

# NFA to DFA



cl

- the subset construction
- $\epsilon$ -transitions

## regular expressions

each regex is a pattern that matches a set of strings

- any character is a regex
    - matches itself
  - if  $R$  and  $S$  are regex, so is  $RS$ 
    - matches a match for  $R$  followed by a match for  $S$
  - if  $R$  and  $S$  are regex, so is  $R|S$ 
    - matches any match for  $R$  or  $S$  (or both)
  - if  $R$  is a regex, so is  $R^*$ 
    - matches any sequence of 0 or more matches for  $R$
  - The algebra of regular expressions also includes elements 0 and 1
    - $0 = \emptyset$  matches nothing;  $1 = \Sigma^*$  matches everything
    - $\epsilon = \emptyset^*$  matches the empty string
- $0|R = R|0 = R$      $1|R = R|1 = 1$      $(S|T)R = SR|TR$   
 $0R = R0 = 0$      $\epsilon R = R\epsilon = R$      $R(S|T) = RS|RT$   
 $R|S = S|R$      $\epsilon = 0^*$      $A^* = \epsilon|AA^* = \epsilon|A^*A$

Kleene \*



Stephen Cole Kleene  
1909-2008

the language of strings that match a regex,  $R$ , is recognised by some  $\epsilon$ -FSM

A mathematical definition of a  
Finite State Machine.

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, S, F)$$

$Q$ : the set of states,

$\Sigma$ : the alphabet of the machine

- the tokens the machine can process,

$\Delta$ : the set of **transitions**

is a set of (state, symbol, state) triples

$$\Delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma \times Q.$$

$S$ : the set of beginning or **start** states of the machine

$F$ : the set of the machine's accepting or **finish** states.

A **trace** for  $s = \langle x_0, \dots, x_{k-1} \rangle \in \Sigma^*$  (a string of length  $k$ )

is a sequence of  $k+1$  states  $\langle q_0, \dots, q_k \rangle$

such that  $(q_i, x_i, q_{i+1}) \in \Delta$  for each  $i < k$

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Delta, B, A, )$$

A *trace* for  $s = \langle x_0, \dots, x_{k-1} \rangle \in \Sigma^*$  (a string of length  $k$ )  
is a sequence of  $k+1$  states  $\langle q_0, \dots, q_k \rangle$   
such that  $(q_i, x_i, q_{i+1}) \in \Delta$  for each  $i < k$

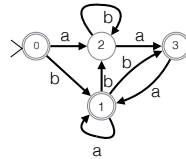
We say  $s$  is *accepted* by  $M$   
iff there is  
a trace  $\langle q_0, \dots, q_k \rangle$  for  $s$   
such that  $q_0 \in B$  and  $q_k \in A$



## Definition FSM

non-deterministic finite state automaton FSM

states — a set of states  
sigma — a set of symbols  
 $\Delta \subseteq (\text{states} \times \text{sigma} \times \text{states})$   
start  $\subseteq$  states — starting states  
accept  $\subseteq$  states — accepting states



FSM  $qs$  as  $ts$  es  $ss$   $fs$  where

$qs = [0..3]$

$as = "ab"$

$ts = [(0, 'b', 1), (0, 'a', 2), (1, 'a', 1), (1, 'b', 2),$   
 $(1, 'b', 3), (2, 'a', 3), (2, 'b', 2), (3, 'a', 1)]$

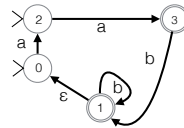
$ss = [0]$

$fs = [0, 1, 3]$

## Definition $\epsilon$ -FSM

finite state automaton FSM  
with  $\epsilon$ -transitions

$qs$  states — a set of states  
as sigma — a set of symbols  
 $ts \Delta \subseteq (\text{states} \times \text{sigma} \times \text{states})$   
es epsilon  $\subseteq (\text{states} \times \text{states})$   
 $ss$  start  $\subseteq$  states — starting states  
 $fs$  final  $\subseteq$  states — accepting states



EPS  $qs$  as  $ts$  es  $ss$   $fs$  where

$qs = [0..3]$

$as = "ab"$

$ts = [(0, 'a', 2), (1, 'b', 1), (2, 'a', 3), (3, 'b', 1)]$

$es = [(1, 0)]$

$ss = [0, 2]$

$fs = [1, 3]$

## Definition DFA

is a finite state automaton  
(FSA, without  $\epsilon$ )

states — a set of states

sigma — a set of symbols

delta  $\subset$  (states  $\times$  sigma  $\times$  states)

