

**CS622**  
**(Deterministic) Finite Automata**

Monday, January 29, 2024

UMass Boston Computer Science

# *Announcements*

- **HW**
  - Weekly; in/out Mon noon
    - HW 0 in, HW 1 out
  - ~3-4 questions, Paper-and-pencil proofs (no programming)
  - Discussing with classmates ok
  - Final answers written up and submitted individually
- **Lectures**
  - Slides posted
  - Closely follow the listed textbook chapters
- **Office Hours**
  - Wed 11:30-1pm (in person, McCormack 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Rm 201)
  - Fri 11:30-1pm (zoom, access link from blackboard)
  - Let me know in advance if possible, but drop-ins also fine
  - TAs TBD

# Last Time: How Mathematics Works

Today:

- “Facts” can have many different “shapes”!
- How do we USE known facts?
- How can we PROVE new facts?

Mathematician  
(or student)

It's not easy to create the next  
level ...  
Preciseness is important

**Proofs** = Figure out how to (precisely) fit  
known “facts” together



More **Theorems**

More **Axioms**

More **Definitions**

**Theorem**

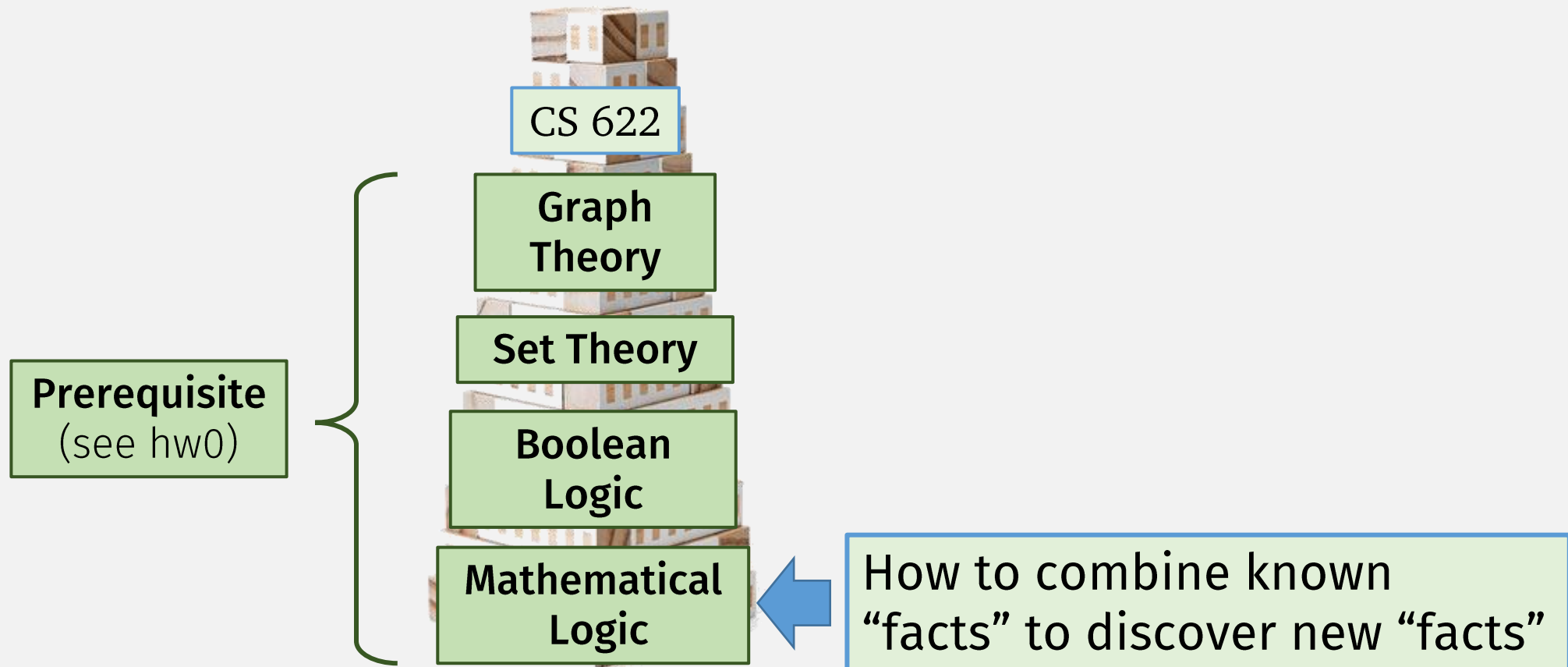
**Theorem**

**Axioms**

**Definitions**

“facts”

# *Last Time:* How CS 622 Works



# Mathematical Logic Operators

- **Conjunction** (AND,  $\wedge$ )
- **Disjunction** (OR,  $\vee$ )
- **Negation** (NOT,  $\neg$ )
- **Implication** (IF-THEN,  $\Rightarrow$ ,  $\rightarrow$ )
- ...

