

# PDAs Accept Context-Free Languages

# Theorem:

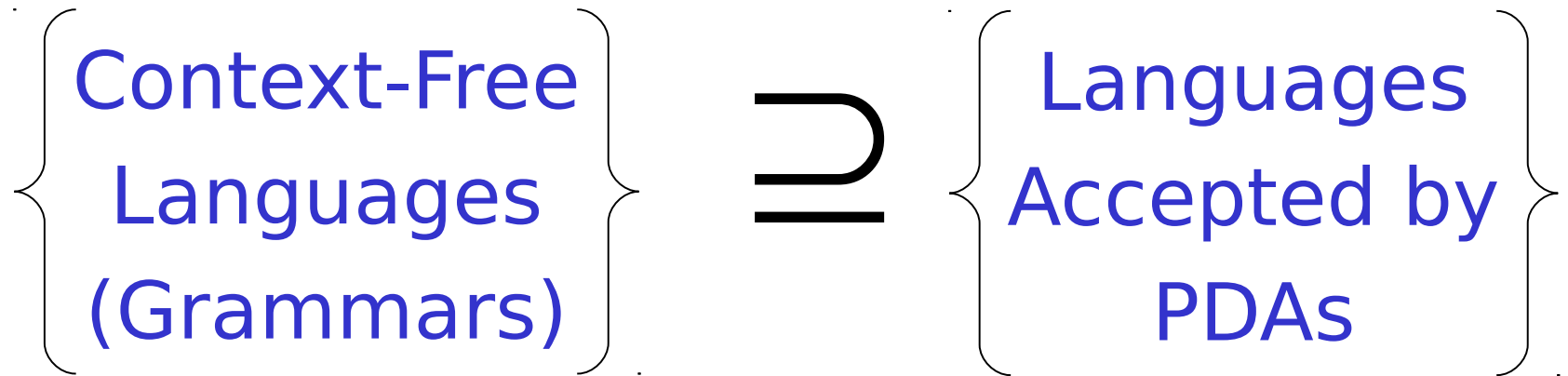
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Context-Free} \\ \text{Languages} \\ \text{(Grammars)} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Languages} \\ \text{Accepted by} \\ \text{PDAs} \end{array} \right\}$$

## Proof - Step 1:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Context-Free} \\ \text{Languages} \\ \text{(Grammars)} \end{array} \right\} \subseteq \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Languages} \\ \text{Accepted by} \\ \text{PDAs} \end{array} \right\}$$

Convert any context-free grammar  $G$   
to a PDA  $M$  with:  $L(G) = L(M)$

## Proof - Step 2:



Convert any PDA  $M$  to a context-free grammar  $G$  with:  $L(G) = L(M)$

# Proof - step 1

*Convert*

Context-Free Grammars  
to  
PDAs

Take an arbitrary context-free grammar  $G$

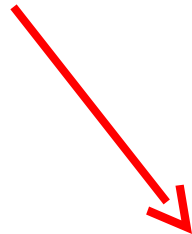
We will convert  $G$  to a PDA  $M$  such that:

$$L(G) = L(M)$$

# Conversion Procedure:

For each production in  $G$

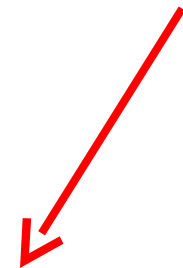
$$A \rightarrow w$$



$$\epsilon, A \rightarrow w$$

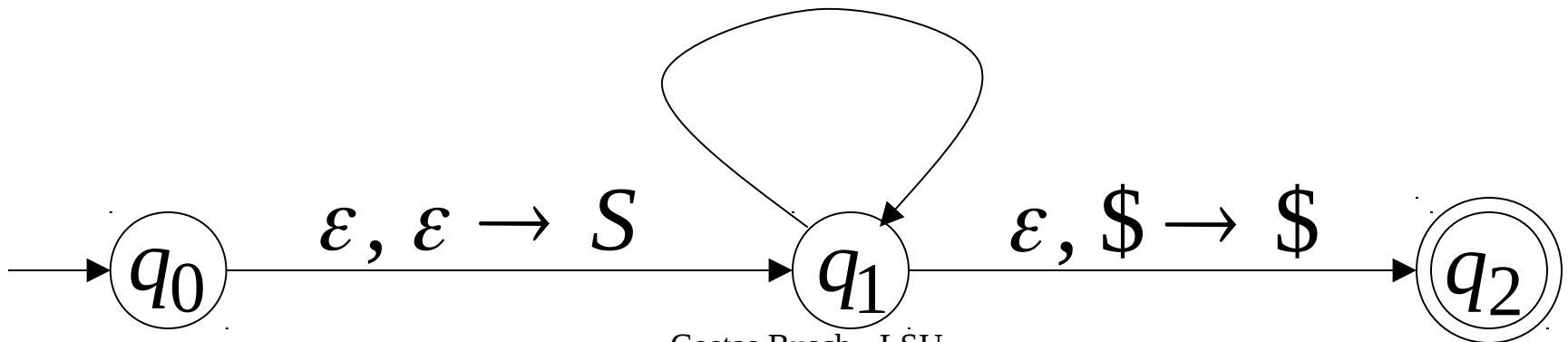
For each terminal in  $G$

$a$



$$a, a \rightarrow \epsilon$$

Add transitions



# Example

## Grammar

$S \rightarrow aSTb$

$S \rightarrow b$

$T \rightarrow Ta$

$T \rightarrow \varepsilon$

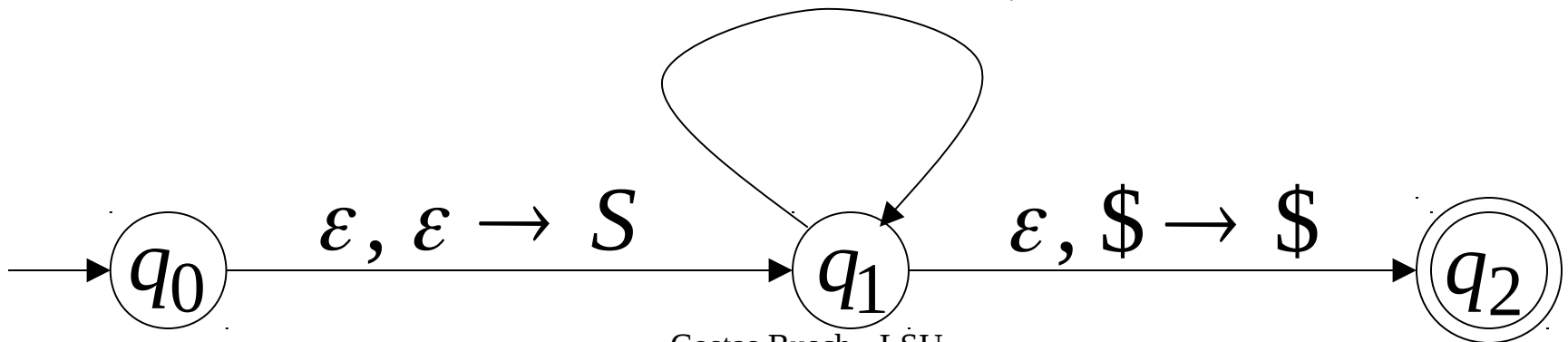
## PDA

$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$

$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$        $a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon$        $b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$





# PDA simulates leftmost derivations

## Grammar Leftmost Derivation

$S$   
 $\Rightarrow \dots$   
 $\Rightarrow \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k X_1 \cdots X_m$   
 $\Rightarrow \dots$   
 $\Rightarrow \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n$

## PDA Computation

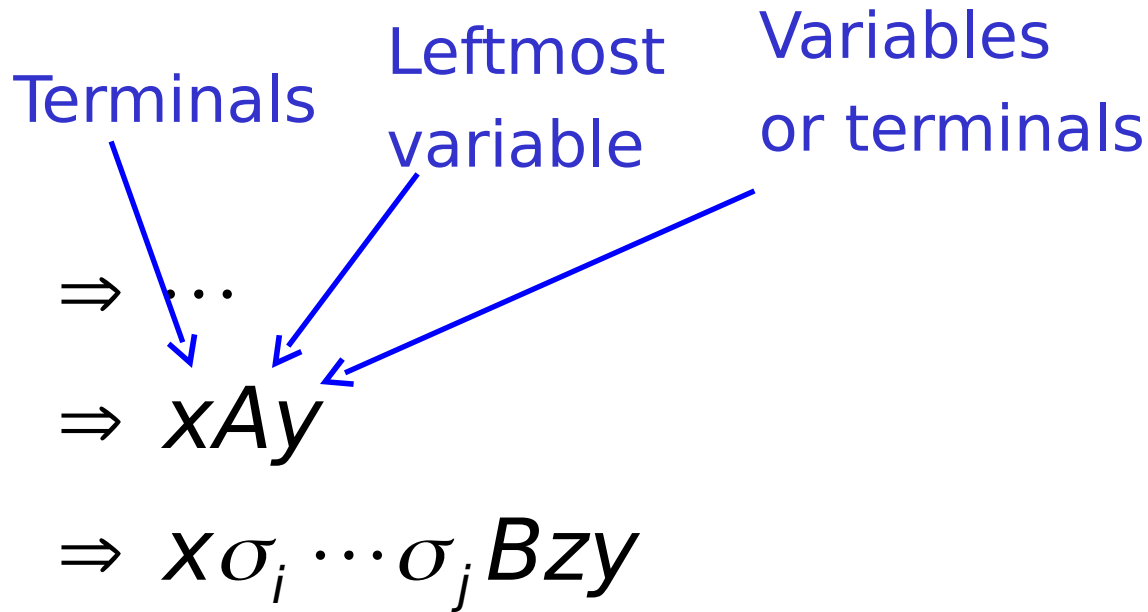
$(q_0, \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \$)$   
 $\succ (q_1, \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, S\$)$   
 $\succ \dots$   
 $\succ (q_1, \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, X_1 \cdots X_m \$)$   
 $\succ \dots$   
 $\succ (q_2, \varepsilon, \$)$

Scanned  
symbols

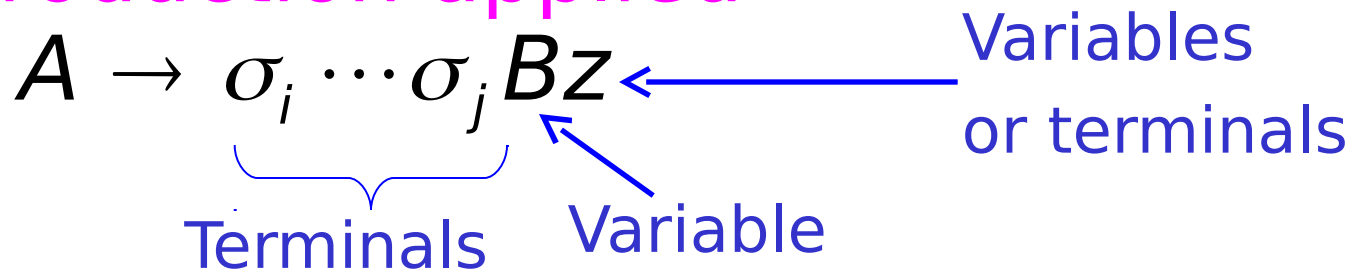
Stack  
contents

# Grammar

## Leftmost Derivation



## Production applied



# Grammar

## Leftmost Derivation

$\Rightarrow \dots$

$\Rightarrow xAy$

$\Rightarrow x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$

## Production applied

$A \rightarrow \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bz$

# PDA Computation

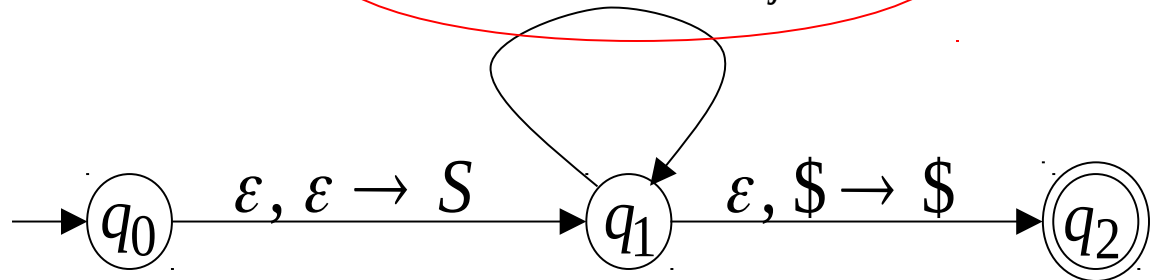
$\succ \dots$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, Ay \$)$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy \$)$

