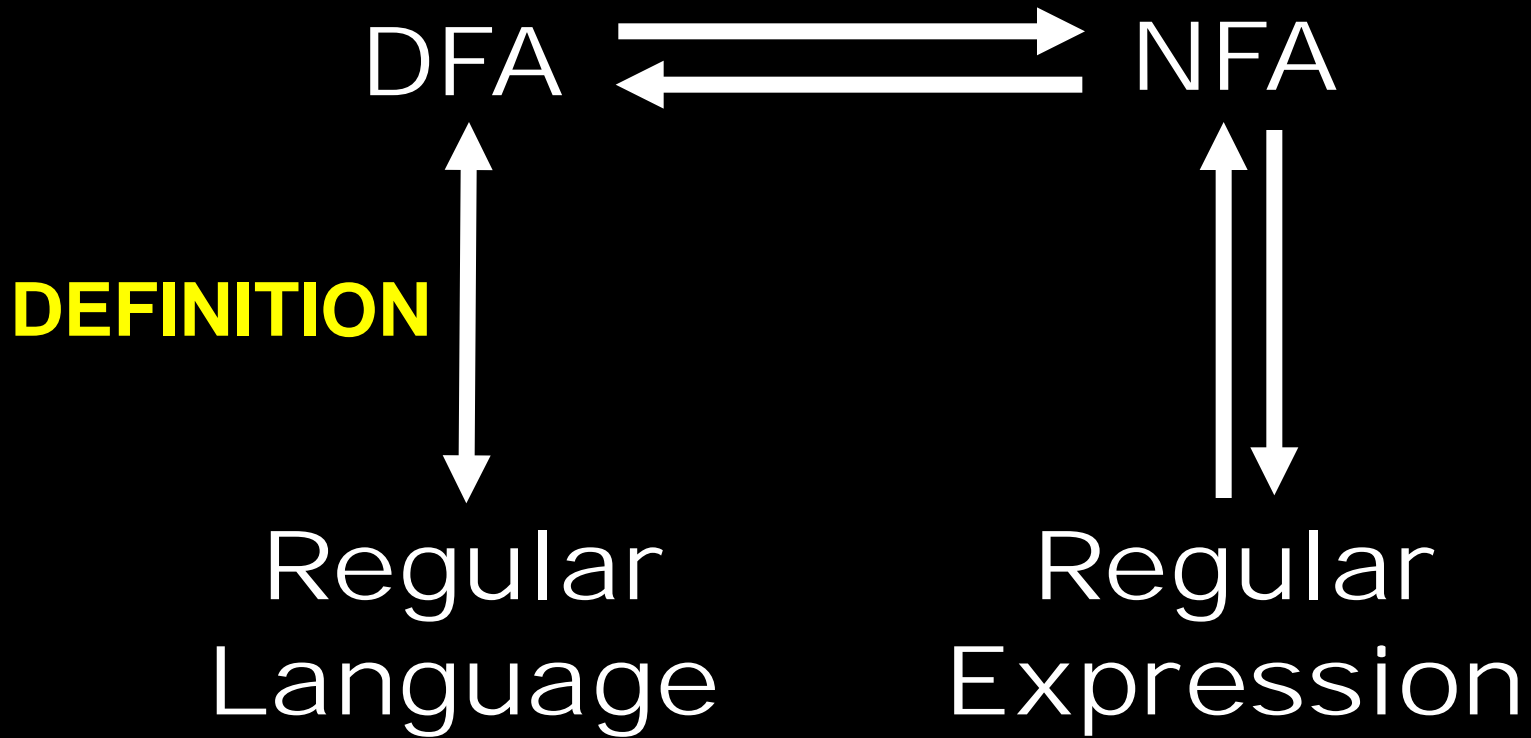


15-453

FORMAL LANGUAGES,  
AUTOMATA AND  
COMPUTABILITY



**How can we prove that two regular expressions are equivalent?**

**How can we prove that two DFAs (or two NFAs) are equivalent?**

**How can we prove that two regular languages are equivalent?**

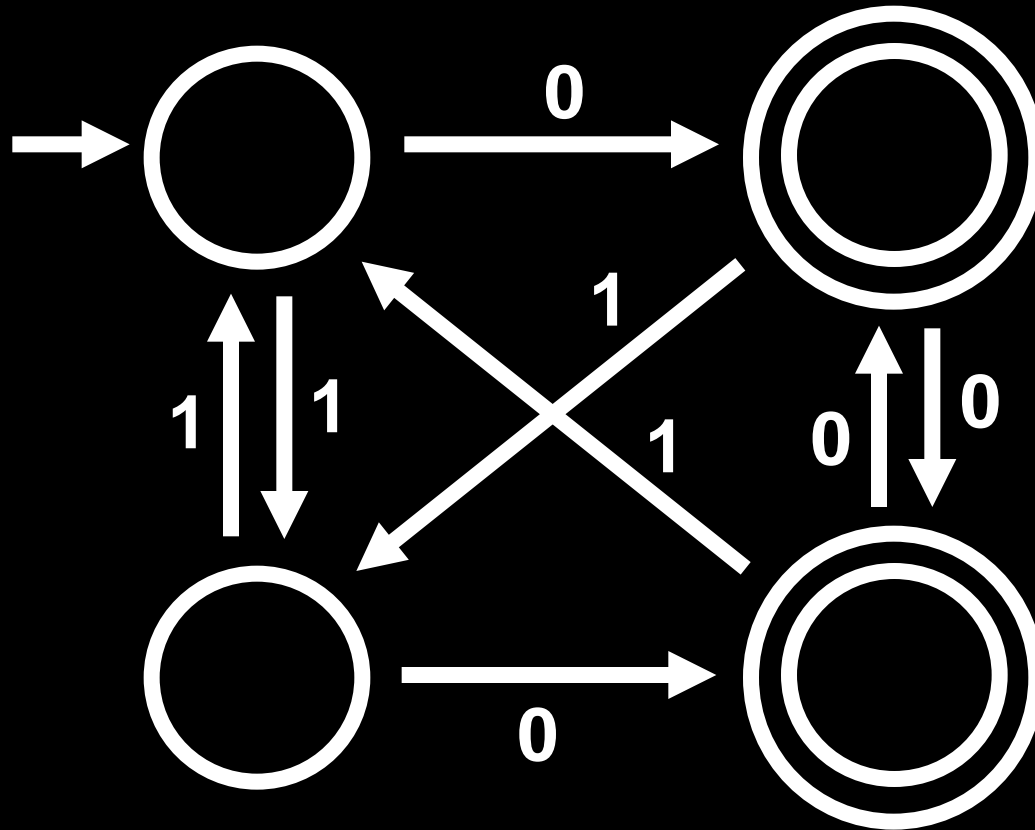
**(Does this question make sense?)**

**How can we prove that two DFAs  
(or two NFAs) are equivalent?**

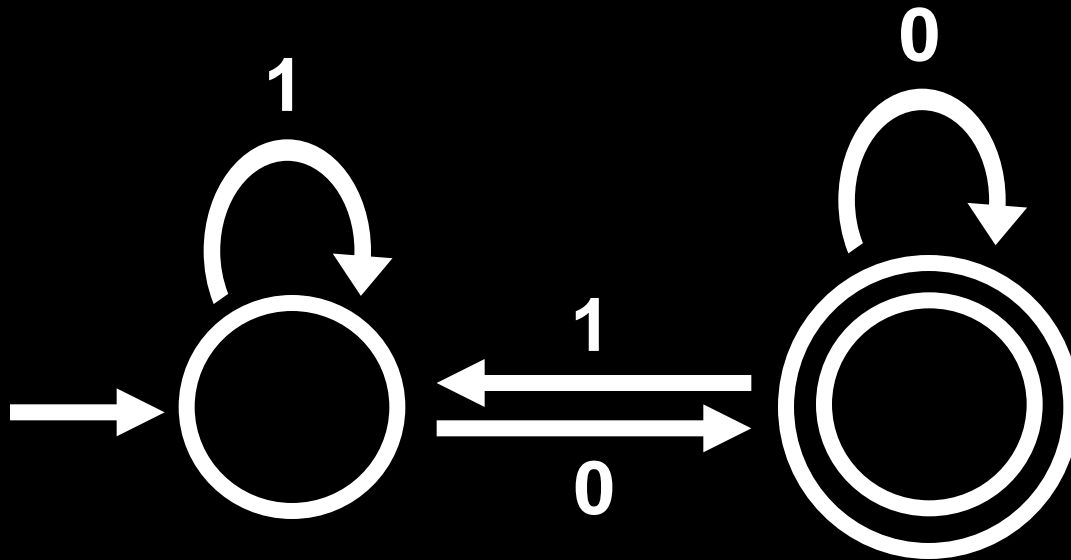
# MINIMIZING DFAs

**THURSDAY Jan 23**

IS THIS MINIMAL?



IS THIS MINIMAL?



# THEOREM

For every regular language **L**, there exists a **UNIQUE** (up to re-labeling of the states) minimal DFA **M** such that **L = L(M)**



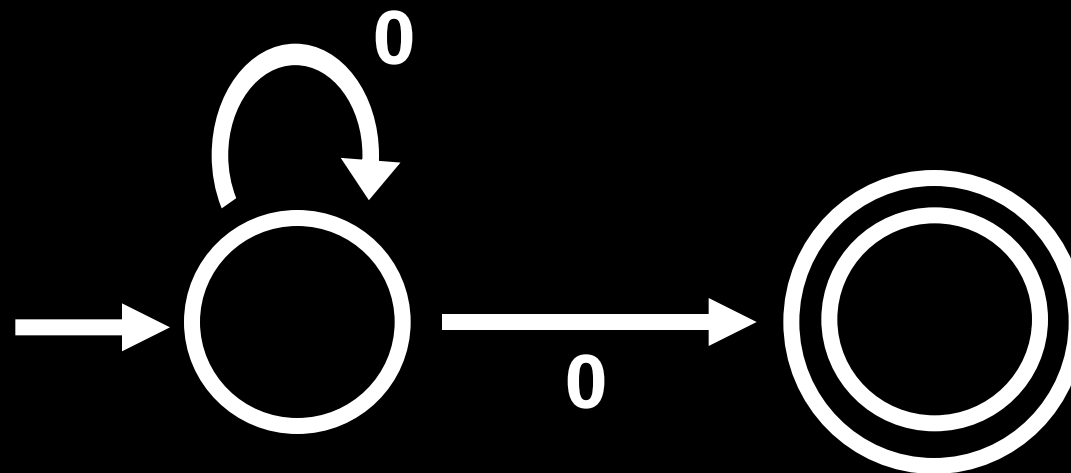
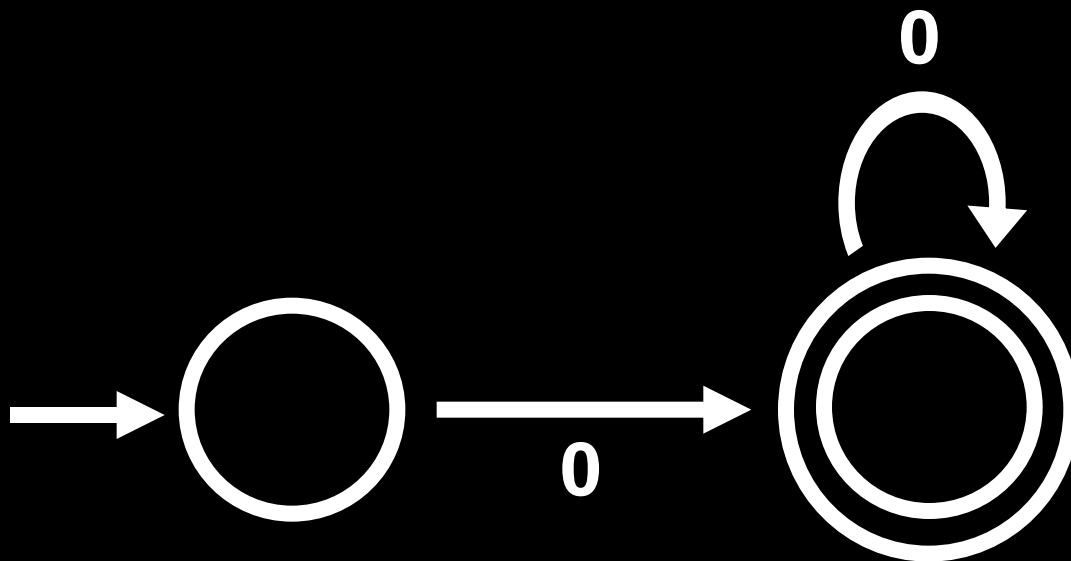
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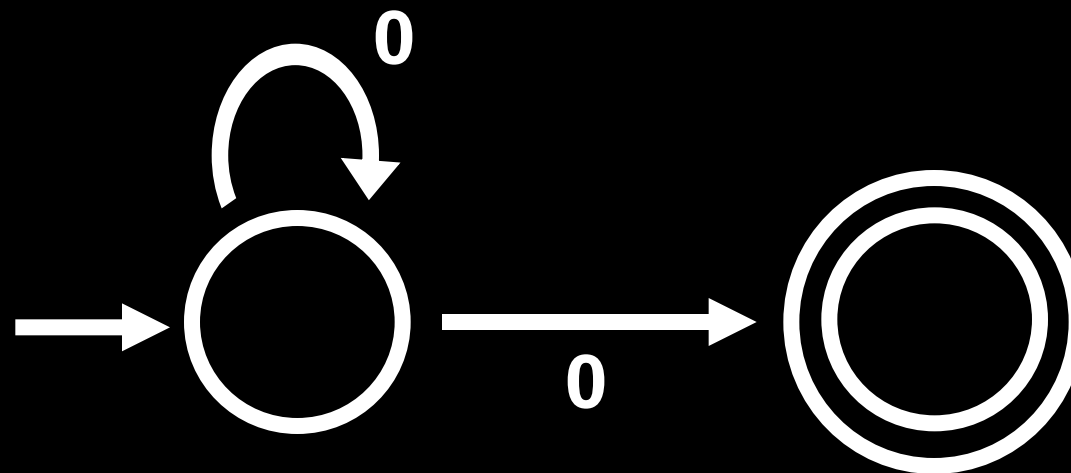
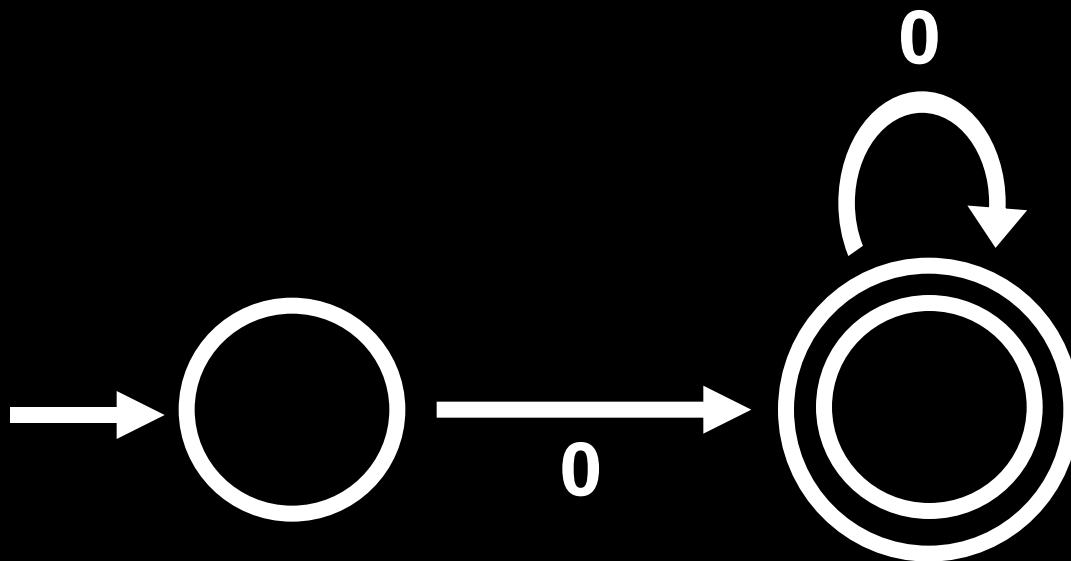
Minimal means wrt number of states

Given a specification for **L**, via **DFA**, **NFA** or **regex**, this theorem is constructive.

