

CPSC 421/501

Oct 26

Today: Turing Machines (Ch. 3 [Sip])

- single tape (simplest)

- multi-tape (needed for "better" notion of time complexity)

- non-deterministic (for P vs. NP)

- Turing machines with oracle

calls (Baker-Gill-Solovay Thm)

≡

Good news:

(how not to solve)  
P. vs NP

- Turing machines much more realistic than DFA's

for "time complexity"

"time complexity" = running time  
of an algorithm

- poly time in Turing machine

= " " in any reasonable

sense (deterministic, no randomness)

no quantum, ~~etc~~  
up to poly # of threads  
;

Look at

$C_k, \{0^n 1^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}, \dots$

=

Complexity of

$\{0^n 1^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \sim$  DFA's  
NFA's

= ??  $\infty$

$\infty$  # of states  $\sim$

Turing machines!

Single tape machine: roughly  
finite # states

$O(n^2)$  time

2-tape machine: easy: finite # states

time  $O(n)$

Start today with

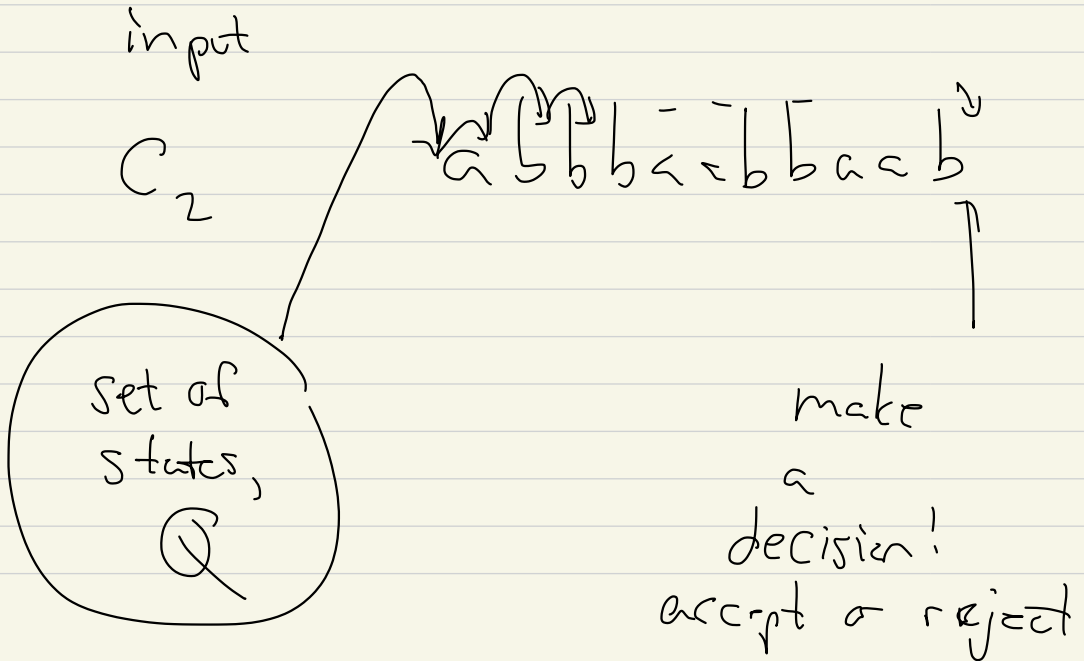
$$C_k = \left\{ w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{the } k^{\text{th}} \\ \text{to last} \\ \text{letter of } w \text{ is "a"} \end{array} \right\}$$

Turing machine:

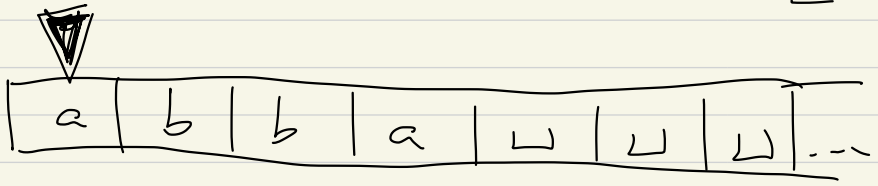
Textbook (Sip)

Turing machine = DFA + a bit  
more power

DFA: for  $C_1$



TM!  
tape head  $\leftarrow$  can move R or L



States

$Q$

single "tape"

