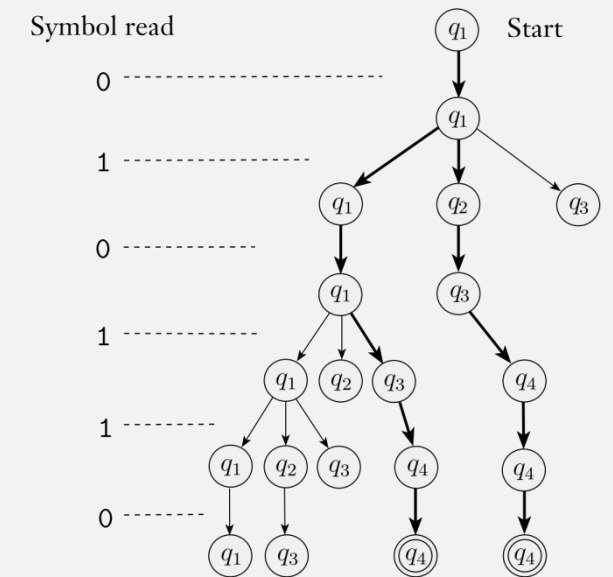


# CS420

# Computing with NFAs

Monday, February 13, 2023

UMass Boston CS



## *Announcements*

- HW 2 out
  - Due 2/14 11:59pm EST
- TAs
  - Woody Lin
    - OH: Tue 2-3:30pm, McCormack 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 139
  - Richard Chang
    - OH: Friday 2-3:30pm, McCormack 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 139
- Quiz Preview (submit answer in gradescope):
  - In the course so far, what are possible meanings of the  $\epsilon$  symbol?

# HW 1 Observations

- Problems must be assigned to the correct pages
- Proof format must be a **Statements** and **Justifications** table
- Rejected string examples must use characters from  $\Sigma$  alphabet

**Concatenation:**  $A \circ B = \{xy \mid x \in A \text{ and } y \in B\}$

## *Last Time:* Concatenation of Languages

Let the alphabet  $\Sigma$  be the standard 26 letters  $\{a, b, \dots, z\}$ .

If  $A = \{\text{fort, south}\}$   $B = \{\text{point, boston}\}$

$A \circ B = \{\text{fortpoint, fortboston, southpoint, southboston}\}$

## *Last Time:* Is Concatenation Closed?

### THEOREM .....

The class of regular languages is closed under the concatenation operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages then so is  $A_1 \circ A_2$ .

- Cannot? combine  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ 's machine to make a DFA because:
  - Unclear when to switch? (can only read input once)
- Need a different kind of machine!

# *Last Time:* NFA Formal Definition

## DEFINITION

---

A *nondeterministic finite automaton*

is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set of states,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma_\epsilon \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$  is the transition function,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of accept states.

NFA transition allowed to not read input,  $\Sigma_\epsilon = \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$

Transition results in a set of states



# Flashback: DFA Computation Model

## Informally

- Machine = a DFA
- Input = string of chars, e.g. "1101"

Machine "accepts" input if:

- Start in "start state" →
- Repeat: →
  - Read 1 char;
  - Change state according to the transition table
- Result =
  - Last state is "Accept" state →

## Formally (i.e., mathematically)

- $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$
- $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$

$M$  **accepts**  $w$  if

sequence of states  $r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n$  in  $Q$  exists with

- $r_0 = q_0$
- $r_i = \delta(r_{i-1}, w_i)$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$
- $r_n \in F$



# NFA

## ~~Flashback: DFA~~ Computation Model

### Informally

- Machine = a ~~DFA~~ an **NFA**
- Input = string of chars, e.g. "1101"

Machine "accepts" input if:

- Start in "start state"  
(and states connected to start state with  $\epsilon$  transitions)
- Repeat:
  - Read 1 char;
  - Change states according to the transition table
- Result =
  - Last states have an "Accept" state

### Formally (i.e., mathematically)

- $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$
- $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$

$M$  *accepts*  $w$  if

sequence of states  $r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n$  in  $Q$  exists with

- $r_0 = q_0$
- ~~$r_i = \delta(r_{i-1}, w_i)$~~ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

- $r_n \in F$

A *nondeterministic finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set of states,
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3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma_\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$  is the transition function,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of accept states.

NFA

# ~~Flashback: DFA~~ Computation Model

## Informally

- Machine = a ~~DFA~~ an **NFA**
- Input = string of chars, e.g. "1101"

Machine "accepts" input if:

- Start in "start state"  
(and states connected to start state with  $\epsilon$  transitions)
- Repeat:
  - Read 1 char;
  - Change states according to the transition table
- Result =
  - Last states have an "Accept" state

## Formally (i.e., mathematically)

- $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$
- $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$

$M$  **accepts**  $w$  if

sequence of states  $r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n$  in  $Q$  exists with

- $r_0 = q_0$
- ~~$r_i = \delta(r_{i-1}, w_i)$~~ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

$r_i \in \delta(r_{i-1}, w_i)$

Next states is now a set

A *nondeterministic finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set of states,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma_\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$  is the transition function,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of accept states.

- $r_n \in F$

$\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the *transition function*

## Flashback: DFA Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta}: Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow Q$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$  (not necessarily the start state)
- Input string  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Range:

- Ending state (not necessarily an accept state)

(Defined recursively, on length of input string)

- Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \varepsilon) = q$ 
  - Empty string
  - nonEmpty string
- Recursive case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, w_1), w_2 \cdots w_n)$ 
  - Recursive call
  - Single transition step
  - First char
  - Remaining chars ("smaller argument")

$\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the *transition function*

# Alternate Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta}: Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow Q$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$  (not necessarily the start state)
- Input string  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Range:

- Ending state (not necessarily an accept state)

(Defined recursively, on length of input string)

• Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \varepsilon) = q$

• Recursive case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = \hat{\delta}(\delta(q, w_1), w_2 \cdots w_n)$

Recursive call

Single transition step

First chars  
("smaller argument")

last char

$$\delta(\hat{\delta}(q, w_1 \cdots w_{n-1}), w_n)$$

$\delta: Q \times \Sigma_\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$  is the transition function

NFA

# Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta}: Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$
- Input string  $w = w_1w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Result is set of states

# NFA

# Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$
- Input string  $w = w_1w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Range:

- Ending state set of states

Result is set of states

(Defined recursively, on length of input string)

Empty string

• Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = \{q\}$

• Recursive case:

# NFA

# Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$
- Input string  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Range:

- Ending state set of states

Result is set of states

(Defined recursively, on length of input string)

- Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = \{q\}$ 
  - Empty string
- Recursive case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \delta(q_i, w_n)$ 
  - nonEmpty string
  - Single transition steps for last char
  - Recursive call on first chars (smaller argument)  
 $\hat{\delta}(q, w_1 \cdots w_{n-1}) = \{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$

# NFA Extended $\delta$ Example

Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = \{q\}$

Recursive case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \delta(q_i, w_n)$   
 where:

$\hat{\delta}(q, w_1 \cdots w_{n-1}) = \{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$



- $\hat{\delta}(q_0, \epsilon) = \{q_0\}$

We haven't considered empty transitions!

