

# CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

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DFAs, and NFAs, and Regexp

# The story so far, and what's next

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- ▶ Goal: Develop an algorithm that determines whether a **string**  $s$  is matched by **regex**  $R$ 
  - I.e., whether  $s$  is a member of  $R$ 's *language*
- ▶ Approach: Convert  $R$  to a **finite automaton**  $FA$  and see whether  $s$  is **accepted** by  $FA$ 
  - Details: Convert  $R$  to a *nondeterministic FA* (NFA), which we then convert to a *deterministic FA* (DFA),
    - which enjoys a fast acceptance algorithm

# Two Types of Finite Automata

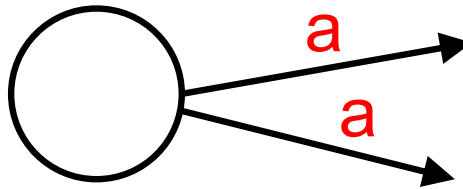
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- ▶ **Deterministic** Finite Automata (DFA)
  - Exactly one sequence of steps for each string
    - Easy to implement acceptance check
  - All examples so far
- ▶ **Nondeterministic** Finite Automata (NFA)
  - May have many sequences of steps for each string
  - Accepts if **any path** ends in final state at end of string
  - More compact than DFA
    - But more expensive to test whether a string matches

# Comparing DFAs and NFAs

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- ▶ NFAs can have **more** than one transition leaving a state on the same symbol

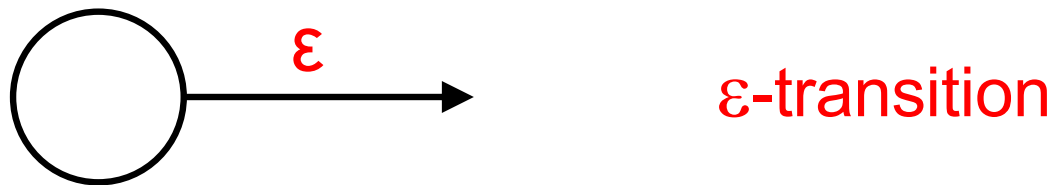


- ▶ DFAs allow only one transition per symbol
  - I.e., transition function must be a valid function
  - DFA is a special case of NFA

## Comparing DFAs and NFAs (cont.)

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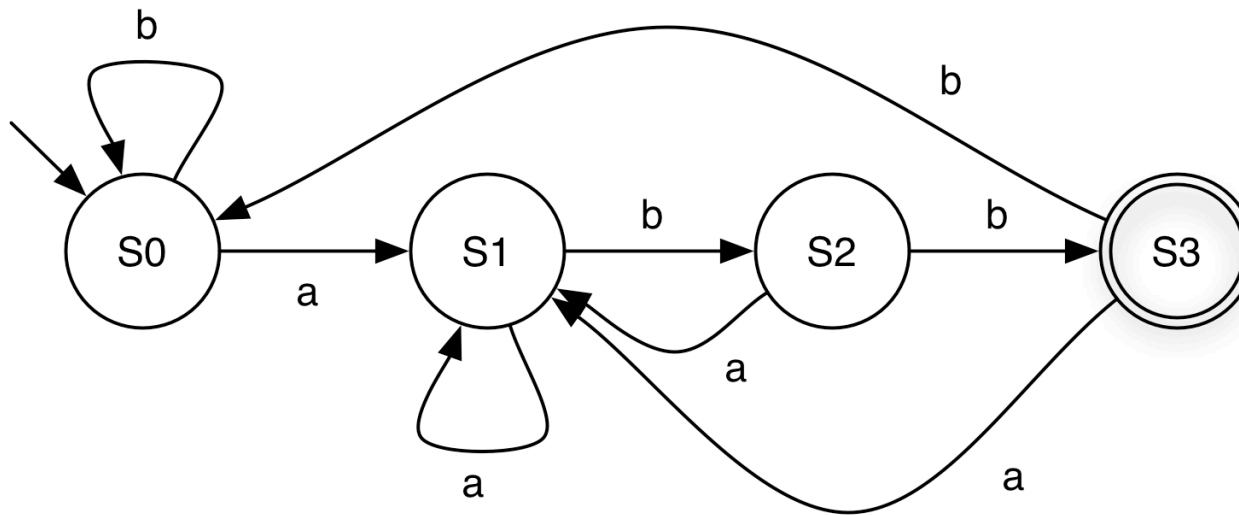
- ▶ NFAs may have transitions with empty string label
  - May move to new state without consuming character



- ▶ DFA transition must be labeled with symbol
  - DFA is a special case of NFA

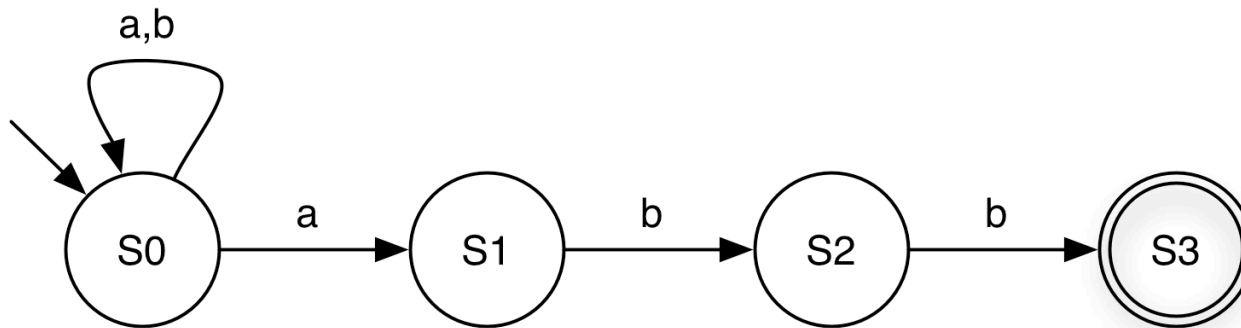
# DFA for $(a|b)^*abb$

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# NFA for $(a|b)^*abb$

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## ► ba

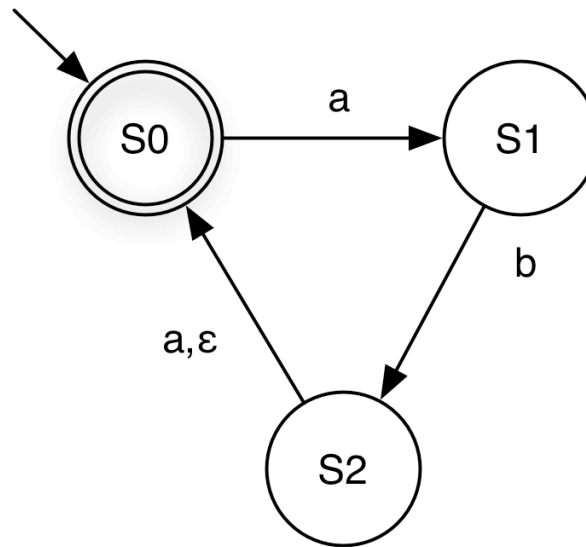
- Has paths to either S0 or S1
- Neither is final, so rejected

## ► babaabb

- Has paths to different states
- One path leads to S3, so accepts string

# NFA for $(ab|aba)^*$

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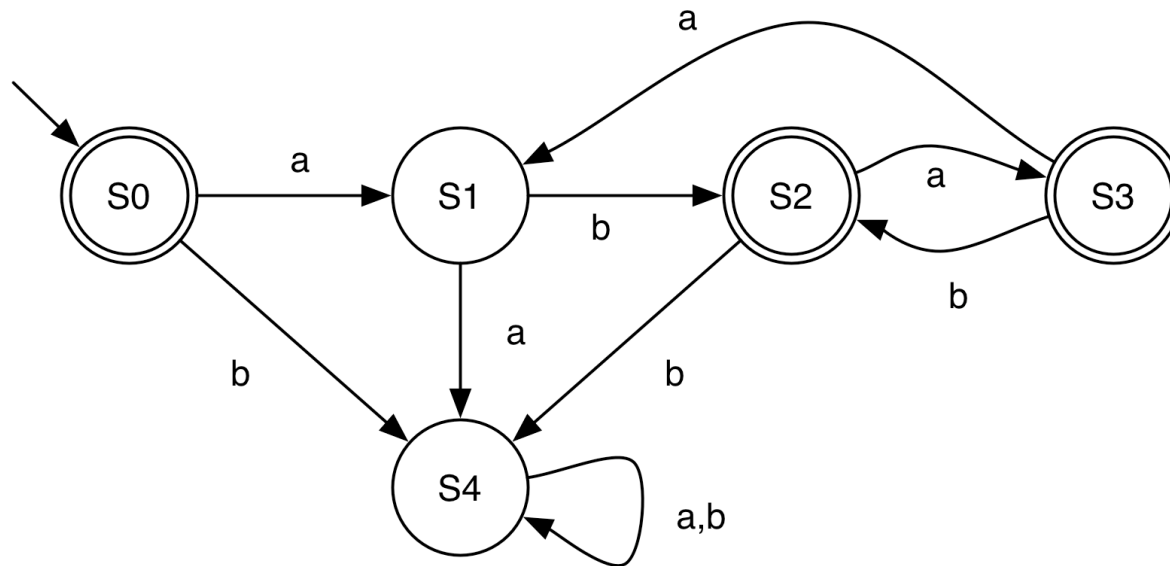


- ▶ **aba**
  - Has paths to states S0, S1
- ▶ **ababa**
  - Has paths to S0, S1
  - Need to use  $\epsilon$ -transition

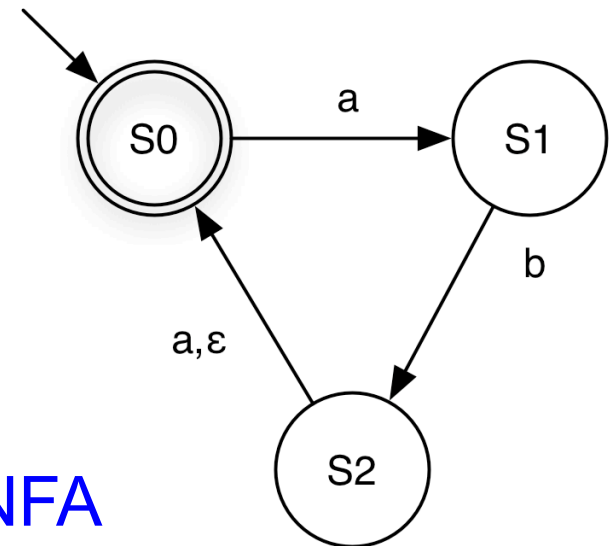


# Comparing NFA and DFA for $(ab|aba)^*$

DFA



NFA

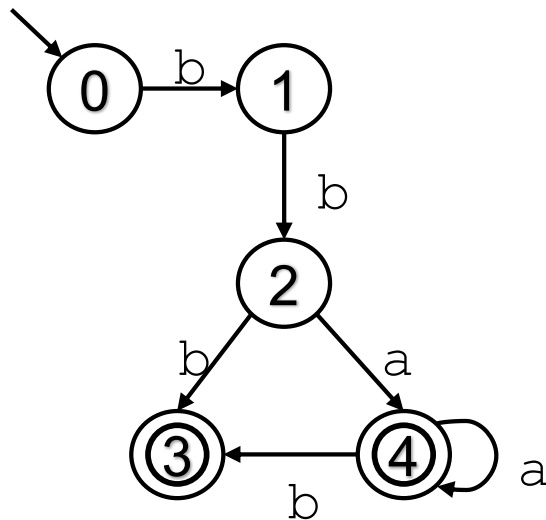


# Quiz 1: Which DFA matches this regexp?

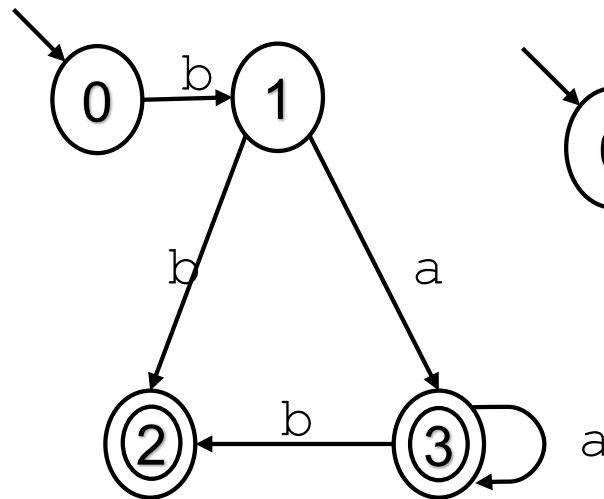
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**$b(b|a+b?)$**

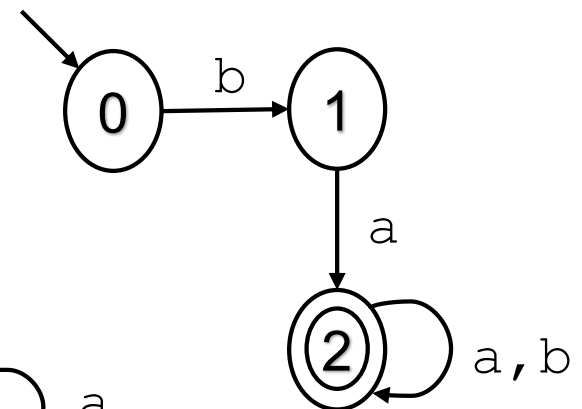
A.



B.



C.



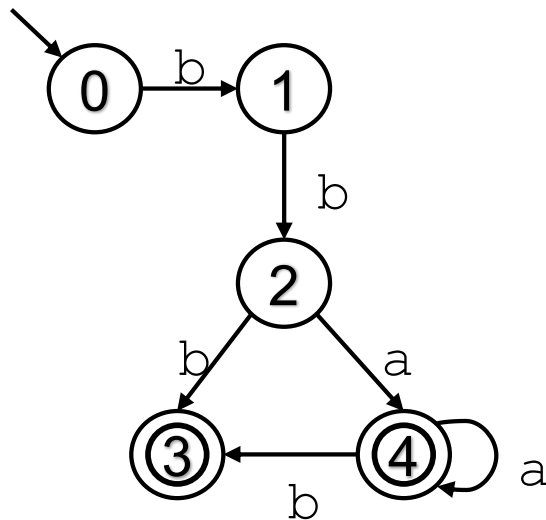
D. None of the above

# Quiz 1: Which DFA matches this regexp?

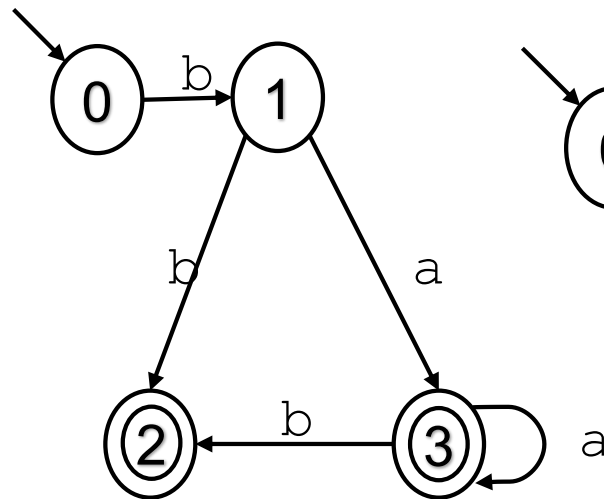
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**$b(b|a+b?)$**

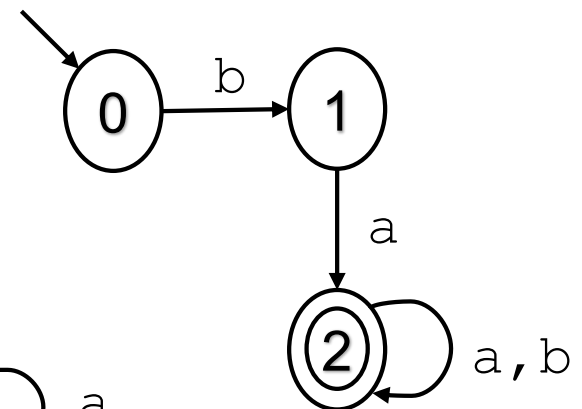
A.



B.



C.



D. None of the above

# Formal Definition

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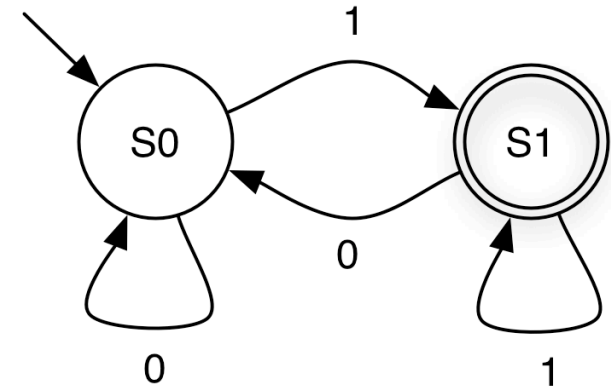
- ▶ A **deterministic finite automaton** (*DFA*) is a 5-tuple  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F, \delta)$  where
  - $\Sigma$  is an alphabet
  - $Q$  is a nonempty set of states
  - $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state
  - $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of final states
  - $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  specifies the DFA's transitions
    - What's this definition saying that  $\delta$  is?
- ▶ A DFA accepts  $s$  if it **stops** at a final state on  $s$

# Formal Definition: Example

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- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- $Q = \{S0, S1\}$
- $q_0 = S0$
- $F = \{S1\}$

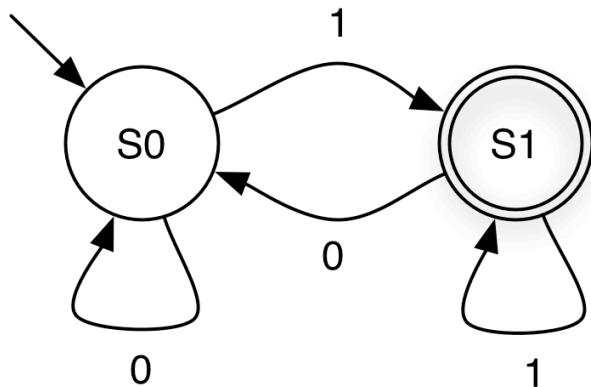
		symbol	
		0	1
input state	S0	S0	S1
	S1	S0	S1



or as  $\{ (S0,0,S0),(S0,1,S1),(S1,0,S0),(S1,1,S1) \}$

# Implementing DFAs (one-off)

It's easy to build  
a program which  
mimics a DFA



```
cur_state = 0;
while (1) {

    symbol = getchar();

    switch (cur_state) {

        case 0: switch (symbol) {
            case '0': cur_state = 0; break;
            case '1': cur_state = 1; break;
            case '\n': printf("rejected\n"); return 0;
            default:   printf("rejected\n"); return 0;
        }
        break;

        case 1: switch (symbol) {
            case '0': cur_state = 0; break;
            case '1': cur_state = 1; break;
            case '\n': printf("accepted\n"); return 1;
            default:   printf("rejected\n"); return 0;
        }
        break;

        default: printf("unknown state; I'm confused\n");
        break;

    }

}
```

# Implementing DFAs (generic)

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More generally, use generic table-driven DFA

given components  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F, \delta)$  of a DFA:

let  $q = q_0$

while (there exists another symbol  $\sigma$  of the input string)

