

Regex- ϵ -NFA example:

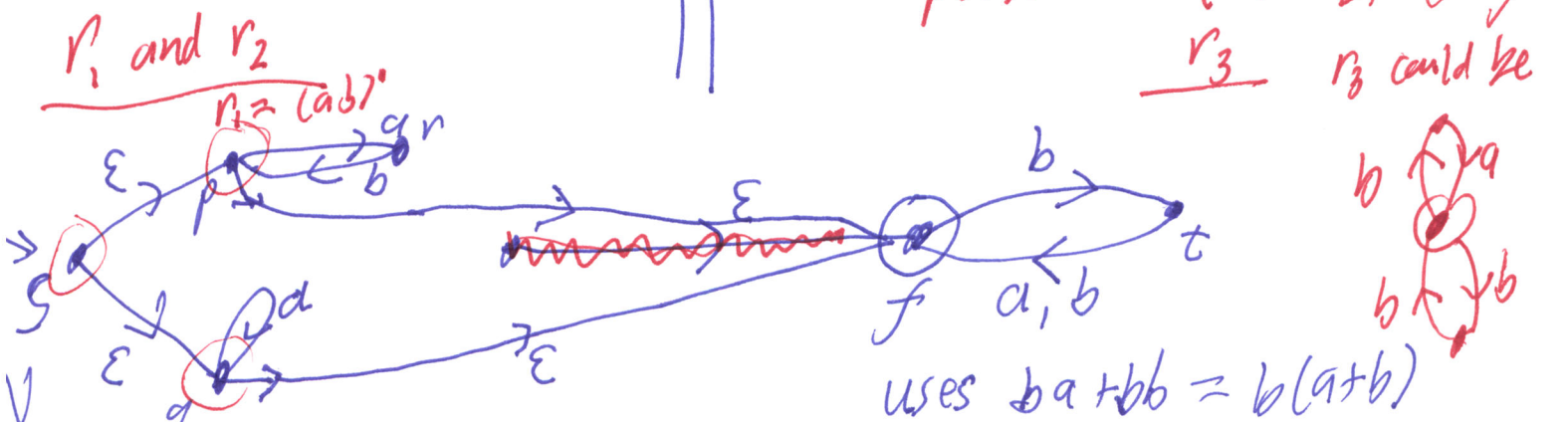
$$((ab)^* + a^*) \cdot (\underline{ba} + \underline{bb})^*$$

outermost op is + (union)

outermost op is \cdot

outermost is $*$.
The whole expression parses as $(r_1 + r_2) \cdot (r_3)^*$

r_3 r_3 could be



$N = \{s, p, q, f, t\}$

"Dead strings": $b a a, b b a, \dots$ more strings of length ≥ 4

Does N accept ϵ ? Yes because the Epsilon-closure $E(s)$ includes the accepting state f .

N' :
 $L(N') = b b (\epsilon \cup (a b + a)^* b)$

Defn does not allow $b b a$

The ϵ -closure $E(p)$ of a state p is the set of all states reachable by zero or more ϵ -arcs out of p . $\{f, q, t\}$

if we made this state accepting then we would incorrectly accept $b b a$.

$E(f) = \{f, q, t\}$

Theorem: For any NFA $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F)$, we can ⁽²⁾ build a DFA $M = (P(Q), \Sigma, \Delta, S, \mathcal{F})$ st $L(M) = L(N)$.

Abstract idea: States of M are subsets of possible states of N at any particular step i of processing an input $x = \underbrace{x_1 \dots x_i}_{PR} \dots \underbrace{x_n}_{T}$.

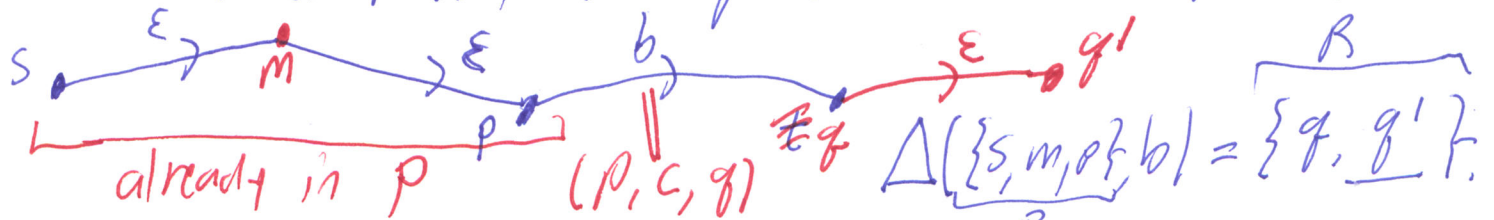
Proof stamps in the state $S = E(s)$. S P R T
is $T \in \mathcal{F}$?

We will ensure that every intermediate state P, R, \dots and our final state T are also ϵ -closed.

Defⁿ: The ϵ -closure $E(P)$ of a set of states P is the union of $E(p)$ over all $p \in P$. $E(P) = \bigcup_{p \in P} E(p)$.

Proof: Build $S = E(s)$, and for any $P \subseteq Q, c \in \Sigma$: $\Delta(P, c) = E(\{q \mid \text{for some } p \in P, (p, c, q) \in \delta\})$

Claim: For each i , the set R of states that N can be in after processing $x_1 \dots x_i$ equals $\Delta(P, x_i)$ where P is the set of possible states after processing $x_1 \dots x_{i-1}$.



The claim is by induction. Base case $i=0$ holds since $S = E(s)$. For ind. hypothesis, suppose it holds for P , i.e. $P = \{p: N \text{ can process } x_1 \dots x_{i-1} \text{ from } s \text{ to } p\}$.

We've defined $R = E(\{q: \text{for some } p \in P, (p, c, q) \in \delta\})$

We need to show $\Delta(P, c) = \boxed{\text{where } c = x_i}$

how $R = \{r: N \text{ can process } x_1 \dots x_i \text{ from } s \text{ to } r\}$.

(a) Let any $r \in R$ be given as defined. Then N can process $x_1 \dots x_i$ from s to r .

(b) Suppose N can process $x_1 \dots x_i$ from s to r . Show $r \in R$ End-Hyp.

Proof of (a): By defⁿ of $r \in R$, there is some state $p \in P$ such that N can process $x_1 \dots x_{i-1}$ from s to p and instruction $(p, c, q) \in \delta$ such that $r \in E(q)$. Then N can process:

- $x_1 \dots x_{i-1}$ from s to p (by End-Hyp).
- take the arc $p \xrightarrow{x_i} q$ So: N can process $x_i \dots x_i$ from p to r .
- take 0 or more ϵ -arcs from q to r .

Inverse of (b): In the processing of $x = x_1 x_2 \dots x_{i-1} x_i \dots$ there must have been some legal step $(p, x_i, q) \in \delta$ p ↑ q
 So $p \in P$, $(p, x_i, q) \in \delta$, and only ϵ -arcs were used from q to r .
 Thus $r \in E(\{q = (p, x_i, q) \in \delta \text{ for some } p \in P\}) = \Delta(P, x_i)$.

This claim finally shows that the end state T of the DFA equals $\{r \in Q : N \text{ can process all of } x \text{ from } s \text{ to } r\}$. (4)

By defn of $x \in L(N)$, N accepts x if and only if some such r is a final state, i.e. $r \in F$.

^{we want} Hence $T \in \mathcal{F}$ iff T includes some state in F .

So define $\mathcal{F} = \{T \subseteq Q : F \cap T \neq \emptyset\}$.

Then $L(M) = L(N)$. \square