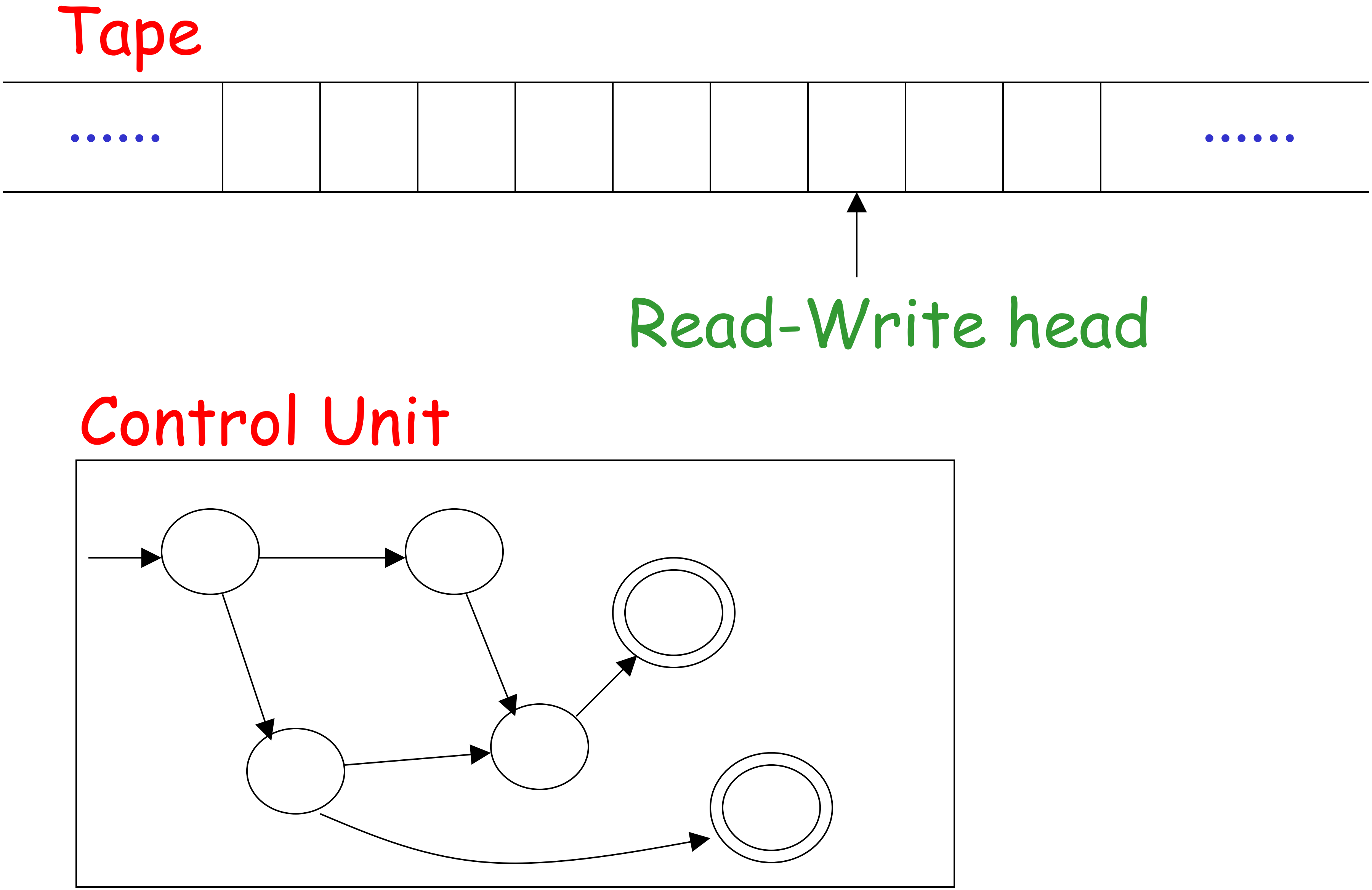
Formal Languages
Turing Machines

The Language Hierarchy



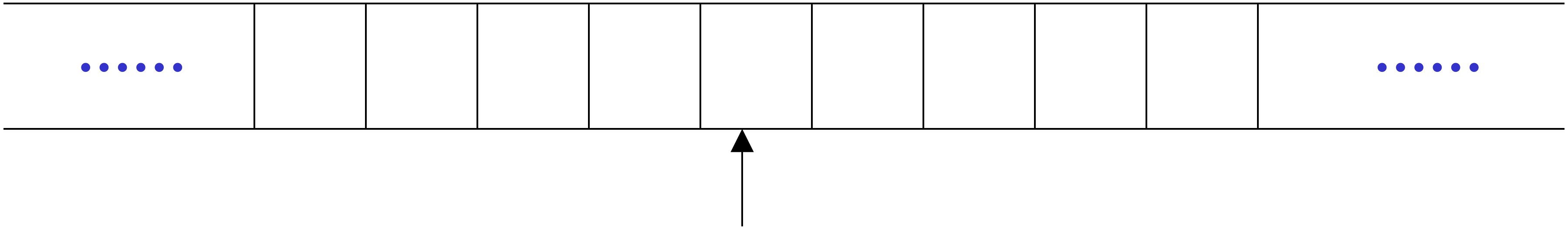

Languages accepted by
Turing Machines
$a^n b^n c^n$
ww
Context-Free Languages
$a^n b^n$
ww^R
Regular Languages
a^*
$a^* b^*$

A Turing Machine



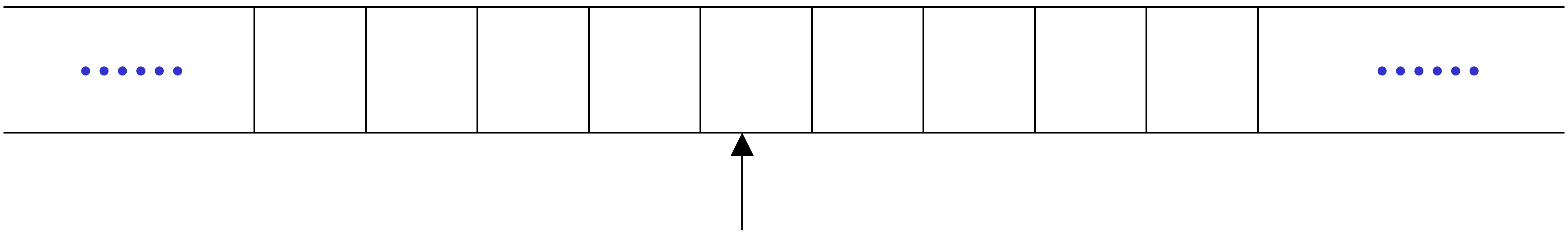
The Tape

No boundaries -- infinite length



Read-Write head

The head moves Left or Right



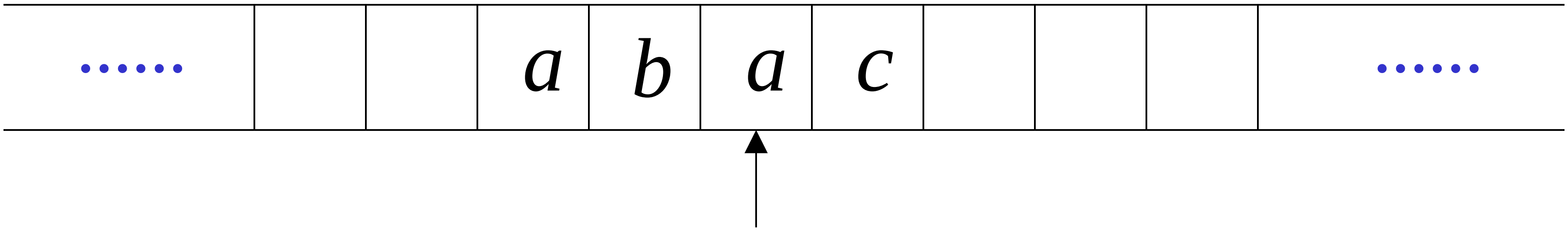
Read-Write head

The head at each time step:

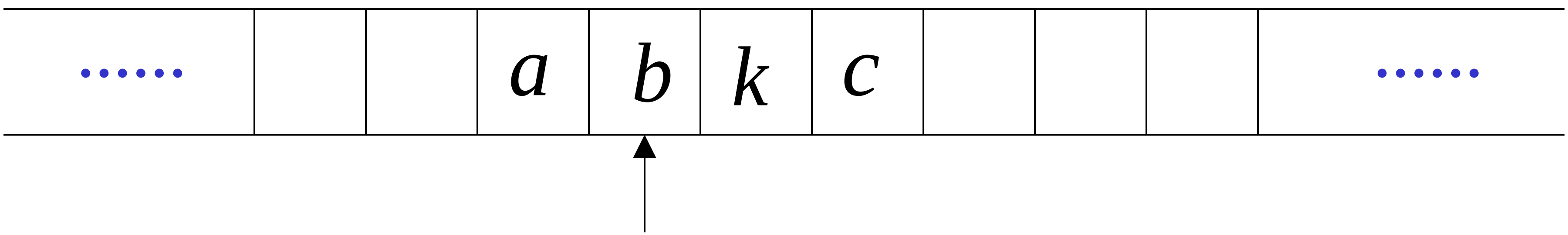
1. Reads a symbol
2. Writes a symbol
3. Moves Left or Right

Example:

Time 0

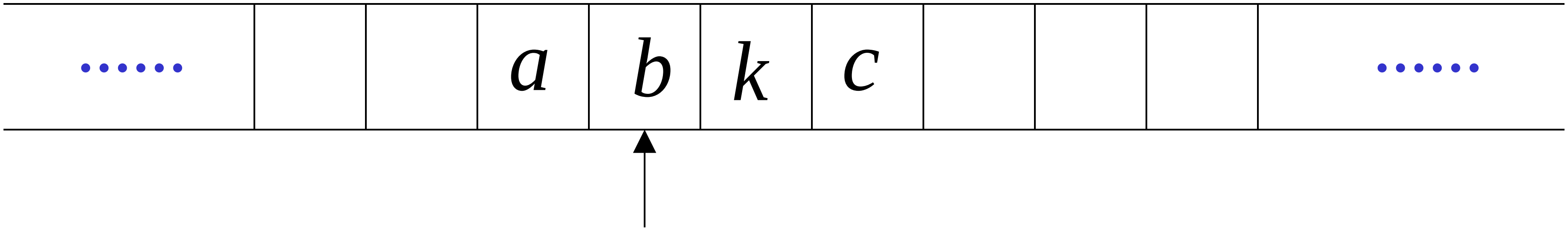


Time 1

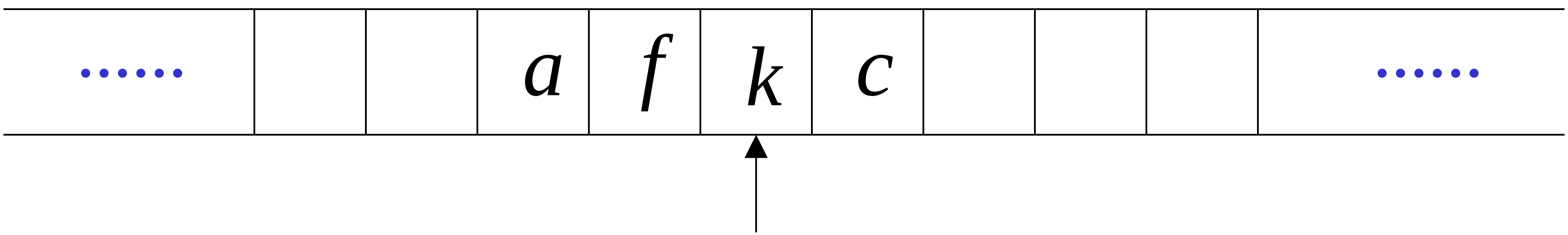


1. Reads a
2. Writes k
3. Moves Left

Time 1

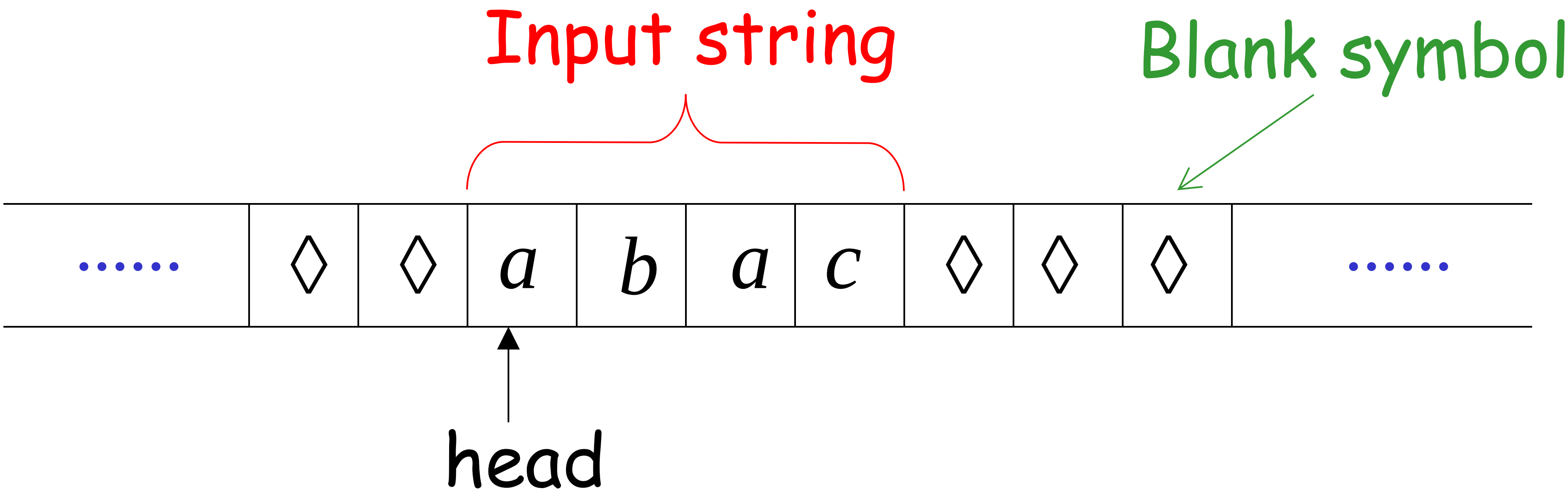


Time 2

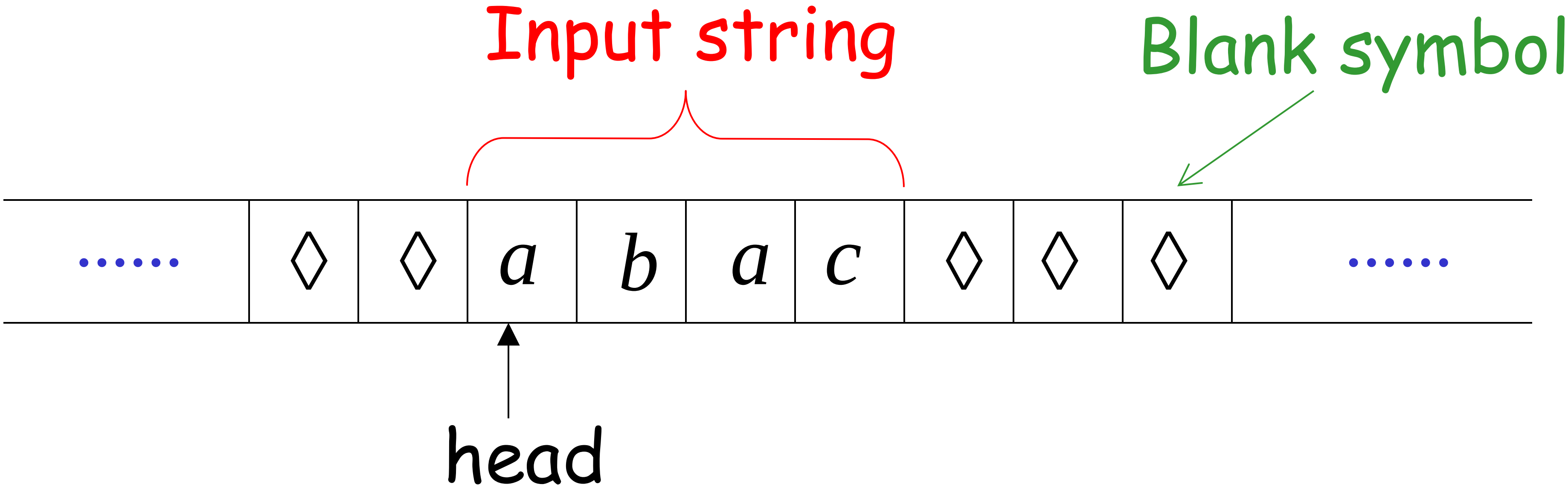


1. Reads b
2. Writes f
3. Moves Right

The Input String

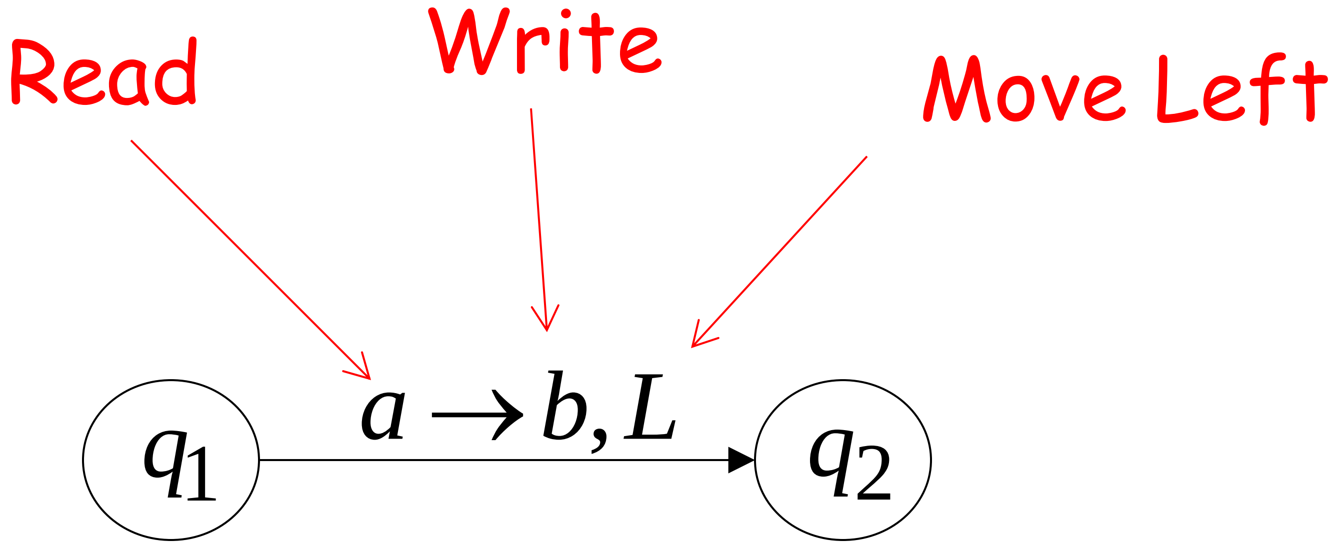


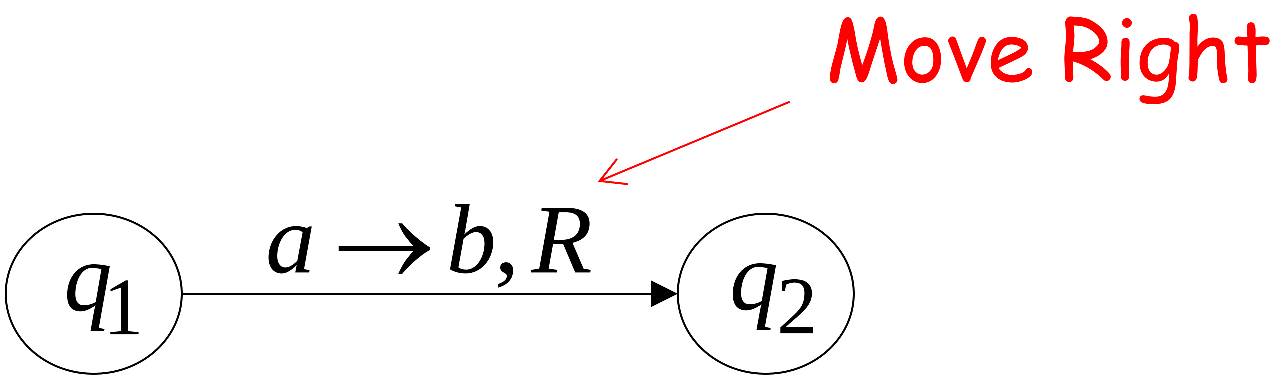
Head starts at the leftmost position of the input string



Remark: the input string is never empty

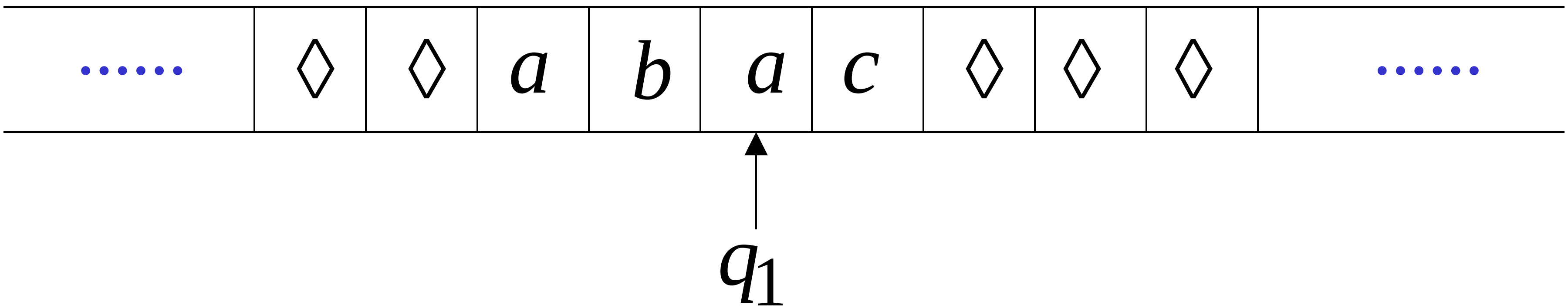
States & Transitions



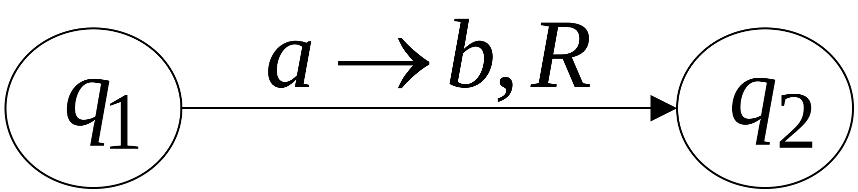


Example:

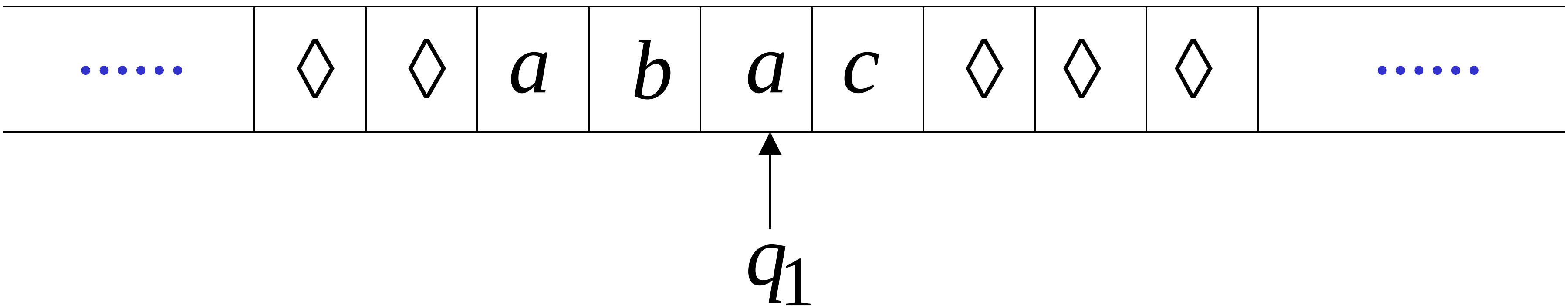
Time 1



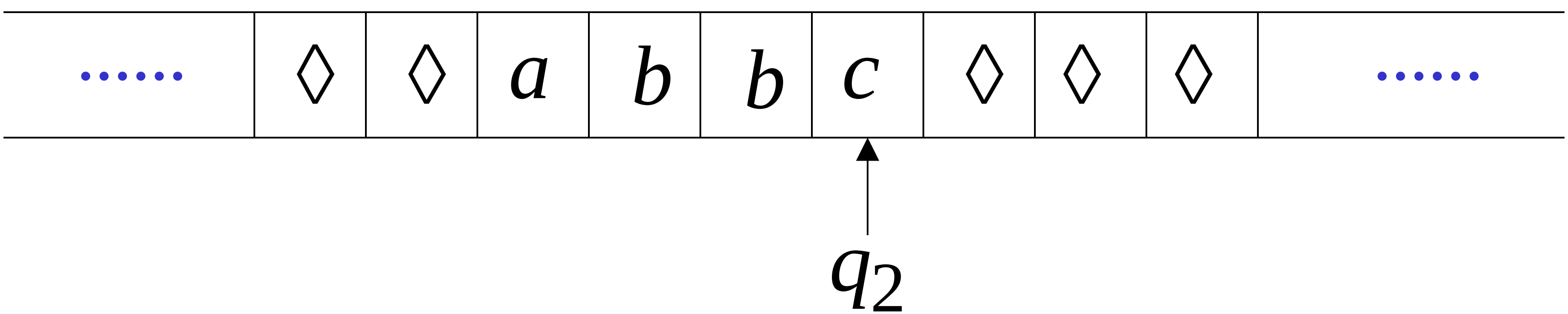
current state



Time 1



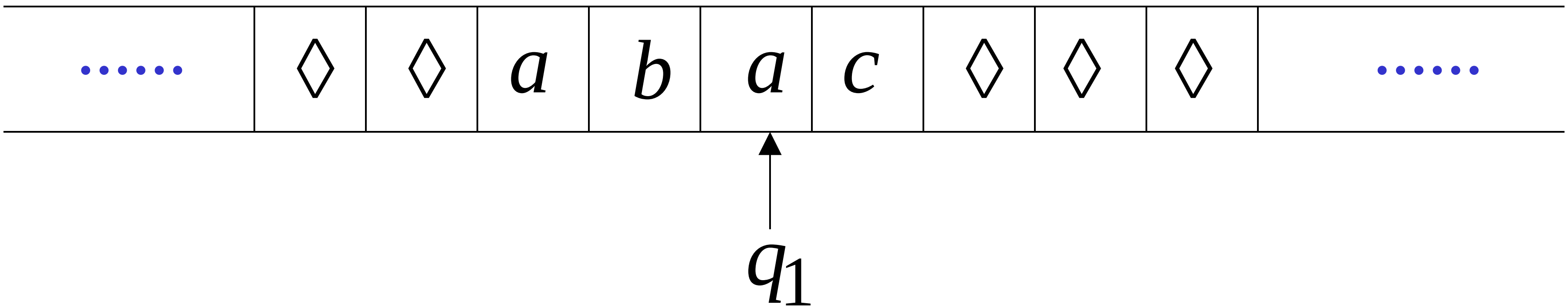
Time 2



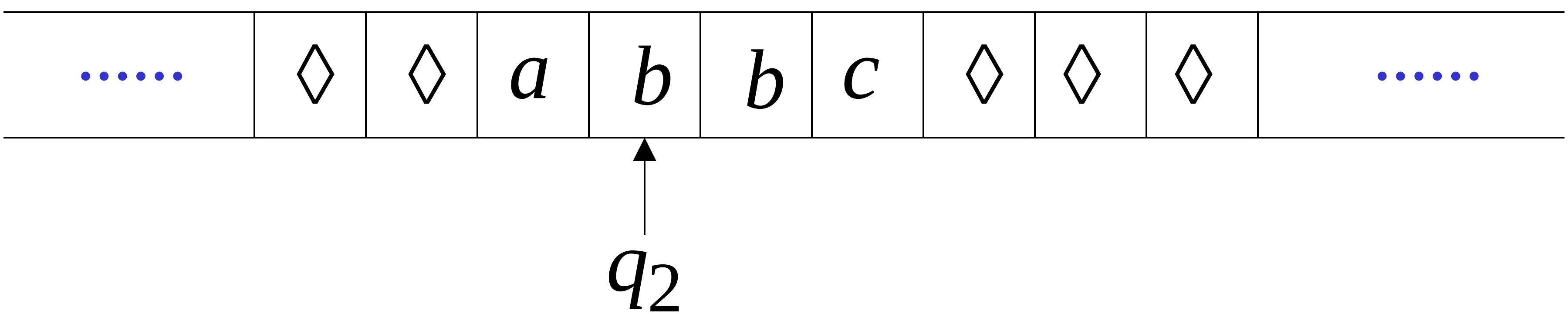
$$q_1 \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow b, R} q_2$$

Example:

Time 1



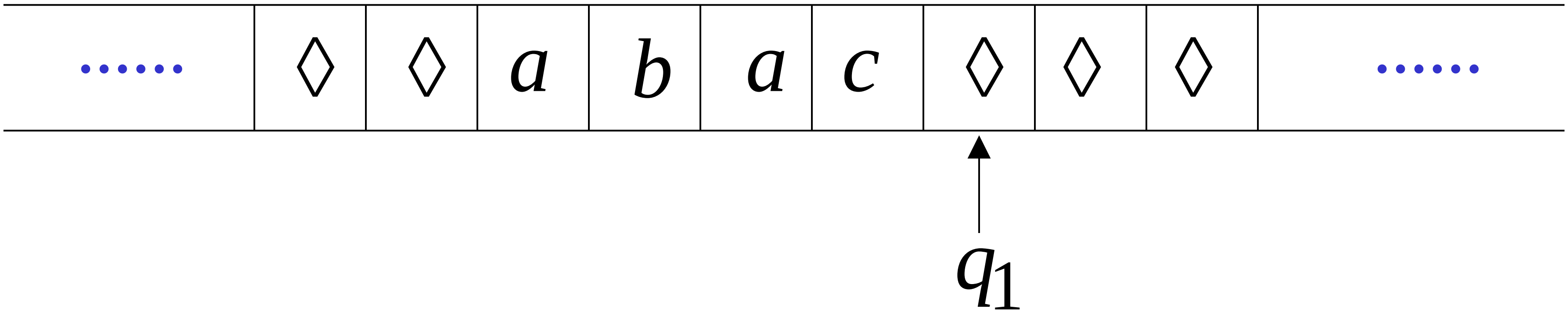
Time 2



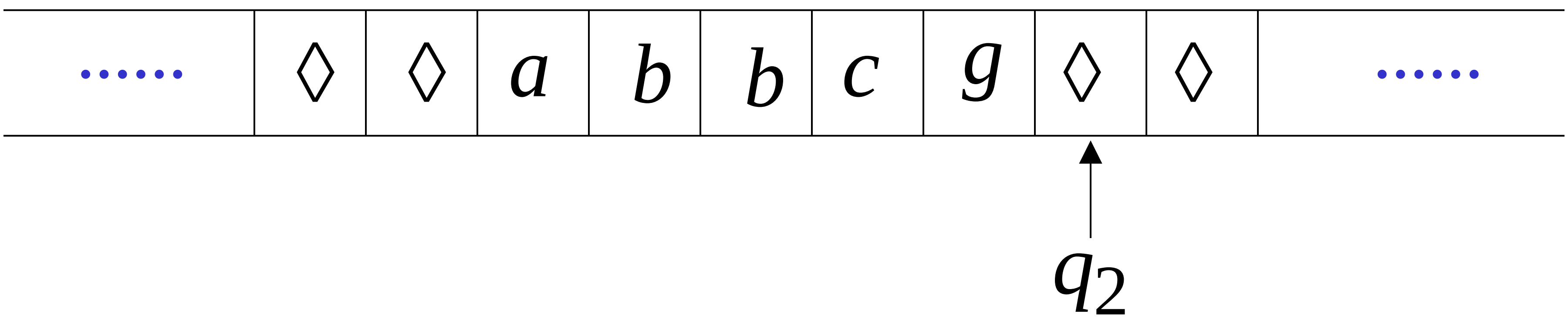
$$q_1 \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow b, L} q_2$$

