

From Regular Expressions to Star Fragments

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St. Mary's College of California (Bucknell University starting in July)

Based on Coalgebraic Completeness Theorems for Effectful Process Calculi, UCL, 2023 and joint work with

Wojciech Rozowski (UCL)

Tobias Kappé (Open Universiteit)

Dexter Kozen (Cornell University)

Jurriaan Rot (Radboud University)

Alexandra Silva (Cornell University)

LLAMA Seminar



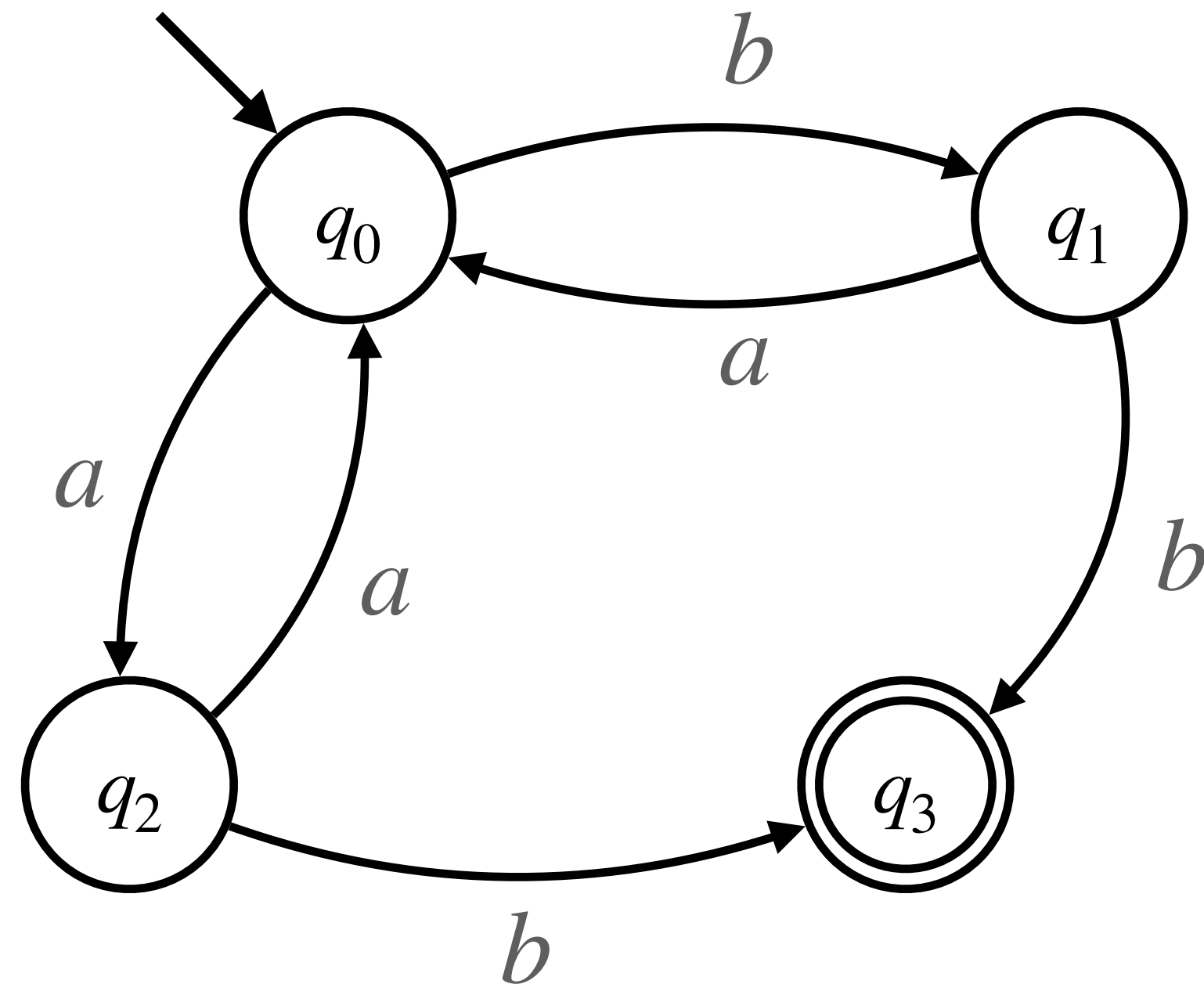
Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

This Talk

1. Regular expressions and regular languages
2. Axioms for language equivalence *à la* Salomaa
3. Process (bisimilarity) semantics of regular expressions
4. Guarded Kleene Algebra with Tests mod bisimilarity
5. What these process algebras have in common
6. Star Fragments
7. Open Problems

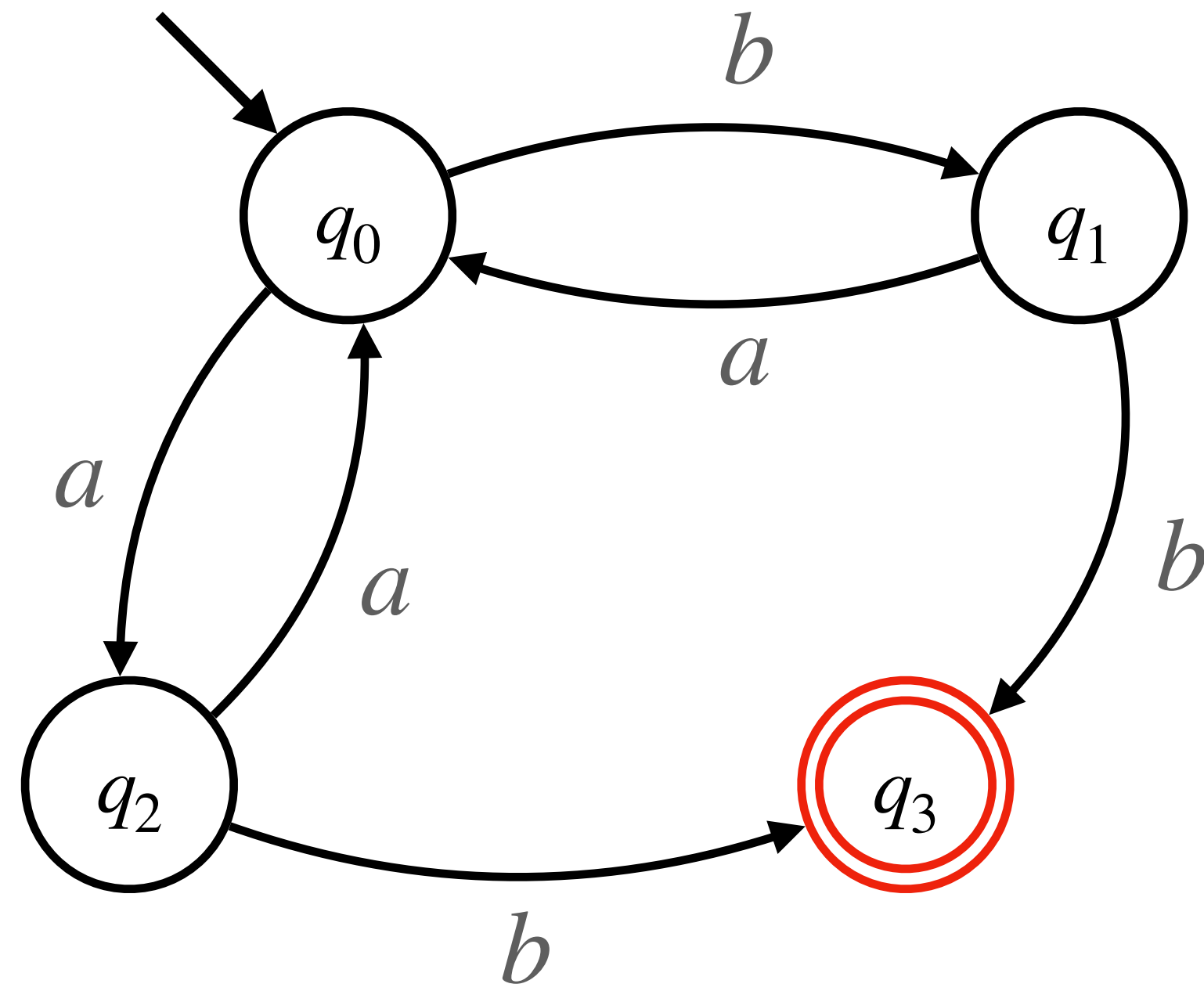
Regular Languages

$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times X^A$$



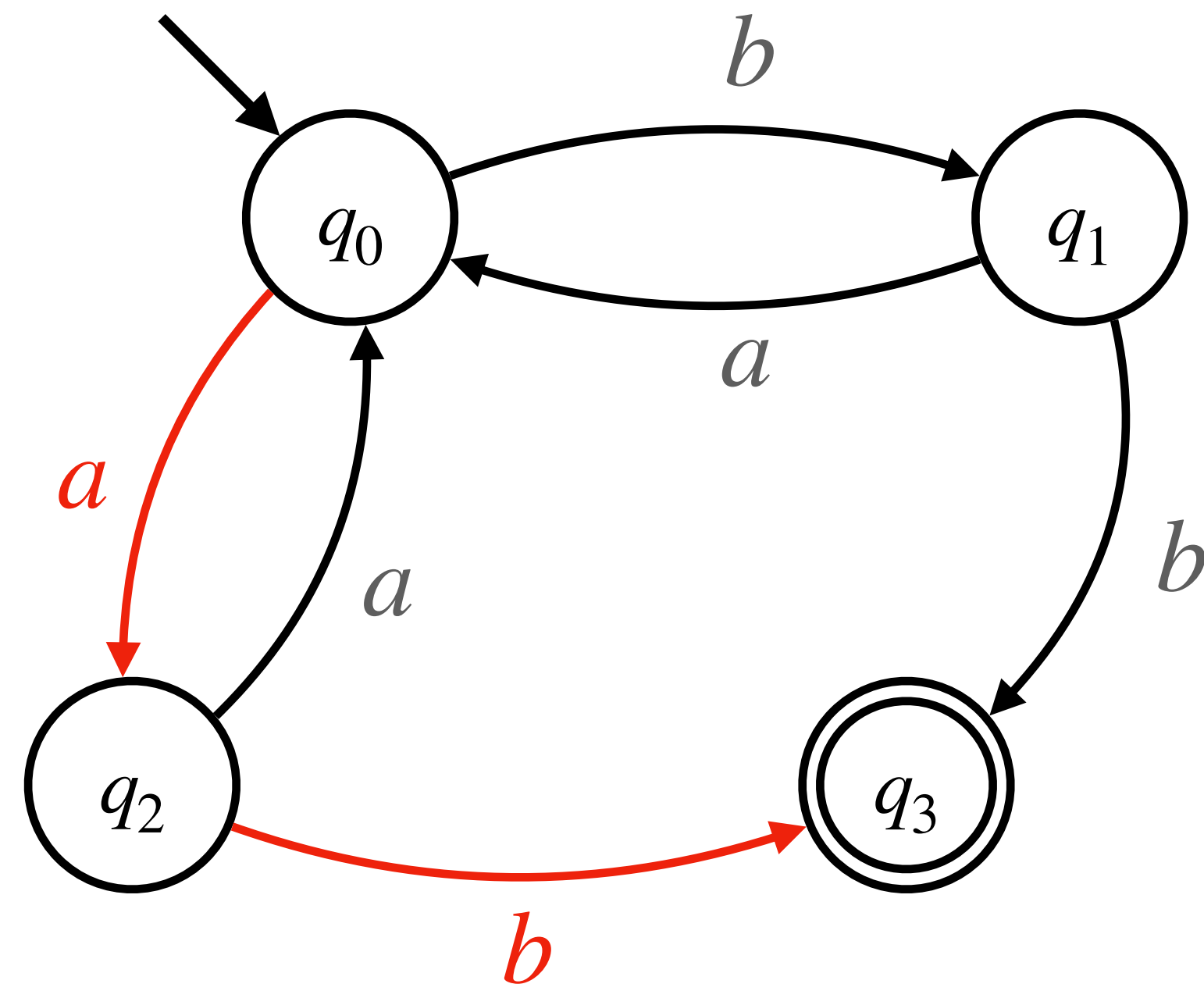
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Regular Languages

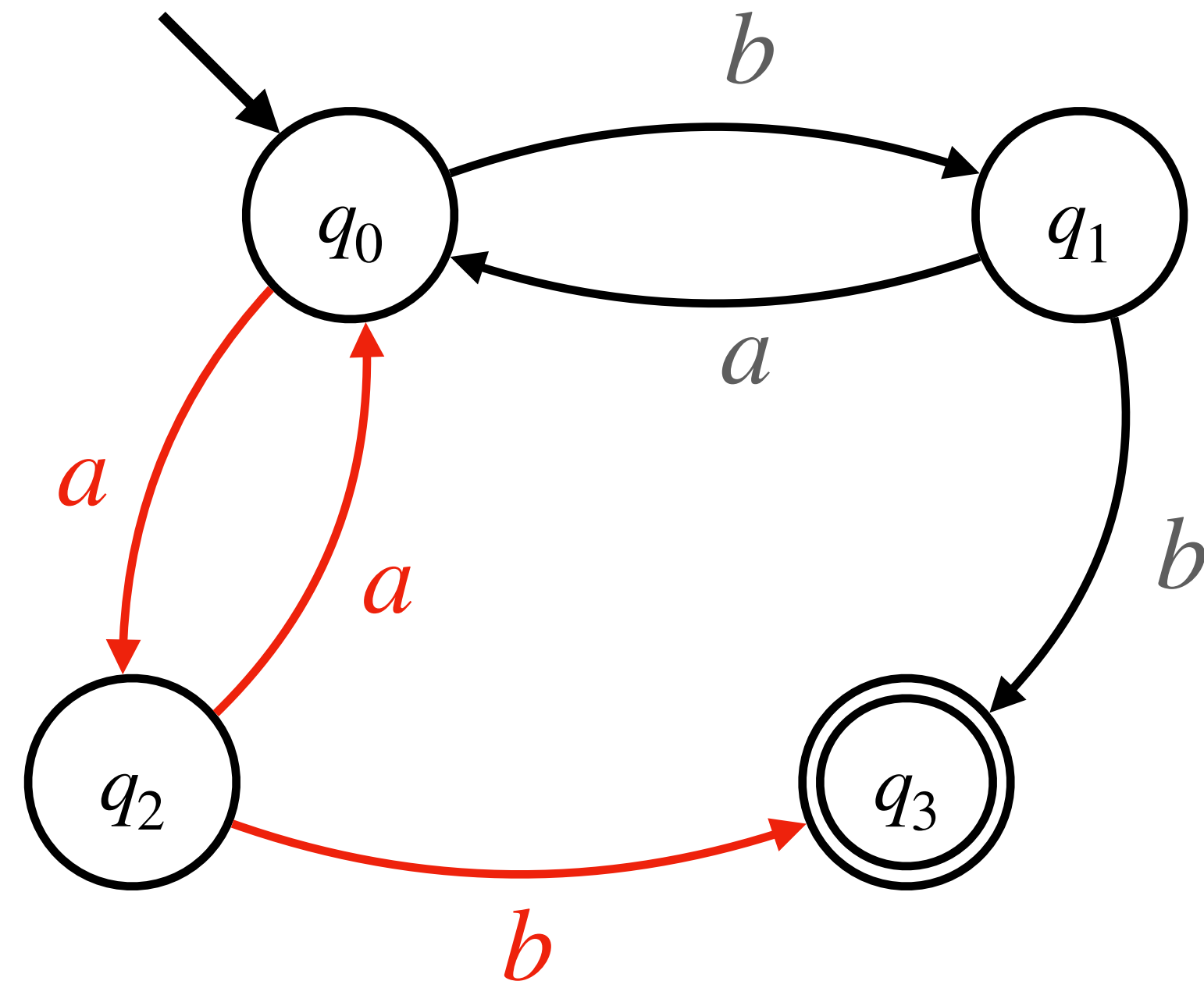
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ab

Regular Languages

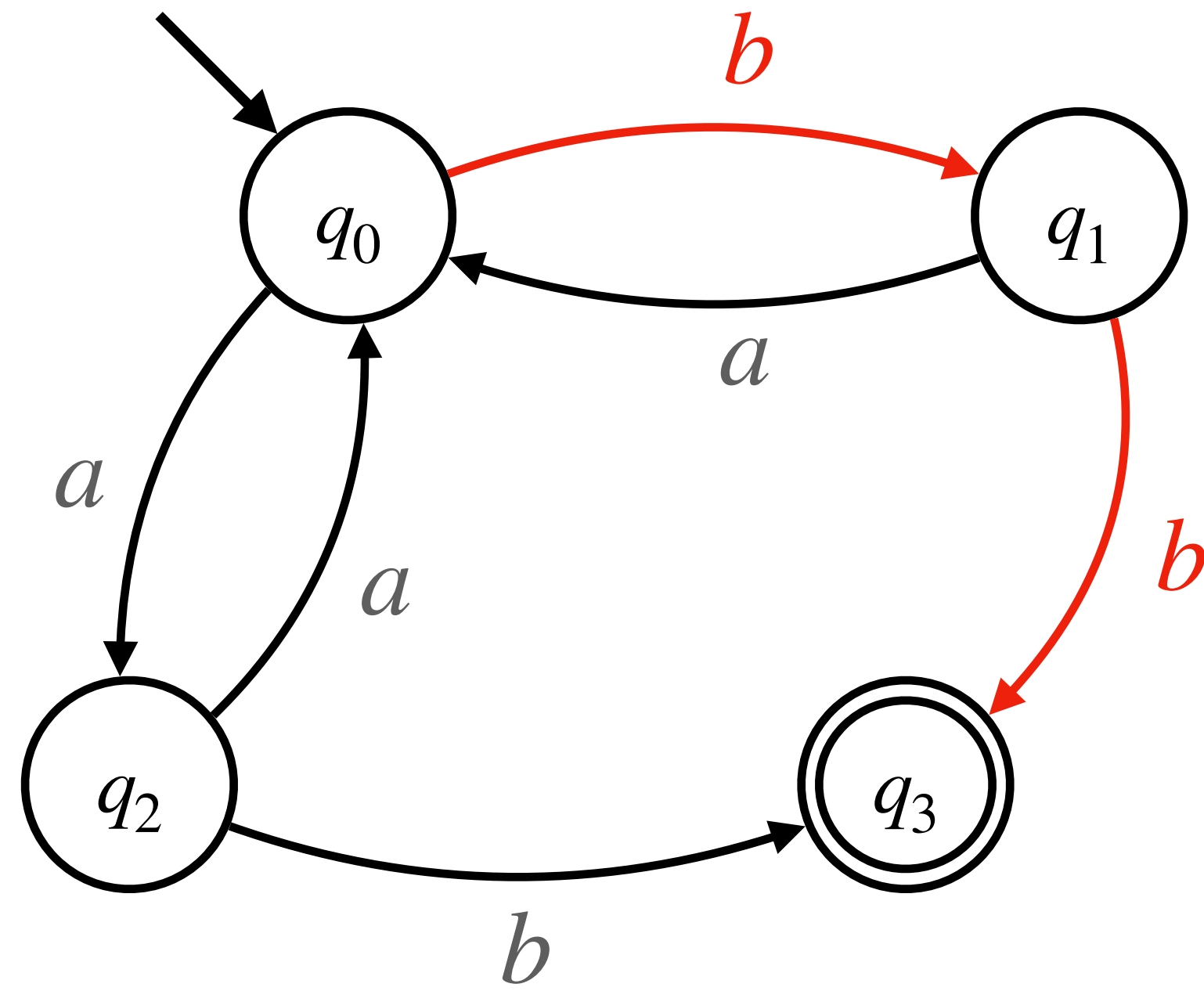
$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times X^A$$



ab, aaab

Regular Languages

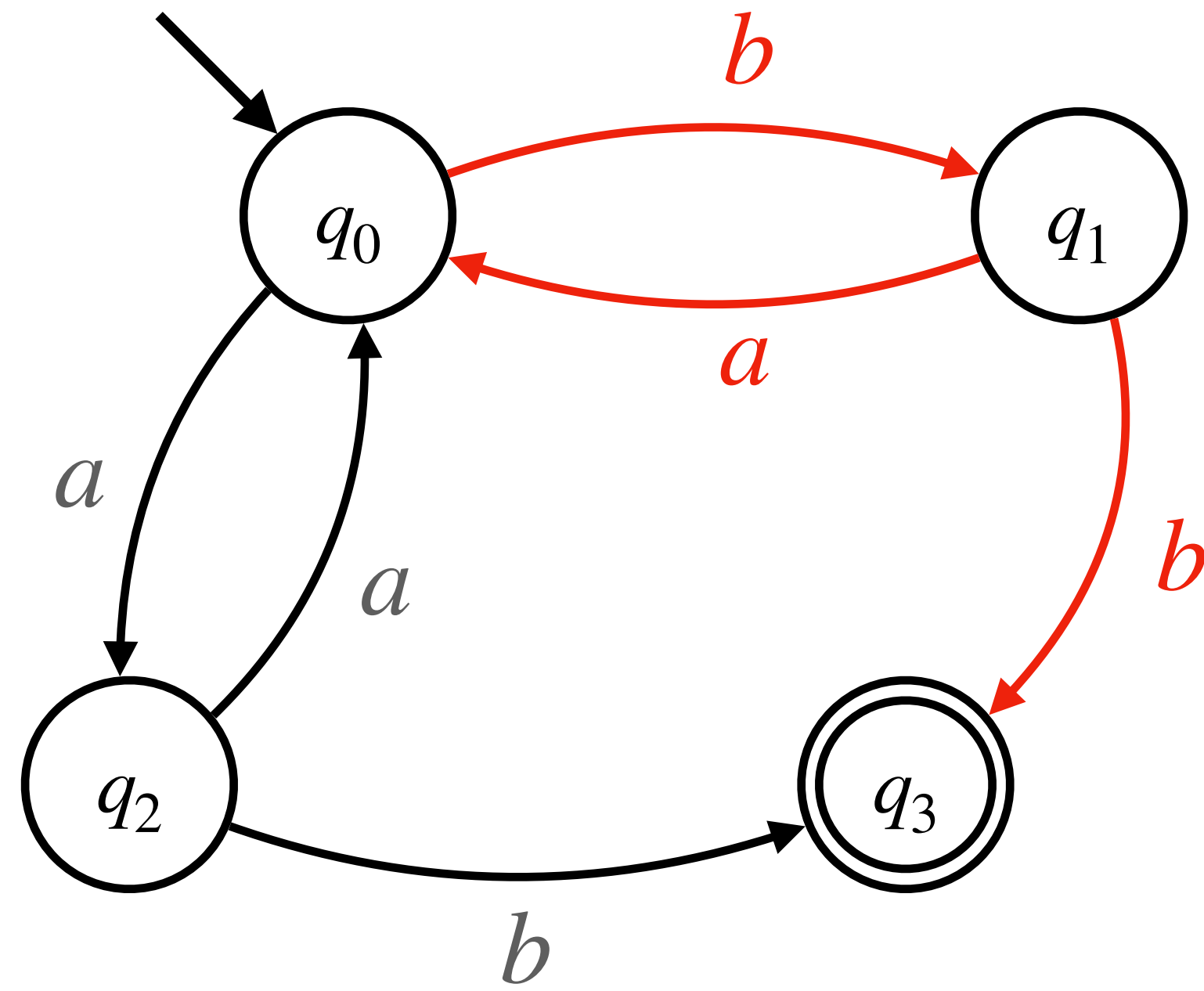
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ab, aaab, bb

Regular Languages

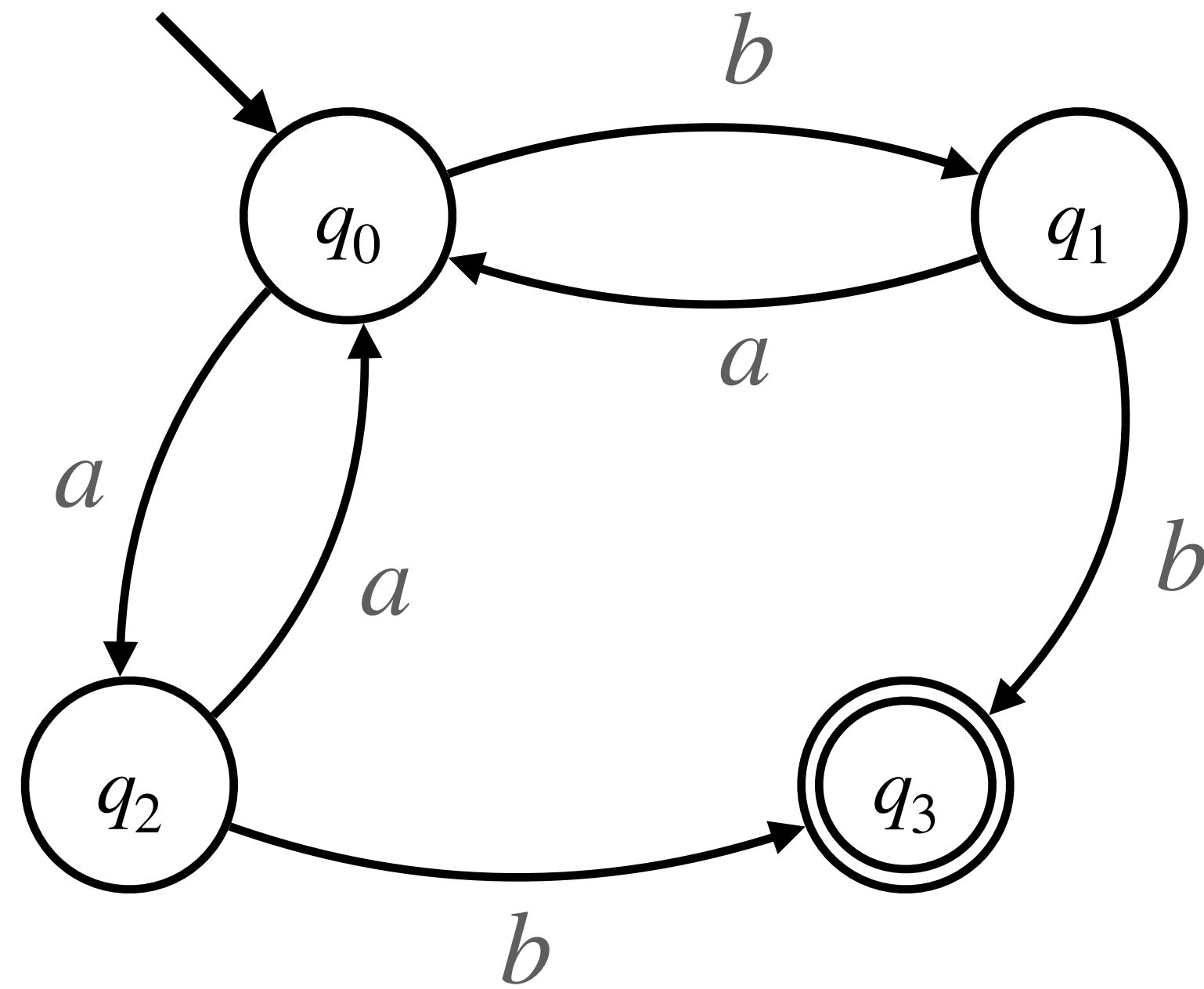
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ab, aaab, bb, babb

Regular Languages

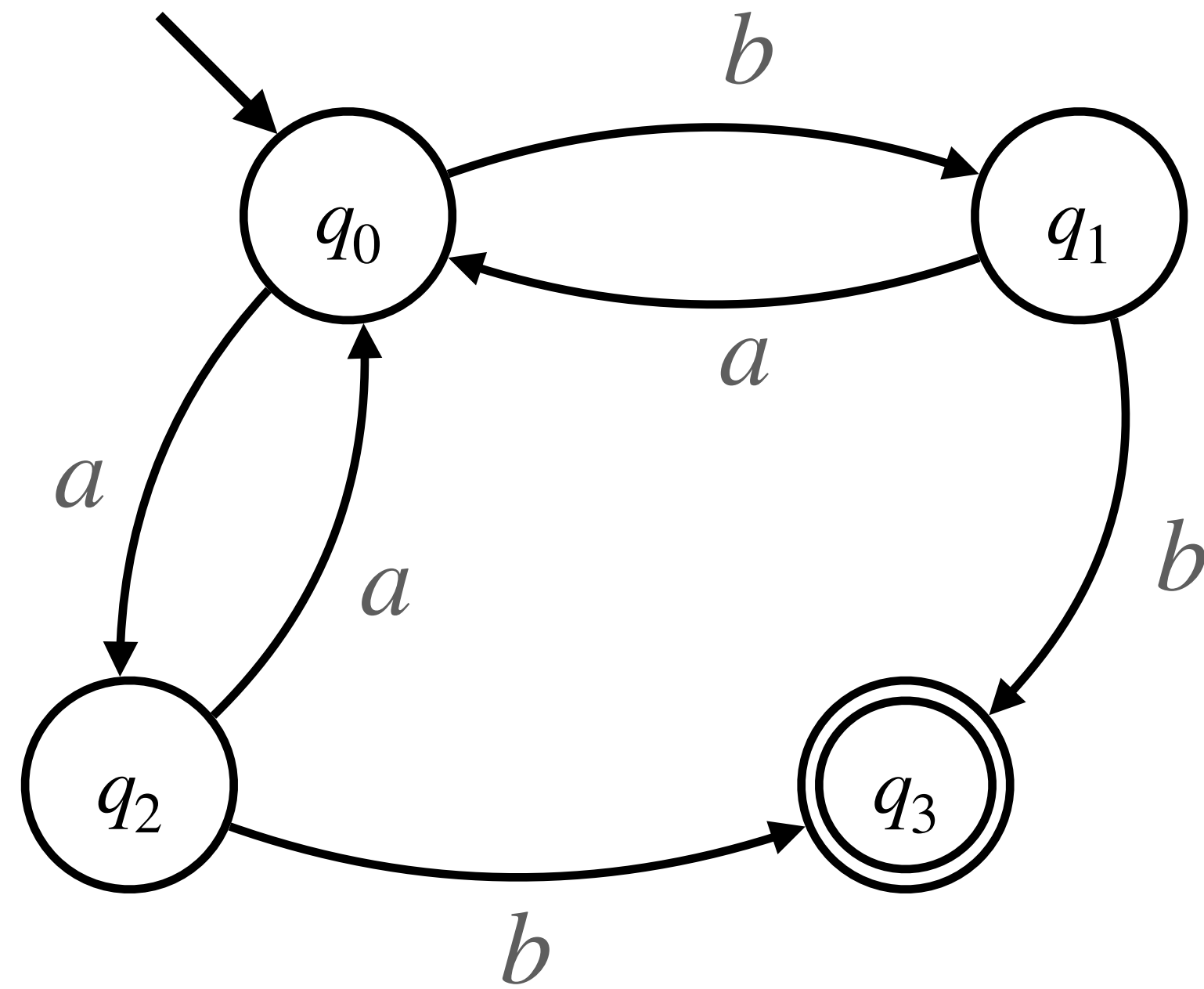
$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times X^A$$



$$L = \{ab, aaab, bb, babb, \dots\}$$

Regular Languages

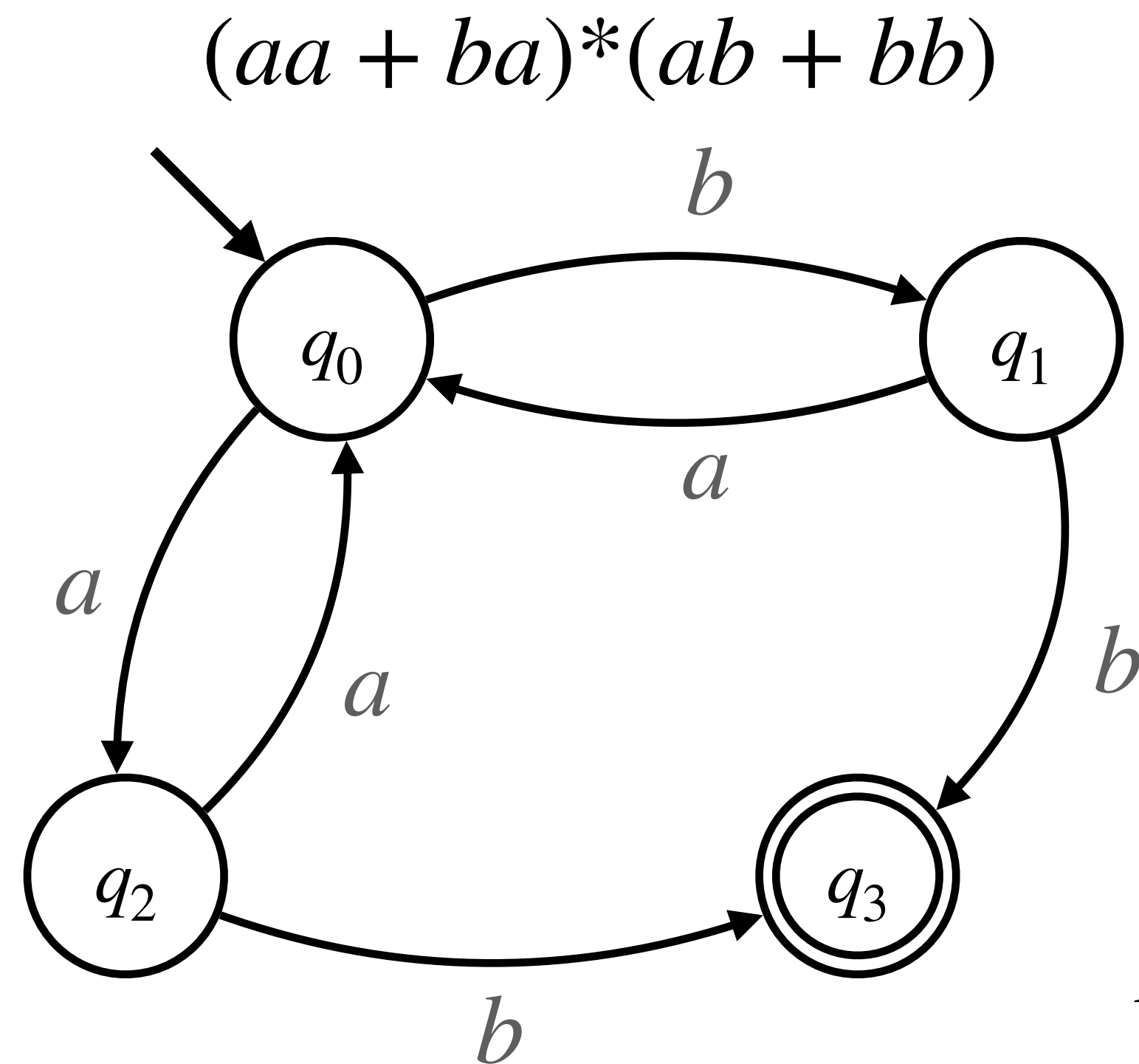
$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times X^A$$



Regular expressions:
syntax for regular languages

$$L = \{ab, aaab, bb, babb, \dots\}$$
$$= (aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)$$

Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



$\text{RegEx} \ni e, f ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid p \in \Sigma \mid e + f \mid ef \mid e^*$

$L: \text{RegEx} \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\Sigma^*)$

