

# Learning Symbolic Automata

Samuel Drews



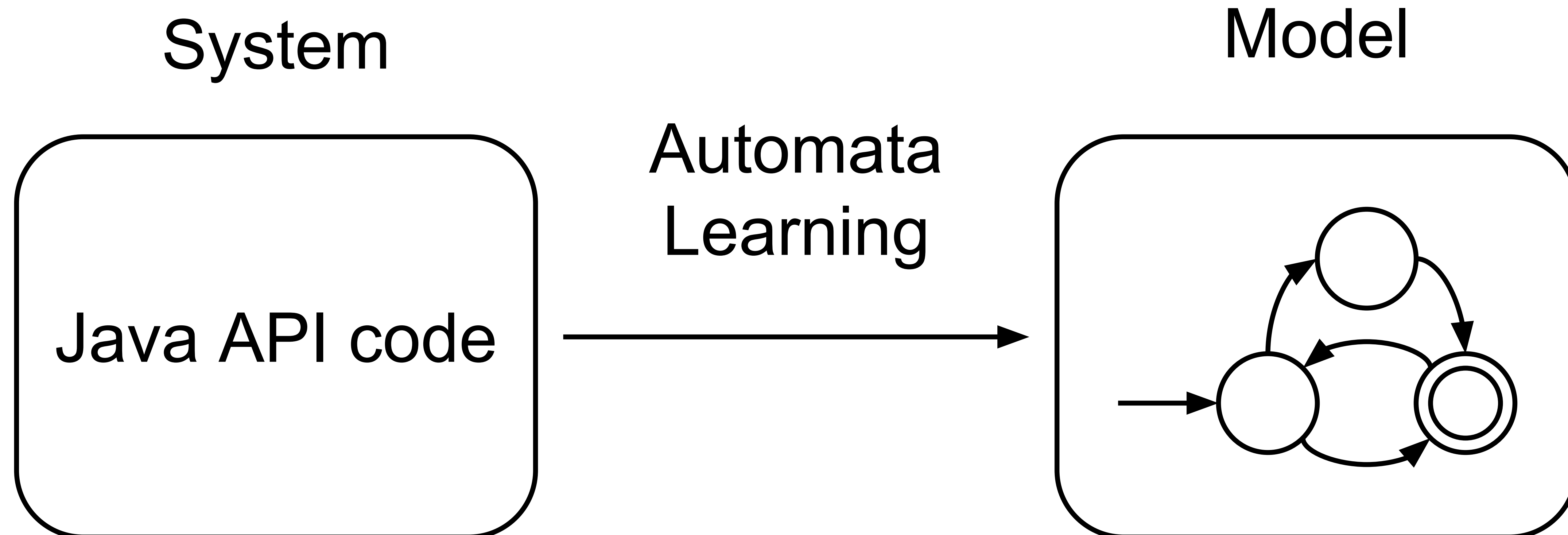
Loris D'Antoni



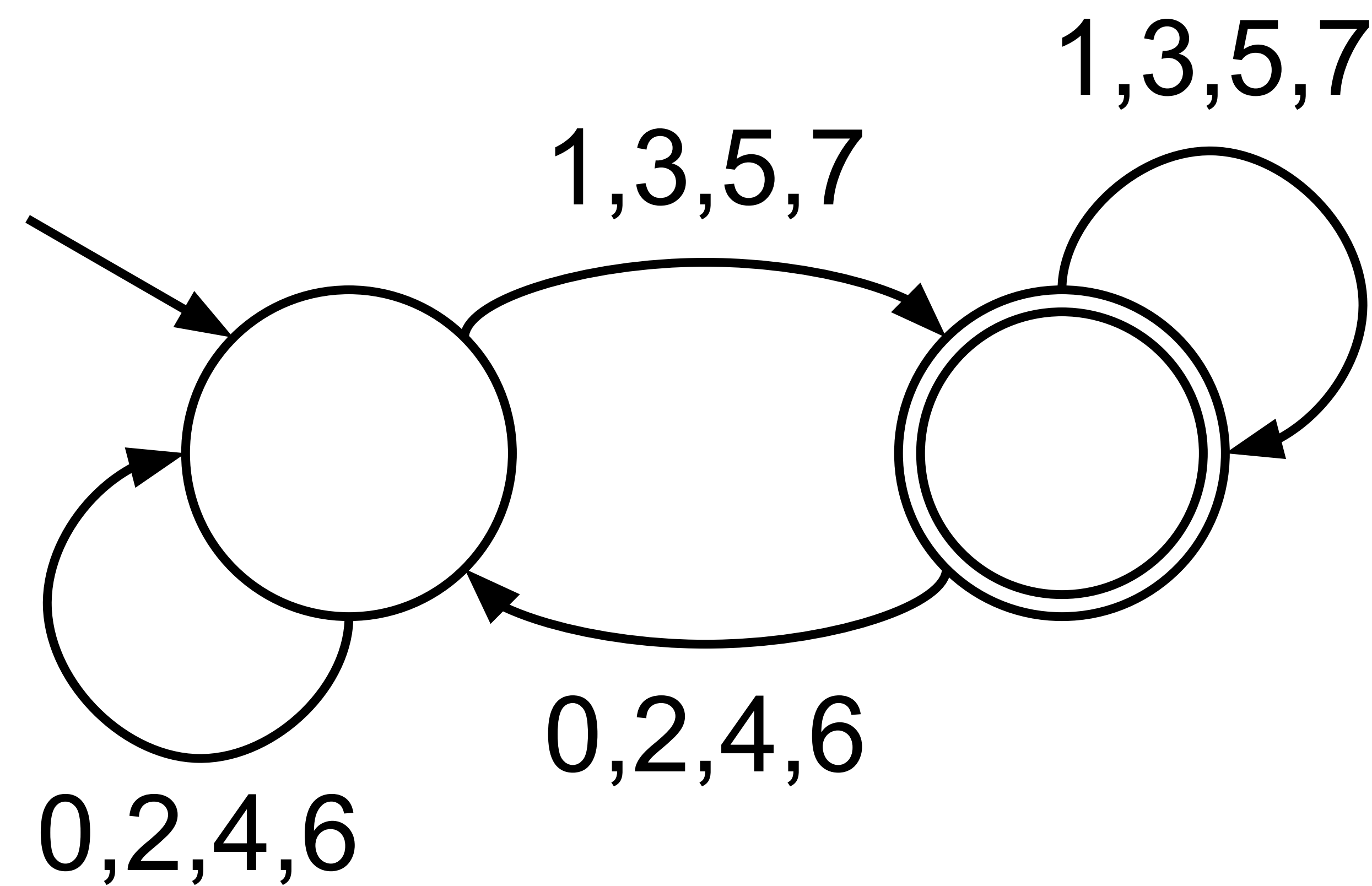
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**madP**L

# Motivation



# Classic Automata



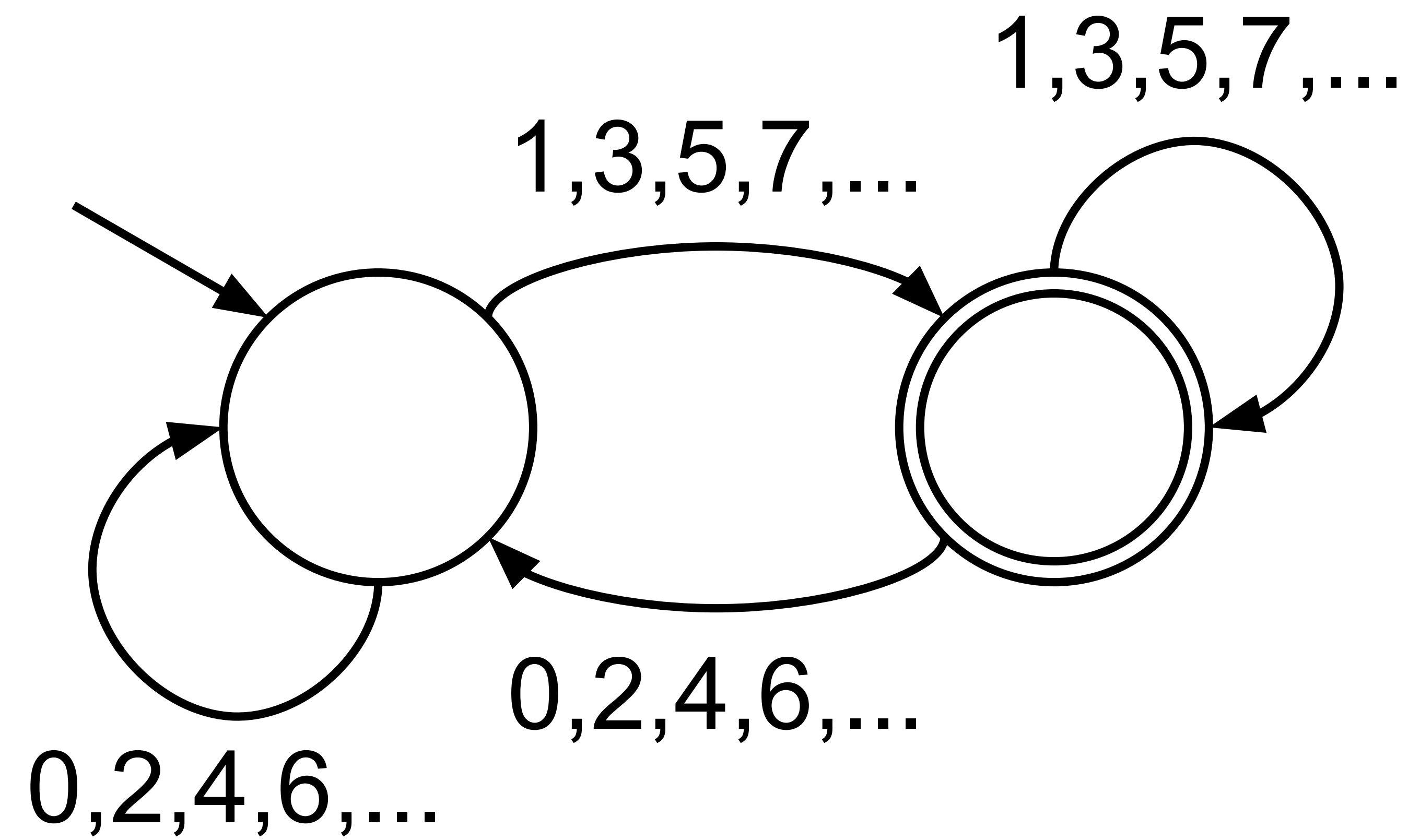
Alphabet

$$\Sigma = \{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7\}$$

Transition

$$\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$$

# Classic Automata



# Alphabet

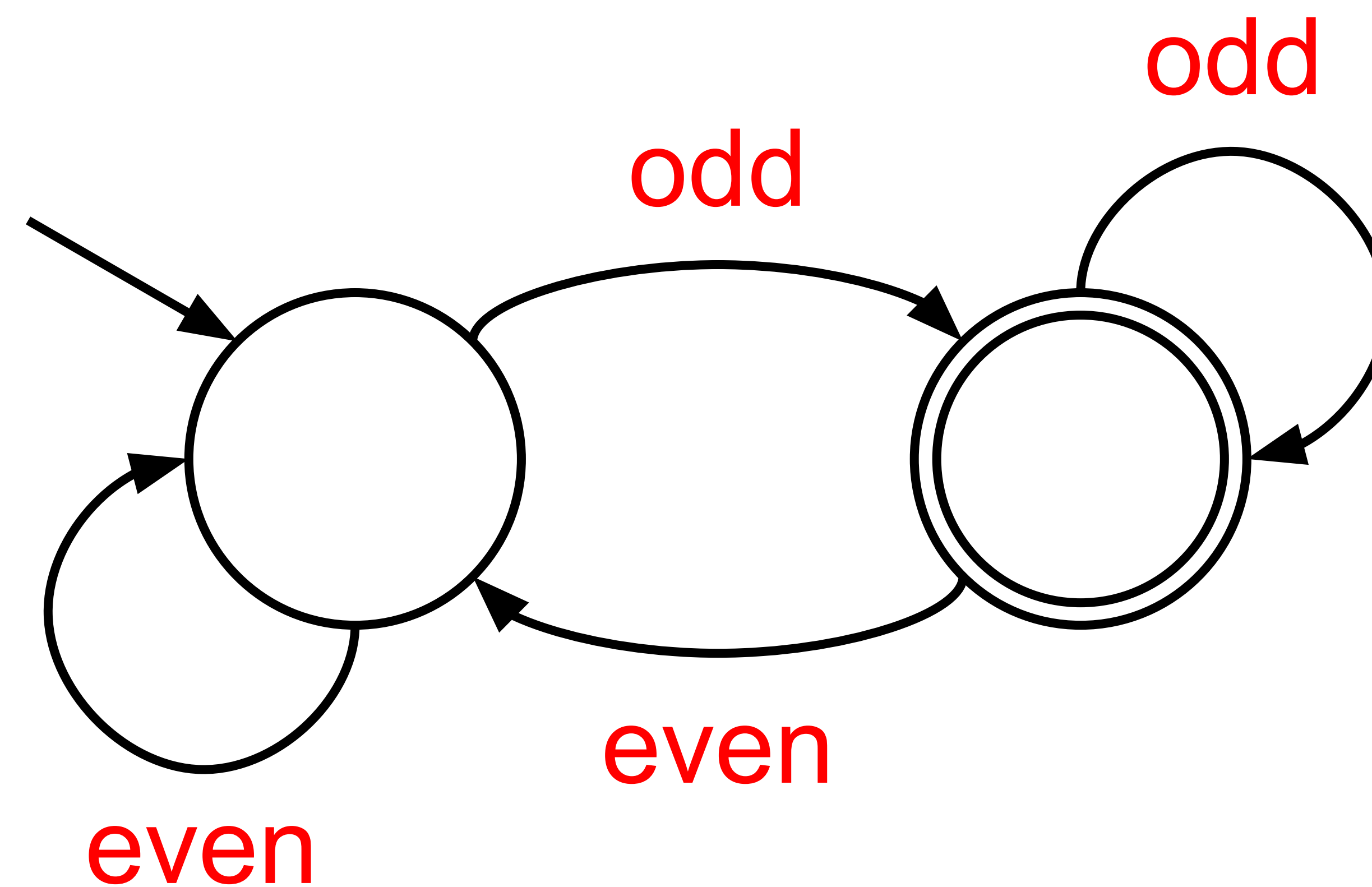
$$\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, \dots\}$$

# Transition

$$\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$$



# Symbolic Automata



Alphabet

$\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, \dots\}$

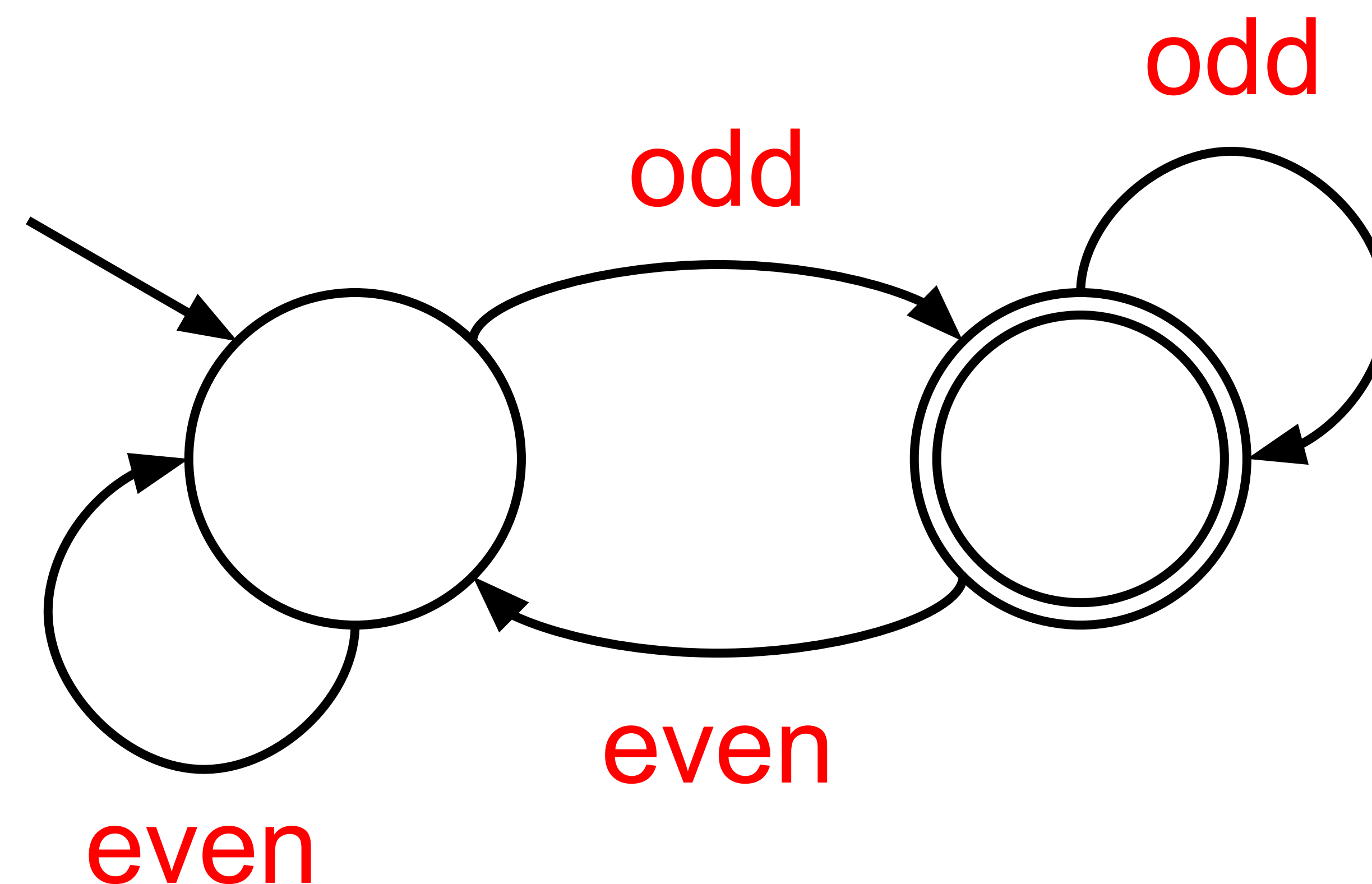
Boolean Algebra

$BA = \{\perp, \text{odd}, \text{even}, \top\}$

Transition

$\delta : Q \times BA \rightarrow Q$

# Symbolic Automata



Boolean Algebra

$$\varphi \in BA \rightarrow \neg \varphi \in BA$$

$$\varphi, \psi \in BA$$

$$\rightarrow \varphi \wedge \psi \in BA$$

Alphabet

$$\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, \dots\}$$

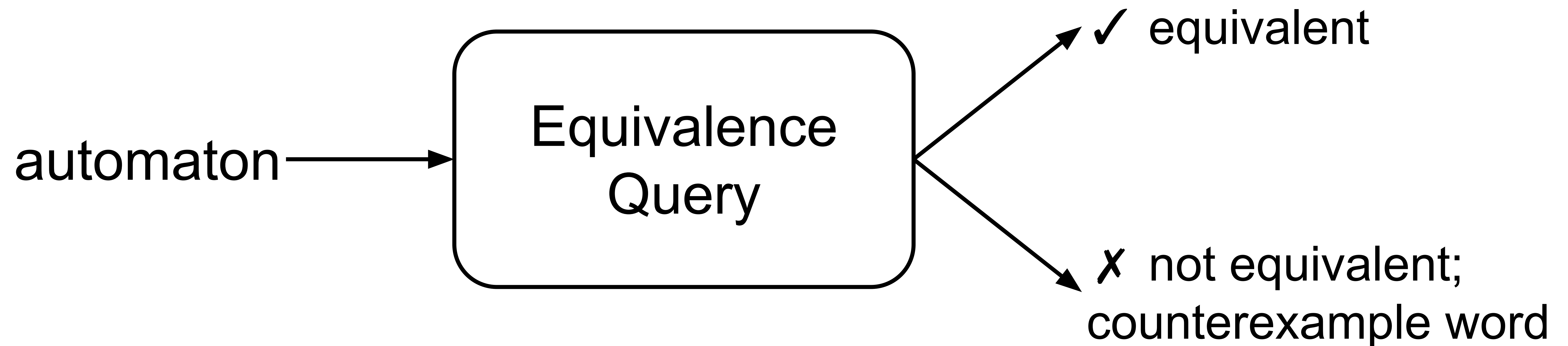
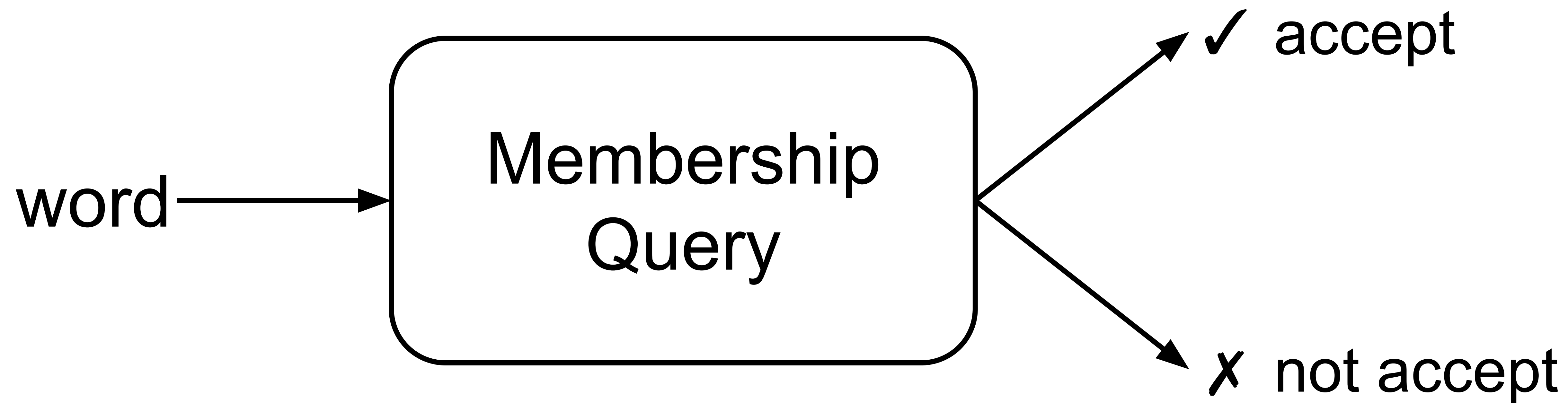
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Transition

$$\delta : Q \times BA \rightarrow Q$$

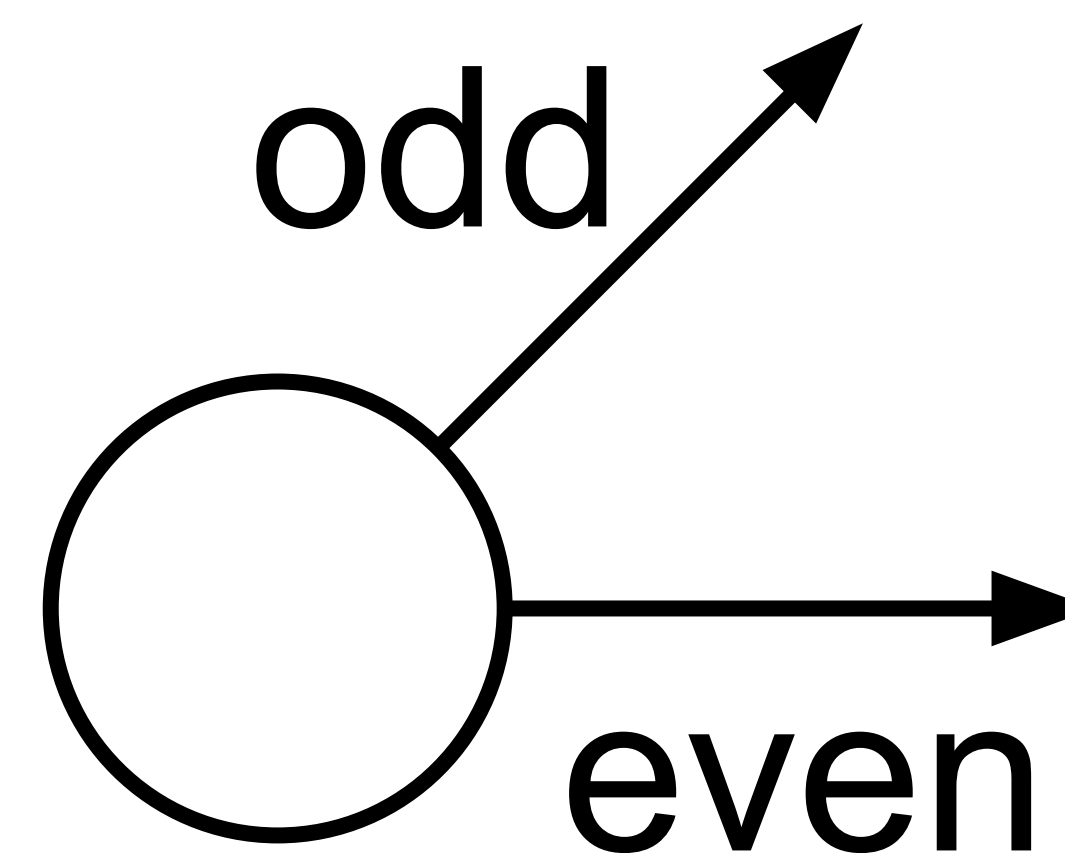
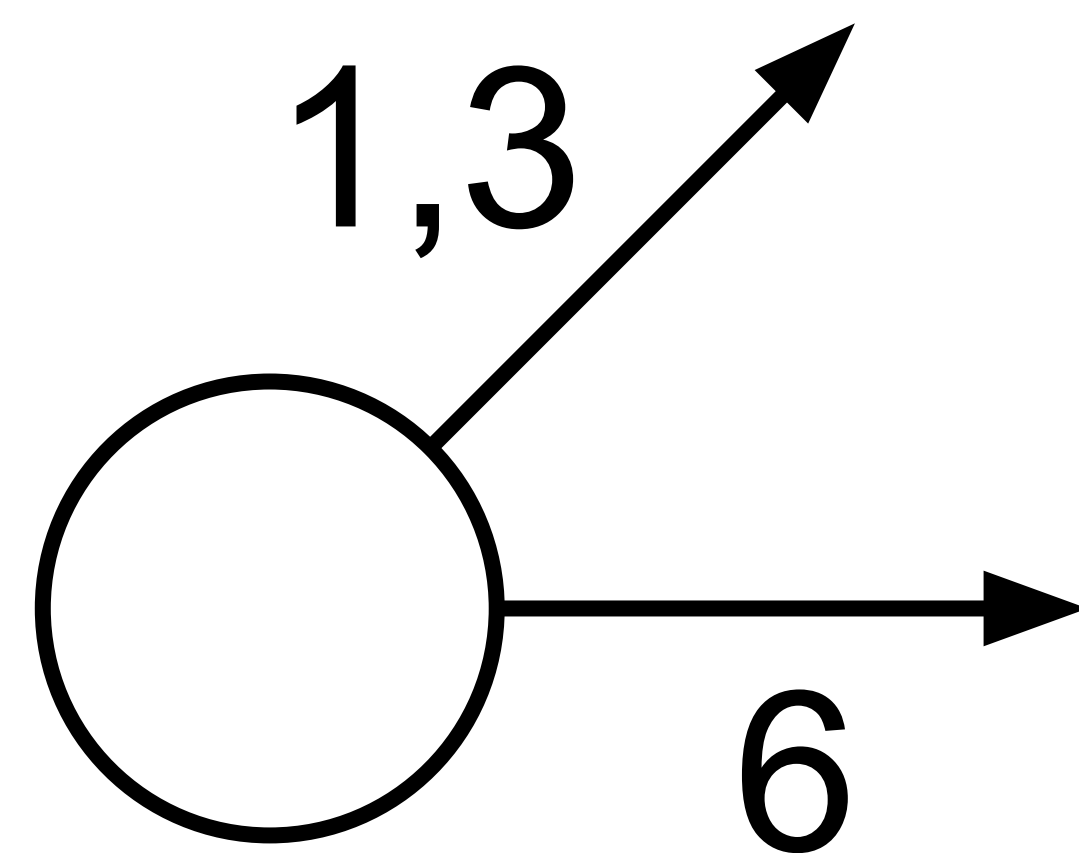
# $\Lambda^*$ Oracle Queries



# $\Lambda^*$ Partitioning Function



Ex:



$$P(\{1,3\},\{6\}) = [\text{odd}, \text{even}]$$



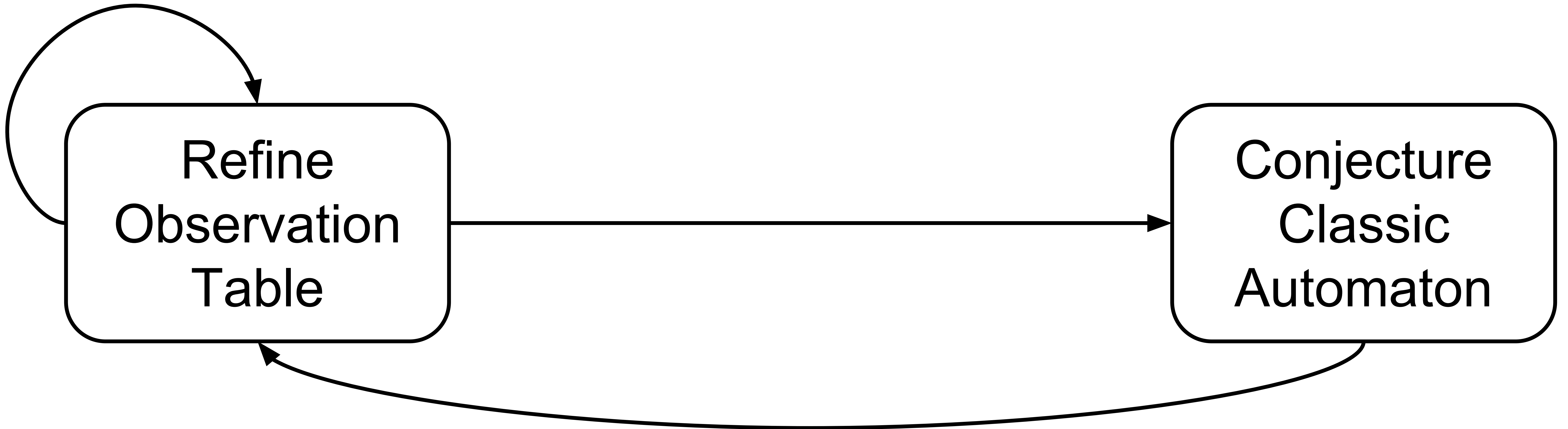
# Angluin's $L^*$ (classic automata)

Membership  
Queries

Refine  
Observation  
Table

Conjecture  
Classic  
Automaton

Equivalence Query  
+ Counterexample



$\Lambda^*$

Sparse

Membership  
Queries

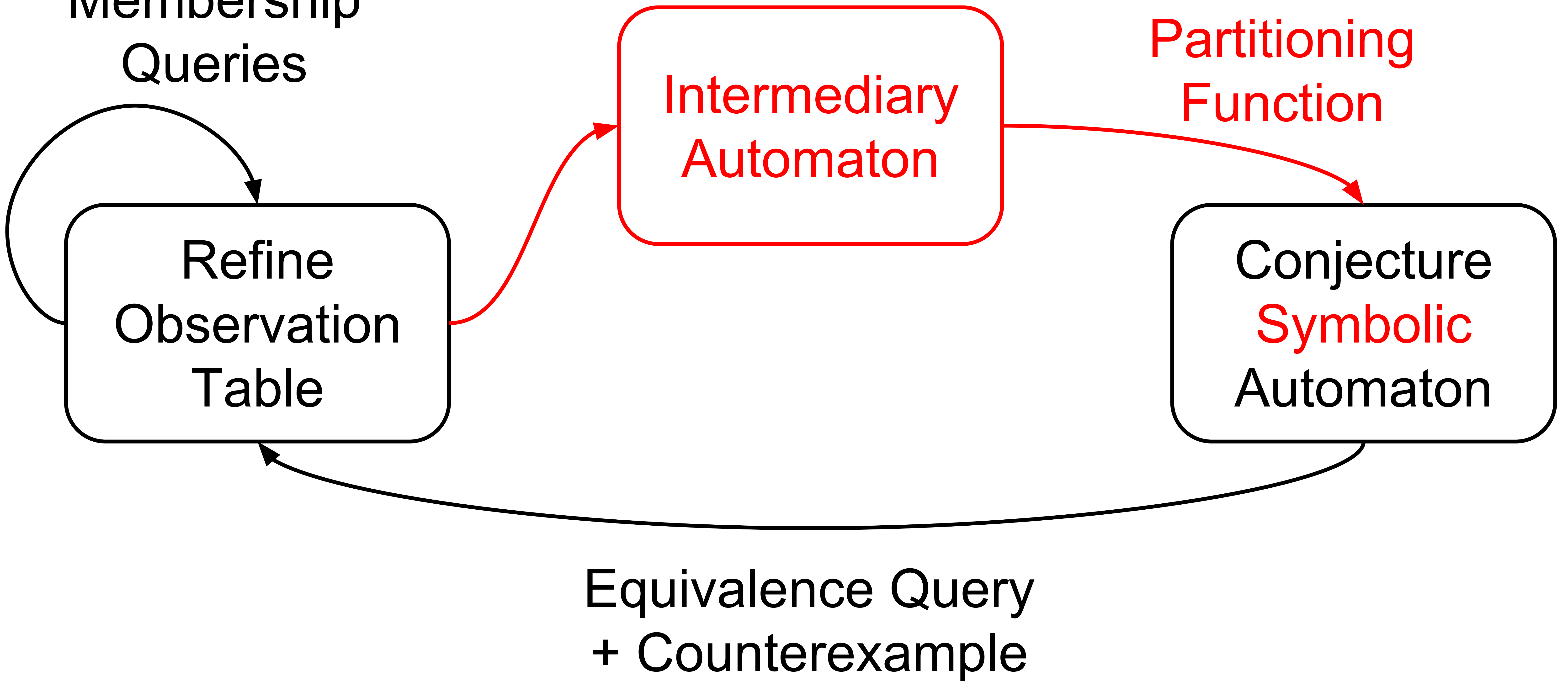
Intermediary  
Automaton

Partitioning  
Function

Refine  
Observation  
Table

Conjecture  
Symbolic  
Automaton

Equivalence Query  
+ Counterexample



# Anatomy of the Observation Table

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓

Rows: strings that lead to states  
(representatives above divider)