- $\hat{\delta}(q_0, 0) = \delta(q_0, 0) = \{q_0, q_1\}$

Combine result of recursive call with "last step"

- $\hat{\delta}(q_0, 00) = \delta(q_0, 0) \cup \delta(q_1, 0) = \{q_0, q_1\} \cup \emptyset = \{q_0, q_1\}$

- $\hat{\delta}(q_0, 001) = \delta(q_0, 1) \cup \delta(q_1, 1) = \{q_0\} \cup \{q_2\} = \{q_0, q_2\}$



# Adding Empty Transitions

- Define the set  $\varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q)$ 
  - ... to be all states reachable from  $q$  via zero or more empty transitions

(Defined recursively)

- Base case:  $q \in \varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q)$

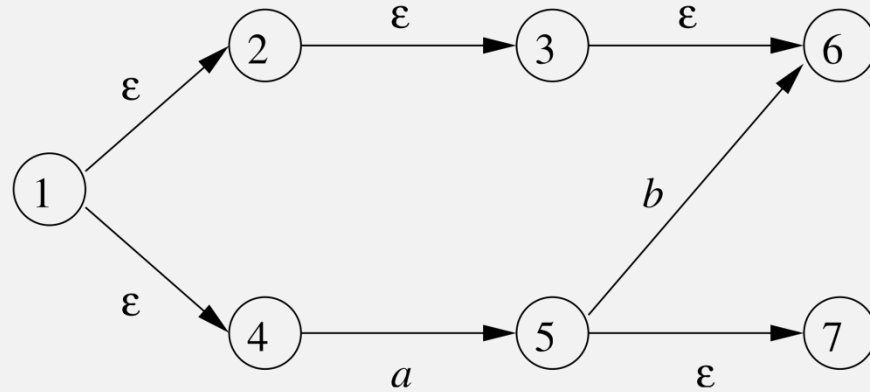
- Inductive case:

A state is in the reachable set if ...

$$\varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q) = \{r \mid p \in \varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q) \text{ and } r \in \delta(p, \varepsilon)\}$$

... there is an empty transition to it from another state in the reachable set

# $\epsilon$ -REACHABLE Example



$$\epsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(1) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$$

# NFA Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$
- Input string  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Range:

- Ending set of states

(Defined recursively, on length of input string)

• Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = \{q\}$

• Recursive case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \delta(q_i, w_n)$

where:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w_1 \cdots w_{n-1}) = \{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$

# NFA Extended Transition Function

Define **extended transition function**:  $\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$

Domain:

- Beginning state  $q \in Q$
- Input string  $w = w_1w_2 \cdots w_n$  where  $w_i \in \Sigma$

Range:

- Ending set of states

(Defined recursively, on length of input string)

- Base case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = \{q\}$  "Take single step, then follow all empty transitions"
- Recursive case:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) = \epsilon\text{-REACHABLE}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^k \delta(q_i, w_n)\right)$  where:  $\hat{\delta}(q, w_1 \cdots w_{n-1}) = \{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$

# Summary: NFA vs DFA Computation

## DFAs

- Can only be in one state
- Transition:
  - Must read 1 char
- Acceptance:
  - If final state is accept state

## NFAs

- Can be in multiple states
- Transition
  - Can read no chars
  - i.e., empty transition
- Acceptance:
  - If one of final states is accept state

**Concatenation:**  $A \circ B = \{xy \mid x \in A \text{ and } y \in B\}$

## *Last Time:* Concatenation is Closed?

### **THEOREM**

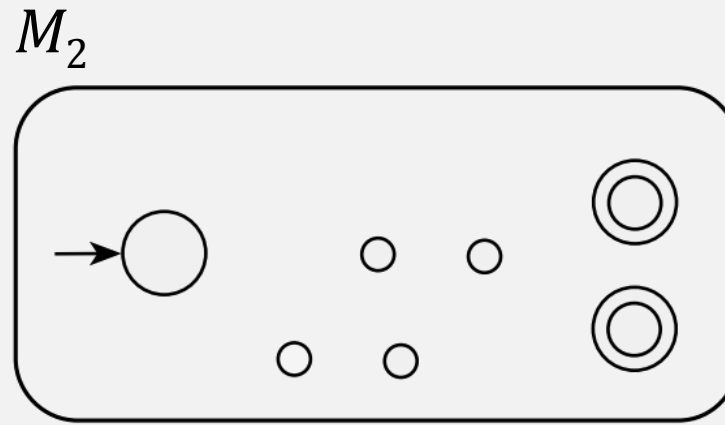
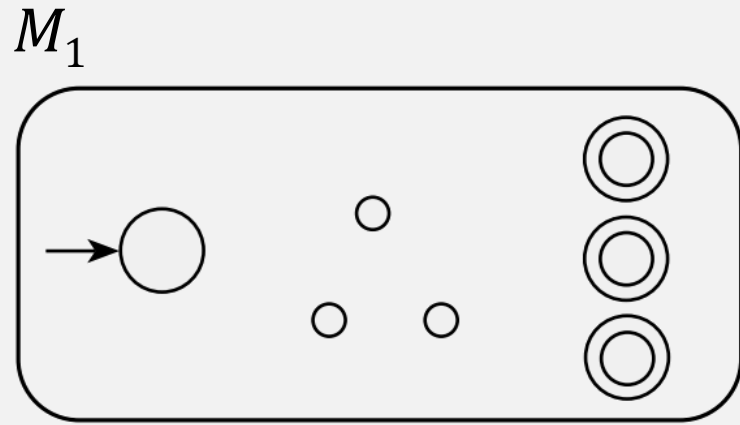
The class of regular languages is closed under the concatenation operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages then so is  $A_1 \circ A_2$ .

*Proof:* Construct a new machine

- How does it know when to switch machines?
  - Can only read input once

# Concatentation



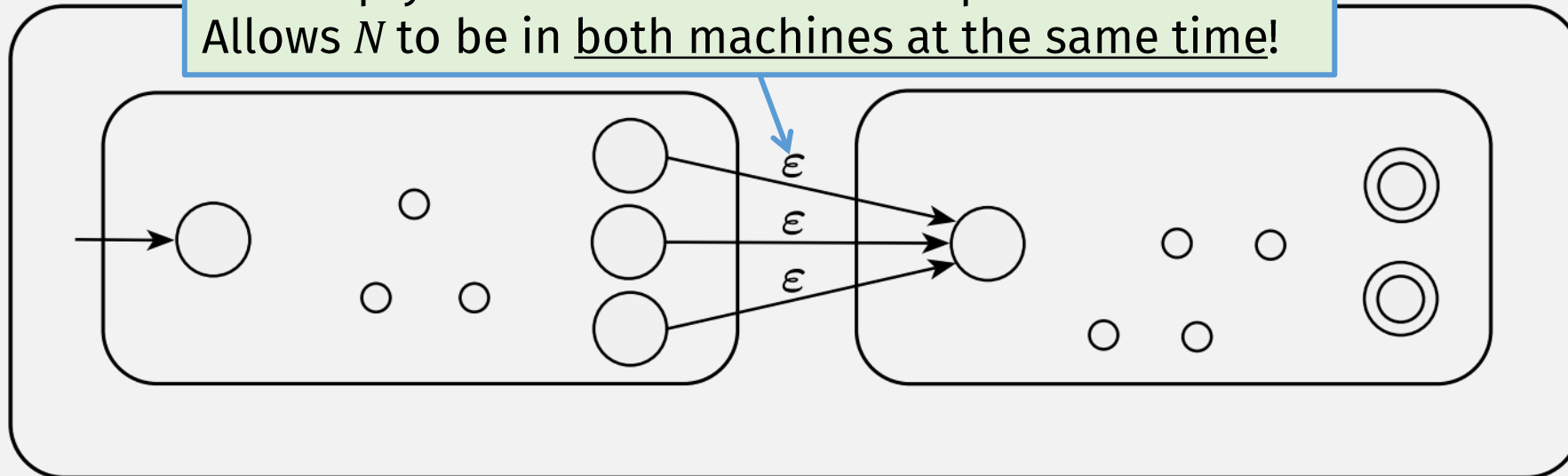
Let  $M_1$  recognize  $A_1$ , and  $M_2$  recognize  $A_2$ .

Want: Construction of  $N$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$

- Keep checking 1<sup>st</sup> part with  $M_1$  and
- Move to  $M_2$  to check 2<sup>nd</sup> part

$N$

$\epsilon$  = "empty transition" = reads no input  
Allows  $N$  to be in both machines at the same time!



# *Flashback:* Is Union Closed For Regular Langs?

## Statements

1.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages
2. A DFA  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognizes  $A_1$
3. A DFA  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognizes  $A_2$
4. Construct DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$
5.  $M$  recognizes  $A_1 \cup A_2$
6.  $A_1 \cup A_2$  is a regular language
7. The class of regular languages is closed under the union operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages, so is  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .

## Justifications

1. Assumption
2. Def of Regular Language
3. Def of Regular Language
4. Def of DFA
5. See examples
6. Def of Regular Language
7. From stmt #1 and #6



# Is Concat Closed For Regular Langs?

## Statements

1.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages
2. A DFA  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognizes  $A_1$
3. A DFA  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognizes  $A_2$
4. Construct **NFA**  $N =$  **???** (todo)
5.  $N$  recognizes  ~~$A_1 \cup A_2$~~   $A_1 \circ A_2$
6.  $A_1 \circ A_2$   ~~$A_1 \cup A_2$~~  is a regular language
7. The class of regular languages is closed under the concatenation operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages then so is  $A_1 \circ A_2$ .

## Justifications

1. Assumption
2. Def of Regular Language
3. Def of Regular Language
4. Def of **NFA**
5. See examples
6. Does NFA recognize regular lang? **?**
7. From stmt #1 and #6

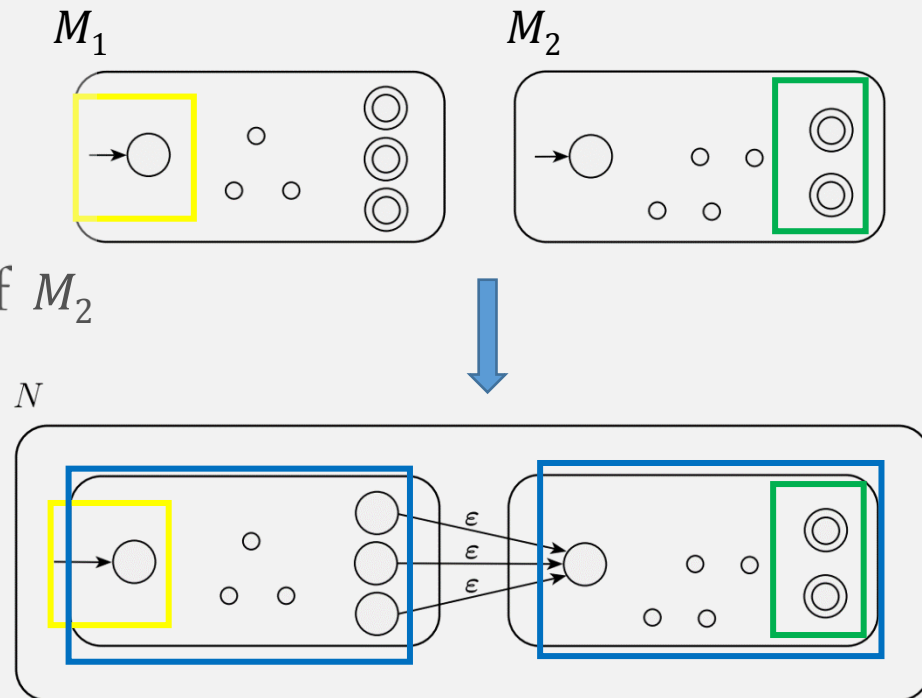
# Concatenation is Closed for Regular Langs

## PROOF

Let DFA  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$   
DFA  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$

Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F_2)$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$

1.  $Q = Q_1 \cup Q_2$
2. The state  $q_1$  is the same as the start state of  $M_1$
3. The accept states  $F_2$  are the same as the accept states of  $M_2$
4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,



# Concatenation is Closed for Regular Langs

Wait, is this true?

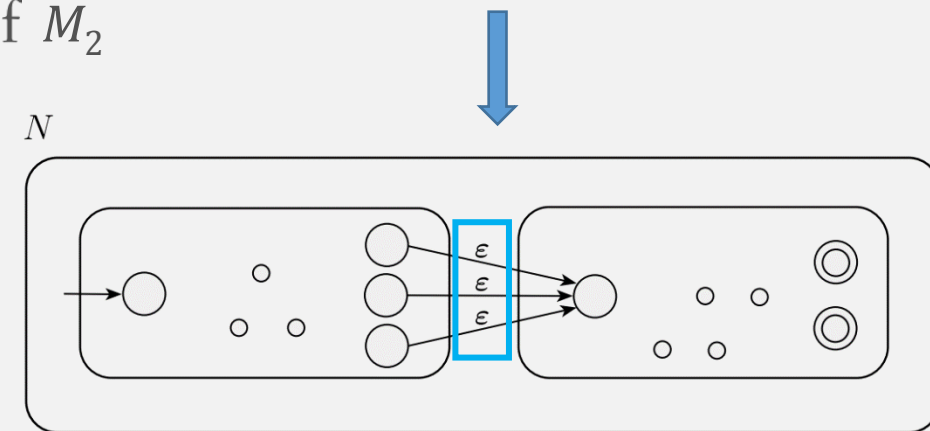
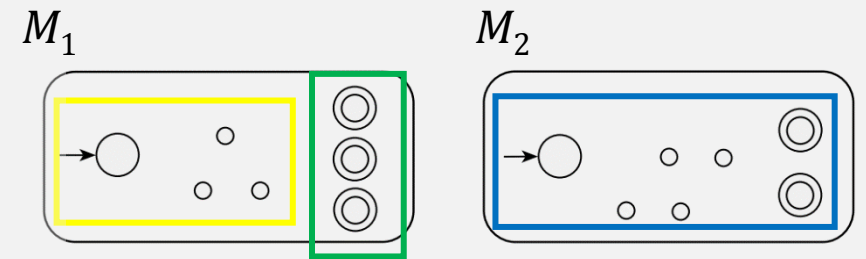
## PROOF

Let DFA  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$   
 DFA  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$

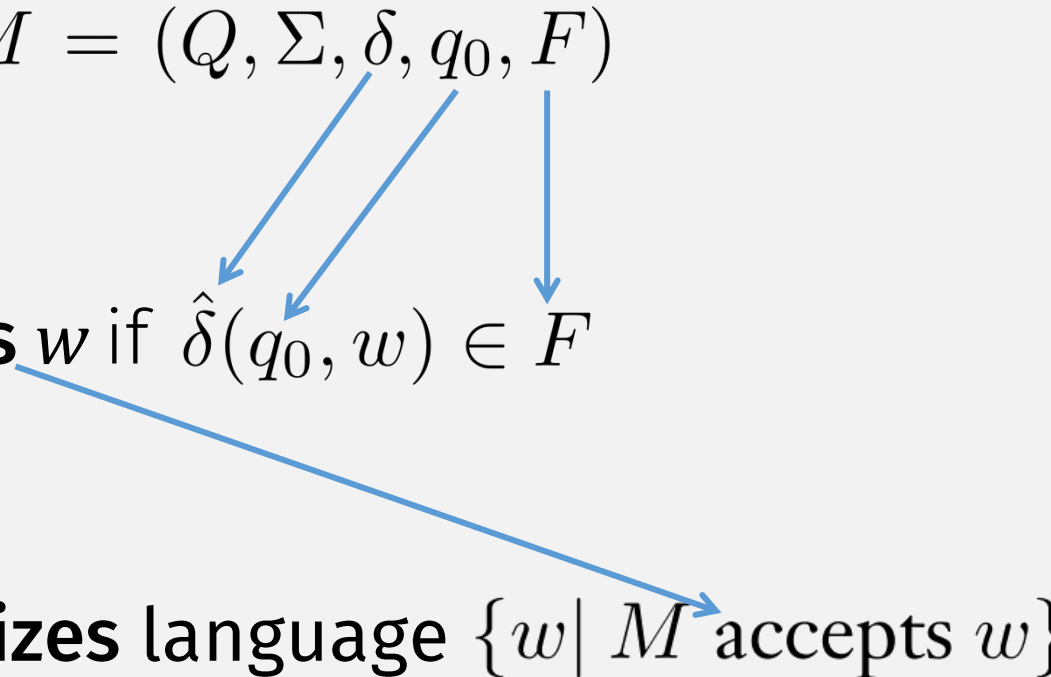
Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F_2)$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$