## Transition applied

$\varepsilon, A \rightarrow \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bz$



# Grammar

## Leftmost Derivation

$\Rightarrow \dots$

$\Rightarrow xAy$

$\Rightarrow x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$

Read  $\sigma_i$  from input  
and remove it from stack

# PDA Computation

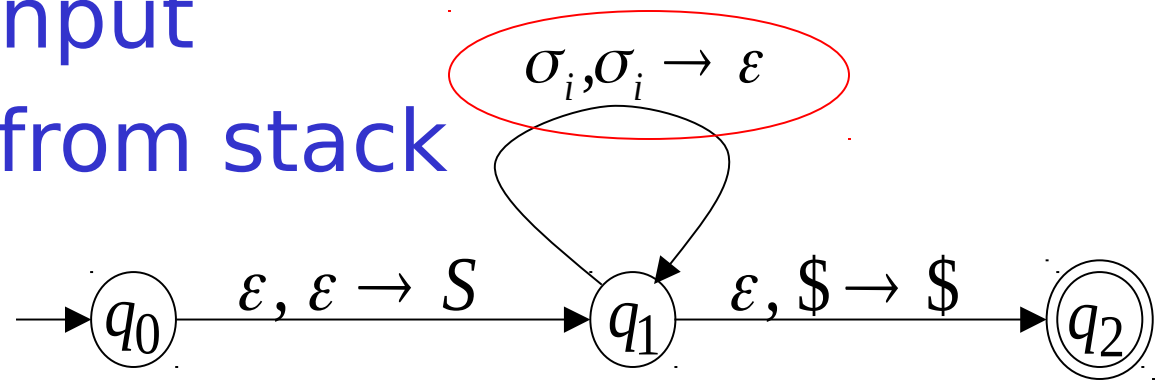
$\succ \dots$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, Ay \$)$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy \$)$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_j Bzy \$)$

Transition applied



# Grammar

## Leftmost Derivation

$\Rightarrow \dots$

$\Rightarrow xAy$

$\Rightarrow x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$

All symbols  $\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j$   
have been removed  
from top of stack

## PDA Computation

$\succ \dots$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, Ay \$)$

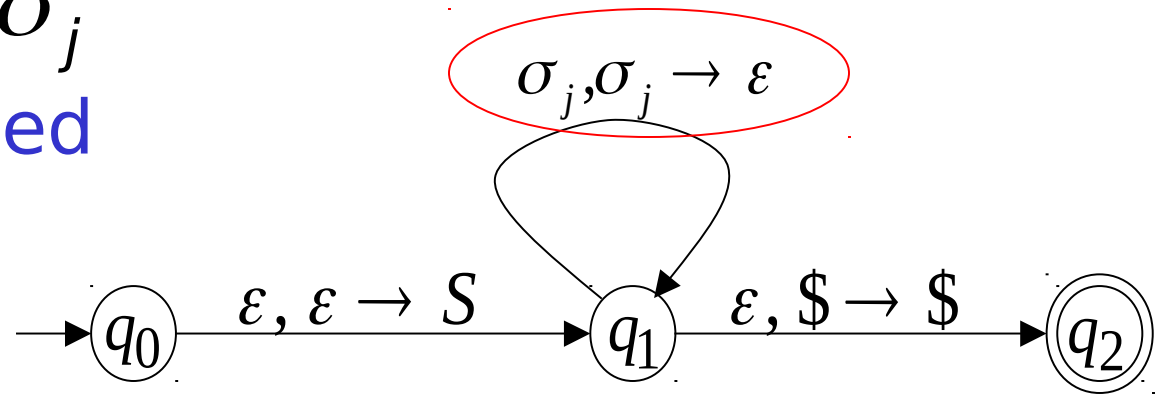
$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy \$)$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_j Bzy \$)$

$\succ \dots$

$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_n, Bzy \$)$

Last Transition applied



The process repeats with the next leftmost variable

⇒ ...

⇒  $xAy$

⇒  $x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$

⇒  $x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_k Cpzy$

> ...

>  $(q_1, \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_n, Bzy\$)$

>  $(q_1, \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_k Cpzy\$)$

> ...

>  $(q_1, \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, Cpzy\$)$

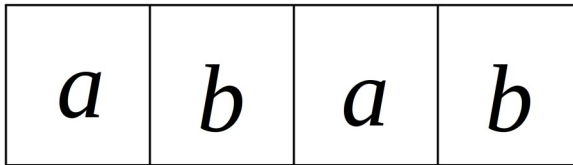
Production applied

$B \rightarrow \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_k Cp$

And so on.....

# Example:

Input



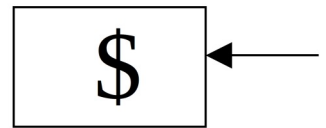
Time 0

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

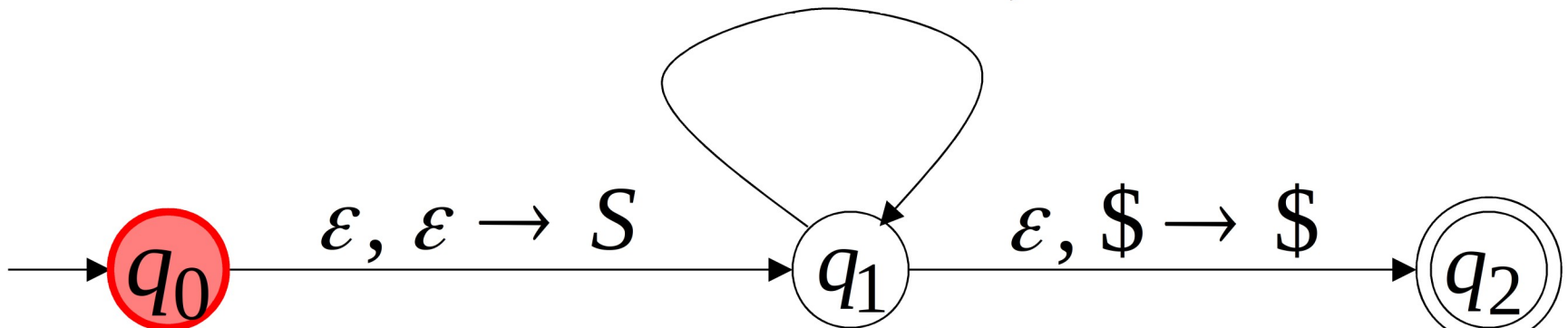
$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta \quad a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon \quad b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

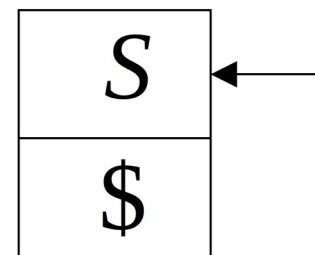
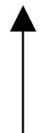
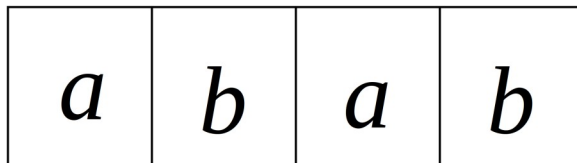


Stack



# Derivation: $S$

Input



Time 1

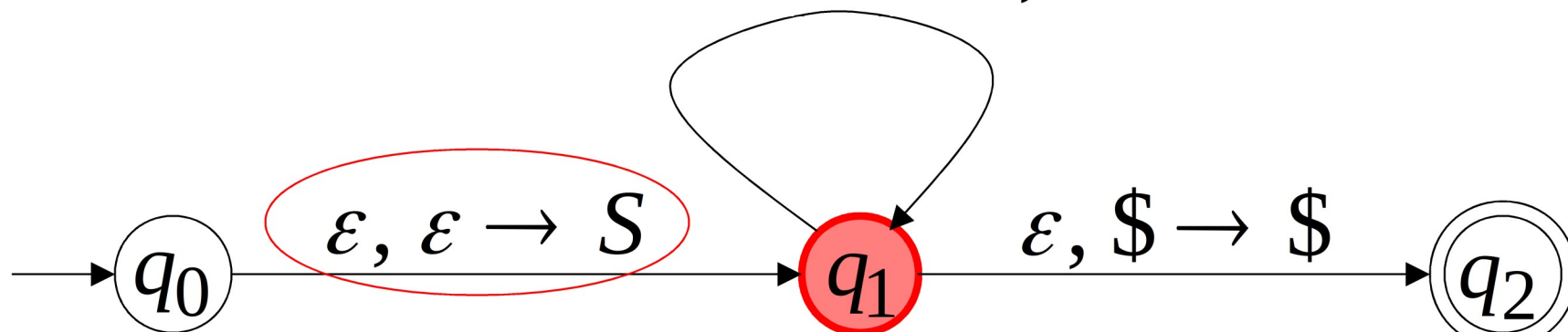
$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta \quad a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon \quad b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

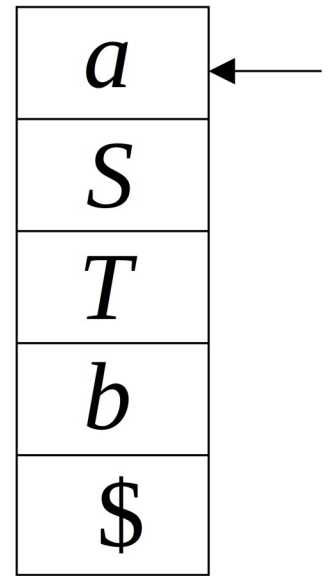
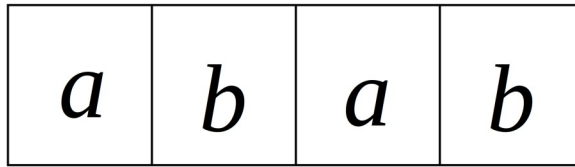
Stack





# Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb$

Input



Time 2

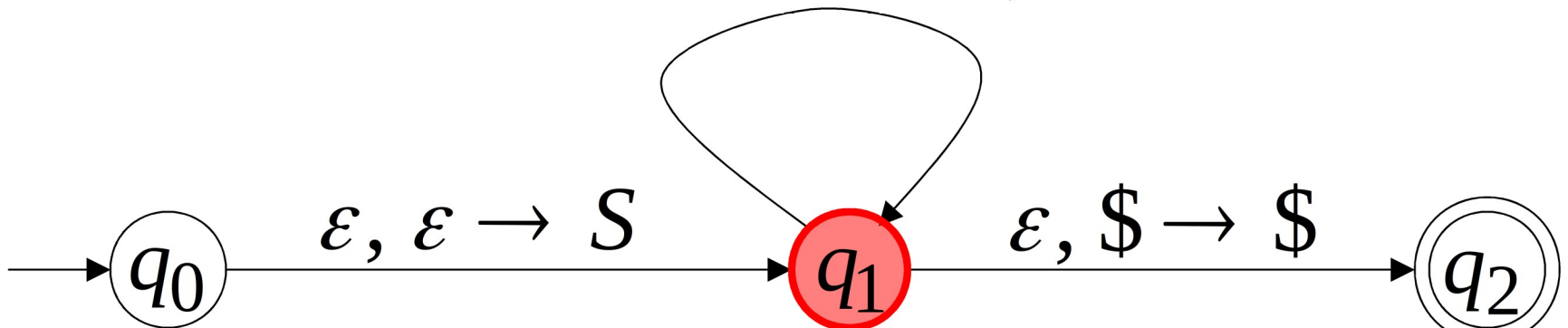
$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta \quad a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

