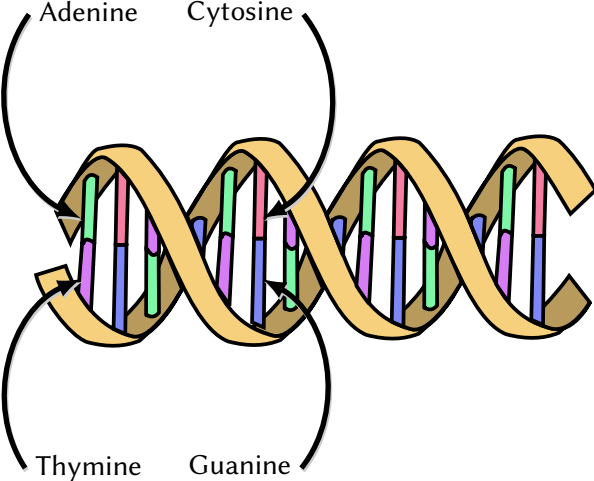


# Toehold DNA Languages are Regular

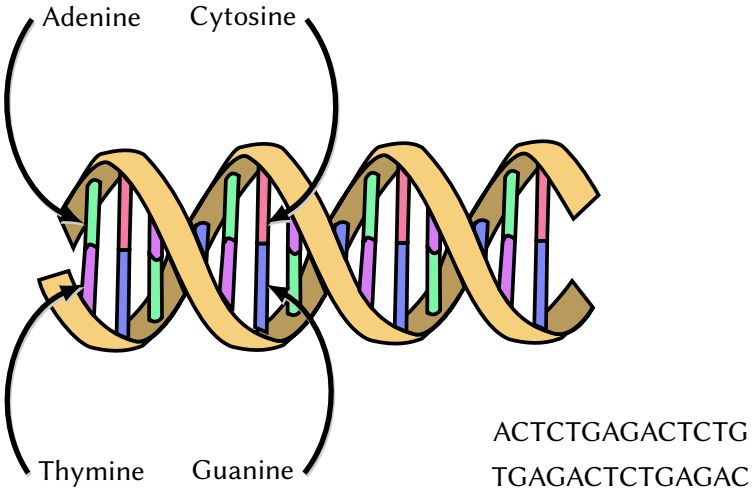


*Sebastian Brandt*   *Nicolas Mattia*   **Jochen Seidel**   *Roger Wattenhofer*

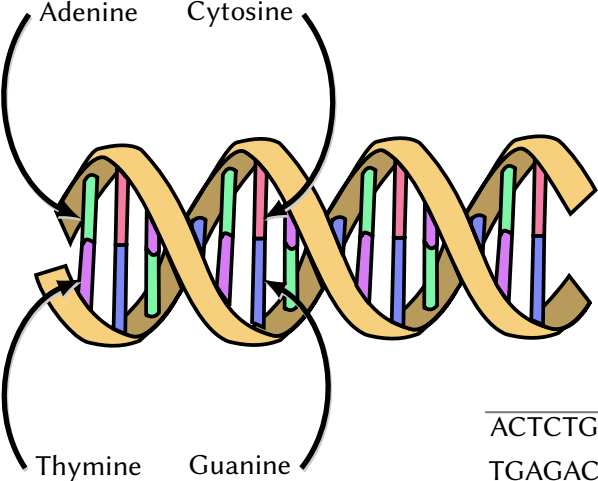
# DNA



# DNA



# DNA



# Domains & Complements

$$\vec{\mathbf{a}} \equiv \overrightarrow{\text{ATCG}}$$

$$\overleftarrow{\mathbf{a}} \equiv \overleftarrow{\text{ATCG}}$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{b}} \equiv \overrightarrow{\text{ATT}}$$

