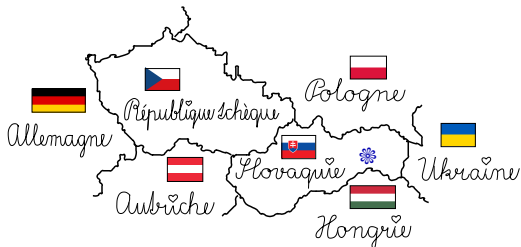


On the Descriptive Complexity of $\overline{\Sigma^* \overline{L}}$

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Joint work with Michal Hospodár and Peter Mlynárčik

DLT 2017, Liège, Belgium

Outline

- 1 Basic notions:
DFA, NFA, AFA
- 2 Forever operator
 $L \rightarrow b(L) = \overline{\Sigma^* L}$
- 3 Birget's results
- 4 Our improvements
and new results
- 5 Open problems

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Finite automata:

deterministic, nondeterministic, alternating

$$A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$$

- Q is a non-empty finite set of **states**
- Σ is an input **alphabet**
- $s \in Q$ is the **starting** state
- $F \subseteq Q$ is the set of **final** states
- δ is the **transition function** from $Q \times \Sigma$ to
 - a single state in DFA
 - a union of states in NFA
 - a boolean function of states in AFA

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Example

DFA: δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_2	q_2
$\odot q_2$	q_2	q_1

NFA: δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_2	$q_1 \vee q_2$
$\odot q_2$	q_1	q_1

AFA: δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_2	$q_1 \wedge \overline{q_2}$
$\odot q_2$	q_1	$\overline{q_1}$

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DFA: δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_2	q_2
$\odot q_2$	q_2	q_1

$\delta(q_1, ba) =$
 $\delta(q_2, a) = q_2$
 • final state

NFA: δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_2	$q_1 \vee q_2$
$\odot q_2$	q_1	q_1

$\delta(q_1, ba) =$
 $\delta(q_1 \vee q_2, a) = q_2 \vee q_1$
 • contains final state

AFA: δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_2	$q_1 \wedge \overline{q_2}$
$\odot q_2$	q_1	$\overline{q_1}$

$\delta(q_1, ba) =$
 $\delta(q_1 \wedge \overline{q_2}, a) = q_2 \wedge \overline{q_1}$
 • evaluate
 at finality vector
 $f = (0, 1)$
 • gives 1; accepts ba

On the Descriptive Complexity of $\overline{\Sigma^* L}$

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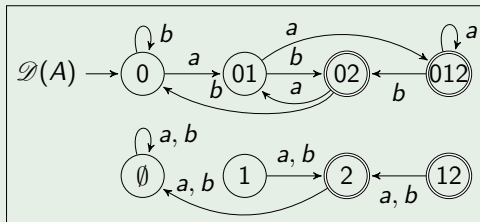
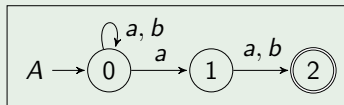
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Subset automaton of an NFA $A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$

is the DFA

$$\mathcal{D}(A) = (2^Q, \Sigma, \delta, \{s\}, \{S \in 2^Q \mid S \cap F \neq \emptyset\})$$

Example ("ab-automaton"; $n = 3$)



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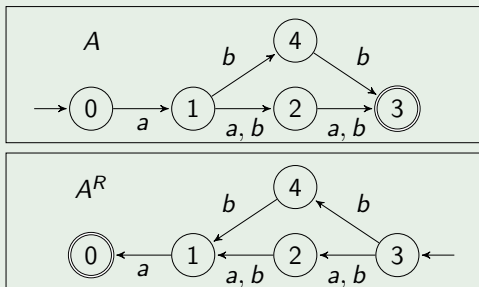
The reverse of an NFA $A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$

is the NFA

$$A^R = (Q, \Sigma, \delta^R, F, \{s\})$$

where $(p, a, q) \in \delta^R$ iff $(q, a, p) \in \delta$

Example (Reverse of NFA)



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A general formulation of the problem:

Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR
Tom 194 (1970), No. 6

Soviet Math. Dokl.
Vol. 11 (1970), No. 5

ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF STATES OF FINITE AUTOMATA

519.95

A. N. MASLOV

A general formulation of the problem is as follows: We have events $T(A_i)$ ($1 \leq i \leq k$) representable in automata A_i with n_i states, respectively, and a k -place operation f on events, preserving representability in finite automata. What is the maximal number of states of a minimal automaton representing $f(T(A_1), \dots, T(A_k))$, for the given n_i ?