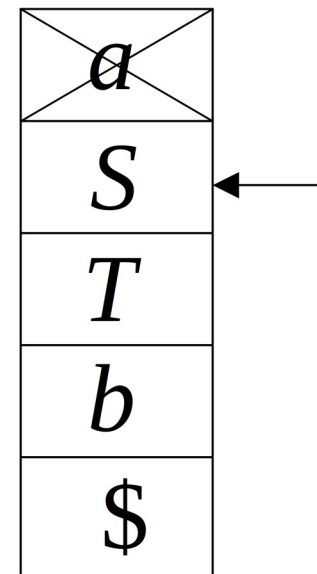
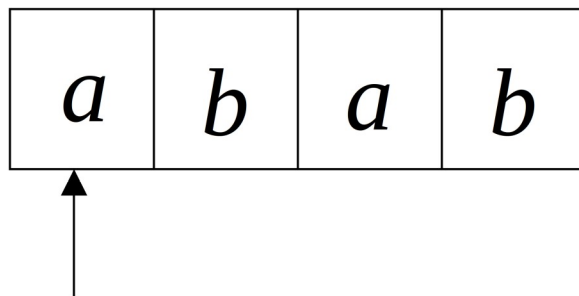
$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon \quad b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

Stack



# Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb$

Input



Time 3

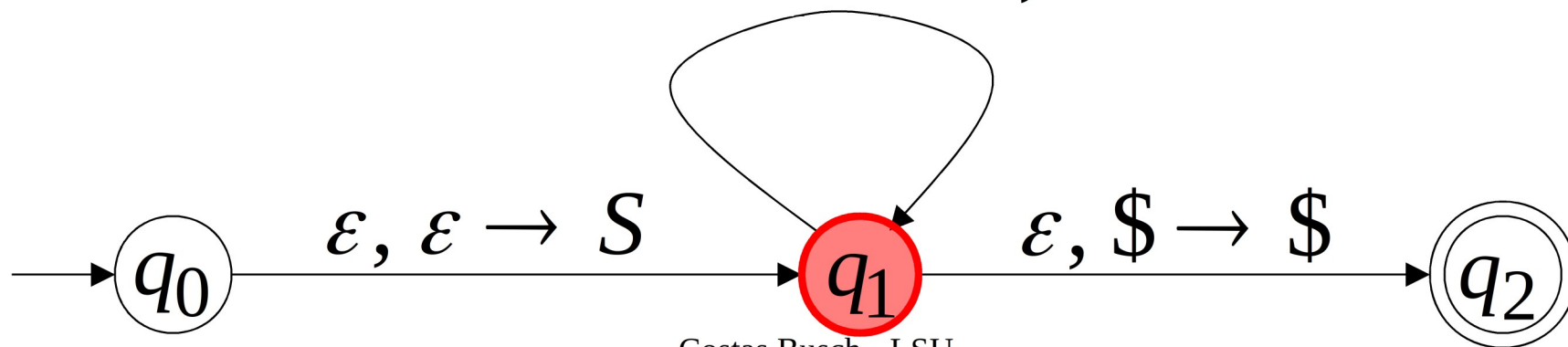
$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta \quad a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

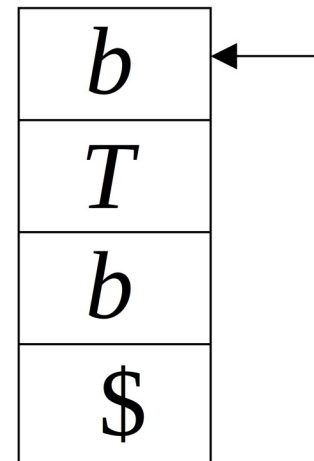
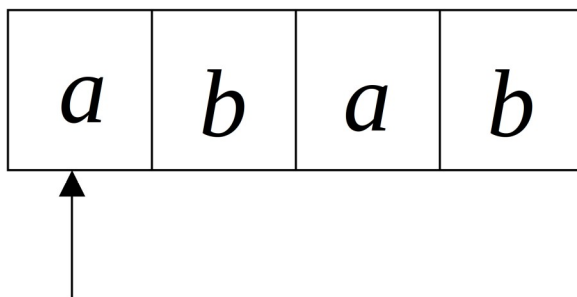
$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon \quad b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

Stack



# Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb$

Input



Time 4

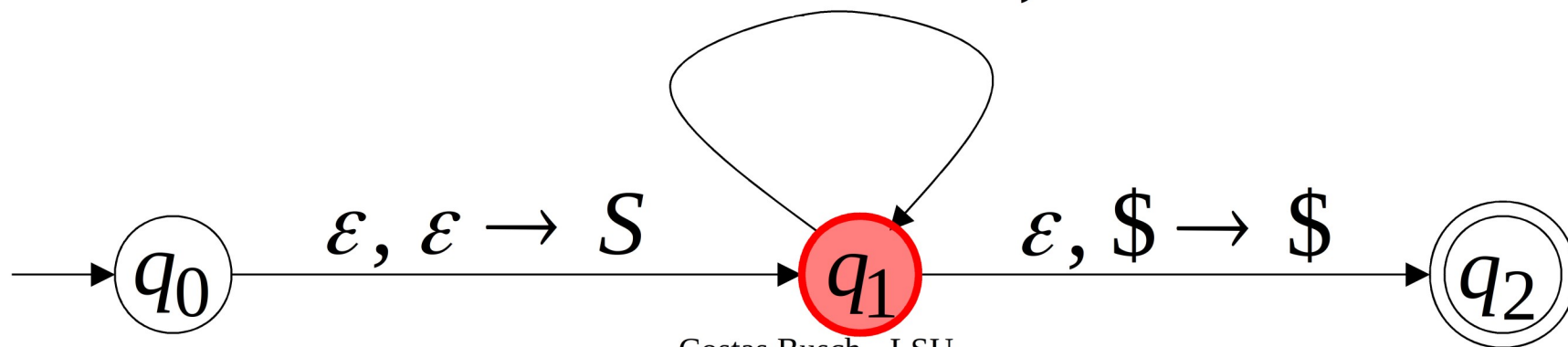
$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta \quad a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

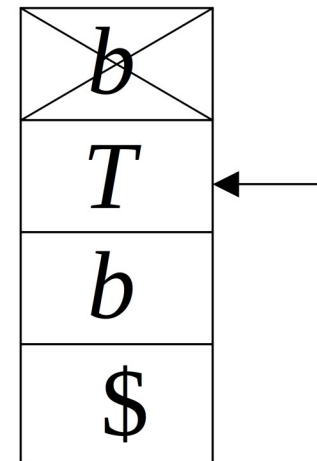
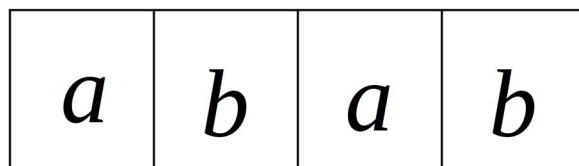
$$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon \quad b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

Stack



Derivation:  $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb$

Input



Time 5

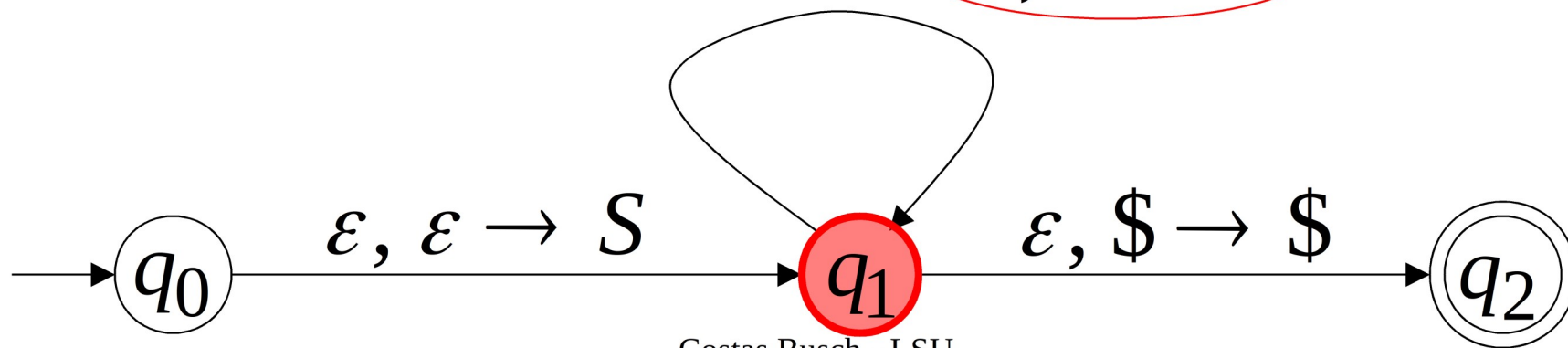
$\epsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

$\epsilon, S \rightarrow b$

$\epsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$        $a, a \rightarrow \epsilon$

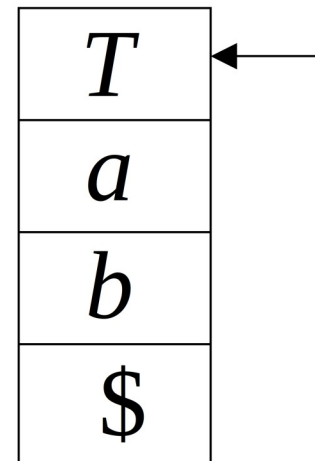
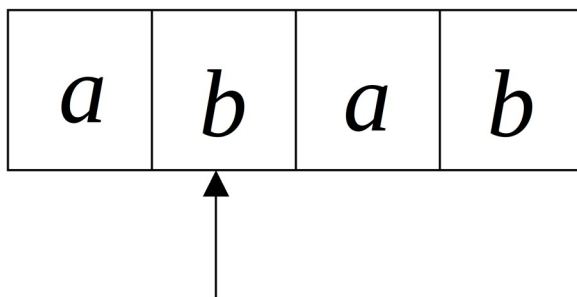
$\epsilon, T \rightarrow \epsilon$        $b, b \rightarrow \epsilon$

Stack



Derivation:  $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb \Rightarrow abTab$

Input



Time 6

$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$

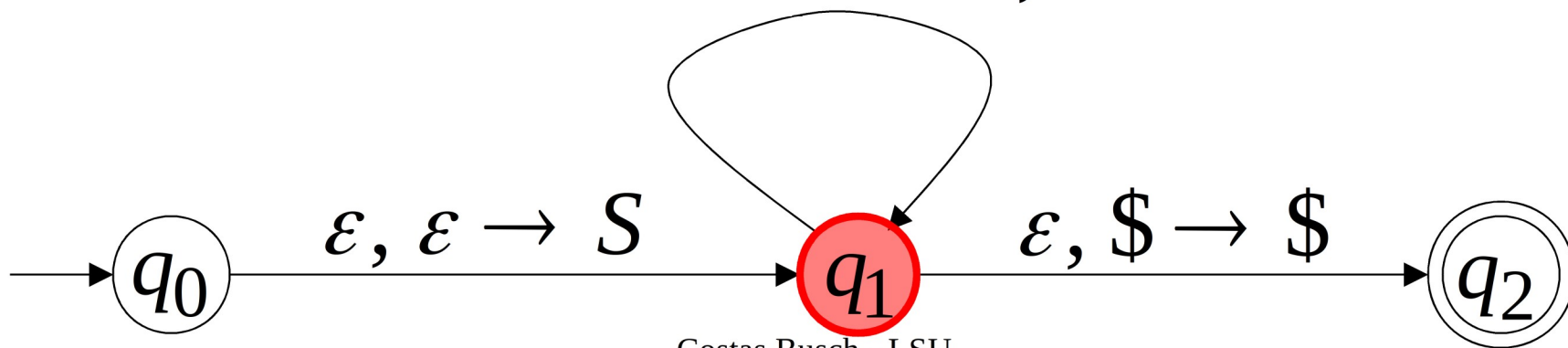
$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$

