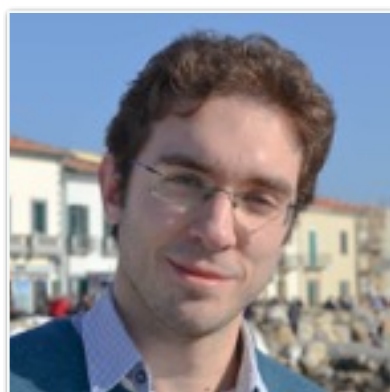


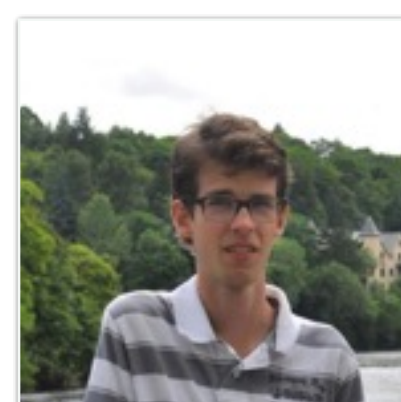
calf-project.org

Categorical Automata Learning Framework

Alexandra Silva
University College London



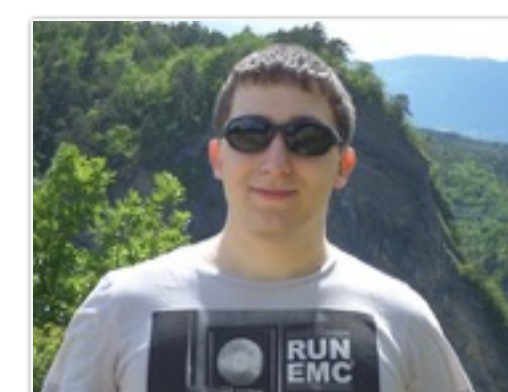
Matteo Sammartino
UCL



Gerco van Heerdt
UCL

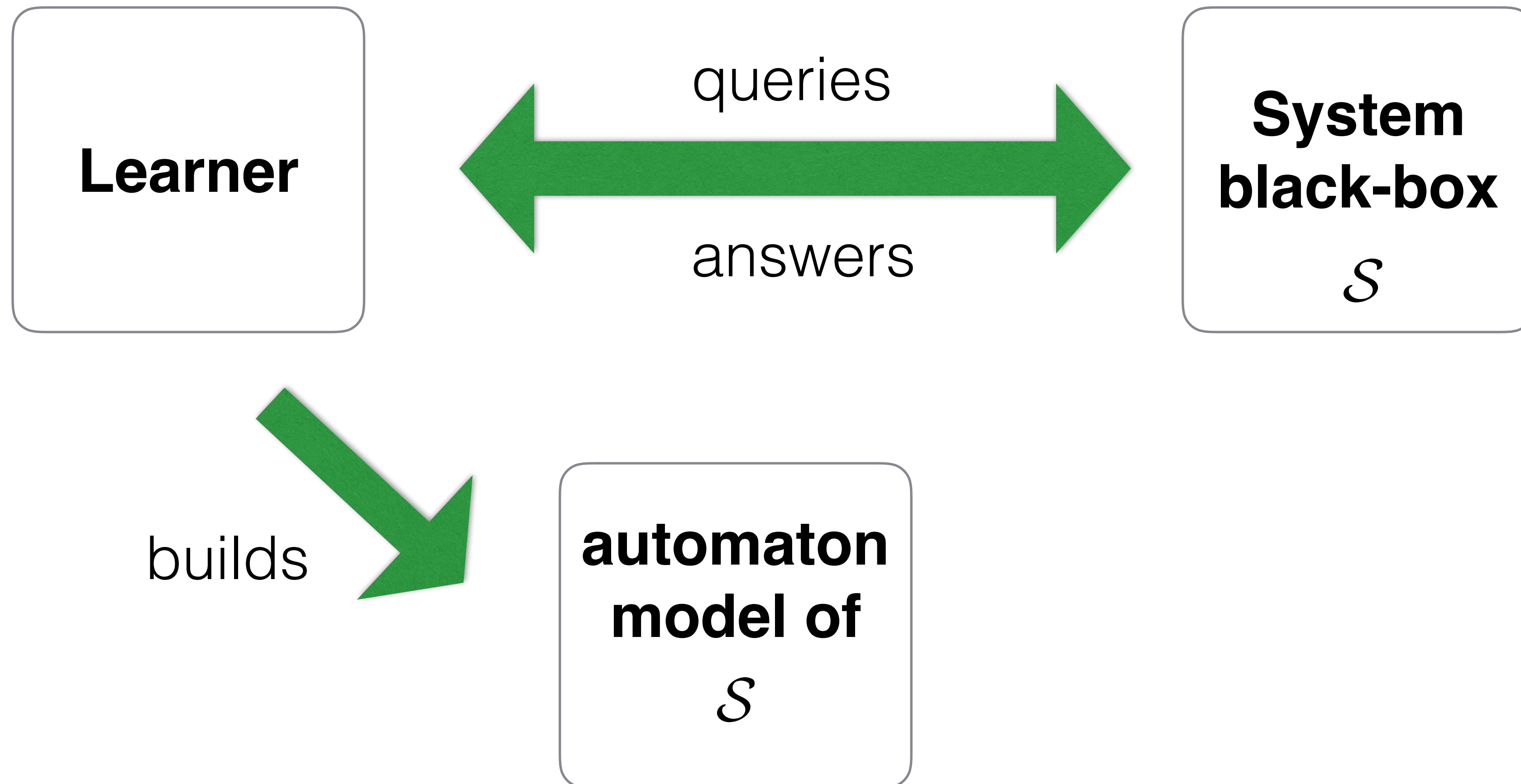


Joshua Moerman
Radboud University

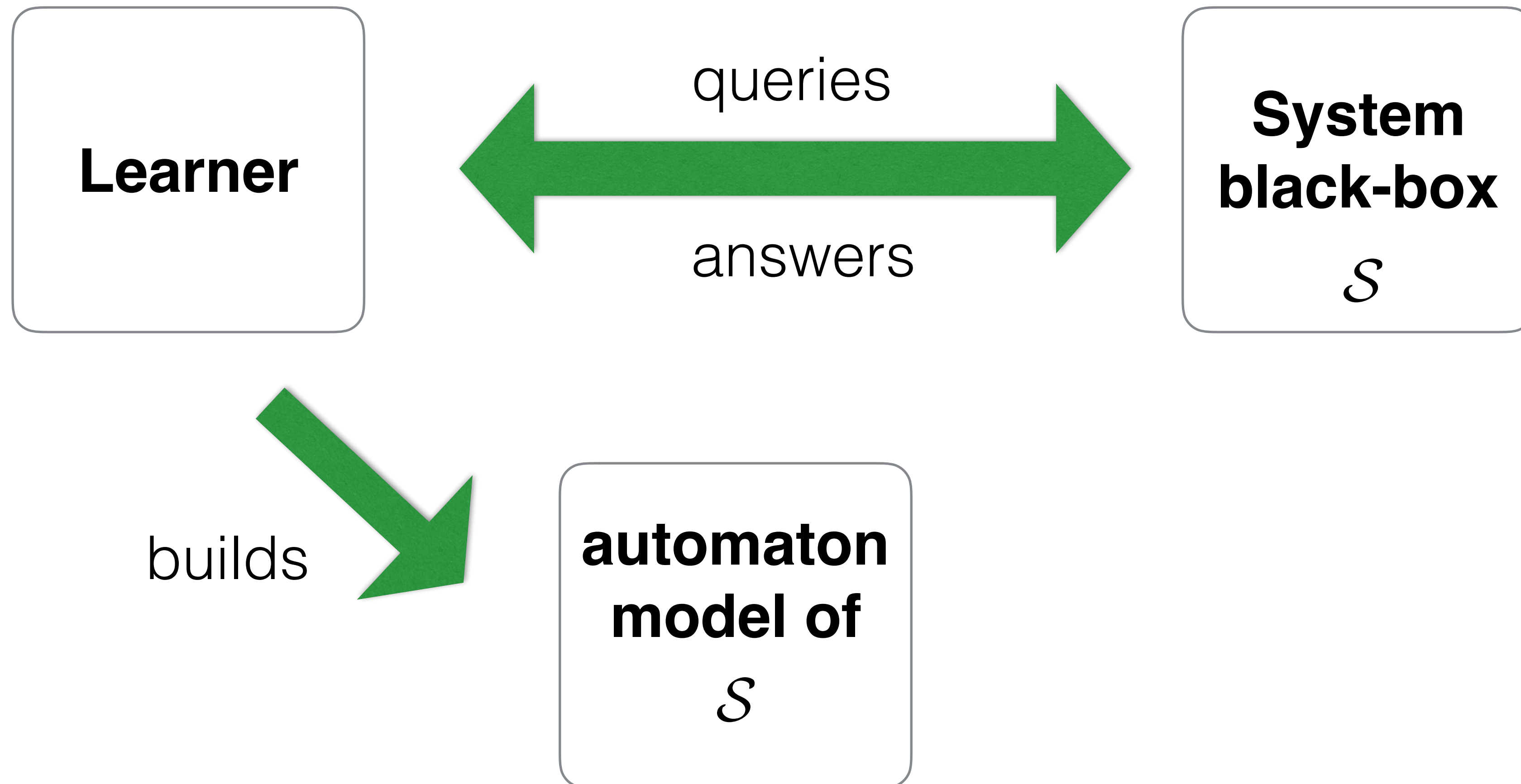


Maverick Chardet
ENS Lyon

Automata learning



Automata learning



No formal specification available? **Learn it!**

L^* algorithm (D.Angluin '87)

Finite alphabet of system's actions A

set of system behaviors is a **regular language** $\mathcal{L} \subseteq A^*$

L^* algorithm (D.Angluin '87)

Finite alphabet of system's actions A

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Learner

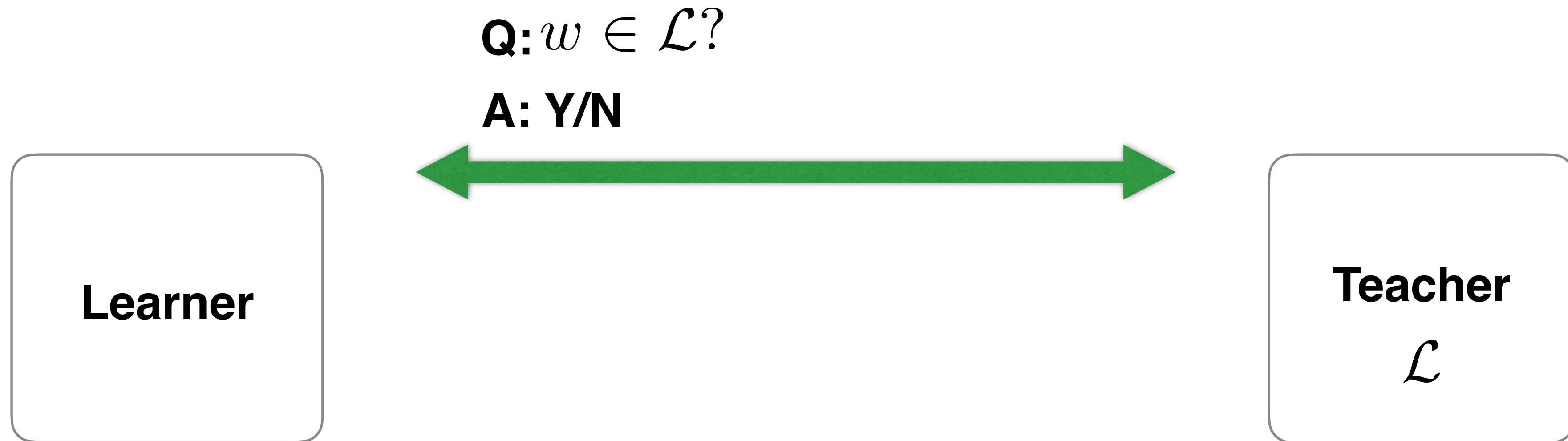
Teacher

\mathcal{L}

L^* algorithm (D.Angluin '87)

Finite alphabet of system's actions A

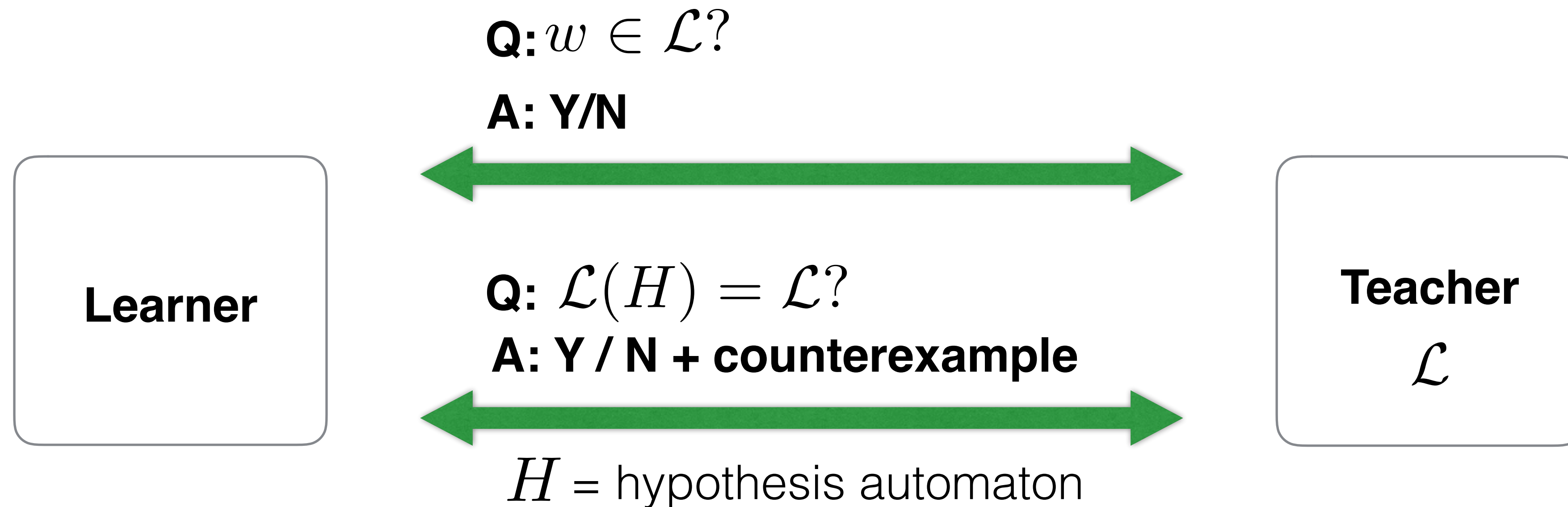
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L^* algorithm (D.Angluin '87)

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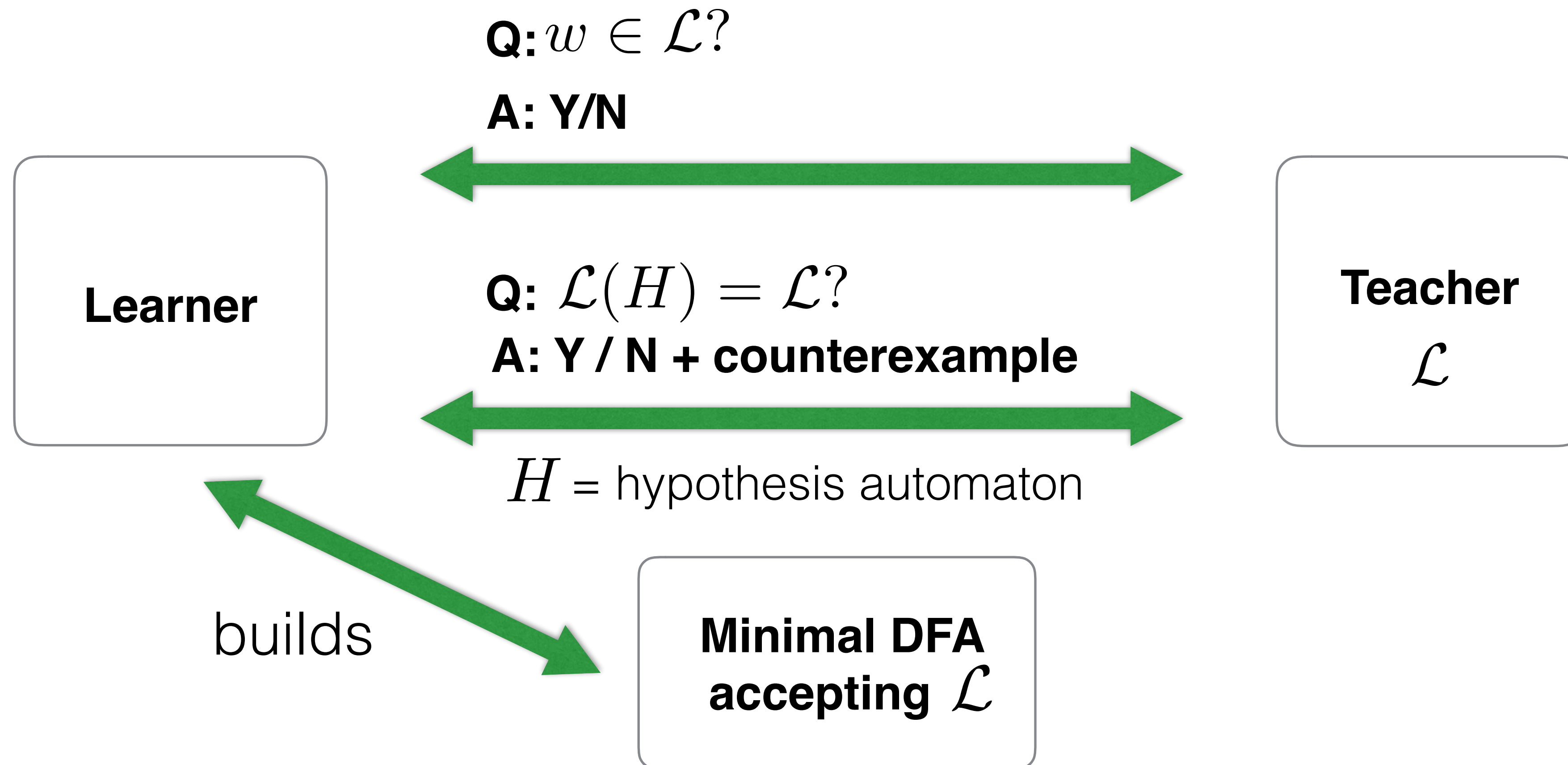
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L^* algorithm (D.Angluin '87)

