

# NFA to DFA

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C1

- the Boolean algebra of languages
- regular expressions

A mathematical definition of a  
Finite State Machine.

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, B, A, \delta)$$

**Q**: the set of states,

**$\Sigma$** : the alphabet of the machine

- the tokens the machine can process,

**B**: the set of **beginning** or start states of the machine

**A**: the set of the machine's **accepting** states.

**$\delta$** : the set of **transitions**

is a set of (state, symbol, state) triples

$$\delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma \times Q.$$

A *trace* for  $s = \langle x_0, \dots, x_{k-1} \rangle \in \Sigma^*$  (a string of length  $k$ )

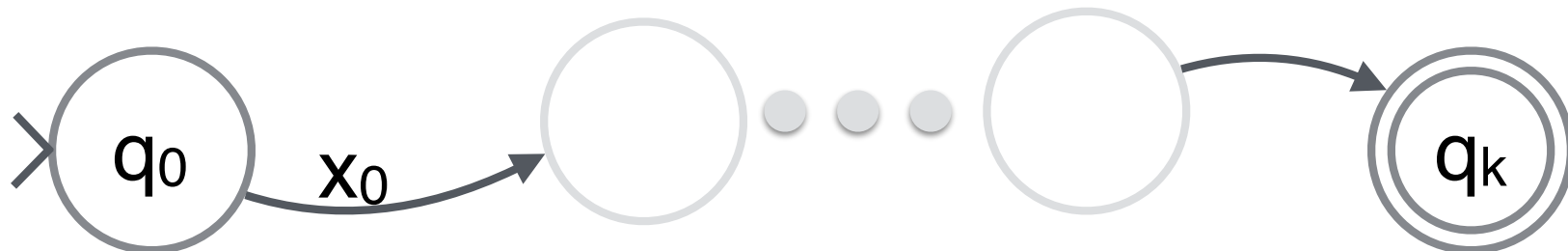
is a sequence of  $k+1$  states  $\langle q_0, \dots, q_k \rangle$

such that  $(q_i, x_i, q_{i+1}) \in \delta$  for each  $i < k$

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, B, A, \delta)$$

A *trace* for  $s = \langle x_0, \dots, x_{k-1} \rangle \in \Sigma^*$  (a string of length  $k$ ) is a sequence of  $k+1$  states  $\langle q_0, \dots, q_k \rangle$  such that  $(q_i, x_i, q_{i+1}) \in \delta$  for each  $i < k$

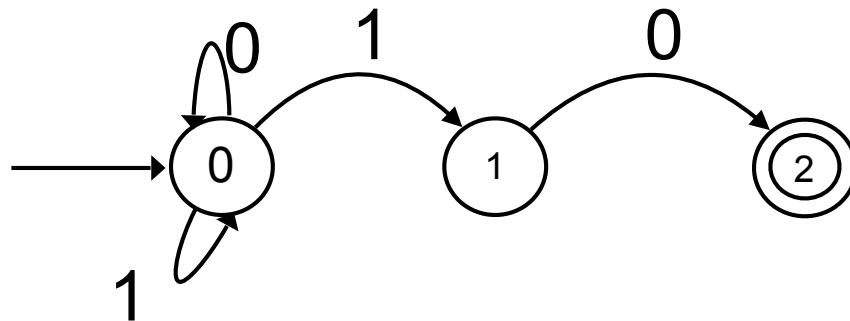
We say  $s$  is *accepted* by  $M$   
iff there is  
a trace  $\langle q_0, \dots, q_k \rangle$  for  $s$   
such that  $q_0 \in B$  and  $q_k \in A$



# Non Determinism



In a non-deterministic machine (NFA), each state may have any number of transitions with the same input symbol, leaving to different successor states.



	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		

Alphabet

Set

Input

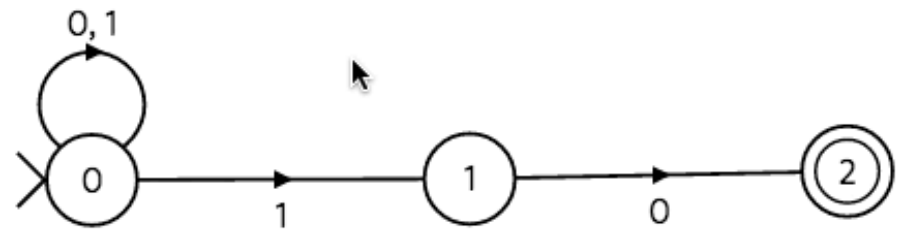
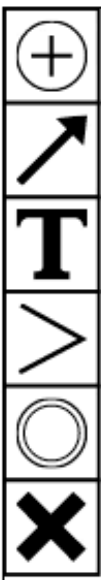
Test

Convert to DFA

Reverse

Convert to Minimal DFA

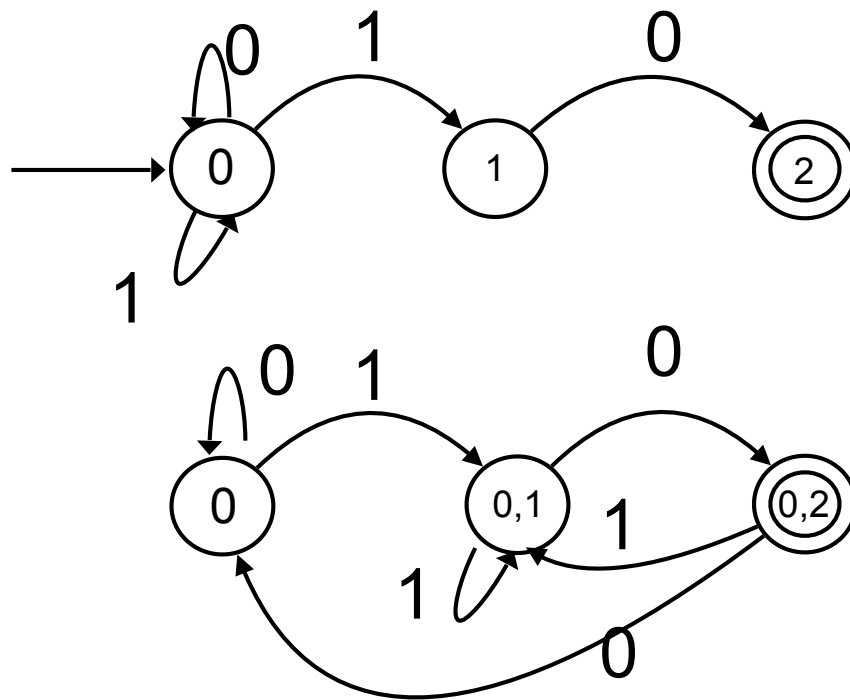
Save as .svg



# Non Determinism



In a non-deterministic machine (NFA), each state may have any number of transitions with the same input symbol, leaving to different successor states.

