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.
 - for every two variables $x, y \in V$ we introduce the formula x < y with intuitive meaning: **position** x is to the left of position y.

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

$$\begin{split} \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 &\coloneqq \neg (\neg \varphi_1 \vee \neg \varphi_2) \\ \varphi_1 \to \varphi_2 &\coloneqq \neg \varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2 \\ \varphi_1 \leftrightarrow \varphi_2 &\coloneqq (\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2) \vee (\neg \varphi_1 \wedge \neg \varphi_2) \\ \forall x \ \varphi &\coloneqq \neg \exists x \neg \varphi \end{split}$$

Abbreviations

$$first(x) \coloneqq \neg \exists y \ y < x$$

$$last(x) \coloneqq \neg \exists y \ x < y$$

$$y = x + 1 \coloneqq x < y \land \neg \exists z \ (x < z \land z < y)$$

$$y = x + 2 \coloneqq \exists z \ (z = x + 1 \land y = z + 1)$$
...
$$y = x + k \coloneqq \exists z \ (z = x + 1 \land y = z + (k - 1))$$

$$x < k \coloneqq \forall y \forall z \ (first(y) \land z = y + k - 1) \rightarrow x < z)$$

$$last < k \coloneqq \forall x \ (last(x) \rightarrow x < k)$$

• "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."

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

• "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."

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

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

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

• "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."

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

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

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

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

$$\forall x \left(Q_a(x) \to \forall y \left(y = x + 1 \to Q_b(y) \right) \right)$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

• "Between every *a* and every later *b* there is a *c*."

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

First-order logic on words: Semantics

- Formulas are interpreted on pairs (w, v) called interpretations, where
 - -w is a word, and
 - ν assigns positions to the free variables of the formula (and maybe to others too).
- 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:

$$\begin{array}{ll} (w, \mathcal{V}) \vDash Q_a(x) & \text{iff} \quad w[\mathcal{V}(x)] = a \\ (w, \mathcal{V}) \vDash x < y & \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{V}(x) < \mathcal{V}(y) \\ (w, \mathcal{V}) \vDash \neg \varphi & \text{iff} \quad w \nvDash \varphi \\ (w, \mathcal{V}) \vDash \varphi_1 \lor \varphi_2 & \text{iff} \quad w \vDash \varphi_1 \text{ or } w \vDash \varphi_2 \\ (w, \mathcal{V}) \vDash \exists x \varphi & \text{iff} \quad w \neq \epsilon \text{ and } (w, \mathcal{V}[i/x]) \vDash \varphi_2 \end{array}$$

for some $1 \le i \le |w|$

• Observe that the empty word does not satisfy any formula of the form $\exists x \phi$

- 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
 - Two formulas are equivalent if they have the same interpretations and the same models

Can FOL express non-regular languages? Can FOL 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 FOdefinable 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
 - $x < y + k \quad x > y + k$
 - k < last k > last

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

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

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

 $L(f_1 \lor f_2) = L(f_1) \cup L(f_2)$ 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

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

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 $\overline{L(f)}$

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

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

- QF(x < y) = x < y + 0
- $QF(\neg \varphi) = \operatorname{neg}(QF(\varphi))$
- $QF(\varphi_1 \lor \varphi_2) = QF(\varphi_1) \lor QF(\varphi_2)$
- $QF(\varphi_1 \land \varphi_2) = QF(\varphi_1) \land QF(\varphi_2)$
- $QF(\exists x \ \varphi) =$
 - Put $QF(\varphi)$ in disjunctive normal form. Assume $QF(\varphi) = (\varphi_1 \lor ... \lor \varphi_n)$, 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 (MSOL)

- 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 formula: $x \in X$
- New quantification: $\exists X \phi$

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 MSOL

- 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"

• $\operatorname{second}(x) = \exists y (\operatorname{first}(y) \land x = y + 1)$

• Even(X) = $\forall y \left(x \in X \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \text{second}(x) \\ \vee \\ \exists y (x = y + 2 \land y \in X) \end{pmatrix} \right)$ • EvenLength = $\exists X \begin{pmatrix} \text{Even}(X) \\ \land \\ \forall x (\text{last}(x) \rightarrow x \in X) \end{pmatrix}$

