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FORMAL LANGUAGES AND AUTOMATA THEORY

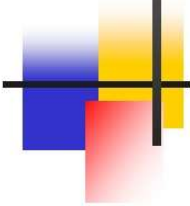

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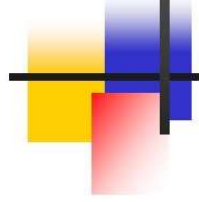


FORMAL LANGUAGES AND AUTOMATA THEORY

UNIT 1



Introduction to Automata Theory



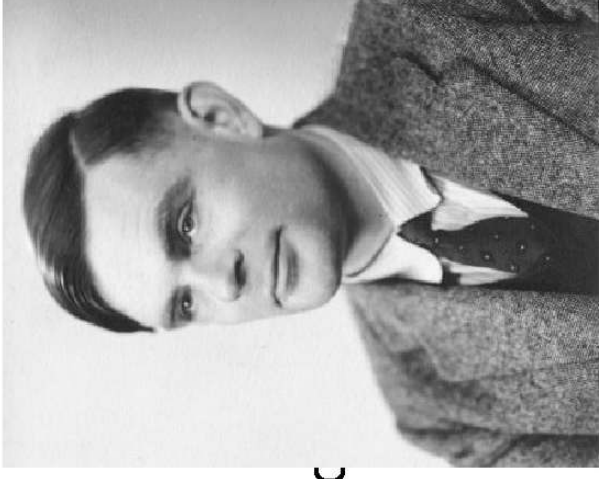
What is Automata Theory?

- *Study of abstract computing devices, or “machines”*
- **Automaton = an abstract computing device**
 - Note: A “device” need not even be a physical hardware!
- *A fundamental question in computer science:*
 - Find out what different models of machines can do and cannot do
 - *The theory of computation*
- *Computability vs. Complexity*

(A pioneer of automata theory)

Alan Turing (1912-1954)

- Father of Modern Computer Science
- English mathematician
- Studied abstract machines called **Turing machines** even before computers existed
- Heard of the Turing test?



Languages & Grammars

An alphabet is a set of symbols:

{0,1}

Or “**words**”

→ Sentences are strings of symbols:

0,1,00,01,10,1,...

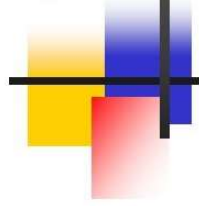
A language is a set of sentences:

$L = \{000,0100,0010, \dots\}$

A **grammar** is a finite list of rules defining a language.

S	→	0A	B	→	1B
A	→	1A	B	→	0F
A	→	0B	F	→	ε

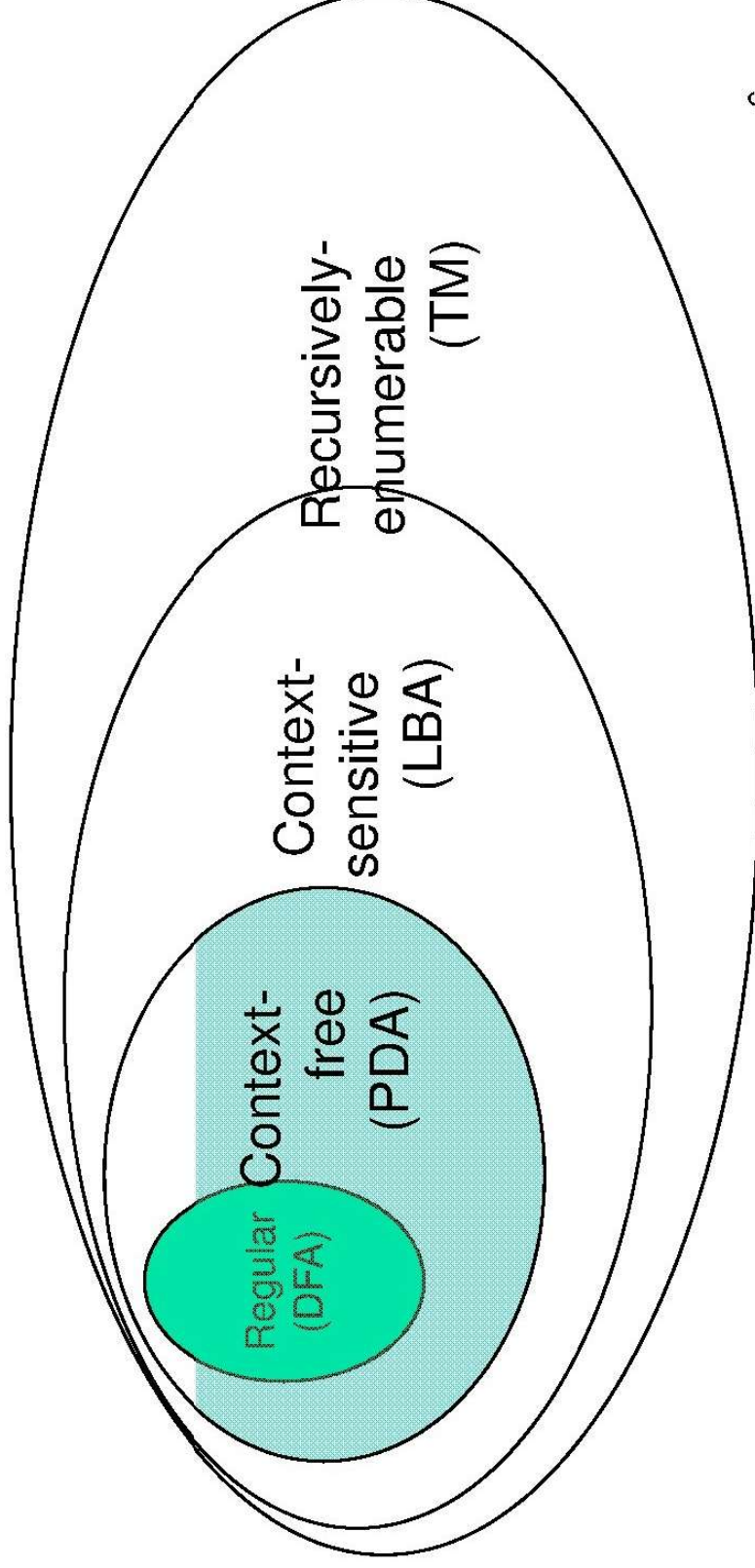
- Languages: “A language is a collection of sentences of finite length all constructed from a finite alphabet of symbols”
- Grammars: “A grammar can be regarded as a device that enumerates the sentences of a language” - nothing more, nothing less
- N. Chomsky, *Information and Control*, Vol 2, 1959



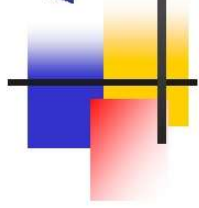
The Chomsky Hierarchy



- A containment hierarchy of classes of formal languages



The Central Concepts of Automata Theory





Alphabet

An alphabet is a finite, non-empty set of symbols

- We use the symbol Σ (sigma) to denote an alphabet
- Examples:
 - Binary: $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
 - All lower case letters: $\Sigma = \{a, b, c, \dots, z\}$
 - Alphanumeric: $\Sigma = \{a-z, A-Z, 0-9\}$
 - DNA molecule letters: $\Sigma = \{a, c, g, t\}$
 - ...



