

15-251
Great Ideas in
Theoretical Computer Science

Lecture 4:
Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA), Part 2



January 25th, 2018

Closure properties of regular languages

Closed under complementation

Proposition:

Let Σ be some finite alphabet.
If $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ is regular, then so is $\bar{L} = \Sigma^* \setminus L$.

Proof:

Closed under union

Theorem:

Let Σ be some finite alphabet.

If $L_1 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ and $L_2 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ are regular, then so is $L_1 \cup L_2$.

Proof:

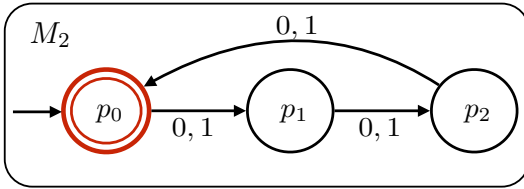
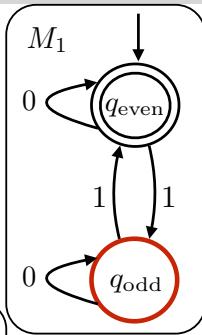
The mindset

Step 1: Imagining ourselves as a DFA

Closed under union

Main idea:

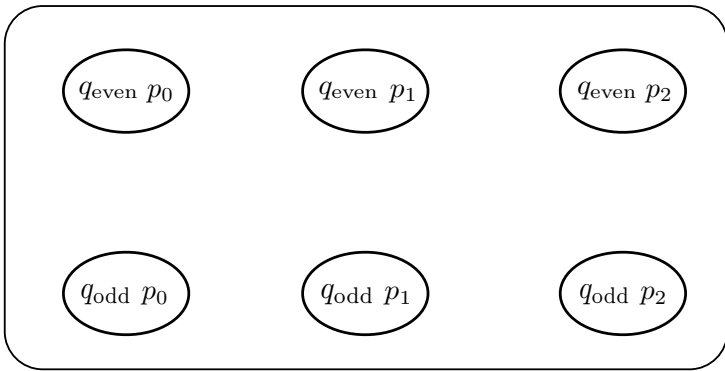
Construct a DFA that keeps track of both at once.



Closed under union

Main idea:

Construct a DFA that keeps track of both at once.



Step 2: Formally defining the DFA

Closed under union

Proof: Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ be a DFA deciding L_1 and $M' = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q'_0, F')$ be a DFA deciding L_2 . We construct a DFA $M'' = (Q'', \Sigma, \delta'', q''_0, F'')$ that decides $L_1 \cup L_2$, as follows:

More closure properties

Closed under union:

Closed under concatenation:

Closed under star:

super awesome vs regular

What is the relationship between super awesome and regular ?

super awesome vs regular

Theorem:

Can define regular languages recursively as follows:

Closed under concatenation

Theorem:

Let Σ be some finite alphabet.

If $L_1 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ and $L_2 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ are regular, then so is L_1L_2 .

The mindset

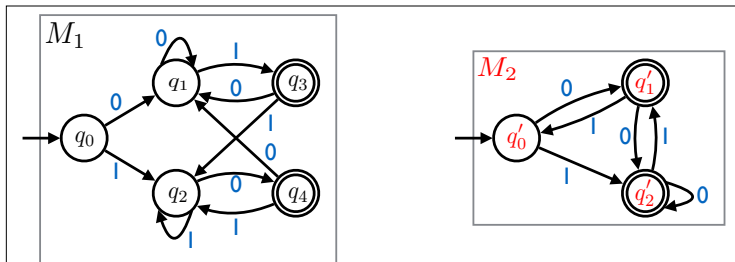
Imagine yourself as a DFA.

Rules:

- 1) Can only scan the input once, from left to right.
- 2) Can only remember "constant" amount of information.

↓
should not change
based on input length

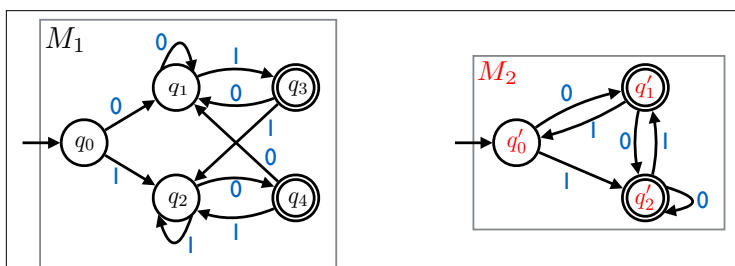
Step 1: Imagining ourselves as a DFA



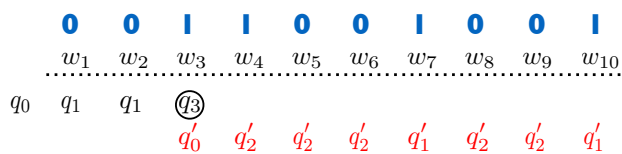
Given $w \in \Sigma^*$, we need to decide if
 $w = uv$ for $u \in L_1, v \in L_2$.

