

SYMBOLIC COMPUTING

Rewrite rules

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Strings over an alphabet, jointly represent data and action.
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There are **no states**.
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- A **rewrite-rule** is of the form $z \rightarrow y$
where z, y are strings.
- z is the **source** of the production, and y its **target**.
- A finite set of rewrite rules is a **rewrite system**.

A familiar example of rewriting

$$0 \wedge 0 \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \wedge 1 \rightarrow 0$$

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$$(1) \rightarrow 1$$

Reductions and derivations

- Given a rewrite system R ,
we say that w **reduces to** w' , and write $w \Rightarrow_R w'$,
if w' is w with substring u replaced by u' ,
here $u \rightarrow u'$ is a rule.
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between machine's configurations.

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- A **derivation** in R is a sequence

$$w_0, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k$$

where $w_i \in \Gamma$ and $w_i \Rightarrow_R w_{i+1}$ for $i < k$.

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- Derivations are analogous to computation traces of machines.

Example

A derivation in our boolean rewrite-system:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((0) \wedge (1)) \vee (1) \\ \Rightarrow & (0 \wedge (1)) \vee (1) \\ \Rightarrow & (0 \wedge 1) \vee (1) \\ \Rightarrow & (0) \vee (1) \\ \Rightarrow & 0 \vee (1) \\ \Rightarrow & 0 \vee 1 \\ \Rightarrow & 1 \end{aligned}$$

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- Here we ended up with the **irreducible** string **1**, which cannot be reduced further.

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 - ▶ A finite set V of fresh symbols (not in Σ), dubbed **variables**. (We write Γ for $\Sigma \cup V$.)
 - ▶ A distinguished **initial-variable**. Default: S .

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 - ▶ A distinguished **initial-variable**. Default: S .
 - ▶ A finite set R of rewrite rules, called **productions**.
These are of the form $w \rightarrow t$
where w has **at least one non-terminal**.

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1. Two productions: $S \rightarrow a$ and $S \rightarrow bb$.
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3. A non-example: rewrite rules $a \rightarrow ab$ and $b \rightarrow ba$.

Each grammar generates a language

- Let $G = (\Sigma, V, S, R)$ be a grammar.
 $w \in \Sigma^*$ is **derived** in G if
it is derived from S .
- The **language generated by G** is

$$\mathcal{L}(G) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid S \Rightarrow^* w\}$$

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- How to formally prove this?

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- $\mathcal{L}(G) = \{a^n \cdot b \mid n \geq 0\} = \mathcal{L}(a^* \cdot b)$.
 - ▶ By induction every string a^n is generated.
 - ▶ By induction $S \Rightarrow_G^{n+1} w$ implies that w is either $a^n b$ or $a^{n+1} S$.

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- $\mathcal{L}(G) = \{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$. A non-regular language!

CONTEXT FREE GRAMMARS

Context-free grammars

- A **context-free grammar (CFG)** is a grammar where every source is **a single non-terminal**.
- All grammars we've seen so far are context-free.
- A language generated by a CFG is a **context-free language (CFL)**.
- Context-free grammars are also called **inductive grammars**.
- A convention: bundle rules with a common source as in $S \rightarrow aSb \mid \epsilon$.
The vertical line abbreviates “or”.

Example: palindromes

- Let P be the initial non-terminal.
- Productions:

$$P \rightarrow aPa$$

$$P \rightarrow bPb$$

$$P \rightarrow a$$

$$P \rightarrow b$$

$$P \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

- In BNF format: $P \rightarrow aPa \mid bPb \mid a \mid b \mid \varepsilon$

- Similar grammar for palindromes over the entire Latin alphabet.
We have then $2 \cdot 26 + 1 = 53$ productions.
- Using the more economical grammar

$$\begin{aligned}
 P &\rightarrow LPL \mid L \mid \varepsilon \\
 L &\rightarrow a \mid b \mid \dots \mid z
 \end{aligned}$$

is **wrong**, because the two L 's in LPS should be the same.

- But we can use a modular description of the correct grammar above:

$$P \rightarrow \sigma P \sigma \mid \sigma \mid \varepsilon \quad (\sigma \in \Sigma)$$

CFLs for natural languages

- *The bone ate the dog* is grammatically correct English
The dog the bone ate is not
- There is a context-free grammar that generates exactly the grammatically correct sentences in English!
- Not 100% for all languages, more sophisticated formalisms are needed.

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- Nonterminals:
 - S* for sentences,
 - P* for noun-phrases
 - N* for nouns
 - V* for verbs
 - A* for adjectives.

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dog, apple, eats, loves, big, and green.
- The productions are
$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow PVP \\ P &\rightarrow N \mid AP \\ N &\rightarrow \text{dog} \mid \text{apple} \\ V &\rightarrow \text{eats} \mid \text{loves} \\ A &\rightarrow \text{big} \mid \text{green} \end{aligned}$$
- This grammar generates *big dog eats green apple*
and *big green big apple loves green dog*
but not *eats big dog apple loves*.

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The Context-Freedom Theorem

- Intuitively clear: context-free productions guarantee a separation between descendants of one occurrence of a variable and descendants of another.
- This is captured more formally by the

Context-Freedom Theorem.

Let $G = (\Sigma, N, S, R)$ be a CFG, $\Gamma = \Sigma \cup N$.

For strings $u_0, u_1 \in \Gamma^*$, if $u_0 \cdot u_1 \Rightarrow^* v$

then $v = v_0 \cdot v_1$ where $u_0 \Rightarrow^* v_0$ and $u_1 \Rightarrow^* v_1$.

- We prove by induction on n that if $u_0 \cdot u_1 \Rightarrow^n v$ then the conclusion above holds.

Symmetries in CFL

- CFGs often generate languages with symmetries (eg palindromes!).
- The language of balanced parentheses, e.g. $((()))$ is balanced, $((()())$ is not.
- The alphabet: just left- and right-parentheses: (and),
- Productions: $S \rightarrow SS \mid (S) \mid \epsilon$

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- Exercise: The grammar with productions $S \rightarrow b \mid aSS$ generates the strings with $\#_b > \#_a$ but $\#_b \leq \#_a$ for all proper-prefixes.

A grammar that is not context-free

- Let $\Sigma = \{a, bc\}$. We shall see later that
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$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SABC \\ A &\rightarrow a, \quad B \rightarrow b, \quad C \rightarrow c \end{aligned}$$

- It generates the strings $(abc)^n$.

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 $BA \rightarrow AB, CA \rightarrow AC, CB \rightarrow BC$.
Yes, these are **not** context-free!

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- This extended grammar generates $L_{a=b=c}$

Multiple symmetries

- $\{a^n b^n c^k \mid n, k \geq 0\}$
- $\{a^n b^n a^k b^k \mid n, k \geq 0\}$
- $\{a^n b^{n+k} a^k \mid n, k \geq 0\}$
- $\{a^n b^k c^{n+k} \mid n, k \geq 0\}$
- $\{a^n b^k a^k b^n \mid n, k \geq 0\}$
- $\{a^n b^{n+k} c^{k+m} d^m \mid n, k, m \geq 0\}$

Regular languages are CFLs

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- Recall that the strictly-regular languages over Σ are generated by:
 1. The trivial languages $\emptyset, \{\epsilon\}, \{\sigma\}$ ($\sigma \in \text{gr}S$) are strictly-regular.
 2. The union, concatenation, and star of strictly-regular languages are strictly regular.

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- We show that all such languages are CF by induction on this generative definition.

The trivial languages are CF

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- \emptyset : Generated by the CFG $S \rightarrow S$.
- $\{\epsilon\}$: Generated by $S \rightarrow \epsilon$.
- $\{a\}$:

Closure under union, concatenation, star

Refer to CFGs and the languages they generated:

$$L_0 = \mathcal{L}(G_0) \quad \text{and} \quad L_1 = \mathcal{L}(G_1) \quad \text{where} \quad G_i = (\Sigma, V_i, S_i, R_i).$$

We may assume that G_0 and G_1 have no variable in common:
renaming a grammar's variables
does not change the language generated.

Closure under union

- $L_0 \cup L_1$ is generated by $(\Sigma, V \cup V' + S, S, R)$
where S is a fresh variable
and R is $R_0 \cup R_1$ augmented with the production $S \rightarrow S_0 \mid S_1$.

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and R is $R_0 \cup R_1$ augmented with the production $S \rightarrow S_0 \mid S_1$.
- G generates each $w \in L_0 \cup L_1$.
- Conversely, a derivation D in G for $S \Rightarrow_G w$
must start with $S \rightarrow S_0$ or $S \rightarrow S_1$ and proceed with
either a derivation in G_0 or a derivation in G_1 ,
since $V_0 \cap V_1 = \emptyset$.

Closure under concatenation

- $L_0 \cdot L_1$ is generated by $(\Sigma, V \cup V' + S, S, R)$
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- G generates each $w \in L_0 \cdot L_1$.
- Conversely, a derivation D in G for $S \Rightarrow_G w$
must start with $S \rightarrow S_0 \cdot S_1$, and by the Context-freeness Theorem we
have $w = w_0 \cdot w_1$ with D a merge of a derivation of w_0 from S_0 and a
derivation of w_1 from S_1 .

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- G generates each $w \in L_0^*$.
By induction on k each $w = w_1 \cdot w_k$ ($w_i \in L_0$) is derived:
For $k = 0$ the string $w = \varepsilon$ is derived outright.
And $S \Rightarrow w_1 \cdot \dots \cdot w_k$ for each $w_1, \dots, w_k \in L_0$
then $S \Rightarrow w_1 \cdot \dots \cdot w_k \cdot w_{k+1}$ is derived by reducing S to $S_0 \Rightarrow S$ and
combining a derivation in G for $S \Rightarrow w_1 \cdot \dots \cdot w_k$ with a derivation in G_0
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combining a derivation in G for $S \Rightarrow w_1 \cdot \dots \cdot w_k$ with a derivation in G_0
of w_{k+1} .
- For the converse use induction on derivation length,
If D is a derivation in G for $S \Rightarrow w$ then it must start with $S \rightarrow S_0 S$,
By the Context-Freedom Theorem $w = u \cdot v$ where $S_0 \Rightarrow u$ and $S \rightarrow v$.
We have $u \in L_0$ and by IH $v \in L_0^*$. SO $w \in L_0^*$.

