

# Unsolvable Problems

## Part Two

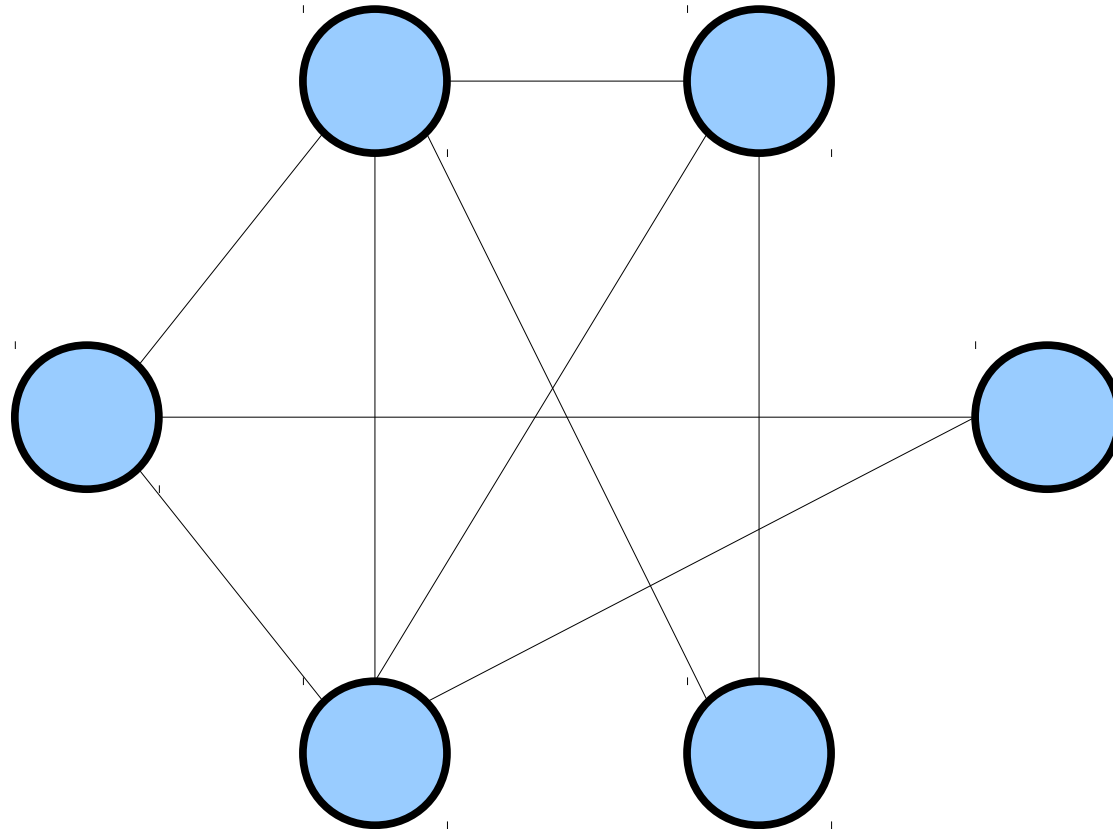
# Outline for Today

- ***Recap from Last Time***
  - Where are we, again?
- ***A Different Perspective on RE***
  - What exactly does “recognizability” mean?
- ***Verifiers***
  - A new approach to problem-solving.
- ***Beyond RE***
  - Monstrously hard problems!

# Verifiers

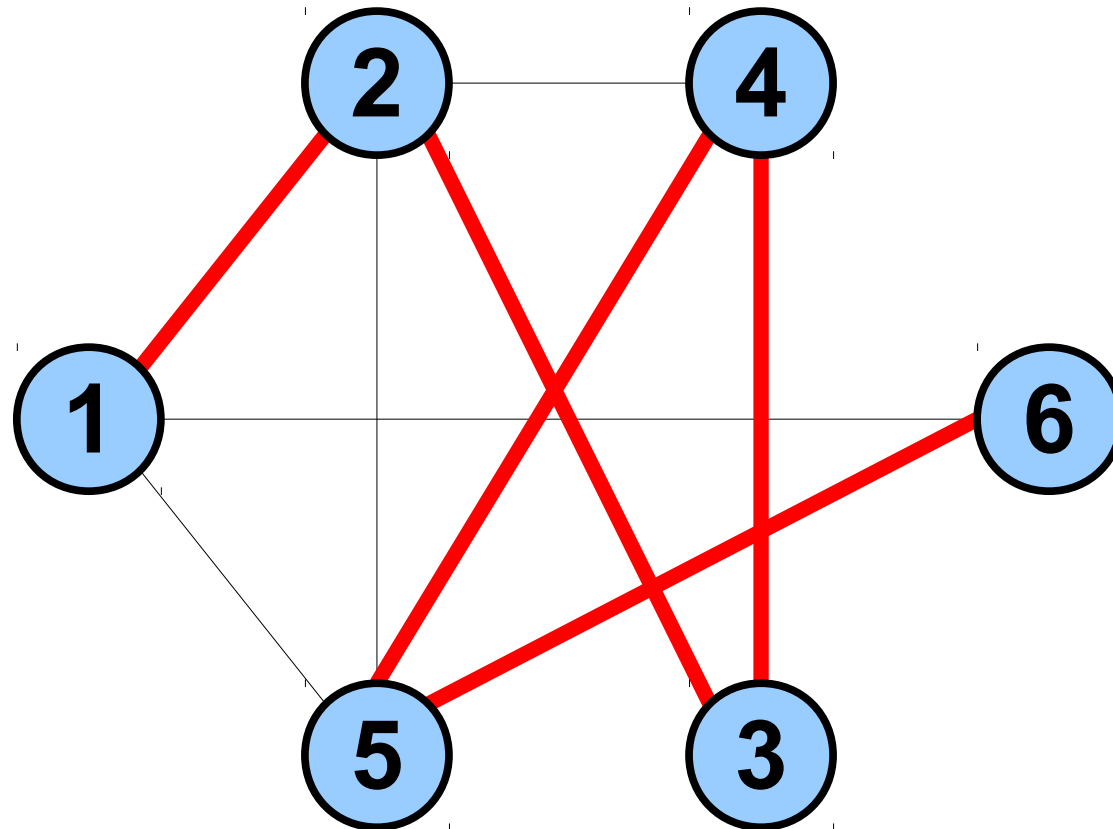
- A **verifier** for a language  $L$  is a TM  $V$  with the following properties:
  - $V$  halts on all inputs.
  - For any string  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , the following is true:
$$w \in L \leftrightarrow \exists c \in \Sigma^*. V \text{ accepts } \langle w, c \rangle$$
- A string  $c$  where  $V$  accepts  $\langle w, c \rangle$  is called a **certificate** for  $w$ .
- Intuitively, what does this mean?

# Verification



Is there a simple path that goes through every node exactly once?

# Verification



Is there a simple path that goes through every node exactly once?

# Some Verifiers

- Let  $L$  be the following language:

$L = \{ \langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is a graph with a Hamiltonian path} \}$

```
bool checkHamiltonian(Graph G, vector<Node> c) {  
    if (c.size() != G.numNodes()) return false;  
    if (containsDuplicate(c)) return false;  
  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < c.size() - 1; i++) {  
        if (!G.hasEdge(c[i], c[i+1])) return false;  
    }  
    return true;  
}
```

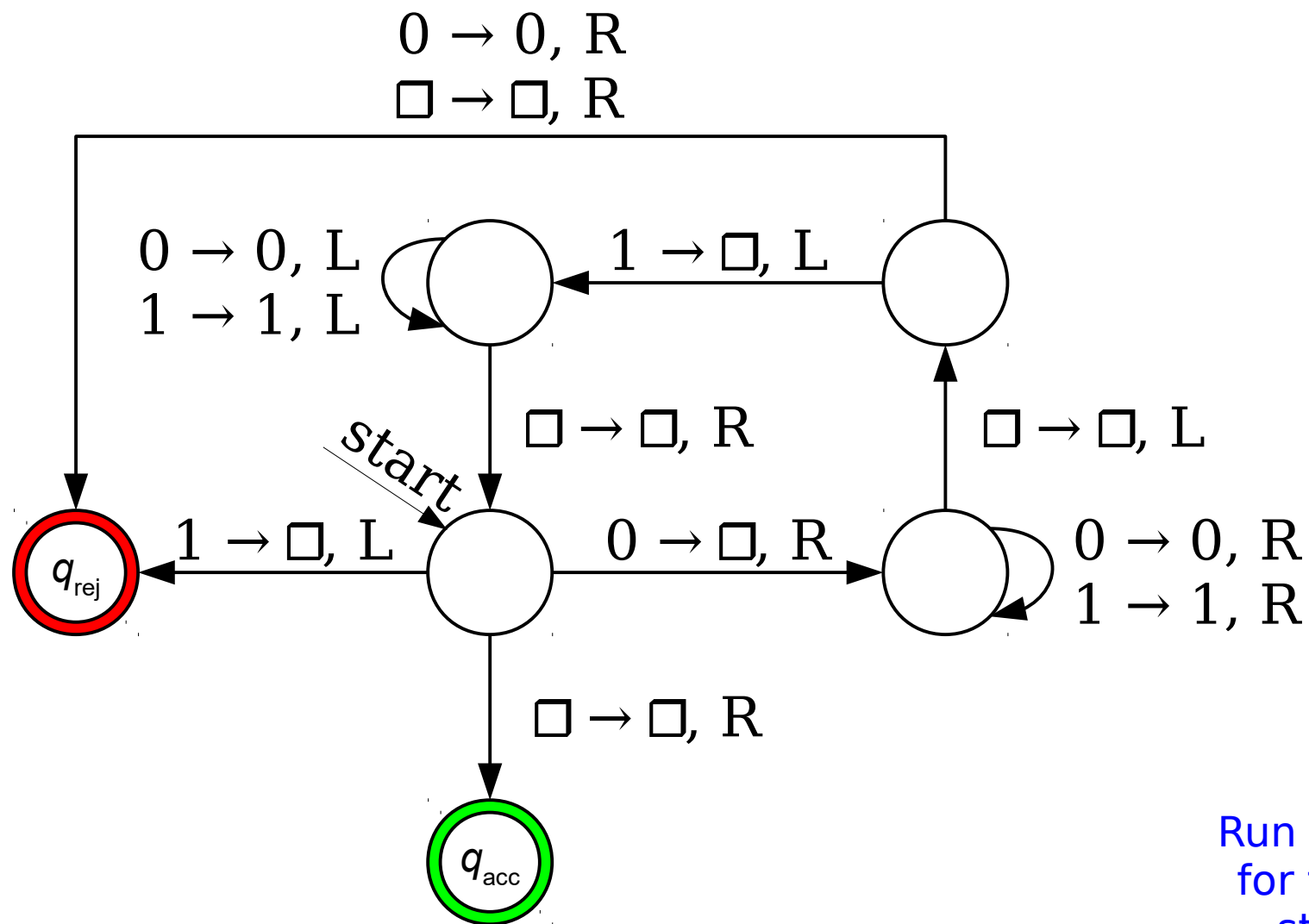
- Do you see why  $\langle G \rangle \in L$  iff there is a  $c$  where `checkHamiltonian(G, c)` returns true?
- Do you see why `checkHamiltonian` always halts?

# Some Verifiers

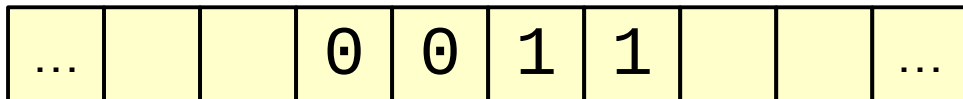
- Consider  $A_{\text{TM}}$ :

$$A_{\text{TM}} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}.$$

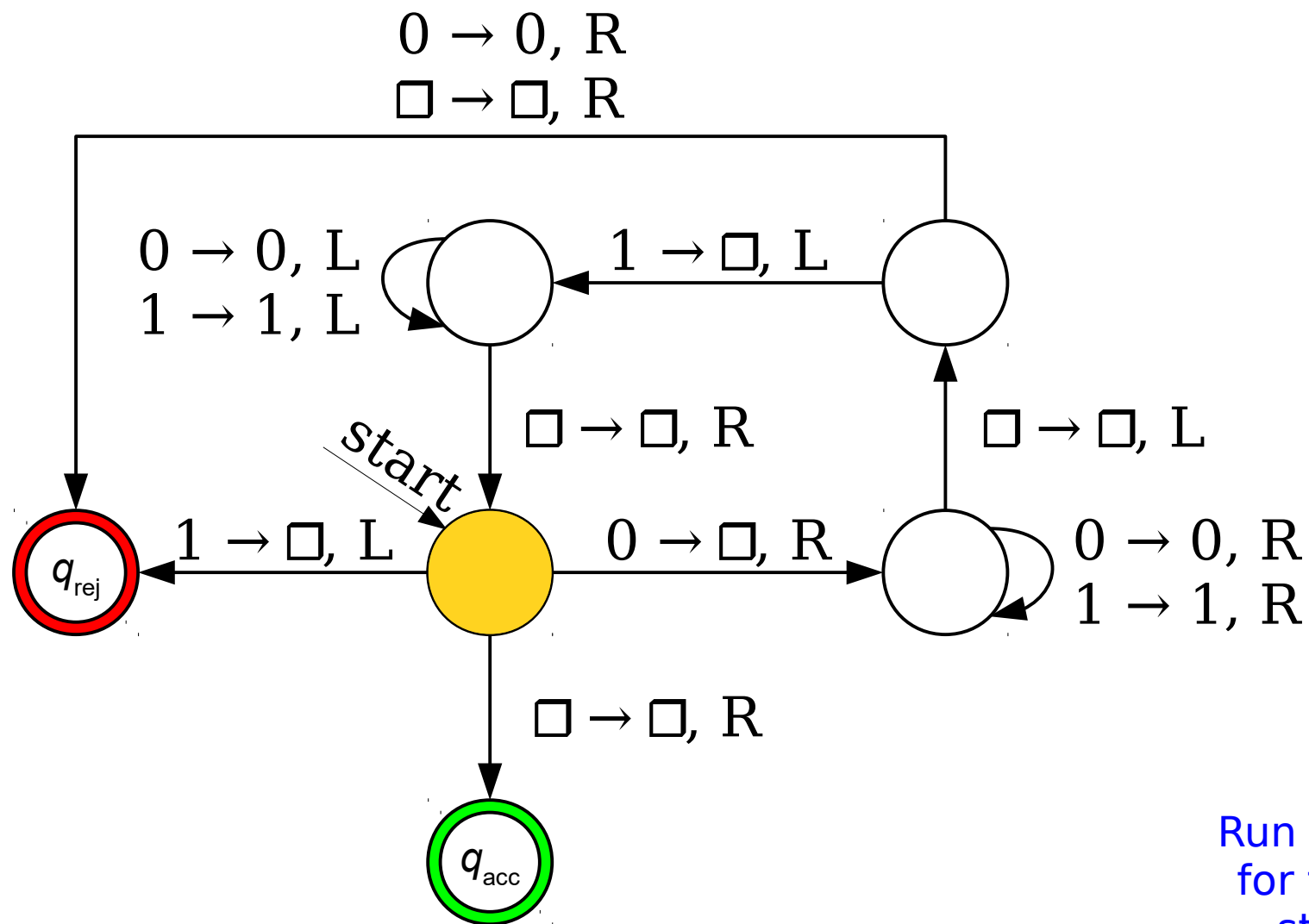
- This is a ***canonical*** example of an undecidable language. There's no way, in general, to tell whether a TM  $M$  will accept a string  $w$ .
- Although this language is undecidable, it's an **RE** language, and it's possible to build a verifier for it!



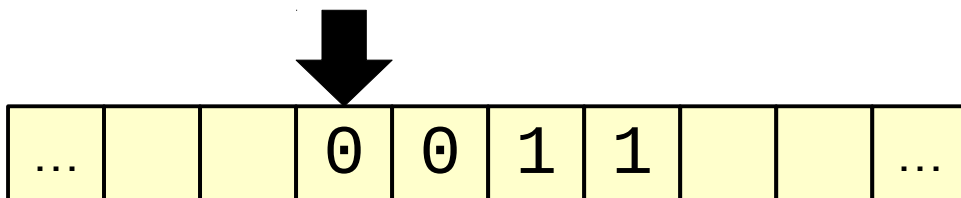
Run this TM  
 for fifteen  
 steps.