$q := \delta(q, \sigma)$ ;

if  $q \in F$  then

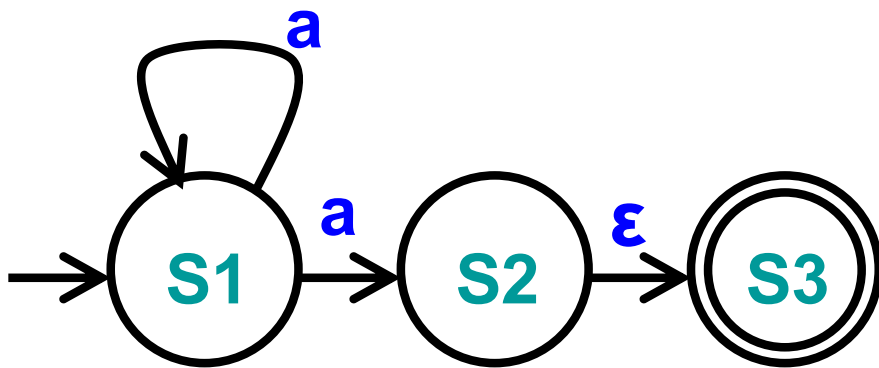
    accept

else reject

- $q$  is just an integer
- Represent  $\delta$  using arrays or hash tables
- Represent  $F$  as a set

# Nondeterministic Finite Automata (NFA)

- ▶ An *NFA* is a 5-tuple  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F, \delta)$  where
  - $\Sigma, Q, q_0, F$  as with DFAs
  - $\delta \subseteq Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}) \times Q$  specifies the NFA's transitions



*Example*

- $\Sigma = \{a\}$
- $Q = \{S1, S2, S3\}$
- $q_0 = S1$
- $F = \{S3\}$
- $\delta = \{ (S1, a, S1), (S1, a, S2), (S2, \epsilon, S3) \}$

- ▶ An NFA accepts  $s$  if there is **at least one path** via  $s$  from the NFA's start state to a final state



# NFA Acceptance Algorithm (Sketch)

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- ▶ When NFA processes a string  $s$ 
  - NFA must keep track of several “current states”
    - Due to multiple transitions with same label, and  $\epsilon$ -transitions
  - If any current state is final when done then accept  $s$

- ▶ Example

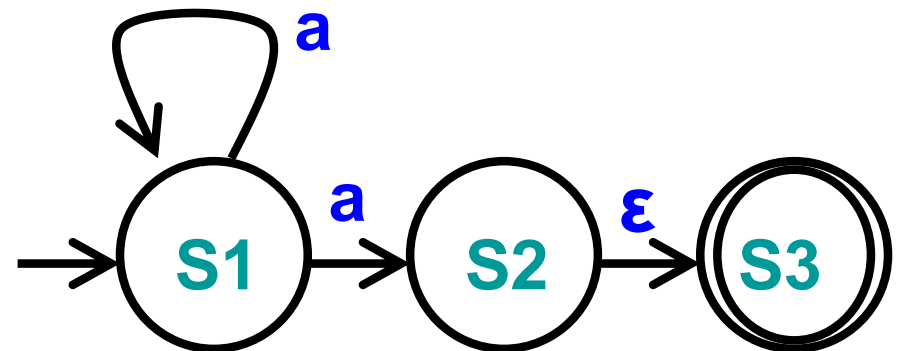
- After processing “a”
    - NFA may be in states

S1

S2

S3

- Since S3 is final,  $s$  is accepted

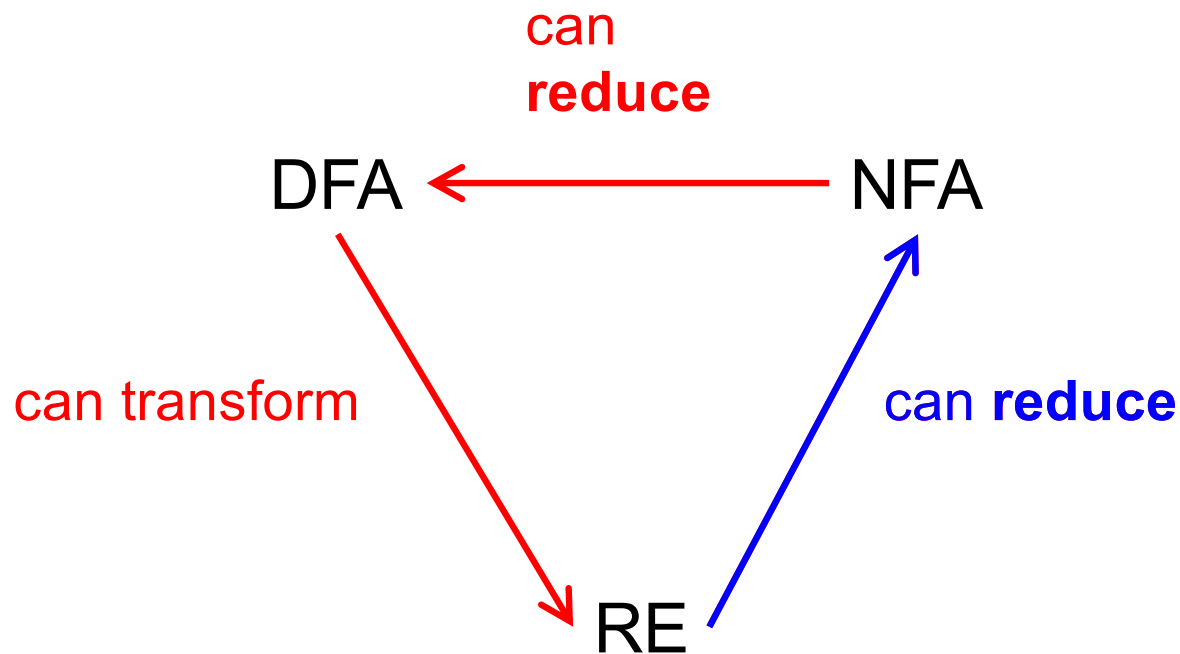


- ▶ Algorithm is slow, space-inefficient; prefer DFAs!

# Relating REs to DFAs and NFAs

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- ▶ Regular expressions, NFAs, and DFAs accept the same languages! *Can convert between them*



NB. Both *transform* and *reduce* are historical terms; they mean “convert”

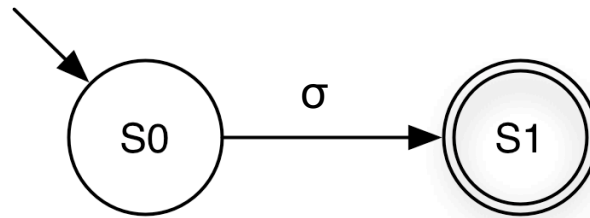
# Reducing Regular Expressions to NFAs

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- ▶ Goal: Given regular expression  $A$ , construct NFA:  $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma, Q, q_0, F, \delta)$ 
  - Remember regular expressions are defined recursively from primitive RE languages
  - Invariant:  $|F| = 1$  in our NFAs
    - Recall  $F$  = set of final states
- ▶ Will define  $\langle A \rangle$  for base cases:  $\sigma, \varepsilon, \emptyset$ 
  - Where  $\sigma$  is a symbol in  $\Sigma$
- ▶ And for inductive cases:  $AB, A|B, A^*$

# Reducing Regular Expressions to NFAs

## ► Base case: $\sigma$



Recall: NFA is  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F, \delta)$

where

$\Sigma$  is the alphabet

$Q$  is set of states

$q_0$  is starting state

$F$  is set of final states

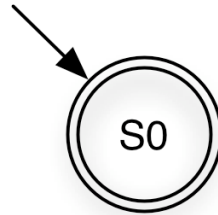
$\delta$  is transition relation

$$\langle \sigma \rangle = (\{\sigma\}, \{S0, S1\}, S0, \{S1\}, \{(S0, \sigma, S1)\})$$

# Reduction

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- ▶ Base case:  $\varepsilon$



$$\langle \varepsilon \rangle = (\emptyset, \{S0\}, S0, \{S0\}, \emptyset)$$

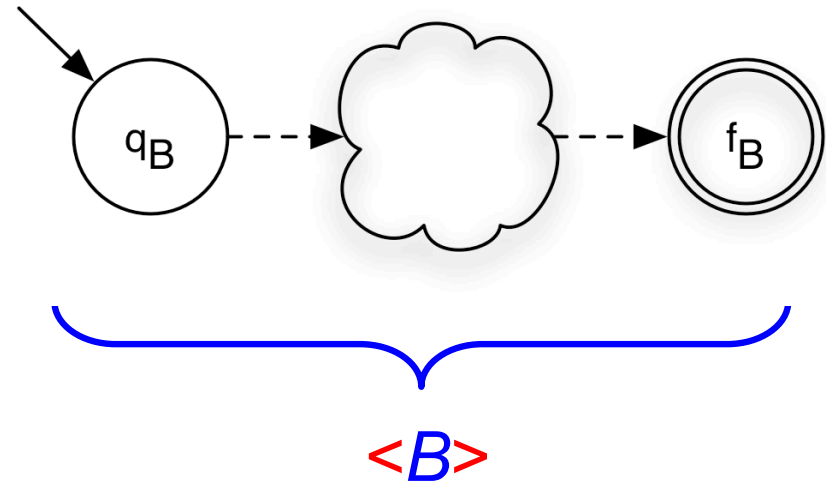
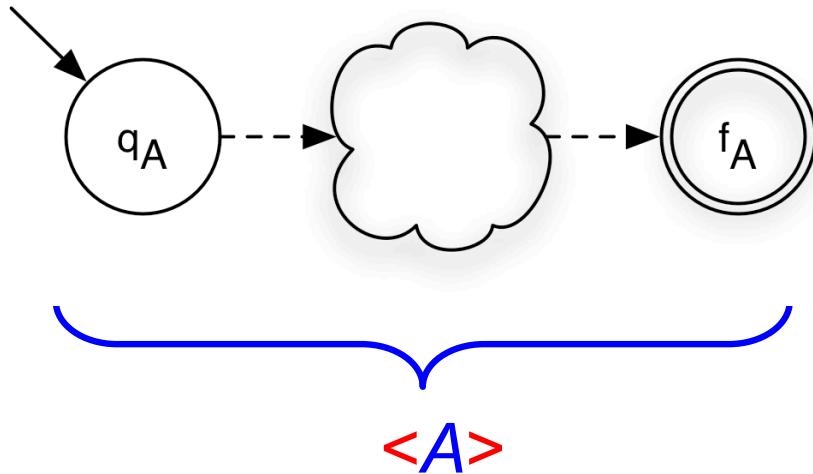
- ▶ Base case:  $\emptyset$



$$\langle \emptyset \rangle = (\emptyset, \{S0, S1\}, S0, \{S1\}, \emptyset)$$

# Reduction: Concatenation

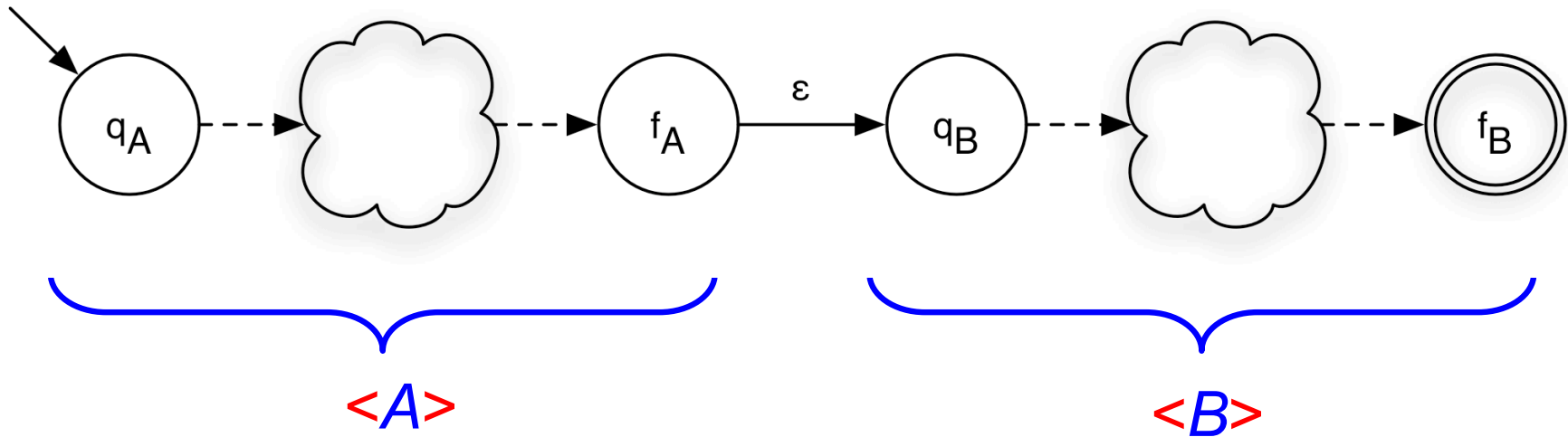
► Induction:  $AB$



- $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A, q_A, \{f_A\}, \delta_A)$
- $\langle B \rangle = (\Sigma_B, Q_B, q_B, \{f_B\}, \delta_B)$

# Reduction: Concatenation

► Induction:  $AB$

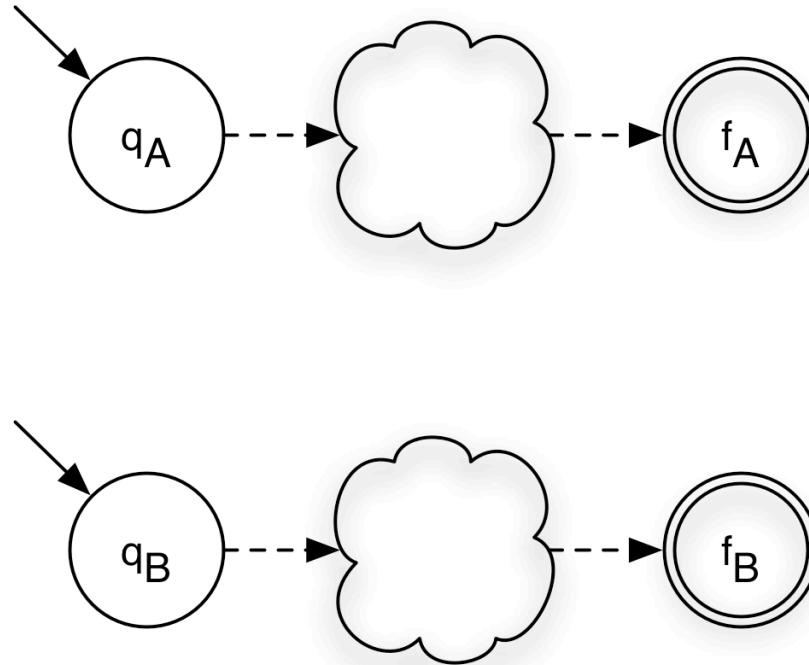


- $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A, q_A, \{f_A\}, \delta_A)$
- $\langle B \rangle = (\Sigma_B, Q_B, q_B, \{f_B\}, \delta_B)$
- $\langle AB \rangle = (\Sigma_A \cup \Sigma_B, Q_A \cup Q_B, q_A, \{f_B\}, \delta_A \cup \delta_B \cup \{(f_A, \epsilon, q_B)\})$

# Reduction: Union

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- Induction:  $A|B$

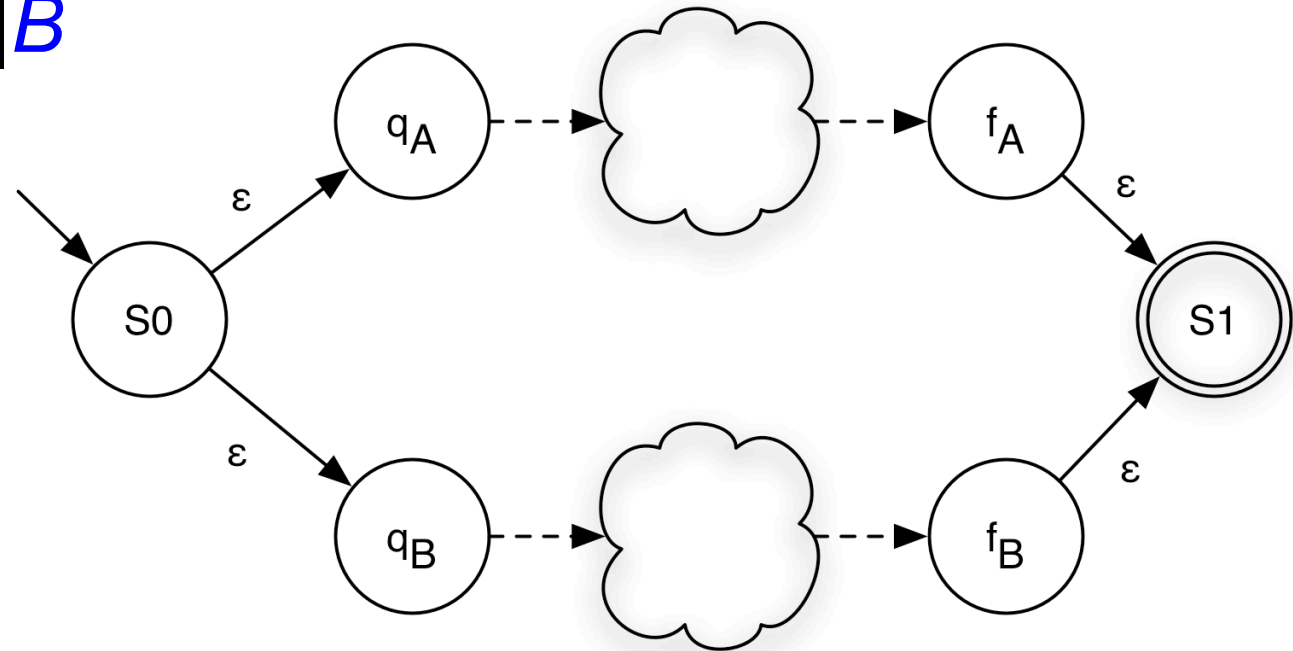


- $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A, q_A, \{f_A\}, \delta_A)$
- $\langle B \rangle = (\Sigma_B, Q_B, q_B, \{f_B\}, \delta_B)$



# Reduction: Union

► Induction:  $A|B$

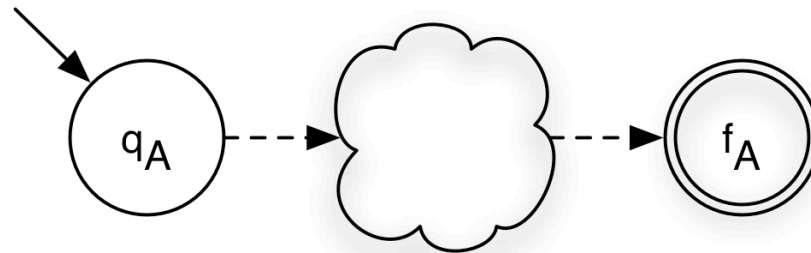


- $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A, q_A, \{f_A\}, \delta_A)$
- $\langle B \rangle = (\Sigma_B, Q_B, q_B, \{f_B\}, \delta_B)$
- $\langle A|B \rangle = (\Sigma_A \cup \Sigma_B, Q_A \cup Q_B \cup \{S_0, S_1\}, S_0, \{S_1\}, \delta_A \cup \delta_B \cup \{(S_0, \epsilon, q_A), (S_0, \epsilon, q_B), (f_A, \epsilon, S_1), (f_B, \epsilon, S_1)\})$

