

Formal Languages and Compilers

**Alexander Meduna
&
Roman Lukáš**

- These lecture notes are based on *Automata and Languages* by Alexander Meduna, Springer, 2000

Part I.

Alphabets, Strings, and Languages

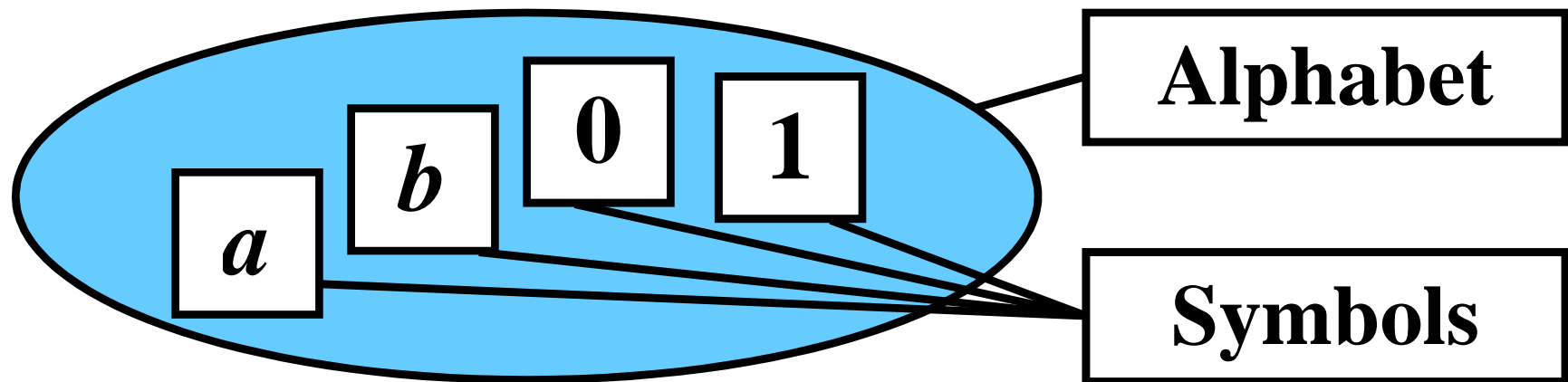
Alphabets and symbols

Definition: An *alphabet* is a finite, nonempty set of elements, which are called *symbols*.

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Example:



If we denote this alphabet as Σ , then $\Sigma = \{a, b, 0, 1\}$

String

Gist: $x = a_1a_2\dots a_n$

Definition: Let Σ be an alphabet.

1) ε is a string over Σ

2) if x is a string over Σ and $a \in \Sigma$ then xa is a string over Σ

Note: ε denotes *the empty string* that contains no symbols.

Example: Consider $\Sigma = \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}\}$:

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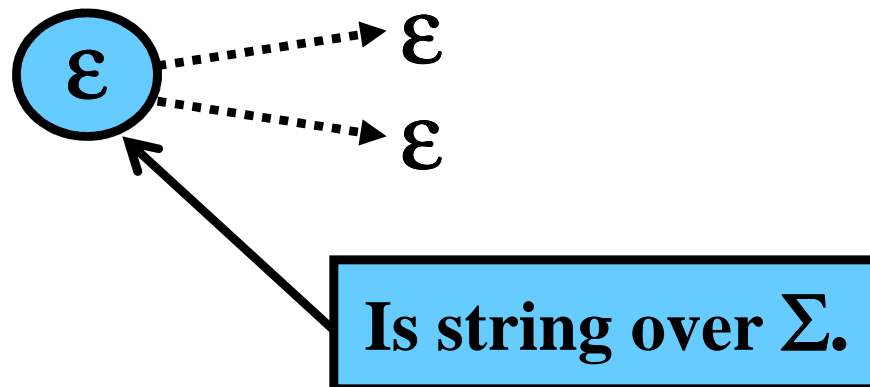
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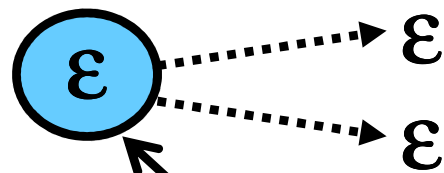
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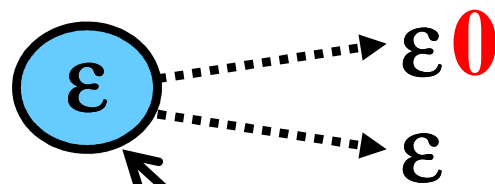
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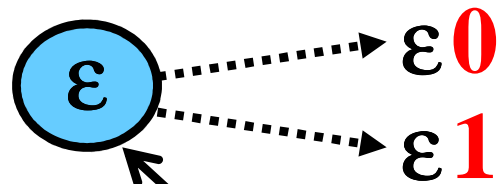
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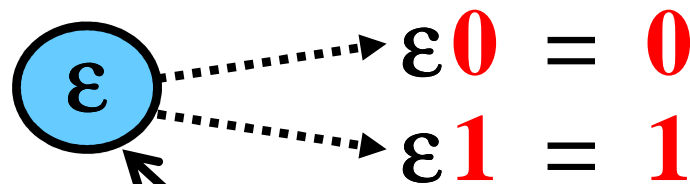
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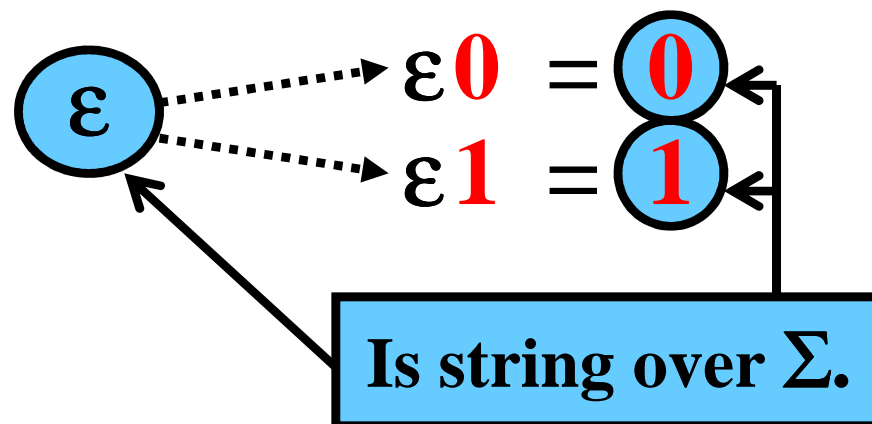
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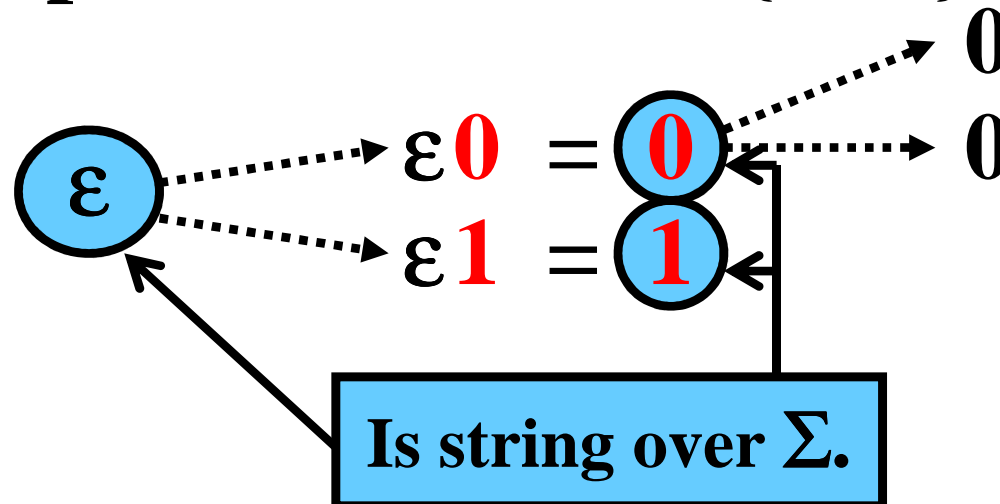
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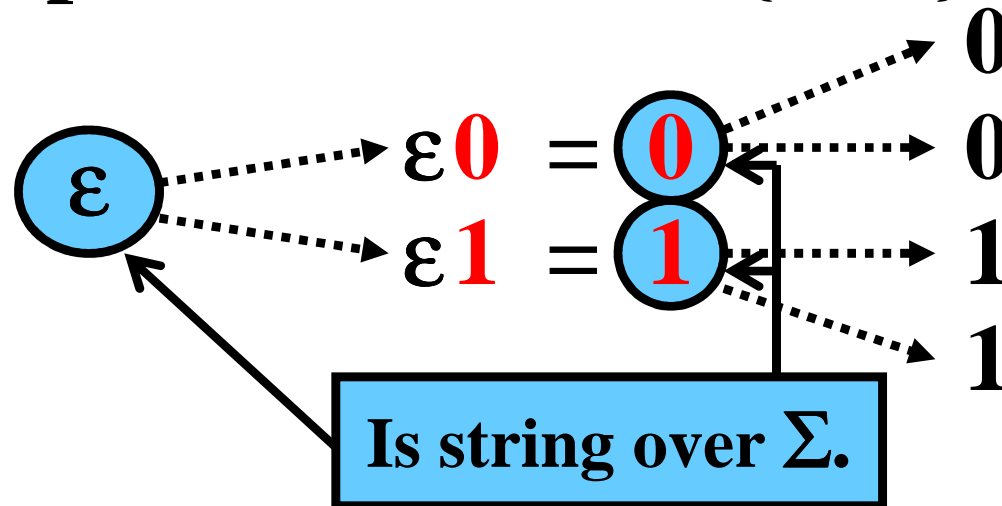
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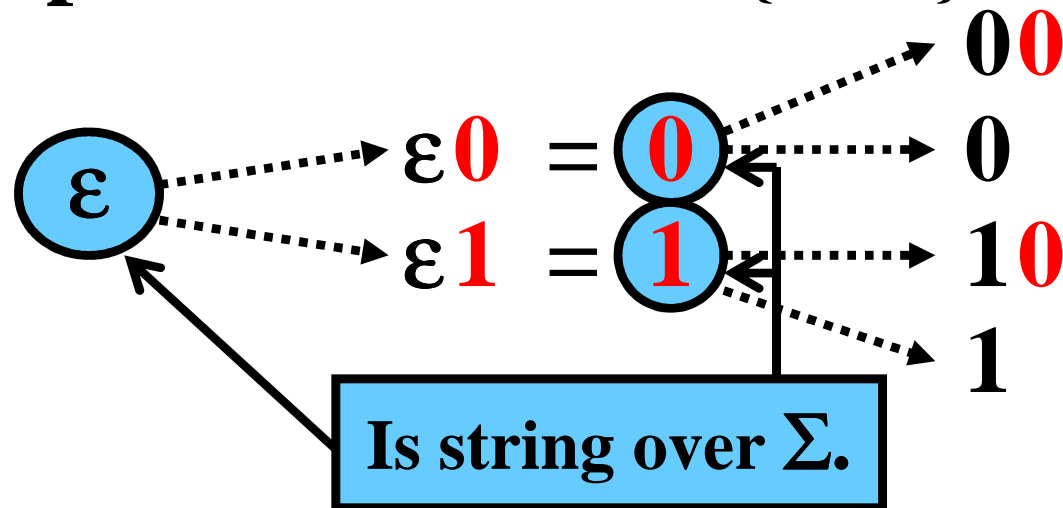
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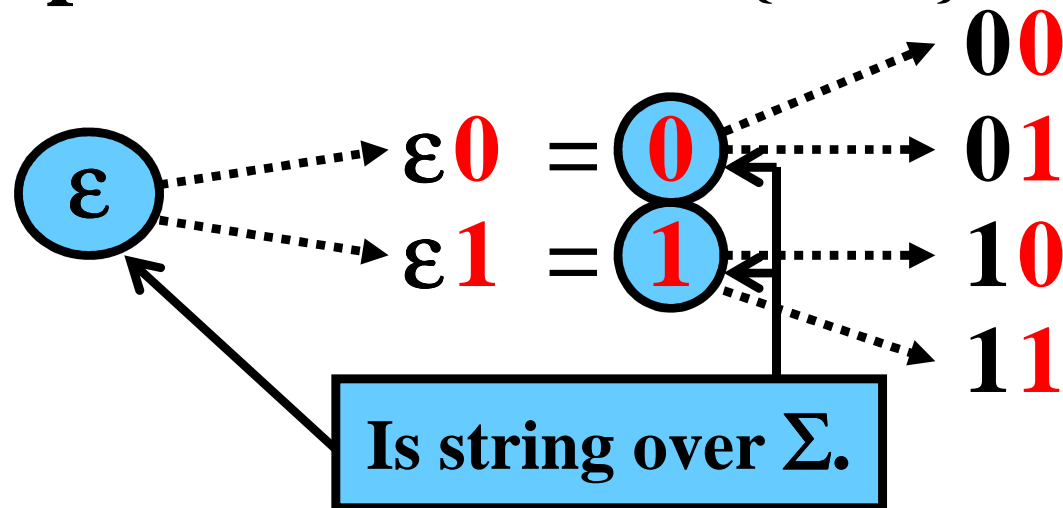
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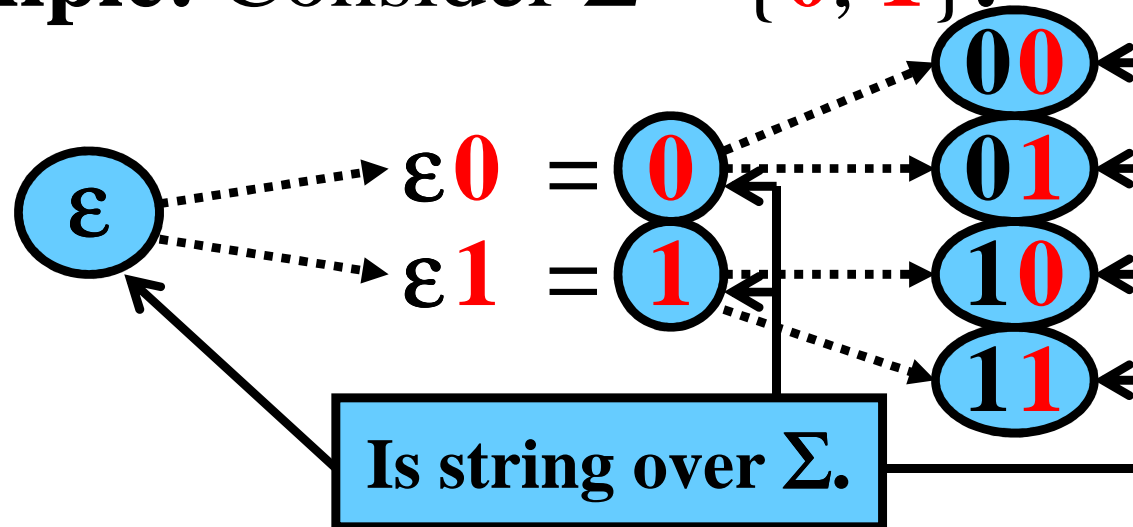
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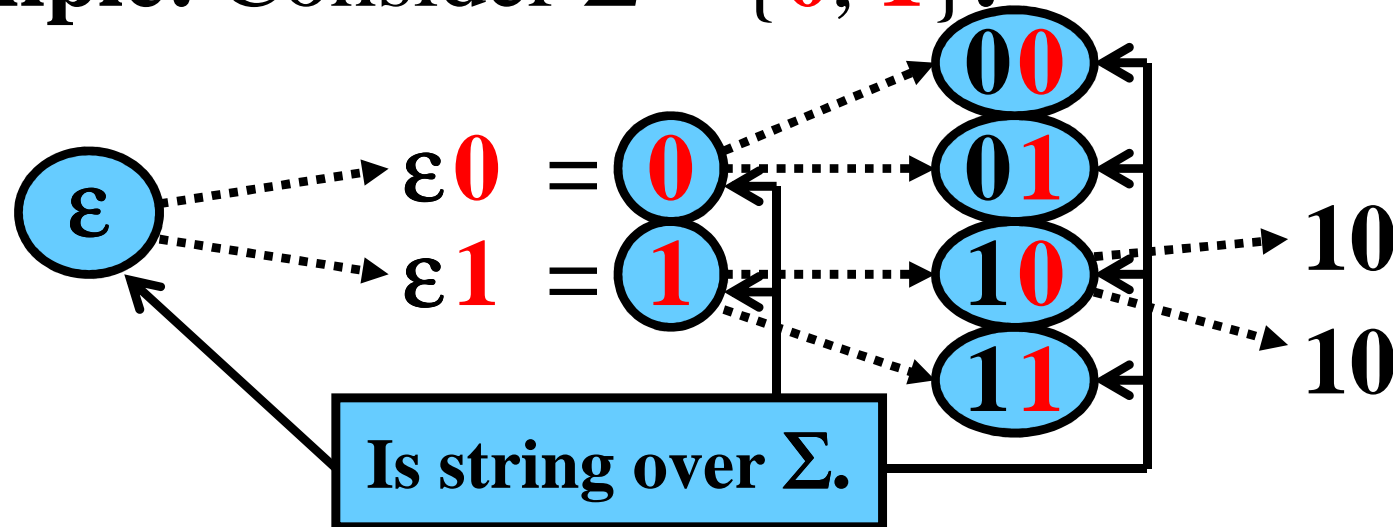
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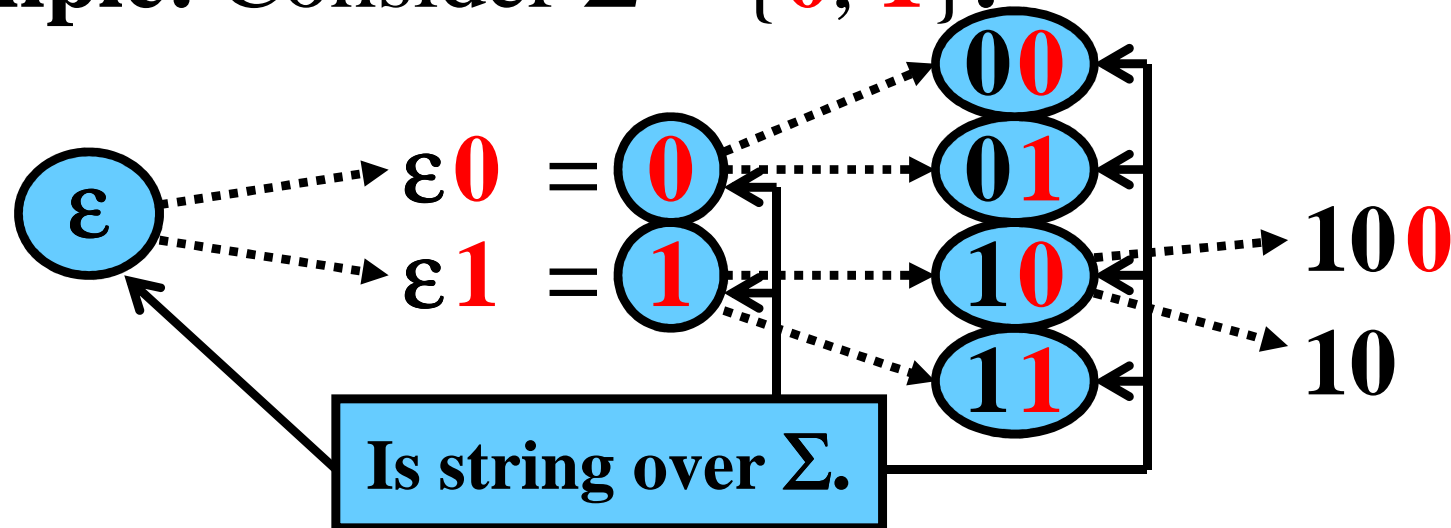
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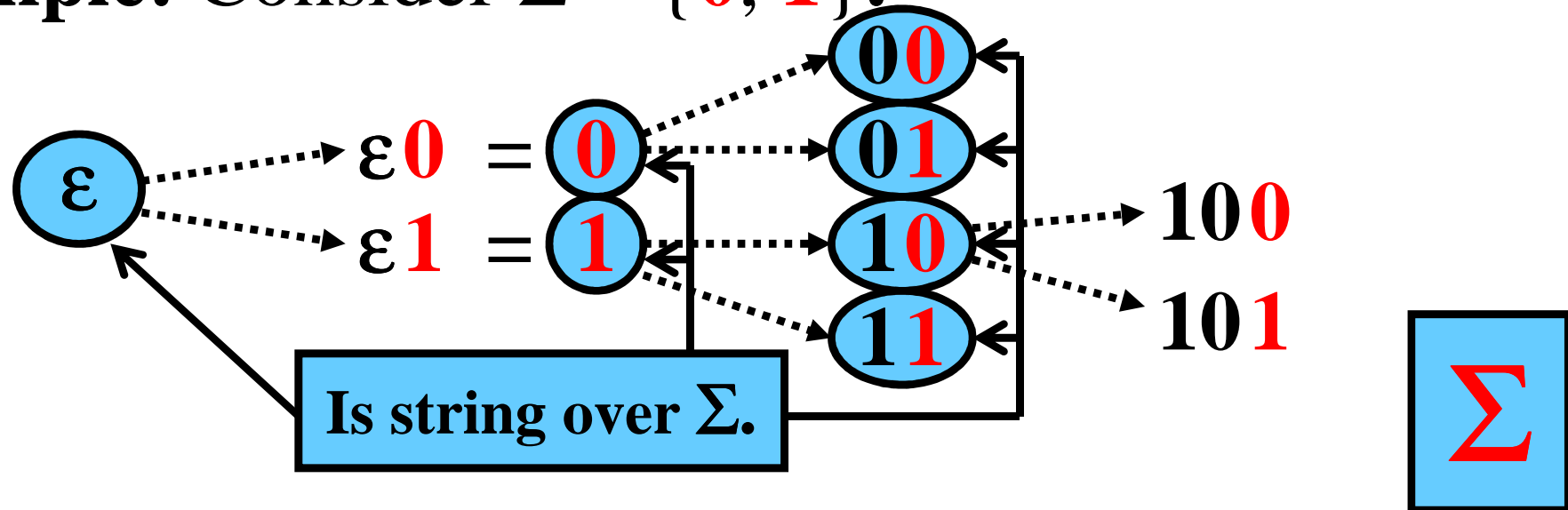
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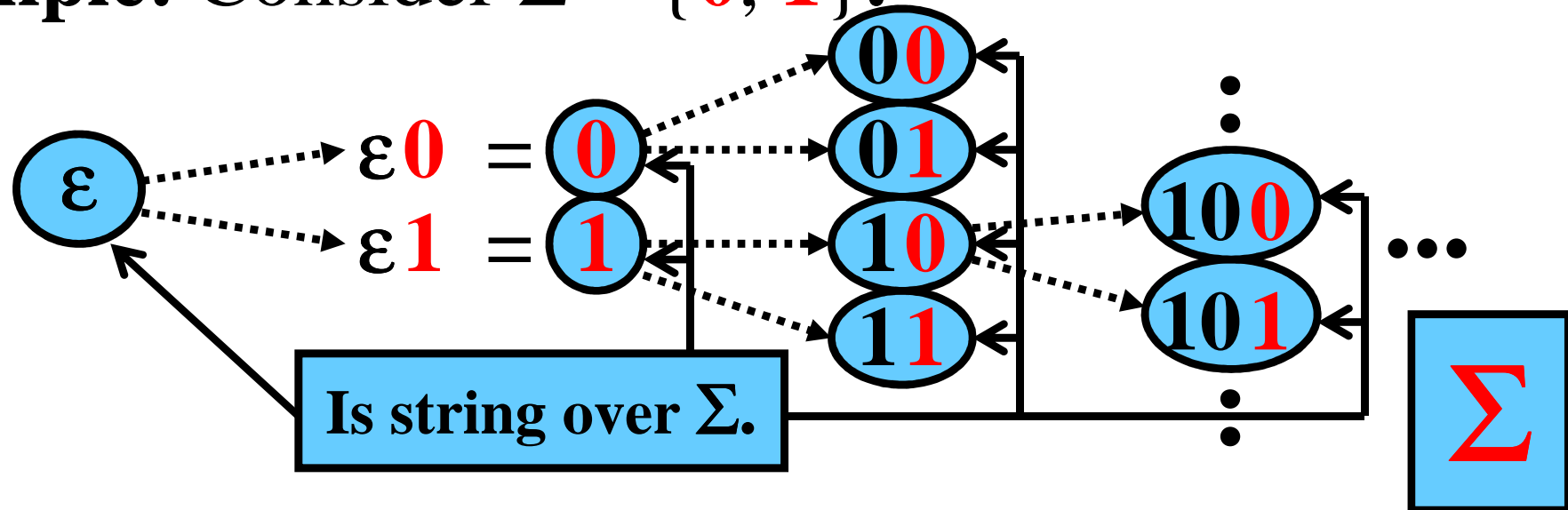
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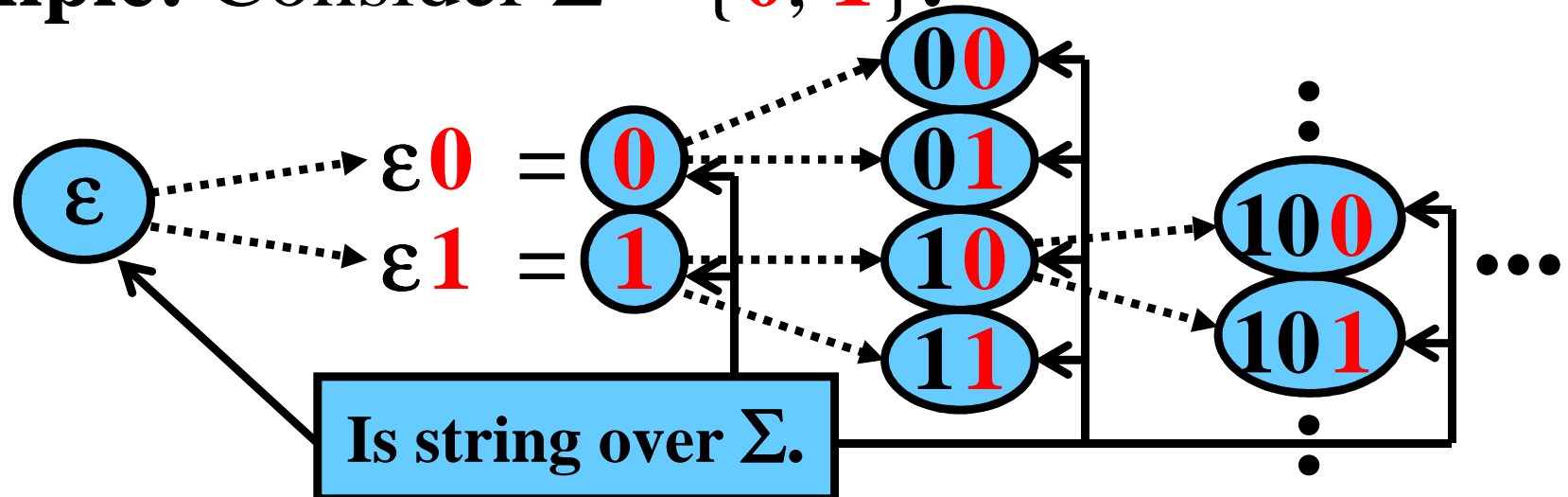
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Example: Consider $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$:



Length of String

Gist: $|a_1a_2\dots a_n| = n$

Definition: Let x be a string over Σ .

The *length* of x , $|x|$, is defined as follows:

1) if $x = \varepsilon$, then $|x| = 0$

2) if $x = a_1\dots a_n$, then $|x| = n$

for some $n \geq 1$, and $a_i \in \Sigma$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$

Note: The length of x is the number of all symbols in x .

Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $|x|$

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$x = 1\ 0\ 1\ 0$

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $|x|$

$$x = \mathbf{1\ 0\ 1\ 0}$$

$$a_1a_2a_3a_4$$

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $|x|$

$x = 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0$

$a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 \rightarrow n = 4$, thus $|x| = 4$

Concatenation of Strings

Gist: xy

Definition: Let x and y be two strings over Σ .
The *concatenation* of x and y is xy .

Note: $x\varepsilon = \varepsilon x = x$

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Examples:

Concatenation of **101** and **001** is **101001**

Concatenation of ε and **001** is $\varepsilon\mathbf{001} = \mathbf{001}$

Power of String

Gist: $x^i = \underbrace{xx \dots x}_{i\text{-times}}$

Definition: Let x be a string over Σ .

For $i \geq 0$, the i -th *power* of x , x^i , is defined as

1) $x^0 = \varepsilon$ 2) if $i \geq 1$ then $x^i = xx^{i-1}$

Note: $x^i x^j = x^j x^i = x^{i+j}$, where $i, j \geq 0$

Example: Consider $x = 10$

Task: x^3

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$$\quad \quad \quad \searrow$$

$$x^2 = xx^1 = \mathbf{10}x^1$$

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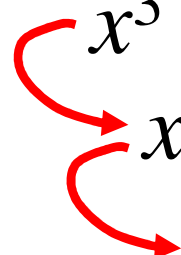
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Task: x^3

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 &= xx^2 = \mathbf{10}x^2 \\ &\quad \swarrow \\ x^2 &= xx^1 = \mathbf{10}x^1 \\ &\quad \swarrow \\ x^1 &= xx^0 = \mathbf{10}x^0 \end{aligned}$$

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$x^3 = xx^2 = 10x^2$
 $x^2 = xx^1 = 10x^1$
 $x^1 = xx^0 = 10x^0$
 $x^0 = \epsilon$

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Task: x^3

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 $x^2 = xx^1 = \mathbf{10}x^1$
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 $x^0 = \mathbf{\epsilon}$

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Example: Consider $x = 10$

Task: x^3

$x^3 = x x^2 = 10 x^2$
 $x^2 = x x^1 = 10 x^1$
 $x^1 = x x^0 = 10 x^0$
 $x^0 = \epsilon$

Red arrows indicate the progression from x^3 down to x^0 , and a final arrow from x^0 to $x^1 = 10\epsilon = 10$.

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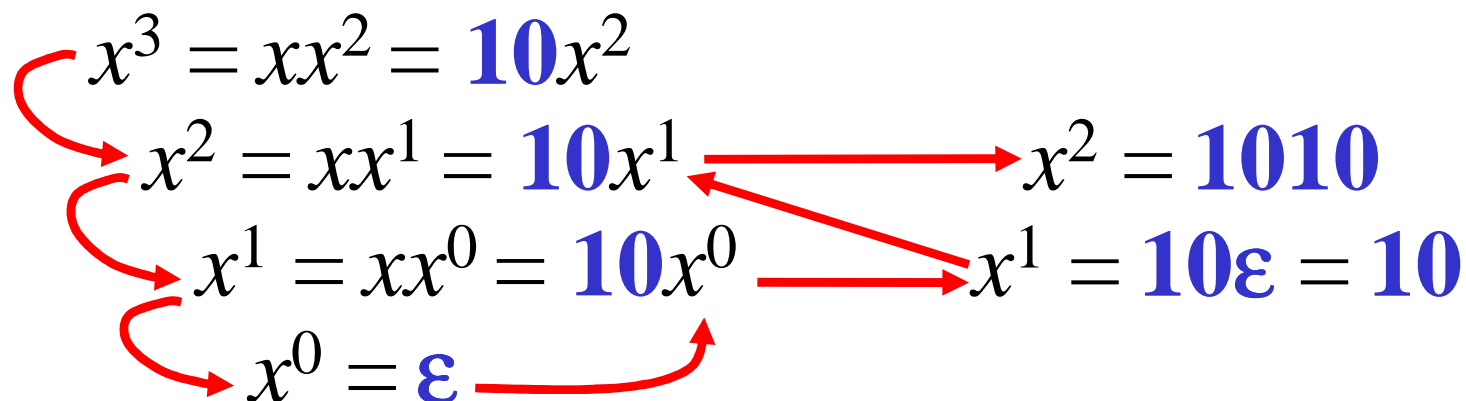
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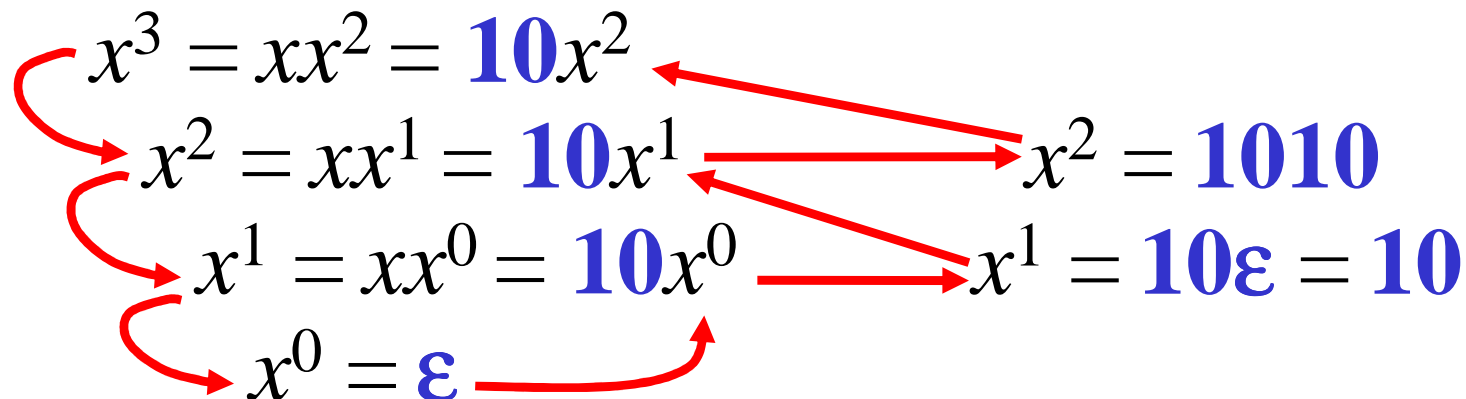
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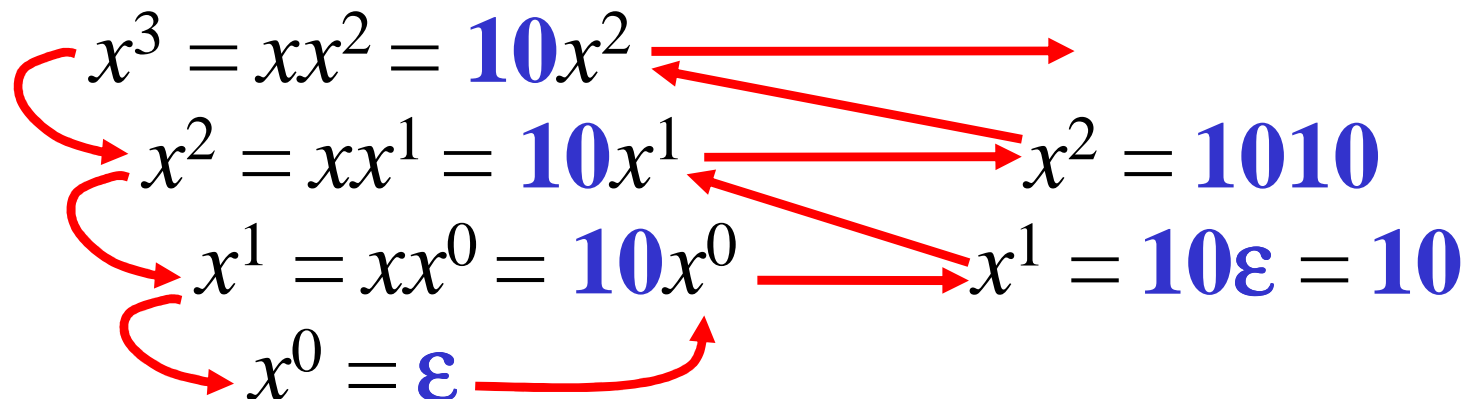
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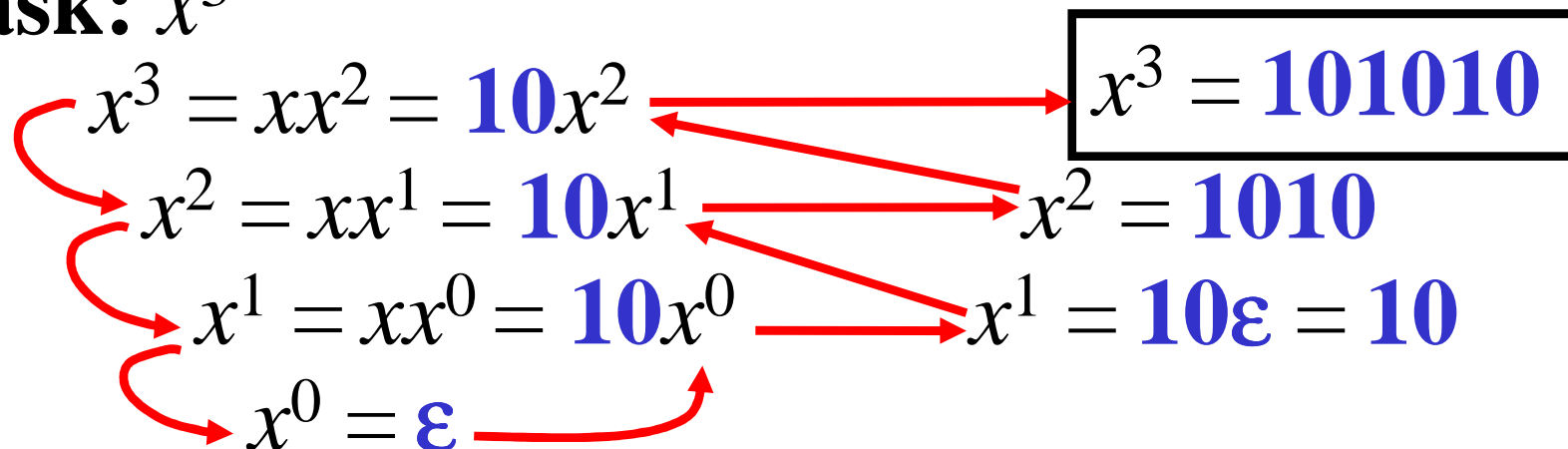
1) $x^0 = \varepsilon$

2) if $i \geq 1$ then $x^i = xx^{i-1}$

Note: $x^i x^j = x^j x^i = x^{i+j}$, where $i, j \geq 0$

Example: Consider $x = 10$

Task: x^3



Reversal of String

Gist: $\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$

Definition: Let x be a string over Σ .