# NOT TRUE FOR NFAs



# NOT TRUE FOR RegExp



# EXTENDING $\delta$

Given DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  extend  $\delta$  to

$\hat{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow Q$  as follows:

$$\hat{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = q$$

$$\hat{\delta}(q, \sigma) = \delta(q, \sigma)$$

$$\hat{\delta}(q, \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_{k+1}) = \delta(\hat{\delta}(q, \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_k), \sigma_{k+1})$$

Note:  $\hat{\delta}(q_0, w) \in F \Leftrightarrow M$  accepts  $w$

String  $w \in \Sigma^*$  distinguishes states  $p$  and  $q$  iff

$$\hat{\delta}(p, w) \in F \Leftrightarrow \hat{\delta}(q, w) \notin F$$

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String  $w \in \Sigma^*$  **distinguishes** states  $p$  and  $q$  iff

exactly ONE of  $\hat{\delta}(p, w)$ ,  $\hat{\delta}(q, w)$  is a final state

Fix  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  and let  $p, q \in Q$

DEFINITION:

$p$  is *distinguishable* from  $q$

iff

there is a  $w \in \Sigma^*$  that distinguishes  $p$  and  $q$

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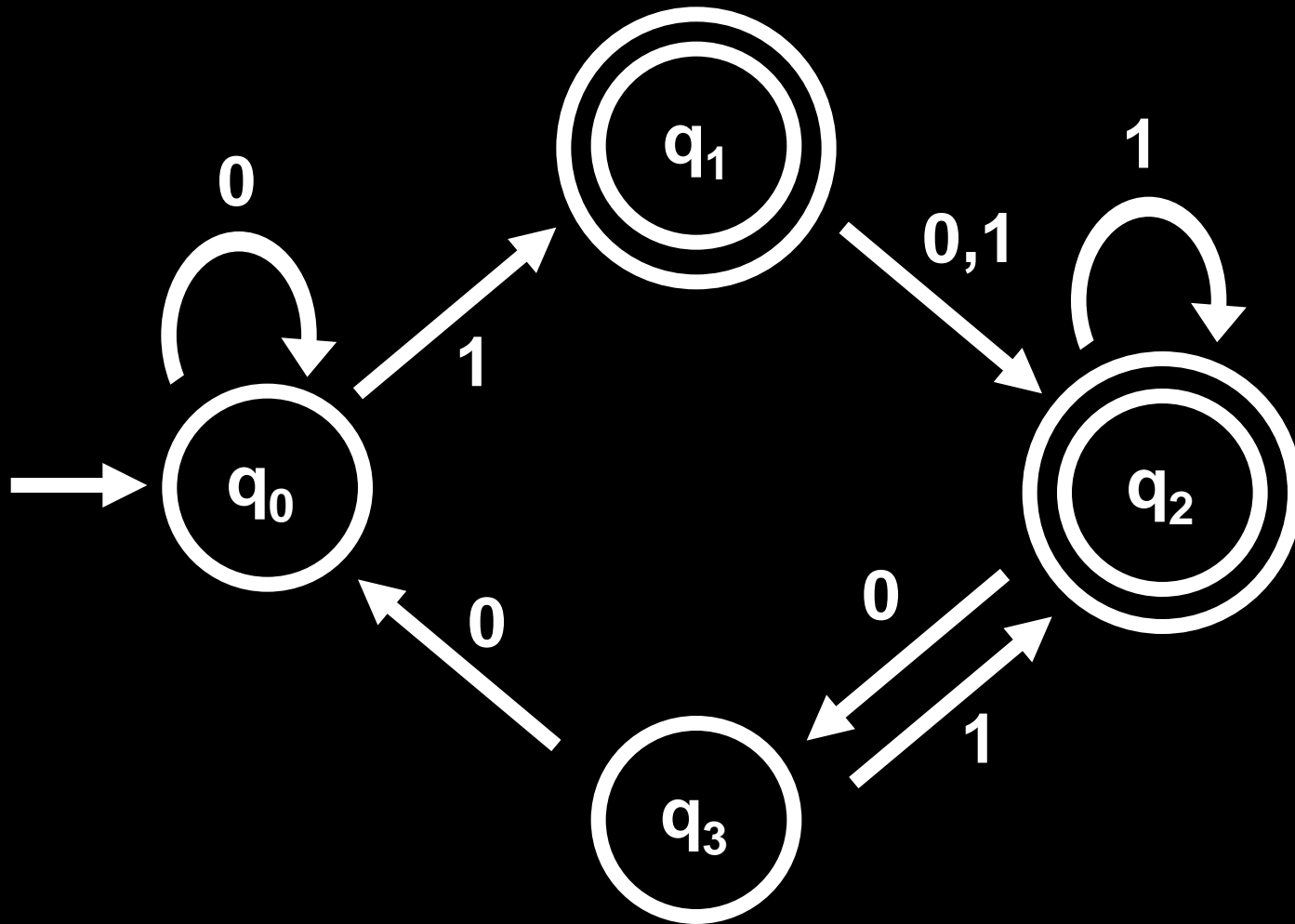
$p$  is *indistinguishable* from  $q$

iff

$p$  is **not** distinguishable from  $q$

iff

for all  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $\hat{\delta}(p, w) \in F \Leftrightarrow \hat{\delta}(q, w) \in F$



**$\epsilon$  distinguishes accept from non-accept states**



Fix  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  and let  $p, q, r \in Q$

Define relation  $\sim$  :

$p \sim q$  iff  $p$  is **indistinguishable** from  $q$

$p \not\sim q$  iff  $p$  is distinguishable from  $q$

Proposition:  $\sim$  is an **equivalence relation**

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$p \sim p$  (**reflexive**)

$p \sim q \Rightarrow q \sim p$  (**symmetric**)

$p \sim q$  and  $q \sim r \Rightarrow p \sim r$  (**transitive**)

**Proof (of transitivity):** for all  $w$ , we have:

$$\hat{\delta}(p, w) \in F \Leftrightarrow \hat{\delta}(q, w) \in F \Leftrightarrow \hat{\delta}(r, w) \in F$$

Fix  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$  and let  $p, q, r \in Q$

so  $\sim$  partitions the set of states of  $M$  into disjoint equivalence classes

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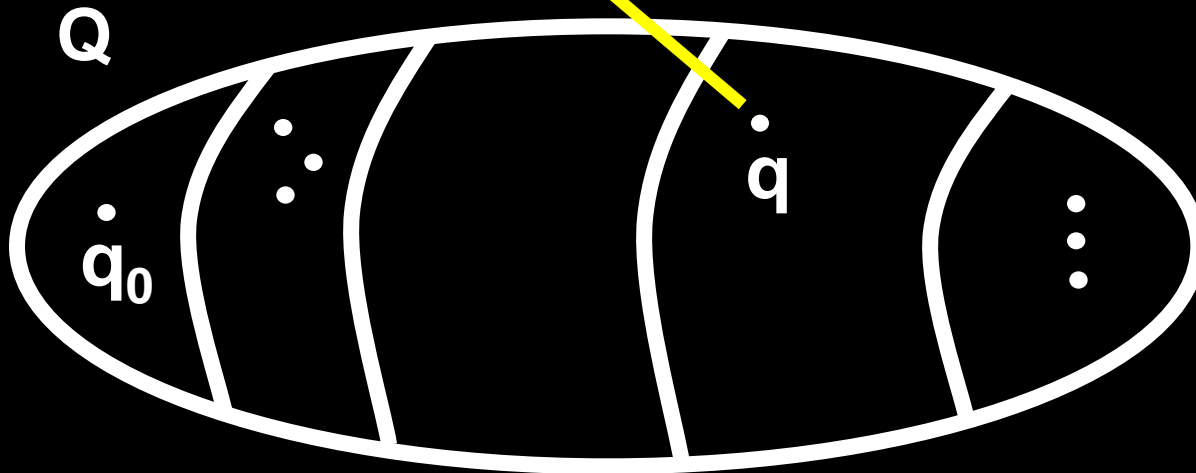
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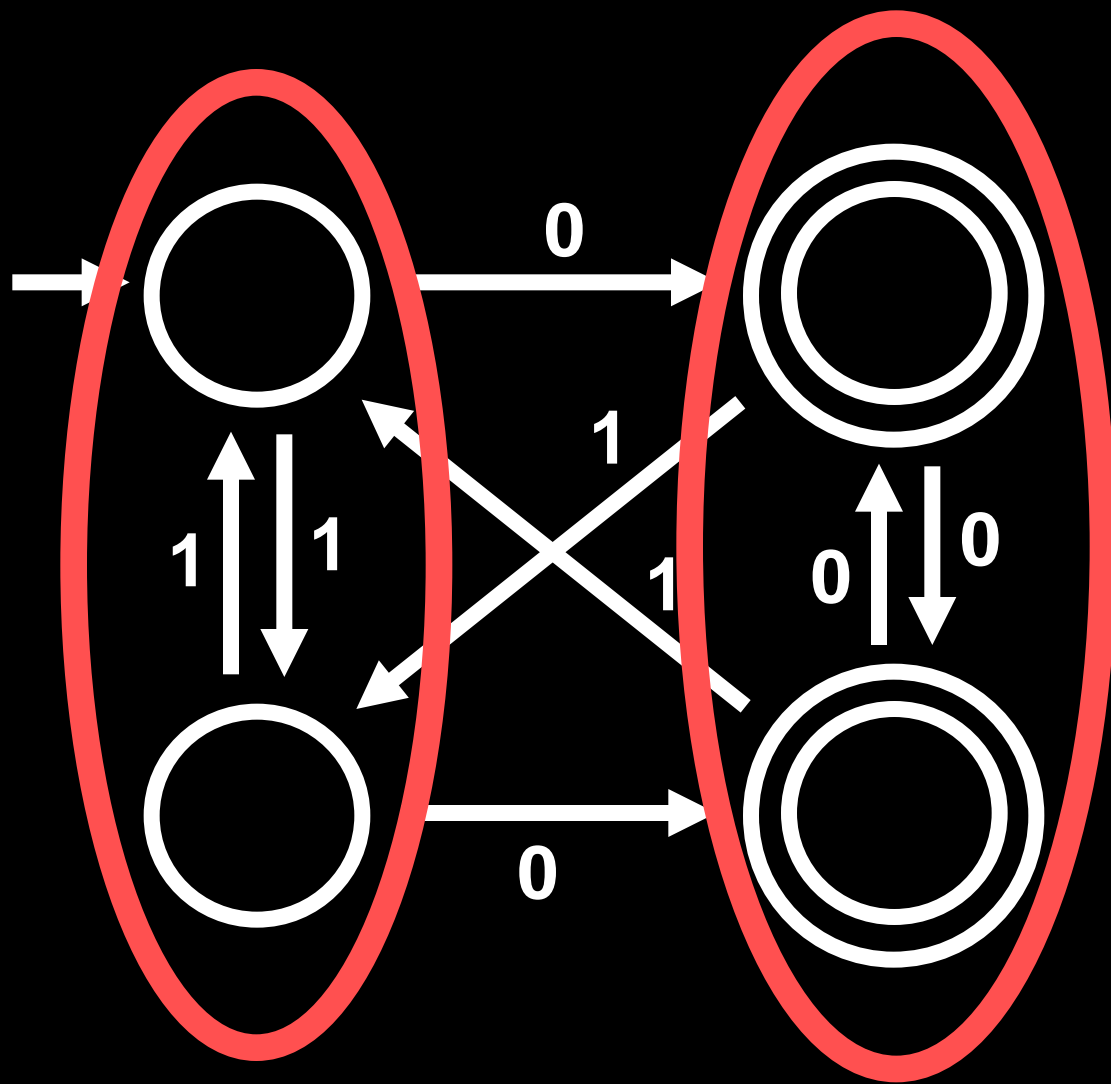
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Proposition:  $\sim$  is an **equivalence relation**

$$[q] = \{ p \mid p \sim q \}$$





# Algorithm MINIMIZE

Input: DFA  $M$

Output: DFA  $M_{\text{MIN}}$  such that:

$M \equiv M_{\text{MIN}}$  (that is,  $L(M) = L(M_{\text{MIN}})$ )

$M_{\text{MIN}}$  has no inaccessible  
states

$M_{\text{MIN}}$  is *irreducible*

||

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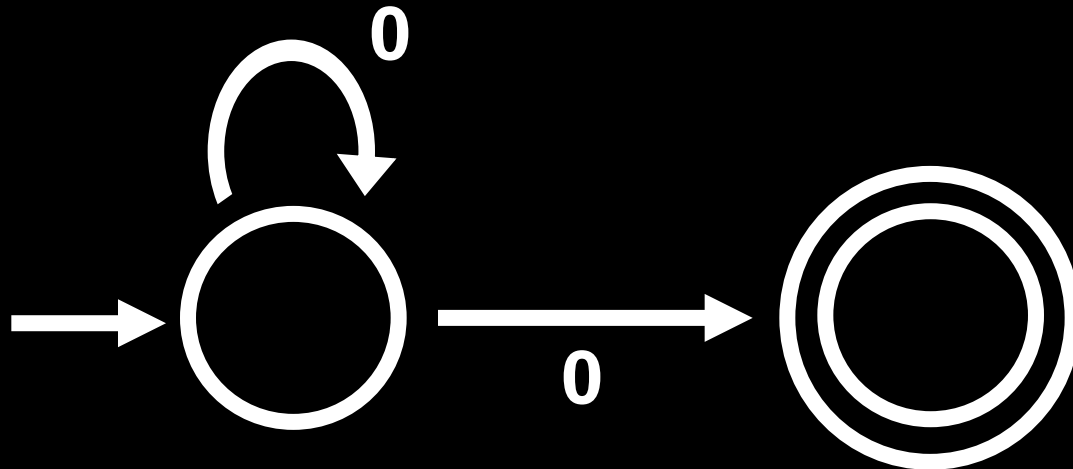
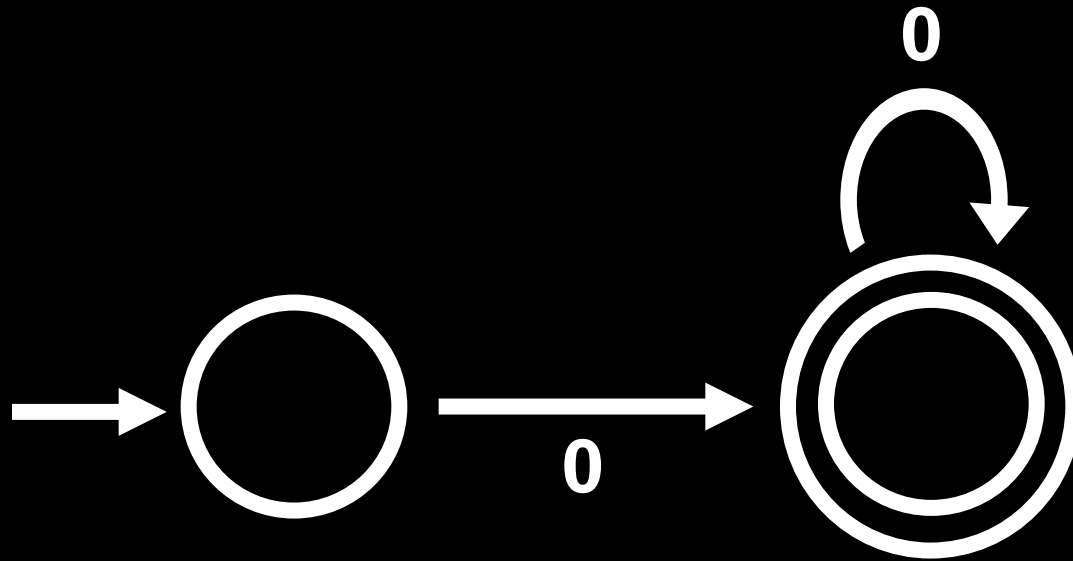
$M_{\text{MIN}}$  is *irreducible*

