Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.
– Albert Einstein
Enter 15 cents in dimes or nickels
Press S or B for a candy bar
Basic transitions on N (nickel), D (dime), B (butterfinger), S (snickers)
Adding output to states: N – Nickel, S – Snickers, B – Butterfinger
Adding additional “unexpected” transitions to cover all symbols for each state
State Minimization

• Many different FSMs (DFAs) for the same problem

• Take a given FSM and try to reduce its state set by combining states
  – Algorithm will always produce the unique minimal equivalent machine (up to renaming of states) but we won’t prove this
State Minimization Algorithm

• Put states into groups

• Try to find groups that can be collapsed into one state
  – states can keep track of information that isn’t necessary to determine whether to accept or reject

• Group states together until we can prove that collapsing them can change the accept/reject result
  – find a specific string $x$ such that:
    starting from state A, following edges according to $x$ ends in accept
    starting from state B, following edges according to $x$ ends in reject
  – (algorithm below could be modified to show these strings)
State Minimization Algorithm

1. Put states into groups based on their outputs (whether they accept or reject)
State Minimization Algorithm

1. Put states into groups based on their outputs (whether they accept or reject)

2. Repeat the following until no change happens
   a. If there is a symbol \(a\) so that not all states in a group \(G\) agree on which group \(a\) leads to, split \(G\) into smaller groups based on which group the states go to on \(a\)

3. Finally, convert groups to states
State Minimization Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>present state</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S0</td>
<td>S0</td>
<td>S1</td>
<td>S2</td>
<td>S3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>S0</td>
<td>S3</td>
<td>S1</td>
<td>S5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>S0</td>
<td>S4</td>
<td>S5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4</td>
<td>S0</td>
<td>S1</td>
<td>S2</td>
<td>S5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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Put states into groups based on their outputs (or whether they accept or reject)
State Minimization Example

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Finally convert groups to states:

Can combine states S0-S4 and S3-S5.

In table replace all S4 with S0 and all S5 with S3
Minimized Machine

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state transition table
A Simpler Minimization Example

The set of all binary strings with \# of 1’s \equiv \# of 0’s (mod 2).
A Simpler Minimization Example

Split states into accept/reject groups

Every symbol causes the DFA to go from one group to the other so neither group needs to be split
The set of all binary strings with \# of 1's ≡ \# of 0's (mod 2).
= The set of all binary strings with even length.
Nondeterministic Finite Automata (NFA)

- Graph with start state, final states, edges labeled by symbols (like DFA) but
  - Not required to have exactly 1 edge out of each state labeled by each symbol—can have 0 or >1
  - Also can have edges labeled by empty string $\varepsilon$

- **Definition:** $x$ is in the language recognized by an NFA if and only if some valid execution of the machine gets to an accept state
Consider This NFA

What language does this NFA accept?
Consider This NFA

What language does this NFA accept?

10(10)* \cup 111 (0 \cup 1)*
NFA $\varepsilon$-moves

Diagram:

- States: $s_0$, $s_1$, $t_0$, $t_1$, $t_2$
- Transitions:
  - $s_0$ to $s_1$: $\varepsilon$, 2
  - $s_0$ to itself: $\varepsilon$, 0, 1
  - $s_1$ to $s_0$: 2
  - $s_1$ to $s_1$: 0, 1
  - $t_0$ to $t_0$: $\varepsilon$, 0
  - $t_0$ to $t_1$: 0, 1
  - $t_0$ to $t_2$: 2
  - $t_1$ to $t_1$: 1
  - $t_1$ to $t_2$: 1
  - $t_2$ to $t_2$: 0

Initial state: $q$
Final states: $s_0$, $s_1$, $t_1$, $t_2$
Strings over \{0,1,2\} w/ even # of 2's OR sum to 0 mod 3
NFA for set of binary strings with a 1 in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} position from the end
NFA for set of binary strings with a 1 in the 3rd position from the end
Compare with the smallest DFA

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Compare with the smallest DFA
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0, 1

s3 1 s2 0, 1 s1 0, 1 s0
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0, 1

s3 1 s2 0, 1 s1 0, 1 s0
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Summary of NFAs

• Generalization of DFAs
  – drop two restrictions of DFAs
  – every DFA is an NFA

• Seem to be more powerful
  – designing is easier than with DFAs

• Seem related to regular expressions