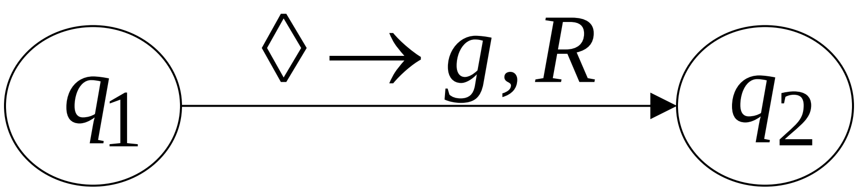
Example:

Time 1



Time 2

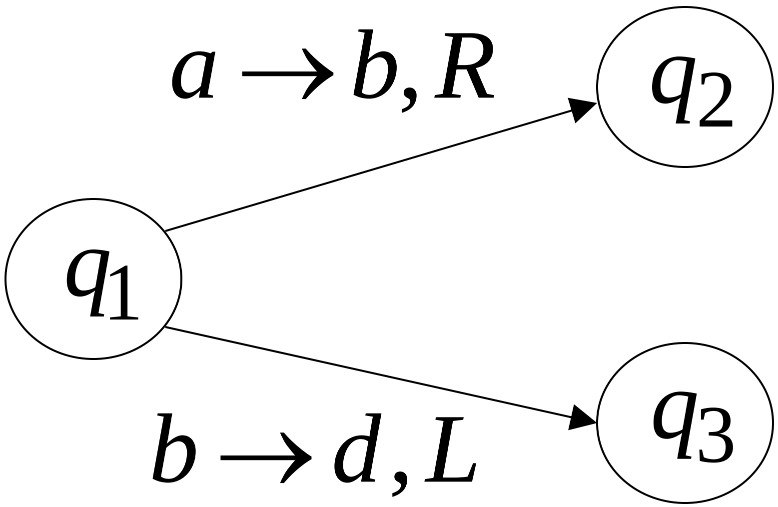




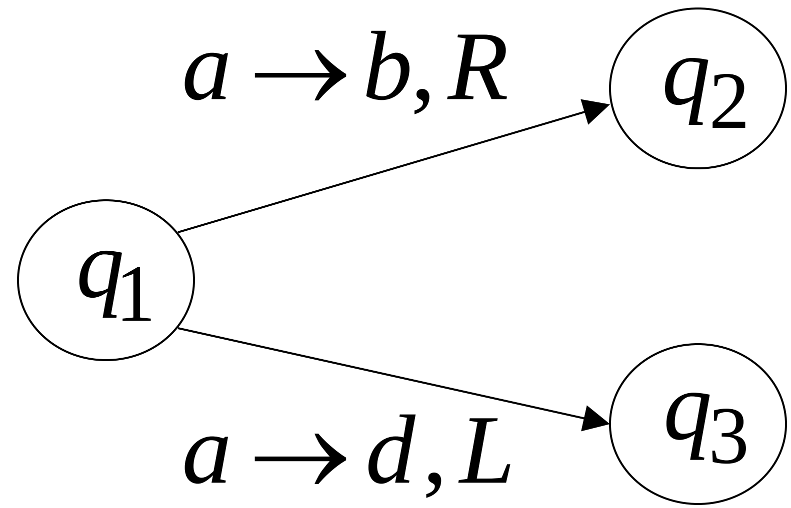
Determinism

Turing Machines are deterministic

Allowed



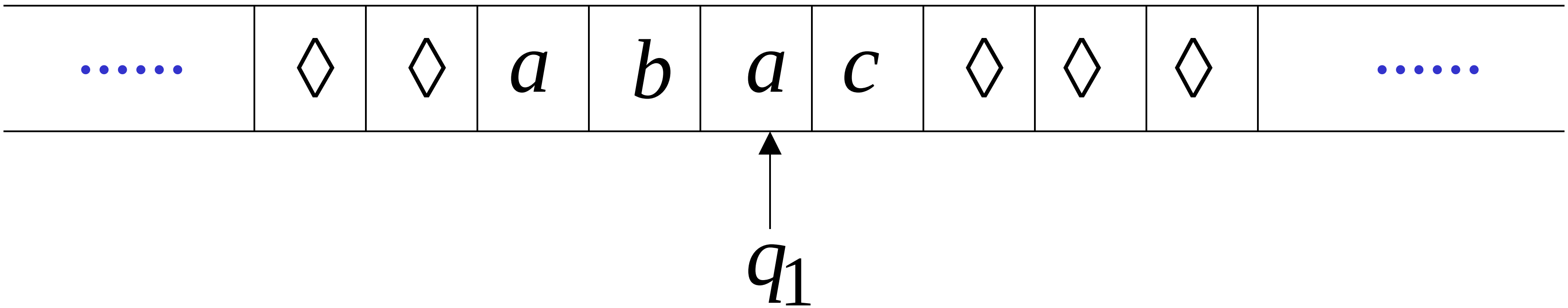
Not Allowed

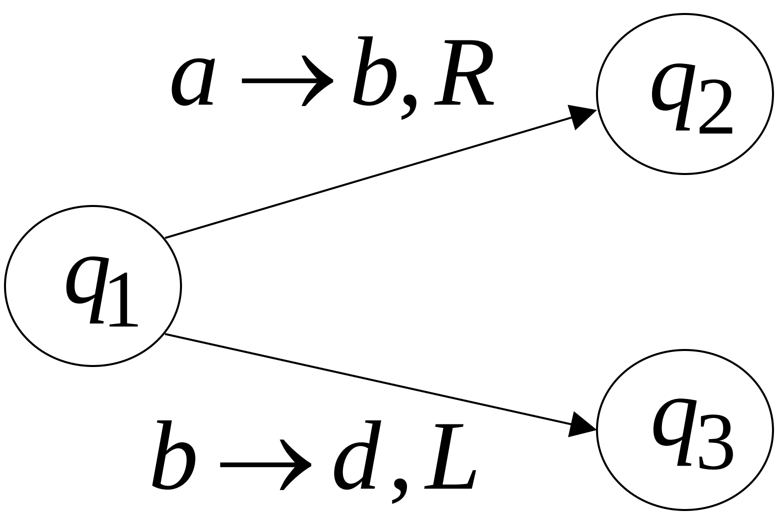


No lambda transitions allowed

Partial Transition Function

Example:





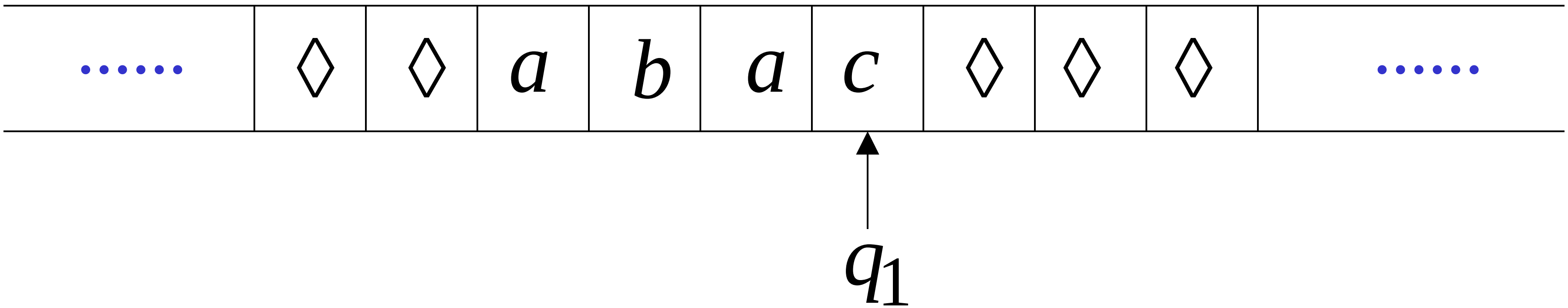
<u>Allowed:</u>

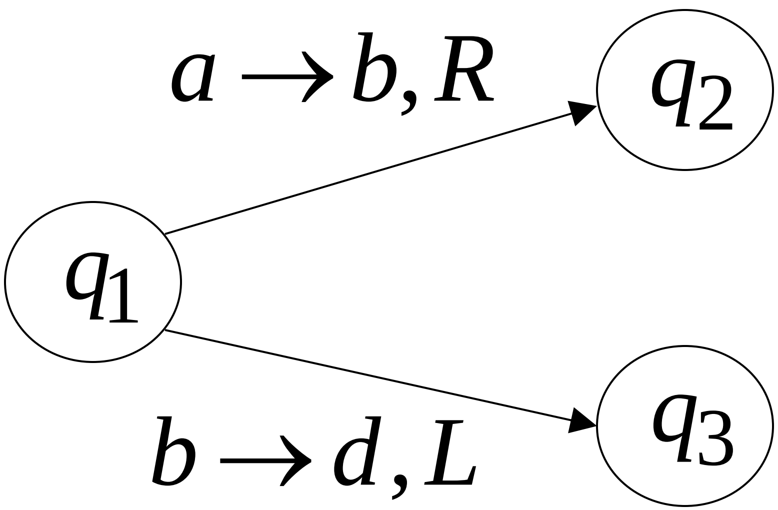
No transition
for input symbol c

Halting

The machine ***halts*** if there are no possible transitions to follow

Example:

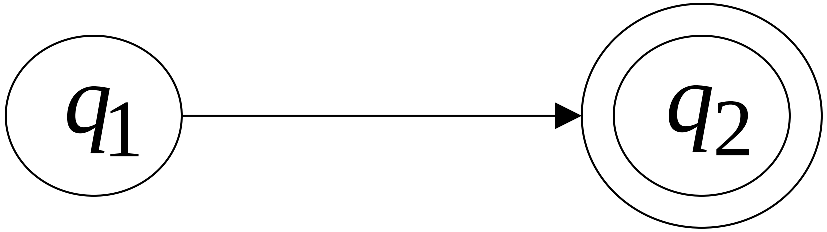




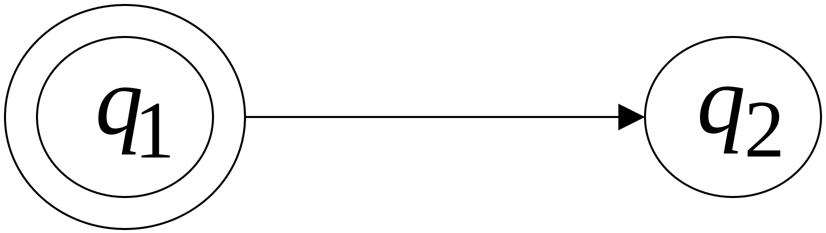
No possible transition

HALT!!!

Final States



Allowed



Not Allowed

- Final states have no outgoing transitions

- In a final state the machine halts

Acceptance

Accept Input → If machine halts in a final state

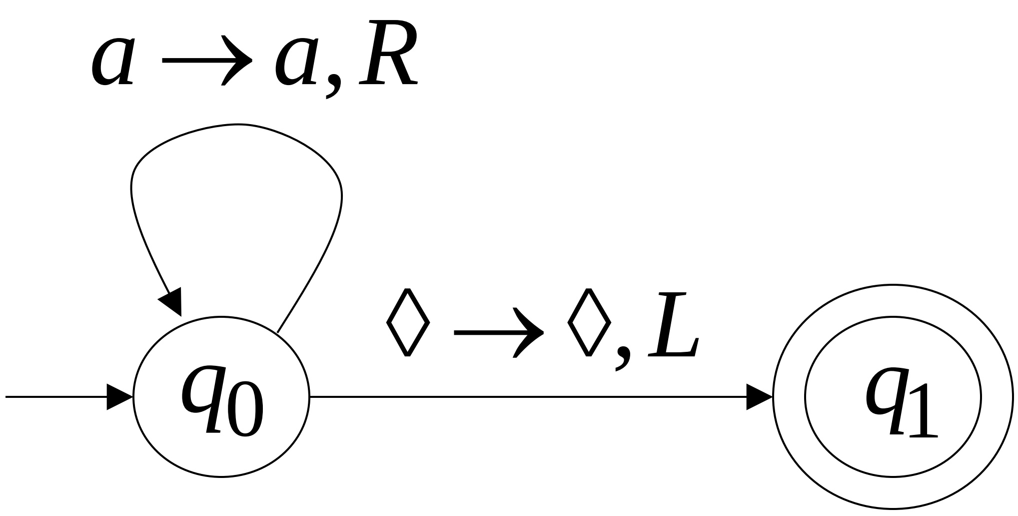
Reject Input → If machine halts in a non-final state

or

If machine enters an *infinite loop*

Turing Machine Example

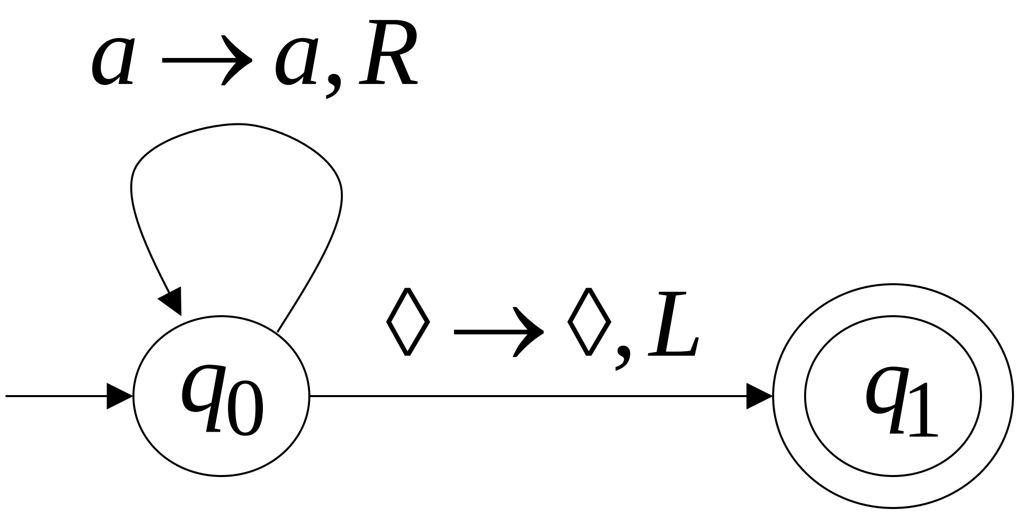
Language?



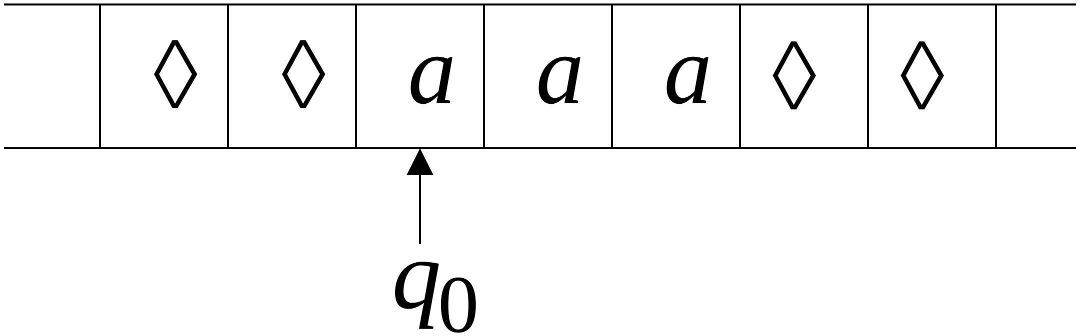
Turing Machine Example

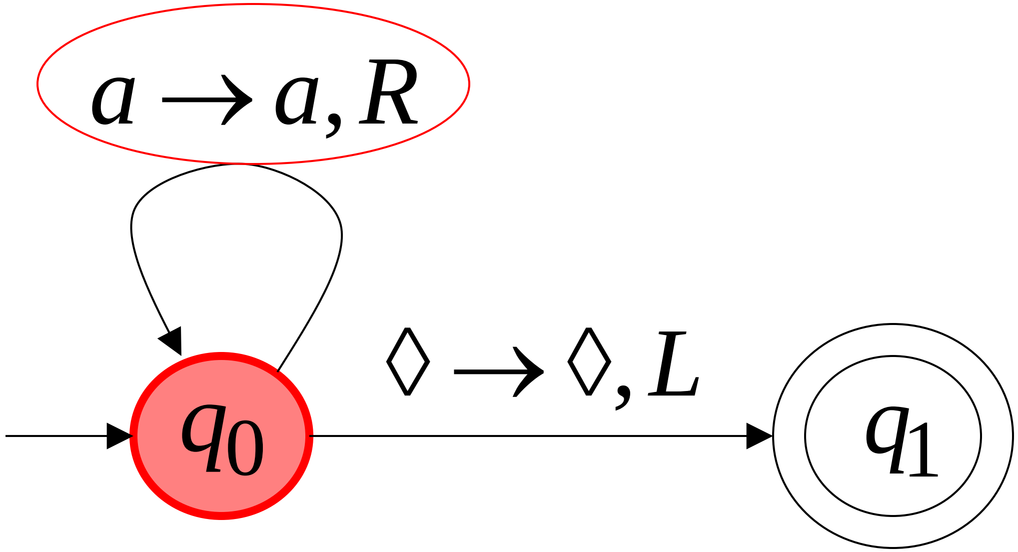
A Turing machine that accepts the language:

$$aa^*$$

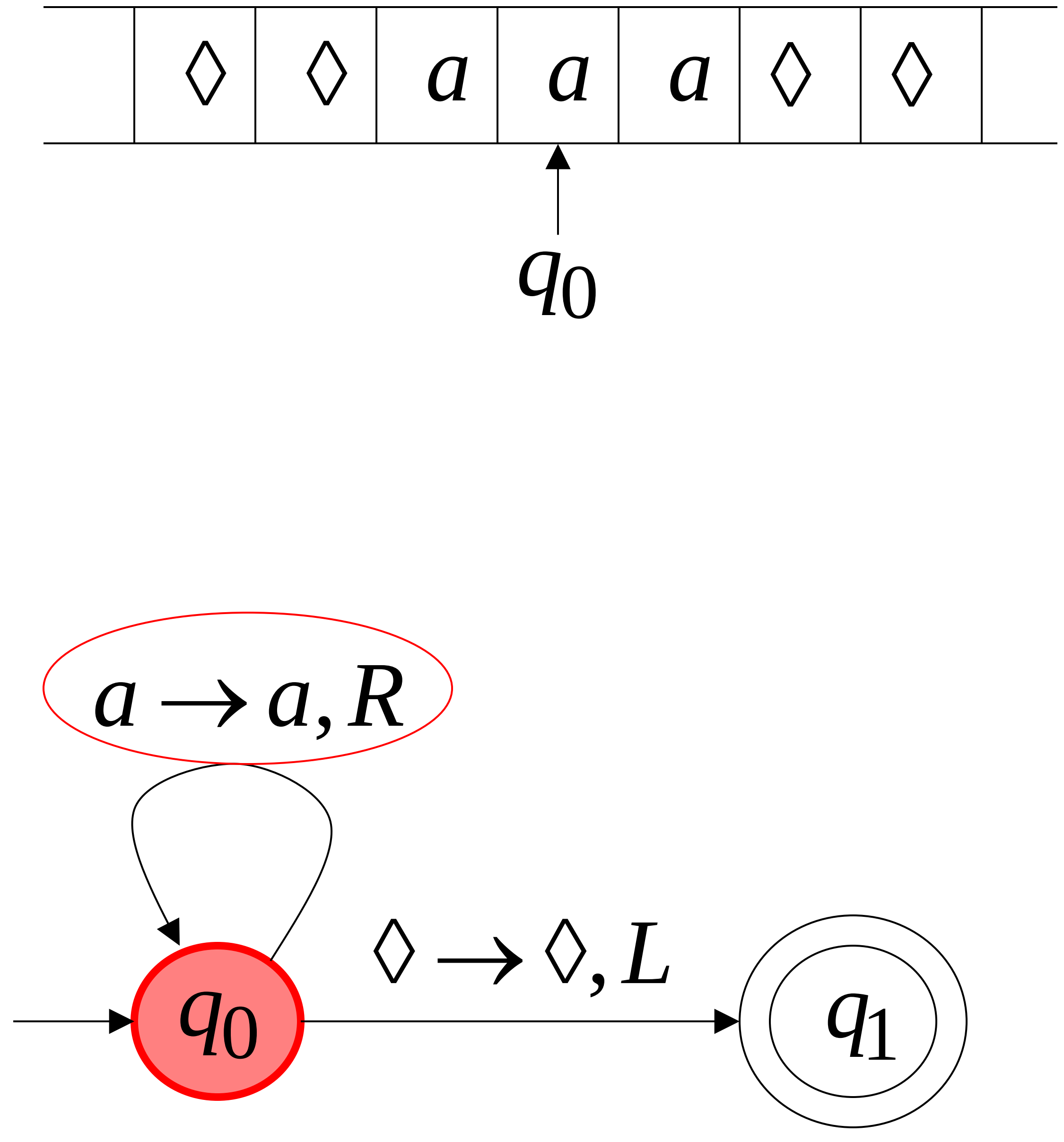


Time 0

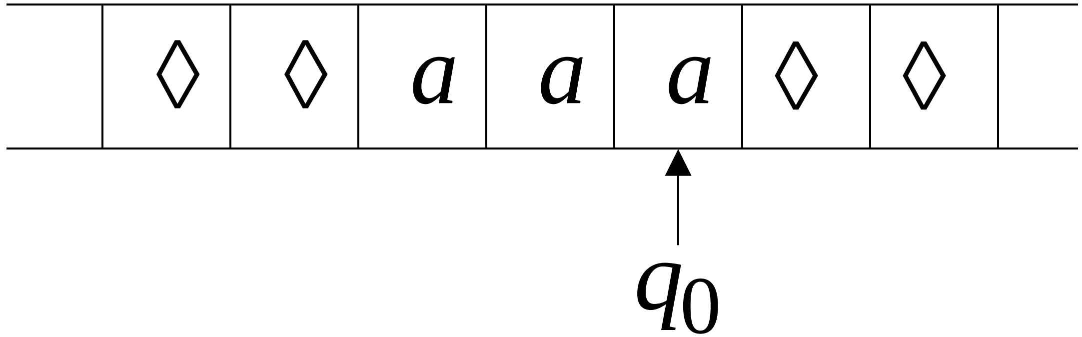


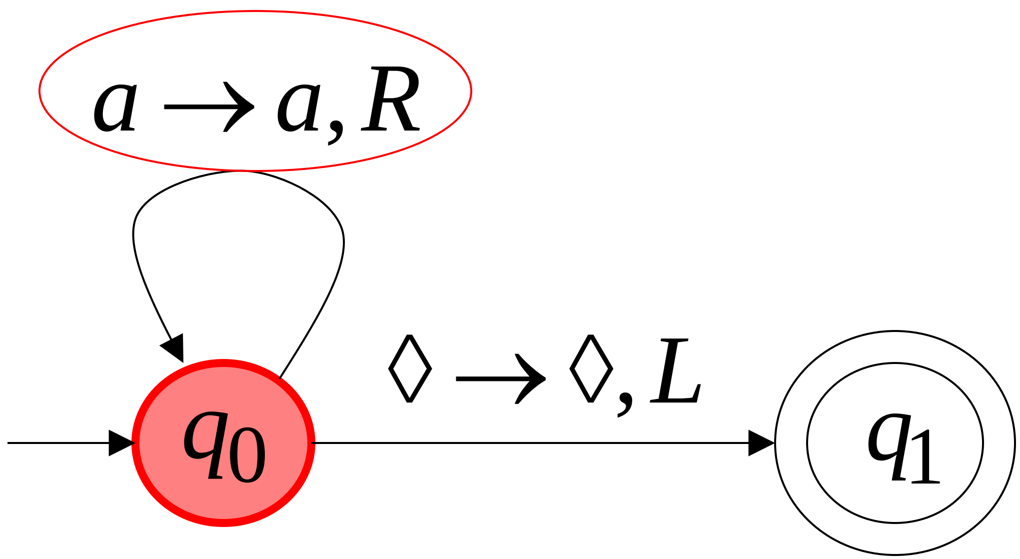


Time 1

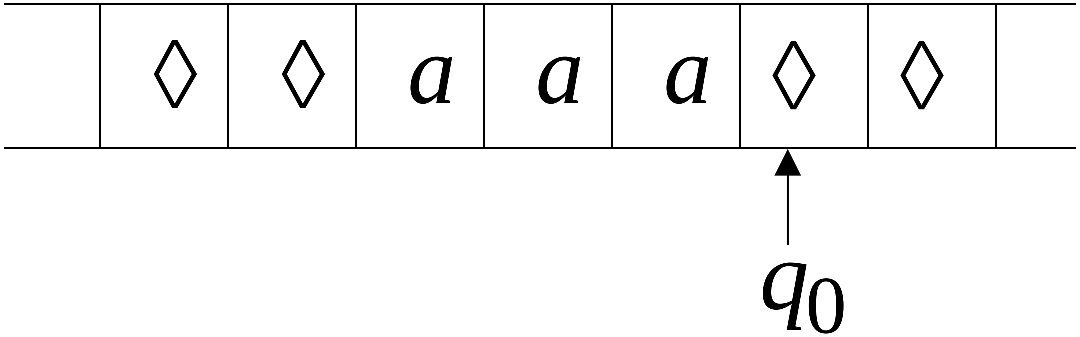


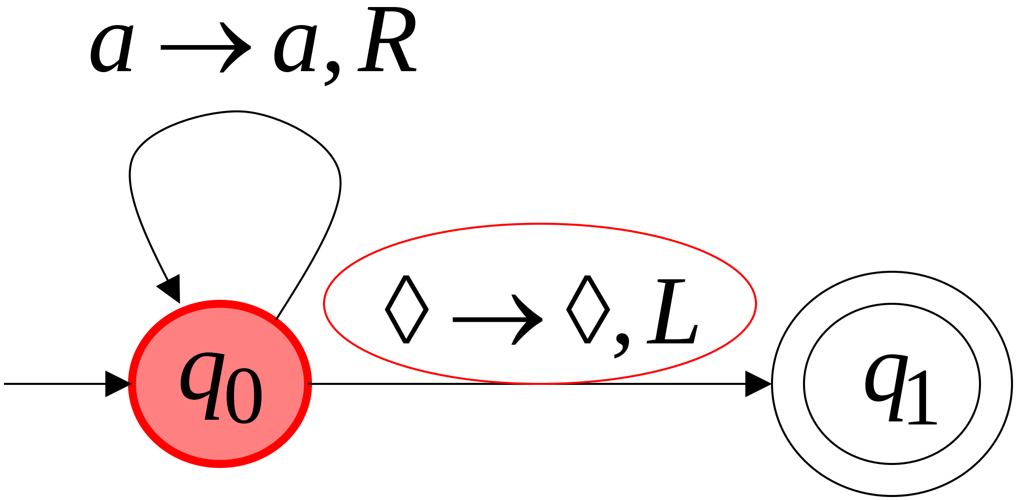
Time 2



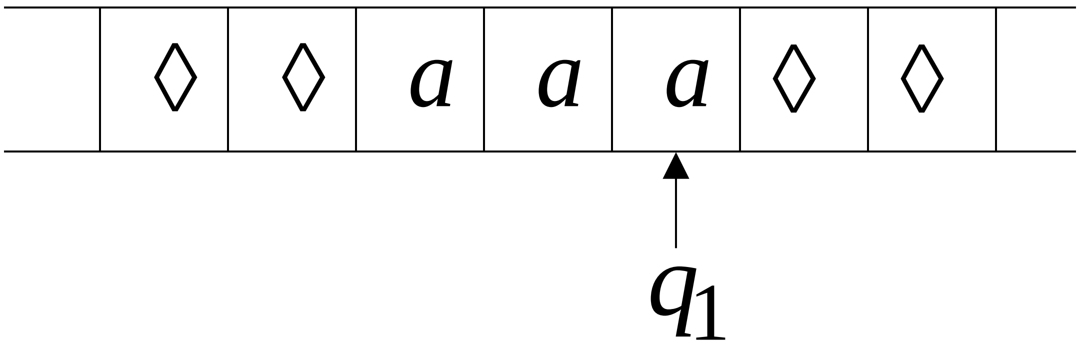


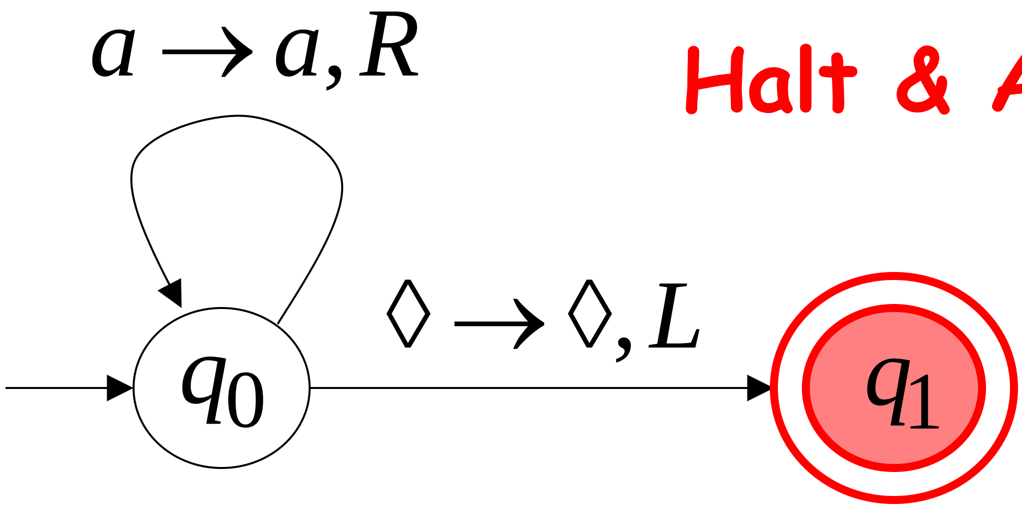
Time 3





Time 4

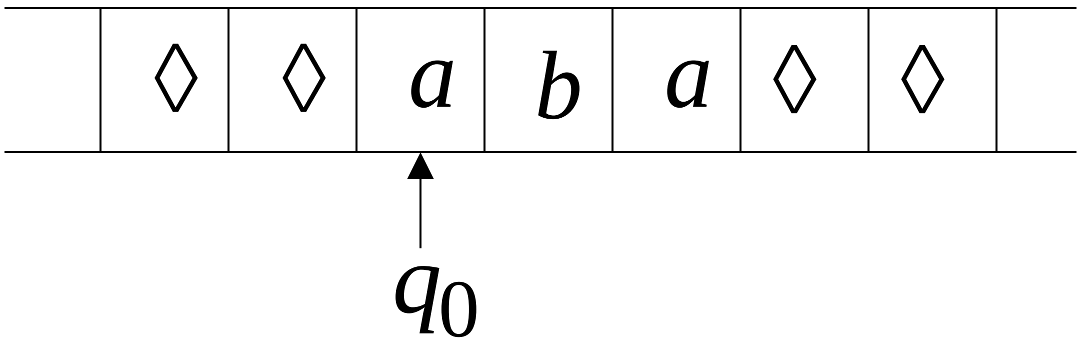


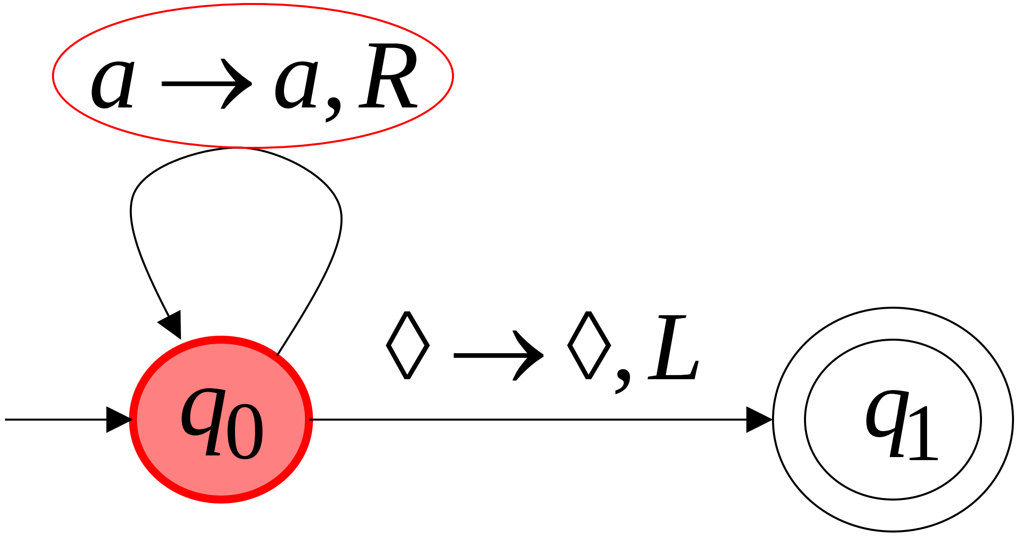


Halt & Accept

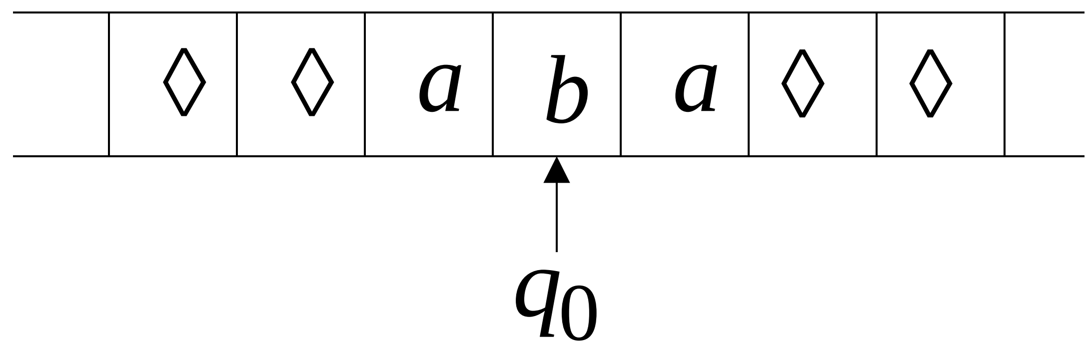
Rejection Example

Time 0



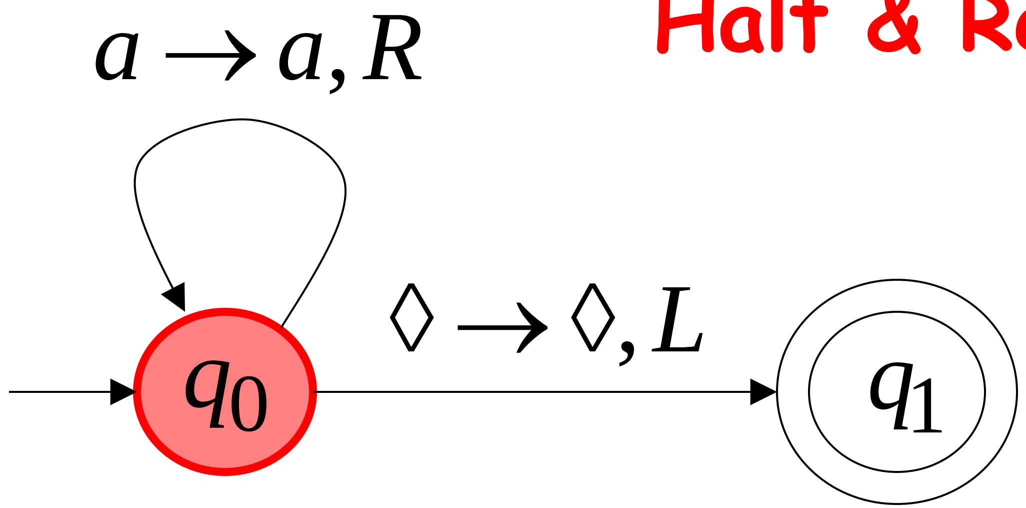


Time 1

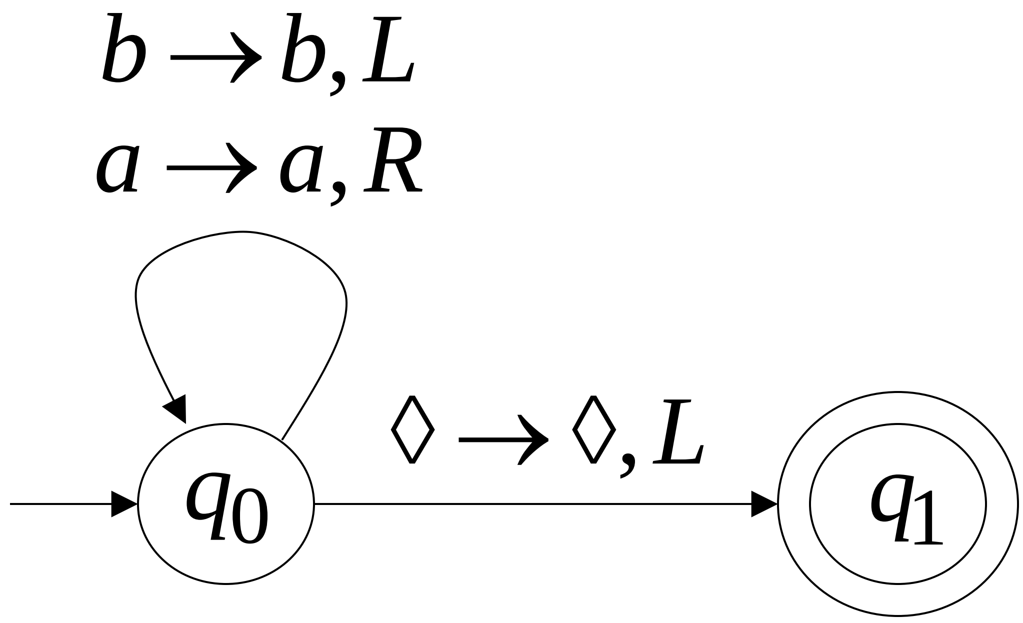


No possible Transition

Halt & Reject



Language?

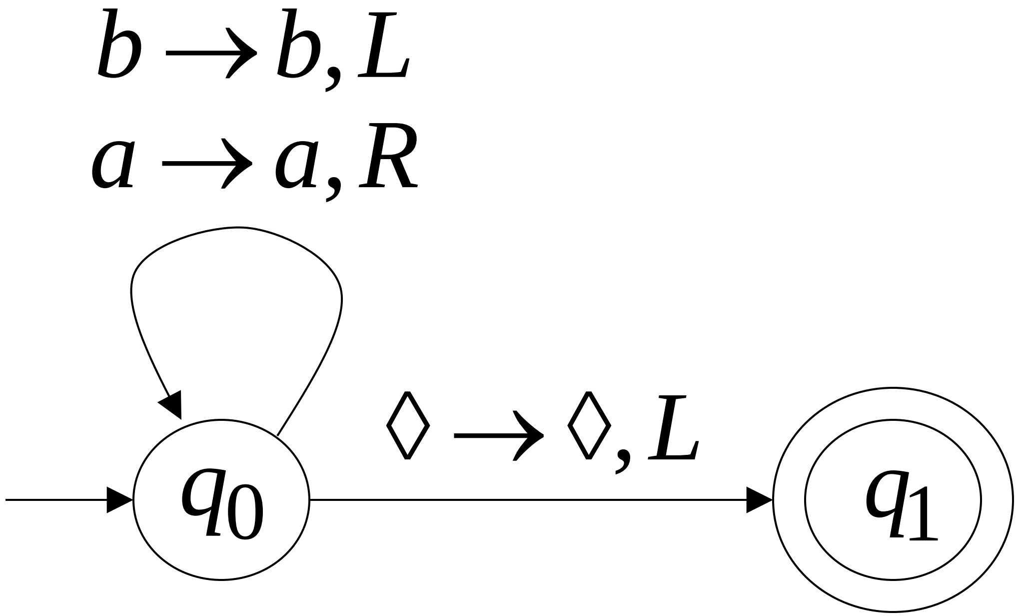


$b \rightarrow b, L$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_0
q_1

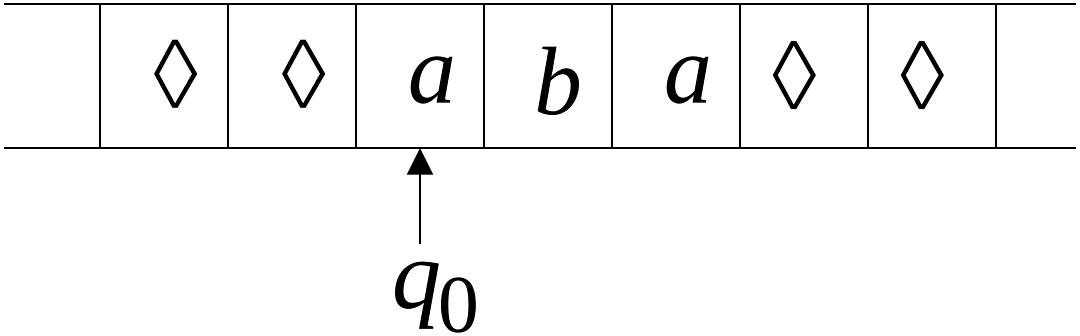
Infinite Loop Example

A Turing machine

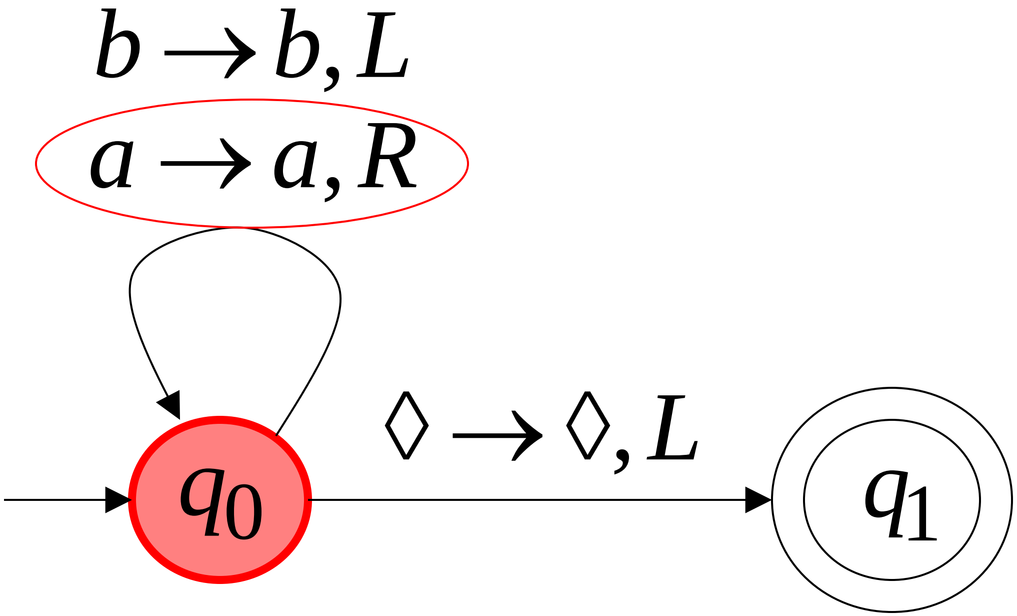
for language $aa^*+b(a+b)^*$



Time 0

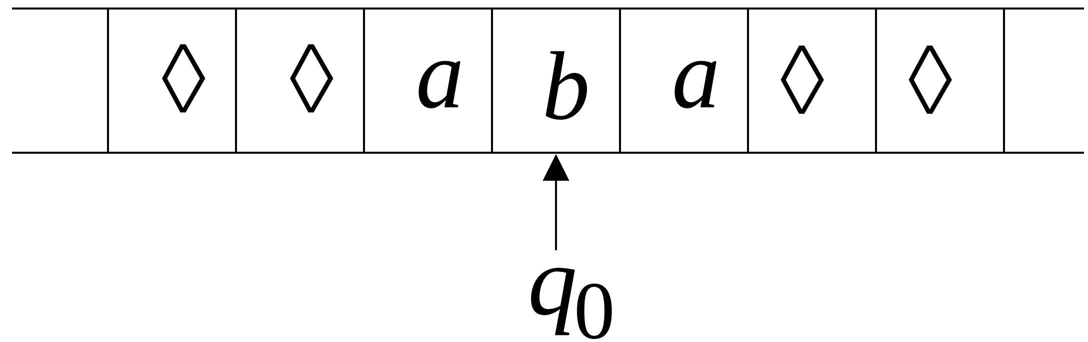


◊
◊
a
b
a
◊
◊
q_0

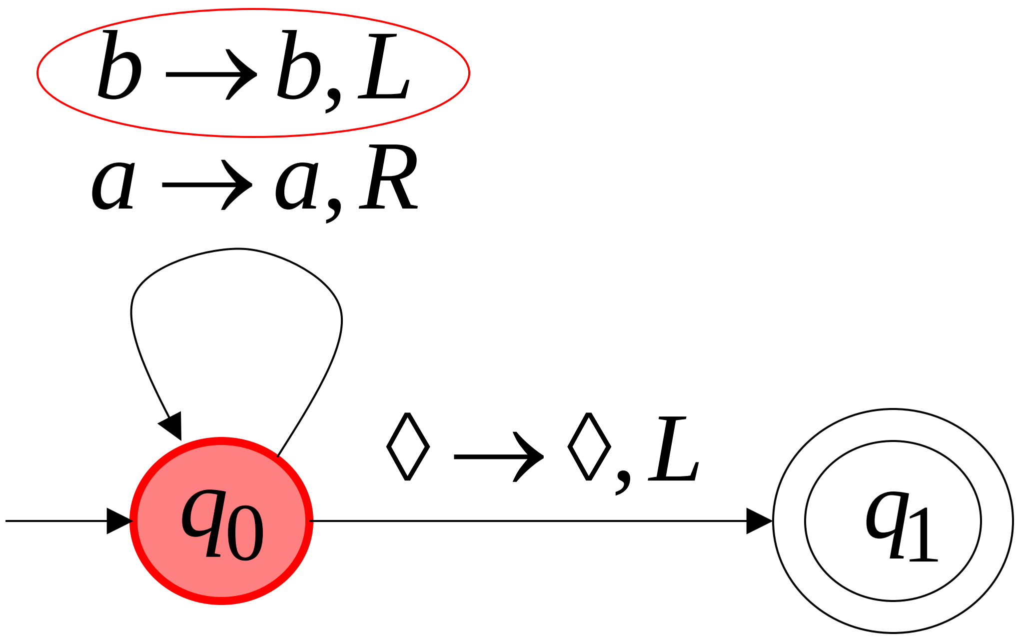


$b \rightarrow b, L$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$\lozenge \rightarrow \lozenge, L$
q_0
q_1

Time 1

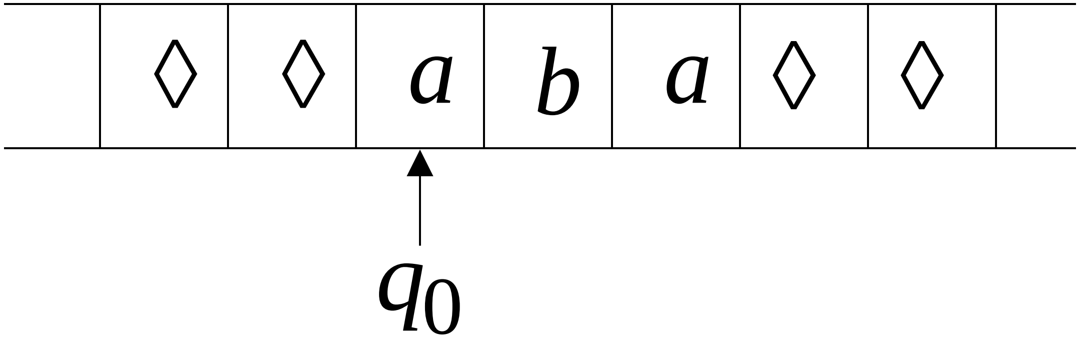


◊ ◊ a b a ◊ ◊
q_0

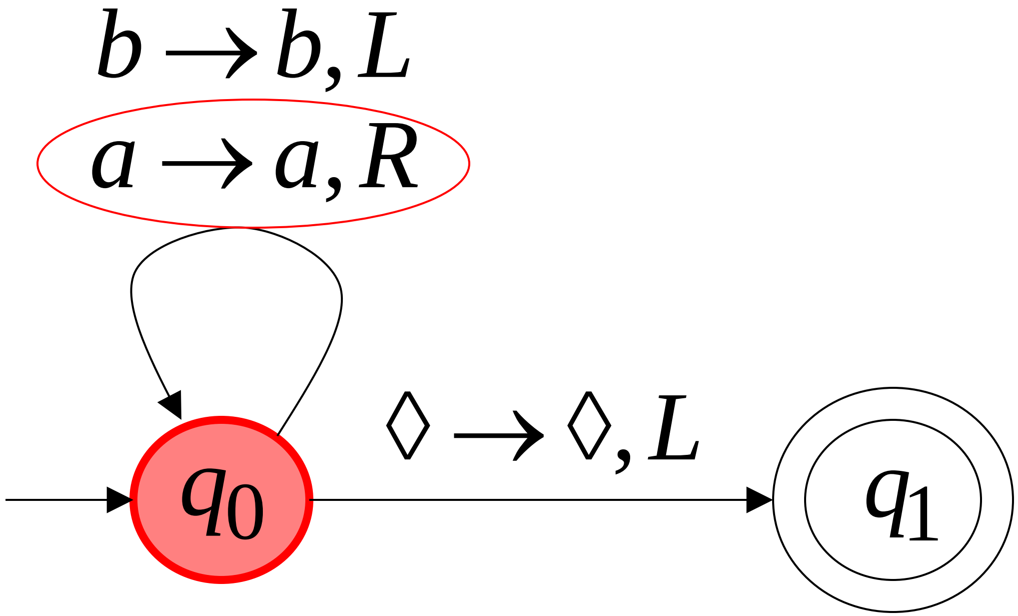


$b \rightarrow b, L$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_0
q_1

Time 2

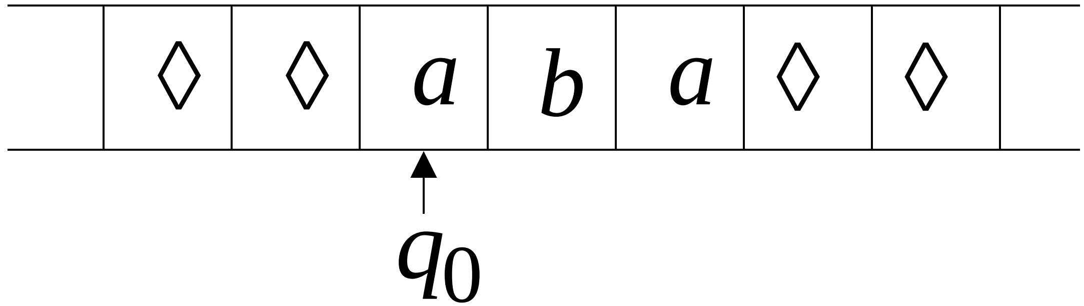


◊
◊
a
b
a
◊
◊
q_0

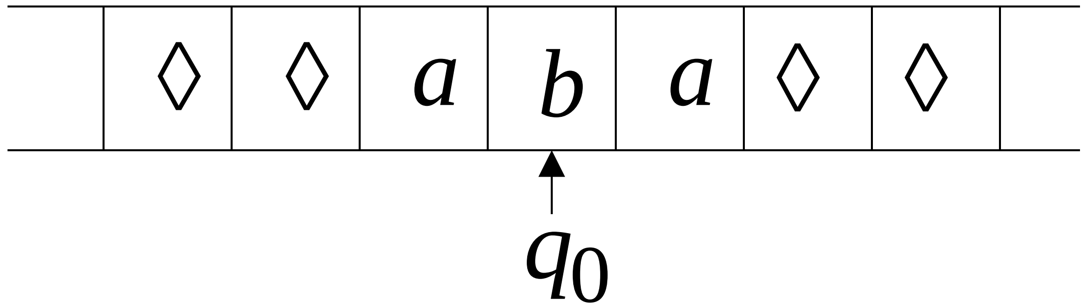


$b \rightarrow b, L$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$\lozenge \rightarrow \lozenge, L$
q_0
q_1

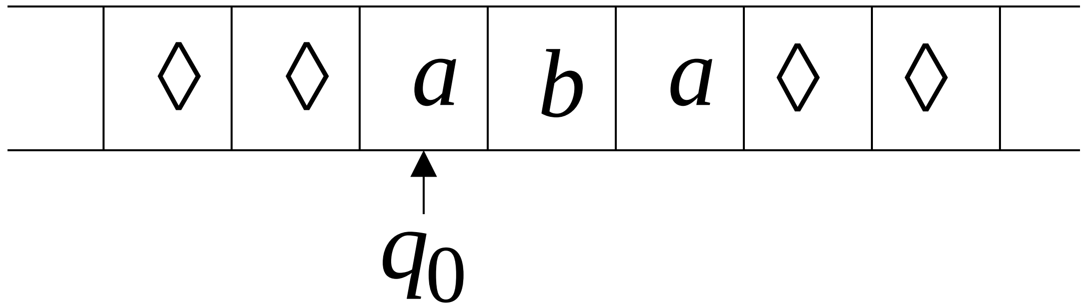
Time 2



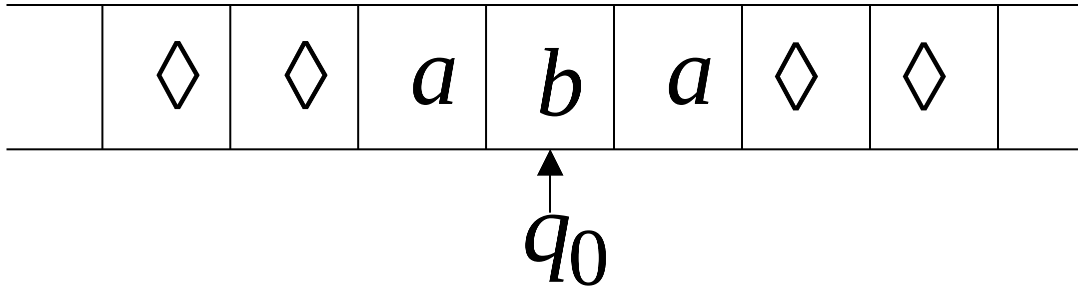
Time 3



Time 4



Time 5



Infinite loop

Because of the infinite loop:

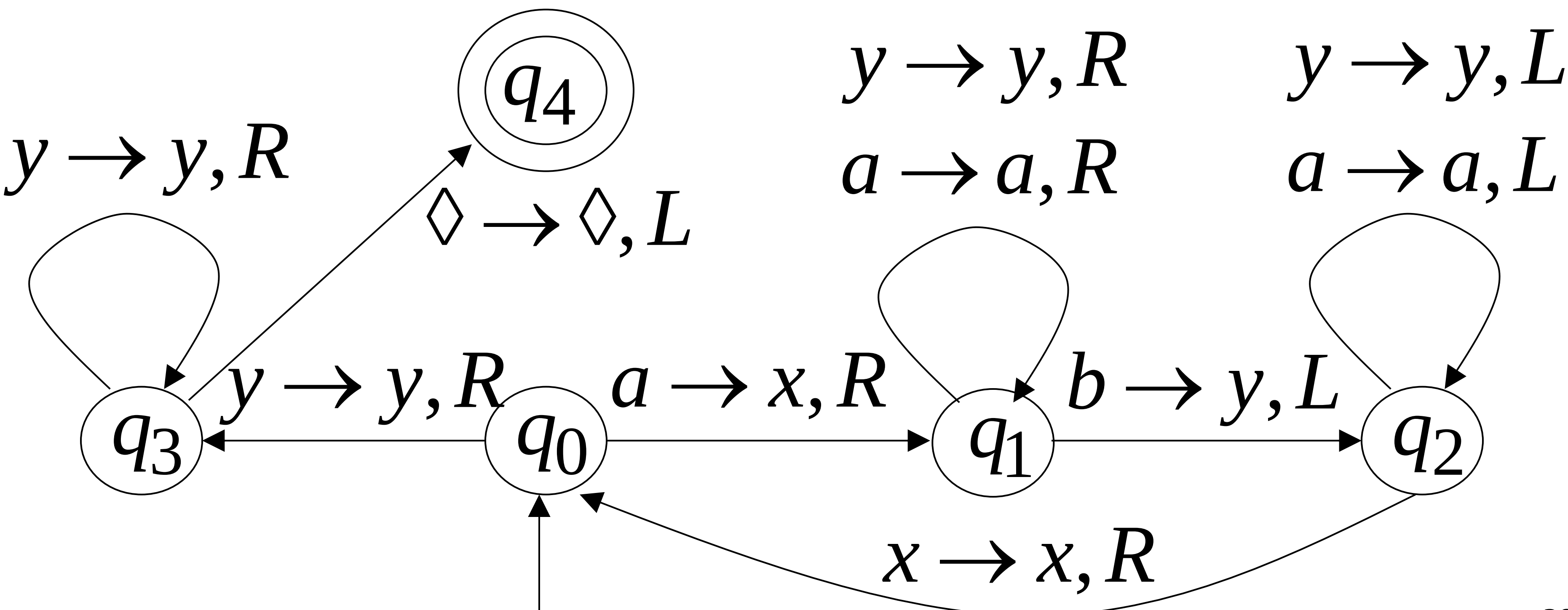
- The final state cannot be reached

- The machine never halts

- The input is not accepted

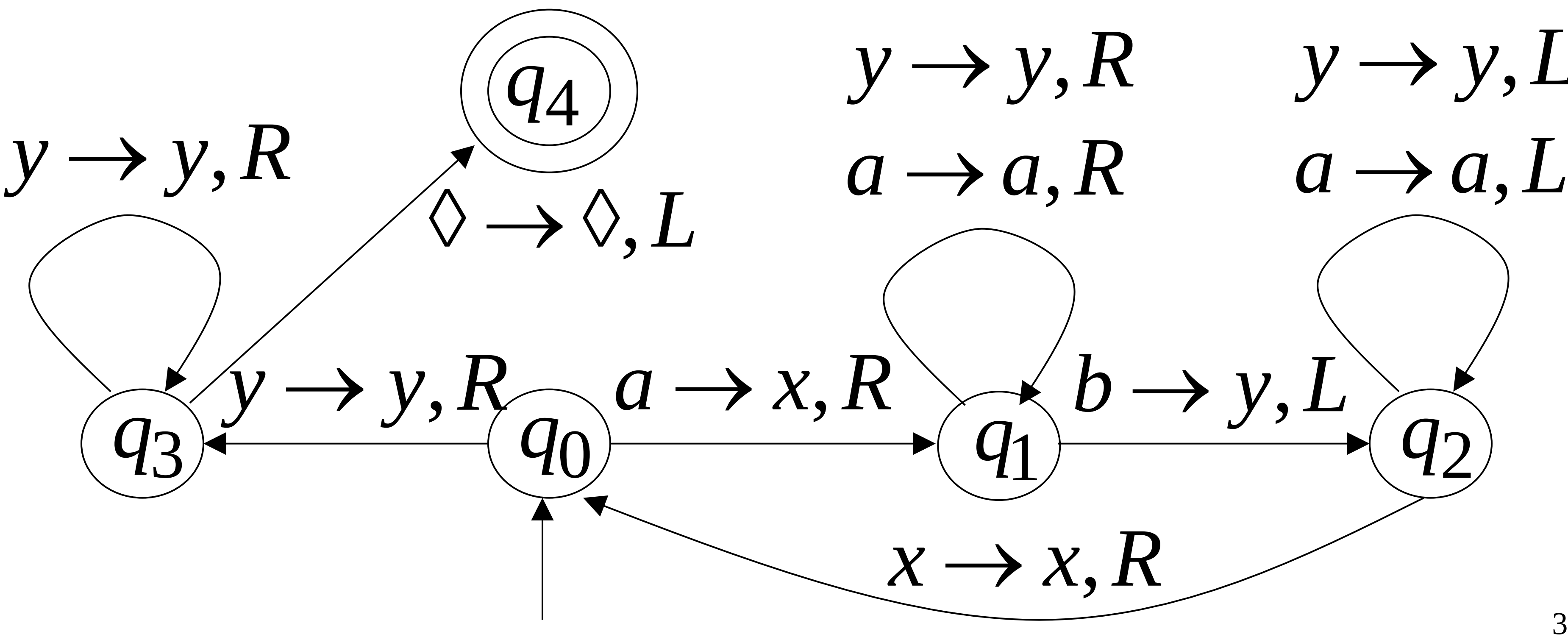
Another Turing Machine Example

Language?