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all states of  $M_{\text{MIN}}$  are pairwise distinguishable

**Theorem:**  $M_{\text{MIN}}$  is the unique minimum DFA equivalent to  $M$

NOTE: **Theorem** not true for NFAs



**What does this say about Regexs?**



**Intuition:** States of  $M_{\text{MIN}}$  will be blocks of equivalent states of  $M$

We'll find these equivalent states with a "Table-Filling" Algorithm

# TABLE-FILLING ALGORITHM

**Input:** DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

**Output:** (1)  $D_M = \{ (p, q) \mid p, q \in Q \text{ and } p \sim q \}$

(2)  $E_M = \{ [q] \mid q \in Q \}$

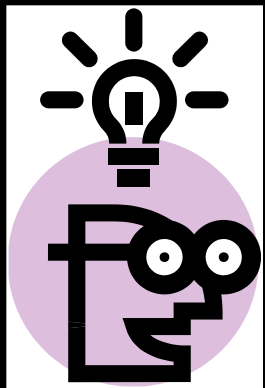
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## IDEA:



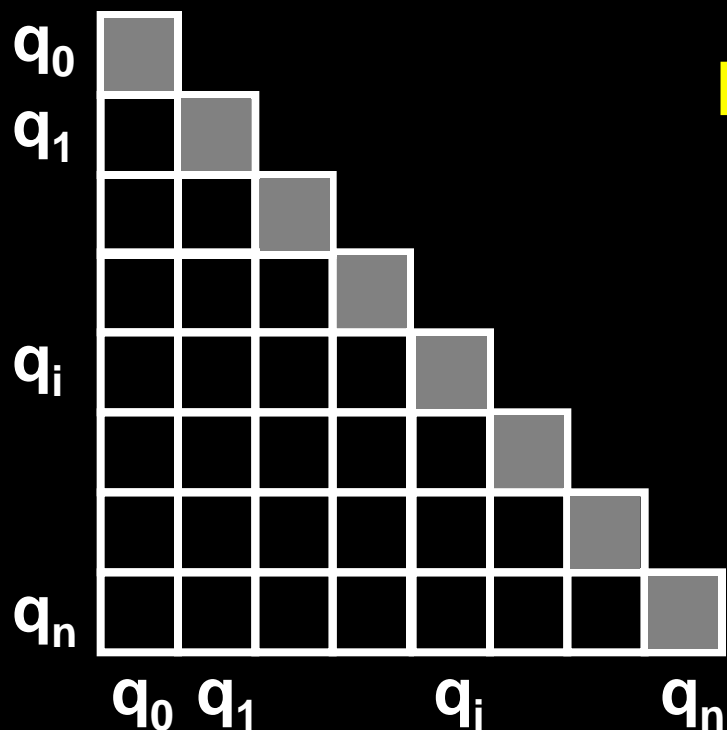
- We know how to find those pairs of states that  $\epsilon$  distinguishes...
- Use this and recursion to find those pairs distinguishable with *longer* strings
- Pairs left over will be indistinguishable

# TABLE-FILLING ALGORITHM

**Input:** DFA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$

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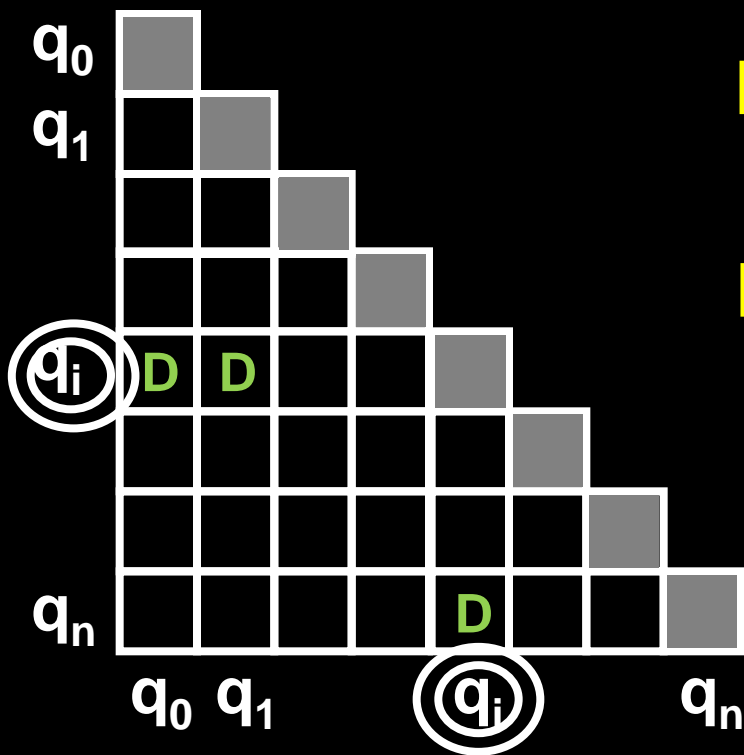
**Base Case:** p accepts  
and q rejects  $\Rightarrow p \not\sim q$

# TABLE-FILLING ALGORITHM

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**Base Case:**  $p$  accepts  
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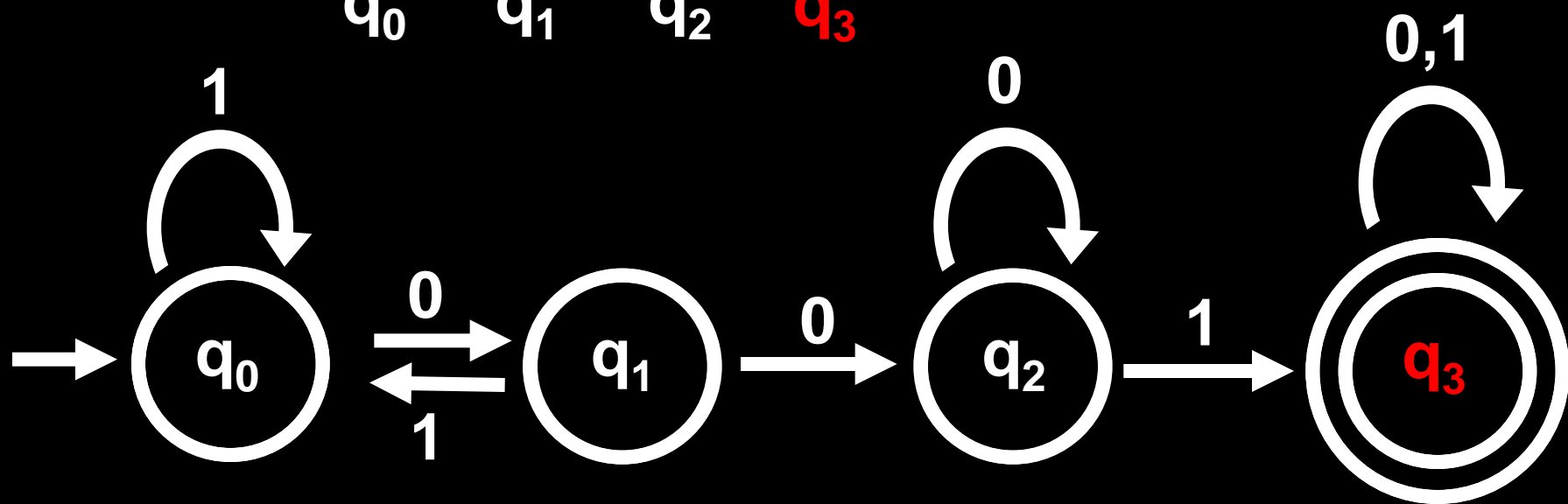
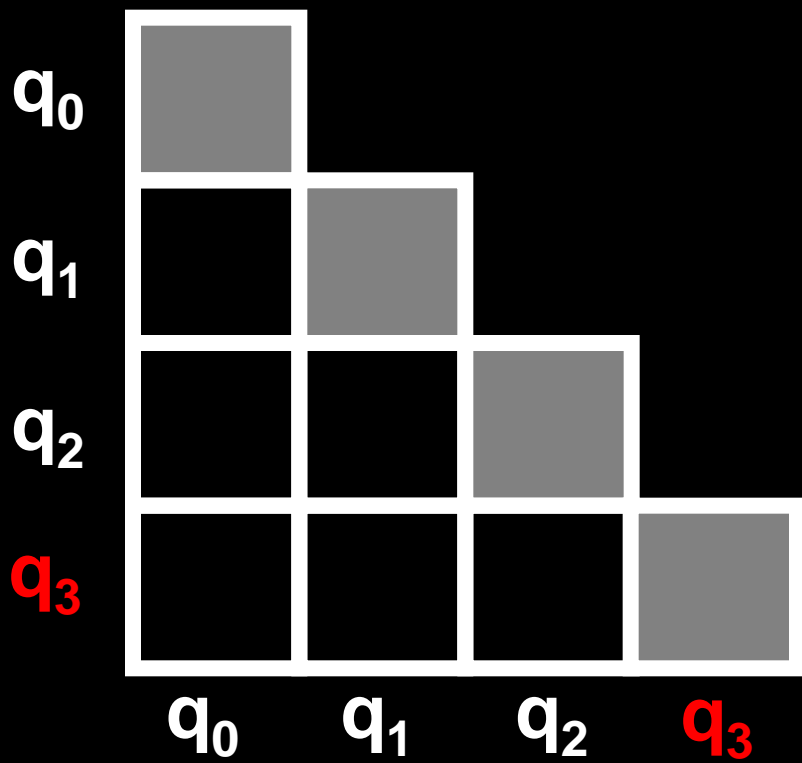
**Recursion:** if there is  $\sigma \in \Sigma$   
and states  $p', q'$  satisfying

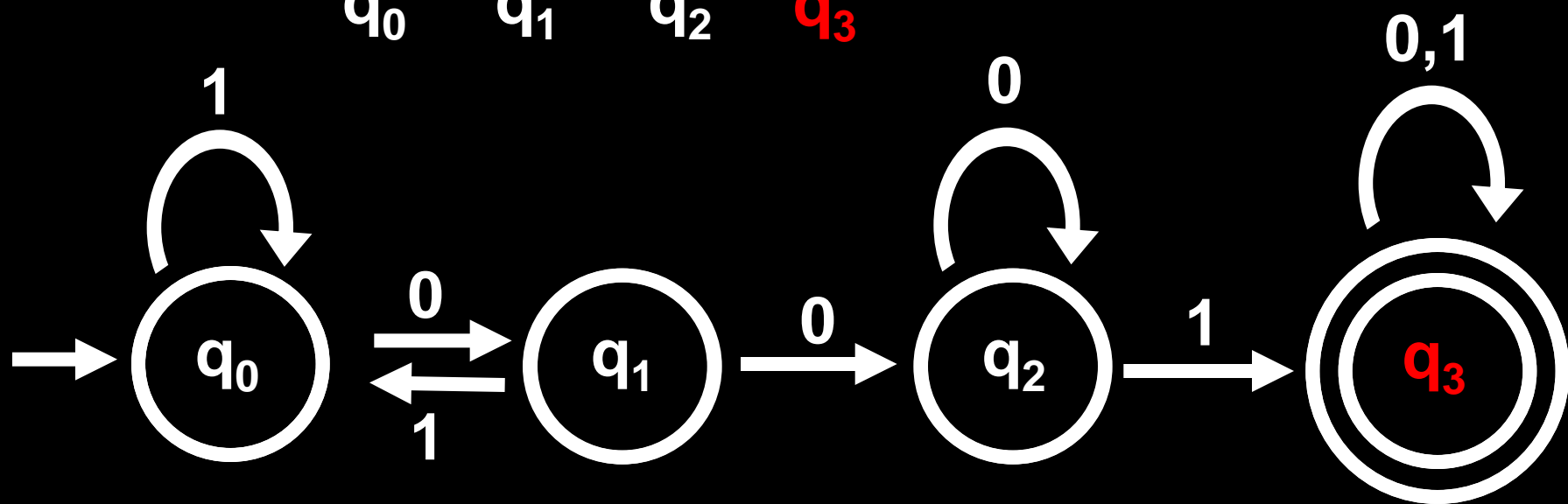
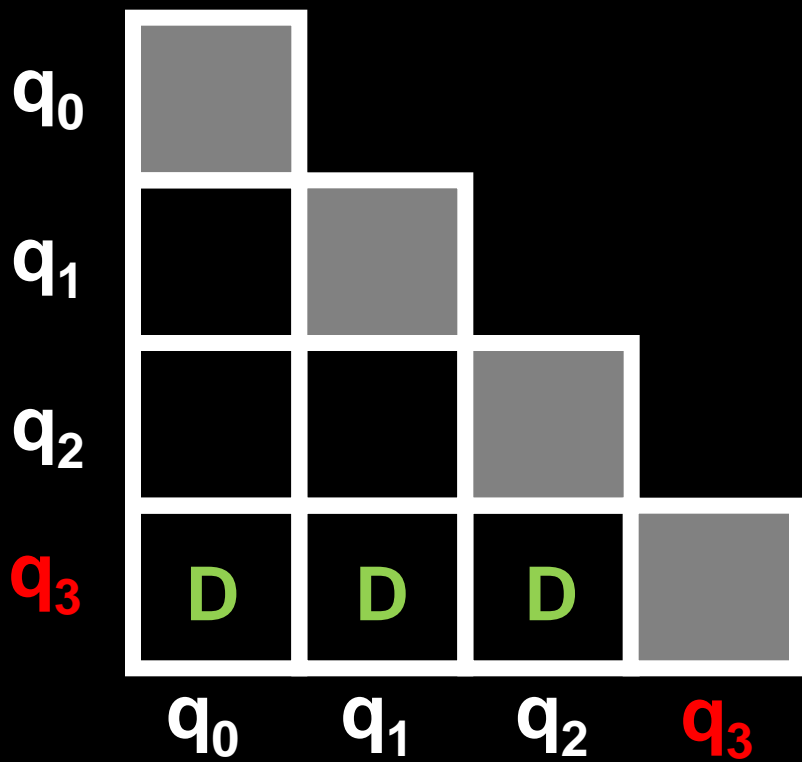
$$\delta(p, \sigma) = p'$$