*This semester:*

Must understand difference  
between **Using** vs **Proving** a  
mathematical statement!

# Mathematical Statements: AND

## Using:

- If we know  $A \wedge B$  is TRUE, what do we know about  $A$  and  $B$  individually?
  - $A$  is TRUE, and
  - $B$  is TRUE

$A$	$B$	$A \wedge B$
True	True	True
True	False	False
False	True	False
False	False	False



# Mathematical Statements: AND

## Using:

- If we know  $A \wedge B$  is TRUE, what do we know about  $A$  and  $B$  individually?
  - $A$  is TRUE, and
  - $B$  is TRUE

## Proving:

- To prove  $A \wedge B$  is TRUE:
  - Prove  $A$  is TRUE, and
  - Prove  $B$  is TRUE

$A$	$B$	$A \wedge B$
True	True	True
True	False	False
False	True	False
False	False	False



# Mathematical Statements: IF-THEN

## Using:

- If we know  $P \rightarrow Q$  is TRUE, what do we know about  $P$  and  $Q$  individually?
  - Either  $P$  is FALSE, or
  - If we **prove**  $P$  is TRUE, then  $Q$  is TRUE (**modus ponens**)

## Proving:

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$	
True	True	True	←
True	False	False	⊗
False	True	True	←
False	False	True	←



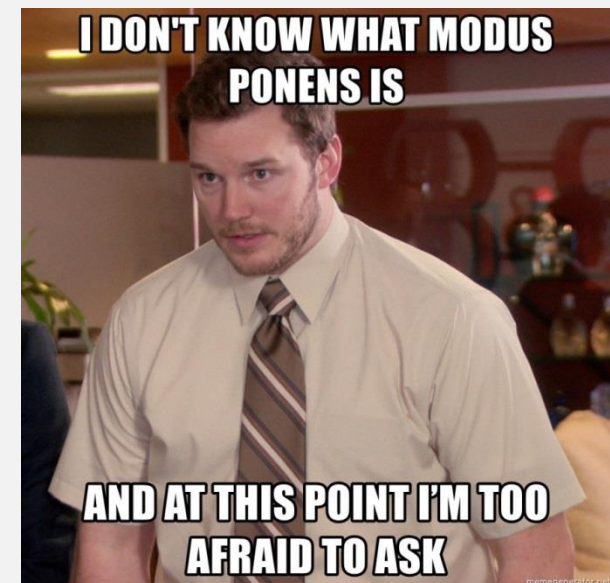
# Using an IF-THEN statement: The “Modus Ponens” Inference Rule

**Premises** (if these statements are true)

- If  $P$  then  $Q$
- $P$  is TRUE

**Conclusion** (then we can say that this is also true)

- $Q$  must also be TRUE



# Mathematical Logic Operators: IF-THEN

## Using:

- If we know  $P \rightarrow Q$  is TRUE, what do we know about  $P$  and  $Q$  individually?
  - Either  $P$  is FALSE, or
  - If we **prove**  $P$  is TRUE, then  $Q$  is TRUE (**modus ponens**)

## Proving:

- To prove  $P \rightarrow Q$  is TRUE:
  - Either **Prove**  $P$  is FALSE (usu. hard or impossible), OR
  - **Assume** (not prove!)  $P$  is TRUE, then **prove**  $Q$  is TRUE

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$	
True	True	True	←
True	False	False	
False	True	True	←
False	False	True	←

# Example: Proving an IF-THEN Statement

Prove the following:

Proving IF-THEN

Using IF-THEN

• IF: If  $x \geq 4$ , then  $2^x \geq x^2$

Assume this (AND stmt) is true

Using AND

AND:  $x$  is the sum of the squares of four positive integers

• THEN:  $2^x \geq x^2$

Prove this is true

Proving:

To prove  $P \rightarrow Q$  is TRUE:

Either Prove  $P$  is FALSE (usu. hard or impossible), or  
Assume (not prove!)  $P$  is TRUE, then prove  $Q$  is TRUE

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$
True	True	True
True	False	False
False	True	True
False	False	True



# Example: Proving an IF-THEN Statement

Prove: IF  $x \geq 4$ , then  $2^x \geq x^2$  AND  $x$  is the sum of the squares of four positive integers  
 THEN  $2^x \geq x^2$

Proof:

## Statement

1.  $x = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$
2.  $a \geq 1; b \geq 1; c \geq 1; d \geq 1$

5. If  $x \geq 4$ , then  $2^x \geq x^2$
6.  $2^x \geq x^2$

## Justification

1. Assumption (IF part of IF-THEN)
2. Assumption (IF part of IF-THEN)
5. Assumption (IF part of IF-THEN)

# Example: Proving an IF-THEN Statement

Prove: IF  $x \geq 4$ , then  $2^x \geq x^2$  AND  $x$  is the sum of the squares of four positive integers  
THEN  $2^x \geq x^2$

