PDAs Accept Context-Free Languages

Theorem:

Context-Free
Languages
(Grammars)

Languages
Accepted by
PDAs

Proof - Step 1:

Convert any context-free grammar G to a PDA M with: L(G) = L(M)

Proof - Step 2:

Context-Free
Languages
(Grammars)

Languages
Accepted by
PDAs

Convert any PDA M to a context-free grammar G with: L(G) = L(M)

Proof - step 1

Convert

Context-Free Grammars
to
PDAs

Take an arbitrary context-free grammar G

We will convert G to a PDA M such that:

$$L(G) = L(M)$$

Conversion Procedure:

For each For each production in G terminal in G $A \rightarrow w$ Add transitions $\varepsilon, A \rightarrow w$ $a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$ $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$

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Grammar

$$S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$S \rightarrow b$$

$$T \rightarrow Ta$$

$$T \to \varepsilon$$

Example

PDA

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

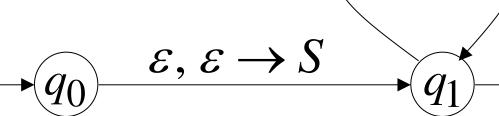
$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$



$$\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$$

PDA simulates leftmost derivations

Grammar Leftmost Derivation

$$\rightarrow \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k X_1 \cdots X_m$$

$$\Rightarrow \cdots$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n$$

Scanned symbols

PDA Computation

$$(q_0, \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \$)$$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, S\$)$$

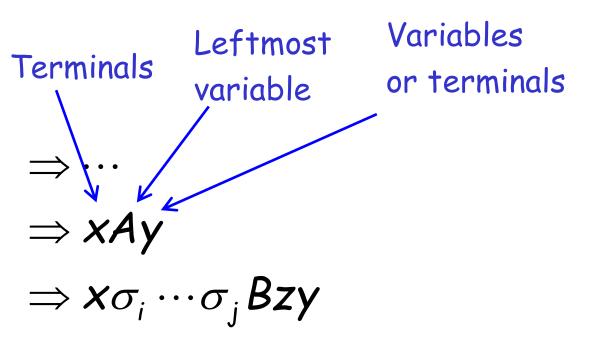
$$\succ \cdots$$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_n, X_1 \cdots X_m \$)$$

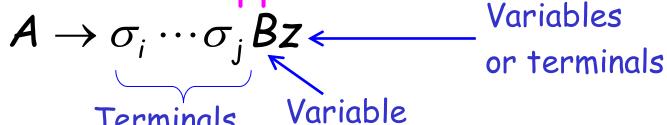
$$\succ (q_2, \varepsilon, \$)$$

Stack
contents
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Grammar Leftmost Derivation



Production applied



Grammar Leftmost Derivation

PDA Computation

$$\Rightarrow \cdots$$

$$\Rightarrow xAy$$

$$\Rightarrow x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$$

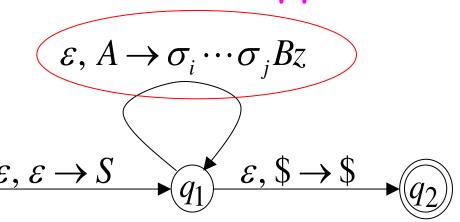
$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, Ay\$)$$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy\$)$$

Production applied

$$A \rightarrow \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bz$$

Transition applied



Grammar Leftmost Derivation

PDA Computation

$$\Rightarrow \cdots$$

$$\Rightarrow xAy$$

$$\Rightarrow$$
 $x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$

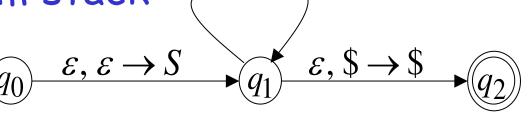
$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, Ay\$)$$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy\$)$$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_j Bzy\$)$$

Read σ_i from input and remove it from stack

Transition applied



Grammar

Leftmost Derivation

 $\Rightarrow \cdots$

 $\Rightarrow xAy$

 $\Rightarrow x\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy$

All symbols $\sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j$ have been removed from top of stack

PDA Computation

 $\succ \cdots$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, Ay\$)$$

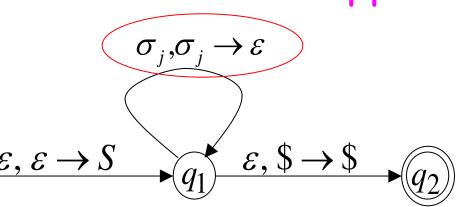
$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_i \cdots \sigma_j Bzy\$)$$

$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_n, \sigma_{i+1} \cdots \sigma_j Bzy\$)$$

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$$\succ (q_1, \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_n, Bzy\$)$$