$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$\varepsilon, T \rightarrow \varepsilon$

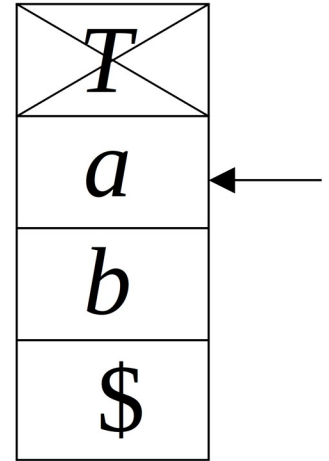
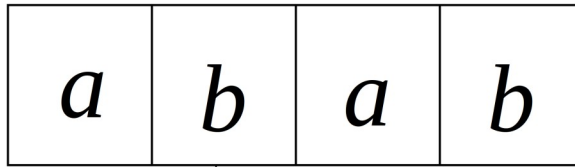
$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$

Stack



Derivation:  $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb \Rightarrow abTab \Rightarrow abab$

Input



Time 7

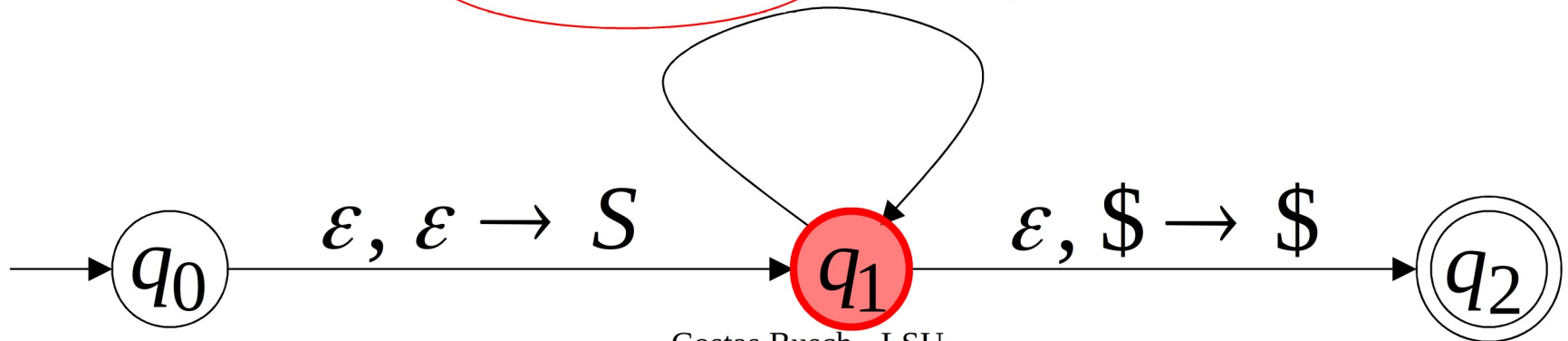
$\epsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

$\epsilon, S \rightarrow b$

$\epsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$        $a, a \rightarrow \epsilon$

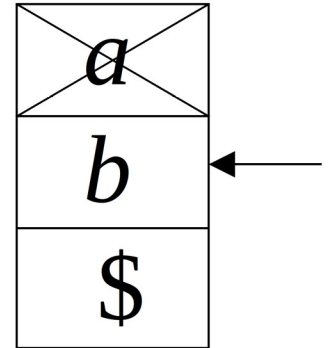
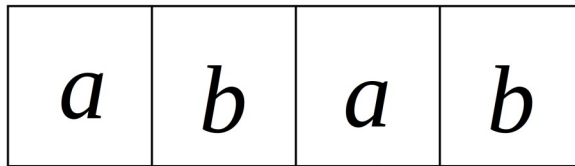
$\epsilon, T \rightarrow \epsilon$        $b, b \rightarrow \epsilon$

Stack



Derivation:  $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb \Rightarrow abTab \Rightarrow abab$

Input



Time 8

$\epsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

$\epsilon, S \rightarrow b$

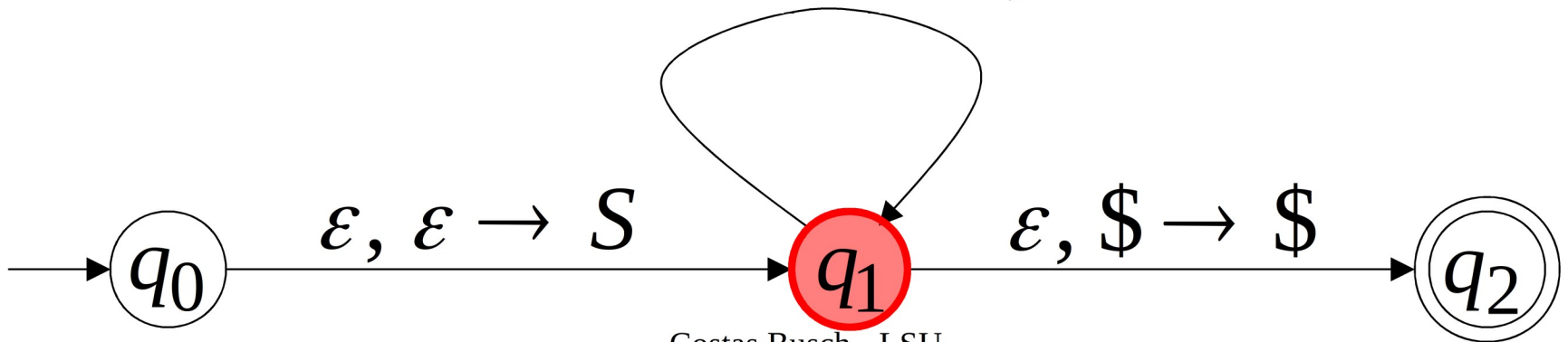
$\epsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$

$a, a \rightarrow \epsilon$

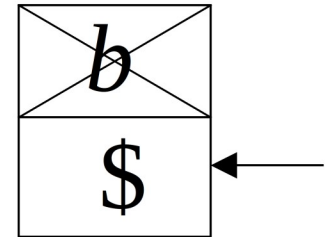
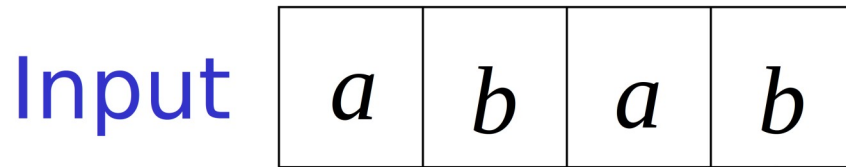
$\epsilon, T \rightarrow \epsilon$

$b, b \rightarrow \epsilon$

Stack



Derivation:  $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb \Rightarrow abTab \Rightarrow abab$



Time 9

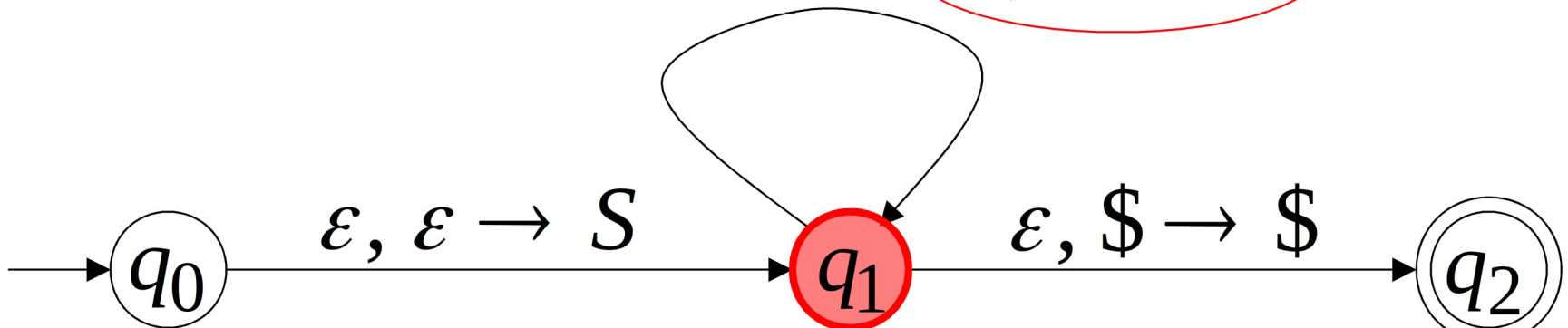
$\epsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

$\epsilon, S \rightarrow b$

$\epsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$        $a, a \rightarrow \epsilon$

$\epsilon, T \rightarrow \epsilon$        $b, b \rightarrow \epsilon$

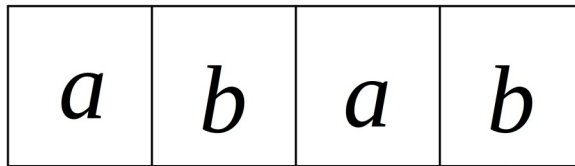
Stack





Derivation:  $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb \Rightarrow abTab \Rightarrow abab$

Input



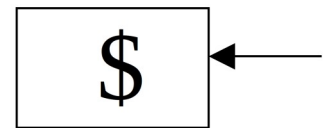
Time 10

$\epsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$

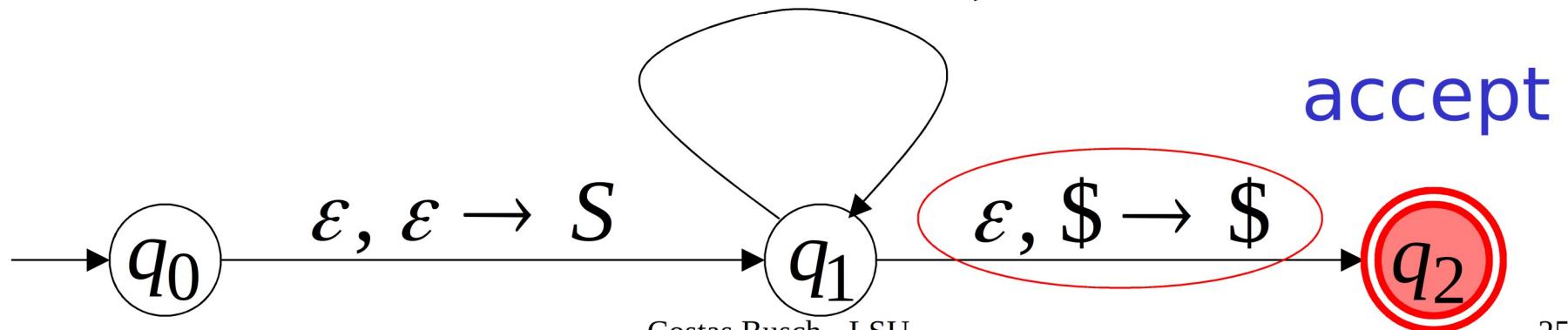
$\epsilon, S \rightarrow b$

$\epsilon, T \rightarrow Ta$        $a, a \rightarrow \epsilon$

$\epsilon, T \rightarrow \epsilon$        $b, b \rightarrow \epsilon$



Stack



# Grammar

## Leftmost Derivation

$S$

$\Rightarrow aSTb$

$\Rightarrow abTb$

$\Rightarrow abTab$

$\Rightarrow abab$

# PDA Computation

$(q_0, abab, \$)$

$\succ (q_1, abab, S\$)$

$\succ (q_1, bab, STb\$)$

$\succ (q_1, bab, bTb\$)$

$\succ (q_1, ab, Tb\$)$

$\succ (q_1, ab, Tab\$)$

$\succ (q_1, ab, ab\$)$

$\succ (q_1, b, b\$)$

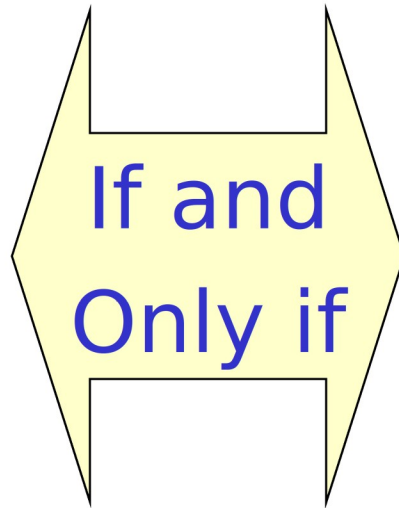
$\succ (q_1, \varepsilon, \$)$

$\succ (q_2, \varepsilon, \$)$

In general, it can be shown that:

Grammar  $G$   
generates  
string  $w$

$S \xRightarrow{*} w$



PDA  $M$   
accepts  $w$

$(q_0, w, \$) \xRightarrow{*} (q_2, \varepsilon, \$)$

Therefore  $L(G) = L(M)$

# Proof - step 2

*Convert*

PDAs

to

Context-Free Grammars

Take an arbitrary PDA  $M$

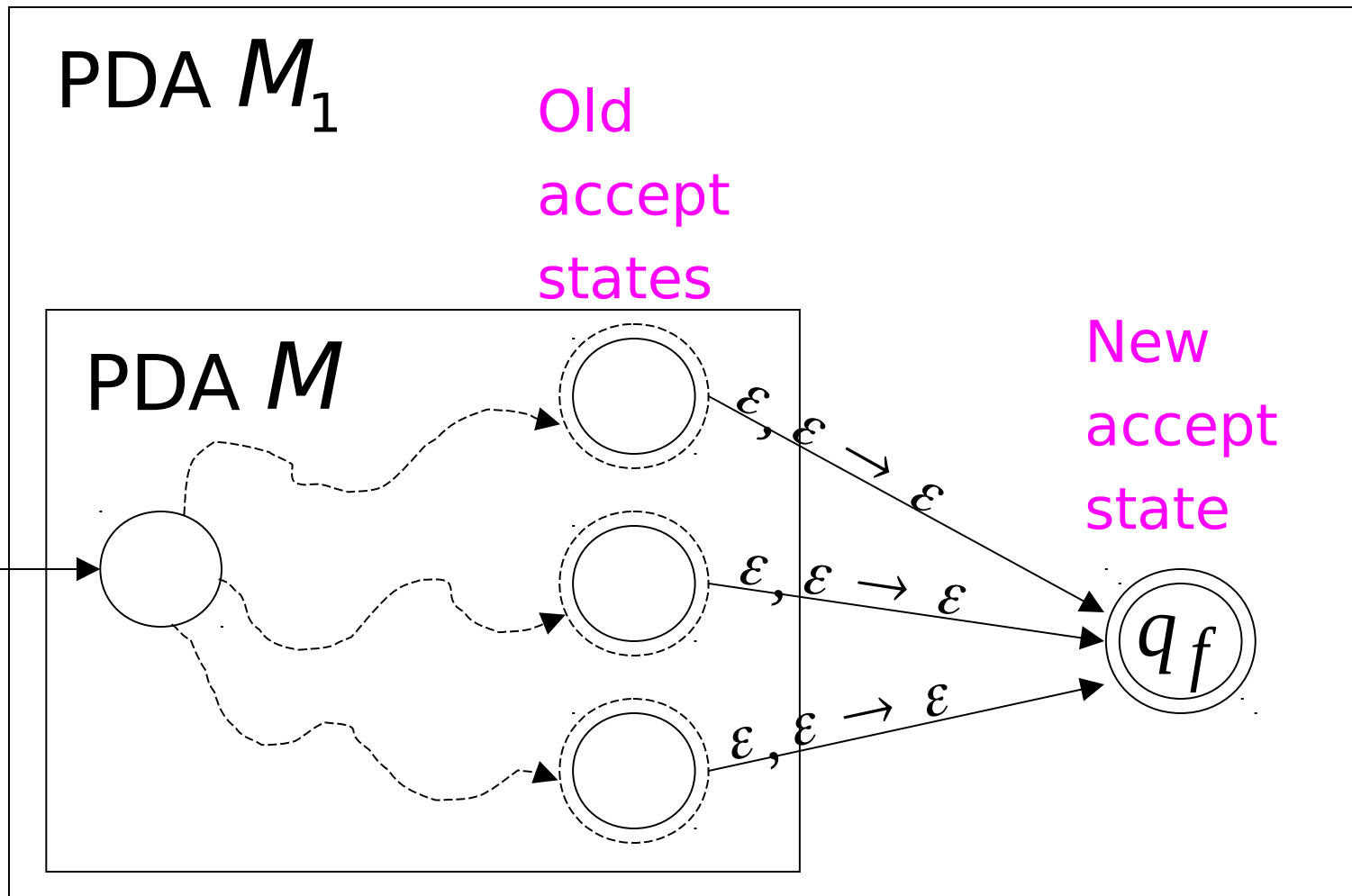
We will convert  $M$   
to a context-free grammar  $G$  such that:

$$L(M) = L(G)$$

First modify PDA  $M$  so that:

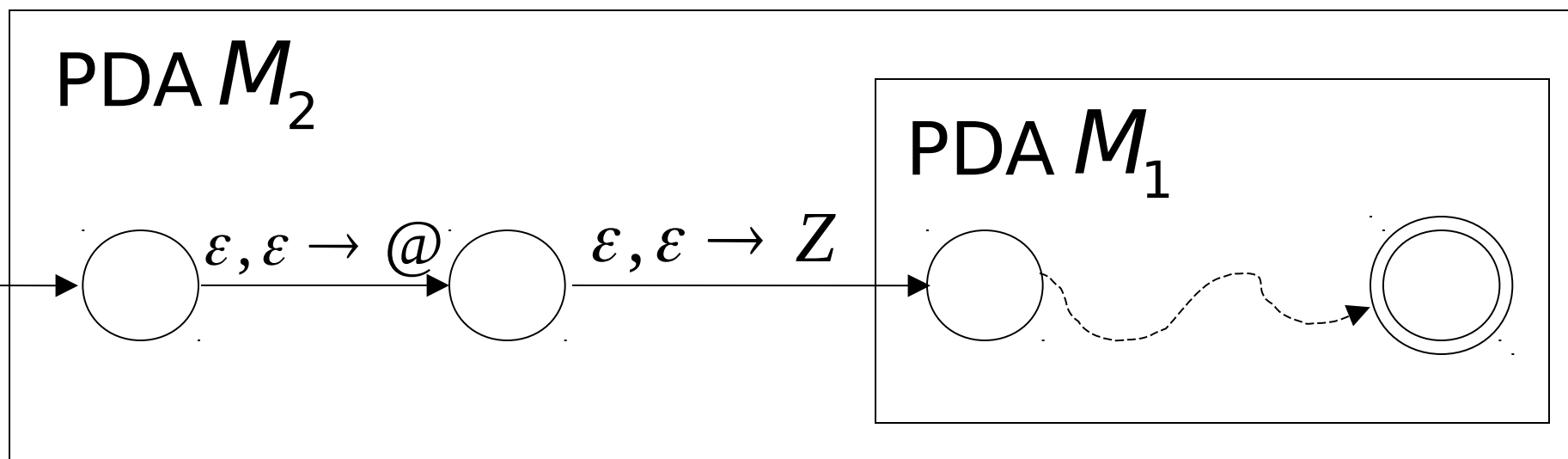
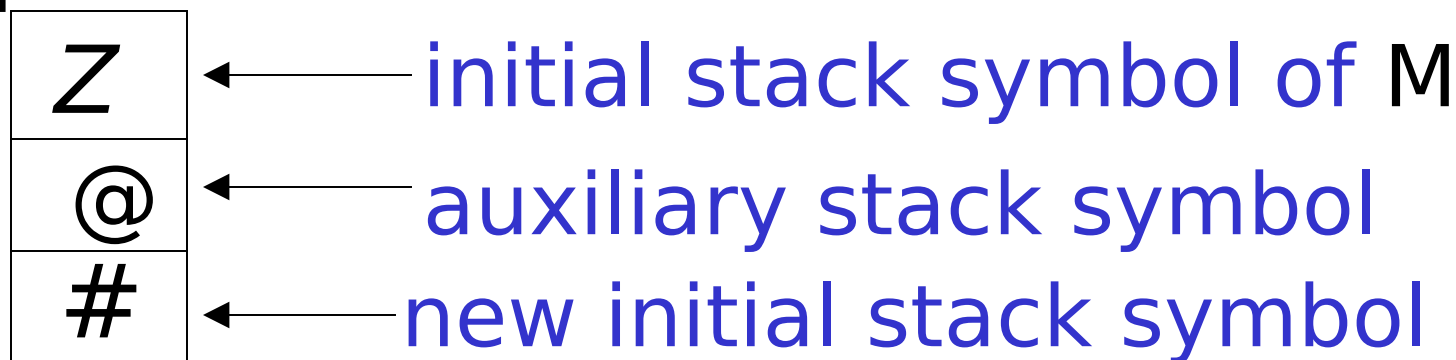
1. The PDA has a single accept state
2. Use new initial stack symbol  $\#$
3. On acceptance the stack contains only stack symbol  $\#$  (this symbol is not used in any transition)
4. Each transition either pushes a symbol or pops a symbol but not both together