# Reduction: Closure

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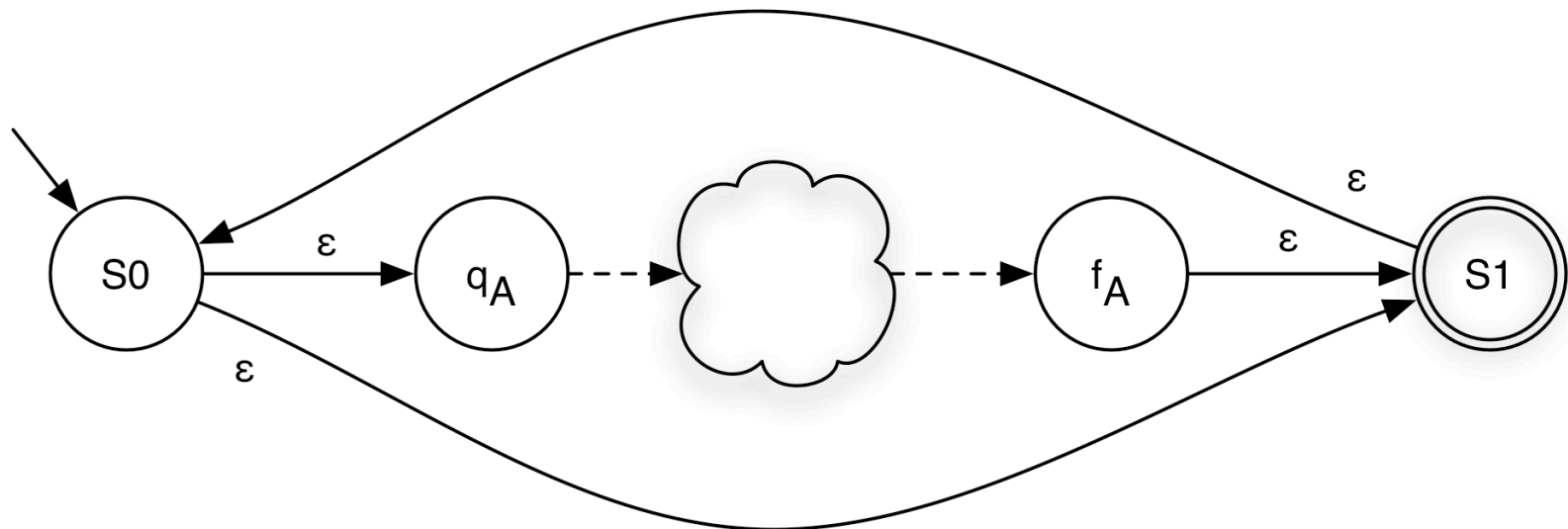
- Induction:  $A^*$



- $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A, q_A, \{f_A\}, \delta_A)$

# Reduction: Closure

► Induction:  $A^*$

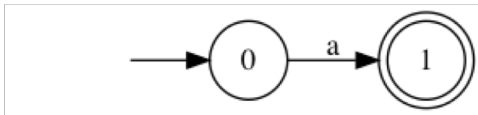


- $\langle A \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A, q_A, \{f_A\}, \delta_A)$
- $\langle A^* \rangle = (\Sigma_A, Q_A \cup \{S_0, S_1\}, S_0, \{S_1\}, \delta_A \cup \{(f_A, \epsilon, S_1), (S_0, \epsilon, q_A), (S_0, \epsilon, S_1), (S_1, \epsilon, S_0)\})$

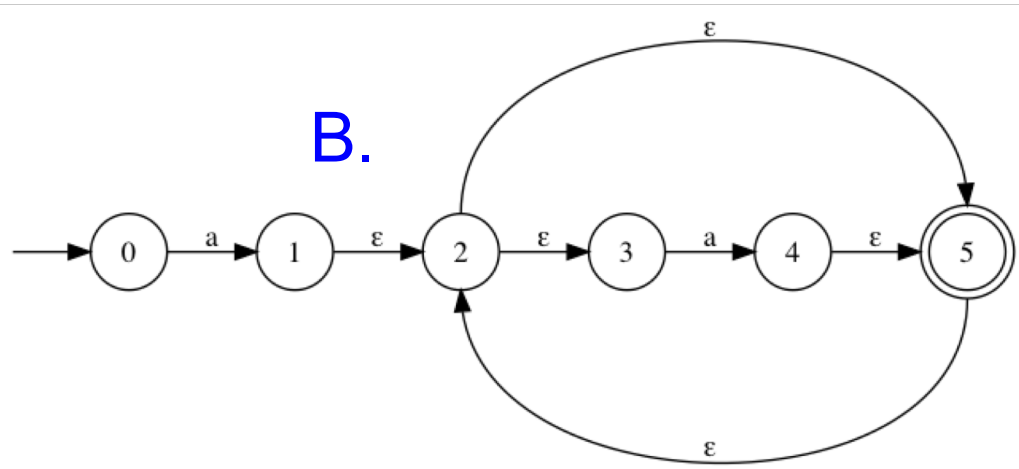
## Quiz 2: Which NFA matches $a^*$ ?

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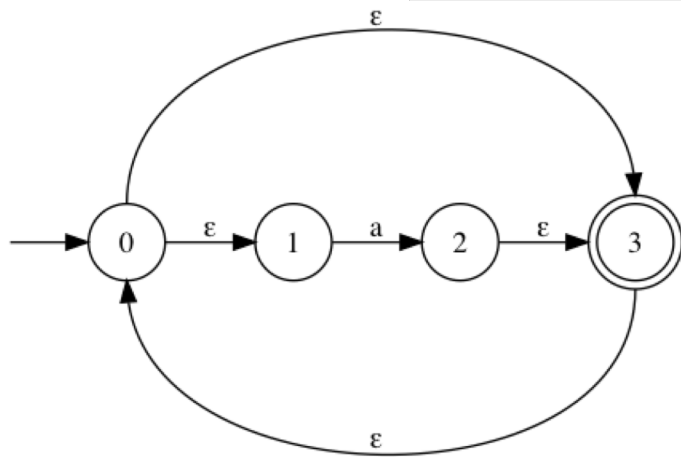
A.



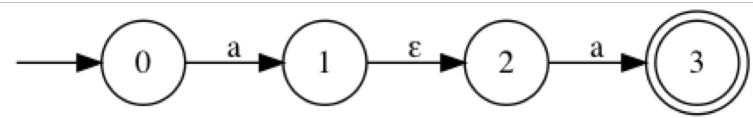
B.



C.

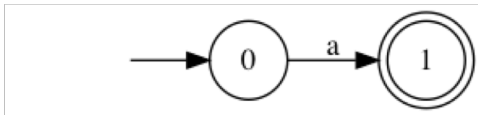


D.

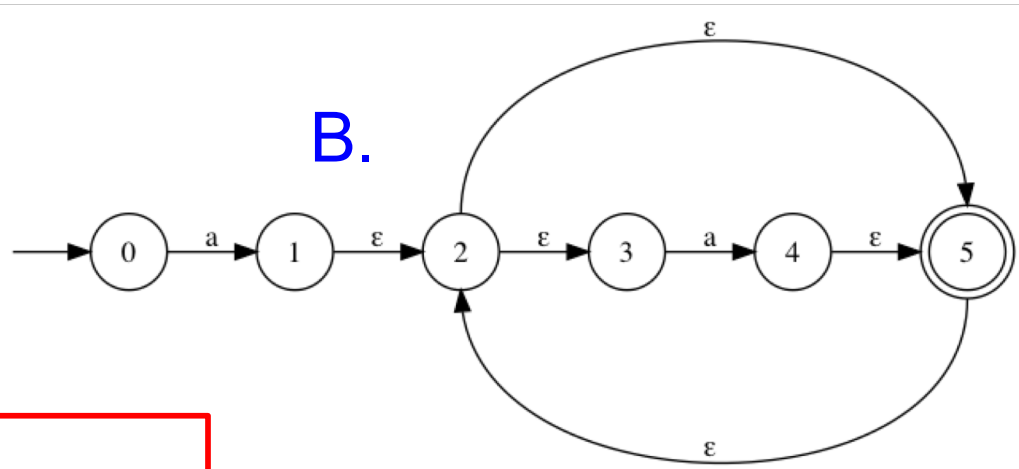


## Quiz 2: Which NFA matches $a^*$ ?

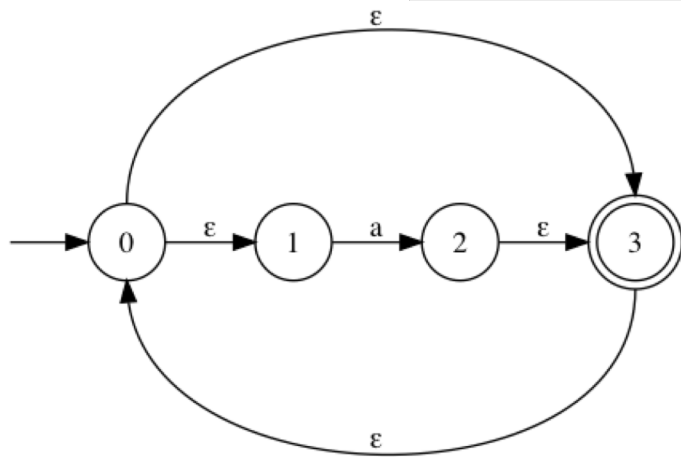
A.



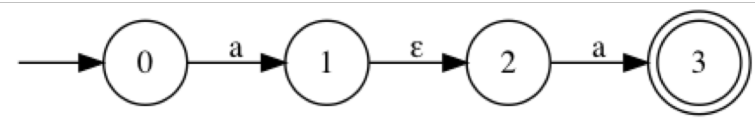
B.



C.

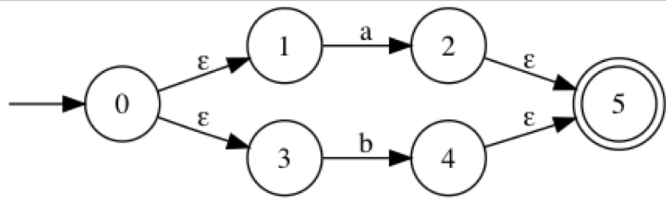


D.

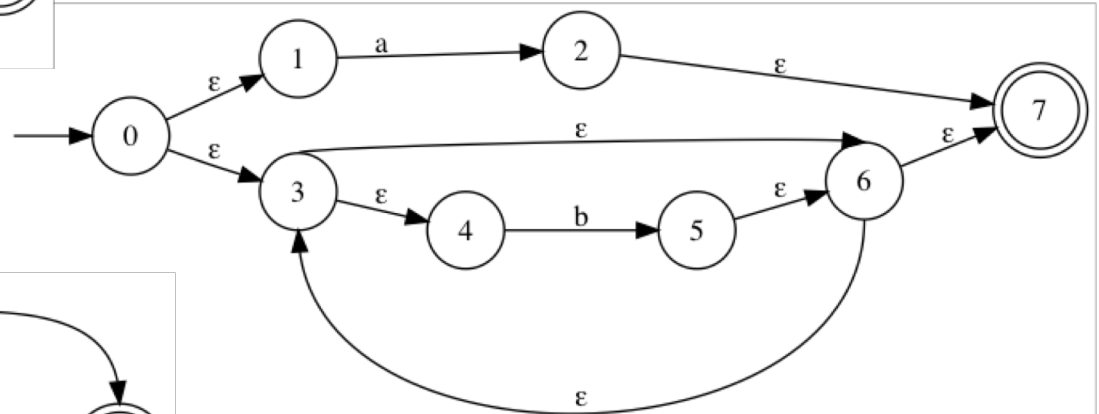


# Quiz 3: Which NFA matches $a|b^*$ ?

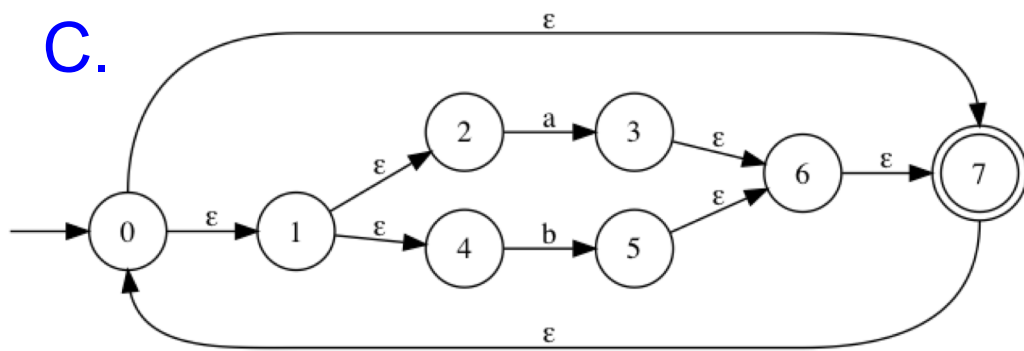
A.



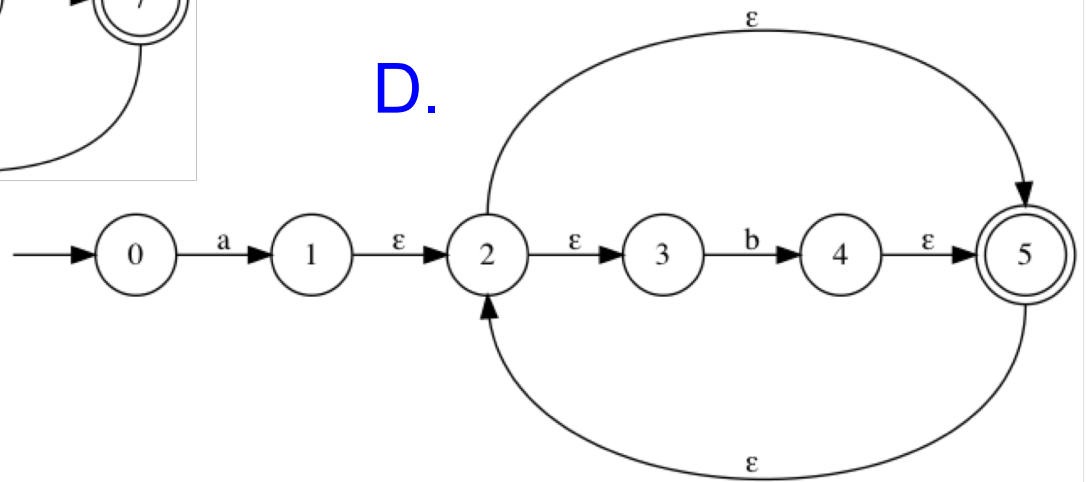
B.



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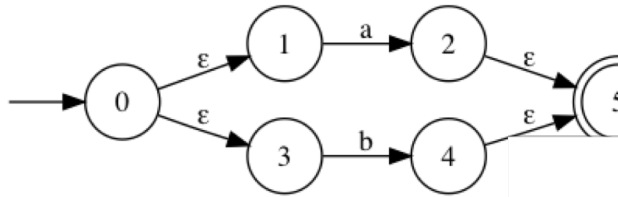


D.

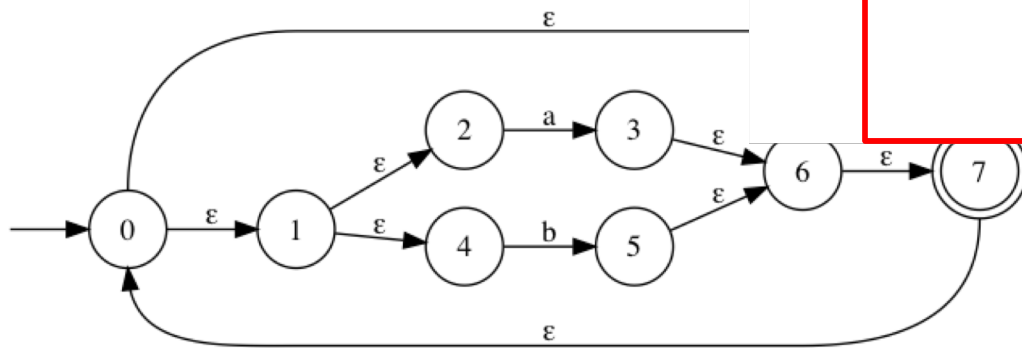
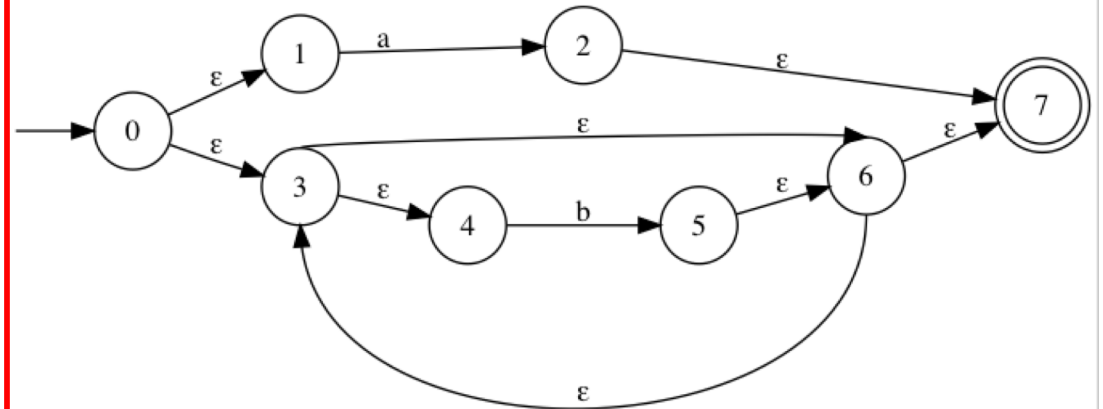


# Quiz 3: Which NFA matches $a|b^*$ ?

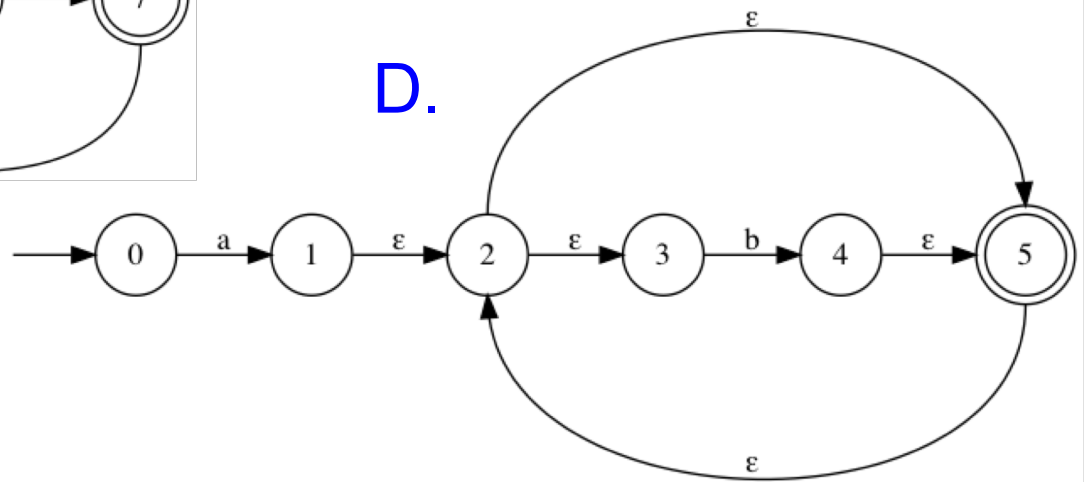
A.