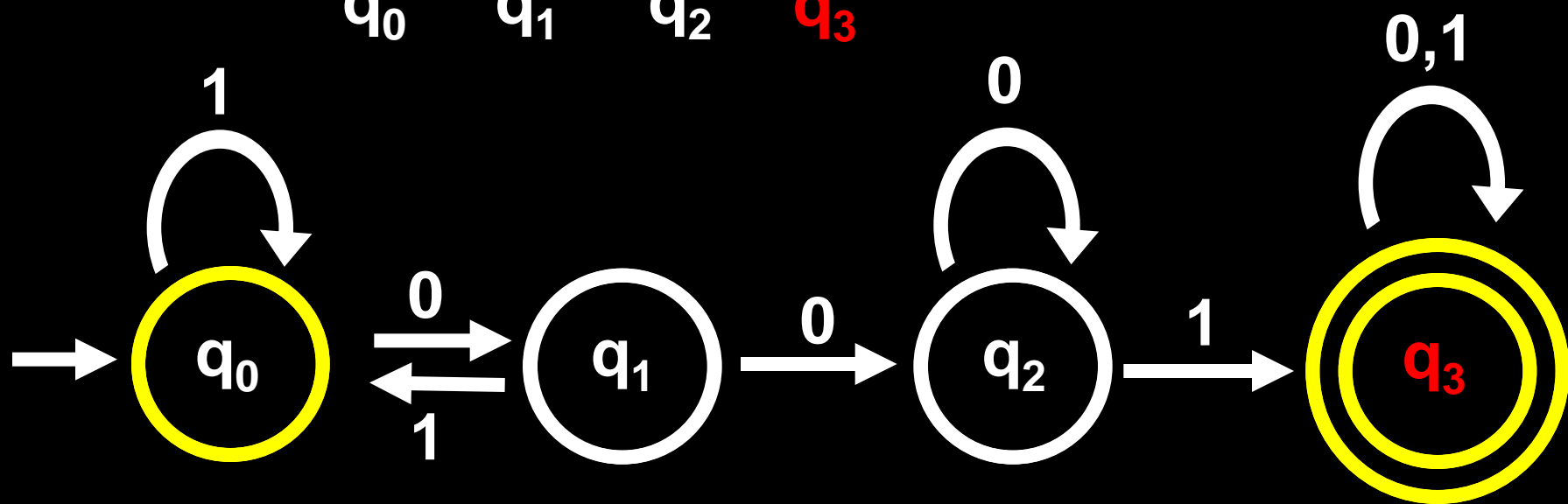
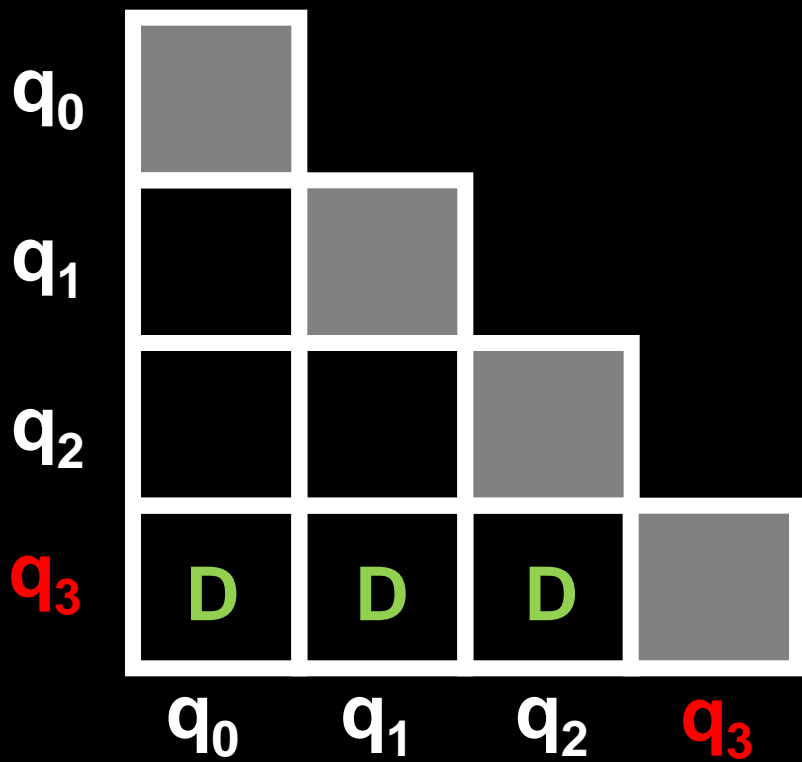
$$\neq \Rightarrow p \neq q$$

$$\delta(q, \sigma) = q'$$

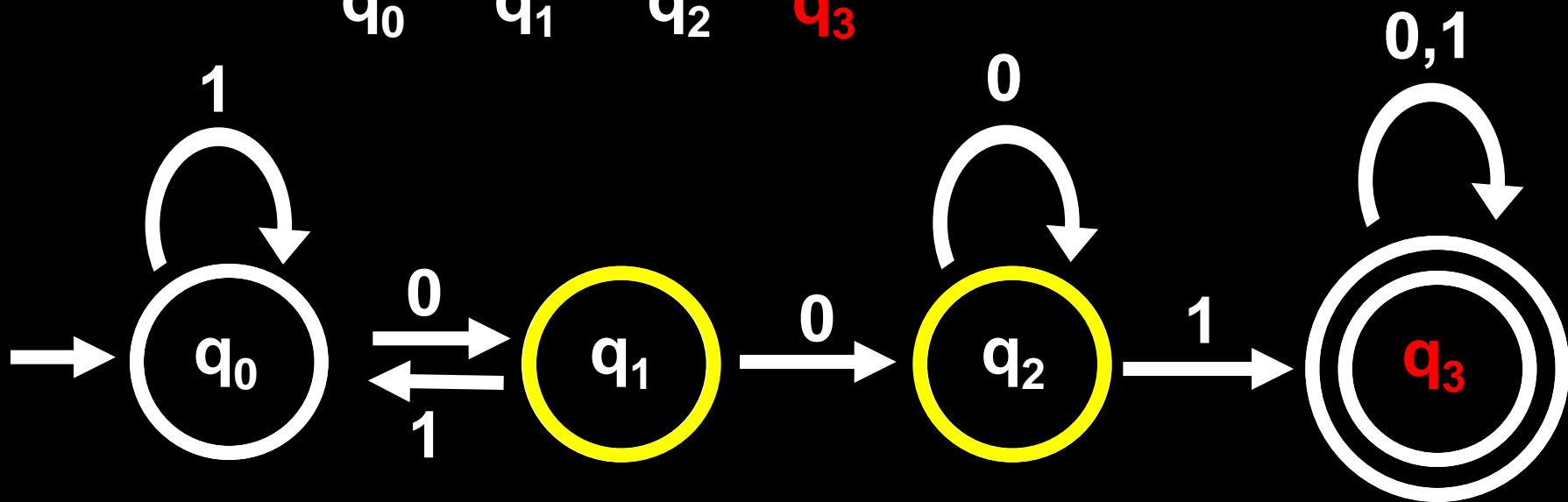
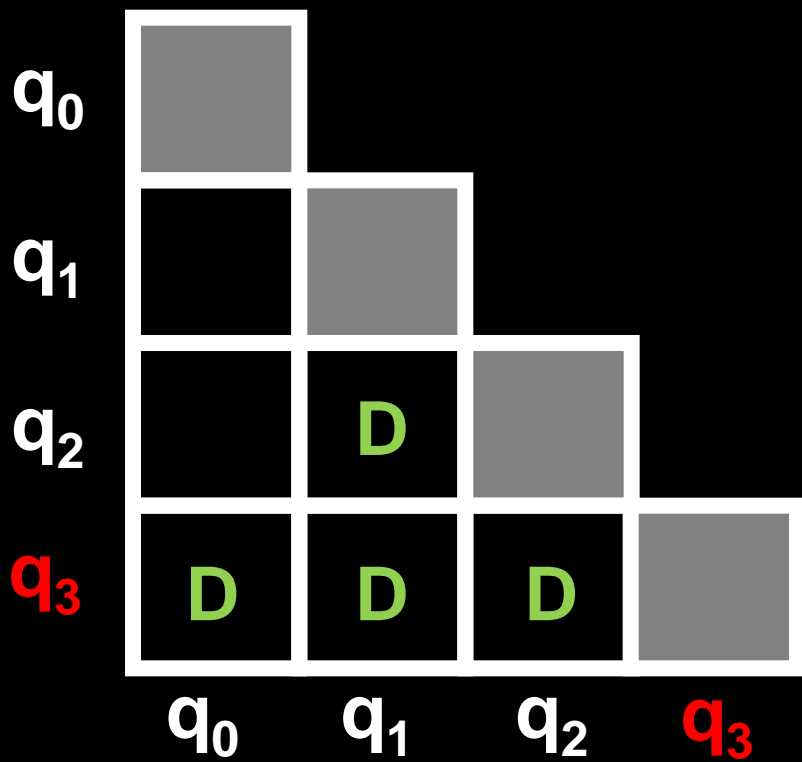
**Repeat** until no more new **D**'s

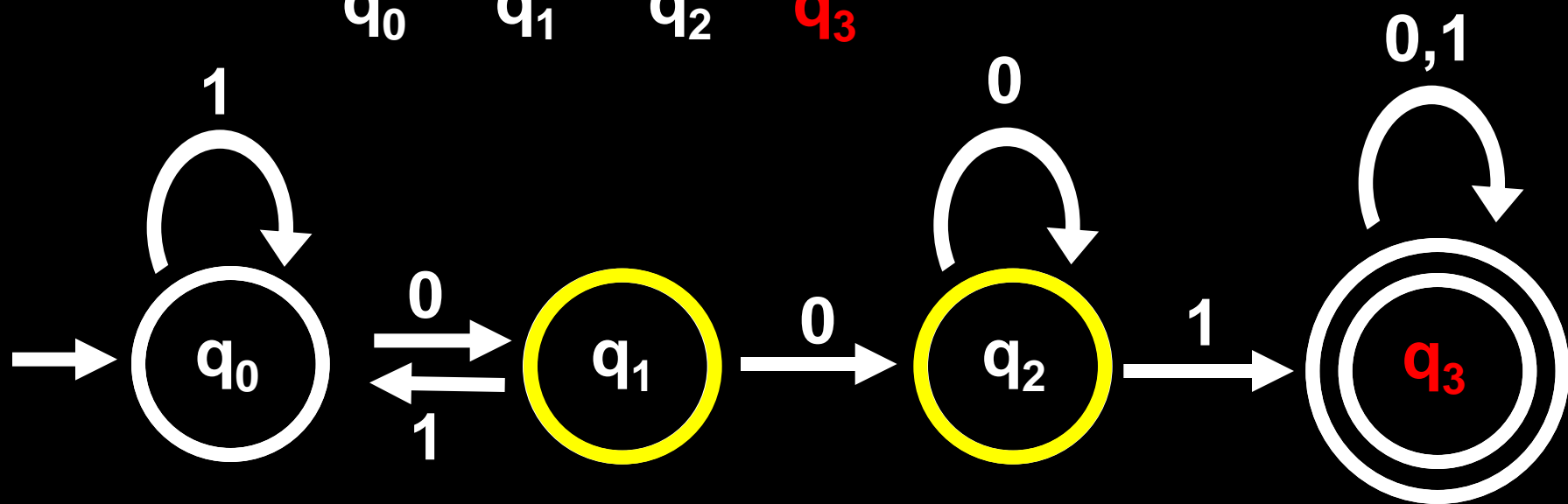
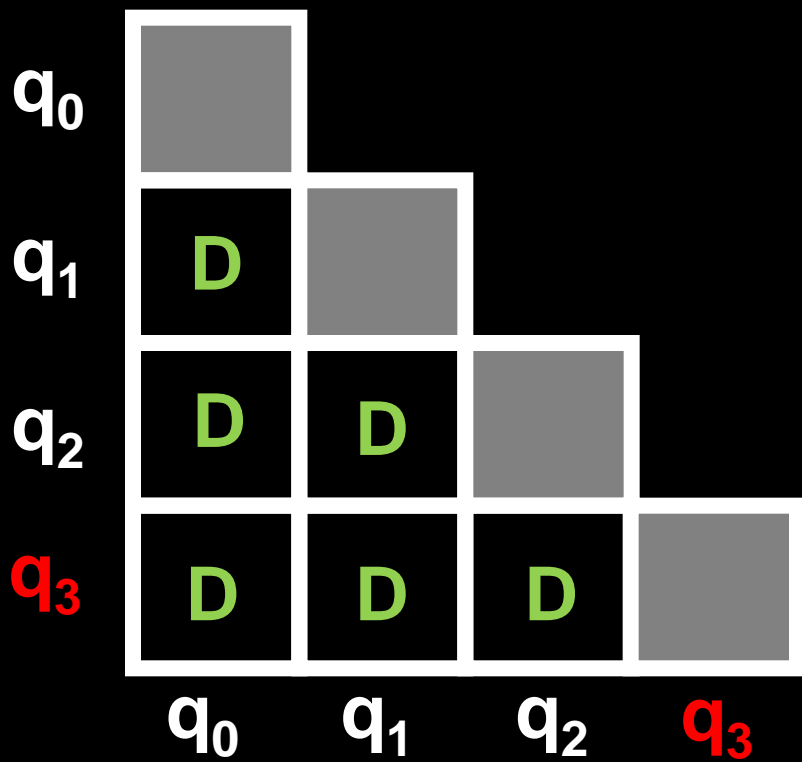


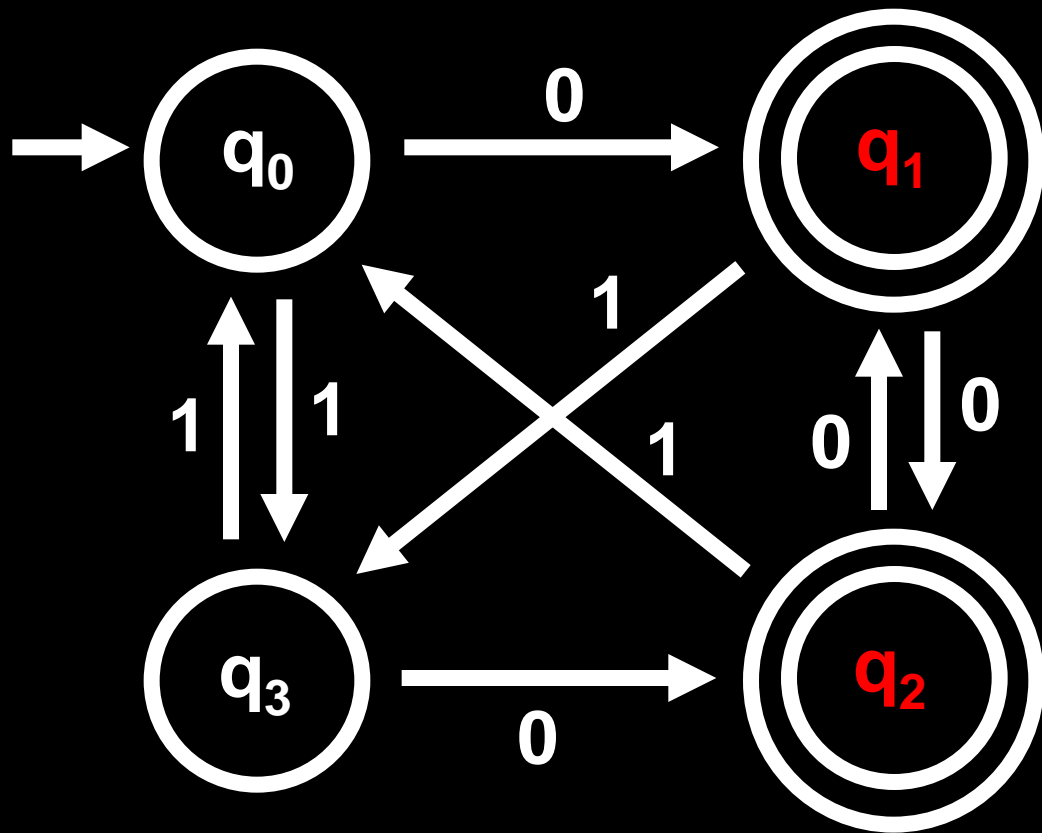
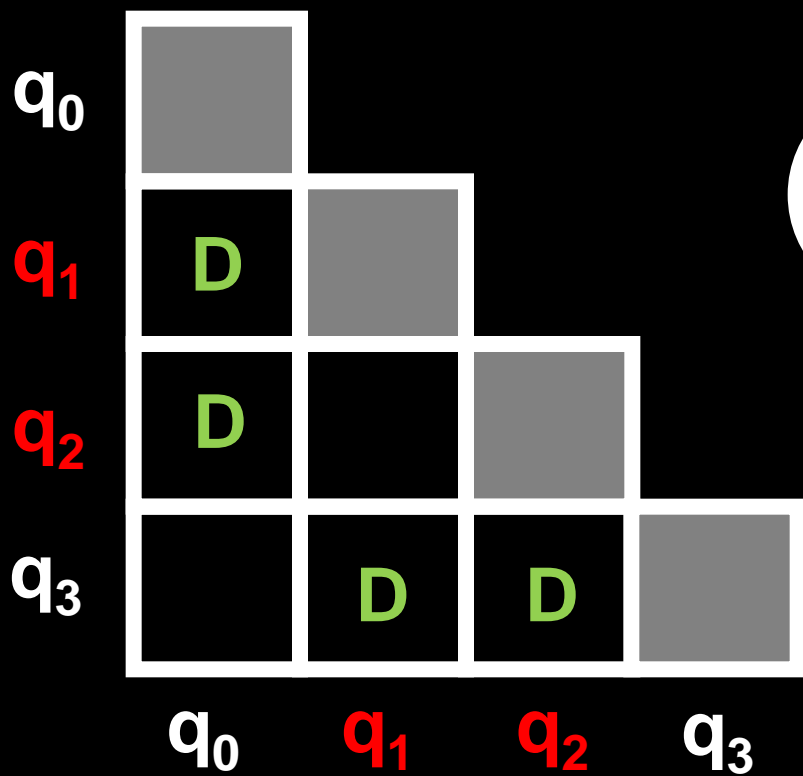


