

CPSC 421/501

Oct 11, 2023

- NFA's and regular expressions  
(with  $\emptyset, \Sigma, \varepsilon, \cup, \circ, *$ )

- Implementing NFA's

- Why we skip the theorem that a  
DFA/NFA has an equivalent  
regular expression. (DIV-BY-3)

- Start Myhill - Nerode

(Perhaps tomorrow, on  
Thursday virtual Monday)

- Reg Exp examples

$$(a^3 \vee a^5)^*$$

$$(a \vee ab)^*$$

G.I.2: 4 points { 1 point is  
extra credit }

G.I.5: 4 points { 2 points are  
extra credit }

What are all the possible  
values of  $\text{Period}(L)$  given  
that all you know about  $L$  is

that ...

If  $L$  is not regular,  $\text{Period}(L)$  { does  
not  
exist }

There are many notions of regular expressions:

In Unix:  $\text{ls } (\neg[A,a])^*$

or something like this ...

$[\wedge Aa]$

Rem: In [Sip] don't use  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,

We limit ourselves to

$\emptyset$ , an element of  $\Sigma$  (underlying alphabet),  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\cup$ ,  $\circ$ ,  $*$

Formally:

$$\{a^3, a^5\}^*$$

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

start with  $a$

then  $(a \circ a)$

then  $((a \circ a) \circ a) \leftrightarrow \{a^3\}$

various parenthesis

$$\left( (a \circ a) \circ a \cup \left( \underbrace{a \circ \dots \circ a}_{a^5} \right) \right)^*$$

in theory -

Formally:

- (1)  $\emptyset$  is a regular expression
- (2) any element of  $\Sigma$  is R.E.
- (3)  $\epsilon$  " " "

If  $R_1, R_2$  are R.E., so  
are

$(R_1 \cup R_2), (R_1 \circ R_2), (R_1)^*$

We tend to

- omit  $\circ$

- " any unnecessary  $(, )$

e.g.

$$((a \circ a) \circ a) = (a \circ (a \circ a))$$

usually write  $a^3$

=

Another example  $(a \cup ab)^*$

technically  ~~$(a \cup (a \cup b))^*$~~

$(a \cup ab)^*$

A regular expressions { defines }  
describes }

a language --

e.g.

$\emptyset$  describes  $\emptyset$

$\sigma \in \Sigma$  "  $\{\sigma\}$

$\epsilon$  "  $\{\epsilon\}$

If  $R_1, R_2$  are R.E.  
describable  $L_1, L_2$  then

$(R_1 \cup R_2)$  describes  $L_1 \cup L_2$

o

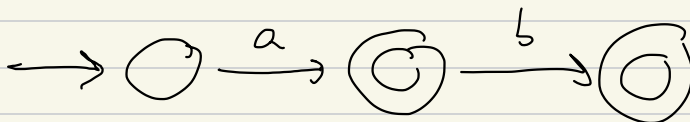
o

$(R_1)^*$  "  $L_1^*$

Thm: A regular expression describes a regular language, and, conversely, every regular language is described by a regular expression.

