

# Informed Learners

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(Charles Darwin's 205<sup>th</sup> birthday!)

# Outline

## 1 informed learners

- background
- the general case

## 2 RPNI

- overview
- algorithm
- example

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## Learning from an informant

### Definition (informed learning sample)

An *informed learning sample*  $S$  is composed of a set  $S_+$  of positive strings, and a set  $S_-$  of negative strings, such that  $S_+ \cap S_- = \emptyset$ .

### Definition (deterministic finite automaton)

A *dfa*  $A$  is a tuple  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$  where:

- $\Sigma$  is an alphabet
- $Q$  is a finite set of states
- $q_\lambda \in Q$  is the initial state
- $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is a transition function
- $F_a, F_r \subseteq Q$  are sets of final accepting states and final rejecting states

### Definition

$\mathcal{L}_{F_a}(A)$  is the language *recognized* by  $A$ ;

$\mathcal{L}_{F_r}(A)$  is the language *recognized by rejection* in  $A$ .

# Consistency

## Definition (weakly consistent)

$A$  is *weakly consistent* with the sample  $S = \langle S_+, S_- \rangle$  if

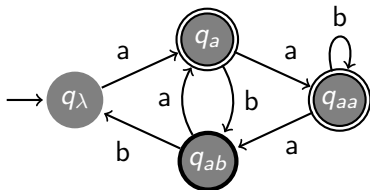
$$\forall x \in S_+ : \delta(q_\lambda, x) \in F_a \text{ and } \forall x \in S_- : \delta(q_\lambda, x) \notin F_a$$

## Definition (strongly consistent)

$A$  is *strongly consistent* with the sample  $S = \langle S_+, S_- \rangle$  if

$$\forall x \in S_+ : \delta(q_\lambda, x) \in F_a \text{ and } \forall x \in S_- : \delta(q_\lambda, x) \in F_r$$

$$S_+ = \{aa\}$$
$$S_- = \{abb, b\}$$

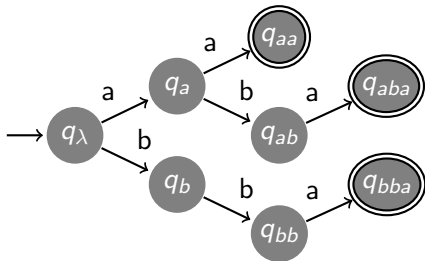


$$S_+ = \{aa, aba\}$$
$$S_- = \{abab\}$$

## Definition (prefix tree acceptor)

$PTA(S_+)$ , is the DFA  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$  such that:

- $Q = \{ q_u \mid u \in \text{PREFIX}(S_+) \}$
- $\forall ua \in \text{PREFIX}(S_+): \delta(q_u, a) = q_{ua}$
- $F_a = \{ q_u \mid u \in S_+ \}$
- $F_r = \emptyset$



$S_+ = \{ aa, aba, bba \}$

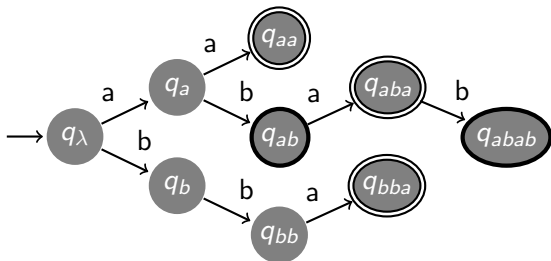
$S_- = \{ ab, abab \}$

The smallest DFA recognizing  $S_+$  that is a tree.

## Definition (prefix tree acceptor)

$PTA(S_+, S_-)$  is the DFA  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$  such that:

- $Q = \{ q_u \mid u \in \text{PREFIX}(S_+ \cup S_-) \}$
- $\forall ua \in \text{PREFIX}(S_+ \cup S_-): \delta(q_u, a) = q_{ua}$
- $F_a = \{ q_u \mid u \in S_+ \}$
- $F_r = \{ q_u \mid u \in S_- \}$



$$S_+ = \{ aa, aba, bba \}$$

$$S_- = \{ ab, abab \}$$

The smallest DFA  
that is a tree,  
with  $S_+ \subseteq \mathcal{L}_{F_a}$   
and  $S_- \subseteq \mathcal{L}_{F_r}$ .