B.



D.



# Reduction Complexity

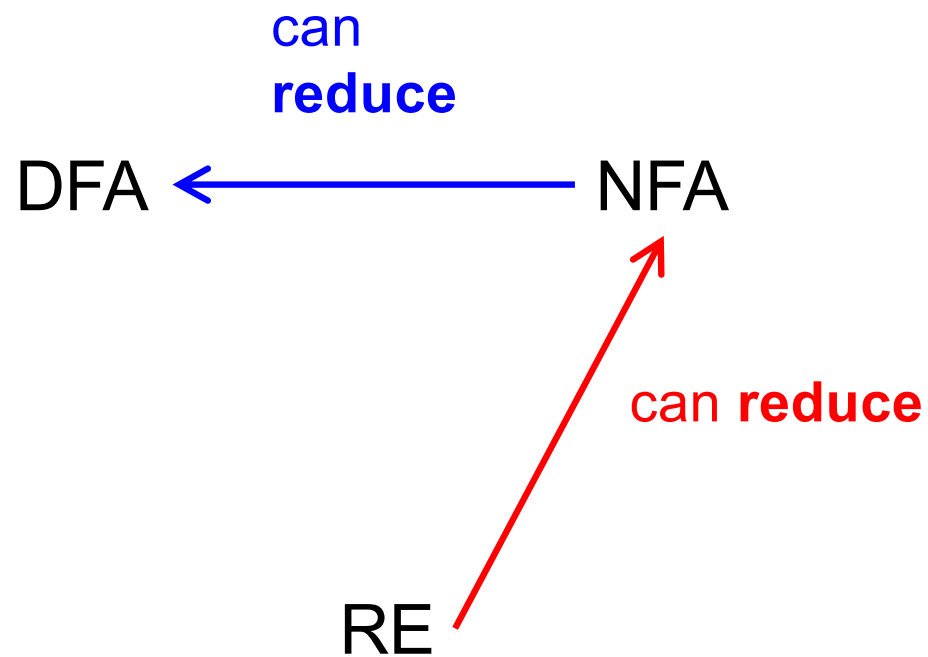
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- ▶ Given a regular expression  $A$  of size  $n$ ...  
Size = # of symbols + # of operations
- ▶ How many states does  $\langle A \rangle$  have?
  - Two added for each  $|$ , two added for each  $*$
  - $O(n)$
  - That's pretty good!



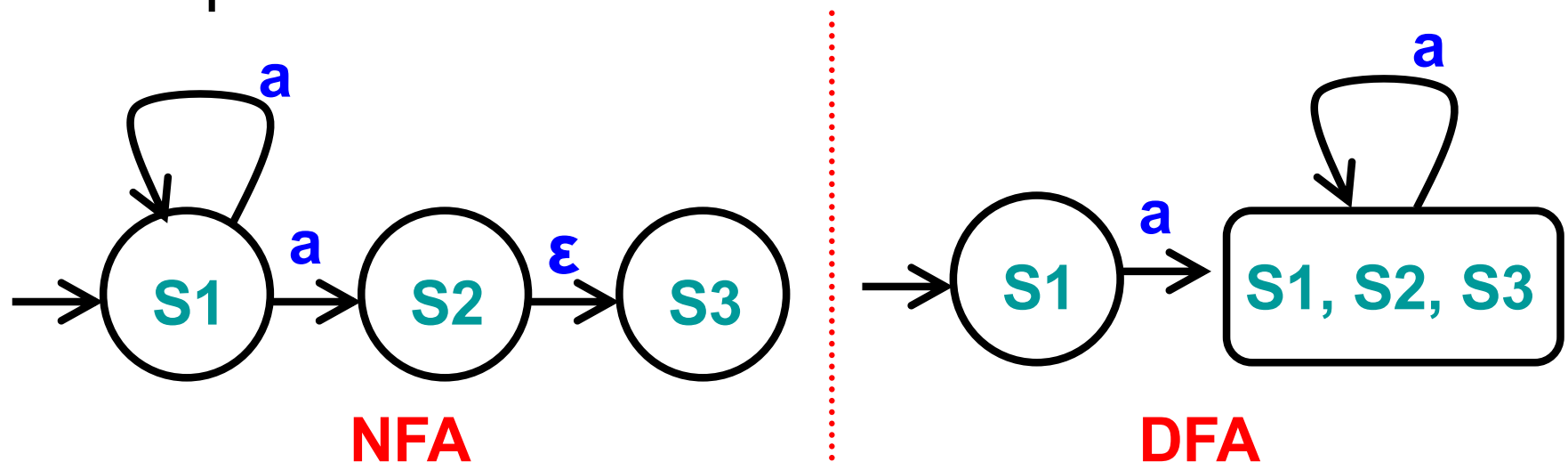
# Reducing NFA to DFA

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# Reducing NFA to DFA

- ▶ NFA may be reduced to DFA
  - By explicitly tracking the set of NFA states
- ▶ Intuition
  - Build DFA where
    - Each DFA state represents a set of NFA “current states”
- ▶ Example



# Algorithm for Reducing NFA to DFA

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- ▶ Reduction applied using the **subset** algorithm
  - DFA state is a subset of set of all NFA states
- ▶ Algorithm
  - Input
    - NFA  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F_n, \delta)$
  - Output
    - DFA  $(\Sigma, R, r_0, F_d, \delta)$
  - Using two subroutines
    - $\epsilon$ -closure( $\delta, p$ ) (and  $\epsilon$ -closure( $\delta, Q$ ))
    - move( $\delta, p, \sigma$ ) (and move( $\delta, Q, \sigma$ ))
      - (where  $p$  is an NFA state)

# $\epsilon$ -transitions and $\epsilon$ -closure

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- ▶ We say  $p \xrightarrow{\epsilon} q$ 
  - If it is possible to go from state  $p$  to state  $q$  by taking only  $\epsilon$ -transitions in  $\delta$
  - If  $\exists p, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n, q \in Q$  such that
    - $\{p, \epsilon, p_1\} \in \delta, \{p_1, \epsilon, p_2\} \in \delta, \dots, \{p_n, \epsilon, q\} \in \delta$
- ▶  $\epsilon$ -closure( $\delta, p$ )
  - Set of states reachable from  $p$  using  $\epsilon$ -transitions alone
    - Set of states  $q$  such that  $p \xrightarrow{\epsilon} q$  according to  $\delta$
    - $\epsilon$ -closure( $\delta, p$ ) =  $\{q \mid p \xrightarrow{\epsilon} q \text{ in } \delta\}$
    - $\epsilon$ -closure( $\delta, Q$ ) =  $\{q \mid p \in Q, p \xrightarrow{\epsilon} q \text{ in } \delta\}$
  - Notes
    - $\epsilon$ -closure( $\delta, p$ ) always includes  $p$
    - We write  $\epsilon$ -closure( $p$ ) or  $\epsilon$ -closure( $Q$ ) when  $\delta$  is clear from context

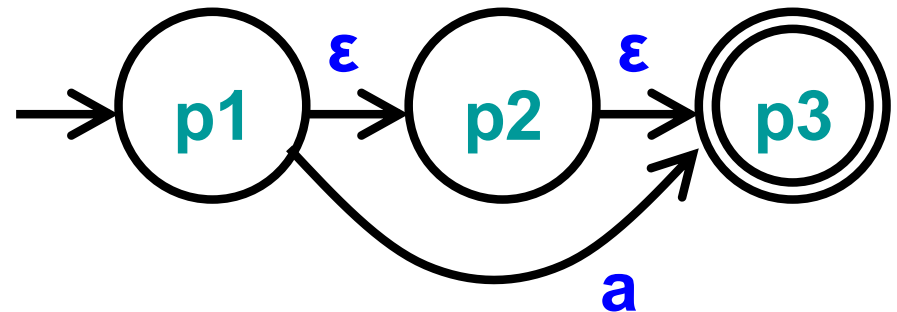
# $\epsilon$ -closure: Example 1

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► Following NFA contains

- $p1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p2$
- $p2 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p3$
- $p1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p3$

► Since  $p1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p2$  and  $p2 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p3$



►  $\epsilon$ -closures

- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p1) = \{ p1, p2, p3 \}$
- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p2) = \{ p2, p3 \}$
- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p3) = \{ p3 \}$
- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(\{ p1, p2 \}) = \{ p1, p2, p3 \} \cup \{ p2, p3 \}$

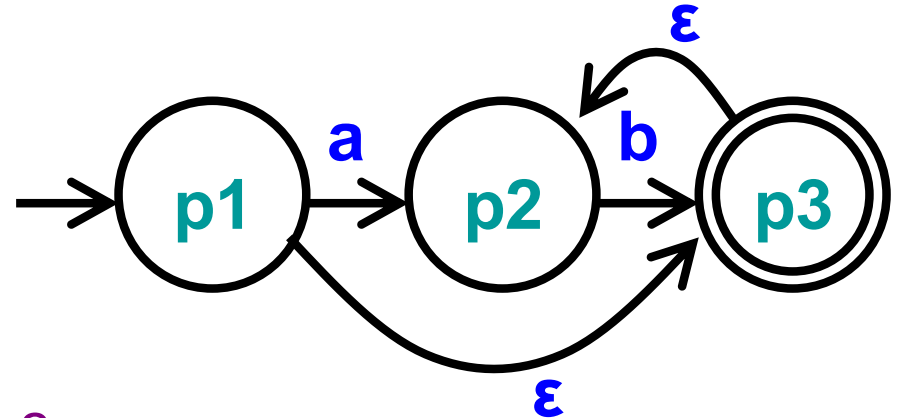
## $\epsilon$ -closure: Example 2

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► Following NFA contains

- $p1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p3$
- $p3 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p2$
- $p1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p2$

► Since  $p1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p3$  and  $p3 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} p2$



►  $\epsilon$ -closures

- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p1) = \{ p1, p2, p3 \}$
- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p2) = \{ p2 \}$
- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p3) = \{ p2, p3 \}$
- $\epsilon\text{-closure}(\{ p2, p3 \}) = \{ p2 \} \cup \{ p2, p3 \}$

# $\epsilon$ -closure Algorithm: Approach

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- ▶ Input: NFA  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F_n, \delta)$ , State Set  $R$
- ▶ Output: State Set  $R'$
- ▶ Algorithm

Let  $R' = R$

// start states

Repeat

Let  $R = R'$

// continue from previous

Let  $R' = R \cup \{q \mid p \in R, (p, \epsilon, q) \in \delta\}$

// new  $\epsilon$ -reachable states

Until  $R = R'$

// stop when no new states

This algorithm computes a **fixed point**

# $\epsilon$ -closure Algorithm Example

► Calculate  $\epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, \{p1\})$

R

R'

{p1}

{p1}

{p1}

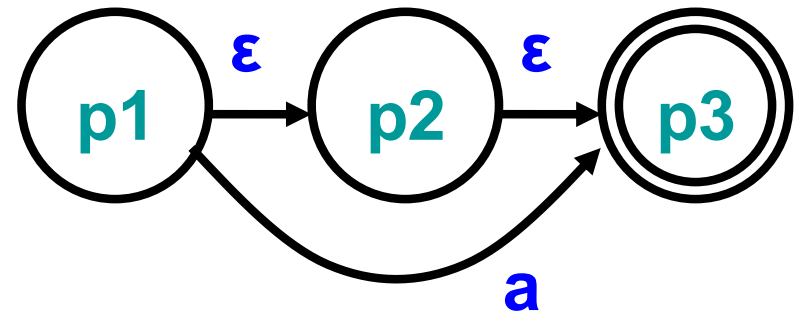
{p1, p2}

{p1, p2}

{p1, p2, p3}

{p1, p2, p3}

{p1, p2, p3}



Let  $R' = R$

Repeat

Let  $R = R'$

Let  $R' = R \cup \{q \mid p \in R, (p, \epsilon, q) \in \delta\}$

Until  $R = R'$



# Calculating $\text{move}(p, \sigma)$

---

## ► $\text{move}(\delta, p, \sigma)$

- Set of states reachable from  $p$  using exactly one transition on symbol  $\sigma$

- Set of states  $q$  such that  $\{p, \sigma, q\} \in \delta$

- $\text{move}(\delta, p, \sigma) = \{ q \mid \{p, \sigma, q\} \in \delta \}$

- $\text{move}(\delta, Q, \sigma) = \{ q \mid p \in Q, \{p, \sigma, q\} \in \delta \}$

- i.e., can “lift”  $\text{move}()$  to a set of states  $Q$

- Notes:

- $\text{move}(\delta, p, \sigma)$  is  $\emptyset$  if no transition  $(p, \sigma, q) \in \delta$ , for any  $q$

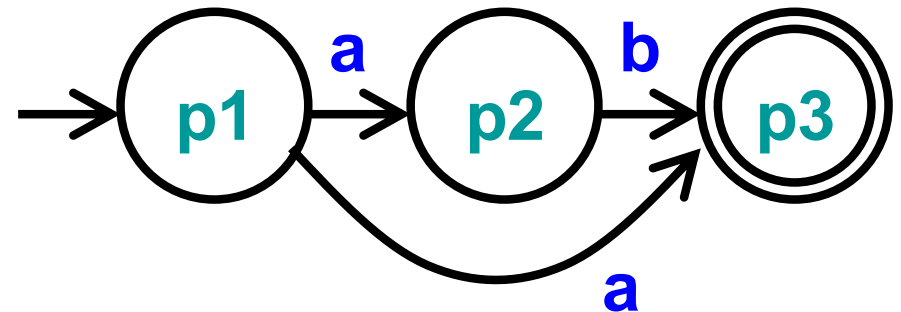
- We write  $\text{move}(p, \sigma)$  or  $\text{move}(R, \sigma)$  when  $\delta$  clear from context

# move(p,σ) : Example 1

---

## ► Following NFA

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



## ► Move

- $\text{move}(p1, a) = \{ p2, p3 \}$
- $\text{move}(p1, b) = \emptyset$
- $\text{move}(p2, a) = \emptyset$
- $\text{move}(p2, b) = \{ p3 \}$
- $\text{move}(p3, a) = \emptyset$
- $\text{move}(p3, b) = \emptyset$

$$\text{move}(\{p1, p2\}, b) = \{ p3 \}$$

## move(p,σ) : Example 2

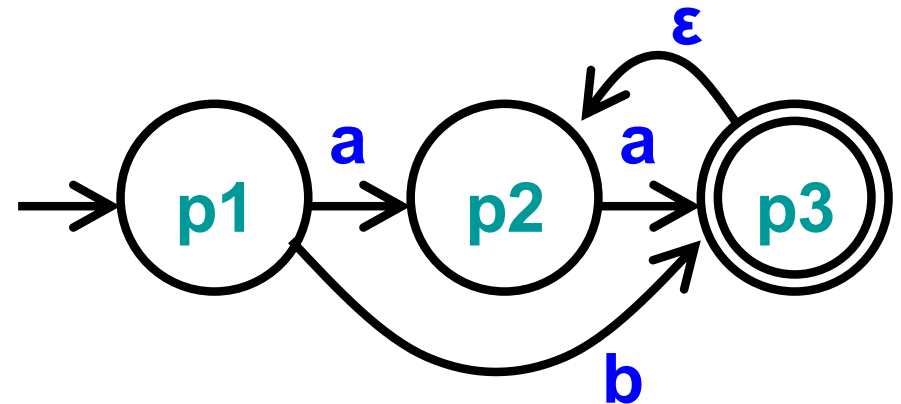
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► Following NFA

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

► Move

- $\text{move}(p1, a) = \{ p2 \}$
- $\text{move}(p1, b) = \{ p3 \}$
- $\text{move}(p2, a) = \{ p3 \}$
- $\text{move}(p2, b) = \emptyset$
- $\text{move}(p3, a) = \emptyset$
- $\text{move}(p3, b) = \emptyset$



$$\text{move}(\{p1, p2\}, a) = \{p2, p3\}$$

# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Reduction Algorithm (“subset”)

---

► Input NFA  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F_n, \delta)$ , Output DFA  $(\Sigma, R, r_0, F_d, \delta')$

► Algorithm

Let  $r_0 = \varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, q_0)$ , add it to  $R$

// DFA start state

While  $\exists$  an unmarked state  $r \in R$

// process DFA state  $r$

Mark  $r$

// each state visited once

For each  $\sigma \in \Sigma$

// for each symbol  $\sigma$

Let  $E = \text{move}(\delta, r, \sigma)$

// states reached via  $\sigma$

Let  $e = \varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, E)$

// states reached via  $\varepsilon$

If  $e \notin R$

// if state  $e$  is new

Let  $R = R \cup \{e\}$

// add  $e$  to  $R$  (unmarked)

Let  $\delta' = \delta' \cup \{r, \sigma, e\}$

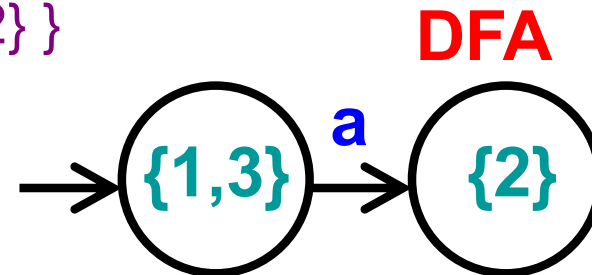
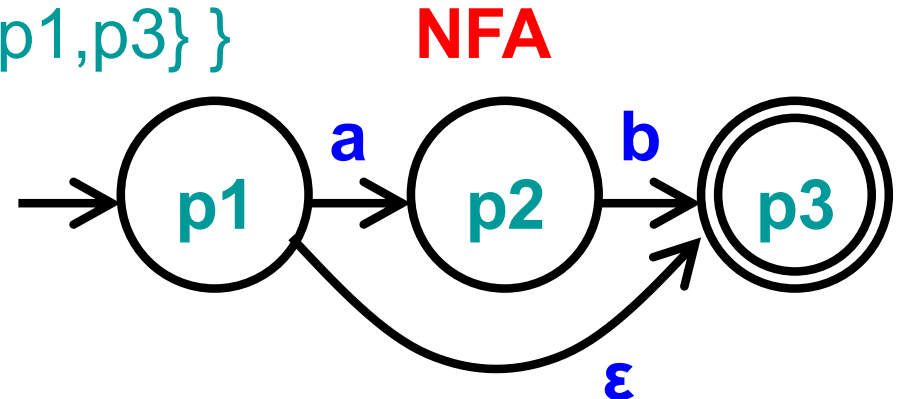
// add transition  $r \rightarrow e$  on  $\sigma$