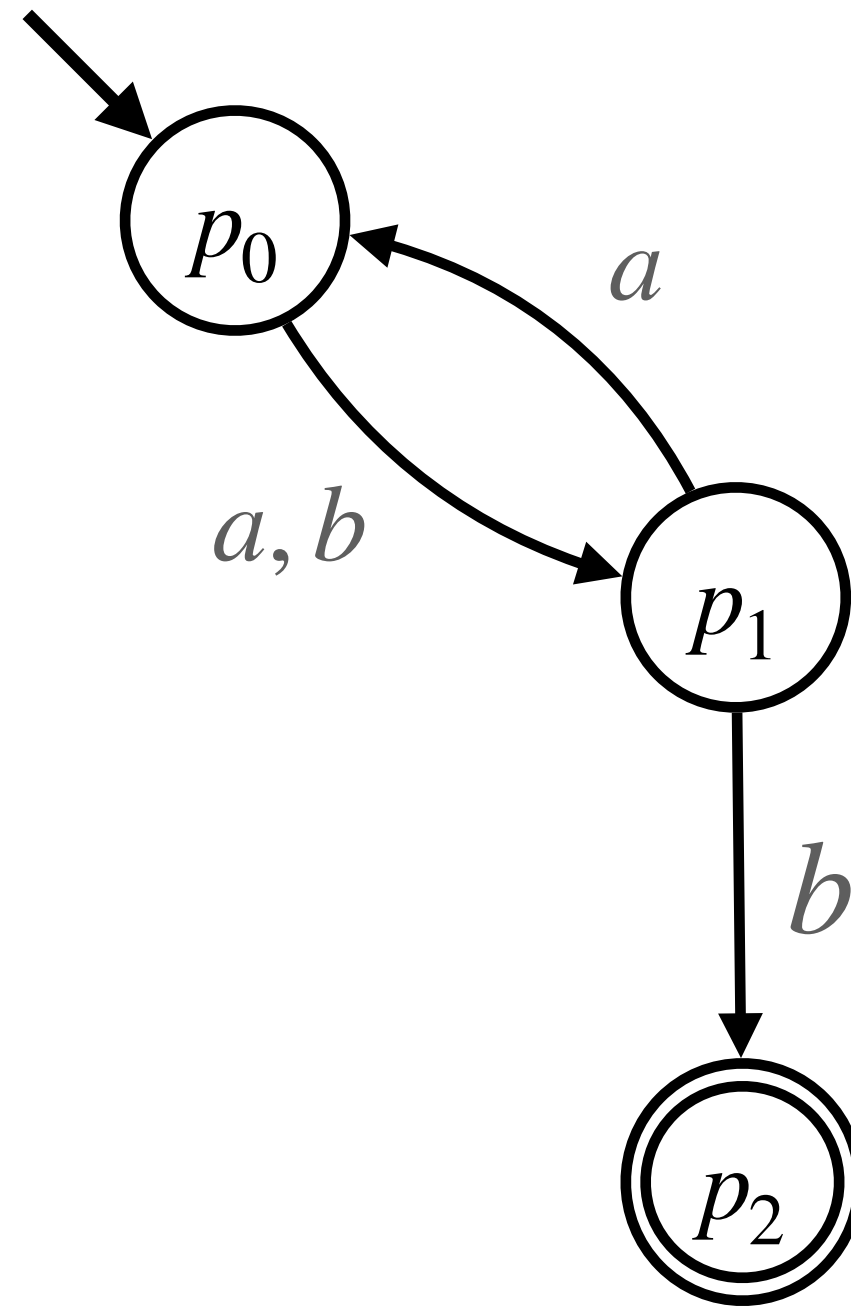
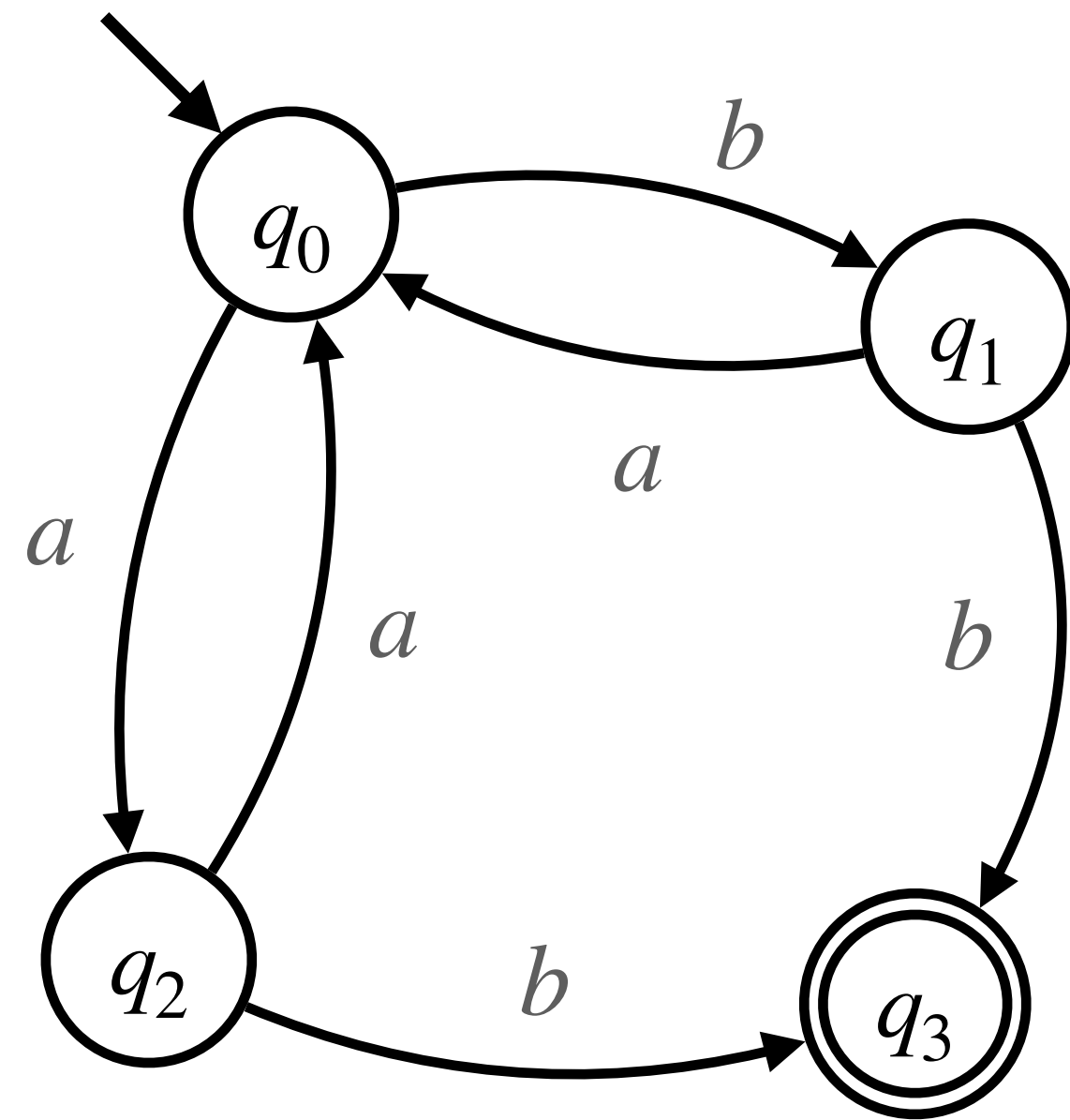
$L(0) = \emptyset \quad L(1) = \{\varepsilon\} \quad L(p) = \{p\}$

$L(e + f) = L(e) \cup L(f) \quad L(ef) = L(e)L(f) \quad L(e^*) = \bigcup_{n \in \omega} L(e)^n$

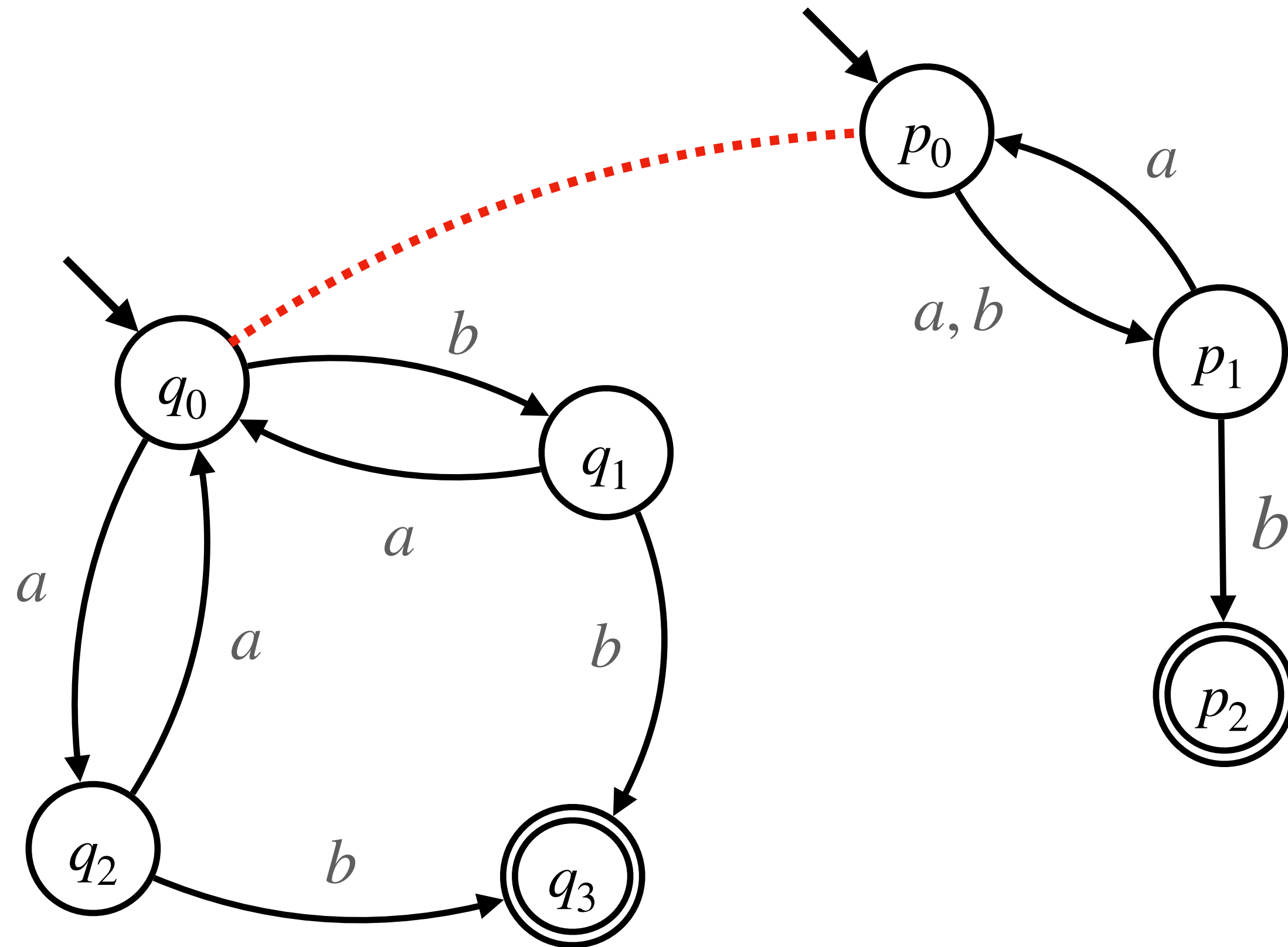
(Kleene, 1956)

$L = L(r)$ iff L is recognized by a deterministic finite automaton.

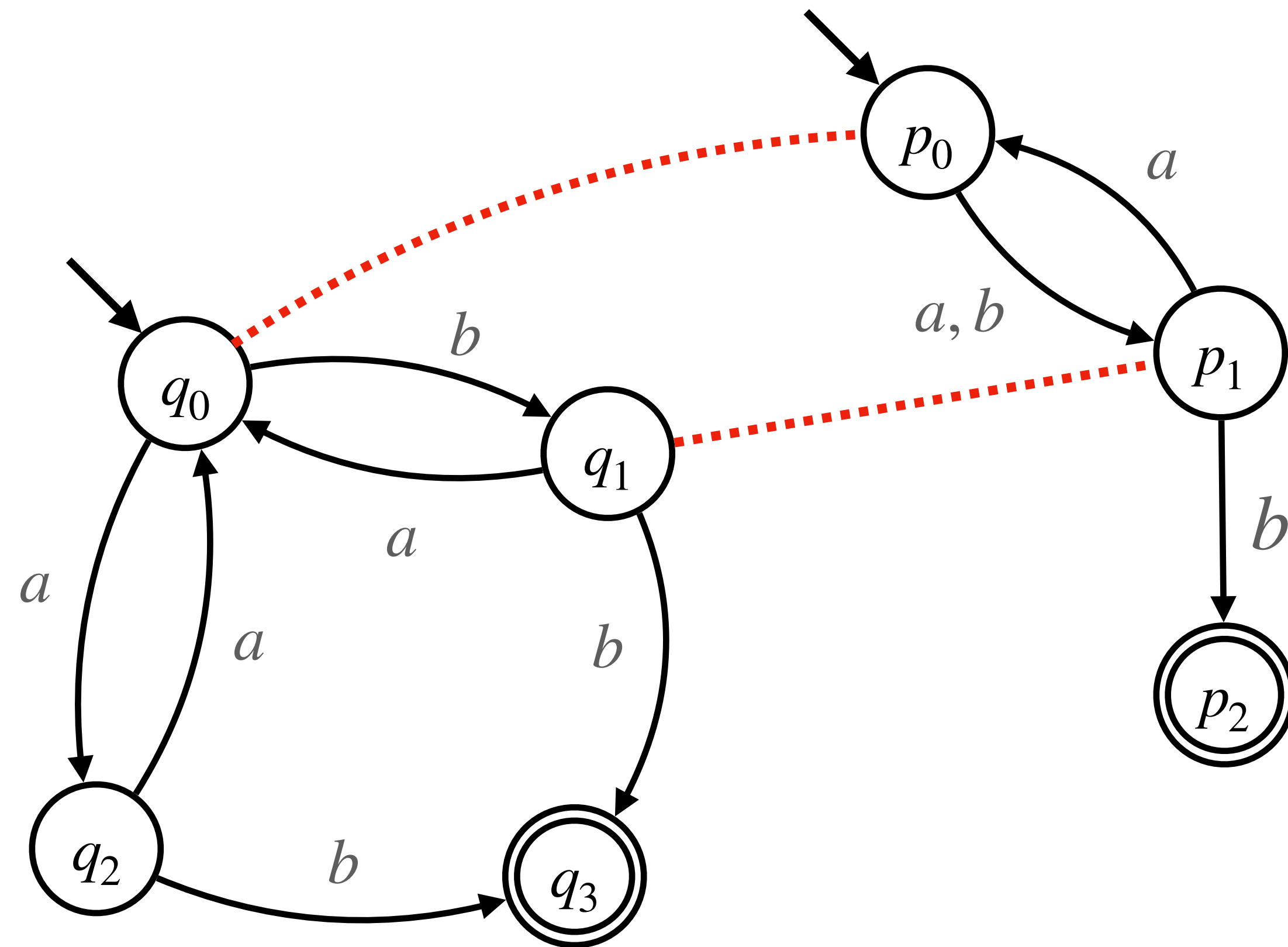
Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



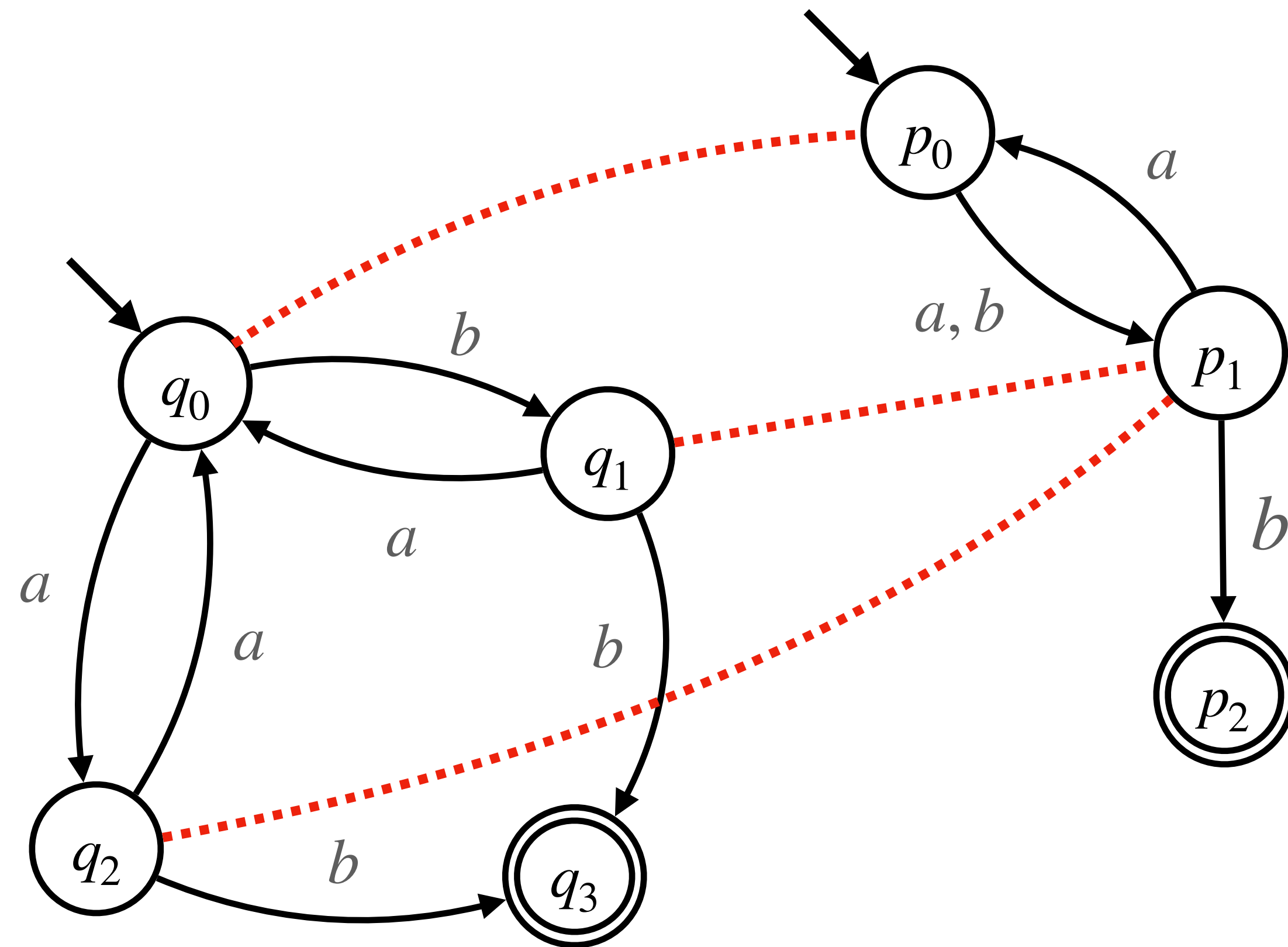
Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



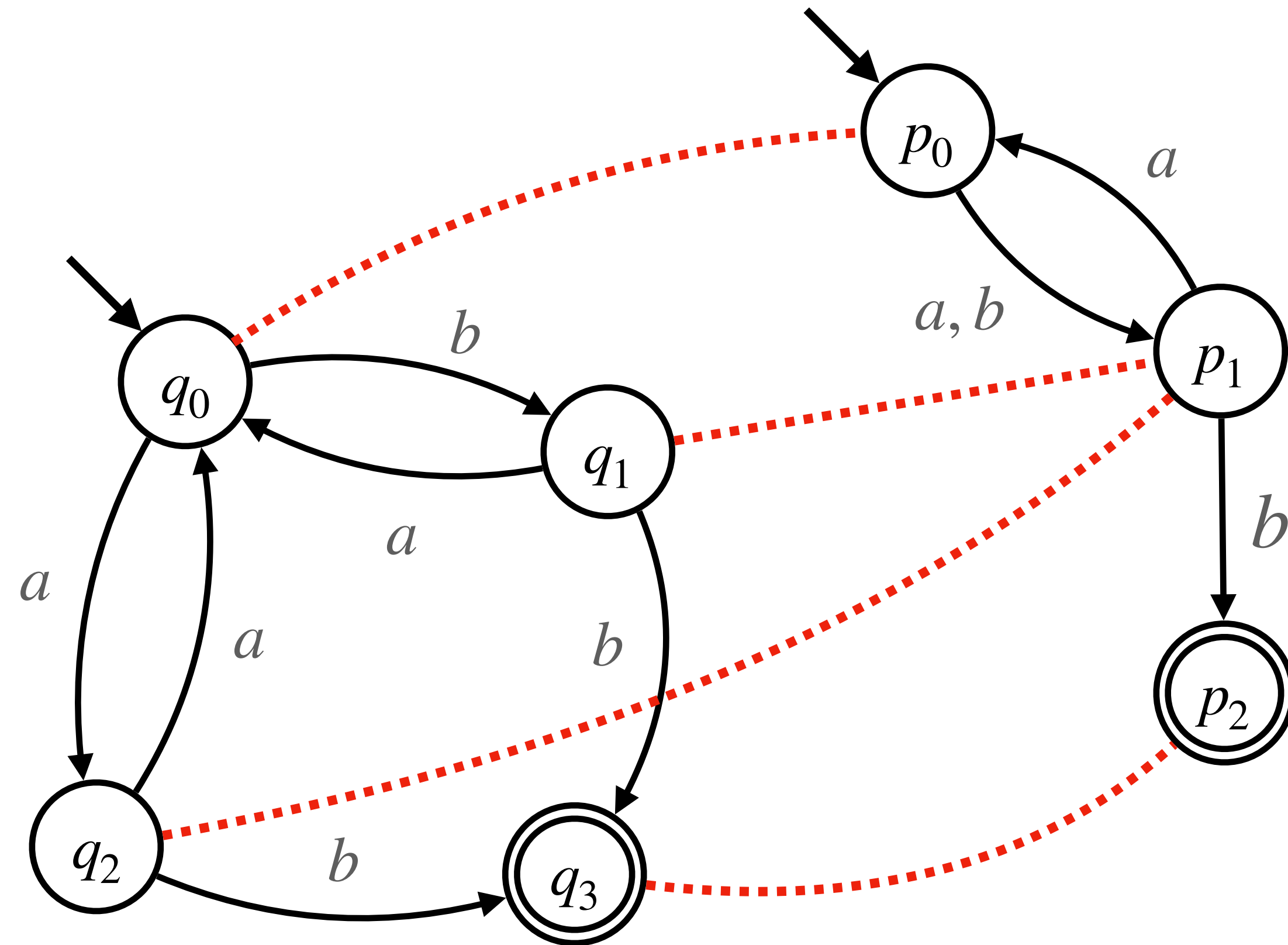
Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



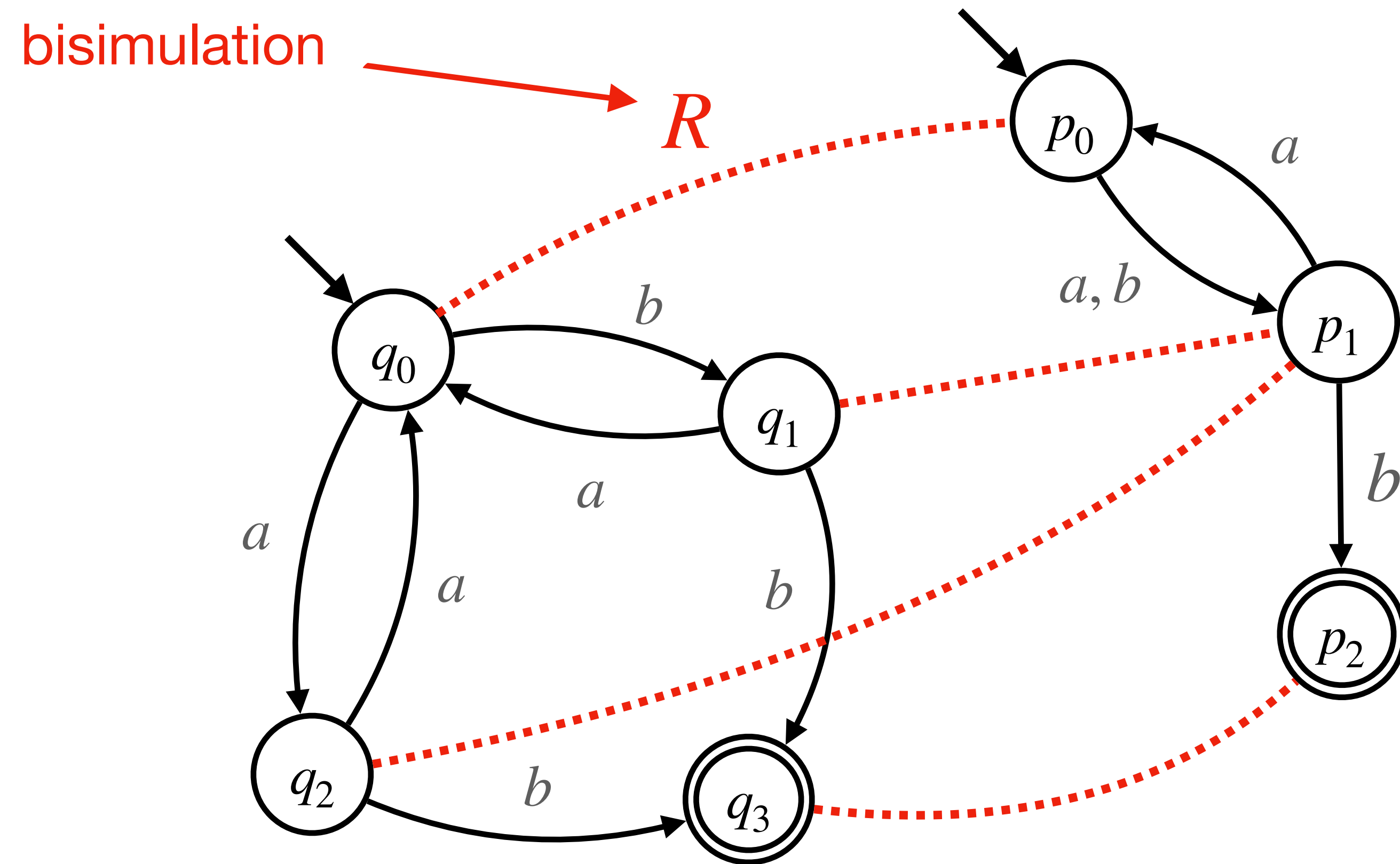
Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



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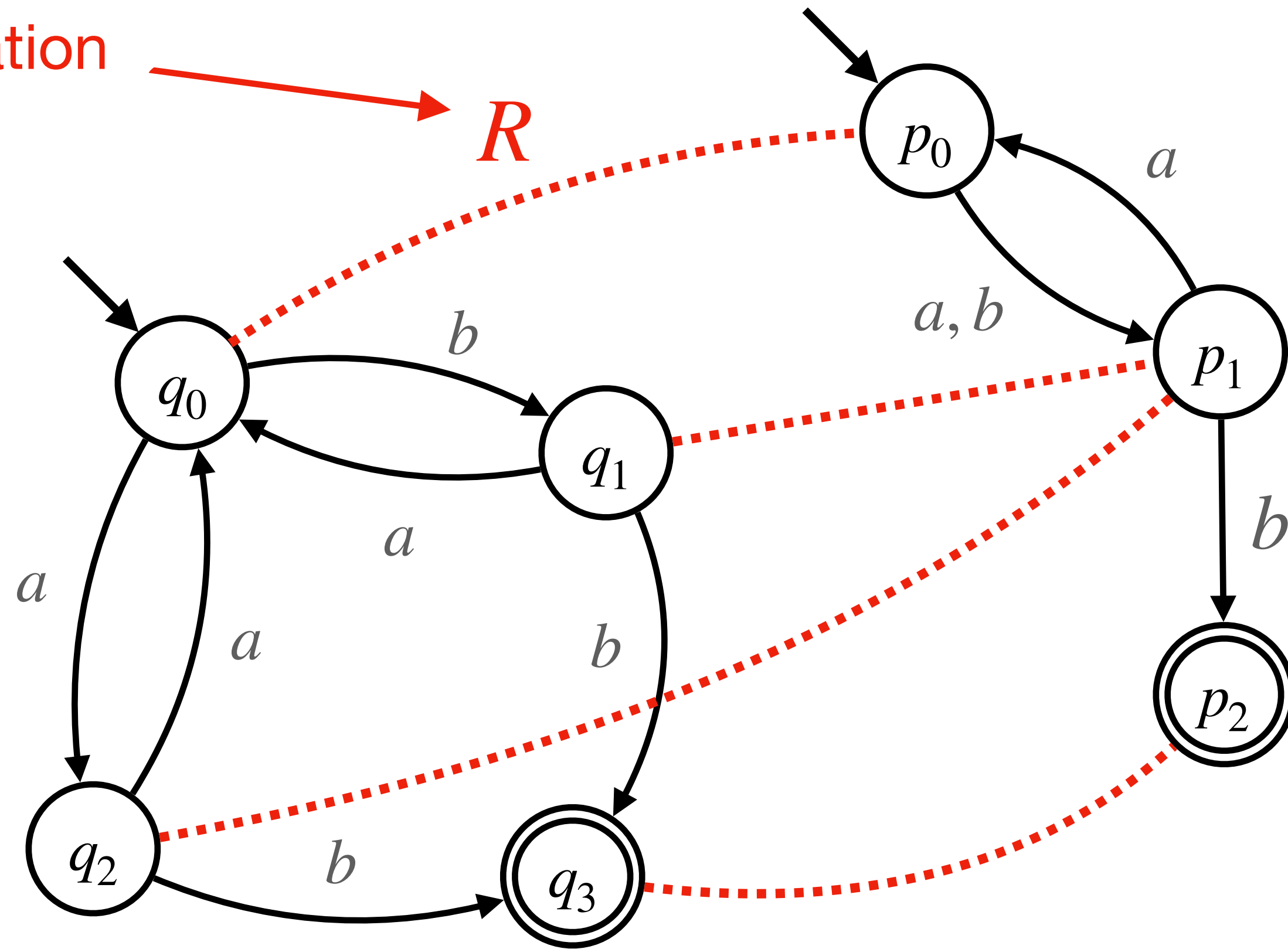


Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



Regular Expressions and Regular Languages

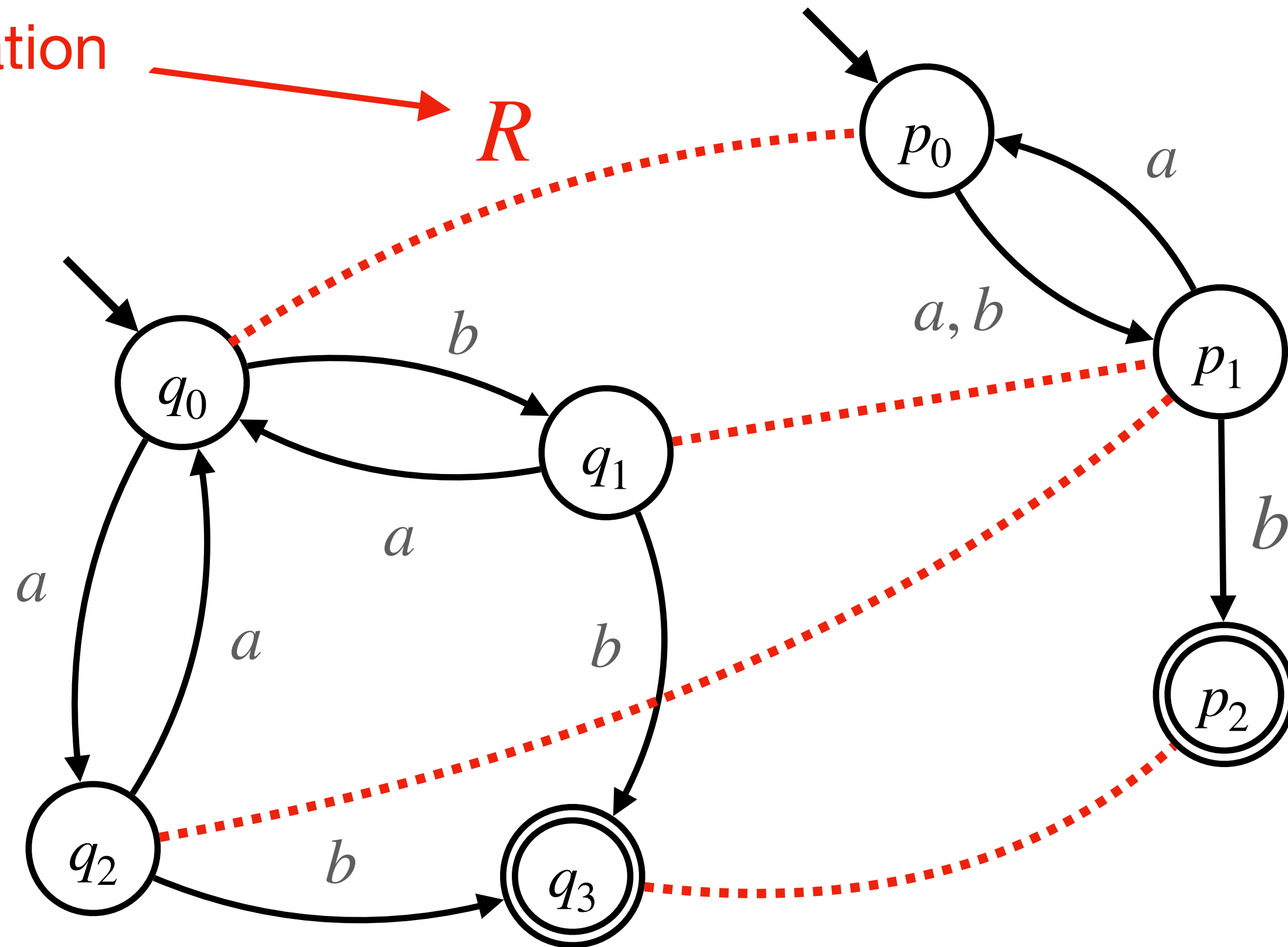
bisimulation



For DFAs,

Regular Expressions and Regular Languages

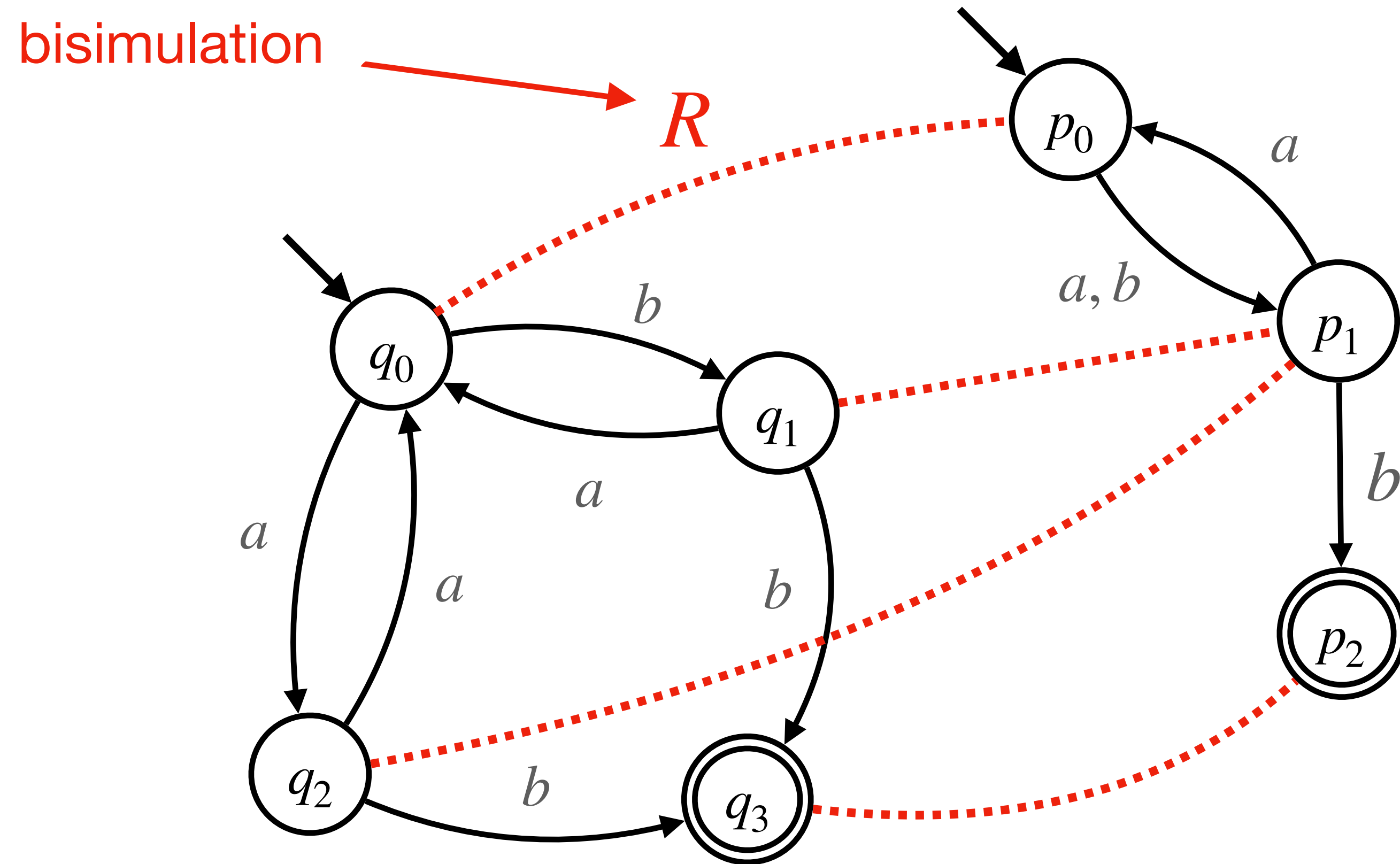
bisimulation



For DFAs,

- bisimilarity = language equivalence

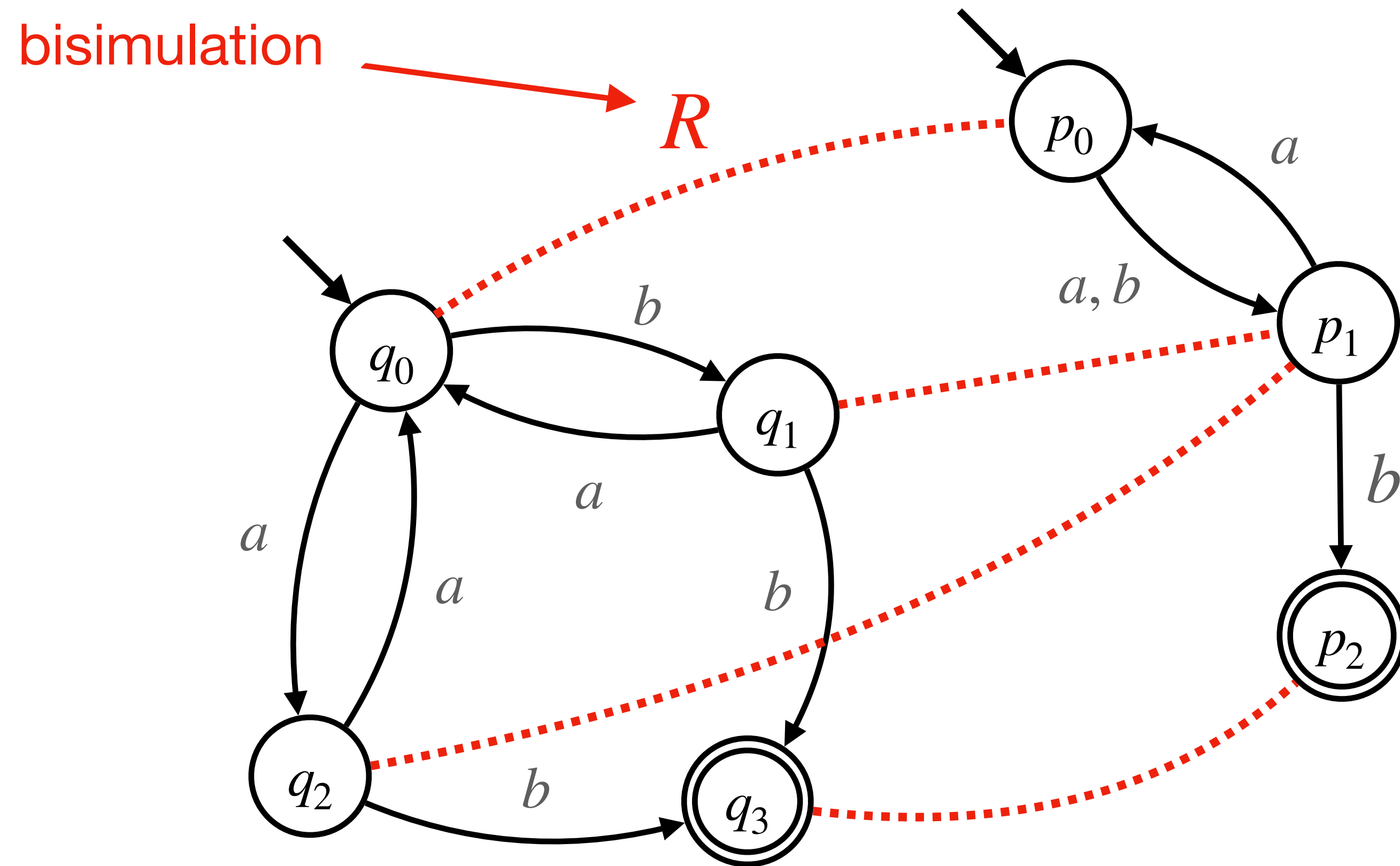
Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