Strings

A string or word is a finite sequence of symbols chosen from Σ

- **Empty string is ε (or “epsilon”)**
- Length of a string w , denoted by “ $|w|$ ”, is equal to the number of (non- ε) characters in the string
 - E.g., $x = 010100$ $|x| = 6$
 - $x = 01\varepsilon 0\varepsilon 1\varepsilon 00\varepsilon$ $|x| = ?$
- xy = concatenation of two strings x and y



Powers of an alphabet

Let Σ be an alphabet.

- Σ^k = the set of all strings of length k
- $\Sigma^* = \Sigma^0 \cup \Sigma^1 \cup \Sigma^2 \cup \dots$
- $\Sigma^+ = \Sigma^1 \cup \Sigma^2 \cup \Sigma^3 \cup \dots$



Languages

L is said to be a language over alphabet Σ , only if $L \subseteq \Sigma^$*

→ this is because Σ^* is the set of all strings (of all possible length including 0) over the given alphabet Σ

Examples:

1. Let L be the language of all strings consisting of n 0's followed by n 1's:

$$L = \{\epsilon, 01, 0011, 000111, \dots\}$$

2. Let L be the language of all strings of with equal number of 0's and 1's:

$$L = \{\epsilon, 01, 10, 0011, 1100, 0101, 1010, 1001, \dots\}$$

Definition: \emptyset denotes the **Empty language**

■ Let $L = \{\epsilon\}$; Is $L = \emptyset$?

NO



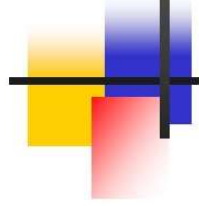
The Membership Problem

Given a string $w \in \Sigma^$ and a language L over Σ , decide whether or not $w \in L$.*

Example:

Let $w = 100011$

Q) Is $w \in$ the language of strings with equal number of 0s and 1s?

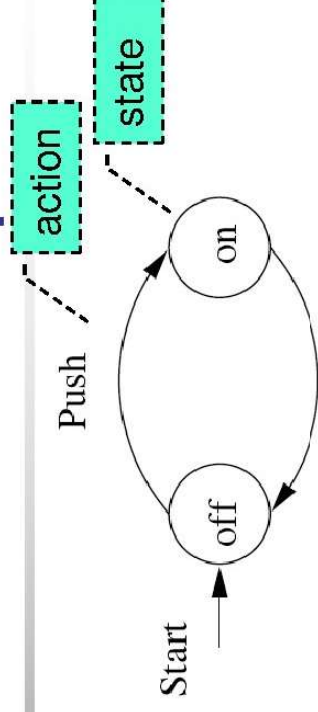


Finite Automata

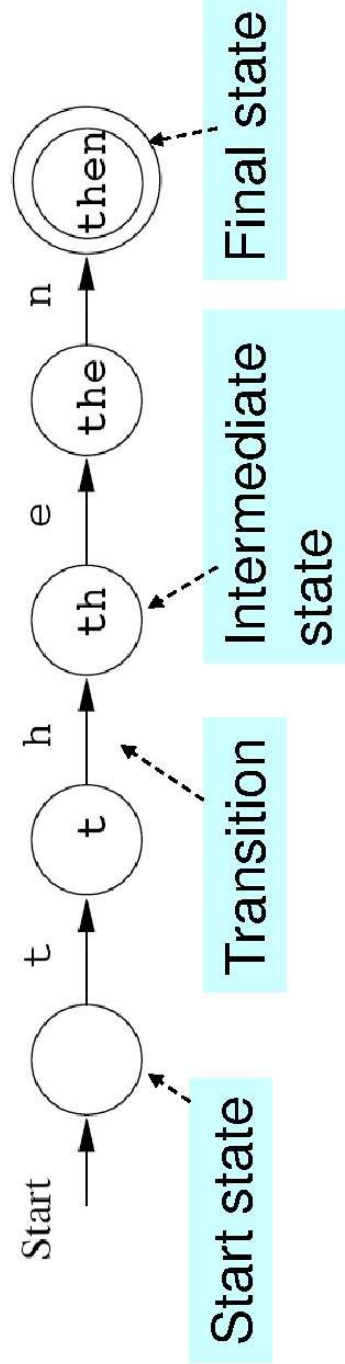
- Some Applications
 - Software for designing and checking the behavior of digital circuits
 - Lexical analyzer of a typical compiler
 - Software for scanning large bodies of text (e.g., web pages) for pattern finding
 - Software for verifying systems of all types that have a finite number of states (e.g., stock market transaction, communication/network protocol)

Finite Automata : Examples

- On/Off switch

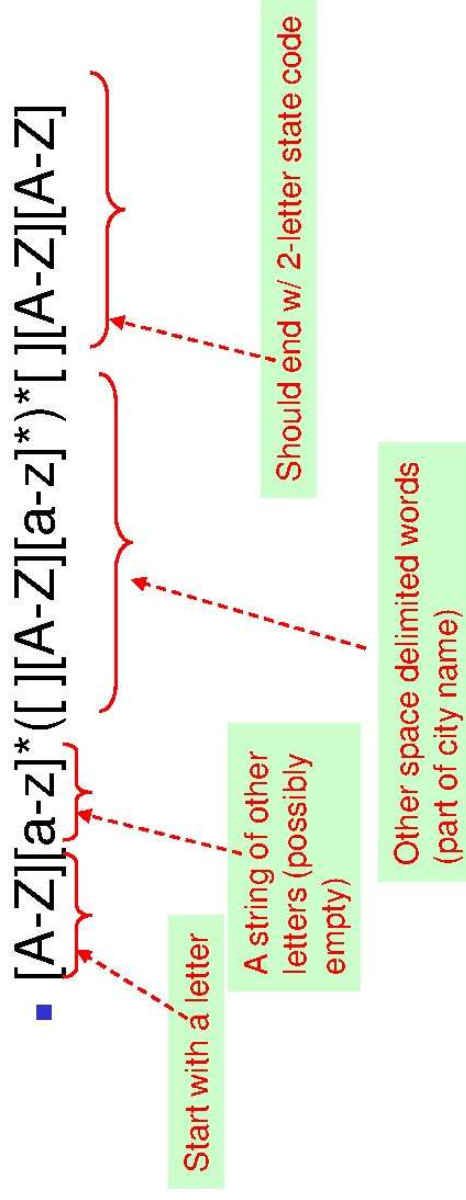


- Modeling recognition of the word "then"



Structural expressions

- Grammars
- Regular expressions
 - E.g., unix style to capture city names such as “Palo Alto CA”:



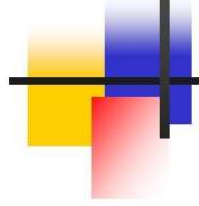


Summary

- Automata theory & a historical perspective
- Chomsky hierarchy
- Finite automata
- Alphabets, strings/words/sentences, languages
- Membership problem



Finite Automata




Finite Automaton (FA)

- Informally, a state diagram that comprehensively captures all possible states and transitions that a machine can take while responding to a stream or sequence of input symbols
- Recognizer for “Regular Languages”
- **Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA)**
 - The machine can exist in only one state at any given time
- **Non-deterministic Finite Automata (NFA)**
 - The machine can exist in multiple states at the same time

Deterministic Finite Automata

- Definition

- A Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA) consists of:
 - Q ==> a finite set of states
 - Σ ==> a finite set of input symbols (alphabet)
 - q_0 ==> a start state
 - F ==> set of final states
 - δ ==> a transition function, which is a mapping between $Q \times \Sigma \implies Q$
- A DFA is defined by the 5-tuple:
 - $\{Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta\}$



What does a DFA do on reading an input string?

