Logic

Logics on words

- Regular expressions give operational descriptions of regular languages.
- Often the natural description of a language is declarative:
 - even number of a's and even number of b's vs.

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

- words not containing 'hello'
- Goal: find a declarative language able to express all the regular languages, and only the regular languages.

Logics on words

- Idea: use a logic that has an interpretation on words
- A formula expresses a property that each word may satisfy or not, like
 - the word contains only a's
 - the word has even length
 - between every occurrence of an a and a b there is an occurrence of a c
- Every formula (indirectly) defines a language: the language of all the words over the given fixed alphabet that satisfy it.

First-order logic on words

• Atomic formulas: for each letter a we introduce the formula $Q_a(x)$, with intuitive meaning: the letter at position x is an a.

First-order logic on words: Syntax

- Formulas constructed out of atomic formulas by means of standard "logic machinery":
 - Alphabet $\Sigma = \{a, b, ...\}$ and position variables $V = \{x, y, ...\}$
 - $-Q_a(x)$ is a formula for every $a \in \Sigma$ and $x \in V$.
 - -x < y is a formula for every $x, y \in V$
 - If φ , φ_1 , φ_2 are formulas then so are $\neg \varphi$ and $\varphi_1 \lor \varphi_2$
 - If φ is a formula then so is $\exists x \varphi$ for every $x \in V$

Abbreviations

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\varphi_{1} \wedge \varphi_{2} \equiv \neg(\neg \varphi_{1} \vee \neg \varphi_{2})
\varphi_{1} \rightarrow \varphi_{2} \equiv \neg \varphi_{1} \vee \varphi_{2}
\varphi_{1} \leftrightarrow \varphi_{2} \equiv \neg(\varphi_{1} \vee \varphi_{2}) \vee \neg(\neg \varphi_{1} \vee \neg \varphi_{2})
\forall x \varphi \equiv \neg \exists x \neg \varphi
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$$first(x) :=$$

$$last(x) :=$$

$$y = x + 1 :=$$

$$y = x + 2 :=$$

$$y = x + (k + 1) :=$$

• "The last letter is a b and before it there are only a's."

• "Every a is immediately followed by a b."

• "Every a is immediately followed by a b, unless it is the last letter."

• "The last letter is a b and before it there are only a's."

$$\exists x \ Q_b(x) \land \forall x \ (\text{last}(x) \to Q_b(x) \land \neg \text{last}(x) \to Q_a(x))$$

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• "Every a is immediately followed by a b."

$$\forall x (Q_a(x) \rightarrow \exists y (y = x + 1 \land Q_b(y)))$$

• "Every a is immediately followed by a b, unless it is the last letter."

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$$\forall x (Q_a(x) \rightarrow \exists y (y = x + 1 \land Q_b(y)))$$

• "Every a is immediately followed by a b, unless it is the last letter."

$$\forall x (Q_a(x) \rightarrow \forall y (y = x + 1 \rightarrow Q_b(y)))$$

$$\forall x \forall y (Q_a(x) \land Q_b(y) \land x < y \rightarrow \exists z (x < z \land z < y \land Q_c(z)))$$

First-order logic on words: Semantics

- Formulas are interpreted on pairs (w, \mathcal{J}) called interpretations, where
 - -w is a word, and
 - 3 assigns positions to the free variables of the formula (and maybe to others too—who cares)
- It does not make sense to say a formula is true or false: it can only be true or false for a given interpretation.
- If the formula has no free variables (if it is a sentence), then for each word it is either true or false.

Satisfaction relation:

$$(w, \mathcal{J}) \models Q_a(x) \quad iff \quad w[\mathcal{J}(x)] = a$$

 $(w, \mathcal{J}) \models x < y \quad iff \quad \mathcal{J}(x) < \mathcal{J}(y)$
 $(w, \mathcal{J}) \models \neg \varphi \quad iff \quad (w, \mathcal{J}) \not\models \varphi$
 $(w, \mathcal{J}) \models \varphi 1 \lor \varphi_2 \quad iff \quad (w, \mathcal{J}) \models \varphi_1 \text{ or } (w, \mathcal{J}) \models \varphi_2$
 $(w, \mathcal{J}) \models \exists x \varphi \quad iff \quad |w| \ge 1 \text{ and some } i \in \{1, \dots, |w|\}$
 $satisfies (w, \mathcal{J}[i/x]) \models \varphi$

- More logic jargon:
 - A formula is valid if it is true for all its interpretations
 - A formula is satisfiable if is is true for at least one of its interpretations

The empty word ...

