Computational Linguistics

Lecture 2 – Finite State Automata

Dietrich Klakow & Stefan Thater
FR 4.7 Allgemeine Linguistik (Computerlinguistik)
Universität des Saarlandes

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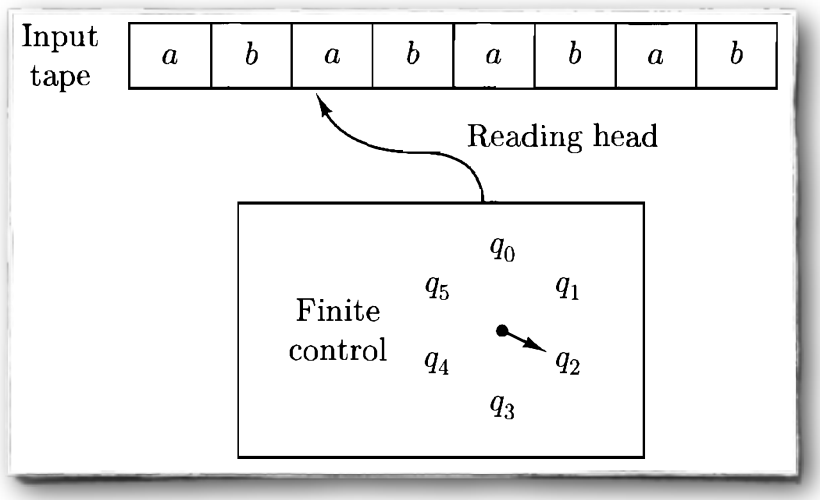
Some basic definitions

- **An alphabet Σ** is a finite set of symbols
- **A string over Σ** is a sequence of symbols from Σ
  - ε stands for the empty string
- **The length |w|** is the number of symbols in w
- **Σ^*** denotes this set of all strings over Σ
- **A (formal) language** is a subset of Σ^* for some alphabet Σ

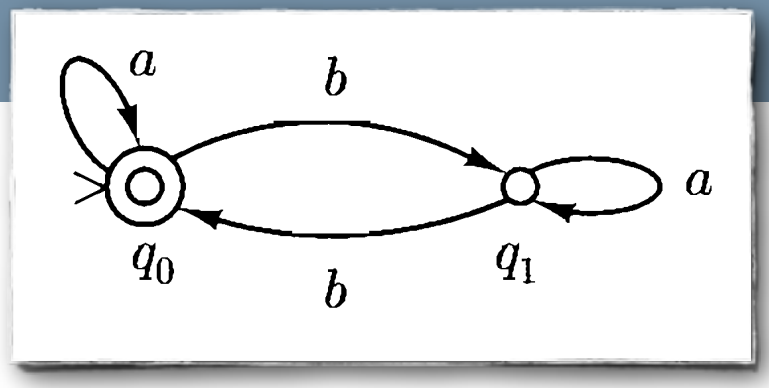
Deterministic Finite Automata

- **M = ⟨K, Σ, δ, s, F⟩**
  - K is a finite set of states
  - Σ is an input alphabet
  - δ is a transition function
  - s ∈ K is the start state
  - F ⊆ K is the set of final (accepting) states



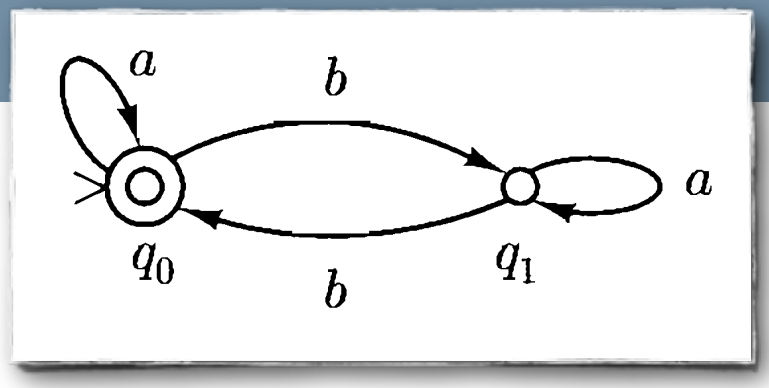
- **Transition function**
  - δ(q, a) = q’
  - when M is in state q and reads input a, it goes into state q’

Automata as Graphs



- Nodes = states
- Edges = transition function
  - an edge from state q to state q’ labeled by a ⇔ δ(q, a) = q’
- > marks the start state
- Double circles = final states

Automata as Graphs



- **M = ⟨K, Σ, δ, s, F⟩**
  - K = {q_0, q_1}
  - Σ = {a, b}
  - s = q_0
  - F = {q_0}
  - δ(q_0, a) = q_0
  - δ(q_0, b) = q_1
  - δ(q_1, a) = q_0
  - δ(q_0, b) = q_1