Finite alphabet of system's actions A

set of system behaviors is a **regular language** $\mathcal{L} \subseteq A^*$



A zoo of automata

Probabilistic

Weighted

Alternating

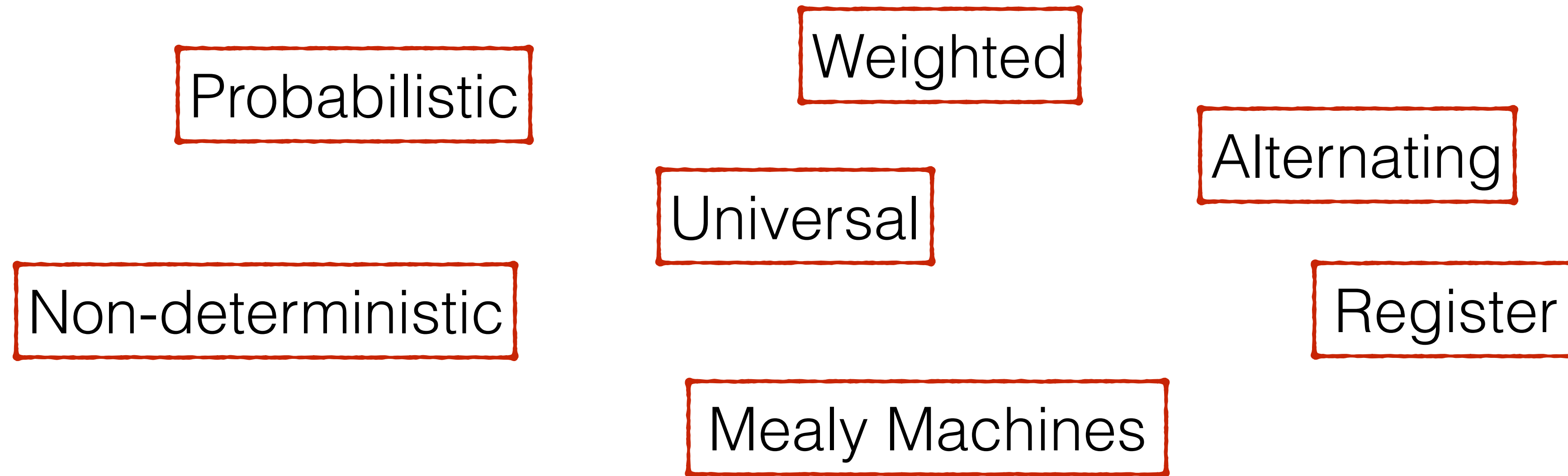
Universal

Non-deterministic

Register

Mealy Machines

A zoo of automata

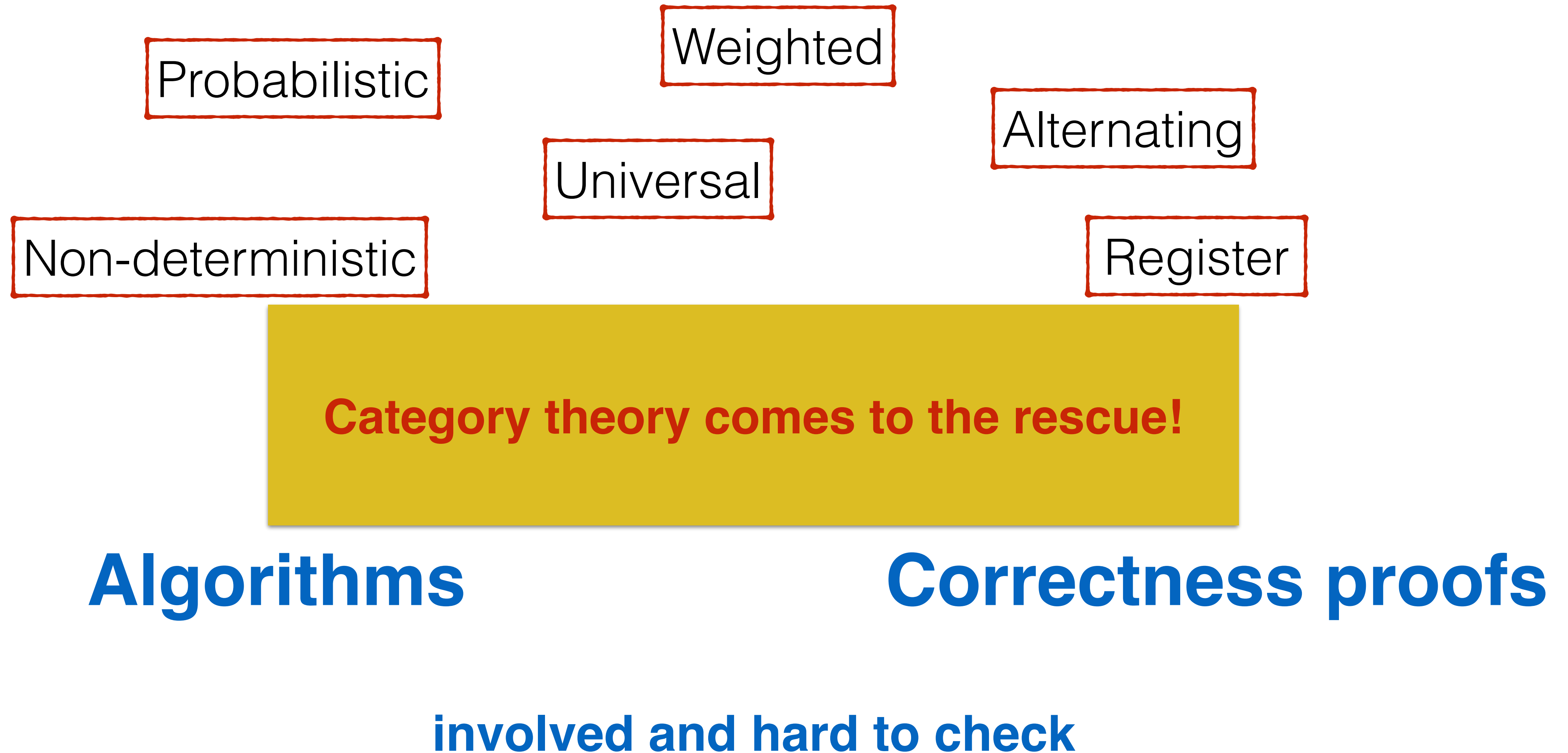


Algorithms

Correctness proofs

involved and hard to check

A zoo of automata



Category Theory

Conceptual tools

Correctness proof(s)

Guidelines new algorithms

Unveil connections

Category Theory

Conceptual tools

Correctness proof(s)

Guidelines new algorithms

Unveil connections

No free lunch!

Automata

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA

Automata

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^X)^A$$

WFA

Automata

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^X)^A$$

WFA

$$X \rightarrow FTX$$

Transition structure

Algebraic properties

$$X \rightarrow FTX$$

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^X)^A$$

WFA

$$X \rightarrow FTX$$

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA

$$2^{A^*}$$

acceptance

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^X)^A$$

WFA

$$\mathbb{R}^{A^*}$$

Vector space

$$X \rightarrow FTX$$

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA

$$2^{A^*}$$

Language
equivalence

acceptance

equivalence

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^X)^A$$

WFA

$$\mathbb{R}^{A^*}$$

Vector space

Weighted language
equivalence **or** bisimilarity

$$X \rightarrow FTX$$

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

$$X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^X)^A$$

DFA

WFA

$$2^{A^*}$$

acceptance

$$\mathbb{R}^{A^*}$$

Vector space

Language
equivalence

equivalence

Weighted language
equivalence **or** bisimilarity

Proof methods for equivalence

Up-to techniques

Algebraic structure



Better Proof Techniques

Up-to techniques

Algebraic structure

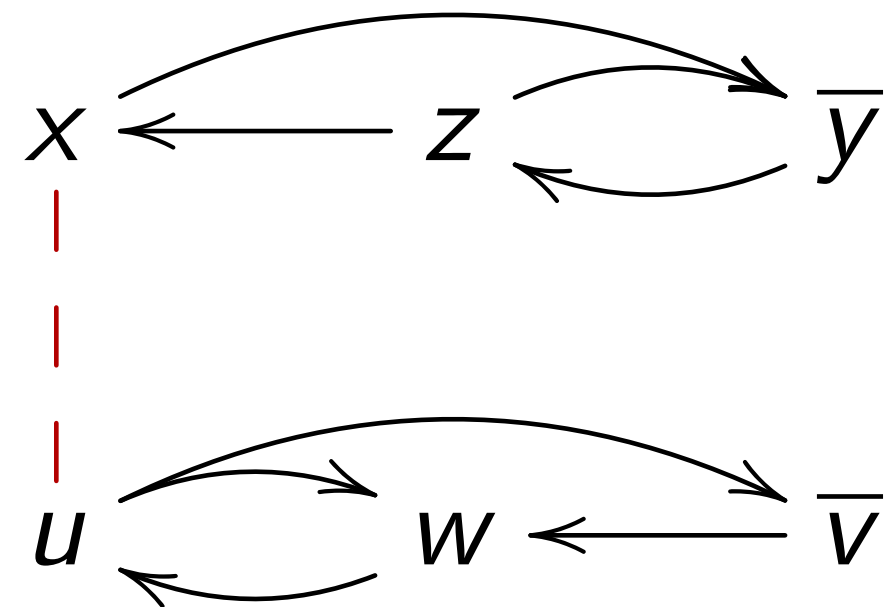


Better Proof Techniques

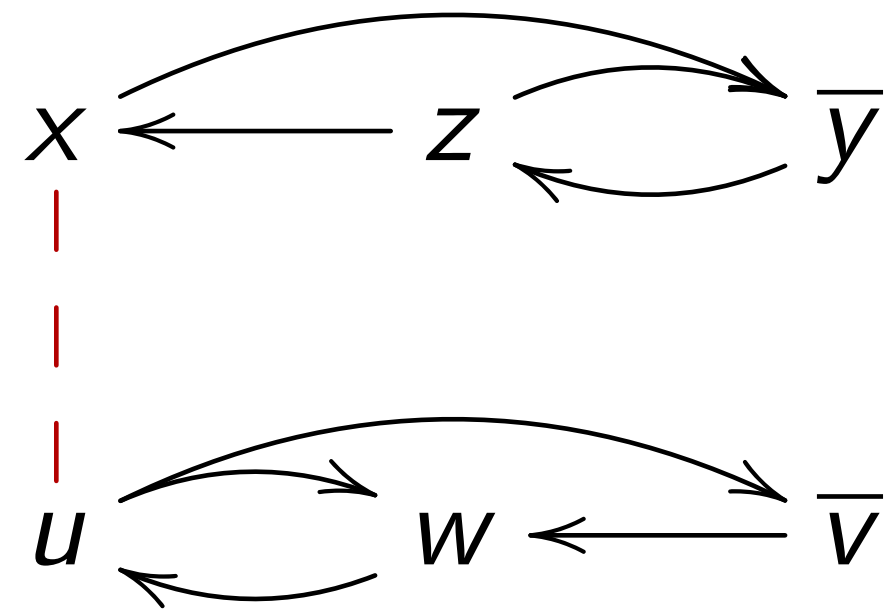


HKC algorithm - Bonchi and Pous 2014

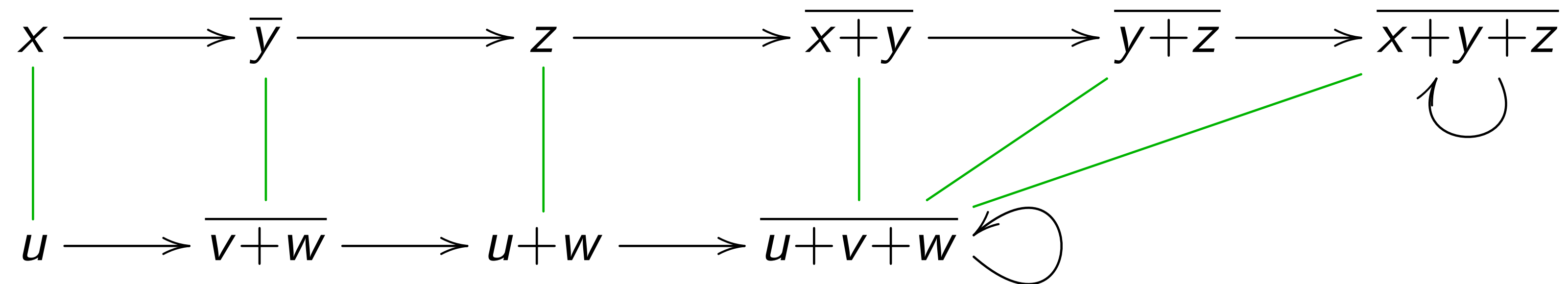
Example



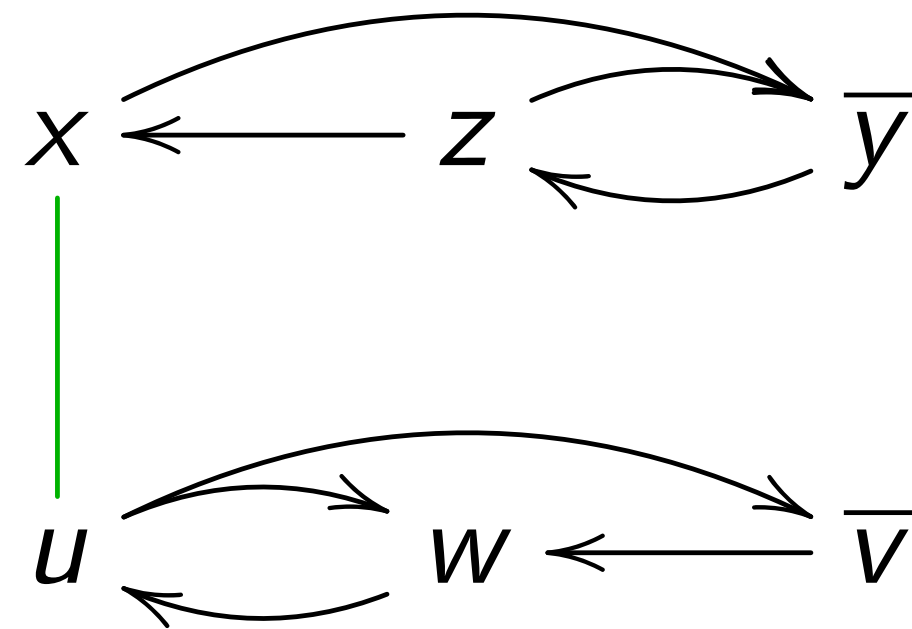
Example



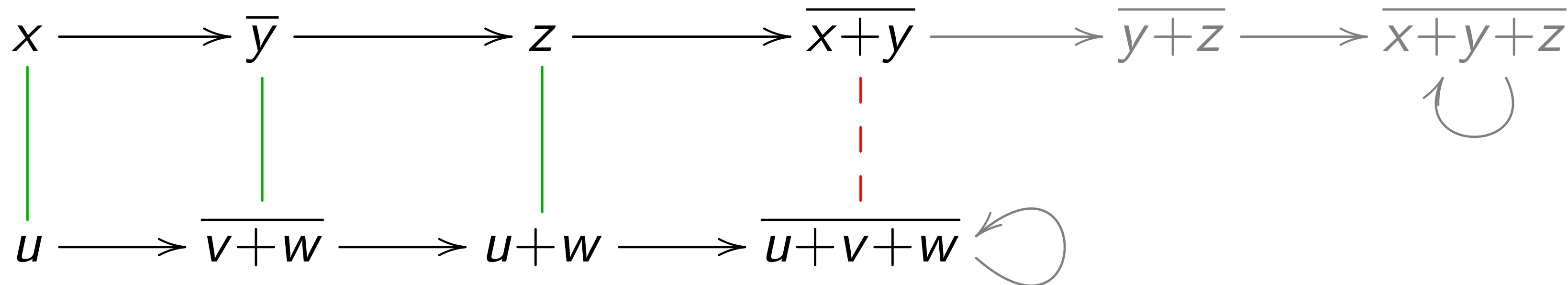
Build a bisimulation using
powerset construction on the fly



Example

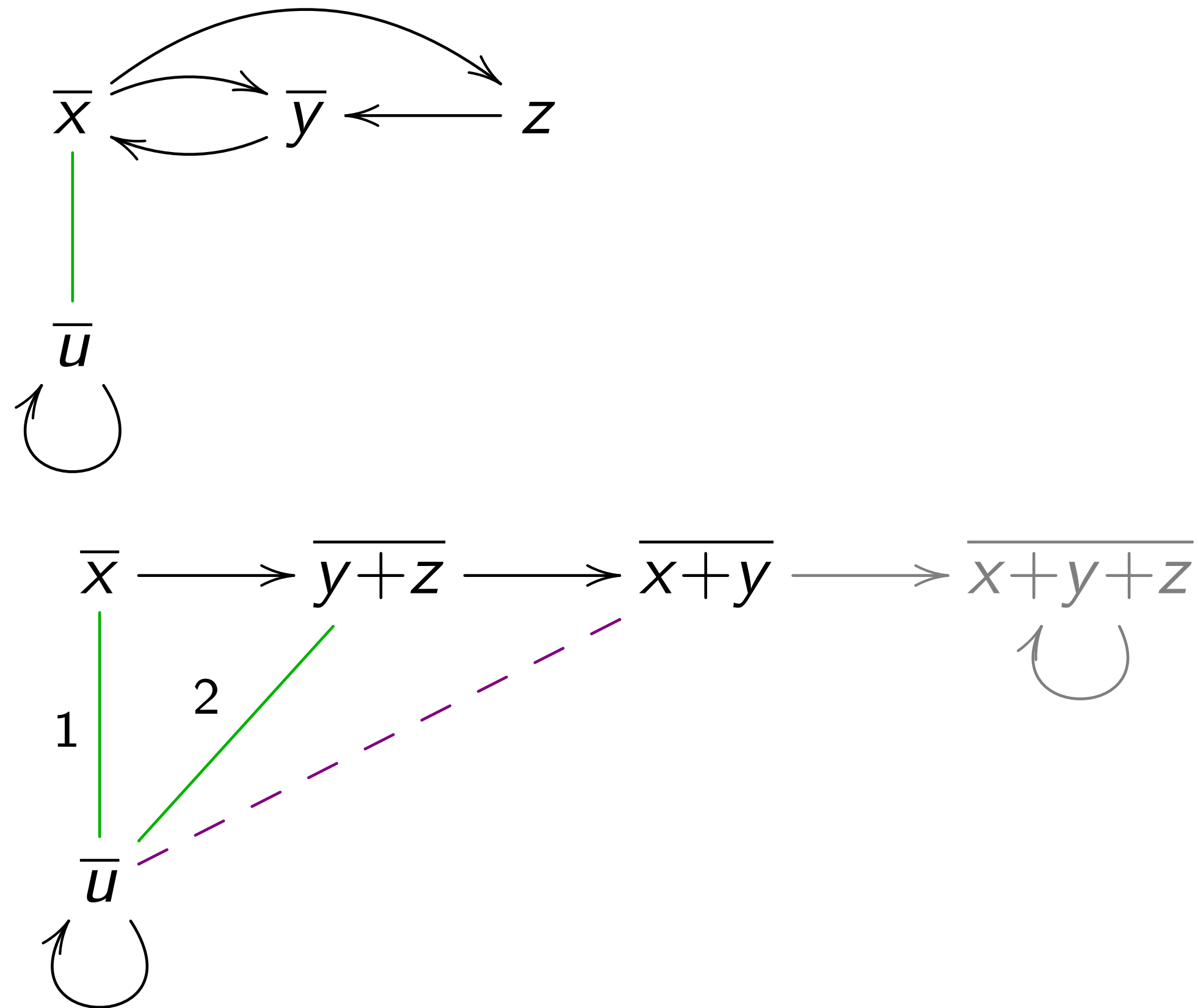


$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (x, u) \\ + \\ (y, v+w) \end{array}}{= (x+y, u+v+w)}$$