- ... is as usual a pain in the eh, neck.
- It satisfies all universally quantified formulas, and no existentially quantified formula.

Can we only express regular languages? Can we express all regular languages?

- The language $L(\varphi)$ of a sentence φ is the set of words that satisfy φ .
- A language L is expressible in first-order logic or FO-definable if some sentence φ satisfies $L(\varphi) = L$.
- Proposition: a language over a one-letter alphabet is expressible in first-order logic iff it is finite or cofinite (its complement is finite).
- Consequence: we can only express regular languages, but not all, not even the language of words of even length.

Proof sketch

1. If *L* is finite, then it is FO-definable

2. If *L* is co-finite, then it is FO-definable.

Proof sketch

- 3. If *L* is FO-definable (over a one-letter alphabet), then it is finite or co-finite.
 - 1) We define a new logic QF (quantifier-free fragment)
 - 2) We show that a language is QF-definable iff it is finite or co-finite
 - 3) We show that a language is QF-definable iff it is FO-definable.

1) The logic QF

- x < k x > k x < y + k x > y + k k < last k > lastare formulas for every variable x, y and every $k \ge 0$.
- If f_1 , f_2 are formulas, then so are $f_1 \vee f_2$ and $f_1 \wedge f_2$

2) L is QF-definable iff it is finite or co-finite

 (\rightarrow) Let f be a sentence of QF.

Then f is an and-or combination of formulas

k < last and k > last.

 $L(k < last) = \{k + 1, k + 2, ...\}$ is co-finite (we identify words and numbers)

 $L(k > last) = \{0,1,\ldots,k\}$ is finite

 $L(f_1 \lor f_2) = L(f_1) \cup L(f_2)$ and so if L(f) and L(g) finite or co-finite then L is finite or co-finite.

 $L(f_1 \land f_2) = L(f_1) \cap L(f_2)$ and so if L(f) and L(g) finite or co-finite then L is finite or co-finite.

2) L is QF-definable iff it is finite or co-finite

(
$$\leftarrow$$
) If $L = \{k_1, \dots, k_n\}$ is finite, then
$$(k_1 - 1 < last \land last < k_1 + 1) \lor \cdots \lor \\ (k_n - 1 < last \land last < k_n + 1)$$
 expresses L .

If L is co-finite, then its complement is finite, and so expressed by some formula. We show that for every f some formula neg(f) expresses $\overline{L(f)}$

- $neg(k < last) = (k-1 < last \land last < k+1) \lor last < k$
- $neg(f_1 \lor f_2) = neg(f_1) \land neg(f_2)$
- $neg(f_1 \wedge f_2) = neg(f_1) \vee neg(f_2)$

3) Every first-order formula φ has an equivalent QF-formula $QF(\varphi)$

- $\bullet \quad QF(x < y) = x < y + 0$
- $QF(\neg \varphi) = neg(QF(\varphi))$
- $QF(\varphi_1 \lor \varphi_2) = QF(\varphi_1) \lor QF(\varphi_2)$
- $QF(\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2) = QF(\varphi_1) \wedge QF(\varphi_2)$
- $QF(\exists x \varphi) =$
 - Put $QF(\varphi)$ in disjunctive normal form. Assume $QF(\varphi) = (\varphi_1 \vee ... \vee \varphi_n)$, where each φ_i is a conjunction of atomic formulas.
 - Since $\exists x \ (\varphi_1 \lor ... \lor \varphi_n) \equiv \exists x \ \varphi_1 \lor ... \lor \exists x \ \varphi_n$, it suffices to define $QF(\exists x \ \varphi)$ for the case in which φ is a conjunction of atomic formulas of QF
 - For this case, see example in the next slide.

Consider the formula

$$\exists x \quad x < y + 3 \quad \land$$

$$z < x + 4 \quad \land$$

$$z < y + 2 \quad \land$$

$$y < x + 1$$

The equivalent QF-formula is

$$z < y + 8$$
 \land $y < y + 5$ \land $z < y + 2$

Monadic second-order logic

- First-order variables: interpreted on positions
- Monadic second-order variables: interpreted on sets of positions.
 - Diadic second-order variables: interpreted on relations over positions
 - Monadic third-order variables: interpreted on sets of sets of positions
 - New atomic formulas: $x \in X$

Expressing "even length"

- Express
 - There is a set X of positions such that
 - X contains exactly the even positions, and
 - the last position belongs to X.
- Express

X contains exactly the even positions

as

A position is in *X* iff it is the second position or the second successor of another position of *X*

Syntax and semantics of MSO

- New set $\{X, Y, Z, ...\}$ of second-order variables
- New syntax: $x \in X$ and $\exists X \varphi$
- New semantics:
 - Interpretations now also assign sets of positions to the free second-order variables.
 - Satisfaction defined as expected.