Proof:

## Statement

1.  $x = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$
2.  $a \geq 1; b \geq 1; c \geq 1; d \geq 1$
3.  $a^2 \geq 1; b^2 \geq 1; c^2 \geq 1; d^2 \geq 1$

4.  $x \geq 4$

5. If  $x \geq 4$ , then  $2^x \geq x^2$

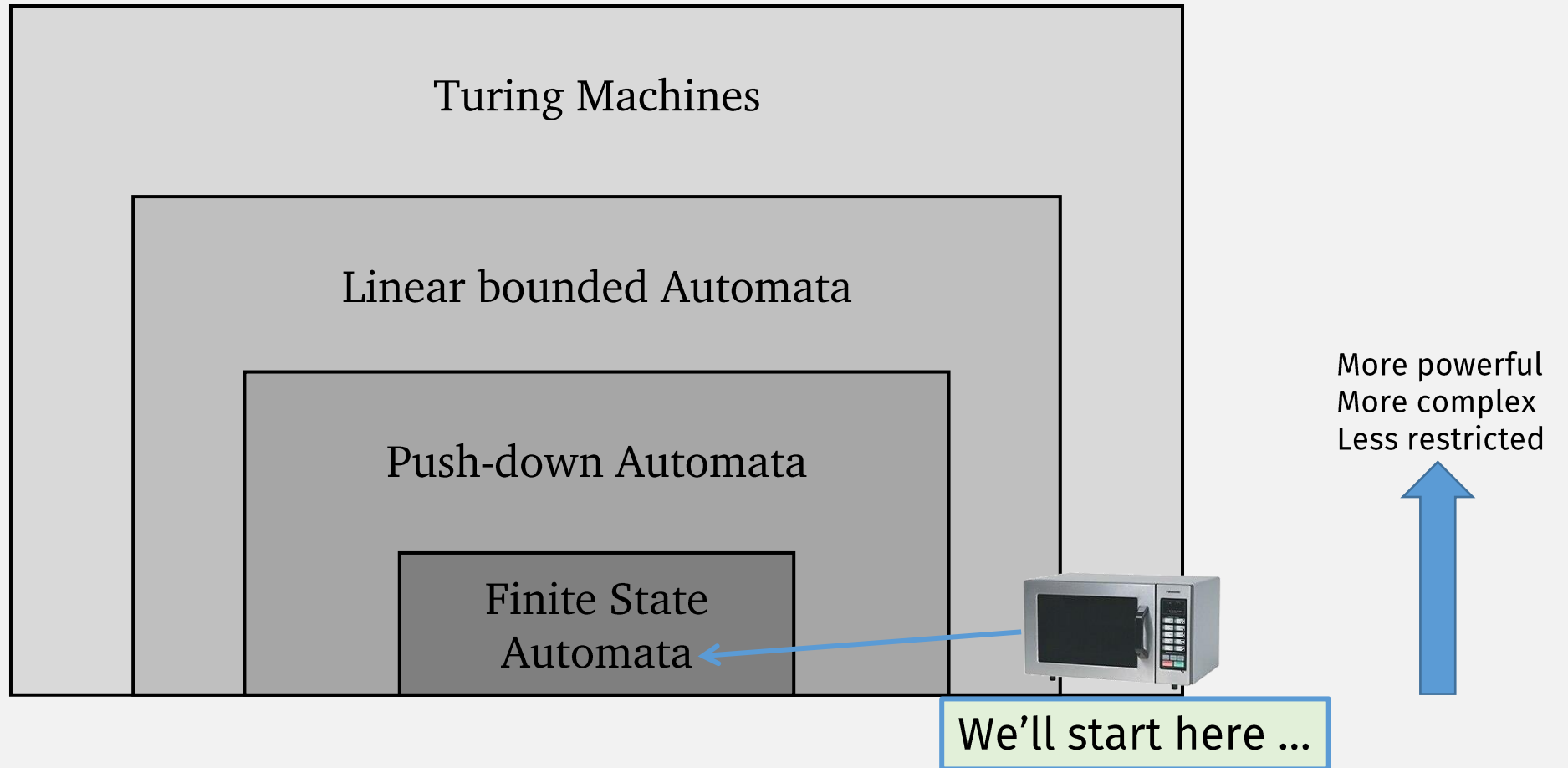
→ 6.  $2^x \geq x^2$

## Justification

1. Assumption (IF part of IF-THEN)
2. Assumption (IF part of IF-THEN)
3. By Stmt #2 & arithmetic laws
4. Stmts #1, #3, and arithmetic
5. Assumption (IF part of IF-THEN)
6. Stmts #4 and #5

