

Non-deterministic Finite Automata (NFA) : NFA is a finite automaton where for some cases when a single input is given to a single state, the machine goes to more than 1 states, i.e. some of the moves cannot be uniquely determined by the present state and the present input symbol.

An NFA can be represented as $M = \{ Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F \}$

$Q \rightarrow$ Finite non-empty set of states.

$\Sigma \rightarrow$ Finite non-empty set of input symbols.

$\delta \rightarrow$ Transitional Function.

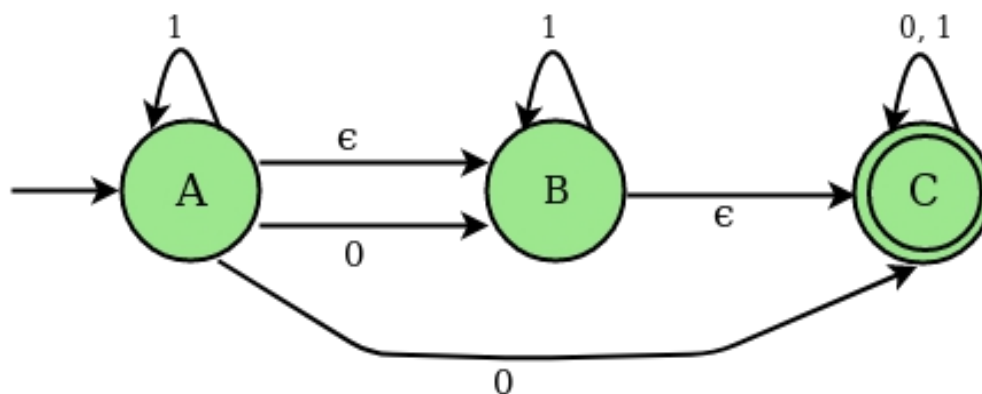
$q_0 \rightarrow$ Beginning state.

$F \rightarrow$ Final State

NFA with (null) or ϵ move : If any finite automata contains ϵ (null) move or transaction, then that finite automata is called NFA with ϵ moves

Example :

Consider the following figure of NFA with ϵ move :



Transition state table for the above NFA

STATES	0	1	epsilon
A	B, C	A	B
B	–	B	C
C	C	C	–

Epsilon (ϵ) – closure : Epsilon closure for a given state X is a set of states which can be reached from the states X with only (null) or ϵ moves including the state X itself. In other words, ϵ -closure for a state can be obtained by union operation of the ϵ -closure of the states which can be reached from X with a single ϵ move in recursive manner.

For the above example ϵ closure are as follows :

ϵ **closure(A)** : {A, B, C} ϵ **closure(B)** : {B, C} ϵ **closure(C)** : {C}