Expressing "even length"

- second(x) = $\exists y$ (first(y) $\land x = y + 1$)
- Even $(X) = \forall y \ (x \in X \leftrightarrow (\text{second}(x) \lor \exists y \ (x = y + 2 \land y \in X)))$
- Evenlength(X) = $\exists X (\text{Even}(X) \land \forall x (\text{last}(x) \rightarrow x \in X))$

Expressing $c^*(ab)^*d^*$

• Express:

There is a block X of consecutive positions such that

- before X there are only c's;
- after X there are only d's;
- a's and b's alternate in X;
- the first letter in X is an a, and the last is a b.
- Then we can take the formula

$$\exists X \; (Cons(X) \land Boc(X) \land Aod(X) \land Alt(X) \\ \land Fa(X) \land Lb(X))$$

• X is a block of consecutive positions

Before X there are only c's

X is a block of consecutive positions

$$Cons(X) := \forall x \in X \ \forall y \in X \ (x < y \to (\forall z \ (x < z \land z < y) \to z \in X))$$

Before X there are only c's

X is a block of consecutive positions

$$Cons(X) := \forall x \in X \ \forall y \in X \ (x < y \to (\forall z \ (x < z \land z < y) \to z \in X))$$

Before X there are only c's

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Before(x, X) := \forall y \in X \ x < y
Before_only_c(X) := \forall x \text{ Before}(x, X) \rightarrow Q_c(x)
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X is a block of consecutive positions

$$Cons(X) := \forall x \in X \ \forall y \in X \ (x < y \to (\forall z \ (x < z \land z < y) \to z \in X))$$

Before X there are only c's

Before
$$(x, X) := \forall y \in X \ x < y$$

Before_only_c $(X) := \forall x \text{ Before}(x, X) \rightarrow Q_c(x)$

Alternate(X) :=
$$\forall x \in X \ (Q_a(x) \to \forall y \in X \ (y = x + 1 \to Q_b(y))$$

 \land
 $Q_b(x) \to \forall y \in X \ (y = x + 1 \to Q_a(y))$

Every regular language is expressible in MSO logic

- Goal: given an arbitrary regular language L, construct an MSO sentence φ such having $L = L(\varphi)$.
- We use: if L is regular, then there is a DFA A recognizing L.
- Idea: construct a formula expressing
 the run of A on this word is accepting

- Fix a regular language L.
- Fix a DFA A with states q_0, \dots, q_n recognizing L.
- Fix a word $w = a_1 a_2 \dots a_m$.
- Let P_q be the set of positions i such that after reading $a_1 a_2 \dots a_i$ the automaton A is in state q.
- We have:

A accepts w iff $m \in P_q$ for some final state q.

Assume we can construct a formula

$$Visits(X_0, ..., X_n)$$

which is true for (w, 3) iff

$$\boldsymbol{J}(X_0) = P_{q_0}, \dots, \boldsymbol{J}(X_n) = P_{q_n}$$

• Then (w, 3) satisfies the formula

$$\psi_A := \exists X_0 \dots \exists X_n \text{ Visits}(X_0, \dots X_n) \land \exists x \left(\text{last}(x) \land \bigvee_{q_i \in F} x \in X_i \right)$$

iff w has a last letter and $w \in L$, and we easily get a formula expressing L.