Columns: suffixes that tell states apart

Body: whether automaton accepts word

# Anatomy of the Observation Table

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
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5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
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$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓

Rows: strings that lead to states  
(representatives above divider)

Columns: suffixes that tell states apart

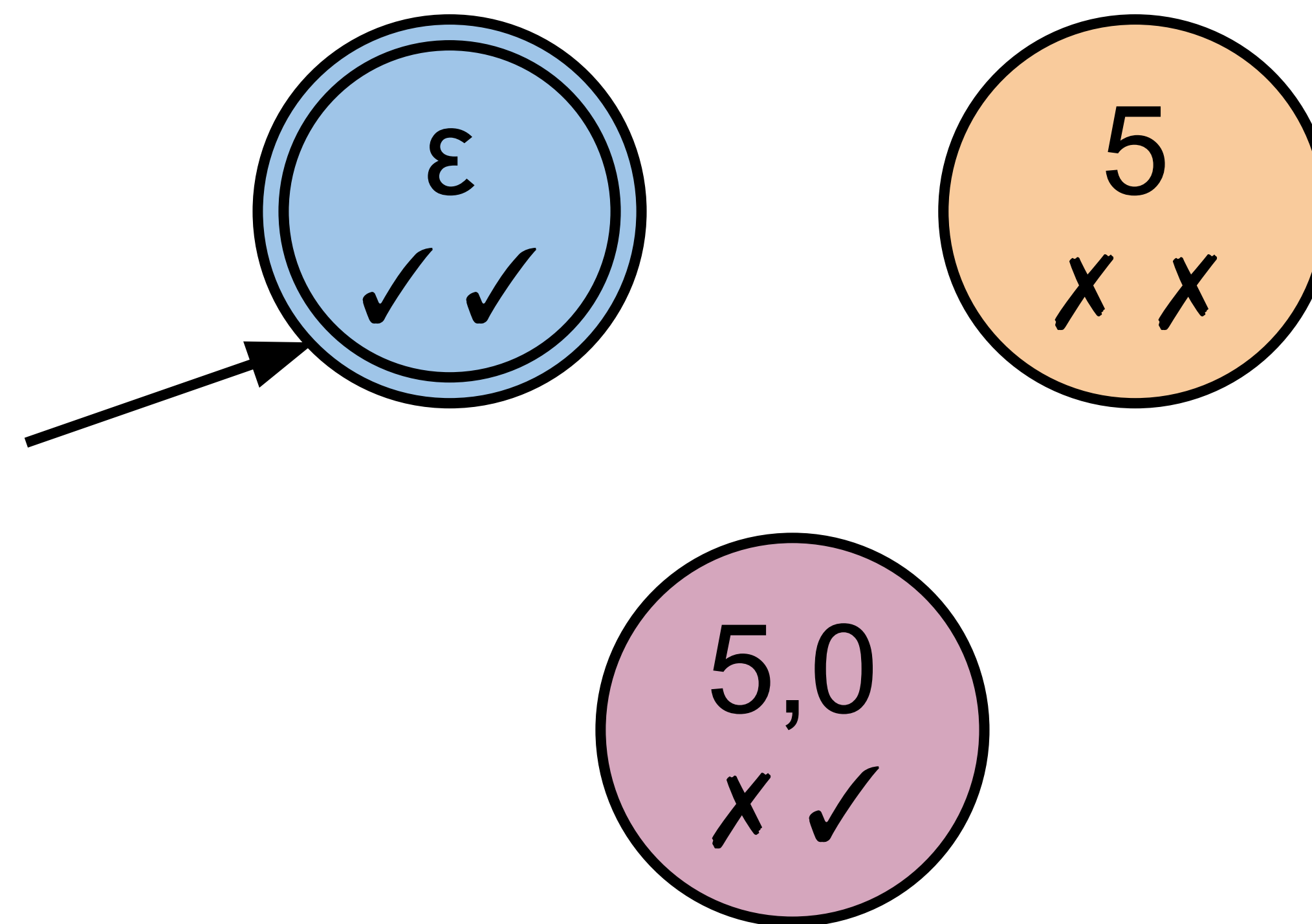
Body: whether automaton accepts word

does not accept  $5,0 \cdot \varepsilon$

accepts  $5,0 \cdot 0$

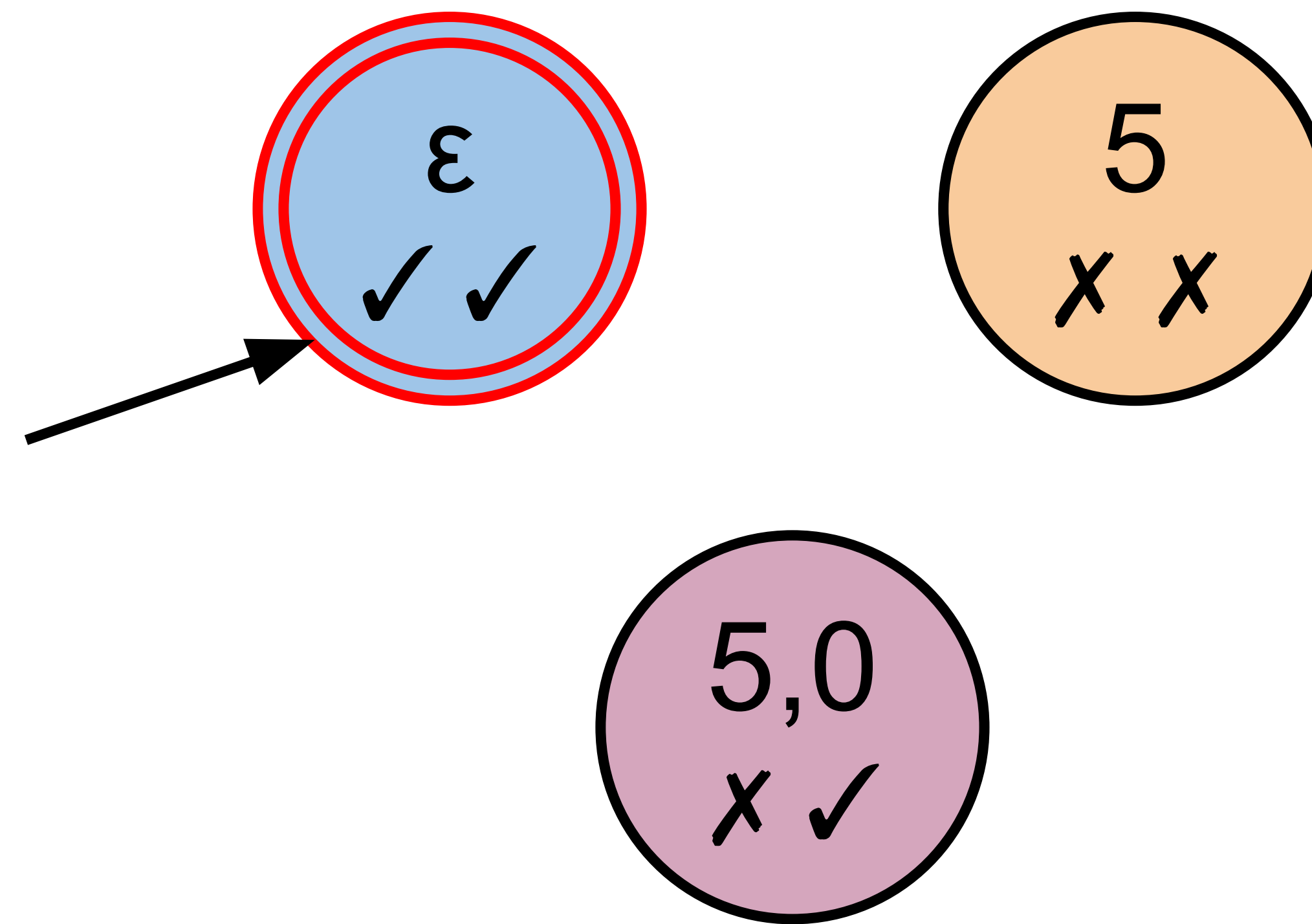
# Observation Table to Intermediary Automaton

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓



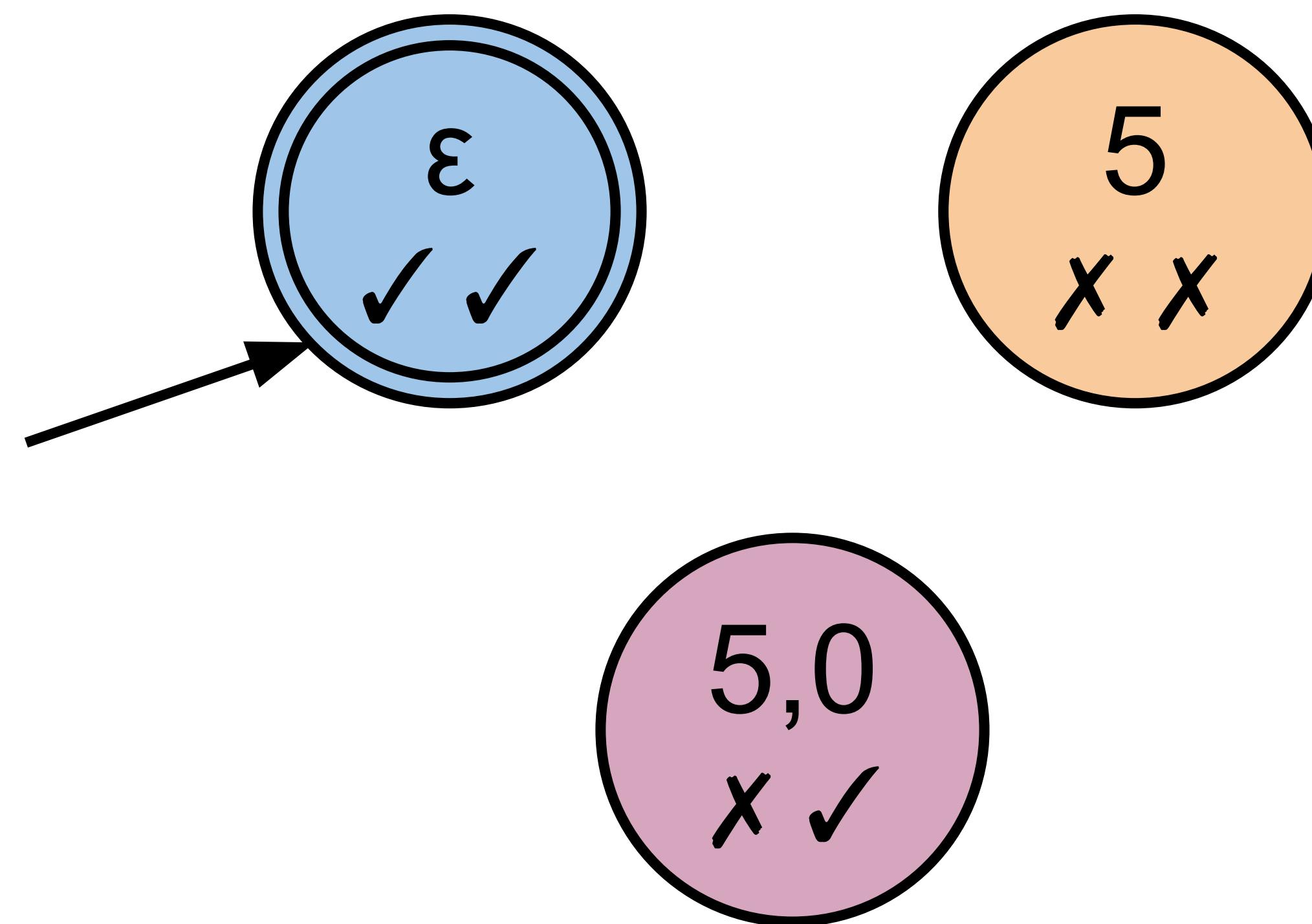
# Observation Table to Intermediary Automaton

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓



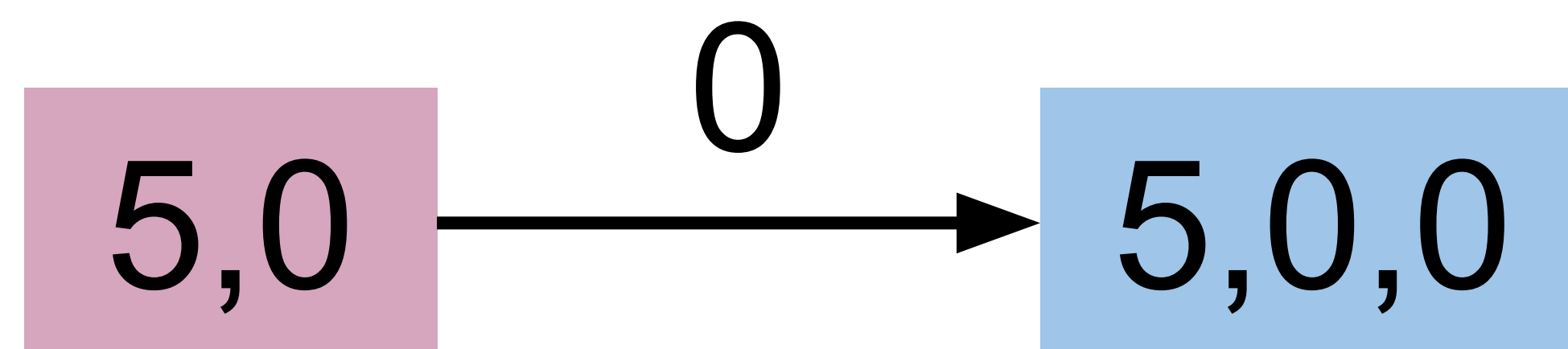
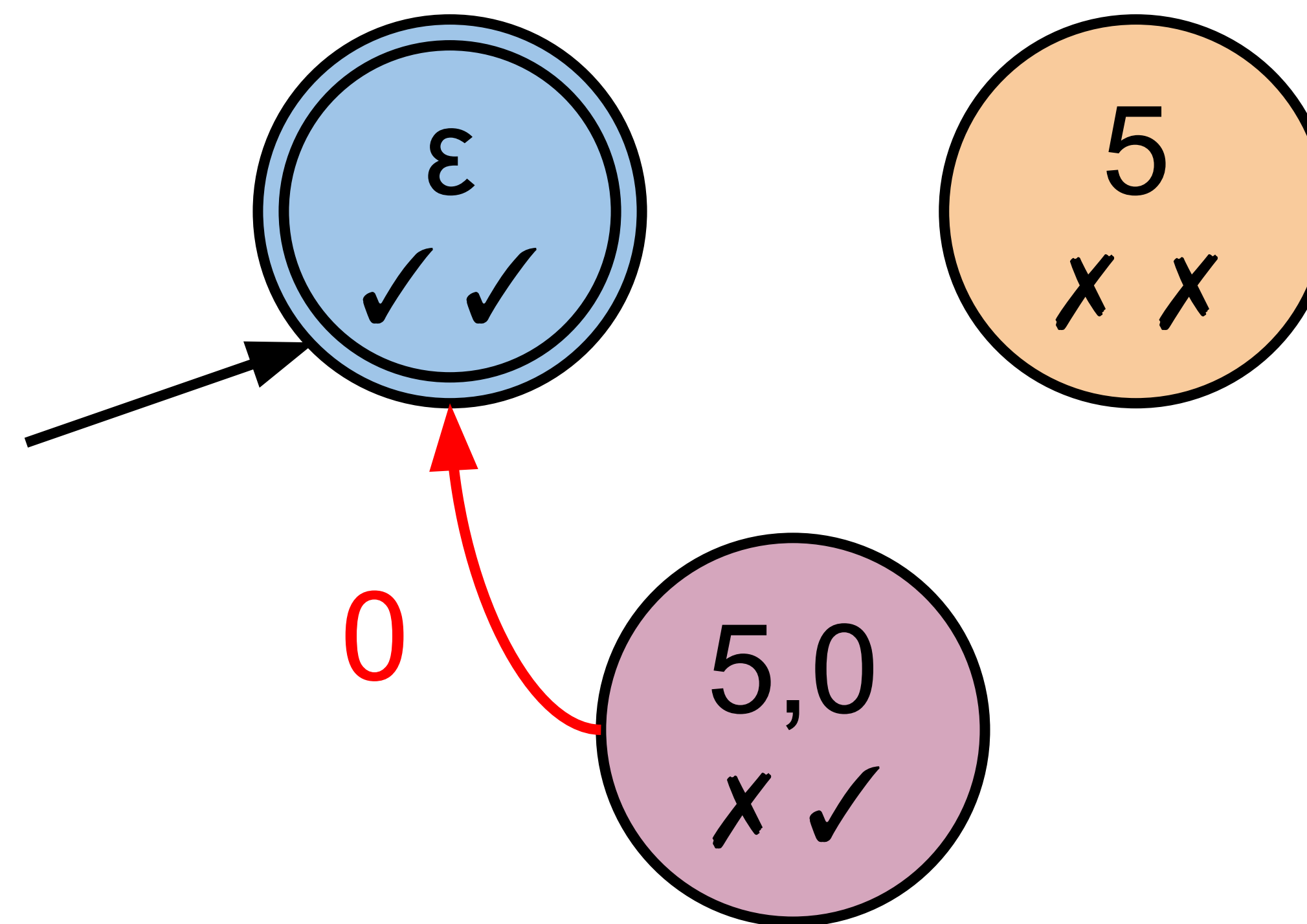
# Observation Table to Intermediary Automaton

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓



# Observation Table to Intermediary Automaton

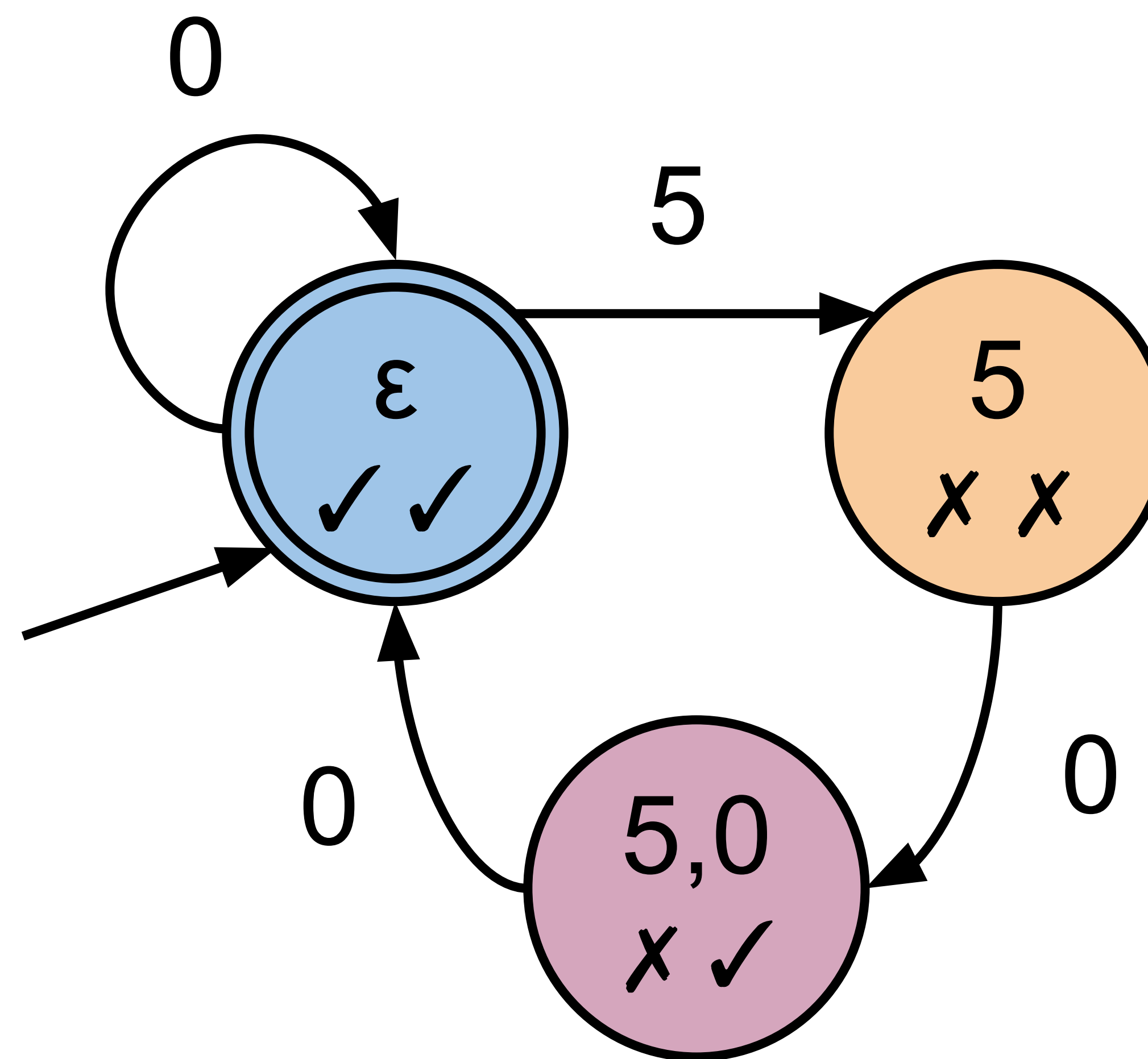
	$\epsilon$	0
$\epsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓



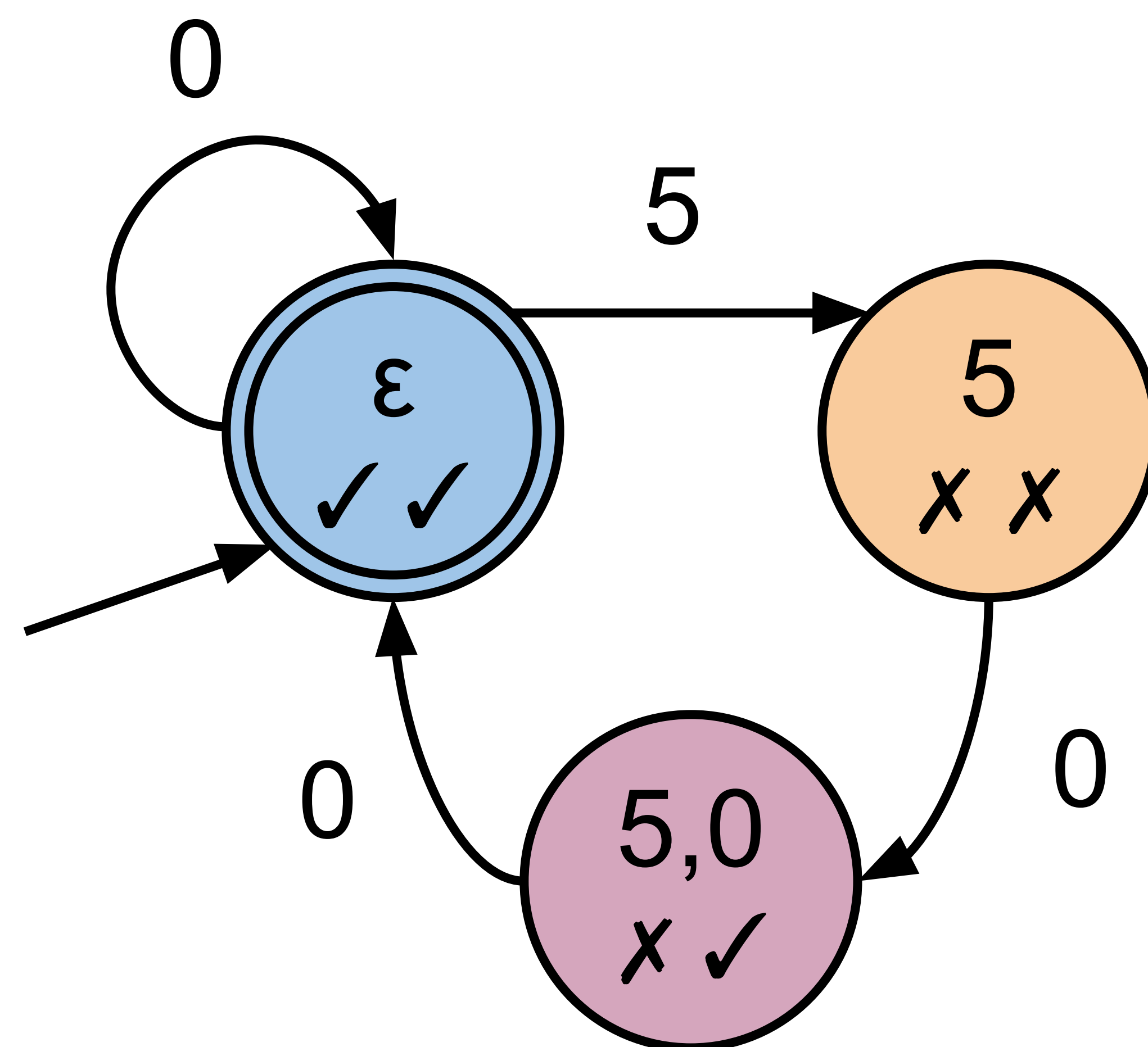


# Observation Table to Intermediary Automaton

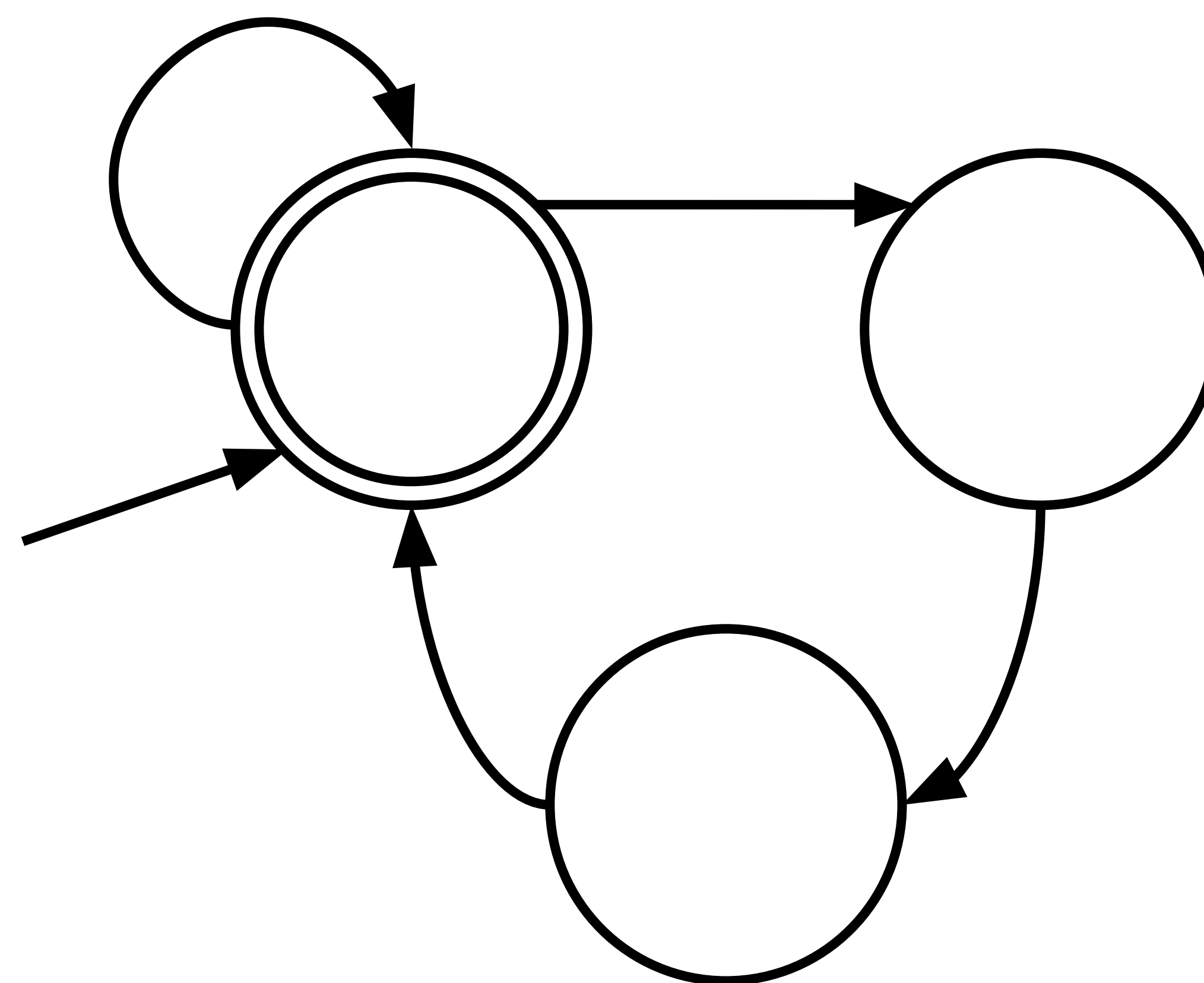
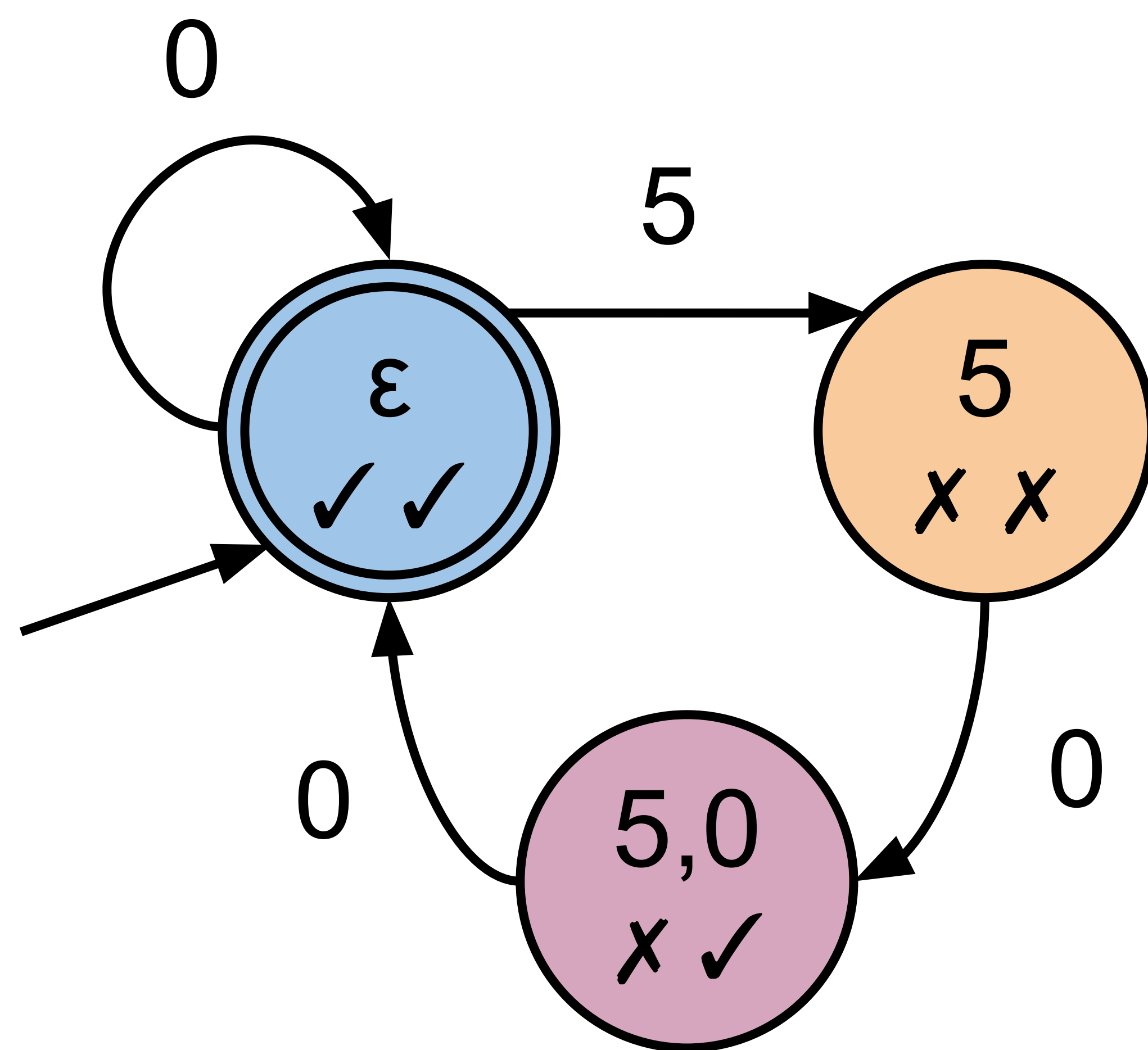
	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	x	x
5,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓



... to Symbolic Automaton

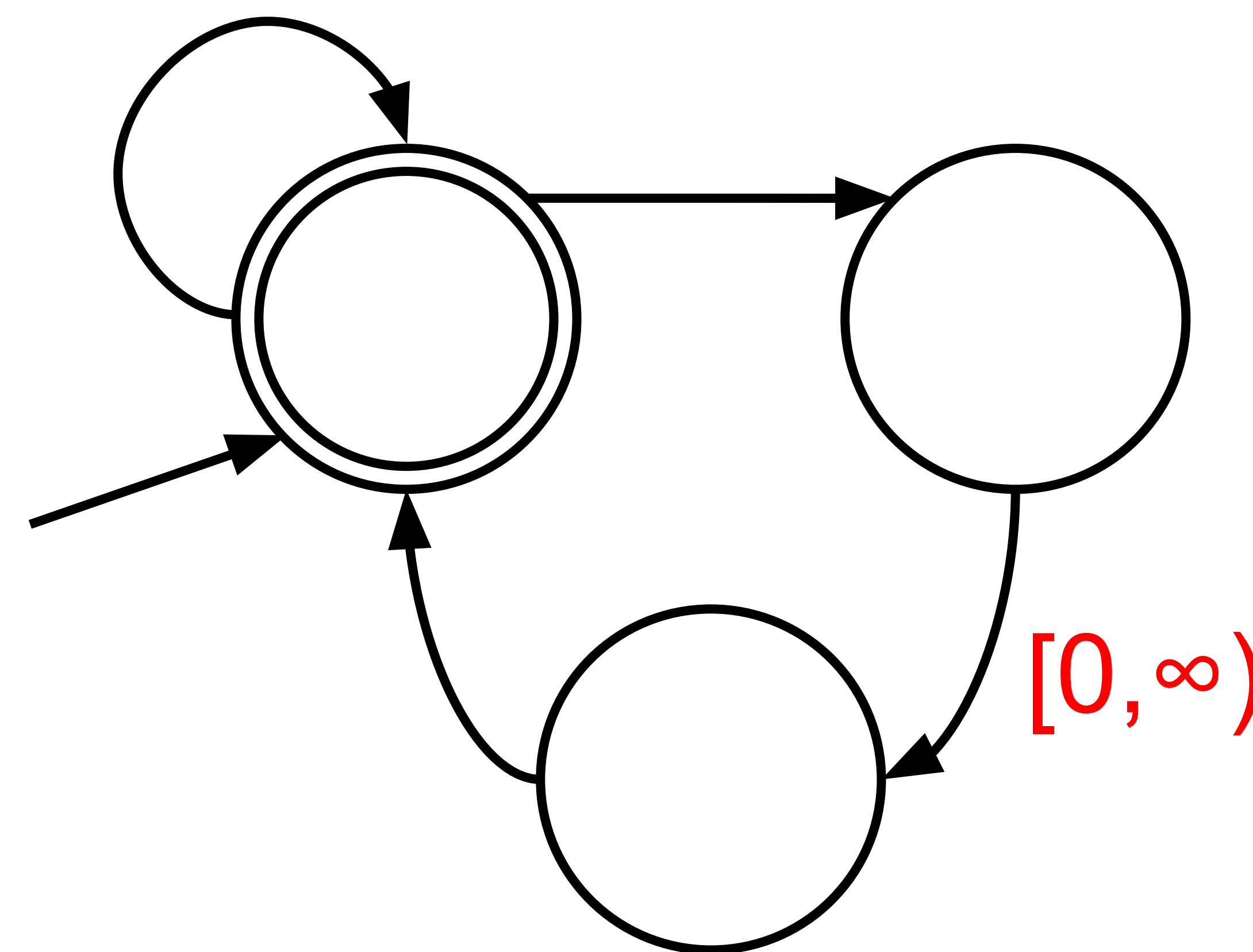
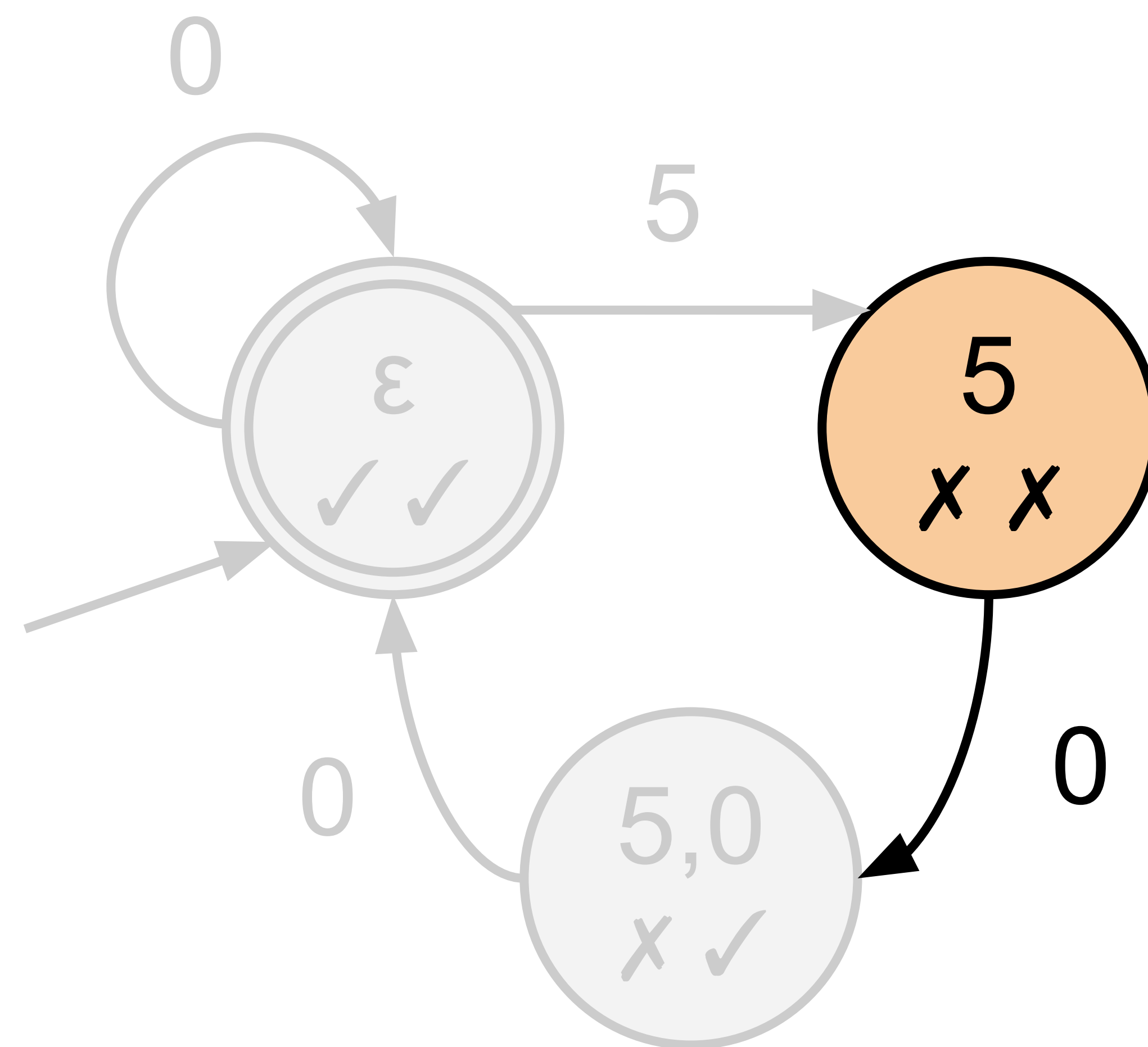


... to Symbolic Automaton



... to Symbolic Automaton

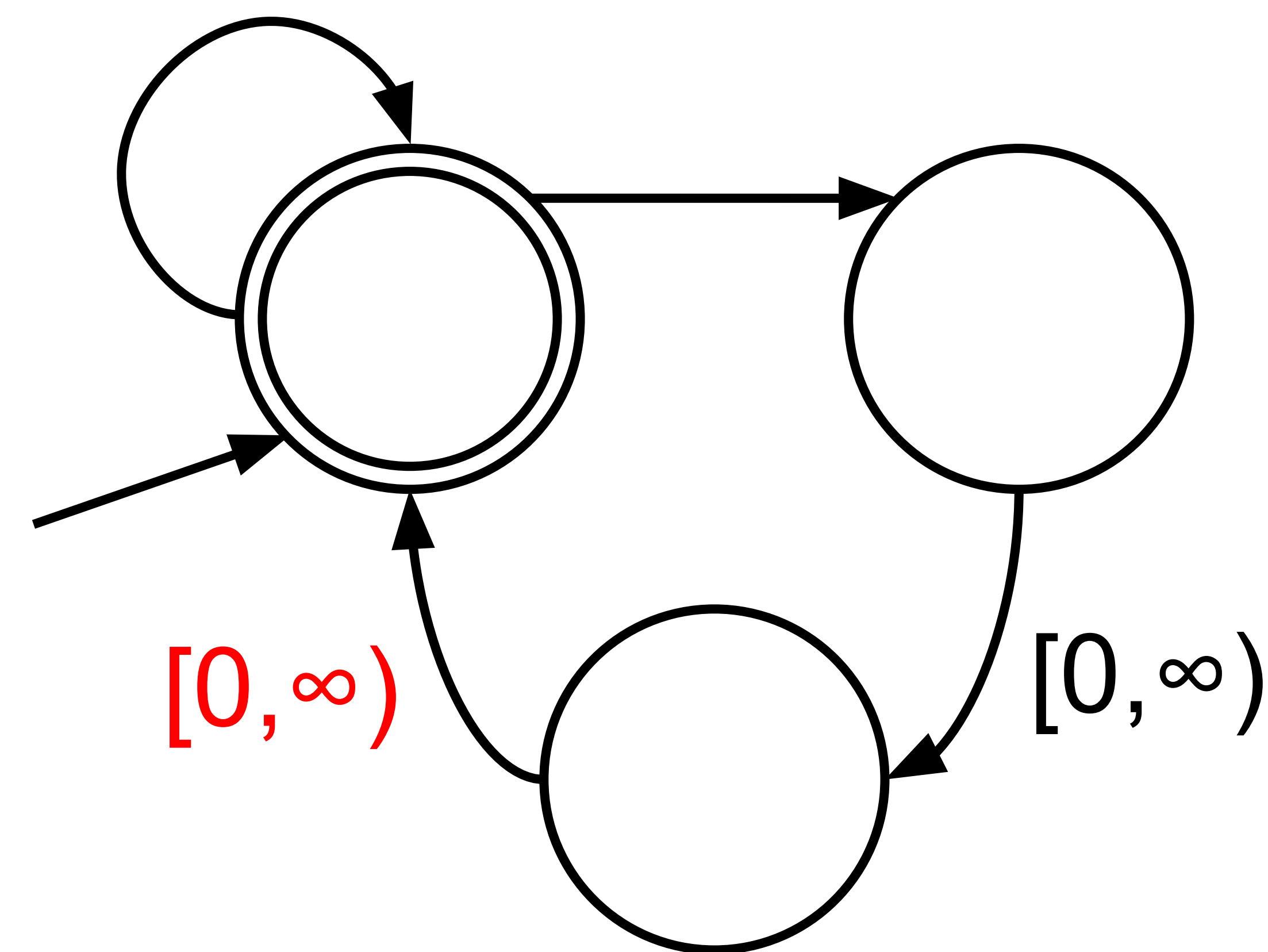
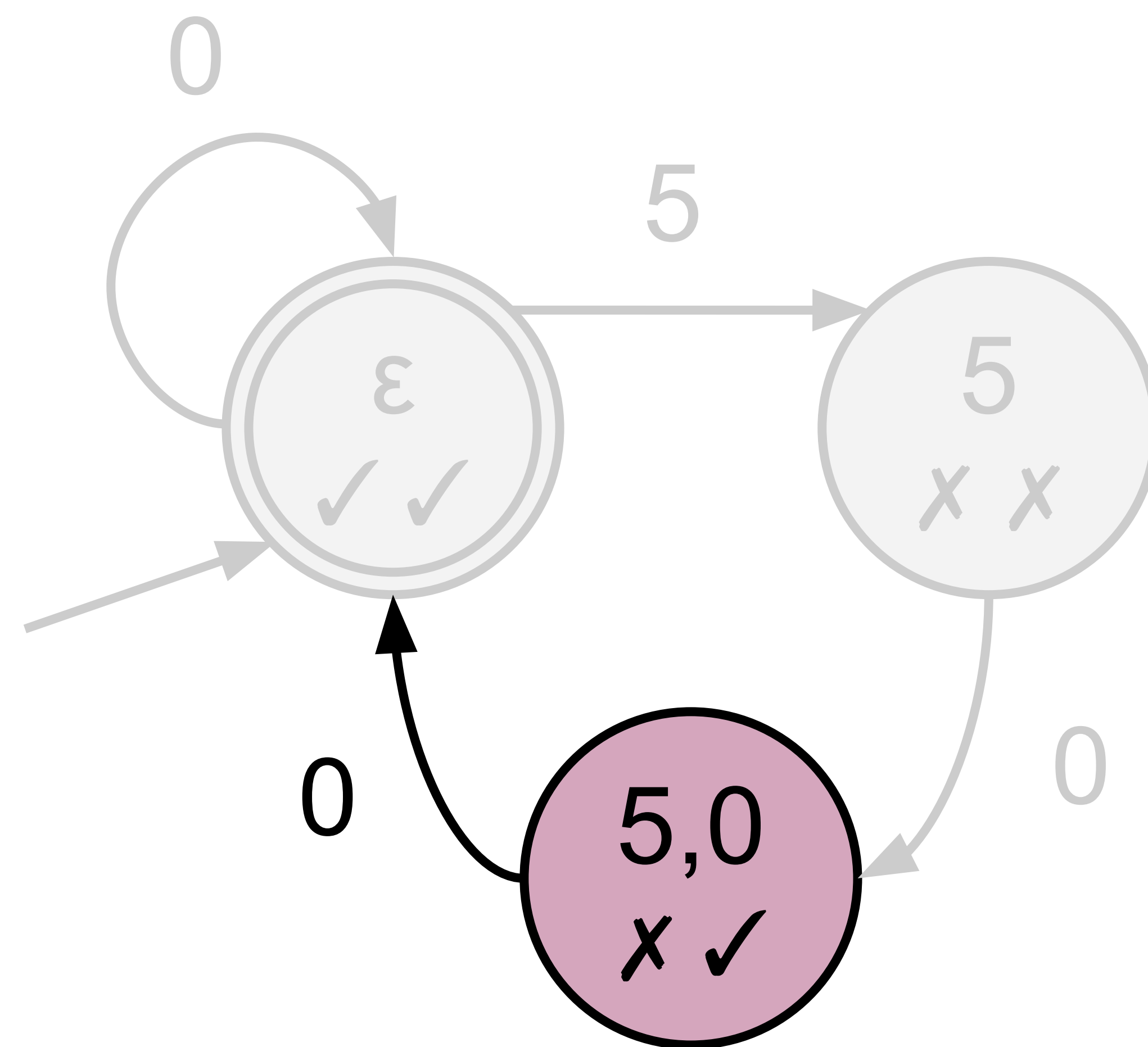
BA = intervals over  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$



Use partitioning function:  $P(\{0\}) = [0, \infty)$

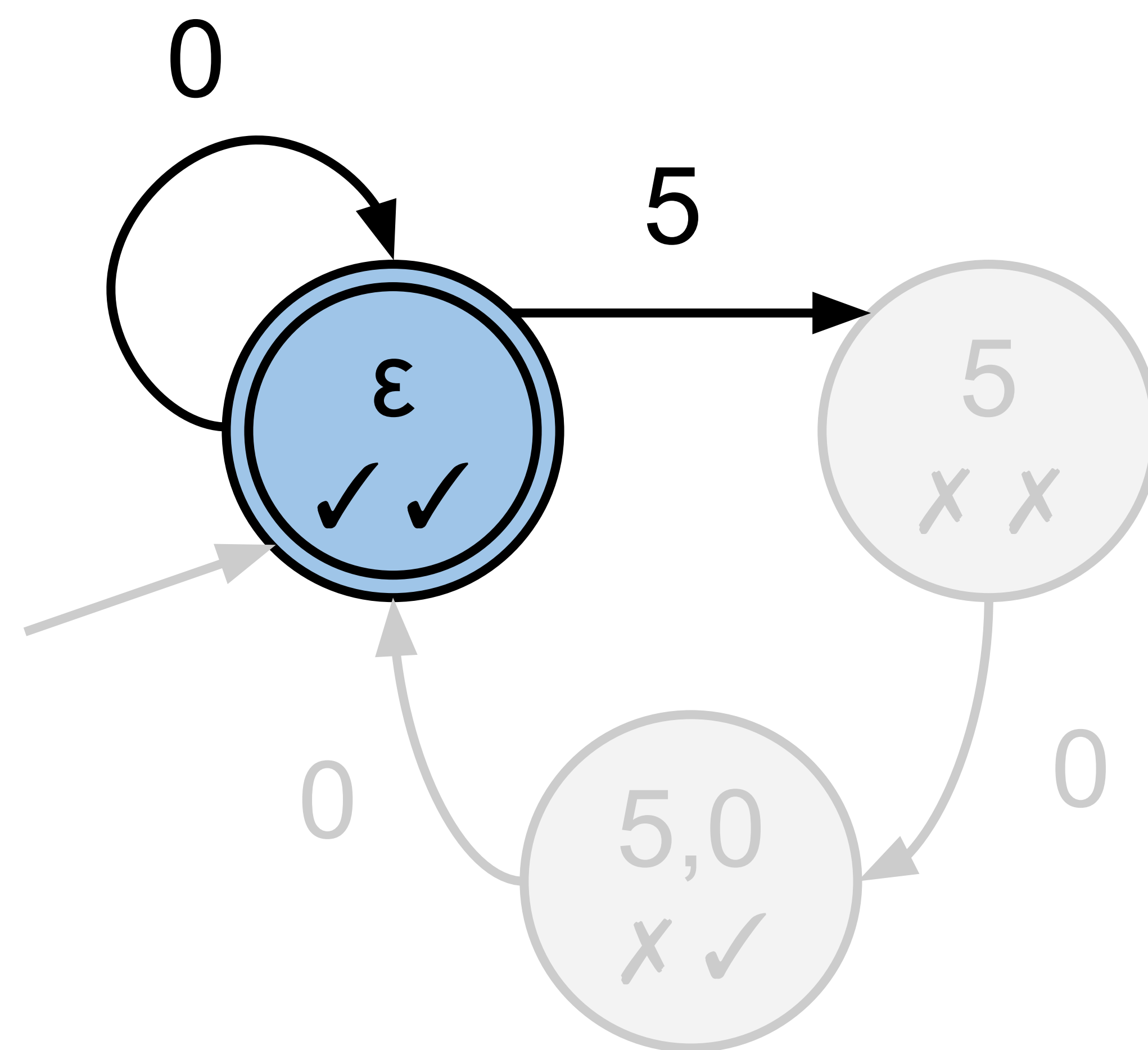
... to Symbolic Automaton

BA = intervals over  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

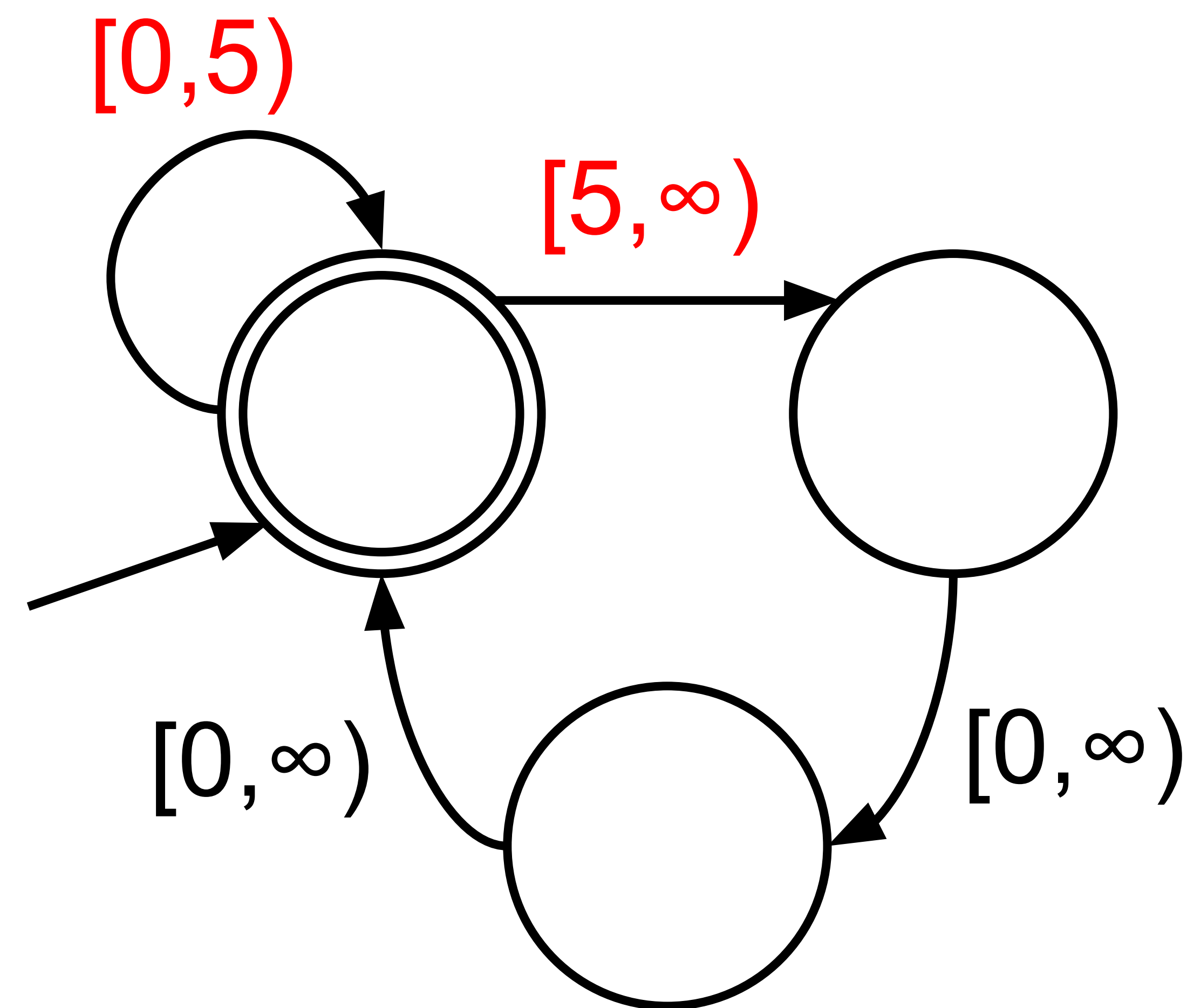


Use partitioning function:  $P(\{0\}) = [0, \infty)$

... to Symbolic Automaton



BA = intervals over  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

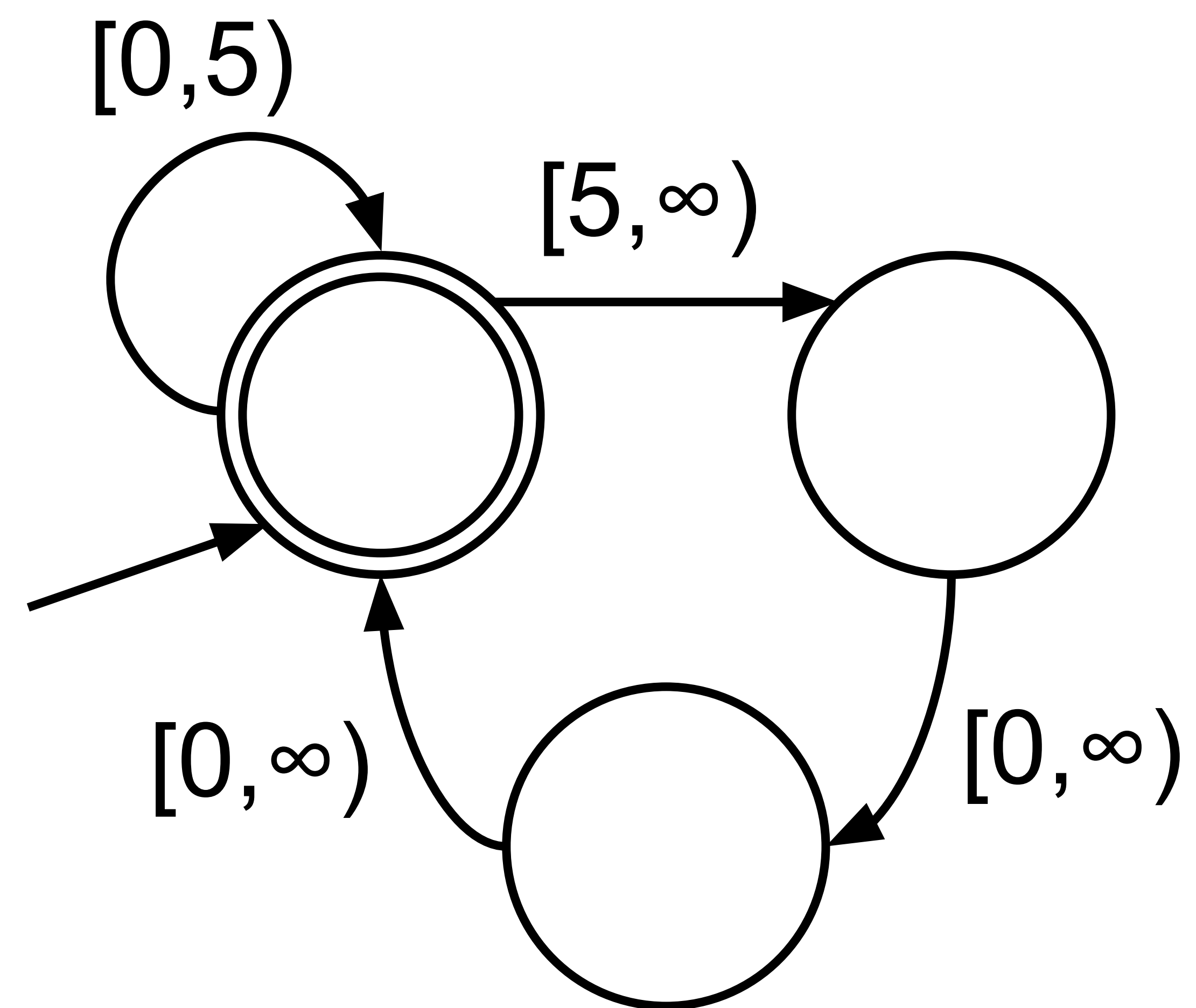


Use partitioning function:  $P(\{0\},\{5\}) = [0,5), [5,\infty)$

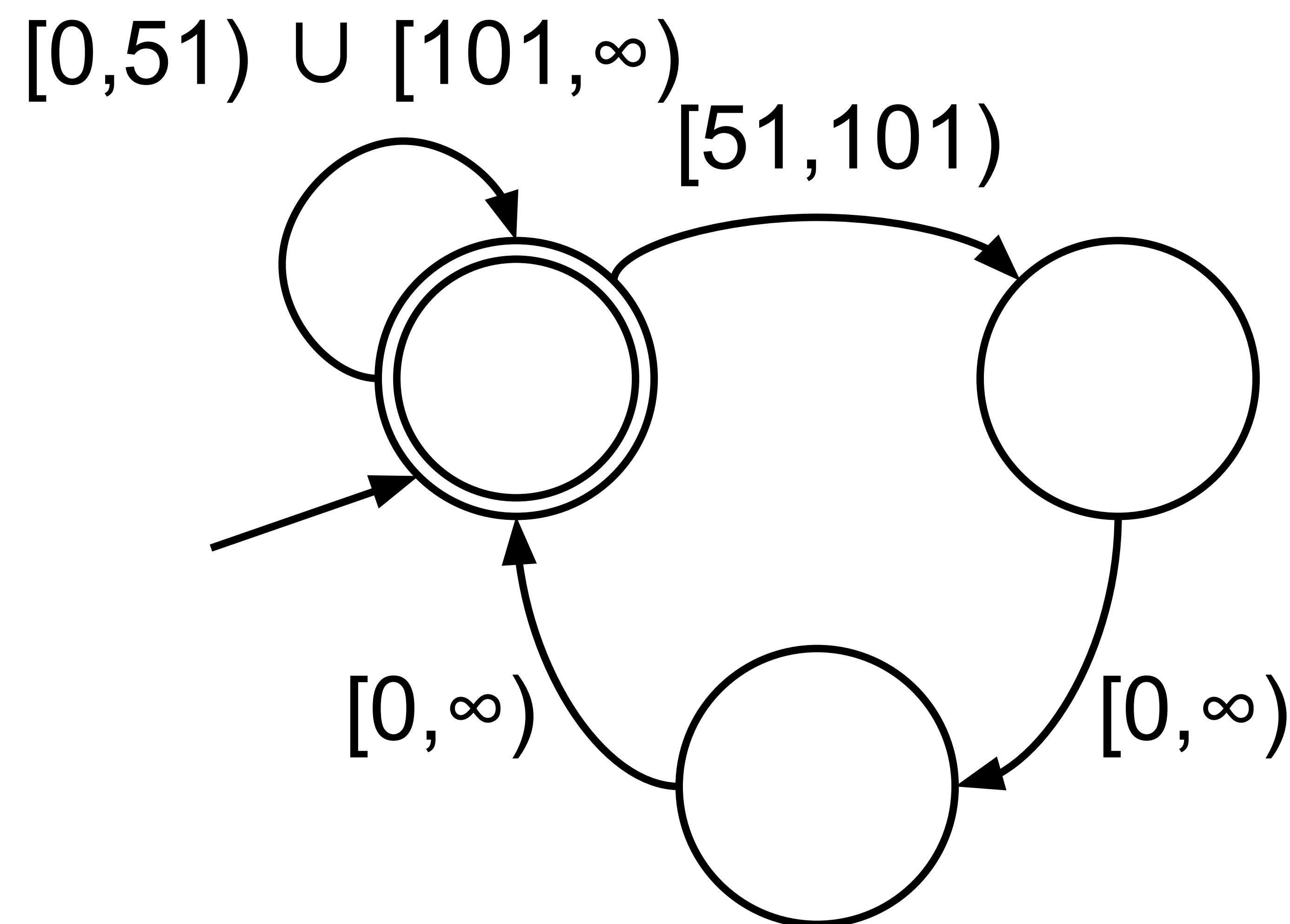


... to Symbolic Automaton

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
5	✗	✗
5,0	✗	✓
0	✓	✓
5,0,0	✓	✓



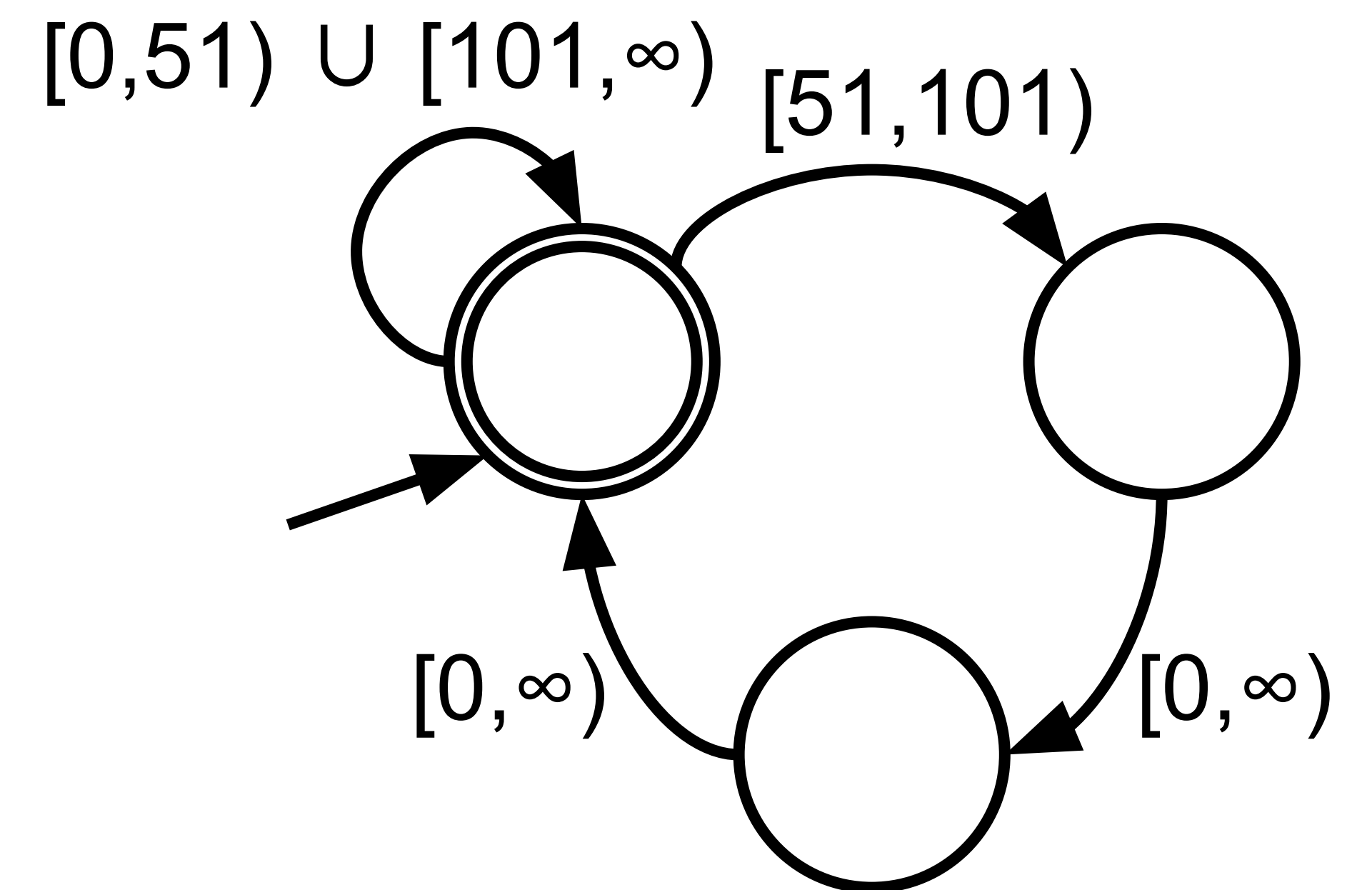
# $\Lambda^*$ by Example



$\Sigma$  = non-negative integers

BA = unions of intervals over  $\Sigma$

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example



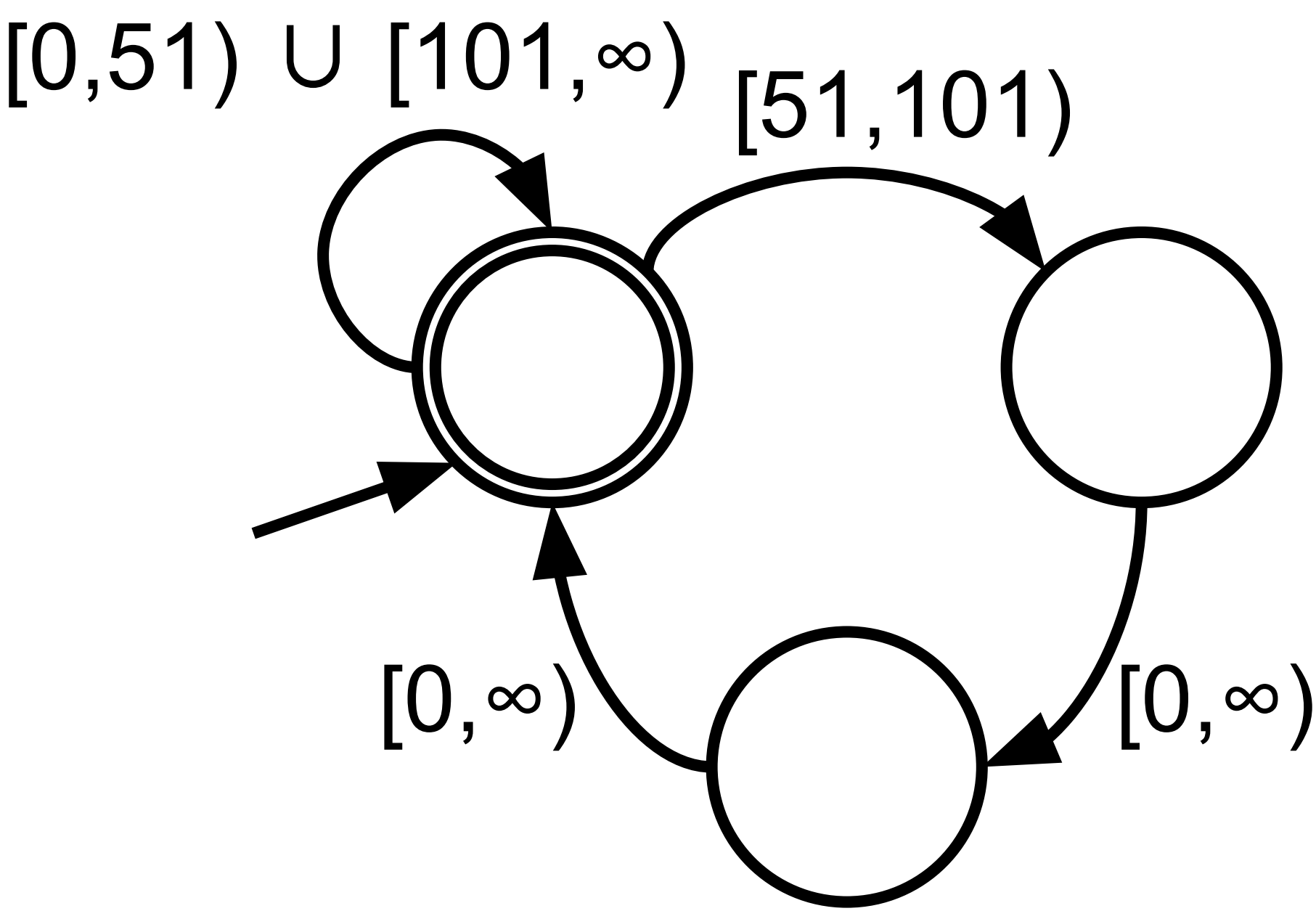
	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	✓

