

Pushdown Automaton -- PDA

PUSHDOWN AUTOMATA AND PROPERTIES OF CONTEXT-FREE LANGUAGES:

Nondeterministic Pushdown Automata, Pushdown Automata and Context-Free Languages, Deterministic Pushdown Automata and Deterministic Context-Free Languages, A Pumping Lemma for Context Free Languages, Closure properties and Decision Algorithms for Context-Free Languages.

Text Book 1: Chapter 7: 7.1 – 7.3, Chapter 8: 8.1,8.2

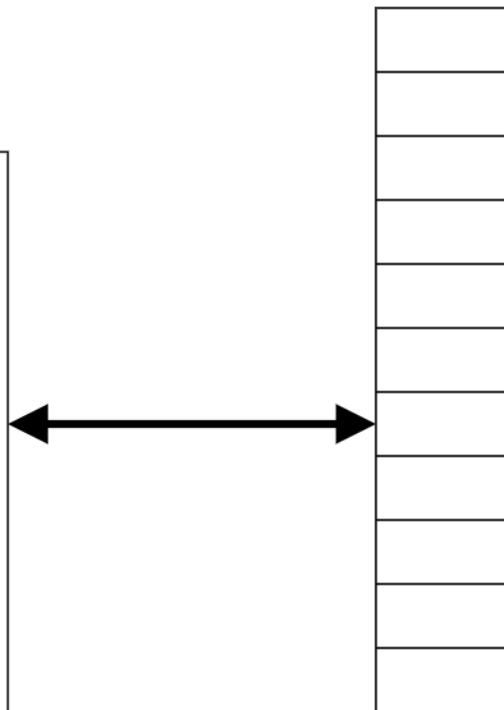
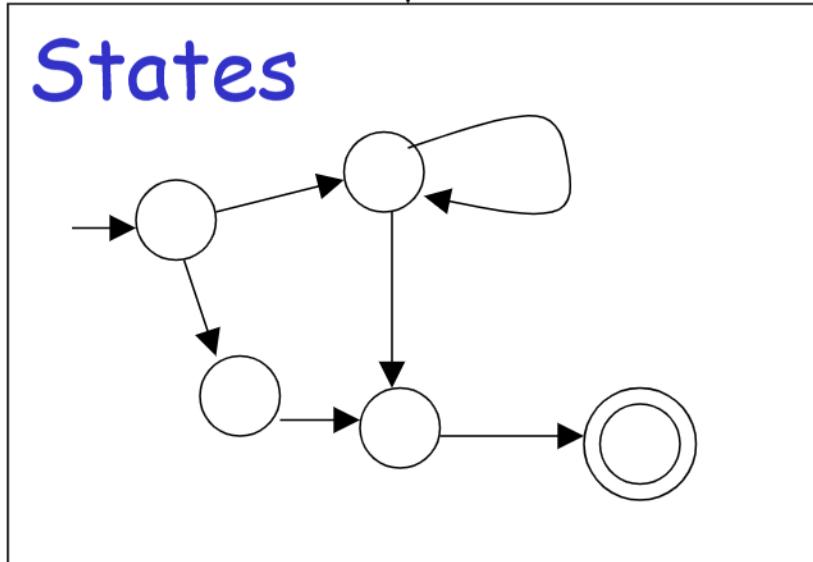
06 Hours

Pushdown Automaton -- PDA

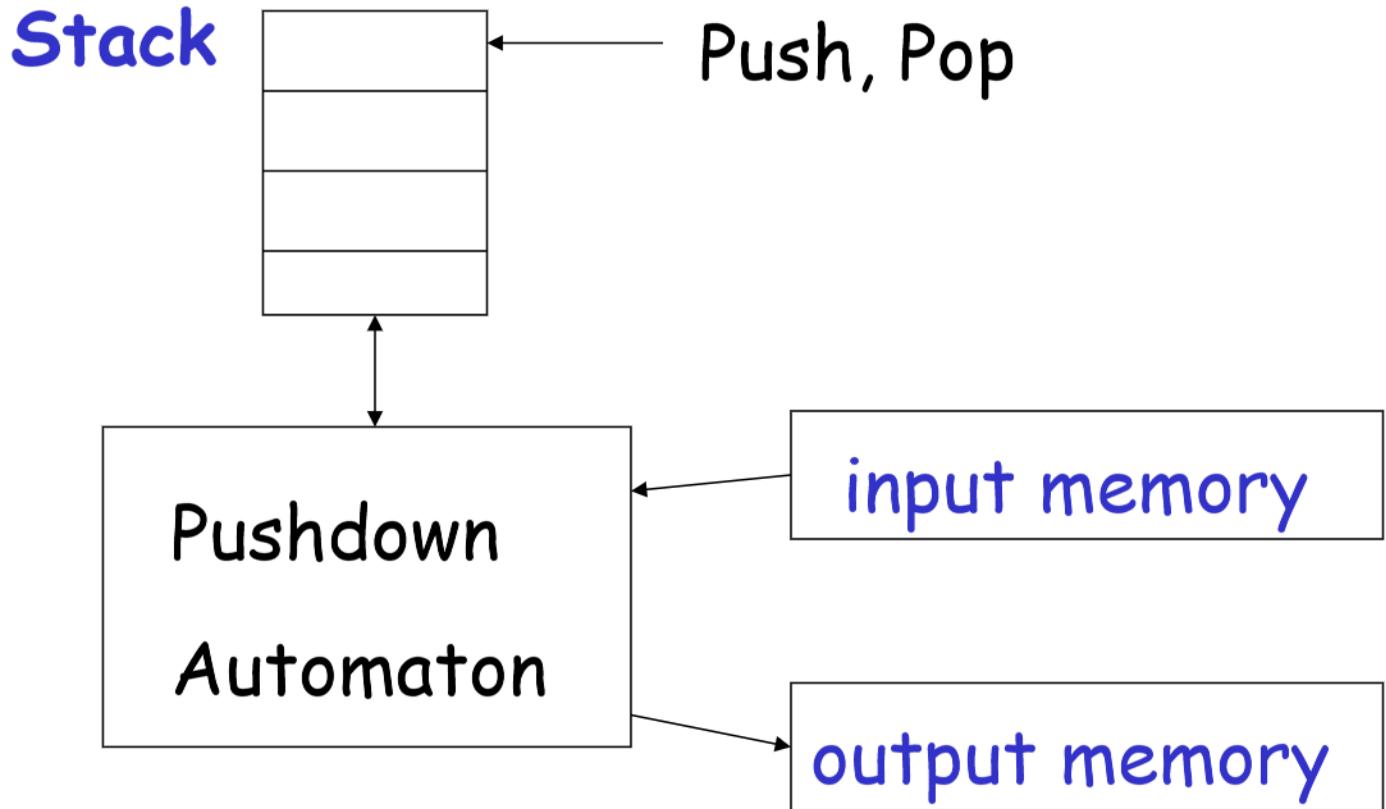
Input String



Stack



Pushdown Automaton



Example: Compilers for Programming Languages
(medium computing power)