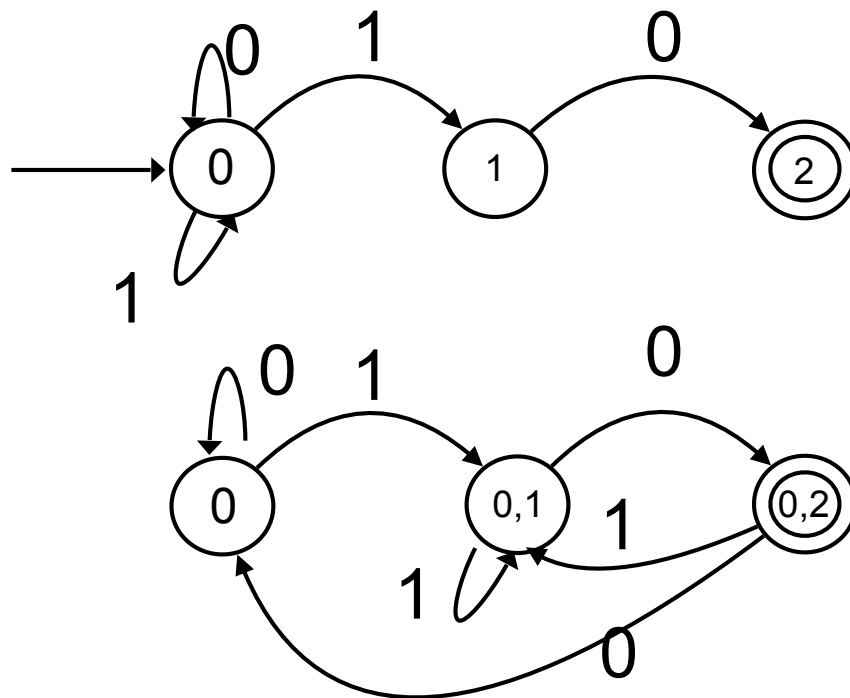


	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2		

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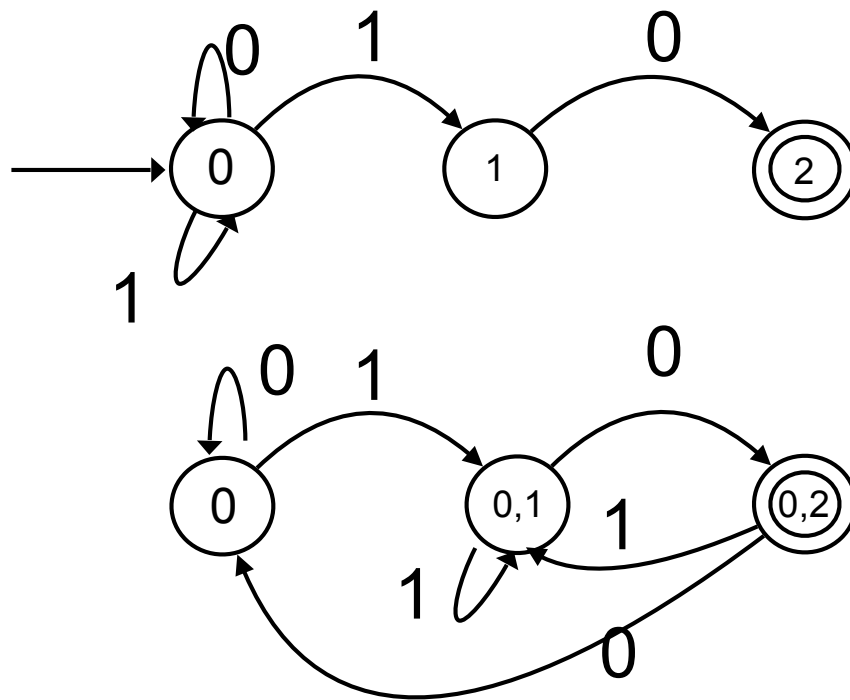


	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2	0	0,1

# Non Determinism



We can simulate a non-deterministic machine using a deterministic machine – by keeping track of the set of states the NFA could possibly be in.



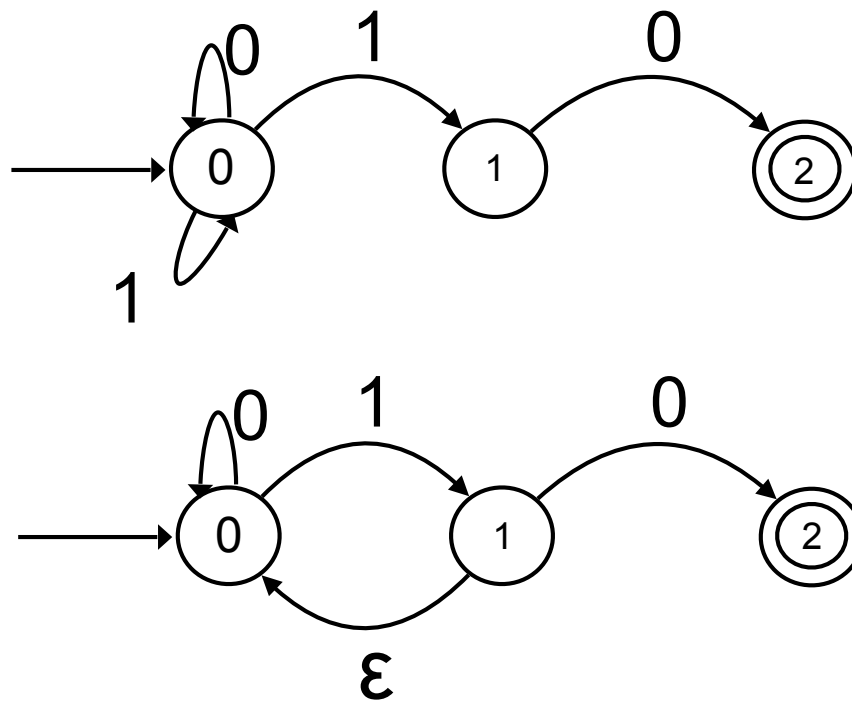
	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2	0	0,1



# Internal Transitions



We sometimes add an internal transition  $\epsilon$  to a non-deterministic machine (NFA) This is a state change that consumes no input.