Modus Ponens  
 If we can prove these:  
 - If  $P$  then  $Q$   
 -  $P$   
 Then we've proved:  
 -  $Q$  ←

# *Last Time:* Models of Computation Hierarchy



# Finite Automata: “Simple” Computation / “Programs”



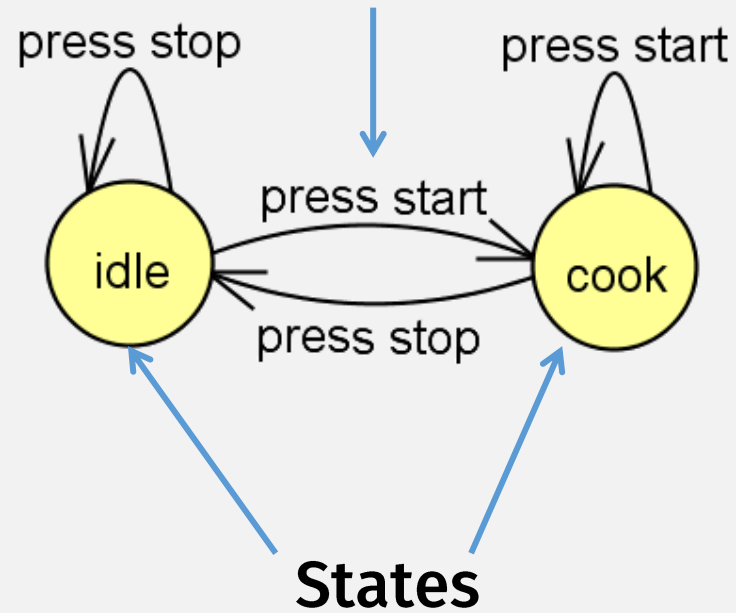
# Finite Automata

- A **finite automata** or **finite state machine (FSM)** ...
- ... computes with a finite number of **states**



# A Microwave Finite Automata

**Input “symbols” change states**  
(possibly)



# Finite Automata: Not Just for Microwaves

**Finite Automata:**  
a common  
programming pattern



## State pattern

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

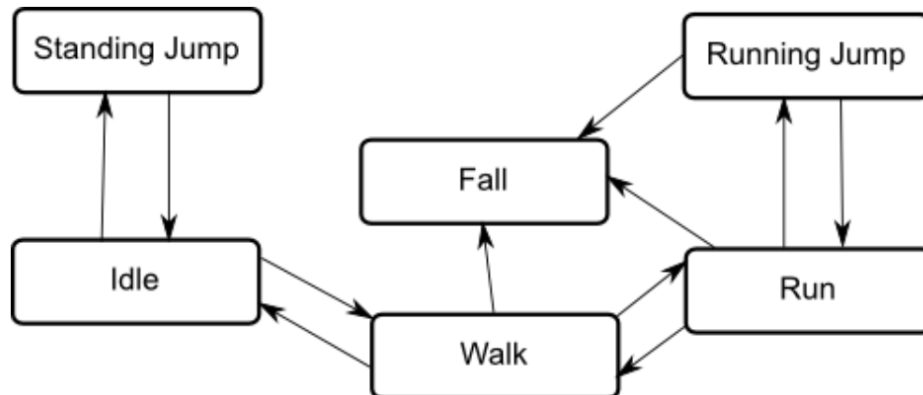
The **state pattern** is a [behavioral software design pattern](#) that allows an object to alter its behavior when its internal state changes. This pattern is close to the concept of [finite-state machines](#). The state pattern can be interpreted as a [strategy pattern](#), which is able to switch a strategy through invocations of methods defined in the pattern's interface.

(More powerful) **Computation Simulating**  
**other** (weaker) **Computation**  
(a common theme this semester)

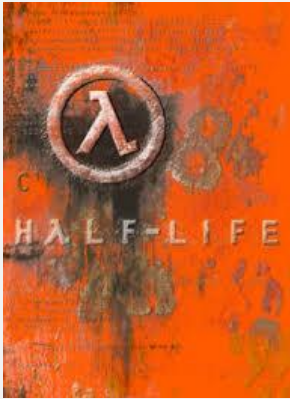
# Video Games Love Finite Automata

The basic idea is that a character is engaged in some particular kind of action at any given time. The actions available will depend on the type of gameplay but typical actions include things like idling, walking, running, jumping, etc. These actions are referred to as **states**, in the sense that the character is in a “state” where it is walking, idling or whatever. In general, the character will have restrictions on the next state it can go to rather than being able to switch immediately from any state to any other. For example, a running jump can only be taken when the character is already running and not when it is at a standstill, so it should never switch straight from the idle state to the running jump state. The options for the next state that a character can enter from its current state are referred to as **state transitions**. Taken together, the set of states, the set of transitions and the variable to remember the current state form a **state machine**.