Initialize table:

Membership query for  $\varepsilon$

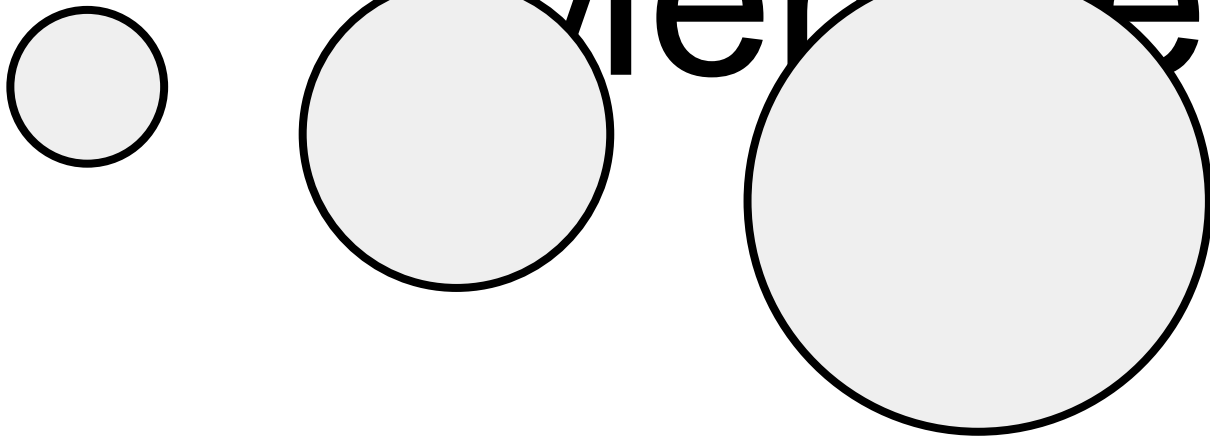
Membership query for 0 (arbitrary)

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example



	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	✓

Initialize table:  
Membership  
Membership

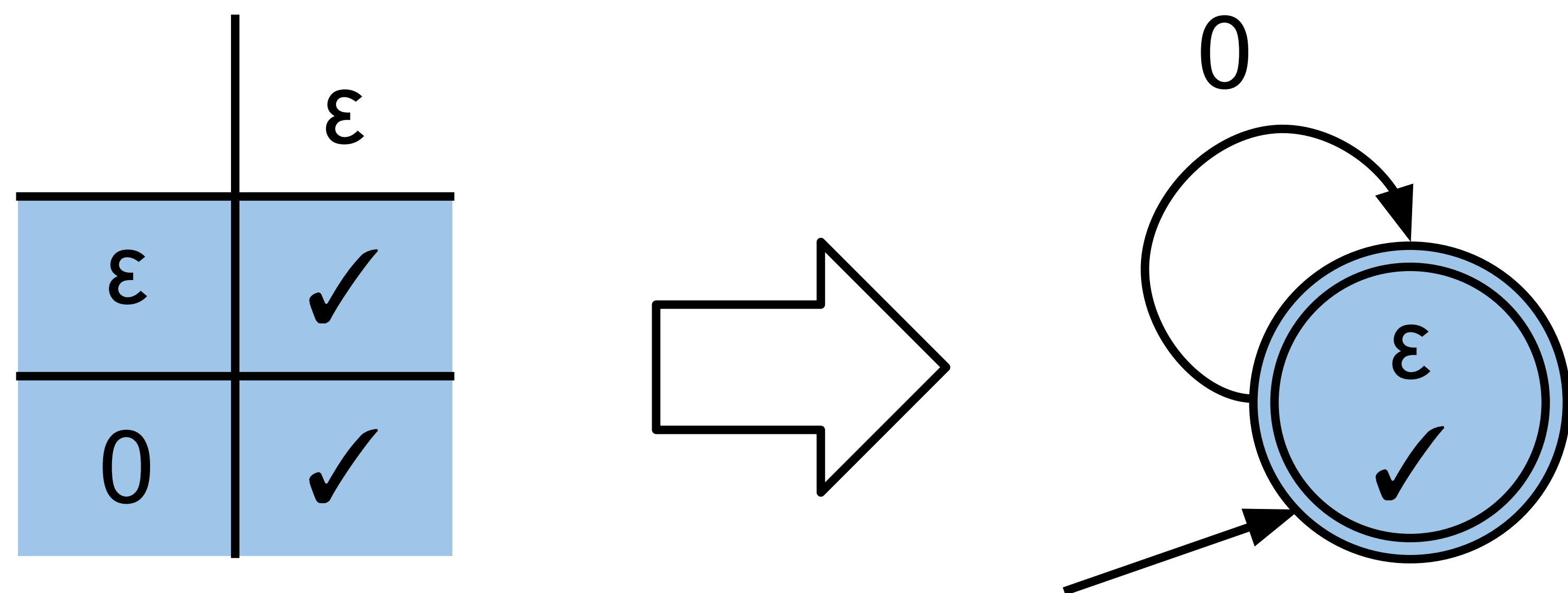
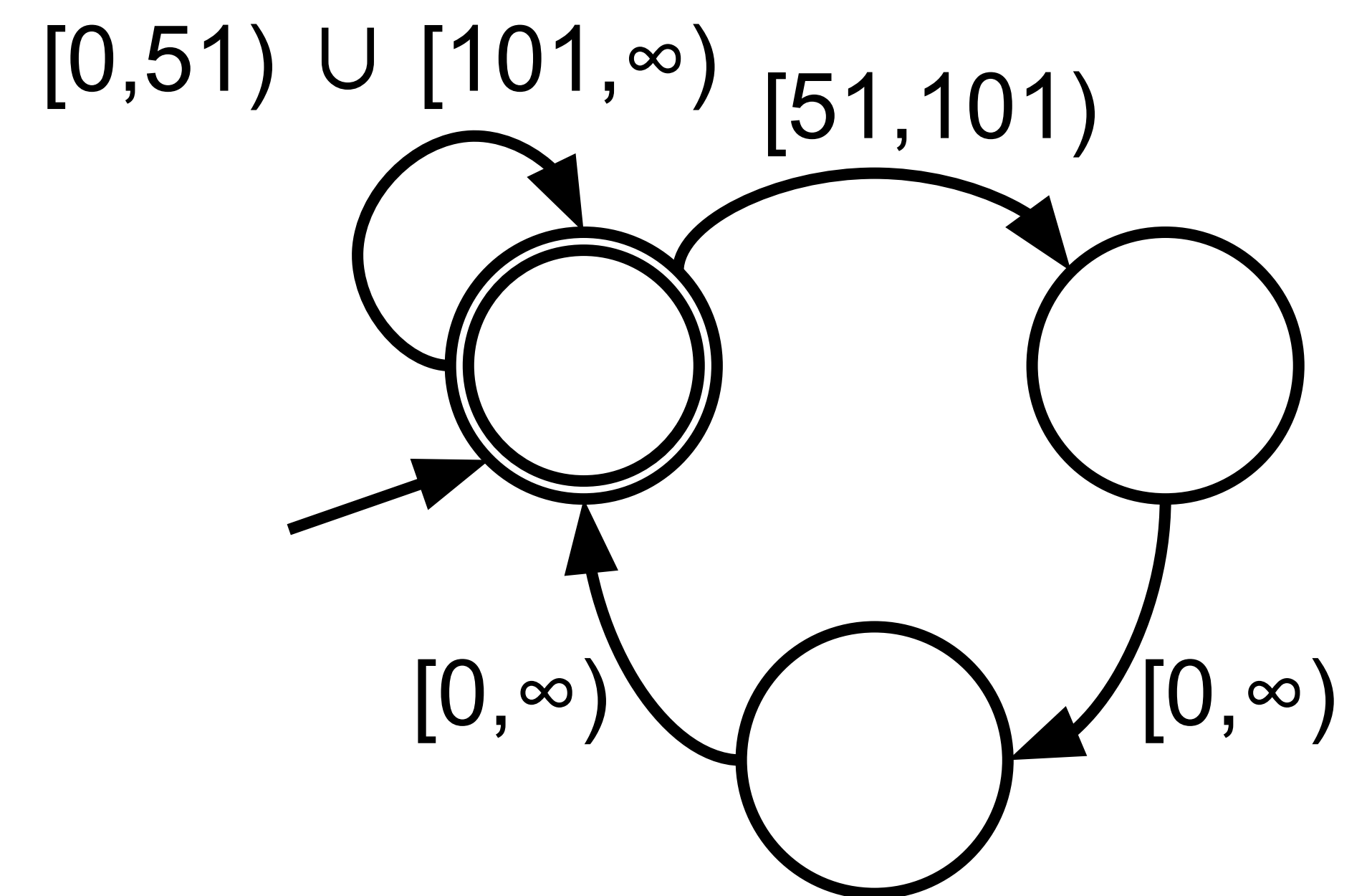


$\Lambda^*$  : query  
for single  
element

$L^*$  : queries  
for all of  $\Sigma$

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	✓
1	✓
2	✓
...	

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

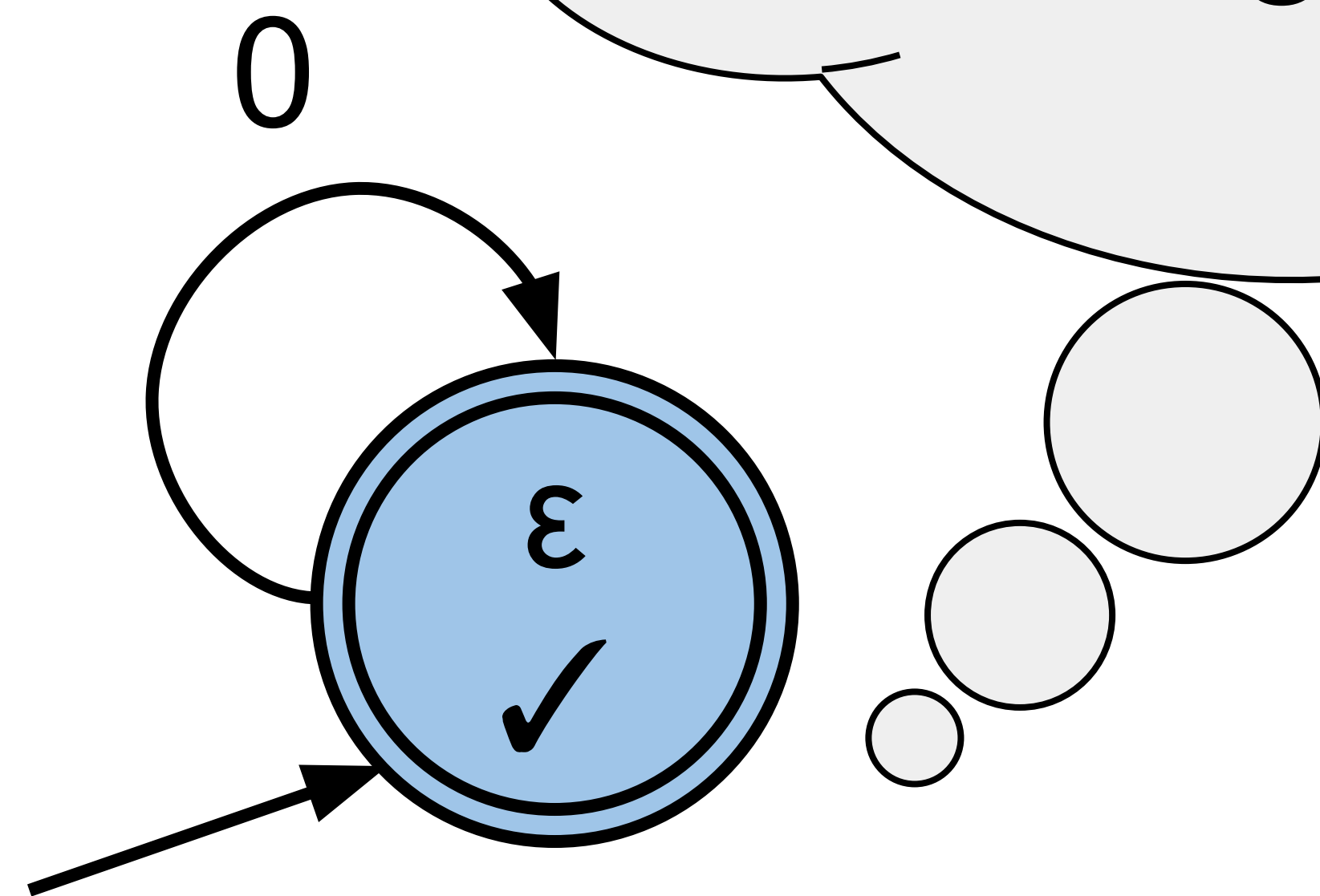
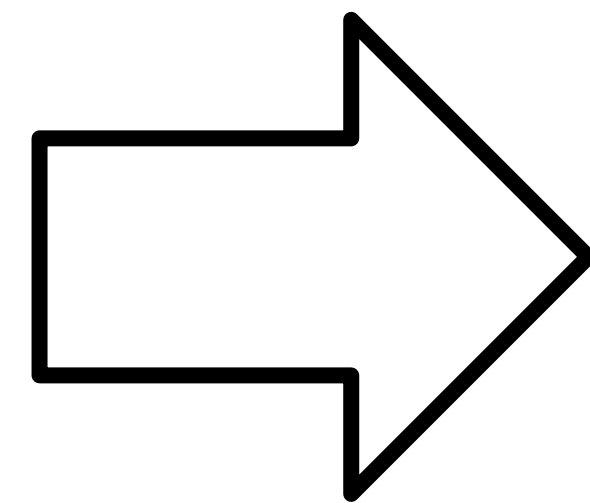


Build “sparse” automaton from table

$$\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$$

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\epsilon$
$\epsilon$	✓
0	✓



$L^*$  : equivalence query

$\Lambda^*$  : build symbolic  
Automaton

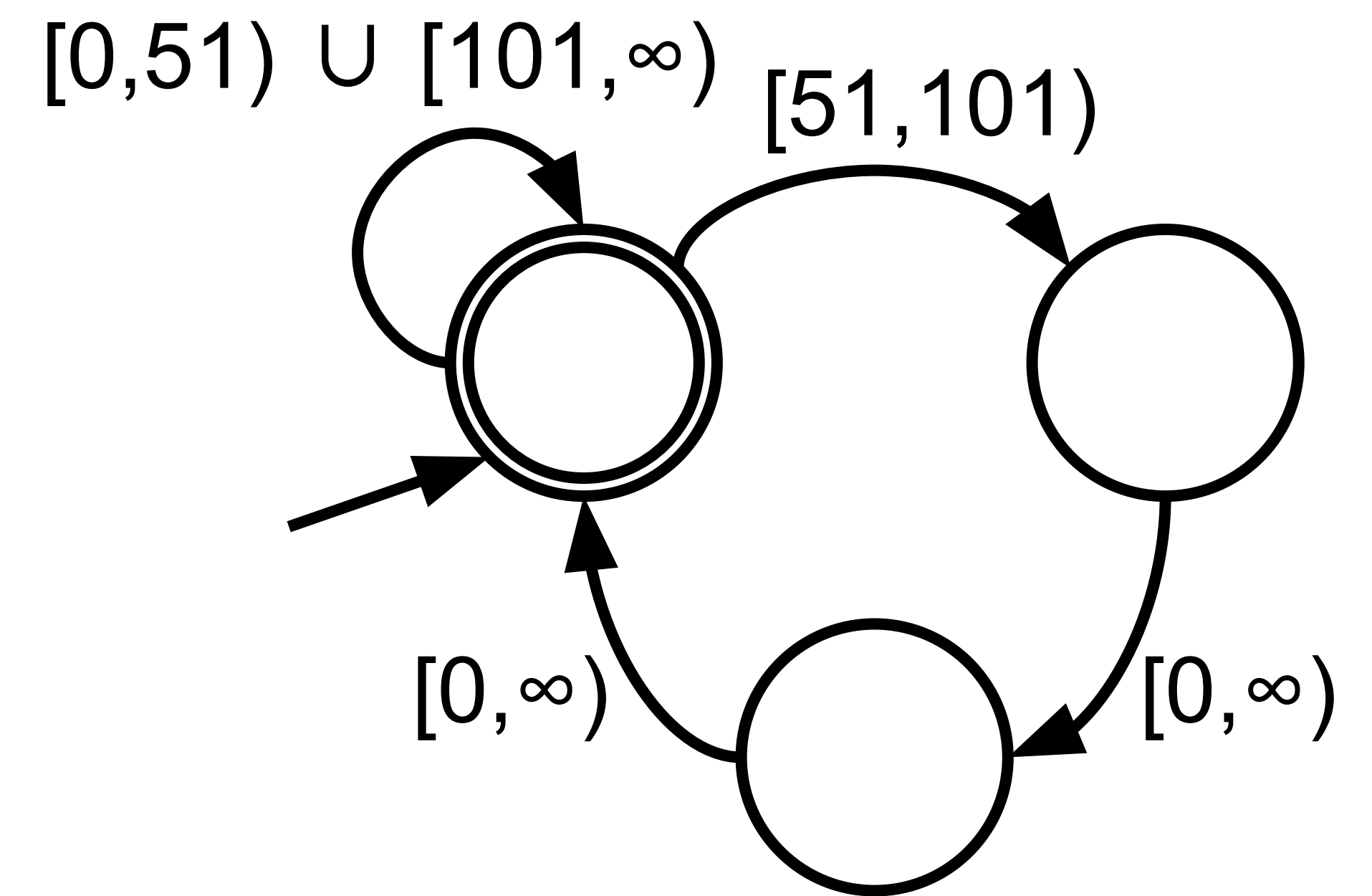
$\delta : Q \times BA \rightarrow Q$

Build “sparse” automaton from table

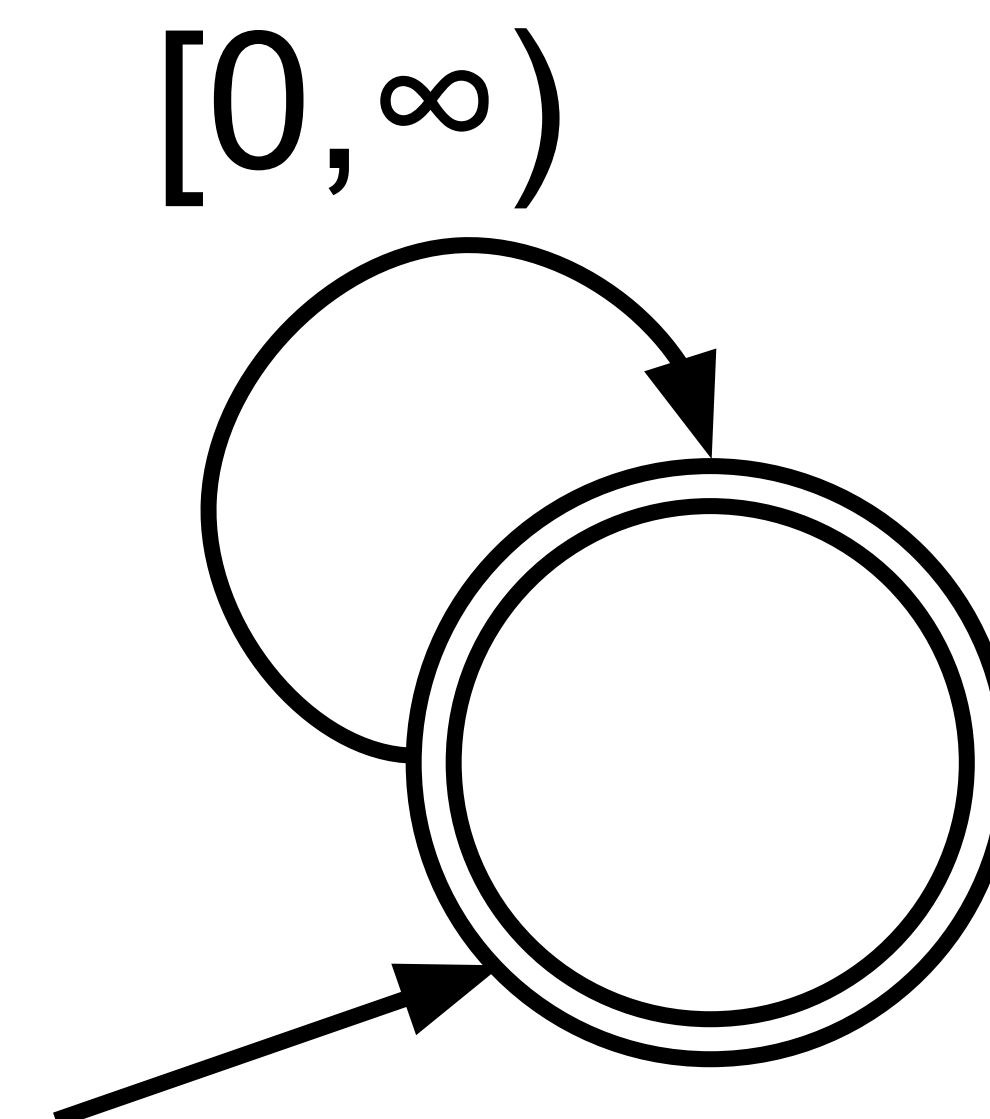
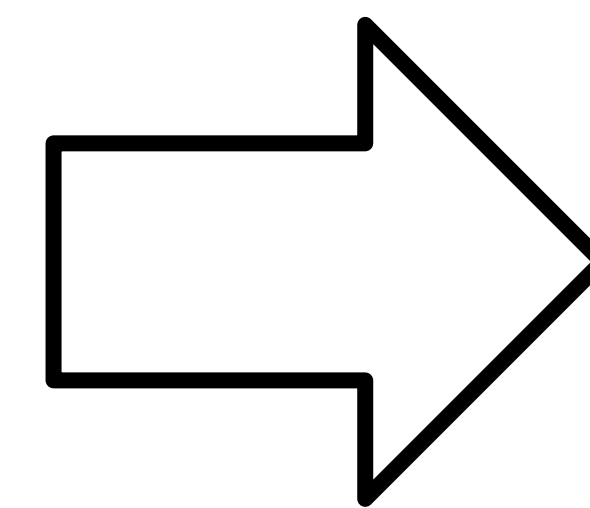
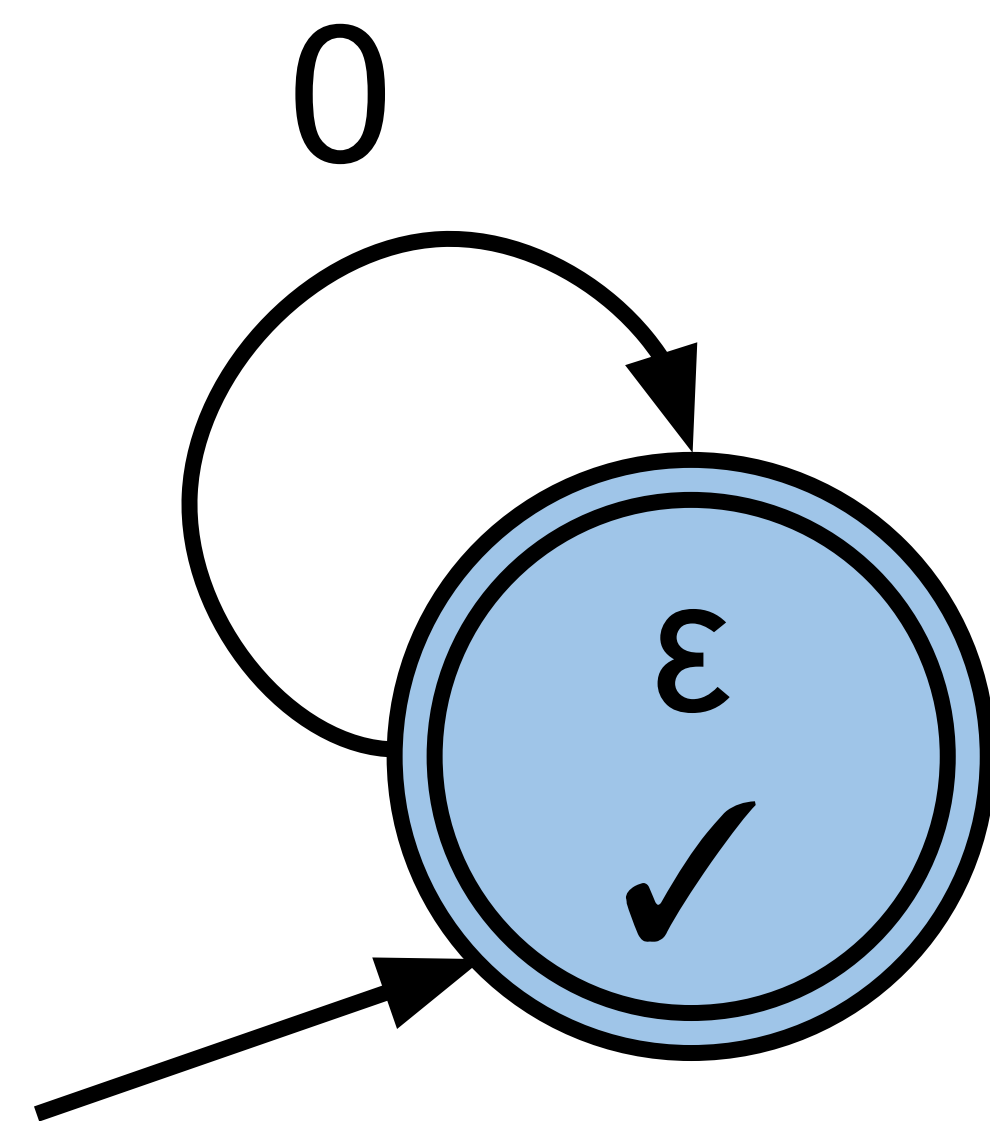
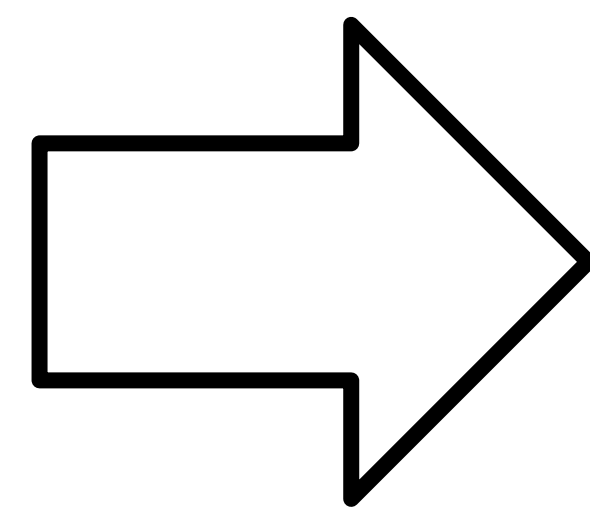
$\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$



# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

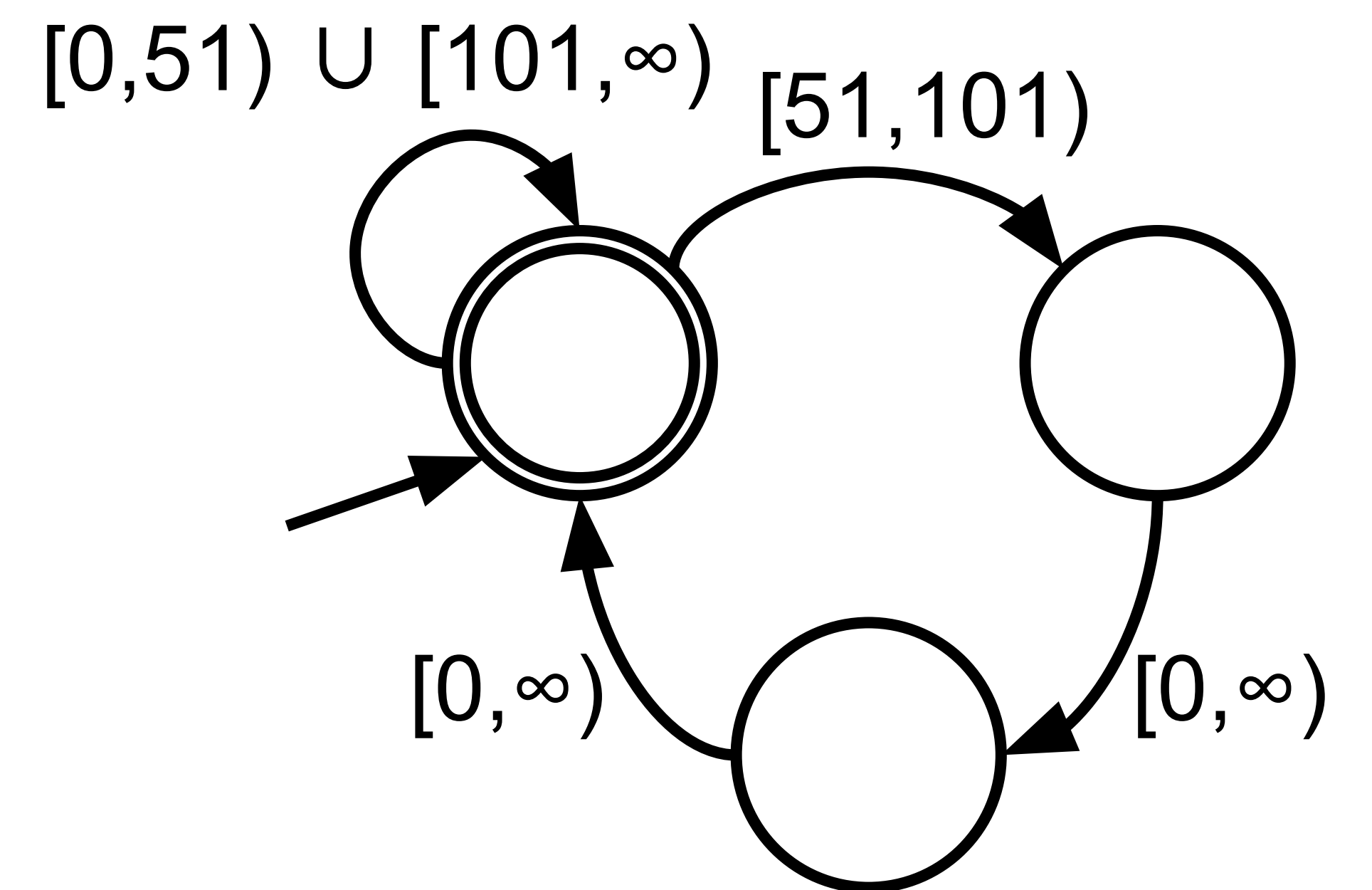


	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	✓

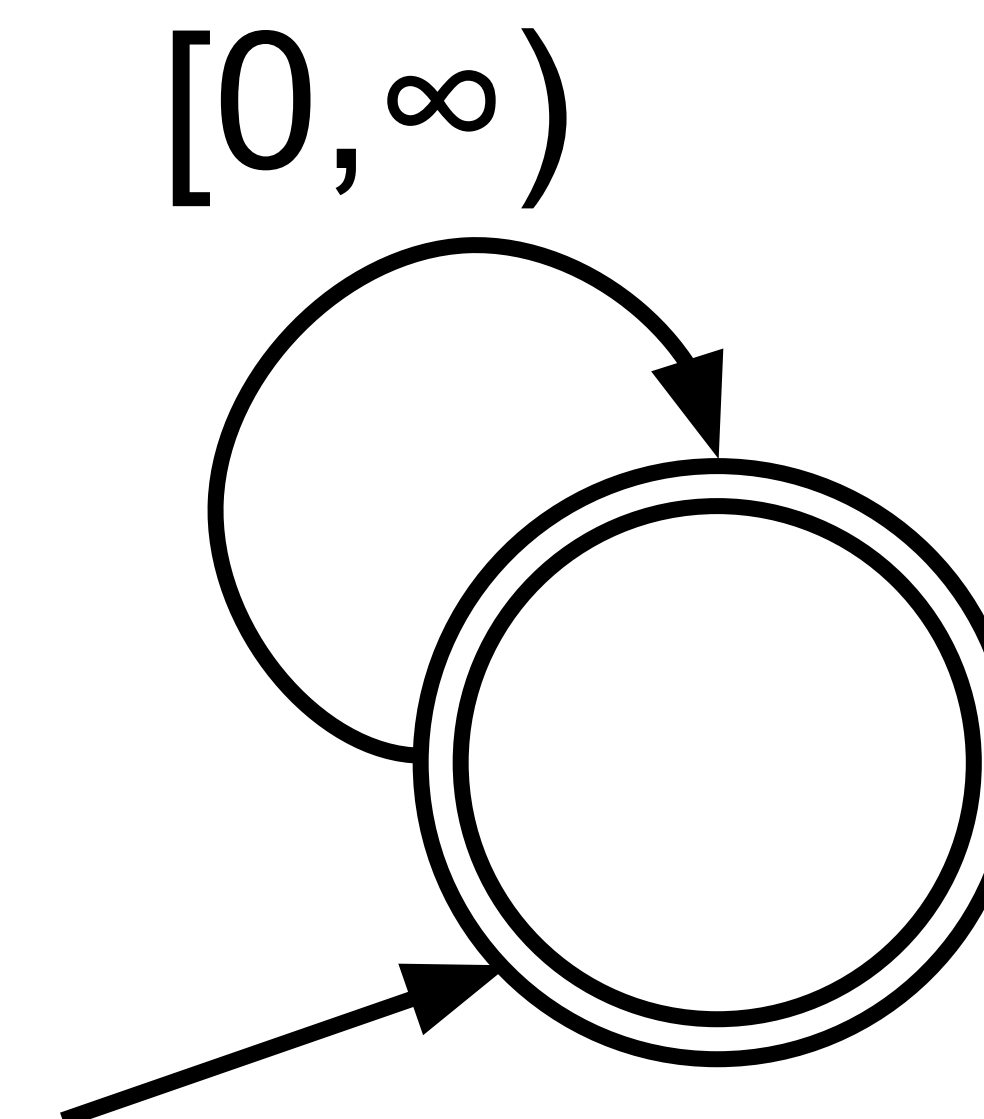


Build symbolic automaton using partitioning function:  
 suppose  $P(\{0\}) = [0, \infty)$