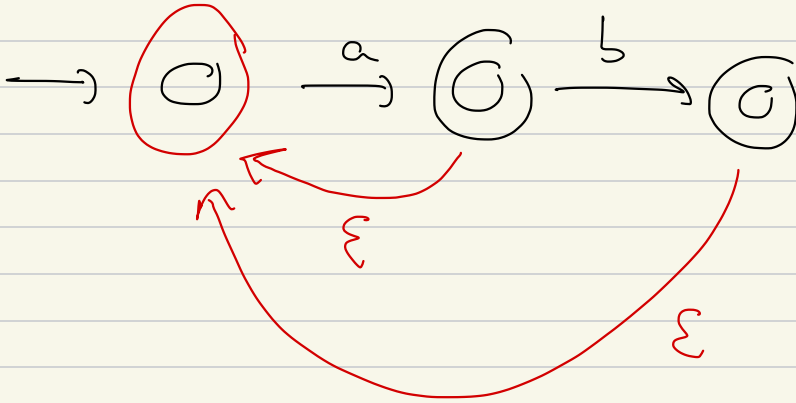
E.g.  $(a \cup ab)^*$

NFA  $(a \cup ab)$

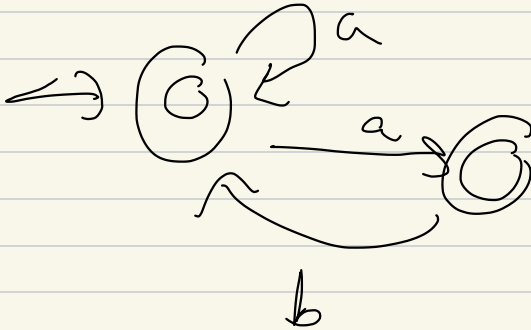




NFA  $(a^*ab)^*$



OR



NFA: 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

$$\delta: Q \times \Sigma_{\epsilon} \rightarrow \text{Power}(Q)$$

$$\Sigma_{\epsilon} = \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$$

Thm: Let  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

be an NFA. Then there is

an equivalent DFA  $= (\hat{Q}, \Sigma, \hat{\delta}, \hat{q}_0, \hat{F})$

$$\hat{Q} = \text{Power}(Q),$$

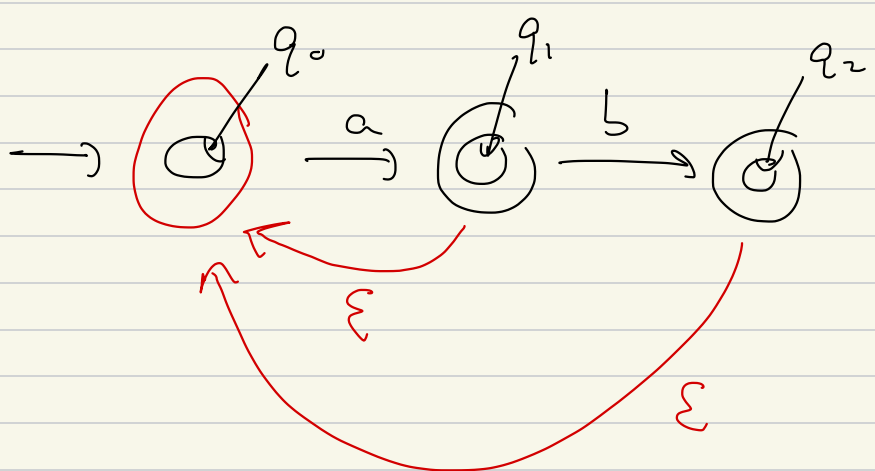
$$\hat{\delta}: \hat{Q} \times \Sigma \rightarrow \hat{Q}$$

$$\hat{\delta}(\hat{q}, \sigma) = \{ q \in \mathbb{Q} \mid \text{on } \hat{q}, \text{ reading } \sigma \text{ and possibly } \epsilon\text{'s, you can transition to } q \}$$

$$\hat{Q} \in \hat{\mathbb{Q}} = \text{Power}(\mathbb{Q})$$

$$\hat{q} \in \text{Power}(\mathbb{Q})$$

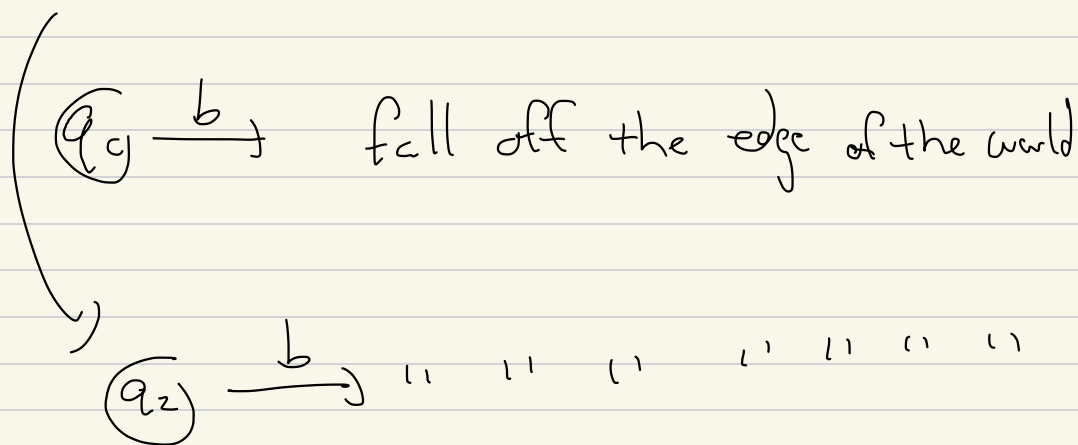
e.g.