Last Transition applied



The process repeats with the next leftmost variable

$$\Rightarrow \cdots$$

$$\Rightarrow xAy \qquad \qquad \succ \cdots$$

$$\Rightarrow x\sigma_{i} \cdots \sigma_{j}Bzy \qquad \qquad \succ (q_{1},\sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_{n},Bzy\$)$$

$$\Rightarrow x\sigma_{i} \cdots \sigma_{j}\sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_{k}Cpzy \qquad \qquad \succ (q_{1},\sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_{n},\sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_{k}Cpzy\$)$$

$$\qquad \qquad \succ \cdots$$

$$\qquad \qquad \succ \cdots$$

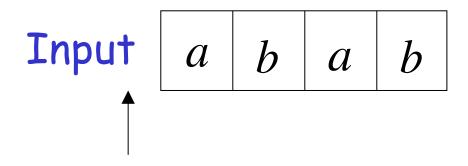
$$\qquad \qquad \succ (q_{1},\sigma_{k+1} \cdots \sigma_{n},Cpzy\$)$$

Production applied

$$B \to \sigma_{j+1} \cdots \sigma_k Cp$$

And so on....

Example:



Time 0

$$\varepsilon$$
, $S \rightarrow aSTb$

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

Stack

$$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

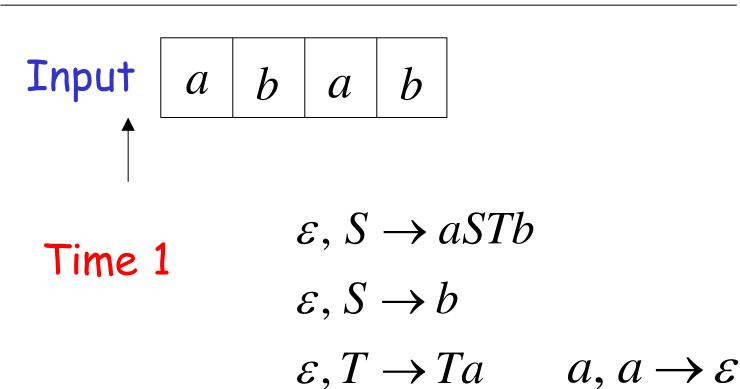
$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$



 $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$ q_1

 $\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$

Derivation: S



 $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$



$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$
 $b, b \to \varepsilon$

 $\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$

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Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb$ Input 9695 $\varepsilon, S \to aSTb$ Time 2 $\varepsilon, S \to b$ Stack $\varepsilon, T \to Ta$ $a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$ $\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$ $b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$ ε , $\$ \rightarrow \$$ $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$ Costas Busch - LSU

Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb$ Input \boldsymbol{a}

Time 3

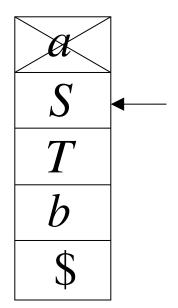
$$\varepsilon$$
, $S \to aSTb$

$$\varepsilon, S \to b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

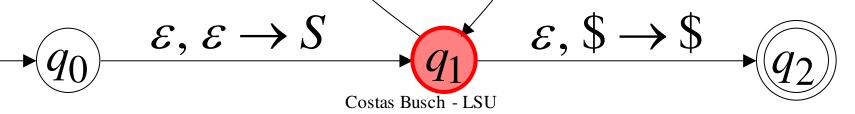
$$\varepsilon \qquad h \stackrel{}{h} \rightarrow \varepsilon$$



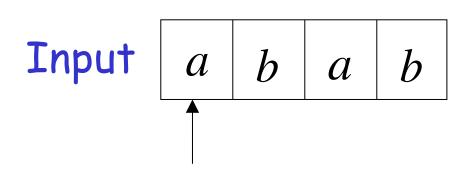


$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

 $(a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon)$



Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb$



b T b b s

Time 4

$$\varepsilon, S \to aSTb$$

$$(\varepsilon, S \to b)$$

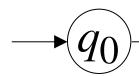
$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

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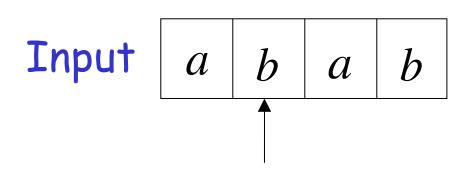
$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$



$$\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$$

$$\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$$

Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb$



Stack

Time 5

$$\varepsilon, S \to aSTb$$

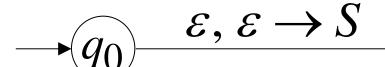
 $\varepsilon, T \to Ta$

$$\varepsilon, S \to b$$

$$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

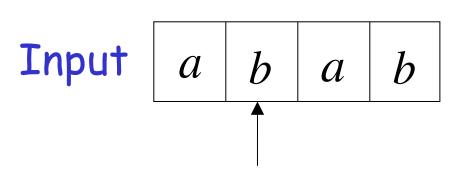
$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

$$(b,b \rightarrow \varepsilon)$$



$$\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$$

Derivation: $S \Rightarrow aSTb \Rightarrow abTb \Rightarrow abTab$



$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$\varepsilon, S \to b$$

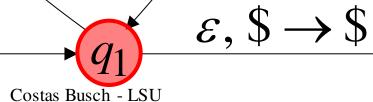
$$[\varepsilon, T \to Ta]$$

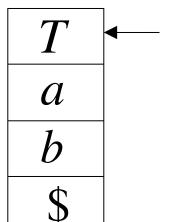
$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

