Pre-lecture brain teaser

Given $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$, find the regular expression for the language containing all binary strings with an odd number of 0's

Formulate a **language** that describes the above problem.

ECE-374 B: Lecture 2 - DFAs

Lecturer: Nickvash Kani

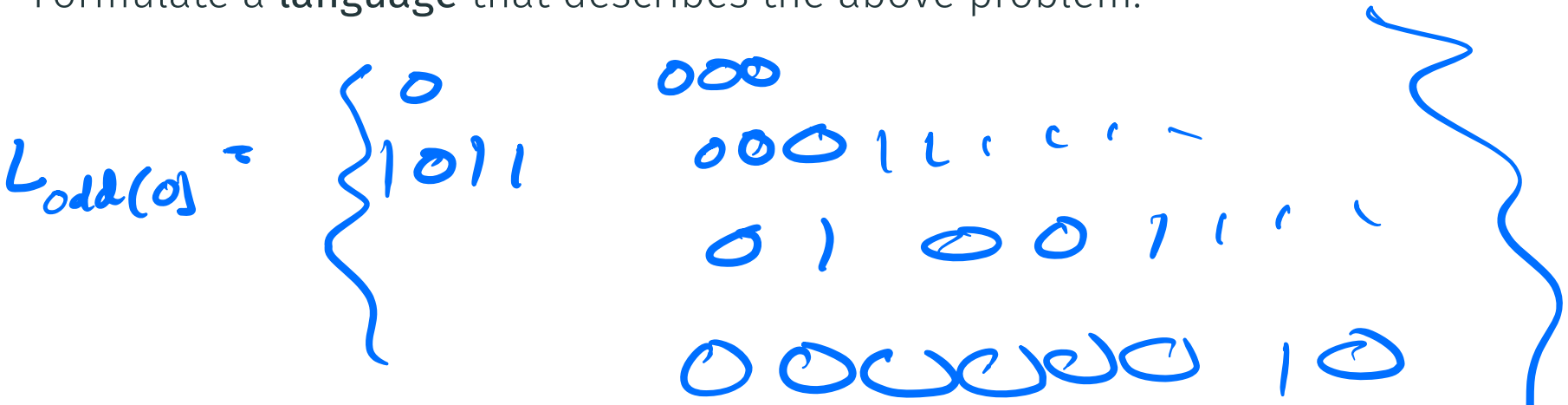
September 02, 2025

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Pre-lecture brain teaser

Given $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$, find the regular expression for the language containing all binary strings with an odd number of 0's

Formulate a **language** that describes the above problem.



Reg Ex : $1^* 0 1^* (0 1^* 0 1^*)^*$

$(0(00)^*0 + 1^*)^*$

$(0\varepsilon + \varepsilon)^2 (0)^2$

$\varepsilon 00$

A simple program

Program to check if an input string w has odd number of 0's

```
int n = 0
While input is not finished
    read next character c
    If (c ≡'0')
        n ← n + 1
endWhile
If (n is odd) output YES
Else output NO
```

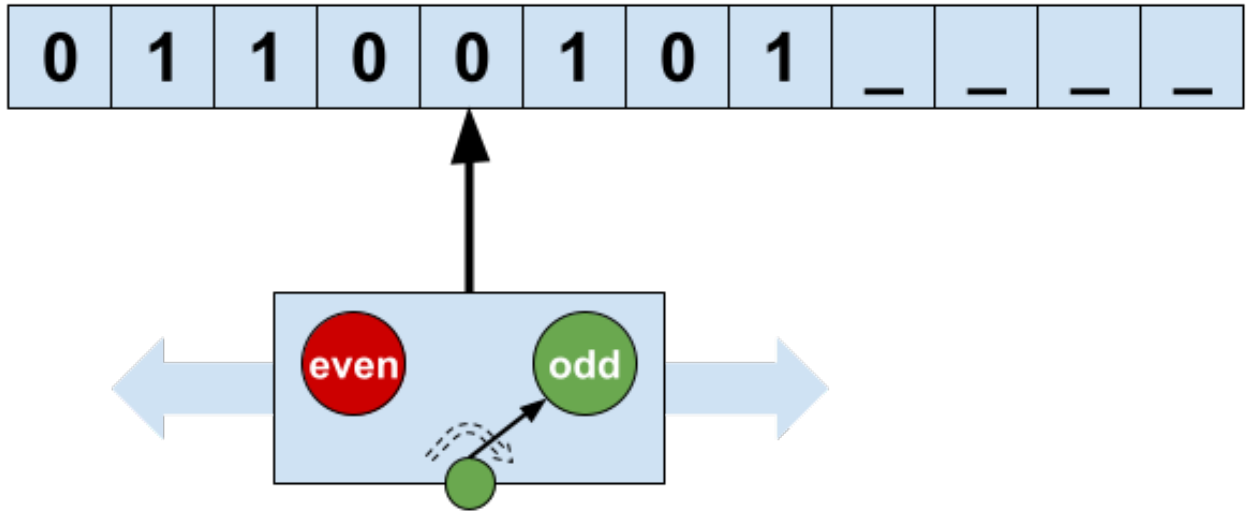
A simple program

Program to check if an input string w has odd number of 0's

```
int n = 0
While input is not finished
    read next character c
    If (c ='0')
        n ← n + 1
endWhile
If (n is odd) output YES
Else output NO
```

```
bit x = 0
While input is not finished
    read next character c
    If (c ='0')
        x ← flip(x)
endWhile
If (x = 1) output YES
```

Another view



- Machine has input written on a read-only tape
- Start in specified start state
- Start at left, scan symbol, change state and move right
- Circled states are accepting
- Machine accepts input string if it is in an accepting state after scanning the last symbol.