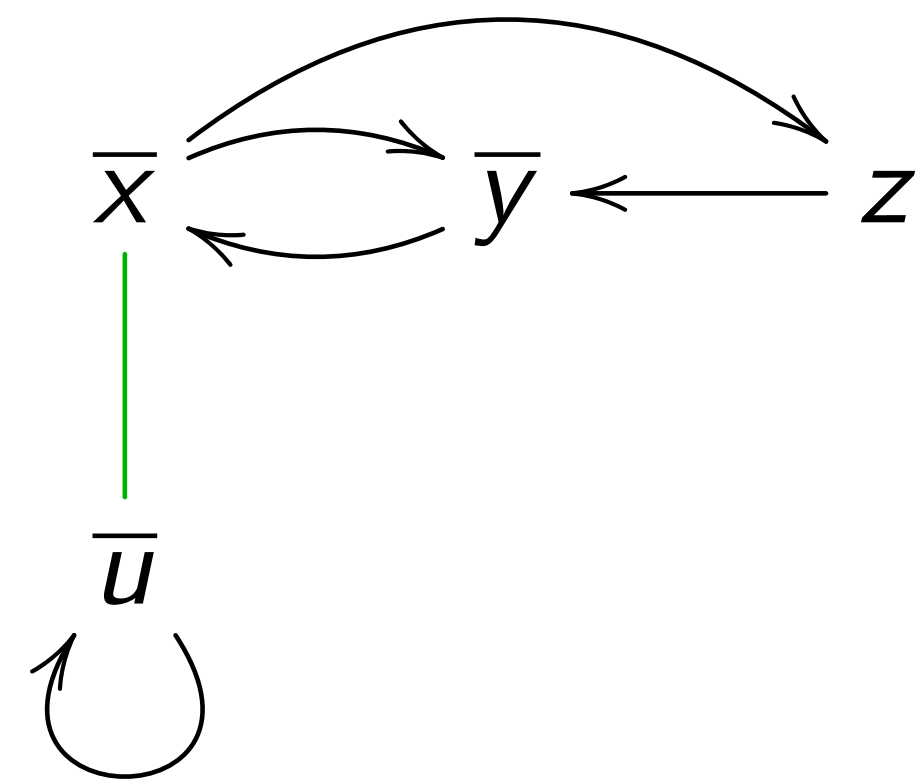


using bisimulations up to union

Another example



Another example

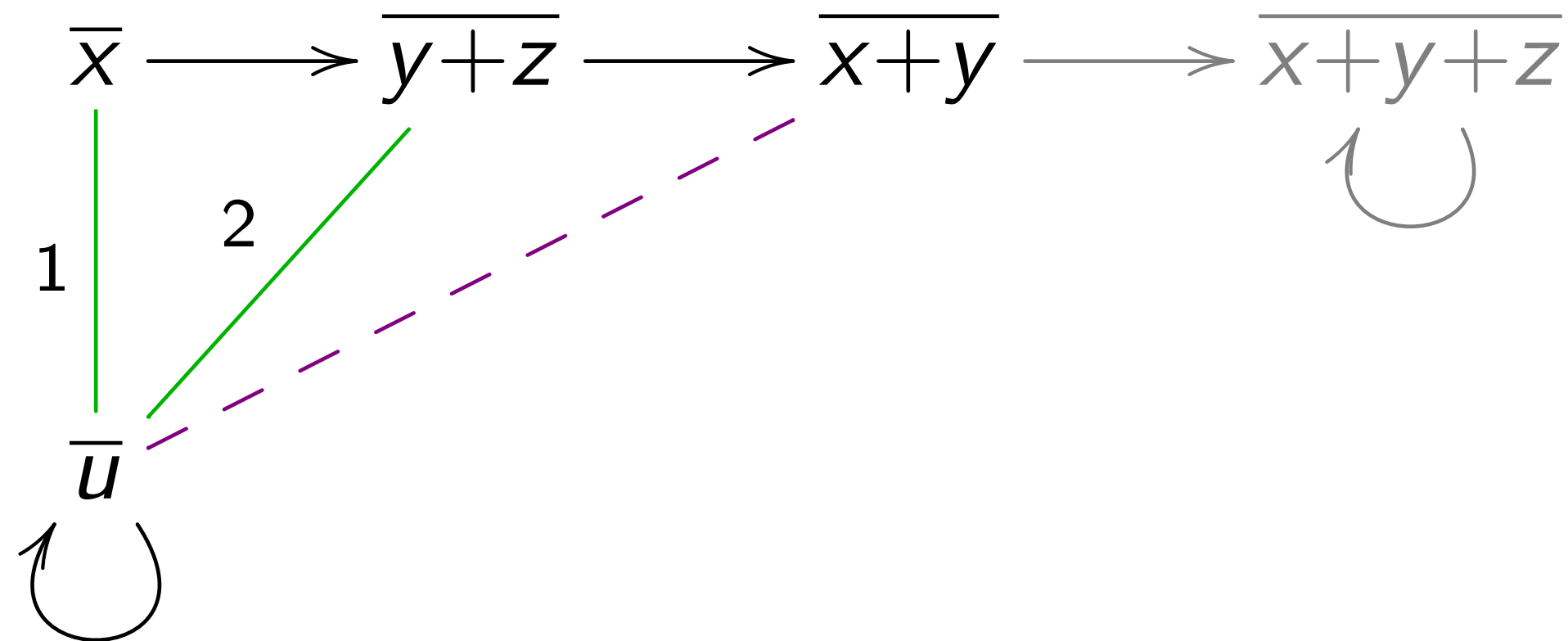


$$x+y = u+y \quad (1)$$

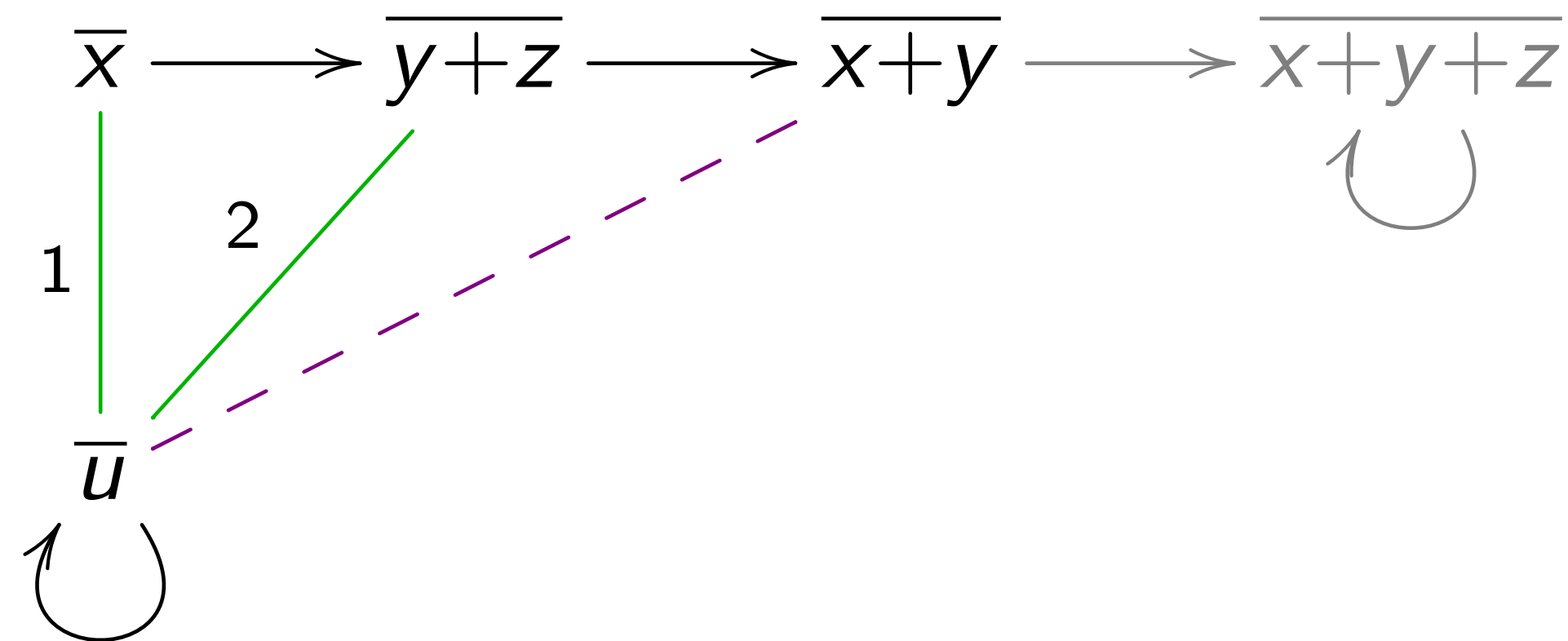
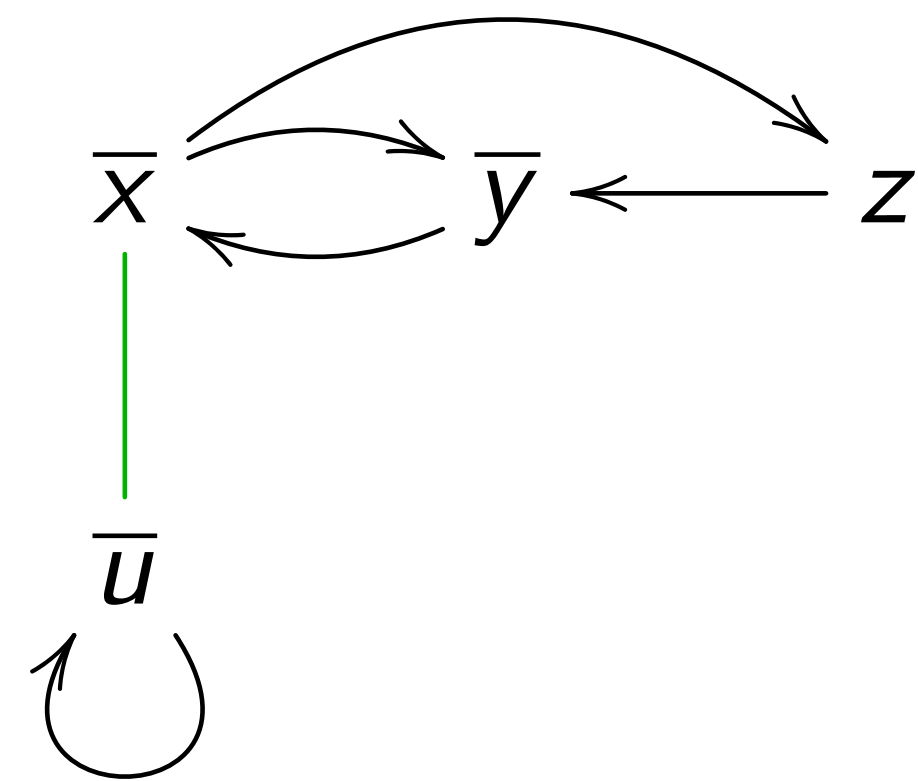
$$= y+z+y \quad (2)$$

$$= y+z$$

$$= u \quad (2)$$



Another example



$$x+y = u+y \quad (1)$$

$$= y+z+y \quad (2)$$

$$= y+z$$

$$= u \quad (2)$$

Bisimulations up-to **congruence**
HKC algorithm of Bonchi&Pous

More examples

Up-To Techniques for Weighted Systems. (TACAS '17)

Filippo Bonchi, Barbara König, Sebastian Küpper

The Power of Convex Algebras (CONCUR' 17)

Filippo Bonchi, Alexandra Silva, Ana Sokolova

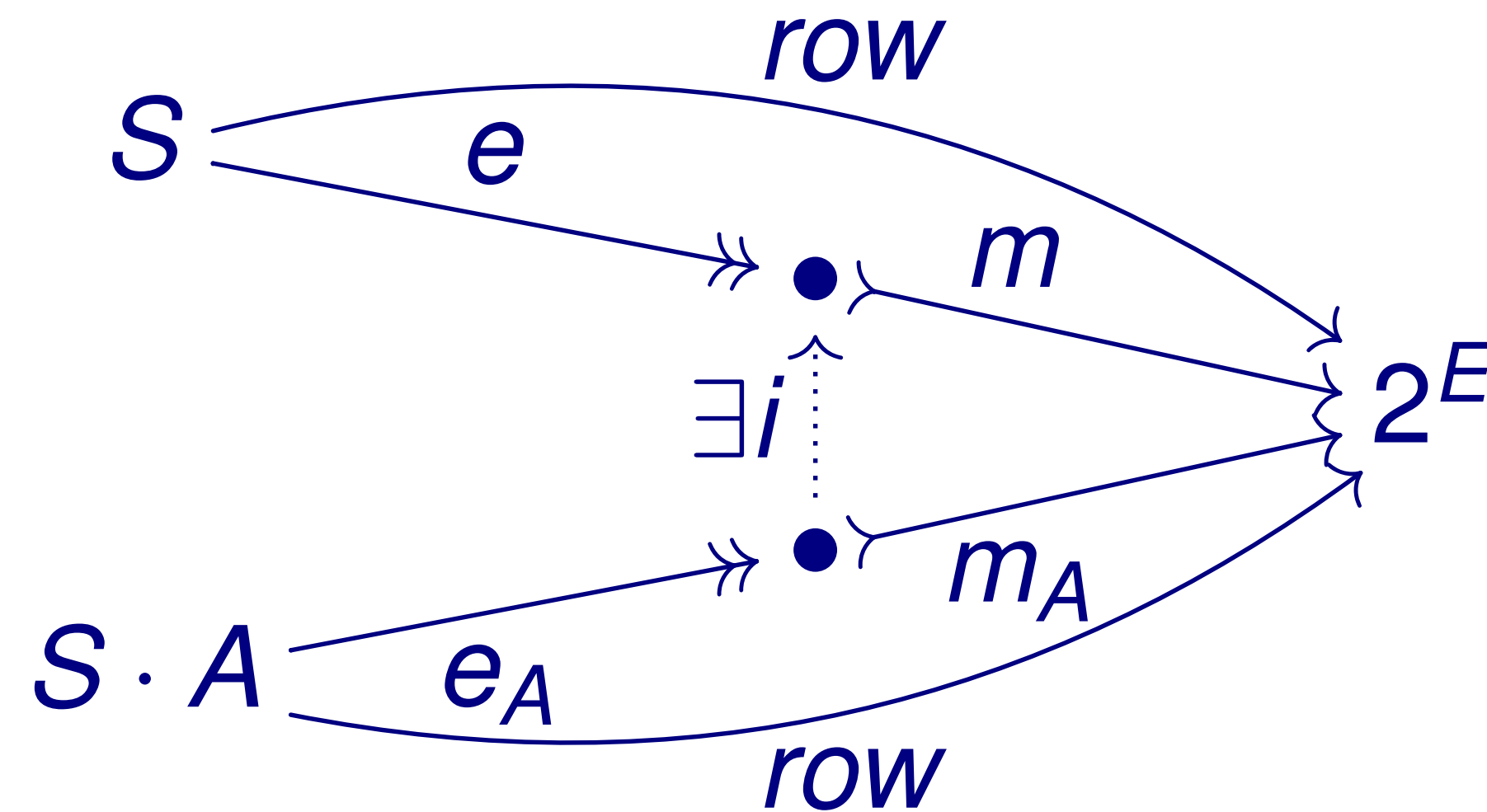
Coinduction up-to in a fibrational setting (CSL-LICS 2014)

Filippo Bonchi, Daniela Petrisan, Damien Pous, Jurriaan Rot

Category Theory in learning

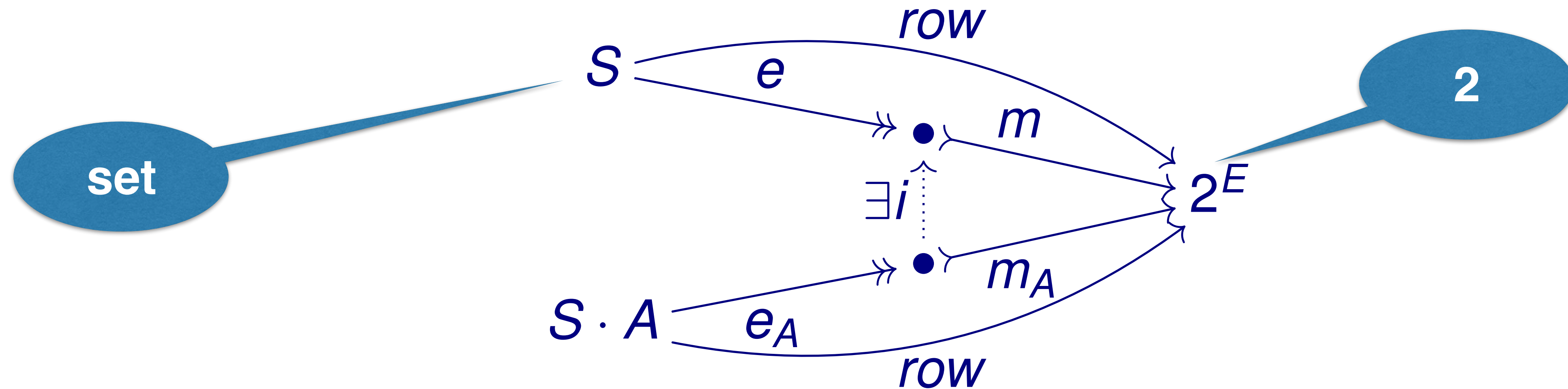
(S, E, row) is *closed* if for all $t \in S \cdot A$ there exists an $s \in S$ such that $row(t) = row(s)$.

Category Theory in learning



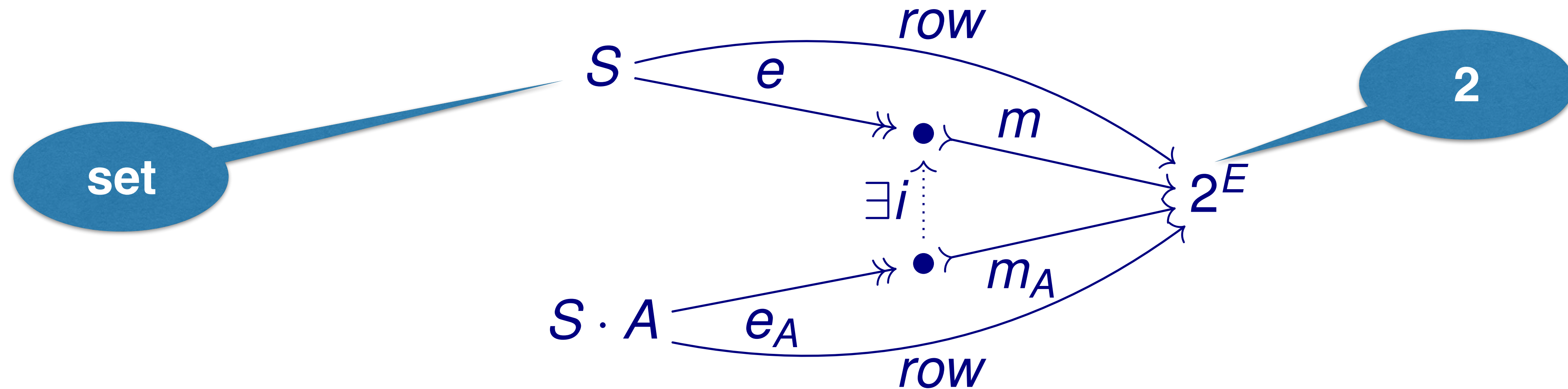
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Category Theory in learning



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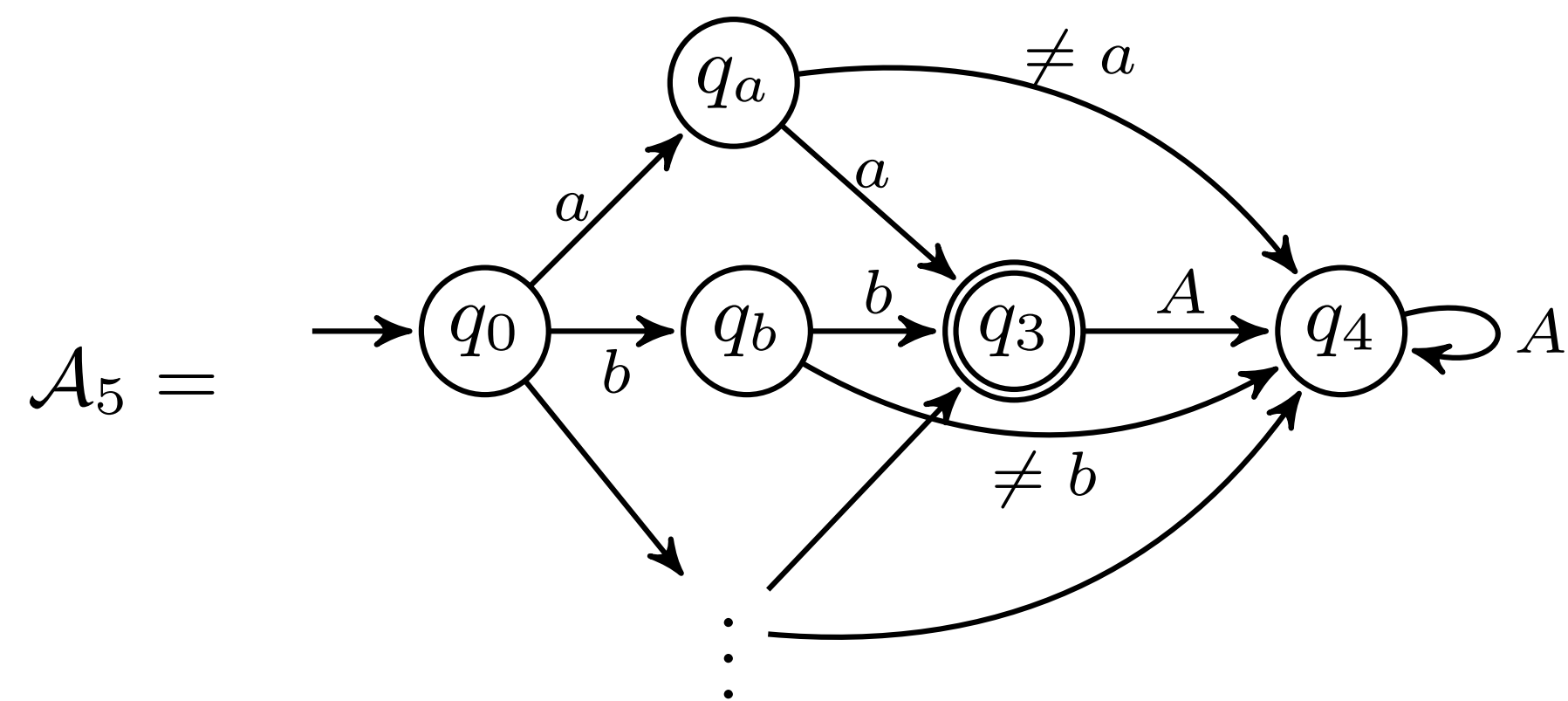
Can we develop L^* for infinite (nominal) sets?