	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1	2		0
2			

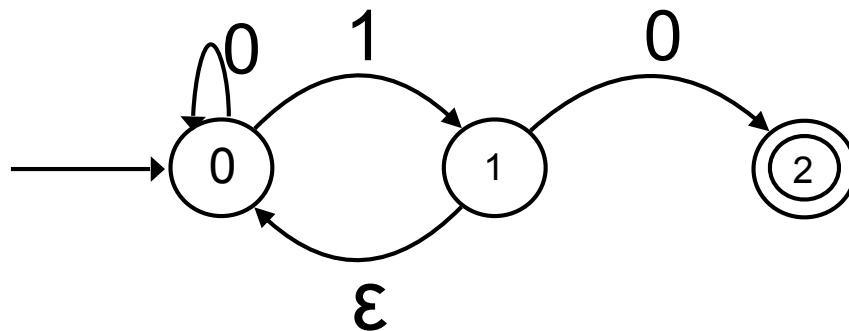
# Internal Transitions



We sometimes add **internal transitions** – labelled  $\epsilon$  – to a non-deterministic machine (NFA).

This is a state change that consumes no input.

It introduces non-determinism in the observed behaviour of the machine.



	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1	2		0
2			

	$0\epsilon^*$	$1\epsilon^*$
0	0	1,0
1	2	
2		

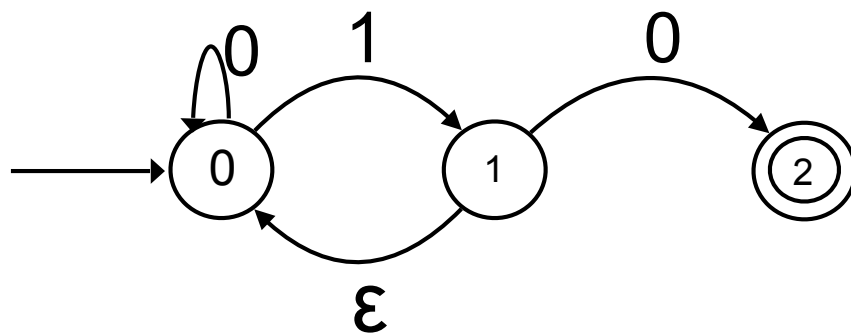
# Internal Transitions



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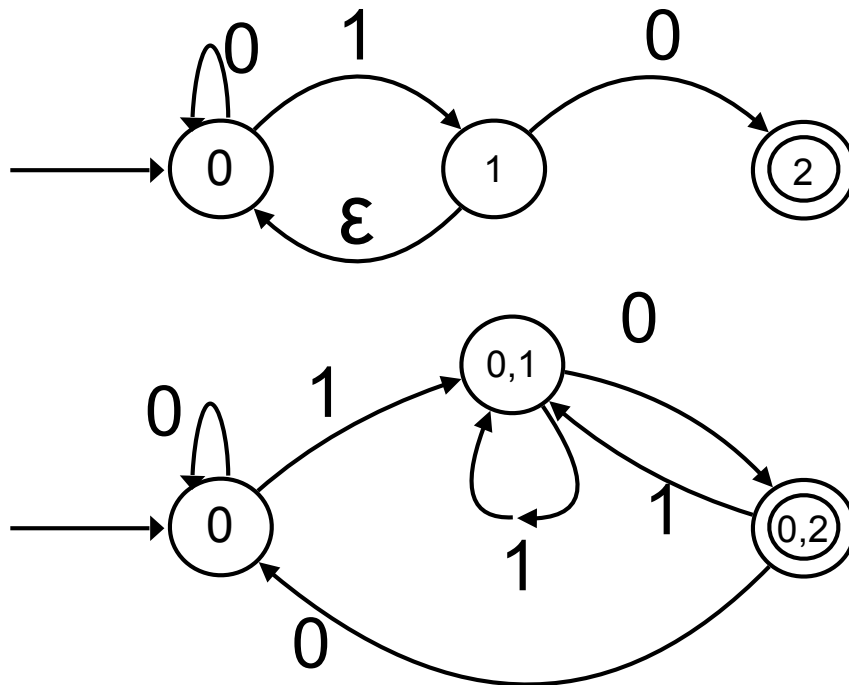
	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1	2		0
2			

	$0\epsilon^*$	$1\epsilon^*$
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	1

