Automata Modelling and Simulation: from the Zen Toolkit to Eilenberg Machines

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Zen toolkit for computational linguistics

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- Written in the **OCaml** programming language.

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  - Purely applicative data-structure.
  - States are adressed using a deterministic part.
  - Non-deterministic transitions and loops are encoded using virtual adresses.
  - Annotations for transductions, tagging...

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    - Non-deterministic transitions and loops are encoded using virtual adresses.
    - Annotations for transductions, tagging...
- A reactive process called the **reactive engine** performs recognitions or synthesis or analysis...

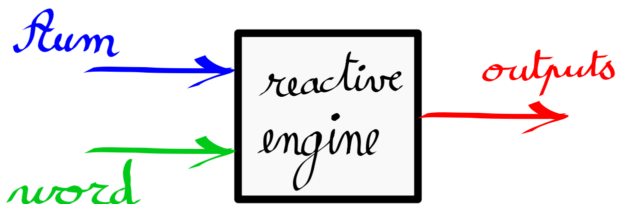
Reminder: tries

We recall the structure of lexical trees or tries. A lexicon uses tries to store words letter by letter. Common initial substrings are shared. Nodes are marked with a boolean indicating membership.
Tries may be seen as deterministic finite state automata recognizing finite languages. Furthermore their sharing as dags yields the corresponding minimal fsa.
More generally, finite state automata state spaces may be represented as annotated tries, where the skeleton trie serves to address the states, and non-deterministic transitions are annotations, cycles being encoded by virtual adresses. This way, general finite-state machines may be represented applicatively, and minimized as dags.

References

- Sanskrit site: `http://pauillac.inria.fr/~huet/SKT/`
- Sandhi Analysis paper:
  `http://pauillac.inria.fr/~huet/FREE/tagger.ps`
- Course notes:
  `http://pauillac.inria.fr/~huet/ZEN/esslli.ps`
- Course slides:
  `http://pauillac.inria.fr/~huet/ZEN/Trento.ps`
- ZEN library:
  `http://pauillac.inria.fr/~huet/ZEN/zen.tar`
- Objective Caml: `http://caml.inria.fr/ocaml/`

An aum Interpreter



Sanskrit: two stages of Automata

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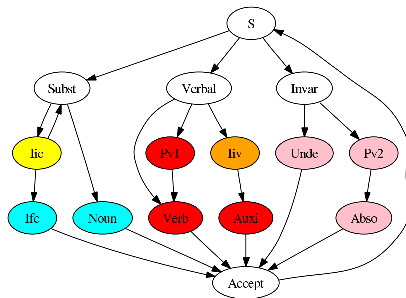

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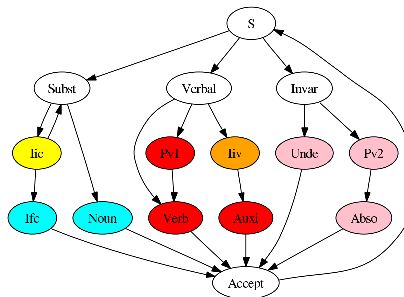

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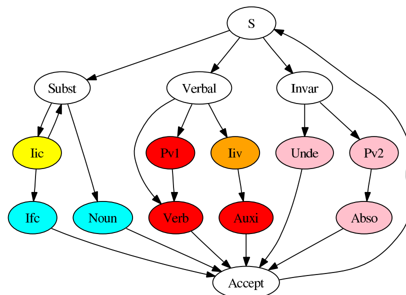
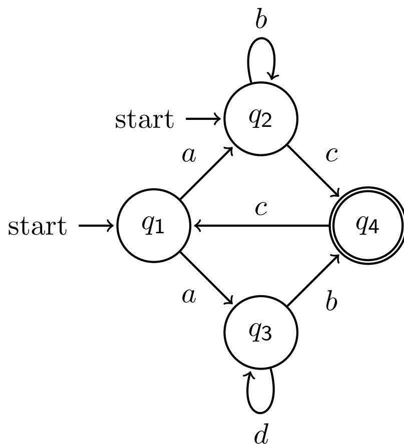


- Now the reactive engine deals with 2 different automata controls.

Idea! Each stage should be described as an instance of a unique model since they have the same nature.

The Eilenberg Machines Model

Built on Non-deterministic Finite Automata (NFA)



Monoid automata generalize NFA

Let $\mathcal{S} = (S, \cdot, 1)$ be a monoid, An $\mathcal{S}$-automaton $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \delta, I, T)$: Q finite set, δ function $Q \rightarrow \wp(S \times Q)$, $I \subseteq Q$, $T \subseteq Q$.
One defines:

- **path** : $p = q_0 \xrightarrow{s_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{s_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{s_n} q_n$
- **label of a path** : $lbl(p) = s_1 \cdot ... \cdot s_n$
- **valid path** : $vp(\mathcal{A})$, $q_0 \in I$ et $q_n \in T$
- The **behavior** of the automaton is the set of all labels of valid paths: $|\mathcal{A}| = \{lbl(p) \mid p \in vp(\mathcal{A})\}$.

