

## DFA and NFA

Are the non Deterministic versions of [Automata](#).

We also stated [Theorem 2](#) which states that [DFA](#)  $\equiv$  [NFA](#).

We have not proofed it but now follows the proof!

### Proof [Theorem 2](#)

First we proof [DFA](#)  $\leftarrow$  [NFA](#) by showing that [NFAs](#) are just a special case of [DFAs](#).

let  $\mathcal{A} = \{Q, A, \Delta, q_0, F\}$  be a [NFA](#) that accepts the Language  $L$ . The corresponding [DFA](#) would be the following:

$$\mathcal{A}' = \{Q', A, \delta', q'_0, F'\}$$

We have a equivalent alphabet  $A$ , but different set of states  $Q'$ , a different [Transition function](#)  $\delta'$ , a different initial state  $q'_0$  and a different set of end states  $F'$ .

Where  $Q' = 2^Q$  which is the [Power set](#) of  $Q$ . This means that  $Q'$  consists of all subsets of  $Q$  and  $Q$  itself.  
 $q'_0 = \{q_0\}$  is a [Singleton](#) only consisting of the initial state of  $Q$

Now comes the definition of the transition relation  $\delta'$ :

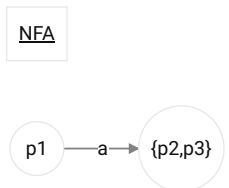
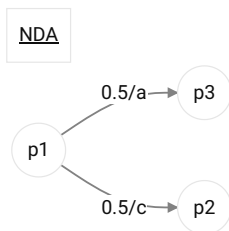
For all  $p \in Q'$  where  $p$  is a set of states of  $Q$  (see definition of  $Q'$ ) and all symbols  $a \in A$ :

$$\delta'(\underbrace{p}_{Q'}, a) = \Delta(\underbrace{p}_{Q}, a)$$

**What does this mean?**

The state that the [DFA](#) can reach from state  $p \in Q'$  by reading  $a$  is equal to the set of states that the [NFA](#) can reach in state  $p \in Q$  when reading in  $a$ .

Probably like this: (own interpretation)



Now we have to define the set of finite states of our [DFA](#)  $F'$

Let's remember that the acceptance condition for a [NFA](#) is existential so only one of the possible states to reach needs to be an end state.

$$F' = \{ \underbrace{p}_{\text{states of } \mathcal{A}'} \in Q' : \underbrace{p}_{\text{set of states of } \mathcal{A}} \cap F \neq \emptyset \}$$

$F'$  contains all sets of  $Q'$  that contain a final state of  $Q$ !

What remains of the proof? **exercise**

- We proof by induction on the length of the word  $w$  that  $\delta'(q'_0, w) = \Delta(q_0, w)$

The base case is  $|w| = 0$

For the inductive step we need to proof that the assumption holds for all words with  $|w| \leq n$  and proof it for the word  $|wa|$  with the length  $n+1$

- We need to also proof that when the computations of the [NFA](#) are successful also the computation of the [DFA](#) is successful.

Ask Sasha if he knows the proof of this

Now we can define using [Theorem 2](#) that [Regular Languages](#) are those languages  $L \subset A^*$  that are recognized by the [NFA](#).

This has the advantage that we can switch between the two classes.

For example when we have a [Automaton](#) which accepts the language  $L$  and we want to find a [Automaton](#) that accepts the complementary language.

#### Note

title what is the [Complement of a Language](#)?

If we have a language  $L \subseteq A^*$  then the [Complement of a Language](#)  $\bar{L}$  consists of all all the words of the that are not part of  $L$  i.e.  $\bar{L} = A^* - L$

This is important because it heavily used in model checking.

It is easy to find the [Complement of a Language](#) by exploiting [Determinism](#) of [DFA](#).

**Important:** [NFA](#) and [DFA](#) are not always [logically equivalent](#) but when they are it makes our life easier.

### [NFA](#) with $\epsilon$ -moves

It is very similar to the normal [NFA](#) but has  $\epsilon$ -moves

#### Definition: [NFA with epsilon-move](#)

We have an [Automaton](#)  $(Q, A, \Delta, q_0, F)$  where  $Q, A, q_0$  and  $F$  have definitions equal to the normal [NFA](#).

The only difference is  $\Delta$

$$\Delta : Q \times (A \cup \{\epsilon\}) \rightarrow 2^Q$$

This means that independent of the state one is in it is always possible to read the empty word  $\epsilon$  as input. This is similar to a idle move.

How do we define  $\hat{\Delta}$  the transition function accepting words?

$$\hat{\Delta}(q, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q)$$

Now let's consider:

$q \in Q$  and  $p \in 2^Q$

An  $\epsilon$ -move is a transition of the form  $\Delta(q, \epsilon)$ .