Infinite alphabets

$$\mathcal{L}_n = \{ww \mid w \in A^*, |w| = n\}$$

A infinite

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \{aa, bb, cc, dd, \dots\}$$



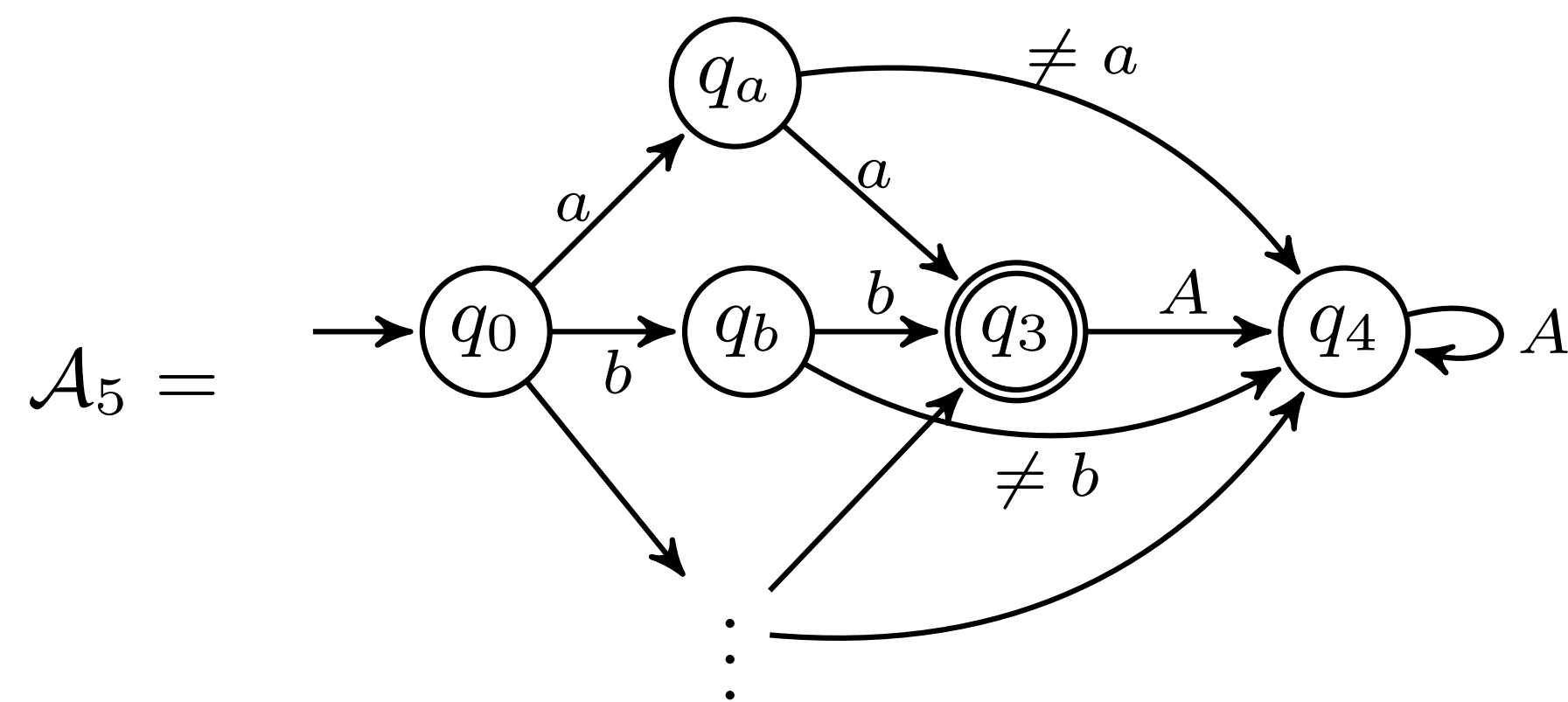
infinite automaton

Infinite alphabets

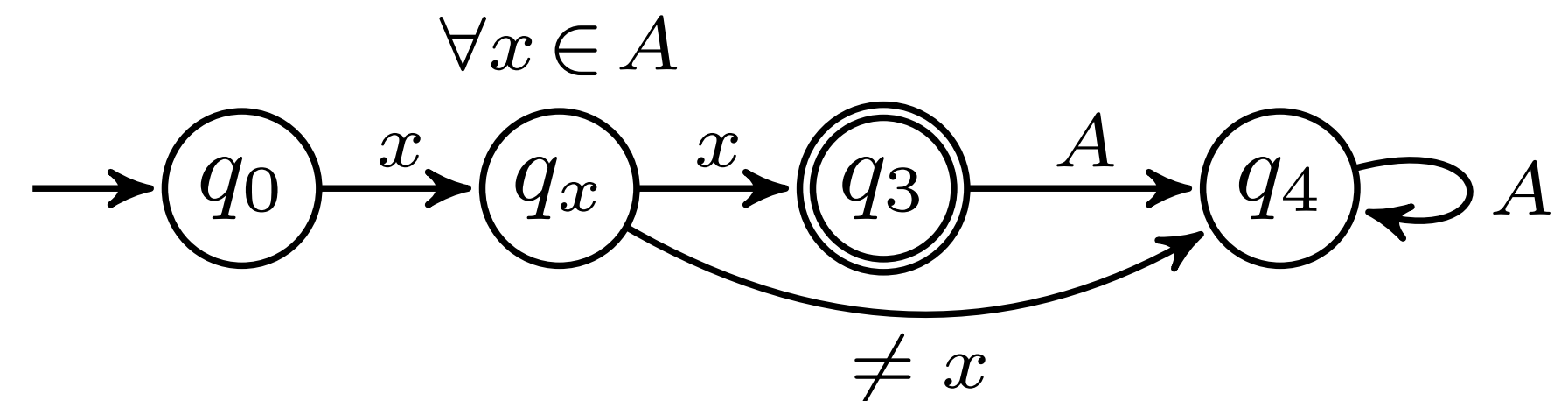
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A infinite

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infinite automaton



but with a finite representation

Nominal automata

Nominal sets



name binding
alpha-equivalence

.....

Nominal automata

Nominal sets



name binding
alpha-equivalence

.....

Infinite sets

Nominal automata

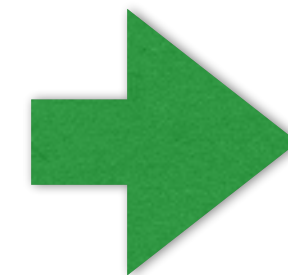
Nominal sets



name binding
alpha-equivalence

.....

Infinite sets with symmetries



Finitely representable

Nominal automata

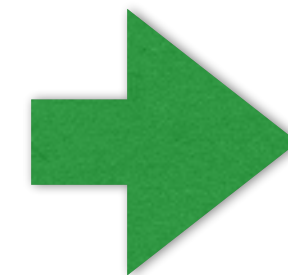
Nominal sets



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Infinite sets with symmetries



Finitely representable

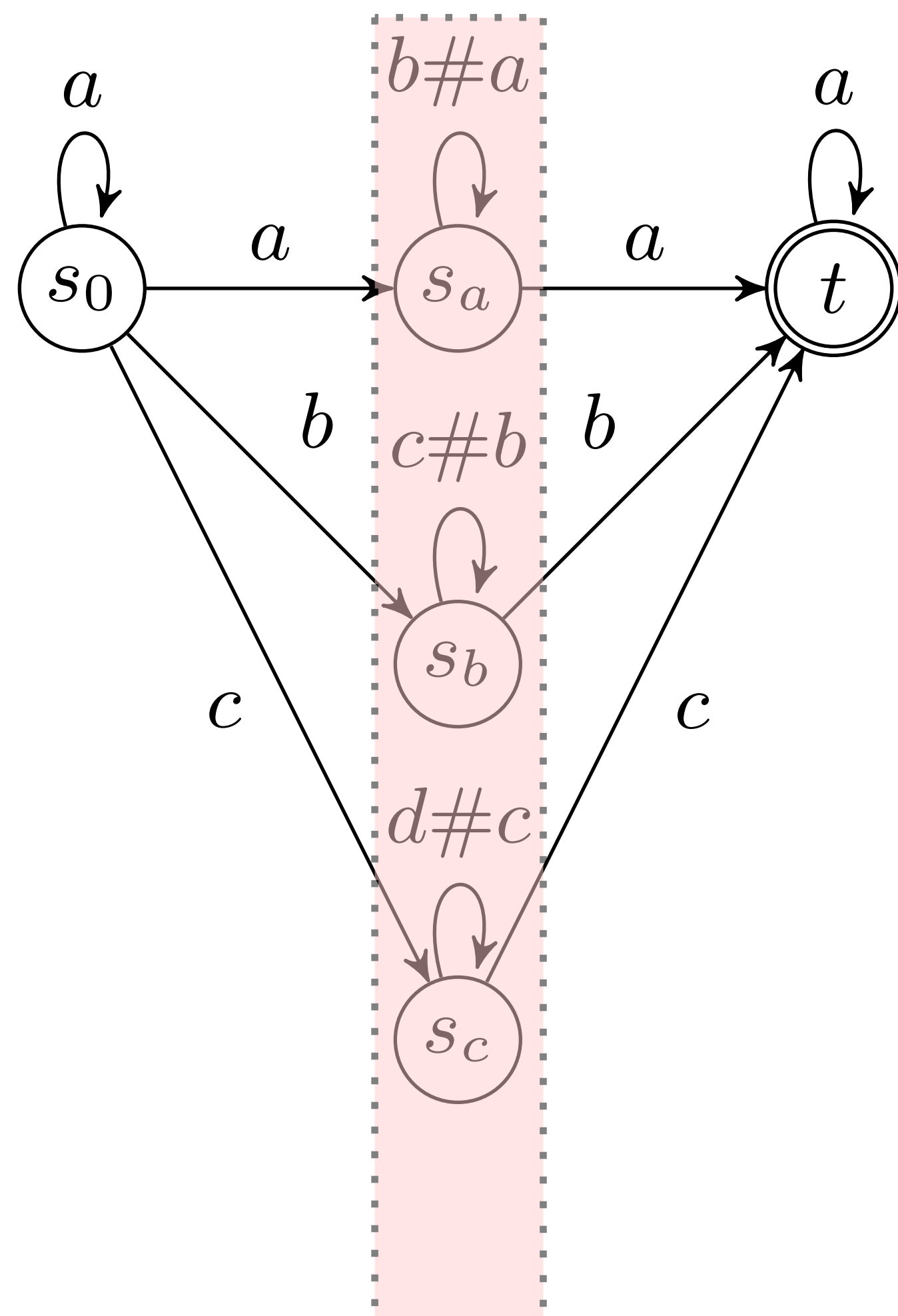


Automata theory
over nominal sets

Nominal automata

\mathbb{A} infinite

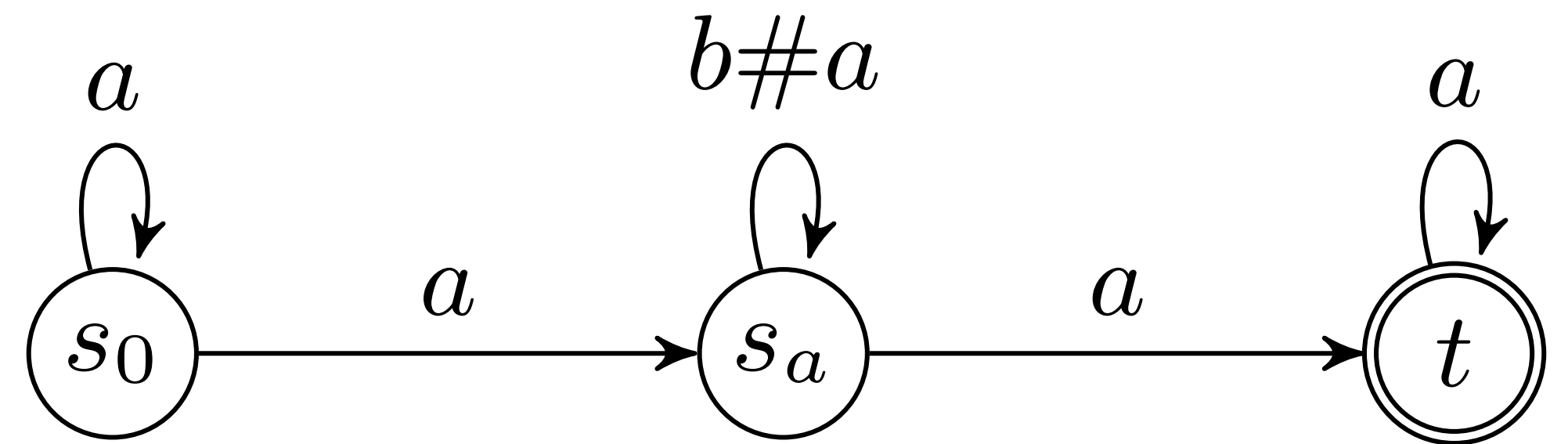
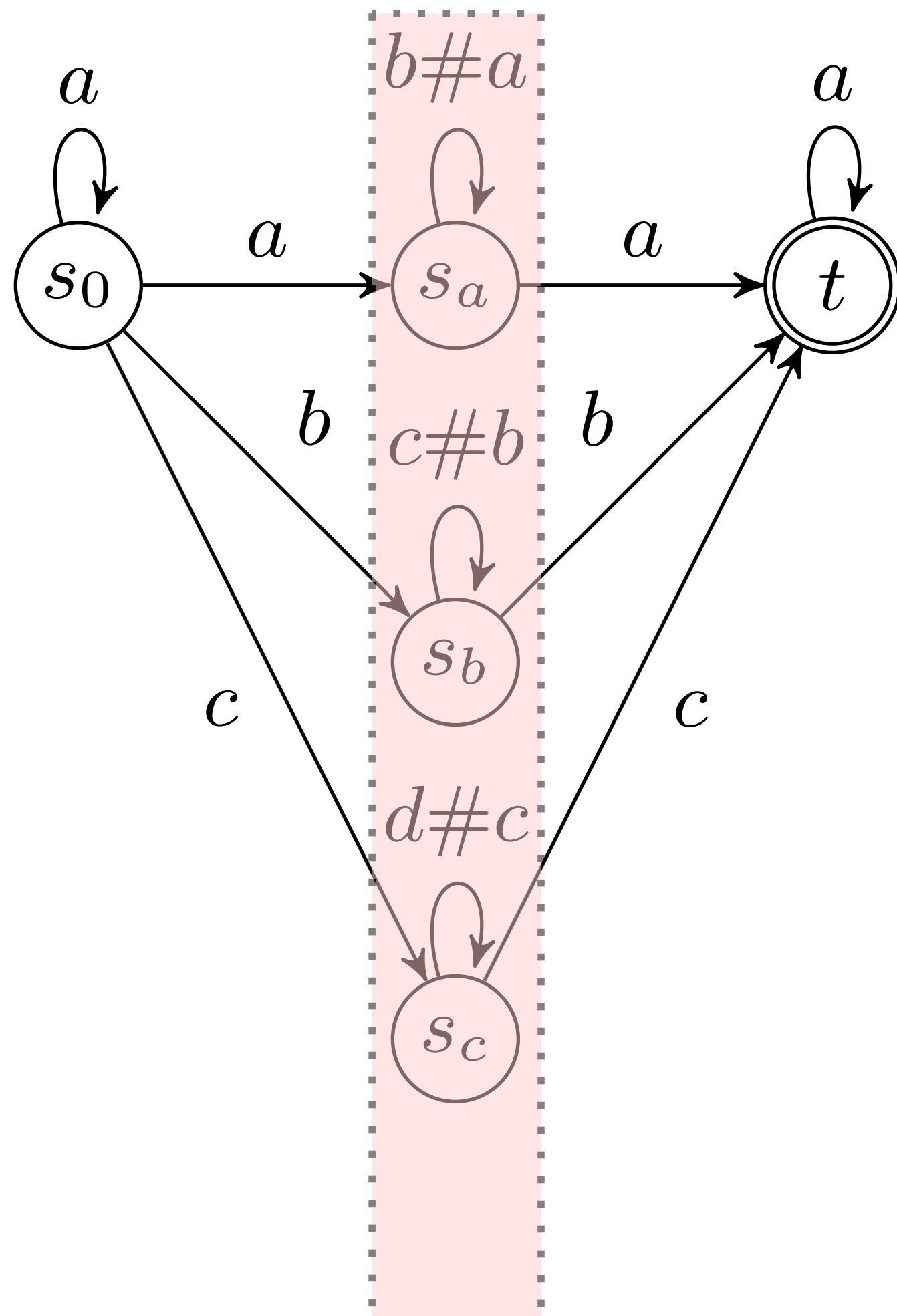
$$\{w \in \mathbb{A}^* \mid \exists a. a \text{ occurs twice in } w\}$$



Nominal automata

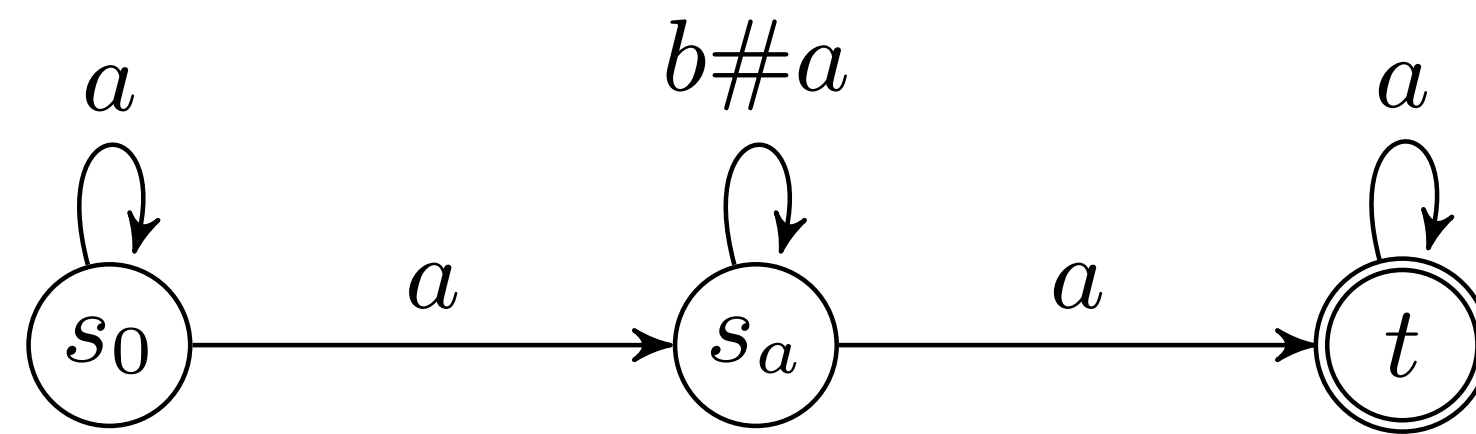
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$$\{w \in \mathbb{A}^* \mid \exists a. a \text{ occurs twice in } w\}$$



finite representation

Nominal automata



finite representation

$$X = \{s_0\} + \mathbb{A} + \{t\}$$

canonical permutations

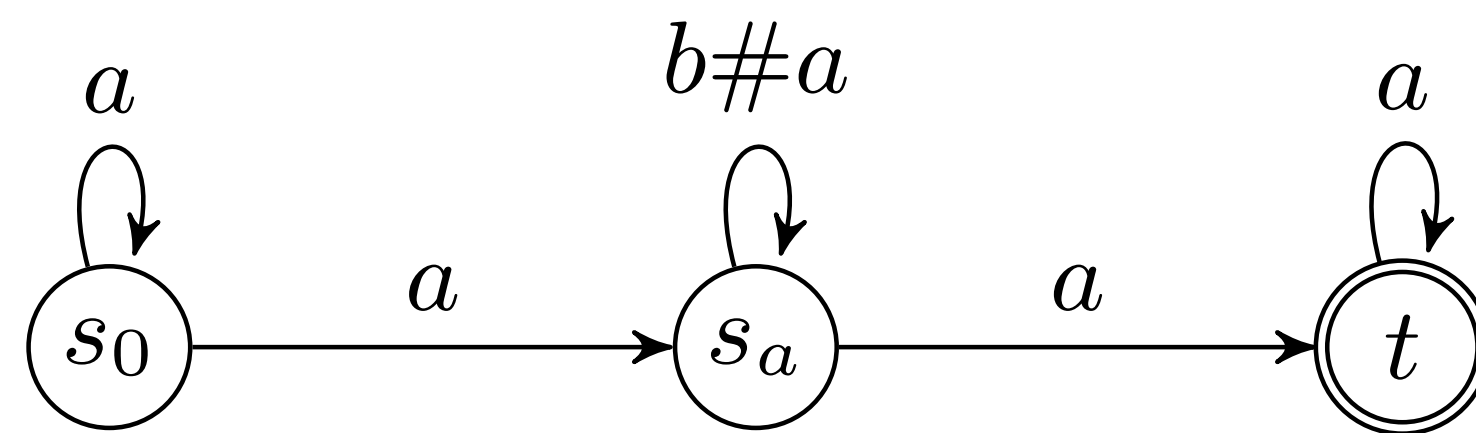
$$\pi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$$