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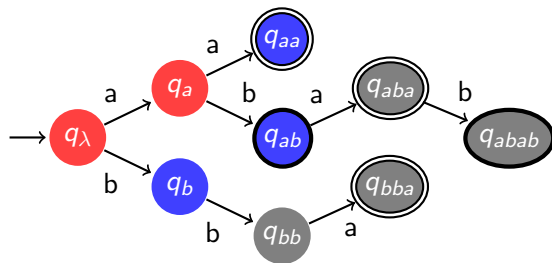
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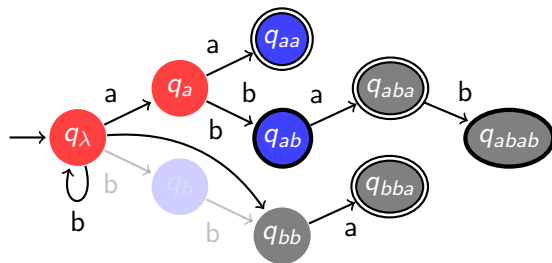
# General view of informed learners

- algorithms for informed learning generally start with a PTA
- generalize by merging states
- divide states into three categories:
  - ▶ RED states: already determined to form part of the final automaton,
  - ▶ BLUE states: candidate states, to either merge with a RED state, or add to the RED states, and
  - ▶ WHITE states: everything else



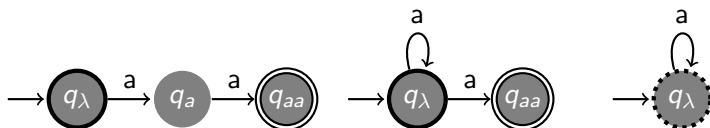
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  - ▶ WHITE states: everything else



# generic operations for informed learners

- compatible
  - ▶ two states are compatible if they can be merged without creating confusion between accepting and rejecting states
- merge
  - ▶ merging may lead to non-determinism
  - ▶ can result in a state which is both accepting and rejecting
  - ▶ such merges have to be rejected



- promote
  - ▶ promote a BLUE state which is different then all RED states

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# Regular Positive and Negative Inference (RPNI)<sup>1</sup>

- Greedily merges states in the PTA
- result is always consistent, and more general than the PTA
- starts with a PTA constructed from  $S_+$
- avoids non-determinism following merges by adding a fold operation

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<sup>1</sup>Oncina & García. Identifying regular languages in polynomial time. In H. Burke, ed., *Advances in Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition*, v. 5 of *Series in Machine Perception and Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 99–108. World Scientific, 1992.

## promoting a state

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**Algorithm 1:** PROMOTE( $A, \text{RED}, \text{BLUE}, q_u$ )

---

**input** : dfa  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$ , sets  $\text{RED}, \text{BLUE} \subseteq Q, q_u \in \text{BLUE}$

**output:**  $A, \text{RED}, \text{BLUE}$

$\text{RED} \leftarrow \text{RED} \cup \{q_u\}$

$\text{BLUE} \leftarrow \text{BLUE} \setminus \{q_u\}$

$\text{BLUE} \leftarrow \text{BLUE} \cup \{\delta(q_u, a) \mid a \in \Sigma\}$

**return**  $A, \text{RED}, \text{BLUE}$

---

- promotes a BLUE state to RED
- all successors of the promoted state become BLUE

## state equivalence

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**Algorithm 2:** COMPATIBLE( $A, S_-$ )

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**input** : dfa  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$ , sample  $S_-$

**output:** Boolean

**for**  $w \in S_-$  **do**

**if**  $\delta(q_\lambda, w) \cap F_a \neq \emptyset$  **then**

**return** *false*

**return** *true*

---

- returns false iff some counter-example is accepted by the automaton

## merging two states, part 1

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**Algorithm 3:** MERGE( $A, q, q'$ )

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**input** : dfa  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$ , states  $q \in \text{RED}, q' \in \text{BLUE}$

**output:**  $A$

Let  $(q_f, a)$  be such that  $\delta(q_f, a) = q'$

$\delta(q_f, a) \leftarrow q$

**return** FOLD( $A, q, q'$ )

---

- a unique  $(q_f, a)$  must exist, because  $q' \in \text{BLUE}$ :
  - ▶  $q'$  has exactly one predecessor,
  - ▶ and  $q'$  is the root of a tree.
- the single incoming transition to  $q'$  is redirected to  $q$
- yields a disconnected subtree with root  $q'$



## merging two states, part 1

---

**Algorithm 4:** MERGE( $A, q, q'$ )

---

**input** : dfa  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$ , states  $q \in \text{RED}$ ,  $q' \in \text{BLUE}$

**output:**  $A$

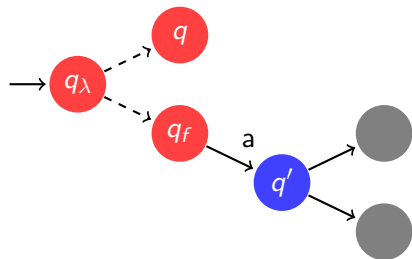
Let  $(q_f, a)$  be such that  $\delta(q_f, a) = q'$