We have languages L_i ($1 \leq i \leq k$) represented by automata A_i with n_i states, resp., and a k -ary regular operation f .

What is the maximal number of states of a minimal automaton representing $f(L_1, \dots, L_k)$, for the given n_i ?

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What is the maximal number of states of a minimal automaton representing $f(L_1, \dots, L_k)$, for the given n_i ?

In this paper:

- $k = 1$
- $f(L) = \overline{\Sigma^* \overline{L}}$
- automaton for L in {DFA, NFA, AFA}
- automaton for $\overline{\Sigma^* \overline{L}}$ in {DFA, NFA, AFA}

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Motivation and history I

- **J. C. Birget (1996): The state complexity of $\overline{\Sigma^* \overline{L}}$ and its connection with temporal logic**
- combined operation with complementation
 - operational state complexity
(Maslov 1970, Yu, Zhuang, Salomaa 1994)
 - combined operations
(A. Salomaa, K. Salomaa, Yu 2007)
 - ...
 - star-complement-star
(Jiraskova, Shallit 2012: $2^{\Theta(n \log n)}$)
 - boundary, i.e. $L^* \cap (L^c)^*$
(Jiraskova, Jirasek 2013: $\Theta(4^n)$)

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Question by Jean-Éric Pin

- If NFA (DFA) for L has n states,
how many states has NFA (DFA) for $\overline{\Sigma^* \bar{L}}$?

Restricted Temporal Logic (Cohen, Perrin, Pin)

- models of φ = a regular language $L(\varphi)$
- temporal operators:
 - = “next”
 - ◇ = “eventually”
- combined operator: □ (“forever”)
□ = $- \diamond -$ (“not eventually not”)

$$\begin{aligned} L(\bar{\varphi}) &= \overline{L(\varphi)} & \Rightarrow & & L(\square\varphi) &= \overline{L(\diamond\bar{\varphi})} \\ L(\diamond\varphi) &= \Sigma^* L(\varphi) & & & &= \overline{\Sigma^* \bar{L}(\varphi)} \end{aligned}$$

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Properties of the forever operator

- $b(L) \subseteq L$
- $b(L) = \{w \in L \mid \text{every suffix of } w \text{ is in } L\}$
- if L is **suffix-closed**, then $b(L) = L$
- if $\varepsilon \notin L$, then $b(L) = \emptyset$

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Birget's results:

- Upper bounds:
 - L accepted by an n -state DFA
 $\Rightarrow b(L)$ accepted by a 2^{n-1} -state DFA
 - L accepted by an n -state NFA
 $\Rightarrow b(L)$ accepted by a $2^{n+1} + 1$ -state NFA
- Lower bounds:
 - there is L acc. by ternary n -state DFA s.t.
every NFA for $b(L)$ has at least 2^{n-1} states

$L \setminus b(L)$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA
DFA	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	
NFA			$\geq 2^{n-1}$ $\leq 2^{n+1} + 1$	3	
AFA					$\leq n + 1$

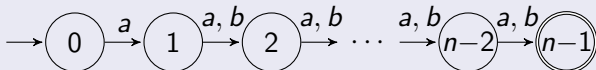
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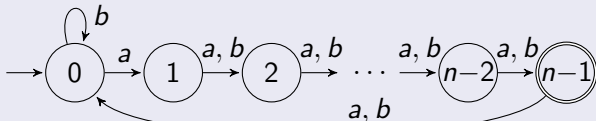
DFA-to-DFA; lower bound = 2^{n-1} with $|\Sigma| = 2$

- **Birget's claim:** $L^c = a(a+b)^{n-2}$



However, complete DFA has $n + 1$ states.