More definitions

- **A configuration** is a pair $\langle q, w \rangle \in K \times \Sigma^*$
  - q = the current state
  - w = the unread part of the string being processed
- **Yields in one step**
  - $\langle q, w \rangle \vdash_M \langle q', w' \rangle$
  - iff $w = aw'$ for some $a \in \Sigma$, $w' \in \Sigma^*$ and $\delta(q, a) = q'$
- **Yields**
  - $\vdash_M^*$ is the reflexive, transitive closure of $\vdash_M$
- **The language accepted** by a DFA $M = \langle K, \Sigma, \delta, s, F \rangle$
  - $L(M) = \{ w \mid \langle s, w \rangle \vdash_M^* \langle q, \varepsilon \rangle \text{ for some } q \in F \}$

An Example

$\langle q_0, ababa\rangle \vdash_M \langle q_1, baba\rangle$

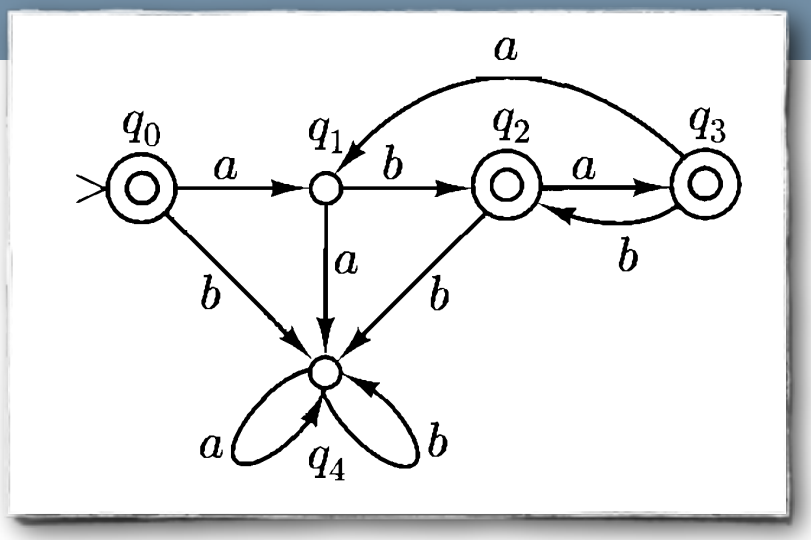
$\vdash_M \langle q_2, aba\rangle$

$\vdash_M \langle q_3, ba\rangle$

$\vdash_M \langle q_2, a\rangle$

$\vdash_M \langle q_3, \varepsilon\rangle$

$\Rightarrow ababa \in L(M)$



An Example

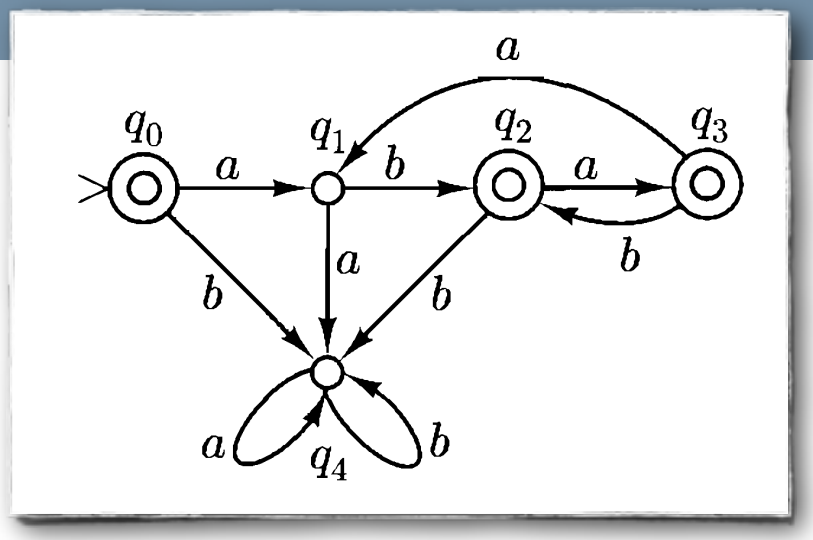
$\langle q_0, abaa\rangle \vdash_M \langle q_1, baa\rangle$