$\delta(q_f, a) \leftarrow q$

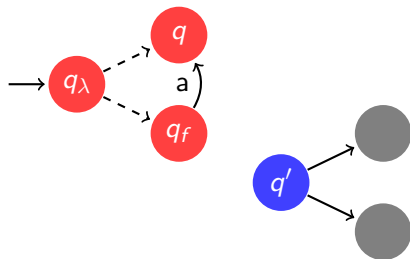
**return** FOLD( $A, q, q'$ )

---

before merging:



after merging:



## merging two states, part 2

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**Algorithm 5:** FOLD( $A, q, q'$ )

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**input** : dfa  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$ , states  $q, q' \in Q$

**output**:  $A$  with subtree of  $q'$  folded into  $q$

**if**  $q' \in F_a$  **then**

$F_a \leftarrow F_a \cup \{q\}$

**for**  $a \in \Sigma$  **do**

**if**  $\delta(q', a)$  is defined **then**

**if**  $\delta(q, a)$  is defined **then**

$A \leftarrow \text{FOLD}(A, \delta(q, a), \delta(q', a))$

**else**

$\delta(q, a) \leftarrow \delta(q', a)$

**return**  $A$

---

- the fold simultaneously traverses the PTA and the subtree
  - ▶ adds missing states, transitions from subtree to PTA
  - ▶ updates states that are final in subtree, but not in PTA

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**Algorithm 6:** RPNI

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**input** : sample  $S = \langle S_+, S_- \rangle$

**output:** a dfa  $A = \langle \Sigma, Q, q_\lambda, F_a, F_r, \delta \rangle$

$A \leftarrow \text{BUILDPTA}(S_+)$

$\text{RED} \leftarrow \{ q_\lambda \}$

$\text{BLUE} \leftarrow \{ q_a \mid a \in \Sigma \cap \text{PREF}(S_+) \}$

**while**  $\text{BLUE} \neq \emptyset$  **do**

$\text{CHOOSE}(q_b \in \text{BLUE})$

**if**  $\exists q_r \in \text{RED} : \text{COMPATIBLE}(\text{MERGE}(A, q_r, q_b), S_-)$  **then**

$A \leftarrow \text{MERGE}(A, q_r, q_b)$

$\text{BLUE} \leftarrow \text{BLUE} \cap \{ \delta(q, a) \mid q \in \text{RED}, a \in \Sigma, \delta(q, a) \notin \text{RED} \}$

**else**

$A, \text{RED}, \text{BLUE} \leftarrow \text{PROMOTE}(A, \text{RED}, \text{BLUE}, q_b)$

parse  $S_-$  and mark rejecting states

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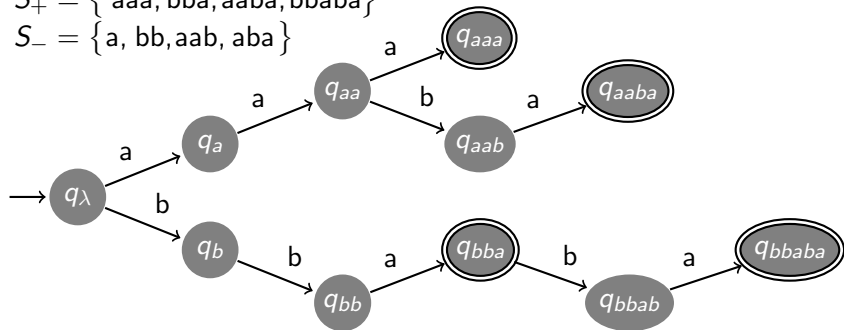
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## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

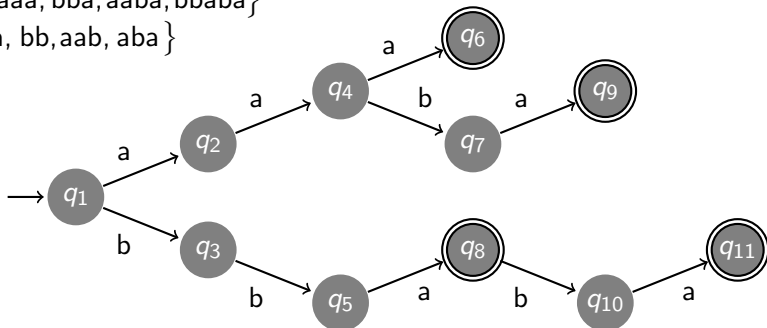
$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