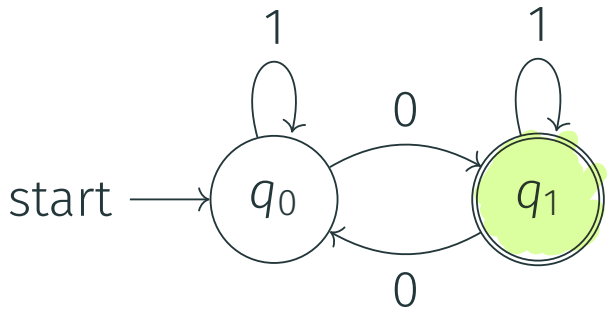
Deterministic-finite-automata (DFA) Introduction

DFAs also called Finite State Machines (FSMs)

- The “simplest” model for computers?
- State machines that are common in practice.
  - Vending machines
  - Elevators
  - Digital watches
  - Simple network protocols
- Programs with fixed memory

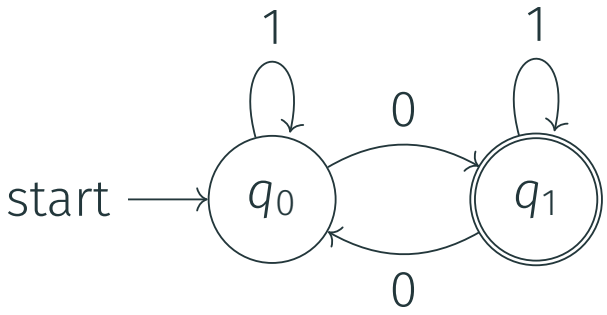
Graphical representation of DFA

Graphical Representation/State Machine



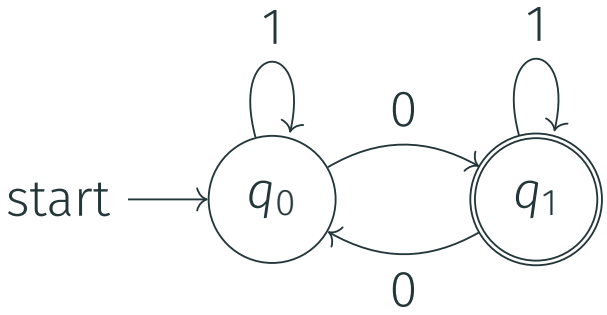
- Directed graph with nodes representing states and edge/arcs representing transitions labeled by symbols in Σ
- For each state (vertex) q and symbol $a \in \Sigma$ there is exactly one outgoing edge labeled by a
- Initial/start state has a pointer (or labeled as s, q_0 or "start")
- Some states with double circles labeled as accepting/final states

Graphical Representation



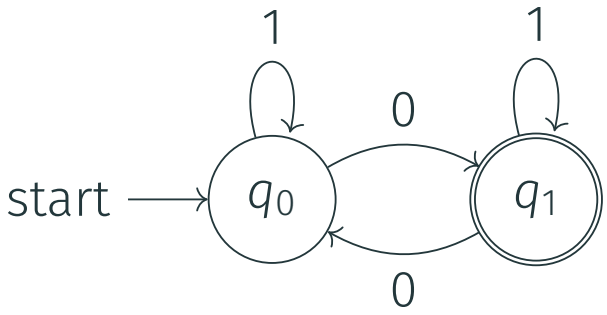
- Where does 001 lead? q_0

Graphical Representation



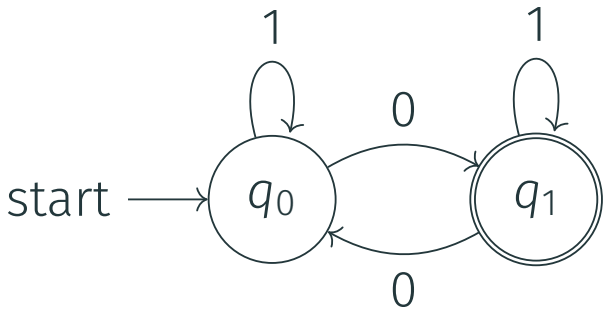
- Where does 001 lead?
- Where does 10010 lead?