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

$$\exists X \begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{Block}(X) \land \mathsf{Boc}(X) \land \mathsf{Aod}(X) \\ \land \\ \mathsf{Alt}(X) \land \mathsf{Fa}(X) \land \mathsf{Lb}(X) \end{pmatrix}$$

• Before X there are only c's

 $\mathsf{Block}(X) := \forall x \in X \ \forall y \in X \ \forall z \ ((x < z \land z < y) \rightarrow z \in X)$

• Before X there are only c's

 $\mathsf{Block}(X) := \forall x \in X \ \forall y \in X \ \forall z \ ((x < z \land z < y) \rightarrow z \in X)$

• Before X there are only c's

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

 $\mathsf{Block}(X) := \forall x \in X \ \forall y \in X \ \forall z \ ((x < z \land z < y) \rightarrow z \in X)$

• Before X there are only c's

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

Alt (X) :=
$$\forall x \in X \forall y \in X$$

 $\begin{pmatrix} y = x + 1 \\ \rightarrow \\ (Q_a(x) \land Q_b(y)) \lor (Q_b(x) \land Q_a(y)) \end{pmatrix}$

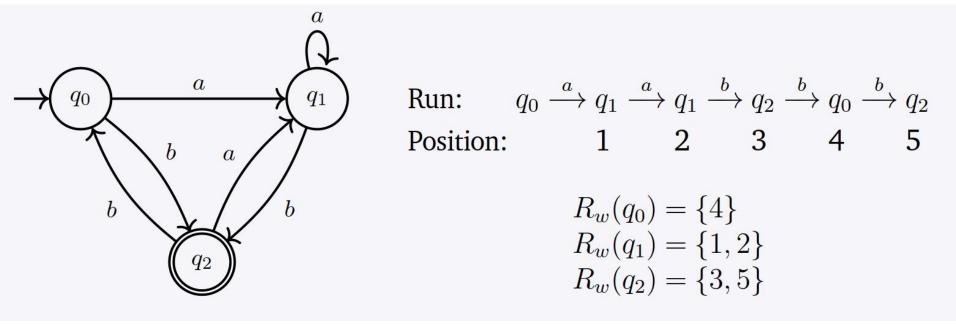
Every regular language is expressible in MSOL

- 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 ∈ L iff w ∈ L(φ) 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 ends in an accepting state

- Fix a regular language *L*.
- Fix a DFA A with states q_0, \ldots, q_n recognizing L.
- Fix a nonempty word $w = a_1 a_2 \dots a_m$.
- Let R(q) be the set of positions *i* such that after reading $a_1a_2 \dots a_i$ the automaton A is in state q.
- We have:

A accepts w iff $m \in R(q)$ for some final state q.



 Assume we can construct a formula Visits (X_0, \ldots, X_n) which is true for (w, \mathcal{J}) iff $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}(X_0) = R(q_0), \dots, \boldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}(X_n) = R(q_n)$ • Then (w, \mathcal{I}) satisfies the formula $\forall X_0 \cdots \forall X_n \; \forall x \; \left((\text{Visits}(X_0, \dots, X_n) \land \text{last}(x)) \to \bigvee_{q_i \in F} x \in X_i \right)$

iff the state after the last position is accepting, and we easily get a formula expressing *L*.

- To construct Visits(X₀,...,X_n) we observe that the sets R(q) are the unique sets satisfying
 - a) $1 \in R(\delta(q_0, a_1))$ After reading the first letter the DFA is in state $\delta(q_0, a_1)$.
 - b) If $i \in R(q)$ then $i + 1 \in R(q')$ iff $\delta(q, a_{i+1}) = q'$ The sets "match" δ .
 - We give formulas for a) and b).