1.  $Q = Q_1 \cup Q_2$
2. The state  $q_1$  is the same as the start state of  $M_1$
3. The accept states  $F_2$  are the same as the accept states of  $M_2$
4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \text{ and } q \notin F_1 \\ \delta_1(q, a) & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \\ ? & \{q_2\} \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \delta_2(q, a) & q \in Q_2. \end{cases}$$



# Flashback: A DFA's Language

- For DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$
  - $M$  **accepts**  $w$  if  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F$
  - $M$  **recognizes** language  $\{w \mid M \text{ accepts } w\}$
- 
- A diagram with blue arrows showing the relationship between symbols in the DFA definition and the acceptance condition. An arrow points from
- $\delta$
- in the first bullet to
- $\hat{\delta}$
- in the second. An arrow points from
- $q_0$
- in the first bullet to
- $q_0$
- in the second. An arrow points from
- $F$
- in the first bullet to
- $F$
- in the second. A long arrow points from the word "accepts" in the second bullet to the word "recognizes" in the third. A shorter arrow points from the word "recognizes" in the third bullet to the set notation
- $\{w \mid M \text{ accepts } w\}$
- .

Definition: A DFA's language is a **regular language**

# An NFA's Language

- For NFA  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

intersection

accept states

- $N$  *accepts*  $w$  if  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \cap F \neq \emptyset$  ← not empty
  - i.e., accept if final states contain at least one accept state

- Language of  $N = L(N) = \left\{ w \mid \hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \cap F \neq \emptyset \right\}$

Q: What kind of languages do NFAs recognize?

# Concatenation Closed for Reg Langs?

- Combining DFAs to recognize concatenation of languages ...  
... produces an NFA
- So to prove concatenation is closed ...  
... we must prove that NFAs also recognize regular languages.

Specifically, we must prove:  
NFAs  $\Leftrightarrow$  regular languages

# “If and only if” Statements

$$X \Leftrightarrow Y = \text{“}X \text{ if and only if } Y\text{”} = X \text{ iff } Y = X \Leftrightarrow Y$$

Represents two statements:

1.  $\Rightarrow$  if  $X$ , then  $Y$ 
  - “forward” direction
2.  $\Leftarrow$  if  $Y$ , then  $X$ 
  - “reverse” direction

# How to Prove an “iff” Statement

$$X \Leftrightarrow Y = \text{“}X \text{ if and only if } Y\text{”} = X \text{ iff } Y = X \Leftrightarrow Y$$

Proof at minimum has 2 (If-Then proof) parts:

1.  $\Rightarrow$  if  $X$ , then  $Y$ 
  - “forward” direction
  - assume  $X$ , then use it to prove  $Y$
2.  $\Leftarrow$  if  $Y$ , then  $X$ 
  - “reverse” direction
  - assume  $Y$ , then use it to prove  $X$



# Proving NFAs Recognize Regular Langs

Theorem:

A language  $L$  is regular **if and only if** some NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$ .

Proof:

⇒ If  $L$  is regular, then some NFA  $N$  recognizes it.

(Easier)

- We know: if  $L$  is **regular**, then a **DFA** exists that recognizes it.
- So to prove this part: Convert that DFA → an equivalent NFA! (see HW 2)

⇐ If an NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$ , then  $L$  is regular.

Statements  
&  
Justifications?

“equivalent” =  
“recognizes the same language”

$\Rightarrow$  If  $L$  is regular, then some NFA  $N$  recognizes it

### Statements

1.  $L$  is a regular language
2. A DFA  $M$  recognizes  $L$
3. Construct NFA  $N$  equiv to  $M$
4. An NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$
5. If  $L$  is a regular language,  
then some NFA  $N$  recognizes it

### Justifications

1. Assumption
2. Def of Regular language
3. See hw 2
4. ???
5. By Stmts #1 and #4

# Proving NFAs Recognize Regular Langs

Theorem:

A language  $L$  is regular **if and only if** some NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$ .

Proof:

$\Rightarrow$  If  $L$  is regular, then some NFA  $N$  recognizes it.

(Easier)

- We know: if  $L$  is **regular**, then a **DFA** exists that recognizes it.
- So to prove this part: Convert that DFA  $\rightarrow$  an equivalent NFA! (see HW 2)

$\Leftarrow$  If an NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$ , then  $L$  is regular.

(Harder)

- We know: for  $L$  to be **regular**, there must be a **DFA** recognizing it
- Proof Idea for this part: Convert given NFA  $N \rightarrow$  an equivalent DFA

“equivalent” =  
“recognizes the same language”

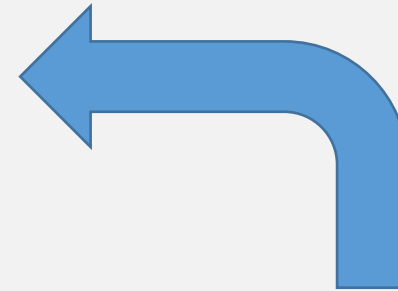
# How to convert NFA→DFA?

A *finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set called the *states*,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite set called the *alphabet*,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the *transition function*,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the *start state*, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the *set of accept states*.

Proof idea:

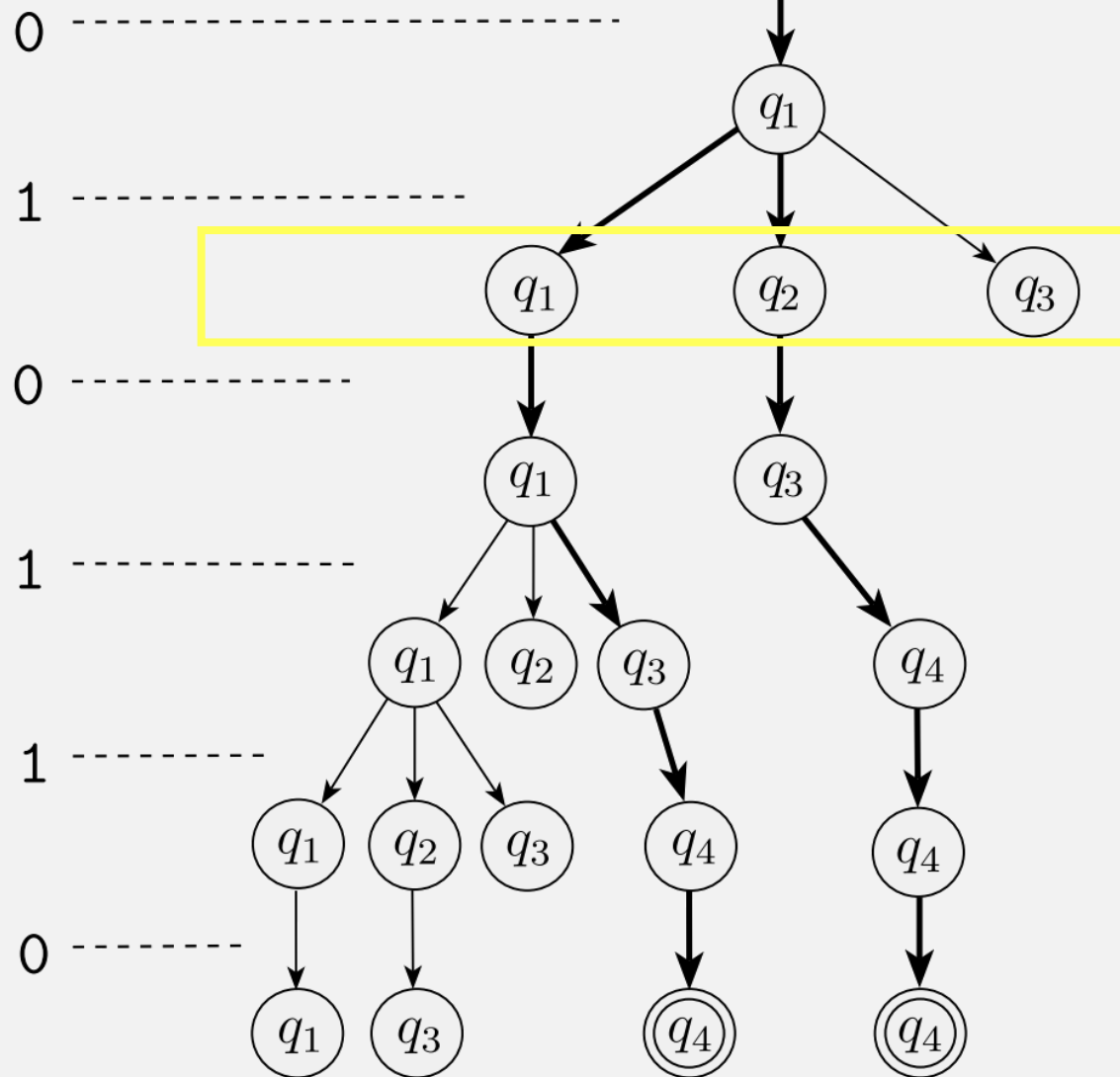
Let each “state” of the DFA  
= set of states in the NFA



