Deterministic Finite Automaton

Finite Automaton can be classified into two types −

- Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA)
- Non-deterministic Finite Automaton (NDFA / NFA)

Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA)

In DFA, for each input symbol, one can determine the state to which the machine will move. Hence, it is called **Deterministic Automaton**. As it has a finite number of states, the machine is called **Deterministic Finite Machine** or **Deterministic Finite Automaton.**

Formal Definition of a DFA

A DFA can be represented by a 5-tuple (Q, ∑, δ, q_0, F) where −

- **Q** is a finite set of states.
- ∑ is a finite set of symbols called the alphabet.
- **δ** is the transition function where δ: Q × ∑ → Q
- **q_0** is the initial state from where any input is processed (q_0 ∈ Q).
- **F** is a set of final state/states of Q (F ⊆ Q).

Graphical Representation of a DFA

A DFA is represented by digraphs called **state diagram**.

- The vertices represent the states.
- The arcs labeled with an input alphabet show the transitions.
- The initial state is denoted by an empty single incoming arc.
- The final state is indicated by double circles.

Example

Let a deterministic finite automaton be →

- Q = {a, b, c},
- ∑ = {0, 1},
- q_0 = {a},
- F = {c}, and

Transition function δ as shown by the following table −

Present State	Next State for Input 0	Next State for Input 1
a	a	b
b	c	a
c	b	c

Its graphical representation would be as follows −