

## Phases of Syntax Analysis

### 1. Identify the words: **Lexical Analysis**.

Converts a stream of characters (input program) into a stream of tokens.

Also called *Scanning* or *Tokenizing*.

### 2. Identify the sentences: **Parsing**.

Derive the structure of sentences: construct *parse trees* from a stream of tokens.

## Lexical Analysis

Convert a stream of characters into a stream of *tokens*.

- **Simplicity**: Conventions about “words” are often different from conventions about “sentences”.
- **Efficiency**: Word identification problem has a much more efficient solution than sentence identification problem.
- **Portability**: Character set, special characters, device features.

## Terminology

- **Token**: Name given to a family of words.  
e.g., `integer_constant`
- **Lexeme**: Actual sequence of characters representing a word.  
e.g., `32894`
- **Pattern**: Notation used to identify the set of lexemes represented by a token.  
e.g.,  $[0 - 9]^+$

## Terminology

A few more examples:

Token	Sample Lexemes	Pattern
<code>while</code>	<code>while</code>	<code>while</code>
<code>integer_constant</code>	<code>32894, -1093, 0</code>	$(- \epsilon)[0 - 9]^+$
<code>identifier</code>	<code>buffer_size</code>	$[-a - zA - Z]^+$

## Patterns

How do we *compactly* represent the set of all lexemes corresponding to a token?

For instance:

The token `integer_constant` represents the set of all integers: that is, all sequences of digits (0–9), preceded by an optional sign (+ or –).

Obviously, we cannot simply enumerate all lexemes.

Use **Regular Expressions**.

## Regular Expressions

Notation to represent (potentially) infinite sets of strings over alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

- $a$ : stands for the set  $\{a\}$  that contains a single string  $a$ .
- $a | b$ : stands for the set  $\{a, b\}$  that contains two strings  $a$  and  $b$ .
  - ▷ Analogous to *Union*.
- $ab$ : stands for the set  $\{ab\}$  that contains a single string  $ab$ .
  - ▷ Analogous to *Product*.
  - ▷  $(a|b)(a|b)$ : stands for the set  $\{aa, ab, ba, bb\}$ .
- $a^*$ : stands for the set  $\{\epsilon, a, aa, aaa, \dots\}$  that contains all strings of zero or more  $a$ 's.
  - ▷ Analogous to *closure* of the product operation.

## Regular Expressions

Examples of Regular Expressions over  $\{a, b\}$ :

- $(a|b)^*$ : Set of strings with zero or more  $a$ 's and zero or more  $b$ 's:  
 $\{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \dots\}$
- $(a^*b^*)$ : Set of strings with zero or more  $a$ 's and zero or more  $b$ 's such that all  $a$ 's occur before any  $b$ :  
 $\{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, bb, aaa, aab, abb, \dots\}$
- $(a^*b^*)^*$ : Set of strings with zero or more  $a$ 's and zero or more  $b$ 's:  
 $\{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, aaa, aab, \dots\}$

## Language of Regular Expressions

Let  $R$  be the set of all regular expressions over  $\Sigma$ . Then,

- **Empty String:**  $\epsilon \in R$
- **Unit Strings:**  $\alpha \in \Sigma \Rightarrow \alpha \in R$
- **Concatenation:**  $r_1, r_2 \in R \Rightarrow r_1r_2 \in R$
- **Alternative:**  $r_1, r_2 \in R \Rightarrow (r_1 | r_2) \in R$
- **Kleene Closure:**  $r \in R \Rightarrow r^* \in R$

## Regular Expressions

Example:  $(a | b)^*$

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_0 &= \{\epsilon\} \\
 L_1 &= L_0 \cdot \{a, b\} \\
 &= \{\epsilon\} \cdot \{a, b\} \\
 &= \{a, b\} \\
 L_2 &= L_1 \cdot \{a, b\} \\
 &= \{a, b\} \cdot \{a, b\} \\
 &= \{aa, ab, ba, bb\} \\
 L_3 &= L_2 \cdot \{a, b\} \\
 &\vdots \\
 L &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} L_i = \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, \dots\}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Semantics of Regular Expressions