What is an epsilon-closure:

### epsilon-closure

Is the set of states that you can reach within a NFA with epsilon-move from a state  $q$  by repeatedly applying only the empty word  $\epsilon$ .

This set of states is denoted as  $\epsilon\text{-closure}(q)$

**important:** NFAs are not a special case of NFA with epsilon-move without the epsilon move. It  $\epsilon$ -moves do not increase expressiveness.

We can not only define the epsilon-closure for single states but also for a set of states:

for all  $q \in 2^Q$  we can define the epsilon-closure of the set  $\underline{q} = \bigcup_{q \in \underline{q}} \epsilon\text{-closure}(q)$

How do we generalize it to entire words  $w$  preceded by a symbol  $a$ ?

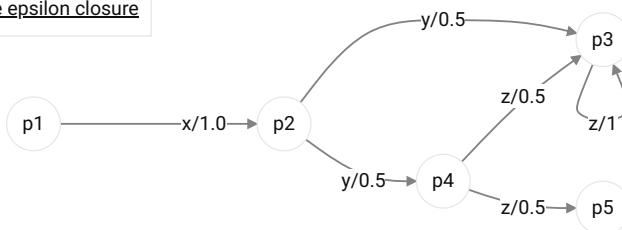
$$\hat{\Delta}(q, wa) = \epsilon\text{-closure}\left(\bigcup_{p \in \hat{\Delta}(q, w)} \Delta(p, a)\right)$$

What does this mean? It is the  $\epsilon$ -closure of all states that one can reach by first applying first the individual symbols of the word  $w$  followed by a symbol  $a$ . After every symbol applied a  $\epsilon$ -closure needs to be applied. Example:

$w=xy$

$a=z$

#### Example epsilon closure



How does our  $\epsilon\text{-closure}(\Delta, wa)$  look like?

1. when we apply  $x$  the first symbol of the word  $w$  we add to our expression:  
 $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_2)$
2. when we read in  $y$  we have two states that we can possibly reach ( $p_3, p_4$ ) so we add them both  
 $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_2) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_3) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_4)$
3. Now that we process  $a = z$  we have two states that we can be in, first:  $p_3$  which adds itself and from state, and second:  $p_4$  we can reach  $p_3$  and  $p_5$ .  
 $\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_2) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_3) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_4) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_3) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_5) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_3)$
4. Now summarizing we delete the double-mentions and denote from which symbol each  $\epsilon$ -closure comes from

$$\underbrace{\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_2)}_x \cup \underbrace{\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_3) \cup \epsilon\text{-closure}(p_4)}_{y \& z \& z} \cup \underbrace{\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_5)}_y \cup \underbrace{\epsilon\text{-closure}(p_3)}_z$$

## Theorem 3

### Theorem 3

For all NFA with epsilon-move  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a NFA without  $\epsilon$ -move  $\mathcal{A}'$  such that the languages  $L$  are accepted by both Automaton i.e.  $L(\mathcal{A}) = L(\mathcal{A}')$  and vice versa.

To summarize:

DFA=NFA=NFA with epsilon-move

What is a good illustration of the epsilon move:

Sometimes we have a limited set of symbols (like a limited resource). The epsilon move enables that one can change the Automaton state without using any symbol but just do a *epsilon*-move.

## Regular Expressions

Let  $A$  be a finite Alphabet.

We define 3 Classes:

### 1. Restricted Regular Expressions

They are built from a finite set of words over  $A$  (made of symbols of  $A$ ) by using the operations:

1.  $\cup$  (Union)
2.  $\cdot$  (Concatenation)
3.  $*$  (Kleene-closure also called Kleene star)

### 2. General Regular Expressions

They are built from a finite set of words over  $A$  (made of symbols of  $A$ ) by using the operations:

1.  $\cup$  (Union)
2.  $\cdot$  (Concatenation)
3.  $*$  (Kleene-closure also called Kleene star)
4.  $\cap$  (Intersection)
5.  $\neg$  (Complementation)

### 3. Star-free Regular Expressions

Like General Regular Expressions without the Kleene star:

1.  $\cup$  (Union)
2.  $\cdot$  (Concatenation)
3.  $\cap$  (Intersection)
4.  $\neg$  (Complementation)

Restricted Regular Expressions and General Regular Expressions are equally expressive. They are second order logic.

Star-free Regular Expressions are strictly less expressive than Restricted Regular Expressions and General Regular Expressions. The absence of the Kleene star makes it only first order logic.

break

## Theorem 4

### Theorem 4

For every Finite State Automata, there exists a Restricted Regular Expression that defines the same language and vice versa.

Proof:

### First direction FA $\rightarrow$ Restricted Regular Expression

Goal: we want to turn a DFA to a Restricted Regular Expression.

Let  $\mathcal{A} = (\{q_1, q_2 \dots q_n\}, A, \delta, \underbrace{q_1}_{\text{initial state}}, F)$  be a DFA.