The *reversal* of x , $\text{reversal}(x)$, is defined as:

1) if $x = \varepsilon$ then $\text{reversal}(\varepsilon) = \varepsilon$

2) if $x = a_1 \dots a_n$ then $\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$
for some $n \geq 1$, and $a_i \in \Sigma$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$

Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

Reversal of String

Gist: $\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$\text{reversal}(1010) = 0101$, so

Reversal of String

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$, so

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2) = a_2 a_1$, so

Reversal of String

Gist: $\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$

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for some $n \geq 1$, and $a_i \in \Sigma$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$

Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2 a_3) = a_3 a_2 a_1, \text{ so}$$

Reversal of String

Gist: $\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$

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for some $n \geq 1$, and $a_i \in \Sigma$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$

Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4) = a_4 a_3 a_2 a_1, \text{ so}$$

Reversal of String

Gist: $\text{reversal}(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_n \dots a_1$

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4) = a_4 a_3 a_2 a_1$, so

$\text{reversal}() =$

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4) = a_4 a_3 a_2 a_1$, so

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Example: Consider $x = 1010$

Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4) = a_4 a_3 a_2 a_1$, so

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$\text{reversal}(a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4) = a_4 a_3 a_2 a_1$, so

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Task: $\text{reversal}(x)$

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Prefix of String

Gist: x is a prefix of xz

Definition: Let x and y be two strings over Σ ; x is *prefix* of y if there is a string z over Σ so
$$xz = y$$

Note: if $x \notin \{\varepsilon, y\}$ then x is *proper prefix* of y .

Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of **1010**

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010
 ϵ

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010

ε
1

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010

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1
10

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010

Prefixes of 1010 {
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1010

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All prefixes of 1010

Prefixes of 1010 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \epsilon \\ 1 \\ 10 \\ 101 \\ 1010 \end{array} \right\}$ Proper prefixes of 1010

Suffix of String

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All suffixes of **1010**

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Suffixes of 1010 { ε
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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All suffixes of 1010

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Substring

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All substrings of **1 0 1 0**

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1, 0

10

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Task: All substrings of **1 0 1 0**

ϵ

1, 0

10

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ε

1, 0

10

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All substrings of 1 **0 1** 0

ϵ

1, 0

10, 01

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Definition: Let x and y be two strings over Σ ; x is *substring* of y if there are two string z, z' over Σ so $zxz' = y$.

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All substrings of 1

0	1	0
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ϵ

1, 0

10, 01

Substring

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All substrings of 1 0 **1 0**

ε

1, 0

10, 01

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Example: Consider 1010

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ϵ
1, 0
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1, 0

10, 01

101

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All substrings of **1 0 1 0**

ε

1, 0

10, 01

101

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Task: All substrings of 1 **0 1 0**

ϵ

1, 0

10, 01

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Example: Consider 1010

Task: All substrings of 1 **0 1 0**

ϵ

1, 0

10, 01

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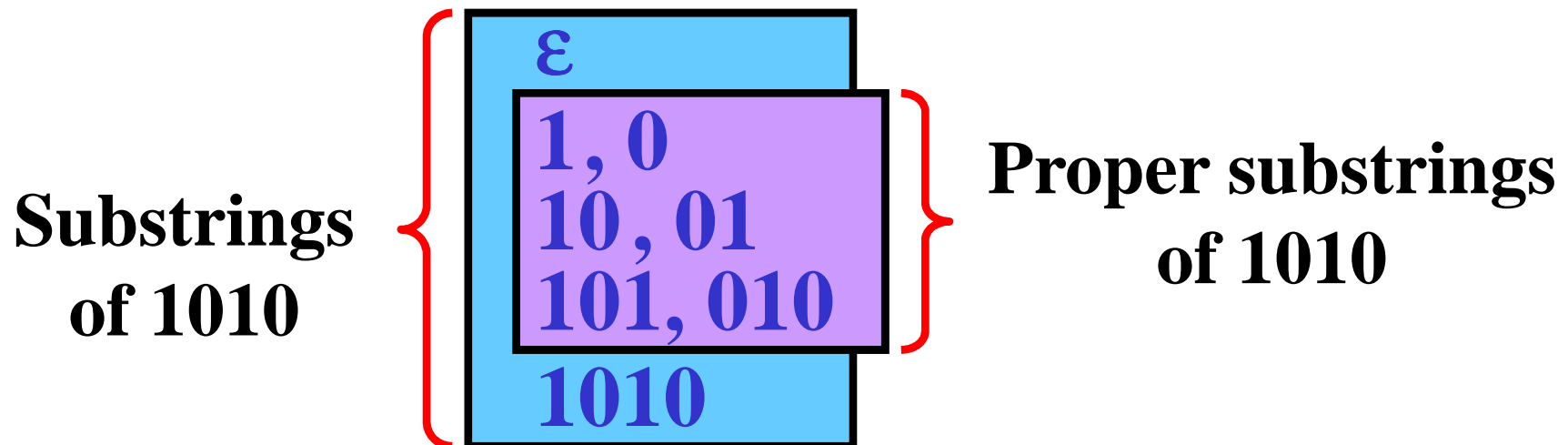
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Languages

Gist: $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$

Definition: Let Σ^* denote the set of all strings over Σ . Every subset $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ is a *language* over Σ .

Note: Σ^+ denote the set $\Sigma^* - \{\epsilon\}$.

Example: Consider $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$:

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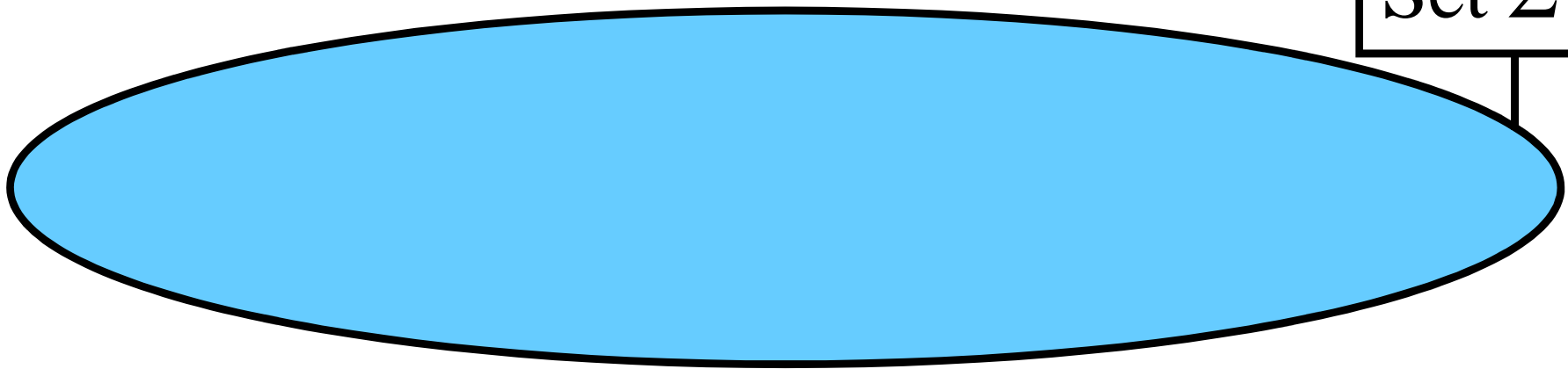
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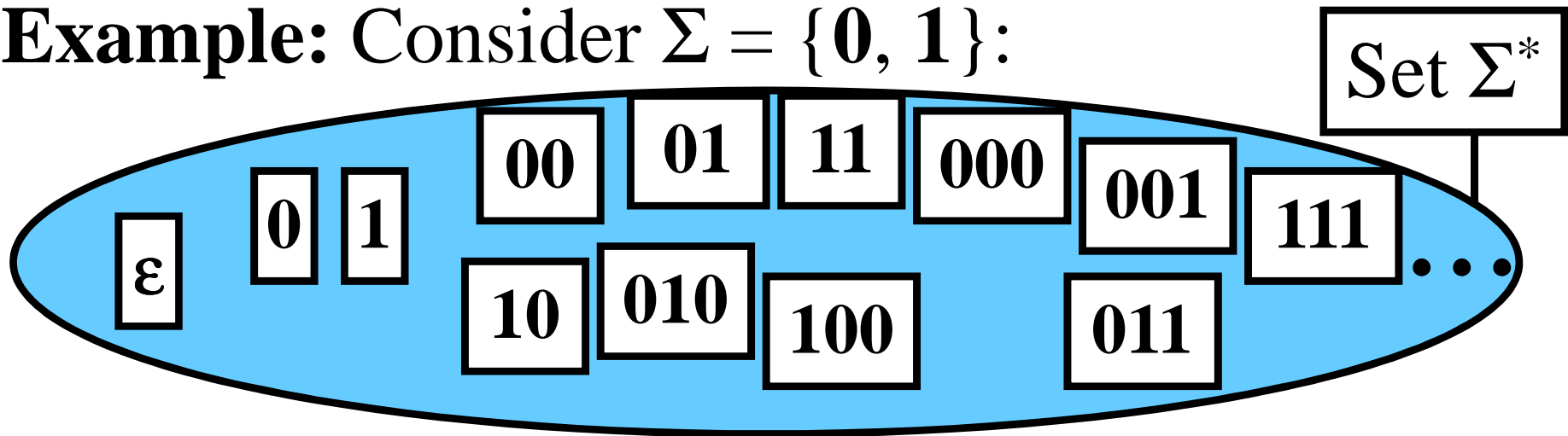
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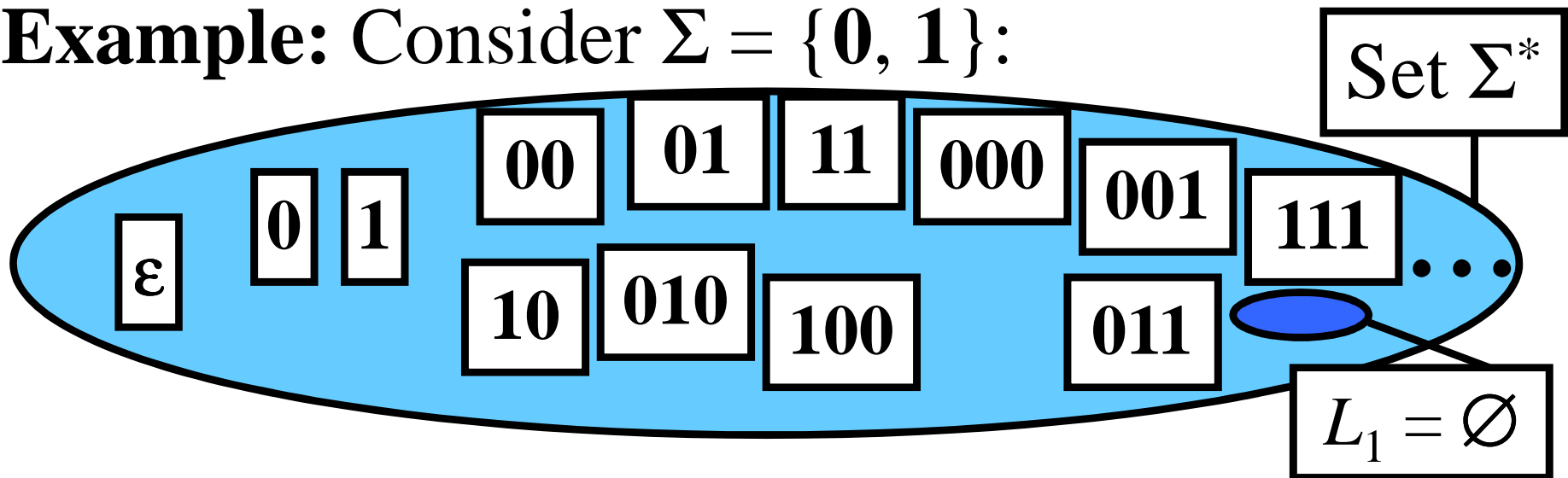
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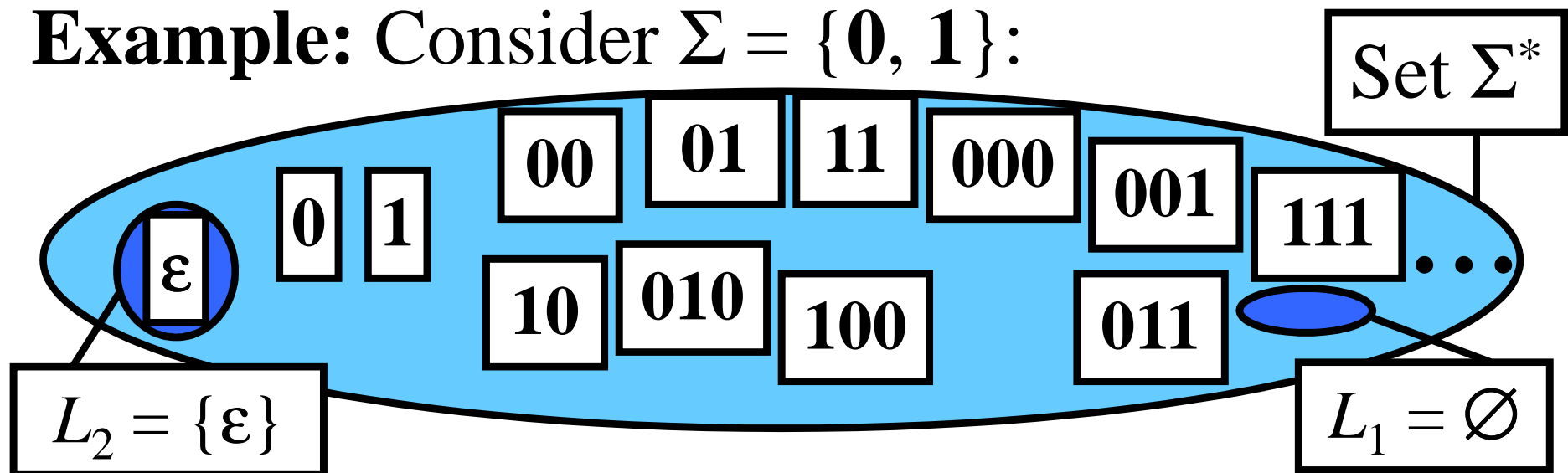
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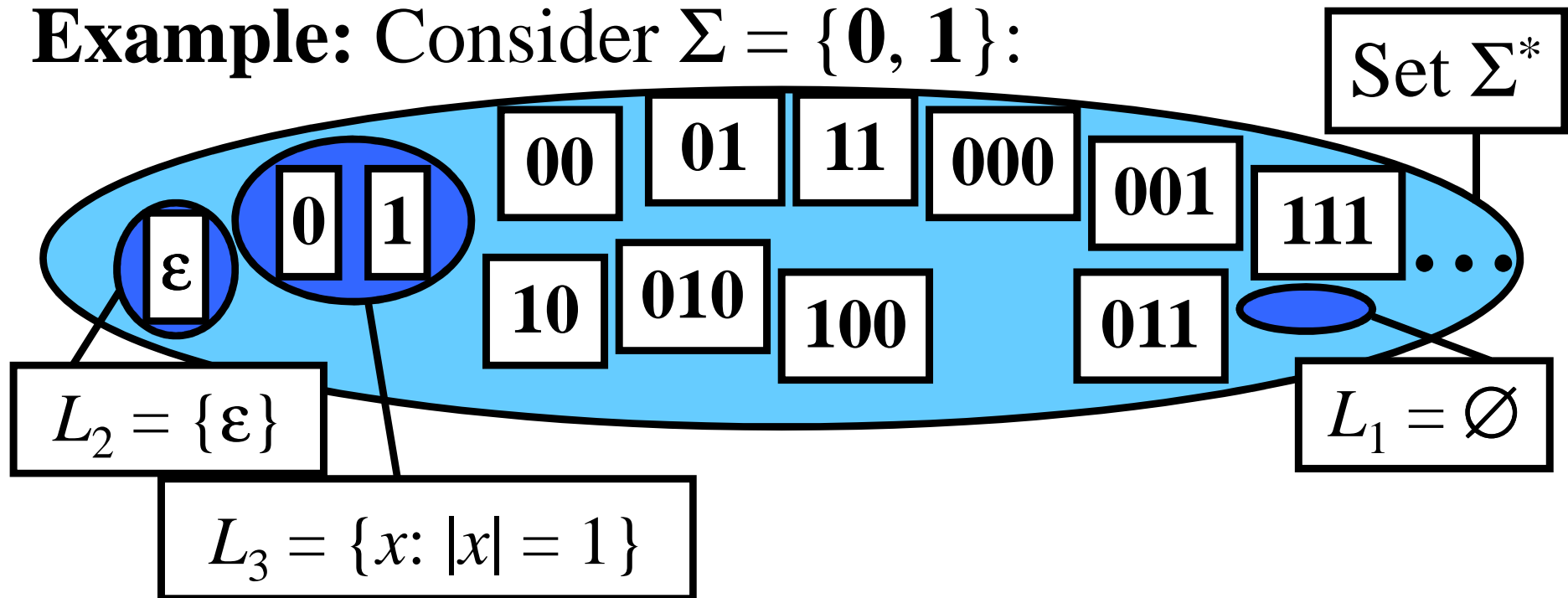
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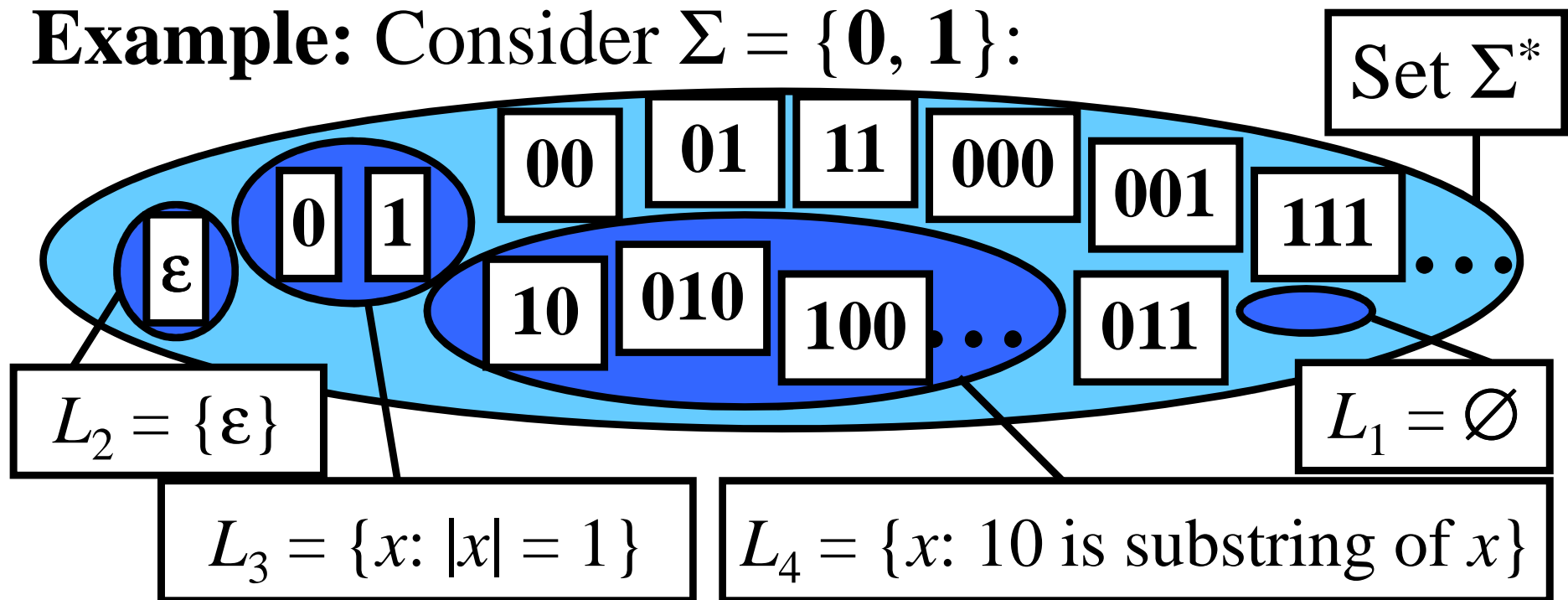
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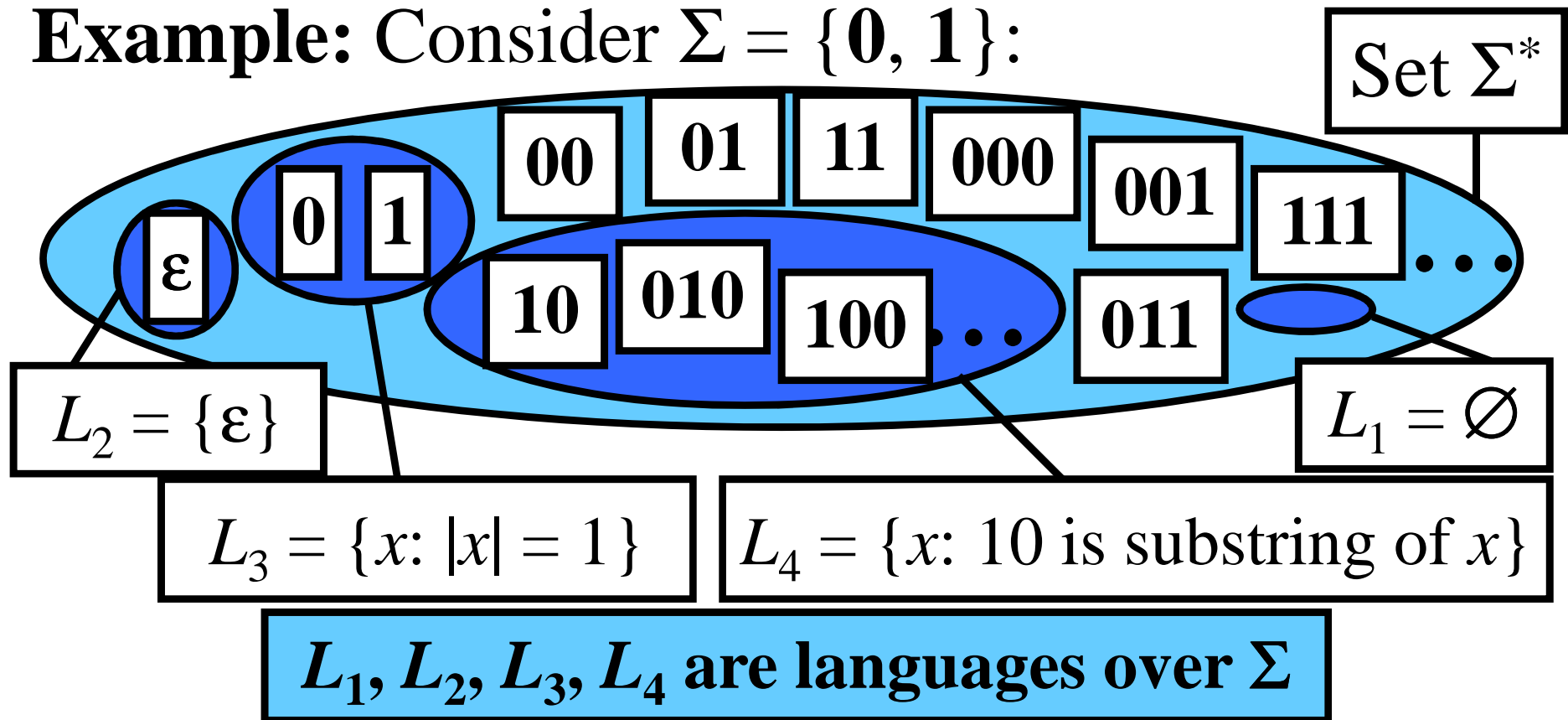
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Finite and Infinite Languages

