

# NFA-to-DFA conversion

Slides from

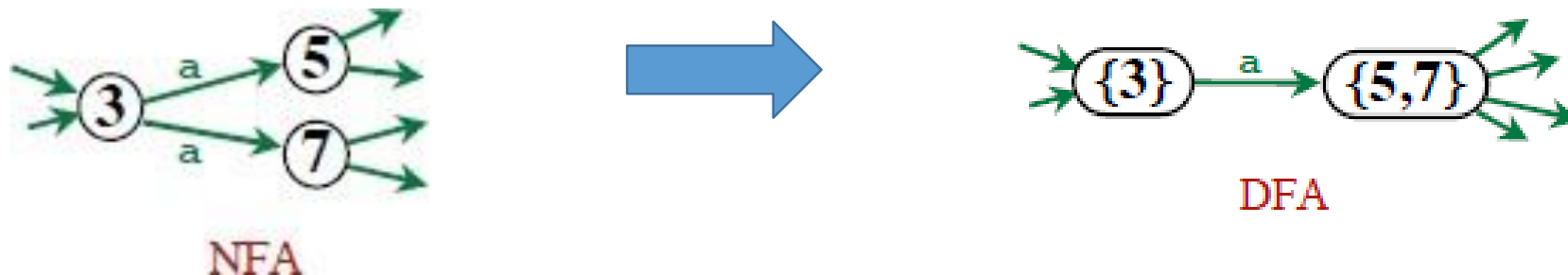
<http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~harry/compilers/slides/LexicalPart3.pdf>

# Two ways to deal with an NFA

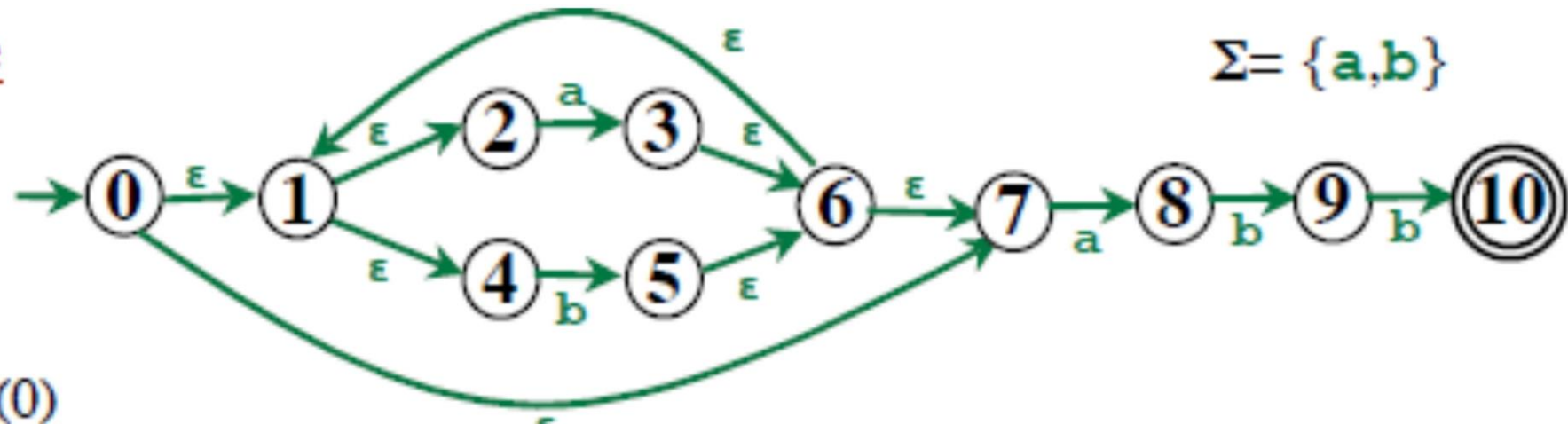
- Convert the NFA to an equivalent DFA first
- Use the NFA directly

# Converting an NFA to a DFA

- Input: an NFA
- Output: a DFA, which is equivalent
- Idea: Each state in the DFA corresponds to a set of NFA states

