

# KLEENE ALGEBRA WITH TESTS

by Alexandra Silva

= applications to program equivalence and verification =

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{while } a \& b \text{ do} \\ \quad P; \\ \text{while } a \text{ do} \\ \quad P; \\ \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{while } a \& b \text{ do} \\ \quad P; \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \stackrel{?}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{while } a \text{ do} \\ \quad \text{if } b \text{ then} \\ \quad P \\ \quad \text{else} \\ \quad Q \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

two programs that both have tests in red  
and programs /expressions like assignment in blue

are they doing the same thing? are they equal?

we will cover a way to decide this! for

uninterpreted  
simple imperative  
programs

regular expressions were introduced  
to reason about control flow

we will take an algebraic approach w/ regular expressions

## Regular expressions (Syntax)

for talking about Regular languages (Semantics)

denotational  
Correspondence by Kleene

Deterministic Finite Automata (Semantics)

operational)

$RE \ni e ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid a \in A \mid e; e \mid e + e \mid e^*$

$\underbrace{\quad}_{\text{basis elements/}} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\text{finite composition}}$   
constants

$$[\![e]\!] : 2^{A^*} = \mathcal{P}(A^*)$$

set of words

## Denotational Semantics

$$[\![\emptyset]\!] = \emptyset \quad \text{no behavior}$$

$$[\![\epsilon]\!] = \{\epsilon\} \quad \text{empty word}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} [\![a]\!] = \{a\} \\ \text{syntax} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{word in } A^* \text{ (semantics)} \end{array}$$

$$[\![e + f]\!] = [\![e]\!] \cup [\![f]\!]$$

$$[\![e ; f]\!] = [\![e]\!] \bullet [\![f]\!] \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{elements} \\ \text{of } e \text{ is followed by } f \end{array}$$

$$[\![e^*]\!] = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} [\![e]\!]^n \quad \text{iterate } e \text{ as many times as one can}$$

$$u, v : 2^{A^*} \quad \begin{array}{l} (\text{sets of}) \\ \text{concatenating words} \end{array}$$

$$u \bullet v = \{ \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{word}}}{uv} \mid u \in U, v \in V \} \quad \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \\ \text{concatenation} \end{array}$$

*~w*  
Semantics  
of concatenation

$$V^0 = \{\epsilon\} \quad \text{Semantics of star}$$

$$V^{n+1} = V^n \bullet V$$

## Examples of Regular Expressions

$$(1+a); (1+b) \mapsto \{\epsilon, a, b, ab\}$$

$$(a+b)^* \mapsto \{a, b\}^*$$

$$(a^* b)^* a^* \mapsto \{a, b\}^* \text{ o!}$$

$$(a+b)^*$$

$\boxed{|||}$  → equal in the sense that their denotations are the same  
 $(a^* b)^* a^*$  called denesting! related to compiler optimizations  
can apply this to go from one program to another

$0+e \stackrel{=} e$  would like to reason at the program level, rather  
than denotational level

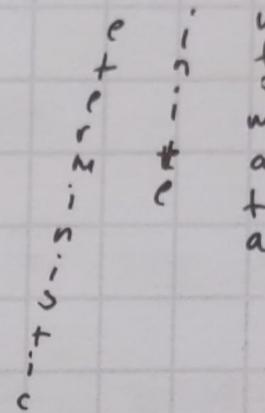
is there a finite number of equations that allow program  
refinement (i.e. reason about syntax level)?