For DFAs,

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- Using (Hopcroft, Karp, 1971), bisimilarity is checked in almost linear time

Regular Expressions and Regular Languages

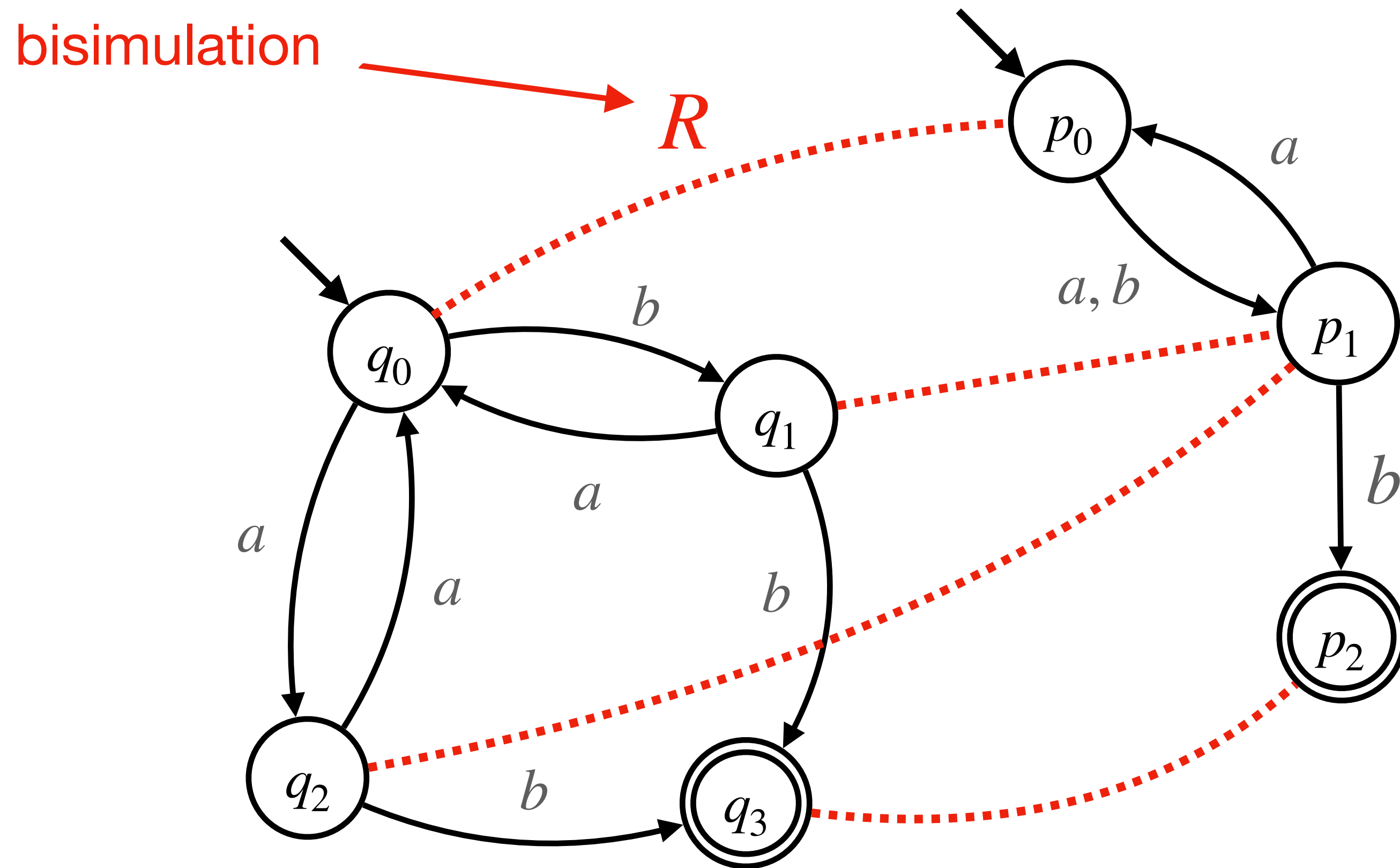


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$$L((aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)) = L(((a + b)a)^*b)$$

Regular Expressions and Regular Languages



For DFAs,

- bisimilarity = language equivalence
- (Hopcroft, Karp, 1971) Bisimilarity is checked in nearly linear time

(Kleene, 1956)
Give a complete axiomatization
of language equivalence of
regular expressions

$$L((aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)) = L(((a + b)a)^*b)$$

$$\vdash (aa + ba)^*(ab + bb) = ((a + b)a)^*b \quad ?$$

Axiomatizing Language Equivalence

(Salomaa, 1964) A complete axiomatization of language equivalence of regular expressions:

$$A_1 \quad \alpha + (\beta + \gamma) = (\alpha + \beta) + \gamma,$$

$$A_2 \quad \alpha(\beta\gamma) = (\alpha\beta)\gamma,$$

$$A_3 \quad \alpha + \beta = \beta + \alpha,$$

$$A_4 \quad \alpha(\beta + \gamma) = \alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma,$$

$$A_5 \quad (\alpha + \beta)\gamma = \alpha\gamma + \beta\gamma,$$

$$A_6 \quad \alpha + \alpha = \alpha,$$

$$A_7 \quad \phi^* \alpha = \alpha,$$

$$A_8 \quad \phi\alpha = \phi,$$

$$A_9 \quad \alpha + \phi = \alpha,$$

$$A_{10} \quad \alpha^* = \phi^* + \alpha^* \alpha,$$

$$A_{11} \quad \alpha^* = (\phi^* + \alpha)^*.$$

R1 (Substitution). Assume that γ' is the result of replacing an occurrence of α by β in γ . Then from the equations $\alpha = \beta$ and $\gamma = \delta$ one may infer the equation $\gamma' = \delta$ and the equation $\gamma' = \gamma$.

R2 (Solution of equations). Assume that β does not possess e.w.p. Then from the equation $\alpha = \alpha\beta + \gamma$ one may infer the equation $\alpha = \gamma\beta^*$.

Axiomatizing Language Equivalence

(Milner, 1984) Rephrased Salomaa's rules as follows:

Salomaa [9] provides a complete inference system for star expressions under standard interpretation. When we dualise it, by writing $f \circ e$ for $e \circ f$ everywhere in Salomaa's rules (which gives an equipotent system), it has the following rules:

$$A_1 \quad e + (f + g) = (e + f) + g$$

$$A_2 \quad (e \circ f) \circ g = e \circ (f \circ g)$$

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$$\text{from } e = f \circ e + h \text{ infer } e = f^* \circ h.$$

$$A_7 \quad e \circ \emptyset^* = e$$

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(We have omitted R_1 , the substitution rule.)

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$$A_7 \quad e \circ \phi^* = e$$

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Milner rephrased Salomaa's axioms to make them easier to adapt to a different (process) semantics.

Deciding language equivalence

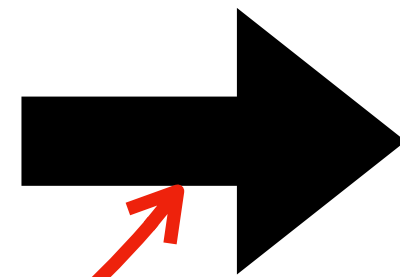
$(aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)$

Regular Expressions

Deciding language equivalence

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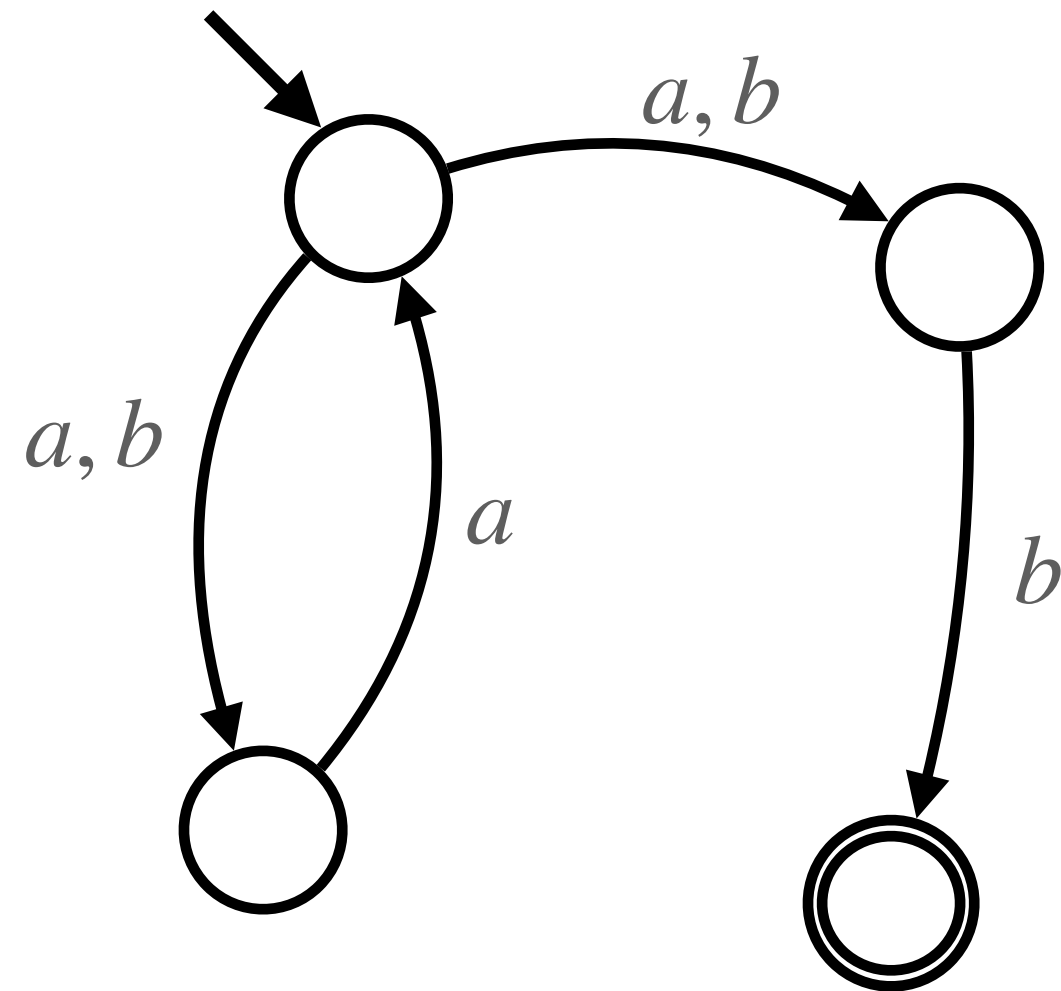
Regular Expressions



Thompson Construction,
SOS,
Antimirov Derivatives

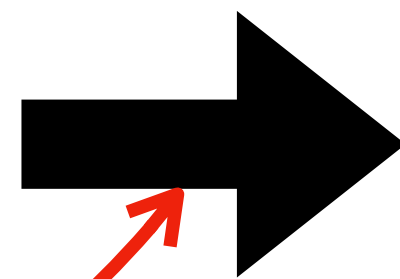
Deciding language equivalence

$(aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)$



$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times \mathcal{P}(X)^A$$

Regular Expressions

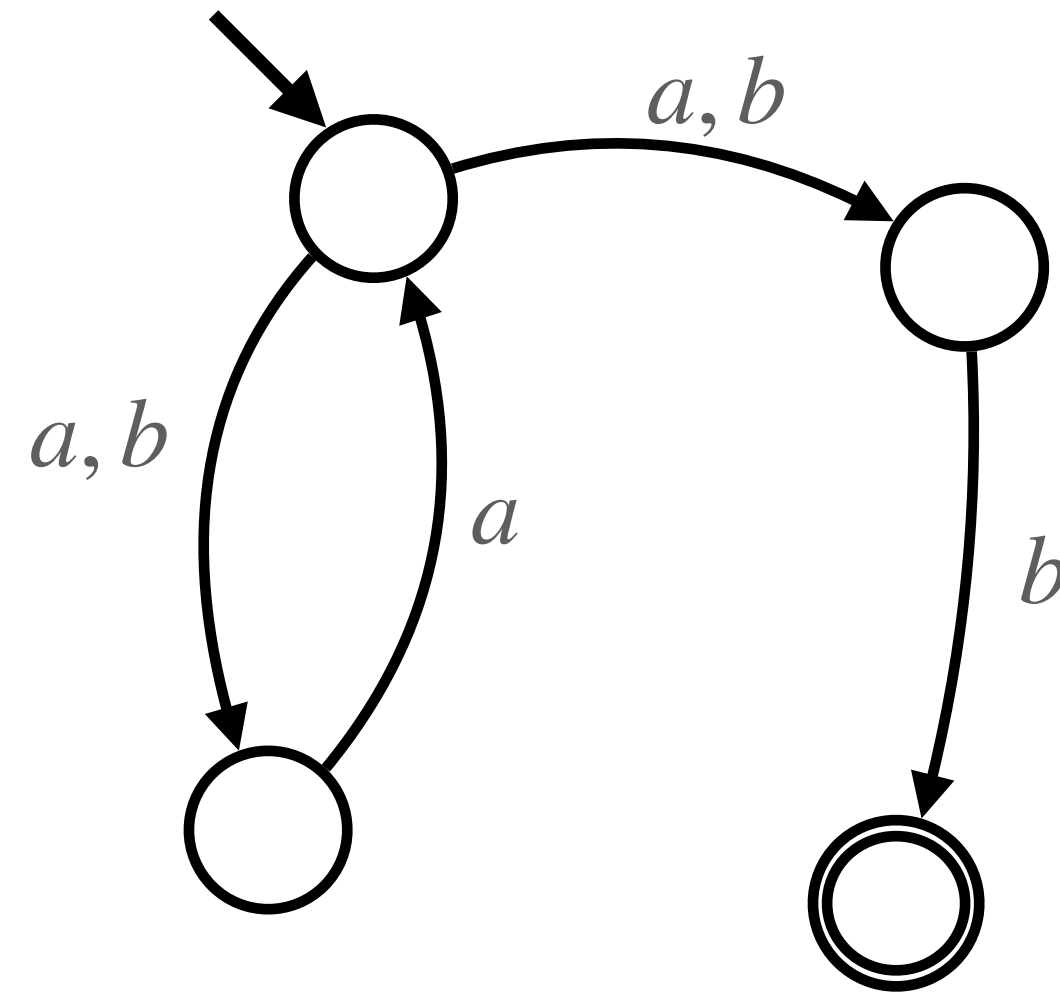


Nondeterministic FAs

Thompson Construction,
SOS,
Antimirov Derivatives

Deciding language equivalence

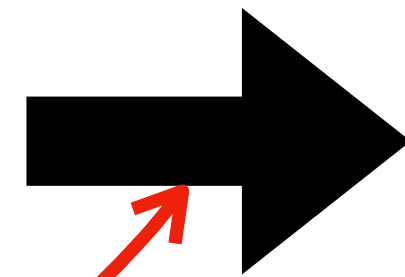
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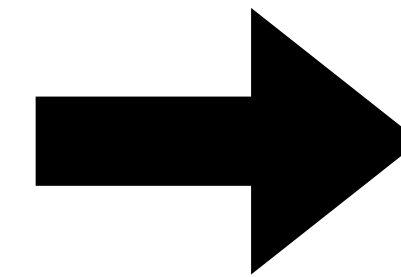
$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times \mathcal{P}(X)^A$$

(Determinize)

Regular Expressions



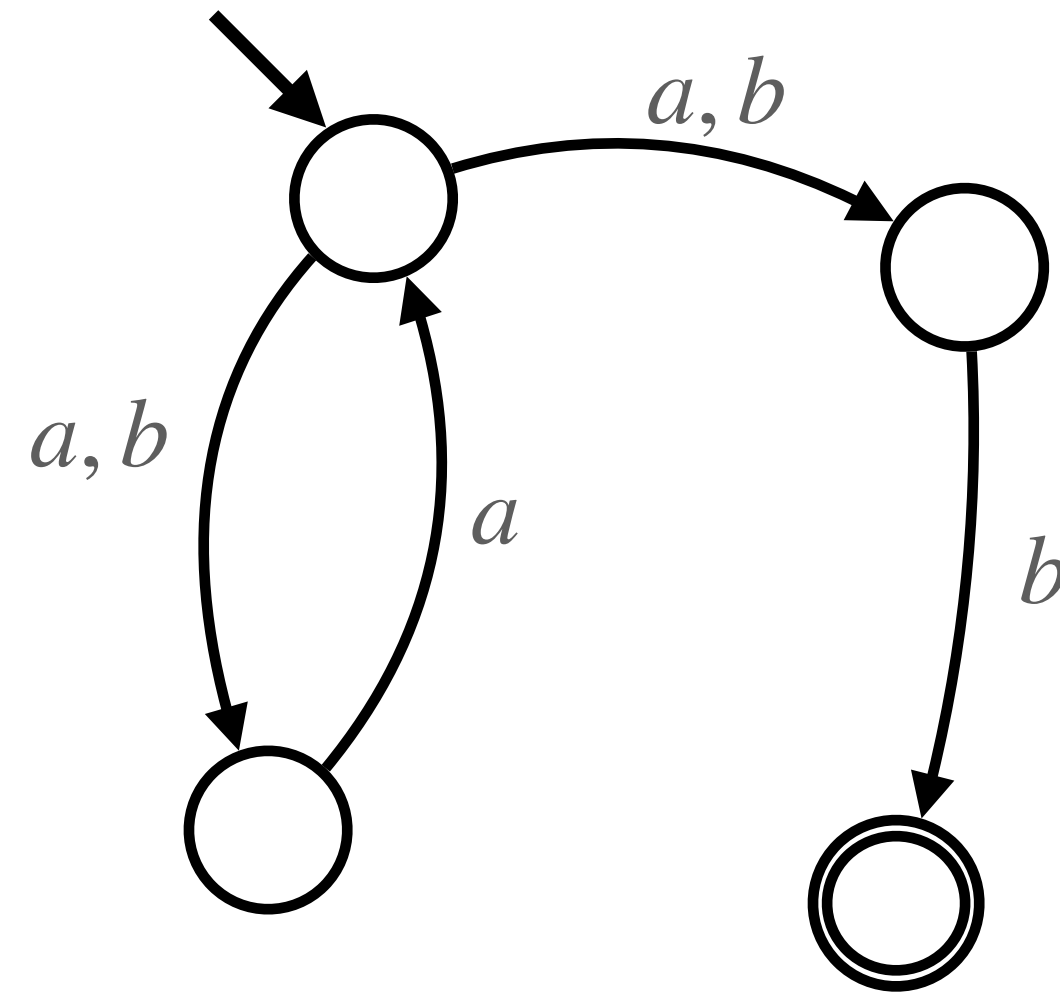
Nondeterministic FAs



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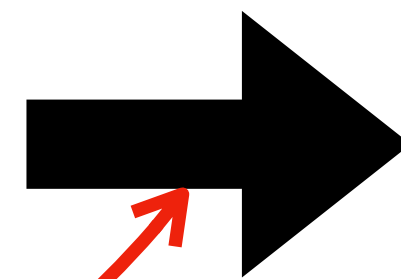
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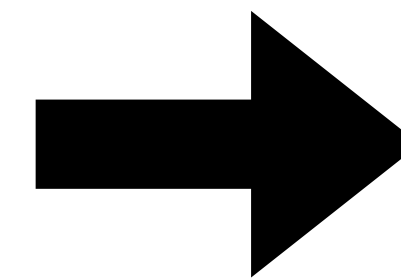


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Regular Expressions



Nondeterministic FAs



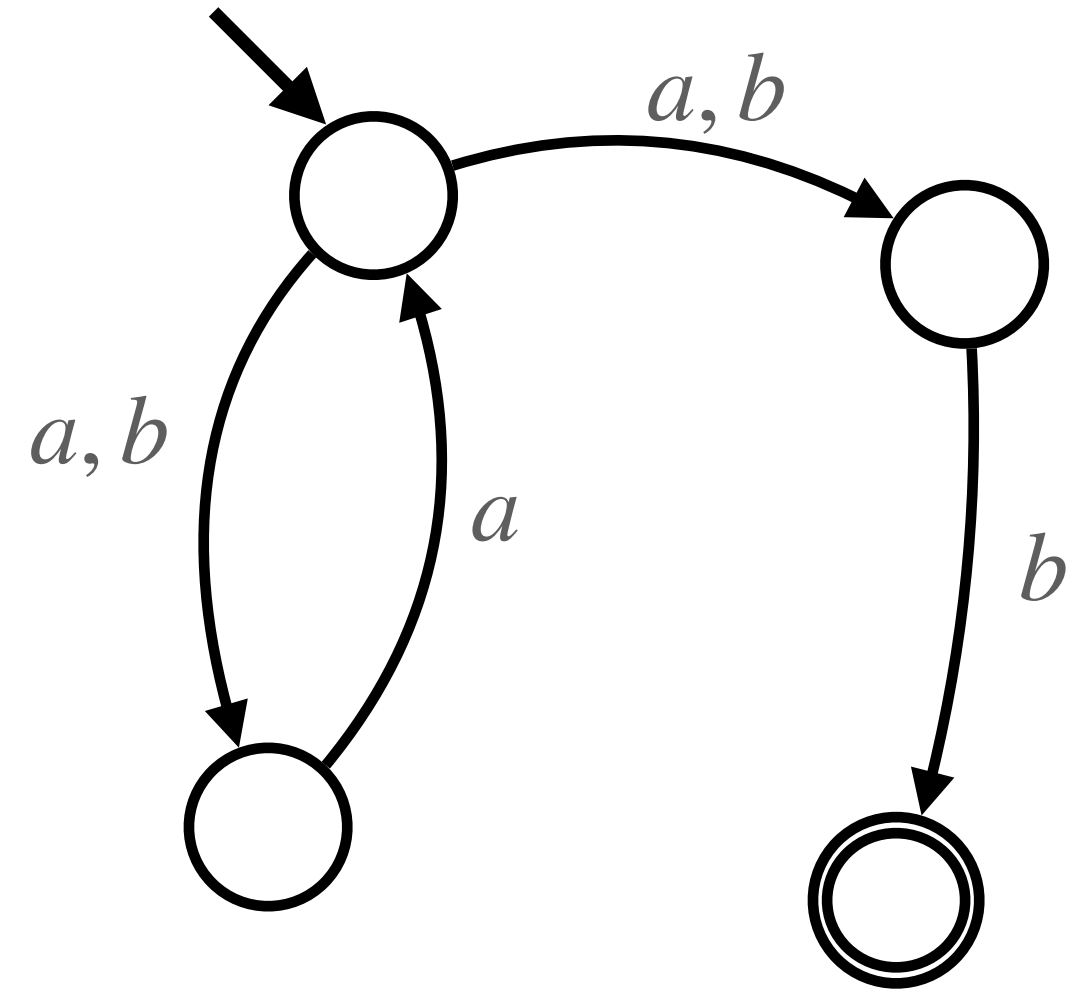
DFAs

(Determinize)

Thompson Construction,
SOS,
Antimirov Derivatives

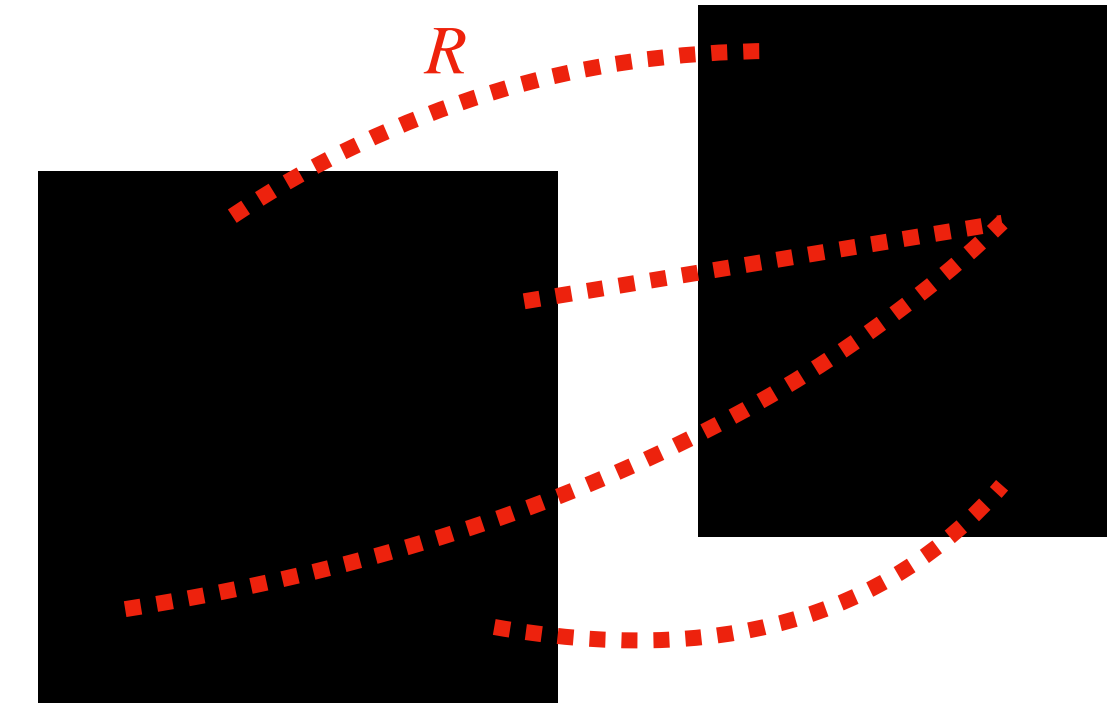
Deciding language equivalence

$(aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)$

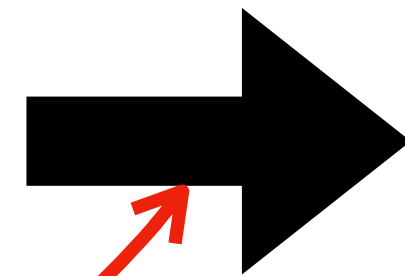


$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times \mathcal{P}(X)^A$$

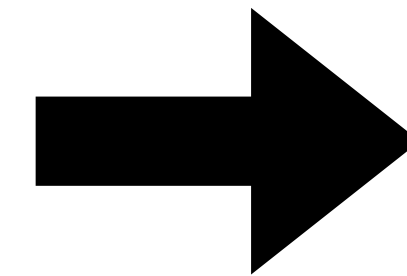
(Determinize)



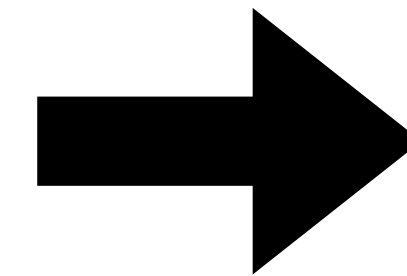
Regular Expressions



Nondeterministic FAs



DFAs

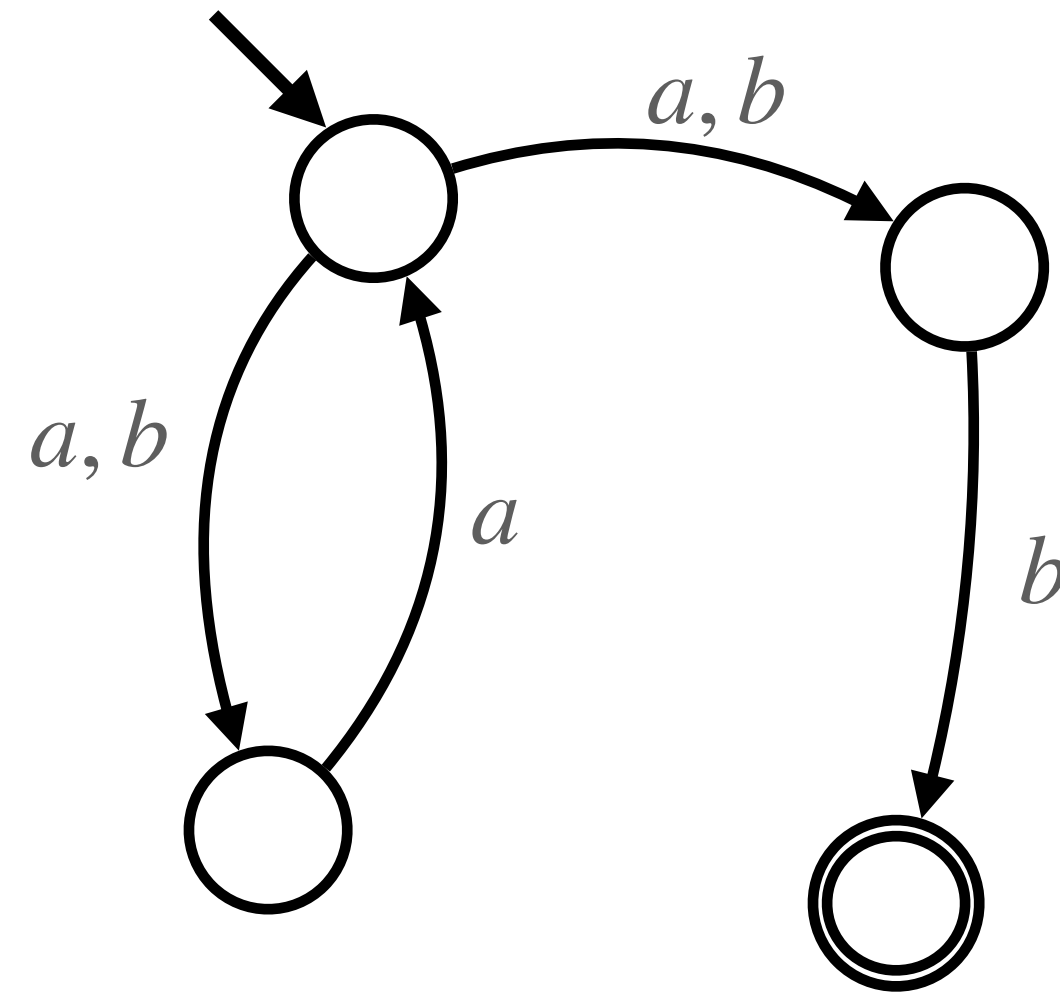


Check for Bisimilarity

Thompson Construction,
SOS,
Antimirov Derivatives

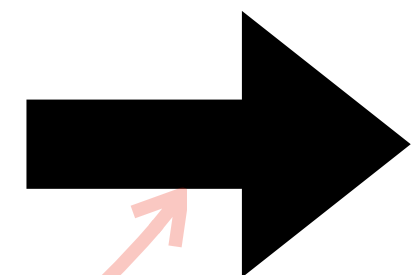
Deciding language equivalence

$(aa + ba)^*(ab + bb)$



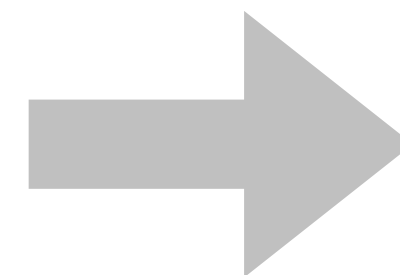
$$X \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\} \times \mathcal{P}(X)^A$$

Regular Expression

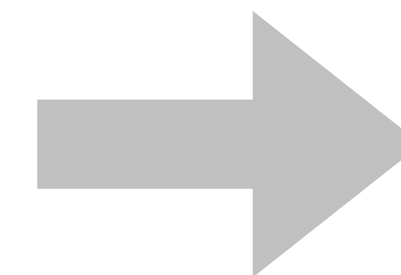


Nondeterministic FAs

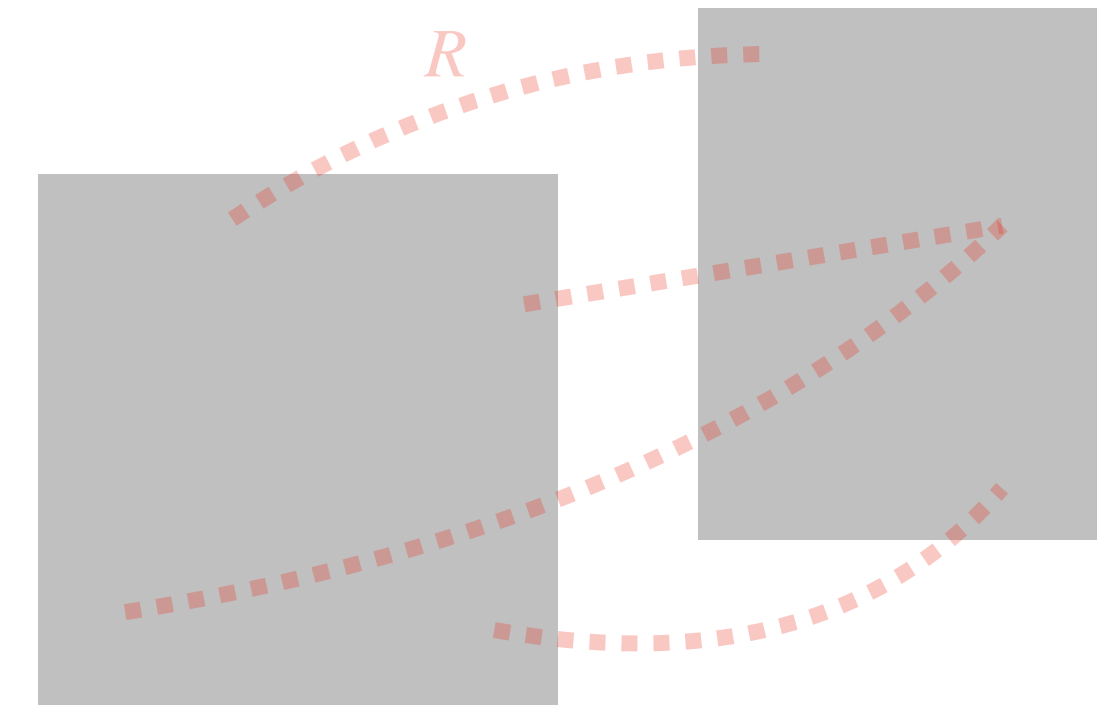
(Determinize)