Definition of PDA: $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F)$ 7 tuple or septuple

A nondeterministic pushdown accepter (npda) is defined by the septuple

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F),$$

where

Q is a finite set of internal states of the control unit,

Σ is the input alphabet,

Γ is a finite set of symbols called the **stack alphabet**,

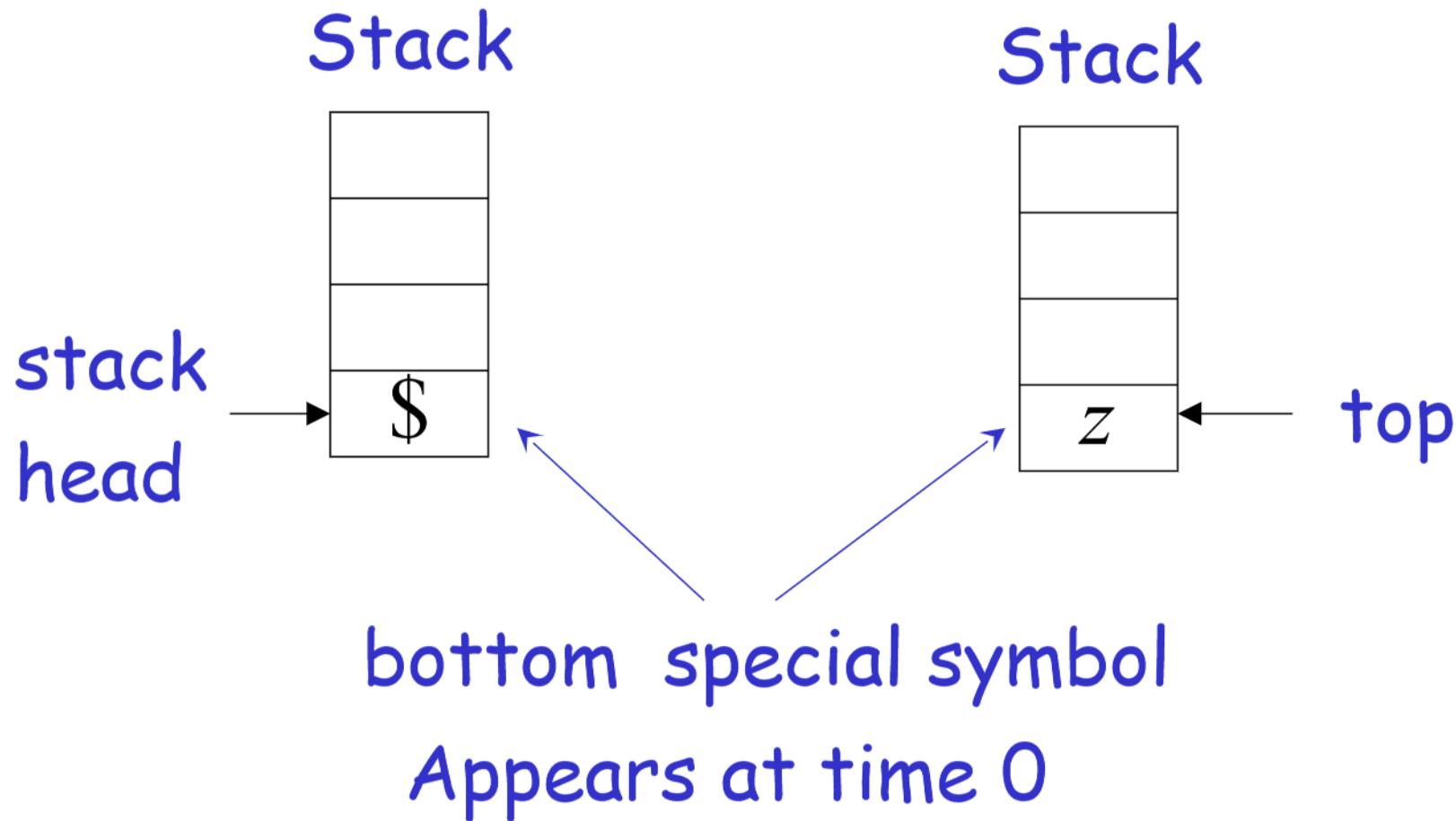
$\delta : Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\lambda\}) \times \Gamma \rightarrow$ set of finite subsets of $Q \times \Gamma^*$ is the transition function,

$q_0 \in Q$ is the initial state of the control unit,

$z \in \Gamma$ is the **stack start symbol**,

$F \subseteq Q$ is the set of final states.

Initial Stack Symbol



Another PDA example

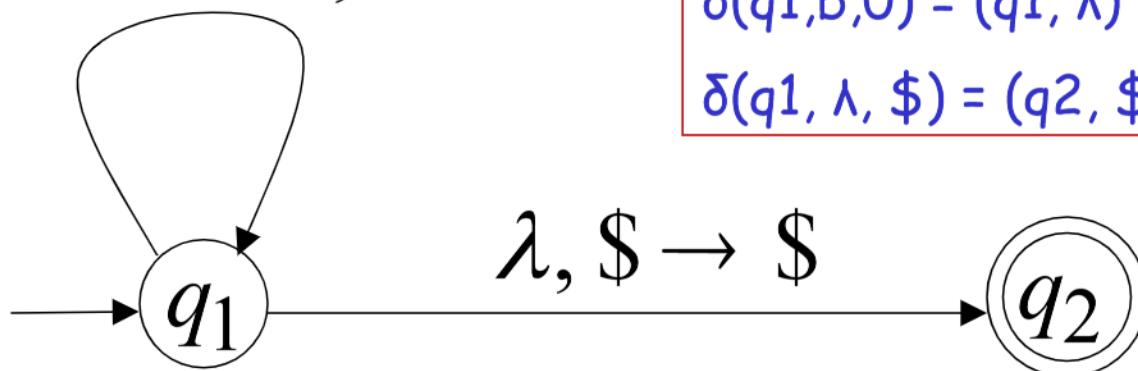
$L(M) = \{w \in \{a,b\}^*: n_a(w) = n_b(w)\}$

PDA M

$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$$ $b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$

$a, 0 \rightarrow 00$ $b, 1 \rightarrow 11$

$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda$ $b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$



$$\delta(q_1, a, \$) = (q_1, 0\$)$$

$$\delta(q_1, a, 0) = (q_1, 00)$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, \$) = (q_1, 1\$)$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, 1) = (q_1, 11)$$

$$\delta(q_1, a, 1) = (q_1, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, 0) = (q_1, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_1, \lambda, \$) = (q_2, \$) \text{ or } (q_2, \lambda)$$