- Input: a word w in Σ^*
- Question: Is w acceptable by the DFA?
- Steps:
 - Start at the “start state” q_0
 - For every input symbol in the sequence w do
 - Compute the next state from the current state, given the current input symbol in w and the transition function
 - If after all symbols in w are consumed, the current state is one of the final states (F) then *accept* w ;
 - Otherwise, *reject* w .



Regular Languages

- Let $L(A)$ be a language recognized by a DFA A .
- Then $L(A)$ is called a “*Regular Language*”.
- Locate regular languages in the Chomsky Hierarchy



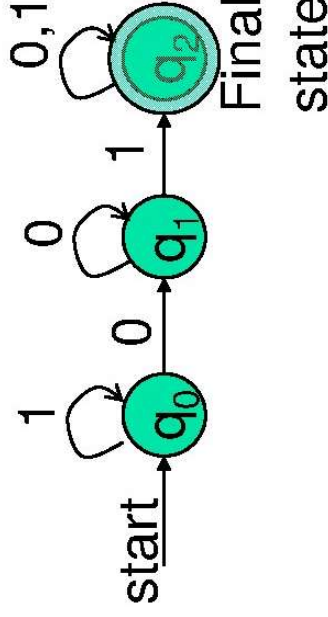
Example #1

- Build a DFA for the following language:
 - $L = \{w \mid w \text{ is a binary string that contains } 01 \text{ as a substring}\}$
- Steps for building a DFA to recognize L:
 - $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$
 - Decide on the states: Q
 - Designate start state and final state(s)
 - δ : Decide on the transitions:
- Final states == same as “accepting states”
- Other states == same as “non-accepting states”

DFA for strings containing 01

Regular expression: $(0+1)^*01(0+1)^*$

• What makes this DFA deterministic?



• What if the language allows empty strings?

- $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- start state = q_0
- $F = \{q_2\}$

• Transition table

δ	0	1	symbols
q_0		q_1	q_0
q_1		q_1	q_2
q_2	q_2	q_2	q_2



Example #2

Clamping Logic:

- A clamping circuit waits for a "1" input, and turns on forever. However, to avoid clamping on spurious noise, we'll design a DFA that waits for *two consecutive 1s* in a row before clamping on.

- Build a DFA for the following language:

$L = \{ w \mid w \text{ is a bit string which contains the substring } 11 \}$

- **State Design:**

- q_0 : start state (initially off), also means the most recent input was not a 1
- q_1 : has never seen 11 but the most recent input was a 1
- q_2 : has seen 11 at least once



Example #3

- Build a DFA for the following language:
 $L = \{ w \mid w \text{ is a binary string that has even number of 1s and even number of 0s} \}$
- ?

Extension of transitions (δ) to Paths ($\hat{\delta}$)

- $\hat{\delta}(q, w)$ = destination state from state q on input string w
- $\hat{\delta}(q, wa) = \delta(\hat{\delta}(q, w), a)$
- Work out example #3 using the input sequence $w=10010$, $a=1$:
 - $\hat{\delta}(q_0, wa) = ?$



Language of a DFA

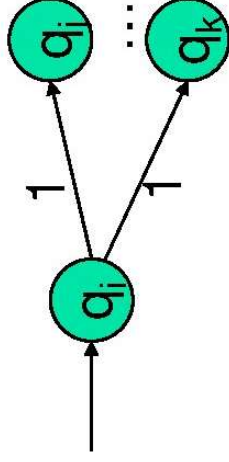
A DFA A accepts string w if there is a path from q_0 to an accepting (or final) state that is labeled by w

- i.e., $L(A) = \{ w \mid \hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F \}$
- *i.e., $L(A)$ = all strings that lead to a final state from q_0*

Non-deterministic Finite Automata (NFA)

- A Non-deterministic Finite Automaton (NFA)

- is of course “non-deterministic”
 - Implies that the machine can exist in more than one state at the same time
 - Transitions could be non-deterministic

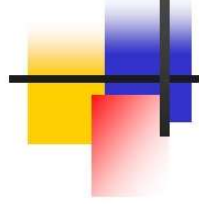


• Each transition function therefore maps to a set of states



Non-deterministic Finite Automata (NFA)

- A Non-deterministic Finite Automaton (NFA) consists of:
 - Q ==> a finite set of states
 - Σ ==> a finite set of input symbols (alphabet)
 - q_0 ==> a start state
 - F ==> set of final states
 - δ ==> a transition function, which is a mapping between $Q \times \Sigma$ ==> **subset of Q**
- An NFA is also defined by the 5-tuple:
 - $\{Q, \Sigma, q_0, F, \delta\}$



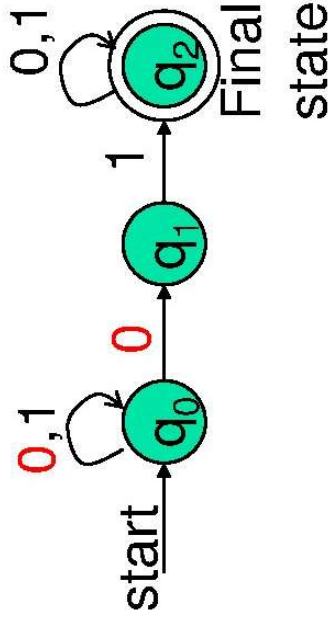
How to use an NFA?

- Input: a word w in Σ^*
- Question: Is w acceptable by the NFA?
- Steps:
 - Start at the “start state” q_0
 - For every input symbol in the sequence w do
 - Determine **all possible next states from all current states**, given the current input symbol in w and the transition function
 - If after all symbols in w are consumed and if at least **one of** the current states is a final state then *accept w* ;
 - Otherwise, *reject w* .

NFA for strings containing 01

Regular expression: $(0+1)^*01(0+1)^*$

Why is this non-deterministic?



What will happen if at state q_1 an input of 0 is received?

- $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- start state = q_0
- $F = \{q_2\}$

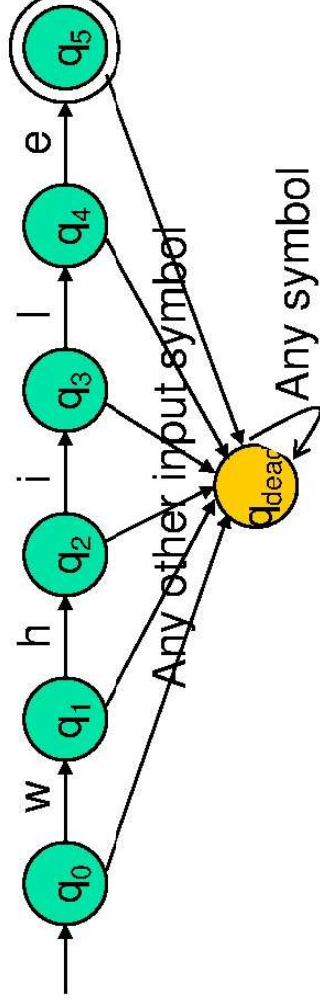
• Transition table

δ	0	1
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$
q_2	$\{q_2\}$	$\{q_2\}$

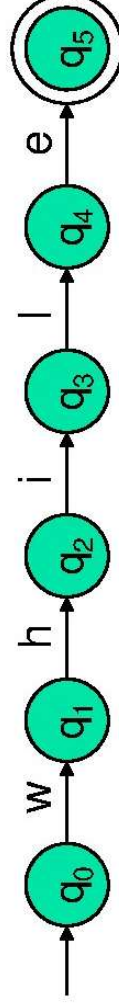
Note: Explicitly specifying dead states is just a matter of design convenience (one that is generally followed in NFAs), and this feature does not make a machine deterministic or non-deterministic.

