

5.21 Let  $AMBIG_{CFG} = \{ \langle G \rangle \mid G \text{ is ambiguous CFG} \}$

Show  $AMBIG_{CFG}$  is undecidable

Reduce from PCP

CFG with rules  $S \rightarrow T \mid B$   
 $P = \frac{t_1}{b_1}, \frac{t_2}{b_2}, \dots, \frac{t_K}{b_K}$   
 $G \quad T \rightarrow t_1 T a_1 \mid \dots \mid t_K T a_K \mid t_1 a_1 \mid \dots \mid t_K a_K$   
 $B \rightarrow b_1 B a_1 \mid \dots \mid b_K B a_K \mid b_1 a_1 \mid \dots \mid b_K a_K$

$P$  matches if  $t_1 \dots t_n = b_1 \dots b_n$

$t_1 \dots t_n a_1 \dots a_n$  can be derived from  $T$  or  $B$

If a CFG  $G$  is ambiguous, some string  $x$  can be derived in multiple ways.

$x$  can be written as  $y a_i \dots a_j$  for some  $y$  that doesn't contain  $a_i$ 's.

With  $G$ 's grammar one string in the form  $x$  can be derived by  $T$  and  $B$ .

The Derivations are as follows

$S \rightarrow T \Rightarrow S = t_{i_1} \dots t_{i_n} a_{j_1} \dots a_{j_m}$

$S \rightarrow B \Rightarrow S = b_{j_1} \dots b_{j_m} a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_n}$

Therefore,  $t_{i_1} \dots t_{i_n} = b_{j_1} \dots b_{j_m}$  we get a match for  $P$

We have found:

Plus a match  $\Rightarrow G$  is ambiguous

This reduction works, therefore  $AMBIG_{CFG}$  is undecidable.