

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 $\Sigma = \{a, b, \dots\}$ and position variables $V = \{x, y, \dots\}$
 - $Q_a(x)$ is a formula for every $a \in \Sigma$ and $x \in V$.
 - $x < y$ is a formula for every $x, y \in V$
 - If $\varphi, \varphi_1, \varphi_2$ are formulas then so are $\neg\varphi$ and $\varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2$
 - If φ is a formula then so is $\exists x \varphi$ for every $x \in V$

Abbreviations

$$\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \equiv \neg(\neg\varphi_1 \vee \neg\varphi_2)$$

$$\varphi_1 \rightarrow \varphi_2 \equiv \neg\varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2$$

$$\varphi_1 \leftrightarrow \varphi_2 \equiv \neg(\varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2) \vee \neg(\neg\varphi_1 \vee \neg\varphi_2)$$

$$\forall x \varphi \equiv \neg \exists x \neg \varphi$$

$$\text{first}(x) \quad :=$$

$$\text{last}(x) \quad :=$$

$$y = x + 1 \quad :=$$

$$y = x + 2 \quad :=$$

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

Examples (without semantics yet)

- “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.”
- “Between every a and every later b there is a c .”

Examples (without semantics yet)

- “The last letter is a b and before it there are only a ’s.”

$$\exists x Q_b(x) \wedge \forall x (\text{last}(x) \rightarrow Q_b(x) \wedge \neg \text{last}(x) \rightarrow Q_a(x))$$

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- “Every a is immediately followed by a b .”

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

- “Every a is immediately followed by a b , unless it is the last letter.”

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- “Every a is immediately followed by a b , unless it is the last letter.”

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

- “Between every a and every later b there is a c .”

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

First-order logic on words: Semantics

- Formulas are interpreted on pairs (w, \mathcal{J}) called **interpretations**, where
 - w is a word, and
 - \mathcal{J} 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:

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

$$(w, \mathcal{J}) \models x < y \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{J}(x) < \mathcal{J}(y)$$

$$(w, \mathcal{J}) \models \neg\varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad (w, \mathcal{J}) \not\models \varphi$$

$$(w, \mathcal{J}) \models \varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad (w, \mathcal{J}) \models \varphi_1 \text{ or } (w, \mathcal{J}) \models \varphi_2$$

$$(w, \mathcal{J}) \models \exists x \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad |w| \geq 1 \text{ and some } i \in \{1, \dots, |w|\} \text{ satisfies } (w, \mathcal{J}[i/x]) \models \varphi$$

- More logic jargon:

- A formula is **valid** if it is true for all its interpretations

- A formula is **satisfiable** if it 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 **co-finite** (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

- $x < k$ $x > k$
 $x < y + k$ $x > y + k$
 $k < last$ $k > last$

are formulas for every variable x, y and every $k \geq 0$.

- 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 a positive boolean combination of formulas $k < last$ and $k > last$.

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

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

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

$L(f_1 \wedge f_2) = L(f_1) \cap L(f_2)$ and so if $L(f_1)$ and $L(f_2)$ 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

$$(k_1 - 1 < last \wedge last < k_1 + 1) \vee \dots \vee$$

$$(k_n - 1 < last \wedge last < k_n + 1)$$

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 $\overline{L(f)}$

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

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

- $QF(x < y) = x < y + 0$
- $QF(\neg\varphi) = neg(QF(\varphi))$
- $QF(\varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2) = QF(\varphi_1) \vee QF(\varphi_2)$
- $QF(\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2) = QF(\varphi_1) \wedge QF(\varphi_2)$
- $QF(\exists x \varphi) =$
 - Put $QF(\varphi)$ in disjunctive normal form. Assume $QF(\varphi) = (\varphi_1 \vee \dots \vee \varphi_n)$, where each φ_i is a conjunction of atomic formulas.
 - Since $\exists x (\varphi_1 \vee \dots \vee \varphi_n) \equiv \exists x \varphi_1 \vee \dots \vee \exists x \varphi_n$, 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

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

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

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

$$y < x + 1$$

- The equivalent QF-formula is

$$z < y + 8 \quad \wedge \quad y < y + 5 \quad \wedge \quad z < y + 2$$

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 $\{X, Y, Z, \dots\}$ 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“

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

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

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

- X is a block of consecutive positions
- Before X there are only c 's
- In X a 's and b 's alternate

- **X is a block of consecutive positions**

$$\text{Cons}(X) := \forall x \in X \forall y \in X (x < y \rightarrow (\forall z (x < z \wedge z < y) \rightarrow z \in X))$$

- **Before X there are only c 's**

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

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

- **In X a 's and b 's alternate**

- **X is a block of consecutive positions**

$$\text{Cons}(X) := \forall x \in X \forall y \in X (x < y \rightarrow (\forall z (x < z \wedge z < y) \rightarrow z \in X))$$

- **Before X there are only c 's**

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

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

- **In X a 's and b 's alternate**

$$\text{Alternate}(X) := \forall x \in X (Q_a(x) \rightarrow \forall y \in X (y = x + 1 \rightarrow Q_b(y))) \\ \wedge \\ Q_b(x) \rightarrow \forall y \in X (y = x + 1 \rightarrow Q_a(y)))$$

