



Photo:  
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Poster](#)

**HW 3 due this Friday, Feb 13 (10:00pm)**

**Quiz 4 coming soon**

## **Class 8:** **Reg Exp $\Rightarrow$ DFA** **(Non-deterministic)**

University of Virginia  
CS3120: DMT2  
<https://weikailin.github.io/cs3120-toc>  
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# Plan

**Reg-Fun  $\subseteq$  DFA-Comp**

*Non-deterministic FA*

**NFA  $\subseteq$  DFA-Comp**

Today: [Sipser] Section 1.2

- Formal definition of a nondeterministic finite automaton
- Equivalence of NFAs and DFAs

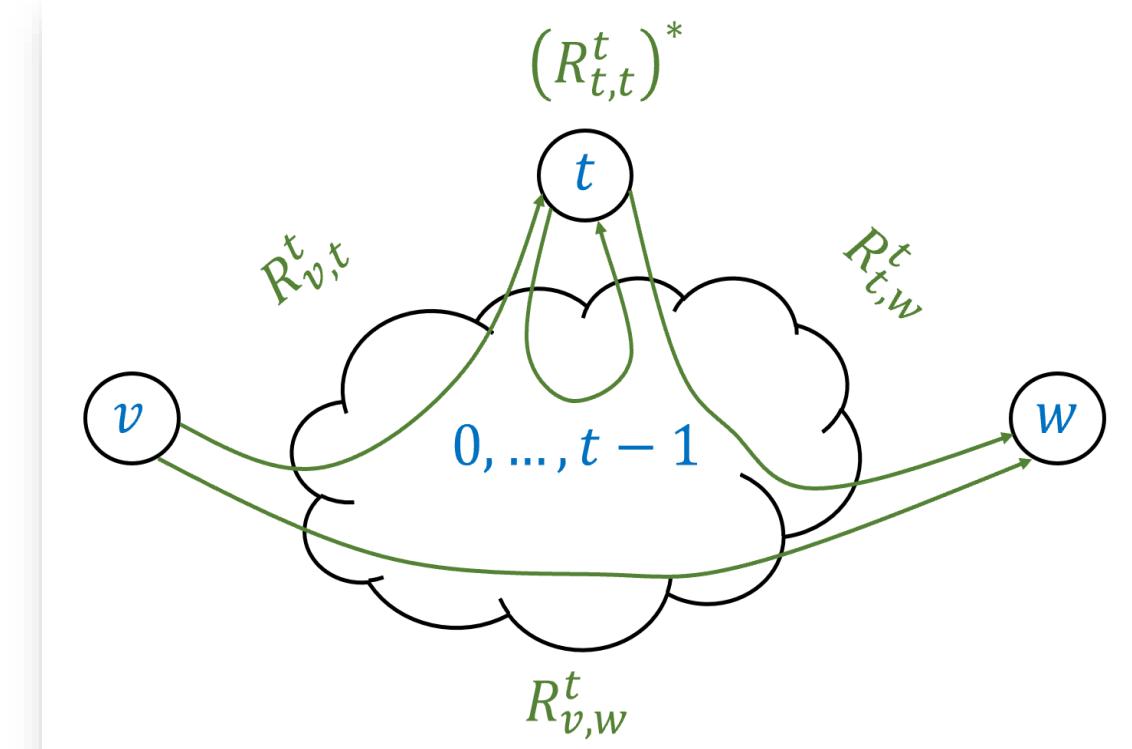
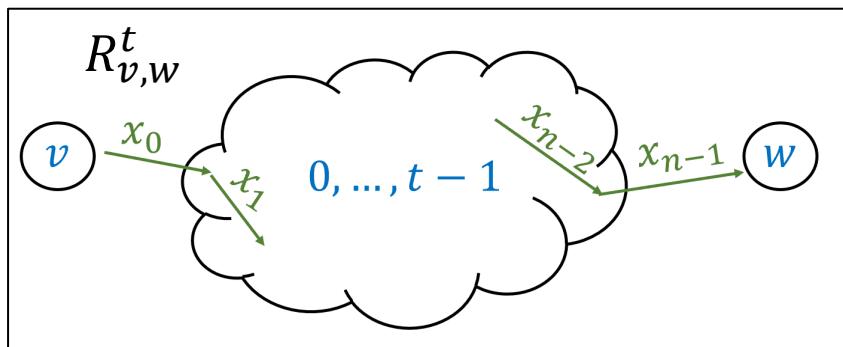
# Recap: Reg-Fun $\supseteq$ DFA-Comp

For each DFA  $M$ , there is an equivalent regular expression  $e$ .

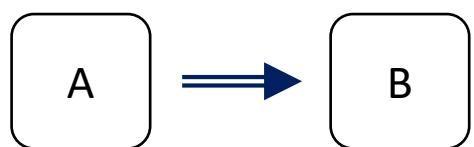
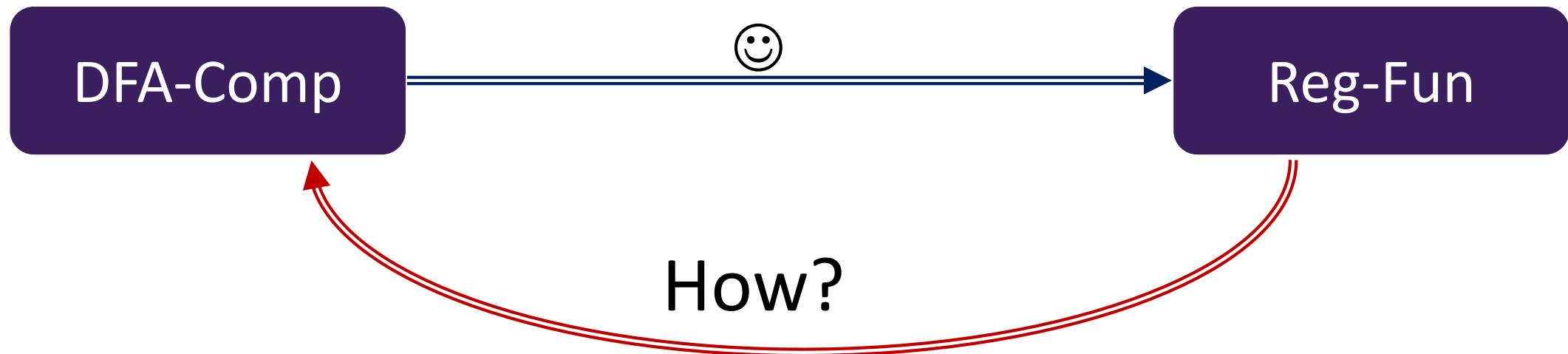
Proof by induction:

Consider the subset  $[t] = \{0, 1, \dots, t - 1\}$ .