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Two standard models of monoid automata:

$\mathcal{S} = \Sigma^*$	Σ^*-automaton	behavior = language
$\mathcal{S} = \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*$	$\Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*$-automaton	behavior = relation on words

The Relational Model

Let $\mathcal{D}$ be an abstract set, for the data. A relation ρ from $\mathcal{D}$ to $\mathcal{D}$ is a subset of $\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}$. A relation is considered as a model of non-deterministic computation.

The set of endo-relations, written $Rel(\mathcal{D})$, is a monoid:

- Composition : $\rho_1 \circ \rho_2 = \{ \ (x, z) \mid \exists y, \ x\rho_1 y \wedge y\rho_2 z \ \}$
- $Id = \{ \ (x, x) \mid x \in \mathcal{D} \ \}$
- $\langle Rel(\mathcal{D}), \ \circ, \ Id\rangle$ is a monoid.

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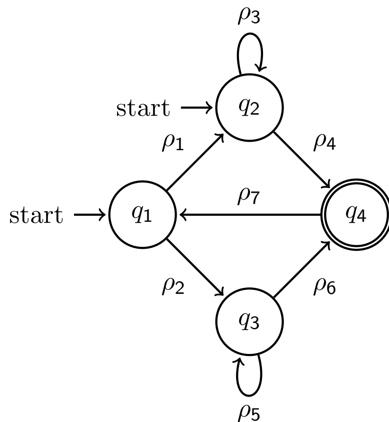
- $\langle Rel(\mathcal{D}), \ \circ, \ Id \rangle$ is a monoid.
- Union : $\rho_1 \cup \rho_2 = \{(x, y) \mid x \rho_1 y \vee x \rho_2 y\}$

Eilenberg Machines



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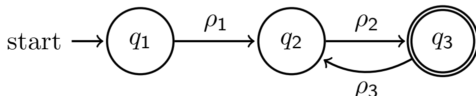
The **characteristic relation** of the machine $\mathcal{M}$ is the relation **union** of all labels of valid paths :

$$||\mathcal{M}|| = \bigcup_{\rho \in |\mathcal{M}|} \rho$$

For example...

Let $\mathcal{M}$ be the Eilenberg machine:

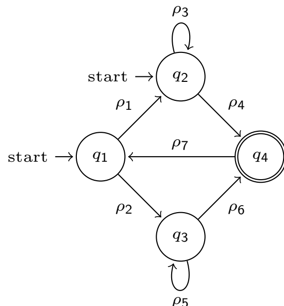


$$|\mathcal{M}| = \{\rho_1\rho_2,\ \rho_1\rho_2\rho_3\rho_2,\ \rho_1\rho_2\rho_3\rho_2\rho_3\rho_2,\ \cdots\}$$

$$||\mathcal{M}|| = \rho_1\rho_2\ \cup\ \rho_1\rho_2\rho_3\rho_2\ \cup\ \rho_1\rho_2\rho_3\rho_2\rho_3\rho_2\ \cup \cdots$$

A **modular** computational model

Let $\mathcal{M}$ be an Eilenberg machine, its characteristic relation $||\mathcal{M}||$ belongs to $Rel(\mathcal{D})$. Thus $||\mathcal{M}||$ can be used as a relation labelling another Eilenberg machine.



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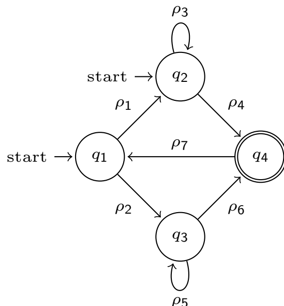
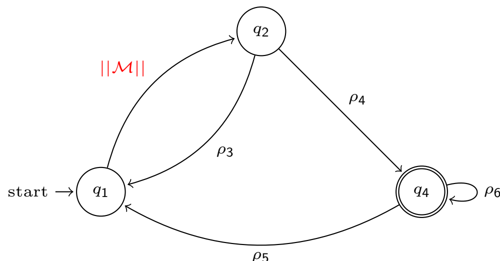




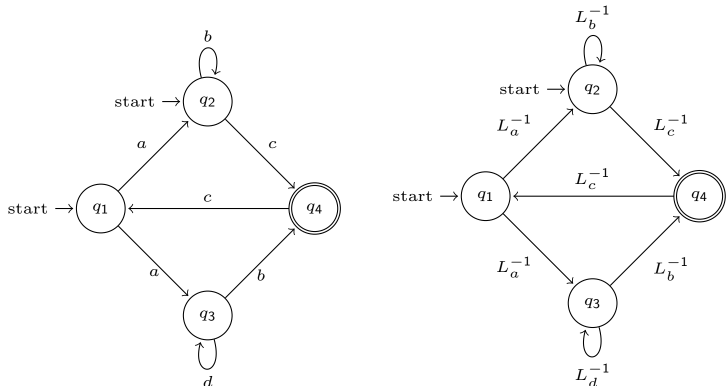
Automata, transducers, pushdown automata and Turing machines

Automata, rational transducers, pushdown automata and Turing machines have in common a finite state control that uses tapes and stacks, on which they can read, write and move on... Let tapes be specified as data $\mathcal{D} = \Sigma^*$ then operations are partial functions from $\mathcal{D}$ to $\mathcal{D}$ and thus also as relations:

- $L_\sigma^{-1} = \{ \ (\sigma w, w) \mid w \in \Sigma^* \ \}$
- $R_\sigma^{-1} = \{ \ (w\sigma, w) \mid w \in \Sigma^* \ \}$
- $L_\sigma = \{ \ (w, \sigma w) \mid w \in \Sigma^* \ \}$
- $R_\sigma = \{ \ (w, w\sigma) \mid w \in \Sigma^* \ \}$

The Word problem for Automata

A word of a rational language L defined by an automaton is recognized by a machine $\mathcal{M}$ is simply obtained by a relabelling :



Then $||\mathcal{M}|| = \{(ww', w') \mid w \in L\}$. We refine $||\mathcal{M}||$ with a relation $\rho = \{(\epsilon, \epsilon)\}$:

$$||\mathcal{M}|| \circ \rho = \{(w, \epsilon) \mid w \in L\}$$

Automata, Transducers, Pushdown automata, Turing machines

What data domain $\mathcal{D}$?
What relations ρ labelling the machine?

	$\mathcal{D}$	ρ		
NFA	Σ^*	L_σ^{-1}		
ϵ-NFA	Σ^*	$L_{\sigma^\epsilon}^{-1}$		
Transducer	$\Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*$	$L_{\sigma^\epsilon}^{-1}$	$\times$	R_{γ^ϵ}
Realtime Trans	$\Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*$	L_σ^{-1}	$\times$	R_w
PDA (Pushdown)	$\Sigma^* \times \Gamma^*$	L_σ^{-1}	$\times$	$(L_\gamma^{-1} \cup L_\gamma)$
Turing Machines	$\mathbb{B}^* \times \mathbb{B}^*$	$(L_b^{-1} \cup L_b)$	$\times$	$(R_b^{-1} \cup R_b)$

Samuel Eilenberg

Samuel Eilenberg, Marcel-Paul Schützenberger, Seymour Gingsburg (ICALP 1972 at IRIA)

Simulation of Eilenberg Machines

Simulation ?

- Given a machine $\mathcal{M}$ and an "input" d of $\mathcal{D}$, we want to compute the set of solutions:

$$\{\ d' \mid d \xrightarrow{||\mathcal{M}||} d'\ \}$$

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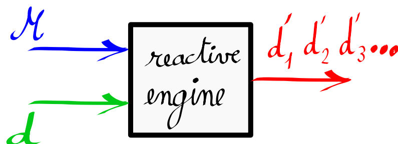
- Simulation adapting *Zen*'s **reactive engine**. The reactive engine enumerates the set of solutions.



Finite Eilenberg Machines

Let $\mathcal{M} = (Q, \delta, I, T)$, we define:

- **edge**: $(d, q) \xrightarrow{\rho} (d', q')$
  with $(\rho, q') \in \delta(q)$ and $d' \in \rho(d)$.
- **path**: $p = (d_0, q_0) \xrightarrow{\rho_1} (d_1, q_1) \xrightarrow{\rho_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{\rho_n} (d_n, q_n)$

Definition (Finite Eilenberg Machines)

1. *Locally finite condition: For all relation ρ labelling $\mathcal{M}$, ρ is a locally finite relation: for all data d, the set $\rho(d)$ is finite.*
2. *Nœtherian condition: The length of any path is necessarily finite.*

$$(d_0, q_0) \xrightarrow{\rho_1} (d_1, q_1) \xrightarrow{\rho_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{\rho_n} \cdots$$

Proposition (Koenig's Lemma)

*The characteristic relation $||\mathcal{M}||$ is a **locally finite relation**.*

About the Nœtherian condition

There are two cases for which the Nœtherian condition is satisfied :

- The state graph contains no cycle : the length of paths is bounded by the length of the automaton path.
- There is a Nœtherian relation $>$ on $\mathcal{D}$ such that for all relation ρ of the machine, for all data d and d',

$$d' \in \rho(d) \Rightarrow d > d' .$$

About finite automata as finite Eilenberg machines

First, relations are always locally finite.

But the second condition shall be discussed:

- DFA OK. (The tape decreases after each transition)
- NFA OK. (The tape decreases after each transition)
- ϵ-NFA It depends.

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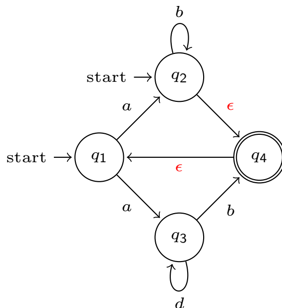

Design choices

For simulating Eilenberg machines in a programming language we need:

- Polymorphism: for $\mathcal{D}$, the abstract data domain.
- Relations of $Rel(\mathcal{D})$ may be seen as functions thanks to the following isomorphism:

$$\rho \in \wp(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}) = \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \wp(\mathcal{D})$$

- Finite sets are enumerated using *streams*

```
type stream D =
  | EOS
  | Stream of D × (delay D)
and delay D = unit -> (stream D);

type relation D = D -> (stream D);
```

- Higher-order constructions: Eilenberg machines are automata labelled with relations.

Correctness of the reactive engine

Theorem (Soundness and Completeness)

Let `M : Machine` *be a finite Eilenberg machine.* $\forall d\ d' \in \mathcal{D}$, $d' \in ($`reactive_engine M` $d) \Leftrightarrow$ `Solution M d d'` .