Let  $F_d = \{r \mid \exists s \in r \text{ with } s \in F_n\}$

// final if include state in  $F_n$

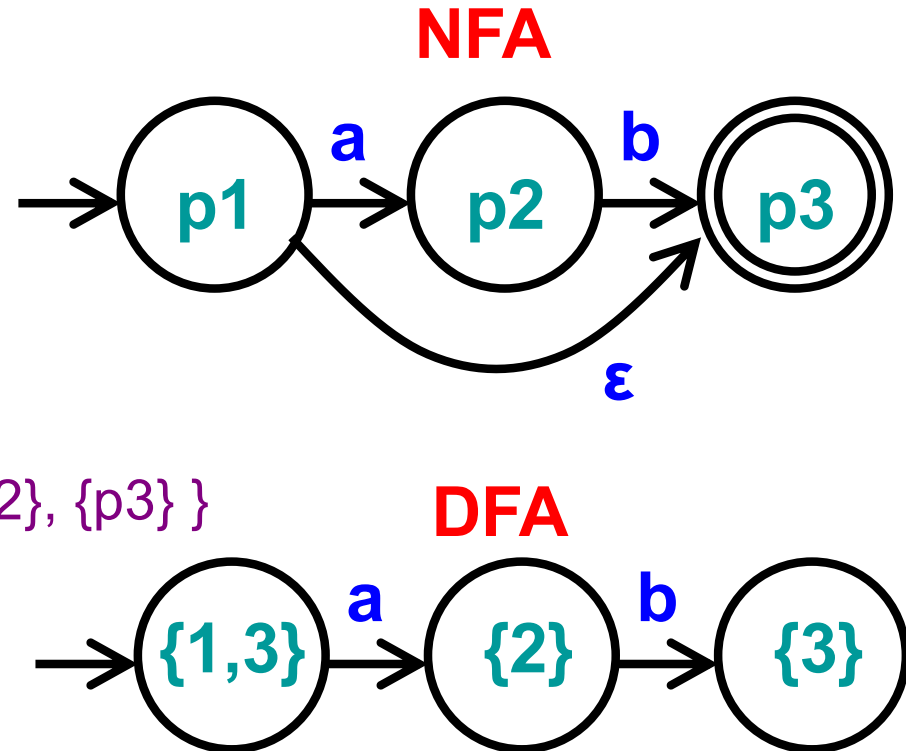
# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example 1

- Start =  $\varepsilon$ -closure( $\delta, p1$ ) =  $\{ \{p1, p3\} \}$
- $R = \{ \{p1, p3\} \}$
- $r \in R = \{p1, p3\}$
- $\text{move}(\delta, \{p1, p3\}, a) = \{p2\}$ 
  - $e = \varepsilon$ -closure( $\delta, \{p2\}$ ) =  $\{p2\}$
  - $R = R \cup \{\{p2\}\} = \{ \{p1, p3\}, \{p2\} \}$
  - $\delta' = \delta' \cup \{\{p1, p3\}, a, \{p2\}\}$
- $\text{move}(\delta, \{p1, p3\}, b) = \emptyset$



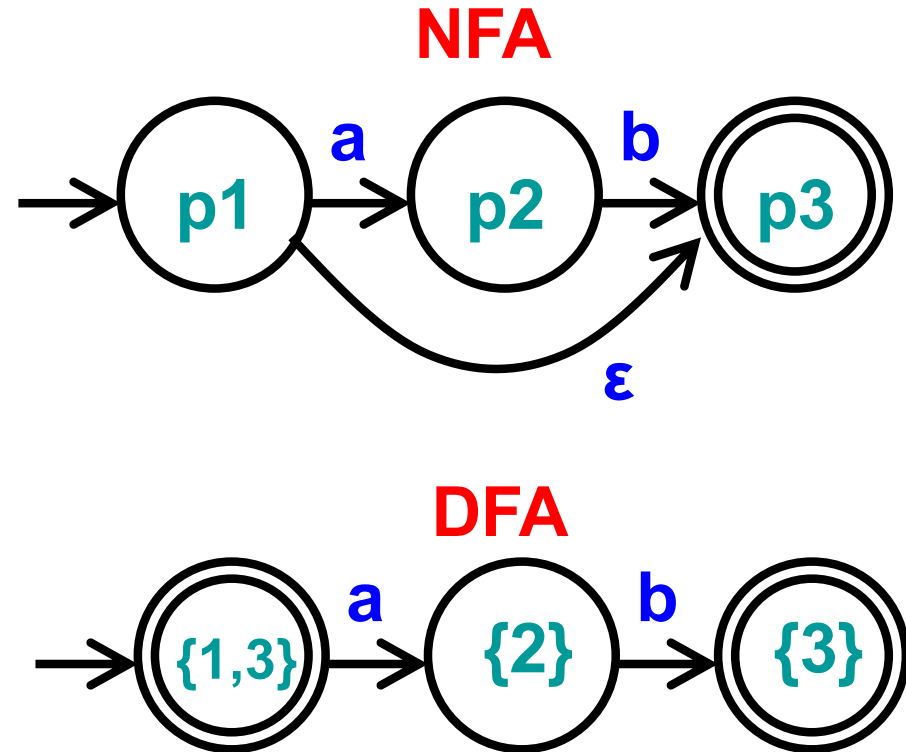
# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example 1 (cont.)

- $R = \{ \{p1, p3\}, \{p2\} \}$
- $r \in R = \{p2\}$
- $\text{move}(\delta, \{p2\}, a) = \emptyset$
- $\text{move}(\delta, \{p2\}, b) = \{p3\}$ 
  - $e = \varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, \{p3\}) = \{p3\}$
  - $R = R \cup \{\{p3\}\} = \{ \{p1, p3\}, \{p2\}, \{p3\} \}$
  - $\delta' = \delta' \cup \{\{p2\}, b, \{p3\}\}$



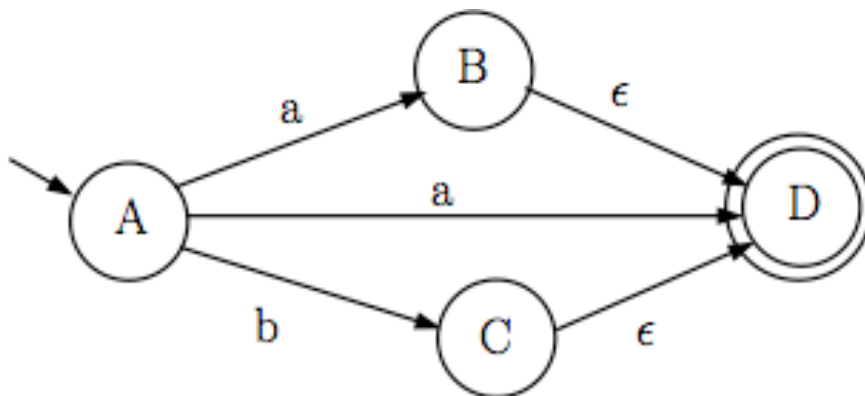
# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example 1 (cont.)

- $R = \{ \{p1,p3\}, \{p2\}, \{p3\} \}$
- $r \in R = \{p3\}$
- $\text{Move}(\{p3\},a) = \emptyset$
- $\text{Move}(\{p3\},b) = \emptyset$
- Mark  $\{p3\}$ , exit loop
- $F_d = \{\{p1,p3\}, \{p3\}\}$ 
  - Since  $p3 \in F_n$
- Done!

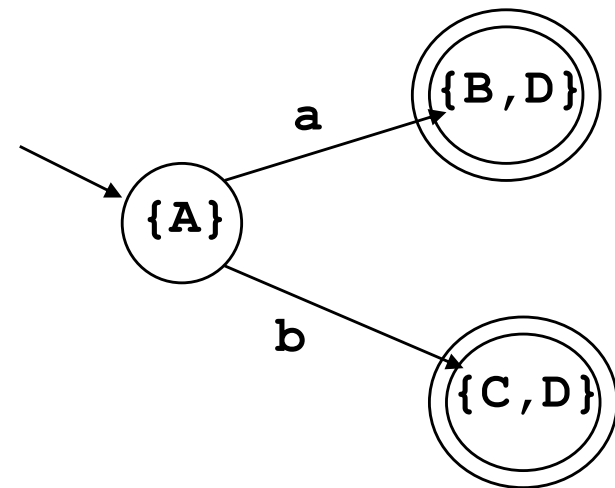


# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example 2

## ► NFA



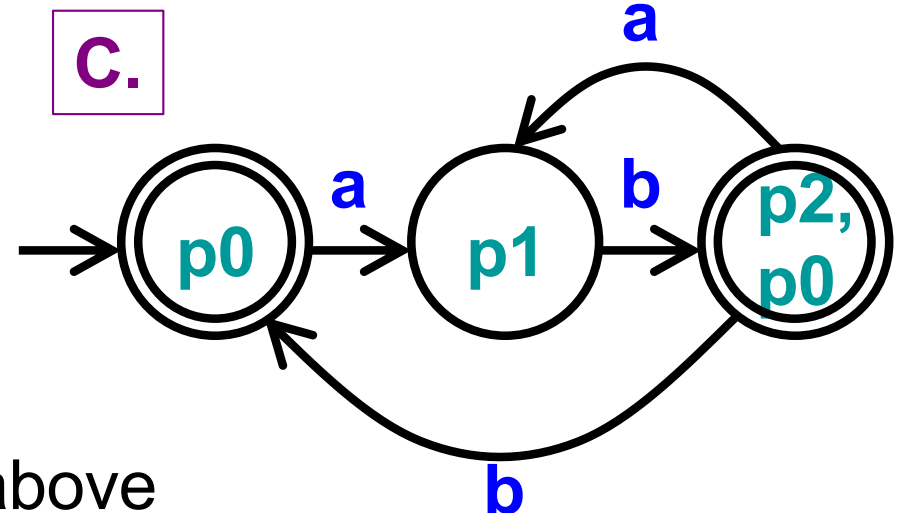
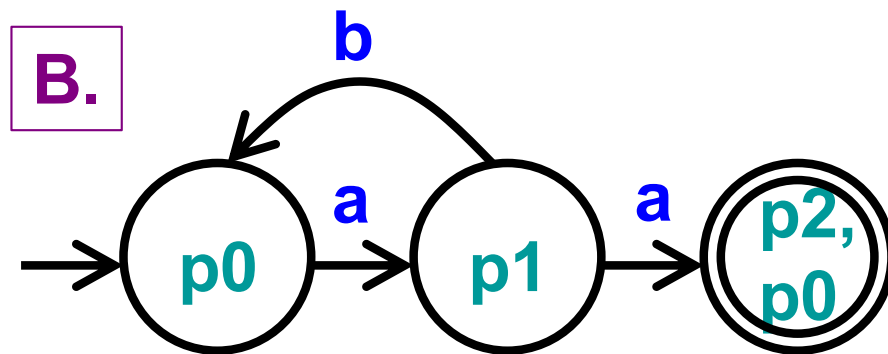
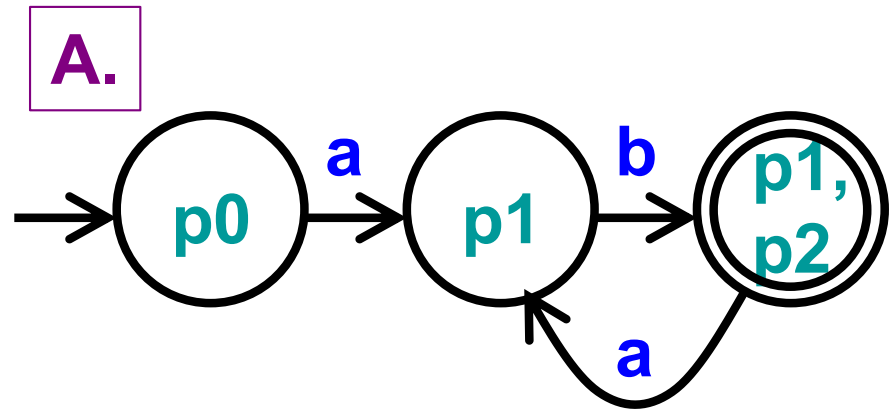
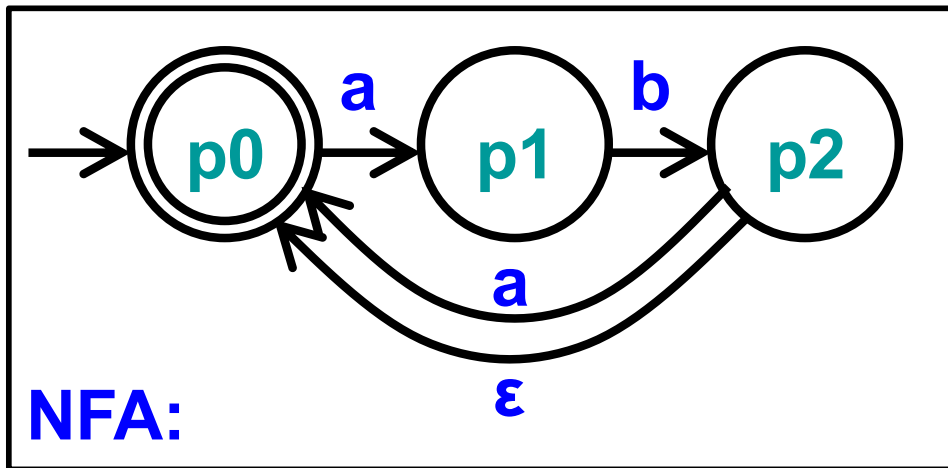
## ► DFA



$$R = \{ \boxed{\{A\}}, \boxed{\{B,D\}}, \boxed{\{C,D\}} \}$$

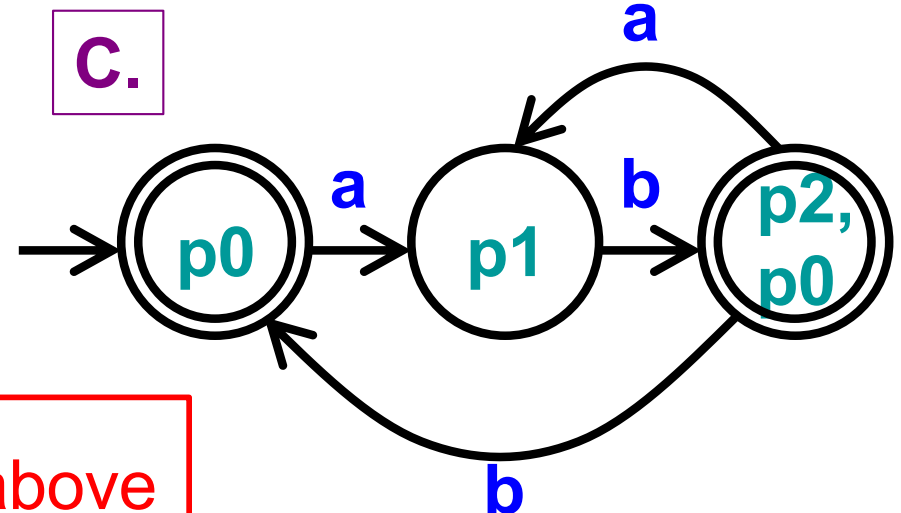
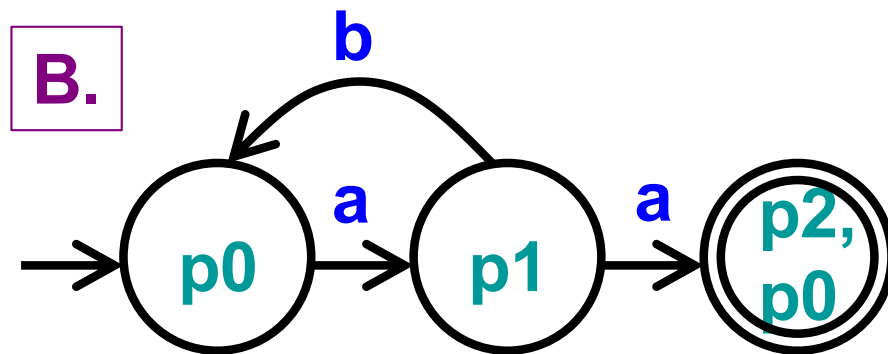
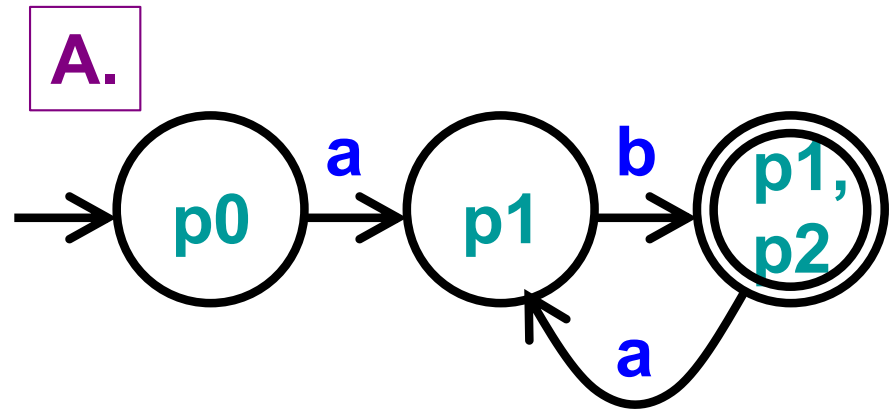
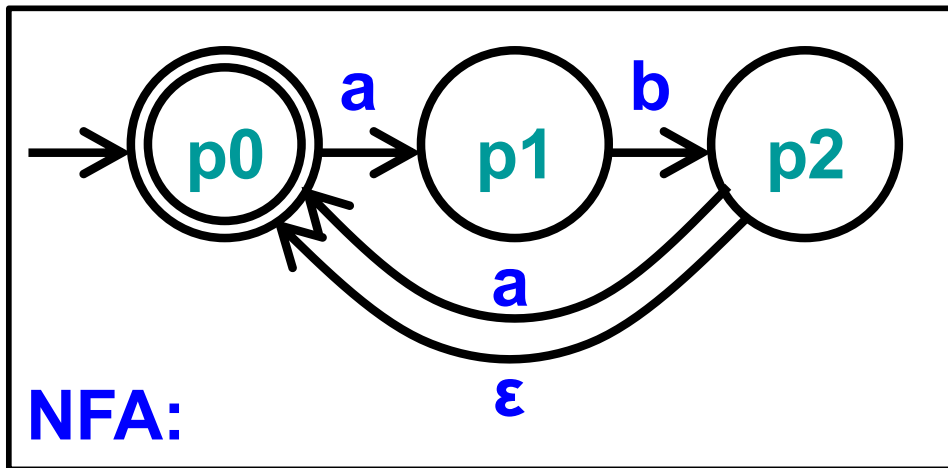


## Quiz 4: Which DFA is equiv to this NFA?



**D.** None of the above

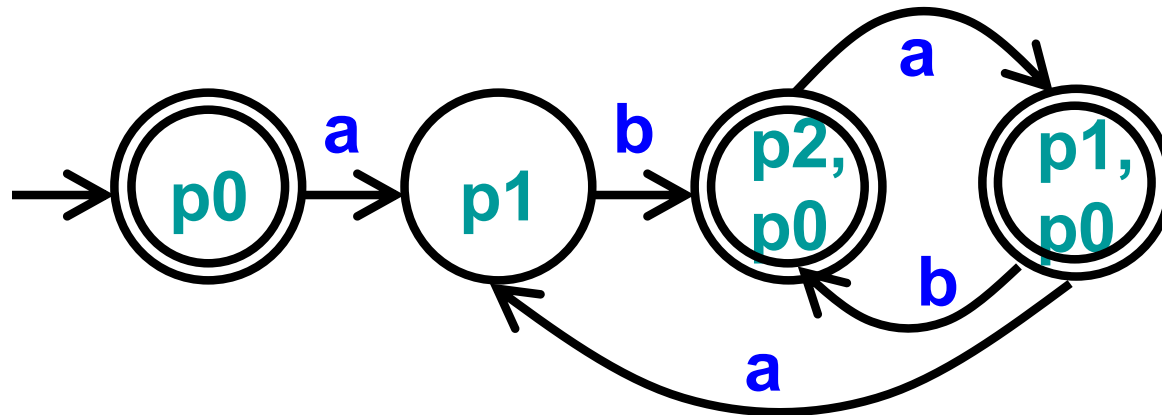
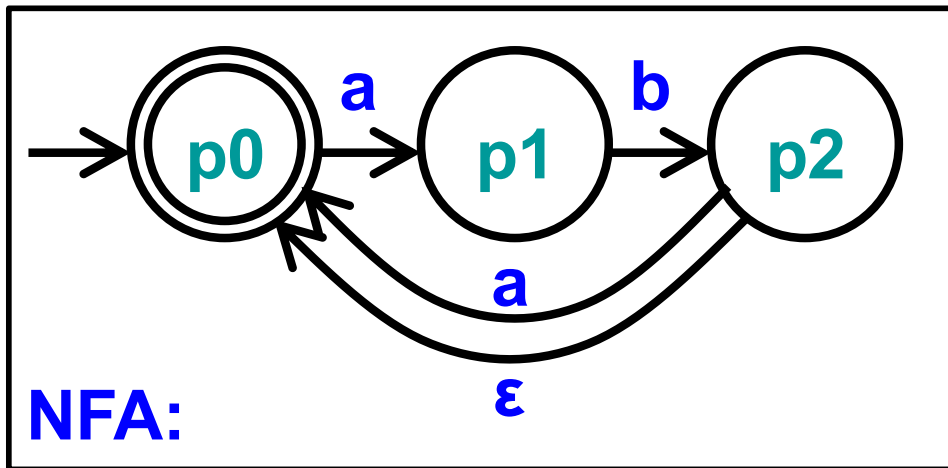
## Quiz 4: Which DFA is equiv to this NFA?