What is a “dead state”?

- A DFA for recognizing the key word “while”



- An NFA for the same purpose:



Transitions into a dead state are implicit



Example #2

- Build an NFA for the following language:
 $L = \{ w \mid w \text{ ends in } 01 \}$
- ?
- Other examples
 - Keyword recognizer (e.g., if, then, else, while, for, include, etc.)
 - Strings where the first symbol is present somewhere later on at least once



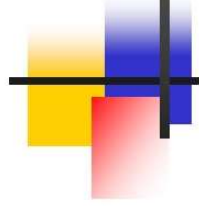
Extension of δ to NFA Paths

- Basis: $\hat{\delta}(q, \varepsilon) = \{q\}$
- Induction: $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$
 - $\delta(p_i, a) = S_i$ for $i=1, 2, \dots, k$
 - Then, $\hat{\delta}(q_0, wa) = S_1 U S_2 U \dots U S_k$



Language of an NFA

- An NFA accepts w if *there exists at least one* path from the start state to an accepting (or final) state that is labeled by w
- $L(N) = \{ w \mid \hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \cap F \neq \emptyset \}$



Advantages & Caveats for NFA

- Great for modeling regular expressions
 - String processing - e.g., grep, lexical analyzer
- Could a non-deterministic state machine be implemented in practice?
 - A parallel computer could exist in multiple “states” at the same time
 - Probabilistic models could be viewed as extensions of non-deterministic state machines (e.g., toss of a coin, a roll of dice)

But, DFAs and NFAs are equivalent in their power to capture languages !!

Differences: DFA vs. NFA

- | DFA | NFA |
|--|---|
| 1. All transitions are deterministic | 1. Some transitions could be non-deterministic |
| 2. Each transition leads to exactly one state | 2. A transition could lead to a subset of states |
| 3. For each state, transition on all possible symbols (alphabet) should be defined | 3. Not all symbol transitions need to be defined explicitly (if undefined will go to a dead state – this is just a design convenience, not to be confused with “non-determinism”) |
| 4. Accepts input if the last state is in F | 4. Accepts input if <i>one of the last states is in F</i> |
| 5. Sometimes harder to construct because of the number of states | 5. Generally easier than a DFA to construct |
| 6. Practical implementation is feasible | 6. Practical implementation has to be deterministic (convert to DFA) or in the form of parallelism |



Equivalence of DFA & NFA

- Theorem:

Should be true for any L

- A language L is accepted by a DFA if and only if it is accepted by an NFA.

- Proof:

1. If part:

- Prove by showing every NFA can be converted to an equivalent DFA (in the next few slides...)

2. Only-if part is trivial:

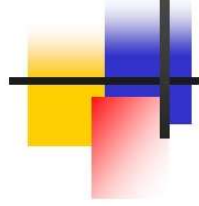
- Every DFA is a special case of an NFA where each state has exactly one transition for every input symbol. Therefore, if L is accepted by a DFA, it is accepted by a corresponding NFA. □



Proof for the if-part

- If-part: A language L is accepted by a DFA if it is accepted by an NFA
 - rephrasing...
 - Given any NFA N , we can construct a DFA D such that $L(N)=L(D)$
-
- How to convert an NFA into a DFA?
 - Observation: In an NFA, each transition maps to a *subset of states*
 - Idea: Represent: each “subset of NFA_states” → a single “DFA_state”

Subset construction



NFA to DFA by subset construction

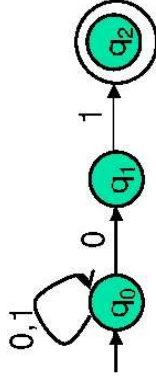
- Let $N = \{Q_N, \Sigma, \delta_N, q_0, F_N\}$
- Goal: Build $D = \{Q_D, \Sigma, \delta_D, \{q_0\}, F_D\}$ s.t.
 $L(D) = L(N)$
- Construction:
 1. Q_D = all subsets of Q_N (i.e., power set)
 2. F_D = set of subsets S of Q_N s.t. $S \cap F_N \neq \emptyset$
 3. δ_D : for each subset S of Q_N and for each input symbol a in Σ :
 - $\delta_D(S, a) = \bigcup_{p \in S} \delta_N(p, a)$

Idea: To avoid enumerating all of power set, do "lazy creation of states"

NFA to DFA construction: Example

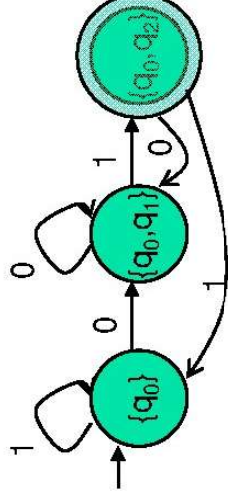
- $L = \{w \mid w \text{ ends in } 01\}$

NFA:



δ_N	0	1
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$
$*q_2$	\emptyset	\emptyset

DFA:



δ_D	0	1
\emptyset		
$\{q_0\}$		
$\{q_1\}$		
$*\{q_2\}$		
$\{q_0, q_1\}$		
$*\{q_0, q_2\}$		
$\{q_1, q_2\}$		
$\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$		

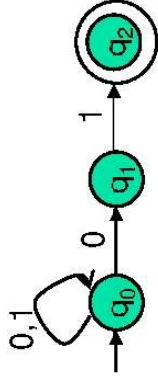
δ_D	0	1
$\{q_0\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$
$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0, q_2\}$
$*\{q_0, q_2\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$

- Enumerate all possible subsets
- Determine transitions
- Retain only those states reachable from $\{q_0\}$

NFA to DFA: Repeating the example using LAZY CREATION

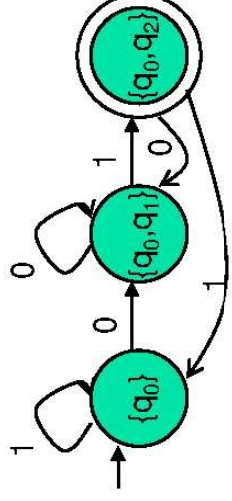
- $L = \{w \mid w \text{ ends in } 01\}$

NFA:



δ_N	0	1
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$
$*q_2$	\emptyset	\emptyset

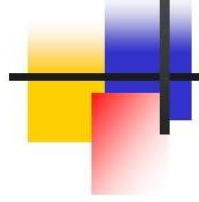
DFA:



δ_D	0	1
$\{q_0\}$	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$

Main Idea:


Introduce states as you go
(on a need basis)



