

31. We'll prove that the perfect shuffle of two regular languages  $A$  and  $B$  is regular by constructing a DFA that recognizes it. Let's say that  $A$  and  $B$  are recognized respectively by the DFAs  $D_A = (Q_A, \Sigma, \delta_A, q_A, F_A)$  and  $D_B = (Q_B, \Sigma, \delta_B, q_B, F_B)$ . We construct a DFA  $D_S$  with the following 5-tuple.

$$\begin{aligned} Q_S &= Q_A \times Q_B \times \{A, B\} \\ \Sigma_S &= \Sigma \\ \delta_S((q, q', A), c) &\rightarrow (\delta_A(q, c), q', B) \\ \delta_S((q, q', B), c) &\rightarrow (q, \delta_B(q', c), A) \\ q_S &= (q_A, q_B, A) \\ F_S &= F_A \times F_B \times \{A\} \end{aligned}$$

$D_S$  tracks the progress of the input string through both  $D_A$  and  $D_B$  by keeping track of the states of these DFAs, and alternating between their transition function upon reading each symbol.  $D_S$  starts out tracking the start states of both DFAs, and expecting to effect the next transition on  $D_A$ .  $D_S$  reaches a final state upon reading the input string iff the input string has a form  $a_1b_1a_2b_2 \cdots a_kb_k$  where  $a_1a_2 \cdots a_k \in L(D_A)$  and  $b_1b_2 \cdots b_k \in L(D_B)$ , because such and only such strings can take the state of  $D_S$  to some state in  $F_A \times F_B \times \{A\}$ .

This concludes the proof.