$\vdash_M \langle q_2, ba\rangle$

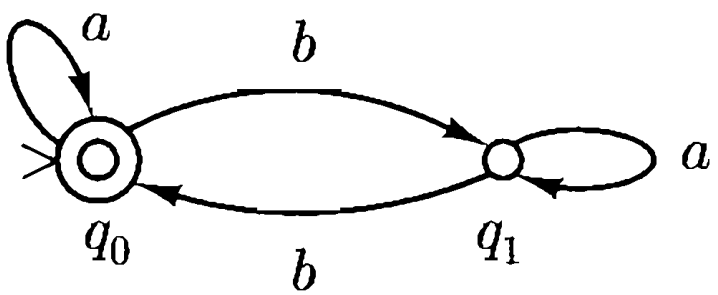
$\vdash_M \langle q_3, a\rangle$

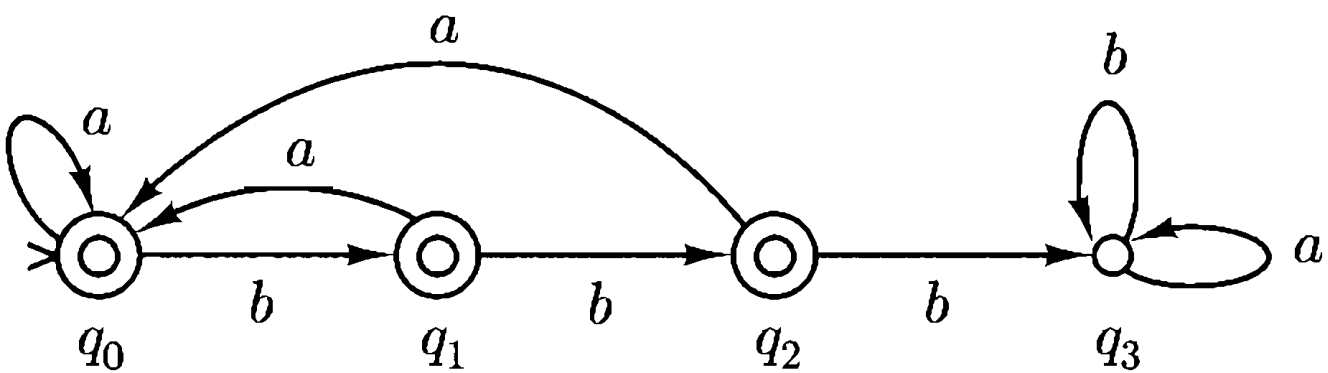
$\vdash_M \langle q_1, \varepsilon\rangle$

$\Rightarrow abaa \notin L(M)$



Exercise: L(M) = ?



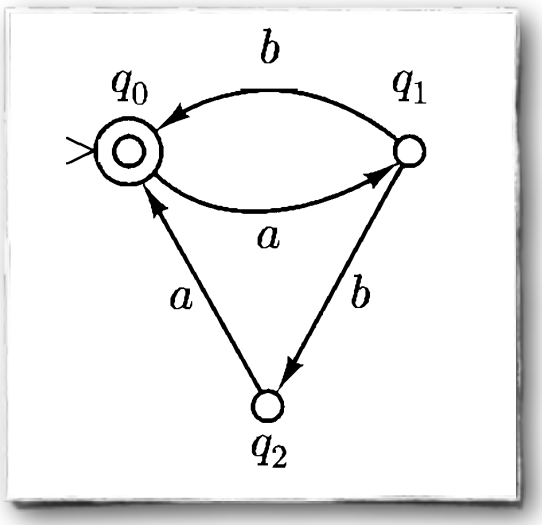


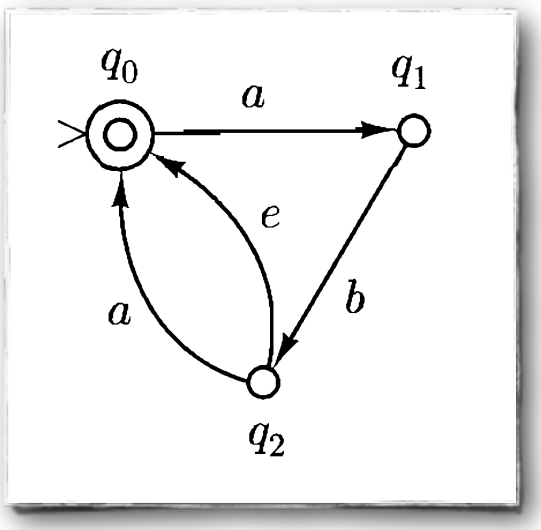
Recognition Algorithm

```
function RECOGNIZE(DFA M, STRING input)
  index ← 0
  state ← start state of M
  while index < length(input) do
      state ← trans[state, input[index]]
      index ← index + 1
  end
  if state is a final state of M
  then return accept
  else return reject
end
```

Nondeterministic Automata

- Nondeterministic finite automata:
  - several symbols can be read at once, or none at all
  - several possible next states