Correctness of subset construction

Theorem: *If D is the DFA constructed from NFA N by subset construction, then $L(D) = L(N)$*

- Proof:
 - Show that $\hat{\delta}_D(\{q_0\}, w) \equiv \hat{\delta}_N(q_0, w)$, for all w
 - Using induction on w 's length:
 - Let $w = xa$
 - $\hat{\delta}_D(\{q_0\}, xa) \equiv \hat{\delta}_D(\hat{\delta}_D(\{q_0\}, x), a) \equiv \hat{\delta}_N(q_0, w)$

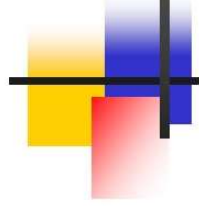


A bad case where $\#states(DFA) \gg \#states(NFA)$

- $L = \{w \mid w \text{ is a binary string s.t., the } k^{\text{th}} \text{ symbol from its end is a } 1\}$
 - NFA has $k+1$ states
 - But an equivalent DFA needs to have at least 2^k states

(Pigeon hole principle)

- m holes and $> m$ pigeons
 - \Rightarrow at least one hole has to contain two or more pigeons



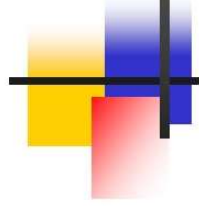
Applications

- Text indexing
 - inverted indexing
 - For each unique word in the database, store all locations that contain it using an NFA or a DFA
- Find pattern P in text T
 - Example: Google querying
- Extensions of this idea:
 - PATRICIA tree, suffix tree



A few subtle properties of DFAs and NFAs

- The machine never really terminates.
 - It is always waiting for the next input symbol or making transitions.
- The machine decides when to consume the next symbol from the input and when to ignore it.
 - (but the machine can never skip a symbol)
- => A transition can happen even *without* really consuming an input symbol (think of consuming ϵ as a free token)
- A single transition cannot consume more than one symbol.



FA with ϵ -Transitions

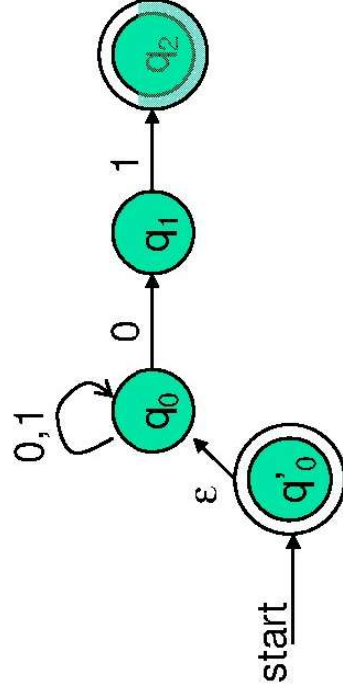
- We can allow explicit ϵ -transitions in finite automata
 - i.e., a transition from one state to another state without consuming any additional input symbol
 - Makes it easier sometimes to construct NFAs

Definition: ϵ -NFAs are those NFAs with at least one explicit ϵ -transition defined.

- ϵ -NFAs have one more column in their transition table

Example of an ϵ -NFA

$L = \{w \mid w \text{ is empty, or if non-empty will end in } 01\}$



- ϵ -closure of a state q , **ECLOSE(q)**, is the set of all states (including itself) that can be reached from q by repeatedly making an arbitrary number of ϵ -transitions.

δ_ϵ	0	1	ϵ
$*q'_0$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q'_0, q_0\}$ ← ECLOSE(q'_0)
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$	$\{q_0\}$ ← ECLOSE(q_0)
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$	$\{q_1\}$ ← ECLOSE(q_1)
$*q_2$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$ ← ECLOSE(q_2)

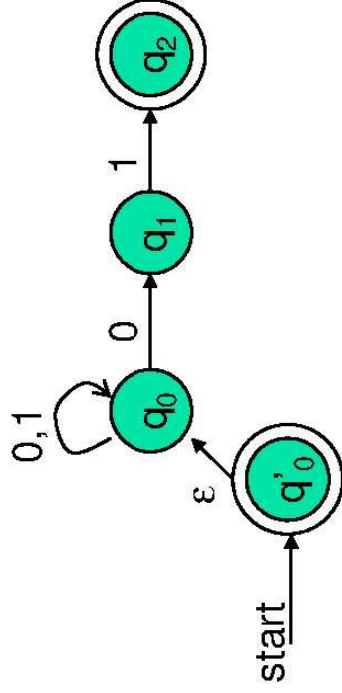
To simulate any transition:

Step 1) Go to all immediate destination states.

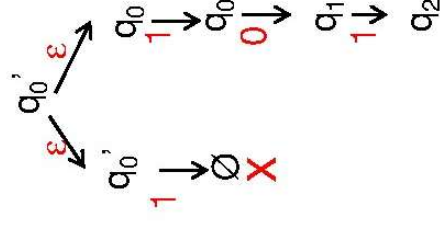
Step 2) From there go to all their ϵ -closure states as well.

Example of an ϵ -NFA

$L = \{w \mid w \text{ is empty, or if non-empty will end in } 01\}$



Simulate for $w=101$:



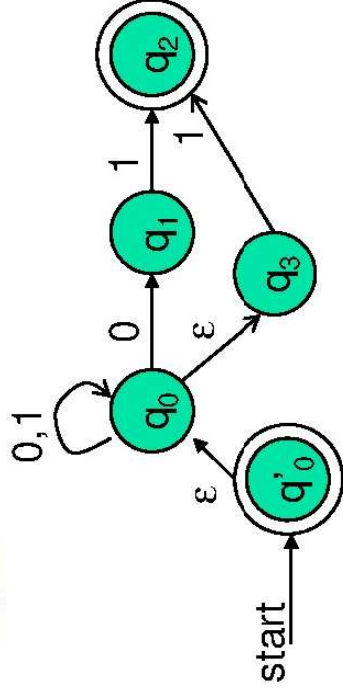
δ_E	0	1	ϵ
$*q_0$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q_0, q_0'\}$ ← ECLOSE(q_0')
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$	$\{q_0\}$ ← ECLOSE(q_0)
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$	$\{q_1\}$
$*q_2$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$

To simulate any transition:

Step 1) Go to all immediate destination states.

Step 2) From there go to all their ϵ -closure states as well.

Example of another ϵ -NFA



Simulate for $w=101$:

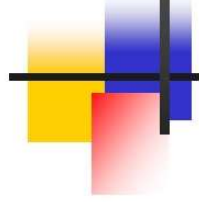
?