**D.** None of the above

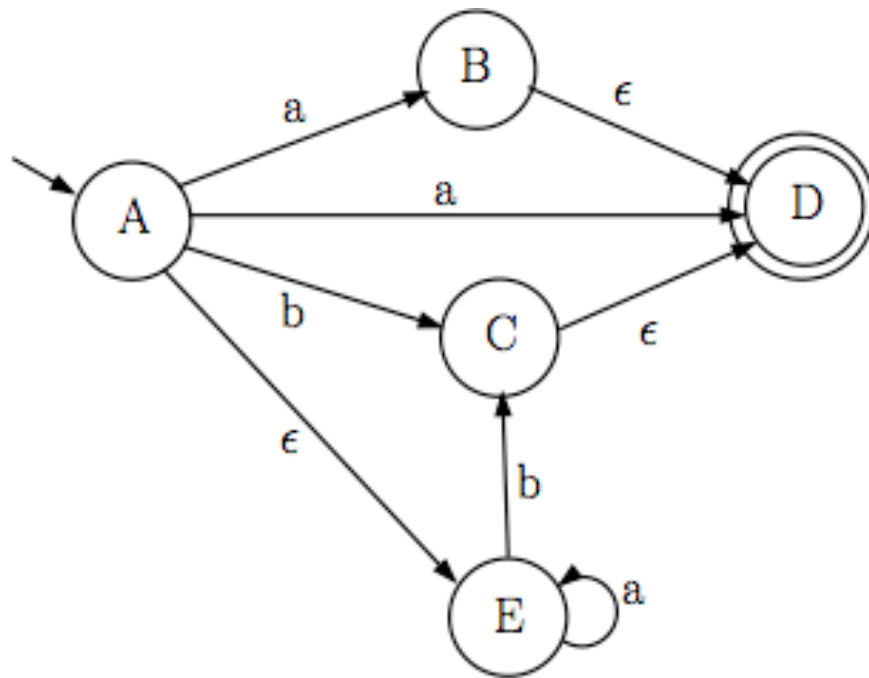
# Actual Answer

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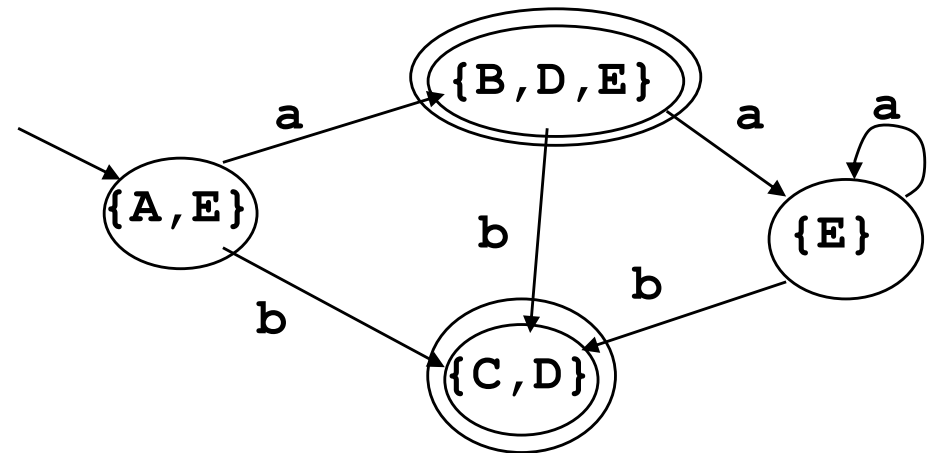


# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example 3

## ► NFA



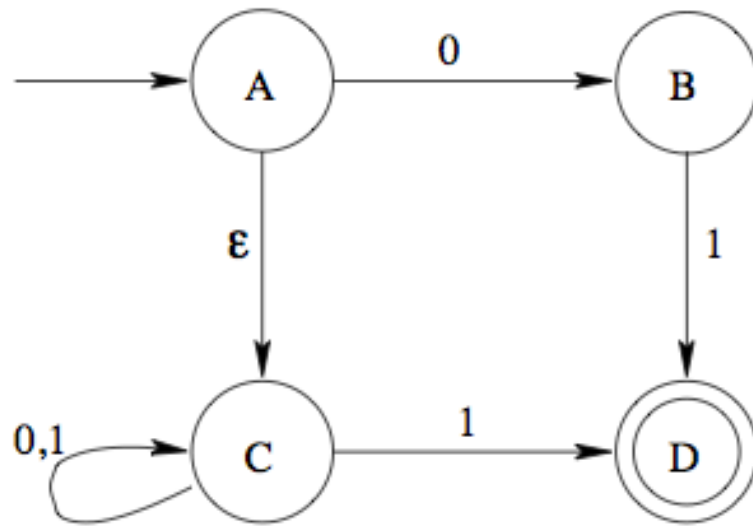
## ► DFA



$$R = \{ \boxed{\{A, E\}}, \boxed{\{B, D, E\}}, \boxed{\{C, D\}}, \boxed{\{E\}} \}$$

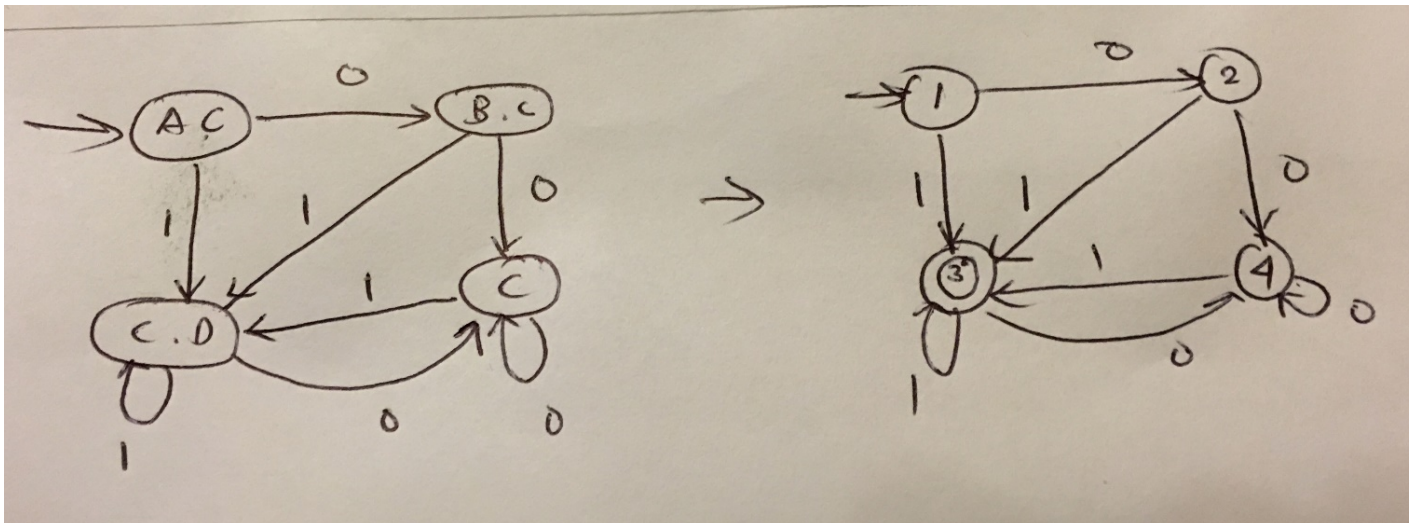
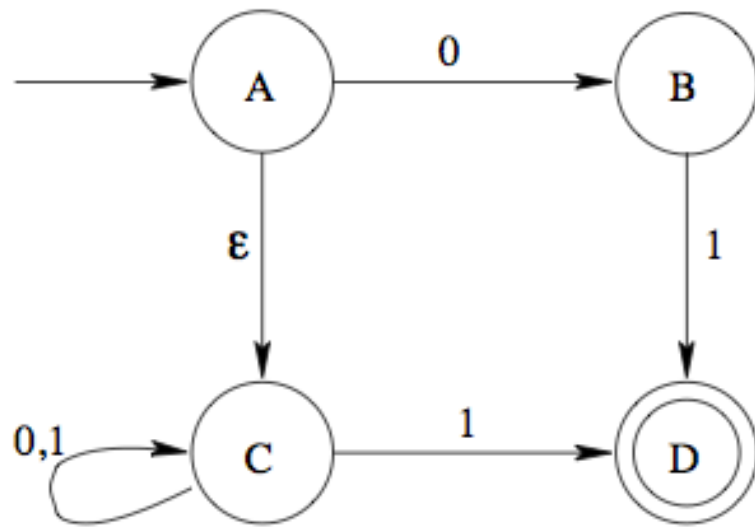
# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example

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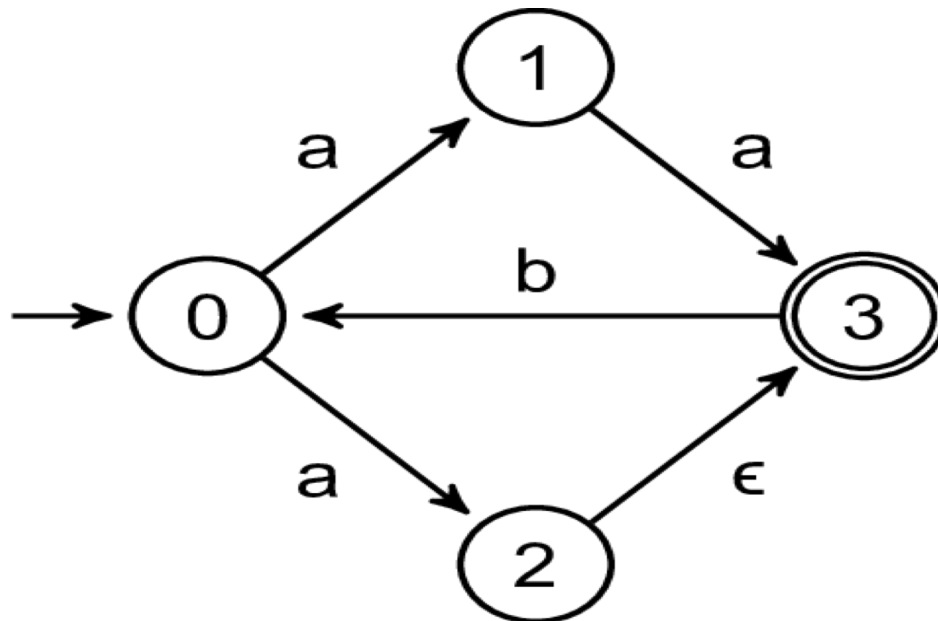
# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Example

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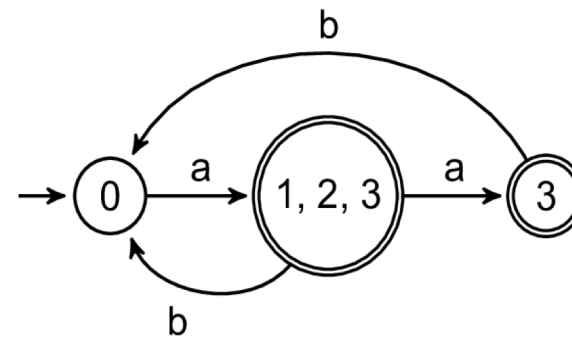
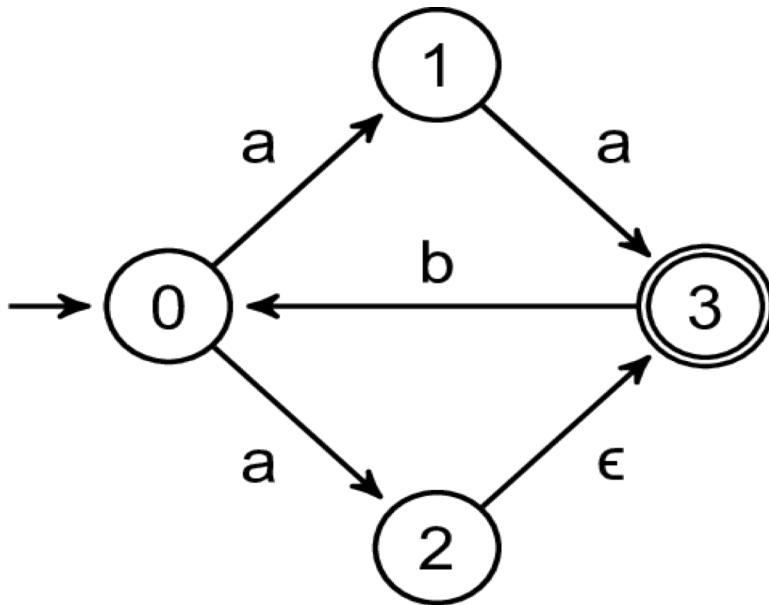
# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Practice

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# NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA Practice

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# Subset Algorithm as a Fixed Point

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► Input: NFA  $(\Sigma, Q, q_0, F, \delta)$

► Output: DFA  $M'$

► Algorithm

Let  $q_0' = \varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, q_0)$

Let  $F' = \{q_0'\}$  if  $q_0' \cap F \neq \emptyset$ , or  $\emptyset$  otherwise

Let  $M' = (\Sigma, \{q_0'\}, q_0', F', \emptyset)$  // starting approximation of DFA

Repeat

Let  $M = M'$  // current DFA approx

For each  $q \in \text{states}(M)$ ,  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  // for each DFA state  $q$  and symb  $\sigma$

Let  $s = \varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, \text{move}(\delta, q, \sigma))$  // new subset from  $q$

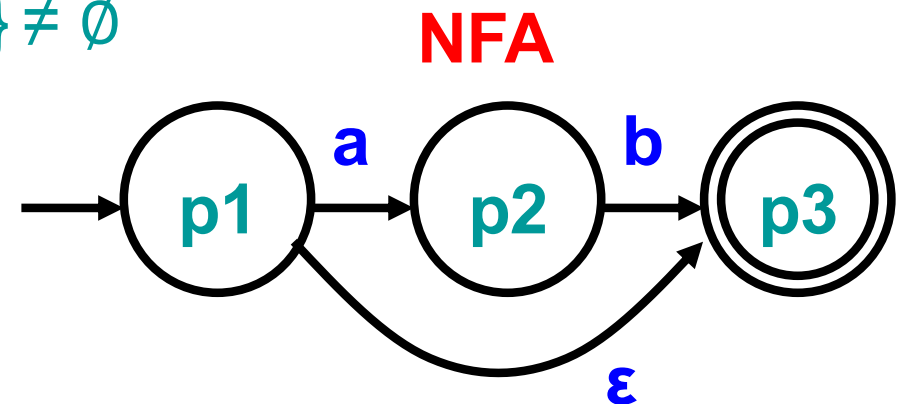
Let  $F' = \{s\}$  if  $s \cap F \neq \emptyset$ , or  $\emptyset$  otherwise, // subset contains final?