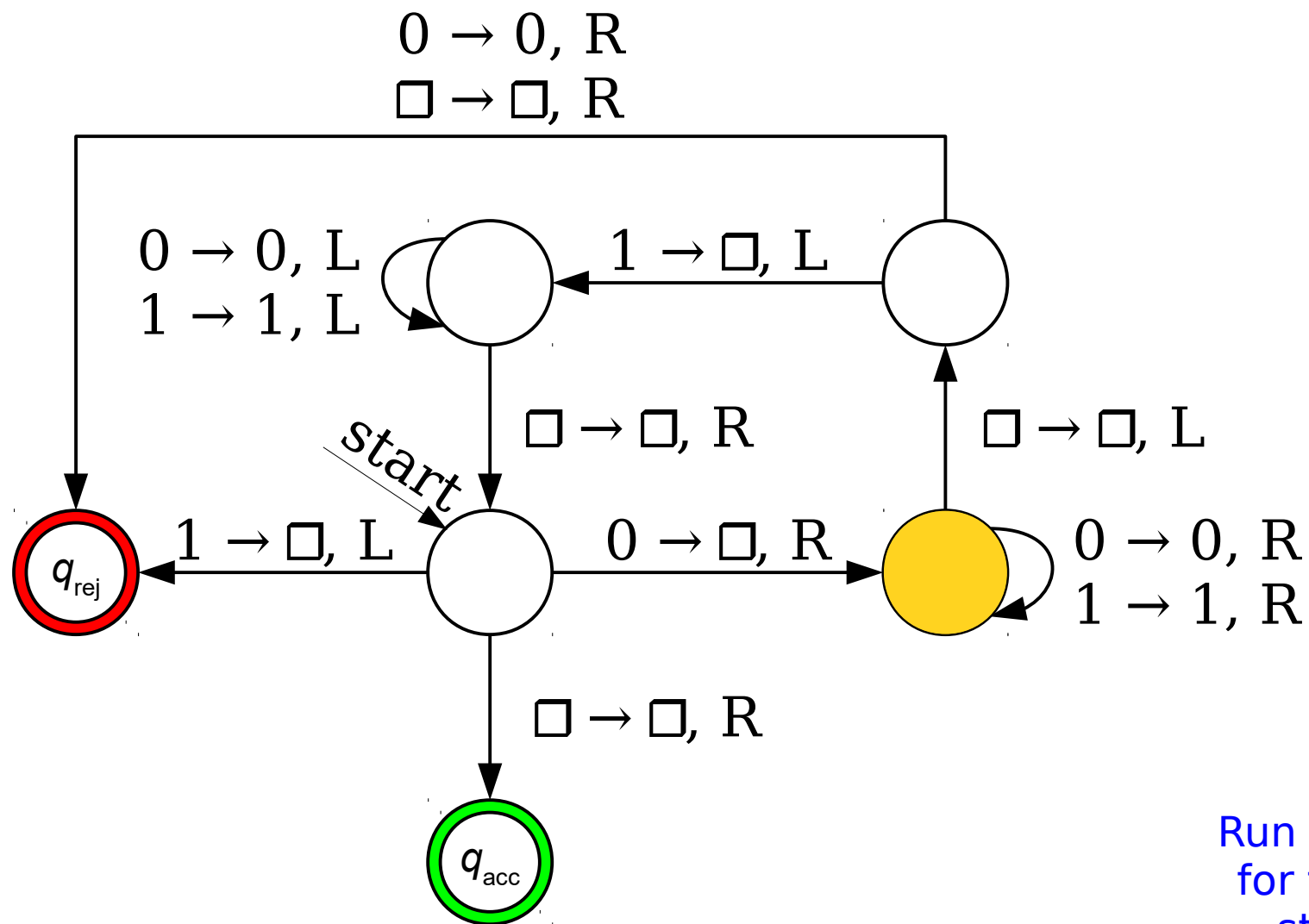




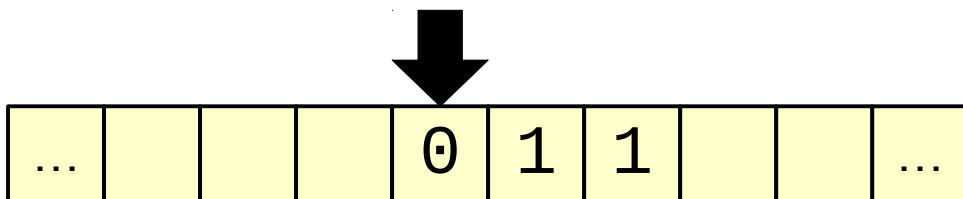


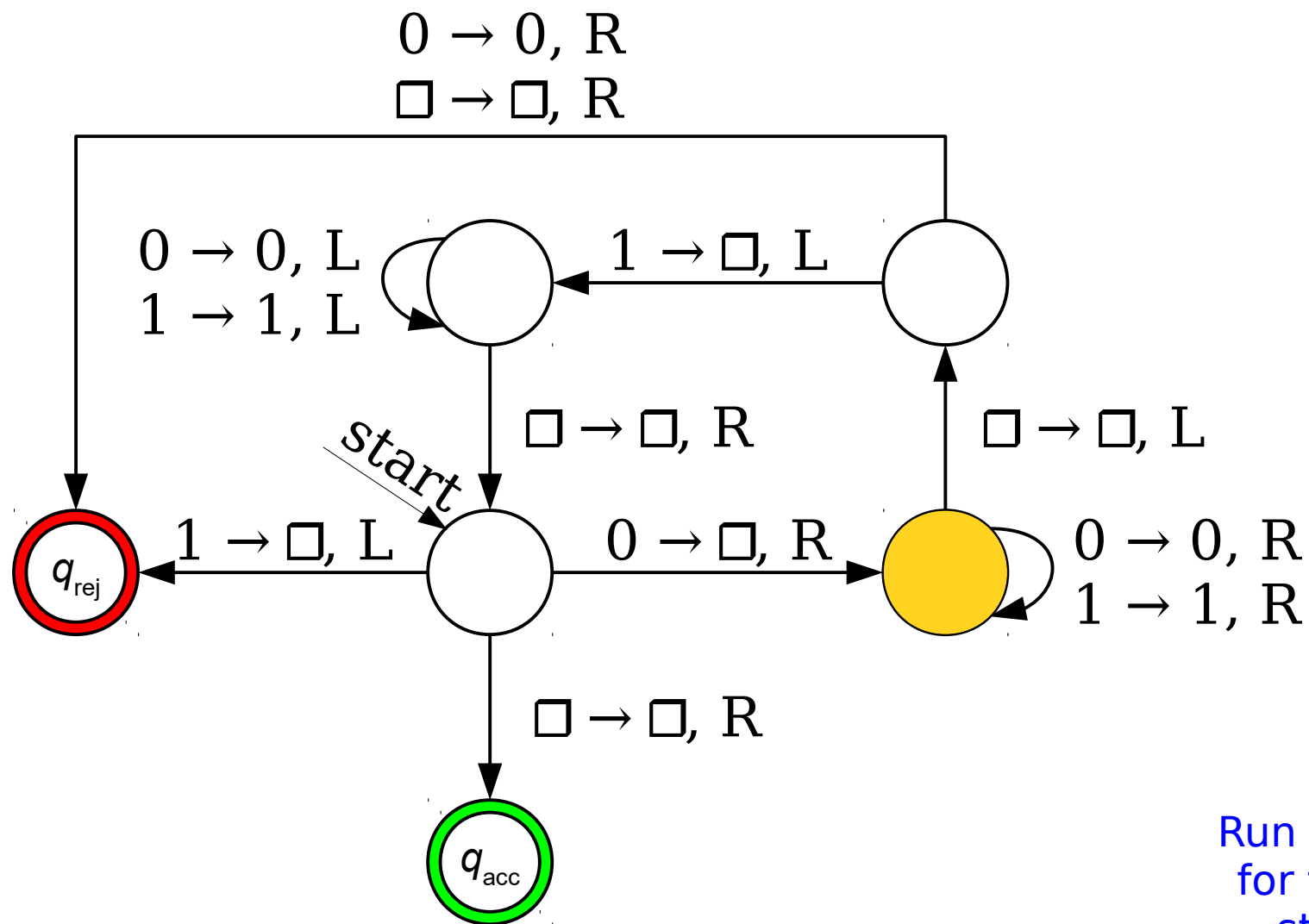
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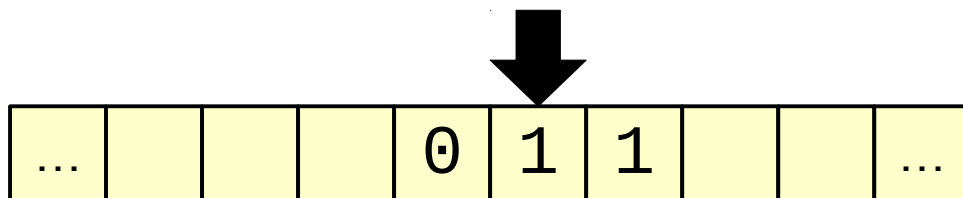


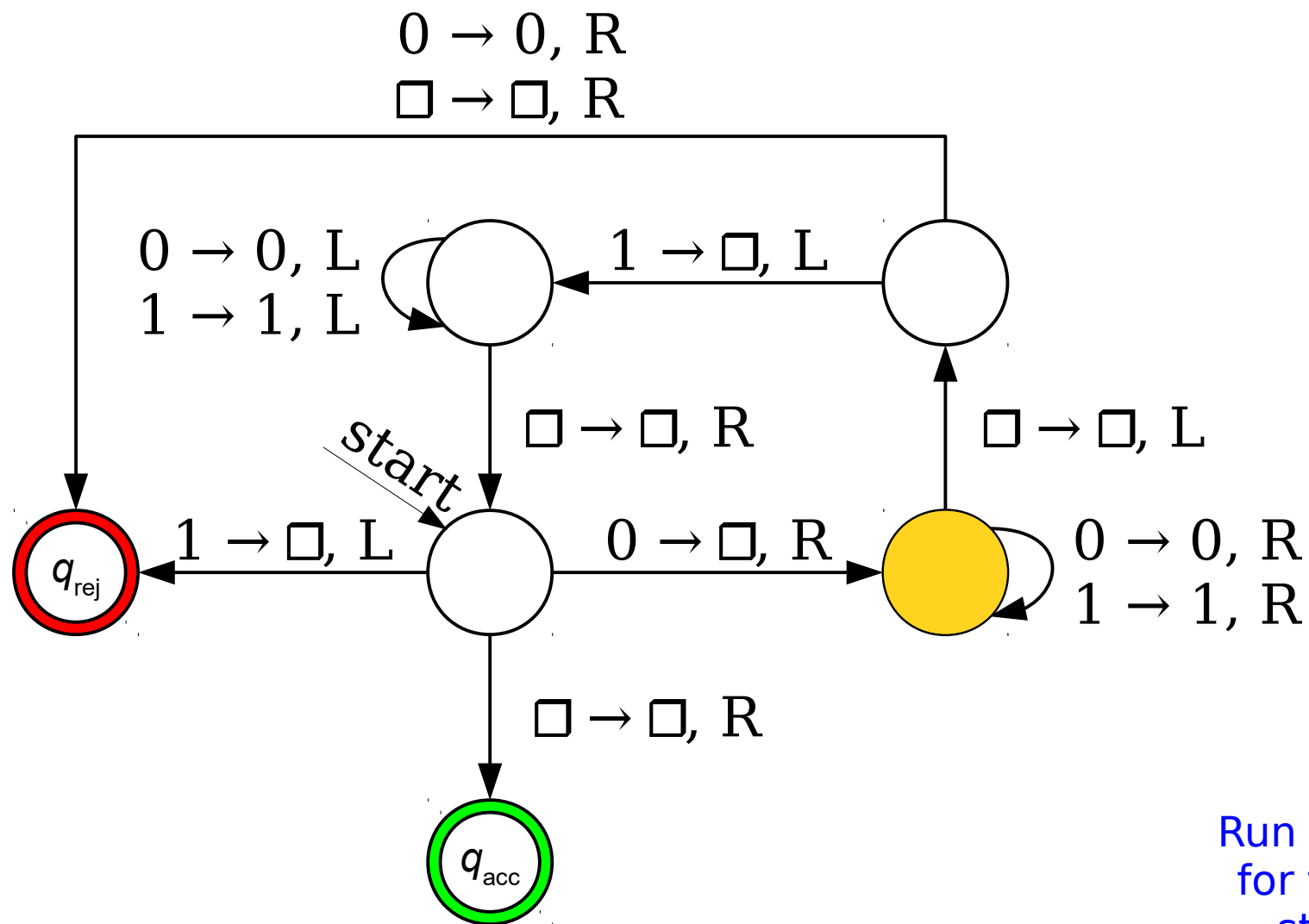
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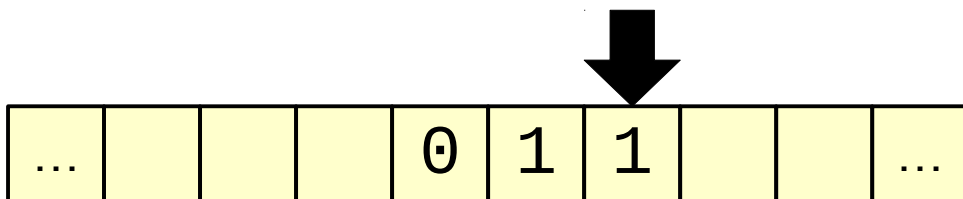


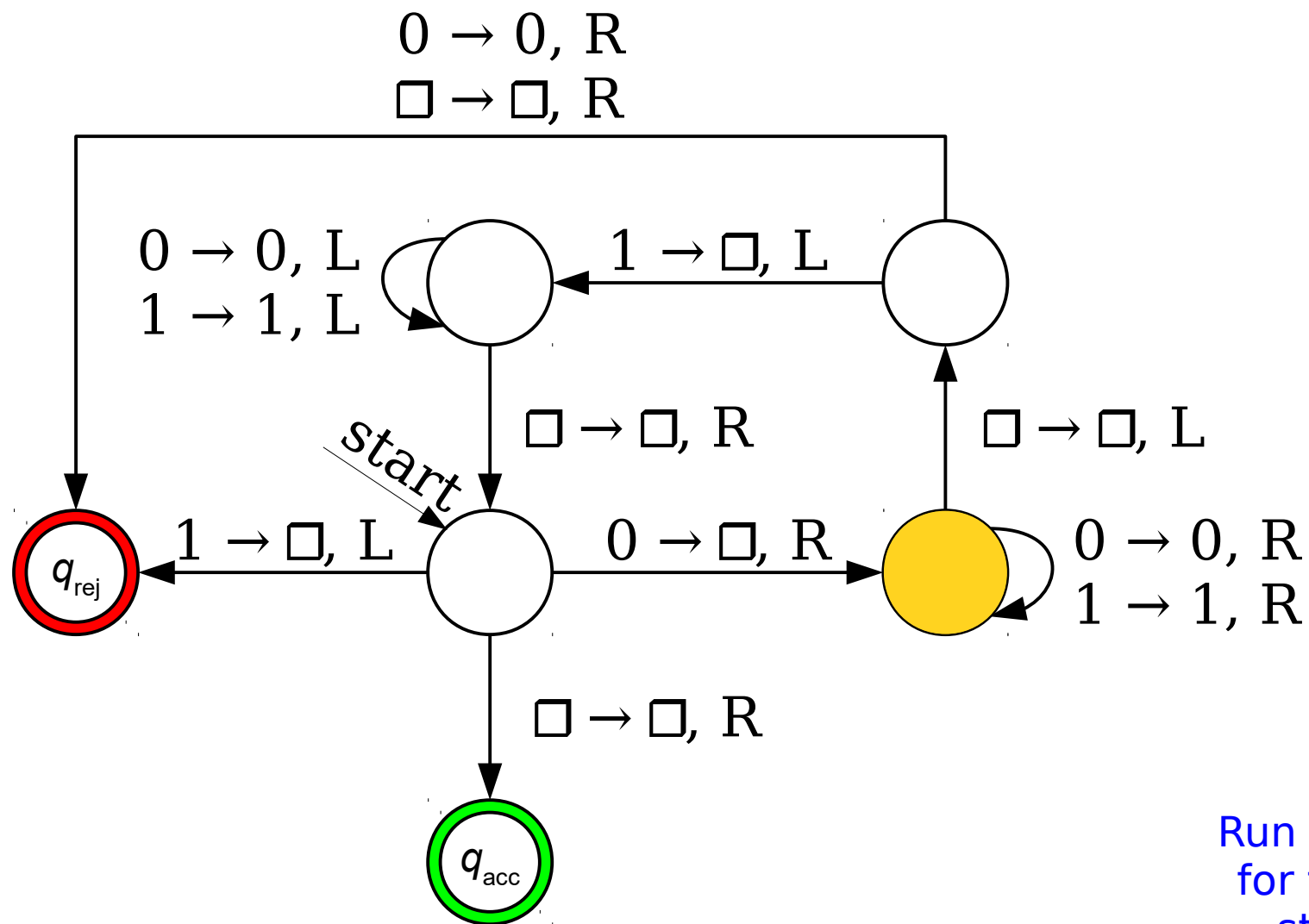
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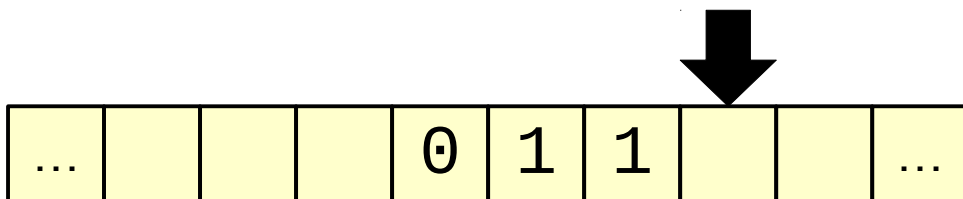


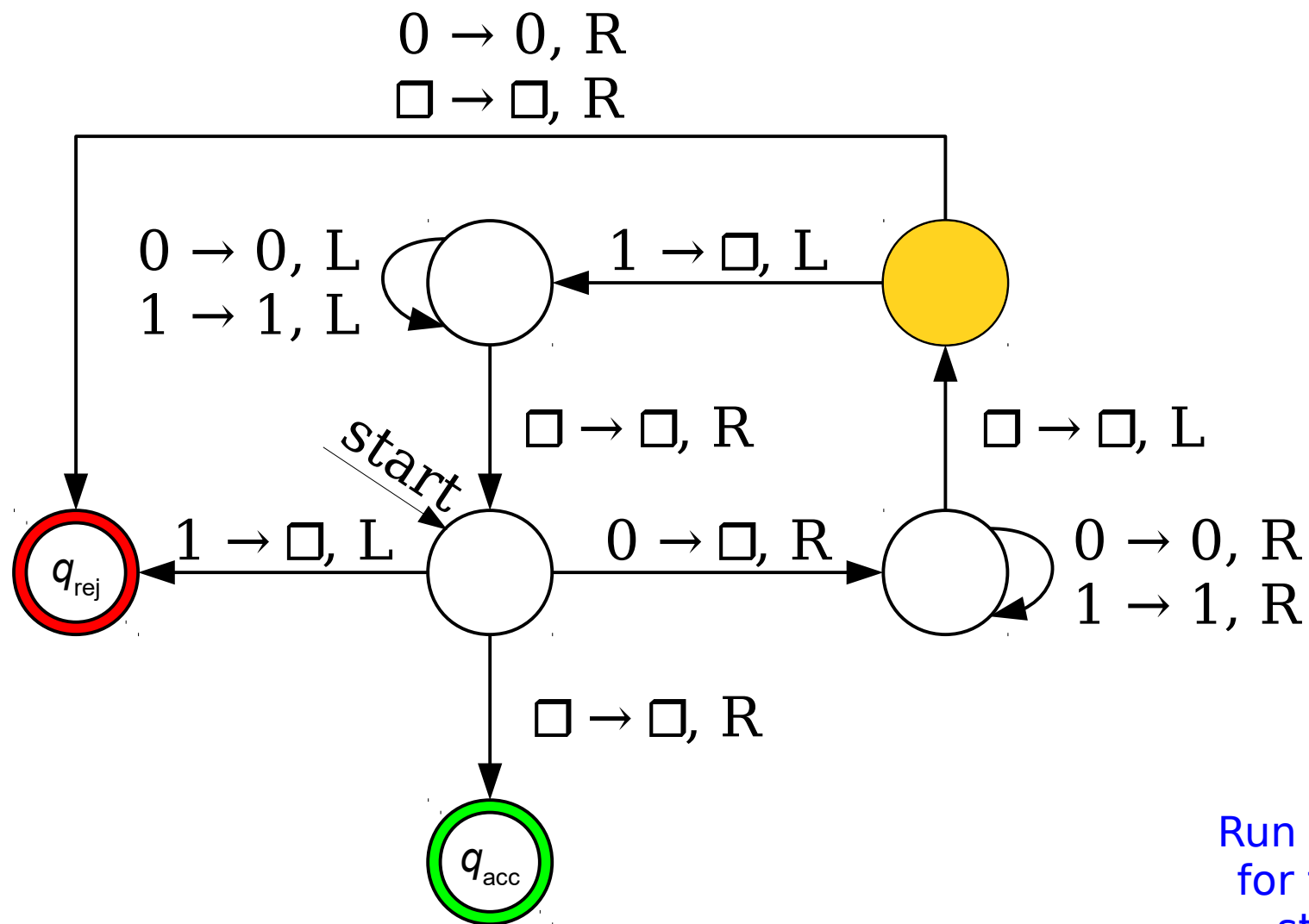
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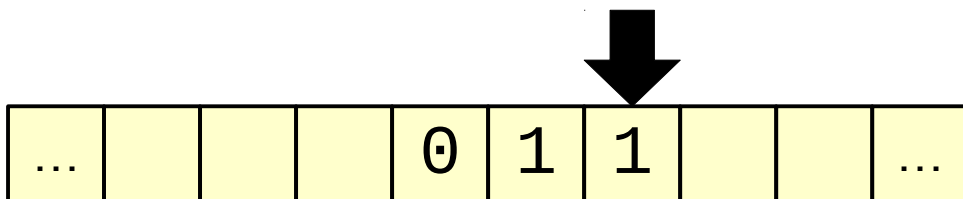


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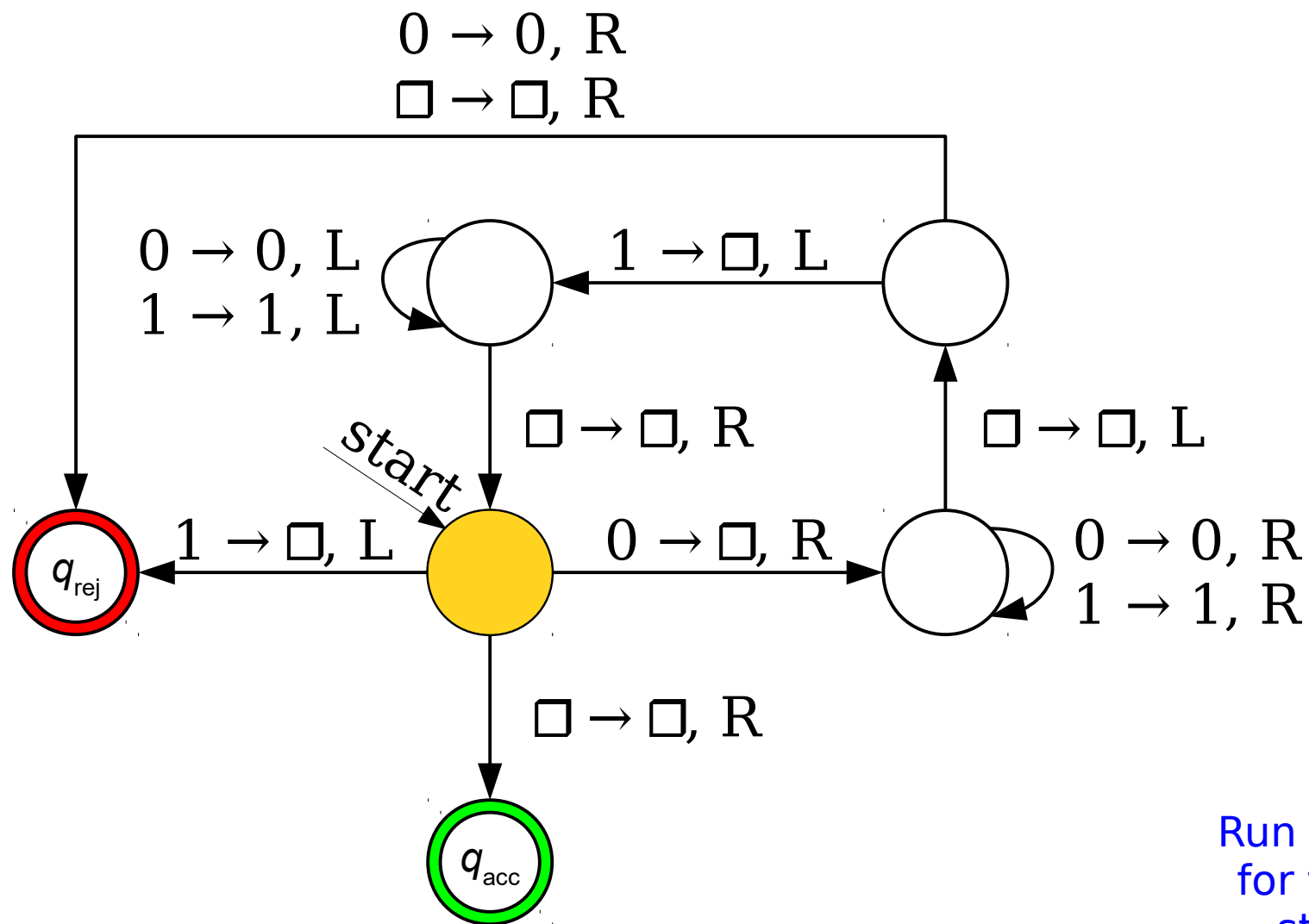