Every regular language is expressible in MSO logic

- **Goal:** given an arbitrary regular language L , construct an MSO sentence φ s.t. $L = L(\varphi)$.
- It suffices to construct φ s.t. $w \in L$ iff $w \in L(\varphi)$ for every nonempty word w . (Avoid the corner-case of the empty word.)
- 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 nonempty 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

$$\text{Visits}(X_0, \dots, X_n)$$

which is true for (w, \mathcal{J}) iff

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

- Then (w, \mathcal{J}) satisfies the formula

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

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

- To construct $\text{Visits}(X_0, \dots, X_n)$ 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)

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

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

- Formula for c)

Respect(X_0, \dots, X_n) =

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

- Together:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Visits}(X_0, \dots, X_n) := & \text{Init}(X_0, \dots, X_n) \wedge \\ & \text{Partition}(X_0, \dots, X_n) \wedge \\ & \text{Respect}(X_0, \dots, X_n) \end{aligned}$$

Every language expressible in MSO logic is regular

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

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} x \mapsto 1 \\ y \mapsto 3 \\ X \mapsto \{2, 3\} \\ Y \mapsto \{1, 2\} \end{array} \right) \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} x \mapsto 2 \\ y \mapsto 1 \\ X \mapsto \emptyset \\ Y \mapsto \{1\} \end{array} \right)$$

- We encode interpretations as words.

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} x \mapsto 1 \\ y \mapsto 3 \\ aab, X \mapsto \{2, 3\} \\ Y \mapsto \{1, 2\} \end{array} \right) \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} x \mapsto 2 \\ y \mapsto 1 \\ ba, X \mapsto \emptyset \\ Y \mapsto \{1\} \end{array} \right)$$

	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>x</i>	1	0	0
<i>y</i>	0	0	1
<i>X</i>	0	1	1
<i>Y</i>	1	1	0

	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>
<i>x</i>	0	1
<i>y</i>	1	0
<i>X</i>	0	0
<i>Y</i>	1	0

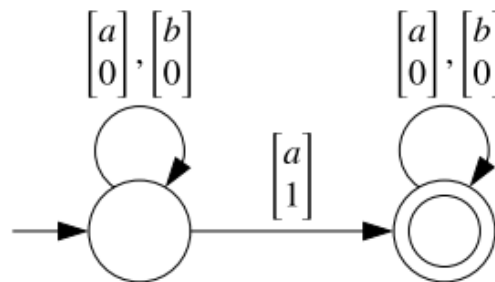
- Given a formula with n free variables, we encode an interpretation (w, \mathcal{J}) as a word $enc(w, \mathcal{J})$ over the alphabet $\Sigma \times \{0,1\}^n$.
- The language of the formula φ , denoted by $L(\varphi)$, is given by
$$L(\varphi) = \{enc(w, \mathcal{J}) \mid (w, \mathcal{J}) \models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

$$L(\varphi) = \left\{ \left[\begin{array}{c} a_1 \\ b_1 \end{array} \right] \cdots \left[\begin{array}{c} a_k \\ b_k \end{array} \right] \mid \begin{array}{l} k \geq 0, \\ a_i \in \Sigma \text{ and } b_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ and} \\ b_i = 1 \text{ for exactly one index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\} \text{ such that } a_i = a \end{array} \right\}$$

and is recognized by

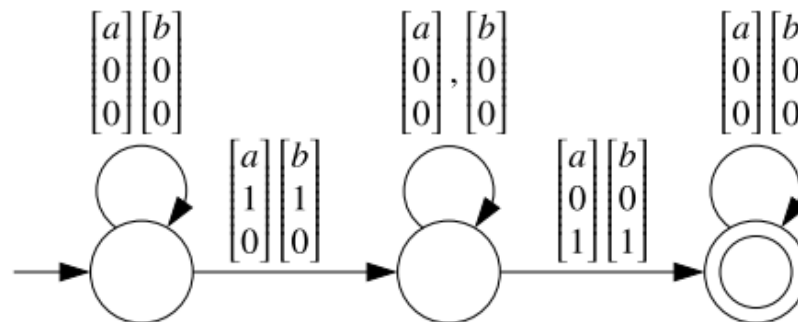


Case $\varphi = x < y$

- $\varphi = x < y$. 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

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

and is recognized by

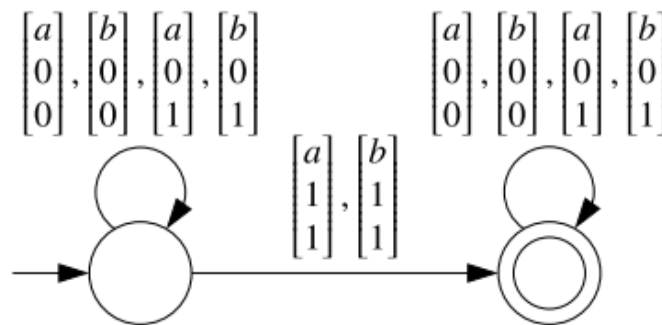


Case $\varphi = x \in X$

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

$$L(\varphi) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left[\begin{array}{c} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{array} \right] \cdots \left[\begin{array}{c} a_k \\ b_k \\ c_k \end{array} \right] \mid \begin{array}{l} k \geq 0, \\ a_i \in \Sigma \text{ and } b_i, c_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \\ b_i = 1 \text{ for exactly one index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ and} \\ \text{for every } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \text{ if } b_i = 1 \text{ then } c_i = 1 \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right\}$$