Regular languages are context-free

- The trivial finite languages are CF.
- The CFLs are closed under union, concatenation and star.
- By induction on the definition of regular languages:

Theorem. Every regular language is CF

- But not every CFL is regular: $\{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ is CF.

Parsing

Parse-trees

- Computation traces capture the nature of procedural computing by a mathematical machine.
- But a formal derivation by a grammar G conveys an order that is not part of the intended generative process.

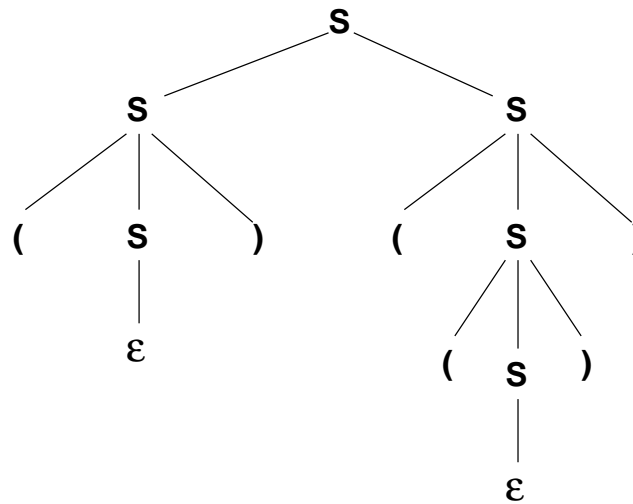
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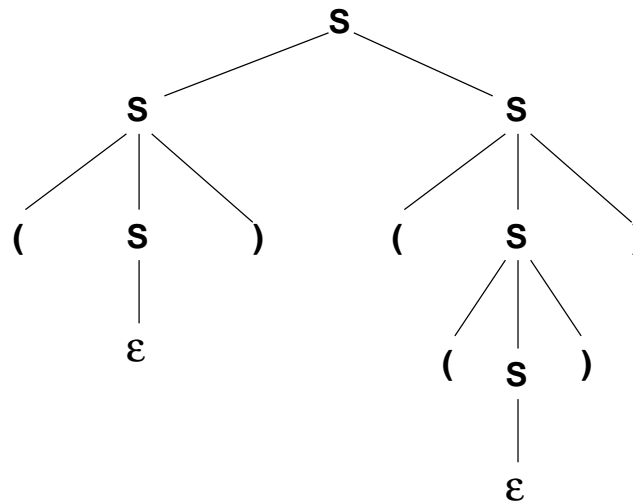
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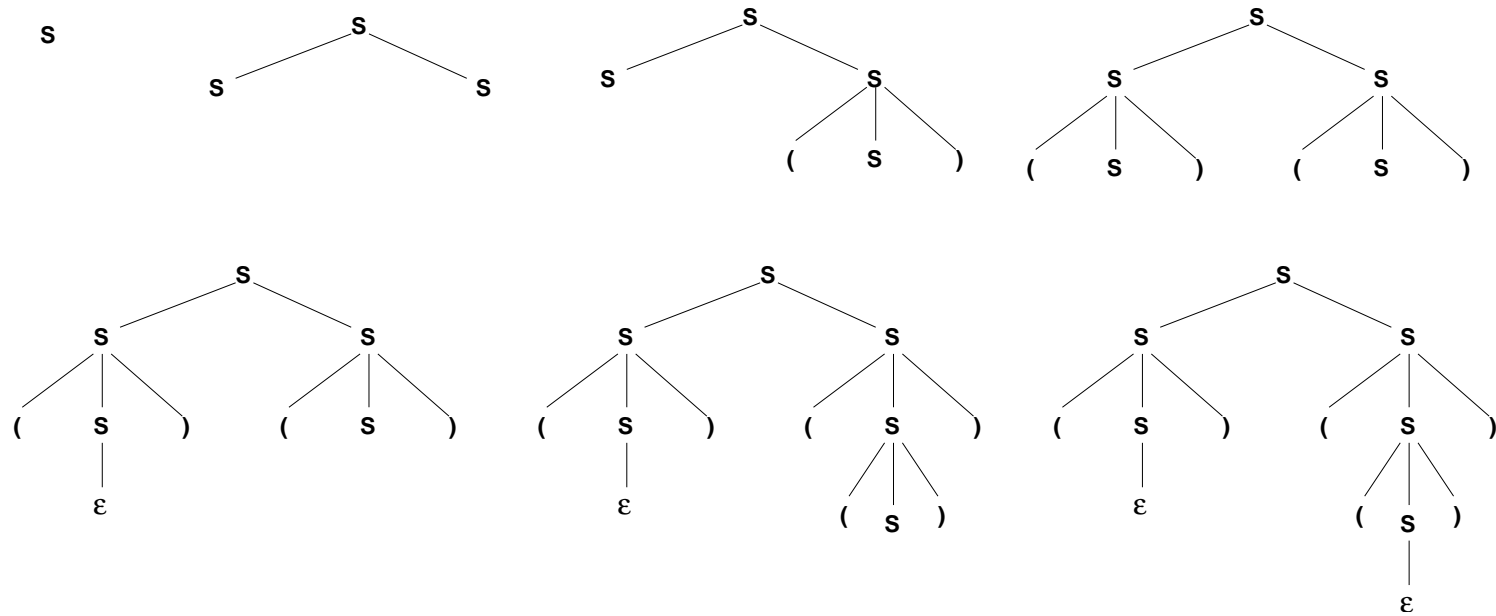


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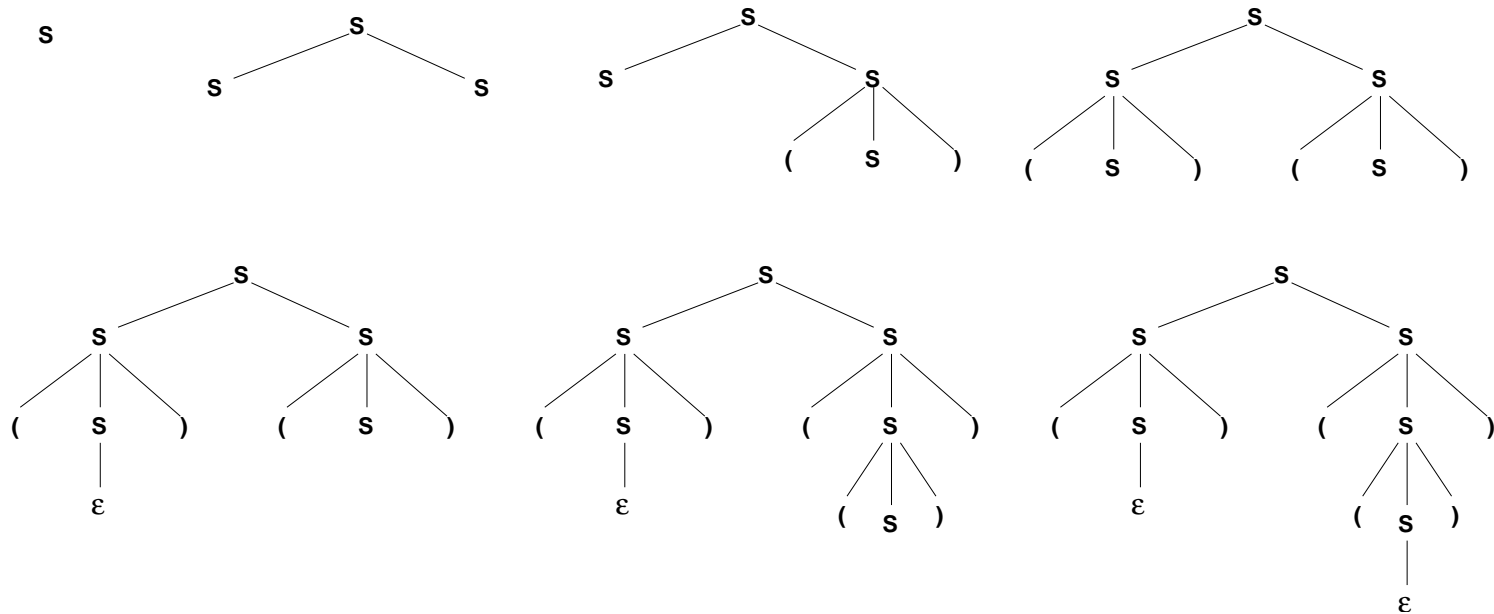


- This is a **derivation-tree**, or **pars-tree** (of the grammar G for the string w).

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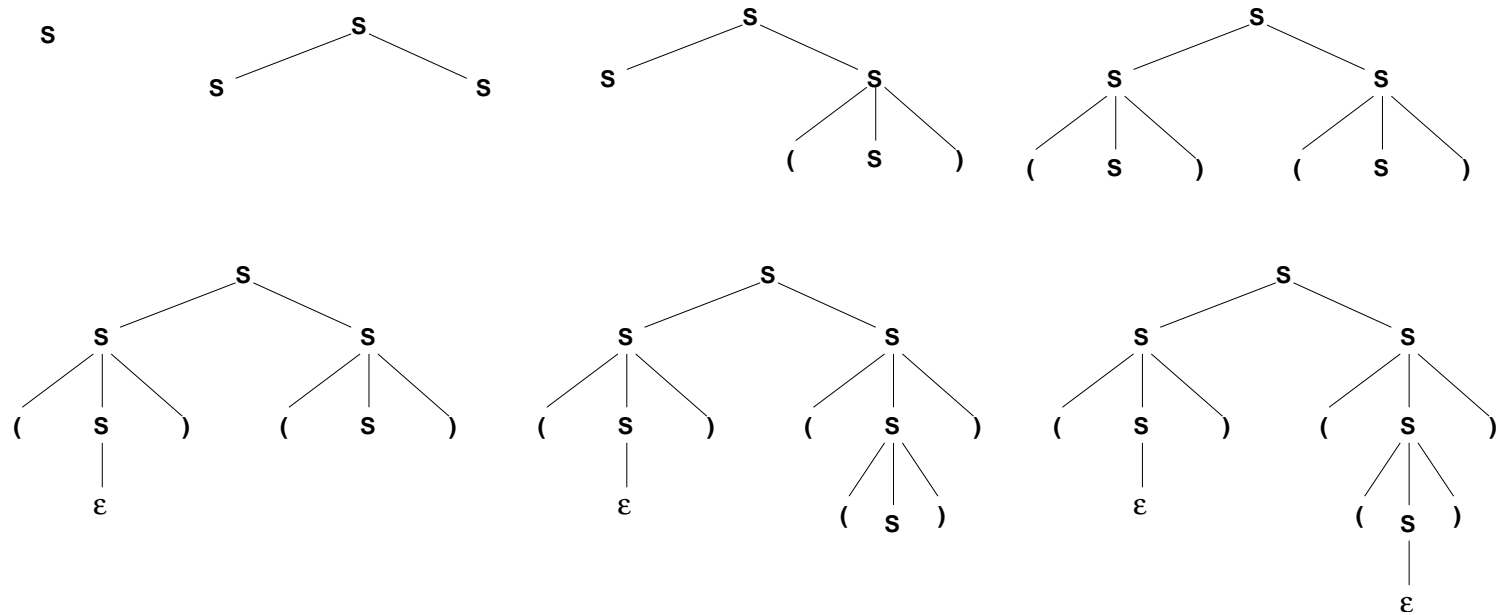
- The parse-tree is more important than the derivation.

