

## Unit - I | Lecture- 07

# Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions(NFA- $\epsilon$ )

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# Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions(NFA- $\epsilon$ )

- Uses of  $\epsilon$ -Transitions
- The Formal Notation for an  $\epsilon$ -NFA
- Epsilon-Closures
- Extended Transitions and Languages for  $\epsilon$ -NFA's
- Acceptance of Strings and Languages by  $\epsilon$ -NFA

## Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions:

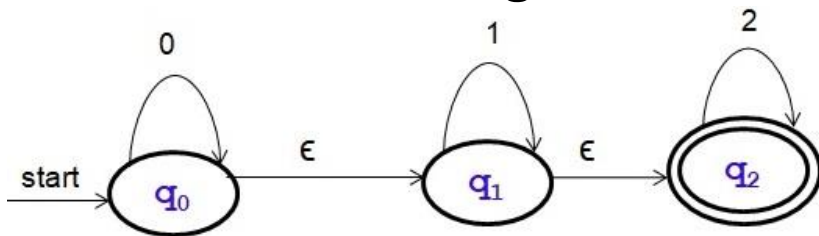
NFA- $\epsilon$  or  $\epsilon$ -NFA or NFA-E or NFA- $I^{\wedge}$

- In **NFA** the  **$\epsilon$ -transitions** are given in order to move from one state to another state **without having any input symbol** (i.e., **with empty string**) from input alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

# Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions:

**NFA- $\epsilon$  or  $\epsilon$ -NFA or NFA-E or NFA-I<sup>^</sup>**

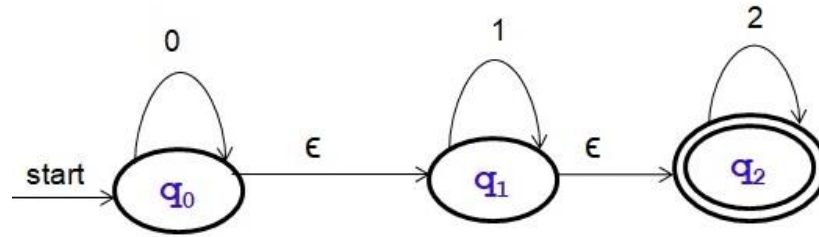
- Consider the **NFA- $\epsilon$**  given below:



- In this **NFA- $\epsilon$** ,  **$q_0$**  is **start** or **initial state**,  **$q_2$**  is **final** or **accepting state**.

# Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions:

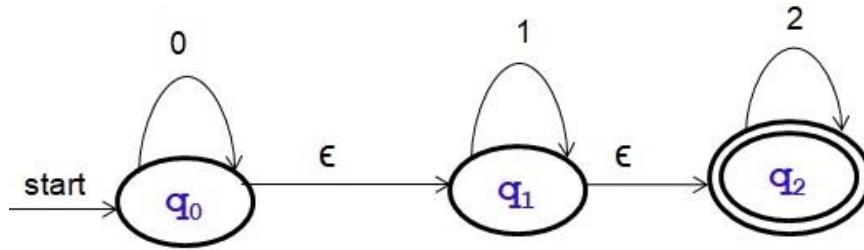
**NFA- $\epsilon$  or  $\epsilon$ -NFA or NFA-E or NFA-I<sup>^</sup>**



If we want to find an **input string** starting with '1', then we can change state from  $q_0$  to  $q_1$  with  **$\epsilon$ -move** and then with that input we can be in state  $q_1$ , i.e., it is not defined with an input '1' whether it will be in state  $q_1$  or not. Hence it is called **nondeterministic finite automata (NFA)** and there are some  **$\epsilon$ -moves** by which we can simply change the states from one state to another state. Hence it is called **NFA with  $\epsilon$ -transitions (NFA- $\epsilon$ )**.

# Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions:

**NFA- $\epsilon$  or  $\epsilon$ -NFA or NFA-E or NFA-I<sup>^</sup>**



In this **NFA- $\epsilon$** , the transitions are given below:

$$\delta(q_0, 0) = q_0$$

$$\delta(q_0, \epsilon) = q_1$$

$$\delta(q_1, 1) = q_1$$

$$\delta(q_1, \epsilon) = q_2$$

$$\delta(q_2, 2) = q_2$$

## Formal or Mathematical Definition of NFA- $\epsilon$ :

A **NFA- $\epsilon$**  is a **Quin tuple** or **5-tuple** denoted by **M**.

i.e., **M** = (**Q**,  **$\Sigma$** ,  **$\delta$** ,  **$q_0$** , **F**)

Where

**Q** : Finite or non-empty set of **States** or **Internal Sates**

**$\Sigma$**  : Input Alphabet

**$q_0$**  : **Initial State** or **Start State** and  **$q_0$**  is in **Q**, i.e.  **$q_0 \in Q$**  (In any Automata initial or start state is only one)

**F** : Set of **Final** or **Accepting States**,  $F \subseteq Q$

## Formal or Mathematical Definition of NFA-ε :

$\delta$  : Transition function or Moving function or Mapping function.

Using this function, the next state can be determined.

Transition function is mapping from  $Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\})$  to  $2^Q$

$$\text{i.e., } \delta : Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}) \rightarrow 2^Q$$

Where  $2^Q$  is power set of  $Q$ , the set of all states of  $Q$ .

The intension is that  $\delta(q, a)$  will consists of all states  $P$  such that there is a transition labeled ' $a$ ' from  $q$  to  $P$  where ' $a$ ' is either ' $\epsilon$ ' or a symbol in  $\Sigma$ .



## Properties of $\delta$ function of NFA- $\epsilon$ (Extended Transition Function )

- The extended  $\delta$  function is defined as

$$\delta^{\wedge} = Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow 2^Q \text{ (}\Sigma^* \text{ includes } \epsilon\text{)}$$

- $\delta^{\wedge} (q, w)$  will be all states  $P$  such that, one can go from  $q$  to  $P$  along with a path labeled  $w$  perhaps including edges labeled  $\epsilon$ .
- The set of states reachable from a state  $q$  on  $\epsilon$  can be determined by using a function known as  $\epsilon$ -closure ( $q$ ).

# Properties of $\delta$ function of NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Properties of $\delta^{\wedge}$

### 1. Property-1:

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0)$$

**$\epsilon$ -closure ( $q$ )** can be determined by combining set of states including  $q$  reachable with  $\epsilon$  symbol.

### 2. Property-2:

For string  $w$  in  $\Sigma^*$  and an input symbol  $a$  in  $\Sigma$ ,

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, wa) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, w), a))$$

# Properties of $\delta$ function of NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Properties of $\delta^*$

### 3. Property-3:

$$\delta(P, w) = \bigcup_{q \in P} \delta(q, w)$$

For each set of states  $P \subseteq Q$

Ex.

$$P = \{q_0, q_1\}, w = a$$

$$\delta(\{q_0, q_1\}, a) = \delta(q_0, a) \cup \delta(q_1, a)$$

## How a NFA- $\epsilon$ Processes Strings (Acceptance of Strings)

A string  $w$  is accepted by a **NFA- $\epsilon$** ,

$$\mathbf{M} = (\mathbf{Q}, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, \mathbf{F})$$

If  $\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, w) = P$ , for some  **$P \in \mathbf{F}$**

This is basically the **acceptability** of a string by the final state.

## The Language of a NFA- $\epsilon$ (Acceptance of Languages by NFA):

A Language  $L$  is accepted by a **NFA- $\epsilon$** ,

**$M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$**  is denoted by  **$L(M)$**  and is the set of all strings accepted by  **$M$** .