$$\overleftarrow{\mathbf{b}} \equiv \overleftarrow{\text{ATT}}$$

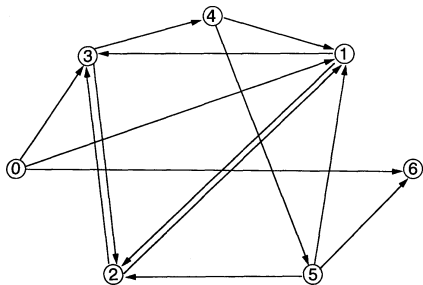
$$\vec{\mathbf{c}} \equiv \overrightarrow{\text{CTC}}$$

$$\overleftarrow{\mathbf{c}} \equiv \overleftarrow{\text{CTC}}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \overrightarrow{\mathbf{abc}} \\ \overleftarrow{\mathbf{abc}} \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{l} \overrightarrow{\text{ATCGATTCTC}} \\ \overleftarrow{\text{TAGCTAAGAG}} \end{array}$$

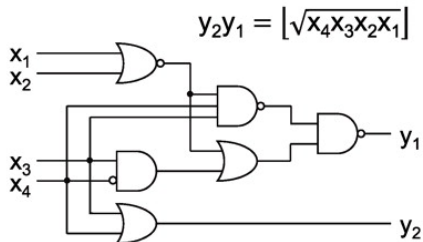


# Hamiltonian Path



Adleman 1994

# Square Root



Qian, Winfree 2011

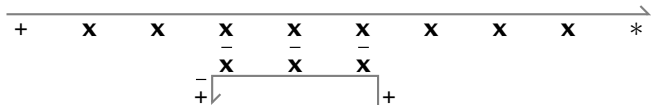


# Strand Binding

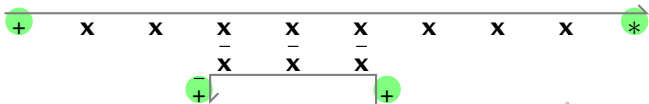
+    **x**    **x**    **x**    **x**    **x**    **x**    **x**    **x**    \*

<sup>-</sup>+    <sup>-</sup>**x**    <sup>-</sup>**x**    <sup>-</sup>**x**    +