*Semantic Function*  $\mathcal{L}$  : Maps regular expressions to sets of strings.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(\epsilon) &= \{\epsilon\} \\ \mathcal{L}(a) &= \{a\} \quad (a \in \Sigma) \\ \mathcal{L}(r_1 | r_2) &= \mathcal{L}(r_1) \cup \mathcal{L}(r_2) \\ \mathcal{L}(r_1 r_2) &= \mathcal{L}(r_1) \cdot \mathcal{L}(r_2) \\ \mathcal{L}(r^*) &= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\mathcal{L}(r) \cdot \mathcal{L}(r^*))\end{aligned}$$

### Computing the Semantics

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(a) &= \{a\} \\ \mathcal{L}(a | b) &= \mathcal{L}(a) \cup \mathcal{L}(b) \\ &= \{a\} \cup \{b\} \\ &= \{a, b\} \\ \mathcal{L}(ab) &= \mathcal{L}(a) \cdot \mathcal{L}(b) \\ &= \{a\} \cdot \{b\} \\ &= \{ab\} \\ \mathcal{L}((a | b)(a | b)) &= \mathcal{L}(a | b) \cdot \mathcal{L}(a | b) \\ &= \{a, b\} \cdot \{a, b\} \\ &= \{aa, ab, ba, bb\}\end{aligned}$$

### Computing the Semantics of Closure

Example:  $\mathcal{L}((a | b)^*)$   
 $= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\mathcal{L}(a | b) \cdot \mathcal{L}((a | b)^*))$

$$\begin{aligned}L_0 &= \{\epsilon\} && \text{Base case} \\ L_1 &= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\{a, b\} \cdot L_0) \\ &= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\{a, b\} \cdot \{\epsilon\}) \\ &= \{\epsilon, a, b\} \\ L_2 &= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\{a, b\} \cdot L_1) \\ &= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\{a, b\} \cdot \{\epsilon, a, b\}) \\ &= \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb\} \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}((a | b)^*) = L_\infty = \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, \dots\}$$

### Another Example

$\mathcal{L}((a^*b^*)^*) :$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}(a^*) &= \{\epsilon, a, aa, \dots\} \\
\mathcal{L}(b^*) &= \{\epsilon, b, bb, \dots\} \\
\mathcal{L}(a^*b^*) &= \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, bb, \\
&\quad aaa, aab, abb, bbb, \dots\} \\
\mathcal{L}((a^*b^*)^*) &= \{\epsilon\} \\
&\quad \cup \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, bb, \\
&\quad\quad aaa, aab, abb, bbb, \dots\} \\
&\quad \cup \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, \\
&\quad\quad aaa, aab, aba, abb, baa, bab, bba, bbb, \dots\} \\
&\quad \vdots \\
&= \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, \dots\}
\end{aligned}$$

## Regular Definitions

Assign “names” to regular expressions.  
For example,

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{digit} &\longrightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid 9 \\
\text{natural} &\longrightarrow \text{digit digit}^*
\end{aligned}$$

SHORTHANDS:

- $a^+$ : Set of strings with one or more occurrences of **a**.
- $a^?$ : Set of strings with zero or one occurrences of **a**.

Example:

$$\text{integer} \longrightarrow (+|-)^? \text{digit}^+$$

## Regular Definitions: Examples

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{float} &\longrightarrow \text{integer} . \text{fraction} \\
\text{integer} &\longrightarrow (+|-)^? \text{no\_leading\_zero} \\
\text{no\_leading\_zero} &\longrightarrow (\text{nonzero\_digit digit}^*) \mid 0 \\
\text{fraction} &\longrightarrow \text{no\_trailing\_zero exponent}^? \\
\text{no\_trailing\_zero} &\longrightarrow (\text{digit}^* \text{nonzero\_digit}) \mid 0 \\
\text{exponent} &\longrightarrow (\text{E} \mid \text{e}) \text{integer} \\
\text{digit} &\longrightarrow 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid 9 \\
\text{nonzero\_digit} &\longrightarrow 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots \mid 9
\end{aligned}$$

## Regular Definitions and Lexical Analysis

Regular Expressions and Definitions *specify* sets of strings over an input alphabet.