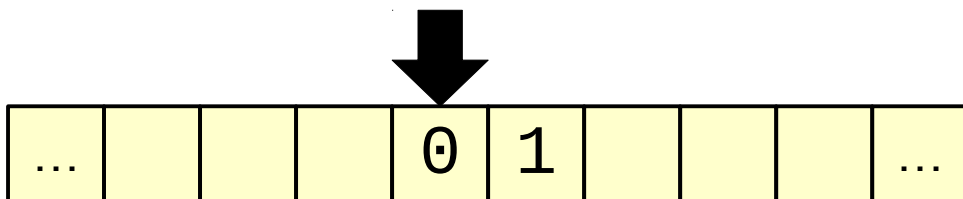


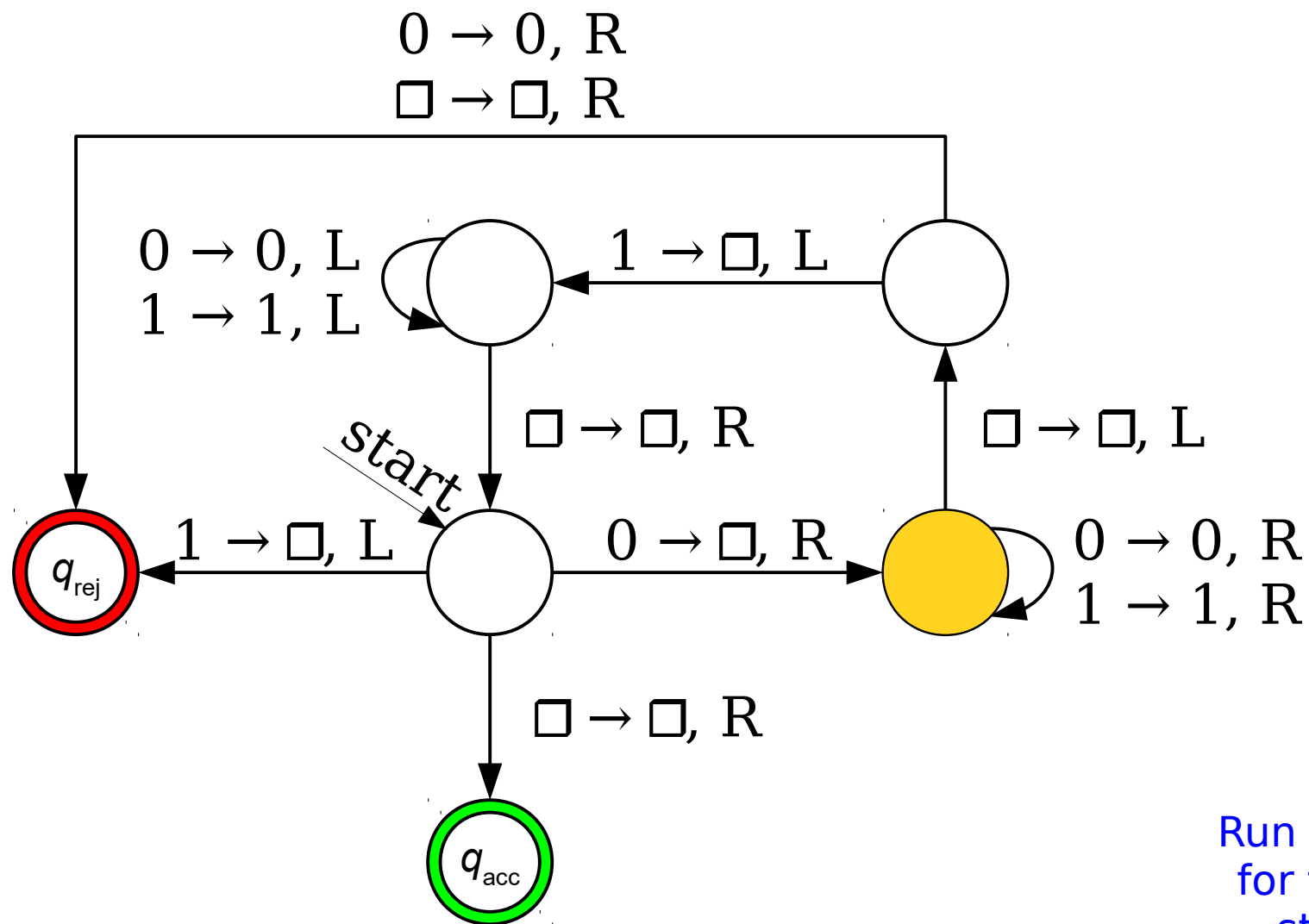




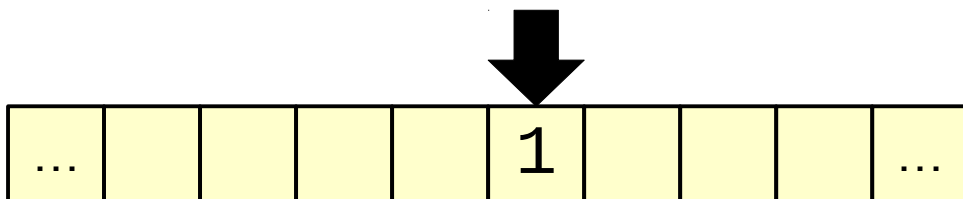


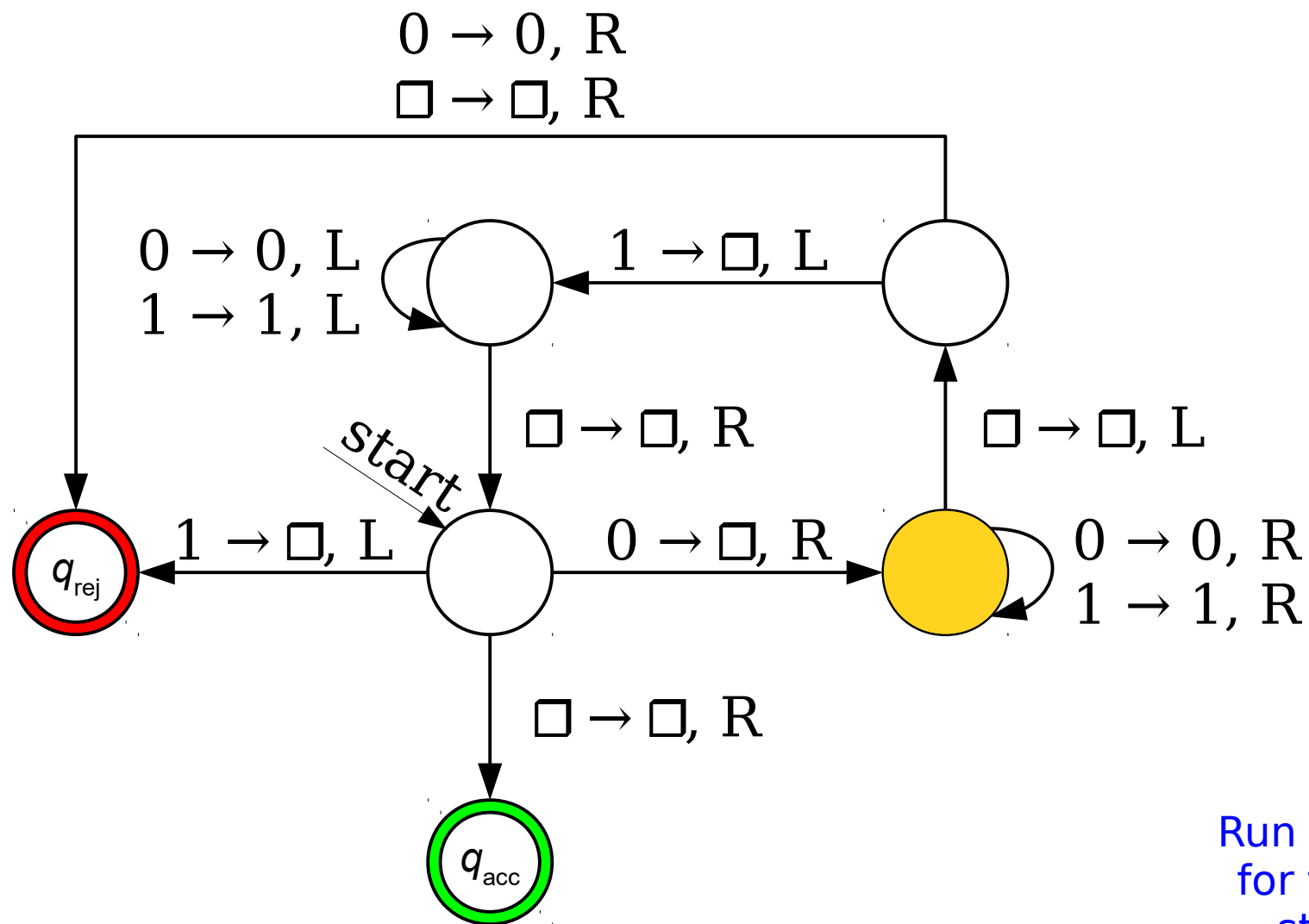
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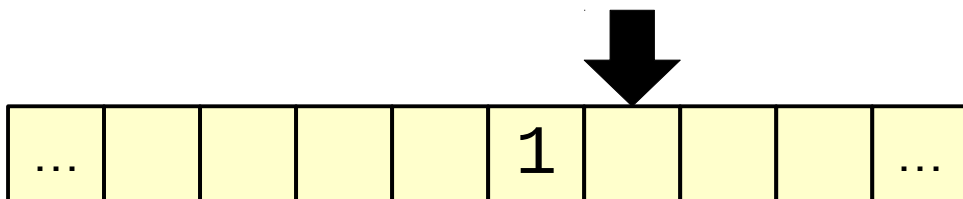


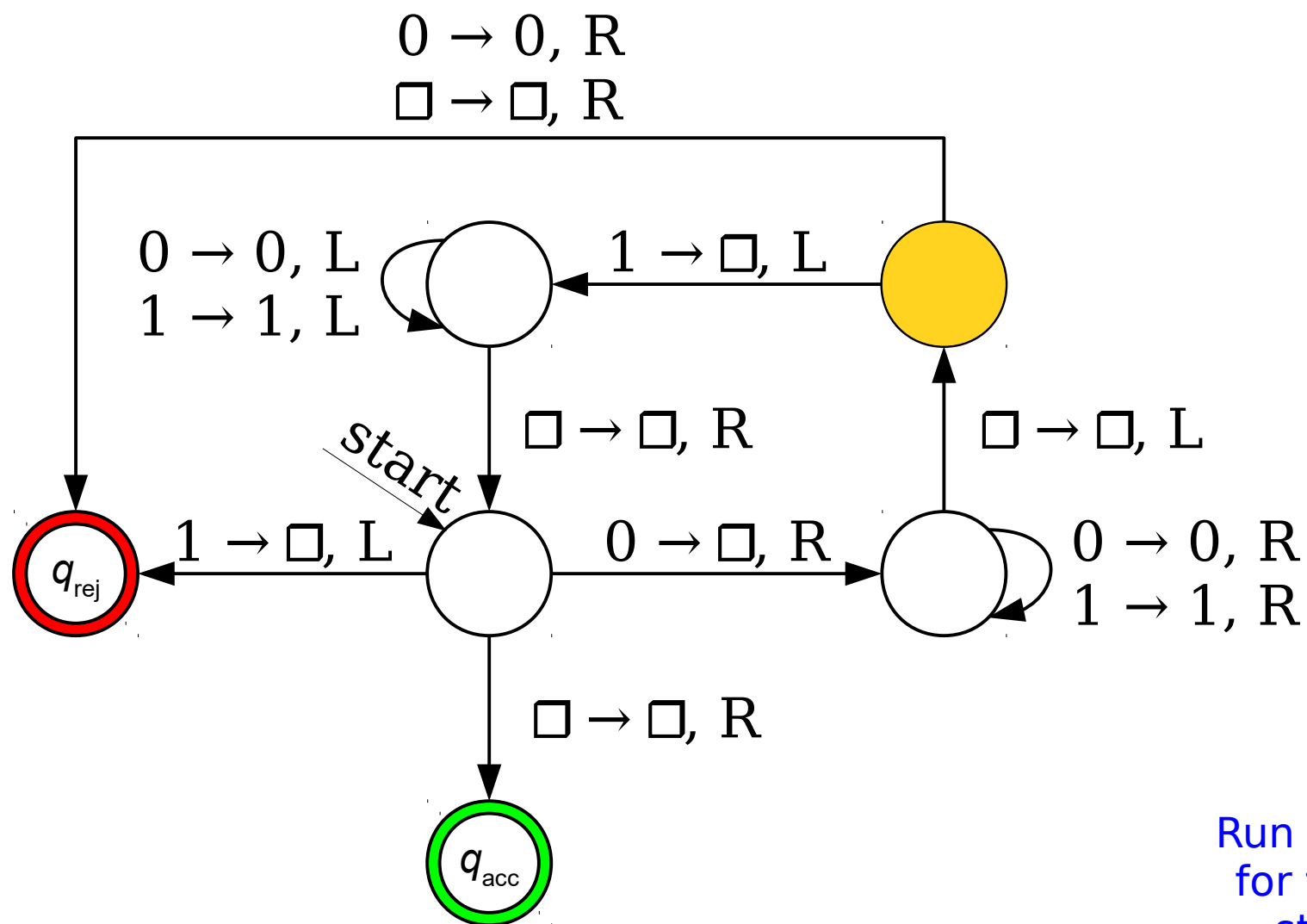
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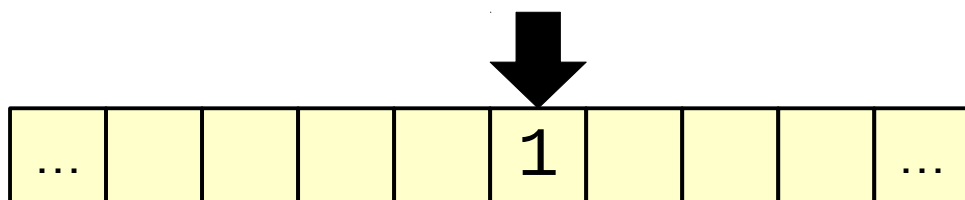


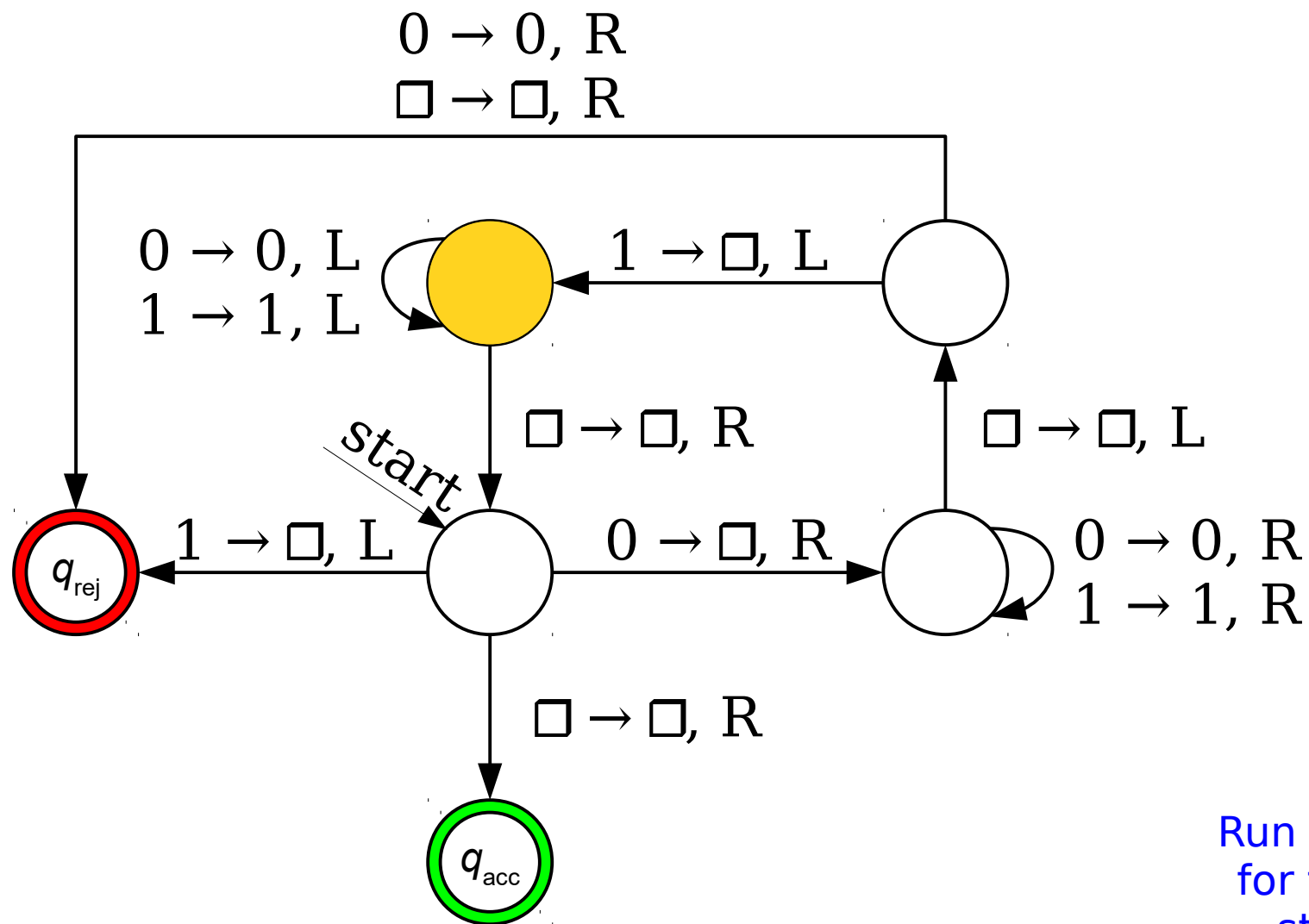
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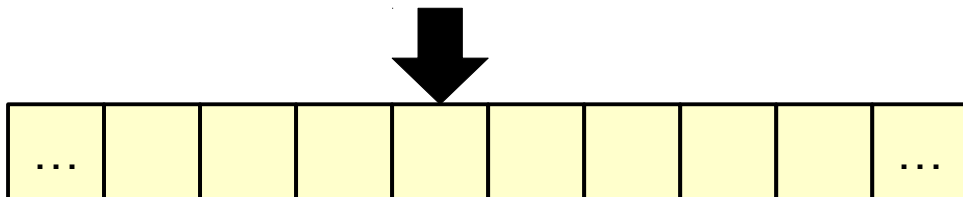


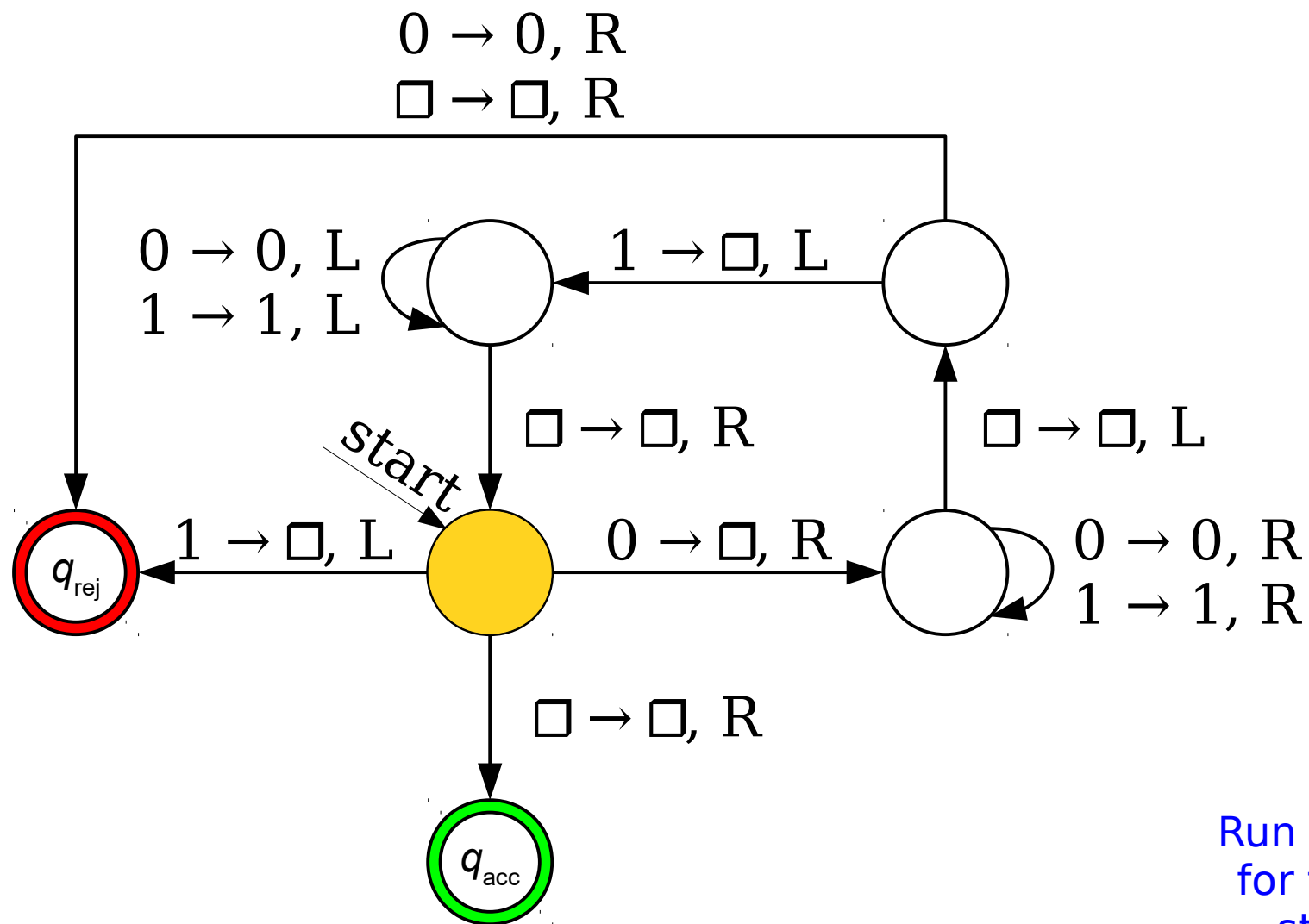
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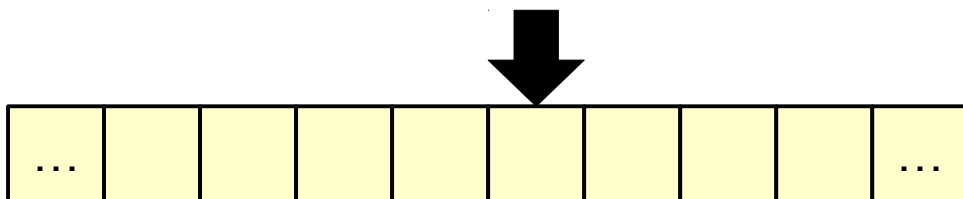