Execution Example: Time 0

Input

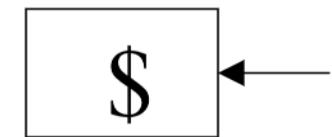
a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$$ $b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$

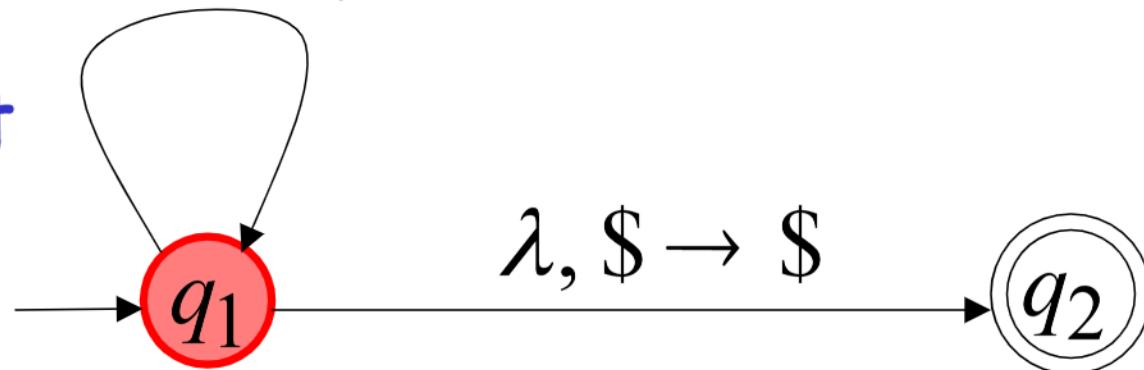
$a, 0 \rightarrow 00$ $b, 1 \rightarrow 11$

$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda$ $b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$



Stack

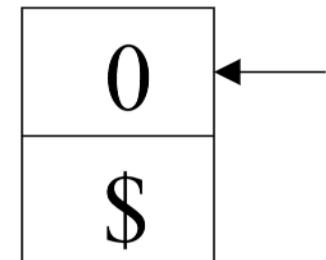
current
state



Time 1

Input

a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

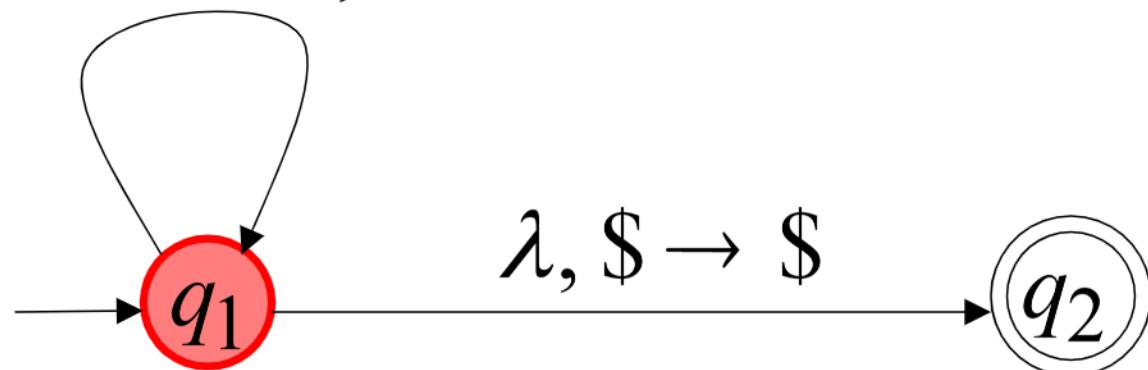


Stack

$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$$ $b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$

$a, 0 \rightarrow 00$ $b, 1 \rightarrow 11$

$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda$ $b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$



Time 3

Input

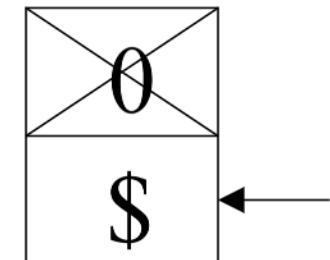
a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



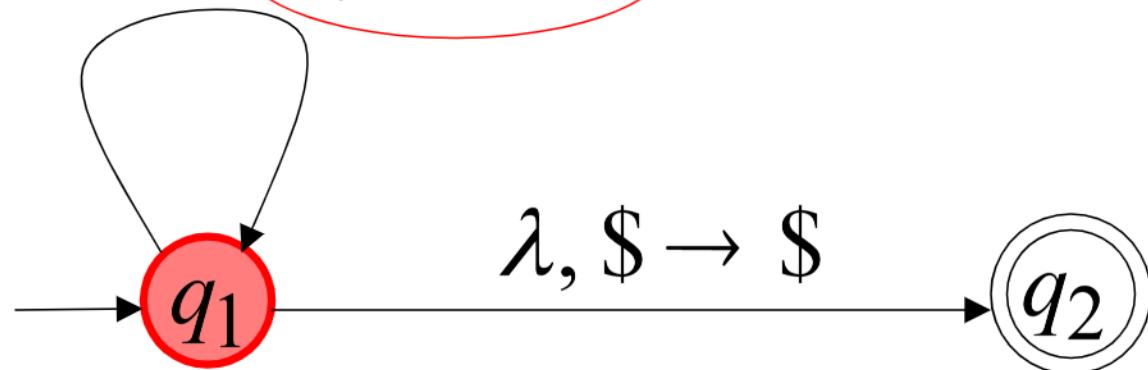
$$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$ \quad b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$$

$$a, 0 \rightarrow 00 \quad b, 1 \rightarrow 11$$

$$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda \quad b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$$



Stack



Time 4

Input

a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$$

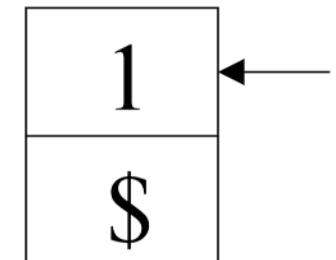
$a, 0 \rightarrow 00$

$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda$

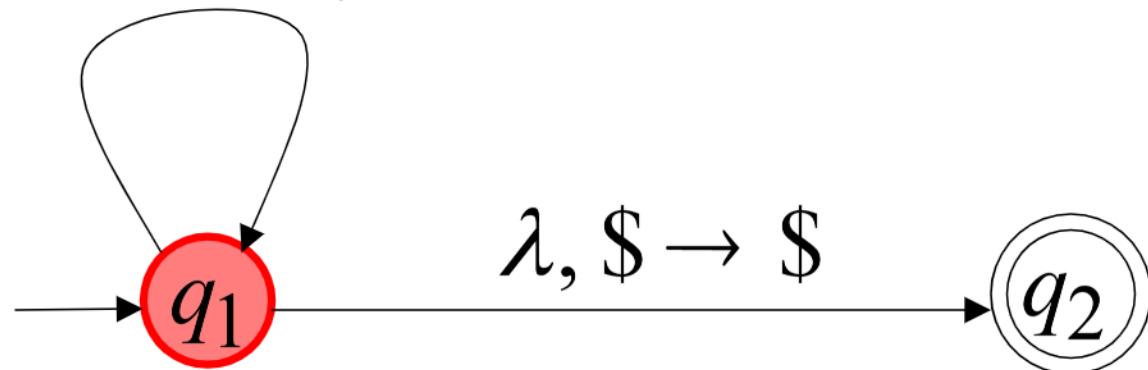
$b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$