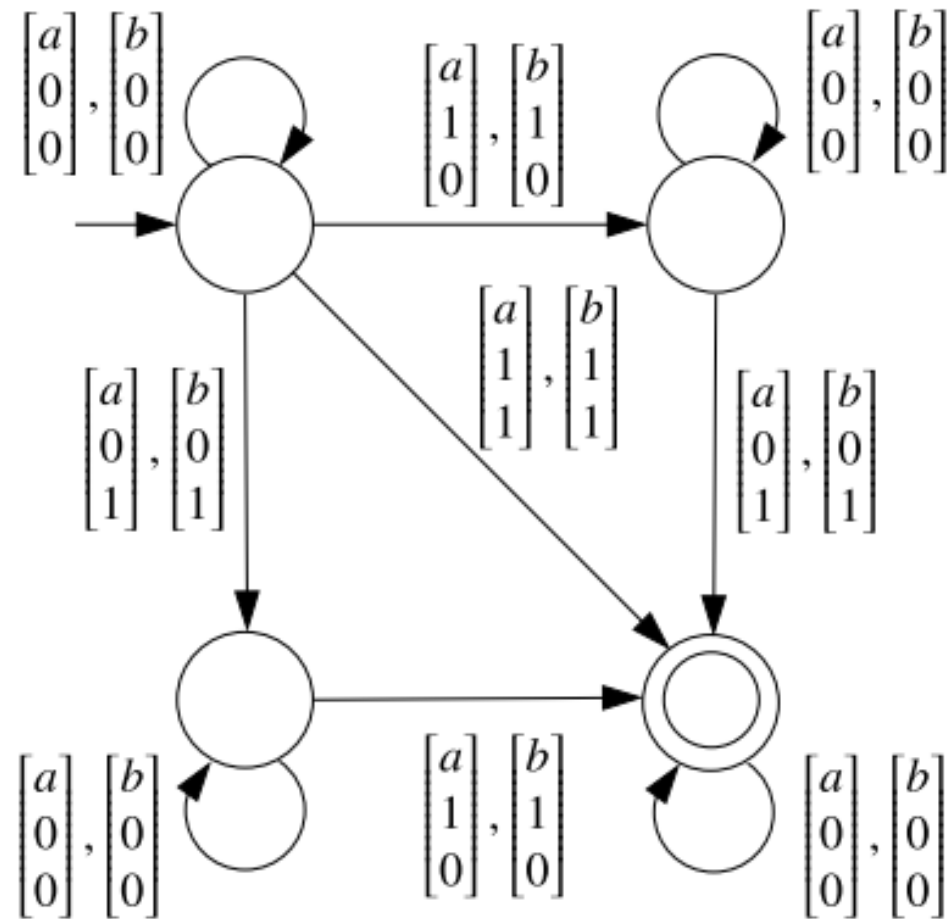
and is recognized by



Case $\varphi = \neg\psi$

- Then $\text{free}(\varphi) = \text{free}(\psi)$. 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-order 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: $\text{free}(\varphi) = \{x, y\}$

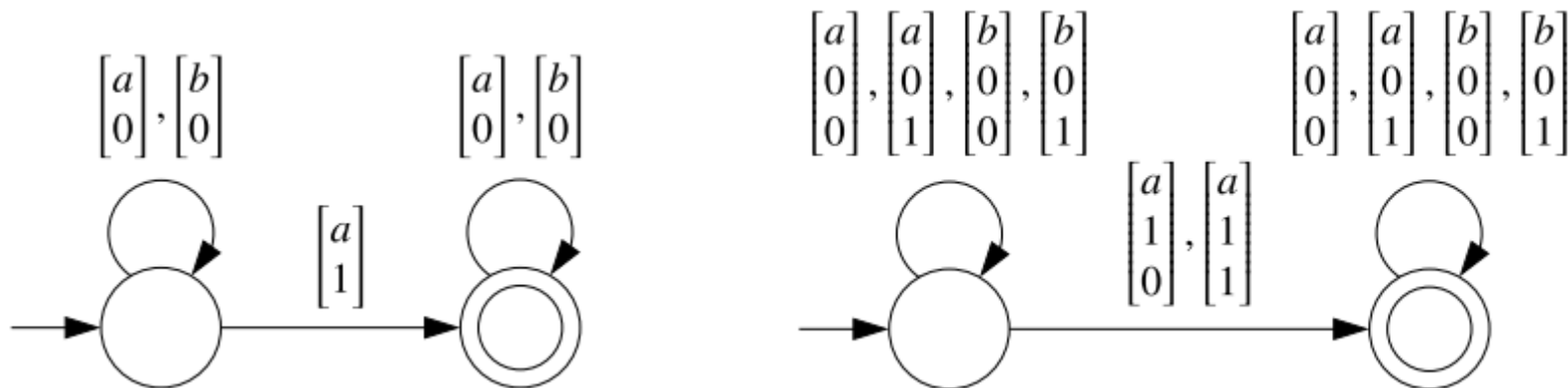


Case $\varphi = \varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2$

- Then $\text{free}(\varphi) = \text{free}(\varphi_1) \cup \text{free}(\varphi_2)$. By i.h. $L(\varphi_1)$ and $L(\varphi_2)$ are regular.
- If $\text{free}(\varphi_1) = \text{free}(\varphi_2)$ then $L(\varphi) = L(\varphi_1) \cup L(\varphi_2)$ and so $L(\varphi)$ is regular.
- If $\text{free}(\varphi_1) \neq \text{free}(\varphi_2)$ then we extend $L(\varphi_1)$ to L_1 encoding all interpretations of $\text{free}(\varphi_1) \cup \text{free}(\varphi_2)$ whose projection onto $\text{free}(\varphi_1)$ 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 :