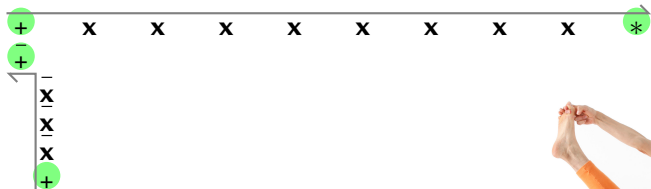
# Strand Binding



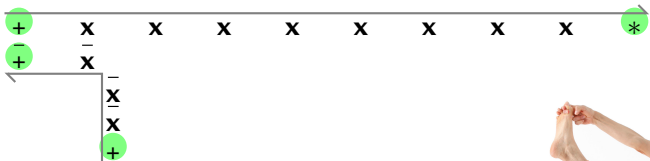
# Strand Binding, Toeholds



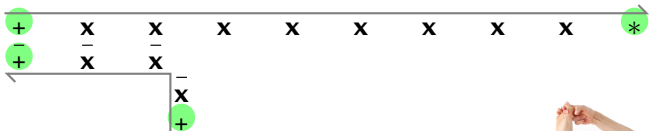
# Strand Binding, Toeholds



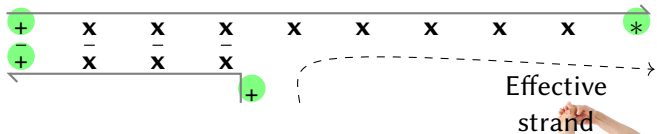
# Strand Binding, Toeholds



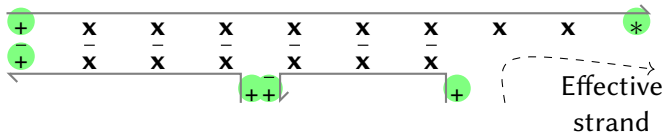
# Strand Binding, Toeholds



# Strand Binding, Toeholds, Effective Strands

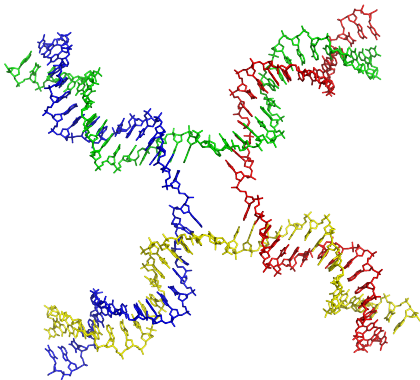
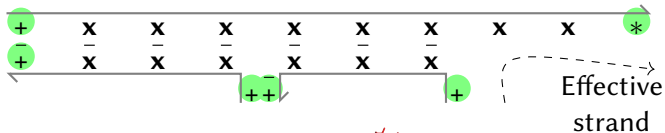


## Strand Binding, Toeholds, Effective Strands





# Strand Binding, Toeholds, Effective Strands





Algorithm

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \begin{array}{r}
 \overline{+ \ x \ x \ x \ +} \\
 \overline{\phantom{+} \ x \ x \ x \ +} \\
 \hline
 \overline{+ \ x \ x \ x \ +} \\
 \overline{\phantom{+} \ x \ x \ x \ +} \\
 \hline
 \overline{+ \ x \ x \ x \ +}
 \end{array} \\
 \dots \\
 \overline{+ \ a \ b \ *}
 \end{array}$$



Input

```

+ x x x x x x x x x x *
+ x x x x x x x x x x *
+ x x x x x x x x x x *
:

```

Algorithm

```

- - -
+ x x x +
- - -
+ x x x +
- - -
+ a b *
- - -
+ x x x +
- - -

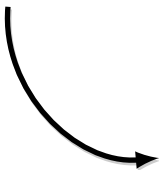
```

...

$\overline{+ \ x \ x \ x \ +}$

$\overline{+ \ a \ b \ *}$

$\overline{+ \ x \ x \ x \ x \ x \ x \ x \ x \ x \ *}$

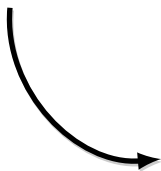




$\overline{+} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{+}$

$\overline{+} \overline{a} \overline{b} \overline{*}$

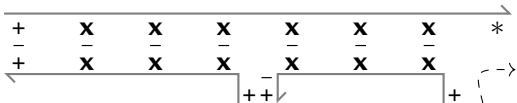
$\overline{+} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{*}$



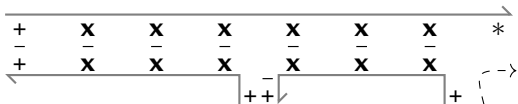
$\overline{+} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{a} \overline{b} \overline{*}$

$\overline{+} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{+} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{x} \overline{+}$

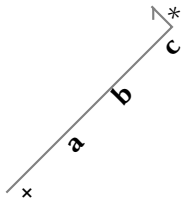




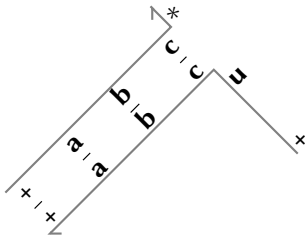




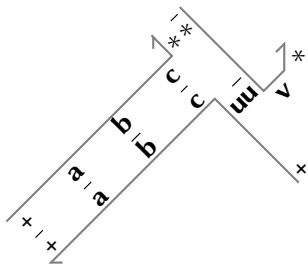
Substitution:  $+abc^*$   $\rightarrow$   $+z^*$



Substitution:  $+abc* \rightarrow +z*$



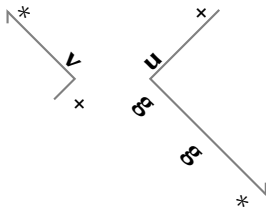
Substitution:  $+abc^* \rightarrow +z^*$





