A deterministic finite automaton (DFA) is formally defined by a five-tuple, \((Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)\).

1. \(Q\) is the (finite) set of states
2. \(\Sigma\) is the (finite) set of input symbols, i.e., the alphabet
3. \(\delta\) is the transition function
4. \(q_0\) is the initial (or start) state
5. \(F\) is the set of final (or accepting) states