Different derivations for the same tree are **equivalent**.

E.g. besides $S \Rightarrow SS \Rightarrow S(S) \Rightarrow (S)(S) \Rightarrow ()(S) \Rightarrow ()((S)) \Rightarrow ()()$

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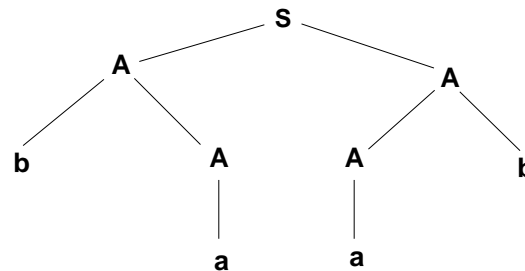
- The latter is the **leftmost-derivation** for the tree, obtained by repeatedly expanding the leftmost variable.

Another example

- Grammar G : $S \rightarrow AA \mid bAA$, $A \rightarrow bA \mid Ab \mid a$
- A derivation of **baab** :

$$S \Rightarrow_G AA \Rightarrow_G bAA \Rightarrow_G bAAb \Rightarrow_G bAa b \Rightarrow_G baab$$

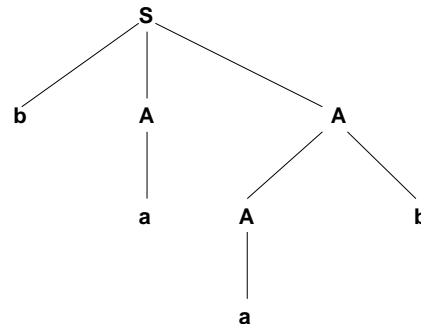
- The corresponding derivation tree:



- The leftmost derivation for this is

$$S \Rightarrow_G AA \Rightarrow_G bAA \Rightarrow_G baA \Rightarrow_G baAb \Rightarrow_G baab$$

A different parse-tree for the same string:

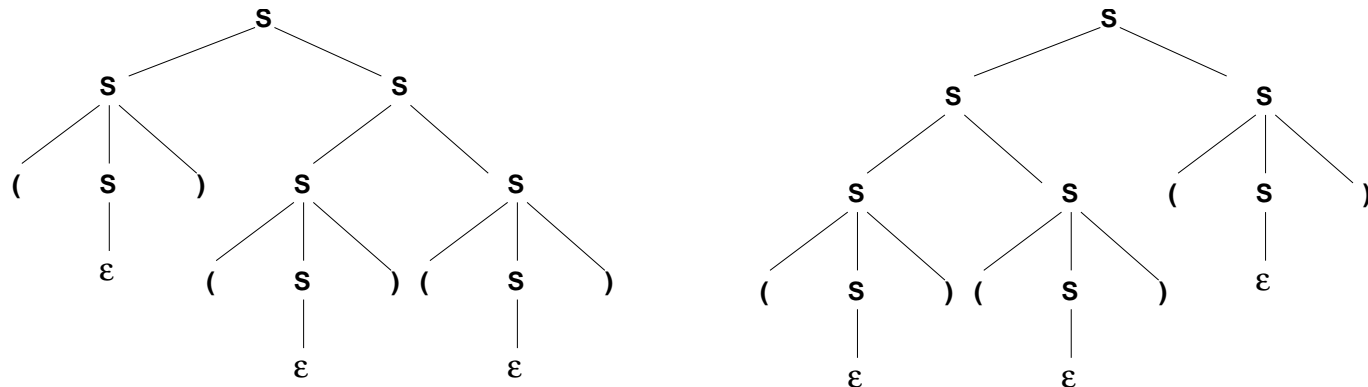


The leftmost derivation for this parse-tree:

$$S \Rightarrow_G bAA \Rightarrow_G baA \Rightarrow_G baAb \Rightarrow_G baab$$

Ambiguous grammars

- A derivation-tree usually represents several derivations.
Can a grammar have different derivation-*trees* for the same string?
- We have already seen one: $S \rightarrow SS \mid (S) \mid \epsilon$.



- And natural languages are full of ambiguities:

*Jane welcomed **the man with a dog***

*Jane welcomed the man **with a dog***

Familiar example: Arith w/o parentheses

- Alphabet $\{a, b, +, \times\}$,
Grammar G with production rules:

$$S \rightarrow S+S \mid S \times S \mid a \mid b$$

- Two different derivations of G for the string $a+b \times a+b$.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\Rightarrow S + S \\ &\Rightarrow a + S \\ &\Rightarrow a + S \times S \\ &\Rightarrow a + b \times S \\ &\Rightarrow a + b \times S + S \\ &\Rightarrow a + b \times a + S \\ &\Rightarrow a + b \times a + b \end{aligned}$$

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Dual-clipping in CFLs

- The Clipping Theorem is based on the observation that if M is a k -state DFA then any trace of M of length $\geq k$ has some state q repeating.
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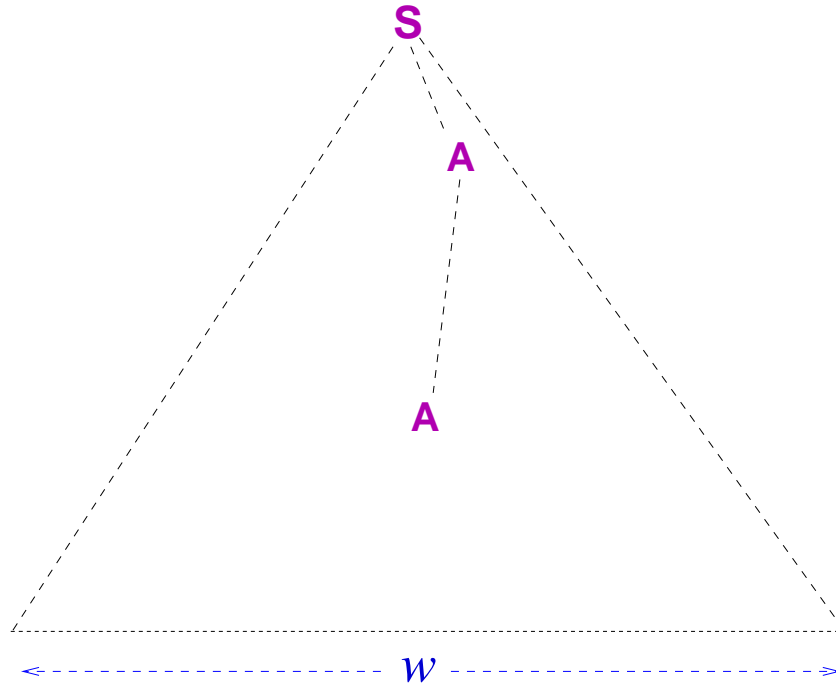
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- This does not work as stated for CFLs. But why?
- Whereas a DFA accepts a string w by a “horizontal” scan, a CFG generates w by a parse-tree for it.

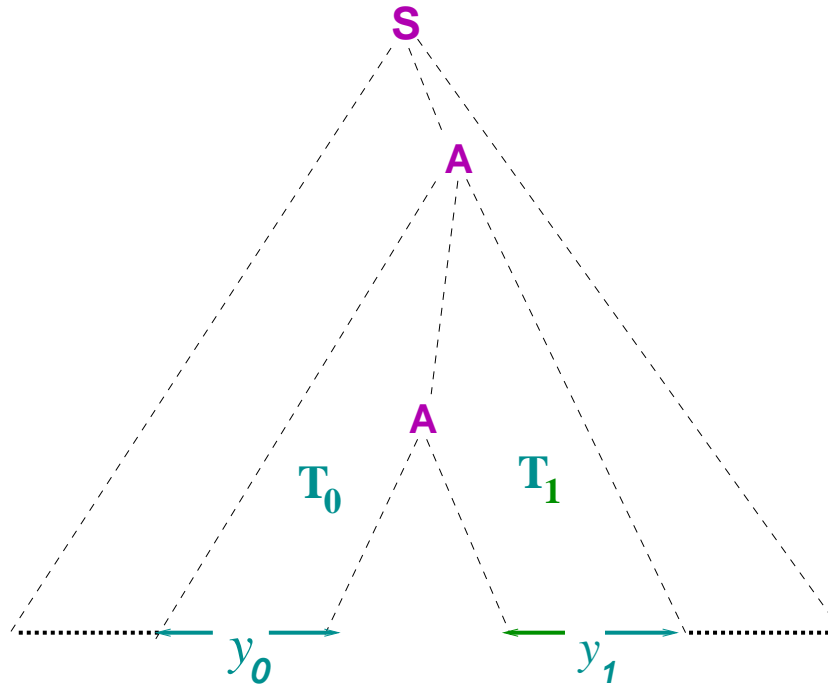
Here the repetition is “vertical”:

A variable repeats on a **branch** of the parse-tree.