δ_E	0	1	ϵ
$*q'_0$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q'_0, q_0, q_3\}$
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$	$\{q_0, q_3\}$
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$	$\{q_1\}$
$*q_2$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$
q_3	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$	$\{q_3\}$



Equivalency of DFA, NFA, ϵ -NFA

- Theorem: A language L is accepted by some ϵ -NFA if and only if L is accepted by some DFA
- Implication:
 - $\text{DFA} \equiv \text{NFA} \equiv \epsilon\text{-NFA}$
 - (all accept Regular Languages)



Eliminating ϵ -transitions

Let $E = \{Q_E, \Sigma, \delta_E, q_0, F_E\}$ be an ϵ -NFA

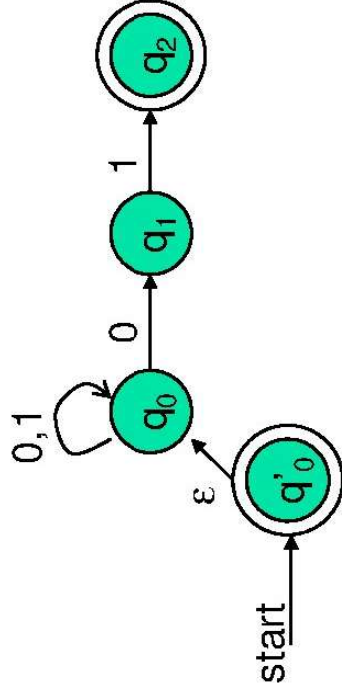
Goal: To build DFA $D = \{Q_D, \Sigma, \delta_D, \{q_D\}, F_D\}$ s.t. $L(D) = L(E)$

Construction:

1. $Q_D =$ all reachable subsets of Q_E factoring in ϵ -closures
 2. $q_D = \text{ECLOSE}(q_0)$
 3. $F_D =$ subsets S in Q_D s.t. $S \cap F_E \neq \emptyset$
 4. δ_D : for each subset S of Q_E and for each input symbol $a \in \Sigma$:
 - Let $R = \bigcup_{p \in S} \delta_E(p, a)$ // go to destination states
 - $\delta_D(S, a) = \bigcup_{r \in R} \text{ECLOSE}(r)$ // from there, take a union of all their ϵ -closures
-

Example: ϵ -NFA \rightarrow DFA

$L = \{w \mid w \text{ is empty, or if non-empty will end in } 01\}$

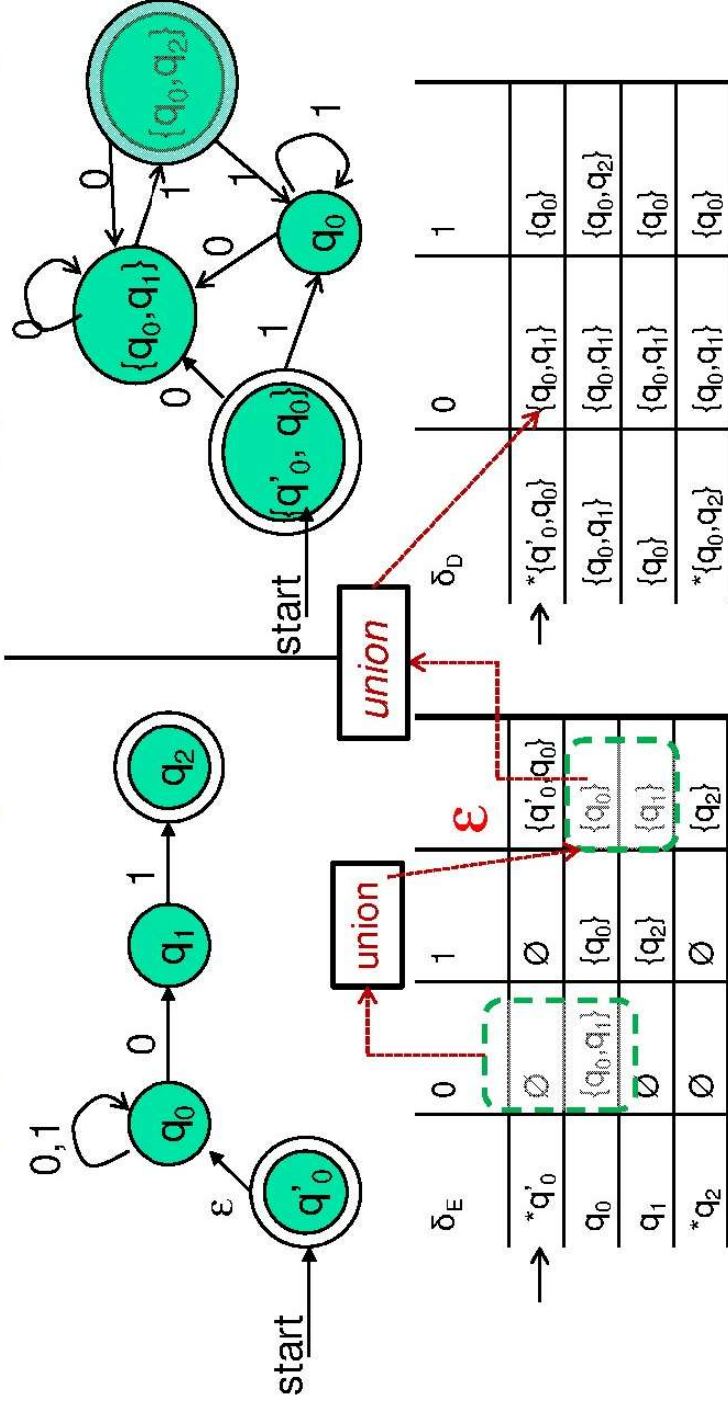


δ_E	0	1	ϵ
$\rightarrow *q'_0$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q'_0, q_0\}$
q_0	$\{q_0, q_1\}$	$\{q_0\}$	$\{q_0\}$
q_1	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$	$\{q_1\}$
$*q_2$	\emptyset	\emptyset	$\{q_2\}$

δ_D	0	1
$\rightarrow * \{q'_0, q_0\}$		
...		

Example: ϵ -NFA \rightarrow DFA

$L = \{w \mid w \text{ is empty, or if non-empty will end in } 01\}$

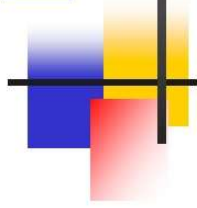




Summary

- DFA
 - Definition
 - Transition diagrams & tables
- Regular language
- NFA
 - Definition
 - Transition diagrams & tables
- DFA vs. NFA
- NFA to DFA conversion using subset construction
- Equivalency of DFA & NFA
- Removal of redundant states and including dead states
- ϵ -transitions in NFA
- Pigeon hole principles
- Text searching applications

Equivalence & Minimization of DFAs





Applications of interest

- Comparing two DFAs:
 - $L(\text{DFA}_1) == L(\text{DFA}_2)$?
- How to minimize a DFA?
 1. Remove unreachable states
 2. Identify & condense equivalent states into one

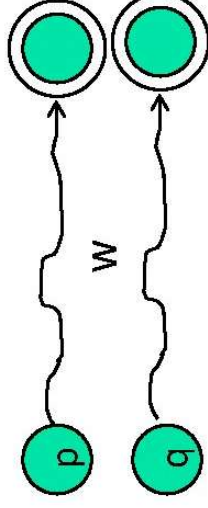
When to call two states in a DFA “equivalent”?

Past doesn't matter - only future does!

