

# *Intro to Theory of Computation*

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CS  
464

## LECTURE 6

**Last time:**

- NFAs to regular expressions
- Pumping lemma

**Today:**

- Proving a language is not regular
- Pushdown automata (PDAs)

**Homework 2 due**  
**Homework 3 out**

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# THE PUMPING LEMMA

Let  $L$  be a regular language with  $|L| = \infty$

Then **there exists a length  $p$**  such that

**if  $w \in L$  and  $|w| \geq p$  then**

**$w$  can be split into three parts  $w=xyz$  where:**

1.  $|y| > 0$
2.  $|xy| \leq p$
3.  $xy^iz \in L$  for all  $i \geq 0$

# GENERAL STRATEGY

Proof by **contradiction**: assume  $L$  is regular.

Then there is **a pumping length  $p$** .

Find a string  $w \in L$  with  **$|w| \geq p$** .

Show that no matter how you choose  $xyz$ ,  
 $w$  **cannot** be pumped!

**Conclude that  $L$  is not regular.**

# Pumping lemma as a game

1. **YOU** pick the language  $L$  to be proved nonregular.
2. **ADVERSARY** picks  $p$ , but doesn't reveal to **YOU** what  $p$  is; **YOU** must devise a play for all possible  $p$ 's.
3. **YOU** pick  $w \in L$ , which should depend on  $p$  and which must be of length at least  $p$ .
4. **ADVERSARY** divides  $w$  into  $x, y, z$ , obeying PL conditions:  $y$  is not empty and falls within the first  $p$  characters of  $w$ . Again, **ADVERSARY** does not tell **YOU** what  $x, y, z$  are.
5. **YOU** win by picking  $i$ , which may be a function of  $p, x, y, z$ , such that  $xy^i z$  is not in  $L$ .

# I-clicker problem (frequency: AC)

Prove  $C = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i > j \geq 0 \}$  is not regular.

Proof: Assume ... pumping length  $p$

What string can you choose in your next move?

- A. 00011
- B.  $0^p 1^p$
- C.  $0^{p/2} 1^{p/2-1}$
- D.  $0^{p+1} 1^p$
- E. More than one choice above works.

# USING THE PUMPING LEMMA: PUMPING DOWN

Prove  $C = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i > j \geq 0 \}$  is not regular.

Proof: Assume ... pumping length  $p$   
Find a  $w \in C$  of length at least  $p$

$$0^{p+1} 1^p$$

Show that  $w$  cannot be pumped:

$$w = \overbrace{00 \dots 00}^{p+1} \overbrace{11 \dots 11}^p$$

$y$  must be in this part

$$xyyz = \underbrace{00 \dots 000}_{> p+1} 11 \dots 11$$

$$xz = \underbrace{0 \dots 00}_{\leq p} 11 \dots 11$$

USING THE PUMPING LEMMA:  
PUMPING DOWN

Prove  $C = \{ 0^i 1^j \mid i > j \geq 0 \}$  is not regular.

Proof: Assume ... pumping length  $p$   
Find a  $w \in C$  of length at least  $p$

$$0^{p+1} 1^p$$

If  $w = xyz$  with  $|xy| \geq p$  then  
 $y = 0^j$  for some  $j \geq 1$ .

Then  $xy^0z = xz = 0^{p+1-j} 1^p \notin C$

**Contradiction!**

# WHAT THE PUMPING LEMMA DOESN'T SAY - I

For every  $p$ ,  $w \in L$  with  $|w| \geq p$   
there exist  $xyz=w$ , where

1.  $|y| > 0$
2.  $|xy| \leq p$
3.  $xy^iz \in L$  for all  $i \geq 0$

Let  $L = 1\Sigma^*$ .  $L$  is regular.

The string  $10$  cannot be pumped with  $p=1$ .

You need to show that **no matter what  $p$**  is chosen,  
 $L$  has a string  $w$ ,  $|w| \geq p$ , that cannot be pumped.



# WHAT THE PUMPING LEMMA DOESN'T SAY - II

For every  $xyz=w$ , where:

1.  $|y| > 0$
2.  $|xy| \leq p$
3.  $xy^iz \in L$  for all  $i \geq 0$

**Example:** Let  $L = 10^*1^*$ . Picking  
 $w = 10^P1^P$ ;  $x=\epsilon$ ;  $y=10$ ;  $z=0^{P-1}1^P$   
**does not** contradict pumping lemma!