$$s_a \mapsto s_{\pi a}$$

transition closed under permutations
equivariant

$$s_a \xrightarrow{a} t \Rightarrow s_{\pi a} \xrightarrow{\pi a} t$$

Nominal automata



finite representation

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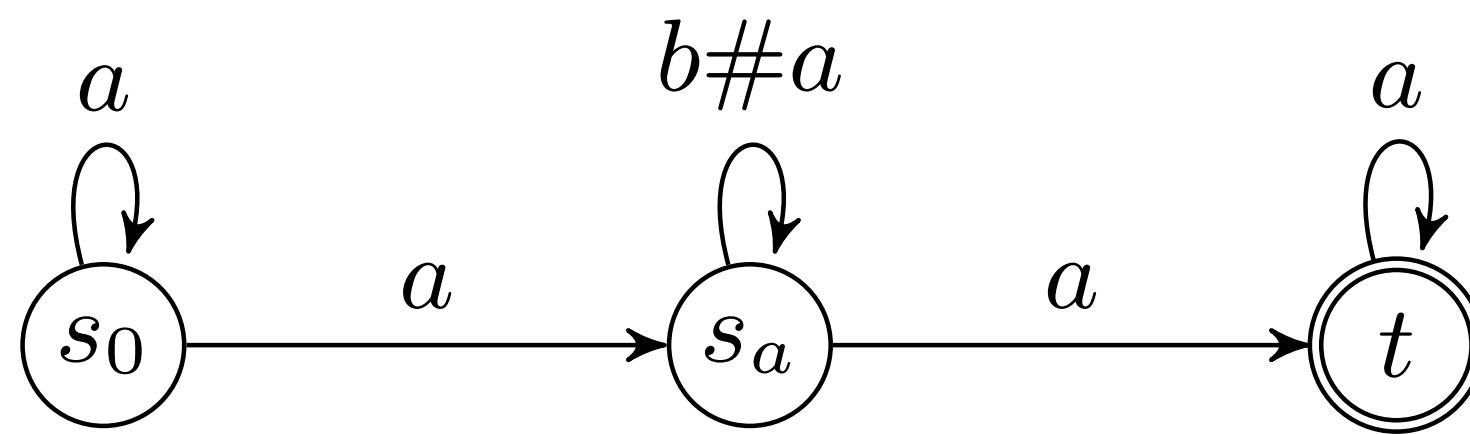
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$$s_a \xrightarrow{a} t \Rightarrow s_{\pi a} \xrightarrow{\pi a} t$$

**algebraic
structure**

Nominal automata



$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA in Nom

transition closed under permutations
equivariant

**algebraic
structure**

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Challenges

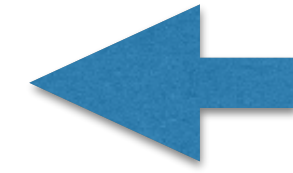
L^* LEARNER

```
1   $S, E \leftarrow \{\epsilon\}$ 
2  repeat
3      while  $(S, E)$  is not closed or not consistent
4      if  $(S, E)$  is not closed
5          find  $s_1 \in S, a \in A$  such that
               $row(s_1 a) \neq row(s), \text{ for all } s \in S$ 
6           $S \leftarrow S \cup \{s_1 a\}$ 
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9           $E \leftarrow E \cup \{a e\}$ 
10     Make the conjecture  $M(S, E)$ 
11     if the Teacher replies no, with a counter-example  $t$ 
12          $S \leftarrow S \cup \text{prefixes}(t)$ 
13 until the Teacher replies yes to the conjecture  $M(S, E)$ .
14 return  $M(S, E)$ 
```

Challenges

L^* LEARNER

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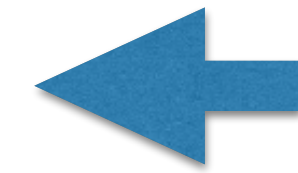


range over infinite sets

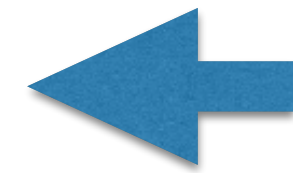
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range over infinite sets

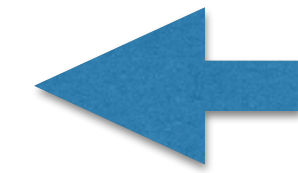


finding witnesses potentially
requires checking infinite rows

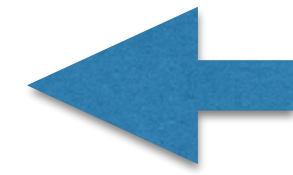
Challenges

L^* LEARNER

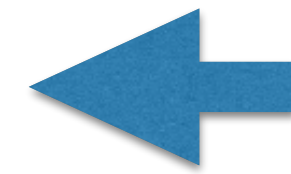
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range over infinite sets



finding witnesses potentially
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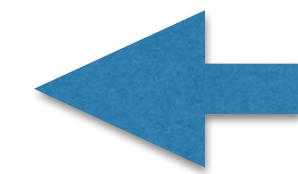


t has only finitely many prefixes,
but an infinite S is necessary

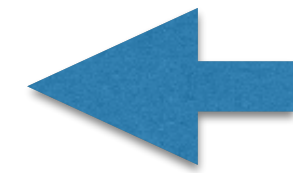
Challenges

L^* LEARNER

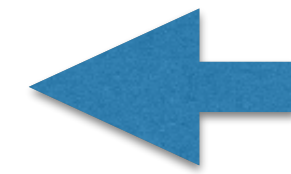
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range over infinite sets