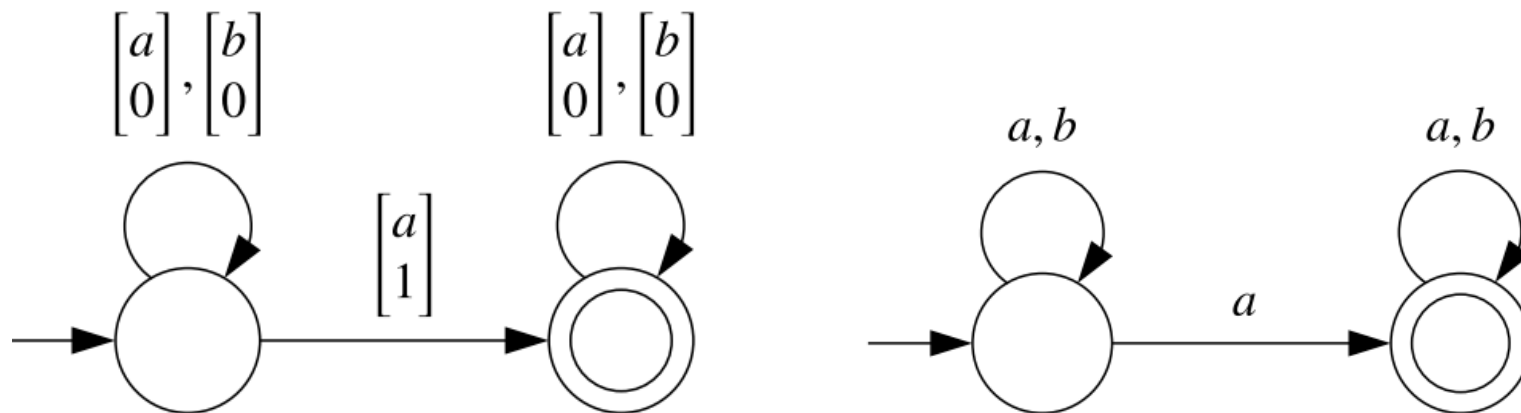


Cases $\varphi = \exists x \psi$ and $\varphi = \exists X \psi$

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

Example: $\varphi = Q_a(x)$

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

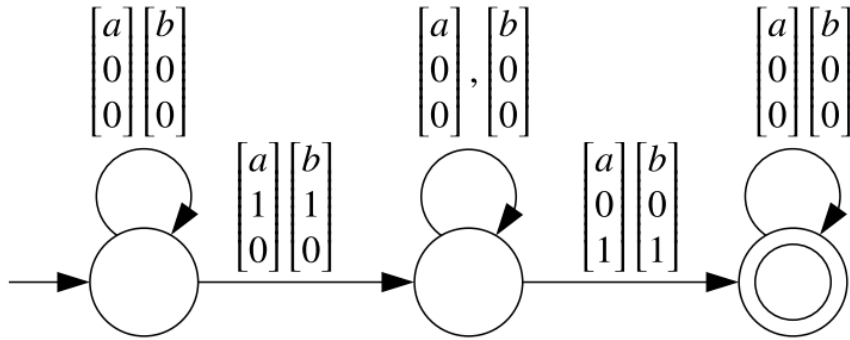


The mega-example

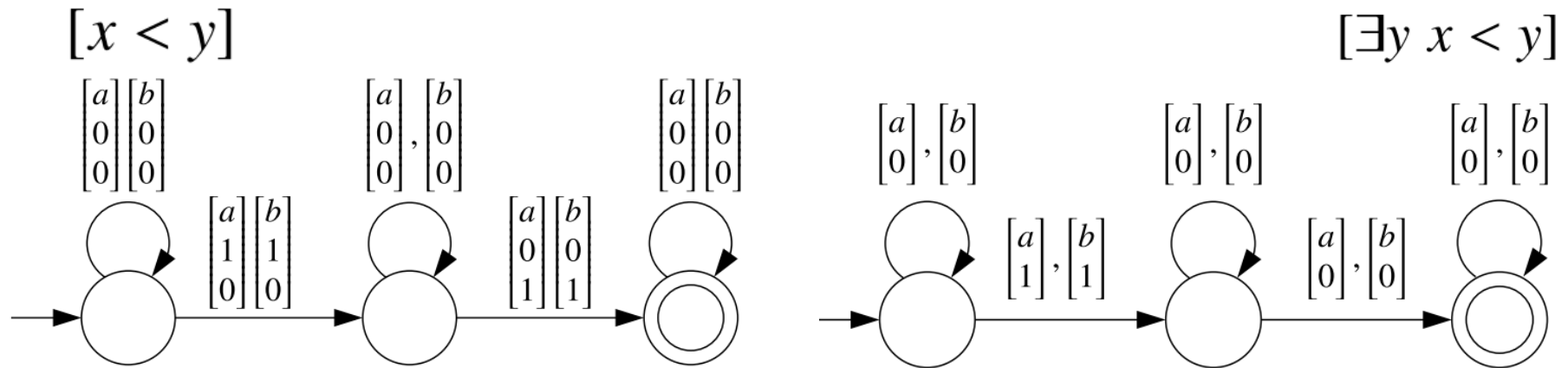
- We compute an automaton for
$$\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x)) \wedge \forall x (\neg \text{last}(x) \rightarrow Q_a(x))$$
- First we rewrite it into
$$\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x)) \wedge \neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))$$
- In the next slides we
 1. compute a DFA for $\text{last}(x)$
 2. compute DFAs for $\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x))$ and $\neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))$
 3. compute a DFA for the complete formula.
- We denote the DFA for a formula ψ by $[\psi]$.