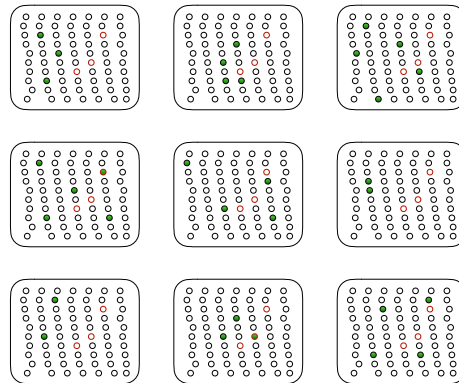
start  $\subset$  states — starting states

accept  $\subset$  states — accepting states

A deterministic machine has

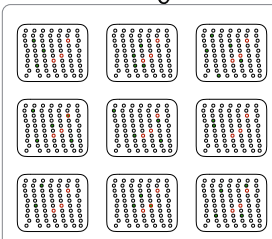
- no  $\epsilon$ -transitions
- exactly one starting state
- for each (state, symbol) pair, (q, s)  
exactly one transition of the form (q, s, q')

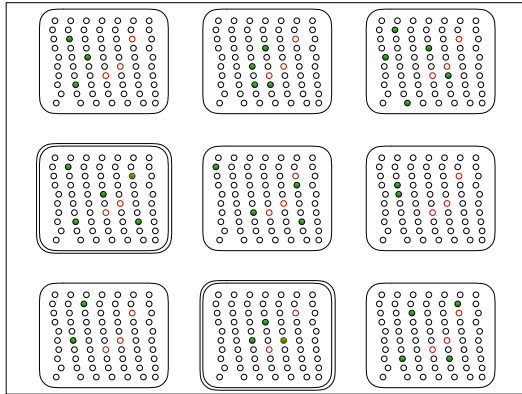
a DFA can be efficiently implemented  
in software or hardware



superstates

a **superstate** is a set of states





## superstates

a **superstate** is a set of states

superstates are the states of DFA

The set of start states is the unique start superstate

A finish superstate is any superstate that includes a finish state

A transition is the move from one set of lit lights to the next

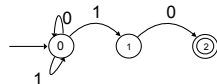


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## Non Determinism



In a non-deterministic machine (NFA), each state may have any number of transitions with the same input symbol, leaving to different successor states.



	0	1
0	0	0, 1
1	2	
2		

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Alphabet ["0", "1"]
Set

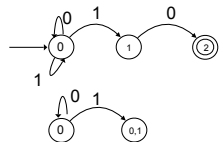
Input 111000101010
Test

Convert to DFA
Reverse
Convert to Minimal DFA
Save as .svg

## Non Determinism



In a non-deterministic machine (NFA), each state may have any number of transitions with the same input symbol, leaving to different successor states.

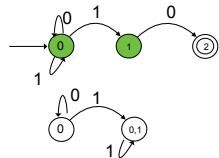


	0	1
0	0	0, 1
1	2	
2		
0, 1	0, 2	0, 1

## Non Determinism



In a non-deterministic machine (NFA), each state may have any number of transitions with the same input symbol, leaving to different successor states.

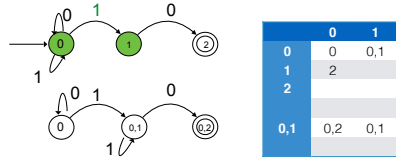


	0	1
0	0	0, 1
1	2	
2		
0, 1		0, 1

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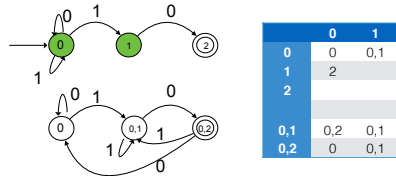


	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1

# Non Determinism



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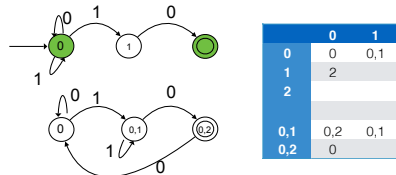


	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2	0	0,1

# Non Determinism



We can simulate a non-deterministic machine using a deterministic machine – by keeping track of the set of states the NFA could possibly be in.