(You *can* pick  $x=1$ ,  $y=0$ ,  $z=0^{P-1}1^P$ .)

# CHOOSING WISELY

Let **BALANCED** = {  $w$  |  $w$  has an equal # of 1s and 0s }

Assume ... there is a  $p$

Find a  $w \in \mathbf{BALANCED}$  of length at least  $p$

~~$(01)^p$~~

$0^p 1^p$

Show that  $w$  cannot be pumped:

If  $w = xyz$  with  $|xy| \leq p$  then

$y = 0^j$  for some  $j > 0$ .

Then  $xyyz = 0^{p+j} 1^p \notin \mathbf{BALANCED}$

# REUSING A PROOF

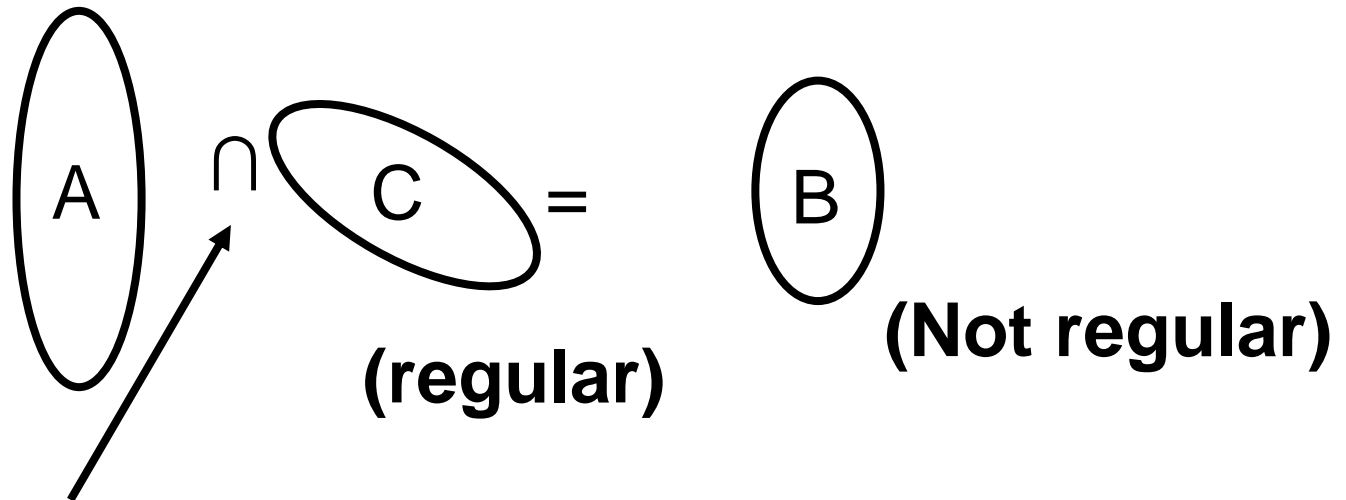
Pumping a language can be lots of work...  
Let's try to reuse that work!

$$\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\} = \text{BALANCED} \cap 0^* 1^*$$

If **BALANCED** is regular then so is  $\{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$

USING **CLOSURE**

Prove: A is not regular



any of  $\{\circ, \cup, \cap\}$  or, for one language,  $\{\neg, R, *\}$

If A is regular, then  $A \cap C (= B)$  is regular.

But B is not regular so neither is A.

USING **CLOSURE**: example

**Prove  $A = \{0^i1^j \mid i \neq j\}$  is not regular  
using  $B = \{0^n1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$**