$b, 1 \rightarrow 11$

$b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$



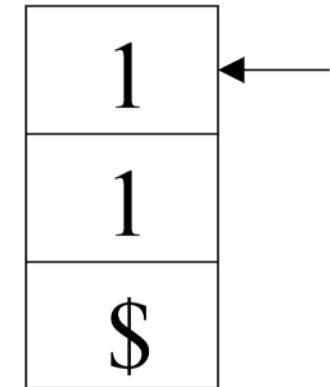
Stack



Time 5

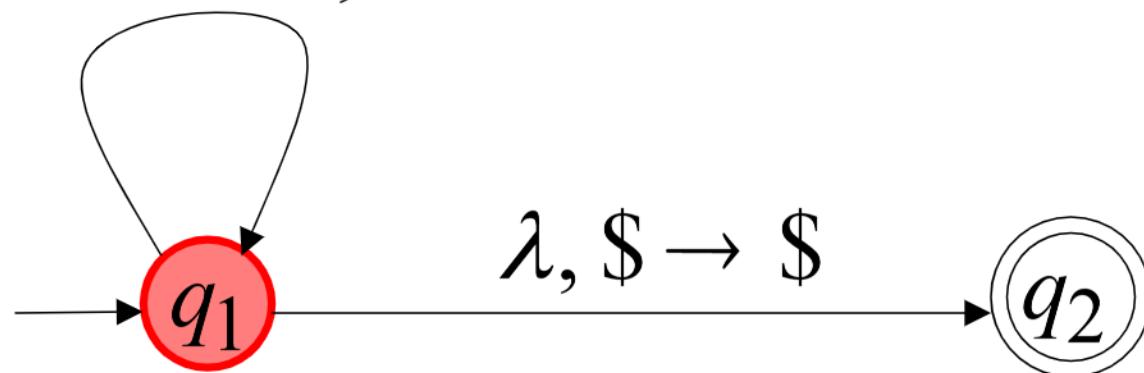
Input

a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



Stack

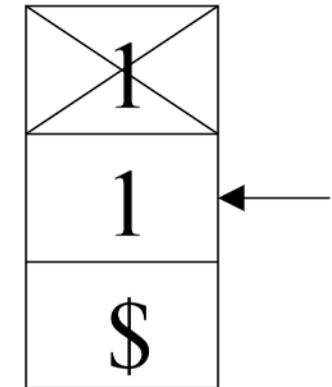
$$\begin{array}{ll} a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$ & b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$ \\ a, 0 \rightarrow 00 & b, 1 \rightarrow 11 \\ a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda & b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda \end{array}$$



Time 6

Input

a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

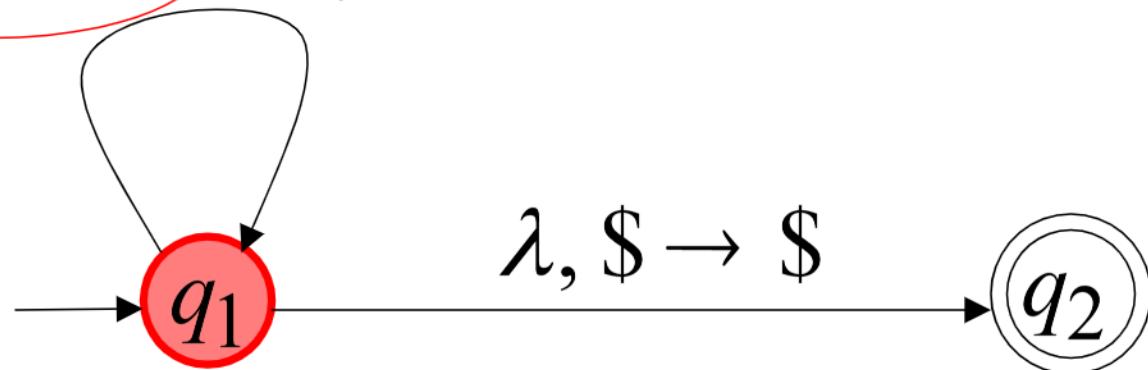


Stack

$$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$ \quad b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$$

$$a, 0 \rightarrow 00 \quad b, 1 \rightarrow 11$$

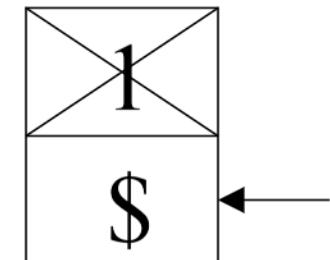
$$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda \quad b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$$



Time 7

Input

a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

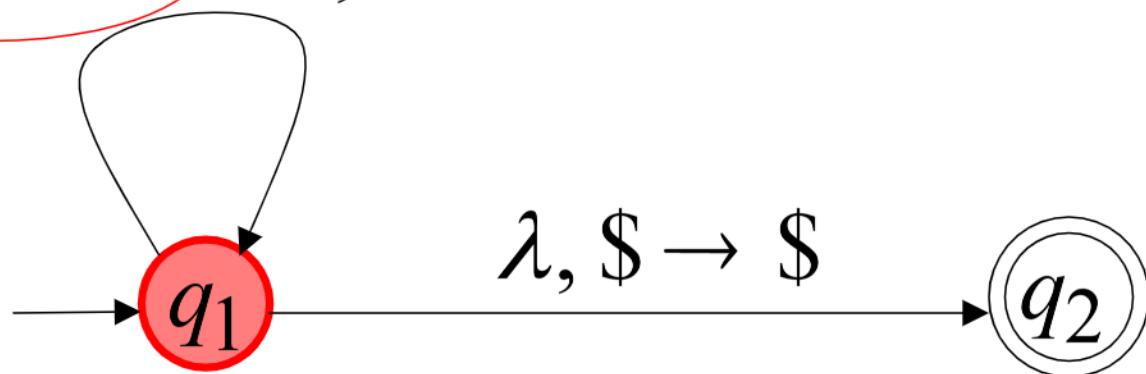


Stack

$$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$ \quad b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$$

$$a, 0 \rightarrow 00 \quad b, 1 \rightarrow 11$$

$$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda \quad b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$$