$\uparrow$   
DFA

So here:

- tape head moves left or right
- you can write on the tape

write/read:  $\Sigma$  = alphabet of input

$\sqcup$  = blank cell

indicator

- tape alphabet  $\Gamma$  contains  $\Sigma, \sqcup$

Formally: Turing machine;

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, q_{acc}, q_{rej})$$

}  
type  
alphabet

} }  
you accept  
or reject  
the input

"time" that  $M$

takes an input  $w$

= # of steps it takes

to reach  $q_{acc}, q_{rej}$

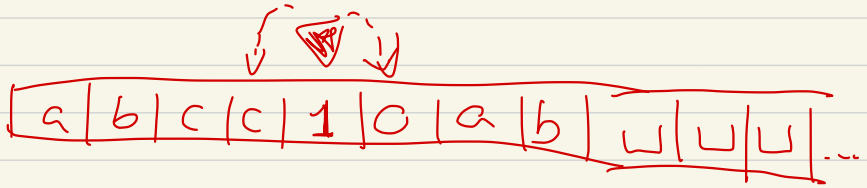
reaching  $q_{acc}, q_{rej}$  "halting"

+ stop the  
computation

What is  $\delta$ ?



at some state



$$\text{say } \Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

$$\Gamma = \{a, b, \sqcup, 0, 1, c\}$$

$$\delta: Q \times \Gamma \rightarrow Q \times \Gamma \times \{L, R\}$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{for DFA: } \delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q \\ \text{for NFA: } \delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow \text{Power}(Q) \end{array} \right)$$



An algorithm on a TM

(single-tape) for

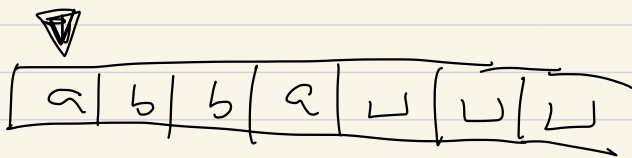
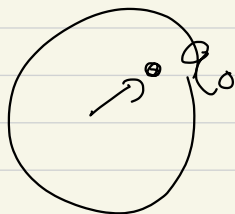
$$C_2 = \{ w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{the 2nd} \\ \text{to last} \\ \text{character/symbol} \\ \text{of } w \text{ is } a \end{array} \}$$

$$= \{a, b\}^* \circ \{a\} \circ \{a, b\}$$

$$= \Sigma^* a \Sigma, \quad \Sigma = \{a, b\}$$

initial situation

input is abba



and ...

$\Gamma = \{a, b, \sqcup, \dots\}$  type  
alphabet

$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$

= initial state  $q_0$

break 10:14 - 10:19

=

Goal!

- To convince you that

① poly time a TM = any other  
notion of  
classical poly time

② you can build a "universal Turing  
machine"

Question: you have  $w \in \{a, b\}^*$ ,

$|w| = n$ , you want an algorithm

for  $C_2$  ( $C_k$ ,  $\{0^n | n\}$ , etc.)

s.t. # states is not too big

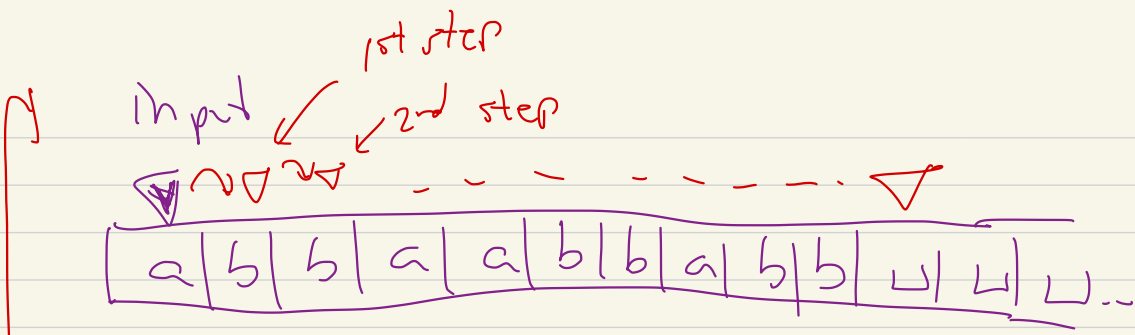
states  $\leftrightarrow$  your C  
program,