# Internal Transitions



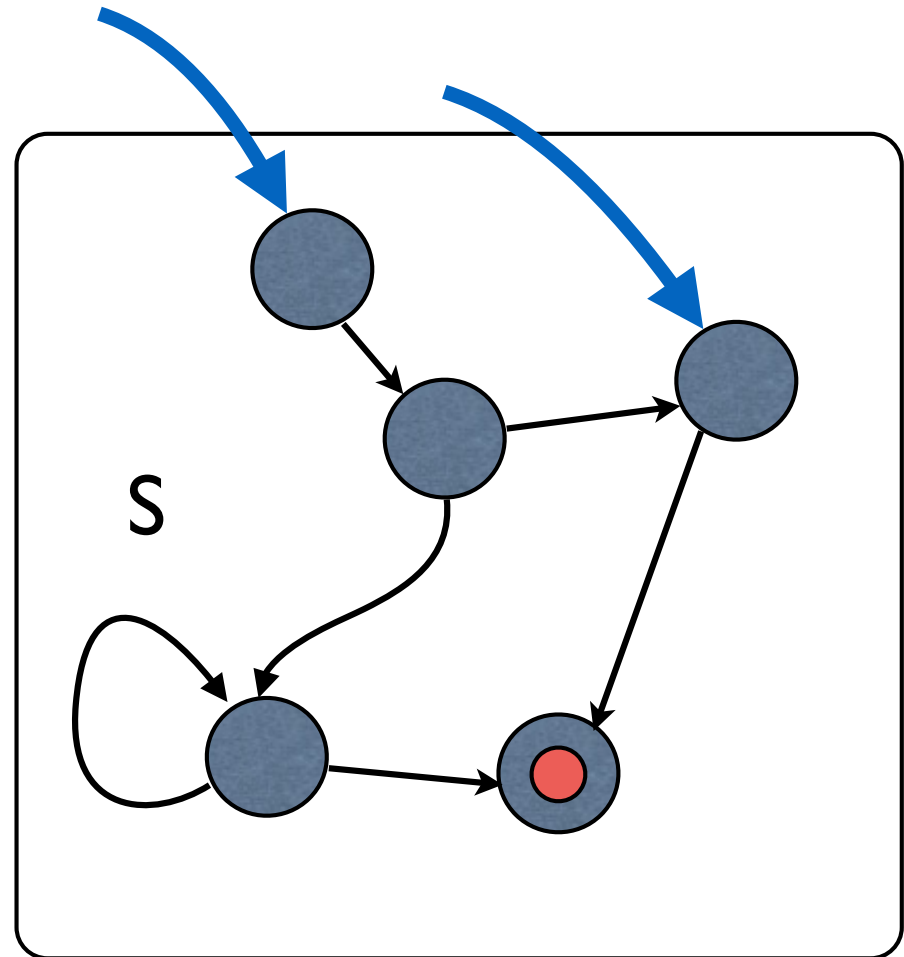
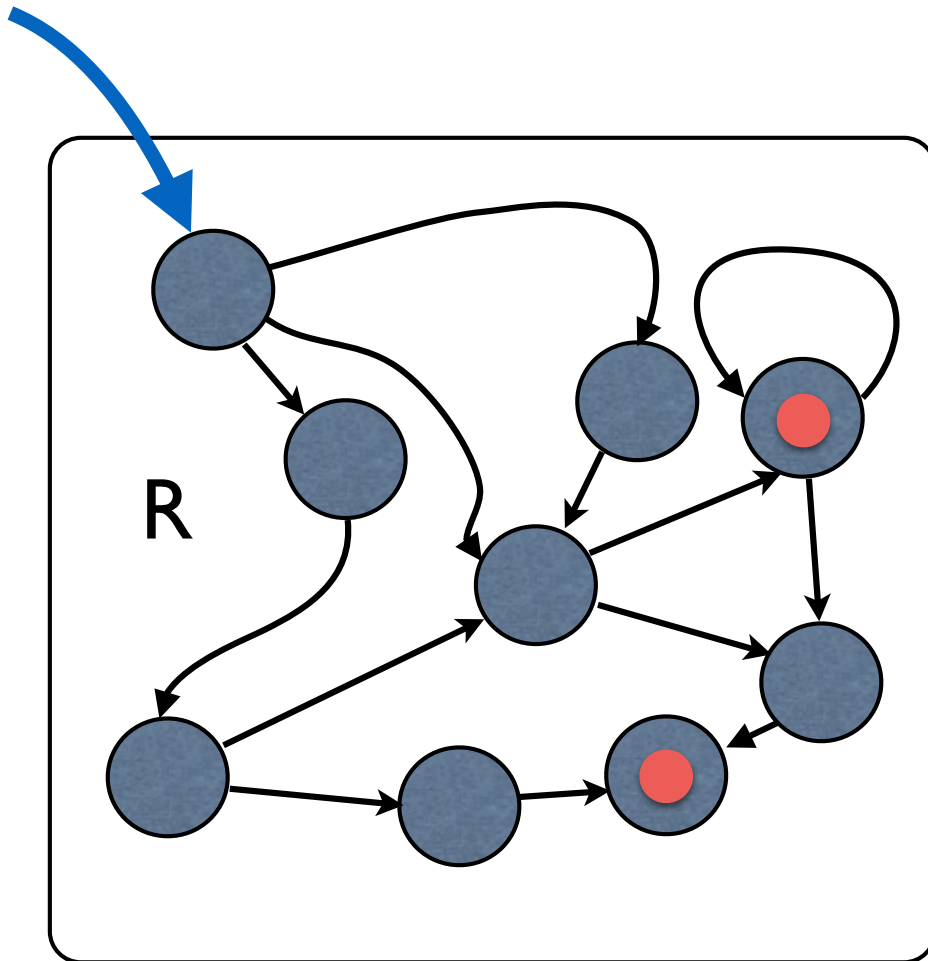
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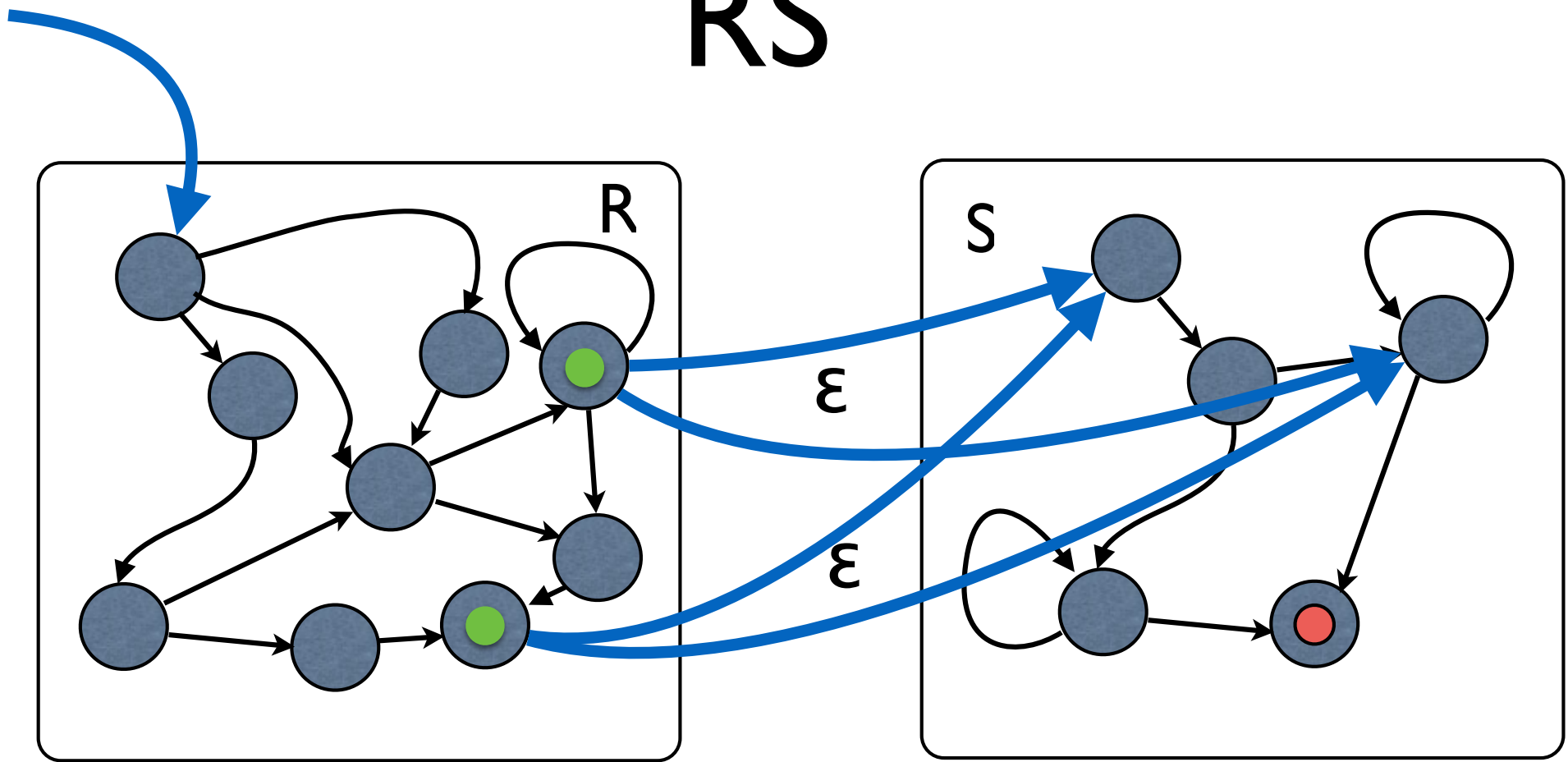
	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1	2		0
2			