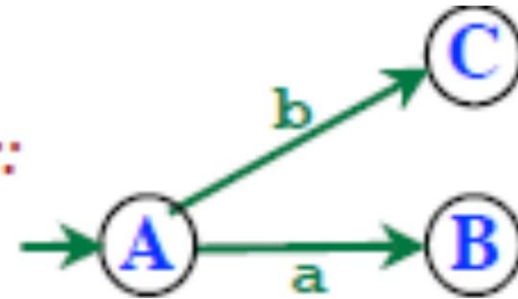


## Example



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(A, a) &= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\text{Move}_{\text{NFA}}(A, a)) \\
 &= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\{3, 8\}) \\
 &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\}
 \end{aligned}$$

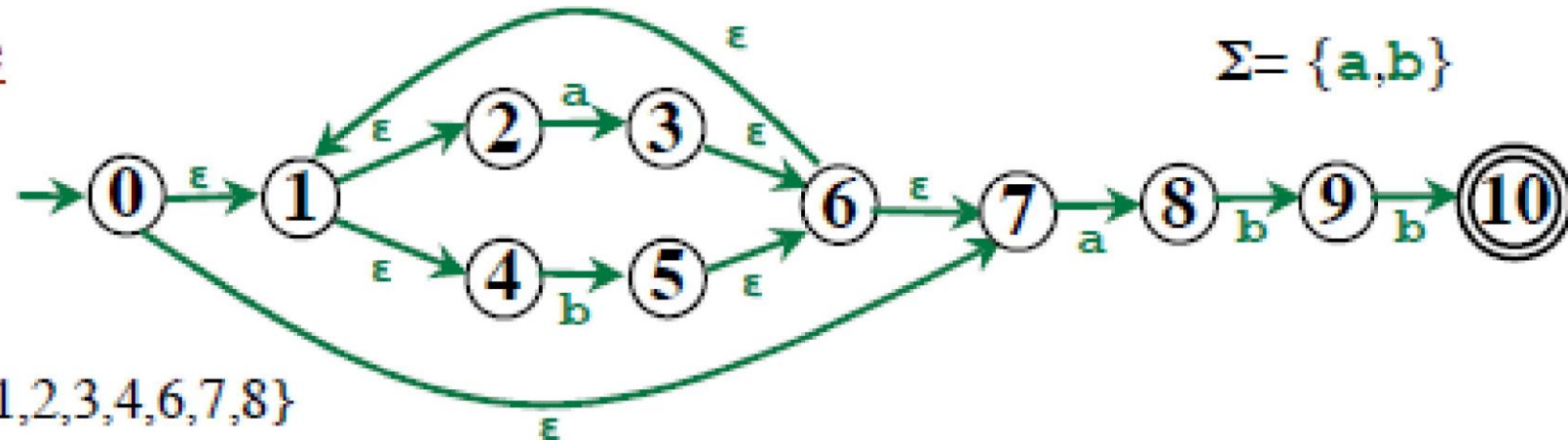
*So far:*



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(A, b) &= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\text{Move}_{\text{NFA}}(A, b)) \\
 &= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\{5\}) \\
 \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7\} &=
 \end{aligned}$$

A is now done; mark it!  
 B and C are unmarked.  
 Let's do B next...