Javascript  
program, ...

time it takes to run the

computation = # steps

is small function of  $n$



high-level descriptions of TM

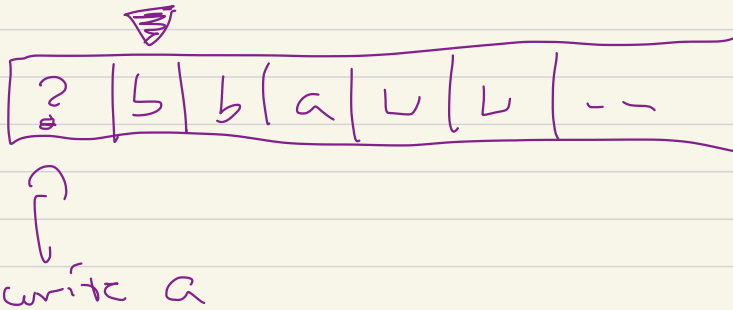
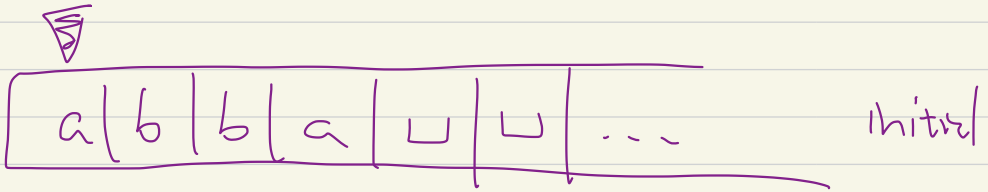
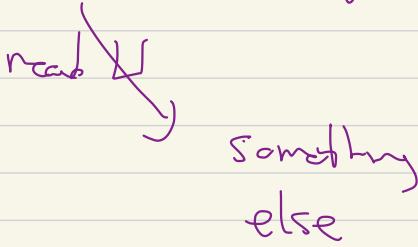
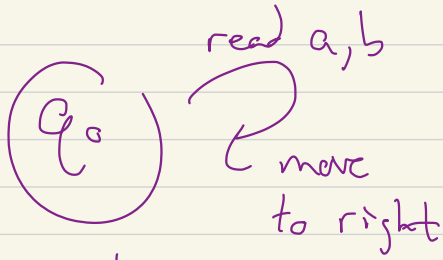
implementation-level " " "