DFAs



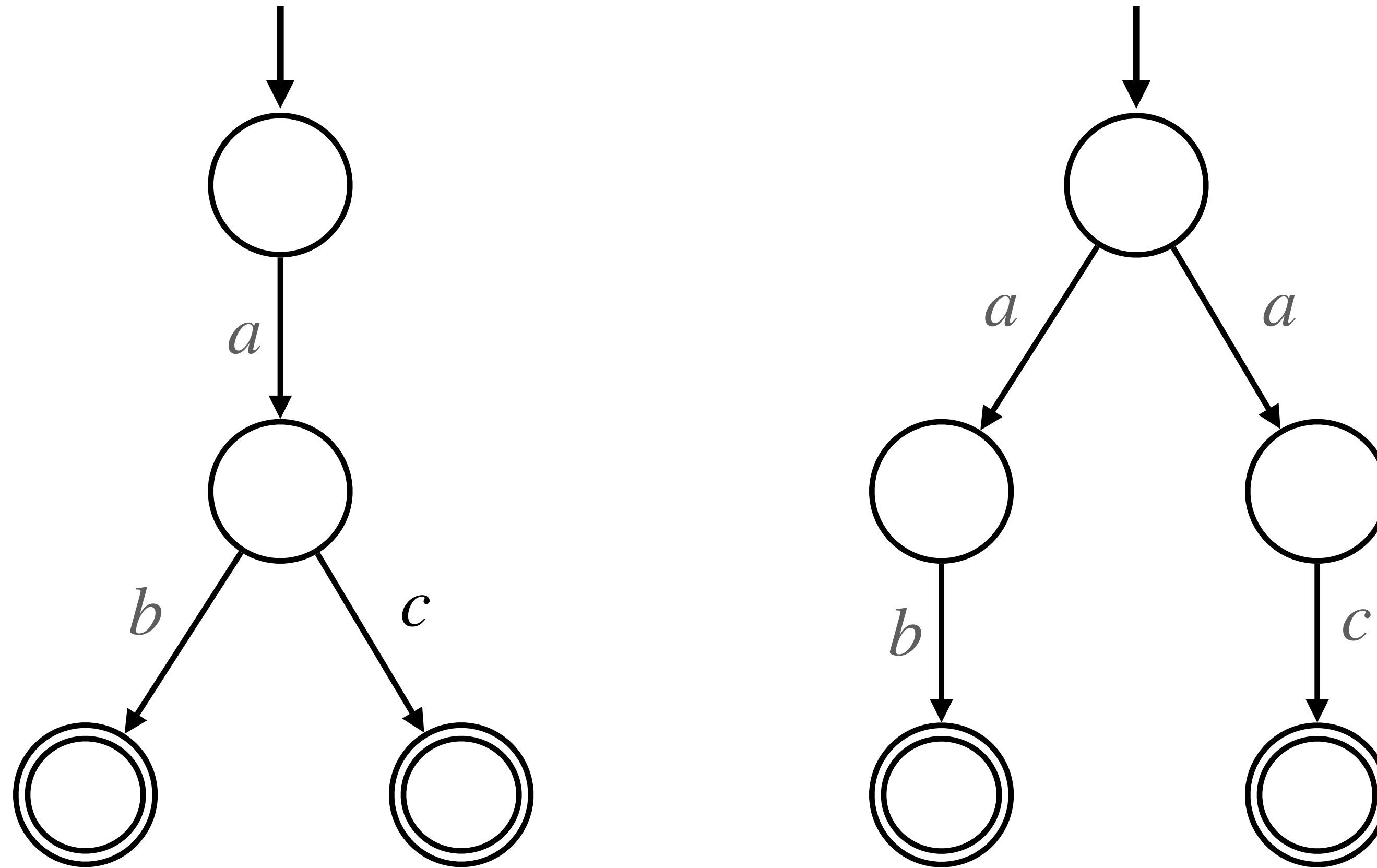
Check for Bisimilarity



Thompson Construction,
Operational Semantics,
Antimirov Derivatives

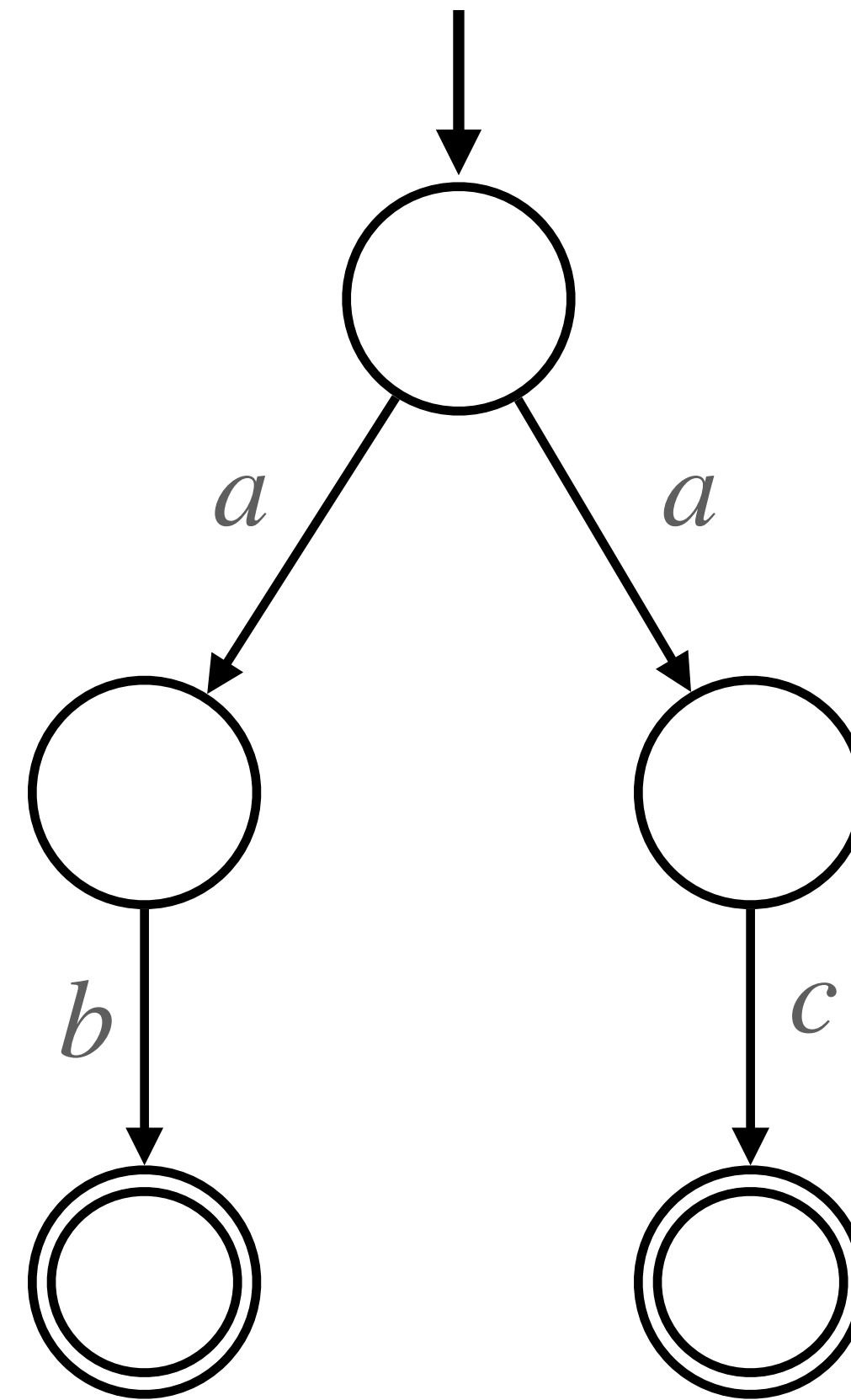
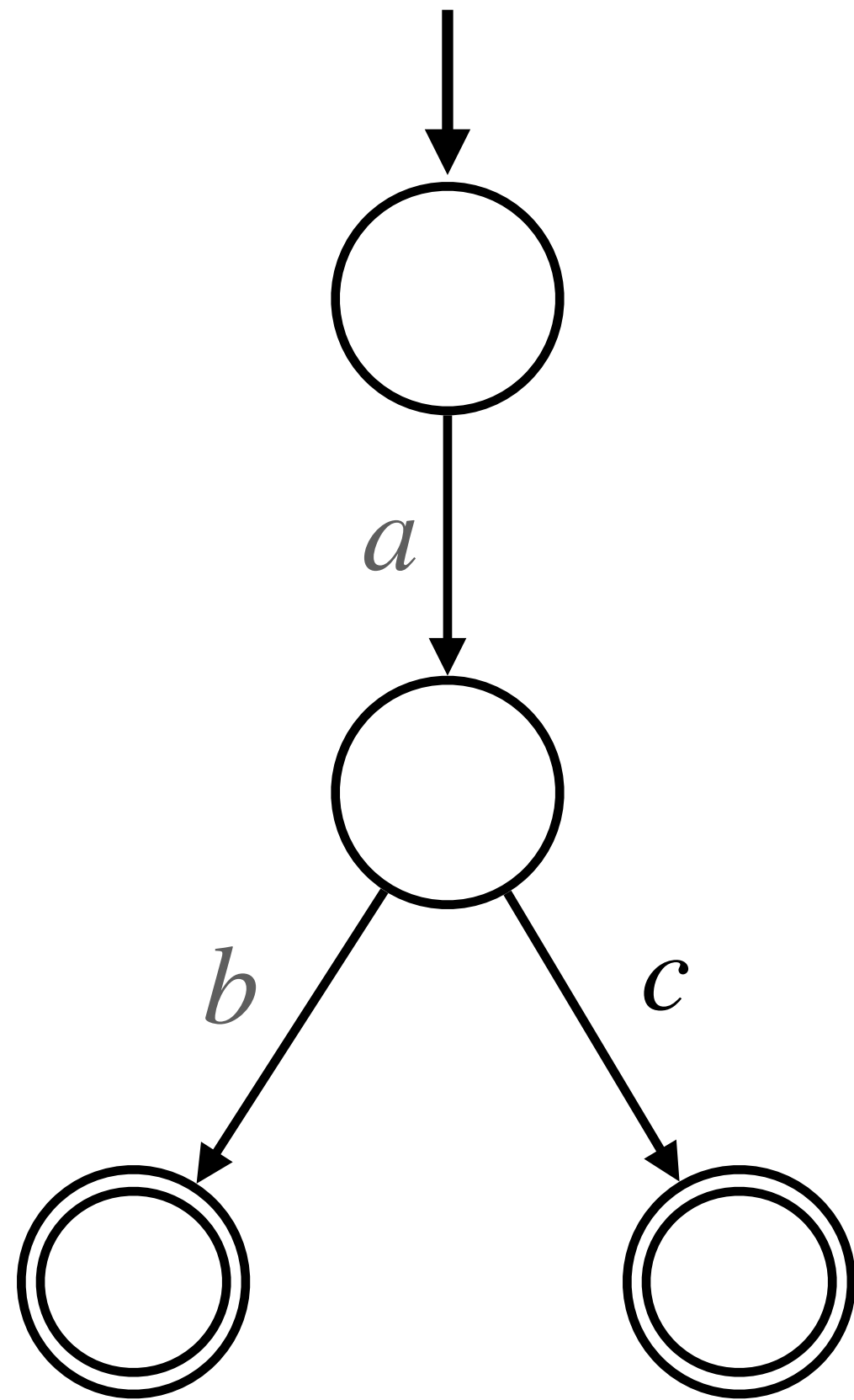
Bisimilarity here?

Bisimilarity for NFAs is Finer than Language Equivalence



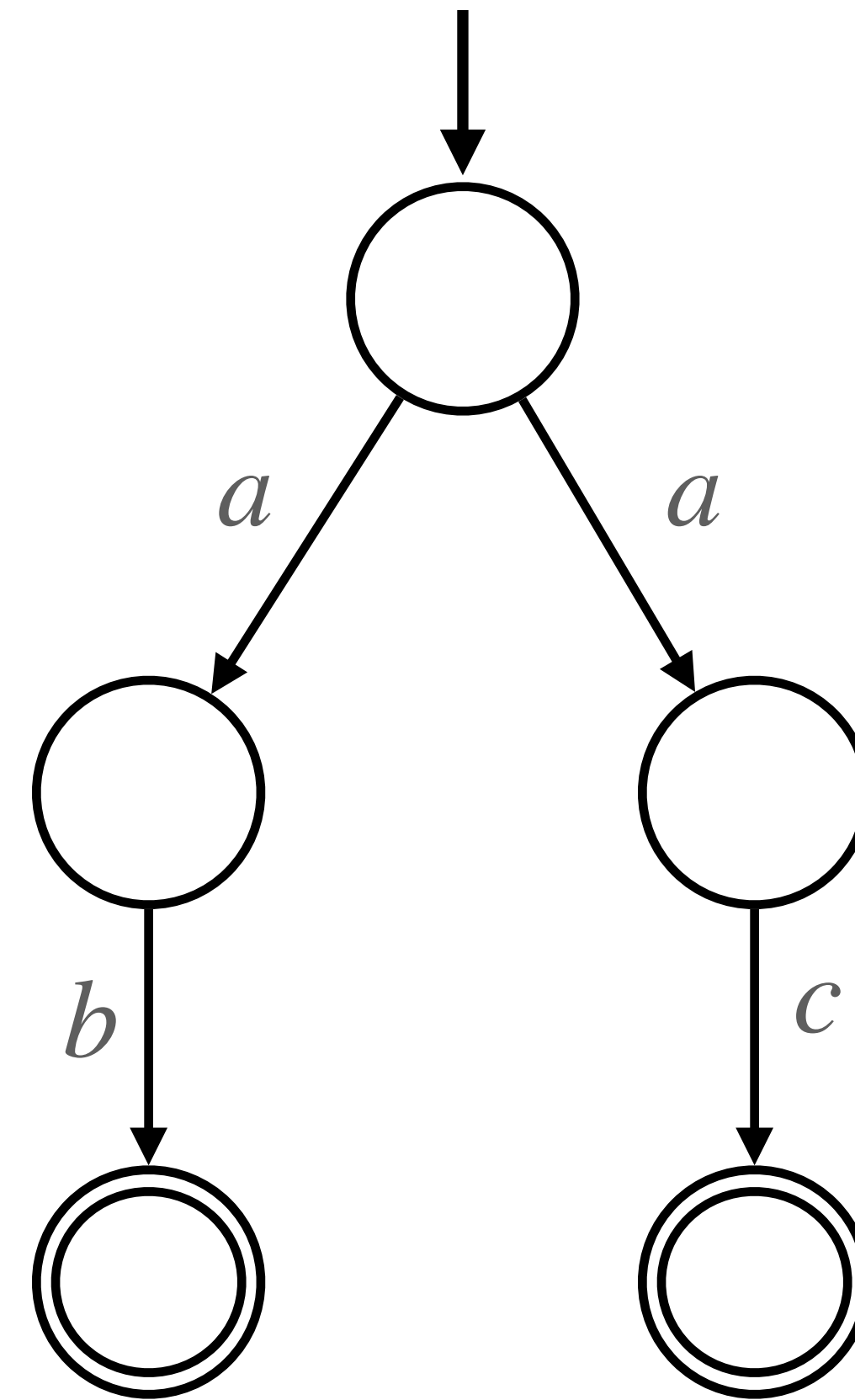
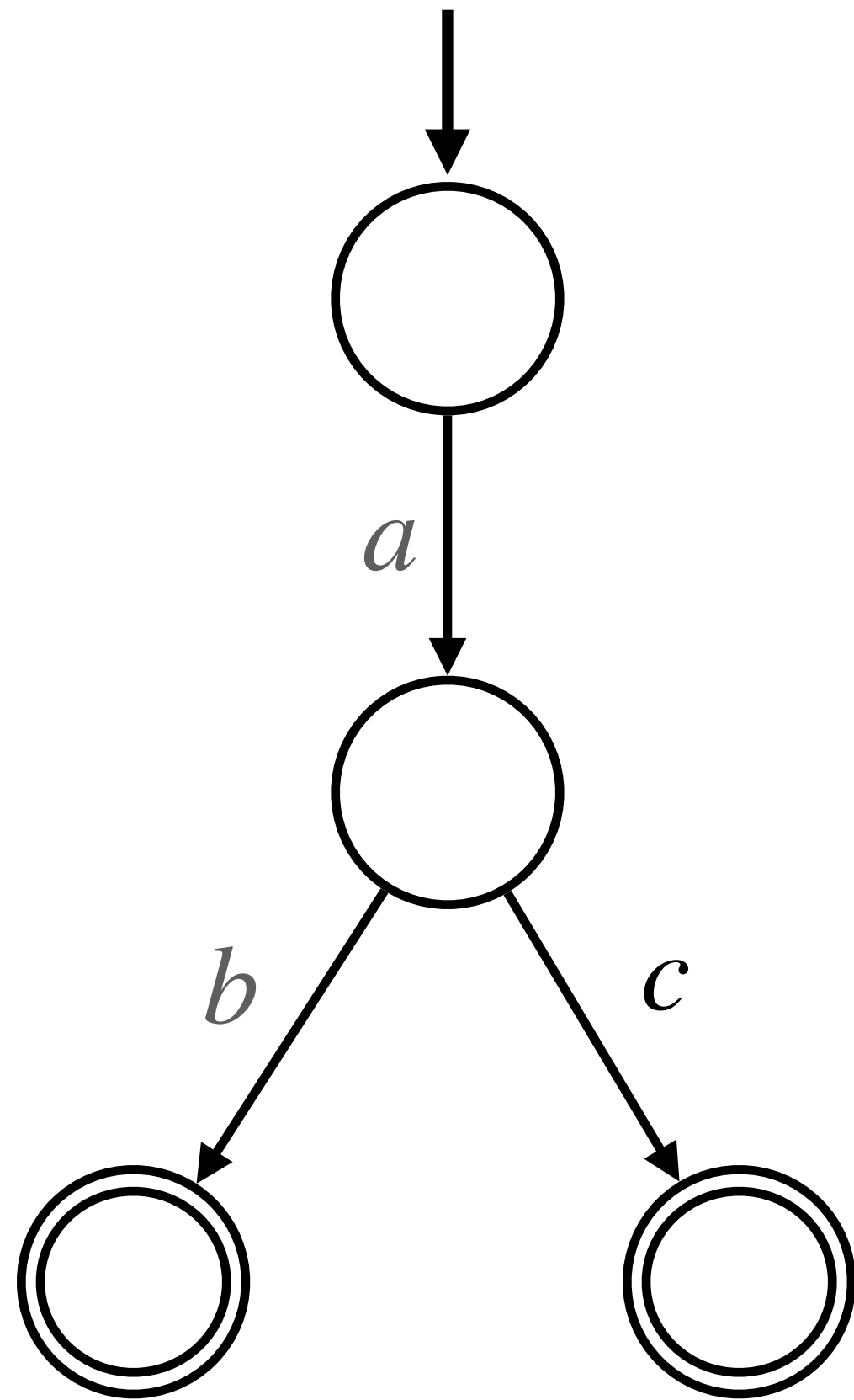
Bisimilarity for NFAs is Finer than Language Equivalence

Bisimilarity
⇓
Language
Equivalence



Bisimilarity for NFAs is Finer than Language Equivalence

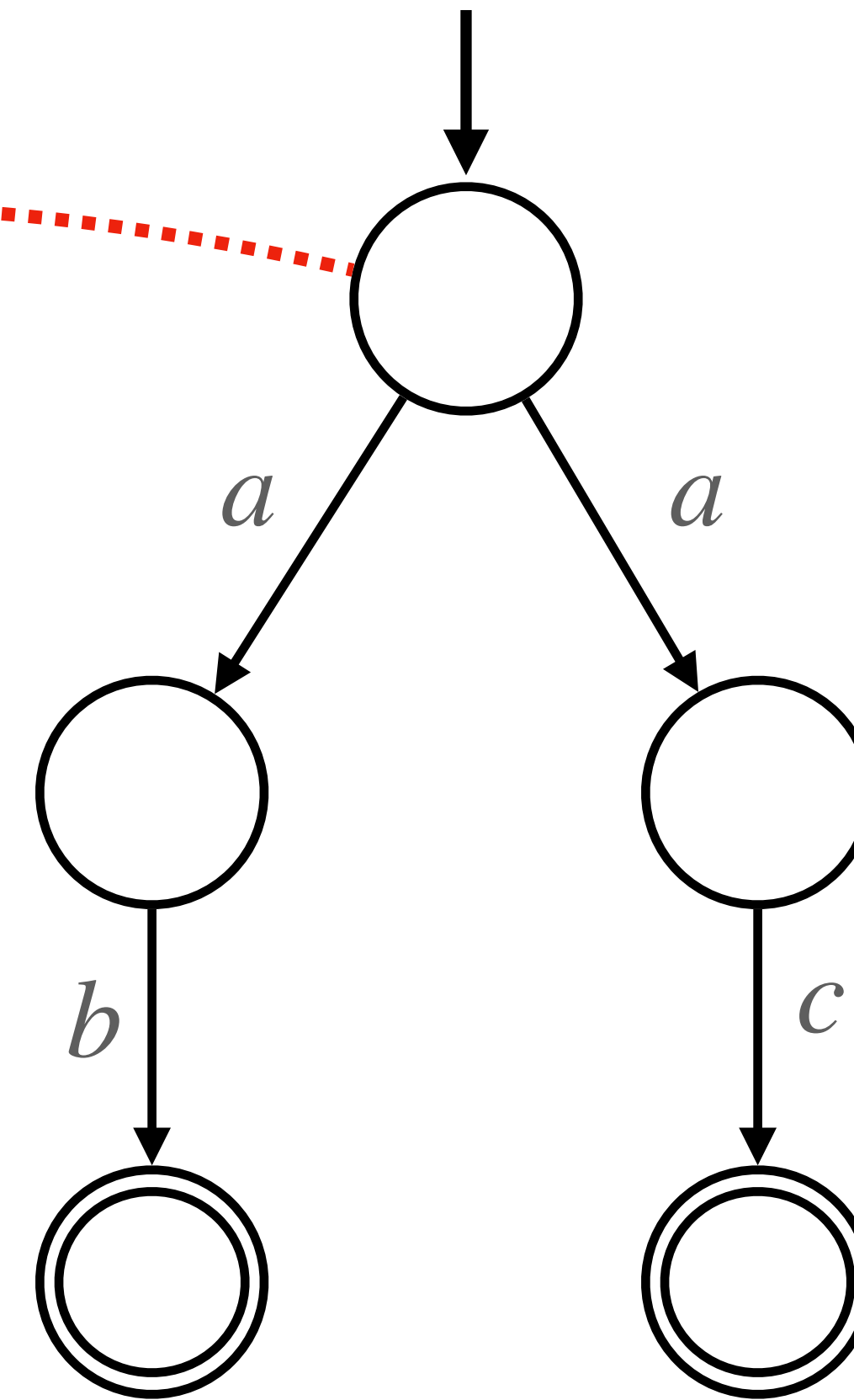
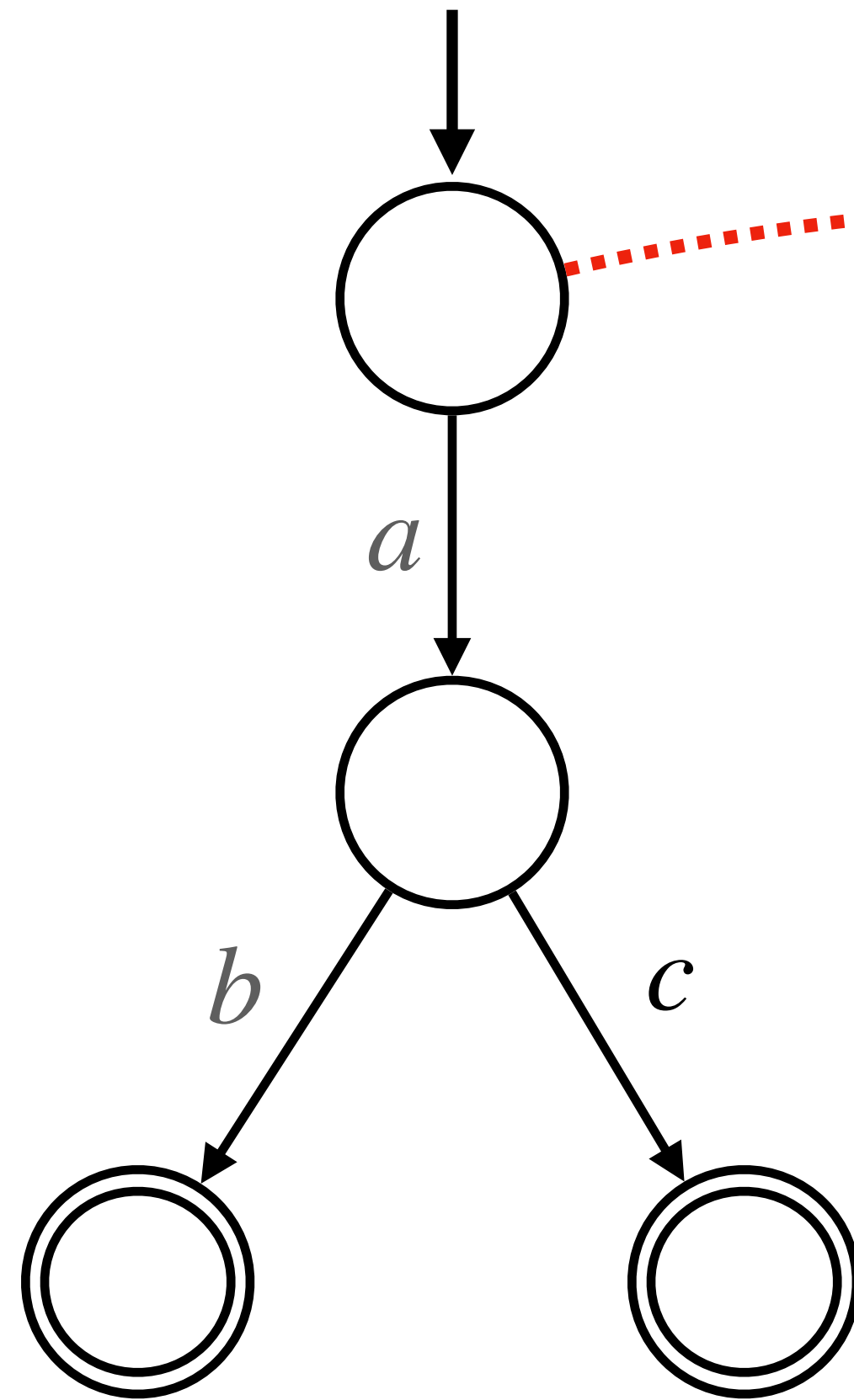
Bisimilarity
⇓
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Equivalence



Bisimilarity
~~⇑~~
Language
Equivalence

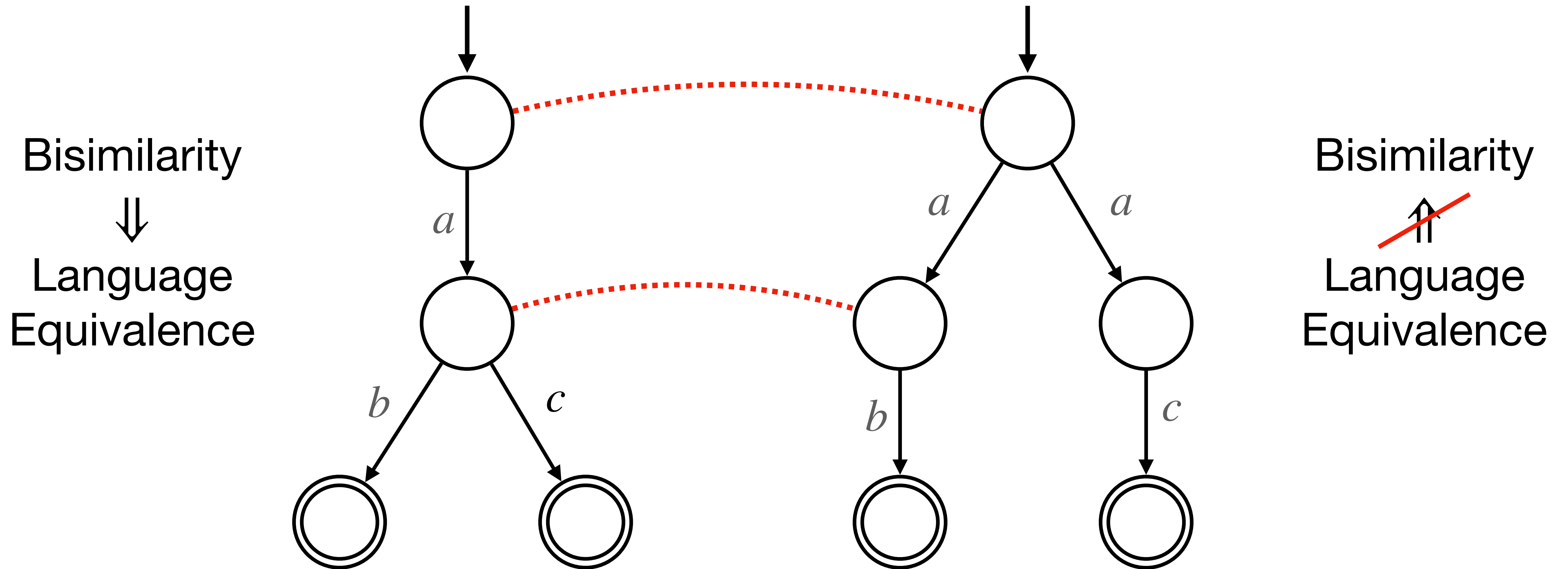
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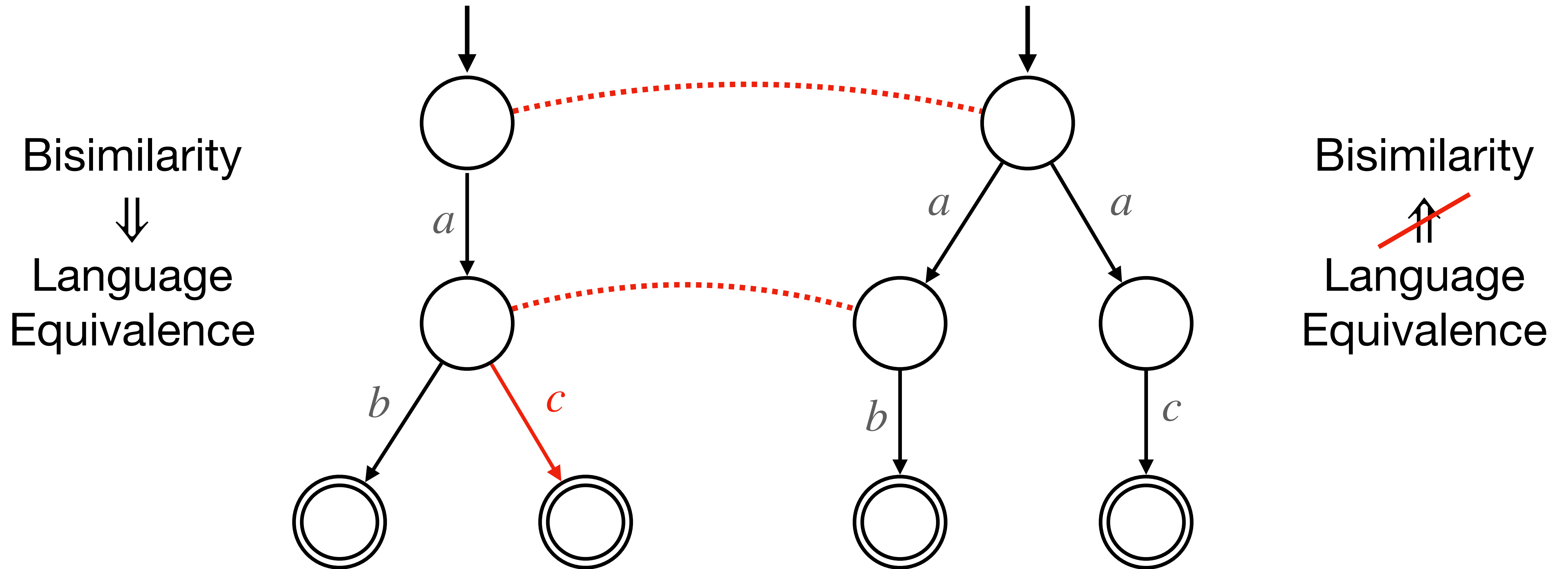


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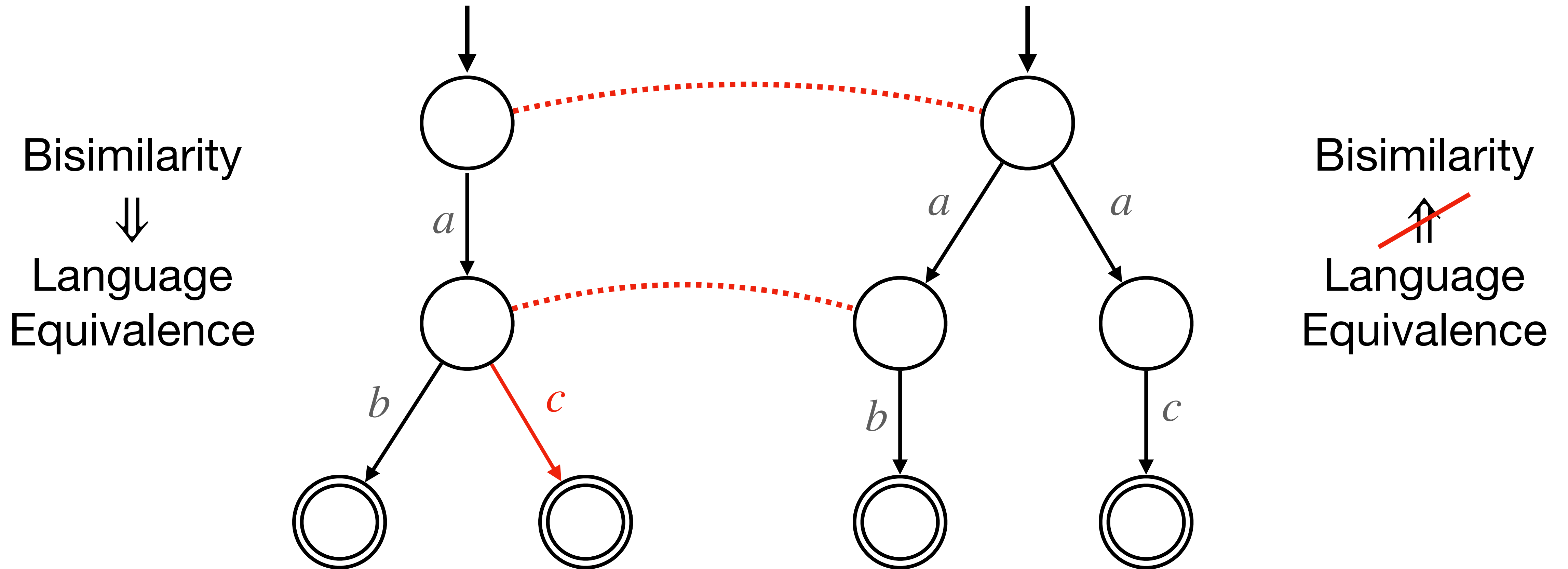
Bisimilarity for NFAs is Finer than Language Equivalence



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Bisimilarity for NFAs is Finer than Language Equivalence



Not all axioms are sound!

Axiomatizing Bisimilarity of Regular Expressions

Salomaa [9] provides a complete inference system for star expressions under standard interpretation. When we dualise it, by writing $f \circ e$ for $e \circ f$ everywhere in Salomaa's rules (which gives an equipotent system), it has the following rules:

$$A_1 \quad e + (f + g) = (e + f) + g$$

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(We have omitted R_1 , the substitution rule.)

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By deleting these axioms, Milner obtains a sound axiomatization of *bisimilarity*.