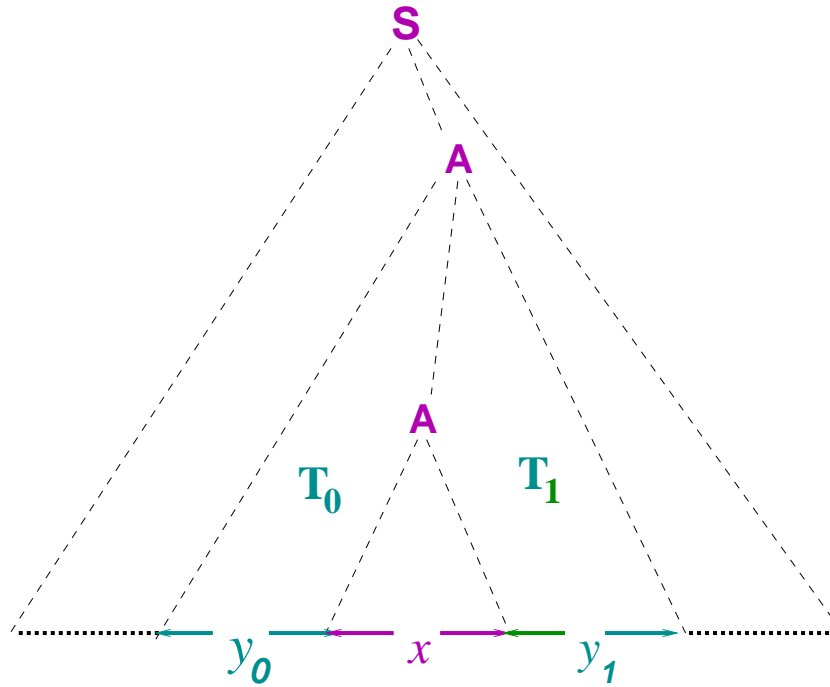
Dual-Clipping for CFLs

- The portions of the parse-tree generated by the upper **A**, but not the lower one, can be “clipped-off” the tree:



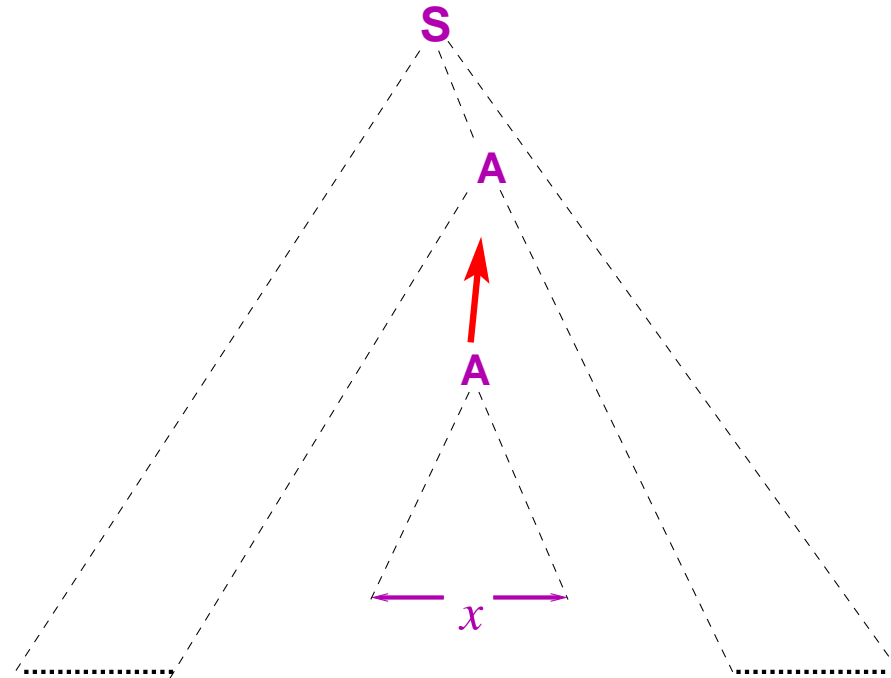
Dual-Clipping for CFLs

- The portion generated from the lower **A** remains:



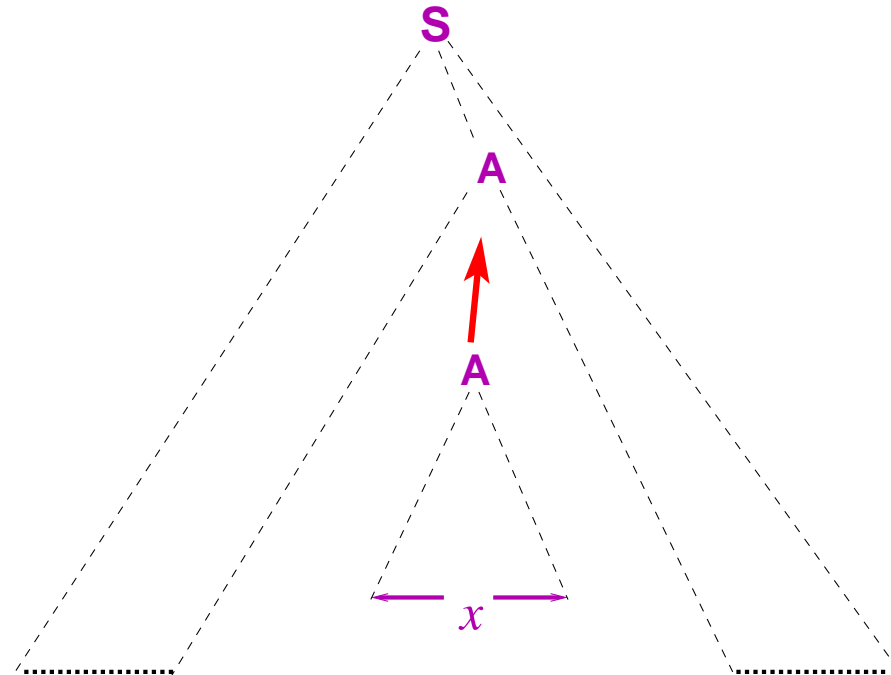
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Dual-clipping: The framework

- **Dual-clipping Theorem for CFLs** (informal summary)

If L is a CFL then

every sufficiently long $w \in L$ has two disjoint substrings,
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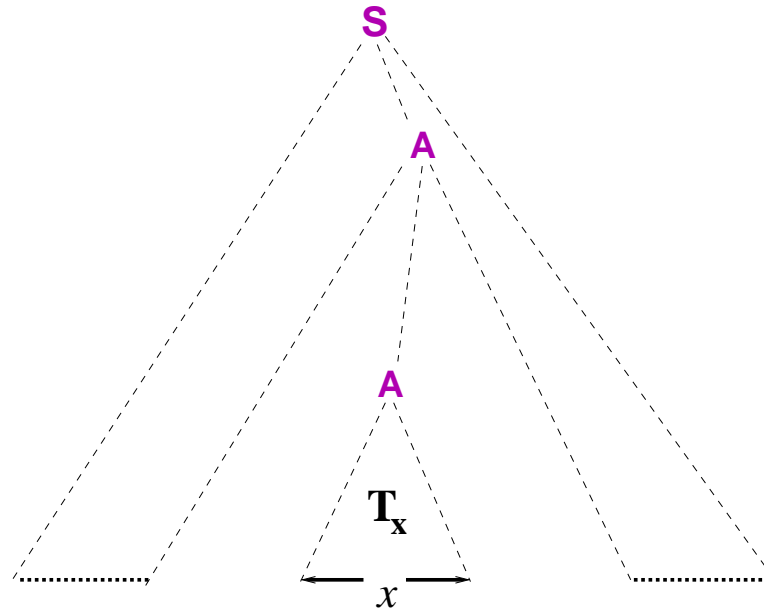
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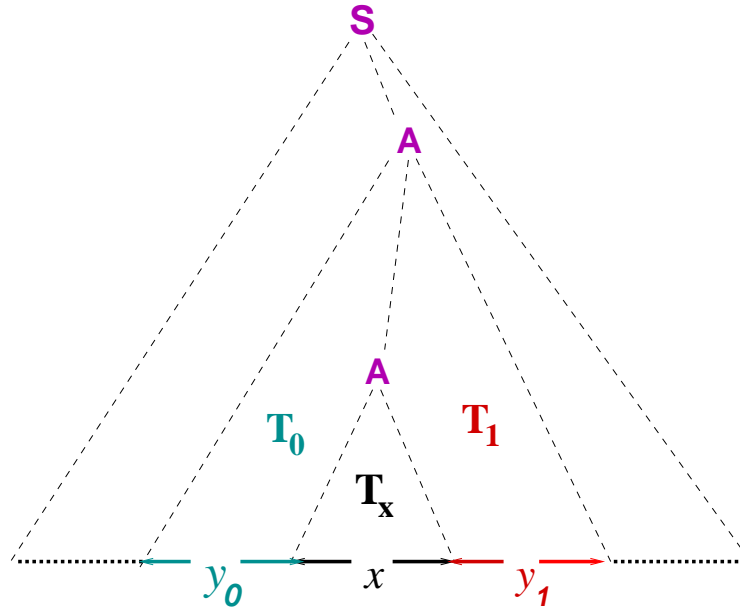
- Core idea: variable repeating on a branch.
- We'll also need to
 1. Give conditions that guarantee such a repetition
 2. Ensure that the clipping obtained is non-empty
 3. Obtain two clipped substrings that are “not too far apart”.

A repeated variable on a branch

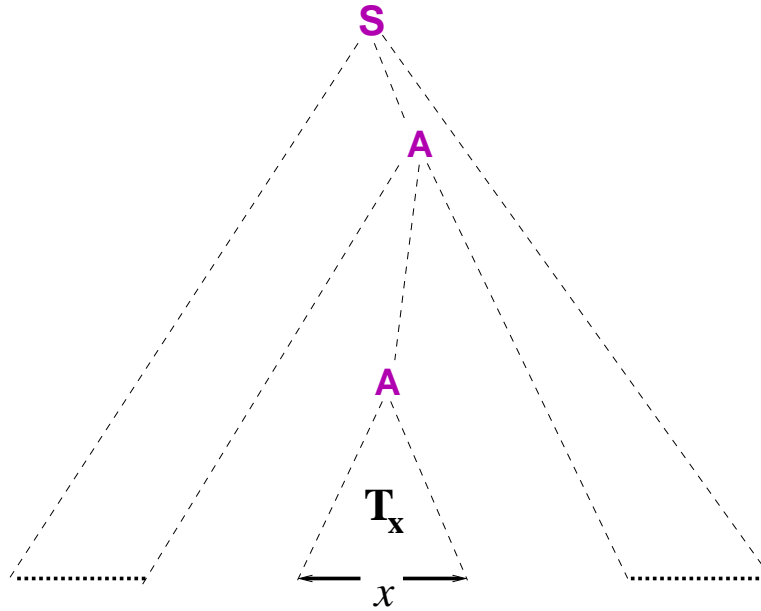
- Suppose T is a parse-tree of a CFG G for w with variable A repeating on a branch.