Graphical Representation



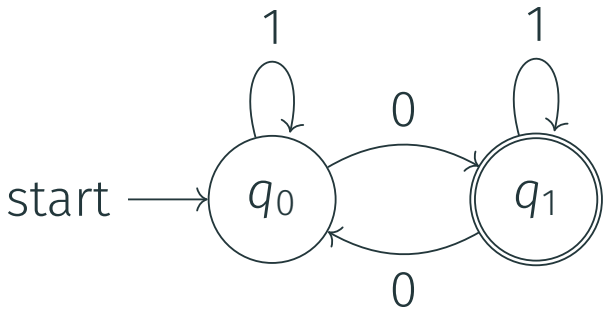
- Where does 001 lead?
- Where does 10010 lead?
- Which strings end up in accepting state? strings with an odd # of 0's

Graphical Representation



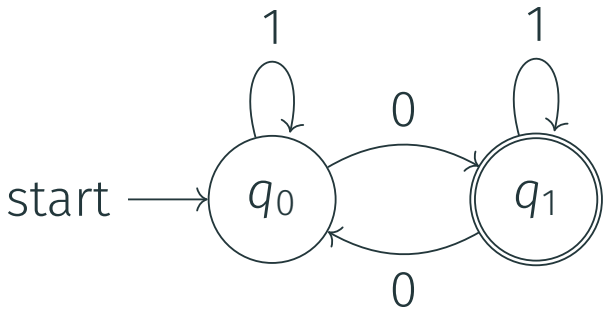
- Where does 001 lead?
- Where does 10010 lead?
- Which strings end up in accepting state?
- Every string w has a unique walk that it follows from a given state q by reading one letter of w from left to right.

Graphical Representation



Definition
A DFA M accepts a string w iff the unique walk starting at the start state and spelling out w ends in an accepting state.

Graphical Representation



Definition
A DFA M accepts a string w iff the unique walk starting at the start state and spelling out w ends in an accepting state.

Definition
The language accepted (or recognized) by a DFA M is denote by $L(M)$ and defined as: $L(M) = \{w \mid M \text{ accepts } w\}$.

reg expr "r"
L(r) language represented by the regular expression r

Formal definition of DFA

Formal Tuple Notation

Definition
A deterministic finite automata (DFA) $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ is a five tuple where

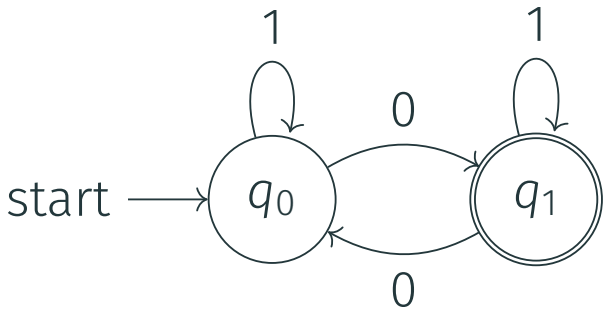
- Q is a finite set whose elements are called states,
- Σ is a finite set called the input alphabet,
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \to Q$ is the transition function,
- $s \in Q$ is the start state,
- $A \subseteq Q$ is the set of accepting/final states.

Common alternate notation: q_0 for start state, F for final states.

DFA Notation

$$M = \left(\overbrace{Q}^{\text{set of states}}, \underbrace{\Sigma}_{\text{alphabet}}, \overbrace{\delta}^{\text{transition function}}, \underbrace{s}_{\text{start state}}, \overbrace{A}^{\text{accepting states}} \right)$$

Example



- $Q = \{q_0, q_1\}$
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- $\delta =$ $\delta(q_0, 0) = q_1$, $\delta(q_0, 1) = q_0$, $\delta(q_1, 0) = q_0$, $\delta(q_1, 1) = q_1$

$\delta =$

	0	1
q_0	q_1	q_0
q_1	q_0	q_1

- $s = q_0$
- $A = \{q_1\}$

Extending the transition function to strings

Extending the transition function to strings

Given DFA $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$, $\delta(q, a)$ is the state that M goes to from q on reading letter a

Useful to have notation to specify the unique state that M will reach from q on reading string w

Extending the transition function to strings

Given DFA $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$, $\delta(q, a)$ is the state that M goes to from q on reading letter a

Useful to have notation to specify the unique state that M will reach from q on reading string w

Transition function $\delta^* : Q \times \Sigma^* \to Q$ defined inductively as follows:

- $\delta^*(q, w) = q$ if $w = \epsilon$
- $\delta^*(q, w) = \delta^*(\delta(q, a), x)$ if $w = ax$.

$w = 01$

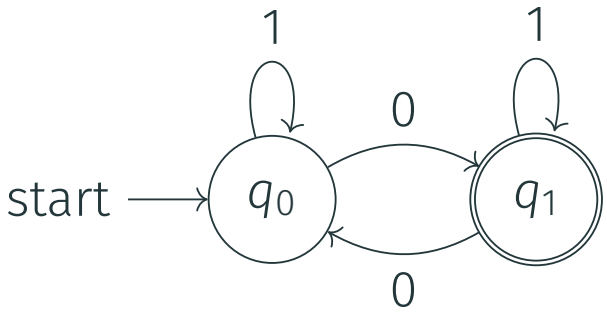
$\delta^*(q_0, 01) = \delta^*(\delta(q_0, 0), 1)$

Formal definition of language accepted by M

Definition
The language $L(M)$ accepted by a DFA $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ is

$$\{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \delta^*(s, w) \in A\}.$$

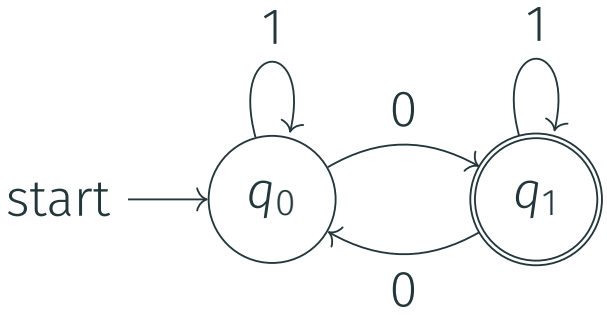
Example



What is:

- $\delta^*(q_1, \epsilon) =$ q_1

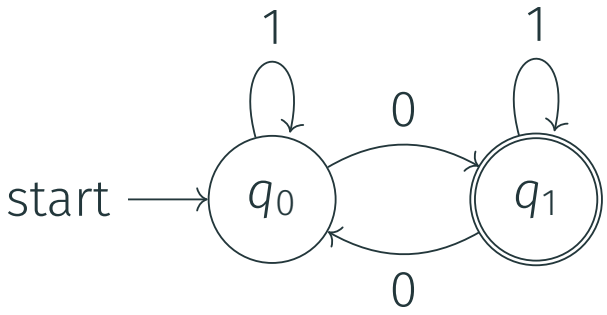
Example



What is:

- $\delta^*(q_1, \epsilon) =$
- $\delta^*(q_0, 1011) =$ q_1

Example



What is:

- $\delta^*(q_1, \epsilon) =$
- $\delta^*(q_0, 1011) =$
- $\delta^*(q_1, 010) =$ q_1

Constructing DFAs: Examples

DFAs: State = Memory

How do we design a DFA M for a given language L? That is $L(M) = L$.

- DFA is a like a program that has fixed number of states regardless of its input size.
- The state must capture enough information from the input seen so far that it is sufficient for the suffix that is yet to be seen (note that DFA cannot go back)

DFA Construction: Example I: Basic languages

Assume $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

1. $L = \emptyset$

DFA Construction: Example I: Basic languages

Assume $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

1. $L = \emptyset$

2. $L = \Sigma^*$

DFA Construction: Example I: Basic languages

Assume $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

1. $L = \emptyset$

2. $L = \Sigma^*$

3. $L = \{\epsilon\}$

DFA Construction: Example I: Basic languages

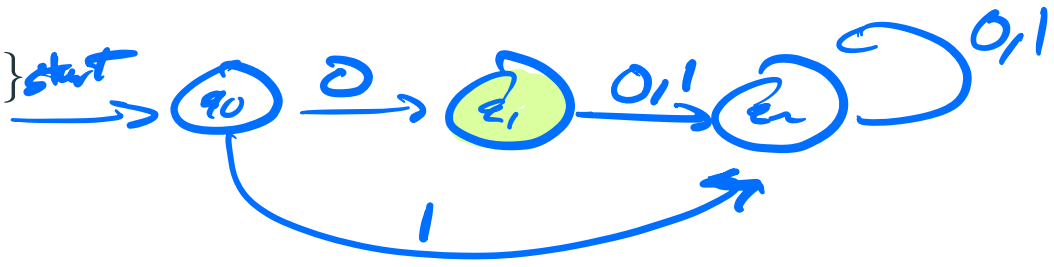
Assume $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