Time 8

Input

a	b	b	b	a	a
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



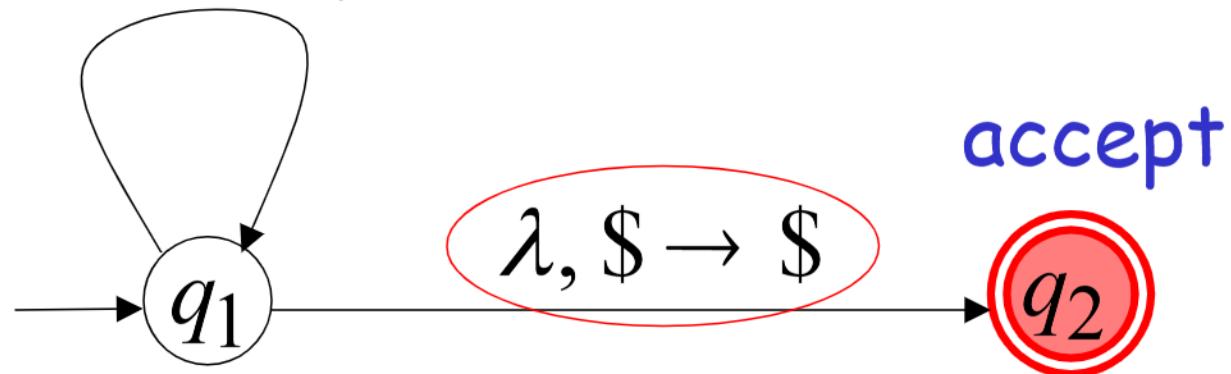
$$a, \$ \rightarrow 0\$ \quad b, \$ \rightarrow 1\$$$

$$a, 0 \rightarrow 00 \quad b, 1 \rightarrow 11$$

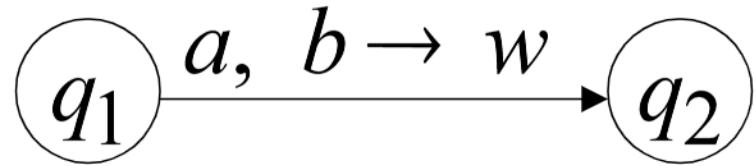
$$a, 1 \rightarrow \lambda \quad b, 0 \rightarrow \lambda$$



Stack

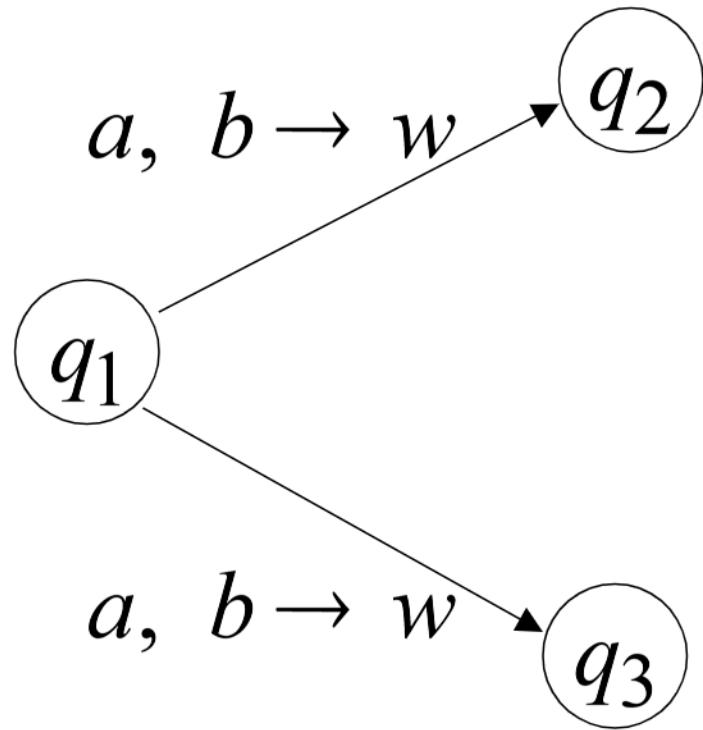


PDAs: Formal Definition



Transition function:

$$\delta(q_1, a, b) = \{(q_2, w)\}$$

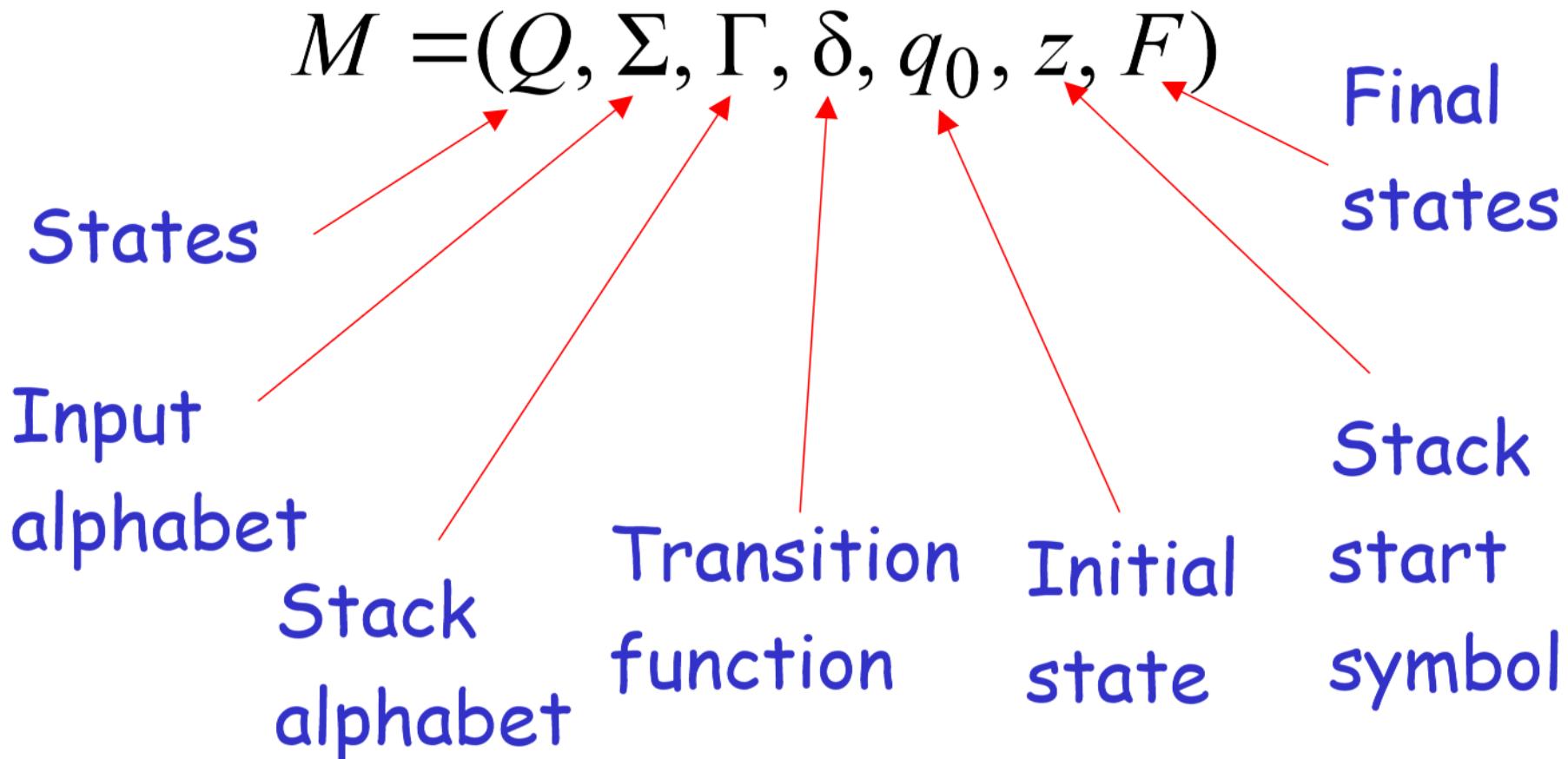


Transition function:

$$\delta(q_1, a, b) = \{(q_2, w), (q_3, w)\}$$

Formal Definition

Pushdown Automaton (PDA)



Pushdown Automaton

Note: If $\delta(q_0, a, z) = (q_1, \beta)$ means if NPDA is in state q_0 with input symbol a and z the top symbol on the stack can enter state q_1 , replace symbol z by string β .

Language accepted by a PDA

Two types of acceptance: Acceptance by final state or
Acceptance by empty stack

Definition: Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F)$ be a NPDA. We define $L(M)$, the language accepted by **final state** is the set

$$L(M) = \{ w \in \Sigma^* : (q_0, w, z) \xrightarrow{M} (p, \lambda, u), p \in F, u \in \Gamma^* \}$$

In other words, the language accepted by M is the set of all strings that can put M into a final state.

Definition:

Let $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F)$ be a NPDA. We define $L(M)$, the language accepted by **empty stack** is the set

$$L(M) = \{ w \in \Sigma^* : (q_0, w, z) \xrightarrow{-M} (p, \lambda, \lambda), p \in Q \}$$

When acceptance is by empty stack, the set of final states is to be empty set.

Example 1:

$$L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\} \cup \{a\}.$$

$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_f\}$

$\Sigma = \{a, b\}$

$\Gamma = \{0, 1, z\}$

$F = \{q_f\}$

$$\delta(q_0, a, z) = (q_f, \lambda) \text{ or } (q_1, 0z)$$

$$\delta(q_0, \lambda, z) = (q_f, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_1, a, 0) = (q_1, 00)$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, 0) = (q_2, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_2, b, 0) = (q_2, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_2, \lambda, z) = (q_f, z) \text{ Or } (q_f, \lambda)$$

Instantaneous Description: check with the string "aabb"

$(q_0, aabb, z) \vdash (q_1, abb, 0z) \vdash (q_1, bb, 00z) \vdash (q_1, bb, 00z) \vdash (q_2, b, 0z) \vdash$

$(q_2, \lambda, z) \vdash (q_f, \lambda, z) \text{ or } (q_f, \lambda, \lambda)$

Example 1:

$$L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\} \cup \{a\}.$$

Consider an npda with

$$\begin{aligned}Q &= \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}, \\ \Sigma &= \{a, b\}, \\ \Gamma &= \{0, 1\}, \\ z &= 0, \\ F &= \{q_3\},\end{aligned}$$

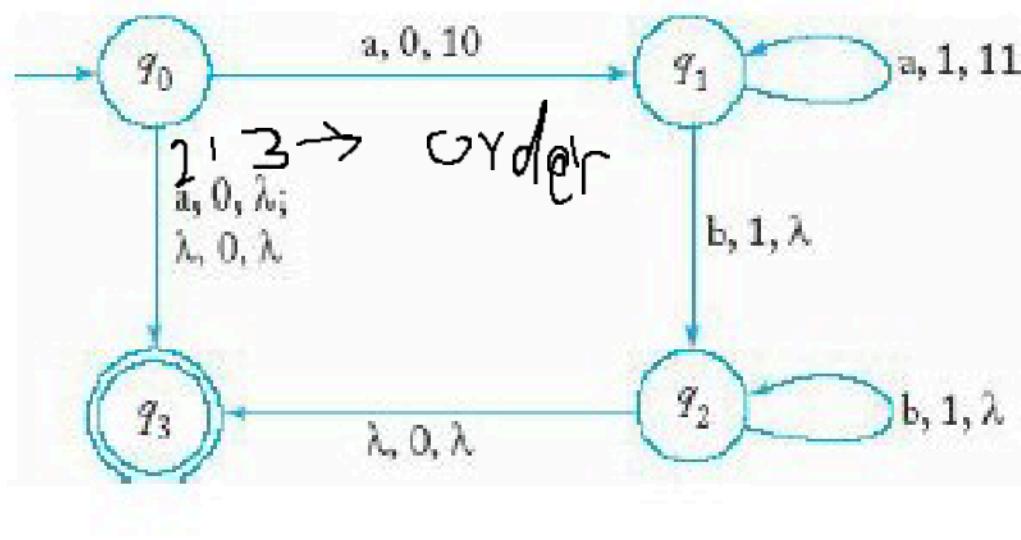
with initial state q_0 and

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_0, a, 0) &= \{(q_1, 10), (q_3, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, \lambda, 0) &= \{(q_3, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, a, 1) &= \{(q_1, 11)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, b, 1) &= \{(q_2, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_2, b, 1) &= \{(q_2, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_2, \lambda, 0) &= \{(q_3, \lambda)\}.\end{aligned}$$

What can we say about the action of this automaton?

The npda in Example 7.2 is represented by the transition graph in Figure 7.2.

Figure 7.2



Instantaneous Description:

The triplet (q, w, u) where q is the state of the control unit, w is the unread part of the input string, and u is the stack contents (with the leftmost symbol indicating the top of the stack), is called an **instantaneous description** of a pushdown automaton.