Formula for a):

$$\operatorname{InX}_{i}(x) := \left(x \in X_{i} \land \bigwedge_{j \neq i} x \notin X_{j} \right)$$
$$\operatorname{Init}(X_{0}, \dots, X_{n}) := \forall x \bigwedge_{a \in \Sigma} \left((\operatorname{first}(x) \land Q_{a}(x)) \to \operatorname{InX}_{\delta(0,a)}(x) \right)$$

Formula for b):

 $\operatorname{Respect}(X_0,\ldots,X_n) :=$

$$\forall x \; \forall y \; \left(y = x + 1 \to \bigwedge_{\substack{a \in \Sigma, \\ i \in \{0, \dots, n\}}} (Q_a(x) \land x \in X_i) \to \operatorname{InX}_{\delta(i,a)}(y) \right)$$

Every language expressible in MSOL is regular

An interpretation of a formula is a pair (w, V₁, V₂) consisting of a word w and assignments V₁, V₂ to the free first and second-order variables (and perhaps to others).

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

• We encode interpretations as words.

Y: 1 0

- Given a formula with *n* free variables, we encode an interpretation $(w, \mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2)$ as a word $enc(w, \mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2)$ over the alphabet $\Sigma \times \{0,1\}^n$.
- The language of the formula φ , denoted by $L(\varphi)$, is given by

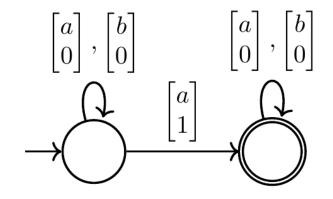
 $L(\varphi) := \{enc(w, \mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2) \mid (w, \mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2) \vDash \varphi\}$

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

Case $\varphi = Q_a(x)$

 φ has one free variable, and so its interpretations are encoded as words over Σ × {0,1}

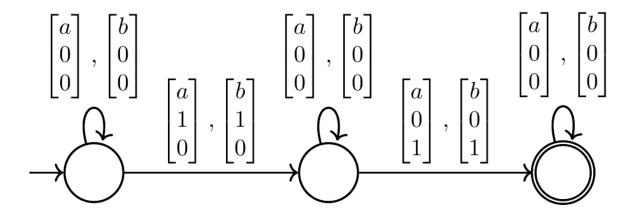
$$\mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} a_k \\ \beta_k \end{bmatrix} : & \begin{array}{c} k \ge 1; \\ a_1 \dots a_k \in \Sigma^k, \beta_1 \dots \beta_k \in \{0, 1\}^k; \text{ and} \\ \beta_i = 1 \text{ for a single index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\} \\ \text{ such that } a_i = a. \end{cases}$$



Case $\varphi = x < y$

• φ has two free variables, and so its interpretations are encoded as words over $\Sigma \times \{0,1\}^2$

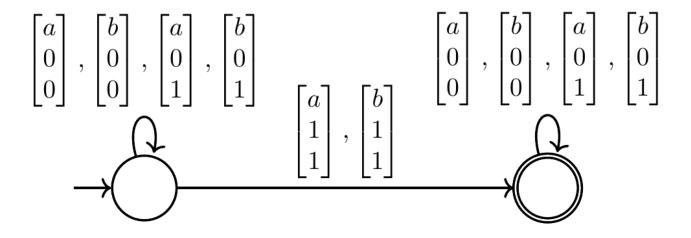
$$\mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \beta_1 \\ \gamma_1 \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} a_k \\ \beta_k \\ \gamma_k \end{bmatrix} & \vdots & \beta_i = 1 \text{ for a single index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}; \\ \gamma_j = 1 \text{ for a single index } j \in \{1, \dots, k\}; \text{ and} \\ i < j. \end{cases}$$



Case $\varphi = x \in X$

• φ has two free variables, and so its interpretations are encoded as words over $\Sigma \times \{0,1\}^2$

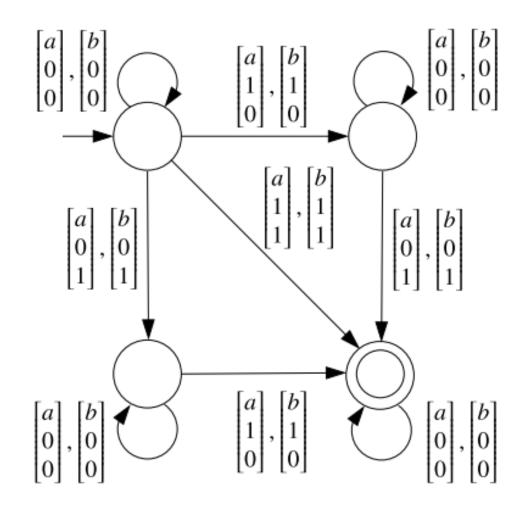
$$\mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \beta_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} a_k \\ \beta_k \\ c_k \end{bmatrix} & \vdots & \begin{bmatrix} k \ge 1, \\ a_1 \dots a_k \in \Sigma^k, \beta_1 \dots \beta_k, \gamma_1 \dots \gamma_k \in \{0, 1\}^k; \\ \beta_i = 1 \text{ for a single index } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}; \text{ and} \\ \beta_i = 1 \text{ implies } \gamma_i = 1 \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}. \end{cases}$$