- They can hence be used to specify the set of *lexemes* associated with a *token*.
  - ▷ Used as the *pattern* language

How do we decide whether an input string belongs to the set of strings specified by a regular expression?

## Using Regular Definitions for Lexical Analysis

Q: Is ababbaabb in  $\mathcal{L}((a^*b^*)^*)$ ?

A: Hm. Well. Let's see.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}((a^*b^*)^*) &= \{\epsilon\} \\
 &\cup \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, bb, \\
 &\quad aaa, aab, abb, bbb, \dots\} \\
 &\cup \{\epsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, bb, \\
 &\quad aaa, aab, aba, abb, baa, bab, bba, bbb, \dots\} \\
 &\vdots \\
 &= ???
 \end{aligned}$$

## Lexical Analysis

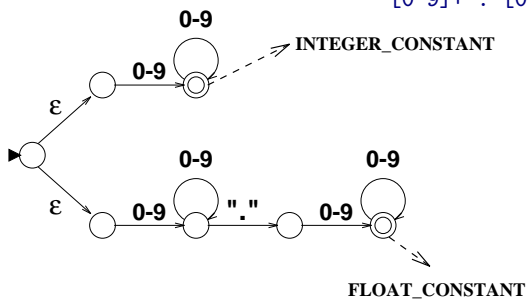
- Regular Expressions and Definitions are used to specify the set of strings (lexemes) corresponding to a *token*.
- An automaton (DFA/NFA) is built from the above specifications.
- Each final state is associated with an *action*: emit the corresponding token.

## Specifying Lexical Analysis

Consider a recognizer for integers (sequence of digits) and floats (sequence of digits separated by a decimal point).

`[0-9]+`                    `{ emit(INTEGER_CONSTANT); }`

`[0-9]+ "." [0-9]+`        `{ emit(FLOAT_CONSTANT); }`



## Lex

Tool for building lexical analyzers.

Input: lexical specifications (.l file)

Output: C function (yyl`ex`) that returns a token on each invocation.

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```

%%
[0-9]+          { return(INTEGER_CONSTANT); }

[0-9]+ "." [0-9]+  { return(FLOAT_CONSTANT); }

```

---

Tokens are simply integers (`#define`'s).

## Lex Specifications

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```

%{
    C header statements for inclusion
%}
Regular Definitions    e.g.:
    digit    [0-9]
%%

Token Specifications  e.g.:
    {digit}+      { return(INTEGER_CONSTANT); }
%%

Support functions in C

```

---

## Regular Expressions in Lex

Adds “syntactic sugar” to regular expressions:

- **Range:** [0-7]: Integers from 0 through 7 (inclusive)  
 [a-nx-zA-Q]: Letters a thru n, x thru z and A thru Q.
- **Exception:** [^/]: Any character other than /.
- **Definition:** {digit}: Use the previously specified regular definition digit.
- **Special characters:** Connectives of regular expression, convenience features.  
 e.g.: | \* ^

## Special Characters in Lex

* + ? ( )	Same as in regular expressions
[ ]	Enclose ranges and exceptions
{ }	Enclose “names” of regular definitions
^	Used to negate a specified range (in Exception)
.	Match any single character except newline
\	Escape the next character
\n, \t	Newline and Tab

For literal matching, enclose special characters in double quotes (") *e.g.*: "\*"
   
Or use \ to escape. *e.g.*: \"

## Examples

for	Sequence of f, o, r
"  "	C-style OR operator (two vert. bars)
.*	Sequence of non-newline characters
[^*/]+	Sequence of characters except * and /
\"[^"]*\"	Sequence of non-quote characters beginning and ending with a quote
({letter} "_-")({letter} {digit} "_-")*	C-style identifiers