finding witnesses potentially
requires checking infinite rows



t has only finitely many prefixes,
but an infinite S is necessary

no finite automaton accepts \mathcal{L}_1

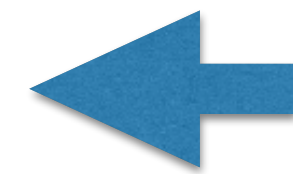
Challenges

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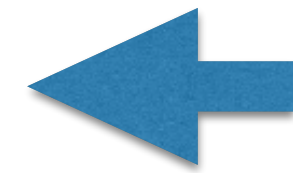
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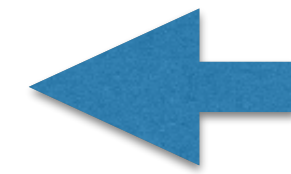
```



range over infinite sets



finding witnesses potentially
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t has only finitely many prefixes,
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(P1) the sets S , $S \cdot A$ and E admit a finite representation up to permutations;
(P2) row is such that $row(\pi(s))(\pi(e)) = row(s)(e)$, for all $s \in S$ and $e \in E$.
 Observation table admits a finite symbolic representation.

Nominal L^*

$$6' \quad S \leftarrow S \cup \text{orb}(sa)$$

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only 3 lines changed!

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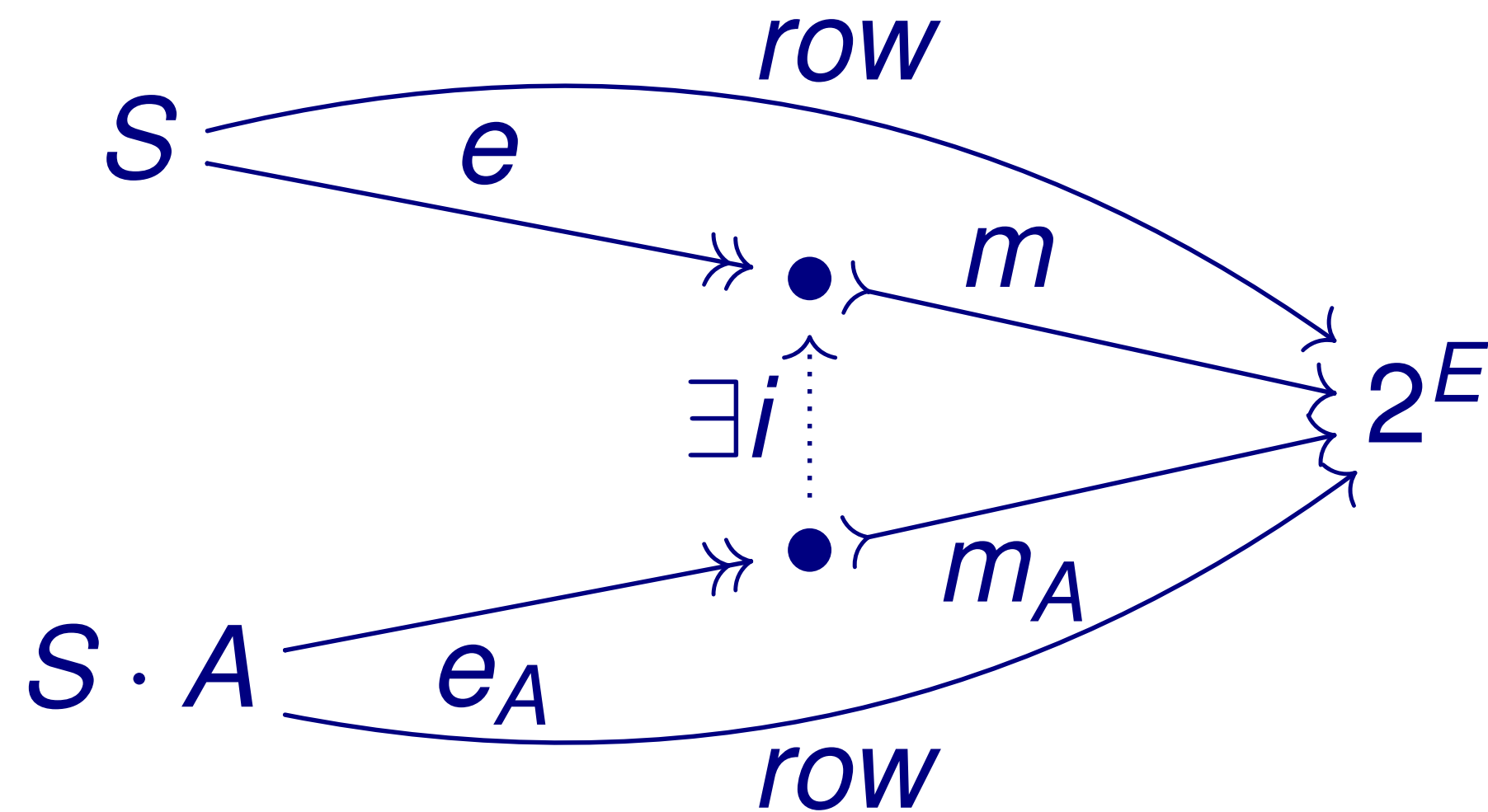
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Categorical glasses

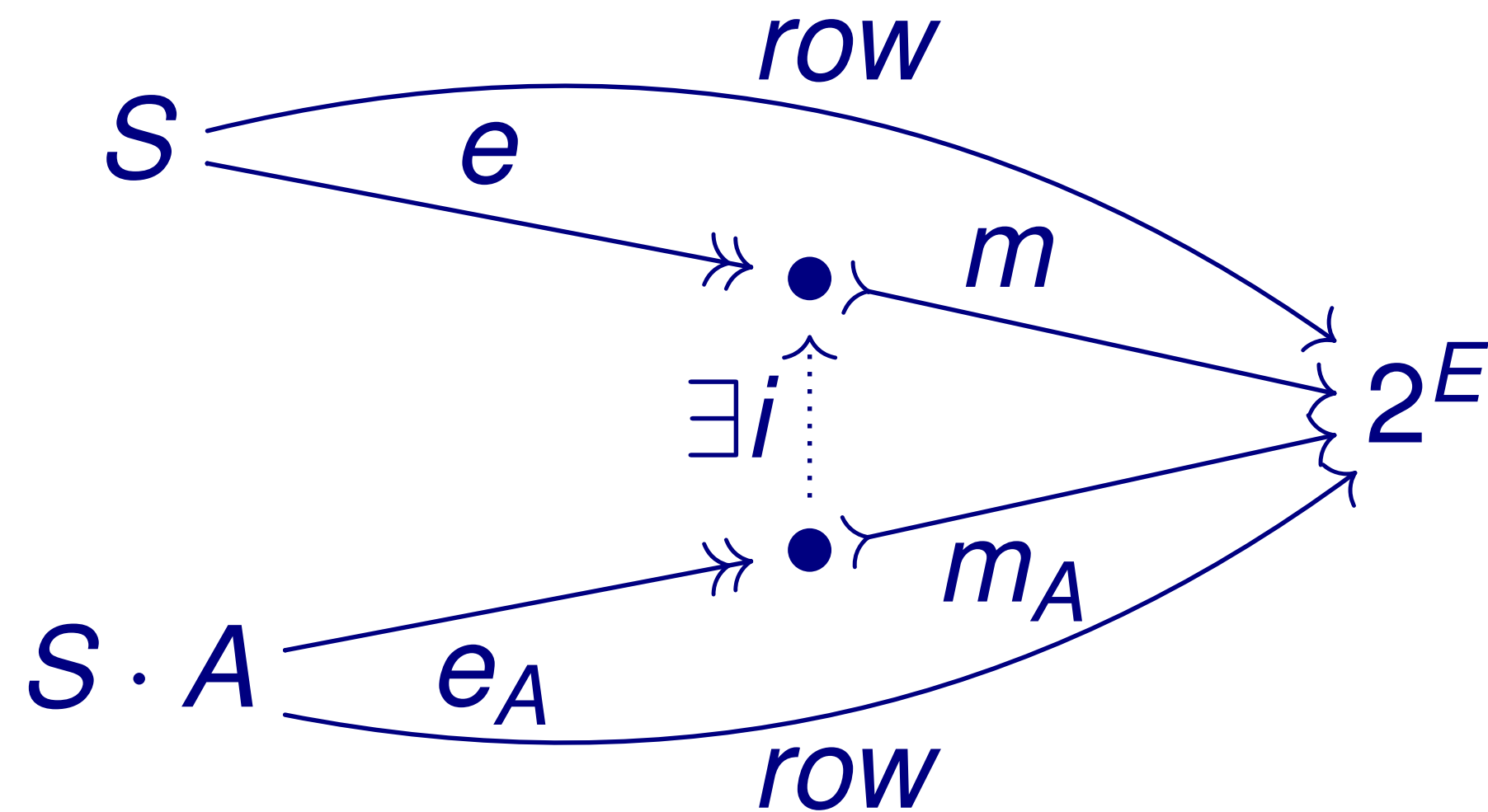
(S, E, row) is *closed* if for all $t \in S$ there exists an $s \in S$ such that $row(t) = row(s)$.

Categorical glasses



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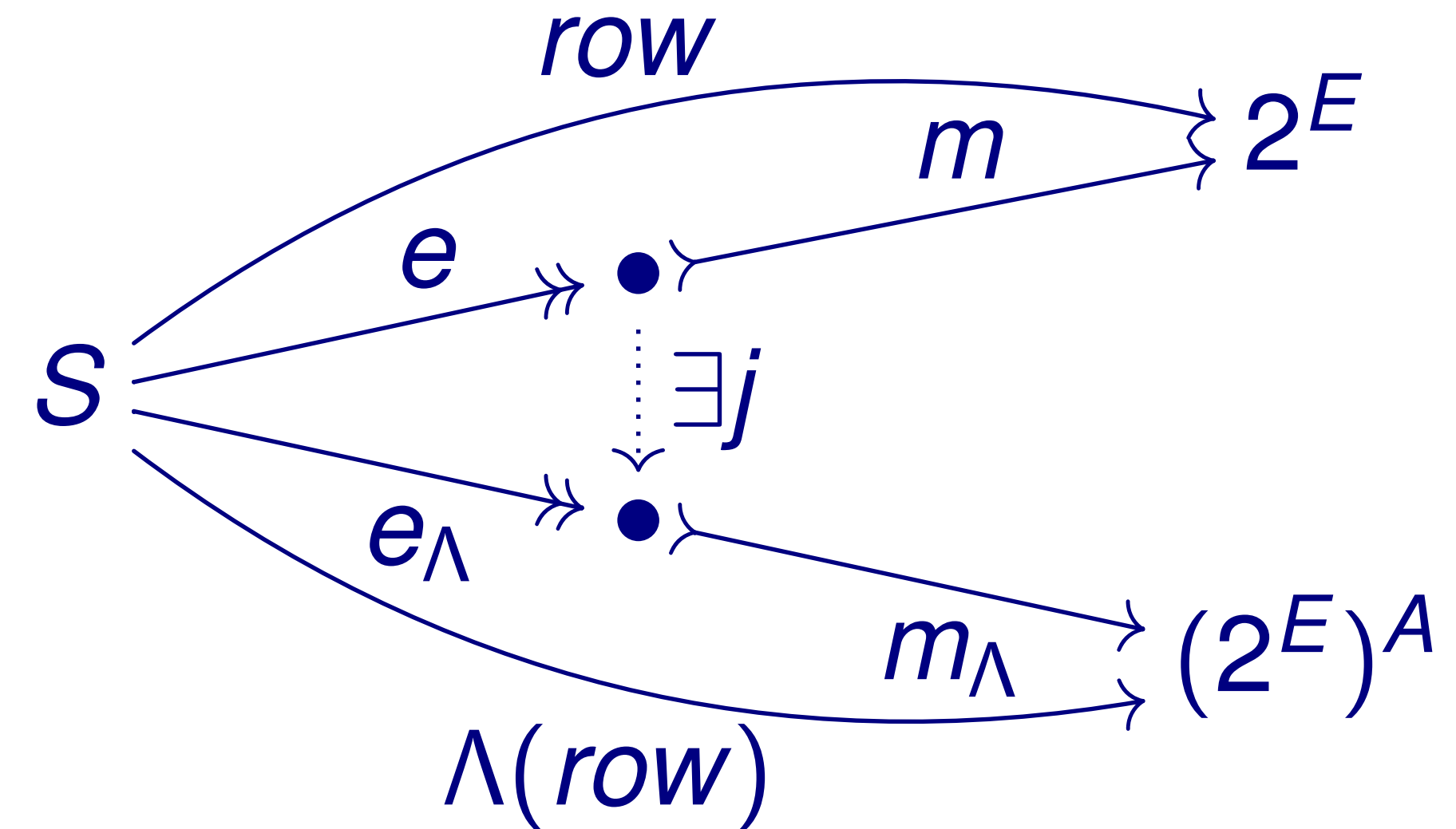
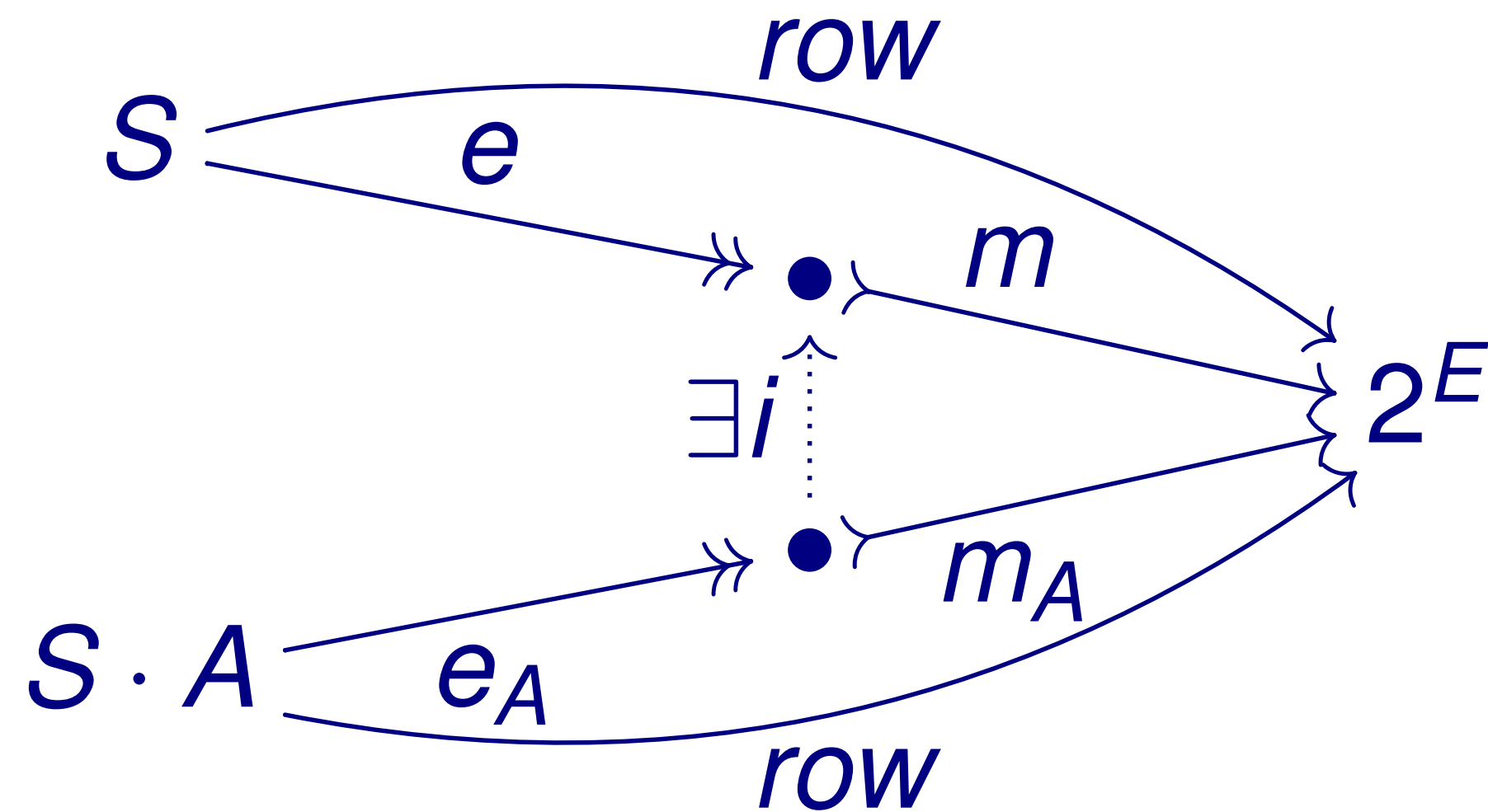
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(S, E, row) is *closed* if for all $t \in S \cdot A$ there exists an $s \in S$ such that $row(t) = row(s)$.

(S, E, row) is *consistent* if whenever $s_1, s_2 \in S$ are such that $row(s_1) = row(s_2)$, for all $a \in A$, $row(s_1 a) = row(s_2 a)$.

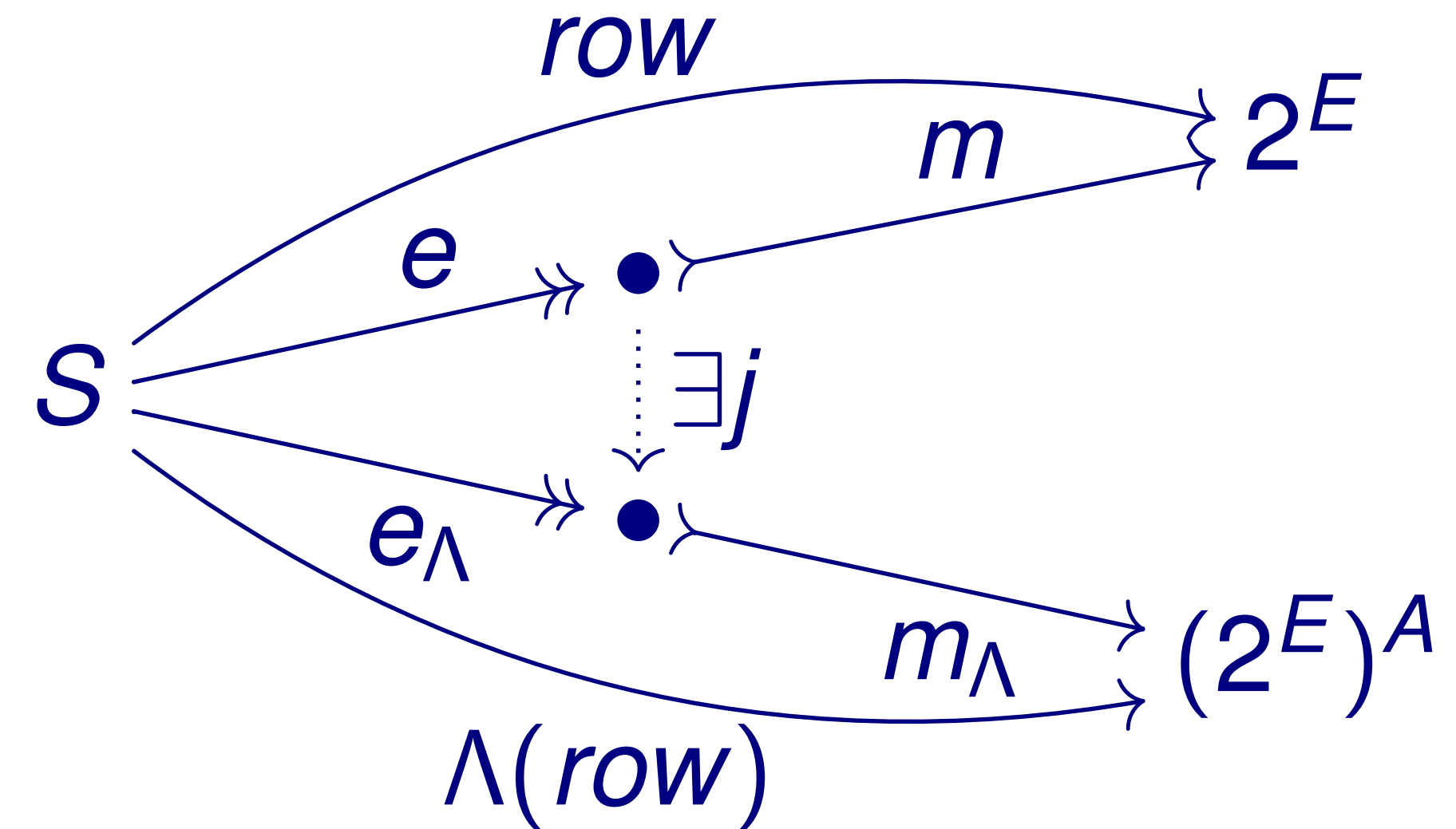
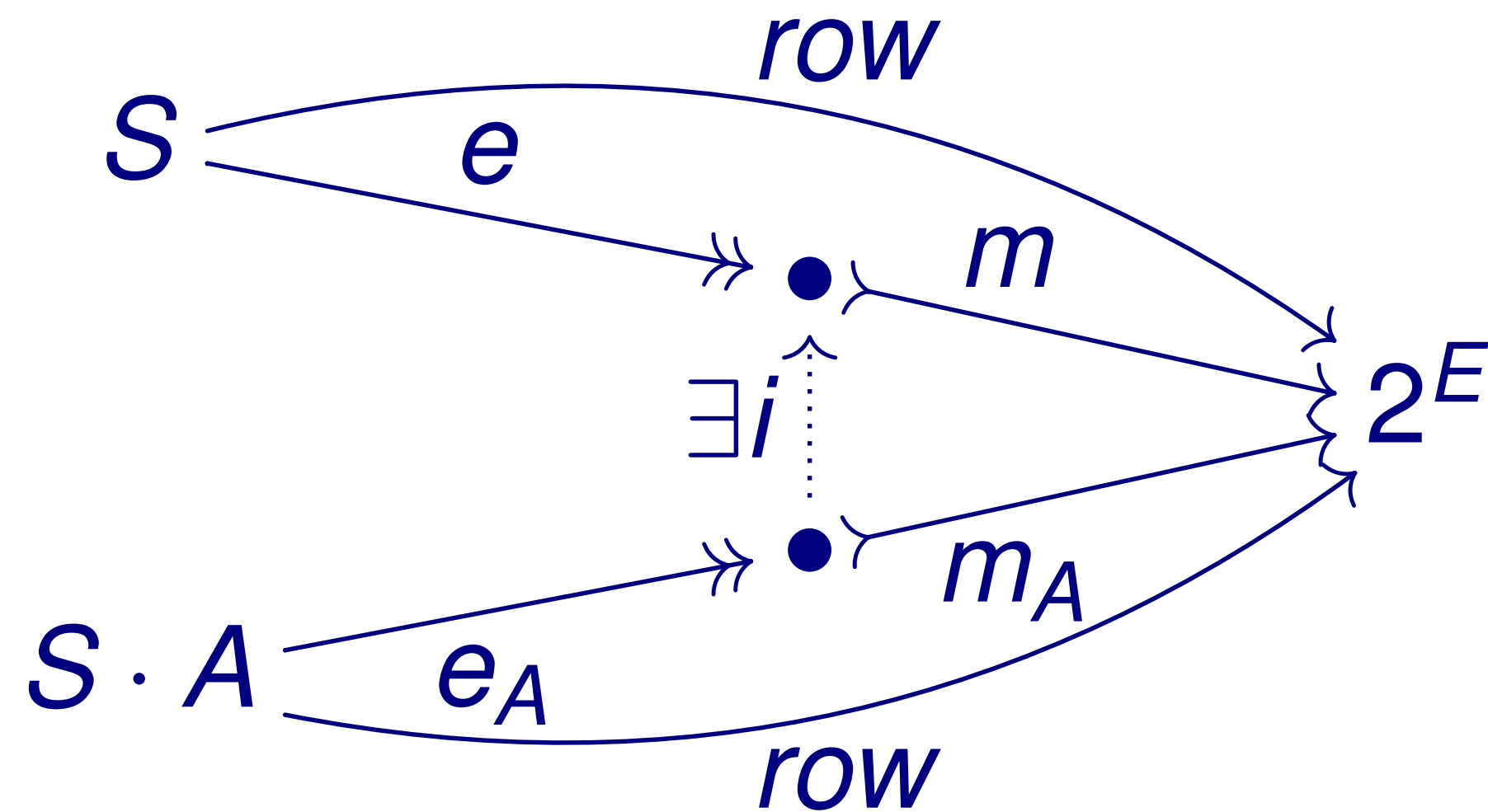
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Pretty.... but is it useful?