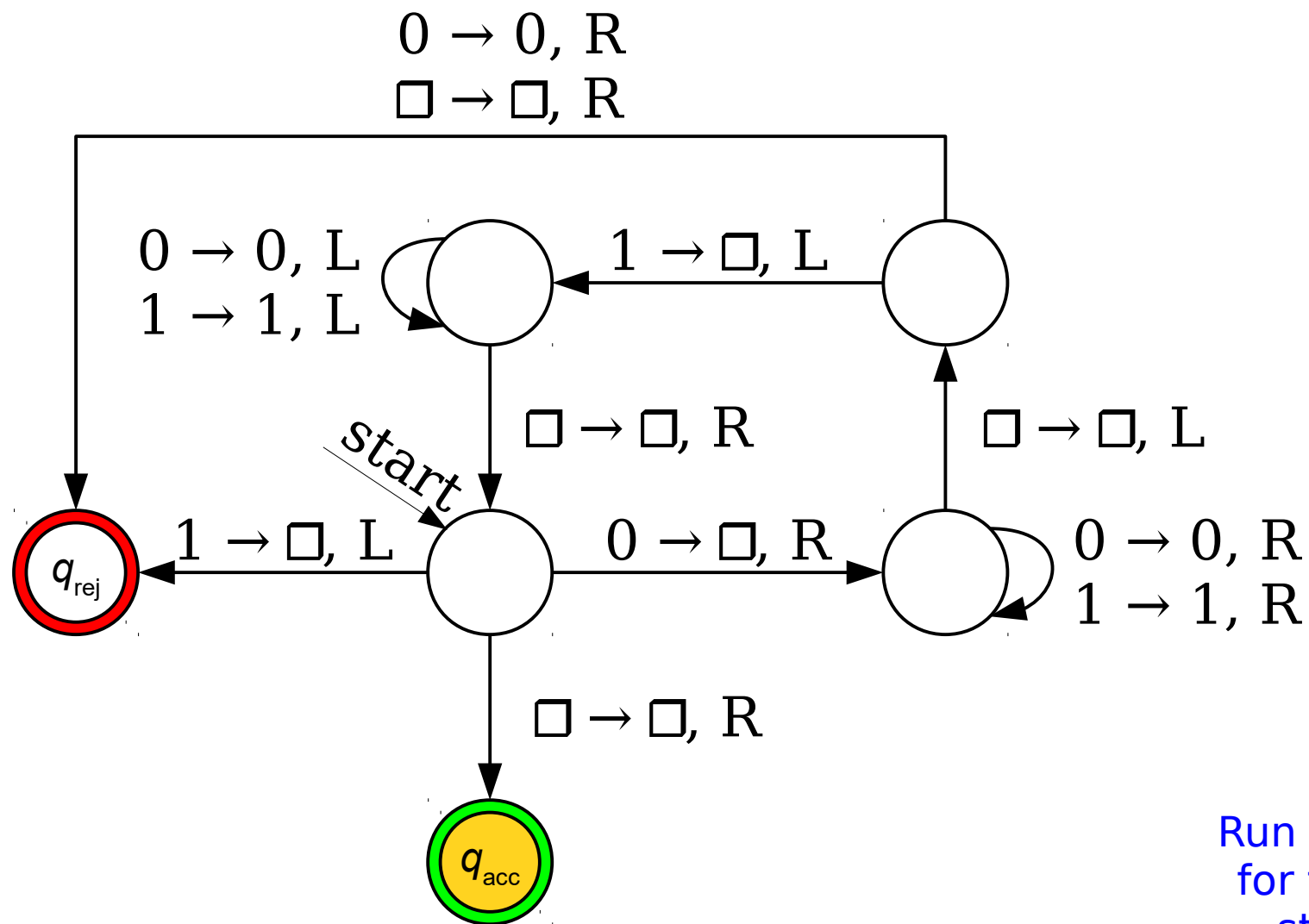
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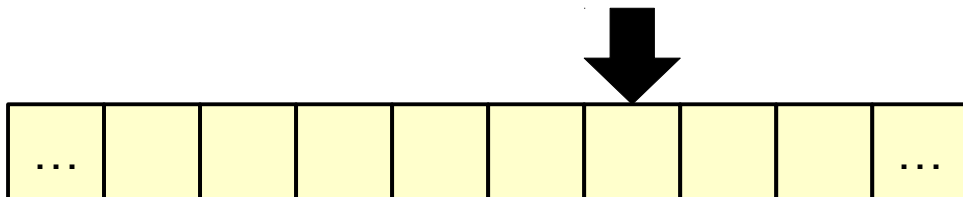


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# Some Verifiers

- Consider  $A_{TM}$ :

$$A_{TM} = \{ \langle M, w \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

```
bool checkWillAccept(TM M, string w, int c) {  
    set up a simulation of M running on w;  
    for (int i = 0; i < c; i++) {  
        simulate the next step of M running on w;  
    }  
    return whether M is in an accepting state;  
}
```

- Do you see why  $M$  accepts  $w$  iff there is some  $c$  such that  $\text{checkWillAccept}(M, w, c)$  returns true?
- Do you see why  $\text{checkWillAccept}$  always halts?

What languages are verifiable?

Let  $V$  be a verifier for a language  $L$ . Consider the following function given in pseudocode:

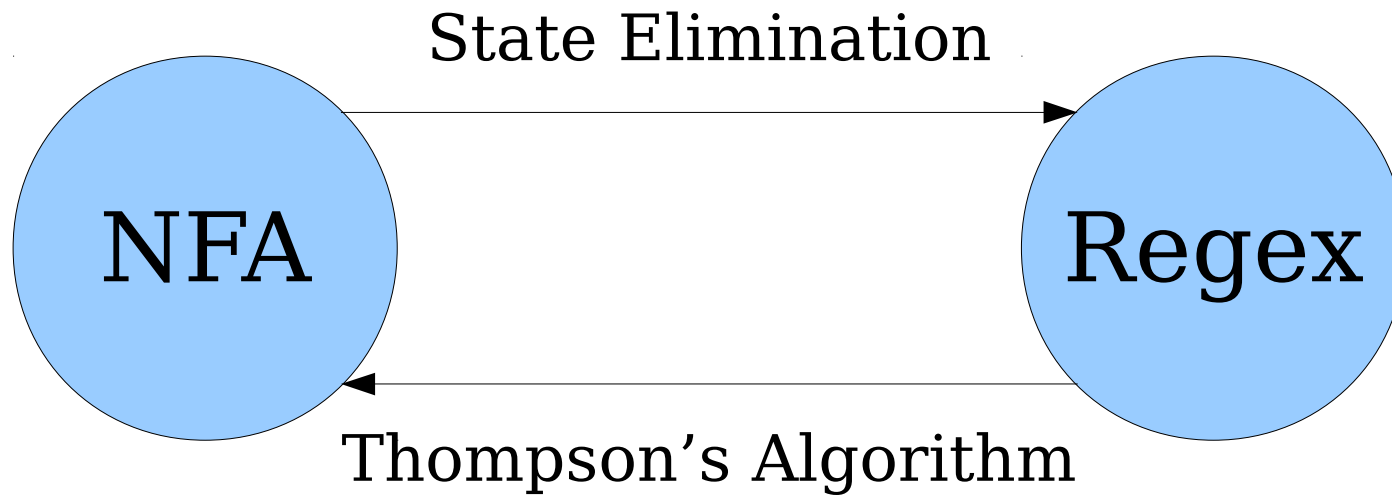
```
bool mysteryFunction(string w) {  
    int i = 0;  
    while (true) {  
        for (each string c of length i) {  
            if (V accepts  $\langle w, c \rangle$ ) return true;  
        }  
        i++;  
    }  
}
```

What set of strings does mysteryFunction return **true** on?

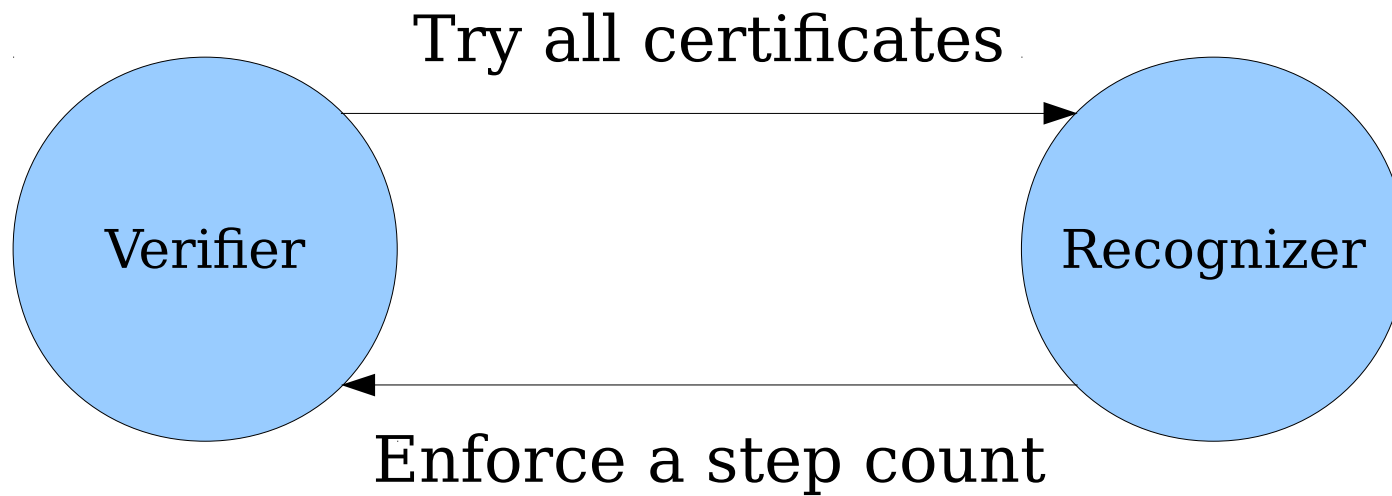
Answer at [PollEv.com/cs103](https://pollev.com/cs103) or  
text **CS103** to **22333** once to join, then **your answer**.

***Theorem:*** If  $L$  is a language, then there is a verifier for  $L$  if and only if  $L \in \mathbf{RE}$ .

# Where We've Been



# Where We're Going

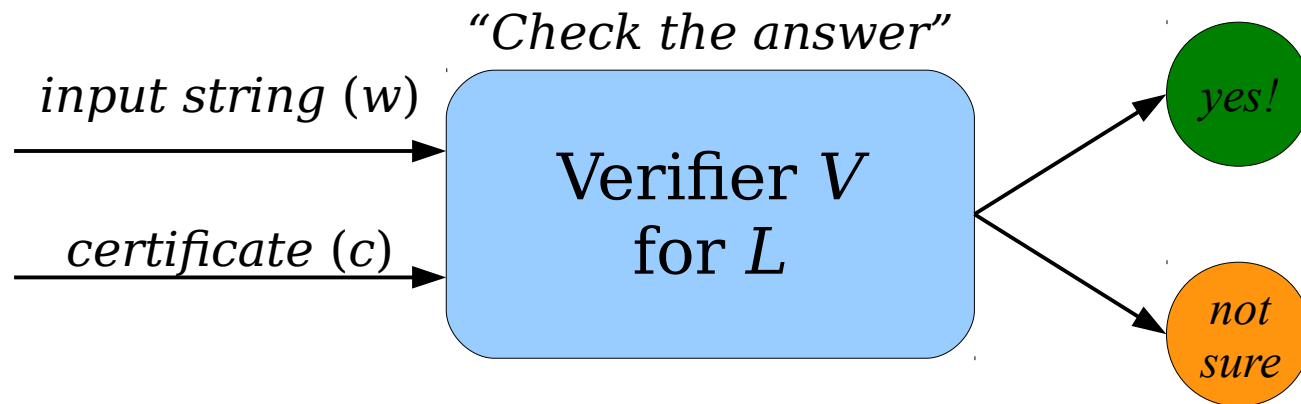


# Verifiers and **RE**

- **Theorem:** If there is a verifier  $V$  for a language  $L$ , then  $L \in \mathbf{RE}$ .
- **Proof goal:** Given a verifier  $V$  for a language  $L$ , find a way to construct a recognizer  $M$  for  $L$ .

# Verifiers and **RE**

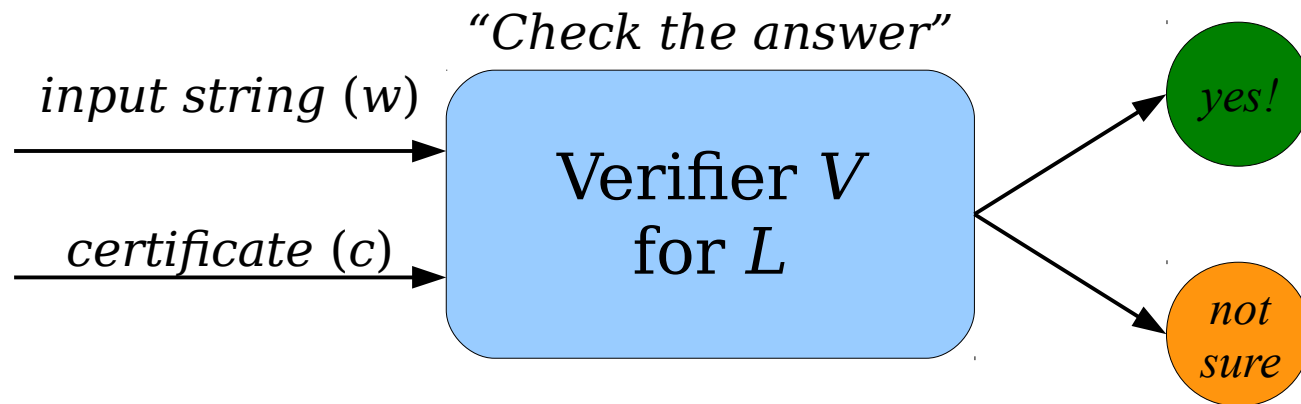
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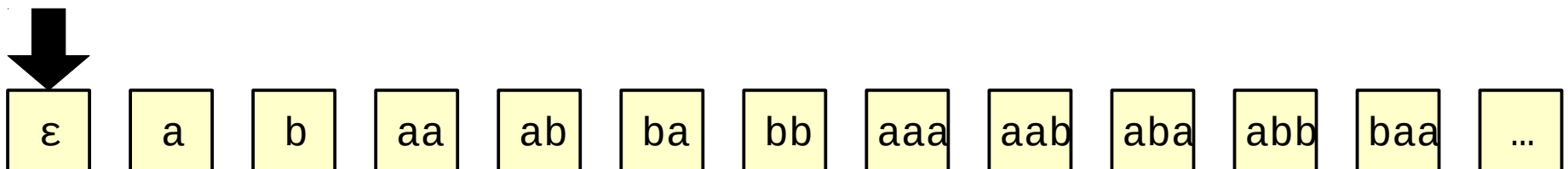


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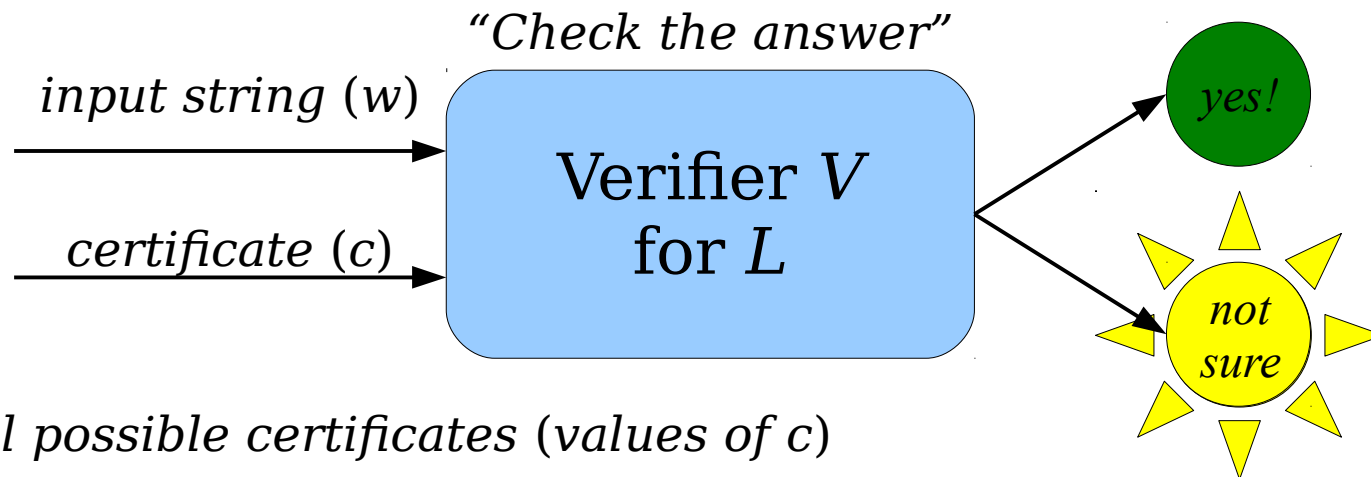


*We will try all possible certificates (values of  $c$ )*

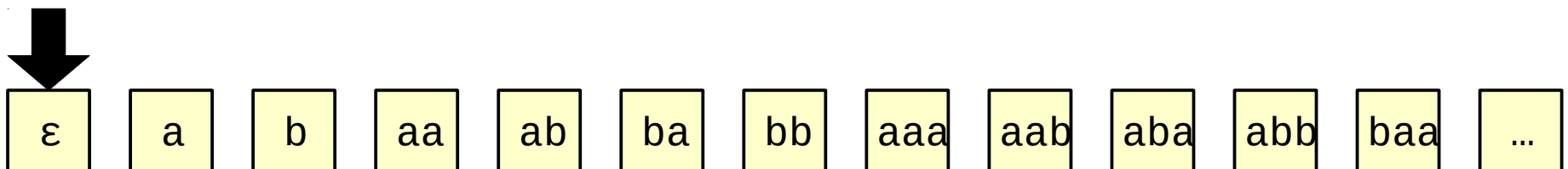


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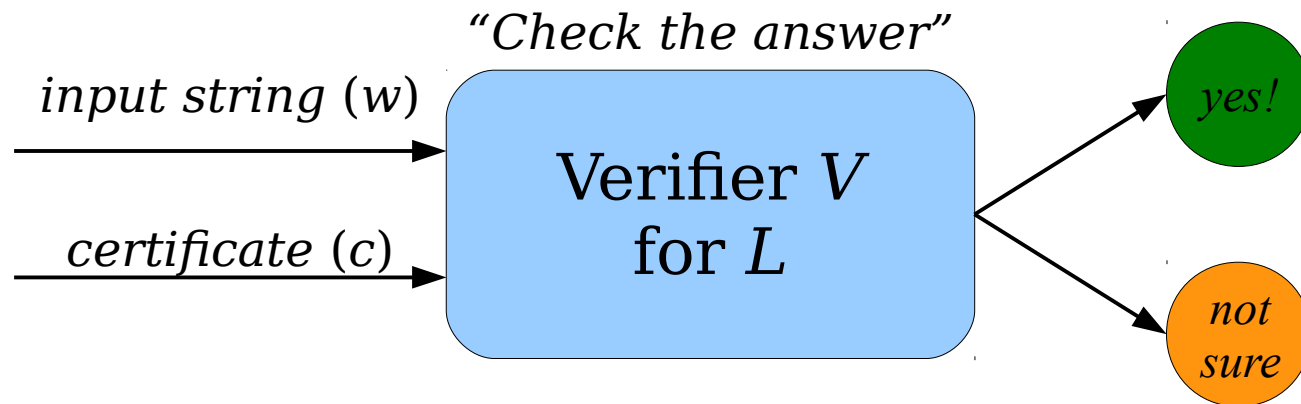


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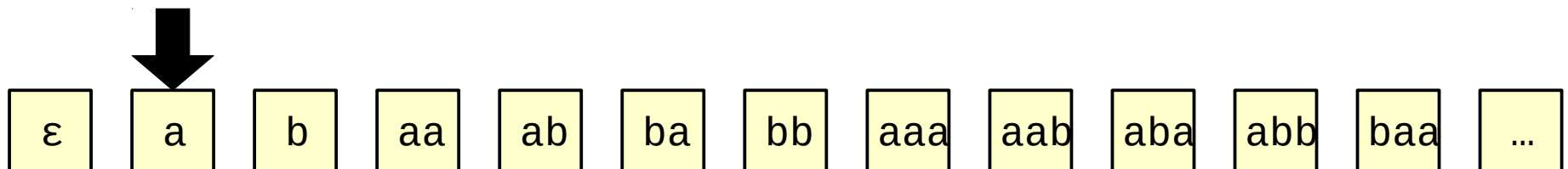