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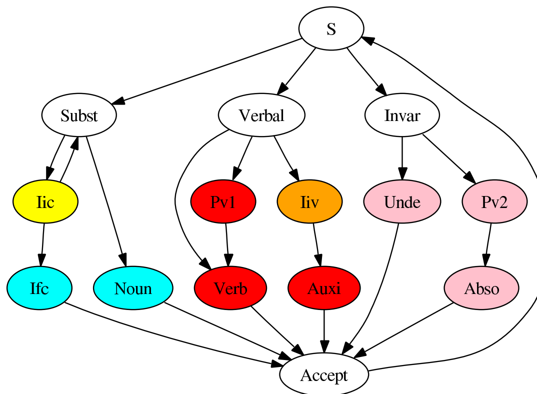
Formally proved in **Coq**

Example 1: Modularity

A Sanskrit segmenter with 2 stages of automata:

- A NFA for the geometry of a Sanskrit word
- Aums for lexicons



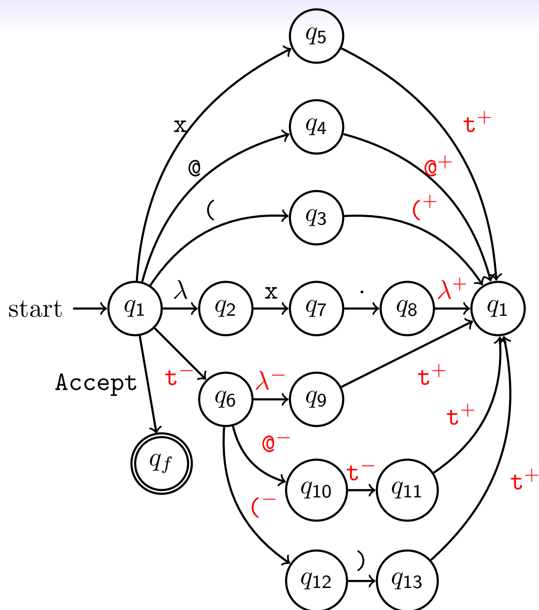
Example 2: a non-deterministic model simulated completely

A complete backtracking parser for an ambiguous grammar for λ-calculus.

Consider the following ambiguous grammar:

$$
\begin{array}{ccll}
T & := & \mathtt{x} & \text{(variable)} \\
 & | & \lambda\mathtt{x}.T & \text{(abstraction)} \\
 & | & T\mathtt{@}T & \text{(application)} \\
 & | & \mathtt{(}T\mathtt{)} &
\end{array}
$$

Following this grammar the λ-term `"λx.x@λx.x"` may be recognized as `"λx.(x@λx.x)"` but also as `"(λx.x)@(λx.x)"`.



start
q_1
q_2
q_3
q_4
q_5
q_6
q_7
q_8
q_9
q_{10}
q_{11}
q_{12}
q_{13}
q_f
q_1
x
@
(
λ
x
.
)
Accept
t^+
$@^+$
$(^+$
λ^+
t^-
λ^-
$@^-$
$(^-$
t^-
t^+
t^+
t^+

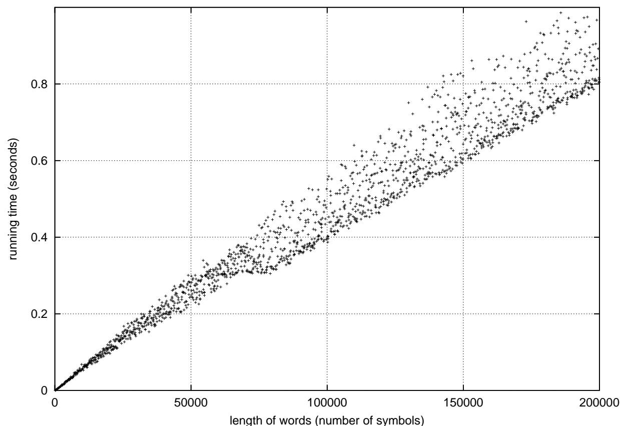
Benchmarks

Finding all Solutions:

- `"λx.x@(λx.λx.x@x)@x@x@λx.x@x"`: 522 solutions instantaneously.
- `"x@x@x@x@x@x@x@x@x@x@x@x@x"`: 208012 solutions : 9 seconds of running time.

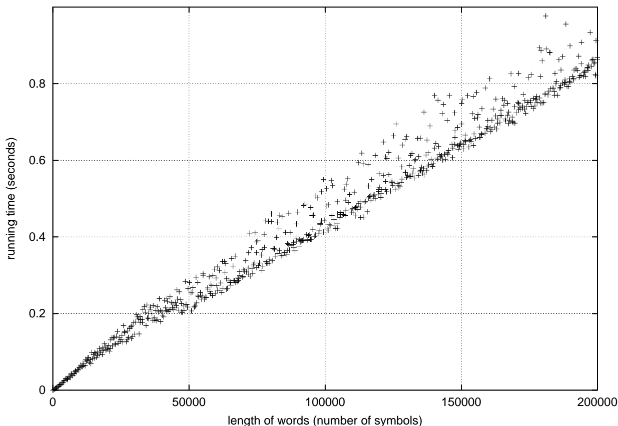
The first solution

For randomly generated *ambiguous* λ-terms:



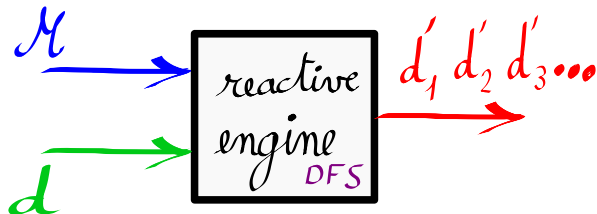
All solutions

For randomly generated *unambiguous* λ-terms (with all parentheses):



Towards computable Eilenberg machines

The reactive engine for finite Eilenberg machines uses a built-in *depth-first search* strategy :



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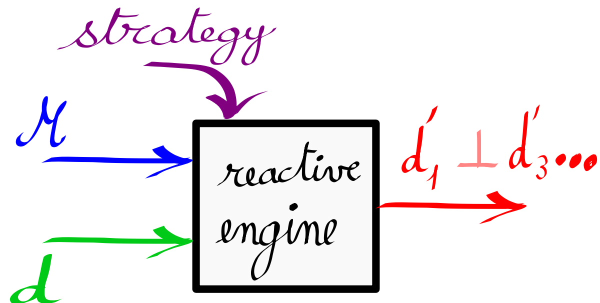

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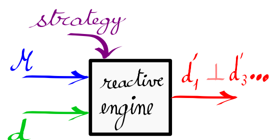
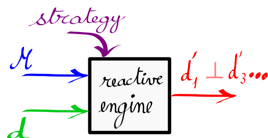


- The strategy could be
  - Depth-first search (finite Eilenberg Machines)
  - Breadth-first search
  - Sequential: generalization of deterministic automata DFA
  - Cantor enumeration: One particular complete strategy
  - Fair strategies

Towards computable Eilenberg machines



- The modularity needs more general streams: Recursively enumerable sets are enumerated using *streams*

```
type stream D =
  | Done
  | Elm of D × (delay D)
  | Skip of delay D
and delay D = unit -> (stream D);

type relation D = D -> (stream D);
```

From regular expressions to automata

Regular expressions for regular languages

$$\begin{array}{rcl} A, B & := & \mathsf{0} \\ & | & \mathsf{1} \\ & | & a, a \in \Sigma \\ & | & A + B \\ & | & A \cdot B \\ & | & A^* \end{array}$$

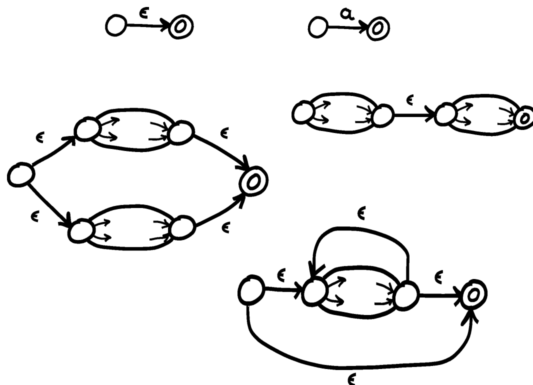
Theorem (Kleene 1959)

$$\forall \mathcal{A}ut, \exists A, L(\mathcal{A}ut) = L(A),$$
$$\forall A, \exists \mathcal{A}ut, L(A) = L(\mathcal{A}ut)$$

Thompson's algorithm (1968)

Recursive algorithm over the expression, producing an ϵ-NFA in a unique traversal.

$$1,\ a,\ A+B,\ A\cdot B,\ A^*$$



Thompson's algorithm (1968)

```
value thompson e =
  let rec aux e t n = (* e is current regexp, t accumulates the state space, n is last created location *)
    match e with
    [ One ->
      let n1=n+1 and n2=n+2 in
      (n1, [ (n1, [ (None, n2) ]) :: t ], n2)
    | Symb s ->
      let n1=n+1 and n2=n+2 in
      (n1, [ (n1, [ (Some s, n2) ]) :: t ], n2)
    | Union e1 e2 ->
      let (i1,t1,f1) = aux e1 t n in
      let (i2,t2,f2) = aux e2 t1 f1 in
      let n1=f2+1 and n2=f2+2 in
      (n1, [ (n1, [ (None, i1); (None, i2) ]) ::
                [ (f1, [ (None, n2) ]) ::
                [ (f2, [ (None, n2) ]) :: t2 ] ] ], n2)
    | Conc e1 e2 ->
      let (i1,t1,f1) = aux e1 t n in
      let (i2,t2,f2) = aux e2 t1 f1 in
      (i1, [ (f1, [ (None, i2) ]) :: t2 ], f2)
    | Star e1 ->
      let (i1,t1,f1) = aux e1 t n in
      let n1=f1+1 and n2=f1+2 in
      let t1' = [ (f1, [ (None, i1); (None, n2) ]) :: t1 ] in
      (n1, [ (n1, [ (None, i1); (None, n2) ]) :: t1' ], n2)
    ] in
  aux e [] 0
;
```

From regular expressions to automata

Automaton	Algorithm	Complexity	Type
Thompson	Thompson(1968)	$O(p)$	ϵ-NFA
Position	Berry-Sethi (1986)	$O(n^2)$	NFA
Follow	Ilie & Yu (2003)	$O(n^2)$	NFA
Equation	Antimirov (1996)	$O(n^2)$	NFA