## RPNI example

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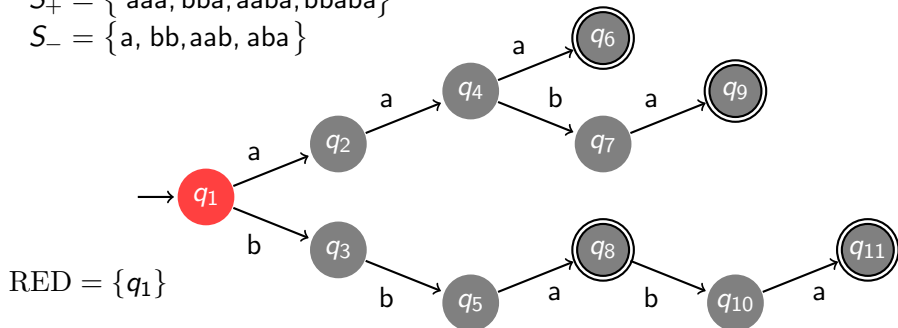
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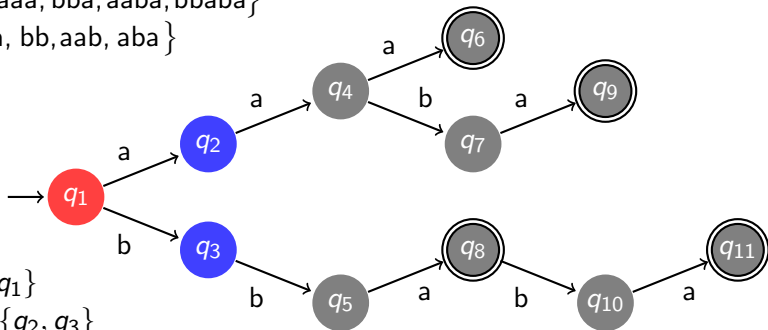




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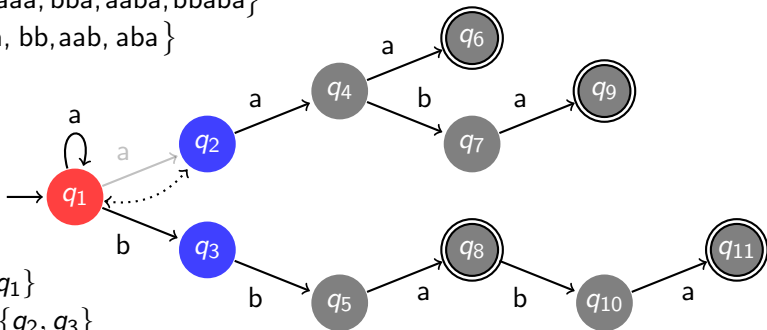
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## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_2, q_3\}$

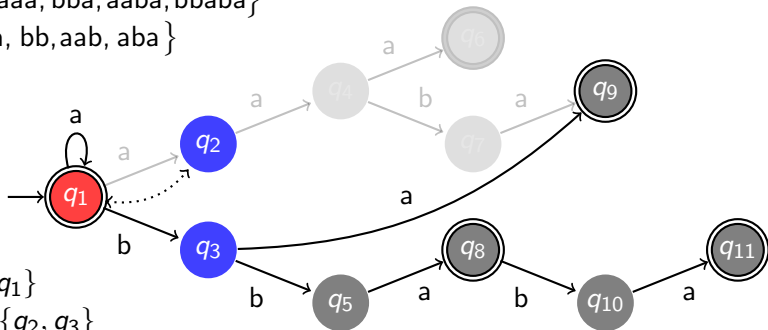
$q_2$  :

MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

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RED =  $\{q_1\}$

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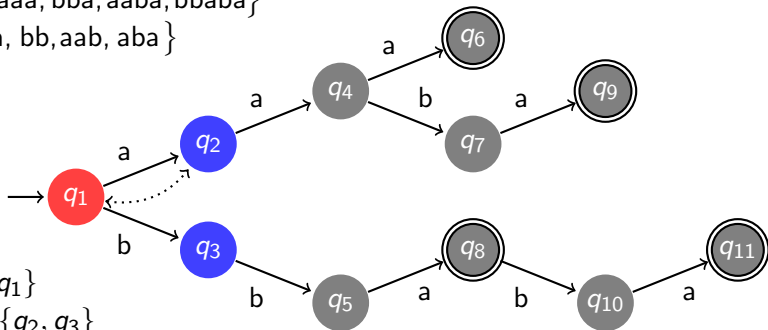
MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )

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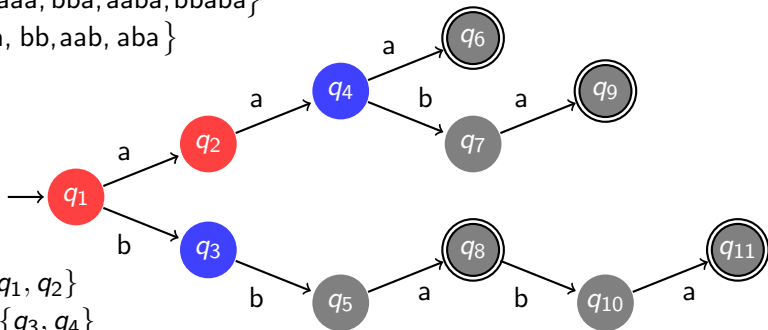
~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

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## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_3, q_4\}$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

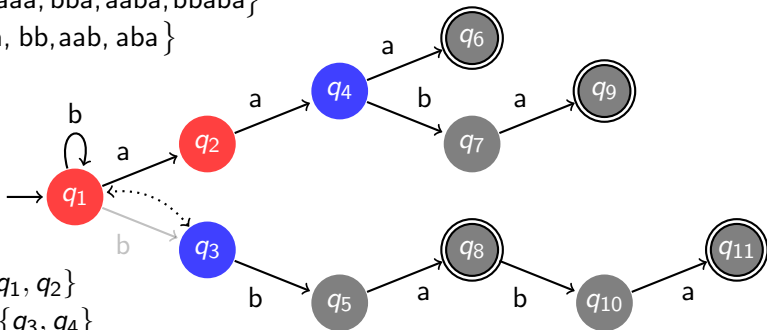
~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

# RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



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$q_2$  :

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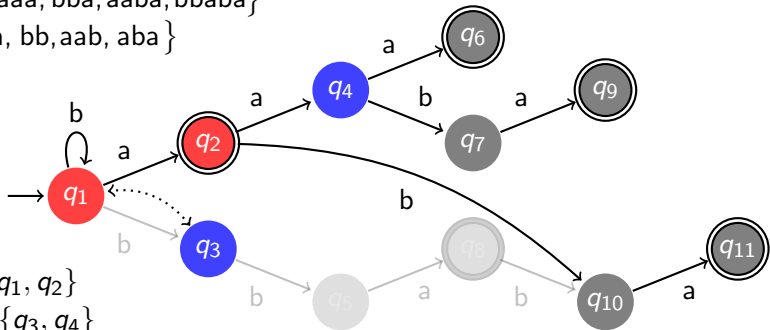
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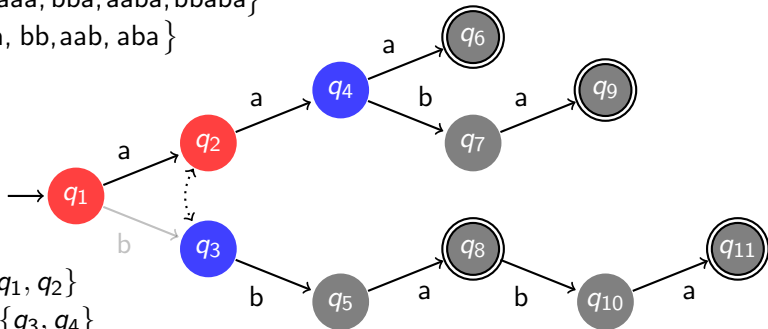
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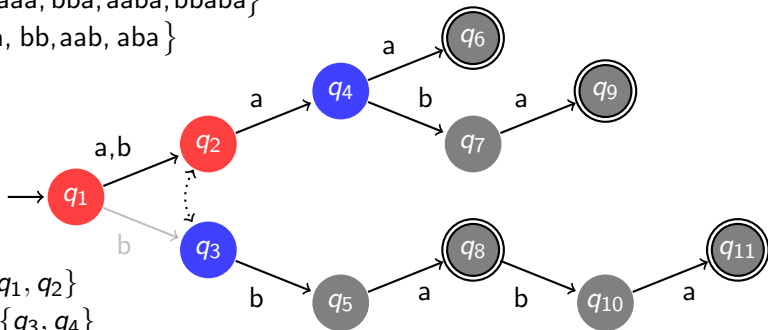
MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )



# RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_3, q_4\}$

$q_2$  :