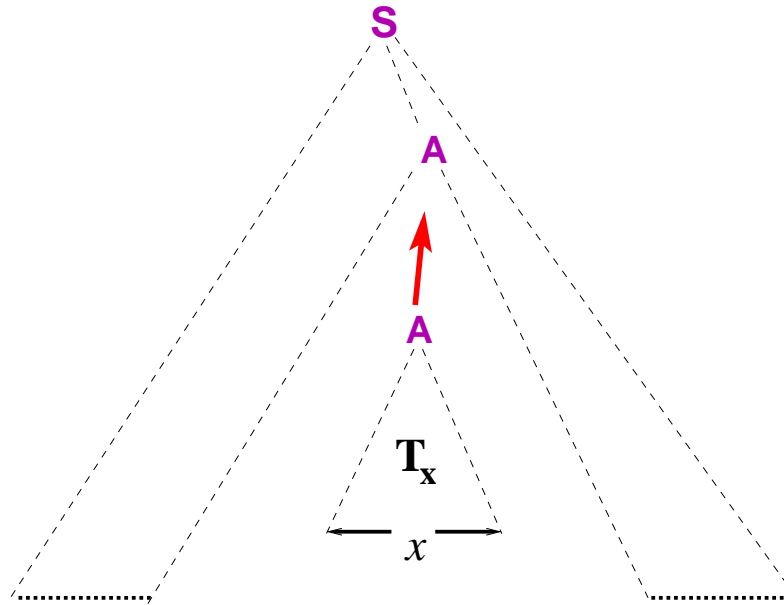
- The lower occurrence of A generates a substring x .



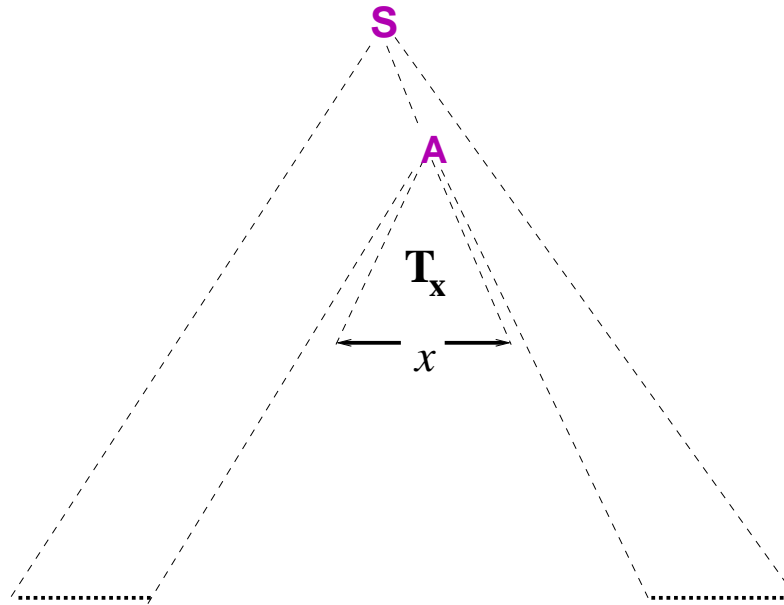
- The upper occurrence of A generates a substring $y_0 x y_1$.



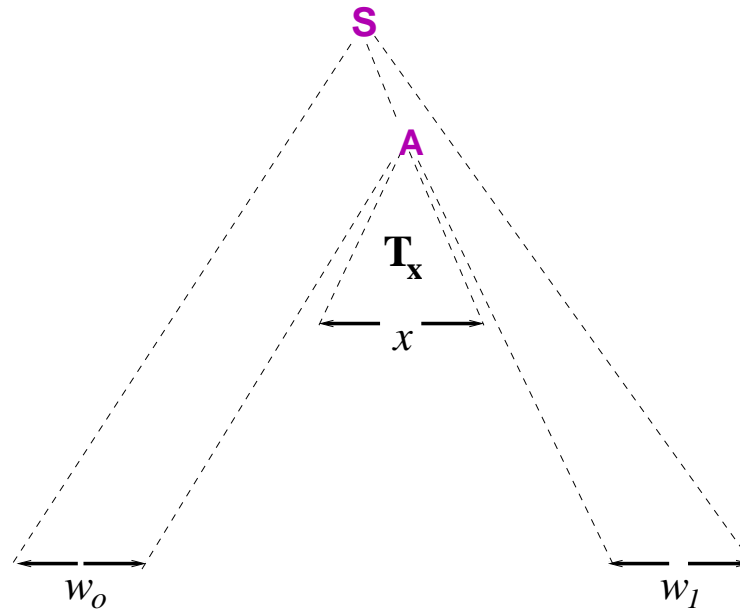
- Eliminating y_0 and y_1 yields a parse-tree except for the branch-segment between the two occurrences of A .



- So lifting the derivation from the lower occurrence of A ...



- ... results in a parse-tree for the input string with the substrings y_0 and y_1 clipped off.



- Naming the “outer” substrings of the input w_0 and w_1 , the input w is $w_0 \cdot y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1 \cdots w_1$ for some w_0, w_1 , and the resulting (clipped) string, $w_0 \cdot x \cdot w_1$, is also in L .

Ensuring a repeated variable

- Let m be the number of variables of G .
- So there are at least $m + 1$ variables on the branch for just m different variables in G .
- Some variable must be repeating!

Deriving a long string requires repetition

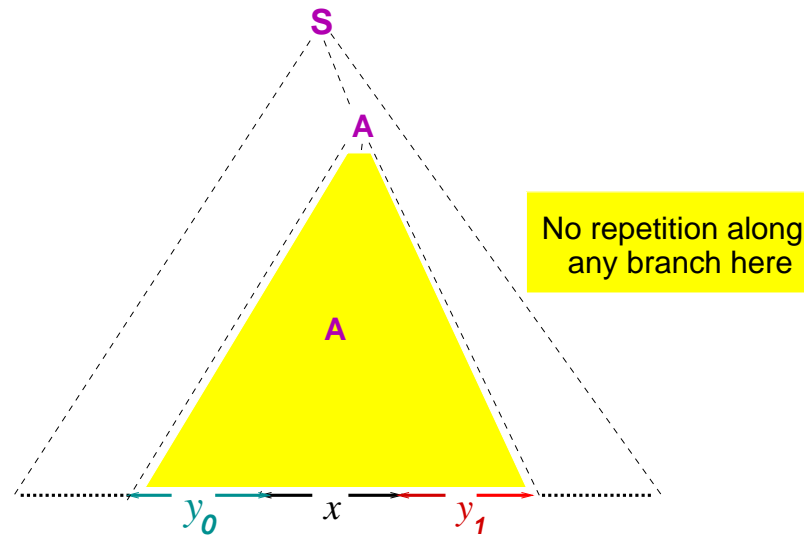
- Say that a production $X \rightarrow \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_\ell$ has **length** ℓ and that the **degree** of a grammar is the maximal length of its productions.
- A binary tree of height h has $\leq 2^h$ leaves.
Generally, a tree of degree d has $\leq d^h$ leaves.
- For a grammar of degree d and m variables any string with a parse-tree of height $\leq m$ is d^m .
- So a parse-tree for a string of length $> d^m$ must have a branch with $> m$ variables, which therefore has a variable repeating.

Ensuring non-vacuous clipping

- What if the clipped y_0, y_1 are both empty?
- Then we obtained a smaller parse-tree for w !
- If we just start with a parse-tree of G for w with a minimal number of nodes (no smaller parse-tree for w) then at least one of y_0, y_1 is non-empty.

Bounding $|y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1|$

- Claim: There must be a $y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1$ of length $\leq d^m$.
- Take a lowermost pair of a variable repeating:
there can be then no repetition on a branch under the upper occurrence.



- Then $|y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1| \leq k$.

The Dual-clipping Theorem

Dual-clipping Theorem for CFLs (Formal statement)

- **Theorem.** Let G be a CFG over Σ with m variables and of degree d (all productions are of length $\leq d$).
 - ▶ If $w \in \mathcal{L}(G)$ has length $\geq k = d^m$
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- Stated formally: w can be factored as $w = w_0 \cdot y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1 \cdot w_1$, where y_0, y_1 are not both empty and $|y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1| \leq k$, so that $w_0 \cdot x \cdot w_1 \in L$.

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- We refer to $k = d^m$ as G 's **clipping constant**, and to p as the **critical substring**.

A Dual-clipping Property

- We rephrase the Dual-clipping Theorem in terms of a language property.
- Say that a language L has the **Dual-clipping Property** if there is a k such that every $w \in L$ of length $\geq k$ has a substring $y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1$ of length $\leq k$ with $y_0 y_1 \neq \varepsilon$, for which the string w' obtained from w by removing y_0 and y_1 is also in L .

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- The Dual-Clipping Theorem for CFLs states then that every CFL has the Dual-clipping Property.
- Consequently, if a language L fails this property, then it is not CF.

Failing Dual-Clipping

- L fails the Dual-clipping Property when
 - ★ For every k we can find a $w \in L$ of length $\geq k$ so that for every substring $p = y_0 \cdot x \cdot h_1$ of w of length $\leq k$ with $y_0 y_1 \neq \varepsilon$, the string w' obtained from w by removing y_0 and y_1 is not in L .

Example: $an-bn-cn$

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4. We must show that **whatever they are**, subject to the constraints, the clipped string w' is out of L .

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- Since L fails the Dual-clipping Property, it is not CF.

The intersection of CFLs

The intersection of CFL **need not be CF!!**

-

$$L_{ab} = \{a^n b^n c^k \mid n, k \geq 0\} \text{ is CF}$$

$$L_{bc} = \{a^k b^n c^n \mid n, k \geq 0\} \text{ is CF}$$

- But their intersection

$$L_{ab} \cap L_{bc} = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\}$$

is not CF.

The complement of a CFL

The complement of a CFL **need not be CF**.

- Reason: The collection of CFLs is closed under union.
If it were closed under complement then it would be closed under intersection.
- $\neg(A \cap B) = \neg A \cup \neg B$ so $A \cap B = \neg(\neg A \cup \neg B)$
- **Specific example:** The Mahi-mahi Language is not CF.
But its complement is!