	$0\epsilon^*$	$1\epsilon^*$
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2	0	0,1

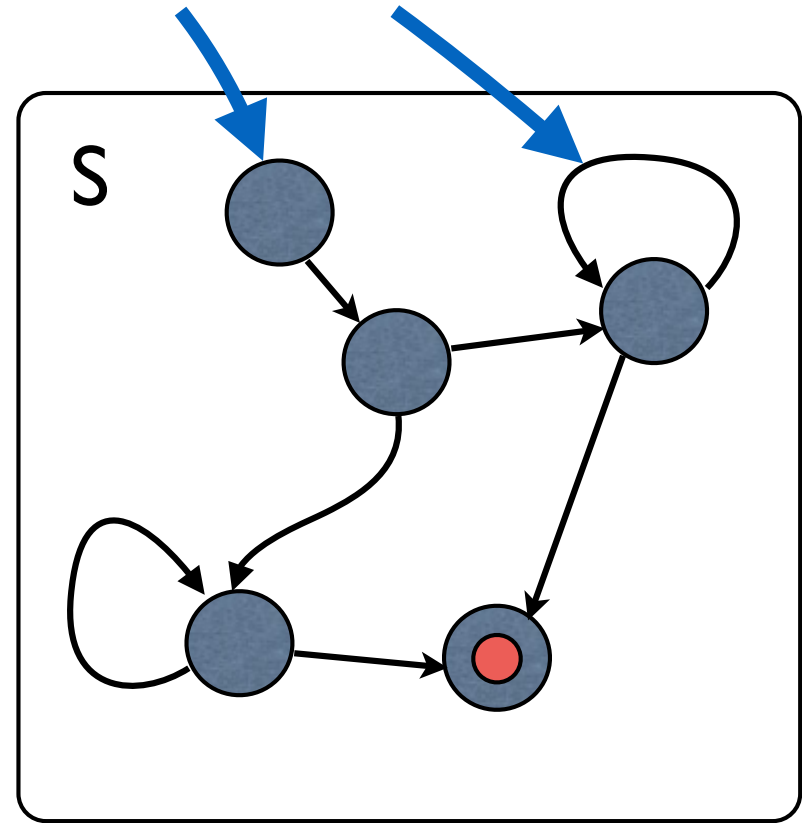
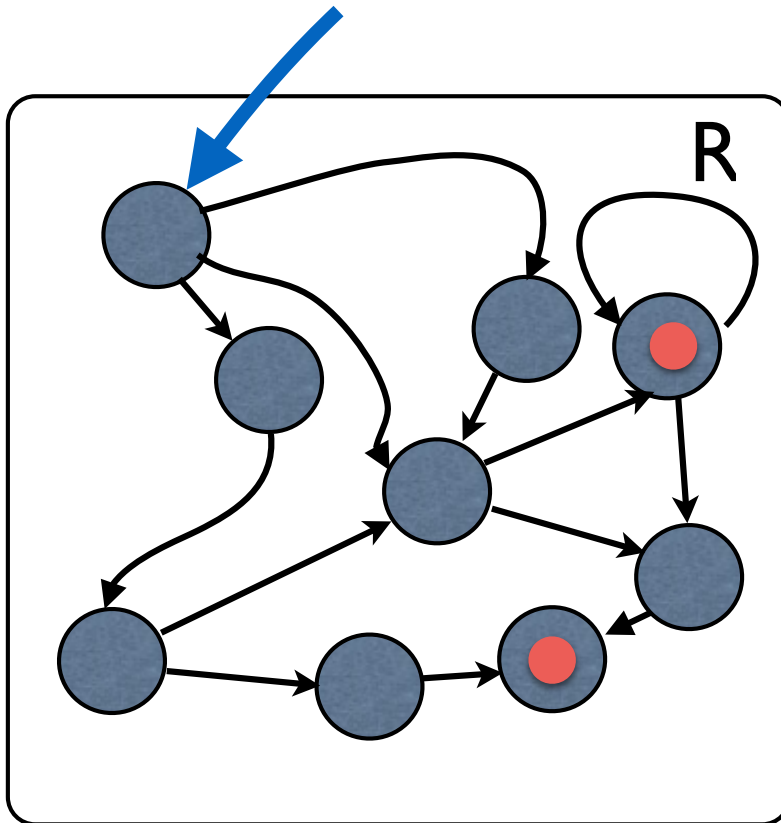
# NFA any number of start states and accepting states