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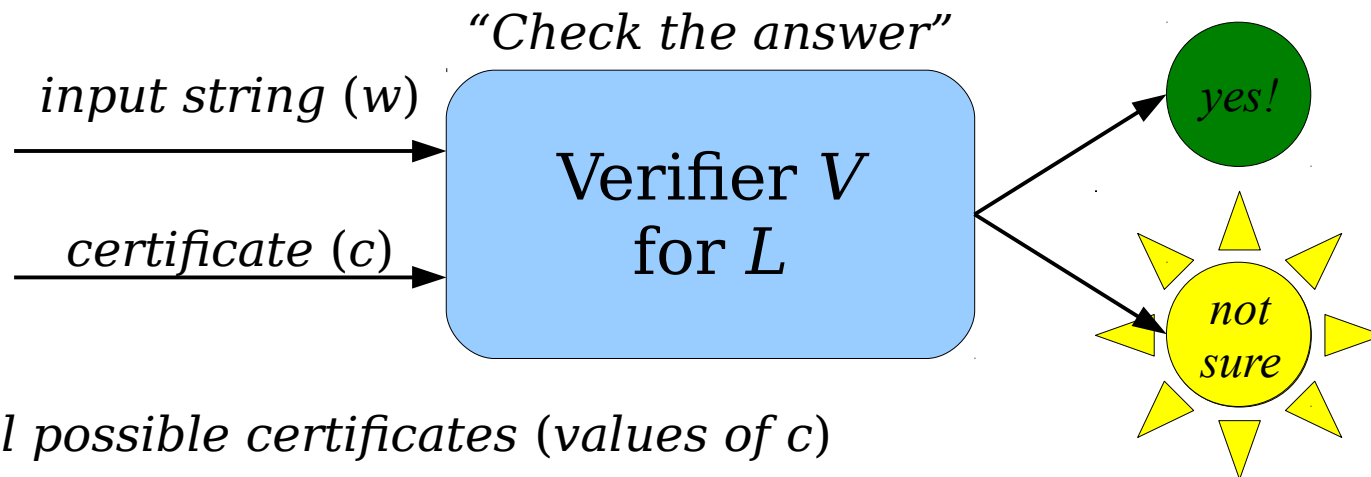


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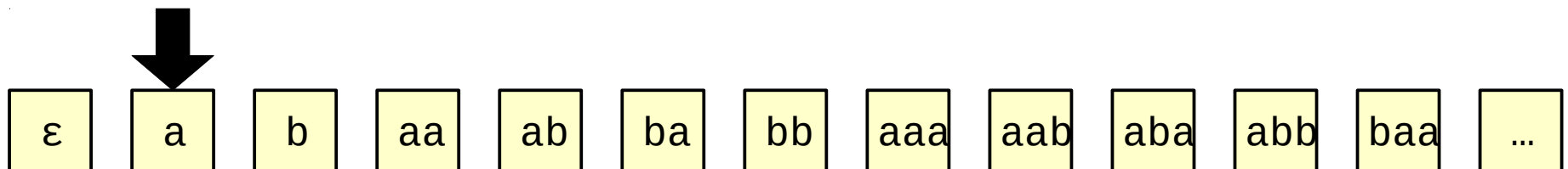


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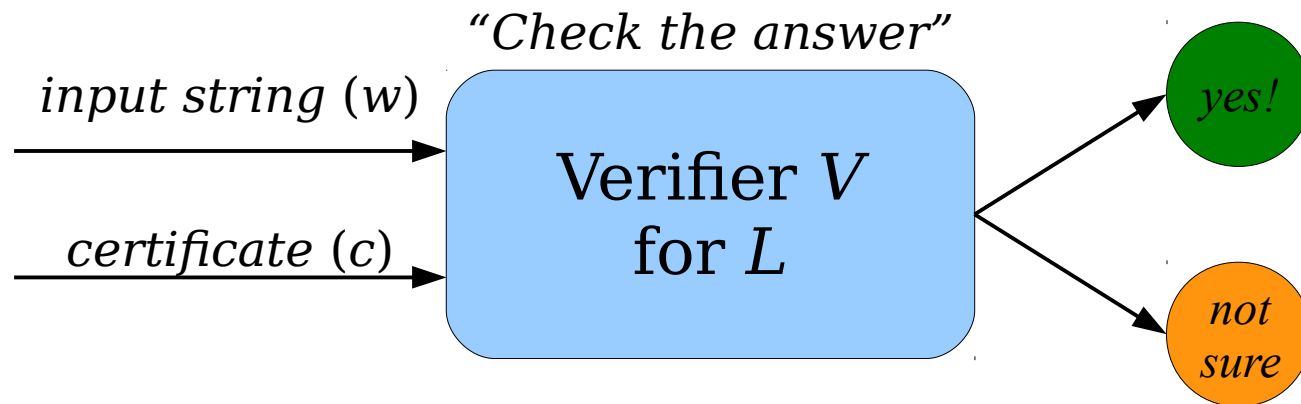


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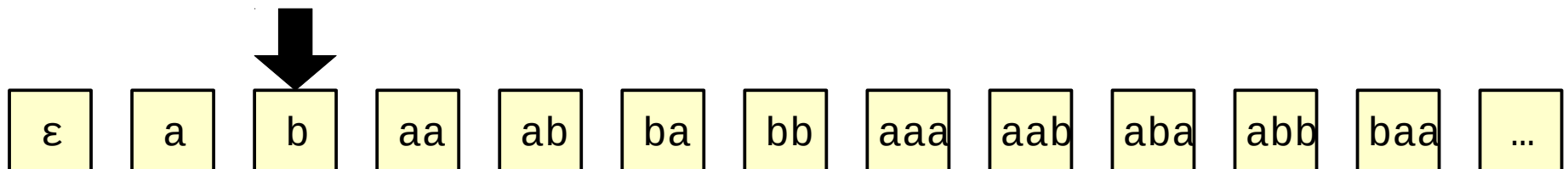


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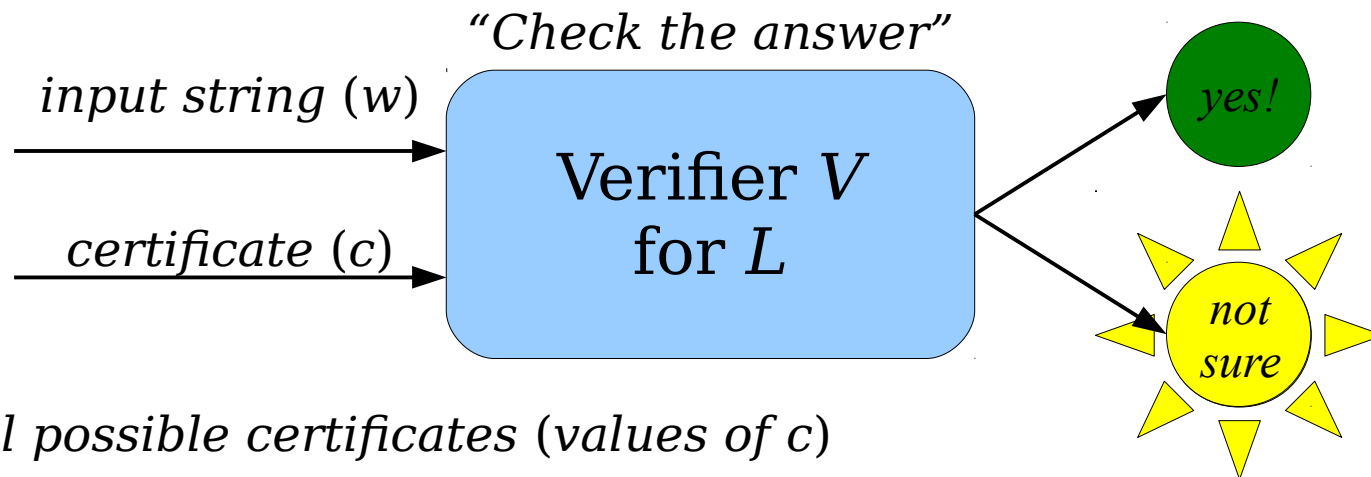


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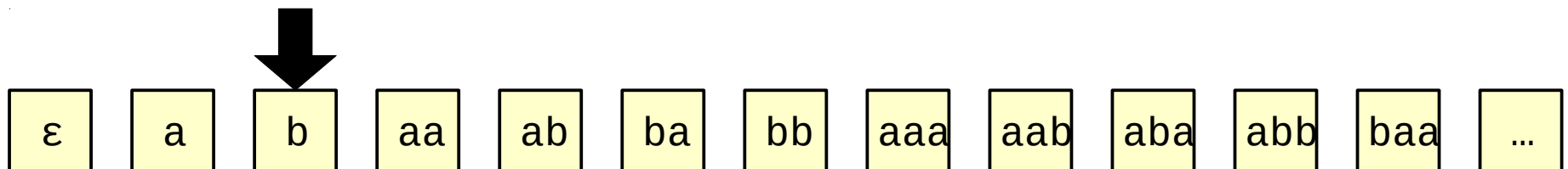


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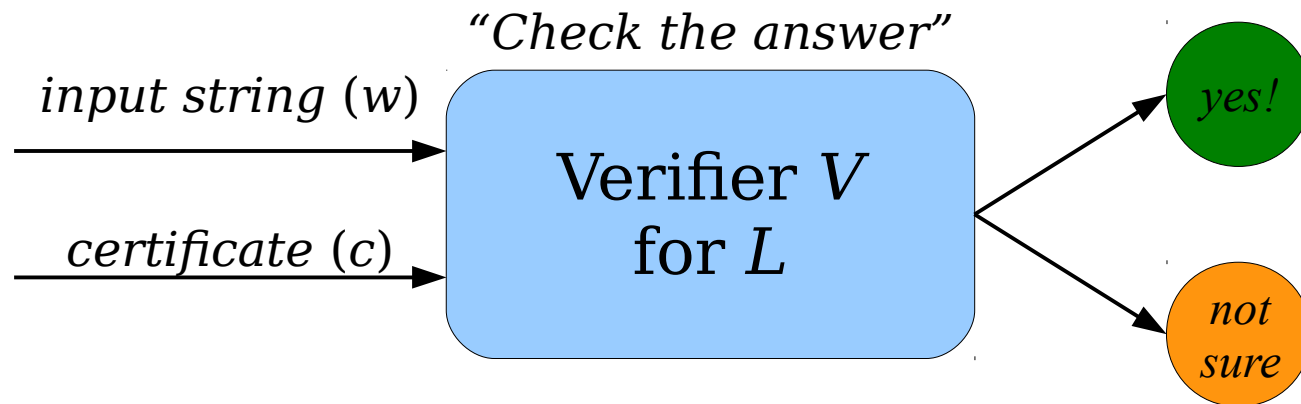


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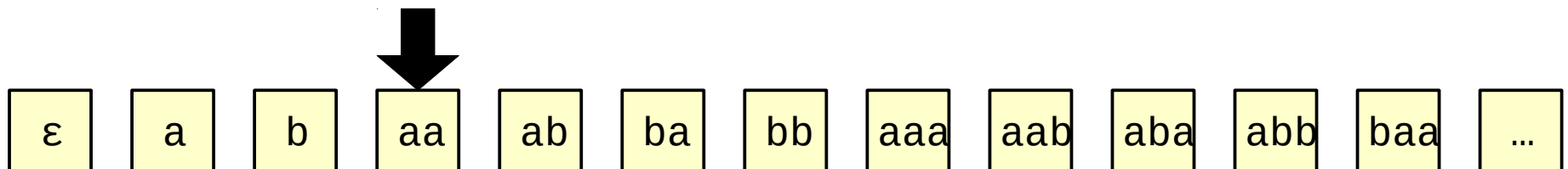


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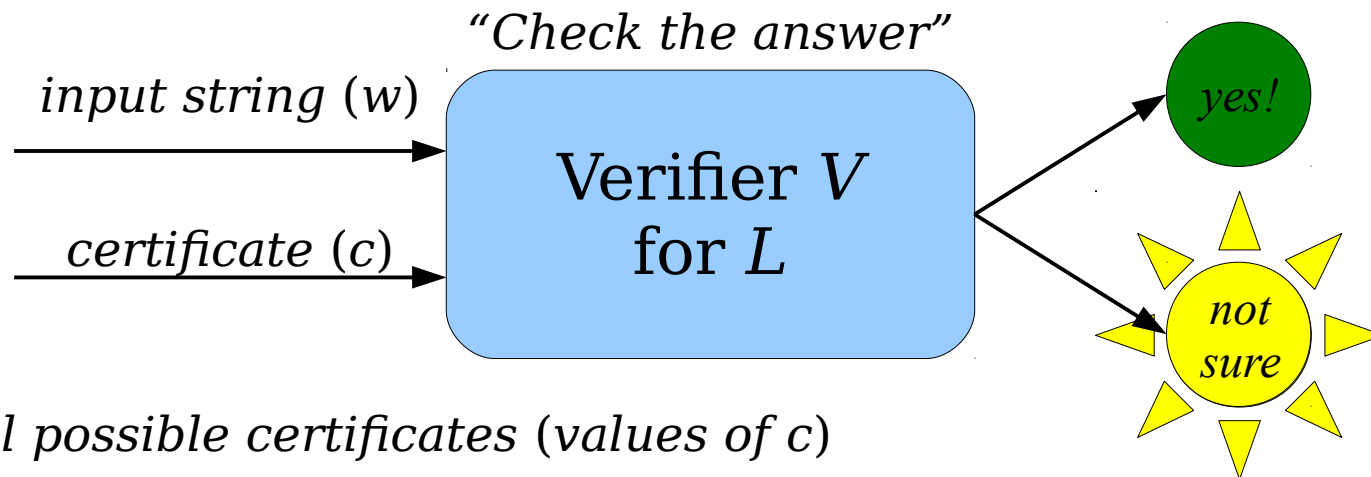


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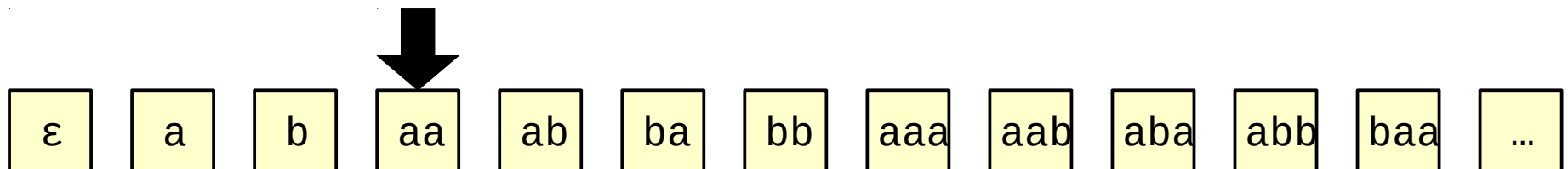


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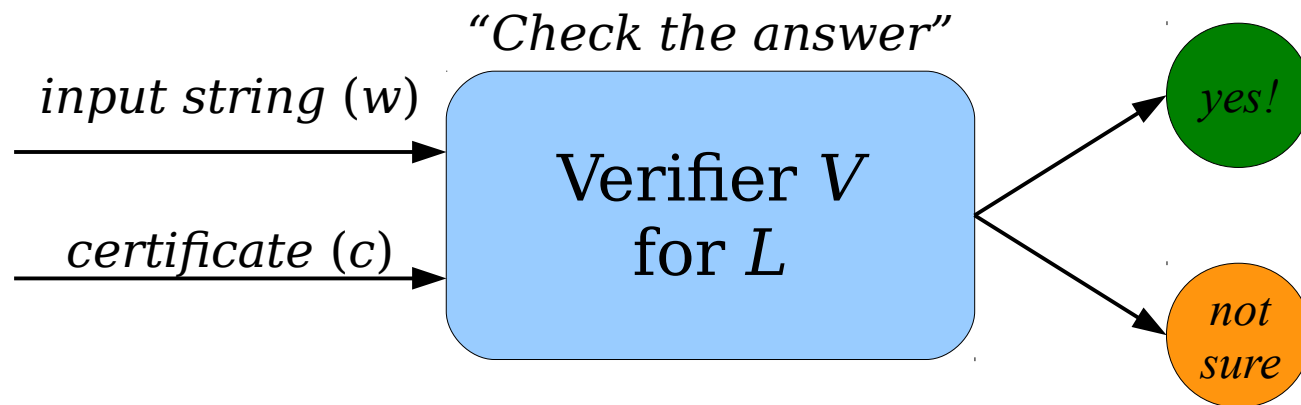
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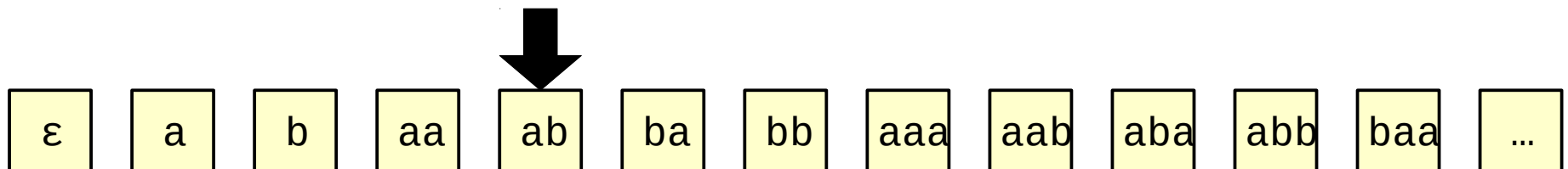


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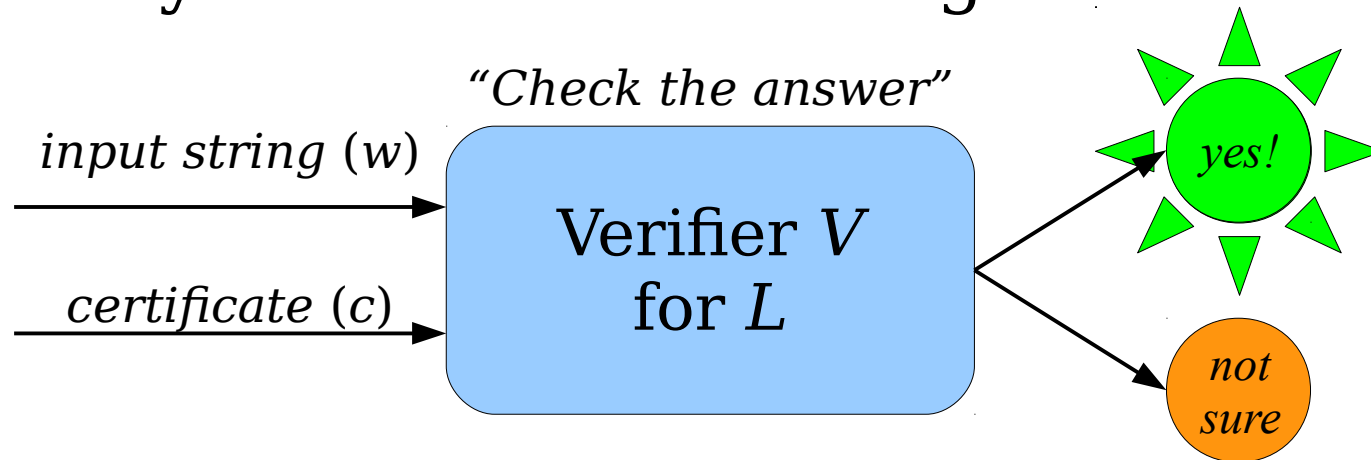


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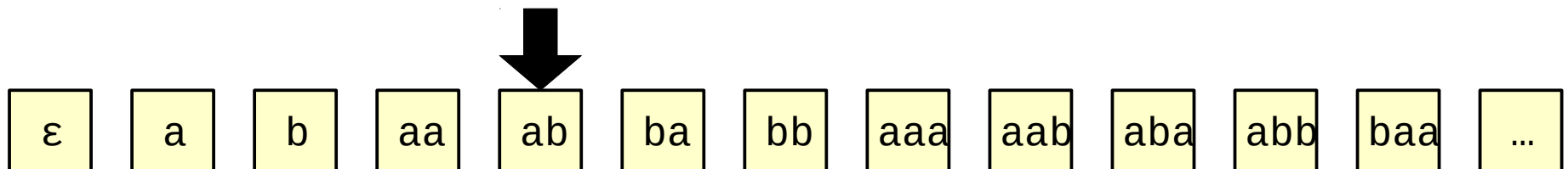


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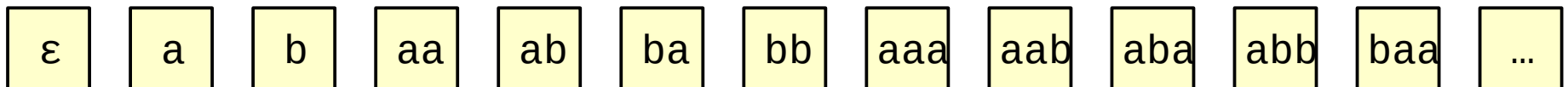
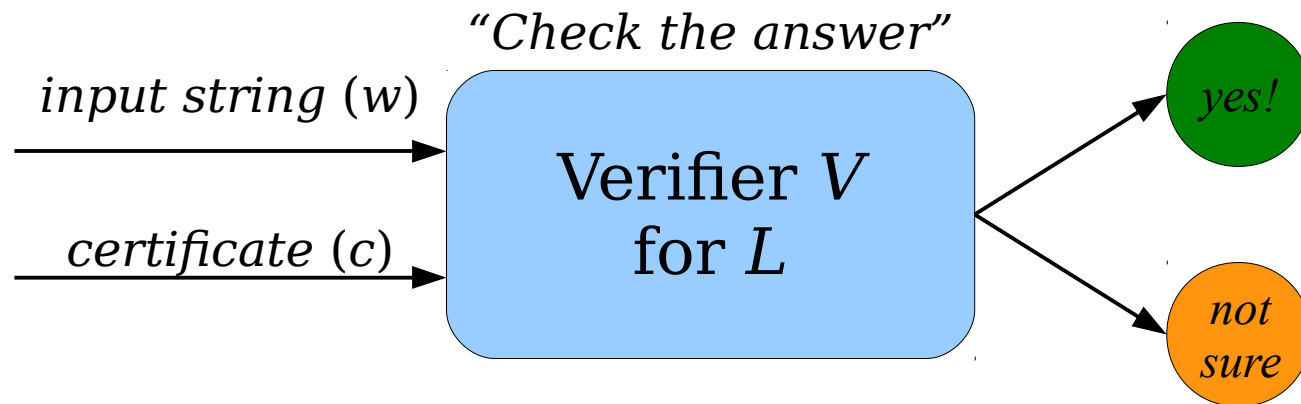