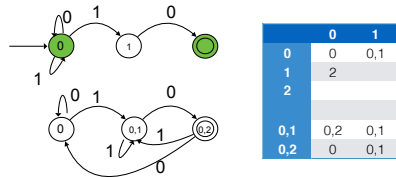


	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2	0	

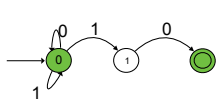
# Non Determinism



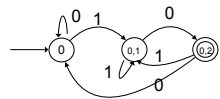
We can simulate a non-deterministic machine using a deterministic machine – by keeping track of the set of states the NFA could possibly be in.



	0	1
0	0	0,1
1	2	
2		
0,1	0,2	0,1
0,2	0	0,1

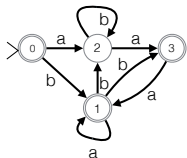


FSM qs as ts es ss fs where  
 qs = [0..2]  
 as = "01"  
 ts = [(0,'0',0),(0,'1',0),  
 (0,'1',1),(1,'0',2)]  
 ss = [0]  
 fs = [2]

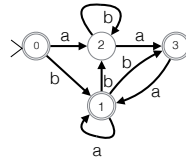


FSM qs as ts es ss fs where  
 qs = [[0],[0,1],[0,2]]  
 as = "01"  
 ts = [([0],'0',[0]),  
 ([0],'1',[0,1]),  
 ([0,1],'0',[0,2]),  
 ([0,1],'1',[0,1]),  
 ([0,2],'0',[0]),  
 ([0,2],'1',[0,1])]  
 ss = [[0]]  
 fs = [[0,2]]

	a	b
0	2	1
1	1	2,3
2	3	2
3	1	
2,3		

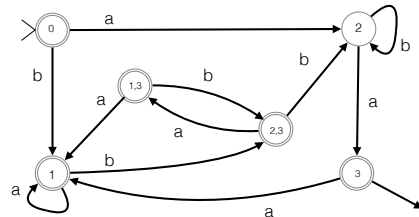
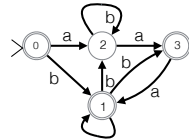


	a	b
0	2	1
1	1	2,3
2	3	2
3	1	
2,3	1,3	2



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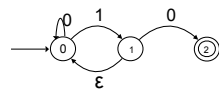
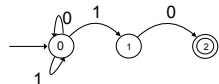
	a	b
0	2	1
1	1	2,3
2	3	
3	1	
2,3	1,3	2
1,3	1	2,3



## Internal Transitions



We sometimes add an internal transition  $\epsilon$  to a non-deterministic machine (NFA). This is a state change that consumes no input.



	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1	2		0
2			



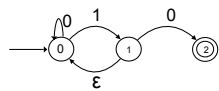
# Internal Transitions



We sometimes add **internal transitions** – labelled  $\epsilon$  – to a non-deterministic machine (NFA).

This is a state change that consumes no input.

It introduces non-determinism in the observed behaviour of the machine.



	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1		2	0
2			

	$0\epsilon^*$	$1\epsilon^*$
0	0	0, 1
1		2
2		

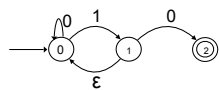
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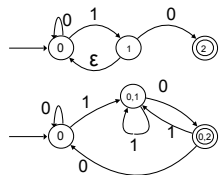
	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1		2	0
2			

	$0\epsilon^*$	$1\epsilon^*$
0	0	0, 1
0, 1		0, 1
0, 2		0, 1

# Internal Transitions



We sometimes add **internal transitions** – labelled  $\epsilon$  – to a non-deterministic machine (NFA).

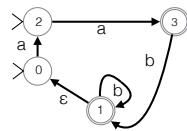


	0	1	$\epsilon$
0	0	1	
1		2	0
2			

	$0\epsilon^*$	$1\epsilon^*$
0	0	0, 1
0, 1		0, 1
0, 2		0, 1

	a	b	$\epsilon$
0	2		
1		1	0
2	3		
3		1	

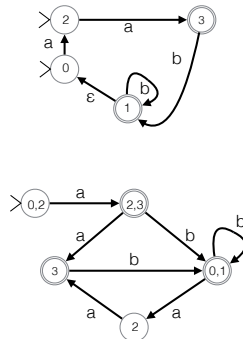
	$ae^*$	$be^*$
0,2	2,3	
2,3		



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	a	b	$\epsilon$
0	2		
1		1	0
2	3		
3		1	

	$ae^*$	$be^*$
0,2	2,3	
2,3	3	0,1
3		0,1
0,1	2	0,1
2	3	



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<http://xkcd.com/>