Gist: finite language contains a finite number of strings

Definition: A language, L , is *finite* if L contains a finite number of strings; otherwise, L is *infinite*.

Note: Let S be a set; $\text{card}(S)$ is the number of its members.

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Examples:

- $L_1 = \emptyset$ is **finite** because $\text{card}(L_1) = \mathbf{0}$
- $L_2 = \{\epsilon\}$ is **finite** because $\text{card}(L_2) = \mathbf{1}$
- $L_3 = \{x: |x| = 1\} = \{0, 1\}$ is **finite** because
 $\text{card}(L_3) = \mathbf{2}$
- $L_4 = \{x: 10 \text{ is substring of } x\} = \{10, 010, 100, \dots\}$
is **infinite**

Union of Languages

Gist: Union of L_1 and L_2 is $L_1 \cup L_2$

Definition: Let L_1 and L_2 be two languages over Σ .

The *union* of L_1 and L_2 , $L_1 \cup L_2$, is defined as

$$L_1 \cup L_2 = \{x: x \in L_1 \text{ or } x \in L_2\}$$

Example: Consider languages $L_1 = \{0, 1, 00, 01\}$,

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Task: $L_1 \cup L_2$

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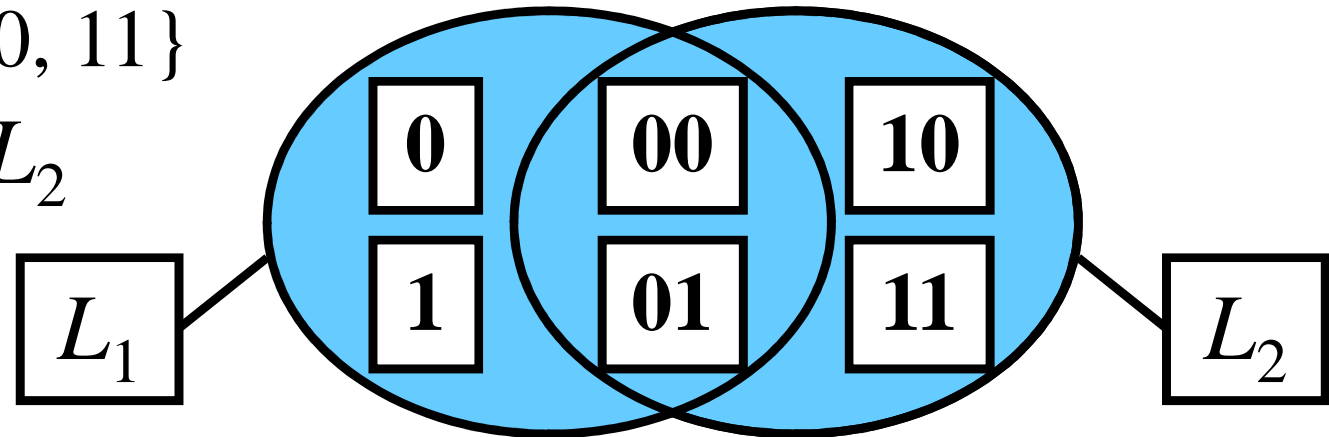
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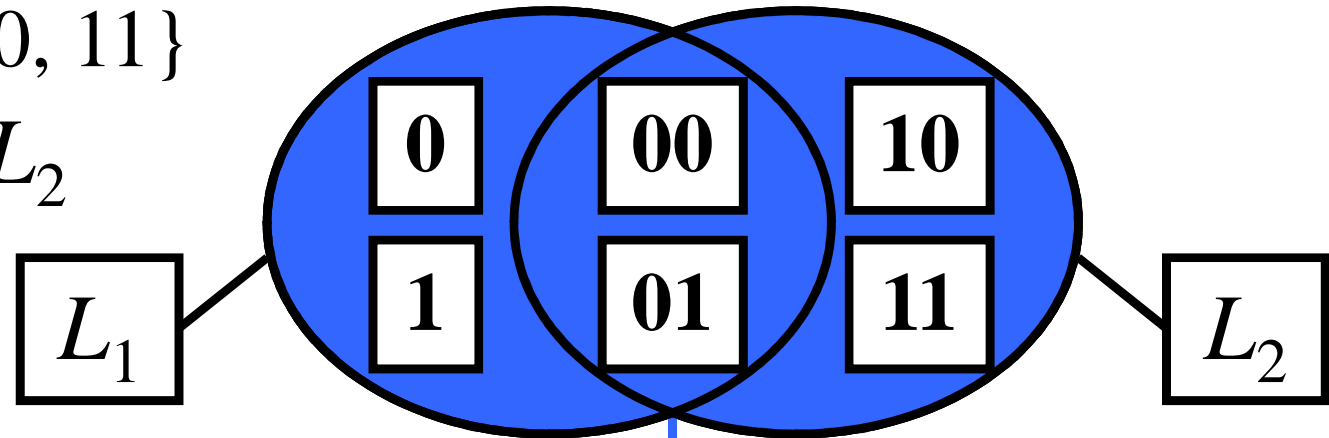
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Intersection of Languages

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Example: Consider languages $L_1 = \{0, 1, 00, 01\}$,
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Task: $L_1 \cap L_2$

Intersection of Languages

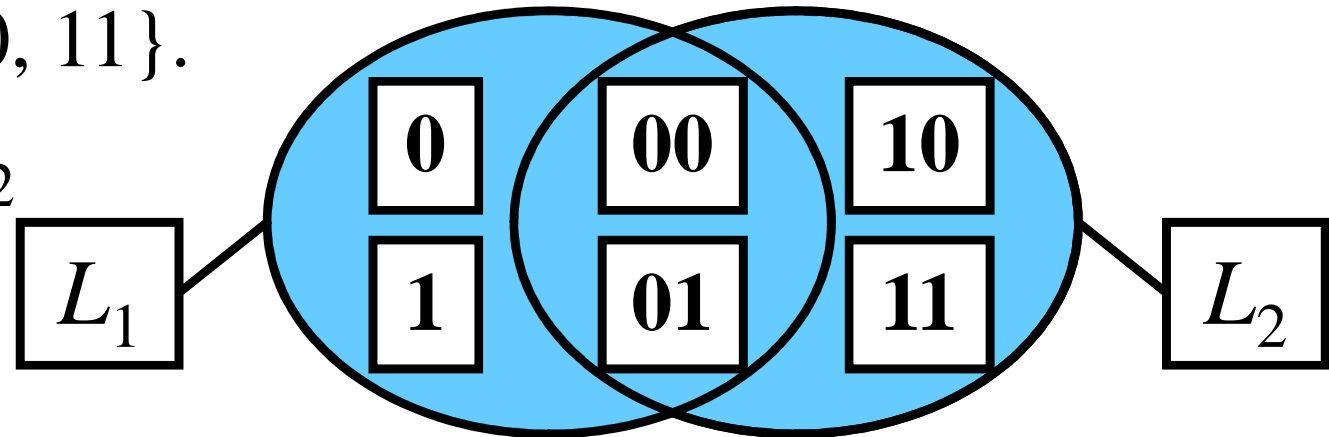
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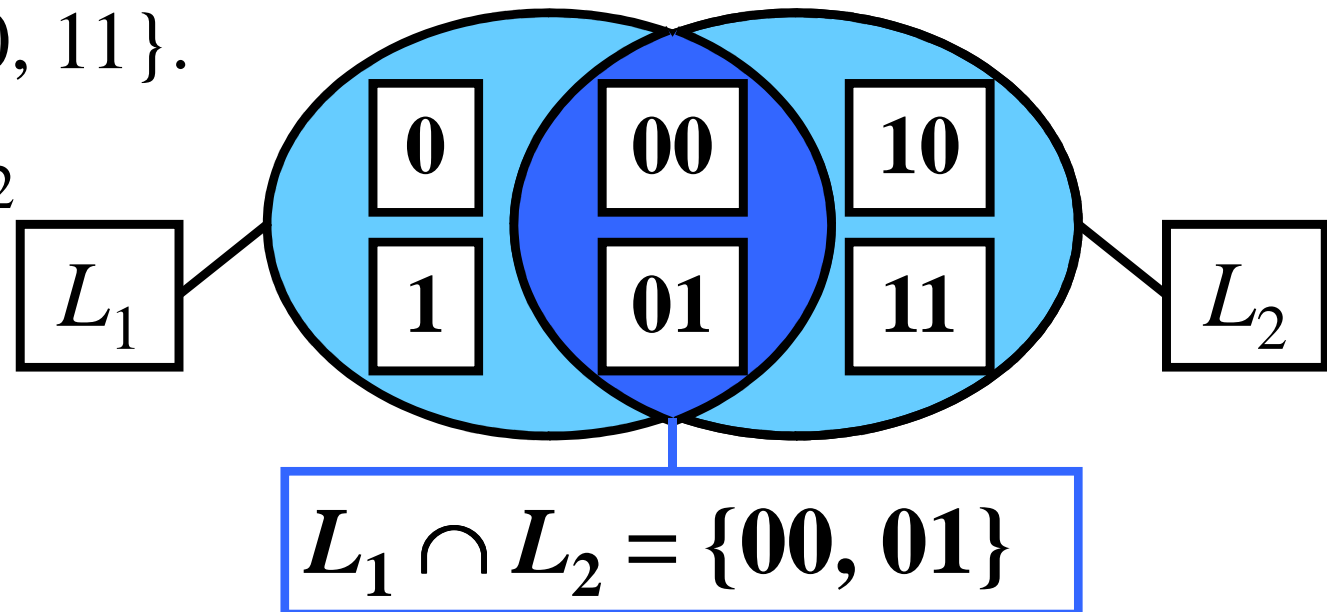
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Difference of Languages

Gist: Difference of L_1 and L_2 is $L_1 - L_2$

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Task: $L_1 - L_2$

Difference of Languages

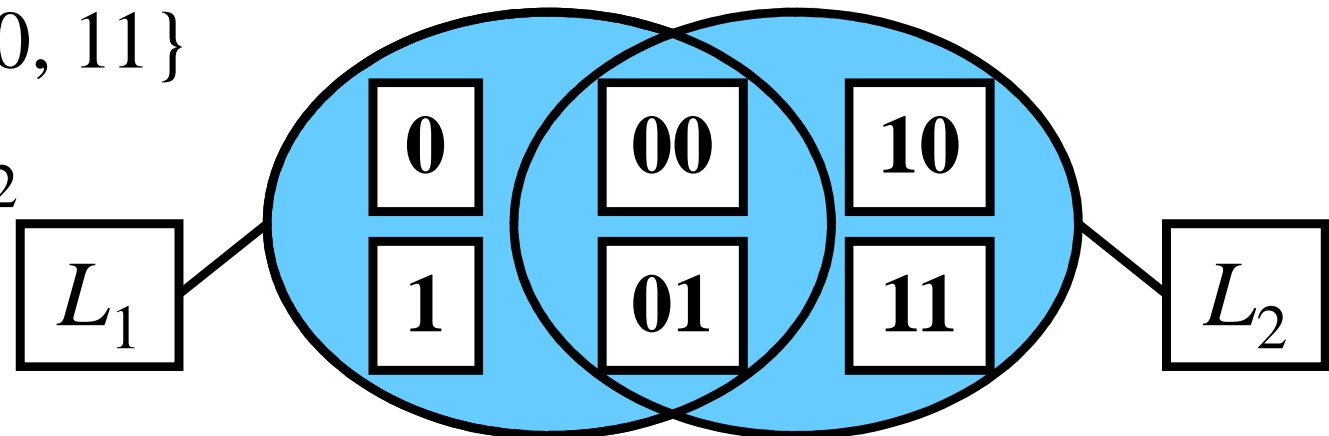
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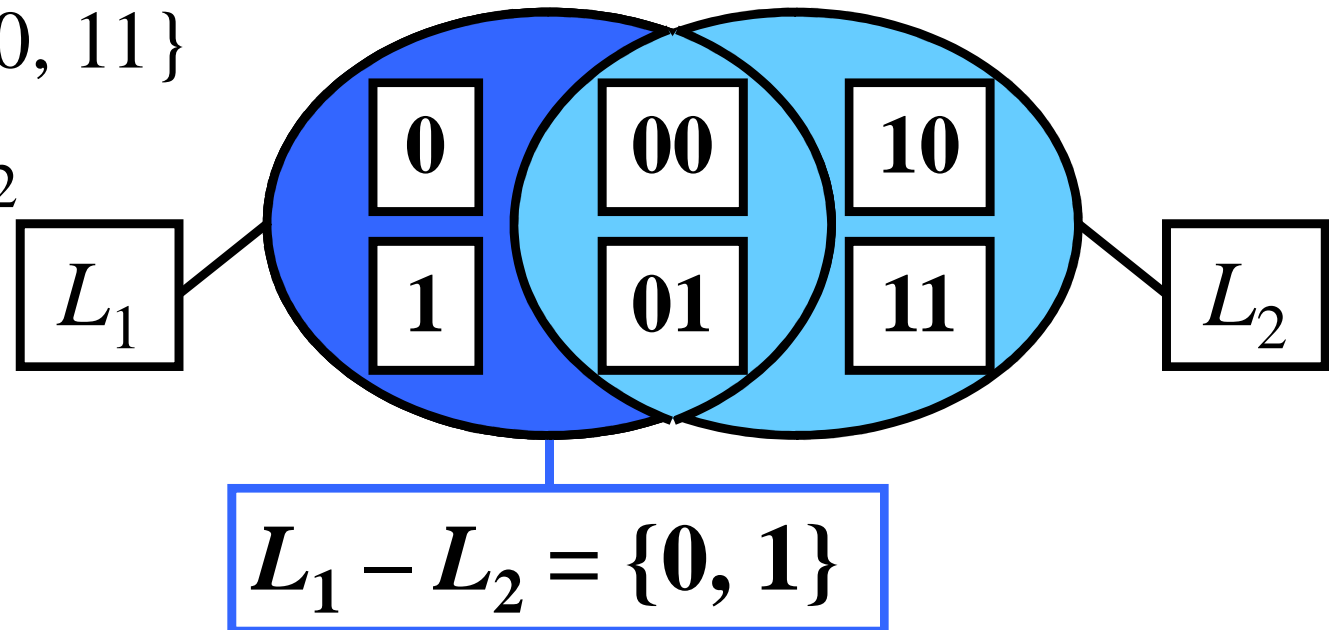
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Complement of Language

Gist: $\bar{L} = \Sigma^* - L$

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The *complement* of L , \bar{L} , is defined as

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Example: Consider language $L = \{0, 1, 01, 10\}$