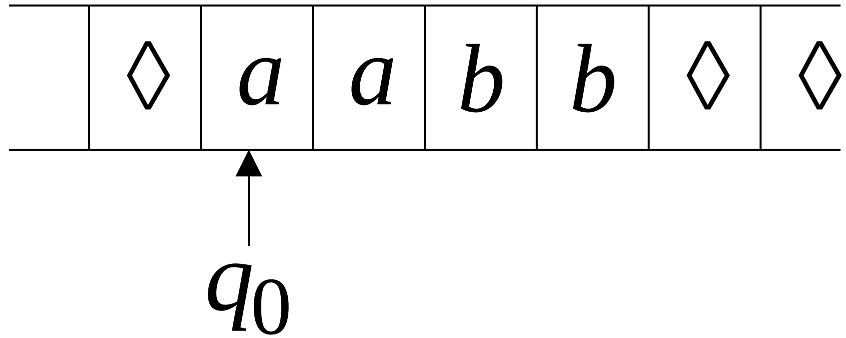


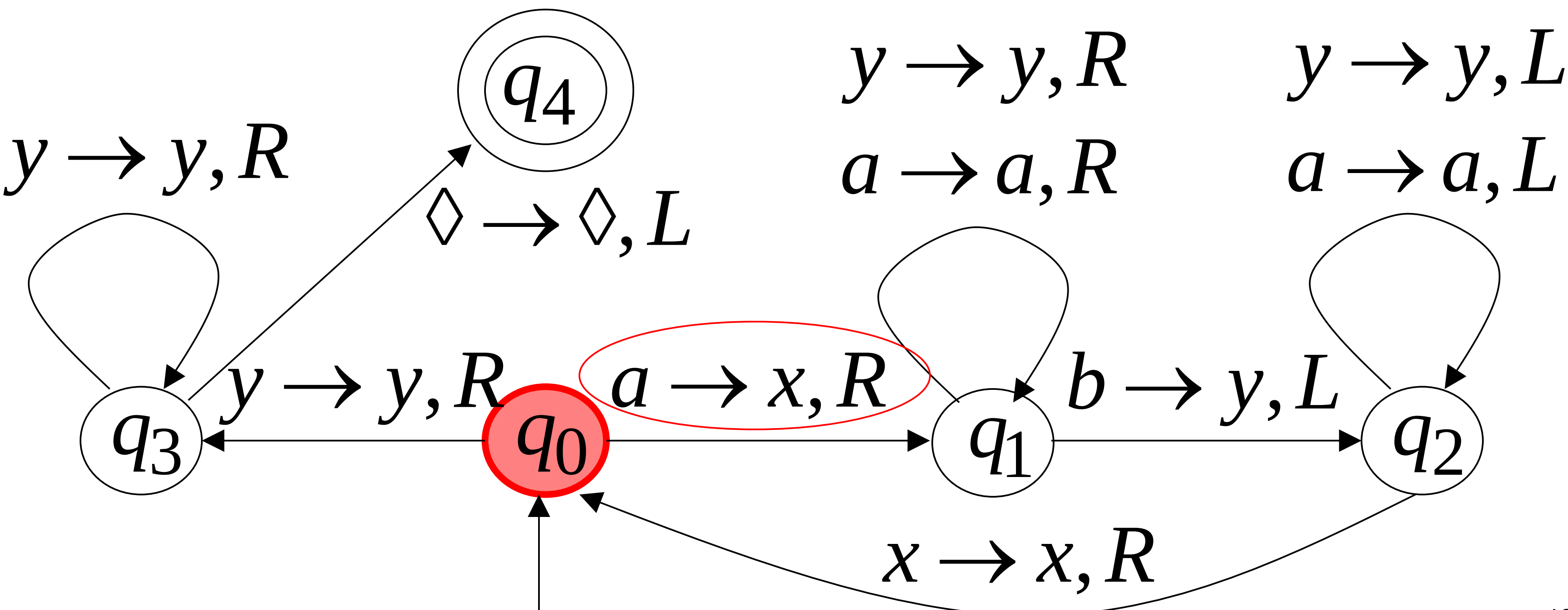
Another Turing Machine Example

Turing machine for the language $\{a^n b^n\}$

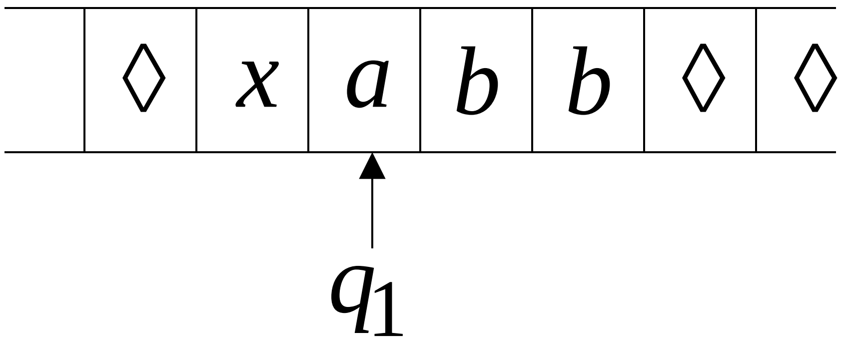


Time 0

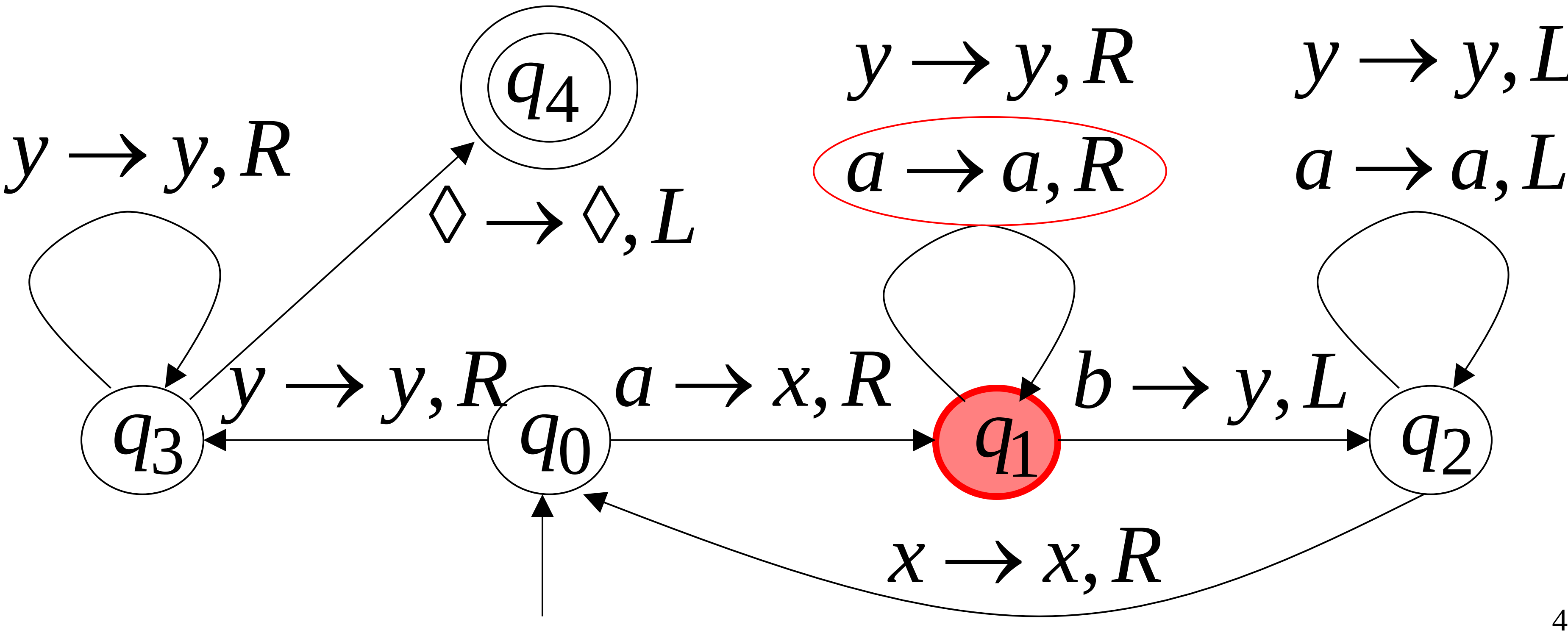

◊
a
a
b
b
◊
◊
q_0


q_4
$y \to y, R$
$\lozenge \to \lozenge, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to x, R$
$b \to y, L$
q_3
q_0
q_1
q_2
$x \to x, R$

Time 1

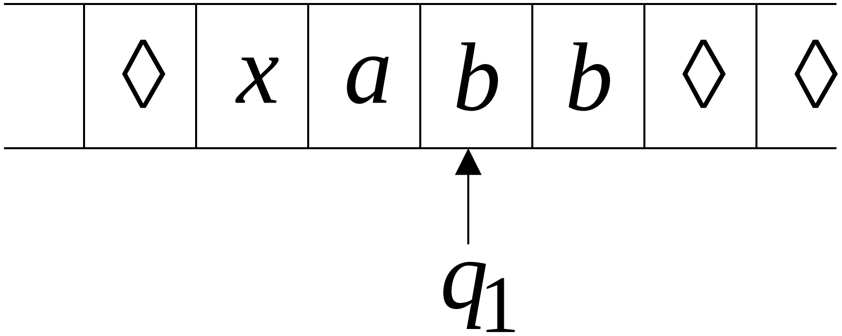


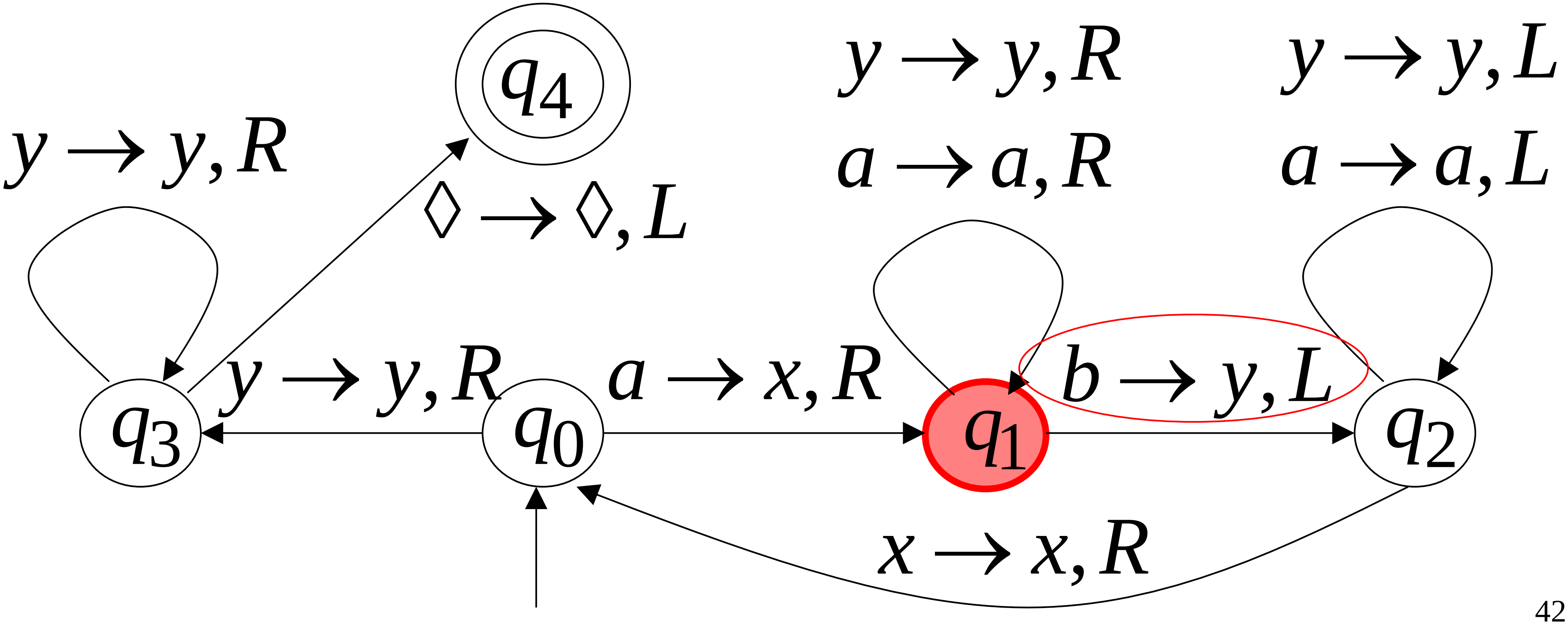
◊
x
a
b
b
◊
◊
q_1



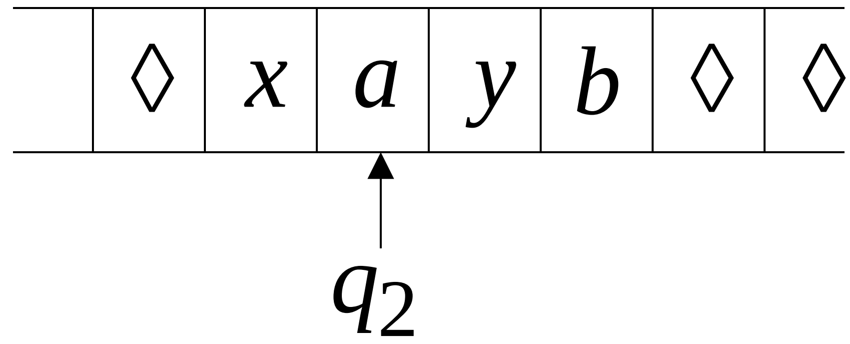
q_4
$y \to y, R$
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
q_3
$y \to y, R$
q_0
$a \to x, R$
q_1
$b \to y, L$
q_2
$x \to x, R$

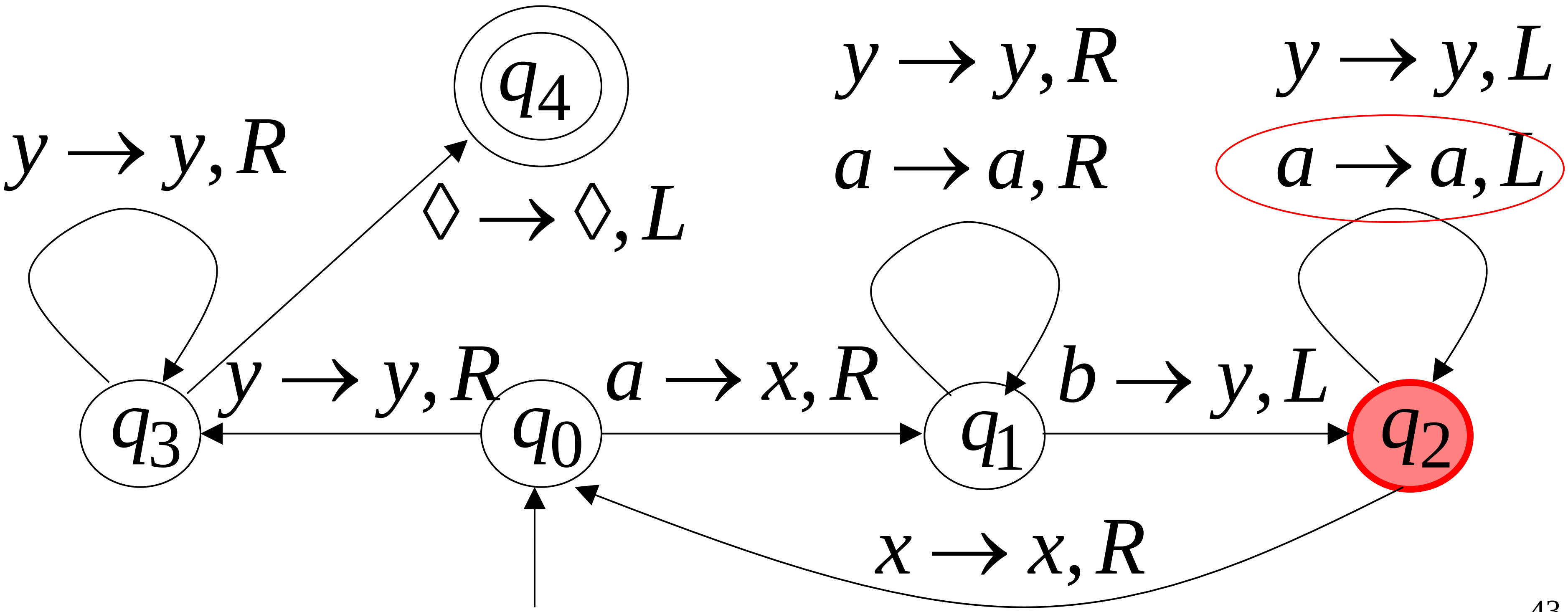
Time 2


◊
x
a
b
b
◊
◊
q_1

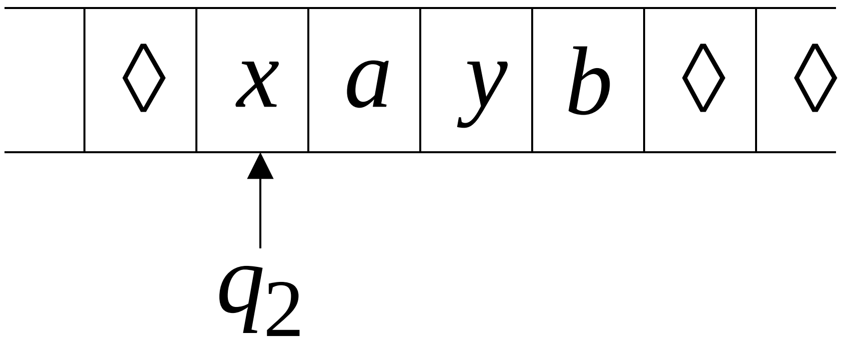

q_4
$y \rightarrow y, R$
◊ $\rightarrow$ ◊$, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$y \rightarrow y, L$
$a \rightarrow a, L$
q_3
$y \rightarrow y, R$
q_0
$a \rightarrow x, R$
q_1
$b \rightarrow y, L$
q_2
$x \rightarrow x, R$

Time 3

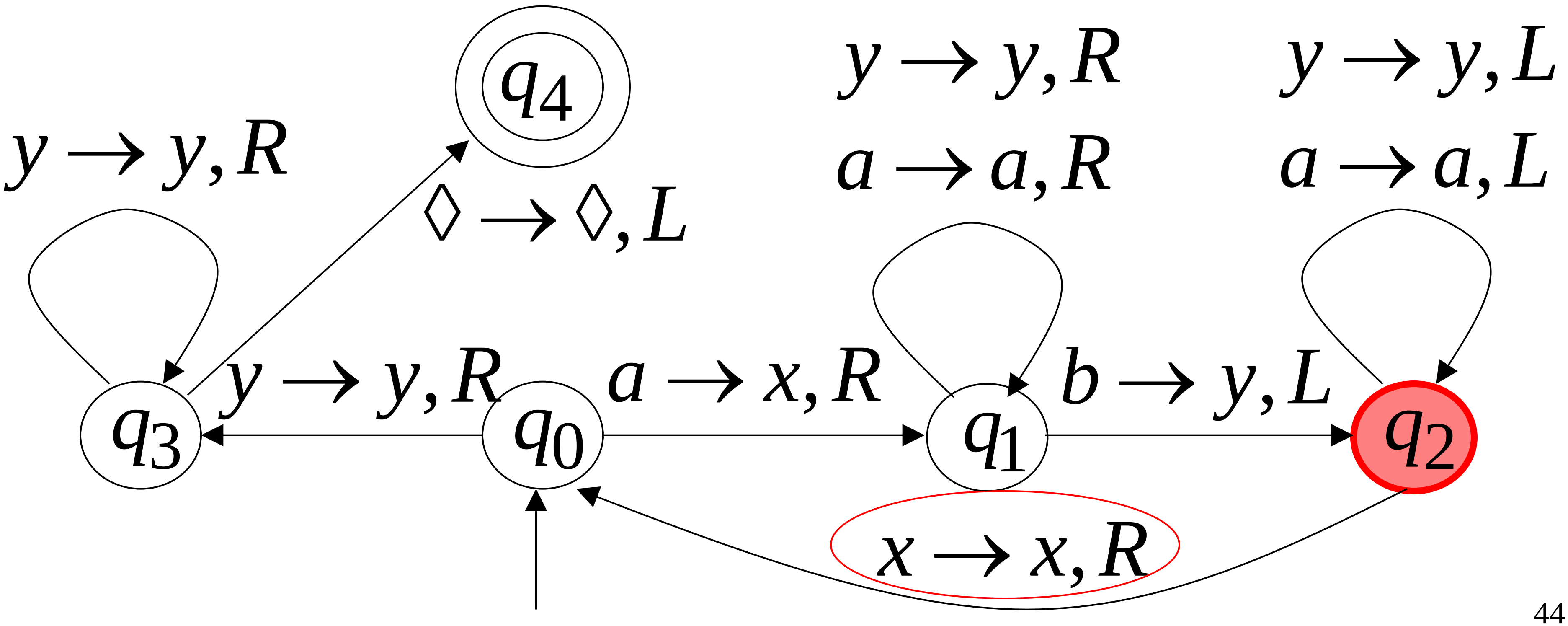

◊ x a y b ◊ ◊
q_2


q_4
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$y \rightarrow y, L$
$a \rightarrow a, L$
q_3
$y \rightarrow y, R$
q_0
$a \rightarrow x, R$
q_1
$b \rightarrow y, L$
q_2
$x \rightarrow x, R$

Time 4

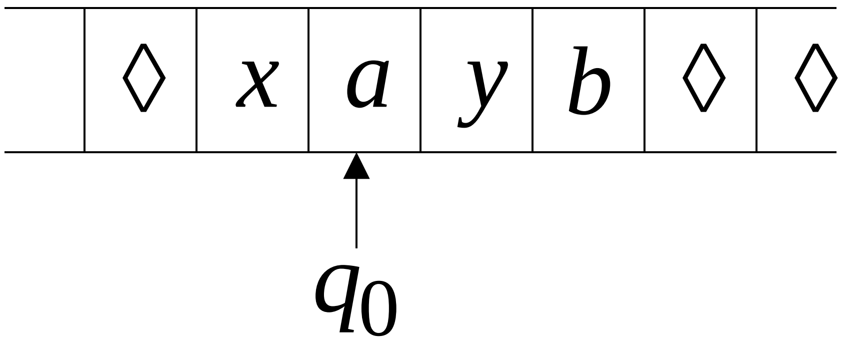


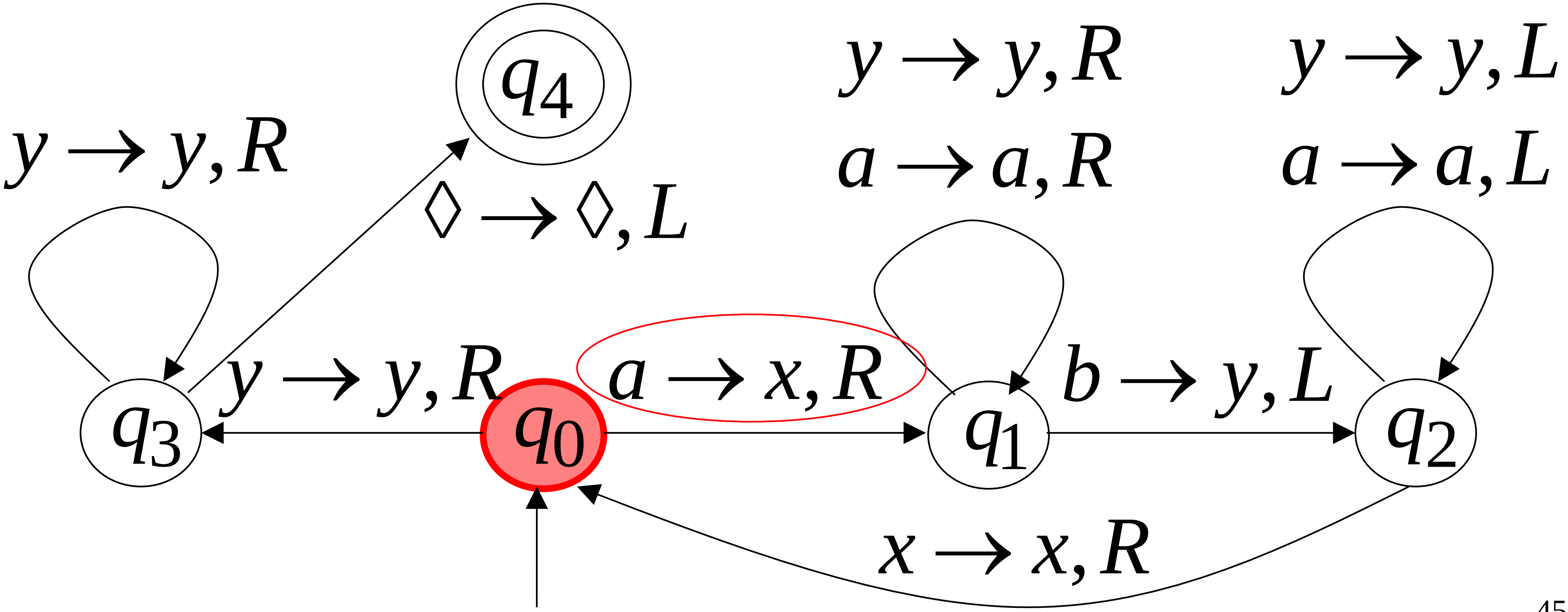
◊
x
a
y
b
◊
◊
q_2



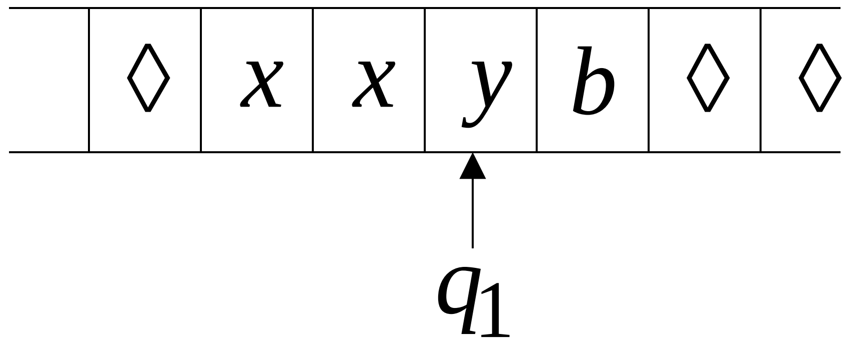
q_4
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$\lozenge \rightarrow \lozenge, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$y \rightarrow y, L$
$a \rightarrow a, L$
q_3
$y \rightarrow y, R$
q_0
$a \rightarrow x, R$
q_1
$b \rightarrow y, L$
q_2
$x \rightarrow x, R$

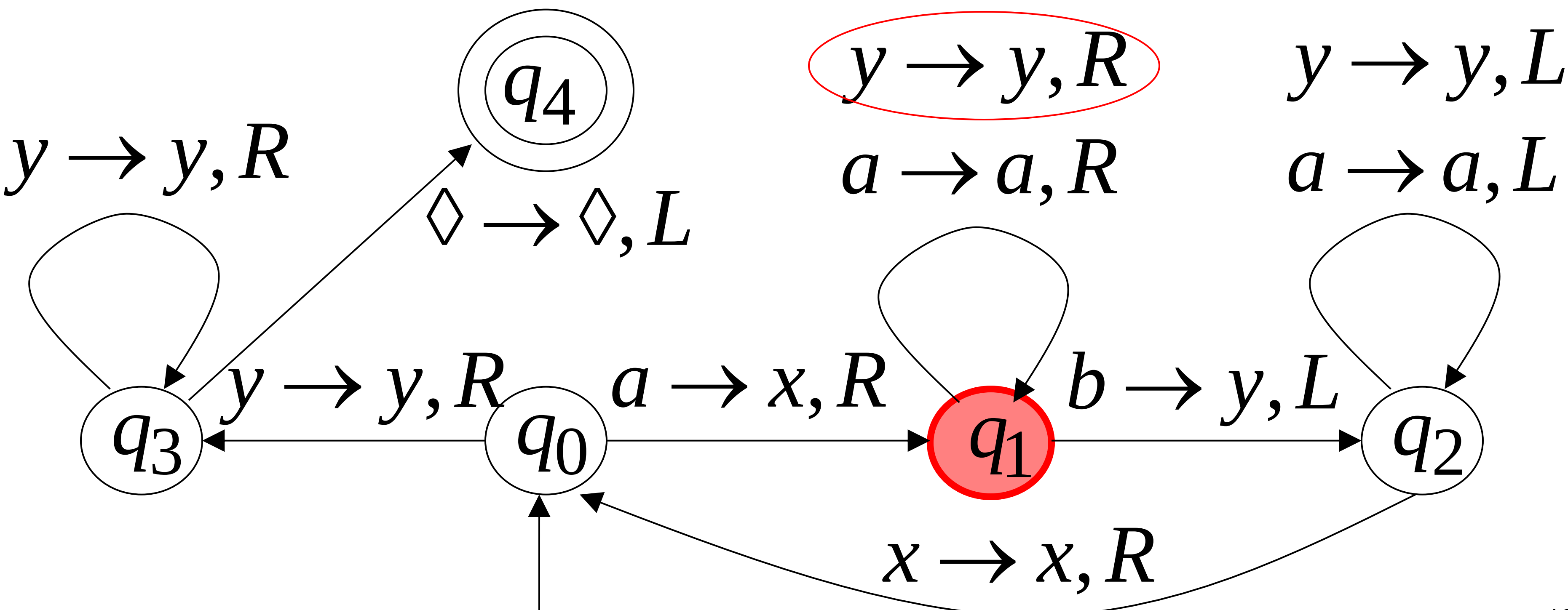
Time 5


$\Diamond$
x
a
y
b
$\Diamond$
$\Diamond$
q_0

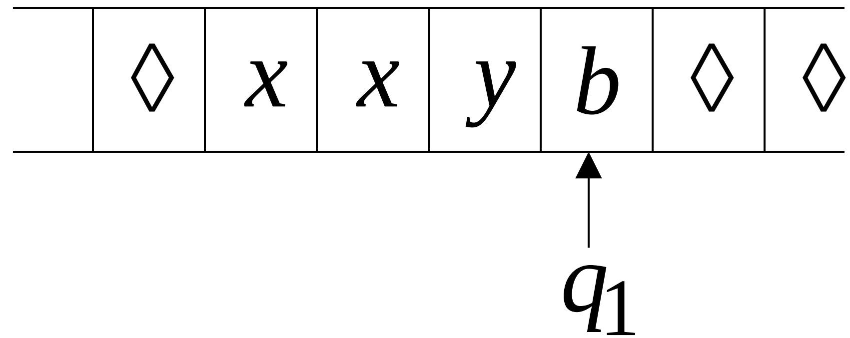

q_4
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$y \rightarrow y, L$
$a \rightarrow a, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow x, R$
$b \rightarrow y, L$
q_3
q_0
q_1
q_2
$x \rightarrow x, R$

Time 6

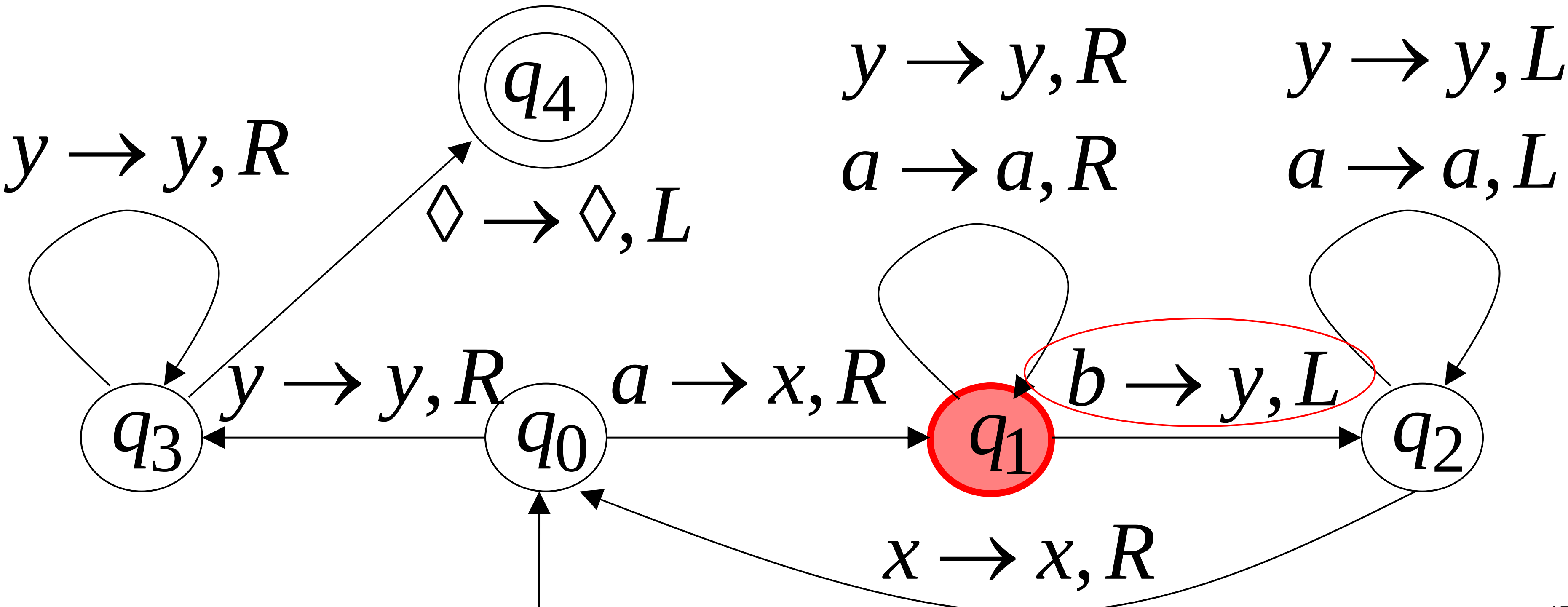

◊ x x y b ◊ ◊
q_1


q_4
$y \to y, R$
$\lozenge \to \lozenge, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to x, R$
$b \to y, L$
q_3
q_0
q_1
q_2
$x \to x, R$

