

On the Influence of the Various Parameters of the Restarting Automaton on its Expressive Capacity and Descriptive Complexity

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- 2 The Restarting Automaton and Its Parameters
- 3 Some Important Results on Formal Languages
 - Parameter 1: The Type of Operations
 - Parameter 2: The Size of the Read/Write Window
 - Parameter 3: The Number of States
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Otto, F.: RESTARTING AUTOMATA - Automata Inspired by the Linguistic Technique of Analysis by Reduction. Monograph, in preparation.

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The **restarting automaton** is not simply another variant of the Turing machine, but it is a new type of automaton that is inspired by the linguistic technique of **analysis by reduction** (see, e.g., [2]).

An Example of Analysis by Reduction

We are given a sentence in a natural language, e.g.:

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An Example of Analysis by Reduction

We are given a sentence in a natural language, e.g.:

They mean that the means she means are very mean.

This sentence is now simplified step by step until a simple sentence is obtained:

The means are mean.

Example (cont.)

To process a sentence in this way, one needs to understand its meaning. To automate this process, additional information is needed, which can be provided in the form of **tags**:

Word	Tags
They	<Pronoun> <Plural>
mean	<Verb> <Present Tense> <Plural>
that	<Conjunction>
the	<Article>
means	<Noun> <Plural>
she	<Pronoun> <Singular>
means	<Verb> <Present Tense> <Singular>
are	<Verb> <Present Tense> <Plural>
very	<Adverb>
mean	<Adjective>
.	<End of Sentence>

Each word is processed together with its tags.

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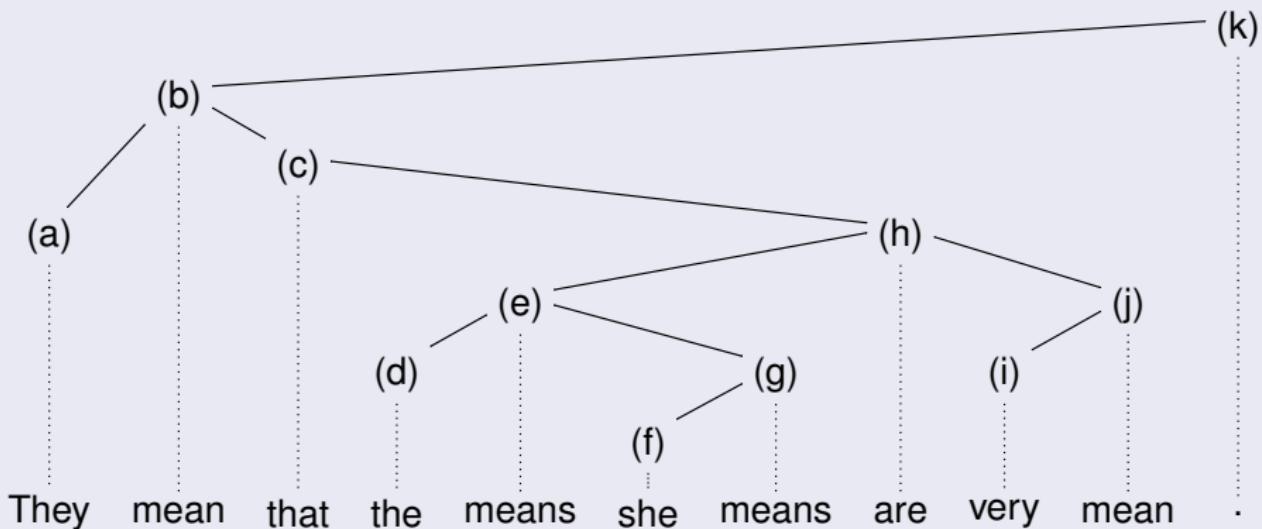
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very	<Adverb>
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Example (cont.)

In this way **dependencies** and **independencies** between words of a sentence can be determined.

This may result in the construction of a **dependency tree**:



Operations Required for Analysis by Reduction:

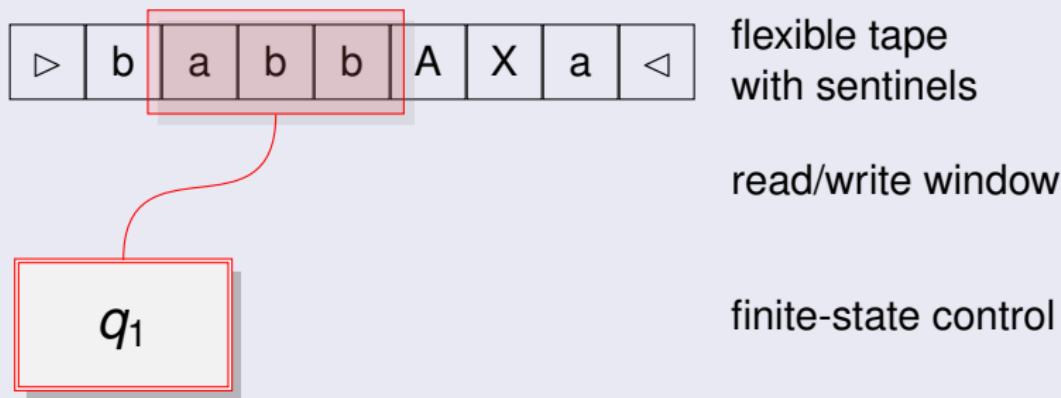
- Scan the current sentence (from left to right).
- Rewrite the current sentence by performing a local transformation.
- Restart in order to process the new sentence.
- Accept (if a correct simple sentence has been obtained).
- Reject (if an error has been detected).

2. The Restarting Automaton and Its Parameters

The Ingredients:

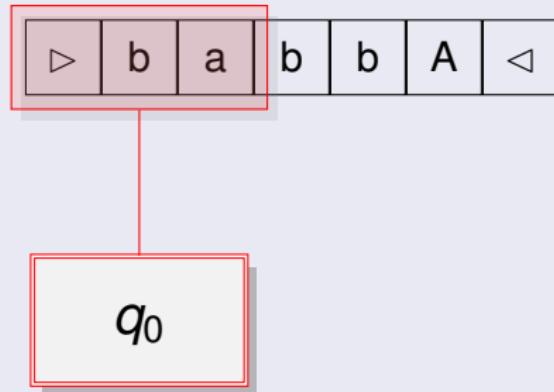
- The input sentence, which is a sequence of morphems, will be represented by a **word**, i.e., we need a (finite) **input alphabet**.
- To encode additional information (tags), we need **auxiliary letters**, i.e., we need a (finite) **working alphabet**.
- To mark the beginning and end of the current sentence, we need special symbols (**sentinels**).
- As the sentence analyzed will be transformed, the current word will be stored in a **list of cells** or a **flexible tape**.
- To scan the current word, we need a **read/write window**.
- To process information we need a **finite-state control**.
- To execute the analysis, we need a **program** (**transition function**) that determines the sequence of elementary operations.