The states and transitions of a state machine can be represented using a graph diagram, where the nodes represent the states and the arcs (arrows between nodes) represent the transitions. You can think of the current state as being a marker or highlight that is placed on one of the nodes and can then only jump to another node along one of the arrows.



# Finite Automata in Video Games



ValveSoftware / halflife

<> Code 1.6k Issues Pull requests 23 Actions Projects Wiki

5d761709a3 halflife / game\_shared / bot / simple\_state\_machine.h

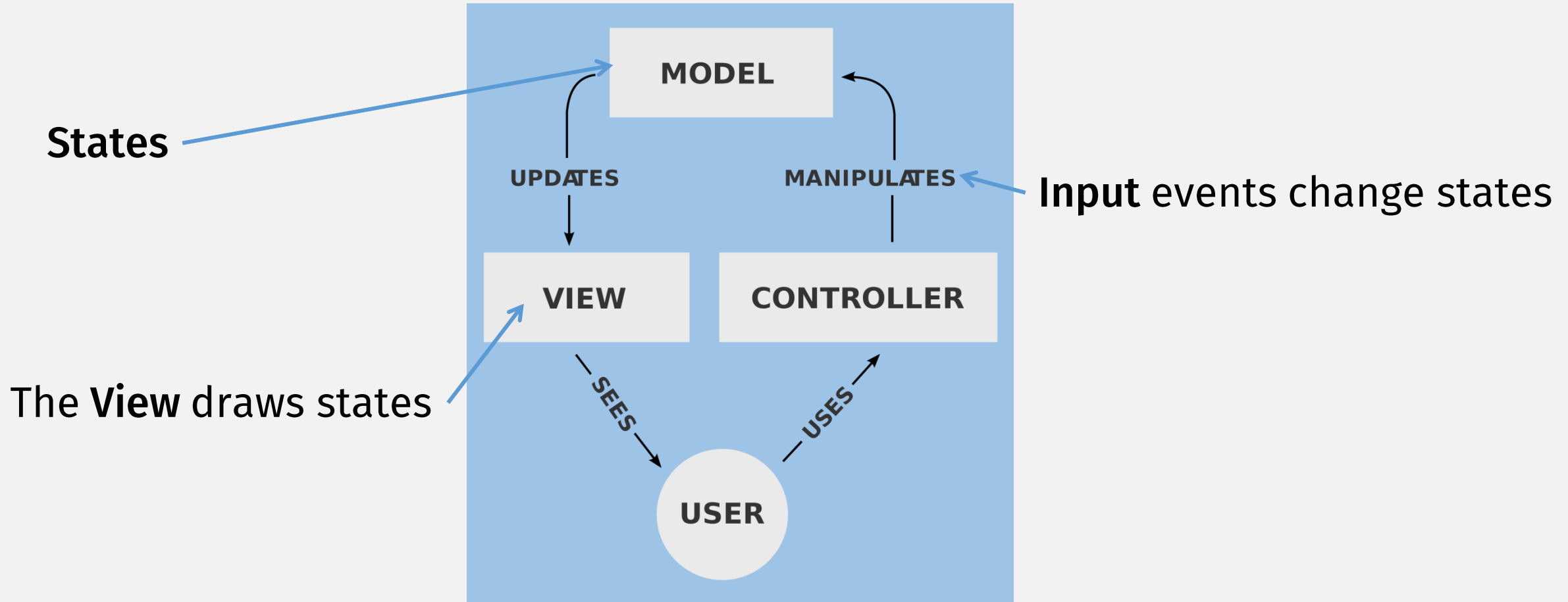
Alfred Reynolds initial seed of Half-Life 1 SDK

0 contributors

85 lines (67 sloc) | 2.15 KB

```
1 // simple_state_machine.h
2 // Simple finite state machine encapsulation
3 // Author: Michael S. Booth (mike@turtlerockstudios.com), November 2003
4
5 #ifndef _SIMPLE_STATE_MACHINE_H_
6 #define _SIMPLE_STATE_MACHINE_H_
7
8 //-----
9 /**
10  * Encapsulation of a finite-state-machine state
11  */
12 template < typename T >
13 class SimpleState
```