Let  $R_{v,w}^t$  be the strings go from  $v$  to  $w$  **only through nodes in  $[t]$** .



# High-Level Proof Plan



We can convert every  $M_A \in A$  to a  $M_B \in B$   
Such that for all  $x$ ,  $M_A$  accepts  $x$  iff  $M_B$  accepts  $x$

# Reg-Fun $\subseteq$ DFA-Comp

*Introduction to the Theory of Computation*

Section 1.2. Michael Sipser.

# Recall: Syntax of Regular Expressions

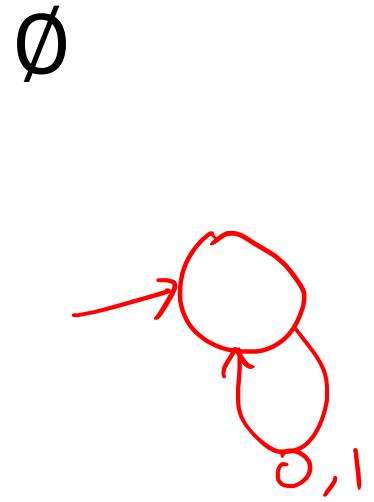
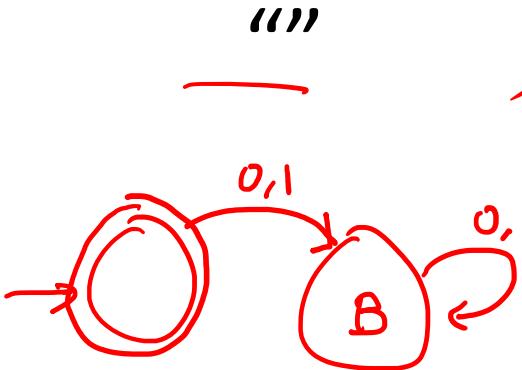
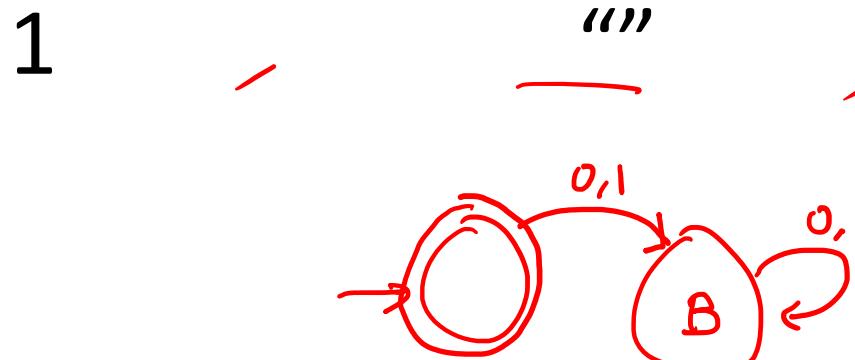
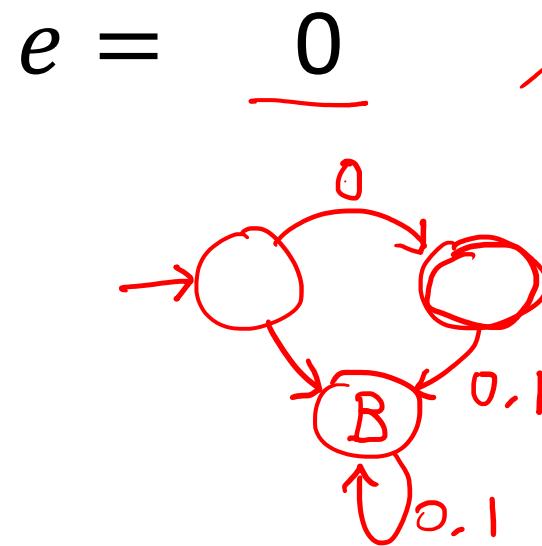
## Definition 6.6 (Regular expression)

A *regular expression*  $e$  over an alphabet  $\Sigma$  is a string over  $\Sigma \cup \{((), |, *, \emptyset, "\cdot"\}\}$  that has one of the following forms:

1.  $e = \sigma$  where  $\sigma \in \Sigma$
2.  $e = (e'|e'')$  where  $e', e''$  are regular expressions.
3.  $e = (e')(e'')$  where  $e', e''$  are regular expressions. (We often drop the parentheses when there is no danger of confusion and so write this as  $e' e''$ .)
4.  $e = (e')^*$  where  $e'$  is a regular expression.

Finally we also allow the following “edge cases”:  $e = \emptyset$  and  $e = "\cdot"$ . These are the regular expressions corresponding to accepting no strings, and accepting only the empty string respectively.

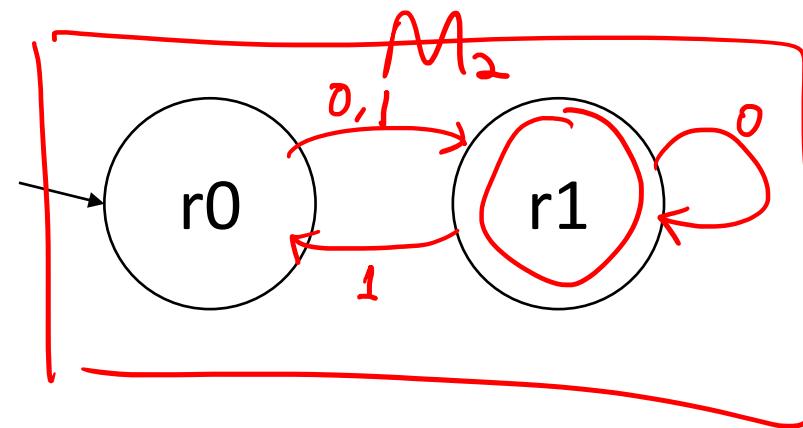
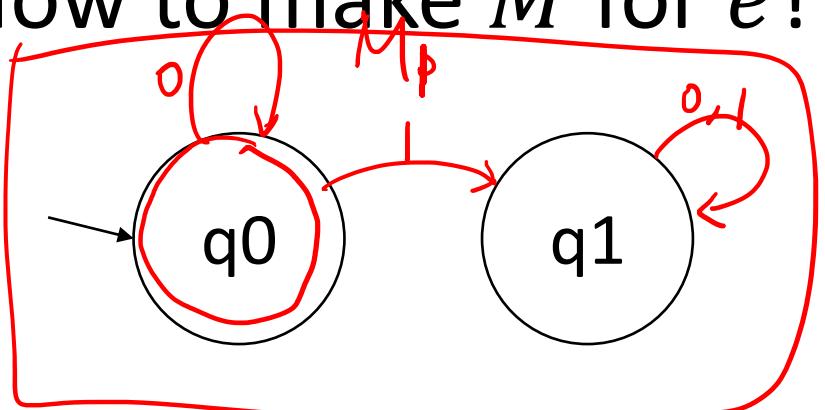
# Base Cases are Easy