The Hardware:



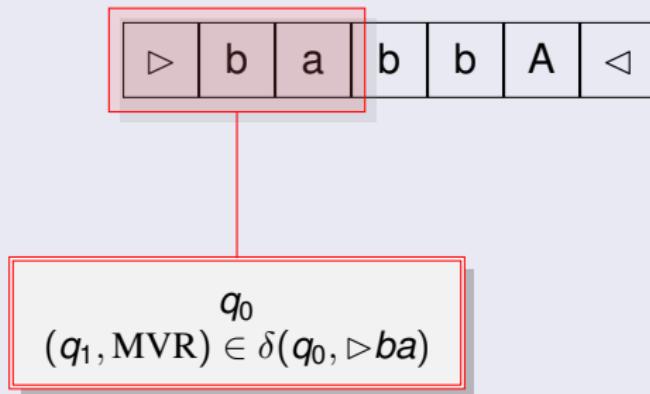
The Operations:

Move-Right Step (MVR):



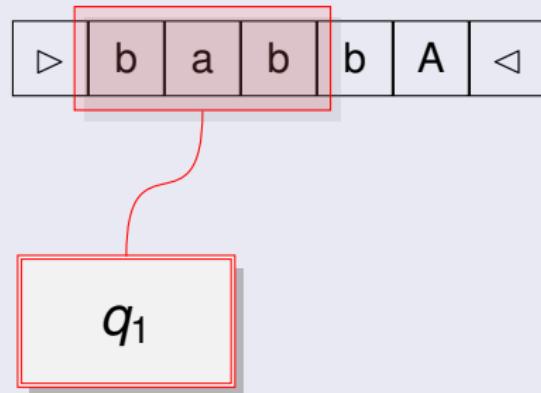
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Move-Right Step (MVR):



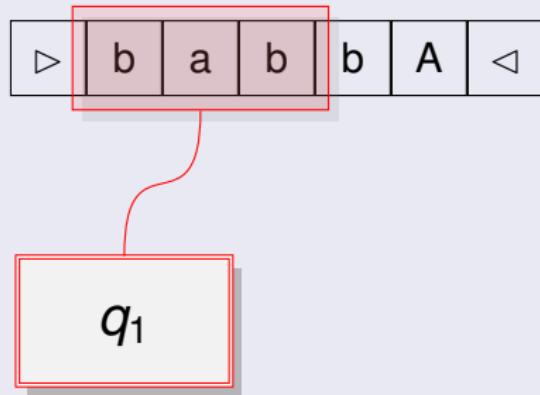
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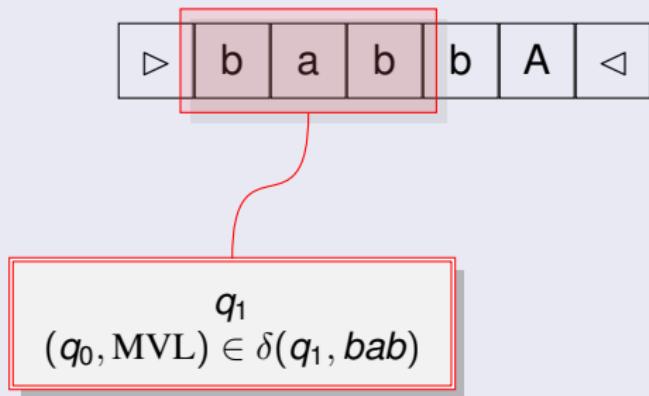
The Operations (cont.):

Move-Left Step (MVL):



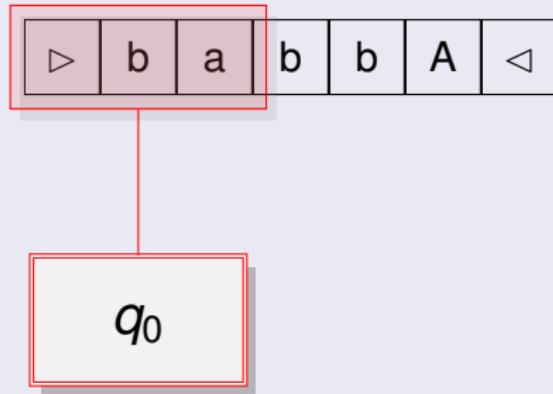
The Operations (cont.):

Move-Left Step (MVL):



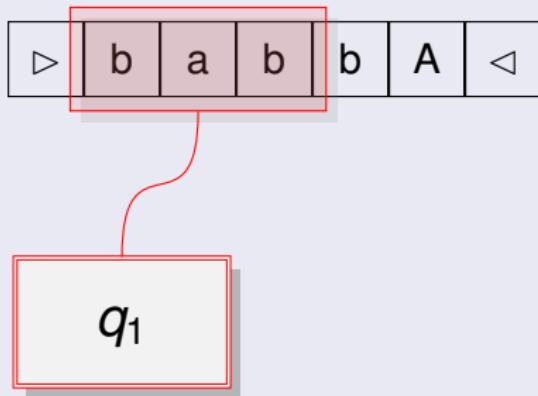
The Operations (cont.):

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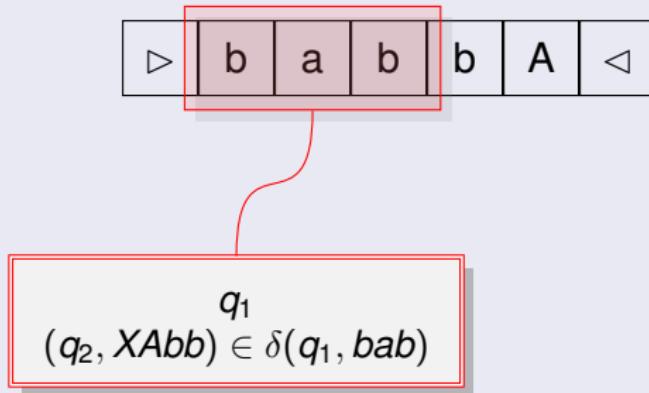
The Operations (cont.):

Rewrite Step:



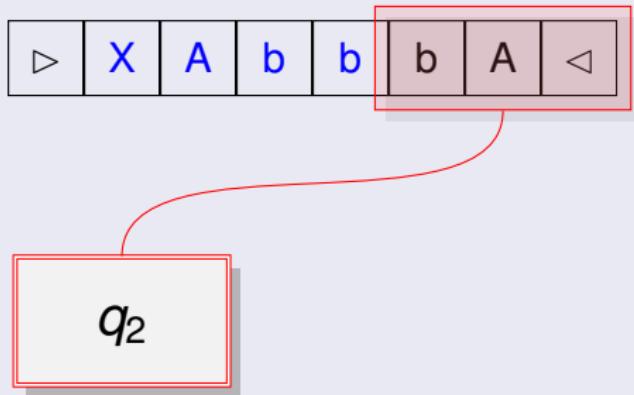
The Operations (cont.):

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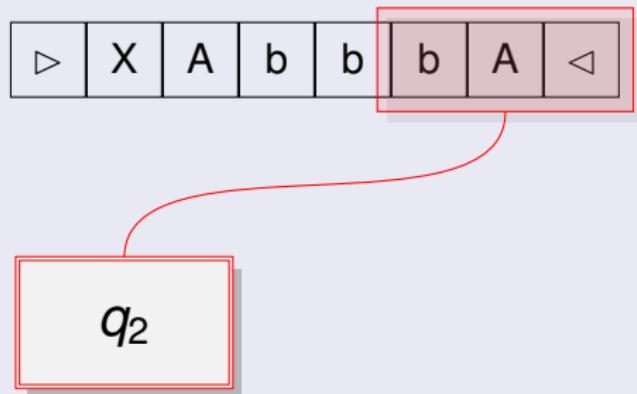
The Operations (cont.):

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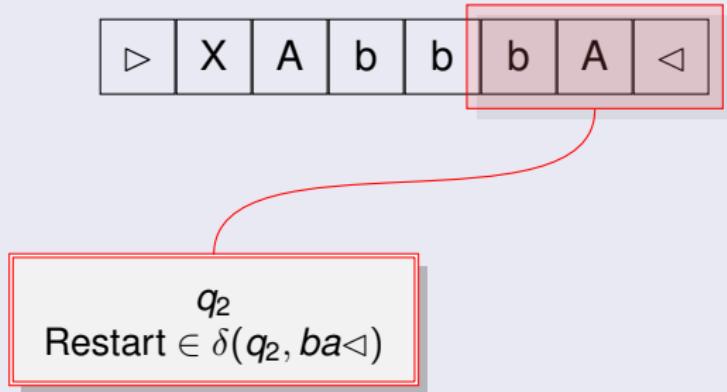
The Operations (cont.):

Restart Step:



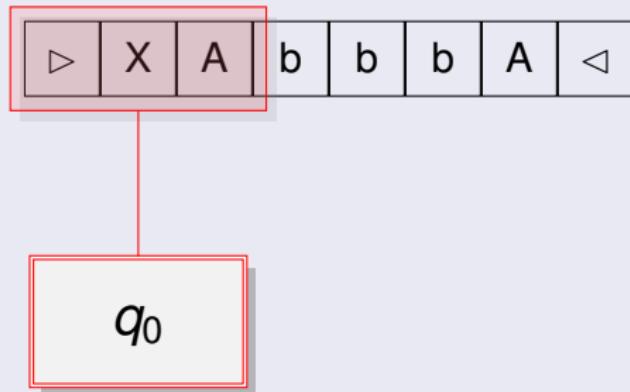
The Operations (cont.):

Restart Step:



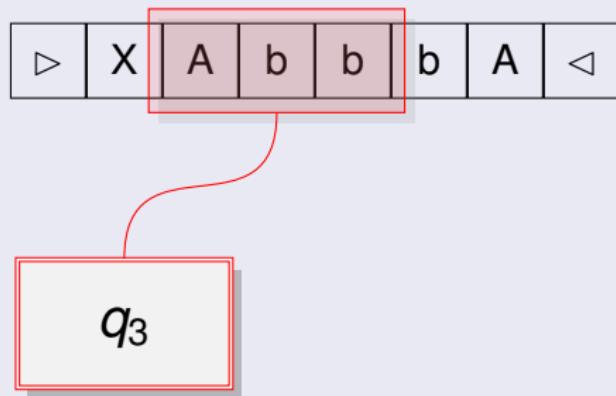
The Operations (cont.):

Restart Step:



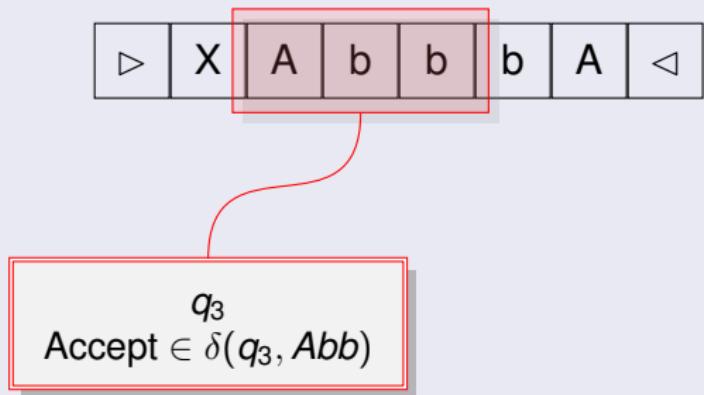
The Operations (cont.):

Accept Step:



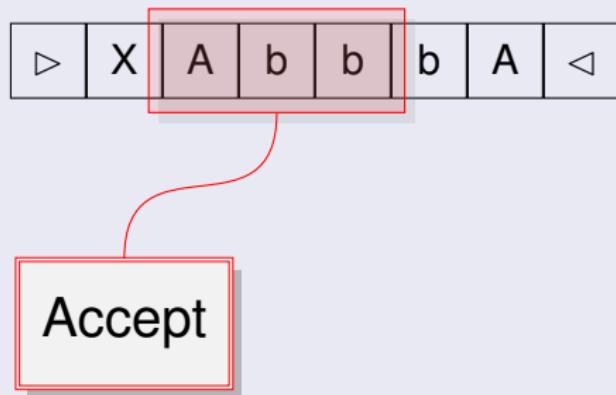
The Operations (cont.):

Accept Step:



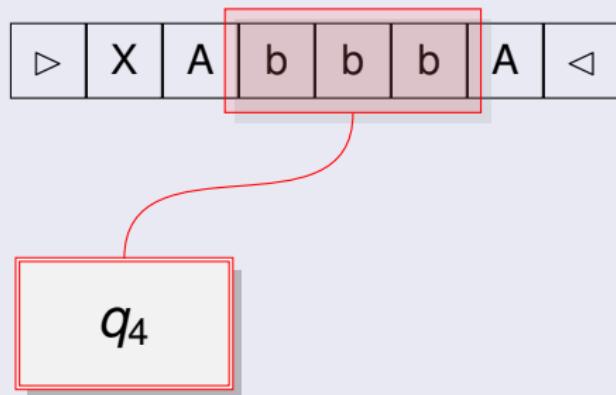
The Operations (cont.):

Accept Step:



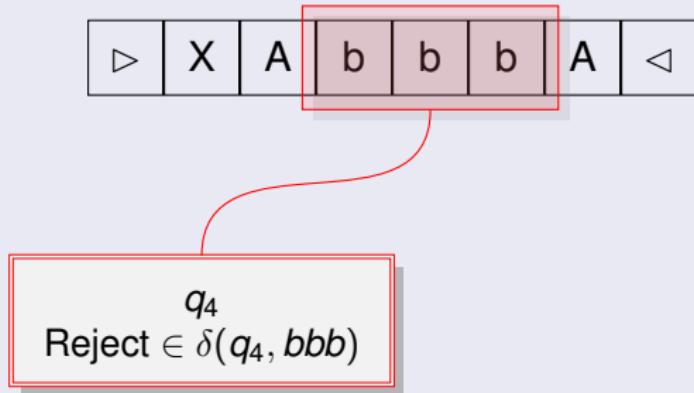
The Operations (cont.):

Reject Step:



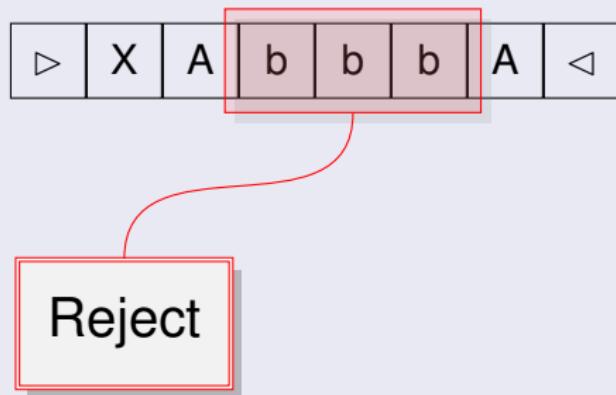
The Operations (cont.):

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Definition 1

A *restarting automaton* is defined by an 8-tuple

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, k, \delta),$$

where

- Q is a finite set of states,
- Σ is a finite input alphabet,
- Γ is a finite working alphabet such that $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$,
- $\triangleright, \triangleleft \notin \Gamma$ are the markers for the end of the tape (*sentinels*),
- $q_0 \in Q$ is the *restart state*, which also serves as *initial state*,
- $k \geq 1$ is the size of the read/write window, and
- $\delta : Q \times (\Gamma \cup \{\triangleright, \triangleleft\})^k \rightarrow 2^{((Q \times \{MVR, MVL, \Gamma^*\}) \cup \{\text{Restart}, \text{Accept}, \text{Reject}\})}$ is the transition relation.