# L. The PDA has a single accept state



## 2. Use new initial stack symbol #

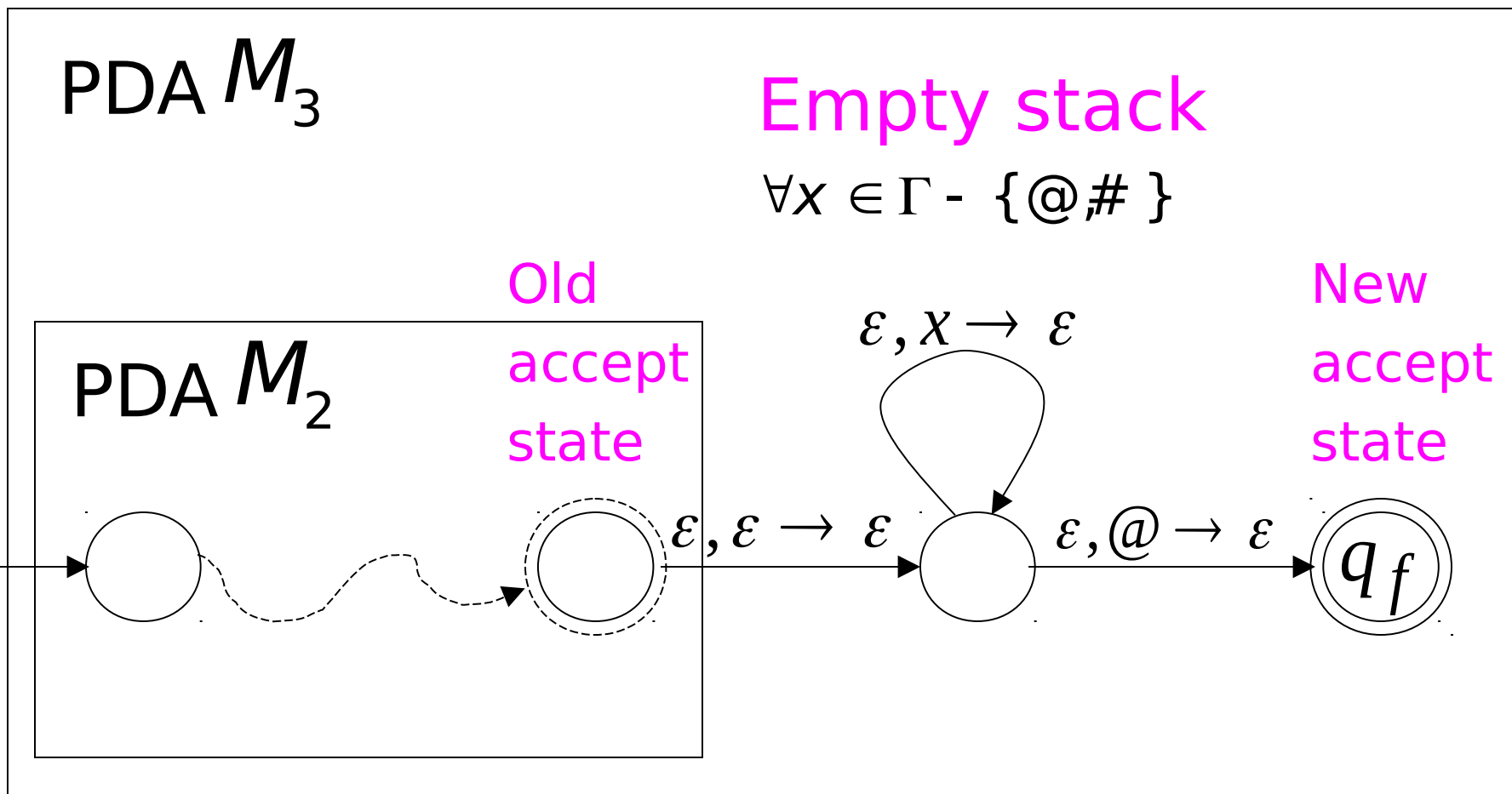
Top of stack



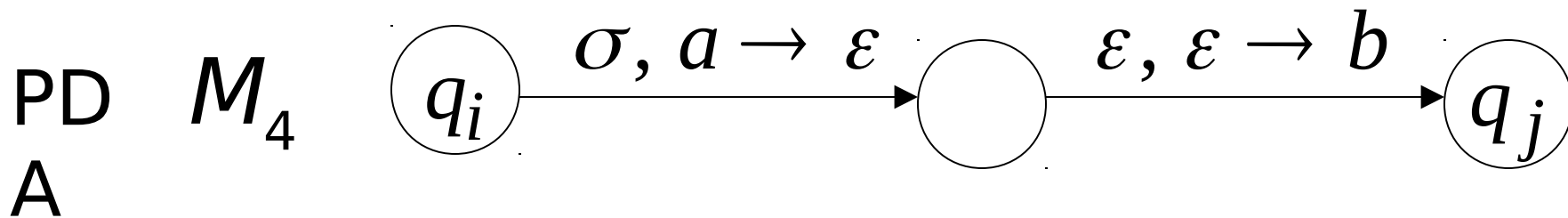
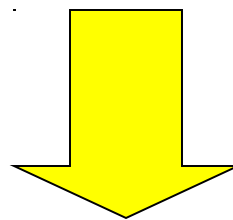
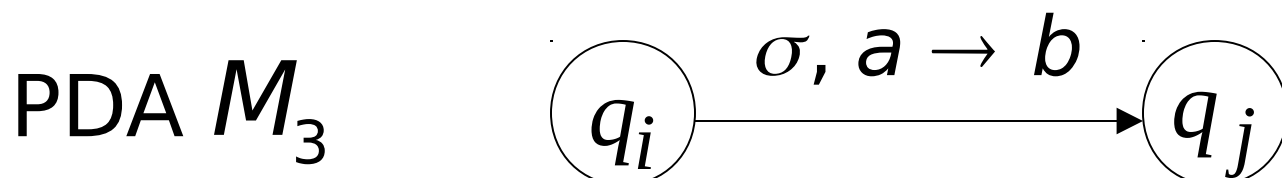
$M_1$  still thinks that Z is the initial stack



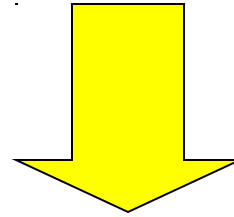
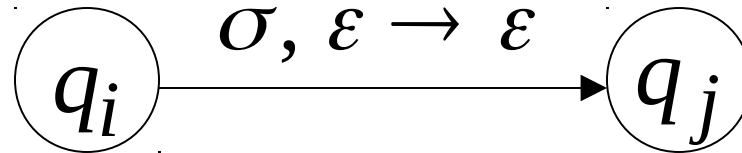
3. On acceptance the stack contains only stack symbol #  
 (this symbol is not used in any transition)



4. Each transition either pushes a symbol or pops a symbol but not both together

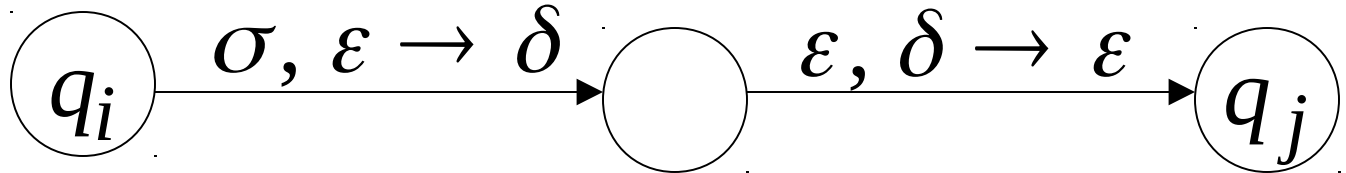


PDA  $M_3$



PD  
A

$M_4$

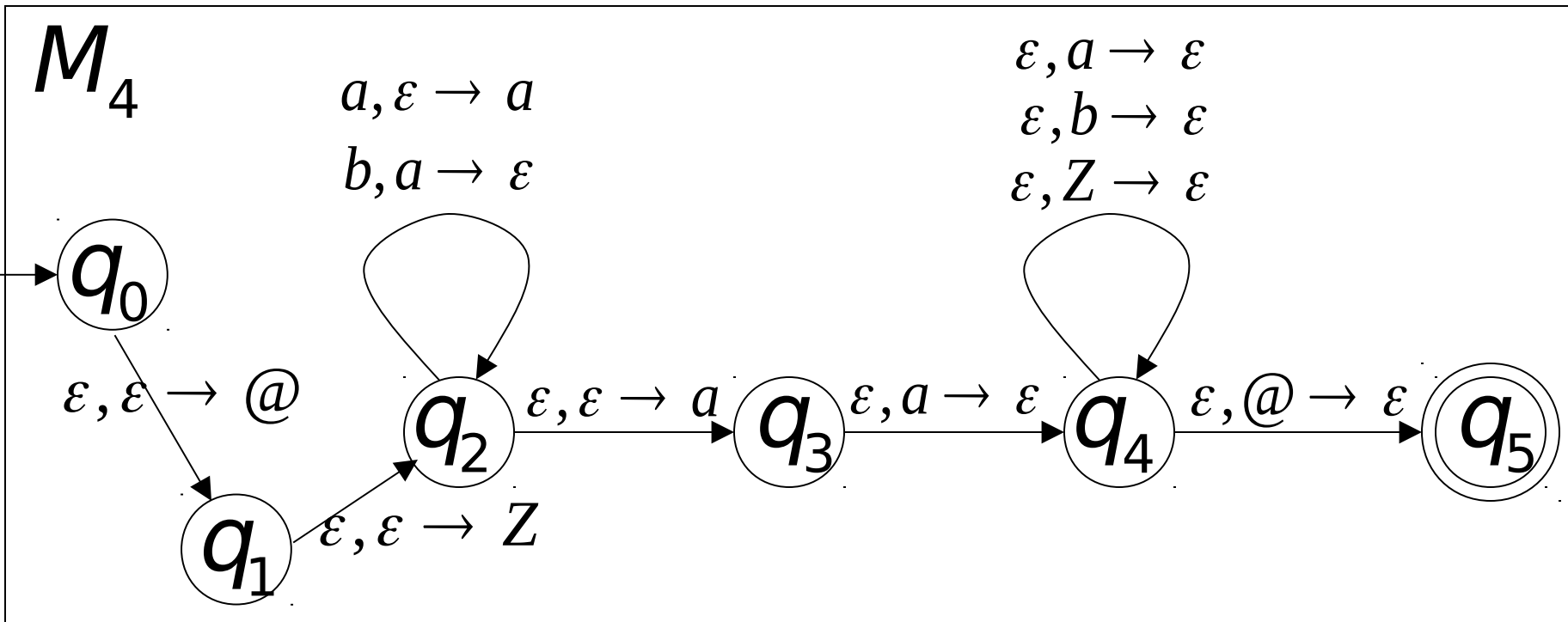
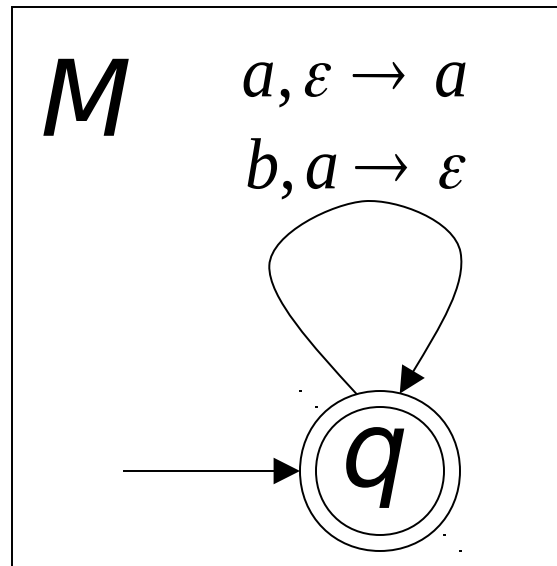


Where  $\delta$  is a symbol of the stack alphabet

PDA  $M_4$  is the final modified PDA

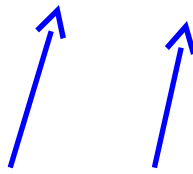
Note that the new initial stack symbol  $\#$  is never used in any transition

# Example:



# Grammar Construction

Variables:  $A_{q_i, q_j}$



States of PDA

# PDA

Kind 1: for each state

$q$

---

Grammar

$$A_{qq} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

# PDA

Kind 2: for every three states

*p*

*q*

*r*

---

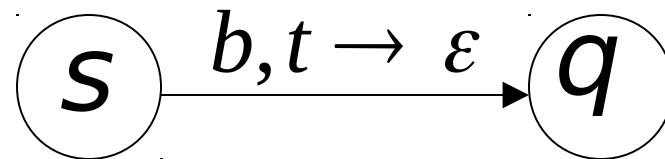
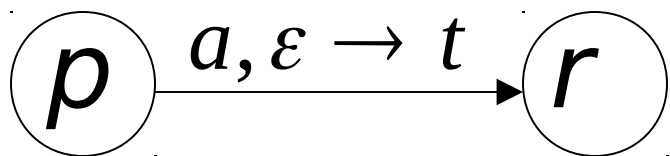
## Grammar

$$A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq}$$



# PDA

Kind 3: for every pair of such transitions



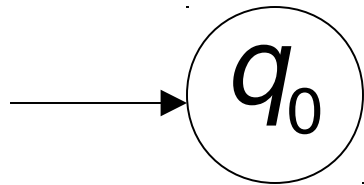
---

## Grammar

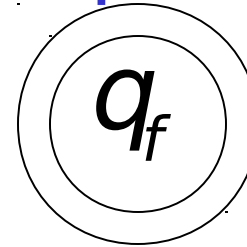
$$A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$$