And we give the states a ordering relation i.e  $q_1 < q_2 < q_3 \dots$

Let  $R_{i,j}^k$  be the set of words  $w$  such that  $\delta(q_i, w) = q_j$  and for all proper prefix  $v$  of  $w$  with  $v \neq w$  and  $v \neq \epsilon$ .  
If one applies the prefix  $y$  on any state i.e.  $\delta(q, v)$  then the resulting state  $q_l$  needs to be less than when we apply the full word on the state i.e.  $\delta(q, w) = q_k$  i.e.  $q_l \leq q_k$

visual:



And all this states that we need to step though (inbetween) to get to  $p_j$  need to be less or equal  $k$  i.e.  
 $(a \leq k) \wedge (b \leq k) \wedge (c \leq k) \wedge (d \leq k) \wedge (e \leq k) \wedge (f \leq k)$

The sets  $R_{i,j}^k$  can be defined recursively.

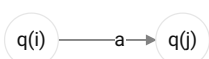
- $R_{i,j}^0 \rightarrow$  is a way to forbid any intermediate steps as the index of the states starts at

$$R_{i,j}^0 = \begin{cases} \{a : \delta(q_i, a) = q_j & \text{if } i \neq j \\ \{a : \delta(q_i, a) = q_j \cup \{\epsilon\} & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

How does this look visually.

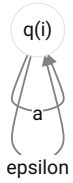
In the first case we change state but do not have any states in between.

case  $i \neq j$



In the second case we do not change state. That means that we have to cover all symbols that lead back to our initial state as well as the  $\epsilon$ -move.

case  $i = j$



- Now we define  $R_{i,j}^k$  by splitting it up in multiple parts

1. The paths from  $i$  to  $j$  where the intermediate steps are strictly smaller than  $k$  i.e.  $< k$ . This can be expressed as follows:

$$R_{i,j}^{k-1}$$

strictly less than  $k$



2. The path from  $i$  to  $j$  where we pass through  $q_k$  exactly once. This can be expressed as follows

$$R_{i,k}^{k-1} \cup R_{k,j}^{k-1}$$

pass through  $q_k$  once



3. And lastly where we pass through  $q_k$  multiple times.

A path from  $q_k$  to  $q_k$  is part of the class  $R_{k,k}^{k-1}$ . But we can go from  $q_k$  to  $q_k$  through different ways again and again passing through other  $q_k$ . Therefore we create a bigger set of all possible ways to go from  $q_k$  to  $q_k$  using the [Kleene star](#) i.e.  $(R_{k,k}^{k-1})^*$

To explain more: what does  $R_{k,k}^{k-1}$  contain?

It contains all ways from  $q_k$  to  $q_k$  i.e.  $R_{k,k}^{k-1} = \{R_{k,k}^{k-1}(1), R_{k,k}^{k-1}(2), \dots, R_{k,k}^{k-1}(n)\}$

By using the [Kleene star](#) we create a set of set of all combinations of going from  $q_k$  to  $q_k$  i.e.

$$(R_{k,k}^{k-1})^* = \{\{R_{k,k}^{k-1}(1)\}, \{R_{k,k}^{k-1}(1), R_{k,k}^{k-1}(2)\}, \{R_{k,k}^{k-1}(2), R_{k,k}^{k-1}(1)\}, \dots\}$$

pass through  $q_k$  multiple times



## To summarize

$$R_{i,j}^k = R_{i,j}^{k-1} \cup R_{i,k}^{k-1} \cdot (R_{k,k}^{k-1})^* \cdot R_{k,j}^{k-1}$$

**note:** We are currently using Restricted Regular Expressions as we only use  $\cup$ ,  $\cdot$  and the Kleene star  $\star$

From what we showed we can conclude that for all possible choices for  $i, j, k$  there exists a Restricted Regular Expression that defines  $R_{i,j}^k$ .

How can we exploit this sets to define a Language  $L(\mathcal{A})$ ?

$$L(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcup_{\substack{q_j \in F \\ \text{Restricted Regular expression defining } L(\mathcal{A})}} R_{1,j}^n$$

Now we prove from FA  $\leftarrow$  Restricted Regular Expression

Goal: we want to turn a Restricted Regular Expression to a NFA with epsilon-move.

Further restriction: We want the resulting Automaton have at most one final state without exiting transition. What is a final state without exiting transition? It is a final state from which one can not leave anymore visually speaking  $q_3$  would be such a state.



The proof is by induction on the structural complexity of the Restricted Regular Expression  $R$ .

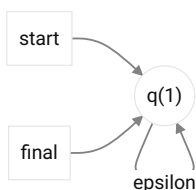
### Base cases:

**important:** we denote the final and the initial state by a box pointing towards the initial state.

$$R = \{\epsilon\}, \emptyset, \{a\}$$

- How does the Automaton look like for a language  $\{\epsilon\}$ ?