Example 2

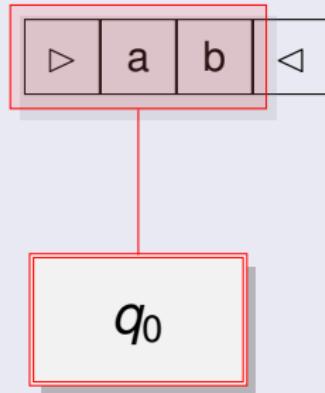
Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, 3, \delta)$ be the following restarting automaton:

- $Q = \{q_0\}$, $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$, $\Gamma = \Sigma \cup \{a_1, e, e_1, f, f_1, f_2\}$,
- and δ is defined with combined rewrite/restart steps:

(0)	$\delta(xyz)$	\ni	MVR	for all $x \in \Gamma \cup \{\triangleright\}$ and $y, z \in \Gamma$,
(1)	$\delta(\triangleright\triangleleft)$	\ni	Accept,	(13) $\delta(\triangleright a_1 e_1)$ \ni $\triangleright e_1$,
(2)	$\delta(ab\triangleleft)$	\ni	$ae\triangleleft$,	(14) $\delta(ae_1 e)$ \ni ae ,
(3)	$\delta(bb\triangleleft)$	\ni	$be\triangleleft, bf\triangleleft$,	(15) $\delta(\triangleright e_1 \triangleleft)$ \ni $\triangleright\triangleleft$,
(4)	$\delta(bbe)$	\ni	bee ,	(16) $\delta(aaf)$ \ni $aa_1 f$,
(5)	$\delta(abe)$	\ni	aee ,	(17) $\delta(\triangleright af)$ \ni $\triangleright a_1 f$,
(6)	$\delta(bbf)$	\ni	bff ,	(18) $\delta(a_1 ff)$ \ni $a_1 f_1 f$,
(7)	$\delta(abf)$	\ni	aff ,	(19) $\delta(f_1 ff)$ \ni $f_1 f_2 f$,
(8)	$\delta(aae)$	\ni	$aa_1 e$,	(20) $\delta(f_1 f \triangleleft)$ \ni $f_1 f_2 \triangleleft$,
(9)	$\delta(\triangleright ae)$	\ni	$\triangleright a_1 e$,	(21) $\delta(a_1 f_1 f_2)$ \ni $a_1 f_2$,
(10)	$\delta(a_1 ee)$	\ni	$a_1 e_1 e$,	(22) $\delta(aa_1 f_2)$ \ni af_2 ,
(11)	$\delta(a_1 e \triangleleft)$	\ni	$a_1 e_1 \triangleleft$,	(23) $\delta(\triangleright a_1 f_2)$ \ni $\triangleright f_2$,
(12)	$\delta(aa_1 e_1)$	\ni	ae_1 ,	(24) $\delta(af_2 f)$ \ni af ,
				(25) $\delta(\triangleright f_2 \triangleleft)$ \ni $\triangleright \triangleleft$.

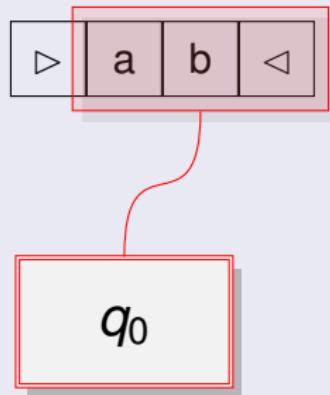
Example 2 (cont.)