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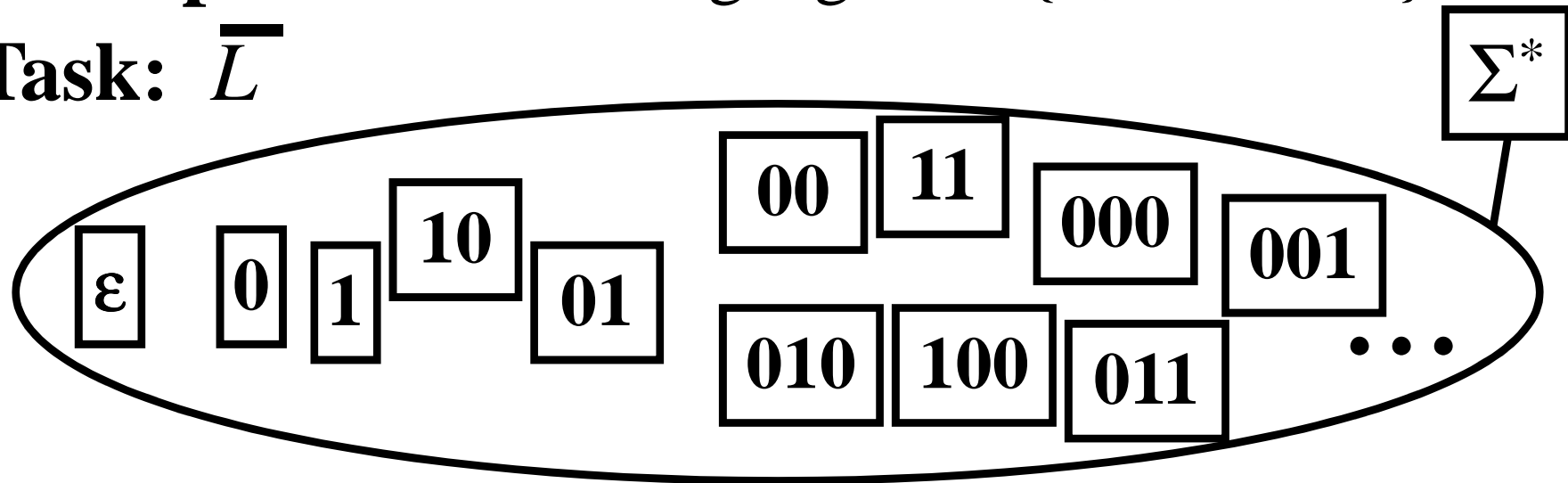
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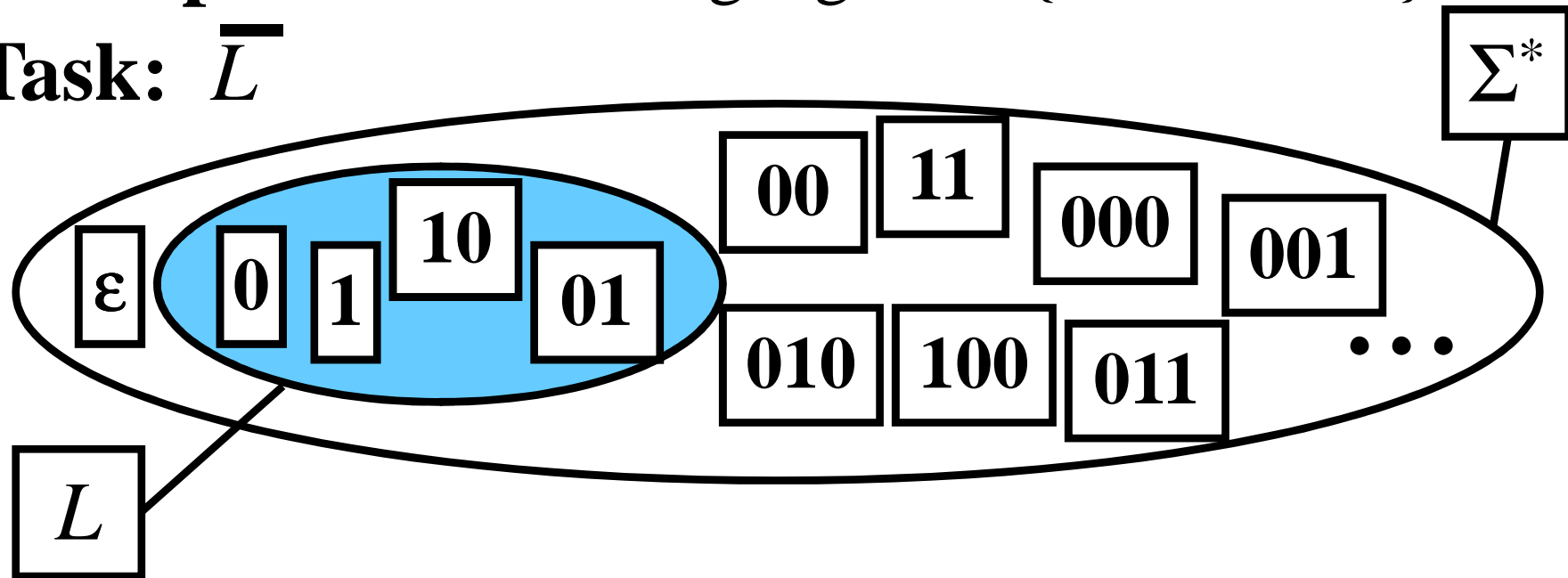
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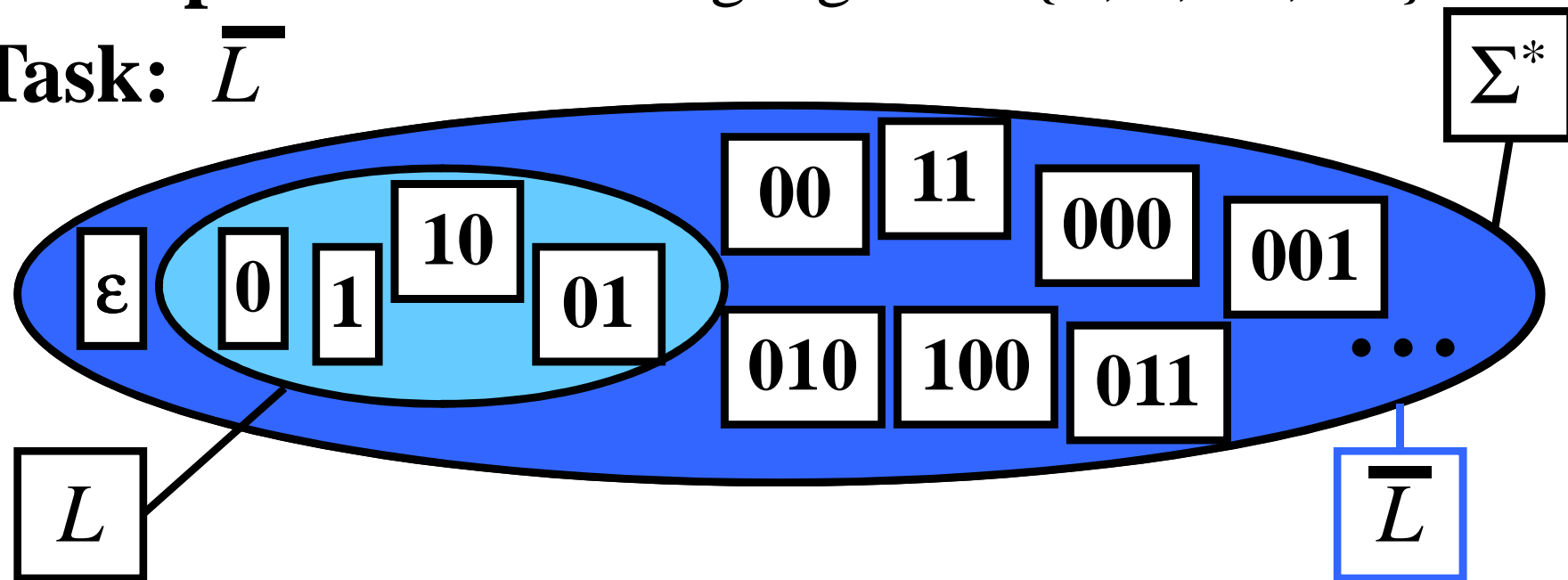
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Concatenation of Languages

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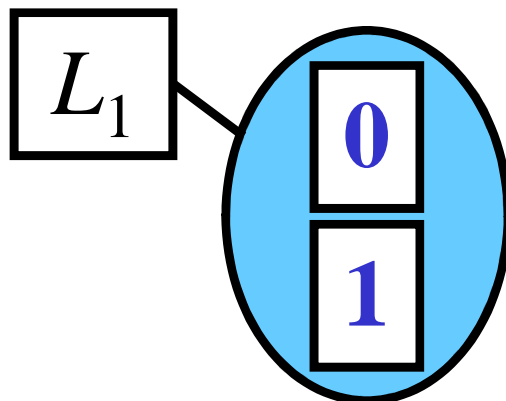
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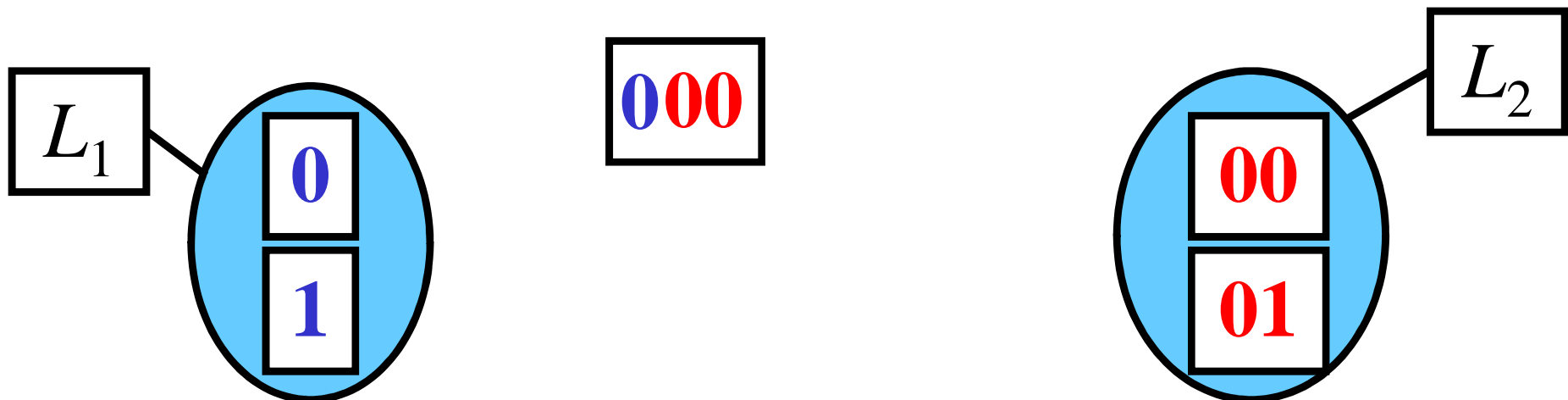
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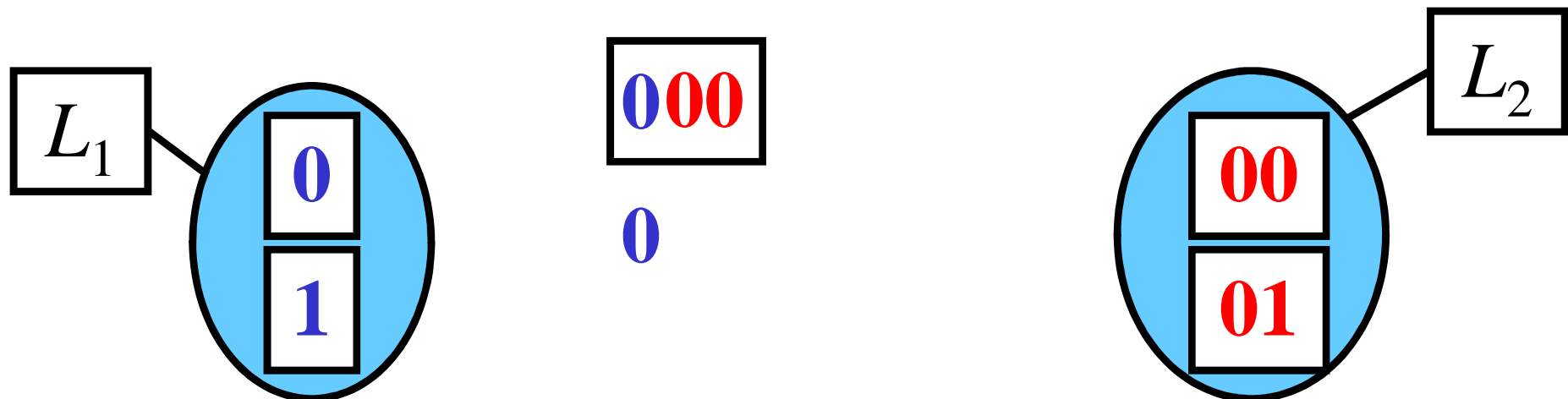
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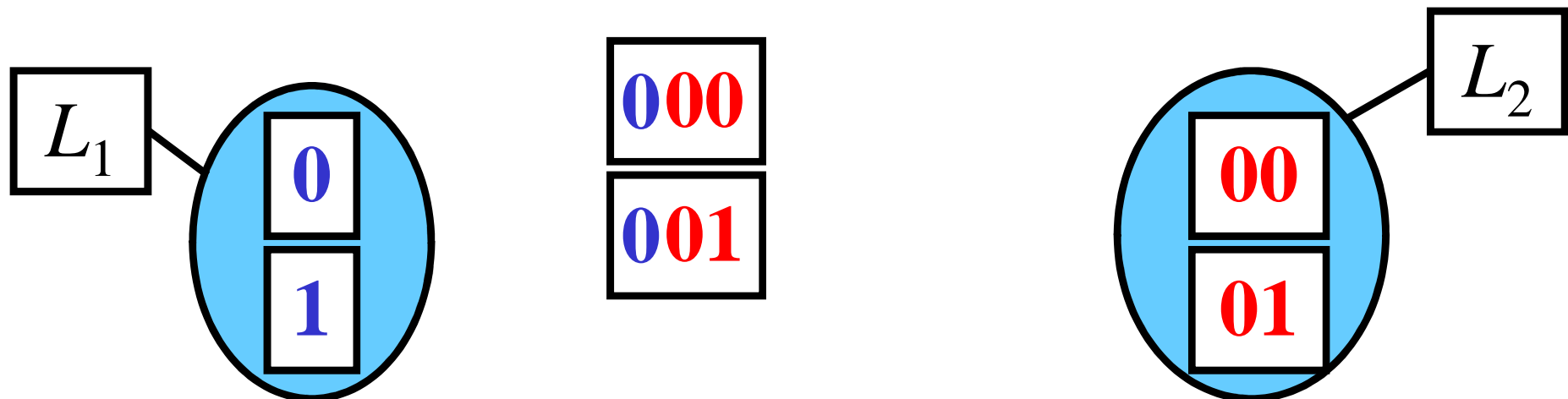
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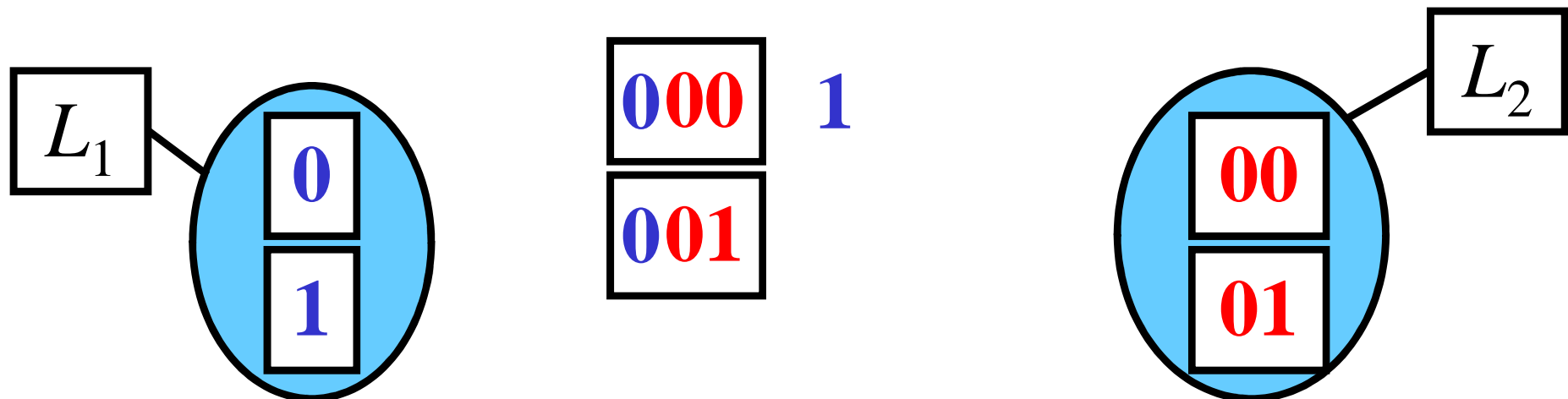
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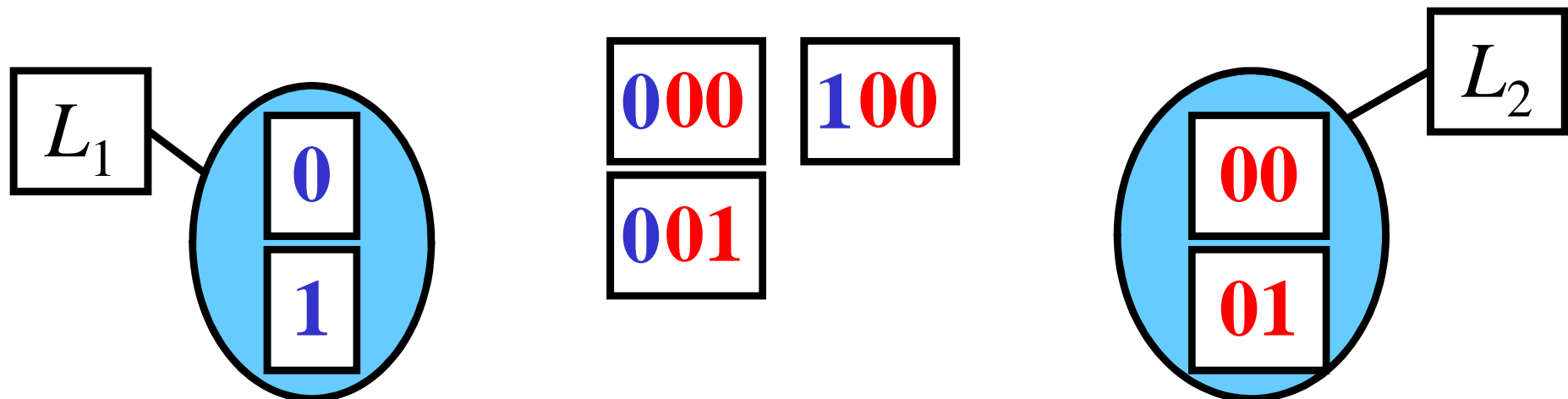
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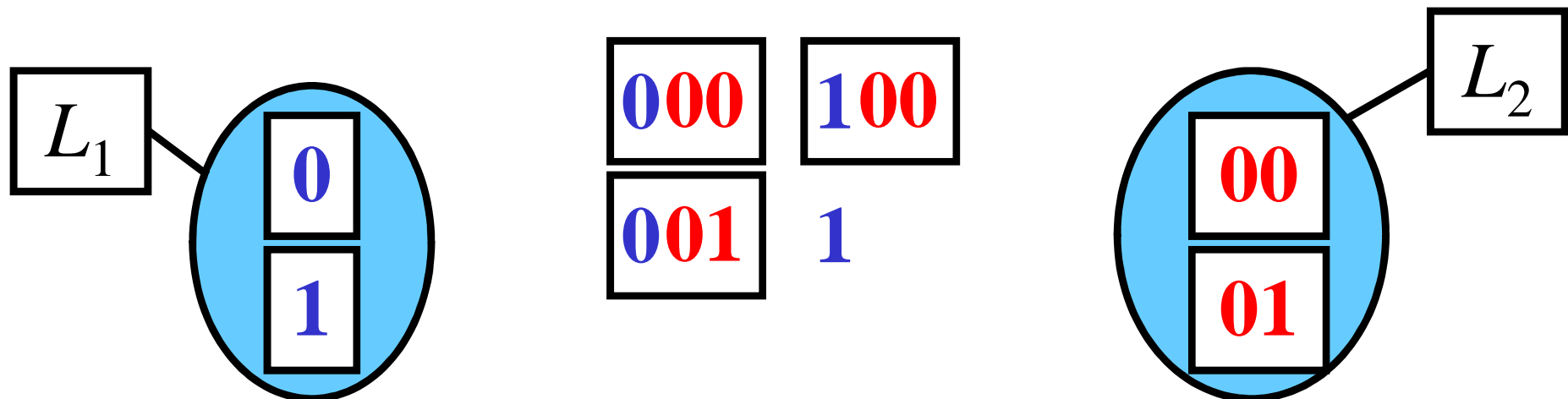
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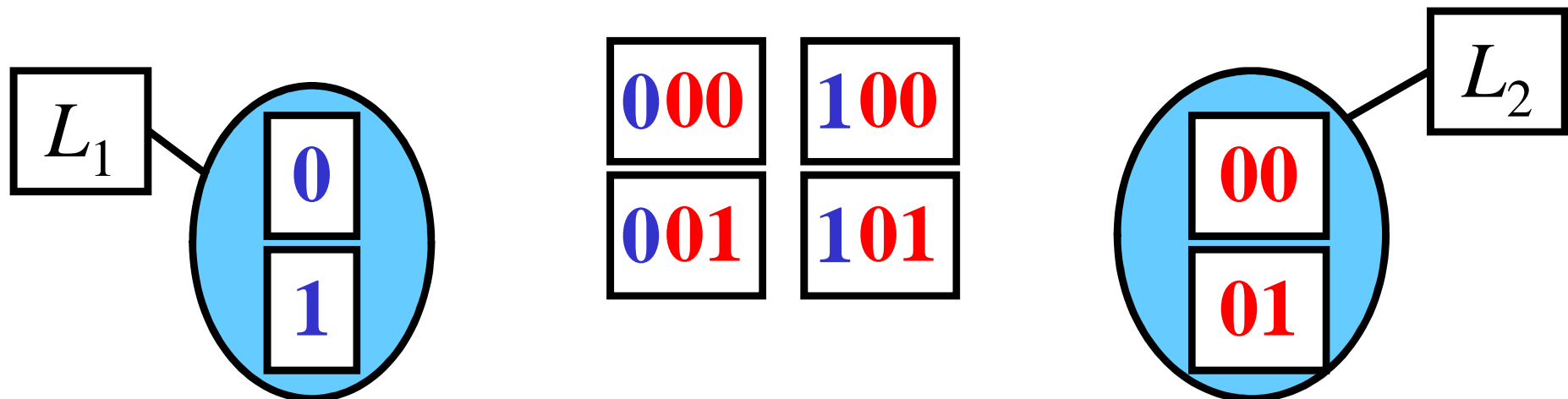
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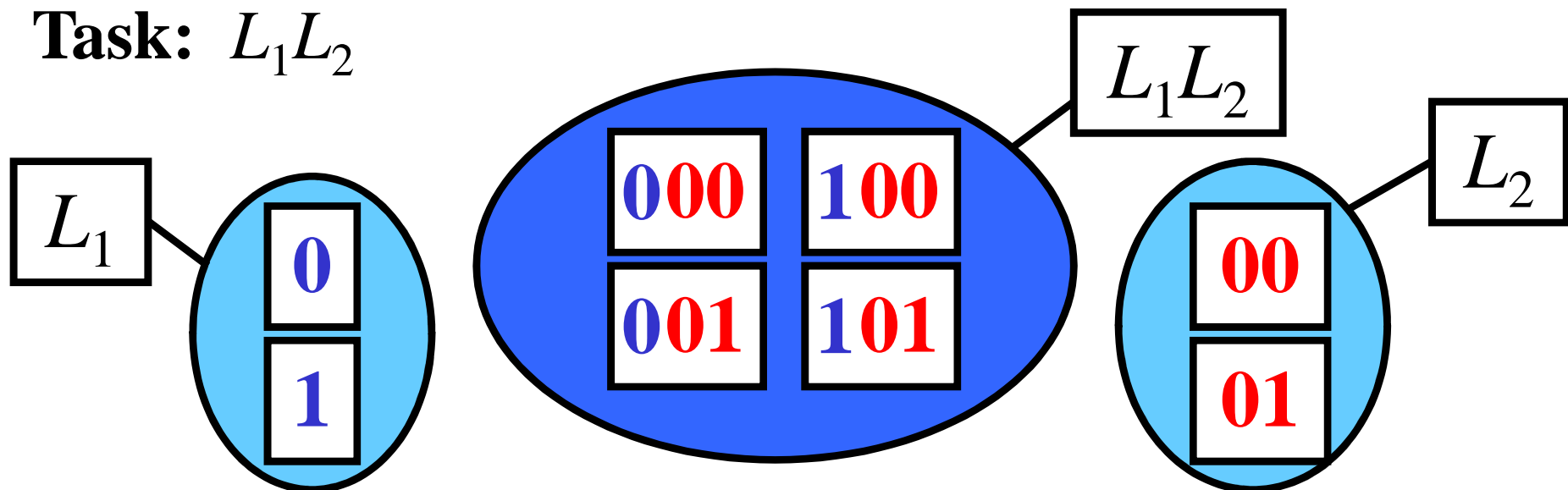
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Reversal of Language