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

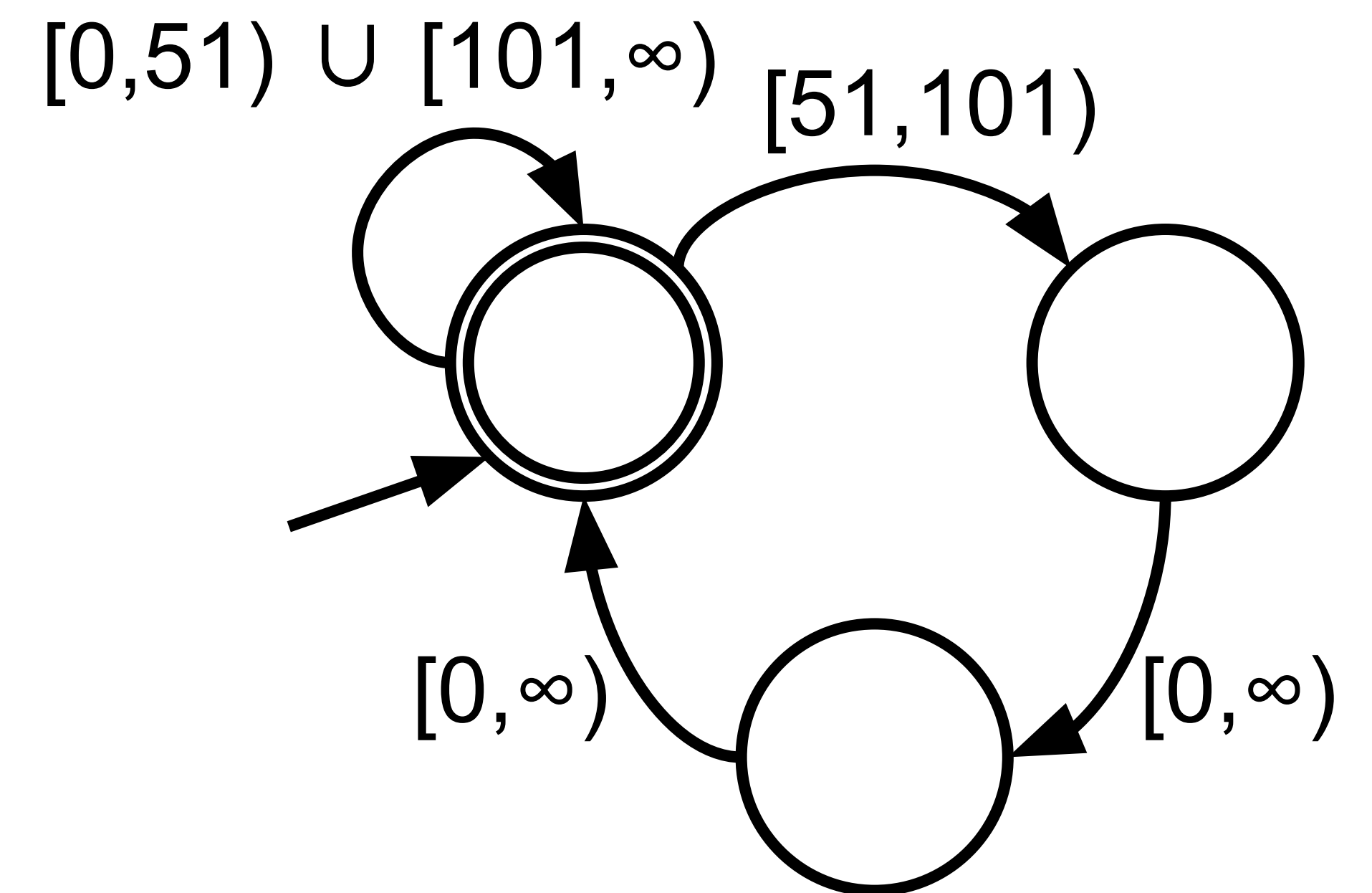


	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	✓
51	x



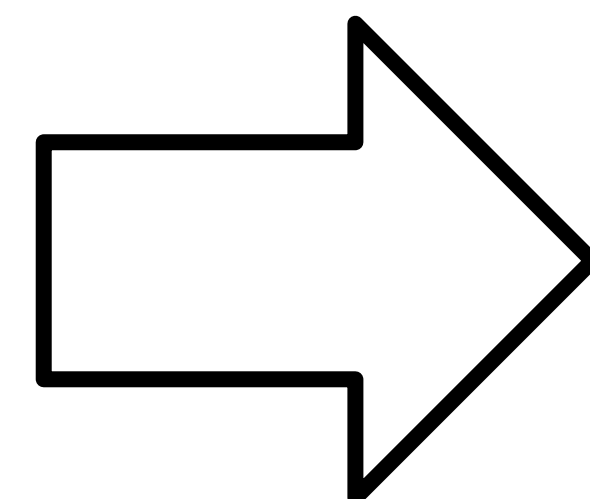
Equivalence query:  
Not equivalent! cex (51, x)

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

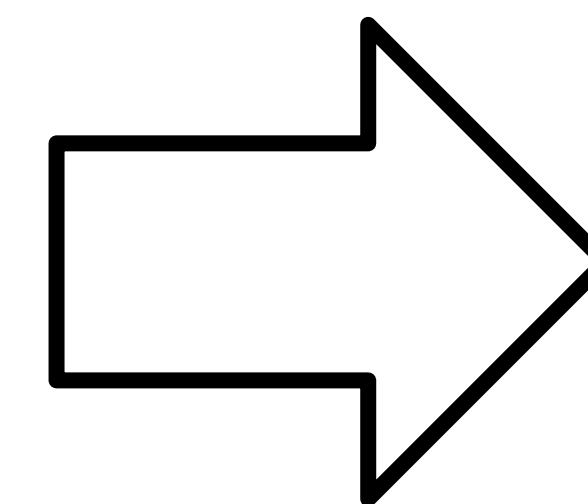


Move 51 to top

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	✓
51	x



	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	x
0	✓

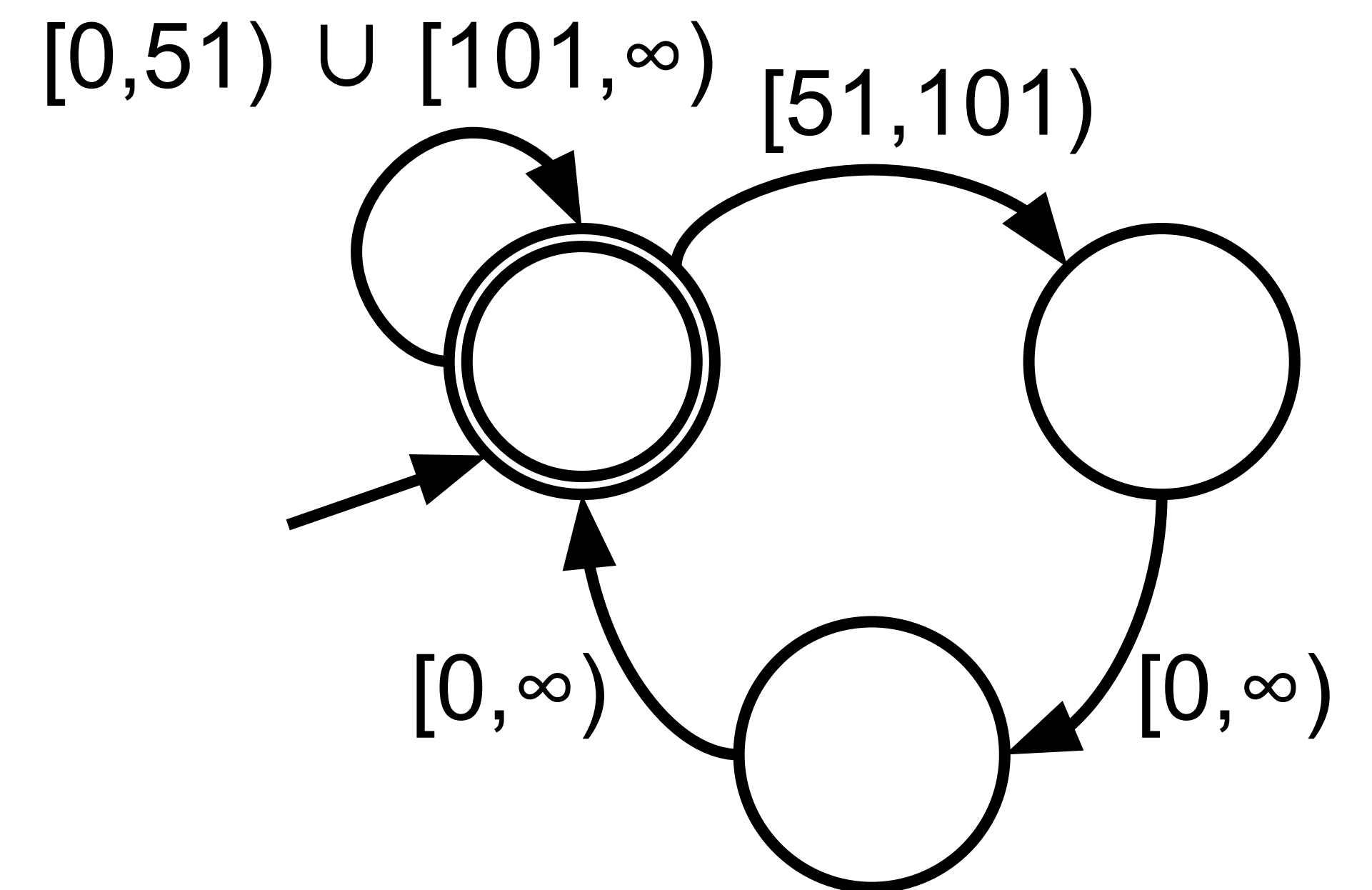


	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	x
0	✓
51,0	x

Not *closed*:  
51 leads to a new state

Membership query  
on 51,0

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example



Move 51 to top

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
0	
51	

$L^*$  queries all of  $51 \cdot \Sigma$

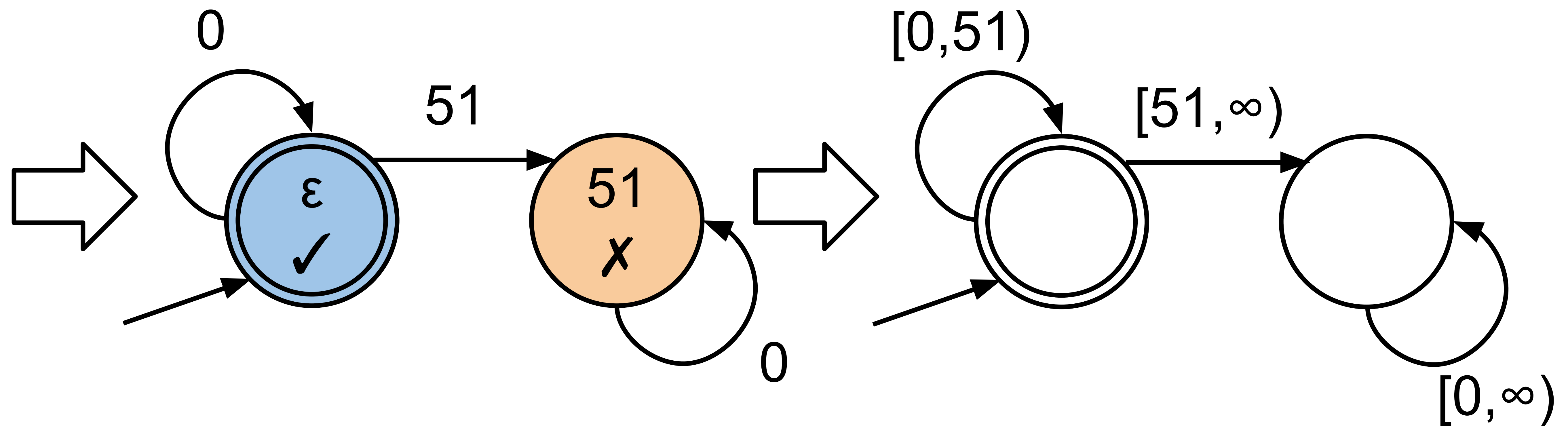
	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗

Not *closed*:  
51 leads to a new state

Membership query  
on 51,0

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

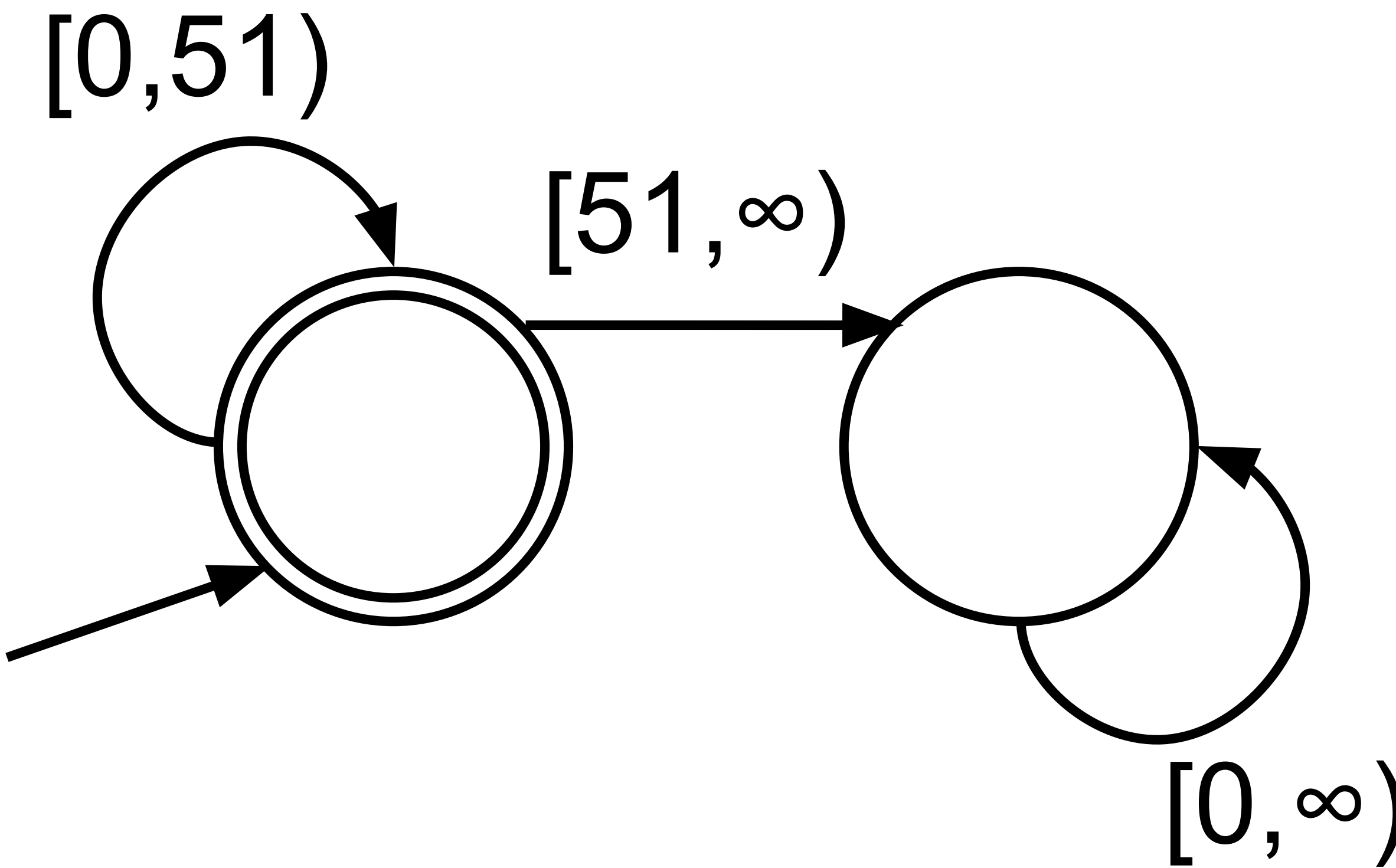
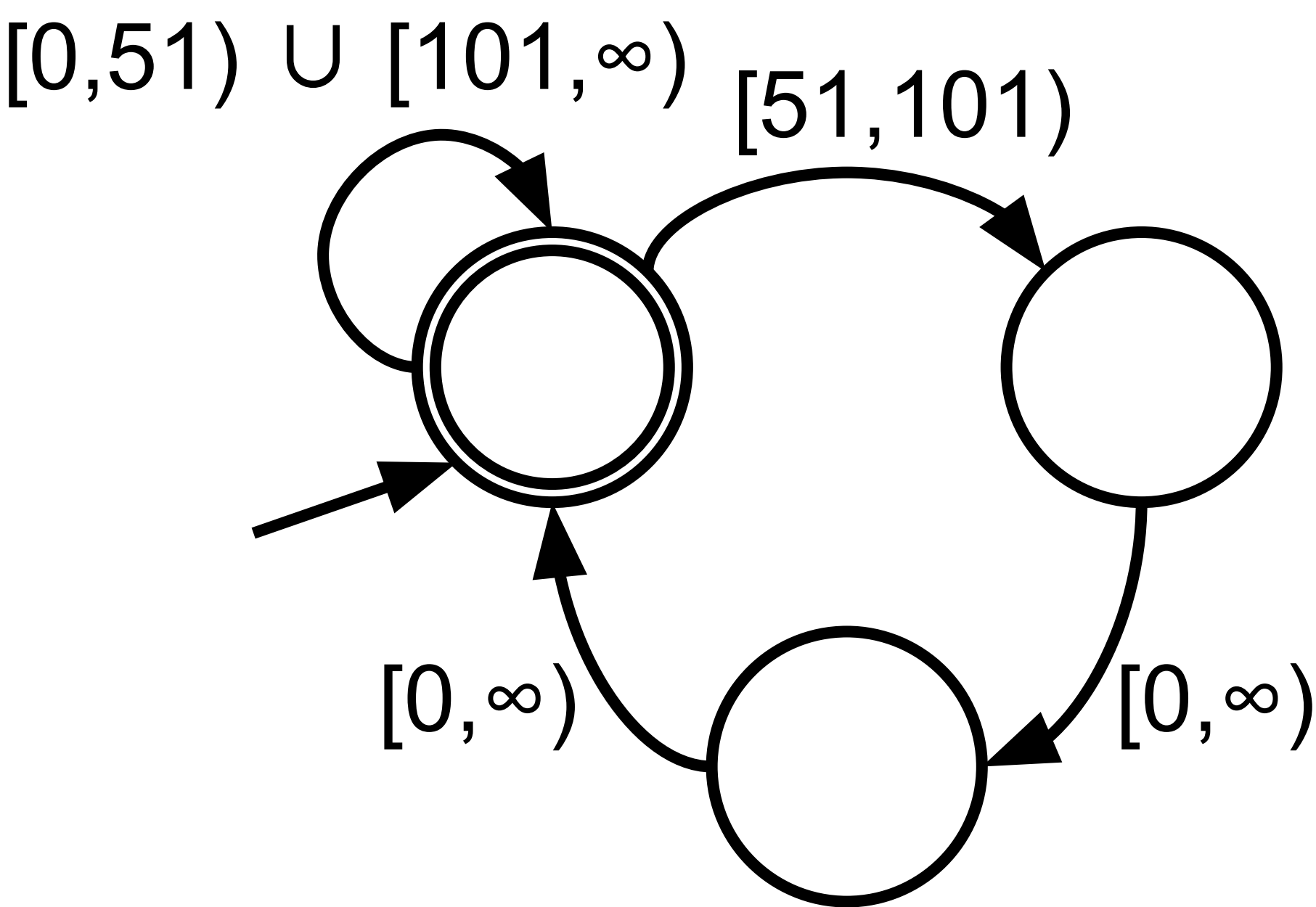
	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗



suppose  $P(\{0\},\{51\}) = [0,51) , [51,\infty)$   
 $P(\{0\}) = [0,\infty)$

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗

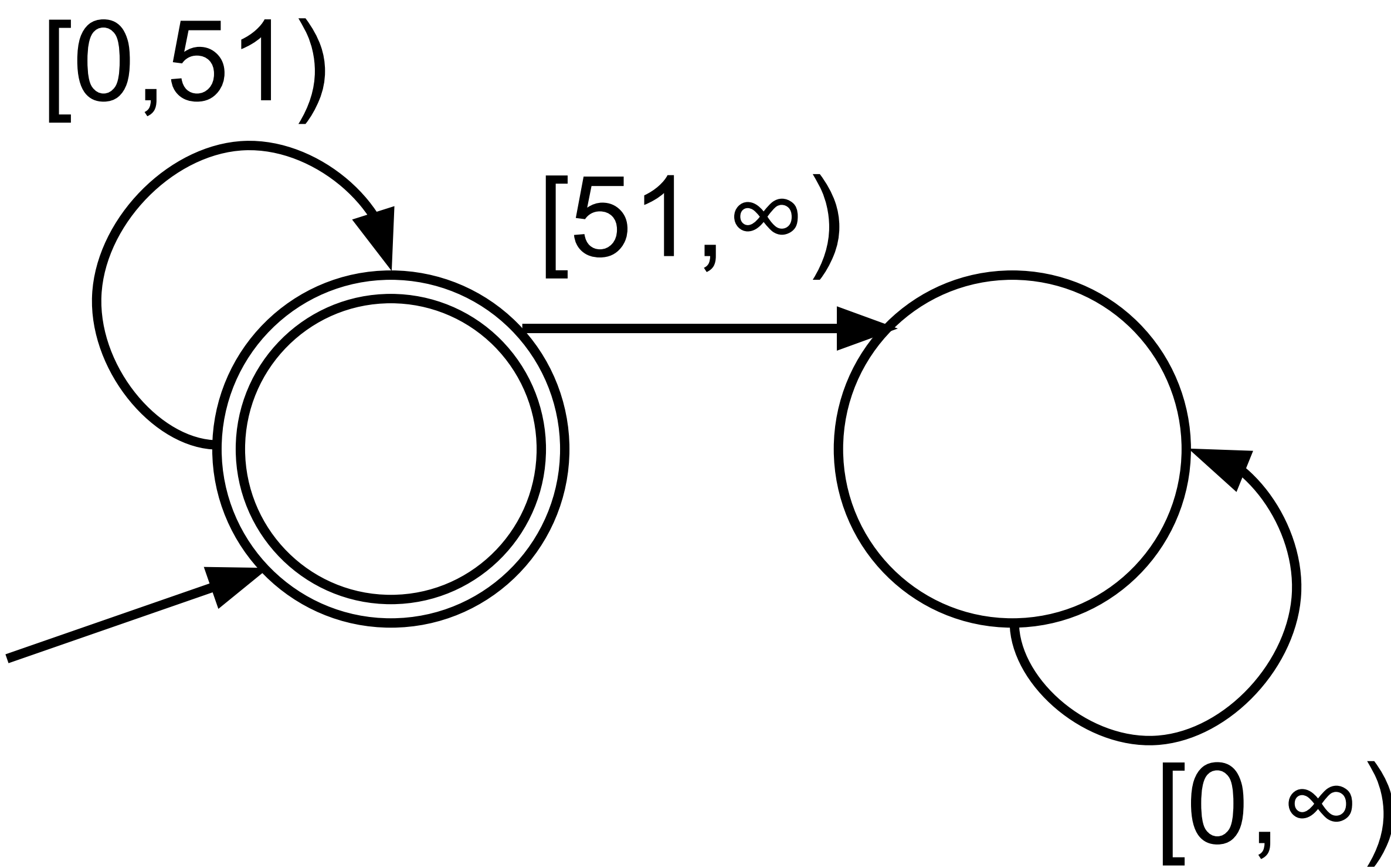
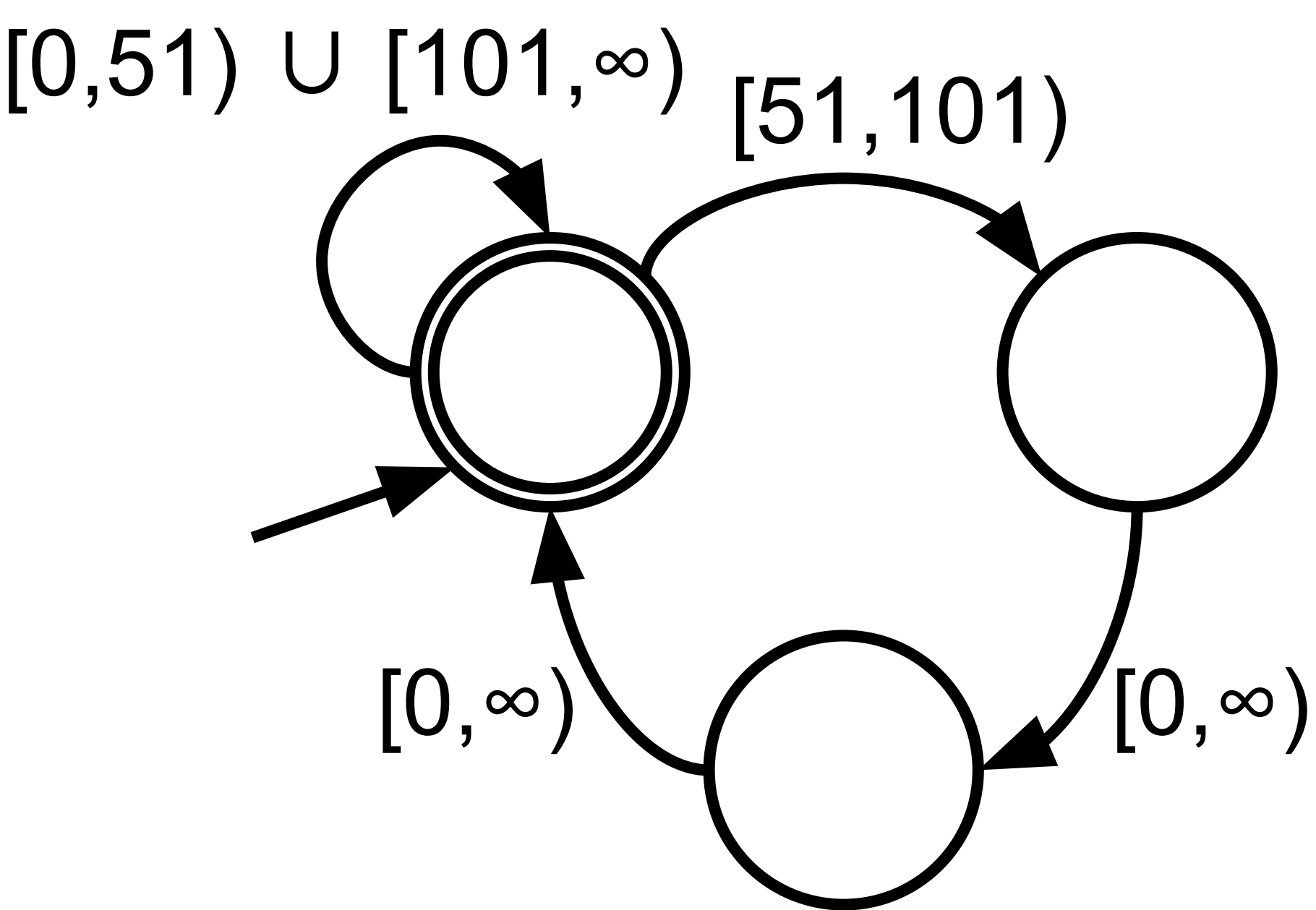


Equivalence query:  
Not equivalent! cex (101; ✓)



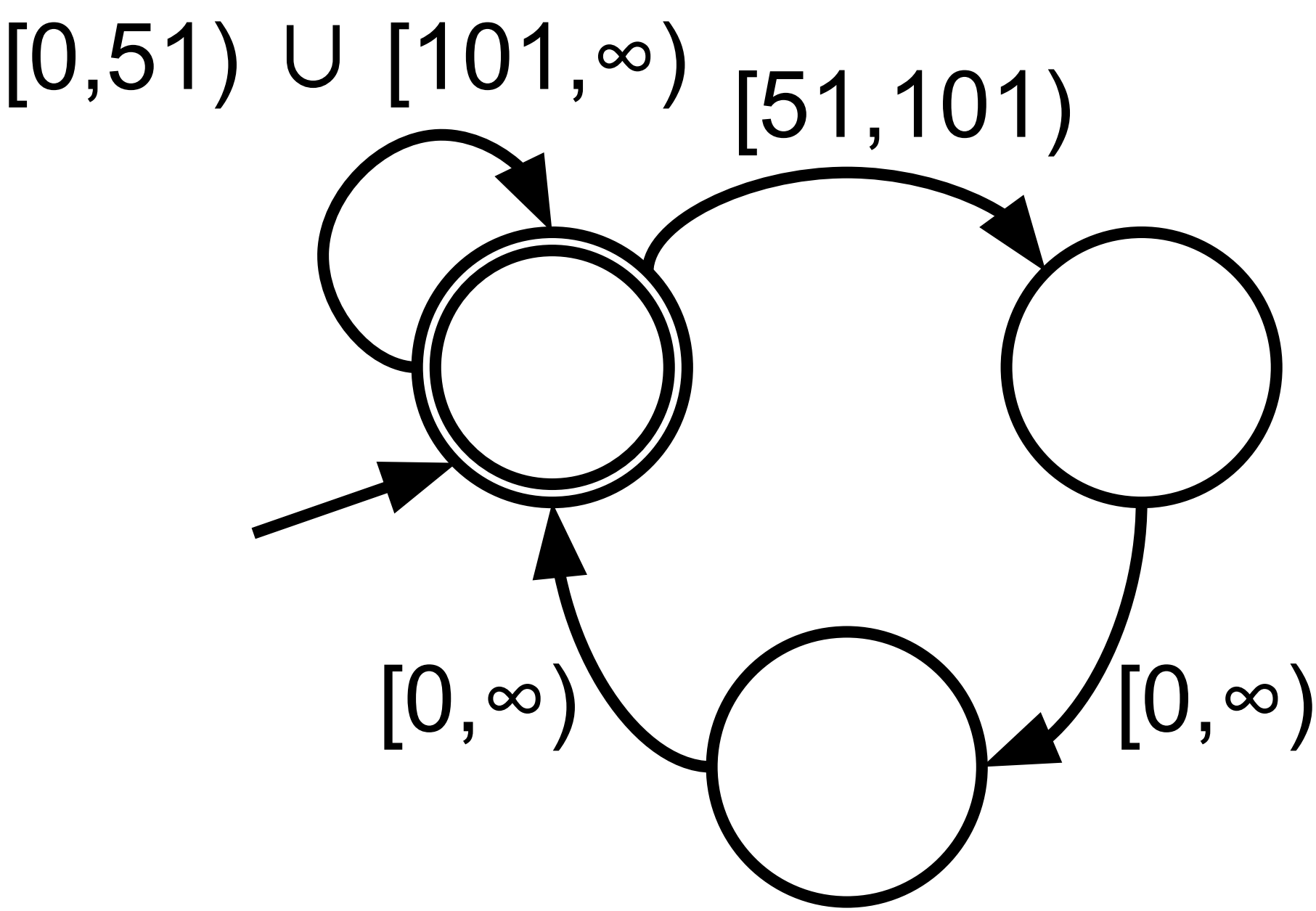
# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗
101	✓

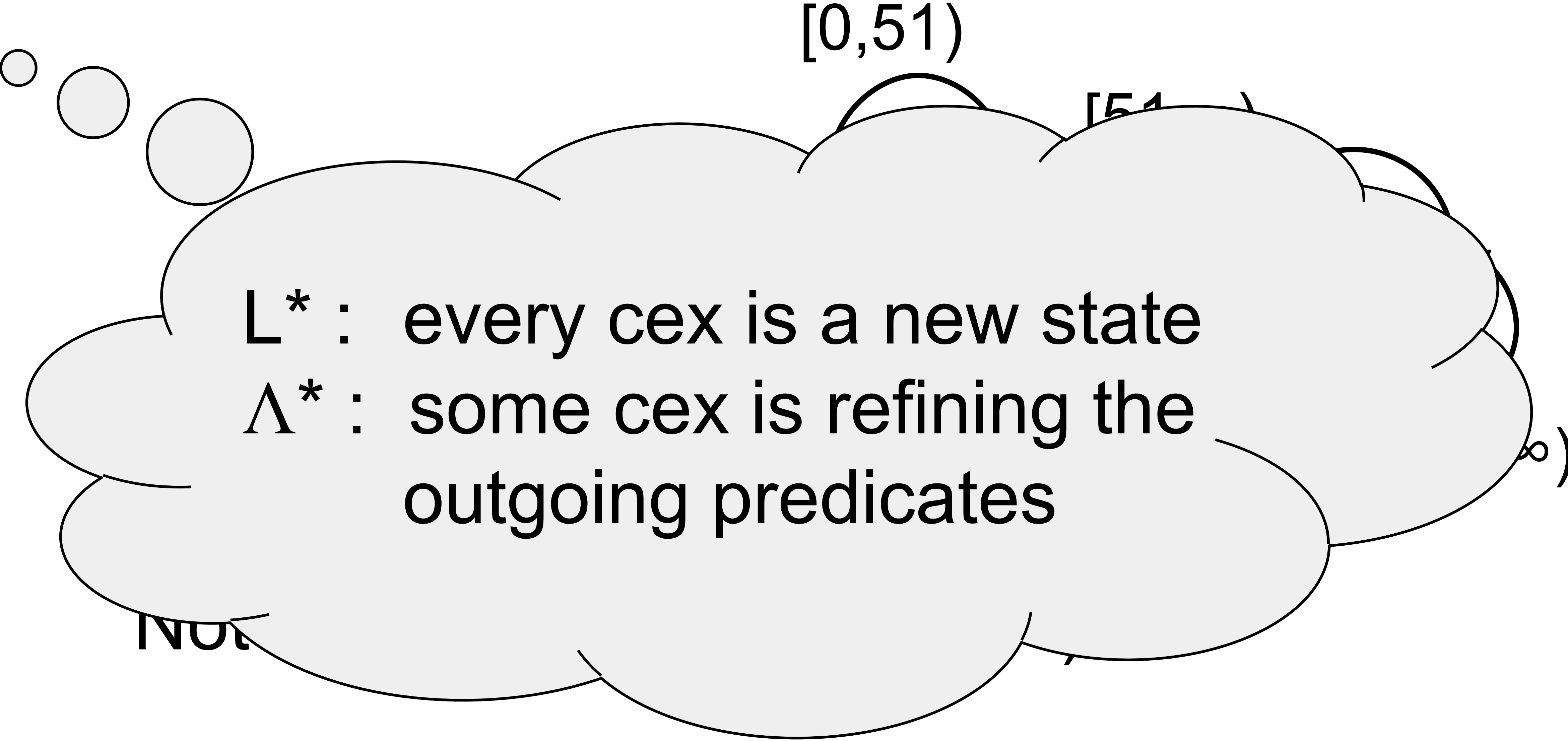


Equivalence query:  
Not equivalent! cex (101; ✓)