Axiomatizing Bisimilarity of Regular Expressions

Salomaa [9] provides a complete inference system for star e standard interpretation. When we dualise it, by writing $f \circ e$ for e Salomaa's rules (which gives an equipotent system), it has the follo

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(Grabmayer, 2022)
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Axiomatizing Bisimilarity of Regular Expressions

An equivalent rendering of Milner's axioms for regular expressions modulo bisimilarity:

$$\begin{array}{l} e = e + 0 \\ e = e + e \\ f + e = e + f \\ e + (f + g) = (e + f) + g \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0e = 0 \\ 1e = e \\ e = e1 \\ e(fg) = (ef)g \\ (e + f)g = eg + fg \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} e^* = (1 + e)^* \\ e^* = ee^* + 1 \\ \frac{g = eg + f \quad e \text{ guarded}}{g = e^*f} \end{array}$$

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Equational Branching Axioms

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Unique Guarded
Fixed-point Axioms

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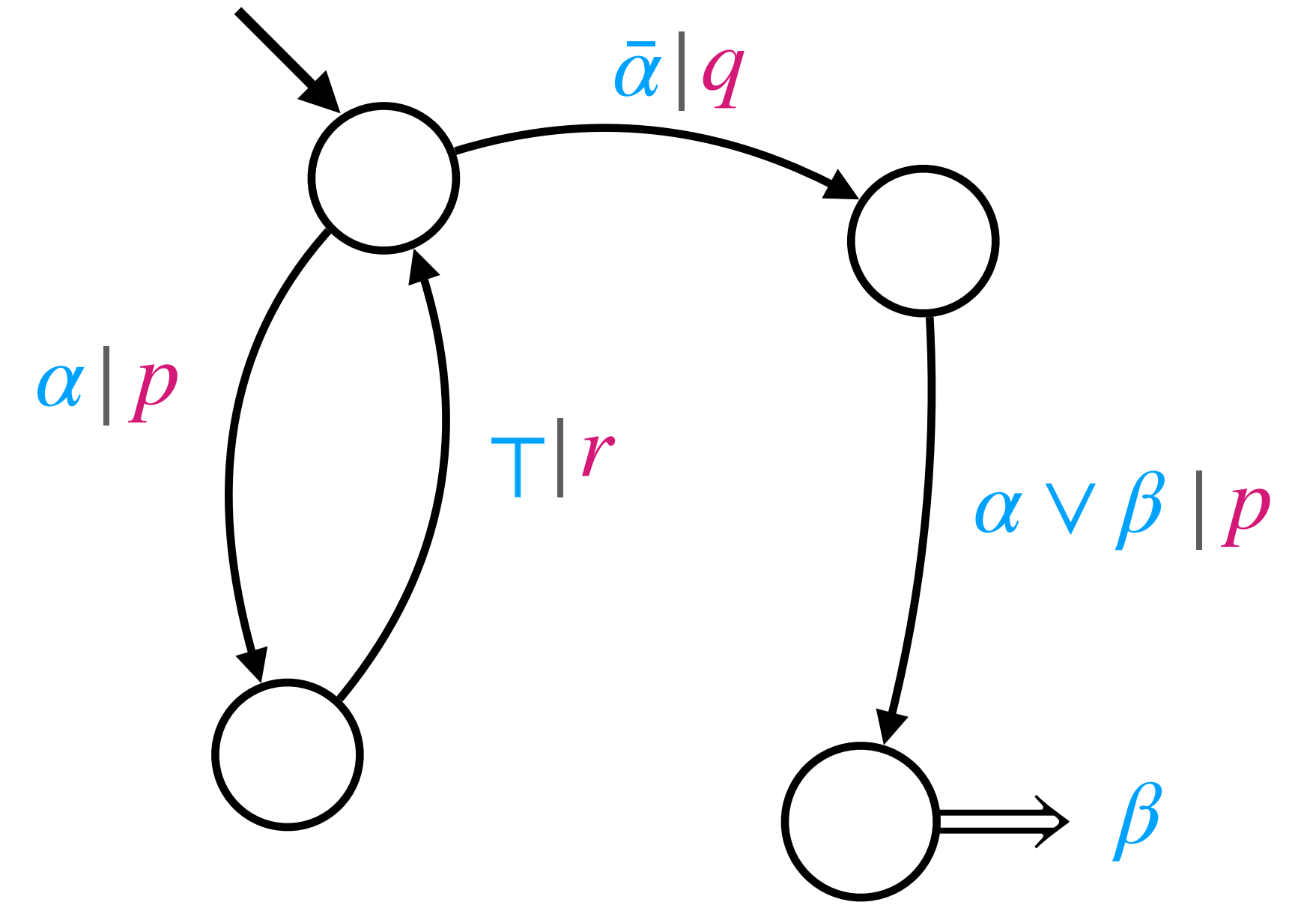
Unguarded Fixed-point Axiom

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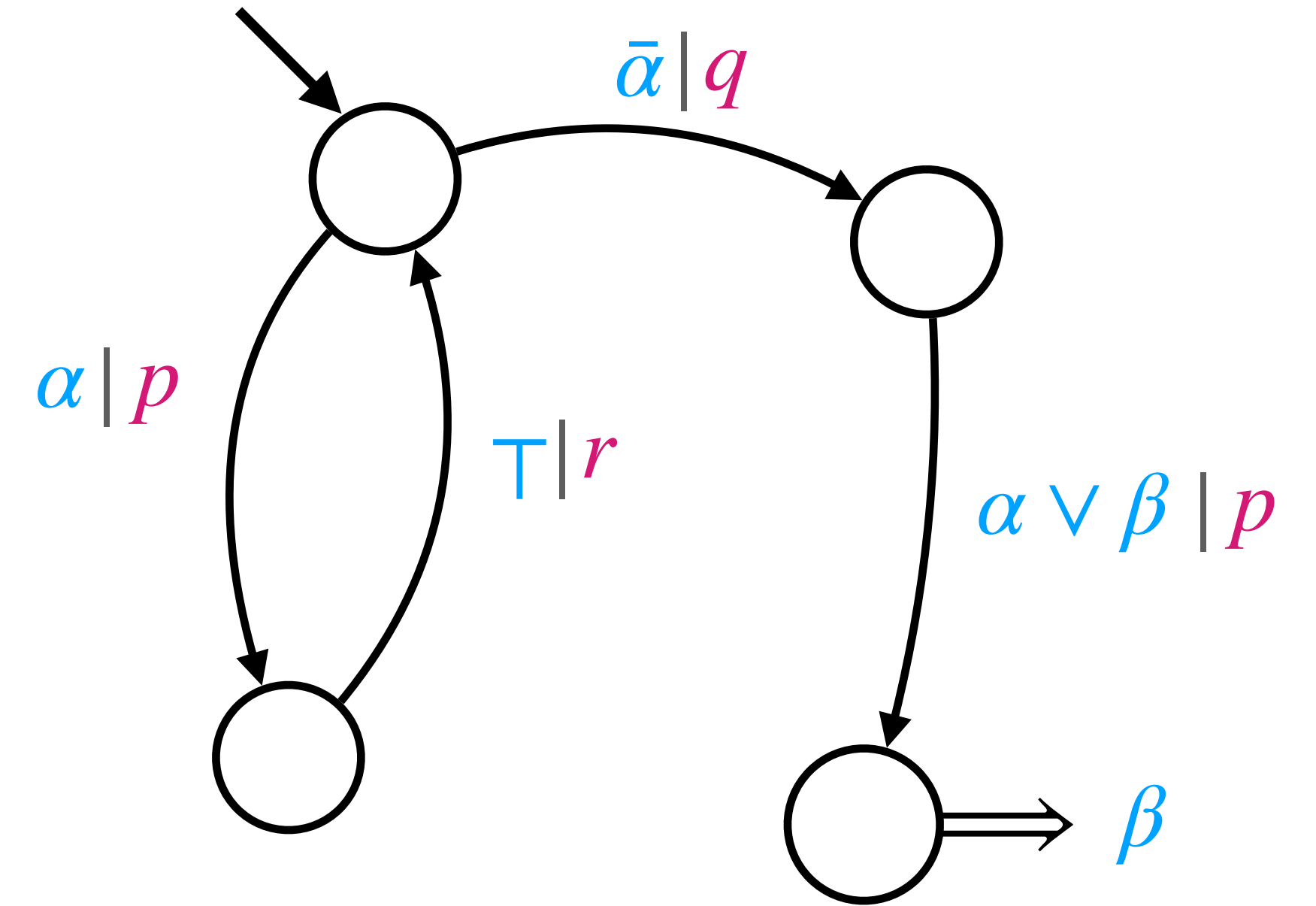
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A Similar Situation: Guarded Kleene Algebra with Tests



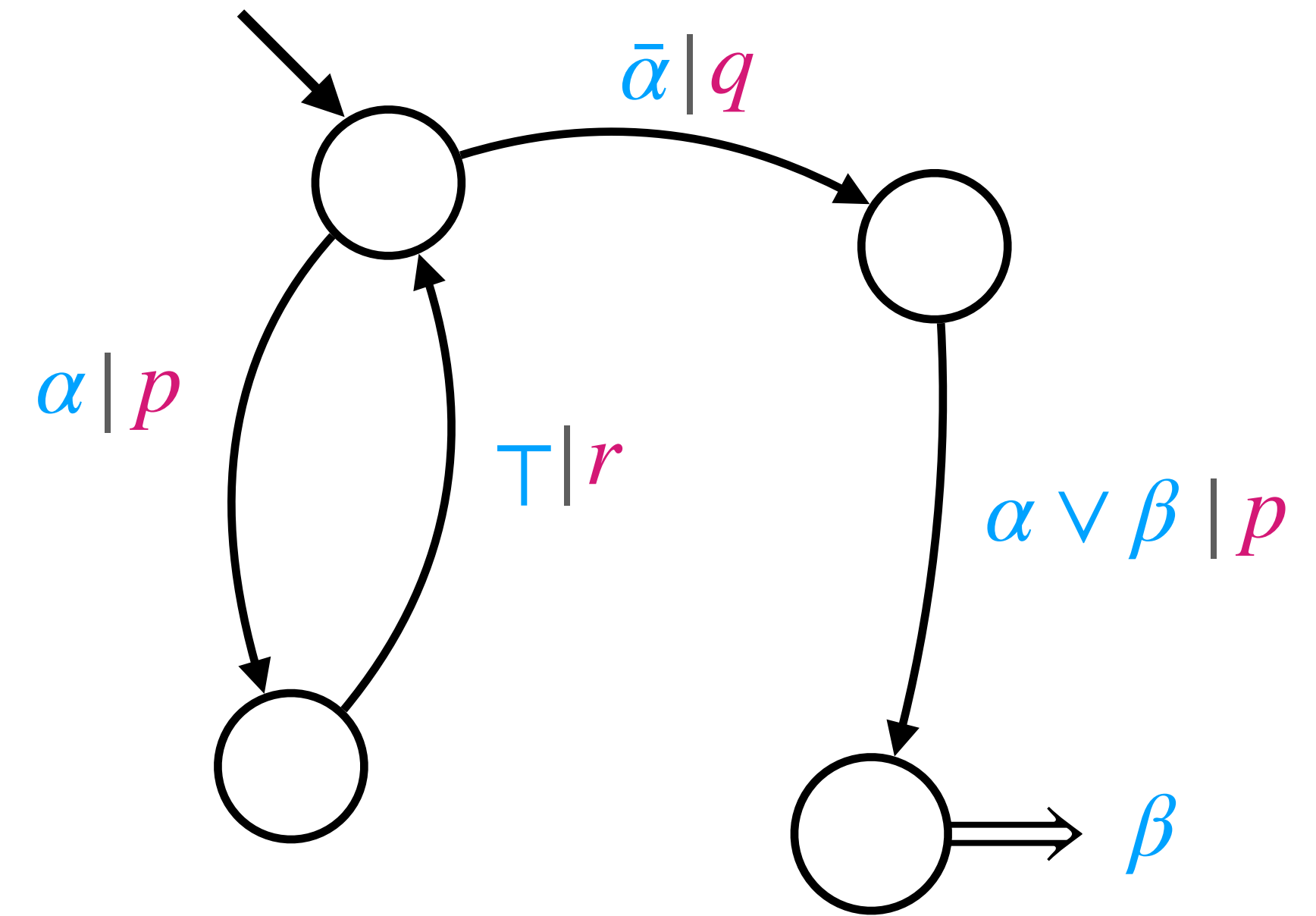
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- An algebra of propositional WHILE programs



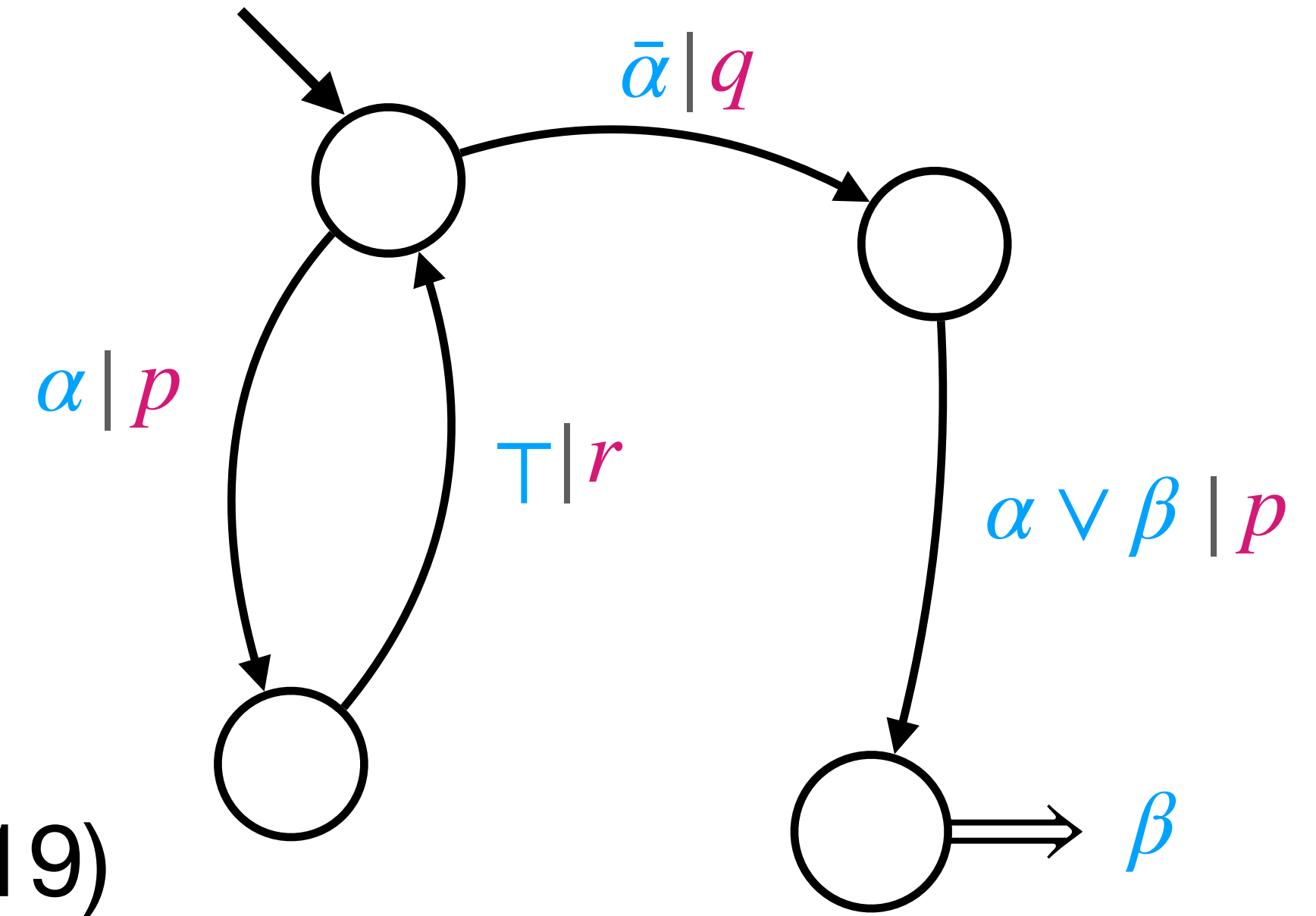
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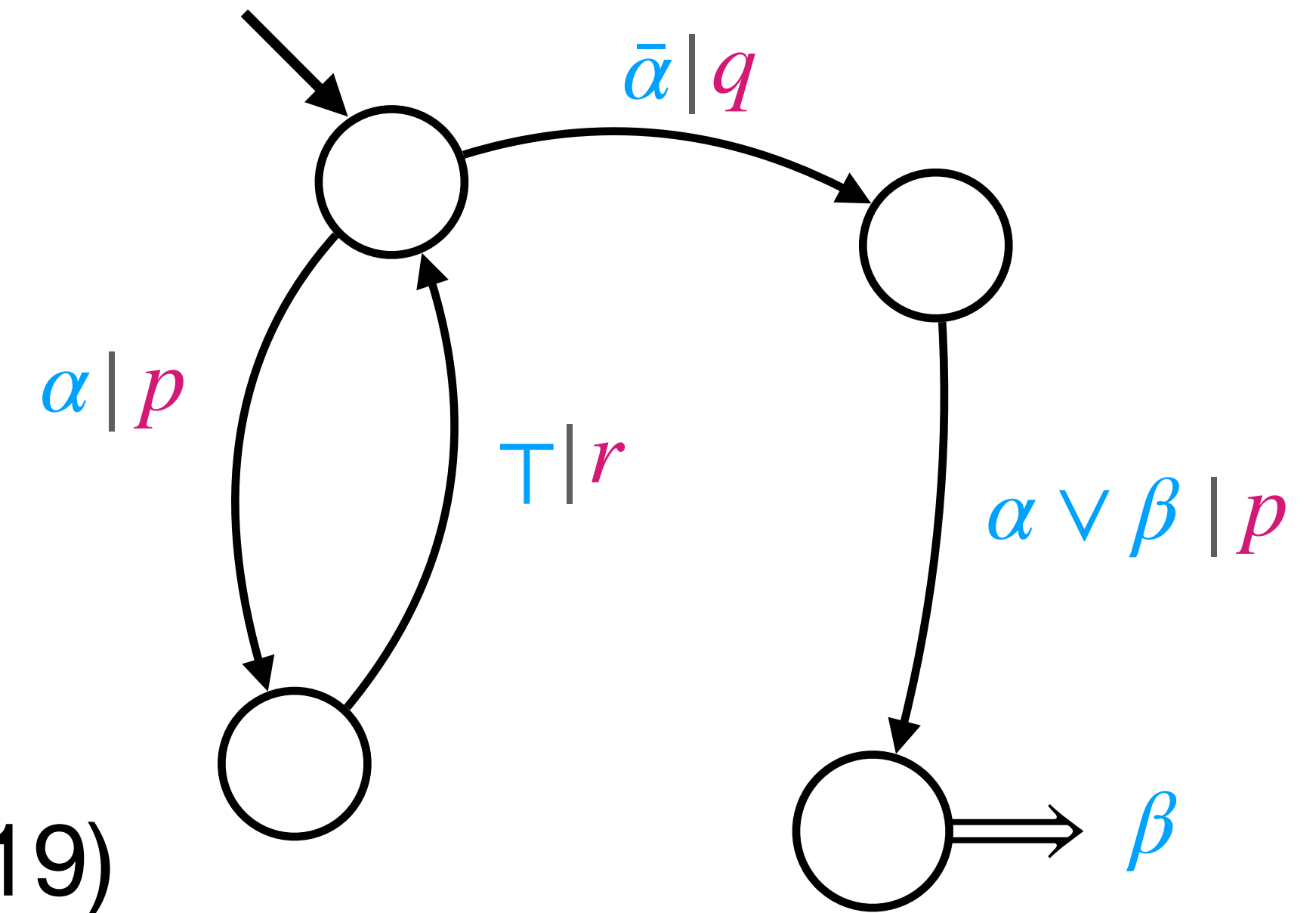
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Guarded Kleene Algebra with Tests

$\text{BExp} \ni b, c ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid t \in T \mid b \vee c \mid b \wedge c \mid \bar{b}$

Guarded Kleene Algebra with Tests

Generates an atomic Boolean algebra with atoms $A_t = 2^T$.

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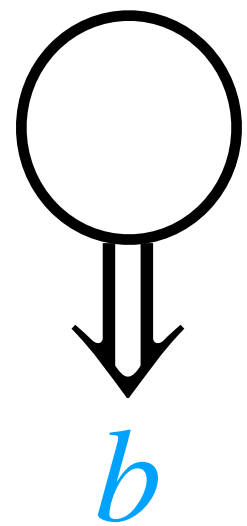
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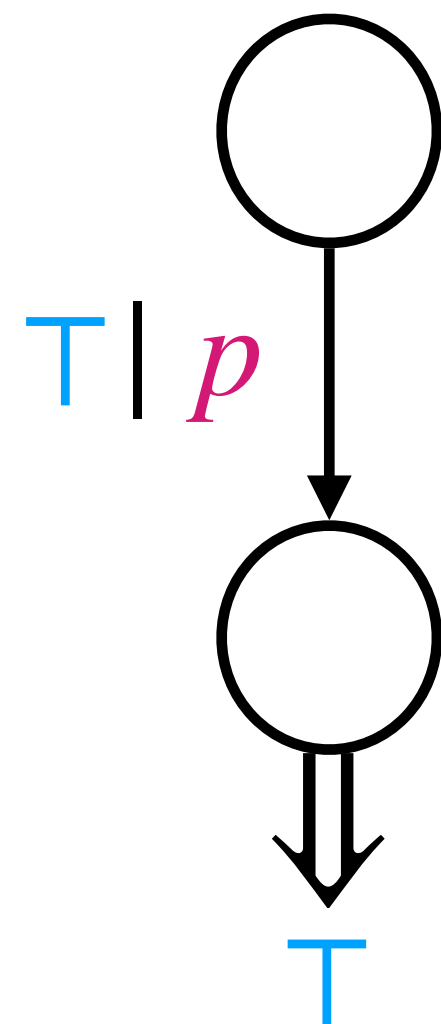
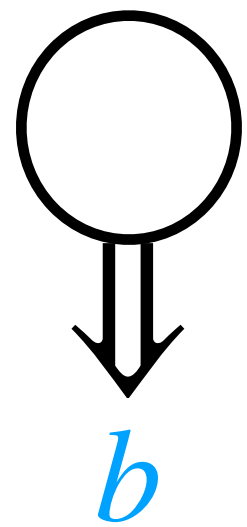
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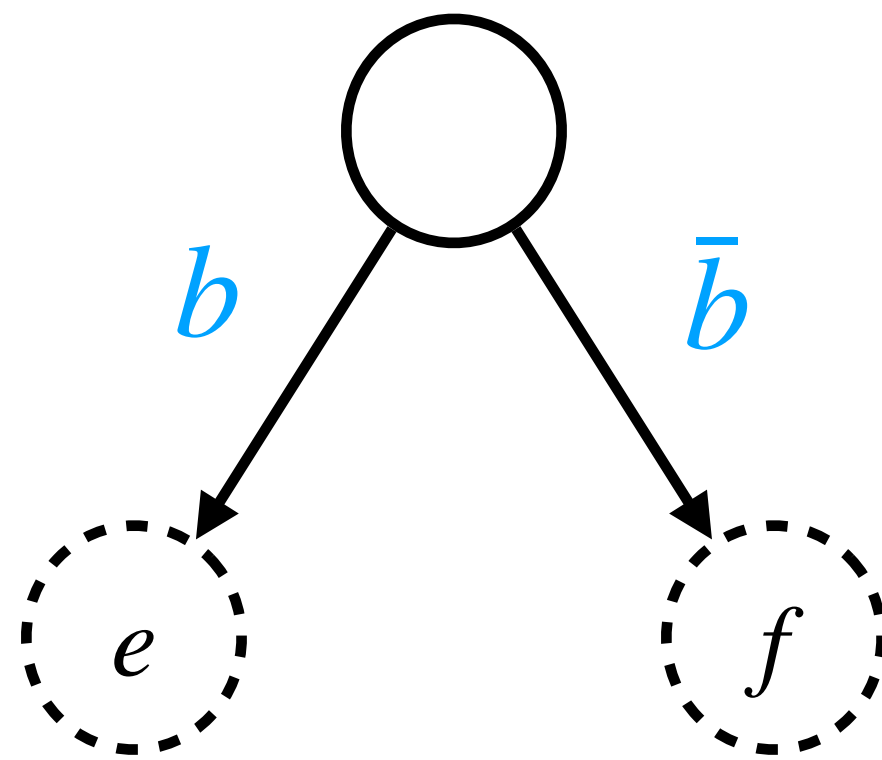
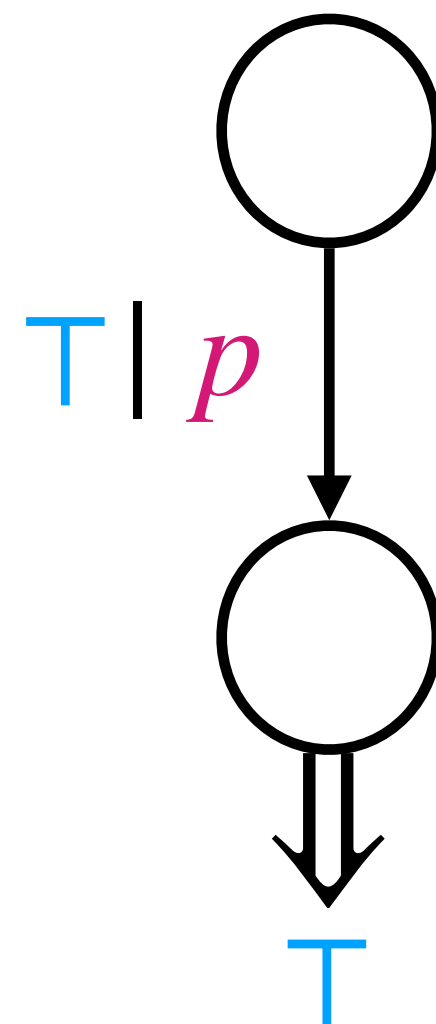
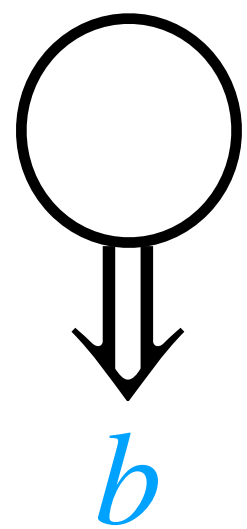
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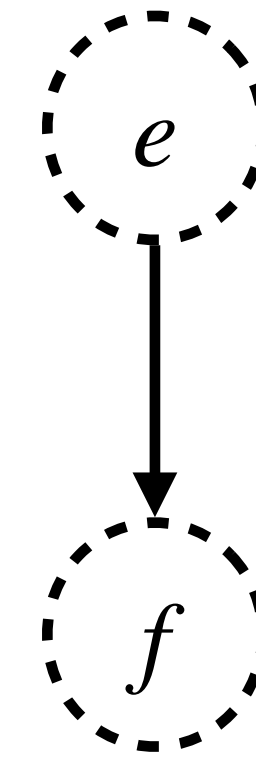
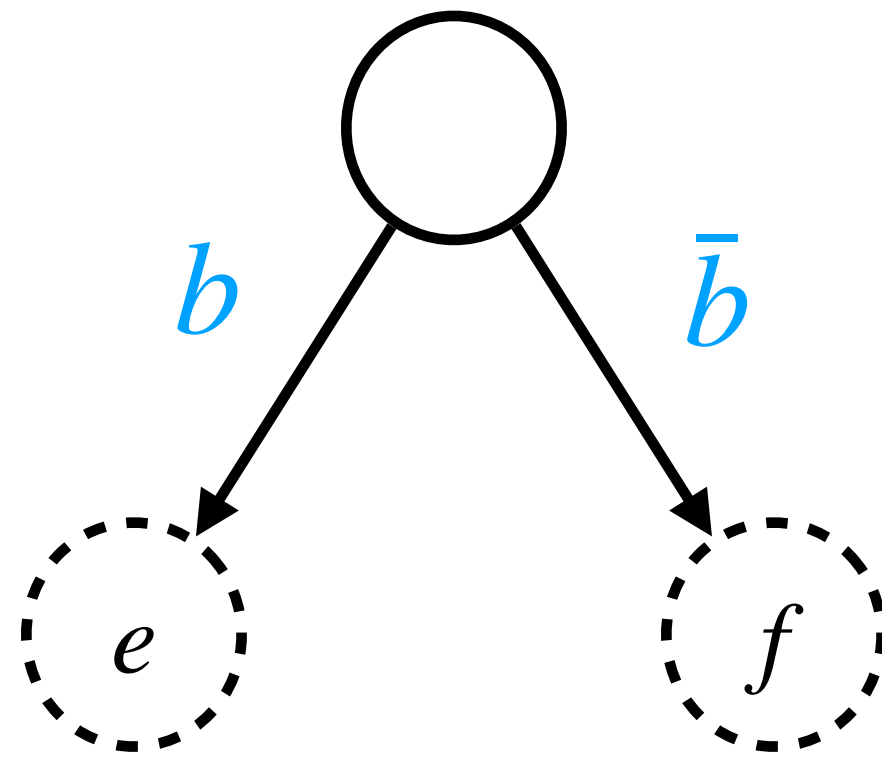
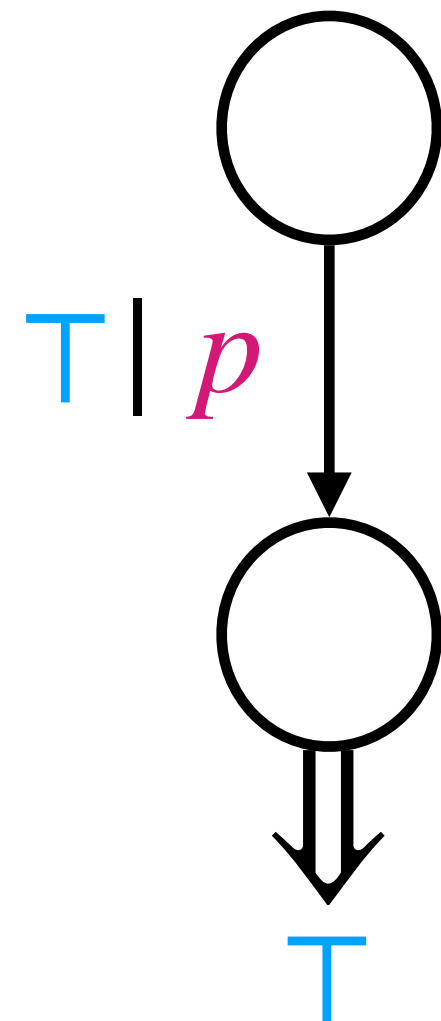
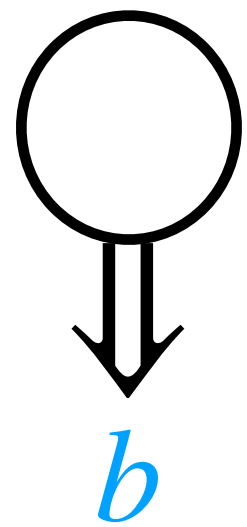
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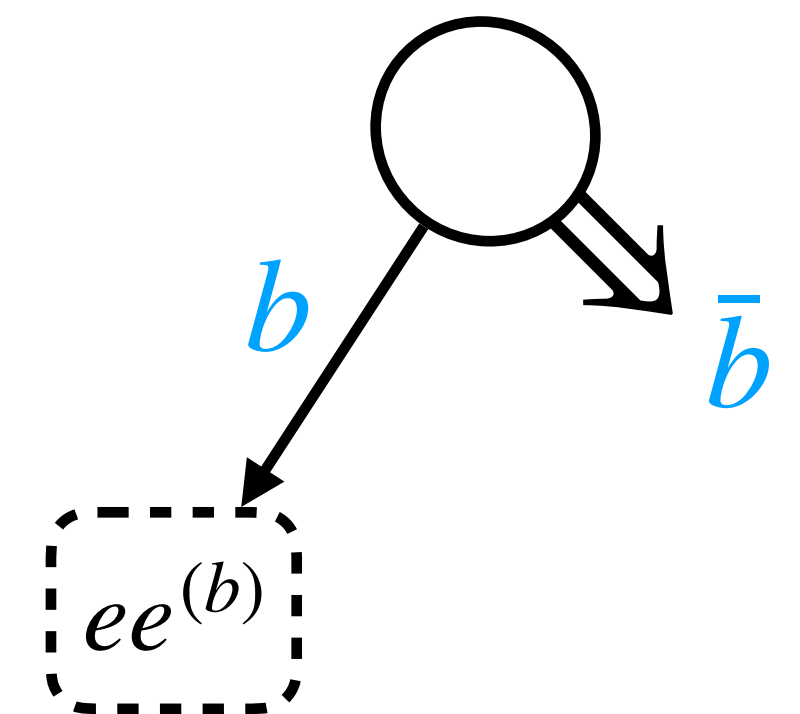
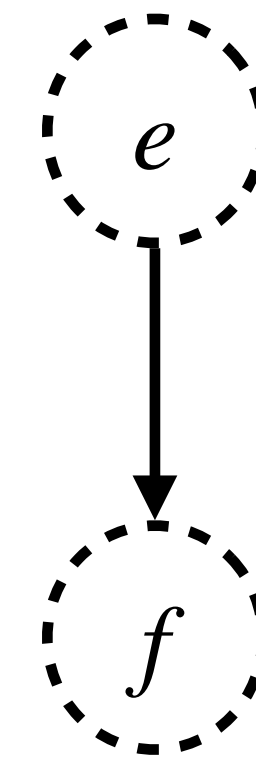
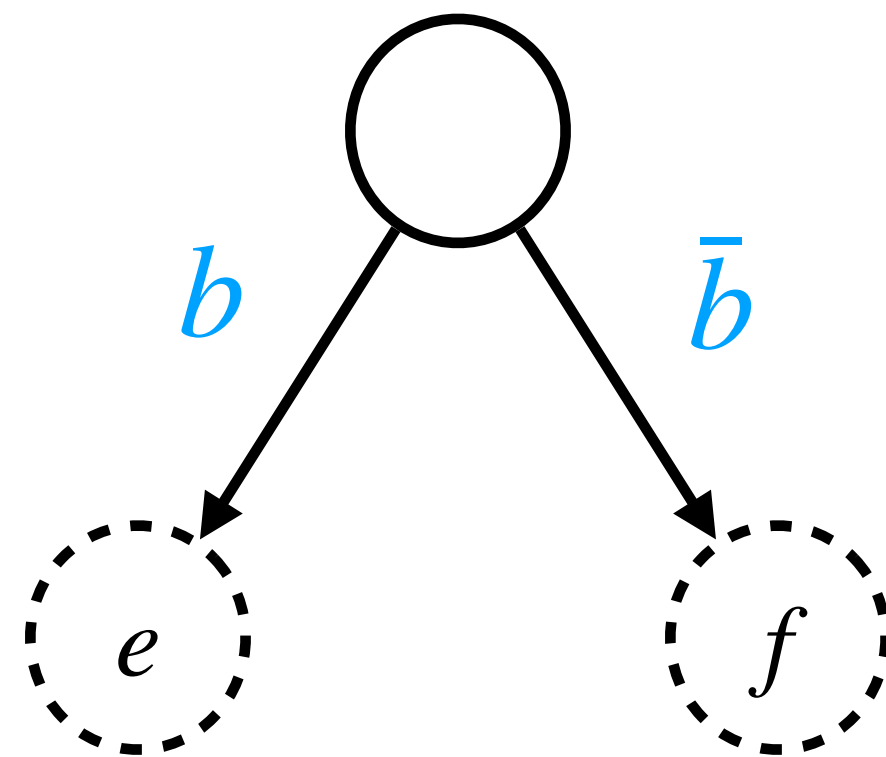
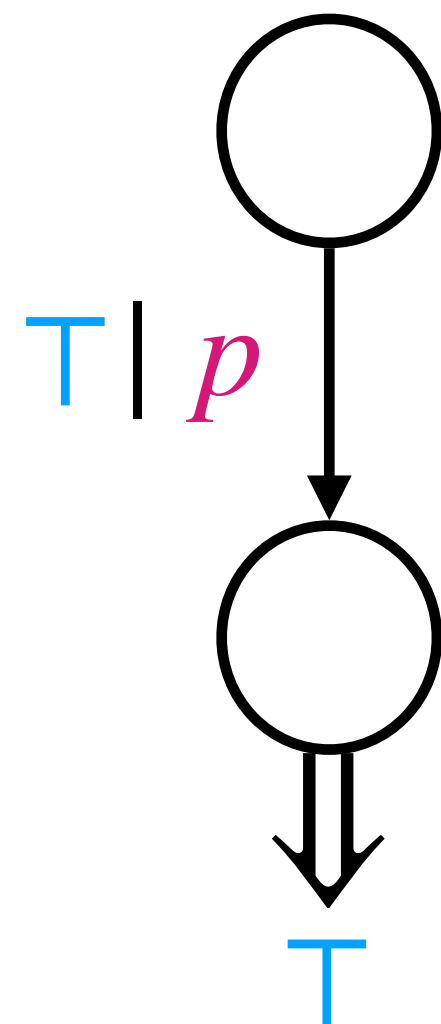
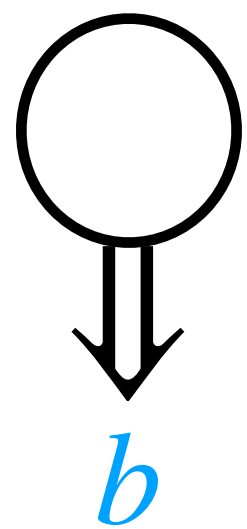
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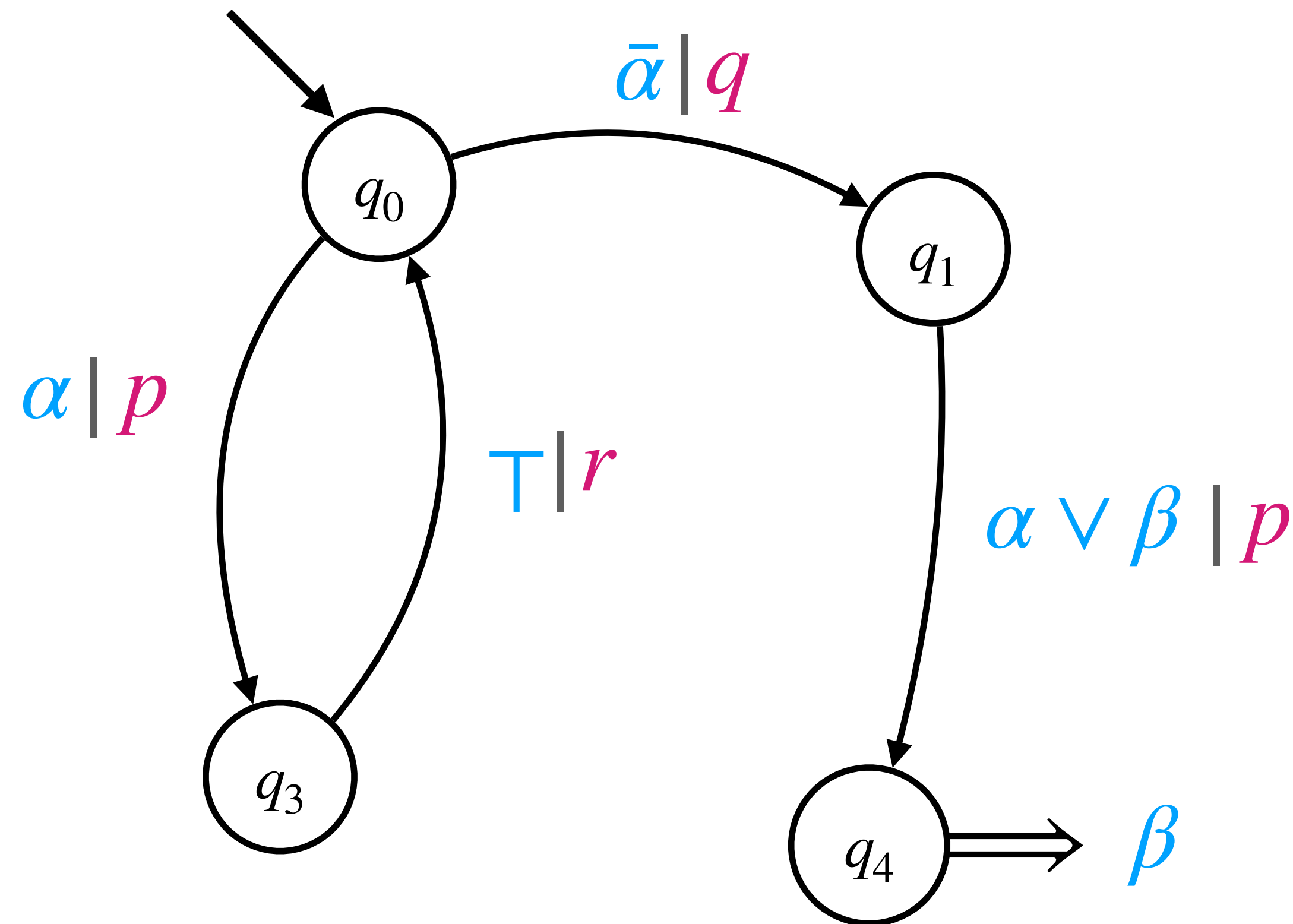
if b then e else f

ef

while b do e



Example of a GKAT Automaton



$$X \longrightarrow (\{\perp, \top\} + \Sigma \times X)^{At}$$

$$(pr)^{(\alpha)} q(p\beta +_{\alpha \vee \beta} 0)$$

```

while α do
  p
  r
  q
  if α ∨ β then
    p
    assert β
  else
    assert False
  
```


Axiomatizing GKAT Programs up to Language Equivalence

(Smolka et al., 2019) Proposed the following axiomatization of GKAT

Guarded Union Axioms

- U1. $e +_b e \equiv e$ (idempotence)
U2. $e +_b f \equiv f +_{\overline{b}} e$ (skew commut.)
U3. $(e +_b f) +_c g \equiv e +_{bc} (f +_c g)$ (skew assoc.)
U4. $e +_b f \equiv be +_b f$ (guardedness)
U5. $eg +_b fg \equiv (e +_b f) \cdot g$ (right distrib.)