A *nondeterministic finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set of states,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma_\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$  is the transition function,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the start state, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of accept states.

Symbol read                       $q_1$     Start



**NFA** computation can be in multiple states

**DFA** computation can only be in one state

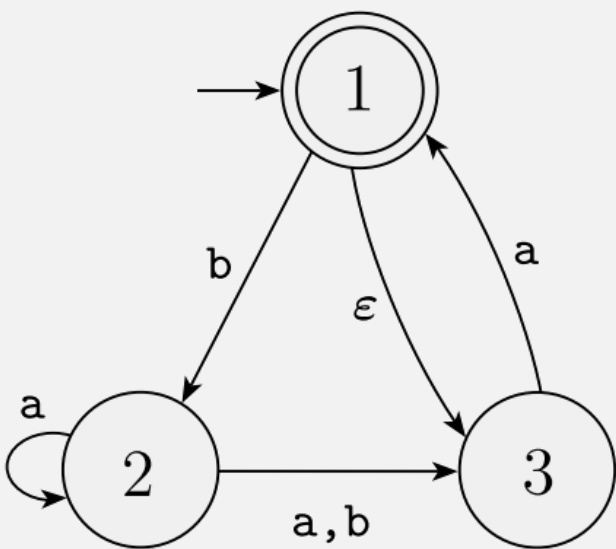
So encode:  
a set of NFA states  
as one DFA state

This is similar to the proof strategy from  
“Closure of union” where:  
a state = a pair of states

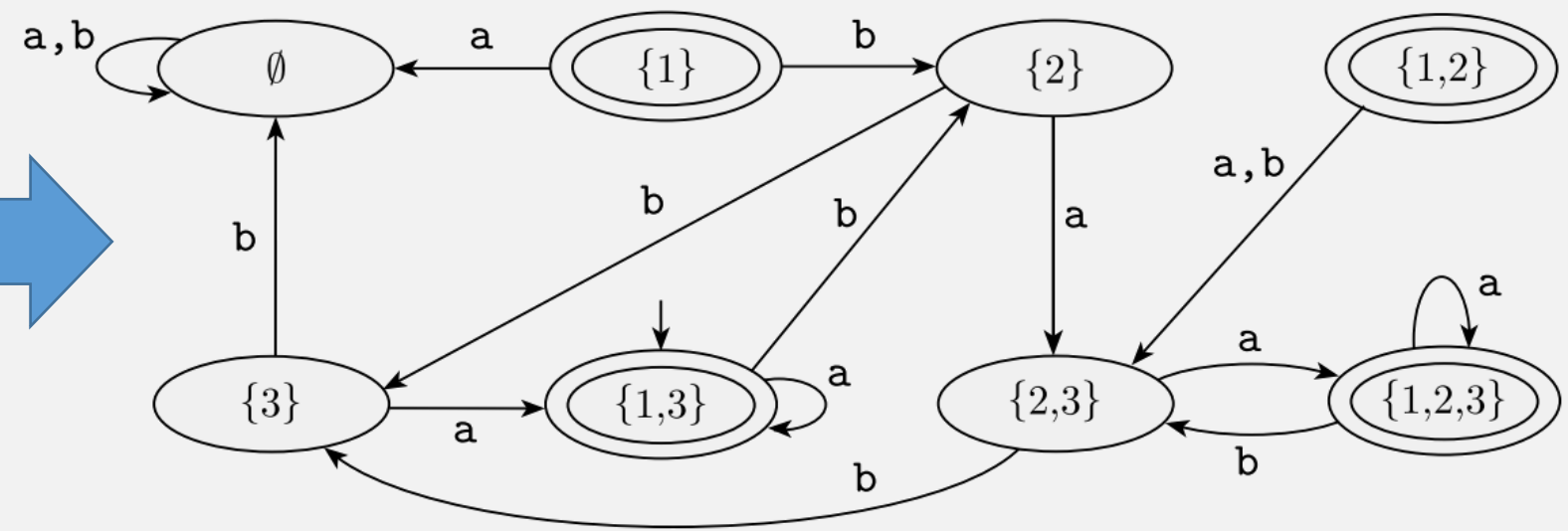
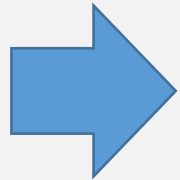
# Convert NFA→DFA, Formally

- Let NFA  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$
- An equivalent DFA  $M$  has states  $Q' = \mathcal{P}(Q)$  (power set of  $Q$ )

# Example:



The NFA  $N_4$



A DFA  $D$  that is equivalent to the NFA  $N_4$

# NFA → DFA

Have: NFA  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

Want: DFA  $M = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$

1.  $Q' = \mathcal{P}(Q)$  A DFA state = a set of NFA states

2. For  $R \in Q'$  and  $a \in \Sigma$ ,

$$\delta'(R, a) = \bigcup_{r \in R} \delta(r, a)$$

A DFA step = an NFA step for all states in the set

$R = \text{DFA state} = \text{set of NFA states}$

3.  $q_0' = \{q_0\}$

4.  $F' = \{R \in Q' \mid R \text{ contains an accept state of } N\}$



# Flashback: Adding Empty Transitions

- Define the set  $\varepsilon$ -REACHABLE( $q$ )
  - ... to be all states reachable from  $q$  via zero or more empty transitions

(Defined recursively)

- Base case:  $q \in \varepsilon$ -REACHABLE( $q$ )

- Inductive case:

A state is in the reachable set if ...

$$\varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q) = \{r \mid p \in \varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q) \text{ and } r \in \delta(p, \varepsilon)\}$$

... there is an empty transition to it from another state in the reachable set

# NFA→DFA

Have: NFA  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

Want: DFA  $M = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q_0', F')$

1.  $Q' = \mathcal{P}(Q)$

Almost the same, except ...

2. For  $R \in Q'$  and  $a \in \Sigma$ ,

$$\delta'(R, a) = \bigcup_{r \in R} \delta(r, a) \text{ } \varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(\delta(r, a))$$

3.  $q_0' = \{q_0\} \text{ } \varepsilon\text{-REACHABLE}(q_0)$

4.  $F' = \{R \in Q' \mid R \text{ contains an accept state of } N\}$

# Proving NFAs Recognize Regular Langs

Theorem:

A language  $L$  is regular **if and only if** some NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$ .

Proof:

⇒ If  $L$  is regular, then some NFA  $N$  recognizes it.

(Easier)

- We know: if  $L$  is **regular**, then a **DFA** exists that recognizes it.
- So to prove this part: Convert that DFA → an equivalent NFA! (see HW 2)

⇐ If an NFA  $N$  recognizes  $L$ , then  $L$  is regular.