Time 7

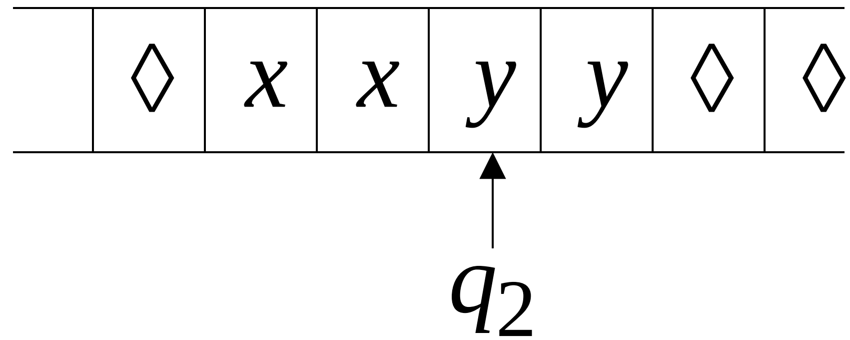


◊
x
x
y
b
◊
◊
q_1

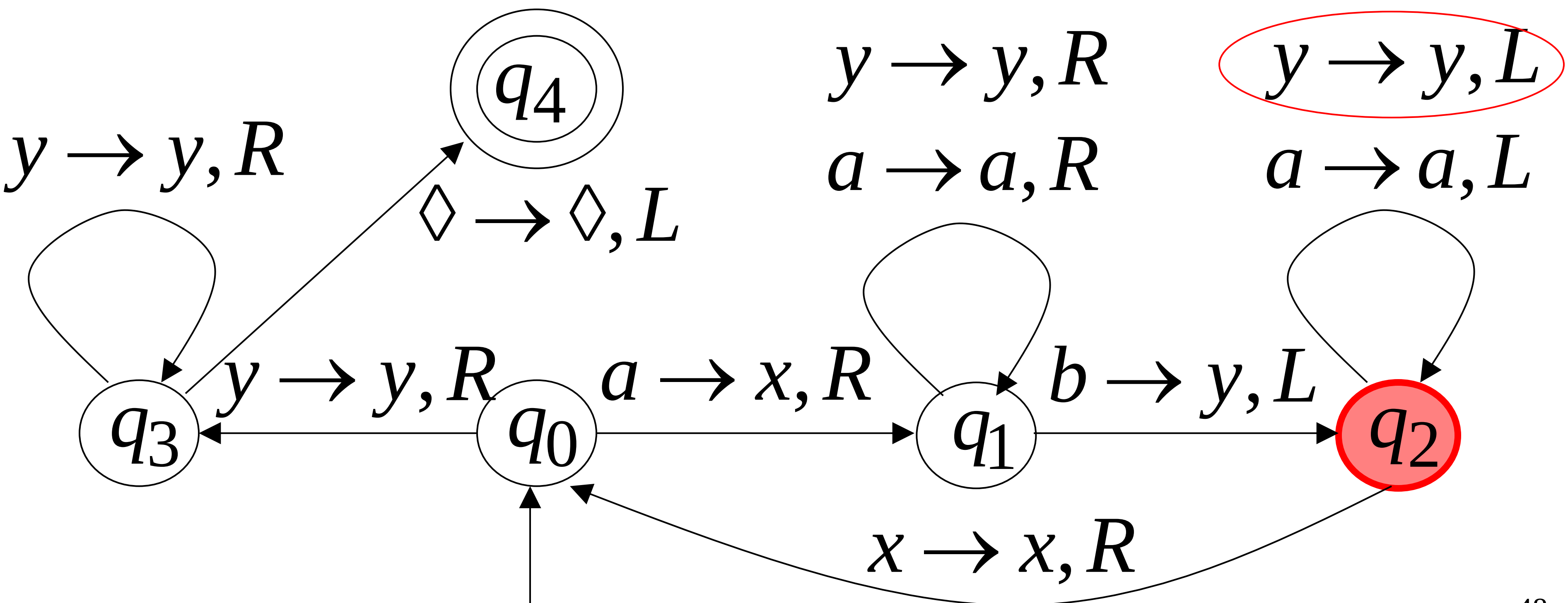


q_4
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$y \rightarrow y, L$
$a \rightarrow a, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow x, R$
$b \rightarrow y, L$
q_3
q_0
q_1
q_2
$x \rightarrow x, R$

Time 8

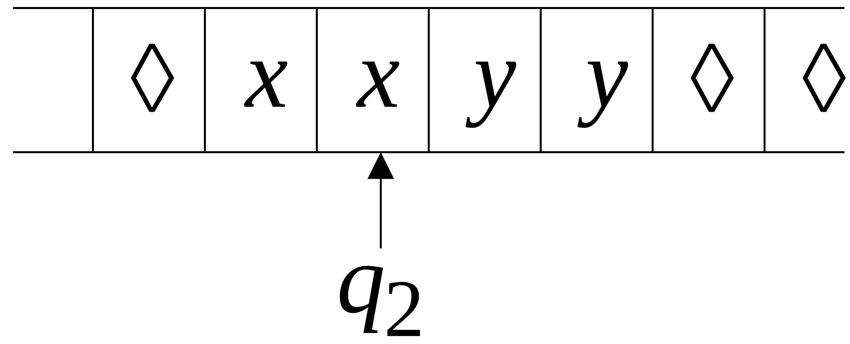


◊ x x y y ◊ ◊
q_2

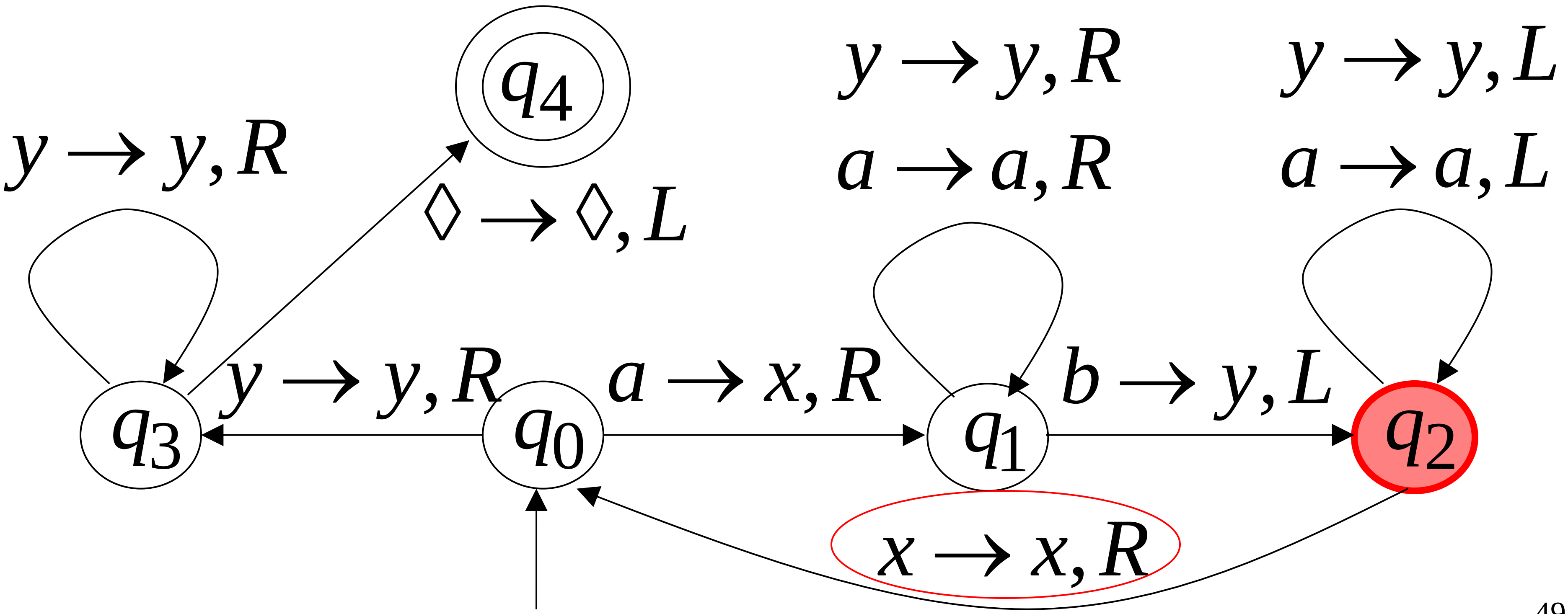


$y \to y, R$
$\lozenge \to \lozenge, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to x, R$
$b \to y, L$
$x \to x, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

Time 9

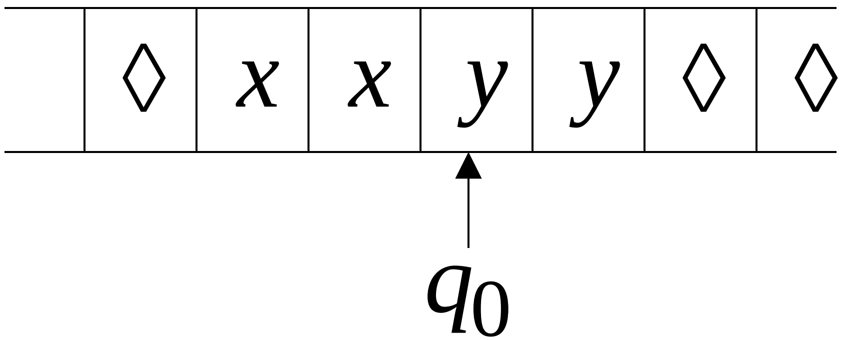


◊ x x y y ◊ ◊
q_2

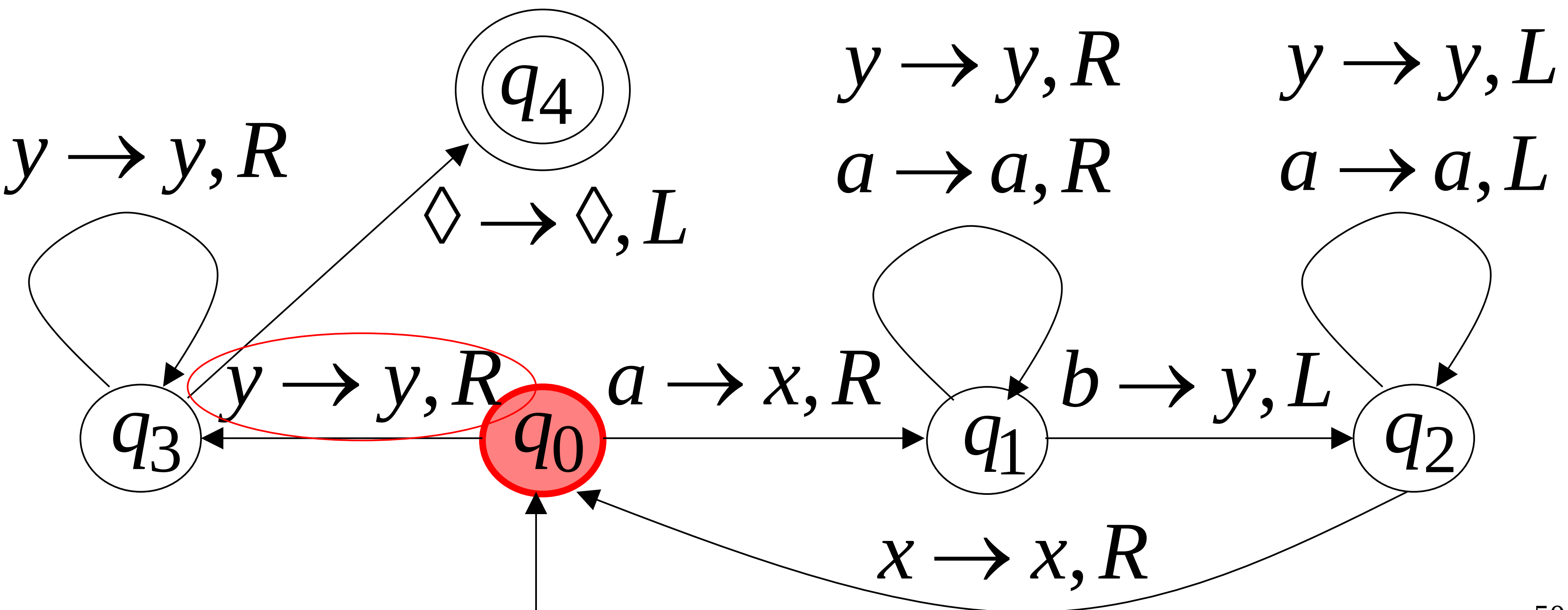


q_4
$y \to y, R$
$\lozenge \to \lozenge, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
q_3
$y \to y, R$
q_0
$a \to x, R$
q_1
$b \to y, L$
q_2
$x \to x, R$

Time 10

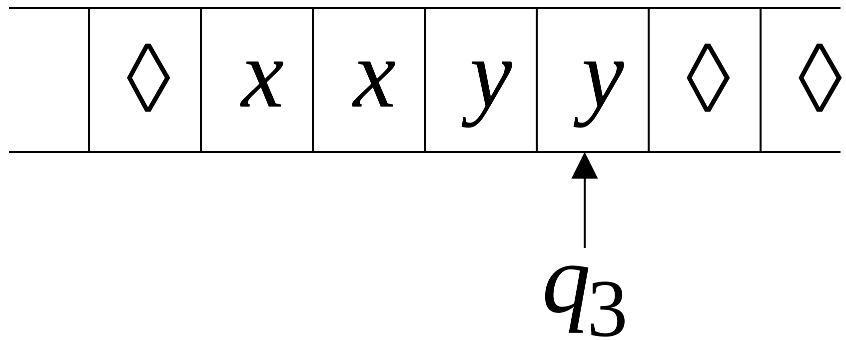


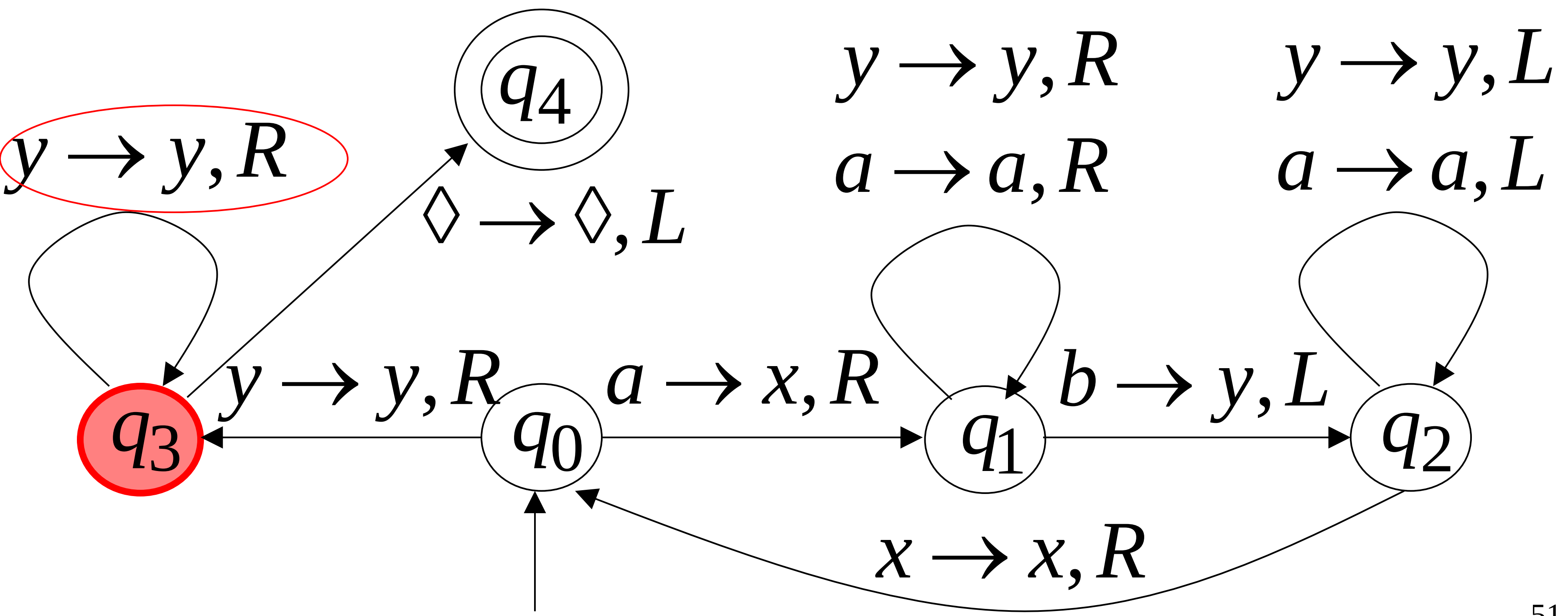
◊ x x y y ◊ ◊
q_0



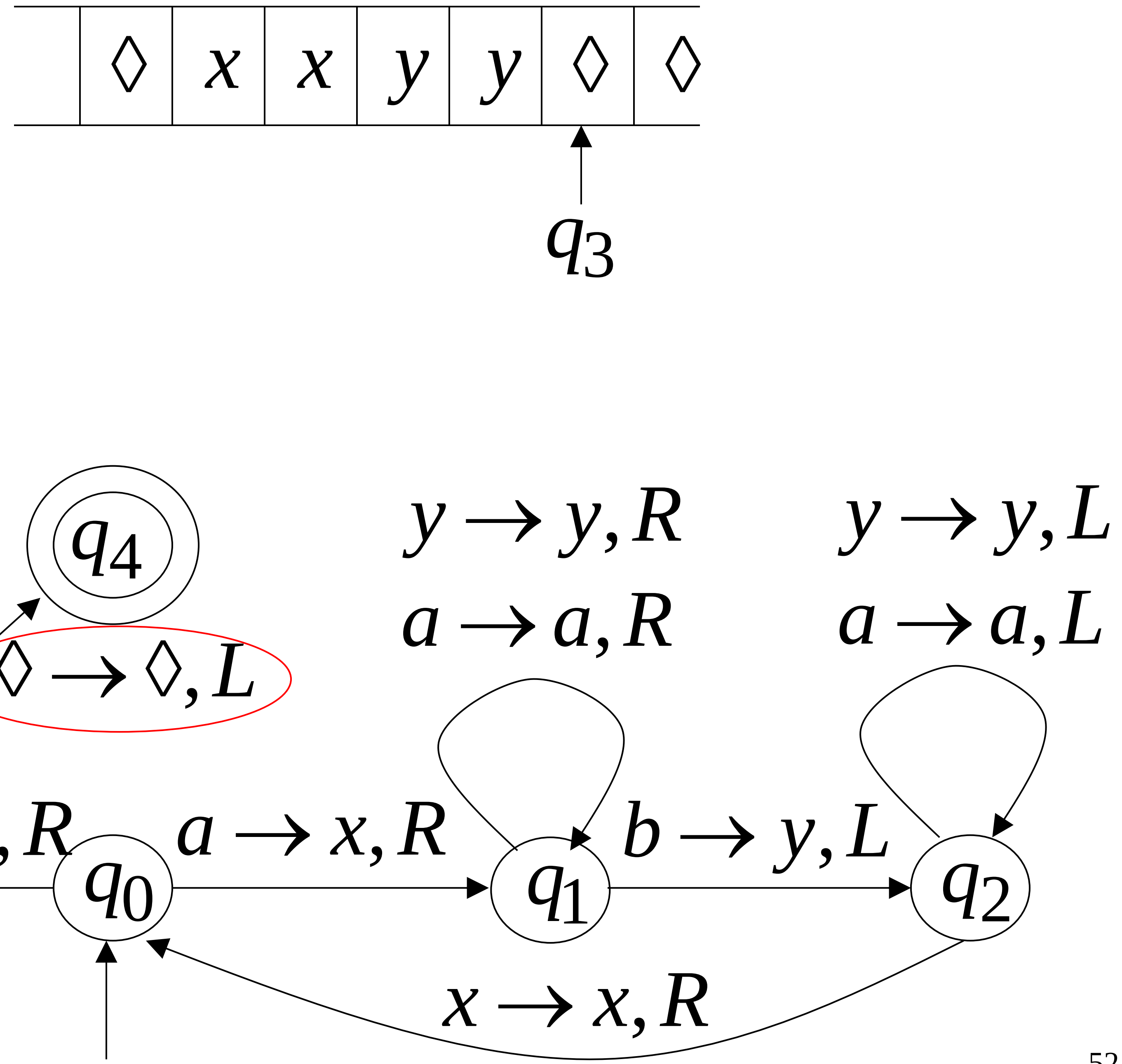
q_4
$y \to y, R$
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
q_3
$y \to y, R$
q_0
$a \to x, R$
q_1
$b \to y, L$
q_2
$x \to x, R$

Time 11


◊ x x y y ◊ ◊
q_3

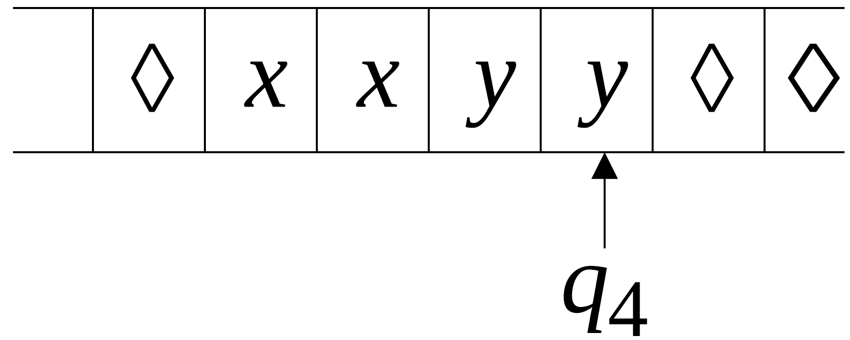

q_4
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow a, R$
$y \rightarrow y, L$
$a \rightarrow a, L$
$y \rightarrow y, R$
$a \rightarrow x, R$
$b \rightarrow y, L$
q_3
q_0
q_1
q_2
$x \rightarrow x, R$

Time 12

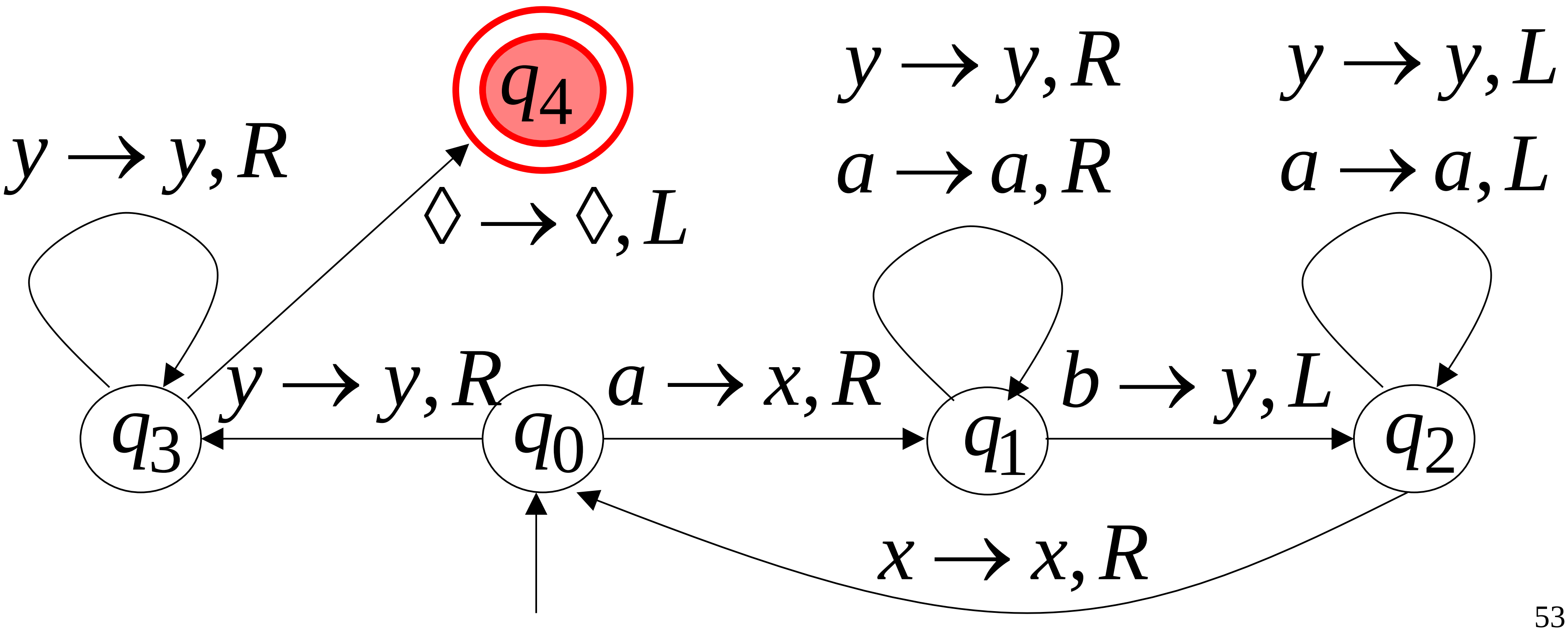


◊
x
x
y
y
◊
◊
q_3
q_4
$y \to y, R$
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, L$
$y \to y, R$
$a \to a, R$
$y \to y, L$
$a \to a, L$
q_3
$y \to y, R$
q_0
$a \to x, R$
q_1
$b \to y, L$
q_2
$x \to x, R$

Time 13



Halt & Accept



Observation:

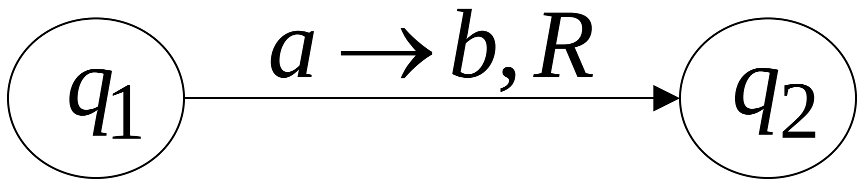
If we modify the machine for the language $\{a^n b^n\}$

we can easily construct a machine for the language $\{a^n b^n c^n\}$

Machine for L = {vv|v in {a,b}*} ?

Formal Definitions for Turing Machines

Transition Function



$$\delta(q_1, a) = (q_2, b, R)$$

Transition Function

$$q_1 \xrightarrow{c \rightarrow d, L} q_2$$

$$\delta(q_1, c) = (q_2, d, L)$$

Turing Machine:

States

Input alphabet

Tape alphabet

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, \Diamond, F)$$

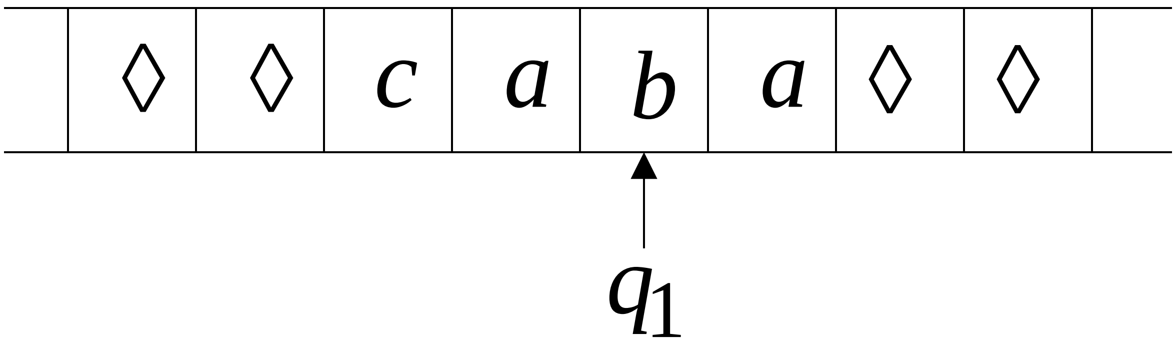
Transition function

Initial state

blank

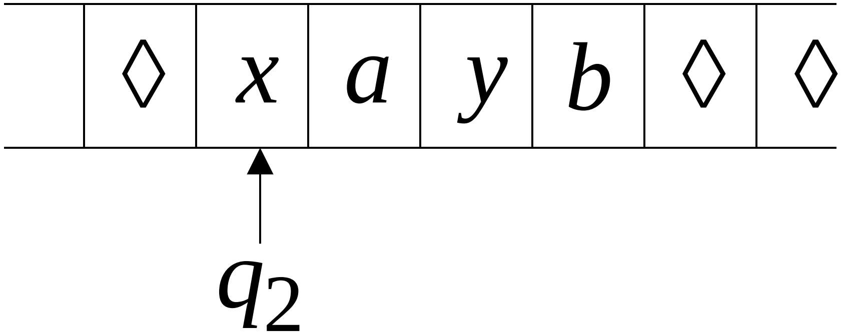
Final states

Configuration

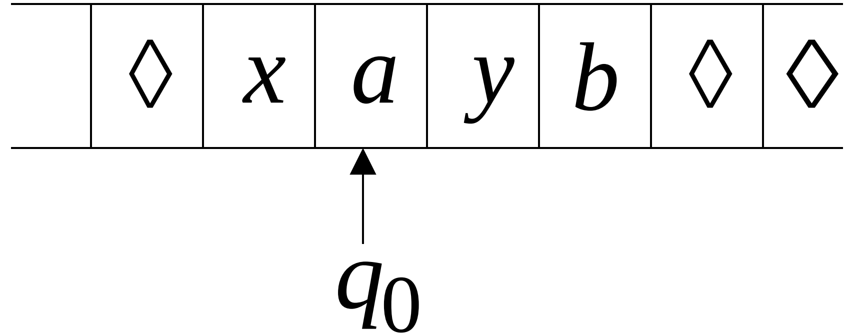


Instantaneous description: $ca\, q_1\, ba$

Time 4

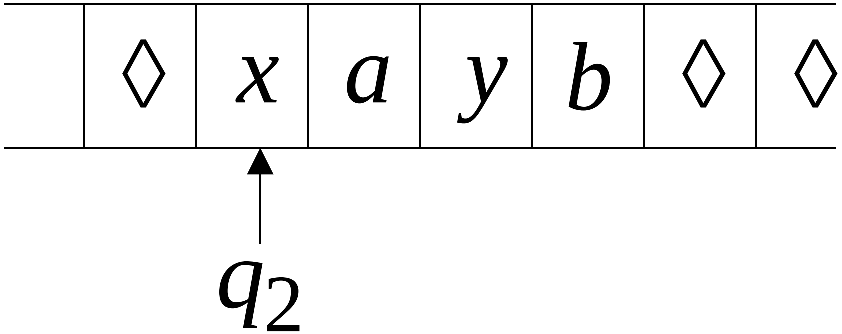


Time 5

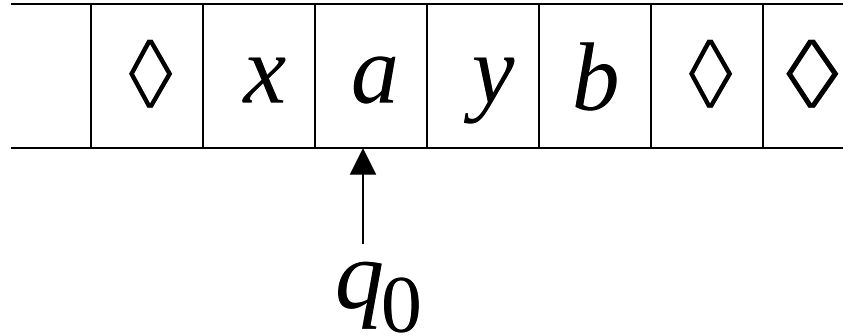


A Move: $q_2\ xayb \succ x\ q_0\ ayb$

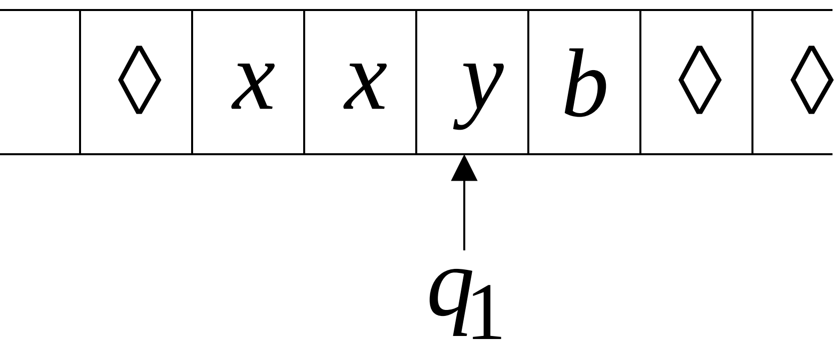
Time 4



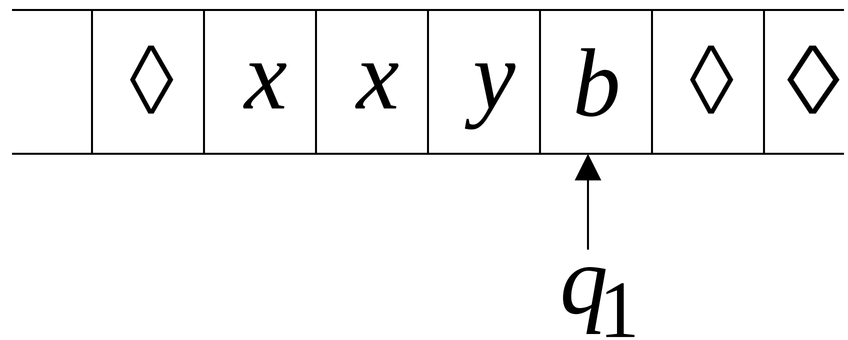
Time 5



Time 6



Time 7



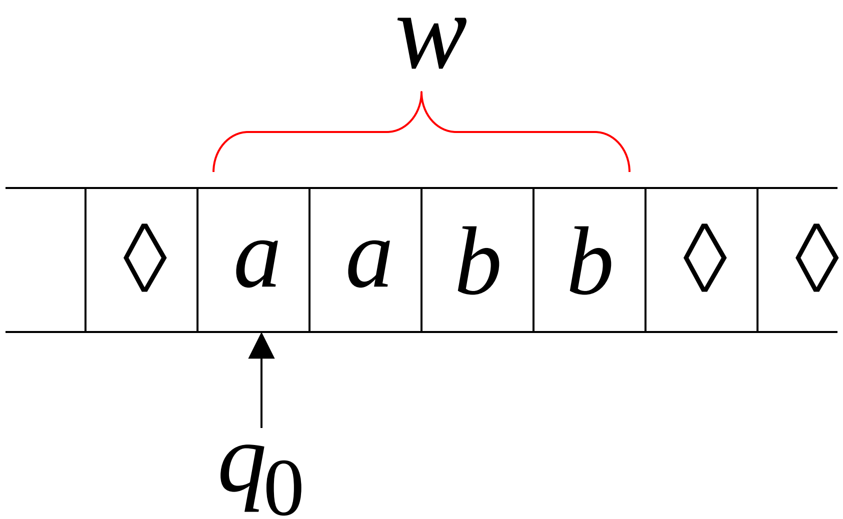
$$q_2\ xayb \succ x\, q_0\ ayb \succ xx\, q_1\ yb \succ xxy\, q_1\ b$$

$$q_2\ xayb \succ x\, q_0\ ayb \succ xx\, q_1\ yb \succ xxy\, q_1\ b$$

Equivalent notation: $$q_2\ xayb \overset{*}{\succ} xxy\, q_1\ b$$

Initial configuration: $q_0 \, w$

Input string



The Accepted Language

For any Turing Machine M

$$L(M) = \{w : \quad q_0 \, w \overset{*}{\succ} x_1 \, q_f \, x_2\}$$

Initial state

Final state

Standard Turing Machine

The machine we described is the standard:

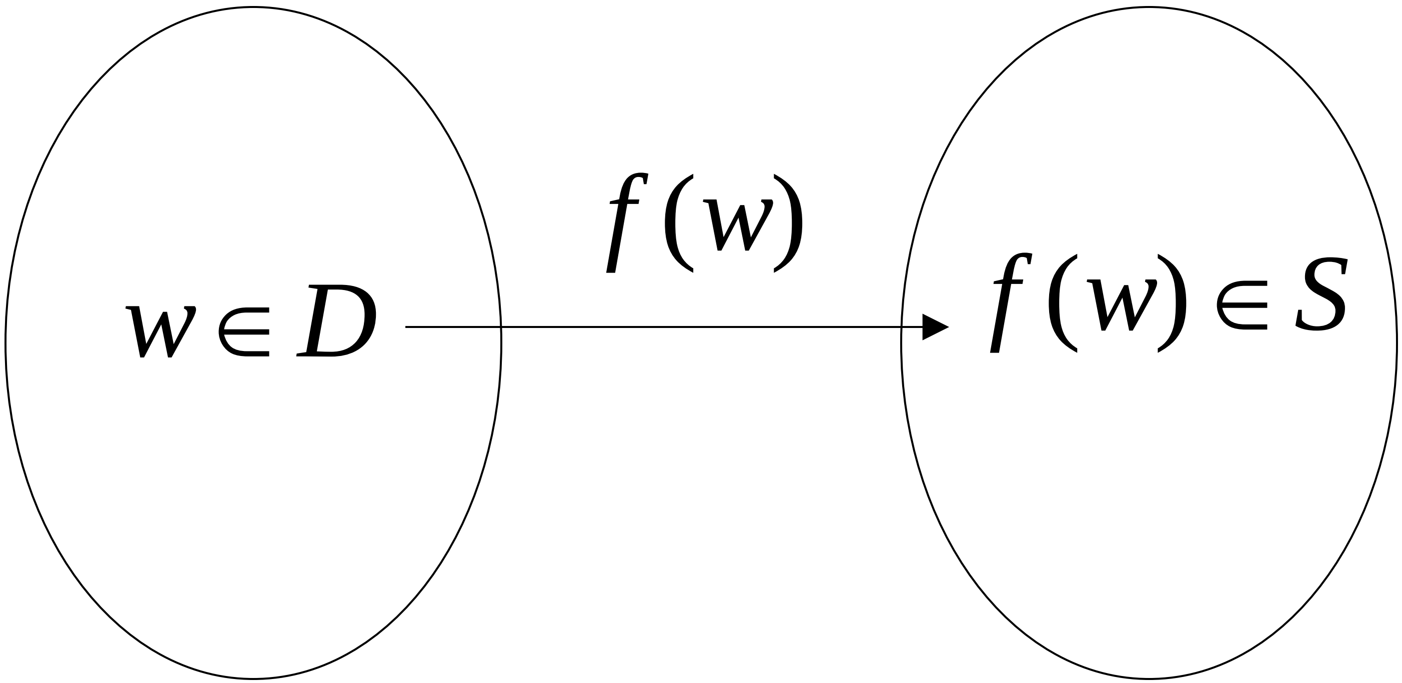
- Deterministic
- Infinite tape in both directions
- Tape is the input/output file

Computing Functions with Turing Machines

A function $f(w)$ has:

Domain: D

Range: S



A function may have many parameters:

Example: Addition function

$$f(x, y) = x + y$$

Integer Domain

Decimal: 5

Binary: 101

Unary: 11111

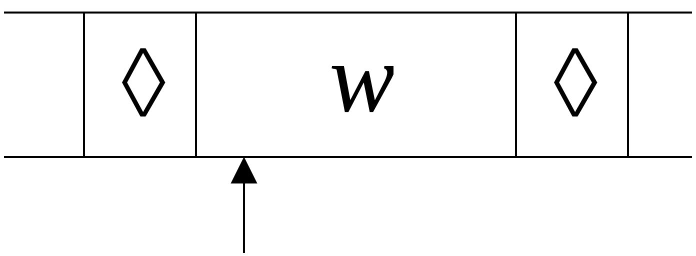
We prefer **unary** representation:

easier to manipulate with Turing machines

Definition:

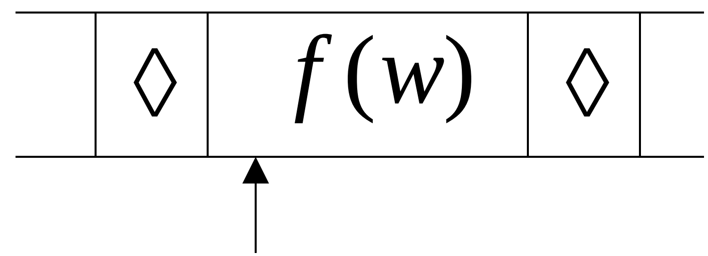
A function f is computable if there is a Turing Machine M such that:

Initial configuration



q_0 initial state

Final configuration



q_f final state

For all $w \in D$ Domain

In other words:

A function f is computable if there is a Turing Machine M such that:

$$q_0\, w \overset{*}{\succ} q_f\, f(w)$$

Initial Configuration

Final Configuration

For all $w \in D$ Domain

Example

The function $f(x,y) = x + y$ is computable

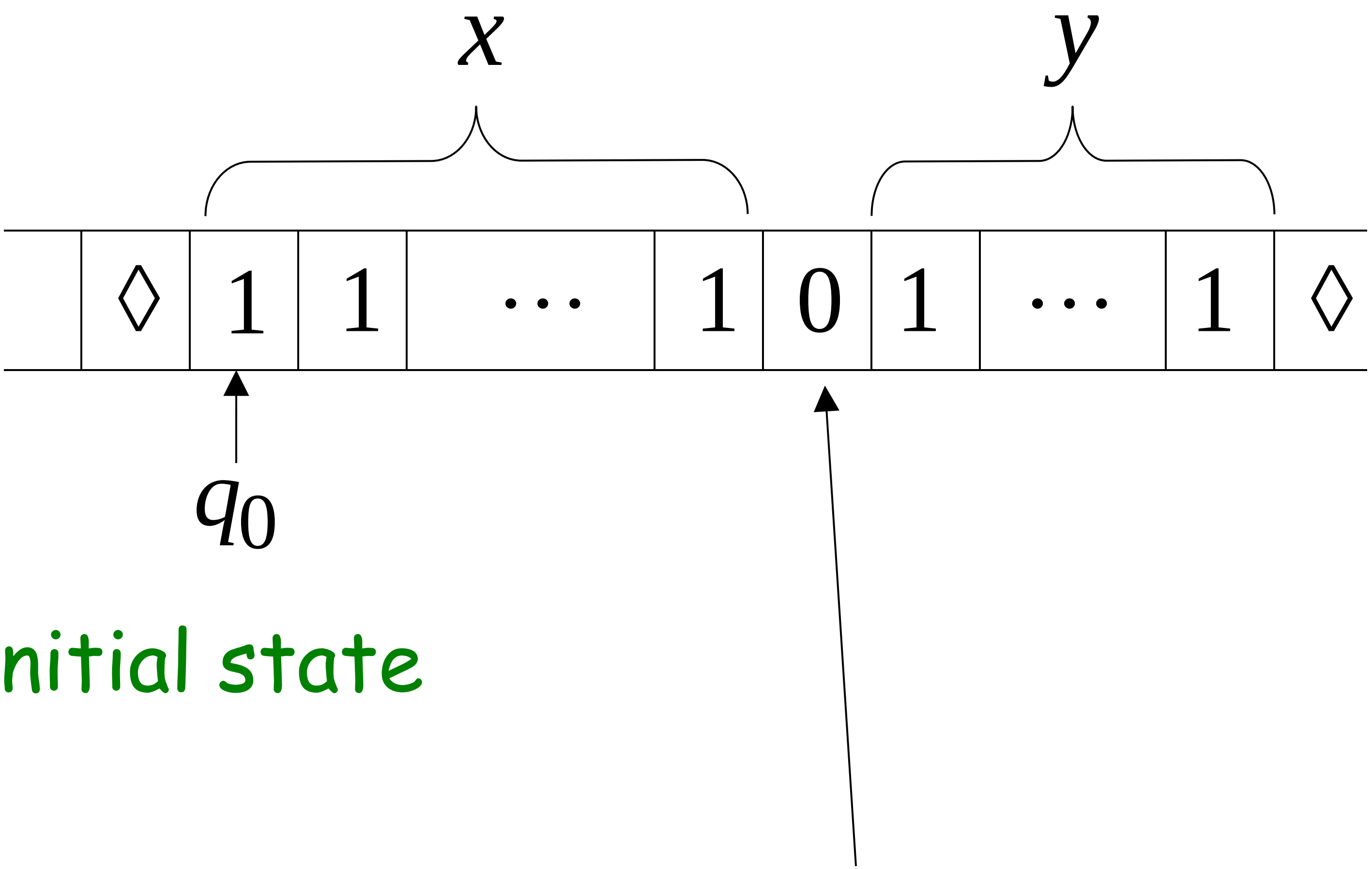
x, y are integers

Turing Machine:

Input string: $x0y$ unary

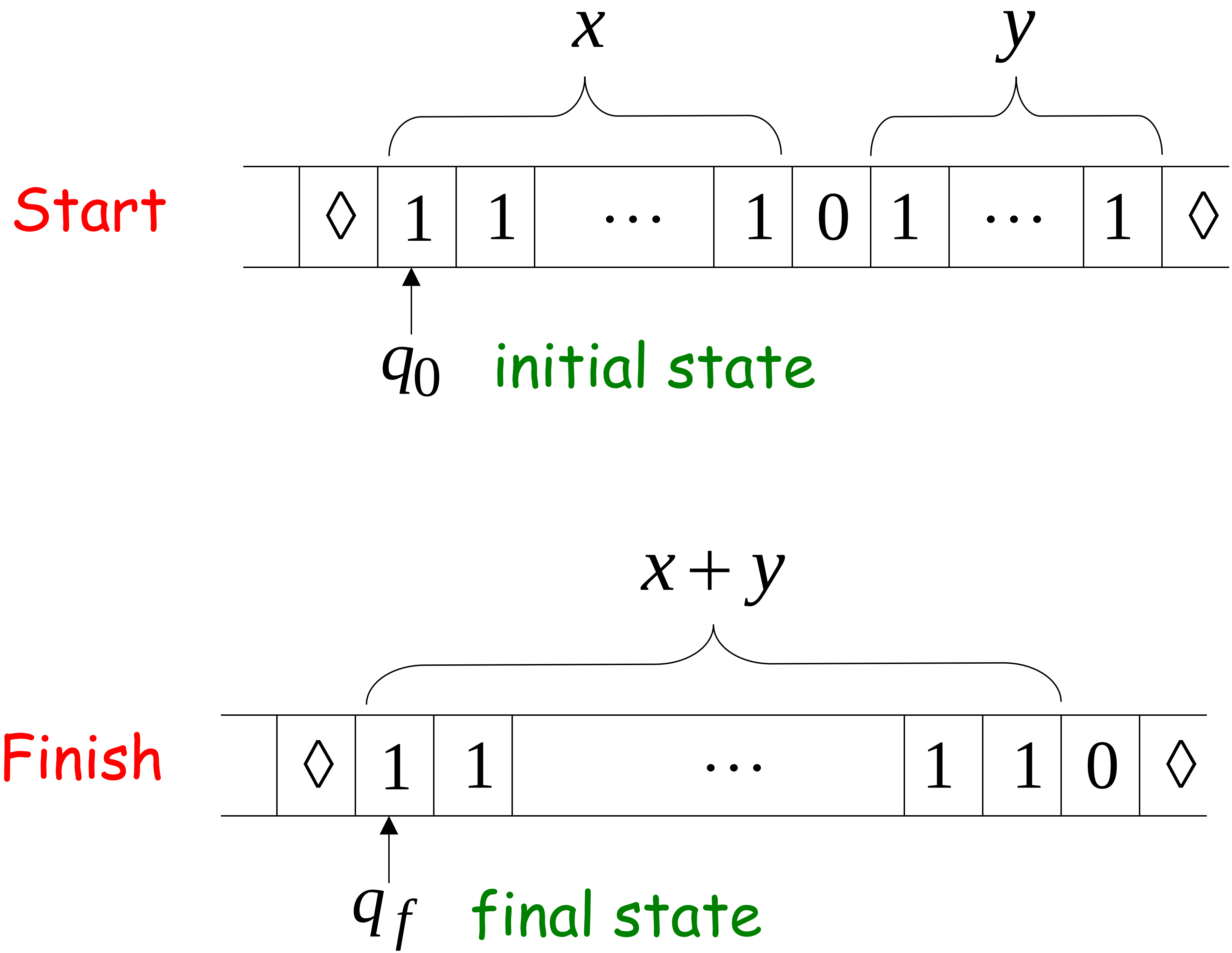
Output string: $xy0$ unary

Start



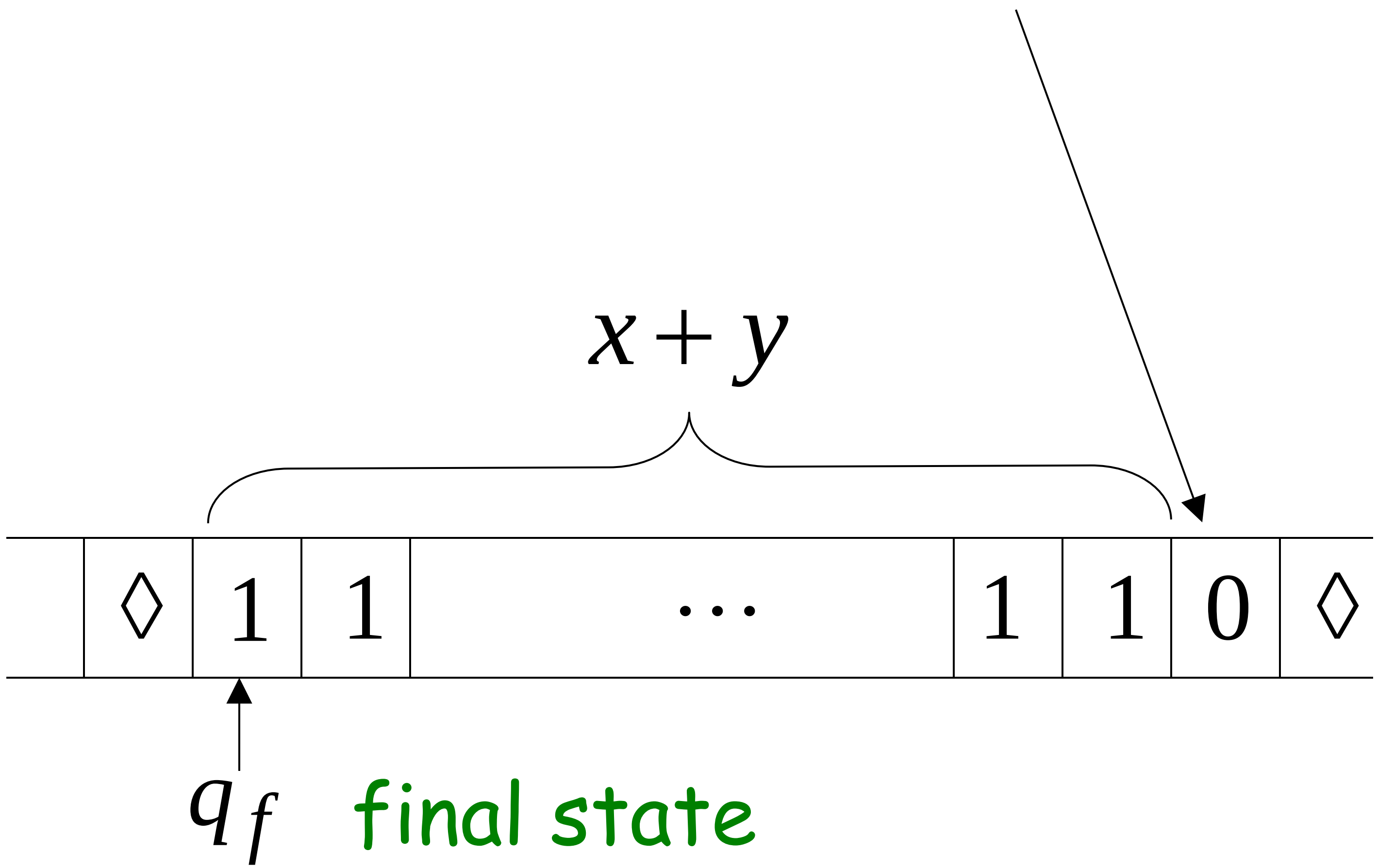
initial state

The 0 is the delimiter that separates the two numbers

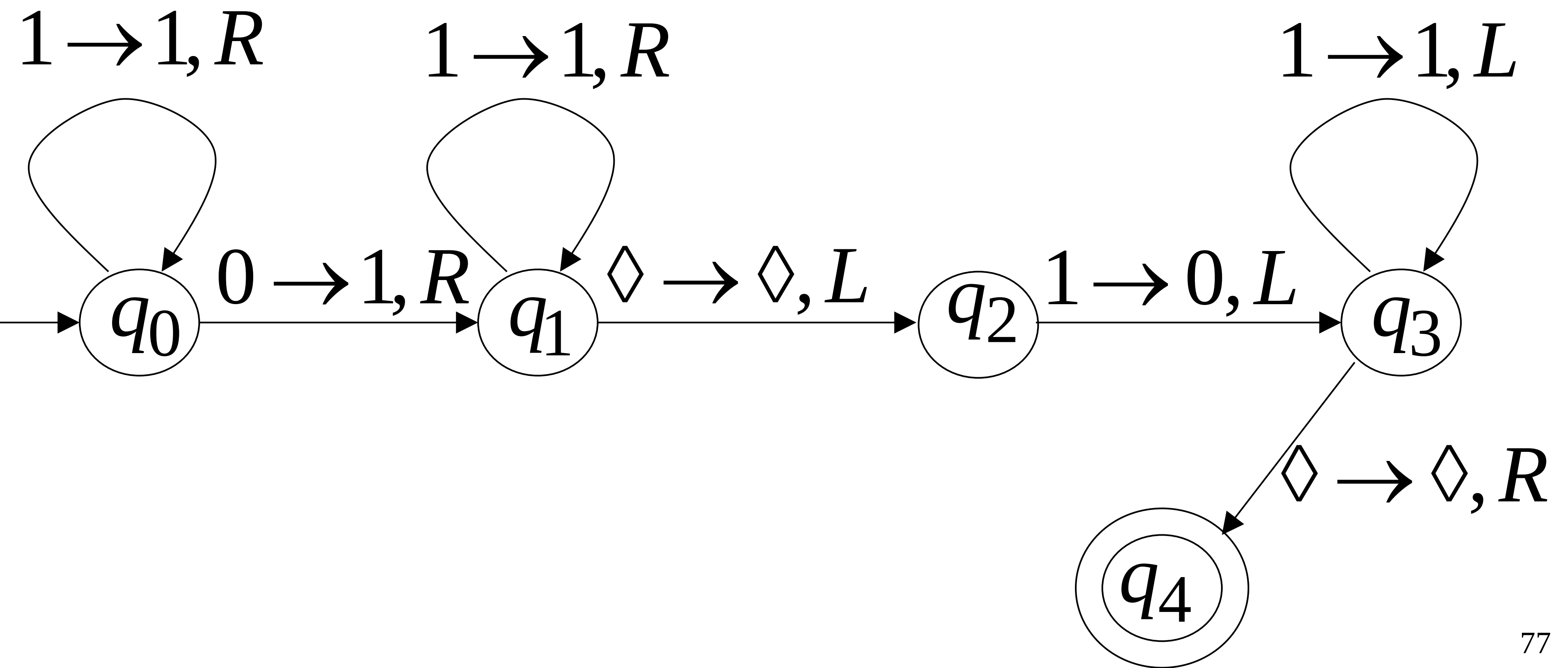

Start
x
y
◊ 1 1 ⋯ 1 0 1 ⋯ 1 ◊
q_0 initial state
Finish
$x+y$
◊ 1 1 ⋯ 1 1 0 ◊
q_f final state

The 0 helps when we use
the result for other operations

Finish



Turing machine for function $f(x, y) = x + y$



Execution Example:

$x = 11$ (2)

$y = 11$ (2)

Time 0

	x			y	
$\lozenge$	1	1	0	1	1	$\lozenge$

q_0

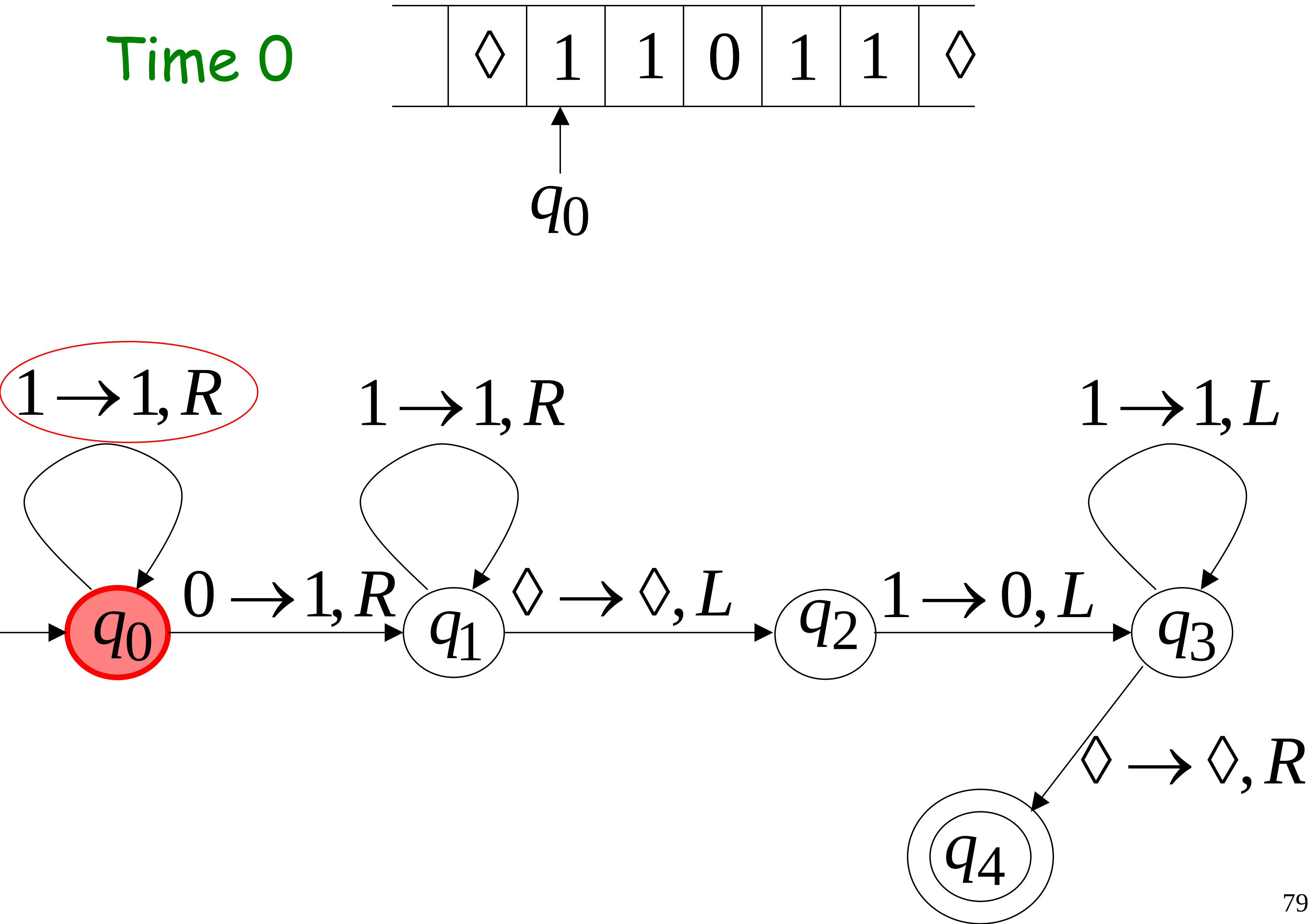
Final Result

$x + y$

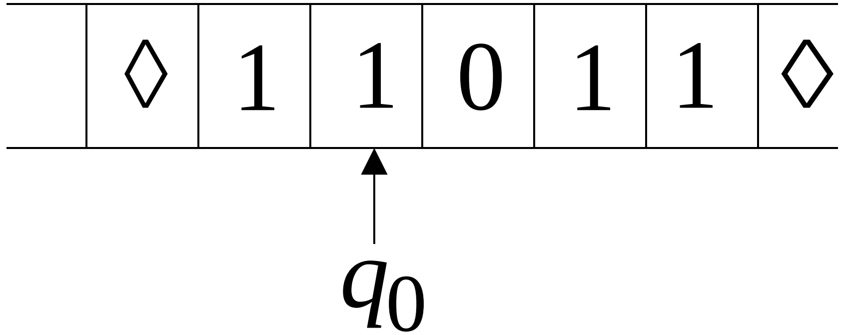
$\lozenge$	1	1	1	1	0	$\lozenge$

q_4

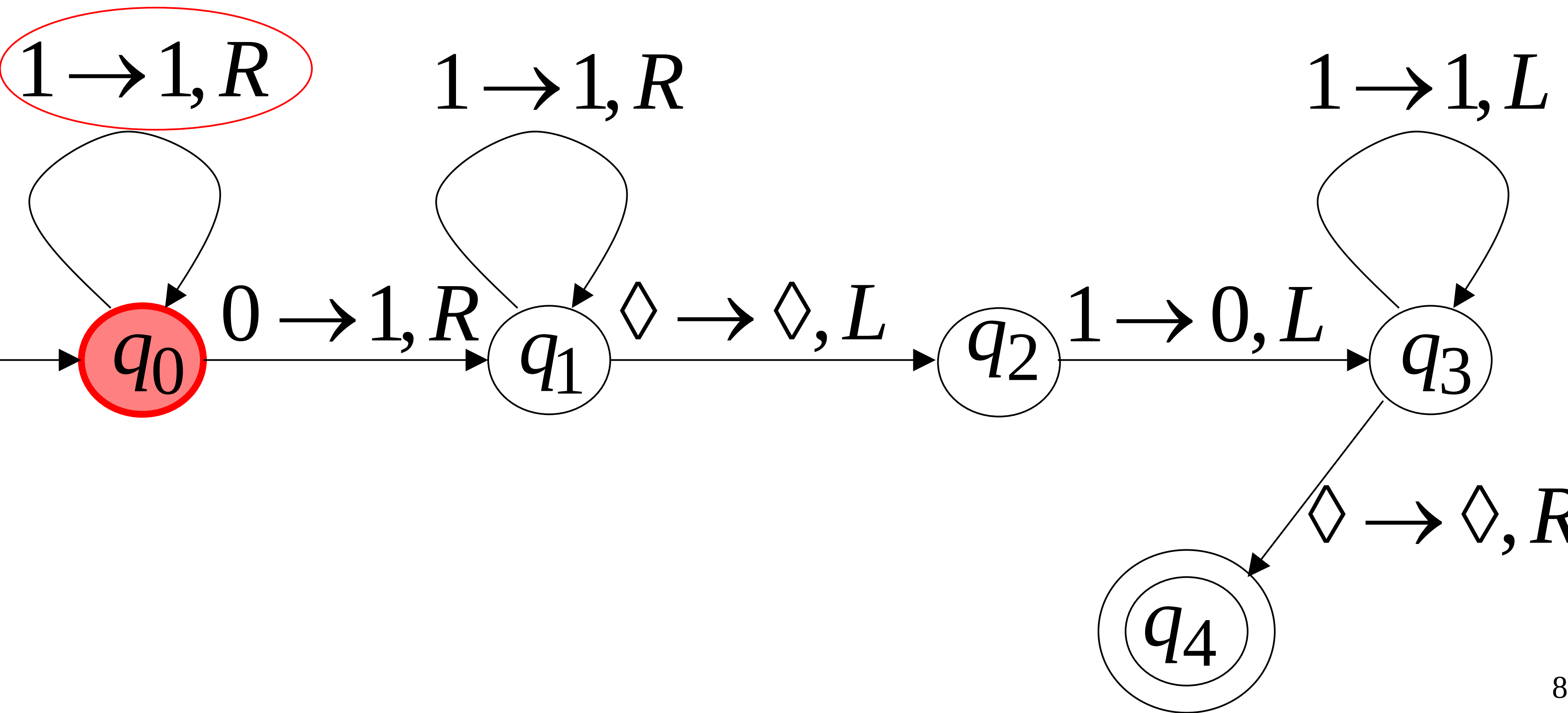
Time 0


◊ 1 1 0 1 1 ◊
q_0
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
$\lozenge \rightarrow \lozenge, L$
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
$\lozenge \rightarrow \lozenge, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