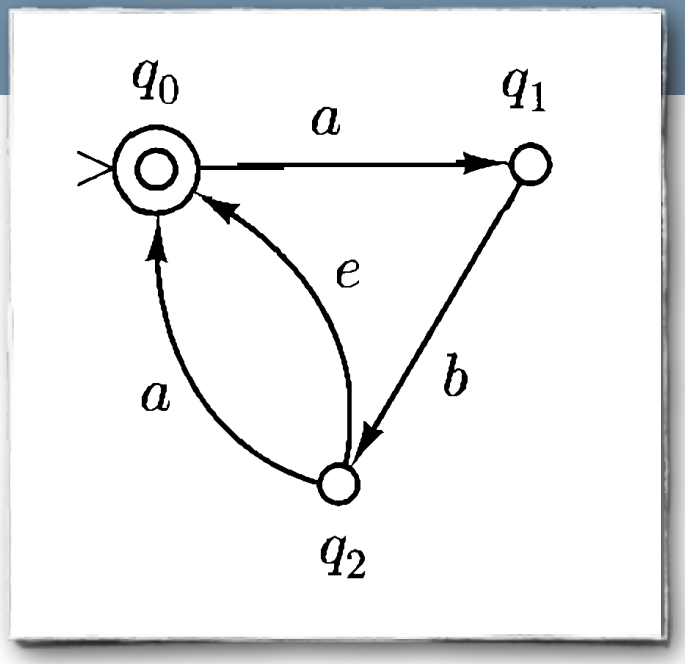




Nondeterministic Automata

- **$M = \langle K, \Sigma, \Delta, s, F \rangle$**
  - K is a finite set of states
  - Σ is an input alphabet
  - $\Delta \subseteq K \times \Sigma^* \times K$ is a finite transition relation
  - $s \in K$ is the start state
  - $F \subseteq K$ is the set of final (accepting) states
- **Transition relation** $\Delta \subseteq K \times \Sigma^* \times K$
  - $\langle q, w, q' \rangle \in \Delta$ = when the automaton is in state q and reads input w, it can go into state q'
  - Note: here we restrict ourself to NFA where $|w| \leq 1$

An Example

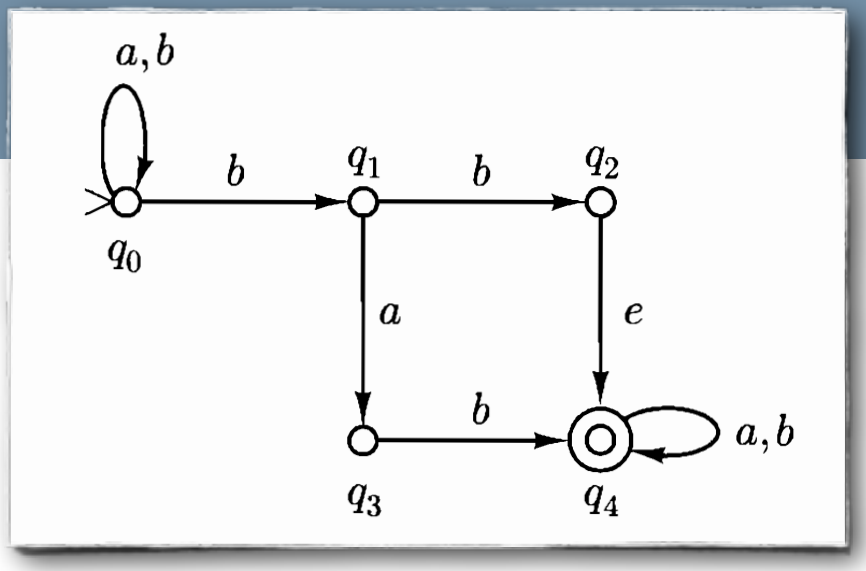


- **M = ⟨K, Σ, Δ, s, F⟩**
  - K = {q_0, q_1, q_2}
  - Σ = {a, b}
  - s = q_0
  - F = {q_0}
  - Δ = {⟨q_0, a, q_1⟩, ⟨q_1, b, q_2⟩, ⟨q_2, a, q_0⟩, ⟨q_2, ε, q_0⟩}

Configurations

- **Configurations**
  - are elements from $K \times \Sigma^*$ (as before)
- **Yields in one step**
  - $\langle q, w\rangle \vdash_M \langle q', w'\rangle$
  - iff $w = uw'$ for some $u, w \in \Sigma^*$ and $\langle q, u, q'\rangle \in \Delta$
- **The language accepted** by an NFA
  - $L(M) = \{ w \mid \langle s, w\rangle \vdash_M^* \langle q, \varepsilon\rangle$ for some $q \in F \}$

An Example



$\langle q_0, babba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_0, abba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_0, bba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_0, ba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_1, a\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_3, \varepsilon\rangle$

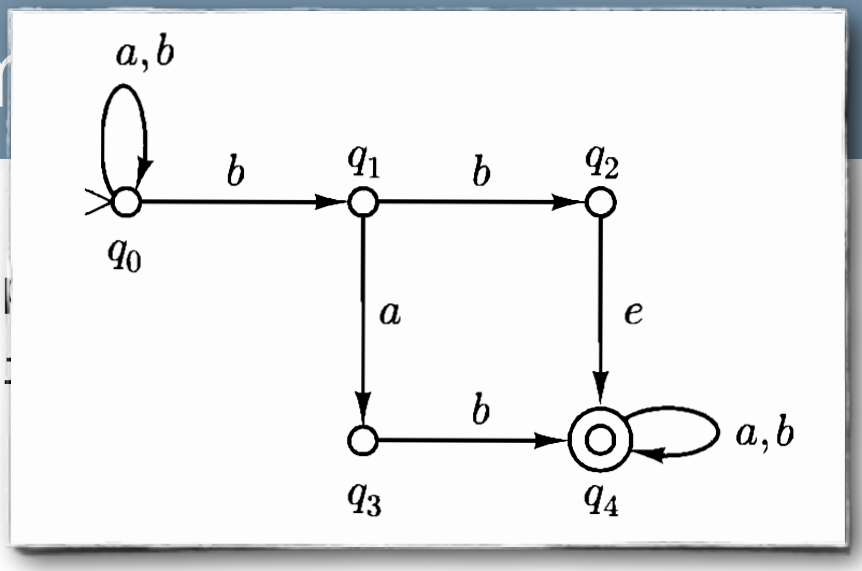
$\langle q_0, babba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_1, abba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_3, bba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_4, ba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_4, a\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_4, \varepsilon\rangle$