## Kleene's Theorem

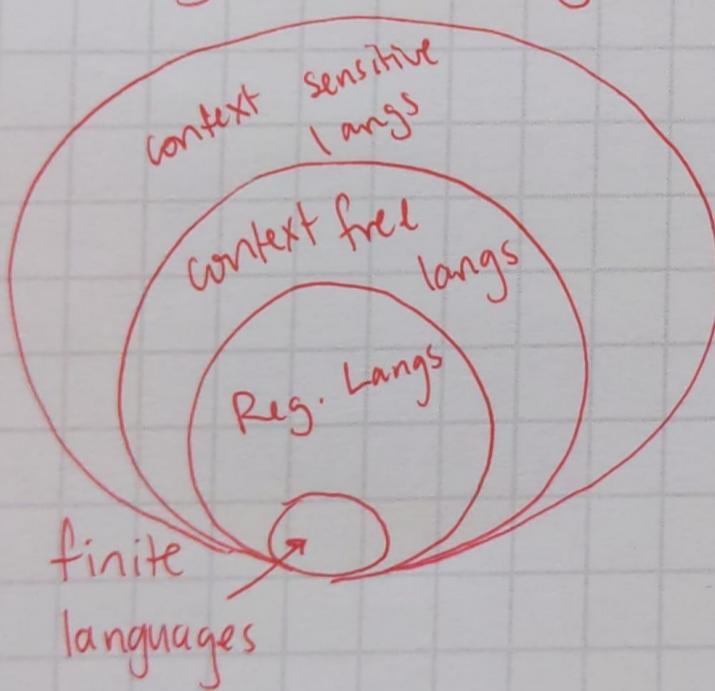
Let  $L$  be a (regular) language, then the following are equivalent

*implied by*

- ①  $L = [e]$  for some regular exp.  $e$
- ②  $L$  is accepted by a DFA



## Chomsky Hierarchy



Reg. Langs can be defined w/o respect to reg. exps.

can be defined using regular sets

Syntax was set up to emulate/  
give rise to  
regular sets

exists research between the  
image of the syntax + regular set  
↳ (rational)

① → ② by Brzozowski

Syntactic way of building the automaton from expression  
via derivatives (small step semantics)

DFA

$F : S \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$   $S$  - finite set of states  
↳ is a state final?  $1 = \text{"bool"}$

$t : S \rightarrow S^A$   
↳ transitions       $\equiv$  deterministic, one state

need corresponding functions for reg. exps!

$E : RE \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  → is this a final state, i.e. does it accept empty word!  
 $D_E : RE \rightarrow RE^A$  → next state, i.e. takes one letter off!

$$E(0) = 0 \quad (\text{false}) = E(a) = 0$$

$$E(1) = 1 \quad (\text{true}) = E(e^*) = 1$$

$$E(e+f) = E(e) \vee E(f)$$

$$E(e;f) = E(e) \wedge E(f)$$

$$E(e^*) = 1$$

Given language  $L : \{0, 1\}^*$   
derivative  $L_a = \{ \cancel{au} \mid au \in L \}$   
by  $a$  is ↗

$D_a : RE \rightarrow RE$

$$\frac{X \rightarrow X^a}{(X \rightarrow X)_{a \in A}}$$

can do bc  
A finite

$$D_a(0) = 0$$

$$D_a(1) = 0 \text{ if } a=b \text{ then } 1$$

$$D_a(b) = \begin{cases} a \neq b \text{ then } 0 \end{cases}$$

$$D_a(e; f) = D_a(e); f \quad (\text{removed } a \text{ from } e)$$

$$+ \\ E(e); D_a(f) \\ \text{if } 0; - \\ = 0$$

key idea!  
 $2 \leftrightarrow RE$   
 embeds to

can write as case split

$$\begin{cases} D_a(e); f \boxed{\text{if } E(e)=0} \\ D_a(e); f + D_a(f) \boxed{\text{if } E(f)=1} \end{cases}$$

corresponds to if-then-else (<sup>see</sup> tomorrow)

$$D_a(e+f) = D_a(e) + D_a(f)$$

$$D_a(e^*) = D(e); e^*$$

not quite a DFA though! need start states! and finiteness!

can pick  $e$  as our start state, then need to argue that the set we reach from  $e$  is finite

is this true? almost! let's see →

$$e = (a^*)^*$$

$$\mathcal{D}_a(e) = \underbrace{(1; a^*); (a^*)^*}_{(1; a^*)}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_a(\mathcal{D}_a(e)) = (0a^* + 1a^*)a^{**} + \underbrace{(1a^*)(a^*)^*}_{(1a^*)}$$

this expression keeps showing up  
for each derivative!

$$\mathcal{D}_a(\mathcal{D}_a(\mathcal{D}_a(e))) = \dots + (1a^*)(a^*)^* + (2a^*)(a^*)^*$$

but ... this is equivalent to previous derivative!