 $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$

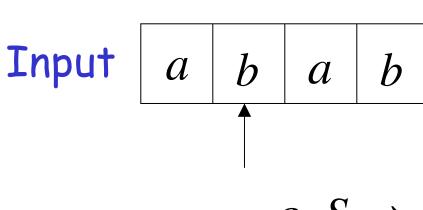
$$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$





Stack





$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow aSTb$$

$$\varepsilon, S \to b$$

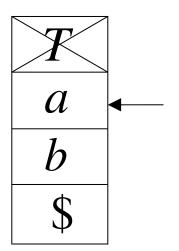
$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$\rightarrow Ta$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

 $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$

$$\rightarrow \varepsilon$$
 $b, b \rightarrow$



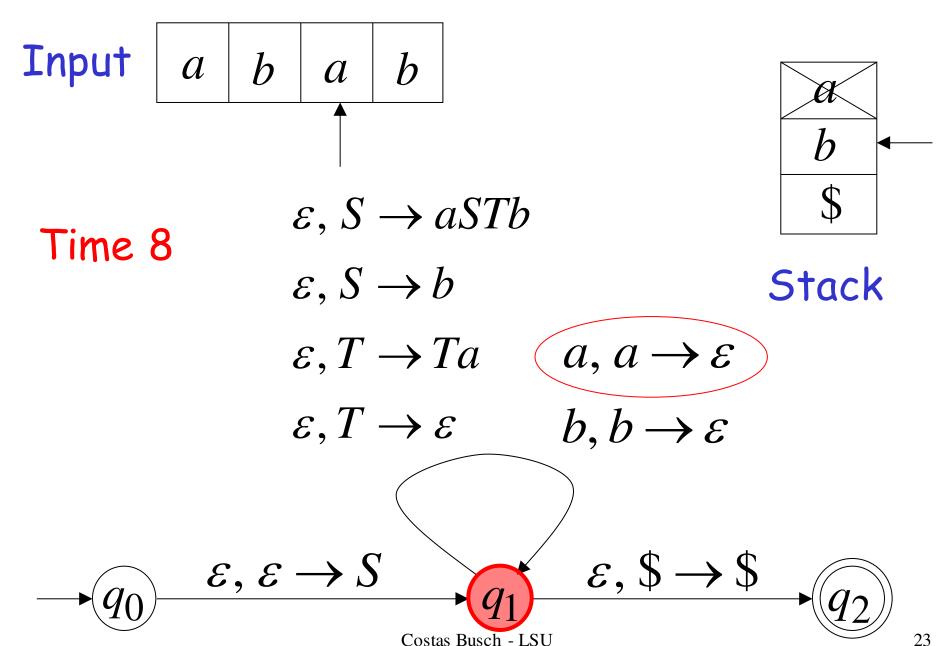
Stack

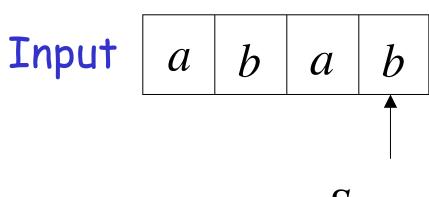
$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

 $a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$

$$\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$$
 q_2

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Time 9

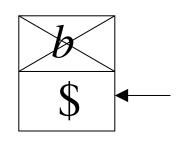
$$\varepsilon$$
, $S \rightarrow aSTb$

$$\varepsilon, S \rightarrow b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

 $\underline{\varepsilon}, \varepsilon \to S$

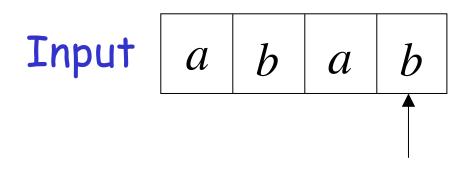


Stack

$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

 $a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$

 $-\varepsilon, \$ \to \$$



Time 10

$$\varepsilon$$
, $S \rightarrow aSTb$

$$\varepsilon, S \to b$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to Ta$$

$$\varepsilon, T \to \varepsilon$$

$$c, b \rightarrow abib$$

$$\rightarrow b$$

$$a, a \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

$$b, b \rightarrow \varepsilon$$



 $\varepsilon, \varepsilon \to S$

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 $\varepsilon, \$ \rightarrow \$$