- **Our modification:** $L^c =$



- **Unary case:** n

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Birget's results:

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Our improvements and new results

$L \setminus b(L)$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA
DFA	2^{n-1}	2			
NFA					
AFA					

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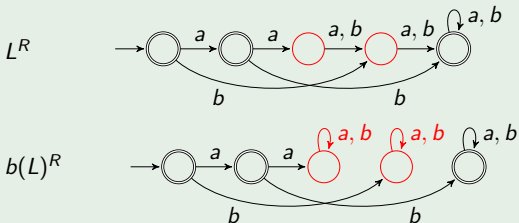
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Reverse of the forever operator:

$$b(L)^R = \overline{\overline{L^R \Sigma^*}}$$

- L^R is accepted by DFA A
 $\Rightarrow b(L)^R$ is accepted by DFA obtained from A
by replacing every **non-final** state
with the **non-final sink** state

Example



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Leiss 1981, FJY 1990

L has n -state AFA
if and only if

L^R has 2^n -state DFA
with 2^{n-1} final states

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by replacing every **non-final** state
with the **non-final sink** state

AFA-to-AFA: upper bound = n

- L has n -state AFA
 $\Rightarrow L^R$ has 2^n -state DFA with 2^{n-1} final states
 $\Rightarrow b(L)^R$ has 2^n -state DFA with 2^{n-1} final st.
 $\Rightarrow b(L)$ has n -state AFA

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Our improvements and new results

$L \setminus b(L)$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA
DFA	2^{n-1}	2			$\leq n$
NFA			$\leq 2^n + 1$		$\leq n$
AFA					$\leq n$

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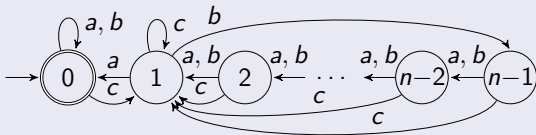
Leiss 1981, FJY 1990

L has n -state AFA

if and only if

L^R has 2^n -state DFA
with 2^{n-1} final states

DFA-to-AFA: lower bound = n with $|\Sigma| = 3$



- L is suffix-closed $\Rightarrow b(L) = L$
- minimal DFA for L^R has $2^{n-1} + 1$ states
 \Rightarrow every AFA for L has $\geq n$ states

AFA-to-AFA: lower bound = n with $|\Sigma| = 1$

$$L = \{a^i \mid 0 \leq i \leq 2^{n-1} - 1\}$$

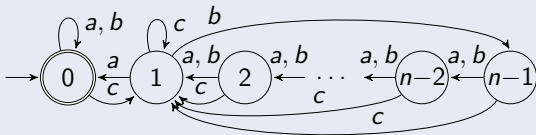
- accepted by DFA of 2^n states; 2^{n-1} final
 \Rightarrow accepted by n -state AFA; ...

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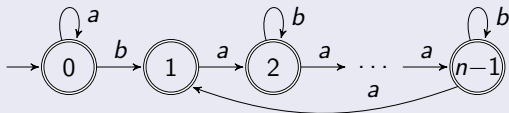
Leiss 1981, FJY 1990

L has n -state AFA

if and only if

L^R has 2^n -state DFA
with 2^{n-1} final states

NFA-to-AFA: lower bound = n with $|\Sigma| = 2$



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Birget's results:

$L \setminus b(L)$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA
DFA	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	
NFA			$\geq 2^{n-1}$ $\leq 2^{n+1} + 1$	3	
AFA					$\leq n + 1$

Our improvements and new results

$L \setminus b(L)$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	AFA	$ \Sigma $
DFA	2^{n-1}	2		n	3
NFA			$\leq 2^n + 1$	n	2
AFA				n	1

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$$b(L)^R = \overline{\overline{L^R \Sigma^*}}$$

NFA-to-NFA: upper bound = 2^{n-1}

- L n -state NFA (one initial)
 - $\Rightarrow L^R$ n -state NFA (one final)
 - $\Rightarrow \overline{L^R}$ 2^n -state DFA (2^{n-1} final)
 - $\Rightarrow \overline{\overline{L^R}}$ 2^n -state DFA (2^{n-1} final)
 - $\Rightarrow \overline{\overline{L^R \Sigma^*}}$ $2^{n-1}+1$ -state DFA (one final sink)
 - $\Rightarrow \overline{\overline{L^R \Sigma^*}}$ 2^{n-1} -state partial DFA D (all final)
 - $\Rightarrow b(L)$ $2^{n-1}+1$ -state NFA
- show that $L(D)$ is accepted
by a 2^{n-1} -state NFA with one final state

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Dedekind number $M(n) =$

- the number of antichains of subsets of an n -element set

Example

n	$M(n)$
0	2
1	3
2	6
3	20
4	168
5	7 581
6	7 828 354
7	2 414 682 040 998
8	56 130 437 228 687 557 907 788