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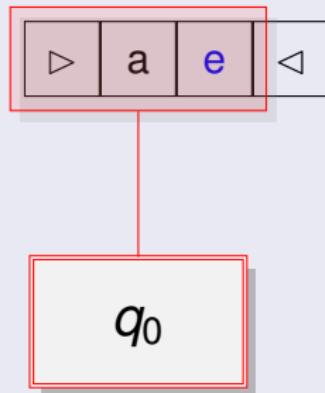
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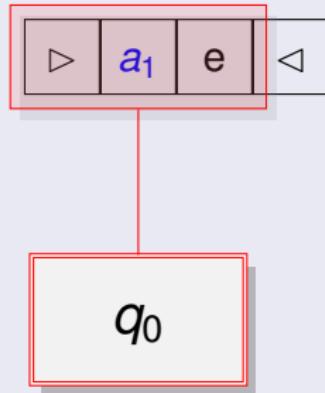
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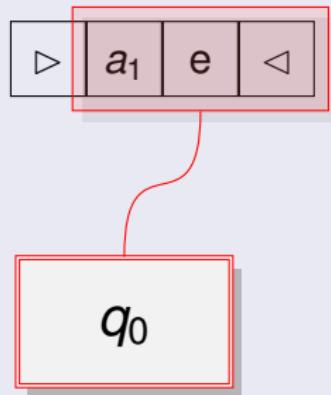
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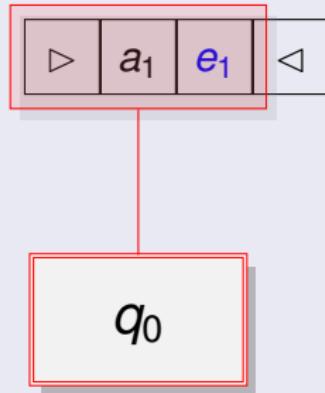
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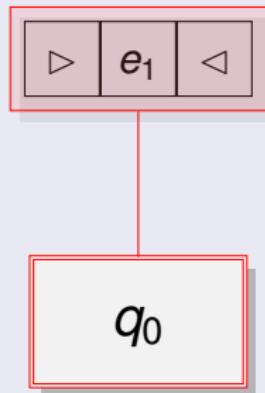
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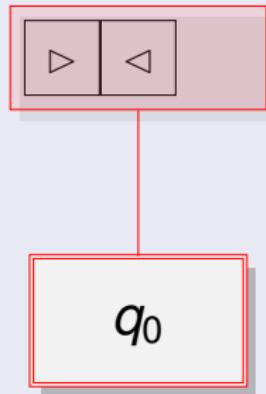
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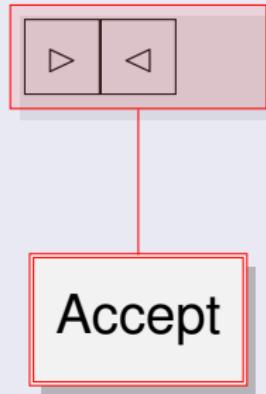
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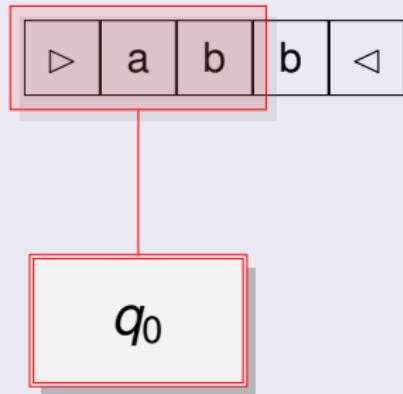
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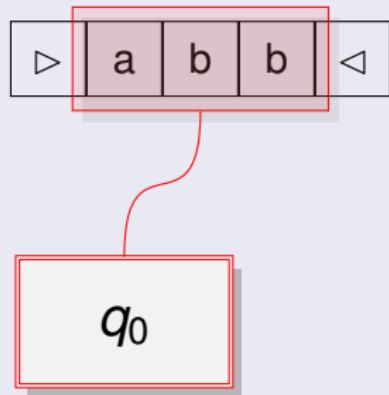
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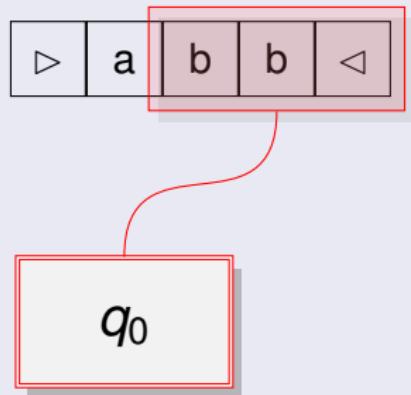
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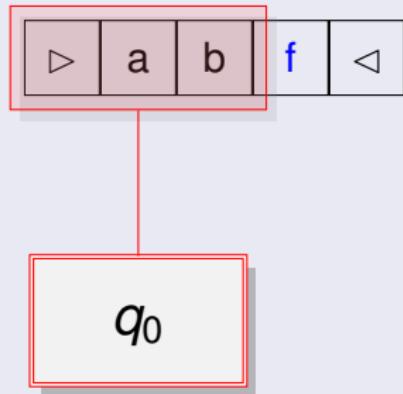
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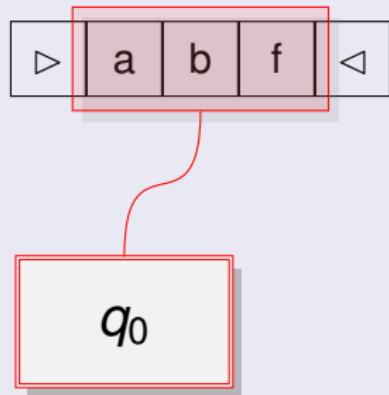
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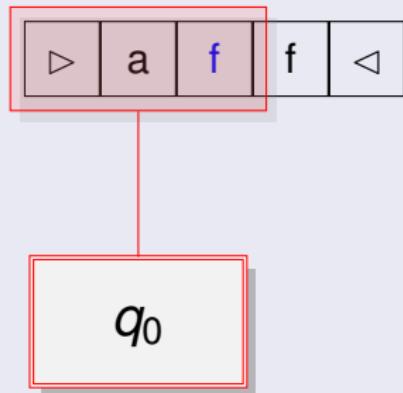
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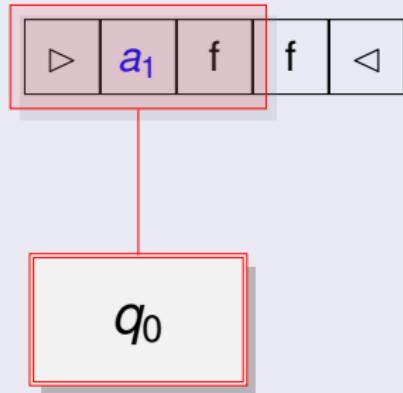
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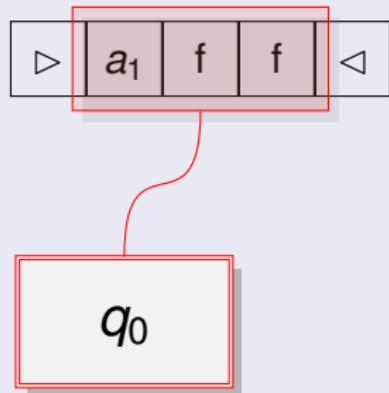
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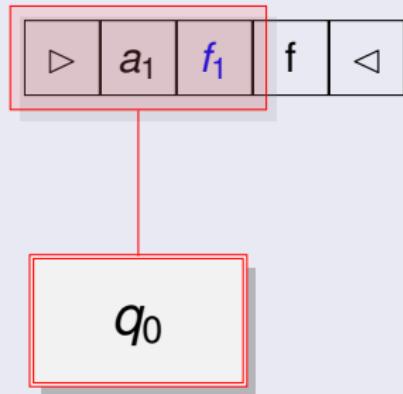
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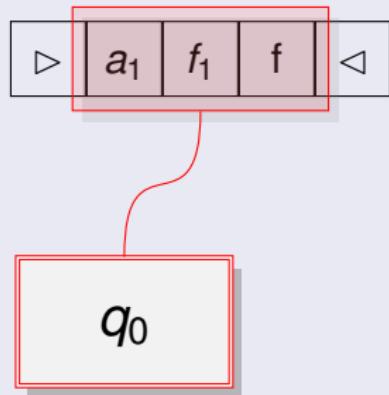
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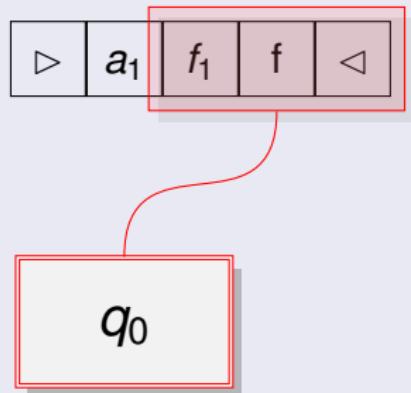
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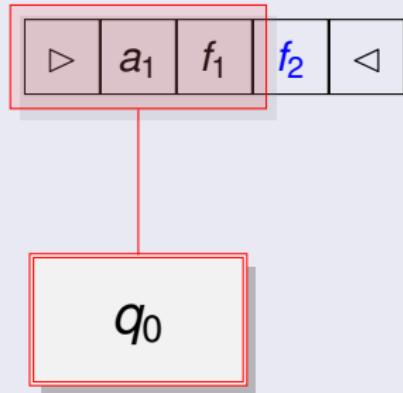
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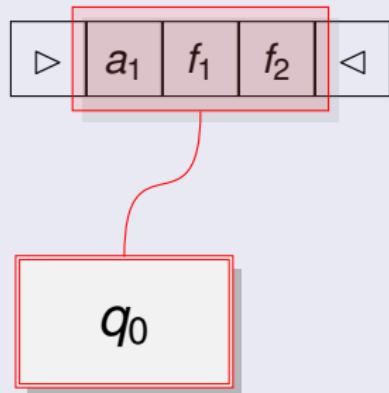
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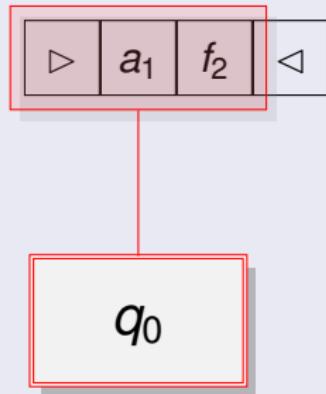
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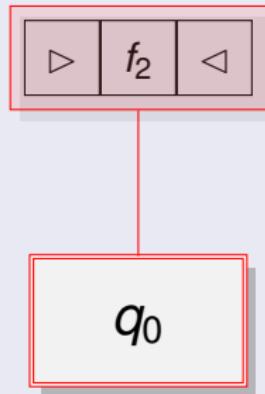
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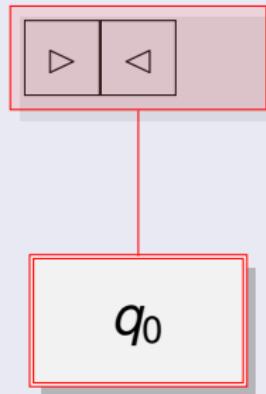
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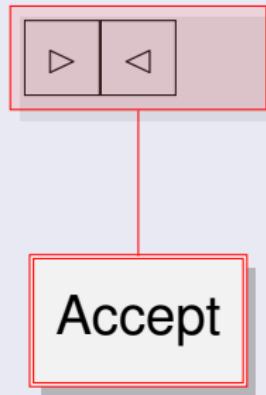
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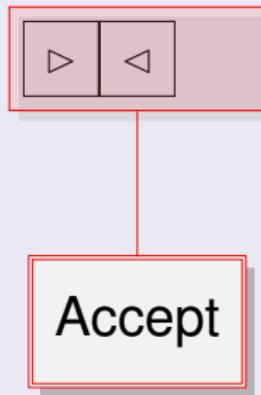
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It accepts the language $L = \{ a^n b^n, a^n b^{2n} \mid n \geq 0 \} \in \text{CFL} \setminus \text{DCFL}$.

Definition 1 (cont.)

Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, k, \delta)$ be a restarting automaton.

- (a) A **configuration** of M is a word of the form $\triangleright uqv w \triangleleft$, where $q \in Q$ and $u, v, w \in \Gamma^*$ with $|v| = k$.
- (b) A **restart configuration** is of the form $q_0 \triangleright vw \triangleleft$, where $v, w \in \Gamma^*$ with $|v| = k - 1$. If $v, w \in \Sigma^*$, then $q_0 \triangleright vw \triangleleft$ is an **initial configuration**.
- (c) A sequence of steps leading from a restart configuration $q_0 \triangleright vw \triangleleft$ to the next restart configuration $q_0 \triangleright xy \triangleleft$ is called a **cycle**.
It is written as $q_0 \triangleright vw \triangleleft \vdash_M^c q_0 \triangleright xy \triangleleft$.
Condition: Each cycle of each computation of M must contain at least one rewrite step!
- (d) A sequence of steps leading from a restart configuration to a final configuration (accepting or rejecting) without going through another restart configuration is called a **tail**.

Remark 3

A terminating **computation** of M consists of a finite sequence of cycles that is followed by a tail.

Definition 1 (cont.)