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(φ) = {x, y}

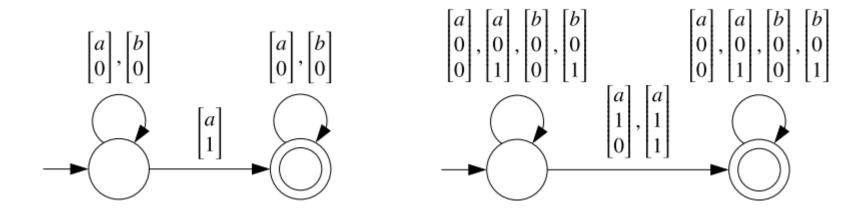


Case $\varphi = \varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2$

- Then free(φ_1) = free(φ_1) U 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.
 - $L(\varphi) = (L_1 \cup L_2) \cap Enc(\varphi)$, where $Enc(\varphi)$ is the set of encodings of all interpretations of φ .

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 :

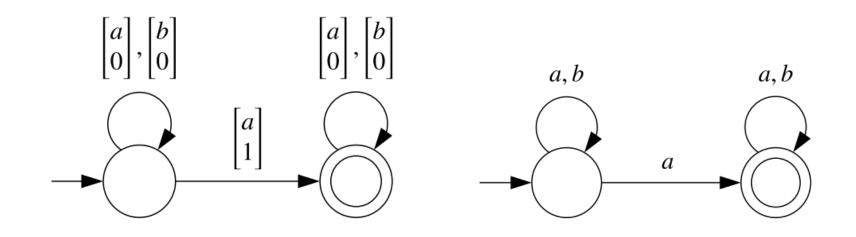


Cases $\varphi = \exists x \psi$ and $\varphi = \exists X \psi$

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

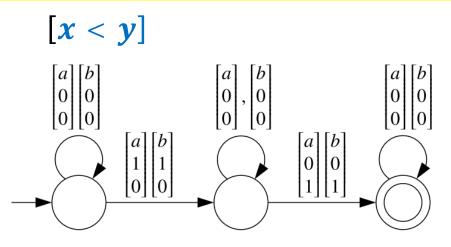
Example: $\varphi = Q_a(x)$

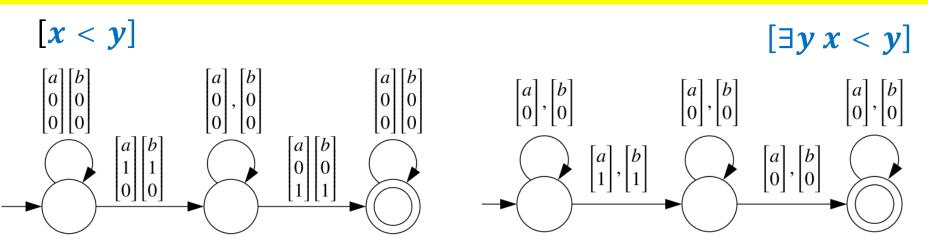
• Automata for $Q_a(x)$ and $\exists x Q_a(x)$