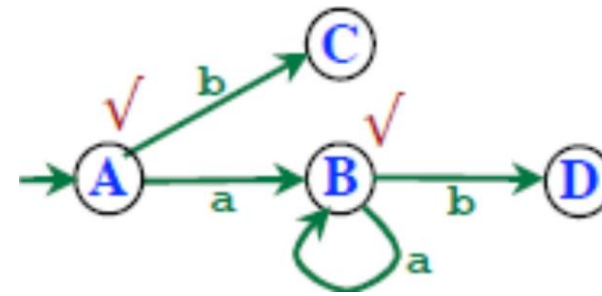
## Example



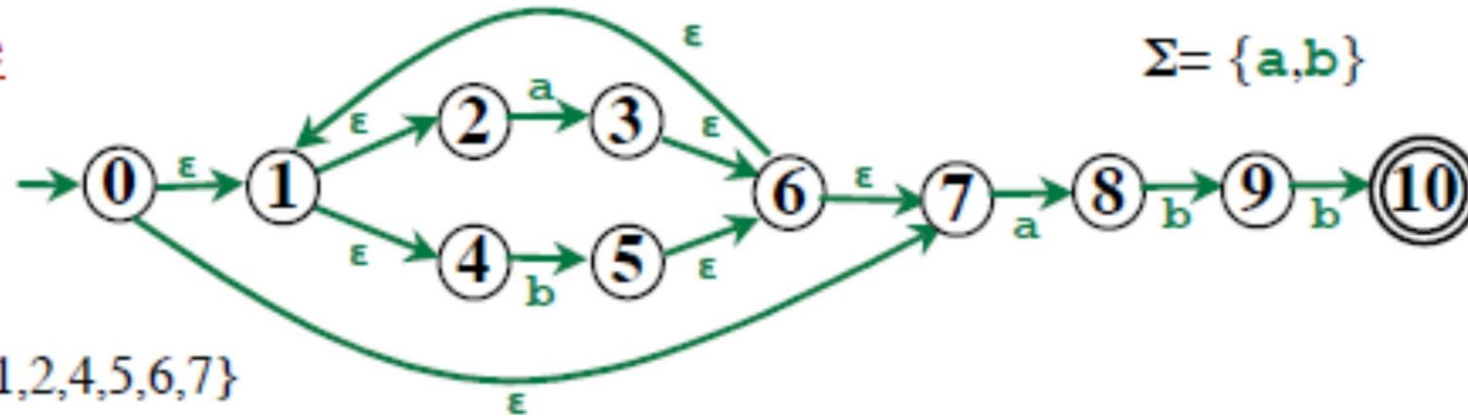
Process  $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\}$

$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(B, a)$   
 $= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\text{Move}_{\text{NFA}}(B, a))$   
 $= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\{3, 8\})$   
 $1, 2, 3, 4, 6, \quad = B$

$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(B, b)$   
 $= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\text{Move}_{\text{NFA}}(B, b))$   
 $= \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\{5, 9\})$   
 $= \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9\} = D$



## Example



Process  $C = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$

$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(C, a) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\}$

$\text{Move}_{\text{FA}}(C, b) = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7\} =$

Process  $E = \{2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10\}$

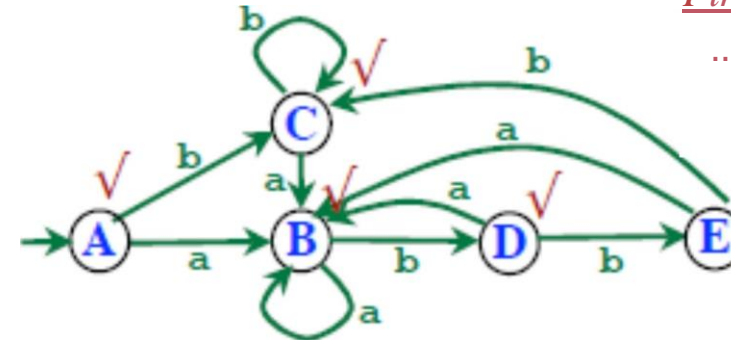
$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(E, a) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\} =$

$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(E, b) = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7\} =$

Process  $D = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9\}$

$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(D, a) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8\}$

$\text{Move}_{\text{DFA}}(D, b) = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10\} =$



Final states in DFA

... which states contain 10?

## Algorithm: Convert NFA to DFA

```

5nFA = {}
Add  $\epsilon$ -Closure( $s_0$ ) to 5nFA as the start state
Se the only state in 5nFA is  $s_0$ : mark it as final state
while 5nFA contains unmarked states:
    Let  $T$  be an unmarked state
    for each  $a \in \Sigma$ :
         $S = \epsilon\text{-Closure}(\text{Move}_{5nFA}(T, a))$ 
        if  $S$  is not in 5nFA already then
            Add  $S$  to 5nFA (as an unmarked state)
        endIf
        Set  $\text{Move}_{DFA}(T, a)$  to  $S$ 
    endFor
endWhile
for each  $S$  in  $S_0$ :
    if any state in  $S$  is a final state in the NFA then
        Mark  $S$  as a final state in the DFA
    endIf
endFor

```

*A set of final states*

*Everywhere you could possibly transition*

*i. add all edges to  $J$ . DF.. ...*

$\{t_1, t_2, \dots\} \xrightarrow{a} \{s_1, s_2, \dots\}$

$T \rightarrow S$

# Use NFA directly

- Your code will keep track of “current search states”. Once you reach the end of the input symbol sequence, check one of the current search states is a final state.
- Note that you do not need to enumerate all possible paths explicitly. You just need to keep track of multiple current search states.
- The method is explained in Section 2.2.5 in Jurasfsky & Martin (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).