$\neg A = B \cup \{ \text{strings that mix 0s and 1s} \}$

$$\neg A \cap 0^*1^* = B$$

# PUMPING

## NON-REGULAR LANGUAGES

Let  $F = \{a^i b^j c^k \mid i, j, k \geq 0 \text{ and } i=1 \Rightarrow j=k\}$

**F has pumping length 2!**

$$i = 0$$

$$i = 1$$

$$i = 2$$

$$i > 2$$

**HW3: prove that F is not regular.**

**A non-regular language may still satisfy the pumping lemma.**

MODEL OF A PROBLEM: LANGUAGE

MODEL OF A PROGRAM: DFA

EQUIVALENT MODELS: NFA, REGEXP

PROBLEMS THAT A DFA CAN'T SOLVE

**ARE WE DONE?**

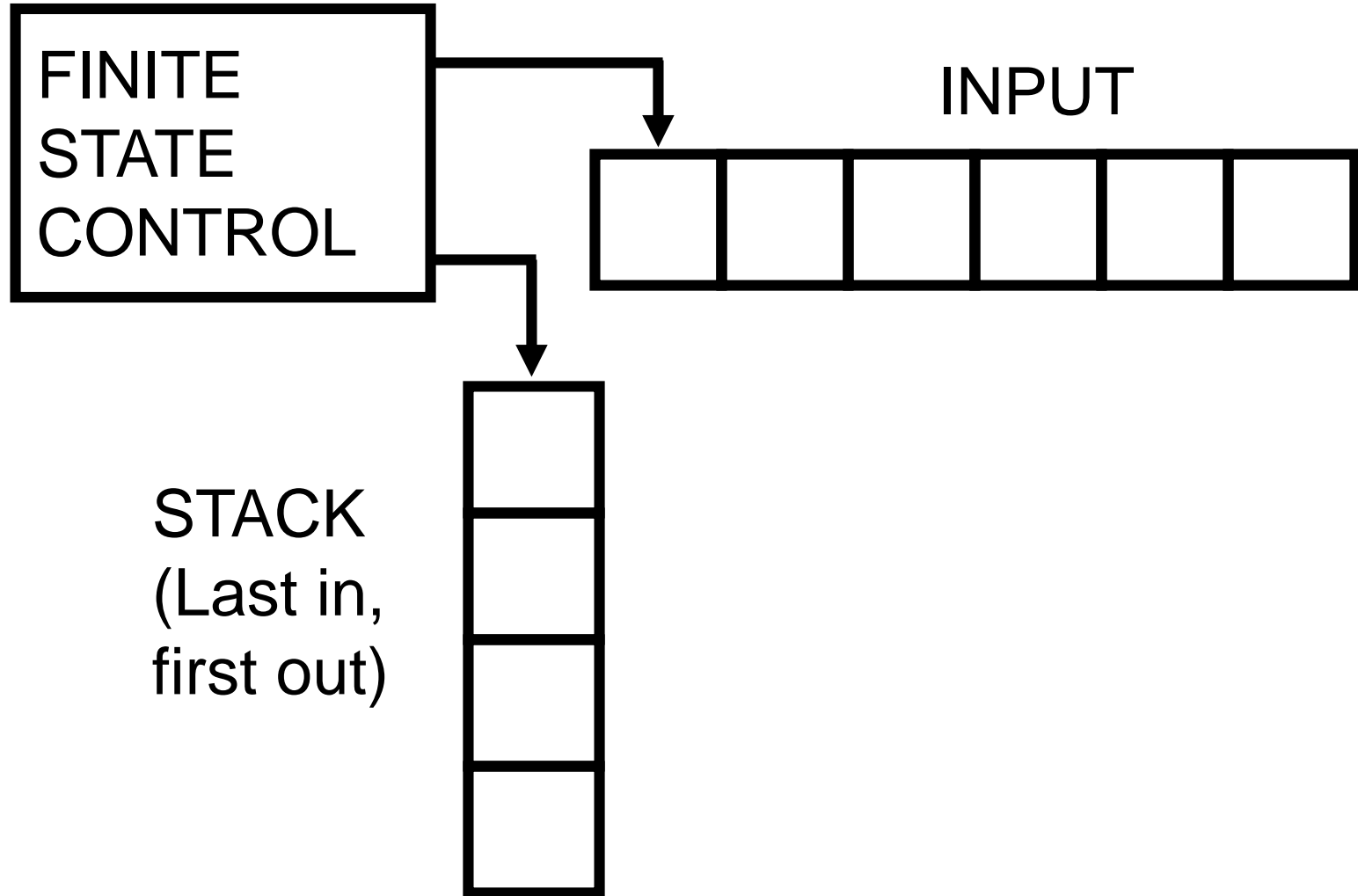
# NONE OF THESE ARE REGULAR

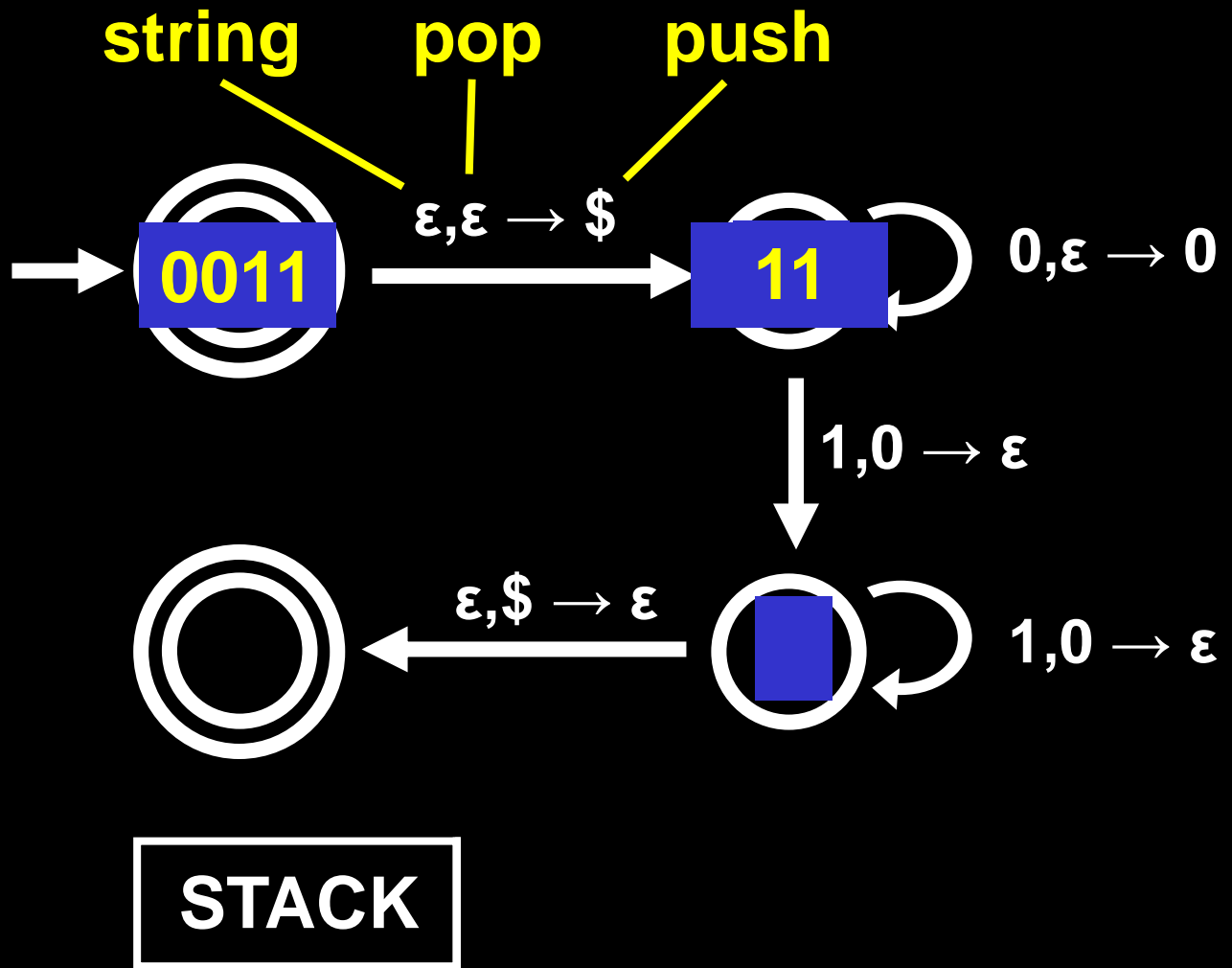
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $L = \{0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0\}$
- $\Sigma = \{a, b, c, \dots, z\}$ ,  $L = \{w \mid w = w^R\}$
- $\Sigma = \{(, )\}$ ,  $L = \{\text{balanced strings of parens}\}$