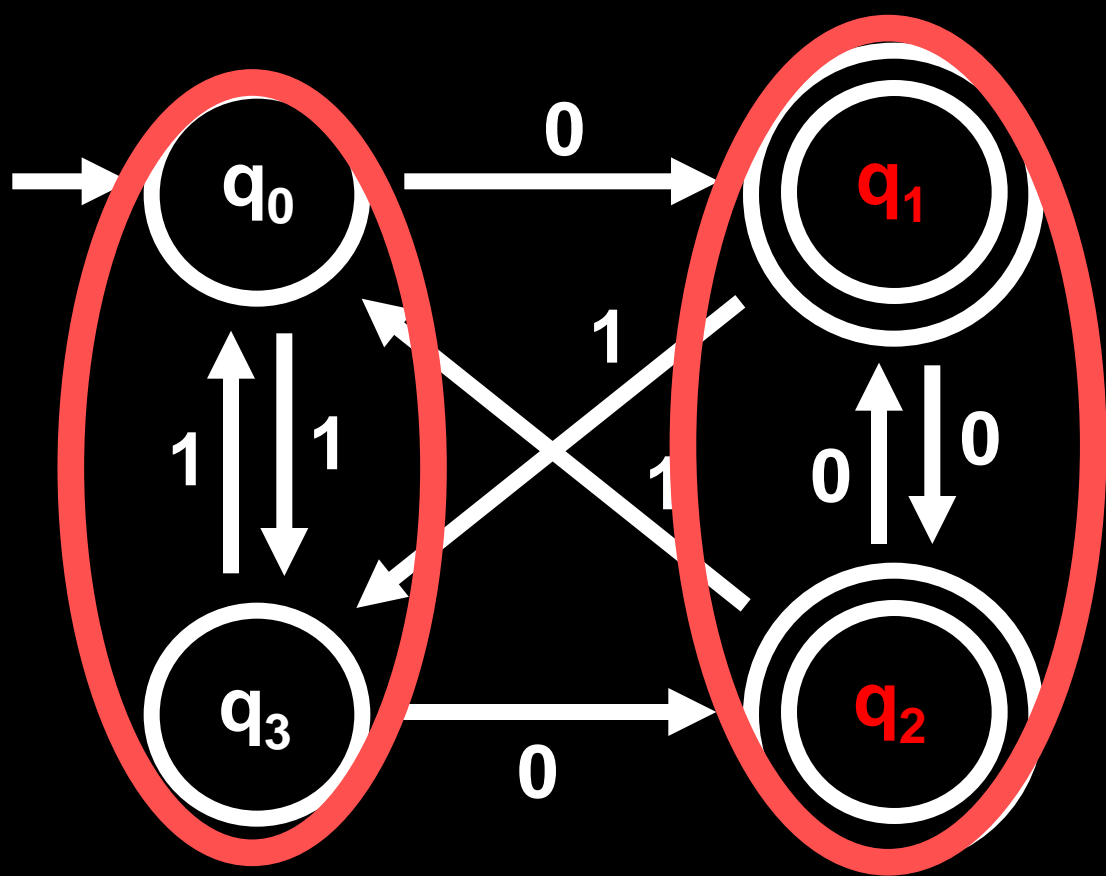
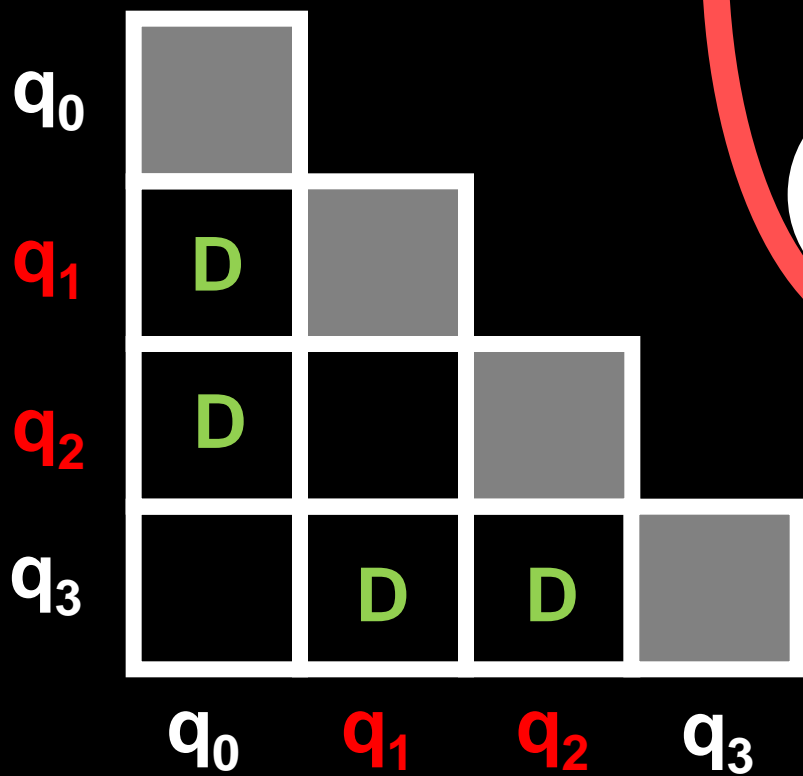


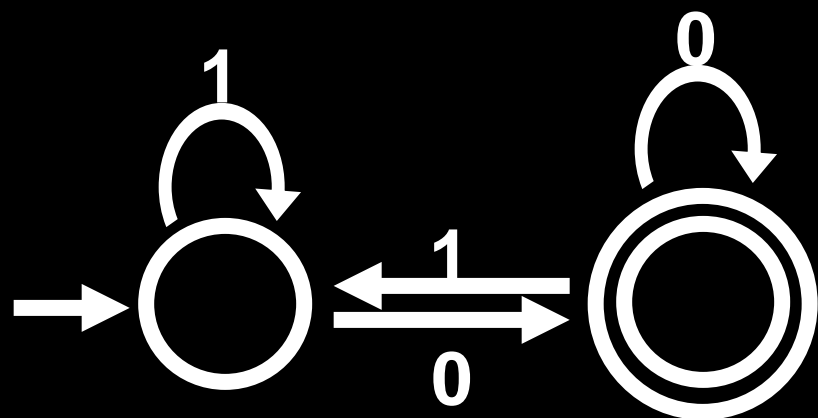
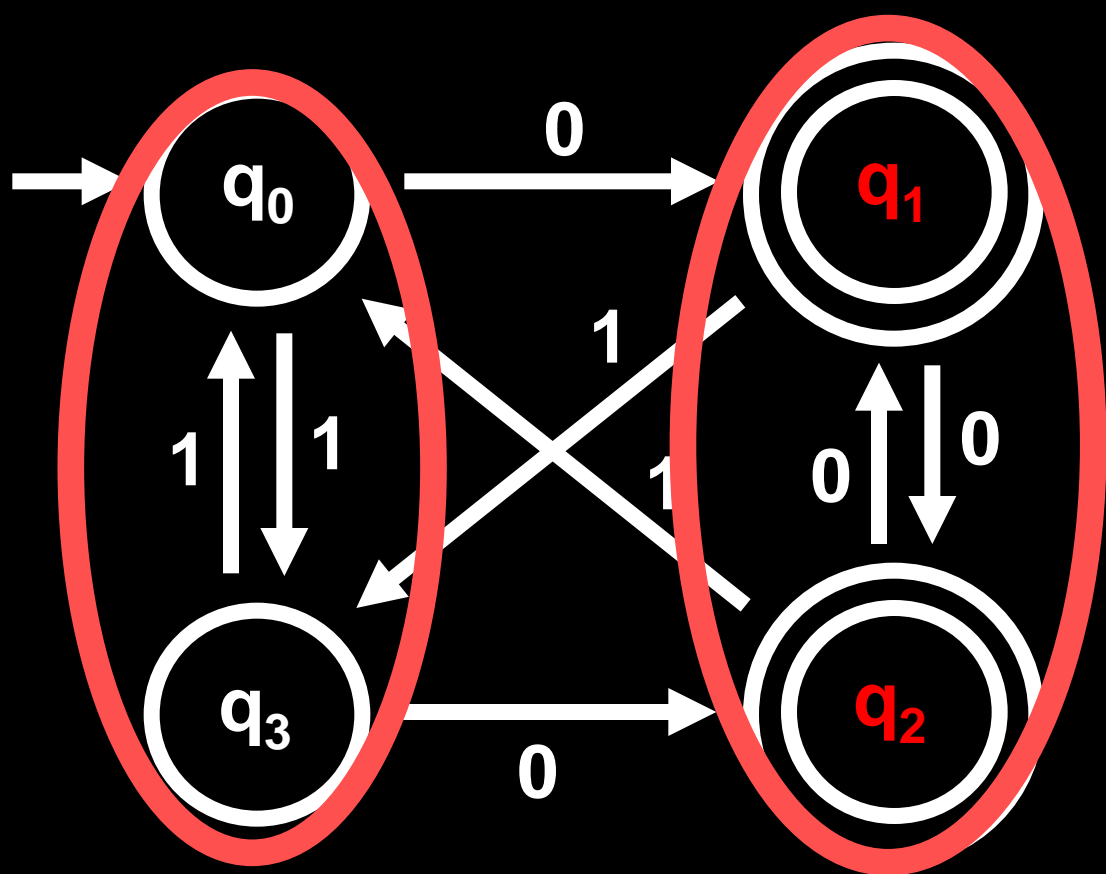
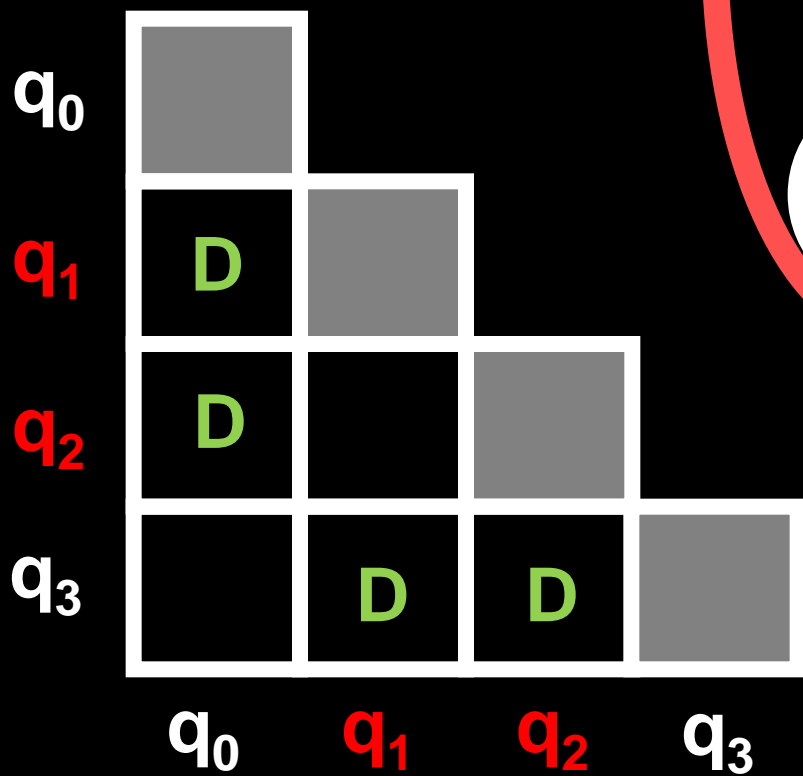












**Claim:** If  $p, q$  are **distinguished** by Table-Filling algorithm (ie pair labelled by  $D$ ), then  $p \neq q$

**Proof:** By induction on the stage of the algorithm

**Claim:** If  $p, q$  are **not distinguished** by Table-Filling algorithm, then  $p \sim q$

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If  $(p, q)$  is marked  $D$  at the start, then one's in  $F$  and one isn't, so  $\epsilon$  distinguishes  $p$  and  $q$

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Suppose  $(p, q)$  is marked  $D$  at stage  $n+1$

Then there are states  $p', q'$ , string  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  such that:

1.  $(p', q')$  are marked  $D \Rightarrow p' \neq q'$  (by induction)  
 $\Rightarrow \hat{\delta}(p', w) \in F$  and  $\hat{\delta}(q', w) \notin F$
2.  $p' = \delta(p, \sigma)$  and  $q' = \delta(q, \sigma)$

The string  $\sigma w$  distinguishes  $p$  and  $q$ !



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Suppose  $(p, q)$  is a bad pair with the shortest  $w$ .

$\hat{\delta}(p, w) \in F$  and  $\hat{\delta}(q, w) \notin F$  (Why is  $|w| > 0$  ?)

So,  $w = \sigma w'$ , where  $\sigma \in \Sigma$

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Let  $p' = \delta(p, \sigma)$  and  $q' = \delta(q, \sigma)$

Then  $(p', q')$  cannot be marked **D** (Why?)

But  $(p', q')$  is distinguished by  $w'$  !

So  $(p', q')$  is also a bad pair, but with a **SHORTER**  $w'$  !