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

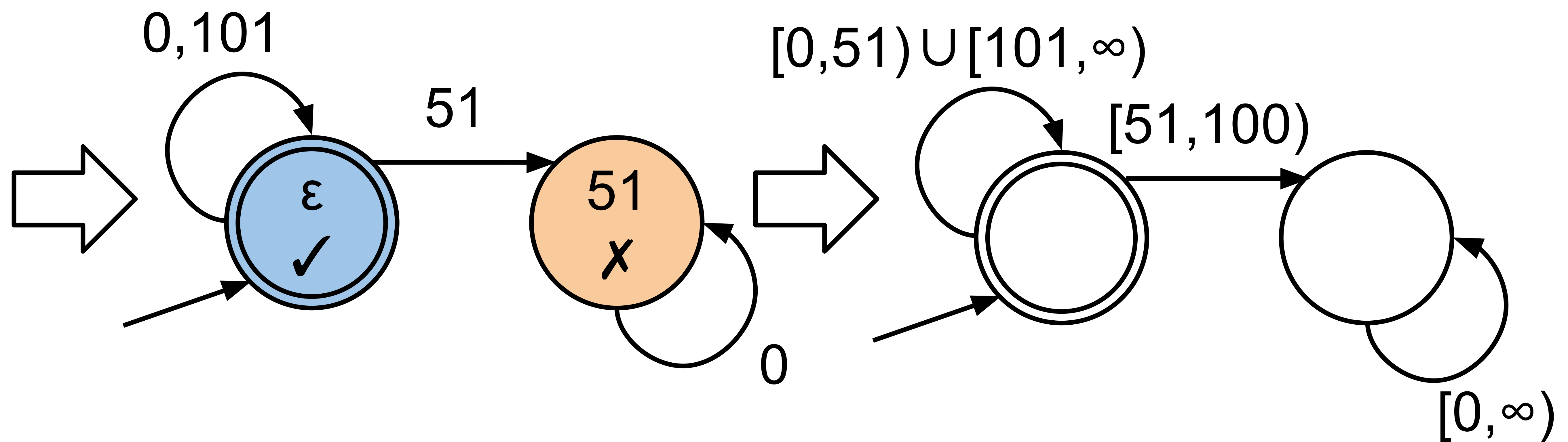


	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗
101	✓

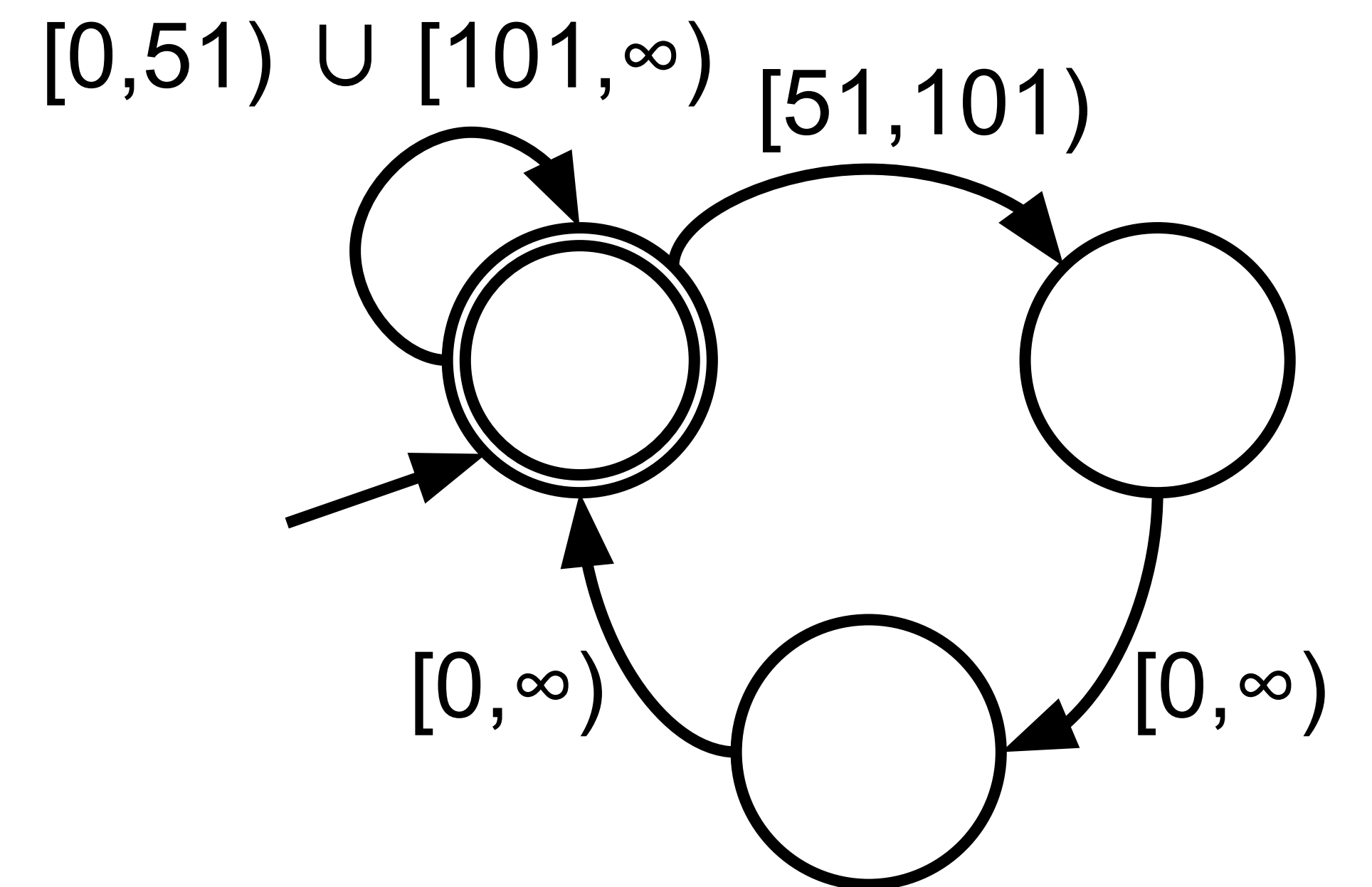


# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗
101	✓

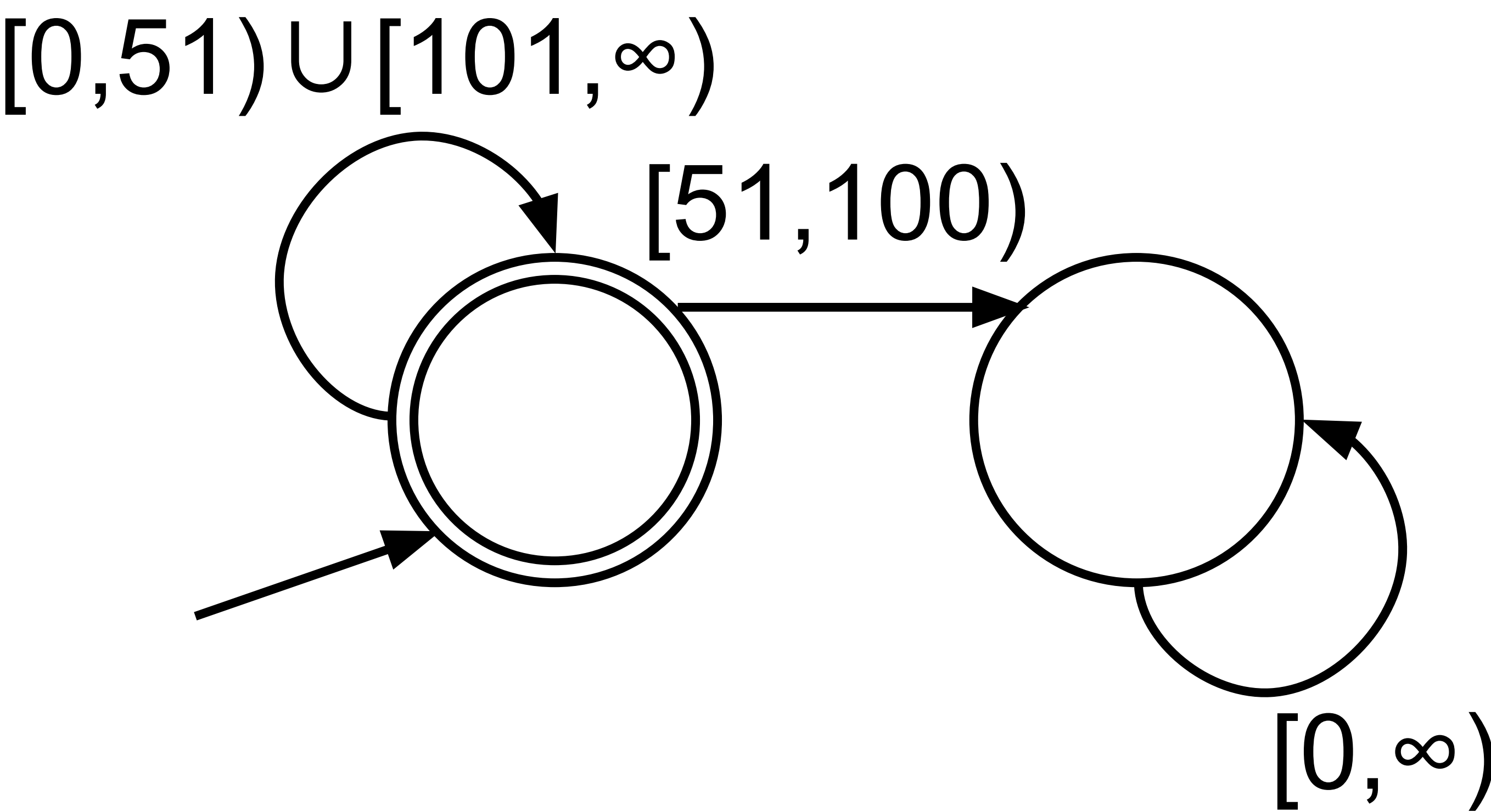
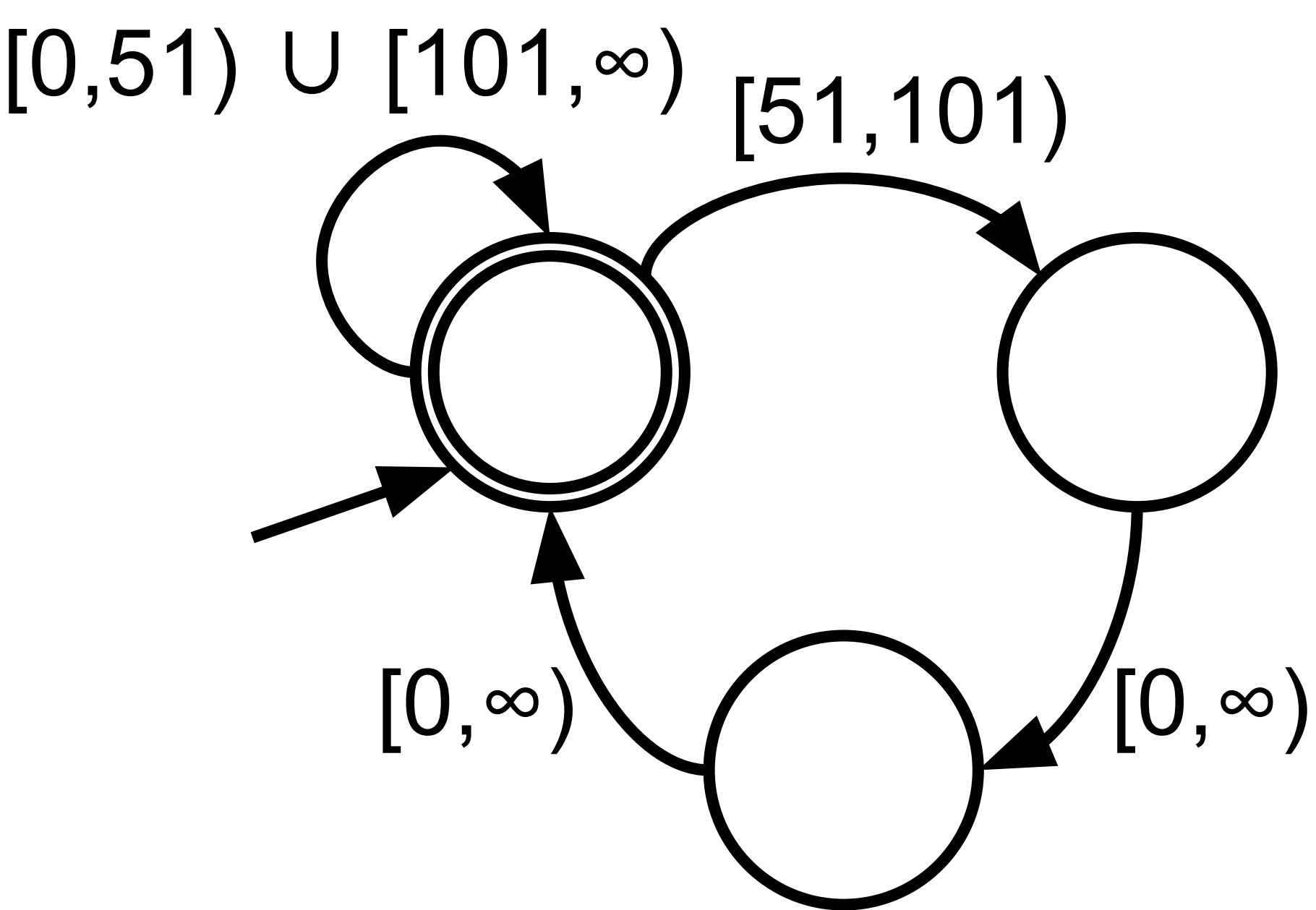


suppose  $P(\{0,101\},\{51\}) = [0,51) \cup [101,\infty)$  ,  $[51,\infty)$   
 $P(\{0\}) = [0,\infty)$



# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗
101	✓
51,0,0	✓



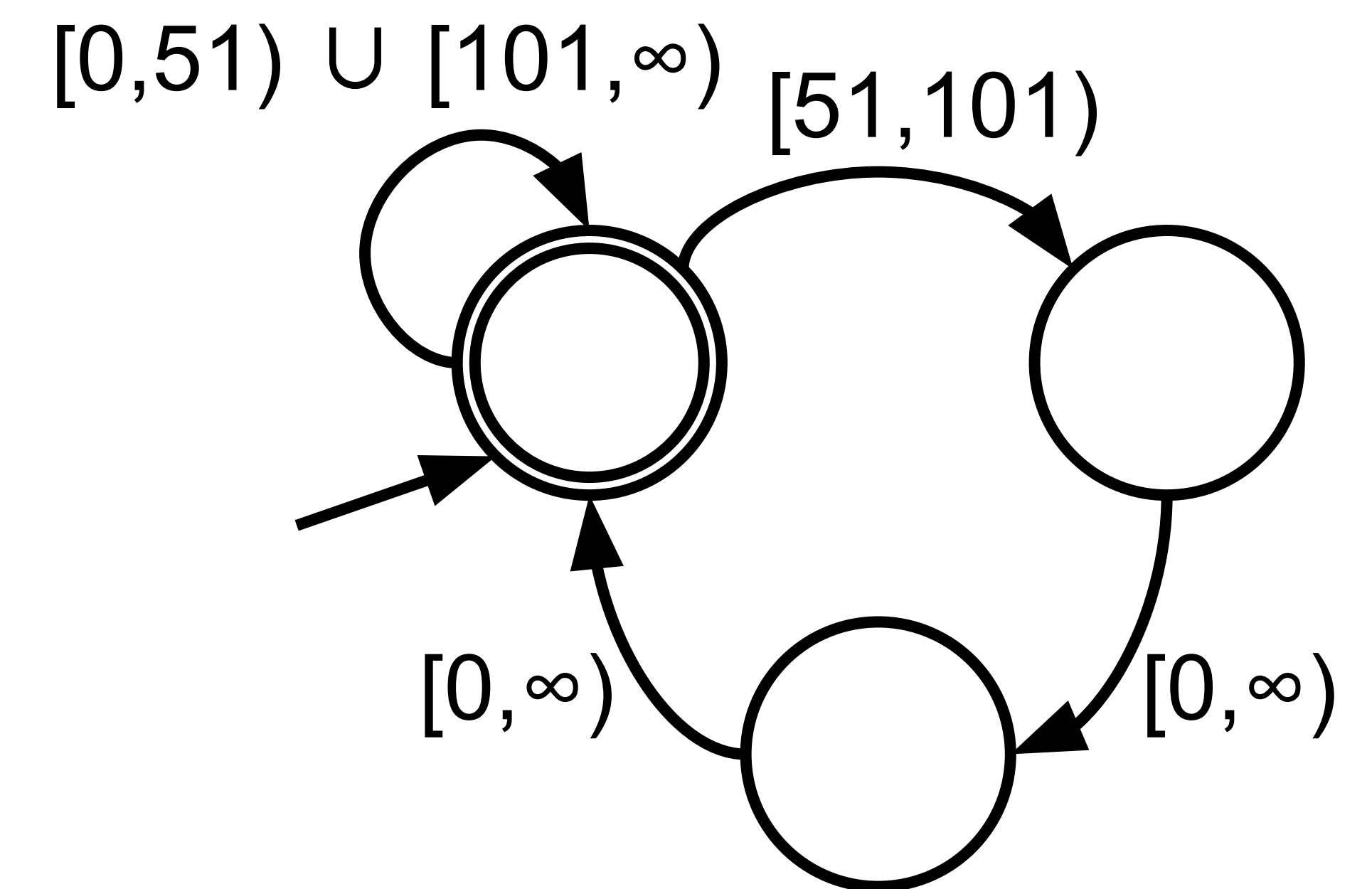
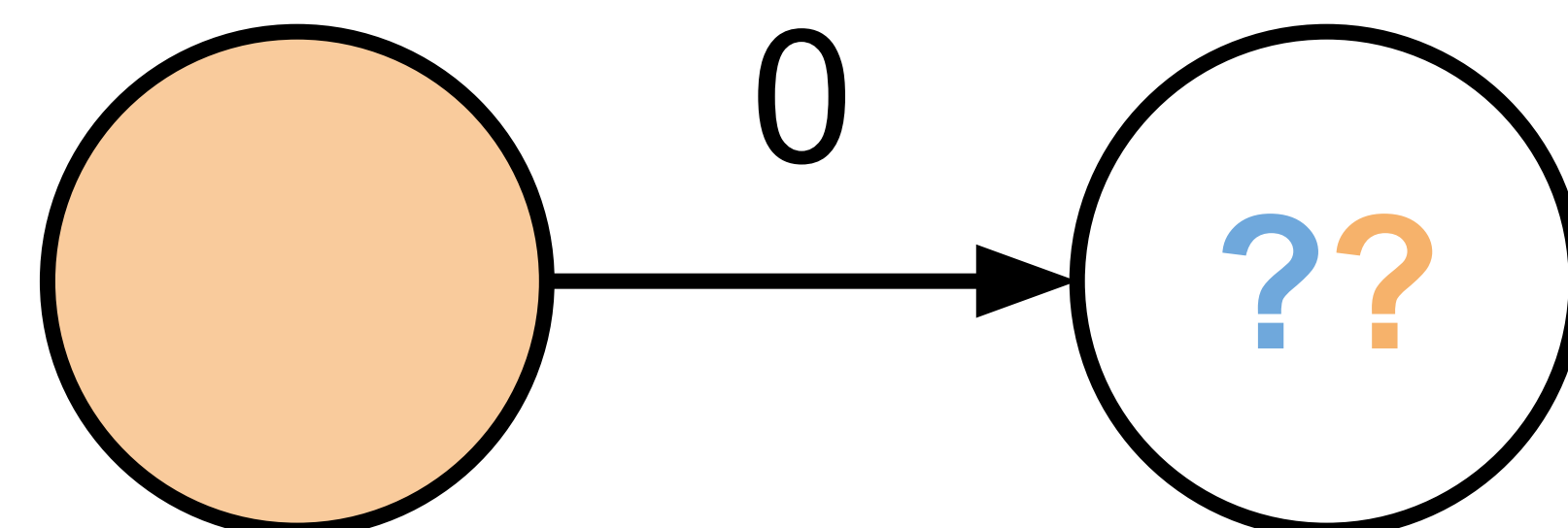
Equivalence query:  
Not equivalent! cex (51,0,0; ✓)

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗
101	✓
51,0,0	✓

51 and 51,0 seem like same state

51·0 and 51,0·0 are different states

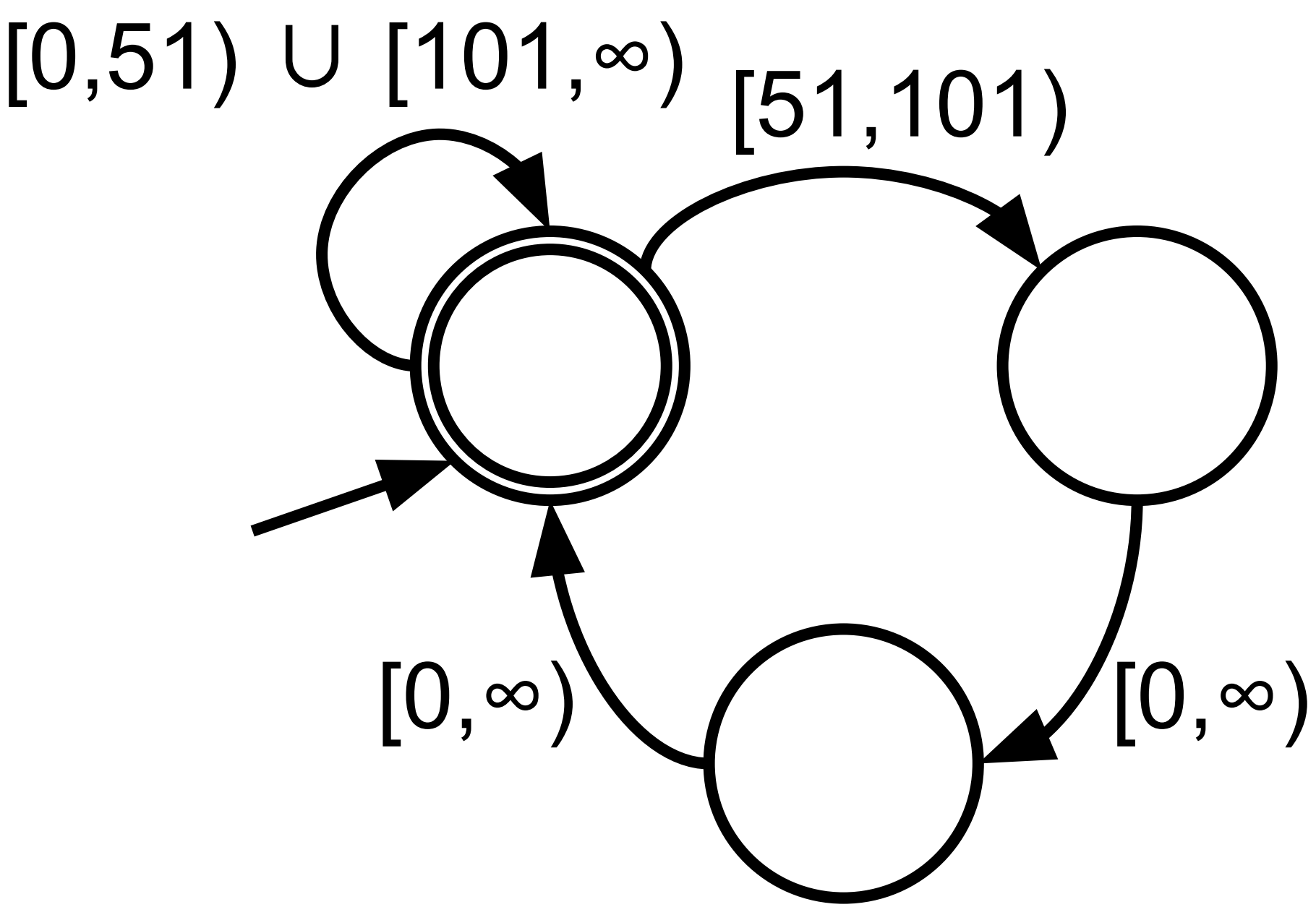
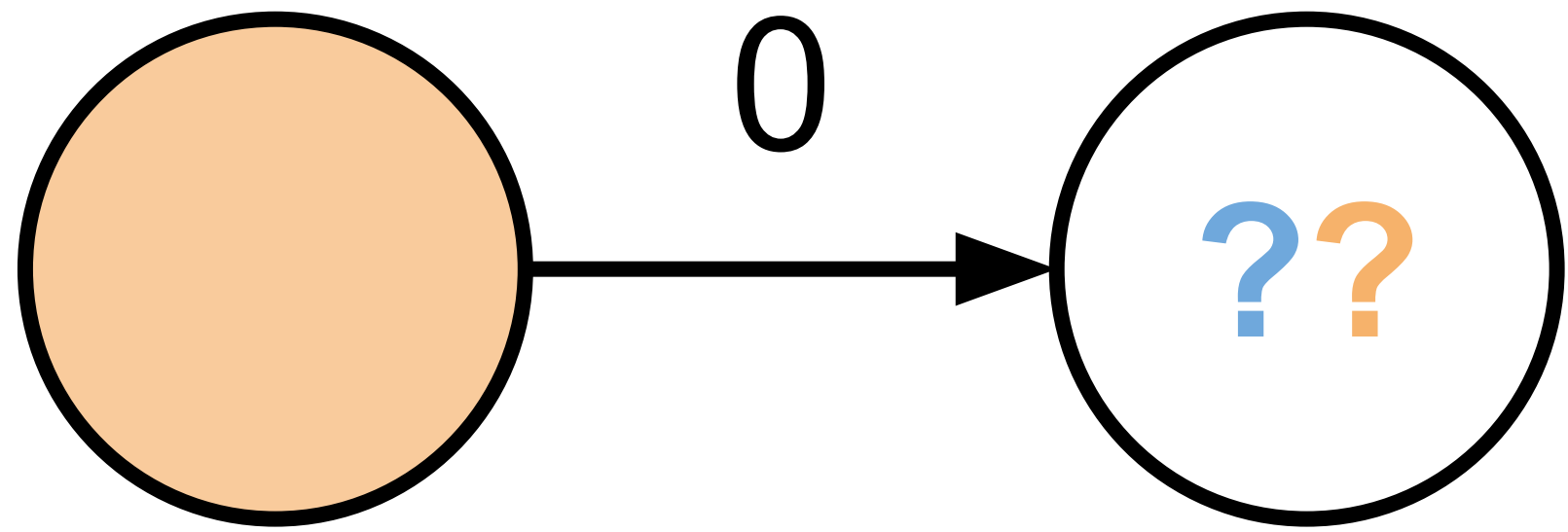


# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$
$\varepsilon$	✓
51	✗
0	✓
51,0	✗
101	✓
51,0,0	✓

51 and 51,0 seem like same state

51·0 and 51,0·0 are different states



	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
51	✗	✗
0	✓	✓
51,0	✗	✓
101	✓	✓
51,0,0	✓	✓

Inconsistent: add 0 to E

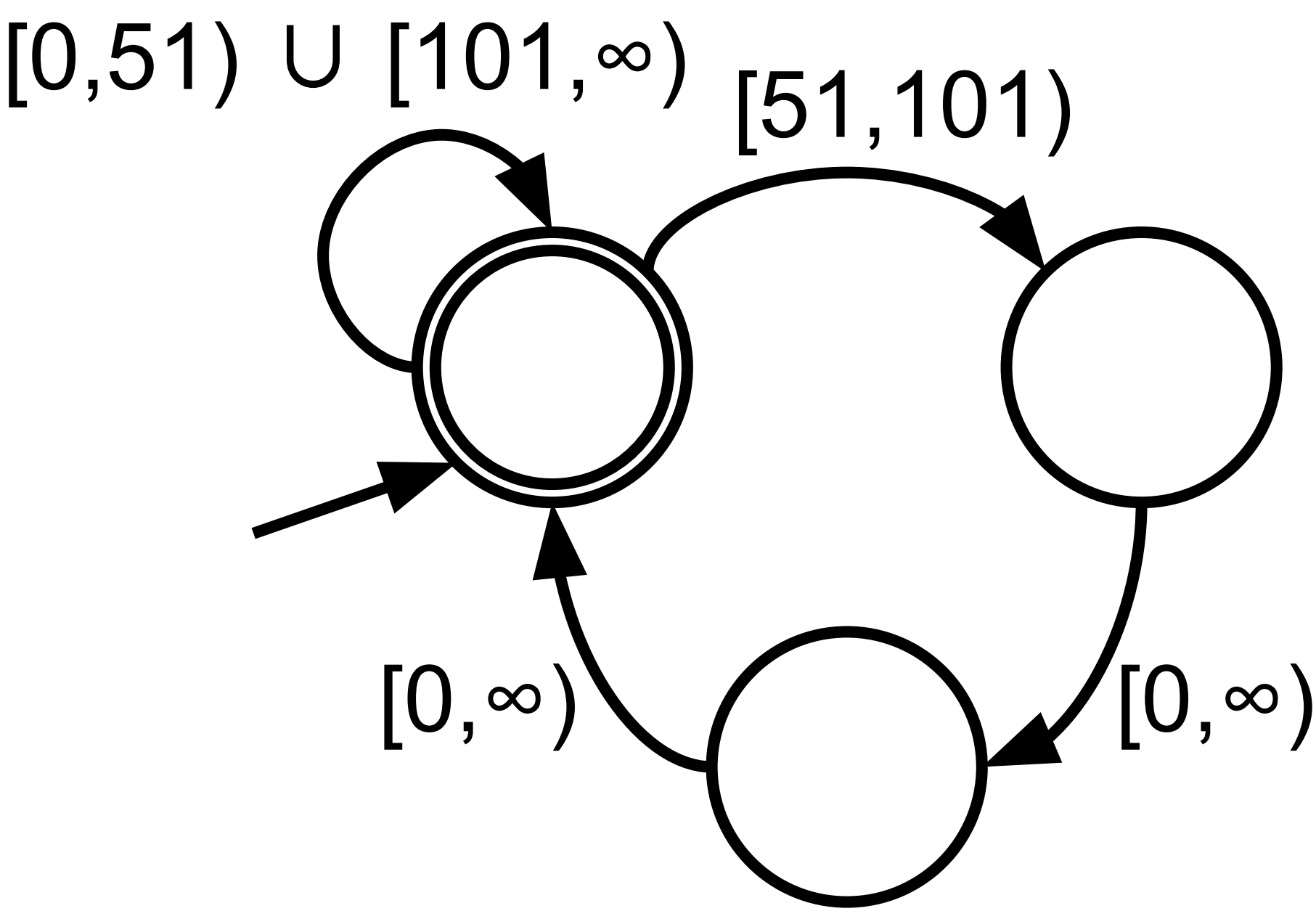


# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
51	x	x
0	✓	✓
51,0	x	✓
101	✓	✓
51,0,0	✓	✓