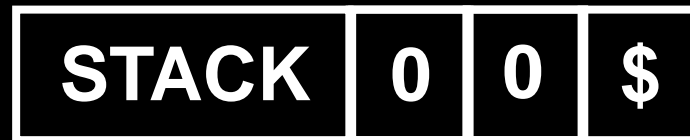
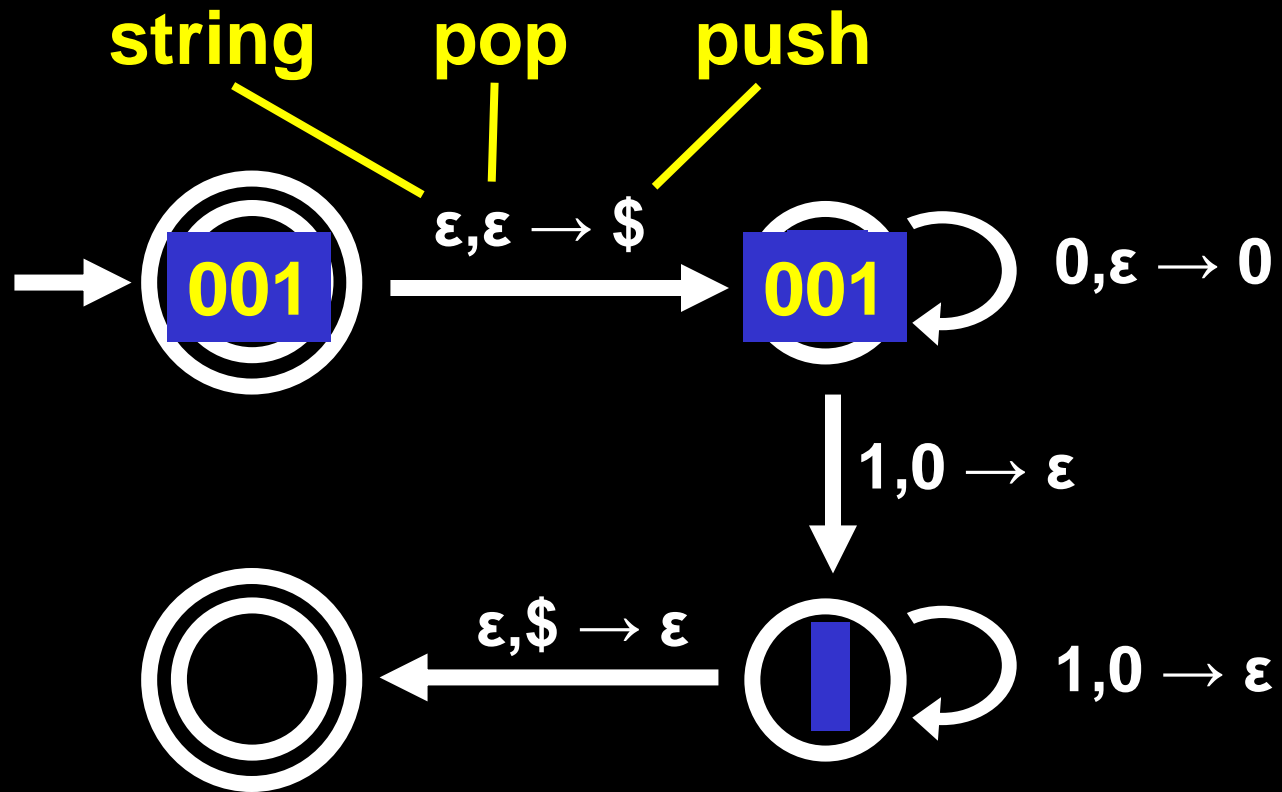
We can write a C or JAVA program for any of them!



# PUSHDOWN AUTOMATA (PDA)







PDA to recognize  $L = \{ 0^n 1^n \mid n \geq 0 \}$

# Formal Definition

A **PDA** is a 6-tuple  $\mathbf{P} = (\mathbf{Q}, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, \mathbf{F})$

$\mathbf{Q}$  is a finite set of states

$\Sigma$  is the alphabet

$\Gamma$  is the stack alphabet

$\delta : \mathbf{Q} \times \Sigma_\epsilon \times \Gamma_\epsilon \rightarrow \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{Q} \times \Gamma_\epsilon)$  is the transition function

$q_0 \in \mathbf{Q}$  is the start state

$\mathbf{F} \subseteq \mathbf{Q}$  is the set of accept states

$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{Q} \times \Gamma_\epsilon)$  is the set of subsets of  $\mathbf{Q} \times \Gamma_\epsilon$  and  $\Sigma_\epsilon = \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$