Size comparison:

Position > Follow > Equation

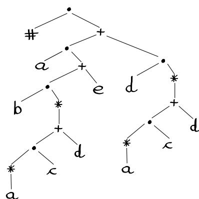
Position, Follow and Equation automata

The algorithms proceeds in 2 successive steps:

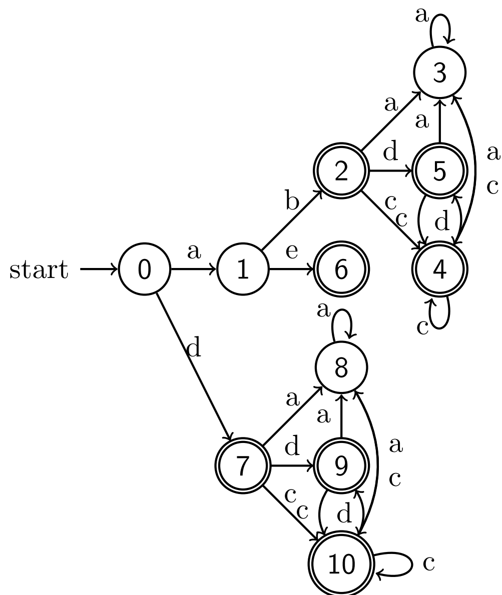
1. Identify the states
2. Compute the transitions