## A Complete Example

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```

%{
#include <stdio.h>
#include "tokens.h"
%}
digit [0-9]
hexdigit [0-9a-f]
%%

"+"          { return(PLUS); }
"-"          { return(MINUS); }
{digit}+     { return(INTEGER_CONSTANT); }
{digit}+"."{digit}+ { return(FLOAT_CONSTANT); }
.            { return(SYNTAX_ERROR); }
%%

```

---

## Actions

Actions are attached to final states.

- Distinguish the different final states.
- Used to return *tokens*.
- Can be used to set *attribute values*.
- Fragment of C code (blocks enclosed by ‘{’ and ‘}’).

## Attributes

Additional information about a token’s lexeme.

- Stored in variable `yylval`
- Type of attributes (usually a union) specified by `YYSTYPE`
- Additional variables:
  - `yytext`: Lexeme (*Actual text string*)
  - `yytext`: length of string in `yytext`
  - ▷ `yylineno`: Current line number (number of ‘\n’ seen thus far)
    - \* enabled by `%option yylineno`

## Priority of matching

What if an input string matches more than one pattern?

---

```

"if"          { return(TOKEN_IF); }
{letter}+     { return(TOKEN_ID); }
"while"       { return(TOKEN_WHILE); }

```

---

- A pattern that matches the longest string is chosen.  
Example: `if1` is matched with an identifier, not the keyword `if`.
- Of patterns that match strings of same length, the first (from the top of file) is chosen.  
Example: `while` is matched as an identifier, not the keyword `while`.

## Constructing Scanners using (f)lex

- Scanner specifications: *specifications.l*

(f)lex  
*specifications.l*     $\longrightarrow$     *lex.yy.c*

- Generated scanner in *lex.yy.c*

(g)cc  
*lex.yy.c*     $\longrightarrow$     *executable*

- `yywrap()`: hook for signalling end of file.
- Use `-lf1` (flex) or `-ll` (lex) flags at link time to include default function `yywrap()` that always returns 1.

## Recognizers

Construct *automata* that recognize strings belonging to a language.

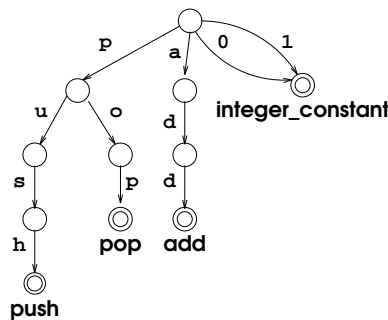
- Finite State Automata  $\Rightarrow$  Regular Languages
  - ▷ Finite State  $\rightarrow$  cannot maintain arbitrary counts.
- Push Down Automata  $\Rightarrow$  Context-free Languages
  - ▷ Stack is used to maintain counter, but only one counter can go arbitrarily high.

## Recognizing Finite Sets of Strings

Identifying words from a small, finite, fixed vocabulary is straightforward.

For instance, consider a stack machine with `push`, `pop`, and `add` operations with two constants: 0 and 1.

We can use the *automaton*:



## Finite State Automata

Represented by a labeled directed graph.

- A finite set of *states* (vertices).
- *Transitions* between states (edges).
- *Labels* on transitions are drawn from  $\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$ .
- One distinguished *start* state.
- One or more distinguished *final* states.

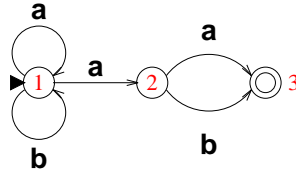
## Finite State Automata: An Example



Consider the Regular Expression  $(a | b)^*a(a | b)$ .

$\mathcal{L}((a | b)^*a(a | b)) = \{aa, ab, aaa, aab, baa, bab, aaaa, aaab, abaa, abab, baaa, \dots\}$ .

The following automaton determines whether an input string belongs to  $\mathcal{L}((a | b)^*a(a | b))$ :



## Using States in Lex

- Some regular languages are more easily expressed as FSA
  - Set of all strings representing binary numbers divisible by 3
- Lex allows you to use FSA concepts using *start states*

```
%x MOD1 MOD2
"0" { }
"1" {BEGIN MOD1}
<MOD1> "0" {BEGIN MOD2}
<MOD1> "1" {BEGIN 0}
```

## Other Special Directives

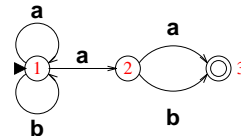
- ECHO causes Lex to echo current lexeme
- REJECT causes abandonment of current match in favor of the next.
- Example