**Note:** A PDA is defined to be nondeterministic.

# Formal Definition

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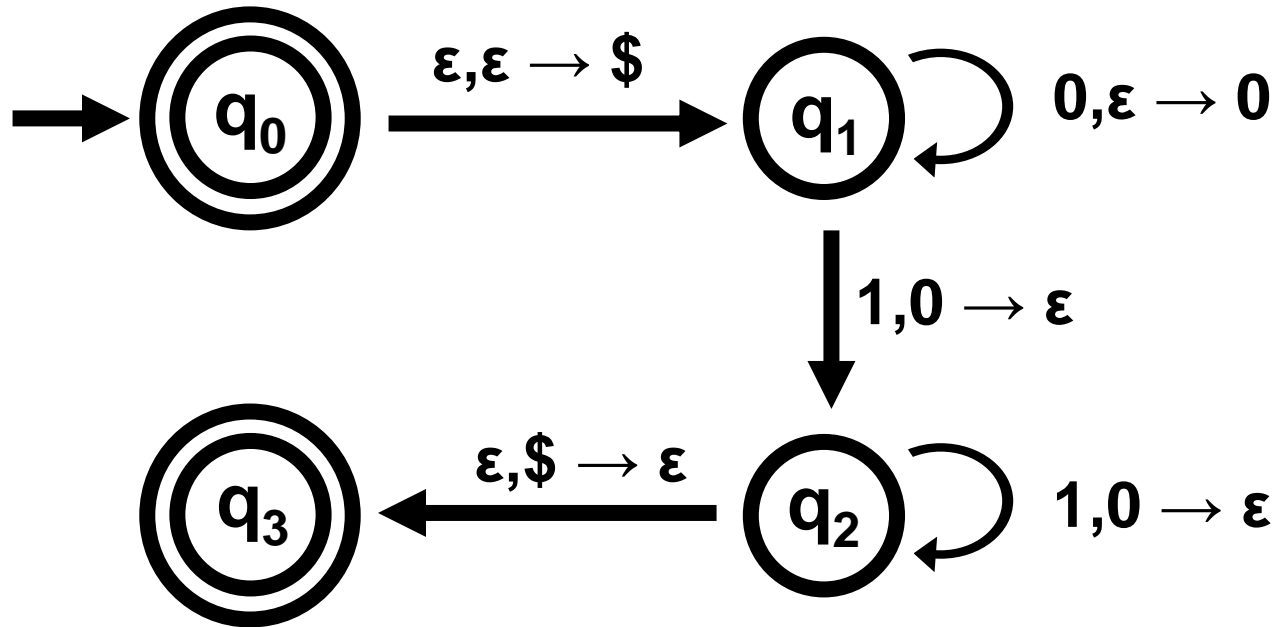
$q_0 \in \mathbf{Q}$  is the start state

$\mathbf{F} \subseteq \mathbf{Q}$  is the set of accept states

A PDA starts with an *empty* stack.

It **accepts** a string if *at least one* of its computational branches reads *all the input* and gets into an *accept state* at the end of it.