$\langle q_0, babba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_0, abba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_0, bba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_1, ba\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_2, a\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_4, a\rangle$
$\vdash_M \langle q_4, \varepsilon\rangle$

Recognition Algorithm

```
function RECOGNIZE(NFA M, STRING input)
  agenda = list of configurations, initially containing only
           the configuration (start state of M, input)
  while agenda is not empty do
    conf ← POP(agenda)
    if conf is an accepting configuration then
      return accept
    else
      for all conf' such that conf ⊢ conf' do
        PUSH(agenda, conf')
      end
  end
  return reject
end
```

Recognition Algorithm

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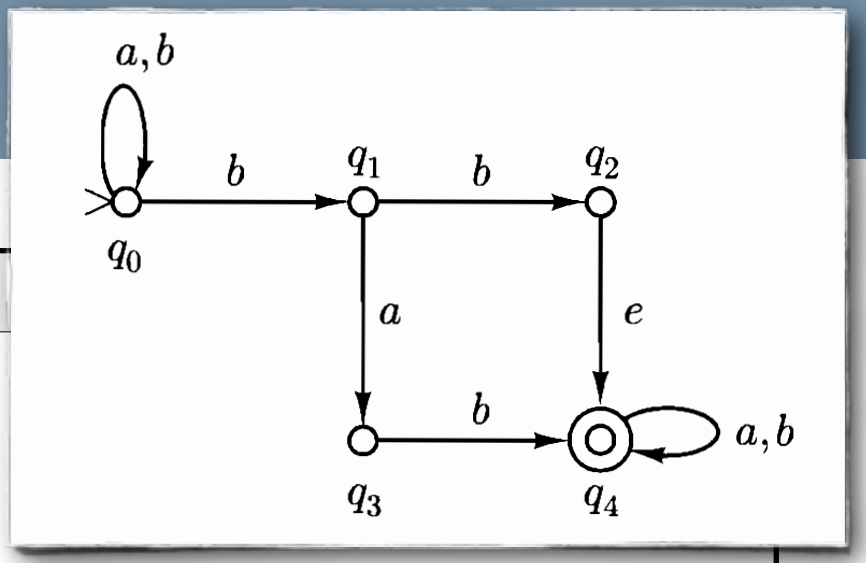
    else
      for all conf' such that conf ⊢ conf' do
        PUSH(agenda, conf')
      end
  end
  return reject
end
```

An Example

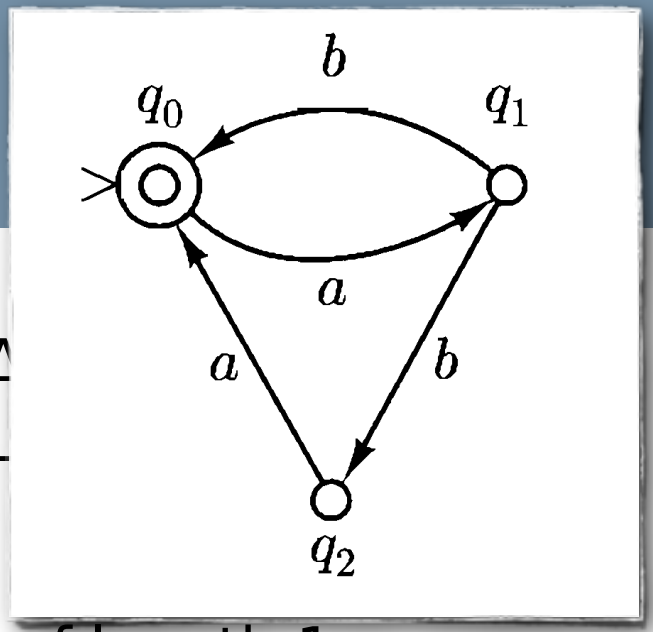


conf	agenda
–	⟨q0, babba⟩
⟨q0, babba⟩	**⟨q0, abba⟩, ⟨q1, abba⟩**
⟨q0, abba⟩	**⟨q0, bba⟩**, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q0, bba⟩	**⟨q0, ba⟩, ⟨q1, ba⟩**, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q0, ba⟩	**⟨q0, a⟩, ⟨q1, a⟩**, ⟨q1, ba⟩, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q0, a⟩	**⟨q0, ε⟩**, ⟨q1, a⟩, ⟨q1, ba⟩, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q0, ε⟩	⟨q1, a⟩, ⟨q1, ba⟩, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q1, a⟩	**⟨q3, ε⟩**, ⟨q1, ba⟩, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q3, ε⟩	⟨q1, ba⟩, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q1, ba⟩	**⟨q2, a⟩**, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q2, a⟩	**⟨q4, a⟩**, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q4, a⟩	**⟨q4, ε⟩**, ⟨q1, abba⟩
⟨q4, ε⟩	⟨q1, abba⟩

NFA = DFA (preliminary)

- **Theorem:** for every NFA $M = \langle K, \Sigma, \Delta, s, F \rangle$ there is an equivalent DFA M' such that $L(M) = L(M')$
- Let us first consider the special case where for all elements $\langle q, w, q' \rangle \in \Delta$, w is a string of length 1
- We construct the DFA $M' = \langle K', \Sigma, \delta, s', F' \rangle$ as follows:
  - $K' = 2^K$
  - $s' = \{s\}$
  - $\delta(Q, a) = \{ k \in K \mid \langle q, a, k \rangle \in \Delta \text{ for some } q \in Q \}$