Gist: $\text{reversal}(L) = \{\text{reversal}(x) : x \in L\}$

Definition: Let L be a language over Σ .
The *reversal* of L , $\text{reversal}(L)$, is defined as
$$\text{reversal}(L) = \{\text{reversal}(x) : x \in L\}$$

Example: Consider $L = \{01, 011\}$

Task: $\text{reversal}(L)$

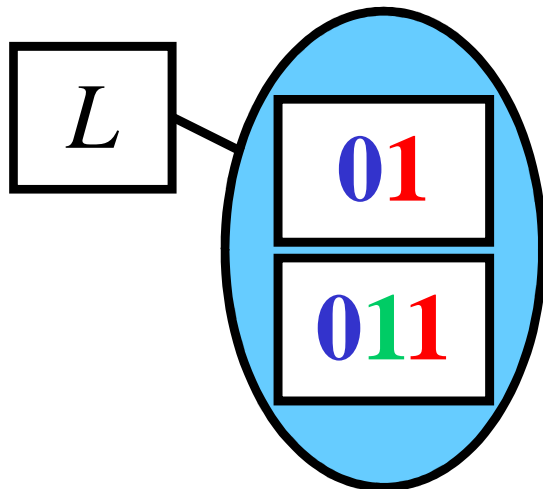
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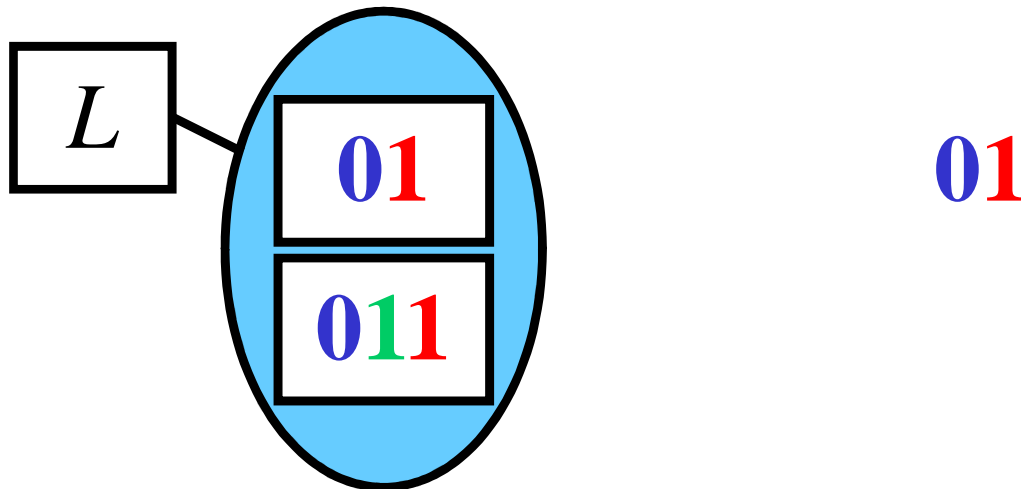
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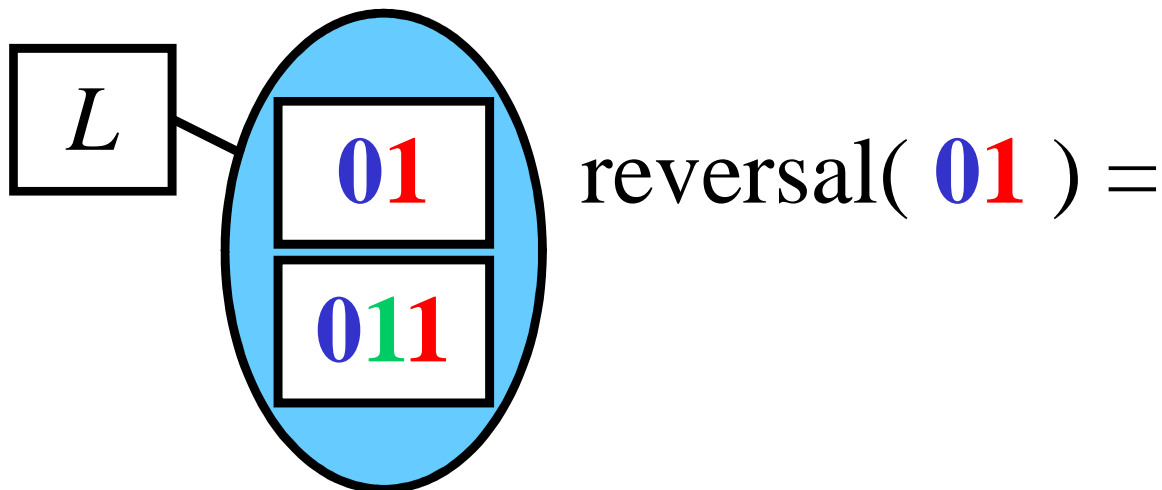
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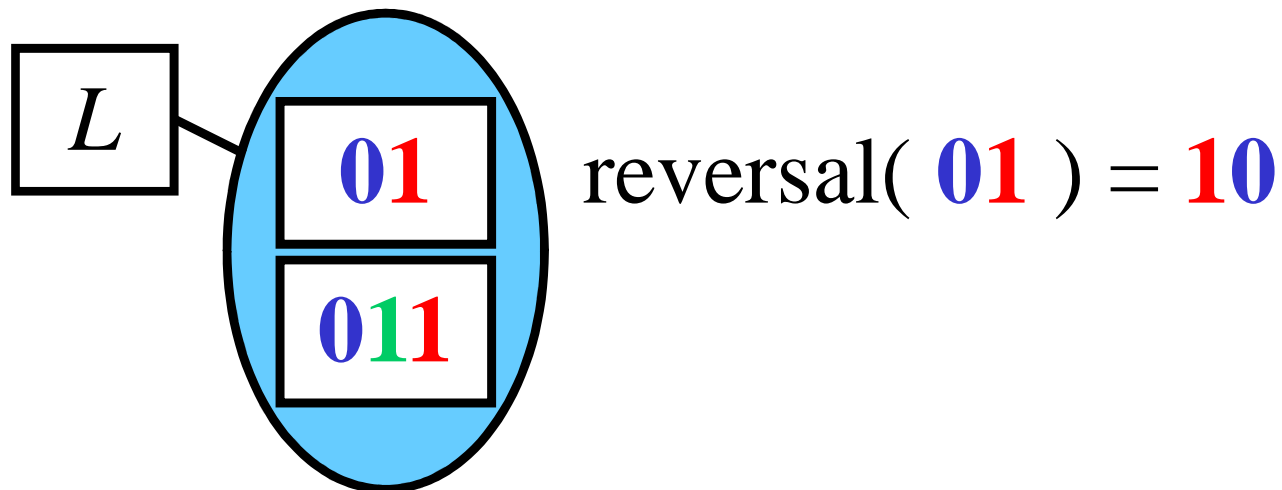
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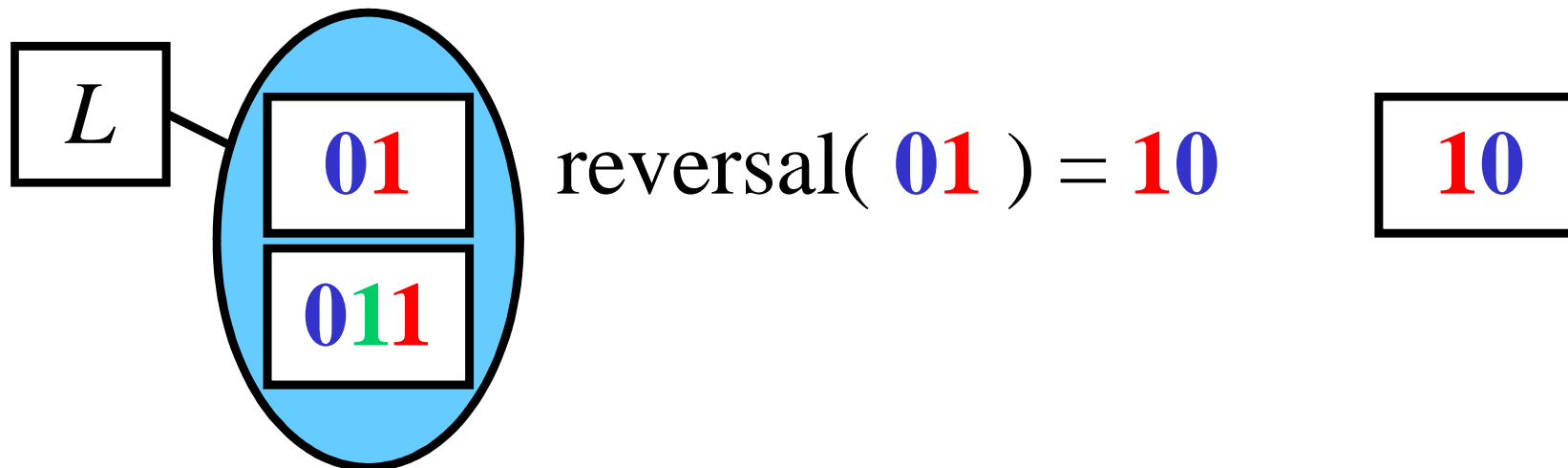
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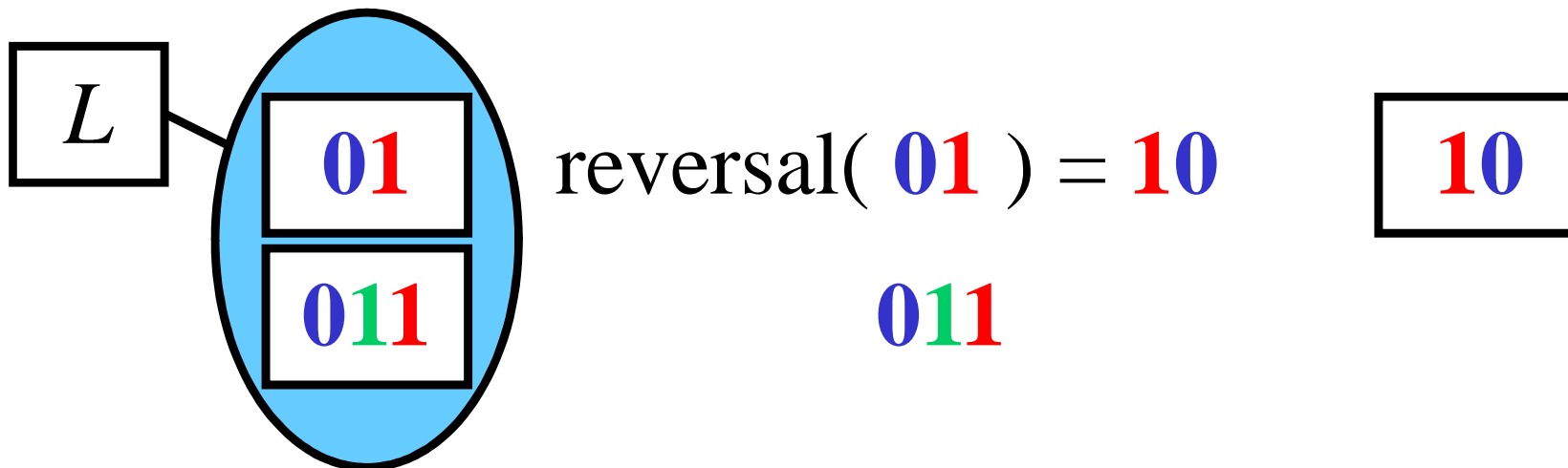
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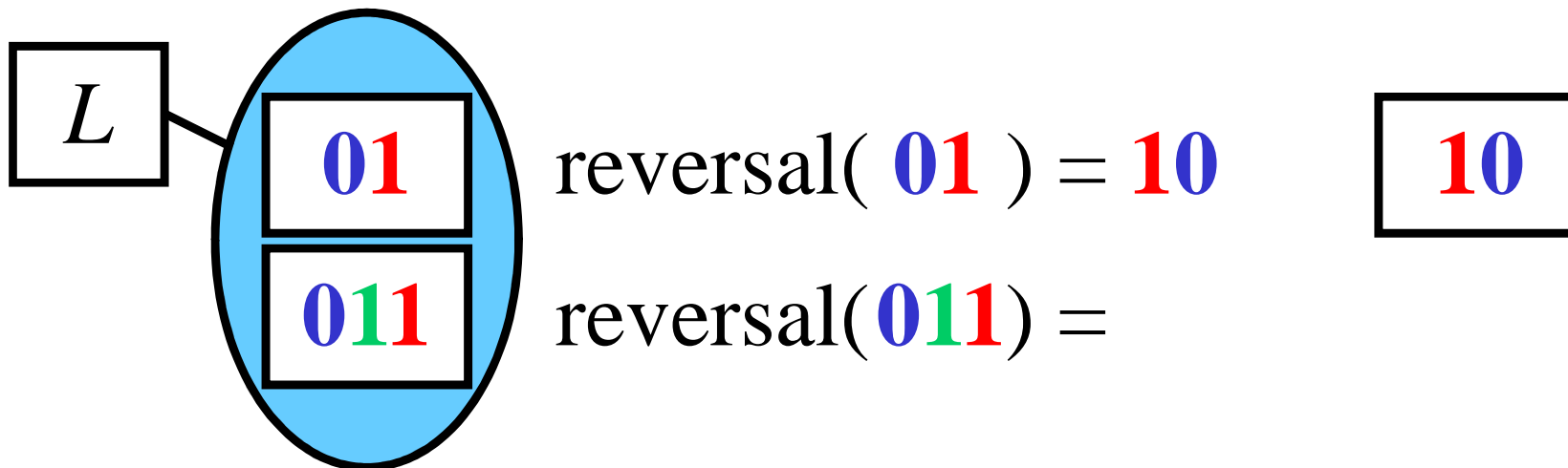
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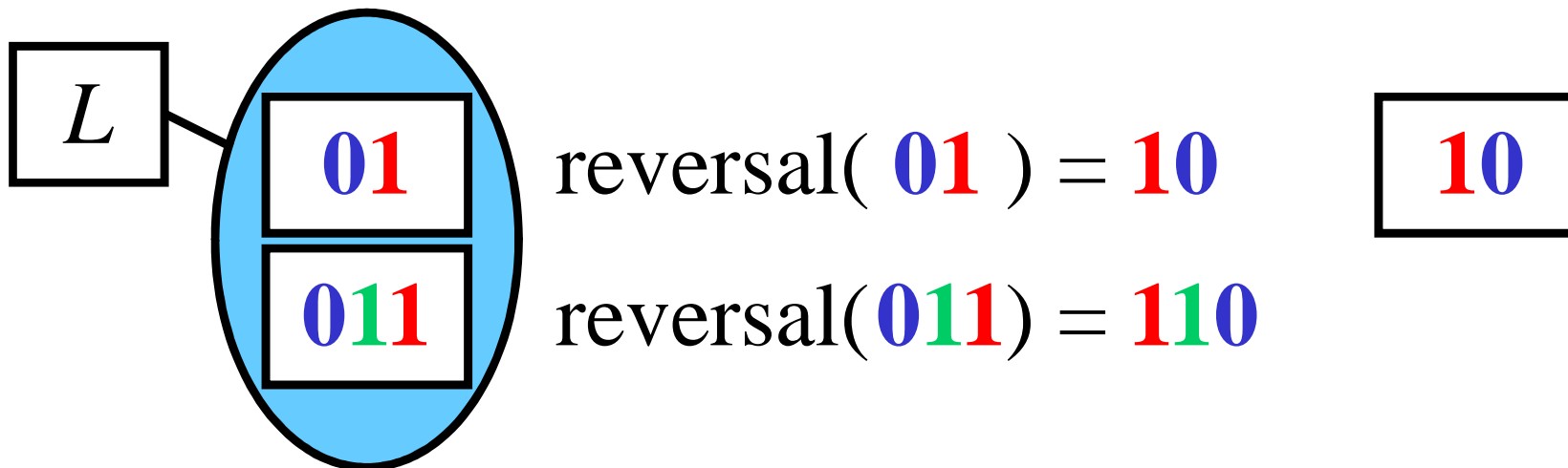
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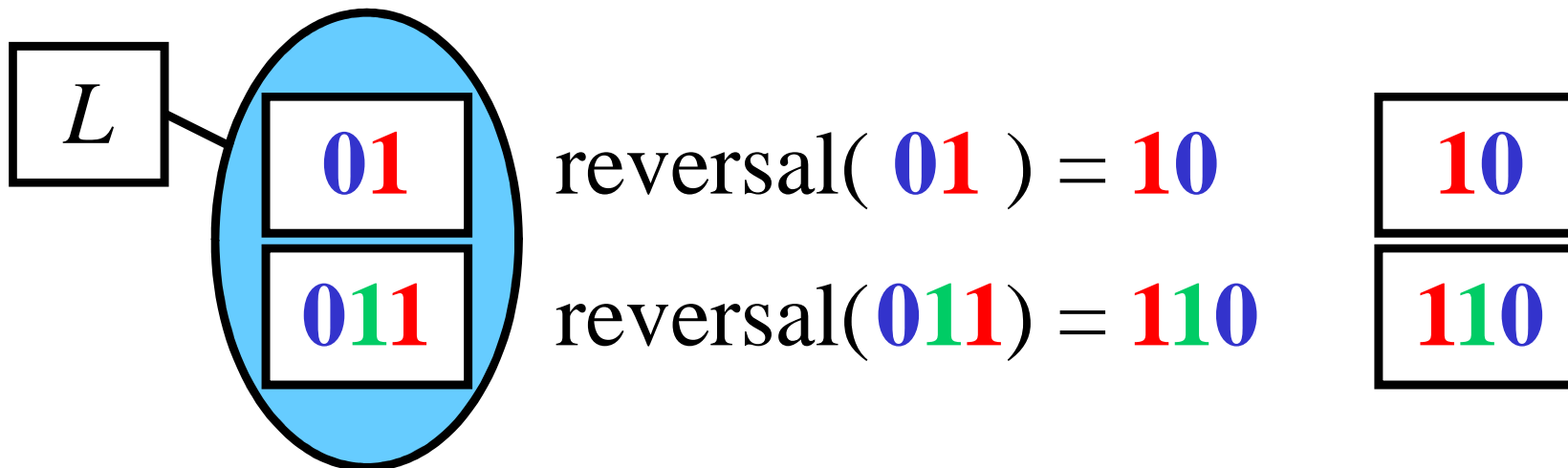
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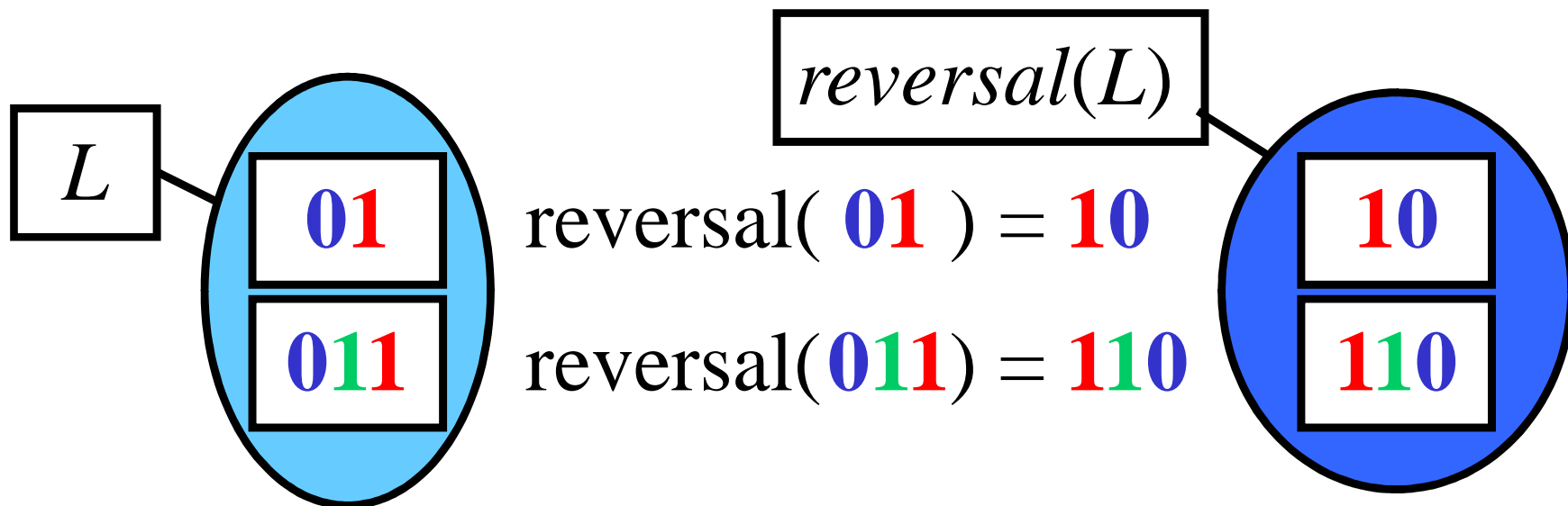
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Power of Language