Two states p and q are said to be

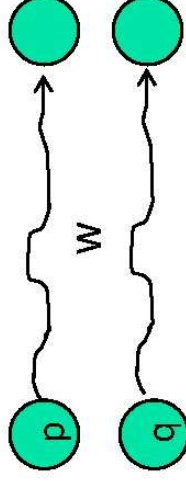
equivalent iff:

i) Any string w accepted by starting at p is also accepted by starting at q ;



AND

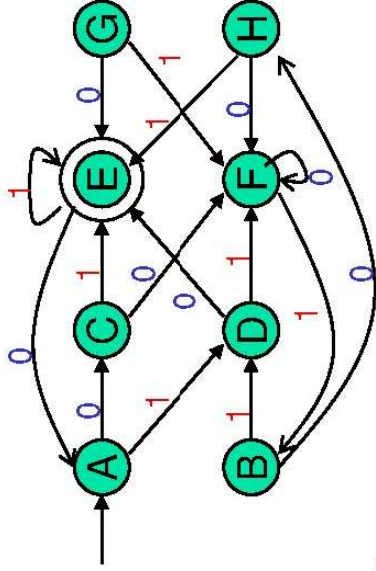
i) Any string w rejected by starting at p is also rejected by starting at q .



→ $p \equiv q$

Computing equivalent states in a DFA

Table Filling Algorithm



Pass #0

1. Mark accepting states \neq non-accepting states

Pass #1

1. Compare every pair of states
2. Distinguish by one symbol transition
3. Mark = or \neq or blank(tbd)

Pass #2

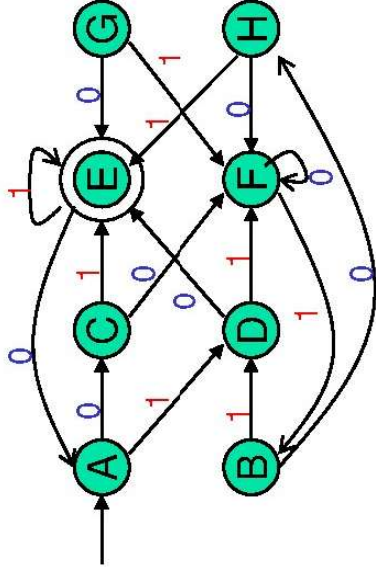
1. Compare every pair of states
2. Distinguish by up to two symbol transitions (until different or same or tbd)

....

(keep repeating until table complete)

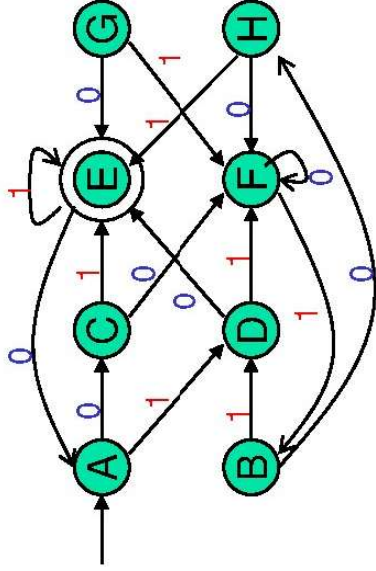
A	=															
B	=	=														
C	X	X	=													
D	X	X	X	=												
E	X	X	X	X	=											
F	X	X	X	X	X	=										
G	X	X	X	X	X	X	=									
H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	=								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H								

Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
=	=						
		=					
			=				
				=			
					=		
						=	
							=
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

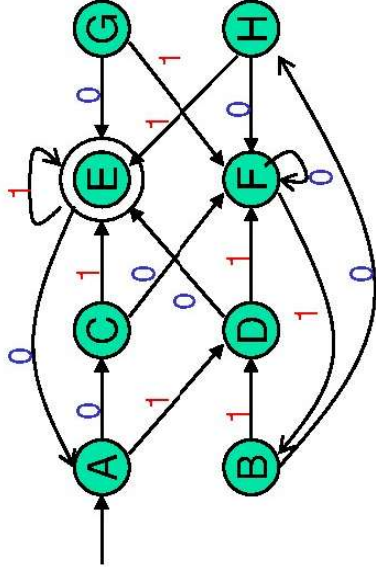
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark X between accepting vs. non-accepting state

A	=																	
B		=																
C			=															
D				=														
E	X	X	X	X	=													
F						X			X									
G									X									
H														X				
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H										

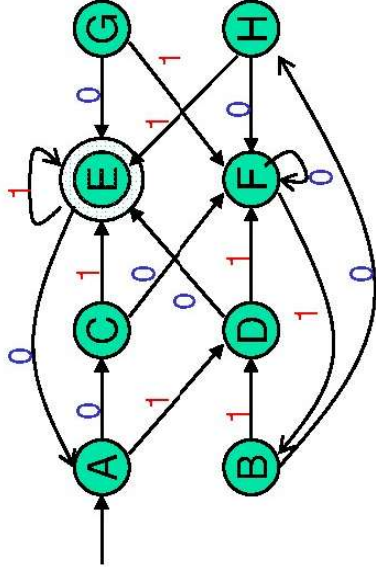
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B		=															
C	X		X														
D	X		X		=												
E	X		X	X		X											
F								X									
G	X								X								
H	X									X							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

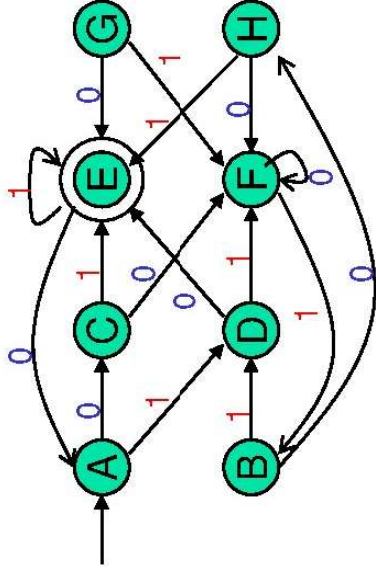
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B		=															
C	X		X														
D	X	X		X													
E	X	X	X		X												
F							X										
G	X	X							X								
H	X	X								X							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

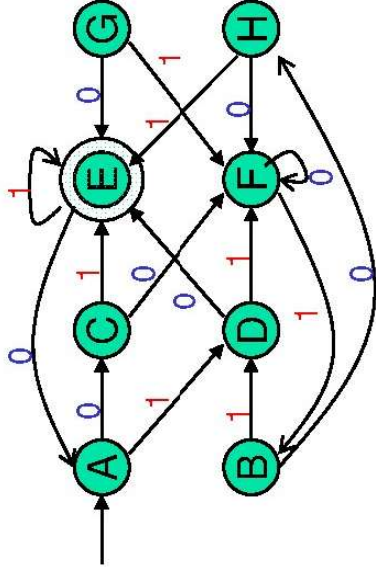
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B		=															
C	X		X														
D	X	X		X													
E	X	X	X		X												
F					X												
G	X	X	X	X		X											
H	X	X	X	X	X												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

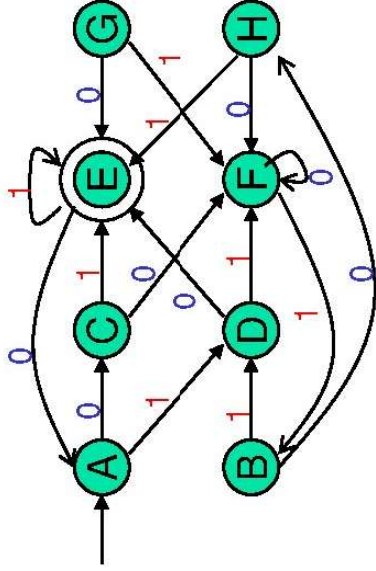
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B		=															
C	X		X														
D	X	X		X													
E	X	X	X		X												
F					X		X										
G	X	X		X	X												
H	X	X	X	X	X		X										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