# PDA

Initial state



Accept state



---

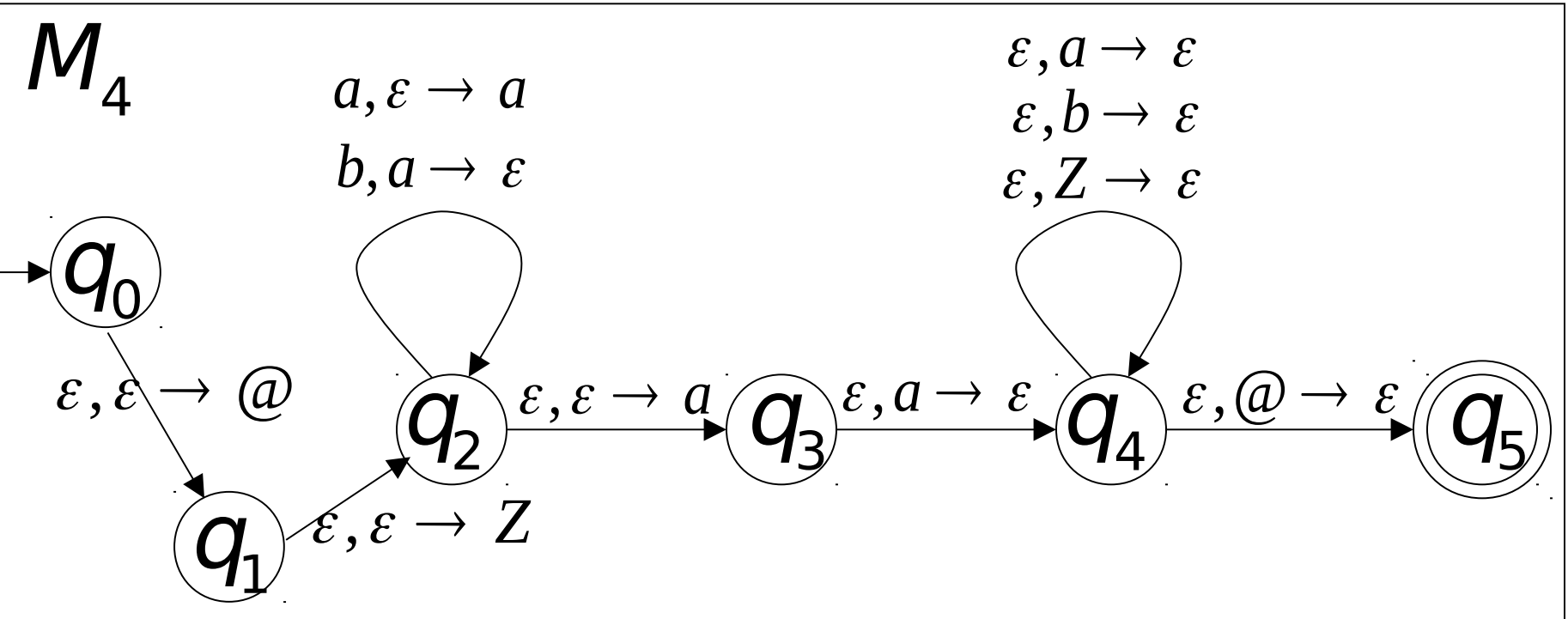
# Grammar

Start variable

$A_{q_0 q_f}$

# Example:

# PDA



# Grammar

## Kind 1: from single states

$$A_{q_0q_0} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$A_{q_1q_1} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$A_{q_2q_2} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$A_{q_3q_3} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$A_{q_4q_4} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$A_{q_5q_5} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

# Kind 2: from triplets of states

$$A_{q_0q_0} \rightarrow A_{q_0q_0}A_{q_0q_0} \mid A_{q_0q_1}A_{q_1q_0} \mid A_{q_0q_2}A_{q_2q_0} \mid A_{q_0q_3}A_{q_3q_0} \mid A_{q_0q_4}A_{q_4q_0} \mid A_{q_0q_5}A_{q_5q_0}$$

$$A_{q_0q_1} \rightarrow A_{q_0q_0}A_{q_0q_1} \mid A_{q_0q_1}A_{q_1q_1} \mid A_{q_0q_2}A_{q_2q_1} \mid A_{q_0q_3}A_{q_3q_1} \mid A_{q_0q_4}A_{q_4q_1} \mid A_{q_0q_5}A_{q_5q_1}$$

⋮

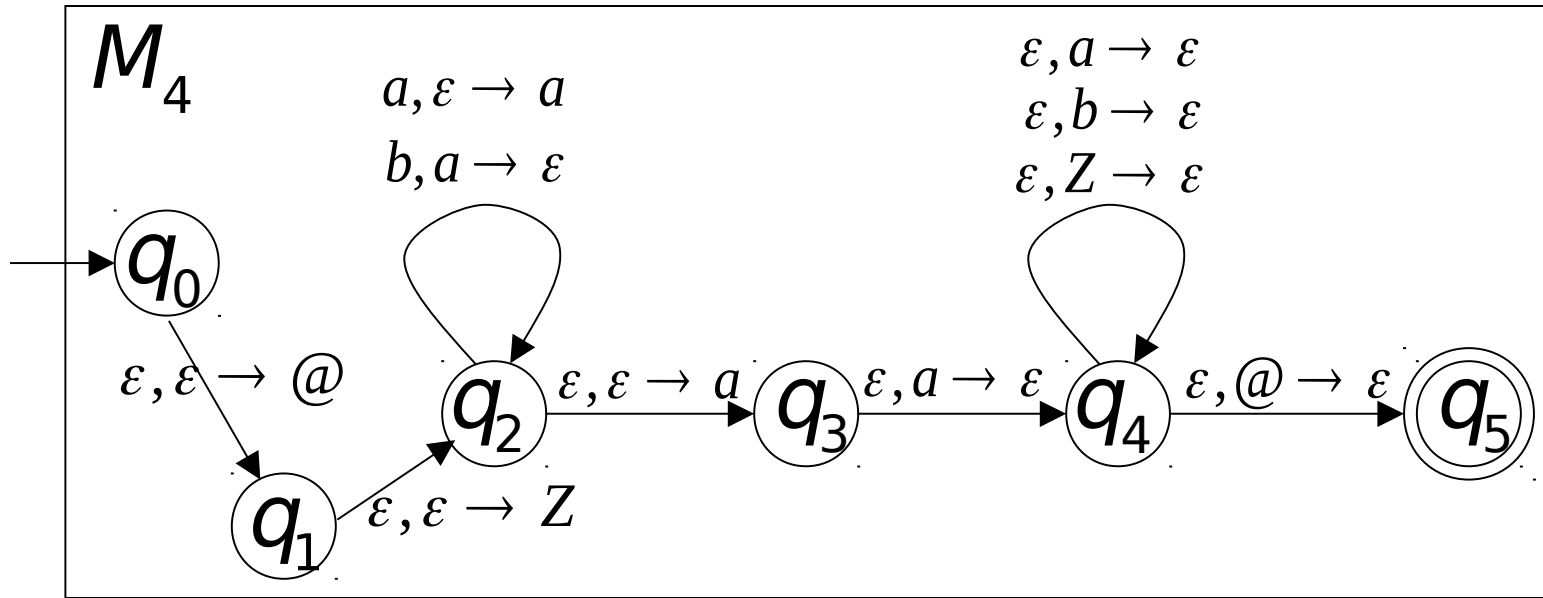
$$A_{q_0q_5} \rightarrow A_{q_0q_0}A_{q_0q_5} \mid A_{q_0q_1}A_{q_1q_5} \mid A_{q_0q_2}A_{q_2q_5} \mid A_{q_0q_3}A_{q_3q_5} \mid A_{q_0q_4}A_{q_4q_5} \mid A_{q_0q_5}A_{q_5q_5}$$

⋮

$$A_{q_5q_5} \rightarrow A_{q_5q_0}A_{q_0q_5} \mid A_{q_5q_1}A_{q_1q_5} \mid A_{q_5q_2}A_{q_2q_5} \mid A_{q_5q_3}A_{q_3q_5} \mid A_{q_5q_4}A_{q_4q_5} \mid A_{q_5q_5}A_{q_5q_5}$$

Start variable  $A_{q_0q_5}$

# Kind 3: from pairs of transitions



$$\begin{array}{lll}
 A_{q_0q_5} \rightarrow A_{q_1q_4} & A_{q_2q_4} \rightarrow aA_{q_2q_4} & A_{q_2q_2} \rightarrow A_{q_3q_2}b \\
 A_{q_1q_4} \rightarrow A_{q_2q_4} & A_{q_2q_2} \rightarrow aA_{q_2q_2}b & A_{q_2q_4} \rightarrow A_{q_3q_3} \\
 A_{q_2q_4} \rightarrow aA_{q_2q_3} & A_{q_2q_4} \rightarrow A_{q_3q_4} & 
 \end{array}$$

Suppose that a PDA  $M$  is converted to a context-free grammar  $G$

We need to prove that  $L(G) = L(M)$

or equivalently

$$L(G) \subseteq L(M)$$

$$L(G) \supseteq L(M)$$

$$L(G) \subseteq L(M)$$

---

We need to show that if  $G$  has derivation:

$$A_{q_0 q_f} \xRightarrow{*} W \quad (\text{string of terminals})$$

then there is an accepting computation in  $M$

$$(q_0, w, \#) \xrightarrow{*} (q_f, \varepsilon, \#)$$

with input string  $w$



We will actually show that if  $G$  has derivation

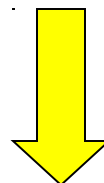
$$A_{pq} \xRightarrow{*} w$$

Then there is a computation in  $M$  :

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \succ^*(q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

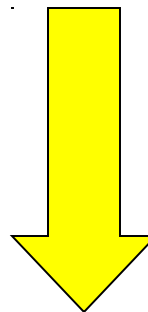
Therefore:

$$A_{q_0 q_f} \xRightarrow{*} W$$



$$(q_0, w, \varepsilon) \succ^*(q_f, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

Since there is no transition  
with the # symbol



$$(q_0, w, \#) \succ^*(q_f, \varepsilon, \#)$$

# Lemma:

If  $A_{pq} \xRightarrow{*} w$  (string of terminals)

then there is a computation  
from state  $p$  to state  $q$  on string  $w$   
which leaves the stack empty:

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \xRightarrow{*} (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

# Proof Intuition:

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$$

Case 1:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr} A_{rq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$