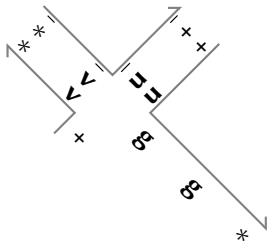
Aggregation:  $+abc* \wedge +def* \rightarrow +gg*$

1.  $+abc* \rightarrow +ugg*$
2.  $+def* \rightarrow +v*$
3.  $\overline{\overline{vu}}$



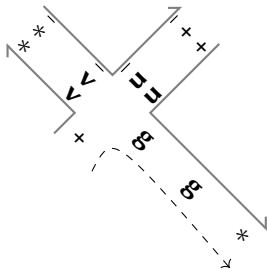
Aggregation:  $+abc* \wedge +def* \rightarrow +gg*$

1.  $+abc* \rightarrow +ugg*$
2.  $+def* \rightarrow +v*$
3.  $\overline{\overline{vu}}$



Aggregation:  $+abc* \wedge +def* \rightarrow +gg*$

1.  $+abc* \rightarrow +ugg*$
2.  $+def* \rightarrow +v*$
3.  $\overline{\overline{vu}}$





# Primality

For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^+}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^j \mathbf{b}^j^+}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^k}^* \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{f}^*}$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^2 \mathbf{f}^*} \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^3 \mathbf{f}^*} \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{f}^*} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+^*}$$

# Primality

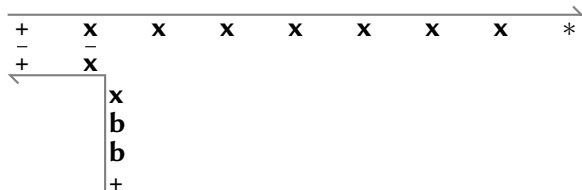
For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^+}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^j \mathbf{b}^j^+}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^k}^* \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{f}^*}$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^2 \mathbf{f}^*} \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^3 \mathbf{f}^*} \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{f}^*} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+^*}$$



# Primality

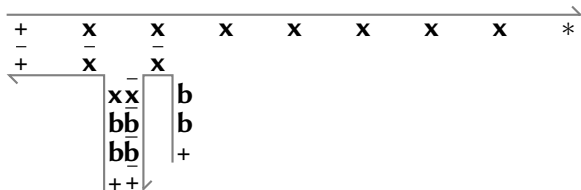
For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} +}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^j \mathbf{b}^j +}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^k * } \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{f}^* }$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^2 \mathbf{f}^* } \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^3 \mathbf{f}^* } \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{f}^* } \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+* }$$



# Primality

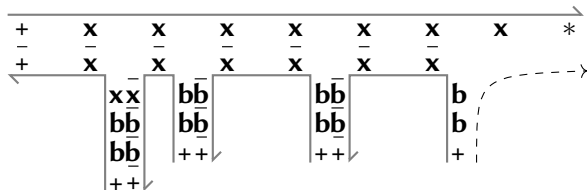
For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+b^j \overline{xx}+}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+b^j \overline{x^j} \overline{b^j}+}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+b^j \overline{x^k} *} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+b^j \overline{f} *}$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+b^2 \overline{f} *} \wedge \overrightarrow{+b^3 \overline{f} *} \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+b^{\sqrt{n}} \overline{f} *} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+ *}$$



# Primality

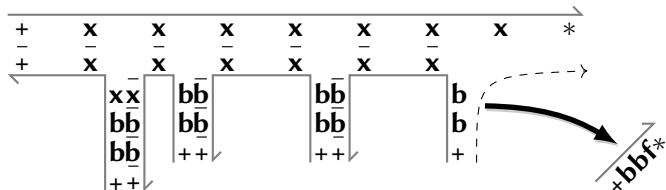
For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+b^j x x +}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+b^j x^j b^j +}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+b^j x^k} * \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+b^j f} *$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+b^2 f} * \wedge \overrightarrow{+b^3 f} * \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+b^{\sqrt{n}} f} * \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+} *$$