Example

$E = a(b(a^*c + d)^* + e) \qquad + \qquad d(a^*c + d)^*$

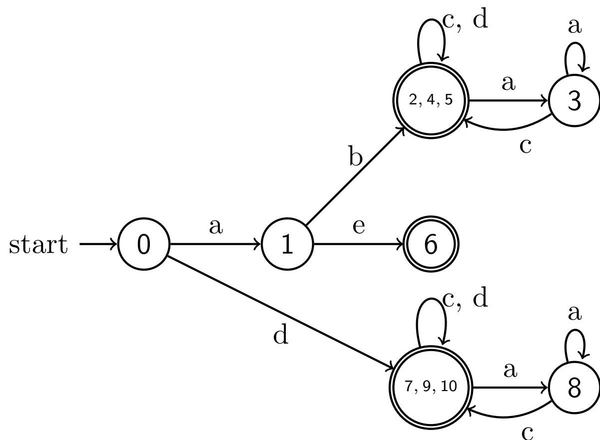


Position automaton



Follow automaton

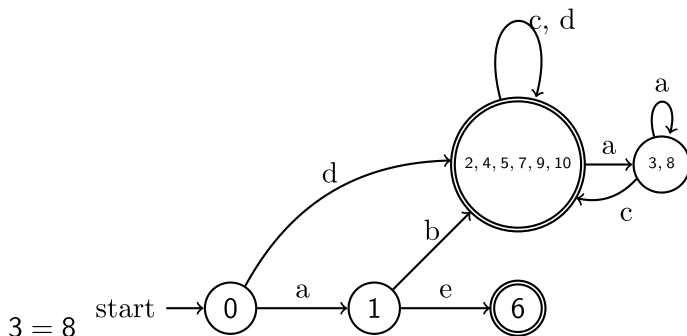
$2 = 4 = 5$



$7 = 9 = 10$

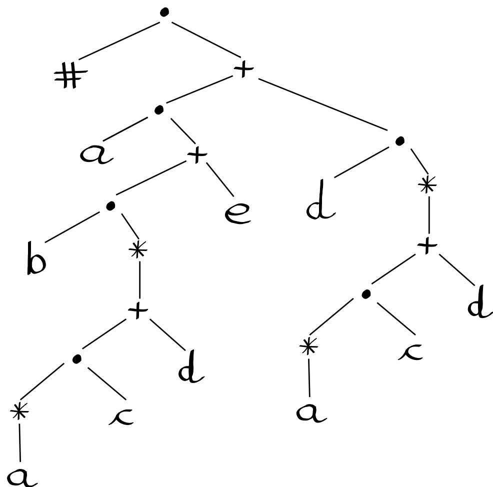
Equation automaton

$2, 4, 5 = 7, 9, 10$

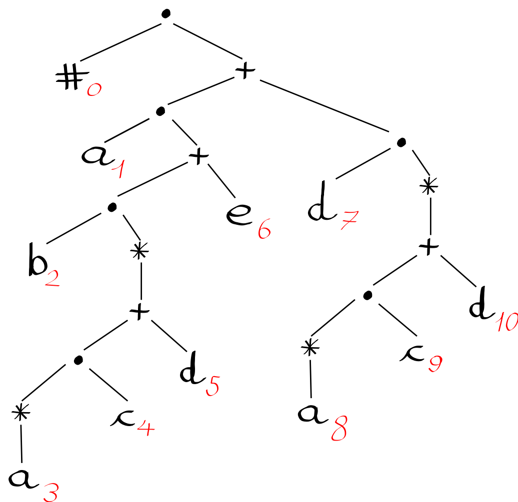


$3 = 8$

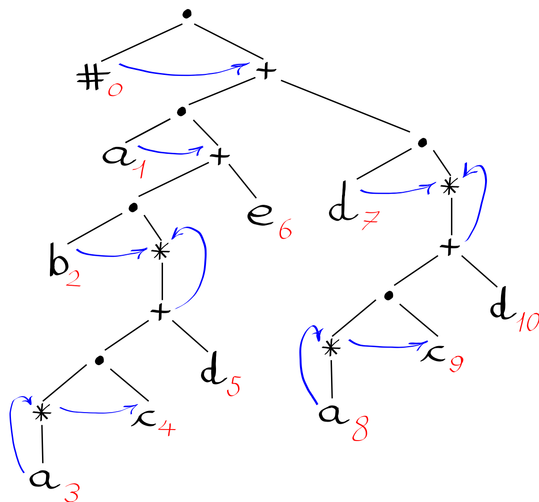
Position automaton



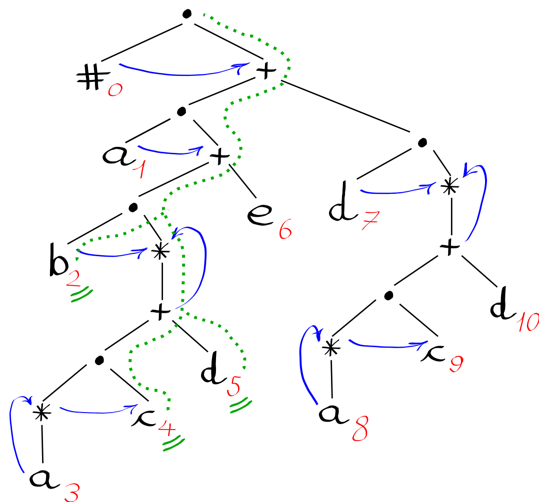
Position automaton



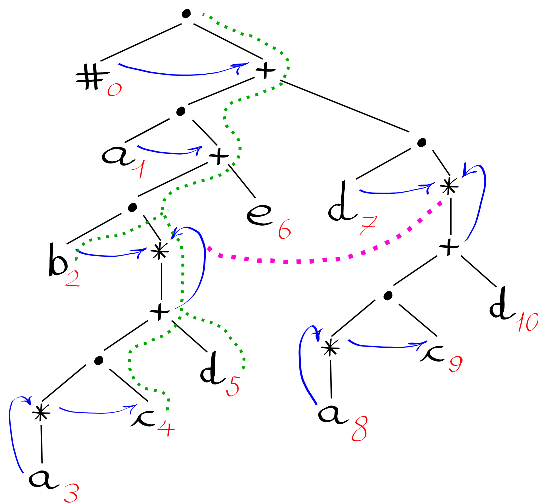
Follow automaton



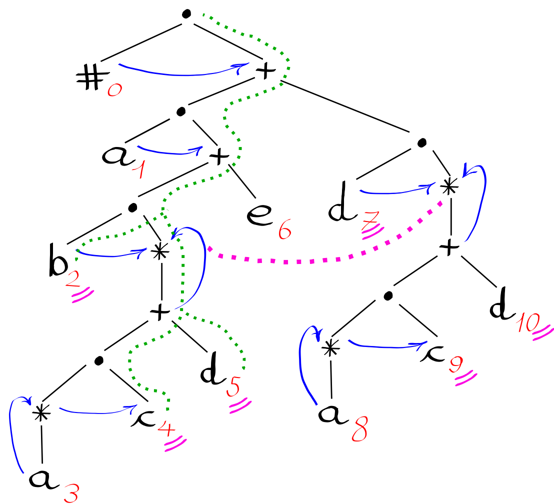
Follow automaton



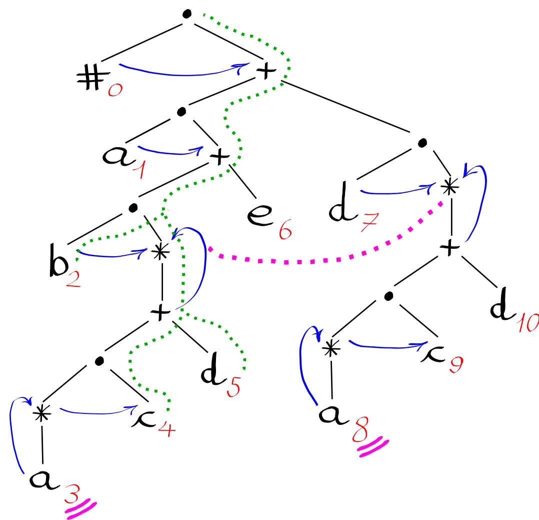
Equation automaton



Equation automaton



Equation automaton



Algorithms Proofs

Definition (Brzozowski's derivatives)

$$\frac{d(\mathsf{0})}{da} = \mathsf{0}, \quad \frac{d(\mathsf{1})}{da} = \mathsf{0}, \quad \frac{d(b)}{da} = \mathsf{0}, \quad \frac{d(a)}{da} = \mathsf{1}$$

$$\frac{d(A+B)}{da} = \frac{d(A)}{da} + \frac{d(B)}{da}$$

$$\frac{d(A \cdot B)}{da} = \frac{d(A)}{da} \cdot B + \delta(A) \cdot \frac{d(B)}{da}$$

$$\frac{d(A^*)}{da} = \frac{d(A)}{da} \cdot A^*$$

Definition (derivatives on words)

$$\frac{d}{d\ aw}(A) = \frac{d}{d\ w}\left(\frac{d}{da}(A)\right)$$

Brzozowski's algorithm: exponential

Using the following axioms

- $A \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot A = A$
  $A \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot A = 0$
  $A + 0 = 0 + A = A$
- ACI (Associative, commutative, idempotent)
  $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$
  $A + B = B + A$
  $A + A = A$

Theorem (Brzozowski 1964)

The set of derivatives is finite (modulo the above axioms).