```
a|
ab|
abc|
abcd {ECHO; REJECT;}
.\n {/* eat up the character */}
```

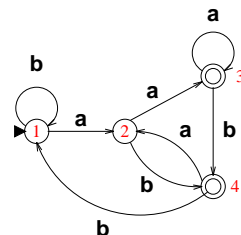
## Deterministic Vs Nondeterministic FSA

$(a | b)^*a(a | b)$ :

Nondeterministic:  
(NFA)



Deterministic:  
(DFA)

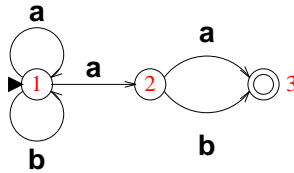


## Acceptance Criterion

- A finite state automaton (NFA or DFA) *accepts* an input string  $x$
- ... if beginning from the start state
- ... we can trace some path through the automaton
- ... such that the sequence of edge labels spells  $x$
- ... and end in a final state.

## Recognition with an NFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



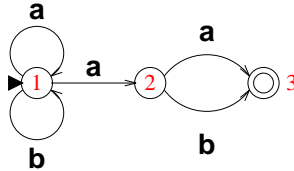
Input: a b a b  
Path 1: 1  
Path 2:  
Path 3:

---

Accept

## Recognition with an NFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



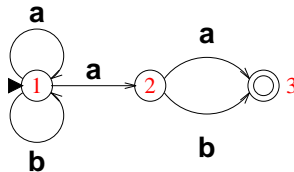
Input: a b a b  
Path 1: 1 1  
Path 2:  
Path 3:

---

Accept

## Recognition with an NFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



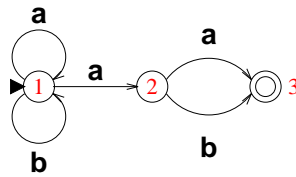
Input: a b a b  
Path 1: 1 1 1  
Path 2:  
Path 3:

---

Accept

## Recognition with an NFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



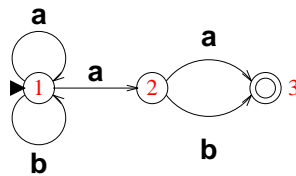
Input:            a   b   a   b  
 Path 1:        1   1   1   1   1  
 Path 2:  
 Path 3:

---

Accept

## Recognition with an NFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



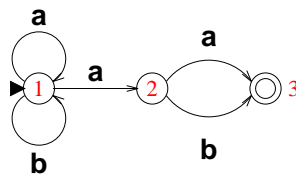
Input:            a   b   a   b  
 Path 1:        1   1   1   1   1  
 Path 2:        1   1   1   2   3   Accept  
 Path 3:

---

Accept

## Recognition with an NFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



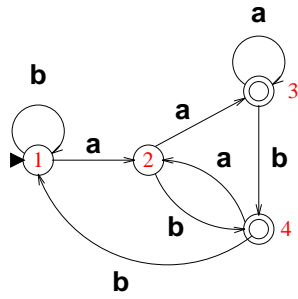
Input:            a   b   a   b  
 Path 1:        1   1   1   1   1  
 Path 2:        1   1   1   2   3   Accept  
 Path 3:        1   2   3   ⊥   ⊥

---

Accept

## Recognition with a DFA

Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



Input:        a   b   a   b  
 Path:        1   2   4   2   4   Accept

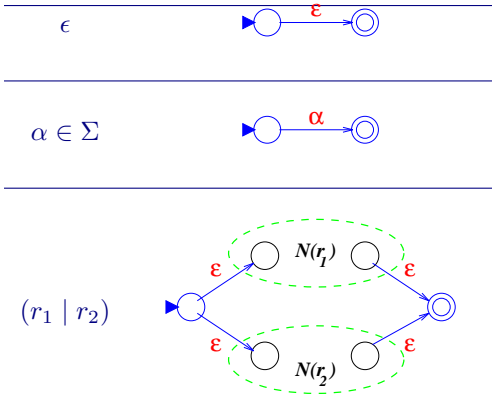
### NFA vs. DFA

For every NFA, there is a DFA that accepts the same set of strings.

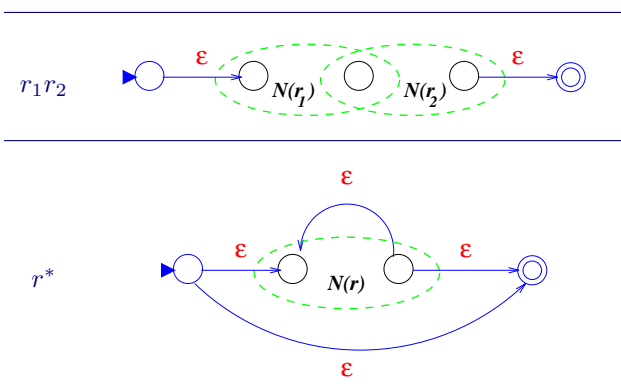
- NFA may have transitions labeled by  $\epsilon$ .  
(Spontaneous transitions)
- All transition labels in a DFA belong to  $\Sigma$ .
- For some string  $x$ , there may be *many* accepting paths in an NFA.
- For all strings  $x$ , there is *one unique* accepting path in a DFA.
- Usually, an input string can be recognized *faster* with a DFA.
- NFAs are typically *smaller* than the corresponding DFAs.

### Regular Expressions to NFA

**Thompson's Construction:** For every regular expression  $r$ , derive an NFA  $N(r)$  with unique start and final states.

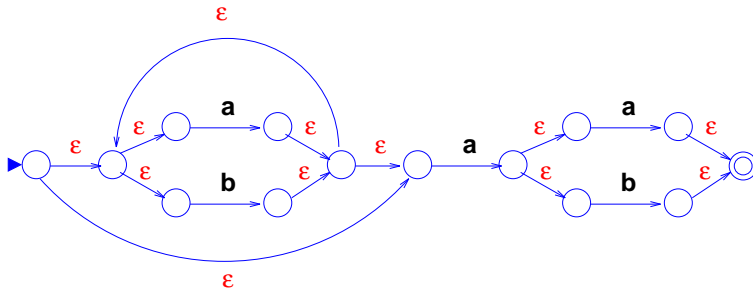


### Regular Expressions to NFA (contd.)



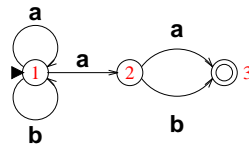
## Example

$(a | b)^* a (a | b)$ :