$M' = M' \cup (\emptyset, \{s\}, \emptyset, F', \{(q, \sigma, s)\})$  // update DFA

Until  $M' = M$  // reached fixed point

# Redux: NFA to DFA Example 1

- $q_0' = \varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, p1) = \{p1, p3\}$
- $F' = \{\{p1, p3\}\}$  since  $\{p1, p3\} \cap \{p3\} \neq \emptyset$



- $M' = \{ \Sigma, \underbrace{\{\{p1, p3\}\}}_{Q'}, \underbrace{\{p1, p3\}}_{q_0'}, \underbrace{\{\{p1, p3\}\}}_{F'}, \underbrace{\emptyset}_{\delta'} \}$

# Redux: NFA to DFA Example 1 (cont)

- $M' = \{ \Sigma, \{\{p1,p3\}\}, \{p1,p3\}, \{\{p1,p3\}\}, \emptyset \}$

- $q = \{p1, p3\}$

- $a = a$

- $s = \{p2\}$

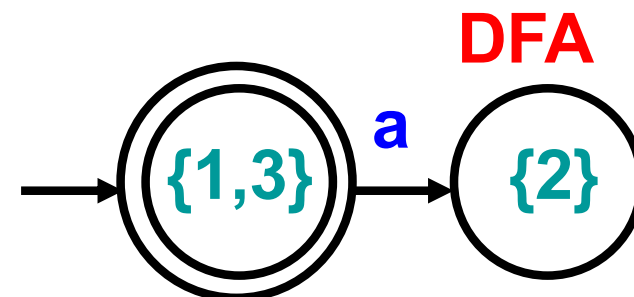
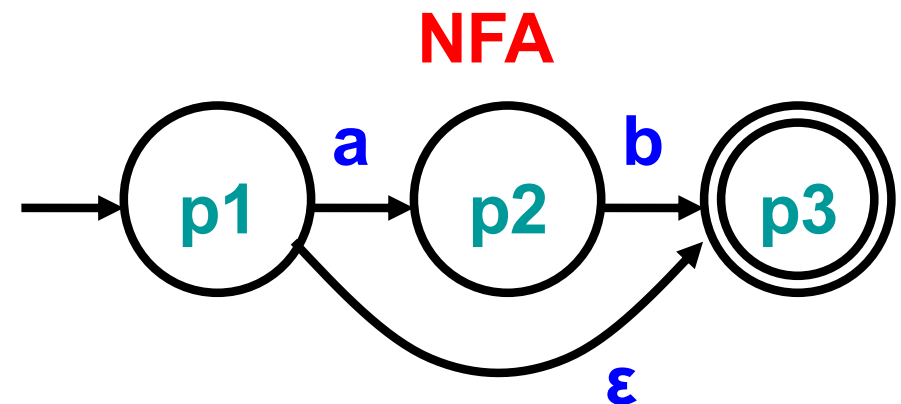
- since  $\text{move}(\delta, \{p1, p3\}, a) = \{p2\}$

- and  $\varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, \{p2\}) = \{p2\}$

- $F' = \emptyset$

- Since  $\{p2\} \cap \{p3\} = \emptyset$

- where  $s = \{p2\}$  and  $F = \{p3\}$

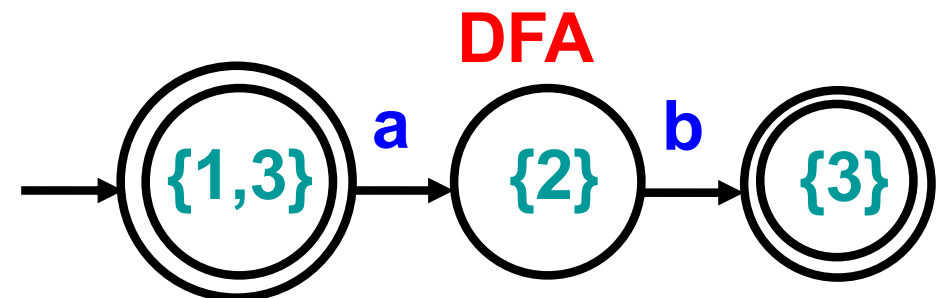
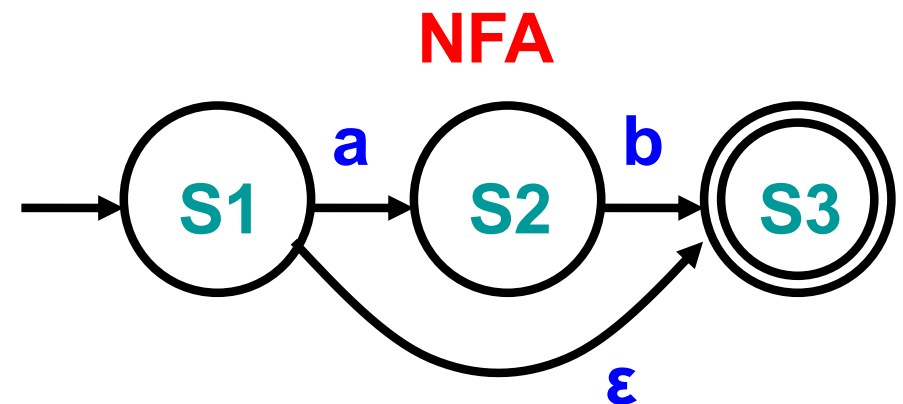


- $M' = M' \cup ( \emptyset, \{\{p2\}\}, \emptyset, \emptyset, \{(\{p1,p3\}, a, \{p2\})\} )$

- $= \{ \Sigma, \underbrace{\{\{p1,p3\}, \{p2\}\}}_{Q'}, \underbrace{\{p1,p3\}}_{q_0'}, \underbrace{\{\{p1,p3\}\}}_{F'}, \underbrace{\{(\{p1,p3\}, a, \{p2\})\}}_{\delta'} \}$

# Redux: NFA to DFA Example 1 (cont)

- $M' = \{ \Sigma, \{\{S1,S3\},\{S2\}\}, \{S1,S3\}, \{\{S1,S3\}\}, \{(\{S1,S3\},a,\{S2\})\} \}$ 
  - $q = \{S2\}$
  - $a = b$
  - $s = \{S3\}$ 
    - since  $\text{move}(\delta, \{S2\}, b) = \{S3\}$
    - and  $\varepsilon\text{-closure}(\delta, \{S3\}) = \{S3\}$
  - $F' = \{\{S3\}\}$ 
    - Since  $\{S3\} \cap \{S3\} = \{S3\}$
    - where  $s = \{S3\}$  and  $F = \{S3\}$



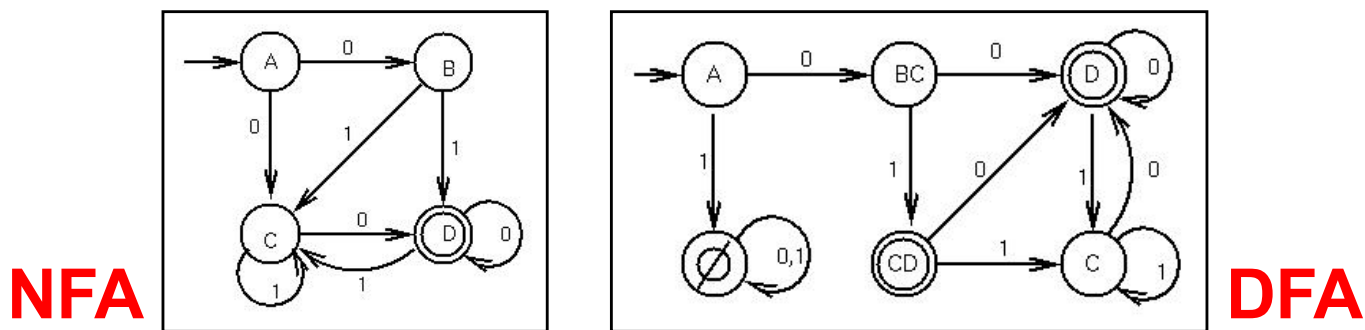
- $M' = M' \cup$

(  $\emptyset, \{\{S3\}\}, \emptyset, \{\{S3\}\}, \{(\{S2\}, b, \{S3\})\} \}$  )

$= \{ \Sigma, \underbrace{\{\{S1,S3\},\{S2\},\{S3\}\}}_{Q'}, \underbrace{\{S1,S3\}}_{q_0'}, \underbrace{\{\{S1,S3\},\{S3\}\}}_{F'}, \underbrace{\{(\{S1,S3\},a,\{S2\}), (\{S2\},b,\{S3\})\}}_{\delta'} \}$

# Analyzing the Reduction

- ▶ Can reduce any NFA to a DFA using subset alg.
- ▶ How many states in the DFA?
  - Each DFA state is a subset of the set of NFA states
  - Given NFA with  $n$  states, DFA may have  $2^n$  states
    - Since a set with  $n$  items may have  $2^n$  subsets
  - Corollary
    - Reducing a NFA with  $n$  states may be  $O(2^n)$



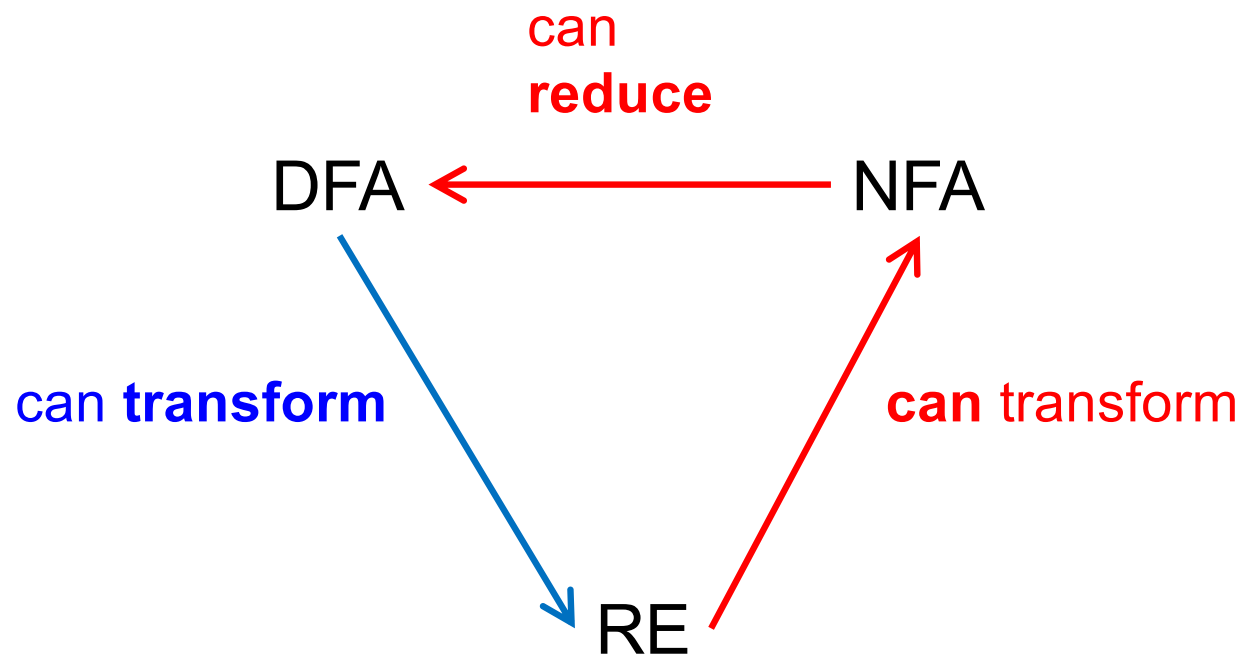
# Recap: Matching a Regex $R$

---

- ▶ Given  $R$ , construct NFA. Takes time  $O(R)$
- ▶ Convert NFA to DFA. Takes time  $O(2^{|R|})$ 
  - But usually not the worst case in practice
- ▶ Use DFA to accept/reject string  $s$ 
  - Assume we can compute  $\delta(q, \sigma)$  in constant time
  - Then time to process  $s$  is  $O(|s|)$ 
    - Can't get much faster!
- ▶ Constructing the DFA is a one-time cost
  - But then processing strings is fast

# Closing the Loop: Reducing DFA to RE

---

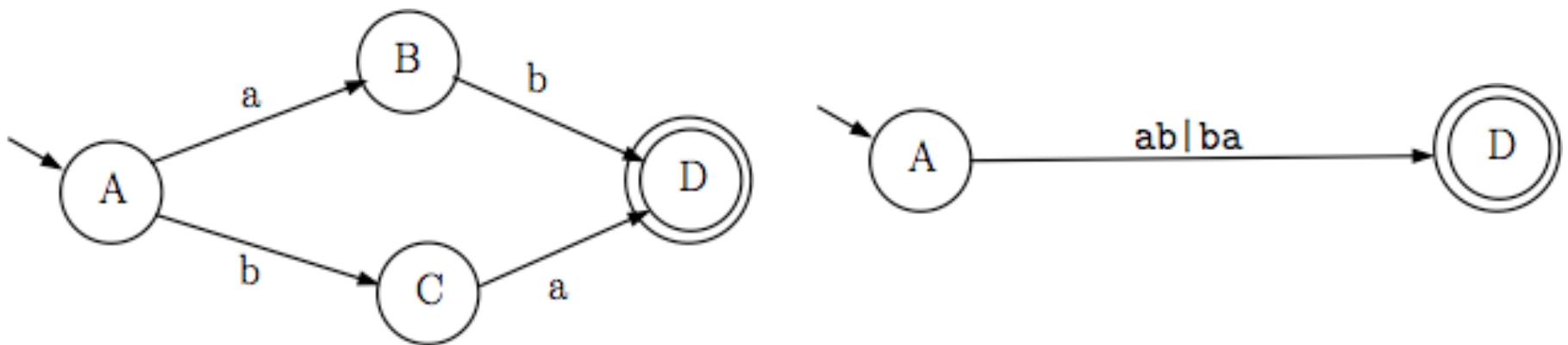


# Reducing DFAs to REs

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## ► General idea

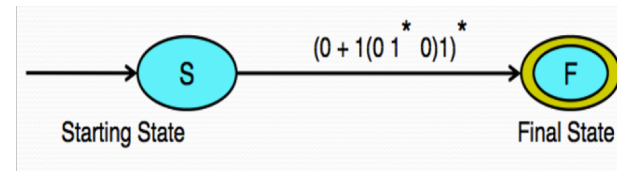
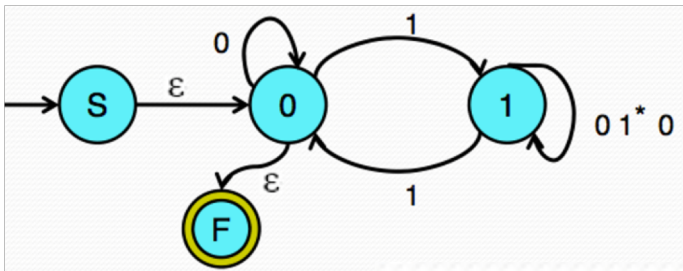
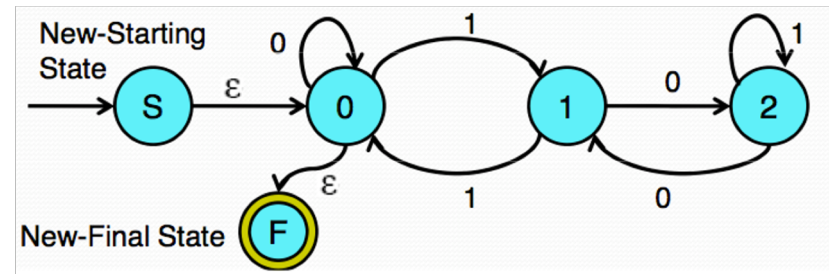
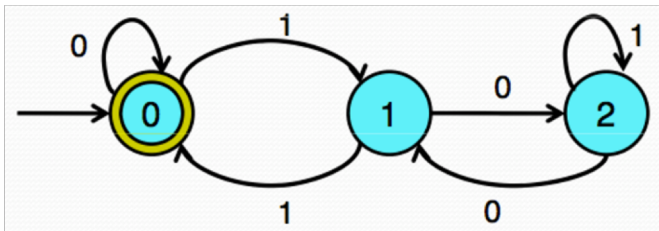
- Remove states one by one, labeling transitions with regular expressions
- When two states are left (start and final), the transition label is the regular expression for the DFA





# DFA to RE example

Language over  $\Sigma = \{0,1\}$  such that every string is a multiple of 3 in binary



$$(0 + 1(0 1^* 0)1)^*$$

# Other Topics

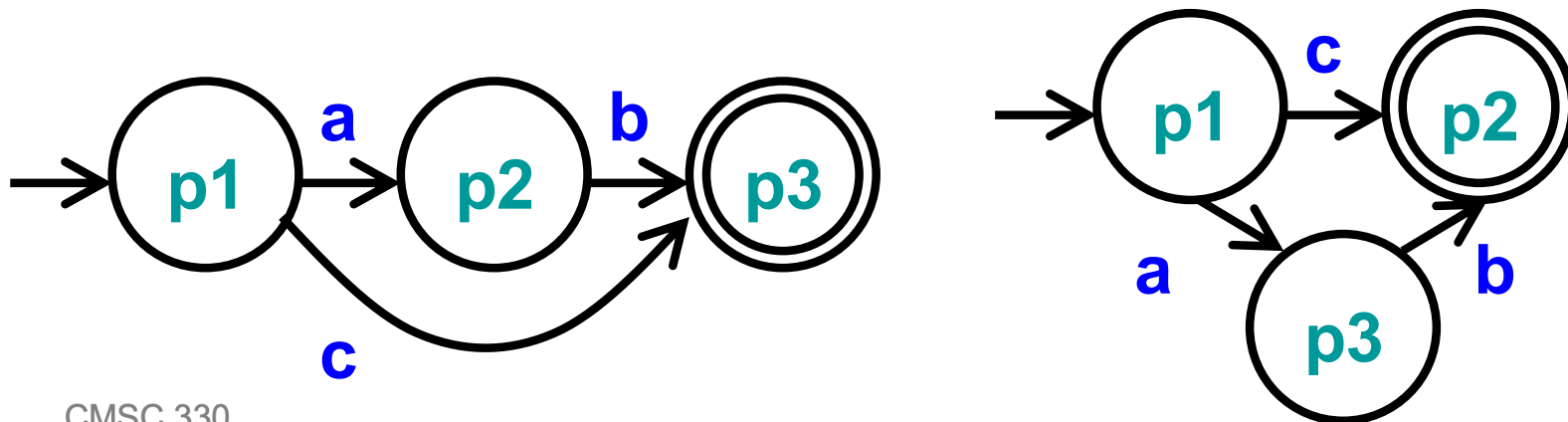
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- ▶ Minimizing DFA
  - Hopcroft reduction
- ▶ Complementing DFA

# Minimizing DFAs

---

- ▶ Every regular language is recognizable by a **unique** minimum-state DFA
  - Ignoring the particular names of states
- ▶ In other words
  - For every DFA, there is a unique DFA with minimum number of states that accepts the same language



# Minimizing DFA: Hopcroft Reduction

---

## ► Intuition

- Look to distinguish states from each other
  - End up in different accept / non-accept state with identical input

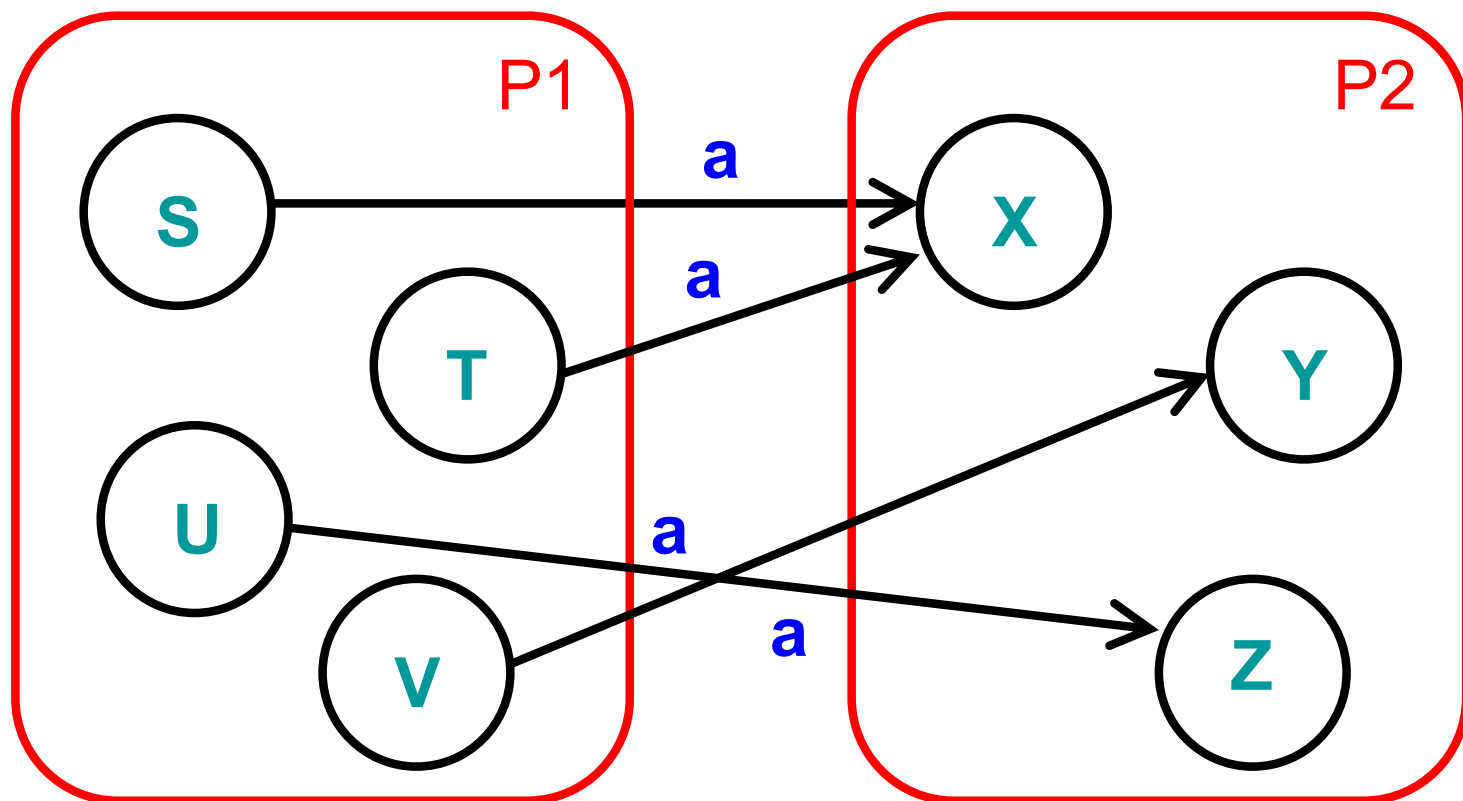
## ► Algorithm

- Construct initial partition
  - Accepting & non-accepting states
- Iteratively split partitions (until partitions remain fixed)
  - Split a partition if **members in partition have transitions to different partitions for same input**
    - Two states  $x, y$  belong in same partition if and only if for all symbols in  $\Sigma$  they transition to the same partition
- Update transitions & remove dead states