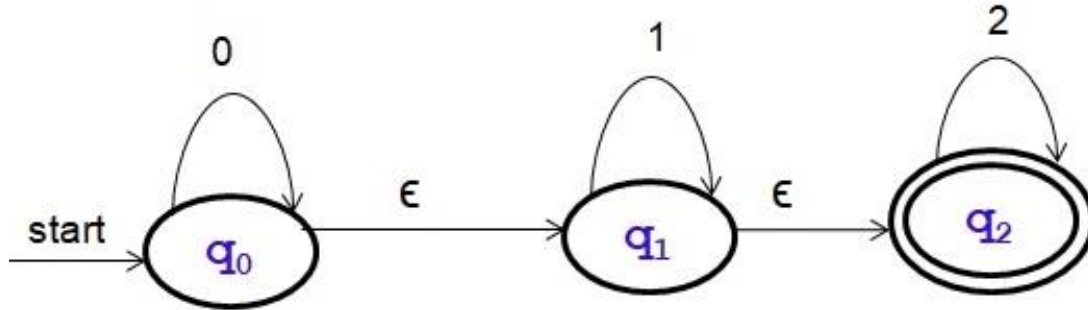
i.e.,  **$L(M) = \{x \mid \delta^*(q_0, x) \text{ is in some } F\}$** ,  **$x$**  is a string and  **$x \in L$**

# Acceptance of Strings by NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Example Problem-1:

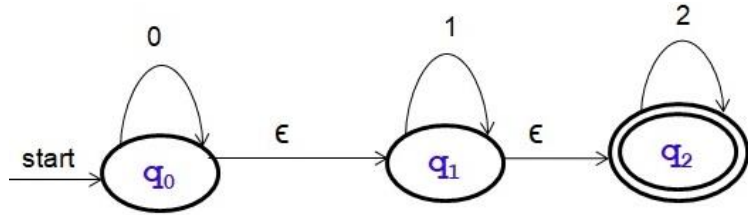
Consider the NFA- $\epsilon$  given below:

Check whether the input strings **01** and **012** are accepted or not by the given NFA- $\epsilon$  ?



# Acceptance of Strings by NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Example Problem-1: Solution



Given input strings **01** and **012**

We need to find  $\delta^*(q_0, 01)$  and  $\delta^*(q_0, 012)$

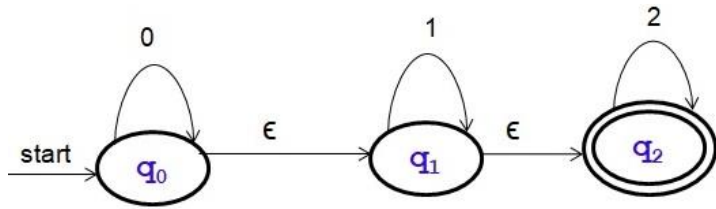
$$\delta^*(q_0, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^*(q_1, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1) = \{q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^*(q_2, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) = \{q_2\}$$

# Acceptance of Strings by NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Example Problem-1: Solution



$$\delta^\wedge(q_0, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^\wedge(q_1, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1) = \{q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^\wedge(q_2, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) = \{q_2\}$$

### I. $\delta^\wedge(q_0, 01) = ?$

$$1. \delta^\wedge(q_0, 0) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\delta^\wedge(q_0, \epsilon), 0))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, 0))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(q_0, 0) \cup \delta(q_1, 0) \cup \delta(q_2, 0))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\{q_0\} \cup \phi \cup \phi)$$

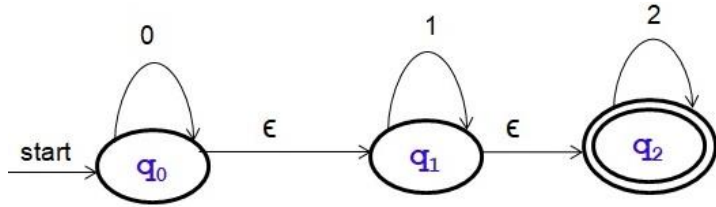
$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0)$$

$$= \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$



# Acceptance of Strings by NFA-ε:

## Example Problem-1: Solution



$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_1, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1) = \{q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_2, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) = \{q_2\}$$

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, 01) = ?$$

$$2. \delta^{\wedge}(q_0, 01) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, 0), 1))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, 1))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(q_0, 1) \cup \delta(q_1, 1) \cup \delta(q_2, 1))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\phi \cup \{q_1\} \cup \phi)$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1)$$

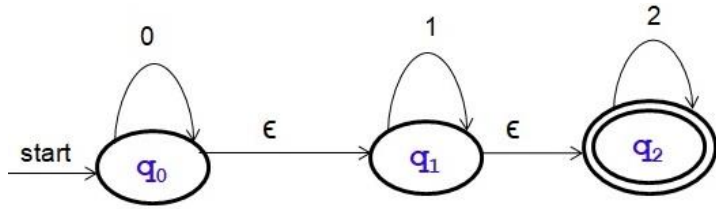
$$= \{q_1, q_2\}, q_2 \in F$$

### Conclusion:

The input string **01** is accepted by the given NFA-ε.