    - for all $Q \subseteq K$, $a \in \Sigma$
  - $F' = \{ Q \subseteq K \mid Q \cap F \neq \emptyset \}$

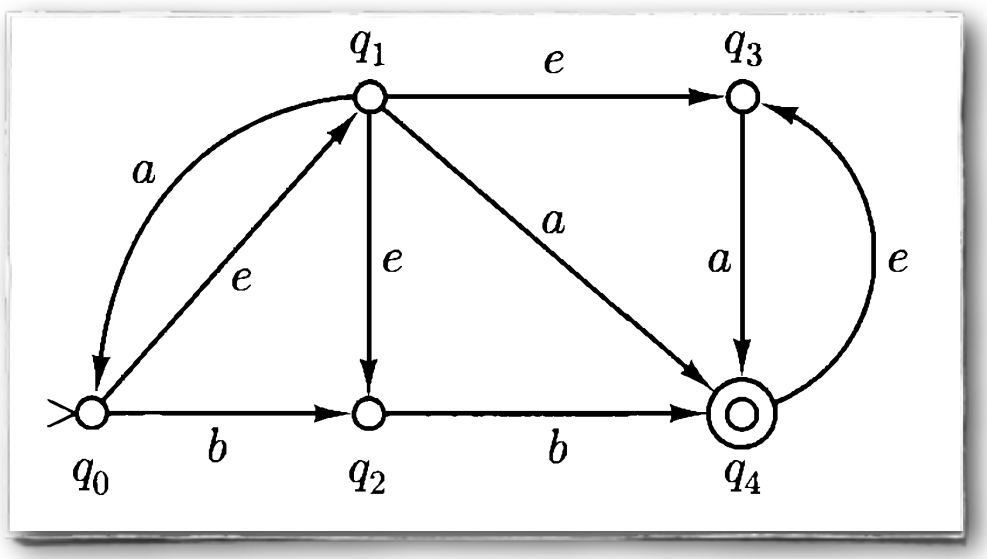
NFA = DFA (preliminary)



- **Theorem:** for every NFA M = ⟨K, Σ, Δ
  equivalent DFA M’ such that L(M) = L
- Let us first consider the special case
  elements ⟨q, w, q’⟩ ∈ Δ, w is a string of length 1
- We construct the DFA M’ = ⟨K’, Σ, δ, s’, F’⟩ as follows:
  - K’ = 2^K
  - s’ = {s}
  - δ(Q, a) = { k ∈ K | ⟨q, a, k⟩ ∈ Δ for some q ∈ Q }
    - for all Q ⊆ K, a ∈ Σ
  - F’ = { Q ⊆ K | Q ∩ F ≠ ∅ }

ε-Closure

- **ε-Closure**
  - $E(q) = \{ k \mid \langle q, \varepsilon \rangle \vdash^* \langle k, \varepsilon \rangle \}$
- Examples:
  - $E(q_0) = \{ q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3 \}$
  - $E(q_1) = \{ q_1, q_2, q_3 \}$
  - $E(q_2) = \{ q_2 \}$
- Note:
  - For all q, $q \in E(q)$



NFA = DFA

- **Theorem:** for every NFA $M = \langle K, \Sigma, \Delta, s, F \rangle$ there is an equivalent DFA M' such that $L(M) = L(M')$
- We construct the DFA $M' = \langle K', \Sigma, \delta', s', F' \rangle$ as follows:
  - $K' = 2^K$
  - $s' = E(s)$
  - $\delta'(Q, a) = \cup\{ E(k) \in K \mid \langle q, a, k \rangle \in \Delta \text{ for some } q \in Q \}$,
    - for all $Q \subseteq K$
  - $F' = \{ Q \subseteq K \mid Q \cap F \neq \emptyset \}$

NFA = DFA

- **Lemma:** For any string $w \in \Sigma^*$ and any states $p, q \in K'$:
  - $\langle q, w\rangle \vdash^*_M \langle p, \varepsilon\rangle$ iff $\langle E(q), w\rangle \vdash^*_{M'} \langle P, \varepsilon\rangle$ for some P containing p
- Using this lemma, it is easy to show that L(M) = L(M')
  - $w \in L(M)$
  - iff $\langle s, w\rangle \vdash^*_M \langle f, \varepsilon\rangle$, for some $f \in F$
  - iff $\langle E(s), w\rangle \vdash^*_{M'} \langle Q, \varepsilon\rangle$, for some Q containing f
  - iff $\langle E(s), w\rangle \vdash^*_{M'} \langle Q, \varepsilon\rangle$, for some $Q \in F'$
  - iff $w \in L(M')$

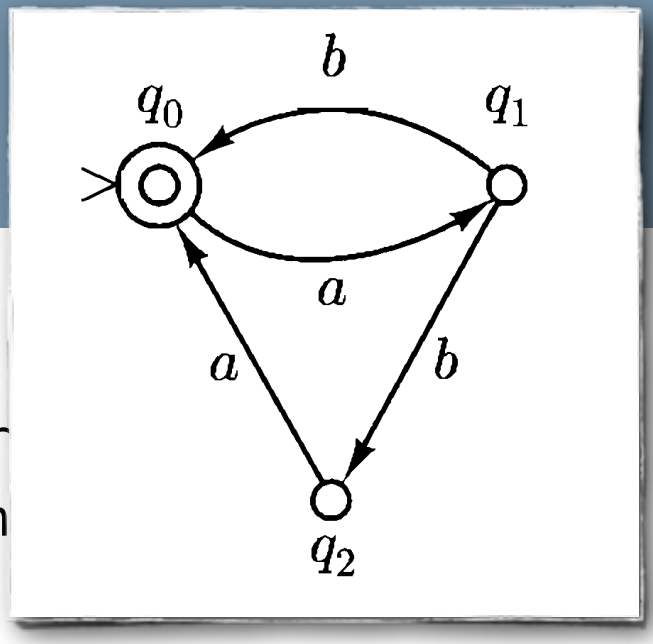
Subset construction algorithm

- **ε-closure(s)**
  returns the set of NFA states reachable from state s using ε-transitions
- **ε-closure(T)**
  returns the set of NFA states reachable from some s in T using ε-transition
- **move(T, a)**
  returns the set of NFA states to which there is transition for input a ∈ Σ from some state s ∈ T

Subset construction algorithm