1. $L = \emptyset$

2. $L = \Sigma^*$

3. $L = \{\epsilon\}$

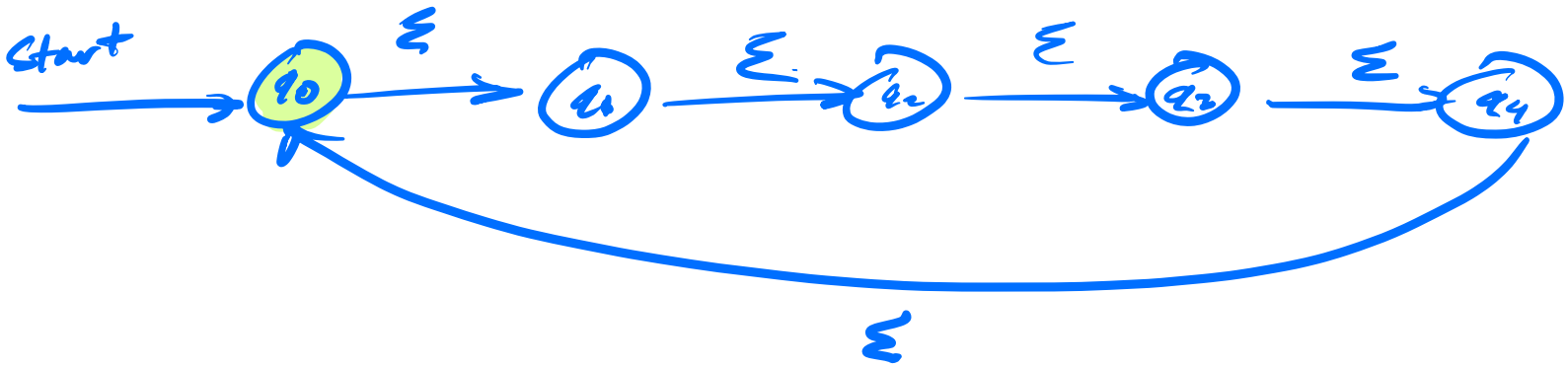
4. $L = \{0\}$



DFA Construction: Example II: Length divisible by 5

Assume $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

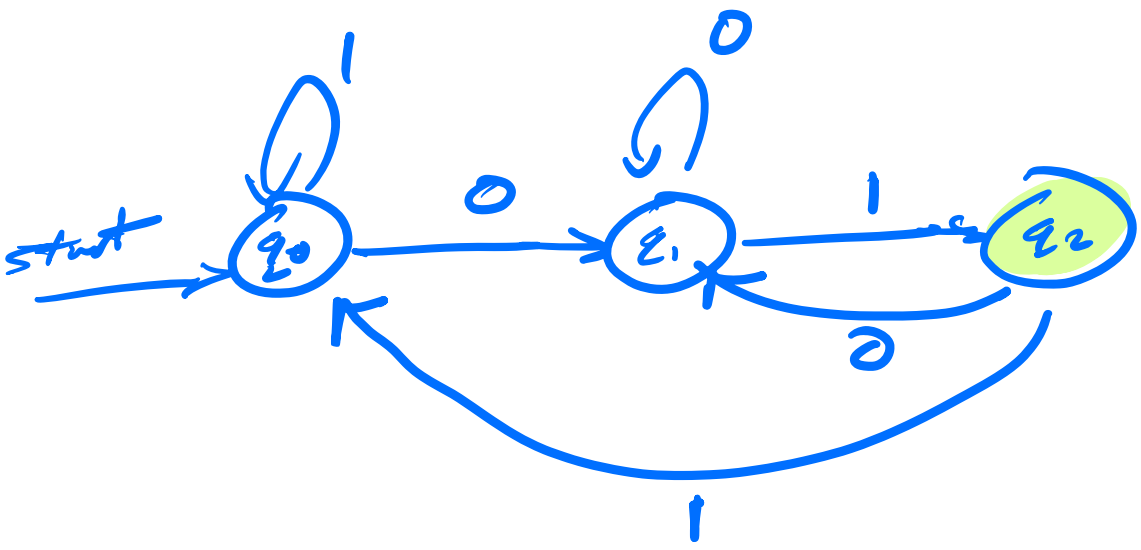
$L = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid |w| \text{ is divisible by } 5\}$



DFA Construction: Example III: Ends with 01

Assume $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

$L = \{w \in \{0,1\}^* \mid w \text{ ends with } 01\}$



0 1

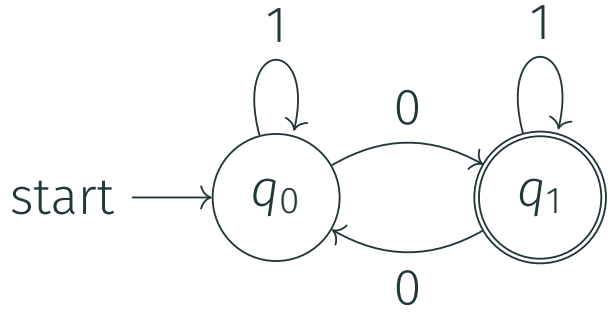
0 1 0 1

0 1 0 1 1

Complement language

Complement

Question: If M is a DFA, is there a DFA M' such that $L(M') = \Sigma^* \setminus L(M)$? That is, are languages recognized by DFAs closed under complement?



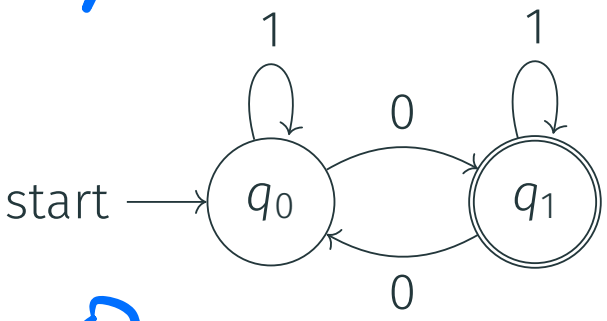
$L = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid w$ has an odd # of zeros$\}$

$L' = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid w$ ~~has~~ that does not have an odd # of zeros$\}$

Complement

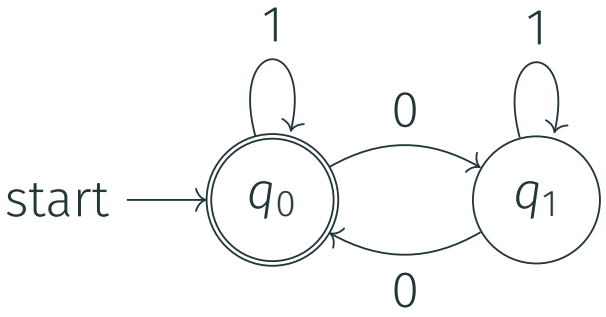
Just flip the state of the states!

M



Q
Σ
δ
s
A

M'



$Q' = Q$
$\Sigma' = \Sigma$
$\delta' = \delta$
$s' = s$
$A' = Q - A$

language transformation

Complement

Theorem
Languages accepted by DFAs are closed under complement.

Property : Representable by a DFA

Set A has all positive integers

Set B has all positive integer

$A = \{100, 200, 47\}$ $B = \{4, 11\}$

A & B have the property of having all positive integers

$A \cdot B = C$ has all positive integers

Function of complement is closed for languages that are representable by a DFA

Multiplication is closed for the property of all positive integers

Complement

Theorem
Languages accepted by DFAs are closed under complement.

Proof.
Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ such that $L = L(M)$.

Let $M' = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, Q \setminus A)$. Claim: $L(M') = \bar{L}$. Why?