(S, E, row) is *consistent* if whenever $s_1, s_2 \in S$ are such that $\text{row}(s_1) = \text{row}(s_2)$, for all $a \in A$, $\text{row}(s_1 a) = \text{row}(s_2 a)$.

The power of abstraction

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times X^A$$

DFA in Nom

Definitions are the *same*

Proof of correctness is the *same*

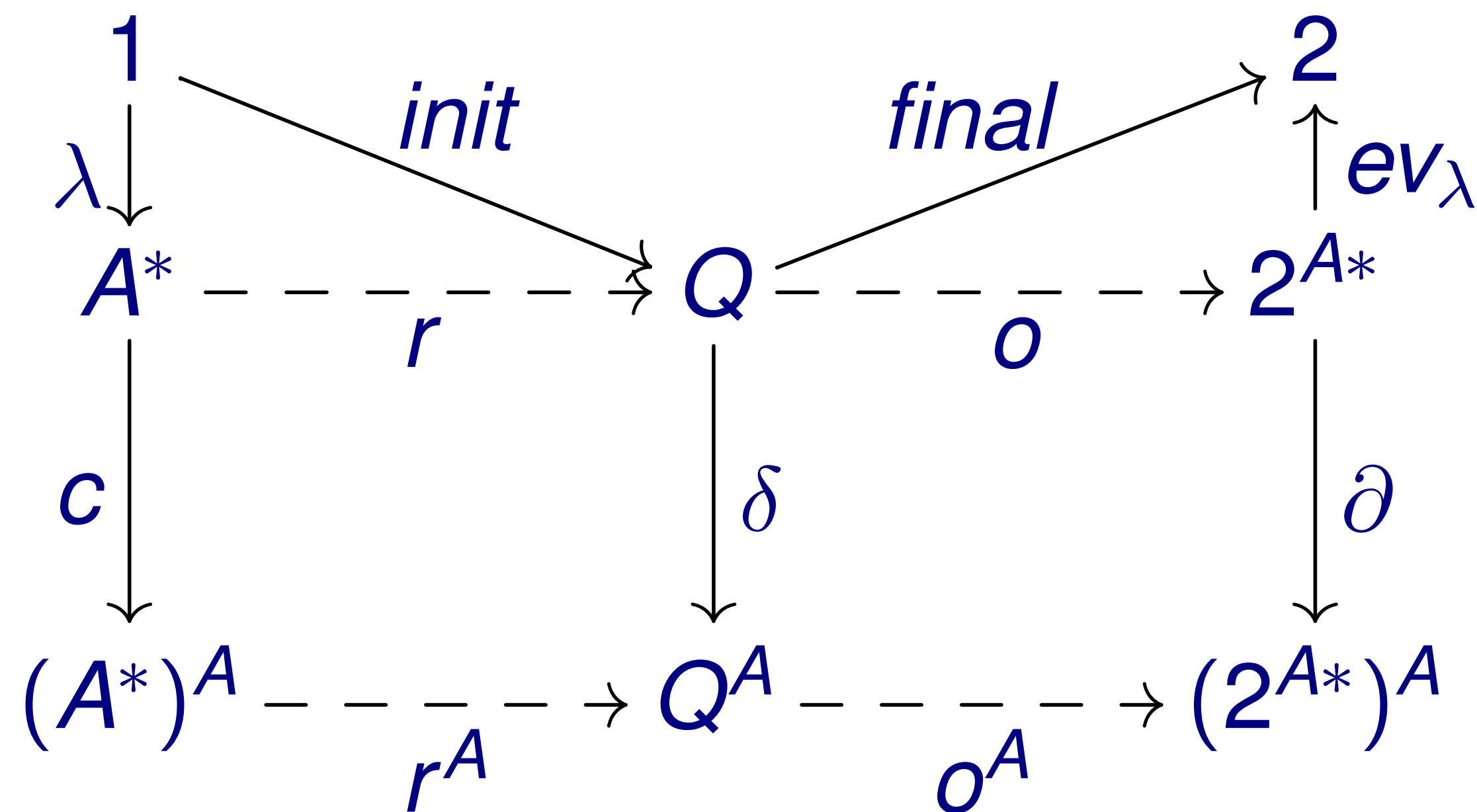
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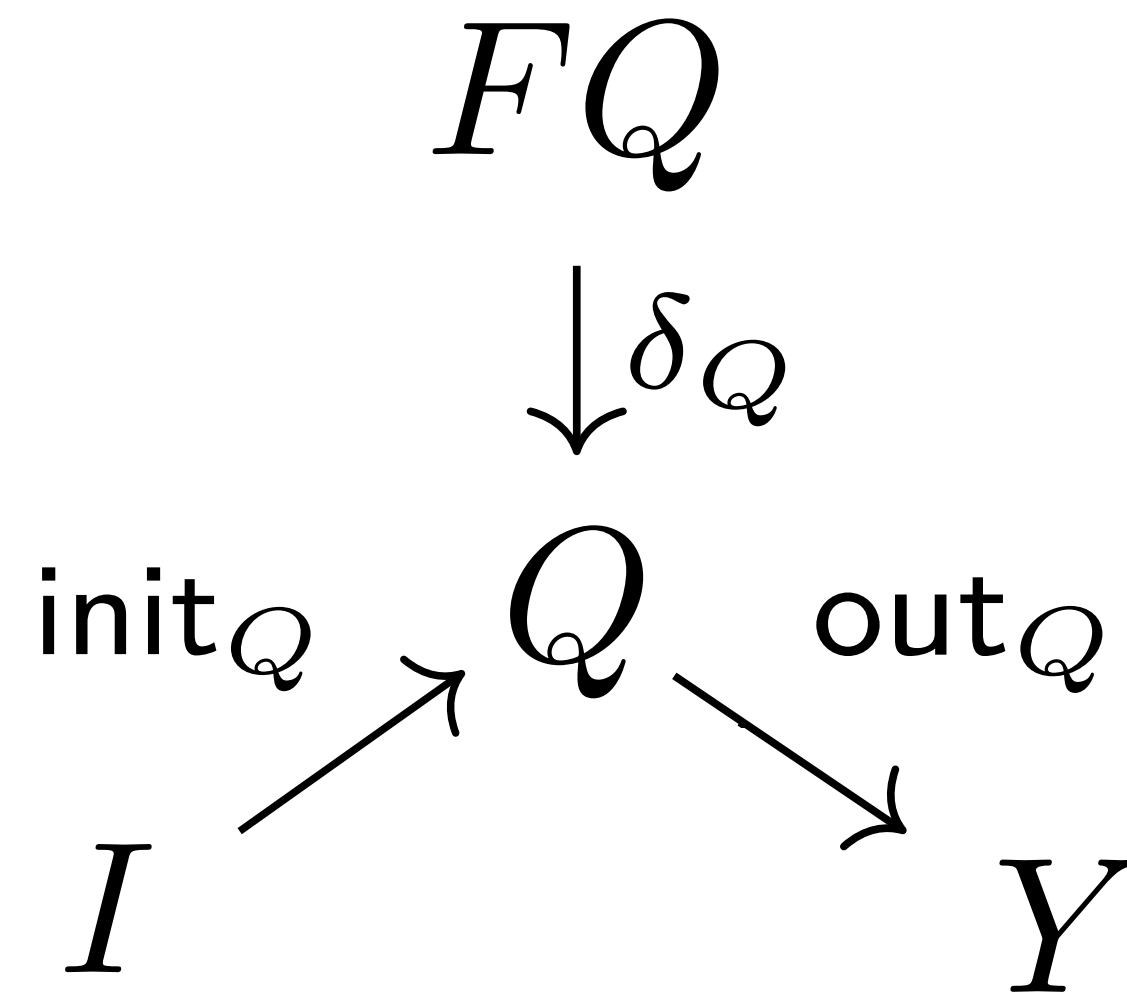
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Abstract automata

Category \mathbf{C} = universe of state-spaces

Endofunctor $F : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ = automaton type



Abstract automata

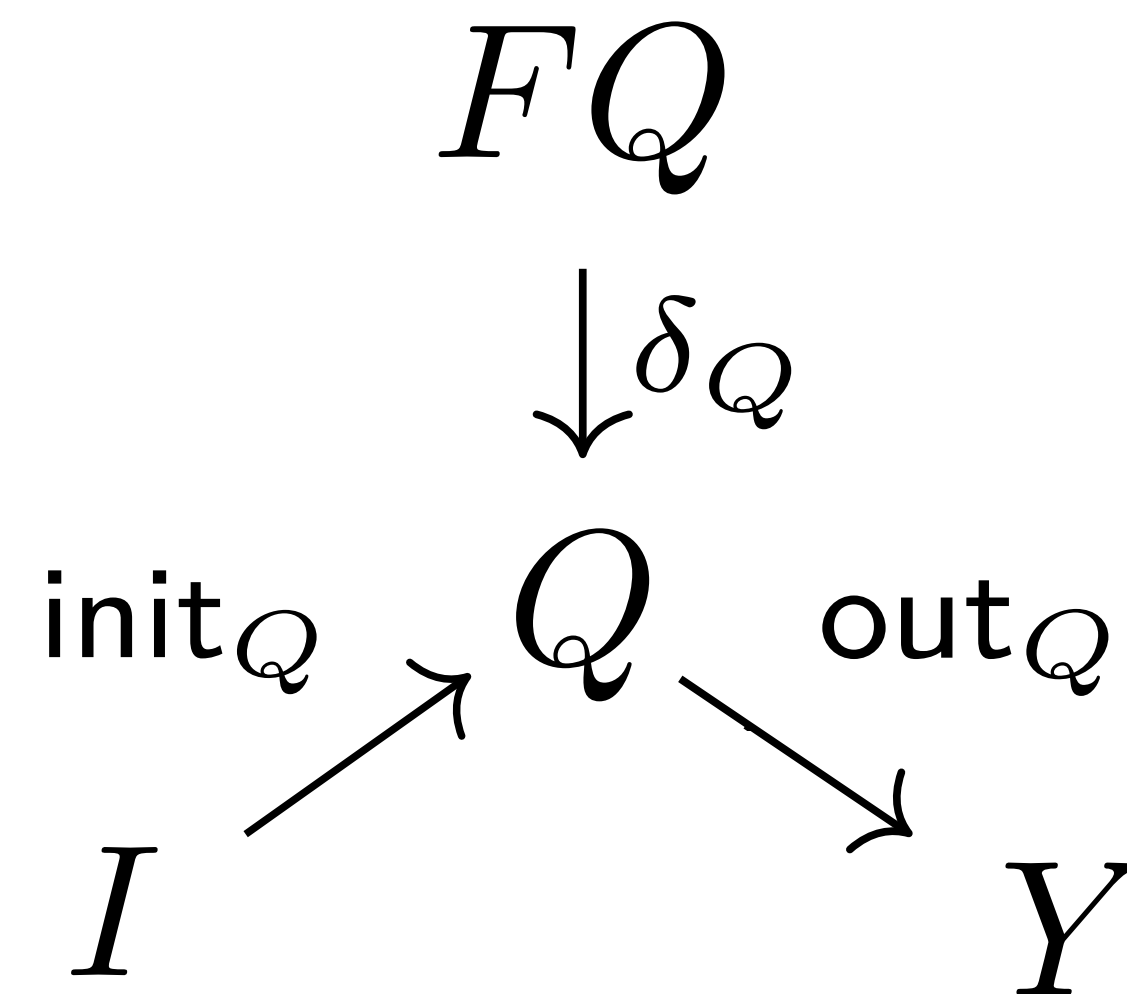
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Abstract automata

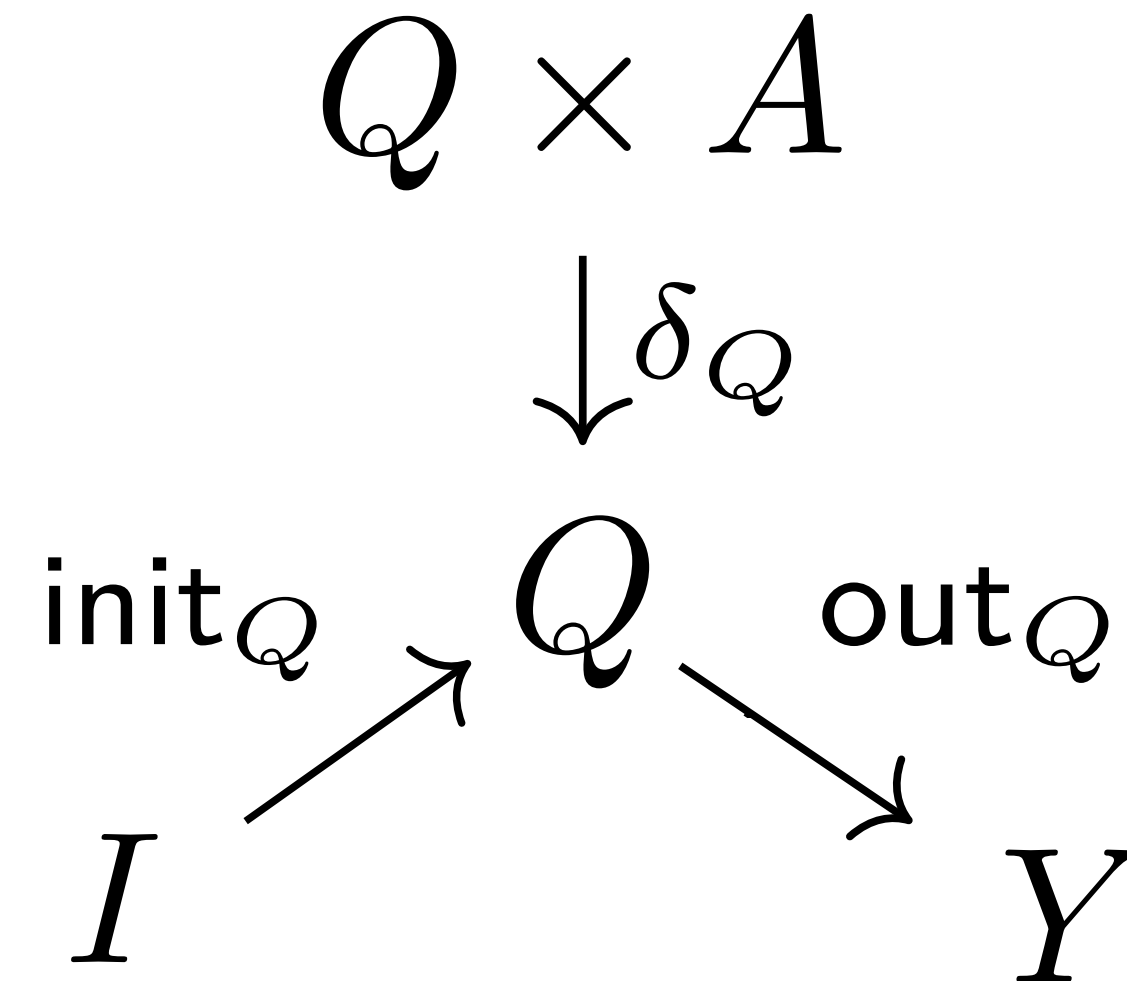
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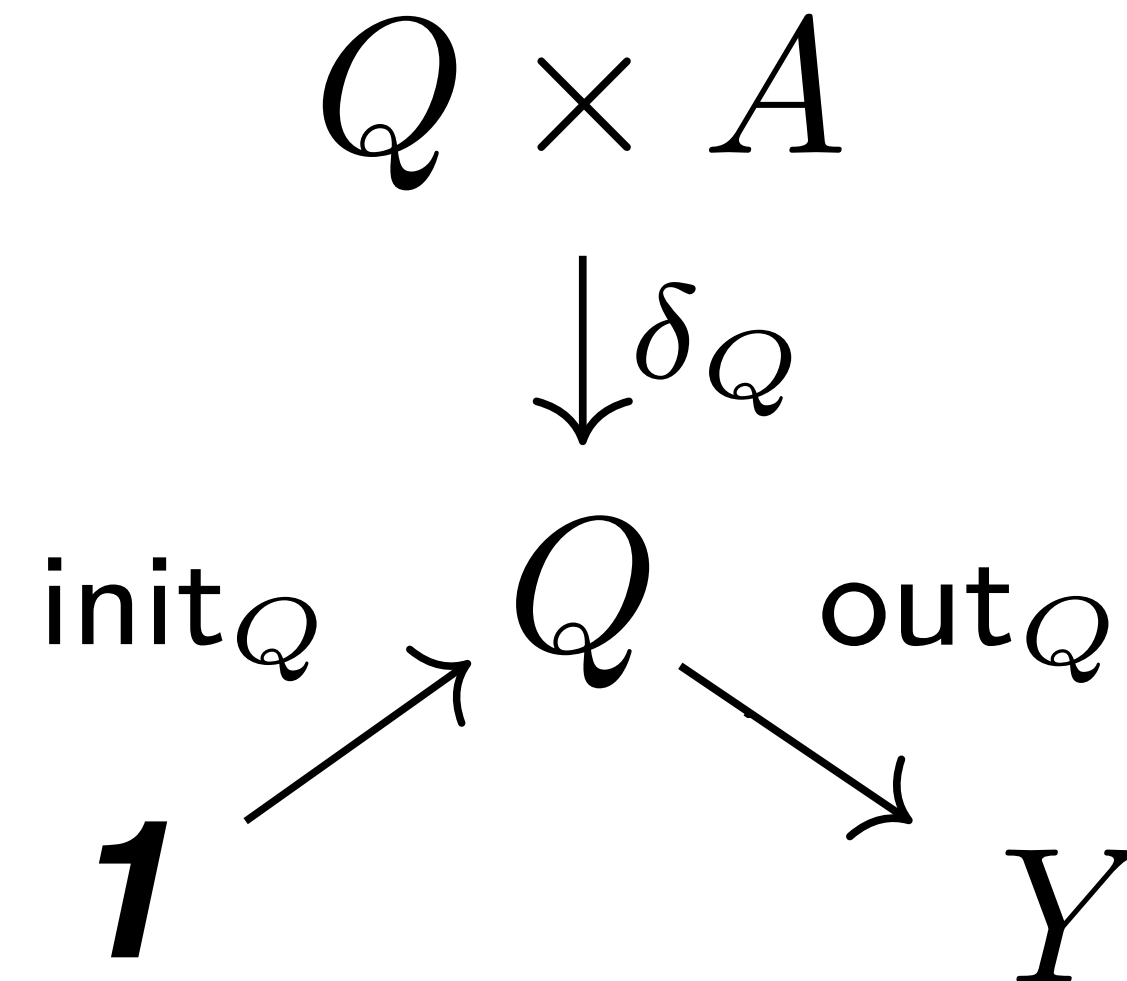
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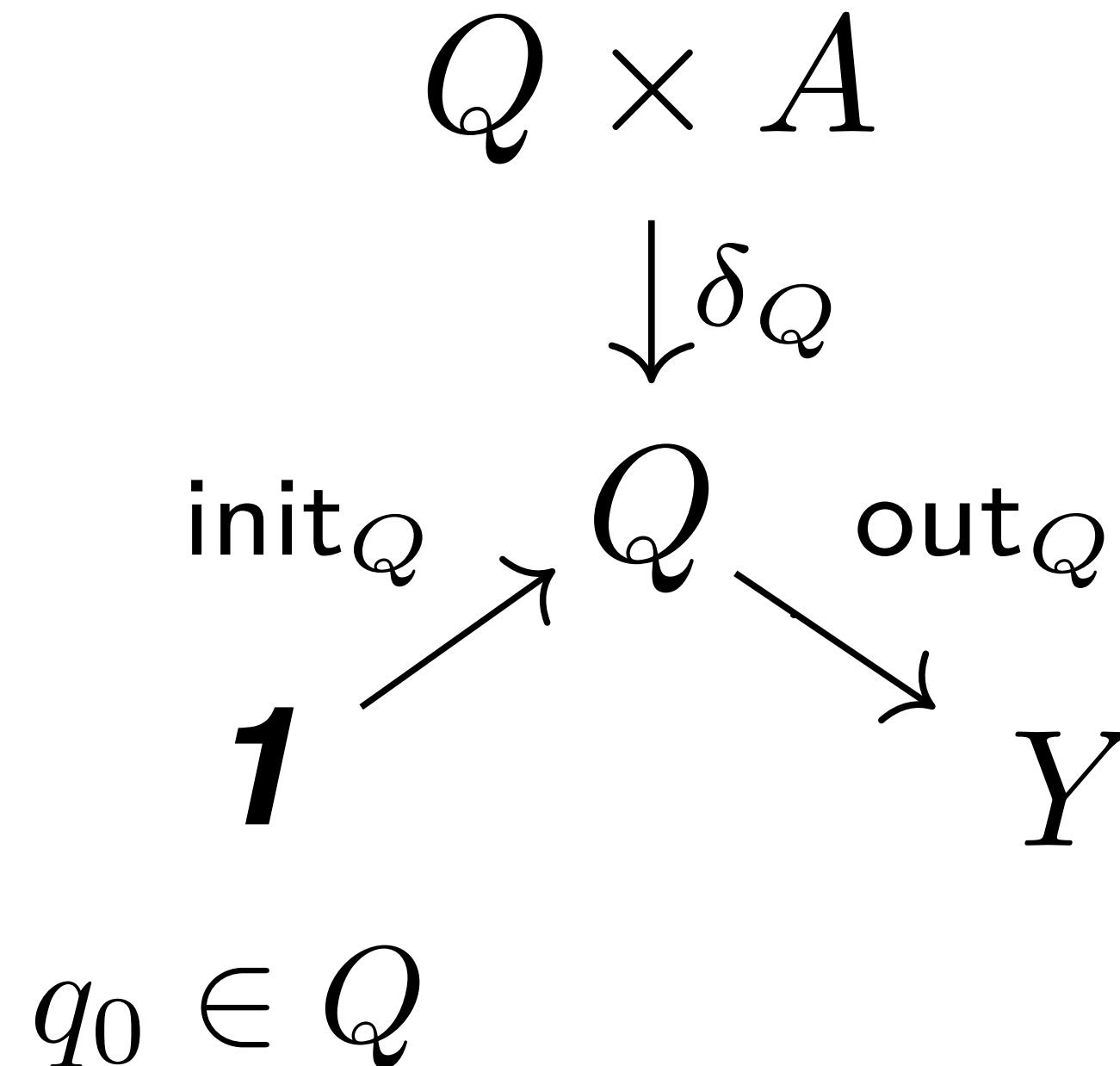
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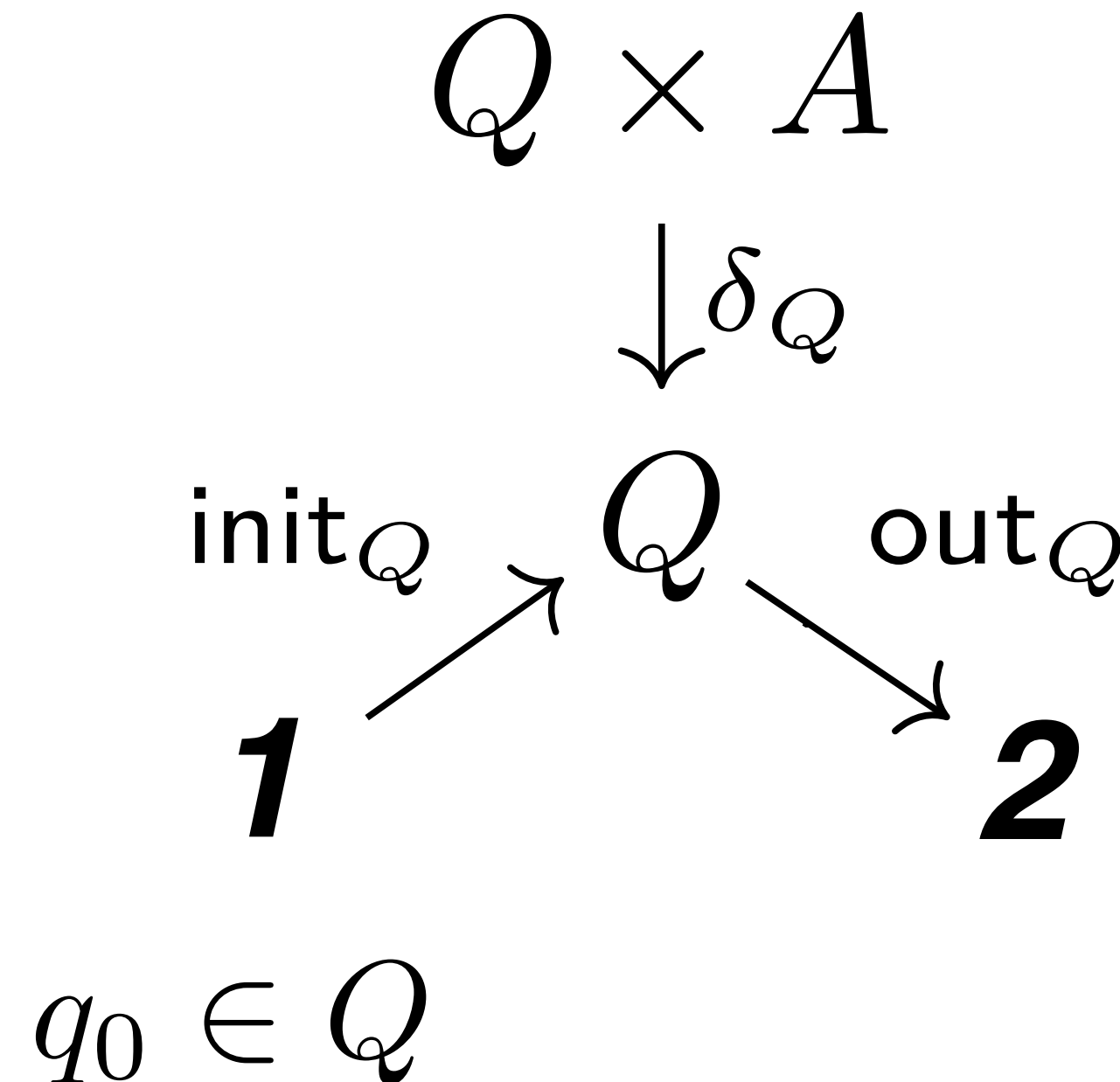
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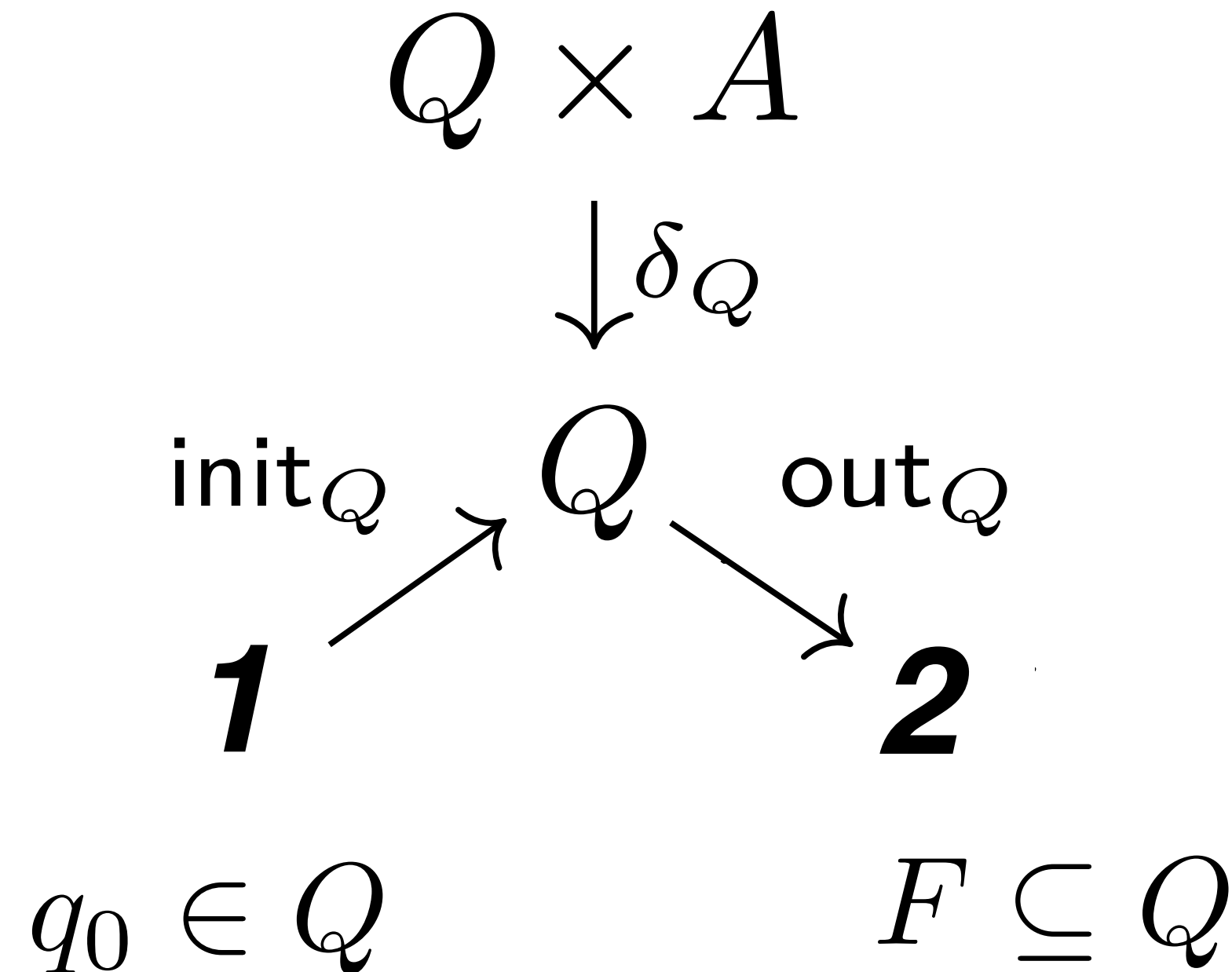
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Abstract learning

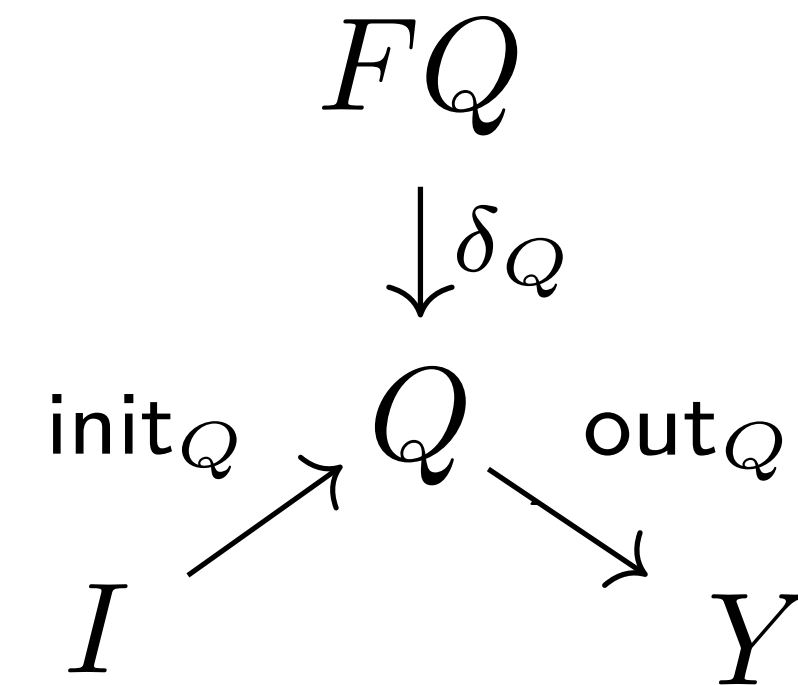
**Abstract observation data
structure**

Abstract learning

**Abstract observation data
structure**

approximates

Target minimal automaton

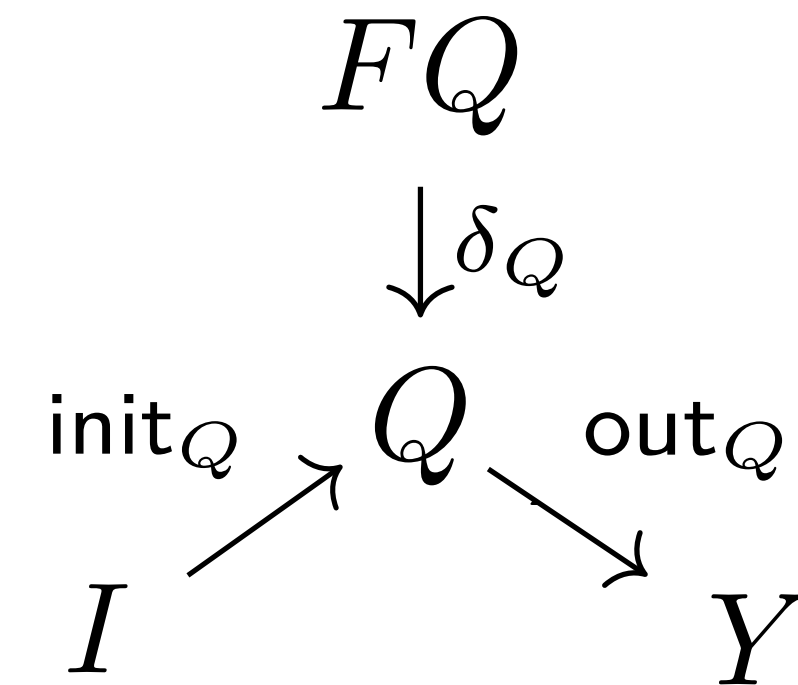


Abstract learning

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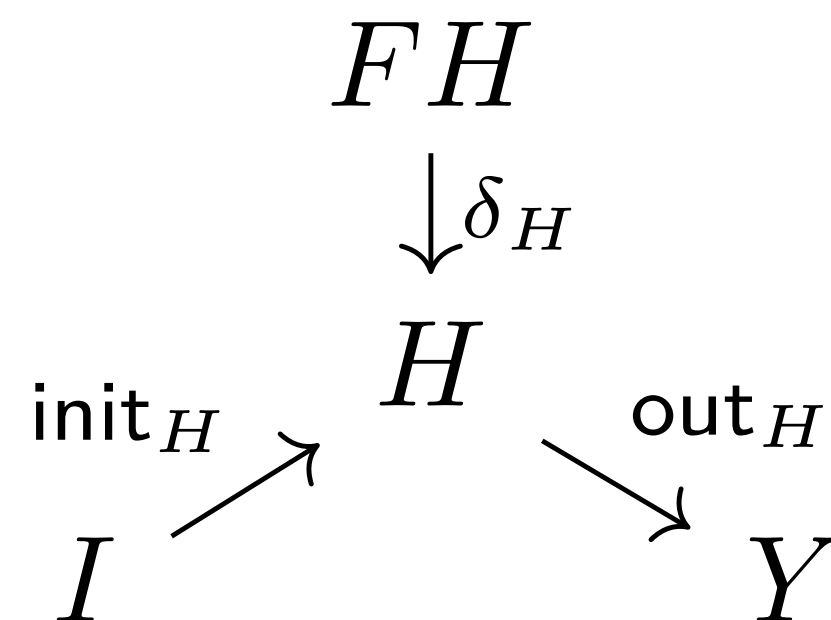
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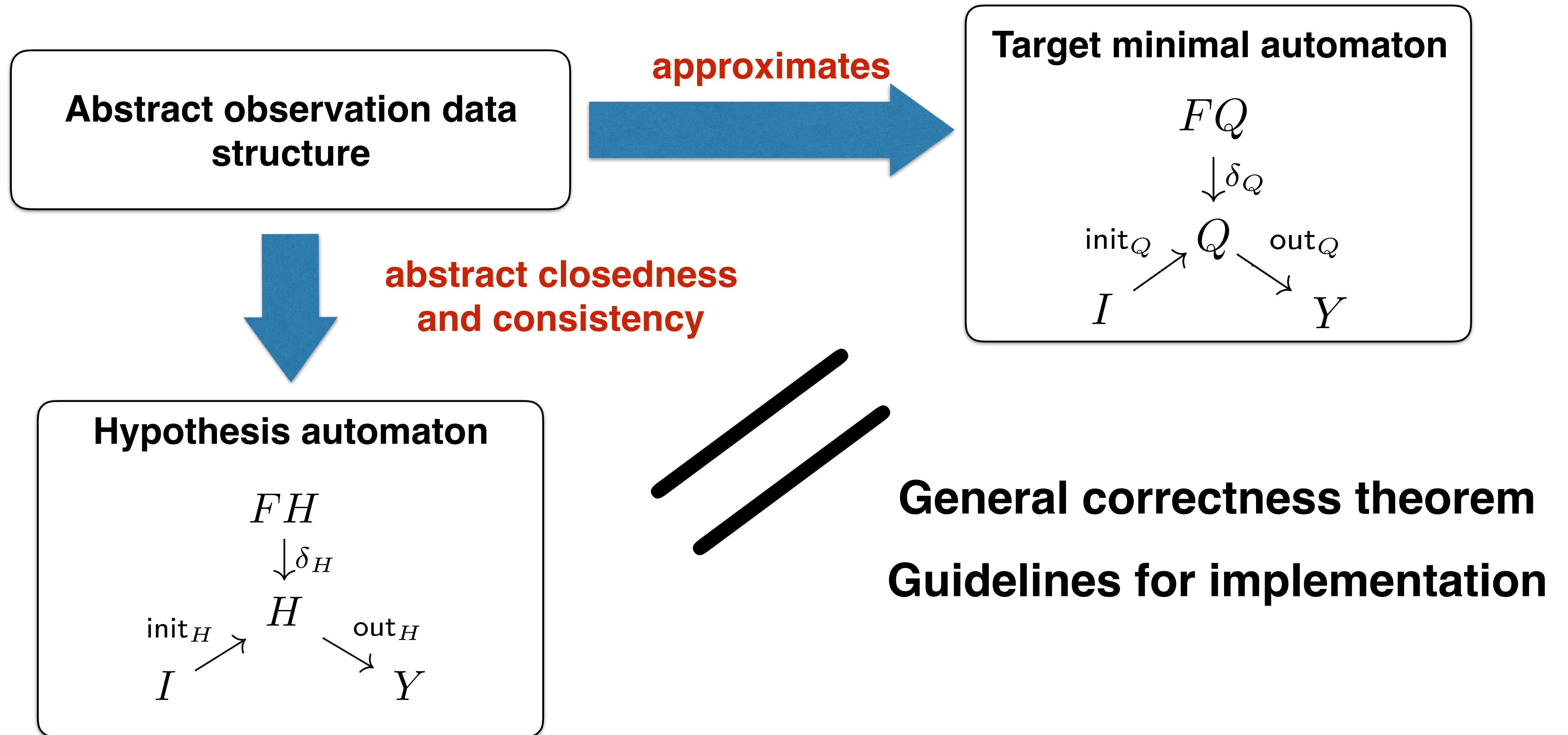


abstract closedness
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Hypothesis automaton



Abstract learning

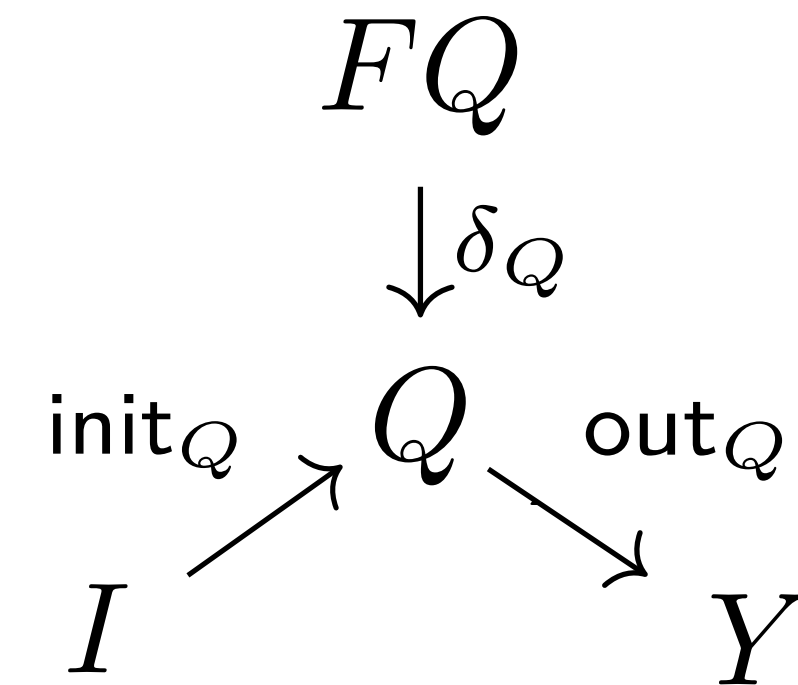