Guarded Loop Axioms

- W1. $e^{(b)} \equiv ee^{(b)} +_b 1$ (unrolling)
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Sequence Axioms (inherited from KA)

- S1. $(e \cdot f) \cdot g \equiv e \cdot (f \cdot g)$ (associativity)
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Open Problem: Are these axioms complete for language equivalence?

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Completeness here implies completeness for language equivalence

Massaging the Syntax to Fit the Mould

$b \in \text{BExp}$ interpreted as **assert** b

b

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The test 1 is interpreted as **assert** True

b

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The test **1** is interpreted as **assert True**
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assert True is equivalent to simply **skip**

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assert False is equivalent to simply **crash**

GKAT $\vdash b = 1 +_b 0$ or **if b then skip else crash**

Guarded Kleene Algebra with Tests modulo Bisimulation

$$\text{GExp}_{\text{ts}} \ni e, f ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid p \in \Sigma \mid e +_b f \mid ef \mid e^{(b)}$$

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$$e +_b (f +_c g) = (e +_b f) +_{b \vee c} g$$

$$0e = 0$$

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Equational Branching Axioms

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Unique Guarded
Fixed-point Axioms

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Equational Branching Axioms

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Sequencing Axioms

Unguarded Fixed-point Axiom

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 \hline
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Unique Guarded Fixed-point Axioms

How to distinguish the examples!

EQUATIONAL THEORY

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FIXED POINT EQUATIONS

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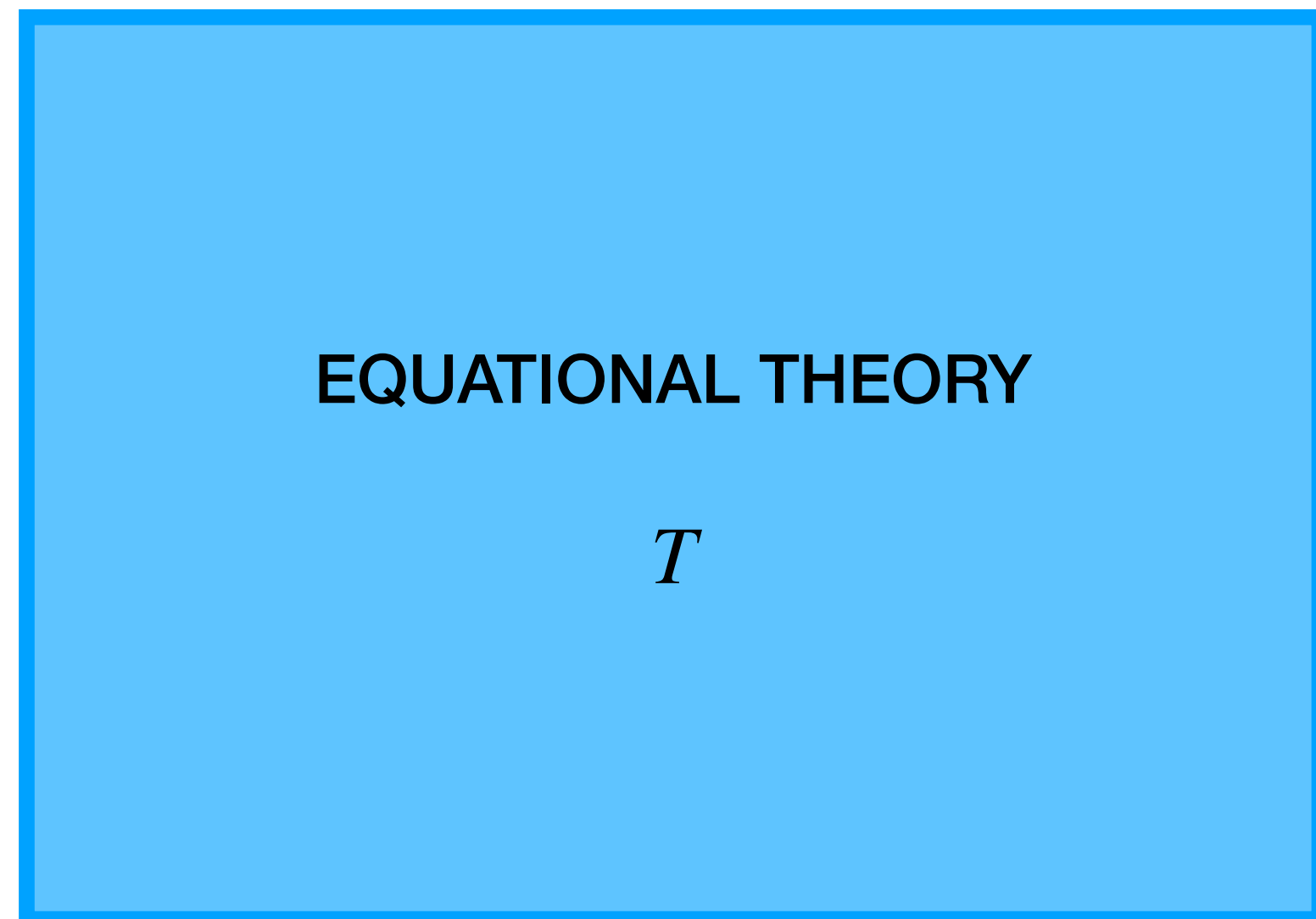
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Together, this data comprises a *branching theory*.

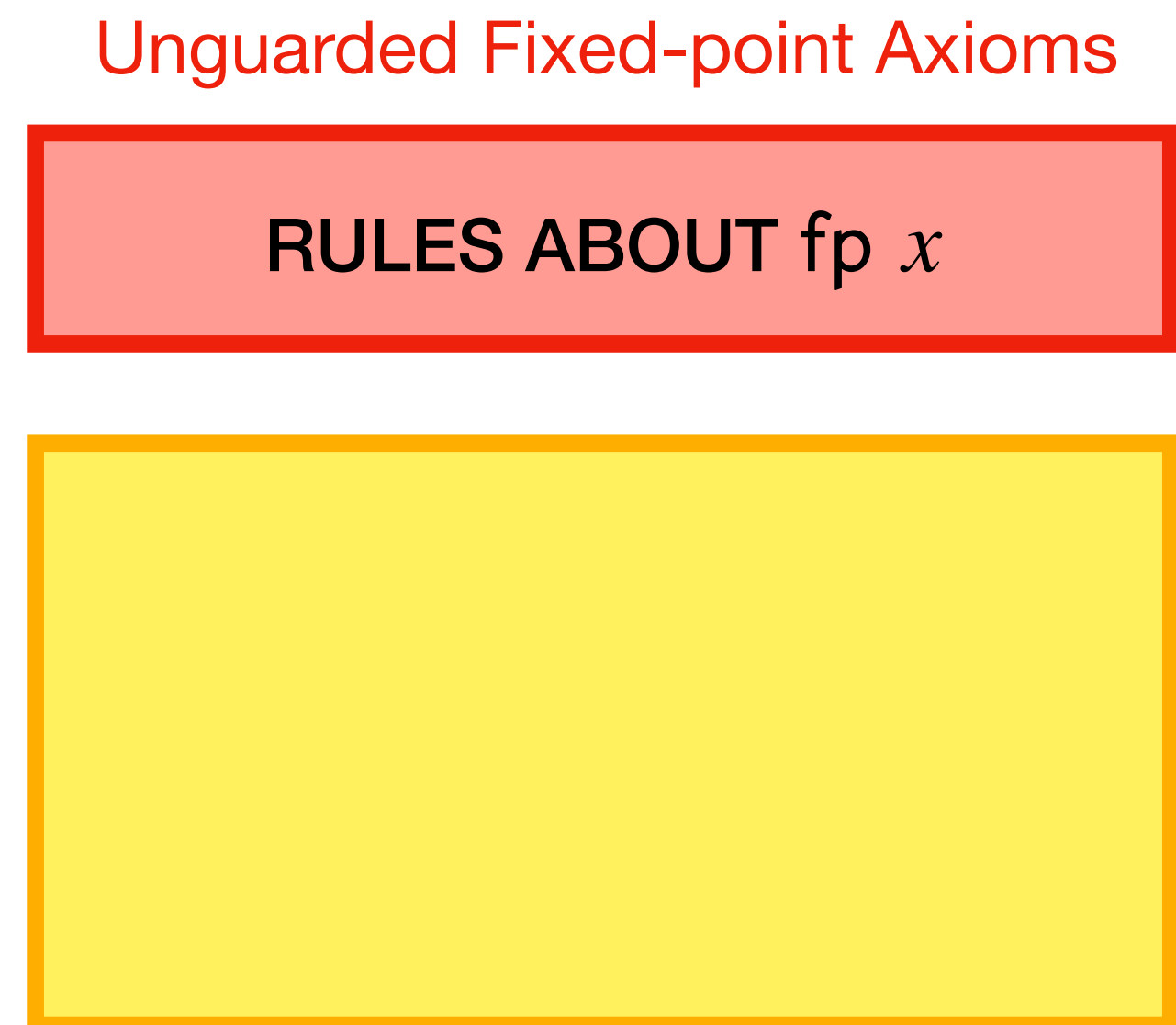
A Recipe



Equational Branching Axioms



Sequencing Axioms



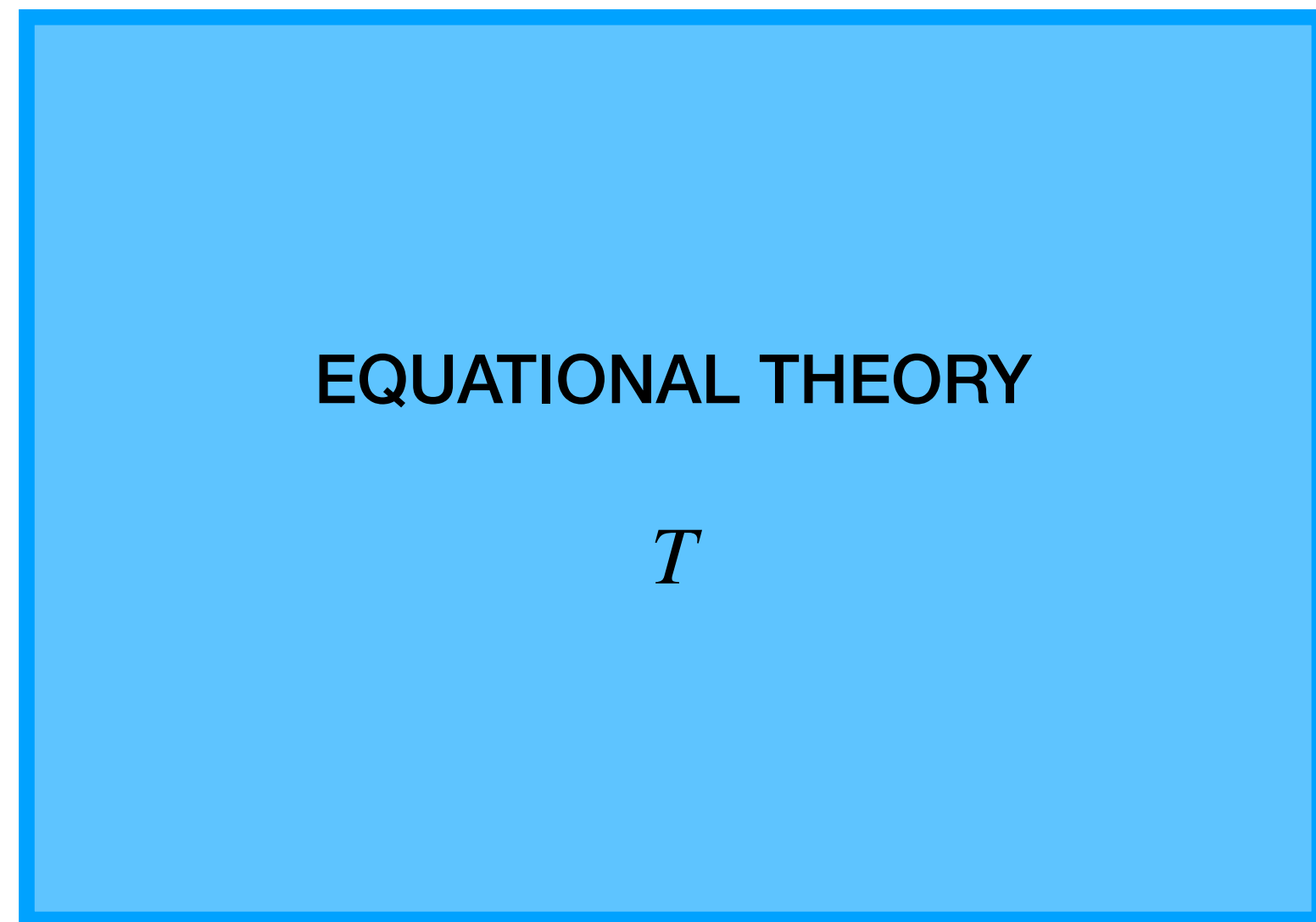
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Unguarded Fixed-point Axioms

RULES ABOUT $\text{fp } x$

A Recipe

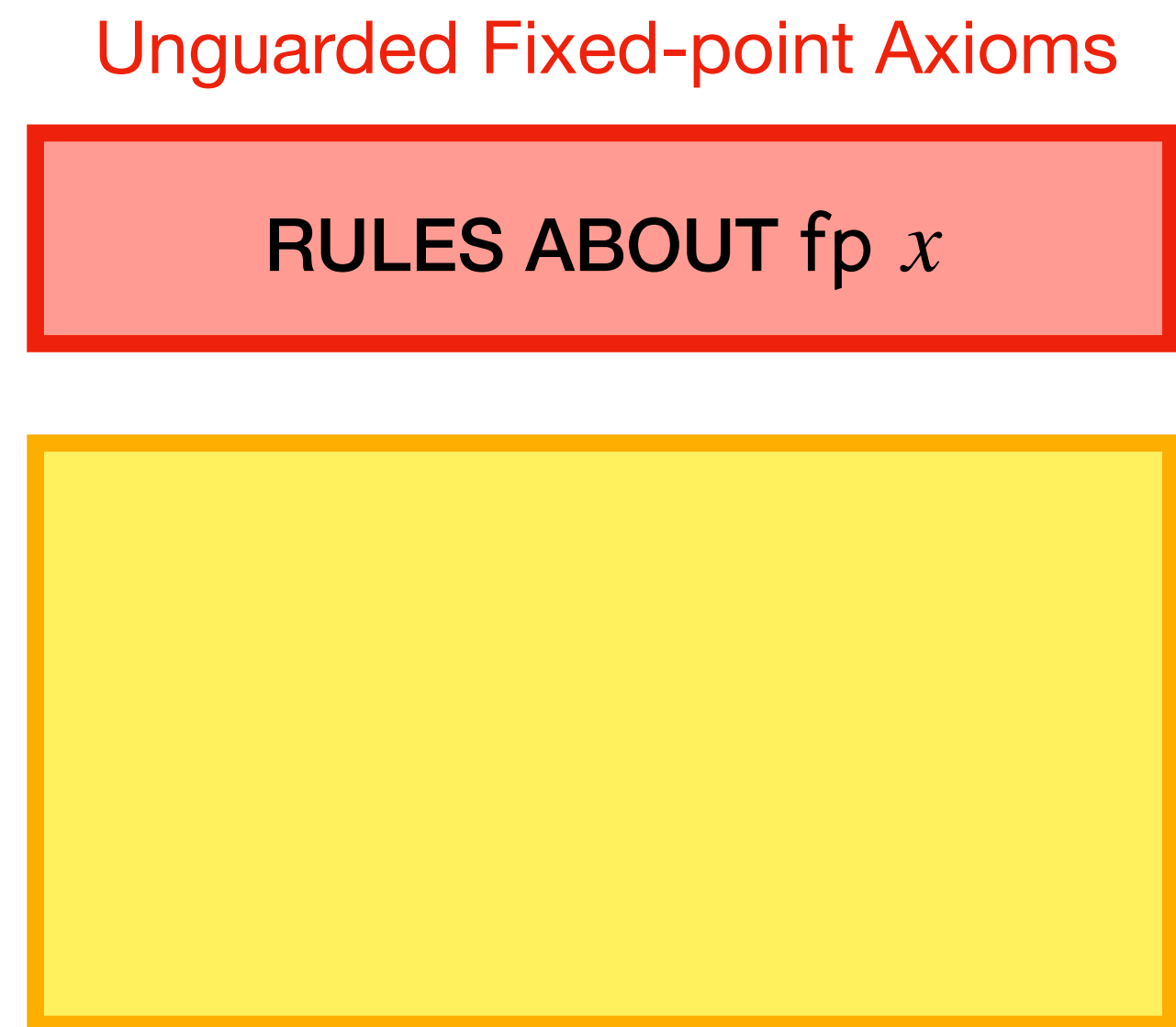
Definition. *A branching theory consists of a*



Equational Branching Axioms



Sequencing Axioms



Unique Guarded
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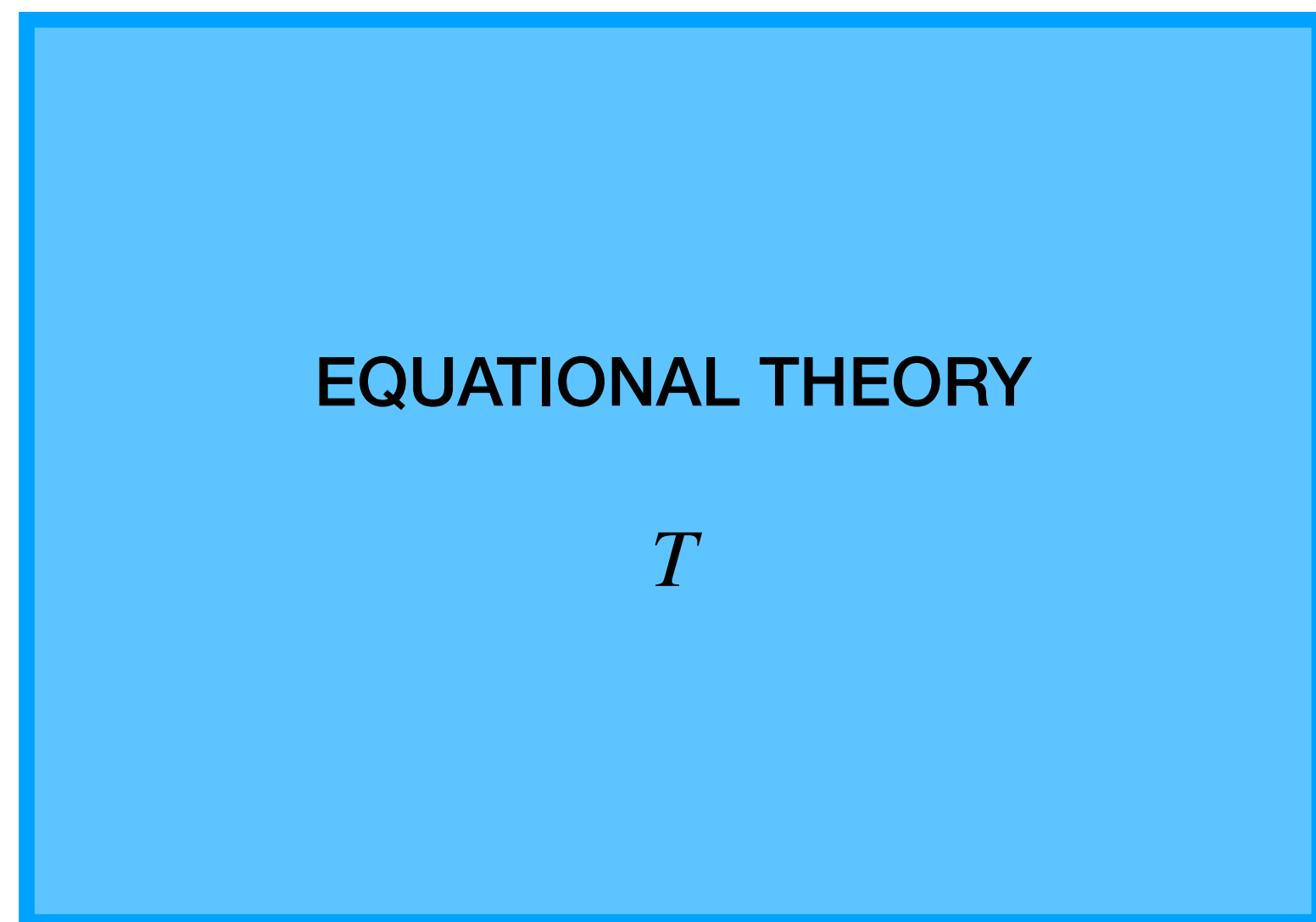
Unguarded Fixed-point Axioms

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A Recipe

Definition. A *branching theory* consists of a

1. An algebraic signature $S = S_0 + S_2 \times \text{Id}^2$ consisting of **constants** and **binary operations**



Equational Branching Axioms



Sequencing Axioms

Unguarded Fixed-point Axioms

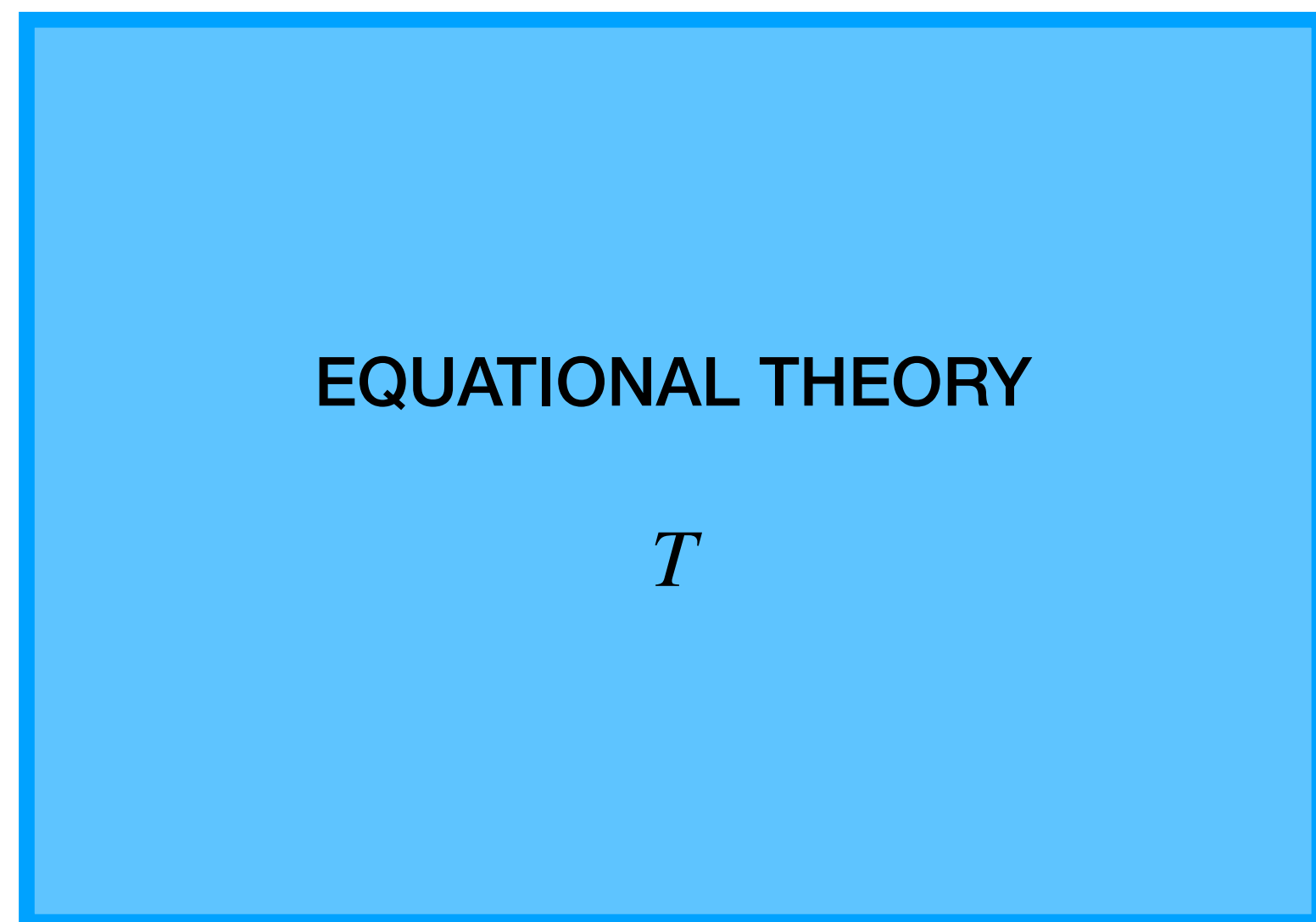


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Equational Branching Axioms



Sequencing Axioms

Unguarded Fixed-point Axioms

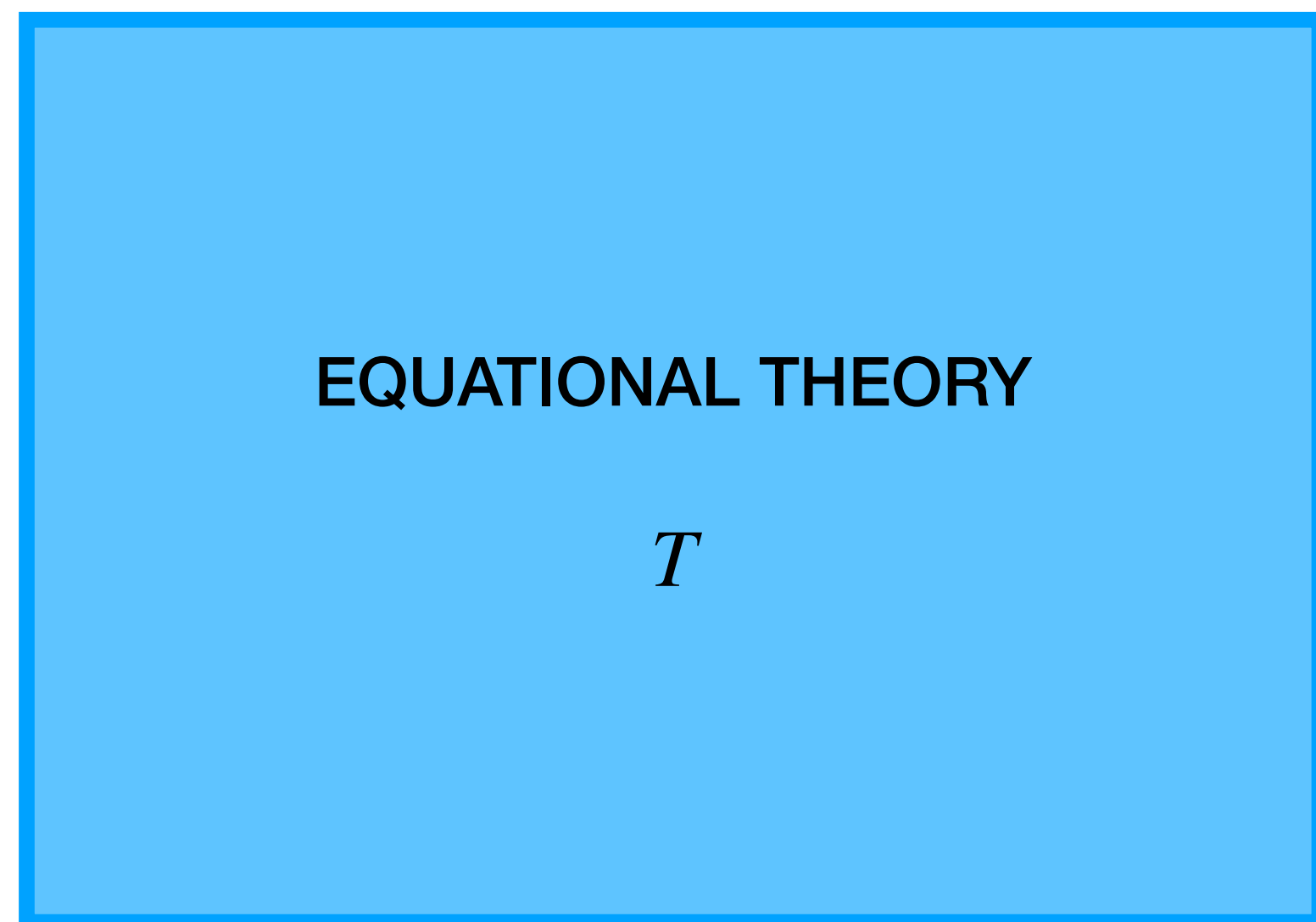


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Equational Branching Axioms



Sequencing Axioms

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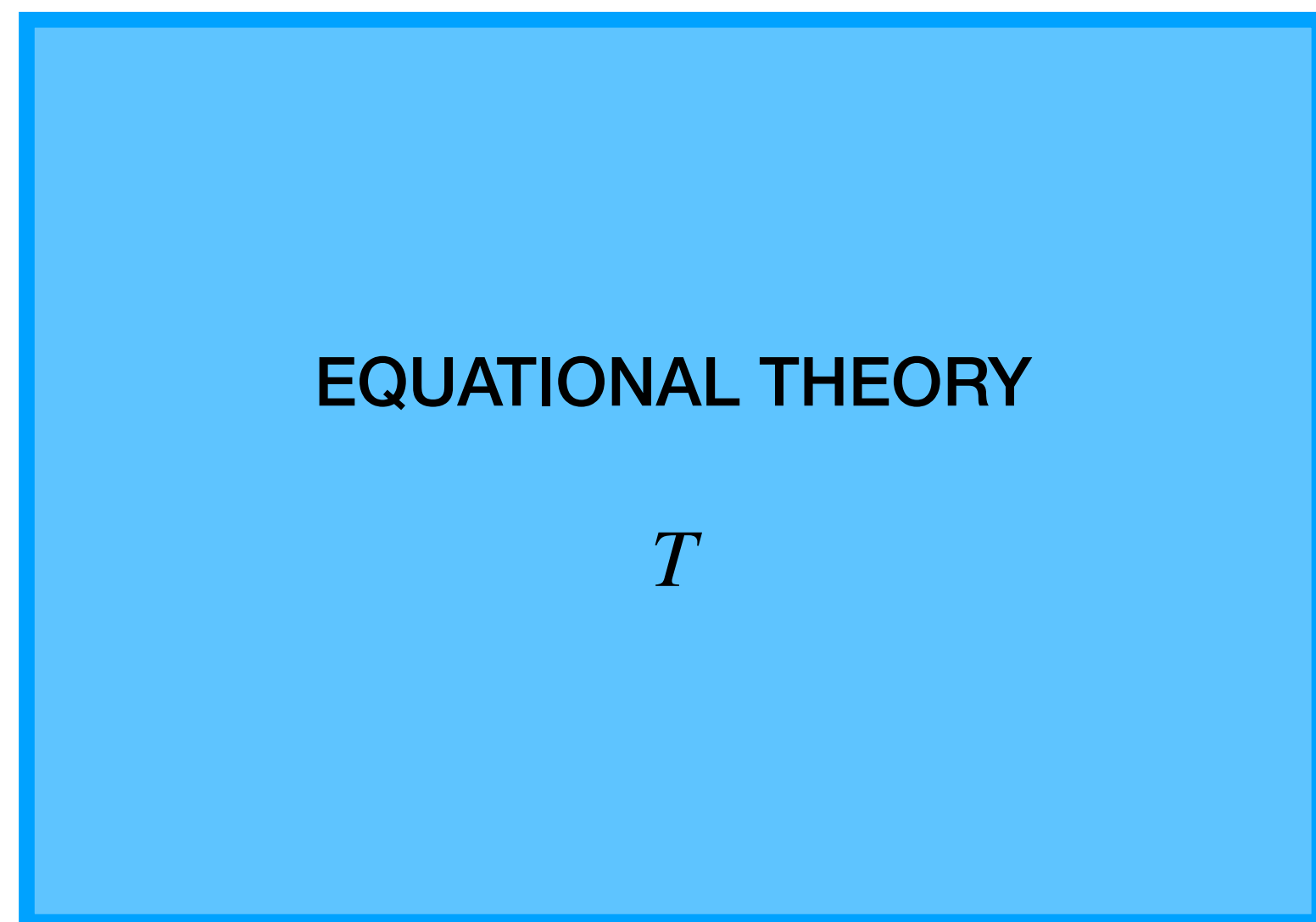
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$$T \vdash \text{fp } x \ t(x, \vec{y}) = t(\text{fp } x \ t(x, \vec{y}), \vec{y})$$



Equational Branching Axioms



Sequencing Axioms

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Introducing: *Star Fragments!*

Definition. For a given branching theory (S, T, fp) , the set of *star expressions* is given by

Eg.

$$S_0 = \{0\}$$

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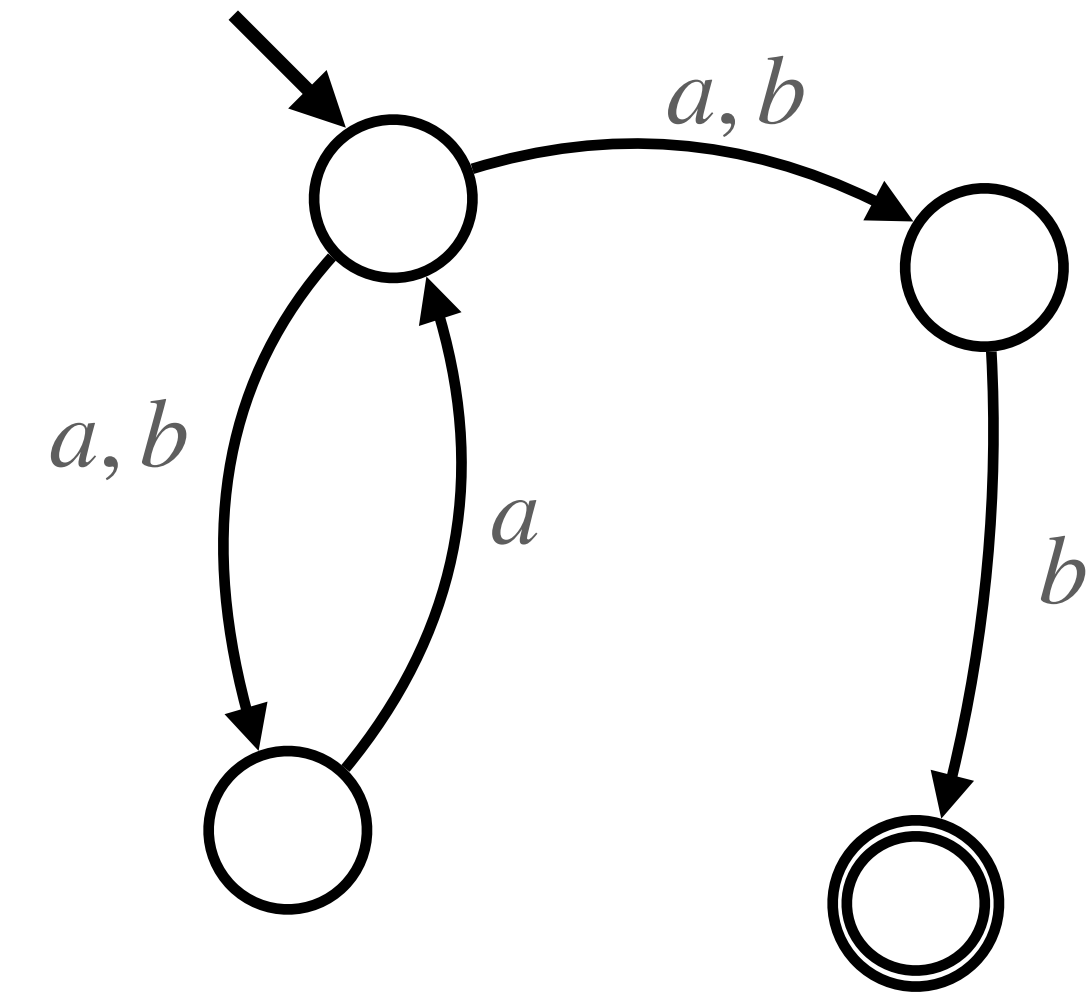
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	$e^{(b)}$	while b do e	