(Harder)

- We know: for  $L$  to be **regular**, there must be a **DFA** recognizing it
- Proof Idea for this part: Convert given NFA  $N$  → an equivalent DFA ...  
... using our NFA to DFA algorithm! ■

# Concatenation is Closed for Regular Langs

## PROOF

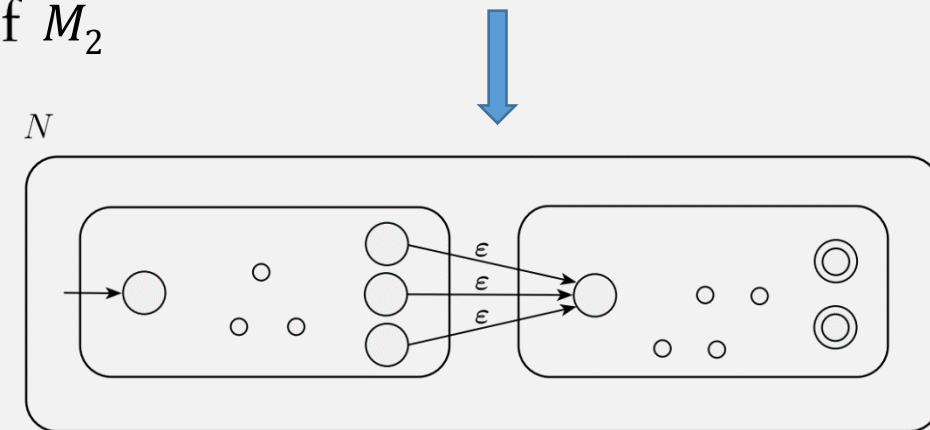
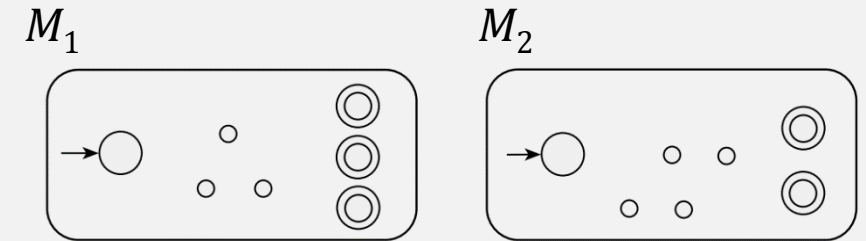
Let DFA  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$   
 DFA  $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$

If a language has an NFA recognizing it, then it is a regular language

Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F_2)$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$

1.  $Q = Q_1 \cup Q_2$
2. The state  $q_1$  is the same as the start state of  $M_1$
3. The accept states  $F_2$  are the same as the accept states of  $M_2$
4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \text{ and } q \notin F_1 \\ \delta_1(q, a) & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \\ \{q_2\} & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \delta_2(q, a) & q \in Q_2. \end{cases}$$



# Concat Closed for Reg Langs: Use NFAs Only

## PROOF

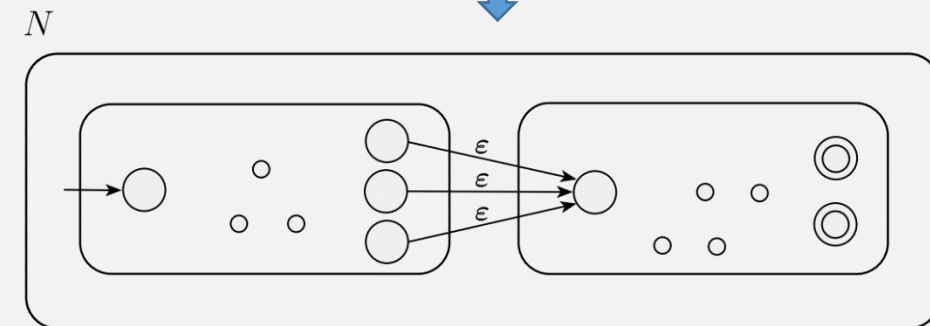
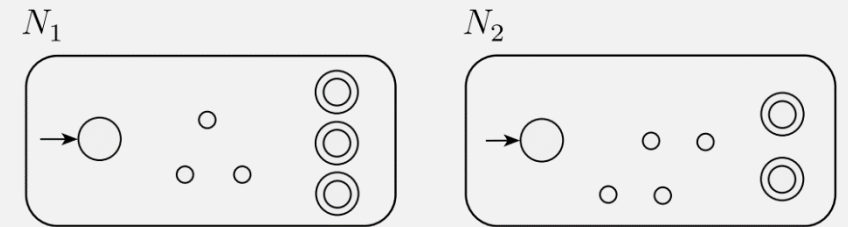
Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ , and  
 $N_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$ .

If language is regular,  
 then it has an **NFA** recognizing it ...

Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F_2)$  to recognize  $A_1 \circ A_2$

1.  $Q = Q_1 \cup Q_2$
2. The state  $q_1$  is the same as the start state of  $N_1$
3. The accept states  $F_2$  are the same as the accept states of  $N_2$
4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \text{ and } q \notin F_1 \\ \delta_1(q, a) & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \\ ? & \{q_2\} \text{ } q \in F_1 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \delta_2(q, a) & q \in Q_2. \end{cases}$$



**Union:**  $A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$

## *Flashback:* Union is Closed For Regular Langs

### **THEOREM**

The class of regular languages is closed under the union operation.

In other words, if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are regular languages, so is  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .

### *Proof:*

- How do we prove that a language is regular?
  - Create a DFA or NFA recognizing it!
- Combine the machines recognizing  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ 
  - Should we create a DFA or NFA?

# Flashback: Union is Closed For Regular Langs

## Proof

- Given:  $M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$ , recognize  $A_1$ ,  
 $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$ , recognize  $A_2$ ,

- Construct: a new machine  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  using  $M_1$  and  $M_2$

- states of  $M$ :  $Q = \{(r_1, r_2) \mid r_1 \in Q_1 \text{ and } r_2 \in Q_2\} = Q_1 \times Q_2$   
 This set is the *Cartesian product* of sets  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$

State in  $M =$   
 $M_1$  state +  
 $M_2$  state

- $M$  transition fn:  $\delta((r_1, r_2), a) = (\delta_1(r_1, a), \delta_2(r_2, a))$