$[\text{last}(x)]$

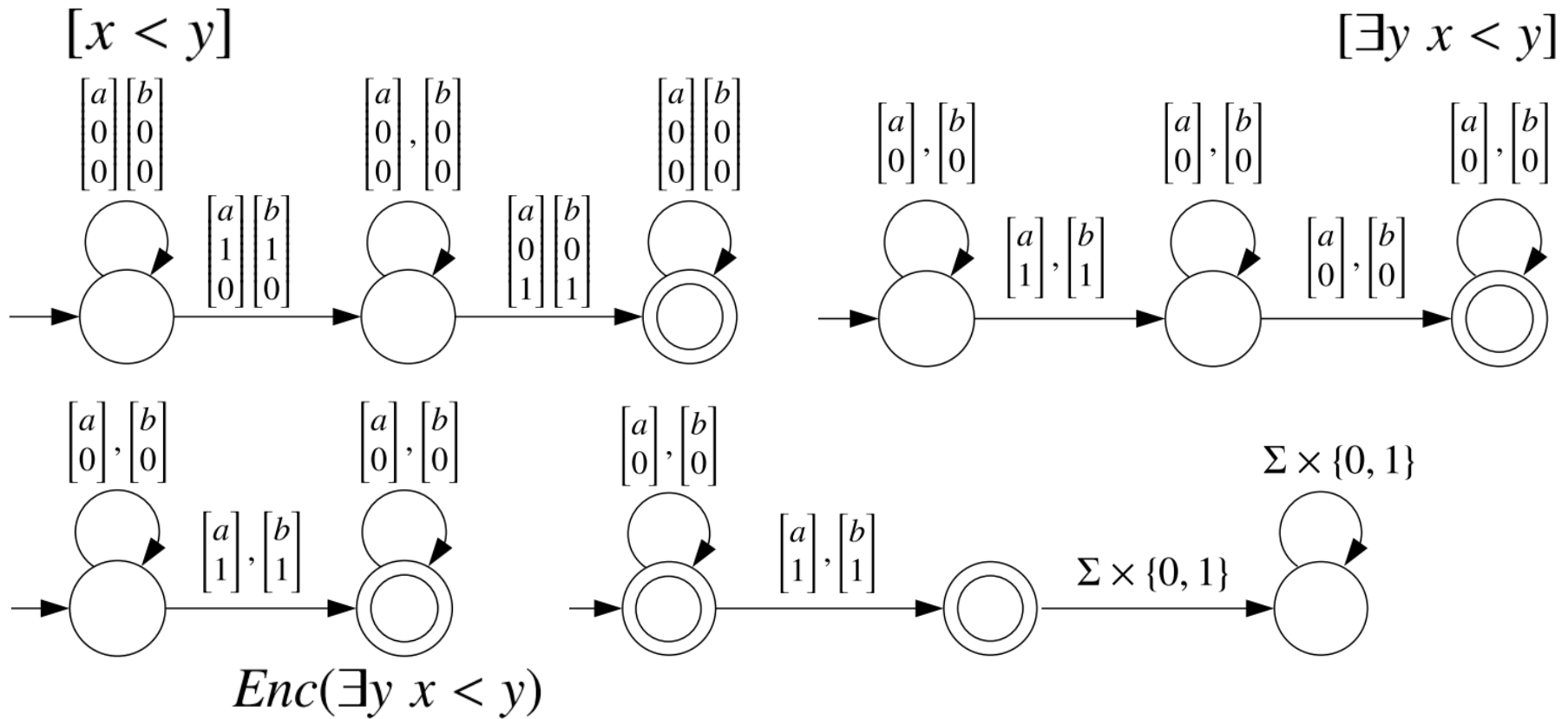
$[x < y]$



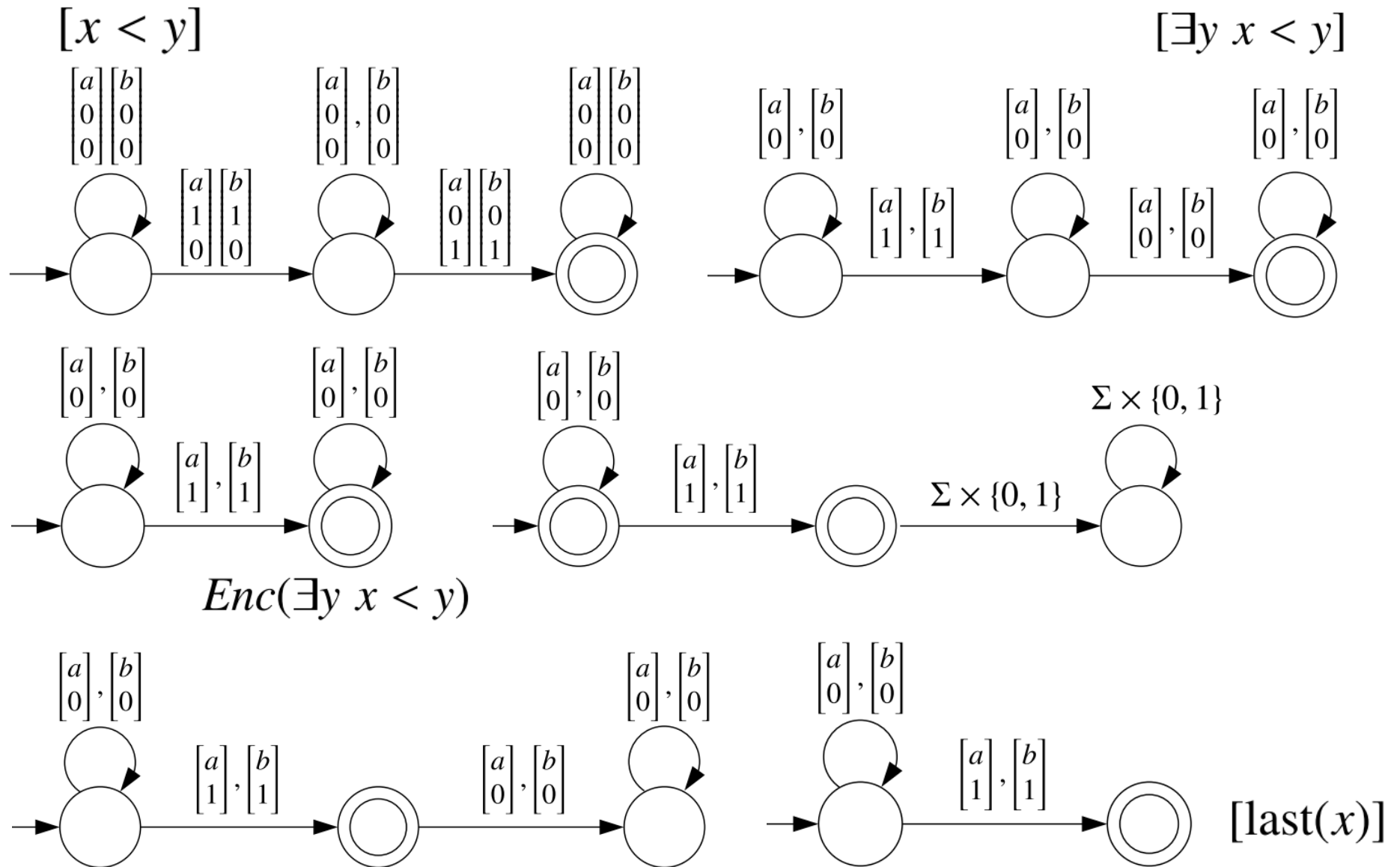