# Primality

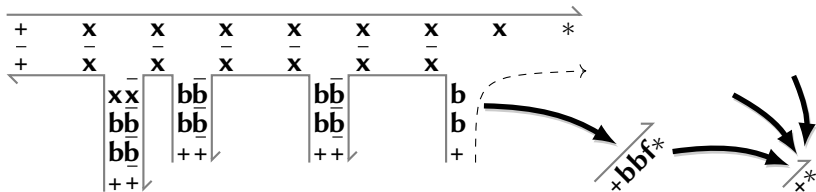
For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+b^j x x +}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+b^j x^j b^j +}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+b^j x^k *} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+b^j f^*}$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+b^2 f^*} \wedge \overrightarrow{+b^3 f^*} \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+b^{\sqrt{n}} f^*} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+*}$$



# Primality

For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

$$1. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^+}$$

$$2. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^j \mathbf{b}^j^+}$$

$$3. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^k}^* \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{f}}^*$$

$$4. \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^2 \mathbf{f}}^* \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^3 \mathbf{f}}^* \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{f}}^* \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+}^*$$

- ▶  $O(n)$  strands
- ▶ Binary Encoding:  $O(\sqrt{n} \cdot \log n)$  strands
- ▶ Good:  $O(\sqrt{n} \cdot \log n) \subsetneq O\left(\frac{n}{\log n}\right)$

# Primality

For  $2 \leq j \leq \sqrt{n}$  and  $k \leq j - 1$ :

1.  $\overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}+}$

2.  $\overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^j \mathbf{b}^j+}$

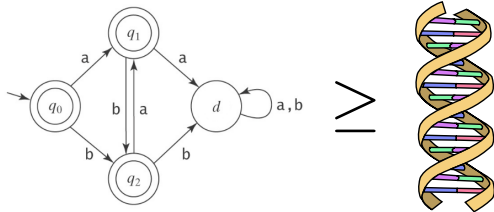
3.  $\overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{x}^k*} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^j \mathbf{f}*}$

4.  $\overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^2 \mathbf{f}*} \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^3 \mathbf{f}*} \wedge \dots \wedge \overrightarrow{+\mathbf{b}^{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{f}*} \rightarrow \overrightarrow{+*}$

- ▶  $O(n)$  strands
- ▶ Binary Encoding:  $O(\sqrt{n} \cdot \log n)$  strands
- ▶ Good:  $O(\sqrt{n} \cdot \log n) \subsetneq O(\frac{n}{\log n})$

**Constant Size Algorithms?**

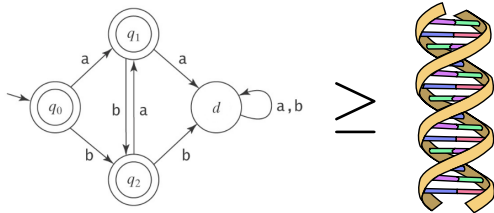




## Theorem

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a DNA algorithm.*

*If  $\mathcal{A}$ , interpreted as a set of strands, has finite size,  
then  $\mathcal{A}$  decides a regular language.*



## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a DNA algorithm.

If  $\mathcal{A}$ , interpreted as a set of strands, is a regular language, then  $\mathcal{A}$  decides a regular language.

Basic idea: Define language  $\mathcal{I}$  such that

1.  $\mathcal{I}$  is regular,
2. every  $\iota \in \mathcal{I}$  is accepted by  $\mathcal{A}$ , and
3. every  $\iota$  accepted by  $\mathcal{A}$  is in  $\mathcal{I}$ .