Gist: $L^i = \underbrace{LL\dots L}_{i\text{-times}}$

Definition: Let L be a language over Σ .

For $i \geq 0$, the i -th *power* of L , L^i , is defined as:

1) $L^0 = \{\varepsilon\}$ 2) if $i \geq 1$ then $L^i = LL^{i-1}$

Example: Consider $L = \{0, 01\}$

Task: L^2

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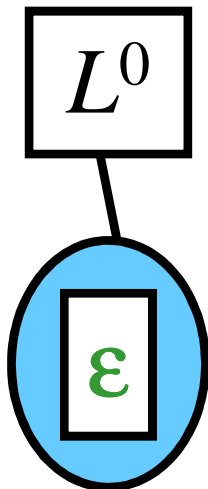
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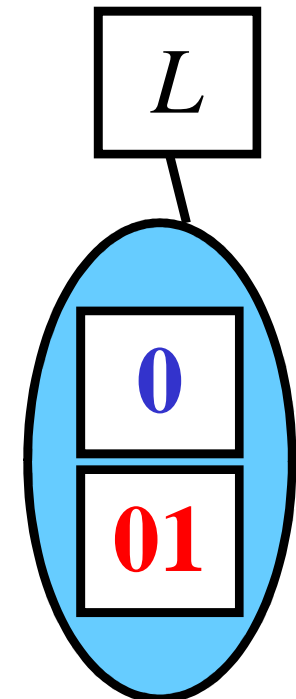
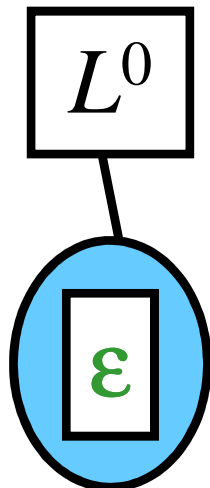
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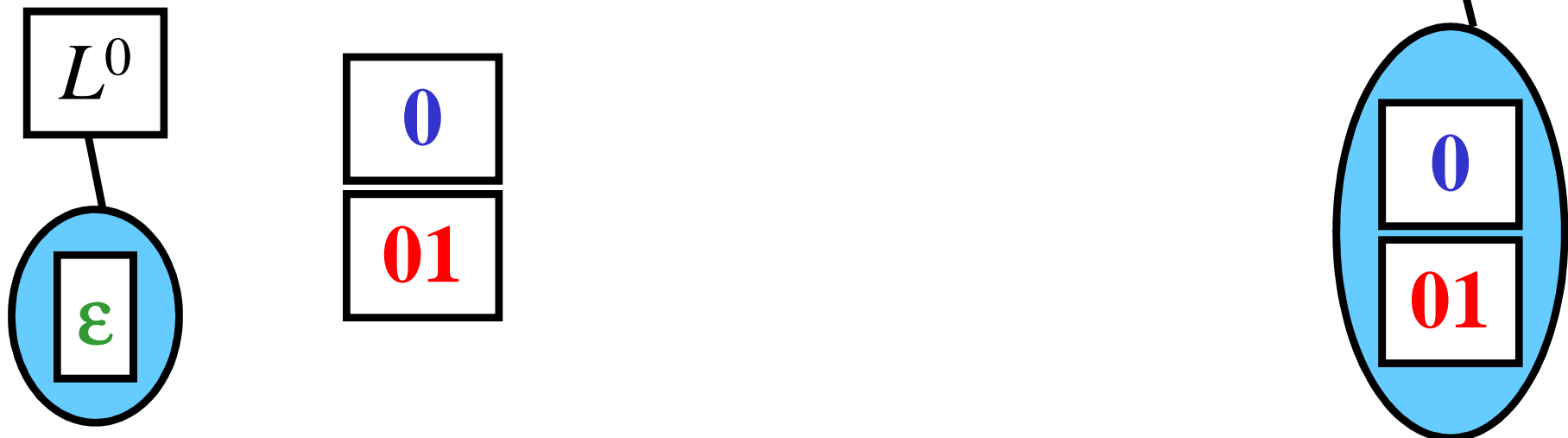
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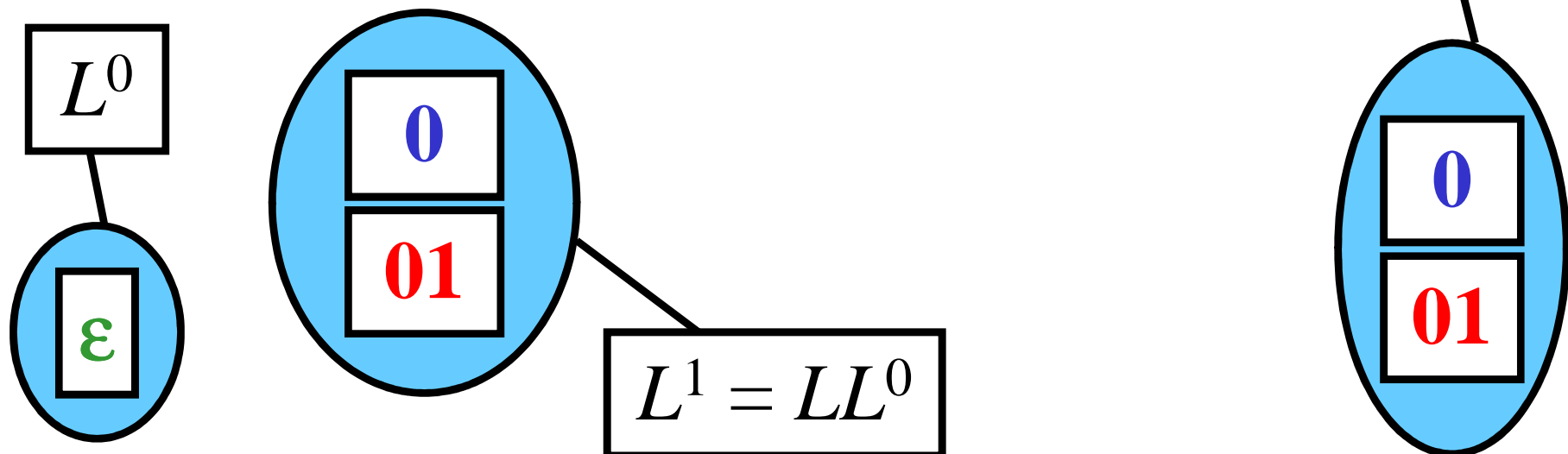
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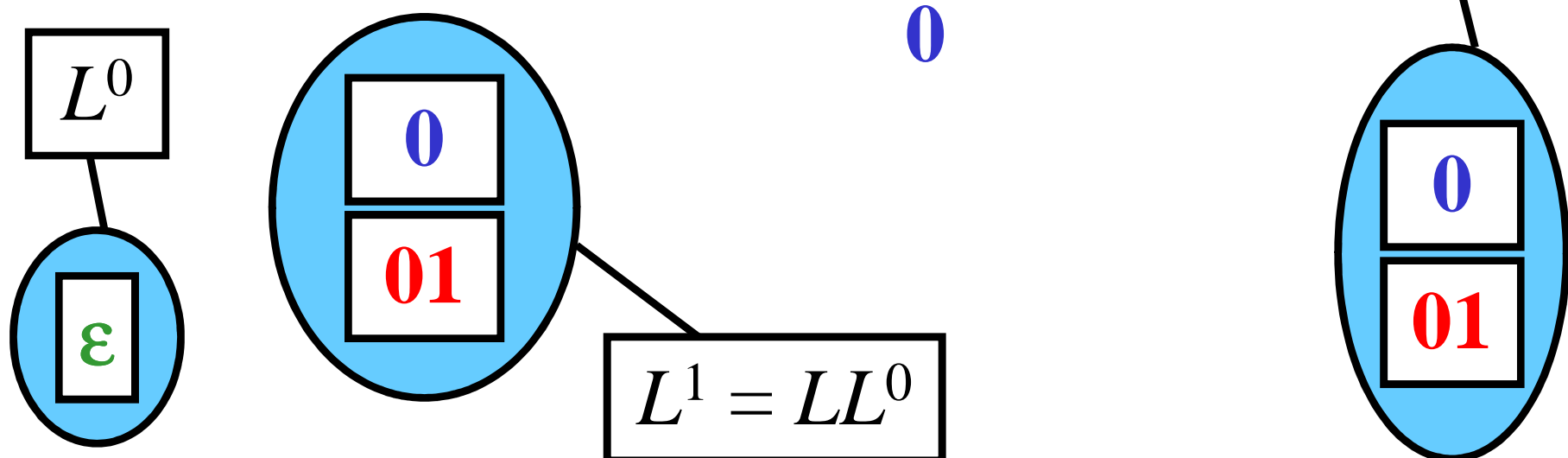
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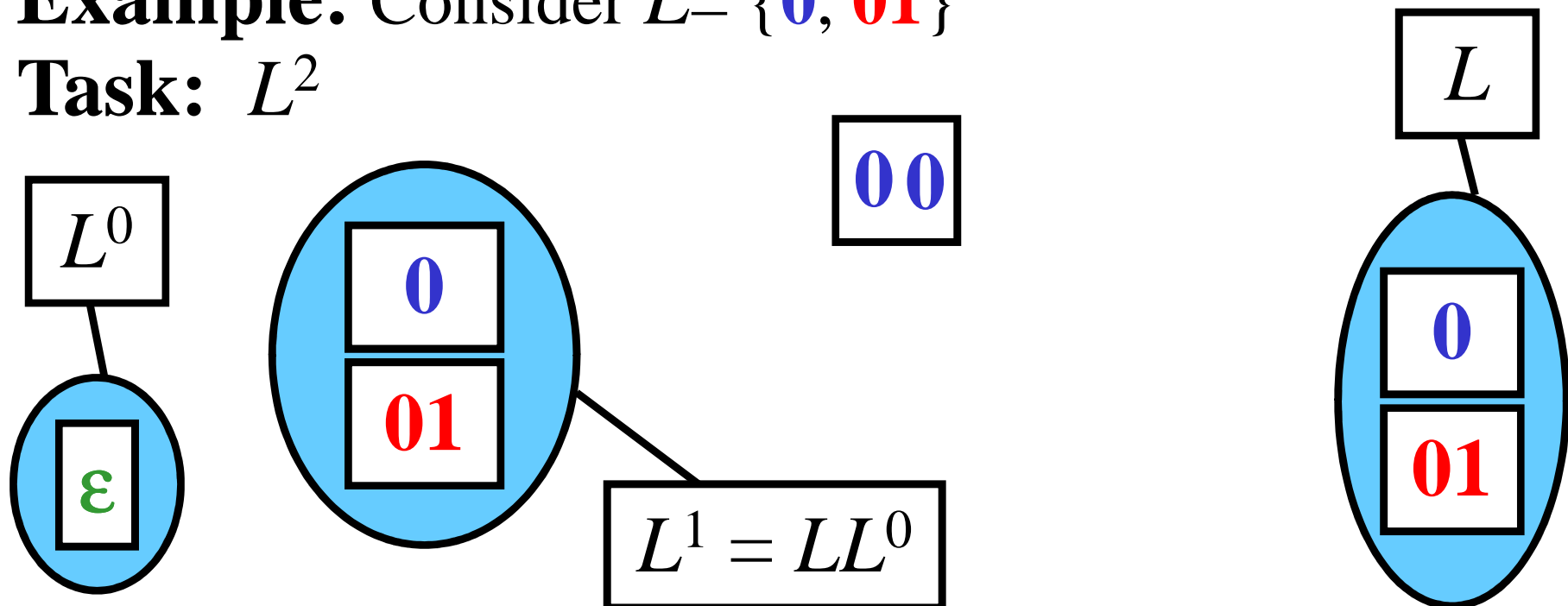
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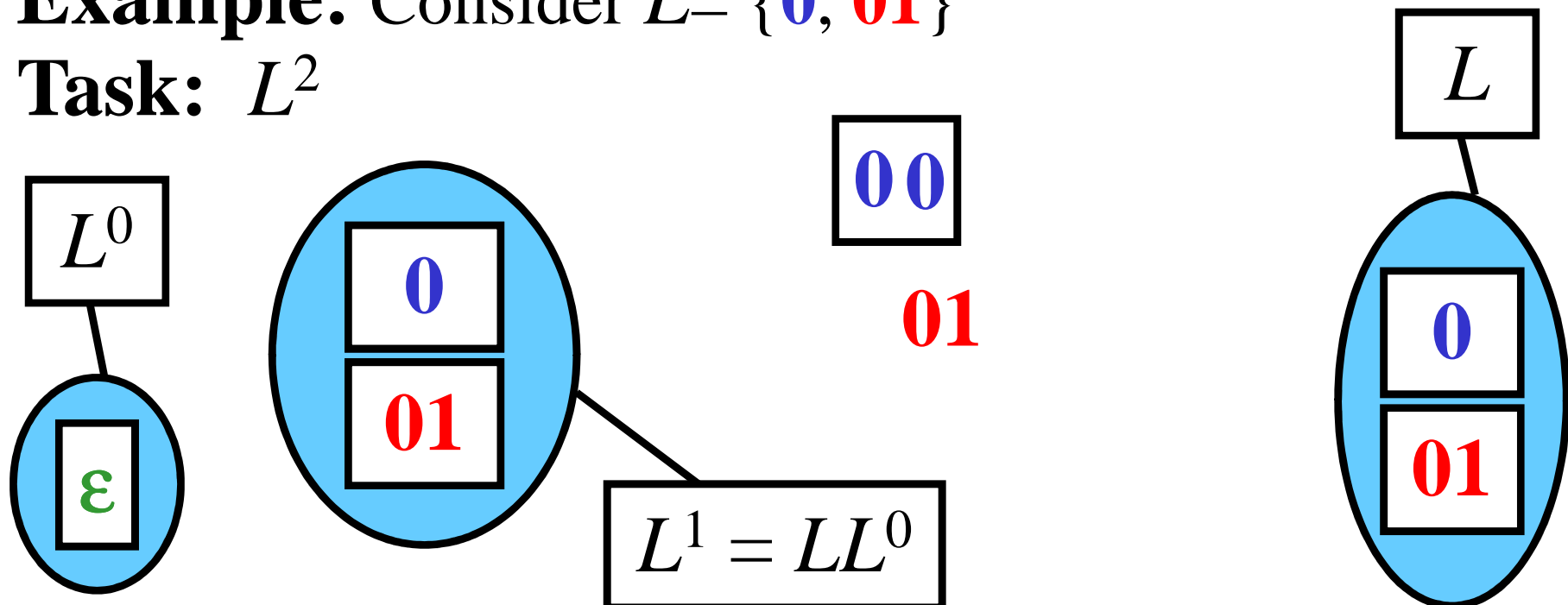
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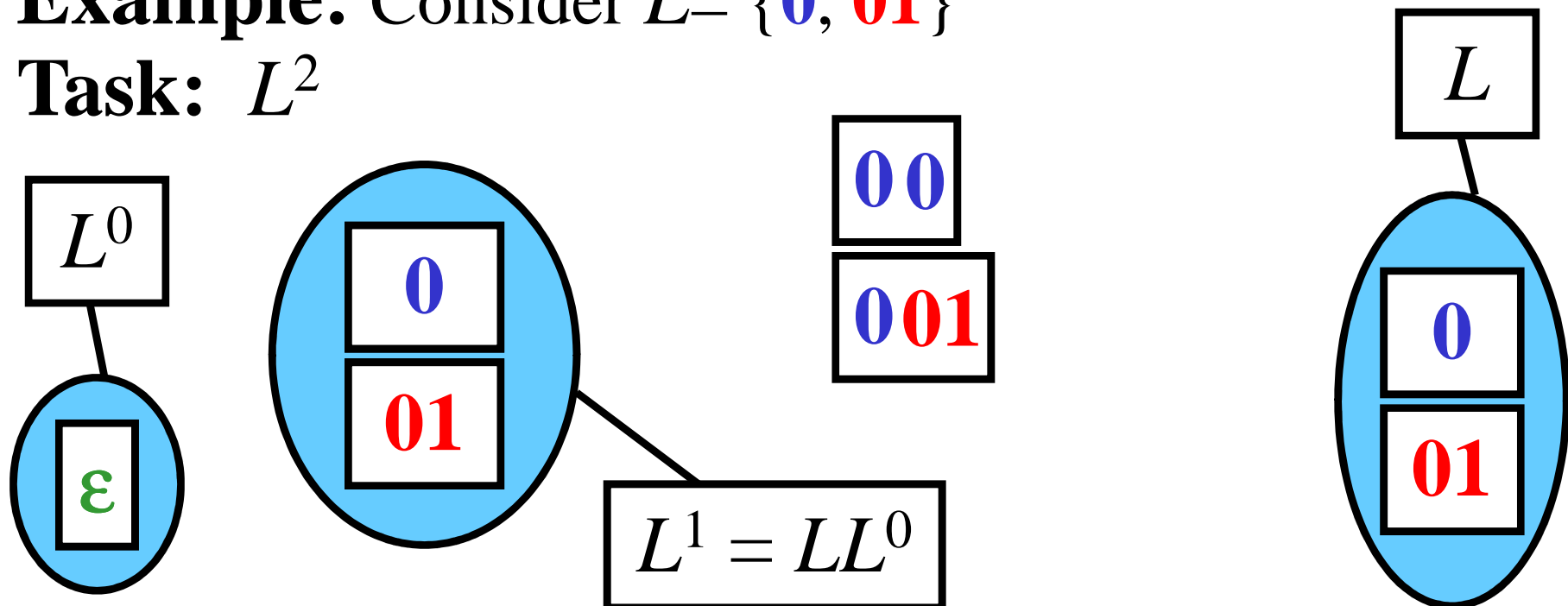
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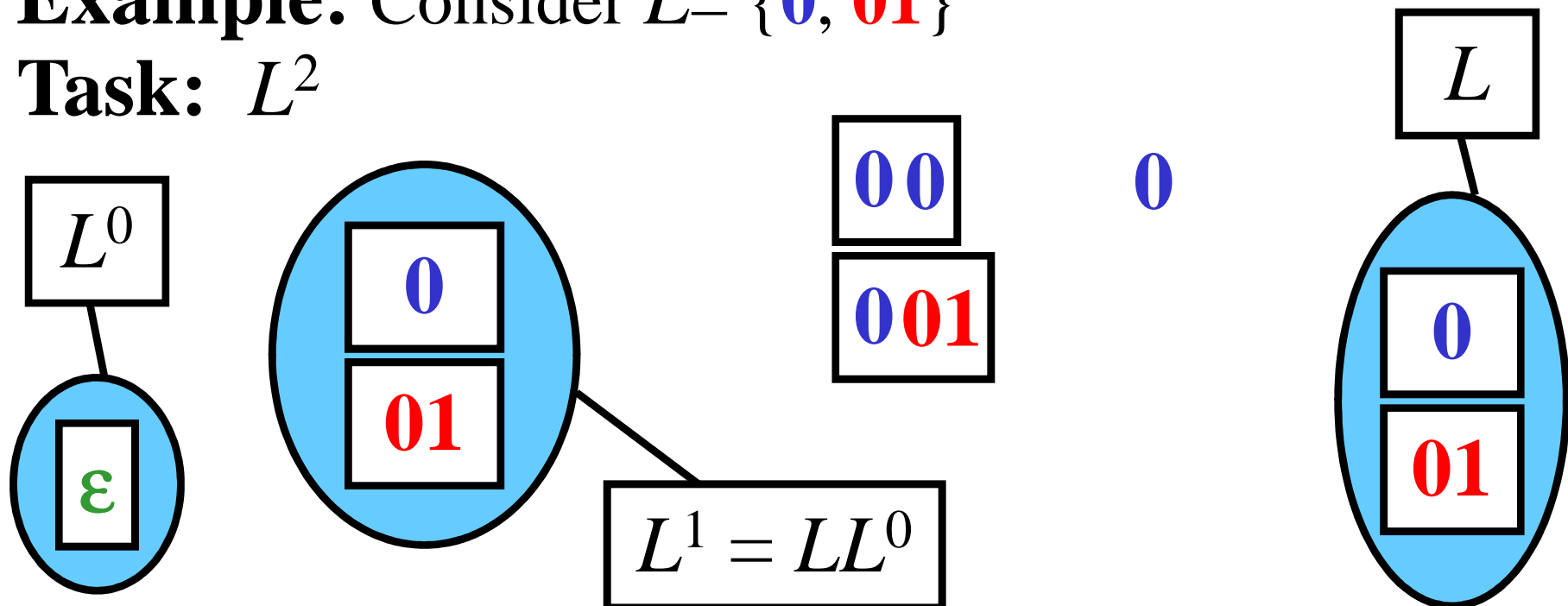
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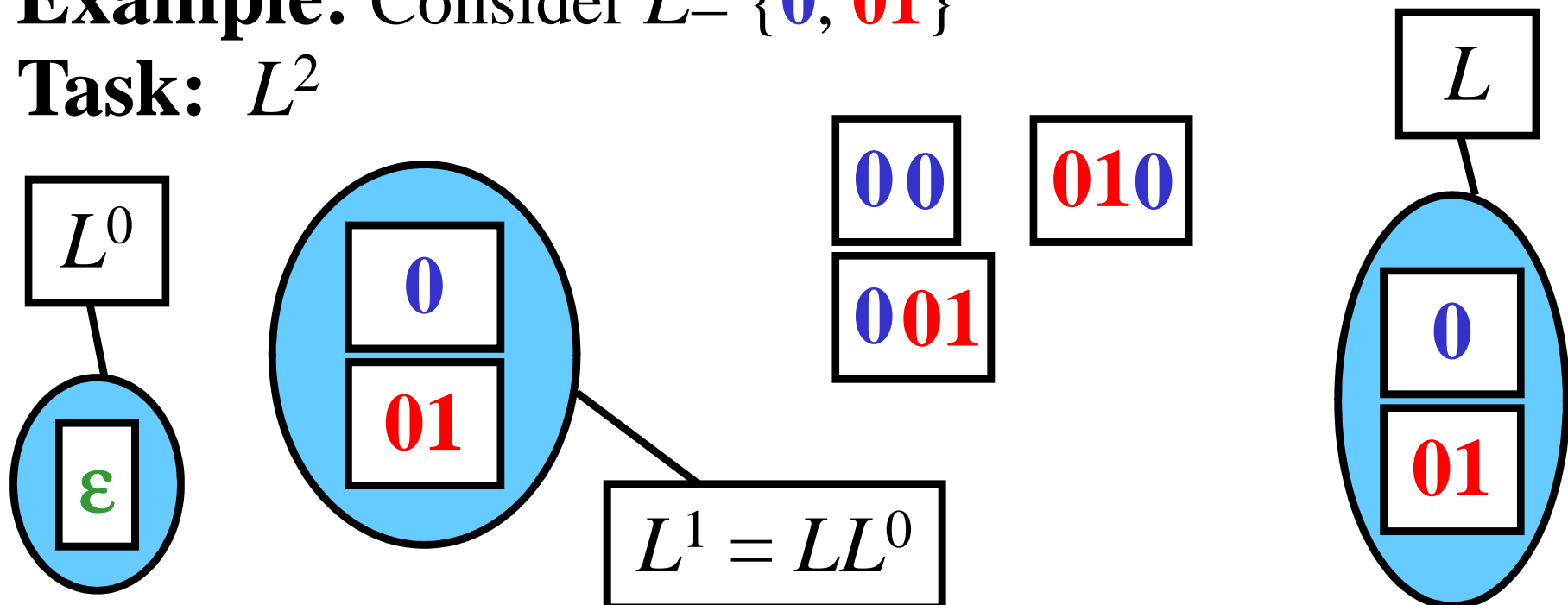
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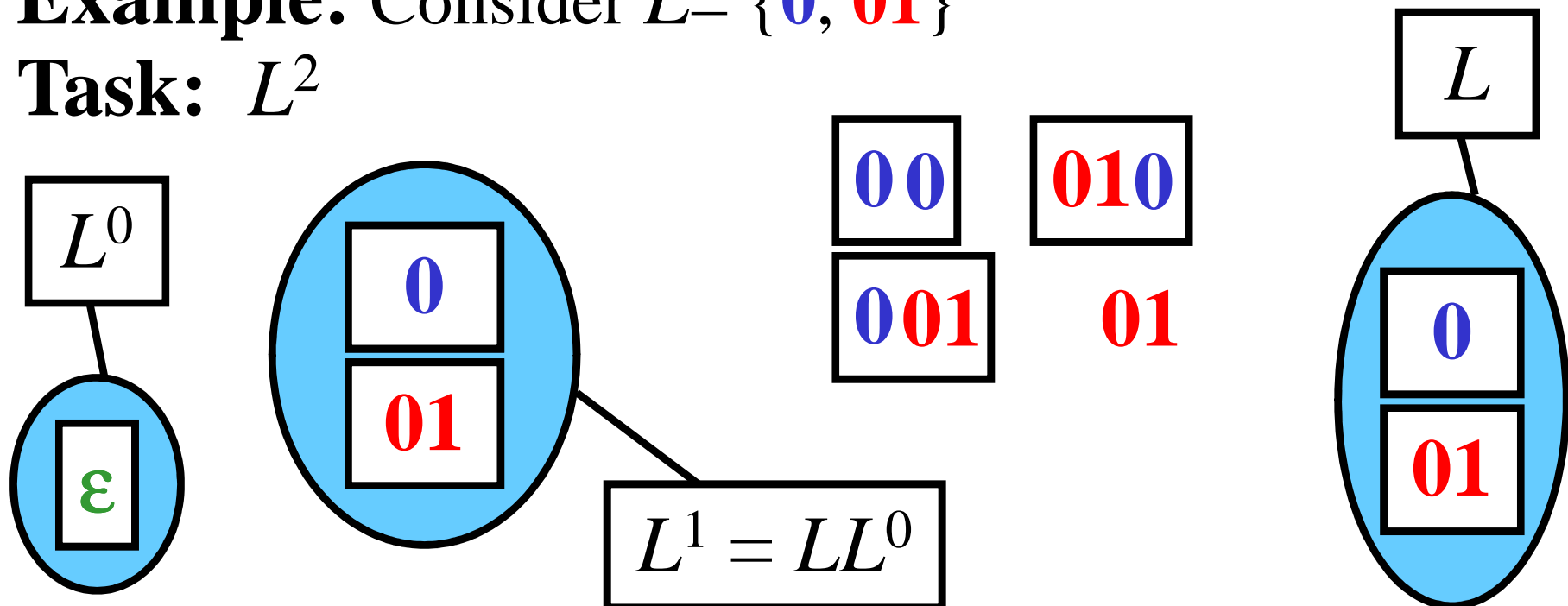
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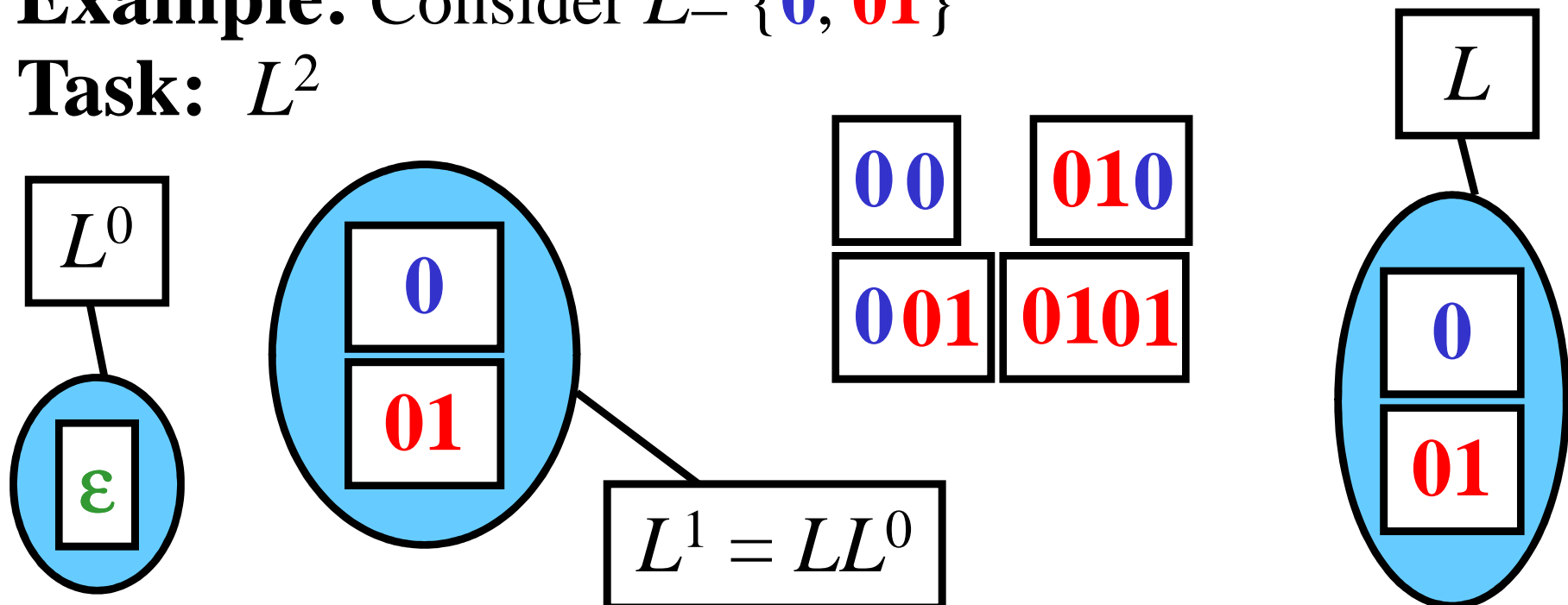