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Dedekind number $M(n) =$

- the number of antichains of subsets
of an n -element set

$$2^{2^{n-\log n}} \leq M(n) \leq 2^{2^{n-\frac{\log n}{3}}}$$

NFA-to-DFA: tight upper bound = $M(n-1)$

- upper bound: show that each set of sets is
equivalent to an antichain in DFA for $b(L)$
- tightness for $|\Sigma| = 2^{n+1}$
- conjecture: 6-letter alphabet should work

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Our improvements and new results

$L \setminus b(L)$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA	$ \Sigma $
DFA	2^{n-1}	2			n	3
NFA	$M(n-1)$	2^{n+1}	2^{n-1}	3	n	2
AFA					n	1

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Summary

$L \setminus \overline{\Sigma^* \overline{L}}$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	p-DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	NNFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA	$ \Sigma $	BFA
DFA	2^{n-1}	2	2^{n-1}	2	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	n	3	n 3
p-DFA	$2^{n-1}+1$	4	2^{n-1}	2	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	n	2	n 2
NFA	$M(n-1)$	2^{n+1}	$M(n-1)-1$	2^{n+1}	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	n	2	n 2
NNFA	$\geq M(n-1)$ $\leq M(n)$	2^{n+1}	$\geq M(n-1)-1$ $\leq M(n)-1$	2^{n+1}	$\geq 2^{n-1}$ $\leq 2^{n-1}$	3	$\geq 2^{n-1}$ $\leq 2^{n-2}$	3	$n+1$	2	n 2
AFA	$2^{2^{n-1}}$	2	$2^{2^{n-1}}-1$	2	$2^{n-1}+1$	2	2^{n-1}	1	n	1	n 1
BFA	2^{2^n-1}	2	$2^{2^n-1}-1$	2	2^n	2	2^{n-1}	1	$n+1$	1	n 1

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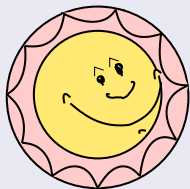
$L \setminus \overline{\Sigma^* \overline{L}}$	DFA	$ \Sigma $	p-DFA	$ \Sigma $	NFA	$ \Sigma $	NNFA	$ \Sigma $	AFA	$ \Sigma $	BFA	
DFA	2^{n-1}	2	2^{n-1}	2	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	n	3	n	3
p-DFA	$2^{n-1}+1$	4	2^{n-1}	2	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	n	2	n	2
NFA	$M(n-1)$	2^{n+1}	$M(n-1)-1$	2^{n+1}	2^{n-1}	3	2^{n-1}	3	n	2	n	2
NNFA	$\geq M(n-1)$	2^{n+1}	$\geq M(n-1)-1$	2^{n+1}	$\geq 2^{n-1}$	3	$\geq 2^{n-1}$	3	$n+1$	2	n	2
	$\leq M(n)$		$\leq M(n)-1$		$\leq 2^{n-1}$		$\leq 2^{n-2}$					
AFA	$2^{2^{n-1}}$	2	$2^{2^{n-1}-1}$	2	$2^{2^{n-1}+1}$	2	$2^{2^{n-1}}$	1	n	1	n	1
BFA	$2^{2^{n-1}}$	2	$2^{2^{n-1}-1}$	2	2^n	2	2^{n-1}	1	$n+1$	1	n	1

Open problems

- NNFA to {DFA, p-DFA, NFA, NNFA}: tightness
- smaller alphabets



Thank you for your attention



Merci beaucoup
pour votre attention

AFA for $L \rightarrow$ DFA for L^R

Theorem (Fellah, Jürgensen, Yu 1990)

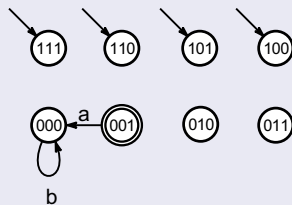
If L is accepted by an n -state AFA, then

L^R is accepted by a 2^n -state DFA of which 2^{n-1} are final.