## The Language $\mathcal{I} \dots$

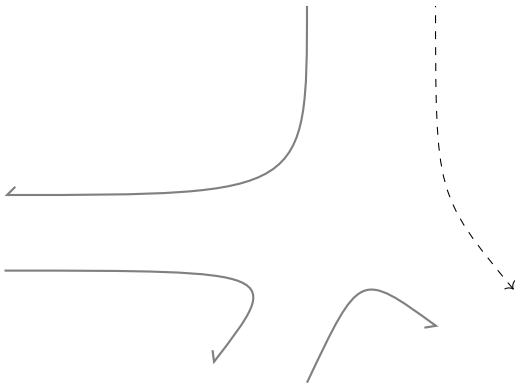
$$\mathcal{I} := \bigcup_{w: \delta(w, *) \in F} \mathcal{X}(\delta(s, +), w, Q \times Q \setminus \{(\delta(s, +), w)\}),$$

$$\mathcal{X}(v, w, J) := \bigcup_{q \in I(v, w, J)} \left( \bigcap_{\substack{(q_i, q_{i+1}): \\ q_i \neq \text{NULL} \neq q_{i+1}}} C(q_i, q_{i+1}, J) \cap \bigcap_{i: q_i = \text{NULL}} D(q_{i-1}, q_{i+1}, J) \right)$$

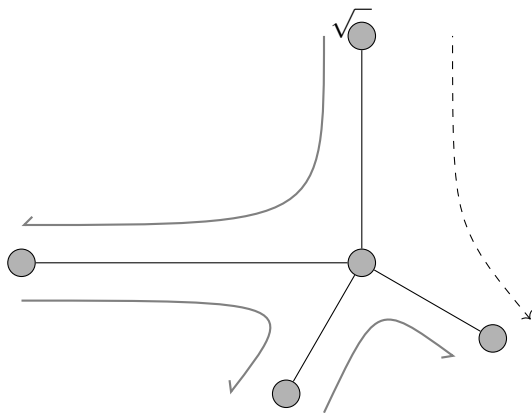
$$C(x, y, J) := \begin{cases} +\Sigma^* *, & \text{if } \exists (z_1, z_2) \in H_{x, y, J} \text{ s.t. } z_2 = s \text{ and } z_1 \in F \\ \bigcup_{(z_1, z_2) \in H_{x, y, J}} \mathcal{X}(z_1, z_2, J \setminus \{(x, y), (z_1, z_2)\}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$D(x, y, J) := \bigcup_{K \subseteq J \setminus \{(x, y)\}} \left( \overline{\mathcal{L}(B_{K, x, y})} \cap \bigcap_{(z_1, z_2) \in K} \mathcal{X}(z_1, z_2, J \setminus \{(x, y), (z_1, z_2)\}) \right)$$

# Assemblies

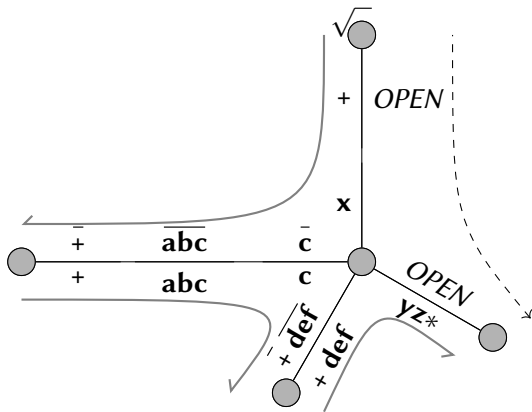


# Assemblies

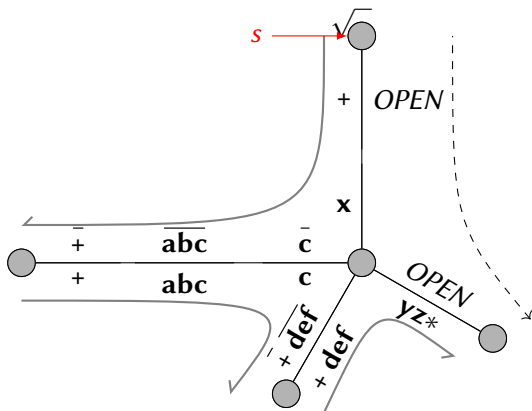




# Assemblies



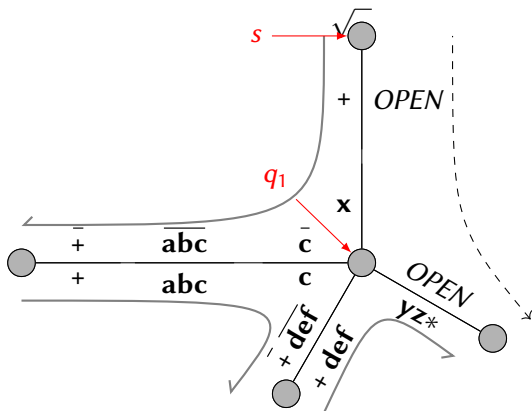
# Assemblies & Automata



DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
( $Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F$ )