- A move from one instantaneous description to another will be denoted by the symbol |- thus

$$(q_1, aw, bx) \vdash (q_2, w, yx)$$

is possible if and only if

$$(q_2, y) \in \delta(q_1, a, b).$$

- Example: Instantaneous description for language $L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 1\}$, $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

Take string $w = aabb$

$(q_0, aabb, Z) \vdash (q_1, abb, aZ) \vdash (q_1, bb, aaZ) \vdash$
 $(q_2, b, aZ) \vdash (q_2, \lambda, Z) \vdash (q_3, \lambda, Z)$

Construct an npda for the language

Use $Q = \{ q_0, q_f \}$

$$L = \{ w \in \{a, b\}^* : n_a(w) = n_b(w) \}$$

$$\delta(q_0, a, z) = (q_0, az)$$

$$\delta(q_0, b, z) = (q_0, bz)$$

$$\delta(q_0, a, a) = (q_0, aa)$$

$$\delta(q_0, b, b) = (q_0, bb)$$

$$\delta(q_0, a, b) = (q_0, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_0, b, a) = (q_0, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_0, \lambda, z) = (q_f, \lambda)$$

Construct an npda for the language

Use $Q = \{ q_0, q_f \}$

$$L = \{ w \in \{a, b\}^* : n_a(w) = n_b(w) \}$$

$$\delta(q_0, a, z) = (q_0, 0z)$$

- When **a** is read
insert **0** in the stack

$$\delta(q_0, b, z) = (q_0, 1z)$$

- When **b** is read
insert **1** in the stack

$$\delta(q_0, a, 0) = (q_0, 00)$$

- Stack top symbol is **z**

$$\delta(q_0, b, 1) = (q_0, 11)$$

- Stack top symbol is **z**

$$\delta(q_0, a, 1) = (q_0, \lambda)$$

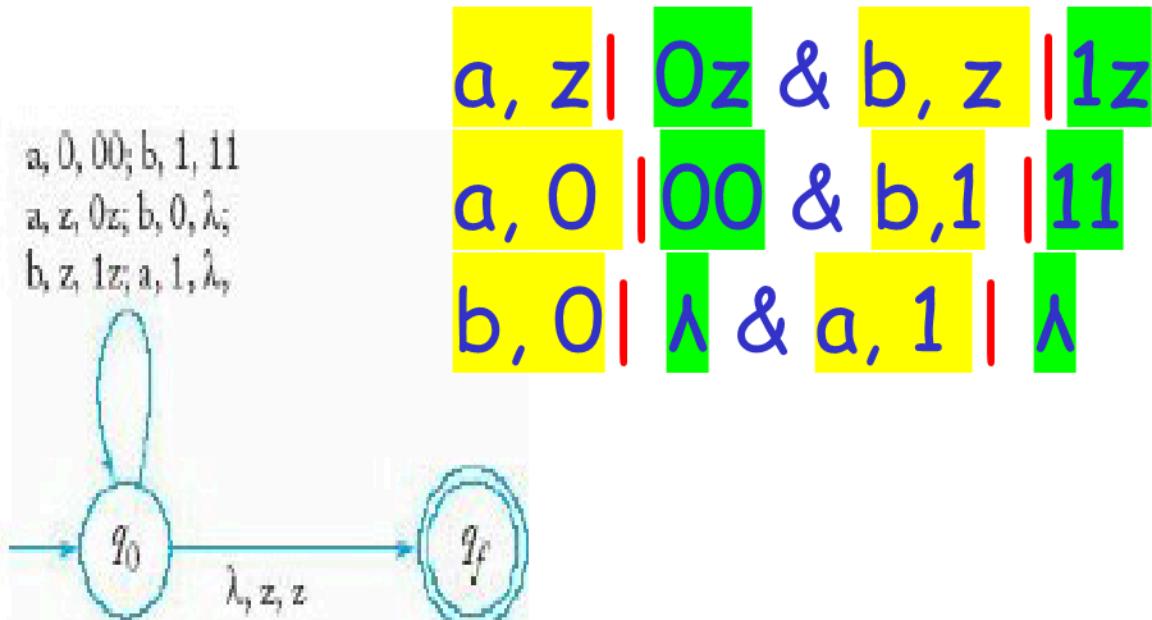
$$\delta(q_0, b, 0) = (q_0, \lambda)$$

$$\delta(q_0, \lambda, z) = (q_f, \lambda) \text{ (shows empty stack)}$$

$$\text{Or } \delta(q_0, \lambda, z) = (q_f, z) \text{ (not an empty stack)}$$

Construct an npda for the language

$$L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^*: n_a(w) = n_b(w)\}$$



In processing the string $baab$, the npda makes the moves

$$\begin{aligned}(q_0, baab, z) &\vdash (q_0, aab, 1z) \vdash (q_0, ab, z) \\ &\vdash (q_0, b, 0z) \vdash (q_0, \lambda, z) \vdash (q_f, \lambda, z)\end{aligned}$$

- To construct an npda for accepting the language
 $L = \{ ww^R : w \in \{a, b\}^+ \}$

problem is given by $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F)$, where

$$Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\},$$

$$\Sigma = \{a, b\},$$

$$\Gamma = \{a, b, z\},$$

$$F = \{q_2\}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta(q_0, a, a) &= \{(q_0, aa)\}, \\
\delta(q_0, b, a) &= \{(q_0, ba)\}, \\
\delta(q_0, a, b) &= \{(q_0, ab)\}, \\
\delta(q_0, b, b) &= \{(q_0, bb)\}, \\
\delta(q_0, a, z) &= \{(q_0, az)\}, \\
\delta(q_0, b, z) &= \{(q_0, bz)\},
\end{aligned}$$

a set to guess the middle of the string, where the npda switches from state q_0 to q_1

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta(q_0, \lambda, a) &= \{(q_1, a)\}, \\
\delta(q_0, \lambda, b) &= \{(q_1, b)\},
\end{aligned}$$

a set to match w^R against the contents of the stack,

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta(q_1, a, a) &= \{(q_1, \lambda)\}, \\
\delta(q_1, b, b) &= \{(q_1, \lambda)\},
\end{aligned}$$

and finally

$$\delta(q_1, \lambda, z) = \{(q_2, z)\},$$

The sequence of moves in accepting $abba$ is

$$\begin{aligned}(q_0, abba, z) &\vdash (q_0, bba, az) \vdash (q_0, ba, baz) \\ &\vdash (q_1, ba, baz) \vdash (q_1, a, az) \vdash (q_1, \lambda, z) \vdash (q_2, z).\end{aligned}$$

Try for the language $L = \{w \in w^R \mid w \in (a,b)^*\}$
 $Q = \{ q_0, q_1, q_2 \}$, stack top symbol be z , $\tau = \{a, b, z\}$

- Try these examples....