- (e) $L_C(M) = \{ w \in \Gamma^* \mid q_0 \triangleright w \triangleleft \vdash_M^* \text{Accept} \}$
is the **basic** (or **characteristic**) **language** of M .
- (f) $L(M) = \{ w \in \Sigma^* \mid q_0 \triangleright w \triangleleft \vdash_M^* \text{Accept} \}$
is the **input language** of M .

Remark 4

$$L(M) = L_C(M) \cap \Sigma^*.$$

Parameters of the Restarting Automaton

The type of a restarting automaton depends on many parameters:

- the number $|Q| \geq 1$ of states
- the number $|\Gamma \setminus \Sigma| \geq 0$ of auxiliary letters
- the size $k \geq 1$ of the read/write window
- the type of move steps allowed
- the type of rewrite steps allowed
- the number $j \geq 1$ of allowed rewrite steps per cycle
- the positions at which rewrite steps are executed

The automaton from Example 2 satisfies $|Q| = 1$, $|\Gamma \setminus \Sigma| = 6$, $k = 3$, only MVR-steps, rewrite steps replace or delete only the symbol in the middle of the window, and only one rewrite step per cycle that is immediately followed by a restart.

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Remark 5

- (a) *Each recursively enumerable language* is accepted by a deterministic restarting automaton with window size 1 and MVR- and MVL-steps that executes a single rewrite step per cycle which replaces a single letter or inserts a single letter.
- (b) *Each context-sensitive language* is accepted by a (nondeterministic) restarting automaton with window size 1 and MVR- and MVL-steps that executes a single rewrite step per cycle which replaces a single letter.

Proof.

The given type of restarting automaton can simulate a **single-tape Turing machine** (**linear-bounded automaton**), where each step of the Turing machine (LBA) is simulated by several cycles. □

Definition 6

Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, k, \delta)$ be a restarting automaton.

- (a) M is called **length-reducing** if $|v| < |u|$ holds for each rewrite step $(q', v) \in \delta(q, u)$ of M .
- (b) M is called **weight-reducing** (or **shrinking**) if there exists a weight function $\omega : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_+$ such that $\omega(v) < \omega(u)$ holds for each rewrite step $(q', v) \in \delta(q, u)$ of M .

Fact 7

If M is a weight-reducing restarting automaton, then each computation that begins with a tape contents of length n consists of at most $c \cdot n$ cycles and a tail, where $c \geq 1$ is a constant that depends on the underlying weight function.

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Corollary 8

If M is a weight-reducing restarting automaton, then
 $L(M) \in \text{NTIMESPACE}(n^2, n)$.

Proof.

A computation of M can be simulated by a nondeterministic 2-tape Turing machine that runs in quadratic time and that needs linear space. □

From now on we only consider restarting automata that are weight-reducing (or even length-reducing)!

The restarting automaton from Example 2 is weight-reducing:
Choose the weight function ω in such a way that

$$\omega(a), \omega(b) > \omega(a_1), \omega(e), \omega(f) > \omega(e_1), \omega(f_1), \omega(f_2)$$

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3. Some Important Results on Formal Languages

3.1 Parameter 1: The Type of Operations

In [1] and other papers by Petr Jančar et al., only length-reducing restarting automata were studied that execute exactly one rewrite step in each cycle. The resulting types of restarting automata are the following:

	with auxiliary symbols (-WW)	no auxiliary symbols (-W)	deletions only (-ε)
MVL-steps (RL-)	RLWW	RLW	RL
no MVL-steps (RR-)	RRWW	RRW	RR
no MVL-steps, rewrite followed by restart (R-)	RWW	RW	R

Definition 9

Let M be an RLWW-automaton.

- (a) If a cycle C of M contains the rewrite transition

$$\triangleright uq\textcolor{blue}{v}w \triangleleft \vdash_M \triangleright ux\textcolor{red}{q}'w \triangleleft,$$

then $D_r(C) = |vw| + 1$ is the *right distance* of C .

- (b) M is *monotone* if, in each computation of M , the right distance does not increase from one cycle to the next.
- (c) M is *weakly monotone* if there exists a constant $c \geq 0$ such that, in each computation of M , the right distance increases by at most c from one cycle to the next.

Prefixes are used to denote subtypes of restarting automata:

deterministic automata	det-
monotone automata	mon-
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Theorem 10 (Plátek 2001 [3])

$$\mathcal{L}((s)RL(W)(W)) = \mathcal{L}((s)RR(W)(W)).$$

$$\mathcal{L}((w)\text{mon-}(s)RL(W)(W)) = \mathcal{L}((w)\text{mon-}(s)RR(W)(W)).$$

Theorem 11 (Jurdziński, Otto 2007 [4])

$$\mathcal{L}(sRWW) = \mathcal{L}(sRRWW) = \mathcal{L}(sRLWW) = \mathcal{L}(\text{FCA}).$$

Theorem 12 (Jančar et al. 1999 [5])

$$(a) \quad \mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RWW}) = \mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RRWW}) = \text{CFL}.$$

$$(b) \quad \mathcal{L}(\text{det-mon-R}) = \mathcal{L}(\text{det-mon-RRWW}) = \text{DCFL}.$$

Theorem 13 (Jurdziński et al. 2004 [6])

$$\mathcal{L}(\text{wmon-RWW}) = \mathcal{L}(\text{wmon-RRWW}) = \text{GCSL}.$$

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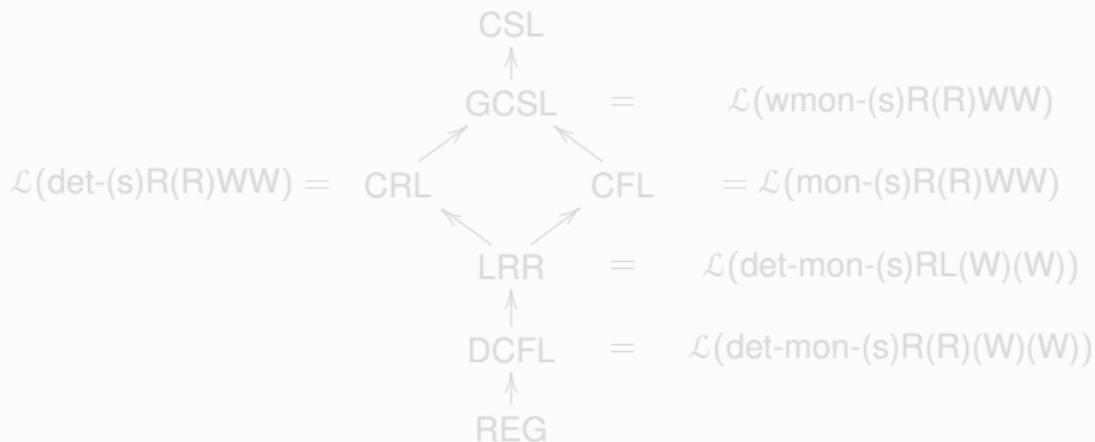
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Theorems 12, 13, 14, and 15 extend to the corresponding weight-reducing types of restarting automata.