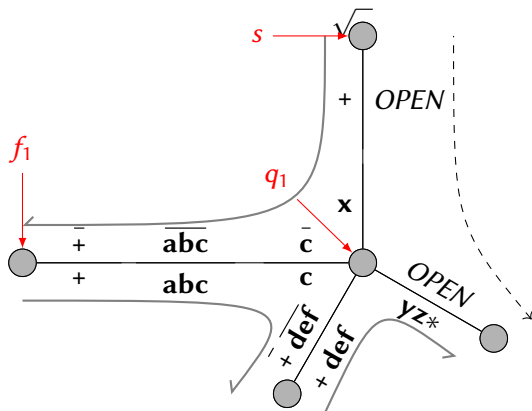


# Assemblies & Automata



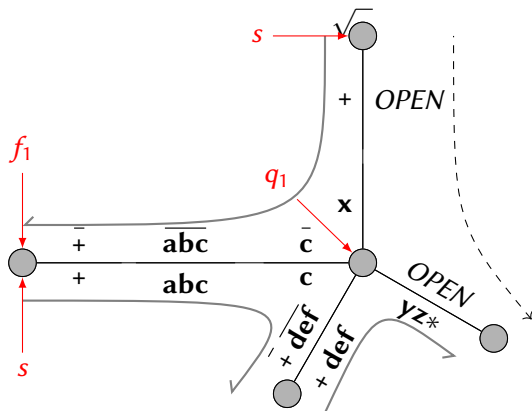
DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
( $Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F$ )

# Assemblies & Automata



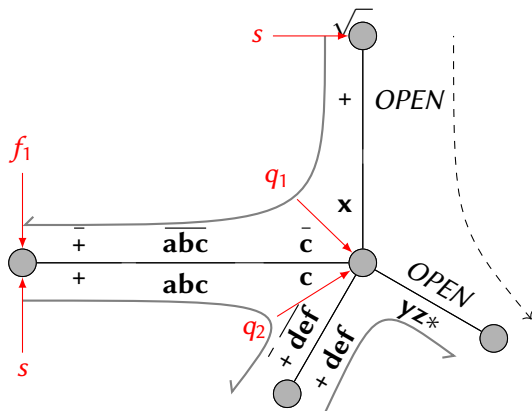
DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
( $Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F$ )

# Assemblies & Automata



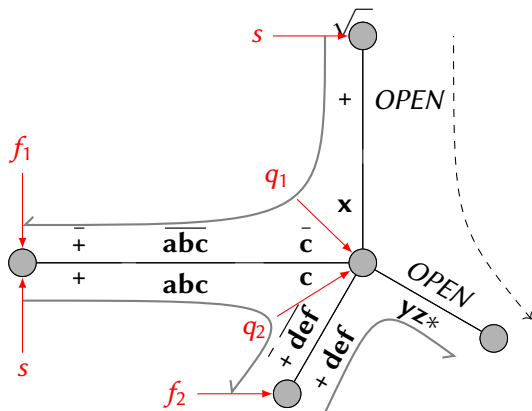
DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
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# Assemblies & Automata