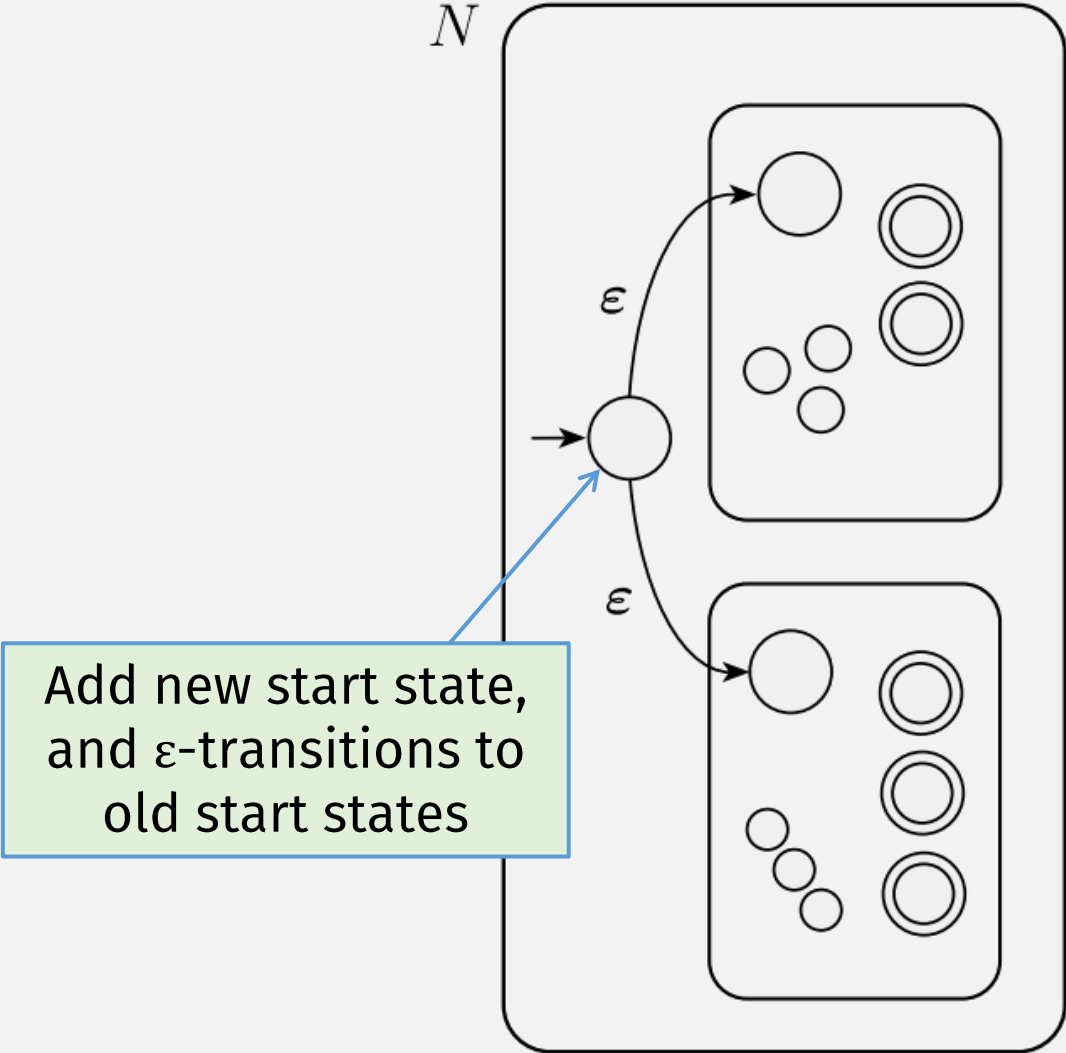
$M$  step =  
 a step in  $M_1$  + a step in  $M_2$

- $M$  start state:  $(q_1, q_2)$

Accept if either  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  accept

- $M$  accept states:  $F = \{(r_1, r_2) \mid r_1 \in F_1 \text{ or } r_2 \in F_2\}$ .

# Union is Closed for Regular Languages





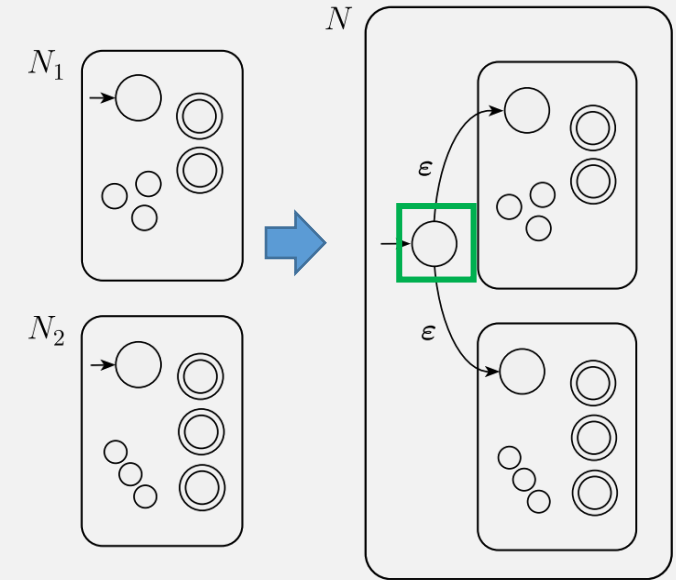
# Union is Closed for Regular Languages

## PROOF

Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ , and  
 $N_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$ .

Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .

1.  $Q = \{q_0\} \cup Q_1 \cup Q_2$ .
2. The state  $q_0$  is the start state of  $N$ .
3. The set of accept states  $F = F_1 \cup F_2$ .



# Union is Closed for Regular Languages

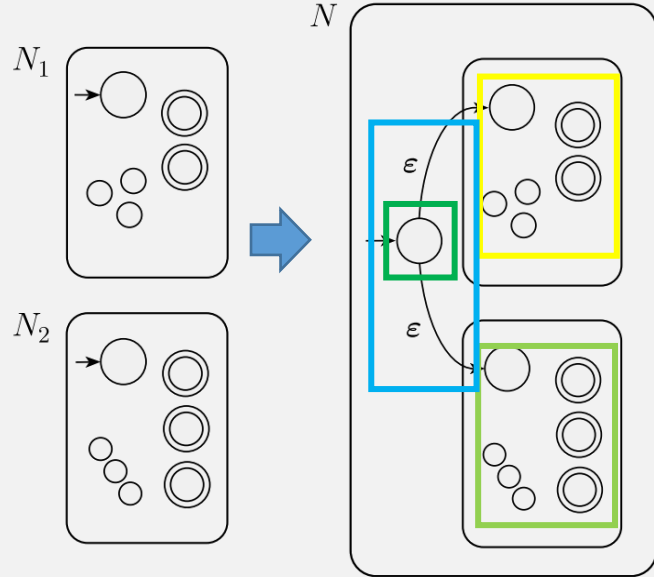
**PROOF**

Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ , and  
 $N_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, q_2, F_2)$  recognize  $A_2$ .

Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1 \cup A_2$ .

1.  $Q = \{q_0\} \cup Q_1 \cup Q_2$ .
2. The state  $q_0$  is the start state of  $N$ .
3. The set of accept states  $F = F_1 \cup F_2$ .
4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \\ \delta_2(q, a) & q \in Q_2 \\ \{q_1, q_2\} & q = q_0 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \emptyset & q = q_0 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \end{cases}$$



# List of Closed Ops for Reg Langs (so far)

• Union

• Concatentation

• Kleene Star (repetition)

**Star:**  $A^* = \{x_1x_2 \dots x_k \mid k \geq 0 \text{ and each } x_i \in A\}$

# Kleene Star Example

Let the alphabet  $\Sigma$  be the standard 26 letters  $\{a, b, \dots, z\}$ .