Hierarchy of Language Classes Accepted by Various Subtypes of sRLWW-Automata:

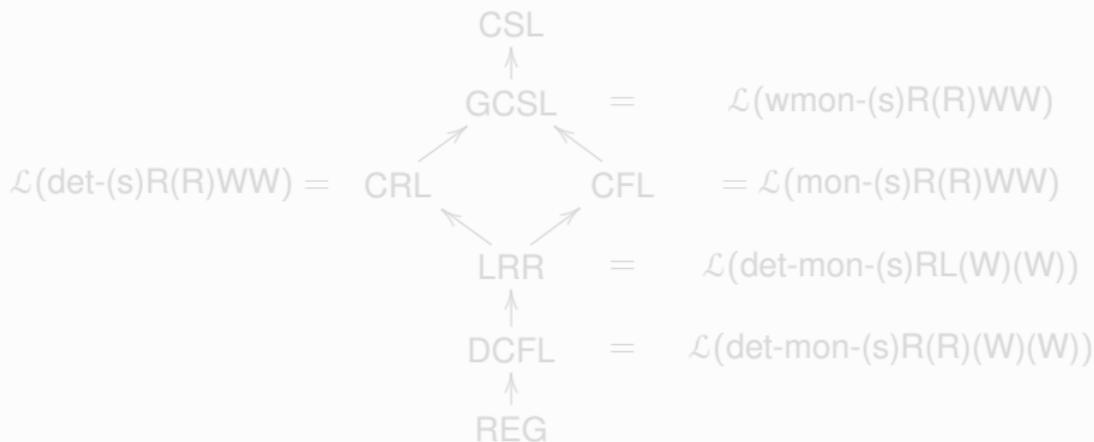


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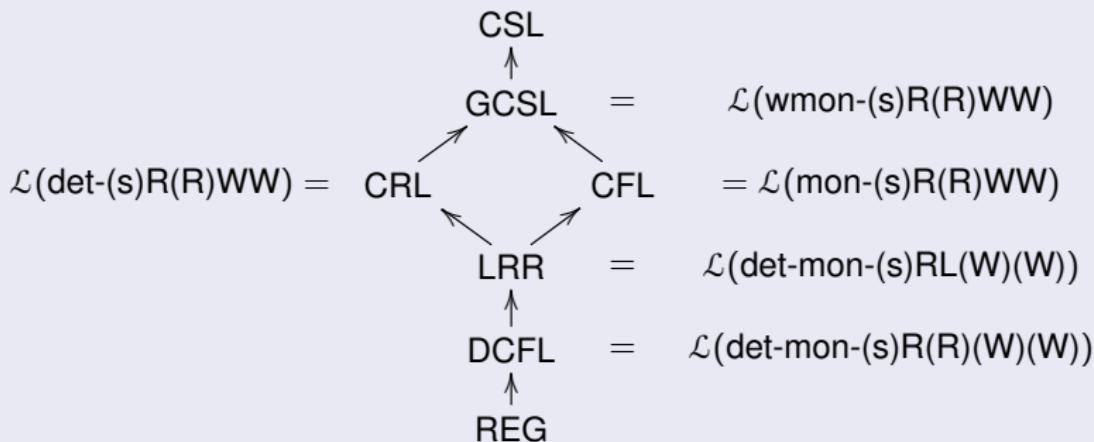


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Problem 1

Is the inclusion $\mathcal{L}(\text{sRRWW}) \subseteq \text{CSL}$ proper?

Find a context-sensitive language that is not accepted by an sRRWW-automaton!

Problem 2

Is the inclusion $\mathcal{L}(\text{RRWW}) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\text{sRRWW})$ proper?

Find a language that is accepted by a weight-reducing, but not by any length-reducing RRWW-automaton!

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Theorem 16 (Holzer, Kutrib, Reimann 2007 [9])

Let $X, Y \in \{R, RR, RW, RRW, RWW, RRWW\}$. Then the trade-off for the conversion of a restarting automaton of type X or det-X into an equivalent monotone restarting automaton of type Y is non-recursive.

Theorem 17 (Holzer, Kutrib, Reimann 2007 [9])

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3.2 Parameter 2: The Size of the Read/Write Window

For each type X of restarting automaton, let $X(k)$ denote the restarting automata of type X that have a read/write window of size k .

Theorem 18 (Mráz 2001 [11])

For all $k \geq 1$ and all $X \in \{R, RR, RW, RRW\}$,

$$\mathcal{L}((\text{det-})(\text{mon-})X(k)) \subsetneq \mathcal{L}((\text{det-})(\text{mon-})X(k+1)).$$

Theorem 19 (Kutrib, Otto 2012 [12])

For all $X \in \{\text{det-}R(R)W, R(R)W\}$ and all $k \geq 3$, the trade-off from $X(k)$ -automata to $X(k-1)$ -automata is non-recursive.

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Theorem 22 (Mráz, Otto 2019 [15])

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Problem 4

Is the inclusion $\mathcal{L}(\text{mon-sRRWW}(1)) \subseteq \text{CFL}$ proper?

Find a context-free language that is not accepted by any monotone sRRWW-automaton with window size one!

Is $L_{\text{pal}} = \{ ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^\}$ such a language?*

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Problem 4

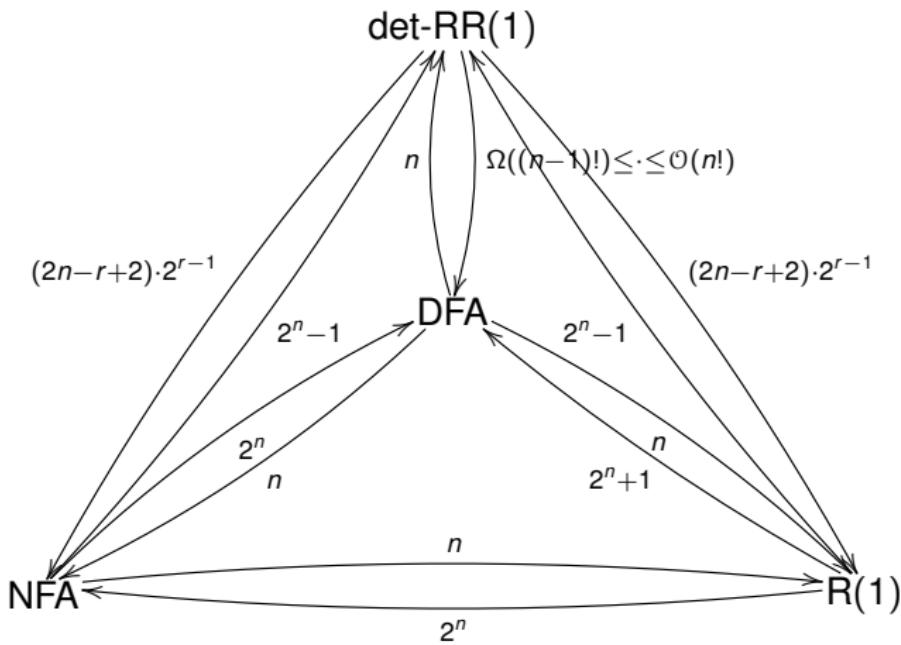
Is the inclusion $\mathcal{L}(\text{mon-s}RRW(1)) \subseteq \text{CFL}$ proper?

Find a context-free language that is not accepted by any monotone sRRW-automaton with window size one!

Is $L_{\text{pal}} = \{ ww^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^\}$ such a language?*

Theorem 23 (Kutrib, Reimann 2008 [16])

The trade-offs between DFAs, NFAs, $R(1)$ - , and det-RR(1)-automata are as depicted below.



Theorem 24 (Schluter 2015 [17])

For all $k \geq 2$,

- (a) $\mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RWW}(k)) = \mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RRWW}(k)).$
- (b) $\mathcal{L}(\text{det-mon-RWW}(k)) = \mathcal{L}(\text{det-mon-RRWW}(k)).$
- (c) $\mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RRWW}(k+1)) = \mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RRWW}(k)).$
- (d) $\mathcal{L}(\text{RRWW}(k+1)) = \mathcal{L}(\text{RRWW}(k)).$

Corollary 25 (Schluter 2015 [17])

$$\mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RWW}(2)) = \text{CFL} = \mathcal{L}(\text{mon-sRRWW}).$$

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$$\mathcal{L}(\text{mon-RWW}(2)) = \text{CFL} = \mathcal{L}(\text{mon-sRRWW}).$$

Theorem 26 (Mráz, Otto 2019 [18])

$$\mathcal{L}(\text{det-(mon-)RWW}(2)) = \text{DCFL} = \mathcal{L}(\text{det-mon-sRRWW}).$$

As $L_{\text{expo}} = \{ a^{2^n} \mid n \geq 0 \} \in \mathcal{L}(\text{det-RWW}(3))$, we see that
 $\mathcal{L}(\text{det-RWW}(2)) \subsetneq \mathcal{L}(\text{det-RWW}(3))$.