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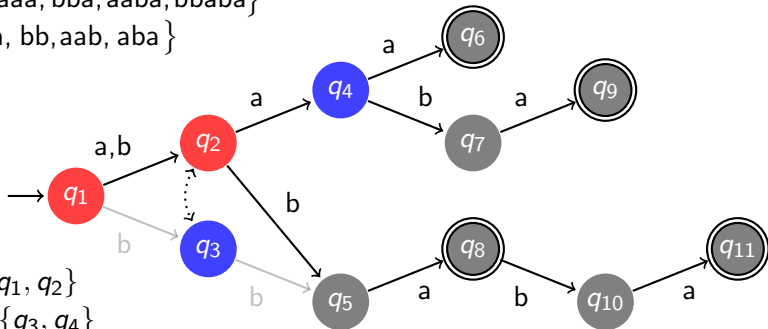
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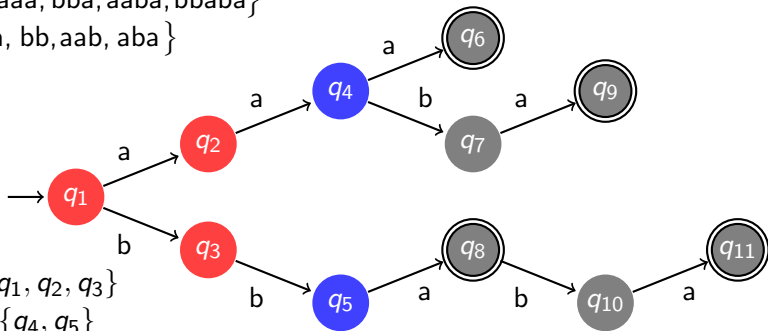
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# RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_4, q_5\}$

$q_2$  :

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PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

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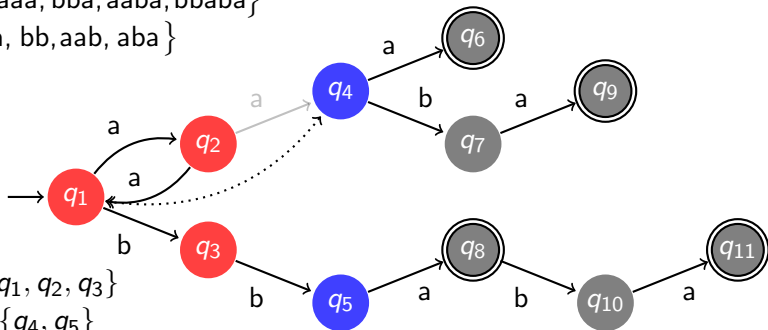
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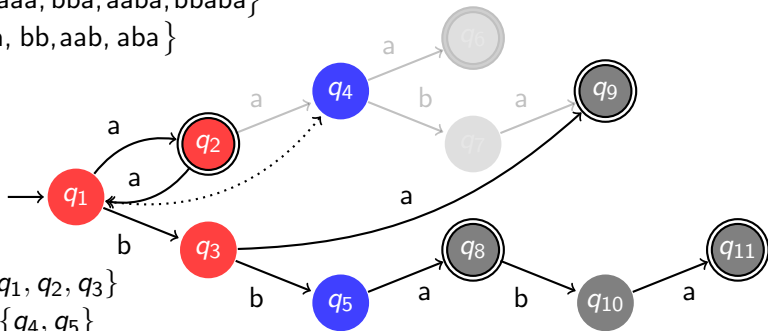
$q_4$  :

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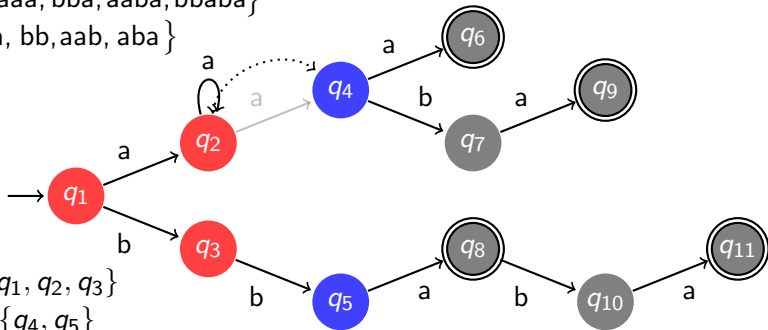
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PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

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~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

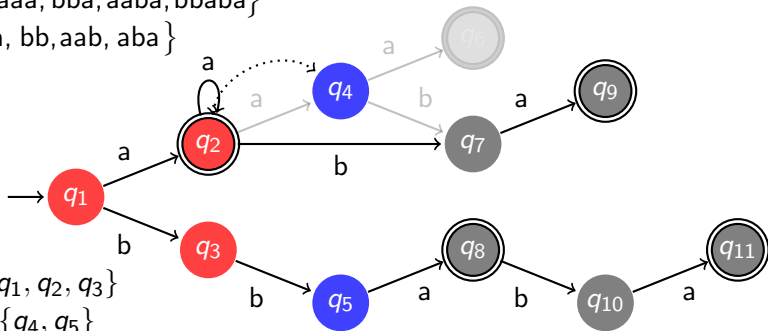
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~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

