

# COL352 Problem Sheet 4

March 21, 2025

**Problem 1.** Show that the following languages are not Context-free.

1.  $L_1 = \{a^m b^n \mid mn \text{ is the square of an integer}\}$  is not context-free.  $ab^{k^2}$
2.  $L_2 = \{x \in \{0,1\}^* \mid x \text{ is the binary representation of } 3^{n^2} \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}$
3.  $L_3 = \{a^m b^n \mid n \text{ is a multiple of } m\}$  —
4.  $L_4 = \{x \in \{a,b\}^* \mid \# \text{ of } a\text{'s in } x \text{ is a multiple of } \# \text{ of } b\text{'s in } x\}$  —
5.  $L_5 = \{xyx \mid x, y \in \{0,1\}^* \text{ and } |x| > 0, |y| > 0\}$

**Problem 2.** The strict shuffle of two strings  $x = x[1] \dots x[n]$  and  $y = y[1] \dots y[n]$  of equal length is defined as  $sshuffle(x, y) = x[1]y[1]x[2]y[2] \dots x[n]y[n]$ . The strict shuffle of two languages  $L_1, L_2 \subseteq \Sigma^*$  is defined as  $sshuffle(L_1, L_2) = \{sshuffle(x, y) \mid x \in L_1, y \in L_2, |x| = |y|\}$ . Is the class of context-free languages closed under the  $sshuffle$  operation? Prove your answer.

**Problem 3.** We say that  $z$  is a shuffle of  $x$  and  $y$  if the characters in  $x$  and  $y$  can be interleaved, while maintaining their relative order within  $x$  and  $y$ , to get  $z$ . Formally, if  $|x| = m$  and  $|y| = n$ , then  $|z|$  must be  $m + n$ , and it should be possible to partition the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, m + n\}$  into two increasing sequences,  $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_m$  and  $j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_n$ , such that  $z[i_k] = x[k]$  and  $z[j_k] = y[k]$  for all  $k$ . Given two languages  $L_1, L_2 \subseteq \Sigma^*$ , define

$$shuffle(L_1, L_2) = \{z \in \Sigma^* \mid z \text{ is a shuffle of some } x \in L_1 \text{ and some } y \in L_2\}.$$

Is the class of context-free languages closed under the  $sshuffle$  operation? Prove your answer.

**Problem 4.** Let  $G = (V, \Sigma, R, S)$  be a grammar. Prove that for every  $x \in L(G)$ , there exists a parse tree of  $G$  with root  $S$ , yield  $x$ , and height at most  $|V| \cdot (|x| + 1)$ .

**Problem 5.** Let us say that an NPDA is a binary stack NPDA if the size of its set of stack symbols  $\Gamma$  is 2; assume  $\Gamma = \{0, 1\}$  for concreteness. Prove that binary stack NPDAs and NPDAs are equivalent in terms of computation power.

**Problem 6.** An  $n$ -stack PDA is like a regular PDA except that it has  $n$  stacks instead of one.

1. Show that for all  $n$ , an  $n$ -stack PDA could be simulated by a 2-stack PDA.
2. Show that anything that can be computed by a Turing machine can be computed by a 2-stack PDA.

**Problem 7.** Prove that each of the following functions is computable (You can assume that  $x, y$  are positive integers given in their binary representation, and you need the answer in binary representation too).

1.  $x - 1$  (assuming  $x > 0$ )
2.  $x + y$
3.  $x \times y$
4.  $x^y$

**Problem 8.** Show that every language in Problem 1 can be decided by a Turing machine.

1.  $L_1 = \{a^m b^n \mid mn \text{ is the square of an integer}\}$  is not context-free.

Sol<sup>n</sup>) Let  $L = L_1 \cap \{a^* b\} = \{a^{n^2} b \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}$

Claim:-  $L$  is NOT CFL

Adversary:- choose  $k$

Me:- Take  $a^{k^2} b$

Adversary choose  $xuvwz = a^{k^2} b$  s.t.  $|uvw| > 0$   
and  $|uvw| \leq k$

Me:- if NO  $b$  in  $uvw$   
 $\Rightarrow$  for  $i=2 \neq b=1$ ,  $\neq a < (k+1)^2$

if NO  $a$  if  $uvw \Rightarrow b \in uvw$   $z = \epsilon$   
 $\Rightarrow i=2 \Rightarrow a^{k^2} b^2$  not square