## Recognition with an NFA

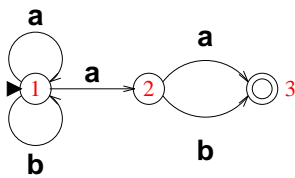
Is abab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



Input:		a	b	a	b	
Path 1:	1	1	1	1	1	
Path 2:	1	1	1	2	3	Accept
Path 3:	1	2	3	⊥	⊥	
All Paths	{1}	{1, 2}	{1, 3}	{1, 2}	{1, 3}	Accept

## Recognition with an NFA (contd.)

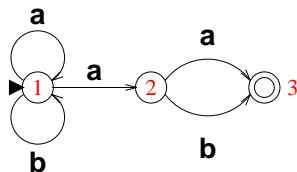
Is aaab  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



Input:		a	a	a	b	
Path 1:	1	1	1	1	1	
Path 2:	1	1	1	1	2	
Path 3:	1	1	1	2	3	Accept
Path 4:	1	1	2	3	⊥	
Path 5:	1	2	3	⊥	⊥	
All Paths	{1}	{1, 2}	{1, 2, 3}	{1, 2, 3}	{1, 2, 3}	Accept

## Recognition with an NFA (contd.)

Is aabb  $\in \mathcal{L}((a | b)^* a (a | b))$ ?



Input:		a	a	a	b	
Path 1:	1	1	1	1	1	
Path 2:	1	1	2	3	⊥	
Path 3:	1	2	3	⊥	⊥	
All Paths	{1}	{1, 2}	{1, 2, 3}	{1, 3}	{1}	REJECT

## Converting NFA to DFA

Subset construction

Given a set  $S$  of NFA states,

- compute  $S_\epsilon = \epsilon\text{-closure}(S)$ :  $S_\epsilon$  is the set of all NFA states reachable by zero or more  $\epsilon$ -transitions from  $S$ .

- compute  $S_\alpha = \text{goto}(S, \alpha)$ :
  - $S'$  is the set of all NFA states reachable from  $S$  by taking a transition labeled  $\alpha$ .
  - $S_\alpha = \epsilon\text{-closure}(S')$ .

## Converting NFA to DFA (contd.)

Each state in DFA corresponds to a *set of states* in NFA.

Start state of DFA =  $\epsilon\text{-closure}(\text{start state of NFA})$ .

From a state  $s$  in DFA that corresponds to a set of states  $S$  in NFA:

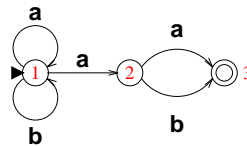
add a transition labeled  $\alpha$  to state  $s'$  that corresponds to a non-empty  $S'$  in NFA,

such that  $S' = \text{goto}(S, \alpha)$ .

$s$  is a state in DFA such that the corresponding set of states  $S$  in NFA contains a final state of NFA,

$\Leftrightarrow s$  is a final state of DFA

## NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA: An Example



$\epsilon\text{-closure}(\{1\})$	=	$\{1\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1\}, b)$	=	$\{1\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2, 3\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2\}, b)$	=	$\{1, 3\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2, 3\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2, 3\}$
$\vdots$		

## NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA: An Example (contd.)

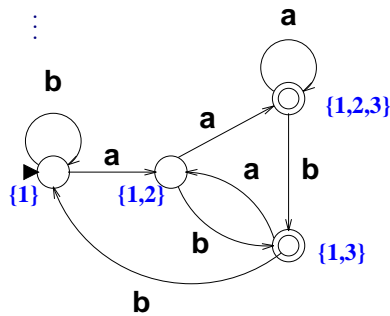
$\epsilon\text{-closure}(\{1\})$	=	$\{1\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1\}, b)$	=	$\{1\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2, 3\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2\}, b)$	=	$\{1, 3\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2, 3\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2, 3\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 2, 3\}, b)$	=	$\{1\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 3\}, a)$	=	$\{1, 2\}$
$\text{goto}(\{1, 3\}, b)$	=	$\{1\}$

## NFA $\rightarrow$ DFA: An Example (contd.)