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- Since p can span at most two adjacent blocks,
removing y_0, y_1 deletes some letter (a,b,c, or d)
without deleting any corresponding one (c, d, a, or b, respectively).
- So $w' \notin L$.

Example: Alternating equals

- $\{a^i b^j c^i \mid i, j \geq 0\}$ is CF. So is $\{a^i b^j c^j d^i \mid i, j \geq 0\}$
- But $L = \{a^i b^j c^i d^j \mid i, j \geq 0\}$ is not.
- Given $k > 0$ take $w = a^k b^k c^k d^k \in L$. $w \in L, |w| \geq k$.
- If $p = y_0 \cdot x \cdot y_1$ is a substring, $y_1 y_1 z \neq \varepsilon$
let w' be obtained from w by removing y_0, y_1 .
- Since p can span at most two adjacent blocks,
removing y_0, y_1 deletes some letter (a,b,c, or d)
without deleting any corresponding one (c, d, a, or b, respectively).
- So $w' \notin L$.
- L fails the dual-clipping property, and cannot be CF.

NONDETERMINISTIC STACK ACCEPTORS (PDAs)

A missing computation model

generative

REG

operational

DFA

DFA = Deterministic Finite Acceptor

A missing computation model

generative

REG

operational

NFA

NFA = Non-deterministic Finite Acceptor

A missing computation model

generative	REG	CFL
operational	NFA	???

A missing computation model

generative	REG	CFL
operational	NFA	NSA

NSA = Non-deterministic Stack Acceptor

A missing computation model

generative	REG	CFL
operational	NFA	PDA

PDA = Push-Down Automata

Why this matters

- The primary computational characterization of:
 - regular languages: by a machine model (DFA)
 - context-free languages: by a symbolic model (CFG)
- But *parsing* for CFLs is important, and needs a machine model.
- Next: a characterization of CFLs by a machine model.
- Unfortunately, non-determinism is essential here.

Cautious extension of memory

- Approach: extend automata with an external memory.
- Limiting the space used gives us LBA (and other).
- This turns out to be too powerful.
- Alternative: limit external memory to “single-use”.

Stacks

- A stack is read from the top!
- It is unbounded (like the Turing string)
- But access destroys stored information (single use).

Traditional stack operations

- Push a symbol: $w \mapsto \sigma w$
- Pop a symbol: $\sigma w \mapsto w$
- Represent a stack by a string:
 edcba is the stack with **e** at the top, **a** at the bottom.
- The empty string ε represents the empty stack.

A combined stack-operation

- Generalize *push* to a string v_0 :

$$w \mapsto v_0 \cdot w$$

- And *pop* to a conditional string-pop u_0 :

$$u_0 \cdot w \mapsto w$$

If the top of the stack matches u_0 then pop that top.

- Combined to a single operation of Replacing a Top segment of stack:

$$u_0 \cdot x \mapsto v_0 \cdot x$$

- Meaning:

if u_0 matches a top portion of the stack

then replace it by v_0 **else skip**

- Notation: $u_0 \rightarrow v_0$.

- Examples:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \varepsilon \rightarrow 2 & 2 \rightarrow \varepsilon & 1 \rightarrow 2 & 1 \rightarrow 23 \\ 12 \rightarrow 221 & \varepsilon \rightarrow 23 & 12 \rightarrow \varepsilon & \end{array}$$

A **stack automaton (PDA)** over an alphabet Σ is a device $M = (\Sigma, Q, s, A, \Gamma, \Delta)$ where

- Q is a set, dubbed **states**
- $s \in Q$ is distinguished state, dubbed **initial** state
- $A \subseteq Q$, the set of **accepting** states
- $\Gamma \supseteq \Sigma$ is the **extended alphabet**
- Δ is a finite set of **transition rules** of the form $q \xrightarrow{\sigma(\beta \rightarrow \gamma)} p$ where

$$q, p \in Q$$

$$\sigma \in \Sigma_\epsilon = \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$$

$$\beta, \gamma \in \Gamma^*$$

Using stack as memory: an example

- Task: recognize strings $a^n b^n$ ($n \geq 1$).
- Initially the stack is empty.
- **Phase 1:**
As input is read, **a**'s are pushed on the stack.
- **Phase 2:**
When **b** is encountered, start popping **a**'s.
- **Termination:**
Input accepted if stack is empty when input scan completed.

Using a bottom-marker

- Our PDAs do not recognize an empty stack
(some varieties of PDAs do!)
- The intent of an empty stack is obtained
by reserving a symbol as bottom-of-stack marker, say \$.
- A PDA as above starts by pushing \$ on the stack,
and accepts the input if \$ is at the top of the stack
when completing the scan.

A PDA for $\{a^n b^n \mid n > 0\}$

- States: initial s , accepting f , q = pushing phase, p = popping phase
- Transitions:

$$\begin{aligned} s &\xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \$)} q && \text{(push \$)} \\ q &\xrightarrow{a(\epsilon \rightarrow a)} q && \text{(reading } a \text{'s push them)} \\ q &\xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p && \text{(on } b \text{ pop } a \text{ \& switch state)} \\ p &\xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p && \text{(reading } b \text{'s pop } a \text{'s)} \\ p &\xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f && \text{(if \$ tops stack accept)} \end{aligned}$$

A PDA for $\{a^n b^n \mid n > 0\}$

- States: initial s , accepting f , q = pushing phase, p = popping phase

- Transitions:

$s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \$)} q$ (push $\$$)

$q \xrightarrow{a(\epsilon \rightarrow a)} q$ (reading a 's push them)

$q \xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$ (on b pop a & switch state)

$p \xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$ (reading b 's pop a 's)

$p \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f$ (if $\$$ tops stack accept)

- If $\$$ is read while some b 's unread ($\#_b > \#_a$) then reading is incomplete, so no acceptance.

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$p \xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$ (reading b 's pop a 's)

$p \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f$ (if $\$$ tops stack accept)

- If popping is not completed ($\#_a > \#_b$)
then $\$$ is not reach, so no accept state.

A PDA for $\{a^n b^n \mid n > 0\}$

- States: initial s , accepting f , q = pushing phase, p = popping phase

- Transitions:

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- If a b is followed by a
then computation aborts: no production for p reading a .

PDA semantics: configurations and yield

- A **configuration** of a PDA is a triplet (q, w, α) where $q \in Q$, $w \in \Sigma^*$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma^*$.
- The intent:
 - q is the current state
 - w is the remaining portion of the input (from cursor on)
 - α is a string representing the stack, from top to bottom.

PDA semantics: configurations and yield

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- The intent:
 - q is the current state
 - w is the remaining portion of the input (from cursor on)
 - α is a string representing the stack, from top to bottom.
- The transition rules generate a yield relation \Rightarrow between configurations:
 - If $q \xrightarrow{\sigma(\alpha \rightarrow \beta)} p$
 - then $(q, \sigma x, \alpha \cdot \gamma) \Rightarrow (p, x, \beta \cdot \gamma)$
(for all $x \in \Sigma^*$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$).

PDA semantics: recognized languages

- The **initial configuration** for input w is (s, w, ε)

PDA semantics: recognized languages

- The **initial configuration** for input w is (s, w, ε)
- An input string $w \in \Sigma^*$ is **accepted** if
$$(s, w, \varepsilon) \Rightarrow^* (a, \varepsilon, \gamma)$$
for some accepting state $a \in A$ and some $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$.

PDA semantics: recognized languages

- The **initial configuration** for input w is (s, w, ε)
- An input string $w \in \Sigma^*$ is **accepted** if $(s, w, \varepsilon) \Rightarrow^* (a, \varepsilon, \gamma)$ for some accepting state $a \in A$ and some $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$.
- A cfg $c = (q, w, \gamma)$ is **terminal** if there is no cfg c' where $c \Rightarrow_M c'$.
if in addition $q \in A$ $w = \varepsilon$ then it is **accepting**.

Examples of traces

Recall the transitions

$$\begin{array}{l} s \xrightarrow{a(\epsilon \rightarrow a\$)} q \\ q \xrightarrow{a(\epsilon \rightarrow a)} q \\ q \xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} p \xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p \\ p \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f \end{array}$$

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A trace for **aabb**:

$$\begin{aligned} (s, aabb, \epsilon) &\Rightarrow (q, abb, a\$) \\ &\Rightarrow (q, bb, aa\$) \\ &\Rightarrow (p, b, a\$) \\ &\Rightarrow (p, \epsilon, \$) \\ &\Rightarrow (f, \epsilon, \epsilon) \end{aligned}$$

Examples of traces

Recall the transitions

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Non-accepting traces:

$$\begin{array}{l} (s, \mathbf{aab}, \epsilon) \Rightarrow (q, \mathbf{ab}, a\$) \\ \quad \Rightarrow (q, \mathbf{b}, aa\$) \\ \quad \Rightarrow (p, \epsilon, a\$) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} (s, \mathbf{abb}, \epsilon) \Rightarrow (q, \mathbf{bb}, a\$) \\ \quad \Rightarrow (q, \mathbf{b}, \$) \end{array}$$

Example: Palindromes around c

- Construct a PDA to recognize $\{w \cdot c \cdot w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$

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- **Algorithm:** Push successive input symbols.
When reading **c** switch to a new state,
match subsequent input symbols with the top of the stack,
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Example: Palindromes around c

- Construct a PDA to recognize $\{w \cdot c \cdot w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$
- **Algorithm:** Push successive input symbols.
When reading c switch to a new state,
match subsequent input symbols with the top of the stack,
popping the top.

$s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \$)} q$ (place a marker $\$$ on the stack)

$q \xrightarrow{\sigma(\epsilon \rightarrow \sigma)} q$ (push next letter)

$q \xrightarrow{c(\epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$ (if c , switch to state p)

$p \xrightarrow{\sigma(\sigma \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$ (if letter matches stack-top pop it, else abort)

$p \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f$ (accept if top is $\$$)

And if the center is absent?

- $\{w \cdot w^R \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$.
- Use **nondeterminism!**
- Replace $q \xrightarrow{c(\epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$ above by
by $q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$
- The resulting PDA:

$$\begin{array}{l} s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \$)} q \\ q \xrightarrow{\sigma(\epsilon \rightarrow \sigma)} q \quad (\sigma = a, b) \\ q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon)} p \\ p \xrightarrow{\sigma(\sigma \rightarrow \epsilon)} p \quad (\sigma = a, b) \\ p \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f \end{array}$$

Repeated use of nondeterminism

- Consider $\{a^n b^m \in \Sigma^* \mid m \leq n \leq 2m\}$
- What stack algorithm would work?