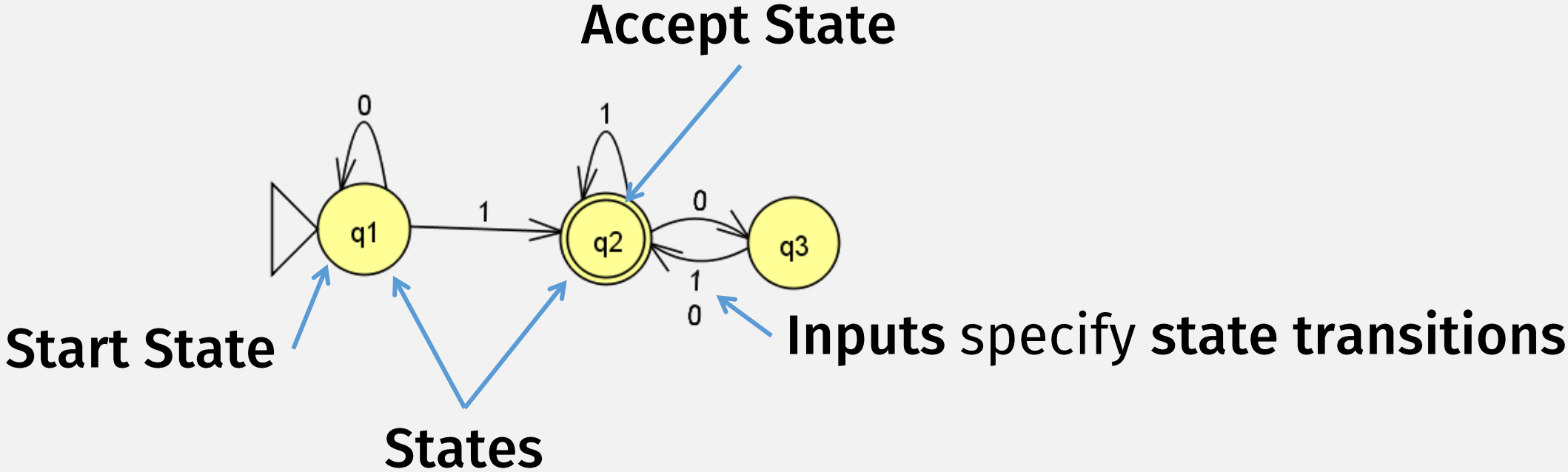
# Model-view-controller (MVC) is an FSM



# A Finite Automata is a “Program”

- A very limited “program” that uses finite memory
  - Actually, only 1 “cell” of memory!
  - States = the possible things that can be written to memory
- Finite Automata has different representations:
  - Code (wont use in this class)
  - State diagrams

# Finite Automata state diagram



# A Finite Automata = a “Program”

- A very limited program with finite memory
  - Actually, only 1 “cell” of memory!
  - States = the possible things that can be written to memory
- Finite Automata has different representations:
  - Code
  - State diagrams
  - Formal mathematical description (essentially like code)



# Finite Automata: The Formal Definition

## DEFINITION

A *finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

1.  $Q$  is a finite set called the *states*,
2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite set called the *alphabet*,
3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the *transition function*,
4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the *start state*, and
5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the *set of accept states*.

5 components

*This semester*

Things in **bold** are precise formal definitions.

(remember them because they will appear frequently in hw, etc)

*Analogy*

This is the “programming language” definition for finite automata “programs”

# *Interlude:* Sets and Sequences

- Both are: mathematical objects that group other objects
- **Members** of the group are called **elements**
- Can be: **empty, finite, or infinite**
- Can contain: **other sets or sequences**

## **Sets**

- Unordered
- Duplicates not allowed
- Common notation: { }
- **Empty set** denoted:  $\emptyset$  or { }
- A **language** is a (possibly infinite) set of strings

## **Sequences**

- Ordered
- Duplicates ok
- Common notation: ( ), or **just commas**
- **Empty sequence:** ( )
- A **tuple** is a finite sequence
- A **string** is a finite sequence of characters

# Set or Sequence ?

A **function** is ...

... a **set** of **pairs**  
(1<sup>st</sup> of each pair from **domain**, 2<sup>nd</sup> from **range**)

... can write it in many ways: as a mapping, a table, ...

## DEFINITION

A *finite automaton* is a 5-tuple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where

**sequence**

**set**

1.  $Q$  is a finite set called the *states*,

**Set of pairs (domain)**

2.  $\Sigma$  is a finite set called the *alphabet*,

**set**

3.  $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$  is the *transition function*,

4.  $q_0 \in Q$  is the *start state*, and **Set (range)**

Don't know!  
(states can be anything)

5.  $F \subseteq Q$  is the *set of accept states*.