formal " " " ←

You specify ⌊  
and ---

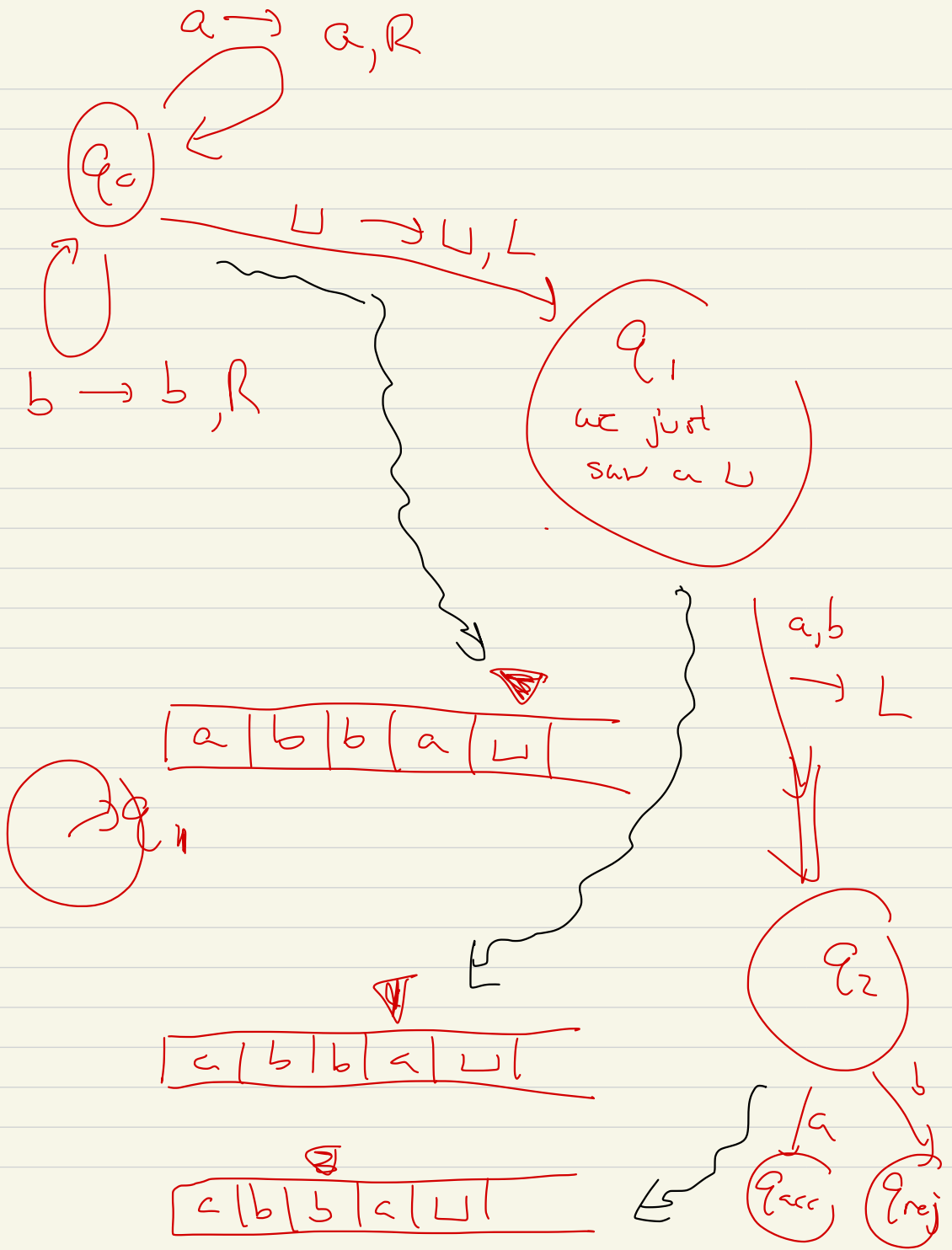
High-level: go to end of word,  
jump back two steps to  
the left after reading the ␣  
symbol

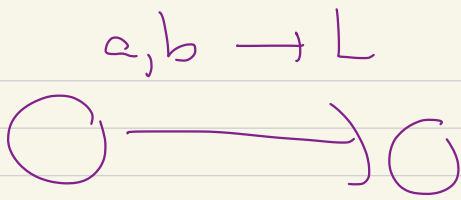
Idea



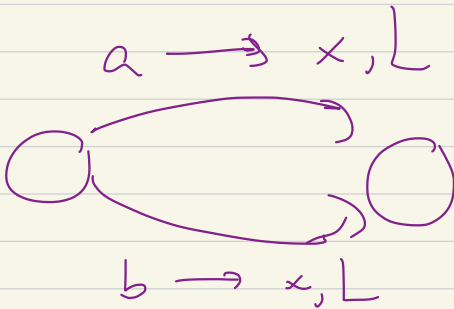
$$\delta(q_0, a) = (q_0, a, R)$$

$$\delta(q_0, b) = (q_0, b, R)$$





shorthand for



$x = \text{anything}$

then

doesn't  
matter

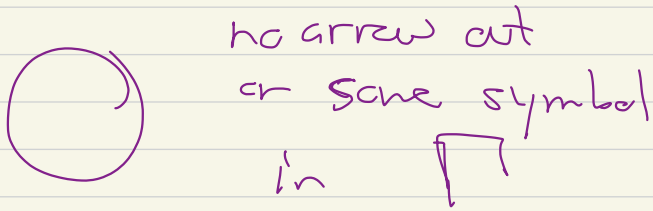
$$\delta(q_2, a) = (q_{acc}, \epsilon)$$

$$\delta(q_2, b) = (q_{rej}, \epsilon)$$

$\equiv$

Clear! If  $|w| \geq 2$ , then this algorithm accepts  $w \in C_{\geq 2}$ , rejects  $w \notin C_{\geq 2}$

Convention:  $\bar{H}$



means: this will never happen

OK for TM, never for  
DFA's, but OK for NFA's

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To be continued ~ Thursday

→ Make sure this or a  
variant of this works  
on input "U", "a", and "b"

→ Write a TM for  $\{0^n 1^n\}$