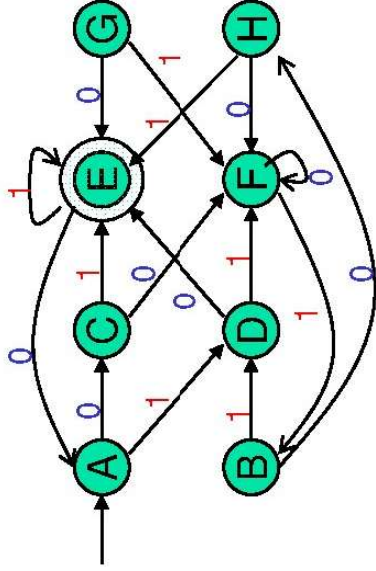
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B		=															
C	X		X														
D	X	X		X													
E	X	X	X		X												
F				X		X											
G	X	X	X	X		X											
H	X	X	X	X	X	X											
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

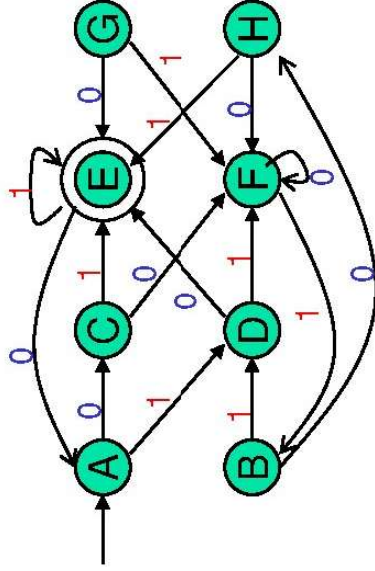
Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings
3. Look 2-hops away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B	=																
C	X	=															
D	X	X	=														
E	X	X	X	=													
F	X	X	X	X	=												
G	X	X	X	X	X	=											
H	X	X	X	X	X	X	=										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



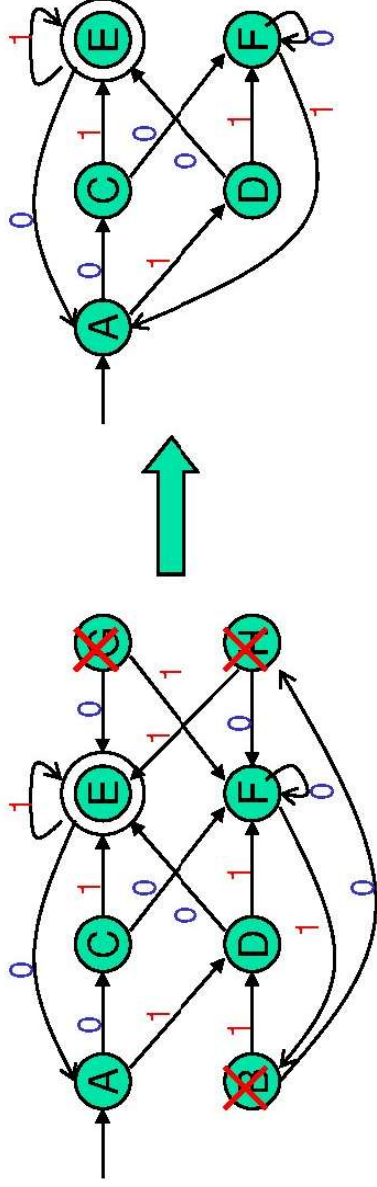
1. Mark **X** between accepting vs. non-accepting state
2. Look 1-hop away for distinguishing states or strings
3. Look 2-hops away for distinguishing states or strings

A	=																
B		=															
C	X		=														
D	X	X		=													
E	X	X	X		=												
F	X	X	X	X		=											
G	X	X	X	X	X		=										
H	X	X	X	X	X	X		=									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H									

Equivalences:

- A=B
- C=H
- D=G

Table Filling Algorithm - step by step



Retrain only one copy for
each equivalence set of states

Equivalences:

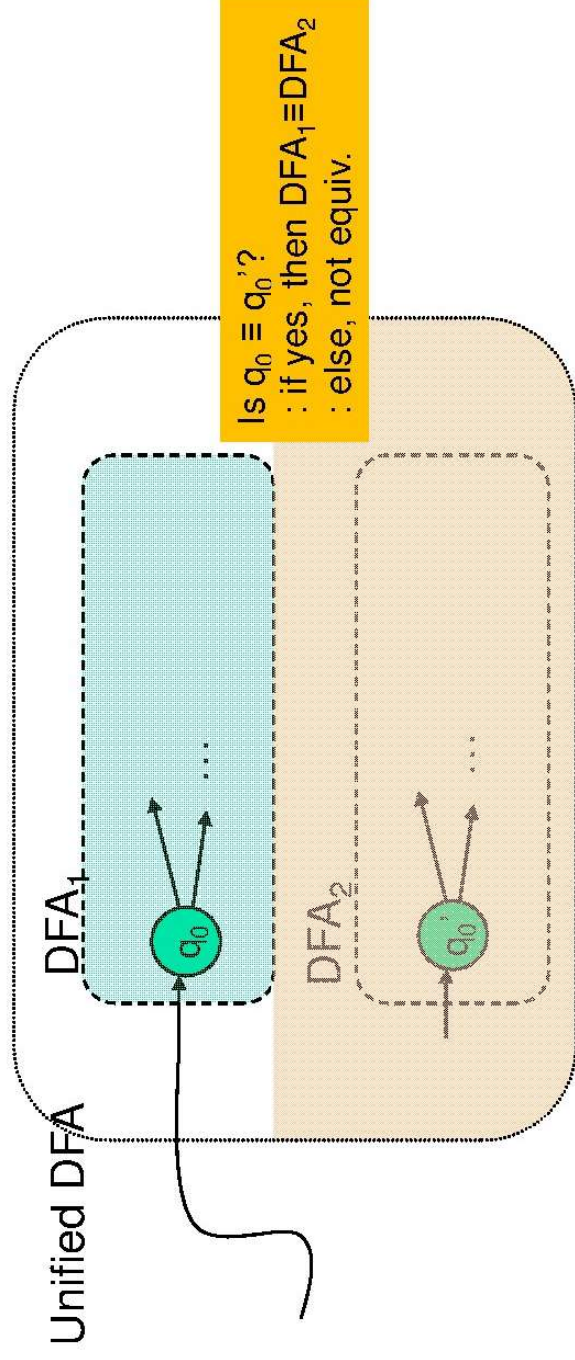
- A=B
- C=H
- D=G

Putting it all together ...

How to minimize a DFA?

- Goal: Minimize the number of states in a DFA
- Algorithm:
 1. Eliminate states unreachable from the start state
Depth-first traversal from the start state
 2. Identify and remove equivalent states
Table filling algorithm
 3. Output the resultant DFA

Are Two DFAs Equivalent?



1. Make a new dummy DFA by just putting together both DFAs
2. Run table-filling algorithm on the unified DFA
3. IF the start states of both DFAs are found to be equivalent,
 THEN: $DFA_1 \equiv DFA_2$
 ELSE: different



Summary

- Simplification of DFAs
 - How to remove unreachable states?
 - How to identify and collapse equivalent states?
 - How to minimize a DFA?
 - How to tell whether two DFAs are equivalent?