**set**

A **pair** is ... a **sequence** of 2 elements

# Finite Automata: The Formal Definition

## DEFINITION

5 components

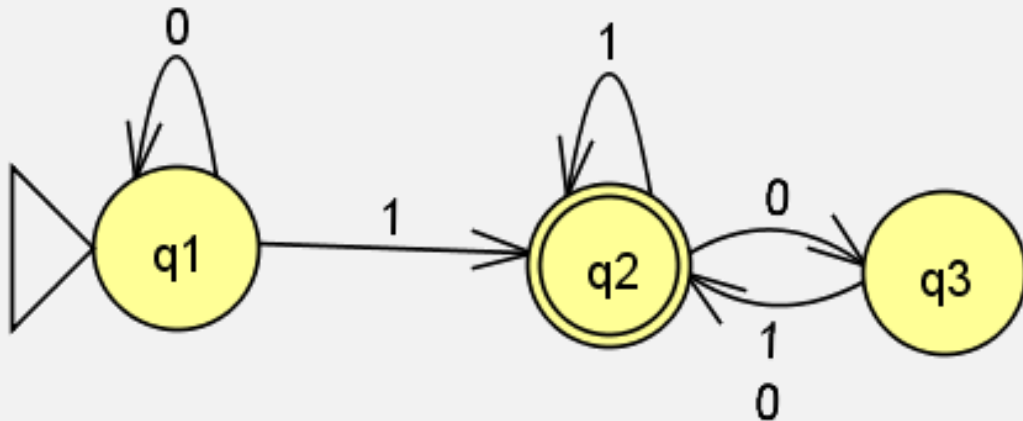
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Example: as state diagram

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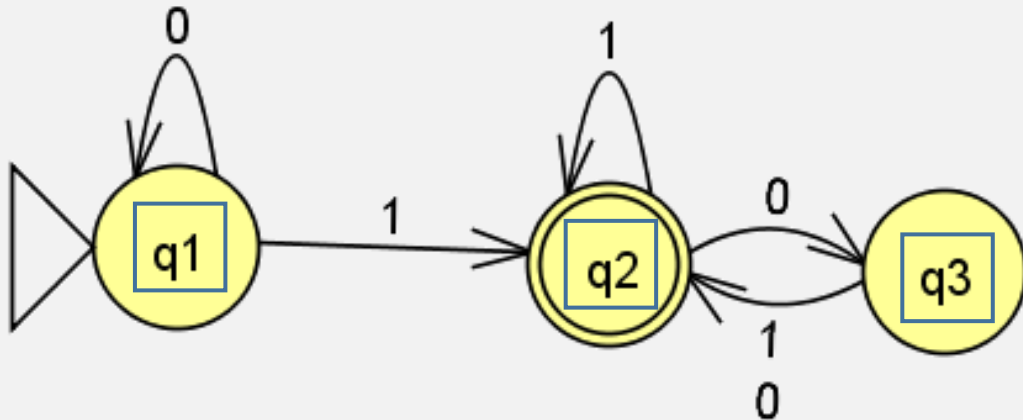
Note:  
Not the same  $Q$

Example: as formal description

$M_1 = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where

1.  $Q = \{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$ ,
2.  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ ,
3.  $\delta$  is described as

braces =  
set notation  
(no duplicates)



Example: as state diagram

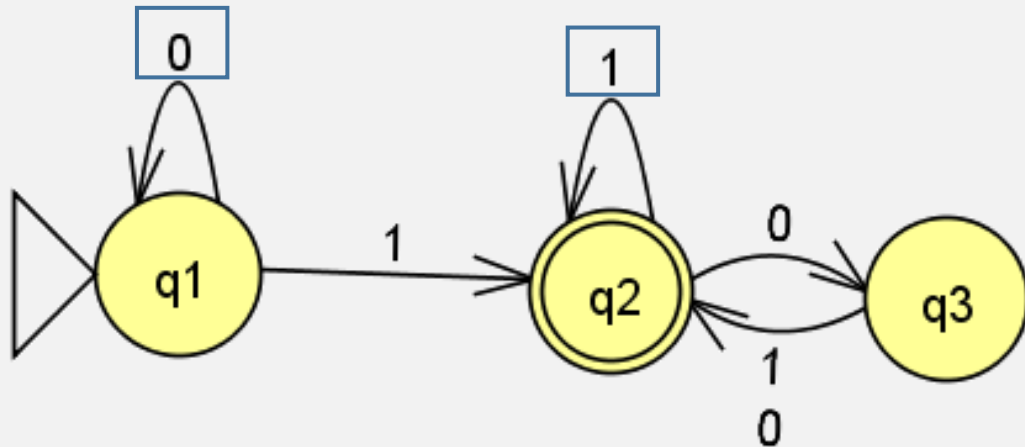
	0	1
$q_1$	$q_1$	$q_2$
$q_2$	$q_3$	$q_2$
$q_3$	$q_2$	$q_2$

4.  $q_1$  is the start state, and
5.  $F = \{q_2\}$ .