- To construct $Visits(X_0, ..., X_n)$ we observe that the sets P_q are the unique sets satisfying
 - a) $1 \in P_{\delta(q_0,a_1)}$ i.e., after reading the first letter the DFA is in state $\delta(q_0,a_1)$.
 - b) The sets P_q build a partition of the set of positions, i.e., the DFA is always in exactly one state.
 - c) If $i \in P_q$ and $\delta(q, a_{i+1}) = q'$ then $i + 1 \in P_{q'}$, i.e., the sets "match" δ .
 - We give formulas for a), b), and c)

$$\operatorname{Init}(X_0,\ldots,X_n)=\exists x\left(\operatorname{first}(x)\wedge\left(\bigvee_{a\in\Sigma}(Q_a(x)\wedge x\in X_{i_a})\right)\right)$$

Partition
$$(X_0, \dots, X_n) = \forall x \left(\bigvee_{i=0}^n x \in X_i \land \bigwedge_{\substack{i, j=0 \ i \neq j}}^n (x \in X_i \to x \notin X_j) \right)$$

Formula for c)

Respect
$$(X_0, \dots, X_n) =$$

$$\forall x \forall y \left(y = x + 1 \to \bigvee_{\substack{a \in \Sigma \\ i, j \in \{0, \dots, n\} \\ \delta(q_i, a) = q_j}} (x \in X_i \land Q_a(x) \land y \in X_j) \right)$$

• Together:

Visits
$$(X_0, ..., X_n) := \text{Init}(X_0, ..., X_n) \land$$

Partition $(X_0, ..., X_n) \land$
Respect $(X_0, ..., X_n)$

Every language expressible in MSO logic is regular

Recall: an interpretation of a formula is a pair (w, J) consisting of a word w and assignments J to the free first and second order variables (and perhaps to others).

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \mapsto 1 \\ aab, & y \mapsto 3 \\ X \mapsto \{2,3\} \\ Y \mapsto \{1,2\} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \mapsto 2 \\ ba, & y \mapsto 1 \\ X \mapsto \emptyset \\ Y \mapsto \{1\} \end{pmatrix}$$

We encode interpretations as words.

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \mapsto 1 \\ aab, & y \mapsto 3 \\ Y \mapsto \{1, 2\} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} x \mapsto 2 \\ ba, & y \mapsto 1 \\ ba, & X \mapsto \emptyset \\ Y \mapsto \{1\} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & a & b \\ x & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ y & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ y & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ Y & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} x \mapsto 2 \\ ba, & y \mapsto 1 \\ Y \mapsto \{1\} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Given a formula with n free variables, we encode an interpretation (w, \mathcal{I}) as a word $enc(w, \mathcal{I})$ over the alphabet $\Sigma \times \{0,1\}^n$.
- The language of the formula φ , denoted by $L(\varphi)$, is given by

$$L(\varphi) = \{enc(w, \mathbf{J}) | (w, \mathbf{J}) \models \varphi\}$$

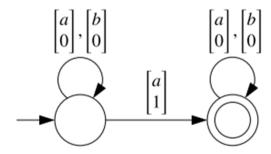
• We prove by induction on the structure of φ that $L(\varphi)$ is regular (and explicitly construct an automaton for it).

Case $\varphi = Q_a(x)$

• $\varphi = Q_a(x)$. Then $free(\varphi) = x$, and the interpretations of φ are encoded as words over $\Sigma \times \{0, 1\}$. The language $L(\varphi)$ is given by

$$L(\varphi) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \end{bmatrix} \dots \begin{bmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \end{bmatrix} \middle| \begin{array}{l} k \ge 0, \\ a_i \in \Sigma \text{ and } b_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ and} \\ b_i = 1 \text{ for exactly one index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\} \text{ such that } a_i = a \end{array} \right\}$$

and is recognized by

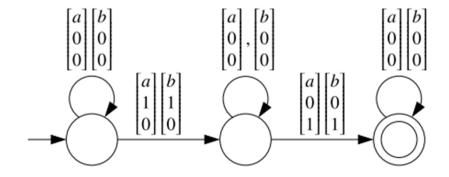


Case $\varphi = x < y$

• $\varphi = x < y$. Then $free(\varphi) = \{x, y\}$, and the interpretations of ϕ are encoded as words over $\Sigma \times \{0, 1\}^2$. The language $L(\varphi)$ is given by

$$L(\varphi) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdots \begin{bmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \\ c_k \end{bmatrix} \middle| \begin{array}{l} k \ge 0, \\ a_i \in \Sigma \text{ and } b_i, c_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \\ b_i = 1 \text{ for exactly one index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \\ c_j = 1 \text{ for exactly one index } j \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ and } i < j \end{array} \right\}$$

and is recognized by

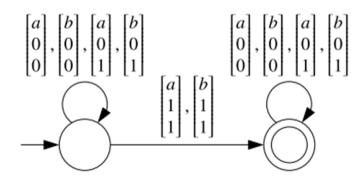


Case $\varphi = x \in X$

• $\varphi = x \in X$. Then $free(\varphi) = \{x, X\}$, and interpretations are encoded as words over $\Sigma \times \{0, 1\}^2$. The language $L(\varphi)$ is given by

$$L(\varphi) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix} \dots \begin{bmatrix} a_k \\ b_k \\ c_k \end{bmatrix} \middle| \begin{array}{l} k \ge 0, \\ a_i \in \Sigma \text{ and } b_i, c_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \\ b_i = 1 \text{ for exactly one index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ and for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ if } b_i = 1 \text{ then } c_i = 1 \end{array} \right\}$$