Proof idea (AFA to NNFA; $n = 3$):

δ	a	b
$\rightarrow q_1$	q_3	q_1
q_2	$q_1 \vee q_2$	q_3
$\odot q_3$	$\overline{q_1}$	$q_1 \wedge \overline{q_2}$

\rightarrow



Initial: with first component 1

Final: $f = (0, 0, 1)$

Evaluate $(\delta(q_1, a), \delta(q_2, a), \delta(q_3, a))$ at $(0, 0, 0) \dots$ gives $(0, 0, 1)$

Evaluate $(\delta(q_1, b), \delta(q_2, b), \delta(q_3, b))$ at $(0, 0, 0) \dots$ gives $(0, 0, 0)$

The reverse of this NNFA is deterministic!



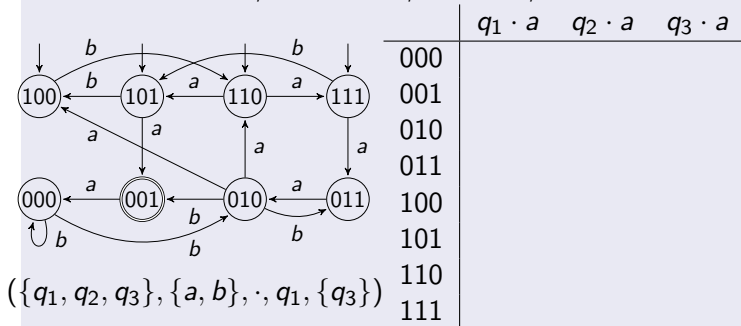
DFA for $L^R \rightarrow$ AFA for L

Theorem (Fellah, Jürgensen, Yu 1990, Jiraskova 2012)

If L^R is accepted by an 2^n -state DFA of which 2^{n-1} are final, then L is accepted by an n -state AFA.

Proof idea (NNFA to AFA; $n = 3$):

L : 2^n -state NNFA, 2^{n-1} initial, one final, rev. det.



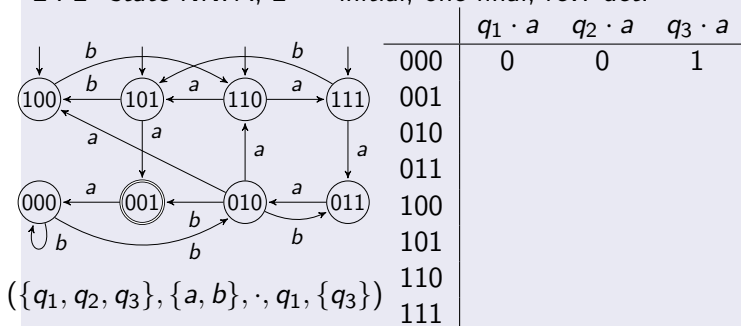
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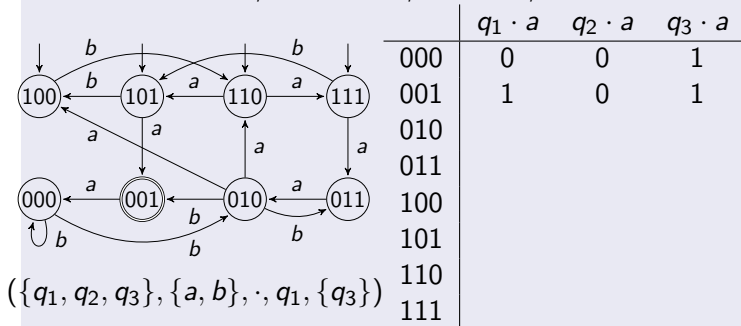
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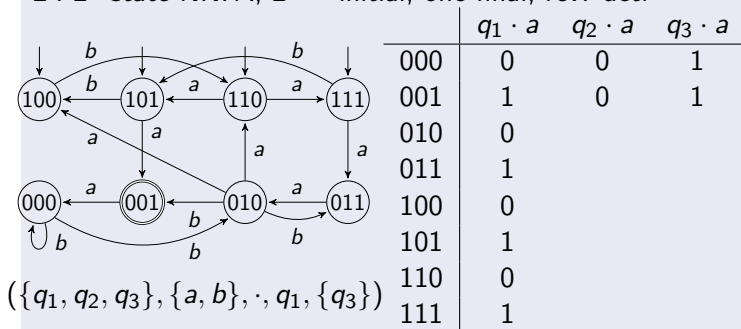
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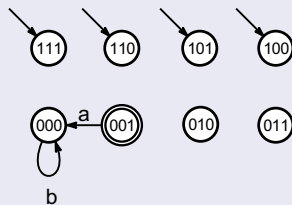
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