make *closed*  
move 51,0 to top

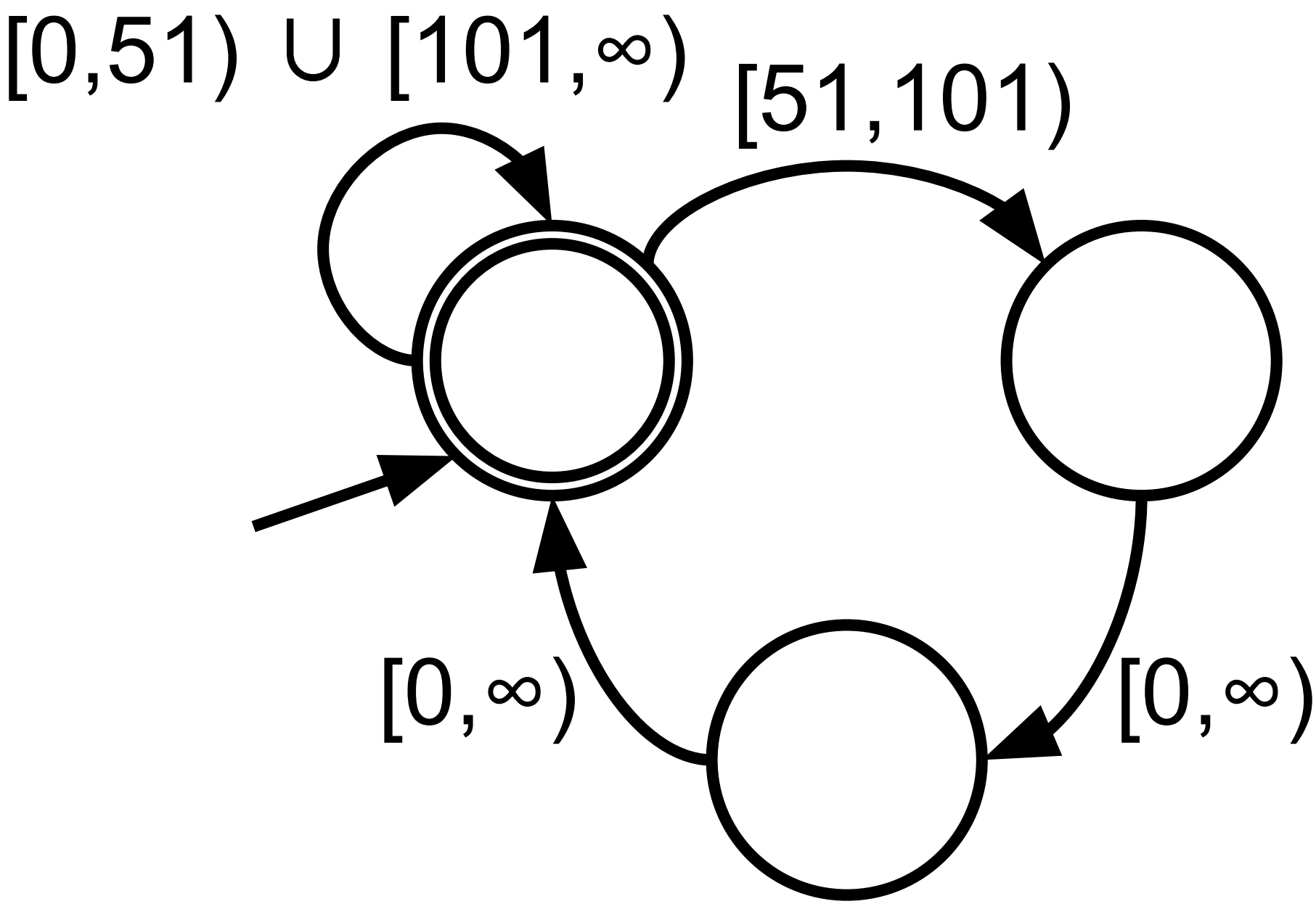
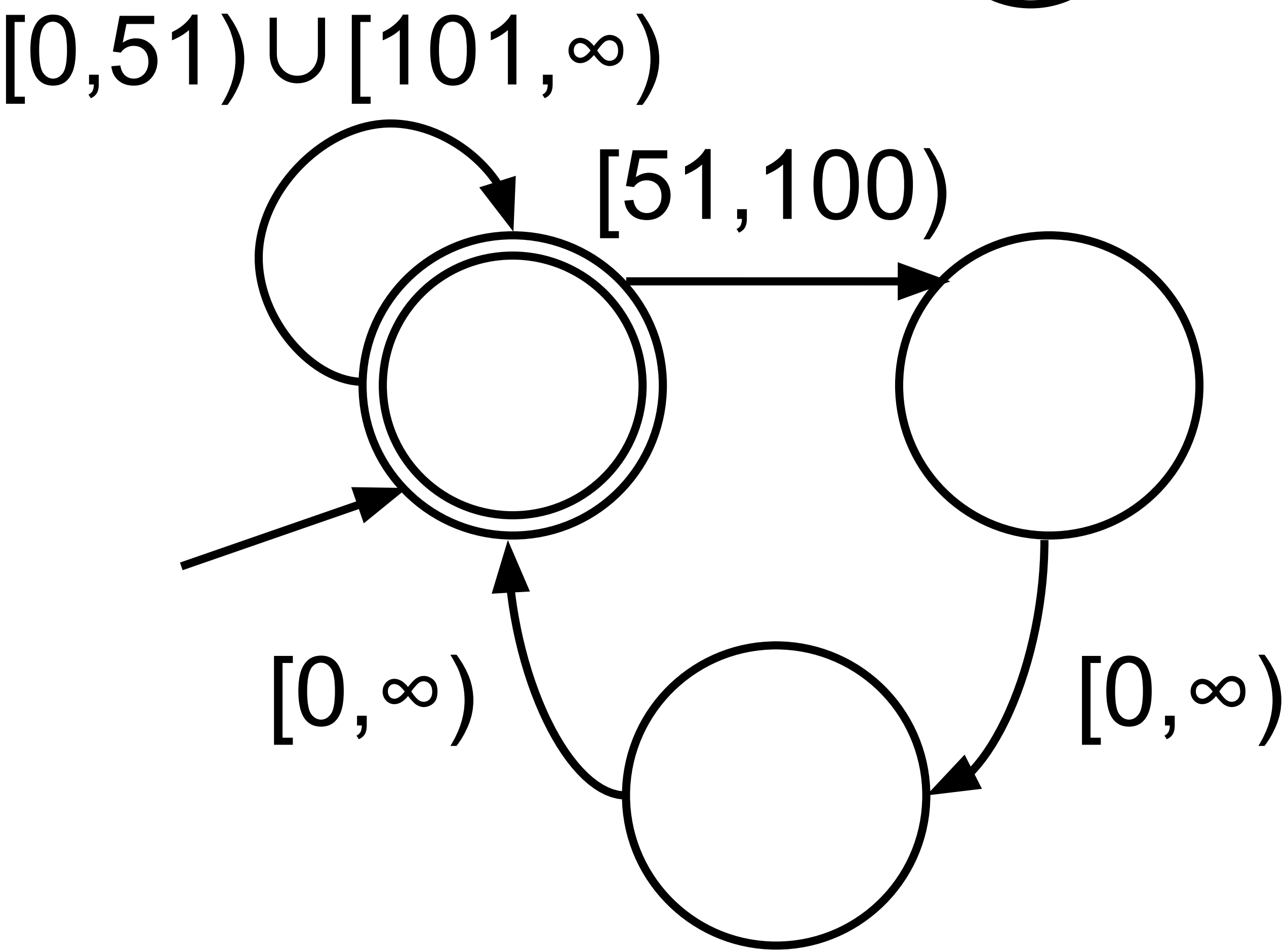
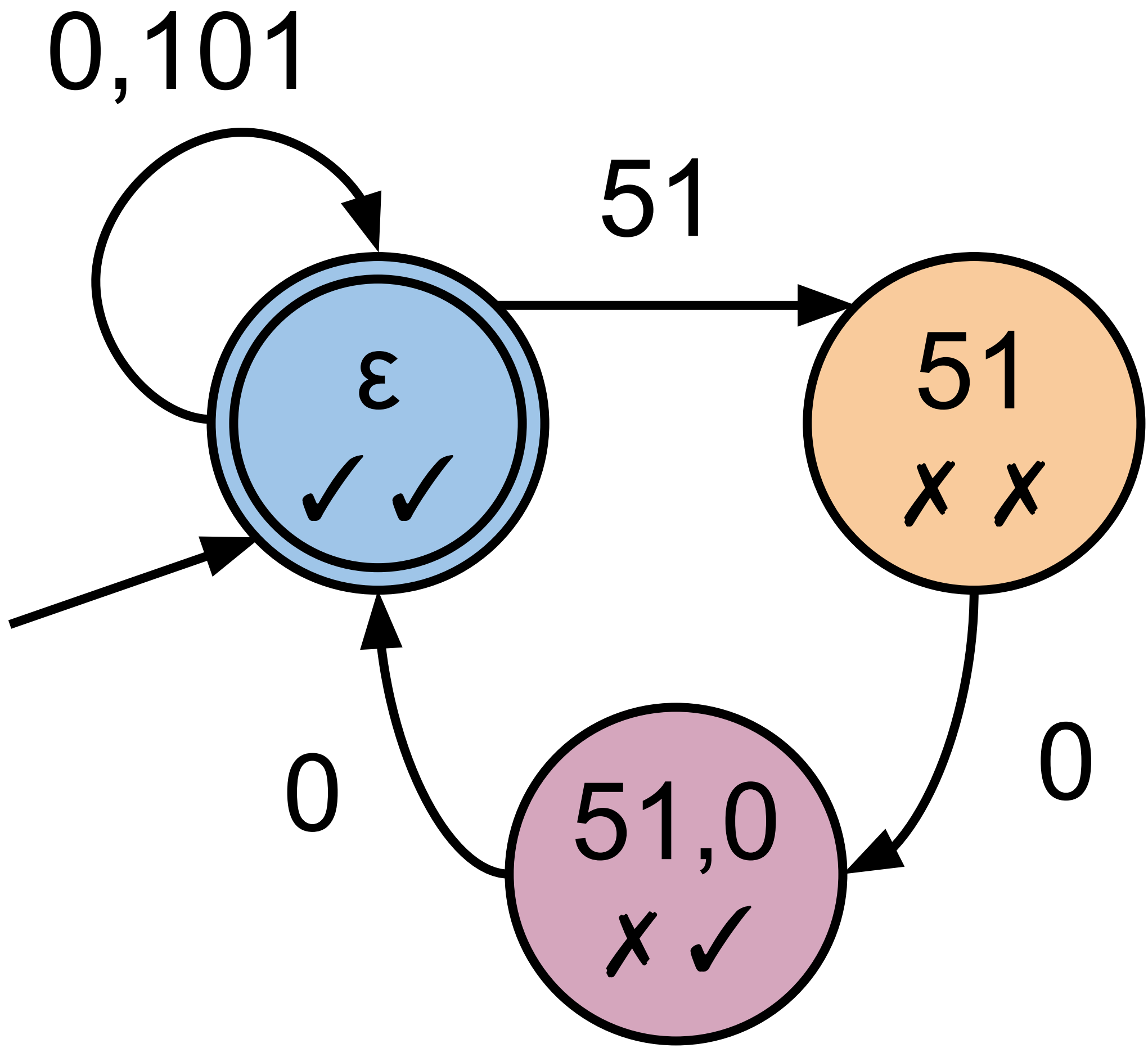
	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
51	x	x
51,0	x	✓
0	✓	✓
101	✓	✓
51,0,0	✓	✓





# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
51	✗	✗
51,0	✗	✓
0	✓	✓
101	✓	✓
51,0,0	✓	✓

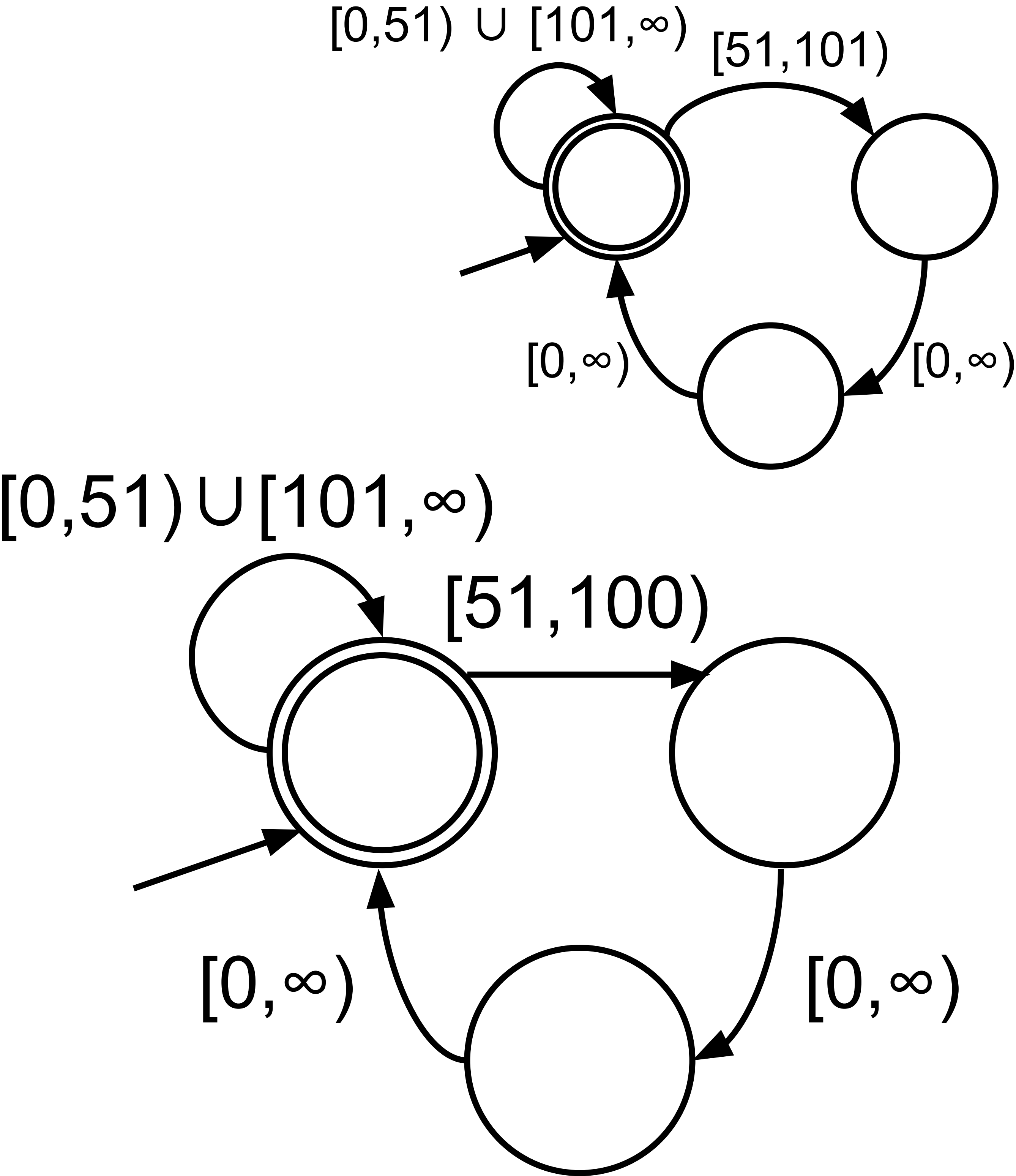


$P(\{0,101\},\{51\}) = [0,51) \cup [101,\infty) , [51,101)$   
 $P(\{0\}) = [0,\infty)$

# $\Lambda^*$ by Example

	$\varepsilon$	0
$\varepsilon$	✓	✓
51	✗	✗
51,0	✗	✓
0	✓	✓
101	✓	✓
51,0,0	✓	✓

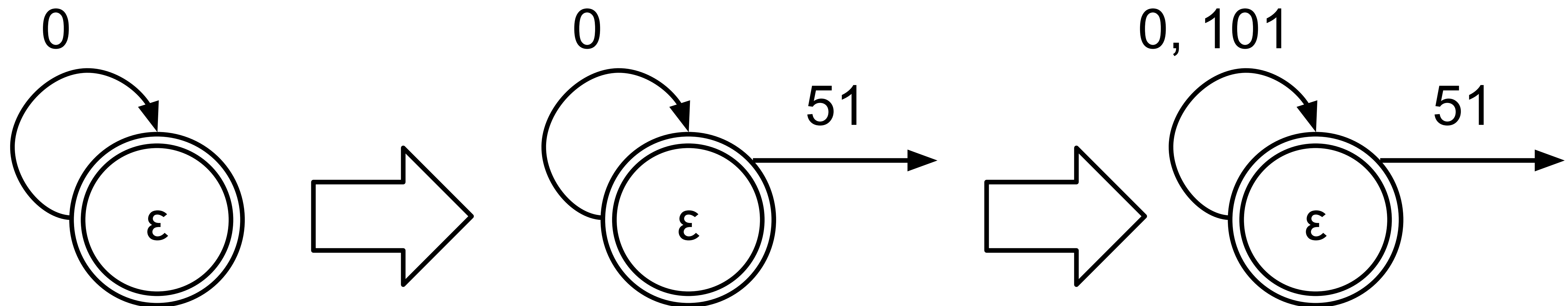
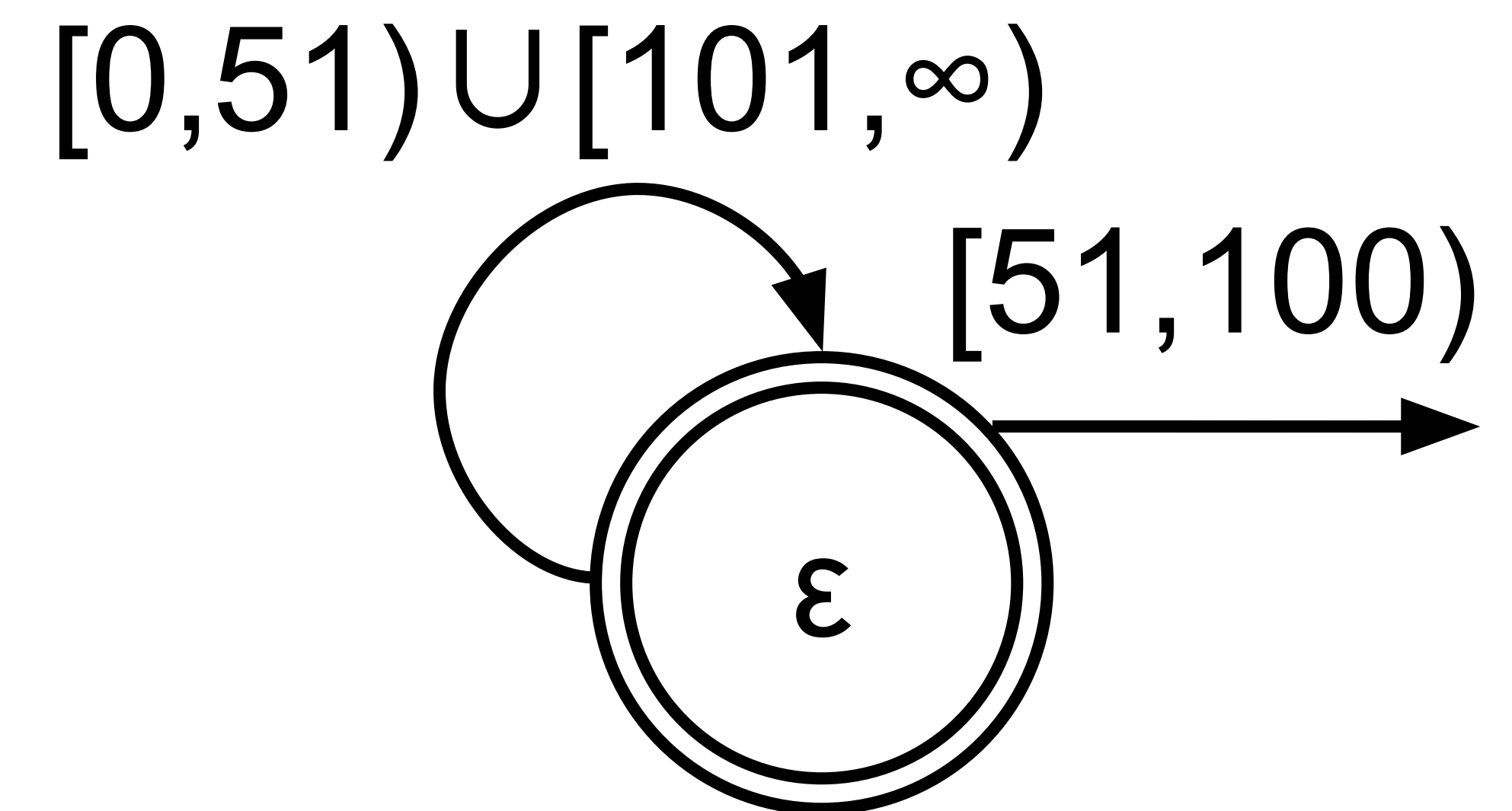
Equivalence query:  
Equivalent!



# Why did this work?

Infinite alphabet, but finite examples

Oracle gave us good counterexamples

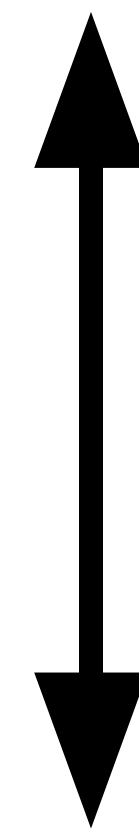


Call this projection of the oracle a *generator*:

$\{0\} \rightarrow \{0, \{51\}\} \rightarrow \{0, 101\}, \{51\}$

# Learnability of Boolean Algebra

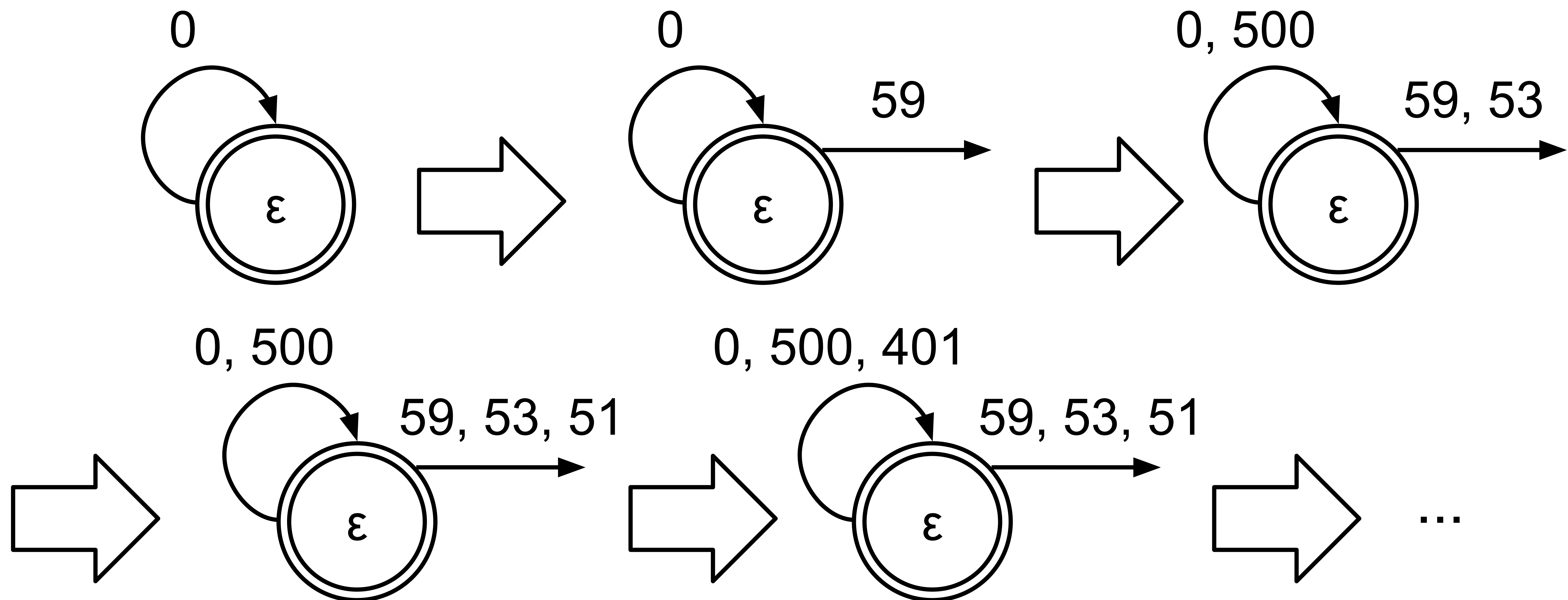
Learn automaton with oracle providing  $\Sigma^*$  examples



Learn partition in BA with *generator* providing  $\Sigma$  examples

# “Bad” Oracle

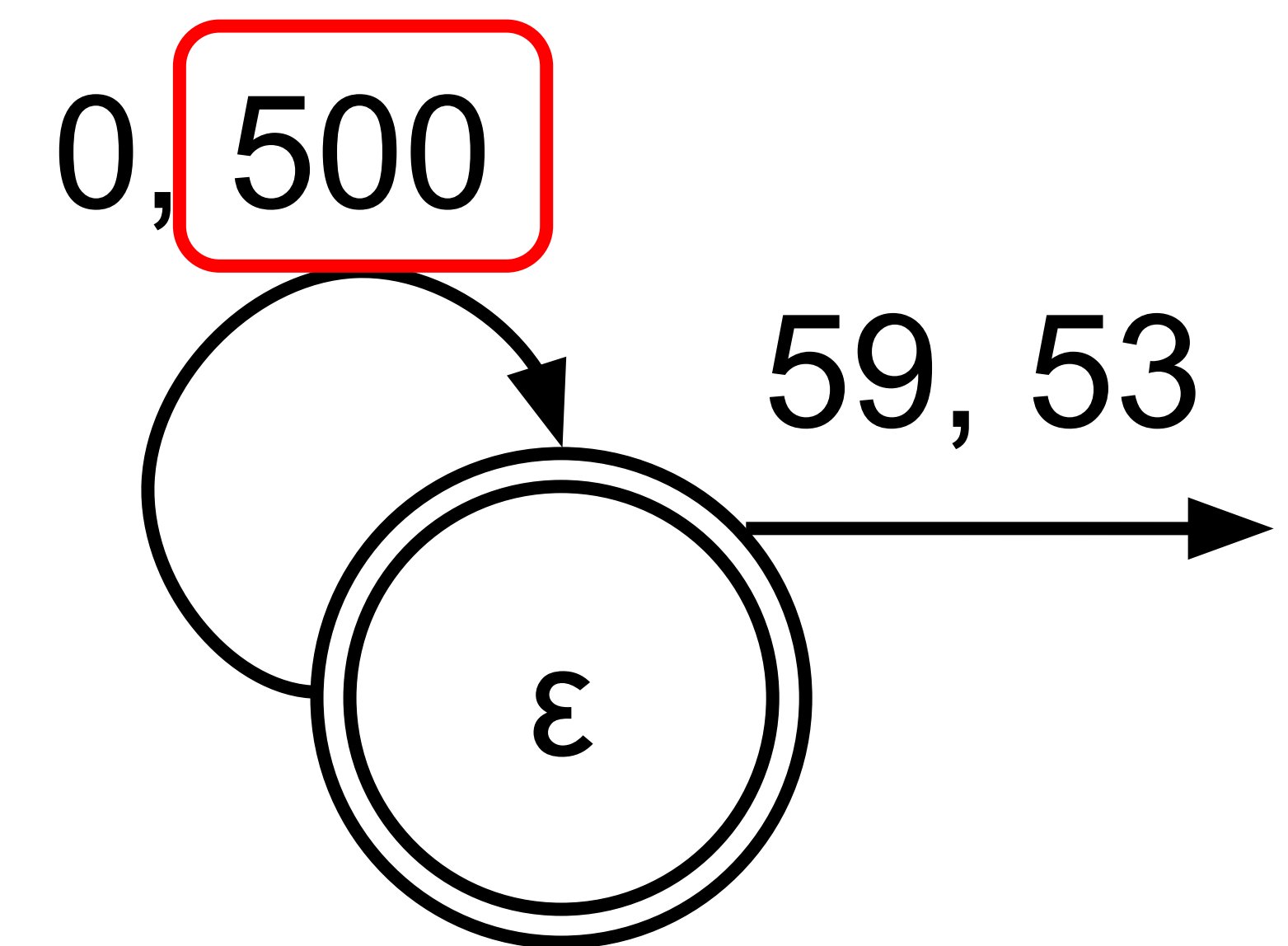
Suppose the oracle does not provide optimal counterexamples



*generator:*  $[\{0\}] \rightarrow [\{0\}, \{59\}] \rightarrow [\{0, 500\}, \{59, 53\}] \rightarrow \dots$

# “Bad” Oracle

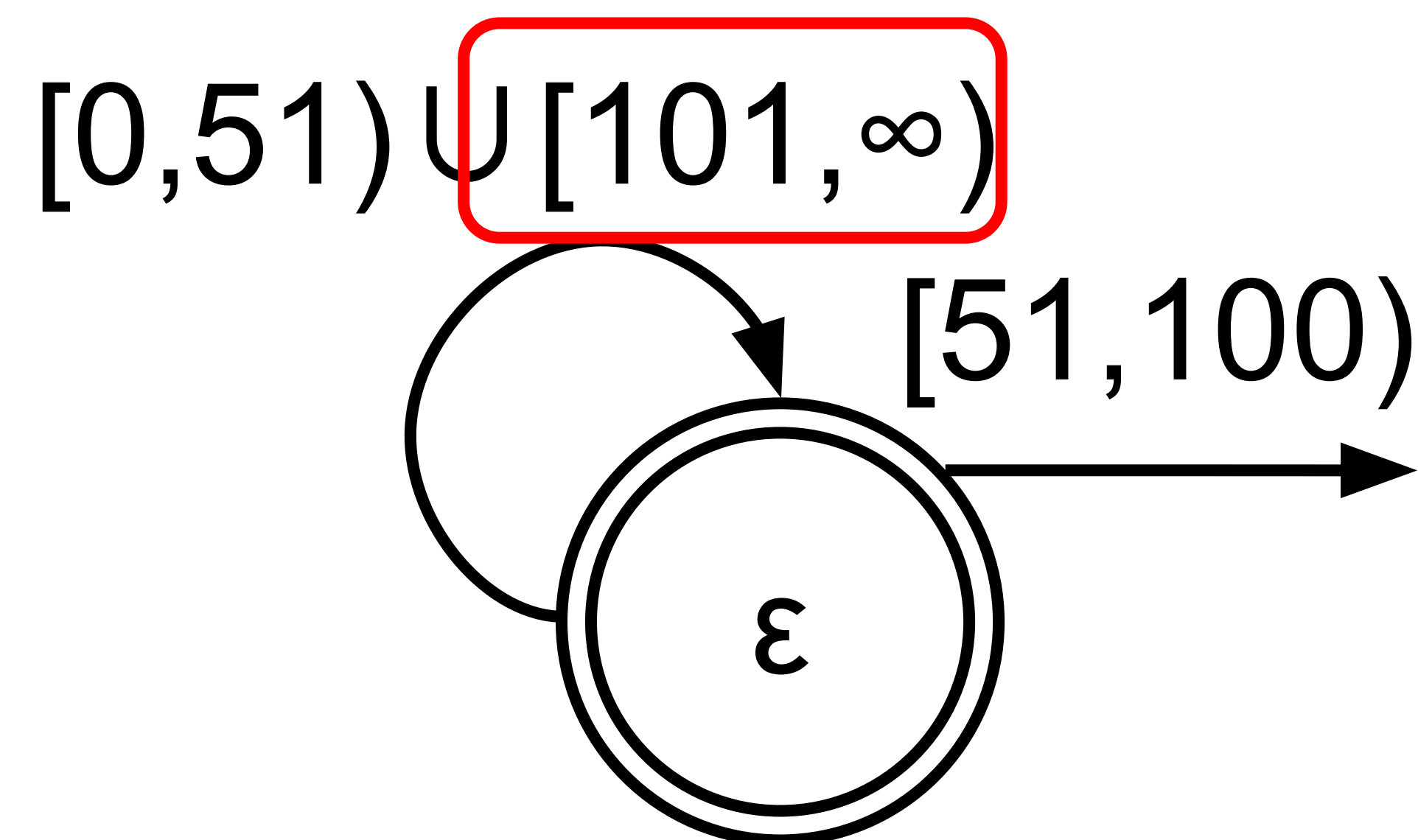
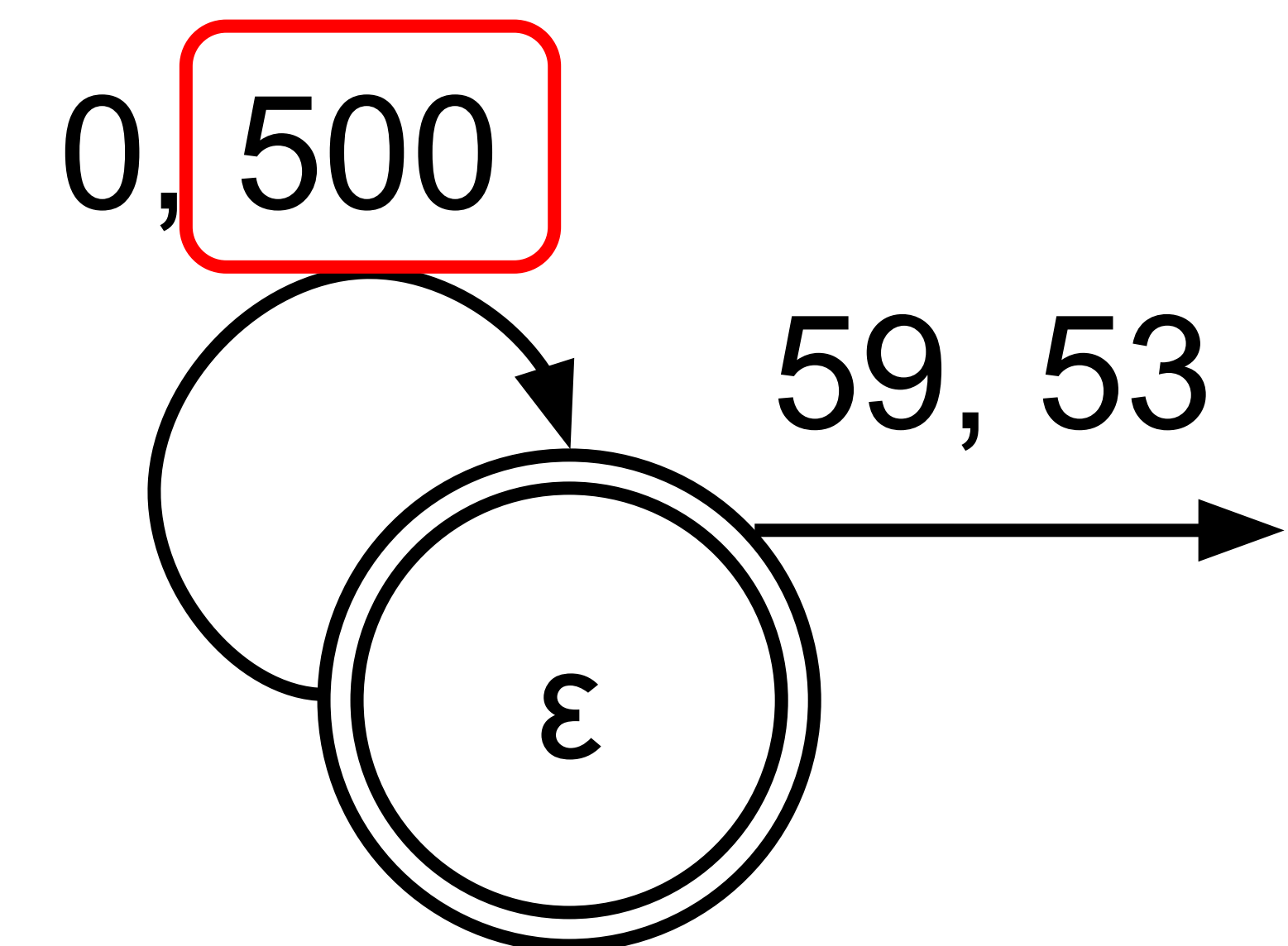
Suppose the oracle does not provide optimal counterexamples



# “Bad” Oracle

Suppose the oracle does not provide optimal counterexamples

Partitioning function assumes everything  $> 500$  behaves the same as 500



Since  $500 > 101$ , we will never see another example  $> 500$



# $s_g$ -learnability of Boolean Algebra

$c$  - partition in BA,  $g$  - generator

Fix a partitioning function  $P$ :

define  $s_g(c) = \#$  examples from  $g$  needed for  $P$  to produce  $c$

Ex:  $c = [0, 51) \cup [101, \infty)$ ,  $[51, 101)$

Good examples:  $s_g(c) = 3$

Bad examples:  $s_{g'}(c) < \infty$

$s_g$ -learnability

# Equivalence queries to learn symbolic automata  $M$

$$\leq n^2 \underbrace{\sum_{g,c} s_g(c)}$$

oracle examples

# Learning Classes

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C^{\forall}_{\text{constant}} & \subseteq & C^{\forall}_{\text{size}} & \subseteq & C^{\forall}_{\text{finite}} \\ \text{in} & & \text{in} & & \text{in} \\ C^{\exists}_{\text{constant}} & \subseteq & C^{\exists}_{\text{size}} & \subseteq & C^{\exists}_{\text{finite}} \end{array}$$

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There exists a generator:  
any partition is learned from  
a constant # examples

# Learning Classes

For every generator:  
any partition is learned from  
a # examples based on the  
size of the partition

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$\Lambda^*$  example

# Composition of Boolean Algebras

We have a non-negative integer partitioning function in  $C^{\exists}_{\text{size}}$

Can we learn partitions over *all* integers?