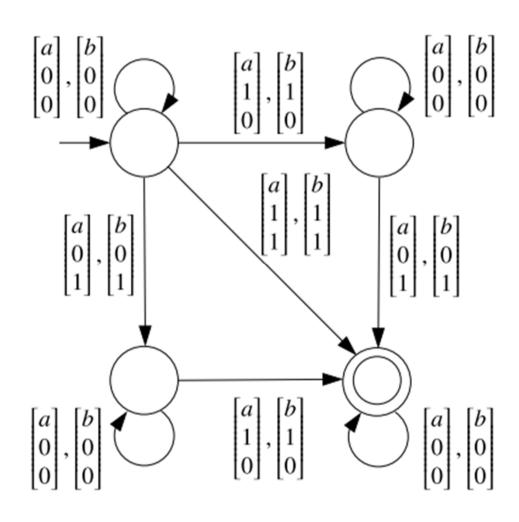
and is recognized by



Case $\varphi = \neg \psi$

- Then free (φ) = free (ψ) . By i.h. $L(\psi)$ is regular.
- $L(\varphi)$ is equal to $\overline{L(\psi)}$ minus the words that do not encode any implementation ("the garbage").
- Equivalently, $L(\varphi)$ is equal to the intersection of $\overline{L(\psi)}$ and the encodings of all interpretations of ψ .
- We show that the set of these encodings is regular.
 - Condition for encoding: Let x be a free first-oder variable of ψ . The projection of an encoding onto x must belong to 0*10* (because it represents one position).
 - So we just need an automaton for the words satisfying this condition for every free first-order variable.

Example: free $(\varphi) = \{x, y\}$

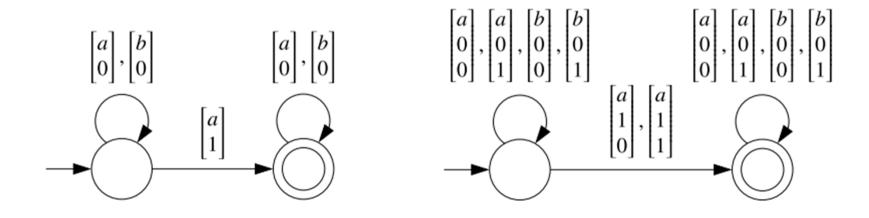


Case $\varphi = \varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2$

- Then free (φ) = free (φ_1) \cup free (φ_2) . By i.h. $L(\varphi_1)$ and $L(\varphi_2)$ are regular.
- If $free(\varphi_1) = free(\varphi_2)$ then $L(\varphi) = L(\varphi_1) \cup L(\varphi_2)$ and so $L(\varphi)$ is regular.
- If $free(\varphi_1) \neq free(\varphi_2)$ then we extend $L(\varphi_1)$ to L_1 encoding all interpretations of $free(\varphi_1) \cup free(\varphi_2)$ whose projection onto $free(\varphi_1)$ belongs to $L(\varphi_1)$. Similarly we extend $L(\varphi_2)$ to L_2 . We have
 - L_1 and L_2 are regular.
 - $L(\varphi) = L_1 \cup L_2.$

Example: $\varphi = Q_a(x) \vee Q_b(y)$

- L_1 contains the encodings of all interpretations $(w, \{x \mapsto n_1, y \mapsto n_2\})$ such that the encoding of $(w, \{x \mapsto n_1\})$ belongs to $L(Q_a(x))$.
- Automata for $L(Q_a(x))$ and L_1 :