**Contradiction!**

# Algorithm MINIMIZE

**Input:** DFA **M**

**Output:** DFA **M**<sub>MIN</sub>

(1) Remove all inaccessible states from **M**

(2) Apply Table-Filling algorithm to get:

$E_M = \{ [q] \mid q \text{ is an accessible state of } \mathbf{M} \}$

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**Must show  $\delta_{MIN}$  is well defined!**

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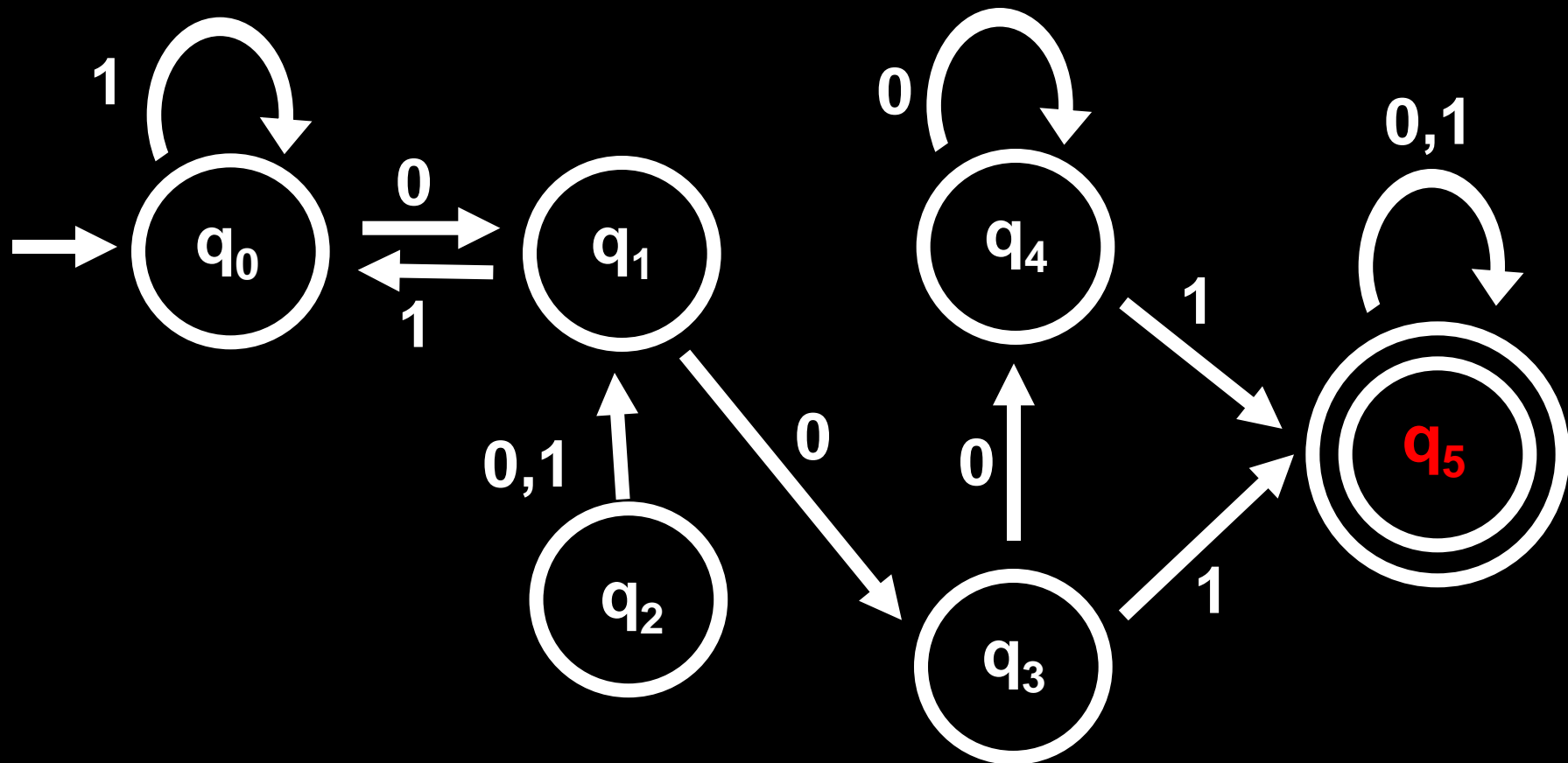
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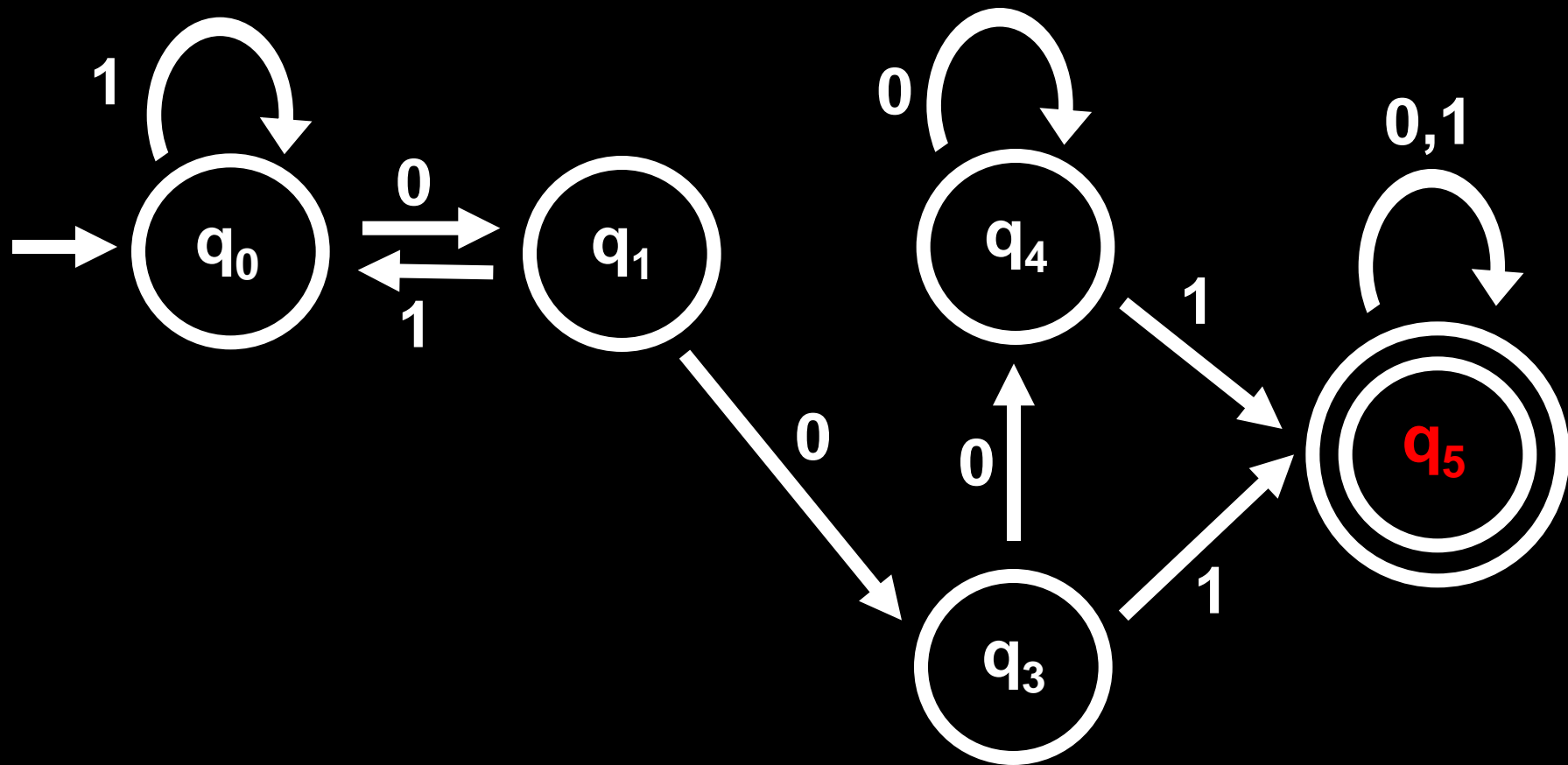
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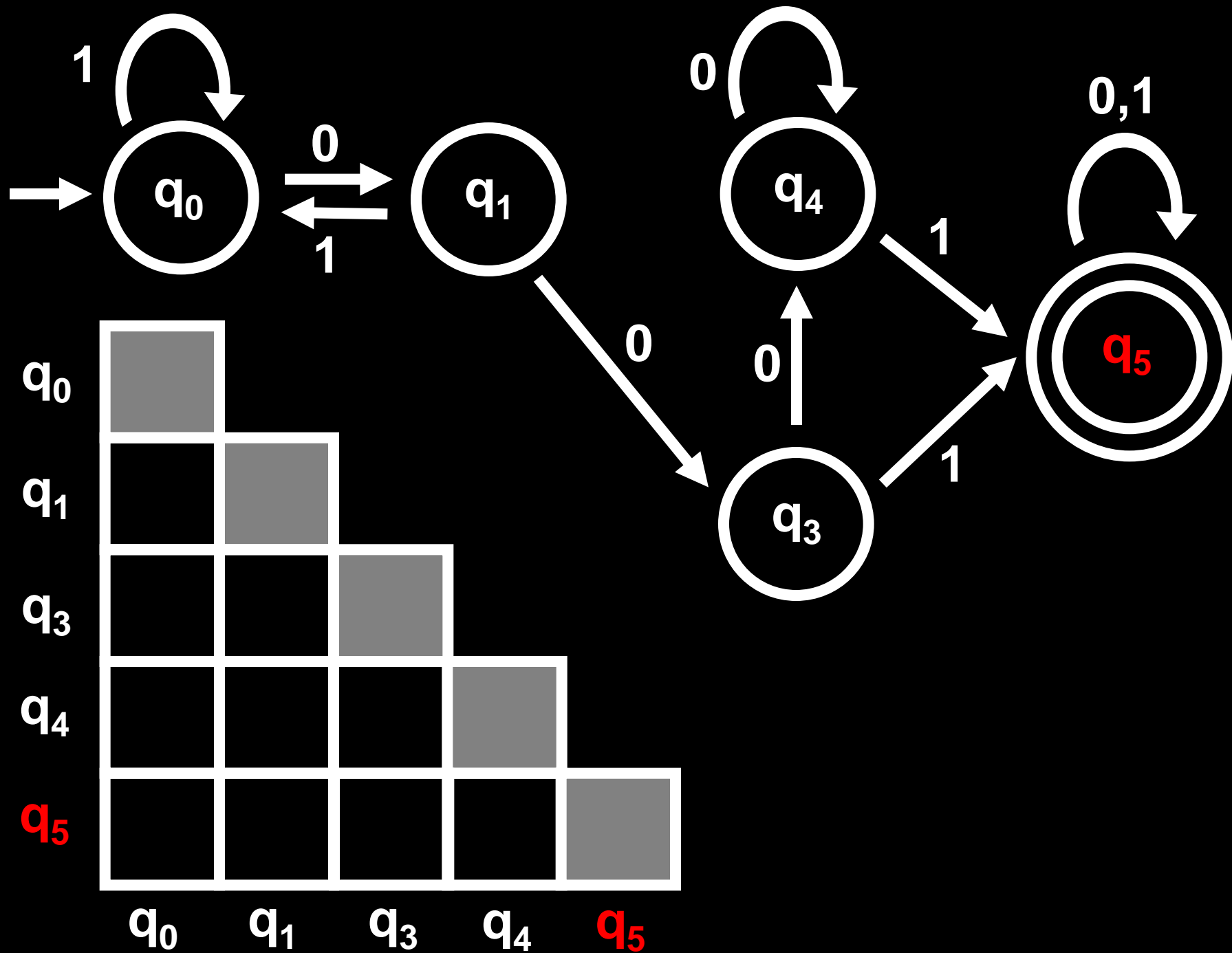
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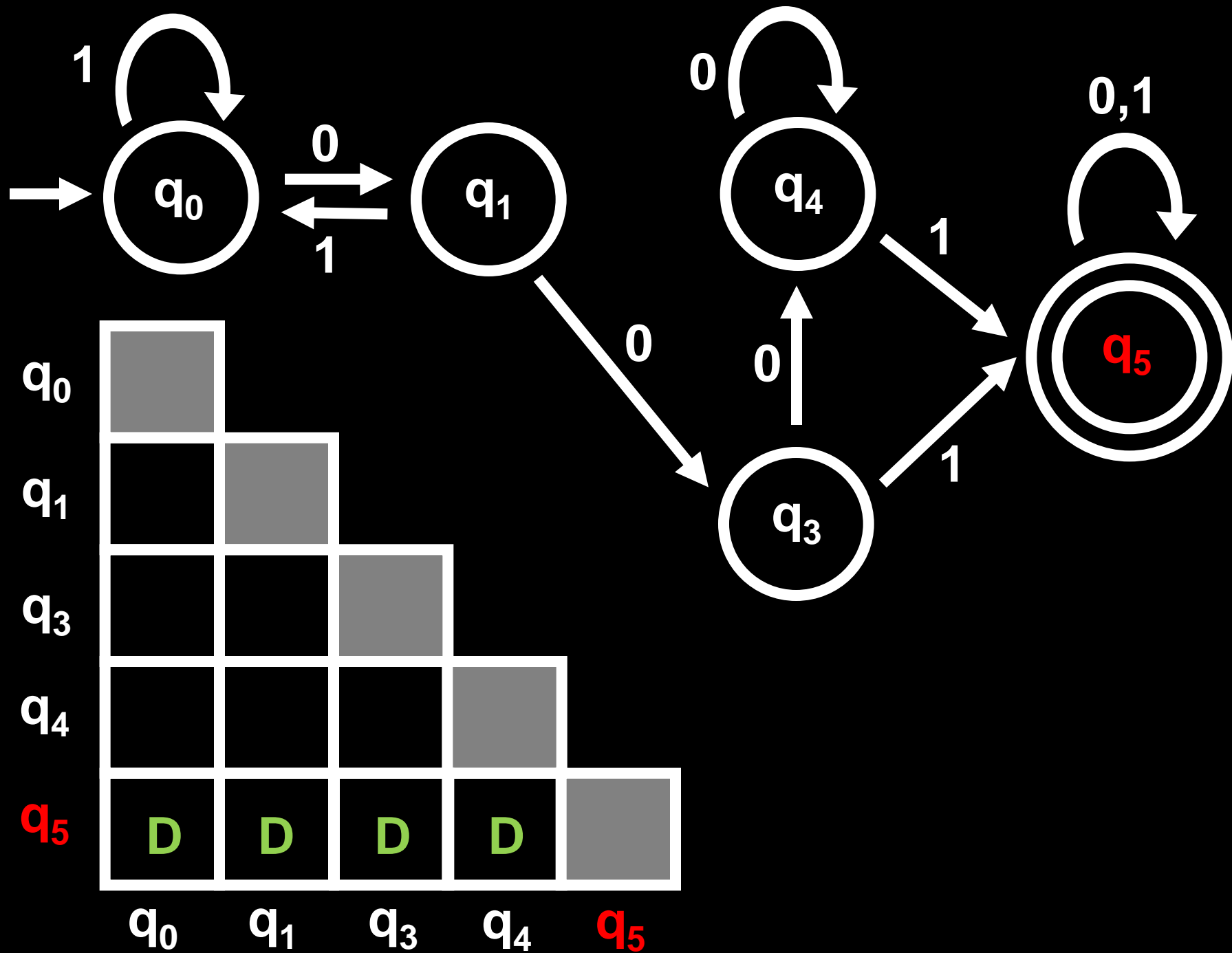
**Follows:**  $\mathbf{M}_{MIN} \equiv \mathbf{M}$