It has one state,  $q_1$ , which is also the final state, accepts the empty word, and when it reads the empty word one starts at  $q_1$  and ends at  $q_1$ .

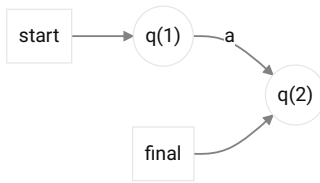


- How does the Automaton look like for the emptyset  $\emptyset$ ?

It does not have a final state as we never can change state as we can not read in a word or  $\epsilon$



- How does the Automaton look like for a Language with a single Symbol i.e.  $\{a\}$



### inductive step

$R$  are Regular Expressions.

$$R = R_1 \cup R_2$$

By Hypothesis there exists two NFA with epsilon-moves:

- $\mathcal{A}_1 = Q_1, A, \delta_1, q_1, \{f_1\}$
- $\mathcal{A}_2 = Q_2, A, \delta_2, q_2, \{f_2\}$

We assume for that there exist only one final state  $f$  for each of the Automata without exiting transition.

We assume that  $\mathcal{A}_1$  recognizes the Regular Expression  $R_1$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_2$  recognizes Regular Expression  $R_2$ .

Without the loss of generality we assume that  $Q_1 \cap Q_2 = \emptyset$  i.e. the two Automata have different states.

It is easy to show that the following Non Deterministic Finite State Automata  $\mathcal{A}$  recognizes the languages  $L(\mathcal{A}_1) \cup L(\mathcal{A}_2)$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  is the following:

$$\mathcal{A} = \{Q_1 \cup Q_2 \cup \{q_0, f_0\}, A, \Delta, q_0, \{f_0\}\}$$

What does  $Q_1 \cup Q_2 \cup \{q_0, f_0\}$  mean?

We join the states of  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  but we add a new initial state  $q_0$  and a new final state  $f_0$ . Which are also the initial- and final-state of the Automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Furthermore lets define the Transition function  $\Delta$  where:

$$\Delta(q_0, \epsilon) = \{q_1, q_2\}$$

**What does this mean?** Instead of starting at  $q_1$  or  $q_2$  we use the new state  $q_0$  as start state. Then the next state is, by using the magic of NFA, either the previous start state of  $\mathcal{A}_1$   $q_1$ , or of  $\mathcal{A}_2$   $q_2$ .

$$\Delta(q, a) = \Delta_1(q, a)$$

for  $(q \in Q_1 - \{f_1\}) \wedge (a \in A \cup \{\epsilon\})$

$$\Delta(q, a) = \Delta_2(q, a)$$

for  $(q \in Q_2 - \{f_2\}) \wedge (a \in A \cup \{\epsilon\})$

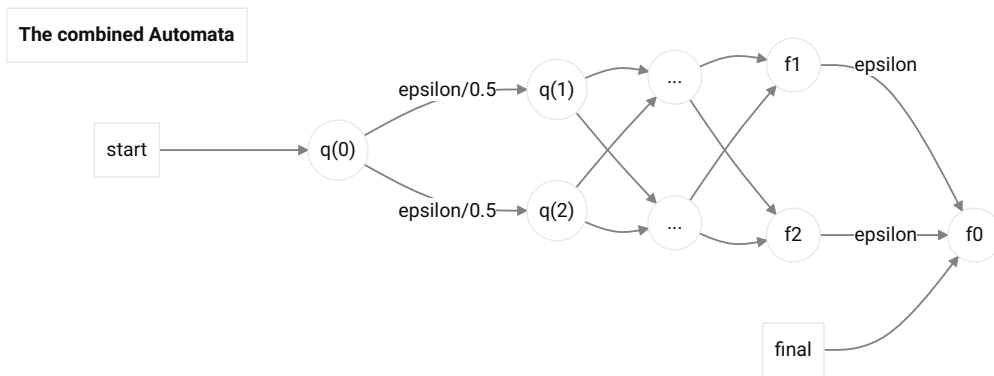
**what does this mean?** If we are in a state that originally belonged to  $\mathcal{A}_1$  then we use the transition function of  $\mathcal{A}_1$ . If we are in a state that originally belonged to  $\mathcal{A}_2$  we use the transition function of  $\mathcal{A}_2$ . With only one exception: if we are in one of the previous endstates  $f_1$  or  $f_2$  the now following rule applies.

$$\Delta(f_1, \epsilon) = \Delta(f_2, \epsilon) = \{f_0\}$$

**What does this mean?** if we are in one of the previous endstates  $f_1$  or  $f_2$  and we get an empty word we jump to the new final state  $f_0$



How does this visually look?



The next cases

$R = R_1 \cdot R_2$  and  $R = R_1^*$  will be shown in [Verification 11](#)

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