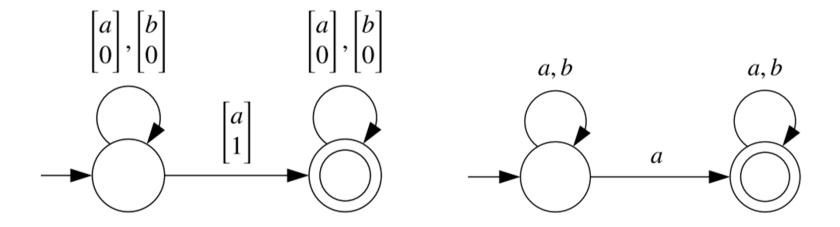


Cases $\varphi = \exists x \psi$ and $\varphi = \exists X \psi$

- Then $free(\varphi) = free(\psi) \setminus \{x\}$ or $free(\varphi) = free(\psi) \setminus \{X\}$
- By i.h. $L(\psi)$ is regular.
- $L(\varphi)$ is the result of projecting $L(\psi)$ onto the components for free $(\psi)\setminus\{x\}$ or for free $(\psi)\setminus\{X\}$.

Example: $\varphi = Q_a(x)$

• Automata for $Q_a(x)$ and $\exists x \ Q_a(x)$



The mega-example

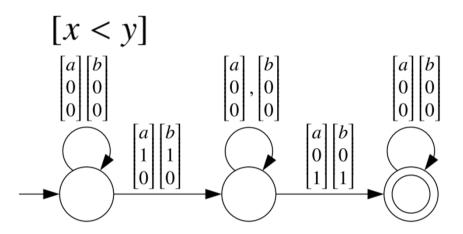
We compute an automaton for

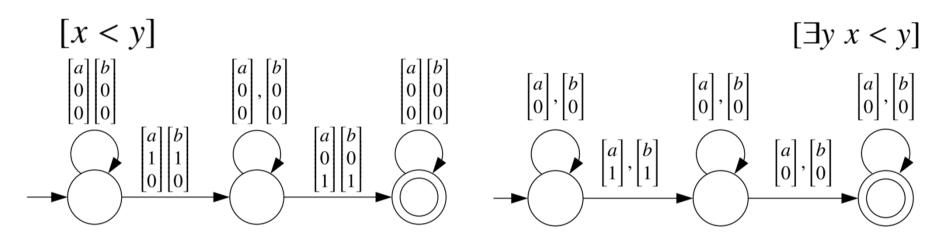
$$\exists x (\mathsf{last}(x) \land Q_b(x)) \land \forall x (\neg \mathsf{last}(x) \to Q_a(x))$$

First we rewrite it into

$$\exists x \left(\mathsf{last}(x) \land Q_b(x) \right) \land \neg \exists x \left(\neg \mathsf{last}(x) \land \neg Q_a(x) \right)$$

- In the next slides we
 - 1. compute a DFA for last(x)
 - 2. compute DFAs for $\exists x \text{ (last}(x) \land Q_b(x) \text{) and } \neg \exists x \text{ (}\neg \text{last}(x) \land \neg Q_a(x) \text{)}$
 - 3. compute a DFA for the complete formula.
- We denote the DFA for a formula ψ by $[\psi]$.

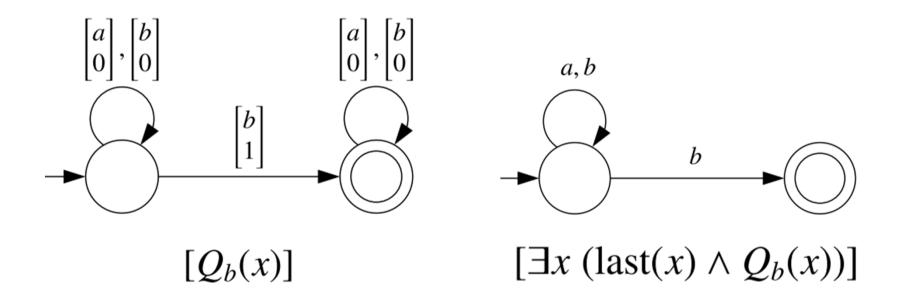




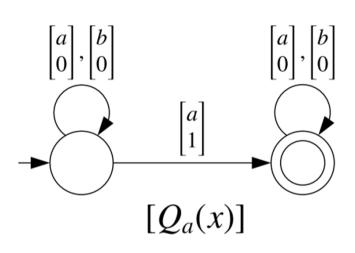
$$[x < y]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0$$