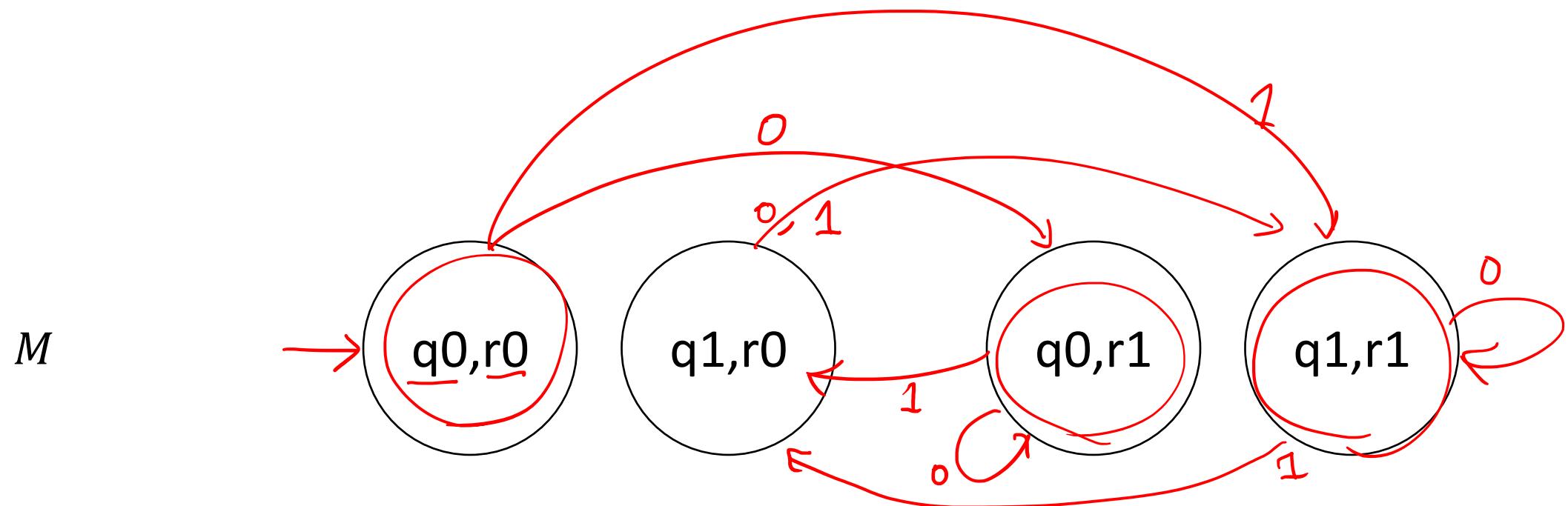
# Recursive Case: OR

$e = (e_1) | (e_2)$ . Suppose we have corresponding DFA  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  for  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ .

How to make  $M$  for  $e$ ?



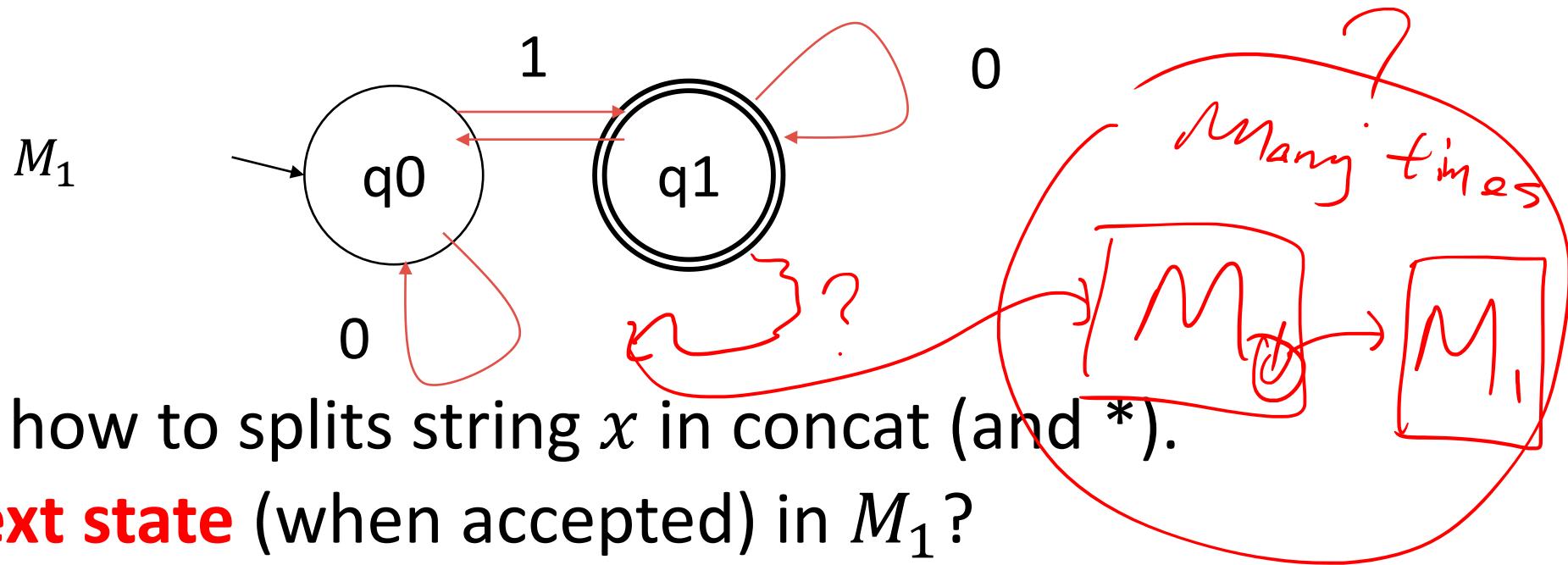
Idea: the states of  $M$  is the product set of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$



# Recursive Cases: Kleene Star

$$e = (e_1)^*$$

Suppose  $M_1$  is equivalent to  $e_1$



Hard: unclear how to splits string  $x$  in concat (and  $*$ ).