Stack

Grammar

PDA Computation

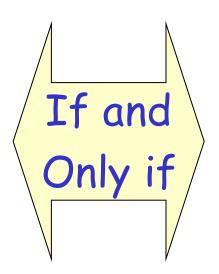
Leftmost Derivation

$$S = \begin{cases} (q_0, abab, \$) \\ \succ (q_1, abab, S\$) \\ \Rightarrow aSTb = \begin{cases} (q_0, abab, \$) \\ \succ (q_1, bab, STb\$) \\ \Rightarrow (q_1, bab, bTb\$) \\ \succ (q_1, ab, Tb\$) \\ \Rightarrow (q_1, ab, Tab\$) \\ \Rightarrow abab = \begin{cases} (q_0, abab, \$) \\ \succ (q_1, bab, STb\$) \\ \succ (q_1, ab, Tab\$) \\ \succ (q_1, ab, ab\$) \\ \succ (q_1, \epsilon, \$) \\ \succ (q_2, \epsilon, \$) \end{cases}$$

In general, it can be shown that:

Grammar Ggenerates
string W

$$S \stackrel{*}{\Longrightarrow} w$$



PDA M
accepts w

$$(q_0, w,\$) \succ (q_2, \varepsilon,\$)$$

Therefore
$$L(G) = L(M)$$

Proof - step 2

Convert

PDAs
to
Context-Free Grammars

Take an arbitrary PDA M

We will convert M to a context-free grammar G such that:

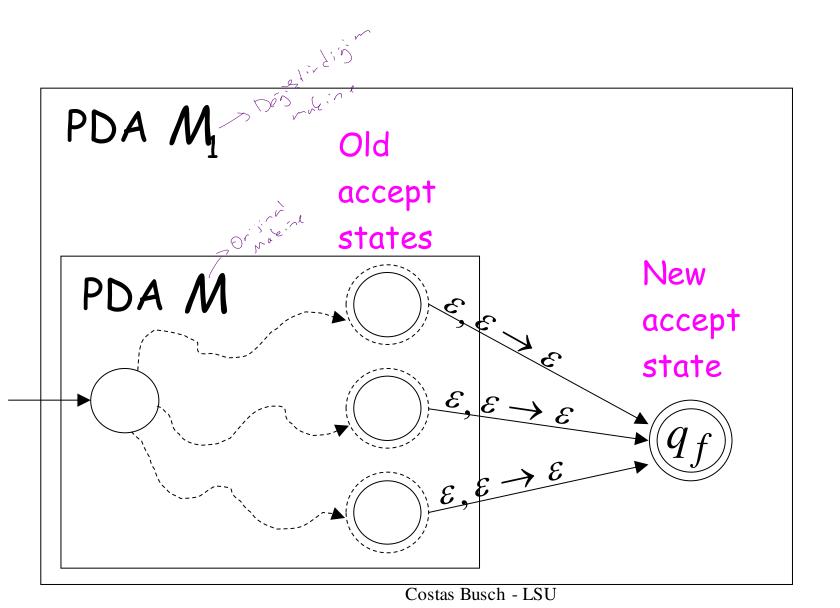
$$L(M) = L(G)$$

First modify PDA M so that:



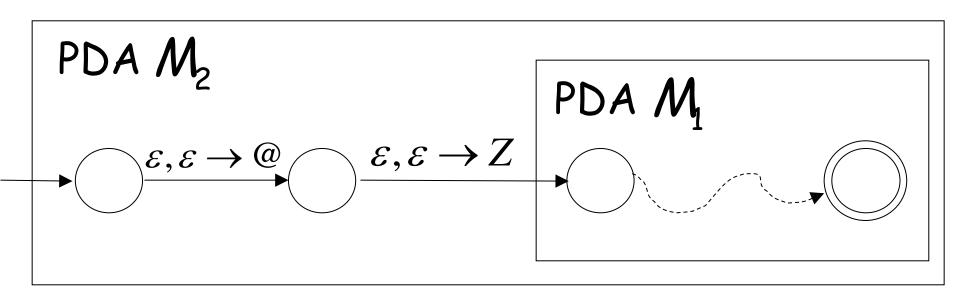
- 1. The PDA has a single accept state
- 2. Use new initial stack symbol #
- 3. On acceptance the stack contains only Stack symbol # (this symbol is not used in any transition)
- 4. Each transition either pushes a symbol or pops a symbol but not both together