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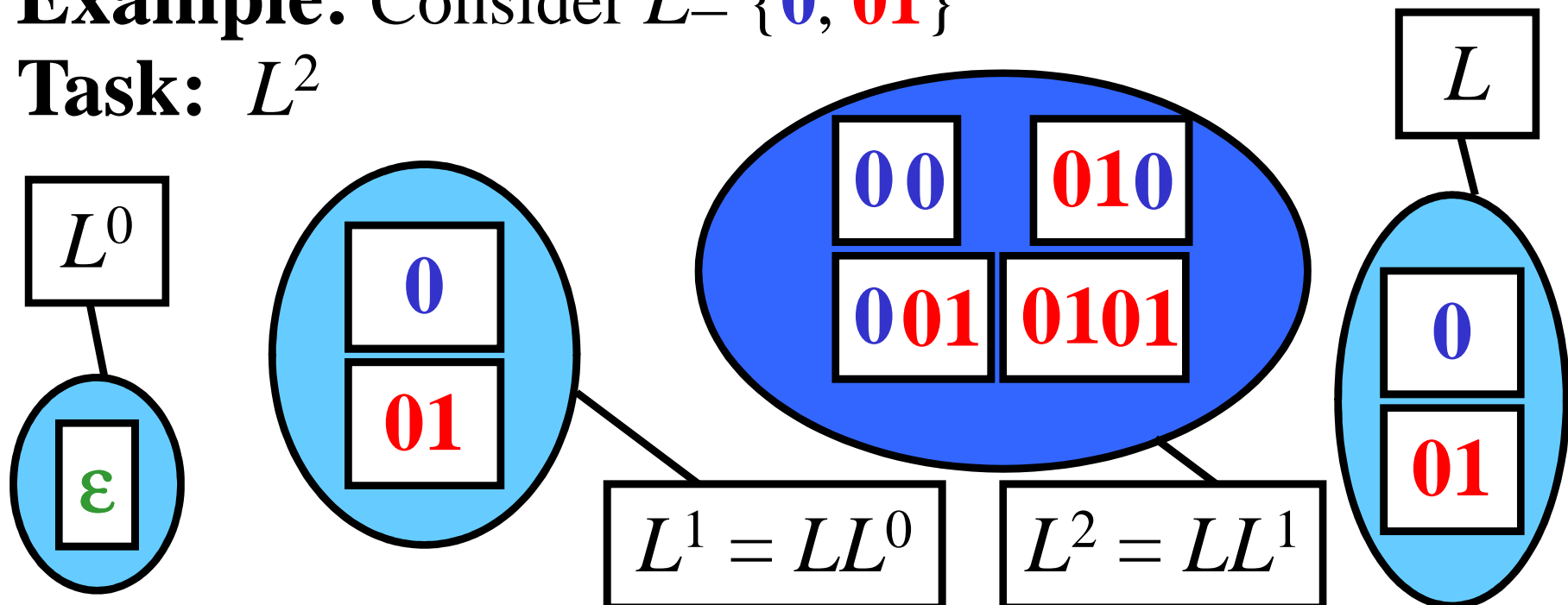
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Iteration of Language

Gist: $L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots \cup L^i \cup \dots$

$L^+ = L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots \cup L^i \cup \dots$

Definition: Let L be a language over Σ . The *iteration* of L , L^* , and the *positive iteration* of L , L^+ , are defined as $L^* = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} L^i$, $L^+ = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} L^i$

Note: 1) $L^+ = LL^* = L^*L$

2) $L^* = L^+ \cup \{\epsilon\}$

Example:

Consider language $L = \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{01}\}$ over $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$.

Task: L^* and L^+

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Task: L^* and L^+

$L^0 = \{\epsilon\}$, $L^1 = \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{01}\}$, $L^2 = \{\mathbf{00}, \mathbf{001}, \mathbf{010}, \mathbf{0101}\}, \dots$

$L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots = \{\epsilon, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{01}, \mathbf{00}, \mathbf{001}, \mathbf{010}, \mathbf{0101}, \dots\}$

$L^+ = L^1 \cup L^2 \cup \dots = \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{01}, \mathbf{00}, \mathbf{001}, \mathbf{010}, \mathbf{0101}, \dots\}$