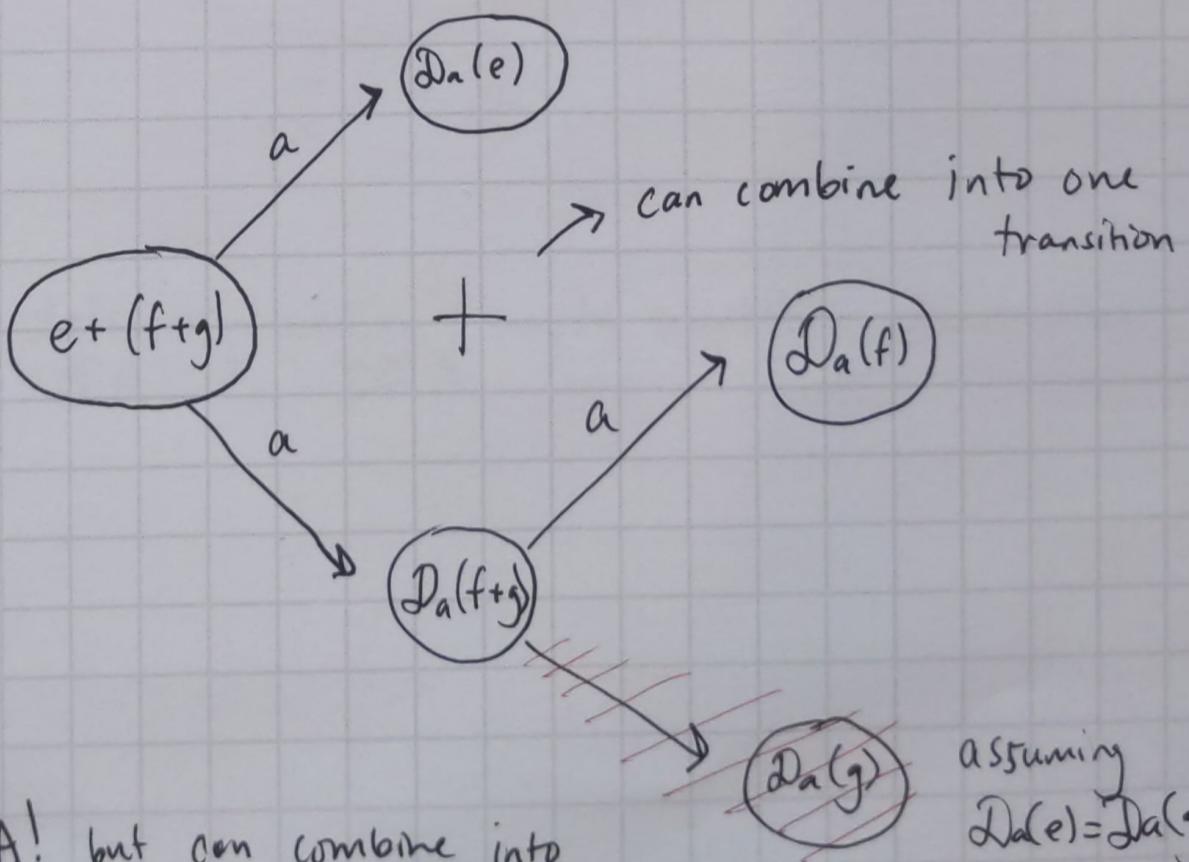
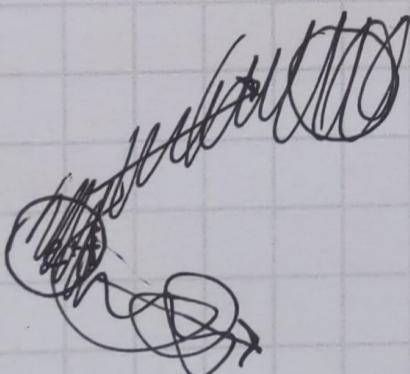
to get the finiteness, need ★ equivalence classes of derivatives  
★ need to delete repeated expressions in a +