Disjoint union:  $\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{<0} \uplus \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

$\{-4, 5\}, \{-2, 0\}$

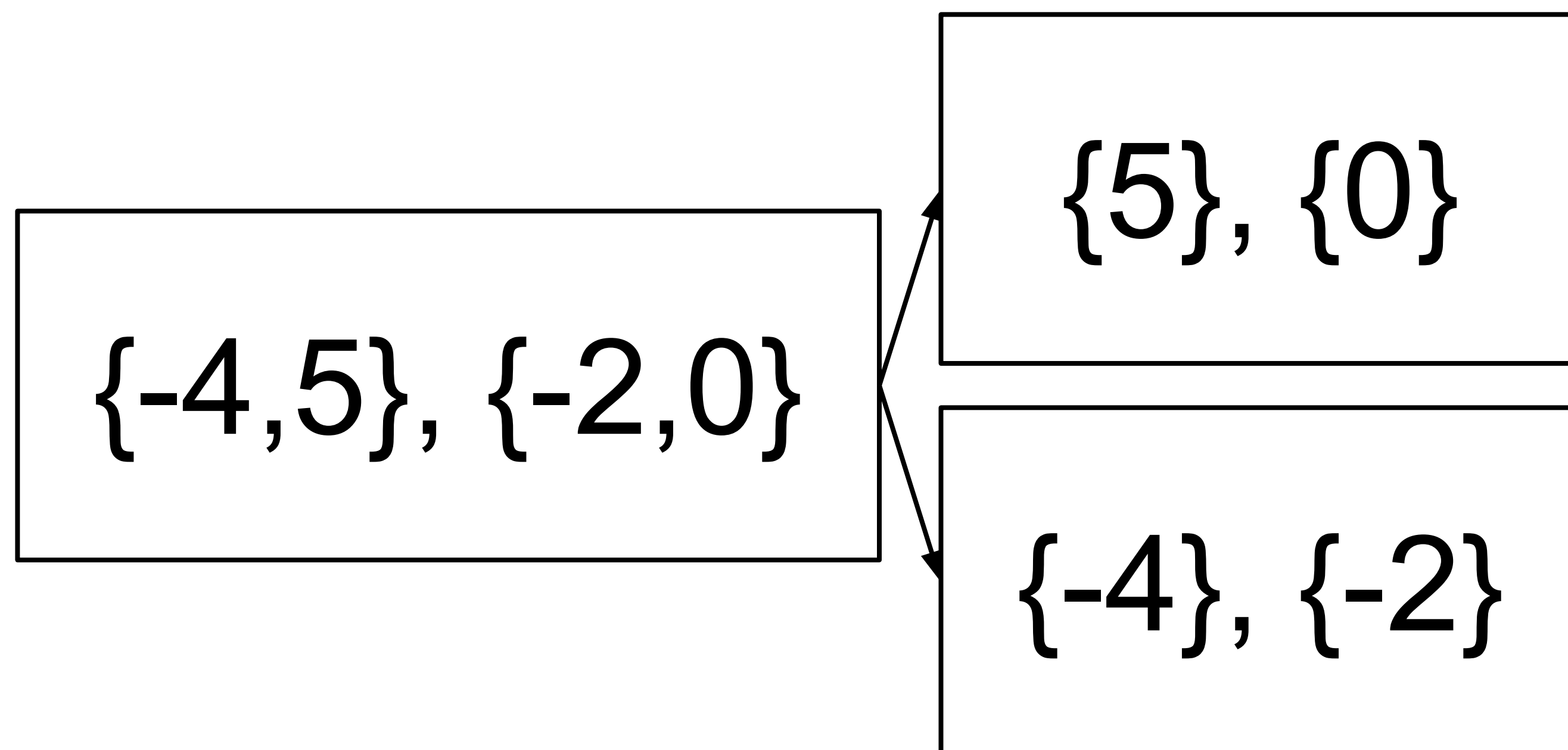


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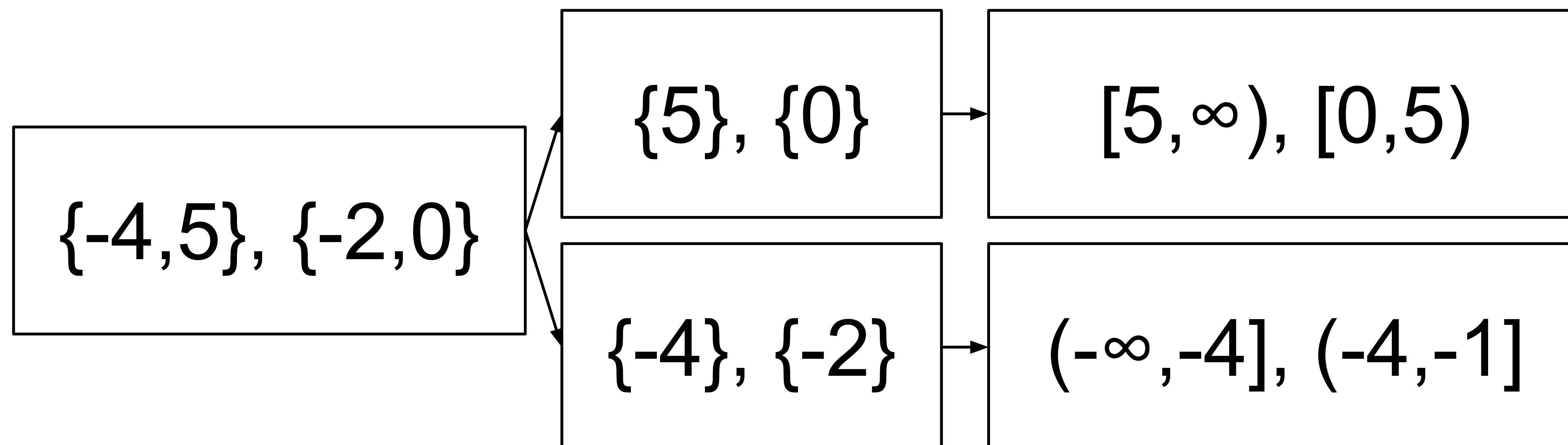


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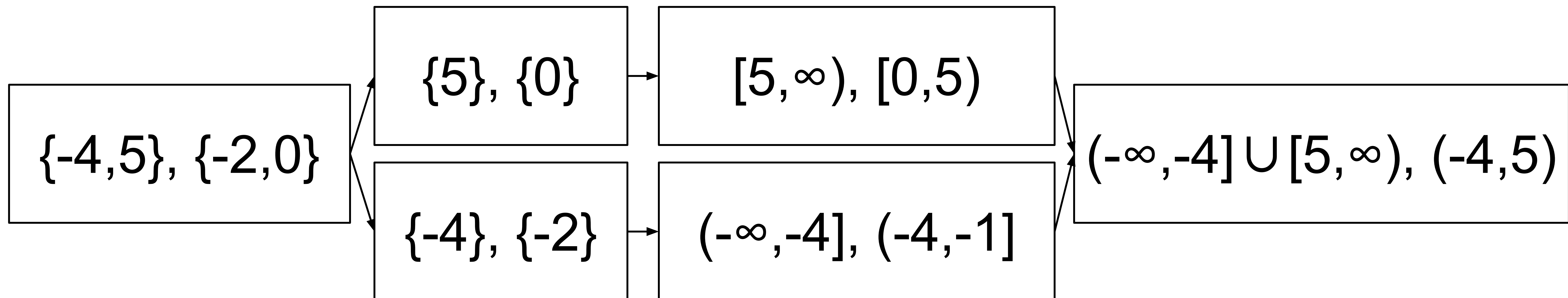


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Disjoint union:  $Z \cong Z_{<0} \uplus Z_{\geq 0}$

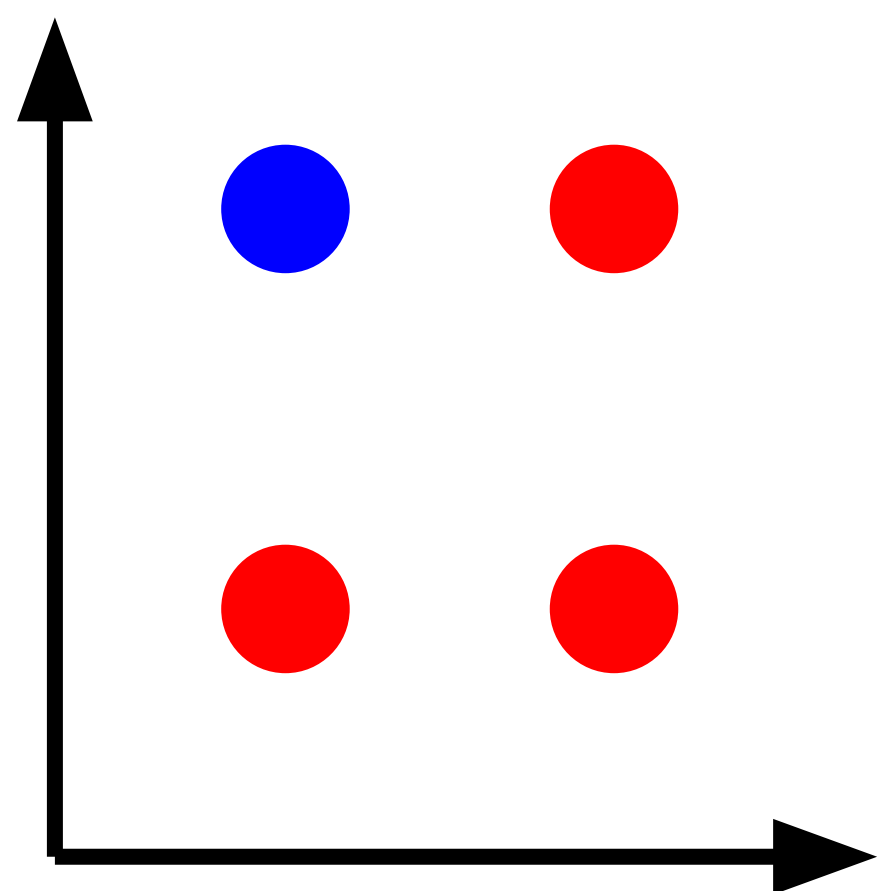


# Composition of Boolean Algebras

We can learn partitions over all integers  $\mathbb{Z}$

Can we learn partitions over  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ ?

Cartesian product:  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$

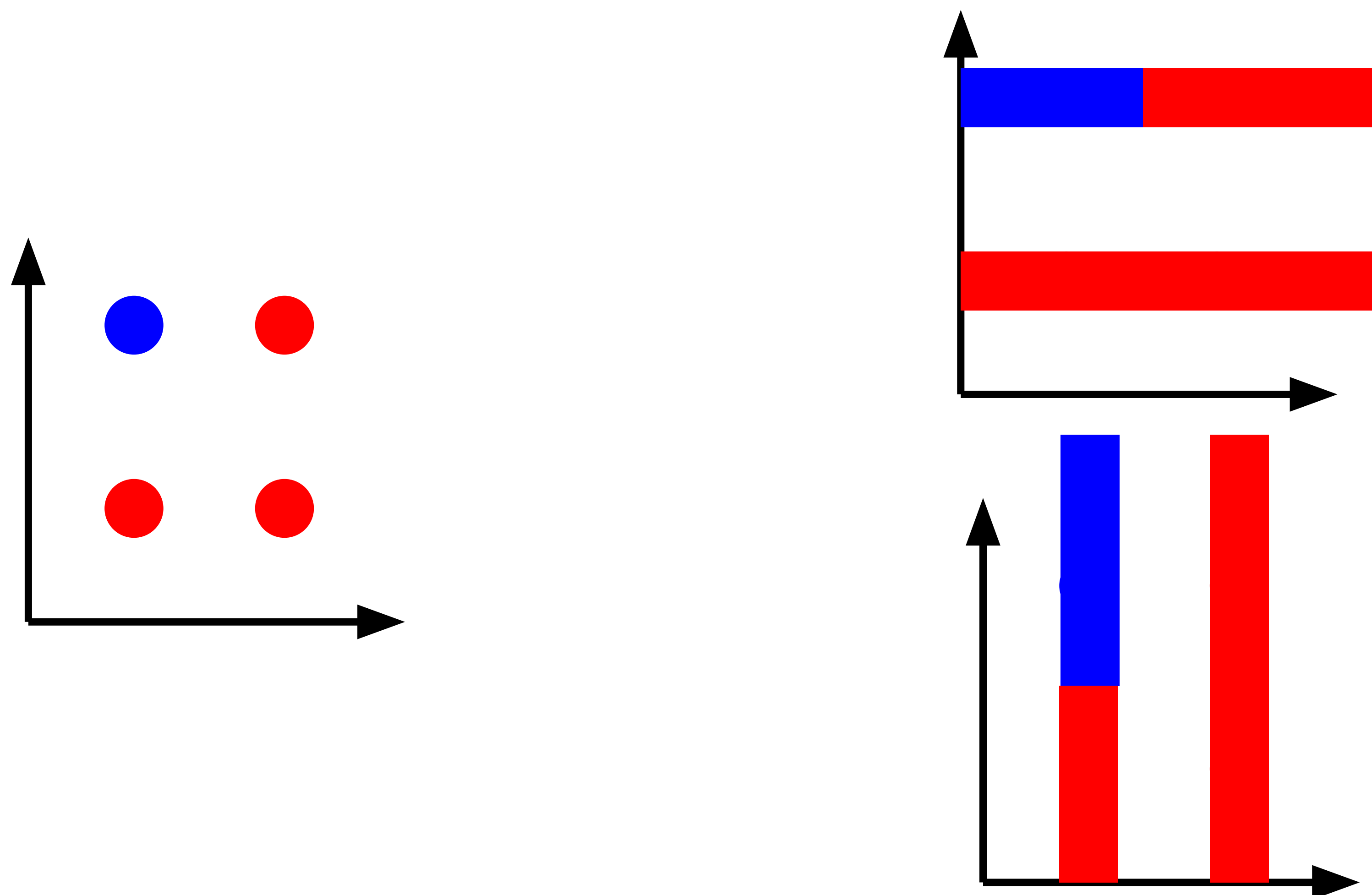


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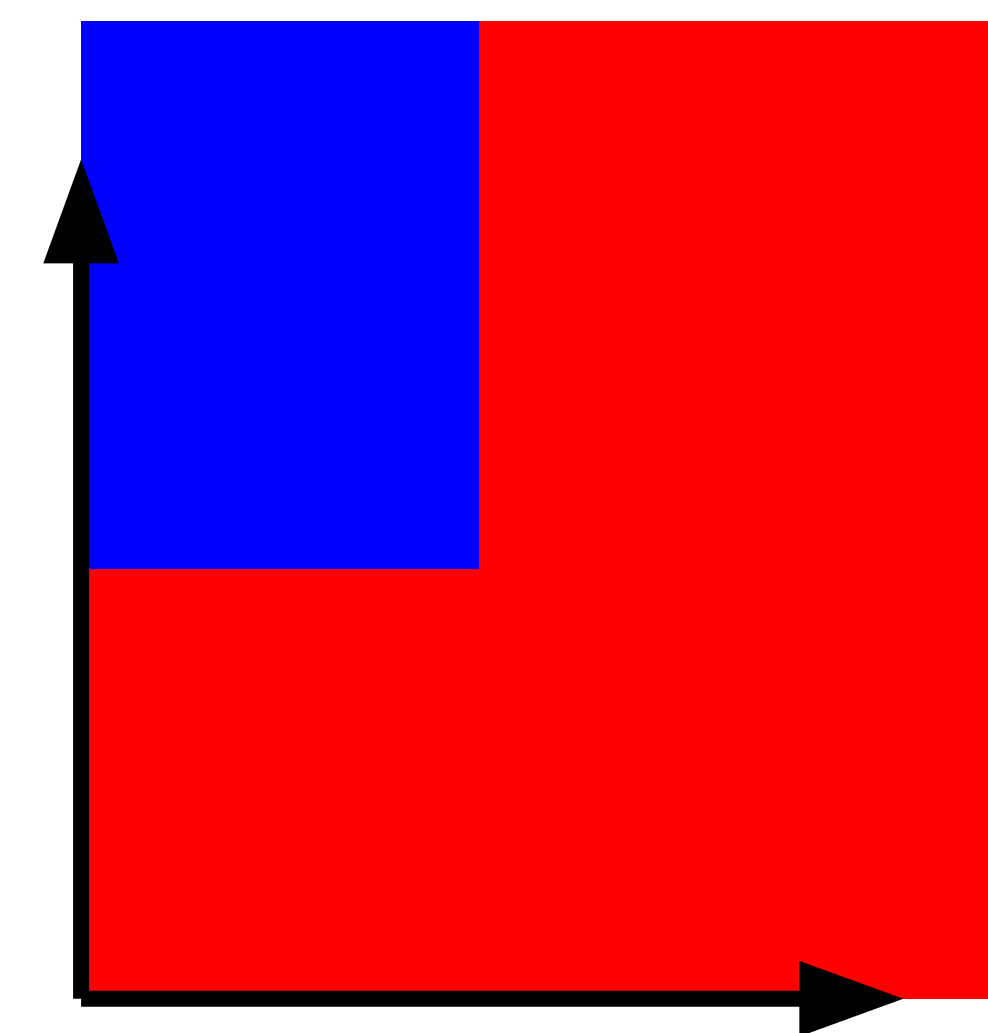
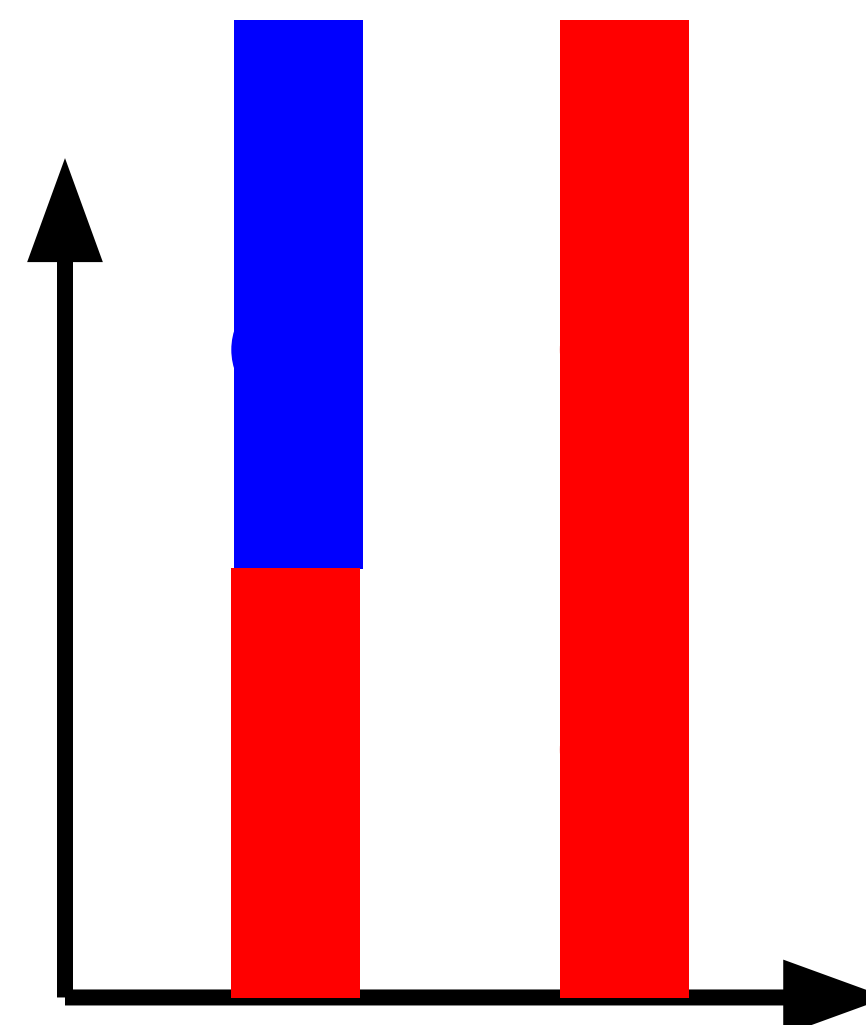
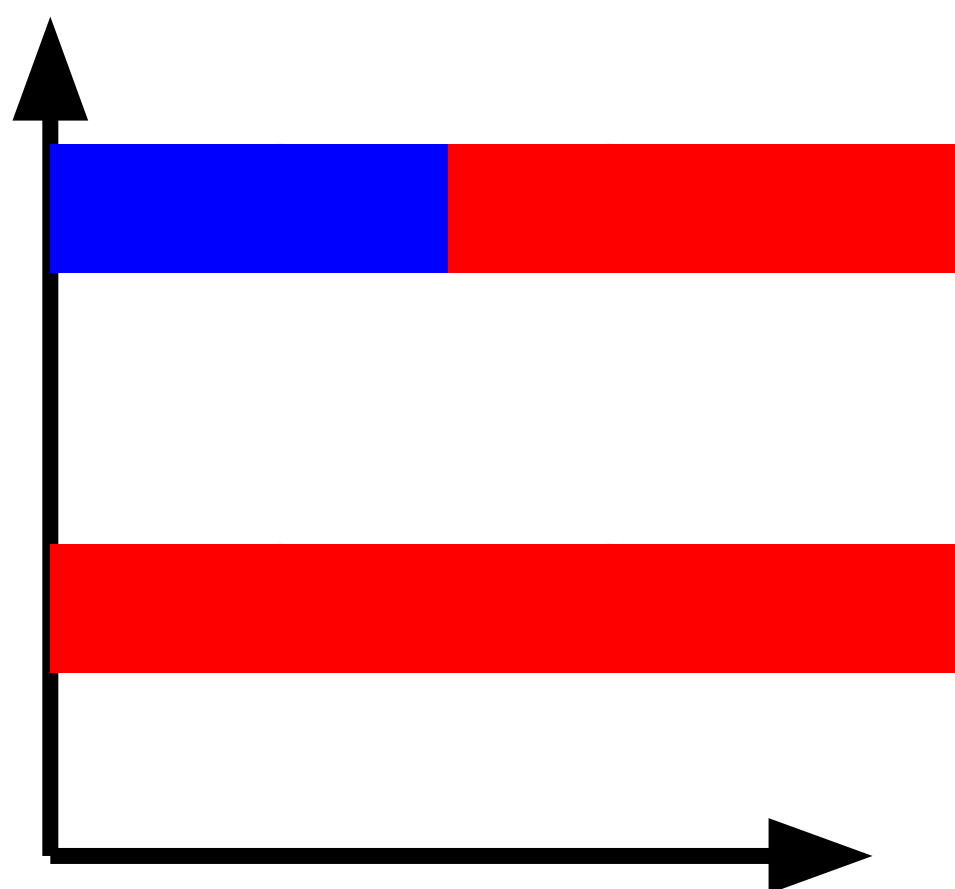
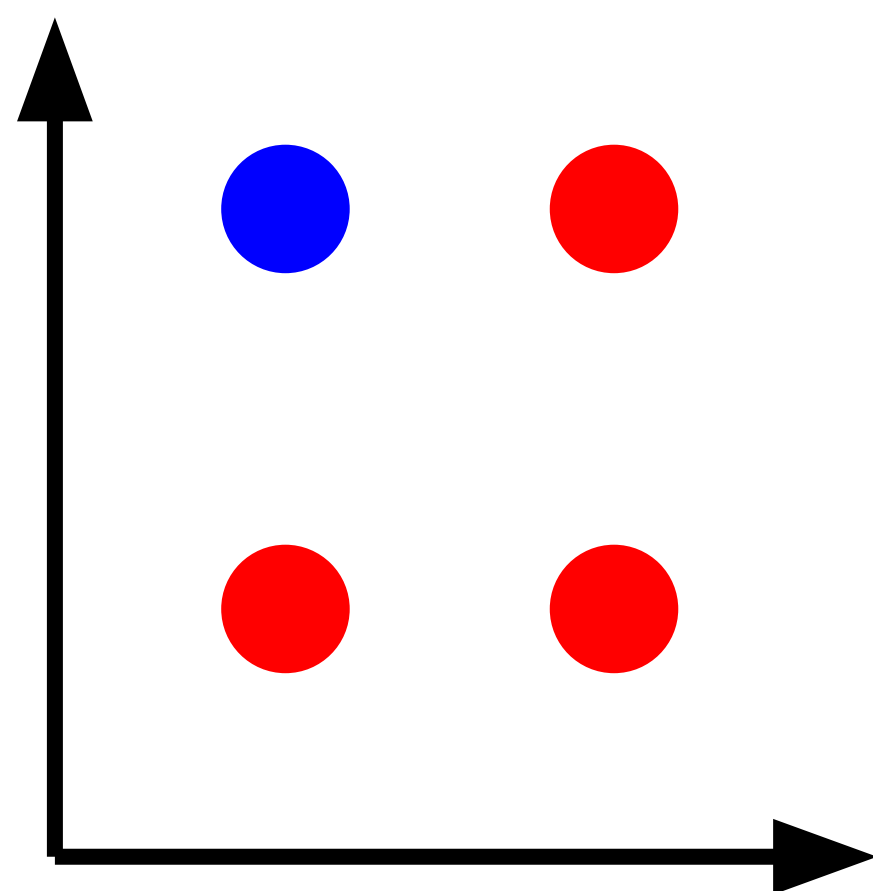


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# Composition of Boolean Algebras

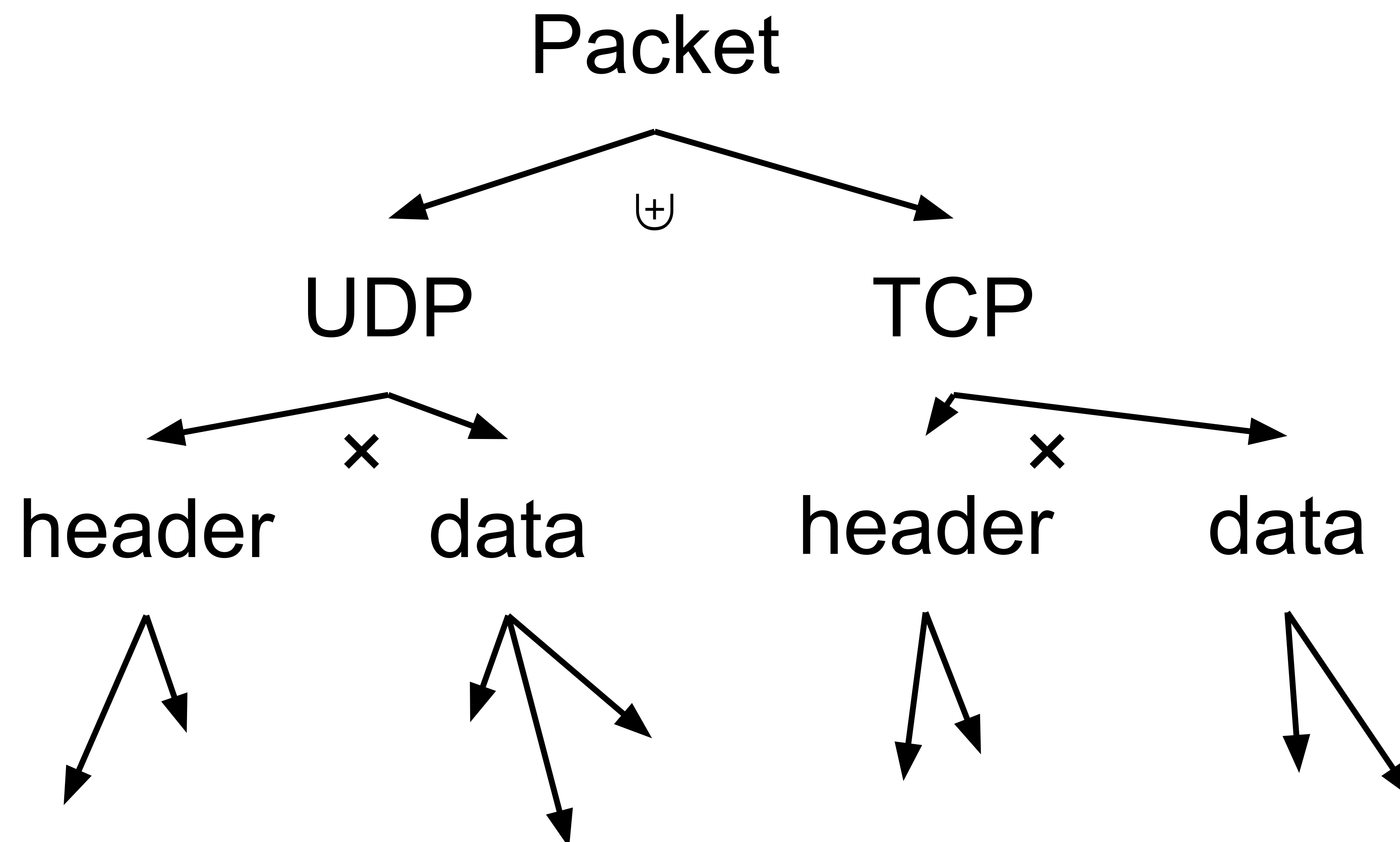
If  $BA_1$  and  $BA_2$  are Boolean Algebras in learning class  $C$

$BA_1 \uplus BA_2$  is in  $C$

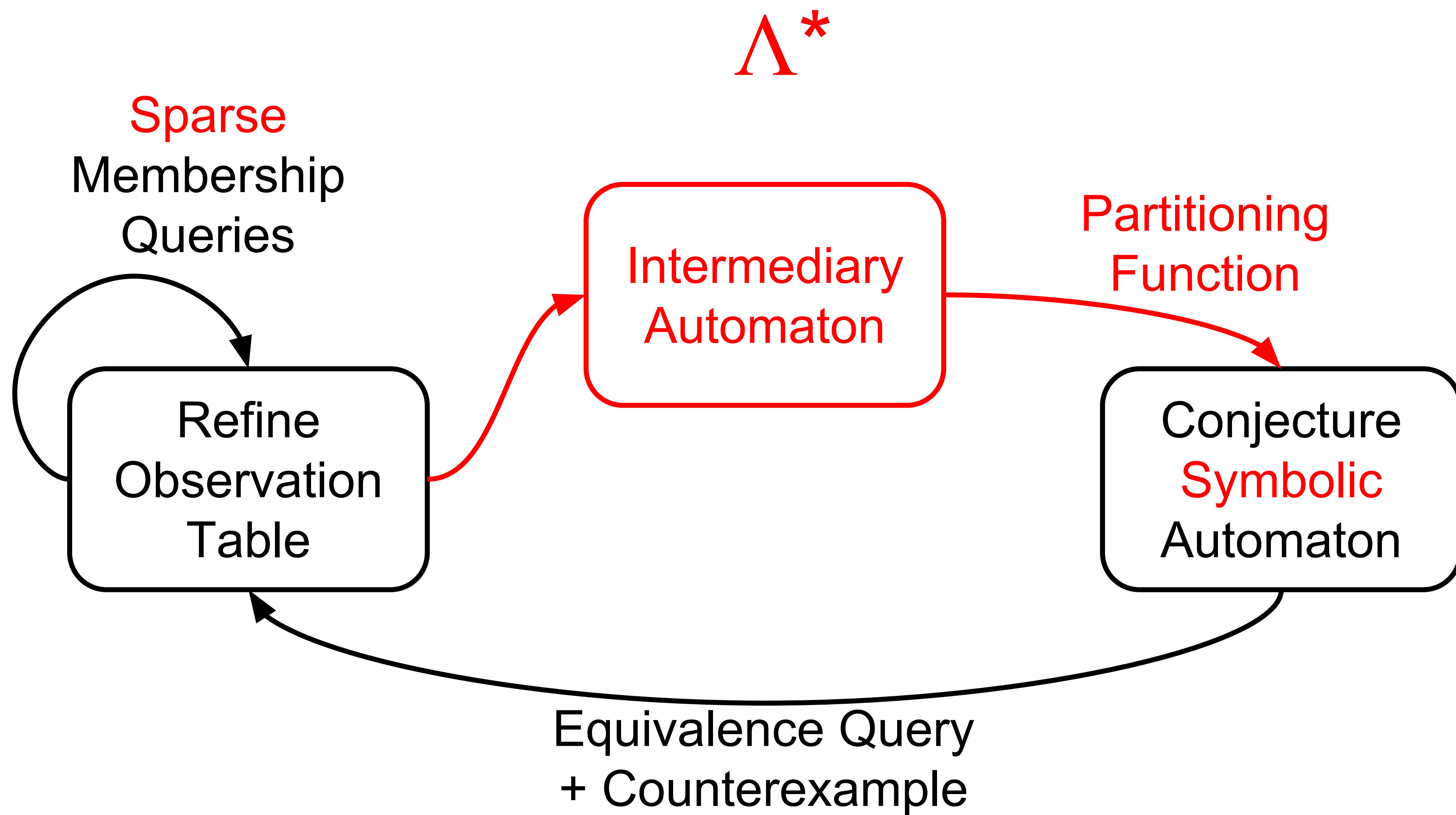
$BA_1 \times BA_2$  is in  $C$

# Composition of Boolean Algebras

Learning an automaton over strings of network packets







$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 C^{\forall}_{\text{constant}} & \subseteq & C^{\forall}_{\text{size}} & \subseteq & C^{\forall}_{\text{finite}} \\
 \text{In} & & \text{In} & & \text{In} \\
 C^{\exists}_{\text{constant}} & \subseteq & C^{\exists}_{\text{size}} & \subseteq & C^{\exists}_{\text{finite}}
 \end{array}$$