1. The PDA has a single accept state



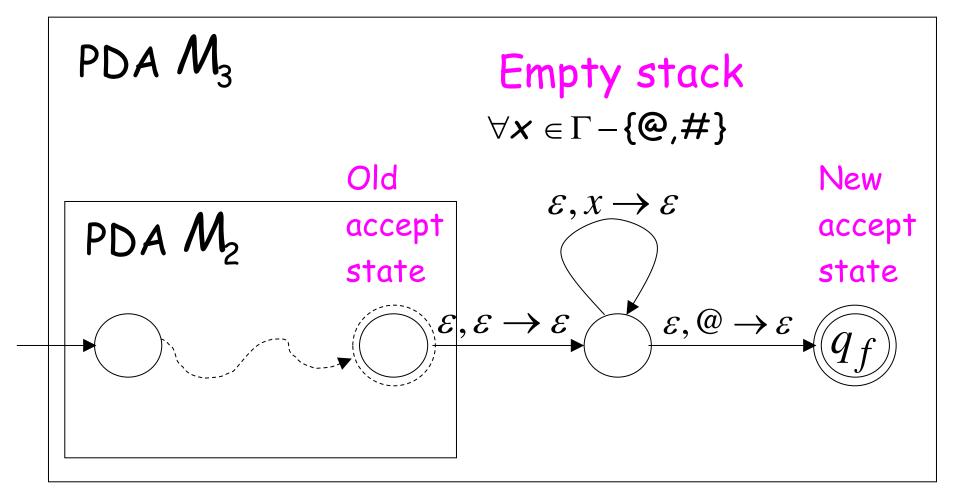
2. Use new initial stack symbol # Top of stack

initial stack symbol of M
auxiliary stack symbol
new initial stack symbol



M still thinks that Z is the initial stack

3. On acceptance the stack contains only stack symbol # (this symbol is not used in any transition)



4. Each transition either pushes a symbol or pops a symbol but not both together

PDA Ma PDA Ma

PDA
$$M_3$$
 q_i $\sigma, \varepsilon \to \varepsilon$ q_j

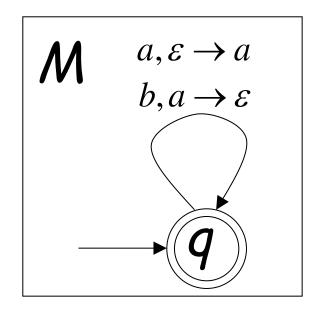
PDA
$$M_4$$
 q_i $\sigma, \varepsilon \to \delta$ $\varepsilon, \delta \to \varepsilon$ q_j

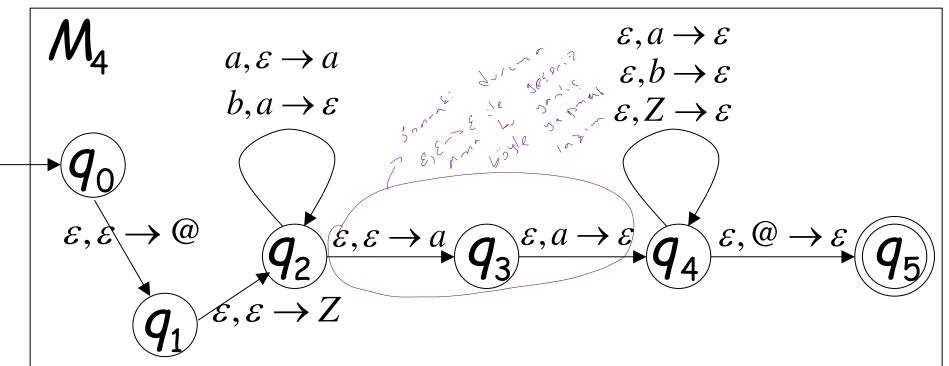
Where δ is a symbol of the stack alphabet

PDA M_4 is the final modified PDA

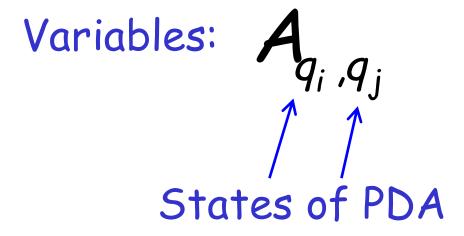
Note that the new initial stack symbol # is never used in any transition

Example:





Grammar Construction



Kind 1: for each state



Grammar

$$A_{qq} \to \varepsilon$$

Kind 2: for every three states







Grammar

$$A_{pq} \rightarrow A_{pr} A_{rq}$$

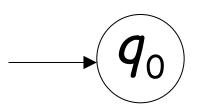
Kind 3: for every pair of such transitions

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
\hline
p & a, \varepsilon \to t \\
\hline
\end{array}$$