What's the **next state** (when accepted) in  $M_1$ ?

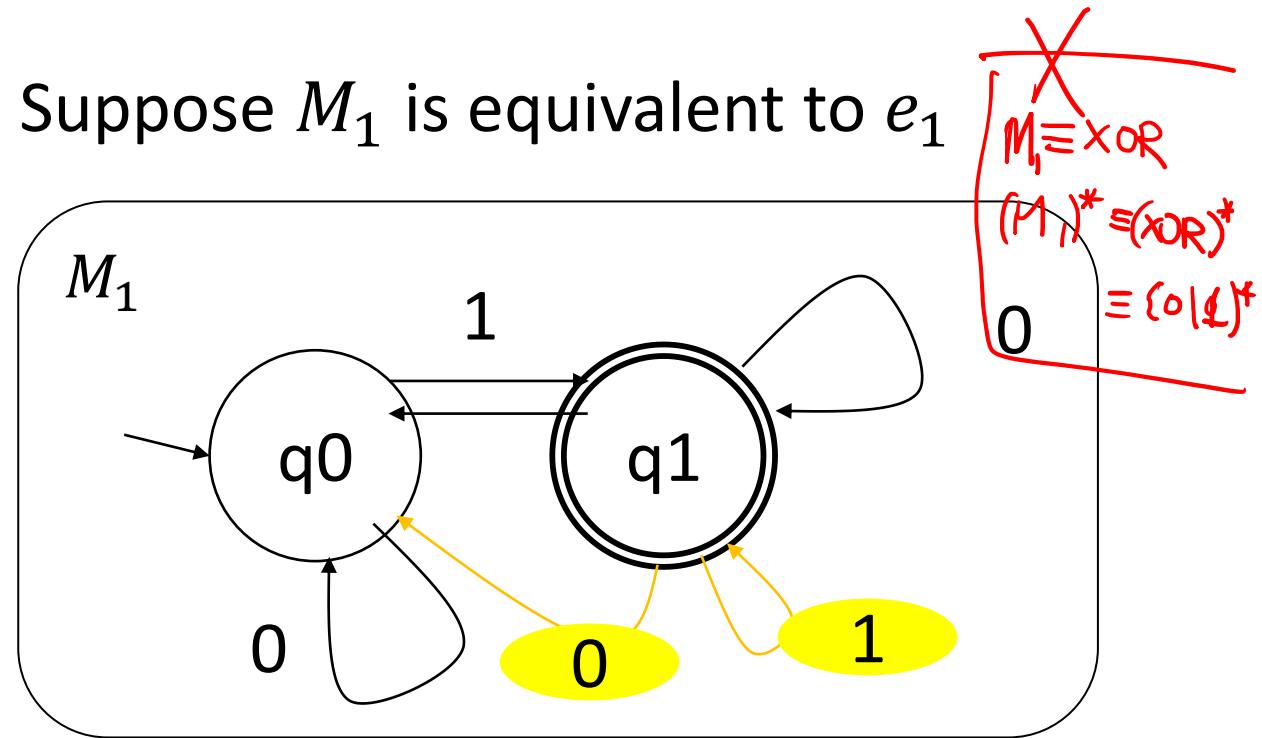
Concat is same.

# Big Idea: Non-deterministic

$$e = (e_1)^*$$

Match  $x = 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0$

Suppose  $M_1$  is equivalent to  $e_1$



Allow transition to **multiple states** (clearly, not DFA)  
Accept if exist a **path to accept**

# How should we change our DFA description to allow for *choices*? $f: \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

A (deterministic) *finite automaton* over alphabet  $\{0,1\}$  is a tuple  $(C, T, S)$  where:

1.  $C$  --- the number of *states*
2.  $T: [C] \times \{0,1\} \rightarrow [C]$   
a transition function
3.  $S \subseteq [C]$  --- the set of accept states

A Nondeterministic *Finite Automaton* over alphabet  $\{0,1\}$  is a tuple  $(C, T, S)$  where:

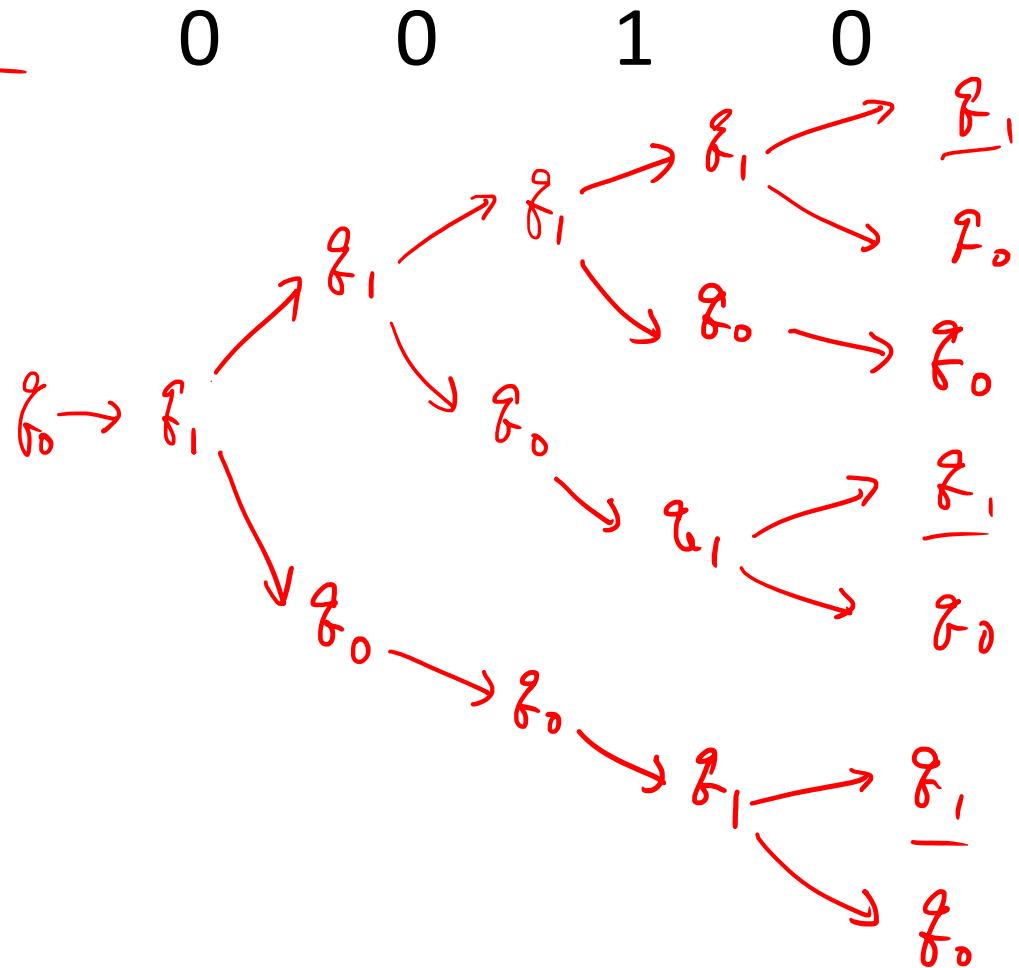
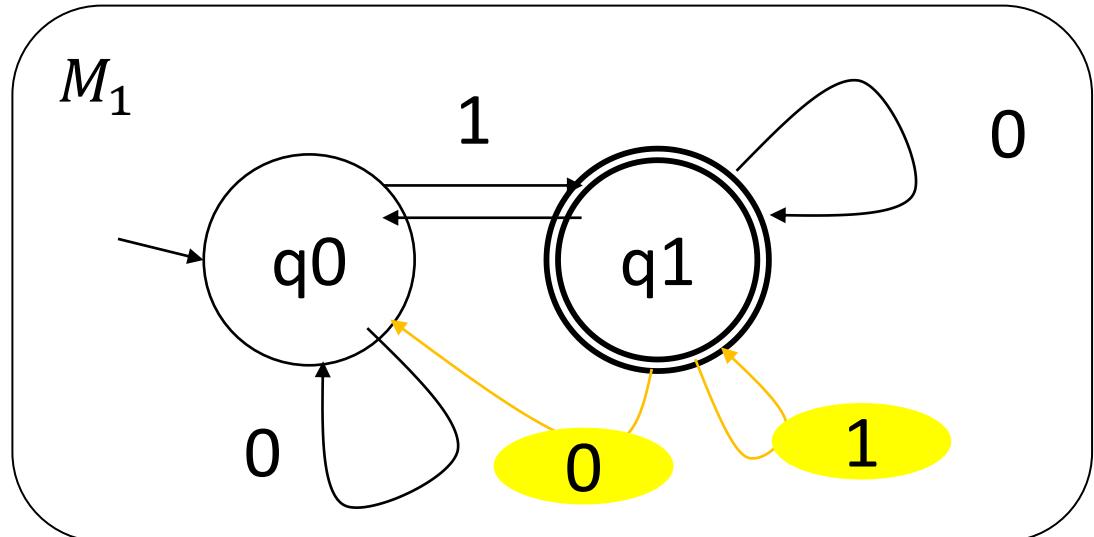
1.  $C$  --- the number of *states*
2.  $T: [C] \times \{0,1\} \rightarrow \underline{\text{pow}([C])}$   
a transition function
3.  $S \subseteq [C]$  --- the set of accept states

How to evaluate an NFA?  
Try all possible “choices”?!

# How can we try all possible “executions”?

$$e = (e_1)^*,$$

Match  $x = 1$



# Defining the NFA Model

A **Nondeterministic Finite Automaton**

over alphabet  $\{0,1\}$  is a tuple  $(C, T, S)$   
where:

1.  $C$  --- the number of *states*
2.  $T: [C] \times \{0,1\} \rightarrow \text{pow}([C])$   
a transition function
3.  $S \subseteq [C]$  --- the set of accept states

Recall our  
DFA model:

The string  $x = b_0 b_1 \dots b_n$  is matched by the DFA  $M = (C, T, S)$  iff there are states  $s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n \in [C]$  such that

$s_{i+1} = T(s_i, b_i)$  for all  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$  and  $s_0 = 0$  and  $s_n \in S$ .

# Defining the NFA Model

A **Nondeterministic Finite Automaton** over alphabet  $\{0,1\}$  is a tuple  $(C, T, S)$  where:

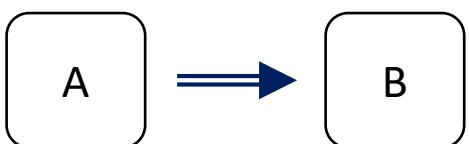
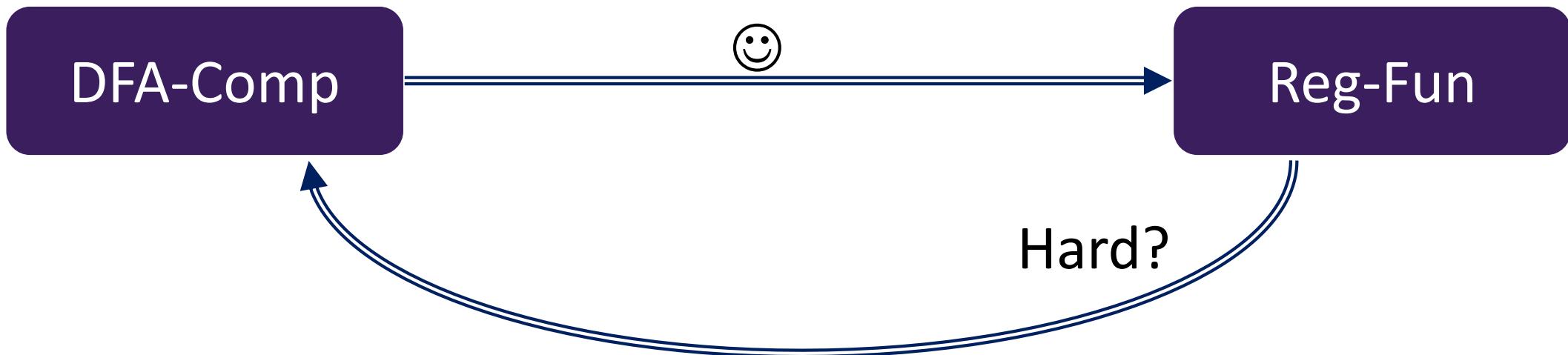
1.  $C$  --- the number of states
2.  $T: [C] \times \{0,1\} \rightarrow \text{pow}([C])$   
a transition function
3.  $S \subseteq [C]$  --- the set of accept states

The string  $x = b_0 b_1 \dots b_n$  is matched by the NFA  $M = (C, T, S)$  iff there are states  $s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n \in Q$  such that  $s_{i+1} \in T(s_i, b_i)$  for all  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$  and  $s_0 = 0$  and  $s_n \in S$ .

