

Theoretical Computer Science

Context-Free Languages

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Outline

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Representations of context-free languages

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- **reachable** if $\exists S \rightarrow_G^* X$; and
- **helpful** if it is generative and reachable.

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Productions produce words **top-down**,
inductive definition *produces* words **bottom-up**.

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$$\alpha_1\alpha_2 \rightarrow_G^n \beta \iff \exists \beta_1, \beta_2, n_1, n_2. \beta = \beta_1\beta_2 \wedge n = n_1 + n_2 \wedge \alpha_1 \rightarrow_G^{n_1} \beta_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \rightarrow_G^{n_2} \beta_2.$$

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$$\begin{aligned} A \rightarrow_G^* w &\iff w \in L_G(A) \\ &\iff \exists \text{ syntax tree with root } A \text{ and border } w. \end{aligned}$$

Syntax Tree

Definition 4

- A CFG G is **ambiguous** if $\exists w \in L(G)$ that has two distinct syntax trees.
- A CFL L is **inherently ambiguous** if every CFG G with $L(G) = L$ is ambiguous.

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4. remove chain productions (i.e. $A \rightarrow B$)

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Definition 7 (Backus-Naur Normal Form)

Allows the use of regular expressions in productions (in addition to symbols).

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- step:

$$V_{ij} = \left\{ A \in V \mid \begin{array}{l} \exists i \leq k < j, B \in V_{ik}, C \in V_{(k+1)j}. \\ (A \rightarrow BC) \in P \end{array} \right\}$$

PDA

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Graphically, transitions are denoted as $a, Z/\alpha$ where $a \in \Sigma$ is the input, $Z \in \Gamma$ is the top stack element, and $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$ replaces Z in the new stack.

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The **configuration** of a PDA M is a triple (q, w, α) where $q \in Q$ is its state, $w \in \Sigma^*$ is its remaining input, and $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$ is its stack.

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The **transition relation** of a PDA M is

$$\begin{aligned}(q, aw, Z\alpha) &\rightarrow_M (q', w, \beta\alpha) && \text{if } (q', \beta) \in \delta(q, a, Z) \\ (q, w, Z\alpha) &\rightarrow_M (q', w, \beta\alpha) && \text{if } (q', \beta) \in \delta(q, \epsilon, Z).\end{aligned}$$

PDA

Definition 11

PDA M accepts $w \in \Sigma^*$ with final state if

$$(q_0, w, Z_0) \rightarrow_M^* (f, \epsilon, \gamma) \quad \text{for } f \in F, \gamma \in \Gamma^*.$$

So, $L_F(M) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \exists f \in F, \gamma \in \Gamma^*. (q_0, w, Z_0) \rightarrow_M^* (f, \epsilon, \gamma)\}$.

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PDA M **accepts** $w \in \Sigma^*$ with empty stack if

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Both accepting conditions are equally powerful.

Lemmas

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*Given $(q, w, Z_1 \dots Z_k) \rightarrow_M^n (q', \epsilon, \epsilon)$,
then $\forall i \in [1, k]. \exists u_i, p_i, n_i$ such that*

$$(p_{i-1}, u_i, Z_i) \rightarrow_M^{n_i} (p_i, \epsilon, \epsilon)$$

with $w = u_1 \dots u_k$, $q = p_0$, $q_k = p_k$, and $n = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i$.

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Then, $L(G) = L_\epsilon(M)$.

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We define $V = Q \times \Gamma \times Q \cup \{S\}$ where each $[q, Z, p] \in V$ describes all possibilities of going from state $q \in Q$ to state $p \in Q$ while $Z \in \Gamma$ is the top stack element.

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$$[q, Z, r_k] \rightarrow b[r_0, Z_1, r_1][r_1, Z_2, r_2] \dots [r_{k-1}, Z_k, r_k].$$

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We observe that

$$[q, Z, r_k] \rightarrow_G^* w \iff (q, w, Z) \rightarrow_M^* (r_k, \epsilon, \epsilon).$$

PDA \rightarrow CFG

Given PDA $G = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, q_0, Z_0, \delta, F)$, define CFG $G = (V, \Sigma, P, S)$.

We define $V = Q \times \Gamma \times Q \cup \{S\}$ where each $[q, Z, p] \in V$ describes all possibilities of going from state $q \in Q$ to state $p \in Q$ while $Z \in \Gamma$ is the top stack element.

We define the productions P as

- $\forall q \in Q. S \rightarrow [q_0, Z_0, q]$ and
- $\forall (r_0, Z_1 \dots Z_k) \in \delta(q, b, Z). \forall r_1, \dots, r_k \in Q.$

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So, $L(G) = L_\epsilon(M)$.

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Theorem 16

Given the deterministic context-free language L , then \bar{L} is deterministic context-free.

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Let $L \subseteq \Sigma^$ be context-free.*

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A necessary condition for context-free languages.

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Then, $\forall i \geq 0. uv^iwx^iy \in L$.

Now, use the last statement to find a contradiction separating all possible cases for v and x .