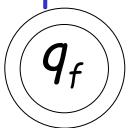
Grammar

$$A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$$

Initial state



Accept state



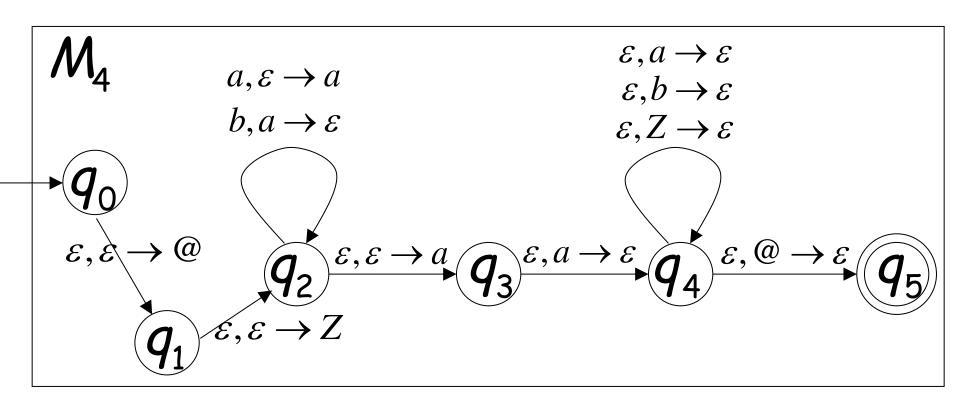
Grammar

Start variable

$$A_{q_0q_f}$$

Example:

PDA



Grammar

Kind 1: from single states

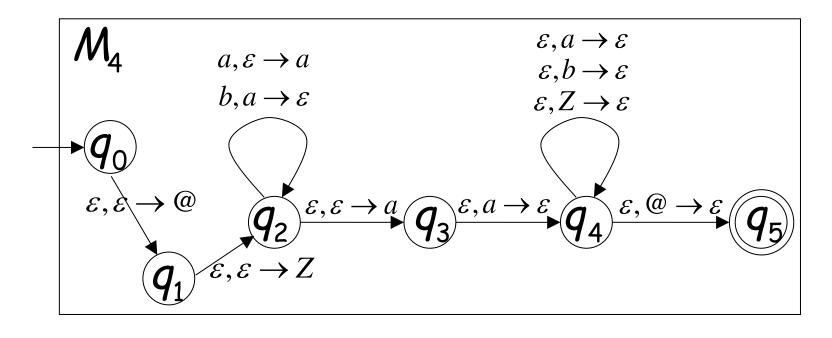
$$egin{aligned} A_{q_0q_0} &
ightarrow arepsilon \ A_{q_1q_1} &
ightarrow arepsilon \ A_{q_2q_2} &
ightarrow arepsilon \ A_{q_3q_3} &
ightarrow arepsilon \ A_{q_4q_4} &
ightarrow arepsilon \ A_{q_5q_5} &
ightarrow arepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Kind 2: from triplets of states

$$\begin{array}{l} A_{q_{0}q_{0}} \rightarrow A_{q_{0}q_{0}} A_{q_{0}q_{0}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{1}} A_{q_{1}q_{0}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{2}} A_{q_{2}q_{0}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{3}} A_{q_{3}q_{0}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{4}} A_{q_{4}q_{0}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{5}} A_{q_{5}q_{0}} \\ A_{q_{0}q_{1}} \rightarrow A_{q_{0}q_{0}} A_{q_{0}q_{1}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{1}} A_{q_{1}q_{1}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{2}} A_{q_{2}q_{1}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{3}} A_{q_{3}q_{1}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{4}} A_{q_{4}q_{1}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{5}} A_{q_{5}q_{1}} \\ \vdots \\ A_{q_{0}q_{5}} \rightarrow A_{q_{0}q_{0}} A_{q_{0}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{1}} A_{q_{1}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{2}} A_{q_{2}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{3}} A_{q_{3}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{4}} A_{q_{4}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{0}q_{5}} A_{q_{5}q_{5}} \\ \vdots \\ A_{q_{5}q_{5}} \rightarrow A_{q_{5}q_{0}} A_{q_{0}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{5}q_{1}} A_{q_{1}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{5}q_{2}} A_{q_{2}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{5}q_{3}} A_{q_{3}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{5}q_{4}} A_{q_{4}q_{5}} \mid A_{q_{5}q_{5}} A_{q_{5}q_{5}} \end{array}$$

Start variable $A_{q_0q_5}$

Kind 3: from pairs of transitions



$$A_{q_0q_5} o A_{q_1q_4} ext{ } A_{q_2q_4} o aA_{q_2q_4} ext{ } A_{q_2q_2} o A_{q_2q_2} ext{ } b$$
 $A_{q_1q_4} o A_{q_2q_4} o A_{q_2q_2} o aA_{q_2q_2} ext{ } A_{q_2q_4} o A_{q_3q_3} ext{ } A_{q_2q_4} o A_{q_3q_4} o A_{q_3q_4}$

Suppose that a PDA M is converted to a context-free grammar GWe need to prove that L(G) = L(M)

or equivalently

$$L(G) \subseteq L(M)$$
 $L(G) \supseteq L(M)$

$$L(G) \subseteq L(M)$$

We need to show that if G has derivation:

$$A_{q_0q_f} \Rightarrow W$$

 $A_{q_0q_f} \Longrightarrow W$ (string of terminals)