$[\text{last}(x)]$



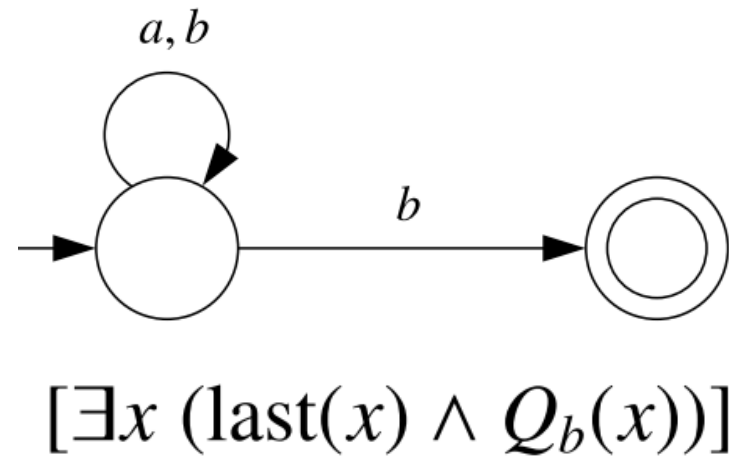
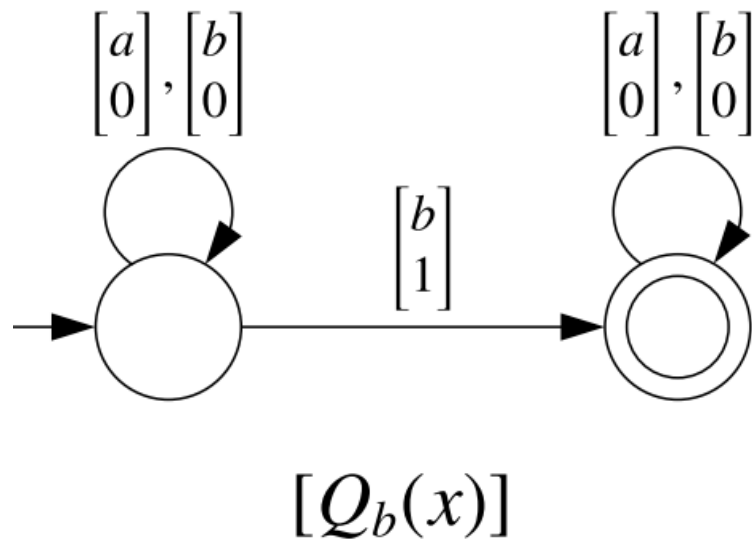
[last(x)]