# An example PDA

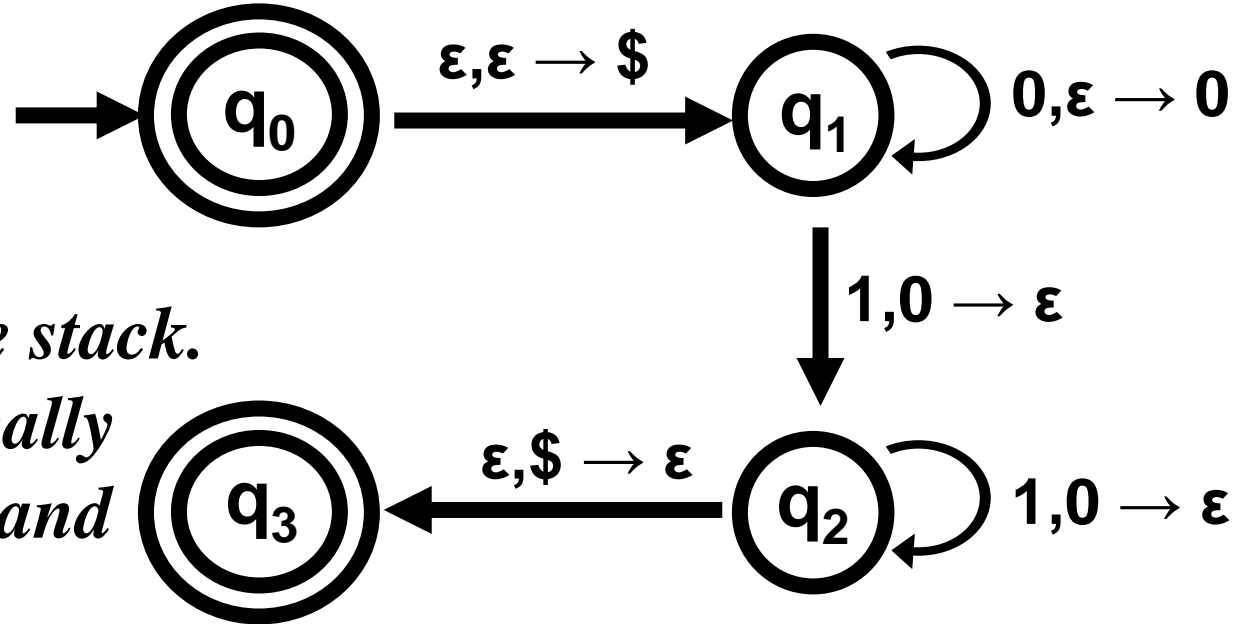


$$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\} \quad \Sigma = \{0, 1\} \quad \Gamma = \{\$, 0\}$$

$$\delta : Q \times \Sigma_\epsilon \times \Gamma_\epsilon \rightarrow P(Q \times \Gamma_\epsilon)$$

$$\delta(q_1, 1, 0) = \{(q_2, \epsilon)\} \quad \delta(q_2, 1, 1) = \emptyset$$

# PDA: algorithmic description

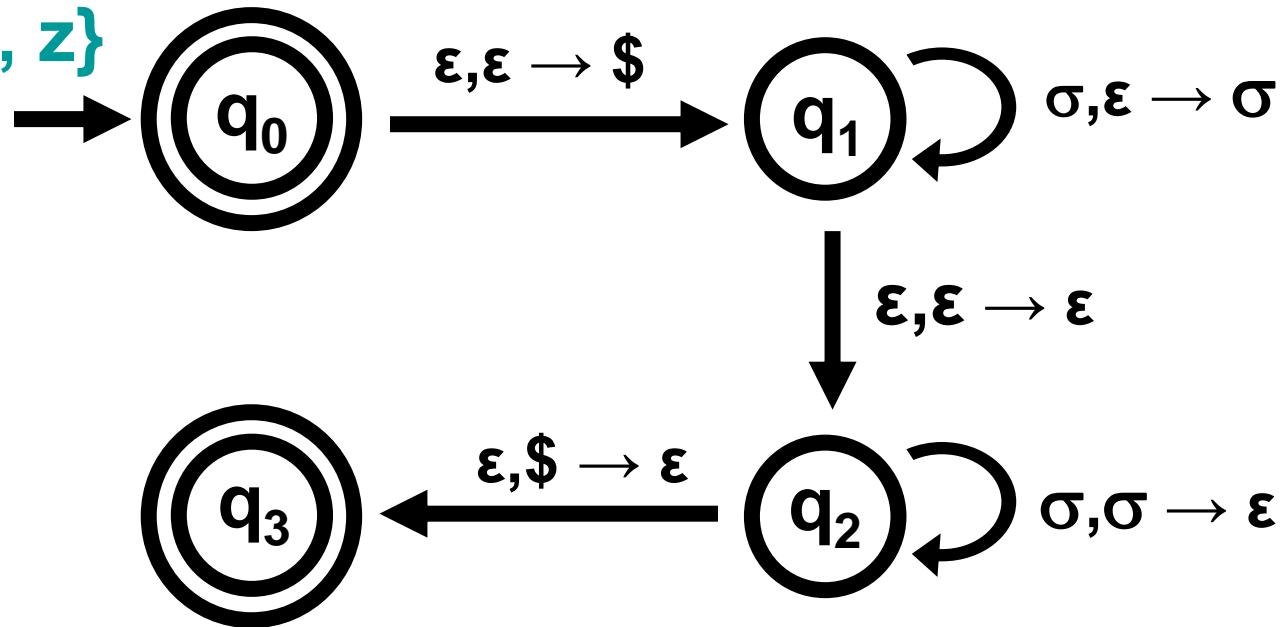


1. *Place the marker symbol \$ onto the stack.*
2. *Nondeterministically keep reading a 0 and pushing it onto the stack or read a 1, pop a 0 and go to the next step.*
3. *Nondeterministically keep reading a 1 and popping a 0 or go to the next step.*
4. *If the top of the stack is \$, enter the accept state. (Then PDA accepts if the input has been read).*