# Acceptance of Strings by NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Example Problem-1: Solution



$$\delta^\wedge(q_0, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^\wedge(q_1, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1) = \{q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^\wedge(q_2, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) = \{q_2\}$$

### II. $\delta^\wedge(q_0, 012) = ?$

$$1. \delta^\wedge(q_0, 0) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\delta^\wedge(q_0, \epsilon), 0))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, 0))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(q_0, 0) \cup \delta(q_1, 0) \cup \delta(q_2, 0))$$

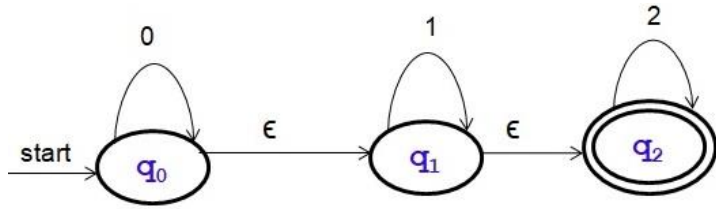
$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\{q_0\} \cup \phi \cup \phi)$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0)$$

$$= \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

# Acceptance of Strings by NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Example Problem-1: Solution



$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_1, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1) = \{q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\delta^{\wedge}(q_2, \epsilon) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) = \{q_2\}$$

### II. $\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, 012) = ?$

$$2. \delta^{\wedge}(q_0, 01) = \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\delta^{\wedge}(q_0, 0), 1))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, 1))$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(q_0, 1) \cup \delta(q_1, 1) \cup \delta(q_2, 1))$$

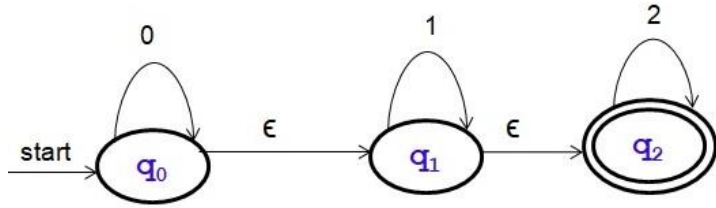
$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\phi \cup \{q_1\} \cup \phi)$$

$$= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1)$$

$$= \{q_1, q_2\}$$

# Acceptance of Strings by NFA- $\epsilon$ :

## Example Problem-1: Solution



$$\begin{aligned}\delta^\wedge(q_0, \epsilon) &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_0) = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\} \\ \delta^\wedge(q_1, \epsilon) &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_1) = \{q_1, q_2\} \\ \delta^\wedge(q_2, \epsilon) &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) = \{q_2\}\end{aligned}$$

### II. $\delta^\wedge(q_0, 012) = ?$

$$\begin{aligned}3. \delta^\wedge(q_0, 012) &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\delta^\wedge(q_0, 01), 2)) \\ &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(\{q_1, q_2\}, 2)) \\ &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\delta(q_1, 2) \cup \delta(q_2, 2)) \\ &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(\emptyset \cup \{q_2\}) \\ &= \epsilon\text{-closure}(q_2) \\ &= \{q_2\}, q_2 \in F\end{aligned}$$

### **Conclusion:**

The input string **012** is accepted by the given NFA- $\epsilon$ .

Lecture- 07  
Finite Automata with Epsilon-Transitions (NFA- $\epsilon$ )  
Summary

- Uses of  $\epsilon$ -Transitions
- The Formal Notation for an  $\epsilon$ -NFA
- Epsilon-Closures
- Extended Transitions and Languages for  $\epsilon$ -NFA's
- Acceptance of Strings and Languages by  $\epsilon$ -NFA