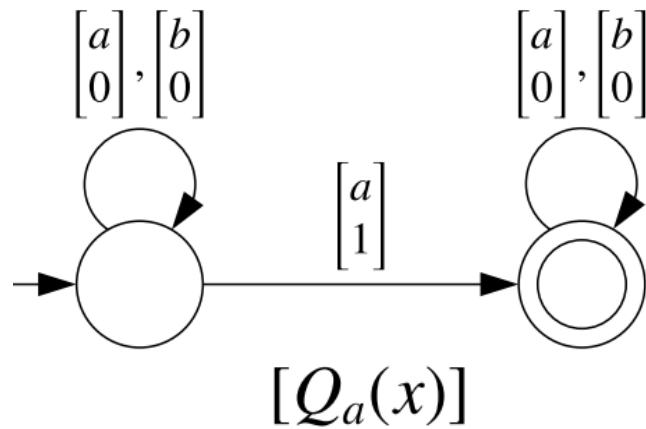
[last(x)]



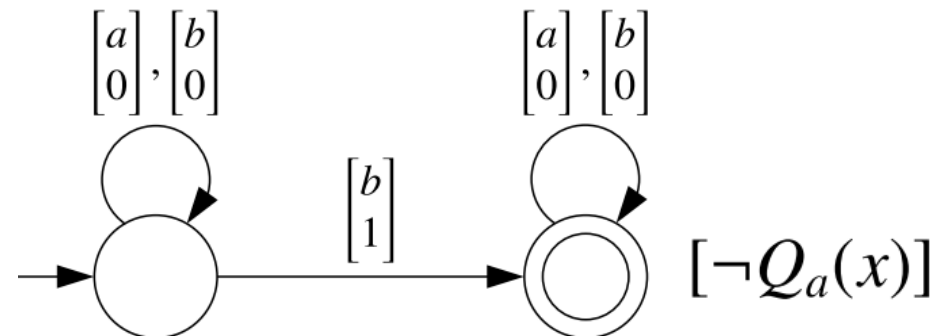
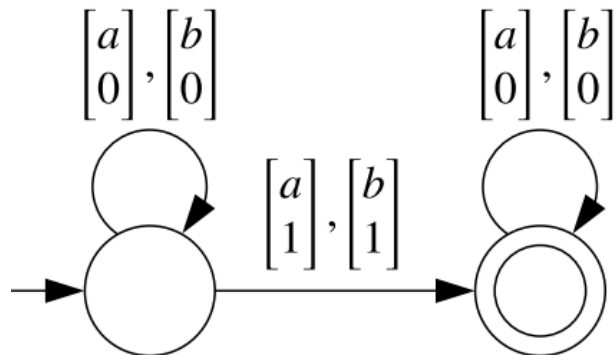
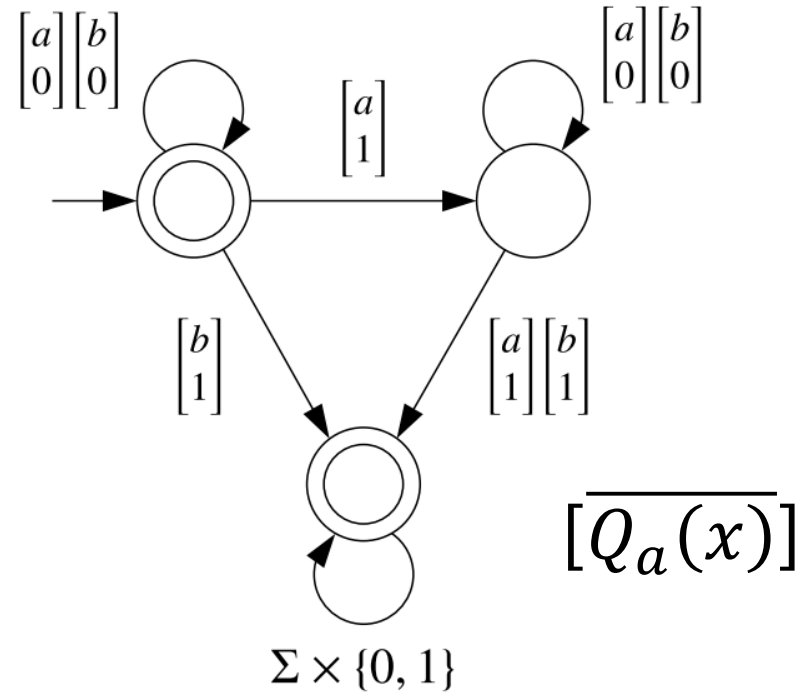
$$[\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x))]$$