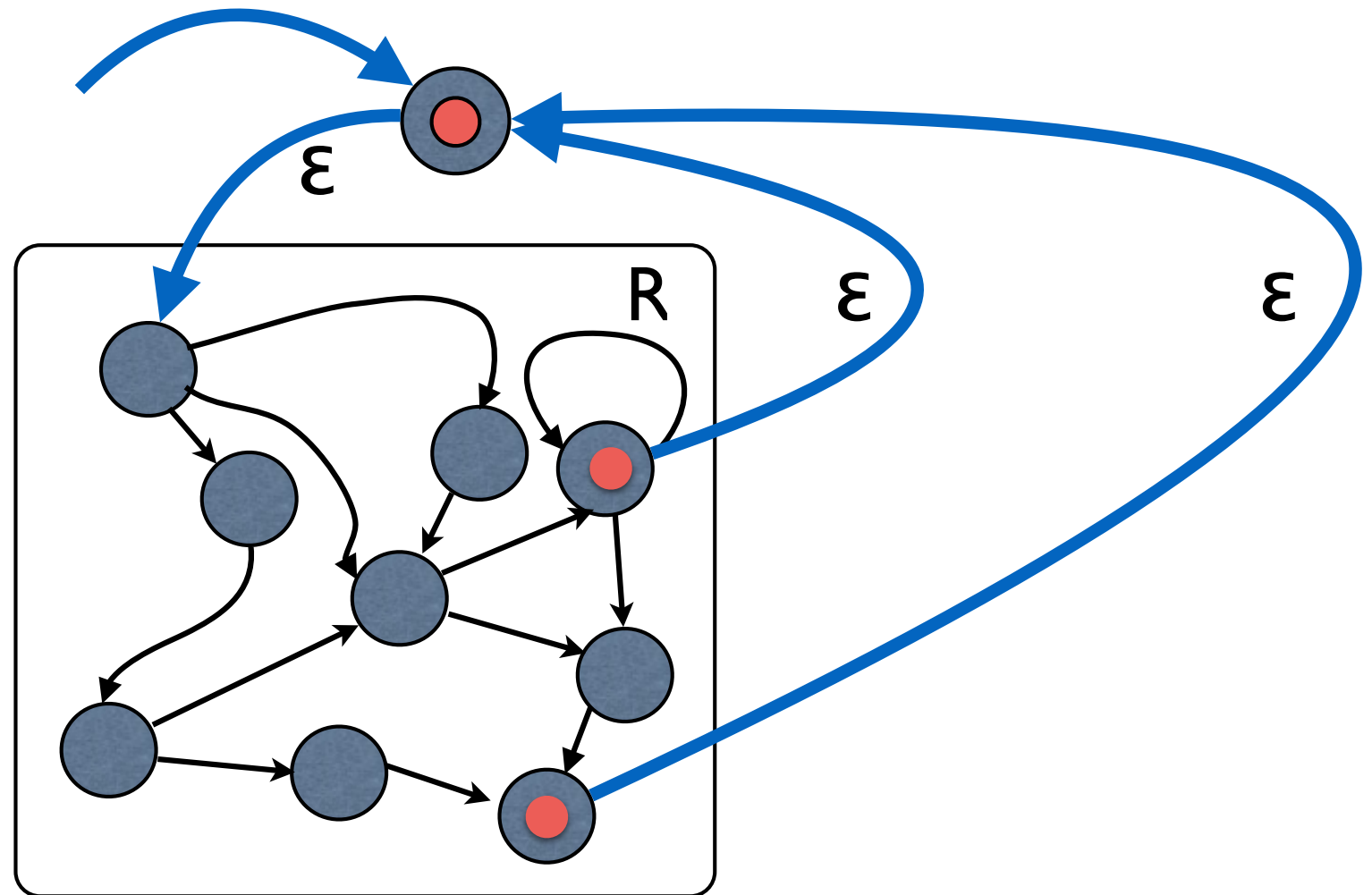
# sequence RS



# alternation R|S



# iteration $R^*$

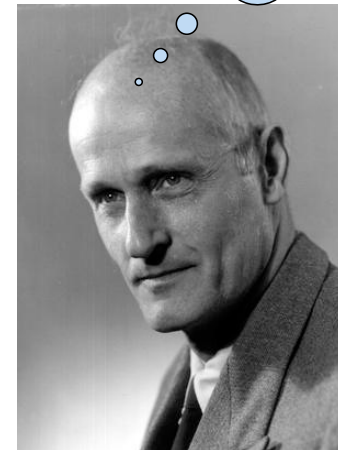
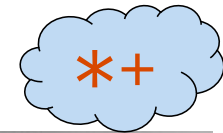




# regular expressions

- any character is a regexp
  - matches itself
- if R and S are regexps, so is RS
  - matches a match for R followed by a match for S
- if R and S are regexps, so is RIS
  - matches any match for R or S (or both)
- if R is a regexp, so is R\*
  - matches any sequence of 0 or more matches for R
- The algebra of regular expressions also includes elements  $\emptyset$  and  $\epsilon$ 
  - $\emptyset$  matches nothing;  $\epsilon$  matches the empty string

Kleene \*, +



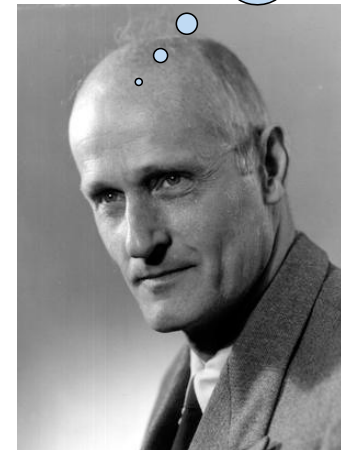
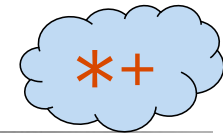
Stephen Cole Kleene

1909-1994

# regular expressions denote regular sets

- any character  $a$  is a regexp
  - $\{ \langle a \rangle \}$
- if  $R$  and  $S$  are regexps, so is  $RS$ 
  - $\{ r s \mid r \in R \text{ and } s \in S \}$
- if  $R$  and  $S$  are regexps, so is  $R \cup S$ 
  - $R \cup S$
- if  $R$  is a regexp, so is  $R^*$ 
  - $\{ r^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } r \in R \}$
- $\emptyset$        $\emptyset \mid S = S = S \mid \emptyset$ 
  - $\emptyset$  empty set
- $\varepsilon$        $\varepsilon S = S = S \varepsilon$ 
  - $\{ \langle \rangle \}$  singleton empty sequence:

Kleene  $*$ ,  $+$



Stephen Cole Kleene

[1909-1994](#)

# Regular Expressions



- using REs to find patterns
- implementing REs using finite state automata

# REs and FSAs

- Regular expressions can be viewed as a textual way of specifying the structure of finite-state automata
- Finite-state automata are a way of implementing regular expressions
- Regular expressions denote regular sets of strings - each regular set is recognised by some FSA

# Regular expressions

- A formal language for specifying text strings
- How can we search for any of these?
  - ◆ woodchuck
  - ◆ woodchucks
  - ◆ Woodchuck
  - ◆ Woodchucks



# Regular Expressions for Textual Searches

Who does it?

Everybody:

- Web search engines, CGI scripts
- Information retrieval
- Word processing (Emacs, vi, MSWord)
- Linux tools (sed, awk, grep)
- Computation of frequencies from corpora
- Perl

[PDF] Bulk data transfer toolkit: validation rules for CAS ... - Gov...