$\delta^*_M = \delta^*_{M'}$. Thus, for every string w, $\delta^*_M(s, w) = \delta^*_{M'}(s, w)$.

$\delta^*_M(s, w) \in A \Rightarrow \delta^*_{M'}(s, w) \notin Q \setminus A$. $\delta^*_M(s, w) \notin A \Rightarrow \delta^*_{M'}(s, w) \in Q \setminus A$. $\square$

Product Construction

Union and Intersection

Are languages accepted by DFAs closed under union? That is, given DFAs M_1 and M_2 is there a DFA that accepts $L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$?

How about intersection $L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$?

Union and Intersection

Are languages accepted by DFAs closed under union? That is, given DFAs M_1 and M_2 is there a DFA that accepts $L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$?

How about intersection $L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$?

Idea from programming: on input string w

- Simulate M_1 on w
- Simulate M_2 on w
- If both accept than $w \in L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$. If at least one accepts then $w \in L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$.

Union and Intersection

Are languages accepted by DFAs closed under union? That is, given DFAs M_1 and M_2 is there a DFA that accepts $L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$?

How about intersection $L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$?

Idea from programming: on input string w

- Simulate M_1 on w
- Simulate M_2 on w
- If both accept than $w \in L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$. If at least one accepts then $w \in L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$.
- Catch: We want a single DFA M that can only read w once.

Union and Intersection

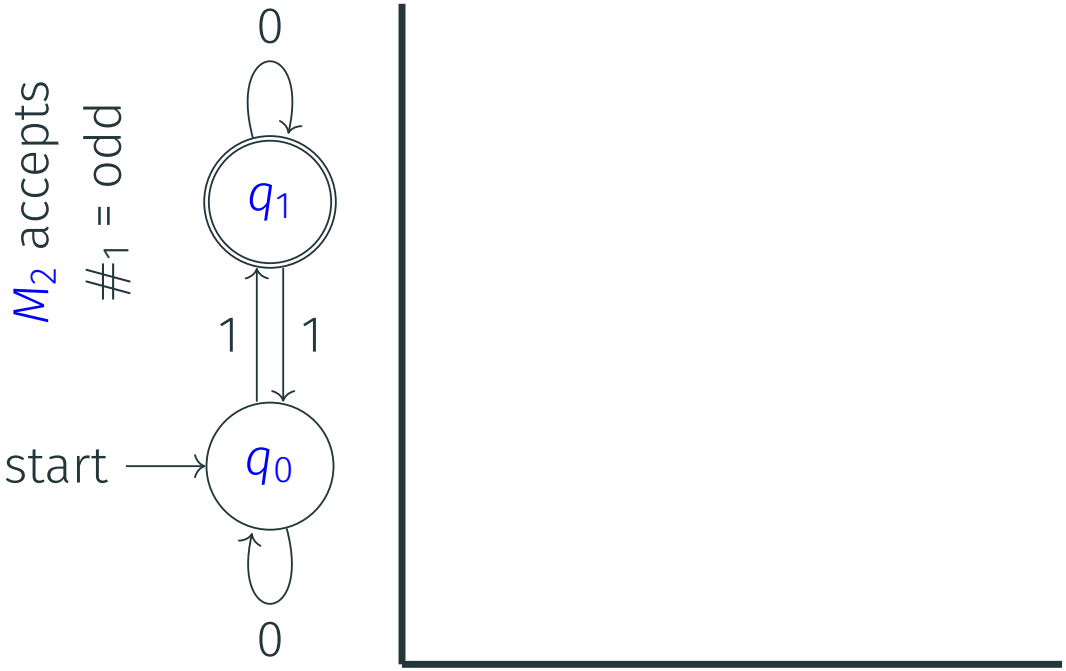
Are languages accepted by DFAs closed under union? That is, given DFAs M_1 and M_2 is there a DFA that accepts $L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$?

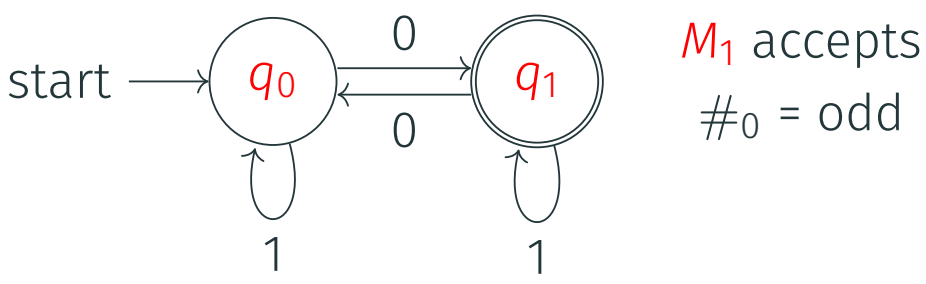
How about intersection $L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$?