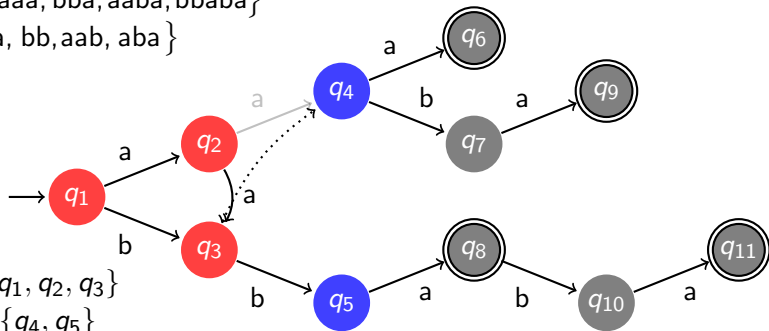
MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_4, q_5\}$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

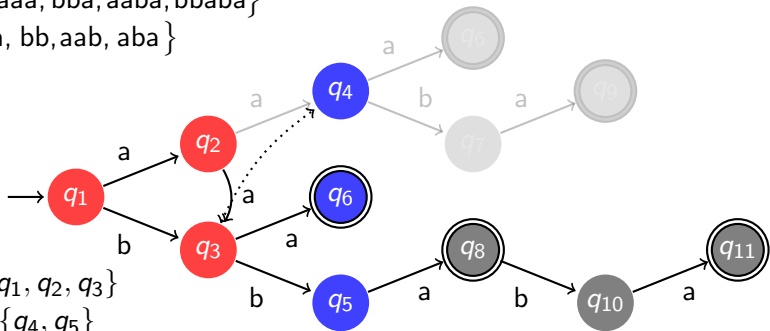
MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )



# RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_4, q_5\}$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

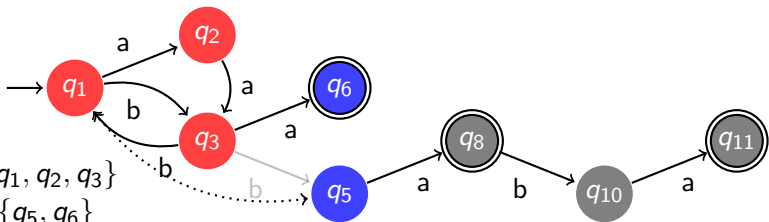
MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )

# RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_5, q_6\}$

$q_2 :$

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3 :$

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4 :$

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )

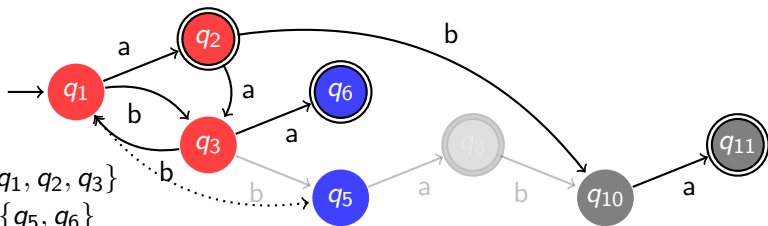
$q_5 :$

MERGE( $q_1, q_5$ )

# RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

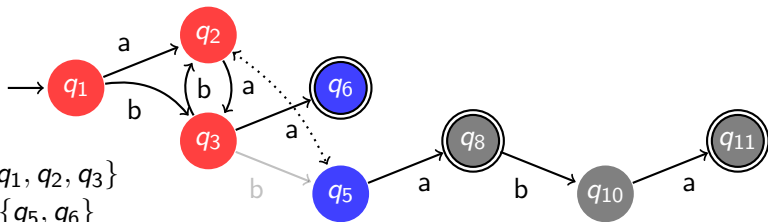
BLUE =  $\{q_5, q_6\}$

$q_2$ :	$q_3$ :	$q_4$ :	$q_5$ :
<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_2</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_4</math>)</del>	MERGE( $q_1, q_5$ )
<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_2</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_4</math>)</del>	FOLD( $q_1, q_5$ )
PROMOTE( $q_2$ )	<del>MERGE(<math>q_2, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_2, q_4</math>)</del>	
	<del>FOLD(<math>q_2, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_2, q_4</math>)</del>	
	PROMOTE( $q_3$ )	MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )	
		FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )	