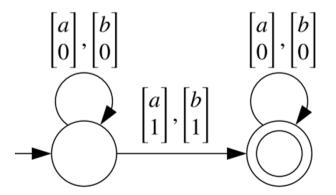
$[\exists x (last(x) \land Q_b(x))]$

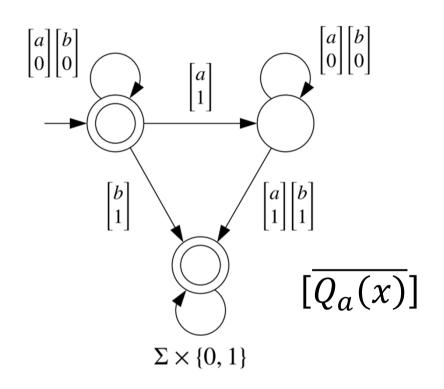


$[\neg Q_a(x)]$



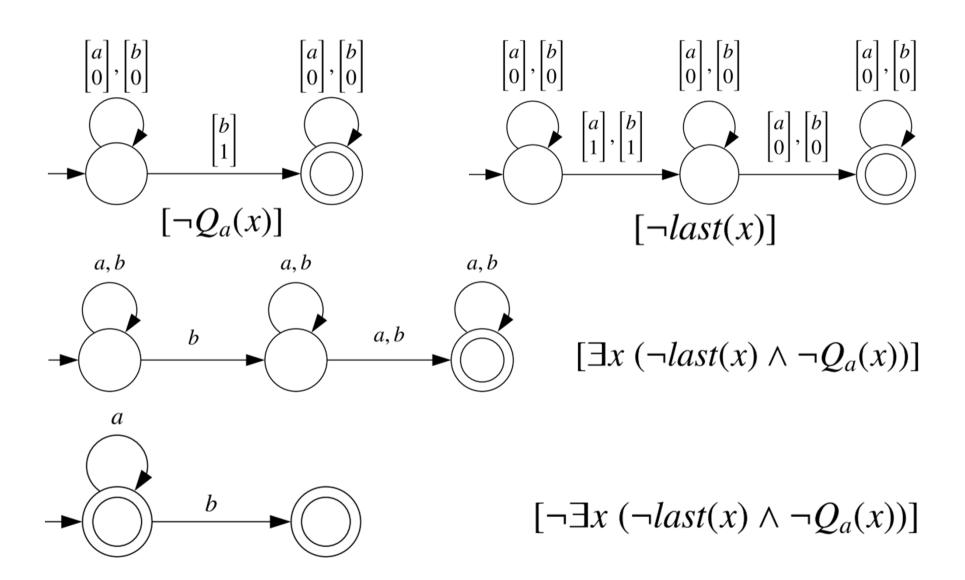




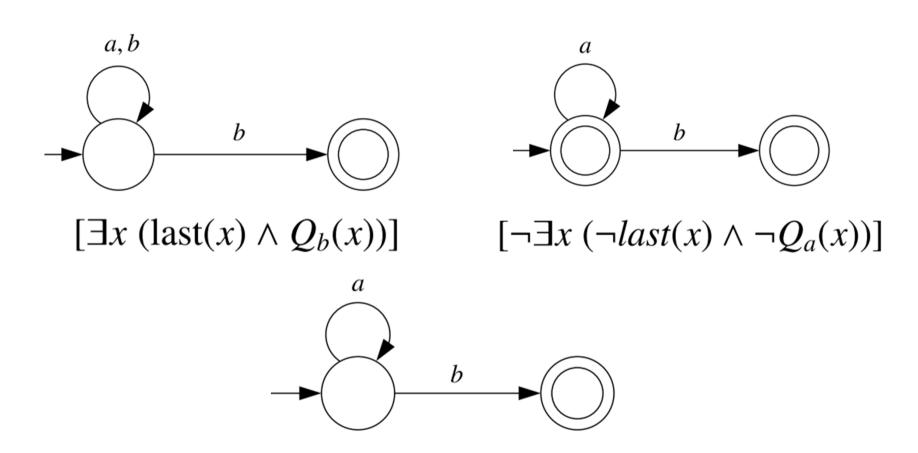


$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} b \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} \neg Q_a(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$[\neg \exists x \left(\neg \mathsf{last}(x) \land \neg Q_a(x) \right)]$



$[\exists x (last(x) \land Q_b(x)) \land \neg \exists x (\neg last(x) \land \neg Q_a(x))]$



 $[\exists x (last(x) \land Q_b(x)) \land \neg \exists x (\neg last(x) \land \neg Q_a(x))]$