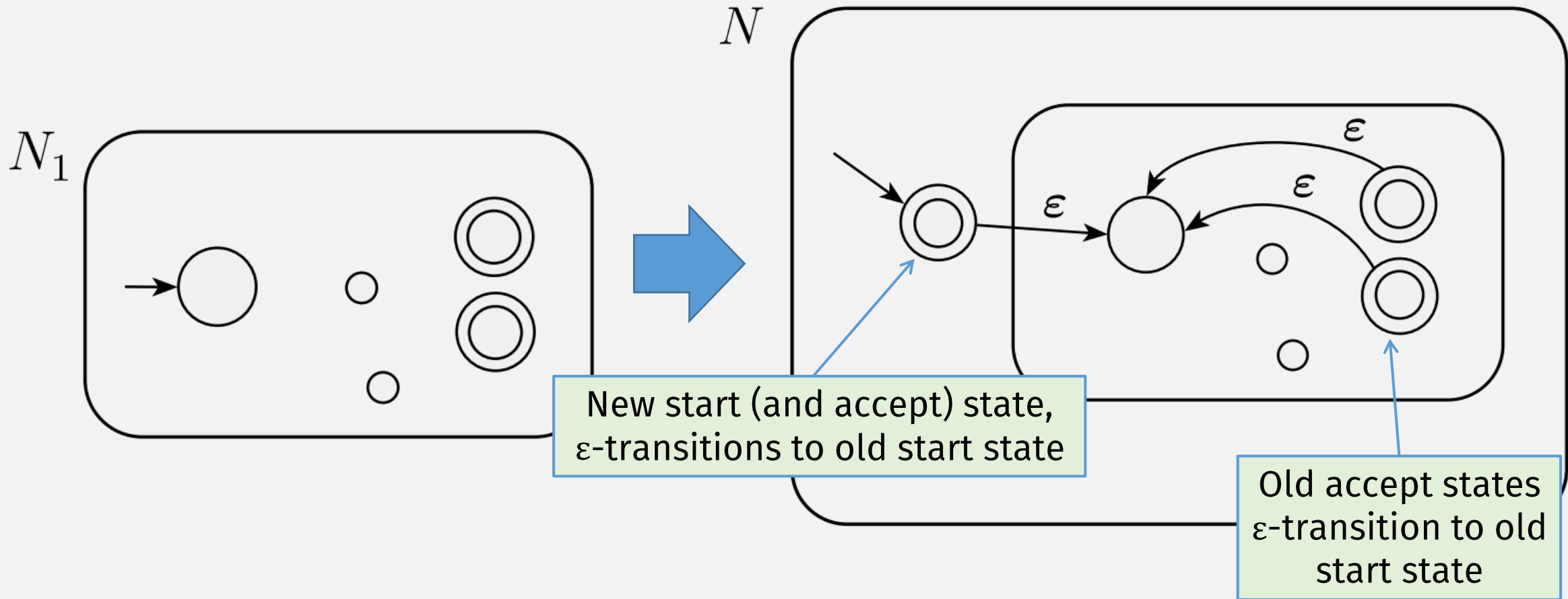
If  $A = \{\text{good}, \text{bad}\}$

$A^* = \{\epsilon, \text{good}, \text{bad}, \text{goodgood}, \text{goodbad}, \text{badgood}, \text{badbad}, \text{goodgoodgood}, \text{goodgoodbad}, \text{goodbadgood}, \text{goodbadbad}, \dots\}$

Note: repeat zero or more times

(this is an infinite language!)

# Kleene Star



*In-class exercise:*

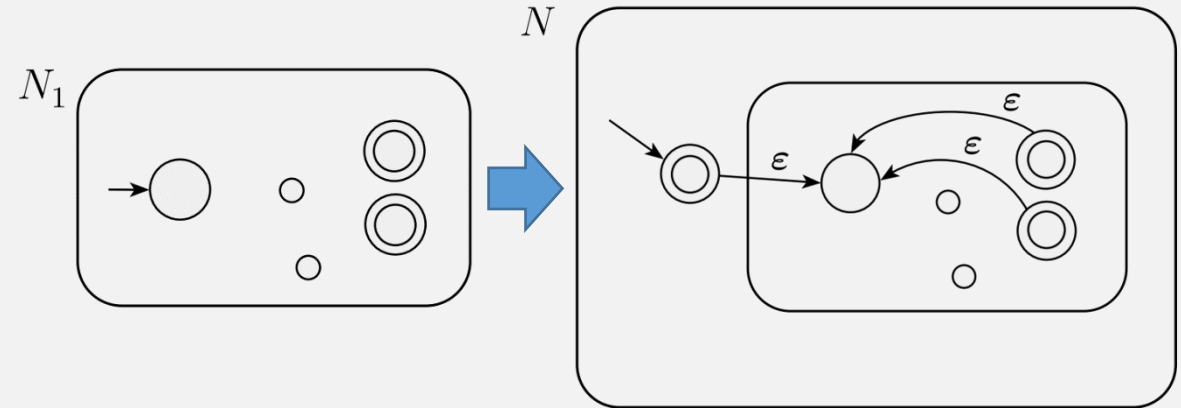
# Kleene Star is Closed for Regular Langs

## **THEOREM**

The class of regular languages is closed under the star operation.

# Kleene Star is Closed for Regular Langs

**PROOF** Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ .  
Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1^*$ .

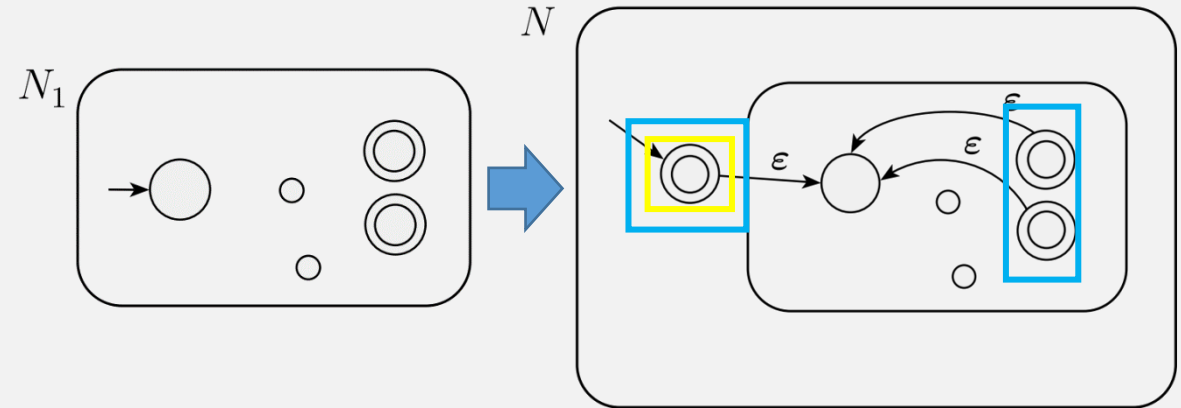


# Kleene Star is Closed for Regular Langs

**PROOF** Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ .  
Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1^*$ .

1.  $Q = \{q_0\} \cup Q_1$
2. The state  $q_0$  is the new start state.
3.  $F = \{q_0\} \cup F_1$

Kleene star of a language must accept the empty string!



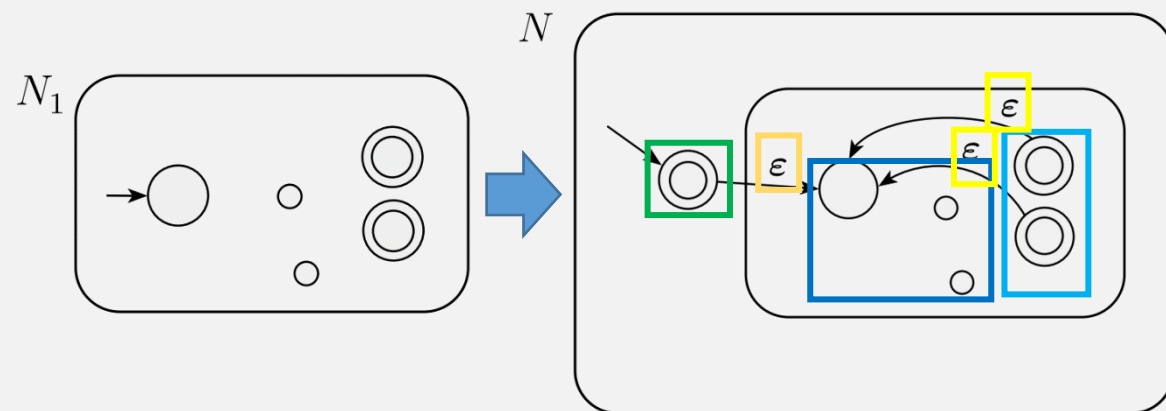


# Kleene Star is Closed for Regular Languages

**PROOF** Let  $N_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, q_1, F_1)$  recognize  $A_1$ .  
Construct  $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  to recognize  $A_1^*$ .

1.  $Q = \{q_0\} \cup Q_1$
2. The state  $q_0$  is the new start state.
3.  $F = \{q_0\} \cup F_1$
4. Define  $\delta$  so that for any  $q \in Q$  and any  $a \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ ,

$$\delta(q, a) = \begin{cases} \delta_1(q, a) & q \in Q_1 \text{ and } q \notin F_1 \\ \delta_1(q, a) & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon \\ \delta_1(q, a) \cup \{q_1\} & q \in F_1 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \{q_1\} & q = q_0 \text{ and } a = \epsilon \\ \emptyset & q = q_0 \text{ and } a \neq \epsilon. \end{cases}$$



# Many More Closed Operations on Regular Languages!

- Complement
- Intersection
- Difference
- Reversal
- Homomorphism
- (See HW2)

# **Check-in Quiz 2/13**

On gradescop