Corollary (Brzozowski algorithm)

The set of derivatives are the states and the derivatives of derivatives are the transitions of a deterministic automaton.

Extension
Regular expressions – Rational expressions

We talk about Rational expressions when they are annotated with element of a semiring $\mathbb{K}$. This semiring is useful for dealing with.

- Multiplicities
- Weight
- ...

The algorithms presented may be extended for rational expressions.

Conclusion

- Eilenberg Machines offer a general model of non-deterministic computation, with a finite control and a computable relational data semantics.
- Simulation using a programming language with *polymorphism* & *higher-order constructions* (OCaml).
- The reactive engine is mathematically rigorous and a good methodology for simulating more than *Finite Eilenberg machines.*
- Regular expressions algorithms compute automata in an applicative manner.
- *Zen perspectives* : A language design or domain specific language based on Eilenberg machines using modularity.

Thank You !

Locally finite relations

A finite subset of $\mathcal{D}$ enumerated by a finite stream:

```
type stream D =
  | EOS
  | Stream of D × (delay D)

and delay D = unit -> stream D;
```

Relations of $Rel(\mathcal{D})$ are **curryfied** and thus seen as functions thanks to the following isomorphism: $\wp(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}) = \mathcal{D} \to \wp(\mathcal{D})$

```
type relation D = D -> stream D;
```

Finite Eilenberg Machines as a Functor

A machine $\mathcal{M} = (Q, \delta, I, T)$ on data $\mathcal{D}$ is the following module signature :

```
module type Machine = sig
  type D;
  type Q;
  value transition : Q -> list (relation D × Q);
  value initial : list Q;
  value terminal : Q -> bool;
end;
```

We provide a **functor** :

```
module Engine (M : Machine) = sig
  value characteristic : relation D ;
end;
```

The Reactive Engine in ML

```
(* react: D -> Q -> resumption -> stream D *)
value rec react d q res =
  let ch = transition q in
  if terminal q
  then Stream d (fun () -> choose d q ch res) (* Solution found *)
  else choose d q ch res

(* choose: D -> Q -> choice -> resumption -> stream D *)
and choose d q ch res =
  match ch with
  | [] -> continue res
  | (rel, q') :: rest ->
    match (rel d) with
    | EOS -> choose d q rest res
    | Stream d' del ->
      react d' q' (Choose(d,q,rest,del,q') :: res)

(* continue: resumption -> stream D *)
and continue res =
  match res with
  | [] -> EOS
  | Advance(d,q) :: rest -> react d q rest
  | Choose(d,q,ch,del,q') :: rest ->
    match (del ()) with
    | EOS -> choose d q ch rest
    | Stream d' del' ->
      react d' q' (Choose(d,q,ch,del',q') :: rest)
;
```

The Reactive Engine in **Coq**

```
Program Fixpoint react (d : data) (s : state) (res : resumption)
  (h1 : WellFormedRes res)
  (h : Acc Rext ((Chi (d, s) (S (length (transition s))) O) :: (chi_res res)))
  {struct h} : (stream data) :=
  if terminal s
  then Stream data d (fun x:unit ⇒choose d s (transition s) res h1 _ _)
  else choose d s (transition s) res h1 _ _
with choose (d : data) (s : state) (ch : choice) (res : resumption)
  (h1 : WellFormedRes res) (h2 : incl ch (transition s))
  (h : Acc Rext ((Chi (d, s) (length ch) O) :: (chi_res res)))
  {struct h} : (stream data) :=
  match ch with
  | [] ⇒continue res h1 _
  | (rel, s') :: rest ⇒
    match (rel d) with
    | EOS ⇒choose d s rest res h1 _ _
    | Stream d' del ⇒react d' s' ((Choose d s rest rel del s') :: res) _ _
    end
  end
with continue (res : resumption) (h1 : WellFormedRes res)
  (h : Acc Rext (chi_res res)) {struct h} : (stream data) :=
  match res with
  | [] ⇒EOS data
  | back :: res' ⇒
    match back with
    | Advance d s ⇒react d s res' _ _
    | Choose d s rest rel del s' ⇒
      match (del tt) with
      | EOS ⇒choose d s rest res' _ _ _
      | Stream d' del' ⇒react d' s' ((Choose d s rest rel del' s') :: res') _ _
      end
    end
  end.
```

Engine *vs* Machine

We make a distinction between the terminology **"engine"** and **"machine"**. A machine can be non-deterministic whereas an engine is a deterministic process able to simulate a non-deterministic one. Finite Eilenberg machines describe non-deterministic computations which are enumerated by a deterministic process: the reactive engine.