[https://www.gov.uk/.../4\\_\\_Bulk\\_Data\\_Transfer\\_-\\_additional\\_validation\\_...](https://www.gov.uk/.../4__Bulk_Data_Transfer_-_additional_validation_...) ▼

If the country code given for the address is 'GBR' then the field is validated against the UK postcode regular expression. (see section 3) If the address is given as ...

## 3. UK postcode regular expression

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The following is the UK Postcode Regular Expression and the corresponding detail explaining the logic behind the UK Postcode Regular Expression.

### 3.1 Expression

```
^([Gg][Ii][Rr] 0[Aa]{2})|((([A-Za-z][0-9]{1,2})|(([A-Za-z][A-Ha-hJ-Yj-y][0-9]{1,2})|((([AZa-z][0-9][A-Za-z])|([A-Za-z][A-Ha-hJ-Yj-y][0-9]?[A-Za-z])))) [0-9][A-Za-z]{2})$
```

## 3.2 Logic

"GIR 0AA"

OR

One letter followed by either one or two numbers

OR

One letter followed by a second letter that must be one of ABCDEFGHJ  
KLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ (i.e..not I) and then followed by either one or two  
numbers

OR

One letter followed by one number and then another letter

OR

A two part post code

where the first part must be

One letter followed by a second letter that must be one of ABCDEFGH  
JKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ (i.e..not I) and then followed by one number and  
optionally a further letter after that

AND

The second part (separated by a space from the first part) must be One  
number followed by two letters.

A combination of upper and lower case characters is allowed.

**Note:** the length is determined by the regular expression and is between 2 and 8 characters.



# <http://xkcd.com/>

WHENEVER I LEARN A NEW SKILL I CONCOCT ELABORATE FANTASY SCENARIOS WHERE IT LETS ME SAVE THE DAY.

OH NO! THE KILLER MUST HAVE FOLLOWED HER ON VACATION!



BUT TO FIND THEM WE'D HAVE TO SEARCH THROUGH 200 MB OF EMAILS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FORMATTED LIKE AN ADDRESS!



IT'S HOPELESS!

EVERYBODY STAND BACK.



I KNOW REGULAR EXPRESSIONS.



# Regular Expression

- **Regular expression:** formula in algebraic notation for specifying a set of strings
- **String:** any sequence of alphanumeric characters
  - letters, numbers, spaces, tabs, punctuation marks
- **Regular expression search**
  - **pattern:** specifying the set of strings we want to search for
  - **corpus:** the texts we want to search through

# Basic Regular Expression Patterns

- Case sensitive: `d` is not the same as `D`
- Disjunctions: `[dD]`    `[0123456789]`
- Ranges: `[0-9]`    `[A-Z]`
- Negations: `[^Ss]` (*only when ^ occurs immediately after [*)
- Optional characters: `?` and `*`
- Wild : `.`
- Anchors: `^` and `$`, also `\b` and `\B`
- Disjunction, grouping, and precedence: `|` (**pipe**)

# Caret for negation, ^, or anchor

RE	Match (single characters)	Example Patterns Matched
[^A-Z]	not an uppercase letter	“Oyfn pripetchik”
[^Ss]	neither ‘S’ nor ‘s’	“ <u>I</u> have no exquisite reason for’t”
[^\.]	not a period	“ <u>o</u> ur resident Djinn”
[e/]	either ‘e’ or ‘^’	“look up <u>^</u> now”
a^b	the pattern ‘a^b’	“look up <u>a</u> b now”
^T	T at the beginning of a line	“ <u>T</u> he Dow Jones closed up one”

# Optionality and Counters

RE	Match	Example Patterns Matched
<code>woodchucks?</code>	woodchuck or woodchucks	“The <u>woodchuck</u> hid”
<code>colou?r</code>	color or colour	“comes in three <u>colours</u> ”
<code>(he) {3}</code>	exactly 3 “he”s	“and he said <u>hehehe</u> .”

- ? zero or one occurrences of previous char or expression
- \* zero or more occurrences of previous char or expression
- + one or more occurrences of previous char or expression
- {n} exactly n occurrences of previous char or expression
- {n, m} between n to m occurrences
- {n, } at least n occurrences

# Wild card ‘.’

RE	Match	Example Patterns Matched
<code>beg.n</code>	any char between <i>beg</i> and <i>n</i>	<u>begin</u> , <u>beg'n</u> , <u>begun</u>
<code>big.*dog</code>	find lines where big and dog occur	the <u>big dog</u> bit the little the <u>big black dog</u> bit the

- . any character (but newline)
- \* previous character or group, repeated 0 or more time
- + previous character or group, repeated 1 or more time
- ? previous character or group, repeated 0 or 1 time
- ^ start of line
- \$ end of line
- [...] any character between brackets
- [^..] any character not in the brackets
- [a-z] any character between a and z
- \ prevents interpretation of following special char
- | or
- \w word constituent
- \b word boundary
  
- {3} previous character or group, repeated 3 times
- {3,} previous character or group, repeated 3 or more times
- {3,6} previous character or group, repeated 3 to 6 times

# Everyman crossword No 3,551

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The Observer, Sunday 26 October 2014 00.00 GMT

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**3** Typesetter in  
awfully poor sitcom  
(10)



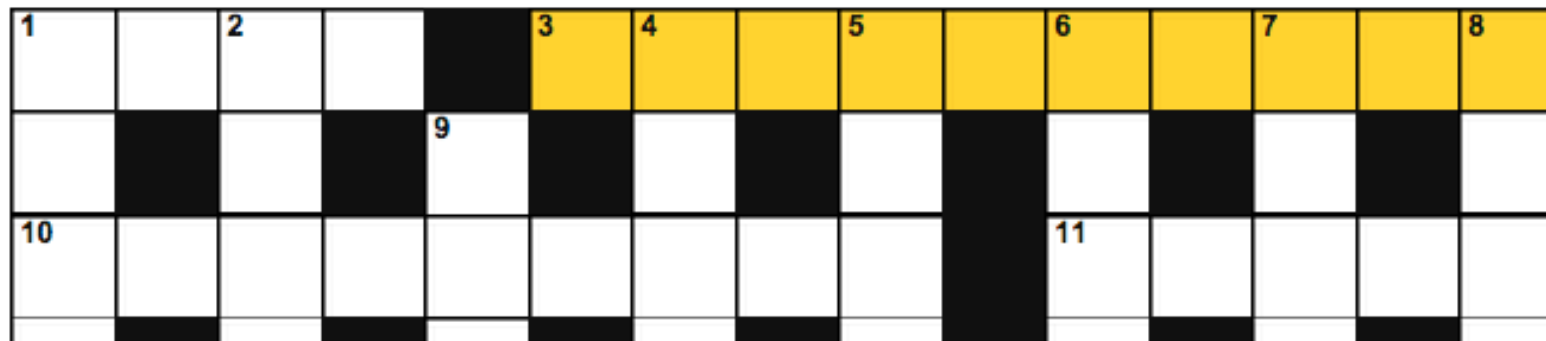
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**3** Typesetter in awfully poor sitcom (10)

```
% cat /usr/share/dict/words | egrep ^[poorsitcom]{10}$
```

```
$ cat /usr/share/dict/words | egrep ^[poorsitcom]{10}$
```

compositor  
copromisor  
crisscross  
isoosmosis  
isotropism  
microtomic  
optimistic  
poroscopic  
postcosmic  
postscript  
prioristic  
promitosis  
proproctor  
protoprism  
tricrotism  
troostitic