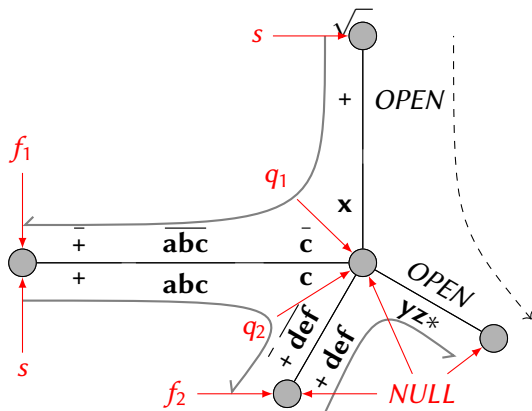
DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
( $Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F$ )

# Assemblies & Automata



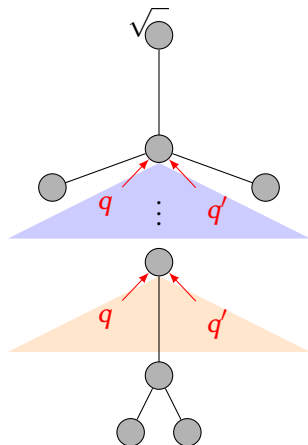
DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
( $Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F$ )

# Assemblies & Automata



DNA Algorithm  $\approx$  Finite Automaton  
( $Q, \Sigma, \delta, s, F$ )

# Minimal Assemblies



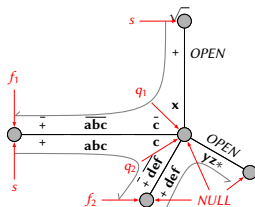
# The Laborious Part ...

$$\mathcal{I} := \bigcup_{w:\delta(w,*) \in F} \mathcal{X}(\delta(s,+), w, Q \times Q \setminus \{(\delta(s,+), w)\})$$

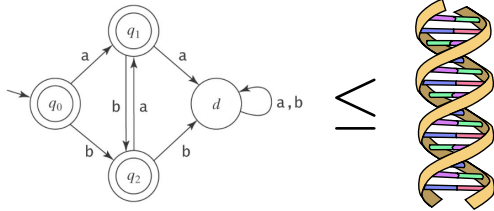
$$\mathcal{X}(v, w, J) := \bigcup_{q \in I(v, w, J)} \left( \bigcap_{\substack{(q_i, q_{i+1}): \\ q_i \neq \text{NULL} \neq q_{i+1}}} C(q_i, q_{i+1}, J) \cap \bigcap_{i: q_i = \text{NULL}} D(q_{i-1}, q_{i+1}, J) \right)$$

$$\mathcal{X}(x, y, J) := \begin{cases} +\Sigma^*+, & \text{if } \exists (z_1, z_2) \in H_{x,y,J} \text{ s.t. } z_2 = s \text{ and } z_1 \in F \\ \bigcup_{(z_1, z_2) \in H_{x,y,J}} \mathcal{X}(z_1, z_2, J \setminus \{(x, y), (z_1, z_2)\}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$D(x, y, J) := \bigcup_{K \subseteq J \setminus \{(x, y)\}} \left( \overline{\mathcal{L}(B_{K,x,y})} \cap \bigcap_{(z_1, z_2) \in K} \mathcal{X}(z_1, z_2, J \setminus \{(x, y), (z_1, z_2)\}) \right)$$



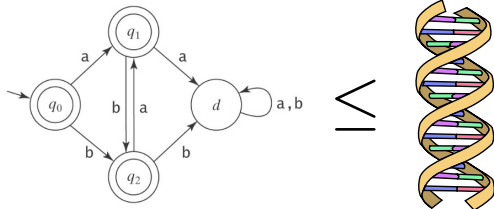




## Theorem

*Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a regular language.*

*There is a constant size DNA algorithm that decides  $\mathcal{L}^*$ .*



## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a regular language.

There is a constant size DNA algorithm that decides  $+\mathcal{L}^*$ .

▶ Regular Language  $\rightarrow$  FA  $(Q, \Gamma, \delta, s, F)$

▶  $\overrightarrow{+s+}$  for the starting state  $s$

▶  $\overrightarrow{+q'xq+}$  for all possible transitions  $\delta(q, x) = q'$

▶  $\overrightarrow{*f*}$  for all  $f \in F$ .