Repeated use of nondeterminism

- $\{a^n b^m \in \Sigma^* \mid m \leq n \leq 2m\}$
- What stack algorithm would work?
- Use four states s, q, p, f , s initial, s, f accepting.
- Transition rules:

$$\begin{array}{ll} s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \$)} q & p \xrightarrow{b(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} p \\ q \xrightarrow{a(\epsilon \rightarrow a)} q & p \xrightarrow{b(aa \rightarrow \epsilon)} p \\ q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon)} p & p \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f \end{array}$$

- M pushes the a 's being read,
switches nondeterministically to a “ b -reading state” p
which empties the stack while reading b 's,
popping either a single a or two tta 's at a time.

From CFGs to PDAs

- **THEOREM.** Every CFL is recognized by some PDA.
- For each CFG G we construct a PDA M , so that $\mathcal{L}(G) = \mathcal{L}(M)$.
- Motivating example:
 G has rules $S \rightarrow aSb$ and $S \rightarrow \varepsilon$.
- Initial idea:
 generate on the stack a random string x ,
 then compare x to the input w .
- A marker $\$$ used for stack bottom,
 and completion is then detectable.
- What's wrong here?

Alternating between generation and consumption

- What's wrong:
 - We'd need to apply the rules of G deep in the stack.
- But there is no need to wait:
 - we can compare the (randomly) generate string as soon as feasible.

•

	Input	Stack	
	aabb	S\$	
	aabb	aSb\$	generate
compare	abb	Sb\$	
	abb	aSbb\$	generate
compare	bb	Sbb\$	
	bb	bb\$	generate
compare	b	b\$	
compare	ϵ	\$	

*PDA*s recognize all CFLs

- Let $G = (R, N, S)$ be a CFG over Σ .
Define a PDA M to recognize $\mathcal{L}(G)$.

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 s initial, f accepting.
Auxiliary symbols: variables of G and $\$$.

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- Transition rules:
 - **Initializing** the stack: $s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow S\$)} q$

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– **Initializing** the stack: $s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow S\$)} q$

– For each production $A \rightarrow \alpha$: $q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(A \rightarrow \alpha)} q$

I.e., if stack-top is variable A , apply a production of G .

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– **Initializing** the stack: $s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow S\$)} q$

– For each production $A \rightarrow \alpha$: $q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(A \rightarrow \alpha)} q$
I.e., if stack-top is variable A , apply a production of G .

– For each $\sigma \in \Sigma$: $q \xrightarrow{\sigma(\sigma \rightarrow \epsilon)} q$
I.e., if stack-top is a terminal σ *matching current input symbol*,
then σ is **read off input**, and popped off the stack.

– Acceptance: $q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f$

Example

- Grammar G : $S \rightarrow aSb \mid \epsilon$

$$\begin{array}{ll} s \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\epsilon \rightarrow S\$)} q & q \xrightarrow{a(a \rightarrow \epsilon)} q \\ q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(S \rightarrow aSb)} q & q \xrightarrow{b(b \rightarrow \epsilon)} q \\ q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(S \rightarrow \epsilon)} q & q \xrightarrow{\epsilon(\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f \end{array}$$

- The PDA obtained:

- Here is a derivation of **aabb** in G
and the corresponding trace of M :

	$(s, aabb, \varepsilon)$	
S	$(q, aabb, S\$)$	
aSb	$(q, aabb, aSb\$)$	generate
	$(q, abb, Sb\$)$	
aaSbb	$(q, abb, aSbb\$)$	generate
	$(q, bb, Sbb\$)$	
aabb	$(q, bb, bb\$)$	generate
	$(q, b, b\$)$	
	$(q, \varepsilon, \$)$	
	$(f, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$	

Converting PDAs to CFGs

- We already had a conversion from NFAs to regular expressions.
- For pairs (q, p) of states we assigned the language of strings leading from q to p via deleted states.
- A pre-processor guaranteed that the language assigned to the pair (s, a) (i.e. *start* to *accept*) is the language recognized by the given NFA.
- For pairs (q, p) of states let L_{qp} consist of the strings w leading from q with an empty stack to p with an empty stack:
$$L_{qp} = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid (q, w, \varepsilon) \Rightarrow^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)\}$$
- Note that if $(q, w, \varepsilon) \Rightarrow (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ then $(q, w, \alpha) \Rightarrow (p, w, \alpha)$ for all stack α .

A pre-processor

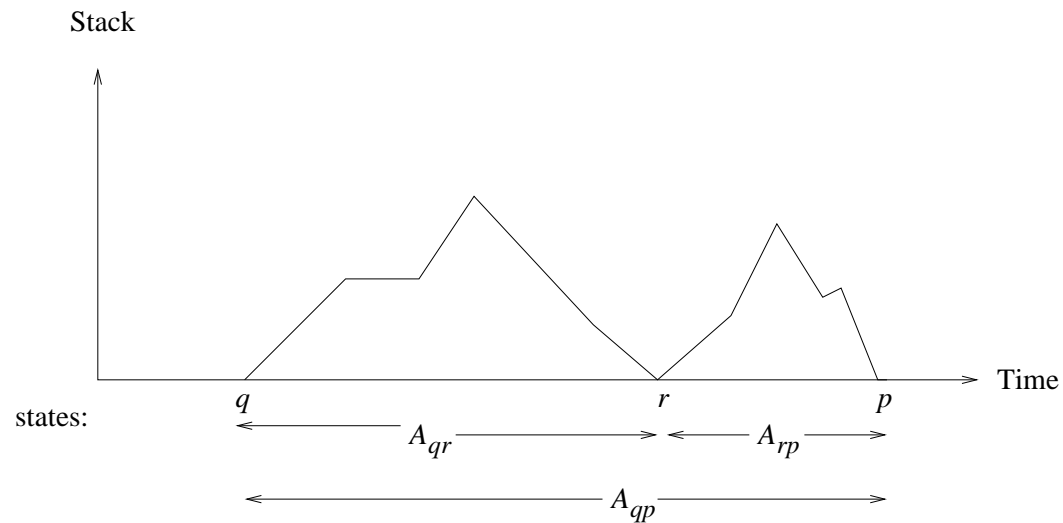
- Converting NFA to equivalent RegExp we pre-processed.
- Here convert given PDA M to one that
 1. has all stack operations broken push and pop of one symbol;
 2. accepts a string only when the stack is empty.
- (1) helps us restrict attention to basic changes in the stack.
(2) enables focusing on traces that start and end with empty stack.
- A PDA M can be converted into an equivalent one satisfying (1) by breaking compound $u_0 \rightarrow v_0$ into single-letter push and pop.
- (2) is obtained by adding transitions that empty the stack when M accepts.

Generating simultaneously the languages L_{qp}

- We use productions to code a generative definition of the languages L_{qp} .
- Right off we have, for each state q , $(q, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} (q, \varepsilon)$.
I.e. $\varepsilon \in L_{qq}$.
- So we include in our grammar, for each state q ,
the production $A_{qq} \rightarrow \varepsilon$.

Concatenation

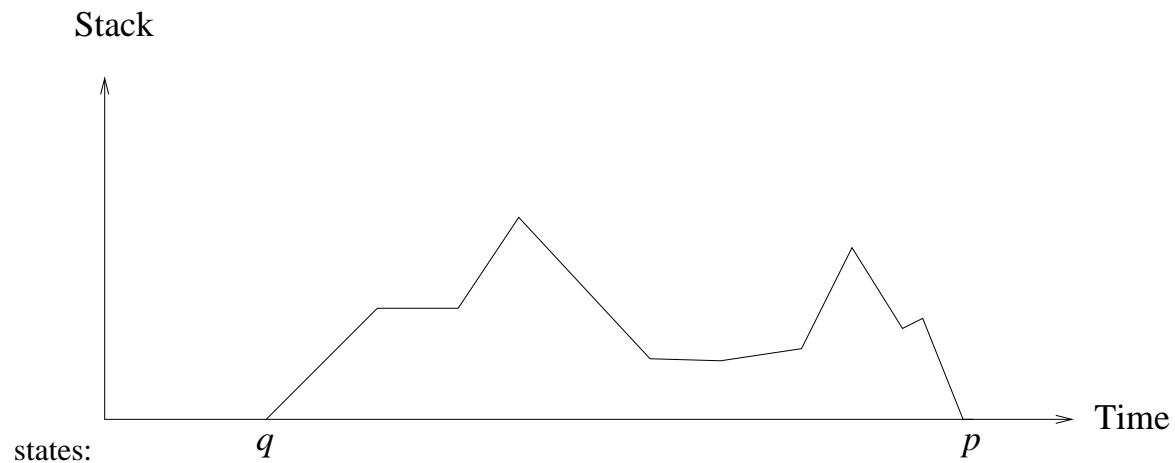
- If $(q, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{u} (r, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{v} (p, \varepsilon)$ then $(q, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{u \cdot v} (p, \varepsilon)$.
- In other words, if we already have that
 $A_{qr} \Rightarrow^* u$ and $A_{rp} \Rightarrow^* v$,
then we should have $A_{qp} \Rightarrow^* u \cdot v$.
- This is achieved by including the production $A_{qp} \rightarrow A_{qr} A_{rp}$



- We include this production for each combination of q, r, p .