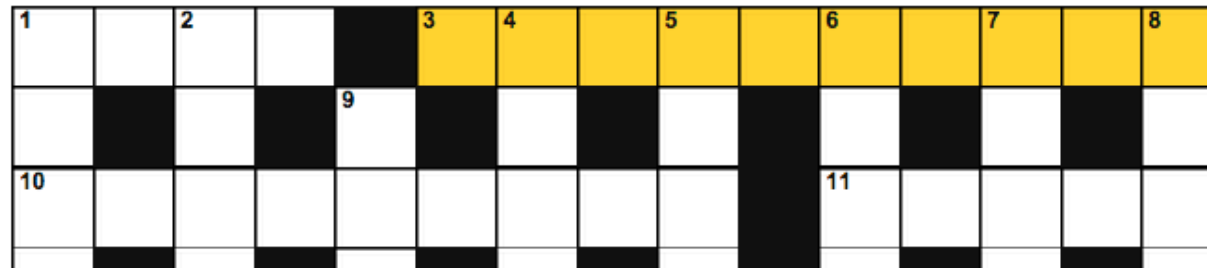
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**3** Typesetter in  
awfully poor sitcom  
(10)

```
% cat /usr/share/dict/words | egrep ^[poorsitcom]{10}$ | grep o.*o.*o
```

compositor  
copromisor  
isoosmosis  
poroscopic  
proproctor

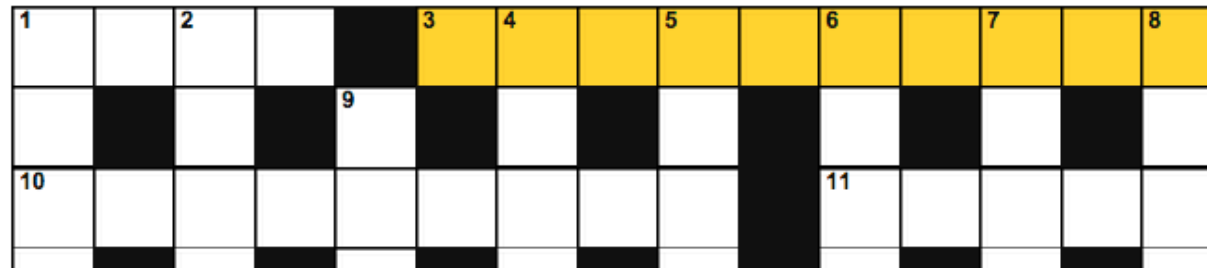
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**3** Typesetter in awfully poor sitcom (10)

# Regular Expressions

- Basic regular expression patterns
- Java-based syntax
- **Disjunctions** `[mM]`

Reg Exp	Match	Example Patterns
<code>[mM]other</code>	mother or Mother	“ <b>M</b> other”
<code>[abc]</code>	a or b or c	“you <b>a</b> re”
<code>[1234567890]</code>	any digit	“ <b>3</b> times a day”

# Regular Expressions

- **Ranges** [A-Z]

RE	Match	Examples Patterns Matched
[A-Z]	an uppercase letter	“call me <b>E</b> liza”
[a-z]	a lowercase letter	“ <b>c</b> all me Eliza”
[0-9]	a single digit	“I’m off at <b>7</b> ”

- **Negations** [^Ss]

RE	Match	Examples Patterns Matched
[^A-Z]	not an uppercase letter	“ <b>Y</b> ou can call me Eliza”
[^Ss]	neither s nor S	“ <b>S</b> ay hello Eliza”
[^\.]	not a period	“ <b>H</b> ello.”

# Regular Expressions

- **Optional characters: ? , \* and +**

- ? (0 or 1)

colou?r → color or colour

- \* (0 or more)

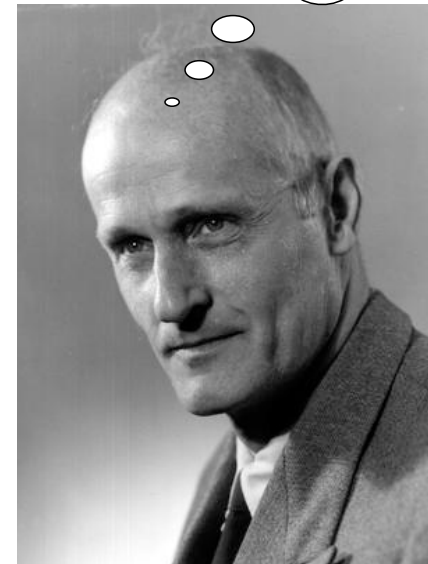
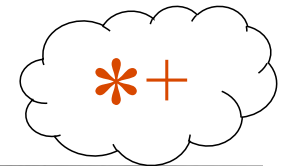
oo\*h! → oh! or ooh! or ooooh!

- + (1 or more)

o+h! → oh! or ooh! or ooooh!

- . any char except newline

beg.n → begin or began or begun



*Stephen Cole Kleene*

# Regular Expressions

- **Anchors `^` and `$`**

- `^[A-Z]` → "France", "Paris"
- `^[^A-Z]` → "¿verdad?", "really?"
- `\.$` → "It's over ."
- `moo$` → "moo", but not "mood"

- **Boundaries `\b` and `\B`**

- `\bon\b` → "on my way" "Monday"
- `\Bon\b` → "automaton"

- **Disjunction `|`**

- `yours|mine` → "it's either yours or mine"

# Regular Expressions

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<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/il1/2010/labs/2010-10-28/regexrepl.xml>

- **Replacement**
  - in emacs
  - in javascript
  - in python and perl
  - ...

`s/\bI ('m| am) \b /ARE YOU/g`

- Syntax varies - the ideas are universal



# Experiment

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/il1/2010/labs/2010-10-28/regexrepl.xml>

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