Time 1

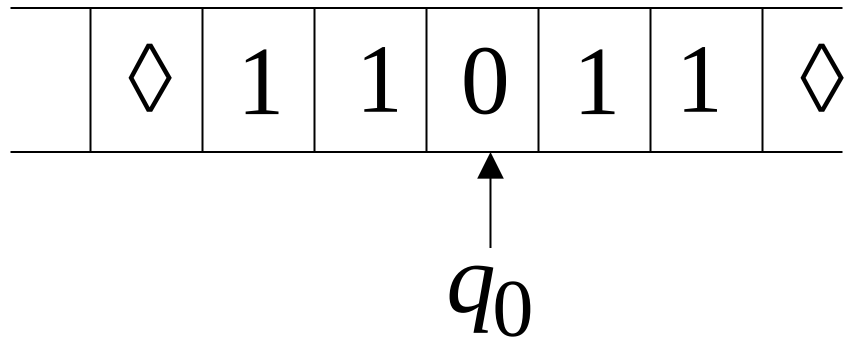


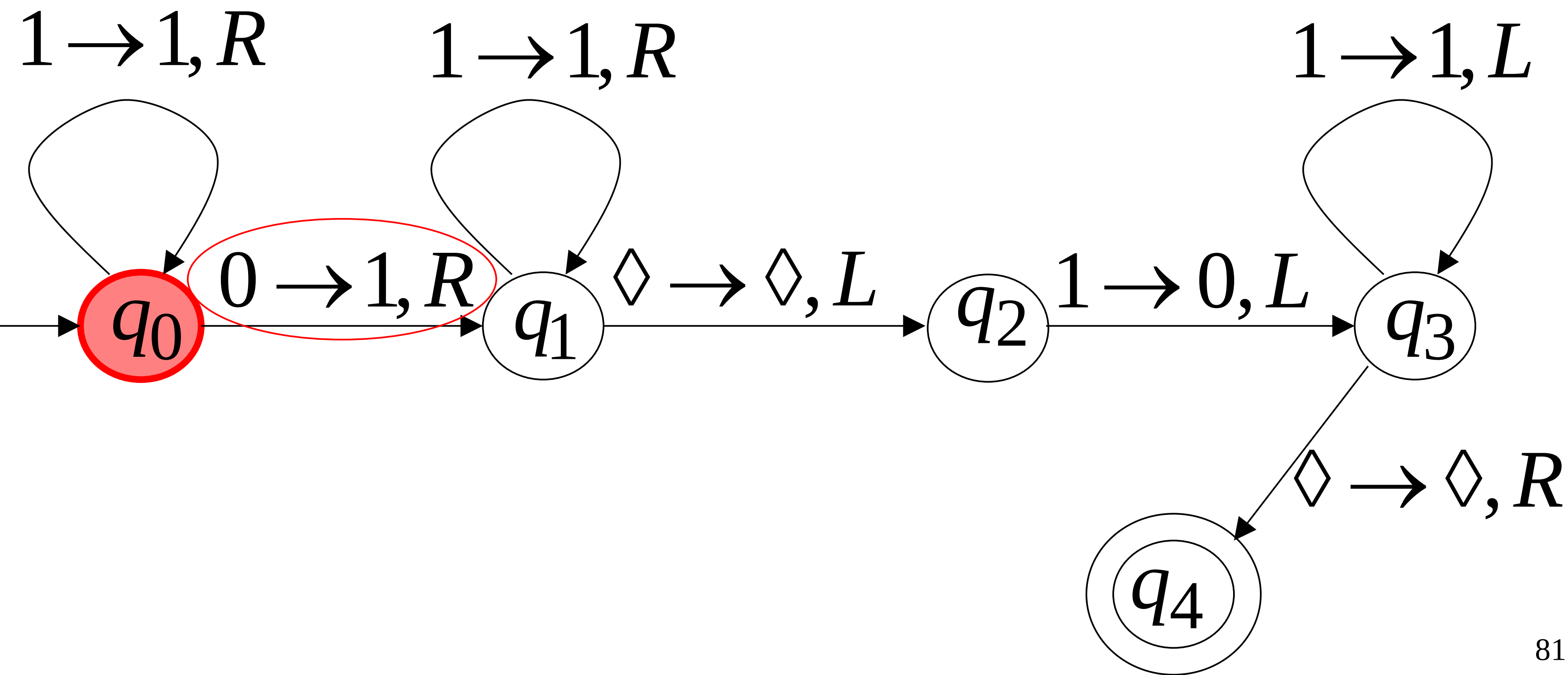
◊ 1 1 0 1 1 ◊
q_0



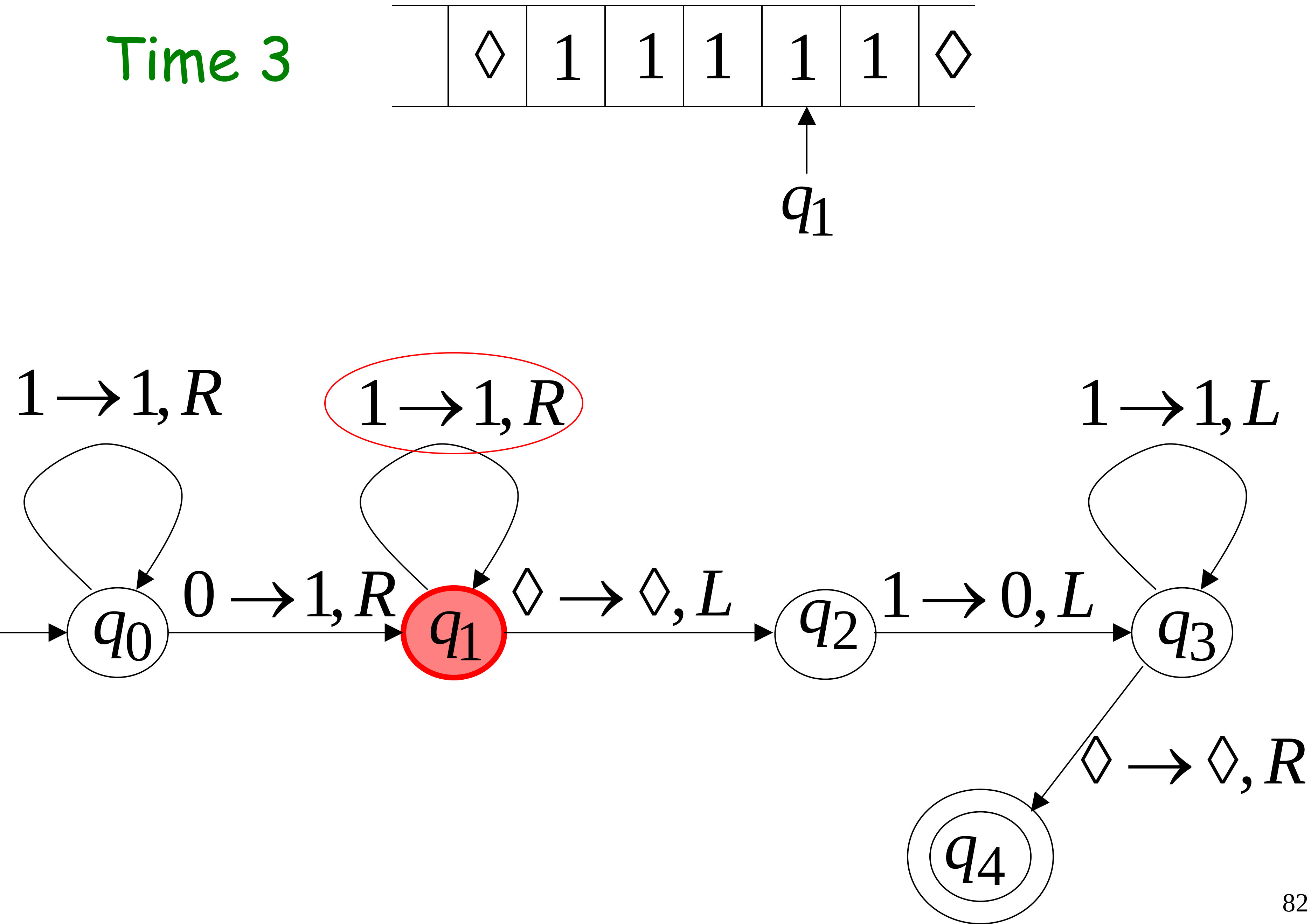
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
q_0
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_4

Time 2

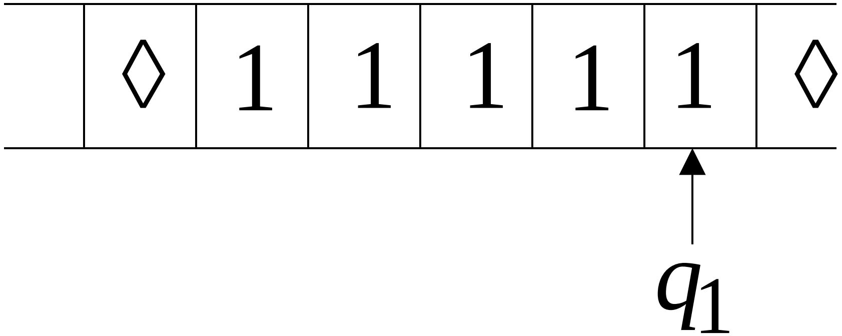

◊
1
1
0
1
1
◊
q_0

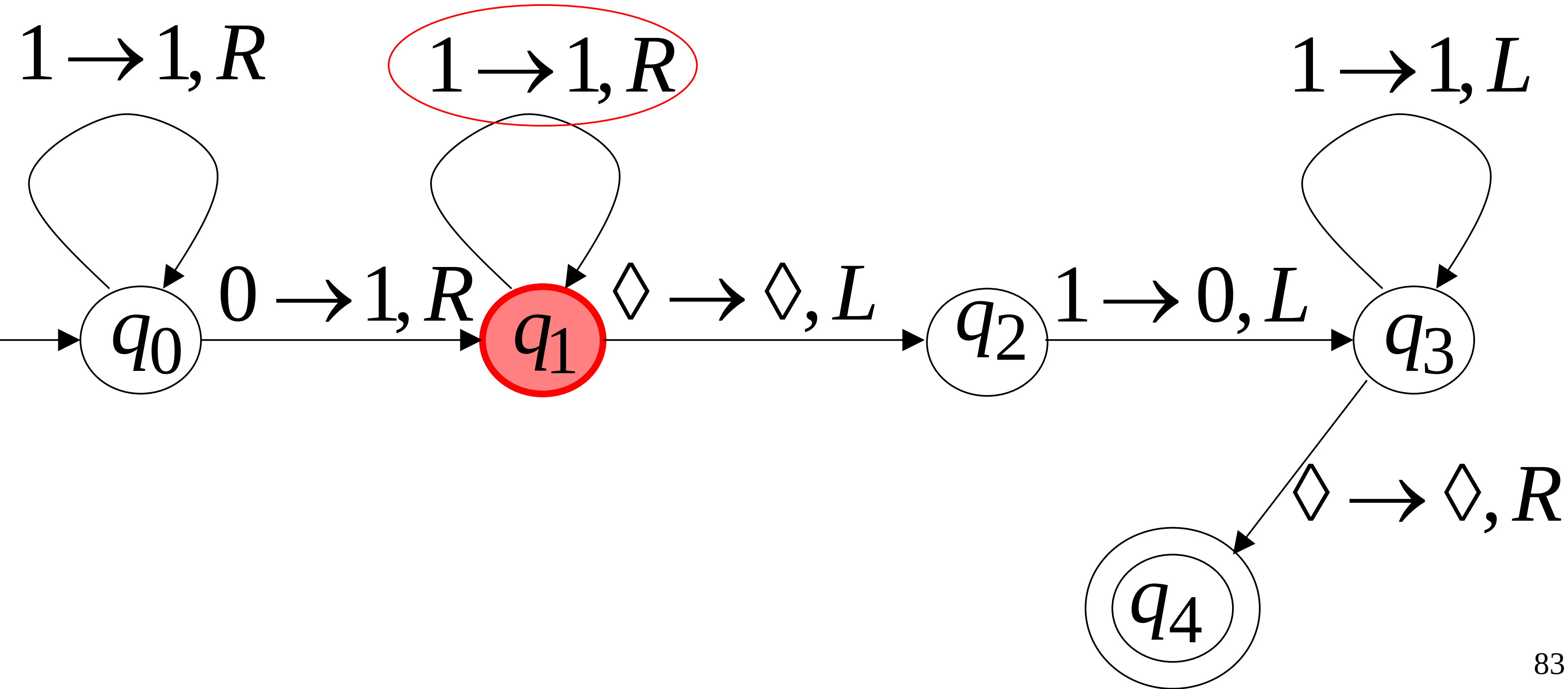

$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
q_0
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_4

Time 3

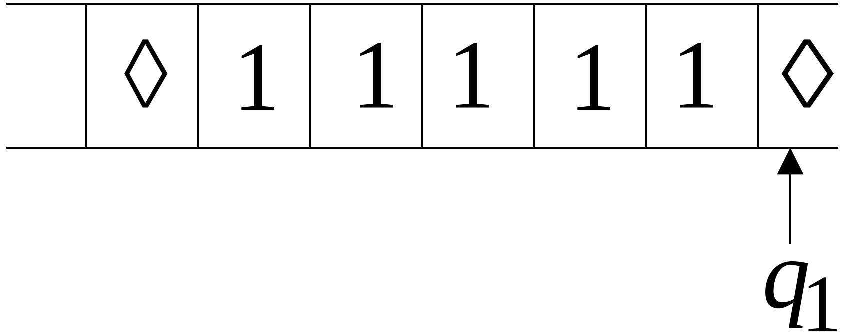

◊
1
1
1
1
1
◊
q_1
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
$◊ \rightarrow ◊, L$
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
$◊ \rightarrow ◊, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

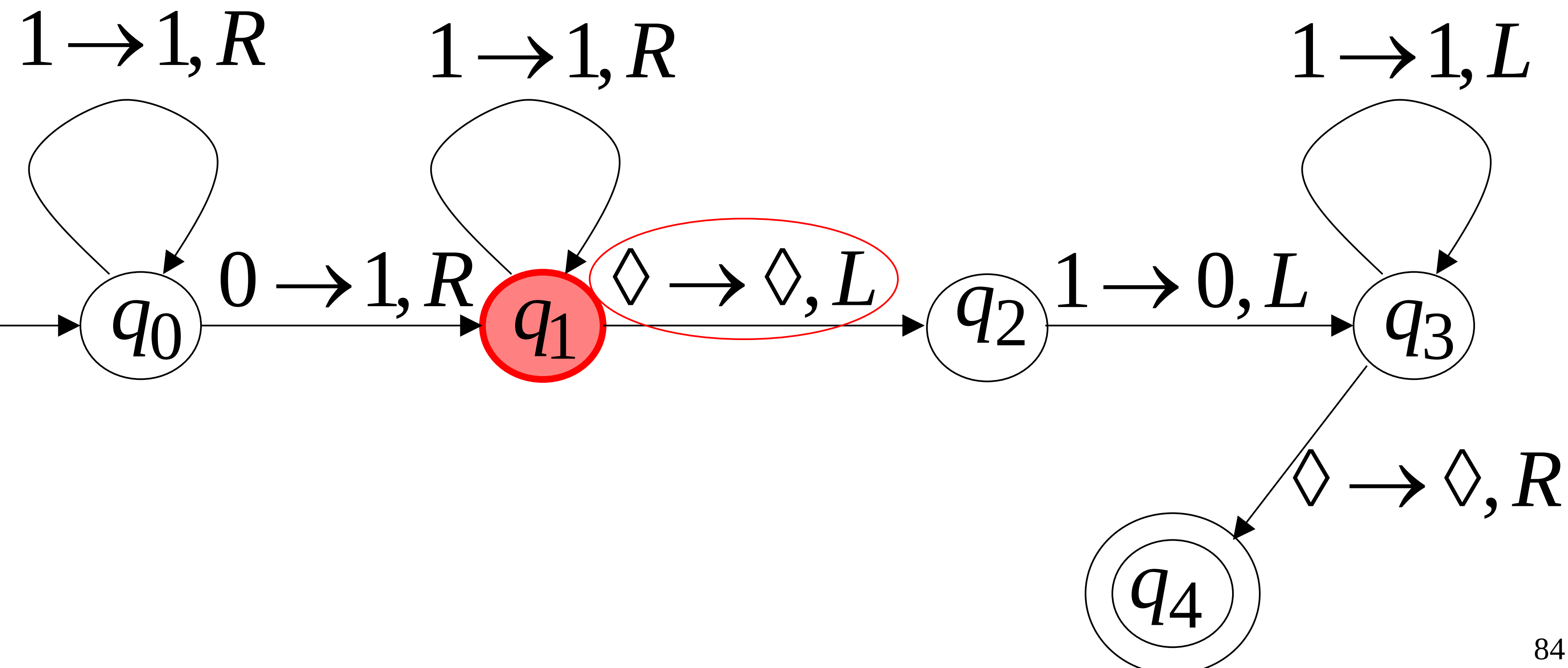
Time 4


◊
1
1
1
1
1
◊
q_1

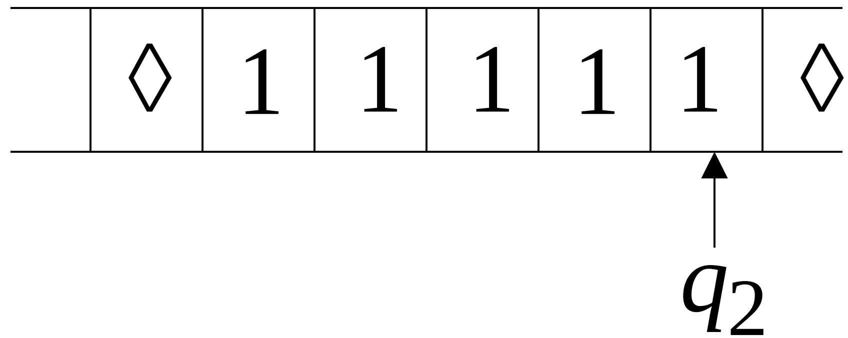

$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
q_0
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_4

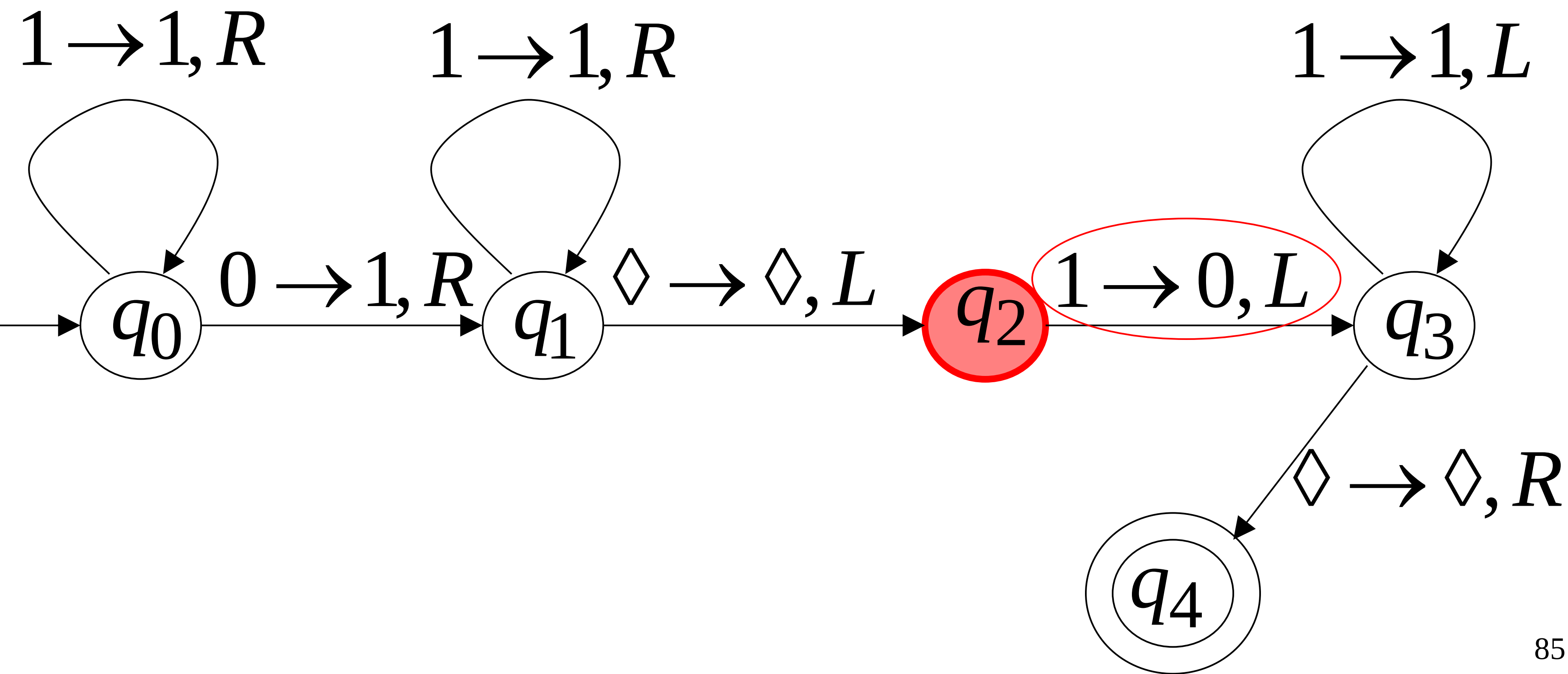
Time 5


◊ 1 1 1 1 1 ◊
q_1

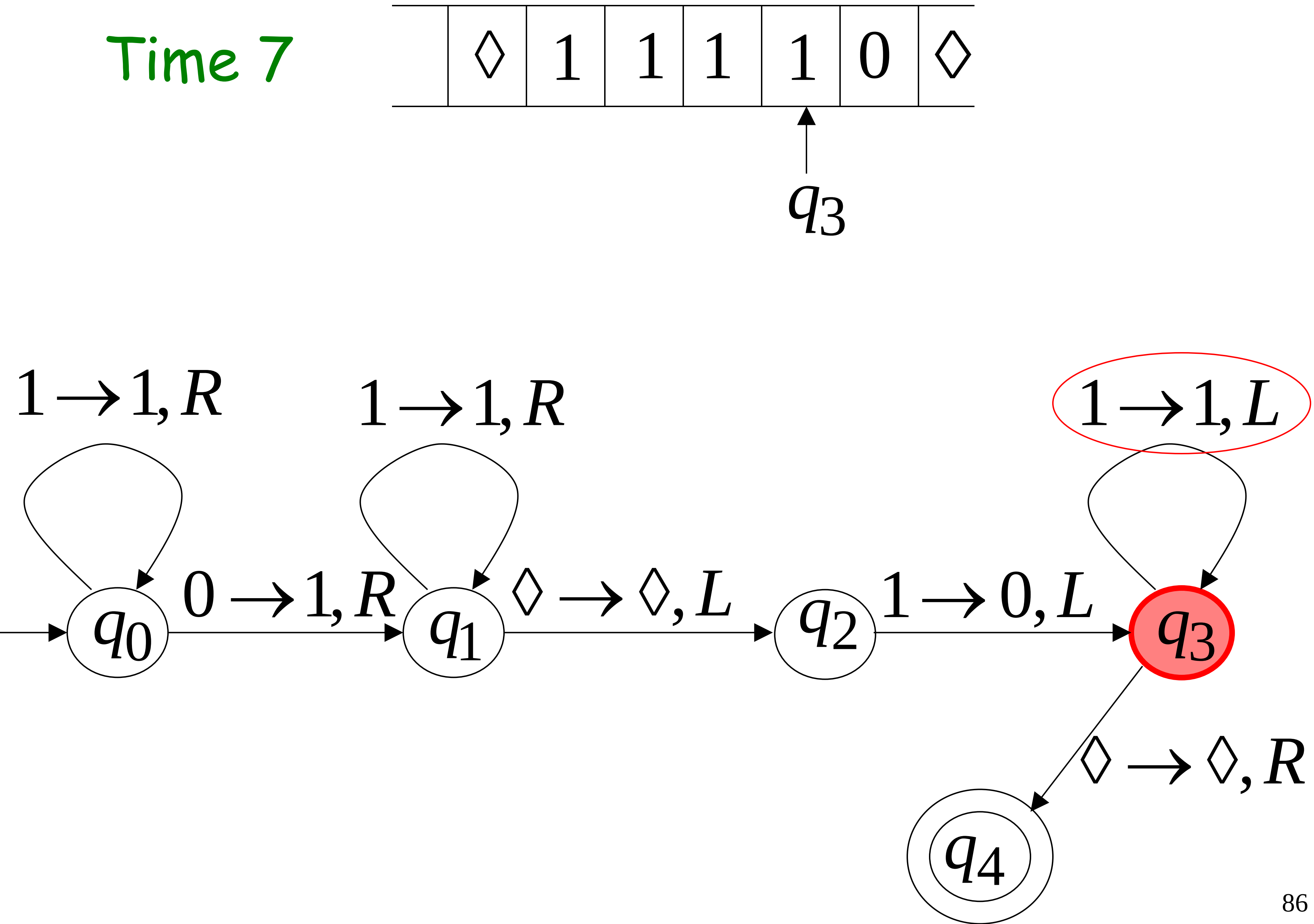

$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

Time 6


◊ 1 1 1 1 1 ◊
q_2

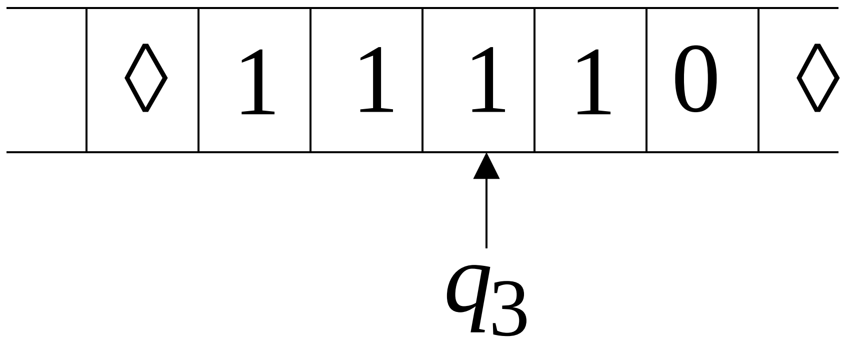

$1 \to 1, R$
$1 \to 1, R$
$1 \to 1, L$
q_0
$0 \to 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \to 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, R$
q_4

Time 7

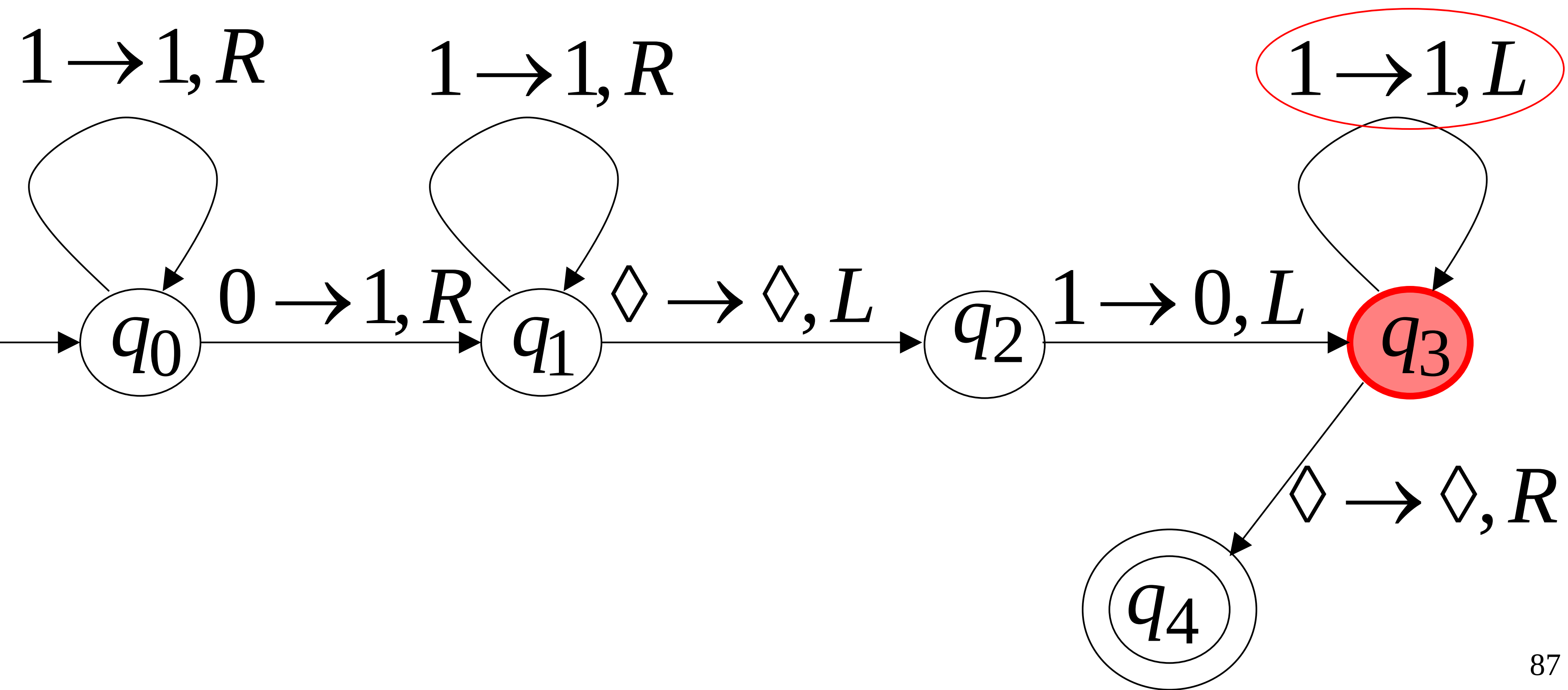


◊
1
1
1
1
0
◊
q_3
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
$◊ \rightarrow ◊, L$
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
$◊ \rightarrow ◊, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