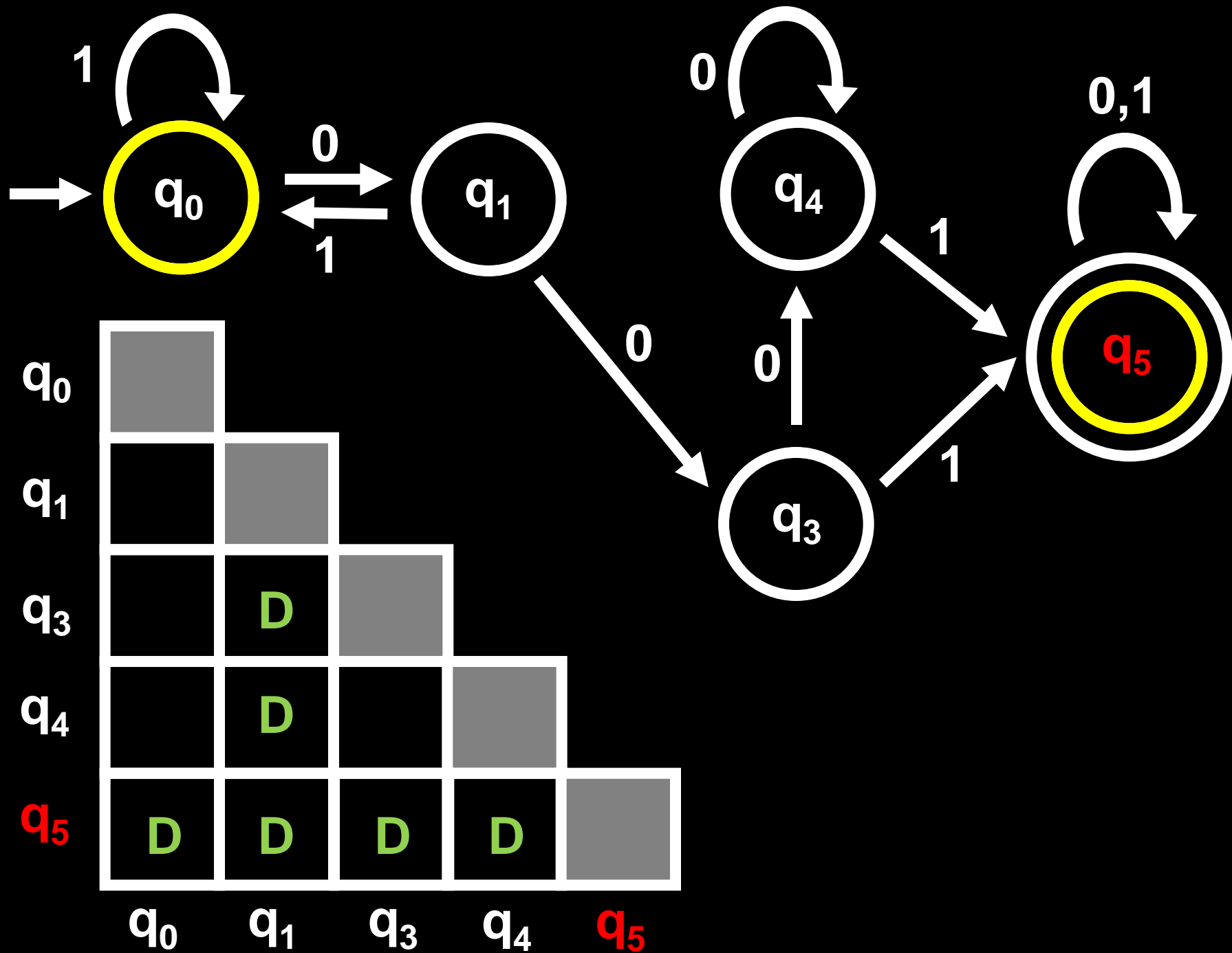


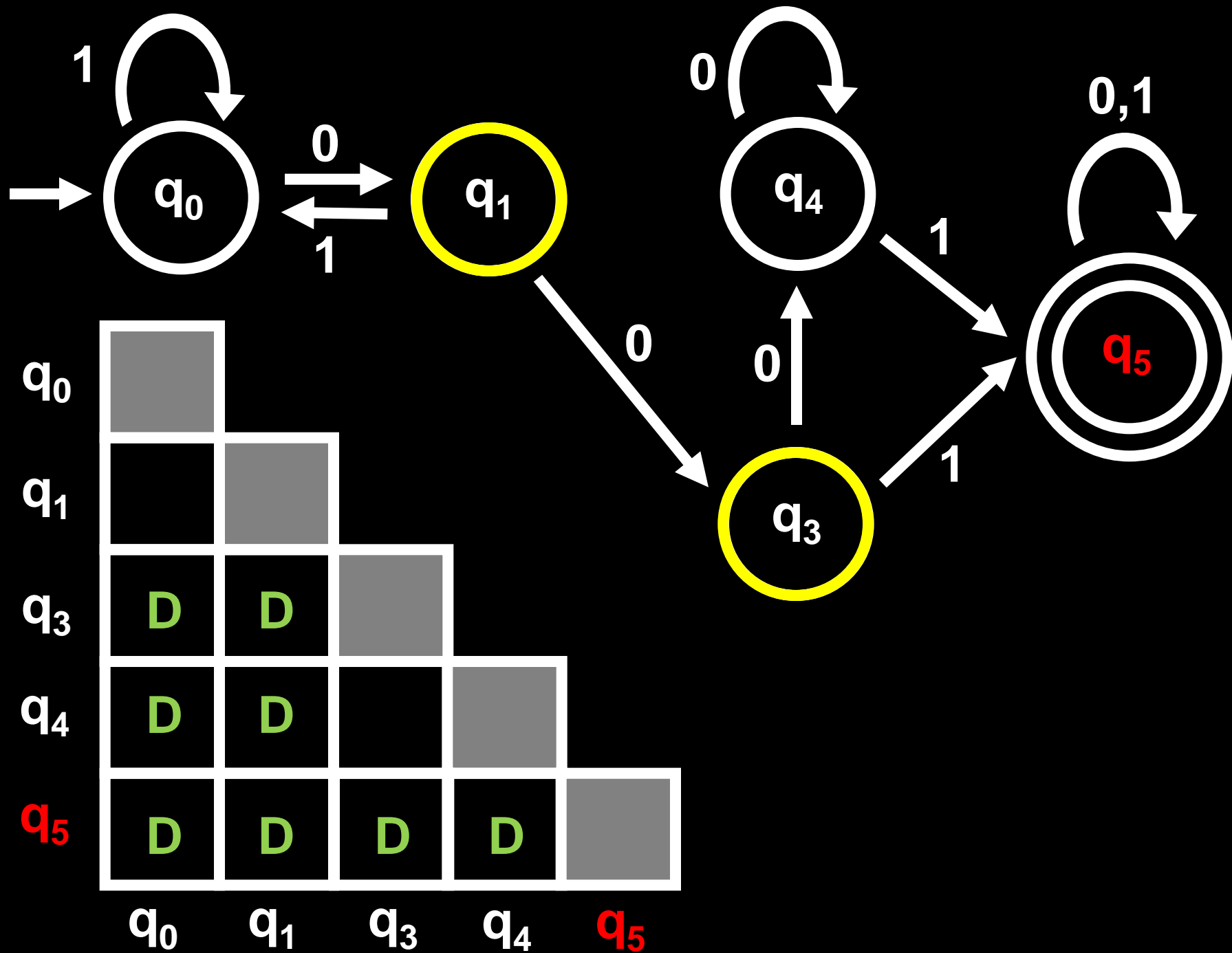


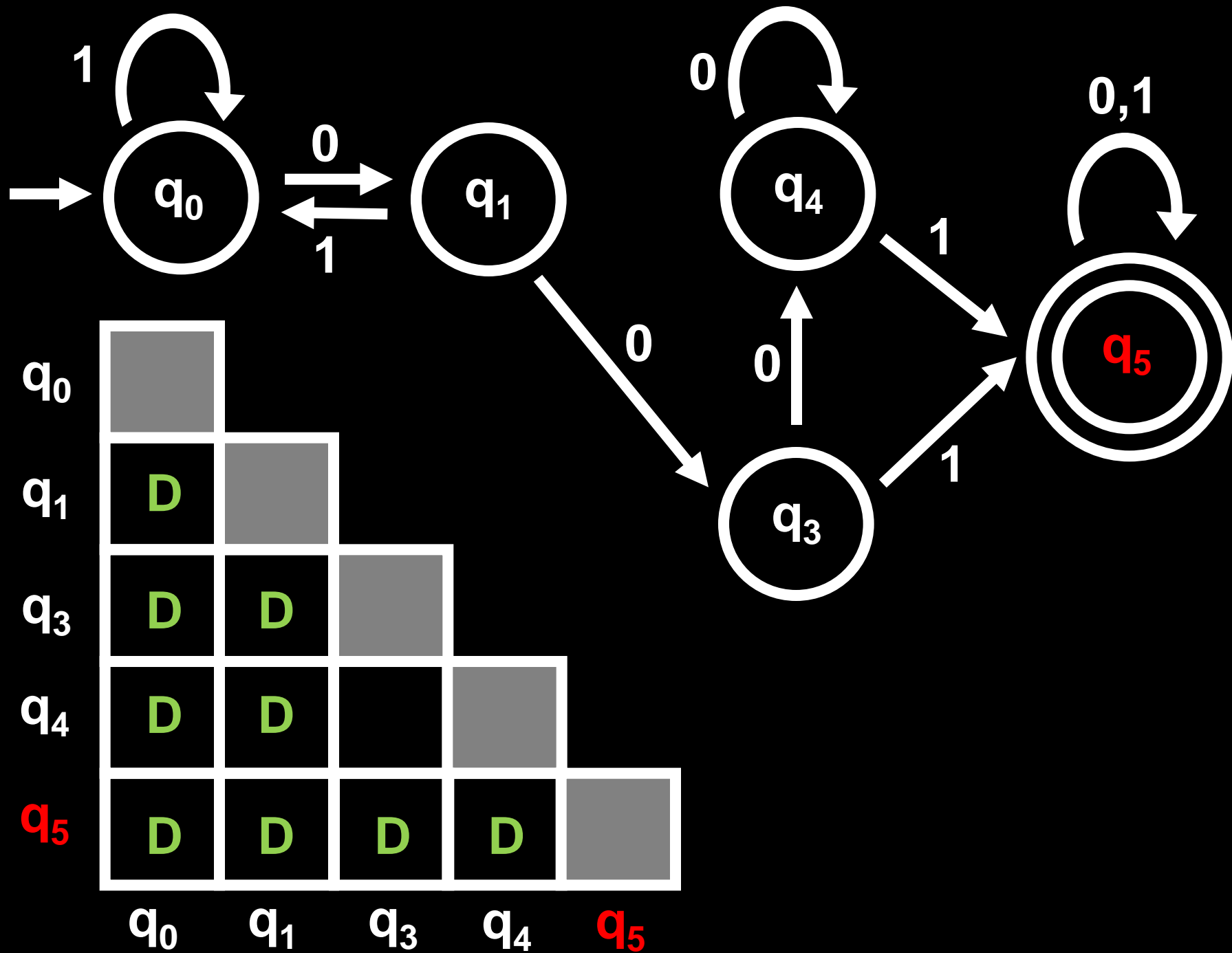


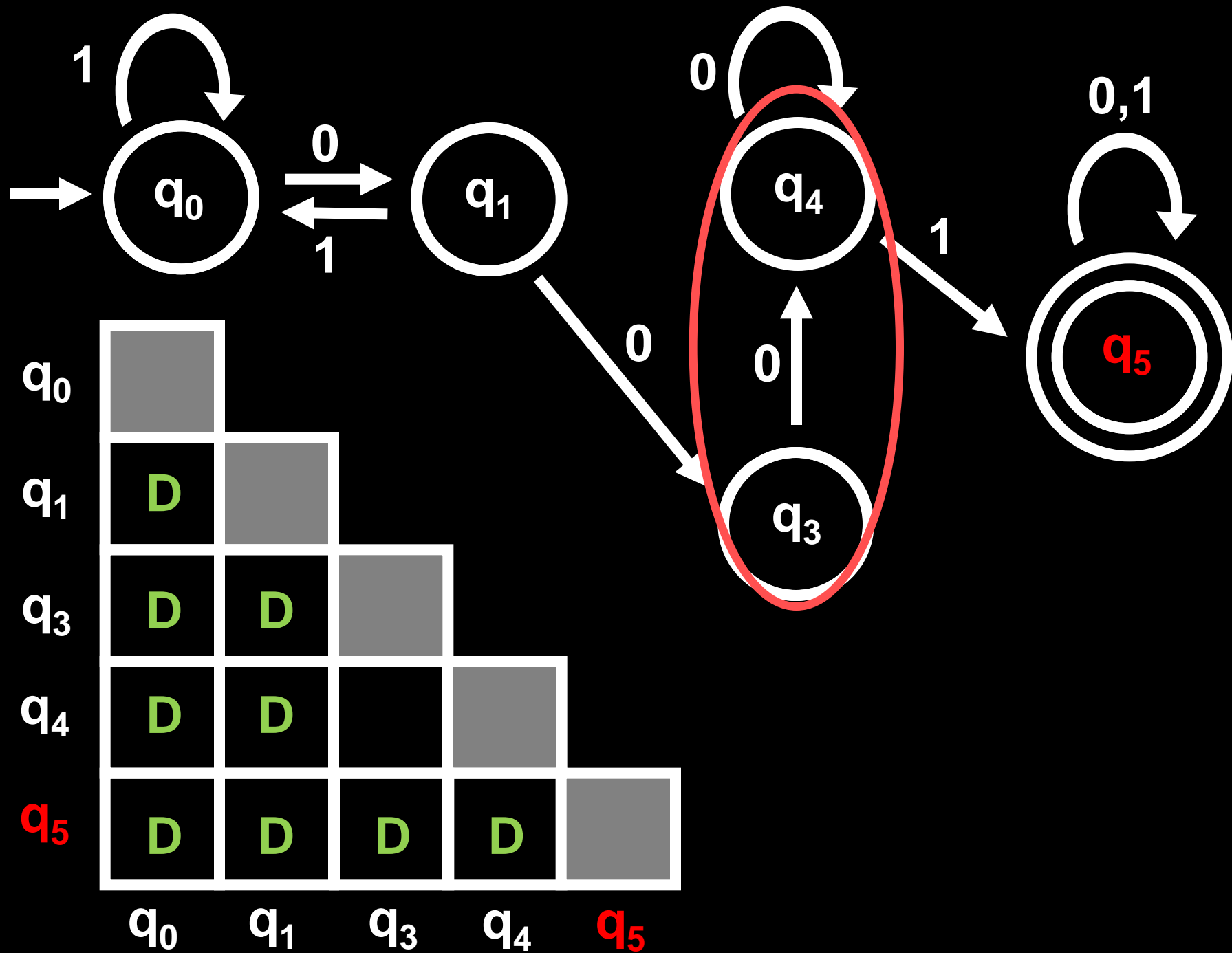






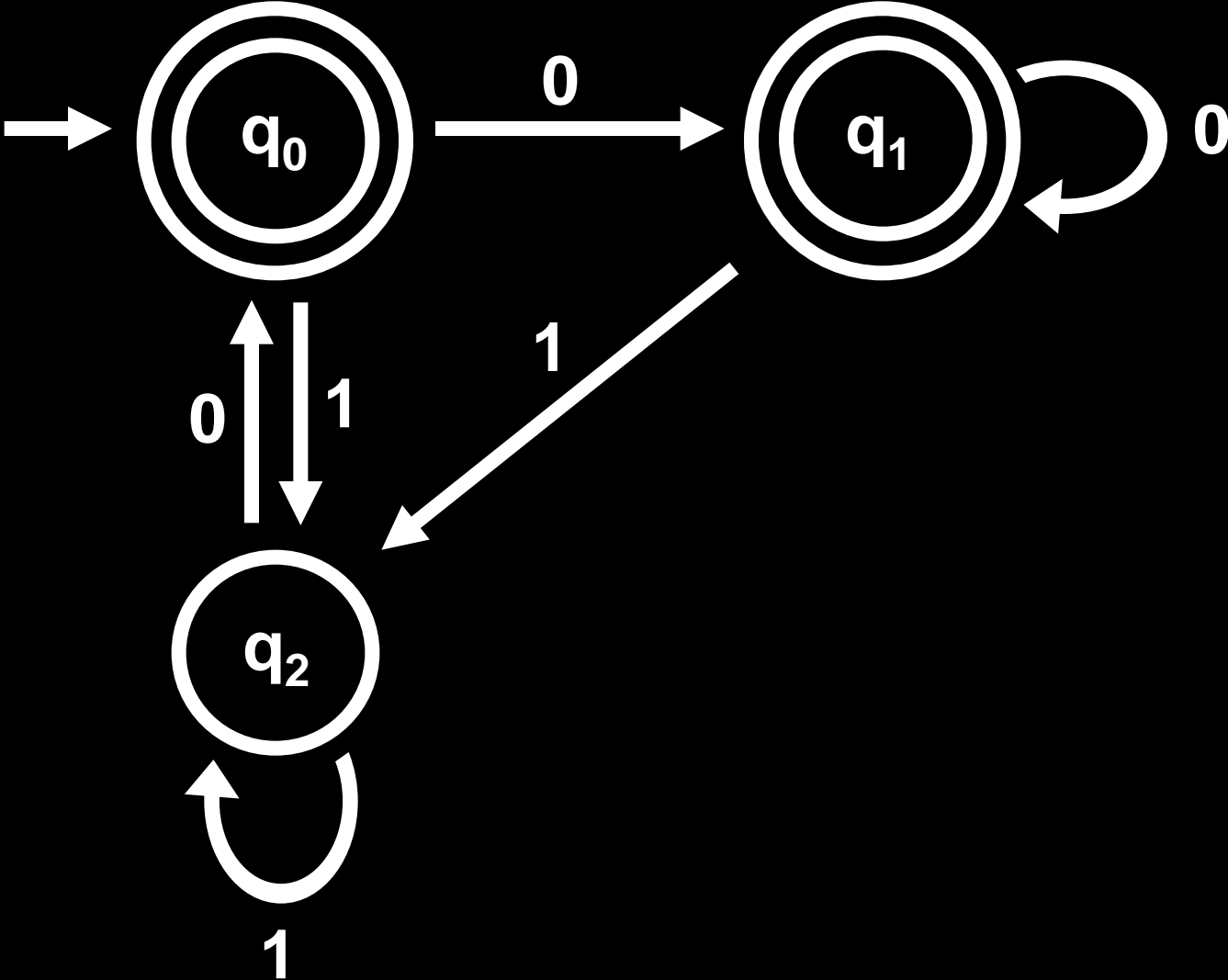




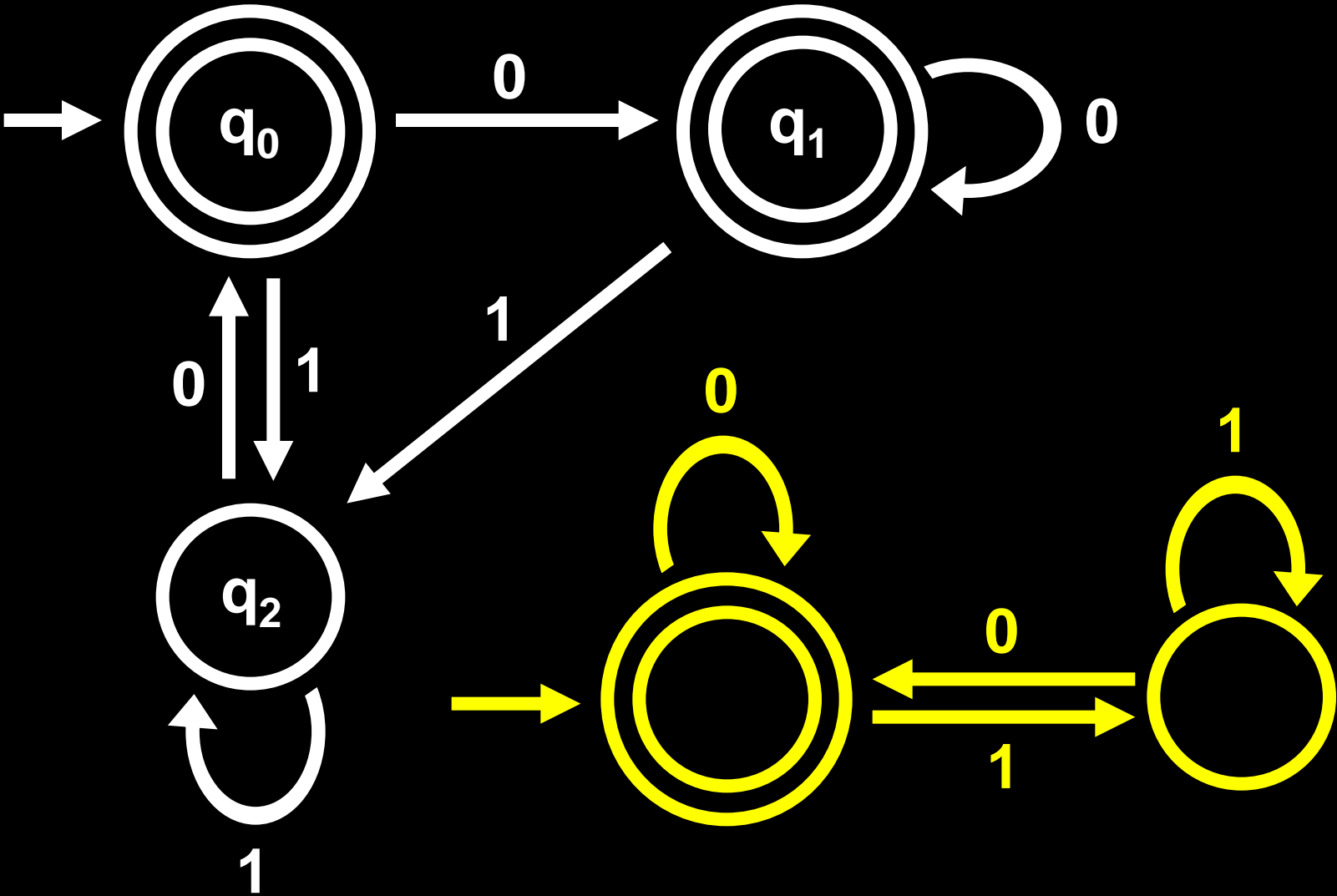




MINIMIZE



# MINIMIZE



**PROPOSITION.** Suppose  $M' \equiv M$  and  $M'$  has no inaccessible states **and** is irreducible

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**Proof of Prop:** We will construct a map recursively

**Base Case:**  $q_{0 \text{ MIN}} \rightarrow q_0'$

**Recursive Step:** If  $p \rightarrow p'$   
 $\downarrow \sigma \quad \downarrow \sigma$  Then  $q \rightarrow q'$   
 $q \quad q'$

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and  $\delta(p, \sigma) = q$  and  $\delta(p', \sigma) = q'$  Then  $q \rightarrow q'$

**We need to show:**

- The map is **everywhere defined**
- The map is **well defined**
- The map is a **bijection ( 1-1 and onto)**
- The map **preserves transitions**

**Base Case:**  $q_{0 \text{ MIN}} \rightarrow q_{0'}$

**Recursive Step:** If  $p \rightarrow p'$   
 $\downarrow \sigma \quad \downarrow \sigma$  Then  $q \rightarrow q'$

**The map is everywhere defined:**

That is, for all  $q \in M_{\text{MIN}}$   
there is a  $q' \in M'$  such that  $q \rightarrow q'$

If  $q \in M_{\text{MIN}}$ , there is a string  $w$  such that  
 $\hat{\delta}_{\text{MIN}}(q_{0 \text{ MIN}}, w) = q$  (**WHY?**)

Let  $q' = \hat{\delta}'(q_{0'}, w)$ .  $q$  will map to  $q'$  (by induction)



**Base Case:**  $q_0 \text{ MIN} \rightarrow q_0'$

**Recursive Step:** If  $p \rightarrow p'$   
 $\downarrow \sigma \quad \downarrow \sigma$  Then  $q \rightarrow q'$   
 $q \quad q'$