if

3.  $L_3 = \{a^m b^n \mid n \text{ is a multiple of } m\}$

$$S = a^{k^2} b^{k^3}$$

$$k^2 + \mu(i-1) \mid k^3 + \lambda(i-1)$$

$$k^3 + k\mu(i-1) \\ k^2 + \mu(i-1) \mid (k\mu - \lambda)(i-1)$$

$$k^2 + \mu(i-1) > (k\mu - 1)(i-1)$$

$$k^2 > (i-1)(k_{\mu}-\lambda-\mu)$$

$$k^2 > k_{\mu} - \lambda - \mu > k_{\mu} - k$$

$$k > \mu - 1$$

$$a^m \quad b^{mk}$$

$$w \cdot w \leq xyx$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a^k & b^k & a^{k+1} \\ x & y & x \end{array}$$

$$\underbrace{0^n 1^n} \quad , \quad 0^n 1^n$$

$$0^n \underbrace{1^n}_y 0^n 1^n$$

$$0^n 1^n \underbrace{1^n}_y 0^n 1^n$$

$$0^n 1^n \quad , \quad 0^n \underbrace{1^n}_y$$

$$0^n 1^n \quad , \quad \underbrace{0^n 1^n}_y$$

### Shortest

Consider  $n \in L$  with a parse tree  
derivation  $S \xrightarrow{h} n$   
of height  $h$

If  $h > |x| + 1$

Consider the longest path in this parse tree

It has height  $h \Rightarrow h-1$  nonterminals on it  
and 1 terminal.

# non-terminal  $\geq |x| + 1$

$\Rightarrow \exists$  a nonterminal say  $V$  occurring at least  $|x| + 1$  times.

Consider all the occurrences of  $V$

$S \rightarrow v_1 \dots \underbrace{v_1}_{(1)} \dots v_2 \dots \underbrace{v_2}_{(1)} \dots v_3 \dots \underbrace{v_k}_{(1)} \dots \xrightarrow{|x|+1} \epsilon$   
 $k > |x| + 1$

Claim:- In the derivation  $v_i \rightarrow x v_{i+1} y$  when  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$   
,  $|x|, |y| > 0$

Proof:- Assume  $|x| = 0$

$\Rightarrow v_i \rightarrow v_{i+1}$  Contradiction to this being  
smallest parse tree.