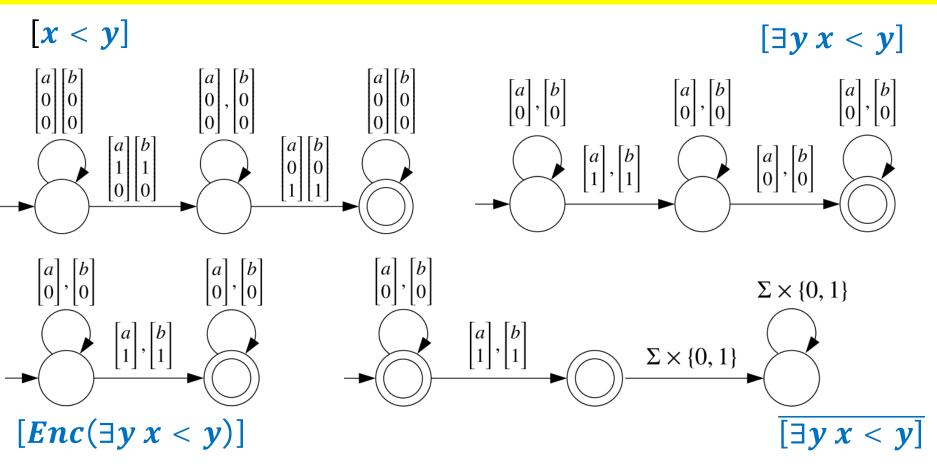


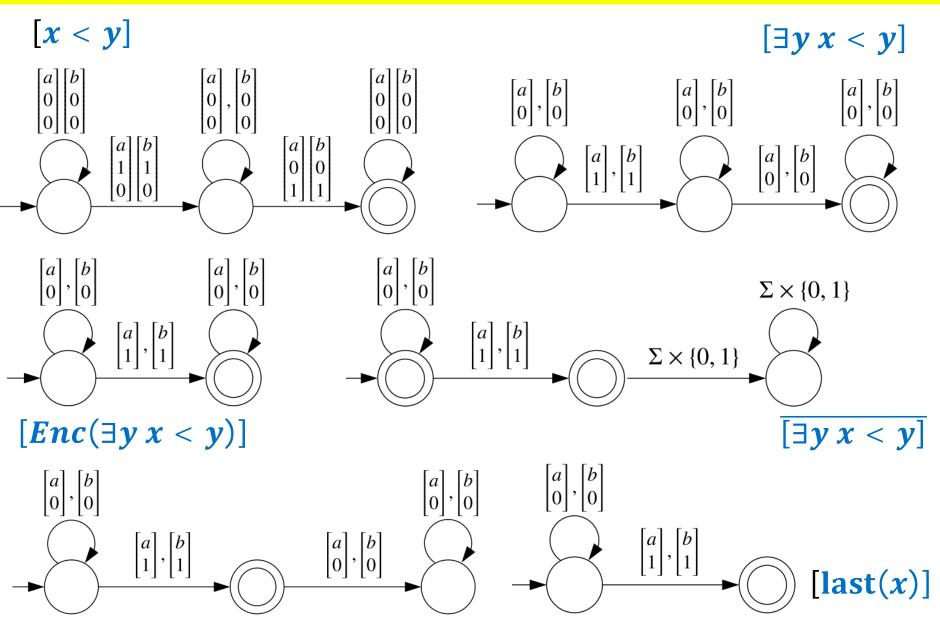
The mega-example

- We compute an automaton for $\exists x (\text{last}(x) \land Q_b(x)) \land \forall x (\neg \text{last}(x) \rightarrow Q_a(x))$
- 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 $\exists x (last(x) \land Q_b(x))$ and $\neg \exists x (\neg last(x) \land \neg Q_a(x))$
 - 3. compute a DFA for the complete formula.
- We denote the DFA for a formula ψ by $[\psi]$.