Problem: Don't know where u ends, v begins.

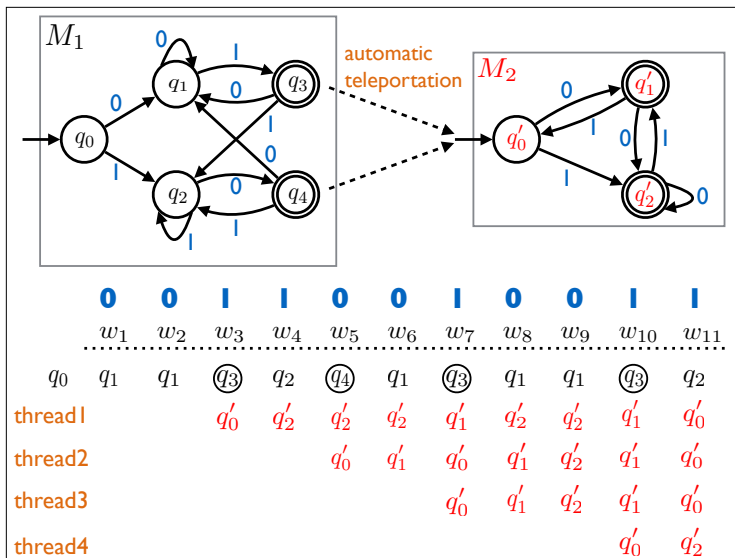
When do you stop simulating M_1 and start simulating M_2 ?

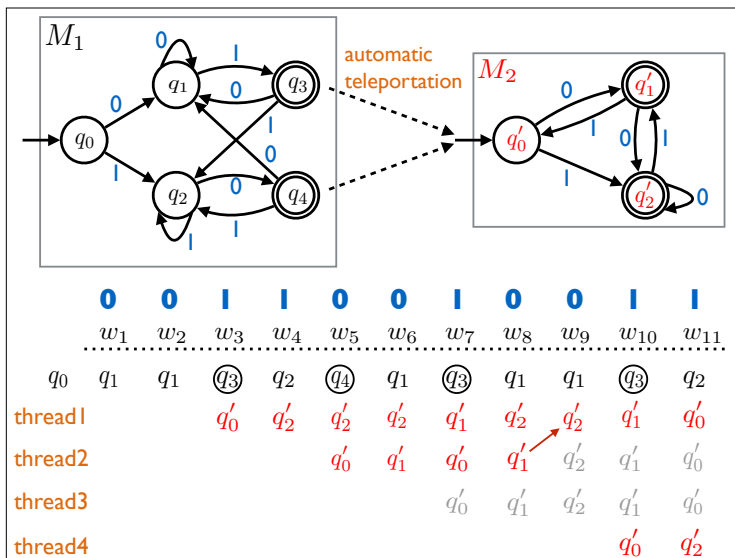


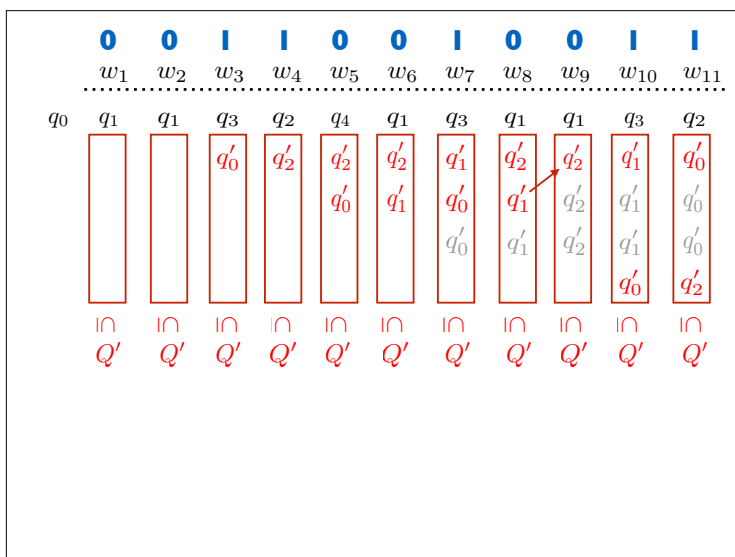
Suppose God tells you u ends at w_3 .



thread:







Step 2: Formally defining the DFA

$$M_1 = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$$

$$M_2 = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q'_0, F')$$

$$Q'' =$$

$$\delta'' :$$

$$q''_0 =$$

$$F'' =$$