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Example: as state diagram

Example: as formal description

$M_1 = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_1, F)$ , where

1.  $Q = \{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$ ,
2.  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , ← Possible inputs
3.  $\delta$  is described as

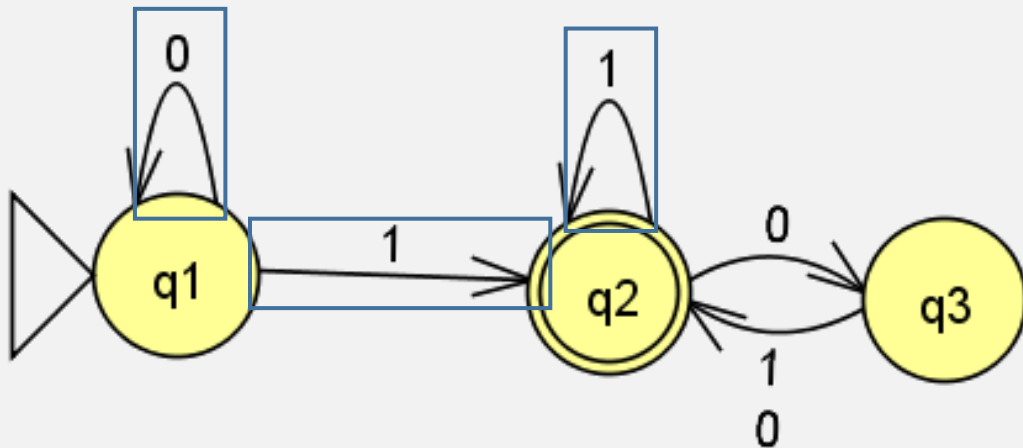
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Example: as state diagram

Example: as formal description

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3.  $\delta$  is described as

	0	1
$q_1$	$q_1$	$q_2$
$q_2$	$q_3$	$q_2$
$q_3$	$q_2$	$q_2$

Annotations: "And this is next input symbol" points to the input symbols 0 and 1. "If in this state" points to the rows  $q_1$ ,  $q_2$ , and  $q_3$ . "Then go to this state" points to the resulting states in the table.

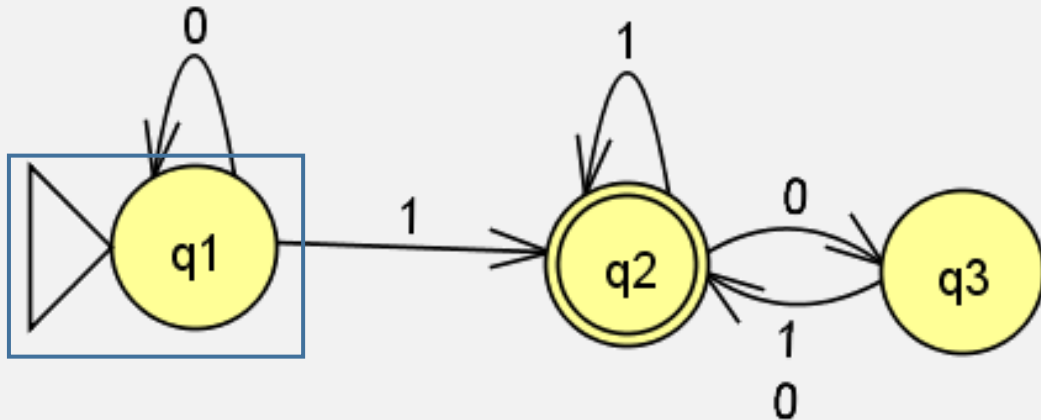
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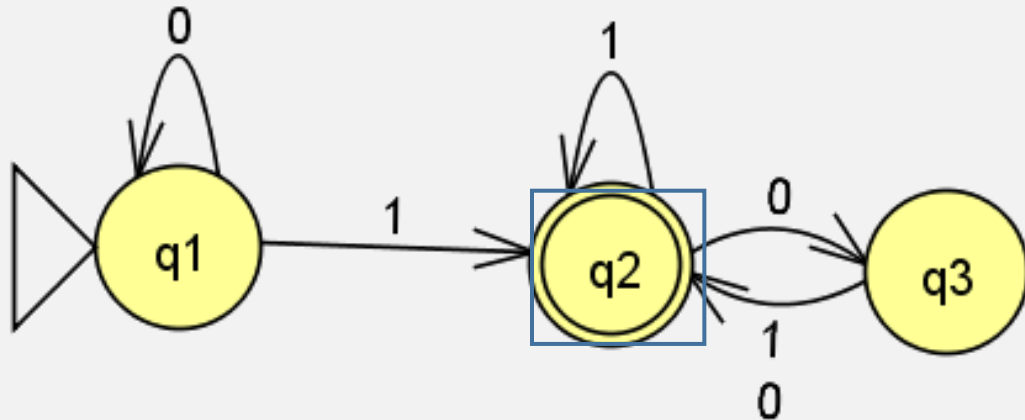
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Example: as state diagram

Example: as formal description

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A “Programming Language”

This analogy is a way to help your intuition

But don't confuse with **formal definitions**.

## Programming Analogy

Example: as formal description

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$q_3$	$q_2$	$q_2$ ,

4.  $q_1$  is the start state, and
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