$$|x| \geq k - 1$$

$$h \leq (k - 1)|x| \leq |x| + 1$$

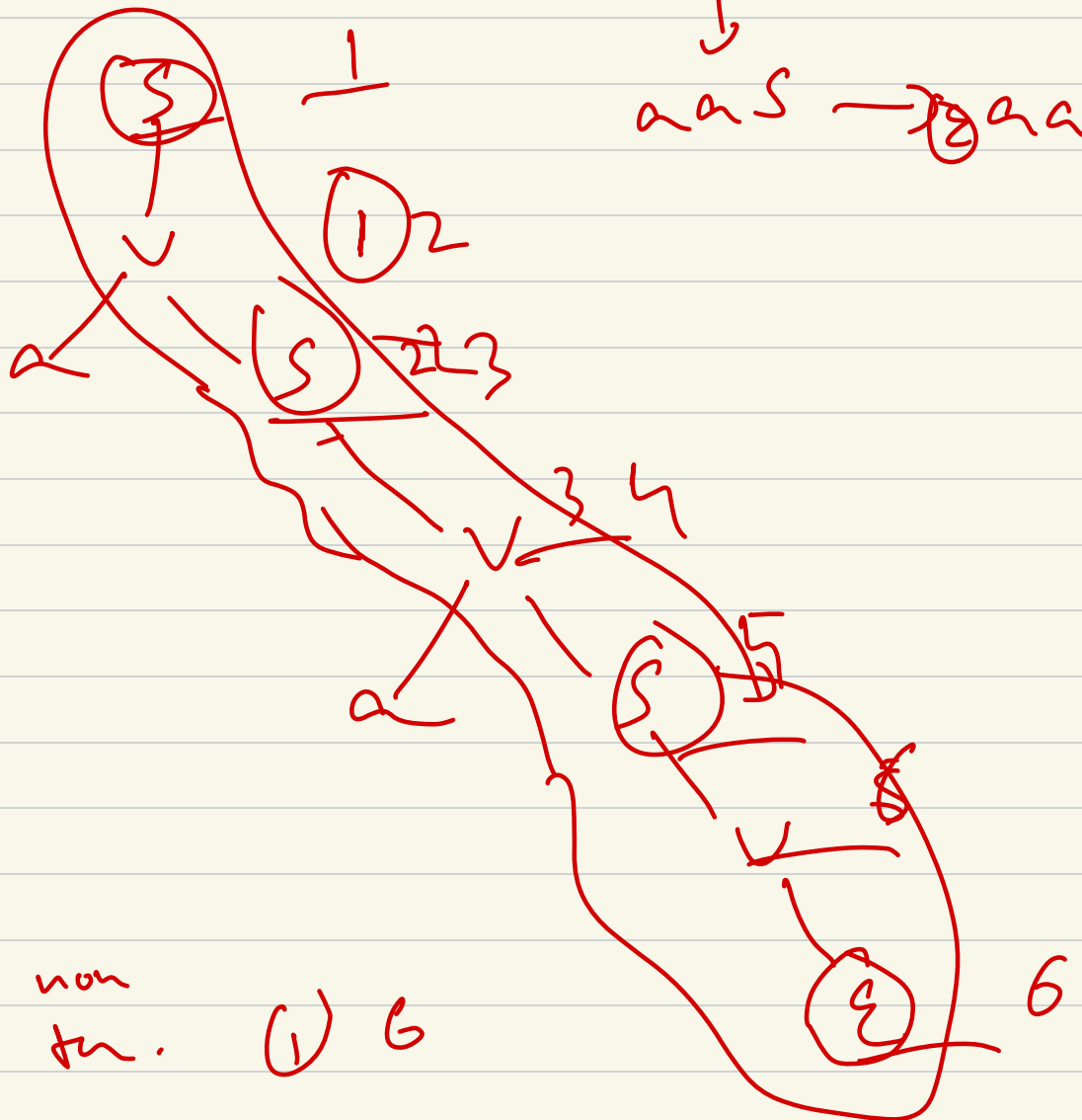
$$S \rightarrow Y$$

$$Y \rightarrow aS \mid \epsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow Y \rightarrow aS \rightarrow aV$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$aaS \rightarrow \epsilon aa$$



G may non  
 det. (1) G

Consider the smallest derivation of  $\alpha$  in  $G$ .

In the parse tree consider the longest branch of non-terminal starting at  $S$  to a terminal (may be  $\epsilon$ ). This has height  $n$ .

Consider  $x \in L(G)$  with a parse tree of it with smallest height  $h$ . .. (1)  
 ie.  $S \xrightarrow{h} x$

Consider the path from  $S$  to a character /  $\epsilon$  in  $x$  in the parse tree of longest length =  $h$ .

On this path NonTerminals =  $h$  and Terminal = 1 (maybe  $\epsilon$ )

Since total non-terminals =  $|x|$ .

$\Rightarrow \exists P \in V$  s.t. it occurs  $\lceil h/|x| \rceil$  no. of times on this path. Let  $k = \lceil \frac{h}{|x|} \rceil$

Consider the  $k$  distinct occurrence of  $P$  as  $P_1 \dots P_k$  and

$S \xrightarrow{*} \alpha_1 P_1 \beta_1 \xrightarrow{*} \alpha_1 \alpha_2 P_2 \beta_2 \beta_1 \dots \rightarrow \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_i P_i \beta_i \dots \beta_1$   
 $\dots \rightarrow \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_k P_k \beta_k \dots \beta_1 \xrightarrow{*} x$

Consider any 2 consecutive occurrence of  $P$ . ( $1 \leq i \leq k-1$ )

$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_i P_i \beta_i \beta_{i+1} \dots \beta_1 \xrightarrow{*} \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_i \alpha_{i+1} P_{i+1} \beta_{i+1} \dots \beta_1$

Clearly we have  $P_i \xrightarrow{*} \alpha_{i+1} P_{i+1} \beta_{i+1}$

Claim:-  $|\alpha_{i+1} \beta_{i+1}| > 0$

Proof:- If not then  $\alpha_{i+1} \beta_{i+1} = \epsilon \Rightarrow P_i \rightarrow P_{i+1}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  Parse tree can be shortened. Contradiction to (1)

$$\Rightarrow |K_{in} \beta_{in}| \geq 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  atleast 1 character gets added b/w 2 leaves.

$\Rightarrow$  leaves  $\Rightarrow$   $k-1$  char get added.

$$\Rightarrow |x| \geq k-1$$

$$\Rightarrow (|x|+1) \geq \left\lceil \frac{h}{|x|} \right\rceil$$

$$\Rightarrow N(|x|+1) \geq h$$

$h.p.$



$$p + \lambda(i-1) \mid p q + \lambda \mu(i-1)$$

$$-p\mu$$

$$p + \lambda(i-1) \mid p q - \mu$$

$$i = 2$$