Star Fragment Semantics

Operational semantics of regular expressions modulo bisimilarity:

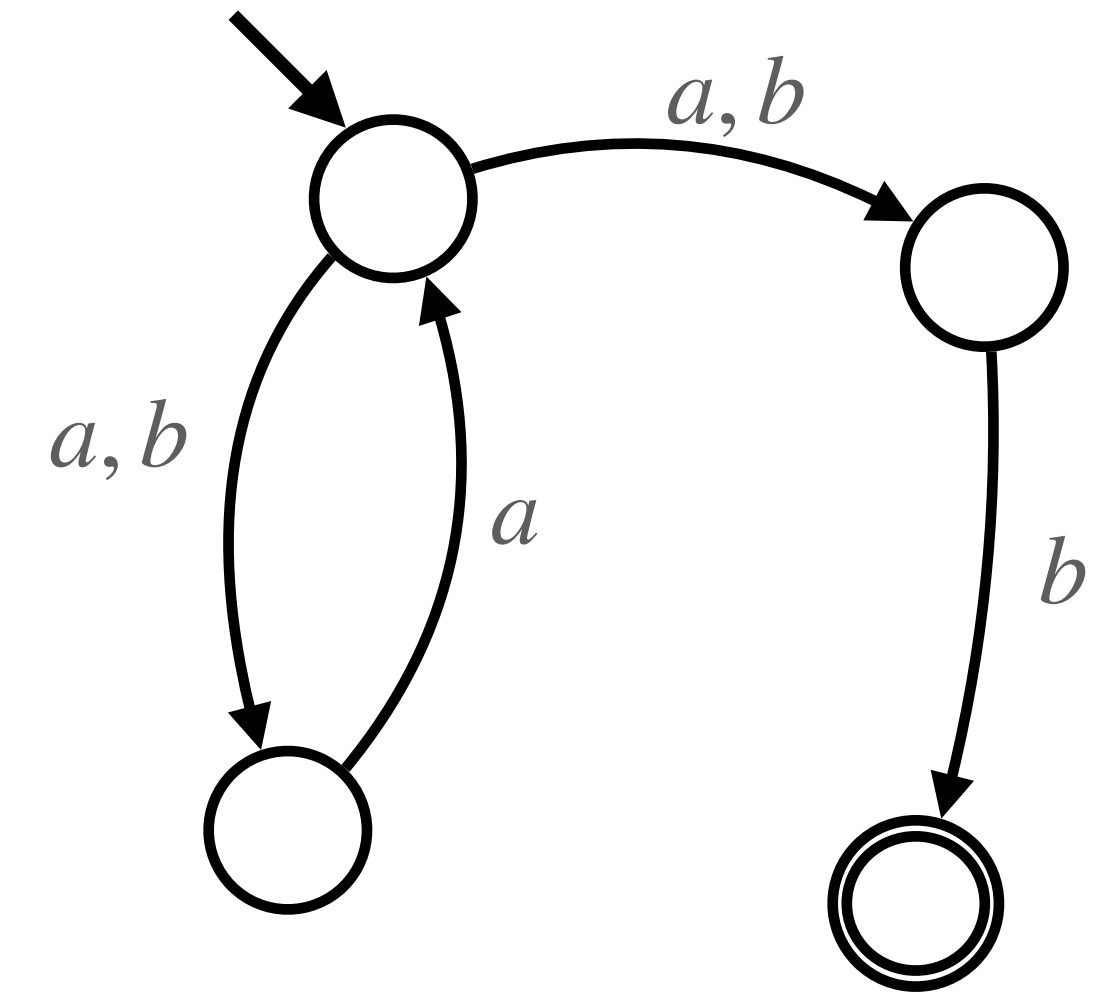
$$\text{Exp} \longrightarrow \{ \perp, \top \} \times \mathcal{P}_{fin}(\text{Exp})^A$$



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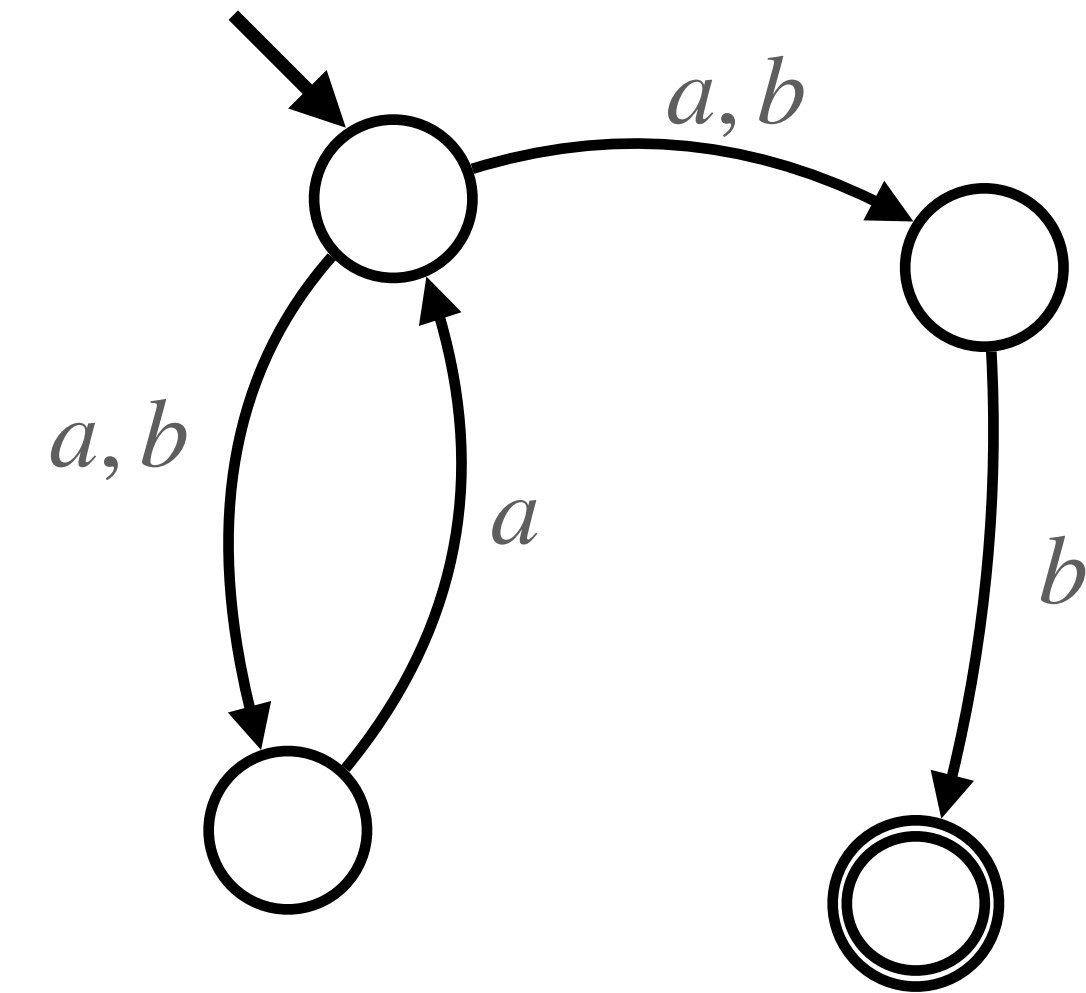
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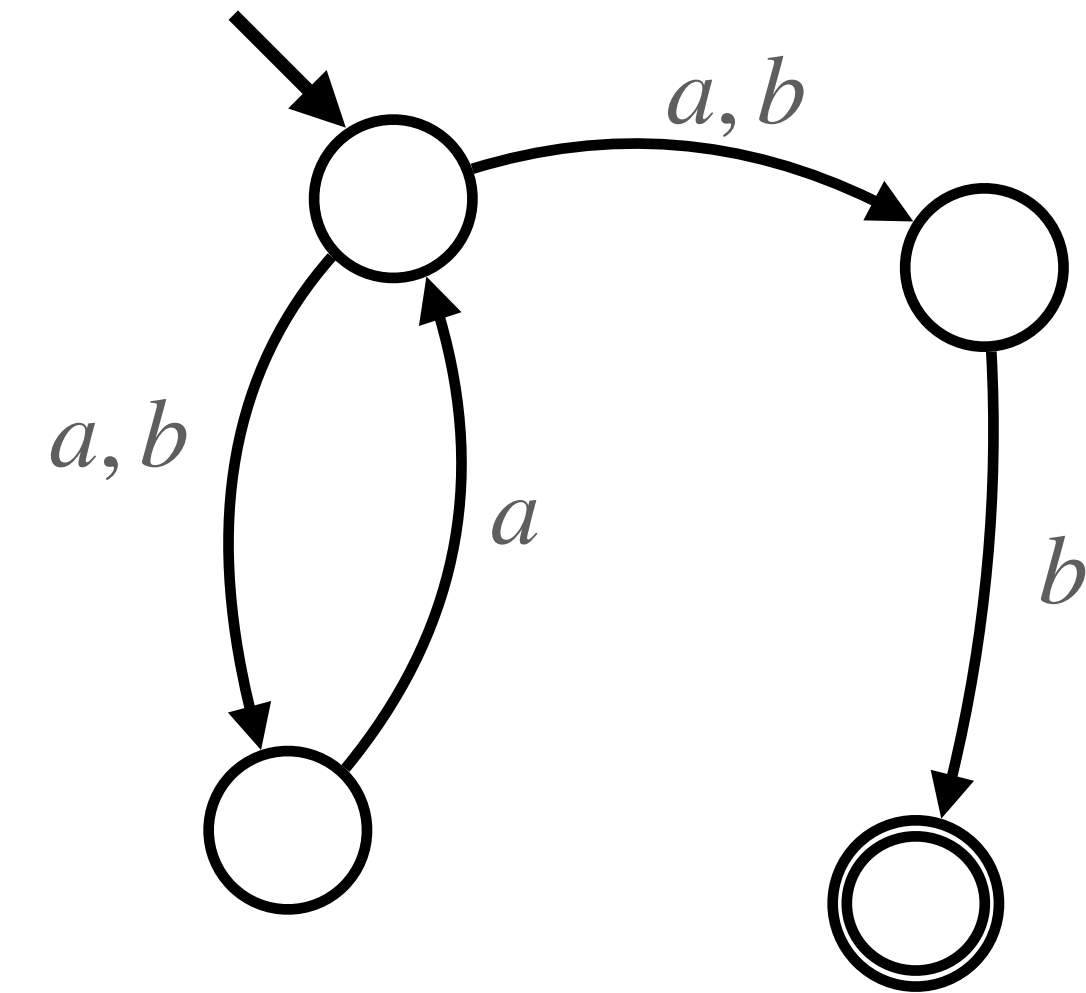


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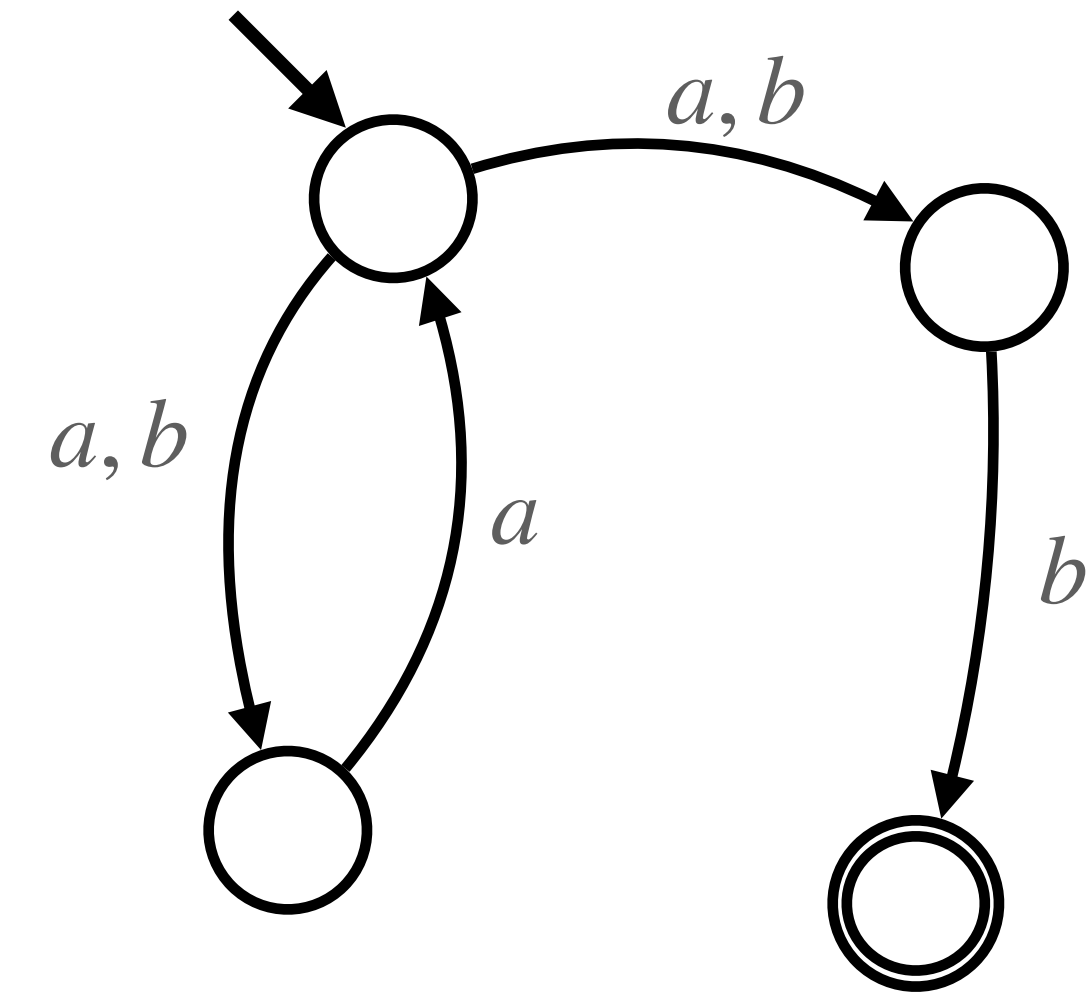
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$$\ell(e f) = \ell(f) \cup \{(a_1, e_1 f), \dots, (a_n, e_n f)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \ell(e^*) = \{ \top, (a_1, e_1 e^*), \dots, (a_n, e_n e^*) \}$$

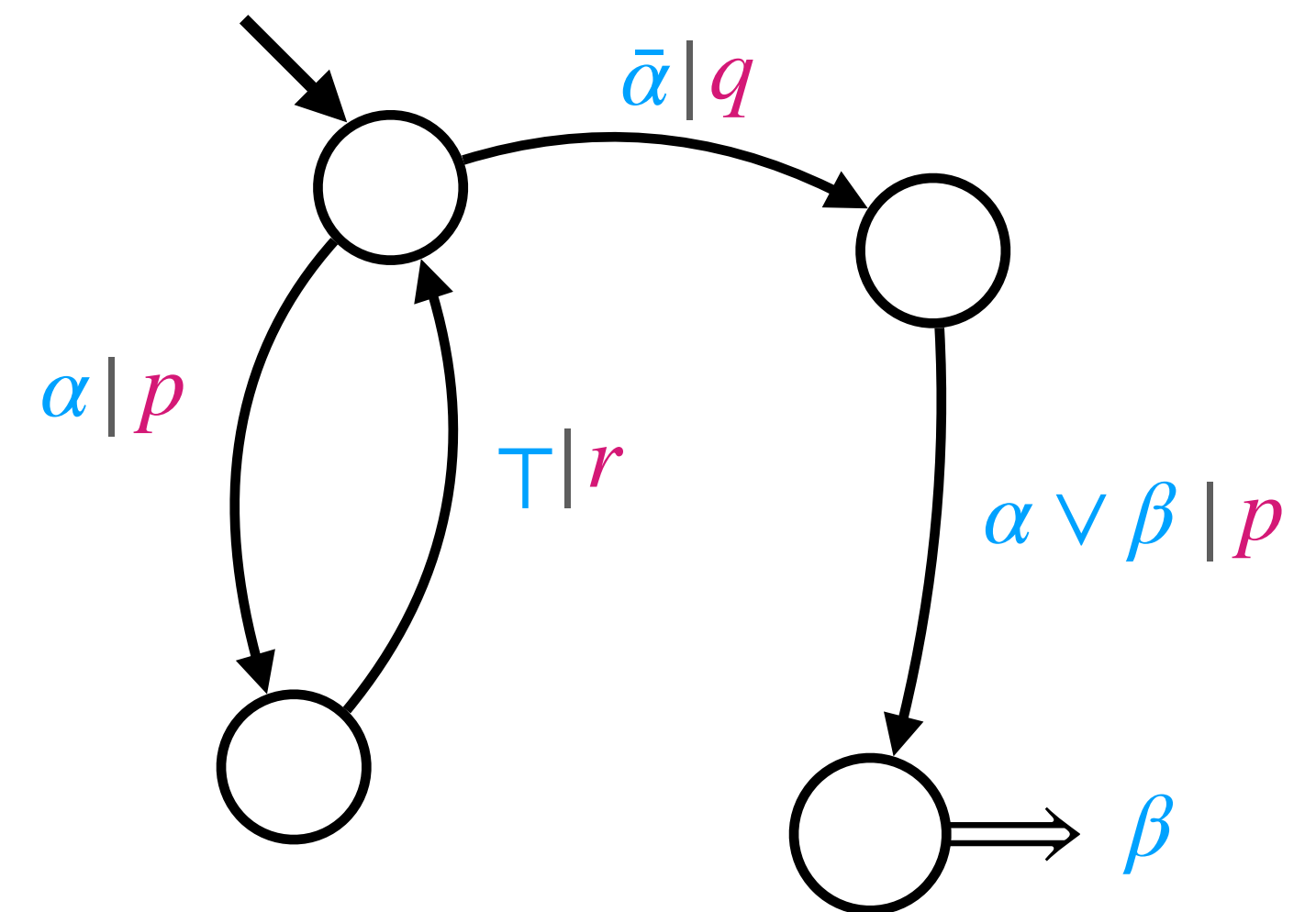
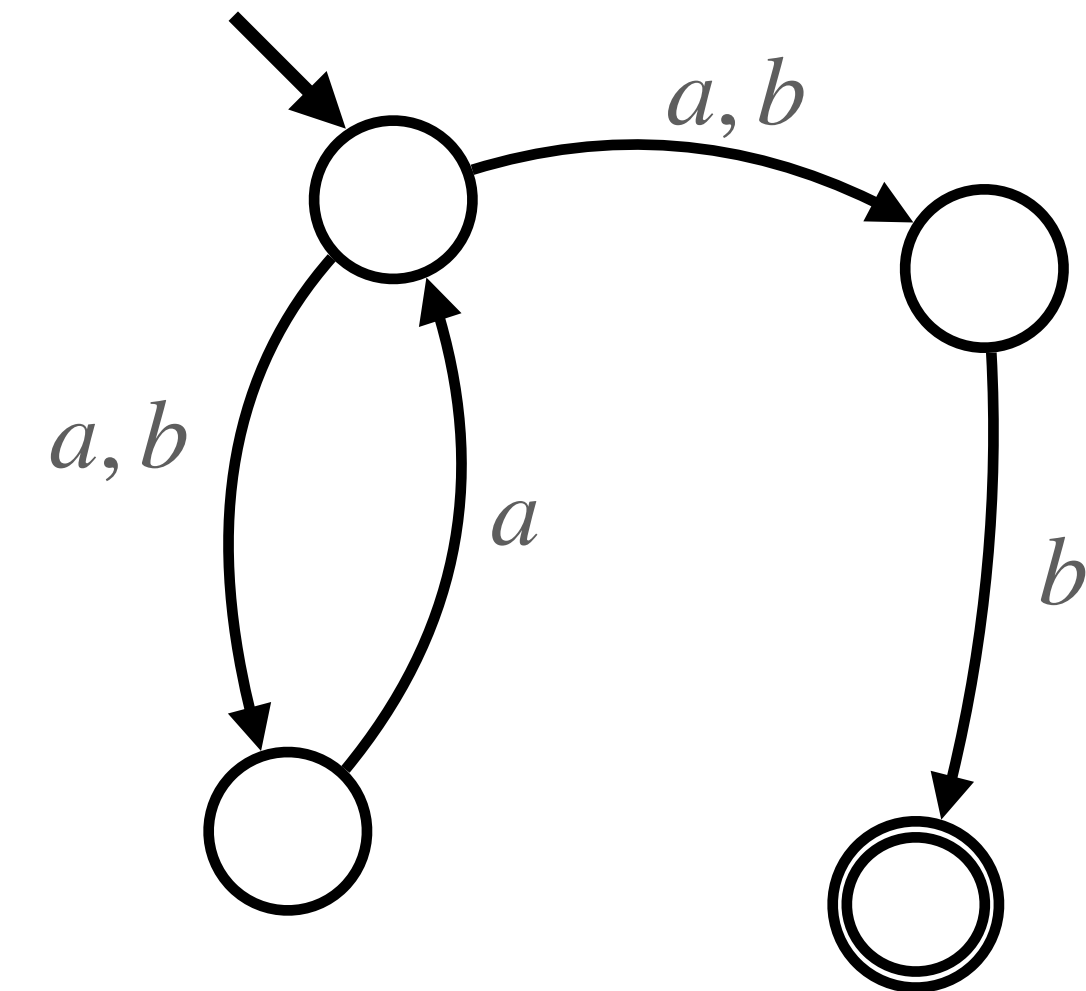
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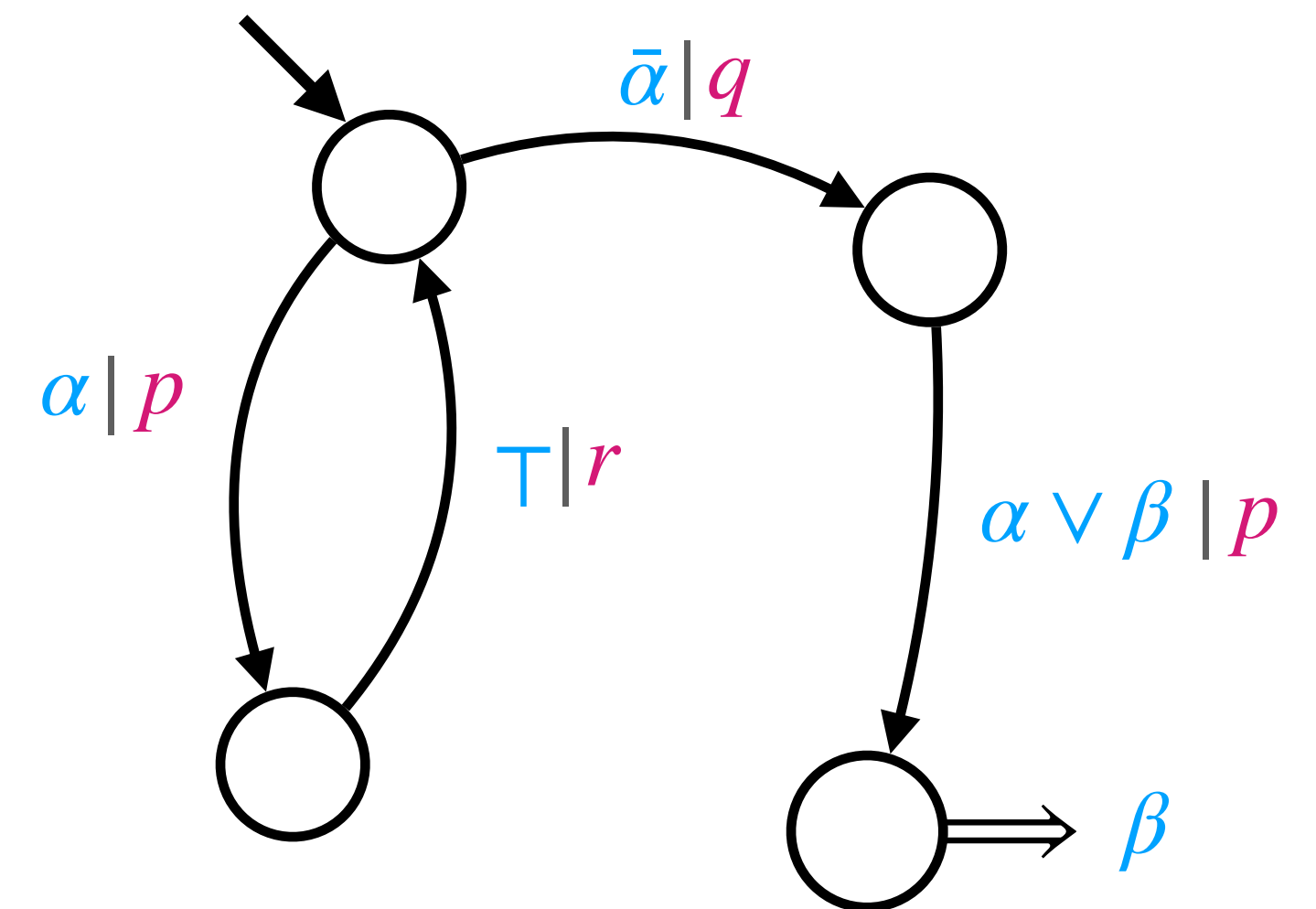
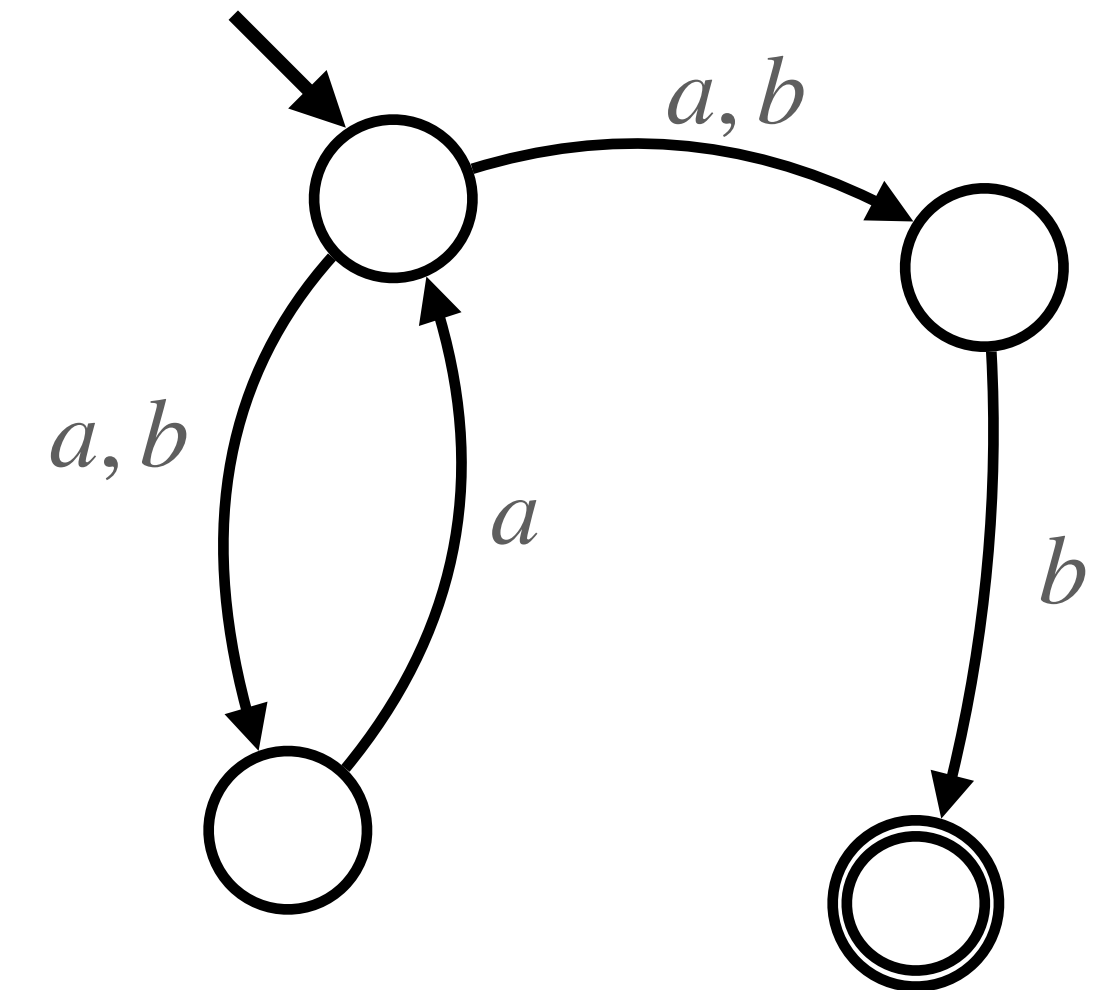
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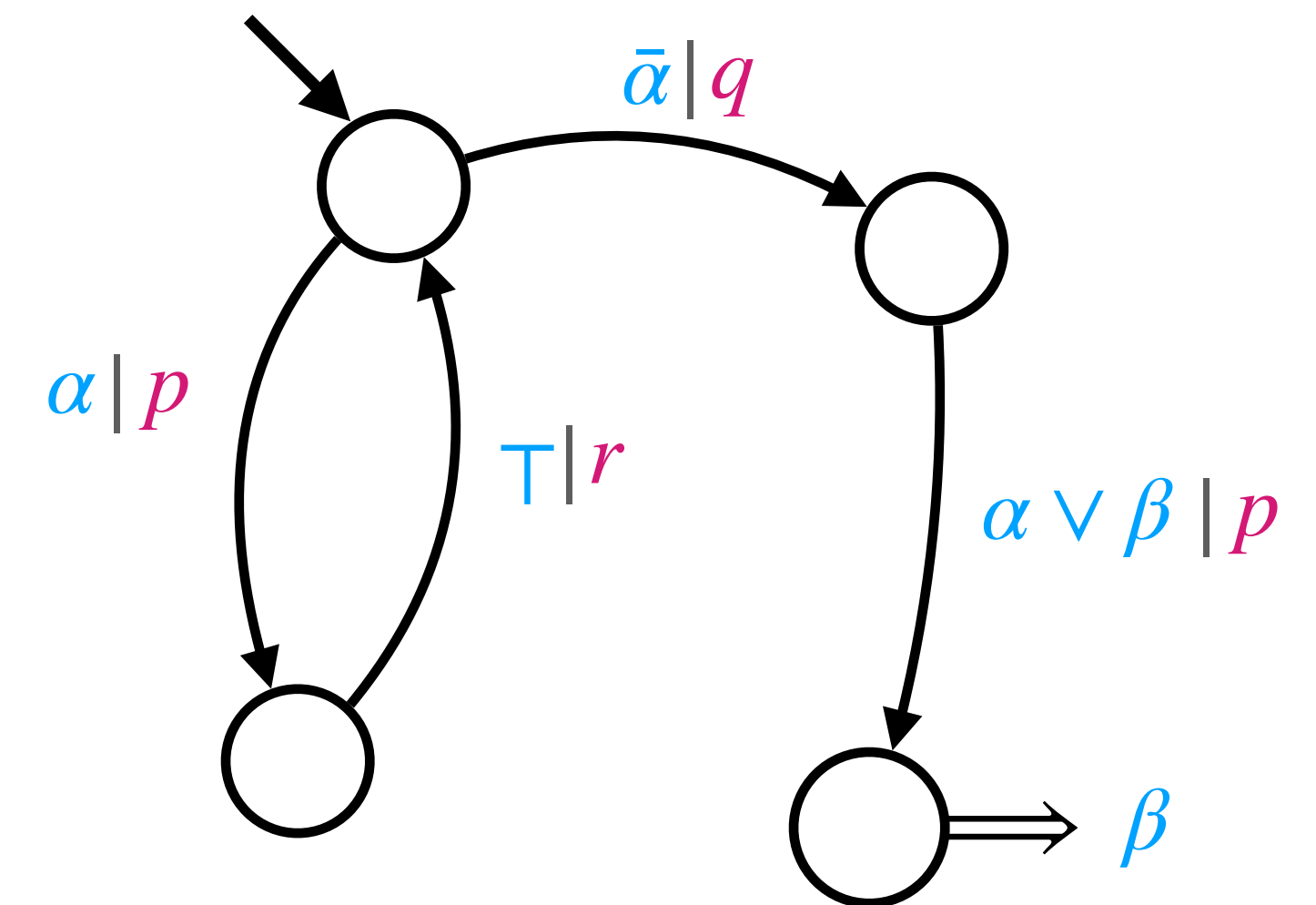
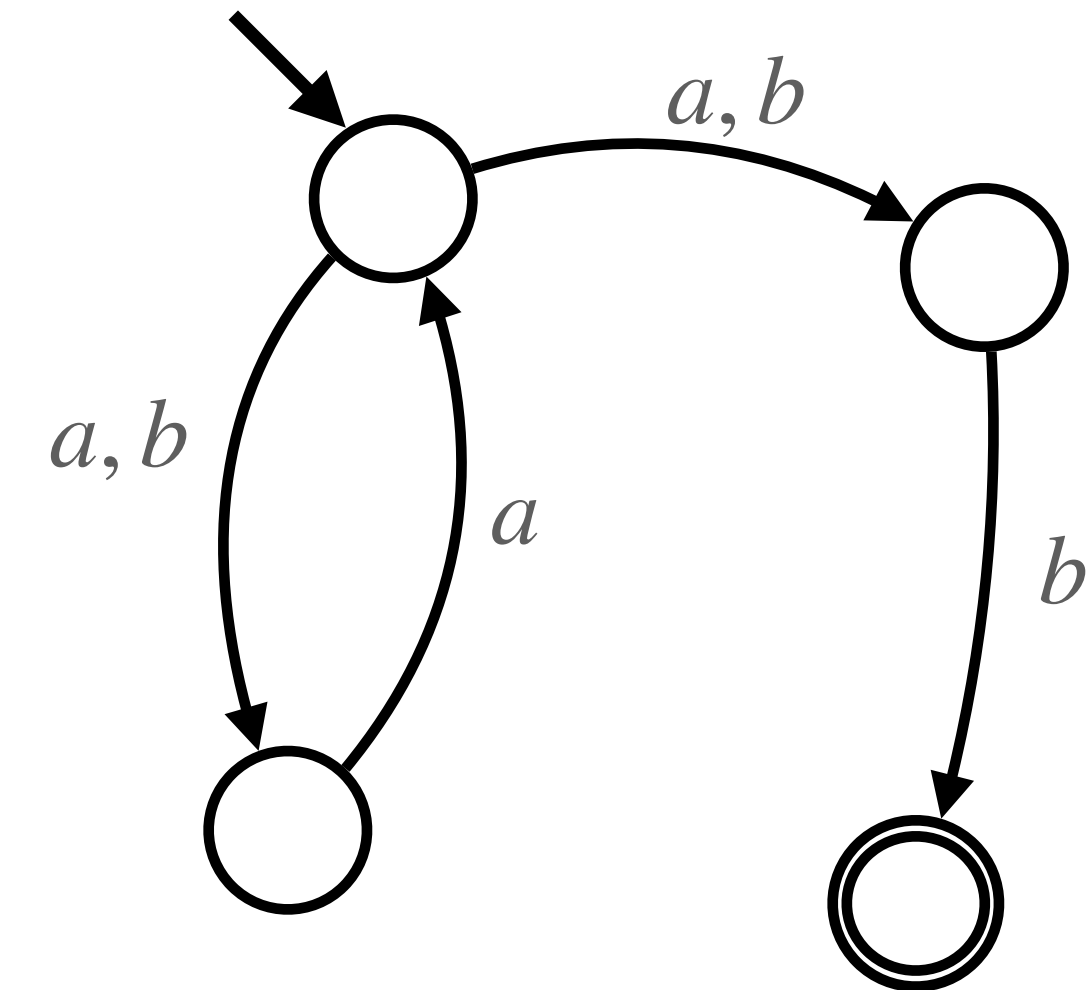
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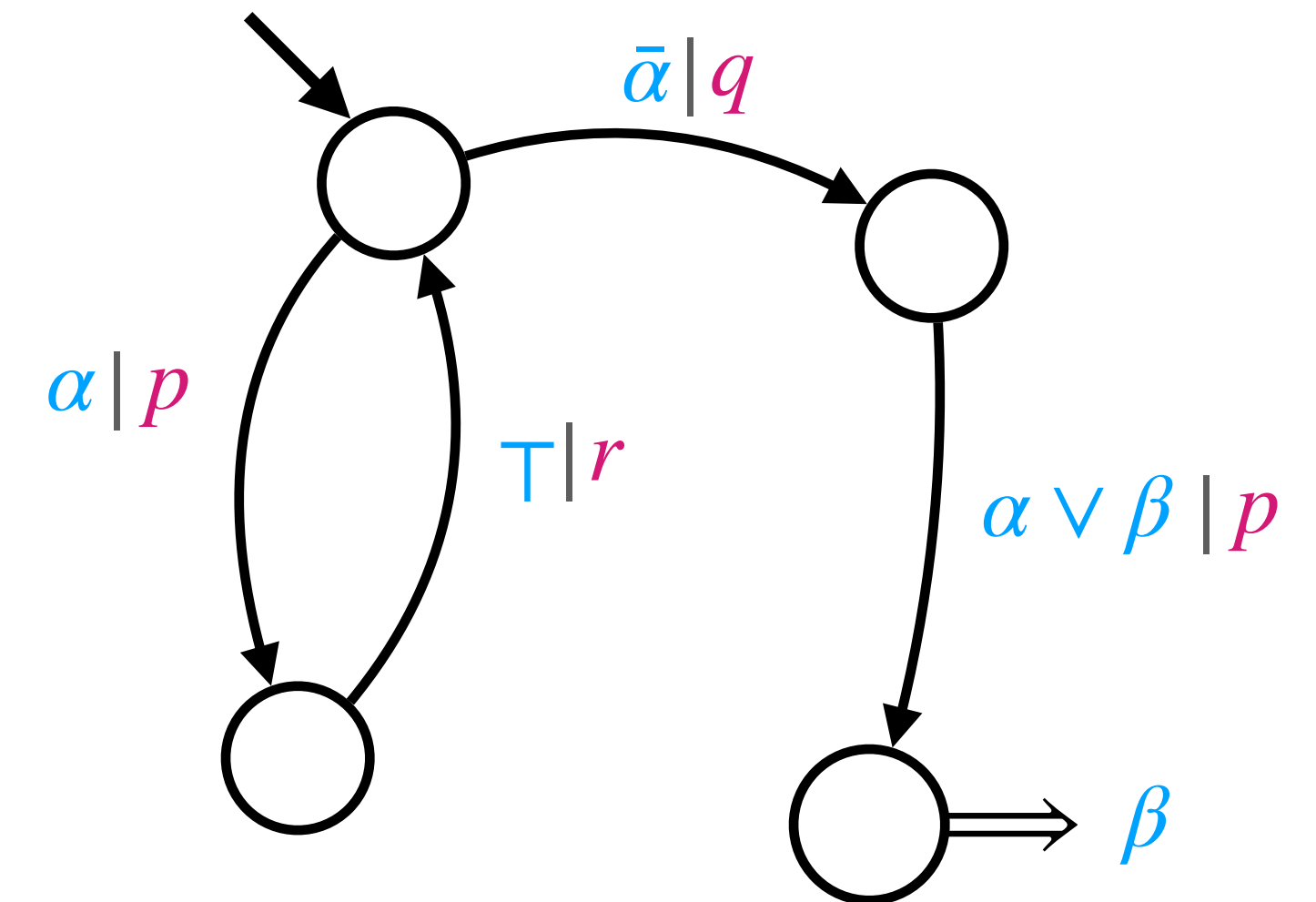
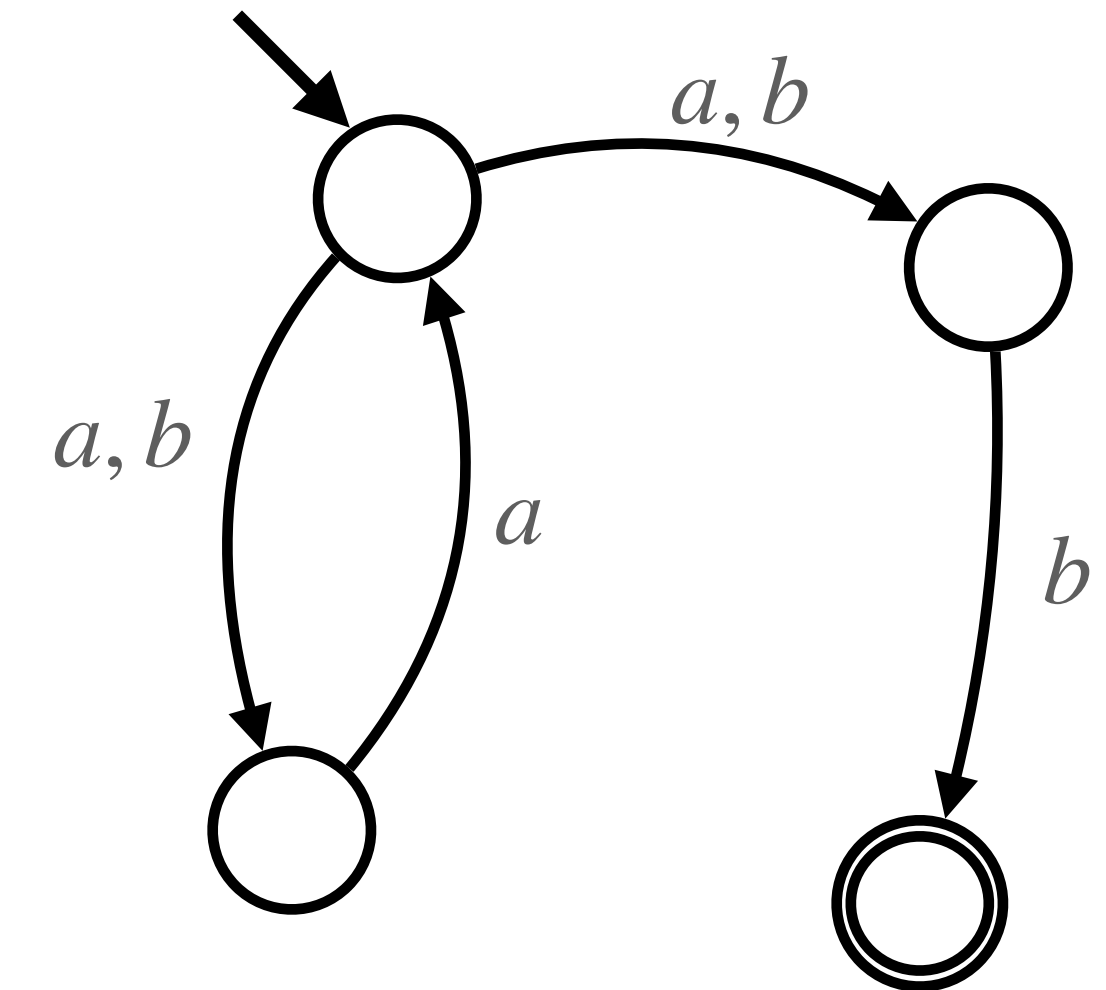
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Observe: Format is $\top + \text{Act} \times (-)$ wrapped in $M(-)$.