Idea from programming: on input string w

- Simulate M_1 on w
- Simulate M_2 on w
- If both accept than $w \in L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$. If at least one accepts then $w \in L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$.
- Catch: We want a single DFA M that can only read w once.
- Solution: Simulate M_1 and M_2 in parallel by keeping track of states of both machines

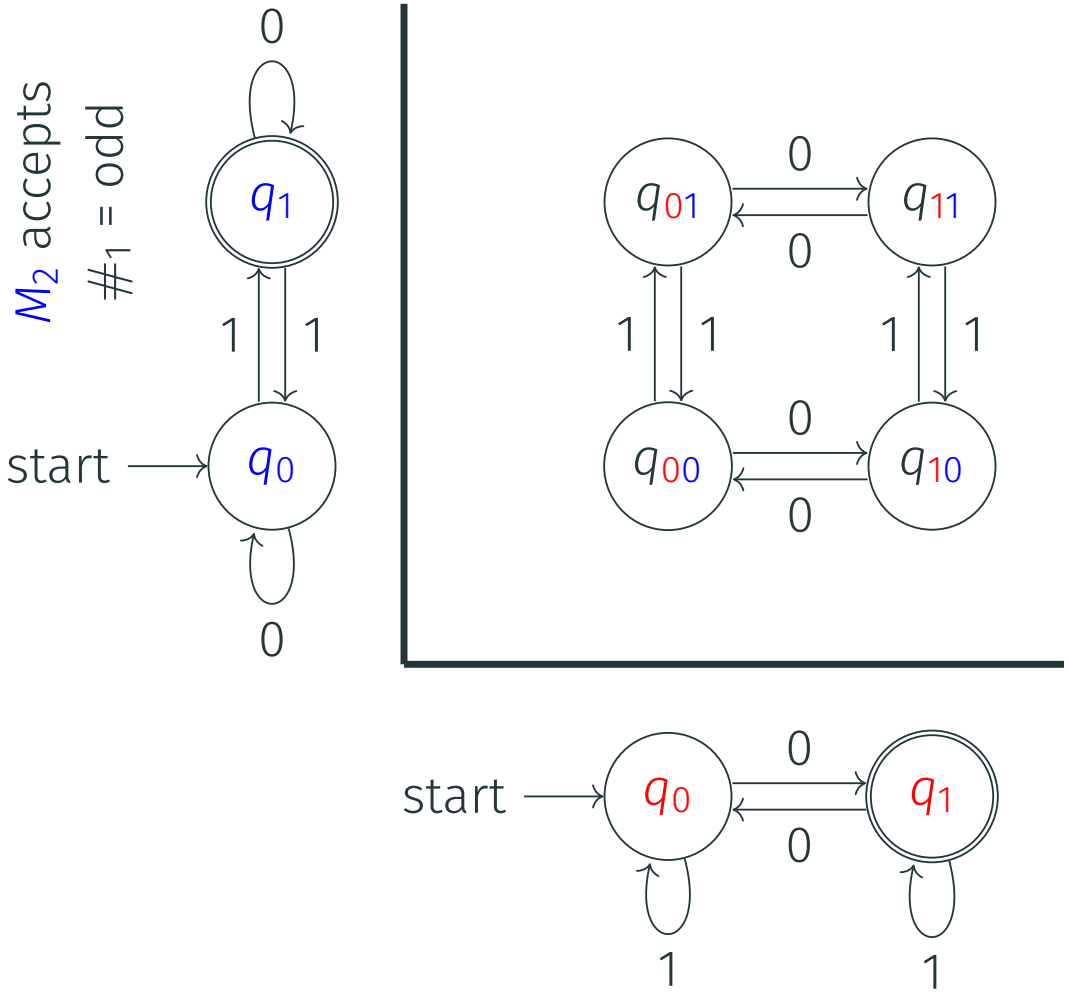
Cross-Product Example





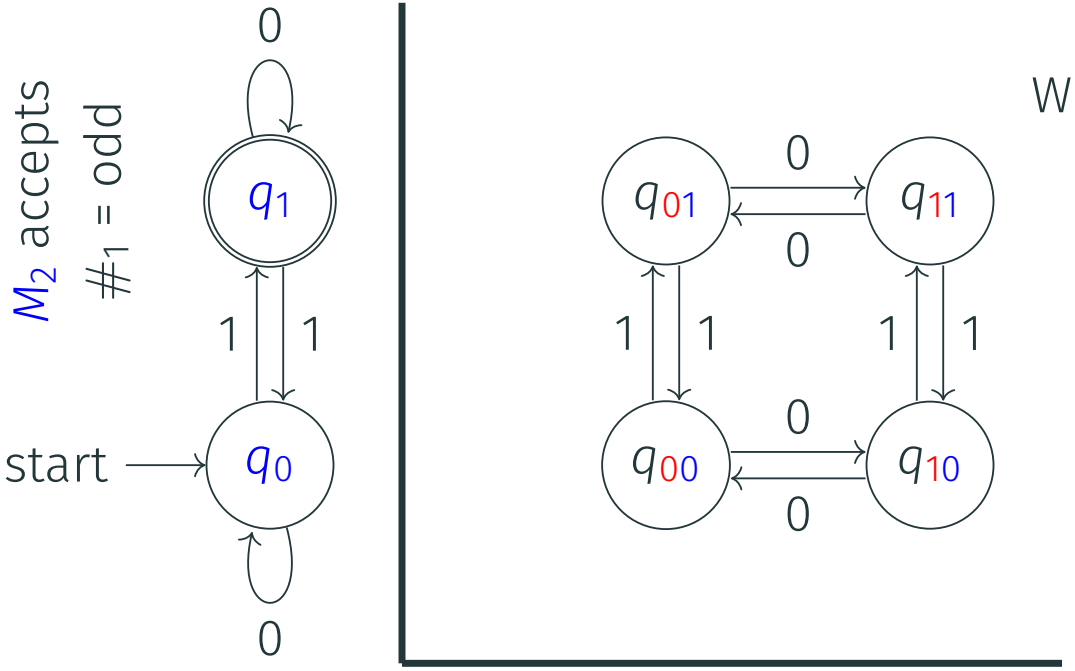
M_1 accepts
$\#_0$ = odd

Cross-Product Example

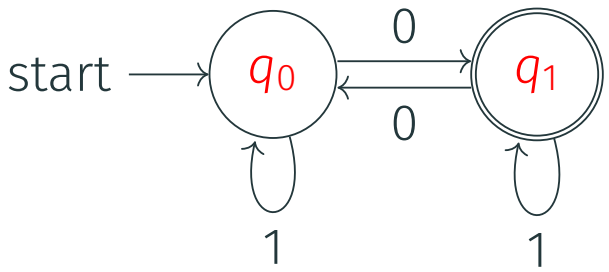


M_1 accepts
$\#_0$ = odd

Cross-Product Example



What language does M_{12} accept?



M_1 accepts $\#_0$ = odd

Product construction for intersection

$M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, s_1, A_1)$ and $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, s_2, A_2)$

Theorem
$L(M) = L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$.

Create $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ where

Product construction for intersection