```
function DFA(K, Σ, Δ, s, F)
  K’ ← list that contains only ε-closure(s), unmarked
  while there is an unmarked state T in K’ do
    mark T
    for each symbol a ∈ Σ do
      U ← ε-closure(move(T, a))
      if U ∉ K’ then
        add U as an unmarked state to K’
      δ[T, a] ← U
    end
  end
  return <the corresponding DFA>
end
```

Subset construction algo



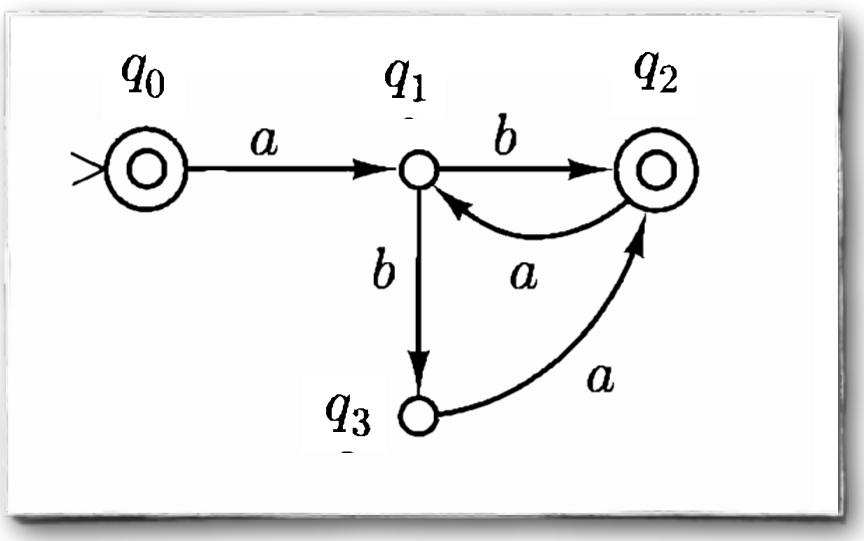