$$\hat{\mathbb{Q}} = \text{Power}(\mathbb{Q}) = \{ \emptyset, \{q_0\}, \{q_1\}, \{q_2\}, \{q_0, q_1\}, \{q_1, q_2\}, \{q_0, q_2\}, \{q_0, q_1, q_2\} \}$$

So,

$$\delta(\{q_0, q_2\}, b)$$



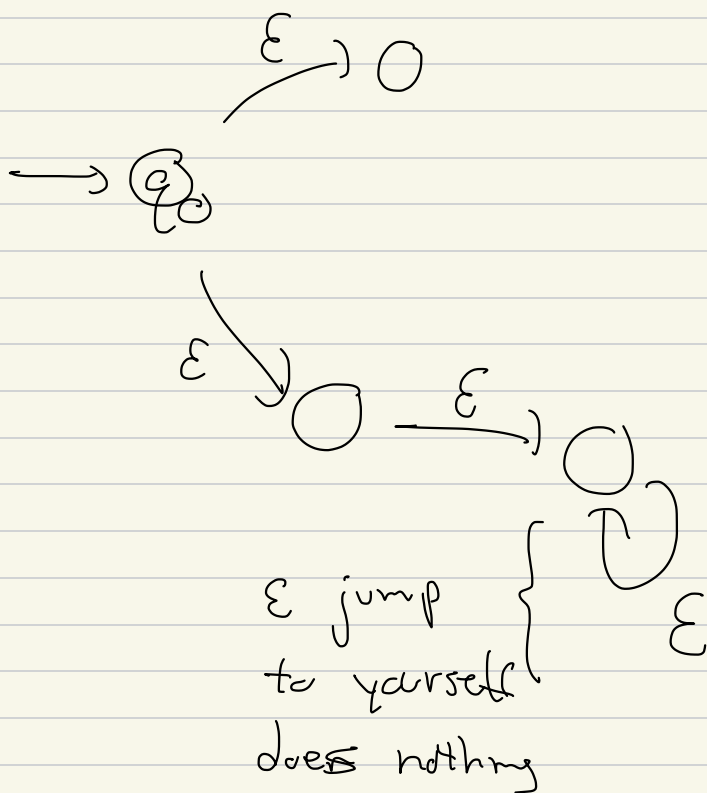
So

$$\delta(\{q_0, q_2\}, b) = \emptyset$$

Rem:

$$\delta(\emptyset, \text{anything}) = \emptyset$$

What  $\tilde{q}_0$  initial state of DFA  
 corresponding to NFA?



$$\tilde{q}_0 = \left\{ q \in Q \mid \begin{array}{l} q_0 \text{ or any state you} \\ \text{can reach from } q_0 \\ \text{with } \epsilon \text{ jumps} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\tilde{F} = \left\{ \tilde{q} \subseteq Q \mid \tilde{q}^n F \text{ is non-empty} \right\}$$

e.g.

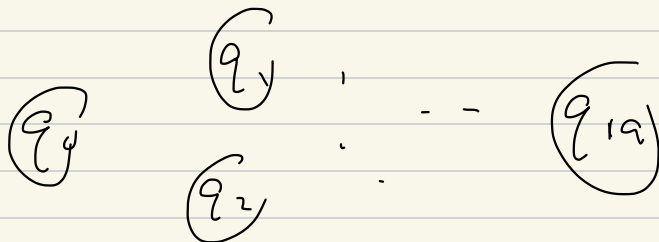
$|Q| = 20$  in NFA, the

corresp DFA has ~~state~~ state

set  $\text{Power}(Q)$

size  $2^{20} > 1,000,000$

NFA



Say we in DFA state

$$\{q_0, q_3, q_5, q_{12}, q_{13}, q_{16}\} = \tilde{q}$$

here end we read "b"

$$\delta(\tilde{q}, b) \stackrel{?}{=} \tilde{q}$$

where can b and  $\epsilon$ 's  
take us? from  $\tilde{q}$

$\tilde{Q} \Leftrightarrow$  is  $q_0$ ? in  $Q_1$  , is  $q_1$ ? in  $Q_1$  , - , -