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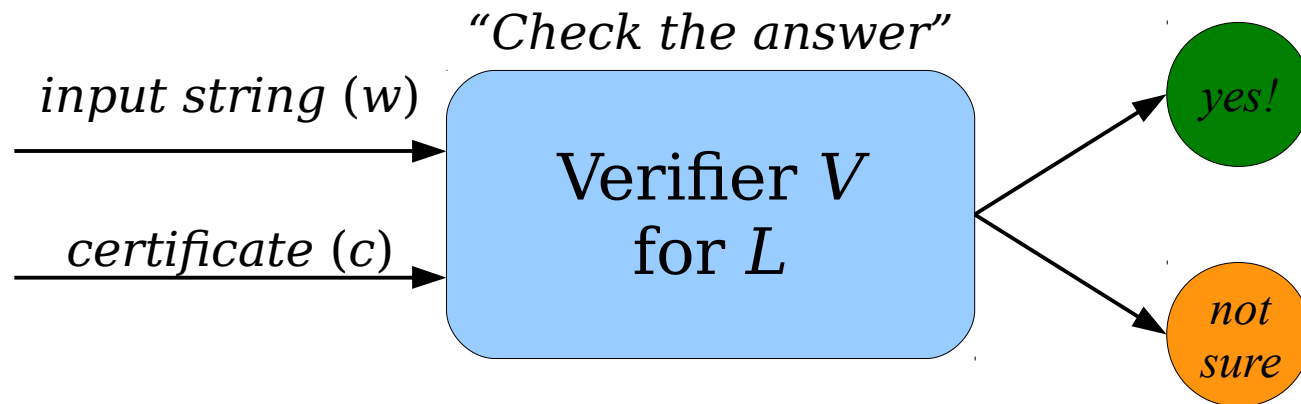
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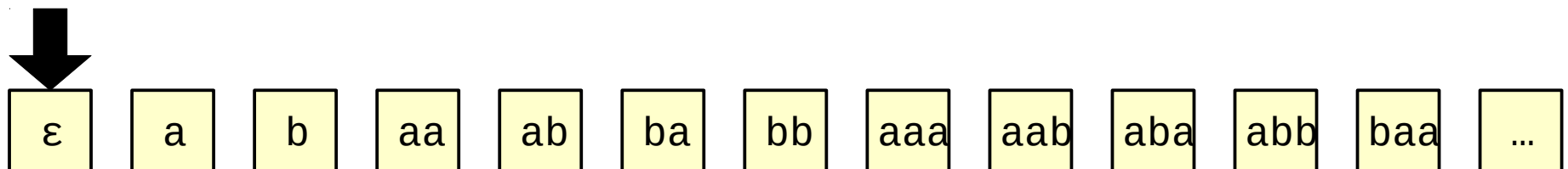


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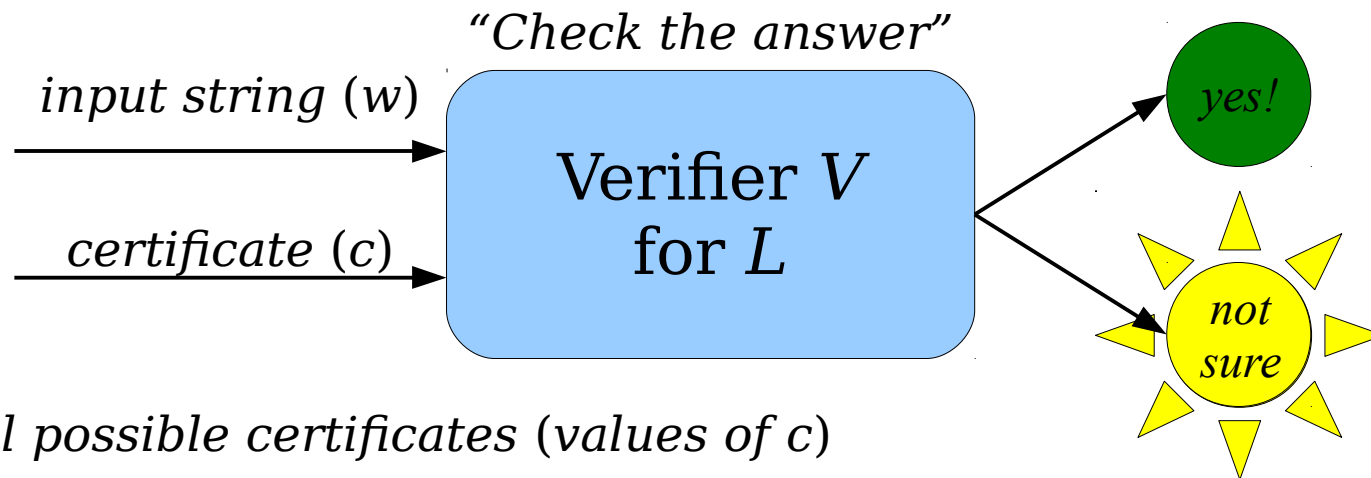


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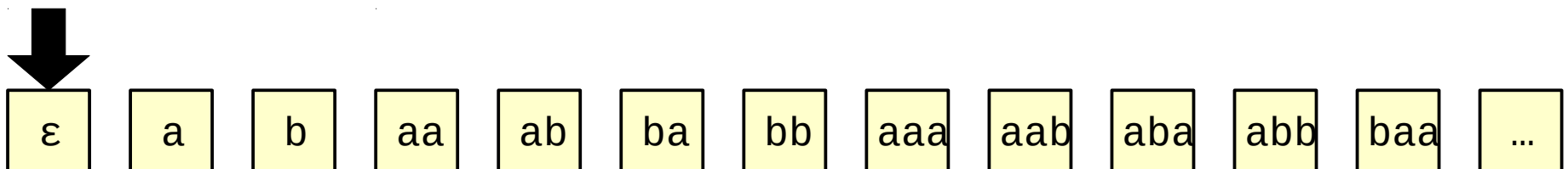


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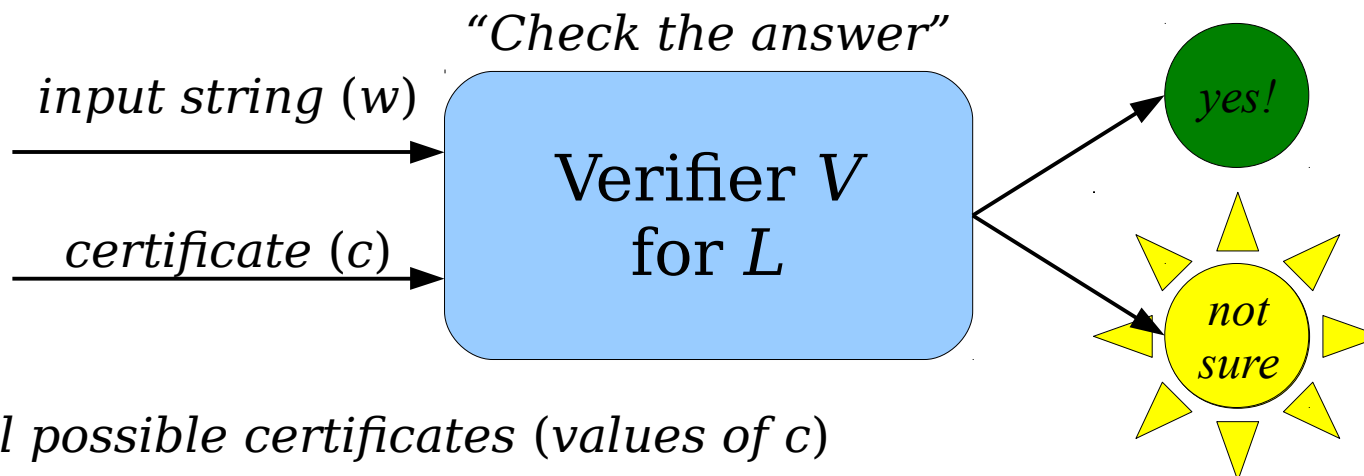


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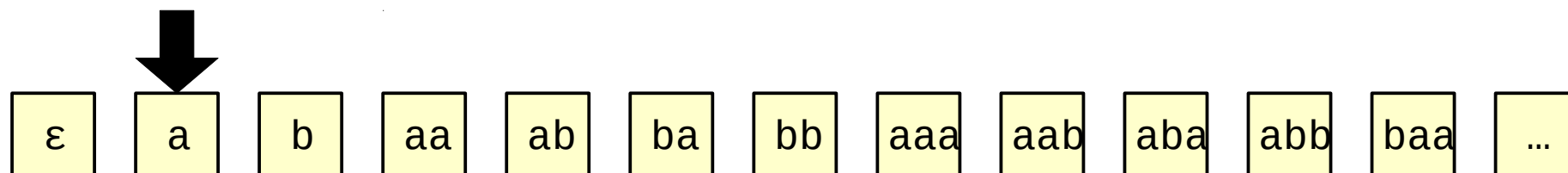


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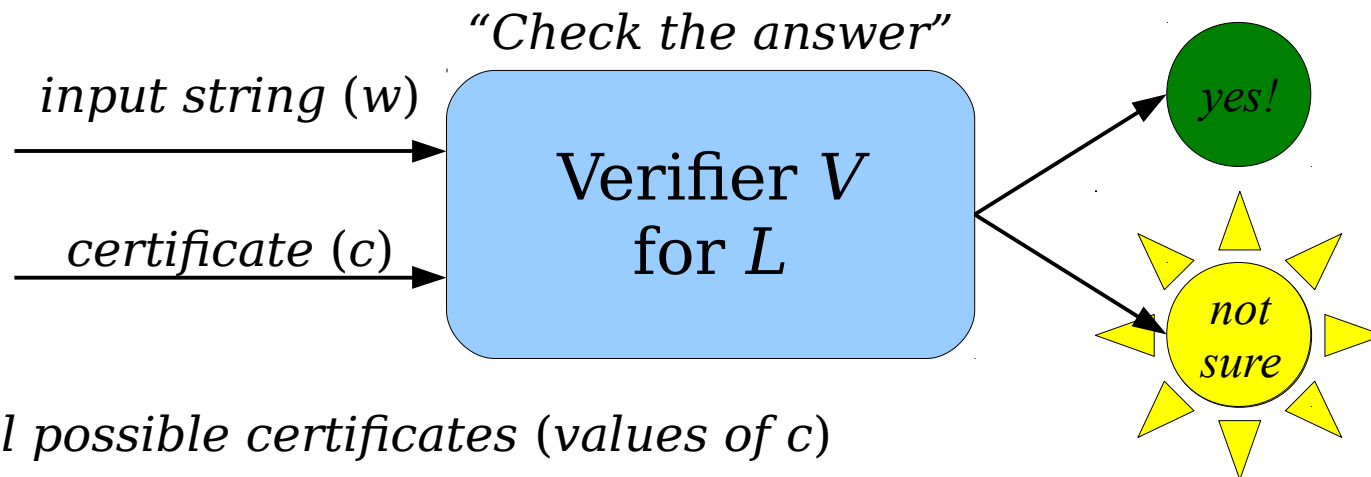


*We will try all possible certificates (values of  $c$ )*

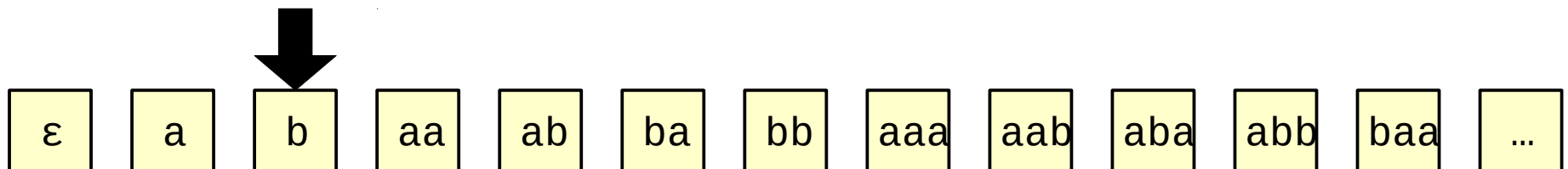


# Verifiers and **RE**

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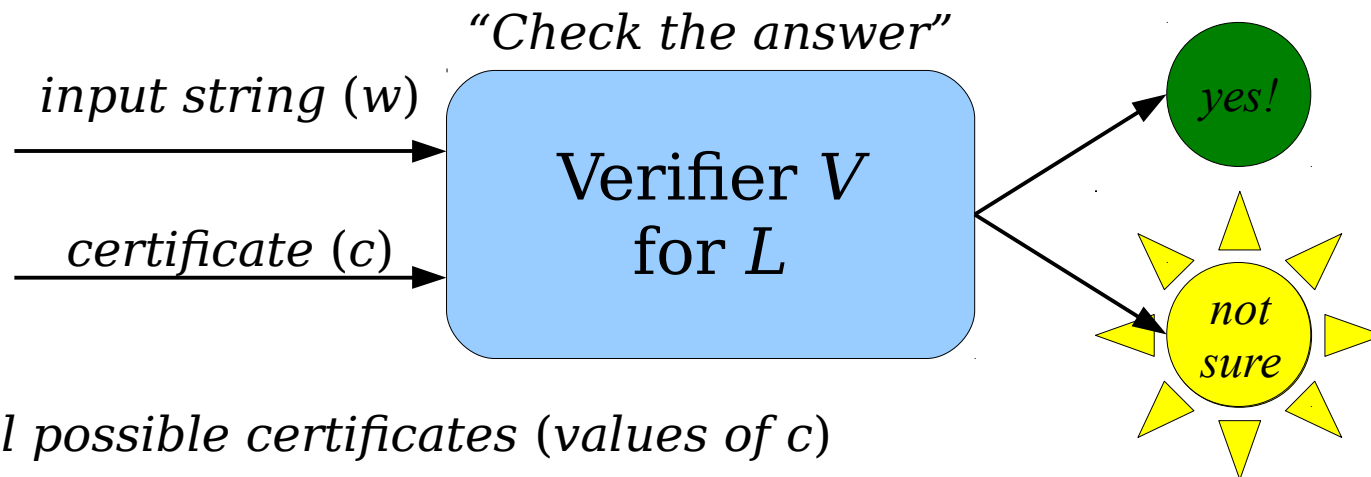


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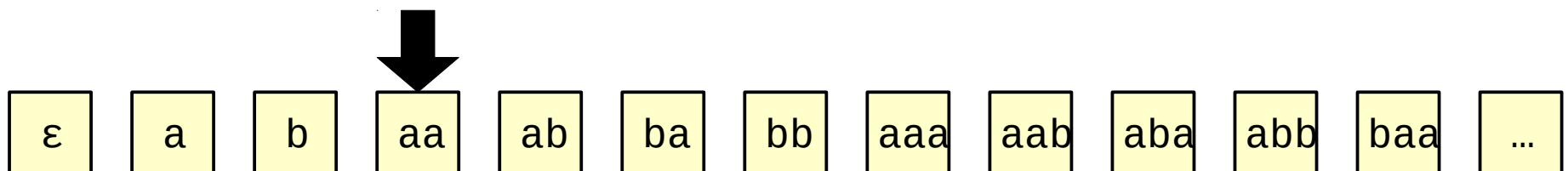


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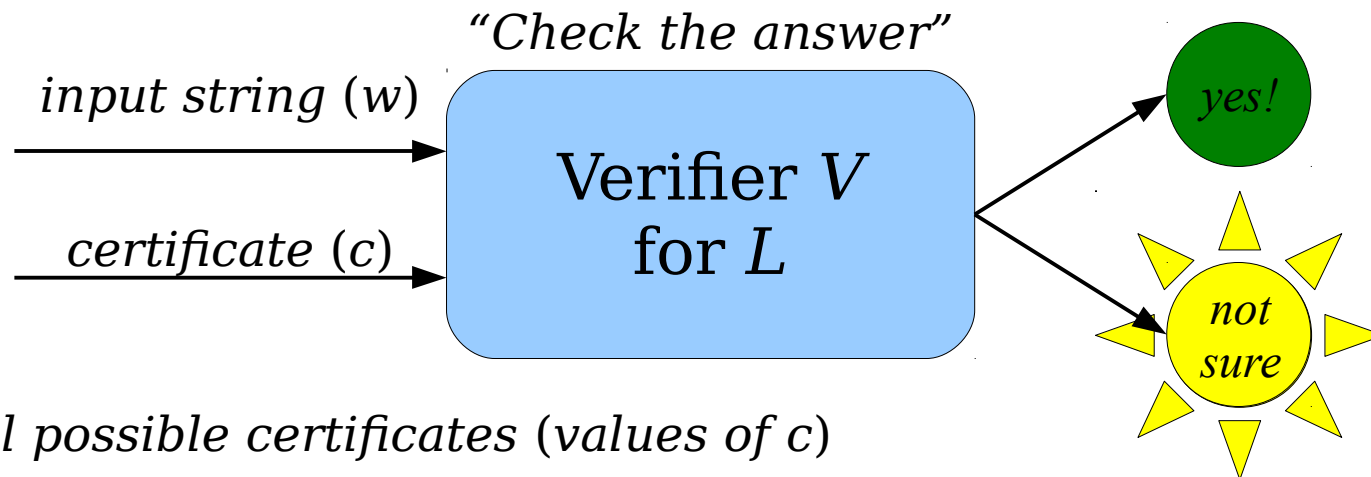
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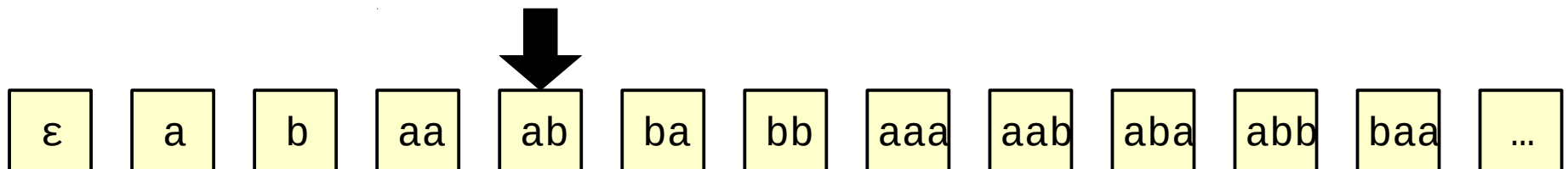


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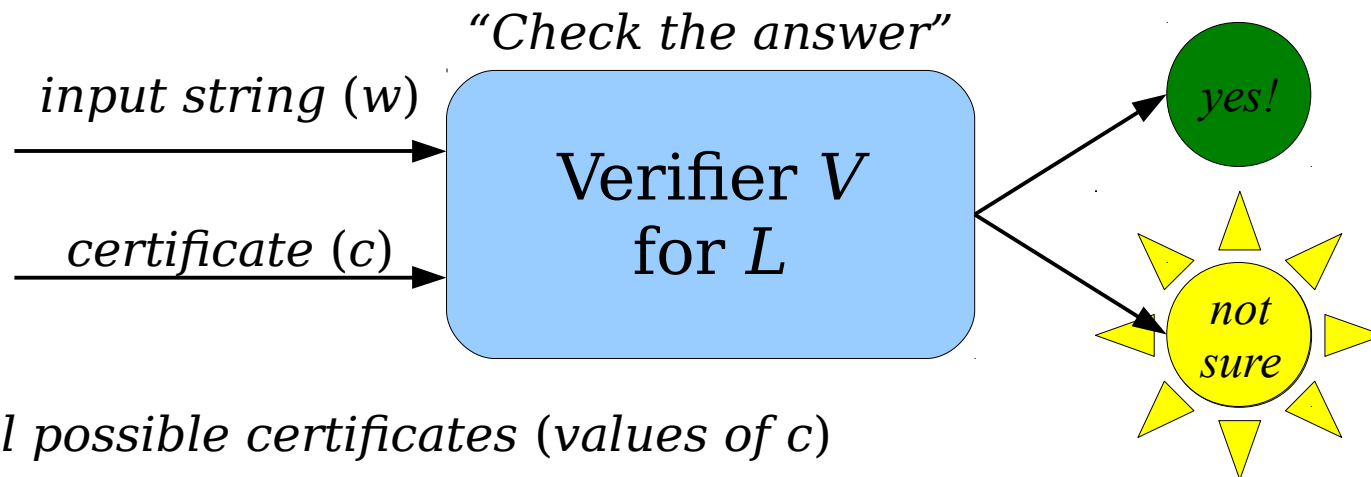