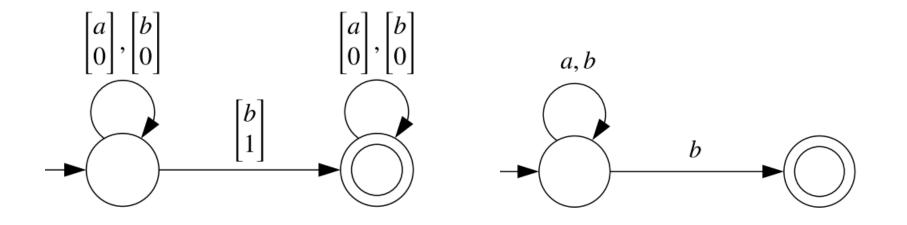








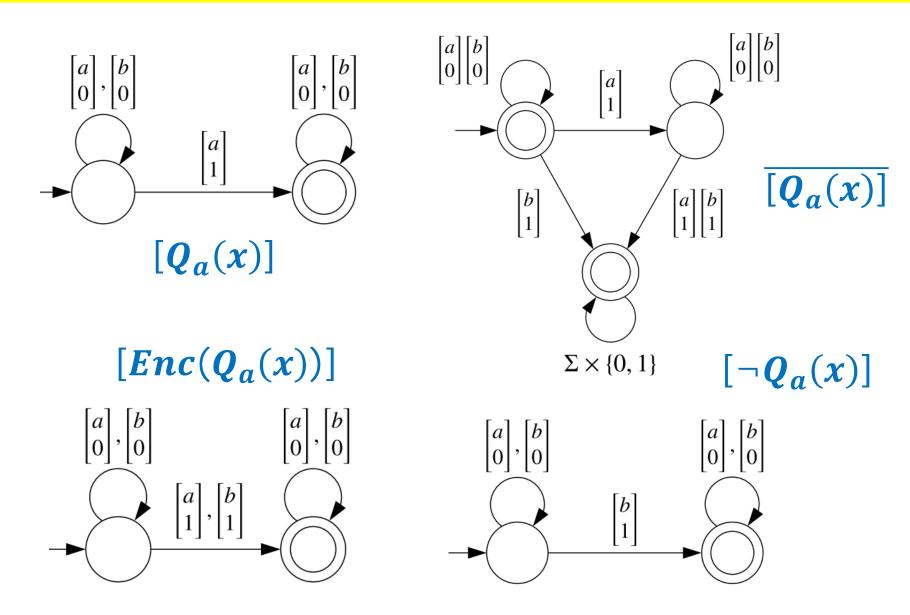
 $\left[\exists x \left(\mathsf{last}(x) \land Q_b(x) \right) \right]$



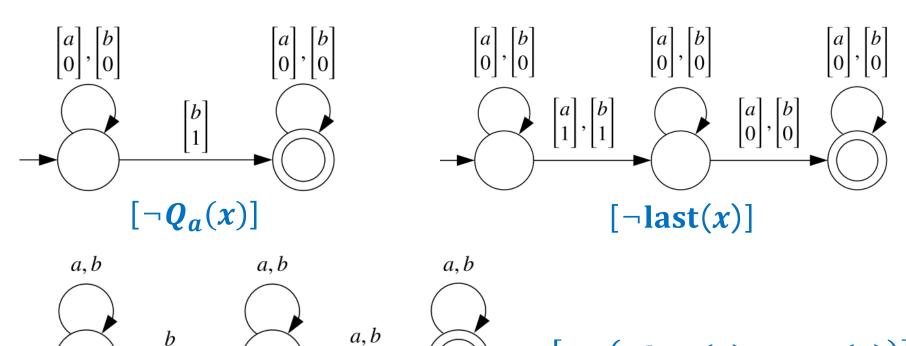
 $[\boldsymbol{Q}_{\boldsymbol{b}}(\boldsymbol{x})]$

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



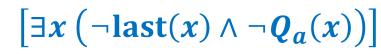


 $[\neg \exists x (\neg \operatorname{last}(x) \land \neg Q_a(x))]$



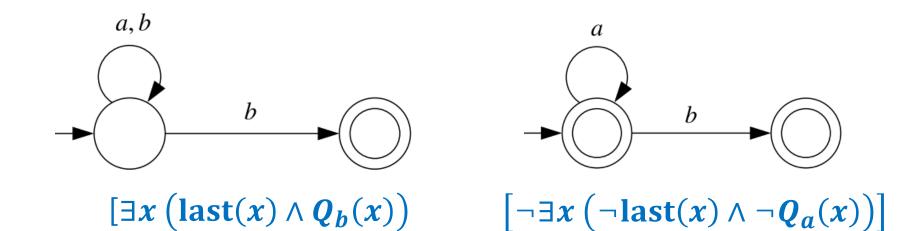
a

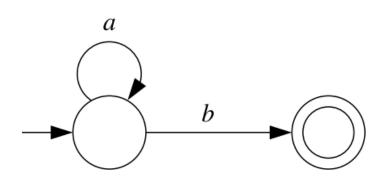
b



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

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





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