**The map is well defined**

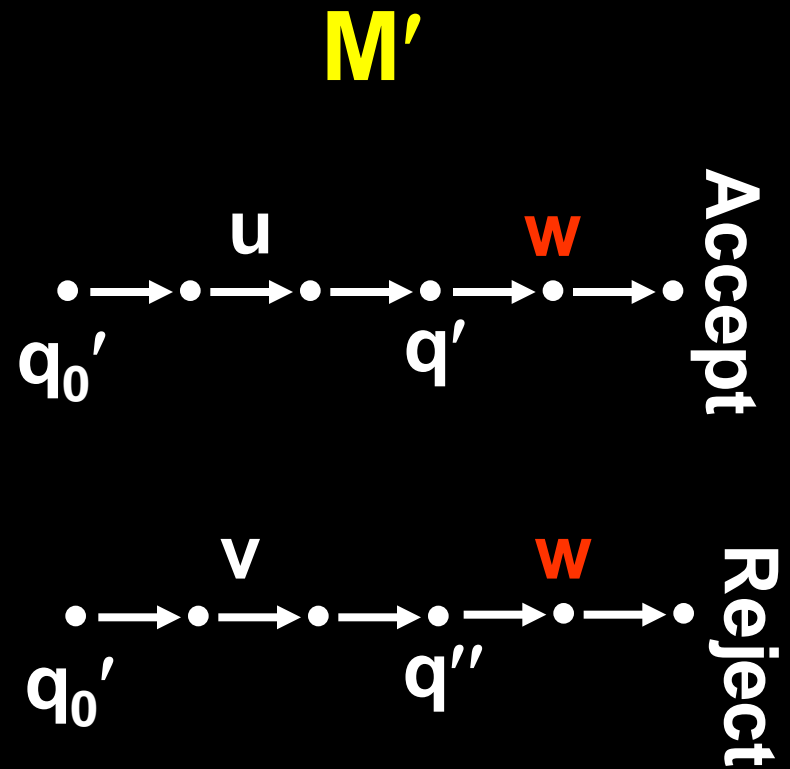
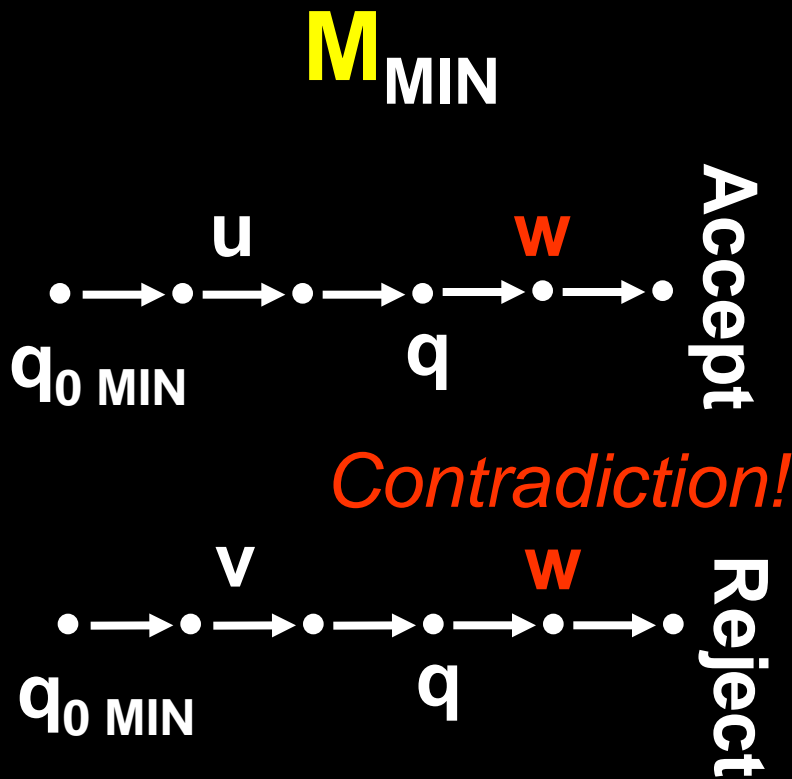
That is, for all  $q \in M_{\text{MIN}}$   
there is at most one  $q' \in M'$  such that  $q \rightarrow q'$

Suppose there exist  $q'$  and  $q''$  such that  
 $q \rightarrow q'$  and  $q \rightarrow q''$

We show that  $q'$  and  $q''$  are **indistinguishable**,  
so it must be that  $q' = q''$  (**Why?**)

Suppose there exist  $q'$  and  $q''$  such that  
 $q \rightarrow q'$  and  $q \rightarrow q''$

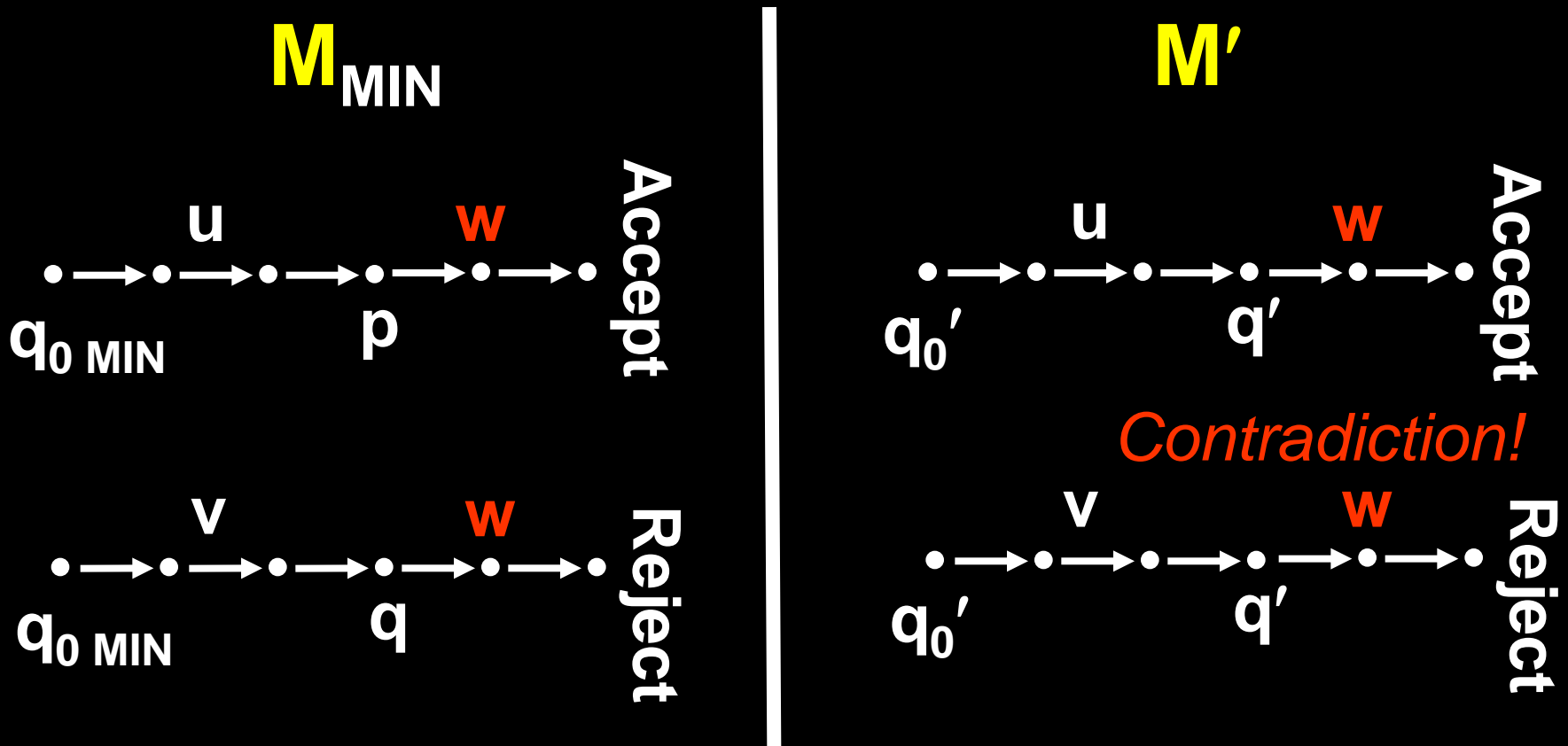
Suppose  $q'$  and  $q''$  are **distinguishable**



## The map is 1-1

Suppose there are distinct  $p$  and  $q$  such that  
 $p \rightarrow q'$  and  $q \rightarrow q'$

$p$  and  $q$  are **distinguishable** (why?)



**Base Case:**  $q_{0 \text{ MIN}} \rightarrow q_0'$

**Recursive Step:** If  $p \rightarrow p'$   
 $\downarrow \sigma \quad \downarrow \sigma$  Then  $q \rightarrow q'$

**The map is onto**

That is, for all  $q' \in M'$  there is a  $q \in M_{\text{MIN}}$  such that  $q \rightarrow q'$

If  $q' \in M'$ , there is  $w$  such that  
 $\hat{\delta}'(q_0', w) = q'$

Let  $q = \hat{\delta}_{\text{MIN}}(q_{0 \text{ MIN}}, w)$ .  $q$  will map to  $q'$  (**why?**)

**Base Case:**  $q_{0 \text{ MIN}} \rightarrow q_0'$

**Recursive Step:** If  $p \rightarrow p'$   
 $\downarrow \sigma \quad \downarrow \sigma$  Then  $q \rightarrow q'$   
 $q \quad q'$

**The map preserves transitions**

That is, if  $\delta(p, \sigma) = q$  and  $p \rightarrow p'$  and  $q \rightarrow q'$   
then,  $\delta'(p', \sigma) = q'$

(Why?)

How can we prove that two  
regular expressions are  
equivalent?

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**Read Chapters 2.1 & 2.2 for next time**