$M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, s_1, A_1)$ and $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, s_2, A_2)$

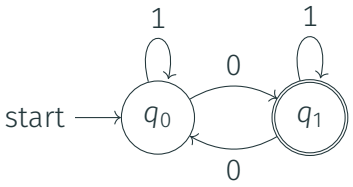
Theorem
$L(M) = L(M_1) \cap L(M_2)$.

Create $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ where

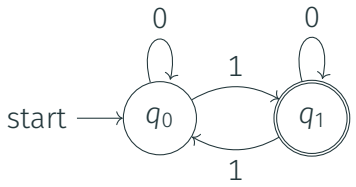
- $Q =$
- $s =$
- δ :
- $A =$ $A_1 \times A_2$

Intersection vs Union

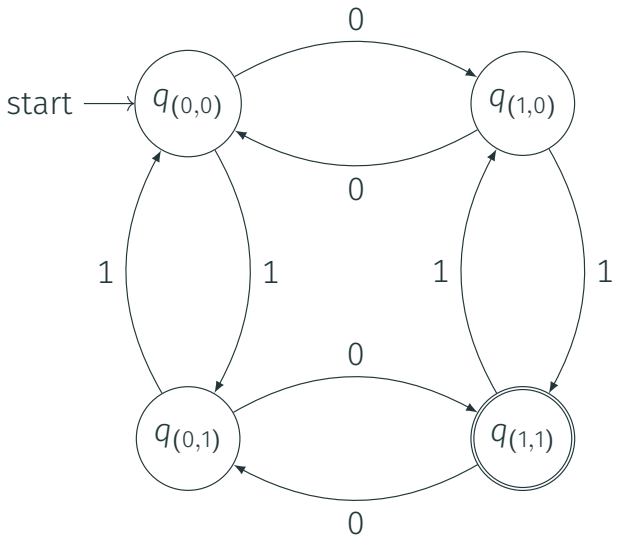
M_1:



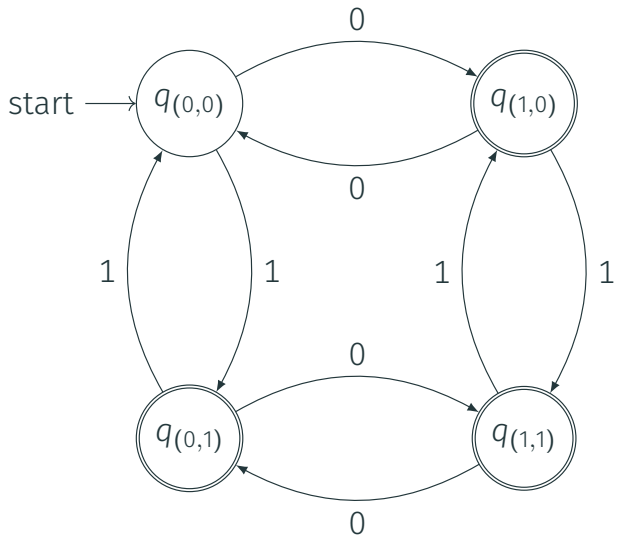
M_2 :



$M_1 \cap M_2$



$M_1 \cup M_2$



Product construction for union

$M_1 = (Q_1, \Sigma, \delta_1, s_1, A_1)$ and $M_2 = (Q_2, \Sigma, \delta_2, s_2, A_2)$

Theorem
$L(M) = L(M_1) \cup L(M_2)$.

Create $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, A)$ where

- $Q = Q_1 \times Q_2 = \{(q_1, q_2) \mid q_1 \in Q_1, q_2 \in Q_2\}$
- $s = (s_1, s_2)$
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \to Q$ where

$$\delta((q_1, q_2), a) = (\delta_1(q_1, a), \delta_2(q_2, a))$$

- $A =$ (q_1, q_2) where $q_1 \in A_1$ or $q_2 \in A_2$

The End

Wonder why we had to specify *deterministic* finite automata? That's for next time.