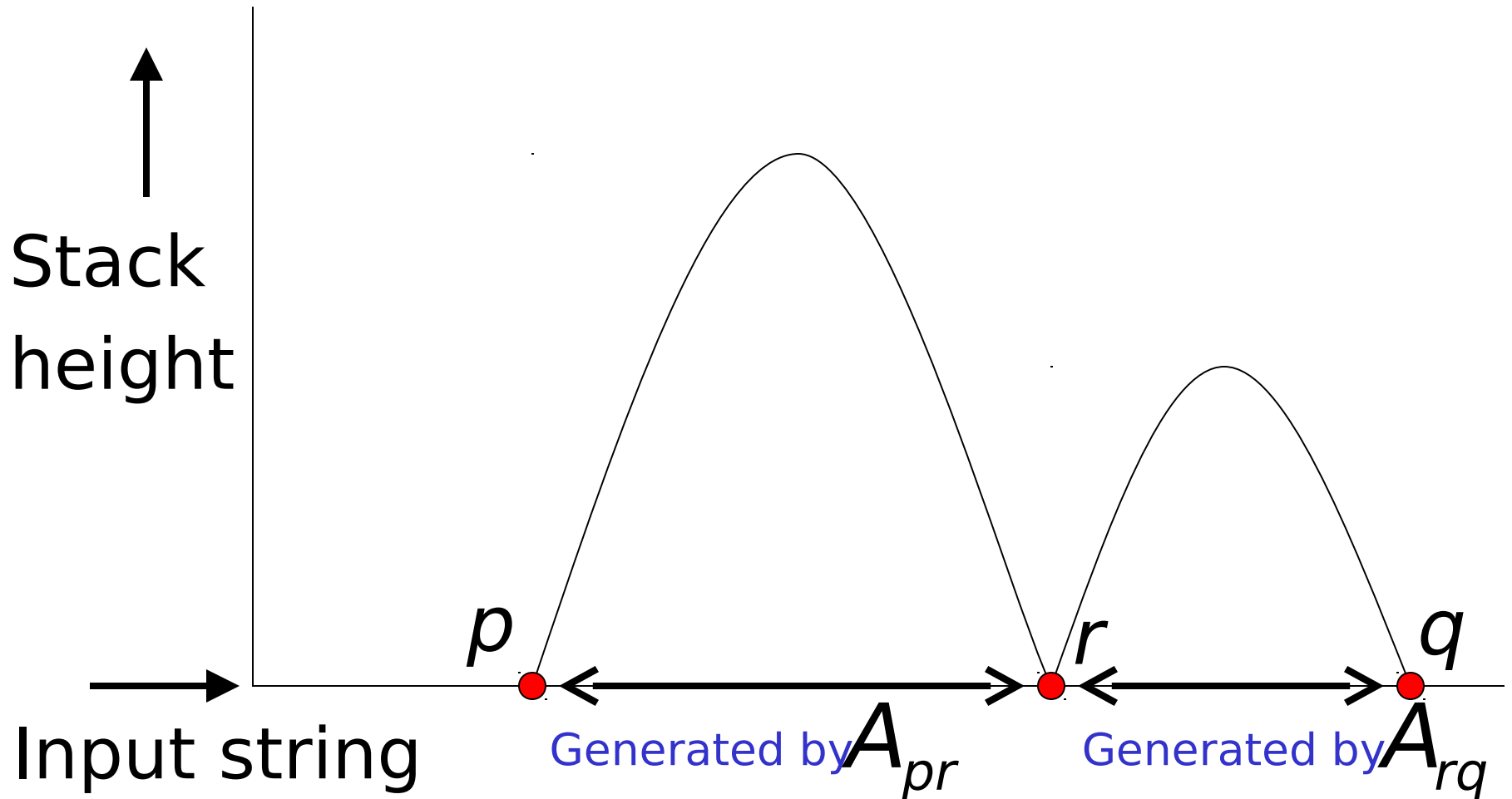
Type 2

Case 2:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$

Type 3

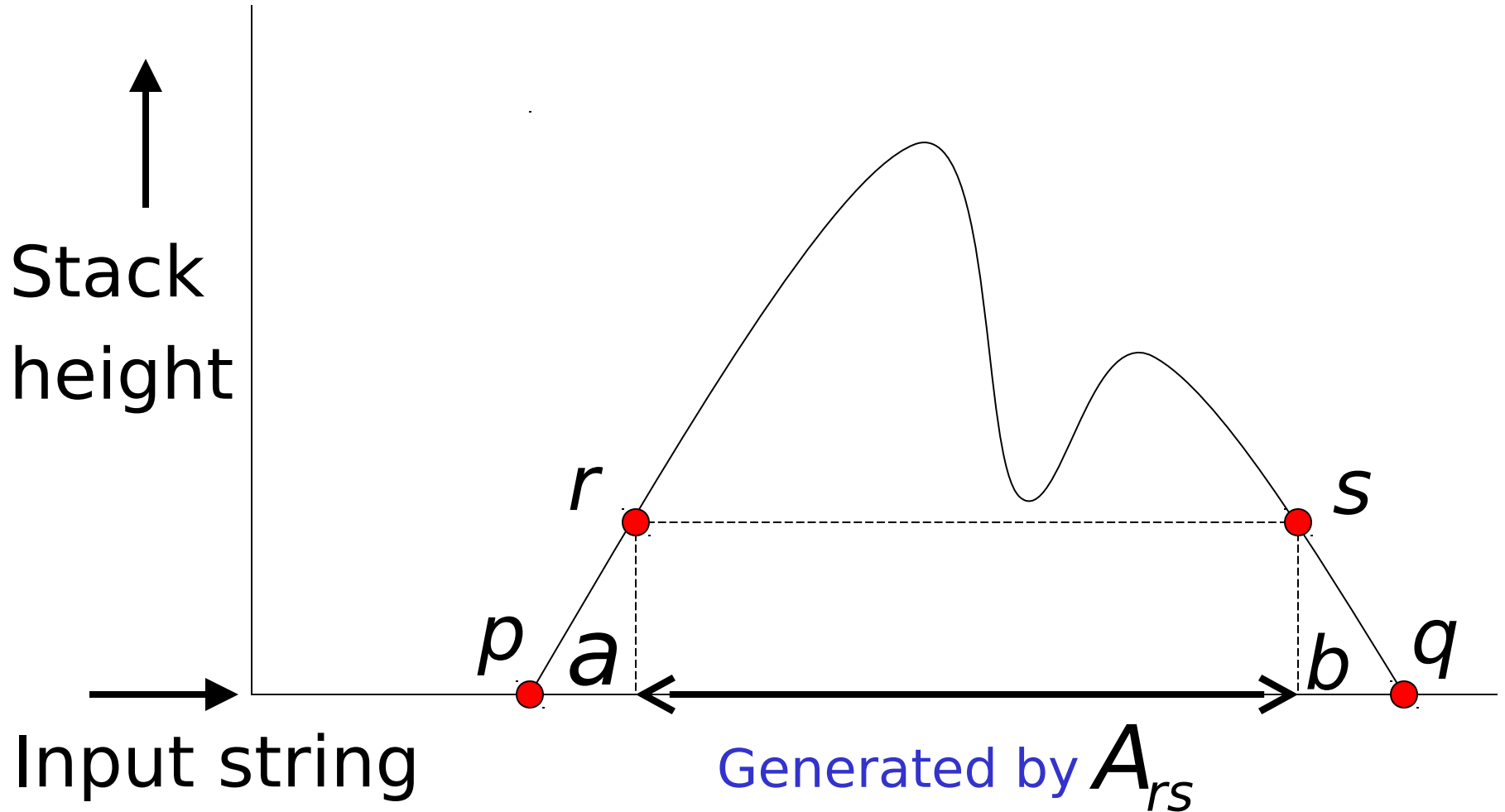
## Type 2

Case 1:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr} A_{rq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$



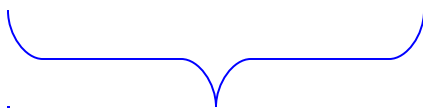
# Type 3

Case 2:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow w$



# Formal Proof:

We formally prove this claim by induction on the number of steps in derivation:

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$$


number of steps

Induction Basis:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow W$

(one derivation step)

A Kind 1 production must have been used:

$$A_{pp} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

Therefore,  $p = q$  and  $w = \varepsilon$


This computation of PDA trivially exists:

$$(p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$



# Induction Hypothesis:

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$$

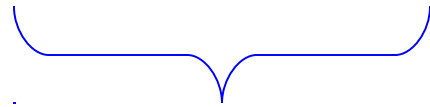
  
 $k$  derivation steps

suppose it holds:

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

## Induction Step:

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$$

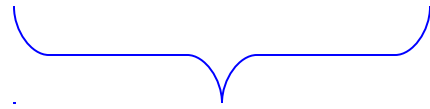


$k + 1$  derivation steps

We have to show:

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$$



$k + 1$  derivation steps

Type 2

Case 1:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr} A_{rq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$

Type 3

Case 2:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$

## Type 2

Case 1:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr} A_{rq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow W$

$k + 1$  steps

We can write  $w = yz$

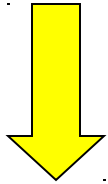
$$A_{pr} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow y$$

At most  $k$  steps

$$A_{rq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow z$$

At most  $k$  steps

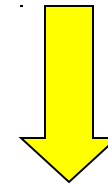
$A_{pr} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow y$   
At most  $k$  steps



From induction hypothesis, in PDA:

$$(p, y, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (r, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

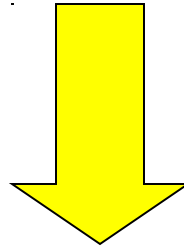
$A_{rq} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow z$   
At most  $k$  steps



From induction hypothesis, in PDA:

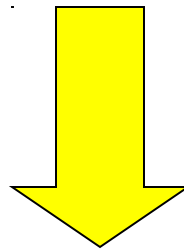
$$(r, z, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

$$(p, y, \varepsilon) \succ^* (r, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \quad (r, z, \varepsilon) \succ^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$



$$(p, yz, \varepsilon) \succ^* (r, z, \varepsilon) \succ^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

since  $w = yz$



$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \succ^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

## Type 3

Case 2:  $A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow w$

$k + 1$  steps

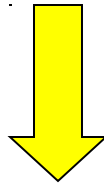
We can write  $w = ayb$

$A_{rs} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow y$

At most  $k$  steps

$$A_{rs} \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow y$$

At most  $k$  steps



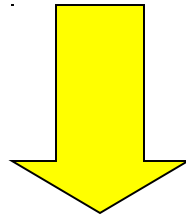
From induction hypothesis,  
the PDA has computation:

$$(r, y, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (s, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$



## Type 3

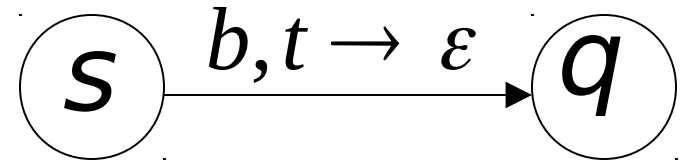
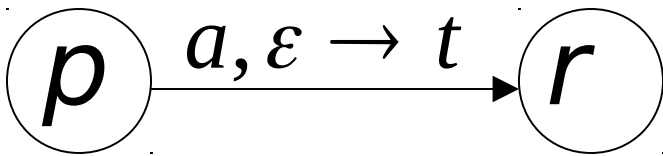
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow w$$

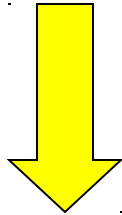
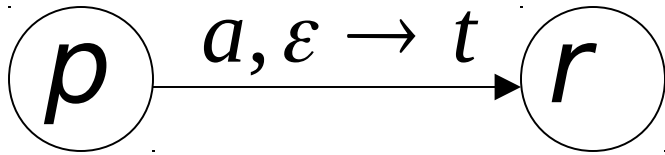


Grammar contains production

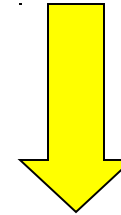
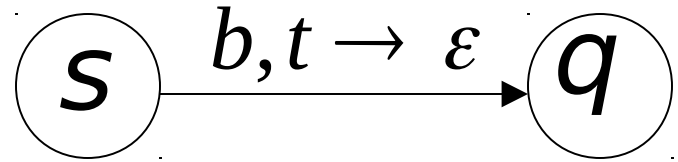
$$A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$$

And PDA Contains transitions





$$(p, ayb, \varepsilon) \succ (r, yb, t)$$



$$(s, b, t) \succ (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

We know

$$(r, y, \varepsilon) \succ^* (s, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \quad \Rightarrow \quad (r, yb, t) \succ^* (s, b, t)$$

---

We also know

$$(p, ayb, \varepsilon) \succ (r, yb, t)$$

$$(s, b, t) \succ (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

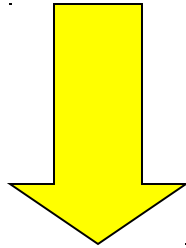
---

Therefore:

$$(p, ayb, \varepsilon) \succ (r, yb, t) \succ^* (s, b, t) \succ (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

$$(p, ayb, \varepsilon) \succ (r, yb, t) \succ^* (s, b, t) \succ (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

since  $w = ayb$



$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \succ^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

END OF PROOF

So far we have shown:

$$L(G) \subseteq L(M)$$

With a similar proof we can show

$$L(G) \supseteq L(M)$$

---

Therefore:  $L(G) = L(M)$