# I-clicker problem (frequency: AC)

What strings are accepted by this PDA?

$\Sigma = \{a, b, c, \dots, z\}$

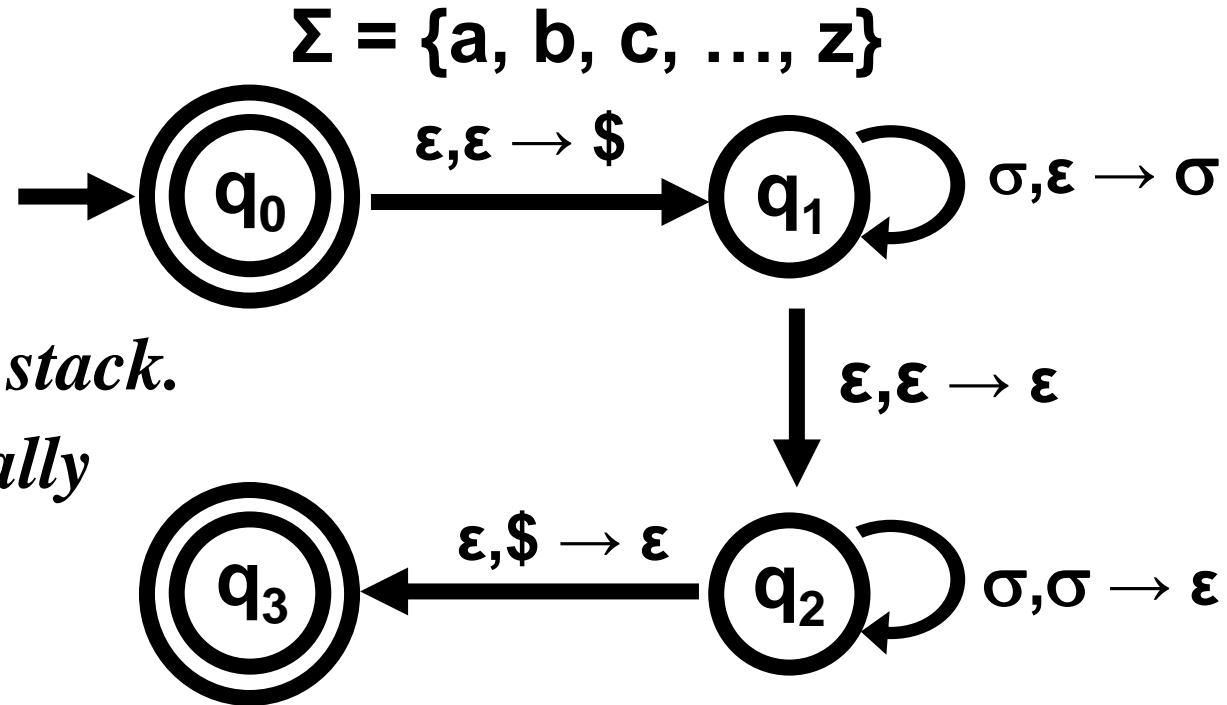


- A. Only  $\epsilon$
- B. Palindromes
- C. Even-length palindromes
- D. All strings that start and end with the same letter
- E. None of the above



Give an **ALGORITHMIC**  
description

1. *Place the marker symbol \$ onto the stack.*
2. *Nondeterministically keep reading a character and pushing it onto the stack or go to the next step.*
3. *Nondeterministically keep reading and popping a matching character or go to the next step.*
4. *If the top of the stack is \$, enter the accept state.*



Build a PDA to recognize  
 $L = \{ a^i b^j c^k \mid i, j, k \geq 0 \text{ and } (i = j \text{ or } i = k) \}$