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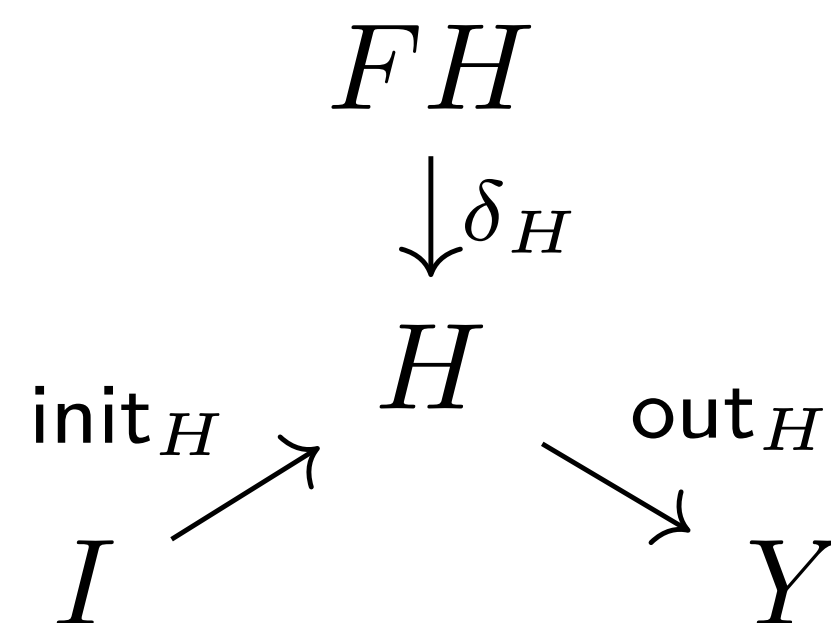
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Hypothesis automaton



General correctness theorem
Guidelines for implementation

CALF: Categorical Automata Learning Framework ([arXiv:1704.05676](https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.05676))

Gerco van Heerdt, Matteo Sammartino, Alexandra Silva

Other automata & optimizations

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Change base category

Set	DFAs
Nom	Nominal automata
Vect	Weighted automata

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Side-effects (via monads)

Powerset	NFAs
Powerset with intersection	Universal automata
Double powerset	Alternating automata
Maybe monad	Partial automata

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Change main data structure

Observation tables
Discrimination trees

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Learning Nominal Automata (POPL '17)

Joshua Moerman, Matteo Sammartino, Alexandra Silva, Bartek Klin, Michal Szynwelski

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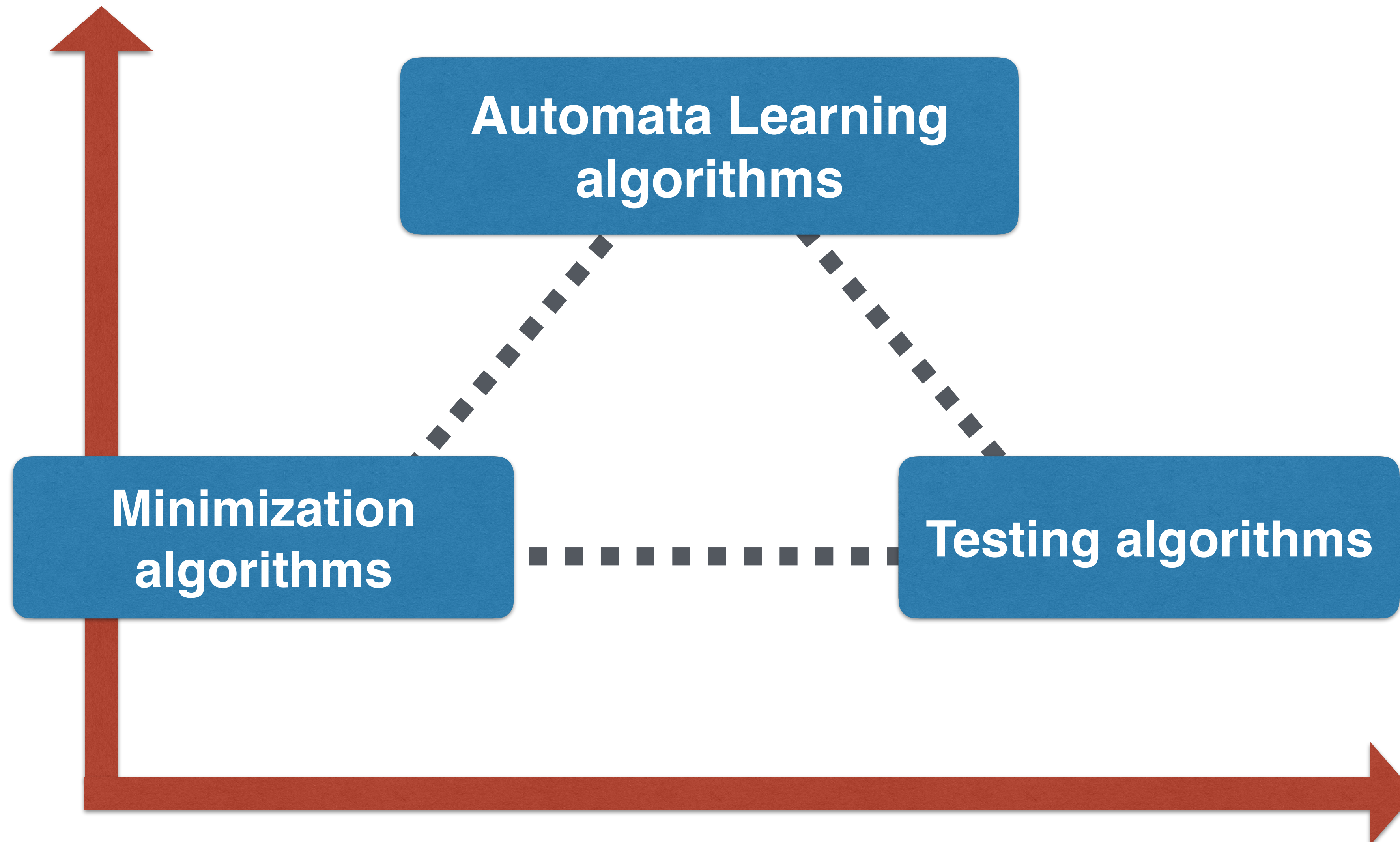
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Connections with other algorithms

Automaton type

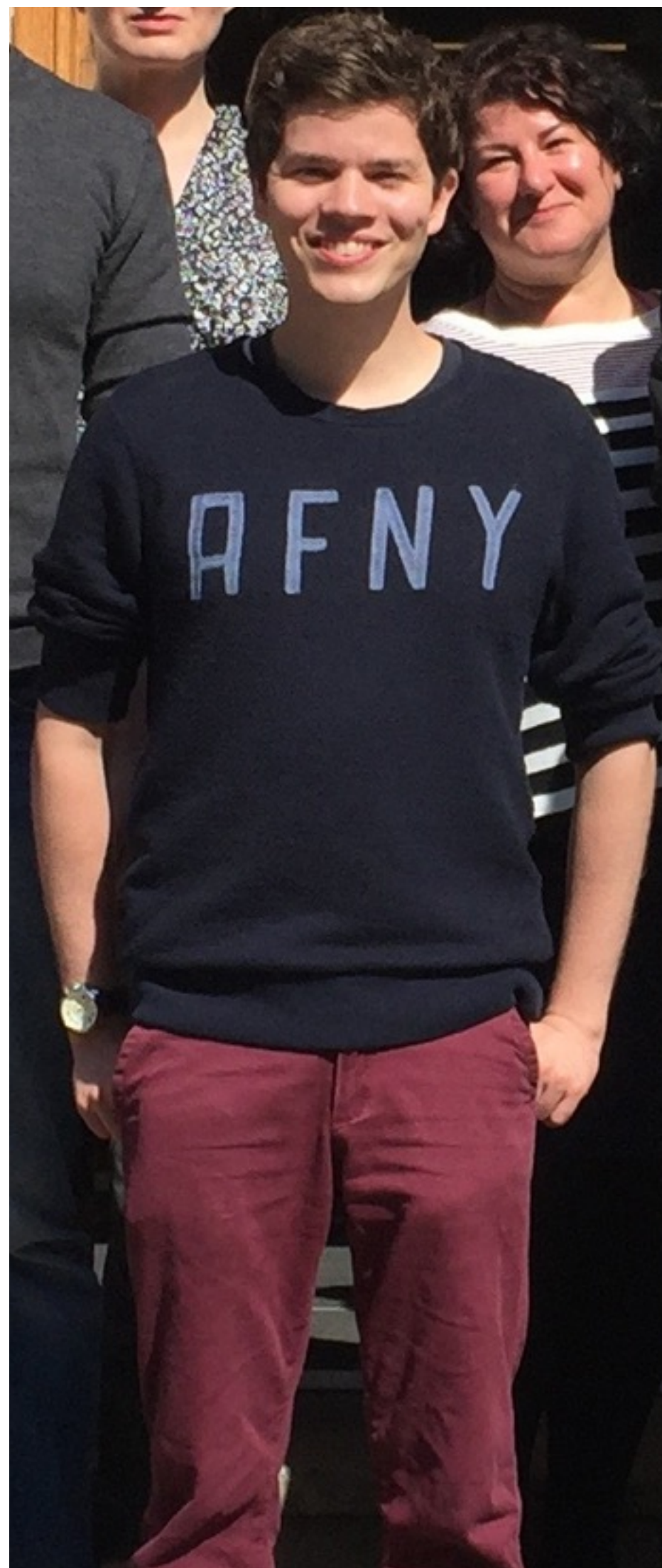


Optimizations

Ongoing and future work

- **Library & tool** to learn control + data-flow models (as **nominal automata**)
- Applications:
 - Specification mining
 - Network verification, with 
 - Verification of cryptographic protocols
 - Ransomware detection

Ongoing and future work



Learning convex automata

Rich algebraic structure

**Challenging
analytical properties**

Conclusions

Category theory is a good playground to understand and generalise algorithms

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Unveils connections and sets the scene

—

No free lunch

Questions?