Time 8

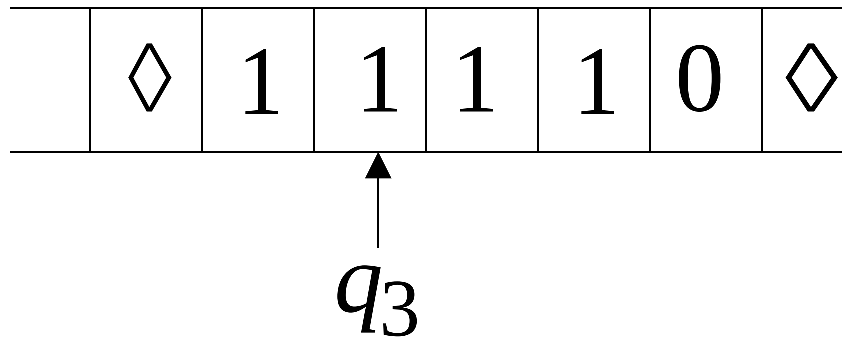


◊ 1 1 1 1 0 ◊
q_3

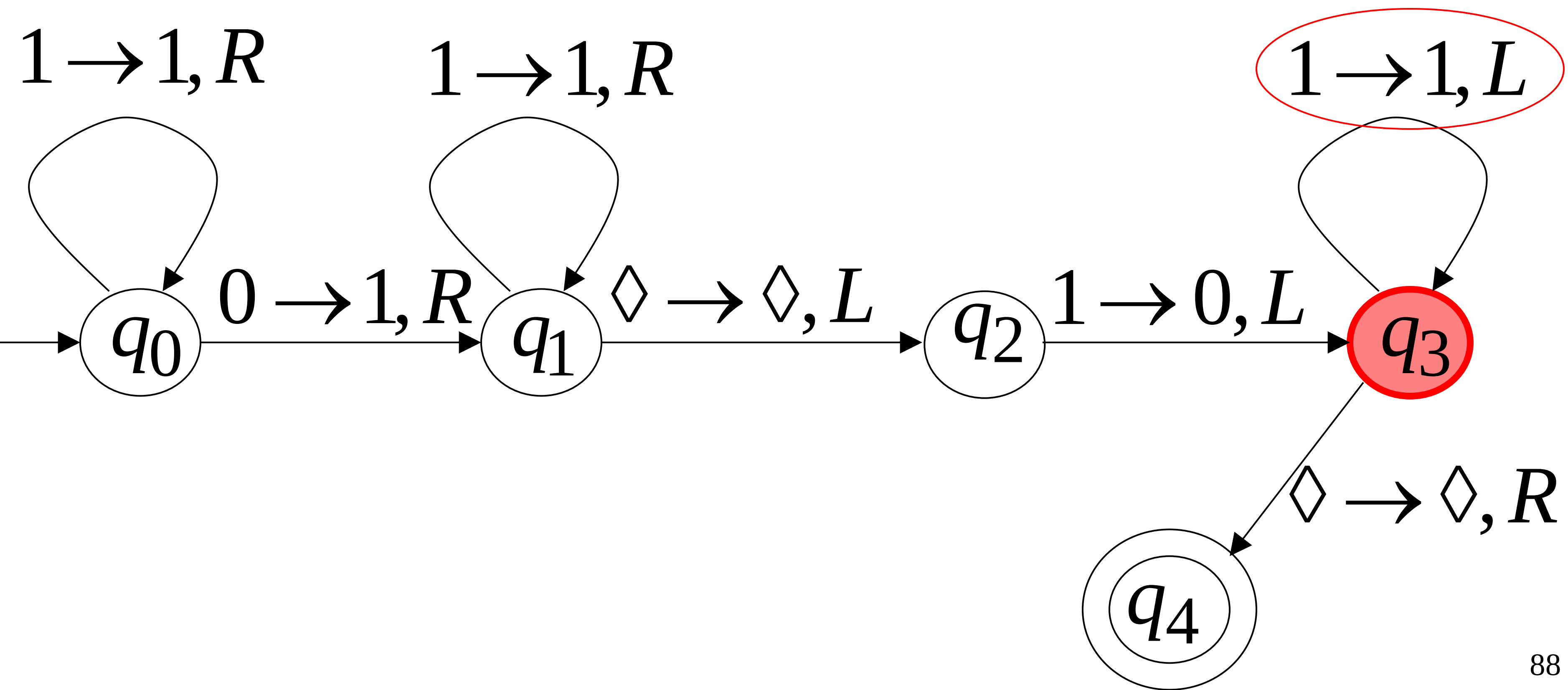


$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

Time 9

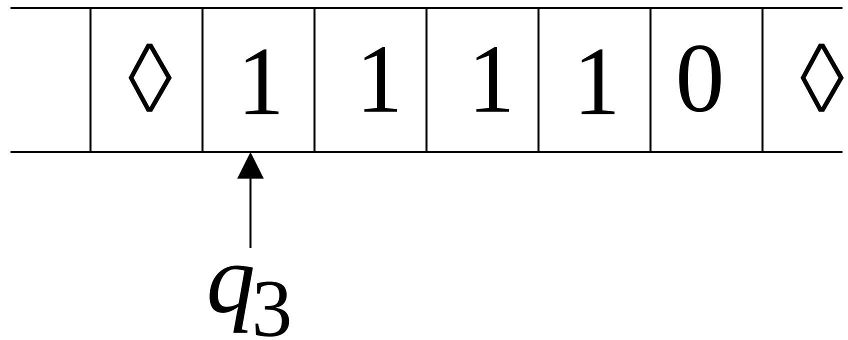


◊
1
1
1
1
0
◊
q_3

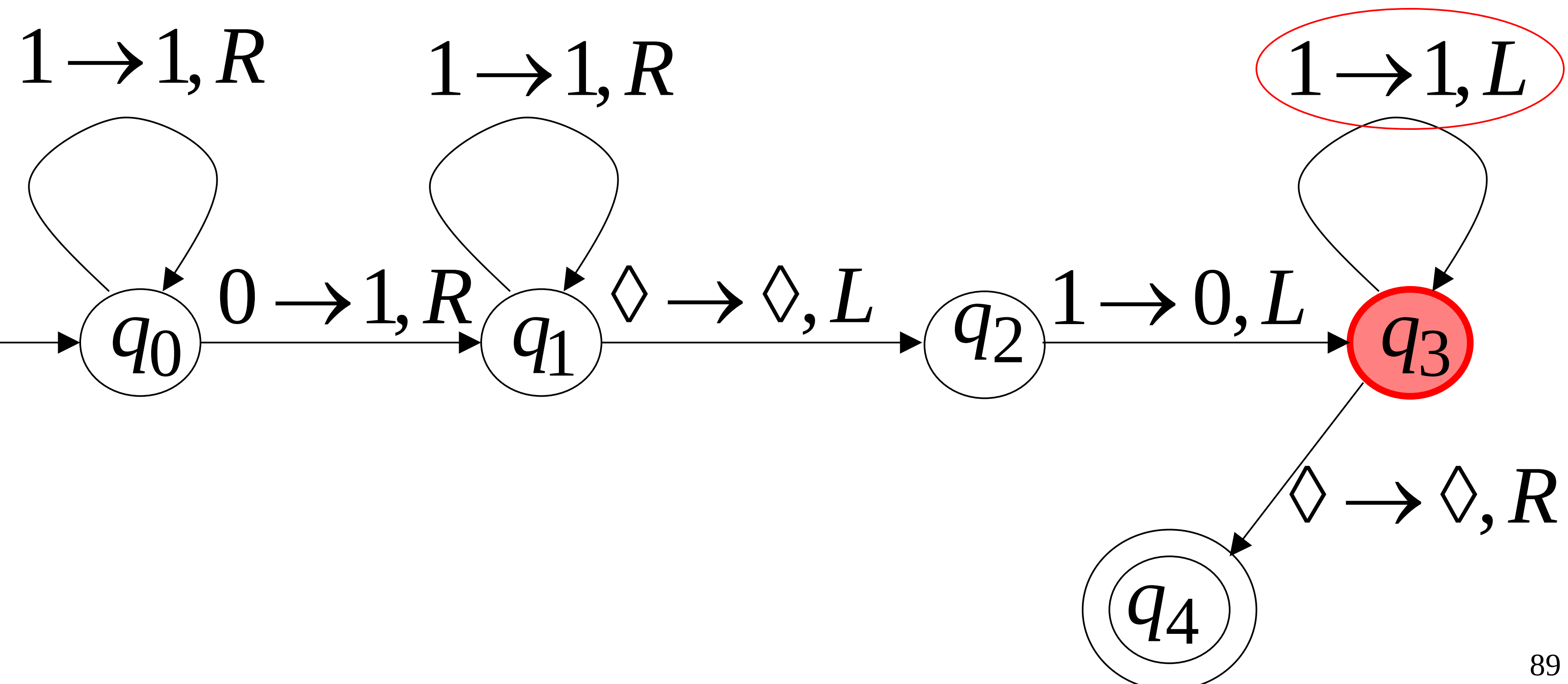


$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
q_0
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_4

Time 10

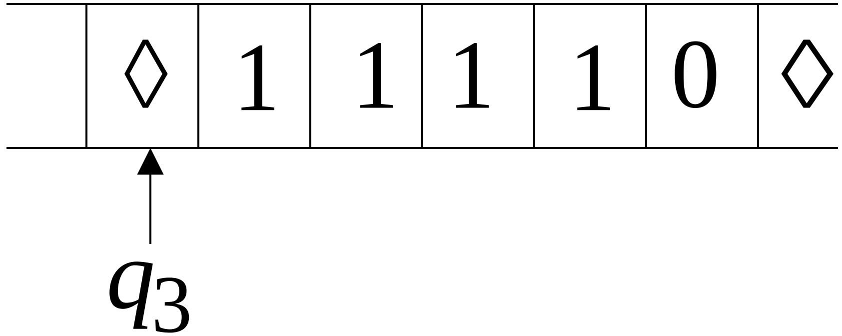


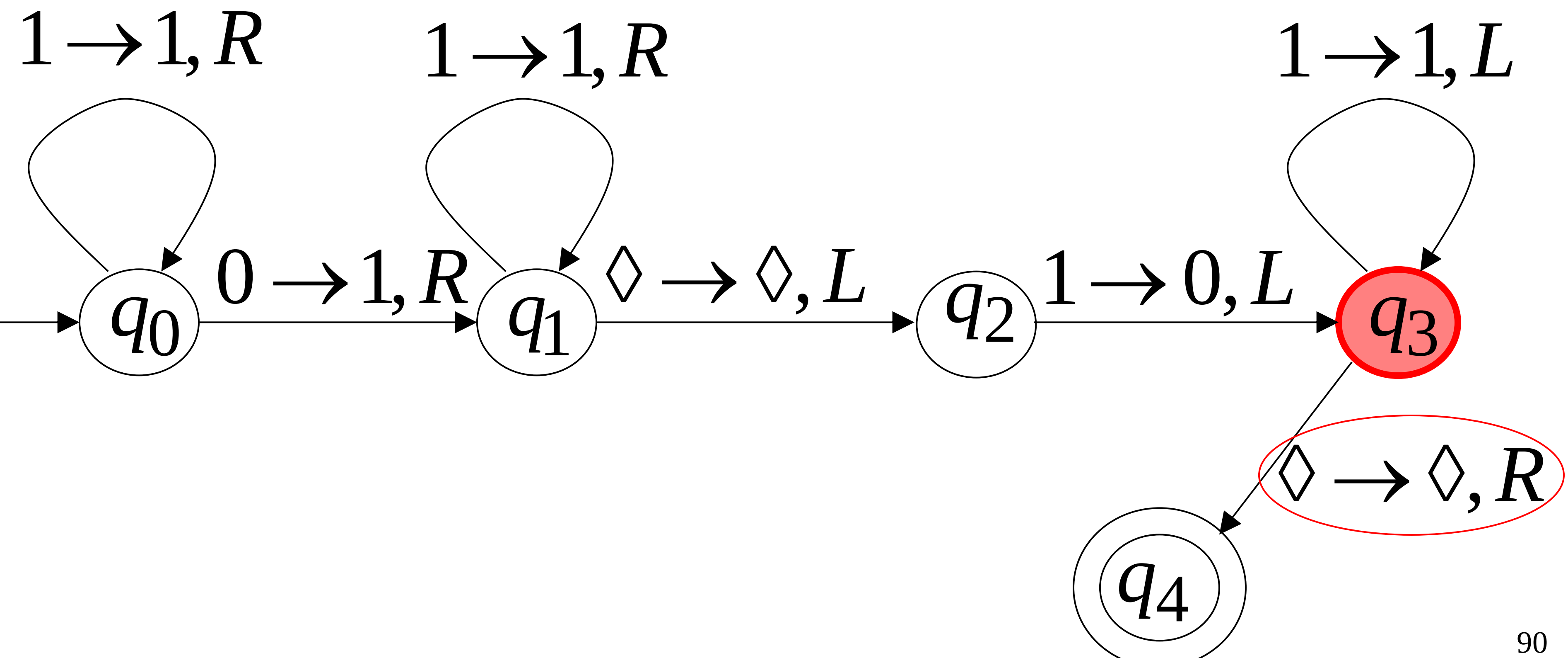
◊
1
1
1
1
0
◊
q_3



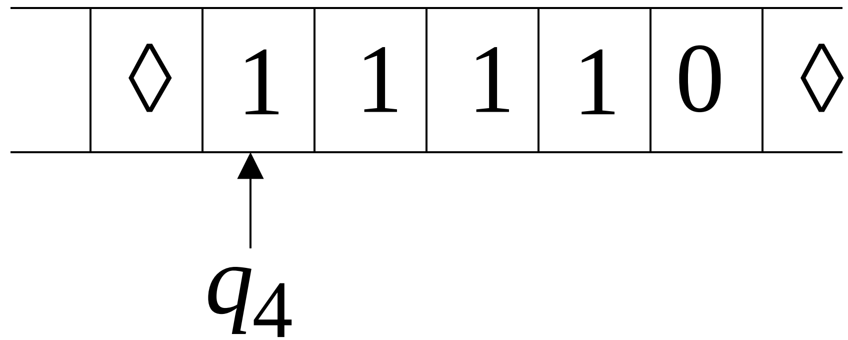
$1 \to 1, R$
$1 \to 1, R$
$1 \to 1, L$
$0 \to 1, R$
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, L$
$1 \to 0, L$
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, R$
q_0
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4

Time 11

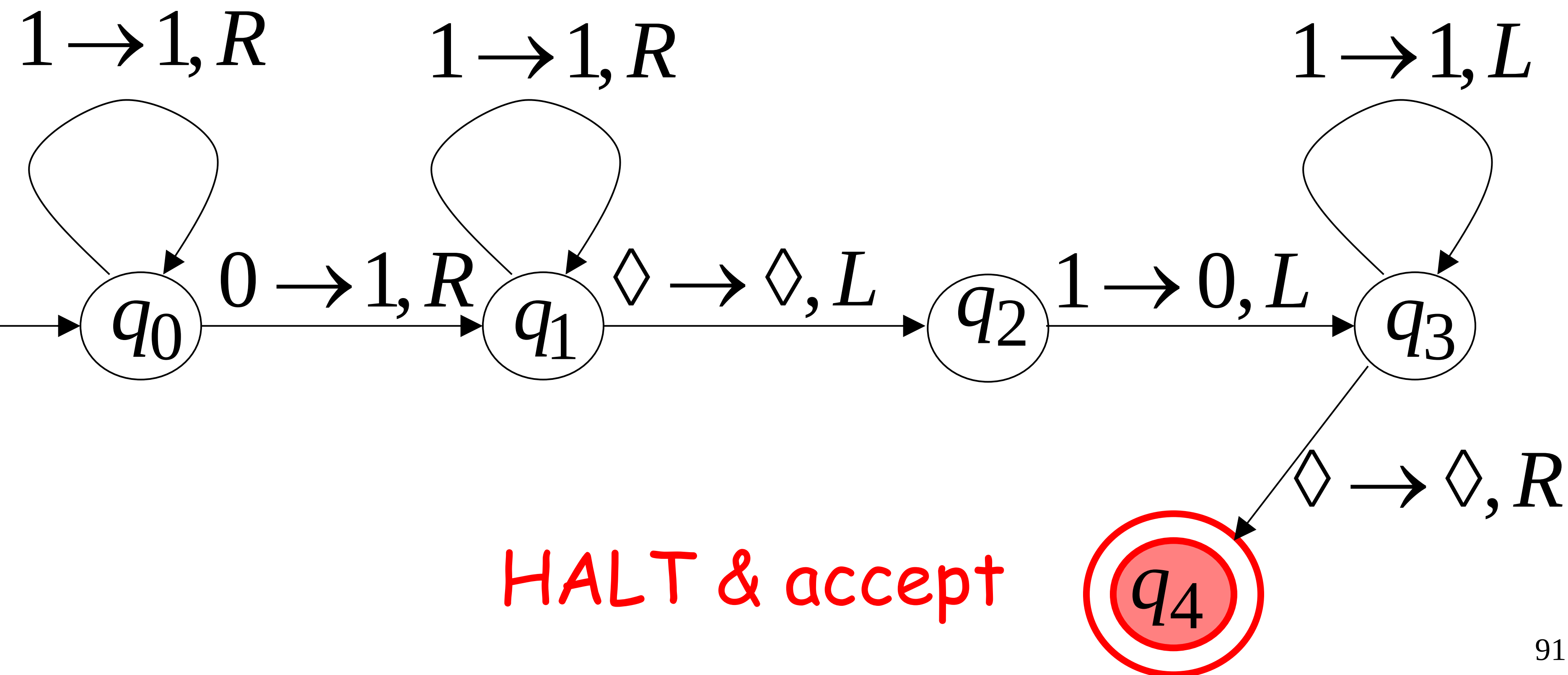

◊
1
1
1
1
0
◊
q_3


$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, R$
$1 \rightarrow 1, L$
q_0
$0 \rightarrow 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \rightarrow 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \rightarrow \Diamond, R$
q_4

Time 12



◊
1
1
1
1
0
◊
q_4



$1 \to 1, R$
$1 \to 1, R$
$1 \to 1, L$
q_0
$0 \to 1, R$
q_1
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, L$
q_2
$1 \to 0, L$
q_3
$\Diamond \to \Diamond, R$
HALT & accept
q_4

Another Example

The function $f(x) = 2x$ is computable

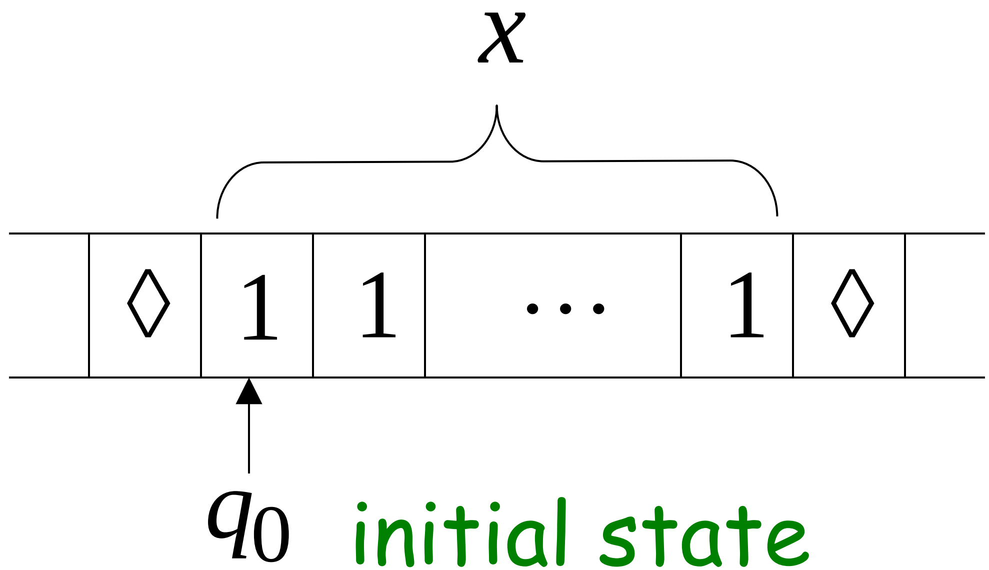
x is integer

Turing Machine:

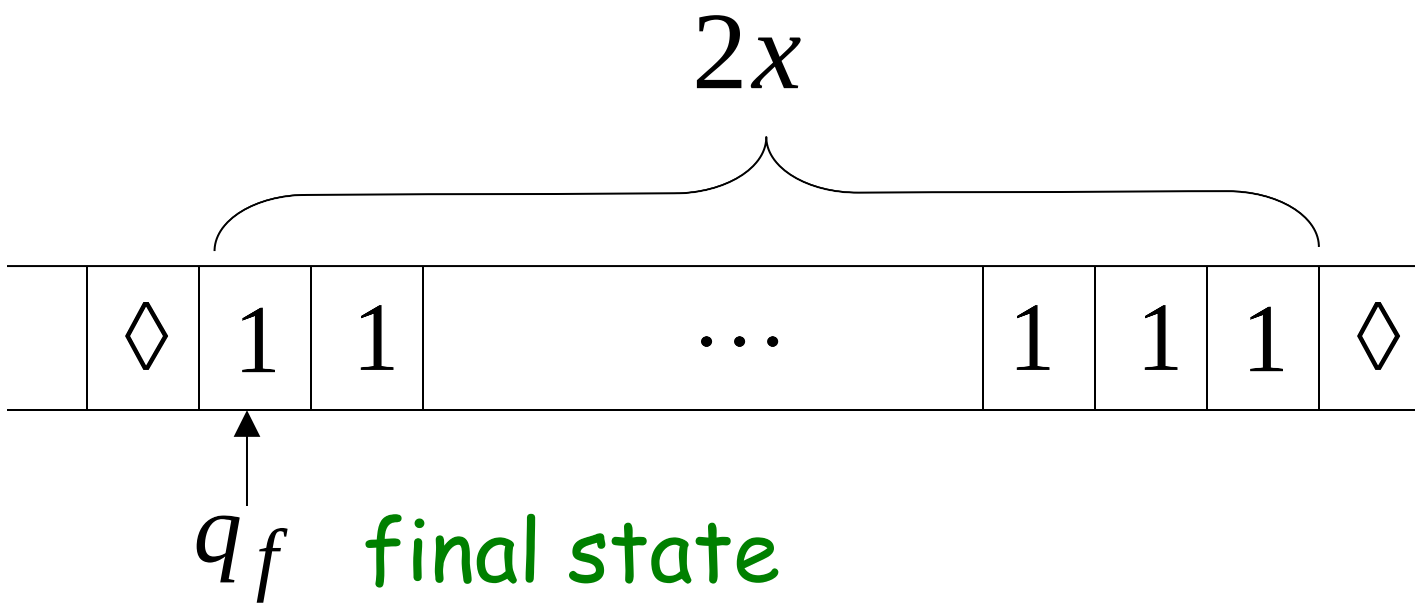
Input string: x unary

Output string: xx unary

Start



Finish



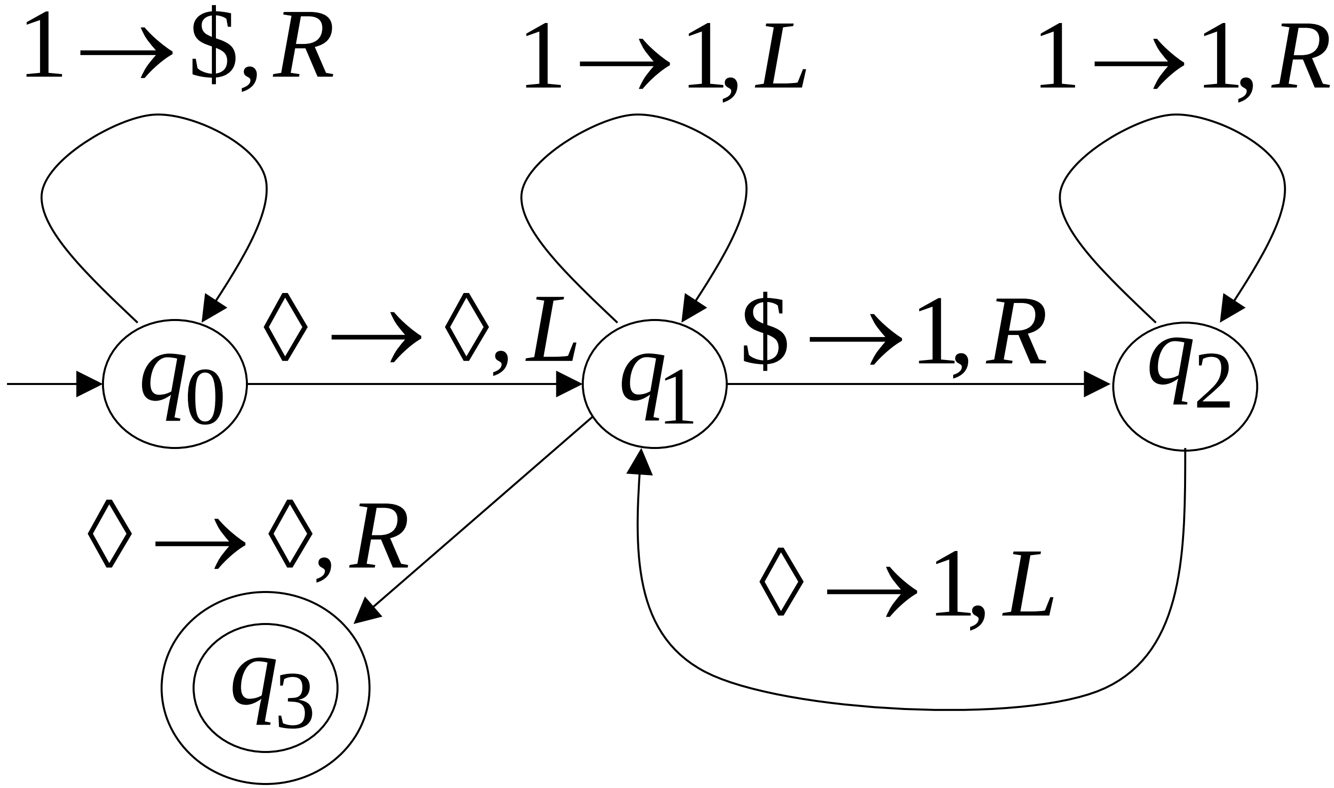
Turing Machine Pseudocode for $f(x) = 2x$

- Replace every 1 with \$

- Repeat:
    - Find rightmost \$, replace it with 1
    - Go to right end, insert 1

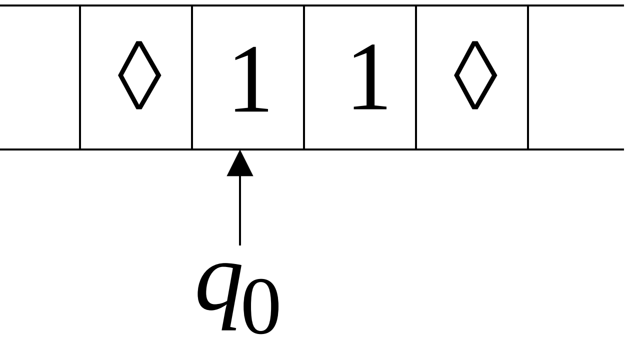
Until no more \$ remain

Turing Machine for $f(x) = 2x$

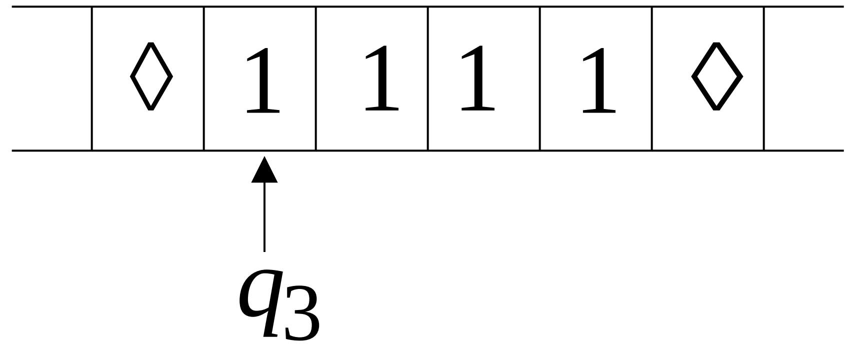


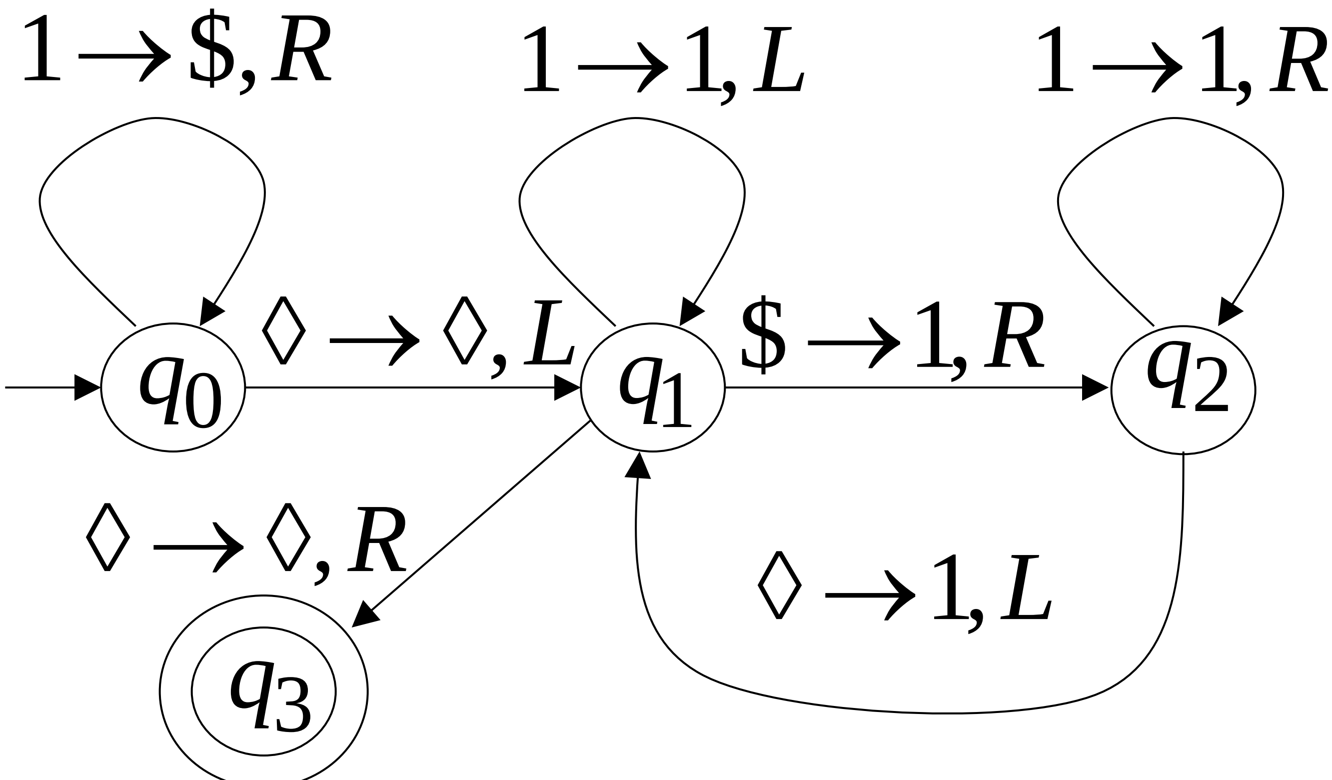
Example

Start



Finish





Another Example

The function

is computable

$$f(x,y)=\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x>y \\ 0 & \text{if } x\leq y \end{cases}$$

Turing Machine for

$$f(x,y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > y \\ 0 & \text{if } x \le y \end{cases}$$

Input: $x0y$

Output: 1 or 0

Turing Machine Pseudocode:

- Repeat

  Match a 1 from x with a 1 from y

  Until all of x or y is matched

- If a 1 from x is not matched

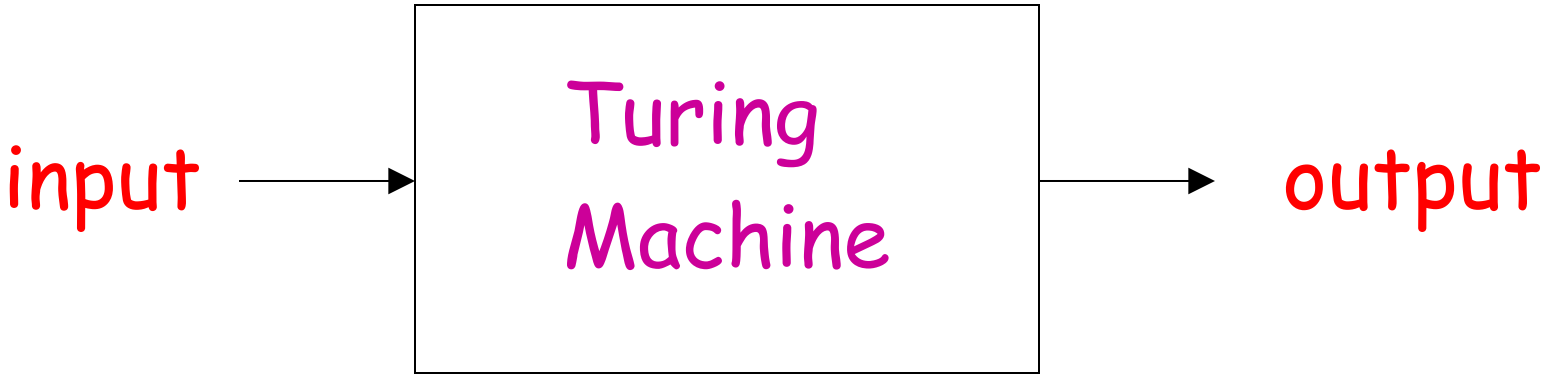
  erase tape, write 1 $(x > y)$

  else

  erase tape, write 0 $(x \leq y)$

Combining Turing Machines

Block Diagram



Example:

$$f(x,y)=\begin{cases} x+y & \text{if } x>y \\ 0 & \text{if } x\le y \end{cases}$$