1. $L = \{ w \mid w \in (a, b)^* \text{ and } n_a(w) > n_b(w)\}$, $Q = q_0, q_1, \Gamma - \{a, b, z\}$

2. $L = \{ w \mid w \in (a, b)^* \text{ and } n_a(w) < n_b(w)\}$ $Q = q_0, q_1, \Gamma - \{a, b, z\}$

3. $L = \{ a^n b^{2n} \mid n \geq 1\}$ $Q = q_0, q_1, q_2, \Gamma - \{a, z\}$

4. Check for balanced parenthesis Where $\Sigma = \{ (,),[],[] \}$
check for $[()()([])]$ $Q = q_0, q_1, \Gamma - \{ (,),[],z \}$

Pushdown Automata for Context-Free Languages

Construct a pda that accepts the language generated by a grammar with productions

$$S \rightarrow aSbb|a.$$

We first transform the grammar into Greibach normal form, changing the productions to

$$\begin{aligned} S &\rightarrow aSA|a, \\ A &\rightarrow bB, \\ B &\rightarrow b. \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding automaton will have three states $\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$, with initial state q_0 and final state q_2 .

First, the start symbol S is put on the stack by

$$\delta(q_0, \lambda, z) = \{(q_1, Sz)\}.$$

$$\delta(q_1, a, S) = \{(q_1, SA), (q_1, \lambda)\}.$$

In an analogous manner, the other productions give

$$\delta(q_1, b, A) = \{(q_1, B)\},$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, B) = \{(q_1, \lambda)\}.$$

The appearance of the stack start symbol on top of the stack signals the completion of the derivation and the pda is put into its final state by

$$\delta(q_1, \lambda, z) = \{(q_2, \lambda)\}.$$

Consider the grammar

$$\begin{aligned}S &\rightarrow aA, \\A &\rightarrow aABC \mid bB \mid a, \\B &\rightarrow b, \\C &\rightarrow c\end{aligned}$$

Since the grammar is already in Greibach normal form, we can use the construction in the previous theorem immediately. In addition to rules

$$\delta(q_0, \lambda, z) = \{(q_1, Sz)\}$$

and

$$\delta(q_1, \lambda, z) = \{(q_f, z)\},$$

the pda will also have transition rules

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_1, a, S) &= \{(q_1, A)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, a, A) &= \{(q_1, ABC), (q_1, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, b, A) &= \{(q_1, B)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, b, B) &= \{(q_1, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, c, C) &= \{(q_1, \lambda)\}.\end{aligned}$$

The sequence of moves made by M in processing $aaabc$ is

$$\begin{aligned}(q_0, aaabc, z) &\vdash (q_1, aaabc, Sz) \\ &\vdash (q_1, aabc, Az) \\ &\vdash (q_1, abc, ABCz) \\ &\vdash (q_1, bc, BCz) \\ &\vdash (q_1, c, Cz) \\ &\vdash (q_1, \lambda, z) \\ &\vdash (q_f, \lambda, z).\end{aligned}$$

$$S \Rightarrow aA \Rightarrow aaABC \Rightarrow aaaBC \Rightarrow aaabC \Rightarrow aaabc.$$

CFG to PDA

Example 2:

- Obtain a PDA to accept the language
 $L = \{a^n b^n \mid n \geq 1\}$

$S \rightarrow aSb$

$S \rightarrow ab$

Step 1: Convert into GNF

$S \rightarrow aSB \mid aB$

$B \rightarrow b$

Step 2:
Find PDA...

Deterministic Pushdown Automata and Deterministic Context-Free Languages

→ A deterministic pushdown accepter (dpda) is a pushdown automaton that never has a choice in its move

- A pushdown automaton $M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_0, z, F)$ is said to be deterministic if it is an automaton as defined that, for every $q \in Q$, $a \in \Sigma \cup \{\lambda\}$ and $b \in \Gamma$,
 1. $\delta(q, a, b)$ contains at most one element,
 2. if $\delta(q, \lambda, b)$ is not empty, then $\delta(q, c, b)$ must be empty for every $c \in \Sigma$.

the language

$$L = \{a^n b^n : n \geq 0\}$$

a deterministic context-free language. The pda $M = (\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}, \{a, b\}, \{0, 1\}, \delta, q_0, 0, \{q_0\})$ with

$$\delta(q_0, a, 0) = \{(q_1, 10)\},$$

$$\delta(q_1, a, 1) = \{(q_1, 11)\},$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, 1) = \{(q_2, \lambda)\},$$

$$\delta(q_2, b, 1) = \{(q_2, \lambda)\},$$

$$\delta(q_2, \lambda, 0) = \{(q_0, \lambda)\}$$

accepts the given language. It satisfies the conditions of [Definition 7.3](#) and is therefore deterministic.

• Another Example

The language $L = \{a^n b^n | n \geq 1\}$ is a deterministic CFL.

Proof: The PDA $M = (\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}, \{a, b\}, \{0, 1\}, \delta, q_0, Z, \{q_3\})$ with

$$\delta(q_0, a, Z) = \{(q_1, 1Z)\},$$

$$\delta(q_1, a, 1) = \{(q_1, 11)\},$$

$$\delta(q_1, b, 1) = \{(q_2, \lambda)\},$$

$$\delta(q_2, b, 1) = \{(q_2, \lambda)\},$$

$$\delta(q_2, \lambda, Z) = \{(q_3, \lambda)\}$$

accepts the given language.

It satisfies the conditions for being deterministic.

Our previous PDA for $\{ww^R \mid w \in \Sigma^+\}, \Sigma = \{a, b\}$ is nondeterministic.

It contains these transitions:

$$\delta(q_0, a, a) = \{(q_0, aa)\}$$

$$\delta(q_0, \lambda, a) = \{(q_1, a)\}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_0, a, a) &= \{(q_0, aa)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, b, a) &= \{(q_0, ba)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, a, b) &= \{(q_0, ab)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, b, b) &= \{(q_0, bb)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, a, z) &= \{(q_0, az)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, b, z) &= \{(q_0, bz)\},\end{aligned}$$

To construct an npda for accepting the language
 $L = \{ ww^R : w \in \{a, b\}^+ \}$



a set to guess the middle of the string, where the npda switches from state q_0 to q_1

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_0, \lambda, a) &= \{(q_1, a)\}, \\ \delta(q_0, \lambda, b) &= \{(q_1, b)\},\end{aligned}$$

a set to match w^R against the contents of the stack,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(q_1, a, a) &= \{(q_1, \lambda)\}, \\ \delta(q_1, b, b) &= \{(q_1, \lambda)\},\end{aligned}$$

and finally

$$\delta(q_1, \lambda, z) = \{(q_2, z)\},$$

Try...

Check DPDA or NPDA?

$L = \{x \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid n_0(x) > n_1(x)\}$