Then there is an accepting computation in M:

$$(q_0, w, \#) \stackrel{\hat{}}{\succ} (q_f, \varepsilon, \#)$$

with input string W

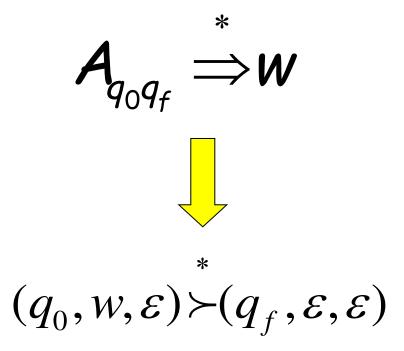
We will actually show that if G has derivation:

$$A_{pq} \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} W$$

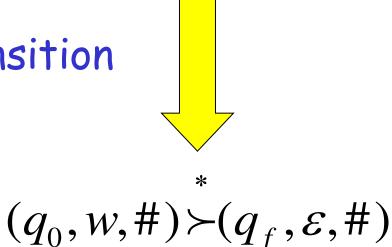
Then there is a computation in M

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

Therefore:



Since there is no transition with the # symbol



Lemma:

If
$$A_{pq} \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} W$$
 (string of terminals)

then there is a computation from state p to state q on string W which leaves the stack empty:

$$(p, w, \varepsilon)^* + (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

Proof Intuition:

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$

Type 2

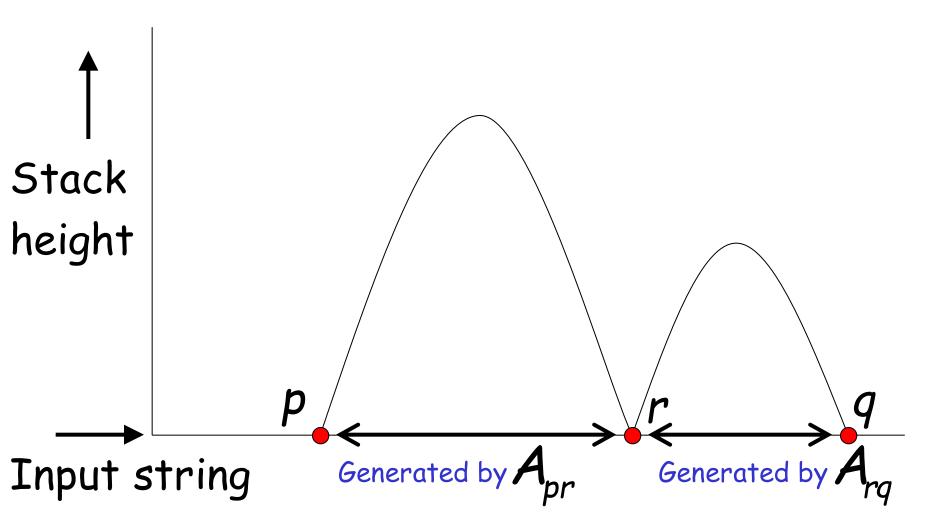
Case 1:
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$

Type 3

Case 2: $A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$

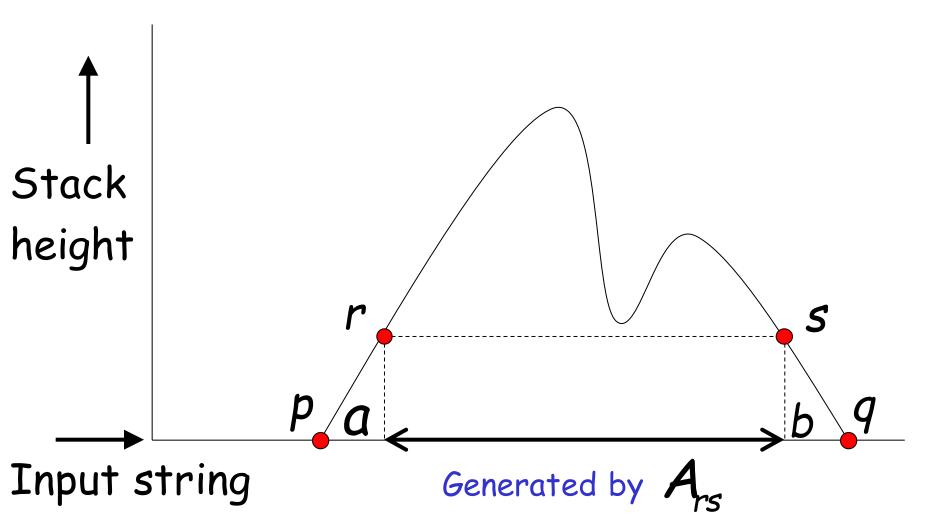
Type 2

Case 1: $A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$



Type 3

Case 2:
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow w$$



Formal Proof:

We formally prove this claim by induction on the number of steps in derivation:

$$A_{pq} \Longrightarrow \cdots \Longrightarrow W$$

number of steps

Induction Basis:
$$A_{pq} \Longrightarrow W$$
 (one derivation step)