# Splitting Partitions

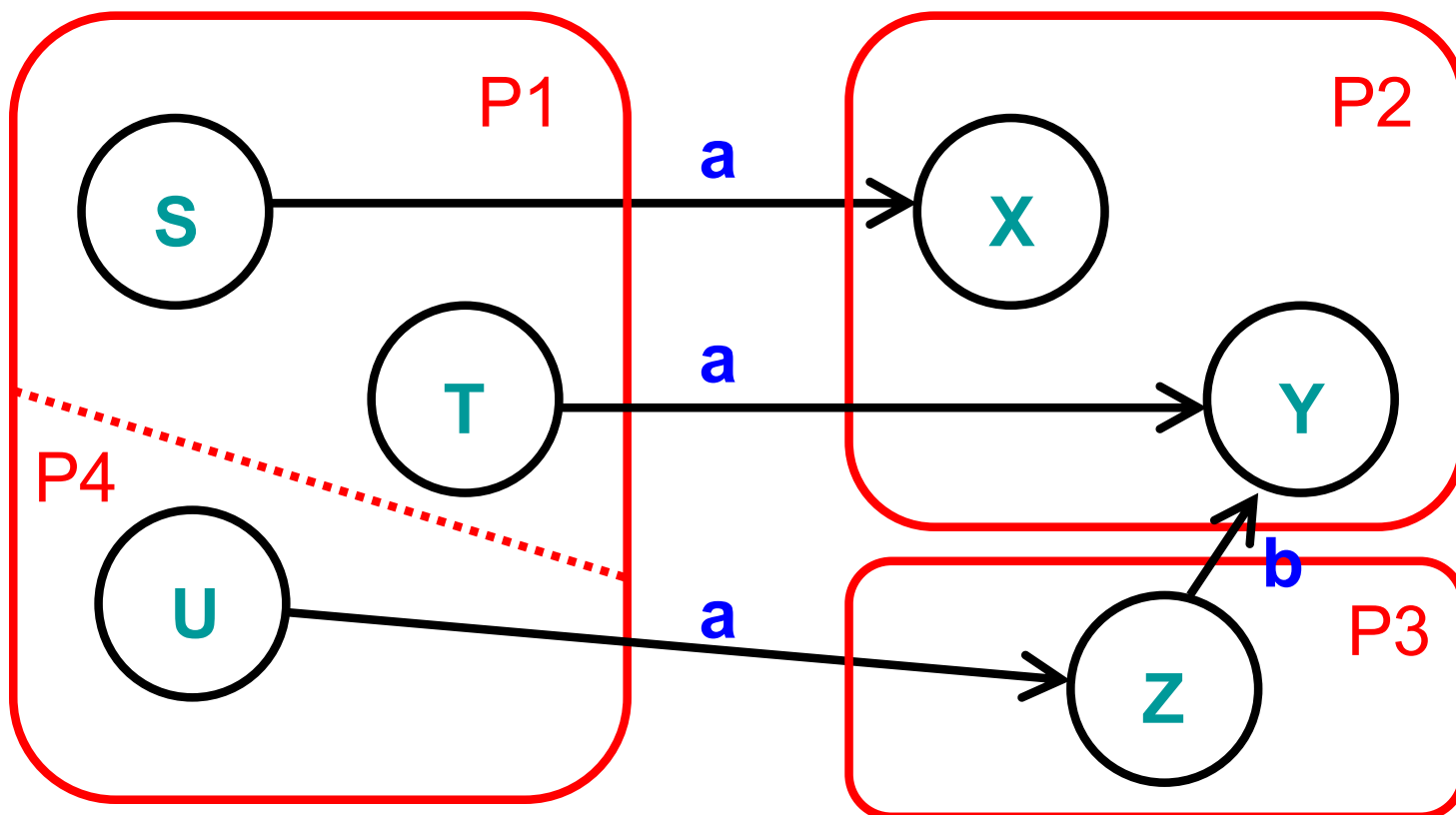
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- ▶ No need to split partition  $\{S, T, U, V\}$ 
  - All transitions on **a** lead to identical partition **P2**
  - Even though transitions on **a** lead to different states



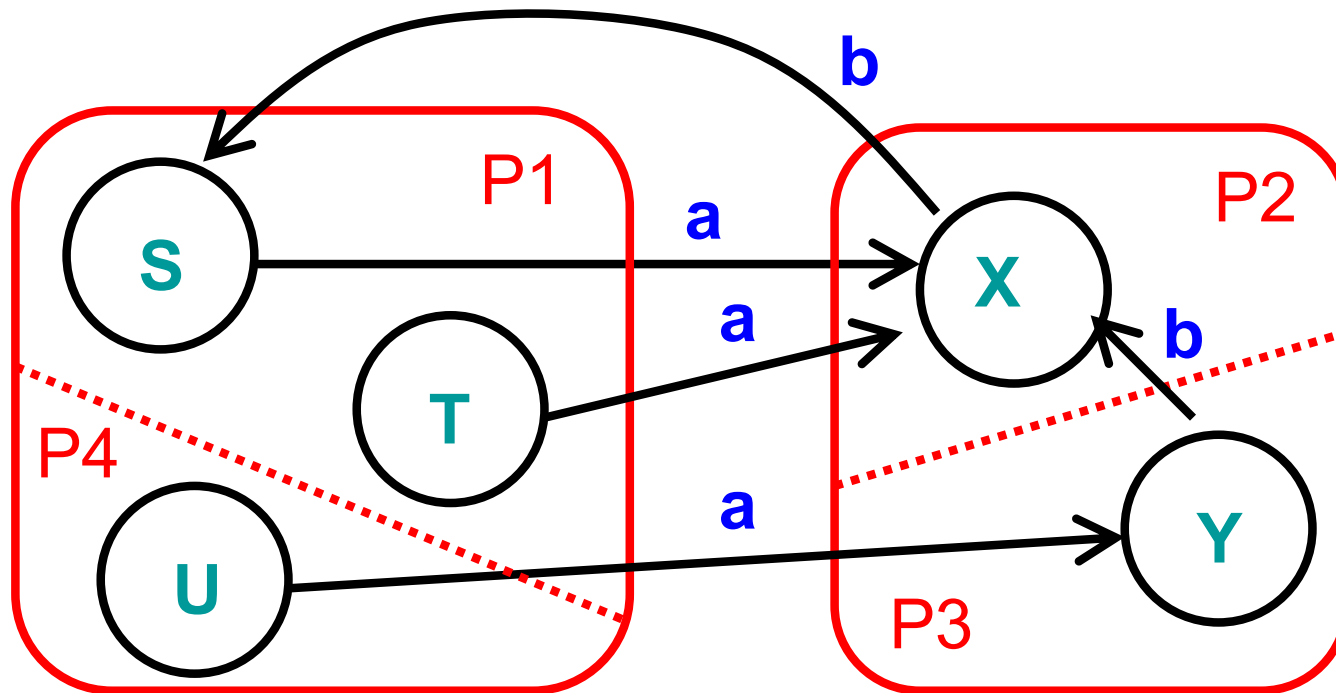
# Splitting Partitions (cont.)

- Need to split partition  $\{S, T, U\}$  into  $\{S, T\}$ ,  $\{U\}$ 
  - Transitions on  $a$  from  $S, T$  lead to partition  $P2$
  - Transition on  $a$  from  $U$  lead to partition  $P3$



# Resplitting Partitions

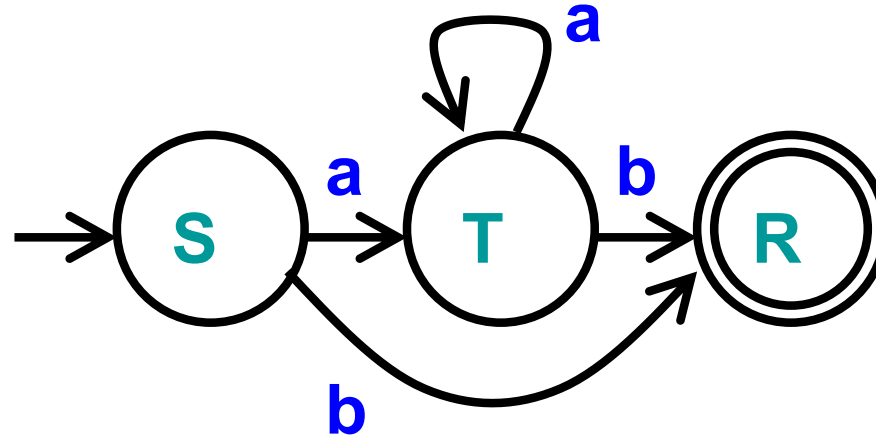
- Need to reexamine partitions after splits
  - Initially no need to split partition  $\{S, T, U\}$
  - After splitting partition  $\{X, Y\}$  into  $\{X\}$ ,  $\{Y\}$  we need to split partition  $\{S, T, U\}$  into  $\{S, T\}$ ,  $\{U\}$



# Minimizing DFA: Example 1

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- ▶ DFA



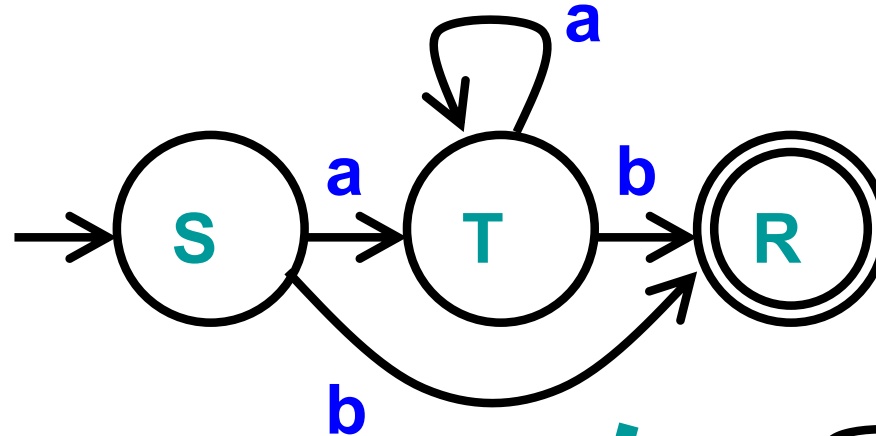
- ▶ Initial partitions

- ▶ Split partition



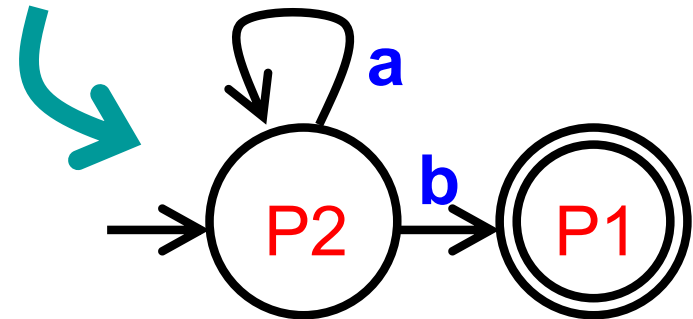
# Minimizing DFA: Example 1

## ► DFA



## ► Initial partitions

- Accept  $\{ R \}$  = P1
- Reject  $\{ S, T \}$  = P2

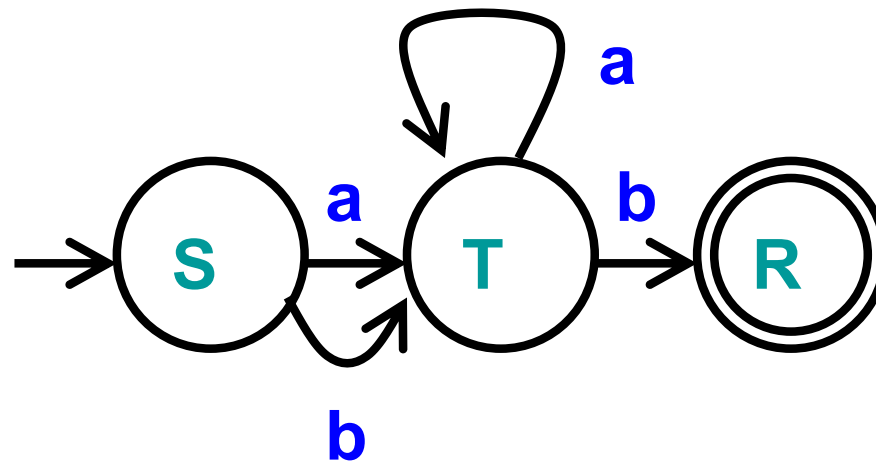


## ► Split partition? → Not required, minimization done

- $\text{move}(S, a) = T \in P2$
- $\text{move}(T, a) = T \in P2$
- $\text{move}(S, b) = R \in P1$
- $\text{move}(T, b) = R \in P1$

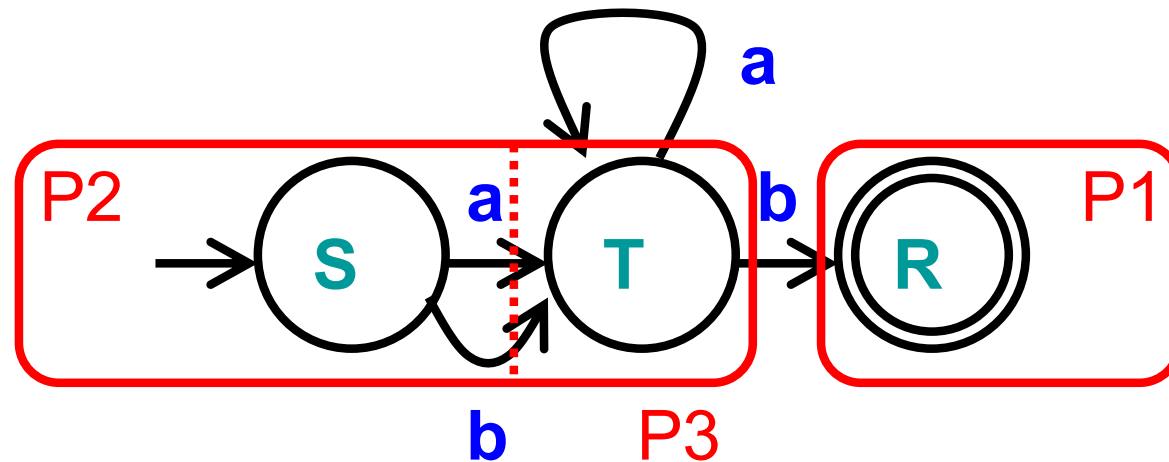
# Minimizing DFA: Example 2

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# Minimizing DFA: Example 2

## ► DFA



## ► Initial partitions

- Accept  $\{ R \}$  = P1
- Reject  $\{ S, T \}$  = P2

DFA  
already  
minimal

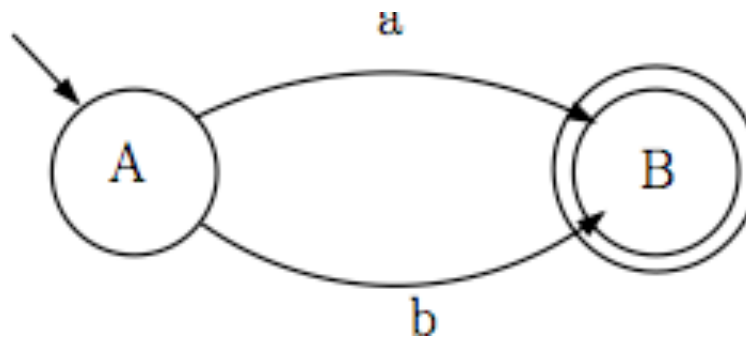
## ► Split partition? → Yes, different partitions for B

- $\text{move}(S, a) = T \in P2$
- $\text{move}(T, a) = T \in P2$
- $\text{move}(S, b) = T \in P2$
- $\text{move}(T, b) = R \in P1$

# Complement of DFA

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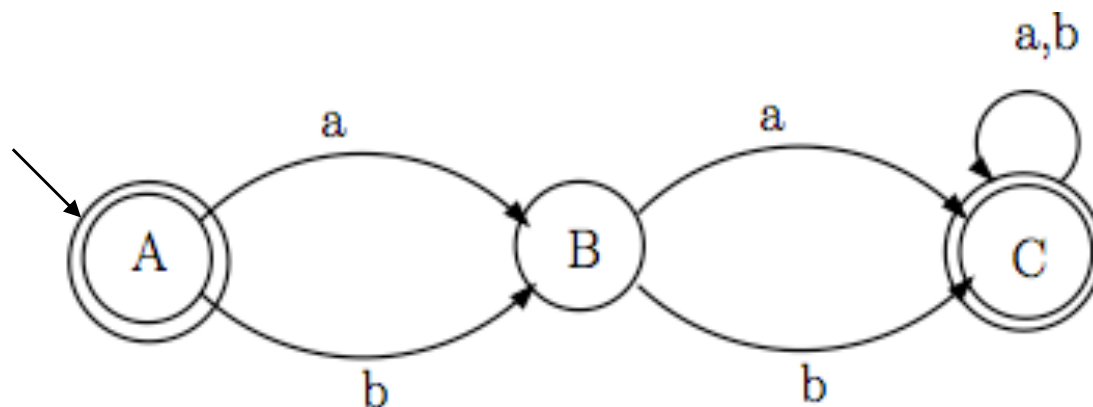
- ▶ Given a DFA accepting language L
  - How can we create a DFA accepting its complement?
  - Example DFA
    - $\Sigma = \{a,b\}$



# Complement of DFA

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- ▶ Algorithm
  - Add explicit transitions to a dead state
  - Change every accepting state to a non-accepting state & every non-accepting state to an accepting state
- ▶ Note this **only** works with DFAs
  - Why not with NFAs?



# Summary of Regular Expression Theory

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- ▶ Finite automata
  - DFA, NFA
- ▶ Equivalence of RE, NFA, DFA
  - RE  $\rightarrow$  NFA
    - Concatenation, union, closure
  - NFA  $\rightarrow$  DFA
    - $\epsilon$ -closure & subset algorithm
- ▶ DFA
  - Minimization, complementation