modulo ACI - associativity, commutativity, idempotence

$$\mathcal{D}_a : RE \rightarrow P(RE)$$

can write  $\mathcal{D}_a(e+f) = \{\mathcal{D}_a(e), \mathcal{D}_a(f)\}$

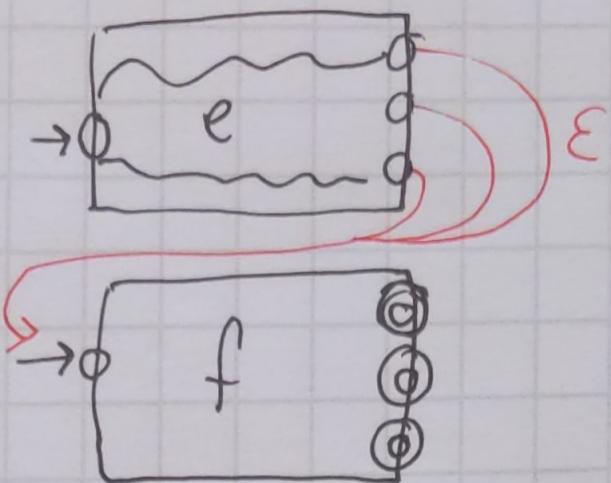
get ACI for free! shown by Antimirov  
no need to reason syntactically i.e. modulo ACI



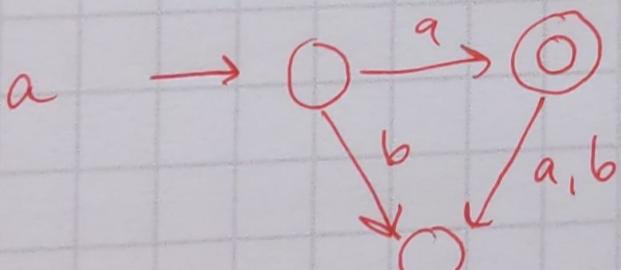
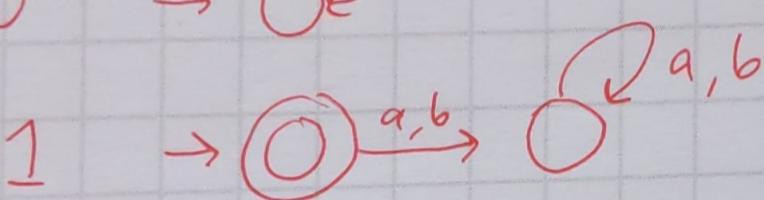
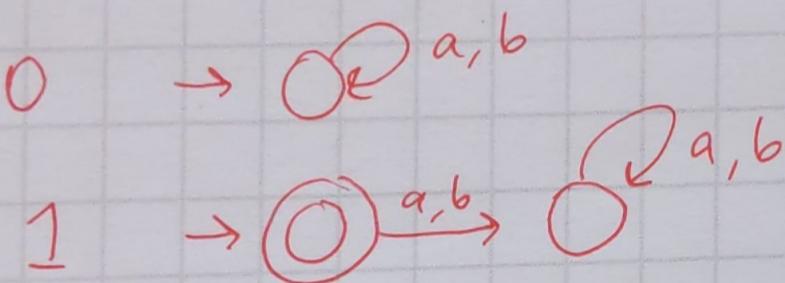
but still NFA! but can combine into  
one transition

## Thompson construction

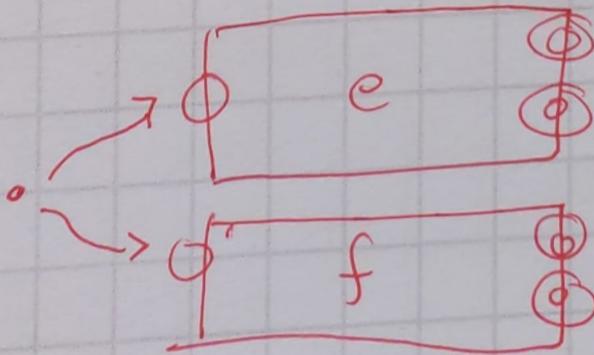
$e ; f$



concatenate two  
automaton !



$e + f$



can use determinization / empty transition elimination  
to turn NFA to DFA