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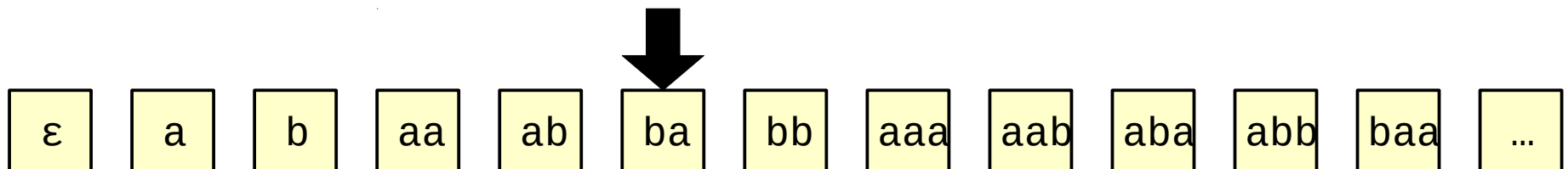


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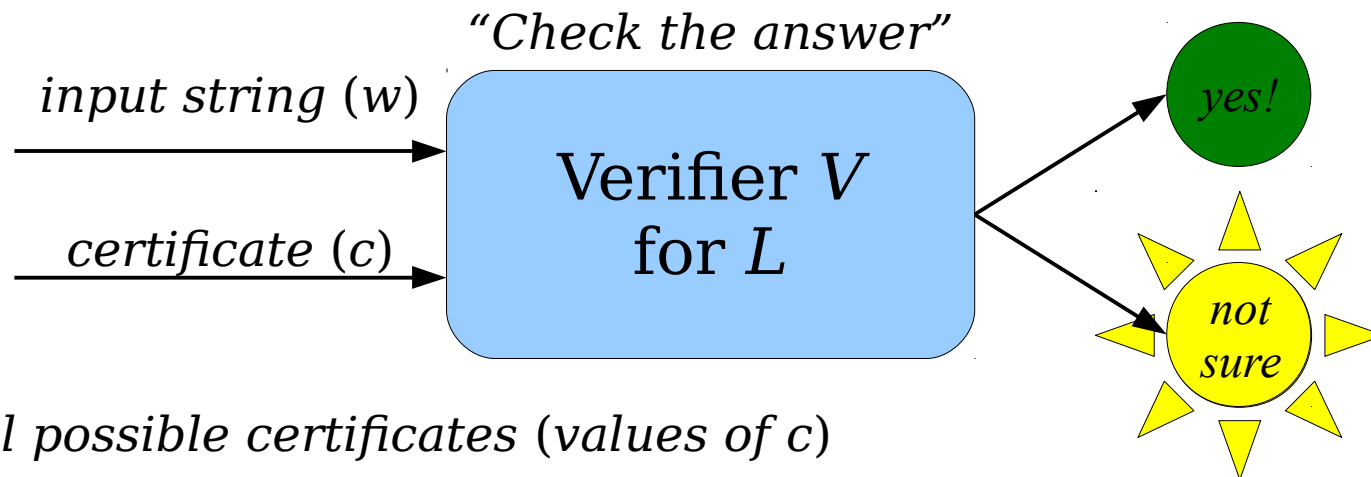


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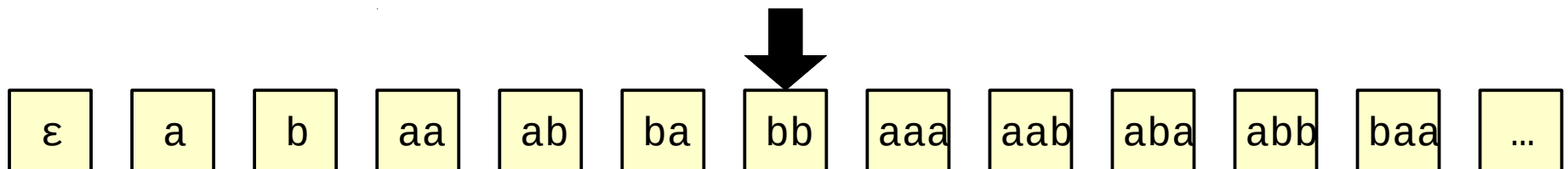


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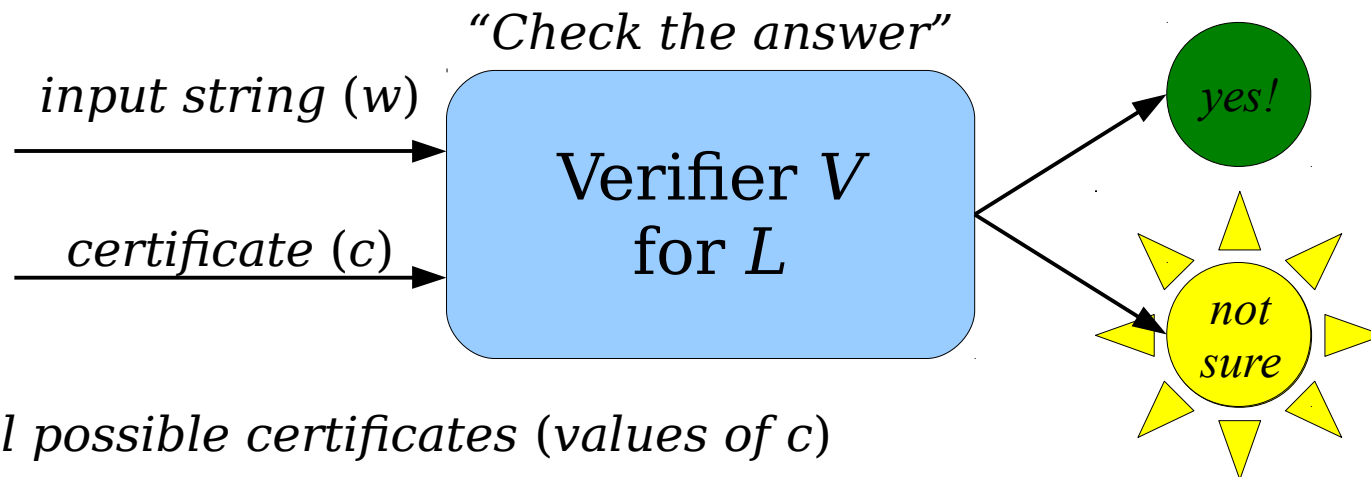


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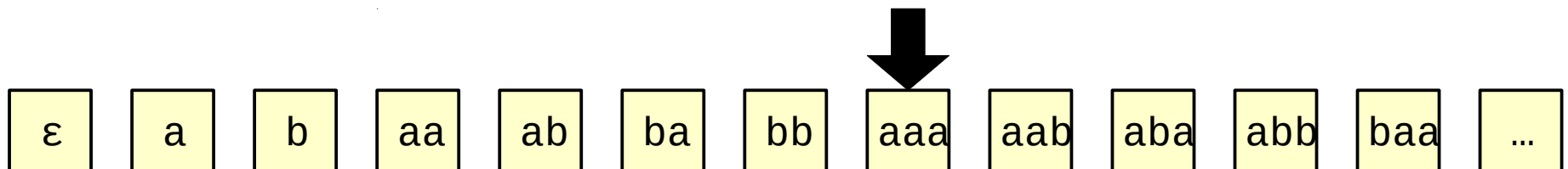


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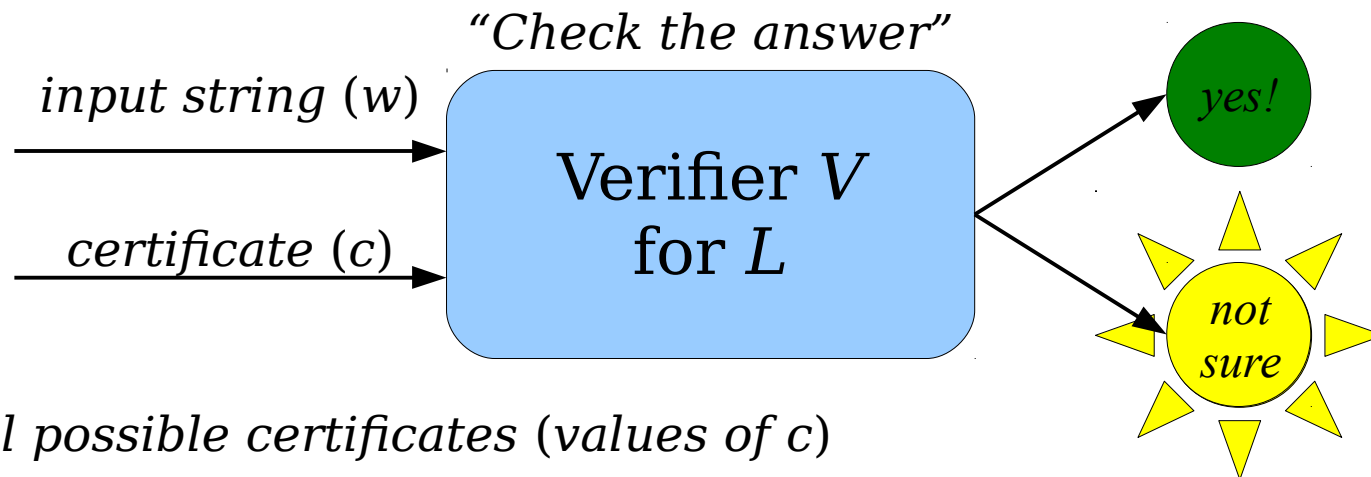


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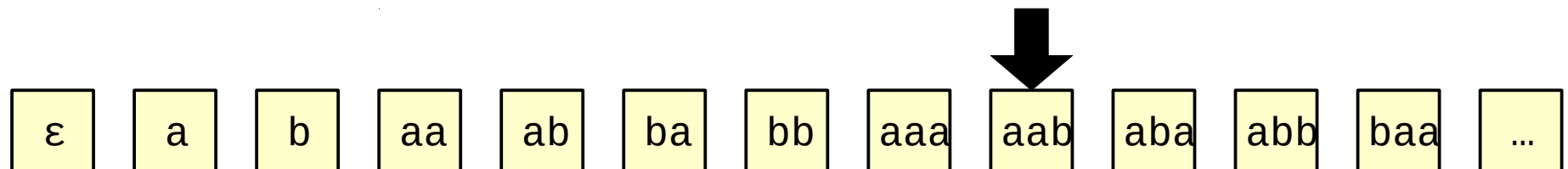


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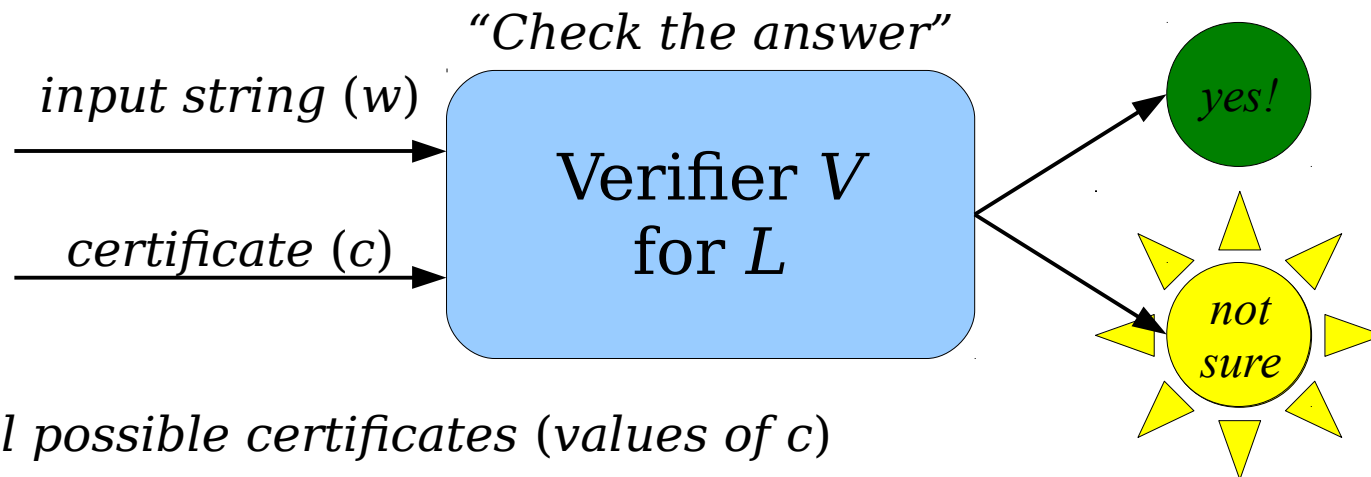


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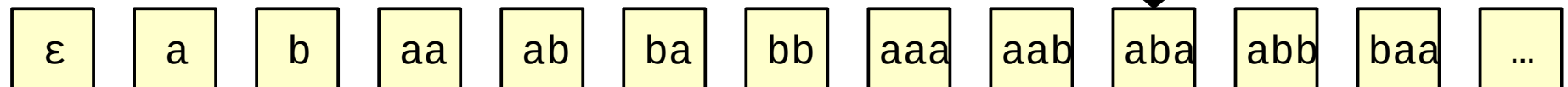


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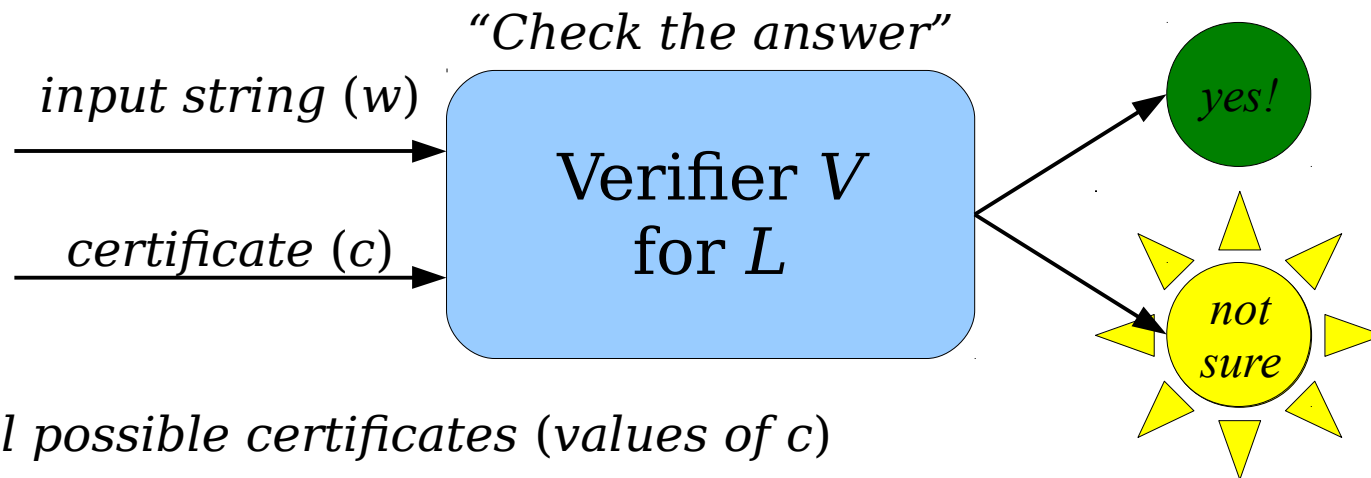


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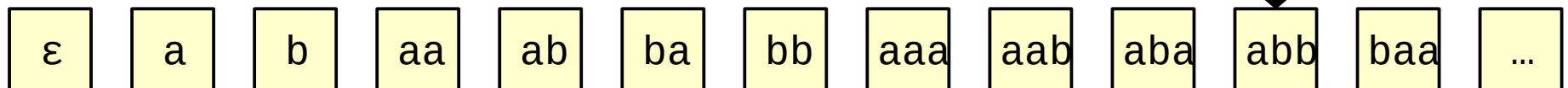


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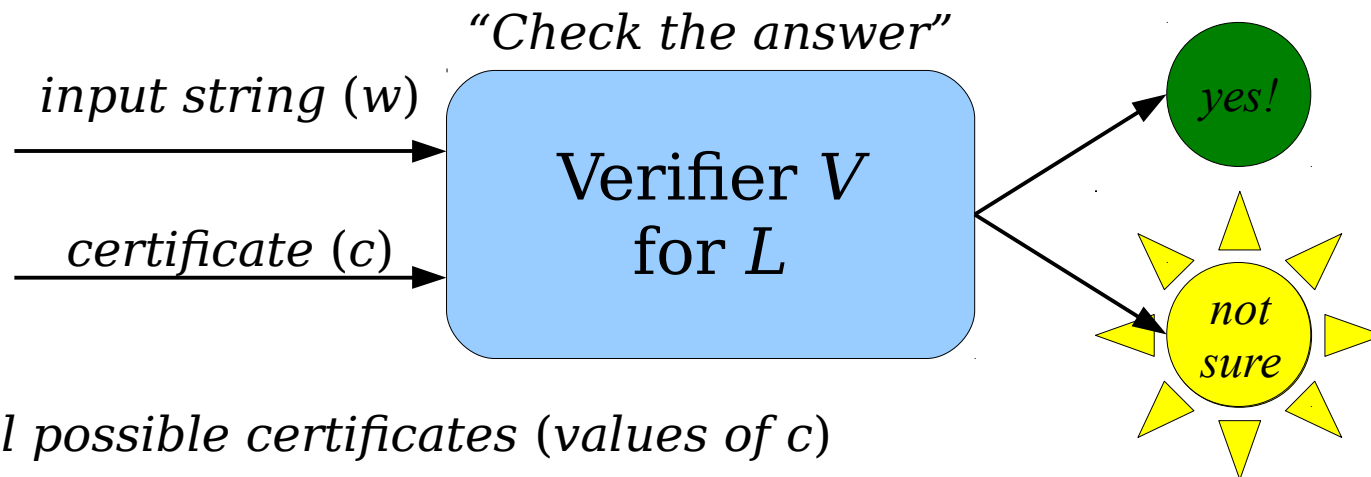


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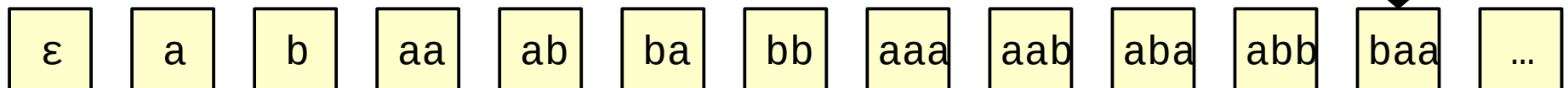


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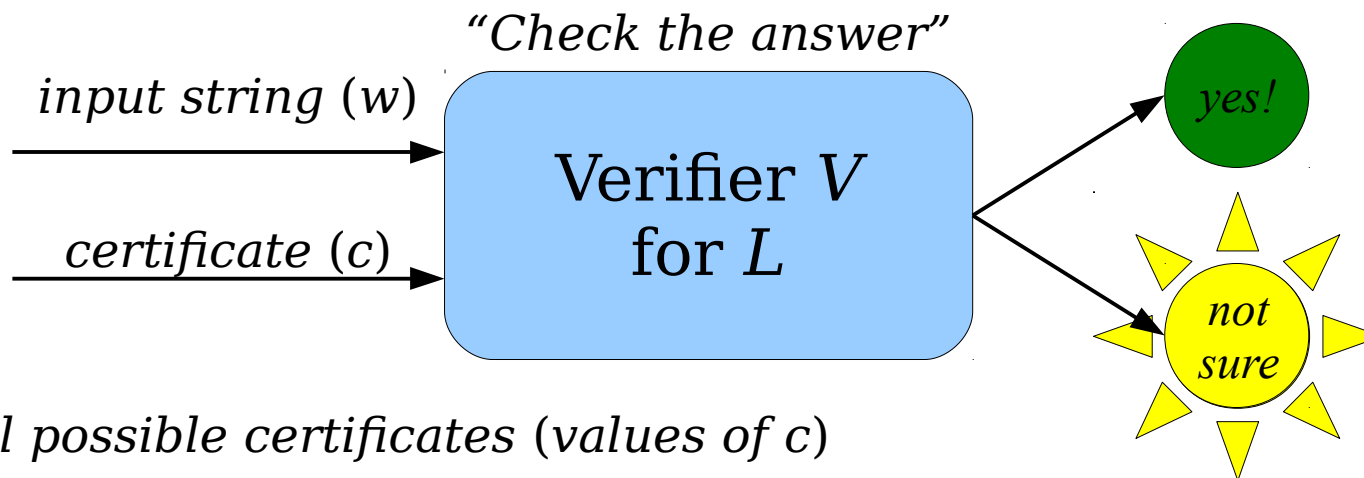
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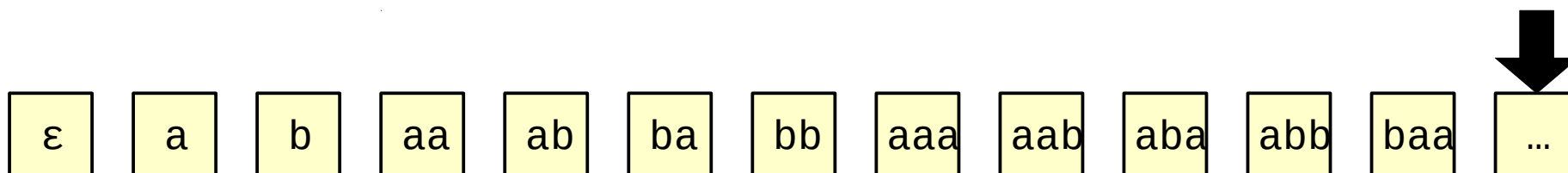


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# Verifiers and **RE**

- **Theorem:** If  $V$  is a verifier for  $L$ , then  $L \in \mathbf{RE}$ .
- **Proof sketch:** Consider the following program:

```
bool isInL(string w) {  
    int i = 0;  
    while (true) {  
        for (each string c of length i) {  
            if (V accepts  $\langle w, c \rangle$ ) return true;  
        }  
        i++;  
    }  
}
```

If  $w \in L$ , there is some  $c \in \Sigma^*$  where  $V$  accepts  $\langle w, c \rangle$ . The function `isInL` tries all possible strings as certificate, so it will eventually find  $c$  (or some other certificate), see  $V$  accept  $\langle w, c \rangle$ , then return true. Conversely, if `isInL(w)` returns true, then there was some string  $c$  such that  $V$  accepted  $\langle w, c \rangle$ , so  $w \in L$ . ■

# Verifiers and **RE**

- **Theorem:** If  $L \in \mathbf{RE}$ , then there is a verifier for  $L$ .
- **Proof goal:** Beginning with a recognizer  $M$  for the language  $L$ , show how to construct a verifier  $V$  for  $L$ .
- The challenges:
  - A recognizer  $M$  is not required to halt on all inputs. A verifier  $V$  must always halt.
  - A recognizer  $M$  takes in one single input. A verifier  $V$  takes in two inputs.
- We'll need to find a way of reconciling these requirements.