```
function DFA(K, Σ, Δ, s, F)
  K' ← list that contains only ε-closur
  while there is an unmarked state T in
    mark T
    for each symbol a ∈ Σ do
      U ← ε-closure(move(T, a))
      if U ∉ K' then
        add U as an unmarked state to K'
      δ[T, a] ← U
    end
  end
  return <the corresponding DFA>
end
```

Literature

- Jurafsky and Martin (2009). Chapter 2.
- Lewis and Papadimitriou (1981). Elements of the theroy of computation. Chapter 2.

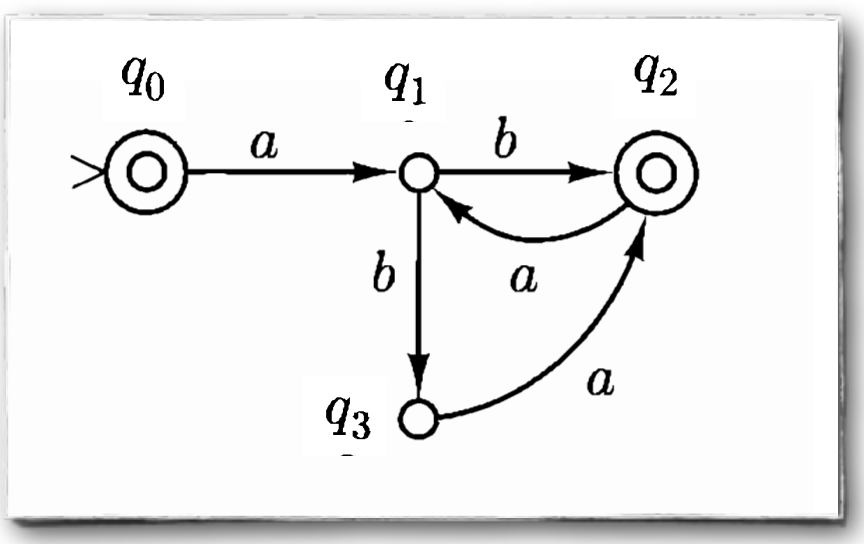
Exercise 1

- Apply (using pen and paper) the recognition algorithm on slide 16 for the nondeterministic automaton shown below to the input string “abaaba”
- There is a problem with this algorithm. Which one? How can the algorithm be improved?



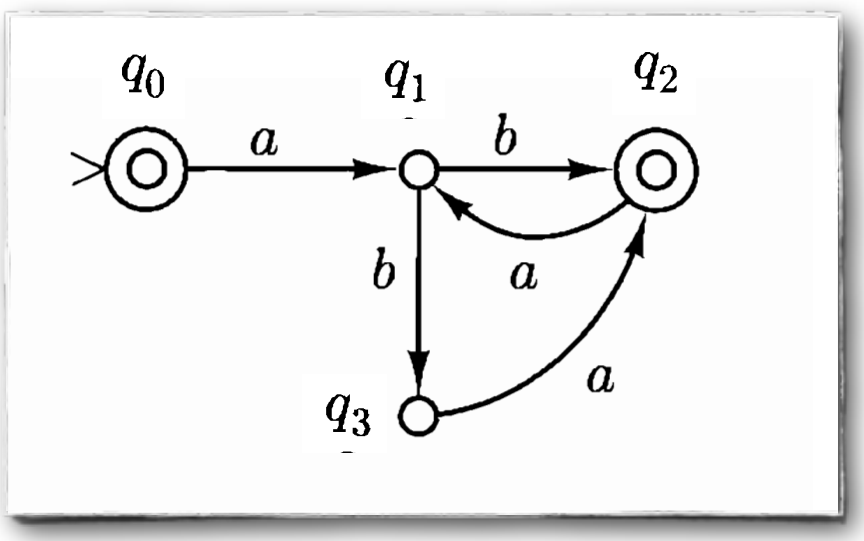
Exercise 2

- Construct a deterministic automaton for the nondeterministic automaton shown below, using the subset construction algorithm on slide 23.



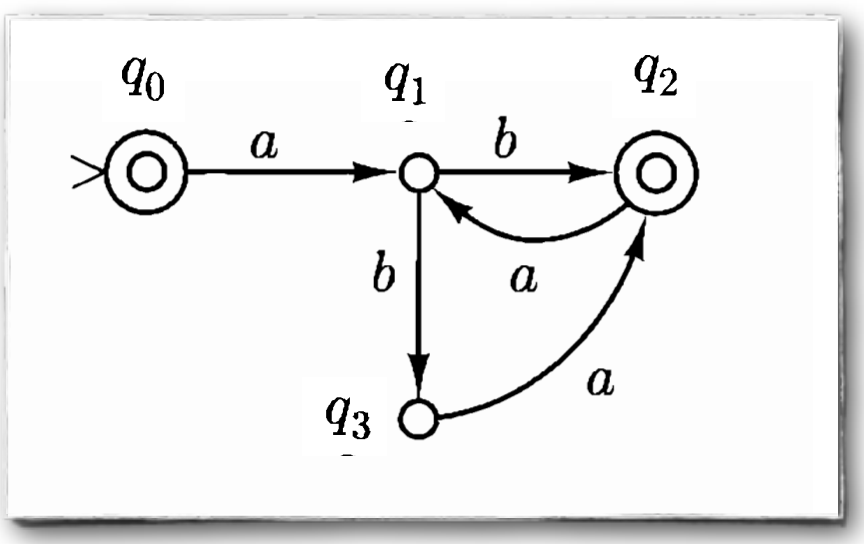
Exercise 3

- Implement the recognition algorithm for NFA on slide 16.
- Your submission should use the automaton shown below and the following inputs as test case.
  - ab ∈ L(M)
  - aba ∈ L(M)
  - abaab ∈ L(M)
  - abba ∉ L(M)
  - aabab ∉ L(M)
  - More test cases are welcome!



Exercise 4

- Implement the subset construction algorithm on slide 23.
- Your submission should use the automaton show below as a test case.



Exercises – Remarks

- Submit the source code by email to me (stth@...)
- The source code should contain a comment that tells **how to run your code.**