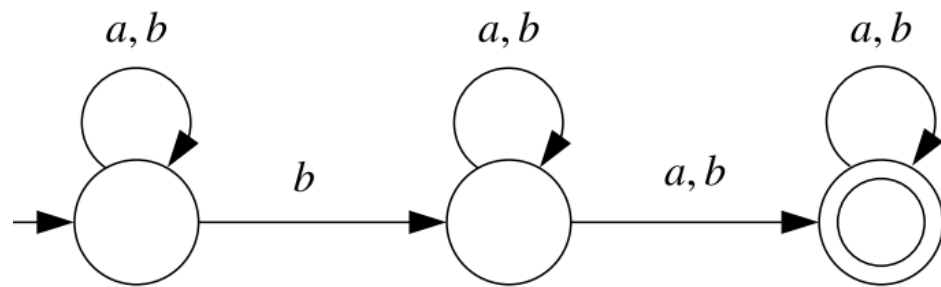
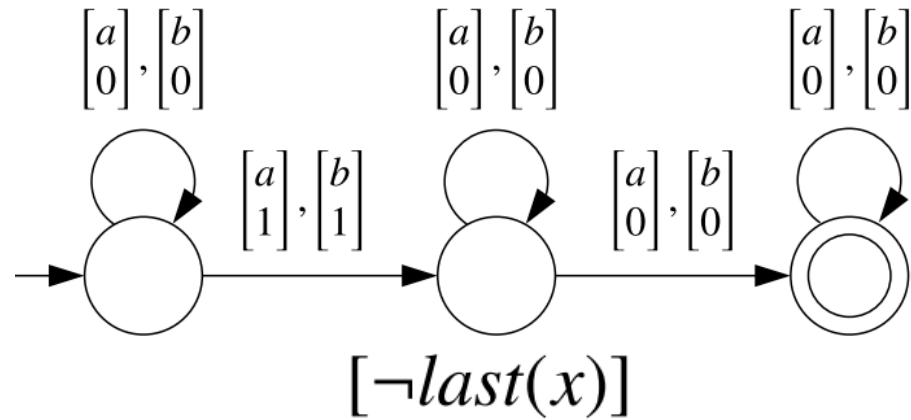
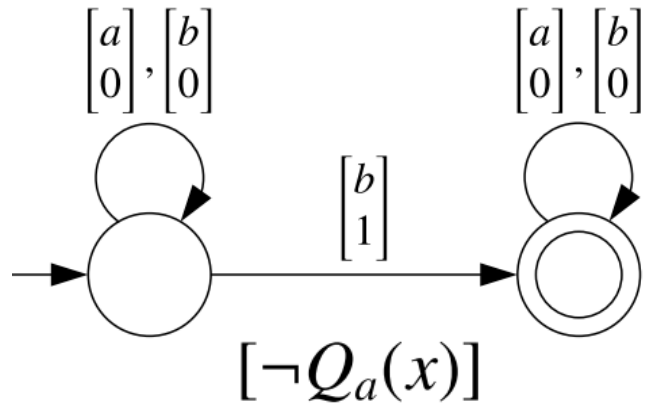
$[\neg Q_a(x)]$



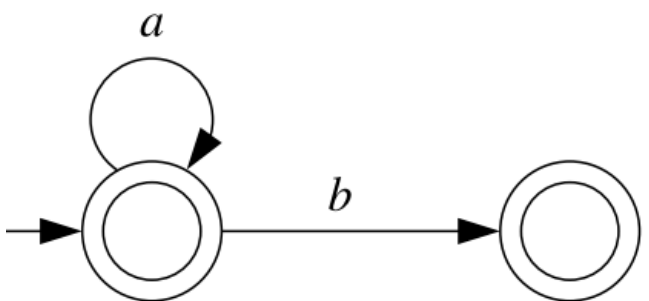
$Enc(Q_a(x))$



$$[\neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))]$$

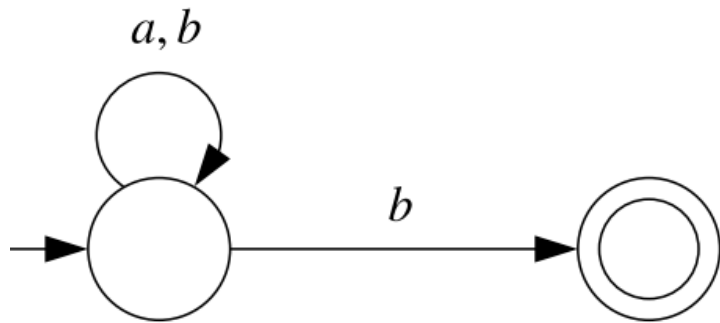


$$[\exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))]$$

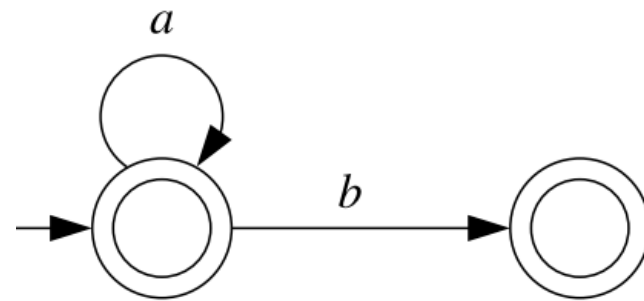


$$[\neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))]$$

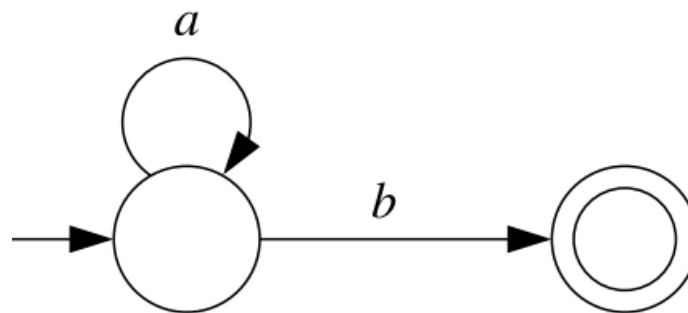
$$[\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x)) \wedge \neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))]$$



$$[\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x))]$$



$$[\neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))]$$



$$[\exists x (\text{last}(x) \wedge Q_b(x)) \wedge \neg \exists x (\neg \text{last}(x) \wedge \neg Q_a(x))]$$