Productions for stack operations

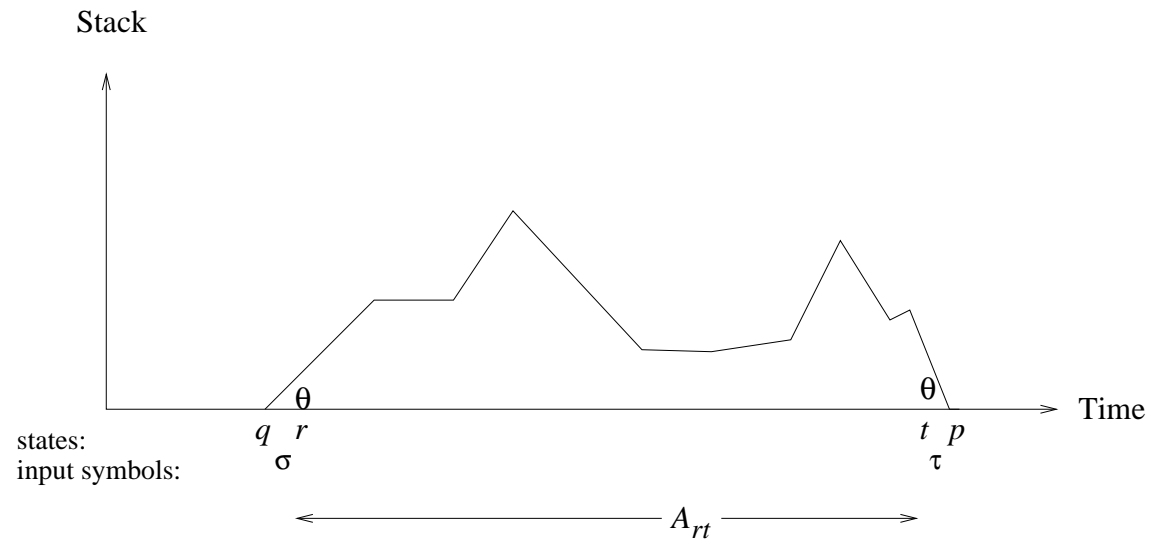
- So far we have looked at productions that apply to any PDA.
- Suppose $(q, w, \varepsilon) \Rightarrow^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$.
If the computation trace has an empty stack along the way,
i.e. a configuration (r, v, ε) with $w = u \cdot v$,
then the concatenation production will yield w .
- If not, then we have

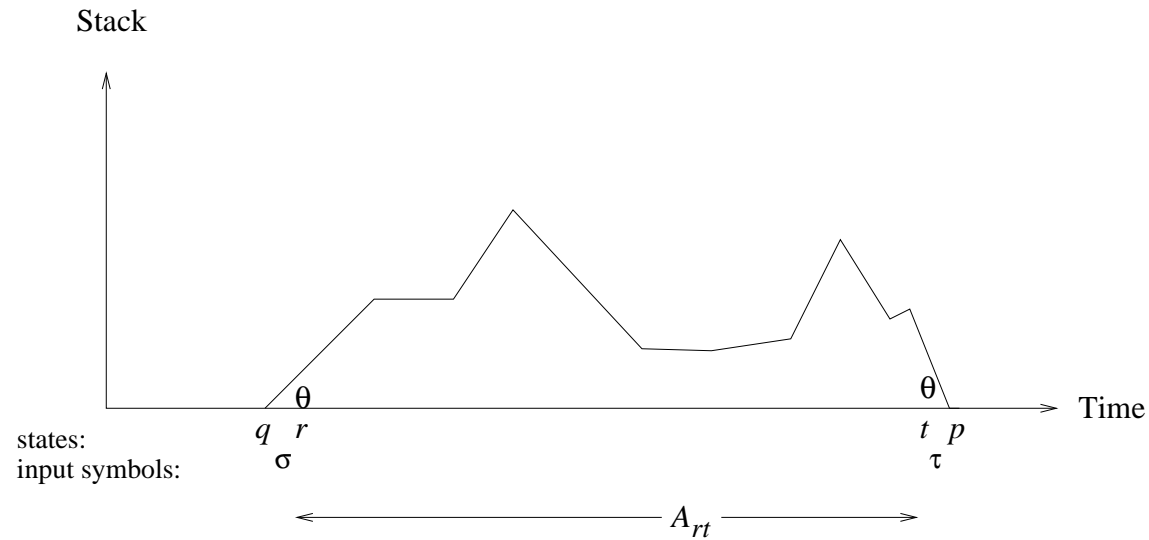


- The first move in this trace must read a symbol $\sigma \in \Sigma_\epsilon$, and push some symbol θ on the stack.
- The last move must then read some symbol $\tau \in \Sigma_\epsilon$ which causes M to pop that θ (which is undisturbed through the trace). That is, for some states r, t :

$$(q, \sigma v, \epsilon) \Rightarrow (r, v, \theta)$$

$$(t, \tau, \theta) \Rightarrow (p, \epsilon, \epsilon)$$





- This is conveyed by the production $A_{qp} \rightarrow \sigma A_{rt} \tau$.
- In general, whenever M has rules

$$q \xrightarrow{\sigma(\epsilon \rightarrow \theta)} r \quad \text{and} \quad t \xrightarrow{\tau(\theta \rightarrow \epsilon)} p$$

with the same θ in both, the grammar G has the production $A_{qp} \rightarrow \sigma A_{rt} \tau$.

Proof concluded

- By induction on traces of M we obtain that, for all $q, p \in Q$

$$A_{qp} \Rightarrow_G^* w \quad \text{IFF} \quad (q, w, \varepsilon) \rightarrow_M^* (p, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

- When q, p are the initial and accepting states s, f

$$A_{sf} \Rightarrow_G^* w \quad (G \text{ generates } w) \text{ iff} \\ (s, w, \varepsilon) \rightarrow_M^* (f, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \quad (M \text{ accepts } w),$$

Example

- Let M over $\{a, b, c\}$ have the following transition rules.

$$1. \quad s \xrightarrow{\epsilon (\epsilon \rightarrow \$)} q$$

$$2. \quad q \xrightarrow{a (\epsilon \rightarrow a)} q$$

$$3. \quad q \xrightarrow{c (\epsilon \rightarrow b)} p$$

$$4. \quad p \xrightarrow{\epsilon (b \rightarrow \epsilon)} r$$

$$5. \quad r \xrightarrow{b (a \rightarrow \epsilon)} r$$

$$6. \quad r \xrightarrow{\epsilon (\$ \rightarrow \epsilon)} f$$

- The construction above yields the following grammar

$$A_{tt} \rightarrow \epsilon \quad (\text{all states } t)$$

$$A_{tu} \rightarrow A_{tv} A_{vu} \quad (\text{all states } t, u, v)$$

(with initial variable A_{sf}) $A_{qr} \rightarrow a A_{qr} b$ (pushing and popping a , rules 2 and

$$A_{qr} \rightarrow c A_{pp} \epsilon \quad (\text{pushing and popping } b, \text{ rules 3 and$$

$$A_{sf} \rightarrow \epsilon A_{qr} \epsilon \quad (\text{pushing and popping } \$, \text{ rules 1 and$$

Little puzzles about PDAs

- Suppose M is a PDA that does not use its stack.
What does M recognize?
- Suppose M is a PDA that uses its stack only up to depth 1000.
What sort of language does M recognize?
- Suppose M is a super-PDA, that uses two stacks.
What sort of language does M recognize?

Little puzzles about PDAs

- For a DFA M recognizing $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$,
we obtained an automaton \bar{M} recognizing $\bar{L} = \Sigma^* - L$
by flipping accepting and non-accepting states.

For PDAs we can't, since the complement of a CFL need not be CF.

What's wrong with the same sort of flipping for PDAs?

Little puzzles about PDAs

- For DFAs M, N we constructed a product DFA that recognizes $\mathcal{L}(M) \cap \mathcal{L}(N)$.

Why can't we use the same idea to build, for PDAs M, N a PDA that recognizes $\mathcal{L}(M) \cap \mathcal{L}(N)$?

The intersection of a CFL and a regular language

- But what if N does not use its stack?
- **Theorem.** *The intersection of a CFL and a regular language is CF.*

Examples of intersecting CF with Reg

1. $L = \{w \in \{a, b, c\} \mid \#_a(w) = \#_b(w) = \#_c(w)\}$

We have $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\} = L \cap \mathcal{L}(a^* \cdot b^* \cdot c^*)$

So L cannot be CF.

Examples of intersecting CF with Reg

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We have $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\} = L \cap \mathcal{L}(a^* \cdot b^* \cdot c^*)$

So L cannot be CF.

(Why is this example a bit silly?)

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We have $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\} = L \cap \mathcal{L}(a^* \cdot b^* \cdot c^*)$

So L cannot be CF.

2. Suppose $L \subseteq \Gamma^*$ is recognized by a PDA.

If $\Sigma \subset \Gamma$, what about the set of Σ -strings in L ?

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1. $L = \{w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \mid \#_a(w) = \#_b(w) = \#_c(w)\}$

We have $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 0\} = L \cap \mathcal{L}(a^* \cdot b^* \cdot c^*)$

So L cannot be CF.

2. Suppose $L \subseteq \Gamma^*$ is recognized by a PDA.

If $\Sigma \subset \Gamma$, what about the set of Σ -strings in L ?

It is $L \cap \Sigma^*$, and therefore CF.

The Chomsky Hierarchy

So far: two classes of languages

LANGUAGE CLASS:	Regular	Context-free
GRAMMARS:	regular grammars	CF grammars
MACHINES:	DFA=NFA	PDA
MEMORY:	internal	stack
ACCESS:	on-line	on-line + stack

Revisiting our non-CF grammar

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow \varepsilon \mid SABC \\ AB &\rightarrow BA & BA &\rightarrow AB \\ AC &\rightarrow CA & CA &\rightarrow AC \\ BC &\rightarrow CB & CB &\rightarrow BC \\ A &\rightarrow a \\ B &\rightarrow b \\ C &\rightarrow c \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathcal{L}(G) = \{w \in \{a, b, c\}^* \mid \#_a(w) = \#_b(w) = \#_c(w)\}$ is not context free.

The context-sensitive languages

- A grammar is **context sensitive** (a CSG) if all its productions are of the form $uAv \rightarrow uxv$.
- This is just like a CFG, except that rules $A \rightarrow x$ may be restricted to a *context* $u \cdots v$, where u, v are strings of terminals.
- These are the **context-sensitive languages (CSL's)**.
- **Theorem.**
A language is context-sensitive iff it is recognized by an LBA.

A larger table

LANGUAGE CLASS:	Regular	CFL	CSL
GRAMMARS:	regular	CF	CS
MACHINES:	DFA=NFA	NFA + stack	LBA
MEMORY:	internal	stack	on-site
ACCESS:	on-line	on-line + stack	two-way

LANGUAGE CLASS:	Regular	Context-free	Context-sensitive
GRAMMARS:	regular grammars	CF grammars	CS grammars
MACHINES:	DFA=NFA	NFA + stack	LBA
MEMORY:	internal	stack	on-site
ACCESS:	on-line	on-line + stack	two-way
SMTH NEW:		$a^n b^n$	$a^n b^n c^n$

- This is a *strict hierarchy*:
every level contains the previous plus more.