```

goto({1}, a)    = {1, 2}
goto({1}, b)    = {1}
goto({1, 2}, a) = {1, 2, 3}
goto({1, 2}, b) = {1, 3}
goto({1, 2, 3}, a) = {1, 2, 3}

```



## NFA vs. DFA

$R$  = Size of Regular Expression  
 $N$  = Length of Input String

	NFA	DFA
Size of Automaton	$O(R)$	$O(2^R)$
Recognition time per input string	$O(N \times R)$	$O(N)$

## Implementing a Scanner

---

*transition* :  $state \times \Sigma \rightarrow state$

```

algorithm scanner() {
  current_state = start state;
  while (1) {
    c = getc(); /* on end of file, ... */
    if defined(transition(current_state, c))
      current_state = transition(current_state, c);
    else
      return s;
  }
}

```

---

## Implementing a Scanner (contd.)

Implementing the *transition* function:

- Simplest: 2-D array.  
Space inefficient.
- Traditionally compressed using row/column equivalence. (default on (f)lex)  
Good space-time tradeoff.
- Further table compression using various techniques:

- Example: **RDM (Row Displacement Method)**:  
Store rows in overlapping manner using 2 1-D arrays.

Smaller tables, but longer access times.

## Lexical Analysis: A Summary

Convert a stream of characters into a stream of tokens.

- Make rest of compiler independent of character set
- Strip off comments
- Recognize line numbers
- Ignore white space characters
- Process macros (definitions and uses)
- Interface with **symbol (name) table**.