$\mathcal{P}_{fin}(-)$ — the finite powerset monad

$(\perp + (-))^{At}$ — the partial functions monad

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Fix an algebraic signature $S = S_0 + S_2 \times \text{Id}^2$ and a set of equations $T \subseteq S^*(V) \times S^*(V)$.

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Example. The equational theory in Salomaa/Milner's axioms captures *semilattices with bottom*.

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Definition. A monad is M *presented* by the equational theory (S, T) if there is an isomorphism

$$M \cong S^*(-) / \equiv_T$$

i.e., the monad M is a *free-algebra construction* for (S, T) .

Example. The equational theory in Salomaa/Milner's axioms captures *semilattices with bottom*.

$$\begin{aligned} e &= e + 0 \\ e &= e + e \\ f + e &= e + f \\ e + (f + g) &= (e + f) + g \end{aligned}$$

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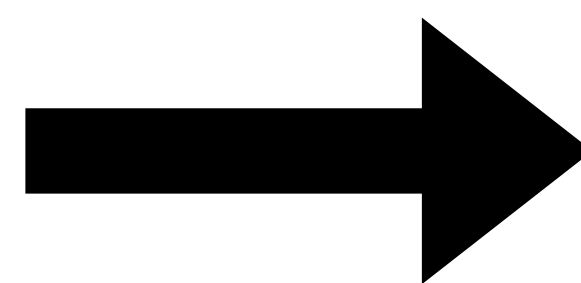
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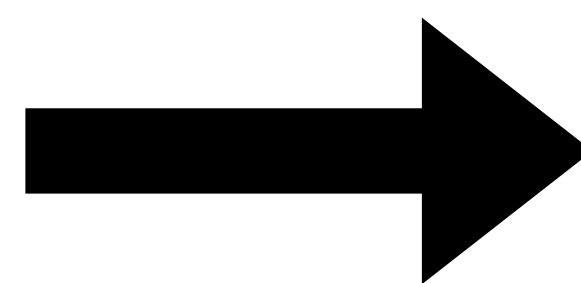
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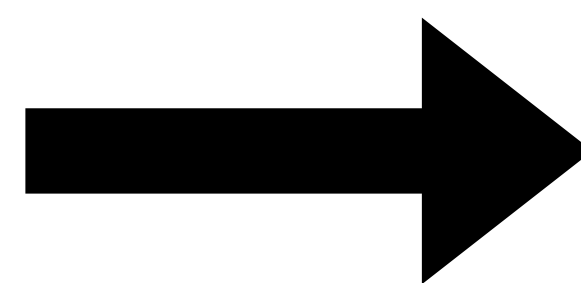
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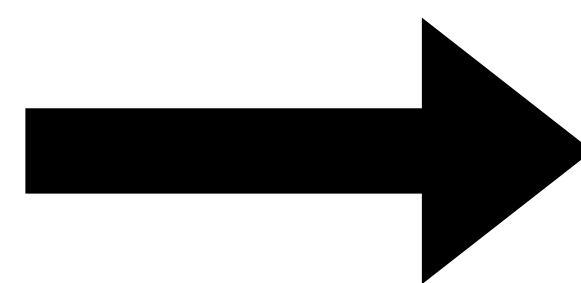
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Definition. A monad that is presented by (S, T) is a *branching type* of the branching theory.

Star Fragment Semantics: Unguarded Fixed-points

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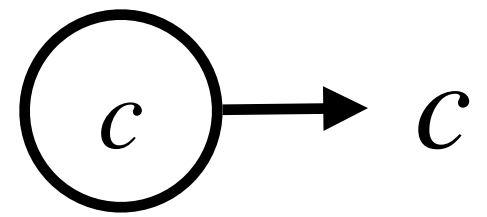
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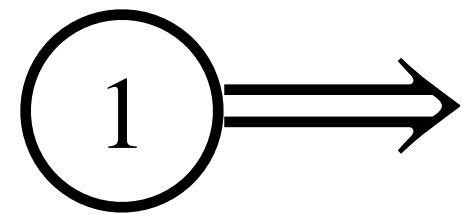
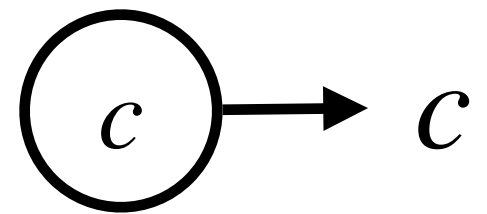
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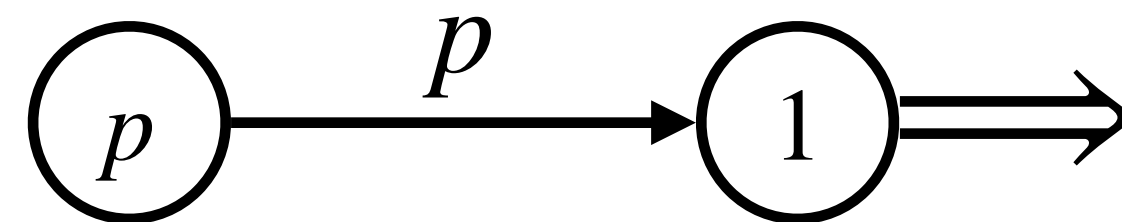
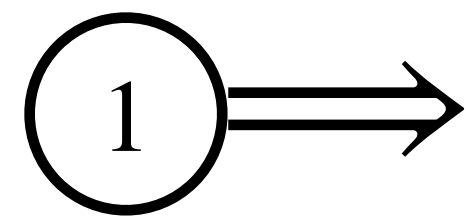
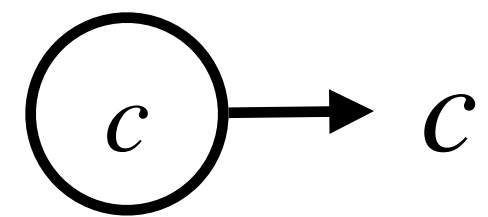
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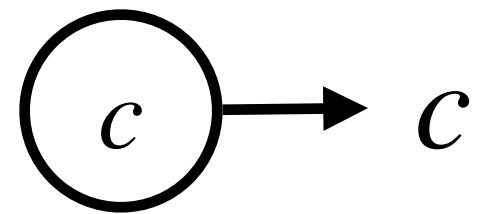


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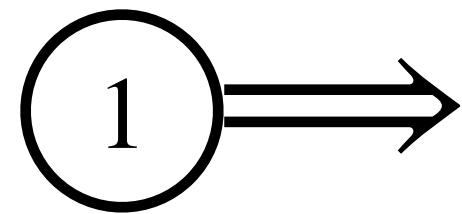
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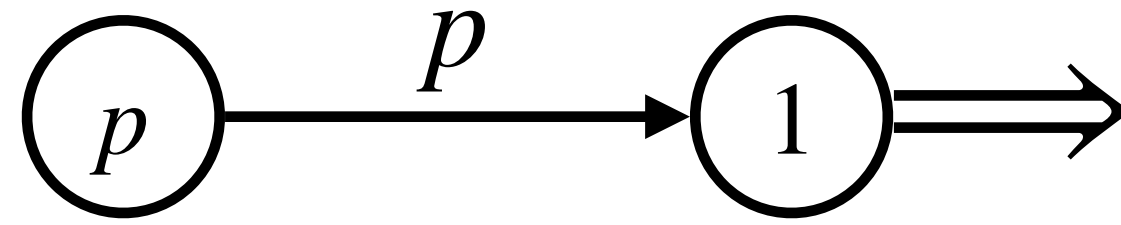
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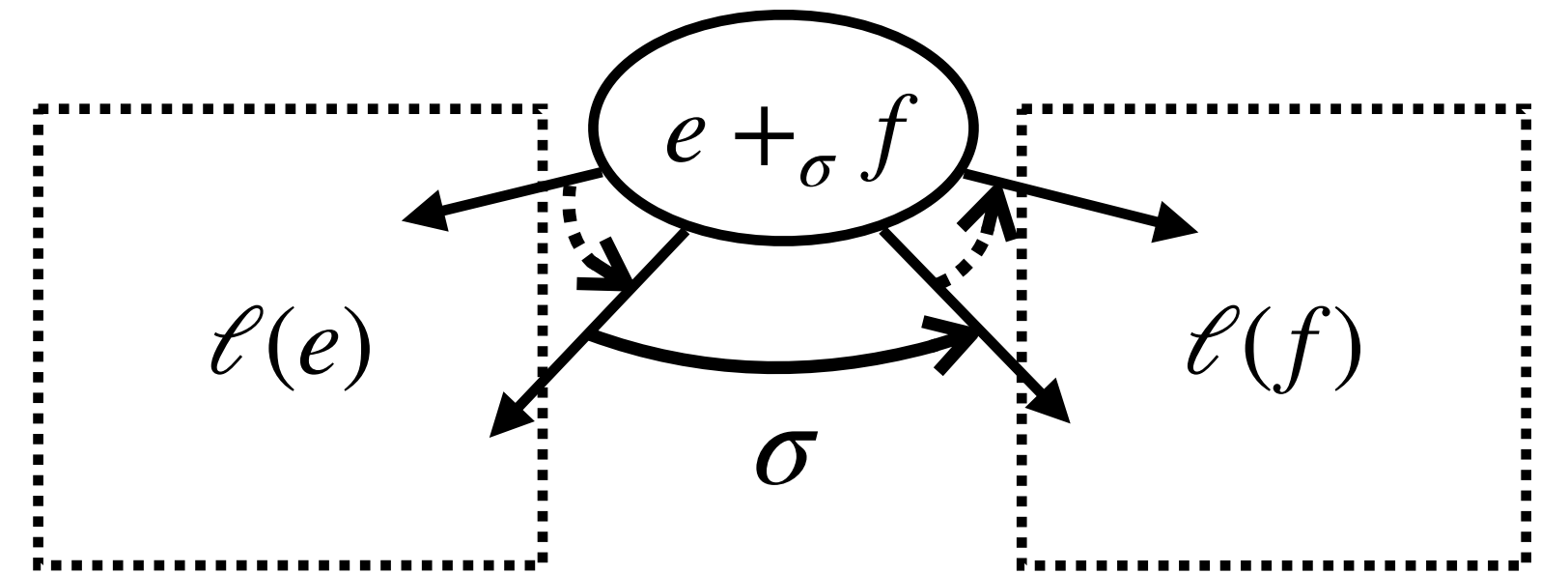
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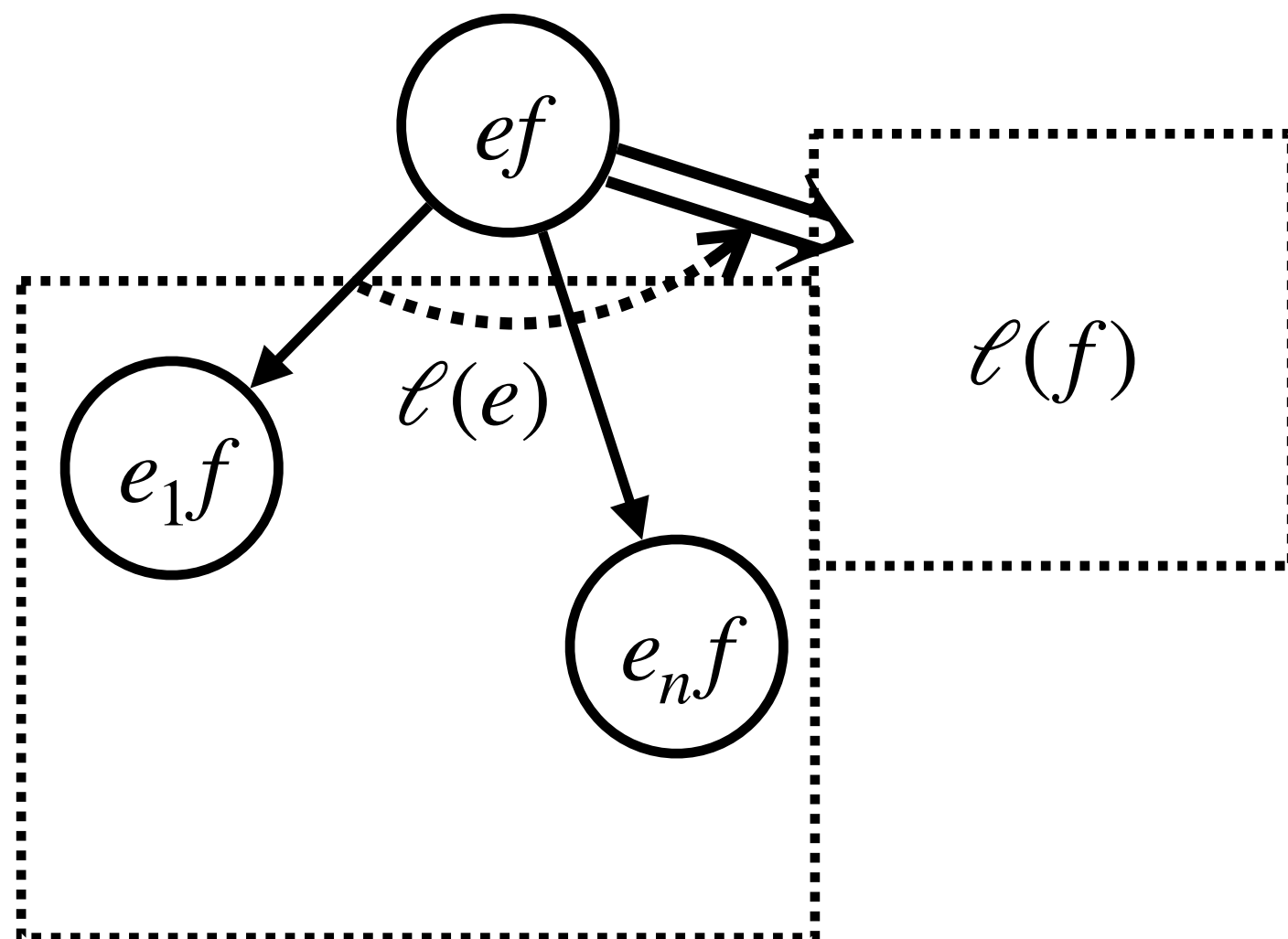
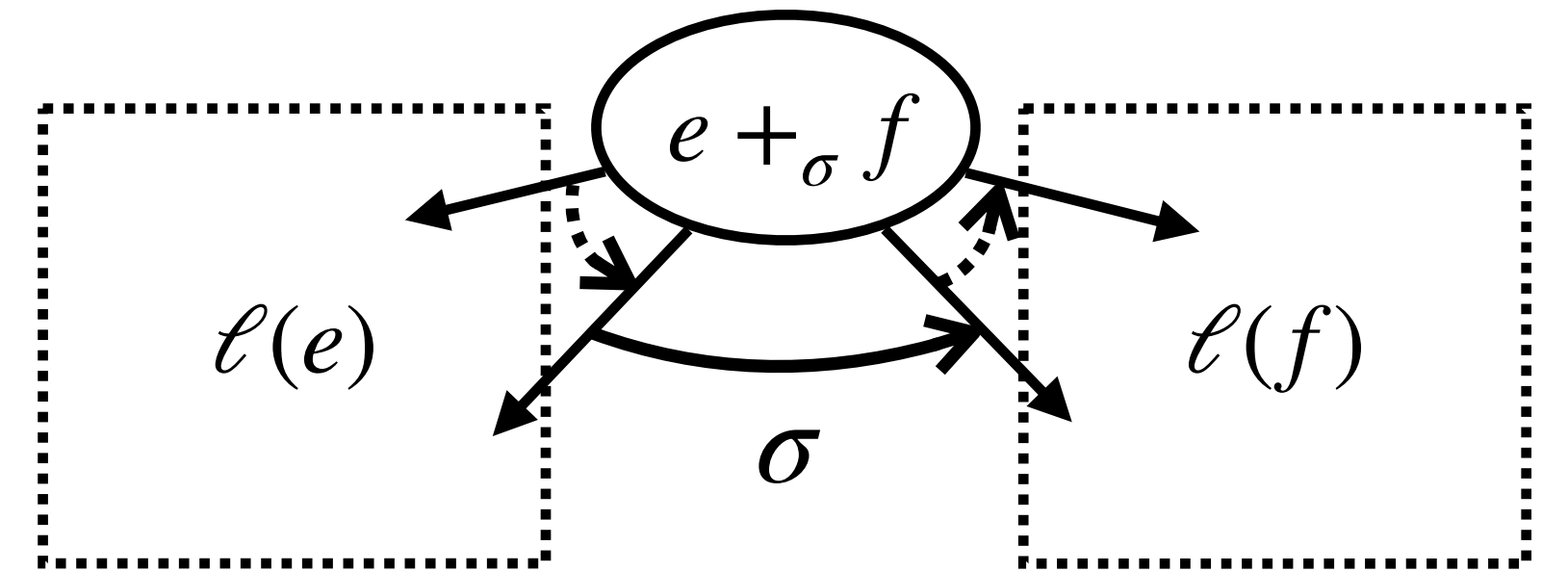
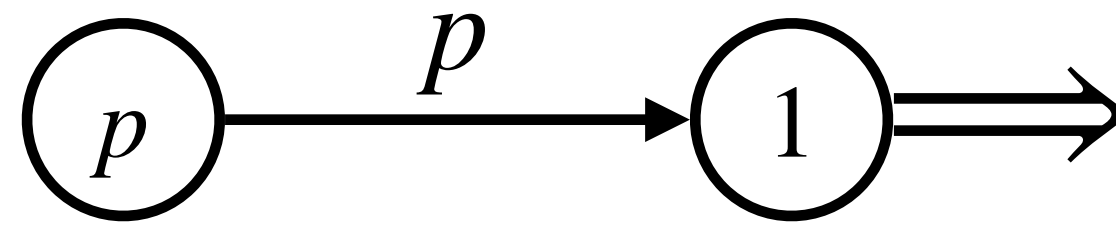
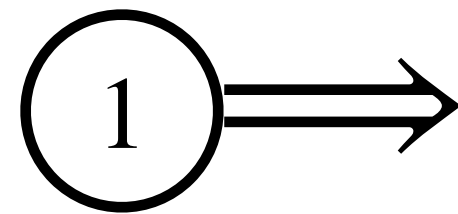
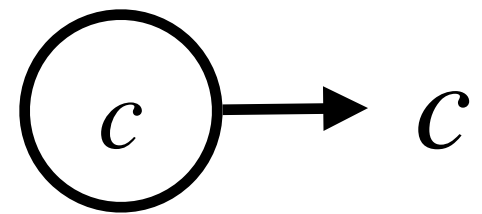
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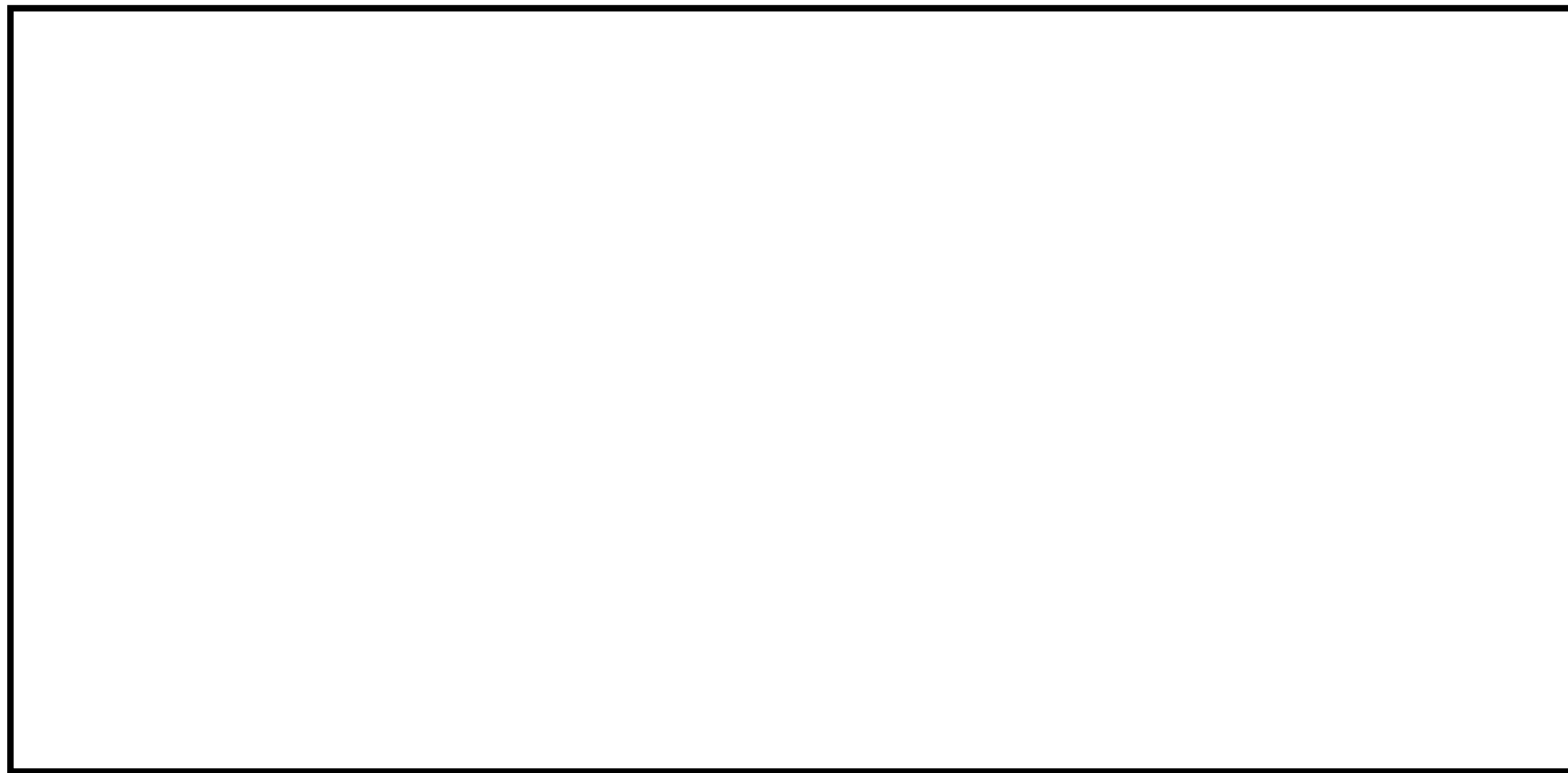
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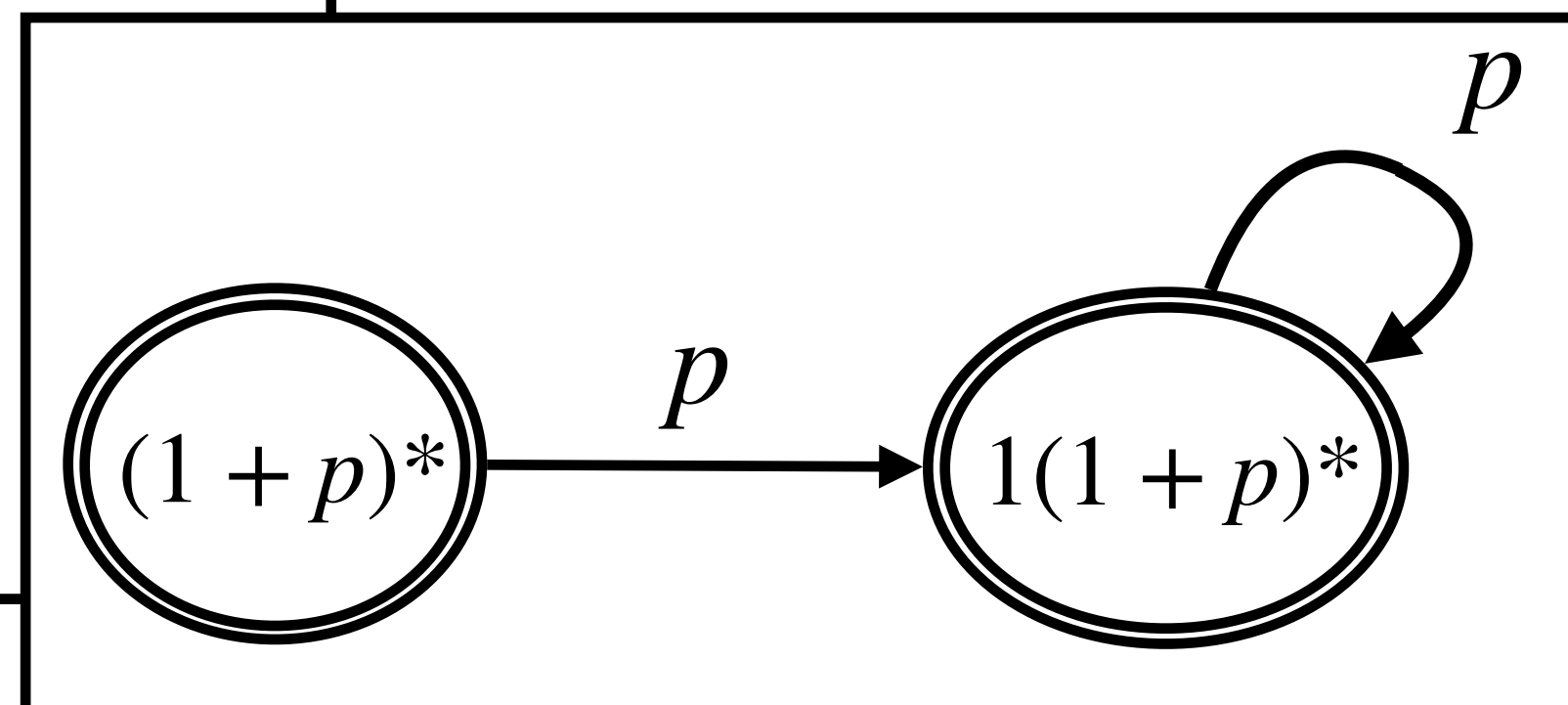
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An Axiomatization of Star Fragments modulo Bisimilarity?

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Sequencing Axioms

General Unguarded Fixed-point Axiom

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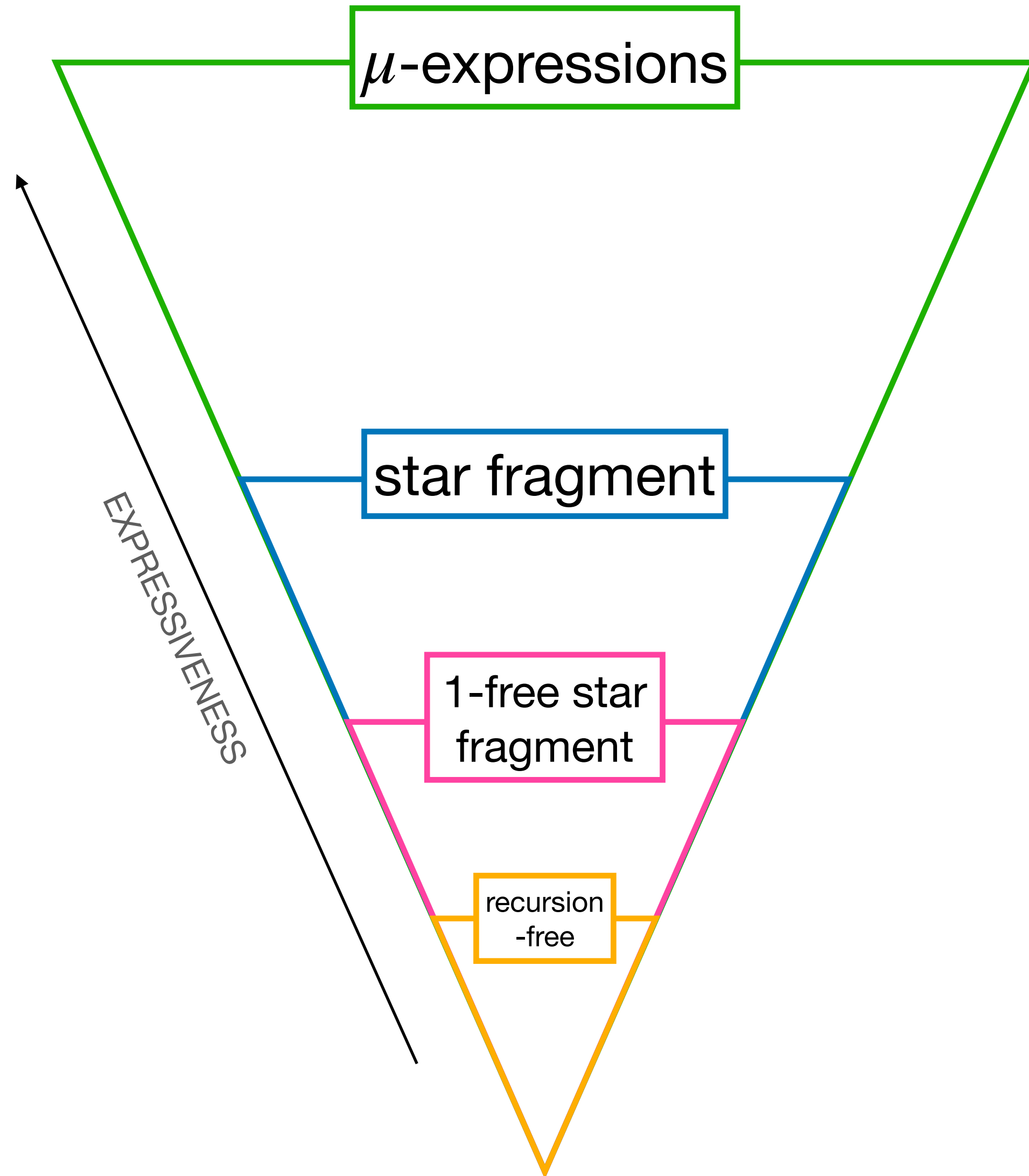
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Generalized Milner's Completeness Problem:
Is this axiomatization of bisimulation complete for every star fragment?

Known & Unknown Completeness Theorems



	Regex mod bisimilarity	GKAT mod bisimilarity	ProbRegex mod bisim.	ProbGKAT mod bisim.
μ -exp	complete	complete	complete	complete
star fragment	complete (Grabmayer, 2022)	Unkown	Unkown	Unknown
1-free star fragment	complete (Grabmayer, Fokkink, 2019)	complete (Kappé, S., Silva, 2023)	complete (unpublished)	Unknown
recursion-free	complete	complete	complete	complete

Summary

- Star fragments arise from *branching theories*, (S, T, fp) consisting of an algebraic theory and a fixed-point operator that determines behaviour of unguarded fixed-points
- Milner's regular expressions mod bisimilarity = *semilattices with bottom* star fragment
- GKAT/bisimilarity = **if-then-else** with **crash** star fragment
- Further examples:
 - (Rozowski, Kappé, Kozen, Schmid, Silva, 2023) ProbGKAT mod bisimilarity = GKAT + \bigoplus_p
 - Probabilistic regular expressions mod bisimilarity = \bigoplus_p instead of $+$
 - Regex mixing nondeterminism and probability = Regular expressions + \bigoplus_p

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