A Kind 1 production must have been used:

$$A_{pp} \to \varepsilon$$

Therefore, p = q and $w = \varepsilon$

This computation of PDA trivially exists:

$$(p,\varepsilon,\varepsilon)\succ(p,\varepsilon,\varepsilon)$$

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Induction Hypothesis:

$$A_{pq} \Longrightarrow \cdots \Longrightarrow W$$
 k derivation steps

suppose it holds:

$$(p, w, \varepsilon)^* + (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

Induction Step:

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$
 $k+1$ derivation steps

We have to show:

$$(p, w, \varepsilon)^* + (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$
 $k+1$ derivation steps

Type 2

Case 1:
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$

Type 3

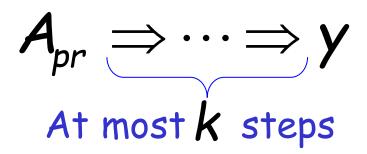
Case 2:
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow w$$

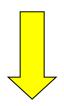
Case 1:
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow A_{pr}A_{rq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$
 $k+1$ steps

We can write
$$W = yz$$

$$A_{pr} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow y$$

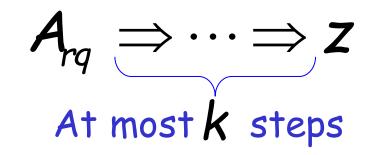
$$A_{rq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow z$$
At most k steps
$$A_{rq} \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow z$$





From induction hypothesis, in PDA:

$$(p, y, \varepsilon) \succ (r, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

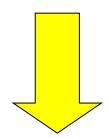




From induction hypothesis, in PDA:

$$(r,z,\varepsilon)^* + (q,\varepsilon,\varepsilon)$$

$$(p, y, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (r, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \qquad (r, z, \varepsilon) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$



$$(p, yz, \varepsilon)^* (r, z, \varepsilon)^* (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

since
$$W = yz$$

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) \succ (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

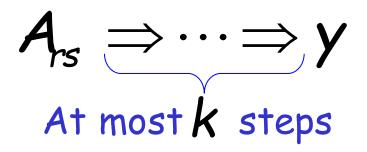
Case 2:
$$A_{pq} \Rightarrow aA_{rs}b \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow W$$

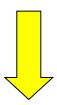
$$k+1 \text{ steps}$$

We can write
$$w = ayb$$

$$A_{rs} \implies \cdots \implies y$$
At most k steps

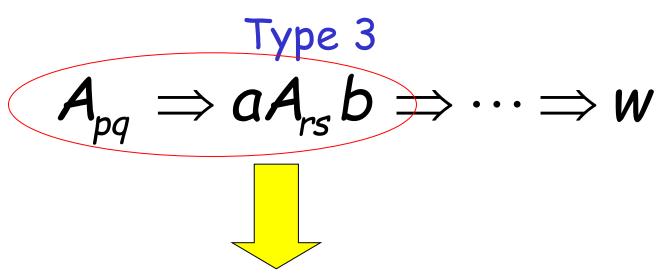
Costas Busch - LSU





From induction hypothesis, the PDA has computation:

$$(r, y, \varepsilon)^* (s, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$



Grammar contains production

$$A_{pq} \rightarrow aA_{rs}b$$

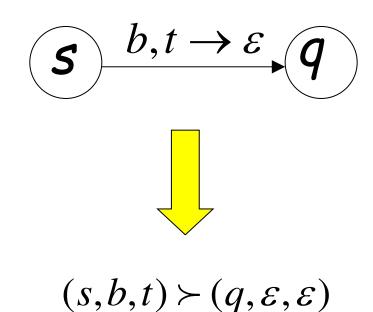
And PDA Contains transitions

$$\begin{array}{c}
\hline
p & a, \varepsilon \to t \\
\hline
\end{array}$$

$$(s) \xrightarrow{b,t \to \varepsilon} q$$

$$\begin{array}{c} p & a, \varepsilon \to t \\ \hline \end{array}$$

 $(p, ayb, \varepsilon) \succ (r, yb, t)$



We know

$$(r, y, \varepsilon)^* (s, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \qquad \qquad \stackrel{*}{ } (r, yb, t)^* (s, b, t)$$

$$(p, ayb, \varepsilon) \succ (r, yb, t)$$

We also know

$$(s,b,t) \succ (q,\varepsilon,\varepsilon)$$

Therefore:

$$(p,ayb,\varepsilon) \succ (r,yb,t) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (s,b,t) \succ (q,\varepsilon,\varepsilon)$$

$$(p,ayb,\varepsilon) \succ (r,yb,t) \stackrel{*}{\succ} (s,b,t) \succ (q,\varepsilon,\varepsilon)$$

since
$$w = ayb$$

$$(p, w, \varepsilon) + (q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon)$$

END OF PROOF

So far we have shown:

$$L(G) \subseteq L(M)$$

With a similar proof we can show

$$L(G) \supseteq L(M)$$

Therefore:
$$L(G) = L(M)$$