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_5, q_6\}$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )

$q_5$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

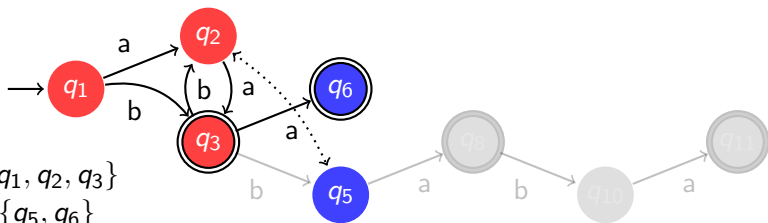
~~FOLD( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

MERGE( $q_2, q_5$ )

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_5, q_6\}$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )

$q_5$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

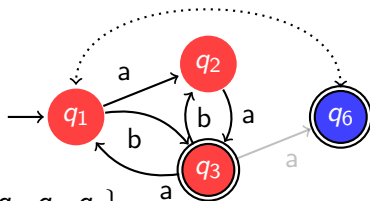
MERGE( $q_2, q_5$ )

FOLD( $q_2, q_5$ )

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

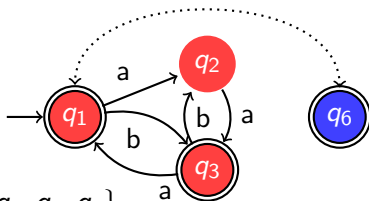
BLUE =  $\{q_6\}$

$q_2$ :	$q_3$ :	$q_4$ :	$q_5$ :	$q_6$ :
<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_2</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_4</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_5</math>)</del>	MERGE( $q_1, q_6$ )
<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_2</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_4</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_5</math>)</del>	
PROMOTE( $q_2$ )	<del>MERGE(<math>q_2, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_2, q_4</math>)</del>	MERGE( $q_2, q_5$ )	
	<del>FOLD(<math>q_2, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_2, q_4</math>)</del>	FOLD( $q_2, q_5$ )	
	PROMOTE( $q_3$ )	MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )		
		FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )		

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\{q_6\}$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )

$q_5$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

MERGE( $q_2, q_5$ )

FOLD( $q_2, q_5$ )

$q_6$  :

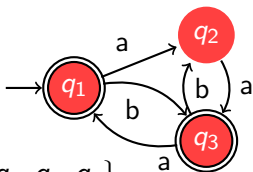
MERGE( $q_1, q_6$ )

FOLD( $q_1, q_6$ )

## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\emptyset$

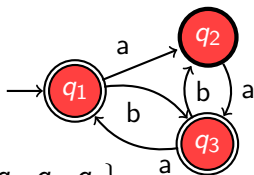
$q_2$ :	$q_3$ :	$q_4$ :	$q_5$ :	$q_6$ :
<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_2</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_4</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_1, q_5</math>)</del>	MERGE( $q_1, q_6$ )
<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_2</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_4</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_1, q_5</math>)</del>	FOLD( $q_1, q_6$ )
PROMOTE( $q_2$ )	<del>MERGE(<math>q_2, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>MERGE(<math>q_2, q_4</math>)</del>	MERGE( $q_2, q_5$ )	
	<del>FOLD(<math>q_2, q_3</math>)</del>	<del>FOLD(<math>q_2, q_4</math>)</del>	FOLD( $q_2, q_5$ )	
	PROMOTE( $q_3$ )	MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )		
		FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )		



## RPNI example

$S_+ = \{aaa, bba, aaba, bbaba\}$

$S_- = \{a, bb, aab, aba\}$



RED =  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

BLUE =  $\emptyset$

$q_2$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_2$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_2$ )

$q_3$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_3$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_3$ )~~

PROMOTE( $q_3$ )

$q_4$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_4$ )~~

~~MERGE( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_2, q_4$ )~~

MERGE( $q_3, q_4$ )

FOLD( $q_3, q_4$ )

$q_5$  :

~~MERGE( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

~~FOLD( $q_1, q_5$ )~~

MERGE( $q_2, q_5$ )

FOLD( $q_2, q_5$ )

$q_6$  :

MERGE( $q_1, q_6$ )

FOLD( $q_1, q_6$ )

## Closing remarks

- This simple version will not scale
- Various data structures proposed to store the intermediate automata
- Note that RPNI is not (can not be?) incremental
- worst-case:  $\mathcal{O}\left((|S_+| + |S_-|) \cdot |S_+|^2\right)$ 
  - ▶ "The actual computation which is proposed is not convincing, and empirically, those that have consistently used the algorithm certainly do not report a cubic behaviour."