Problem 5

Is the inclusion $\mathcal{L}(\text{det-RWW}(k)) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\text{det-RWW}(k+1))$ proper for all $k \geq 3$, or is there an integer $\hat{k} \geq 3$ such that $\mathcal{L}(\text{det-RWW}(\hat{k})) = \text{CRL}$?

Theorem 27 (Mráz, Otto 2019 [18])

$$\mathcal{L}(\text{det-sRWW}(2)) = \text{CRL} = \mathcal{L}(\text{det-sRRWW}).$$

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3.3 Parameter 3: The Number of States

Definition 28

A restarting automaton $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, k, \delta)$ is called **stateless** if $Q = \{q_0\}$. We use the prefix **stl-** to denote stateless types of restarting automata.

Theorem 29 (Kutrib, Messerschmidt, Otto 2010 [19])

- (a) $\mathcal{L}(\text{stl-det-mon-R}) \supsetneq \text{REG}$
- (b) $\mathcal{L}(\text{stl-det-mon-RWW}) = \text{DCFL}$
- (c) $\mathcal{L}(\text{stl-mon-RWW}) = \text{CFL}$
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Definition 30

An *ordered RWW-automaton (ORWW)* is an $sRWW(3)$ -automaton in which each rewrite step replaces the letter in the middle of the window by a letter with less weight.

Theorem 31 (Kwee, Otto 2018 [20, 21])

- (a) $\mathcal{L}(\text{stl-det-ORWW}) = \mathcal{L}(\text{det-ORWW}) = \text{REG}$
- (b) $\mathcal{L}(\text{stl-ORWW}) = \text{REG} \subsetneq \mathcal{L}(\text{ORWW})$
- (c) $\mathcal{L}(\text{ORWW})$ is incomparable to DLIN and GCSL.

Proof of (c):

$\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 1\} \in \text{DLIN} \setminus \mathcal{L}(\text{ORWW})$, while

$L'_{\text{copy}} = \{wcu \mid w, u \in \{a, b\}^*, |w|, |u| \geq 2, u \text{ is a scattered factor of } w\}$

belongs to $\mathcal{L}(\text{ORWW}) \setminus \text{GCSL}$.

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Remark

For a stl-det-ORWW-automaton $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, k, \delta)$, we use $|\Gamma|$ to measure the size of M .

Theorem 32 (Kwee, Otto 2018 [21])

From a stl-ORWW-automaton M with a tape alphabet of cardinality n , an NFA $A = (Q, \Sigma, S, \delta_A, F)$ can be constructed such that $|Q| \leq 2^{13 \cdot n}$ and $L(A) = L(M)$.

Corollary 33 (Kwee, Otto 2018 [21])

For converting a stl-ORWW-automaton or a stl-det-ORWW-automaton with a tape alphabet of cardinality n into an equivalent DFA (NFA), $2^{2^{\Theta(n)}} (2^{\Theta(n)})$ states are sufficient, and there are cases in which these many states are also necessary.

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Definition 34

An *ordered restart-delete-automaton (ORD)* is an $sRWW(3)$ -automaton in which each rewrite step replaces the letter in the middle of the window by a letter with less weight or by the empty word.

Theorem 35 (Otto 2018 [22, 23])

- (a) $\text{DCFL} \subsetneq \mathcal{L}(\text{stl-det-ORD}) = \mathcal{L}(\text{det-ORD}) \subsetneq \text{CRL} \cap \text{CFL}$
- (b) $\text{CFL} \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\text{stl-ORD})$

Problem 6

Is the inclusion $\text{CFL} \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\text{stl-ORD})$ proper?

Find a non-context-free language that accepted by a stl-ORD-automaton!

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A stl-ORD-automaton $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \triangleright, \triangleleft, q_0, k, \delta)$ is called **swift**, if it can always perform move-right steps unless its window is already at the right end of the tape.

Theorem 37 (Otto 2020 [23, 24])

$$\mathcal{L}(\text{swift-ORD}) = \text{CFL}$$

Theorem 38 (Otto 2019 [23, 24])

The trade-off for the conversion of a swift-ORD-automaton into an equivalent stl-ORWW-automaton is non-recursive.

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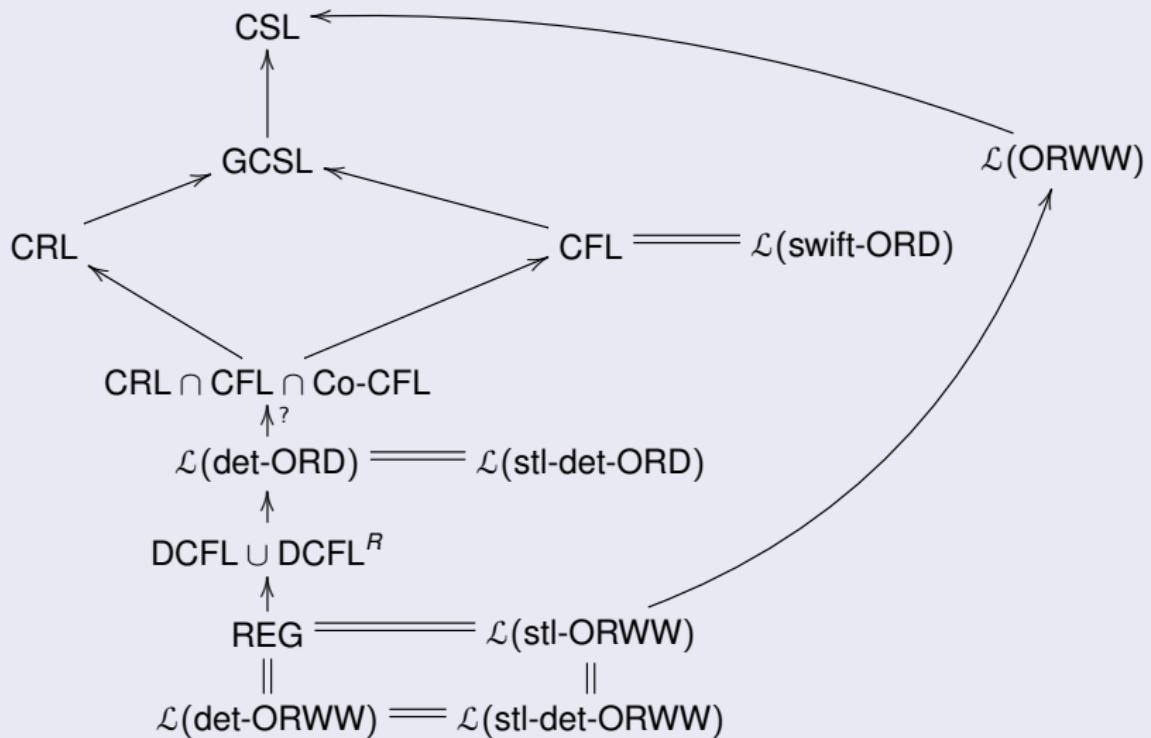
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The Taxonomy of Ordered Restarting Automata



4. Conclusion

Further Parameters of Restarting Automata:

- 1 number of auxiliary letters (Jurdziński, Otto 2006 [25])
- 2 utilization of auxiliary letters:
 - lexicalized restarting automata (Mráz, Otto, Plátek 2009 [26])
 - h-lexicalized restarting automata (Plátek, Otto 2017 [27])
- 3 number of rewrites per cycle (Mráz, Otto, Plátek 2014 [28])

Further Variants of Restarting Automata

- 1 nonforgetting restarting automata [29]
- 2 cooperating distributed systems of restarting automata [30]
- 3 parallel communicating systems of restarting automata [31]
- 4 restarting transducer [32]
- 5 weighted restarting automata [33]
- 6 restarting automata with structured output [34]
- 7 restarting automata for picture languages [35]
- 8 restarting tree automata [36]

Another Topic:

- Inductive inference of restricted types of restarting automata
(See, e.g., Mráz, Plátek, Otto 2006 [37], and Hoffmann 2013 [38])

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Thank you for your attention!

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