Recall our DFA model:

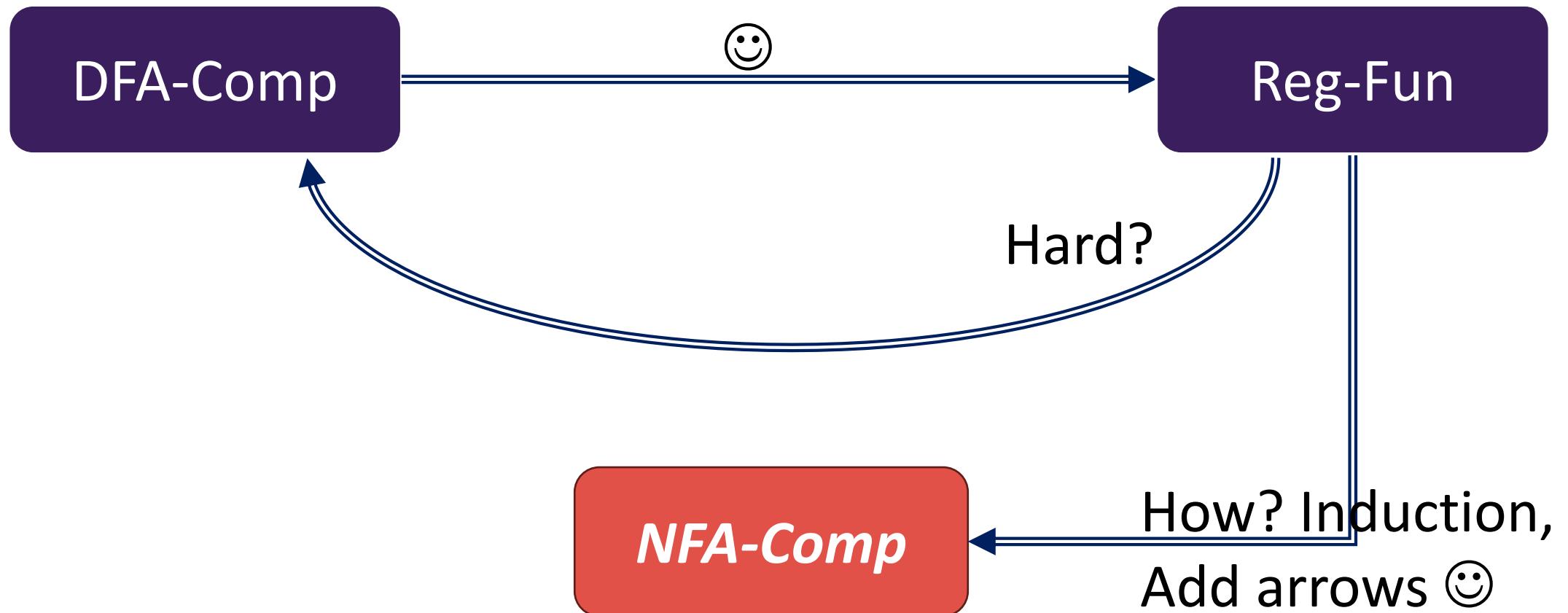
The string  $x = b_0 b_1 \dots b_n$  is matched by the DFA  $M = (C, T, S)$  iff there are states  $s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n \in [C]$  such that  $s_{i+1} = T(s_i, b_i)$  for all  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$  and  $s_0 = 0$  and  $s_n \in S$ .

# Recalling the High-Level Proof Plan



We can convert every  $M_A \in A$  to a  $M_B \in B$   
Such that for all  $x$ ,  $M_A$  accepts  $x$  iff  $M_B$  accepts  $x$

# High-Level Proof Plan

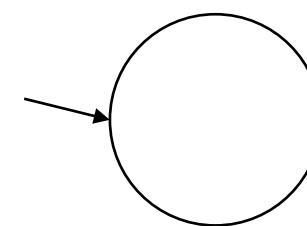
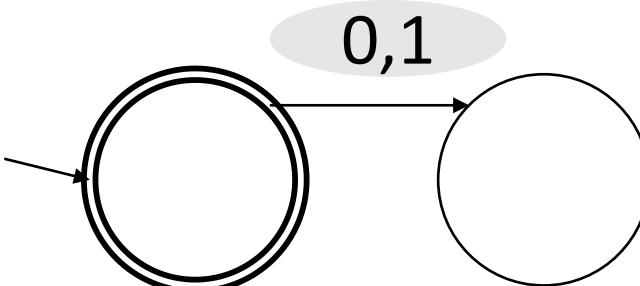
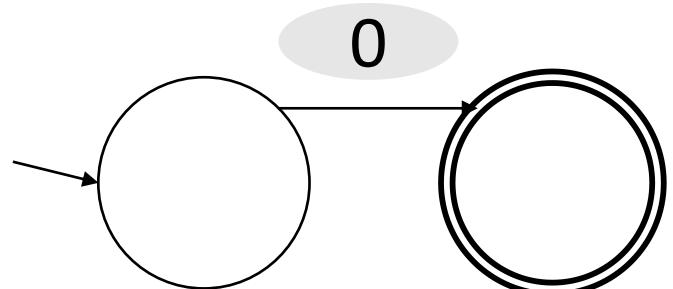


# Base Cases are Similar to DFA

$e = 0 \quad 1$

$" "$

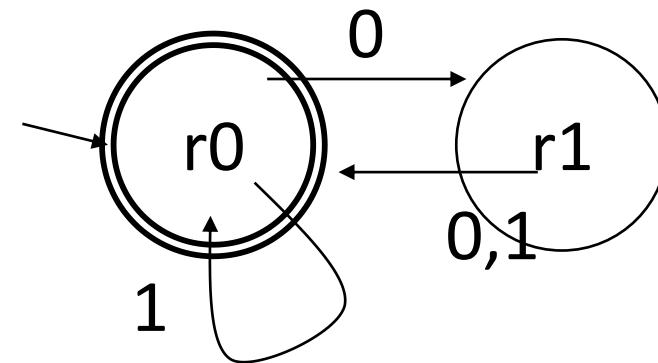
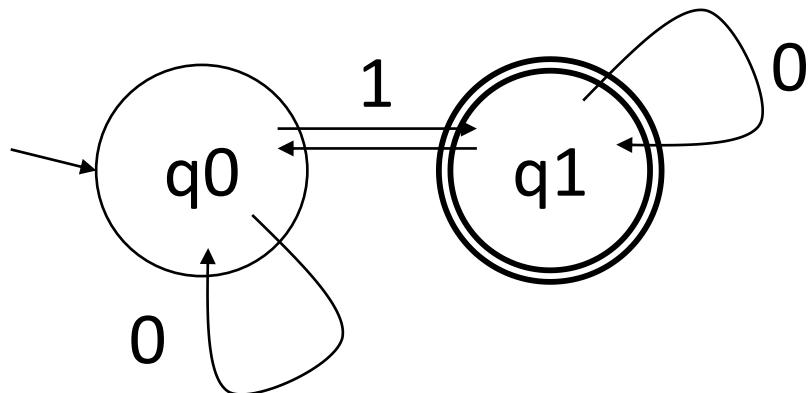
$\emptyset$



# Recursive Case: OR

$e = (e_1) | (e_2)$ . Suppose we have corresponding NFA  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  for  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ .

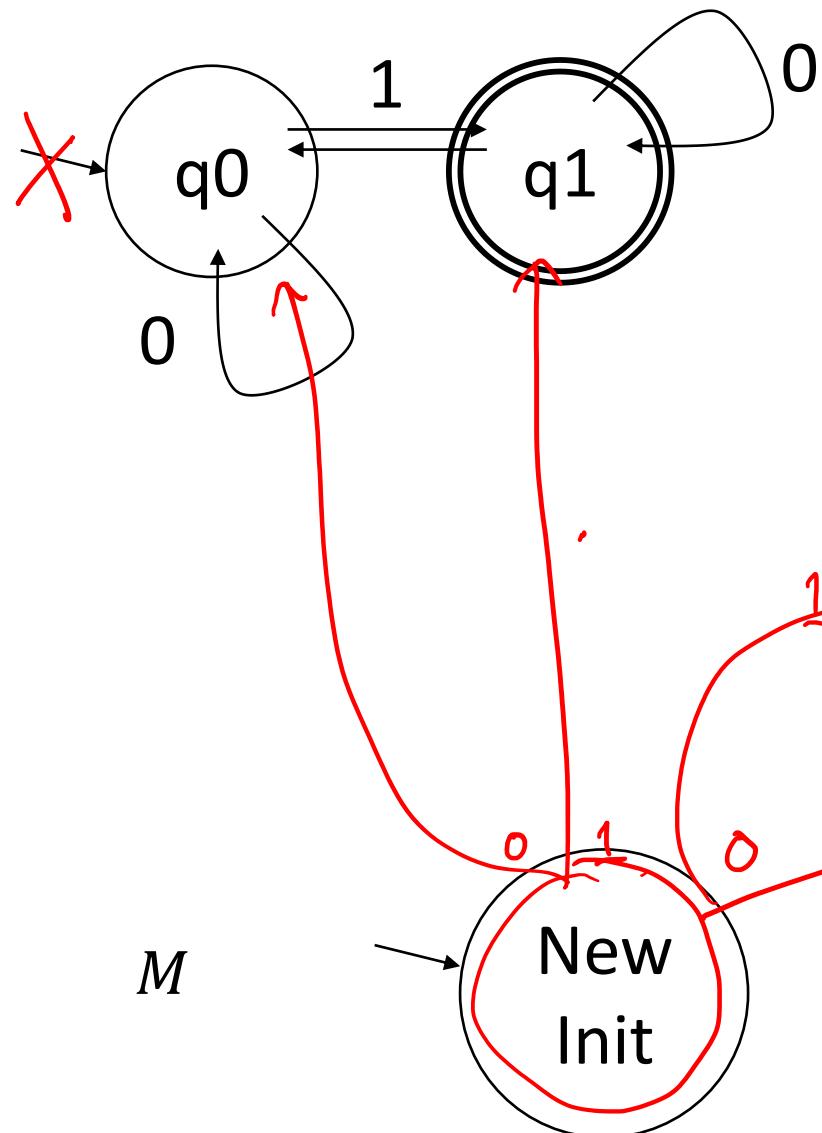
How to make  $M$  for  $e$ ?



Idea: Add a new init state and new edges

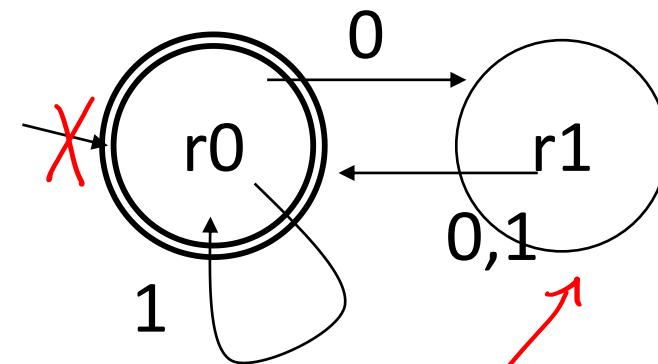
Want:

$M_1$



OR

$M_2$

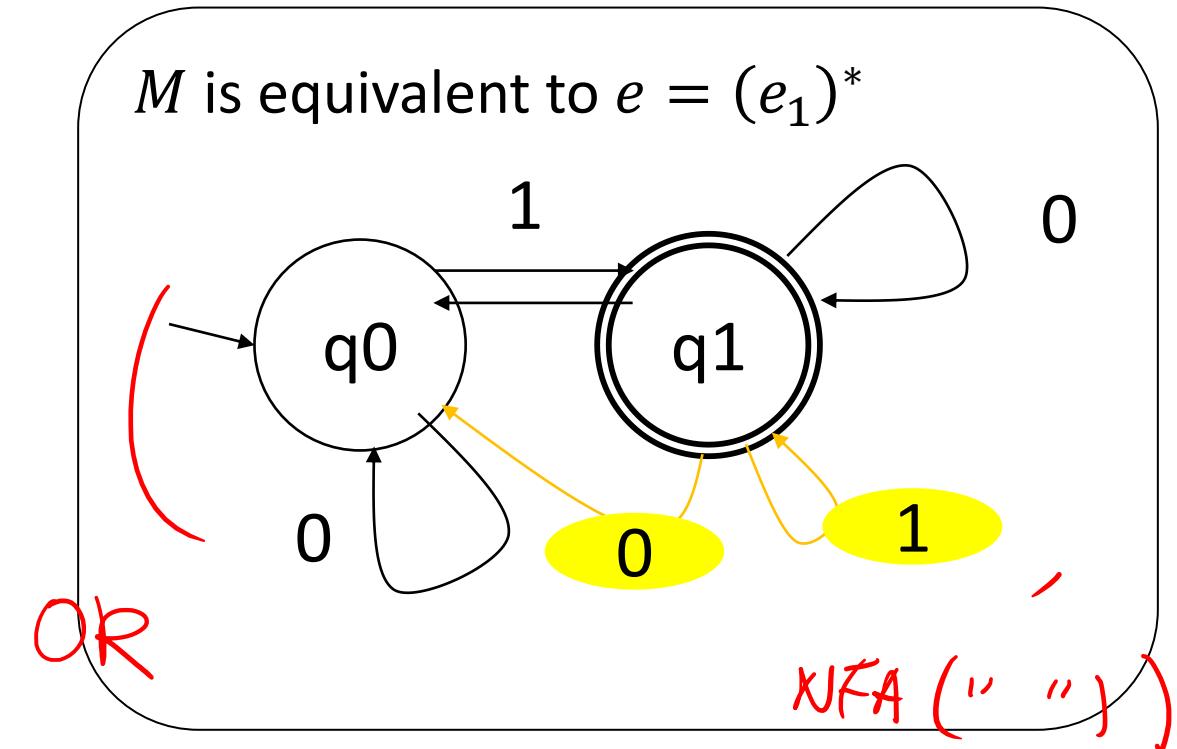
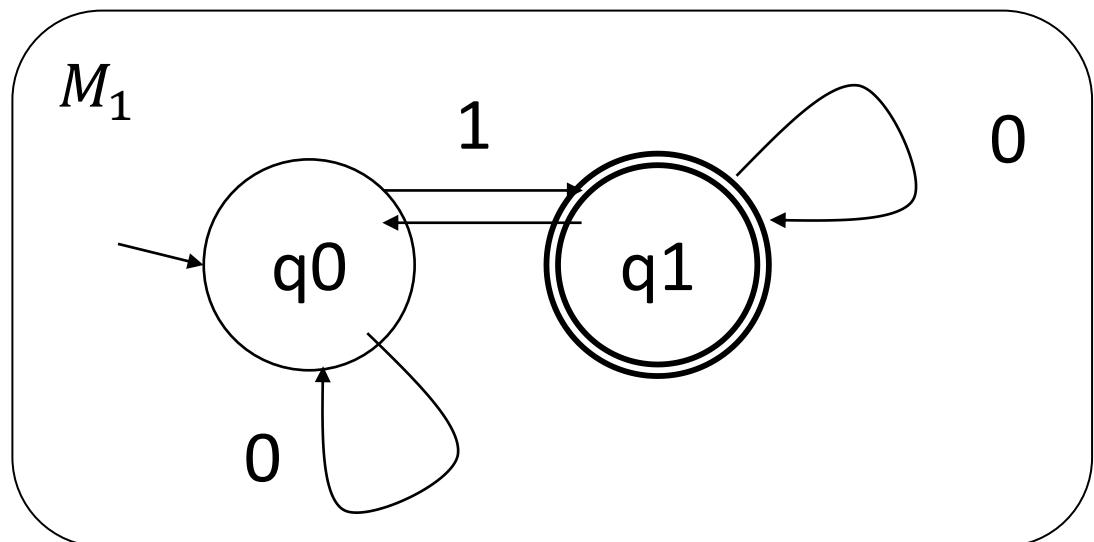


Need to prove, omitted.  
 $OR(M_1, M_2) \equiv M$

# Recursive Case: Kleene Star

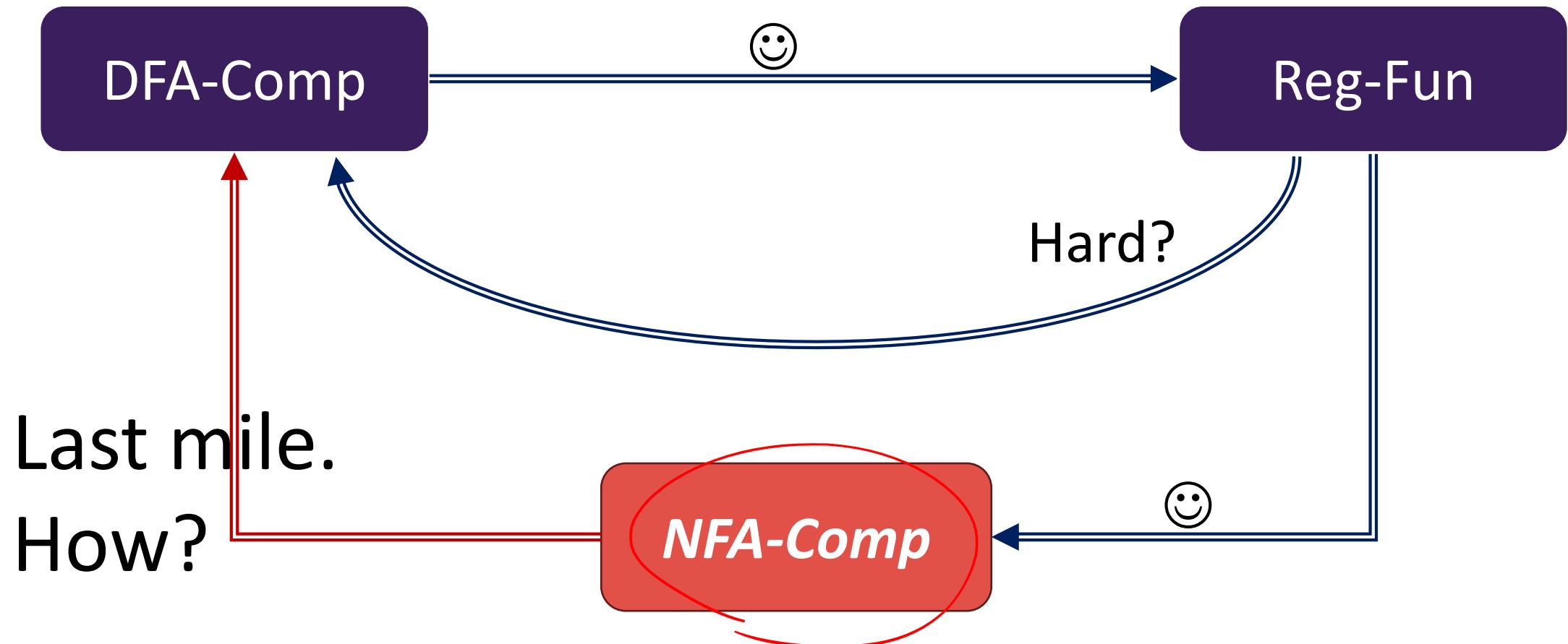
$x = 1 \circ 0 \circ 1 0$

$M_1$  is equivalent to  $e_1$



Idea: In each accept state, “emulate” as the initial state

# High-Level Proof Plan



# Logistics

- HW 2: Check test cases, resubmit before Feb 11
- Only a few response to “Office Hours” and “Mead Coffee”

**HW 3 due this Friday, Feb 13 (10:00pm)**

**Quiz 4 Coming soon**