**Recall:** If  $M$  is a recognizer for a language  $L$ , then  $M$  accepts  $w$  iff  $w \in L$ .

**Key insight:** If  $M$  accepts a string  $w$ , it always does so in a finite number of steps.

**Idea:** Adapt the verifier for  $A_{TM}$  into a more general construction that turns any recognizer into a verifier by running it for a fixed number of steps.

# Verifiers and **RE**

- **Theorem:** If  $L \in \mathbf{RE}$ , then there is a verifier for  $L$ .
- **Proof sketch:** Consider the following program:

```
bool checkIsInL(string w, int c) {  
    set up a simulation of M running on w;  
    for (int i = 0; i < c; i++) {  
        simulate the next step of M running on w;  
    }  
    return whether M is in an accepting state;  
}
```

Notice that `checkIsInL` always halts, since each step takes only finite time to complete. Next, notice that if there is a  $c$  where `checkIsInL(w, c)` returns true, then  $M$  accepted  $w$  after running for  $c$  steps, so  $w \in L$ . Conversely, if  $w \in L$ , then  $M$  accepts  $w$  after some number of steps (call that number  $c$ ). Then `checkIsInL(w, c)` will run  $M$  on  $w$  for  $c$  steps, watch  $M$  accept  $w$ , then return true. ■

# RE and Proofs

- Verifiers and recognizers give two different perspectives on the “proof” intuition for **RE**.
- Verifiers are explicitly built to check proofs that strings are in the language.
  - If you know that some string  $w$  belongs to the language and you have the proof of it, you can convince someone else that  $w \in L$ .
- You can think of a recognizer as a device that “searches” for a proof that  $w \in L$ .
  - If it finds it, great!
  - If not, it might loop forever.

# RE and Proofs

- If the **RE** languages represent languages where membership can be proven, what does a non-**RE** language look like?
- Intuitively, a language is *not* in **RE** if there is no general way to prove that a given string  $w \in L$  actually belongs to  $L$ .
- In other words, even if you knew that a string was in the language, you may never be able to convince anyone of it!

Finding Non-**RE** Languages



# Finding Non-**RE** Languages

- Right now, we know that non-**RE** languages exist, but we have no idea what they look like.
- How might we find one?

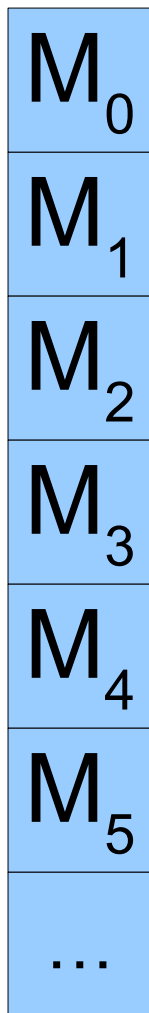
# Languages, TMs, and TM Encodings

- Recall: The language of a TM  $M$  is the set

$$\mathcal{L}(M) = \{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid M \text{ accepts } w \}$$

- Some of the strings in this set might be descriptions of TMs.
- What happens if we list off all Turing machines, looking at how those TMs behave given other TMs as input?

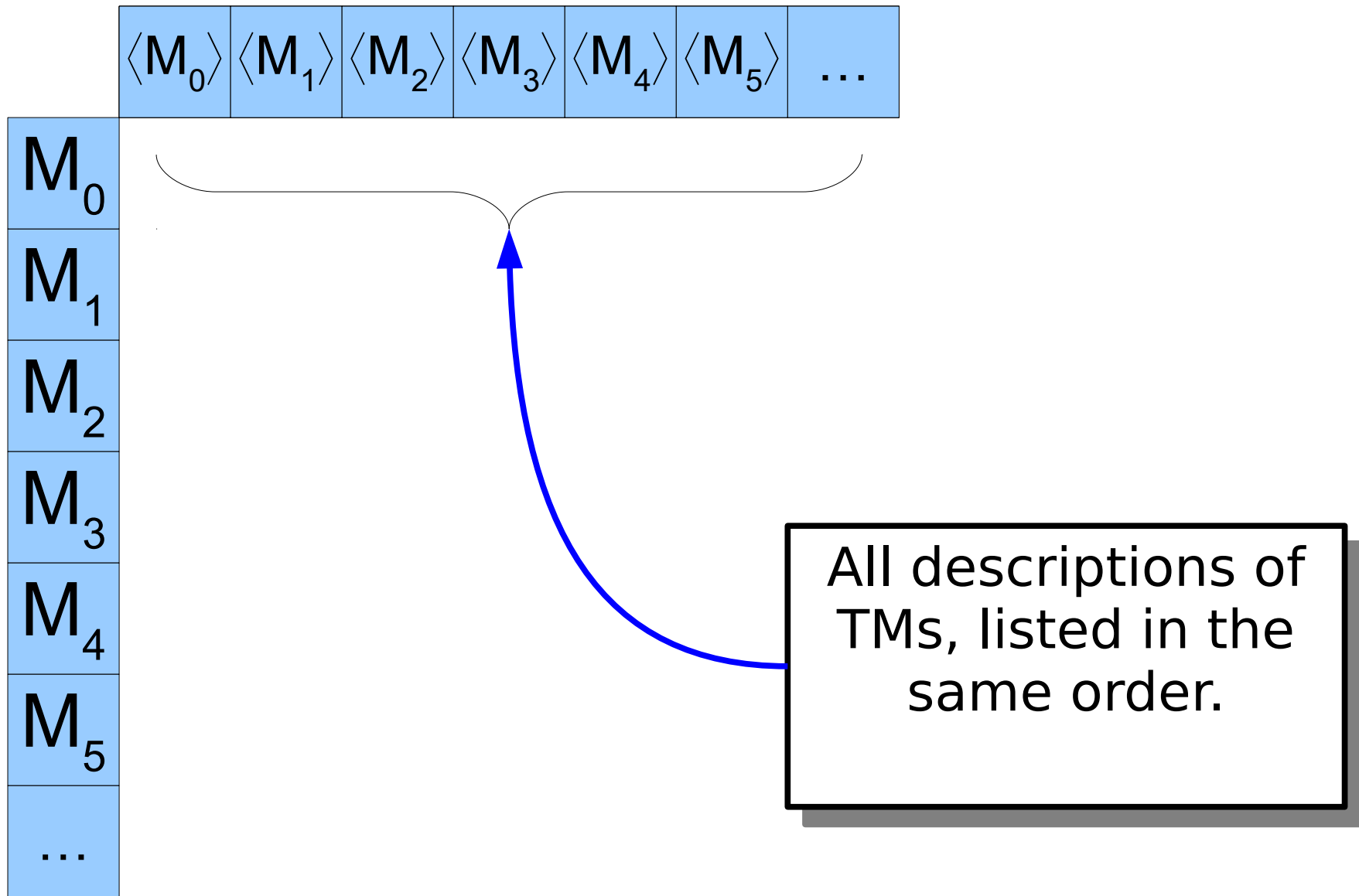
$M_0$
$M_1$
$M_2$
$M_3$
$M_4$
$M_5$
...



All Turing machines, listed  
in some order.

$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----

$M_0$
$M_1$
$M_2$
$M_3$
$M_4$
$M_5$
...



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$							
$M_2$							
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$							
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$							
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$							
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$							
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...							

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

What are we going to do next?

Answer at **PollEv.com/cs103** or  
text **CS103** to **22333** once to join, then **your answer**.

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Acc	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
-----	-----	-----	----	-----	----	-----



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Flip all "accept"  
to "no" and vice-  
versa

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

What TM has this behavior?

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No TM has this behavior!

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----



	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**“The language of all TMs that do not accept their own description.”**

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**$\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM that does not accept } \langle M \rangle \}$**

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
----	----	----	-----	----	-----	-----

	$\langle M_0 \rangle$	$\langle M_1 \rangle$	$\langle M_2 \rangle$	$\langle M_3 \rangle$	$\langle M_4 \rangle$	$\langle M_5 \rangle$	...
$M_0$	Acc	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	...
$M_1$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_2$	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	Acc	...
$M_3$	No	Acc	Acc	No	Acc	Acc	...
$M_4$	Acc	No	Acc	No	Acc	No	...
$M_5$	No	No	Acc	Acc	No	No	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**$\{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM} \\ \text{and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$**

No	No	No	Acc	No	Acc	...
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# Diagonalization Revisited

- The ***diagonalization language***, which we denote  $L_D$ , is defined as

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

- That is,  $L_D$  is the set of descriptions of Turing machines that do not accept themselves.

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

***Theorem:***  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$



$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

Because  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that a string belongs to one set if and only if it belongs to the other.

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

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$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Combining this with statement (1) tells us that

$$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (2)$$

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

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$$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (2)$$

We've replaced the left-hand side of this biconditional with an equivalent statement.

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

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$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Combining this with statement (1) tells us that

$$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (2)$$

Since our choice of  $M$  was arbitrary, we see that statement (2) holds for any TM  $M$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

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$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Combining this with statement (1) tells us that

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Since our choice of  $M$  was arbitrary, we see that statement (2) holds for any TM  $M$ .

A nice consequence of a universally-quantified statement is that it should work in all cases.

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

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Since our choice of  $M$  was arbitrary, we see that statement (2) holds for any TM  $M$ . In particular, this means that statement (2) holds for the TM  $R$ , which tells us that

$$\langle R \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \text{ iff } \langle R \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (3)$$

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Combining this with statement (1) tells us that

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$$\langle R \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \text{ iff } \langle R \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (3)$$

This is clearly impossible.



$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Combining this with statement (1) tells us that

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$$\langle R \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \text{ iff } \langle R \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (3)$$

This is clearly impossible. We have reached a contradiction, so our assumption must have been wrong.

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

From the definition of  $L_D$ , we see that  $\langle M \rangle \in L_D$  iff  $\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M)$ . Combining this with statement (1) tells us that

$$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (2)$$

Since our choice of  $M$  was arbitrary, we see that statement (2) holds for any TM  $M$ . In particular, this means that statement (2) holds for the TM  $R$ , which tells us that

$$\langle R \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \text{ iff } \langle R \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (3)$$

This is clearly impossible. We have reached a contradiction, so our assumption must have been wrong. Thus  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

$$L_D = \{ \langle M \rangle \mid M \text{ is a TM and } \langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \}$$

**Theorem:**  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ .

**Proof:** By contradiction; assume that  $L_D \in \mathbf{RE}$ . Then there must be some recognizer  $R$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ .

Let  $M$  be an arbitrary TM. Since  $\mathcal{L}(R) = L_D$ , we know that

$$\langle M \rangle \in L_D \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (1)$$

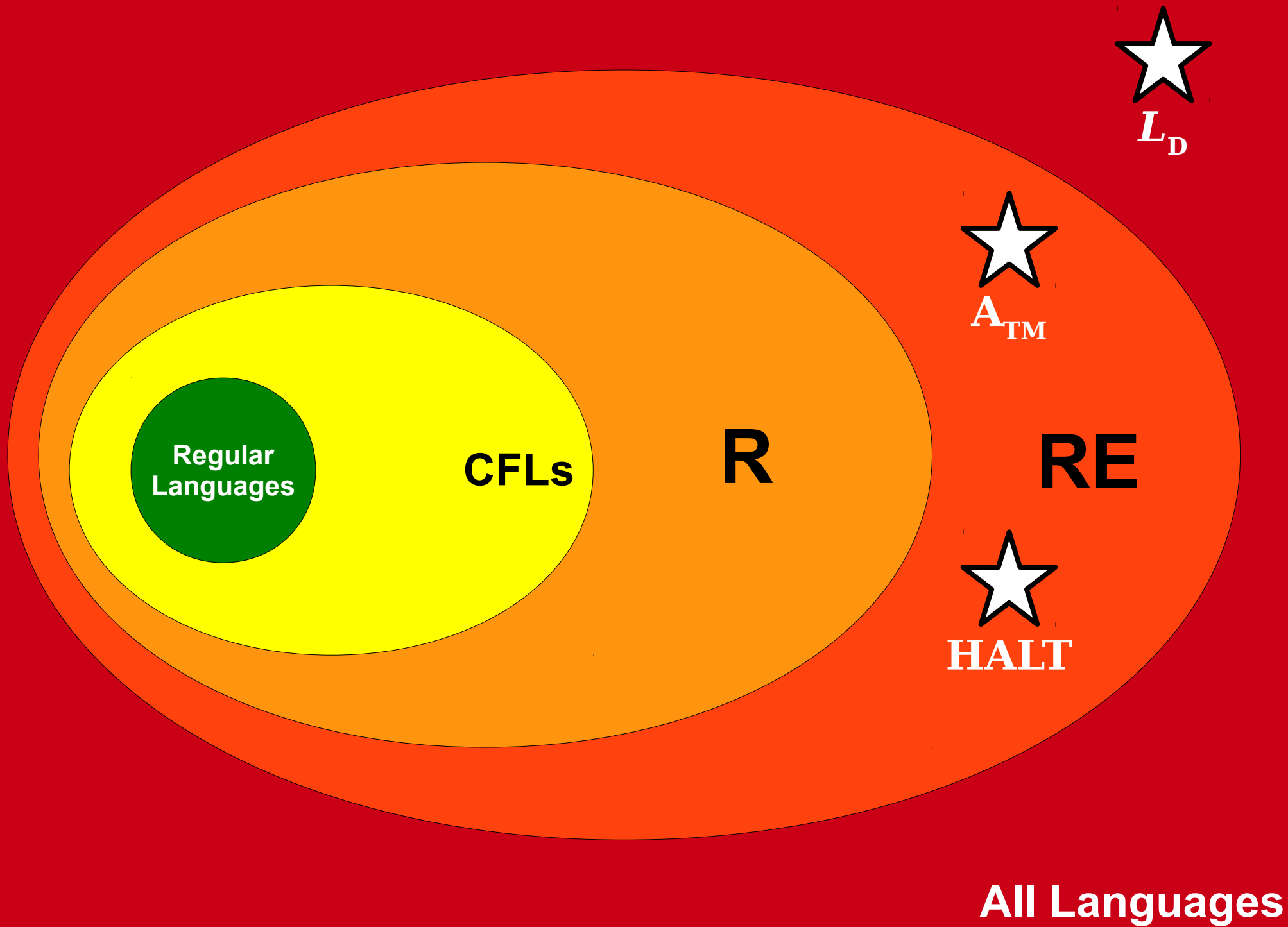
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$$\langle M \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(M) \text{ iff } \langle M \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (2)$$

Since our choice of  $M$  was arbitrary, we see that statement (2) holds for any TM  $M$ . In particular, this means that statement (2) holds for the TM  $R$ , which tells us that

$$\langle R \rangle \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \text{ iff } \langle R \rangle \in \mathcal{L}(R). \quad (3)$$

This is clearly impossible. We have reached a contradiction, so our assumption must have been wrong. Thus  $L_D \notin \mathbf{RE}$ . ■



# What This Means

- On a deeper philosophical level, the fact that non-**RE** languages exist supports the following claim:

***There are statements that are true but not provable.***

- Intuitively, given any non-**RE** language, there will be some string in the language that *cannot* be proven to be in the language.
- This result can be formalized as a result called ***Gödel's incompleteness theorem***, one of the most important mathematical results of all time.
- Want to learn more? Take Phil 152 or CS154!

# What This Means

- On a more philosophical note, you could interpret the previous result in the following way:

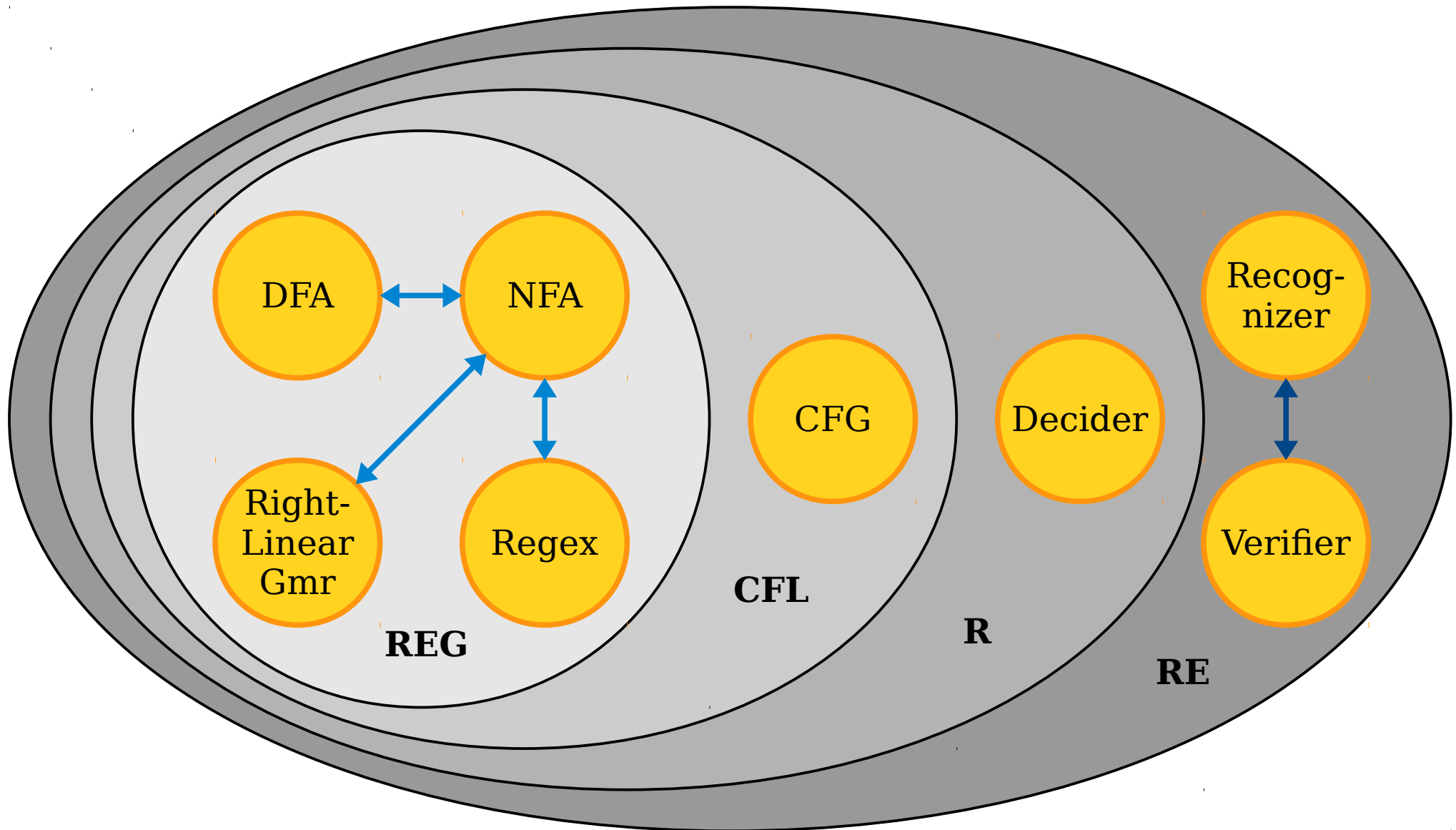
***There are inherent limits about what mathematics can teach us.***

- There's no automatic way to do math. There are true statements that we can't prove.
- That doesn't mean that mathematics is worthless. It just means that we need to temper our expectations about it.

# Where We Stand

- We've just done a crazy, whirlwind tour of computability theory:
  - ***The Church-Turing thesis*** tells us that TMs give us a mechanism for studying computation in the abstract.
  - ***Universal computers*** – computers as we know them – are not just a stroke of luck. The existence of the universal TM ensures that such computers must exist.
  - ***Self-reference*** is an inherent consequence of computational power.
  - ***Undecidable problems*** exist partially as a consequence of the above and indicate that there are statements whose truth can't be determined by computational processes.
  - ***Unrecognizable problems*** are out there and can be discovered via diagonalization. They imply there are limits to mathematical proof.

# The Big Picture





# Where We've Been

- The class **R** represents problems that can be solved by a computer.
- The class **RE** represents problems where “yes” answers can be verified by a computer.

# Where We're Going

- The class **P** represents problems that can be solved *efficiently* by a computer.
- The class **NP** represents problems where “yes” answers can be verified *efficiently* by a computer.

# Next Time

- ***Introduction to Complexity Theory***
  - Not all decidable problems are created equal!
- ***The Classes  $P$  and  $NP$*** 
  - Two fundamental and important complexity classes.
- ***The  $P \stackrel{?}{=} NP$  Question***
  - A literal million-dollar question!